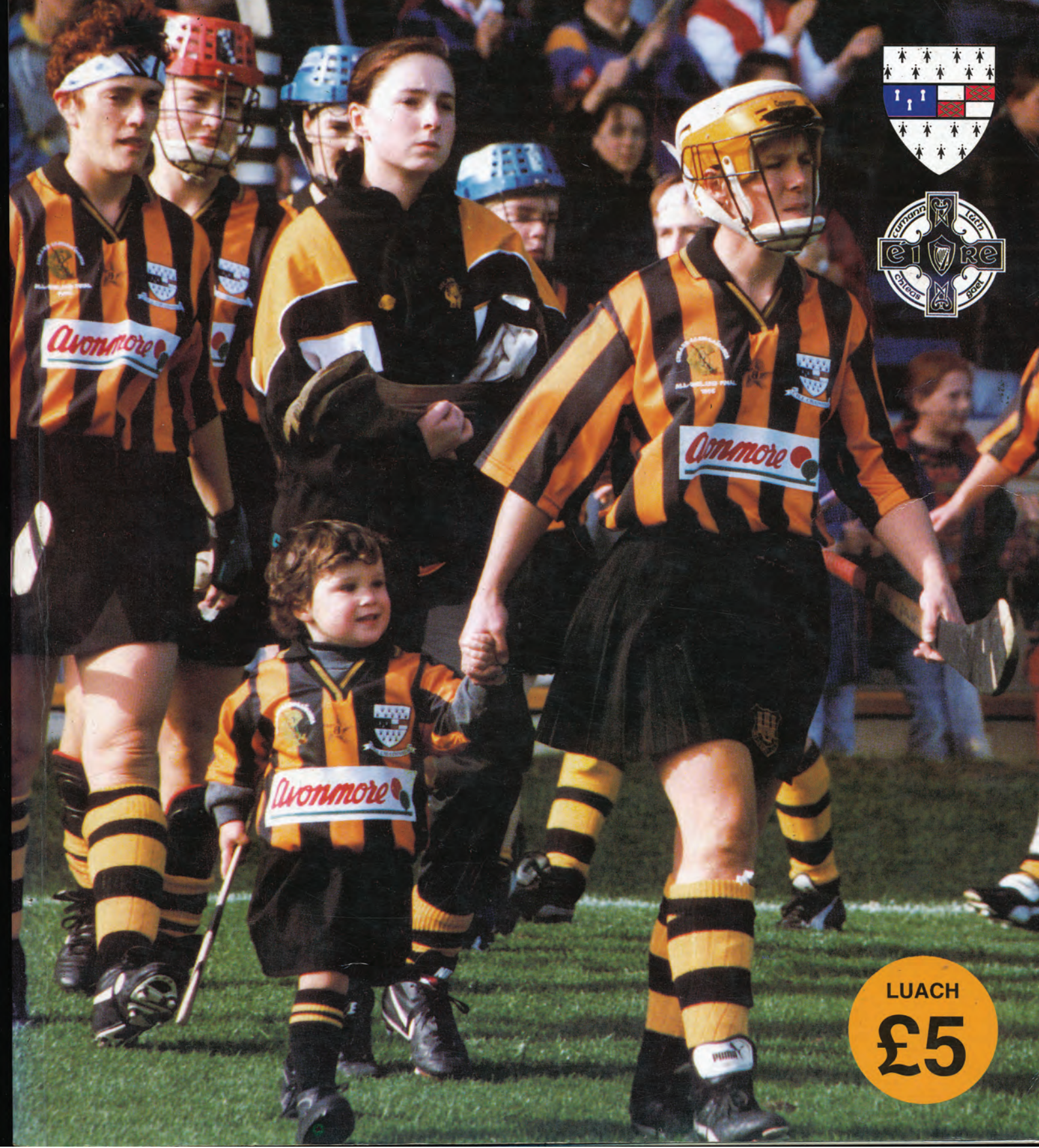


KILKENNY

GAA YEARBOOK 1995



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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1995

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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1995

PRODUCTION TEAM:

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JOE DUNPHY
JOHN KNOX N.T.
JOHN HEALY (Co. Chairman)
TED CARROLL (Co. Secretary)

ADVERTISING:

BARRIE HENRIQUES

PHOTOGRAPHS:

TOM BRETT,
Waterford Road, Kilkenny
TOMMY O'NEILL,
Castlecomer
RAY MC MANUS,
Sportsfile, Dublin.
TOMÁS BRETT,
Waterford Road, Kilkenny
IGNATIUS O'NEILL,
Westcourt, Callan.

PUBLISHED BY:

KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD GAA plc,
Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

PRINTED BY:

KILKENNY PEOPLE PRINTING LTD.,
Purcellsinch, Kilkenny.
056-63366

FRONT COVER:

Katie Browne marches beside her mother, Angela, prior to the All-Ireland Camogie Final against Cork in Croke Park.

COVER PICTURE – courtesy of Tom Brett,

Editorial

HERE in Kilkenny, people tend to regard a year which does not see the McCarthy Cup return to the county, as a barren one indeed. It is, as Chairman, John Healy states in his foreword, indicative of our expectations, and of the standards we have set ourselves, that no amount of success in other areas can compensate for this void on the county mantelpiece.

The fact that Kilkenny won the Church & General National Hurling League, Leinster Minor, Junior and Under-21 titles, the All-Ireland Junior Final, the All-Ireland Masters Final, the All-Ireland Colleges Camogie Final, and reached the All-Ireland Final stages of all hurling competitions except senior, not to mention a bucketful of Handball All-Irelands, does not prevent people from saying to me, "Ye won't have much for the Yearbook, this time!" Indeed, not. How we managed to put this publication together at all, I'll never know. We just tried harder, I suppose. Anyway, here it is, and I hope we have done justice to the endeavours of all our players, officials and administrators in what really was a splendid year for this old county of ours.

The main objective of the publication is to provide a full and fair record of all GAA activities within Kilkenny over the past twelve months. If we are successful in this, the yearbook, in addition to providing a good read over the coming Christmas, should also serve as a valuable reference source in years to come. You, the reader will be the judge of whether we have achieved our objective. In any case, I am extremely indebted to our very hard-working committee for their tireless efforts in this direction over the past three months. I wish especially to thank our genial and dedicated Chairman, Brendan O'Sullivan, for his tireless efforts, which were not lessened even by the newly acquired mantle of fatherhood.

I thank all our contributors, professional and lay for their valued contributions. I should also mention here, the many people who provided photographic material, especially for our ever popular Memory Lane section.

I appreciate the assistance given by the photographers whose work is liberally scattered throughout this publication. In particular, I say "Go raibh maith agaibh" to Tom Brett, Tommy O'Neill, Ray McManus, Tomás Brett, and Ignatius O'Neill, our professionals.

I thank our glistening star, D. J. Carey, for affording us the privilege of publishing our innovative poster, and I also thank Ray McManus for allowing us to use his picture in this regard.

To our publishers, Kilkenny People Printing, I offer my sincerest gratitude. At all times, I found them courteous, co-operative and helpful.

I thank Kilkenny County Board for their assistance and support throughout this and every year, in the production of the Yearbook.

Finally, we could not have published this book without the generous sponsorship of all our advertisers. I urge you, nay, beg you to support them.

In the hope that you enjoy our offering this year, I wish you, your families, and all GAA followers a healthy, fun-loving, prosperous and successful 1996.

Go n-éiri an bothar libh.

BARRIE HENRIQUES

Editor



Foreword

Beannachtaí na féile libh go léir a chairde Gael. Tá bliain eile ag druidim chun chríche agus arís tá ár n-imleabhar bliantúil ar fáil. Tá buíochas im' chroí do lucht eagraithe na h-irise agus do gach duine a chabhraigh linn chomh mór sin i rith na bliana. Tá dóchas im' chroí freisin don bhliain atá romhainn.



1995 will probably be regarded as a modest year for Cumann Lúthcleas Gael here in Kilkenny on the playing field. It is indicative of the standards we have set ourselves, and the expectations on all the Hurling teams, that a National League, an All-Ireland Junior, and Masters Title, and Leinster Championship successes at Minor, Under 21, and Junior level can be considered a modest return for the efforts of our many inter-county players during the past year. Hopes were very high this year that an All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship win could be achieved. Regrettably this did not happen.

A good run in the National Hurling League was the first priority. This was achieved in great style with Offaly being disposed of in the Semi-Final, and Clare in the Final. Unimpressive performances against Laois and Dublin in the Championship set up a Leinster Final clash with old rivals Offaly. Looking back on this game from a Kilkenny point of view, the only memory that remains after the first 45 minutes is the torrential downpour, and thunderstorm, which greeted our players as they went out on the pitch.

I would like to pay a very special tribute to Ollie Walsh, who after five very successful years as manager of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team, has decided to step down. During these years, Kilkenny achieved two All-Ireland's, three Leinster titles, and a National League success. A special thank you also to Ollie's assistant Mick O'Flynn who trained the team during this period.

New club champions emerged in Kilkenny this year with Glenmore regaining a title they last won in 1992. They were many people's favourites for the title. This team had fierce pride and determination in seeing off the Fenians after a very good game of Hurling, to see the Tom Walsh Cup return to South Kilkenny. The performances of Dunnamaggin in winning Intermediate and Minor Hurling and O'Loughlins in Junior is also worthy of mention.

Kilkenny Handballers again did the county proud, and kept Kilkenny very much on top in this sport in Ireland. Once again, Michael Duxie Walsh continued to break records adding two All-Ireland's, Senior Singles, and Doubles, with Eugene Downey, to a very impressive tally. Their title achievements this year are too numerous to mention.

It is heartening after a lapse of thirty years to have major development work in progress in Nowlan Park. This development is essential for the safety, comfort, and updating of our county facilities for all G.A.A. patrons now and in the future. The completion of phase one depends on the financial contributions and generosity of all G.A.A. supporters.

I must again, on behalf of the hard working committee, thank all our contributors for their splendid articles, information and photographs. This would never be possible without the tremendous support we receive each year from our advertisers. I urge you all to support them at every opportunity.

Each year there is a strong emphasis on our pictorial coverage. I feel confident that you will not be disappointed with the quality, and quantity of this year's offering. A special go raibh mile maith agaibh to our "picture men", Tom Brett, Tommy O'Neill, Ray McManus of Sportsfile, Ignatius O'Neill, Jimmy Walsh, Ned Buggy, and the many, many dedicated amateurs who contributed to making our Yearbook a "browsers cathedral".

A sincere thank you must go to our Editor, Barrie Henriques, who does such a splendid job organising material for the year book. He is also responsible for securing the necessary advertising. Barry would certainly want me to mention the very hard working Committee without whom, none of this would be possible, and I thank them all very sincerely for the tough task they undertook over the past three months.

This year's book will, I know, once again find its way into many Christmas Stockings in Kilkenny and many parts of the world. I hope it gives you, the reader, the same pleasure as it gave the Committee in putting the material together.

Finally, my sincere thank you to all Kilkenny supporters, demanding as you are, but utterly faithful and dedicated. My thanks also to all the clubs in the county and their Officials for their loyalty and endless support to me personally over the past year.

SEÁN O HÉILI,
Cathaoirleach,
Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.

1995 - THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

By: ENDA McEVOY

... As a unit, Ollie Walsh's men may be two years past their prime. Eamon Cregan's men should be hitting theirs now, provided Birr's club exertions haven't unsapped Whelehan et al. Also, the champions had the advantage of getting winter's gunge out of their system in the semi-final, where their fade-out in the second half did nothing to hide the class division between themselves and Wexford. Emphasised it, if anything. They'll be a smoother side today.

Whatever conclusions could be drawn from the most recent meeting of today's combatants, the NHL semi-final at Thurles in April, Kilkenny superiority was not one of them. Offaly did the hurling, the Cats got and took the breaks. It won't happen that way again. Michael Walsh won't have the assistance of the God of Fortunate Saves again. D.J. Carey won't score three goals off Kevin Kinahan again. Or will he?

Well, Kinahan has shown in the past that he can learn from a hard lesson, as when his scouring by Waterford's Sean Daly in the drawn 1992 under-21 final was reversed

next time out. One wonders if the challengers have the imagination to attempt the unexpected, to try wrongfooting their opponents by beginning with somebody other than Carey on the edge of the square. On a day like this, with so little between the teams, the match is there to be won - and lost - on the sideline. The holders' uncompromisingly swift switches against Wexford show their backroom boys know what they're about.

Once upon a time the point from out the field was a Noreside patent. These days it's an Offaly birthright. Midfield and the half-forward line have been disaster areas all season for the Black and Amber, the upshot being their overreliance for goals on the riders on the storm in the full-forward department. Given the more than decent impression Daithi Regan made three weeks ago, plus the marked drop in form of Hennessy, Delaney and Power, it's not difficult to envisage the Midlanders getting a half-nelson on Kilkenny's hopes in the middle third of the pitch.

(Sunday Independent, 16 July 1995)

Accurate enough, even if I do say so myself. Then again, at this stage what difference does it make? The story of 1995 was that of the Banner's glory. Ochoning about what happened to Kilkenny in the Leinster decider, even in a Kilkenny publication, serves merely to waste time and to take the limelight away from the men who earned and deserve it.

And is pointless, because had the Noreside 15 we saw on provincial final day somehow managed to fluke their way past Offaly they would surely have been eaten alive by Clare on September 3rd. Just how much leeway do you really imagine Delaney, Power and Ronan would have received from Doyle, McMahon and Daly? Morrissey from Frank Lohan? DJ from Brian Lohan?



Captain meets Captain. Kilkenny's captain Bill Hennessy meets Offaly captain Johnny Pilkington with referee Dickie Murphy looking on prior to the Leinster Final.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



Dancing in the rain . . . DJ Carey tussels with Kevin Kinahan (Offaly) as the rain pours down during the Leinster Hurling Final. Keeping an eye on developments are Johnny Pilkington (Offaly) and Bill Hennessy.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

But back to the Leinster final for one big reason. The game was a badge of all that was wrong with the Black and Amber in 1995. Toss in the further mortifying addition it marked to the county's ignominious recent championship record against Offaly and there's ample cause why July 16th should not readily be forgotten in this part of the world.

UNEASY

To be fair to Ollie Walsh, John Healy and John Teehan, Kilkenny's biggest problem was not remotely of their making. In conversation with this writer prior to the championship, Cork bookmaker Liam Cashman remarked that while he had made the Cats warm McCarthy Cup favourites due to the soft-looking draw they had, he was uneasy that so many of the 1993 All-Ireland-winning side remained. "You'd be needing three or four new faces instead of just Denis Byrne," Liam argued.

A justifiable complaint, to which the answer is straightforward: the replacements simply weren't there. In another year or two they might be, when the under-21 champions of 1994 became men. But not yet. And not the couple of big, strong, not necessarily overly skilful lads up front the Noresiders have been



Make up your minds who is going to get the ball. Pat Dwyer seems to say to Pat O'Connor (Offaly) and Willie O'Connor as they tussle for the ball in the Leinster Final. Looking on is Liam Simpson. Coming from afar is Eddie O'Connor.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



Denis Byrne breaks away from the Dublin defence in the Leinster Hurling Championship. Looking on is Canice Brennan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

missing for eons. Nothing to do with the selectors, this state of affairs, yet it hamstringed them seriously.

"As a unit, Ollie Walsh's men may be two years past their prime." So they were. Critically, the heart of the team in 1993, the diamond in the middle third of the field comprising O'Neill at centre-back, Power at centre-forward and Phelan and Hennessy in between, was now a busted flush. Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold. Following hard on the heels of the flattering semi-final defeat of Offaly, winning the league title amounted to a papering-over of the cracks.

DISAPPOINTING

What can one say about the Leinster final, other than that it was one of the most disappointing, most shocking days in the history of Kilkenny hurling? Without bringing partiality into it, one can in all honesty plead it was a freak result. Offaly deserved to win, to win big-time, to, in the circumstances, win by even more than they did. But they're not eleven points a better team than their opponents that day of the deluge. Basically, all that happened was that a couple of structural faults in the favourites line-up were exposed. But oh, how ruthlessly they were exposed! The failure of the sideline to act, or react, quickly enough to events on the field didn't help, either.

What-iffing one's way through games of the past is an odious, useless and trivial

business. But let's try anyway, let's pretend the match is 15 minutes old and, because the sliotar isn't reaching him inside, let's bring DJ Carey out the field.

Irrelevant as it is now, suppose DJ has been moved out. Suppose he'd put over a couple of points, or been fouled for one or two converted frees. Suppose Ollie's lads had been level at the interval instead of two points behind. Then there would have been no pressure on them to score the first point on the restart, they could have hung in comfortably for at least ten minutes, and who knows what might have transpired thereafter? (Okay, they would almost certainly still have been beaten, but you get the drift.)

And why, come to that and to refer to a line in the match preview, did Kilkenny not *"have the imagination to attempt the unexpected, to try wrongfooting their opponents"*? Face facts: DJ wasn't going to take Kinahan for another hat-trick. Did Ollie and the boys accept that and arrange their dispositions accordingly? If not, why not?

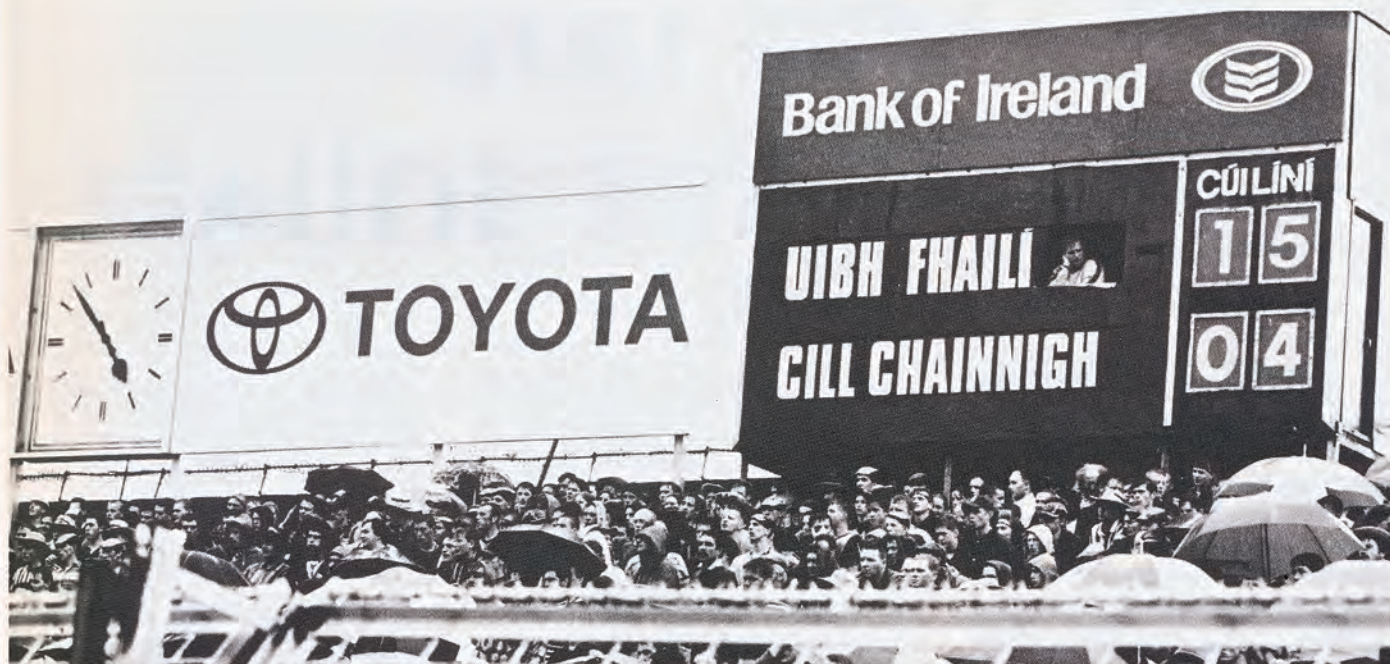
Now that we're on the subject, when was the last time we saw Kilkenny *not* lining out as selected, gasped as they tried a novel tactical formation, scented the dismay of the opposition backroom team as their carefully-laid plans were shredded even before the ball was thrown in? The Black and Amber have become too predictable for their own good. One-trick magicians.

As it was, the Cats had to score the first point of the new half. Instead they conceded it. Suddenly they trailed by double scores. From that moment on the jig was well and truly up. Michael Walsh's unfortunate slip merely accelerated the speed of the tumbrel towards the guillotine.

SOME DID VERY WELL

The ironic part of it all is that the league champions didn't actually play badly. At least four members of the defence hurled extremely well. The full-forward line were the predicted wipe-out zones, and Pat O'Neill's inability to cover back into his full-back line left Liam Simpson, in particular, horribly exposed. The gaps between the two lines of defence and the midfield during the second half were wide enough to drive a fleet of JCBs through. Given the lake of loose ball that fell at his feet, Billy Dooley could have been blindfolded and still finished top scorer.

None of which is intended to take anything away from Offaly. They were truly magnificent. And why? Because they hurled the ball, pulled first time, did the simple thing properly and did so for the entire 70 minutes. Their clearances out of defence were a sight to behold; instead of blazing the ball 60 yards down the field to where a colleague might or might not win it, the backs drove it low and short to Daithí Regan and Johnny Pilkington. The latter pair in turn (whip of the wrists, immediate delivery, no soloing, no messing) did exactly the same for their for-



A haunting scoreline . . . with seven minutes left in the 1995 Leinster Senior Hurling Final.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

wards. Thus the margin of error, the possibility that possession would be lost, was cut to a wafer.

Whereas the Kilkenny forwards picked and poked and fumbled and foostered and found themselves swallowed up by ravening packs of defenders. All due to an obsession with getting the sliotar into their hands, with taking three or four touches where one would have done. In the process they slowed things down instead of speeding them up, and inevitably found themselves quickly chewed up and spat out by Rigney, Whelehan et al. In a sentence, they were punished for failing to move the ball.

DEVOURED

Much was made afterwards by the less learned sections of the press of how Kilkenny hadn't suffered such a defeat in living memory. Nonsense! This was the fourth occasion in no more than seven championships that they'd been devoured by Offaly, the third time since 1989 that a late flourish had eased the magnitude of the margin somewhat. The Cats' two victories against the Midlanders during that period were nowhere near as convincing. Any explanations, anyone? I certainly haven't one.

Seeing as we're seeking answers, how come the minors were so embarrassingly wretched against Cork? To remind everyone that they were young and immature might explain the defeat, but it doesn't excuse the scale of it. One could have sent the minor hurlers of Mayo, Monaghan or Montevideo out there and I bet they'd have managed one point in 55 minutes. For a Kilkenny team to do the same is simply not acceptable, whatever way you look at it.

The abiding lesson of the summer of

'95 centres on the necessity of playing the game on one's own terms. Offaly did so in the Leinster final. Clare did the same to Offaly on All-Ireland day. Kilkenny didn't do the same in the under-21 decider seven days later.

Playing the game on their terms entailed trying to run a clearly technically inferior Tipperary outfit into the ground by virtue of fast, open hurling, and avoiding close-quarter combat with their opponents at all costs. It didn't happen. Come the second half, the Noresiders simply threw their brains out the window. They picked instead of pulling, soloed instead of spreading the play. Martin Carey bombed his puckouts straight down the centre, to be duly and gratefully gobbled up by the opposition. (Shades of the Offaly debacle when, as more than one person observed, DJ "was being marked by his own corner forwards".)

And when the going got really tough, an alarming number of Noresiders went missing. Brendan O'Sullivan's lads lost, not because they couldn't hurl, but because they didn't fight. Tipp. won, not because they had the better players, but because they possessed infinitely the bigger heart. Nothing but credit to them for that.

MORE YOUNG TALENT?

So maybe the McCarthy Cup medalists of the near future are being generated in Tipperary and Cork. And maybe Babs Keating is correct in saying, as he did in the week after the Leinster final, that "the well of under-age talent that was always available to Kilkenny in the past has all but dried up" and that this was the real reason for Nicky Brennan's famous hurling-is-dying plea at Congress.

Ridiculous, of course. The tally of ten provincial and five All-Ireland titles in the

minor and under-21 grades during the past six seasons demonstrates the gammy legs of this particular hobby horse of Bab's. The question is, can the Black and Amber prove it, and him, wrong?

There's certainly nothing complicated about *how* they can. By reverting to what they've traditionally been good at. By playing pure, proper hurling. Simple as that, people!

To finish with some personal awards for 1995.

Hurler of the year: Brian Lohan.

Personality of the year: Anthony Daly.

Manager of the year: Ger Loughnane.

Kilkenny hurler of the year: Willie O'Connor.

Next best: Andy Comerford (London).

Team of the year: David Fitzgerald (Clare); Shane McGuckian (Offaly), Brian Lohan (Clare), Martin Hanamy (Offaly), Brian Whelehan (Offaly), Seanie McMahon (Clare), Willie O'Connor (Kilkenny), Ollie Baker (Clare), Michael Coleman (Galway), Johnny Dooley (Offaly), Gary Kirby (Limerick), Jamesie O'Connor (Clare), Francis Forde (Galway), DJ Carey (Kilkenny), Ger O'Loughlin (Clare).

P.S.: In last year's Yearbook yours truly concluded the corresponding article by ochoning the demise of O'Loughlin's and observing that their demotion to junior ranks might at least have a salutary effect in concentrating minds in what, population-wise, should be one of the most successful clubs in the county. So far so good; they're back in Intermediate. But that's only half the battle, and really not much of a cause for rejoicing. The war won't be won until O'Loughlin's are a thriving senior outfit.

"THE LINK" CLEARED THE SQUARE

By: BARRIE HENRIQUES

He would love to have been here", said Bob. "This is what he dreamt about happening to Dunnamaggin for as long as he lived", Bob continued. The "Bob" in question was the so personable, thoughtful, and caring Bob Doherty, the genial proprietor of the hostelry at the heart of Dunnamaggin life.

Doherty's has been the fulcrum of most sporting occasions in the life of Dunnamaggin. Besides being mine host, Bob Doherty was, for many a long day, a very close confidante of one James, "the

Link" Walsh – hereafter referred to as the Link.

Radio Kilkenny were in Dunnamaggin "to do" the T.C. Tyres World of Gaelic Games Programme live. The Dunnamaggin club were being honoured for their mammoth achievements of winning the County Intermediate, the Minor Hurling titles, and the County Intermediate Football crown.

The "Link" was always a big man. He was always a strong man. "He had to be" said Ollie Walsh, "he had to cope with big strong hoors", continued the man, who in many people's opinion, was the "daddy of all culbaires".

The "Link" was born in Ballintee into

agrarian stock, on August 15th, 1933. He was to play beside his brother Tom for years on the full-back line for Kilkenny. He would also see another brother, Davy, play for Kilkenny, Leinster and Munster. He had another brother Pat, who didn't quite reach the heights that the others reached, but was an accomplished hurler in his own right. Link's academic education started in Dunnamaggin National School. From thence he schooled in the C.B.S. in Callan. He won a Minor Hurling County Title with Callan in 1949, was a sub on the All-Ireland winning Minor team of 1950, and continued as a minor in 1951. With Pat, he hurled with the John Lockes in the



DUELLING . . . Ned Wheeler, Wexford (left) and Jim "The Link" Walsh (Kilkenny) cross hurleys on Sunday, July 7th, 1963 in Croke Park.

Junior Championship in 1951. Bennettsbridge beat the Lockes in the Junior Final that year. Their brother, Tom, was playing for Carrickshock at that time.

Dunnamaggin G.A.A. club was re-formed in 1952, and the Walsh clan came home to roost. The "Link" won an All-Ireland Junior medal against Kerry (Home Final), and London in 1956. He played at full-back against Waterford in the Senior Final of 1957, which Kilkenny won. The astonishing aspect of this game was that Kilkenny were so far behind with 14 minutes left (15 points), that it needed a major miracle to haul them back. They did manufacture that miracle, and the winning point that day was scored by the Captain, Bennettsbridge's Mickey Kelly.

I met Mickey, days after "Link" Walsh was committed to God's Holy Ground in Dunnamaggin. "People have said, Mickey, that the "Link" was just a big man on the edge of the square, but that he wasn't a good hurler", said I for openers. Mickey's eyes blazed momentarily. "Don't ever again say, that a man that wore the black and amber wasn't a good hurler", he hissed. Trying to extricate myself from the self-excavated cess pool, that I had 'belly-flopped' into, I asked "How good was he then"?

- "He hurled like the best full-back of the day should hurl. There were no frills, or fanciful, flamboyant hurling done in around where the Link was 'strutting his stuff'. He was as safe as the Bank of England. I remember in 1957, we played Wexford in the Leinster Final. The Link held the greatest full-forward of all time, Nickey Rackard scoreless from play. He was that good, and that was good enough for me", said Mickey Kelly.

I ran into the "culbáire of all culbáires", Ollie Walsh. "How did you rate the Link, "I enquired from the man that played behind him, until the Link retired in 1963. "One of the best ***** full-backs that ever played in front of me" said the Readymix executive. "He was like an auld clucking hen minding her chicks. If anybody only dreamt about coming in near me, he would have been better off to waken up and apologise to the Link first, for even thinking about it" said Ollie. "How good was his hurling", I enquired. "Well Barrie, 'twas like this. He wasn't as skillful as Langton. He wasn't as stylish as Clohessy. He wasn't as deadly as Rockett or Heaslip. But there was none of them lads able to hurl the full-back position like the Link. You see it's like this. Sir Ivor couldn't win a Gold Cup at Cheltenham. Arkle couldn't win the Derby at Epsom. Both of them were great race horses. Both of them were supreme at their own jobs. Do ya see what I mean", said he. "Comprendi", said I.

"You'll miss him Ollie", I said. "Me and thousands more", said Ollie. "He was the genuine article. He was a great character. He was my friend, my confidante, my protector, and my teacher. I'll miss him for sure", finished Ollie. He had his back turned to me as he uttered the last few syllables, and I swear, I detected a little waver in his voice.

'Twas at the Offaly match in the Park, on a bitterly cold, iced Sunday in November that I met Mick Neary.

"You knew the Link, Mick", said I. "He was a great character", said the famed hurley-maker. His answer was accompanied with a kind of chuckle, that prompted me to enquire some more.

"Would you have one abiding memory of him, Mick"?

"I remember, Éire Óg played Carrickshock in a tournament, down in Holohan's - I think - field in Knocktopher. I was nearly finished playing myself at the time. I was asked to fill in at full forward. I was after having a skinful of porter the night before. However, when I got in near the Link, I asked him how he was feeling. He told me he was terrible "craw-sick", and do ya know he looked it all. The match wasn't on too long, when the atmosphere around the square was absolutely polluted with the foulest effluvia ever known to man (editors license to use acceptable English). I happened to notice a wry smile break across the Link's face. I can tell you that there weren't too many of us went near that square for a long time until God had installed a certain amount of atmospheric purification in that area. Often whenever I bumped into the Link, we would laugh about the day he cleared the square in Knocktopher, and he used neither strength or sinew, nor the durability of ash.

Laughter was a huge component in the Link's make-up. If you are ever in the convivial surrounds of Bob Doherty's, you will invariably talk to people like John O'Shea, a neighbour of Link's from Ballintee. It's a fifty-pound note, to a pinch of snuff that the conversation will eventually come round to the Link. John knew him well. His farm 'bounds' Link's place. John O'Shea will miss him. They'll miss him in Bob's. They'll miss him in many other establishments.

From Ballintee to Dunnamaggin, from Nowlan Park to Croke Park, and from Wembley Stadium to Hanrahan's field in Knocktopher, the G.A.A. world will be a poorer place without the likes of James "the Link" Walsh.



JOHN LOCKES – Runners-Up Minor Hurling Championship

Front row (l.-r.): Ross Holden, Joey Gormley, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Christy Vaughan, P. J. Coady, John O'Neill, Óisín Dawson, Michael Dunne, Brian Kennedy, Andy Power, Ramie Power. Back row (l.-r.): Michael Kirwan, Michael Roche, Jamie Gormley, Ger Tobin, J. P. Corcoran, Adrian Lyons, Geoffrey Dawson, Conleth Nolan, John Norris, David Henriques, Michael Denny, Denis Nolan.

(Photo: Tom O'Neill)

Cup Fact-File

SENIOR HURLING:

Tom Walsh Cup

The Tom Walsh Cup commemorates the memory of Tom Walsh, who was Chairman of Kilkenny County Board from 1944 until his death in July 1956. He also chaired the Leinster Council from 1948 to 1950. A member of the Blacks & Whites club with whom he won a Senior Football Championship medal in 1932, Tom's memory is also honoured by the Walsh Cup for the Leinster Accident Fund Tournament.

This cup was presented to the Leinster Council by Mahon & McPhillips. He helped Rockwell to their first ever Harty Cup in 1918. Deeply involved in politics, Tom was a Fianna Fail T.D. for Carlow/Kilkenny and served as Minister for Agriculture in the De Valera government. The Tom Walsh Cup was first contested in 1952, and its first holders were Bennettsbridge.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING:

Hanrahan Cup

The original Hanrahan Cup came to the county from New York, and commemorates the memory of Mike Hanrahan who emigrated to New York in the 1920's. Mike's son, Dick, presented the cup to the County Board on the death of his father. Mike's brother, Jimmy, was a great Kilkenny supporter and former footballer who played with the Noresiders in many stirring contests.

Jimmy's pub in New Ross was a favourite meeting place for G.A.A. followers after big matches in the town. Another brother, Dick, played Senior football with Wexford. Due to its deteriorating condition, the original cup was withdrawn and a brand new one presented to the Board by the Hanrahan family and the Glenmore club.

JUNIOR HURLING:

Aylward Cup

This cup was presented to the County Board by the Aylward family in memory of Bob, a tireless worker for the G.A.A. in Kilkenny.

Bob began his hurling career with Knockmoylan, and later moved to Carrickshock whom he helped to senior county honours in 1938 and in the only four-in-a-row (1940-43) ever achieved by a Kilkenny club. He won an All-Ireland medal as a sub with Kilkenny in 1939, and was full back on the Kilkenny team which sensationally lost to Antrim in the

by Tom Ryall

All-Ireland semi-final of 1943

Chairman of Kilkenny County in the 1957/58, he also served as chairman of the Leinster Council from 1966 to 1968, having been Vice-Chairman from 1963 to 1965. He held a host of administrative positions at local level. He was Kilkenny's Central Council delegate from 1948 to 1956 and from 1960 to 1965, Vice-Chairman of the Southern Board 1942-1943 and 1947-48.

He represented Kilkenny on the Leinster Council from 1942 to 1962 and from 1971 until his death in July 1974. He was a member of Kilkenny County Council for many years and was also a senator. The cup was first presented for competition in 1981.

UNDER-21 HURLING:

Bishop Birch Cup

This trophy was given to the Board by the late Bishop Peter Birch, Bishop of Ossory. Dr. Birch, a native of Conahy, had a great interest in hurling and was a constant supporter of Kilkenny teams at every level. He also closely followed the fortunes of St. Kieran's College sides, having spent many years as professor there. The trophy is unique in that it depicts a hurling ball mounted on a stand.

MINOR HURLING "A":

Joyce Cup

Michael Joyce, a native of Callan, where he ran a stationery business, was the donor of this trophy. Mick Joyce was involved in the training of many teams in the Callan area, and was also involved with the Kilkenny Senior hurling team, most notably the 1947 winning side.

A great lover of the G.A.A., he meticulously kept reports of all games down through the years. He also recorded results and scores at every level in special notebooks, some of which came into the possession of Tom Ryall. Others, however, are still missing probably at the Dublin home of his nephew, Leslie Tynan who was a noted athlete, and an Irish Olympic representative.

MINOR HURLING "B":

O'Keefe Cup

To honour the memory of Pádraig O'Caomh, Secretary of the G.A.A. from 1929 to 1964, Croke Park presented each

county in the country with a cup, stipulating that the trophies be used for the promotion of hurling. Kilkenny Bord na nÓg assigned the cup to the Roinn "B" Minor Hurling Championship.

MINOR HURLING LEAGUE ROINN "A":

John Tobin Cup

Mooncoin club presented this trophy to Kilkenny Bord na nÓg in memory of a trojan worker for the club. John Tobin followed Mooncoin team at every level, in both hurling and football, and ably represented the club at various committee meetings, particularly at Football Board level. He also acted as a Kilkenny County Football selector. His nephew, John Mahon, helped Kilkenny to All-Ireland Junior honours.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING "A":

Shem Lawlor Cup

When the Special Junior Championship was resumed in 1977, the final was contested between Rower Inistioge and Muckalee/Ballyfoyle Rangers. John Street publican, Shem Lawlor, a native of the Muckalee area, presented a cup to the Co. Board for the competition. His native parish, however, were to fail in the final after a replay. Shem's is a favourite meeting place after matches in Nowlan Park.

SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE:

Matty Power Cup

This cup honours the memory of one of the greatest hurlers of all time. Matty Power won five All-Ireland senior medals. He was on the 1922, 1932, 1993 and 1935 victorious Kilkenny sides, while he won a fifth medal with Dublin in 1927.

He holds the record number of Leinster Senior Hurling medals – twelve – with Kilkenny in 1922, 1923, 1925, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936 and 1937, and with Dublin in 1927, 1928 and 1930. He won National League medals in 1928/29 (Dublin) and 1932/33 (Kilkenny). A holder of four Railway Cup medals, Matty also played in the Tailteann games, and later trained Kilkenny S.H. team members based in Dublin. He died in 1965. The trophy, presented by his family, was first contested in 1992.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING LEAGUE:

The Tierney Cup

Pat Tierney was a valued member of the Rower-Inistioge club who died in the prime of manhood. Although domiciled

in Dublin, Pat never missed a game with his club, be it league, challenge or championship. His wife, Noreen, was also actively involved in Gaelic games and won All-Ireland Senior Camogie medals with Kilkenny.

Pat also played Inter-Firm hurling with Aer Lingus, and it was following a game with Aer Lingus that he was suddenly taken from this life. The cup was presented to the Kilkenny County Board by the Tierney families, Inistioige.

SENIOR FOOTBALL:

Ned Langton Cup

This cup was presented to the Football Board by the late Ned Langton whose son, Eamon, carries on the family business in John Street. One of the best known

G.A.A. establishments in the country, it is a mecca for Kilkenny followers after Nowlan Park Matches. It is also a meeting place of Kilkenny hurlers and footballers after games and training sessions.

Ned Langton was a member of the Kilkenny Minor hurling team which lost the 1932 All-Ireland Final to Tipperary. He won Senior County medals with Éire Óg. His brother Jim Langton was one of the Noreside's legendary hurlers and was selected on the 1984 team of the century at left half forward.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL:

The Lyng Cup

This trophy preserves the memory of Jim Lyng who toiled so hard in the cause of football. Jim travelled everywhere by

bicycle, making numerous journeys to meetings in Kilkenny. A native of the Rower, he was Secretary of Kilkenny Football Board from 1944 until his death in 1964.

MINOR FOOTBALL:

The Dunphy Cup

This is one of the most valuable trophies in the county and was presented by Paddy Dunphy of Castlecomer to help promote football among the youth of the county. Paddy himself earned fame as a trainer and breeder of greyhounds, producing many of the best dogs in the country, and scoring some notable successes. He was honoured by the Smithwicks Sports Stars Committee with the Hall of Fame award for his success in the sport of Greyhound racing.

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100 Questions – Test your GAA knowledge

1. Name the GAA Museum opened in Thurles in November, 1995.
2. Name the defeated Waterford senior hurling finalists of 1995.
3. Pat Spillane won minor, under-21 and senior All-Ireland titles with Kerry – True or False?
4. Who is reigning World Senior Softball Handball Champion?
5. Who wrote "Hurling Giants"?
6. Who are the Fitzgibbon Cup holders of 1995?
7. Who won RTE's 'Man of the Match' award in the 1993 All-Ireland hurling final?
8. What player holds the record number of senior All-Ireland camogie medals?
9. Ray Cummins/Frank Cummins – Did either, neither or both of them win All-Ireland senior hurling titles in three different decades?
10. Galway have won All-Ireland minor hurling titles in successive years – True or False?
11. Who was the top scorer in this year's Ulster Football championship?
12. In what year was Christy Ring born?
13. Who are the reigning Ladies All-Ireland Senior Football champions?
14. Where is Dr. Hyde Park?
15. Who is present Longford senior football manager/coach?
16. What is the name of the Ulster Senior Football Championship trophy?
17. Which of these counties has the most National Football League titles – Dublin, Mayo or Meath?
18. What are the county colours of Sligo?
19. Who sponsored the Limerick hurling team in 1994?
20. In what year did Féile na nGael begin?
21. Who won the Texaco 'Hurler of the Year' award the year after Ted Carroll won it?
22. What number jersey did Mikey Sheehy wear in the 1975 All-Ireland Final?
23. Who is the present Cavan football manager?
24. Down have more than 20 football All-Star awards. True or False?
25. Name the Trophy awarded to the All-Ireland Senior Camogie champions.
26. With which club did the Quigleys – Dan, John, Martin, etc. – play?
27. How many All-Ireland club football titles have Nemo Rangers won?
28. Where is the 'Faithful County'?
29. On the hurling 'team of the century', how many All-Ireland senior medals does the full forward line hold between them?
30. Who was the first ever player to have been awarded a Gaelic football scholarship to UCD?
31. Who are the Westmeath senior football champions?
32. Which was the last team to lose two successive All-Ireland senior football finals?
33. Name the first goalkeeper outside Leinster to win an All-Star hurling award.
34. What is the name of the GAA ground in Castlebar?
35. Before Ger Cunningham, who was the last Cork goalkeeper to win an All-Ireland senior hurling medal?
36. Who is the manager of the Dublin senior hurling team?
37. Name the cup awarded to the Connacht senior football champions.
38. When did Michael 'Duxie' Walsh win his first All-Ireland senior softball singles title?
39. Name the last teams to meet in consecutive All-Ireland football finals.
40. Have Dublin, Wexford or Galway most senior hurling titles?
41. What are the county colours of Fermanagh?
42. Whom did Peter Quinn succeed as President of the GAA?
43. How many Senior medals did Jack Lynch and Christy Ring win in total?
44. Who wrote the book "The Game of my Life"?
45. Where will next year's (1996) Congress be held?
46. Before 1995, when did a Munster county last win the All-Ireland Minor Hurling championship?
47. In what year did the senior championship game change to 70 minutes?
48. When did a Connacht county last win the Sam Maguire Cup?
49. Where in Ireland is Marcievicz Park?
50. Name the first county to win 21 senior titles in either hurling or football.
51. When was the last year that neither Cork nor Kilkenny won the All-Ireland senior camogie title?
52. Who won the first 80-minute All-Ireland hurling title?
53. What was the name of Derry's first sub. in the 1993 All-Ireland football final?
54. Name Tyrone's goalkeeper in this year's All-Ireland football final.
55. What county holds the record number of successive National Football League titles?
56. Name the sponsors of the Fitzgibbon Cup.
57. What is the name of the All-Ireland Minor football trophy?
58. Whom did Cork beat when they won their 25th senior hurling title?
59. Whom did Kerry defeat in this year's All-Ireland under-21 football final?
60. Who is Cork County Secretary?
61. With what club did Ted Carroll play his hurling?
62. Who captained his county to All-Ireland success and won the Texaco Hurling Award in 1984?
63. How many counties have won four senior All-Ireland titles in a row? Name them.
64. In which county is Breffni Park?
65. Who was the centre-back on the hurling team of the century?
66. Who were the only Ulster All-Ireland club hurling champions?
67. Who captained Birr to All-Ireland Club success in March 1995?
68. Who are the present sponsors of the National Leagues?
69. Who captained Limerick to victory in the 1973 All-Ireland Final?
70. Who scored the goal immediately after Johnny Dooley's in the 1994 All-Ireland Final?
71. What Clare forward scored four points from play in the 1995 All-Ireland final?
72. Who played centre-forward for Kilkenny in the 1963 All-Ireland Final?
73. Which Munster club was the first winner of the All-Ireland Club Championship.
74. Name the only GAA President to present the Liam McCarthy Cup to his own county on three successive occasions.
75. For which Waterford club does Paul Flynn play?
76. Who were the first winners of the "Irish Press" Cup?
77. With what club did the present manager of the Laois senior hurling team play his hurling?
78. What is the name of the county grounds in Carlow?
79. What Tipperary hurler captained his county to two successive losing All-Irelands?
80. What is the standard distance between GAA goalposts?
81. Down beat whom in front of the biggest attendance ever in Croke Park?
82. Before Kilkenny in 1982/83, who were the last team to win the double double?
83. Name the county who recorded the highest score in an All-Ireland Hurling Final.
84. Who is PRO of the GAA?
85. What Tipperary player played in four All-Ireland minor finals and won three of them?
86. Name the first Leinster man to collect two Sam Maguire Cups in a row.
87. Which of these players won All-Ireland senior titles before they won under-21 titles – John Leahy, P. J. Delaney and D. J. Carey?
88. Who was the highest scorer in the 1995 hurling championship?
89. Whom did Laois defeat in the National Football League final of 1986?
90. For how many years is the term of office of the GAA President?
91. Who captained Tipperary to their Munster Final victory in 1987?
92. For which club did the great Mick Mackey play?
93. From what county does Tommy Howard come?
94. For what club does Dickie Murphy play hurling?
95. Jimmy Barry Murphy never lost a senior championship hurling game against Tipperary – True or False?
96. Roy Curtis is a GAA reporter with which newspaper?
97. Mick O'Connell won All-Irelands in three decades – True or False?
98. How many counties won All-Ireland Senior Hurling titles in the 'Eighties'?
99. Who was the top scorer in the 1994 All-Ireland Hurling Championship?
100. In what county are the following clubs – Erin Rovers, St. Carthage's, Ballinamere/Durrow?

– Answers on Page 133 –

With Reference To Referees

A referee, by definition, is one who is entrusted with the job of ensuring fair play. In Irish the words "moltóir" – an advisor and "reiteoir" – a solver of problems – a peacemaker are used to describe this individual's function.

Pity the poor referee. Everybody seems to feel they could do a better job than the person entrusted with it, yet, if the whistle was proffered to the "amateur whistler" or "player on the ditch" most would hastily decline to accept it. Yet, at every game we hear the well worn shouts for the ref. to open his eyes, put on a jersey, invest in a pair of glasses or even worse. And indeed it is not uncommon for referees to be subjected to physical as well as verbal abuse.

So we ask – "What is the reason for this?" "Why do referees incite such primitive instincts in us?"

Firstly, I must say that I believe that referees go out to give fair play and that they do their utmost to be just and impartial. If we feel that they do not succeed in this, then we must ask again "why not?" Is it because some are too young and inexperienced in handling

games? Or does the opposite apply and are some gone past their best – too old or too slow maybe to keep up with what are essentially fast moving games?

Everyone will have his or her own views but there is no point in any of us expressing views without putting forward suggestions – positive suggestions – which might help matters. My personal suggestions for what they are worth would be:

(a) That courses and periods of training be looked at more closely especially with a view to training and having a supply of new young referees constantly coming on stream. This would also help to bring about consistency in refereeing and I feel that nothing annoys both players and spectators more than inconsistency in decisions.

(b) Gaelic games are very fast, particularly hurling. Players have to train hard to attain the level of fitness necessary to participate. It must be borne in mind that the most active man on the field, the one with the most ground to cover, is the referee. Consequently, it stands to reason that fitness is of the essence. Players find it hard to continue at their peak as they advance to middle thirties – there are exceptions of course – so we might ask should there be a

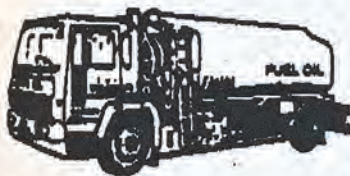
retirement age for the ref. as, I believe, there is in English Soccer. I'm not for one minute saying we should ape others nor am I saying we should scrap people who have given so much to our games but I feel that if the body is not up to it, there could be a solution in my next suggestion as to continued participation by our "senior" referees.

(c) Up to now, a referee is assisted by six other officials – four umpires and two linesmen. I have long felt that there should be two linesmen on each line, each of them in charge of half the pitch. This would give a referee the benefit of two extra pairs of eyes and would allow him concentrate on keeping up with the play, with two linesmen at all times to watch off the ball incidents. And with a greater demand for linesmen, here's where our older referees might find use for their talents and knowledge of the game while only having half a sideline to patrol. And who better to do this!

Finally, may I say that this item is not meant as a "go" at referees. Rather, I feel, it would, if considered, help to make life pleasant and easier for the most abused people in our games and in doing so could only be of benefit to the game itself.

Joe Dunphy

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UNDER-14 REVIEW



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS – UNDER-14 FOOTBALL COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1995

BACK ROW: (left to right) – James Purcell, James Kavanagh, Paul Kavanagh, Tomas Comerford, James O'Keeffe, Peter Dowling, Brian Hogan, Damien Griffin, Jason Pierce, Barry Hogan, Donal Madden, Brian Murphy, Seamus Direen. **FRONT ROW:** (left to right) – Cormac Dalton, James Kelly, Gerard O'Brien, Alan Bourke, Mark Sheridan, Darren Carroll, Ian Dowling, Brian Dowling, Sean Cleere, Tommy Lahart, Denis O'Brien. (Photo: Tom Brett)

O'LOUGHLIN/GAELS came in from the cold and won their first Under-14 Supermacs Hurling Roinn A Championship since 1969 when they beat Graigue-Ballycallan by 1-10 to 1-8 in a cracking final.

Thanks to a Thomas Lahart goal, O'Loughlin/Gaels led by 1-5 to 0-4 at the interval. They held this lead through most of the second half until Brendan Hayes flashed home a goal for the losers to put the game back into the melting pot.

O'Loughlin/Gaels did have luck in their side when Aiden Brett shot what would have been a match winning goal but the

ball went off a forward and wide.

O'Loughlin/Gaels controlled midfield in the early stages with Darren Carroll, who scored two points, and Thomas Comerford in control. Graigue-Ballycallan got more of the play when Declan Byrne moved to this area. Brian Murphy and James O'Keeffe were also to the fore for the winners. Brendan Hayes was Graigue-Ballycallan's chief scorer with 1-4.

Scorers: *O'Loughlin/Gaels:* Thomas Lahart 1-5, Darren Carroll 0-2, James O'Keeffe 0-2, Niall Trehy 0-1. *Graigue-Ballycallan:* Brendan Hayes 1-4, Declan Byrne 0-3, Aiden Brett 0-1. The teams were:

O'Loughlin/Gaels: Peter Dowling, Paul

Kavanagh, Denis O'Brien, Jack Brett, Brian Hogan, Brian Murphy, Gerard O'Brien, Darren Carroll, Thomas Comerford, Niall Trehy, James O'Keeffe, Alan O'Brien, Thomas Lahart, Jason Pierce, Ian Dowling. Sub: Mark Sheridan.

Graigue-Ballycallan: Michael Wall, Shane Murphy, Kevin Cleere, Billy Fitzpatrick, Anthony O'Dea, Brian Dalton, Paul Cullinan, Patrick Dalton, Eamon Delaney, Aidan Brett, Declan Byrne, Tim Purcell, Raymond Burke, Brendan Hayes, Niall Millea. Sub: Ciarán Hoynes. Referee: Ger O'Grady (Erins Own).

Shamrocks easily won the Roinn B Championship and could have made a shot at winning the Roinn A had they competed at that grade. Their win over Tullogher-Rosbercon in the final, played in Mullinavat, was very one sided with a 4-11 to 0-2 scoreline.



O'LOUGHLIN/GAELS UNDER-14 HURLING PANEL – Back Row (left to right): James O'Keeffe, Brian Hogan, Gerard O'Brien, James Purcell, Mark Sheridan, Seamus Direen, Cormac Dalton, Darren Carroll, Thomas Comerford, Paul Kavanagh, Jason Pierce, Peter Dowling, Denis O'Brien, Niall Trehy, Alan Bourke, Donal Madden. Front Row (left to right): James Kavanagh, Tommy Lahart, James Kelly, Stephen Galvin, Jack Brett, Ian Dowling, Brian Murphy (capt), Alan O'Brien, Brian Dowling, Sean Cleere, Barry Hogan. (Photo: Tom Brett)

DREAM TEAM



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS UNDER-14 WINNERS OF ROINN B LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLE

Back Row (left to right): Eamon Frisby, Seamus Walsh, John Kennedy, William Coogan, Keith Murphy, Richard Fitzpatrick, Anthony Walsh, Larry Aylward and Bill Walsh. Front Row (left to right): Michael Dermody, Patrick Reid, Robert Aylward, David Hoyne, Eoin Reid, James Fitzpatrick, Brendan Costelloe (capt), Michael Drennan, Richard Holohan, John Dermody, Edward Fitzpatrick, Eamon Fitzpatrick. (Photo: Tom Brett)

Shamrocks led by 2-4 to 0-2 at the interval. When Brendan Costelloe added a goal upon resuming, it was all one way traffic.

Scorers: Shamrocks – John Dermody 1-5; Patrick Reid 2-2, Brendan Costelloe 1-0, John Kennedy 0-2, Robert Aylward, David Hoyne 0-1 each.

The teams were:

Shamrocks: Michael Drennan, Lar Aylward, Eamon Frisby, Keith Murphy, Brendan Costelloe, Anthony Walsh, Dick Fitzpatrick, William Coogan, Seamus Walsh, Patrick Reid, John Kennedy, Robert Aylward, David Hoyne, Bill Walsh, John Dermody.

Tullagher-Rosbercon: Richard Murphy, Mark O'Brien, Donal Phelan, Kieran Barron, Gerard Mullally, Michael Grennan, Eoin Mullally, Alan Malone, Amby Malone, John Fitzgerald, Simon Kennedy, Edward Conway, Martin Woods, Stephen Cottrell, Joseph Croke.

Referee: Tommy Anthony (Mullinavat).

Cloneen brought the first ever juvenile title in hurling to the parish when they

beat Carrickshock in the Under-14 hurling Roinn C Final played in Nowlan Park.

The winners got a great start and led by 3-5 to 2-1 at the interval, thanks to goals by Damien Byrne, Patrick Dowd and Andrew Byrne. Carrickshock had their goals from Shane Power and Dinny O'Brien.

The switch of Niall Roughan from centre back to centre forward proved a big improvement for the losers and when he hammered home a goal in the second half, the winners were under a lot of pressure. Cloneen only scored one point in the second half and eventually won by 3-6 to 3-3.

Scorers: Cloneen – Damien Byrne 1-3, Patrick Dowd 1-1, Andrew Brennan 1-0, Alan Hosey 0-2. Carrickshock – Niall Roughan (1-1), Shane Power (1-0), Danny O'Brien (1-0), Michael Rice (0-2).

The teams were:

Cloneen: Donal Hennessy, William Love,

Paul Clancy, Keith Brennan, Lawrence Keyes, Johnny Lawlor, Shane Deegan, Alan Hosey, Damien Byrne, Lawrence Lyng, Patrick Dowd, Michael Lawlor, Sean O'Shea, Andrew Brennan, Pa Brennan.

Carrickshock: John Walsh, James Rice, Brian Tennyson, Richard Power, Stephen Lonergan, Niall Roughan, Liam Barron, Pat Dalton, Pat Cleary, Michael Rice, William King, Liam Aylward, Shane Power, Danny O'Brien, Michael Roughan.

Referee: John Direen (O'Loughlin/Gaels).

Cloneen just failed to make it a double, losing out to Lisdowney on a replay in the Roinn C league final sponsored by Supermacs. In the drawn game, Cloneen led by 2-2 to 0-2 at the interval. After Patrick Bowden and David Dowling had got a brace of points each for Lisdowney in the second half to narrow the gap to two points, they were rocked with a Cloneen goal.

A great finish however saw Pat Dunne goal and David Dowling add two points to



LISDOWNEY – SUPERMACS LEAGUE 'C' WINNERS 1995

Back Row (left to right): Eamon Nolan (Lisdowney Bórd na nÓg), Richard Blanchfield, Tommy Maher (coach), Brendan Maher, John Bergin, Paul Mullally, Owen Maher, Michael Bergin, John Murphy, Pat Bowden, David Dowling, David Hogan, John Carey, Declan Tallis, Josephine Murphy (selector). Front Row (left to right): Ronan Costelloe, Anthony O'Hara, Pdraig Doheny, Richard Kenny, Kevin Maher, Pat Dunne, Pdraig Bergin (capt), Patrick Bowden, Noel Dowling, John W. Bowden, P. J. Dowling, Michael Dowling, Eamon Dunne (coach). (Photo: Tom Brett)

leave the scores tied with Lisdowney 11-8, Cloneen 3-2.

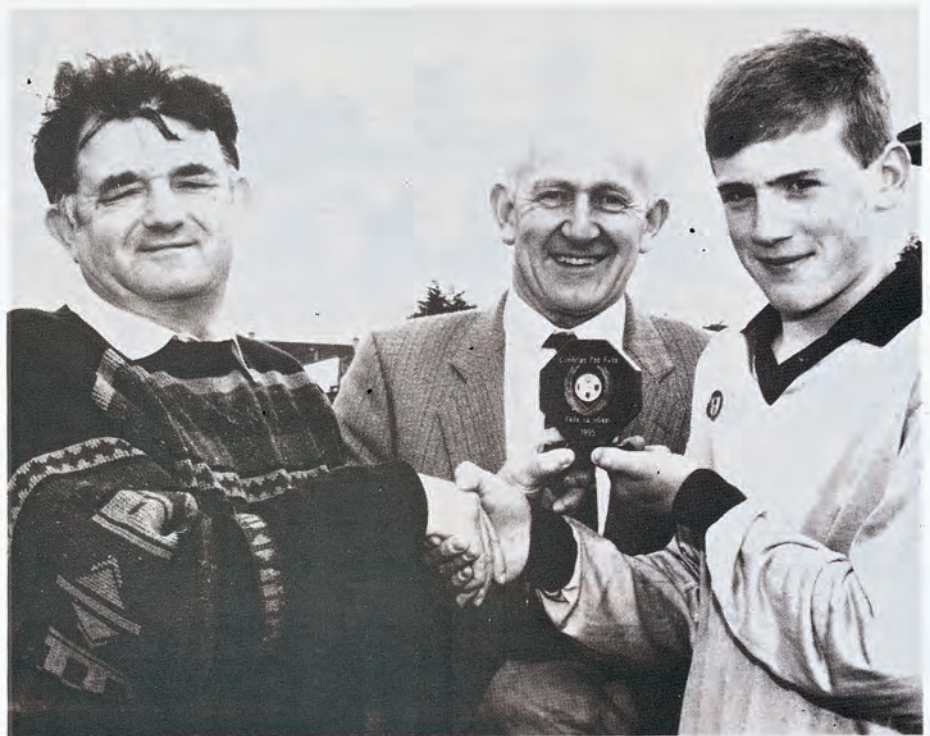
The replay also took place in Jenkinstowr, and, at the interval, it was all to play for, as Lisdowney led by the minimum 1-5 to 1-4. On resuming, Lisdowney had a goal from Pátrick Bowden and after that it was one way traffic as Cloneen lost their fullback Paul Clancy through injury. Lisdowney ran out winners by 4-10 to 1-5.

The team and scorers were: Brendan Maher, John Murphy, Richard Blanchfield, John Bergin, John Carey, Michael Dowling (0-1), Michael Bergin, Patrick Bowden (1-3), Pádraig Bergin (capt), David Hogan (0-2), David Dowling (3-4), Pat Bowden, Noel Dowling, Pat Dunne, Owen Maher. Subs: Richard Kenny, Ronan Costelloe.

The Clonéen team was the same as that which won the championship except C. Phillips played in place of Michael Lawlor.

O'Loughlin / Gaels completed the double when they beat James Stephens by 2-10 to 2-4 in the Supermacs Under-14 Football Roinn A in Palmerstown. Their last title was annexed in 1976.

A Brian Tyrrell goal helped James Stephens to a 1-2 to 0-4 interval lead. The Village pulled further ahead in the second half before O'Loughlin/Gaels fought back. A Darren O'Connor goal put O'Loughlin/Gaels 1--6 to 1-4 ahead. The same player added a point, but things were level when Maurice Harkin goaled, which proved to be the last score for the Village. O'Loughlin/Gaels finished in style with two points by Darren Carroll, a goal by Denis O'Brien and the final point from Thomas Comerford.



Under-14 Long Puck Champion Declan Byrne is presented with his trophy by Joe Pyke (chairman) and Tom Ryall (Secretary Bórd na nÓg).

Scorers: O'Loughlin/Gaels: Darren Carroll (1-4), Denis O'Brien (1-1), Brian Hogan (0-2), James O'Keeffe, Peter Dowling, Thomas Comerford 0-1 each). James Stephens: Niall Tyrrell (1-1), Brian Tyrrell (0-1), Barry O'Neill (0-2), Maurice Harkin (1-0)

The teams were:

O'Loughlin/Gaels: Thomas Lahart, Damien Griffin, Jason Pierce, Cormac Dalton, Jack Brett, Brian Murphy, Paul Kavanagh, James O'Keeffe, Denis O'Brien, Brian Hogan, Darren Carroll, Thomas Comerford, Mark Sheridan, Peter Dowling, Seamus Direen. Sub: Gerard O'Brien.

James Stephens: James Holden, Brendan

Doyle, Niall Grogan, Peter O'Neill, David Quinn, Alan Dunne, Jackie Tyrrell, Maurice Harkin, Brian Tyrrell, Mark Hogan, Gary Whelehan, Barry O'Neill, Eoin McCormack, Christopher Burke, Niall Tyrrell.

Referee: Shem Gibbons (Young Ireland's).

James Stephens retained the Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament and qualified for the Feile na nGael finals when they beat Tullaroan by 4-6 to 3-3. The winners will have a number of this team available in 1996 and will be difficult to beat.



TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON UNDER-14 ROINN 'C' RUNNER-UP

Back Row (left to right): Amby Malone, Mark Malone, Eoin Mullally, Patrick Gaule, Ger Mullally, Edward Mullally, Alan Malone, Stephen Cottrell, Martin Woods, John Grennan, Donal Phelan, Simon Kennedy, Eddie Connolly, Richard Gaule, Joe Croke. Front Row (left to right): Moling Cottrell, Kieran Grennan, Michael Murphy, John Fitzgerald, Martin Roche, Richard Murphy, Mark O'Brien, Tommy Maher, Kieran Barron, Michael Grennan. (Photo: Tom Brett)

BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

Where has all the glam-our gone? One might ask. With the Shamrocks being relegated to intermediate status the style and class has gone from senior hurling, but not for too long. Like the phoenix, Shamrock's hurling is on the up and up.

We'll start with u-11 and u-14. The young lads showed strength and determination when they won the Clover Meats tournament recently. Presently the u-10's and u-14's are in the final of the Inistioge tournament.

In the u-14 championship Roinn B. Shamrocks proved too strong for Tullogher.

The minors are in the semi-final of the Roinn B league.

The laurels didn't rest there. The u-16's walked away with the championship and league Roinn B by beating Emeralds in the league and Fenians in the championship in a convincing fashion.

So please, all you critics, don't write the Shamrock's off as the omega of hurling, rather the alpha, because that's what it is. the beginning of a new era.

Congratulations to all the teams. A big thanks to the hard working trainers and mentors who tirelessly looked after all the under age groups and who were justly rewarded for their efforts.



SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE, U-16 ROINN B PANEL CHAMPIONSHIP AND LEAGUE WINNERS 1995.

Back Row, L/R: S. Holden, J. P. Fitzpatrick, S. Aylward, P. Holohan, S. O'Keeffe, V. Kiely, D. Walsh, J. Kennedy, G. Connolly, A. Cummins, H. Shefflin, T. Coogan.

Front Row, L/R: J. O'Brien, D. Hoyne, A. Walsh, P. Reid, J. Healy, P. Shefflin, W. Coogan, B. Costello, R. Connolly, L. Grant, Sean O'Keeffe, J. Walsh.



SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE, U-14 ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP PANEL WINNERS 1995

Back Row, L/R: D. Hoyne, Ed. Fitzpatrick, J. Kennedy, L. Aylward, B. Walsh, W. Coogan, B. Costello, A. Walsh, R. Fitzpatrick, S. Walsh, E. Frisby.

Front Row, L/R: K. Murphy, Ml. Dermody, R. Aylward, E. Reid, J. Fitzpatrick, Ml. Drennan, P. Reid, J. Dermody, E. Fitzpatrick, R. Holohan, (Mascot: Richard Reid).



SHAMROCKS – Front Row L/R: Pdraig Farrell, Jimmy Lalor, Tommy Phelan, Tommy Shefflin, Ger Fennelly, Dermot Fennelly.

Back Row L/R: Conor Harrington, Sean Fennelly, Paul Phelan, Kevin Fennelly, Dick Walsh, Liam Fennelly, Seamus Ryan, John Shefflin, Michael Fennelly.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

BENNETTSBRIDGE

For the first time in 21 years, the club won a major adult title. Having battled through the Intermediate League campaign undefeated, we faced Dunamaggin in the League Final. Everything went right for us on the day, and we had a convincing win. However when next we met the same opposition in the Championship Final, the result was reversed considerably. In that final, our inter-county stalwart, Laim Simpson suffered an horrific knee injury, which has seen him incapacitated since. Hopefully, his injury problem will clear up shortly, and he will be able to resume his position with Kilikenny and his club. We welcomed back Eoin Lawlor from Dublin, but we bade farewell to Christy Walsh, who returned to play with his home club, Kilmoyley, in Kerry.

Our League panel was, Richard Mc. Carthy, Michael Conlon, Liam Simpson, Tommy Lennon, James Dowling, Tim Drea, Leo Mahon, Seamus Moran, Richard Moran, John Drea, Eoin Lawlor, James Mc. Garry, Fintan Cleere, Jimmy Lennon, Paul Forde, Brendan Walpole, Conor Dooley,

Pakie Lennon, Adrian Walpole, Wayne Dowling, Ger Treacy, John Conlon, Colm Lawlor, Noel Treacy, Tim Dooley, Eoin Cahalane, Tom Hanrahan, Tony Mc Guinness. We have developed the Community field beside the school, where all our under - 14 players can practice. Liam Simpson won a National League medal. James Mc. Garry won Leinster and All-Ireland Junior medals. John Drea won a Leinster minor medal.

DICK CARROLL

The people of Bennettsbridge were saddened earlier this year, at the sudden death of one of its greatest sons, Dick Carroll. His prowess on the hurling field was legendary. He won early success with the Bridge, when he captained them to win the County under-14 title in 1994. He doubled it up with a winning captaincy at minor level in 1947. He made his inter-county debut as a minor in 1948, but success was to elude him.

Dick was to win six Senior Hurling championships subsequently. He won one with Dicksboro in 1950. Dick Carroll was, in the informed opinion of many, the greatest hurler that ever pulled on a 'Bridge "geansie". He was strong, and brave, and he oozed class. How ironic it was then, that he never managed to collect an All-Ireland Senior medal in all his days hurling. He did contest the All-Ireland final of



Dick Carroll - died April 13, 1995.

1959, but alas, Waterford took the honours on that occasion, after a replay. He did, however, win a Railway Cup medal with Leinster in 1954, and a National League medal in 1962, when Cork were "put down".

Dick was employed for years by Mosses. He was an exemplary community worker, and he was always a willing helper when it came to performing tasks that were to the benefit of his beloved Bennettsbridge. The village will certainly be the poorer for his passing. The sympathy of the club is respectfully extended to his family and friends. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

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BLACKS AND WHITES

President: Jack Kelly
Treasurer: Gerry Murphy

Chairman: Joe Lawlor
Registrar: Tommy Farrell

Secretary: Ned Kelly
P.R.O.: Cathal Moran

Plans/Development: Electrical and plumbing works completed on club dressing rooms.

Although Blacks & Whites failed in their quest to win the Junior Hurling Championship, the past year has been very successful for the club. After an eleven match campaign, our Junior team won the inaugural All-County Junior League, beating O'Loughlins, Dicksboro, Mooncoin, Lisdowney, St. Patrick's and the Fenians in the league section, while victories in the knock-out stages over Piltown, Galmoy and Kilmacow secured the title.

Blacks & Whites Junior Football team finally captured the Junior Championship after defeats in the 1993 and 1994 finals. A third successive loss looked on the cards, when, in the final against Carrickshock, we were trailing by four points in the fifty ninth minute. A late point and goal, however, saved the day, and a much better performance was produced in the replay with Blacks & Whites running out winners 1-12 to 1-7. Teams beaten on the way were O'Loughlin's, Dicksboro, Danesfort, Galmoy and Bennettsbridge (in the Northern Final).

At primary schools level, Skeoughvosteen N.S. had seven representatives on the Graignamanagh panel which won the Roinn B Championship - James Doran, Shane O'Sullivan, Peter

Cleere, Shane Murphy, Barry Moloney, Brian Moloney and Conor Murphy. Skeoughvosteen N.S. put in some great performances in reaching the semi-final of the 7-a-side competition, before going down to Roinn A County Champions, Tullaroan. The team was - Shane Murphy, James Brennan, James Doran, Shane O'Sullivan, Barry Moloney, Peter Cleere and Barry Dalton.

Under-10 and under-13 hurling teams and under-16 camogie teams visited the club grounds from Ennis, where club player, Pat O'Grady is working as GAA Development Officer. Dublin Juvenile teams also visited the club for hurling and football games, while Blacks & Whites travelled to Kildare and Laois clubs for under-10 and under-13 football games.



BLACK & WHITES U-13 V. SCOIL CRÍOST RÍ, ENNIS, MAY '95.

Back Row: Tommy O'Brien, Fiachra Moran, James Doran, James Burke, James Brennan, Peter Cleere, Shane O'Sullivan, Brian Moloney, Tony Dalton (trainer). Front Row: Liam Kelly, John Murphy, John O'Brien, Jimmy Whelan, Jason Carroll, Shane Murphy, Keith Byrne, Barry Dalton, Niall Kennedy.

