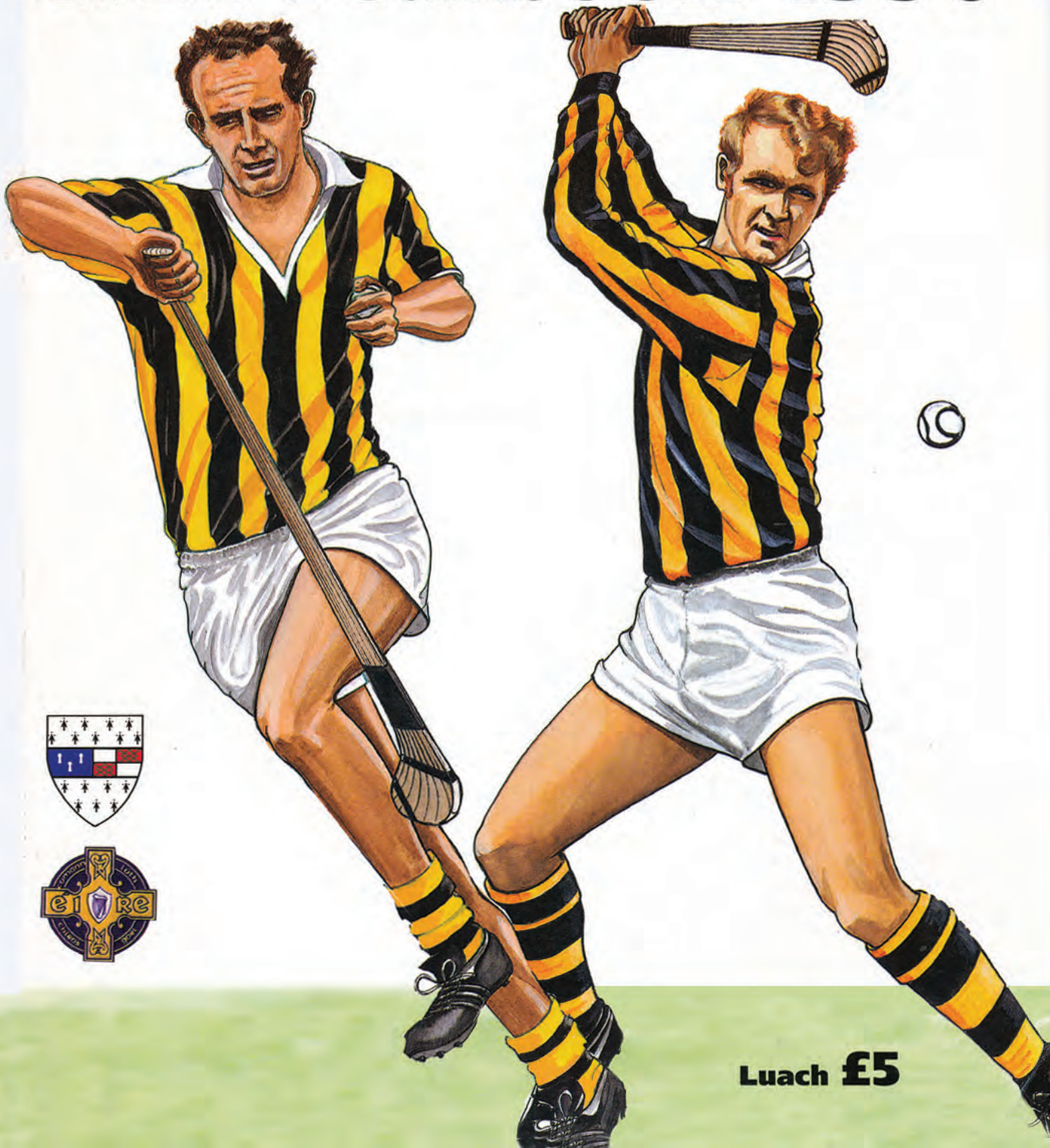


# KILKENNY

## GAA Yearbook 1996



Luach **£5**

# KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1996

## C O N T E N T S

Editorial .....	3	A man for all seasons .....	91
Foreword .....	5	Club Scene 2 .....	93
Michael Walsh - Profile .....	6	Féile na nGael .....	109
Under-14 Hurling .....	9	Oir is libhse an chumhacht .....	111
The Quiet Man - Ted Carroll .....	12	Are you here? .....	112
Under-14 Football .....	17	Minor Football .....	115
Local Heroes .....	18	Johnny McGovern .....	117
Cumann na mBunscoileanna .....	20	Dick Walsh remembers .....	120
'Duxie' Walsh - Profile .....	29	Martin Meally .....	122
Christian Brothers .....	31	Senior Hurling Championship .....	125
Senior Colleges Hurling .....	32	Minor Hurling .....	128
Micheál O'Hehir - A tribute .....	35	Club Scene 3 .....	133
Nenagh Co-Op. Hurling .....	36	Under-16 Hurling and Football .....	147
Under-21 Inter-County .....	37	Women in the wings .....	151
Referees' Report .....	39	Ollie Walsh .....	153
Juvenile Scór .....	40	Intermediate Hurling Championship .....	156
Club Scene 1 .....	41	Pádraig Puirseál .....	159
Under-21 Hurling - Roinn B .....	49	Vocational Schools .....	161
Coaches - A day in the life of .....	50	Forty years of hurling memories .....	166
Senior Scór .....	53	Secondary Schools .....	168
Down Memory Lane 1 .....	54	Club Scene 4 .....	170
Test Your Knowledge .....	56	Kevin Fennelly - Profile .....	181
Senior Colleges - Roinn B .....	57	Dan Phelan - Profile .....	183
The Heather Blazing .....	59	Senior Inter-County Hurling .....	185
Bill Walsh - Profile .....	62	Micheál O'Hehir .....	188
Liam Keoghan - Profile .....	65	'Cha' Whelan .....	189
Nowlan Park Development .....	67	Juvenile Colleges Hurling .....	190
Junior Colleges Hurling .....	70	Masters' Hurling .....	192
Handball Focus .....	72	Peter Dukelow - Profile .....	194
1966 - A Look-back .....	79	Supporters' Club .....	195
Minor Hurling - Inter-county .....	81	Bobby Hinks .....	197
Junior Hurling - Inter-county .....	83	Camogie Scene .....	198
Under-21 Hurling - Roinn C .....	85	Results of the year .....	215
Down Memory Lane 2 .....	86	Camáint .....	217
Accidental Champions .....	88	Attitude determines Altitude .....	219
Junior Club Report .....	89		

# KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1996

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## FRONT COVER

Ollie Walsh and Ted Carroll  
Pen and wash sketches  
by J. Burke

# Editorial

**I**pose the question – why should the winning of a major title(s) dictate whether or not a County should produce a Yearbook? The answer is, of course, that it shouldn't. It's not about winning all Ireland titles. It's not about All Star awards. It's not about television, civic receptions, pipe bands or any other contrived hype. It is about young Peter who plays his first final in Nowlan Park in the inaugural Camaint hurling competition. It is about the efforts of teachers in Firoda, Dunamaggin, Lisnafuncheon, Skeoughvosteen, Clogh, Listerlin, Monroe and dozens of other little schools around the county.



It's about the efforts of a lowly Club Secretary who is Chairman, Treasurer, PRO, Team Trainer, Selector, Bagman and Transporter of a special junior hurling team, barely able to muster the numbers to make a token attempt to fulfil their fixtures. It's about the dedicated volunteer who has an irrepresible belief in the importance of the grass roots, of the little parish.

That is why we feel that we would not be doing justice to all these dedicated, honest, hard working, honourable, voluntary GAA workers if we did not pay due regard to their every effort. And what a pleasure it has been to record for posterity their selfless endeavours.

While it has been pleasurable, it has not been easy to compile this publication, particularly in a year that saw Kilkenny, in particular, and the GAA, in general, lose two of its greatest sons, Ted Carroll and Ollie Walsh, It was a year too, that saw the demise of one of our most charismatic backs, Cha Whelan. Ar dheis De go raibh siad.

As Editor (loosely speaking), I am honour bound to acknowledge the amazing contribution of the Yearbook Committee. I am mindful of people like our Chairman, Brendan O'Sullivan, our Treasurer, Gerry O'Neill, Dermot Dunphy, Tommy Lanigan, Tom Ryall, John Knox NT, Richie Stone and Tommy O'Brien.

I wish to record my gratitude to all our contributors, especially the club PRO's, our dear friends Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune) and John Knox (Kilkenny People), Mick Dunne (Gaelic World), Tomm Mooney (Echo Group) and John B. Keane of Listowel.

I wish to thank all our photographers both professional and amateur. In particular, I thank Tom and Tomás Brett without whose expertise this Yearbook would not be as pictorially attractive. I value too, the enormous contribution and friendship of another great man of pictures, Tom O'Neill. I thank Ignatius O'Neill who took such care to produce a brilliant picture of John Power for our poster. Thanks, too, to John for allowing us to use the picture. To the elusive J. Burke, whom our best endeavours failed to locate, we are indebted for the fine pen and ink sketches which so fittingly adorn our cover.

Once again, our publishers, Kilkenny People Printing have produced a publication with which I am proud to be identified. I thank them for their courtesy, patience, assistance and of course, professionalism.

To all our advertisers, I say "Go raibh maith agaibh go leir". I implore you, our readers, to support every one of them.

I thank our County Chairman, John Healy for his continued encouragement, Pat Dunphy, County Secretary, Paul Kinsella, Chairman of the Development Committee, and the Kilkenny County Board for all their support and assistance.

Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise dibh go léir.

**BARRIE HENRIQUES**  
Editor

# Foreword

Tá bliain eile imithe thart agus mar is gnáth, tá ár n-imleabhar bliantúil ar fáil arís. Táimid fíorbhuíoch do gach éinne a chabhraigh linn chun irisleabhar fiúntach, suimíuil, a chur le chéile. Guím rath agus séan ar ár n-imreoirí agus ár lucht tacaóchta uilig. Go mba fada buan sibh!

Another year and another year book for publication and I hope another enjoyable read for you.

1996 will be viewed with great disappointment on the inter-county playing fields in Kilkenny, with just two Leinster titles at minor and junior level, not sufficient to satisfy the expectations of Kilkenny followers.

New club champions emerged in Kilkenny this year with Young Irelands of Gowran taking their first ever senior title and the Tom Walsh Cup, after two great games with James Stephens, after 120 minutes of highly competitive, most skilful entertaining and sporting hurling, and only a puck of the ball separating the teams in the end. Our best hurling final for many years. O'Loughlin Gaels, after their junior success of '95, followed on with the intermediate crown to gain senior status for '97. Piltown took the junior title.

On the college scene St. Kieran's took the senior title and in the vocational schools senior, Mooncoin failed at the final hurdle. Kilkenny C.B.S. followed their Leinster juvenile success of last year by adding the junior honours, defeating St. Kieran's in the final.

Kilkenny handballers again kept the county at the very top in Ireland, as Michael "Duxie" Walsh won his twelfth All-Ireland senior softball singles title in a row. Duxie and Eugene Downey completed another fantastic year for handball in Kilkenny, winning their ninth senior doubles title.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who assisted the Board in any way during the past year, particularly our main sponsors Avonmore P.L.C., senior league and championship, sponsors St. Canice's Credit Union, Intermediate league and championship sponsors Vale Oil, minor hurling league and championship sponsors Iarnrod Éireann, junior sponsors all county league Hennessey Sports, Northern championship, Barlo Nissan, Southern championship Iverk Produce.

The development work in Nowlan Park has progressed splendidly over the past year and I take this opportunity to thank all the many sponsors and all who contributed in any way for their generosity.

I must once again, on behalf of the hard working committee, thank all who contributed such splendid articles, information and photographs to this publication. Without the tremendous support we receive each year from our advertisers this would not be possible, and I urge you to support them at every opportunity.



Each year we place great emphasis on our pictorial coverage, and this year is no exception, the quality and quantity is once again superb. A special go raibh míle maith agaibh to our "photographers" Tom and Thomas Brett, Tommy O'Neill, Ray McManus of *Sportsfile*, Ignatius O'Neill, Gerry Deegan, Jimmy Walsh, Ned Buggy and the many, many dedicated amateurs who contributed to making our Year Book such a truly compulsive read and a fitting tribute to all concerned.

To our editor, Barry Henriques, I say a sincere thank you for such splendid work organising material, and securing the necessary advertising. Barry would certainly want me to remember his hard-working and dedicated committee without whom none of this would ever be possible, and I thank them all very sincerely for their commitment to such a tough task over the past months.

This Year Book will once again find its way into many Christmas stockings in Kilkenny, and many parts of the globe. I hope you, the readers, derive the same pleasure from it as did the hard-working committee in putting its contents together.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all you faithful and dedicated Kilkenny supporters everywhere. My sincere thanks to all the clubs in the county and their officials for their loyalty and endless support to me personally over the past years.

**Séan Ó hÉili**

Cathaoirleach,

Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh

# Michael Walsh

## WHY RETIRE NOW?

In an interview  
with  
Tommy O'Brien

There were a number of factors. There were a lot of things to consider at the end of the year and I just thought that the time was right now rather than hang on for too much longer.

There are five or six factors involved really and they all added up. You have to make a decision sometime and I decided that this was the right time to go.

### JUVENILE

Schools hurling is where it all started. My first big memory of schools hurling was with Kilkenny CBS Primary School in Féile na nGael in 1975. This was the first time I played in goal. I had played Rice Cup earlier that year with the Secondary School but not in goal.

We won the Under-14 county final and I remember a tremendous weekend in Middleton.

We played Glen Rovers in the Féile final in the St. Finbarr's ground – the first Kilkenny team to get that far. They had great support and I remember a ball going into the net from 30 or 40 yard and I didn't even see it. I remember we really owned the game despite playing without P. J. Martin.

When it was all over – the crowd on the pitch appeared to be huge and after the game I was called up to have a photograph taken with Christy Ring's son.

### SECONDARY SCHOOL

The big memory of my days in Kilkenny CBS Secondary School was winning the Leinster junior colleges final of 1978. We had a very good team and beat St. Peter's in the final. Frankie Nolan and Donal Johnson were our big guns – we were down to 14 men and Frankie and Donal just ran amok. We just hammered them in the end – it was a brilliant performance.

It was a great memory for me. My father and Paddy Johnston as well as Seán Walsh were involved – it was the first time my father was involved in a team on which I played.

On the following year, we actually beat



Ollie Walsh and son Michael at Nowlan Park

St. Kieran's in the championship. This was a great event for us because CBS don't often beat St. Kieran's and I got the winning goal just to make it better!

In the final we played against Birr in Athy. I felt we had the beating of them but we lost our discipline on the day and the game ended up in a massive row. It was the first time I remember being afraid at a game. The Birr supporters were lined up at the edge of the pitch. Ken Hogan was full-back on the Birr team and Paddy Corrigan was on the team too.

But we lost our discipline in a big way and that was that!

### MINOR

I was on the Kilkenny minor team in 1979. That was a great year for me. We lost the All-Ireland against Cork but I won the Kilkenny 'Man of the Match' award. Although we didn't win the All-Ireland it was still a great thrill for us. It was a dream come true to play in an All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

Seán Tyrrell (O'Loughlin's) was the captain and Billy Walton (James Stephen's) although he didn't start was one of our strong men, Paddy Heffernan (Tullogher) and Jim Holden (Mooncoin) were other stars on this team.

The rest of the year was a bad memory for me – I kept losing finals. In 1979 I was on teams that lost the Minor All-Ireland, Minor county hurling final, minor county football final and Intermediate county hurling final against Ballyragget – all in the space of a few months. That was a rough time and the bad luck seemed to follow me into Under-21.

### UNDER-21

I lost two Under-21 All-Ireland finals to

Tipperary in Waterford. We were winning Leinster titles but couldn't win the All-Irelands.

We won a great Leinster Under-21 final against Wexford. It was the first time I was involved in a game with such passion on the field of play. It was one of the greatest games I was ever involved in. We won that Leinster final but lost the All-Ireland against Tipperary and got hammered the next year.

### OUTFIELD V IN GOAL

My career was really a mixture of outfield and goal. I really didn't get the same enjoyment from playing outfield.

I played outfield in the Oireachtas final of 1984. I had played well outfield for Runtalrad when we won the Factories All-Ireland. But after 17 minutes I was hit by the end of a swing from Tim Crowley. It was a serious injury – I broke my nose and got a huge number of stitches. It was actually Frank Cummins last game playing for Kilkenny and the last time Kilkenny won the Oireachtas.

Then I settled into playing in my favourite position – in goal.

### SOCCER

I got a good run in soccer for a while around that time.

Evergreen got a tremendous run in the FAI junior cup. We got to the FAI final which was historic for a Kilkenny team. I was selected on the Irish team and was actually captain. There was a lot of interest from League of Ireland clubs at that time.

I was still tipping around at hurling. Dicksboro were going badly and I was not involved with Kilkenny. I was also undecided whether to play in goal or outfield.

## JUNIOR

My first All-Ireland victory was in 1986 – we won the junior All-Ireland against Limerick. It was one of the big thrills of my career. You wouldn't think it was an All-Ireland – there were only about 1,000 people in Thurles and it might appear to some that it was not a great occasion for us but to me, it was one of the big days of my life.

I also won the junior All-Ireland in 1990 against Tipperary. That was also a great occasion in Portlaoise. Pat Ryan (Emeralds), Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), Charlie Carter (Young Irelands), Liam Simpson (Bennettsbridge) and Michael Walsh (Slieverue) gave really great performances. There was a huge crowd there because it was Tipperary and it remains one of my great memories.

### 1991

My father took over the senior team and the selectors decided to give me my big chance.

It didn't start off too well. I remember we played Limerick in Nowlan Park and we got hammered. People were laughing at us and said that Kilkenny hurling was down for a long, long time.

We worked hard in the new year and the turning point came against Tipperary in Semple Stadium. We had to beat them to get through to the knock-out stages of the league. We put on a great performance to beat Tipp by two points. Pat Ryan and Liam Simpson were playing and Pat Dwyer had come through to senior earlier.

We beat Galway in the League quarter-final. Things were looking good when we drew the semi-final against Wexford in Croke Park – we should have beaten them – but we lost the replay.

Once I start off the year, nothing else comes into my mind except hurling. I am interested in all sports but once a hurling year started, it was total concentration 7 days a week and everything else took a back seat.

I trained with Kilkenny almost every second night and every other day I used to be in the Cosh handball alley for about a half hour hitting the ball around and getting used to the ball coming to me from every angle. I did this for about five years and I found it to be a great help to me.

The Leinster final in 1991 was against Dublin. The team didn't play very well but it was one of my good days. Everyone said that we would walk the games against Dublin and against Antrim. My father always said not to be listening to people but it does have an effect.

Even though we didn't play really well – we only won by two points – on a personal level; I was really happy with my own game. I was back from a very serious injury I sustained against Wexford and it was a big test to see would I come through.

I remember in the middle of the All-Ireland semi-final against Antrim, Eddie O'Connor had come in to full-back when John Henderson got injured. I said to Eddie "we're gone" and Eddie agreed. Then we got two marvellous but really crazy scores. D. J. scored over his shoulder from about 75 yards and Eamonn Morrissey scored from the sideline. This was a really scary feeling – that we would lose a big game we were expected to win easily.

The 1991 final was a learning process. We all got carried away in the hype and we just went up really to take part in the final and the game passed a lot of us by. For 12 of us, it was a new occasion and it just passed us by. The hype was unnatural and we got sucked in by it. A lot of people thought we should have won the final. We could have won it but my view is that if we had won it we would never have won the next two.

### 1992

We came good again in 1992 but the year began badly when we played Limerick. We were hammered and again people thought we would do well because we hadn't played well since the All-Ireland.

We played Offaly in Croke Park and we were struggling until Christy (Heffernan) came on.

Cyril Farrell had taken over the training of Wexford and people were saying it would be Wexford's year. We played against the wind in the first half and we just went crazy! We scored 1-2 in the first 5 minutes. We were still with them after 35 minutes against the wind. It was the first time that the team showed the character that would come through.

Galway was a really tough game too but we got through it.

Each player was interviewed individually in the *Kilkenny People* on the week before the All-Ireland final against Cork and the thing that came through to me from those interviews was the real determination of all the players. Looking back on it now, there was no way that Kilkenny could lose.

I remember it was lashing rain and there was a heavy wind but it didn't matter. We were just so determined!

It was a real team effort. We were against the wind in the first half and our backs were tremendous – and by our backs I mean everyone from No. 15 to No. 2.

I remember in the second half watching the forwards stopping the Cork backs from clearing. Even players that people might not have thought were playing well – they actually were doing their stuff and playing a huge part in the victory. The forwards worked so hard to stop the Cork players from clearing the ball.

Naturally, it was the highlight of my career. At the end of the game, the place went crazy. I immediately wanted to meet

my father but the crowds came on to the field and actually I first saw him after the game when we were up in the Hogan Stand getting the Cup.

I first met him after the game in the corridor of the dressingroom. There was nothing said but it was pure magic for the two of us. There was nothing said – but it was the biggest moment of our lives for both of us. It was thanks from me to him anyway.

### 1993

We played Wexford in the Leinster final and the first game was one of the best I ever played in. Forwards were given licence to move wherever they liked and this confused Wexford. Wexford hurled out of their skin but we got some brilliant late scores to save the day. We really should have lost that game – we were really just hanging on.

On the following Wednesday night, my father again instructed the forwards to keep moving from one position to another. Once more it worked a treat. Wexford had played so well in the three matches of the league final and in the two games in the Leinster final that you had to feel really sorry for them and they really deserved their All-Ireland this year.

But Kilkenny were so determined to win. The competition between backs and forwards in training was bound to sharpen us up. Eddie and Willie (O'Connor) wouldn't want to be beaten by anyone and the training was tremendous.

The first All-Ireland was so big for me that the second one – although still a huge occasion – didn't mean the same.

We had great captains both years although they were very different. In 1992 Liam Fennelly played a huge part off the field. He is as shrewd a person as you could meet.

Eddie O'Connor just leads from the front. Although carrying a serious injury, he still played on that year. He deserves great respect for that.

### 1994

I was unlucky that when I got to be captain, it was in 1994. There were quite a few factors involved in the team not making it three-in-a-row – there was the row over the holiday, which was unfortunate really, and was blown out of proportion.

The really big factor was that the team just generally got tired. One or two things happened that we wished didn't occur but the spirit of togetherness was lost due mainly to the players getting tired. We just weren't really with it.

It was the fourth year together and you just can't keep up the spirit for that amount of time.

### 1995

We won the league and things appeared to be going smoothly. However,

although we beat Offaly in the quarter final, it was mainly due to D. J.'s three goals. Offaly really outhurlled us. We beat Clare in the final but from then on, things just went wrong.

We were lucky to scrape past Laois in the championship and we beat Dublin without playing all that well and the funny thing about the Leinster Final was that many people said that they didn't see hurling like it for a long, long time. It was a dreadful day and the first half was brilliant.

Then they got a controversial goal at the start of the second half and Offaly just motored from there.

## 1996

This year was a really tough one for me. I had lost my place and I didn't see much chance of winning it back but I kept on training anyway.

Then my father died and this was a huge blow to me. I know he wouldn't like me to go out without fighting for my place and I wouldn't want to go out that way myself either.

I spoke to a few people at that time about whether I should try to win my place back or not and opinion was divided.

I really worked hard and went back to the Closh. I worked hard off and on the pitch and won my place back. We lost to Wexford but I felt things just weren't right. Having said that, we only lost by a goal and Wexford went on to win the All-Ireland.

## DICKSBORO

I lost two Intermediate finals with Dicksboro before things went right for us. Many of the players who had given their all for Dicksboro had retired. It's still there – Merch (John Marnell) was still there – he was always there, I think!

All those losing finals had an effect and the club wasn't really going well. In 1990 we were blessed just to keep our Intermediate status.

Then in 1991 Pat Henderson got involved and the whole scene changed. I still can't believe that things went right for us – I was playing for the 'Boro since 1979 and now 11 years later we had a lot of young players coming along together.

We got to the Intermediate quarter final against Bennettsbridge and they ran us ragged for the first 15 minutes but they just didn't put away their chances. We gradually got back into the game and won it.

Now we were in the Intermediate semi-final from nowhere! We played Thomastown in the semi-final in Callan. Neither team played very well but we won and qualified for the final.

The final was Busty's (Liam Kerwick) big day and he just hit a vein of form and scored all round him.

We played Young Irelands and they were favourites – they had D. J. Carey, Pat O'Neill, a really good team.

It was a brilliant feeling winning the

championship. That day I thought of people like Tommy Gaffney, Paddy Grace, the McGarrys, and all the players who really gave their life-blood for the club but never won. They were great servants of the club and didn't get the results they deserved.

The first year we were senior we won the relegation play-off against Castlecomer and that was that. We were just happy to survive as seniors.

We didn't think for a minute that we were going to win a senior championship. We played OK and we drew the Village in the quarter-final. It was played on the day of the Football All-Ireland in 1993. It was expected to be a real blood and thunder affair but it was unreal playing at one o'clock in the day.

We were drawn against Mullinavat in the semi-final and we struggled for a lot of the game. Then we got three or four goals and suddenly we were in the county final. Again it was unreal because, not alone were we up against one of the top teams in the county – Fenians – but Pat Henderson was up against his old club.

Pat was a huge influence on our team – a huge feature in our lives – and it must have been really tough on him coaching a team to play against his club and against his brothers! On the first day our backs played really well and so did theirs and there wasn't a lot in it. A draw was a fair result.

The second day was a great day for Dicksboro. It was another great day for the people who had worked so hard for the club and, once more, I thought of the many great players who had kept the club going.

It was a similar feeling for me to that of winning the 1992 All-Ireland. After soldiering for so many years – often a struggle – it was great to win and we were all on a high for days afterwards.

## MY FATHER

There would have been no hurling for me without my father. His was the big influence on me all my life.

I was as much in awe of him as anyone else. One thing that sticks out in my memory of him was when I was 10 or 11 years old, we'd go to a match together and everyone in the Hogan Stgand would be pointing at him and saying "Look, that's Ollie Walsh".

I know I was his son but I really was in awe of him and even up to last year, if he said something was right, I would automatically agree with him.

We were involved in hurling together since Kilkenny CBS in 1978 and I'd say that there wasn't a hurling match that I went to without him and that's an awful long time. Then to be involved in the Kilkenny senior team with him was unbelievable.

That meeting in 1992 in the corridor in Croke Park just summed up my whole life with him really.

My mother was a great influence too but she was totally nervous and never wanted to go to a match. She used to be in another world when we were going off to a match – especially a senior match! She was totally hurling mad, though. It was bad enough when my father was playing in goal, or when I was playing in goal – but to have the two of us involved was just too much!

A friend of my father, Michael Kelly, my wife Elaine and I used to go to matches together and the craic was really mighty! I used to be very disappointed after a defeat but he was just as much fun after a defeat as after a win.

I just can't speak highly enough of him – I owe him everything. It was great to have had those years with him but life is just not the same without him. I have to get up and get on with it – and I am doing that but hurling will never be the same for me again.



Mickey collects the League Cup – Mickie Walsh (captain) received the St. Canice's Credit Union League cup from Paddy Fry. Looking on is John Healy, Chairman, Kilkenny Co. Board. (Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

## UNDER-14 HURLING

# JAMES STEPHENS, CARRICKSHOCK & EMERALDS WINNERS IN U-14 CHAMPIONSHIPS



**EMERALDS, URLINGFORD - U-14 'B' COUNTY CHAMPIONS**

*Back Row - left to right: Emmet Kavanagh, Luke Roche (Trainer), Conor Hennessy, Oliver Quinlan, Mark Beehan, Stephen Roche, Ger Joyce, Brendan Guilfoyle, Shane Hennessy, Ger Power, Sean Minogue, Kieran Joyce, Tommy Neary, Brian Doyle, John Holohan (trainer). Front Row - left to right: Aaron Fitzgerald, Jonathan Beehan, Aidan Fogarty, John Tobin Kieran Rafter (capt.), Alan Gilfoyle, Pat Tobin, Fergal Tobin, John Joyce, Paul Broderick.*

**THE UNDER-14 hurling championship in both Roinn A and Roinn C suffered from the fact that both James Stephens and Carrickshock were way ahead of their opponents. On the other hand the Roinn B was a wonderful competition, culminating in a tremendous final between Emeralds and St. Martin's which went to a replay.**

James Stephens who won the All-Ireland Feile na nGael in Waterford just toyed with their opponents in the Roinn A grade. This causes a problem not alone for Bord na nÓg, but also for James Stephens themselves because winning county titles with ease gives satisfaction to anyone. Four of the teams in the group were evenly matched, Shamrocks, Fullaroan, Dicksboro and Graigue-Ballycallan. Last year's champions O'Loughlin'Gaeils were very weak this year. The final saw Shamrocks take a hammering on a score of 4-19 to 0-3. At the interval James Stephens led by 0-15 to 0-1. James Stephens eased off

in the third quarter, but got a late flurry of goals which saw them winners by twenty eight points.

**Scorers: James Stephens:** Richard Hayes (1-6), Eoin Spain (1-3), Christy Burke (1-1), Eoin McCormack (1-1), Niall Bergin (0-4), Shane Parsons (0-2), David Quinn (0-1), Maurice Harkin (0-1). **Shamrocks:** Patrick Reid (0-2), D. Holden (0-1).

**Teams: James Stephens:** Derek Brennan, Derek Buckley, Jackie Tyrrell, Brendan Doyle, Kenneth Grogan, Peter O'Neill, Joe Mernagh, David Quinn, Eoin McCormack, Christy Burke, Maurice Harkin, Niall Bergin, Richard Hayes, Eoin Spain, Shane Parsons. **Subs:** David Ruth, Declan O'Neill.