KILKENNY

CORPORATION and COUNTY COUNCIL



*Well done to our men and ladies
in Black and Amber*



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL
KILKENNY
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Fax: 056-63384

KILKENNY CORPORATION
CITY HALL
KILKENNY
Tel: 056-21076
Fax: 056-63422

ST. BRIGIDS CAMOGIE TEAM, BALLYCALLAN



Front Row: (l to r) Lyn Holden, Deirdre Treacy, Pauline Comerford, Deirdre Sullivan, Tracy Millea, Sinead Millea, Mary McGrath, Aisling Byrne, Ursula Walton. Back row (l to r): Pat Treacy, (Trainer), Angela Cleere, Mary Purcell, Kay Dunphy, Deirdre Malone, Orla Ryall, Mary Ryall, Ann-Marie Ryall, Margaret Comerford, Breda Cahill, Catherine Keogh. Photo: Ignatius O'Neill.

FENIANS - ROINN 'B' COUNTY HURLING CHAMPIONS



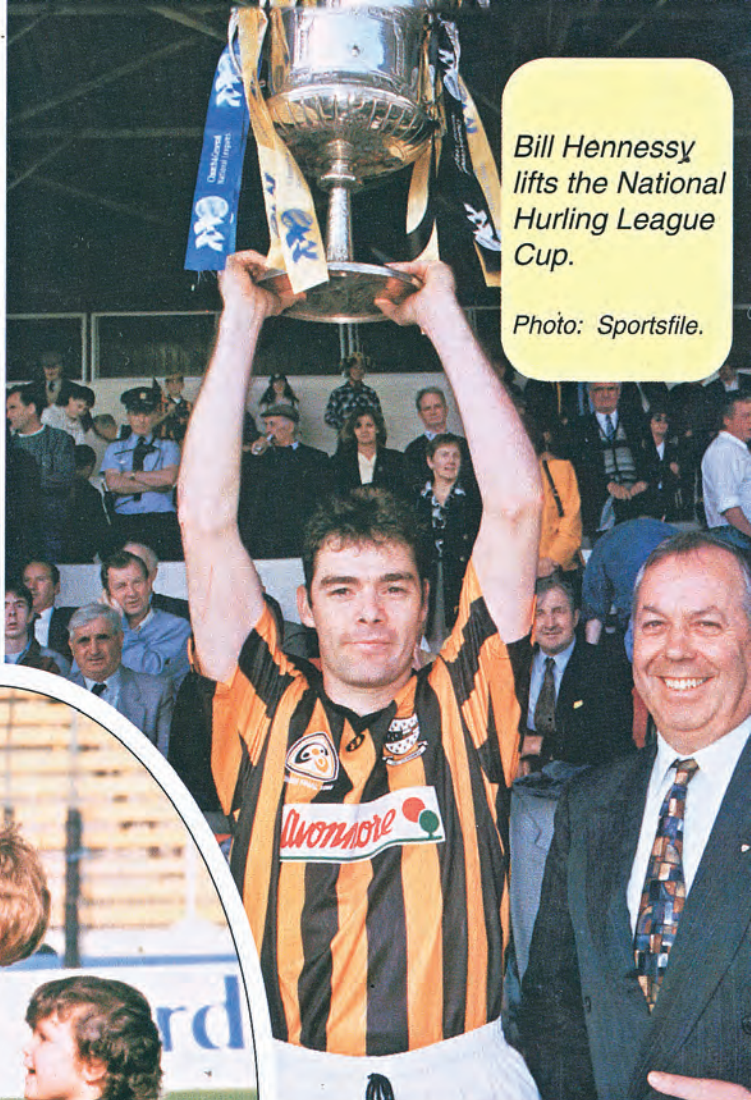
Front row (l to r): Jason Ryan, Podge Delaney, Eoin Beehan, P.J. Ryan, Brian Power, Michael Glendon, Laurence Ryan, Martin Quinlan. Back row (l to r): Paul Cashman, Declan Garret, Joseph Delaney, Kevin Power, Ger Beehan, William Cleary, Aidan Butler. Photo Tom O'Neill.

Joe Murphy with the "Murphy clan" after collecting the All Ireland Junior Hurling Cup. Tommy Murphy is with his children Katie & Paul.
Photo: Tom O'Neill.

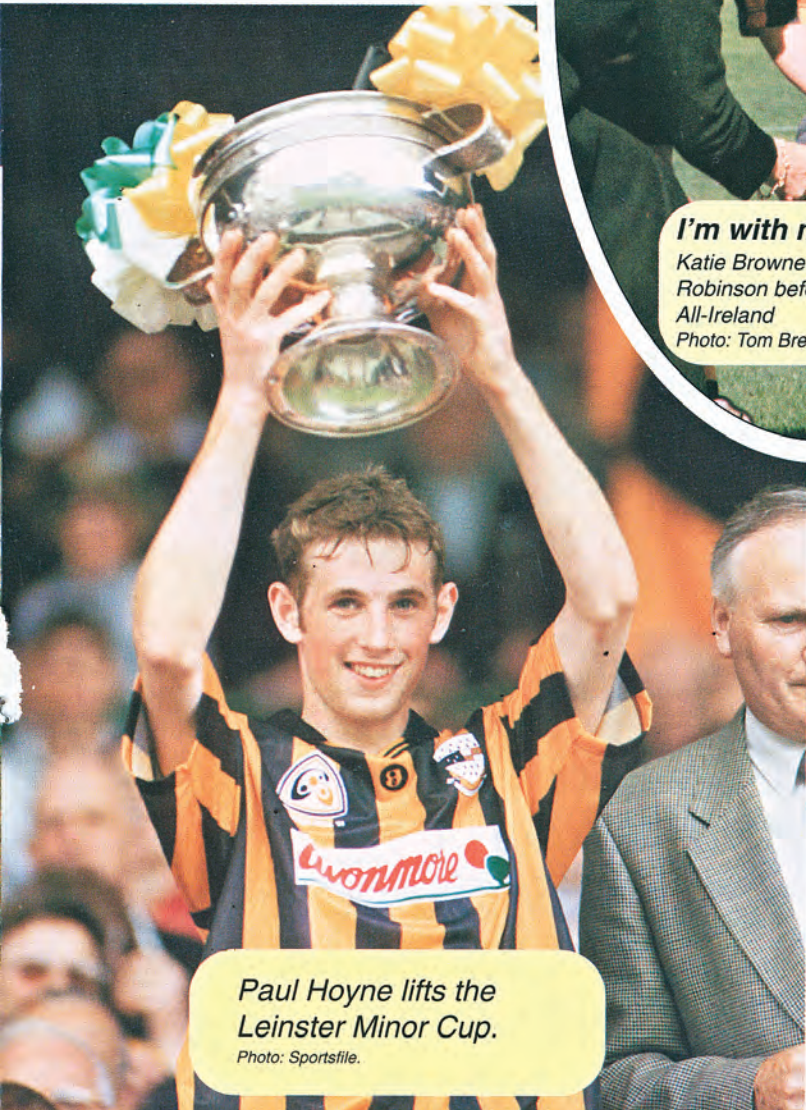


Bill Hennessy lifts the National Hurling League Cup.

Photo: Sportsfile.



I'm with my mammy!
Katie Browne meets President Robinson before the camogie All-Ireland
Photo: Tom Brett



Paul Hoyne lifts the Leinster Minor Cup.
Photo: Sportsfile.



Peter Barry Captain of Leinster u21 Champs.

Photo: Tom O'Neill.

BARROW RANGERS

THE YEAR 1995 could not be classed as a successful one for the club. A distinct lack of commitment both on and off the field was noticeable in all grades. The adult team will revert to Junior hurling in 1996, following four years in the Intermediate grade, during which they rarely looked like making a breakthrough. Good displays in the Byrne Cup raised hopes for a successful League/Championship campaign but how wrong we were!

An over-dependence on Dermot Maher for scores and a lack of commitment proved their downfall as they only succeeded in winning one game in the whole campaign against an understrength Graignamanagh. It was a great surprise when Rower-Inistioge beat them in the first round of the championship and Tullogher-Rosbercon relegated them to the Junior grade.

The Intermediate footballers, by defeating Clara in their final game, retained their status for 1996. The Special Junior hurlers were beaten in a play-off by St. Lachtain's for a league semi-final place.

The under-21 team, backboned by Ned Drea and Dermot Maher, had good victories over Cloneen and Emeralds but were well beaten by Fenians in the northern semi-final.

Once again the club was honoured to have inter-county representation with Ned Drea and Dermot Maher prominent members of the victorious Junior team. They



PAULSTOWN N.S. CAMOGIE TEAM

Back row (left to right) – Elaine Whelan, Maura Healy, Caroline Staunton, Orla Roche, Pauline Walsh, Patrice Mullins, Karen McDonald. **Middle row** (left to right) – Sarah Costigan, Caitriona Bambrick, Nicola Cowman, Edel Mullins, Catherine Staunton, Colette Byrne, Niamh Kealy, Aisling Kealy, Claire Brennan, Mrs. Mary Holden, Paul Holden. **Front row** (left to right) – Sara Brennan, Niamh Hennessy, Lisa Brennan, Leonie Staunton, Sheila Kelly.

were also members of the Under-21 panel who reached the All-Ireland final. Both players did themselves proud and brought credit to our parish and club. Pat Drea was a member of the Senior football team.

At Juvenile level much work remains to be done. A start was made in '95 with the setting up of a separate committee – Chairman, Michael Kelly; Secretary, Nicky Morrissey; P.R.O., Pat Staunton – But the only limited success at this level was in Under-16 football where the side reached the League semi-final before losing to Emeralds. All other teams made little impression. Overall, a major reorganisation will be necessary if the club is to have further success.

Paulstown National School camogie team had wins over Bennettsbridge and Clara before losing the county semi-final to Galmoy. The hurlers had their best run for some years, winning four games before losing out to eventual winners, Galmoy.

The school leagues continue to be extremely successful and this year included a football league for the first time. Patrick Walsh's team won the hurling league, runners-up Liam Walsh's team. Joseph Buggy's team won the football league, beating Joseph Hughes' team in a very exciting final.

We would like to remember supporters, players and friends of the club who had



PAULSTOWN N.S. – SUMMER HURLING LEAGUE WINNERS

Back row (left to right) – Pauline Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Peter Brophy. **Front row** (left to right) – Catherine Staunton, Richard Kelly, Niall Carroll, Aidan Brennan.



PAULSTOWN N.S. – AUTUMN GAELIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE WINNERS

Back row (left to right) – Joseph Buggy, Michael Fitzpatrick, Seán Brennan. **Front row** (left to right) – Joseph Hughes, Ricky Murphy, Edward Collins-Hughes.

CLUBS R O U N D - U P

BARROW RANGERS – Contd.

bereavements during the year and extend our sympathies to them and their families.

CLUB OFFICERS

President, Fr. Seán Ó Laoghaire; Chairman, Larry Doyle; Vice-Chairman, Gerry Purcell; Secretary, Bob Shortall; Assistant Secretary, Ed Drea; Treasurer, Pat Drea; Assistant Treasurer, Mervyn Healy; P.R.O., Michael Shortall.

Field Committee: Eoin Gavin, Liam Walsh, Pat Healy, Denis Kealy, Stephen Dormer, Ian Staunton. Selectors: Hurling – Larry Doyle, John Hanlon, Mick Medlar; Football – Larry Doyle, Bob Shortall, Frank Dormer.



PAULSTOWN/GORESBRIDGE N.S. HURLING TEAM

Back row (left to right) – John Connolly, Alan Wall, Stephen Brophy, Ciarán Cooke, Peter Brophy, John Murphy, Raymond O'Neill. **Front row** (left to right) – Robert Collins-Hughes, David Kelly, Danny Kearney, Liam Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Denis Kealy, Michael Walsh, Derek Whelan.



PAULSTOWN N.S. – SUMMER HURLING LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP

Back row (left to right) – Liam Walsh, Niamh Kealy, Darren O'Neill. **Front row** (left to right) – David Walsh, Séamus Brennan, Michael Fitzpatrick.



PAULSTOWN N.S. – AUTUMN GAELIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP

Back row (left to right) – Robert Collins-Hughes, Raymond O'Neill, Aidan Doyle. **Front row** (left to right) – Andrew Healy, Richard Kelly, Billy Murphy.

RAILYARD

WHILST the season didn't deliver an embarrassment of trophies, nevertheless, our club fulfilled all its fixtures without exception.

At senior level, our charges were knocked out by the eventual County champions, James Stephens at the semi-final stage of the competition. Our Junior team did reach the County Final, but were beaten, by the same club in the Final. Our school's team has reached their final stage, and we hope they will emerge as champions. Expectations are high also for our Under-14 team.

Our main club officers for the year are:

Chairman, Eddie Mahon; Secretary, Jim Purcell; Treasurer, Liam Mooney; Groundsmen: Joe Coogan and Michael Walsh.

The following players wore the Black and Amber with distinction during the year: Damian Walsh, Bernard Maguire, Eddie Roche, Larry Buggy and John Dowd.

The club is presently developing another playing surface.



James McDonald (Ironmills) at six months – Kilkenny's youngest supporter.

CARRICKSHOCK



SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995

Back Row L/R: John O'Dwyer, Tommy Nolan, Michael Murphy, Patrick Nolan, Derek O'Grady, Jim O'Shea, Ollie Roche, Freddie Malzard, Adrian Burke, Larry O'Shea, Clive Cuddihy. Front Row L/R: Pat Tennyson, John Raggett, Richie Nolan, Eamonn Phelan, Tom Cassin (Capt.), George Frisby, Barry Hudson, Eddie O'Dwyer, Michael Walsh, Jason Cuddihy.

The club won the special Junior "B" championship, the under-13 hurling championship, and the 1994 under-21 football championship. We reached the intermediate semi-final in the hurling championship, we took the runner-up spot in the special Junior hurling league, and the same fate was our lot in the Junior football championship, and the under-14 hurling championship. Our under-21 team were beaten in the first round, and both our minor hurling and our under-16 hurling teams were beaten in the south final.

The club's officers for the year were, Maurice Power (Chairman), Tommy Murphy (Vice-do), Pat Power (Secretary), Jimmy Sheehan (Treasurer), and Nicky Murphy (PRO).

Our development plans with the new Community Hall is making steady progress, and should be open in 1996.

Well done to Pat Dwyer on winning a National League medal, and to Patrick Farrell on winning his All-Ireland Junior Medal.

Other clubmen to play for Kilkenny during the year were: Martin Rohan, P.J. Cuddihy, Eamon Phelan, Jason Cuddihy, Pat Tennyson, Brian Cantwell, Niall Rohan, Gerry Murphy, Liam Barron, and Michael Rice

Compliments to Noel Maher (Trainer) on another excellent year, and good luck to Richie Power in his new assignment with the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team.

OBITUARY

On May 27th, the club lost a dear, and valued friend, in the person of our former Parish Priest, Fr. Joseph Galavan. He arrived in the parish as parish priest in 1975, and his enthusiasm, and determination was very instrumental in the purchase and development of the Hugginstown GAA field. He was very much a leader when it came to erecting the stand in the park, and without Fr. Joe's encouragement, and oft sought advice, it is indeed doubtful if the present hurling field, and it's amenities would ever have become a reality. He was a treat supporter of Kilkenny hurling in general, and Carrickshock hurling in particular.

Carrickshock GAA club truly lost a magnificent friend, and his loss to the parish in general will be felt.



Father Joseph Galavan P.P.



1994 UNDER -21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Back Row L/R: Edward Power, Tommy Murphy (trainer), Michael O'Grady, Michael Murphy, Gary Comerford, Noel Maher, Adrian Bourke, James Duggan, John Raggett, Peter Cassin, Michael Walsh, P.J. Cuddihy. Middle Row L/R: Richard Nolan, Martin Rohan, Eamon Phelan, Joseph Nolan, Jack Murphy, Jim Rohan, Clive Cuddihy, Oliver Barron. Front Row L/R: Larry O'Shea, Barry Hudson, Nicky Murphy (capt), Niall Rohan. Missing from photo: Eddie Dwyer.

CLARA

UNDER-10

CLAKA Under-10 boys and girls continue to train every Saturday morning under the expert guidance of J. Ryan, T. O'Shea, J. Murphy, P. Brennan, D. McDonald and S. Knox.

Clara took part in the annual Judge Comerford Under-10 hurling tournament and lost out narrowly to St. Martin's after the second replay.

A very successful league was held for Under-8 and Under-11 during October and over 60 children took part.

At the end of October, Clara also took part in the Under-10 Bennettsbridge eleven-a-side blitz and came out on top, having defeated Bennettsbridge, Danesfort and John Locke's.

UNDER-13

In the Lisdowney seven-a-side tournament, having been defeated narrowly by Dicksboro in the first round, we beat Camross in the next round to qualify for a place in the Shield competition. Clara defeated Moycarkey and Freshford to gain a place in the final against Meelick/Eyrecourt.

In the final, Meelick/Eyrecourt snatched victory from Clara with a last minute goal.

Panel – C. Phelan, J. Phelan, T. Brennan,

M. Barcoe, E. Kealy, F. Knox, G. Prendergast, L. Ryan, D. Nolan, F. Treacy.

UNDER-14

Clara lost ten of last year's victorious Under-14 team and, despite this, performed well and qualified for the Northern final.

In the league, Clara started with a comprehensive victory over Bennettsbridge and were very unlucky to lose out to James Stephens in the second round. In the third round they were well beaten by Cloneen after making all the early running and then conceding some soft goals. They were also defeated by Lisdowney in the last round and missed out on a quarter-final place in the league.

However, Clara fared far better in the championship and had very good victories over Conahy Shamrocks and Blacks and Whites to qualify for the Northern final and a meeting with Cloneen again.

Clara did all the early pressing and led by 3-1 to 1-0 after 20 minutes of the first half. As the game progressed, the strength of the Cloneen team was beginning to tell and despite Clara's best efforts, Cloneen ran out winners on a score of 6-6 to 4-3. Cloneen also went on to win the county final.

Clara also qualified for the Shield final in the Diarmuid Shortall memorial tourna-

ment and were narrowly beaten by St. Lachtain's.

Under-14 panel – D. Nolan, F. Treacy, M. Prendergast, T. Dowling, J. Phelan, T. Brennan, D. Meany, P. Roche, M. Barcoe, M. Shortall, G. Byrne, G. Prendergast, C. Phelan, F. Knox, E. Kealy, J. Tobin, P. Brennan, N. Burke, D. Knox, K. Tobin, J. Carroll, J. Brennan, J. Nolan, J. O'Keefe.

UNDER-16

A lot was expected of this year's Under-16 team due to their victories last year in the Under-14 Roinn C league and championship. However, despite not winning anything, Clara qualified for the finals of the league and championship.

In the league, Clara had victories over Dicksboro II, James Stephens II and Blacks and Whites to qualify for the knockout stages of the league where we defeated Danesfort in the quarter-final.

In the semi-final we had a hard-earned victory over Kilmacow by 1-7 to 1-4 to earn a spot against James Stephens II in the final. Having defeated James Stephens II already in the preliminary section of the league, we were expected to win the league final. However, James Stephens had other ideas and beat us comprehensively in the final on a score of 4-4 to 0-5.

In the championship, Clara got a walk-over from Dicksboro II in the first round



LISDOWNEY SEVENS HURLING – CLARA UNDER-13 SEVEN-A-SIDE SHIELD FINALISTS 1995

Back (L-R) – Conor Phelan, Fintan Treacy, Fergus Knox, Ger Prendergast, Michael Barcoe. *Front (L-R)* – Thomas Brennan, Liam Ryan, Dermot Nolan, John Phelan, David Prendergast.



Group of Clara Under-8s with Coaches Tom O'Shea, John Moore and Johnny Ryan

CLUBS

ROUND - UP

and then went on to meet James Stephens II. Clara, after a very good start, led by 3-3 to 2-0 at half-time. Clara again started well in the second half and led by 3-7 to 2-1 with ten minutes remaining.

However, James Stephens put the pressure on and scored two goals and Clara were relieved to hear the final whistle, having won on a scoreline of 3-7 to 4-1.

In the Northern final we were up against Danesfort and, despite the absence of R. Nolan and P. J. McDonald, had a comprehensive victory by 5-10 to 0-4 to qualify for our second final of the year against the Southern champions, Kilmacow.

In the final Clara had first use of the wind and completely dominated their opponents in the first twenty minutes, scoring 2-6 to Kilmacow's two points from frees. Clara then conceded a soft goal and went in at the interval leading by 2-6 to 1-2.

The wind picked up in the second half and Kilmacow made full use of it and pulled back the deficit, scoring 3-3 over the next 20 minutes to take a two-point lead. Clara were not finished and had a goal from E. Mulrooney with eight minutes remaining. However, Kilmacow finished the stronger and score three goals without reply, to run out eventual winners by 6-5 to 3-6.

Under-16 panel – M. Kealy, T. Murphy, R. Nolan, M. Prendergast, I. Treacy, P. J. McDonald, T. J. Fitzgerald, A. Fitzpatrick, J. Prendergast, B. Phelan, G. Byrne, D. Mulrooney, E. Mulrooney, P. Langton, K. Shortall, E. Dowling, B. Nolan, M. Shortall, J. Bambrick, G. Byrne, T. Dowling, N. Hoyne.

MINOR

In the Minor league, Clara had good wins over Cloneen and Barrow Rangers, and after coming from twelve points down at half-time against Danesfort, in the final round of the league, fought back bravely to gain a draw and a place in the league quarter-final against St. Patrick's, Ballyragget.

At the time this game was played, St. Patrick's had already won the Roinn C minor championship and were in confident mood. Clara hurled very well in the first half and were behind by a point at the break.

In the second half, Clara did all the pressing, despite being against a strong wind, and were unlucky to miss some frees to take the lead. St. Patrick's then got a few easy goals against the run of play and ran out winners on a score of 3-4 to 0-7.



CLARA – UNDER-16 LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS, ROINN C, 1995

Back row – Trevor Murphy, Martin Prendergast, Patrick Langton, Tom Murphy, John Prendergast, Edmund Mulrooney, Gordon Byrne, Kevin Shortall, Benny Nolan, Ian Treacy, Eoin Dowling, Gerry Byrne. **Front row** – John Bambrick, Noel Hoyne, Mark Shortall, Richard Nolan, T. J. Fitzgerald, Martin Kealy, Adrian Fitzpatrick, David Mulrooney, Brian Phelan, P. J. McDonald, Tommy Dowling.



CLARA UNDER 10

Back row – Coaches: Shane Knox, Dan McDonald, Peadar Brennan, J. R. Murphy. **Third row** – Austin Murphy, John Brennan, Ciaran Kirwan, Kieran Tobin, John Murphy, Mark Treacy, Niall Prendergast, David Prendergast, Shane Prendergast. **Second row** – Michael Bergin, Liam Ryan, Killian Brennan, Tadhg Curley, Thomas Coogan, Denis Tobin, Francis Knox, Seamus Murphy. **First row** – Niall Costigan, Mark Drennan, Paddy Foley, Gemma Dowling, Christine Matthews, Margaret Nolan, Aisling McDonald, Deirdre Shortall.

In the championship, Clara were very unlucky to lose out to Conahy Shamrocks in the first round at Palmerstown. Leading by two points with the seconds ticking away, we conceded a goal after a deflection off one of the backs.

Clara were very disappointed as this team had trained hard during the year. However, the majority of this team are again under age next year, when we will be hoping to progress further.

Minor panel – E. Mulrooney, E. Meaney, S. Barcoe, T. Murphy, P. J. McDonald, P. Meaney, N. Kenny, D. McDonald, B. O'Keefe, P. Murphy, J. Treacy, C. Brennan, C. Shortall, P. Langton, S. Knox, T. Carrigan, T. J. Fitzgerald, B. Nolan, B. Phelan, A. Fitzpatrick, M. Kealy, R. Nolan, I. Treacy.

During 1995, two Clara players represented Kilkenny – Gerry Byrne, who was on the Kilkenny Under-14 team in the Tony Forristal tournament, and Adrian Fitzpatrick, who was a member of the North Kilkenny Under-16 panel.

This year Clara also held the first annual under-16 tournament in honour of Liam Ryan who was secretary of the club for many years. The semi-finals were played on Saturday, 7th October, and Young Irelands defeated Clara on a score of 1-10 to 0-5, while Bennettsbridge defeated Danesfort in a very closely-fought contest by 6-6 to 4-7.

Young Irelands had an easy victory over Bennettsbridge in the final and the cup was presented to the winning captain, Barry O'Donnell, by Johnny Ryan.

CLONEEN

THE highlight of the year was the winning of the under-14 Roinn C Championship. This augurs well for the future development of the club. The club also entered – for the first time in its history – a team in the Under-21 Championship.

Our very young outfit were beaten by Barrow Rangers. As a result of his sterling

performances at this level, Damian Walsh was called into the county panel for a number of trials. Whilst performing well he failed to make the final selection. However, he is eligible again next year.

We have finally been able to purchase our own field, of six acres, beside the community field in The Plots. Next Spring, the machinery will move in, and the provision of a roadway, car park, clubhouse and handball alley will be top of the list.

Our Junior team won three matches in the all-county Junior League. We were drawn against the Blacks and Whites in the first round of the championship. We fought hard, and long, but to no avail.

Our club officers for the 1995 year were: Chairman, Donal Brennan; Secretary, Charlie McCarthy, Treasurer, Tim Wilson.



CLONEEN UNDER-14 WITH CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Back row – Gerry Meally (Trainer), Louise Kenna, Angela Coogan, Shane Deegan, William Love, Patrick Brennan, Donal Hennessy, Andrew Hosey, John Lawler, Damian Byrne, Paudraig Dowd, Keith Brennan, Andrew Brennan. **Front** – Amy Brennan, Caroline Brennan, Seán O'Shea, Laurence Keyes, Seán Maher, Patrick Holohan, Laurence Lyng, Paul Clancy, Michael Lawler, Colin Phillips, Tommy Dunne.

CONAHY SHAMROCKS

CONAHY SHAMROCKS have little to celebrate after another disappointing year, but sister club Conahy Sarsfields did manage an overdue county title when the Under-16 footballers captured the Roinn "C" Championship.

The Intermediate hurlers had a steady league campaign and just missed out on a semi-final spot when losing to Dunnamaggin in the last game. To make matters worse, Conahy looked to be heading for a draw with minutes remaining, but a late scoring burst from Dunnamaggin ended Conahy's league ambitions.

The subsequent championship was somewhat of a disaster for Conahy, when, minus some key players, they fell to Clara

in the first round after a very poor display. It finally turned out to be a case of better late than never when the team gave their best display of the year in the defeat of Tullagher-Rosbercon in the relegation semi-final.

The Special Junior hurlers had another good campaign, reaching the semi-finals of both the Northern League and Championship. The Under-21 hurlers should have done better than reaching the second round of the championship where they lost out to Tullaroan.

The Intermediate footballers reached yet another county semi-final were they just lost out to Kilmoganny after a great game. The Under-21 footballers lost out to Erin's Own in the Northern Final.

The Club's under-age teams again produced many outstanding displays, par-

ticularly the Under-16 and Minor hurlers, while the Under-14 and Under-13 sides found the going a little difficult.

The success of the Under-16 footballers was just reward for all the effort by the team and officials. The Under-14 team lost out to the Emeralds while the Minor team are not involved in the championship until late November.

On the inter-county scene, Conahy player Canice Brennan won a National Hurling League medal while Ciarán Connery and Ciarán Muldowney were members of the Under-21 panel.

Other players to represent Kilkenny were Paul Byrne (Minor Hurling), Paul Buggy (Under 16 Hurling and Under 17 Football) and Brendan Griffith, Tomás Lawless and John Brennan (Under-17 Football).

CARRIGEEN

The past year has been quite successful for Carrigeen GAA Club. Scór Na nÓg got our year off to a good start when our young team, under the guidance of Pat Dalton won the Phil Cahill Cup for the 2nd year in succession. Pat himself followed up in Senior Scór by taking the Recitation section for the 3rd time in a row. **WELL DONE TO THEM ALL.**

On the hurling scene, the club appoint-

ed Glenmore man Eddie O'Connor to train and coach our special Junior team. He did us the honour by doing just that in spite of being exceptionally busy, with his commitments to Kilkenny, Glenmore and Waterford Stanley.

After going through some lean years on the playing field, Eddie's task looked enormous but with his hurling passion and dedication he succeeded in lifting the team and inspiring us to several wins, becoming a force to be reckoned with. Though not winning the championship,

the club is delighted with the progress that was made and many thanks are due to Eddie and also the members of the panel especially the young guns who put in such a good effort.

On the football front, we managed to hit the post in more ways than one. Eddie Quinn's charges put in a gallant effort to reach the County Special Junior, semi-final, only to lose out to that football stronghold, Railyard after a replay in which the width of the post was the difference in contesting our first final within the county. Better luck next year lads.

The club would like to congratulate our two referees Eddie Quinn & Pat Dunphy, and umpires, on a busy and committed year on the feadóg. The time and energy that goes into being a referee or umpire needs to be seen at first hand. The club are proud of your achievements.

We are also proud of the assistance given to the county board by Pat Dalton, Paddy Power, Eddie Quinn and Richard Quinn & Co., who have never been shy when it came to manning the gates at Nowlan Park or in carrying out other duties that have to be performed from time to time.

Finally, a big thank you to all the dedicated fundraisers, committee members and anyone who helped the club in anyway during the past year. **GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH GO LÉIR.**



SCÓR NA NÓG FIGURE DANCING CHAMPIONS FROM CARRIGEEN – Back Row L/R: Ann Power, Marie Power, Elma Walsh. Front Row L/R: Linda O'Brien, Patricia Dalton, Niamh Dunphy.

DANESFORT

With teams from the Parish competing at eight different levels of competition, it could be said that we had more rewarding years than 1995. However, the enthusiasm shown, both on and off the field was heartening, and admirable.

Our Junior hurlers failed to make the League play-offs, and were eliminated at the first hurdle by the Emeralds. The scenario was similar with the Junior football team, the special Junior hurling team, and our Minor team. Nevertheless, it was the under-16, and under-14 grades that indicated a much brighter prospect for the future of the club. The under-16 team were beaten by Clara in the championship at the Northern Final stage, and the same opponents beat them at the semi-final stage of the League campaign. Our under-14 team reached the quarter-final stages of the League before failing to Lisdowney, and the same opponents took care of our lads in the first round of the championship.

The "big game" that has taken off within the club, is indoor hurling, thanks in

the main to Pat Treacy.

Congratulations to Tom and Tim Murphy who represented the club on Kilkenny County teams. Tim won a Junior Colleges medal with St. Kieran's College. Congratulations to Richie Walsh, who was a panelist on the Kilkenny Masters All-Ireland winning team.

Jimmy Cahill continues to maintain great interest, and standards with our pitch.

Msgr. M. Campion (chairman); Richard Mahony (vice-do); Finbarr Kelly (sec.); Larry Mahony (P.R.O.); Tommy Murphy (treas.); Maurice Woodcock (asst. treas.); Jimmy Cahill (groundsmen).



DANESFORT – NORTHERN JUNIOR FINALISTS 1963 – Back Row L/R: Sean Hanrahan, Dick Mahony, Ned Ring, Mick Hanrahan, Frank Manogue, Val Moylan, Liam Brophy (RIP), Freddy Crawford, Joe Kelly, Kevin Mahony, Philly O'Brien. Front Row L/R: Billy Ireland, Frank Mahony, Luke Morrissey, Jim McGrath, Micky Barry, Seamus Hanrahan, Gerry Moran, Tommy Gleeson, Godfrey Moylan.

Michael "Tich" Phelan airs his views



by Richard Holden

FOR Michael Phelan, 1995 will go down as a mixed year. He was dogged with injury problems throughout the year, being taken off with torn ligaments in his shoulder in the first half of the NHL Final against Clare last May. Consequently, he missed the Laois and Dublin Leinster Championship clashes, but was rushed back for the Leinster Final. However, like many others on that black letter day for Kilkenny hurling, he failed to do himself justice – suffering from a lack of match fitness. Despite these setbacks Michael came back to form in the latter stages of the Championship with Glenmore, and won a fourth Championship medal with the Southerners.

On foot of that success the dual All-Ireland medallist has been appointed as Kilkenny Senior Hurling captain for the forthcoming season. He feels that one of the main responsibilities as captain is in motivation and showing a bit of leadership; never giving up, even when everything is going wrong.

Tich, as he is affectionally known in Kilkenny, leads a new look side into the throes of rebuilding. During the League, Nicky Brennan is planning to blood some of the U-21s from the '94 and '95 teams who won two Leinster titles and one All-Ireland. Last August, Ollie Walsh stepped down as manager having guided the Cats to three Leinsters, two All Irelands back to back, and two National League titles. I asked Michael what he felt were Ollie's main qualities during his five year tenure: "Ollie was able to motivate you to give of your best, to keep your head up even when playing badly. He had a great way with the players and was highly respected". Ollie's last year in charge was a source of major disappointment despite a National League title. Michael felt that "The players were a bit tired and lethargic, but it is hard to put your finger on exactly why it happened, especially after playing so well in the League Final. There was a lack of fluency throughout our Championship matches.



Michael's the man.... Glenmore's Michael Phelan who won the "Man of the Match" award in the 1995 Credit Union Senior Hurling Final receives his trophy from Milo Grogan, President, St. Canice's Credit Union

Photo: Tom Brett

Nicky Brennan has been installed as the new Kilkenny supremo and I asked the Glenmore Stalwart about the importance of the role of Manager. "It is important to be a motivator without being seen to be a dictator. The same pressures exist for both the Junior Club Manager and the Inter-County Manager. I would view it overall as a thankless job at the end of the day"

Clare's first All-Ireland title in 81 years was greeted with much public adulation. I asked Michael for his opinion on what gave Clare the edge this year. "It was their appetite and hunger. Also Ger Loughnane's belief in his players. His assurance that they would win the Munster Final – that there was no one as good as Kilkenny in Munster in the wake

of their defeat in the League Final showed the confidence he had in his players."

Regarding the All-Ireland Championship next year, Tich believes that Clare can retain their Munster title but that Cork will be very hard to beat with Jimmy Barry Murphy injecting new confidence into the team. He also believes that Offaly are again the team to beat in Leinster. "They are still very young and have shown no fear of Kilkenny or Wexford in the last few years", he said.

There has been much debate on whether the G.A.A. should go professional and whether players should benefit financially. Tich feels that players should be compensated for their time and effort. "It can be hard to keep up

especially during the summer. You leave work and head straight for training and it is often after 11 o'clock by the time you get home. The victories make it all worthwhile and we are lucky enough because Kilkenny have had a fair bit of success. It must be very difficult for players playing with teams who have not had much success. I feel that players should be compensated for time off work and that there should be a leniency towards hospital bills especially. I also feel that players should get some reward from their efforts outside the game: that they should be allowed to do promotions if they want to. It should not be a closed shop".

In recent years, the All-Star system has come under intense scrutiny. This year, for the first time, the players will have an input into the selection. I asked Michael for his views on this: He said " I think it is a fairer system this year. Before, there were too many involved in making the selections, and this resulted in few crazy decisions like, for instance, Brian Whelehan's omission last year. .

Glenmore won their fourth Senior Title since 1987 and I asked Michael what he thought was the turning point in the Championship. "I would say the quarter final clash with Dicksboro. Training wasn't going too well and there was a general lack of confidence. Luckily enough we got the few breaks on the day and our young players really shone through. After that victory we felt that we could now go on and win it out".

Michael played at full forward throughout the Championship, which was a great surprise to county followers. He said that just before the quarter final he tore a ligament in the knee and would not be fit enough for midfield. "I was forced to play at full forward, to try and hold it up as best I could. Christy was picked on the wing and the moves worked out much better than we thought".

In the County Final, Tich was 'Man of the Match' scoring 1-4 against the Fenians. "It was a day when everything went right for me. I knew that things would work out for me after my first score. We were a bit sluggish early on, but we kept plugging away and didn't panic. We held The Fenians to four points at half time after they had got off to such a great start. We really opened it up in the second half and we went further ahead. After the third goal went in, we knew it was our title".

There has been much debate regarding the Championship set-up and the introduction of an Open Draw. Michael feels that the Open Draw should not be introduced but does have some



Little and Large...Michael Phelan receives medical attention from Glenmore trainer Tom Ryan during the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Final against the Fenians.

Photo: Tom Brett

interesting views on the Championship set-up. "I feel that Ulster and Connacht should be put into other provinces. They should have a couple of matches before the semi-final. Some teams get only one chance whereas the Ulster and Connacht teams are straight into the semi final.

I asked the Kilkenny midfielder who were his greatest influences. "I have great memories from the 1982 final. That was a great occasion with Christy having a great match. I always had great regard for Christy Heffernan. Michael Lynch, was also a big influence, and he started it all up in Glenmore, training us at U-10 and U-11 level."

Regarding his greatest achievements, the long-serving 28 year old felt that the winning of our first All Ireland in nine years in 1992 and the first County title for Glenmore in 1987 provided him with special memories, while his greatest disappointments were the 1989 Co. Final when Paul Phelan scored the last minute goal for The Shamrocks and the 1991 All-Ireland defeat by Tipperary.

Michael Phelan has been one of the top midfielders in the country these last few years, with few peers. There could be no better leader as the new Kilkenny captain to guide Nicky Brennan's new look side into the sunlight next year.

"Pres" All- Ireland Champs

The long arduous road that led to All-Ireland success started against Castlecomer Community School and Loreto College. Victories for the knockout stages of the competition.

St. Brigid's College, Callan, presented the first obstacle to the mighty "Pres". After an evenly contested first half, the city girls came away with a well-merited victory. So it was on to Enniscorthy, and a meeting with the locals from the Mercy Convent. Triona Kennedy, and Anne Sunderland made welcome returns to the team after injury, and in atrocious conditions, Presentation won with a little to spare by 4-4 to 0-5. "Pres" were looking good. But for one alteration, the team that finished against Enniscorthy would be the team that would bring the blue riband of Colleges camogie back to Loughboy.

Mayfield College, Dublin, were disappointing opponents in the Leinster semi-final, when their challenge was easily put down. F.C.J. Bunclody loomed large and intimidating on the Leinster final horizon. After all, they had won the Leinster crown on no less than six occasions



Deirdre Phelan with Corn Sceilge after the All-Ireland, Colleges Camogie Final.

during the 80's. They certainly were expected to present a formidable barrier to the Kilkenny girl's ambitions of Leinster glory. Down in Thomastown, the Steward Cup was recaptured, when Kilkenny's Presentation, powered by Anne Sunderland, Sinéad Costello, captain Deirdre Phelan, and Imelda Kennedy won by 2-6 to 1-4.

The same Kennedy "slapped in" three goals against Ulster champions, St. Mary's, Magherafelt, which set the topic of conversation around the school – could Corn Sceilge return home to where it had first seen the light of day some 25 years previously?

"Pres" had returned to the "main stage" for the first time since 1970.



Anne Sunderland gives the thumbs up after Presentation Convent's All-Ireland Colleges victory.

The weeks of waiting were going to be difficult for Gerry O'Dwyer. He would endeavour to shield his charges from mounting pressure, hype, and surging excitement. He would be helped in that regard by Kathleen Brennan. The making of flags, banners, scarves, streamers and slogans took up much of the time that was earmarked for the studying of Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Íosagán, or indeed Peig. It was helpful that Sister Cincillio was still around, and that Mary Brennan (nee Connery) was there too. They were the "crew" that had engineered the victories back in 1969, and 1970.

Buses, and cars streamed towards Tullamore. Gerry O'Dwyer had his charges ready. On a gloriously sunny "April Fopls Day", Presentation defended stoutly against a very stiff breeze. Charleville thundered wave after wave of pressure towards the Presentation goal. Michelle Fennelly, Anne Sunderland, Sinead Costello, Breda Dooley and captain, Deirdre Phelan showed their resilience, and thwarted many St. Mary's attacks. At half time, they trailed the Corkonians by just two points (0-3 to 0-1). On the resumption, a Pauline Comerford goal propelled the Kilkenny stalwarts into a lead they were never to relinquish. True, the St. Mary's girls mounted a huge late surge, but the Kilkenny girls weathered the storm, with heroic resolve and unbending character, to insure that for the first time since the halcyon days of Liz Neary, Catherine Conway, Teresa Brennan, the O'Neill sisters, and Mary Tallis, Corn Sceilge "came home".

This victory was truly a magnificent achievement, for a dedicated, enthusiastic, and ambitiously single-minded outfit. They knew what they wanted, and they pursued that goal with a dedicated abandon. Of course, Gerry O'Dwyer was very important to the team, and to the campaign. As Editor of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook, I am delighted to include a colour photograph of the entire panel. Comhghairdeachais leo go íeir.



LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM LEINSTER COLLEGES SENIOR SHIELD CHAMPIONS 1995.

Back Row: Orla Phelan (St. Ann's), Jennifer Dillon (Clara), Mairead Costelloe (Freshford), Julie Ryan (Freshford), Emma Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Eimear Connery (Freshford), Avril Phelan (St. Ann's), Mary Ryan (Freshford).

Front Row: Ann-Marie Hogan (Dicksboro), Mary Doyle (Emeralds), Ann-Marie Young (Tullaroan), Ann-Marie Trait (Dicksboro), Brenda O'Reilly, Captain, (Dicksboro), Kathleen Ryan (Freshford), Ruth Comerford (Dicksboro), Oonagh Hennessy (Tullaroan), Olive Hennessy (Tullaroan).



LEINSTER POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS' SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SHIELD FINAL

Loreto, Kilkenny 4-2, St. Brigid's College, Callan 3-1

LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL 7-A-SIDE CAMOGIE TEAM LEINSTER COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 1995

Back Row: Claire Dermody (Freshford), Emma Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Oonagh Hennessy (Tullaroan), Julie Ryan (Freshford), Ruth Comerford (Dicksboro).

Front Row: Orla Phelan (St. Ann's), Jennifer Dillon (Clara), Olive Hennessy, Captain, (Tullaroan), Mairead Costelloe (Freshford), Mary Ryan (Freshford).



LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOLS FIRST YEAR CAMOGIE TEAM KILKENNY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS 1995

Back Row: Linda Maher (Dicksboro), Laura Hanlon (Clara), Eimear O'Loughlin (Clara), Susan Fitzpatrick (Lisdowney).

Front Row: Brid Fitzpatrick (Lisdowney), Lorraine Maher (Dicksboro), Ann-Marie Young, Captain, (Tullaroan), Elizabeth Teehan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Emma Skehan (Lisdowney).



Castlecomer Community School – All-Ireland "B" Colleges Camogie Champions 1995.

Back row: Dawn Stedmond, Ted Browne, Elaine Nolan, Alice Farrell, Clodagh Kinsella, Martina O'Neill, Jacqueline Crennan, Elaine Moylan, Bláithín Cox, Deirdre Morrissey, Delia O'Donoghue. Front row: Denise Kerr, Linda Crennan, Lorna Callanan, Deirdre Hosey, Fran Shore, Mary Rose Ryan, Ann Marie Lacey, Sharon O'Neill, Martha McGrath. Missing from photo: Sandra Gleeson.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

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Down Memory Lane



Lisdowney team 1957 – Back row (left to right): Nicky Murphy, Ber Drennan, Jack Kelly, Jim Delaney, Mick Carroll, Henry Quirke, Ted Carroll, Martin McEvoy. Front row: Ned Wall, Noel Murphy, Martin Ryan, Dick Blanchfield, Mick Henderson, Billy Fogarty, Ned Walsh.



Erin's Own U-21 Roinn A Co. Champions 1978 – Back row (l. to r.): Gerry Meally, Eamon Brennan, Tommy Brennan, Ian Conway, Michael Owens, Joe Byrne, Ger Holden, John Kelly, B. Comerford (selector). Front row (l. to r.): Dinny Brennan (selector) R.I.P., Michael Nash, Seamus Brennan, Martin Fogarty, Vincent Dwyer, Eamon Wallace, Jimmy Brennan, Tom Dwyer.



The Johnstown Fenians 1971 – Front row (l. to r.): Paddy Broderick, Pat Murphy, Johnny Moriarty, Tommy O'Connell, Pat Henderson, Dick Dowling, Donal Walsh, Seamus Grace. Back row (l. to r.): Pat Delaney, Martin Fitzpatrick, Willie Watson, Nicky Orr, Mick Garrett, P. J. Ryan, Shem Delaney. (Photo: Tom Brett)

HANDBALLERS SET THE PACE

By Martin Lawlor

ONCE again, Kilkenny handballers can look back on a very successful year, with particular success in the 60 x 30 court. 1995 was a year which saw local talent capture two All-Irelands in the 40 x 20 championships and a whopping seven titles in the 60 x 30 series.

Pride of place goes, yet again, to Michael "Duxie" Walsh who won three Senior titles, while other double winners were Paddy Reilly (O'Loughlin's) and Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat).

40 x 20

Kilkenny had a huge entry in these championships and provided a number of winners at provincial level.

For the past decade, Duxie Walsh has been automatically made favourite for any competition he enters, and this year's 40 x 20 series was no different as many expected him to regain the title he last held in 1991. Unfortunately, this did not happen as he fell to Peter McCauley (Louth), the eventual All-Ireland winner. However, he compensated for this defeat when he and partner D.J. Carey successfully defended their title, beating Paddy Arthurs and John McGarry (Antrim) 21-9, 21-20.

The only other winners in the 40 x 20 series were veteran campaigners Paddy O'Keeffe (Mullinavat) and Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) who captured the Emerald Masters Double crown. Their opponents in the final were Declan Mulcahy and Br. Finbarr Spring (Waterford) who were no match for the skills of the Kilkenny men who won 21-13, 21-9.

At provincial level, Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch) won both Silver Masters "A" singles and doubles titles, partnered



D. J. Carey and Michael "Duxie" Walsh, All-Ireland Senior 40 x 20 Doubles Champions, 1995

by Anthony Greene, but lost both All-Ireland finals to Clare in the persons of John Kirby (singles) and John Kirby and Mick Hogan (doubles).

Nicky Reilly and Tommy Comerford won a hard-fought Leinster campaign in Novice Doubles, but came a cropper in the final when they lost to Limerick pair Tom and Billy O'Brien.

In Intermediate Singles, Martin Lalor lost his Leinster final to Tommy Hynes (Wexford), and was also on the wrong end of a 2-0 doubles defeat at the hands of Hynes and Ned Buggy (Wexford) when partnered by Eugene Downey.

Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) won the Leinster title in Emerald Masters Singles, but lost his semi-final tie to Galway, while in Golden Masters Singles, the same fate befell Jim O'Neill (also O'Loughlin's) who, having won the provincial final, lost out at the penultimate stage.

Other local players who figured prominently in the Leinster Championships were Phil Parsons (Junior), Paul Smith (Novice), Pat Maher (Intermediate), Johnny Brennan (Intermediate) and Michael Maher (Novice).

60 x 30

From an early stage in these championships, it was obvious that Kilkenny were going to provide a number of All-Ireland winners. This they did with style, providing seven eventual champions and four runners-up.

Even though Duxie Walsh failed to regain his 40 x 20 crown, he was hot favourite to retain his 60 x 30 title and thus increase his record to eleven in a row. Having disposed of Robby McCarthy (Westmeath), in the quarter-finals, and easily beating Eddie Corbett (Tipperary) in the semi's, he qualified for yet another showdown with Walter O'Connor (Meath), their third final meeting in four years. Many neutral observers felt that this might be O'Connor's year, and that he

could wrest the title from the brilliant Kilkenny star.

On the night of the final, Duxie was absolutely magnificent, and from the start, he had O'Connor under pressure, forcing the Meathman around the court. Even when O'Connor took an injury time-out at the end of the first game, Duxie did not relax, and the end of the second game saw the Kilkenny player easily taking his record eleventh successive Singles title.

The All-Ireland Senior Doubles final was an all-Kilkenny affair between Duxie and Eugene Downey and Billy Bourke and Ollie Harold. Bourke and Harold had the tougher side of the draw, beating Tom and John Quish (Limerick), Tom Sheridan and James McGovern (Meath), and Eddie Corbett and David Maloney (Tipperary), to reach the final. On the other side, Duxie and Downey had a classy 2-1 win over Meath in their semi-final, having previously accounted for Tommy Hyens and Pat Cleary (Wexford).

As in the singles, many neutrals felt that Bourke and Harold could take the title, but, on the night, they fell to their fellow Kilkenny men. Both games were close, 21-15, 21-17. Winning this title brings Duxie's senior medal haul to an incredible twenty-eight, and it also gave himself and Eugene Downey the record, at eight, for Doubles titles won.

O'Loughlin's player also featured prominently in the 60 x 30 championships and contested four All-Ireland finals. Paddy Reilly retained his Silver Masters "A" Singles crown, when he defeated Pakie Mullins (Tipp) in a 2-1 thriller in Clonmel, while in the Doubles final, he partnered Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch) to a 2-1 win over Mullins and Seanie Doyle.

Nicky Reilly had mixed luck at Junior level where he played in two finals. In the Singles decider he was too good for Tommy O'Brien (Limerick), while in the Doubles he lost, with Joe Hickey, to the



Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's), Under 15 Singles Champion, Waterford Crystal Irish Open Championships, 1955.

same player partnered by his brother, Billy O'Brien.

Mixed luck was also the lot of the Goresbridge club. Having already captured one All-Ireland title during the 40 x 20 season (D.J. Carey's Senior Doubles title), they had two contenders in the 60 x 30 finals. John Curran had a long drawn-out Leinster campaign, but this proved to be to his advantage, as he disposed first of Sligo in the Novice Singles semi-finals, and then beat Collie O'Hare (Antrim) in the decider at Croke Park. Pat Gardiner won his way to the final of the Master's "B" Singles, against John Joe Wright (Waterford), but unfortunately fell at the final hurdle to the Decies man.

Other black and amber players to fall at the last hurdle were Michael Delaney (St. John's) who lost to Galway's Michael Lally in Golden Master's "B" Singles, John Brennan/John Downey (Mothel/Talbot's Inch) who were unlucky to lose in the third game to Tipp's Josie O'Dwyer and Noel Murphy in the Intermediate Doubles.

Pat O'Keefe added another All-Ireland title, his twentieth in all, to his collection when he beat Waterford's Johnny Kiely in the Diamond Masters Singles grade, while in the doubles, partnered by fellow club man Johnny O'Mara, he fell at the semi-final stage to Roscommon.

JUVENILE HANDBALL

Kilkenny's juveniles can look back on a reasonably successful year, even though only one All-Ireland victory was achieved. This victory was gained by Mark Dunne and Daniel Love who won the 60 x 30 Under 16 Doubles crown. Along with this single All-Ireland title, Kilkenny youngsters won eight Leinster titles.

S. O'Shea (Clogh) had a successful year in Under-12 Doubles where he picked up two Leinster titles, partnered by two different players. In the 40 x 20 court, he won his title with C.J. Delaney (Kells), while in the bigger 60 x 30 court he was successful with Adam Cashin (Mothel).

In the Under-13 Doubles grade, B. Minogue (Kells) and A. Hosey (Clogh) won through Leinster to take the provincial crown in the 40 x 20 championship. D. Byrne (Clogh) also had a very successful year in the Under-14 grade. He and Seamus Kelly (Mothel) came through the



Maxwell Trophy (Team of Six). Back (left to right) – Donal Kelly (Mothel), David Cashin (Mothel), Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's), Shem Kelly (Mothel). Front – Eamonn Hawe (Windgap), Thomas Hughes (Clogh).

province in the 40 x 20 court, while in the 60 x 20 championships he won his way to the All-Ireland final but fell at the last hurdle. At Under-15 level, David Cashin (Mothel) and P.J. Hawe (Windgap) came through a tough Leinster campaign to take the honours.

The only Juvenile All-Ireland winners of the year were at Under-16 level where Mark Dunne (O'Loughlin's) and Daniel Love (Clogh) played some superb handball to take the title. This newly-formed partnership got stronger as the year went on, and this was proved in the final when they powered their way to victory over the Cavan boys. Earlier in the year, the Cavan pair had beaten Timmy Clifford and Michael Falsey (O'Loughlin's) in the 40 x 20 decider. Later in the year, Clifford won his way to represent Ireland in the Under-15 grade in the USA Juvenile Championships in October, and he also won the Under-15 competition at the prestigious Golden Gloves tournament in Belfast.

At the annual Féile na nGael tournament, Kilkenny representatives Mothel and Clogh brought home the honours. The Mothel team of S. Kelly, D. Kelly, R. Nolan, T. Morrissey and T. Nolan won the 60 x 30 event, while in the 40 x 20 competition, Clogh emerged as winners. The

Clogh team was W. Love, D. Byrne, S. O'Shea, A. Hosey, S. Maher.

TEAM EVENT

In the 60 x 30 competition, the O'Loughlin's team of Billy Bourke, Nicky Reilly, Joe Hickey, Phil Parsons and Paddy Reilly won the All-Ireland final in Clonmel. Kilkenny's Under-12/13 Team of Six reached the All-Ireland final of the 60 x 30 competition, but lost to Tipperary. That team was made up of A. Hosey and S. O'Shea (Clogh), B. Minogue and C.J. Delaney (Kells), S. Hawe (Windgap), and D. Kelly and A. Cashin (Mothel).

Better luck was enjoyed by the Under-14/15 team who won their 40 x 20 competition. The team was: W. Love, T. Morrissey, T. Beale, P. McDonald, D. Cashin, P.J. Hawe.

TOURNAMENTS

There were a number of local successes at Tournament level around the country. In the Clarecastle Tournament, Duxie Walsh beat fellow county man Billy Bourke in an entertaining final, while at novice level, Paul Smith played some brilliant handball to beat all before him.

A newly-introduced tournament in 1995 was the Waterford Crystal sponsored Irish Open. It was hoped that Duxie Walsh would make amends for his World Title



Mothel – 60 x 30 Féile na nGael champions 1995 – Rory Nolan, Seamus Kelly, Tom Morrissey, Tom Nolan, Donal Kelly. In front – Tipperary, defeated finalists.



Clogh – 40 x 20 Division I Féile na nGael winners. Left to right – William Love, Andrew Hosey; Sean McEntee, President Irish Handball Association; Seán O'Shea, Sean Maher, Damian Byrne.

defeat at the hands of David Chapman, but he didn't get the chance as he lost to Peter McCauley.

Timmy Clifford provided a fine display of his skills when he defeated T. Breen (Cork) in the Under-15 final. In the "B" Singles, Martin Lalor had a tough struggle with Tony Breen (Wexford) before taking the title, while in the novice competition, Paul Smith lost to eventual winner F. Cunningham (Dublin) at Senior level.

Alan Dowling and Michael Falsey had a terrific season at College level, culminating in victory in the Junior Colleges All-Ireland Doubles Final.



Handball Champions . . . Daniel Love (left), Clogh and Mark Dunne, O'Loughlin's, display the medals they won in the All-Ireland handball under-16 doubles 60 x 30 final by defeating Cavan in Ballina, Co. Tipperary.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS 60 X 30

Leinster Juvenile League:	T. Clifford/D. Cashin, S. Kelly/D. Kelly, T. Hughes/S. Hawe.
Under 12 Doubles	C. J. Delaney/S. O'Shea (Kells/Clogh).
Under 14 Singles	D. Byrne (Clogh).
Under 14 Doubles	S. Kelly/W. Love (Mothel/Clogh).
Under 15 Doubles	D. Cashin/P. J. Hawe (Mothel/Windgap).
Under 16 Doubles*	D. Love/M. Dunne (Cloth/O'Loughlin's).
Novice Singles*	J. Curran (Goresbridge).
Junior Singles*	N. O'Reilly (O'Loughlin's).
Junior Doubles	N. O'Reilly/J. Hickey (O'Loughlin's).
Intermediate Doubles	J. Brennan/J. Downey.
Masters "B" Singles	P. Gardiner (Goresbridge).
S. Masters Singles*	P. O'Reilly (O'Loughlin's).
S. Masters Doubles*	P. O'Reilly/S. Reade.
G. Masters Singles	M. Delaney (St. John's).
D. Masters Singles*	P. O'Keefe.
S. Masters Doubles	P. O'Keefe/J. O'Mara.
Senior Team of 4*	O'Loughlin's (N. O'Reilly, B. Bourke, J. Hickey, P. Reilly, P. Parsons).
Under 12/13 Team of 6	A. Hosey, S. O'Shea, B. Minogue, C. J. Delaney, D. Kelly, S. Hawe. Sub.: A. Cashin.

(*Won All-Ireland title)

COUNTY CHAMPIONS 60 X 30

Under 12 Singles	S. O'Shea (Clogh).
Under 13 Singles	D. Kelly (Mothel).
Under 14 Singles	D. Byrne (Clogh).
Under 15 Singles	D. Cashin (Mothel).
Under 16 Singles	T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's).
Under 17 Singles	A. Walpole (Kilfane).
Under 12 Doubles	T. Hughes/G. Hughes (Clogh).
Under 13 Doubles	B. Minogue/C. J. Delaney (Kells).
Under 14 Doubles	W. Love/S. Maher (Clogh).
Under 15 Doubles	P. J. Hawe/E. Hawe (Windgap).
Under 16 Doubles	D. Love/A. Hosey (Clogh).
Under 17 Doubles	A. O'Flynn, M. Brennan (Mothel).
Minor Singles	T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's).
Under 12 Singles	K. Cotterell.
Sp. Novice Singles	P. Dowling (Mothel).
Novice Singles	J. Doyle (St. Canice's).
Junior Singles	T. Clifford.
Intermediate Singles	P. Maher (Clogh).
Senior Singles	W. Pratt (St. Canice's).
Masters "B" Singles	M. Dalton (Kilfane).
Golden Masters Singles	M. Delaney (St. John's).
Masters "A" Singles	W. Pratt (St. Canice's).
Silver Masters Singles	S. Reade or A. Greene.
Minor Doubles	D. Love/B. Hosey (Clogh).
Under-21 Doubles	E. Hawe/A. Hawe (Windgap).
Special Novice Doubles	J. Tyrell/C. Phelan (Talbot's Inch).
Novice Doubles	J. Doyle/J. Long (St. Canice's).
Junior Doubles	C. Dunne/J. Quigley (St. John's).
Intermediate Doubles	J. Curran/P. Gardiner (Goresbridge).
Senior Doubles	P. O'Keefe/E. Law (Mullinavat).
Masters "B" Doubles	J. Jordan/J. Dooley (Talbot's Inch).
Golden Masters Doubles	M. Delaney/S. Curran (St. John's).
Silver Doubles	S. Reade/A. Greene or Blanch/Fitz.
Team of Four Div. I	Clogh (J. Doyle, P. Maher, M. Maher, D. Love).
Team of Four Div. II	Kilfane (J. Holden, N. Holden, W. Holden, T. O'Keefe).
Team of Four Div. III	Kilfane (R. Ryan, W. Murphy, S. Galwey, B. Walpole).
Team of Four Div. IV	St. John's (P. O'Carroll, K. Browne, G. Rowe, E. Hayes).
Golden Masters League	M. Delaney (St. John's).

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS 40 X 20

Under 12 Doubles	A. Cashin/S. O'Shea (Mothel/Clogh).
Under 13 Doubles	B. Minogue/A. Hosey (Kells/Clogh).
Under 14 Doubles	S. Kelly/D. Byrne (Mothel/Clogh).
Under 16 Doubles	T. Clifford/M. Falsey (O'Loughlin's).
Novice Doubles	N. O'Reilly/T. Comerford.
Senior Doubles*	D. J. Carey/M. Walsh.
Golden Masters Singles	J. O'Neill.
Emerald Masters Singles	E. Leahy.
Emerald Masters Doubles*	E. Leahy/P. O'Keefe.
Silver "A" Singles	S. Reade.
Silver "A" Doubles	S. Reade/A. Greene.
Under 14/15 Team of Six*	W. Love, T. Morrissey, D. Beale, P. McDonald, D. Cashin, P. J. Hawe.

(*Won All-Ireland title)

COUNTY CHAMPIONS 40 X 20

Under 10 "A" Singles	T. Hughes (Clogh).
Under 10 "B" Singles	S. Mahon (Clogh).
Under 11 "A" Singles	S. Hawe (Windgap).
Under 11 "B" Singles	W. Walsh (Talbot's Inch).
Under 12 Singles	C. J. Delaney (Kells).
Under 13 Singles	D. Kelly (Mothel).
Under 14 Singles	S. Kelly (Mothel).
Under 15 Singles	D. Cashin (Mothel).
Under 16 Singles	T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's).
Under 17 Singles	M. Dunne (O'Loughlin's).
Minor Singles	T. Clifford or A. Hawe.
Under 21 Singles	K. Cotterell (Glenmore).
Special Novice Singles	C. Maher (St. Canice's).
Novice Singles	P. Smith (O'Loughlin's).
Junior Singles	E. Law (Mullinavat).
Intermediate Singles	O. Falsey (Talbot's Inch).
Senior Singles	M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch).
Masters "A" Singles	W. Pratt (St. Canice's).
Masters "B" Singles	M. Butler (Kells).
Silver Masters Singles	S. Reade or J. O'Neill.
Golden Masters Singles	F. Minogue (Kells).
Under 10 Doubles	T. Brennan/D. Brennan (Mothel).
Under 11 Doubles	R. Connolly (Talbot's Inch)/C. Ryan (Goresbridge).
Under 12 Doubles	A. Cashin/D. Maher (Mothel).
Under 13 Doubles	B. Minogue/A. Martin (Kells).
Under 14 Doubles	W. Love/D. Byrne (Clogh).
Under 15 Doubles	D. Beale/J. Delaney (O'Loughlin's).
Under 16 Doubles	M. Falsey/M. Walsh (O'Loughlin's).
Under 17 Doubles	F. Minogue/N. McCormack (Kells).
Minor Doubles	E./A. Hawe or T. Clifford/M. Falsey.
Under 21 Doubles	D. Love/A. Hosey (Clogh).
Special Novice Doubles	K. Browne/E. Bourke (St. John's).
Novice Doubles	C. Dunne/J. Galvin (St. John's).
Junior Doubles	J. Doyle/C. Maher (St. Canice's).
Intermediate Doubles	S. Martin/J. Sheridan (Kells).
Senior Doubles	B. Bourke/P. Parsons (O'Loughlin's).
Masters "A" Doubles	S. Reade/A. Greene (Talbot's Inch).
Masters "B" Doubles	M. Butler/J. Dalton (Kells).
Silver Doubles	D. Hennessy/P. Walsh or J. O'Neill/G. Murphy.
Golden Masters Doubles	F. Minogue/T. Nolan (Kells/Windgap).
Team of Four Div. I	Goresbridge (D. J. Carey, J. Curran, T. Bolger, P. Gardiner).
Team of Four Div. II	Clogh: P. Maher, M. Maher, C. Love, D. Love.
Team of Four Div. III	St. John's: M. Dunne, M. Rowe, G. Rowe, J. Quigley.
Team of Four Div. IV	Windgap: K. Quirke, P. Doran, T. Lonergan, P. Mockler.

Heartstopping stuff at under-21

By: TOMMY O'BRIEN

There was no doubt which Kilkenny team provided their supporters with the most exciting fare in 1995 – it was unquestionably our Under 21 squad who came back from some well-nigh impossible positions before eventually losing a thriller to Tipperary in the final.

Following a facile victory over Westmeath, Kilkenny conceded the venue to Dublin for their Leinster semi-final spot. Kilkenny were level with Dublin (0-4 to 1-1) after 15 minutes but Dublin controlled the remainder of that half to lead at the interval by 2-6 to 0-5.

It was time for something drastic to

happen. Team manager, Brendan O'Sullivan and his fellow selectors decided on some bold moves for the second half. Dermot Maher was moved to No. 7 – a position no one would have associated him with – Liam Smith was brought in to midfield with Niall Moloney placed at the edge of the square.

Smith's workrate soon began to show itself and Maher reigned supreme at half-back but Kilkenny still trailed by 2-9 to 0-9 when Dublin missed a sitter that would surely have finished the contest.

Then Niall Moloney took centre stage with a goal that brought Dublin back within reach and three Ollie O'Connor frees left the scores level with time up.

Kilkenny were thrilled with a draw - but

Niall Moloney wasn't. The burly St. Martin's player scored a smashing late, late goal to leave Kilkenny winners by 2-12 to 2-9.

WEXFORD ON FORM

There were three newcomers to the first 15 for the clash with Wexford - Liam Smith and Niall Moloney, reserves against Dublin, retained their places with Mooncoin's Michael Purcell wearing No. 12.

Wexford looked to be in form from the start of the Leinster final at Carlow. Paul Codd, reckoned to be their most dangerous forward, soon showed why he attained this rating by eluding the Kilkenny defence and planting one in the net.

Wexford had the breeze in the opening half but Kilkenny fought their way back into the contest with a fine goal, Peter Barry fielding the ball high in the air and passing on to Niall Moloney. Moloney carried on where he had left off against Dublin by driving through the Wexford defence and scoring a goal.

A magnificent long-range John Costello point left Kilkenny ahead by 1-8 to 1-6 at the break.

Wexford were much more determined in the second half and fought their way back into the game. Indeed, Kilkenny trailed 1-11 to 1-9 with just 5 minutes remaining. Erin's Own duo David Buggy and Michael Owens, two late substitutions, put more urgency into the Kilkenny attack and the Noresiders were rewarded, with just a couple of minutes remaining, when a huge Martin Carey puckout found Denis Byrne and the Graigue Ballycallan player found the net. Points were added by both teams but the drama was not over yet.

A final desperate Wexford attack saw



KILKENNY UNDER-21 PANEL – for All-Ireland Final v. Tipperary.

Back row (l.-r.): Vinny Norton, Brendan Ryan, Denis Byrne, Dermot Maher, Brian Lonergan, Ed. Drea, John Costello, Francis Cantwell, Eddie Dwyer, Peter Barry, Paul Cahill, Jarlath Bolger, Trevor Dunphy, Ollie O'Connor, Shane Doyle, Ger Walsh, Ciarán Muldowney. Front row (l.-r.): Niall Moloney, Damien Cleere, David Buggy, Vinny O'Brien, Martin Carey, Tom Hickey, Liam Smith, Brian McEvoy, Joe Phillpott, Ciarán Connery, Michael Owens.

Pierce Redmond break through the Kilkenny rearguard. None of the backs could get close to him as he shot for the winning goal but a magnificent dive to his left by ace goalie Martin Carey saw the emergency defused and Kilkenny were once more on top at the end of a great contest.

A GALWAY THRILLER - PART 1

The selectors showed faith in the team they had started against Wexford - 13 players wore the same numbers when they faced Galway at Limerick with Denis Byrne moving to half forward and David Buggy getting the corner forward position.

A large Kilkenny following travelled to Limerick seeking a double (Kilkenny's Masters beat old enemy Tipperary in their final as the curtain raiser) but they must have been bitterly disappointed at the showing of the black and amber squad for most of the game.

True, Galway looked absolutely brilliant in that opening period when Kilkenny also showed some fancy touches but failed to get on top of their opposition. Galway led by 1-7 to 1-3 as the first half came to a close but then Kilkenny cornerback, Brian Lonergan conceded a penalty.

Galway cornerback Liam Hodgins came up to take the vital shot but a great Kilkenny save ensured that the team was still in with a chance - even if the scrambled clearance did produce a Galway point to leave them 1-8 to 1-3 ahead at the break.

The Kilkenny backroom team brought on Eddie O'Dwyer - the Kilkenny star had been injured from the start of the campaign - and made a couple of positional switches but this failed to ignite the side, and with just seven minutes remaining, Francis Forde scored a fine point to put Galway 1-13 to 1-6 in front.

Then, with just five minutes remaining, Brendan Ryan was pulled down in front of goal and decided to take the resultant free himself. He blasted low to the net and Kilkenny came to life. John Costello - a fine centrehalf - came soloing upfield before passing to Michael Owens - who had come on after 52 minutes.

Owens shot at goal. To be honest, the Galway keeper should have dealt with the shot but he failed to control the ball and Denis Byrne showed his great opportunism to hammer the ball to the net.

Now the Cats were just one point behind. Brian McEvoy - a player with

incredible stamina - was fouled some 30 yards out and Brendan Ryan decided that he might as well have another go at a free. The Fenians star slotted over the equaliser - Kilkenny weren't finished yet!

Brian McEvoy could have scored a winner and referee Terence Murray decided to ignore a blatant foul on Brendan Ryan.

Maybe it was just as well. Otherwise we would never have had

A GALWAY THRILLER - PART 2

Just eight days later and the sides were in action once more - this time the venue was Tullamore. There were quite a number of positional changes for this game, with reserves from the previous game, Eddie O'Dwyer and Damien Cleere, keeping their places.

The thrilling finish of the Limerick game was more than matched in Tullamore when the Under 21 hurling semi-final replay provided the curtain raiser to the Under 21 football decider.

Kilkenny faced a storm of a breeze in the first half and must have been delighted to be level 1-6 to 0-9 at the interval. They could well have been behind through no fault of their own - Liam Smith's goal went through the net and was flagged as



Brian McEvoy in action for Kilkenny in the under 21 All-Ireland v Tipperary.

a point by the umpires until Terence Murray told them otherwise!

Galway may have been facing the strong wind in the second half but they certainly hadn't given up hope. Despite some early Kilkenny points by Dermot Maher, David Buggy and Brian McEvoy, their appetite for victory was far from curbed.

A couple of Francis Forde points and a booted goal by the same player put Galway ahead with less than 10 minutes remaining.

Further Galway points were scored in answer to a Dermot Maher score and Kilkenny found themselves three points adrift – wind or no wind!

Damien Cleere had two points and then the score of the championship from Dermot Maher, from all of 70 yards, levelled the game. There were exchanges of points before a Kilkenny sideline ball produced some clever play with Dermot Maher sending a short cut to Brian McEvoy who found Brendan Ryan.

Who better to score the winner than the ice-cool Fenians man. but was it the winner? Galway hit the post twice in the final minute before a brilliant stop from a spreadeagled Martin Carey saved the day and ensured Kilkenny a place in the All-Ireland final.

FINALE

For the All-Ireland final against Tipperary, our Under 21 hurlers once more – as against Dublin – found themselves conceding the venue. Almost 25,000 crowded into Semples Stadium – this time the Under 21 football final (replay) was the opening game.

Kilkenny's selectors kept faith with the same starting 15. The heroes of some majestic battles in the previous weeks looked to have the game well in hand – despite some very heavy tackling by Tipperary, especially on Dermot Maher – when they led by 1-6 to 0-5 at half time.

They led by 1-7 to 0-6 when Brendan Ryan, scorer of Kilkenny's first half goal and saviour twice against Galway, had only Tipp. goalie Brendan Cummins to beat to wrap up the game. Cummins advanced and allowed the ball to cannon off his body. Kilkenny did get a point but this save inspired the Premier countymen



Liam Smith (KK) lunges for the sliotar watched by Peter Barry. (Under 21 All-Ireland final v Tipperary.)

to great heights to go ahead by 1-10 to 1-9.

Damien Cleere helped Kilkenny regain the lead but, from then on, it was Tipp. all the way as they went on to record a 1-14 to 1-10 victory.

SELECTORS

Brendan O'Sullivan was manager of the team with Phil 'Fan' Larkin (James Stephens), Noel Doyle (Mooncoin), Malachy Hogan (Dunnamaggin) and Nicky Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) as fellow selectors.

They used 22 players with 7 players -

Martin Carey, Brian Lonergan, Ned Drea, Tom Hickey, Vinny O'Brien, John Costello and Brendan Ryan all retaining the same numbered shirts for the final five games.

The full list of those who played was Martin Carey, Brian Lonergan, Ned Drea, Tom Hickey, Vinny O'Brien, John Costello (0-4), Vincent Norton, Brian McEvoy (0-2), Jarlath Bolger, Dermot Maher (0-4), Peter Barry (Capt.), Eamon Mackey, Brendan Ryan (2-6), Denis Byrne (2-6), Ollie O'Connor (0-14), Liam Smith (1-2), Niall Moloney (3-1), Michael Purcell, David Buggy (1-3), Michael Owens, Eddie O'Dwyer and Damien Cleere (0-13).

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The New Nowlan Park

THE development work in Nowlan Park is progressing well and hopefully the work/project will be completed in March 1996.

The facilities being provided in the new development will include:

- * An Administration Complex, comprising an Office, Meeting Rooms, First-Aid Centre, Referees' Room and Store Room.
- * The existing terrace on the Hebron Road side of the pitch will be raised and a seating area for 6,000 spectators will be provided. Initially in excess of 2,000 seats will be covered and, hopefully, within a few years the whole terrace will be covered. The viewing standards and sightlines of the new seated area will be excellent and superior to the majority of stadia in the country.
- * New ladies' and gent's toilets will be provided and existing facilities updated.
- * Facilities for televising games will be provided.

The cost of the development will be in the region of £750,000 and this will provide the County Board and Clubs in the county with a huge responsibility. Without the backing of all the clubs, their members and G.A.A. followers in the county, the County Board will have an almost impossible task in funding the project. The corporate sector and business community will also have to play their part and I am confident that they will give the development the financial support it deserves.

FUNDING THE PROJECT:

To date we have received a grant of £200,000 from the Department of Education by way of Lottery funds. The Leinster Council has guaranteed £100,000. I am confident that extra funding will be available from these sources due to the projected cost increases in excess of £200,000 in the development, due to the fact that the terrace is now being seated.

FUND-RAISING SCHEMES – 3-YEAR PROJECTION:

- * 5 year tickets which allow holders free access to all games in Kilkenny for 5 years 400 @ £250 = £100,000
- * Interest-free loans 40 @ £1,000 = £40,000
(which allow subscribers free access to all games)
- * Raffles, concerts, etc. £150,000
- * Business/Corporate contributions
20 @ £1,000; 8 @ £5,000; 5 @ £8,000 £100,000
- * Miscellaneous donations £15,000
- * Club levies £45,000

TOTAL: **£450,000**

With all members of the County Board, clubs, supporters and the business community backing the project, the above targets will be reached.

We can look forward to a brand new Nowlan Park with superb facilities to take us into the 21st century.

Eamonn Ó Cearbhaill
Runáí Coiste Contae



At the launching of the Nowlan Park Development Project – Back row (l.-r.): Bob McGarry, Project Manager; Barry Kelleher, Consulting Engineer; Dick Brennan, Chairman Kilkenny County Council; Phil Hogan T.D.; Declan Wyley, Manager, A.I.B. plc, High Street; Jim Freeman, Chairman, Supporters Club; Liam Aylward T.D. Front row (l.-r.): Ted Carroll, Secretary, Kilkenny County Board; Mick Lanigan, Mayor Kilkenny; John Healy, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board; Mark Cantwell, main contractor; Bishop Laurence Forristal.

Like Father Like Son

It is a rare occasion indeed, when a father and son share the same auspicious distinction. Nicky Morrissey captained the Kilkenny football team in 1969, as a result of his club, Muckalee, winning the Kilkenny Senior Football title in 1968. That was a time when the game had a certain status and dignity. In 1969, Nicky and his wife Maud had a son, who was christened Niall.

Some 25 years later, the same Niall captained the Kilkenny footballers during their National League, and their Leinster championship campaigns. He certainly has distinguished himself on the football field, with some excellent displays at full-back for his county.

He has also spear-headed his club's ambitions for football excellence. He was very much the anchor-man for Dicksboro as they collected the Senior title in 1994.

He is also a very fine hurler, having won under - 21 medals in both codes, and also a Special Junior hurling award. He is presently employed as a staff officer with Tipperary County Council, based in Clonmel.



Have they set a record – father and son captain Kilkenny senior football teams. Nicky Morrissey (Captain in 1969), Niall Morrissey (Captain in 1994/5).
Photo T. O'Neill.

His father, Nicky, was a no-nonsense hurling full-back with St. Martin's. He won three senior football titles and two junior hurling medals with his beloved Muckalee. The trainer of that championship winning football team back in 1968 was none

other than that died-in-the-black and amber Missionary, Fr. Martin Ryan.

Nicky was the first Muckalee man to captain a Kilkenny football team. Niall was the first Dicksboro man to captain a Kilkenny football team.



YOUNG IRELANDS, GOWRAN – St. Canice's Credit Union League Runners-Up.

Front row (l.-r.): Jack Carey, Charlie Carter, D. J. Carey, James Fitzgerald, Martin Carey, David O'Neill, Ciaran Phelan. Back row (l.-r.): John Kennedy, Brian Treacy, Pat Drea, Eoin Farrell, Cathal Fitzgerald, Tom Fenlon, John Brennan, Pat Kennedy.



I T WAS a pleasant, brief trip into times past, and you know, after the journey you have to wonder how much beauty has been shed in the headlong rush into so called sophistication.

The past seemed like a lovely place of innocence. Many did things for the sheer love of it. He got nothing! He expected less! To be there was a privilege, in the broadest sense of the word.

The reward was to be able to serve the stars, to celebrate the highs with them, to share the pain during the lows. You shared the secrets. Loyalty ordained you kept everything to yourself.

Others adored from afar. Being there, part of the broader team, the inner circle if you like, was heaven itself.

Billy Culleton's eyes lit up when he talked of days and stars of another era. He was 76 on December 15. But the memories are as clear as if they all happened yesterday. And he cherishes every one of them.

"See that", he sort of ordered when he pointed to the glass cabinet in his cosy Stephen street home in the city. "I got that this year. Never expected it. Never got anything before. It is worth more than gold to me".

PRICELESS

A simple piece of glass with a clock in the face decorated the top of the

cabinet. The piece was no more than three inches high, but it was the thought behind it that made it priceless, something to be cherished for life. You see, it was from the players.

What players you might well ask? Why the All-Ireland champions, of course. The Kilkenny Masters (over 40) hurling kings, that is.

Billy Culleton, or "Cull" as he was affectionately known to another generation of winners, was back in harness. He was the official hurley minder with Kilkenny.

He sort of fell into the job originally. That was way back in 1966. Then Co. Board chairman, Nicky Purcell wanted someone to supervise the dressing-rooms when Kilkenny were training at the C.B.S. grounds for the upcoming National League final against Tipperary.

Billy Culleton fitted the bill. He received an "official" appointment, and looked after the sticks for senior, under-21, intermediate and minor county teams in his day. In more recent times, he soldiered with the Juniors and Masters.

Characters like the late Co. Board secretary, Paddy Grace and Chew Leahy figured among the off-field troops. On it great names like Keher, Henderson, Walsh, Cleere, Purcell, Delaney, Skehan, Cummins, O'Brien, Crotty and company wore the black and amber, and had their sticks cared for by "Cull".

Billy exits as he came in, with a winning team

By: JOHN KNOX

"He was a bit of a character in the dressing-room", recalled one of the stars of the late 'sixties. "If the tension was high, or if someone was down you could bounce a joke off Billy. He could take it so well, or give as good as he got. But the end result was always that the atmosphere was lighter, and things would be that bit better".

RARE HAPPENING

It was a good time to start. Kilkenny beat Tipperary, a rare happening in finals in that time, in that home League final (0-9 to 0-7) and they went on to beat New York in the final proper.

Another League win was celebrated in 1976. And in the big one, the championship, he officiated at 10 senior All-Irelands with the county. The first one in 1966 was a real downer against Cork. But there was massive compensation 12 months later when the Cats toppled Tipperary for the first time in 45 years in

the final.

"That is the happiest memory I have of all my involvement with Kilkenny", Mr. Culleton recalled. "I was born in 1919 and was only three when Kilkenny had beaten Tipp. previously in 1922. So for me, and my generation of followers, that was the first time we had seen Kilkenny beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland".

He was there for further visits to Croke Park in 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978 and 1979. The results were mixed. The job was always the same. He made sure first that the hurleys were ready for the big day, and that the right man got the right stick.

When on duty, he had to make a sacrifice. He had to do without his beloved pipe.

"You couldn't light up", he recalled. "As sure as God, the second you'd have the pipe in your mouth you would have to go on a run with a hurley".

EXCEPTION

So smoking was out. There was one exception. He took a chance in 1979 when Kilkenny beat Galway. The team went well that afternoon and won by 2-12 to 1-8. And would you believe it, the one time he took out the pipe he was

captured on camera by some keen eyed photographer.

"The man with the pipe", as Billy Culleton was known far and wide, was splashed across the newspapers.

"That day Fan Larkin had two hurley sticks in the back of the net", Mr. Culleton recalled. "He asked me to get them for him after the game, and he told me it would be the last time I would do that for him. He finished at inter-county level shortly afterwards"

Amusing, in a way, that a man like Billy should get so deeply involved. He reckoned he was never any good himself as a player. He tried a bit with St. Rioch's. He knew his limitations, and he was more officer material than player.

His father had no great interest in Gaelic games either, and today his own family have no more than a passing interest. His late brother, Michael was more attracted to rugby, and the Culleton Cup for under-age inter-county competition carries his name.

Billy, well, he is a bit of a fanatic. He used to keep match programmes "like prayer-books". And he has a huge collection of old picture cuttings from newspapers that is currently being put in

book form for him.

"The games are my hobby, and they will remain that until the end of my days", he assured.

He attended his first All-Ireland final in 1932 when he was 12. The train fare to Dublin cost 1s 9d (old money), and he and his friends "bummed" their way into the game.

GREAT PLAYERS

"I saw many great players in my day", Mr. Culleton assured. "Eddie Keher was the most skilful forward, and Mick Crotty was the most underestimated forward.

"We had a great team in the 'seventies when we won a record five in-a-row in Leinster. That was some team, and included big, strong, skilful and brave men. I always remember how injuries and illness destroyed our chance of winning the All-Ireland against Limerick in 1973. But we proved our worth the following year when we beat them. In my time, that was the best team".

After nearly 30 years involvement, on and off, the official hurley carrier reckoned he had performed his last duties. He went out as he came in ... with a winning team.



A.I.B. Bank start the Nowlan Park Fund – Eddie Keher (Manager, A.I.B. Bank, Callan) presents a fund-raising cheque to John Healy (Chairman, Kilkenny County Board) at the launch of the Nowlan Park development presentation in the Newpark Hotel. Also in the picture are Declan Wyley (Senior Manager A.I.B.), Ted Carroll (Co. Secretary Kilkenny Co. Board), Ald. Kieran Crotty (Mayor of Kilkenny), Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh (RTÉ), Jim Freeman (Chairman, Kilkenny Supporters' Club) and Barry Hickey (Development Officer, Kilkenny Co. Board).

WINNING THE LEAGUE HAPPENED – IT WASN'T PLANNED

BY JOHN KNOX, KILKENNY PEOPLE

IF EVER a team ended up with more than it sought initially, it was Kilkenny in the National Hurling League. The county set out with the definite intention of "enjoying a good run".

Then one thing led to another, one win was followed by another, and after the concluding chapter Kilkenny signed off by chalking-up their 9th win in the series.

"We always intended going as far as possible in the League", admitted then manager, Ollie Walsh after the victory in the final over Clare. "But winning wasn't a must with us. Having said that, we were delighted with the way things worked out".

There were unusual turns along the road. For example, the Cats opened and closed in the League against Clare. They failed the first test, sailed through the second and were actually the last team to beat Clare before their marvellous run to All-Ireland victory.

After the initial failure against the Banner men, admittedly with a seriously under-strength team, the Noresiders put five wins together. Their seventh match, however, against then struggling Limerick was a bit of a nightmare and the Shannonsiders scored a better than it might appear 0-12 to 1-8 win.

But the Cats luck held out, and because Galway were held to a surprise draw by Antrim elsewhere, Kilkenny sneaked straight through to the semi-finals. Now this was a most unusual clash against the then All-Ireland champions and Division II promotion winners.

FIRST TIME IN NINE MONTHS

Kilkenny brought former All-Star full-back, Pat Dwyer – he had an operation the previous October for a serious groin injury – back into the team for the first time. As well, Eddie O'Connor was started in his first match in the competition, and Pat O'Neill was restored at centre-back for only his third League match.

Yet, with half the defence together for the first time in nine months, Offaly were downed. Of course, the fact that D.J. Carey went scoring mad and slammed home 3-1 was a major determining factor in the outcome.

Still, bearing in mind the background of the defensive formation, the Noresiders had to be pleased, if not delighted, with the outcome.

"Once we got into the semi-finals, it was an all out effort to win the League", Mr. Walsh revealed. "You would want to be mad to get within two matches of a national title and not to have a go for it. We really meant business in the semi-final



Jack Boothman, Uachtarán CLG presents Bill Hennessy, Kilkenny Captain with NAL Trophy.

Photo Tom Brett

and final".

Clare were the form team in the League. They arrived on the verge of their first League win since 1978, and possible fourth overall, with back-to-back Munster final defeats behind them. But they had put a big effort into the competition, and cruised through to the final. Manager Ger Loughnane and his charges had every reason to fancy their chances.

All in the 21,000 attendance at Semple Stadium would have put their money on Clare after 18 minutes. They had Kilkenny on the run. Conor Clancy at centre-forward was making his strength tell against newcomer Eddie O'Dwyer in the heart of the Kilkenny defence, and Ken Morrissey and Stephen Sheedy were going well at midfield.

ON TOP

Where it mattered Clare were on top, including on the scoreboard where they showed 0-5 to 0-1 ahead. After 20 minutes the difference was 0-6 to 0-2. Two minutes later, the game took a sharp turn in Kilkenny's direction. It never turned back.

Eamon Morrissey plucked a smashing goal out of virtually nothing in the 22nd minute. He doused Clare spirits, and seriously. After conceding another goal to Denis Byrne before the rest, Clare suddenly, and after a very good effort overall, found themselves 0-7 to 2-4 down at half-way. Injury killed Clancy's involvement early in the new half, and apart from Liam Doyle, Brian Lohan, Sean McMahon and James O'Connor in attack, the Banner men were subdued.

Not so Kilkenny, who yanked up the pressure and sprinted away to a double scores win (2-12 to 0-9). On a day made for good hurling, the Noresiders first touch was flawless. In the agony of defeat, Clare lost their way entirely. They lost their shape and confidence.

Kilkenny's Eddie O'Connor, Liam Simpson and Willie O'Connor didn't give the losers a look in up front. Bill Hennessy took charge of midfield, and Adrian Ronan, who claimed eight points, and Eamon Morrissey broke Clare hearts. Between them they hit all but two of the winners score...1-11.

DIDN'T DO JUSTICE

As matches go, the League final was a disappointment. Clare were a good bit off the mark, and as subsequent events proved, didn't do themselves justice at all.

If the decider belonged to Kilkenny and Ronan and Morrissey, the semi-final was D.J. Carey's big day out. The Young Irelands hurling genius went scoring mad, and his 3-1 put him in illustrious company with Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge) and Christy Heffernan (Glenmore), Kilkenny players who scored a hat-trick in a League semi-finals in their time. Besides the final itself, Kilkenny put in a few noteworthy performances elsewhere. The win over Tipperary in Thurles was an excellent, fighting effort.

Were it not for a 58th minute goal from Conor Stakelum, the losers would have been a long, long way behind (2-12 to 1-10). Ronan was powerful here too, and slapped over five points.

The Nowlan Park win over Cork was

interesting too. Here the Leesiders didn't score their first point until the 55th minute (2-10 to 3-3). And the defeat of Galway in March was heartening as well. The Noresiders lost a big lead, before showing super commitment when picking themselves up off the floor to win.

The one real downer was the loss to Limerick. Manager Ollie Walsh and selectors John Healy (Co. Board chairman) and John Teehan (Tullaroan) stopped the experiments after that. Dwyer, O'Connor and company were brought back into the fold. Kilkenny really meant business, and they did the business at the finish.

Kilkenny team in the League final – Michael Walsh, Eddie O'Connor, Pat Dwyer, Liam Simpson, Liam Keoghan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Willie O'Connor, Michael Phelan, Bill Hennessy (capt.), Adrian Ronan, John Power, P. J. Delaney, Eamon Morrissey, D. J. Carey, Denis Byrne. *Subs* – C. Brennan for M. Phelan (inj) 14th min; D. Gaffney for Power 51st min.

Clare – David Fitzgerald, Michael O'Halloran, Brian Lohan, Frank Lohan, Liam Doyle, Sean McMahon, Anthony Daly (capt.), Ken Morrissey, Stephen Sheedy, P. J. O'Connell, Conor Clancy, James O'Connor, Jim McInerney, Eamon Taffe, Ger O'Loughlin. *Subs* – Fergal Tuohy for Clancy (inj) 34th min; Fergal Hegarty for Morrissey 39th min; Cyril Lyons for J. McInerney.

STILL DOWN THE FIELD

Kilkenny are just one victory off double figures in the National Hurling League roll of honour, but they are still down the field runner. The Noresiders 9th success didn't alter their standing in the honours list. They are still fourth behind table toppers, Tipperary who are followed by Cork and Limerick.

WHO HAS THE TITLES

- 16 – Tipperary:** 1928, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1979, 1988, 1994.
- 13 – Cork:** 1926, 1930, 1940, 1941, 1948, 1953, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1980, 1981, 1993.
- 10 – Limerick:** 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1947, 1971, 1984, 1985, 1992.
- 9 – Kilkenny:** 1933, 1962, 1966, 1976, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1990, 1995.
- 5 – Galway:** 1932, 1951, 1975, 1987, 1989.
- 4 – Wexford:** 1956, 1958, 1967, 1973.
- 3 – Clare:** 1946, 1977, 1978.
- 2 – Dublin:** 1929, 1939.
- 1 – Offaly:** 1991.
- 1 – Waterford:** 1963

N.B. – The National Hurling League was not played in 1926 – 27 or 1930 – 31. The series was suspended in 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945 because of World War II.

NINE STEPS TO VICTORY

Saturday, October 8, 1994 at Sixmilebridge
Clare 0-14, Kilkenny 0-9
H.T. 0-7 (C) to 0-5.

Kilkenny scorers: Eamon Morrissey (0-3, one free, one 65); James Brennan (0-3, one free, one 65); Adrian Ronan, Charlie Carter, Michael Phelan (0-1 each).

Sunday, October 23, 1994 at Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 0-14, Laois 0-6
H.T. 1-6 (K) to 0-2

Scorers: Adrian Ronan (0-3); Derek Gaffney (1-0); Eamon Morrissey, Billy O'Keeffe, Canice Brennan (0-2 each); Michael Dunphy (0-2, frees); Charlie Carter, Denis Byrne (0-1 each); D.J. Carey (0-1, free).

Sunday, November 6, 1994 at Thurles
Kilkenny 2-12, Tipperary 1-10
H.T. 2-3 (K) to 0-7

Scorers: Adrian Ronan (0-5); D.J. Carey (1-1, point free); Derek Gaffney (1-1); P. J. Delaney, Denis Byrne (0-2 each); Liam Keoghan (0-1).

Sunday, November 20, 1994 at Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 2-10, Cork 3-3
H.T. 1-4 (K) to 2-0

Scorers: D.J. Carey (0-4, frees); Derek Gaffney (1-1); Eamon Morrissey (1-0); Billy O'Keeffe (0-2, one 65); P.J. Delaney (0-2); Adrian Ronan (0-1).

Sunday, February 26 at Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 2-11, Galway 1-10
H.T. 0-6 (K) to 0-3

Scorer: Adrian Ronan (0-5, three frees); John Power, D. J. Carey (1-0 each); Canice Brennan (0-3); Michael Phelan (0-2); Liam Keoghan (0-1, free).

Sunday, March 12 at Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 1-16, Antrim 2-9
H.T. 1-8 (K) to 1-4

Scorers: Adrian Ronan (0-7, five frees); Eamon Morrissey (0-4); D. J. Carey (1-0); Billy O'Keeffe, Canice Brennan, John Power, Derek Gaffney, Denis Byrne (0-1 each).

Sunday, March 26 at Limerick
Limerick 0-12, Kilkenny 1-8
H.T. 0-6 (L) to 0-4

Scorers: P. J. Delaney (1-1); D.J. Carey (0-3, one penalty, two frees); Eamon Morrissey (0-2); John Power, Michael Phelan (0-1 each).

April 23 at Thurles, N.H.L. semi-final
Kilkenny 4-8 Offaly 0-14
H.T. 2-3 (K) to 0-7

Scorers: D. J. Carey (3-1); Denis Byrne (1-2); Adrian Ronan (0-3, two frees); Michael Phelan, Eamon Morrissey (0-1 each).

May 7 at Thurles, N.H.L. final
Kilkenny 2-12, Clare 0-9
H.T. 2-4 (K) to 0-7

Scorers: Adrian Ronan (0-8, five frees, one 65); Eamon Morrissey (1-3); Denis Byrne (1-0); Canice Brennan (0-1).

Swinging D.J. made all the big hits

THAT hurling genius, D.J. Carey was top of the scoring hit parade when Kilkenny dashed to their latest National Hurling League success.

The play-anywhere Young Irelands (Gowran) attacker walloped home a magnificent 6-10 during his eight outings in the competition.

Carey missed the opening game against Clare. And would you believe it, he didn't score in the final against the Banner men?

But in between, he registered in every match. His best take by far was against All-Ireland champions, Offaly in the semi-final. That day the deadly D.J. rân riot, and snatched 3-1.

In all, 14 players shared the spoils as Kilkenny lashed home a good score of 15-100 during the nine matches it took to win the winter competition. Eamon Morrissey, with 2-15, and Adrian Ronan, who bagged 0-33, also ran up big scores.

Highest scoring defender was Liam Keoghan, who rose the white flag twice against Tipperary and Galway.

Kilkenny scoring chart – 1 D. J. Carey (6-10); 2 Adrian Ronan (0-33); 3 Eamon Morrissey (2-15); 4 Derek Gaffney (3-3); 5 Denis Byrne (2-6); 6 P. J. Delaney (1-5); 7 Canice Brennan (0-7); 8 (tie) John Power (1-2); Billy O'Keeffe (0-5); Michael Phelan (0-5); 11 James Brennan (0-3); 12 (tie) Charlie Carter, Michael Dunphy, Liam Keoghan (0-2 each).

EAMON AND EDDIE MADE THE FULL JOURNEY

Champions to be, Kilkenny opened the National Hurling League with a seriously understrength team, and for that reason, few players figured in all nine games it took to win the title.

For the opener against Clare in Sixmilebridge – it was a Saturday match – the team included Joe Dermody and James Brennan, who didn't feature subsequently while James McGarry, Ollie O'Connor and Michael Walsh (James Stephens) all went on as subs and didn't appear again.

Only two, Eamon Morrissey and Eddie O'Dwyer played in all nine games. Morrissey, who has since moved to play club and county hurling in Dublin, was mainly used in his

usual corner-forward position while O'Dwyer was picked at wing-back, centre-back and even midfield in different matches.

Because of the shortage of regulars for the first outing, 26 players were used during the opening two matches alone. And in all, 29 players saw action during the League.

Appearances by players – Eddie O'Dwyer (Graigie-Ballycallan) and Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's) 9 games each; Liam Simpson (Bennettsbridge), John Power (John Lockes), Adrian Ronan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Canice Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), Liam Keoghan (Tullaroan), D.J. Carey (Young Irelands) 8 each; Joe Walsh (Mullinavat), Sean Meally

(Erin's Own), P.J. Delaney (Fenians), Bill Hennessy (Tullaroan), Derek Gaffney (Tullaroan), Denis Byrne (Graigie-Ballycallan) 7 each; Michael Phelan (Glenmore) 6 games; Billy O'Keeffe (Thomastown), Willie O'Connor (Glenmore) 5 each; Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands), Eddie O'Connor (Glenmore) 3 each; Charlie Carter (Young Irelands), Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock), Michael Dunphy (Mullinavat) 2 each; Joe Dermody (St. Lachtain's), James Brennan (Erin's Own), James McGarry (Bennettsbridge), Ollie O'Connor (St. Lachtain's), Michael Walsh (James Stephens), Ned Drea (Barrow Rangers) 1 each.

LARRY LAYS IT ON THE LINE



EUGENE MCGEE on how Larry McCann quelched an attempted coup at the Knocknavanna Gaels AGM

This article was first published in January 1986 in the "Sunday Tribune" and is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author. The GAA has made great strides over the years, yet few readers will have difficulty in recognising Larry McCann.

IT has not been a happy Christmas for Larry McCann. The long-serving official with the Knocknavanna Gaels GAA Club was worried about the AGM of the club which was due to be held last Sunday.

One would have thought that having served as Honorary Secretary of the Gaels for the past 35 years, having been Team Manager and Selector for the past 20 years and County Board Delegate for 15 years, Larry would have little to worry about regarding an AGM. But the man who has often been referred to in the local newspaper as 'Mr. Knocknavanna Gaels' has acquired the cuteness of a political fox over the years and he knew there were moves afoot to oust him this time.

Larry had seen these dissident trends developing over the past few years. He blamed the formation of a local soccer team, Knocknavanna United, as the main factor. A lot of the GAA players began to play soccer and even missed some matches with the Gaels as a consequence. And when Larry chastised them for their lack of loyalty to the GAA, he could guess from their reactions that trouble was brewing. At last year's AGM there had been some critical comments about the running of the GAA club but Larry had weathered the storm with little bother to retain his various offices but this time he anticipated greater opposition.

Naturally enough, Larry, as a veteran of GAA politics, was quick to put his experience to good use from his own point of view. Firstly, he spent an evening with the club chairman, Fr. P. J. Maguire, P.P., and briefed him fully on the club bye-laws, the only copy of which belongs to Larry.

Fr. P.J. was a very reluctant chairman at the last AGM when nobody else could be got to accept the position and he has only managed to attend two Committee meetings since then. 'Sure, you can look after things yourself, Larry, at these

meetings – don't you know more about these things than I do anyway', he would say whenever there was a meeting called.

Having made sure that the Reverend Chairman understood the background to the upcoming AGM, Larry then fixed the meeting to start at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday last. Although a life-long Pioneer, Larry knows full well that the pubs don't close until 2.00 p.m. on Sundays and he also knew that many of the club members would still be in the local Eagle Bar having their after-Mass refreshments at the time the meeting was due to start. He also made sure to tell the Reverend Chairman to point out that only paid-up members were entitled to vote, something Larry reckoned would eliminate at least half the players from voting.

So, at 1.30 on the dot Larry was ready to start the AGM in the local national school in which there was no heating last Sunday. The attendance at that stage comprised about a dozen schoolboys, three or four players and three members of the Knocknavanna Gaels team that last won the county Junior championship in 1939 when Larry McCann was a member of the side.

As soon as Fr. Maguire had said the mandatory few words 'as Gaeilge' to open the meeting, Larry tore into his Secretary's Report. In this he dealt at some length with the failure of the Junior team to get by the first round of the county championship for the fourth year in a row and since he was the Team Manager it was vital that the blame be laid elsewhere. 'We have too many players in this club who are dividing their allegiance between our national games and other games to the detriment of our club', he said.

"Unless the games of the Gael take pride of place with our Irish youth I fear for the future of this country and for Knocknavanna Gaels in particular. When I asked the free-taker on our team to stay behind after training one evening to practice his frees he refused, saying that he had an important squash game in the

local rugby club at 9.30 p.m. and could not miss that. We had several examples of players going off to play a soccer match on Sunday mornings and then arriving out in the afternoon to play for the Gaels. I ask you, what sort of Irishmen are these people?" said Larry as he warmed to his task.

By this time some of 'The Lads' were arriving in from the Eagle Bar, so Larry sped through the remainder of his report as quickly as possible. But still there were questions. 'Why did the club not get in an outsider to train the team for the championship as the players had requested last year?' 'We couldn't get anybody suitable high up or low down' replied Larry, 'except one fellow from 20 miles away who wanted £50 a night to train the team and we couldn't agree to that because it would be against the amateur status of the G.A.A.'

'Couldn't we not have given him a present of a washing machine instead?' quipped one wag from the back of the room. Larry ignored the comment.

'Why could the team not have played more practice matches before the championship game?' asked a bright young spark whom Larry knew to be a leading member of Knocknavanna United. 'The last time we played a practice match I had to line out in goal myself to make up the fifteen', said Larry, omitting to mention that the particular match was played on the same evening as the European Cup Final was shown live on television.

'If the training was more interesting there would be a far better response', said a student member when one of Larry's 1939 colleagues stated that the present-day players were not dedicated enough. 'We need more coaching in the skills of the game instead of spending an hour just kicking the ball in and out of the goals. We need more science in the game to make it interesting and that applies to training too', said this radical. 'We should have nine or ten footballs available at training, for instance', he added.

'It's alright having these grand notions', replied Larry, 'but where's the money going to come from? half of the players don't even pay their membership fees and when we organised a card-drive

Larry Lays It On The Line

Contd.

or a bingo session the players will not support them either', he added. 'The last time the football had to be repaired I had to pay for it out of my own pocket'.

Eventually they got around to elections and after Fr. P. J. Maguire was re-elected unanimously, it came to the election of Honorary Secretary and Larry was opposed by a young upstart, a playing member of Knocknavanna United, who was at the meeting dressed in baggy trousers and wearing an ear-ring.

By this time the attendance had swelled considerably in numbers as well as in appearance following the emptying of the Eagle Bar, and Larry was worried. But then he pulled a master-stroke when whispering to the Reverend Chairman to call out the list of paid-up members who were entitled to vote.

The majority of the football team were not paid-up and consternation reigned. 'This rule was never applied in the club before', said one angry man to the vociferous support of his colleagues. 'Well, it's not my idea', said Larry. 'We got instructions from Croke Park that only paid-up members are entitled to vote and there's nothing I can do about it'. You may blame Croke Park but don't blame me', he added with a flourish.

So they voted and it did not take long to count the votes. Larry had triumphed again by 15 votes to 12. Betraying not a semblance of triumphalism, Larry thanked

'those who voted for me and those who voted against me'. 'I can only promise to do my best for this great club as I have done in the past and I ask all sides to pull together in the coming year', he said in his by now familiar acceptance speech.

Having weathered that first storm, the other elections were plain sailing for Larry McCann and the only problem arose when it came to Team Manager. One member proposed that the matter be left over to a meeting of Junior players but sensing the dreaded 'Player-Power', Larry had another whisper in Fr. Maguire's ear and the Chairman insisted that according to club bye-laws the Manager must be appointed at the AGM. One of Larry's colleagues from 1939 proposed him, another seconded him and he was easily elected. Then it was suggested that as well as having a Manager they should also get a Coach – an obvious attempt, Larry reckoned, to undermine his own position and usurp his authority. But Fr. Maguire came to the rescue again.

'There's nothing in our club bye-laws about appointing a Coach, lads, so we will have to leave that over for this year anyway. If you want a Coach put in a motion for next year's AGM', he said.

Having got back to all his seats of power again, Larry wound up the AGM with an oration of exhortation. 'Lads, this is a great club and if we all put our shoulders to the wheel in the coming year we can make it even greater. But the players of today will have to be more

dedicated to the club. You cannot be serving two or three masters and I would urge players to give their full allegiance to Cumann Luthchleas Gael this year. Gaelic Football suits the Irish temperament better than any foreign game and where would this country be without it, I ask you?

'We will be making an all-out effort this year to get running water into our dressing-rooms and we will try to buy a new set of jerseys as well and maybe another football', said Larry in an obvious gesture to placate the more dissident members who by now were busy arranging lifts to the disco that night or fixing up transport for the next away game of Knocknavanna United.

And it was left to Fr. P. J. Maguire to wrap up proceedings at this AGM, 'Lads, we are very lucky to have a man in this club of the calibre of Larry McCann, who gives so much of his valuable time to the affairs of our Association for no rewards whatever. On your behalf I would like to thank Larry and his good wife Maria, who washes the jerseys, and hope that long may Larry be with us to guide our club along the right path as he has done for the past 25 years. I conclude now by wishing you all a happy and holy New Year and Go mbeirimid beo ag an am seo arís'.

And so the latest AGM of Knocknavanna Gaels goes into the history books and, belatedly, Larry McCann and his missus can begin to enjoy Christmas.



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN – Special Junior "A" County Champions 1995

Back row (l.-r.): Kieran Brennan (trainer), Pat Brennan, Ollie Maher (medic), Michael Quirke, John Comerford, Pat Purcell, Johnny Ronan, Joe Delaney, Bill Ryan, John Nugent, Pat Comerford, Michael Murphy, Michael Marnell, Larry Comerford. Front row (l.-r.): Wayne Ronan, Paul Ronan, Alan Hoynes, Joe Brennan, Michael Doran (Captain), Philip Butler, Eamon Marnell, Tommy Manogue, Milo Hennessy.

Scoláireachtaí De Bhaldraithe

Chuaigh seisear ó'n gContae ar Scoláireachtaí Thomáis De Bhaldraithe ar Chúrsa Samhraidh i gColáiste na Rinne arís i mbliana. Triúr buachaill agus triúr cailín a bhuaigh na scoláireachtaí seo. Ian ó Daibhide (Séan Loca), Séan Ó Murchú (Dubha agus Bána), Seán Breathnach (Bearna na Gaoithe), Siobhán Ní Dhiarmuide (Seamróg), Bríona Ní Laighléis (Béal Atha Raghaid), agus Áine Máireád Ní Bhraonáin (Emeralds), na páistí a bhí i gceist agus d'éir mar a thuigim, bhain siad taitneamh agus tairbhe as an gcúrsa. Chaith mé tráthnóna thíos ann ar an dtrá agus gan amhras bhí sé go haoibhinn ann. Is iontach an seans é do scoláirí óga agus táimid ag súil go mbeidh éileamh an-mhór orthu arís.

Breis is 200 scoláire a chuir a n-ainmeacha isteach ó gach aird de'n Chontae agus bhí an bronnadh i mbliana ag ócáid taitneamhach i "Shems" i Sráid Eoghain. Coiste an Chontae in éineacht le Bórd an Deiscirt, Bórd an Tuaiscirt agus Bórd na



Ah bronnadh na Scolaireachtaí i Shems. Ar chúil: Seosamh Ó Donnchadha, Ristéard Ó Maolrúnaí, Liam Suipéal, Seán Ó hÉili, Brian De Bhaldraithe agus Aindreas Aighleart. Na páistí: Séan Breathnach, Ian Ó Daibhide, Siobhán Ní Dhiarmuide, Áine M. Ní Bhraonáin, Seán Ó Murchú, Bríona Ní Laighléis. (Photo: Tom Brett)

n-Óg a chuireann an t-airgead ar fáil dos na scoláireachtaí, agus, ag an mbronnadh, bhí oifigigh na mBórd sin i dteannta Oifigigh Bóird Cumainn na mBun-scoileanna agus Proinsias Ó Donnchadha, Cigire agus Ball de Raidio Cille Chainnigh.

Labhair Seán Ó Néili, Cathaoirleach an Choiste Contae, Eamonn Ó Cearbhaill an Rúnaí, Seosamh Ó Donnchada Oifigeach na Gaeilge agus Brian De Bhaldraithe,

mac Thomáis, ar son a chlainne, a bhronn na scoláireachtaí. Ghabh Liam Suipéal Bainisteoir Coláiste na Rinne, buíochas le cách as ucht a gcuid suime sa Ghaeilge agus sa Choláiste.

Is mór an trua go bhfuil cuid de na Clubanna agus na scoileanna sa Chontae nach nglacann páirt san iarracht. Táimid ag súil go mbeidh siad linn an bhliain seo chugainn.

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FOUNDATION COACHING COURSE



Included in this photograph taken during the Foundation Coaching Course are Patrick Joyce, Emeralds; Richard Rudkins, Ballyragget; John Kavanagh, Ballyragget; Michael Cormack, St. Lactain's; Pat Ryan, Emeralds; Johnny Ryan, Clara; Eugene Murphy, Castlecomer; Donal Dunne, Castlecomer; Brian Judge, Castlecomer; Tarla Dunne, Castlecomer; Peadar Brennan, Clara; John Cahill, Emeralds; Pat Byrne, Clara; Joe Corcoran, Galmoy; Pat Laherty, Galmoy; John Dowling, Clara; Jerry Drennan, Galmoy; Mick McCarthy, Freshford; Oliver Sharky, Fenians; Paddy Flynn, Freshford; Pat Morrissey, Freshford; Noel Hughes, Freshford; Tony Walsh, Freshford; Jim Murphy, Clara; Tom O'Shea, Clara; Margaret Power, Thomastown; Breda O'Shea, Thomastown; Brigid Cassin, Thomastown; Paula Dowling, Freshford; John Cahill, Dicksboro; Tom Lanigan, James Stephens; Peter Norton, Fenians; Paddy Butler, St. Lactain's; Podge Butler, James Stephens; Bridget Barnaville, Lisdowney Camogie; Vera Hogan, Lisdowney Camogie. Also included are coaches Briain Ryan, Richie Mulrooney, Tom O'Hanlon, P.J. Whelan.

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Brotherly love . . . Peter Barry, Captain of the Kilkenny Under-21 team, pictured with his two brothers after the Leinster Final in Carlow. Colin is on the left, and Alan is the lad on the right with the cup covering an out-of-date Kilkenny jersey.

(Photo: Tom O'Neill)

Dicksboro



Dicksboro members and Co. Board officials at launch of Paddy Grace Tournament at Eamon Langton's (sponsor)

Chairman: Seamus Tynan; **Vice-Chairman:** Seamus Fitzpatrick; **Secretary:** Michael Byrne; **Treasurers:** Paddy Grace / Noel Deevy; **Registrar:** Gerry O'Neill; **P.R.O.:** Tommy O'Brien. **Senior Hurling panelists:** Michael Walsh, Dan O'Neill, Mark Dowling, Donal Carroll. **Senior Football panelists:** Niall Morrissey, Eoin Begley, Stephen Kennedy, Liam Cassin, Liam Scott.

The year 1995 for our club while not very successful in terms of championships

won, was a year which saw plenty of activity. Our one championship success was achieved by our U-16 footballers who retained their title with an excellent win over our city neighbours James Stephens.

Our only other success on the field of play was by our junior hurlers who caused a big surprise by winning the Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup. The hard working development committee under the leadership of Joe Walton were very active during the year. The outdoor ladies and gents toilets

were completed as was the bank on the car park side of the main pitch. The entrance plus all of the car park was also resurfaced.

In July a Dicksboro team created a bit of history when they travelled to Glenurquhart in Scotland to take on the locals in a shinty/hurling game. The trip which was very successful was arranged by Paddy Grace (see separate article).

Early in the year, a colleague of the late Paddy Grace presented a magnificent



DICKSBORO – 1995 Paddy Cahill Cup winners – Back: T. Kirwan, N. Morrissey, T. Maher, M. Devane, D. Beirne, B. Brennan, S. Fitzpatrick, T. O'Neill, N. Lacey, B. O'Neill, A. Begley, S. Rowe, E. Begley. Front: J. Kerwick, B. Fitzpatrick, B. Corcoran, J. Cahill, P. Martin (captain), D. Kennedy, T. Carroll, D. Carroll, M. Hogan, M. Treacy.

CLUBS

R O U N D - U P



Bridgie Malone R.I.P.



Blackmill Boys . . . G.A.A. supporters from the Blackmill area of Kilkenny enjoying the County Finals. (left to right): Tommy Brennan, Blackmill Street; Billy Hickey, Lord Edward Street; Ned Gladney, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow; Sean Kerwick, "Abbeyview", N. B. Lane, Blackmill.

Kilkenny Crystal Cup to commemorate Paddy's name. It was decided to organise a senior hurling tournament for same. Another great friend of Paddy's, Eamon Langton, sponsored the trophies. Eight teams took part including Mount Sion, Holycross, Cashel King Cormacs, Rathnure, Dicksboro, James Stephens, Tullaroan, Carrickshock.

In August the club was shocked by the untimely death of Bridgie Malone. Bridgie who was Dicksboro's No. 1 supporter died while on holidays with her husband Con.

The sympathy of the club goes to Con who is also a prominent member of the club.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.



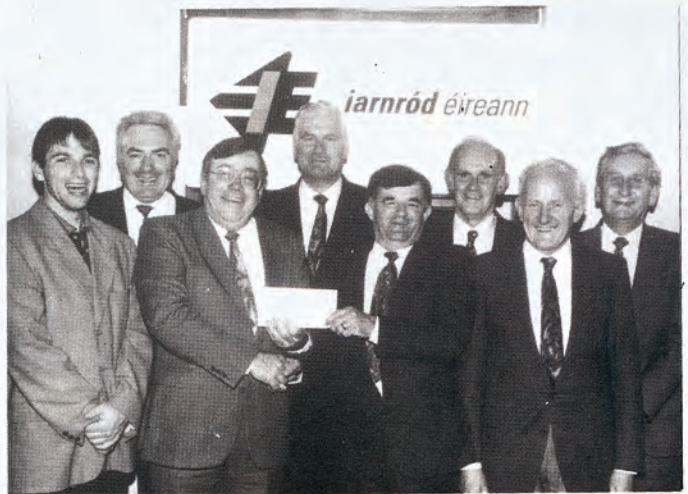
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Joe Pyke (Chairman Bord na nÓg) collects the minor hurling sponsorship cheque from Mr. Frank Hogan (Business Executive). Also in the photo are D. J. Carey, B. Corbett (Passenger Services Manager), John Healy (Chairman, Kilkenny County Board G.A.A.), Ted Carroll (Secretary Kilkenny County Board), Tom Ryall (Secretary Bord na nÓg) and J. J. Murphy (Station Master, Kilkenny).



DUNNAMAGGIN

THIS has been the club's most successful year ever on the field, winning the Intermediate Hurling and Football Championships, along with the Roinn A Minor Hurling Championship.

Off the field it was also an historic year as the club finally got rid of the tag of being the only one in county Kilkenny notowning their own playing grounds. Earlier this year a field was purchased close to the village of Dunnamaggin and its development is currently under way.

It has been levelled, the grass seeds have been sown and are now growing rapidly. It is hoped to stage the first of many matches at this new venue in the summer of 1996. At present we are seek-

ing the support of all our hurling friends in the county to help us to finance stage two of the development – the construction of dressing rooms.

The untimely death of Jim "The Link" Walshe was a sad occasion for the hurling community in Dunnamaggin. Born in 1933 in Ballintee, Dunnamaggin, he farmed with his brother Pat – also a prominent hurler – all his life. He won his first Minor title in 1950 with Callan and won his first All-Ireland in 1950 (Minor).

He won a Junior All-Ireland in 1956 and in 1957 won a Senior All-Ireland against Waterford. He won a National League medal in 1962 and also won two Oireachtas medals.

His brother, Tom, also played alongside "The Link" and won a senior All-Ireland

medal in 1957. Fittingly, Jim "The Link" Walshe was laid to rest in the old cemetery in Dunnamaggin which is situated next to the club's new playing grounds.

The principal officers during the year were:

Malachy Hogan (Chairman), John Ryan (Secretary), Seán Ryan (Treasurer), W. Kearney (P.R.O.). The trainer for Intermediate, Minor and Under-21 teams was Brendan Fennelly.

The following players played on Kilkenny county teams:

Anthony McCormack, Andrew Hickey, Ramie Cahill, Noel Lahart (Minor); Sean Ryan, Eamon Kennedy, Tom Hickey (Junior); Tom Hickey, Paul Cahill (Under-21); Malachy Hogan, Jimmy Dunne (Masters).

KILMACOW

THE highlight of the year was the elusive County Title collected by our Under-16 team. Having lost last year to Bennettsbridge, the boys were resolved that the same fate would not afflict them this time round.

In the League we had good wins over Windgap, Slieveure and Carrickshock. Defeat by Clara in the semi-final was our lot. We faced Carrickshock in the South Final. We won by four points, on a score of 2-8 to 1-7.

A re-match against our League conquerors, Clara, was now a reality in the County Final. The Clara lads were a bigger team than our lads, and at half-time we trailed by 2-6 to 1-2.

Gary O'Shea and Eugene Kenneally were introduced at half-time. This sparked a Kilmacow come-back. With scores from Peter Mullally (2-5), David Walsh (2-0), John Carroll (1-0) and Eugene Kenneally (1-0), we ran out easy winners. The final score was: Kilmacow 6-5, Clara 3-6



KILMACOW – UNDER-16 ROINN "C" CHAMPIONS

Front row (L-R) – Bobby Ryan, Darren McDonald, Eugene Kenneally, Gary O'Sullivan, Ian Walsh, David Walsh, Paddy O'Keefe, John Walsh, Eoin Grant, Pat Gaule. **Back row (L-R)** – Dermot Haberlin (Selector), Brian Fleming, Gary O'Shea, Peter Mullally, John Carroll, Brendan Maher, William Kelly, Francis Walsh, Barry Murphy, Conor Walsh, Raymond Hennessy, Leonard Egan, Brendan Kennedy, Dick McNamara (Selector). **Mascots** – Anne-Marie Walsh, Richard McNamara.

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ERIN'S OWN

Juvenile coaching in the club continues to be a major priority, with coaches appointed for the year 1996. A coaching programme for winter 95-96 includes 18 sessions per week, mostly indoors, for u-8, u-10, u-13, u-14, u-16.

The u-14 Tara Ryan hurling tournament was played on a league basis and provided some splendid games. In the final St. Martin's beat Erin's Own. The u-13 panels travelled to Wicklow on a day trip to play local sides. This proved to be very popular with all the players. The coaches organised leagues for u-14 and u-10 age groups, during the summer. Both leagues were sponsored by local business people and provided some splendid entertainment with very fine games in both age groups.

Erin's Own organised a very successful indoor competition in the Community School over past Christmas holidays. This was an inter-club tournament with players using indoor hurleys and UNIHOC sticks. Clubs taking part were Lisdowney, St. Lactain Danesfort, St. Martin's and Erin's Own. The formula was different to what is normally used and players from each club were mixed on the teams so as to take the competitive club-versus-club element out of it. The winners and runners-up were presented with medals and the tournament was voted a huge success by the players involved. This year Erin's Own fielded a team at special junior B level to provide an outlet for both young emerging players and older players who, because of demands on their time could not put in the necessary training to play at a higher level. The team was a great success from a social viewpoint and also had a high degree of success missing a quarter-final place by one point!

Our main Club Officers for 1995 were: Larry O'Neill (chairman), Harold Stone (vice-chairman), Martin Fogarty (secretary), Christy Hughes (treasurer).

The following players were on the Kilkenny County team: David Buggy, Michael Owens (u-21 hurling); Sean Meally (junior hurling); David Buggy, Ken Brennan (u-21 football); Sean Meally, James Brennan (senior hurling).



ERIN'S OWN - SENIOR HURLING SEMI-FINALISTS - Back Row L/R: Martin Fogarty, Tommy Brennan, Pat Shore, Christy Brennan, Fergal Slevin, Patsy Brophy (capt.), Eddie Brennan, Eamon Holland, Sean Meally, Brian Young, Peadar Healy, Michael Owens, Ken Brennan, Tarla Dunne, Cormack Young Eoin Rothwell. Front Row L/R: Dinny Brennan, Joe Coogan, Liam Shore, Michael Brophy, Tom Brophy, David Buggy, James Brennan, Michael O'Neill, John Buggy, John Kelly, Joe Meagher, Donal Dunne, Martin Owens, Victor Smith.

Photo: Tom O'Neill



ERIN'S OWN SPECIAL JUNIOR TEAM - Back Row L/R: Seamus O'Neill, Ken Brennan, Seamus Coogan, David O'Rourke, Paul Rice, Dinny Brennan, Tarla Dunne, John Kelly, Michael Murphy. Front Row L/R: Seamie Holden, Martin Holohan, Martin Fogarty, Tommy Brennan, Damien Mullins, Tommy Buggy, Colm Meagher, Joe Meagher.

Photo: Tom O'Neill



ERIN'S OWN U-14 HURLING TEAM, TARA RYAN CUP FINALISTS - Back Row L/R: Seamus Brennan (coach), Jamie Dowling, Sean Dwyer, Justin Nolan, Trevor Condell, Stephen Dwyer, Ned Lawler (coach), John Brennan, Donal McInerney, David Renwick, Sean Phelan, Seamus Dwyer, Paul Campion, Nicky Walsh (coach). Front Row L/R: Eamon Brennan, Colin Dunne, Karl Brennan, Eamon Jackman, Andrew Lawler, Linda Crennan, Niall Murtagh, Gordon Byrne, Anthony Owens, Adam Holden, Edward Brennan, Danny Byrne.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

FENIAN'S

Chairman: Michael Ryan
Vice Chairman: Sean Warren
Secretary: Oliver Sharkey
Treasurer: Tommy Henderson
Groundsmen: Tommy Henderson & John Ryan

On the field, the club has had the busiest year in a long time. In mid September, five hurling teams were in the hunt for honours – under-16's, minors, under-21's, special juniors and seniors. At the time of writing, the club has won a minor title, and lost in three finals including the senior decider, while we have reached the County Final of the Roinn B under-21 championship.

Off the field, the club took control of the hurling pitch and dressing rooms, when the parish sportsfield committee leased them to the club for the next twenty five years. The club also took on an employee, in conjunction with FÁS, to look after the pitch and dressing rooms, and also to help coach the under-10s and under-13s in the parish.

Club president, Canon Greene died during the year, after a courageous battle

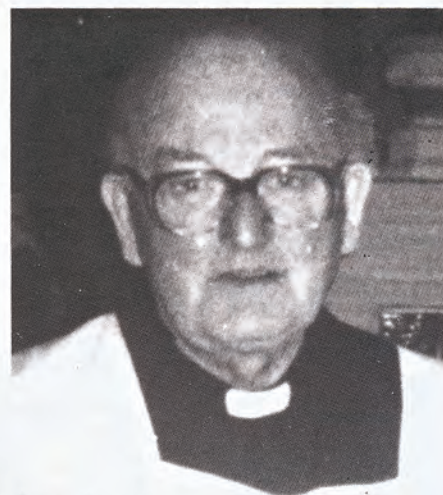


BRIAIN RYAN (FENIANS) OUTLEAPS WILLIE O'CONNOR (GLENMORE) IN 1995 CO. FINAL

against a serious illness. Throughout his years in Johnstown, he was an active supporter of the Fenians and the Kilkenny hurling teams. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

The sudden death of Eoin Beehan senr. also caused suffering and grief to his family, friends and neighbours. Eoin was only in his mid-fifties at the time of his demise. The Beehan family are very active members of the club over the years. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

Club representatives on Kilkenny teams: P.J. Delaney (senior); Brendan Ryan (senior and u-21); Briain Ryan (senior); Eoin Beehan and P.J. Ryan (minor), Kevin Power and Brian Power (u-16) and Gerard Beehan (u-14).



Canon Greene.



GLENMORE

By winning the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling title, it brought to 22 the number of senior titles won by the club, to make it the most successful club in the County (18 senior football, and 4 senior hurling). The senior panel had 90 training sessions under Tom Ryan, they played 60 games in hurling, and 10 games in football. Our juvenile section played another 30 games. Presently it is costing the club £18,000 to run its affairs. The huge golf classic in New Ross golf club was a big help.

Our club competed in senior hurling (champions), junior hurling (beaten in first round), special junior hurling Roinn "A" (beaten in final), minor hurling (defeated 1st round), under-16 hurling (first round defeat), senior football (first round knocked out). The under-21, and minor football competitions have yet to commence.

At a cost of £2,500 we have raised the retaining wire at the back of the goals.

Eddie and Willie O'Connor, and Michael Phelan played with Kilkenny all year.

Richie Mullally played on the county minor team, while Jimmy Walsh, P.J. O'Connor, Seamus Dollard, and John Phejan played with the Kilkenny senior footballers.

The main serving officers of our club during 1995 were: Francis Ennett (chairman), Seamus Dunphy and Patsy Kehoe (secs.), Paddy Fitzgerald and Martin Freyne (treasurers).



The Galloping Major!! Christy Heffernan shows his awesome power as he gallops past P.J. Ryan in the County Final.

Photo: Tom Brett



Man of the Match – Michael Phelan collects his Man of the match award from Milo Grogan, President, St. Canice's Credit Union.

Photo: Tom O'Neill



Shake Hands and Come Out Fighting – Glenmore captain, Willie O'Connor shakes the hand of Brian Ryan, Fenians captain, prior to the County Final. Keeping the peace is referee, Pat Hayes.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

OBITUARY

Paulie Fitzgerald passed to his Eternal Reward during the year, which caused much sadness and grief within our club and parish. Paulie, from Mquelerstown, won seven senior football titles with Glenmore from 1929 to 1943. As an inter-county footballer, Paulie served his county with great distinction. He was a popular, and well-loved character, who was well known beyond the bounds of the parish. He was joint owner of Harneys Hall in Mullinavat. Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh a Anam.



OUT of my Way – Eddie O'Connor shows scant regard for Fenians attackers, Brendan Ryan, and Billy Purcell in the St. Canice's Credit Union Hurling Final.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

GALMOY

It was not a very auspicious, or indeed successful year for Galmoym. Early league results prompted aspirations of a good championship run, but alas, it was not to be. In that All-County Junior League, we won seven from eight fixtures, with the eighth one drawn. We even ran our perennial opponents, Blacks and Whites to two points in the League semi-final. All this, and no training, led us to believe that our sun was about to rise.

The "championship hat" ordained that we meet neighbours, Emeralds in the first round. We beat them by eleven points (2-17 to 1-9). We were looking good. O'Loughlins were on the horizon. In Nowlan Park, we gave the eventual county champions a ten point lead, before we had any score on the board, and the rest is history. We battled hard but unrewarded.

Our under-21 team beat Danesfort in their first round, before succumbing to the Fenians in their next round.

In the Roinn "C" minor championship, we were beaten in the first round by Bennettsbridge.

A junior football team was entered in the League to be beaten at the semi-final stage by Blacks and Whites.

For the first time we involved ourselves in the St. Judes All-Ireland Junior Sevens competition, on the eve of the All-Ireland Senior Final. We reached the quarter final stages, before elimination. Our panel was,

Brian and Kevin Lonergan, Brian Doherty, Jerry Drennan, Jarleth Duggan, Alan Gray, Joe Corcoran, Michael and Phil Brennan, and Brendan Ryan.

Leinster under-21 medals were won by Brian Lonergan and Philip Brennan. Noel Doherty played with the Laois Vocational Schools. Leinster Junior Colleges medals were won by Joe Ryan, Jerry Drennan, David Doyle, and Charles Brennan with St. Fergals College, from Rathdowney.

Congratulations to our Primary Schools County Champions. Hopefully, we may, very shortly, be in a position to enter teams at under-14, and under-16 levels.

Our Junior hurling team for 1995 was Paul Morrissey, Tommy Drennan (capt.),

Cha Duggan, Shane Doherty, Brian Doherty, Brian Lonergan, Cathal Doherty, Gerry Drennan, Michael Brennan, Phil Brennan, Liam Drennan, Kevin Lonergan, Brendan Ryan, Joe Corcoran, Alan Gray, Peter Ryan, Declan Fitzpatrick, David Delaney, Leo Doherty.

The main officers in our club were Fr. Liam Dunne (pres.), Michael Lonergan (chairman), Charlie Brennan (vice do.), Joe Corcoran (sec.), Declan Fitzpatrick (asst. sec.), Phil Bowe (treas.), Jerry Drennan (P.R.O.). Selectors: Lottie Harte, Liam Drennan, Ger Phelan and Mickie Ryan.

Congratulations to Willo Phelan and Lottie Harte on winning All-Ireland Masters medals with Kilkenny.



Ed Drea clears his lines against Galway in the All-Ireland under-21 semi-final in Tullamore. Looking on is Brian Lonergan. The Galway player in the picture is Kevin Broderick.

Photo: Tom Brett

GRAIGNAMANAGH

The team which gave us most to cheer about was the juvenile hurlers. They started their bid for Roinn B County Final on April 12th when they ousted old rivals Rower-Inistioge in the Rower.

They secured home wins over St. Patrick's and Ballyragget. Their next two wins were on away pitches to Thomastown and Freshford. Their clean sheet led them to Thomastown in the quarter finals where they were victorious over Mullinavat. Then came the semi-final victory again in Danesfort over Urlingford. This led to the County Final in Nowlan Park against opponents Tullogher. This match was played in world cup heat and after 60 minutes of hurling at its best it ended a draw. One week later, with all the parish out in support, they secured victory 1-3 to

0-3. Coaches were Ken Walsh and Thomas Brett. They arrived home to Graignamanagh with the cup to a tumultuous reception.

The winners in this year's Garda League were James Doran's team. Runners up were Eddie Doyle's team. Eight 11-a-side teams took part in this the second Annual League kindly sponsored by the Garda Siochána. 45 boys attended the summer camp in Ballyhale. Nan Brett travelled each day and looked after the affairs of the juveniles.

There were some personal achievements from our hurlers. Ger Walsh and Jarlath Bolger were on the u-21 panel; Edward Walsh on the u-14 panel; Cathal Dunne and Ivan Fenlon on u-16 panel for Dublin trip; Brendan O'Brien, Thomas Brett and Cathal Dunne were on the Kilkenny V.E.C. panel.

Officers: Chairman Michael Walsh; Secretary Anna Dume; Treasurers Evelyn Blanchfield & Hugh Ryan; Co. Board Rep.

Groundsmen: Colm McDonald

Competitions played/Stage reached:
u-13 Roinn B (Co. champions)

Winning panels: Robert Dreehan, Chris Bolger, C. O'Neill, D. O'Neill (twins), P.J. & Ger Brett (twins), G. Foley, P. Cleere, P.J. Skelton, G. Doran, Paul Keating, John Kinsella, Leonard Hayden, Shane Sullivan, Shane Murphy.

Plans/development: Dressing rooms being erected at present at the pitch in Harristown.

Players on County teams: Ger Walsh & Jarlath Bolger on u-21 panel. Cathal Dunne on u-16 panel for Dublin trip. Brendan O'Brien, Thomas Brett & Cathal Dunne on the Kilkenny V.E.C. team.

Cumann na mBunscoileanna - Trends -

Statistics in sport are gathering momentum. The Americans have been into stats overkill for many years now. SKY Sports are beginning to baffle their viewers with mathematical analysis while even the Sunday Game indulges in quickfire review of G.A.A. trivia.

So what have statistics got to do with Primary Schools' games? Surprisingly they play a much greater part than most people might realise.

Of great importance are the numbers of players available on a year-to-year basis. The comparable strengths of the "pick" for school teams. How available information can aid us to improve the fairness and quality of our games.



Piltown – Standing (left to right) : Kevin Brophy, Eamonn Kenny, Brian Purcell, Finbar Dineen, Pierre Burke (front), Mark Kerrisk (behind), Shane Fitzpatrick (in front), David Prendergast (captain), Paul Kirby (goalkeeper), Michael Galvin, Brendan Doyle, Richard Brophy, David Reid, David Walsh, P.J. Walsh.

Front (kneeling) Nicholas Kenny, John Norris, John Brophy (front), Andrew McCarthy (behind), Aidan O'Neill, Niall Brophy, Michael Dineen, Ciarán Galvin, Paul Maher, John O'Shea, Christopher Power, Pat Walsh.



Tullaroan N.S. – Educational Supplies League Roinn A champions, Tedcastle Oils Corn de Bhaldrathe champions and I.N.T.O./G.A.A. seven-s-side champions. Back row , left to right : Edmund Campion, Ned Sweeney, Ken Coogan, Michael Walsh, Shane Hennessy, James Fennelly, Sean Glennon, David Cleere, Stephen Luby, Larry Coogan.

Centre : Niall Ronan, Cethern Reid, Paul Kinsella, Padhraic Kennedy, Tommy Walsh (capt.), Nicholas Maher, Stephen Maher, Chris Breen, Richard Butler, Michael Connolly, Brendan Cahill.

Front : Damien Delaney, Danny Grace, Martin Brennan, Richard Walsh, David Hennessy, Michael Ryan, Mark Molloy.

Some years ago, such information helped the Schools' Board to see the need for an eleven-a-side competition for schools who could not field full teams. For a number of years, such a competition helped some schools to keep involvement in games when numbers were low. Happily, the trend reversed and all teams are again at full strength.

However, one obvious statistic caused the Schools Board to change rules for 1995. It was clear from our information

that larger schools had greater picks and this made the task of winning in smaller schools more difficult.

A committee was assigned the job of re-addressing any balance it perceived. The committee's report was greatly debated by the Board and last season saw the implementation of recommendations. Leagues were restructured, teams were regraded, and a sliding numbers scale was correlated to the age of competing teams. The regrading took regard of two variables

– the numbers available and the success of parishes in recent years. The age group was determined solely by the numbers of boys available for a parish from 3rd to 6th class.

Schools with 150 plus boys, under 12½.
Schools with 100 - 149 boys, under 12¾.
Schools with less than 99 boys, under 13.

This, it was felt, gave all schools a fairer chance to win, especially schools with smaller picks in Roinn A. It was hoped to give everyone a more level playing field.



Gaignamanagh : Hennessy Fuels league champions (Roinn B) 1995. Back Row – Christopher Bolger, Christopher O'Neill, P. J. Brett, Graham Foley, Peter Cleere, Diarmuid O'Neill (capt.), P. J. Skelton, Shane O'Sullivan. Front row – James Doran, Paul Keating, John Kinsella, Leonard Hayden, Robert Dreelan, Ger Brett, Shane Murphy, Barry Moloney.

Photo Tom Brett



Kilmanagh : Educational Supplies League Finalists (Roinn A) 1995. Back row (left to right) – Pat Robinson, Damien Barry, Alan Walsh, Martin Drohan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Michael Burke, Dermot Hogan, Gary Bourke, Daragh Murphy, Ciaran Hoyne, Michael Murphy, Shane Murphy. Front row (left to right) – Paul Cullinane, Sean Keane, John Purcell, Pdraig Dermody, Brian Dalton, Niall Millea, Kevin Cleere, Michael Dermody, James Murphy, Keith Gladney, William Brennan

Photo Tom Brett

So were these changes successful? The regrading of teams can point to some undoubted successes. Carrickshock and Lisdowney were promoted to Roinn C and contested the final. Some teams who were regraded downwards in division fared well for their season and felt the benefit of demotion. On the other hand, Piltown's inclusion in Roinn A did not benefit the Suirsiders in hurling this year. In general, though, the regrading of teams was fairly well balanced.

What then of the age groupings? Again some success can be pointed to. The division most affected by these changes was Roinn A and the Educational Supplies League was one of the most competitive for years, two of the smaller schools contesting the final, with Tullaroan victorious over neighbours Kilmanagh. Everything points to success for the new system. But there were those who will argue that Kilmanagh's appearance in the final cannot be attributed to the new system (Kilmanagh have appeared in the last 12 finals).



Tedcastles Corn de Bhaldraite – Tom Walsh, Tullaroan captain receives the Waldron Cup from Richard Mulrooney (Chairman Schools' Board). Looking on are John O'Dwyer (Tedcastles Oils) and John Knox (Treasurer Schools Board).

Photo : Tom Brett



Tullagher-Rosbercon, Hennessy Fuels League Finalists (Roinn B) 1995, Tedcastle Oils Corn de Bhaldraithe finalists 1995. Back row : Richard Gaule, John Cotterell, John Murphy, Martin Lanigan, Martin Malone, Martin Woods, Tomas Mullally, Dermot Heffernan, Andrew Murphy, Ramy Ryan, Philip Boyle. Front row : Moling Cotterell, Steve Cotterell, Joseph McCarthy, Eamonn Saunders, Kieran Barron, Martin Roche, Kieran Grennan, Declan Phelan, Jim Prendergast, Caitriona Ryan.

Photo : Tom Brett



Carrickshock, Country Cup football champions 1995. Back row (left to right) – St. John Donovan, Robert King, Alan Brownrigg, John Dalton, James Dalton, John Murphy, Rory Gibbons, Ricky Brennan, Michael Rice (capt), Anthony Holland, Patrick Mulcahy, John Tennyson, Leo O'Gorman, Paul Barron, Brendan Hoynes, Michael Rohan, Damien Raggett. Front row (left to right) – Dennis Murphy, Jamie Fennelly, Richard Power, David Millea, John Maher, Richard Frisby, Patrick Duggan, Pádraig Holden, James O'Farrell, Ciaran Holden, Thomas Murray, Colm Mullally, Gary Foley.

Photo : Tom Brett



St. Patrick's, Kilkenny Association (Dublin) football champions (Roinn A) 1995. Front row (left to right) – Paul Hindle, Christopher Drennan, David Grogan, John Comerford, Redmond Dunphy, Robert Quinn (captain), Eoin Larkin, David Carroll. Behind – Declan O'Neill, John Murphy, Michael Morris, Nigel Daly, Eoin O'Reilly, Andrew Doyle, Michael Phelan, Martin Beirne, Liam O'Shaughnessy, Jason Cahill, Des Manning. Photo : Tom Brett



Gowran, Country Cup football finalists 1995. Back row (left to right) – John Lannon, Val Hickey, Enda O'Donnell, Michael Phelan, Ian Hughes, Cathal Power, Oliver Murphy, Rory O'Donnell, Sean Connolly. Front row (left to right) – John Delaney, Edward Cunningham, Martin Kelly, Thomas Coogan, Tadhg Gibbons, Mark Drennan, John Cunningham, Eddie Bolger (capt.), Ger O'Neill, Rory Moore, Alan Doyle. Photo : Tom Brett



Lisdowney, Paddy O'Connell league finalists (Roinn C) 1995. Back row (left to right) – K. Quinn, A. Phelan, N. O'Hara, S. Thornton, T. Kenny, W. Gorman, F. Murphy, Tommy Maher (coach). Middle row (left to right) – Josephine Murphy (coach), R. Kenny, N. Dowling, D. O'Shea, K. Maher, A. Dunne, O. Maher, P. Dowling, P. Mullally, Eamonn Dunne (coach). Front row (left to right) – G. Glendon, E. Delahunty, J. Fitzpatrick, E. Sheehy, J. Murphy, A. O'Hara, P. Doheny, D. Tallis, D. Hogan, J. Bergin, S. Nolan. Photo : Tom Brett



Bennettsbridge, Tedcastle Oils league finalists (Roinn D) 1995. Back row (left to right) – David Treacy, Daniel Coady, Jonathan Cleere, James Doran, Ciaran Walsh, Eoghan O'Neill, Niall Brady, Mark Dobbyn, Peter Cullen, Joseph Bolger. Front row (left to right) – James Daly, Sean Meany, Garrett Hickey, Gary Hayes, Enda Cleere, Robert Carroll, Ross Dowling, Liam Carroll, James Wallace, Paul Kenny, Mark Brady.

Photo : Tom Brett



Carrickshock, Paddy O'Connell league champions (Roinn C) 1995. Back row (left to right) – Leo O'Gorman, John Murphy, Brian Tennyson, Jim Rice, Fiachra de Roiste, Robert Lee, Tom Duggan (trainer), Liam Ireland, Gerry Mulcahy, James Dalton, Alan Brownrigg. Front row (left to right) – John Maher, James Tennyson, David Millea, Diarmuid Murphy, Richard Frisby, John Tennyson, Shane Power, Richie Cahill (capt), Michael Rice, Brendan Hoyne, Padraig Holden, Patrick Mulcahy, Paul Barron, Michael Rohan, Dan O'Brien.

Photo : Tom Brett

Tullaroan could arguably have beaten any team this year. What can be said without any doubt is that it will take more than one year to see if trends will develop with this new system, and if those trends will be positive. The sub-committee who made the recommendations have reason to be content with the first year.

One trend that I hope does continue is the exciting nature of the Corn de Bhaldrathe, the Waldron Cup was opened to all county schools this year and it proved an excellent competition. We can only hope that this positive trend is ongoing.