**Shamrocks:** Michael Drennan, Michael Dermody, Keith Murphy, Pdraic Holden, Eddie Fitzpatrick, Anthony Walsh, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Liam Walsh, John Dermody, Bob Aylward, David Hoyne, James Fitzpatrick, Eoin Reid, Patrick Reid, Michael Fennelly.

The drawn game between Emeralds and St. Martin's was one of the best games played at Bord na nÓg level in the county this year. The closing stages were played at a frantic pace and had the large attendance on their feet. Emeralds led by

four points with five minutes to go, but St. Michael's levelled and went ahead as the clock neared the 60th minute. Kieran Rafter crashed a free to the net for Emeralds to level the game. The final score was: Emeralds 3-11, St. Martin's 4-8.

**Scorers - Emeralds:** Kieran Rafter (2-4), Sean Minogue (1-0), Ger Joyce (0-3), Aidan Fogarty (0-3), Kieran Joyce (0-1). **St. Martin's:** Shem Kelly (2-3), Tom Kinsella (1-4), Kieran Kelly (1-0), Donal Kelly (0-1).

The replay was another fine game, but this time, Emeralds won through on a score of 3-8 to 1-8. A brilliant display of goalkeeping by Alan Guilfoyle in the Emeralds goal was the difference between the sides. He made three fantastic saves in the second half. Emeralds led at the interval by 1-4 to 0-2.

**Scorers - Emeralds:** Aidan Fogarty (1-4), Kieran Joyce (1-1), +Kieran Rafter (0-3), Sean Minogue (1-0). **St. Martin's:** Shem Kelly (0-3), Tom Kinsella (0-3), Kieran Kelly (0-2), Robert Shore (1-0).

**Teams - Emeralds:** Alan Guilfoyle, Brian Doyle, Ger Power, Emmet Kavanagh, Shane Hennessy, Stephen Roche, Thomas Neary, Kieran Rafter,





**JAMES STEPHENS - COUNTY U-14 HURLING CHAMPIONS**

Front Row - left to right: Eoin Spain, Jackie Tyrrell, Maurice Harkin, Michael Phelan, Niall Bergin, Christy Burke, Peter O'Neill. Middle Row - left to right: David Ruth, Declan Brennan, Derek Buckley, Richard Hayes (capt.), Jonathan Savage, Andrew Doyle, David Grogan, Declan O'Neill. Back row - left to right: Joe Mernagh, Brendan Doyle, Eoin McCormack, David Quinn, Kenneth Grogan, Brendan Walsh, Shane Parsons, Michael Morris.

Kieran Joyce, Oliver Quinlan, Ger Joyce, Sean Minogue, Jonathan Behan, Aidan Fogarty, Brendan Guilfoyle. Fergal Tobin and Conor Hennessy played in drawn game. Brian Doyle and Brendan Guilfoyle came on for replay.

**St. Martin's:** Stephen Murphy, Pat Quirke, Brendan Maher, Michael Walsh, Niall Moran, Shem Kelly, Damien Maher, Donal Kelly, Michael Mulhall, Shane Coonan, Tom Nolan, Patrick Byrne, Conor Kinsella, Tom Kinsella, Kieran Kelly. Conor Kinsella and Dedan Holohan came on as subs in drawn tie. Conor Kinsella played in replay with Robert Shore losing out.

Carrickshock brought off the double when they won the league and championship

in Roinn C. In the league final they beat Graignamanagh in the final played in Thomastown on a 3-4 to 0-7 scoreline. The championship final took place in Palmerstown and the South Kilkenny side ran out winners on a score of 8-12 to 1-1. The contest was over at the interval when the winners led by 4-7 to 0-0. The inners would not have been out of their depth in Roinn B.

**Scorers - Carrickshock:** Michael Rice (2-4), Shane Power (1-3), Richard Cahill (1-0), William King (1-0), Danny O'Brien (1-2), Robert Lee (1-0), William King (1-0), Danny O'Brien (1-2), Robert Lee (1-0), Gerry Mulcahy (0-1), Brian

Tennyson (0-1), Paul Barron (0-1), Michael Rohan (1-0). **Lisdowney:** Brendan Maher (1-0), David Hogan (0-1).

**Teams - Carrickshock:** Brendan Hoyne, Eric Lonergan, Jim Rice, Richard Power, Brian Tennyson, Liam Barron, Pat Clery, William King, Richard Cahill, Danny O'Brien, Paul Barron, Michael Rohan, Michael Rice, Robert Lee, Shane Power. **Subs:** Gerry Mulcahy, John Murphy.

**Lisdowney:** Noel Dowling, Kevin Maher, John Murphy, Seamus Nolan, Padraic Doheny, David Hogan, Anthony O'Hara, Declan Tallis, John Bergin, Richard Kenny, Brendan Maher, John William Bowden, Paul Mullally, Andrew Phelan, Peter Dowling. **Sub:** Eoin Maher.



**CARRICKSHOCK UNDER-14 HURLERS ROINN C LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 1996**

Back row - left to right: Gerry Mulcahy, John Murphy, Liam Ireland, Eric Lonergan, William King, Robert Lee, Liam Berron, Anthony Cass, Jim Rice, Pat Cleary, Richard Power, Patrick Mulcahy. Front row - left to right: Paul Barron, Brendan Hoyne, Richie Power, Michael Rohan, John Tennyson, Brian Tennyson, Dan O'Brien, Robert Ring, Shane Power, Michael Rice, James Dalton, Leo O'Gorman.



**ST. MARTIN'S - UNDER-14 ROINN 'B' RUNNERS-UP 1996**

Back row - left to right: Brendan Maher, Tom Nolan, Tom Kinsella, Ciarán Kelly, Pat Quirke, Patrick Byrne, Donal Kelly, Shem Kelly (capt), Front row - left to right: Michael Mulhall, Niall Moran, Shane Coonan, Damien Maher, Stephen Murphy, Conor Kinsella, Michael Walsh, Robert Shore.



**LISDOWNEY - UNDER-14 ROINN 'C' RUNNERS-UP 1996**

Back row - left to right: Declan Tallis, Richard Kenny, David Hogan, Anthony O'Hara, John Bergin, Paul Mullally, Pdraig Doheny, John William Bowden, Brendan Maher, Kevin Maher, Eoin Maher, Declan O'Shea. Front row - left to right: John Murphy, Andrew Phelan, Peter Dowling, Seamus Nolan, Niall O'hara, Noel Dowling, Eoin Delahunty, William Gorman, Frank Murphy.



**SHAMROCKS - UNDER-14 ROINN 'A' RUNNERS-UP 1996**

Back row - left to right: John Dermody, Michael Drennan, Keith Murphy, Liam Walsh, Anthony Walsh, David Hoyne, Patrick Reid. Middle row - left to right: David Healy, Derek Fitzpatrick, Eddie Fitzpatrick, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Robert Aylward, Ger Holden, Michael Dermody. Front row - left to right: Shale Kelly, Eoin Reid, Michael Fennelly, James "Charlie" Fitzpatrick, Aln Knox, Richie Holohan, Pdraig Holden.

# THE QUIET MAN



By: ENDA McEVOY  
(Sunday Tribune)

**YOU DON'T miss the water till the well runs dry. We never truly appreciated Ted Carroll till he was the former Kilkenny G.A.A. County Secretary.**

Not altogether our fault. Praiseworthy though they are, the virtues Ted possessed – conscientiousness, reliability, responsibility, thoroughness, attention to duty and detail – are not newsworthy virtues. We like our heroes to be characters. Outgoing, flamboyant, never quip-free or quote-shy. Characters like those all-time Black and Amber legends Paddy Grace and Ollie Walsh. The nearest Ted Carroll ever got to flamboyance was knowing how to spell it.

The G.A.A. in Kilkenny was all the better for it. Just as behind every great man there's supposedly a great woman, so for every larger-than-life frontman there's someone who toils diligently, quietly and uncomplainingly in the background. Someone who keeps the wheels in motion and doesn't feel the need to make a song and dance about it. Someone without whom the machine could not function in the first place. Someone like Ted Carroll.

How diligently and quietly he toiled few really knew. Few County Board personnel, even. Until 1996 began with the sad task of finding a new county secretary, that is. What exactly had Ted's duties entailed, someone enquired at a management committee meeting in the James Stephens clubhouse. Nickey Brennan, who had been closer to Ted than most, made out a list of what he felt those duties were. The list began as follows:

- General administration (ensure proper books and records of the Association are maintained, including any statutory and legal records; record and circulate minutes for Convention, County Board meetings, Management meetings, etc; correspond with all units of the Association, business and general public; organise County Convention, special conventions and other general meetings of the Association within the county; arrange the business of County Convention including secretary's report, motions, nominations and the preparation of accounts).
- Games administration (responsibility



TED CARROLL

for arranging the league and championship draws, planning and production of the fixtures booklet in conjunction with the chairman of the Games Committee; notifying clubs of fixtures; notifying referees of fixtures; receiving referees' reports and arranging appropriate action; organising trophies for competition winners);

- Nowlan Park (overall responsibility for the management of Nowlan Park – Nowlan Park to consist of the playing facilities including grounds, buildings and environment and the County Board meeting rooms and office; management of the administrative and secretarial staff in Nowlan Park; managing maintenance, repair and upkeep of grounds and buildings; liaison with all public bodies including

local authorities and Gardai in connection with the use of Nowlan Park, particularly on big match days).

Quite a burden, you'll agree. But get this: that was only the first of what eventually ran to *three* typewritten pages. Little wonder that when Nickey Brennan finally stopped to draw breath, having taken the delegates through further headings like capital developments, intercounty teams, Nowlan park (again – there was a lot more left!), financial/accounting, insurance and general, his listeners' gasps had nearly shorn the roof off the Larchfield building.

## MANY FACETS

Ted Carroll had seen to all those details as a matter of course. While working as an agricultural instructor with Teagasc, while rearing a family, while keeping what amounted to practically a



*Ted Carroll (seated in front with cup) – Captain of St. Kieran's College – All-Ireland Colleges' Champions 1957.*

hurling open house on the Granges Road. Seen to all those details because they had to be seen to. If Paddy Grace had been the right county secretary for a previous era – a less hectic age negotiable by a nod, a wing, bags of charm and the occasional judicious deaf ear to some of Croke Park's sillier edicts – then Ted was surely the right man for this one.

He was a person of many parts. A country boy transplanted to the city, but a Lisdowneyman to his dying day, irrespective of the way his four sons had turned Carroll's into a Dicksboro house. The most upright of citizens who had nevertheless once spent a night in an RUC cell courtesy of a collective adolescent prank that, superfluous to remark, was not of his creation. Rarely overflowing with chat in public, but always capable of defusing a tense County Board situation with a crack of some sort; never short of a word – or several – at home, and certainly never

short of a joke that amused him immensely even if his obscure wit made the other members of the family shake their heads sadly. An uncle who derived enormous pleasure from the success of his nephews. Dan O'Neill with the Black and Amber and Brendan Carroll with the Blue and Gold. (Did this mean he cheered for Tipperary against Limerick in the 1995 Munster semi-final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh? Not necessarily . . .!) A former hurler who, though his duties on match day lay elsewhere, possessed the experience and nose to see what and where changes on the field were required and said so if and when asked. An archetypal G.A.A. civil servant, much respected by the upper echelons for his honesty, genuineness and commitment to the cause, but no dyed-in-the-wool graduate of the old school either; he couldn't ignore a TV with Manchester United playing on it, while the overhaul of the County Board's structures in the early 1990s was a source of pride. An enlightened traditionalist,

dare one suggest, if you like. Kilkenny's back to back All-Irelands in 1992-93, meantime, were a not inconsiderable personal relief, for the McCarthy Cup had not visited Noreside since he became County Secretary in 1984.

Ask him his favourite colours and he would probably have said the blue and white of Lisdowney before black and amber. It was ever thus, right from the days he and his twin brother Mick began belting a ball around the yard at home on the farm. A big yard, in front of the house, with the two gates 30 metres apart or so serving as goals. To the boys, as to other boys of their age, hurling was everything. Basically because it was the only thing.

Across the road lived Bill Kenny, a survivor of Kilkenny's 1992 All-Ireland winning team, who took them to many a match and one of whose fields was used by the local club. Every summer's evening Ted and Mick would trot down to the field, stand behind the netless goals, watch the men in action and retrieve the sliotar when necessary. It was often necessary, for often there might be only the one sliotar. Other neighbours included Pake Walsh, Bill Campion, the Fogartys, the Ivorys and the McEvoy's – Dick a county champion with James Stephens in 1935, Martin a colleague of Paddy Grace and Jim Langton on the famous Kilkenny CBS team of that time and later an All-Ireland junior medallist with Kilkenny in 1946.

The twins cycled to matches in Freshford. Travelled to others in the back of Jim Skehan's lorry. Almost invariably returned home disappointed, because Lisdowney, a notably underpopulated parish, were not big hitters in primary schools' hurling and were fully acquainted with the sting of eight or nine-goal defeats. One of the happier trips was to the All-Ireland final of 1954,



*Ted in Leinster Championship action versus Wexford in Croke Park.*



Ted Carroll playing for his native Lisdowney versus Mooncoin.

when the pair cycled to Ballyragget, caught the train to Kingsbridge and stared, stupefied, from under the Cusack Stand as Bobby Rackard gave the greatest individual display of hurling either of them had ever seen or ever would. Two teenagers awestruck at what one man could do with a hurley.

#### INCREDIBLE VICTORY

The early diet of seemingly unending defeat came to an end in the autumn of 1952. Goodbye Lisdowney NS, hello St. Kieran's College. A week before Ted and Mick headed for Kilkenny, there to be incarcerated until Christmas, Mrs. Nora Carroll arrived home with playing gear. Togs, black and white hooped socks and, joy upon joy, their first pair of boots. Up to then they'd hurled in their shoes. No National Lottery winner has ever derived more joy from his or her good fortune than the Carroll brothers did that day. Blessed are those who expect little, for sometimes they will be overjoyed.

St. Kieran's meant hurling and nothing but, in the company of lads like Miko Ryan from Inistioge, Paddy Mahony from Kells, Sean Murray from Borrisoleigh and (now Monsignor) Martin Campion from Gortnahoe. Watching over them and guiding them, a young priest named Fr. Tommy Maher. After a number of years in the doldrums the Kieran's cycle had swung around to the bright side of the moon once more, and a Leinster junior title victory against St. Joseph's of Fairview in 1956 was followed in unforgettable fashion twelve months later by glory in the restarted All-Ireland

colleges' championship. Eddie Keher, a mere Inter Cert, went crazy in the last ten minutes in Thurles as St. Flannan's, hitherto cruising, were swept aside in a showerburst of late goals. Ted, the centre-back and captain, was presented with the Croke Cup while Mick, the right-half forward, stood gawking at the cloud of cinders rising up over the old bank at Semple Stadium amid the pandemonium. Their mother was nowhere to be seen. She spent the afternoon saying her rosary in the town's cathedral instead.

Before they left the college, before Ted lined out at number six on the Kilkenny minor team defeated by Tipperary in the 1957 All-Ireland decider (Mick, a regular in attack all season, was stricken by appendicitis a fortnight before the match and watched in agony as his colleagues lost by a goal, 4-7 to 3-7), the twins secured another medal that brought them serious satisfaction. The competition was a seven-a-side tournament organised by Fr. Joe Dunphy, the maths master in St. Kieran's and a former Kilkenny full-forward. At stake was a beautiful set of medals bearing the college crest and *Hiems Transit* motto. No prisoners were taken by any of the teams involved, so much so that Fr. Joe, on witnessing the amount of skin and hair that flew, was heard to groan that this was the last set of medals he would ever sponsor! Sadly, three of the winning seven have passed to their eternal reward: John Butler from Callan, Kieran Fitzgerald from Johnstown and Ted. The surviving four are Paddy Mahony of Kells,

Tom Walsh from Piltown, Liam Hinphy from Derry and Mick.

Ted had his heart set on a career as a vet. Scarcely for the first time, wires were crossed in UCD and no notification was sent out to inform him that his application was successful. Sensibly, he enrolled in agricultural science instead. The veterinary mix-up only became clear three weeks into the first term, when he received a letter asking why he wasn't attending lectures!

Three Fitzgibbon Cup medals came his way at Belfield along with a Dublin county championship senior hurling memento, UCD seeing off a St. Vincent's outfit containing half of the Metropolitan side beaten by a point by Tipperary in the 1961 All-Ireland final. Team mates in that county showdown included current Munster Council secretary Donie Nealon at right-half forward, Mick Carroll in the centre, Pat Henchy of Clare on the other flank and Owen O'Neill, father of Limerick stars Sean and Owen, at full-forward. Immediately after the final whistle the Carrolls headed home – to face James Stephens in the Kilkenny county championships the same night.

#### CLOSE FRIENDS

Ted's brief if intriguing spell as a guest of Her Majesty occurred in November, 1958. At the time the Fitzgibbon Cup was held during that month, and Belfast was the venue in 1958. After the banquet on the Saturday night, the boys from the south, several of them in high good humour, spilled out onto the streets of the second city. Across from them was



Jack Lynch presents Ted Carroll with the 1969 Texaco 'Hurler of the Year Award'.

a World War One memorial. Someone promptly tried to hang one of the poppy wreaths at its base onto the hand of the stone soldier. Next minute there were lights flashing, sirens wailing, dark blue uniforms running and a scatter that wouldn't have been out of place at a special junior match. Some – probably, as often happens in these cases, the guilty – escaped. The slower-reacting, Ted among them, were hauled off for a night in the cells followed by an appearance before the beak next morning. A date with the registrar in UCD ensued on their return to Dublin and the evening papers made hay. The neighbours in Lisdowney did their best to try and make sure Patrick and Nora Carroll didn't catch a glimpse of newsprint.

In later years Ted's life was simplicity itself. Eight o'clock Mass in the Friary, work, home, a walk with the family terrier Charlie, G.A.A. affairs. Pat Henderson and Martin Coogan were two men from the old days he was closest to, and he spent a good deal of time out the road at his brother-in-law Gerry O'Neill's in Talbot's Inch. Another pal was Mick Duggan, a Glenmore man domiciled in New York who used to ring after every Kilkenny match for the result. Yet another was Mick Neary, Ted's hurley supplier, while John Comerford from Gowran was a permanent favourite visitor. As was Fr. Fergus Farrell, who swam into the Carroll ken when the boys were in St. Kieran's and whose thoughtful officiating at the Requiem Mass meant so much to the family. Thanks also to the boys, *Midnight Run*, the marvellous action/comedy road movie starring Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin, was Ted's favourite film. He never did copy his sons' musical tastes, however. (Perhaps thankfully. On coming across The Cramps' *Smell of Female* left on the kitchen counter by Pat one day: Smelling a woman? What kind of crap is that?" On hearing David had developed a taste for depressing Canadian songster Leonard Cohen:

"Lennie Coyne? Where's he from?")

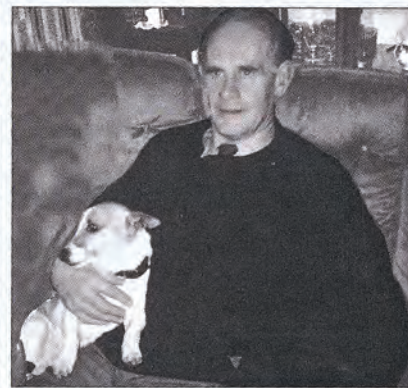
Babs Keating he rated his most difficult opponent. One of his favourite modern hurlers was Pat Dwyer – a quiet country lad admiring another quiet country lad. Regarding the holiday fuss after the 1993 All-Ireland, it might be observed that the one thing which baffled Ted was how anyone would want to be rewarded for choosing to play the greatest game in the world.

Inordinately proud of his self-installed patio, he was equally proud of his computer. He once received an electronic diary as a gift from Angela; you can imagine how often that well-intentioned present was used. Christmas Day wasn't Christmas Day without a few pucks with the boys in James's Park. Their achievements with Dicksboro at under-age level, then intermediate, then senior, and Donal's 1990 All-Ireland under-21 medal, didn't bring wild and whirling words of praise from their dad, although late at night he might let slip a "the lads didn't do badly today" to Angela. Nowlan Park, where he put in a few hours overseeing operations every Saturday morning before big matches, was his pride and joy; the new office building, Aras Ui Cearbhaill, could not be more suitably named.

For a different tribute, try this story from Jimmy O'Brien, his in-law. Wexford were playing Kilkenny during the 1960's and Jimmy, one of the Slaneyside forwards, was acting the scamp. Among his sundry misdeeds on the day was to give Ted an uncalled-for rap. Next minute the sliotar bounced and Jimmy fell on top of it. In anyone's book – even Jimmy's – Ted was more than entitled to pull, and to – oops, sorry about that! – bury Jimmy in the process. But he didn't. He nicked the ball to one side, rose it and cleared it down the field. Jimmy picked himself up, a wiser and better person for having encountered Ted Carroll.

Just like the rest of us.

# Ted



*Maith is cuimhin thú  
Na blianta fada.  
Ar Faiche Chrócaigh  
Ag deireadh samhraidh,  
Fuil ag sileadh  
O d'éadan gonta.  
I measc na sluaite,  
Is Corcaigh buaite.  
Ted.*

*Maith is cuimhin thú  
Maidne seaca  
I bhfaiche Nualláin  
Na hárdáin folamh,  
Tú féin agus Jimmy  
Bhúr gcinn le chéile  
Ag réitiú na páirce  
Do'n gcluiche amárach.  
Ted*

*Maith is cuimhin thú  
Trathnónta samhraidh,  
Ar do bhealach abhaile  
Ó do ghortaibh dhúchais,  
Mála úlla,  
Cúpla tornapa,  
Nó píosa nuachta  
Á bhreith isteach chugainn.  
Ted.*

*Maith is cuimhin thú  
Oícheanta geimhridh,  
Do bhróga mhóra  
Sa chlós ag bualadh,  
Litir le chló  
I do lámha préachta,  
Charlie le do shála,  
Ag titim na hoíche.  
Ted.*

*Maith is cuimhin thú  
An lá roimh Nollaig,  
I reilig Chiaráin.  
Na mílte céanna  
Ag fágaint slán ort,  
D'aistear siúlta,  
Is sinne brúite . . .  
I measc na Naomh thú,  
Ted.*

Gerry O'Neill

# Under 14 Football

**J**AMES STEPHENS completed the double when their Under 14 footballers beat Dicksboro' in the Roinn A County Final. The final score was 2-13 to 2-6. A surprise looked on the cards when Dicksboro opened up a 1-2 to 0-0 after five minutes. By the interval the Village had gone ahead by 1-6 to 1-3. A Dermot Cantwell goal gave Dicksboro hope midway through the second half when the scores stood at 1-9 to 2-4. James Stephens finished the stronger and a goal by Eoin Spain wrapped up the title. The highlight of the game was a brilliant save by James Holden from a Bryan Barry piledriver.

**Scorers: James Stephens** – David Ruth (1-3), Eoin Spain (1-1), Christy Burke (0-3), Maurice Harkin (0-2), Eoin McCormack, Shane Parsons, Conor O'Grady, Niall Bergin (0-1 each). **Dicksboro'** – Gavin Burke, Dermot Cantwell (1-0 each), Bryan Barry (0-3), Paddy Kiely (0-3).

**Teams: James Stephens** – James Holden, Richard Hayes, Jackie Tyrell, Brendan Doyle, David Madigan, Eoin Spain, Joe Mernagh, David Quinn, Maurice Harkin, Niall Bergin, Eoin McCormack, Christy Burke, Shane Parsons, Conor O'Grady, David Ruth. **Subs** – Patrick O'Shea, Michael Phelan, Liam O'Shaughnessy. **Dicksboro'** – Brian Cody, Michael Keenan, Jason Barry, J.J. Hogan, Niall Andrews, Bryan Barry, Emmet Corley, Derek O'Gorman, Gavin Burke, Dermot Cantwell, Paddy Kiely, Conor O'Loughlin, Michael Burke, Niall Bambrick, Andrew Lowry. **Subs** – Brian Shiels, John Trait, Kieran Cuddihy.

St. Lachtains took possession of the Under 14 Roinn B football title with a 2-11 to 2-3 victory. A Niall Anderson goal in the last minute for St. Lachtain's gave the scoreboard a more lopsided look than was actually the difference between the sides. Carrickshock thanks to goals by Brendan Hoynes and Ritchie Cahill led by 2-2 to 1-4 at the interval. With Denis Long and Tommy Fortune gaining control at midfield, the Freshford side pulled ahead in the second half for a well deserved win.

**Scorers: St. Lachtain's** – John Paul Kavanagh (1-1), Tommy Fortune (0-3), Denis Long (0-3), Niall Anderson (1-0), Eoin Morrissey, Billy Bradley, Richard Dalton, James Maher (0-1 each). **Carrickshock** – Brendan Hoynes, Ritchie Cahill (1-0 each), Shane Power (0-2), Michael Rice (0-1). **Teams: St. Lachtain's** – Robert Dowling, Gary Dawson, Jamie Kennedy, Patrick Burke, Eoin Condon, Richard Dalton, Billy Bradley, Tommy Fortune, Denis Long, Eoin Morrissey, Niall Anderson, Philip Cormack, Ger Doheny, John Paul Kavanagh, James Maher. **Carrickshock** – Eric Lonergan, Ritchie Power, Brian Flanagan, Michael Rohan, Paul Barron, Jim Rice, John Murphy, Gerry Murphy, William King, Danny O'Brien, Ritchie Cahill, Shane Power, Michael Rice, Pat Cleary, Brendan Hoynes.



**James Stephens County Under 14 Football Champions**

Front row (l to r) – Andrew Doyle, James Holden, David Quinn, Maurice Harkin, Niall Bergin (capt.), Christy Burke, Shane Parsons, Brendan Doyle, Michael Phelan. Back row (l to r) – David Ruth, Liam O'Shaughnessy, Joe Mernagh, Eoin Spain, Jackie Tyrell, Richard Hayes, Patrick O'Shea, Conor O'Grady, Eoin McCormack, Keith Madigan, Marc Hennessy.

Photo Tom Brett



**Dicksboro' Under 14 Roinn A Runners-up**

Front row (l to r) – Shane McGarry, Brian Cody, John Trait, Paddy Kiely, Simon Creane, Bryan Barry, Neil Andrews, J.J. Hogan, Brian Shields, Kieran Cuddihy, David Creane. Back row (l to r) – Conor Hogan, Andrew Lowry, Niall Bambrick, Emmet Corley, Derek O'Gorman, Jason Barry, Dermot Cantwell, Michael Keenan, Gavin Bourke, Brian Gallagher, Michael Manning, Alex Dunne, John Marnell, Conor O'Loughlin.

Photo Tom Brett



**Freshford Under 14 Football Roinn B Champions**

Back row (l to r) – Eoin Morrissey, Kevin Dalton, Billy Bradley, Tommy Fortune (capt.), Pa Burke, Niall Anderson, Denis Long, J.P. Kavanagh, Vincent Bergin, Jamie Kennedy, Garry Dawson, Richard Dalton, Eoin Condon. Front row (l to r) – Philip Cormack, Jamie Marnell, Mark Kavanagh, J.J. Phelan, James Meagher, Eoin Guinan, Robert Dowling, Gerard Doheny, Tony Hughes, David Brennan, John Dooley.

Photo Tom Brett

# LOCAL HEROES: THOUGHTS ON THE SENIOR FINALS

by Tommy Lanigan

**O**n the day of the official re-opening of Nowlan Park this year I found myself interviewing Eddie Keher during the radio broadcast. Our talk was of sporting heroes real and imaginary and how they are treated in the media. In the course of our chat he remarked forcefully that we had lots of real heroes in hurling, that they were not recognised because the national media had chosen to look to international sports stars rather than genuine home grown ones. We agreed that there were many stars on our local firmament.

I thought no more about his remarks until early September. Then the stars shone from the Wexford sky. God knows they deserved them after a twenty eight year eclipse! I thought of local heroes again in October. Who didn't? Some of you older readers will remember the lovely tale of 'Knockna gow', a slice of rural life of a century and a half ago penned by the remarkable Fenian, Charles Kickham. You remember the cry of the local hero, Matt the Thresher, "for the sake of the little village". Reader, despite the gulf in time we may truly say that little has changed in one aspect of the world of sport in rural Ireland. This years two coun-



County Final Action.....Is one hurley not enough for you? D. J. Carey seems to say to Shane Doyle (James Stephens) in the County Final in Nowlan Park.

Photo: Tom Brett

ty senior hurling finals clearly demonstrated this thesis of extraordinary pride in the little village.

Since Kickham's time the world has

shrunk to a global village. You can breakfast, lunch and dine on three continents in one day. Australia is now a holiday destination for Irish people though in Kickham's day it was a brutal penal colony and virtually a death sentence. Sport has changed from being a preserve for the amusement of the idle rich to being the preoccupation of billions. The advent of global communications has utterly transformed our ways of living and thinking. The political, social and economic maps are changing in ways unthinkable a few years ago.

In Kilkenny we have been accustomed to welcoming home All Ireland winning teams and celebrating their achievements. For the first time this year we have seen the hype, which was normally reserved for our county team, being amplified, extended and embedded the consciousness of two parishes. From Gowran and St. Patrick's the wave of enthusiasm surged through the county with the help of press and radio.

What epic proportions will the two



Pat's footsoldiers: Two of Referee, Pat Dunphy's umpires, pictured in Nowlan Park, prior to the County Final. Jim Kearns and Richie Quinn (Carrigeen).