A different trend in schools competition

is the cyclical nature of success – especially in schools with smaller picks. It appears to this interested party that, while we can work at numbers and other factual material, success seems to come in 'runs'. In the 80s and early 90s, Dunnamaggin reached five schools finals in five years. They are reaping the harvest of such successes at higher grades now. While the Shamrocks returned to Intermediate ranks this year, they too had a significant run winning Roinn C, Roinn B and the Waldron Cup in consecutive years. Such success is now transferring to Board na nOg level and must encourage Ballyhale people. Kilmanagh's twelve year final appearance

streak might make mockery of my theories – or could it be seen to be the mother of all successful runs? Either way, this year Graigue-Ballycallan club claimed a senior title. It would be interesting to see if there is a positive link between successful schools' victories and future adult success!!

So, which clubs can look forward to future success based on schools results of 1995? Certainly some schools are enjoying a good period of success at the moment. Outstanding among the champions of 1995 are Tullaroan. They took three county hurling titles this year – The Educational Supplies Roinn A title, the Tedcastle Oils



Galmoy, Tedcastle Oils league champions (Roinn D) 1995. Back row (left to right) – Donnacha Gray, Martin Phelan, Eamon Butler, Phillip Russell, David Lee, James Hickey, Michael Sherman, Paraic Gray, Seamus Dillon, Kenneth Walsh, Jim Cullinan (coach). Front row – Thomas Dillon, George Hickey, Thomas Percy, Eoin Phelan, Phillip Loughlin, Niall Doherty (capt), Philip Doyle, James Dunne, Jonathan Smith, Peter Paul Maher. Kneeling – Brian Kavanagh, Thomas Ryan, David Murphy. Absent from photo Michael Harte.

Photo : Tom Brett



Railyard School Team U-13 – Seated (l.-r.): T. Campion, T. J. Comerford, K. Whelan, S. Dowd, S. Allen, B. Brennan, S. Mahon, T. Hughes, P. Dowd, P. McMahon, A. Brennan. Back (l.-r.): P. Brennan, R. Walsh, C. Phillips, S. Power, N. Dowd, P. Roche, S. Maher, P. Donnelly, A. Whelan, A. Nolan, M. Fitzgerald. Missing from photo: P. Dowd and J. Dowd.

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Corn de Bhaldrathe and the INTO/GAA mini-sevens.

They comprehensively won each final they contested and added to their 'B' titles of 1994. This group of boys has performed as well as any group for some time. One of the teams defeated by Tullaroan is also on a good run. Tullogher-Rosbercon may not have won a title this year but they reached two finals losing the Hennessy Fuels Roinn B title narrowly to Graignamanagh after a replay. Last season, Tullogher-Rosbercon won Roinn C so they have had two fine seasons on the trot. Another team re-appearing in a hurling final was Lisdowney. Last years 'D' champions contested the Paddy O'Connell Roinn C final, losing out to a strong Carrickshock side. However, they can be pleased with another final appearance, and at a higher division. Mentioning Carrickshock – they are a team building a run of successes. Last year they won the 'B' football title. This year came the Paddy O'Connell 'C' hurling title, the Country Cup football final and the INTO/GAA sevens football – added to a good run in the 'A' football league. All in all, Carrickshock are enjoying good times.

Some teams re-appearing in the hurling finals for the first time for a few seasons:- Graignamanagh's win in the Hennessy Fuels Roinn B final was their first appearance for some time. Two fine performances saw them overcome Tullogher-Rosbercon after a replay in low scoring but skillful exciting games. The Tedcastle Oils Roinn D final saw Galmoy and Bennettsbridge back in Nowlan Park in



Ballyhale I.N.T.O. Sevens winners 1995. Back – Mrs I. Moloney, Assumpta O'Farrell, Bride Walsh, Paula Kenneally, Mary Connors, Maria Connolly, Geraldine Fennelly. Front – Siobhan Dermody, Deborah Walshe, Ciara Fennelly (capt.), Elaine Aylward, Keira Kinahan, Emily Dermody.



Tullaroan N.S., Seven-a-Side panel which won the I.N.T.O./G.A.A. under 13 competition. Back row (left to right) – Michael Walsh, Ken Coogan, Niall Ronan, Sean Glennon, David Cleere. Front – Edmund Campion, Shane Hennessy, Tommy Walsh (capt.), Ned Sweeney, Michael Connolly.



I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens pictured at Croke Park on All-Ireland football semi-final day is Michael Rice of Carrickshock. Michael is from Stoneyford N.S. if the first player on the left in the back row.

June. Galmoy were the victors of what was an extremely entertaining and well-balanced league, and their ability to score points saw them edge out the 'Bridge boys.

The football finals after Hallowe'en saw another trend continue. The Kilkenny Association Roinn A title was again an all-city affair with St. Patrick's defeating St. Canice's in a repeat of last year's final – even the score was repeated – now that's trend setting.

Clogh-Moneenroe kept up their good run in football appearing in the Toymaster

League Roinn B final. Here they lost out to Piltown who played some beautiful football on a miserable wet day in Danesfort

Another positive outlook was the exciting nature of the Country Cup football. Like hurling's Corn de Bhaldrathe, it was a super competition with many twists and turns. In the end, a brave Gowran side lost out to a strong Carrickshock team who put their mark on this title with great style.

The final trend I would like to mention (if I haven't mentioned enough of them) is the growing interest of sponsors in aiding

our games. This year Tedcastles Oils joined our group of supporters, to sponsor the Roinn D and Corn de Bhaldrathe hurling titles.

They join our other sponsors, Educational Supplies (A hurling), Hennessys Fuels (B hurling), Paddy O'Connell, Dublin (C hurling), Kilkenny Association, Dublin (A football), Toymaster (B football), INTO/GAA (mini-sevens), Church and General (national sponsors). Our thanks to all in their help to promote our games for a most important group of players – schoolboys.

RIGHT – Mullinavat – I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Girls Football Champions 1995. Back row: Bridget Raftice, Alain Aylward, Marie Aldridge, Clare Kelly, Jean Murphy. Front row: Margaret Delehunty, Sarah Kelly, Paula Madigan, Angela Kenneally, Denise Duggan. Clare and Angela played in Croke Park in Mini-Sevens games.

BELOW – Windgap N.S. - Leinster Primary Schools Handball Finals, I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Handball – Left to right: Thomas Lonergan, Seamus Hawe and Eamon Hawe (Singles Champion).

BELOW RIGHT – Clogh N.S. - Leinster Primary Schools Handball - I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Handball – Left to right: Clarissa McMahon, Grainne Hughes (Singles Champion) and Anne Marie Love.



Cumann na mBunscoileanna Champions 1995

Educational Supplies League (Roinn A Hurling)
Tullaroan 5-9, Kilmanagh 1-2.

Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) League (Roinn C Hurling)
Carrickshock 2-6, Lisdowney 0-3.

Tedcastles Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathe (Waldron Cup)
Tullaroan 4-10, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-1.

Toymaster League (Roinn B Football)
Piltown 5-7, Clogh-Moneenroe 2-2.

Hennessys Fuels League (Roinn B Hurling)
Graignamanagh 1-3, Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-3 (replay).
Graignamanagh 0-5, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-2.

Tedcastles Oils' League (Roinn D Hurling)
Galmoy 1-8, Bennettsbridge 2-0.

Kilkenny Association (Dublin) League (Roinn A Football)
St. Patrick's 2-3, St. Canice's 1-2

Country Cup Football
Carrickshock 4-6 Gowran 0-2.

I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens

Hurling	Camogie	Football	Girls Football	Boys Handball	Girls Handball
TULLAROAN	BALLYHALE	CARRICKSHOCK	MULLINAVAT	CLOGH/MONEENROE	WINDGAP

The following boys and girls were picked from regional finals to play in the mini-sevens games in Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final and final days:

Tommy Walsh, Shane Hennessy, Michael Connolly (Tullaroan – Hurling)

Michael Rice (Carrickshock – Football) **Claire Kelly, Angela Kenneally** (Mullinavat – Girls Football)

Ciara Fennelly, Maria Connolly, Assumpta O'Farrell, Siobhan Dermody (Ballyhale – Camogie)

HANDBALL CHAMPIONS



Back row (l to r) D. J. Carey, Michael Walsh, John Curran, Mark Dunne, Alan Dowling. Centre: Pat O'Keeffe, Eddie Leahy, Martin Lalor, Billy Bourke, Philly Parsons, Nicky O'Reilly. Seated; Joe Hickey, Michael Falsey, Timmy Clifford, Daniel Love.

Photo: Tom Brett.

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - Junior Hurling Champions, 1995



Front row (l to r); Sean Colgan (First Aid), Phillip Houlihan, Eugene Buckley, Keith McCormack, Michael Barcoe, Niall Lanigan, John Dowling, Brian Kelly, Sean Dowling, Kevin Cleere, Paul Cleere (Capt.), David Ronan, Johnny Houlihan, Eugene Deegan. Back row (l to r); Peter Dowling (Sel), Martin Brennan (Sel), Paul Murphy, Anthony, Bergin, Paulie Bergin, Alan Geoghegan, Derek Ralph, Mick Doyle, Barry Daly, Michael Houlihan, Barry Power, John Daly, Derek Shelly, Tony Doyle, Jim O'Hara (Sel), Seannie Tyrrell, Mick Nolan (Trainer/Sel). Mascot: Maurice Nolan.

Photo: Tom O'Neill.

JAMES STEPHENS -Senior Football Champions, 1995



Back row (l to r); Brian McEvoy, Seamus McGuire, Wayne Kelly, Angelo Cullen, Liam O'Connor, John Grace (Capt), John Joe Cullen, Fergus Hickey, Peter Barry, Derek Kenny, Martin Doyle, Martin Phelan, Fergal Walsh, Tommy Fogarty. Front row (l to r); Dermot Grogan, Barry Smith, Phillip Larkin, John Larkin, Richie Manogue, John Scott, Mickie Walsh, Francis Cantwell, Ned Kelly, Liam Smith, Derek Kerwick, Patrick Ryan

Photo: Tom Brett

KILKENNY - Church & General Senior Hurling League Champions, 1995



Front row (l to r); Willie O'Connor, Eddie O'Connor, D. J. Carey, P. J. Delaney, Bill Hennessy (Capt), Michael Walsh, Adrian Ronan. Back row (l to r); Eamon Morrissey, Liam Simpson, Pat Dwyer, John Power, Michael Phelan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Denis Byrne, Liam Keoghlan.

Photo: Tom Brett

New Nowlan Park: Creating a Fitting Home for the G.A.A. in Kilkenny for the 21st Century

By Barry Hickey

Kilkenny County Board had two options, to leave Nowlan Park as it is, or upgrade it in line with other grounds around the country. The question was, have we a duty to hand over a modern Nowlan Park to our children or should we leave the task to some one else?

When it was decided to go ahead and get a full play layout of Nowlan Park, the question of extending the existing stand was the first issue. This idea was 'scrapped' when it was discovered that the layout of the existing stand would have to be altered to facilitate the extension and to comply with planning and safety regulations. It was then decided to put up a new stand on the bank opposite and to leave the bank as a standing area until such time as we could afford to make it a fully seated stand. At the same time, plans were put in place to build a new head office type building at the O'Loughlin's end of the grounds. Included in this build-

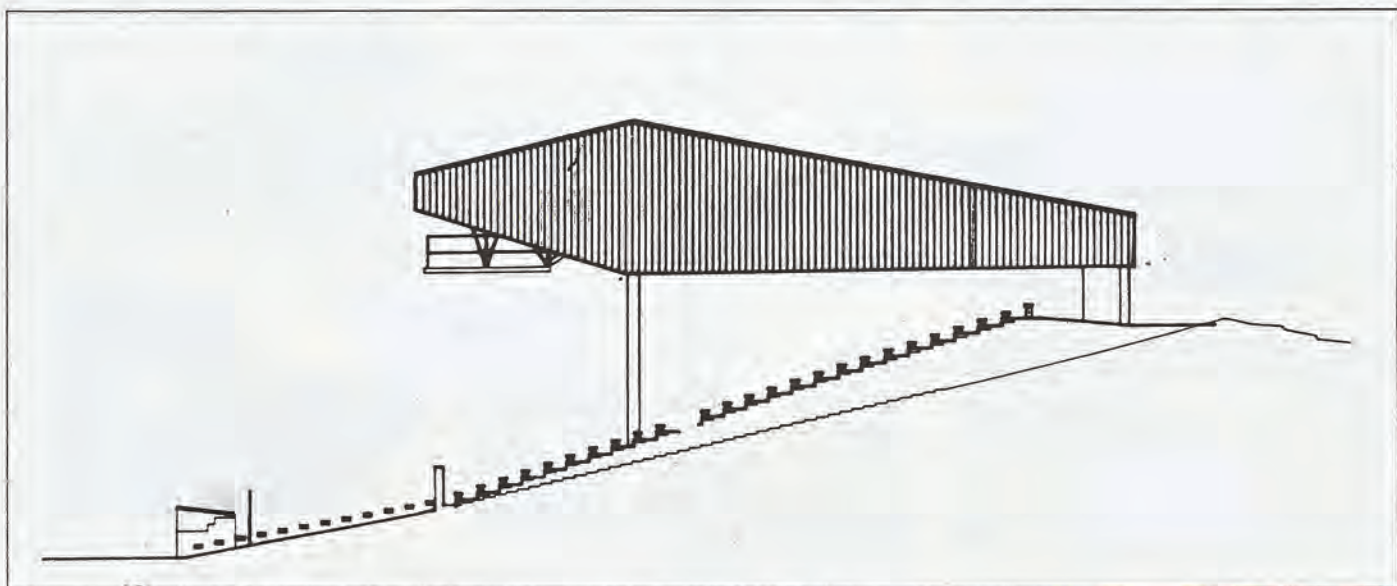
ing was an office, large meeting room with kitchen area, first aid room, referees' room, small meeting room and toilets including toilet with wheelchair facilities. This would then allow us to convert the existing meeting room under the stand to a new ladies' toilet. New toilets were also planned for the back of the new stand. We felt that it was time to install new turnstiles and, to date, some of these have been put in place. We are also considering putting a small covered area on the sideline to cater for wheelchair people. We will also consider erecting new dugouts extending the Press facility and sinking a well next to the pitch. The need for our own well was brought home to us during last summer's drought.

Following discussion with the Safety Officer, we found that the crush barriers on the bank under the new stand, had to be replaced and relocated, and a large new concrete base put at each barrier. At a meeting in July of all club officers, it was

decided that it might be a waste of money putting back the crush barriers and that we should possibly go ahead and seat all the bank.

Sections at the back of the bank will have to be stepped to provide safe access and patrons will have to be corralled into the various sections for safety reasons. The seating area will extend from the sideline to the back of the stand and the current sideline wall will be removed.

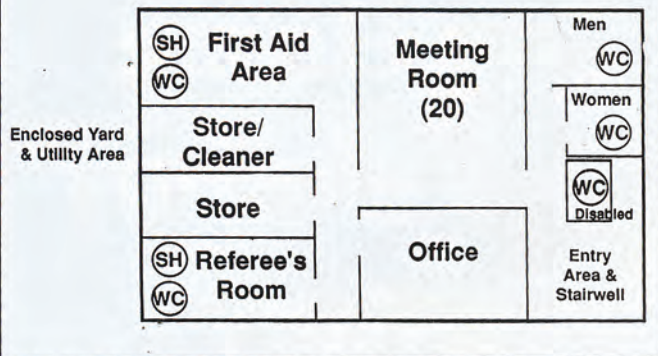
It was felt that in the next four to five years, safety regulations would compel us to put seating in this area, anyway. We would then have 6,000 additional seats, while the overall capacity of the ground would reduce from 33,000 to approximately 25,000, still more than sufficient for most big games. The improved facilities should provide us with a better chance of hosting big games, such as Under-21 All-Ireland Finals, first round Leinster Championship games (if on a home and away basis) etc.



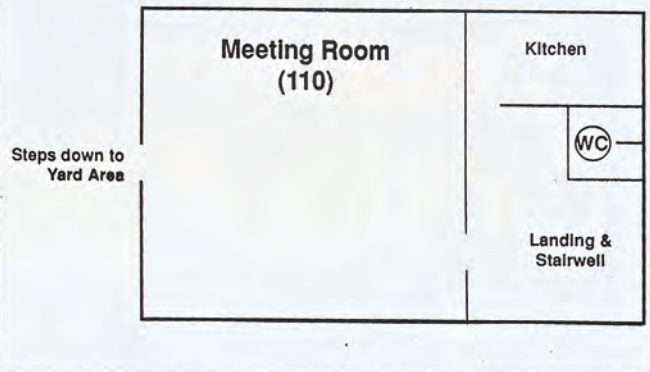
Side elevation - new stand at Nowlan Park.

Áras de Grás Proposed GAA County Headquarters

Ground Floor



First Floor



THE CORPORATE LAUNCH

The corporate launch of the "New Nowlan Park Project" was held in the Newpark Hotel on 1st November. One hundred and seventy five business people from all around Kilkenny City and County attended the presentation. Mr. Michéal Ó Muireartaigh the well known broadcaster and journalist launched the project. Mr.

Pat O'Neill, Chief Executive of Avonmore Plc, Alderman Kieran Crotty, Mayor of Kilkenny and Mr. Jim Freeman, chairman of Supporters' Club addressed the gathering.

Mr. John Healy, Chairman of the County Board, Mr. Ted Carroll, Secretary and Mr. Barry Hickey, Development Officer, gave a full run-down on the Board's plans

and the various schemes for fund raising. An excellent video, put together by Mr. Barrie Henriques and Mr. Tommy Butler, was shown.

The occasion went off very well and it was a fitting presentation for what is a very big undertaking by the G.A.A. in Kilkenny . . . 'Creating a fitting home for the G.A.A. in the 21st century.

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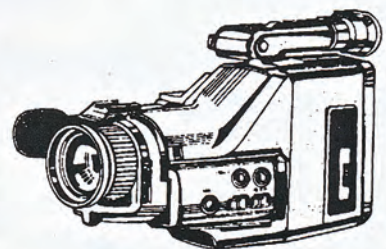
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GOODBYE TO THE LEGEND

by
Enda McEvoy

Like all good things it simply had to come to an end. All very well for Frank Sinatra to keep making comebacks, but then Ol' Blue Eyes has nothing much else to be doing with himself at this hour of his life. He isn't a geography teacher at Thomastown V.S., he isn't the parent of a little girl name Katie, he definitely isn't the spouse of a well-known bookmaker called Ted. Being all those things and – almost as an afterthought – a sporting legend in your spare hours, takes time and sacrifice.

After two decades, Angela Downey has given up enough of her time and made sufficient sacrifices. And twelve All Ireland senior camogie medals, in addition to the sackload of other honours the Ballyragget woman won in her starspangled career, would be plenty for most normal human beings.

But Angela Downey is, in a camogie context, not most normal human beings. Angela being Angela, Angela being fiercely competitive, she can't talk about her All-Ireland haul without mentioning the medals that could have been won but weren't. "Twelve medals, I know it's a lot to win, but I firmly believe there were some that got away"

Chief among them, two in the past three seasons. The 1995 Croke Park showdown with Cork remains a fresh scar. Equally painful is the pulsating 1993 All Ireland semi-final at Nowlan Park (Cats 2-18, Rebels 5-10). Two out of three ain't good...

"I honestly thought, travelling to Dublin in September, that we were going to be



"The Queen" in full flight.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

well beaten. We hadn't been training smoothly, we'd been lucky to beat Galway in the semi-final, the team had been chopped and changed a good deal. And I hadn't played at all well against Galway. So my one satisfaction from the final was that I played half-well, and I was genuinely surprised at how well the team hurled. But the way we we lost, having had the game won, was sickening. Just like in 1993 in the Park, although then at least things were neck and neck for the hour, it wasn't as if we threw it away. In 1995 we did."

Fiercely competitive? A woman who hates losing? Understatement of the decade.

It is rare for a person to be so stapled in the public consciousness to his or her sport the way Angela Downey was to camogie. If Pele was a famous footballer, so were Best, Beckenbauer and Bobby Charlton. Martina Navratilova may have been undisputed queen of the tennis court for the 1980s, but Chris Evert and, lately, Steffi

Graf were every bit as well known.

With Angela it was different. For the past ten or 15 years, Angela Downey was camogie. Whether being lumbered with six-months suspensions, banging in the goals on All Ireland day or, on one memorable occasion, losing her skirt in doing so (much to the delight of every photographer present at Croke Park – though would a picture of a hurler or footballer losing his shorts have made the front pages?). Angela was the lady who managed to create an impression on the 99 per cent of the Irish public with little interest in the female game.

From a parochial point of view, there was more to it than that. Think of the great Kilkenny stylists of the century. Meagher, Phelan, Langton, Keher, Carey. Now, if you haven't already done so, add Angela Downey to the list. She had the skill, she had the elegance. The fact of her being a female of the species does not preclude her from membership of the ultimate Black and Amber club. As the joke

after the 1987 All-Ireland senior hurling final, in which Kilkenny scored one miserable point from play via their six starting forwards, went: "Ah, if only we'd had Angela out there." Except it wasn't a joke.

Possessing a father who had worn the county colours with merit helped, she acknowledges, albeit less because a tradition thus existed in the family than because Shem Downey took an interest in his daughters, brought them to games and encouraged them in their careers. "He got great enjoyment out of us. Mind you, it could be embarrassing at times. You'd hear him there shouting from the sideline, yelling 'go in' or 'stay out'. He couldn't see anyone else on the field bar Ann and myself. The Monday of the All Ireland final was his annual holiday, he always said. When Cork beat us in the semi-final in 1993 we went off on holidays on the Tuesday, leaving him at home with nobody to talk to about the match. I'd say that was killing him!

"I'd also have to mention Mary McCorry-Conway from Jenkinstown. Her father used to buy for Dad at the mart. She played alongside the O'Neills for the Presentation Convent and was a great influence in starting us off, getting us to join St. Paul's. And Tom Ryan, who brought the best out of us as hurlers. Winning seven All Ireland's in a row was unheard of in modern times. "Take your point", he always instructed us. "It will take two to beat it. The goals will come themselves."

What about Ann, the butt of the "is that the good one or the bad one?" comparisons in her youth?

"It must have been tough on her. But she was always the first to give me credit. "I wouldn't have been able to do that, if I was in the forwards, she'd say, then add, "But I wouldn't be in the forwards in the first place because I haven't the skill for it. " What people don't realise is that Ann was, and is, a far more talented all-round sports person than I am. She's played international squash, inter-provincial hockey with the South East. And on the camogie field, she was always much more involved than I was. I'd have my own patches of action; she'd be going for the full hour, all around the centre of the field. Actually I don't think it was fair to have had her at centre this past season or two. We're not getting any younger, either of us. If it weren't for her nagging me I would have given up for good years ago.

Times have changed. Different age



Young Katie Browne seems to say "Mammy, who are you talking to?" as Angela meets the President, Mary Robinson.

Photo: Tom Brett

groups have different attitudes. These days, Angela Downey maintains, the camogie players of Kilkenny are as skilful as their predecessors of 20 years ago. Perhaps more so; a strong primary schools set-up and an All Ireland competition at minor level didn't exist in her day. But, she's equally categorical, they're not as determined.

Helena O'Neill and Liz Neary were two of the best ever. Helena was "so accurate". Liz was simply a phenomenon. "Liz was nursing, she very seldom made training, she found it very difficult to get off on a Sunday. She'd be there with a fag in the dressing room before the game. She'd have another fag at half-time. But she was absolutely brilliant. Strong as a horse. A great ground hurler. I never saw her beaten on a fifty-fifty pull. She played in the backs or at midfield, but in one All-Ireland final they played her in the forwards and she hit three goals. A phenomenon"

No Helena O'Neills or Liz Nearys today, Angela laments. "The same guts, venom, will to win - these qualities are not there any more. In the dressing room afterwards it's a case of, "We lost, but, sure, it's only a game". The younger girls can take it or leave it. And maybe that's the right attitude to have. They stay in the Saturday night of a game but forget to mention that they'd been out till all hours on the Friday. Some summers our father didn't let us go swimming - we'd be using muscles we needed for camogie, he said. And we

didn't dare come home sunburnt from the beach.

"The bottom line is that you have to give 100 per cent, whatever the match or the competition. Give me twelve hurlers with determination. Their skills we'd work on. "Not that Angela visualises herself as a Kilkenny mentor of the future. She's not much of a tactician, she offers with honesty. "Ann would be much shrewder, much better at reading a game."

Regrets, Angela Downey has had a few. A selection: Defeat in the 1975 All Ireland Colleges' Final with St. Brigid's, Callan against Athenry (that was the worst - we lost by five goals after extra time and I cried all the way home on the bus"). Having to spend her college summers here with the county instead of high-tailing it off to London, Boston, New York or Chicago ("I often wonder about the places I might have visited had I been a fella"). Her six-month suspension imposed for an incident which occurred in a Leinster club championship match in 1988 ("The only thing that galls me was that I didn't give her a decent clatter and do something to actually deserve my punishment").

Training she never minded. "Always loved it," in truth. Her casualty list totalled three knee operations, two front teeth broken one year against Wexford - "that cost me a few bob" - and a split lip in an All-Ireland club decider in Cork. Not too harsh when stretched out over so long at the top.

An all time high was Lisdowney's upset of Glen Rovers in the 1994 club show-down. Shem Downey refers to it as a miracle. His daughter is not inclined to disagree. "They had two-thirds of the Cork senior team, we were a small club from a crossroads. We had no Liz Nearys or O'Neill sisters like we had in the days with St. Paul's. But we did fierce training. I was literally never as fit in my life. It really brought home to me how many more All Irelands we would have won with an attitude like that."

Let us leave her there. Let us wish her all the best in her retirement and trust that her present "feeling of emptiness" eventually dissipates. Let us hope what she fears will, without camogie, prove a long winter for her, pass in the blink of an eye.

And let us pray that although the Black and Amber may never be again blessed with players with the talent of Angela Downey, it will never want for ones with the attitude, determination, will to win and hatred of losing she showed so defiantly and for so long.

OLLIE'S FAREWELL TO ARMS

"The top Kilkenny players are getting too much hurling"

by Enda McEvoy

Five summers. Five summers with the length of five long winters. That's how long Ollie Walsh was ensconced in the Kilkenny senior hurling hot seat.

Not any more. Now he's back to being a husband, father, grandfather, Readymix employee and Black and Amber ex-legend once more. Just another punter. Just another Joe Soap. Just another ordinary man in the street with his own opinion on what he sees in Nowlan Park and Croke Park – but without the position or the power to do something about it.

God, does he miss the big time.

"Dreadfully". (He laughs heartily but unconvincingly). "Unbelievably. You can't be there so long, give it up and not miss it.

"The involvement. The gallery with the lads. That build-up to the oul' matches. But mainly I miss the lads themselves. I was awfully lucky during the five years, we had a great bunch. They were all characters. Eddie O'Connor, obviously. Adrian Ronan is a fantastic character. And Pat O'Neill. Some were outgoing, more weren't, but they were all a delight to work with".

How quickly it has passed. Three Leinster titles, two All-Ireland victories, one N.H.L. crown. Newly and horribly bored ("all I'm doing is looking at matches in the Park"), the former goalkeeping great sits in his livingroom in Fatima Place and reflects on times past. *Sic transit gloria Ollie*.

The job was a pleasure, the job was a privilege, the job was bloody hard work. Being given the responsibility in the first place was his own personal highlight of the five years, not least because he'd reckoned the managership – and the honour which accompanies it – had passed him



Ollie checks his charges, watched by Eamon Morrissey

(Photo: Tom Brett)



Ollie with fellow selectors John Teehan and John Healy

(Photo: Tom Brett)

by. "I was always hoping, but there are so many people in the county who could do the job as well". Bowing out was his biggest disappointment. The on-field triumphs and disasters came trotting some way behind this high and that low. Ask him what he'd change, what he'd do differently, had he the opportunity to rewrite history. "Not a thing", he replies. A man at peace with himself".

He had luck, he promptly admits. Luck in the shape of the players at his disposal. He had to, were he to achieve anything. "You have to have luck. Whatever a manager is or isn't, he has to have the raw material. You can be as good or as bad as you like, but you're at nothing without the raw material".

In the words of the man himself, then, some thoughts on the Ollie Walsh years . . . *The 1991 All-Ireland Final.* "We could have won it. Some people would say we should have won it. I wouldn't say it was just as well we lost – it's not "just as well" to lose – but the defeat didn't do us any harm. You have to remember we went up to Croke Park with ten or twelve players who had never experienced the occasion before. The week beforehand I told the team that some of them would come to me on Sunday evening and say the game went by them, was all over by the time they knew what was happening.

"You can't buy that sort of experience. You have to learn it. In any business you have to learn, to go out and make your mistakes. We went to Hotel Kilkenny after the civic reception on the Monday night. We gathered together in the room. "Now you know the heartbreak of arriving home without the cup" I said. We vowed there and then that we'd make up for it the following year.

TAKING ONE'S CHANCES

"The name of the game is putting your scores on the board. We should have been comfortably ahead at half-time. But what Tipperary did to us in the second half, we did to other teams. To Antrim in the semi-final the same year. To Wexford twice when they had us beaten. And John Power won us the late penalty against Offaly in 1993 when we were in big trouble. As I say, you must take your chances. I think the reason people harped so much on 1991 was because of the opposition – the Tipperary bogey thing. In all honesty, I have no doubt that we *wouldn't* have won the next two All-Ireland's had we beaten Tipp".

His much-publicised criticism of referee Willie Horgan from the Courthouse that Monday night. "I regret saying what I did. It should never have been said".

Teamwork. "I worked on the principle of co-operation. The whole thing was a team, a unit. The 15 on the field plus subs,



Eddie O'Connor – one of Ollie's Lieutenants. He captained Kilkenny in 1993

(Photo: Tom Brett)

trainers, masseurs, everyone. There was nothing done that everybody was not familiar with. We told them what would be happening. The players were sent a letter stating when the training sessions were, where they were, what would be done in them. Mick O'Flynn ran the training; I didn't interfere. I've said it before and I don't mind saying it again that the best move I made during the five years was the day I went up to the CBS and asked him to help out. We didn't interfere with one another. We discussed everything. There was a great rapport there. The spirit among the players was greatly assisted by the trip to Clare in 1991. We spent a wonderful four days there. Lads still remind me about it and remember what a good time they had".

Selectors. "I'd prefer five selectors to

three. Having the extra two makes a big difference when you're trying to see games around the county and check on how players are doing. And it's better having five selectors and getting opinions from them than from three. The level of discussion – and argument! – brings matters out into the open better. The one change I'd make is to give the manager full power on the day of a match to make whatever change he wants. You can't be running back and forward to the selectors for their say-so. Thankfully I had very good selectors. Getting co-operation makes the job so much easier. If you're fighting among yourselves it seeps down to the players. In a nutshell, a happy camp means you have a chance".

Unsung heroes. "I knew a lot of the lads from managing the county junior

team. They knew me. Sometimes we're reluctant in Kilkenny to go down the clubs to pick players. Some get stuck in a back-water with their clubs and don't get the chance to step up, to improve themselves. They never develop. The better the person you're competing with, the better you'll play".

D.J. Carey's vital penalty shortly before half-time against Cork in 1992. "Any penalty is a goal and that's the end of it – that was our belief from the beginning. There was no looking to me or to the line. D. J. knew what he had to do".

Better days. "Wexford in the 1992 Leinster final. Tipperary in the league in Thurles in the Spring of 1991. Clare in the league final last May. They were superb performances, the kind you're always trying to achieve and occasionally do. Everything you do on days like those goes right: No changes need to be made. A pity one of them had to be the league final. What good is that to us now? People do forget days like these. They much prefer to talk about the afternoons things went wrong and we lost".

Eamon Morrissey's point from the end from the end of the world to draw the 1993 Leinster decider. "Unless you're ten points down with a minute left you don't think you're beaten. A match can change so quickly in hurling. I'll never forget that equalising point as long as I live. Not because it was ourselves but because it was so good. Pat Dwyer hooking Billy Byrne. Liam Simpson. Up the sideline to Bill Hennessy. The catch and strike from Ronan right on the edge – a hundred guys would have let the ball over the line and then the game was over. Morrissey's catch and finish".

1994: "There's no doubt in my mind that the fuss over Eddie O'Connor's speech and the row over the holiday knocked the spirit out of the team. The biggest thing we had going for us was that we were a family. But this killed us, that's for certain. Don't let anyone tell you

otherwise. We never got our spirit back afterwards. The trouble was there simmering all the time. They were two things that shouldn't have happened but did. Nobody's fault. Success brings its own problems. That's to take nothing away from Offaly. I can't say we would have beaten them had the holiday row not occurred".

Sunday, July 16th, 1995. "Again I don't want to take anything away from Offaly, but everything went wrong for us. The day didn't help us, the way it happened didn't help us. Our small lads couldn't perform in the conditions. We were 20 minutes on the field getting wet after we'd come out all psyched up. It was a mistake to stay there. We should have returned to the dressing room and regrouped. Easy to be wise in hindsight.

"At half-time I was fierce worried. We'd done so much hurling and had nothing to show for it, like against Tipp in 1991. D. J. laid one ball on a plate for Eamon Morrissey who slipped. Denis Byrne had a chance he'd have stuck in the net on another occasion. Ronan and O'Neill were wide with placed balls. We could have been four or five points up. When we weren't, we were in big trouble".

Keeping Carey full-forward for so long the same day. "You can't convince me we made a mistake leaving D.J. there. There's only one place to play him. Full-forward. What use would it have been bringing him out to the centre of the field and seeing him hit the ball in to where he was supposed to be?

"We'd trained the corner-forwards – we'd browbeaten it into them – to hug the sideline.

That's where I think it went wrong. Look at the video again. The Kilkenny full-forward line got a heap of ball in the first half. Offaly's game-plan was to cover up the middle. It worked. Ours was to expose it. It didn't. There were six men on D. J. every time he got the ball. Not all of them

were Offaly men".

Supporters. "No complaints there. Hearing their good wishes makes you feel good. Most of them said nice things. You have to accept that you'll always get one or two. Everywhere I went people wanted to talk hurling. They still do".

A suggestion as to how the Kilkenny senior hurling championship could be organised more smoothly. "The top players are getting too much hurling. They get burned out doing with their clubs the same training they did with the county months earlier. Last season we played the National League semi-final, then the first round of the league here, then the National League final, then back to the league again, then Laois in the championship. Then there was a five-week period during the middle of the summer when nothing happened. Yet Fenians wound up having to replay their championship semi-final the week before the county final, which was terribly unfair on them.

"I'd like to see intercounty players being rested during the league. To prevent the league becoming meaningless, give the winners and the runners-up a bye past the first round of the championship. People said we looked tired against Laois . . . of course we did! You couldn't do the amount of training the players had been doing. I remember going to watch Graigue/Ballycallan versus St. Martin's the Friday night after we beat Clare. You couldn't pick out the county players. And the Tuesday night after that, we were back in training for the Laois match.

"The Kilkenny manager has a training plan worked out from the previous September. It gets disrupted when the clubs come along, because naturally the clubs want their best lads hurling with them. Our communications are wrong, that's the problem".

The future for Ollie Walsh. "No more training or managing. I've had my share. I've done what I always wanted to do. For the rest of my life I'm a spectator".



Presentaton time. Avonmore's Brendan Graham presents Kit Bags to Kilkenny's captain Bill Hennessy. Looking on are Mickey Walsh, Ted Carroll, John Healy and Ollie Walsh.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

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Making the draw for the Senior Championship (from left): Ted Carroll (Secretary, Kilkenny County Board), John Healy (Chairman, Kilkenny County Board), Paddy Kennedy (Manager, St. Canice's Credit Union), Derek Gaffney (captain, Tullaroan).



Glenmore are Champs! ... Willie O'Connor, captain of the Glenmore team who won the Credit Union County Senior Hurling Championship Final, receives the trophy from Milo Grogan, President, St. Canice's Credit Union (sponsors). County G.A.A. Chairman John Healy is on left).

(Photo: Tom Brett)

FR. LAR RYAN

An Appreciation

Fr. Lar Ryan, a Columban Missionary to the Philippine Islands, was a native of Muckalee, and a lifetime lover of Gaelic games. He was tragically killed in a road accident in his parish of Pagadian in October of this year. Fr. Lar was one of the most avid readers of this publication.

AFTER Fr. Lar's death, his brother, Fr. Martin, undertook the sad task of going through his personal effects, a prospect he could hardly have relished, under the circumstances.

His melancholy chore, however, soon became a sentimental journey across the playing fields of Kilkenny and Ireland, spanning more than four decades, as he unearthed the memorabilia of a lifetime's devotion to the GAA – videos, calendars, posters, Kilkenny Yearbooks, All-Ireland programmes (back to 1957), newspapers, photographs, cuttings, a hurl, a sliotar, audio cassettes of game commentaries and a Kilkenny jersey.

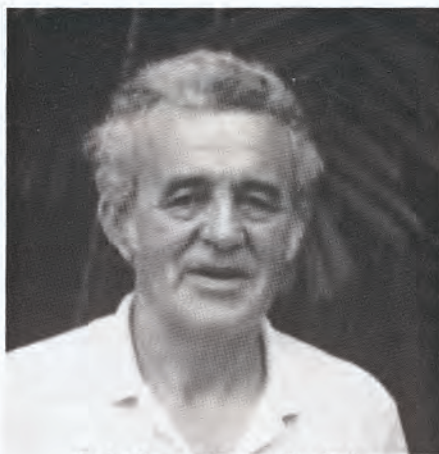
On the wall were a picture of Eddie Keher and the 1985 St. Martin's calendar commemorating their County Final victory in 1984. He must have re-lived a thousand games in his little room in the tropics down through the years.

Last July, Tom Ryall had a letter from Lar which opened with the question – "When did Kilkenny field a team with three sub-goalies?" The letter then went on to discuss Kilkenny's championship prospects (he was nervous of Offaly), the League Final, the club scene, St. Martin's, Ballycallan, the McCluskeys, and concluded with an answer to the poser.

In fact, apart from the opening and closing courtesies, the content of the letter was exclusively hurling. He finished with the words "Goodbye, and God bless, my next holiday will be a few days before the 1996 Leinster Final." His calendar was the hurling calendar, and his holidays, as far as possible, were hurling's high season.

Fr. Lar was part of Kilkenny's unique sporting diaspora, a man who followed the fortunes of his native club and county as closely as the most fervent supporter who never left home. He loved Kilkenny hurling, he loved St. Martin's, he loved Muckalee Football Club, he loved all its sportsmen and its people and he never forgot them. When they laid him out, he wore the Kilkenny jersey under his white soutane. There could hardly have been a prouder wearer of the black and amber.

The story of Fr. Lar's life is simply told. Educated at Muckalee National School, St. Kieran's College and Dalgan Park, Navan, he was ordained in December 1960. He became a missionary in the Philippines in



Fr. Lar Ryan, R.I.P. October 1995.

1961 and remained there until his tragic death on October 1st, 1995. Lar was a tireless worker for the poor of the Philippines, a voice for the voiceless and the exploited, in a country where few had a voice, where many were exploited. A fellow priest described him as the No. 1 Columban in the Philippines in his involvement as a human rights activist. He had powerful and deadly political enemies and he lived with the daily risk of assassination. As a young priest, Lar had expressed the wish to be a martyr in China, but it was not in China, nor at the hands of an assassin, but in a freak accident, on an errand of mercy, that he died.

It is a Filipino custom that every hospital patient has a "watcher", a person who looks after the patient's needs – food, drink, bathing, etc. The watcher, normally a relative, stays with the patient, day and night. Lar had discovered a patient who, most unusually, had no watcher, and was on his way to search for one when he met his fatal accident. It was typical of his devotion to others that he would have set himself this task. Lar was everybody's watcher.

Fr. Lar Ryan had those rare qualities of simplicity and humility which cannot be faked, and which were immediately obvious to all who met him. He was completely devoid of affectation, and he had a gentle courtesy (shared with Fr. Martin), which conveyed the deepest respect towards everyone he came in contact with. His fellow Columbans remarked that even his political enemies, people who would cheerfully have killed him, were extended the very same courtesy.

He had an ill-grounded fear of becoming too materialistic; and when one of his Filipino parishioners commented on his addiction to tobacco, Lar felt obliged to give up his beloved pipe. He cancelled his annual order of two stone of Mick McQuaid with Carroll's of Dundalk, and never smoked again. This alone would be enough to canonise him in my eyes, but he went further. He traded his car for the motorbike (on which he eventually died), and finally forsook his only other luxury – his one Coke per day. Then, he told his friends, he felt free. There's not much hope for some of us.

Lar's other passion was water divining. It was probably in keeping with his character that he should be near the earth and in harmony with its signals and pulses. He was a member of the British Dowsing Society, and, on his visits home, attended their meetings when he could.

Many a well in the Philippines and at home were divined by Fr. Lar, and he never travelled without his little pendulum in his pocket. (He didn't use the hazel rod). He even attempted (with indifferent success) to divine the results of matches while waiting for news to come through from home!

On his last visit to Ireland, he came to visit the school in Muckalee, and, after a long, long chat about hurling (he could talk hurling till the cows came home), somebody asked him about water divining. The pendulum was immediately produced, demonstrations were given, ordnance survey maps were brought out and the hours flew by as Fr. Lar answered a hundred questions about his second favourite subject. It was the last time we saw him.

On the night of his burial, a remembrance Mass was celebrated in Muckalee Church. Many of Fr. Lar's Columban friends concelebrated and many tributes were paid to him, to his selflessness, his courage, his wisdom, his devotion to others. One fellow priest spoke for all when he said: "Lar Ryan was the kind of man who made you proud to be a priest, and when I think of Lar, I'm glad I am a priest, come what may." Muckalee Church could not hold the crowd that night, and many more stood outside in the dark and rain to pay respect to a loyal friend and watcher, who lay in his Kilkenny jersey, half a world away.

Solas na bhFlaitheas air.

Gerry O'Neill

John Joe Gilmartin

- A MAN APART



By Tommy O'Brien

The late John Joe Gilmartin was a handball colossus in the 1930s and 1940s when he amassed the huge total of 24 senior and one junior All-Ireland titles. It was never anticipated that his record would be equalled, let alone passed.

This feat was achieved last year by John Joe's clubman and countyman, Michael "Ducksie" Walsh, so the time is apt for a brief glance at that magnificent record of John Joe Gilmartin – if only to provide the new generation of handball followers with some idea of the great man's achievements.

John Joe was born in Kilkenny city of Roscommon and Mayo parents. He was a talented sportsman who excelled in handball and soccer, among other sports. The "Ban" was in force then and he chose handball as his sport – a decision which was to prove momentous for the game.

His club was Talbot's Inch and he showed his talent to the nation in the first instance by winning the Junior Handball Singles title in 1935.

This was the start of a glittering career which saw him achieve magnificent results despite some incredibly disheartening setbacks which would have broken the resolve of lesser mortals.

His softball career, like that of all his contemporaries, was disrupted by the abandonment of the softball championships from 1943 to 1945 in doubles, and from 1942 to 1945 in singles, due to lack of rubber during World War II.

He was forced to emigrate and missed some handball championships. A glance at his handball record below indicates when he was away!

While working in England, he had an accident in which he broke his neck. Such were his powers of recovery that he returned to Ireland after the war and won Senior All-Ireland titles!

He fell from the roof of the local Savoy Cinema, suffering severe injuries. Once more he recovered to win an All-Ireland!

Among his many notable handball achievements were:

He won All-Ireland titles in all the grades available to him –

senior handball and softball singles and doubles. There was no 40 x 20 handball in those days!

He won all four titles in 1939.

He won three of the four senior titles in 1938, 1940, 1941 and 1946.

He won 10 senior handball singles titles – '36 to '42 and '45-'47. If he had not emigrated, John Joe might have had a much bigger singles total than he did!

He won the Senior Handball Doubles title in five successive years with **five different partners** – Alf Cullen, Tommy Cherry, Tommy Jordan, Paddy Dalton and Jasper Dunne.

He was chosen above the many Kilkenny hurling legends as the first Hall of Fame winner in Kilkenny Sports Stars.

Two of his five partners above were also Hall of Famers – Alf Cullen and Jasper Dunne.

Many years after he retired from handball, he decided to take up golf. Although now in his 50's, and although still affected by his neck injury, he still showed the single-mindedness which marked his handball career and got his handicap down to low single figures.

John Joe Gilmartin was a legend by any measure. He was promised a trip to New York to take on the best in the U.S.H.A. while still in his prime. He was to travel with Kilkenny hurlers if they won the league – but the hurlers failed to win that league and John Joe never got to test his skills against American stars.

How he would have fared against such opposition is a matter for conjecture. What is not a matter for conjecture is that he was a master of all he surveyed during his career.

SENIOR CAREER

1936	SHBS			
1937	SHBS	SHBD		
1938	SHBS	SHBD	SSBS	
1939	SHBS	SHBD	SSBS	SSBD
1940	SHBS	SHBD		SSBD
1941	SHBS	SHBD		SSBD
1942	SHBS			
1943	Emigrated			No Softball Doubles
1944	Emigrated			No Softball Championships
1945	SHBS	SHBD		No Softball Championships
1946	SHBS	SHBD	SSBS	

WRTC GAA EDUCATION AWARDS

WRTC, during its 25 years of existence, has excelled in the academic, cultural and sporting life of Waterford and the South East region in general. In the past 10 years its GAA Club has dominated Third Level competitions. In many areas it has been the role model for other colleges.

Indeed, in 1987 the WRTC GAA club was the first club in the country to employ a full-time Development Officer in the person of Colm Bonnar.

GAA followers are well aware of what an important initiative this was for the development of coaching in the game of hurling. This scheme has proved to be the model used by the GAA in employing full-time coach/organisers throughout the country, resulting in the present employment of over 50 people. The latest initiative by the WRTC club is a natural progression of that policy begun in 1987.

The WRTC GAA Education Awards Scheme, which was launched on Tuesday, 17th October, in the College, will probably be remembered as another important development in the history of the GAA.



Alan Hearne, Windgap, successful candidate for WRTC GAA Award.

For the first time promising young GAA players have been nominated by their county boards to pursue studies in the National Diploma in Recreation and Leisure Management in WRTC. This course is one of the most popular and successful in Third Level Education. It has an add-on one year course leading to a BA in Recreation and Leisure. It is an ideal educational opportunity for those who wish to pursue a career in GAA Management/Administration or Coaching. The course is unique in that it allows students to include Gaelic games as part of their studies.

The College club, in association with Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford county boards, have made a

major effort over the past months in bringing the scheme to fruition. This year six awards will be given, three in hurling and three in football.

A large contingent of prominent GAA personalities including President Jack Boothman, attended the launch. This development has already generated much interest in many other counties outside the South East region.

It is only fitting that the GAA, which has been the backbone of rural Ireland and youth activities, should now once again be at the forefront in providing career opportunities for its young players.

KIKENNY CO. BOARD EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

Kilkenny County G.A.A. Board is very happy to be involved in this excellent award scheme and has pledged its support. This year six candidates from Kilkenny were interviewed for the course and the successful candidate was Alan Hearne of Windgap.

Alan, who was a member of the Kilkenny minor squad of 1993 and 1994, is now attending this course at W.R.T.C. and we wish him every success.

FRANK O'CONNELL

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Down Memory Lane



Back row: P. Little (secretary), E. Walsh, J. Breen, J. Bradley, T. Ruth, M. Loughman (Manager). Centre row: J. O'Connell (Chairman); J. Lynch, D. Doherty, P. Kavanagh, M. Tynan, E. Neary, P. Sweeney, S. Durney. Front row: P. Lennon, M. Berry, E. Donoghue, P. Grace (capt.), P. J. Garvan, M. Devane, T. Power. Kneeling: Sean Doherty, P. Leahy and Bob Doherty.



Who is he? taken in C.B.S. field long ago.



National Ploughing Champion! Paddy Grace in training mid 70's



▲
St. John's 1943 Primary Schools Champions: Back row (l. to r.): Paddy Slattery, Paddy Parsons, Paddy Corr, Sean Kennedy, Danny Mulcahy, Jimmy Connolly. Middle row: Billy Sullivan, Christy Hanlon, Michael Kavanagh, Michael Connolly, Paddy Dowling. Front row: Jimmy Coleman, Joe Walsh, Seán Tyrrell, Paddy O'Brien.



◀
Group of young hurlers on the back-pitch in Nowlan Park 1933. Readers - any names?

Senior Scór Report

By Barry Hickey

The Senior Scór was held in St. Brigid's College Hall in Callan. Nine clubs in all took part and a very enjoyable night's entertainment was provided. List of the clubs were: Carrigeen, John Lockes, Graigue/Ballycallan, Windgap, Tullogher, Kilmacow, Johnstown, Emeralds and Dicksboro.

The winners were as follows:

Solo singing: Dicksboro - Kevin Ryan.

Instrumental Group: Windgap - Paddy Walsh and Barry Murphy.

Novelty Act: John Lockes - Barry Henriques and Ken Barton.

Question Time: Emeralds - Eamonn Ryan, Sheila Cahill and Nicholas Walsh.

Recitation: Carrigeen - Pat Dalton.

Ballad Group: Kilmacow -

Claire Phelan, Laurence Gilmartin, Seán O'Callaghan, Marie O'Hanlon and Pauline Quinlan.

Set Dancing: Graigue/Ballycallan - Mgt. Sheppard, Abigail Sheppard, Nicola Sheppard, Melissa Sheppard, Peggy Hoyne, Amanda Coffey, Julie Bergin, and Orla Coffey.

The Judges were Marjoire McDonald (Irish Officer Wexford Co. Board), Eddie McDonald and Anne Curry.

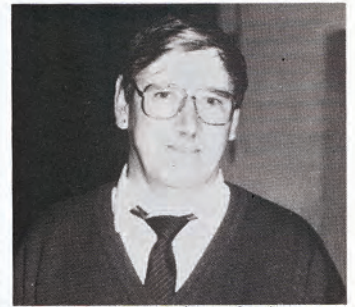
The organising committee were: Barry Hickey (Development Officer), Jimmy Walsh (Sec. Southern Board), John Lanigan, Pat Dalton and the Quiz section was run by Joe Dunphy (Irish Officer Kilkenny Co. Board) and John Knox. Members of the John Lockes Club gave great assistance on the night, as they have done for the last three years.

It is hoped to hand over the Northern and Southern Final of Scór to the Divisional Boards if

the organisers can get more clubs to take part in the future. This would mean that two representatives would come forward from the North of the County and two more from the South of the County and the County Final would have four items in each category.

Each club should now appoint a Scór Secretary and the name of that person should be forwarded to the Development Officer. A special meeting of all these people will take place with a view to getting more clubs interested for next year.

Mr. John Healy, Chairman of the County Board, thanked all clubs for taking part and also the organising committee for the efficient way in which they ran the event. He thanked the John Lockes Club for their help and he wished the winners the best of luck in the South Leinster Final, after presenting them with their trophies.



Recitation: Pat Dalton, Carrigeen.



Solo Singer: Kevin Ryan, Dicksboro.



Instrumental Group: Windgap - Barry Murphy and Paddy Walsh.



Set Dancing: Graigue/Ballycallan - Margaret Sheppard, Abigail Sheppard, Nicola Sheppard, Melissa Sheppard, Peggy Hoyne, Amanda Coffey, Julie Bergin, Orla Coffey.



Ballad Group: Kilmacow - Claire Phelan, Laurence Gilmartin, Seán O'Callaghan, Marie O'Hanlon, Pauline Quinlan.



Novelty Act: John Lockes - Barry Henriques and Keith Barton.



Question Time: Emeralds - Eamon Ryan, Sheila Cahill, Nicholas Walsh.

Glorious Glenmore

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Tommy Lanigan

If a championship can be judged on the quality of its last few games, then perhaps this year's Credit Union Senior Hurling championship might be declared a somewhat mixed bag. However, the calibre of the champions is in no doubt. In winning their third senior title in the decade so far (1990, '92, '95), Glenmore have established themselves as superb performers, stylish, skilful, playing as dashing and intelligent a game of hurling as any purist might demand.

Whether Glenmore will attempt to capture a second All-Ireland club title in the course of this winter is a matter for their own sense of priorities as they may wish to focus on retaining their Kilkenny title in preference. Undoubtedly they have youth on their side, upcoming talent and an

extraordinarily high level of commitment. They also have an accomplished trainer in Tom Ryan.

This championship also demonstrated their patience in a slow build up, as their league form had been less than impressive – beaten by James Stephens in their fourth game and Graigue-Ballycallan 2-21 to 2-19 in the semi-final. When the championship proper began, though they were slight favourites, within a short time, nobody was in doubt as to where the Tom Walsh Cup would rest for the next year.

They defeated a stubborn Disksboro by 2-10 to 1-9 in the quarter final, a dour struggle, and then disposed of hapless Erins Own in a manner we thought only the great Shamrocks had patented. Erins Own never knew what hit them and the game was as good as over after ten minutes of scintillating hurling by the Willie O'Connor led side. The scoreline finished 4-15 to 1-7.

On the other side of the draw, Fenians

found themselves involved in the most spectacular games of the championship, truly great club contests, filled with passion and great scoring feats. We were privileged to be in Freshford in August to see Fenians defeat Tullaroan 3-12 to 2-13 in a spellbinding game. Goalkeeper Alan Beehan's elbow saved a last furious Tullaroan attack which left Liam Keoghan's men devastated.

Next to fall to the Johnstown men were Young Ireland's where the scoreline of 4-12 to 4-10 bears testimony to a remarkable game. DJ Carey scored three outstanding goals – he will rarely play better and lose. Young Ireland's played out of their skins but were well beaten on the night.

Two dour struggles followed with Griag-Ballycallan in the semi-final. We expected open hurling from these young teams but in neither the draw nor the replay did the spectators have much to cheer. The dismissal of PJ Delaney early in



TULLAROAN – (Front row, left to right) Philly Coogan, Tommy Hennessy, Philly Deheny, Liam Keoghan, Forward Hollan's, Michael Walsh, Bill Hennessy, Dick Walsh, Mikey Maher, Jimmy Coogan, Peter Butler, Declan Connolly. (Back row, left to right) John Breen, David Glennon, Simon Walton, Derek Gaffney, Sean Teehan, Jimmy Walton, Shem Dunne, Vinny Norton, Paddy Fennelly, Pat Doheny, Joe Norton, Aidan O'Dea.

Photo Tom O'Neill

the second half of the replay spurred Fenians to a comprehensive but, for them, a Pyrrhic victory.

Without their best attacker for the final a week later against Glenmore, they did not have the strength in depth to shuffle their forces when under pressure. Aided by the breeze in the first half, Fenians made light of the opposition and with Matty Walsh and Stephen Grehan controlling midfield, forwards Briain Ryan, Billy Purcell and under 21-county player Brendan Ryan in sparkling form, they led by 1-9 to 0-8 at the interval.

Some astute changes by Glenmore saw Seamus Dollard move back to wing back to play with great dash and power, and Jimmy Walsh to the corner to curb Brendan Ryan. The return to midfield of Des Heffernan, injured in the first half, was also significant. Glenmore swept forward in irresistible waves as Ray Heffernan and Denis Mullally went on point-scoring sprees. Fenians dug in but they could no longer supply their forwards with quality ball. With only twelve minutes remaining, the scores were tied. Then, Glenmore's Michael Murphy grabbed their second goal as the Southerners went on to score 2-6 in the remaining minutes to give them a comfortable margin of 3-19 to 1-14. Full forward Michael Phelan was adjudged 'man of the match'.



County Final Action – Alan Beehen (Fenians) clears his lines from the in-rushing Michael Phelan in the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling County Final. Gerry Quinlan (Fenians) and John Phelan (Glenmore) await developments.

Photo Tom Brett.

Graigue-Ballycallan earned their first senior title by winning the Credit Union Senior League after a replay against Young Ireland's. In a close affair they had a narrow one point victory.

Elsewhere, we were treated to thirty two other league games with twenty of them being decided by a four point margin or less, evidence of the general even standards in the senior division.

St. Martins condemned Ballyhale

Shamrocks to the Intermediate grade for the first time in twenty one years. It was a sad end in senior ranks for one of the greatest club teams of all, who found themselves half a yard too short in too many games. We will remember their style, economy, tactical astuteness and truly exceptional teamwork. The challenge for all clubs with aspirations to greatness is to aim for their standards and records. Silim nach mbeidh a leithéidi ann arís.

RESULTS - ROUND 1:

Fenians 3-12, Tullaron 2-13;
Dicksboro 2-16, Shamrocks 1-6;
John John Lockes 1-12, Mooncoin 0-14;
James Stephens 4-16, St. Martins 2-10.

QUARTER FINALS:

Glenmore 2-10, Dicksboro 1-9;

Fenians 4-21, Young Ireland's 4-10;
Erins Own 3-12, John Lockes 0-11;
Graigue- Ballycallan 3-8, James Stephens 2-10.

SEMI - FINALS:

Glenmore 4-15, Erins Own 1-7;
Fenians 1-13, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-13.
Fenians 1-14, Graigue-Ballycallan 0-7.

FINAL:

Glenmore 4-15, Erins Own 1-7;

LEAGUE FINAL:

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-10, Young-Ireland's 1-9.

RELEGATION PLAY-OFF:

St. Martins 2-17, Shamrocks 1-10.



Action from the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final in Nowlan Park. Charlie Carter admires his goal for Young-Ireland's of Gowran as Graigue/Ballycallan goalkeeper Conor Manogus makes a vain attempt to block. Other players in picture are (from left): Johnny Butler (G/B) Jack Carey (Y.1.) Paddy O'Dwyer (G/B) D.J. Carey (Y.1.) Mark O'Brien (G/B) Pat Fenlon (Y.1.)

Photo Tom Brett

REMEMBRANCE OF NOWLAN PARK PAST

by DANNY McEVOY

The current renovation work at Nowlan Park holds little in the way of emotion - other than, perhaps, pleasure at the upgrading of the ground - for younger GAA people in Kilkenny. For someone like myself, who born the year the Park was opened, the project brings back a host of memories.

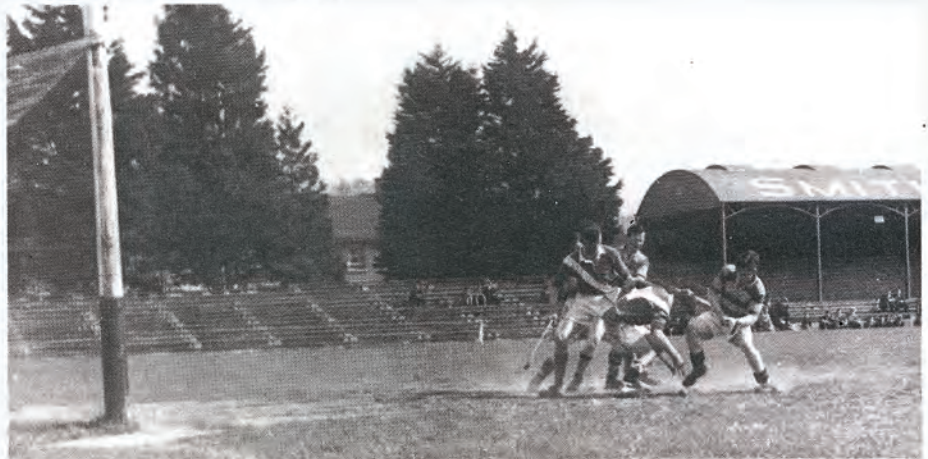
For the first quarter of the century, St. James's Park had been the home of Kilkenny hurling. Reputed to have the best sod in Ireland, it was owned by the Agricultural Show Society. Up to 15,000 people attended the Railway Shield final there in July 1908 and saw Leinster defeat Munster by 0-14 to 2-5.

Gradually the need to secure a permanent home for the GAA locally became apparent. Under the chairmanship of Tom Walsh, the County Board decided to spend £700 on a plot of land owned by Peter Corcoran on the Hebron Road. A major attraction of the land was its location, convenient to the railway station - many supporters were now travelling to matches by rail.

The official opening of Nowlan Park took place on August 26, 1928. Among the dignitaries present were Seán Ryan, president of the GAA, Bishop Patrick Collier, who blessed the new grounds. The feature event was the All-Ireland hurling semi-final between Dublin, the McCarthy Cup holders, and Cork. The game attracted a crowd of nearly 25,000.

Some time earlier, Alderman Jack Magennis, the mayor of Kilkenny, had appealed to everyone in and around the city to cater for the visitors. A number of enterprising individuals took him at his word and obtained a loan of the Motor Company premises in Barrack Street from Pierce Tynan and Billy Aylward. Come the great day, they erected tables and forms and purchased a quantity of hams "on tick" from M/s Arthur Wilsdon in John Street. As it happened, the visiting throngs went elsewhere for their sandwiches and porter, leaving a surfeit of cooked hams and no fridges or freezers in which to keep them. To defray their losses, the would-be entrepreneurs held a series of dances, ceilis and card games with tea and ham thrown in. Cork beat Dublin by 5-3 to 0-2, but for years afterwards in Kilkenny the day was known as Ham Sunday.

My earliest memory of Nowlan Park dates back to the Spring of 1932 when my father had ewes grazing on the pitch and a very heavy fall of snow occurred.



Graigue goalie Tom Ryall "picks the ball up in the small square" in the Senior Hurling Championship, circa 1956. Ned Walton (Graigue), Dan Kennedy (R.I.P.) and Liam Hackett (Bennettsbridge) watch developments. The old Smithwick's Stand is in the background.

The ewes were lambing, and in our kitchen across the road the lambs had to be given spoons of whiskey to keep them alive. Another memory is watching Fr. Willie Brennan, a curate in St. Mary's cathedral and spiritual director to the great Kilkenny team of the 1930's, digging holes for trees to be planted around the perimeter of the Park. He asked me to hold the top of the saplings while he filled in the clay, then asked me to take care of the trees as they grew. These trees lasted at the Angle end of the ground until very recently, when they were cut down as part of the renovation process.

Jim Grace was the caretaker of Nowlan park. he lived on the Hebron Road side of the grounds with his family, fattened pigs on the half acre which went with the house and kept a pony which he used in mowing and flattening the pitch. Another house on the land was owned by Mrs Cavanagh, one of whose daughters, Vera, married Paddy Dowling, who played with the Black and Amber in the early 1930's. As children, we played in the park every day. Alongside the main pitch was a practice field of about 100 yards in length. this was popular for a few pucks on a Sunday morning and was often used by the boys from St. John's NS.

The bank was constructed by way of cinders brought by horse and cart from the Gas House in Barrack Street and from the bakeries of the city. Thanks to the wisdom of Paddy Grace the bank was topped with limestone drawn from Gaol Street when the old city jail was demolished. This limestone was exposed when a portion of the bank was removed to facilitate the construction of the new building at the O'Loughlin Road corner.

The pitch was surrounded by a timber railing. The only seating in the ground was situated in the top part of the stand, which had a timber floor. Small openings in the floor at the back of the stand looked down on the dressingrooms, and one time myself and my friend Joe Grace - a son of Jim's - saw a fierce row raging after a game between James Stephens and Dicksboro. The entrance on the Hebron Road side featured a beautiful arch with a sliotar on crossed hurleys, the work of James Morton whose son Jimmy recently retired as a plasterer with Kilkenny Corporation.

Another treasured recollection surrounds the 1935 All-Ireland final. Kilkenny's passage to the final had brought large crowds to Nowlan Park to see them training. The O'Gormans, who had a pub at the top of John Street, were cousins of ours and we used often visit them. On the evening after the victory against Limerick (2-5 to 2-4) we waited with bated breath in the top window of O'Gorman's. Eventually we were rewarded with the sight of Lory Meagher standing at the cab of a lorry, holding the McCarthy Cup.

John Street boasted plenty of eating houses, such as Jackmans', McDonalds' and the hostelry on the corner at the traffic lights where Lawlors' is now, and often on the day of a game, the pub's capacity would be increased by erecting counters and forms in the yard. A favourite trick of Dublin supporters was to ask for a pint of Guinness, plus a bottle of whiskey for sustenance on the train home. The poor barman would get the bottle of whiskey, put it on the counter and pour the pint. When he looked around the customer had vanished. So had the bottle of whiskey!

Wasn't it a great Summer?

By Joe Dunphy

Did you ever notice that in this fair county of ours we seem to rate the weather by the Summer, whereas hurling is gauged by the year?

We say, for instance – “Wasn't it a great Summer?” (this year) or “Summer came on a Tuesday” (last year) or “What kind of summer had you?” But when it comes to hurling, and especially the county Senior team, because to many supporters nothing else seems to count, we hear of “the year”. “1947 was a great year”, “The seventies were memorable years”, “Do you remember the year we won the double?” and so on!

So despite the heading, I'll stick to the year – a year which began well and became very good on May 7th in Semple Stadium when Kilkenny took on Clare in

the League Final and won with ease. It was a heart-warming performance made all the better by the excellent display by our backs, the O'Connors, Liam Simpson, Eddie O'Dwyer, Pat Dwyer and Liam Keoghane, as they fronted the very reliable Michael Walsh in goal.

We were further heartened by the fact that centrefields Bill Hennessy and Canice Brennan (sub) coped excellently without a man of the stature of Michael “Tich” Phelan, who retired injured, and that the forwards as a unit showed great fluency as scores reeled off the hurls of Adrian Ronan, Eamonn Morrissey and Denis Byrne in particular. D.J. Carey, P.J. Delaney and John Power all played their parts. My own feeling was that they won well but that there was still plenty in reserve, lots of sharpening to come and that Ollie & Co. had them just right for the time of the year.

All of this plus the fact that the “Big Guns” in Leinster – Offaly and Wexford – had been avoided in the draw until Leinster Final stage gave us every cause for hope for “the year”. And so the bandwagon got rolling on June 4th with a double bill in Carlow. On a bright but blustery day, Dr. Cullen Park was thronged. Wexford folk were in great voice as their heroes “destroyed” poor Westmeath who were under the guidance of my old friend, George Leahy.

We, meanwhile, waited with bated breath for the arrival of the Cats and we very conscious of the fact that League or no League we were up against it with Laois. They never die softly and the feeling was that the narrow pitch might better suit them. So the scene was set and the curtain went up on our “year” as a mighty roar greeted the Black & Amber, captained by Tullaroan's Bill Hennessy – the first Tullaroan captain since 1959 to do so.

The team was along the lines expected – Canice Brennan began at midfield for the still absent Michael Phelan and Eddie O'Dwyer. There were pre-match doubts about the fitness of goalie Michael Walsh and Pat O'Neill and the bandages on the legs of both were noted in the puck-about. Still, we sat back a bit relieved as D.J. Carey, Canice Brennan and Adrian Ronan chalked up three unanswered points in the first six minutes. This was the way to do it. We needed to open well, aided by a strong breeze blowing from the scoreboard end.

And then, suddenly, we became unstuck. John Power was clearly in some distress from as early as the opening minutes and an odd gap was appearing



Wasn't it a great summer! Kilkenny players and subs find shelter as the skies open. Michael Walsh's expression says it all.

Photos: Sportsfile



Where is it gone? . . . A bloodied Willie O'Connor (K), John Troy (O) and Liam Keoghan in a tussle for possession as Johnny Dooley (Offaly) peers through the rain.

in the usually rock-solid defence. In the 8th minute a sideline cut from Fintan Lawlor was "buried" by Declan Conroy and the up-to-now silent Laois support found its voice and its confidence. So, too, did the Laois team – to such an extent that by half-time, having faced the breeze, they led by 1-5 to 0-6.

This was typical of our lads – they'd make us sweat. But yet we assured each other they would still come good. Laois would crack in the second half. Our first assurance was partly right – our second couldn't have been more wrong. For while Kilkenny got a dream start – a great goal from Denis Byrne within two minutes of the restart, the Laois cave-in never materialised. Fionan O'Sullivan levelled matters at 1-6 each and even when Adrian Ronan and D.J. Carey gave Kilkenny a two-point advantage, Pat Critchley's men answered with points from Fintan Lawlor and a great effort from towering wing back Niall Rigney.

Again Ronan and Eamonn Morrissey put two points' daylight between the teams. This time Laois answered with a goal made by the crafty P. J. Cuddy, who had come on as a sub, and finished off to the net by an alert Fintan Lawlor. It was now Kilkenny's turn to level via a Pat O'Neill '65', but the adrenalin was now surging in Laois veins and with the wind at their backs it looked ominous when

they took a two-point lead.

Following a Canice Brennan point, enter D. J. Carey. A typical darting run, a hand-pass of amazing length and Denis Byrne finished to the net in a manner that belied his relative inexperience at senior level. Kilkenny were never subsequently headed as points from Charlie Carter and Denis Byrne were cancelled out by similar scores from Fionan O'Sullivan and Lawlor again. Still, we were on the edge of our seats to the end and a point-blank save by Joe Dermody, who had replaced the injured Michael Walsh, gave us another day out. **Final score:** Kilkenny 2-14, Laois 2-12.

The scorers: Kilkenny – D. Byrne (2-2), A. Ronan (0-4, two frees), D. J. Carey (0-3), C. Brennan (0-2), C. Carter, E. Morrissey (0-1 each), P. O'Neill (0-1, '65'). **Laois** – F. Lawlor (1-6, two points frees), D. Conroy (1-1), F. O'Sullivan (0-2), O. Dowling, N. Rigney (0-1 each), J. Dollard (0-1, '65').

THE TEAMS

Kilkenny – M. Walsh, E. O'Connor, P. Dwyer, L. Simpson, L. Keoghan, P. O'Neill, W. O'Connor, C. Brennan, B. Hennessy (capt.), A. Ronan, J. Power, P. J. Delaney, E. Morrissey, D. J. Carey, D. Byrne. **Subs.** – D. Gaffney for Power (inj.), J. Dermody for M. Walsh (inj.), C. Carter for Delaney.

Laois – R. Cashin, T. Delaney, B. Maher,

C. Duggan, N. Rigney, J. Dollard (capt.), J. O'Sullivan, O. Cross, D. Conroy, T. Kenna, N. Delaney, F. Lawlor, P. J. Peacock, O. Dowling, F. O'Sullivan. **Subs.** – P. J. Cuddy for Kenna (inj.), B. Moore for Peacock.

Referee – W. Barrett (Tipperary).

As the crowds left Dr. Cullen Park, comments varied from "Kilkenny were lucky" and "The Cats of nine lives again" to "A gutsy performance from Kilkenny", but nothing should be taken from the Laois performance and my own feeling was that they would have beaten most teams on the day. For Kilkenny, Willie O'Connor had been a man inspired, D. J. Carey showed great class, Denis Byrne's finishing was excellent and Eddie O'Connor, Liam Simpson and Liam Keoghan all had their moments. Laois had heroes in Bill Maher, Niall Rigney, Joe Dollard and Fintan Lawlor.

The scene changes to Croke Park – a Croke Park baking in the sunshine, a heat so great on the day, June 25th, that energy was quickly sapped. It was a day when people in all parts of the ground got sunburn as they sat or stood through a treble-headed bill. Wasn't it a great summer?

Dickie Murphy got New York and London under way at 3.00 p.m. Kilkenny faced Dublin at 4.30 p.m. and we had to wait till 6.15 p.m. for the throw-in between Wexford and the reigning

champions, Offaly. all of which meant that we were leaving Croke Park when the hands of the clock headed for 8.00 p.m. It was an unreal feeling to be leaving Croke Park at such a time but the decision-makers had agreed with R.T.E. to screen live matches. Surely it was not an occasion to stage three games!

Be that as it may, Kilkenny faced Dublin with Derek Gaffney at midfield in place of Canice Brennan who, in fact, replaced John Power who was listed on the programme at centre-forward but failed a fitness test. Michael Walsh was back in goal but otherwise the team was unchanged from the Laois game.

The game itself was a non-event. In the past Dublin have put up excellent opposition and given Kilkenny real frights. This was their poorest display for many a year. Kilkenny, on the other hand, after a tentative opening, did some lovely things and the odd silly thing as they built up a half-time lead of 2-9 to Dublin's 0-5. After John Twomey had opened the scoring with a Dublin point, the first of Eamonn Morrissey's three goals and a great point from Denis Byrne, following a huge delivery from Pat O'Neill, made it 1-1 to 0-2. Adrian Ronan and Vinny Murphy exchanged points before Denis Byrne added Kilkenny's second goal. Kilkenny then had points from D. J. Carey, Adrian Ronan (2), Pat O'Neill, Bill Hennessy and Derek Gaffney and Dublin's reply came from Vinny Murphy and John Twomey from a free.

After an early Dublin point from Brian McMahon in the second half, a deluge of scores from Eamonn Morrissey killed off any spark that was left in the game. He added 2-3 without reply and then the Kilkenny game deteriorated as they led 4-12 to 0-6 with only a quarter of an hour remaining.

It was probably hard to concentrate at this stage due to the score and the heat

and Dublin came back with goals from Shane Cooke and a John Twomey penalty. Eventually it ended tamely on a scoreline of Kilkenny 4-13 to Dublin's 2-10. It was a game best forgotten. Kilkenny did all that was asked of them and even more, but, as a yardstick to measure their hopes of Leinster success, it was a wash-out.

The scorers: Kilkenny – E. Morrissey (3-3), D. Byrne (1-2), A. Ronan (0-4, two points frees), P. O'Neill, D. Gaffney, B. Hennessy, D. J. Carey (0-1 each). **Dublin** – J. Twomey (1-3, goal penalty, two points frees); S. Croke (1-0), V. Murphy (0-4), S. McDermott, B. McMahon, D. Harrington (0-1 each).

THE TEAMS

Kilkenny – M. Walsh, E. O'Connor, P. Dwyer, L. Simpson, L. Keoghan, P. O'Neill, W. O'Connor, B. Hennessy (capt.), D. Gaffney, A. Ronan, C. Brennan, P. J. Delaney, E. Morrissey, D. J. Carey, D. Byrne. *Subs.* – M. Dowling for Gaffney (inj.), C. Carter for Delaney, L. McCarthy for Morrissey (inj.).

Dublin – B. McLoughlin, S. Deignan, J. Power, P. Brady, L. Walsh, M. Morrissey, R. Boland, A. O'Callaghan, C. McCann, J. Small, V. Murphy, S. Cooke, S. McDermott, J. Twomey (capt.), J. Morris. *Subs.* – B. McMahon for Morris, C. Ring for Small, D. Harrington for McCann.

Referee - P. Delaney (Laois).

Offaly progressed to another Leinster Final as Wexford spluttered for a long period before realising, too late, that the game was there to be won. This had to be a disappointing and frustrating experience for Liam Griffin and his backroom team. So it was back to Croke Park for the now familiar Leinster Final pairing on July 16th.

What a change it was from June 25th when we had sweltered and burned in the heat of the midsummer sun! Now we watched with trepidation as the minor

game ended with another Leinster success for the Black and Amber and storm clouds as black as the black of the jerseys moved ever closer to the famed stadium.

A sudden crack of thunder followed by a vivid streak of lightning heralded a downpour to beat all downpours. It was a great summer, wasn't it? Out into this downpour dashed our heroes and the roar of thunder that greeted them was well-timed. Offaly had appeared briefly but wisely returned to their dressing room as Kilkenny players scampered for cover wherever they could find it. Many of the "ordinary" fans, as a Croke Park official later branded them, scurried for cover too. Most of them, having paid new prices for the new stand, were soaked. But, in fairness, it was an unnatural storm.

Dickie Murphy of Wexford eventually got the game under way in what were by now treacherous conditions. But the first half was magnificent with both teams showing a will to win that is seldom equalled. The elements had ruled out a classic encounter in terms of skill but, for sheer determination and dash, this was tremendous stuff.

Both sets of backs were on top as one would expect in the conditions, Liam Simpson was magnificent. The O'Connors hurled defiance at the opposition, although many felt that Eddie overplayed a slippery ball. Liam Keoghan got through a power of work and, in the middle, Pat O'Neill and Pat Dwyer did all that was expected of them.

Michael Walsh was his usual sound self in the goal and although Michael Phelan obviously lacked match practice, both he and Bill Hennessy held their own in midfield.

For Offaly, Martin Hanamy, Brian Whelehan and Hubert Rigney performed heroics. It was little wonder, then, that it was a low-scoring first half. Offaly went in leading by 0-5 to 0-3.

The second half went all wrong. Billy Dooley opened a three-point lead for Offaly with a neat point. Then, six minutes into the half, a seemingly harmless ball from way out the field seemed to be no trouble to Michael Walsh. But the man who is normally soundness personified was deceived by the slippery ball and although he scrambled it away, the umpires decided it had crossed the line. We were now six points in arrears. What is it about that Railway goal? Shades of Ken Hogan in '93!

Worse was to follow. Fine unanswered Offaly points were thrown over by Billy Dooley, John Troy, Brian Whelehan, Billy Dooley again and Pat O'Connor to leave the score 1-11 to 0-3 in favour of the champions.



Heading for goal . . . Three-goal hero Eamonn Morrissey rounds S. Deignan (D) as he bears down on goal.

Johnny Dooley put four clear goals between the teams before Adrian Ronan got Kilkenny's first score of the second half – a point from a free. By now Kilkenny were being run ragged and were in disarray. True, D. J. Carey exploded on the scene with two goals – one from a penalty – but by then the contest was well and truly over. Pat O'Connor was the scorer of the second Offaly goal to leave the final tally: Offaly 2-16, Kilkenny 2-5.

The scorers: Offaly – B. Dooley (0-5), P. O'Connor (1-1), Johnny Dooley (0-3, two frees), M. Duignan (0-3), D. Regan (1-0), J. Troy (0-2), J. Pilkington, B. Whelehan (0-1 each). **Kilkenny** – D. J. Carey (2-0, one penalty), A. Ronan (0-3, frees), P. O'Neill (0-1, free), P. J. Delaney (0-1).

THE TEAMS

Offaly – D. Hughes, S. McGuckin, K. Kinahan, M. Hanamy, B. Whelehan, H. Rigney, K. Martin, J. Pilkington, D. Regan, Johnny Dooley, J. Troy, Joe Dooley, M. Duignan, P. O'Connor, B. Dooley. *Subs.* – B. Kelly for Joe Dooley, D. Pilkington for J. Pilkington.

Kilkenny – M. Walsh, E. O'Connor, P. Dwyer, L. Simpson, L. Keohan, P. O'Neill, W. O'Connor, M. Phelan, B. Hennessy (capt.), A. Ronan, J. Power, P. J. Delaney, E. Morrissey, D. J. Carey, D. Byrne. *Subs.* – D. Gaffney for Byrne, C. Brennan for Phelan, C. Carter for Ronan.

Referee – D. Murphy (Wexford).

The Kilkenny score was what amazed me most! This Kilkenny full-forward line of Morrissey, Carey and Byrne, to me, had been magnificent, individually and as a unit, on many occasions and I rated them the best in the country. But little went right for them.

The half-forward line, too, Adrian Ronan, John Power and P. J. Delaney are



Not for lack of effort! . . . D. J. Carey in determined mood as his way to goal is cut off by Offaly's Martin Hanamy and Hubert Rigney, as Kevin Kinahan (O) and John Power (K) look on.

a very formidable trio but they too were overcome. In fairness, hats would have to come off to Offaly – a very talented and determined team who were masters on the day.

We were sad and we were drenched as we made our way to O'Connell's School on that miserable July day. It was a great summer, wasn't it?

It's a long road home when you're beaten and there's no All-Ireland to look forward to – I mean Senior All-Ireland, of course. But Kilkenny folk always bounce back and on the way home the result and performance were analysed. The verdict? – the verdict is that there is very little wrong with the Kilkenny team. It is a very good team and the last thing needed is radical changes. Certainly, some aspects need looking at, but there is a depth of talent in the county.

The general opinion was, sadly, that Ollie would probably retire. This proved to be the case. The man has worked wonders. He has steered Kilkenny to three All-Ireland Finals, two of which were won. Of four Leinster Final appearances, three were victorious. This mighty man, as a player, lifted Kilkenny on many occasions. He was a prince among goalkeepers – the best I have ever seen. He had a gift of lifting a team, of getting heads up and he brought that gift with him into his managerial position. Kilkenny hurling owes him a big debt of gratitude. Thank you, Ollie!

No, I didn't forget. We were, and still are, League Champions. We won the Junior and Over-40s All-Irelands and contested the Minor, Under-21 and Camogie finals. Wasn't it a great summer? It wasn't a bad year either.



Eamon Morrissey beats Martin Hanamy (Offaly) in a race for the ball in the Church & General National League semi-final in Thurles. Looking on is D. J. Carey.

(Photo: Tom O'Neill)

GRAIGUE - BALLYCALLAN

1995 was like the curate's egg, good and bad. The lowest point was the death of Philip Murphy after he had played against Dicksboro and St. Martins in the league and also in the football games against Glenmore, Dicksboro and James Stephens just two days before his death. It took the parish a long time to recover from the shock. Two other disappointments were the defeat of the minor hurlers by Dicksboro and the Under 21 hurlers after a replay by the same side.

The senior hurlers advanced to the county semi-final for the first time since 1957 and should have won on the first day against Fenians but were well beaten in the replay 1-14 to 0-7. There was compensation in the league victory over Young Irelands in a replay (full report elsewhere). The special junior hurlers took the Roinn A Championship. The footballers came within a minute of reaching the semi-final when James Stephens, the eventual champions got a point to level the game. The minor footballers qualified for the 1994 Roinn B final which has still to be played against Mooncoin. The Under 16 hurlers lost to O'Loughlin/Gaels in the championship but are in the league final against James Stephens. The Under-14 hurlers surprised everyone by reaching the Co. Final where they lost to O'Loughlin/Gaels by two points. The Under 13 hurlers also lost their county final to Tullaroan. The minor

hurlers lost the league final to Dunnamaggin.

For the first time ever, the club had players on a Kilkenny National League winning side. Adrian Ronan had collected a medal in 1989/90 as a panel member but this year he was joined on the team by Eddie Dwyer and Denis Byrne.

Denis Byrne also won a Leinster Under 21 medal with Damien Cleere and Eddie Dwyer on the team beaten by Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. Paul Hoyne captained the Kilkenny minors to Leinster honours. He had, as team mates, Sean Millea and Micheál Hoyne. Cork beat them in the All-Ireland final. Damien Cleere was captain of the Callan C.B.S. team which lost the All-Ireland Colleges "B" Final to Templemore C.B.S. Also on the team were Tommy

Minogue, Sean Millea, Paddy Dwyer and Michael Quirke.

Robbie Byrne recently collected a Leinster Colleges Junior Hurling medal with St. Kieran's. John Teehan, John Coldbeck, James Young, Tomás Comerford and Conor Minogue were on the Kilkenny football panel during the year. Michael Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne and Anthony Drohan played Under 16 hurling and football for the county.

The new pitch was completed as were the dressing rooms and the tea trained there this year. The official opening will take place on May 19th.

Declan Byrne won the Under-14 long puck competition.

Jim Neary was a selector with the minor county hurling team.



Adrian Ronan (G.B.C.) breaks away from Matty Walsh (Fenians) watched by Ger Ronan (G.B.C.) and Liam McEvoy (Fenians) – action from Co. Senior Final.



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN – Credit Union Senior Hurling League Champions 1995

Back row (l.-r.): Denis Byrne, Tomás Comerford, John Teehan (Captain), Mark O'Brien, Tomás McCluskey, Ger Ronan, Jim Maher, Joe Brennan.
Front row (l.-r.): Adrian Ronan, Damien Cleere, Padraig McCluskey, Conor Manogue, Johnny Butler, James Young, Tommy Dermody.

JOHN LOCKES



Still going to the games at 93 years of age – Jack Gardiner, a familiar sight at all Callan games.

(Photo: Iom O'Neill)

THE club competed in eleven grades of competition, including hurling and football. Our Under-14 team, with Tom Ryan and Tommy Fitzpatrick at the helm, qualified for the play-offs out of their group. They reached the quarter-final stage before elimination by the Shamrocks from Ballyhale. In football, the same team put paid to their chances in the very first round.

Our Under-16 team were beaten in the championship by the eventual County Champions, the Shamrocks. It was a narrow defeat, by three points. This team could well prove to be a very good one eventually. Mullinavat beat them in the League. In the Under-16 football race, we

were beaten in the county semi-final by the eventual champions, Dicksboro.

The hard luck team of the year were the Minors. Their championship is covered elsewhere, but suffice to say that their County Final demise was not their own fault. They are, however, in the League County Final.

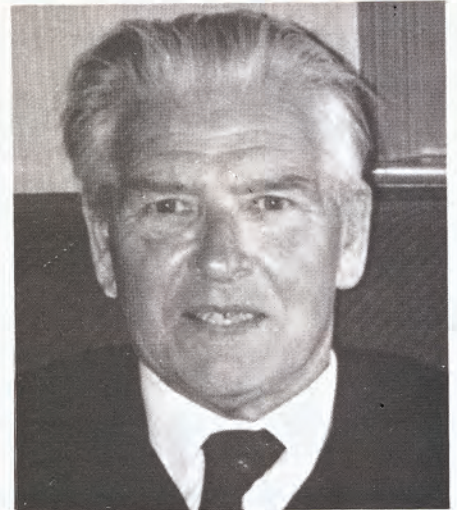
The Special Junior team reached the play-off stages of the All-County League, and they were beaten by Windgap in their South semi-final.

The Senior team drew two of their League outings against Shamrocks and



Johnny Tobin

Tullaroan. They had an impressive win over Mooncoin in the first round of the championship. They won by a solitary point in the dying seconds. There were titanic displays from Paul Morrissey, Liam Egan, Seán Hogan, Jim Lynch, John Power, David Lynch, Declan Roche and Stuart Donovan.



John Phelan

However, they never "got out of the traps" in the quarter-final against Erin's Own.

During the year the club lost two of its greatest stalwarts. Johnny Tobin passed away in February. He was a former Chairman of the club. An untiring worker, and a steadying influence on the club, Johnny was a John Locke's man through and through.

One of our Presidents, John Phelan, also passed to his Eternal Reward during the year. John was a very valued member of the club. Again, he worked tirelessly during the days when the club development was at its zenith. He, too, was a John Locke's addict. May they always have a good seat in the Croke Park of the skies. They have earned them.

Good to see that our ageless number one supporter, Jack Gardiner, is still



CALLAN CO-OP SPONSOR JOHN LOCKES

Paul Croke (Chairman, Callan Co-op. Society) presents Pat Power (Chairman, John Lockes) with jerseys carrying the Callan Co-op. logo. Also in picture are (from left) – Jim Lynch, Mick Lynch, Tom Ryan (Secretary, John Lockes), Paul Croke, Denis O'Sullivan, P. J. Coady, Louis Tyrrell, Pat Power, Rick Burke, Tom Ryan, Jim Power and Terry O'Brien (Manager, Callan Co-op.).

CLUBS

ROUND-UP

JOHN LOCKES – *Contd.*

attending our games. At 93 years of age, we wish him many more years of good health.

Our main officers for 1995 were: Pat Power (Chairman), Tom Ryan (Secretary), E. J. Ryan (Treasurer), H. Bryan (Juvenile Chairman), B. Henriques (P.R.O.). Juvenile Committee: T. Walsh, T. Ryan, D. Kelly, C. Fitzpatrick, E. Roche, T. Fitzpatrick.

Players from the club who played with County teams were: John Power (National League); P. J. Coady (Leinster Minor medal); J. P. Corcoran and M. Dunne (Kilkenny Under-16); Keith Doheny (Kilkenny Under-14).



John Lockes defeated by Erin's Own, Castlecomer, in the second round of the Senior Championship. **Front** (L-R) – John Lynch, Liam Egan, Andy Power, P. J. Coady, Adrian O'Sullivan, Paul Morrissey, Kevin Coffey, David Bergin, David Lynch, Stewart Donovan, Sean Hogan, Nigel Donovan. **Back row** (L-R) – John Power, Denis Nolan, John Tobin, Declan Roche, Jim Lynch (Capt.), Jim Power, John Power, Donal Maher, Tommy Hennessy, Conleth Nolan, Tommy O'Sullivan, Mick Lynch, John Bergin.

(Photo: Tom O'Neill)

MOONCOIN

BACK in the Senior grade after four years, we were always going to find it difficult at the higher level. We fared poorly in the League competition, so we had to compete in the first round proper of the Championship.

In a tough, tight and tense battle we failed by the narrowest of margins to beat John Lockes. In the relegation play-off game against St. Martin's we came good to win. Credit must, indeed, be apportioned to trainer Johnny Walsh, and his selectors, John Crowley, Joe Wall and Noel Doyle.

Our Junior team failed to win a game in the All-County League, and they were beaten by Windgap in the first round of the championship.

Our Under-21 team drew their first round game against Dunnamaggin, but were beaten in the replay in a hard-fought game. We reached the semi-final of the Intermediate Football Championship, and the same stage was reached in the Special Junior Championship.

The club played the Brian Boru club in London last St. Patrick's weekend. A terrific time was had by all.

Ned Quinn was elected Vice-Chairman of the County Board. Tom O'Hanlon was elected Football Officer. Michael Fox and Noel Doyle acted as selectors on Kilkenny County teams.

With Joe Murphy as captain, and Tom Murphy, Pat Hogan, Mark Tyler and Eamon Mackey also playing, Kilkenny won the All-Ireland Junior hurling crown.

Trevor Dunphy and Michael Purcell won Leinster Under-21 medals with Kilkenny. Tom Hennebry (Brook) won a Masters All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny.



MOONCOIN CELEBRATE

Pictured at the club's Presentation Social in February were (from left) – Pat Kinsella (Secretary), John Walsh (Treasurer), John Mahon (Captain), John Healy (Chairman, Co. Board), Andy Aylward (Chairman, South Board), Noel Doyle (Selector), Michael Walsh (Player of the Year), Ned Quinn (Vice-Chairman, Co. Board), Johnny Walsh (Trainer), Tom O'Hanlon (Clubman of the Year), Joe Wall (Selector), Fr. Grace, P.P. (President), Billy O'Keeffe (Vice-Chairman), John Crowley (Chairman).

Five former players went to their Eternal Rewards during the year. They were Andy Brennan, Jimmy Maguire, Bill Fripps, Edward Mackey and Paddy Cleary. The sympathy of the club is extended to all their relatives and friends.

The principal officers of the club are:

John Crowley (Chairman), Billy O'Keeffe (Vice-Chairman), Pat Kinsella

(Secretary), David Phelan (Assistant Secretary), John Walsh (Treasurer), Paddy Crowley (P.R.O.), Edmond Quinn (Irish Officer), Eugene Dunphy (Delegate to Co. Board), Nicholas Hennebry (Delegate to Southern Board); Eddie O'Hara (First Aid Officer); Eamon Holden (Caretaker/ Groundsman).



MOONCOIN

Back row (L-R) – Michael Purcell, John Mahon, Pat Hogan, Joe Murphy, Trevor Dunphy, Michael Walsh, Micheál Kinsella, Eddie Crowley. **Front row** (L-R) – Billy Quinn, Tom Murphy, Jim Dunphy, Mark Tyler, Domo Connolly, Eamon Holden.

(Photo: Tom O'Neill)

JAMES STEPHEN'S

OFFICERS

President: Bill Cody;
 Chairman: Liam Tyrell;
 Vice-do.: Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Wm. Smith;
 Secretary: Michael Moore;
 Treasurer: Christy Leahy;
 Bar Treas.: Matt Kelly;
 Registrar: Seamus Kennedy;
 P.R.O.: Val Malone;
 Groundsman: Bob Cody

TITLES, 1995:

Coca Cola u-13 Lisdowney Seven's;
 Dicksboro u-14 hurling tournament;
 Paddy Grace Memorial Trophy/Feile na Gael;
 U-16 Roinn 'C' hurling league;
 U-16 Roinn 'A' hurling championship;
 Northern minor hurling Roinn 'A' champions;
 Paddy Mullen/Peter Conroy minor hurling tournament
 Northern u-21 Roinn 'A' hurling champions;
 Under-21 (1994) football champions;
 Special junior football county champions;
 Senior football county champions

OBITUARY – BILL BRENNAN

On the evening of our Senior League game versus Young Ireland's, one of our most tireless workers, and greatest supporters, Club Vice-President, Bill Brennan suddenly fell ill and died. From the earliest days of the redevelopment of the club, Bill worked diligently to ensure that the best facilities possible would be available to club members and he was deeply involved in all our past and current developments. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé.

CLUB DEVELOPMENTS

We look forward eagerly to the opening of our new pitch at St. Joseph's which has been completely levelled, landscaped

and reseeded in preparation for under age hurling, camogie and team training. In addition this year, we embarked on a major facelift on the club premises which included wheelchair ramp access to the building, new windows, canopy and flower arrangements, all done to upgrade the visual effect of the premises.

GAMES

As usual we had an extremely busy year at underage level and we still have to play our minor and under-21 football championships! The year began well with victory in the Kilkenny Féile final and progress to the National semi-finals where we were narrowly beaten by eventual joint winners Sixmilebridge (Clare). Monaleen of Limerick were our generous hosts. For the first time since we began to enter second teams in competition, we won a Roinn 'C' title with victory in the Supermacs under-16 hurling league. Our first team won the under-16 hurling championship for the second consecutive year. Our minors were desperately close to gaining an unexpected championship when they ran Dunnamaggin very close in the county final

Well done to our Junior hurling team this year who, having had mixed luck in the all county league, hit top form in the championship. Having disposed of the challenges of Fenians, Erin's Own and a very fancied Blacks & Whites side, we faced city rivals O'Loughlins in the Northern final. Perhaps we let our best chances slip on the first day when we lost a good lead to eventually finish level but there was no mistake in the replay as



Bill Brennan, RIP with son Sean, holding old and new Liam McCarthy Cups!

O'Loughlin's proved superior on the day.

Many people expected our senior team to be close contenders for senior glory but it was not to be. Despite a good start to the league, defeating Shamrocks, John Lockes and being the only team to defeat Glenmore, we lost our way against Tullaroan and Young Ireland's. We had a good win over St. Martin's in the championship but were unable to get past Graig-Ballycallan in the quarter final losing by one point. However, we have a youthful panel and have some hopes for next year.

On the football front, Jim Mulvin was the successful trainer to the senior team for the third time in five years, defeating Dicksboro in a replay. We represented Kilkenny in the Leinster club championship but Mullingar Shamrocks proved too



JAMES STEPHEN'S U-16 "A" FOOTBALL RUNNERS UP

Front, L to R: David Tyrell, Brian Power, Gary Owens, Stephen Murphy, John Morgan, Paddy O'Brien, Ian Morrissey, Geoffrey Brennan, Nigel Skehan, Niall Grogan, Brian Rodgers. Back L to R: Eoin O'Neill, Joe Murphy, Joachim Murray, Shane Egan, Shane O'Grady, John Cullen, Kieran Keane, Tommy Tyrrel, Cathal Daly, Michael Cullen, Hugh Gannon, Dermot Ryan, Pdraig Devlin (capt.), Cathal O'Dowd.

CLUBS

R O U N D - U P

strong. Well done to our special junior footballers who won the county championship for the first time. In addition we had another very successful minor hurling tournament in June when eight teams, including Glen Rovers, Thurles Sarsfields, Coolderry, Ballyboden-St. Enda's and four local sides fought out a first class competition with victory going to the home club over Glen Rovers.

The Sunday morning leagues for 7-12 year olds proved again the enormous interest in hurling among our youngsters and much credit must go to Sean Brennan, Sean O'Keeffe, Matt Ruth, Brian Cody and the many adult coaches for their efforts in fostering hurling among our youngsters.



JAMES STEPHEN'S U-16 ROINN "C" LEAGUE WINNERS— Front L to R: Eoin O'Neill, David Delaney, Brian Rodgers, Paddy O'Brien, David Tyrell, Nigel Skehan, Niall Grogen, Eoin Dunphy, Joe Murphy, Paddy Hogan, Brian Skehan. Back L to R: Liam Dwyer, Karl Conroy, John Kennedy, Padraig Devlin, Shane O'Grady, Dermot Ryan, Bill Keogh, Cathal O'Dowd, Ian Morrissey, Gary Whelan, Brian Tyrell, Michael Cullen, Brian Power.



Make way . . . Christy Heffernan breaks through to score for Glenmore.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

LISDOWNNEY

Lisdowney juveniles built on the success of last year's victorious under-13 team by reaching the Co. Final of the under-13 league (Roinn C) and by winning the Supermac's under-14 league (Roinn C).

In the Paddy O'Connell League the under-13 team won three out of their four games in the northern section and shared top place with Clara. They lined out against Slieverue in the quarter-final and overcame Clara in the semi-final. In the Co. Final they succumbed to a strong Carrickshock team. The Lisdowney panel: Pdraig Doheny, Seamus Nolan, John Murphy, Eoin Sheehy, Declan Tallis, David Hogan, Anthony O'Hara, John Bergin, Noel Dowling, Kevin Maher, Richard Kenny, Alan Dunne, Paul Mullally, Owen Maher, Peter Dowling, Frank Murphy, Eoin Delahunty, James Fitzpatrick, Andrew Phelan, Stephen Thornton, Declan O'Shea, Gary Glendon, Niall O'Hara.

The under-14 team had a long campaign stretching from mid-May to the end of October. Their exploits are reported in detail in Tom Ryall's Bord na nÓg report.

Great credit is due to all the players, their supporters and their coaches Eamonn Dunne and Tommy Maher.

This year the teams sported a new strip of blue and white stripes and their mentors acknowledge with gratitude the financial support of Irish Life.

LISDOWNNEY COCA COLA SEVENS

This is the 14th year of the ever-popu-



Pdraig Bergin (Capt.), receives the U-14 trophy from Joe Pyke, Chairman, Bord na nÓg.

lar Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens and provided under-13 players with a veritable feast of hurling. There were 34 teams from 8 counties, spread over 3 provinces. Kilkenny was represented by 20 teams, 3 each from Kildare and Laois, 4 from Tipperary and one each from Carlow, Wicklow, Galway and Waterford.

The early rounds were played over two Saturdays in September and the quarter finals, semi-finals and finals were played on the third Saturday. There were three separate competitions.

The main competition was for the Sweeney Cup and Coca-Cola trophies. Winners were James Stephens with Ballyhale as runners-up.

The Hennessy Sports Medals and Gathabawn Cup were for the second round losers. St. Martins were the winners

and Piltown were the runners-up. :

In conjunction with the main competition, a parish sevens was also held. Five teams captained by John Murphy, Declan Tallis, John Bergin, David Hogan and Brendan Maher played a round-robin and in a pulsating final Brendan Maher's team edged out winners over David Hogan's team. Another winner was David Quinn (James Stephens) who won the coveted Best Player Award.

Among the many spectators were Mr. John Healy (Co. Chairman), Mr. Ted Carroll (Co. Secretary) and Mr. Bobby Jackman (Schools Coach). Mr. Healy encouraged the boys to continue to work hard for their clubs and he had every confidence that in future years many of them would represent their county.

Another innovation this year was the introduction of four young referees who had completed a special Referees Course during Transition Year. They were Oisín Breathnach, Brian O'Flynn, Dermot Mulhall and Aidan Knox.

The organisers of this popular event were Larry Hamilton (Sec.), Tommy Maher, Josephine Murphy, Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.) and Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola). They get invaluable assistance from Bord na nÓg and club members and from the Ladies Committee. The organisers also appreciate the generosity of their main sponsor Coca-Cola and their other sponsors Sweeney Brothers, Kilkenny Supporters Club and Hennessy Sport. They also are grateful to Radio Kilkenny and the Kilkenny People for coverage of the games. Here's to 1996!

Eamonn Dunne
(Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens P.R.O.)



LISDOWNNEY COCA-COLA SEVENS 1995

James Stephens panel: D. Brennan, J. Tyrell, E. McCormack, D. Quinn (best player award), N. Bergin, R. Hayers, M. Harkin, C. O'Grady, P. O'Neill (capt.), C. Burke. Also included are organisers, Larry Hamilton, Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Josephine Murphy, Tommy Maher, Eamonn Dunne.

Mullinavat

The Intermediate team had a decent run in the League, and qualified for the League semi-final. However, after a titanic battle, we were beaten by the eventual County Intermediate Champions, Dunamaggin.

In the quarter - final of the Championship proper, we were beaten, - again narrowly - by our near neighbours Carrickshock.

Our Special Junior team were semi-finalists in both the League and Championship in the South.

Our minor team reached the south final, only to be beaten by a very strong John Lockes outfit. The same team put paid to our chances in the South League semi-final.

Andy Alyward won a Masters' Hurling All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny against Tipperary.

John Dunphy, Willie Carroll, and Brian Conway won All-Ireland Inter Firm medals with Waterford Stanley.

The club purchased a new tractor, built an appropriate shed to house the tractor, and gave the whole playing complex a complete facelift during the year.

The main officers of the club during 1995 were; Tommy Frisby (Chairman), John Dunphy (Secretary), and Jim Conway (Treasurer).



Hennessy Sports sponsor "All-County Junior Hurling League". At the handing over of the sponsorship cheque were Andy Aylward (Chairman South Board), Ned Buggy (Sec. North Board), Ann O'Hanrahan (Hennessy Sports), Ned Moran (Chairman North Board), Jimmy Walsh (Sec. South Board) and Eamon Hennessy (Hennessy Sports).

Photo Tom Brett.



MULLINAVAT - Under-16 Footballers

Back row (l.-r.): Ned Haberlin, Pat Butler, Alan Wall, David Coughlan, Kieran Laherty, Keith Madigan, Jack Duggan, Eamon Sutton, Kenneth Butler, Seamus Holden, Tommy Duggan (Trainer). Front row (l.-r.): Richard John Carroll, Andrew Duggan, Tony Duggan, Paul Aylward, Oliver Dalton, Michael Murphy, Eoin Maher, Andrew McGovern, Richard Butler.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

O'Loughlin Gaels

It would have to be one of the most successful years ever for the club. We regained our Intermediate status. Our under 14 team won their Roinn "A" championship. Both of the above achievements are scripted elsewhere in this yearbook. Emanating from a brilliant under 10 structure, our under 10 team competed in a 72 – team tournament in Limerick, for the Nessian Cup. We won, having beaten teams from Galway, Clare, Waterford, Kerry, and Limerick — fruitful testament indeed to the great work being done by John Joe Cullen, Damien O'Connell and their helpers every Sunday morning.



Player of the year 1994, Barry Power, receives his crystal trophy, (sponsored by P.M.P.A.) from Seamus Foster P.M.P.A. and hurling chairman Peter Dowling.



O'Loughlins ABÚ: Captain victorious lifts the County Junior Hurling Championship Cup aloft.

Photo Tom Brett.

Congratulations to selectors Brian Murphy, Aidan Fogarty, Paddy O'Meara, and Johnny Sheridan on their unstinting work, and success with the under 14 team. Their team also competed in the Feile na nGael competition. They were beaten in the semi-finals by city rivals James Stephens.

Our juvenile team also won the Diarmuid Shortall/Billy Keane tournament, beating Clara, James Stephens, and Tullaroan along the way.

Our under 16 team acquitted themselves well, qualifying for the Northern Final, to be beaten by James Stephens, who went on to win the County Final. Whilst the League form of this team wasn't inspiring, nevertheless, they hammered a fancied Graigue/Ballucallan outfit, and the final score against the Village was no reflection on the closeness of the encounter. The Village scored 2-1 in the last two minutes.

Our minor team were disappointing. An injury to goalkeeper, Adrian Kealy probably didn't help here. Two of our minors made the Kilkenny panel – Sean Dowling and Alan Geoghegan.

Denis O'Brien, Brian

Murphy, Tomás Comerford, Tommy Lahart, Paul Kavanagh, and James O'Keefe were members of the Kilkenny under 14 team this year.

Peter Dowling represented Kilkenny in the Feile na nGael skills finals. He finished third.

The selectors of the junior team are Mick Nolan (Trainer), Marty Brennan, and Jim O'Hara.

The special junior team reached the Northern League and Championship finals, albeit losing ones. The chief mentor here was Pat Ward.

The under 21 team failed to advance beyond the first round of their championship.

OFFICERS

(Chairman) Edward Brennan, (Vice Chairman) Tom Gregg, (Secretary) Gerry Deegan, (Treasurer) Sean Casey, (Hurling) Peter Dowling, (Youth) John Skehan, (Development) Seanie Tyrrell, (Pavilion) Pdraig Leydon, (P.R.O.) Gerry Tyrrell, (Handball) Con Moore, (Grounds) Mick Cantwell, (Gym) Paddy Fitzpatrick, (Social) Sammy Geoghegan, (Membership) Mary Fitzpatrick.

St. Lactains of Freshford

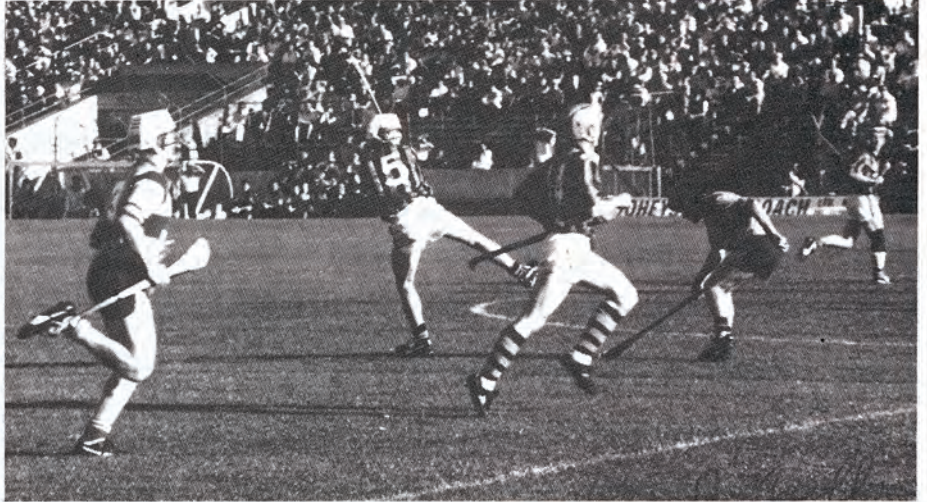
It was a year well worth recording. At Intermediate level, the club came from a relegation scenario in 1994 to a Championship semi-final spot in 1995. We were beaten by the eventual County Champions, who also beat us in the League semi-final. Credit is due to Trainer/Selector Murty Kennedy, and to his co-selectors, Tom Beckett and Brian Waldron.

The special junior team failed in the championship to Fenians, but won the Northern division 3 League title, beating O'Loughlins. The Intermediate team beat Kevin Lynch's of Derry to win the Annie Hayes memorial Tournament. This inter-club friendship has lasted since the Kilkenny Feile in 1978.

James Stephens put paid to the chances of our under-21 team in their championship. Our minor team performed poorly in both League and Championship.

The under-16 team had one extraordinary victory against Dicksboro. In their match, they trailed the city lads by a whopping 17 points. In a storming second half, they came home winners.

In the under-14 championship, John Lockes beat our lads in the quarter-final. In a thriller, it took extra time to decide the winners.



Another one for Ollie! Oliver O'Connor slots over another point against Clare in the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Final. Running in is Kilkenny's Sean Ryan, and keeping a look-out is Diarmuid Lawlor.

Photo Tom O'Neill

At schools' level, we were edged out by Castlecomer at the quarter-final stage. There were many games played at under-10 level during the season. This year's winner was Jamie Kennedy.

The inaugural Corn de Bhaldraithe tournament for under-11 competition was won by the team; R. Dowling, F. Burke, J.J. Phelan, O. Buggy, B. Dalton, T. Delaney, D. Hughes, V. Deacon, and P. Purcell. Coaching for all these players takes place every Saturday morning.

At county level, Joe Dermody, Oliver

O'Connor (All-Ireland Junior, Leinster under-21), John Costello (Leinster under-21), and Michael Kavanagh (Leinster Minor) played with distinction.

Páirc Lachtain hosted many great games during the season. Huge crowds turned up to watch. We are making provision to improve comfort amenities.

The club officers for the year were L. Farrell (Chairman), T. Beckett (Vice-do), P. Butler (Sec), W. Ryan (Treas), T. Doheny (P.R.O.), D. Killeen (Juv. Chairman), Collette Flynn (Juv. Sec), M. Mc. Carthy (Juv. Treas).

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know you"*

Tullaroan

Chairman: Eugene Walsh; **Secretary:** John Glennon; **Assistant Sec.:** Philly Doheny; **Treasurer:** Dick Walsh (Village); **Groundsman:** Danny Norton; **Plans / Development:** Extra parking; Dugouts; Fencing etc.

At their victory Dinner Dance in early March, Tullaroan Senior and Minor teams were presented with their championship medals. Presentations were also made to Senior trainer; Declan Connolly and Minor trainer: Jimmy Maher. After their very successful 1994 season, the club looked forward to further success in 1995 with hopes high of more county titles, possibly even a repeat of the Senior victory. Training began in February, again under the watchful eye of Declan Connolly.

Luck was not on our side in our opening game in Nowlan Park, and we went under to a gallant Gowran side. Against Shamrocks in Callan, we surrendered a good half-time lead, conceded three quick goals and again finished on the losing side. A good win over James Stephens restored some confidence, but in our next match, we were caught on the finishing line when Callan hit us with levelling goal. Tullaroan had a good game against a very sharp Glenmore, but lost out to the eventual county champions in the end.

The first round of the championship saw us pitted against the Fenians in what turned out to be the mother of all battles in Freshford in August. Not an inch was yielded by either side in the best county senior match played this year. Recovering from an early six point deficit, Tullaroan twice came back to cut the lead to a minimum and in the dying minutes, laid siege to the Johnstown goal in search of the equalising score which never came.

Tullaroan made no mistake, however, in their relegation semi-final against Shamrocks to ensure their senior status for



What a year for Tullaroan: Above left: Derek Gaffney, captain of Tullaroan senior team with the Tom Walsh Cup 1994. Centre is Bill Hennessy, captain of Kilkenny 1995 senior team with the National League Cup. On right is the great Liam Keoghan who won "Man of the Match" in the 1994 County Final and is a regular figure with Kilkenny seniors.

1996.

The result of the 1895 All-Ireland was reversed when we beat Boherlahan of Tipperary in our Centenary celebrations game. The players received a fine cup and set of plaques, and officials, supporters and players were treated to a fine meal afterwards.

Tullaroan Special Juniors had a few wins, but were beaten in the Northern semi-final of the league, and in the first round of the championship by O'Loughlin's. After a replay, our under-21's went down to St. Martin's in the Northern semi-final.

Congratulations to the National School under-13 team who made history by winning the Roinn A championship, having won Roinn B last year, and Roinn C in 1993. Well done to school principal, Ned Kennedy.

We congratulate Bill Hennessy, the first Tullaroan man to captain a Kilkenny National League winning team, and suc-

cessful Kilkenny selector John Teehan. We wish to thank all club officials and members for their work throughout the year. Thanks also to our sponsors who provided a set of jerseys for the juveniles, items for raffles etc.

The following members of the 1948 Tullaroan senior county hurling championship winning team, were honoured at the county final by Kilkenny Co. Board and afterwards were guests at a meal in Newpark Hotel: Tom Walton (captain), Tom Teehan, Dick Walsh, Paddy Kenny, Chris Walsh, Kieran Tobin, Fr. Ned Kavanagh, Paddy Clohosey, Paddy Teehan, John Walton, Shem Downey, Jim Hogan. Each man was presented with an inscribed silver plate, by chairman John Healy. Tullaroan club thanks the Board for this fine gesture.

The sympathy of Tullaroan club goes to those families who were bereaved during the year - Mrs. Chris Grace, Johnny Shortall, Billy Burke, Michael Purcell,



Tullaroan: The survivors of the 1948 county championship team, honoured by the Kilkenny County Board on County Final day.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

CLUBS

ROUND-UP

Richard Delaney and Michael Dalton. May they rest in peace.

MEN OF 1948 HONOURED

The Tullaroan team which Kilkenny Co. Board are honouring this year bridged a 14-year gap for the club when they beat Carrickshock by 1-12 to 3-3, in Nowlan Park on 22nd August, 1948. Powered by players like Tom Walton, Shem Downey, Mark Marnell and Ned Kavanagh, who had won All-Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny in 1947, Tullaroan proved too strong for the Carrickshock side.

Tullaroan had contested the 1947 County Final which they lost to Éire Óg – then the foremost club in the county.

Other members of the 1948 Tullaroan team who played for the county were Dick Walsh, who played in the 1944 Leinster Championship against Wexford; Paddy Malone, who captained Kilkenny against Laois in the 1949 Leinster final, and Jim Hogan who was a Noreside star in the 1950's, winning an All-Ireland medal as a panel member in 1957. Jim's greatest day was in the Railway Cup Final of 1954 when he held the great Christy Ring scoreless and won the *Irish Independent Sports Star of the Week* award.

Tom Hogan captained Kilkenny to win the Walsh Cup in 1958. Jack Egan was sub goalie on the 1947 All-Ireland winning team. Jimmy Clohosey also played Leinster championship hurling, figuring against Laois in 1951. He was a sub on the 1945 Kilkenny team which lost the All-Ireland final to Tipperary. Pete Dowling, Jackie "Axel" Cahill and Paddy Kenny also wore the Black and Amber jerseys at senior level. Ted Teehan won an All-Ireland Minor medal as a panelist in 1935.

The Kilkenny Co. Board are delighted to recognise the surviving members from the champions of 1948.



Above: Mr. Ned Kennedy is being presented with a glass bowl by Tullaroan secretary John Glennon, in recognition of his achievements since he came to teach in Tullaroan in 1993.



Caretaker of Tullaroan hurling club: Above is Danny Norton and his wife Ellen. Danny Norton came to Tullaroan in 1958. He got involved in the club when his sons started to play hurling about 1964. He carted youngsters the length and breadth of Co. Kilkenny up to very recently. His son Joe hurled with Kilkenny minors in 1986. Vincent was with Kilkenny U-21 team in 1995. Danny celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary on January 6th, 1995. He is vice-president of the club, and caretaker of the grounds. Long may he continue.

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Thomastown

While winning teams were few and far between in Thomastown this year that is not to say that the club stood still.

A juvenile pitch was made in Grennan. This pitch is surrounded by a six lane running track. This running track is fully lit up on one side and will provide one of the finest grass tracks in the county of Kilkenny.

A new storage room has also been built to house the club's tractor and mower also a ref's room will be provided for the forthcoming year.

A special worked of congratulations to Billy O'Keefe, Paul Treacy and Shane Lanigan on winning national honours with the county. Also a word of congratulations to B.O'Sullivan on training the Kilkenny under 21 team.

A special work of tribute to Thomastown's favourite son Ollie Walsh who, after five glorious years, has retired. His record speaks for itself. Hopefully his retirement will be as fruitful as his career.

Finally, a special word of thanks to all our sponsors and workers throughout the year.

OFFICERS

(Chairman) Willie O'Keefe, (Secretary)



Billy O'Keefe, Kilkenny, gets over the ball in the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Final v. Clare.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

Noel Moore, (Treasurer) Ger Walsh, (P.R.O.)
B. O'Sullivan.

GROUNDSMEN

Richie Power.

COMPETITIONS PLAYED

Intermediate Hurling - Reached First Round, Under 21 Hurling - Reached First

Round, Minor Hurling - Reached First Round, Under 16 Hurling - Reached First Round, Under 16 Football - Reached Semi-Final, Under 14 Hurling - Reached First Round.

Players on County Teams: Billy O'Keefe - National League - All-Ireland Junior, Paul Greedy - All-Ireland Junior, Shane Lanigan - Leinster Minor Championship.

Le Gach Dea-Mhéin
ó
Chomhairle Laighean
C.L.G.



Micheál Ó Dubhshláine
Rúnaí

Tullagher / Rosbercon

ONE of the major highlights of the year, was the winning of the All-Ireland Community Games hurling Final in Mosney.

With the assistance of five players from Glenmore, the boys won the right to represent Kilkenny, by defeating Urlingford in the Kilkenny Final. Next to 'fall' were the Enniscorthy Rapparees, who were hammered by 5-6 to 0-5. The Leinster Final beckoned against Birr from Offaly. This game was played in Carlow, and Tullagher won the Hennessy Sports Perpetual Shield by 2-3 to 2-1. Monaghan, in the All-Ireland semi-final proved no obstacle, when they were defeated by 7-14 to 0-1. And so, it was on to the Final against the Tipperary representatives, Mullinahone. They beat the Tipp representatives by a clear ten points, thus setting up the greatest of celebrations around the area.

The winning team was: Richard Murphy, Kieran Barron, Donal Phelan, Richard Gaule, Gerard Mullally, Michael Grennan (capt.), Daniel Cody (Glenmore), Martin Woods, Michael Phelan (Glenmore), John Fitzgerald, Simon Kennedy, Edward Conway, Richard Ryan, Moling Cottrell, John Dollard (Glenmore), Martin Roche, Andrew Murphy, Martin Malone, Lawrence Ryan (Glenmore), Kieran Grennan.

Our schools teams contested the Roinn 'B' hurling final, and the Country Cup hurling finals. The under-14 hurling team reached their final, and lost. The minor hurlers failed at the first hurdle, while both the under-21, and under-16 hurling teams were beaten in the South semi-finals. The Intermediate hurlers were beaten in the



Tullagher Under-14 Panel – Front (l-r): Joseph McCarthy, Moling Cotterell, Steve Cotterell, Martin Roche, Martin Woods, Kieran Grennan, Dermot Hefferman, John Cotterell, Philip Boyle, Richard Murphy, Jim Prendergast. Back (l-r): Declan Phelan, Martin Malone, Richard Gaule, Kieran Barron, Andrew Murphy, Martin Lanigan, John Murphy, Tomás Mullally, Raymond Ryan, Eamonn Saunders.



Tullagher – Junior Hurling Champions 1957

Back Row (l-r): Mick O'Brien, Paddy Kennedy, Mikey Greene, Jimmy Phelan, Mikey Murphy, Tommy Doolan, John Hamilton, Lar Murphy, Mick Walsh, Dan Croke, Simon Kennedy, James Kennedy. Front Row (l-r): Phil Murphy, Johnny Boyle, John Murphy, Jimmy Cummins, Tom Murphy, Paddy Curran, James Murphy, Billy Murphy, Paddy Walsh, Ned Phelan.



Tullagher-Rosbercon/Glenmore – Under-14 Community Games All-Ireland medal winners at Mosney Finals – Front (l-r): John Fitzgerald, John Dollard (G), Moling Cotterell, Andrew Murphy, Martin Roche, Kieran Grennan, Edward Conway, Kieran Barron. Back (l-r): Martin Malone, Michael Grennan (Capt.), Richard Gaule, Richard Ryan (G), Donal Phelan, Richard Murphy, Martin Woods, Simon Kennedy, Michael Phelan (G), Gerard Mullally, Laurence Ryan (G), Daniel Cody (G). Glenmore Players with (G) behind name.

CLUBS

ROUND - UP

first round of the championship, and the Senior football team failed to make the semi-finals.

John Gaule played minor football for Kilkenny, and John Barron played under-16 hurling for the 'black and amber'.

In a year where success not not that apparent, there was great excitement generated locally when a team representing Tullogher/Rosbercon and Glenmore fought their way to the Community Games final in Mosney. A great reception awaited this combined team as they brought their All-Ireland medals home.

Some three players from Tullogher/Rosbercon, John Gaule, Richard Walsh and John Barron played with the C.B.S. team, New Ross, winners of the Leinster Senior Hurling Roinn 'C' Championship.

The club's main officers during the year were:

Paddy Grennan (Chairman), Pat Lawlor (Vice-Chairman), Eamon Phelan (Secretary), Shem Cummins (Asst. Sec.), Paddy Gaule (Treasurer), Joe Conway (PRO), Billy Nolan (Juvenile Chairman), Moling Cottrell (Juve. Sec.).



C.B.S., New Ross – Leinster Senior Hurling Roinn 'C' Champions 1995 (including Tullogher/Rosbercon, Glenmore and The Rower players). – Back row (l.-r.): S. Doran, John Gaule (T/R), Damien Barry (G), Pat Brennan (R/I), Donal Byrne, Richie Barron (R/I), W. Forristal (G). Middle row (l.-r.): John M. Porter (PE teacher), Jonathan Rowe, Richard Walsh (T/R), John Kavanagh (R/I), Melvyn Sheehan, Ger Ronan, Dermot Mernagh (G), Mick Brennan, Jim Kavanagh (teacher). Front row (l.-r.): Liam Galavin (R/I), John Barron (T/R), Tomás Gahan, Pat Derereux (Capt.), Damien Quigley, Mark Ronan, M. J. Redmond, Noel Doherty (G).



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Threecastles

1995 was certainly a Jeekyll and Hyde year for the club for, though dropping a grade to Special Junior 'A', our performance in the Northern League was most disappointing, recording just one win.

However, our fortunes changed in the Paddy Cahill Cup (1994) final played in July '95. St. Patricks provided the opposition and we just got the better of them in a thrilling finish. This was the first competition the team won in recent years so the excitement was intense.

Championship victories over Young Ireland's and Clara brought the team to the North final against Graig-Ballycallan on a sunny August evening in Nowlan Park. Nerves and tension during the first half proved to be a disaster and we trailed by seven points at the interval. During the second period the team got 'stuck in' and had the deficit reduced to three points within ten minutes. However, their persistence in trying for goals when points were there for the taking proved their undoing in the finish.

Annual social; This year's event was held in the Club House Hotel in March and proved to be most enjoyable for well in excess of one hundred guests. Annual weekend trip; Certainly the highlight of the season was the October bank holiday weekend visit to Ballycastle, Co. Antrim on the North-East coast. A trip to Derry City was highlighted by a walk around the Bogside. The generosity of the Ballycastle McQuillan's club, in the meal they provided on the Saturday, was something to behold.

A coach tour around the Glens of Antrim was special and further invitations to visit Loughel and Dunloy were received and may well be accepted at some future date.

OBITUARY – JACK EGAN.

Last December a great clubman and friend passed on to his reward. Jack, who also played club hurling in Wexford, Cavan and Clare, never forgot his roots and seldom missed a game when Threecastles were involved. May he rest in peace.

OFFICERS

Shem O'Donnell (Chairman), Nicky Grace (Secretary), Dick Dalton (Treasurer).

COMPETITIONS PLAYED

Special J.A. League and Championship – reached Championship North Final, beaten by Graigue-Ballycallan; Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup – won 1994 final, played 9/7/95 and beat St. Patrick, Ballyragget.

WINNING PANELS

M. Doheny, M. O'Donnell, D. Dalton, F. Gleeson, R. Webster, G. Mullan, R. Carroll, P. Hennessy, D. Lennon, G. Lennon, G. Campion, D. Butler, V. Bolger, P. Dalton, G. Rafter, E. Hennessy, B. Mullan, T. Frait, T. Lennon, N. Doleny, D. Grace.



Threecastles in the Bogside. The background to this picture are photographs of the people murdered on Bloody Sunday in Derry. (l to r) N. Grace, J. Mullan, B. Mullan, W. Murphy, M. Campion. (Front) Billy Sullivan.



Back row (l to r) T. Trait, D. Butler, V. Bolger, N. Doheny, M. Doheny, P. Rafter, B. Mullan, F. Gleeson, G. Trait, D. Grace, G. Rafter, P. Dalton. Middle Row; R. Carroll, E. Hennessy, M. O'Donnell, G. Campion (Capt.), G. Mullan, D. Lennon, D. Dalton. Front row; R. Webster, G. Lennon, P. Hennessy, T. Lennon. Threecastles - Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Winners 1994 played 9/7/95.

St. Martins

OFFICERS:

William Costigan, Chairman
 Paul Kinsella, Secretary
 Tom Dowling, Treasurer
 Pat Mulhall, Ass. Treasurer

COMPETITIONS PLAYED

U-13 Schools H – reached semi-final
 U-13 Schools F – reached semi-final
 U-14 H – reached semi-final
 U-16 H – played games
 U-18 H – played games
 U-21 H – northern final
 SP. Junior H (B) – won northern final
 Senior H – won relegation, won Byrne Cup.

WINNING PANELS:

Byrne Cup: (beat Tullogher/Rosbercon) B. Shore, T. Walsh, E. Brean, G. Doyle, D. Dooley, M. Maher, P. Kehoe, B. Ryan, P. Shore, P. Brennan, D. Comerford, L. Dowling, J. Maher, D. Lawler, N. Moloney.
Junior B: (beat Graigue/Ballycallan) P.J. Shore, C. Daly, E. Breen, T. Cody, N. Purcell, S. Byrne, N. Shortall, B. Ryan, P. Shore, P. Brennan, T. Dooley, L. O'Neill, J. Arar, D. Lawler, J. Maher.

PLAYERS ON COUNTY TEAMS:

Senior: E. Morrissey, A. Lawler. *Junior:* D. Lawler. *U-21:* N. Moloney.

In 1995 St. Martin's set up a separate Juvenile Committee.

OFFICERS:

Chairman: Anthony Maher. *Secretary:* Patsy Murphy. *Treasurer:* Murty Coonan. *P.R.O.:* Mary Kelly.

Training for all juveniles is held in Muckalee on Saturday mornings and on Wednesday nights in Coon. The large turnouts have shown the success of the decision.

Congratulations to Johnny Brennan on reaching the All-Ireland Intermediate Handball Final.

Best wishes to Eamonn Morrissey on his new career with Dublin and O'Tooles.

1995 saw years of work by Fr. Martin Ryan come to fruition, with the publication of the 'Sports History of Muckalee Parish' on video. The importance of this work will become more apparent as time passes by.

U-14 hurling success was also achieved with victories in 'The Tara Ryan Tournament' in Castlecomer, and victories in the Plate competitions in Lisdowney and Dicksboro.

U-10 success was achieved by winning

the 'Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament' in Conahy.

Other highlights were the success of the Senior Hurlers in winning the relegation play-off against Shamrocks, Special Juniors winning the Northern Junior B League and the U-21's reaching the Northern U-21

Final against Fenians.

The tragic loss, in an accident, of one of our most loyal Club members, Fr. Lar Ryan, cast a gloom over the whole parish. Sympathy is extended to the Ryan family and to all other families in the parish who suffered bereavements during 1995.



Tara Ryan Cup Winners 1995 – St. Martins.

Back: J. Holohan, P. Byrne, P. O'Dwyer, T. Morrissey, S. Kelly, L. Comerford, M. Mulhall, K. Kelly, D. Morrissey, D. Kelly, D. Holohan, M. Walsh. *Front:* J. Buggy, D. O'Mahony, B. Maher, K. Moran, T. Kinsella, M. Brennan, S. Murphy, D. Maher, R. Shore, P. Quirke, S. Dunne, S. Coonan. Photo T. O'Neill



Tara Ryan Cup

Brian Cadigan (St Martins capt.) receives Tara Ryan Trophy from Larry O'Neill (Erin's Own). Photo T. O'Neill



St. Martins – Winners of Plate Competition Lisdowney 7-a-side

Back: Patrick Byrne, Donal Kelly, Brendan Maher, Seamus Kelly. *Front:* Pat Quirke, Stephen Murphy, Tom Kinsella, Kieran Kelly, Michael Mulhall.



U-10 Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament

Semi-final: St. Martin's 2-2, Clara 1-2. *Final:* St. Martin's 5-2, Conahy 2-3. *Back Row (l-r):* S. Cadigan, C. Byrne, E. Buggy, M. Darcy, D. Shore, C. Brennan, B. Mulhall, M. Kane. *Front Row (l-r):* T. Brennan, J. Maher, E. McGrath (capt.), E. Holohan, A. Murphy, R. Maher, P. Brennan.

ST. PATRICK'S (BALLYRAGGET)

Chairman: Tom Phelan
Secretary: John Lacey
Treasurer: Sean Foley
P.R.O. & Juvenile Chairman: Richard Stone
Honour won 1995:
 Minor Roinn "C" Championship
 Minor Roinn "C" League

A season in which our adult teams once again failed to make any impression was considerably brightened by the performances of our minor hurlers. During an incredibly successful season they remained unbeaten and, in the process, captured the Iarnróid Éireann Roinn "C" league and championship double, a feat last achieved twelve years ago. Highlights of the season were their clashes with old rivals Bennettsbridge. They met on four occasions, with Ballyragget winning three and drawing one.

Another outstanding match during the league campaign was their clash with neighbours Conahy Shamrocks back in April. At a windswept Polo Grounds, St. Patrick's weathered a second half Conahy storm to emerge 0-10 to 1-5 winners after a fine hour's hurling.

Great credit is due to trainer Jimmy Ruth for his work with the team during the year. Jimmy instilled his own "never say die" attitude into the players from an early stage and it paid handsome dividends. Team selectors were Mick Foley and John Walsh.

Minor success brought welcome relief after a year in which most of the club's other teams said good-bye to the various competitions.

In the Barlo-Nissan Northern Championship, the Junior hurlers had a good opening round win over Dicksboro before collapsing completely in the second



ST. PATRICK'S (BALLYRAGGET) U-16 HURLERS – Back row, L to R: Richard Stone, Ciaran Delaney, David Kenny, Tony Stapleton, Billy Irwin, James Phelan, Mark Swan, Brian Phelan. Front row, L to R: Pat Callinan, Brendan Stone, Stephen Roberts, Kevin Malone, Brian Phelan (Brook), Kevin Holohan, Eamon Delaney.

round against eventual county champions O'Loughlin Gaels.

The u-21 hurlers season ended in defeat by Emeralds in a replay. This replay came about as a result of the first game being abandoned after a spectator had encroached on the pitch at a time when Ballyragget seemed set for victory. St. Patrick's were at first suspended from the competition but were re-instated on appeal. However, they never displayed the same appetite for the game in the replay and were well beaten by the Urlingford side.

The u-16 hurlers had a reasonable league campaign losing out in a play-off for a place in the semi-finals. In the championship, they were narrowly beaten by Young Ireland's (Gowran).

There was little success for the u-14 team in the championship but they had a good run in the Erin's Own sponsored "Tara Ryan tournament" taking the bronze medals.

FOOTBALL

Our schoolboys side were the most successful of our football teams reaching the semi-final of the "County Cup" where they lost narrowly to Gowran. At u-21 level we were narrowly beaten by Conahy Sarsfields in the Northern semi-final. At



Ballyragget Minor captain, Gerry Kennedy received c'ship shield from Tom Ryall, sec. Bord na NÓg.

the time of writing, our minors have yet to commence their championship campaign.

Congratulations are extended to our minor trainer Jimmy Ruth who won an All-Ireland "Masters" medal with Kilkenny this year.

Other St. Patrick's players to play at a higher level were:

- Kevin Holohan – Kilkenny u-14;
- Richie Stone – North Kilkenny u-16;
- Harry Stone – North Kilkenny minors;
- Brian Phelan & Adrian Stone – North juniors v South.



ST. PATRICK'S (BALLYRAGGET) ROINN C MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP & LEAGUE WINNERS – Back Row, L to R: Richie Stone (juvenile chairman), Tom Phelan (club chairman), John Walsh (selector), Eoin Holohan, Paul Walshe, Harry Stone, Mark Swan, Seamus Lacey, Eamon Delaney, Shane Phelan, John Staunton, Brian Phelan, Jimmy Ruth (trainer), Mick Foley (selector). Front L to R: Gene Ryan, Tom Carroll, Jody Phelan, Gerry Kennedy (capt.), Robbie Lyttle, Brian (Brooky) Phelan, Billy Irwin, John Paul Comerford, Tony Stapleton, Richard Stone.

Rower/Inistioge

It was not an auspicious year for the club at adult level. We won the Special Junior League. Our Intermediate aspirations were quenched at the quarter-final stage, whilst our under-21 aspirations never cleared the first hurdle. In the Special Junior championships, we reached the South Semi-Final, and defeat was our lot.

We entertained the Mayo County Champions, Tooreen to our Parish for a summer week-end.

The main officers of our club for 1995 were Martin Butler (President), Michael Tierney (Chairman), Edward Prendergast (Secretary), Richard Tierney (Treasurer).

Our Bord na nOg officers were Richard Tierney (Chairman), Martin Kavanagh (Vice-chairman), Benny Holohan (Secretary).

ROWER - INISTIIGE BOARD NA NOG NEWS

1995 will be remembered in Rower - Inistioge Under Age Circles, as another rather frustrating year with no championship success recorded for the first time since 1991. Particularly disappointing was our defeat in the Roinn A under 16 hurling final when we failed to James Stephens for the second year in a row. Though the losing margin was ten points in the end, it did not reflect the true intensity of effort that the Rower-Inistioge put into this final. The real difference being the two early goals brilliantly scored by the very skillful city side. Even more disappointing was the defeat of our minor hurlers who lost to Mooncoin in the very first game. Although it was a last second free which gave Mooncoin the narrowest of wins, it was a game we simply should have won. With the victorious U. 16 finals much more was expected of this minor team. With so

much talent available perhaps '96 will see us win that coveted Roinn A. Minor title for the first time. Our U14. hurlers had a lean year, and were simply not strong enough for Roinn A, losing all their games, while our under 13 hurlers battled hard, to reach the quarter finals stage of the Roinn B championship.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Owen Kenny on winning a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny. Owen was also a dual member of Good Counsel College teams, who captured a unique Leinster Senior A. Colleges double this year. Derek Walsh, Neal Walsh, Michael Doyle, Paul Cottrell, Tom Digby and Paul Sheehan were members of the victorious Good Counsel hurling team. John Kavanagh, Richie Barron, Pat Brennan, Liam Galavan won Leinster Roinn C. hurling medals with New Ross CBS.



Rower/Inistioge; Roinn "A" County Finalists. Front (l to r); John Kelly, James Tierney, Diarmuid Kavanagh, Sean Cassin, Eammon Lyster, Brian Murphy, Shane Dunphy, Joe Mooney, Ned Lyng, Nicky Kenny, Peter Barron, Tom Cassin. Back row (l to r); Michael Lyng (Sel) Matt Bolger, Pat Corcoran, Tom Digby, Mark Cummins, Paul Sheehan, David Murphy, Richard Tierney, Tom Morrissey, Tom Doyle, William Kennedy, Dermot Brennan, P.J. Wilmot, Michael Hackett, Richard Tierney (Sel).

Photo Tom Brett

TOM CUNNIFFE



TOM CUNNIFFE, Prop.

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Windgap

THE Club celebrated its fortieth birthday this year. The minors retained their Southern title, but the team that gave the best value of all was our Special Junior outfit. Having performed very creditably in the initial Iverk Produce Southern A/B League, this team really went for the 'special' title. The interest in this team's success softened the blow of our Junior team going out of the championship very early.

Our under-age teams performed well in the Williams Shield competition. The Junior football team reached their semi-final, and coaches and trainers deserve great credit.

Our field played host to many teams and many competitions, including divisional semi-finals. The dressing rooms are practically complete, thus filling a void that has been more than noticeable over the years.

Camogie was again a 'runner' in the Parish after a lapse of 25 years.

The handballers collected an array of titles. Tony Nolan, Seamus Hawe, P. J. Hawe, Eamon Hawe, Enda Hawe, Alan Hawe, Dick Lonergan, Philip Lonergan, all collected titles from schools to under-age to the Masters.

Nicholas Hawe was elected as Development Officer for youth handball in Leinster.

The 'calf to beef' scheme still produces badly needed finances for the club. Many thanks to all our supporters for their assistance in that scheme.

Paddy Walsh and Barry Murphy won the Scór instrumental competition.

Congratulations to Bobby Jackman and Shem Power on winning their Master All-Ireland medals.

Many congratulations to Alan Hearne on procuring a four-year scholarship to the Waterford Regional Training College, sponsored by Kilkenny County Board. Alan will study sports and recreational management.

WINDGAP CAMOGIE

After a lapse of some 25 years, the Windgap Camogie club was re-established. Because of the recent upsurge in juvenile hurling, thanks in the main to Mrs. Bacon, Bobby Jackman, and Shem Power, people like Cathy Burke, Frances Mackey, Mary Fleming, Mary Molloy, Jean Murphy, Pat Moore, and Marie Landy decide to accommodate the exhortations of many of the young girls in the Parish to start a camogie club. Teams were entered in the Primary School championship, the Feile na nGael competition, and the under-14

championship. The Feile team were beaten by St. Brigids from Ballycallan, while the under-14 team suffered losses against

Mooncoin, Danesfort and Tullógher. The Primary school team were beaten by Mooncoin, Mullinavat and Piltown.



WINDAP MEDAL WINNERS 1995: The handballers collected thirteen championships including Provincial Seamus Hawe and All-Ireland P.J. Hawe, Back row (l-r): Seamus Power, Bobby Jackman (Over 40's hurling), Paul Doran (H), Tony Nolan, Frank Minogue (Golden Masters). Front row (l-r): - Hawe, Thomas Lonergan, Alan Hawe, Enda Hawe, P.J. Hawe, - Hawe. (Missing) Dick Lonergan, Pierce Mockler, Kevin Quirke, Philip Lonergan.



WINDGAP - Southern Minor Hurling Champions 1995 - Back Row (l-r): Denis Foley (Trainer), Aidan Power, James Murray, Geroge Waters, P.J. Barron, Keith Doran, Laurence Doyle, Niall Kenny, Tom Landy, Enda hawe, Fintan Kenny, P.J. Egan (Trainer). Front Row (l-r): Paddy Downey, Trevor Jackman, Paul McKenna, Aidan Mackey, Garret Power, Matthew Enright, Noel Power, Daragh Guinan, Pdraig Power, Eoghan Guinan, P.J. Hawe.



BWindgap's first camogie side in 25 years with team mentors and trainer on back row (L-R): Marie Landy, Frances Mackey, Mary Molloy, Pat Moore, Mary Fleming, Cathy Burke and Alan Hearne.

EMERALDS

Officers: Chairman, Luke Roche

Hon. Treasurer: Tom Phelan

Competitions Played:

- u-14 hurling
- u-14 football
- u-16 hurling
- u-16 football
- minor hurling
- junior hurling
- special junior hurling
- special junior football
- u-16 camogie

Vice Chairman: John Minogue

P.R.O.: Fionan O'Driscoll

Stage Reached:

- Beaten by Mooncoin in Quarter Final
- First 3 matches won – now in Northern Final & County Semi-Final
- Reached final of league – defeated by Ballyhale Shamrocks
- Reached Co. Final Roinn C – beaten by Conahy Shamrocks
- Beaten in Championship by Johnstown who subsequently won Co. Championship Roinn B
- Beaten by Galmoy 1st round
- Reached league semi-final before exiting to O'Loughlin Gaels
- Beaten in first round
- Won County Championship

Hon. Secretary: John Cahill

Groundsmen: John Tobin, Jim Tobin, Patrick Bourke

INTER COUNTY PLAYERS

Our congratulations to Austin Cleere who won a Junior All-Ireland with Kilkenny. Niall Cahill and Derek Lyng also played for the Kilkenny u-17 football team in the special five county tournament.

Our u-14 hurlers partook in an exchange visit with Ballyboden St. Enda's, Dublin. Emerald's won the first game at home and the second game in Dublin ended in a draw. It was a time for renewing many old acquaintances and making new contacts.

SCÓR COMPETITIONS

We took part in both senior and junior competitions and were pleased that our Question Time Team consisting of Sheila Cahill, Eamonn Ryan and Nicholas Walsh emerged victorious. We also gave good exhibitions in drama and set dancing.

OBITUARY

All club members were extremely sad-

dened at the unexpected death of Martin Hickey who was a long-standing member and player with the Emeralds.