Photo: Tomm O'Neill



magnificent senior finals reach in the memory in years to come? What will we tell our descendants of the extraordinary talent of D.J.? What of his goal in the first game? What of the remarkable comeback by the Village? What of one of the finest man to man contest, that between Larkin and Carey? What of the skills and passionate endeavour of all these young men? All may be seen on video but tape is a might poor substitute for having been present, for feeling the heart-throb of tension which unfolded before us.

These young players have grown in stature before us. Their places in local folklore are assured. Now for the first time hundreds of school children and teenagers proudly wear their club jerseys on the street, at the games. Why not? These colours are of their blood, their present and their future.

The greatest fame of all is to be accorded the status of home town hero. For this writer it was epitomised in the children wearing red and green chasing about James Stephens Park seeking autographs during a training session; by two eight years old pointing in awe at "Chuck" O'Connor in Loughboy Shopping Centre. Needles to say they have been doing like wise for Carey and O'Neill in Gowran and throughout the county for several years.

Perhaps we will remember most vividly the quite remarkable atmosphere in Nowlan park on those two senior final days. Never before have we seen such a blaze of colour from two clubs. Between Gowran and James Stephens they generated a new industry of jersey and favour making. The country team had naturally the broadest support and being a small parish earned the sympathy of the neutrals. One Young Irelands official told of being stopped by parishioners who never had been known to have attended a game of hurling. Yet they were offering sponsorship and moral support. But what of the new phenomenon - a huge vocal 'Village' following? In their glory years of the seventies, they were meagrely supported. Now thanks to the persistence with underage develop-



*Its all eyes on the ball during the final between James Stephens and Young Ireland, Gowran*

ment and superb club organisation, they have moulded an enviable club spirit and pride.

Doesn't Ardán de Grás add a wonderful new dimension to big match day in the Park? It seems to amplify the raucous cheers of the supporters and thus turn the arena into a huge cauldron of noise. Many players expressed astonishment at being unable to hear calls from colleagues or instructions from mentors. The latter complained of being deafened in front of the Ardán. We presume the man whose name adorns the stand would approve mightily! Such a reputation should bring the big games we all like to see and give our 'Park' the name of being a great atmospheric venue.

Let us not underestimate the role played by local radio in raising the consciousness of all with regard to the finals. The search for suitable songs reached epic proportions. Pat Treacy found all in good voice when he visited the clubs in the weeks before the games. We heard of competition - best slogans, best gags, best dressed houses and supporters. They were all well aired and generated much laughter and fun. The airwaves crackles with talk of the final, everybody was expected to have an opinion.

From this year they markers have been set out. Young Irelands and James Stephens have led the way. O'Loughlins and Gaignamanagh too have contributed enthusiastically with their colourful ideas. Let every club which reaches a final make sure that the occasion will be truly memorable one for each competing parish. Above all, make sure the young the youngsters wear the club colours. What better could a club do than spend a few pounds to subsidise their club jerseys? What price the hearts and minds of the youngsters in the parishes who are all so willing to play hurling, camogie and football provided they receive the appropriate leadership from the adults? One might kit out a family for little more than the price of a premiership jersey!

We all grew to love the game through our local heroes, Meagher, Lángton, Keher, Cummins, Hennessy and so many more, while O'Hehir's peerless commentaries brought word of many more away inspiring players. In an era of extraordinary developments in communications technology a hugely significant key to ensure the future of Gaelic game is the promotion of the local hero. As Eddie Keher remarked, we have many of them.

## TOM CUNNIFFE



*TOM CUNNIFFE, Prop.*

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# Cumann na mBunscoileanna

Primary Schools' Board Review – Dermot Dunphy

## 'THE YEAR OF THE SHAMROCK.'

In China, it is the 'Year of the Rat'. In terms of the Kilkenny Schools' Board, 1996 must be the 'Year of the Shamrock', for one school dominated the headlines in hurling and football this year - Ballyhale.

There have been many successful teams, double and treble winners. There have been teams with continuous runs of successes. However, the single year achievement of the boys of St. Patrick's NS, Ballyhale, must be unique. They have entered four schools' competitions, they have won three and are due to compete in their fourth final as you read. They have played 27 games to date, they have won 27 games to date and only the boys of Graiguenamanagh can defeat them. These facts do not include the INTO/GAA Mini-sevens that the capable southerners also won. The full roster of success reads: Educational Supplies Hurling League (Roinn A) - Champions, Corn de Bhaldráithe Hurling - Champions, Country Cup Football - Champions, INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens - Champions, Toymaster Football League (Roinn B) - Finalists vs Graiguenamanagh. Success may breed success, but this borders on covetousness.

There are many unusual aspects, records and possible records involved in such success. The Country Cup double has been completed for the first time, and Ballyhale are the first non-Roinn A team to win a Country Cup, in either football or hurling. It is the second year in a row that the hurling treble of Roinn A, Corn de Bhaldráithe and INTO Mini-sevens titles have been won, as Ballyhale followed Tullaroan's superb successes of 1995. There is still the possibility of a double double, and the possibility that the school will be undefeated in hurling or football, fifteen a side competitions, in a calendar year.

In all of these victories, one stands out as the sweetest of all, the recapture of the



**Ballyhale – INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens Hurling – champions 1996.**

Back row (l. to r.) Eoin Reid, Jason Nolan, Keith Nolan, Ger Holden, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Joe Dunphy N.T. Front row (left to right): Eamonn Walsh, James Fitzpatrick, Liam Walsh, James Connolly, Michael Fennelly.

Roinn A Hurling title, what most consider to be the premier title of Cumann na mBunscoileanna. Ballyhale have had their successes over the years, but it was twenty six years since they had captured the ultimate prize. The excitement in the parish showed how much this victory meant to all, the euphoria seeming to match the best days of senior success in the '80's. The winning teams of 1969 and 1970 provided eight senior medal winners and four county players in Liam and Sean Fennelly, Frank Holohan and Mickey Kelly, the first three all captaining Kilkenny to National titles. Many of those teams which won in 1969 and 1970 have close links to the victors in 1996, fathers and sons. One other direct link between '69/'70 and '96 was the trainer, Joe Dunphy N.T. One of the longest serving members of Cumann na mBunscoileanna, Joe has known successful and not so successful times, through nearly forty years of involvement, firstly with Ballyragget, but in the main with Ballyhale. Of all those years, 1996 must be the icing on any cake. No one will begrudge it.

## KILMANAGH'S RECORD RUN.

**From one success story to another. Kilmanagh have been consistently the most successful team in schools' hurling for many years now - thirteen to be exact. Successful runs have already been mentioned, but a successful run that covers a dozen and more years is special.**

We have all heard stories of the successful Thomastown teams in the '50's, and how such success would never be rivalled again. Rivalled it has been, equalled? - certainly! From 1984 to 1995, the question to be answered before the Roinn A final was always the same - "Who were Kilmanagh playing?" Each year, for those twelve years, the boys in Sky Blue from St. Aidan's NS were to be found in Nowlan Park in the last week of June. Indeed it was to be unlucky thirteen, this year, for the hurlers of 1996, who fell at



**Kilmanagh Country Cup Football Finalists – 1996** – Front row: John Paul Dunphy, James Robinson, John O’Dea, James Harrison, James Dunphy, Declan Brett, William Brennan, John Purcell, Richard Devane, John Murphy, Alan Doherty. Standing: Daragh Murphy, Martin Carroll, P. J. Pollard, Mark Fitzpatrick, Michael Lynch, Pat Robinson, Micheál Murphy, Ciarán Hoynes, Pádraig Dermody, Brian Hogan.



**Carrickshock – Kilkenny Association (Dublin) League (Roinn A Football)** – Front row (l. - r.) Patrick Duggan, Gerard Power, Thomas Murray, John Butler, Jackie Frisby, Jamie Fennelly, John Brennan, Paraic Barron, James O’Farrell, Richard Power. Back row: (l. to r.) Colm Mullally, Ricky Brennan, Tommy Brophy, Damien Raggett, John Maher, Gary Foley, Pádraig Holden (captain), Anthony Holland, John Tennyson, John Dalton, Dennis Murphy, John Murphy.

the semi-final stage, losing by just a single point to the eventual champions, Ballyhale, in a match that would have graced any final.

Over the twelve years, the joy of victory and disappointment of defeat were both experienced, yet, however elated or downcast the team felt, the following year saw them back with the same purpose. Year after year, new faces appeared and another final was reached. There were Trojan battles over the years, with St. Patrick’s, CBS, Graigue-amanagh, Gowran and neighbours, Tullaroan. No final was won or lost easily.

The success of their school teams is being realised in successes at all levels by Graigue-Ballycallan now. A strong senior side, they have contested finals and won titles in the last number of years. Minor and Under 21 titles were captured in the Roinn A grade this very season. At all levels of Bord na nOg, Graigue-Ballycallan are a force to be reckoned with.

Many of the players of the ‘84-’95 period have become household names in Graigue-Ballycallan and Kilkenny hurling. Adrian Ronan, the first to burst on to the scene was just before the successful run. First from the ‘84 team to make a mark were Pat Purcell, Noel Maher and Conor Minogue with St. Kieran’s College, but since then, Denis Byrne, Damien Cleere and Eddie O’Dwyer have made their mark.

Paul Hoynes captained Kilkenny minors, while Micheal Hoynes is a present minor star, having already played in an All-Ireland at sixteen years of age. When you consider that the eldest of the 1984 players are only 25, the future is more than just bright, it’s gleaming.

With all the names and faces that passed through over the years, there has been one constant, Jim Neary NT. In Graigue-Ballycallan, Jim is Mr. Hurling. Not only has he coached the school teams to great success, he also has been highly successful with all grades in the parish, winning minor and under 21 grades, this year alone. He has also been a Kilkenny Minor selector on numerous occasions, many also successful. No words of mine will fully tell the tale of his contribution to his school, club and county.

Another group always present whenever you play the St. Aidan’s lads are the supporters. Ann Young, her first aid kit, and a great group of very vocal ladies, shouting their team on, the Kilmanagh mothers have become famous for their super support at every match.

To conclude, I would like to return to the boys of 1996. Maybe the Roinn A hurling final went ahead without Kilmanagh, but the year did not pass without a visit to Nowlan Park, for November saw the Sky Blue back in the Park, contesting the Country Cup Football final against Bally-

hale. Success was not their lot that day, but don’t be surprised if they appear in Nowlan Park again, probably next June!

## BACK IN THE FRAME.

1996 saw many other successes in what was another active year for Cumann na mBunscoileanna. Some teams were back for yet more honours, while some were back in the frame after a break of some years.

Two teams who put back to back victories in successive years were Carrickshock and Galmoy.

Carrickshock were Roinn C victors in 1995 and continued their run of victories by capturing the Hennessy Fuels’ League Roinn B Hurling title this season. The success of 1995 was obviously a good foundation as the talented bunch of ‘96 built on their growing confidence and were convincing winners of their division. Success did not stop there. The Carrickshock lads retained their INTO/GAA Mini-sevens football title and two of the panel were called to the demonstration games in Croke Park, – recognition of the footballing talent we have in Kilkenny. Carrickshock also tried for their third football title in a row at 15-a-side, reaching their first Roinn A decider, losing only narrowly to CBS Kilkenny in a thrilling game. All in all, the boys and girls of Augharvillar parish have had a good season.

Galmoy were another side to repeat victory this year. The Roinn D champions of 1995, they swept all before them to win The Paddy O’Connell (Dublin) League Roinn C title in 1996. They, too, had many of the boys who tasted success in ‘95 back to try again this year and like Carrickshock, they were all-conquering in their division. They also became their first team from outside Roinn A to contest the Corn de Bhaldrathe final, and their part in that high scoring feast of hurling was no less than the victors, Ballyhale. Expect to see more of both of these teams in the years to come.

Back in Nowlan Park, for the first time in some years were the Tedcastle Oils League Roinn D finalists, champions, Glenmore, and runners-up, Goresbridge-Paulstown. With falling numbers, Glenmore played in the 11-a-side Roinn E some years ago. Since then they have re-entered 15-a-side competition and returned to the winners’ enclosure with an exciting victory in the Roinn D competition. The unlucky losers that day were Goresbridge-Paulstown, who were back in the Park after a wait of thirteen years. Disappointing as the loss was, the Barrow Rangers’ boys will hope to build on this season, and



**Ballyhale – Educational Supplies League (Roinn A Hurling) and Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldraithe – Champions 1996** – Back row (l. - r.) James Fitzpatrick, Jim O'Sullivan, Marcus Connolly, Alan Knox, Christy Wemyss, Dj Molloy, Jason Nolan, Eamonn Walsh. Centre row (l. to r.) Liam Walsh, Derek Fitzpatrick, James Connolly, Keith Nolan, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, David Cuddihy, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Michael Fitzpatrick, Richard O'Brien, Joe Dunphy N.T. Front row (l. to r.) Donncha Fitzpatrick, David Healy, Eoin Reid, James Moran, Michael Fennelly, TJ Reid, Ger Holden, Mark Aylward, Shane Kelly, Diarmuid Murphy, Thomas Fitzpatrick. (Photo: Tom Brett)

not let such a gap open again.

St Patrick's de la Salle, Urlingford and Coon-Muckalee were the other schools which contested our hurling finals. All teams with a fine tradition in Schools' Board, they played their part in the spectacle that is Finals' Week. St. Patrick's lost out narrowly in a classic Educational Supplies' League Roinn A final to Ballyhale. Urlingford and Coon-Muckalee were unlucky to meet the very strong Carrickshock and Galmoy sides respectively.

On the football front, Kilkenny CBS re-appeared in the Kilkenny Association (Dublin) League Roinn A, after a gap of three years and claimed that trophy with a good win over Carrickshock in a great game. As already mentioned, Kilmanagh appeared in the Country Cup Football decider, losing narrowly in another outstanding football match. Another team making a quick re-appearance in Nowlan Park are the Roinn B hurling champions of 1995, Graignamanagh. This time the boys of Graig' are appearing in the Roinn B football decider against Ballyhale. Yet another side that underlines the old adage that success fosters success.

It was great to see the increased numbers playing in the football competitions this year. In all, twenty four teams played, up from twenty one last year. It was also encouraging to see the Football County Finals played in Nowlan Park. Playing in the 'Park' is a huge thrill for those lucky enough to qualify for finals.

## SPONSORS.

We would like to thank and acknowledge our generous sponsors, who contribute to our games. Each sponsorship enables the Board to keep the costs of hurls, sliotars, helmets and such down and we are grateful to all our sponsors.

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**Roinn A Football – Kilkenny Association (Dublin)**

**Roinn B Football – Toymaster, High Street.**

We would also like to thank the Waldron Family for presenting the beautiful trophy for the winners of the Corn d Bhaldraithe.

**Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A)**

## BALLYHALE WIN THRILLER!

**Ballyhale 1-6; St. Patrick's 2-1.  
Ballyhale bridged a twenty six**



**St. Patrick's, Kilkenny – Educational Supplies' League (Roinn A Hurling) Finalists 1996** – Front row (l. - r.) Brian O'Dwyer, Conor Whelan, Michael Morris, Andrew Doyle, David Ryan, Eoin Larkin, Paul Hindle. Centre row (l. to r.): Mark O'Dwyer, Donnacha Cody, Clive Moriarty, Martin Beirne, Shane Whelan, Declan O'Neill, David Grogan. Front row (l. to r.): Redmond Dunphy, John Comerford, Michael Phelan, Jason Cahill, Hugh Kelly, William Peters, John Murphy, Des Manning. (Photo by Tom Brett)

year gap when they defeated St. Patrick's to win the Educational Supplies League, Roinn A Hurling title. On a beautiful June evening, in perfect conditions. this game had a bit of everything - wonderful skill, end-to-end play, well taken scores, tension, drama, excitement and a nail biting finish..

In a first half full of brilliant hurling, three points from star player, James Fitzpatrick, gave Ballyhale the edge at half time.

Both goalkeepers were extremely busy throughout the half, with St. Patrick's super net-minder taking the sliotar down from over the bar from an Eamonn Fitzpatrick shot just before the break. (Ballyhale 0-3 St. Patrick's 0-0)

The second half opened like a tornado. After 13 seconds Martin Beirne levelled the scores with a goal for St. Patrick's. Seconds later, Eoin Reid goaled at the other end, and added two beautifully taken points within a few minutes. There was plenty of fight left in the city boys. Michael Morris goaled with a rasping shot after Michael Phelan crossed well. Eamonn Fitzpatrick put a goal between the sides before Eoin Larkin got the final point with six minutes to go. The final minutes were intense, both teams facing great pressure, both defences holding out, leaving the Shamrocks' lads those precious two points clear.

Best for Ballyhale were James Connolly in goal, David Healy, Ger Holden, Jason and Keith Nolan and Liam Walsh in defence. Michael Fennelly and James Fitzpatrick were superb at midfield and Eoin Reid and Derek Fitzpatrick were best in a top class forward line. For St. Patrick's, Jason Cahill had a great game in goal, John Comerford, Declan O'Neill and David

Grogan played well in defence, while up front, Michael Morris, Eoin Larkin and Donnacha Cody were in tip-top form.

**Ballyhale:** James Connolly, David Healy, Diarmuid Murphy, Ger Holden (Capt.), Jason Nolan, Liam Walsh, Keith Nolan, Michael Fennelly, James Fitzpatrick (0-3), Eamonn Walsh, Eamonn Fitzpatrick (0-1), Shane Kelly, Eoin Reid (1-2), Derek Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward. Subs: Alan Knox, Donncha Fitzpatrick, DJ Molloy, James Moran, Christy Wemyss, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Jim O'Sullivan, David Cuddihy, Michael Fitzpatrick, Thomas Fitzpatrick, TJ Reid, Marcus Connolly, Richard O'Brien.

**St. Patrick's:** Jason Cahill, John Comerford, Declan O'Neill, Shane Whelan, David Grogan, Andrew Doyle (Capt.), Conor Whelan, Des Manning, Michael Phelan, Redmond Dunphy, Michael Morris (1-0), Martin Beirne (1-0), Paul Hindle, Eoin Larkin (0-1), Donncha Cody. Subs: Willie Peters, John Murphy, Hugh Kelly, Clive Moriarty, David Ryan, Brian O'Dwyer, Mark O'Dwyer.

Referee: Dermot Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan)

### Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B)

## TWO-IN-A-ROW FOR CARRICKSHOCK.

**Carrickshock 2-8 Urlingford 1-2.** Following their capture of the Roinn C title last year, Carrickshock swept aside the brave challenge of Urlingford to claim the Hennessy Fuels' League Roinn B title. Overall, Carrickshock were a better balanced side, but one player did make a huge contribution. The 2-3 scored by Michael Rice proved to be the difference between the teams. However, both teams must be commended on their skill level which was very high.

The winners settled quickly and a goal in the second minute by Michael Rice saw them on their way. Rice added three points to a fine long range free by Michael Rohan in the half. Urlingford, too, had their chances, but their only score of the half came from an Emmet Kavanagh free. (Half time: Carrickshock 1-4 Urlingford 0-1)

In the second half, Urlingford made switches to curb the menacing Rice, with Emmet Kavanagh moving to full back. The changes worked fairly well, and Urlingford gained some measure of parity in the game. However Urlingford could not find a way past Richard Power in the Carrickshock goal and when Michael Rice scored a superb lift and strike goal, the game was as good as over. Urlingford's battling qualities were shown to the end and they final-



**Carrickshock – Hennessy Fuels League (Roinn B hurling) champions 1996** – Back row (l. - r.) Paul Barron, Anthony Holland, Brendan Hoyne, Michael Rice, Robert King, John Murphy, Leo O'Gorman, Michael Rohan (captain), Padraig Holden, John Tennyson, Patrick Mulcahy. Front row (l. to r.) Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, John Maher, Richard Power, Patrick Duggan, Jamie Fennelly, Damien Raggett, Richard Frisby, James O'Farrell, David Milea, James Dalton. (Photo: Tom Brett)



**Galmoy – Paddy O'Connell League (Roinn C Hurling) Champions and Tedcastle Oils Corn de Bhaldrathie – Finalists 1996** – Back row (l. - r.) Liam Phelan, Michael Harte, Georgie Hickey, James Dunne, Martin Phelan, Eoin Phelan, James Hickey, Donnacha Gray, Peter Paul Maher, Jim Cullinane N.T. Front row (l. to r.): Thomas Ryan, Kenneth Walsh, Brian Kavanagh, David Murphy, Philip O'Loughlin, Seamus Dillon, Paraic Gray, Thomas Dillon, Joe Lawlor, Dominic Smith. (Photo: Tom Brett)



**Urlingford – Hennessy Fuels' League (Roinn B Hurling) Finalists 1996.** – Back row (l. - r.) Brendan Guilfoyle, Sean Minogue, Raymond Pollard, Emmett Kavanagh, Fergal Tobin, Oliver Quinlan, Mel Clohosey, Brian Doyle, Eamon O'Gorman, Thomas Kennedy, Eoin Phelan. Front row (l. to r.): William Norton, Anthony Byrne, Jamie Dollard, Jonathan Behan, Thomas Neary, John Joyce, Patrick Tobin, Brendan Tobin, Colin Grant, James Doheny. (Photo: Tom Brett)

ly got a deserved goal when Jonathan Behan fired to the net.

For the winners, Michael Rice may have been the star but he had able help from all his team mates. Patrick Mulcahy, Paul Barron James Dalton and John Maher also

caught the eye, Patrick Duggan and John Murphy were tops in a well schooled defence while Michael Rohan kept the engine running in midfield, while both goalies, Richard Power and John Joyce, were stars.

Others to shine for the gallant Urlingford lads were Brendan Guilfoyle, Jonathan Behan, Eamonn O'Gorman, Emmett Kavanagh and Fergal Tobin.

**Carrickshock** (Panel): Richard Power, Paul Barron (0-1), Anthony Holland, Brendan Hoyne, Michael Rice (2-3), Robert King, John Murphy, Leo O'Gorman, Michael Rohan (Capt. 0-2), Pdraig Holden, John Tennyson, Patrick Mulcahy (0-1), Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, John Maher, Patrick Duggan, Jamie Fennelly, Damien Raggett, Richard Frisby, James O'Farrell, David Millea, James Dalton (0-1).

**Urlingford** (Panel): John Joyce, Brendan Guilfoyle (Capt.), Sean Minogue, Raymond Pollard, Emmett Kavanagh (0-1), Fergal Tobin, Oliver Quinlan, Mel Clohosey, Brian Doyle, Eamon O'Gorman, Thomas Kennedy, Eoin Phelan, William Norton, Anthony Byrne, Jamie Dollard, Jonathan Behan (1-1), Thomas Neary, John Joyce, Patrick Tobin, Brendan Tobin, Colin Grant, James Doheny.

**Paddy O'Connell (Dublin)**  
Hurling League (Roinn C)

## GALMOY ARE CHAMPIONS AGAIN.

**Galmoy 2-10 Coon-Muckalee 0-3**  
Galmoy proved themselves a team of great talent and power when defeating gallant Coon-Muckalee in the Paddy O'Connell League, Roinn C Final. For the second year in a row, Galmoy were top of their division after capturing the Roinn D title last year. The scoreline does scant justice to a gritty Coon-Muckalee, who were in contention well into the second half. There was much to savour in a game of total commitment and some delightful stickwork on both sides. From the throw-in, tight marking from both defences was the order of the day.

Coon-Muckalee had to soak up more of the early pressure from Galmoy forwards, George Hickey and James Dunne, the latter scoring three beautiful points in succession in the second quarter. Before the break, firstly Adam Cashin, and then, captain, Damien Maher pointed for the St. Martin's boys to leave a difference of a goal at half time. (Galmoy 0-5 Coon-Muckalee 0-2)

The second half began with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. Galmoy pressed and had some early points to a single reply by Damien Maher. Galmoy exerted great pressure and Robert Shore was outstanding in the Coon-Muckalee goal. However,



**Glenmore - Tedcastle Oils' League (Roinn D Hurling) - Champions 1996.** Back row (l. - r.) Peter Jones, Thomas Hartley, John Fitzgerald, Michael Foran, J. J. McDonald, Brian Aylward, Emmett Vereker, Anthony Phelan, Seamus Aylward, Patrick Murphy, Marie T. Doherty, Mark Phelan, Francis Griffin. Front row (l. to r.) Helen Murphy, James Murphy, Richard Fitzgerald, Eoin Murphy, Robert Hennessy, Michael Cody, David Aylward, Paul Phelan, Eamonn Dollard, James Fitzgerald, Raymond Aylward, William Ryan. (Photo: Tom Brett)



**Goresbridge - Paulstown - Tedcastle Oils' League (Roinn D Hurling) Finalists 1996** - Back row (l. to r.) Andrew Healy, Robert Collins-Hughes, Ian Holden, Ciaran Cooke, Stephen Brophy, Darren O'Neill, Martin Brennan, Seán Whitehead, Raymond O'Neill, Mark Lillis, Ricky Murphy, John Connolly, Damien Keyes. Front row (l. to r.): Maurice Drennan, Michael Fitzpatrick, Billy Murphy, David Kelly, Aidan Brennan, Derek Whelan, Shane McEvoy, Seamus Brennan, John Lyons, John Byrne, Joseph Hughes. (Photo: Tom Brett)



**Coon-Muckalee - Paddy O'Connell League (Roinn C Hurling) - Finalists 1996** - Back row (l. to r.) Colm Brennan, Ciaran Holohan, Patrick O'Flynn, James Maher, Damien Maher, Thomas Nolan, Aidan Murphy, John Coonan, Thomas Brennan, Brian Mulhall, Michael Brennan. Centre row (l. to r.): Kieran Byrne, Eugene Maher, Conor Kinsella, Eoin McGrath, David Brennan, Francis Whearty, Patrick Brennan, Eamonn Buggy, Shane Coonan. Front row (l. to r.) David Tynan, Ronan Maher, Michael Darcy, Robert Shore, Adam Cashin, Edmund Hogan, Brian Malone, Don Callanan, Con Hogan, Pdraig Murphy, Michael Keane. (Photo: Tom Brett)

the breakthrough came when the impressive Donnacha Gray fired home an unstoppable shot. Though Coon-Muckalee tried all they knew to turn the game around, it was to be Galmoy's day and nippy corner

forward, Brian Kavanagh sealed victory with a second goal.

Galmoy had a team of heroes. Goalie Philip Loughlin kept a clean sheet, helped in defence by Eoin Phelan, James Hickey

and Thomas Dillon. The midfield duo of Donnacha Gray and Martin Phelan were very strong, while George Hickey, James Dunne and captain Seamus Dillon led the forward line well. For the plucky Coon-Muckalee side, Robert Shore was excellent in goal. Michael Brennan, Michael Darcy and captain, Damien Maher did much good work in defence. Conor Kinsella and Edmund Hogan toiled hard at midfield, while Shane Coonan, Eoin McGrath and Brian Mulhall showed well up front.

**Galmoy:** Philip Loughlin, Michael Harte, Eoin Phelan, David Murphy, Thomas Hickey, James Hickey (0-1) Paraic Gray, Martin Phelan, Donnacha Gray (1-1), James Dunne (0-4), Seamus Dunne (Capt.), George Hickey (0-4), Brian Kavanagh (1-0), Kenneth Walsh, Peter Paul Maher. Subs: Thomas Ryan, Joe Lawlor, Liam Phelan, Dominic Smith.

**Coon-Muckalee:** Robert Shore, David Tynan, Michael Brennan, Michael Darcy, Ciaran Holohan, Damien Maher (0-2), Ronan Maher, Conor Kinsella, Edmund Hogan, Eoin McGrath, Shane Coonan, Don Callanan, John Coonan, Brian Mulhall, Francis Whearty. Subs: Adam Cashin (0-1), Kieran Byrne, Eamonn Buggy, Michael Keane, Thomas Nolan, Eugene Maher, Pdraig Murphy, Patrick Brennan, Brian Malone, Aidan Murphy, James Maher, Colm Brennan, Patrick O'Flynn, David Brennan, Thomas Brennan.

**Referee:** Dermot Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan)

**Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D)**

## GLENMORE HANG ON!

**Glenmore 2-3 Goresbridge-Paulstown 2-1.**

**Thursday night of Final's week was an ideal night for hurling as Glenmore and Goresbridge-Paulstown played a thrilling game in the Tedcastle Oils Hurling League, Roinn D Final.**

Goresbridge-Paulstown won the toss and elected to play with the slight wind. The game was evenly balanced early on with backlines masters of their territory. Glenmore struck first when PJ McDonald drove the sliotar low and hard to the left corner of the net. Mark Phelan added a point from a '65' before Goresbridge-Paulstown's Ricky Murphy evaded his marker to score a fine goal. A Glenmore counter attack by Patrick Murphy was foiled by a super save from Shane McEvoy in the Barrow Rangers' boys goal. However, before the break, Mark Phelan extended Glenmore's lead with another point.

(Glenmore 1-2 Goresbridge - Paulstown 1-0)

The second half surpassed the first. The Rangers scored first when Ciaran Cooke pointed but Glenmore answered, with a Paul Phelan goal and yet another point from accurate free-taker, Mark Phelan. Scores were hard to come by and the final score came for Goresbridge-Paulstown when Raymond O'Neill finally broke through a resolute Glenmore defence to send a bullet-like shot to the net. However, at the call of time, Glenmore were holding onto a slim but decisive lead.

Glenmore were well served by David Aylward, John Fitzgerald, Eamon Dollard, Michael Foran, Mark Phelan, Marie T. Doherty, Francis Griffin, Patrick Murphy and JJ McDonald, while Goresbridge-Paulstown had fine performers in Shane McEvoy, Mark Lillis, Damien Keyes, Darren O'Neill, David Kelly, Ciaran Cooke, Raymond O'Neill, Ricky Murphy and Billy Murphy.