PLANS/DEVELOPMENT

During 1995, the club purchased an adjoining strip of land and have already reseeded same with a view to extending our playing area to full size for the forthcoming season. The building of our new dressing rooms is now at roof level and it is also anticipated that this long overdue facility will be completed in early 1996 and it is also our intention to install a lighting system which will facilitate training in the darker evenings.

FUND-RAISING/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The club have been extremely active in their fund raising activities in the past year again as the development of the ground and new dressing rooms was our first priority. When our development is complete it is hoped that we will not be in debt to

any large extent. On the Social front, we have continued to hold dances, junior discos and an American Tea Party, and we also held a very successful fund raiser with a Gala Benefit Night at Kilkenny Greyhound Track. Our Timber Auction is also both a social event and a great money earner.

1996

Whilst our most senior players have not won anything of note of late, we are extremely hopeful that our underage players will establish the club on a much better footing on the pitch in the coming year. Our u-14 and u-16 panels are strong and have shown great commitment and courage both on and off the field. Training sessions have been very well attended, and, assuming the younger players continue in this vein we have every confidence in our future prospects.



Frank is big hitter

Glenmore senior goalkeeper, Frank Kirwan, won the county final of the Poc Fada (long puck) competition at Nowlan Park and is pictured receiving his prize from John Knox of St. Canice's Credit Union (sponsors). County-Chairman John Healy is also in the picture.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

YOUNG IRELANDS

Our Senior panel had their thrills and spills, losing two League points to Glenmore at the onset, thus qualifying us to the final stages of the League and the Quarter Finals of the Co. Championship.

We lost to Johnstown. This was a daunting blow to our charges determination to reach the ultimate, a county senior championship.

Congratulations to Glenmore, county champions and to Graigue-Ballycallan league victors.

ALL-IRELAND KILMACUD CROKES SEVENS

Ours is the only club in Kilkenny to win this prestigious event. Ten of our senior panel played six games to become All-Ireland Sevens champions. Well done to this victorious ten who have done their club and county proud. Our sincere thanks to all mentors concerned.

Special Junior A: This panel were very unlucky not to reach the county final.

Under-age: This section of our club must be commended on their achievements. This year our Under-16 won the Liam Ryan Trophy for the first time ever. Congratulations to all concerned.

Football: Our footballers did well this year. We would like the opportunity to thank trainers, selectors, our hard working committees for their diligent work.

Social Committee: A Social Committee was formed this year, their first task was to invite the 1964 panel to a social and presentation night out. This exercise



1964 team insert

was to break the generation gap and also to unite past and present. This night was one of the highlights of the year. Vincent Kehoe was honoured for his diligent work without underage committees all through the years. Our thanks to Tom Hunt M.C. and the hard working committee.

Development: From the outset our club's aim has been to turn a forest into a playing pitch that we could be proud of and in recent years this dream has been achieved.

Our developments have cost the club £55,000 in total, wall restored, trees sown, new seats, pitch drained etc. Thus leaving us to dae with one of the best pitches in the county. This year, ladies' and gents toilets will be erected for the comfort of our patrons. This will cost our club £22,000. A sincere thanks to all our sponsors, without whose generosity this work could not be done.

Our congratulations to D. J. Carey and Christina on their recent nuptials. Well done to the Young Ireland's camogie team



Hall of Fame - Vincent Kehoe

on winning the Junior Co. Championship after 21 years. Continued success in the future.

The club wishes to extend its sincere sympathy to all bereaved families in our parish.

May they rest in peace.



1964 Junior County Champions at Social and Presentation.

County Football Championships

Pat O'Hanlon

THE season opened in April with defending champions, Dicksboro, finding the challenge of Graigue Ballycallan a difficult proposition. The 'Boro, though reduced to fourteen men, twelve minutes into the second half, held their resolve, however, to record a 1-7 to 0-6 victory. Further victory over Glenmore 1-8 to 0-9, and a 0-7 to 0-7 draw with city rivals James Stephens saw the 'Boro topping the group on goal difference. In group B, Railyard started brightly, defeating great rivals, Muckalee by 2-10 to 1-4. This was followed by a convincing twelve point defeat of last year's runners-up Shamrocks.

This set the scene for the semi-finals in early June. James Stephens had too much experience for a largely youthful Railyard side, winning on a scoreline of 2-15 to 1-9. On the night, the performances of Brian Leahy and Brian McEvoy were particularly noteworthy. Meanwhile, the 'Boro had to rely on two late goals by Brendan Dalton and Martin Hanrick to see off the challenge of Muckalee in the other semi-final (2-8 to 0-9).

The stage was now set for the first Senior County Football Final between the 'Boro and James Stephens. The first encounter saw the Stephens take a very



Captain Victorious...John Grace, Captain of James Stephens is presented with the Senior Football Championship Cup, by the Secretary of the Football Board, Pat Mullrooney. Photo: Tom O'Neill

early commanding lead of 0-5 to 0-1 after twenty minutes. However, a 'Boro goal from the penalty spot in the 27th minute saw them back in contention at half time 1-3 to 0-7. The second half saw fortunes fluctuating, with the sides level on two occasions. A mighty 45 metre point by

Liam "Chuck" O'Connor in the final minute looked to be the winning score. However, an equally impressive left-footed equalising point by Martin Hanrick gave the 'Boro a second bite of the cherry.

The second encounter was full of all that is good in Gaelic Football. It had two



Kilkenny Football Team in London for the National Football League Game. (Back Row, left to right): Sean Ryan, Stephen Kennedy, Paul Morrissey, Eoin Begley, Brian Brennan, Liam Cassin, Ed. Mulrooney, Eamon Kennedy, Pat Drea, Pat Brennan, Eddie Roche, Tomás Comerford, John Teehan, Jim Murphy, John Caldbeck, Greg Fitzpatrick, John Grace. (Front Row, left to right): Kenny O'Shea, Damien Walsh, Seamus Crean, Seamie Dollard, Jimmy Walsh, Niall Morrissey, Florence Brennan, P. J. O'Connor, Paul Kearney, Conor Manogue, Mossy Walsh, Liam Kenny.

very fit teams, good quality scores, excellent passing movements, and above all else, sportsmanship by both sides. At the end of normal time, the score was 1-9 to 1-9. During the first period of extra time, the Boro led 1-11 to 1-10. However, a decisive goal by John Larkin in the second period set up the 'Stephens for a dramatic victory in an enthralling encounter 2-12 to 1-11.

New kids on the block, Kilmoganny reached the Intermediate final, losing just once to Mooncoin on the way. Last year's beaten finalists, Piltown, joined them in the decider. In a hard fought encounter, Kilmoganny just edged out their southern rivals on a final scoreline of 1-7 to 1-6, with Jim Hickey, Ken O'Shea, and Eamon Kennedy particularly prominent for the winners on the day.

The Junior final was contested by last year's beaten finalists, Blacks and Whites and Carrickshock. The Blacks and Whites defeated the 'Bridge 3-8 to 2-3 in the Northern Final, while Carrickshock had a narrow 2-4 to 1-6 win over Mullinavat in the South. A very good and open final was contested by these sides in July with both sides finishing on equal terms the first day. In the replay, the Blacks and Whites took a 1-2 to 0-1 lead after ten minutes, only to see their advantage wiped out by half time. Ten minutes into the second half, and being led 1-7 to 1-4, the Blacks and Whites went on a scoring spree for the last twenty minutes, winning in a blaze of glory by 1-13 to 1-8. Best for Blacks and Whites on the night were Jamie Carroll, Michael Doyle, Michael Dowd and Pat O'Grady.

The special Junior title went to James Stephens who defeated the Railyard on a scoreline of 3-7 to 0-7.



BLACK & WHITES – Kilkenny Junior Football Champions – Back Row: Pat Nolan, Stephen Barcoe, Martin Barcoe, Michael Doyle, John McDonnell, Michael O'Dowd, Richard Dowling, Jamie Carroll (capt.), Shane Cushen, Pat Jordan, Pat O'Grady, Andy Barcoe. Front Row: David O'Neill, Paddy Savage, Paul Whelan, Pdraig Whitty, David Murphy, John Bryne, Ned Kelly, P. J. Murphy, Willie Doran, Francis Comerford



Erin's Own Under-21 Footballers – Back Row (left to right): Ken Brennan, Eoin Rothwell, John G. Brennan, Tom Brophy, Mark Rothwell, David Weldon, Paul Mullins, Michael Owens. Front Row (left to right): Shay Loughlin, Jason Brennan, Adrian O'Neill, David Buggy, Liam Shore, Damien Mullins, Martin Owens
Photo: Tom O'Neill



DICKSBORO SENIOR FOOTBALL PANEL – 1995 Beaten County Finalists

Back row (l.-r.): T. Bawle, S. Guidera, S. Fitzpatrick, L. Scott, B. Dalton, N. Morrissey, S. Walton, L. Cassin, D. Kenny, J. Cunningham, S. Prendergast, S. Kennedy, N. Lacey. Front row (l.-r.): A. Begley, B. Kennedy, M. Hanrick, E. Begley, A. Maher, B. Brennan, M. Kennedy, S. Morrissey, D. Beirne, J. Treacy, T. Henderson.



Back Row (l-r): N. Mackey, P. Lawlor, J. Foley, F. O'Brien, B. Molloy, J. Mellon, T. Howlin, S. Nolan, D. Shannon, R. Purcell, P.J. Barron, J. Mullally. Middle Row (l-r): T. Griffin, B. Aylward, P. Kehoe, D. Walsh, N. Fitzharris, M. Barron, T. Corcoran, C. Donovan, S. Somers, R. Mullally, D. Wall, F. Freyne, P. Cottrell. Front Row Seated (l-r): Fr. J. Cosgrave, P. Sheehan, Mr. T. Walsh, J. Sinnott, Mr. K. Kehoe, L. O'Brien, F. Wallace, Mr. M. Purcell, J. Fitzharris, Mr. A. O'Brien, J. Lawlor, W. Colfer. Front Row (l-r): M. Doyle, P. Doyle, M. Byrne, S. Furlong, E. Kenny, T. Digby, M. Sinnott, J. Fenlon, M. Redmond.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1975



Front Row (l-r): Liam O'Brien, Neol Skehan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Mick Brennan, Pat Lalor, Kieran Purcell, Nicky Orr. Back Row (l-r): Brian Cody, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Pat Delaney, Phil "Fan" Larkin.

Photo Tom Brett

PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILKENNY

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions 1995



Back Row: Michelle Fennelly, Elaine Dalton, Imelda Kennedy, Ann-Marie Ryall, Sinead Costello, Rosaleigh Comerford, Breda Dooley, Marie Maher. Centre: Triona Kennedy, Miss. C. Brennan, Margaret Dooley, Anne Sunderland, Helena Deevy, Orla Brennan, Sharon Cody, Emer Murray, Nicola Fitzpatrick, Mr. J. O'Dwyer, Angela Grogan. Front Row: Teresa O'Neill, Deirdre Dowling, Pauline Comerford, Deirdre Phelan (capt.), Gillian Meany, Cora Mullen, Suzanne Brennan (inset - Elaine Leahy). Photo Tom Brett

ALL-IRELAND MASTERS HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995



Front Row (l-r): Billy Fitzpatrick, Paddy Gaule, Willo Phelan, Bobby Jackman, Danny Coonan, John McCormack, John Ryan (capt.), Bobby Shore, Ger Fennelly, Paddy Neary, Shem Power, Malachy Hogan. Back Row (l-r): Jimmy Kelly, Dick McNamara, Jimmy Dunne, John Hall, Eugene Grehan, Frank Cleere, Tommy Malone, Jimmy O'Brien, Mick Garrett, Michael Fennelly, Richie Walsh, Andy Aylward, Gerry Kenny. Photo Tom O'Neill

ANSWERS TO GAA QUIZ

1. Lár na Páirce.
2. Mount Sion.
3. False.
4. David Chapman.
5. Brendan Fullam.
6. Waterford RTC.
7. Padraig Kelly.
8. Kathleen Mills of Dublin – 15 medals.
9. Frank Cummins – 1969-83.
10. False.
11. Peter Canavan.
12. 1920.
13. Waterford.
14. Roscommon.
15. Eamon Coleman.
16. The "Anglo Celt" Cup.
17. Mayo.
18. White with a Black Hoop.
19. Shaws Almost Nationwide.
20. 1971.
21. Pat McDonnell of Cork, 1970.
22. No. 14.
23. Martin McHugh.
24. False.
25. The Eoin O'Duffy Cup.
26. Rathnure.
27. Six.
28. Offaly.
29. 14: Jimmy Doyle (6), Nicky Rackard (2), Eddie Keher (6).
30. Trevor Giles of Meath – 1994.
31. Mullingar Shamrocks.
32. Meath – 1990 and 1991.
33. Seamus Durack of Clare.
34. McHale Park.
35. Martin Coleman.
36. Jimmy Grey.
37. The Nestor Cup.
38. 1985.
39. Meath and Cork.
40. Dublin – 6.
41. Green with White Collar.
42. John Dowling.
43. 14.
44. Jack Mahon.
45. London.
46. 1987 – Cork.
47. 1975.
48. Galway – 1966.
49. Sligo.
50. Tipperary – 1965.
51. 1984.
52. Cork.
53. Dermot McNichol.
54. Finbar McConnell.
55. Mayo – six in the 1930s.
56. Bus Éireann.
57. The Tom Markham Trophy.
58. Offaly – 1984.
59. Mayo.
60. Frank Murphy.
61. Lisdowney.
62. John Fenton.
63. Wexford (1915-18), Cork (1941-44), Kerry (1978-81).
64. Cavan.
65. John Keane of Waterford.
66. Loughliff Shamrocks.
67. Johnny Pilkington.
68. Church & General Insurance.
69. Eamonn Grimes.
70. Pat O'Connor.
71. Fergus Touhy.
72. Johnny McGovern.
73. Roscrea – 1971.
74. Con Murphy – 1976, '77 and '78.
75. Ballygunner.
76. Tipperary – 1949.
77. Ballybacon-Grange.
78. Dr. Cullen Park.
79. Mick Roche.
80. Seven yards or 6.4 metres.
81. Offaly.
82. Tipperary – 1964/65.
83. Cork in 1970.
84. Danny Lynch.
85. Jimmy Doyle.
86. Tony Hanahoe.
87. John Leahy and P. J. Delaney.
88. Johnny Dooley.
89. Monaghan.
90. Three years.
91. Richard Stakelum.
92. Ahane.
93. Kildare.
94. Rapparees.
95. True.
96. The Star.
97. True.
98. Five – Galway, Offaly, Kilkenny and Cork.
99. Gary Kirby.
100. Offaly.



The Walton Boys

John (left) and Tom Walton, team Captain, members of the Tullaroan County Senior Hurling Champions of 1948 who were honoured during this year's Senior County Final at Nowlan Park.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

INDOOR HURLING

By Martin Fogarty

What do you think of these? Mac. This was the first I had seen or heard of the indoor hurls when Eamon Hennessy pulled up with his travelling sports shop a few years ago. Funny enough, a week later Wexford legend "Ned Buggy" pulled up with a similar van and similar merchandise. (Wexford were always that one step behind Kilkenny). The arrival of these travelling men to our club and schools was the beginning of a new era, certainly in our club and if I might modestly say so, the beginning of a new era in the county as I think we were the first to take the game on board certainly the first to do so seriously.

The club purchased four sets of the sticks in different sizes, organised groups of players (boys & girls) from six to fourteen years of age, rented times in two local sports halls and got the game up and running. The fact that we had just employed two very interested coaches on a FÁS scheme and the later arrival of Co. Coach Briain Ryan on the scene made a tremendous difference to the success of the indoor game at this early stage. The A.I.B. coaching manual, in whose production Brendan O'Sullivan played a major part, is an invaluable aid for any juvenile coaches.

I am quite sure that, as with anything new, the critics could find several shortcomings with the indoor game but those many clubs who are playing it are too busy marvelling at the positive aspects to be bothered trying to find faults. Anyway the critics are generally those who couldn't be bothered giving the time to the sport or are too tight to hire out the halls. Finding fault with the game is the easiest way out-another cop-out.

The indoor stick, in its short life, like the Butterfly, has already taken on many changes. The first stick had a hard plastic handle with a rubber "boss" kept in place with a dowel and insulating tape. The boss was small and pliable and rising the ball was almost impossible. This drawback was a distinct advantage in that ground hurling was the order of the day and the player had to really "get over the ball" in order to block it. Various alterations had to be made, as some of the bosses split easily and some of the handles were too brittle and cracked.

"Nuri" and, I believe, "Ciste na Ban Ban" are now producing a lovely stick which is as close to the real thing as is possible. The sticks have the ordinary "ash" handle, neatly spliced into a hard rubber head. (they even have imitation bands and grains). All the skills can be performed with these hurls. The balls used are the synthetic "all weather balls". Holes have been drilled in them to slow them down and this has made a marked improvement. The equipment is available locally from

Eamon Hennessy of Hennessy Sports.

Why do we need these "indoor hurls" and what is wrong with using ordinary hurls? one may ask. The ordinary hurl will damage sports hall floors and walls whereas the indoor version will not. Who can use them, where they can be used and generally what use are they? are the next questions.

Well, all hurlers/camogie players or prospective players can use them, from about four year olds to adults. The bigger the hall; the bigger (an adult team training in somewhere like O'Loughlins would be the ultimate) and basically anything that can be done in the field can be done indoors. There are exceptions both ways - You cannot practice a "cut" indoors (unless you have the astro turf or have recently re-sodded the hall), whereas in the field you have no wall to play the ball against and it's also difficult to play at 8.00p.m. on a winter's evening.

The indoor game has gained tremendous momentum both inside and outside the county in the past twelve months. We have had enquiries from as far as Galway (where we introduced the game to a club on a weekend visit). In Kilkenny, many clubs are already playing the game Erin's Own, St. Lactain's, Graigue-Ballycallan, O'Loughlin's, Thomastown, Piltown; Graig namanagh, and John Lockes. Others have been looking at the game and are in the process of getting organised. Erin's Own hosted a day-long blitz last Christmas with five clubs taking part. Teams were mixed with one club on each team and all concerned thought it to be a very interesting day.

Rules of the game can be adapted to suit local circumstances such as size of hall and age of players. With a hall the size of O'Loughlins, there is no problem playing six a - side adults and using goals which caters for points. Contact has to be controlled to suit the surface in the same manner as basketball or indoor soccer. With a



Photographed at Inter-Club Indoor Blitz. Team from Castlecomer, Danesfort, Lisdowney, Ballycallan, and Freshford took part. Players shown using Uni-Hoc sticks and old and new versions of indoor hurls. Adults (l.-r.): Seamus Brennan, Erin's Own; Eamon Dunne, Lisdowney; Mick Cormack, Freshford; Tom Doheny, Freshford; Pat Treacy, Danesfort; Nicky Walsh, Erin's Own; Cormac Young, Erin's Own; Ned Lawlor, Erin's Own; Martin Fogarty, Erin's Own. Missing from picture: Jim Neary, Ballycallan.

smaller hall, say the size of a Badminton court, juveniles will manage a reasonable four or five a - side game. Points will probably not be allowed and rising may not be allowed either. Other than that, the only areas to be decided might be, a square and the distance players must stand back from a free, plus how near to goal a free may be taken. With a reasonable sized hall (as is our experience) adults will enjoy the game. The great thing about the indoor hurls is that no matter how small the hall, some value can be got in the area of skill training. It does not require a large area to practice hooking, blocking, rising, tapping right & left against the wall etc. and all without lashing rain or howling winds. As a "tournament" game it is hard to say what the future holds. While basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball and badminton have full inter-club competitions it is unlikely that hurling mentors will wish to select their five or six best and head off leaving the remainder of their squads behind. At the moment what is happening is a Club v Club blitz where each club brings three or four teams and each plays a game. The game is very demanding and ten minutes on at a time is plenty, certainly, for the younger players (20 minute games). Teams of ten, with five on at a time, similar to basketball or ice hockey and lasting the full hour, are a possibility for the future - time will tell.

FOR THOSE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE INDOOR GAME HERE ARE A FEW POSITIVE POINTS.

1. It provides an alternative to other indoor games and an opportunity to play throughout the Winter.
 2. Young players can be introduced to the game in a safe (injuries are rare), warm, atmosphere.
 3. Indoors is a great place to develop and work on certain skills, players are closer to the coach, haven't the distraction of wanting to start a match, are not troubled by the weather and generally are away from the pressure of competition.
 4. Young players that are weak in a full game can usually play a greater part in the indoor game.
 5. The game develops eye coordination and skills such as blocking and first time striking. Ground hurling in general is much improved.
 6. With the new-version sticks, practically all the ball skills can be worked on such as rising, dribbling, ground striking, striking from the hand, solo, blocking etc.
- Most definitely, indoor hurling has a place in promoting-improving our National game. It is not a substitute for the outdoor game, it was never meant to be, but rather, it compliments the field game and should be looked on only in this regard. When conditions allow, the halls are closed and it's out to the field.



(Front l to r) Párgic Treacy, Sarah Coady, Robert Walsh, Donal Maher, Liam Forristal, Ricky Cunningham, Michael Maher. (Back l to r) Owen Dalton, Philip Walsh, Mark Coady, Robert Murphy, Breda O'Neill, Grainne Brennan, Louise Maher, Brian Maher. Photo Tom O'Neill



Párgic Treacy, Mark Coady, (Behind) Philip Walsh, Grainne Brennan. Photo T. O'Neill



Louise Maher, Rick Cunningham, Grainne Brennan, Breda O'Neill. Photo T. O'Neill

UNDER-16 REVIEW

by Tom Ryall

JAMES STEPHENS beat Rower-Inistioge for the second year in succession to win the Supermacs Roinn A hurling championship at Under-16 level.

Backed by the strong breeze, the city side, thanks to goals by Patrick Savage (2) and Ritchie Walsh, led by 3-4 to 0-4 at the interval. The Rower-Inistioge were on top in the early stages of the second half but the usually reliable Paul Sheehan was off target with a number of frees. However, he did get a lucky goal from a free to narrow the gap to five points. Five minutes from time, Patrick Savage finished off the game as a contest when he completed his hat trick. The final score was James Stephens 4-9, Rower-Inistioge 1-8.

Scorers – James Stephens: Patrick Savage 3-3, John Cullen 0-4, Richard Walsh 1-1, Stephen Murphy 0-1. Rower-Inistioge: Paul Sheehan 1-7, J. Kelly 0-1.

The teams were – James Stephens: Patrick Holden, Ian Morrissey, John Morgan, Brian Holden, Hugh Gannon, Eoin O'Neill, Brian O'Dwyer, John Cullen, Geoffrey Brennan, Nigel Skehan, Stephen Murphy, Paddy O'Brien, Richard Walsh, Patrick Savage, Joey Murray. Subs: Karl Conroy, Shane Egan.

Rower-Inistioge: David Murphy, Pat Corcoran, Willie Kennedy, Tom Morrissey, Dermot Brennan, Tomás Digby, Richard Tierney, Nicky Kenny, Mark Cummins, Paul Sheehan, James Tierney, John Kelly, Niall Lyng, Matt Bolger, Tom Doyle.

Referee: Pat Dunphy (Carrigeen).

James Stephens failed to make it a double when Graigue-Ballycallan beat them in the league final played in Callan. Graigue-Ballycallan steamrolled the champions in the first half leading by 2-6 to 0-0 at the interval. Both sides had missed chances

during this period.

The game looked to be heading James Stephens' way when they reduced the lead to a point, 2-6 to 2-5 at the end of the third quarter. The switch of Micheál Hoynes to centre back, steadied the winners and, in a nail biting last quarter, they took their lead to two points twice, only for the city boys to pull it back to the minimum.

A Robbie Byrne goal four minutes from time wrapped up the title.

In addition to Michael Hoynes who was the best player on view, the winners had good players in Paul Dermody, Michael Teehan, Anthony Drohan, Jimmy Lynch, Gearoid Cleere and Robbie Byrne. Best for the losers were John Morgan, Paddy O'Brien, their best player, Hugh Gannon, John Cullen and Patrick Savage.

Scorers – Graigue-Ballycallan: Michael Hoynes 1-4, Robbie Byrne 1-2, Declan Byrne 1-0, Gearoid Cleere 0-2, Alan O'Shea 0-1. James Stephens: Patrick Savage 1-1, John Cullen 0-2, Joey Murray 0-2, Stephen Murphy 1-0, Richard Walsh 0-1, Shane Egan 0-1, Geoffrey Brennan 0-1.

The teams were – Graigue-Ballycallan: Paul Dermody, Tom Butler, Michael Teehan, Karl Keane, Joe Joe Brennan, Anthony Drohan, Jimmy Lynch, Dermot Hoynes, Brendan Marnell, Declan Byrne, Michael Hoynes, James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, Robbie Byrne, Alan O'Shea. Subs: Patrick Dalton, Tom Purcell.

James Stephens: Patrick Holden, Brian Power, John Morgan, Ian Morrissey, Paddy O'Brien, Hugh Gannon, Tommy Tyrrell, John Cullen, Geoffrey Brennan, Nigel Skehan, Shane Egan, Ritchie Walsh, Stephen Murphy, Patrick Savage, Joey Murray.

Referee: John Guinan (Lisdowney).

Shamrocks completed a double in

Roinn B winning the league and championship. Both games were played in Palmerstown. They beat Emeralds in the league final by 2-9 to 2-6 and Fenians in the Championship by 2-12 to 1-9.

Kilmacow won the Roinn C Under-16 Hurling Championship scoring a good win over Clara by 6-5 to 3-6 in a game played in Ballyhale. Clara also lost out in the league final going down to James Stephens II by 4-6 to 0-4.

Dicksboro took the Under-16 Football Championship beating great rivals James Stephens in a great game at Nowlan Park by 3-5 to 3-4. Dicksboro were leading by five points into the last minutes but James Stephens came back for a goal and a point to leave just one point between the sides.

Three teams still remain in the Under-16 football championship. Young Irelands (Gowran) are in the final and will play the winners of the Shamrocks v Graigue-Ballycallan semi-final. There was just a league / championship this year whereas in other years there was both a league and a championship.

Conahy Sarfields won the Under-16 Football Roinn C with a great victory over Emeralds in a good final played in Ballyragget. Favoured by the breeze, Conahy Sarfields led at the interval by 1-8 to 0-1. They failed to score in the second half but defended stubbornly to run out winners by 1-8 to 0-6.

The winning team was Colm Davis, Daragh Connery, Colm Healy, Brian Heverin, Pat Kenny, John Brennan, Seamus Brennan, Niall Burke (0-3), Brendan Griffith (0-3), Eoin Byrne, Paul Buggy (0-2), John Darcy (0-2), Patrick O'Neill, Liam Byrne (1-0), Conor Brennan (0-1). Subs: Mark Mooney, Eoin Flynn, Denis Kelly, Pauraic Nolan, Gerard Byrne.



JAMES STEPHENS – U-16 A Hurling Champions

Front: Timmy Grogan (trainer), Karl Conroy, Eoin O'Neill, Brian Rogers, Brian Holden, Geoffrey Brennan, Stephen Murphy (capt.), Patrick Savage, Richie Walsh, Cathal O'Dowd, Nigel Skehan, Joey Murphy, Paddy Hogan.

Back: Paddy O'Brien, Brian O'Dwyer, Peter Garrahy (selector), Hugh Gannon, Padraig Devlin, John Cullen, Joey Murray, Ian Morrissey, Shane Egan, John Morgan, Patrick Holden, Brian Skehan, Shane O'Grady, Seamus Kennedy (selector), Brian Power, Tommy Tyrrell, David Delaney, David Tyrrell. Photo Tom Brett



FENIANS – Roinn B Under-16 County Finalists

Back Row (l-r): Robert Tobin, Kevin Carroll, Kevin Power, Martin Quinlan, Ger Henderson, Brian Power, William Cleary, Declan Garratt, Michael Quaney, Joseph Bowe, Aidan Butler. Front Row (l-r): Alan Cashman, Ger Beehan, James Broderick, John O'Loughlin, J.J. Delaney, Paul Quinlan, Laurence Ryan, Brian O'Gorman, Frank Hawks.

Photo Tom Brett



DICKSBORO – Under-16 Roinn A Champions 1995

Back: T. Knox, N. O'Gorman, P. Lacey, L. McCormack, M. Byrne, Mick Byrne (club sec.) M. Massey, P. Brennan, S. Breathnach (sel.), O. Breathnach, C. Phelan, D. Maher, G. Hayes, D. O'Donohue, Joe Phelan (sel.) Seamus Rochford (sel.) Front: N. O'Neill, B. Lawlor, S. Rochford, R. Nagle, A. Barry, G. Guidera (capt.) M. Faisey, M. Donnelly, C. Breathnach, M. Andrews.

Photo Tom Brett



Ballyhale Shamrocks Under-16 B County Champions

Back (l-r): Sean Holden, John Kennedy, Shane Aylward, Vincent Kiely, David Walsh, Aidan Cummins, Ger Connolly, Liam Grant, Tomas Coogan, Paul Holohan, Sean O'Keefe (Ballybooden), Seamus Walsh. Front (l-r): Patrick Reid, John Healy, John Paul Fitzpatrick, Paul Shefflin, Ross Connolly, Henry Shefflin (capt.), Brendan Costelloe, William Coogan, David Hoyne, Sean O'Keefe (Kiltorcan), Joseph Walsh.

Photo Tom Brett



CONAHY SARSFIELDS – Roinn C Under-16 Football Champions 1995

Back: Conor Brennan, Eamonn Walsh (selector), Eoin Flynn, John Darcy, Brendan Griffith, Patrick O'Neill, Colm Healy, Brian Heverin; Niall Burke, Liam Byrne, Paul Buggy, Eric O'Sullivan (selector), Darragh Connery, Jim Byrne (selector). Front: Pat Kenny, Mark Mooney, Cathal Davis, John Brenfan (capt.), Denis Kelly, Pauric Nolan, Seamus Brennan, Eoin Byrne.

Photo Tom Brett



CLARA – Under-16 C Hurling League Finalists

Front: John Bambrick, Noel Hoyne, Mark Shortall, Richard Nolan, T.J. Fitzgerald, Martin Kealy, Adrian Fitzpatrick, David Mulrooney, Brian Phelan, P.J. McDoraid, Tommy Dowling. Back: Trevor Murphy, Martin Prendergast, Patrick Langton, Thomas Murphy, John Prendergast, Edmund Mulrooney, Gordon Byrne, Kevin Shortall, Brendan Nolan, Ian Treacy, Eoin Dowling, Gerry Byrne.

Photo Tom Brett

By Nickey Brennan

METEORIC RISE FOR DUNAMAGGIN HEROES

IN winning the 1995 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Championship, Dunamaggin joined an elite group of clubs that managed to jump from the Junior to Intermediate and Intermediate to Senior grades in successive seasons.

Dunamaggin's progress over the past two years was not unexpected and was due reward for the splendid efforts at under-age levels in the parish over many years.

The county final victory over Bennettsbridge was emphatic and spectacular but even the most fanatical Dunamaggin supporter would accept that events during the course of the game were to benefit the winners to a far more significant degree than their unfortunate opponents.

The loss of All-Star full-back Liam Simpson was the first blow to befall Bennettsbridge. Shortly afterwards centre half-back Tim Drea received his marching orders from referee Denis O'Sullivan for a misdemeanour which also saw Dunamaggin's Richie O'Neill make an early exit from proceedings.

The loss of the two main central defenders was more than the 'Bridge could handle and the lively Dunamaggin attack relished the wide space left by the banished Drea and O'Neill. This sealed the fate of the Bennettsbridge men but in truth one felt that the eagerness and



Captain Fantastic — Eamon Kennedy, Dunamaggin captain, receives the champion's cup from John Healy, Chairman, Kilkeny County Board. Looking on is Jack Dwan (Vale Oil), sponsors of the Intermediate Championship. (Photo: Tom O'Neill)

determination of the Dunamaggin men would be enough to see them to victory on the day.

Dunamaggin themselves entered the final under somewhat of a cloud when they had to field without the services of their exciting forward Kenny O'Shea who was dismissed in the semi-final against St. Lachtain's. It was clear from the determined approach of the winners that the team made an extra special effort to win this final for their absent colleague. He was not to be disappointed and although he was to miss out on the team's finest

hour, his colleagues would be the first to accept O'Shea's crucial role in getting Dunamaggin to their first Intermediate County Final.

While the ultimate accolade rightly belongs to the players, the role of the team mentors played an important part in bringing this unique double championship to the parish. Chief among those background personnel was team coach Brendan Fennelly.

Born and reared in a unique hurling family, Fennelly was the scourge of many a defence during his own playing days with the immortal Ballyhale Shamrocks. When the time came to take a break from playing activities (far too early in the opinion of this writer) Dunamaggin were quickly in with a request to the former Shamrocks stalwart to take over the fortunes of a club that had struggled for a number of years to make the breakthrough in the Southern Junior Hurling Championship. The promised land was eventually reached in 1994. The rest is history.

The Fennelly formula was basic and simple. The undoubted talent of the Dunamaggin players was not in doubt but the commitment and discipline was questionable. Once the players were prepared to accept the Fennelly formula, the glory days would start rolling for the club. Players, team mentors and supporters can feel justifiably proud of a momentous two years for the club.

It will not have been lost on many G.A.A. supporters in the county and Dunamaggin parish in particular that Dunamaggin's greatest hour was achieved only a short time after the sad and premature passing of the parish's most famous hurling son, Jim "Link" Walsh. How fitting it was that team captain Eamonn Kennedy should remember the "Link" during his victory speech.

If Dunamaggin enjoyed their greatest hour in the Intermediate County Final, opponents Bennettsbridge had an afternoon they will want to forget. The 'Bridge entered the final as favourites mainly in view of their comprehensive win over the same opponents in the Vale Oil League Final. The early departures of Liam Simpson and Tim Drea left their championship dreams in tatters but, in truth, the big win in the league final gave a very false picture.



On the ball . . . Richie O'Neill, Dunamaggin, keeps his eye on the ball as he prepares to shoot goalwards. About to tackle Richie is Bennettsbridge full-back Liam Simpson. Owen Lalor, Bennettsbridge, awaits developments. (Photo: Tom O'Neill)

A little bit of over-celebration prior to the league final left the Dunamaggin men in an unprepared state and a couple of dreadful misses in the first half might well have changed the outcome of the game. However, in hindsight, the lessons learned from the league final defeat were to stand Dunamaggin in good stead as the championship progressed.

One has to feel some sympathy for the brave Bennettsbridge lads. The team went through the year undefeated in the league and championship right up to the championship final. Coach Ned Ryan took on a one-man role in attempting to regain glory for the former kingpins of Kilkenny hurling. Ryan can feel mightily proud of the job he did in 1995 and if he can get the players to give the same commitment next year, the glory days for Bennettsbridge may just be around the corner.

"We must try harder" was surely the cry of the other ten Intermediate sides. Carrickshock again failed at the semi-final hurdle for the second year in a row when they lost narrowly to Bennettsbridge with a Fintan Cleere goal the crucial score. St. Lachtain's (Freshford) bounced back in impressive fashion from fighting relegation in 1994 to contest both the league and championship semi-finals, losing the former to Bennettsbridge when victory looked assured, and losing the latter to Dunamaggin.

The championship quarter-finals produced little excitement. Clara were many people's fancy for the Intermediate title

but they were totally outclassed by Dunamaggin. The Rower-Inistioge were well beaten by Carrickshock. Despite a poor league run, expectations were high in Graiguenamanagh that the Willie O'Connor trained side could mount a strong championship challenge. However, the Graig men were a big disappointment and were well beaten by St. Lachtain's.

The dreaded relegation play-off saw Thomastown and Conahy Shamrocks overcome Barrow Rangers and Tullogher-Rosbercon respectively in the semi-finals. It was a clear case of the more determined sides coming through in somewhat one-sided encounters. The relegation final saw

Barrow Rangers drop back to the Junior grade and Tullogher-Rosbercon made a late recovery to grab a couple of crucial scores that saw the Southerners retain their Intermediate status.

The 1995 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling campaign produced few memorable moments and little outstanding hurling, yet the achievements of Dunamaggin in gaining senior status is an undoubted milestone in the history of the South Kilkenny club. It is fitting, too, that during this year the Dunamaggin club purchased property to develop their new club grounds. Surely a club on the move both on and off the field.



Bennettsbridge - Vale Oil Intermediate finalists and league champions.

(Photo: Tom O'Neill)

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Knocktopher's DENIS HEASLIP



By Paddy Buggy

Many great hurlers and footballers hailed from the area and when Kilkenny won the Leinster senior football title in 1911, Knocktopher were represented by seven players, including the Captain of the team, the late Dick Holohan, Kilkenny were later beaten by Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final, this being the only Kilkenny team to reach this stage of an All-Ireland football championship.

In more modern times, Pat Carroll was a member of the Kilkenny All-Ireland panel in 1967 and the mighty Frank Cummins, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, midfielders of all time, hailed from Knocktopher.

However, this article is in praise of Denis Heaslip, a most loyal and dedicated member of the Knocktopher hurling club and a brilliant forward with the Kilkenny senior hurling team for an 11-year period from 1955.

Denis cycled to school in Kilkenny C.B.S. in all weathers, a round trip of 28 miles, and played hurling for the C.B.S. in 1950, only to be beaten by Dublin's Coláiste Mhuire in his first appearance in Croke Park.

A Company Accountant, Denis took up employment with Kilkenny Co. Council as a Clerical Officer for the Thomastown region, and book-keeper for the South Eastern Health Board at St. Columba's in Thomastown. About 15 years ago he retired from employment to manage the very well-known and successful family store at Knocktopher.

When I asked him what influenced him most to take up hurling, I expected him to tell me that it was some club mentor or schoolteacher, and I was surprised at his answer. He did say that Dan Carroll was a great influence, but that it was Holohan's field, the scene of so many great hurling games including a Kilkenny senior hurling final, the Mount Carmel Tournament games, and many other great championship games, where he saw so many good hurlers play – this field only a stone's throw from the family homestead – was what drew him to the game of hurling.



Denis Heaslip

Two of Denis's brothers, Jack and Tim, were very useful hurlers, and played many great games for the Knocktopher club. Jack is now domiciled in Ennis, a successful shopkeeper, a member of the Éire Óg club, and involved in the Clare hurling scene. His son Seán played with Clare at under-age and senior level. Tim Heaslip played junior inter-county with Kilkenny, and another brother, Father Anthony Heaslip, P.P., O.Carm., is based in Dublin and is a most loyal supporter of Kilkenny hurling teams.

Denis Heaslip was one of the most outstanding and elusive forwards on the Kilkenny hurling scene for almost 11 years and regularly played havoc with the hopes of opposing teams as he courageously weaved his way through even the most solid defences. Writing in the *Kilkenny People*, following the death of Jim Langton, Peter Holohan said: "Style has been Kilkenny's forte and names like those of Terry Leahy, Denis Heaslip, Tom Walton, Seán Clohosey, Liam O'Brien and Eddie Keher might challenge Jim Langton for the honour of Kilkenny's greatest hurler, a great stylist, if not the greatest."

Five foot nine in height, lightly built and weighing 11 stone, Denis Heaslip was a sportsman supreme. He never retaliated,

never lifted a hand or hurley in anger during his long club and county career. He played for the enjoyment and the thrill of the many great scores that flowed from his hurley.

He took far more than his fair share of hard knocks, a number that weren't accidental, and in the days of intimidating, rugged and hard-hitting full-back lines, he took it all in his stride, using his skill, craft, speed and determination to outwit opponents. Given a ground ball just behind a defender, that he could run on to, Denis was almost unbeatable, and scores inevitably flowed from his hurley in such situations.

Denis was selected for the Kilkenny Junior team in 1955, but his dreams of success were shattered by Dublin, who beat Kilkenny in the Leinster final. In 1956 he was an outstanding member of the Kilkenny junior team that won Leinster and All-Ireland titles, beating London in new Eltham in the final. In the Home final played in Thurles, Heaslip shattered the hopes of a fine Kerry team that included the Hennessy brothers, Seán Lovett and Richie McElligott.

Just a minute after the throw-in, Denis went darting in from the wing to slam the ball to the Kerry net. He was the star of the Kilkenny attack, the team's top scorer, scoring 3-1 in all.

Denis had made his debut with the Kilkenny senior team in the Oireachtas semi-final against Galway, at Tuam. Very modest, Denis won't talk about his achievements, but recalls with great satisfaction a game played in Wembley when he was Kilkenny's top scorer; and the Leinster final of 1964 against Dublin; he came on as a sub and turned the game in Kilkenny's favour and scored the winning goal. Again in the Railway Cup final of 1962, Denis came on as a sub to play a brilliant role in Leinster's win.

A leading figure in scoring charts of the time, he was very often Kilkenny's top scorer, though not taking frees. Denis captained Kilkenny in 1958 in the All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary, in the absence of Mick Kenny. Denis played with Kilkenny against the Rest of Ireland in 1958 and later on two occasions was

selected for the Rest of Ireland teams.

He visited the States with Kilkenny on two occasions – in 1958, and following the 1963 All-Ireland final. He played in the Wembley tournament on a number of occasions and the quality of Denis's hurling gave great pleasure to our exiles. Denis played in the first Railway Cup final to be televised in 1961 and holds the special medal awarded to the winners of the 1966 National Hurling League honouring the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

Though he had retired in 1964, he made a comeback and played in the early rounds of the League, and although not listed on the first 21 players, was awarded a medal.

CLUB ROLE

From the late '40s to 1965 when Knocktopher beat Mooncoin in the Southern junior hurling final and Galmoy in the County final on a score of 4-17 to 4-8, Knocktopher were a major force on the junior hurling scene. With no intermediate championship, junior hurling was at an all-time high in the county and a junior county title took an awful lot of winning. The Heaslip family – Jack, Tim and Denis – played a major role in the success story of Knocktopher hurling.

Before their success in 1965, Knocktopher had been beaten in four county

finals, losing to Galmoy in 1949, James Stephens in 1955, Erin's Own, Castlecomer, in 1958 and Lisdowney in 1960. In addition they had been beaten at the Southern final, the County semi-final, on three other occasions, by the eventual county champions, Carrickshock 1954, St. Senan's Kilmacow 1956, and Mooncoin in 1961 following a replay.

They must have despaired of ever winning a county title, and small wonder that their well deserved victory, when it came in 1965, resulted in much jubilation and celebration.

Knocktopher also won many tournaments over the period, the most prestigious being their victory in the first final of the Knocktopher Mount Carmel Tournament in 1953 for the cup and medals. This tournament lasted until the early '70's and teams from far and near considered it an honour to be invited to play in this competition. Denis Heaslip was ever present in this competition and few players can have given such devoted service to his club.

As we all know, the Knocktopher club went out of existence when teams in the Parish of Ballyhale amalgamated to form the Shamrocks and become one of the greatest clubs in the history of Kilkenny club hurling.

In 1961 Denis Heaslip was a member of the Near South Junior Hurling Selection beaten by St. Lachtain's, Freshford, in the Co. Final.

Denis Heaslip was never affected by the adulation of the crowd or media attention during his playing days; he was a modest and most unassuming star of the hurling scene. When I sought information for this article, Denis asked that it not be written, and said that a friend had said to him that people always write about players that were never any good. I hope that I have, in a small way in this article, done justice to the brilliance of an outstanding hurler and sportsman of Knocktopher and Kilkenny, who numbers amongst his achievements:

- All-Ireland Senior hurling medals 1957 and 1963 2
- National Hurling League titles 1962 and 1966 2
- Leinster Senior Hurling Championships 1957, '58, '59, '63 and '64 5
- Oireachtas medals 1957 and '59 2
- Junior Hurling All-Ireland, 1956 1
- Leinster Junior Hurling Championship 1956 1
- Leinster Junior Hurling Championship 1956 1
- Walsh Cup and O'Byrne Cup medals, Junior hurling championship and tournament trophies with Knocktopher.

Knocktopher – 1965 Junior Hurling Champions



Back row (l.-r.): Neddy Walsh, Frank Cummins, Ned Fitzpatrick, Donie Gorey, Maurice Mason, Tommy Walsh, Frank Aylward, Jim Mason, Bobby Mason, Ollie Cummins, Denis Gorey. Front row (l.-r.): Owen Dermody, Jim Fowler, John O'Donnell, Willie Dalton, Dave Rice, Pat Carroll, Jimmy Ryan, Maurice Aylward, Tommy Maher, Denis Heaslip.

A MINOR SETBACK

By Tommy Lanigan

MOST counties value winning a provincial minor hurling title as a sound base from which to glean several senior players in future years. Note this year the tremendous optimism and hope which victory at minor level has brought to Westmeath's football prospects.

But the powerful hurling counties think differently. They feel that All-Ireland minor titles, at frequent intervals, are prerequisites for future senior success. Look at this year's All-Ireland minor finalists. Cork had not won an All-Ireland title since 1985 (though losing finals in 1988, '90 and '94) and Kilkenny, the dominant county of the decade so far, six consecutive times Leinster champions, Irish Press Cup holders in 1990, '91 and '93, and narrowly beaten by Galway in two semi-finals. Undoubtedly, such success may create unreasonable expectations and may sometimes blind supporters to the arrival of the odd drought.

Such a year was 1995. It is ironic, per-



On the attack! . . . Kilkenny's Ger Kirwan drives goalwards in the Leinster Minor Final against Offaly. Barry Whelehan of Offaly attempts to stop him. (Photo: Sportsfile)

haps, to consider our minor performance of this year akin to a drought when we reached an All-Ireland final. Perhaps the shocking one-sidedness of that game makes us think so, as Cork were worth more than the final score of 2-10 to 1-2 would suggest.

Perhaps Kilkenny minors suffered because their path to the final was exceptionally easy, encountering no team of quality along the route. In another year we might have fallen at All-Ireland semi- or Leinster final stage.

Certainly this team progressed further than its talents and attitude deserved – surely a resounding credit to the painstaking and skilled coaching of Fr. Liam Barron and his selectors. It is unfortunate that

their fine work produced such disappointment at the end of the campaign. Yet their efforts may bear fruit. Nine of the team to start the All-Ireland Final will again be eligible in '96 and two in '97. All of Cork's team were 18-year-olds, a significant advantage on Final day.

The signs were there in spring. The colleges' campaign provided a relatively barren recruiting ground for the selectors – fair defenders but low scores. We know that minor titles are won with forwards who score consistently under pressure. Cork had them.

Kilkenny's first round was a Leinster semi-final against Wexford and, as always, the Slaneysiders provided committed opposition. Many would argue they were



KILKENNY – LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995

Back – Mark Dúnphy, David Carroll, Adrian Hickey, Shane Lanigan, Eoin Beehan, Richie Mullally, Ger Kirwan. **Front** – James Maher, P. J. Cody, P. J. Ryan, Paul Hoyne (capt.), Ramie Cahill, Seán Millea, Seán Dowling, Micheál Hoyne.

the better team but a superb performance by Eoin Beehan, including a crucial late goal, saved the Black and Amber, who finished with a three-point victory margin.

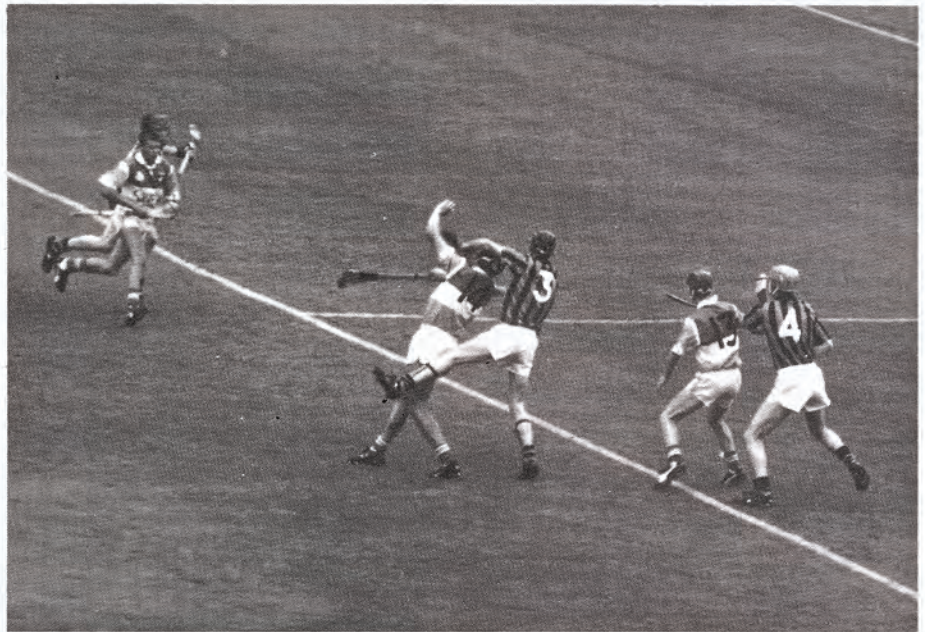
We saw the minor teams begin in similar fashion in recent years and we looked for the improvement which had always followed. Little came.

The Leinster final against Offaly proved a non-event, as poor Offaly goalkeeping and defending gifted Kilkenny one of its easiest Leinster Final victories, with Ramie Cahill, Eoin Beehan and Ger Kirwan in top scoring form.

No improvement was discerned in the victory over weak Antrim as Kilkenny struggled to overcome a mediocre side. To their credit, Antrim refused to concede defeat and Ramie Cahill's ten points from placed balls kept Kilkenny noses in front. Some stern defence, coupled with P. J. Ryan's brilliance in goal, saw Kilkenny through to aim for a record 17th Minor title. Ryan's skills were never to be more solely needed than in the final.

Adrift 1-1 to 0-0 after three minutes, having conceded a penalty, Kilkenny faced a daunting struggle against a physically imposing Cork team. Ramie Cahill's 13th minute point was not improved on for forty-two minutes, though three shots hit the woodwork, and there was the continued spectre of that being our only score. Seán Millea goaled with five minutes remaining, but it was little consolation.

All credit to the excellent P. J. Ryan, Mick Kavanagh, Seán Dowling, Andrew Hickey and Richie Mullally who battled furiously at all times, but it was a day when too many players froze and didn't do themselves justice. Nevertheless, the



Under pressure! . . . Kilkenny backs under pressure from the Offaly forwards in the Leinster Minor Final. Left to right – James Maher, Seán Dowling, Andrew Hickey. Offaly players are Garry Hanniffy (No. 14) and Niall Kirwan (No. 13). Partially covering James Maher is Paul Leonard. (Photo: Tom O'Neill)

experience should stand positively to all for '96.

Team and subs. – P. J. Ryan (Fenians), Michael Kavanagh (St. Lachtain's), Seán Dowling (O'Loughlin's), Andrew Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Paul Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan, capt.), Mark Dunphy (Lisdowney), David Carroll (Dicksboro), P. J. Coady (John Lockes), Richie Mullally (Glenmore), Eoin Beehan (Fenians), Micheál Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ger Kirwan (Mooncoin), Ramie Cahill (Dunnamaggin), Tomás O'Dowd (James Stephens), Seán Millea (Graigue-Ballycallan). **Subs.** – Anthony McCormack (Dunnamaggin), Eddie Mackey

(Mooncoin), James Maher (Dicksboro), Michael Maher (Tullaroan), Noel Lahart (Dunnamaggin), Shane Lanigan (Thomastown), Michael Gordon (Piltown), Paddy Power (James Stephens), John Drea (Bennettsbridge), Eoin Kenny (Rower-Inistioge).

PATH TO THE FINAL

Leinster Semi-final, June 28 – Kilkenny 1-11, Wexford 0-11.

Leinster Final, July 16 – Kilkenny 4-16, Offaly 2-6.

All-Ireland Semi-final, August 6 – Kilkenny 1-16, Antrim 0-12.

All-Ireland Final, September 3 – Cork 2-10, Kilkenny 1-2.



Men at work! . . . Kilkenny's Minor Hurling Selectors in thoughtful mood at half-time in the Leinster Minor Hurling Final in Croke Park. Left to right – Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bórd na nÓg), "Fan" Larkin, Jim Neary, Fr. Liam Barron (Trainer), and Kilkenny player Mark Dunphy. (Photo: Tom Brett)

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE

Success breeding success

By Dermot Dunphy

The school year of 1978-79 was my first year as a student in Good Counsel College, New Ross. From a hurling point of view, it was a good year to arrive. In that school year the college won the All-Ireland Colleges 'B' Hurling Championship, defeating Roscommon C.B.S. in a thrilling final in Thurles. Also that year, the school added the Leinster Colleges 'B' Under 14 Hurling title. All in all at the victory celebration dinner in the college, there was great optimism for it was felt by all that 1980 was a year of greater promise. Good Counsel College were now in Roinn A and everyone thought we had another team which could go on to win at the higher level. That dream came to a cruel end on a spring day in Gorey. St. Peter's of Wexford put a halt to all ambitions for the year. The senior hurlers lost out by five points in a bruising contest. The fact that St. Peter's won Leinster that year and lost out narrowly in the All-Ireland Final was no consolation, the bubble had burst.

For the rest of my time in Good Counsel, we never threatened such victory again. While the college always had reasonable hurling and football teams, and reached a Leinster 'B' Football final, nothing like the expectation of 1980 was realised.

Last school year, 1994-95, Good Counsel College won not only one Leinster 'A' title, they won three. Included in this was a Leinster Senior 'A' Double - hurling and football. Such a double was only achieved twice before. The dream of 1980 had not been equalled. It had been

surpassed. Good Counsel was at the top of the pile in Leinster.

Such achievements are not the stuff of overnight success. The historic achievement of 1995 was a long time coming. It might be possible to trace the beginnings of such success back to 1986. In September that year, the college appointed their first two full-time P.E. teachers. To this point, the college teams, like many other schools, were prepared by interested teachers on a part-time basis. Now an ever-growing college was investing in its sporting future.

The aim was simple. The college wanted to try to compete at the top level in hurling and football.

New arrivals, Aidan O'Brien and Brian

Teague faced a stern challenge, for such an aim was high, especially as the school was competing in Roinn B in all levels of both codes.

The first success came in 1988-89 when an Under 16 'B' Double, hurling and football, was achieved. 1989-90 brought more hurling success as the under 16 'A' Leinster title was won - a significant first. No title for 1990-91, but encouraging signs as three Leinster finals were contested, Under 16 hurling and Under 14 hurling and football, and all at Roinn A. Success returned in 1991-92 with two Leinster hurling titles, Under 16 and Under 14. Further victories in 1992-93 with the retention of the Leinster Under 14 title added to a senior breakthrough - the All-Ireland 'B' Football Championship. A title-less 1993-94 was therefore a 'lean' year. However, the Senior hurlers competed in the Leinster Final, losing to St. Kieran's but gaining valuable experience. Last year came the crowning of all successes as the Leinster Senior Double was captured along with the Leinster Under 14 Football title. The Under 16 hurlers also reached the final. Four of the six Leinster 'A' Finals had been reached and three had been won.

The results were definite. Good Counsel were competing at the highest level in hurling and football. In the past four years, Good Counsel have won five of the six Leinster 'A' titles on offer (Under 16 football is the exception). The Under 14 hurling victory of 1991-92 ended a ten year winning streak of St. Kieran's Kilkenny. In that same year, the college reached 'A' status in everything and a Leinster final has been contested in each

Contd. ▷



Good Counsel captain Francis Wallace (left) on the move versus St. Pat's, Maghera, in the All-Ireland Colleges Football Final.

Good Counsel College – Contd.

year since 1988-1989. This litany of successes proves the oldest of adages – success breeds success.

In spite of growing success since the late eighties, it was last year that Good Counsel was thrust into the Colleges spotlight. The Leinster Senior Double is a rare occurrence and the New Ross school's achievement is only the third ever. St. Kieran's College 1921, Knockbeg College 1955 and Good Counsel College 1995 are the only 'Doubles' on record.

The reason behind this fact is simple enough. The task of reaching the top in one code is difficult. To do so in two codes is more than doubly difficult. There is the problem of dual player overlap and the restrictions this puts on training. Sixteen players were involved in both panels last year and while all could engage in physical training together, it was impossible to have separate full hurling and football sessions simultaneously.

Physical work was followed by either hurling or football. The non-dual players worked on specialist skills on their "days-off". The dual players never had a "day off".

Another pressing problem is the tight schedule when two teams are involved. Consider the following calendar from last spring:

March 26th – Leinster Football Final v. St. Peter's – Draw.

March 29th – Leinster Football Final replay – Win.

April 2nd – All-Ireland Football S.F. v. St. Flannan's – Win.

April 6th – Leinster Hurling S. F. v. Birr C.S. – Win.

April 12th – Leinster Hurling Final v. St. Kieran's – Win.

In seventeen days, Good Counsel played five championship games, winning two Leinster titles and qualifying for an All-Ireland Final. The effort was tremendous, especially for those dual players.

In the end, the All-Ireland dreams died and the All-Ireland Hurling Semi-final and All-Ireland Football Final were lost. The football final in Trim saw the team in a strong position at half-time, three points down after playing into the breeze. Fatigue was a second-half factor as St. Patrick's, Maghera, put the new Leinster pretenders back in their place.

Even so, it was an incredibly successful year and Good Counsel College is rightly proud of itself and its charges. As Aidan O'Brien notes, there are few colleges who compete in both codes at the top level.

Kilkenny's own St. Kieran's College are without doubt one of the most successful

G.A.A. Colleges ever, but they do choose to specialise (extremely well!) in hurling. Not many colleges attempt to succeed in both games and Good Counsel's name is up there beside other dual schools such as North Mon. and St. Flannan's.

The new aim is to keep it there.

Good Counsel College, New Ross, is an unusual school. Set right on the border of Wexford and Kilkenny, it draws from the rival hinterlands of South-west Wexford and South Kilkenny. Boarders in the college come from even further afield. While colleges like St. Kieran's, Kilkenny; St. Peter's, Wexford, and St. Flannan's, Ennis, all have deep-rooted connections with their own counties, Good Counsel spans two counties. While essentially a Wexford school, and very proud of that fact, the college has a strong Kilkenny dimension.

The surrounding hinterland is rural and rich in Gaelic games tradition. Parishes like Rathnure and Cloughbawn are synonymous with Wexford hurling. Other parishes in the South Wexford area are steeped in football. Horeswood, Adamstown, Gusserane, Bannow/Ballymitty, Cushinstown are all clubs with traditions in football, which helps the college in its dual efforts.

On the other side of the Barrow, the interest is pure hurling. Rower-Inistioge, Tullogher-Rosbercon, Graignamanagh and present Kilkenny champions, Glenmore, are the main parishes feeding into the New Ross school. These Kilkenny parishes have always had an influence on the hurling team in the college.

Some years, over half of the team comprises of young Cats and the effect on the team can be considerable. Seven of the hurling team of '95 were from Kilkenny. Such an influence cannot be underestimated.

The reverse of the situation applies as well. The influence of Good Counsel College is also to be felt in Kilkenny. We need look no further than county champions Glenmore. Twelve of the sixteen who played in this year's victorious team all went to school in Good Counsel. The Glenmore 'Famous Five' of 1992-93 – Eddie and Willie O'Connor, Michael Phelan, Liam Walsh and Christy Heffernan all wore the blue and white of the college.

Strangely, of this year's crew, only two were picked on Kilkenny's minor panel. Richard Mullally, the only Good Counsel player to start the All-Ireland Final, was surely one of Kilkenny's finest in that ill-fated game.

On college football teams, Kilkenny boys do not exert the same influence as on the stick game. Only the aforementioned Richard Mullally, a fine all-rounder, made the team which lost out to St. Patrick's, Maghera, in the All-Ireland Colleges Football Final. Four more from Kilkenny made the panel.

Football trainer Aidan O'Brien points out, however, that five of the All-Ireland 'B' Football Champions of 1992-93 were Kilkennymen. Not a bad ratio for a 'hurling county'. Undoubtedly, players from this county will most likely always be hurling-minded, but one should not dismiss the Kilkenny footballer.

The Good Counsel effect is also to be seen in Wexford. Larry Murphy is probably the best known of the college's past pupils, while Austin Codd, a bright prospect for the Slaneysiders, is also a former player. In 1987, when Cloughbawn and Rathnure met in the Wexford Senior Final, the People Group newspapers noted that, for the first time, Good Counsel had replaced St. Peter's as the prime influence on a Wexford Hurling Final.

From a footballing perspective, two of last year's college team, Richie Purcell and Jason Lawlor, played for Wexford in this summer's senior championship, while Good Counsel and St. Peter's provided the bulk of the Wexford minor squad, which lost narrowly in the first round . . . to Westmeath!

Good Counsel College today is unrecognisable as the school I left in 1983. A new school building with excellent sports facilities on campus, it is a credit to the College Rector, Rev. John Cosgrave, and his staff – now including four P.E. teachers. The progressive nature of the school had to lead to sporting success and while the success of 1995 may not be repeated for some time, Good Counsel will always be competitive, with its unique Wexford/Kilkenny blend.

As I left the school after a recent visit, to cross the Barrow and return to Kilkenny, the last thing I noticed as I passed out through the school foyer were six flags. One for each of the four provinces of Ireland, one of purple and gold and one of black and amber. The balance felt just right.

Hurling Team 1995 – C. Donovan, Fergal Freyne (Glenmore), P. J. Barron, Tomás Digby (Rower-Inistioge), Eoghan Kenny (R/I), L. O'Brien, Richard Mullally (Glenmore), R. Purcell, Declan Wall (Mullinavat), Michael Doyle (R/I), Paul Cotterell (R/I), P. Lawlor, P. Doyle, M. Redmond, J. Lawlor.

Football Team 1995 – B. Molloy, Richard Mullally (Glenmore), F. Wallace, S. Furlong, J. Foley, L. O'Brien, T. Corcoran, F. O'Brien, R. Purcell, N. Fitzharris, D. Shannon, P. Lawlor, M. Barron, J. Lawlor, J. Fitzharris.

Other Kilkenny players – Brian Aylward (Tullogher), Derek Walsh (R/I), Paul Sheehan (R/I), Niall Mackey (Glenmore), John Mullally (Tullogher), Tom Griffin (Glenmore).

EAMON HIGH, BUT NO LONGER WITH KILKENNY

By: ENDA McEVOY

Every bit as much as Ollie Walsh's retirement, Eamon Morrissey's decision to wave goodbye to the Black and Amber and throw in his lot with the Dublin hurlers marked the end of an era. The first half of the 1990s, a period that on Noreside was near enough to golden as makes no difference, is over. It is a new Kilkenny team and set-up that will contest the closing four championships of the decade.

Ollie's departure provoked widespread tributes and outpourings of gratitude from supporters, along with unspoken relief that the manager had been wise enough to realise his time had come and gone. With Morrissey the story was different. An exceptional player, the fans agreed – yet despite his two All-Ireland medals, his two league medals and his Bank of Ireland All-Star from the 1990 season, would the Cats really be mewling in distress at his departure?

The things they said about the man from Radestown. Brilliant on his day, practically a non-combatant off it. Always either amazingly good or awfully bad, with no in between. Two much a *mé féiner*, lacked D. J. Carey's vision with regard to what went on around him. Failed to impose himself physically the way a big lad like him should. Didn't do his

stuff when the going got tough.

Let's nail that last one straightaway. It isn't true. Think of two days that mattered and mattered big-time, the 1991 All-Ireland final and the 1993 drawn Leinster decider. In the former, Morrissey was the one Kilkenny forward who shoved it up to Tipp. Remember that whopper of a point just before half-time, cannoning Bobby and Michael Ryan out of his way before arrowing the sliotar between the Railway End posts from the sideline under the old Cusack Stand? That was a sample of what Morrissey could do, and this was one of the days he did it. One of the days he did his stuff when too few of his colleagues succeeded in doing theirs. People forget these things all too quickly.

Or against Wexford two years later. Brusquely closed down for 30 minutes by John O'Connor, not a factor any more, then sees a high ball dropping into the goalmouth. Puts up his hand and, instead of catching, *palm*s the sliotar into the net – and brings the Black and Amber back into the championship in the process. Was it legal? Yes. Was it a truly sensational slice of improvisation? Yes. How many other hurlers have you seen in recent years attempt – and pull off – something like it? Er...

And if you want bravery, try his second goal a minute or two after the restart. The determination with which he headed for goal, his refusal to allow two opponents flaking away viciously at him from the rear

prevent him booting the ball past Damien Fitzhenry. No lack of bottle there, pal. Much more so than his 2-3 versus the Model County in the 1990 N.H.L. show-down or his six points from play against them in the 1992 Leinster final, this was Morrissey at his best. Much more so. Much more important, too.

He might never have made it so far. At St. John's boys' school, under the guidance of the late and lamented Diarmuid Shortall, Eamon Morrissey was an outrageously talented child. That ability was rarely apparent in St. Kieran's until he matured physically in a short space of time during and after his final year. From not-very-big college goalkeeper in the Spring of 1983 to substitute forward on the county minor team of '84, to high scoring (and bulky) attacker on the St. Martin's journey to All-Ireland glory in the Spring of 1985, to 19-year-old wing-forward with the Kilkenny Under-21s later that summer.

Another man he thanks is Diarmuid Healy. Not long after the Cats had fallen to Offaly in the 1989 provincial shoot-out, Healy picked Morrissey for an apparently meaningless challenge match with Laois. It was not an obvious choice, for Eamon had lost his way a little since his under-age days or at any rate had slipped down the pecking order, but it was an inspired one. Kilkenny had a corner-forward for the next six years.

The bottom line may indeed be that Eamon Morrissey failed to consistently deliver on the gifts of talent and build Mother Nature bequeathed to him – and that's a pity. (And not entirely his fault; his late development seriously hindered genuine physical use of himself). But when he delivered, he did deliver – and in such style, with such elegant and powerful scores, that he was nothing short of a joy to watch. More than most, he has left a legacy of memories that will not fade easily.

E. McE.



Vintage Morrissey... Eamon Morrissey takes on the Offaly backs in the Leinster Final of 1995. Hubert Rigney and Kevin Kinehan give chase, while Martin Hanamy closes in. Heading for goal are P. J. Delaney and Denis Byrne.

(Photo: Sportfile)

Talent – it doesn't come from the wind

By John Knox



I T JUST has to be in the genes! The father led the way and was a successful inter-county player in his day. Long since, the two talented daughters have passed Dad's medal haul. And now a son is showing a bit of promise, and who knows what delights the future holds for him.

Yes indeed, the Millea family from Fox Cover, Cuffesgrange have an interesting tale about them.

Most certainly, a sporting family. Most certainly, a united bunch. Most certainly, set to reap an even richer harvest on the hurling and camogie fields of Kilkenny and Ireland.

Dad, Joe Millea was a handy performer in his time, and a goal scorer in front of nearly 65,000 people that memorable day in 1969 when Kilkenny cracked Cork in the All-Ireland senior hurling final. THE medal in a collection that also includes two Leinster, Railway Cup and Oireachtas honours.

"For a guy who never had his sights set on playing for the county, I suppose I did okay", was about as much as one could



Action from the 1969 All-Ireland Final, Kilkenny v. Cork – Denis Murphy in aerial combat with Joe Millea. Looking on is Cork's Donal Clifford.

drag out of Joe on his own achievements.

He was proud to have worn the county shirt at the highest level. Happy that he didn't let his Graigue club (now Graigue-Ballycallan) down. Satisfied too that he was able to pay his way in the biggest hurling test in the land.

HUGE KICK

These days he gets a huge kick out of the games, watching his daughters Tracy (22) and Sinead (21 on St. Patrick's day) and son Sean (17) do their stuff. Joe and Helen Millea's fourth child, Niall (13) has a lovely touch too, and who knows, he might come through later.

Dad Millea put the ball in the Cork net in 1969. Son Sean did it this year against Cork too, in this instance on the losing side in the minor All-Ireland final. And both goals were scored at the same end.

The former Kilkenny star couldn't remember how many All-Irelands his daughters had won. He thought Sinead had about nine. She won an Ashbourne Cup medal last season, and now the only one she hasn't is a club All-Ireland. Tracy, like her younger sister, has colleges, minor and senior inter-county honours among her haul.

The Milleas' didn't get it from the wind, as they say, and whatever traits they inherited from mum and dad will be given every chance to blossom to full maturity.

"The lads will never lack for encouragement", insisted Joe, who joked that work was only secondary in their house during the height of the Gaelic season. The family always on the road going to matches. The clock on the Toyota Carina reads 160,000 miles, testimony to their many and varied travels up and down the country.

NEVER RECOVER

"Going to matches is like a fever, and I hope I never recover", Joe laughed.

Definitely not a pushy dad, yet he feels it is his duty to be there when one of his own is in action.

"You experience a whole load of different feelings watching a match with your own involved", Joe admitted. "Naturally you like to see them doing well. Not that you want them to be better than all the rest, but you like to think they did their bit.

"It is not always an enjoyable experience. Last year's senior camogie final, and this year's minor All-Ireland were hard. I have

to say I find watching games involving the lads tougher than I found playing in the 1969 final".

That day the man from the small junior club breezed through what many find a torturous test. He wasn't a bit nervous. He didn't feel any pressure. He enjoyed the whole thing.

"As a parent, I think it is important to be at the games involving the lads", Joe went on. "It encourages them, and helps their confidence".

The rare occasion he might miss a match, he would get a bit of a "dig" about it. Likewise, when he might get a bit excited on the line, and in the heat of the moment, blast some forthright advice.

LEFT HANGING

"You might be left hanging for a while, but eventually you would be reminded your hotly expressed opinion wasn't really appreciated", Joe said with a mischievous grin on his face.

"Since she was the height of the table, I knew Sinead was going to be a flyer", Joe continued. "She had the perfect swing, right and left. She was a sweet hurler. Tracy was more of a terrier, had a cutting edge to her game and was faster. Funnily enough, the two boys catch the hurley the wrong way round with left over right".

He was delighted Sean made the minor team this year. The aim was to make the panel. Getting as far as he did, particularly as he has another year to go



Hello Sinead! – President Mary Robinson exchanges greetings with Sinead Millea prior to the All-Ireland Final. Brigid Barnaville and Ann Downey have already had the pleasure. Marie Maher smiles demurely, while Dillian Dillon gets ready.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

at minor level, was most encouraging.