**Glenmore:** David Aylward, Thomas Hartley, John Fitzgerald, Robert Hennessy, Eamonn Dollard, Brian Aylward, Michael Foran, Mark Phelan (0-3), Francis Griffin, Anthony Phelan, Marie T. Doherty, Patrick Murphy, Paul Phelan (1-0), JJ McDonald (1-0), Emmet Vereker. Subs: Peter Jones, David Kelly, Richard Fitzgerald, Michael Cody, Paul Walsh, Seamus Aylward, Martin Heffernan, James Fitzgerald, William Ryan, Raymond Aylward, Helen Murphy, James Murphy.

**Goresbridge-Paulstown:** Shane McEvoy, Mark Lillis, Stephen Brophy, Damien Keyes, John Connolly, Darren O'Neill, Robert Collins-Hughes, David Kelly, Ciaran Cooke (0-1), Joseph Hughes, Raymond O'Neill (1-0), Derek Whelan, Billy Murphy, Ricky Murphy (1-0), Aidan Brennan. Subs: Michael Fitzpatrick, Martin Brennan, Sean Whitehead, Seamus Brennan, Andrew Healy, John Byrne, John Lyons, Maurice Drennan, Ian Holden.

**Referee:** Podge Butler (James Stephens)

**Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathe.**

## CHAMPIONS ALL!

**Ballyhale 6-11 Galmoy 6-2.**

**The Hurling Finals' Week came to a close with a thrilling Corn de Bhaldrathe final, with Roinn A champions, Ballyhale and Roinn C champions, Galmoy serving up a superb game, with a feast of scores and an array of skills.**

**This game bordered on exhibition stuff as the unique pairing of county divisional champions met for the Waldron Cup. As newly crowned Roinn A champions, Ballyhale went into this match as favourites, but it was the boys in blue and white who made all the opening headlines. Within ten minutes, Galmoy scored three goals and rocked Ballyhale back on their heels. Brian Kavanagh netted after two minutes followed by a second by James Dunne. Points were swapped before Peter Paul Maher slotted Galmoy's third.**

Ballyhale steadied their ship and edged their way back into the game, helped by goals from Shane Kelly and Michael Fennelly, but they were rocked by a second Brian Kavanagh goal just before half time to leave Galmoy in front at the break. (Galmoy 4-1 Ballyhale 2-6)

Ballyhale opened the second half with two quick points but again Galmoy struck when George Hickey got in on the goal-scoring act. However, two quick Ballyhale goals from Eamonn Fitzpatrick and Mark Aylward gave them a four point lead. The game flowed from end to end and just as Ballyhale seemed to be moving away, a Galmoy goal by James Dunne reduced the lead to a puck of the ball. However, a classy goal by Eamonn Fitzpatrick set Ballyhale up and when James Moran grabbed their sixth, the title was to be Ballyhale's.

For Ballyhale, most of the heroes were up forward with Eoin Reid and Eamonn Fitzpatrick starring. Michael Fennelly and James Fitzpatrick were strong at midfield, while Diarmuid Murphy and Keith Nolan were good in defence. For Galmoy, Eoin Phelan and James Hickey were strong in defence, Donnacha Gray and Martin Phelan played well in the middle and James Dunne and George Hickey were the danger men up front.

**Ballyhale:** James Connolly, David Healy, Diarmuid Murphy, Ger Holden, Jason Nolan, Liam Walsh, Keith Nolan, Michael Fennelly (1-0), James Fitzpatrick (0-4), Eamonn Walsh, Eamonn Fitzpatrick (2-3), Shane Kelly (1-0), Eoin Reid (0-3), Derek Fitzpatrick (Capt.), Mark Aylward (1-1). Subs: James Moran (1-0), Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Alan Knox, DJ Molloy, Christy Wemyss, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Jim O'Sullivan, David Cuddihy, Michael Fitzpatrick, Thomas Fitzpatrick, TJ Reid, Marcus Connolly, Richard O'Brien.

**Galmoy:** Philip Loughlin, Michael Harte, Eoin Phelan, David Murphy, Thomas Dillon, James Hickey, Paraic Gray, Martin Phelan (0-1), Donnacha Gray, James Dunne (2-0), Seamus Dillon (Capt.), George Hickey (1-1), Brian Kavanagh (2-0), Kenneth Walsh, Peter Paul Maher (1-0).

**Subs:** Thomas Ryan, Joe Lawlor, Liam Phelan, Dominic Smith.

Kilkenny Association (Dublin)  
Football League (Roinn A)

## CBS CLAIM CROWN

**CBS Kilkenny 3-4 Carrickshock 2-4.**

In a thrilling game in early November, the boys of Scoil Iognaid Ris, Kilkenny CBS claimed their first football crown since 1993, when they overcame the challenge of a strong Carrickshock side. Having won Roinn B and Country Cup titles in previous years, Carrickshock were hoping to win a third successive football title in their first Roinn A decider.

CBS could not have dreamed of a better start. In a whirlwind opening, the CBS boys struck for three goals in the first six minutes, all fine strikes, firstly by Conor Meagher followed by two from Patrick Dore. In between, Carrickshock had notched 1-1, the first score of the game a point from Richard Power, the second a fine fisted goal by Damien Raggett. Despite the early setback, Carrickshock had the upper hand for a lot of the first period and a great goal by Thomas Murray and three more points saw them back level at half time. (CBS 3-1 Carrickshock 2-4).

The second half was close, tense and exciting. Neither side scored for thirteen minutes in a second half that was as tight as the first half was open. Damien Raggett had a superb effort blocked by Richie O'Malley in the CBS goal, and this seemed to give the CBS a boost. Jarrod Lawlor broke the deadlock with a pointed free and when inside forwards, Conor Meagher and Patrick Dore added a brace of points, CBS had victory in their sights. Carrickshock fought all the way to the finish, pressing for an equalising score, but a stout CBS defence held out to the end.

For CBS, Richie O'Malley was very sound in goal, aided in defence by John Phelan, Eddie Culleton, Eddie Clifford and David O'Mahony at centre back in the second half. Robbie Connolly did well right through at midfield while the full forward line of Jarrod Lawlor, Patrick Dore and Conor Meagher all played well. For Carrickshock, goalie, Anthony Holland did nothing wrong, in defence, John Tennyson excelled helped by captain, Pdraig Holden. John Maher and Damien Raggett did well in midfield while Jamie Fennelly, Richard Power and Jackie Frisby did best up front.

**CBS:** Richard O'Malley, John Phelan, Eddie Culleton, Gearoid Campion, Edward Clifford, Darren Tyrrell, Brendan McIntyre, Robert Connolly (Capt.), James Freeman,



**Ballyhale – Country Cup Football Champions 1996** – Back row (l. to r.) Joe Dunphy N.T., Shane Holden, Michael Fennelly, Eoin Reid, D. J. Molloy, Christy Wemyss, James Connolly, Eamonn Walsh, Noel Murphy N.T. Front row (l. to r.) Richard Holohan, David Healy, Mark Aylward, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, James Fitzpatrick, Barry Nolan, James Moran, Jamie Fitzpatrick.



**C.B.S. Kilkenny – Kilkenny Association (Dublin) League (Roinn A Football) Champions 1996** – Back row (l. to r.) Eoin O'Connor, Jamie Massey, Peter Dowling, Edward Clifford, James Freeman, Patrick Dore, Conor Fenton, Darren Tyrrell, Jason Bryan, Christopher Hickman. Centre row (l. to r.) Donal McCarthy, N.T., Peter O'Malley, Gearoid Campion, Rory Gannon, David O'Mahony, John Phelan, Barry Quinlan, Conor Meagher, Dermot Dunphy N.T. Front row (l. to r.): Cormac Dawson, James Geoghegan, Mark Hennebry, Edward Culleton, Robert Connolly, Jarrod Lawlor, Richard O'Malley, Brendan McIntyre, Derek Feehan. (Inset: Martin Fitzpatrick)

James Geoghegan (0-1), David O'Mahony, Martin Fitzpatrick, Jarrod Lawlor (0-1), Patrick Dore (2-1), Conor Meagher (1-1). Subs: Derek Feehan, Jason Bryan, Barry Quinlan, Conor Fenton, Jamie Massey, Chris Hickman, Mark Hennebry, Peter O'Malley, Cormac Dawson, Eoin O'Connor, Peter Dowling, Rory Gannon.

**Carrickshock:** Anthony Holland, Kieran Holden, John Tennyson, Dennis Murphy, John Dalton, Pdraig Holden (Capt.), James Farrell, John Maher, Damien Raggett (1-1), Patrick Duggan, Ricky Brennan, Thomas Murray (1-0), Jamie Fennelly, Richard Power (0-3), Jackie Frisby.

**Subs:** Tommy Brophy, Paraic Barron, John Butler, Gerard Power, Gary Foley, Colm Mullally, John Brennan, John Murphy.

**Referee:** Oisín Breathnach (Dicksboro)

**Country Cup Football Final.**

## BALLYHALE'S DOUBLE!

**Ballyhale 1-6 Kilmanagh 1-4.**

Ballyhale completed the first Country Cup Double, adding the football title to the Corn de Bhaldráithe crown, after a titanic struggle against Kilmanagh. In a great game, true to the style and standards of the summer hurling clashes of these schools, Ballyhale just about edged a thrilling match.

Ballyhale opened the stronger, and had a couple of early points from Eamonn Fitz-



patrick and DJ Molloy. However, Kilmanagh raised their game in the second quarter and while both sides had goal chances, two points for Kilmanagh from Daragh Murphy and James Harrison saw the first half finish level. (Ballyhale 0-2 Kilmanagh 0-2)

Ballyhale had the lion's share of the pressure in the opening minutes of the second half, with Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward and Shane Holden giving them a three point lead. Kilmanagh's Ciaran Hoyne saved a penalty in this period also as Ballyhale tried to break loose. Having raised the siege, Kilmanagh went ahead. Firstly, Daragh Murphy had a goal to bring the teams on level terms. Then the same player added a point to put them ahead. Ballyhale responded in great style when they swept down the field and Jamie Fitzpatrick goalied to regain the lead. Brian Hogan pointed for Kilmanagh to reduce the gap to a point but in a frantic closing spell, Eoin Reid had the last say with a final Ballyhale point.

Ballyhale had 15 heroes. James Connolly, in goal Eamonn Walsh and James Fitzpatrick were tops in defence. Michael Fennelly and James Moran in midfield, captain Eamonn Fitzpatrick, DJ Molloy, Eoin Reid and Shane Holden all shone out as well. For Kilmanagh, they too had stars all over the field, with goalie Declan Brett, backs, William Brennan and Ciaran Hoyne, Richard Devane and James Dunphy in the centre and forwards Daragh Murphy, John Purcell and Brian Hogan all showing best.

**Ballyhale:** James Connolly, David Healy, Christopher Wemyss, Eamonn Walsh, Barry Nolan, James Fitzpatrick, Richard Holohan, Michael Fennelly, James Moran, Jamie Fitzpatrick (1-0), Eamonn Fitzpatrick (Capt. 0-2) Shane Holden (0-1), Eoin Reid (0-1), DJ Molloy (0-1), Mark Aylward (0-1)

**Kilmanagh:** Declan Brett, James Robinson, William Brennan, Pdraig Dermody, Micheál Murphy, Ciarán Hoyne (Capt), John O'Dea, Richard Devane, James Dunphy, John Purcell, Daragh Murphy (1-2), Brian Hogan (0-1), James Harrison (0-1), Pat Robinson, Alan Doheny.

Referee: Brian Ryan (Fenians)

## INTO/GAA MINI-SEVENS.

The INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens competitions are a growing aspect of the Schools' Board activities and this is reflected in the growing number of teams entering the games. The games are competitive only within the county, but there



**INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens** – Eoin Reid (Ballyhale), played in Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final day and is pictured here on the extreme left of the front row.



**INTO/GAA Mini Sevens** – James Fitzpatrick (Ballyhale) played in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final Hurling Day. He is pictured here second from right in the front row.

is an inter-county element.

The County Champions go forward to a regional final, where teams from all the South Eastern counties are mixed together, and the enjoyment of the day is stressed. From these regional days, children are picked to play in Croke Park, in demonstration games on All-Ireland Semi-final and All-Ireland Final days. The thrill of playing in the most famous of Irish venues is won by the lucky few. Handballers also get a regional day out in the alleys of Croke Park.

Within the county, competition is quite stiff and no title is easily won. Kilkenny has a good record of representation in Croke

Park, and this year was no exception. Ballyhale were the winners of the hurling title this year and Eoin Reid and James Fitzpatrick were the lucky pair selected for Headquarters. Freshford were the camogie champions, with three girls, Marie O'Connor, Grace Dermody and Cathriona Cormack getting the call for 'Croker'. All five were selected to play in the Wexford colours.

In football, Carrickshock retained their title in the boys' competition, and two were chosen for the demonstration games, Patrick Mulcahy on semi-final day and Richard Power for the All-Ireland Final day, a super boost for Kilkenny football. In

girls' football, Mullinavat won for the third year running, and Denise Duggan was chosen to play in the GAA headquarters.

The handball titles were shared among the players of Windgap, Kells, Clogh and Muckalee.

In the girls' competition, Grainne Brennan of Muckalee won the Under 13 singles, while Ann Marie Hughes and Ann Marie Love of Clogh won the Doubles. Among the boys, The Under 11 Doubles was won by Thomas Hughes and Paul Byrne of Clogh. The Under 11 Singles title went to Philip Lonergan of Windgap. The Under 13 Singles title was won by CJ Delaney of Kells, while Seamus Hawe and Thomas Lonergan of Windgap captured the Under 13 Doubles. These players proceeded to represent Kilkenny in the Regional games. Well done to all.

## SCOREBOARD 1996

### Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A).

Ballyhale 1-6  
St. Patrick's de la Salle 2-1.

### Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B).

Carrickshock 2-8      Urlingford 1-2.

### Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) Hurling League (Roinn C).

Galmoy 2-10      Coon-Muckalee 0-3.

### Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D).

Glenmore 2-3  
Goresbridge-Paulstown 2-1.



G.A.A./I.N.T.O. Mini Sevens 1996 - Patrick Mulcahy, Carrickshock played in Croke Park on All-Ireland Semi-Final day. Pictured here in the Meath colours. Patrick is in the middle of the front row.



On All-Ireland football final day Richard Power from Stoneyford N.S. lined out in the Meath colours in the G.A.A./I.N.T.O. Mini Sevens. Richard is the last player on the right in the back row.

**Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie**  
Ballyhale 6-11      Galmoy 6-2.

### Kilkenny Association (Dublin) Football League (Roinn A).

Kilkenny CBS 3-4  
Carrickshock 2-4.

### Toymaster Football League (Roinn B)

Ballyhale vs Graignamanagh

### Football Country Cup.

Ballyhale 1-6      Kilmanagh 1-4.

### Under 11 Doubles:

Thomas Hughes/Paul Byrne (Clogh)

**Under 13 Singles:** CJ Delaney (Kells)

**Under 13 Doubles:** Thomas Lonergan and Seamus Hawe (Windgap)

**Girls' Handball: Under 13 Singles:** Grainne Brennan (Muckalee)

**Under 13 Doubles:** Claire Hughes and Ann Marie Love (Clogh)

## GARDA SIOCHANA CITY CLASS LEAGUES

Second Class: Gaelscoil Osrai bt CBS

Third Class: St. Canice's bt St. Patrick's

Fourth Class: St. Canice's bt St. Patrick's

Fifth Class: Gaelscoil Osrai bt CBS

Sixth Class: St. Patrick's bt CBS.

## I.N.T.O./G.A.A. MINI-SEVENS COMPETITIONS

**Hurling:** Ballyhale.

**Football:** Carrickshock.

**Camogie:** Freshford.

**Girls' Football:** Mullinavat.

**Boys' Handball: Under 11 Singles:** Philip Lonergan (Windgap)



I.N.T.O. Representatives: Marie O'Connor, Grace Dermody, Catheriona Cormack, Freshford.

# MICHAEL

# 'DUXIE'

# WALSH

## - 12

## Senior Titles

## in-a-row

### YOUR LAST SINGLES DEFEAT

My last singles defeat in 60x30 was against Tony Ryan in August 1984. I was very young at the time – I was still a minor – but I still thought I would beat him

The game was in Thurles and I slipped and fell when I had a set-up at 17-all in the third game. I think I would have won had I killed the ball – but I didn't, and Tony went on to win. He was too strong for me.

I was training with top seniors at the time – Paddy Reilly, Ollie Harold, Billy Bourke – they gave me my training at that stage.

### FIRST TITLE

I beat Tony Ryan in the 1985 All-Ireland title. It was the first time I had ever beaten him. He had beaten me in the Leinster Open and in the Munster Open that year as well as the 1984 All-Ireland semi-final.

Tony had two good hands. He hit the ball very hard. He was very, very strong with both hands. He had a good serve and the ball was always coming back hard at you. This did not suit me, but he was slow to move.

Even two years ago, I went training with him and he was still hitting the ball very hard, and he was the only person to take a game off me.



### MICKEY WALSH – TWICE

One of those games was televised. I only barely beat him – they were close games. He was a very cute player – very clever – he always looked for chances to kill the ball or to play a pass-shot.

But he suited me the way he played. He really only lobbed the ball back at me and this suited me because I could put the ball away.

### BILLY BOURKE – ONCE

Billy was probably the best minor of all time. He had two very good hands. But when he played against me, I always thought he was beaten before the game started. He didn't have the killer instinct needed to win games, but he was very stylish and both hands were good.

He could be well ahead of a player and he would ease off and start toying with him. I think that's why he didn't win more. He was beaten sometimes by players he should hammer.

### TOM SHERIDAN – ONCE

He is regarded as a doubles player but

he has done well at singles in the past two years. He beat Peter (McAuley) in the Waterford Crystal and gave me a tough game in the semi-final of that tournament.

He just filled in for one final and, fair play to him for that, it was difficult to do. But the big singles games are in Croke Park and the glass sidewall doesn't suit a left-hander like Tom.

### TOM O'ROURKE – THREE TIMES

Tom was definitely the best player I ever saw off the backwall. But he went for too many kills. I met him in Clonmel the first year I beat him – in an early round of the championship – and Ollie Harold told me that I would win as Tom would go for too many kills.

His left wasn't great but his right was. I always found that when the games got close, he seemed to panic. I remember beating him 21-2, 21-3 in the Leinster Open in Kilfane. He was All-Ireland and World champion at the time but he felt the venue was unfair and just couldn't play.

## WALTER O'CONNOR – FOUR TIMES

Walter O'Connor has the best left hand of all times, in my opinion. He has a good right hand, too, but he has wicked power in his left. Left and right, overhand, underhand, whatever, he is very good. His big problem always was that he was bad to move. Also, I don't think he is a good player on the big occasion.

The first two finals against Walter were close. In the first of them, I was under fierce pressure. I was going for eight-in-a-row and Walter had nothing to lose. Walter played very well that night but I did enough to win.

The second time I met him, I won the first game easily and I was on top in the second when I stopped playing – I don't know why. But Walter came at me and took that second game.

He could have won the third game – but he didn't. The last two were very easy and I always felt he was really afraid of losing to me. I don't think he is a great player under pressure.

## DOUBLES

My partner in senior 60x30 was always Eugene Downey. We only lost to two pairs in our 12 years together – Tom and John Quish (Limerick) and Tom Sheridan and James McGovern (Meath).

Tom and John Quish were the best doubles players at the beginning of my career. Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold were good, too, but they were nearly finished when I began.

The first time we met the Quishes they hammered us in Garryhill. They also beat us in a tournament final in Crinkle a week just before our first All-Ireland final against them – they gave us a fierce beating. Still, we beat them easily when it came to the All-Ireland final!

The Quishes were big and strong and had a huge reach. Both of them hit the ball harder than any players I met. John was wicked strong and when the games got close, Tom was the player we felt we should play on.

Tom Sheridan and James McGovern were the other pair to beat us. The best final we were ever in was against them. We were losing the third game 19-12 – people were leaving the gallery because they thought it was all over. But Tom was

like a lad who was punch-drunk near the end of that game and we came from behind in the third to win.

Tom is much fitter nowadays but he got an awful lot of the ball that night and it told on him near the finish.

Ollie Harold and Billy Bourke lost to us in two finals. In both finals, we got a good game off them and in both finals Ollie Harold was brilliant. But they were never going to beat us.

Ollie Harold, Eugene Downey and Jimmy Goggins were the three best right side players I ever saw.

## MY IDOL

Dick Lyng was the best player I ever saw. I modelled my game on him. Dick wouldn't kill the ball as much as me – that's why I won more than him – but he had two great hands and he'd stay running all night. He never gave in.

I beat Dick in Clonmel in the quarter-final of the senior singles on my first year. After that he retired – he never played again!

But I still rate him as my handball idol of all time.

## TO-DAY'S JUVENILES

Young Timmy Clifford is a very good player – very strong but obviously he has a lot to learn still about the game.

Kenneth Kane is very good too in both courts. Tony Healy is very good in the small court but he doesn't play the big court.

I think Tony Healy will be the main man in a few years in the small court and Kenneth Kane will be the best player in the large court.

But Barry Goff could be the best of them all if he gets stronger. I didn't see Carl Browne but Tom Sheridan talks a lot about him so he must rate also.

## FAVOURITE COURTS

My favourite big alley is Talbot's Inch. The small alley I like best is Ballymore Eustace.

Other big courts I like are Clonmel, Garryhill and Kells – Kells is really lovely now – they did a great job there.

I don't like the small court in Croke Park – the floor isn't good enough – but I liked Ballaghaderreen and Leixlip a lot too.

## TRAINING

I trained 5 or 6 nights a week. I went

to Hotel Kilkenny twice a week and trained on their running machines. I travelled to Ballymore Eustace three times a week and played Trevor and Pius Winders – I'd always play two lads.

Pius was All-Ireland hardball champion so I knew he was a good player. A Leinster championship was fixed for Ballymore Eustace so I asked Pius to give me a game. It just took off from there and he gave me training in 60x30 and in 40x20 for the rest of my career.

## VARIOUS

Handball cost me a lot of money but you can't win without travelling. But it was worth it – I really loved winning. I always hated losing. I remember losing a tournament to Peter McAuley in Ballaghaderreen and I wasn't over it for months.

Handball has helped me a lot. It helps me at work. My name sells my product more easily than if I wasn't well-known. I don't like talking but I am at ease with anyone I meet. I am confident meeting people because of handball. The trips to America were brilliant. I won three under-age titles in America. In all, I must have gone to the States 20 times – I'd never gave got there nearly as many times but for handball.

I think handballers get more out of the game from that point of view. I know the hurlers are well treated after training and games but they rarely get a trip.

I did a bit of coaching but I'm not great. I can show shots or give advice but I leave the coaching talk to Jimmy King!

There are not enough tournaments, even in the small alley. There should be a couple of big tournaments in the big court and Top Ace should be brought back. Publicity is hard to get as handball is not a sport which is popular with the public. It has to be on television to get big. Hurling seems to be getting bigger and bigger because of television.

## FINALLY

I don't know whether I will play next year. I don't see enough of my son, Dylan, and we're expecting an addition to the family next year. I always seem to be working, training or playing, but my commitment to the game is not as big as it was.



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# Christian Brothers and Kilkenny Hurling

by Alfie Cullen

**T**HERE is no doubt that the Christian Brothers have contributed immeasurably to the well-being of hurling over the past 70 years or so. They have often been lauded for their efforts and I think, from my experience of them, that their efforts can never be over-estimated.

My first memories of the Brothers promoting hurling was in the very early 1920s. There were no school leagues, of course, in those days and boys hurled in the Ring – near the old ball alley, in the Market Yard, and in the Waterbarracks. This is not where the Waterbarracks pitch is nowadays – that was under water in those days – but where the handball alleys are.

Then some type of schools league was organised in 1922 and Kilkenny CBS beat St. Patrick's in the final. I remember seeing Fr. Paddy Bollard (uncle of Christy) and Dan Dunne playing John Cullen was in charge in both Primary and Secondary.

In 1927 we beat St. Kieran's College – that was as big and as rare a victory in those days as it is today – before beating Coláiste Caoimhin of Dublin in Nowlan Park in the Leinster final. The St. Kieran's game was played where the James Stephens pitch now is. Br. McNamara was one of the brothers I remember from those days – he was a great believer in olive oil! – and then Br. Franklin announced in the dressing room that we would be hurling in James' Park every Wednesday and Saturday. That was a major move for the Chris-

tian Brothers.

Then Br. O'Neill was Principal in the C.B.S. Primary when they won the schools' championship in 1947 – he was a great promoter of hurling in the school. Br. Maher in the 1950s also gave an enormous amount of time to the game. In fact, he was the first man I remember with numbers on the jerseys – he caused poor Annie Burke to stay up half the night sewing them on! He was followed by Br. Creedon and Br. O'Hanlon – a real fanatic.

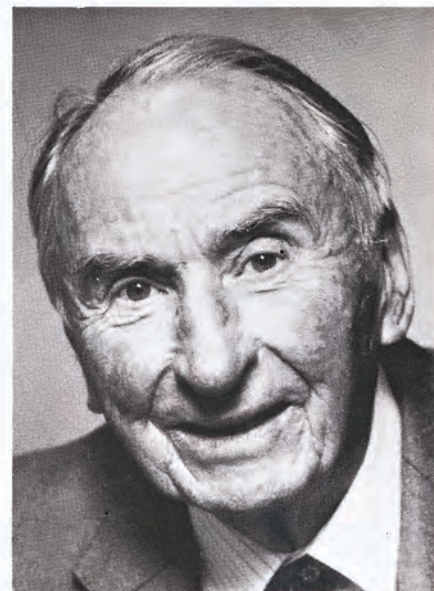
All the brothers in the Primary School from then on seemed to be hurling enthusiasts. Br. Brennan had a winning team – our first for some time – and then Br. Flaherty, Br. Coughlin, Br. Hickey, Br. Murphy and Br. Healy all tried their hand with varying degrees of success. Br. Healy was the last teaching brother in Kilkenny C.B.S. primary school and he had a winning team in 1984.

It was not through having winning school teams that the Brothers contributed to hurling in Kilkenny but through the class leagues that were organised all down the years. These gave every boy a chance to play hurling – even in the years when the school withdrew from the Schools' Board.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

Of course, there were many marvellous Brothers in the Secondary School also. Br. Byrne, who met with a tragic and fatal accident, had trained the victorious 1935 team just shortly before his accident.

In recent years Br. Malone raised the standard of the school team enormously



and coached many boys who were to be great club and county players.

Br. Minniter – now Fr. Minniter – had a great record with them, too. He coached them to win the Senior All-Ireland of 1981 – a really tremendous achievement. Br. Bourke was another who showed great skill in this regard.

The number of Christian Brothers who promoted hurling in Kilkenny is immense. Hurling in Kilkenny would not have such a marvellous history but for the dedicated, and often unheralded, work of these selfless men.

In this year of the beatification of Edmund Rice, it is only right that they be remembered by the people they served so well.



**Gaelic Stars** . . . . at the 1996 Smithwicks Sports Stars Awards dinner in Springhill Court Hotel, were (from left) Mayor John McGuinness (Honour President), Eugene Downey (Handball), D.J. Carey (Hurling), Pat Henderson (Hall of Fame), Michael "Duxie" Walsh (Handball), Eddie Leahy (Honours Award – hurling and Handball), Una Murphy (Camogie), Tony Joyce (Smithwicks).

Photo Tom Brett

# KIERAN'S KINGS AGAIN!

## Record 13th All Ireland Senior title for the 'College'

**N**EVER underestimate a Kilkenny hurling team in a final! That was the harsh lesson Cork school St. Colman's, Fermoy, learned on Sunday, 28 April, when underdogs St. Kierans forged a tremendous victory over the raging hot favourites and Harty Cup holders.

The pulsating fare was described in the following morning papers variously as "a magnificent game of hurling" (*Cork Examiner*), and 'a marvellously skilful contest'

(*Irish Independent*) which had left the large Kilkenny support cheering with delight long after the final whistle.

Fittingly, it was David Carroll, the St. Kieran's captain, who took the Croke Cup and many a tear slipped when he dedicated the win to his late father, Ted, who had himself captained Kieran's to victory in 1957. It was fitting too, because David had been the best player on the field by far throughout the hour. His performance at centre-back solidified a stern Kieran's defence, he snuffed out the threat of star centre-forward Timmy McCarthy and

delivered a series of mighty clearances which set the platform for a fine forward display by the boys in black and white.

Yet at half time Kieran's had been in serious trouble. They had begun the game well, going 0-4 to 0-1 within fifteen minutes with points from Jimmy Coogan, Willie Maher, John Staunton and John McEvoy. However St. Colman's fought their way into the game with some fine points to level at 0-5 each in the 27th minute. Then disaster struck the Kilkenny side as they first conceded a soft goal to Will O Donoghue and two minutes later



**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE – ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS**

Front row (L/R) – Denis Philpott (trainer), J.P. O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), Michael Fogarty (James Stephens), David Carroll, captain (Dicksboro); Donncha Fahy (St. Mary's, Clonmel), Michael Kavanagh (St. Lachtain's), Fr. James Cassin (President).

Middle row (L/R) – Pat Murphy (selector), Brian Holohan (O'Loughlin's), William Maher (Ballingarry), Barry O'Donnell (Young Irelands), Michael Ryan (Moynel/Templetuohy), Sean Dowling (O'Loughlin's), Jimmy Coogan (Tullaroan), Alan Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's), John Staunton (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Adrian Finan (Selector).