The back of their Fox Cover home has been the scene of many a bruising battle, tougher than any All-Ireland. A field of dreams! The Milleas' have their own small pitch (30 x 40 yards), and in some of the boys versus girls matches, if skin and hair didn't fly, well there was nothing going soft.

In the real sporting world, the Millea women are high achievers. Dad, who was a nifty, free scoring wing-forward with his club – he was always picked in the corner with the county – left his mark in the

G.A.A. history books. Sean wouldn't have mind following the same route. Already he is ahead. Pop never played at minor level. With Niall, who knows?

The huge assortment of medals is piled high in the neat Millea home. Still Joe and Helen hope for more.

"All the lads are young, and they have plenty of good years ahead of them. I am hopeful. If they ever lose their touch, it will be back to the garden, and I will give them hell. Having said that, I think at this stage I would be more frightened of that than them", he joked.

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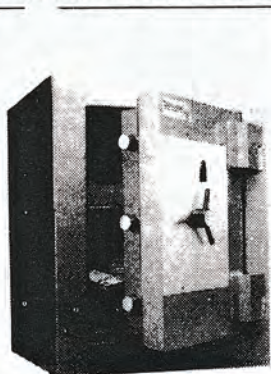


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"Cork" – Winners of "B" Under – 10 Final. Back Row (l to r); Steven Tyrrell, Michael Lambert, Gary Parsons, Keith Long, Daniel Loughnane, Mark Foran, Brian Culleton, David Bourke. Front Row (l to r); Michael Meaney, Chris Lambert, Mark Bergin, Paul Colgan, Alan Brennan, Chris Lanigian, Keith Phelan, Derek Phelan, Sean Falsely. Mentors (l to r); Mick Lambert, Denis Tyrrell, Gerry Tyrrell.



"Offaly" – Winners of Under – 10 Leydon Cup. Back Row (l to r); Richard Shortt, Aron Rowe, Pat Bergin, Shay Lawlor, John Corcoran, Frank Hayes, Daniel O'Connell, Paul O'Brien. Front Row (l to r); Matt Dalton, Brian McPartland, Brian Lanigian, Gerry Rowe, Matt Deegan, Thomas Bergin, Robbie Dowling, Robbie McPartland, Evan Ryan. Mentors (l to r); Gerry Rowe, Tom Dalton.



"Galway" – Runners-Up Under-10 Leydon Cup. Back Row (l to r); Paul Murphy, Mark Hanrahan, David Wall, David Dwyer, Daniel Egan, Paul Mahon, Daniel Lanigian, Patrick Dunne, Mark O'Connor. Front Row (l to r); Stephen O'Connor, Dean Carroll, Steven Shortt, James Doyle, Dara Hayden, Chris Whearty, Mark Griffen, Keith Hogan, Michael Egan. Mentors (l to r); Pascal Lanigian, Hugh Mahon.



"Limerick" – Runners-Up "B" Final. Back Row (l to r); James Hanlon, Ciaran Walsh, Matt Comerford, Daniel O'Sullivan, Niall McEvoy, Shane O'Neill, Darra Leahy, Mark Hennebry, Ricky Nolan. Front Row (l to r); Patrick Hennebry, Eoin Wall, Stephen Wall, Andrew Kearns, Joseph Walsh, Mark Kelly, Eddie Kearns, Shem McEvoy, Robbie Healy. Mentors (l to r); Richie Kearns, Brian O'Neill, Shem McEvoy.



Feile na nGael Skills Champion – Peter Dowling (O'Loughlins), John Skehan (Chairman, Juvenile section, O'Loughlins), Joe Pyke (Bord na nÓg).



O'Loughlins – Winners of Northern Board G.A.A. Quiz (l to r); Joe Rice, Martin Brennan, Cyril Keegan, Damien O'Connor.

LATE, LATE HEARTBREAK AS CATWOMEN ARE POPPED BY CORK

The one that got away.

It's a familiar cliché, but no less true for that. As the Kilkenny senior camogie team won't need reminding.

With twelve minutes remaining at Croke Park on the fourth Sunday of last September, they had the county's 13th O'Duffy Cup in the bag. A quarter of an hour later they were a beaten team – beaten to the tune of four points. So much for the theory that the Black and Amber finish matches like an express train. Here was one occasion when the mistresses of the late burst were themselves overtaken at the death and pipped at the post. So very, very sickening. So sad that Angela Downey-Browne, the captain, leader and powerhouse of her side, was unable to depart the Jones's Road venue the way the script dictated: with yet another All Ireland medal in her kitbag.

A classic meeting of old rivals Kilkenny and Cork, the 1995 ladies' decider was no classic in pure hurling terms. The Cats raised scarcely a gallop in the first half, during which their opponents fared more than well against the strong wind in terms of possession but spoiled their hard work out the field with some quite appalling shooting close to goal. Worse, the referee's strict application of the no-physical-contact rule reduced proceedings to little short of a travesty. With frees being awarded at the rate of two every three minutes, the exciting, flowing encounter that had been hoped for was quickly rendered impossible. Fortunate to lead by 0-5 to 0-2 at the interval, the reigning champions upped their game considerably on the resumption. Gillian Dillon was a rock at full-back. Substitute Tracy Millea,

prevented by injury from starting, added zip and vigour to the midfield area. And Mrs. Downey-Browne was, hardly for the first time in a black and amber jersey, downright devastating.

Shortly after Lynn Dunlea's handpassed goal had levelled matters immediately after the restart, Angela crashed home a free from in front of the posts to give the Noresiders a four-point advantage, 1-7 to 1-3. The next 15 minutes belonged to the champions, who hurled out of their skins. Defying the elements, they took the game to Cork, were unlucky when Marina Downey's ground shot came back off the far upright but got their reward in the 48th minute when the captain ornamented her final appearance (definitely!) at Croke Park by transforming another close-range free into a cannonball: K 2-8, C 1-5.

If a Kilkenny team is never beaten till the closing whistle, neither is a Leaside one. The challengers reserved their best hurling of the hour for the last ten minutes, equalising via goals by Fiona O'Driscoll and Denise Cronin. Angela's 56th-minute free pushed the Cats in front again, 2-10 to 3-6. Was a fabulous and somewhat unlikely victory on the cards once more?

A draw seemed more likely when Linda Mellerick charged forward at the other end and unleashed a drive intended to sail between the Canal End uprights, thus bringing the match to a replay. Imagine her joy, and the general Noreside horror, as the sliotar dropped short and hit the back of the net. Injury-time points per Dunlea (free) and O'Driscoll sealed a glorious triumph for Cork on a 4-8 to 2-10 scoreline.

Had Mellerick's shot gone over the bar and the referee ended the match there and then, few in the 9,000 attendance could have complained. As both teams had played well only in patches, and as the standard for three-quarters of the way was so disappointing, a draw – and the prospect of an infinitely more satisfying replay – would have been a fair result. Full marks to the new champions, though. They hurled for most of the hour, whereas Kilkenny impressed for, at most, 20 minutes. The losers can't really complain.

They surely weren't complaining after the All Ireland semi-final at Nowlan Park. An emerging Galway, buoyed by their under-age successes in recent years, hit 1-9 but, critically, missed the same or more again. Thanks to an eleven-point contribution from Sinead Millea and 1-1 from Gillian Dillon, the homesters finished with a total of 1-14 following what was anything but a convincing performance. No wonder the Westerners were kicking themselves afterwards for looking a gift horse in the mouth. Earlier in the season, the Noresiders had had their National League interest terminated by Cork in the southern city on a scoreline of 3-9 to 1-10. Nobody knew it then, but worse was to follow in September. The O'Duffy Cup lost, Angela Downey's magnificent but ultimately vain attempt to bow out on a winning note, Cork's first All Ireland victory against the Black and Amber since 1972.

In previous, honours-laden years, the story of the Kilkenny camogie season had been a case of "what a Downey!". Here it was more like "what a downer!".



KILKENNY – ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINALISTS

Front Row L/R: Deirdre Doyle, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Mary McGrath, Sinead Millea, Deirdre Malone, Marina Downey, Ann Downey (Capt.), Katie Downey-Browne (Mascot), Angela Downey-Browne, Brigid Barneville, Cathriona Carey, Marie Maher.

Back Row L/R: Sandra Gleeson, Catherine Dunne, Treacy Millea, Esther Kennedy, Michelle Fennelly, Gillian Dillon, Sinead Costello, Breda Holmes, Margaret Hickey, Imelda Kennedy, Margaret Kavanagh, Fran Shore.

Photo: Sportfile

Memories are made of this

with RAMIE DOWLING

Michael Walsh, Noel Skehan, Ollie Walsh, names to conjure up memories of great saves. Yes, Kilkenny has a proud tradition of goalkeepers. Among the list of those who manned this last line of defence with distinction is Ramie Dowling – from 1947 to 1953.

Ramie first made his debut for the county seniors in 1943 when he played right half-forward in the Leinster Championship. Previously he was a half-forward with the County Juniors and he manned midfield for the minors in 1939 when Kilkenny lost the All-Ireland to Cork.

He recalls vividly when he first played on goal for his club team, Éire Óg.

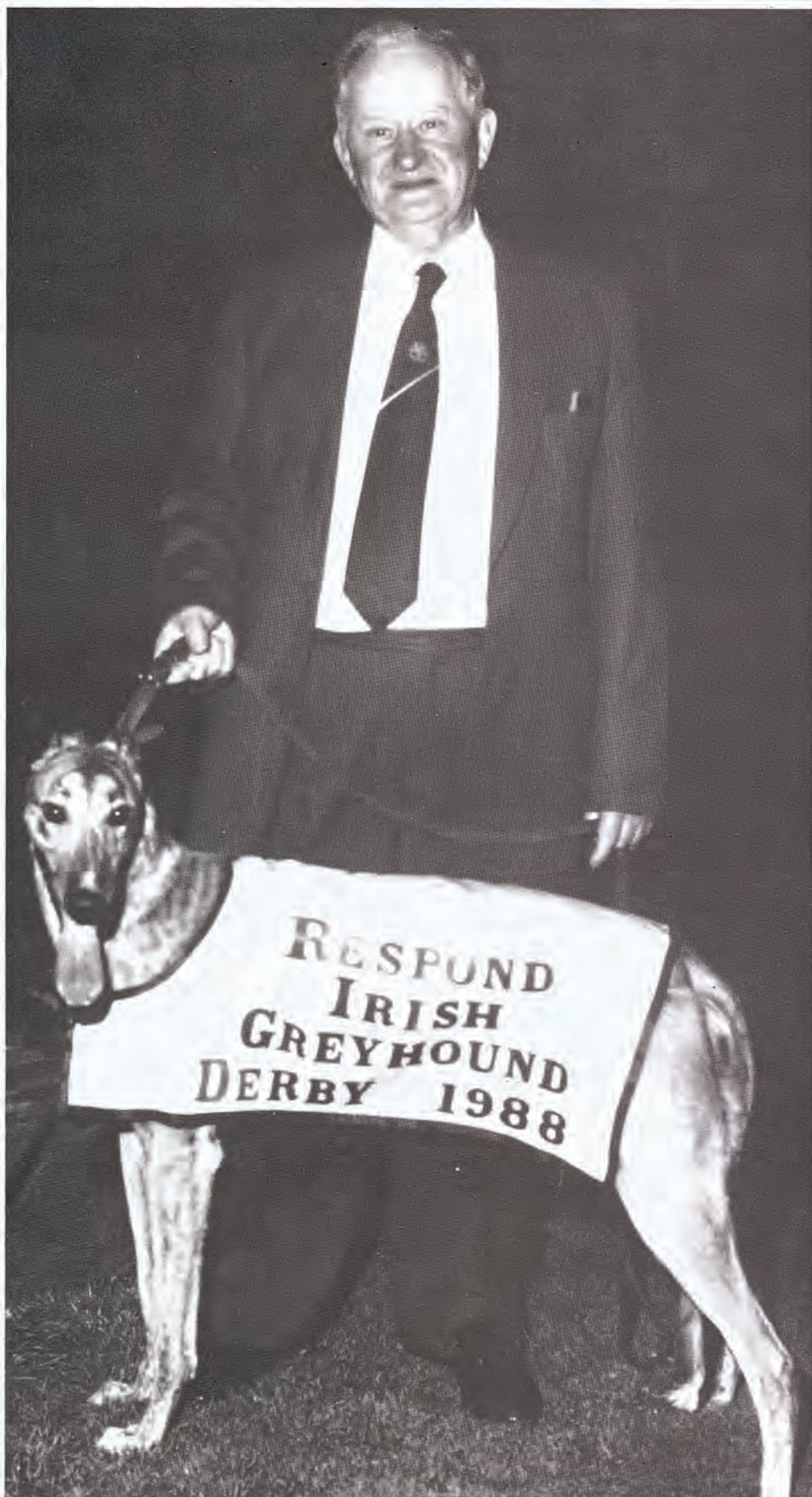
"It was a bit of a laugh. We were playing Carrickshock in the championship, in Thomastown, and the great Peter Blanchfield was playing on goal for Éire Óg. He was at the end of his time, but Peter was a fantastic ball-player and they thought he might make a goal-keeper, but it didn't work out.

"I was playing midfield with Jimmy Langton the same day. I don't know what inspiration Jimmy Langton got but he said to me, 'Ramie, would you ever go back on the goal?' I went back and stopped hay-seed. And that's how this goal-keeping business began."

He had never set out to become a goalkeeper but he enjoyed the position, despite the rigours allowed by the rules of the times. As he puts it: "All the lads you didn't like to play against, you loved after the match." "You got belts to beat the band. The corner forwards were the real devils, coming from the blind side, not the full-forwards."

Ramie had much in common with many other players who started out as forwards and he enumerates several examples.

"Sean Duggan of Galway always played at right corner-forward for his club team. I saw Ollie Walsh play a minor All-Ireland at centrefield and Noel Skehan play outfield, while Jimmy Doyle of Tipperary played in a minor All-Ireland as a goalkeeper."



Ramie Dowling proud owner of "Make History" – Irish Derby winner.

Ramie is very reflective on the role of the goalie and how a 'keeper should operate. "I think having played out the field is an awful advantage. Goalkeeping is far more than being just a stopper. You have to win your ball, control it, and hit it a good belt out the field. All goalmen should be able to save the ball and control it, for if you get into the habit of letting a ball rebound, the likes of Christy Ring, Eddie Keher and Jimmy Langton would have it 'copped on' as quick as lightning and it's into the back of the net it'll be. You must learn to kill a ball and collect it real quick. It's your hand and eye and quick reactions that count on the goal."

Originally he played for Mooncoin in his first County Final in 1936 in the minor championship when they were well beaten by Éire Óg. He went to school in Mount Sion and narrowly missed winning the Harty Cup in 1937. He recalls:

"We were playing the North Monastery of Cork and leading by two points with minutes to go, when a long ball came from a man I played on in minor afterwards, Kevin McGrath, and went into the Mount Sion goalman, who had had a great game. It hit the back of his fist accidentally and came down over the line. The Mon beat us by one point."

Among the hurlers on that team were: Mick Heffernan of Glenmore, Mick Crowley of Mooncoin and Pat Fanning, the ex-President of the G.A.A.

Ramie came to Kilkenny City in 1939, where "Mick Loughman got a hold of him" and he played for Éire Óg, with the exception of 1943, when he lined out for Mullinavat.

Éire Óg were a most successful side at that time. They won their first senior title in '39, defeating Carrickshock 3-7 to 3-5, and they again won the title in 1944, 1945 (after a replay), 1947 and were defeated finalists in 1941 and 1950.

He remembers those teams vividly when there was no parish rule.

"They were a fantastic club team, a city based team with nearly a 50-50 city and country personnel. We had Diamond Hayden and Nick O'Donnell, Johnny Rice and Dick Gorey." Taking players from other clubs sometimes made them unpopular, and in the end it led to their decline.

The decline of Éire Óg came with the demise of Mick Loughman, and the fact that it had no nursery. The meetings were held in Tom Neary's workshop and they trained in the Fair Green.

Ramie first played goal for Kilkenny after the '47 All-Ireland when he played in the League and also won an Oireachtas medal. He takes delight in the encounters between his full-back,

Diamond Hayden, and Nick Rackard, then at his peak, and wishes that "all matches were played in the one spirit as between himself and Rackard."

"They'd meet like two bulls and all you'd hear after it is a big grunt."

He pays a special tribute to the Wexford great. "Rackard was the greatest gentleman who ever played hurling. For a big mighty man, who could drive lads out of is way, he never bothered at all, the ball was the main thing."

He is proud of Kilkenny's victories over Wexford in 1950 and 1953. "I have one little regret, I never played against that great Wexford team in a losing Leinster final. Anytime they beat us it was in a semi-final. They won the All-Ireland and we didn't. Tipp. beat us by a point in 1950 and Galway put us out in 1953.

Hurling in his day was fairly tough. He recalls Tim Flood saying to him in 1950: "You little so-and-so, I had you set up one time but you side-stepped and I went into the wind." It was a period with "good hard, healthy dousing. I don't know where all the injuries nowadays come from. At that time, lads would go for each other, but for devilment you'd stay up and you wouldn't please the lad to have it said you were hurt."

A great enthusiast for the game, he reckons that club spirit is all important. "The greatest example of that was Bennettsbridge. They had a fantastic club team – not fifteen great inter-county men."

Bennettsbridge he rates as one of the greatest club teams in an era when the best club teams regularly played in tournaments. Others he rates are Glen Rovers, Thurles Sarsfields and Faughs of Dublin from that period. Lengths of suits and gold watches were regularly on offer in these and the leading tournaments were Dunhill and Bennettsbridge, with thousands in attendance. They threw up some great matches.

"We (Éire Óg) had a great rattle with Glen Rovers for the Kinane Cup, in Waterford. The Glen got the cup but it was never finished. We had three draws and a bit of a rumpus arose in the last one. Glen Rovers could field twelve of the Cork team at that time, including Christy Ring and Din Joe Buckley."

When comparing today's hurlers and hurling, he has many insights.

"The main differences I see between my time and the present day hurling are, that rudiments of the game are really the same, I always think in our time we made the ball do more of the work; like, you won your ball, you side-stepped and you let it off. They say the game is quicker" now but I don't think it is. Nowadays lads get the ball and they run, and their

comrades run to try and pick up the hand-pass when it comes. The main fault I see with that is when the lads run and pass the ball they get an unmerciful wallop, whereas with direct hurling your opponent has to mind your hurley rather than minding you. That's really the only big difference. I imagine the lads have to be fitter with all the running."

He reckons the present day hurlers can hold their own with the best of the past and that there will always be hurlers in Kilkenny, as Micheál O'Hehir said, the "Kilkenny mushroom system" will keep up the supply.

Better known in latter years as a hurlemaker, he began his trade with his father-in-law, Tom Neary, in 1944, and he branched out on his own in 1963. The "Star" hurley is well-known and has travelled the world.

His other great love is the dogs. He got some great kicks from the dogs. I had four great dogs and bred great dogs – the best, at least the most successful, was Make History. He won a Puppy Derby and the Respond Derby, a thing no other greyhound ever did. On that night I felt like an angel with wings" he enthused.

Make History retired to stud with Ramie's son in Limerick. The dam line was a dual purpose line with success at track and coursing.

He had him backed that night at 5/1 and it was a most memorable weekend as they stayed over for the Football All-Ireland, taking in Leopardstown races on the way.

Despite his success with the greyhounds, hurling was – and still is – his first love. As his mother used say, "You were mad about hurling and you forgot your schooling." He didn't care what happened once he had a hurley and ball.

Ramie is a man of many parts. His hurling career at the top level spanned almost 20 years. He is in the hurley manufacturing business since 1944 and his workshop has been featured on numerous television programmes. A dog breeder of note, with many successes to his name.

Above all, he is a hurling enthusiast and his love of the game continues unabated. As he heads off with his pals on Seamus Delaney's trips, "the matches can't start soon enough." Long may it be so.

He reckons Kilkenny is among the greatest of the hurling counties and he takes great pride in the way they play.

"Kilkenny play hurling the whole time. They don't depend on hard knocks and so forth, they play the ball, they depend on craft and cuteness."



Keoghan and the Penders! Liam Keoghan demonstrating the finer points to a group of hurlers with the help of the Prendergasts of Clara! (Photo: Tom Brett)

SUMMER CAMPS



Liam Keoghan practising the skills of the game with some girls at the hurling Summer Camp in O'Loughlin Gaels Park.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

SUMMER CAMPS



Keeping it steady in Freshford



John Bolger was in Freshford too



Handball in Freshford



Briain taught football in Dicksboro



Briain Ryan at Freshford Summer Camp



Bobby Jackman did too.

SUMMER CAMP IN MOONCOIN



D. J. answers the questions.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED – Masters win first title

by BARRIE HENRIQUES

From Crusheen to Boherlahan, from Sixmilebridge to Carlow, from Birr to Limerick, the Kilkenny Masters Hurling bandwagon strayed and wandered through the hurling wilderness in search of the "Holy Grail".

The "wagons" were hitched up in 1991, but the pot of gold eluded their best endeavours. They came close a few times, but the "Promised Land" was but a temporary oasis in the middle of the barren desert. Kildare – yes it was Kildare – who frustrated their best efforts in 1991 at the semi-final stage. Never mind, the competition was only in its embryonic stage of development. Kilkenny would learn, and improve. The semi-final stage was again reached in 1992, but even with a plethora of "ex stars", that godless bitch of defeat was again the unpalatable toxin that was difficult to swallow. A superbly fit – if you can be superbly fit when you have exceeded the fourth decade – Dublin team saw off "the cats". The same fate, dished out by the same team, at the same stage of competition was the scenario in 1993. The tentacles of gnawing were starting to eat into the mental aspirations of sane men.

It looked good again in 1994. A couple of good victories saw the Kilkenny masters advance to the Final against Tipperary. They on went to a replay, but, and you guessed it, the Tipp lads won in Boherlahan. Lower heads, and heavy steps were the order of the day, as Messrs. Keher, Healy and Butler traipsed from the Boherlahan arena. A few welcome "scoops" in Tobin's Bar in Johnstown proved invaluable. The reserve was doubled, and the birth of a new determination was heralded, and suddenly, 1995 didn't seem all that far away. Eddie got them together early, and a few "just on the mark" young Masters were added to the panel.

Kilkenny were drawn in the same group as Tipperary, Galway and Laois. Tipp came to Nowlan Park on June 12th. It was tight. It was tough. It was hard earned, but eventually victory was Kilkenny's, a modicum of revenge for previous setbacks – Kilkenny 1-9, Tipperary 0-8.

The O'Moore men were next on the menu. This match was a home fixture for the Laois men. In a very evenly balanced first half, Kilkenny led by the odd point in seven. In a tearaway second half, in which the fare was always good to great,



Mentors watch masters. From left: Jim Dobbyn, Eugene Grehan, Eddie Keher, Paddy Butler.

Photo: Tom Neill

Kilkenny won by 5-17 to the Laois tally of 3-6. the Kilkenny goals were scored by Jimmy Dunne, Malachy Hogan and Bobby Jackman.

On July 8th, it was on to Athenry, where a draw against the Tribesmen would have been sufficient to see Kilkenny go directly into the semi-final. It was not to be. Kilkenny were going to earn their "semi-ticket" the hard way. The "herring chokers" won by the narrowest of margins – 1-9 to 1-8. Now all three teams – Tipp, Kilkenny and Galway – went into that damned hat. Wouldn't you believe it, tipperary came out first, and faced London in their semi-final. Kilkenny had to play Galway again to earn the right to play Wexford in the other semi-final.

The game with Galway was a curtain-raiser to the Junior semi-final between the same two counties. It was played in Birr. After playing with the breeze in the first half, Kilkenny led by a meagre 2 points. However, the game was decided by two fortuitous events mid-way through that second half. Firstly Bobby Jackman was moved back to man the square, from where he frustrated many Galway efforts for major scores. Secondly, a speculative lob by John McCormack, in the 45th minute, found it's way into the Galway net. Kilkenny won by 2-14 to 0-11. Wexford, Tony Doran et al, beckoned in Enniscorthy - a daunting prospect.

Kilkenny led at the break by 1-7 to 0-6, thanks to a terrific goal by Billy Fitzpatrick. The "Cats" came really good with a scintillating display of delightfully controlled hurling. Ger Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, and Gerry Kenny - from 90 yards - slipped over some magnificent points, before Kevin Fennelly set the seal on victory with a great goal in the 51st minute. The All-Ireland

Final against Tipp was looking the Kilkenny "down the barrel".

The Gaelic Grounds in Limerick was the venue. The 19th of August (Sat.) was the date. In the opposite corner was the blue and gold of Tipperary.

The game preceded the All-Ireland under-21 semi-final between Galway and Kilkenny.

The game was exciting, skillful and exceptionally entertaining. The first half was a closely fought affair, with scores on either side being hard-earned. At four points to three, Kilkenny led by the odd point in seven. As in the second half against Galway, that sometimes elusive demon called Lady Luck, favoured Kilkenny, and the "cats" didn't stare that gift in the eye. Firstly Kevin Fennelly deflected a cross into the Tipp net in the 43rd minute, and some six minutes later, his brother, Ger, had a shot from all of 70 yards, go straight into the back of the net. Tipp tried so hard to win it from there, but they didn't bargain for the stout defending of Bobby Shore, Paddy Neary, Bobby Jackman, Andy Aylward, Dick McNamara, captain Johnny Ryan, or Jimmy O'Brien. The didn't bargain either for the exquisite hurling of Ger Fennelly at midfield, or his partner, the loquacious Gerry Kenny. Up front, the Kilkenny forwards fought the brave battle. Danny Coonan, Tommy Malone, Mick Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, John McCormack, and ageless Mick Garrett earned their first Masters All-Ireland medal.

All of a sudden, that evening in Tobins of Johnstown didn't seem so far away after all.

The file could now be closed, marked "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED".

Graiguel/ Ballycallan are queens of the county

ONLY THREE teams entered the camogie senior championship, Lisdowney, St. Lachtain's (Freshford) and St. Brigid's (Ballycallan). It was decided to run it on a double league system with each team playing one another at home and away with the top two teams contesting the County Final.

It was generally believed that the final would be a repeat of the previous two years deciders between Lisdowney and St. Lachtain's.

Things seemed to be going as planned when Lisdowney beat St. Brigid's easily in Lisdowney and St. Lachtain's also beat them by 3-5 to 1-3 in Shipton. These games were played before the examinations.

On resumption of the competition, Lisdowney beat St. Lachtain's in Freshford, which put them in a strong position to reach the County Final.

When St. Lachtain's played St. Brigid's in Freshford, they were short four of their team, Gillian Dillon, Margaret Hickey, Esther Kennedy and Imelda Kennedy.

The consensus was that if St. Lachtain's lost, the worse that could happen would be a play-off against St. Brigid's on the



Orla, Mary and Ann-Marie Ryall, St. Brigid's.

assumption that Lisdowney would beat St. Brigid's.

The whole scenario changed on a blistering summer's evening in Shipton when St. Brigid's did the impossible and beat Lisdowney by a point with two late points from Sinead Millea. It now meant St. Lachtain's had to beat Lisdowney to stay in contention while Lisdowney had to win to avoid a three way play off. The vital game in Lisdowney was won by the locals so the way was clear for a St. Brigid's - Lisdowney final.

The final game drew one of the biggest attendances ever to a Camogie Final and was played in Nowlan Park. Heavy rain earlier in the evening left the pitch slippery, but it made no difference, as the sides served up an encounter laced with pride, passion, commitment and loads of skill. The sides had traded a pair of points when Angela Downey Brown goaled for Lisdowney. It was nick and tuck through the first half as Lisdowney went in leading 1-5 to 0-4.

At the start of the second half, the sides traded minor scores. Then disaster hit St. Brigid's when three defenders left a ball in the square to one another and in the confusion, Angela Downey-Brown cracked the ball to the net. Points by Angela and

Marina had the reigning All-Ireland champions leading 2-8 to 0-5 and looking all over winners with eighteen minutes left to play.

The remainder of the game will live forever in the folklore of St. Brigid's. A switch between Tracy Millea and Catherine Keogh in defence, the moving of Mary McGrath to midfield and the introduction of Ann Marie Ryall to midfield changed the whole scene and St. Brigid's shot six points on the trot as the supporters in the stand began to realise that something was going to happen.

Sandra Gleeson steadied Lisdowney with a point. Sinead Millea brought the lead back to a goal. Marina Downey shot a Lisdowney point from a free which looked the 'insurance' score. By this stage the supporters of both sides were on their feet urging on their heroines.

One minute to go, and Sinead Millea was fouled as she tore through. Eight Lisdowney players lined the goal. To no avail, however, as her face high shot went crashing to the net.

Into injury time and the ball broke to Mary McGrath forty yards-out. The murmur in the stand was audible as everyone said "surely the equaliser". Her shot did not have the height, but Veronica Wall had

advanced off her goal line and the ball sped over her head into the net. Pandemonium reigned, but it was not over yet. Lisdowney mounted two attacks, but they were beaten off and the final whistle saw St. Brigid's ahead by 2-12 to 2-10.

All thirteen who figured for St. Brigid's were stars, but particularly Pauline Comerford, the 15-year-old goalkeeper, who made a fantastic save in the second half.

The Downeys, Angela, Ann and Marina with Sandra Gleeson, were best of the losers.

The St. Brigid's girls are at present keep-

ing their eye in by playing indoor camogie in St. Kieran's College on each Wednesday night from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. They have an average attendance of eighteen for these sessions.

Scorers: *St. Brigid's* – Sinead Millea 1-10, Mary McGrath 1-0, Kay Dunphy, Breda Power 0-1 each. *Lisdowney:* Angela Downey-Brown 2-1, Marina Downey 0-7, Ann Downey, Sandra Gleeson 0-1 each.

St. Brigid's: Pauline Comerford, Deirdre Malone, Catherine Keogh, Tracy Millea (capt), Orla Ryall, Mary Ryall, Kay Dunphy, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Breda Power, Mary McGrath, Margaret Comerford,

Sinead Millea. Subs: Ann Marie Ryall (used), Asling Byrne played in all the previous games, Ursula Walton, Mary Purcell, Lynn Holden, Angela Cleere, Deirdre Treacy, Emma Brett.

Lisdowney: Veronica Wall, Bridget Barnaville, Fran Shore, Deirdre Delaney, Sandra Gleeson, Catherine Dunne, Ann Downey, Marina Downey, Ann Marie Hughes, Aine Dunne, Lizzie Fogarty, Angela Downey-Brown. Subs: Noelle O'Driscoll (used), Catherine Glendon, Mary Tallis, Olivia Donnolly, Breda Blanchfield, Deirdre Hosey, Mary Rose Ryan, Miriam Holland.

Referee: Helena McCormack.

Hurling / Shinty Connection

Paddy Grace, son of Kilkenny's legendary County Secretary, led 37 members of the Dicksboro club on a tour of Scotland during the year as they played and viewed Shinty.

They were guests of the Glen Urquhart Shinty Club near Inverness, a return of the Scottish club's visit of last year. After two nights in the Drumnadrochit Hotel, Inverness, Dicksboro played a hurling-shinty game with their hosts and drew 3-3.

The game was followed by a social occasion of Scottish music and dance with presentations being made by Dicksboro to Glen Urquhart officials, Alan Bell, Ken Frazer, Fraser Mackenzie and Mary Macdonald. Dicksboro's officials also received presentations and the Scottish club have shown their interest in returning to Kilkenny by electing an Irish subcommittee at their AGM with Hazel Stewart as "Convenor".

Then it was on to the Caledonian Hotel in Oban and an opportunity to view the Scottish Shinty Final Oban v Kingussay. Although there was a crowd of some thousands at this final – Scotland's biggest Shinty game of the year – it was something of a haphazard occasion with people collecting tickets and cash on an open turnstile and an open collection at halftime for youth's shinty.

Nevertheless, it was a memorable trip for those Dicksboro stalwarts with injuries to Sean Moore and Paul Martin the only upsets on a well-organised tour.



DICKSBORO PLAYERS WITH GLEN URQUHART:

Front (from left): Aidan Begley, David Beirne, Paul Martin, Ted Carroll, Tommy O'Neill, Sam Morrissey. Back (from left): Paddy Grace, Martin Hanrick, Tom Henderson, Donal Carroll, Liam Scott, Jimmy Grace, Sean Fitzpatrick, Donal Kennedy, Sean Moore, John Treacy.



DICKSBORO – Hurling/Shinty game v. Glen Urquhart - in Scotland

Front row (l.-r.): Sam Morrissey, Ted Carroll, Tommy O'Neill, David Beirne, Donal Kennedy, Sean Fitzpatrick, Martin Hanrick. Back row (l.-r.): Tom Henderson, Aidan Begley, Donal Carroll, Sean Moore, Paul Martin, Jimmy Grace, Liam Scott, Jim Kerwick, John Treacy, Paddy Grace.

CLARA CAMOGIE CLUB

Clara camogie has had another competitive and enjoyable year with lots of matches for all, competing in all competitions.

The Primary School girls were very keen with a full turn out for training and matches and credit must go to their trainer and teacher John Bolger for his commitment and effort.

Our under-14 girls had a very busy year taking part in the Féile na nGael league and U-14 championship when they reached the semi-final, bowing out to Freshford in a well fought match. The girls had brilliant success in the Community Games competition, winning the County Final and also the Leinster Final beating Wexford, Wicklow and Dublin on their way.

They travelled to Mosney for a week-

end in September to compete in the All-Ireland Community Games. Here they received beautiful certificates and had a most enjoyable weekend.

Team: Bronagh Ryan, Valerie Mulrooney, Emer O'Loughlin, Karen Healy, Alison Carrigan (Capt.), Jane Foley, Laura Hanlon, Patrice Mullins, Lisa Collins, Mairead Dowling, Sharon McDonald, Teresa Hickey, Sarah Costigan, Pauline Walshe.

Laura Hanlon won the Community Games county Long Puck and went on to win the silver medal in Mosney. This was a very exciting competition with all 32 counties competing in the long puck. Laura also represented the County in the Féile na nGael skills competition. Congratulations Laura and well done. A big thank you to John Phelan for training these girls and also the u-16, u-18, u-21 and junior ladies.

Also well done to Catherine Neary for her hard work over the past few years. Congratulations to the Presentation Secondary School on winning the All-Ireland and our club girls, Gillian Meany, Deirdre Dowling, Susan Brennan and Elaine Brennan who were on the victorious team.

ST. BRIGID'S CAMOGIE CLUB

It was without doubt St. Brigid's greatest year ever with the annexing of the Senior County title, an unforgettable occasion. The club had taken the title for the first time in 1991 but it paled into insignificance after this year's win. Considering that Lisdowney were the reigning All-Ireland champions and were leading by eight points ten minutes into the second half, the comeback and eventual victory will be part of the folklore of this parish for ever. (A full report appears elsewhere). However, in the lesser grades, there was little joy with no team reaching a county final. The under-21s however are in a semi-final against Lisdowney at the time of writing.

The first honour to come was Sinead Millea's winning an Ashbourne Cup medal with University of Limerick. Then followed the winning of three All-Ireland Senior Colleges medals by Ann Marie Ryall, Pauline Comerford, both of whom scored vital goals in the final, and Elaine Dalton, when helping bridge a twenty five year gap for Presentation Convent, Kilkenny.

Tracy and Sinead Millea, and Deirdre Malone were chosen on the Leinster Gael Linn Senior Camogie team, while Mary McGrath was selected on the Leinster Junior team but could not play because of injury. Five members of the club figured on the Kilkenny team which unluckily lost the All-Ireland final to Cork. They were Deirdre Malone, Sinead Millea, both of whom started and Tracy Millea who came on at half time. On the panel were Mary McGrath and Deirdre O'Sullivan. Pauline Comerford, Martina Comerford and Aoife Neary represented Kilkenny at under age level. The year finished on a high note with the selection of Deirdre Malone for the Smithwick's Award for Camogie in 1995. Also congratulations to Deirdre on her recent marriage to Martin Prenderville. Billy Malone was a selector on the County Senior team.



CLARA U-14 COMMUNITY GAMES COUNTY AND LEINSTER CHAMPIONS AND ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS
Front Row: Pauline Walsh, Alice Butler, Teresa Hickey, Jane Foley, Allison Carrigan, Moire Cashin, Laura Hanlon, Sarah Costigan. Back Row: Phil Dowling (Sec.), Patricia Hanlon (Manager), Mairead Dowling, Lisa Collins, Sharon McDonald, Emer O'Loughlin, Bronagh Ryan, Valerie Mulrooney, Karen Kealy, Patrice Mullins, John Dowling (Manager), John Phelan, Trainer.

TULLOGHER CAMOGIE CLUB

The club had quite a successful year with both our under-16 and intermediate teams reaching the county semi-final stages of their respective competitions.

However, it was the Primary School team which kept the club colours flying

when they had a great victory over James Stephen's in the Roinn C County Final. In a tough and exciting match, played in Thomastown, the girls won on a scoreline of 6-1 to 3-0. The match was of a very high standard and the team were deserving winners. Congratulations also to Catriona Ryan who represented the club on the County under-14 team.



PRIMARY SCHOOL ROINN C WINNERS— Back Row: Una Murphy (Trainer), Ciara Malone, Sinead Dooley, Lorraine Long, Nicola Power, Elizabeth Heffernan, Ciara Ryan, Barbara Phelan, Linda Ryan, Emer Ryan, Mairead Ryan, Emer Malone. Front Row: Tara Lee McCarthy, Anne Marie Ryan, Aoife Malone, Linda Cottrell, Caitriona Ryan (Captain), Michelle Saunders, Bernadette Phelan, Irene Woods, Helen Ryan. Missing from photo: Brenda Murphy (trainer).

CARRICKSHOCK CAMOGIE CLUB

Camogie continues to grow and prosper in Carrickshock. This year at under-age level, our Primary Schools Team with a very young panel reached the Roinn D County Final and after last year's disappointment of losing the County Final, they defeated O'Loughlin Gael's in an exciting encounter at Thomastown.

Camogie seems certain to grow and prosper in Carrickshock, if this group of young dedicated girls continue to play this type of camogie and to lay a new foundation for camogie to prosper on for the coming years.

At junior level, Carrickshock reached the quarter finals and were narrowly defeated by near neighbours Mullinavat in a very exciting contest.

At County level, the club was represented by Michelle Fennelly who was a member of the County Senior team.

Our thanks to players, officials, sponsors and members who supported Carrickshock Camogie Club throughout the year.

A special thanks to Dick Roche for 25 years of dedicated work with the club – "Go n-éirí an t-ath leat!"



PRIMARY SCHOOL'S ROINN D COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Front Row (left to right): Catriona Walsh, Jennifer Raggett, Jean O'Carroll, Valerie Poole, Linda Power, Jennifer Byrne (Capt.), Mairead Butler, Jackie Frisby, Hazel Foley, Christine Poole.
Back Row (left to right): Dick Roche (Trainer), Nicola Aylward, Ailish Kenneally, Emma Smyth, Emma Long, Niamh Walsh, Emma Raggett, Fiona Sheehan, Alice Holden, Catherine Duggan, Ciara Power.
Inset photo: Aisling O'Meara.

DANESFORT CAMOGIE CLUB

In 1995 Danesfort Camogie Club, although only revived in the last few years, participated successfully at all under age levels for the first time in its history.

Continuing on small beginnings in 1992, we now have grown to a club of over forty girls who actively engage in all club activities. Indeed it is the girls' enthusiasm and character which have been instrumental in the club's growth, high-

lighted in the numbers who regularly attend our training sessions.

The club received great co-operation and assistance from parents and parishioners in supporting and transporting our teams to matches. Without the help of our sponsors: John Morrissey, Singer, High St.; Paul Morrissey, T.C. Tyres; Murphy's D.I.Y., Walkin St. and The Grange Inn, the year 1995 for the club would not have been possible.

In co-operation with Danesfort Juvenile

Committee under the chairmanship of Mons. Martin Campion, we obtained our own pitch which is expertly maintained and presented by Jimmy Cahill to whom we owe a great deal of gratitude.

We began the year in the under-13 Schools competition group B, being narrowly defeated in the quarter finals.

The under-14 panel commenced competition in the Community Games eventually losing out to a strong Clara team in the final. After winning through to the Roinn C semi-final they were defeated by James Stephen's in a well contested and skillful encounter.

Our young under-16 panel tasted competition for their first time in the inaugural Alan Murphy Memorial Tournament defeating Tullogher in a close and exciting final. James Stephen's and Windgap also took part. It is intended that this tournament, kindly sponsored by John and Joan Murphy will flourish and become a regular and eagerly anticipated event on the camogie calendar.

The club rounded off its year with a trip to the All-Ireland Senior camogie final incorporating a two match challenge against "O'Tooles" in Dublin which was reciprocated in Kilkenny in October. We hope to continue to expand and we anticipate a fruitful year in 1996.

Our Club officers were: Anthony Martin, Kevin Gaffney, Martin Carey, Peter Marnell and Sheila Marnell.



DANESFORT CAMOGIE PANEL WINNERS OF THE ALAN MURPHY MEMORIAL TROPHY

Back (L-R): Carol Ireland, Corina Saunders, Niamh Hanrahan, Michelle Morris, Gemma Dillon, Elaine Phelan, Aoife Marnell, Bridget Sheehan, Natasha Phelan, Niamh Gaffney.
Middle (L-R): Susan Ireland, Pamela Ireland, Lisa Marnell, Julieann Woodcock, Aileen Hanrahan, Marie Carroll, Grainne Brennan, Orlagh Saunders, Marian Walsh, Roisin Carey, Aidee Carey, Yvonne Martin.
Front (L-R): Amy Marnell, Louise Maher, Eimear Gaffney, Deirdre Brennan, Emma King, Jane Dillon, Laura King, Maria Dooley, Tina Hoyne, Emma Maher, Aoife Treacy.
Not in Picture: Nicola Murphy, Deirdre Treacy, Breda O'Neill, Sarah Dowling.

EMERALDS CAMOGIE CLUB

Emeralds Camogie Club under the proficient training of Henry O'Grady, enjoyed a very successful year winning the u-16 Roinn C county final, beating James Stephen's, Lisdowney, Black and Whites, Tullogher, Young Ireland's. Their only defeat was by Piltown in a great match.

The final in Danesfort was an enjoyable

game. The game started in a blaze of glory with Audrey Butler soloing 30 yds. and palming the ball into the net. Maura Brennan scored 3 points to leave the half-time score at 1-3 to 1 point.

The second half started as the first half ended, with Piltown putting on some fierce pressure, scoring a goal and a point. Maura Brennan, Catherine Breen replied with a point and a goal respectively. Great credit goes to the team who returned

home to parade through the streets. The u-18 team were entered in competition for the first time this year, and, despite losing to Lisdowney in the first round, put up a great effort for such a young team. Laura Comerford must be commended for a great game in goal, with good saves and long clearances.

To celebrate our victory in u-16 championship, the team decided to journey to the camogie All-Ireland to support the county team. An agreeable day was had despite the disappointment of the loss. We look forward in anticipation of success to next year's competitions.



Standing (L-R): Phil Fogarty (Chairperson), Aoife Phelan, Tina Breen, Bernie Doyle, Caroline Guilfoyle, Maura Brennan, Henry O'Grady (Trainer), Tara Lyng, Blathnaith Hennessy, Claire Doyle, Catherine Breen, Angela Fogarty, Edward O'Gorman.

Front (L-R): Marie D'arcy, Audrey Butler, Aine Brennan, Sarah O'Gorman, Síle Doyle (Captain), Suzanne Stapleton, Elaine Kelleghan, Laura Comerford.

SAINT ANNE'S CAMOGIE CLUB

Officers: Chairman Stephen Delaney, Secretary Ashling Delaney, Treasurer Sean Warren and Sean Hanrahan, P.R.O. Michelle Grehan.

Competitions played (Stage reached):
Under-14 (County Final)
Under-16 (County Final)
Junior
Under-21 (1st Round)

Winning panels: *Under-14 winning team:* Laura Murphy, M. Hickey, C. Delaney, C. Ryan, T. Glendon, L. McCarthy, E. Lonergan, A. Egan, O. Phelan, J. Moriarty, D. Doyle, M. Shortall, A. Harte, M. Tobih, S. Dowling.

Under-16 runners up: L. Murphy, D. Bowe, T. Lonergan, C. Delaney, A. Doyle, A. Henderson, O. Phelan, C. Doherty, P. Fitzpatrick, A. Russell, L. McCarthy, A. Egan, T. Glendon, D. Doyle, M. Shortall, A. Delaney, M. Hickey, M. Tobin.

Plans/Developments: We hope to make the club bigger and more successful, and to improve home grown talent.

Players on County teams:

Under - 14 Claire Delaney and Orla Phelan.
Under-16 Sinead Delaney and Patricia Fitzpatrick.

1995 proved a very successful year for camogie in Saint Anne's. Pride of the place must go to our under-14 team for beating James Stephen's. Played in Nowlan Park ,

it was St. Anne's who provided the excitement. After a very tough and exciting game our girls proved worthy winners. Well done.

Our under-16 team reached the county final for the first time in three years. They were very unlucky not to win but the opposition proved too strong on the day. Maybe next year.

We were well represented at County level in 1995. Orla Phelan and Clare Delaney won Leinster B titles with Kilkenny. Also, Orla won a 7-a-side

Leinster medal with her college, Loreto. Congratulations to all the girls and best of luck to them for 1996.

A word of praise must go to the two Sean's of the club. They have done tremendous work for the club and without them the club would not be as successful as it is. Also I must not forget our Medical Lady, Mary Wilo who gave up her time to be with the club during the year.

The club would like to thank everyone who gave donations and sponsorship throughout the year. We are very thankful for their generosity.



Back Row, left to right: L. McCarthy, J. Moriarty, E. Lonergan, S. Hanrahan, O. Phelan, S. Warren, D. Doyle, C. Ryan, S. Delaney, M. Shortall, M. Tobin, D. Gray.

Front Row, left to right: E. Delaney, A. Egan, M. Hickey, L. Murphy, T. Glendon, C. Delaney, A. Harte.

JAMES STEPHEN'S CAMOGIE CLUB

October 21st was another great day in the short life of the club. This was the day we ran our second annual blitz for all club members under 16. The competition was divided into two sections, under-16 and under-10. Six teams of 7-a-side, in each section, provided the action which started at 11 a.m. and finished at 4.30 with a break for lunch. Each section was divided into two groups of three teams with teams playing one another.

The morning games served up some great fare and were intended to produce conclusive results clearing the way for winners and losers semi-finals after lunch. As with all well planned events, it did not work out quite as planned with all bar one of the groups ending on level points. Some quick thinking was called for if the event was to be finished in daylight, so we decided to give one team in each group a bye with a play off for the other semi-final place. With the lunch over and the girls eager to resume the action, the play offs commenced and naturally enough two of the three games ended in a draw. Sudden death was the only answer and this produced some of the best action of the day with nobody willing to accept defeat. Inevitably, the winning score came and many a tear of sadness was shed by the losers (under-10, of course) accompanied by tears of joy by the organis-

ing committee.

The semi-finals produced conclusive results without extra time, and the way was now clear for the final of each group.

The large crowd were first entertained by the under-10's final with each of the now weary girls giving their last bit of energy in an effort to claim the winners medals. For ten long minutes in each half the action swayed from end to end. Knocks were attended to, sprays administered, praise lavished until the final whistle was blown and the teams were separated by one goal. Joy and sadness were again openly displayed as parents congratulated

or consoled their stars.

The under-16 final was no less enthusiastic and a great effort was produced by both teams to the delight of the crowd.

The presentation of trophies followed and the winners and runners up were honoured to have their trophies presented by the great Angela Downey.

The club officers are Jimmy O'Brien (Chairman), Anne Power (Secretary), and Joan Cody (Treasurer).

Our club competed in the under-14, under-16, under-18 and under-21 competitions. Our St. John of God team were runners-up in their County Final.



JOHN OF GOD CAMOGIE TEAM – RUNNERS-UP ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

Back Row L/R: Deirdre O'Neill (coach), Grainne Howley, Geraldine Hayes (coach), Denise Harding, Brianna Campbell, Caroline Brennan, Ciara Monaghan, Claire Murphy, Angela Power, Laura English, Ann Foley, Anne Power. Front Row L/R: Lisa Murray, Emer Phelan, Emma Dooley, Siobhan O'Dwyer, Sinead Lee, Phil Larkin, Imelda Murphy, Michelle Power.

YOUNG IRELAND'S CAMOGIE CLUB



JUNIOR CHAMPIONS – 1995

Back Row (L to R): Mary Holden (Selector), Ellen Horgan, Julie-Ann O'Carroll, Catriona Dreeling, Teresa Aylward, Bernie Treacy, Marie Whitehead, Sinead Byrne, Catriona Fennelly, Patrick Treacy (Trainer). Front Row (L to R): Sabrina Whelan, Eileen Kennedy (Selector), Hazel O'Neill, Maggie Dreeling, Caroline Middleton, Philomena Middleton, Catriona Carey, Breda Aylward. Mascots: Aisling Carey, Laura Fennelly.

Young Ireland's Camogie Club was reformed in 1994 after an absence of 15 years. This year we won the Junior Championship. Hopefully this will serve as an incentive to our underage players to continue playing and enjoying the game.

Winning Team: Caroline Middleton, Teresa Aylward, Maggie Dreeling, Breda Aylward, Julie Ann O'Carroll, Sabrina Whelan, Hazel O'Neill, Philomena Middleton, Bernie Treacy, Marie Whitehead, Sinead Byrne, Catriona Carey. **Subs:** Ellen Horgan, Catriona Fennelly, Shirley O'Neill, Catriona Dreeling.

Final score:

Young Ireland's 3-7, Lisdowney 1-4.

Officers: Catriona Fennelly (chairperson); Mary Holden (secretary); Helen Greene (Treasurer).

Competitions played: U-14, U-16, Junior. **Stage reached:** County Champions.

Players on County teams: Catriona Carey – Member of All-Ireland Senior Panel.

LISDOWNEY CAMOGIE CLUB

After the euphoria of 1994, it was on the cards that 1995 would prove to be rather difficult for the club. With only three teams in the Senior championship, every game was scheduled to be a cup-tie experience. So it proved. Played on a league basis, we had a facile victory over St. Brigid's in the first outing. St. Lactain's were next to fall, but in our next outing against St. Brigid's, we came a cropper. We qualified for the County Final by beating St. Lactain's again. In the best County Final "for yonks", the Ballycallan girls nailed us on the line. The final score read, St. Brigid's 2-12, Lisdowney 2-10.

Our Senior panel was: Veronica Wall, Deirdre Delaney, Fran Shore, Bridget Barnaville (Capt.), Catherine Dunne, Sandra Gleeson, Ann Downey, Aine Dunne, Marina Downey, Ann-Marie Hughes, Lizzie Fogarty, Angela Downey-Browne, Caroline Glendon, Noelle O'Driscoll, Martina Tallis, Olivia Donnelly, Mary Rose Ryan, Deirdre Hosey, Brede Blanchfield.

Our junior team also reached their County Final with good wins over St. Lactain's, Gowran, James Stephen's, and St. Brigid's. In the semi-final we had a

good win over Mullinavat, before facing Gowran for the second time. However the Gowran girls reversed the earlier result, and ran out good winners for the finish.

Panel: Ann-Marie Lacey, Moira Glendon, Deirdre Morrissey, Olivia Donnelly (Capt.), Aisling Fitzpatrick, Annie Murphy, Lesley Stapleton, Angela O'Carroll, Bridget Sharkey, Lisa Skehan, Brede Blanchfield, Deirdre Hosey, Jane Roberts, Stephanie Cummins, Ailish Delahunty, Maria Moore, Katie Kilkenny, Rita Comerford.

Our under-18 team had good wins over Emeralds, and St. Anne's before going out to a stronger St. Lactain's.

Our minor team, wavered slightly after an enthusiastic start, and failed to make

their "semi's".

The under-14 team had an interesting season, but it could have been a little more fruitful, if the interest of some players was a little more enthusiastic.

Our Primary team reached the Roinn "D" semi-final, only to be defeated by O'Loughlin's.

Congratulations to Deirdre Delaney (Ashbourne Shield U.C.C.), Fran Shore, Sandra Gleeson, Mary-Rose Ryan, Deirdre Morrissey, Lorna Callanan, Deirdre Hosey and Ann-Marie Lacey (All Senior Colleges winners with Castlecomer C.C.), Olivia Donnelly (Leinster Gael Linn Junior team), and Angela and Ann, who were honoured by RTE in a "Summer Pride" series.



Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney) is grounded in All Ireland Camogie Final 1995 - watched by Gillian Dillon.

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ROWER-INISTIOGE CAMOGIE CLUB

What a magnificent year it was for the club. In a year of highlights, the pinnacle of our success would have to be reaching the Féile Na nGael Final in Limerick. In the Féile championship in Kilkenny, the Rower-Inistioge earned the right to represent Kilkenny by beating Young Ireland's, Clara, Carrickshock, Shamrocks in the semi-final and Thomastown in the County Final. In Limerick, the girls were hosted by Knockaderry. In Limerick, Knockaderry (5-5 to 0-0), Roscommon (2-2 to 0-1), Kileady from Limerick (5-4 to 0-1) fell by the wayside, as the girls sliced their way through to a semi-final spot against Dublin. By beating the Metropolitans 2-0 to 0-1, they faced Fermanagh in the final. They lost, but only after acquitting themselves with glory.

The under-16 team won the county Roinn "B" championship. this team has been making huge improvements over the years, and it was no surprise that in the Championship they annihilated all before them. Carrickshock, Thomastown, Mgoncoin, and St. Brigid's were all defeated. In the final, St. Annes put up stern opposition before capitulating on a score of 3-6 to 3-2.

In the Primary School Roinn "B" Championship, again the Rower-Inistioge had wins over Thomastown, Tullogher and Freshford. They were, however, beaten by Shamrocks and Urlingford. In the final, they beat Galmoy by 6-6 to 0-0.

Officers for 1995 were: Mary Lyng, Noreen Tierney, Mary.Cottrell. Our County players were: Siobhan White, Deirdre Brennan, Briona Langton, Emer Lyng, Lizzie Lyng, all at under-14 level. Miriam Lyster and Becky Dempsey played on the County under-16 team.

A big MÍLE MAITH to our sponsors, A.I.B. Bank, Kilkenny Supporters Club, Kilkenny Camogie Board, Tim Kelly, Barry Pender Motors, Super Valu, Thomastown, Tierney O'Neill, Rower-Inistioge Hurling Club, John O'Donnell, Anna and Fintan Murphy, E.B.S., Hennessy Sports, Kalonil Stores.



ROWER-INISTIOGE – MINOR ROINN 'B' CHAMPIONS

Front Row from left: Emer Lyng, Aine Hohohan, Tracey Flood, Elaine McCarthy (Captain), Becky Dempsey, Lizzie Lyng, Kathleen Cahill, Catherine Corcoran, Mary Lyng (Selector).
Back Row from left: Mary Cottrell (Team Trainer), Catriona Holohan, Mairead Galavan, Maria Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Brennan, Linda Cottrell, Siobhan White, Mairead Kelly, Miriam Lyster, Mairead Holohan, Michelle Flood, Briona Langton, Ann Barrow, Lizzie Cahill, Noreen Tierney (Selector).



ROWER-INISTIOGE – FÉILE NA NGAEL ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS

Back row: Benny Holohan (Coach/Selector), Mary Lyng (selector), Siobhan White, Catherine Corcoran, Anne Barron, Briona Langton, Kathleen Cahill, Elaine McCarthy, Mary Cottrell (selector), Noreen Tierney (selector). Front row: Catriona Holohan, Sian Murphy, Jane Kavanagh, Tracy Flood, Aine Holohan, Deirdre Brennan (Captain), Elizabeth Lyng, Emer Lyng, Anita Fitzpatrick, Brid Corcoran.



ROWER-INISTIOGE – U-14 ROINN 'B' CHAMPIONS

Front Row from left: Sian Murphy, Jane Kavanagh, Tracey Flood, Aine Holohan, Deirdre Brennan, Lizzie Lyng, Emer Lyng, Anita Fitzpatrick.
Back Row: Catriona Holohan, Siobhan White (Captain), Catherine Corcoran, Ann Barrow, Briona Langton, Kathleen Cahill, Elaine McCarthy, Brid Corcoran.

ST. LACTAIN'S (FRESHFORD) CAMOGIE CLUB

Once again, it can be said that our club had a reasonably successful year, fielding as it did, teams competing at schools level, under-14, under-16, under-18, under-21, junior and senior levels. This was our eleventh year of competition. Our girls competing at schools level, didn't have the "rub of the green" that is a necessary component for success. Hopefully we will fare somewhat better in 1996.

Our under-14 team blazed a great trail to a winning final. This was the third time in a row to win this title, and the seventh occasion overall.

At under-16, and under-18 levels, we faced near neighbours, Tullaroan in both County Finals. A narrow defeat was the fortune of our under-16 team, but the under-18 team made no mistakes to collect the club's seventh title at this level. Our Junior team were beaten in the last round of the championship by the eventual County winners, Gowran. Our much-fancied Senior team were eventually beaten by defeated County Finalists, Lisdowney.

The main officers in our club during 1995 were; James Dooley (Chairman), Sheila Dowling (Sec.), Donal Heaphy (Vice Chairman), Sinead Costello (Asst. Sec.), Peggy Dowling and Maura Costello (Treasurers), Helen McGrath and Brian Waldron (P.R.O.'s).

Our u-21 team are still competing in this year's championship and they are going for their 6th title.

We would like to thank all those who trained the different teams during the year and all those people who transported players to matches. Looking forward to 1996 and hopefully we will have better luck on the playing fields.



U-14 ROINN A WINNERS

Back row left to right: Catherine Delaney, Nicola Brennan, Ellie Butler, Sinead Kavanagh, Cora Dowling, Kathleen Lennon, Edel Tierney, Bernadette Dooley, Catherine Walsh, Michelle Cass.
Middle row left to right: Lindsay Kavanagh, Breda Kavanagh, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Quinn, Carol Guinan, Miriam Marnell, Grace Dermody, Maria Kennedy, Sabrina Grace, Grace Dalton.
Front row left to right: Cathriona Watson, Cathriona Cormack, Juliet Ryan, Sheila Dalton, Marie Phelan, Mairead Costelloe, Marie O'Connor, Brena Phelan, Ann Fortune, Louise Morrissey.



U-16 ROINN A BEATEN FINALISTS

Back row left to right: Brena Phelan, Sinead Shortt, Marie Fitzpatrick, Emma Fitzpatrick, Sinead Kavanagh, Kelly Long, Kathleen Lennon, Clare Dermody, Julie Ryan.
Front row left to right: Bernadette Dooley, Cora Dowling, Edel Tierney, Mairead Costelloe, Mary C. Ryan, Cathriona Cormack. Missing from photo Orla O'Connor.



U-18 WINNERS

Back row left to right: Marie Dowling, Kelly Long, Julie Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Breda Dooley, Sinead Shortt.
Front row left to right: Cathriona Cormack, Cora Dowling, Mairead Costelloe, Claire Dermody, Kathleen Ryan, Anne Wall, Mary C. Ryan, Eimear Connery.

TULLAROAN CAMOGIE CLUB

Camogie continues to prosper in Tullaroan, with a vibrant committee of Jackie O'Dea (chairperson), Kathleen Hennessy (vice-do), Miriam Pollard (secretary), Carmel Coogan (treas.), and Brenda Maher (asst. sec.). The Intermediate and Roinn "A" under-16 titles were won, and both the under-12, and under-14 teams were beaten at the semi-final stages of their competitions by Carrickshock and Clara, respectively. The under-18 team went to the final to be pipped at the post by arch-rivals Freshford.

The Intermediate championship was a difficult competition, but our girls fought off the aspirations of all including the Shamrocks in a keenly contested final.

The under-16 team accounted for the Shamrock's, Mullinavat and Clara, before facing Freshford in the final. This was a cracking contest, and it looked that Freshford would win the day as they led by 7 points with 10 minutes remaining. However, the passion and pride of the Tullaroan girls saw them home on the line, winning by just two points.

However, the Freshford girls got their revenge, when they toppled our under-18 team in a good final.

Our many thanks to our grounds-people, Jackie O'Dea and Adrian O'Dea. Congratulations to our club members who figured on Kilkenny County teams. they were Maria Maher, Breda Holmes, Olive Hennessy, Martina Maher, Mary Ellen Butler, Una Hennessy, Sarah Butler, Ann-Marie Young and Paula Doheny.



TULLAROAN – 1995 INTERMEDIATE WINNERS

*Back Row: Ciara Holmes, Breda Holmes, Suzanne Mullally, Marie Sweeney, Jackie O'Dea (Trainer), Janet Sweeney, Marie Maher, Edwina Doheny, Ann Marie Cleere, Breda Maher (Trainer).
Front Row: Una Hennessy, Mary Ellen Butler, Michelle Mullally, Martina Maher, Olive Hennessy, Kay Bowden (Captain), Ann Marie Coogan, Brenda Maher, Cathriona O'Dea.*



TULLAROAN – 1995 U-16 ROINN A WINNERS

*Back Row: Terry Maher, Margaret O'Dea, Jackie O'Dea (Trainer), Fiona Coogan, Ann Marie Cleere, Una Hennessy, Laura Sweeney, Breda Maher (Trainer), Diane Delaney, Ruth Walsh, Fiona Hall, Carmel Breen.
Front Row: Elaine Maher, Sarah Butler, Ann Marie Young, Mary Ellen Butler, Martina Maher (captain), Paula Doheny, Olivia Maher, Leandra Pollard.*

PILTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB

Our club had a very exciting, and full year. We competed in three championships, getting to the semi-final stages in two competitions, and reaching the County Final at under-16 level.

PILTOWN U-16 FINALISTS

Back Row L/R: Deirdre Maher, Michelle Hickey, Pauline Farrell, Rose-Mary Doody, Miriam Reid, Deirdre Galvin, Anne-Marie Aylward.

Middle Row L/R: Helen Walsh, Helena Brennan, Nora Gordon, Mary Gordon, Avril O'Brien, Brid Cunningham.

Front Row L/R: Rachel Dunne, Aoife O'Sullivan, Grace Coffey, Deirdre Kenny.



Great credit must be attributed to chairperson Maura Brennan, secretary Mairéad Brennan, and trainers Mairéad and Cathy Brennan for their hard work, and undeniable dedication. The club entered teams at under-

12, and under-14 levels.

Our under-16 team were unlucky to be beaten by Emeralds in the final by a slender two points (2-4 to 2-2).

Our panel was; Miriam Reid, Deirdre Maher, Grace Coffey, Avril O'Brien, Rose Mary Doody, Brid Cunningham, Deirdre Galvin, Helen Walsh, Helena Brennan, Rachel Dunne, Brenda Kenny, Mary Gordon, Nora Gordon, Aoife O'Sullivan, Ann-Marie Aylward, Pauline Farrell. Many of our players also represented their educational establishments in basketball and hockey.

Our expressed ambition for next year would be to enter a team in the Kilkenny Junior Championship.

Nenagh Co-op U-16 Inter County Hurling Tournament

By Richie Stone

Kilkenny once again failed to make a significant impression on the Nenagh Co-op inter-county tournament. They began this year's campaign in good style defeating Wexford 4-7 to 0-7.

Two early goals from full-forward John Barron set them on the road to victory. Others to do well were Michael Kavanagh, Aidan Cummins, Michael Hoyne, John Paul Corcoran and Paul Sheehan. In the second round against Waterford played at Mullinavat, Kilkenny had to battle hard to see off the challenge of the Munster men 4-9 to 1-11. Best for Kilkenny in this game

were Tom Digby, Anthony Drohan, Michael Hoyne, Paul Sheehan and John Barron. The Noresiders travelled to Cahir for the third round against Cork minus a number of players including their midfield pairing of Michael Hoyne and John Paul Corcoran who were club tied. An impressive opening half saw Cork lead 1-8 to 0-1 at half-time. Kilkenny improved after the break were never able to recover from that poor opening half and Cork ran out winners 1-13 to 1-5. Kilkenny's best on the occasion were Michael Kavanagh, Tom Digby, Nickey Kenny and Paul Sheehan.

Following that loss to Cork, Kilkenny needed to beat Tipperary to have any chance of staying in contention for honours. That game, played at Holycross, turned into a nightmare for the Noresiders. After an even enough first half, Tipperary completely dominated the second to run out easy winners on a scoreline of 4-18 to 0-9. Best for a disappointing Kilkenny were Michael Hoyne (who scored all but one of his sides's points) and was the best player on view, John Morgan, John P. Corcoran, John Cullen and Noel Hickey.

This was a disappointing end to a tournament in which Kilkenny had every reason to be confident of doing well following the success of the North and South in



George Leahy (chairman Leinster Coisde Iómana) presenting the U-16 Blitz Trophy to Tomás Digby captain South Kilkenny team that defeated North Kilkenny in the final.

the Leinster blitz earlier in the year. In that blitz, the South defeated their Northern counterparts in the final, having come through a competition that included teams from Galway, Dublin, Wexford, Offaly and Meath.



South Kilkenny U-16 Leinster Blitz champions. Front (l. to r.) Pat Tennyson, M. Fenlon, Thomas Walsh, John Barron, J. P. O'Neill, Niall McCormack, Noel Hickey, Thomas Coogan, Cathal Dunne. Back row (l. to r.) Brian O'Shea, Richard Roche, Thomas Digby (captain), Niall Nevin, Karl Phelan, Aidan Cummins, James Tierney, Peter Mullally, Paul Sheehan, Sean Tyler, John Paul Corcoran, Michael Dunne.



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN UNDER-16 HURLING - ROINN A LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Front row: Tom Butler, Declan Byrne, Joe Joe Brennan, Paul Dermody, Jimmy Lynch, Gearóid Cleere, Michael Teehan, Dermot Hoyne, Alan O'Shea, Tim Purcell. Back row: Michael Hoyne, Anthony Drohan, Shane Murphy, Michael Wall, David Harrison, Eamon Delaney, Brendan Marnell, Robbie Byrne, James Ryall, John Dermody, Karl Keane, Patrick Dalton.

Junior hurlers do it at last



By: PAT DUNPHY

1995 was the year the Kilkenny Junior hurling team had to prove themselves. Defeat was their lot in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. Kilkenny hadn't won an All-Ireland junior final since 1990. They owed it to themselves and they owed it to their manager/trainer Noel Skehan.

The thinking among this year's selectors, Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge), Bob Shortall (Clara), Michael 'Rusty' Fox (Mooncoin), John Carroll (Dunnamaggin) and Pat Dunphy (Rower-Inistioge) was, that the team should be on the young side and not include too many players involved with other panels. They were determined to scout the county for the best possible talent available to them. The James McGarry's, Brian McGovern's and Paul Treacy's were still there from previous years, but an infusion of young blood like Barry Power, Ed. Drea, Dermot Maher and Ollie O'Connor was brought onto the panel and the mixture worked a treat.

Our first outing was against Dublin at O'Toole Park. This was always going to be a tough encounter and so it proved to be. However, the forwards picked off some delightful scores and in the end we ran out convincing winners.

The Leinster final was never going to be easy against Wexford in Wexford Park. At half-time, we were behind and not playing well, Barry Power was unfortunate to be sent off early in the second half. Things weren't looking good. However, some great hurling by our midfield pair of Billy O'Keeffe and Austin Cleere, and Paul Treacy at centre forward, won the day for Kilkenny. We won on a final score of Kilkenny 2-14, Wexford 4-5.

Galway at Birr in an All-Ireland semi-



Dermot Lawlor (Kilkenny) in action in the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Final v. Clare. Billy O'Keeffe lends support.

final at any level is never an easy assignment. It was a goal of the easy variety early in the first half which separated the teams throughout the contest. It was a difficult, uncompromising game and the difference in the end was that early Sean Ryan goal. The final score on this occasion was Kilkenny 2-10, Galway 0-12.

And so to the All-Ireland final against Clare in the middle of August. Clare were on a high, having reached their first All-Ireland final in 63 years the previous Sunday. We had played Clare on two occasions in challenge matches and on both occasions they gave us a good, hard game. The fact that we did play them was of great benefit to the team and it gave us an insight as to what to expect. Noel had worked diligently with the team and they were well prepared.

On the day, everything went right and scores were coming fast and furious. We had a big lead at half time and a goal just after the break ended the game as a contest. Nevertheless, the free scoring forwards were a delight to watch, with the backs leaving nothing away. Billy O'Keeffe was unfortunate to

receive a nasty facial injury which necessitated a stint in hospital. Thankfully, he has made a full recovery.

The final score in the All-Ireland final played in Thurles on 12th August was Kilkenny 1-20, Clare 1-6.

The panel of players involved in this campaign were: James McGarry (Bennettsbridge), Joe Murphy, Capt (Mooncoin), Ed Drea (Barrow Rangers), Sean Meally (Erins Own), Pat Hogan (Mooncoin), Eamonn Kennedy (Dunnamaggin), Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), Austin Cleere (Emeralds), Billy O'Keeffe (Thomastown), Patrick Farrell (Carrickshock), Paul Treacy (Thomastown), Dermot Maher (Barrow Rangers), Dermot Lawlor (St. Martins), Sean Ryan (Dunnamaggin), Ollie O'Connor (St. Lachtains), Mark Tyler (Mooncoin), Tom Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Brian McGovern (Slieverue), Michael Fitzgerald (Clara), Richie Kelly (Rower-Inistioge), Eamonn Mackey (Mooncoin), Brian Leahy (James Stephens) Liam Kenny (Piltown), Barry Power (O'Loughlins)

U-14 Inter-County Hurling

By: RICHIE STONE



Supporters Club sponsorship of Under-14 Tony Forristal Team – Picture shows Jim Freeman handing out shorts to Joe Pyke. Also in picture (l.-r.): Richie Stone (selector), Tom Keane (selector), Garry Whelan (captain), John Glennon (selector), Tom Delahunty (selector), John Skehan (selector). Stockings were sponsored by Hennessy Sports.