Back row (L/R) – Michael McGrath (Ballingarry), John McEvoy (Ballacolla), Bob Aylward (Shamrocks), Gerry Kennedy (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Tomás O'Dowd (James Stephens), Aidan Cummins (Shamrocks), Brian O'Shea (Dunnamaggin), Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks), Eoin Drea (Young Irelands), Podge Delaney (Fenians), Pat Holden (James Stephens).

the same player struck for another goal. Jimmy Coogan (Tullaroan) reduced the deficit with two good points before half-time but in truth Kieran's looked ragged enough at the break when turning to face the wind.

Almost immediately Colman's added two points but, incredibly, these were their last scores as they were overwhelmed for the remainder of the game by a fierce Kieran's counter-offensive led by Carroll, Sean Dowling (O'Loughlins), John McEvoy (Ballacolla), Aidan Cummins (Shamrocks) and Coogan. By the three quarter stage the sides were level thanks to a succession of points from John Staunton (St. Patricks, Ballyragget), Podge Delaney (Fenians) and Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks). Then came the hammer blow. A long David Carroll free was floated into the Colman's square and Willie Maher doubled it to the net. Points flowed in a torrent of accurate shooting from the Kieran's attack and though St. Colmans fought back they failed to raise a flag in the remaining minutes. By the end, nine St. Kieran's players had scored, truly a team performance.

It was a victory which will be talked about in College annals for a long time because of the style of its execution as much as anything else. Players stuck to their positions and kept the ball moving first time even when the game plan looked like coming unstuck. The defenders conceded no space except for that few minutes before the interval and when the scent of victory was in the air, the forwards sought points rather than goals. It worked gloriously.

This is the style of play which has brought them six senior titles in nine years. The trainers change, the players move on, but the pattern of quick, first-time, no frills hurling remains. This style of play was perhaps best exemplified in this year's best hurling games when twenty-one past pupils of St. Kierans, eleven with James Stephens and ten with Young Irelands starred in the magnificent senior county finals.

But the plans almost came unstuck at the Leinster final stage. The College had sauntered through the Leinster league before Christmas, defeating CBS, Callan and Birr Community School. They had a convincing semi-final victory of 3-12 to 2-8 over St. Peters, Wexford, though six players had to receive hospital attention subsequently.

The provincial final was to be the closest game of all. Good Counsel, New Ross, powered by Tomás Digby, Paul Sheehan and Mick Doyle from Rower Inistioge, and Glenmore's Richie Mullally put up very stern resistance. The sides were level with two minutes remaining of a low-scoring but high quality final when Podge Delaney pointed to give the College a narrow lead. Moments later, defender Michael



*David Carroll, St. Kieran's captain, raises the Leinster Senior Colleges' Cup.*

Kavanagh (St. Lachtain's) brought off a superb tackle to save what seemed a certain goal chance and Joe Young saved brilliantly to preserve their advantage. The final score was 1-7 to 1-6 and a credit to the defensive qualities of both sides.

Many observers thought that St. Kieran's rode their luck in that game. In hindsight, the Wexford school did not have enough strength among their forward division to win a provincial title, though their Kilkenny club players did them proud.

The All-Ireland semi-final was a non-évent with St. Kieran's hammering St. Mary's, Belfast, by 0-18 to 0-4 in Navan in what did not amount to much more than shooting practice.

Credit to trainer Denis Philpott and selectors Pat Murphy and Adrian Finan who made some astute changes in personnel during the campaign and who managed to get the troops in peak condition for the day that mattered. College star Willie Maher captained Tipperary to victory in the All-Ireland Minor hurling

final later in September and Donnacha Fahy played at centre-forward with Michael McGrath as sub. goalie.

The All Ireland final team and scorers were;

Joe Young (Graigie-Ballycallan), Kieran Philpott (Dicksboro), Sean Dowling (O'Loughlins), Michael Kavanagh (St. Lachtains), Aidan Cummins (Shamrocks) David Carroll 0-1 (Dicksboro, captain), Michael Fogarty (James Stephens), John McEvoy 0-1 (Ballacolla), Tomás O'Dowd 0-1 (James Stephens), Willie Maher 1-1 (Ballingarry), Donnacha Fahy 0-1 (St. Mary's, Clonmel), John Staunton 0-3 (St. Patricks, Ballyragget), Henry Shefflin 0-1 (Shamrocks), Jimmy Coogan 0-3 (Tullaroan), Podge Delaney 0-2 (Fenians).

*Subs:* Michael McGrath (Ballingarry), Gerry Kennedy (St. Patricks Ballyraggett), Barry O'Donnell (Young Irelands), Bob Aylward (Shamrocks), Alan Geoghegan (O'Loughlins), Eóin Drea (Young Irelands), Brian Holohan (O'Loughlins), J.P. O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), Brian O'Shea (Dunnamaggin), Michael Ryan (Moyne/Templetohy), Pat Holden (James Stephens).

# Michael O'Hehir

By Tom Ryall (P.R.O. Kilkenny Co. Board)

**On last Sunday night I turned on the radio to get the GAA results from Seán Óg only to learn that the great Michael O'Hehir had passed away. It was as if a close family friend had died because while I never knew him personally he had been a part of my life as I grew to manhood. Every Sunday I listened to his broadcast and there is no doubt he instilled in me a love for Gaelic Games and I am sure he did the same for thousands up and down the length and breadth of Ireland. Indeed many great players say that it was Michael who instilled in them the desire that one day they would play in Croke Park in an All-Ireland final. His descriptions of the play were vivid, and he brought excitement to even the most one sided game. In close encounters he had listeners glued to their chairs in kitchens around the country as the ebb of battle flowed one way and suddenly the other. Even people with no interest in Gaelic Games listened to his commentaries. He was also a racing commentator and the B.B.C. used him on Grand National Day at Beechers Brook where the hopes of many were buried. He was undoubtedly the greatest and I think something died when he moved to television because he had to change his style to suit the medium.**

Michael O'Hehir's first broadcast was the All-Ireland Senior Football semi-final of 1938 between Galway and Monaghan at Cusack Park, Mullingar, while still at school in O'Connell Schools. He did not do the All-Ireland hurling final a few weeks later when his native Dublin beat Waterford to win their last All-Ireland senior hurling title but did both the draw and replay of the football final between Galway and Kerry. Before the Centenary All-Ireland Football Final of 1984 he wrote that he wished the game would end in a draw as the replay would be his one hundredth All-Ireland broadcast. Kerry won that final by 0-14 to 1-6.

The Offaly-Galway hurling final of 1985 was then to be his 100th All-Ireland



broadcast but fate intervened and he was struck down by illness a few weeks before the game and never got his wish. Had he broadcast that 1938 All-Ireland hurling final, he would have reached the magical figure. His father Jim had been very involved in Gaelic Games training the Clare Senior hurlers to their All-Ireland triumph in 1914 and also the Leitrim footballers to win the Connacht title in 1927. Jim was Chairman of the Dublin Junior Hurling Board when Dublin took the junior hurling honours in 1937. A number of that team played on the 1938 senior winning side.

Michael O'Hehir could well have been given an award by Bord Fáilte for promoting the little towns and villages of Ireland. When giving the line outs he always gave the name of the clubs of the players. Thus I heard of Cornafean and Mullahoran, Bangor Erris and Oughterard, Ballivor and Skyrne, Clonakilty and Millstreet, Annascaul and Dingle, Rathnure and Oylgate-Glenbrien, Ahane and Croom, Carrigtwohill and Buttevant, Boherlahan and Clonoulty and our own little parishes to such an extent that when I discovered these places on the map I longed to visit them and so, I believe, did many others. Michael O'Hehir promoted these places in his broadcasts and I can still remember phrases like "Joe Kelly, the flying sprinter from Farranferris", "the fair haired Jimmy Murray from Knockcroghery," "Paddy

Bawn Brosnan, the rugged fisherman from Dingle," "Little Jimmy Maher from Boherlahan," "Paddy McCormack, the Iron Man from Rhode," "Big Tom O'Reilly the gentle giant from Cornafean" and, in recent years," Tony Doran the man from Boolavogue."

In the 1940's when I first began to listen to broadcasts, our house did not possess a radio and it was usually next door in Mahers that I spent my Sunday afternoons. For the 1944 All-Ireland hurling final between Cork and Dublin there was something wrong with Mahers radio so I walked two miles to hear the game. By 1945 my father had purchased a radio and then a lot of the neighbours came to our house to hear Michael O'Hehir. These were the days of the wet and dry batteries (no electricity in our part of rural Ireland) and every week the wet battery was brought in to Paddy Hennessy's garage in Callan to have it charged so that it would not run out during the match broadcast.

One of the most dramatic of all broadcasts that I remember was the 1947 All-Ireland hurling final. Playing at full forward was Bill Cahill who lived about two hundred yards from our house and his mother was in our kitchen listening to the final. I can remember the cheer that rent the air when Kilkenny scored the first point and Michael gave the score to Bill Cahill adding that "this Cahill may be a newcomer but he knows where the posts are in Croke Park".

The following day I discovered that the point had been scored by Tom Walton. What matter, our little townland of Kilbraghan had been in the sun for one day thanks to Michael O'Hehir.

Two weeks later I was a boarder in St. Kieran's College for the first time when the students were given two hours off study to hear the broadcast of the football final from the Polo Grounds, New York, as Cavan beat Kerry. Again tremendous interest for the pupils of St. Kieran's as the right half back on the Cavan was one of our teachers Johnny Wilson, later a Fianna Fáil T.D. for Cavan-Monaghan and a Government Minister. I met him earlier this year at the St. Kierans-St. Colmans All-Ireland Colleges Final. These are some of the memories I have of the man who did more to popularise Gaelic Games than any work group at Croke Park will ever achieve. I extend sympathy to his wife and family. We may have great men but we will never have better.



# Nenagh Co-Op Tournament

by Richie Stone

**Kilkenny's bid to add their lone success in the Nenagh Co-Op Inter-County Under 16 Tournament ended at the semi-final stage where they were beaten by Galway.**

As has happened so often in the past, the tournament began well for the Noresiders. In the opening round against Tipperary at Nowlan Park, they wiped out a nine point interval deficit to force a draw with their well fancied neighbours. In the second round against Wexford at Larchfield, they had fourteen points to spare over an out-of-sorts Slaney side that faded out of the game in the second half.

They were even more impressive in the third round against Waterford. This was Kilkenny's first away game and it was switched from Walsh Park to Roanmore due to poor weather conditions. Neither weather or conditions bothered the Noresider's however, as they romped to a 2-19 to 1-4 victory over an over-physical Waterford side.

Clogheen, Co. Tipperary was the venue for Kilkenny's fourth round game against Cork. Victory here would have ensured the Cats of a place in the semi-finals. Alas, it was not to be. A disastrous opening quarter in which Cork built a twelve point lead was the main reason for the defeat. Kilkenny stormed back into the game but found scores difficult to come by. At the interval, they were still trailing by twelve points although they had had much the better of the exchanges during the second quarter. The Noresiders continued to take the game to Cork in the second half and, with seven minutes remaining, they had reduced the lead to six points. The match ended in a welter of excitement as the gritty Kilkenny men stormed forward in an attempt to save the game. It was not to be their day, however, and, despite creating several goalscoring opportunities, they failed to make any further inroads into Cork's lead and the Southerners had the final say when impressive Timmy O'Sullivan closed the scoring with a point in the final minute to leave the final score Cork 4-8 to Kilkenny 2-7.

Defeat by Cork meant that Kilkenny's fate lay in the hands of others. The gods, however, smiled kindly on the Noresiders and a couple of unexpected results saw them into the semi-finals and a tilt at one of the favourites – Galway.

Once again, however, a poor start was to prove costly. Galway opened up a seven point lead in the opening ten minutes. Again, Kilkenny fought their way back into contention. They reduced the lead to two points midway through the second half, but Galway pulled away in the closing stages to record a 2-14 to 1-11 victory.

So ended Kilkenny's bid for honours in this year's competition, where, with a little luck, they could have gone the whole way. On a brighter note, the selectors seem to have unearthed some promising new talent. The likes of Paul Sheehan, Joey Murray, John Morgan, Kevin Power, Noel Hickey, David Dowling, Alan Barry and Hugh Gannon seem destined for further honours in their performances in this tournament are anything to go by.

**Kilkenny Panel:** Cillian Breatnach (Dicksboro), Mark Phelan (O'Loughlins), John Morgan (James Stephens), Eoin O'Neill (James Stephens), Hugh Gannon (James Sephens), Paddy O'Brien (James Stephens), Joey Murray (James Stephens), Niall Skehan (James Stephens), Nial Phelan (St. Lachtain's), James Norris (Piltown), Alan Barry (dicksboro), Paul Sheehan (Rower/Inistioge), David Dowling (Lisdowney), Kevin Power (Fenians), Brian Murphy (O'Loughlins), Gearoid Cleere (Graig/Ballycallan), Joe Brennan (Graig/Ballycallan), James Ryall (Graig/Ballycallan), Brian Phelan (Clara), Noel Hickey (Dunamaggin), Brian Power (Young Ireland's), Colin Herrity (Dunamaggin), Joey Murphy (James Stephen's), Ger Behan (St. Lachtain's), Niall Grogan (James Stephen's), Ken Moore (Dunamaggin).

## TONY FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT

For the fifth time since their only win in the tournament in its inaugural year in 1982, Kilkenny's U-14 hurlers failed at the final hurdle in the Tony Forristal Tournament in Waterford.

Once again Kilkenny had prepared well and were more than hopeful that at long last they could bring the trophy back to Noreside.

In their opening game of the tournament they experienced some first half problems against Kerry, before two second half goals from Kieran Rafter and Tom Kinsella killed of the "Kingdom" challenge. As well as the aforementioned, goalie, Declan Brennan, Anthony Walsh, Shem Kelly, Nial Millea and Shane Hennessy stood out against a better than average Kerry side. Final score: Kilkenny 2-6, Kerry 0-6.

Wexford were Kilkenny's opponents in the second round. Once again the Noresiders found the going tough in the opening half. A rather fortunate goal from a free by Shane Hennessy early in the second half proved decisive. Wexford continued to battle hard but they never really recovered from that setback and Kilkenny ran out deserving winners on the score of 2-7 to 1-5.

Victory over Wexford ensured Kilkenny's place in the semi-finals. Here they came up against a Clare side that many people had earmarked as potential tournament winners. Clare got off to a dream start. They led 1-1 to 0-0 after only five minutes. Points from Eoin McCormack and

Brian Barry brought Kilkenny back into the game. A further Clare point left them 1-2 to 0-2 at the interval and the stage was set for a thrilling second half. Two goals late in the second half by substitute Peter Cleere (who had replaced the injured Shane Hennessy) turned the game Kilkenny's way and the Noresiders ran out easy enough winners by 2-7 to 1-3.

Tipperary were Kilkenny's opponents in the final. They had come through a group that included Offaly and Waterford before narrowly beating Galway in the semi-final. Walsh Park was buzzing with the expectation of a cracking final on Sunday morning. The first half lived up to expectation. Kilkenny, having played with a strong breeze, led at the break 1-2 to 0-1, having missed a couple of glorious chances of goals. Tipperary introduced substitute Darragh Duggan for the second period and Duggan along with Eoin Kelly who won the "Man of the Match" award punished every Kilkenny defensive error and the Munster side ran out convincing winners.

So once again a brave bid by Kilkenny to win this prestigious tournament ended in failure. Where did it all go wrong? With just ten minutes remaining in the final they were very much in the game. Unaccountable they faded completely in that final quarter.

The loss of Shane Hennessy, Anthony Walsh and Kieran Rafter, all of whom were injured in the qualifying games on Saturday did not help the Noresider's cause. Neither did their inability to convert some good scoring chances in the first half of the final. Nevertheless, it is still hard to explain that alarming late fade-out in what up to then had been an excellent tournament for the Kilkenny lads.

Despite that final failure, the Kilkenny selectors have unearthed some fine talent in the likes of Declan Brennan, Shem Kelly, Anthony Walsh, Tom Kinsella, Brian Barry, Aidan Fogarty and Nial Millea, to name just a few. All seem assured of a bright future if they continue to work at their game.

**Kilkenny Panel:** Declan Brennan (James Stephen's), Anthony Walsh (Shamrocks), Peter O'Neill (James Stephen's), Niall Millea (Ballycallan), David Quinn (James Stephen's) Shem Kelly (St. Martin's), Brian Barry (Dicksboro), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Damien Conway (Mullinavat), Niall Bergin (James Stephen's), Peter Cleere (Black & White's), Alan O'Brien (O'Loughlin's), Tom Kinsella (St. Martin's), Eoin McCormack (James Stephen's), Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan), Jackie Tyrell (James Stephen's), Keith Murphy (Shamrock's), Chris O'Neill (Graiguenamanagh), Ned Sweeney (Tullaroan), Michael Drennan (Shamrocks), Aidan Fogarty (Emeralds), Diarmuid O'Neill (Graiguenamanagh).



**KILKENNY UNDER-21 TEAM v. WEXFORD IN LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP - AT NOWLAN PARK**

**Front:** (l-r) O. Behan, D. Buggy, D. Cleere, B. Bolger, P. Morrissey, K. O'Shea, S. Doyle, T. Hickey. **Back:** (l-r) O. O'Connor, V. O'Brien, L. Smith, B. Lonergan, J. Costello, N. Moloney, P. Cahill.

Photo: T. Brett

# Under-21 Inter-County Hurling Great Value

By Tommy O'Brien

**F**OR a number of years now, Kilkenny hurling supporters have got tremendous pleasure from following the county's Under-21 team. When our seniors did well, the performances of the under-21 team was the icing on the cake. When the seniors did not fare well in the championship, there was always the under-21 team to rely on.

With a star-studded team representing Kilkenny in this grade in 1996, there was no reason to expect anything but success from this age group. In 1995, Kilkenny

played Dublin in the first round, conceded home advantage and, but for the timely entrance of current senior, Niall Maloney, would have left their aspirations behind them.

Nineteen ninety-six was no different. Carlow were to be our first victims – albeit on Carlow territory in Páirc Mac Craith in Muine Bheag. Once more a star forward rescued us – this time it was St. Lachtain's man, Ollie O'Connor.

On, then, to our perennial rivals, Wexford. With home advantage, Kilkenny hoped to get by, and, when they had a four point lead with just two minutes to go, victory looked assured. Such is the fer-



Paul Morrissey clears his lines against Wexford, in the Leinster Under-21 championship at Nowlan Park. He is being closely watched by Wexford's Michael Jordan and Garry Laffin. John Costelloe is the Kilkenny player on view.

Photo: T. Brett

your in this grade of hurling that it took a brilliant save from goalie, Paul Morrissey, to keep Wexford from winning by a goal!

On, then, to Wexford Park for the replay. A massive crowd of 8,000 and a half-time lead of 4 points. Then Wexford turned on the style and the power and scored 1-8 without reply to defeat the holders and send another Kilkenny team packing.

### **Kilkenny 3-13 Carlow 1-10**

A hat-trick by St. Lachtain's star, Ollie O'Connor, was the major talking point after this first round Under-21 game at Muine Bheag. Kilkenny began brilliantly with an Owen Behan point in the first minute and Ollie O'Connor pounced on a defensive error to score his first goal shortly afterwards.

Ollie's second goal was a really classy affair. Just as half-time approached, he sold his marker a dummy and raced through to give the Carlow goalie no chance. When the Carlow backs saved a Kilkenny penalty, it was O'Connor who was once more on the spot to slam the ball home to leave Kilkenny leading at the break by 3-5 to 0-6.

Despite the valiant efforts of Carlow's star midfielder, Pat Coady, Carlow could not match their neighbours, who finished nine points ahead.

**Kilkenny:** P.J. Ryan (Fenians); Billy Quinn (Mooncoin), Pa Hickey (St. Lachtain's), Shane Doyle (James Stephens); Paul Cahill (Dunnamaggin), John Costello (0-2) (St Lachtain's), Sean Kealy (Black and Whites); Michael O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), Damien Cleere (0-4) (Graigue/Ballycallan); Ken O'Shea (0-1) (Dunnamaggin), Brian Lonergan (Galmoy), Owen Behan (0-2) (Fenians); Brendan Dalton (Dicksboro), Niall Moloney (0-1) (St. Martin's), Ollie O'Connor (3-2) (St. Lachtain's).

Subs: David Buggy (0-1) (Erin's Own) and Liam Smith (James Stephens).

### **Kilkenny 2-11 Wexford 1-14**

Kilkenny, failed to show their class before the home crowd in this clash with

their great rivals but, after a poor first half display, they raised their game in the second half to gain the initiative.

Kilkenny trailed by 0-9 to 0-4 at the interval and three of those scores had come from Damien Cleere frees.

Wexford increased their lead at the start of the second half but Kilkenny began to rally when a Niall Maloney effort was finished to the net by David Buggy. After some great bouts of play, it was once more Niall Moloney who took up the running. He was fouled near goal and Damien Cleere slapped the penalty home.

This left Kilkenny a point behind. Ken O'Shea had the score of the day to equalise. Niall Moloney, Ken O'Shea and Damien Cleere (2) added points to give Kilkenny an apparently unassailable lead.

A Michael Jordan free narrowed the gap to a single point but then came the late Wexford goal and they might have scored a second one, but for the vigilance of Paul Morrissey.

So, after looking dead and buried – and then safely home – Kilkenny had to face Wexford in a Wexford Park replay.

Wexford had put the shackles on Kilkenny's top scorer of the first round – Ollie O'Connor – and hopes were high that the Kilkenny forward line could get motoring earlier next time out.

**Kilkenny:** Paul Morrissey (John Lockes); Vinny O'Brien (James Stephens), Shane Doyle (James Stephens), Tom Hickey (Dunnamaggin); Paul Cahill (Dunnamaggin), John Costello (0-1) (St. Lachtain's), Brendan Bolger (Rower-Inistioge); Liam Smith (James Stephens), Damien Cleere (1-5) (Graigue/Ballycallan); Eoin Behan (0-2) (Fenians), Brian Lonergan (Galmoy), Ken O'Shea (0-2) (Dunnamaggin); Niall Moloney (0-1) (St. Martin's), David Buggy (1-0) (Erin's Own), Ollie O'Connor (St. Lachtain's).

Sub: Adrian Hudson (Carrickshock).

### **Kilkenny 2-9 Wexford 1-15**

Wexford Park was packed for the replay with the start delayed to allow the 8,000 strong crowd to get to their places.

Kilkenny got the start they hoped for and led by 0-8 to 0-4 at the interval. Kilkenny's lead could even have been greater – Damien Cleere outwitted the Wexford defence but his booted effort at goal came back off the upright.

For the first 20 minutes of the second half, Wexford owned the ball. During this time they scored 1-8 without reply – it could have been 2-8 but for a disallowed goal. Kilkenny forwards simply made no headway during this period and the only shots to reach the Wexford goal came from Brendan Bolger – Kilkenny's best player over the hour.

Despite the Wexford dominance, Kilkenny almost came back at them. Ken O'Shea scored a point and then brilliant interplay between Niall Moloney and Eamon Mackey saw Damien Cleere hammer a great shot to the net. This left just four points separating the teams.

Back came the "Cats". Niall Moloney caught the home defence off guard and selflessly hand-passed the ball to Ollie O'Connor. A glorious chance of narrowing the gap to a single point was lost when a bad bounce left the St. Lachtain's player stranded.

Wexford had stretched their lead to five points when a great Ken O'Shea attack brought a great save from the Wexford 'keeper, M.J. Cooper, but Ollie O'Connor was on hand to tap the ball home and leave just two points dividing the sides.

Then a late Wexford point from almost 100 yards out saw them a safe three points clear at the end.

**Kilkenny:** Paul Morrissey (John Lockes); Paul Cahill (Dunnamaggin), Shane Doyle (James Stephens), Tom Hickey (Dunnamaggin); P.J. Ryan (Fenians), John Costelloe (St. Lachtain's), Brendan Bolger (Rower-Inistioge); Rory Moore (0-1) (Clara), Brian Lonergan (Galmoy); Eoin Behan (0-1) (Fenians), Liam Smith (1-5) (Graigue-Ballycallan), Michael Purcell (Mooncoin), Niall Moloney.

Subs: Ken O'Shea (0-1) (Dunnamaggin), Ollie O'Connor (1-0) (St. Lachtain's), Eamonn Mackey (Mooncoin).



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# REFEREE'S REPORT

By **LIAM DEWBERRY**

*Secretary of the Referees' Association*

**J**UST as the 1954 All-Ireland hurling final was about to begin, the great Christy Ring reputedly said to the referee: "Right, ref, throw in the ball and stay out of the way for the rest of the game."

Any referee would gladly accept such counsel if only the thirty or so individual players and their mentors would vouch to play the game in the true spirit of sport.



Vale Oil Intermediate Final officials L/R; Ger O'Grady (Erins Own), Eddie Mahon (Cloneen), Christy Whelan (Kilmoganny).

How is it that every time something goes wrong in a match the poor referee is the first one to get the blame? How is it that when a ref has a good game he never gets praised?

In my time as a referee praise was a very rare happening. All refs are human but to listen to some of the insults thrown at referees one must wonder if the abuser really knows how hurtful he is. The ref. goes out to do the best he can and spectators should realise that the referee at no time commits any fouls.



Credit Union Senior Hurling final officials; Referee Pat Dunnphy (Carrigeen) is flanked by his linesmen Dermot Ronan and Pat Hayes both from the Graig-Ballycallan club.



Carmel Brennan of Hennessy Sports presents county final jerseys to Liam Dewberry, Secretary and Tommy Duggan Chairman of the Referees' Association.

His social life is curtailed by the amount of time he has to commit to the association. Consequently he needs a very understanding wife or girlfriend. Thank God they usually are! He also needs helpful umpires and linesmen.

At present there are twenty nine referees in County Kilkenny. Five new refs. joined the ranks this year – James Power, Oisín Breathnach, Brian Flynn, Dermot Mulhall and John Walsh. Of the forty-two clubs in the county, twenty-six can supply referees. If the other sixteen managed to supply one ref. each, it would lessen the burden on our overworked personnel. I believe these clubs should look hard and help us out.



Iarnród Eireann Minor County final officials L/R; Brian O'Flynn (Dicksboro), referee Paddy Neary (James Stephens), Oisín Breathnach (Dicksboro).

This year we had six assessment personnel going about the county assessing our referees and they did a great job. We are grateful to them for that. For the first time ever we received sponsorship this year for some of our county finals. For this we thank Hennessy Sports, the County Board and the subsidiary boards and clubs, Dicksboro, James Stephens, Tullaroan, Dunnamaggin, Graig-Ballycallan, Carrigeen and St. Patricks, Ballyraggett.

Next year we are planning to hold more courses and we have a new trainer in Mick O'Flynn who will be starting in January. Anybody who would like to join our association would be very welcome. We can be contacted at 056 - 70418. Finally I would like to thank the following for their help and guidance during the year; John Healy, Pat Dunphy, Ned Quinn, Barry Hickey, Tom Ryall, Pat Mulrooney, Ned Buggy, Jimmy Walsh and last but not least, referees' chairman Tommy Duggan, a tireless worker for the GAA.

# JUVENILE SCOR '96



*Ballad Group Winners – Emeralds (l-r Catherine Maher, Margaret Neary, Bridget Neary, Debra Ryan, Joan Carroll).*



*Nora Gordon (Piltown) – Solo singing.*



*Patrick Dalton (Carrigeen) – Recitation.*



*Instrumental Music – Windgap (l-r Martha Mackey, Aidan Mackey, Marion Cronin, Terri Mackey).*



*Set Dancing – John Lockes, Callan (l-r Michael Dunne, A. McCormack, Michael Hennessy, Ross Holden. Front (-r) Rosemary Corcoran, Caroline Cooke, Evita Cassin, Lyndsey Dunne).*



*Special Award – Slieverue Set Dancers. Included in the picture are Gavin Quilty, Michelle Quilty, Kelly Delahunty, Shane Meagher, Kerry Ryan, Stephen Roche, Danielle O'Keeffe, Alan Dempsey.*



*Novelty Act – Carrigeen (Patricia Dalton, Celine Kearns, Patrick Dalton).*



*Quiz Winners – John Lockes (Mark Townsend, John Townsend, Gavin Grace).*



*Céill Dancing winners – Emeralds (l-r Anna Fox, Tomasine Wilson, Laura Comerford, Mary Drennan, Julia Drennan, Carol Comerford).*

# CLUB SCENE

## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

### OFFICERS:

President: John Fitzpatrick.  
 Vice Presidents: Jack Walsh R.I.P.,  
 Paddy Reid, Tommy Walsh.  
 Chairperson: Michael Hoyne.  
 Vice-Chairperson: Pat Aylward.  
 Secretary: Michael Phelan.  
 Treasurer: Sean Reid.  
 Asst Treasurer: Michael Hoyne.  
 P.R.O.: Carmel Harrington.  
 Juvenile Chairperson: Frank Costello.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Under 14 Championship Roinn A -  
 County Finalists.  
 Under 16 Championship Roinn B -  
 County Finalists.  
 Minor Championship Roinn B -  
 Southern Finalists.  
 Special Junior Hurling - Southern  
 Finalists.  
 Intermediate Hurling Championship -  
 Semi-Finalists.  
 Mount Carmel Tournament - Winners.  
 Under 13 Hurling Championship  
 Roinn A - County Champions.  
 Under 13 Corn de Bhaldrathe -  
 County Champions.



### BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS U-14 HURLING - ROINN A CO. FINALISTS 1996

Back row: Edward Fitzpatrick, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Michael Dermody, Bill Walsh, Larry Alyward, Brendan Costello, Seamus Walsh, Dick Fitzpatrick, Keith Murphy, John Kennedy. Front row: James Fitzpatrick, Eoin Reid, John Dermody, Michael O'Keeffe, Anthony Walsh, William Coogan, David Hoyne, Michael Drennan, Patrick Reid, Eamon Frisby. Mascots: James Walsh, John Murphy.

Under 13 Football Country Cup -  
 County Champions.

Under 13 Football Championship  
 Roinn B - County Finalists.

INTOIGAA Mini-Sevens Hurling -  
 County Champions.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Henry Shefflin (Minor Hurling)  
 Pdraig Farrell, Conor Harrington  
 (Senior Hurling)

The Shamrocks' Under 14 team reached the final of the Roinn A championship but were beaten by a superior James Stephens team. They never gave up the fight to the last minute. The same team were also involved in the Paddy Grace tournament and lost in the quarter-final stage.

The Under 16 team reached the Roinn B Championship final and lost by five points to Emeralds. They lost out in the league to Clara.

The Minors drew in the Southern Final with Thomastown. In the replay, Thomastown came up trumps on a scoreline of 3-5 to Shamrocks' 0-11.

The Under 21 team are still active in the championship having drawn with John Lockes.

The Special Junior team played well all year but without success as they lost the Southern Final to Mooncoin. The same team were beaten in the quarter final of the Iverk Produce League by John Lockes.

Usually the good wine is reserved for last, but the Shamrocks' Intermediate team literally left the championship with a bang. They lost to a fitter, hungrier Graignamanagh team. The team building process begins again, and hopefully Shamrocks will do much better in their 25th. year as a club.

The schools teams have had an all conquering year. In hurling they claimed a treble, winning the Roinn A, Corn de Bhaldrathe and INTO Seven-a-side competitions. The also captured the Football Country Cup and are finalists in the Roinn B football. Two players, James Fitzpatrick and Eoin Reid were selected to play in Croke Park as part of the Mini-Sevens half time demonstration games.

Congratulations to Pat Aylward, who has been chosen as a County Selector, and also to Pdraig Farrell who has played himself onto the County Senior Panel.

On October 30th. one of our club members competed in the R.T.E. Quiz, 'Know your Sport', in Dublin. The popular Paddy Harhen had eight fellow club members cheering him along. The programmes are to be aired on December 16th. and 23rd.



Paddy Harhen (right), the contestant on RTE's "Know Your Sport" quiz, with George Hamilton, and above, the group of supporters: Michael & Brigid Hoyne, Michael & Madge Kiely, Alice Kelly, Kevin Kennedy, Mary & Carmel Harrington.



# CLUB SCENE

## BARROW RANGERS

### OFFICERS:

*Chairperson:* Gerry Purcell.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Larry Doyle.  
*Joint Secretaries:* Bob Shortall, Ed Drea.

*Treasurer:* Pat Drea.  
*Asst. Treasurer:* Mervyn Healy.  
*P.R.O.:* Michael Shortall.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Under 21 Hurling Championship*  
*Roinn C - County Champions.*  
*Under 13 Hurling Championship*  
*Roinn D - County Finalists.*  
*Special Junior Hurling League -*  
*Northern Finalists.*

Pride of place for 1996 goes to the Under 21 hurlers who won the Roinn C Championship. They were trained by Mick Doyle, who has given sterling service to Rangers over a long number of years.

### SCHOOLS

The great work being done in the schools of the parish received a big boost when the team qualified for the County Final of Primary Schools' Championship. Steady progress has been recorded each year in this grade and hopefully 1997 will bring the rewards that the efforts deserve.

Our luck ran out on Final day against Glenmore in a thrilling close encounter. The team stormed the Glenmore goal for the last quarter, but the lucky break would not come.

The school team also performed creditably in the Gaelic Football League, which we entered for the first time this year.

Finally a most enjoyable day was had by the Scoil Bhríde pupils when members of the Barrow Rangers Under 21 team brought the Roinn C Cup to the school.

### ON THE FIELD

This year was always going to be difficult for the Juniors, having just come back down from Intermediate grade. In the All County League,



### BARROW RANGERS U-14 SUMMER HURLING LEAGUE

*Back row (l to r):* Michael Kelly, Nicky Morrissey, P.J. Barcoe, Ciarán Cooke, Damien Keyes, Peter Brophy, Eddie Gavin, Jonathan Cooke, Denis Kealy, Fr. Jim O'Connell, Pat Morrissey, Brian Keyes.  
*Middle row (l to r):* Darren O'Neill, Liam Walsh, Gerald Byrne, Mark Lillis, John Murphy, Derek McEvoy, Shane McEvoy, David Kelly.  
*Front (l to r):* Robert Collins-Hughes, Danny Kearney, Ricky Murphy, Andrew Healy.

there were victories over Slieverue, Emeralds, Piltown and Lisdowney, but losses to Dicksboro, Graigue-Ballycallan, Windgap and Galmoy meant failure to qualify for the play-off stages.

The loss of Ed Drea and Dermot Maher in the early rounds of the championship meant that the other players were under pressure. The introduction of Richie Power for the period gave them a belief in themselves that enabled them to qualify for the Northern semi-final versus Galmoy. On the day the attack could not break down a resolute defence and lost out by six points.

The Special Junior team put up a very good show during the league with three victories and a draw qualifying them for the knock-out stages only to lose to Tullaroan in the final. In the championship, hopes were dashed by O'Loughlin Gaels in the first round.

The Intermediate footballers opened their campaign with a defeat by Conahy Sarsfields, followed by a win over eventual champions,

Thomastown. In the final match against Clara, however, Clara proved too good on the day, leaving the team to battle on to avoid relegation with Conahy and Shamrocks.

The Minor hurlers were the enigma of the club during the last year. They showed a total lack of commitment which was reflected in the defeats suffered. They were totally outplayed by Conahy Shamrocks in the championship and far greater commitment will be needed if such heavy defeats are to be avoided.

At Under-14 and Under-16 levels there was limited success, with the major achievement being runners-up in their section of the Laois Feile in Camross. The club also hosted a team from Clann na nGael in Dublin during the Leinster Feile and had a good win over Danesfort to win their group.

We would like to remember supporters, players and friends of the club who had bereavements during the year and extend our sympathy to them and their families.



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# CLUB SCENE

## BENNETTSBRIDGE

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. Duggan.

*Vice President:* John McGovern.

*Chairperson:* Eamon Hanrahan.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Martin Treacy.

*Secretary:* James McGarry.

*Treasurer:* P.J. Cullen.

*P.R.O.:* Seamus and Joan Cleere.

*Juvenile Chairperson:* Christy Hayes.

This year was a very disappointing one for the club. None of our teams reached a county final. The Intermediate



**BENNETTSBRIDGE INTERMEDIATE HURLING 1996**

*Back, 1 to r: James Byrne, Richie Moran, Pakie Lennon, John Drea, James McGarry, Seamus Moran, Fintan Cleere, Larry Cleere. Front, 1 to r: Jimmy Lennon, Brendan Walpole, James Dowling, Rd. McCarthy, Tommy Lennon, Wayne Dowling, Leo Mahon.*

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

hurlers fell at the quarter final stage to Clara. The footballers reached the Northern Final where they lost out to the eventual champions, O'Loughlin Gaels. The Under 21's were well beaten by Gowran, while the minors went out to the Emeralds. Our Under 14 team were beaten at the semi-final stage by Carrickshock. Overall, it was a poor year for the club. More effort will have to be in by the players, if the club hope to succeed at any level.

The Club were delighted to welcome Liam Simpson back for the championship, following the serious knee injury he received last year. We hope it will not be too long before we see him play in the Black and Amber again.

The club would like to thank all our sponsors throughout the year. We also wish to extend our sympathy to the families who suffered bereavements during the year.



*The refurbished and extended Press/Radio accommodation sponsored by McCorry Construction.*

*(Photo: Tom Brett)*



# CLUB SCENE

## BLACKS & WHITES

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Jack Kelly.

*Vice Presidents:* Michael Byrne,  
Michael O'Brien.

*Chairperson:* Joe Lawlor.

*Vice-Chairperson:* John Barcoe.

*Secretary:* Ned Kelly.

*Asst Secretary:* Tommy Farrell.

*Treasurer:* Gerry Murphy.

*P.R.O.:* Cathal Moran.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Pat O'Grady, Sean Kealy (Junior Hurling)

Sean Kealy (Under 21 Hurling)

Peter Cleere (Under 14 Hurling)

David O'Neill (Senior Football)

Sean Kealy, David O'Neill (Under 21 Football)

1996 began for Blacks and Whites with the Intermediate Football Championship. One victory in the three games versus Mooncoin, Piltown and Shamrocks was not enough to progress in the competition.

The Junior Hurling team qualified for the quarter-finals of the All County League, before losing to Galmoy in a replay. The opening rounds of the championship saw suc-



**NATIONAL SCHOOL SKEOUGHVOSTEEN CAMOGIE TEAM**

*Back:* Mrs. Lanigan, Brid Cleere, Michelle Kelly, Helena Wall, Maeve Dalton, Andrea Savage, Aimee Murphy, Sarah Murphy, Kate Doyle, Niamh Joyce. *Front:* Majella Kelly, Mary Claire Murphy, Tara Kelly, Jennifer Lennon, Brid Doran, Michelle Moloney.



**BLACKS & WHITES UNDER -11**

*Back:* John Murphy, Jonathan Burke, James Brennan, Myles Doyle, Charlie Ryan, Jason Carroll, Maeve Dalton, Niall Kennedy, Patrick Doyle. *Middle:* Anthony Barcoe, Brian Cleere, Denis Brennan, Kevin Barcoe, Michelle Moloney, Philip Murphy, Frank Ryan. *Front:* Christopher O'Grady, John Whelan, Tom Moloney, John Lawlor, Aimee Murphy, Michael Whelan, Colm Dalton.

cesses against Danesfort and Lisdowney. However, the Northern semi-final brought disappointment with defeat at the hands of Dicksboro, once again in a replay.

The Special Junior team reached the quarter final of the Division 3 league, before losing out to O'Loughlin Gaels. In the championship, they fell to Tullaroan, in the

northern semi-final after wins over Lisdowney and Danesfort.

At Under age level, our top team during the year were the Under 14 squad. They went unbeaten through the league, losing in the semi-final to Graiguenamanagh. In the championship, they beat Bennettsbridge and James Stephens before losing narrowly to Lisdowney in the Northern Final.

### BLACKS & WHITES JUNIOR HURLING 1996

*Front Row:* David O'Neill, Michael Doyle, Ned Kelly, John O'Grady, P.J. Murphy, M.J. Doherty, Peter Farrell.

*Back Row:* John Prendergast, Tommy Farrell, Pat O'Grady, John Byrne, Patrick Hayden, Pat Nolan, Martin Farrell, Sean Kealy.

*Photo:* Tommy O'Neill



matches.

On the county front, Pat O'Grady was a member of the Kilkenny Junior Panel which won the Leinster Championship. Sean Kealy was a member of both the Junior and Under 21 panels until injured. Peter Cleere was on the Kilkenny Under 14 panel for the Tony Forristal Tournament. In football, the club was represented by David O'Neill on the Senior team and by Sean Kealy and David O'Neill on the Under 21 team.

Finally, we would like to remember players and supporters of the club who suffered bereavements during the year, and extend sympathies to them and their families.



**BLACKS & WHITES UNDER-14 TEAM**

*Back: James Doran, Barry Dalton, Shane O'Sullivan, Peter Cleere, Fiachra Horan, Shane Murphy, James Burke, Sean Whitehead, Tommy O'Brien, Liam Dalton, Brian Moloney, Robert Savage. Middle: Conor Nolan, Jimmy Whelan, Liam Kelly, Conor Murphy, Keith Byrne, James Brennan, SEan Savage. Front: Michael Doyle, Patrick Doyle, Myles Doyle, John O'Brien, Tom Moloney, Anthony Barcoe, Jason Carroll, Barry Moloney, Niall Kennedy.*

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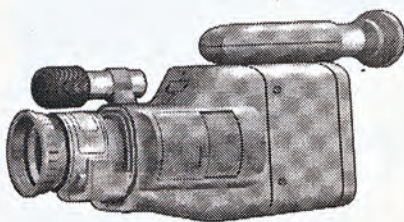
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*Good Luck to all our Kilkenny teams in 1997*



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# CLUB SCENE

## CARRICKSHOCK

### OFFICERS:

President: Fr. Hoynes  
 Vice President: Fr. O'Brien  
 Chairperson: Maurice Power  
 Vice-Chairperson: Tommy Murphy  
 Secretary: Pat Power  
 Asst Secretary:  
 Treasurer: Jimmy Sheehan  
 P.R.O.: Jim O'Shea  
 Juvenile Chairperson: Tommy Hoynes

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Junior Football Championship -  
 County Finalists  
 Minor Hurling Championship -  
 Southern Finalists  
 Under 14 Hurling Championship 'C' -  
 County Champions  
 Under 14 Hurling League 'C' - County  
 Champions  
 Under 13 Hurling Championship 'B' -  
 County Champions  
 INTO Mini - Sevens Football - County  
 Champions

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Pat Dwyer, Patrick Farrell (Senior  
 Hurling)  
 Adrian Hudson (Under 21 Hurling)

1996 was a mixed year for Carrickshock GAA Club. Once again we enjoyed tremendous success at schools' and under age levels. Our Under 13 side under Tom Duggan's leadership won the Roinn B hurling championship and retained the INTO mini sevens in football. Our Under 14 team won the Roinn C League and Championship in Hurling and reached the final in football. Congratulations to players and mentors of both teams.

The disappointing aspect of 1996 was our lack of success at adult level. Our Junior Footballers again reached the County Final, before losing out to O'Loughlin Gaels. Thanks to Tommy Murphy for his dedication to football at all grades.



**CARRICKSHOCK JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS 1996**

Back row llr: Oliver Barron, John O'Gorman, Cleeve Cuddihy, Christy Dwyer, William Duggan, Gary Comerford, Jim Shea, Martin Rohan, Pat Cantwell, Pdraig Rohan, P.J. Cuddihy, Barry Hudson, George Frisby, Ken Dunphy, Thomas Power, Paddy Mulcahy, Seamus Kenneally, James Duggan, James Phelan. Front row llr: Jim Rohan, Tommy Murphy (trainer), John Dwyer, Michael Murphy, Michael Walsh, Brian Hudson, Larry O'Shea, Adrian Burke, Eamonn Phelan, John Power, Brian Cantwell, John Barron, Nicky Murphy, A.J. Cuddihy.



**CARRICKSHOCK INTERMEDIATE HURLING TEAM 1996**

Back row llr: Noel Maher (trainer), Michael Murphy, William Duggan, Tom Cassin, Martin Rohan, Barry Hudson, Pat Fennelly, Richie Power, Jimmy Sheehan, Pdraig Rohan, Pat Dwyer, Eamonn Phelan, Jim Shea, Christy Dwyer. Front row llr: Jason Cuddihy, Pat Tennyson, George Frisby, Michael Walsh, Tommy Murphy, Philip Fennelly, Adrian Hudson, John Power, Pat Cantwell, Brian Hudson, Willie Power

Photo: Tommy O'Neill

Our Intermediate hurlers were beaten by Graiguenamanagh at the quarter final stage. The club would like to thank Noel Maher for his tremendous work as team trainer for the last three years. He guided the club to the Intermediate semi-finals twice and the team enjoyed some great success under his leadership.

The F.A.S. scheme continues to be a great success and the GAA field was in splendid condition throughout the year. Work on the new Community Centre is still in progress and we hope to see its conclusion in 1997. All work to date has been fully financed.

Pat Dwyer and Patrick Farrell represented the club on the Kilkenny Senior Team, while Adrian Hudson played on the Under 21 side. All performed with distinction.

We would like to thank our main sponsors, Doyle Concrete and Roche Mouldings, for their generous support during the year. We also thank all the local businesses who are always willing to lend a helping hand.

Finally, we offer sympathy to the families of all those bereaved in the parish during 1996. May they rest in peace.



**Two Nowlan Park Stalwarts** - Paddy Brennan (I told him them fags would kill him) poses with Joe Coyne, at their usual post in Nowlan Park.

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

**OFFICERS:**

*President:* Tom Dunphy  
*Vice Presidents:* Fr. Walsh, Jimmy Rochford.  
*Chairperson:* Richard Quinn.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Pat Dalton.  
*Secretary:* Walter Morohan.  
*Asst Secretary:* Seamus Kearns.  
*Treasurer:* Pat Dunphy.  
*Asst Treasurer:* James Power.  
*P.R.O.:* Jim Brown.  
*Irish Officer:* Eddie Quinn

**CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:**

*Special Junior 'B' Hurling* - Southern semi-finalists  
*Under 21 'C' Hurling* - County semi-finalists  
*Ballyduff Junior Hurling Tournament* - Finalists



Club members were very active during the year, with the club taking part in Special Junior 'A' and 'B' Hurling and Special Junior Football. In addition the club also fielded in Under 21 Hurling and Football.  
The Special Junior team put in an excel-

lent performance in holding eventual County Champions, Dunnamaggin, to a draw, losing out by a couple of points in the replay. Our Under 21 team did the club proud, reaching the Roinn 'C' County semi-final, before bowing out to a strong Clonee team.

Congratulations to Paddy Moran and James Power, who were picked on the victorious Southern Junior team for the Jim Farrell Cup. Congratulations also to Pat Dunphy and umpires who officiated at this year's County Senior Hurling Final.

We also entered teams in both Senior and Junior Scor, winning a number of County Titles in each section. These acts went on to put in a creditable performance, representing Kilkenny in Leinster Scor. Well done to our Scor organiser, Pat Dalton, for continuing to keep the club to the fore in Kilkenny Scor. This achievement is reflected in the fact that the club won the Phil Cahill Cup for the second year in succession.

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Best Wishes to all Kilkenny Teams in 1997



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# CLUB SCENE

## CLARA

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Rev. Jim Murphy.

*Vice Presidents:* Canon Richard Nolan,  
Maurice Ryan.

*Chairperson:* Eddie Phelan.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Tom Brennan.

*Secretary:* Bob Shortall.

*Asst Secretary:* Pat Treacy.

*Treasurer:* Mary Champion.

*P.R.O.:* Donal McDonald.

*Juvenile Chairperson:* Pat McDonald.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Intermediate Hurling League - County Champions.*

*Intermediate Football Championship - County Finalists.*

*Minor Hurling League Division IV - County Finalists.*

*Under 16 Hurling League Roinn C - County Finalists.*

*Under 16 Hurling Championship Roinn C - Northern Finalists.*

*Under 11 Camant - Group Winners. County Players 1996:*

Rory Moore, Robert Shortall, Brendan Barcoe, Michael Fitzgerald (Junior Hurling)

Rory Moore (Under 21 Hurling)  
Seamus Crean, Eddie Mulrooney (Junior Football)

In the inaugural year of the Under-11 Camáint ground hurling competition, Clara finished in third place in the Northern section, qualifying for Group Two. In the final in Nowlan Park, Clara defeated Bennettsbridge, Piltown and Graigue-Ballycallan to finish outright winners of the group.

Eight players from Clara were part of the Clara/Muckalee Under 9 football team which won the County Community Games final defeating Callan in the final at Nowlan Park.

Clara opted to play in Roinn B in this year's Under 14 hurling as they won Roinn C in 1994. However, in The Paddy Grace Memorial Feile na nGael, we were unfortunate to meet James Stephens in the first round and were beaten decisively by the eventual All-Ireland winners of the competition.

In the Roinn B championship, Clara



**CLARA UNDER-11 CAMAINT TEAM 1996**

*Front row:* Killian Brennan, Sean Murphy, Ciaran Kirwan, David Prendergast, Eoin O'Shea, Michael Bergin, Fintan Brennan. *Second row:* Liam Ryan, John Murphy, Denis Tobin, Tadgh Corley, Niall Prendergast, Mark Drennan, Austin Murphy, Shane Prendergast. *Behind:* Johnny Ryan (coach), Dan McDonald (selector), Shane Knox (selector).

were drawn to meet St. Martin's in the quarter final and were beaten comprehensively by a superior St. Martin's team, who went on to contest the County Final.

In the Leinster Féile, Clara hosted a party of 27 from Lucan GAA Club in Dublin. A great weekend was had by all.

In Under 16, Clara, competing in Roinn B, qualified for our second consecutive Under 16 league final. However, a well drilled Emeralds side were superior on the night and it was not to be. In the championship, Clara recovered from a shaky start to qualify for the Northern Final. Again Emeralds proved to be a better balanced and superior team and won well. In the second year of the Liam Ryan Under 16

tournament, Clara defeated neighbours, Young Irelands in the final.

Clara competed in Division IV of the league and topped the table with five victories. In the league final they met Kilmacow who were going for the double. Despite a good first half performance, Kilmacow proved their worth with a good win, adding the league title to their championship win on a score of 0-11 to 1-2.

In the championship, Clara were drawn against James Stephens in the first round. Leading well, a row caused the game to be abandoned with only seven minutes remaining. In the replayed fixture, the sides finished level after normal time, but James Stephens finished the stronger to finish our championship hopes.



**CLARA MINOR HURLING TEAM 1996 DIVISION IV LEAGUE FINALISTS**

*Front row l to r:* Brian Phelan, Richie Nolan, P.J. McDonald, Adrian Fitzpatrick, Gerry Byrne, Paddy Meany, Kevin Shortall, John Prendergast, T.J. Fitzgerald. *Back row:* Shane Knox, Tom Carrigan, Edmond Mulrooney, Conor Shortall, Bill O'Keefe, Dan McDonald, Tom Murphy, Benny Nolan, Ian



**CLARA INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL FINALISTS 1996**

*Back row l to r:* Daniel McDonald, Joe Casey, Anthony Prendergast, J.J. Ward, Willie Blanchfield, Brendan Barcoe, John Byrne, Paschal Connolly, Eamon Whearty, Conor Shortall, Edmond Mulrooney. *Front row l to r:* Anthony Moore, John Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Seamus Crean, John Shortall, Ed. Mulrooney, David Shortall, Colman Ryan, Lester Ryan, Robert Shortall.

# St. Martin's make it – just about

By Barry Henriques

**IN ONE of the very best of championships for many a long day, the under-21 hurlers from the St. Martin's Club in Muckalee/Coon had to battle all the way to collect the County Under-21 Roinn "B" championship.**

They opened their campaign against Clara, and although it looked at times that they would not come through, some strong hurling by Niall Maloney, Brendan Ryan and Ger Doyle saw them put in a storming finish to collect the honours.

They continued in a winning vein with a rather facile victory against Conahy in the next round. They were now in the Northern semi-final, and Lisdowney beckoned. This was a tight, tough, hard-won battle, with just four points separating the two sides at the finish.

John Maher was St. Martin's "big gun" in this one. He needed to be, as Ollie Blanchfield threatened to win it on his own for Lisdowney. 'Twas Young Irelands from Gowran that came between Muckalee and the Northern title. Again a close encounter was the order of the day, and, but for a converted Niall Maloney penalty early in the second half, things could have been so different. The St. Martin's men awaited their opponents from the south.

Piltown, having won the County Junior title very convincingly, had 11 players from their panel toggling off for the under-21 team – not a bad base from which to come. They started their campaign against Windgap in the first round of the Southern championship. The game was a close affair until half time, but eventually they pulled away to win quite convincingly at the end. The win was embellished with great performances from Liam Kearns,

Brian Farrell, Michael Dwyer and James Connolly.

In a low scoring South semi-final they accounted for Mullinavat by a two-point margin. They next faced a very young John Lockes, and although the Lockes fought the brave fight, their inexperience and lack of power took its toll and Piltown won by two clear goals. Jim Connolly was the star on this occasion and he got tremendous assistance from Tony Falconer, Barry Walsh and Brian Farrell.

The County final against St. Martin's in Callan was as tough, honest and fair a game as you will ever witness. At half-time it appeared as if the Piltown lads had it sewn up, but they didn't reckon on the determination of the Muckalee men. They fought it to the very end and got their just reward when, in the 32nd and 33rd minutes of the second half, they "bagged" two goals – from Paul Brennan and Eoin Maher – to see them collect the cup from Ned Quinn, vice-chairman of the County Board. The winning margin was a somewhat flattering 5 points.



Ned Quinn (Vice-Chairman Kilkenny Co. Board) presents the U-21 Champions Cup to Niall Maloney, captain, St. Martin's.

Muckalee had great performers in Ger Doyle, Paul Maher, Ger Kinsella, Richard Nolan, Brendan Ryan, Eoin Maher, Paul Brennan, Niall Maloney and John Maher.

For Piltown, none played better than Jim Connolly, Michael Brennan, Liam Kearns, Thomas Falconer, Michael Long, Michael Gordon and Barry Walsh.



## PILTOWN - UNDER-21 ROINN "B" CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNERS-UP

**Front (l-r):** Richie Butler, Brian Farrell, Tommy Falconer, Michael Gordon, Denis Lawlor, Barry Walsh, Alan Walsh, Mickey Long, Richie Connolly, John Falconer, James Maher. **Back Row (l-r):** Tommy O'Shea, Kevin Maher, James Connolly, Tadhg Kenny, James Farrell, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael Brennan, Liam Kerns, Andrew Norris, Shay Reid, Andrew McCabe, James Norris.



## ST. MARTIN'S - UNDER-21 ROINN 'B' COUNTY CHAMPIONS

**Back Row:** Keith Brennan, Tony Flynn, Alan Murphy, Ger Doyle, Martin Dooley, Eoin Maher, Niall Moloney (c), Richard Nolan, Philip Shore, James Hahessy, John Doyle. **Front:** Donal Brennan, Martin Dowling, Ger Kinsella, Paul Brennan, Joe Dowling, Larry Brennan, Paul Maher, Brendan Ryan, Martin Somers, John Maher, Noel Maher, Michael Somers.

# A day in the life of a Kilkenny Coach

By Bobby Jackman and Brian Ryan, Kilkenny County Coaches.

**A**S we head into our fourth year as Coach/Organiser in Kilkenny, maybe it is now time to reflect on some of the benefits from our time spent coaching in schools and clubs.

At this stage, we can honestly say that every boy and girl, from 7 to 16 years, has had the benefit of our coaching of our National Games. We make a point of encouraging the youngsters to participate and enjoy the games.

The "win at all costs" culture, as evident in many sports, we try to shun. As coaches, we are not there to take from the teachers, many of whom are doing tremendous work. We are there to complement the work that they do.

In schools where there are very little GAA games players, we help the teachers to create an awareness of the games, and consequently a greater interest among the students. It is a well-known fact that more time has to be spent coaching and organising sessions for children at the present time. Gone are the days when children got together to practice on their own.

For the coming year, our club visits will be aimed at the juvenile sections. We would suggest that attention should be



Bobby Jackman

given to developing under-10 coaching. It would create great interest at this level, and would probably encourage some parents to become involved. Very few clubs are coaching at this level.

To assist all mentors in schools and clubs, a series of foundation courses were held throughout the county. These courses

are aimed at assisting mentors with practical sessions, where the skills are coached in a variety of ways.

We have to acknowledge the tremendous assistance and encouragement given to us by the Leinster Coaching Directors, Lester Ryan and Colm Brady; the chairman of the Kilkenny Development Committee, Paul Kinsella; the many teachers, club mentors and, of course, the players.

Without their co-operation and goodwill it is doubtful whether the entire coaching schedule would have been as successful.

## BOBBY JACKMAN

I leave Callan at 8.45 to travel to Piltown. My car is well equipped with sliothars, footballs, cones, and indoor hurleys etc. Arriving in Piltown at 9.20 a.m., I am met by Dan Kenny. Dan is heavily involved with the Piltown Juvenile club, and he is also chairman of the club.

On this visit I will be taking two groups from 2nd and 3rd classes. Mark Connolly has all the students togged, equipped, and anxious for the session. Mark himself, who is doing marvellous work for the Piltown juveniles, gives me "a hand" with the session.

Being a very cold morning, we do a warm-up set, then we do our skill game. However, having just finished our skills, the rain pours down. I take the youngsters indoors, where we have a GAA quiz. During the quiz, the sun shines and, to the delight of the boys and girls – and "mé féin" – we are able to return outside and play "the match". I find that "the match" is nearly always the most popular event of the entire exercise. Before leaving Piltown I share a chat and a quick cup of tea with all the teaching staff.

At 11.45, I leave Piltown for Carrigeen National School. Arriving at Carrigeen, I am met by Dan Dinneen, the Principal. He is very active, running a school league with 42 boys and girls taking part. I take Dan's 5th and 6th classes for 40 minutes, and I finish doing another 40-minute session with Miss Cummins' 3rd and 4th classes.

Departing Carrigeen at 1.00 p.m., I head for Slieverue, where I have a Transitional Year Course commencing at 2.00 p.m. On this occasion, as on all occasions whenever I visit Slieverue, my "meal" con-



Brian Ryan

sists of a fine dinner, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Quilty in Slieverue. What hospitable people they are!

At Slieverue Vocational School, 19 students are taking part in the Transition year GAA course. The co-ordinator here is Madeleine McCann, who is very co-operative during the entire course. The students come from Glenmore, Slieverue, Bigwood, Ferrybank and Ringvilla. Today is the final day of the 8-week course. We review the course, list the names of students taking Log Books, and we finish the day, and the course, with a Slieverue versus "the Rest" match. This is a light-hearted match, played in good spirit. The "rest" are slightly handicapped with the presence of "the coach" on their team. I arrive home in Callan at 5.00 p.m., after a very satisfactory day.

## BRIAN RYAN

I awoke in Johnstown at 8 a.m. to find a heavy coating of frost on the ground. I decided to pack my car with quizzes, indoor hurleys and, of course, my "wet gear". Leaving Johnstown at 8.40 a.m. I arrive in Castlecomer Boys' National School at 9.25. I am met by Mr. Tom Patterson, who has arranged two groups for the coaching sessions. The first group are on court between 9.30 and 10.15. This group consists of 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes, all using size 26, and the second group, from 5th and 6th using size 24.