Kilkenny's U-14 hurlers once again flattered only to deceive. Despite retaining their Leinster League title with a thrilling win over Wexford, the Noresiders gave one of their poorest ever performances in the Tony Forristal Tournament in Waterford. In fact, they failed to record a single victory in that tournament.

In their opening game, they were never in the running against a Tipperary team that ran out the easiest of winners, 1-11 to 0-2. Kilkenny needed to win their second game to have any chance of qualifying for the latter stages. However, a Wexford side, still smarting from defeat the previous week in the Leinster League Final, put in a storming second half to run out easy 6-6 to 2-5 winners. Their third game against Limerick was of little interest to the Noresiders as they were already out of contention. Despite this, they probably played their best hurling of the tournament before going down to the Shannonsiders 2-7 to 2-4.

On a weekend when many of Kilkenny's better players left their form behind, one who had a fine tournament was Keith Doheny. The John Lockes (Callan) player was one of the smallest players on view but made up for his lack of inches with some whole-hearted displays. Others to do well at various stages were Denis O'Brien, Ger Behan, Martin Óg Kennedy, Kieran Rafter, Alán Dunne and Robert Cody.

Kilkenny Panel – Robert Cody (Mooncoin), Eamón Frisby (Shamrocks), Denis O'Brien (O'Loughlin's), Keith Doheny (John Lockes), Gerry Byrne (Clara), Martin Kennedy (Tullaroan), Brian Murphy (O'Loughlin's), Declan Byrne (Graigie-Ballycallan), Tim Murphy (Danesfort), Ger Behan (Fenians), Gary Whelan (James Stephens), James O'Keeffe (O'Loughlin's), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Joe Ryan (Emeralds), David Dowling (Lisdowney), Niall Grogan (James Stephens), Keith Madigan (Mullinavat), Alán Dunne (James Stephens), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), Kevin Holohan (St. Patrick's), Philip Doheny (Tullaroan), Tommy Lahart (O'Loughlin's), Brian Tyrrell (James Stephens), Paul Kavanagh (O'Loughlin's), Tomás Comerford (O'Loughlin's).

Also on the panel for the Leinster League Final were Shane Knox (Dicksboro) and Barry O'Neill (James Stephens).



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Down Memory Lane



Presentation Convent, Kilkenny – All-Ireland Colleges Senior Champions 1969. Back row: Mella Hennessy, Liz Neary, Catherine Conway, Teresa Brennan, Ann Phelan, Helena O'Neill, Kay Dooley, Miss Mary Connery (coach). Front row: Patsy Byrne, Bee McEvoy, Claire Dowling, Mary Tallis (captain), Teresa O'Neill, Mary Barry, Carmel Doyle, Patricia Cody. Mascot: Michael Walsh (future Kilkenny goalkeeper).



Filling up on "Dutch Courage" in Smithwick's Cellar prior to departure to New York in 1972. Included are: Pat Henderson, Pat Lalor, Paddy Moran, Senan Cooke, Martin Coogan, Noel Skehan, John Kinsella, Mick Crotty, Ron Girdham, Mossy Murphy, Liam O'Brien, Ned Byrne, Jim Treacy, Ron Walker, Tom Skelly, Fan Larkin, Georgie Leahy, Sean Cantwell, Paddy Grace.



Presentation time in Bennettsbridge (circa 1975) John Dowling, Pat Lalor, Mickey Kelly, Noel Skehan, Fr. Nugent, John Kinsella, John Cullen, Fr. Pat O'Farrell, Jim Treacy, Jim Dobbyn.

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONS 1995



Front Row (l-r): Ed. Drea, Paul Treacy, Joe Murphy (capt.), James McGarry, Diarmuid Lawlor, Dermot Maher, Tom Murphy. Back Row (l-r): Sean Meally, Sean Ryan, Oliver O'Connor, Eamon Kennedy, Austin Cleere, Pat Hogan, Billy O'Keeffe, Patrick Farrell.

Photo Tom O'Neill

DUNNAMAGGIN – VALE OIL INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995



Front Row (l-r): Richie O'Neill, Noel Lahart, John Ryan, Jim Hickey, Brian Mackey, Ramie Cahill, Anthony McCormack, Paul Kearney, Mick O'Neill, Tom Hickey. Back Row (l-r): Gerry Carroll, Gerry Ryan, James Moylan, John Fitzpatrick, Michael Moran, Matthew O'Shea, Mick Cleere, Eamon Kennedy, Paul Cahill, Denis Lahart, Pat Moylan, Andrew Hickey, John Joe Kennedy, Sean Ryan.

Photo Tom O'Neill

GLENMORE – ST. CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995



Front Row (l-r): Denis Mullally, John Heffernan, John Phelan, Paul Fitzgerald, Willie O'Connor (capt.), Michael Murphy, Eddie O'Connor, John Murphy, Paddy Mullally, Seamus Dollard. Back Row (l-r): Paschal Phelan, Paul Mullally, Ray Heffernan, Michael Deady, Michael Phelan, Frank Kirwan, Billy Vereker, Shay Vereker, Jimmy Walsh, P.J. O'Connor, Michael Aylward, Christy Heffernan, Pat Barron, Michael "Foxy" Phelan. Mascot: Eoin Murphy. Inset: Des Heffernan.

Photo Tom Brett

Ollie's Generation



*Do you remember
when summer Sundays
were always sunny
when we skipped like terriers
round the heels of our fathers
heading for THE PARK*

*for we were Ollie's generation
bunched behind his goal
in awe of a homegrown hero*

*always we willed the sliotar
toward his goal
always he wanted to take
their best shot*

*crouched like sprinters
we listened for the sharp crack
that signalled the race
for the broken hurl*

*and there were many broken hurls
a schemozzle in the goalmouth
backs and forwards lock in
Sumo-struggle
re-enacting the wild-eyed ritual
of the dropping ball*

*and like an angry tide
colours detach
surge forward
to break foaming in the goalmouth
and the crowd tenses in
anticipation*

*but out he comes
dancing sideways
slicing through the melee
sliotar held high in his defiant fist*

*and the tension splits
with yells of derision
yelps of joy*

*as hell for leather
the sliotar takes wing
and flies*

as quickly as the years

Michael Massey
16 Lacken Drive, Kilkenny

Jim Farrell Cup

By: RICHIE STONE

South Kilkenny's junior hurlers won the Jim Farrell memorial cup for the first time when they defeated their Northern counterparts in the annual North-South challenge which was played this year at Tom Walsh Park.

In a game that was spoiled somewhat by strong winds, the Southerners set themselves up for victory by turning in a good first half. Despite playing into the strong breeze, the winners contained the Northern forwards well in the opening period. They were only two points in arrears at the break, 0-11 to 0-9. The second half was evenly contested for the most part. Gradually, the Southerners began to get on top. In the closing stages of the game they tacked on the points that gave them a deserved victory by 0-21 to 0-16.

The Southerners had sound defenders in Tom Hickey, Eamon Kennedy and Declan Gahan. Brian McGovern and Richie O'Neill did well at midfield, while up front, Paul Kearney, Liam Kenny, Gerry Meehan and Sean Ryan did best.

The North had good defenders in Shay Downey, Martin Farrell, Adrian Stone and Brian Doherty. Gerry Drennan and Austin Cleere worked hard at midfield, while up front, Ollie Blanchfield, Pat O'Grady and substitute Damien Walsh were best.

South – Jim Power (Piltown), Tom Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Eamon Murray (Windgap), Tomás Reddy (Kilmacow), Sean Caulfield (Kilmacow), Eamon Kennedy (Dunnamaggin), Gerry Meehan (Windgap), Liam Kenny (Piltown), Paul Kearney (Dunnamaggin), Kenny O'Shea (Dunnamaggin), Pat Walsh (Windgap), Sean Ryan (Dunnamaggin). *Subs:* Paddy Gahan (Kilmacow).

North – Paul Morrissey (Galmoy), Martin Farrell (Black & Whites), Ger Henderson (Lisdowney), Adrian Stone (St. Patrick's), Brian Doherty (Galmoy), Shay Downey (Lisdowney), Tom Mahony (Danesfort), Gerry Drennan (Galmoy), Austin Cleere (Emeralds), Ned Kelly (Black & Whites), Ollie Blanchfield (Lisdowney), John Corcoran (Galmoy), John Byrne (Black & Whites). *Subs:* Damien Walsh (Cloneen), Alan Gray (Galmoy), Ken Hughes (Emeralds).



I wonder will prayer help! I'll give out the first decade!

The Banner Flies high – Yeeeeehawww!

By:
ENDA McEVROY

And so it came to pass that the McCarthy Cup was paraded in Kilkenny's Newpark Hotel on Thursday, October 12th, 1995. And the trophy was smothered in saffron and blue ribbons, and carried by a quartet of Clare men. And another trio from the Banner – Brendan Conway (a native of Feakle, 21 years a resident of the Marble City), Mike Breen (a Sixmilebridge gent, 22 years on Noreside) and Tom Scully (from Carron in the north Burren, 25 years in town) – were, without a shadow of a doubt, the three proudest human beings on the face of the planet at that moment in time.

It was not alone the hurling story of the year, it was the sports story of the year. It is perhaps the sports story of the decade so far. A first Munster senior hurling title for Clare in 63 years, a first All Ireland victory for them since the year the troop ships steamed for France and hundreds of thousands of young men believed they'd be back home with their families before the leaves fell.

Will those of us who were present ever forget it? The arena of hope, hunger and passion into which Croke Park had been transformed for the afternoon. The ease with which the underdogs settled into the

big occasion, the readiness with which they took the battle to their exalted opponents. The way, during the closing stages, that the challengers, by now clearly with the bit between their teeth, appeared to be doing a Wexford on it and not so much throwing away their chances as blazng them wide past the Canal End uprights. The finish, so fairytalish the Grimm Brothers would have rejected it as being beyond the parameters of credence. The mardi gras afterwards, Croker-turned-Rio de Janeiro.

The lesson of it all? Simply this: that if you want something badly enough and work hard enough for it, you can get your reward. What a beacon of hope for the Yellowbellies, the Deise men, the Laois lads. What a wonderful, so urgently-needed, shot in the arm for the game.

An addendum, though. Not alone must you work hard, as Ger Loughnane and his charges so obviously did (145 gatherings during the season before the morning of September 3rd), you must work cleverly. Blood, sweat and tears are not enough in themselves. Low cunning comes into it too. As does realism. Clare were nothing if not realistic in 1995.

The NHL exposure by Kilkenny at Semple Stadium in May proved to Loughnane that while his team had come a fair distance, they hadn't come as far as was required for provincial glory. Their firepower – semi-automatic pistols to, on the day, the Noresider's heavy machine guns –

was not yet up to the task. They had to move the ball more quickly, to carry out the basics at championship pace. Defeat, seemingly crushing defeat at that, brought with it a silver lining. An unpleasant but necessary lesson was well learned. And there was a bonus: Clare would not meet, and, no less importantly, *knew* they would not meet, an outfit with the Black and Amber's selection of weaponry and expertise in gunnery this side of an All Ireland decider – and certainly not in Munster.

In the push for self-improvement the Banner didn't aim for the stars, didn't attempt to formulate their own version of the Beautiful Game, didn't try anything so foolish as to play a type of hurling that was beyond them. Knowing their own weaknesses, the major one being a lack of scoring forwards, they concentrated on emphasising their strengths: passion, will to win, stamina, a wonderful defence. Like the Tipperary under-21s against Kilkenny, they set out their uncomplicated stall and dared opponents to knock it over. Nobody did. Nobody could.

It is true to say that Limerick were both overconfident and burnt out. That Galway were a sad melange of confusion, aimlessness, old age and inexperience. That Offaly appear unable to raise their championship challenge unless the opposition is wearing black and amber stripes.

It is not altogether untrue to say that Clare succeeded in dragging the reigning All Ireland champions down to their level.



CLARE – ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995

Front Row: (left to right) Liam Doyle, P. J. O'Connell, Ollie Baker, Anthony Daly (Capt.), Jamsie O'Connor, Fergal Hegarty, Fergus Touhy, Stephen McNamara. Back Row: Brian Lohan, Michael O'Halloran, Frank Lohan, Conor Clancy, David Fitzgerald, Sean McMahon, Ger "Sparrow" O'Loughlin. (Photo: Tom Brett)



RTE's Brian Carty interviews Ger Loughnane (Clare Manager), Ted Carroll (Sec. Kilkenny County Board), D. J. Carey and John Healy (Chairman, Kilkenny GAA) after the Church & General National Hurling League Final in Thurles.

Photo: Tom Brett

But a politer and more accurate mode of expressing it would be to hold that the challengers imposed their own agenda on proceedings, played the match on their terms and suffocated the Faithful County with the rage of their hunger. Anyway, keeping things tight up front and putting the Offaly defenders under pressure when they're clearing is not dragging them down to one's level, it's entirely sensible hurling. Good habits, sensible hurling.

Has an All Ireland hurling or football crown ever been won by such a collection of pleasant young men? Pleasant, well-spoken, strong in character and purpose. Hell, they had to be strong in character and purpose to recover from the kicks they's shipped. Write them out in a verse. David Fitzgerald and his unconquerable optimism, his infectious bounciness, his pocket-battleship guts. The moral courage of the previously-maligned but ever-improving (and still very young, remember) Michael O'Halloran and Frank Lohan, Brian Lohan's bristly splendour, his utter self-belief. Seanie McMahon, the quiet strong man, Jamesie O'Connor's articulateness, on the field and off. Men you don't meet every day.

For this observer, one of the most striking facets of the Banner's triumph was the reaction of the players. They were thrilled afterwards, certainly, but they weren't surprised-thrilled. They weren't yahoo-thrilled. They were dignified-thrilled. Get Anthony Daly's speech from the Hogan Stand podium. As the most famous Clareman since the guy who invented the submarine, he was entitled to say just about anything. Instead, all he could talk about was the previous generations from the county, many of them "much better hurlers than us", whose cup of nectar this was also. Such thoughtfulness, such generosity. Anthony, you're much too good to be a TD; thê Papacy is screaming!

Ger Loughnane? "Ruthless," his players

remark. It's a statement, not a complaint. Maybe even a commendation. Bringing into the warmth a county who had spent decades with their noses pressed to the window of the hurling silversmiths entailed singlemindedness, harsh realism, a readiness to set achievable targets, a willingness to send the players to hell and back on the training pitch, and yes, ruthlessness. The proof of the pudding was tasted during the summer of a lifetime. At long last, Clare were able to cope with flying slotars on diamond-hard surfaces.

"In our profession there's an opposition," George Graham, ex-manager of Arsenal FC, once mused. "And in any confrontation you try and look at your opponents' strengths and weaknesses. And my philosophy has always been that you have got to know their strengths and nullify them, and then try to impose your strengths on them. It's no use saying, "Oh, they've got wonderful players".



Outnumbered!!!... "D. J." has the odds stacked against him in the Church & General National Hurling League Final against Clare

Photo: Sportsfile

Loughnane got Clare doing what Graham had Arsenal doing when they won three knock-out competitions in two seasons. Maximising their strengths. (In the case of the Gunners, those strengths were physical size, ability at set-pieces and a degree of resilience that enable them to overcome more naturally talented but spiritually dubious teams). Minimising the scope for their weaknesses to be exploited. Setting the agenda. Playing the game on their own terms. As remarked on elsewhere in the Yearbook the abiding lesson of 1995.

Which brings us neatly to Ollie Baker. Not exactly rated a stylist, this young man, though one of these fine days he may surprise us in this respect, Baker was a key man for Clare because he was so uncomplicated. He hustled, he harried, he ran, he chased, he put his head in where most players would think twice about putting in their hurleys. He made himself an absolute nightmare for opponents and never minded about dirtying his hands in the process. Little surprise, therefore, that it was he who materialised out of nowhere at the death to shoulder Brian Whelehan over the Canal End deadball line and win the 65' that Anthony Daly sent sailing over the crossbar to give the Banner the lead. The unsung hero of the year, without a doubt. Kilkenny's problem is that they have too many master confectioners whose only input is to slather the icing all over the victory cake – and not enough Ollie Bakers.

The future of Clare hurling is safe (and so bright we'd better invest in shades) for the next 30 years thanks to the efforts of Baker, Loughnane, Daly, Brian Lohan, Seanie McMahon, Davie Fitz, Jamesie O'Connor and the rest of them. Nice guys finish last? Not a bit of it. In 1995 they finished first. Rejoice.

MINOR HURLING REVIEW

In minor hurling it was the year of **Dunnamaggin** who brought off the double of league and championship.

Nine teams played in the Roinn A grade and the results were as follows:

South – Dunnamaggin 2-13, Piltown 1-6; Mooncoin 2-7, Rower-Inistioge 2-6. **Final** – Dunnamaggin 7-13, Mooncoin 3-7.

North – O'Loughlin Gaels 4-8, St. Lachtain's 2-7; James Stephens 4-9, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-10; Dicksboro 0-7, Graigue-Ballycallan 0-6. **Final** – James Stephens 0-10, Dicksboro 0-5.

The County Final was played in Nowlan Park on October 15 and produced a gripping contest. Dunnamaggin were contesting their third county final in succession, a great achievement for a rural club.

When the sides met two years previously in the Under-16 decider, a last-minute goal gave victory to Dunnamaggin by one point.

This game again came down to the wire, and in the end, a softish goal by J. P. O'Neill proved the match winner. However, O'Neill had earlier been denied a goal when his fierce drive came back off the crossbar.

A Noel Lahart goal and another from Ramie Cahill helped Dunnamaggin to be on level terms at the interval – 2-4 to 1-7, the James Stephens goal coming from Paddy Power. It was all to play for during the third quarter and the city side were ahead by a point until J. P. O'Neill goaled

and Dunnamaggin held out for a 3-9 to 2-10 victory.

Scorers: Dunnamaggin – Ramie Cahill (1-5, 0-2 frees), Noel Lahart, J. P. O'Neill (1-1 each). Noel Hickey and Andrew (0-1 each). **James Stephens** – Paddy Power (2-0), Liam O'Brien (0-4, 0-1 free), Vincent Coonan (0-2), Patrick Savage (0-1), Tomás O'Dowd (0-3).

TEAMS

Dunnamaggin – Anthony McCormack, Brendan Moore, Tom McCormack, Andrew O'Neill, Willie Kearney, Andrew Hickey, Paul Moore, Brian O'Shea, Colin Herity, John Hickey, Noel Lahart, Ramie Cahill, Noel Hickey Willie Drennan, J. P. O'Neill. *Sub.* – Kenneth Moore.

James Stephens – Patrick Holden, Eoin Larkin, Willie Murphy, Dermot Herlihy, David Mulcahy, Podge Butler, Michael Fogarty, Vincent Coonan, Brian Maher, Mark Brennan, Tomás O'Dowd, John Cullen, Liam O'Brien, Patrick Savage, Paddy Power. *Sub.* – Paddy O'Brien.

Referee – John Guinan.

The league semi-finals saw Dunnamaggin repeat their South final superiority over Mooncoin but this time on a much closer score of 3-10 to 2-5. Graigue-Ballycallan beat a depleted James Stephens by 1-12 to 0-1.

The final was played in Callan on November 11 under terrible conditions of rain and wind but both teams overcame the conditions to serve up a great contest. Dunnamaggin, after playing with the

strong breeze, led by just 0-6 to 0-5 at the interval. They dominated the opening twenty minutes of the second half and a John Hickey goal helped them into a 1-8 to 0-6 lead.

Three points from Joseph Cody, Paul Hoyne and Patrick Nugent left just two points between the sides with five minutes remaining. Dunnamaggin had the final say with points by Ramie Cahill and J.P. O'Neill to run out winners by 1-10 to 0-9.

Ramie Cahill was the man of the match. Others to play well were Anthony McCormack, Tom McCormack, Andrew Hickey, Brian O'Shea, J. P. O'Neill and John Hickey. For the losers, Joseph Young, Paul Hoyne, James Cullinan, John Hoyne and Michael Hoyne were best.

Scorers: Dunnamaggin – Ramie Cahill (0-8, 0-5 frees), John Hickey (1-0), J. P. O'Neill (0-2). **Graigue-Ballycallan** – Tommy Manogue (0-4, 0-3 frees), Paul Hoyne, Patrick Nugent, Michael Hoyne, Joseph Cody, Edward Brennan (0-1 each).

The Dunnamaggin team was exactly the same sixteen as that which won the championship.

Graigue-Ballycallan – Joe Young, Samuel Ryall, Philip Butler, Anthony Drohan, Dermot Hoyne, Paul Hoyne, Pat Marnell, Patrick Nugent, James Cullinan, Edward Brennan, John Hoyne, Tommy Manogue, Micheál Hoyne, Sean Millea, Joe Cody.

Referee – Denis O'Sullivan.



DUNNAMAGGIN – IARNRÓD ÉIREANN MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1995

Front (left to right) – Canice Hickey, Niall McCormack, Colin Herity, Andrew O'Neill, Tom McCormack, Ramie Cahill, Andrew Hickey, Anthony McCormack, Willie Kearney, Noel Lahart, John Hickey. **Back** (left to right) – James Cahill, Leonard O'Shea, Niall Brett, Paddy Drennan, Kenneth Moore, Willie Drennan, Brian O'Shea, Paul Moore, Noel Hickey, Fergal Moore, J. P. O'Neill.



JAMES STEPHENS – MINOR HURLING "A" FINALISTS

Front row (left to right) – Paddy O'Brien, John Morgan, Neil Kelly, Mark Power, Geoffrey Brennan, Liam O'Brien, Brian Maher, Vincent Coonan, Patrick Holden, Mick Fogarty, Diarmuid Herlihy, Ian Morrissey, Ray Kennedy. **Back row** – Michael Phelan, Paul Carroll, Eoin Larkin, David Mulcahy, Seán Brennan (coach), John Cullen, Pat Savage, Tomás O'Dowd, Podge Butler, Willie Murphy, Paddy Power, Hugh Gannon, Stephen Murphy.

The minor hurling Roinn B Championship had an entry of fifteen teams and the results were:

South – Mullinavat 2-12, Thomastown. Kilmacow beat Graignamanagh; John Lockes 5-12, Glenmore 0-8; Shamrocks 1-14, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-8. *Semi-finals* – Mullinavat 2-11, Kilmacow 1-12; John Lockes 2-13, Shamrocks 1-6. *South Final* – John Lockes 1-5, Mullinavat 0-5.

North – Lisdowney 1-13, Erin's Own 1-5; Tullaroan 2-8, Young Irelands 2-6; Fenians 1-22, Emeralds 2-9. *Semi-finals* – Tullaroan 3-13, Lisdowney 0-7; Fenians w.o., St. Martin's scr. *North Final* – Fenians 1-11, Tullaroan 0-6.

The final was played in Nowlan Park on October 22 and produced a gripping game with a P. J. Ryan point from a free two minutes into injury time, giving the title to Fenians on a 1-14 to 1-13 scoreline, with Eoin Beehan and P. J. Ryan doing most of the scoring.

Fenians, favoured by the breeze in the first half, led by 0-9 to 0-5 at the interval. Then P. J. Cody took the match by the scruff of the neck for John Lockes and was mainly responsible for levelling the game at 0-9 each by the 39th minute. A Christopher Vaughan goal had John Lockes ahead by 1-11 to 0-11.

Fenians again took the lead with a Kevin Power goal – 1-13 to 1-12. P. J. Cody levelled amidst great excitement and finally P. J. Ryan's point gave Fenians victory.

Scorers: Fenians – Eoin Beehan (0-9), P. J. Ryan (0-4), Kevin Power (1-0), Podge Delaney (0-1). **John Lockes** – P. J. Cody (0-8), Christopher Vaughan (1-1), Andy Power (0-2), John Norris, John Paul Corcoran (0-1 each).

The teams were:

Fenians – Michael Glendon, Martin Quinlan, Joseph Delaney, Aidan Butler, J.

Ryan, P. J. Ryan, Brian Power, Eoin Beehan, Paul Cashman, Kevin Power, Podge Delaney, Declan Garrett, Laurence Ryan, William Clery, Ger Beehan.

John Lockes – John O'Neill, Michael Denny, Denis Nolan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Michael Dunne, Conleth Nolan, Adrian Lyons, P. J. Cody, Oisín Dawson, Brian Kennedy, John Norris, John Paul Corcoran, Christopher Vaughan, David Henriques, Andy Power.

Referee – Robert Blackmore.

It was St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) year in Roinn C bringing off the double of league and championship. Fifteen teams contested the grade. The results were:

North – Dicksboro II 5-3, Barrow Ranger 0-1; St. Patrick's 8-8, Cloneen 1-1; James Stephens II 4-10, Blacks and Whites (0-11). *Quarter-finals* – Dicksboro II 3-7, Danesfort 2-4; St. Patrick's 1-4, James Stephens 0-6 (replay); Bennettsbridge 1-14, Galmoy 1-2; Conahy Shamrocks 3-9, Clara 3-7. *Semi-finals* – St. Patrick's 4-9, Dicksboro II 2-6; Bennettsbridge 1-8, Conahy Shamrocks (0-8). *North Final* – St. Patrick's 1-11, Bennettsbridge 1-8.

South – Carrickshock 3-7, Mooncoin II 3-5; Windgap 4-10, Slieverue 1-3. *South Final* – Windgap 3-9, Carrickshock 0-3.

The final was played in Palmerstown on September 23rd and St. Patrick's beat Windgap by 2-10 to 1-2. It was a day of very strong wind and St. Patrick's took advantage of it to lead by 2-8 to nil at the interval. The St. Patrick's goals having been scored by Gerry Kennedy, who won the man-of-the-match award, and John Staunton from a "65".

Windgap tried hard in the second half but they could not get through the sound St. Patrick's defence. It was too late in the half when Tom Landy finally goaled. In the closing stages, St. Patrick's again asserted

their superiority and points by Gerry Kennedy and Eoin Holohan gave them an impressive victory.

Scorers: St. Patrick's – Gerry Kennedy (1-6), Mark Swan (0-2), John Staunton (1-0), Richard Stone, Eoin Holohan (0-1 each). **Windgap** – Tom Landy (1-0), Paul McKenna, Matty Enright (0-1 each).

The teams were:

St. Patrick's – Thomas Carroll, Harry Stone, Seamus Lacey, Shane Phelan, Paul Walsh, John Staunton, Eamon Delaney, Brian Phelan, Jody Phelan, Mark Swan, Gerry Kennedy, Billy Irwin, Richard Stone, Robert Lyttle, John Paul Comerford. *Subs.* – Eoin Holohan, Gene Ryan.

Windgap – Aidan Mackey, Enda Hawe, Noel Power, Aidan Power, George Waters, P. J. Barron, James Murray, Keith Doran, Niall Kenny, Darragh Guinan, Tom Landy, Paul McKenna, Patrick Downey, Laurence Doyle, Matty Enright.

Referee – Eddie Mahon.

The league final was a repeat of the North Championship Final and was played in Nowlan Park on November 5, with St. Patrick's and Bennettsbridge finishing level in a low-scoring game – 1-4 each.

St. Patrick's looked in trouble at the interval when the sides were deadlocked at 1-2 each and had to face a stiff breeze. A great defensive display, however, saw them live to fight another day.

Scorers: St. Patrick's – Gerry Kennedy (0-4, 0-3 frees), John Paul Comerford (1-0). **Bennettsbridge** – Joe Gubbins (1-0), John Drea (0-2), Tim Dowling, Wayne Dowling (0-1 each).

The replay took place in Palmerstown and again a great rearguard action saw St. Patrick's through by 2-5 to 0-8. The North Kilkenny side led by 2-4 to 0-4 at the interval, after playing with the breeze. Despite four points, three from frees by John Drea,



WINDGAP – RUNNERS-UP MINOR "C" CHAMPIONSHIP

Front row (left to right) – Niall Kenny, Laurence Doyle, Darragh Guinan, Aidan Mackey, Padraig Power, Thomas Enright, Garret Power, Eoghan Guinan, Matthew Enright, Trevor Jackman, P. J. Hawe. **Back row** (left to right) – Paul McKenna, Keith Doran, P. J. Barron, Tom Landy, James Murray, George Waters, Patrick Downey, Aidan Power, Enda Hawe, Fintan Kenny, Noel Power.

St. Patrick's held out for a great double.

Scorers: St. Patrick's – Richard Stone, John Staunton (1-0 each), Gerry Kennedy, John Paul Comerford (0-2 each), Gene Ryan (0-1). **Bennettsbridge** – John Drea (0-7), Noel Sugrue (0-1).

The teams were:

St. Patrick's – Thomas Carroll, Harry Stone, Seamus Lacey, Shane Phelan, Eamon Delaney, John Staunton, Paul

Walsh, Gerry Kennedy, Jody Phelan, Mark Swan, Billy Irwin, Gene Ryan, Richard Stone, Robert Lyttle, John Paul Comerford.

Bennettsbridge – Bobby Griffiths, James Treacy, Dean Denieffe, Eoin Hanrahan, Liam McEvoy, Ciarán Mulhall, Paul Cullen, Tim Dooley, Wayne Dowling, Joe Gubbins, Brendan Cleere, John Drea, Noel Sugrue, Vincent Freyne, Donal Cahalane.

Eoin Holohan (St. Patrick's) played in the drawn game. Richard Stone (St. Patrick's), who came on a sub., retained his place for the replay. Brian Phelan (Brook) came on as a sub. in the drawn game. Peader Dooley (Bennettsbridge) played in the drawn game. Eoin Hanrahan came on for the replay.

Referee – Eddie Quinn (Carrigeen).

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Back row (left to right): Ramie Cahill, James Maher, John Drea, Noel Lahart, Anthony McCormack, Andrew Hickey, Seán Dowling, Mark Dunphy, David Carroll, Tomás O'Dowd, Paddy Power, RitchieMullaly, Michael Maher, Shane Lanigan, Eddie Mackey, Michael Gordon. Front row; Owen Kenny, P. J. Coady, Michael Kavanagh, Paul Hoyne, P. J. Ryan, Eoin Behan, Seán Millea, Michael Hoyne, Ger Kirwan.

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The Junior Year

By Richie Stone

A number of meetings between the officers of both the Northern and Southern Boards held in early January eventually hammered out a formula for the first ever All-County Junior hurling league. The new league which replaces the old Northern and Southern League was designed to give the junior players more competition and ultimately turned out to be a huge success.

The league, which was kindly sponsored by "Hennessy Sports", commenced in early April and ended on the 8th June when Black and Whites were crowned champions. In between, there was the usual quota of surprise results, but, by the time the semi-final stages were reached, four of the more fancied teams were still in contention. Despite some scares along the way, Black and Whites, Galmoy, Kilmacow and O'Loughlin Gaels had made it through.

In the first semi-final at Palmerstown, Black and Whites survived an injury time rally from Galmoy to emerge victorious by two points 1-12 to 1-10, while, in the second semi-final played in Ballyhale, Kilmacow upset the odds when they had an easy 0-14 to 1-4 win over O'Loughlin Gaels.

The final, played before a good attendance at Nowlan Park, promised to be a cracker. Black and Whites were favourites but Kilmacow were the only team in the entire competition to remain unbeaten and certainly could not be in any way under-rated. Alas, the game proved to be disappointing. An impressive opening quarter, in which they raced into a seven point lead, set the Skeough side up for victory. Try as they might, Kilmacow never really recovered from that poor start and impressive Black and Whites ran out easy winners on the score 3-14 to 2-10.



Dermot Ronan, Paul Cleere, Denis Cody, Michael O'Shea, John Guinan

(Photo: T. O'Neill)

With the League title safely tucked away, Black and Whites were soon installed as one of the favourites for the championship. O'Loughlin Gael's, Galmoy, Kilmacow, Piltown and Windgap were also viewed as possible contenders.

However, championship hurling is a great leveller. In the opening round of the Barlo-Nissan Northern championship, O'Loughlin's eventually saw off the challenge of gritty Lisdowney at the third attempt. St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) opened their campaign with a 3-9 to 0-9 win over Dicksboro. James Stephen's had an easy victory over Fenians, while Emeralds just edged out Danesfort 1-7 to 1-5.

The second round saw a Black and Whites side, that received a first round bye, "escape to victory" over unlucky Clonee who were also playing their first game in the competition. Another side with a first round bye, Galmoy, had an easy victory over Emeralds while James Stephen's had an even easier win over Erin's Own. O'Loughlin Gaels who were beginning to show their true form, were never troubled by a disappointing St. Patrick's, and so the stage was set for the Northern semi-finals.

With the draw keeping the two city sides apart, many wondered if the first all-city Northern final since 1971 was on the cards. The answer was yes: Two thrilling semi-finals saw O'Loughlin's and James Stephen's qualify for the final. O'Loughlin's had just one point to spare

(3-8 to 2-10) over Galmoy while James Stephen's put in a storming final ten minutes to oust fancied Blacks and Whites 3-12 to 2-9.

O'Loughlin's were installed as favourites to take the Northern title at the first time of asking. However, the Larchfield outfit hadn't read the script. By half time in the final, they led 1-7 to 0-1 and were full value for that lead. O'Loughlin's stormed back into the game in the second half and approaching full time had levelled matters at 1-7 each. The drama wasn't over yet. A Derek Kerwick goal on the stroke of time seemed to have settled the issue in favour of Stephen's. Straight from the puck-out Paul Cleere gained possession around midfield and took on the Stephen's defence before rifling home as good a goal as was seen in any grade this year, to tie the game up at 2-7 each.

In the replay, Stephen's again began well. However, O'Loughlin's put in a storming second half to run out easy winners on the score 1-12 to 2-2. So superior were O'Loughlin's in the second half, they restricted the "Village" side to a single late goal.

Down South Windgap and Piltown clashed in the opening round. After a high scoring game, Piltown emerged victors 2-20 to 3-13, leaving Windgap, a side that had a good league campaign, without competitive hurling from an early stage in the year.

In the other first round game, Kilmacow had nine points to spare over Glenmore 3-12 to



BLACK AND WHITES - JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS - Front row (left to right): Alan Byrne, Paul Whelan, Ned Kelly, Pat Nolan, David Murphy, P. J. Murphy, Michael Ryan, Dicky Dowling. Back (left to right): M. J. Doherty, Denis Carroll, Michael Doyle, Martin Farrell, Seán Kealy, John Byrne, Pat O'Grady, Jamie Carroll.

0-12 which also meant an early finish to the season for Glenmore's Junior squad, but they had still plenty to look forward to as their seniors went on to win the "big one" later in the year.

The semi-final pitted Mooncoin against Slieverue and Piltown against league runners-up Kilmacow. Slieverue had little trouble disposing of Mooncoin but it took two games to separate Piltown and Kilmacow. The introduction of minor player Michael Gordon to the Piltown side in the drawn game paid rich dividends, as

he played a big part in earning his side a replay. Piltown made no mistake in the replay, winning 0-24 to Kilmacow 3-7.

In a disappointing Southern final, Slieverue were no match for the Piltown men who ran out easy winners 2-17 to 0-4.

Could O'Loughlin's return to the intermediate grade at the first time of asking, or were Piltown about to spoil the party? That was the question on everyone's lips as they headed for Nowlan Park on County Final day. The final was played as a curtain raiser to the Intermediate

Final between Bennettsbridge and Dunnamaggin and the Senior Semi-Final replay between Fenians and Graigue-Ballycallan, but turned out to be the best game of the day.

Piltown led 0-10 to 1-5 at the break, but a top class second half performance from the city side, saw them win through 2-13 to 1-11. "Man of the Match" Paul Cleere scored 0-11 of his side's total, while the introduction of super-sub Eugene Deegan, who scored 1-1, was also a significant factor in O'Loughlin's triumph.



Piltown Junior Hurling County Finalists 1995 – Back row (left to right): Jim Norris, Dessie O’Dea, Eamon Kenny, Michael Brennan, James Connolly, Liam Kenny, Michael O’Dwyer, Michael O’Shea, John Falconer, Tom Reade, Seamus Norris, Donal O’Brien, Jonathan Cleary. Front row (left to right): Jim Walsh, Andrew McCarthy, Pat Davis, Michael Long, Brian Farrell, Liam McCarthy, Jim Power, Michael Gordon, John Joe Long, Liam Kenny, Denis McCarthy, Richie Connolly, Denis Lawlor.



CLONEEN JUNIOR HURLING TEAM – 1995 - Back row (left to right): Gerard Campion, Liam O’Neill, Paul O’Neill, John Cahill, Larry Buggy, Ted Cahill, Tom Brennan, Florence Brennan. Front row (left to right): Tom Brennan, Michael Delaney, Brendan Smyth, John Feehan, John Delaney, Niall Clancy, Shane Coogan, Adrian Brennan.

(Photo: Tom O’Neill)



ROWERS-INISTIOGHE – Winners of the Iverk Produce Junior A/B League – Front row (left to right): John Downey, Richard Delahunty, Amby Galavan, Martin Flood, Paul Cotterell, Matt Galavan, Pat Dunphy, Richard Flood, Liam Bolger, Michael Doyle. Back row (left to right): Tom O’Keeffe, Patsy Lyng, Seamus Kelly, Joe Ryan, Michael Galavan, John Prendergast, John O’Keeffe, Jim Murphy, Jimmy Prendergast, Dermot Tennyson, Jack Lyng, John Mackey, Kevin Kennedy, Mark Kennedy.

Down Memory Lane



OUR MEN STATESIDE

The Kilkenny team meet Cardinal Spellman outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, when they visited America as National League Champions in 1967.



TULLAROAN - 1969 UNDER-12 COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Tullaroan's victory in the 1994 Primary School Roinn B hurling championship recalled a similar win in 1969. Some of those who played in 1969 had sons on this year's team. Many of the stars of 1969 were connected with the historic senior championship win of 1994. Back row: (left to right) Tom Walsh, Tom Grace, Dick Cass, Joe Walsh, John Glennon, Fr. Hyland, Ger Maher, John Butler, Billy Cleere, Phil Hogan, Tom Maher. Front row: Kevin Pollard, William Walsh, Michael Walsh, Donal Norton, Tom Doheny (captain), Seamus Ronan, E. Sweeney, Michael Glennon, Noel Walsh.



BALLYRAGGET FOOTBALL TEAM - 1932

Included (front row): Bill "Spooley" Butler, Mick Downey, Brian Butler, Jim Cantwell, Jim Brophy, Paddy Delaney, Tom Coffey, Paddy Butler, Matty Hogan. Included (back row): Jimmy Delaney, Ned Kenny, Lar Bowe, Paddy Brophy, Pat Stapleton, Paddy Cleere, "Chess" Dooley, John Holohan, Bill Kenny, Neddy Walsh, Martin Walsh.

WORD SEARCH

R	V	H	E	L	M	E	T	T	Y	C	R	O	K	E	P	A	R	K	S	E
S	A	M	M	A	G	U	I	R	E	N	O	C	L	E	A	R	Y	X	I	B
P	B	D	O	Y	L	C	L	I	N	E	S	M	A	N	O	P	C	G	Y	B
G	O	A	R	Y	E	T	S	D	M	B	A	K	E	R	F	L	O	G	T	F
F	O	S	L	I	N	R	E	S	M	O	D	A	T	P	R	M	F	O	F	I
T	R	A	T	O	P	O	I	N	T	O	X	O	Y	E	A	S	O	T	O	T
B	D	B	L	Y	T	N	S	B	K	T	I	M	W	C	W	Z	O	O	R	Z
C	P	T	K	Y	E	A	B	O	A	H	R	A	S	N	U	P	T	Y	W	G
F	O	B	T	A	S	N	E	V	E	M	A	O	T	B	E	S	B	Y	A	E
R	S	S	L	I	O	T	A	R	R	A	D	A	Y	T	S	Y	A	R	R	R
E	A	B	D	Y	M	O	Y	S	T	N	Y	O	S	V	W	T	L	M	D	A
E	F	B	A	L	T	T	Y	R	O	N	E	S	O	T	R	U	L	E	S	L
M	O	A	N	T	L	Y	C	B	N	E	T	S	A	L	Y	T	O	M	C	D
B	Y	C	A	A	Z	S	T	O	R	E	Y	X	P	H	E	L	A	N	Y	B
U	M	K	N	B	C	G	B	Y	S	B	M	O	Y	P	A	Y	S	Y	T	M
R	O	E	T	C	N	U	Y	T	B	S	H	E	R	L	O	C	K	N	O	Y
K	P	D	M	I	S	Y	O	T	M	U	L	V	I	H	I	L	L	P	E	S
E	B	B	L	C	Y	O	D	R	I	G	N	E	Y	H	A	S	B	L	C	X
A	Y	R	A	B	B	D	D	O	W	N	Y	S	U	M	P	I	R	E	A	M
C	U	N	E	S	T	Y	R	E	F	E	R	E	E	B	C	U	X	Y	C	B
H	C	M	C	U	S	A	C	K	A	C	Y	B	P	P	H	C	A	R	E	Y
O	B	Y	C	D	L	I	A	M	M	C	C	A	R	T	H	Y	O	Y	L	Y

Find the G.A.A. related words listed below, horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the grid.

CAREY
STOREY
BOOTHMAN
CAMOGIE
RULES
DALY
CLEARY
MULVIHILL

BACK
NETS
TROY
RIGNEY
CROKE PARK
FORWARD
FREE
FITZGERALD

BAKER
LIAM McCARTHY
HELMET
PENALTY
GOAL
SHERLOCK
RONAN
SAM MAGUIRE

POINT
SLIOTAR
DOOLEY
DOWNEY
HURLING
REFEREE
HURLEY

PHELAN
BURKE
FOOTBALL
CUSACK
UMPIRE
LINESMAN
BOOTS

KILKENNY G.A.A. RESULTS 1995

(Compiled by Tom Ryal)

Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship

Glenmore	3-19
Fenians	1-14

Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Championship

Dunnamaggin	2-21
Bennettsbridge	1-9

Junior Hurling Championship

O'Loughlin/Gaels	2-13
Piltown	1-11

Special Junior A Hurling Championship

Graigue/Ballycallan	3-14
Glenmore	2-9

Special Junior B Hurling Championship

Carrickshock	2-1
Fenians	0-7

(Replay)

Fenians	2-11
Carrickshock	2-3

(unfinished) (Replay)

Carrickshock	2-6
Fenians	0-7

Under-21 "A" Hurling Championship

James Stephens	1-7
Dunnamaggin	1-7

Under-21 "B" Hurling Championship

Kilmacow	1-8
Fenians	0-9

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Championship Roinn 'A'

Dunnamaggin	3-9
James Stephens	2-10

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Championship Roinn 'B'

Fenians	1-14
John Lockes	1-13

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Championship Roinn 'C'

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget)	2-10
Windgap	1-2

Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final:

Graigue-Ballycallan	4-11
Young Ireland's	3-14

(Replay)

Graigue-Ballycallan	1-11
Young Ireland's	1-10

Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final:

Bennettsbridge	3-11
Dunnamaggin	0-10

Byrne Cup Open Draw Hurling:

St. Martin's	4-14
Tullagher-Rosbercon	2-5

Hennessy Sports All-County Junior Hurling League:

Black and Whites	3-14
Kilmacow	2-10

Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling c'ship.:

O'Loughlin Gaels	2-7
James Stephens	2-7

(replay)

O'Loughlin Gaels	1-12
James Stephens	2-2

Iverk Produce Southern Junior Hurling c'ship:

Piltown	2-17
Slieverue	0-4

Barlo Nissan Northern Special Junior A Hurling championship:

Graigue-Ballycallan	1-11
Threecastles	1-7

Iverk Produce Southern Special Junior A Hurling championship:

Glenmore	2-11
Shamrocks	2-6

Barlo Nissan Northern Special Junior B Hurling championship:

Fenians	0-14
O'Loughlin Gaels	3-4

Iverk Produce Southern Special Junior B Hurling Championship:

Carrickshock	0-9
Windgap	1-3

Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling League:

Rower-Inistioge	1-13
Carrickshock	0-10

Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling League Division 2:

St. Martin's	1-11
Graigue/Ballycallan	2-7

Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling League Division 3:

St. Lachtain's	1-14
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-8

Paddy Cahill Memorial Junior Hurling Tournament:

Dicksboro	0-14
Lisdowney	2-6

Barlo Nissan Under-21 Hurling Roinn A:

James Stephens	3-9
Dicksboro	0-10

Iverk Produce Under-21 Hurling Roinn A:

Dunnamaggin	3-17
Glenmore	1-8

Barlo Nissan Under-21 Hurling Roinn B:

Fenians	5-7
St. Martin's	0-15

Iverk Produce Under-21 Hurling Roinn B:

Kilmacow	0-7
Piltown	0-4

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Roinn "A":

Dunnamaggin	1-10
Graigue-Ballycallan	0-9

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Roinn "B":

John Lockes	0-10
Tullaroan	2-4

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Roinn C:

St. Patrick's	1-4
Bennettsbridge	1-4

(Replay)

St. Patrick's	2-5
Bennettsbridge	0-8

Iarnród Éireann North Minor Hurling Roinn A:

James Stephens	0-10
Dicksboro	0-5

Iarnród Éireann South Minor Hurling Roinn A:

Dunnamaggin	7-13
Moncoin	3-5

Iarnród Éireann North Minor Hurling B:

Fenians	1-11
Tullaroan	0-6

Iarnród Éireann South Minor Hurling Roinn B:

John Lockes	1-5
Mullinavat	0-5

Iarnród Éireann North Minor Hurling Roinn C:

St. Patrick's	1-11
Bennettsbridge	1-8

Iarnród Éireann South Minor Hurling Roinn C:

Windgap	3-6
Carrickshock	0-3

Supernac's Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn 'A':

James Stephens	4-9
Rower-Inistioge	1-8

Supernac's Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn 'B':

Shamrocks	2-12
Fenians	1-9

Supernac's Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn 'C':

Kilmacow	6-5
Clara	3-6

Supernac's Under-16 Hurling League Roinn A:

Graigue-Ballycallan	3-9
James Stephens	2-8

Supernac's Under-16 Hurling League Roinn B:

Shamrocks	2-9
Emeralds	2-6

Supernac's Under-16 Hurling League Roinn C:

James Stephens II	4-6
Clara	0-4

Supernac's Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn 'A':

O'Loughlin Gaels	1-10
Graigue/Ballycallan	1-8

Supernac's Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn 'B':

Shamrocks	4-11
Tullagher-Rosbercon	0-2

Supernac's Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn 'C':

Cloneen	3-6
Carrickshock	3-3

Under-14 Féile na nGael Hurling (Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament):

James Stephens	4-6
Tullaroan	3-3

Supernac's Under-14 Hurling League Roinn C:

Lisdowney	1-8
Cloneen	3-2

(Replay)

Lisdowney	4-10
Cloneen	1-5

Cumann na mBunscoil Under-13 Hurling Roinn 'A' (Educational Supplies):

Tullaroan	5-9
Graigue-Ballycallan	1-2

Cumann na mBunscoil Under-13 Hurling
Roinn 'B' (Hennessy Fuels):
 Graignamanagh 1-2
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-5
(Replay)
 Graignamanagh 1-3
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-3

Cumann na mBunscoil Under-13 Hurling
Roinn 'C' (Paddy O'Connell Cup):
 Carrickshock 2-6
 Lisdowney 1-3

Cumann na mBunscoil Under-13 Hurling
Roinn 'D' (Tedcastles Oil):
 Galmoy 1-8
 Bennettsbridge 2-0

Cumann na mBunscoil (Corn de Bhaldrathe) Under-13 Hurling Country Cup: (Tedcastles Oil)
 Tullaroan 4-10
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-1

Kilkenny Association (Dublin) Roinn A Football Final:
 St. Patrick's 2-3
 St. Canice's 1-2

Toymaster League Roinn B Football:
 Piltown 5-7
 Clogh/Moneenore 2-2

Country Cup Football Final:
 Carrickshock 4-6
 Gowran 0-2

Senior Football Championship:
 James Stephens 0-11
 Dicksboro 1-8
(Replay)
 James Stephens 2-12
 Dicksboro 1-11

Intermediate Football Championship:
 Kilmoganny 1-7
 Piltown 1-6

Junior Football Championship:
 Black and Whites 3-4
 Carrickshock 2-7
(Replay)
 Black and Whites 1-12
 Carrickshock 1-7

Special Junior Football Championship:
 James Stephens 3-6
 Railyard 0-6

Under-21 'A' Football Championship:

Under-21 'B' Football Championship:

Iarnród Eireann Minor Football Championship Roinn 'A':

Iarnród Eireann Minor Football Championship Roinn 'B':

Northern Junior Football Championship:
 Black and Whites 3-8
 Bennettsbridge 3-2

Southern Junior Football Championship:
 Carrickshock 1-8
 Mullinavat 0-2

Northern Under-21 Football Roinn A Final:

Southern Under-21 Football Roinn A Final:

Northern Under-21 Football Roinn B Final:
 Erin's Own 0-9
 Conahy Sarsfields 0-7

South Under-21 Football Roinn B Final:

North Minor Football Roinn B Final:

South Minor Football Roinn B Final:

Outstanding 1994 Results

Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup:

Threecastles 2-14
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-10

Under-21 Football Roinn A Final:

James Stephens 1-5
 Glenmore 0-8
 James Stephens 2-10
 Glenmore 1-13
(After extra time: scores at end of normal time James Stephens 2-6; Glenmore 1-9).
 James Stephens 1-12
 Glenmore 0-3

Under-21 Football Roinn B Final:

Carrickshock 4-4
 Erin's Own 1-4

Minor Football Roinn A Final:

James Stephens v Glenmore
 or Piltown

Minor Football Roinn B Final:

Graigue-Ballycallan 0-7
 Mooncoin 1-3



The committee and officers of The Rower/Inistioge G.A.A. Club – Front row: Pat Walsh, Richard Tierney, Benny Holohan, Joe Pyke (County Chairman Bord na nÓg), Marty Butler, Noel Cottrell. Back row: Paddy Grace, George Doyle, Johnny Murphy, Dermot Kavanagh, Martin Barron, Michael Tierney, Jim Mooney, John Dunphy.

KILKENNY COLLEGES



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE – DR. TOM BARRY CUP HOLDERS – COCA COLA LEINSTER COLLEGES JUVENILE HURLING "A" CHAMPIONS, 1995

Front Row: Joe Brennan, Martin Kealy, Kevin Holohan, Patrick Reid, Richard Holland, Hugh Gannon, Michael Fitzpatrick, Peter O'Neill, Richard Norton, Peter Dowling. Middle Row: Brendan Griffith, Martin Ryan, Liam Heffernan, Joe Walsh, Gary Whelan, Michael Luttrell, Paddy O'Brien, Martin Kennedy, Michael Hickey, Alan Dunne. Back Row: John Prendergast, Bill Kehoe, John Healy, James O'Keeffe, Tim Murphy, Adrian Costigan, David Dowling, Patrick Langton, John Coogan.

THIS YEAR, Kilkenny schools were involved in two innovations which are doing much to promote hurling among our

young followers. Sean Breathnach writes below about the very successful referees course organised in C.B.S. Kilkenny.

Cumann na Meanscoileanna, in conjunction with Bord na nÓg organised a new competition at under-14 level in hurling. There had been criticism that many



St. Kieran's College – Leinster Junior Colleges Hurling Champions (A) 1995.

The St. Kieran's team who defeated St. Peter's, Wexford to win the Leinster Junior Colleges championship for the third successive year. In front (l.-r.): Adrian Finan (trainer), P. O'Brien, M. Kennedy, D. Fahey (Captain), Fr. Jim Cassin (President), D. Davis, J. Walsh, B. Minogue, Pat Murphy (trainer). Centre: C. Brennan, E. O'Neill, S. Skehan, J. Cullen, J. Morgan, L. Trait, J. Power, D. Cahill, D. Connolly, P. Shefflin. Behind: D. Lanigan, J. Coogan, D. Dowling, B. O'Dwyer, P. White, P. Savage, T. J. Fitzgerald, P. Langton, H. Gannon, B. Byrne.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

young players were not getting a chance to represent their schools, so Cumann na Meanscoileanna initiated an under-14 competition for students who did not play in the Coca Cola Leinster championships.

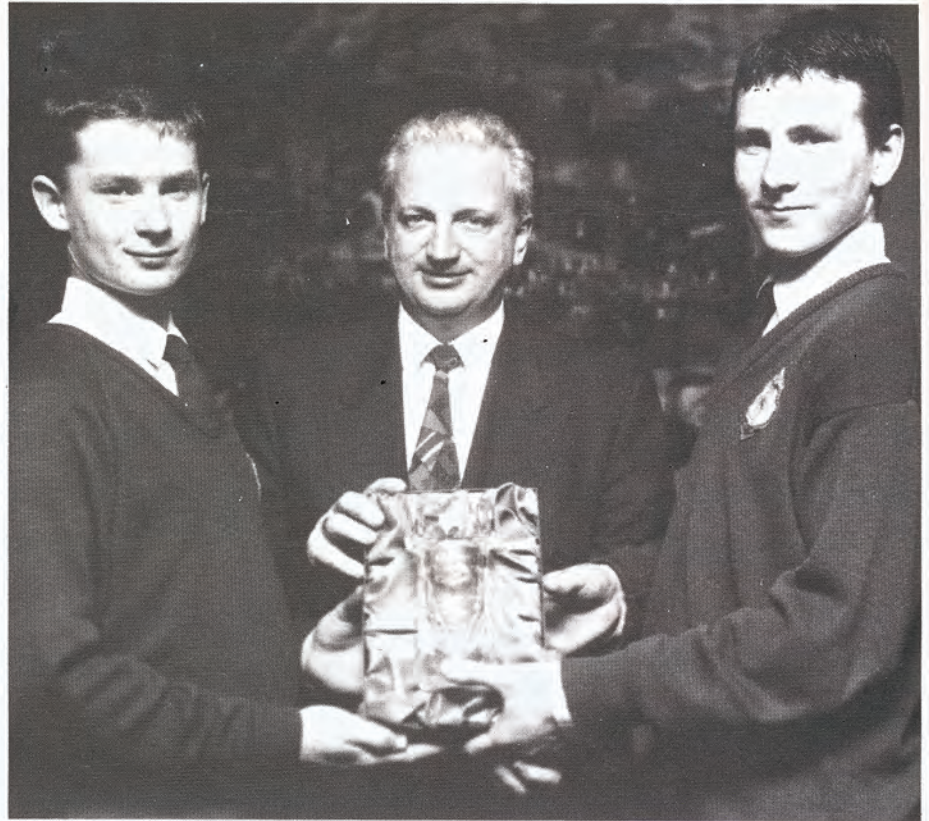
A sliding scale of eligibility was developed to take account of school size, with smaller schools allowed to use the substitutes from their first teams. Six teams took part, C.B.S. Kilkenny, Colaiste Eamon Rís, Callan, Heywood CS, two teams from St. Kierans, and Castlecomer CS. Thus over 100 students were given the opportunity to wear their school colours and compete in a quality competition.

The final was a tracking affair with 'Comer CS defeating St. Kieran's comprehensively. Bord na nÓg chairman Joe Pyke presented the trophy and medals to the 'Comer boys. It is hoped to run the competition again in April/May, 1996.

C.B.S. REFEREES

For many years both local and national G.A.A. officials bemoaned the fact that there were so few competent referees available for inter-county and local championship matches. Headlines in the National newspapers such as 'Great scarcity of Referees', 'Urgent need for More Referees' were commonplace. Nearer to our home our own *Kilkenny People* was known to carry headings such as 'the onus is now on the G.A.A. clubs to provide more referees. Despite all these scary headlines, very few new referees were enlisted.

In the Colleges championship, it was often very difficult to obtain a referee for a Wednesday afternoon game. It was often necessary to contact almost all known referees in an area before one could be found for such matches. It was this difficulty more than anything else that



Michael Falsey and Alan Dowling, pupils of C.B.S. Kilkenny, winners of the All-Ireland Colleges Under-16 handball championship seen here receiving their award from Richard Butler, Hotel Kilkenny, having won the Sportstars Award for the month of February.

prompted Sean Breathnach, a teacher at Kilkenny C.B.S. to encourage students doing the Transition Year Option at Kilkenny C.B.S. to take part in a Referees Course being organised at Kilkenny C.B.S.

Thirteen students doing the Transition decided to participate in the course. As all thirteen students were participating in Gaisce – The Presidents Awards they were able to use the Referees course as a module for one of the skills required.

Leinster Colleges secretary Michael Reynolds was contacted regarding a suitable tutor for the course. He recommended Tony Jordan, Chairman of the Referees Co-ordination Committee at Leinster level and when contacted he readily agreed to come to Kilkenny, to explain the playing rules and provided tuition.

Following twelve hours tuition over a number of weeks, all thirteen volunteers passed the examination at the end of the



Referees – Back Row: Brian O'Flynn, Dermot Mulhall, Rory Connellan, Niall Murpy, Damien King, Aiden Knox. Front Row: Oisin Breathnach, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Colm Leahy, Michael Butler, John Paul Coogan, Graham Wall.

course. An indication of the success of the course was the fact that no student received less than 70% and one student actually received 99%. Where he lost the other 1% is not certain!

Having completed the course, the Kilkenny Referees Association and Kilkenny County Board were notified about the existence of the Young Referees and asked to provide a suitable platform from which the new referees could gain experience. It was considered that the hurling competitions organised by Cumann na mBunscoil would be the ideal starting ground. Cumann na mBunscoil were duly contacted and informed about the availability of the referees and while a number of schools availed of the services of these referees and were extremely pleased with the performance of these young people, it was disappointing that so few schools called upon their services.

Five of the students who took part in the course have gained valuable experience, but the other eight have been lost to Kilkenny G.A.A. as a result of lack of interest shown in them.

The organisers of the Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens Competition are to be complimented for the confidence they placed in the new referees. Aidan Knox, Oisín Breathnach, Brian O'Flynn (Dicksboro) and Michael Mulhall (Conahy Shamrocks) were

invited to assist with the refereeing of the competition. They refereed most of the matches on each of the three Saturdays and those present couldn't but have been impressed by their performance.

This was the first such course of its kind organised in the country and Kilkenny C.B.S. is to be complimented for the initiative shown in organising such a course.

COCA COLA LEINSTER COLLEGES JUNIOR 'A' HURLING

St. Kieran's secured their third Leinster title in a row at this grade with a tremendous win over St. Peter's, Wexford in Carlow on 26th October. For many years, a variety of schools, C.B.S., Kilkenny, 'Comer C.S. and Good Counsel had won this title, but it seems Kieran's have now gained a stranglehold on the competition.

Normally the most competitive and closest of all colleges competitions, both St. Kieran's and St. Peter's galloped through the opposition in the preliminary rounds. The College enjoyed big wins over C.B.S. Kilkenny, and Birr C.S., and defeated a fancied Good Counsel in the semi-final by 2-10 to 0-5. Counsel had been buried by half-time during which period they had failed to register a score against a very impressive St. Kieran's defence.

St. Peter's had been similarly impressive in the Wexford group and dished out a 4-

13 to 1-4 hammering to Birr C.S. in the semi-final. The final produced everything you would expect in Colleges hurling, but will be most remembered for an outstanding defensive display from St. Kieran's. In sixty minutes, they conceded only one close range free and one point from play against a very strong Wexford challenge. The first half was a low-scoring affair, but contained tremendously exciting passages of hurling particularly around both goalmouths.

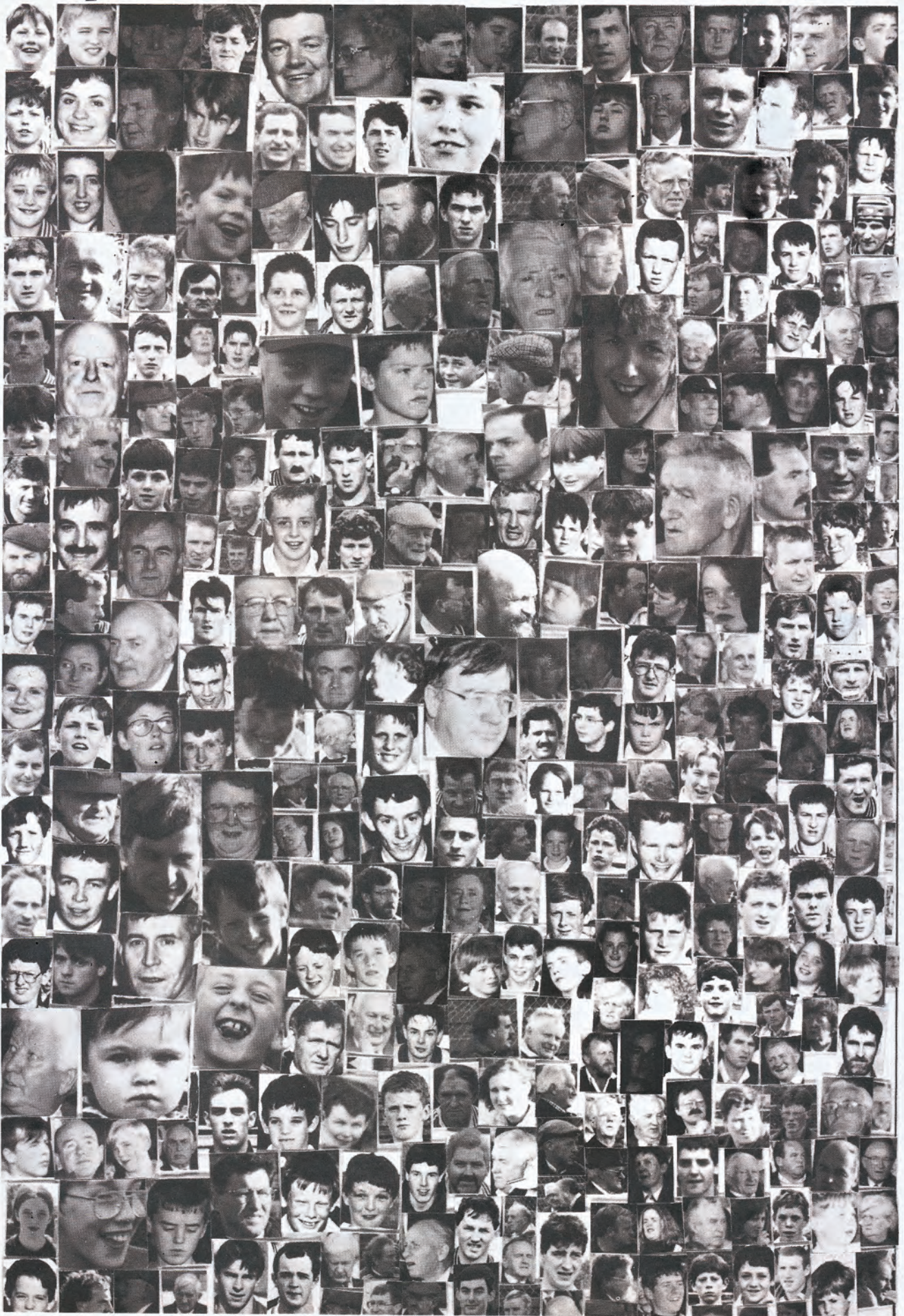
As the second half wore on, the St. Kieran's defence dominated more and more, especially John Morgan and Donncha Fahy. In a three minute spell early in the second half, Paddy O'Brien, John Cullen and Derek Davis grabbed points to give St. Kieran's a lead they never lost. Final score, St. Kieran's 0-7, St. Peter's 0-4.

St. Kieran's: Jamie Power (Carrickshock), Peter White (O'Loughlins), John Morgan (James Stephens), Eoin O'Neill (James Stephens), Martin Óg Kennedy (Tullaroan), Donncha Fahy (St. Mary's), Liam Trant (O'Loughlins), Derek Davis (Cahir), Hugh Gannon (James Stephens), David Dowling (Lisdowney), John Cullen (James Stephens), Nigel Skehan (James Stephens), Pat Langton (Clara), Pat Savage (James Stephens), Paddy O'Brien (James Stephens). Sub used: John Coogan (Tullaroan).



Brian McEvoy receives his "Man of the Match" award from Football Board Secretary, Pat Mulrooney, after the County Senior Football Final replay.

Spot a Face in the Crowd





Gaelic Stars . . . Gaelic games were well represented in the 1995 Smithwicks Sports Stars Awards dinner in Springhill Court Hotel and they are pictured with Mr. George Good, Managing Director, Smithwicks Brewery. Included are (from left): Willie O'Connor (Hurling); Deirdre Malone (Camogie), Eddie Keher (Hall of Fame), George Good, Michael "Ducksie" Walsh (Handball), Angela Downey (who won the Achievements Award - for her camogie career)

(Photo: Tom Brett)



KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD 1995

Front row: Pat Mulrooney, Tommy Murphy, Kieran Meally, Tom Ryall, Pat Dunphy, John Healy, Ted Carroll, Ned Quinn, Barry Hickey, Lar Carroll, Joe Pyke, Martin Treacy. Middle row: Jim Rice, Seamus Martin, Pat Dalton, Michael Dermody, Jimmy Holden, Seamus Delaney, Dick Mahony, Dick Dunphy, Martin Brennan, Nicky Brennan, Charlie McCarthy, Liam Duggan, Joe Lawlor, Jim Phelan, Andy Aylward, Jimmy Walsh, Seamus Fitzpatrick, Nicky Grace, Paul Kinsella, Micheál Roche, Mick Carroll, Bobby Aylward, Seán Tyrrell. Back row; Joe Dunphy, Tommy Lanigan, John Minogue, Pat Molloy, John Comerford, John Lacey, Patsy Murphy, E. J. Ryan, John Lanigan, Paddy Gaule, Eamon Kelly, Eugene Dunphy.

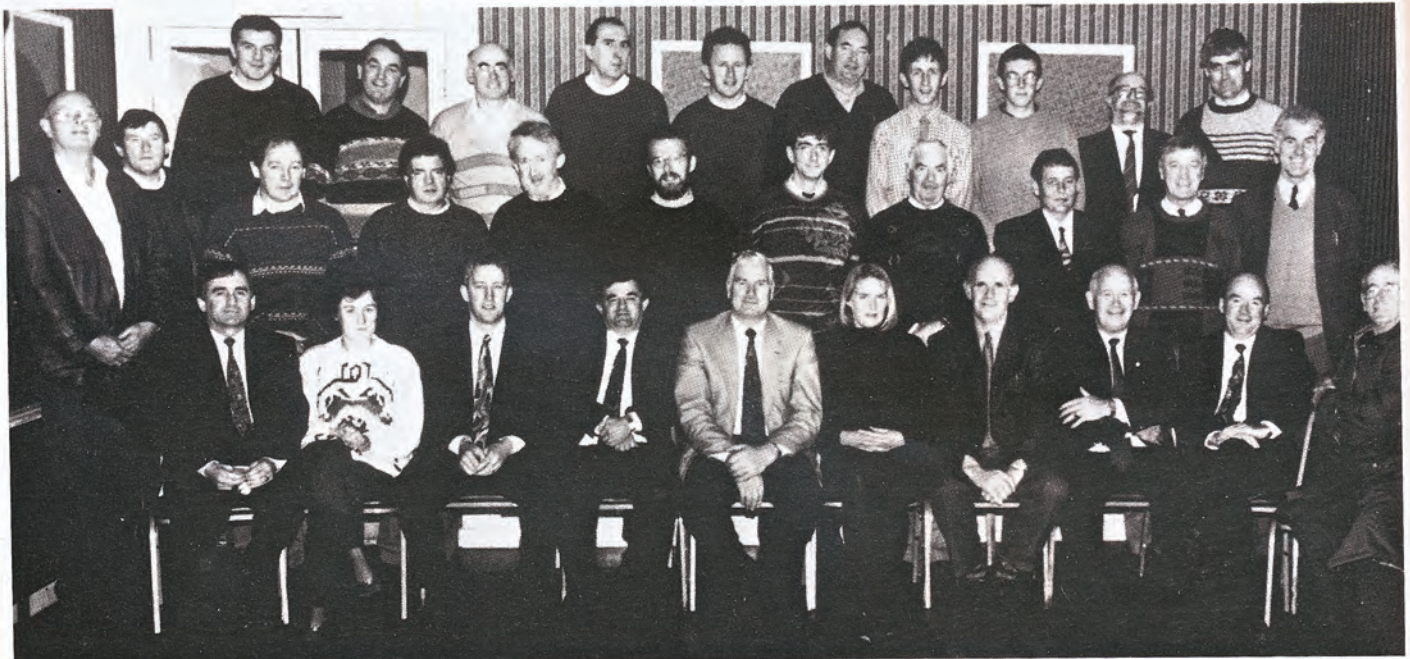
(Photo: Tom Brett)



Jim Freeman presents a sponsorship cheque to Kieran Meally (Chairman Football Board), Niall Morrissey (Captain Kilkenny Football team) prior to their National Football League game against London in Ruislip.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

COUNTY BOARD OFFICERS AND TEACHERS IN LOCAL SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS WHO WERE PRESENTED WITH EQUIPMENT GRANTS



Front row: Barry Hickey, Elaine Phelan, Pat Dunphy, Joe Pyke, John Healy, Dervilla O'Byrne, Ted Carroll, Kieran Meally, Michael Hayes, Barry Henriques. Middle row: Fr. John Cosgrave, Pat Mulrooney, Martin Gordon, Paul Kinsella, Jim Ryan, Willie McTiernan, Paddy O'Driscoll, Jim Walsh, Tom Holen, Denis Philpott, Pat Murphy (New Ross). Back row: Jim Kavanagh, Nicky Brennan, Sean Lynch, Pat Murphy (Borris V.S.), Hugh Byrne, Tom Walsh, Ger Dunphy, Eoin Garvey, Tommy Lanigan, Tom Keane.