I take the second group from 10.15 until 11.00. It's vital in this kind of weather that an effective "warm-up" for both players and coach takes place. The normal session then takes place, with 12 minutes set aside for matches. Four captains, whom I had selected on a previous visit, had their teams in position, and placed, within seconds. A word of warning – there is no chance of a "nap" during the matches, as the kids will let you know whether your refereeing is up to standard.

At 11.00 a.m. I depart Cstlecomer N.S. I stop at Firoda crossroads for my "elevenses". I have a quick squint at the papers

and up-date myself with the GAA news in Kilkenny, from Radio Kilkenny.

At 11.30 I arrive in Firoda National School, which, thankfully, has an indoor hall. I have the usual session, indoors, of course. The group size here is 22. At 1.00 p.m. I have a cup of tea with another marvellous GAA man, Martin Fogarty, in his office, a chat about coaching and the GAA news, and at 1.25 I depart Firoda.

I arrive in Kilkenny C.B.S. Secondary school, where I have a group of 17 Transition Year students taking coaching courses. The Village/Boro rivalry is very noticeable here. The first class is taken in the lecture room, where a series of coaching overheads are covered and notes were taken on the previous week's practical session.

The second session is taken in the C.B.S. playing pitch, where we arrive at 2.35 p.m. Here we have a practical session involving the coaching of tackling skills. This session is completed with a series of 4-a-side league matches.

At 4.10 p.m., I depart Kilkenny, and at 4.50 I arrive in my own yard in Johnstown.

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*getting the exact curve  
you want on your serve,*

*the cheering crowd  
the pounding of your blood,*

*pride in your jersey  
respect for the rules,*

*taking your beating  
keeping your chin up,*

*but getting the win  
that's the sweetest thing.*

**Gráinne Hughes**

St. Patrick's N.S.  
Clogh.

## GEORGIA CALLING!

*By Enda McEvoy*

One of the keenest readers of last year's Kilkenny GAA Yearbook was a man in Jackson, Georgia. He has that splendid colour poster of C.J. Carey hanging proudly on his wall. But the man in question is not a Kilkennyman, nor even an Irishman. Instead, he's a prisoner who's been on Death Row for the past two decades.

Jack Potts has spent the last 22 years in a dimly-lit 9'x6' cell. Although he has no Irish connections, he is a hurling fanatic and has a number of pen-pals here, one of whom, Seán MacEochaidh from Kildare, is teaching him Irish.

Each Wednesday, Jack has a visit from a deacon, while Archbishop Donohue of Atlanta is another caller. His family visit regularly. Jack very much enjoys the letters from his pen-pals, who keep him in touch with the outside world. He hopes to one day win a reprieve.

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# SENIOR SCÓR '96

**Céili and Figure Dancing** – Dicksboro Club (D. O'Reilly, T. Butler, P. Rogers, M. McGuire, S. McEvoy, R. Doheny, and E. Glennon).

**Solo Singing** – John Lockes Club (Denis Walsh).

**Instrumental Group** – Emeralds Club (D. Webster, S. Webster and N. Walsh).

**Novelty Act** – Carrigeen Club (P. Dunphy, J. Kearns, S. Kearns, M. Dalton and J. Gallagher).

**Question Time** – Emeralds Club (E. Ryan, J. Cahill and N. Walsh).

**Recitation** – John Lockes Club (Harry Bryan).

**Ballad Group** – Carrigeen Club (W. Morahan, O. Kearns, G. Foran, A. Purcell and E. Roche).

**Set Dancing** – Dicksboro Club (M. Barry, M. O'Brien, T. Foley, V. Dwyer, R. McEvoy, P. Stapleton, K. Hennessy and E. Dunne).

The competition was organised by Pat Dalton, Chairman; Barry Hickey, Secretary, and M.C. Jimmy Walsh; Secretary of the Southern Board, John Lanigan, Thomastown, and the Quiz section of the competition was run by Paul Kinsella, John Knoz and Joe Dunphy.



*Emeralds – Senior Scór Quiz '96.*



*Carrigeen Ballad Group.*



*Graigue/Ballycallan – (l-r) Patrick Butler (pipes), John Butler (banjo), Paul Dermody (flute).*



*Senior Recitation – John Locks (Harry Bryan).*



*Novelty Act – Carrigeen.*



*Instrumental Group – Emeralds.*



*Set Dancing – Dicksboro Club.*



*Céili and Figure Dancing – Dicksboro.*



**Newpark Sarsfields – County junior champions 1971.** Front row: l. to r.: Sammy Kirwan, Paddy Buckley, Harry Beale, Brendan Corcoran, Sean Fitzpatrick, Mick Power, Tom Brennan, Richie Grace, Noel O'Sullivan, Kevin Byrne, Mick Byrne, Billy Nolan. Back row (l. to r.) Tim Hickey, Mick Nolan, Jim Byrne, Mick Bourke, Ned Nolan, Rodney McCormack, Martin Hayes, Bosco Buckley, Tom Weadick, Johnny Byrne, Davy Dalton, Dick McGrath.



## Down Memory Lane

◀ **Where four greats collide . . . a rare sight.** Four of the all-time greats of Kilkenny hurling (from left) Jim Langton, Paddy Phelan, Ollie Walsh (referee) and Lory Meagher before the start of an over 40's hurling league match



**Erin's own, Castlecomer, 1939 – beaten by Ballycallan in Nowlan Park** – Front row (l. to r.) Bill Byrne, Martin Brennan, Eddie McGrath, Paul Delaney, Jack Mealy, Ned Hetherington. Middle row (l. to r.) Ned Bergin, Jerry Delaney, Ned Nolan, Willie Lawless, Mick Drennan, John Walker. Back row (l. to r.) John Rowe, Tommy Fogarty, Mick Butler, Jack Doheny, Sam Brennan, Jack Boland, Bill Kilbride.



**1967 County Final training** – Ollie Walsh, Sean Challoner, Vincent Kirby, Jimmy Gibbons, Paddy O'Reilly, Johnny Kelly, Paddy Dempsey, Seamus Kearney, Dick Walsh, Mick O'Neill, Paddy Cullen, Cha Whelan, Brendan O'Sullivan, Paddy Kelly, Billy Grace, Jim Blanchfield, Johnny Delaney, Johnny Murphy, Tommy Madigan.

## Down Memory Lane

**James Stephens H.C. – senior county champions, 1935** – Back row: Rev. J. Meaney C.C. (Hon. President); L. Carroll, R. McEvoy, M. Tyrrell, J. Morrissey, P. Blanchfield, J. Dowling, P. Walsh, W. Ayres, J. Fahy, W. Leahy (Hon. Sec.),  
 Second row: M. Phelan, P. Bergin, T. Dunne, P. Larkin (captain), P. Dwyer, M. Holland, R. Fennelly.  
 Front row: M. Larkin and M. Hanley.



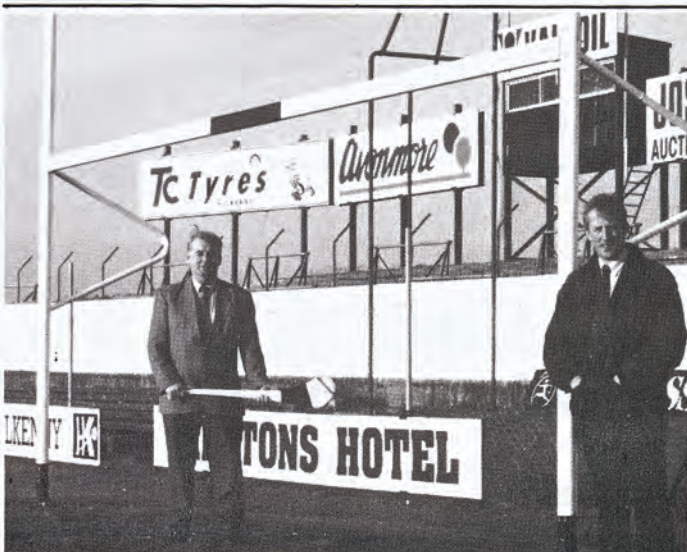
**John Lockes – Kilkeny Senior Hurling Champions 1957** – Back row (l. to r.) Bobby Grace, Pat Lennan, Martin Lynch, Denis O'Sullivan, Ted O'Brien, Sean Minogue, Liam Egan R.I.P., Paddy Somers, Sean Kennedy R.I.P., Larry Power. Front row (l. to r.) Tony Leahy, Mickie Gardiner R.I.P., Mick Kenny (captain), Milo Carey, Joe Morris R.I.P., Johnny wall, Jack Lynch, Jimmy Walsh, Seamie Delaney, Paddy Tobin, Nickey Tierney.

# FIFTY G.A.A. QUESTIONS

ANSWERS ON PAGE 180

By B. Henriques

1. At what venue did Kilkenny win their first All Ireland senior hurling final in 1904?
2. Who defeated Ballyhale Shamrocks in the 1979 All Ireland Club Final?
3. Clare won their first All Ireland Senior Hurling Final in 1914. Who did they beat?
4. When did Kilkenny last win the All Ireland Minor Hurling title?
5. Who was R.T.E. man of the Match in 1966 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
6. Name the All Ireland Masters Hurling Champions 1996.
7. Pat Spillane won All Ireland Minor, U-21 and Senior Football medals with Kerry. True/False?
8. When did Dublin first win the All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
9. Who wrote *Hurling Giants*?
10. Name the last Kilkennyman to referee an All Ireland Senior Hurling Final.
11. There was once an Oireachtas Football Competition. True/False?
12. Name John Troy's club.
13. When was the throw-in first confined to midfielders?
14. Name the first ever player to be awarded a Gaelic Football Scholarship to UCD in 1994?
15. Name the last team to lose two successive Senior All Ireland Football Finals?
16. Name the first non-Leinster goalie to win a Hurling All Star Award?
17. Name the Ulster Senior Football Championship trophy?
18. Name Brian Lohan's club?
19. What are the Louth county colours?
20. Who are the sponsors of the Wexford Senior Hurling team?
21. Who won the 1965 Kilkenny County Senior Hurling Final?
22. What number jersey did Michael Sheehy wear in the 1975 All Ireland Football Final?
23. Name the 1996 All Ireland Ladies Football champions?
24. Name the Vice Chairman of Kilkenny County Board?
25. Who was Waterford captain in 1959 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
26. Name the Uachtarán Tofa of the G.A.A.?
27. Name the Wexford captain in the 1956 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
28. Who captained Clare to win the 1995 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
29. When were the Railway Cup competitions introduced?
30. In what county was Michael O'Hehir born?
31. In what year did Kilkenny win their only Intermediate All Ireland title?
32. When did Kilkenny win their first fifteen a-side All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
33. Kilkenny brought on one sub in the 1957 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Name him?
34. How many subs did Kilkenny bring on in the 1982 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
35. Apart from Kilkenny, which other counties have black as one of their colours?
36. In winning their 25 All Ireland titles, how many different goalies did Kilkenny use?
37. Name the first Kilkenny club to contest an All Ireland Club final?
38. When did Kilkenny win their first National League title?
39. Owen Roes won the first Kilkenny Junior County Final in 1905. What area did they represent?
40. The score in the first Senior Co. Final was Tullaroan 1-1, Mooncoin 0-4. Who won and why?
41. What is the G.A.A. connection between Barney Eastwood and Denis Taylor?
42. What was the venue of the first ever All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
43. Who won the first Kilkenny County Senior Football Final?
44. Who captained James Stephen's to win their first All Ireland Club title?
45. Name the Offaly full forward in the 1995 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final?
46. In what year were the All Stars introduced?
47. When was the old Cusack Stand opened?
48. When was the present Hogan Stand opened?
49. When did an Ulster team first win a Senior Football All Ireland title?
50. The All Ireland Junior Championships were abolished in 1972. When were they reintroduced?



Minding his post(s). Tom Cantwell (sponsor) "guards" the net in Nowlan Park, watched by "umpire" Pat Dunphy (co. secretary). Tom sponsored the new goalposts in Nowlan Park

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)



Billy O'Sullivan is congratulated by friends after his "This Is Your Life" Special. Left to right: Eamonn Hennessy, Billy O'Sullivan, Mayor John McGuinness and Seamus Foskinn.

# Leinster Junior Colleges Roinn 'B' championship '95/'96

**B**Y how much? That's what everyone was asking. Callan C.B.S. were expected to win this Championship before it even began.

The road to victory started in Thomastown in late September. The home team were no match for the Callan lads. Final score: 8-23 to 0-1. Next game was against Castlecomer, with Callan having home advantage. Again, like the Thomastown match, there was no real challenge. The Callan defence was especially brilliant, not conceding a single score: 5-21 to 0-0.

Ballyragget was the next venue, where Callan took on old rivals Ballyfin in the South semi-final. Callan never really broke into a sweat during this match, except when their opponents scored two points on the trot! But it didn't last for long, 4-27 to 0-3. Roscrea were next to meet the mighty Juniors from Callan. Although we were big favourites we were very lucky to win! Roscrea had the advantage of a huge physical side.

In the first half the teams were fairly matched, Callan going in two points up thanks to a Brendan Hayes goal. From the second half restart, Callan got stuck in straight away, scoring two goals from G. Cleere and C. Hickey. But Roscrea came fighting back and after pounding pressure on the Callan defence, they finally scored a goal.

The man of the match, John O'Neill, scored a marvellous point, followed by one from Joey Gormley. Despite a late goal and a couple of points from Roscrea, Callan held out for a 4-6 to 2-7 victory. We breathed a sigh of relief.

The big day came - Callan v. Coláiste Eoin in the Leinster Final, in Carlow. It seemed that a number of the team were nervous, as the first half performance showed.

With less than ten minutes gone, Callan were seven points down, Callan settled not long after with points from J.P. Corcoran and Gearóid Cleere. With the



**CALLAN C.B.S. - LEINSTER COLLEGES JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPS ROINN B**

Back (l-r): Niall Rohan, Shane Murray, Canice Hickey, Ramie Power, Noel Fox, John O'Neill, Jamie O'Keeffe, James Ryall. Middle Row: Michael Roche, Joey Gormley, Brendan Hayes, Chris Maher, James Murray, Gearóid Cleere, Brian Dignam, Frank McKenna. Front (l-r): Keith Doheny Aidan Mackey, Noel Hickey, J.P. Corcoran, Niall McCormack, Colin Herity, Eoin Cunningham, Raymond Burke. (Photo: Tom Brett)

Callan half-back line now hurling well, they launched a number of attacks, finally resulting in a goal from Gearóid Cleere. Half-time was 1-2 to 2-1 in favour of Coláiste Eoin.

After a stern talking-to from team trainer Mr. McKenna at half-time, Callan came out with all guns blazing. Straight away they scored 3 points, two from J.P. Corcoran and one from James Murray. Ten minutes into the second half, Callan stretched their lead to five points with scores from G. Cleere, J. O'Neill and Canice Hickey. These scores resulted from some great work by Colin Herity and the wiry Joe Gormley.

Coláiste Eoin scored three good points but these were cancelled out by a goal from J.P. Corcoran. James Ryall created this chance excellently which proved to be the final winning score.

With five minutes left, Coláiste Eoin needed scores quickly. Keith Doheny came in to tighten up the half-back line when Niall Rohan departed. The stern full-back

line of Michael Roche, Noel "Bopper" Foxe and Ray Power denied Coláiste Eoin any further scores. Callan ran out winners on a scoreline of 2-10 to 2-4.

Callan had a real insurance man with goalkeeper Niall McCormack, who saved their necks on a number of occasions. Michael Roche, Noel Foxe and Raymie Power were undoubtedly the meanest full-back line in the country.

The half-back line of James Murray, Niall Hickey and Niall Rohan rarely put a foot wrong. The excellent midfield pairing of C. Herity and J. O'Neill are ones to watch out for in the future.

Callan had the six best forwards around in G. Cleere, J.P. Corcoran (Capt.), J. Gormley, J. Ryall, B. Hayes and C. Hickey. Between them, they scored well over 150 points throughout the campaign. All of the subs played their part. A lot of the credit for this victory goes to the "hard" trainer, Mr. McKenna, who pushed his players all the way, but this eventually paid off.

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**For Advice Give Bob a Ring!**

# The Heather Blazing

By Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

**Where to begin? A good question. Wexford's year of liberty contained so many magical moments on and off the field, so many joys crammed into the space of three months, that finding a starting point is not easy. It was as if Lady Luck, having jealously and zealously stockpiled her blessings through so many years of heart-break, was now bent on showering them on Slaneyside all at once. The quality of her generosity was not strained.**

Let's kick off, therefore, with two quotes. The first from Larry O'Gorman the week before the Leinster final against Offaly, the second from George O'Connor on the last Monday in August. It is no harm to add that at the time he expressed the opinions below, George O'Connor had participated in six Leinster finals and five NHL deciders, not including replays – and finished a loser in them all.

O'Gorman: "Keep trying. keep focused. It's the only way. It will pay off at the end of the day. Some day. And if it doesn't, I'll be happy I tried hard. Losing brings out the man in you, helps you to get on with other people. I know I'll have put in a good effort and was unfortunate not to win something big. And I'll do my best to be involved coaching and training teams. For Wexford eventually, I hope.

O'Connor: "My hurling career represents more than the one Leinster title. It represents the never-say-die spirit of Wexford hurling. The more difficult the task is, the harder you compete.

Worthy sentiments, yes? Moral courage, even. There two men had known far more than their share of hurling hardship, but they hadn't allowed that hardship to sour them. If anything, it had merely served to intensify their passion for the game. That Larry O'Gorman and George O'Connor are All-Ireland medallists ought to be a source of joy for sportsmen everywhere.

That was largely the joy of it. Like Clare twelve months previously, Wexford had asked for nothing. They didn't whinge that the world owed them a living, that the G.A.A. owed them an All-Ireland. They didn't stamp their feet and grumble that because the Purple and Gold had great teams in the 1950s their successors were automatically entitled to a McCarthy Cup.

They didn't wallow in self-pity. They choked back their disappointment and just



Larry O'Gorman in action in the All-Ireland hurling final

got on with it. If at first you don't succeed ... a lesson to us all.

Like Oliver, the Yellowbellies kept coming back for more. And in the end they received their dessert. Their just deserts.

It helped, naturally, that they had Liam Griffin. Patently they would not be celebrating their first McCarthy Cup triumph since 1968, their first Leinster title since 1977, without the Rosslare man. It wasn't that Wexford had had bad managers in the past. It wasn't that every conceivable avenue – and some downright inconceivable ones; a few years ago a ballet teacher was brought in to supposedly help improve the players' balance! – hadn't been explored. It was more that Griffin brought with him the enthusiasm, professionalism, imagination and attention to detail that has made him a millionaire in his business life, upped the ante and did everything better, or at any rate more thoroughly, than his predecessors had done. Some people saw the Wexford hurlers as they were and said, "why?" Griffin dreamed of the Wexford hurlers as they hadn't been for 30 years and said, "why not?"

The fault, he knew, was not in their stars, not in their blood, not in the conjunction of the planets. Not in the rotten hands that fortune, and referees, had

dealt them down the seasons (though fortune and the referees hadn't exactly been helpful to the cause). The fault was nowhere else but in themselves.

## ALL THOSE WIDES!

In their lack of planning. In their rickety under-age structures. In their tendency to occasionally resort to the ash. In their unending ability to shoot themselves in the foot, to work up a communal nervous breakdown in the closing stages of big games. Point out a Wexford defeat of the 1990s that doesn't include the usual quota of self-induced horrors – either a litany of horrific wides and/or the sort of defensive incoherence an under-12 team would be ashamed of – and Liam Griffin will point out the thousands of pigs who flew in to watch the match.

What other county when presented with an injury-time '65 to win a national final would have been reduced to dragging a man all the way up the field from corner-back to take it – and, surprise, surprise, miss it? What other county with serious pretensions to glory would have had to discipline their captain for disobeying orders in the week of a Provincial semi-final? What other county, obsessed with what they saw as the macho element of hurling, would have five different players booked for serious individual fouls in a

Leinster decider?

The Model County didn't actually need a messiah, they only needed a man who could get them to stop doing stupid things and discard the ridiculous notion that being a he-man was half the battle. In Griffin they got two for the price of one. A leader with the visionary gleam, a grasp of the big picture, yet someone whose feel for the nitty-gritty – and whose realisation of its importance – might have come straight from Sherlock Holmes.

Once Wexford learned to think their way around the field, once they discovered the efficacy of allowing the sliotar to do the work, once they learned to concentrate properly and thus cut out the elementary errors, they were always going to be formidable opponents. That, basically, is how they became All-Ireland champions. By playing positively brilliantly in one game (the Leinster final); by playing more sensibly and economically than the enemy in every other game. As Diarmuid Healy has long maintained, a team rarely wins an All-Ireland by doing spectacular things. Nearly always it wins it by doing the simple things properly, over and over again. So it was with the Yellowbellies in 1996.

Even those people who possess only the vaguest acquaintance with hurling know at this stage about the resistance Liam Griffin's appointment as county manager aroused. A hotelier running a hurling team? He didn't need the hassle, nor the spittle of the Moron of the Year contender who saw fit to eject a mouthful of mucus on top of him after one Wexford defeat.

But Griffin loved his hurling and he loved his county. With a passion that was made clear to all and sundry in that incendiary interview with Michael Lyster on *Sports Stadium* the day before the All-Ireland final.



Adrian Fenlon celebrates

He's long held strong views on where the game in Wexford was going wrong. On what was being done that shouldn't be done, on what wasn't being done that should be done. To take the job was a risk, naturally. To refuse it, on the other hand, was unthinkable. Unpatriotic – cowardly, practically. His county needed him. If things didn't work out, so be it. *Che sera sera*. But the main thing was, at least he would have tried. This above all, to thine own self be true. Liam Griffin could not and would not bear false witness either to himself or to the Purple and Gold. Ask not what your county can do for you. Ask rather what you can do for your county.

Whether Griffin possessed sufficient hurling knowledge for the task, in the manner that former All-Ireland medallists are generally presumed to possess, was another matter. A legitimate question besides. As it turned out, he did. Partly, one might add, because he was only one component of an excellent backroom team. Seamus Barron was a fine performer with Rathnure and, at under-age level before injury ruined his career. And Rory Kinsella, the third selector and now the manager, is a superb coach and hurling thinker; affidavits confirming this can be had from Thomastown teacher Brendan O'Sullivan, no Johnny Know Nothing in the coaching department himself.

#### METICULOUS PLANNING

Why did the Leinster champions handle the preliminaries so confidently on September 1st? Ask Messrs Griffin, Barron and Kinsella what subjects were covered when the selectors went into conclave for three hours on the Tuesday beforehand, an hour and a half on the Thursday and another couple of hours on the Saturday. It is safe to assume that the weather, the price of cattle and the name Madonna would choose for her baby were not among them. Time spent on planning is seldom wasted.

Reams have been written about the manner in which the Slaneysiders developed from being a mixum-gatherum of talented – if in some cases not overly so – individuals into a team. The case of Liam Dunne and Martin Storey furnish easy proof. Dunne, on discovering that the management didn't want him to run around the place hitting every ball – that the management in fact wanted him to do no such thing – learned to conserve his energies and add new purpose to his game. His mobility continued to bring him to sectors of the defence he'd always being familiar with. The difference was that now he was there as a big player, not as the star of the show. As an auxiliary, as a nightwatchman, ready to lend a hand if and when necessary, but not bent on hogging the limelight.

Ditto with Storey. How often Kilkenny fans had sympathised with him in the past.



Tom Dempsey – his day came at last

"Ah, poor Martin Storey! If only he had a few decent forwards around him he'd be unstoppable!" It wasn't that, Tom Dempsey, excepted, Storey was surrounded by better men in 1996 than he had been in 1992 or 1993. It was that he gradually learned to make more use of them. To pass the ball to them instead of trying to do everything himself. To realise that taking instant aim at the opposition posts is not always the right move for a forward. To make sure the team retained possession, knowing that a shooting chance would emerge sooner or later, instead of tossing it away at their earliest convenience.

Nowhere was the new Wexford more in evidence than in the All-Ireland semi-final. That day the Yellowbellies did to Galway what Kilkenny had so often done to them. Soaked up the pressure, rode their luck, hassled the enemy into silly mistakes, made the most of their own opportunities. Benefitted from decisive action on the sideline, the early withdrawal of the labouring Eamon Scallan sending out a we're not interested in passengers message loud and clear from the management. And created their scores by relying on one another.

Such as this score: Larry O'Gorman bursting upfield midway through the first half, Storey peeling off Nigel O'Shaughnessy, O'Gorman handpassing the sliotar sideways, Storey driving it between the posts. That point would never have been scored by the old Wexford. Storey, or whoever, wouldn't have thought to drop off

his marker. O'Gorman, or whoever, would have kept going, tried for his own score and in all probability blazed the ball a mile wide.

Or Billy Byrne's matchwinning goal, which sprang from Ger Cush winning possession, looking up and flipping a neat ten-yarder to Adrian Fenlon who promptly supplied the centre that resulted in Byrne's intervention. The sight of Ger Cush eschewing the invitation to belt the rims off the sliotar, but choosing rather to hit a simple ball to a colleague, was perhaps the ultimate indication of the sea change in Wexford's approach. Cush and the rest of them weren't doing it for themselves any more. They were doing it for the team.

This article began with a couple of quotations. It ends with some lines from a

song. The song, sung by Martin Codd, that Liam Griffin listened to on South East Radio as he drove to the civic reception in the L & N car park in Wexford town the night after the Leinster final. *Cuchulainn's Son*, a tribute to Nicky Rackard written by Tomás Williams from Taghmon.

*"And Blackstairs men who saw you  
then still speak of you in awe  
On Garman's green where you  
have been they tell of what they saw  
We watched you on September field  
and lightening was the drive  
You were the one, Cuchulainn's son,  
in 1955".*

No longer are the Yellowbellies forced to sing their Te Deums to the men of 40 years ago.



*Martin Storey holds up the McCarthy Cup*



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# A MAN BORN TO BE A HURLING STAR

By JOHN KNOX, *Kilkenny People*

**H**AD THE gentleman been of a suspicious nature, he might have thought some dark, devious plot was afoot. As a raw recruit in his first senior inter-county match, he was given the mammoth task of marking none other than the great Nicky Rackard.

And if that was not bad enough, his second game brought a potentially crushing head-to-head with the mighty Mick Mackey. Life could hardly have been most testing. But he survived. Never looked back.

Got the approval of Mackey too. Afterwards when asked what he thought of his opponent, the Limerick giant suggested: "I think he will make it".

A fair judgement call, and a lovely compliment, from one of the all time greats of the hurling world. Kilkenny's Bill Walsh survived those two crucial early tests that had the potential to destroy his



*Bill Walsh being carried off the field after Young Irelands victory in the Dublin senior hurling championship of 1965 when he was team captain. The carrier on the right is Pat Aylward, the current Kilkenny senior hurling selector.*

career before it even got started.

A fair test of the mettle of any man. Walsh showed he was made of the right stuff. And he went on to achieve near super star status.

If he was playing today and showing the same élan, he would possibly be jumping out at us from the television screens. A sort of Bobby Moore of the hurling world, perhaps?

## **NO ORDINARY SOUL**

You see, Bill Walsh from Coolmore, in the parish of Ballyhale, and only about 100 yards from the Hugginstown parish line, was no ordinary hurling soul. A

typical case where the list of collective honours didn't do justice to the individual brilliance.

With his beloved Kilkenny he won two senior All-Irelands. The first was in 1947. A bitter sweet experience it was too. He was all set to play in the final against Cork. Then a blood poisoned finger sidelined him. Jimmy Heffernan (Glenmore) was the direct beneficiary of Walsh's personal misfortune.

Ten years later came the next big glory day. Bill Walsh went on as a sub at midfield in place of the injured John Sutton. Waterford were just barely edged

out (4-10 to 3-12). The talented son of Jim and Statia Walsh at last got the precious piece of metal the way he wanted it, on the field. The effort gave his career the 24 carat seal of approval.

For 11 years he laboured with Leinster. At a time the magnificent Christy Ring was amassing his 18 Railway Cup medals, there was little room for winners outside Munster. But Walsh was there in the thick of it in 1956 when the Eastern province enjoyed their finest hour against Munster. They won by 5-11 to 1-7.

Bill Walsh you see was no ordinary hurler. Respected for his "speed, strength and sportmanship", according to newspaper cuttings of the time, he stood out from the crowd. He was a shining star at a time when according to the Kilkenny Journal of October 5, 1952, "hurling in the county was at a rather low ebb".

### STAR OF WEEK

Walsh was sports star of the week on no less than four occasions. In November 1951 he turned in a classical display against Wexford in the National League. In November 1956 he was singled out when Cork were overwhelmed in the National League.

And on another occasion in 1965, at the age of 43, he was again honoured when he won a Dublin senior championship with Young Irelands.

Twice, in 1952 and '53, he was on the Ireland hurling team that played the Combined Universities in a sort of All-Star match of that time. He lined up alongside such notables as P. Stakelum (Tipperary), S. Duggan (Galway), W.J. Daly (Cork) and J. Flood (Wexford). On the former occasion he was the only Cat on the team.

As a player Bill Walsh was different, from an era long gone. He was a totally different breed. He continued playing at senior club level in Dublin until he was 50.

"I trained and trained all through my career", he told me. "I never smoked, and I only had a small thirst".

Now a sprightly 74-year-old, there is still a pep in his step and strength in his voice that would suggest he could muster a strong sprint if the notion took him.

### ONE GAME MAN

"I was never only a one game man", Bill recalled. "There was never anything spoken about in our house only hurling. I never went for the cows without bringing a hurley stick with me. We had a natural fitness those times that is totally different from the fitness of today".

The Bill Walsh hurling story began when he was very young. He was about 14 when he first handled a real sliothar. Before that a rubber ball did the trick.

He won a Kilkenny minor hurling championship with Moonrue in 1940,



Bill Walsh (second from right) takes a break from training to pose for this picture taken in July 1955.

when St. John's were beaten in the final (6-2 to 2-4).

Johnny Lonergan, South Board chairman between 1951 and '63, ran the team. The career of the stylish half-back was on its way.

The natural progression was to play with Carrickshock, if he was good enough. He was. He donned the famous colours until '50, when he moved to Dublin.

At the mid-point in the club's unequalled four-in-a-row run, young Walsh made the team. He played, and left his mark, in the senior championship victories of 1942 and '43.

### ON TEAM

"Once you made the Carrickshock team at that time, you were all but on the Kilkenny team", Bill recalled. The club had about 10 or 11 county players.

There was no under-21 or junior county team those days. Walsh's big call onto the senior team came for a game in New Ross. He remembered it well. He played on Rackard. There were seven or eight new players on the Kilkenny team. He joined Mick Neary and Billy Dunne on the half-back line.

"I was happy with the way I played", Bill recalled. Others were too, and he was on again the following Sunday for a Dr. Kinnane Cup tie against Limerick, and a personal meeting with Mackey. The Walsh story was in full flow.

These were tough hurling times for Kilkenny. There was a 10-year gap between All-Ireland wins. It appeared the National League was for others. But there were Oireachtas successes, in 1947 and

'57. And Bill Walsh shared in seven Leinster championship wins.

"Hurling was always a great game", Mr. Walsh insisted. "It was tough and demanding, but there was great respect for each other among the players. I don't think I ever intentionally hit anyone in my life".

### SUCCESS

After he moved to live in Dublin he joined the Young Irelands club, and enjoyed considerable success. His Dublin collection included two leagues, two Boland Cup wins and a senior championship. Full-back on the latter team was Pat Aylward, the current Kilkenny senior selector.

Bill Walsh played for one season (1954) with the Dublin county team, when they got to the Leinster final but lost to Wexford.

"It was always an honour to play with Kilkenny", he assured. "I still follow the game closely, and I wouldn't miss a match for anything. No one knows the joy hurling has given me throughout my life".

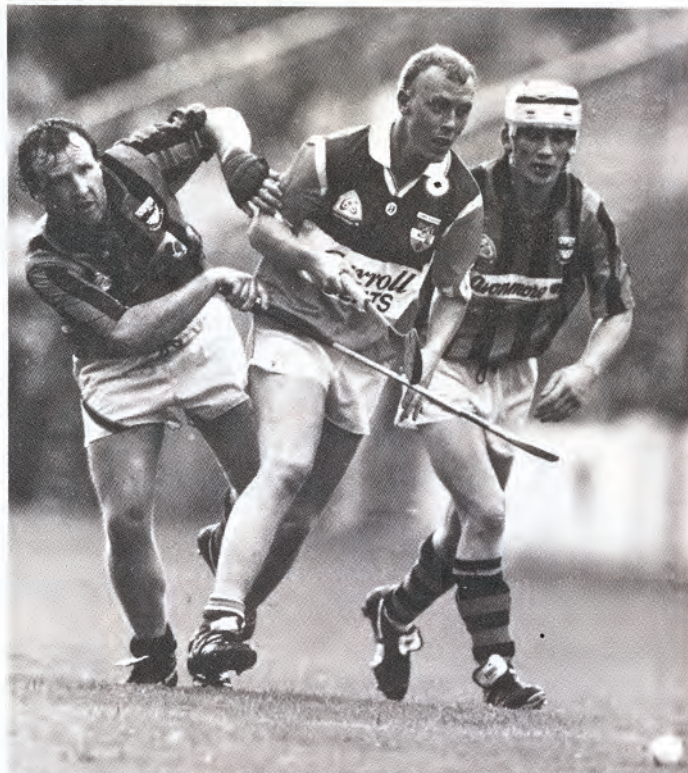
His brother, the late Sean Walsh, a wonderful Shamrocks (Ballyhale) clubman, was a selector with a Kilkenny senior All-Ireland winning team. And the proud Walsh and hurling connection has not been broken.

Bill's sons, Seamus, Eamon, Liam and Sean have enjoyed considerable success at club level. The latter two played at under-18 level with the Dubs.

Sure they didn't get it from the wind! They sure didn't!

# A quiet man of substance!

By John Knox, *Kilkenny People*



Where is it gone? . . . A bloodied Willie O'Connor (K), John Troy (Offaly) and Liam Keoghan in a tussle for possession. (Photo: Sportsfile)

**M**ANCHESTER United defender, Denis Irwin would be a kindred spirit! Quietly efficient, unassuming, utterly dependable and more than capable of looking after himself in the rough and tumble of sport at the highest level.

Of course, the 'United man is a professional in a totally different code. In a team of stars, he rarely grabs the headlines. But his name is always one of the first down on the team sheet, we are told. Why? Because he is good. A no nonsense, give it all player.

The initial approach to Kilkenny hurling star, Liam Keoghan appeared to surprise, and he wondered aloud: "Sure what have I to say?"

For a man who prefers to let his hurling do the talking, there was genuine surprise. He suggested one of the "stars" would be better. Almost without thinking, he ruled himself out of that category.

But within the intricate weave that makes up the fabric of any successful team, a bundle of talent like Keoghan is invaluable. It is the consistency, you see. The real compliment is in being taken for granted. Managers don't hope he and his like will perform, they know he will.

## ONE BLIP

And but for one single day when he got a bit of a going over, the tigerish Tullaroan defender has been 'Mr. Consistency' on the Kilkenny team. The one blip was excusable. It was the day a few years ago when the Cats reluctantly went to Croke Park to play Tipperary in a National League semi-final they felt should have been played at Nowlan Park.

Few performed well. Keoghan found an ebullient Michael Cleary a handful. The only blemish since he walked in the senior inter-county door in late 1992.

The 29-year-old has often looked around the Kilkenny dressing-room and thought to himself "what a lucky sod I am". People he admires and respects as players sit on the bench. He gets a first team jersey.

"I would class myself as an average hurler, with above average enthusiasm", was how he viewed his own star.

Still he has won most of the major honours – All-Ireland senior (1993) medal, a National League (1994), Walsh Cup (1990), Kilkenny senior (1994) and intermediate (1988) championships. Always a winner on the field. An Oireachtas and Railway Cup would just about complete the circle. And yes, an All-Star award wouldn't go amiss.

## TRUE TO ADVICE

Keoghan may not be prepared to go as far as to die in the effort to complete the haul. But he intends being true to the advice of former Irish shot-putter and neighbour, Marita Walton. She once told him to give it all while he could. Then he could step off the stage truly satisfied.

"I intend making my inter-county career last another while", the softly spoken farmer assured. "I will work to get every last ounce out of myself. When I finish, I will leave happy in the knowledge that I gave it everything I could for as long as I could. I will be able to look back and say I did my best".

Giving of his best is a structured thing with Keoghan. On match days he would rise about 7.15 am. Cows milked, he would breakfast and head off to mass. An easy morning. Afterwards an hour or two in bed resting, thinking about the game, the individual and collective challenge it offers.

"The time to relax, and think on my own is vital", he assured.

On big match days at Croke Park or elsewhere, the preferred routine is disrupted. He copes, but it has never been easy. He checks everything, boots, laces, studs, socks, shorts, towel and so on. He always does it twice, to be sure, to be sure.

"I would be big into self preparation, mind tuning if you like", Liam revealed. "You have to have everything right. If you are not right in the mind, you won't go well. I couldn't just land in a dressing-room and try and let it happen".

## OLD PRACTICE

As an insurance, he sides with the Almighty. Stitched on every one of his togs is a miraculous medal. True to an old practice. His

mother Agnes started it when he was a boy. It was to keep him safe on the pitch. No big deal now. He likes to carry on the tradition, though.

"It is easy to get me going, to motivate me", Liam continued. "I work alone most of the week, but I am always thinking about the upcoming game, who I am marking and so on. All these things are constantly going through my mind.

"I don't know how everyone else does things, but that has to be the way with me. I love winning. I always want to win".

A great source of inspiration and support is his wife, Breda. She likes the game, is honest in her assessment of his performances, and understands when he needs space. He values her opinions.

"People don't realise the big part women play in the background", the former minor and under-21 star felt. "They bear the brunt of the mood changes, the sacrifice of time that has to be made. They work their life around your career, and they get little in return".

#### A GOOD ONE

Some might suggest Liam Keoghan couldn't but be a successful hurler, seeing that his father's uncle, Jack Keoghan – all-Ireland senior medal winner in 1905 (sub), 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913 – was a good one, and a defender too.

Young Liam's first big venture into sport earned him a Leinster under-16 basketball medal with the Mill Hill Fathers (Freshford). That was after six attempts. Would you believe he won an All-Ireland football medal? He did, with Rockwell college. And he scored a point from the corner-forward position in the victory over Clonakilty (Cork).

His early hurling in Kilkenny was played with St. Lachtain's (Freshford). He transferred to famous Tullaroan when he was about 15. He loves the great name, the parish, the people.

"Winning the senior championship with the club in 1992 was great", he gushed. He took the man of the match award that day too.

"We were carried off the field. The delight among the people in the parish was unbelievable. Remember, we hadn't won it since 1958. The following day we brought the cup to the local national school, and all the youngsters were looking for autographs. I will never forget that experience. I wouldn't mind doing it all again".

#### ONE OF HIGHS

That victory was one of the highs. Losing Leinster minor and under-21 All-Ireland finals with Kilkenny were among the lows.

His dream chance of making it into the big time really came on a wet Sunday evening in Littleton early in the Summer of 1993. He had been part of the squad before.

This was a challenge against Tipperary, about two weeks before the championship clash with Offaly. Keoghan did well. He followed up with a strong showing against Cork a week later.

When the team was announced for the championship, Keoghan was in. Liam Walsh was out. Keoghan has been there since.

At club level Liam is used at centre-back. With the county he has always been a wing-back. He doesn't really mind where he is asked to play, once he is in.

There was an added bonus with the All-Ireland win over Galway in 1993. He also got the match ball. Tullaroan man, Chris Maher was around him like a shot after the final whistle. Chris was given the ball, and told to guard it with his life. The bus home to Tullaroan that night carried a real treasure.

Now the sliothar is on display in the Lory Meagher museum in his beloved Tullaroan, alongside the ball from the 1913 All-Ireland.

"I love the game, and I enjoy the work, the friendship that goes with it", Liam Keoghan assured. "I hope I am not finished winning with Kilkenny or Tullaroan. A few more big wins would be greatly appreciated".

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# NOWLAN PARK DEVELOPMENT



Photo Tom Brett



## EXCELLENT NEW WHEELCHAIR FACILITIES IN NOWLAN PARK

Sponsors Peter Connors of C.L.G. Builders and Stephen Murphy of Milltown Engineering with Anne Marie Manogue and Elizabeth Fogarty.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill

**T**HE new Nowlan Park Development was officially opened on 19th May 1996 when Cork and Dublin played a football challenge match, and Kilkenny and Tipperary were in opposition in the hurling.

The pitch was officially opened by Jim Berry, Chairman of the Leinster Council and blessed by Bishop Laurence Forristal and Archdeacon Gray.

The original costing for this development was in the region of £750,000. However, extra development was decided and this brought the final cost to £1.1 million.

### EXTRA DEVELOPMENT WITH COST INCLUDED;

- Covering three extra spans – £100,000.
- Updating and installing accountable turnstiles – £31,000.

- Extra toilets – £50,000.
- New players tunnel – £15,000.
- Security fencing around the grounds – £18,000.
- New shop units – £5,000.
- New entrance gate – £4,000.

The facilities at Nowlan Park for players, supporters and officials are now equal to any stadium in Ireland.

The old stand is now called Ardán Breathnach. The new stand is now called Ardán de Grás and the new offices are called Arás O'Cearbhaill.

All three men would be so proud of these developments and indeed all had a part in developing Nowlan Park over the years in one way or another.

The development would not have been possible without the tremendous help of the clubs of the county, Comhairle Laighean, Croke Park, Department of Education and every supporter inside and outside the county.



### THE GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

John Healy (Chairman Kilkenny County Board) thanks Bernard Allen T.D. Minister for Sport, after he announced the allocation of further funding for the on-going development of Nowlan Park. Also in the picture are Barry Hickey (Development Officer), Pat Dunphy (Secretary), Phil Hogan T.D., Dick Dunphy (Treasurer), and Tom Ryall (P.R.O.).

Photo: Tom Brett



### NOWLAN PARK OFFICIALLY OPENED AND BLESSED

Dignitaries attend the opening of the "NEW" Nowlan Park. Front l/r: Jim Berry (Chairman Leinster Council GAA), Kieran Crotty (Mayor Kilkenny), Archdeacon Hugh Gray, Bishop Laurence Forristal (Bishop of Ossory), Seamus Pattison T.D. Back l/r: Senator Mick Lanigan, Phil Hogan T.D., Liam Aylward T.D., Pat Dunphy (Sec. Kilkenny County Board), Albert Fallon (Leinster Council), John Healy (Chairman Kilkenny County Board).

Photo: Tom Brett

A high amount of funds have been collected to date and the debt should be in the region of £300,000 at the end of the year.

**Some novel and some old ideas are being put in place to clear this debt;**

- Club levies
- Lottery – (With clubs of the county participating).
- "100 Clubs" – 100 people paying £1,000 each into the fund which would guarantee them 1 ticket to buy for All-Irelands for the next 10 years.
- Hurlers Co-op Draw.

Very recently the County Board presented to the clubs a complete update of the progress so far. A very positive response was the order of the night and everyone spoke very highly of the project. The new stand must be one of the best in the country, to view a game from, and I must say that I have heard nothing but good from everyone about the stand.

We look forward to completing the project in full over the years and certainly Nowlan Park with its superb facilities will be ready for the next century.

**Padraig O'Donnchú  
Runáí**



John Healy (chairman Kilkeny County Board) thanks Owen Conway, Director Waterford Stanley, who presented two sets of "Stanley Cooker" dug-outs to the Kilkeny County Board for the "new" Nowlan Park. Also in picture is Pat Dunphy (Sec. Kilkeny County Board) Photo: Tom Brett



New entrance gates on the Hebron Road entrance to Nowlan Park which were sponsored by Steel Roofing Systems Ltd., and Frank Duggan Steel Ltd.

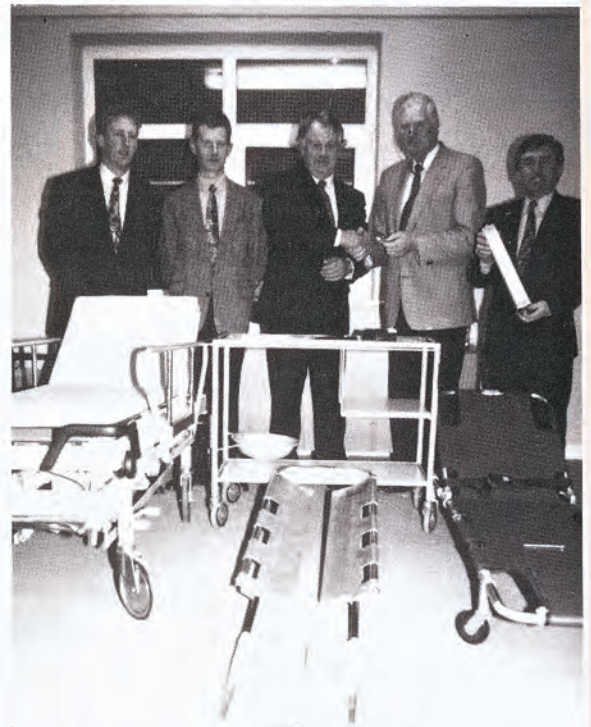


Pictured at the official re-opening of Nowlan Park, l-r: John Grace, captain Kilkeny Senior Football team; Tom Cunniffe, Barry Hickey, Tom O'Hanlon, Chairman of Football Board; Damian Mulligan, Mayo captain.



**A SHARE OF THE SPOILS**

Eamonn Hennessy, Hennessy Sports presents the trophies to John O'Leary (Dublin captain), and Cork captain, after they drew with each other during the re-opening of the "New" Nowlan Park. Looking on is Ned Quinn vice-chairman, Kilkeny Co. Brd., and Brian White (Wexford), who also received a commemorative trophy. Photo: Tommy O'Neill



Reilly Medical Group plc. sponsored a very fine range of First Aid Equipment for the new First Aid room in Nowlan Park. Left to right: Pat Dunphy, Sec. of Kilkeny County Board; Sean Colgan, Order of Malta; Peter Reilly, Medical Group plc.; John Healy, chairman of Kilkeny County Board, and Barry Hickey, Development Officer of the GAA who arranged the sponsorship. Photo: Tommy O'Neill



**CAPTAINS MEET**

Prior to the Senior Hurling Final replay James Stephens captain Philip Larkin greets Young Irelands captain D. J. Carey. Looking on is Pat Dunphy (Carrigeen), referee. (Photo: T. O'Neill)

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# Kilkenny C.B.S. Leinster Junior 'A' Champions

**T**HE victory of Kilkenny C.B.S. in this year's Leinster Colleges Junior Hurling final against St. Kieran's College could not have been a more fitting tribute to the Kilkenny school in this the year of the Beatification of Edmund Rice.

The victory highlights the immense contribution made by the Christian Brothers School to the G.A.A. and its games.

Kilkenny C.B.S. had produced excellent players in the past, many of whom went on to wear the Black and Amber with distinction – names like Seán Clohosey, Jim Langton, Paddy Grace, Terry Leahy spring to mind from the past and in more recent times, Joe Hennessy and Michael Walsh delighted Kilkenny supporters with their fine displays. The list of these distinguished players is indeed a lengthy one and bears testimony to the wonderful work carried out by the Kilkenny nursery.

The fine skills of hurling learned in CBS Kilkenny were very much in evidence at this year's County Final where fine displays by past pupils Richard Manogue, Malcolm Murphy and Francis Cantwell on the James Stephens' team were matched by

the Fitzgerald brothers and Dick Carroll on the Young Irelands' team.

Kilkenny CBS won this year's championship in style. They won the League section of their group without a defeat.

In the first round they entertained Enniscorthy CBS who, inspired by Wexford's fine All-Ireland victory, took the game to Kilkenny and held the lead for most of the game before Kilkenny stole in front with ten minutes remaining. Great performances that day by Tommy Lahart, Gerry Byrne in goal, Ian Morrissey and Michael Dowling helped CBS to victory.

Round two of the championship saw CBS take on St. Peter's in Power Park in Wexford. Although very much on top in the first half, Kilkenny never managed to shake off the close tackling St. Peter's backs.

A very relieved CBS team returned to Kilkenny having secured a narrow but deserved two point win.

As expected, the game against Callan was a close encounter with never more than two or three points between the teams. The hurling in this game was of the highest calibre with excellent displays from John Hickey and Canice Hickey from Callan while Brian Power, Brian Murphy

and Darren Carroll gave excellent displays for Kilkenny. In the closing stages the introduction of substitute Paul Doheny turned the game Kilkenny's way.

The semi-final between Kilkenny CBS and Good Counsel was played in Thomastown. After a shaky start, Kilkenny began to dominate with Murphy, Dowling, Dalton and Power dominating. Kilkenny established a good lead by half-time which stood to them when the Wexford side applied the pressure in the second half. During the second moiety, the Kilkenny defence showed great grit and determination, holding out for a comfortable win.

## PUT TO THE TEST

In the final, all-action Kilkenny CBS had to 'bring all hands on deck' to fight off the rising challenge of defending champions St. Kieran's College in this high-class Leinster Colleges junior hurling final played at wet Nowlan Park.

With 22 minutes left and facing a deficit half that size (2-8 to 0-3), St. Kieran's looked to have absolutely no chance of holding on to their title. But from somewhere, perhaps from brilliant midfielder Tim Murphy and able deputy, David Dowling, they found inspiration and in the end



**KILKENNY C.B.S. - LEINSTER JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS (Under-16)**

Front Row: Cillian Breathnach, Gerard O'Brien, Richard Cleere, Declan Byrne, Brian Murphy (Capt.), David Quinn, Brendan Maher, Nicholas O'Connor, Michael Dowling. Middle Row: Tony Cleere (Coach), Andrew Lowry, Gerry Byrne, Tommy Lahart, Shane McEvoy, Timothy Purcell, Peter Brennan, Robert Lawler, Paul Doheny, Niall Bergin, Brian Dalton, Brian Power, Sean Breathnach (Manager). Back Row: Patrick Dalton, Richard Hayes, Bryan Barry, Ian Morrissey, Darren Carroll, Joe Murphy.



CBS were forced to hang on for dear life.

At the final call, the CBS were more than a little relieved; but even if they did receive a bit of a scare, there could be no disputing they were the better team over the hour.

During the same 11 minutes, Kieran's shot four wides! The losers eventually got off the scoring mark in the 13th minute when Paddy O'Brien pointed a 21 yards free. The respite was short lived, however. The CBS kept up the menacing forward charge and on the quarter Cillian Breathnach plundered a goal. A long free was contested by Brian Power and Damian Walsh on the edge of the square at the county end. The ball broke loose. With one decisive swipe, Breathnach planted it in the net (2-2 to 0-2).

Kieran's lost a little more ground from there to the rest at which stage the difference was 2-5 to 0-3. Interesting to note, all the losers' scores were from frees.

When the CBS resumed with unanswered points from Brian Power, Patrick Dalton and Breathnach to dash 11 points clear (2-8 to 0-3) by the 38th minute, it looked all over bar the shouting.

St. Kieran's had obviously read a different script. Young Murphy tried to breath some life into their cause when he raced up the field to shoot a point. The hard running Breathnach posted a prompt reply.

Even after Paddy O'Brien (free) and John Coogan added minor scores, St. Kieran's still looked destined to chase respectability rather than the match. Hopes rose considerably in the 47th minute when a centre from Coogan broke kindly for David Dowling, who booted the ball into the net (2-9 to 1-6).

With the pressure on the CBS now very considerable, they were forced to juggle their forces in a bid to get a say at midfield, and hold their two '40' lines together. The one-way scoring traffic continued and Michael Luttrell pointed for Kieran's to keep the pot boiling.

When David Dowling sprinted through the CBS defence in the 56th minute, and against all the odds claimed a goal, the title was up for grabs again.

The CBS didn't need reminding they were in trouble. They managed to choke the game at midfield, and with a high work-rate all round, they battled away for a famous victory.

On a good hurling team that looked nicely balanced, the CBS had shining heroes in the powerfully built and skilful Brian Power and Cillian Breathnach. During the opening half, Power's strong running really hurt the opposition, and Breathnach's ability to break the ball in front of goal was reminiscent of the great days of Christy Heffernan in the Kilkenny shirt

Goalkeeper Bryan Barry was superb, too. He didn't look to be doing much, but his handling of a lot of awkward ball impressed greatly. David Quinn, Damien Carroll, Brian Murphy and Gerry Byrne also played very well. Outstanding displays were given by Niall Grogan and Ian Morrissey in the CBS defence.

For St. Kieran's, Tim Murphy nearly dragged a winning effort from his side with a powerful second half display. David Dowling did all he could to turn the tide, too, while Brendan Griffith, Hugh Gannon and John Coogan also did well.

**Kilkenny C.B.S. –** B. Barry (Dicksboro), N. Grogan (James Stephens), I. Morrissey (James Stephens), N. O'Connor (St. Lactain's), D. Quinn (James Stephens), D. Carroll (O'Loughlins), J. Murphy (James Stephens), B. Murphy (O'Loughlins), B. Power (Young Irelands), G. Byrne (Clara), T. Lahart (O'Loughlins), C. Breathnach (Dicksboro), D. Byrne (Graigue-Ballycallan). Subs: P. Doheny (Tullaroan), P. Brennan (Dicksboro).

The final score: Kilkenny CBS 2-9, St. Kieran's 2-7. Heartiest congratulations to CBS on a very successful year, having earlier in the year won an exciting Under-14 Leinster final again against their neighbours St. Kieran's in this year of celebration for the Christian Brothers.



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# Handball Focus

# DUXIE THE STAR ATTRACTION

By Martin Lalor

**O**nce again, Kilkenny handballers can look back on another very successful



Left to right: 60 x 30 Joe Maxwell winners – Seán Ó Shea, Damien Byrne, Philip Lonergan, William Love, Thomas Hughes, Seamie Hawe.



U-14 Doubles 40 x 20 champions. Left to right: Con Moore, President I.H.A., Donal Kelly (Mothel), Brian Minogue and Frank Manogue (Kells).

year. As has been the case for the past decade or so, Michael "Duxie" Walsh proved that he is still the star attraction of Irish Handball.

Duxie's year started well when he won the 40 x 20 Senior Singles and the Waterford Glass sponsored Irish Open. When he made the change to the 60 x 30 court, he continued his success, capturing both the Gaelsport Singles and Doubles titles.

All in all, Kilkenny won eight Adult All-Ireland titles and six Juvenile titles. Throw in team successes and one can appreciate the continuing level of success achieved by our handballers.

### 40 X 20

The 40 x 20 Senior Singles title had eluded Duxie since 1991, and when this year's championship commenced, the regaining of this title was his top priority.



John Foley (right), Director of Sales and Marketing, Waterford Crystal, presents the Waterford Crystal Irish Open Singles Handball trophy to Michael 'Duxie' Walsh, Talbot's Inch, Kilkenny, following his victory over Tyler Hamel of Canada, in the final at Croke Park, on Saturday, 20 April, 1996. On left is Con Moore, President, Irish Handball Council.

An easy first round victory over Robbie McCarthy was followed by a comprehensive semi-final defeat of Walter O'Connor (Meath). This led to a repeat of the 1995 Leinster Final between Duxie and Peter McAuley (Louth). On this occasion, the Kilkenny player reversed the previous year's result to regain the title on a 2-0 score.

In his semi-final against Ciaran Curran (Tyrone), the Kilkenny player was stretched in the second game against the Northerner who reached 17 before Duxie finished the match to reach the final where his opponent was Eddie Corbett (Tipp).

Corbett, champion in 1993 and 1994, was in top form and many neutral observers felt he had a good chance of further glory this year. However, he came up against a very determined Duxie Walsh who produced one of his best displays for years in the 40 x 20 court.

Before a packed Ballymore-Eustace gallery, Duxie got off to a great start, winning the first game 21-4. The Tipp player rallied in the second game and was leading 15-5 before Duxie staged a comeback to level at 16 and reached 20 with some brilliant shots. His final shot in the second game was a magnificent kill in the centre of the court – as fine a shot as he has ever played and a brilliant way to end a wonderful championship for him on a score of 21-4, 21-17.

Next on Duxie's list was the Waterford Glass Irish Open. Here he beat Tom Sheridan (Meath) 11-8 in a semi-final tie-break. He continued on his winning way in the final, overcoming Tyler Hammel (Canada) 21-19, 21-18. On the same weekend, he also received the Gaelsport/Waterford Crystal "Player of the Year" award.

Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) also had a great year winning 5 All-Ireland titles and an Irish National. Eddie played in the Emerald Masters grade beating all before him to reach the final against Paddy Walsh (Sligo). The Westerner proved no match for the veteran O'Loughlin's player who beat him 2-0.

Leahy teamed up with Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat) in the Doubles Championship and, as in the Singles, they overcame all challengers again beating Walsh and partner M. Kelly in the final.

In the Irish National Diamond Masters grade Eddie continued on his winning streak when he won the competition beating Wexford's Jimmy King in the decider at Leixlip.

Otherwise in the 40 x 20 championships Kilkenny achieved little success. Duxie and D. J. Carey surrendered their Leinster and All-Ireland crowns to Tom Sheridan and Egin Jensen (Meath), eventual champions.

Some other Noresider handballers who reached Provincial finals but were eventually beaten were Pat Maher in Interme-



Duxie Walsh with the Gaelsport/Waterford Glass "Player of the Year" award.

diated, Seamus Reade in Masters Singles, Seamus and Mick Reade in Masters Doubles, Joe Hickey in Novice Singles, and the Mothel pairing of Johnny Brennan and Paul Dowling who lost the Junior Doubles decider to Wexford.

In Golden Masters A Doubles, Ger Murphy and Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlin's), reached the Leinster Final before losing to Paddy Lennon and Dick Doyle (Ww.) The same fate befell Martin Lalor and Pat Maher who went down 2-0 to Wexford's Tommy Hynes and Ned Buggy in the Intermediate Doubles decider.

Another pair to do well this year and who could be seen as possible future novice champions were Chris Dunne and John Quigley (St. John's) who had a great run before losing out to Wexford.

#### 60 X 30

As in the smaller court, Kilkenny's hopes for glory in the 60 x 30 championships were as high as ever. Top of the list again was Duxie Walsh who, it was hoped, would extend his Singles record to twelve successive titles.

His first round tie was again with Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath), and the result was a comprehensive win for Kilkenny. Next up in the semi-final was Tom Sheridan (Meath) who was hoping to reproduce his 40 x 20 form. Sheridan played well in the first game to reach 17 before Duxie took a one game lead. The effort of the first game took its toll on the Meath man who put up little or no resistance in the second and Duxie progressed to yet another final, winning 21-1. In the decider, he once again faced Walter O'Connor (Meath) – their fourth final meeting in five years. Many neutral observers felt that this year O'Connor had a good chance of dethroning the champion, but fortunately, from a Kilkenny point of view, this didn't happen.

Duxie quickly got into his stride and was soon well on top. O'Connor was under tremendous pressure and never really looked like taking the title. In the end, Duxie had a comfortable 21-5, 21-10

win and so extended this Singles record to twelve successive wins.

In the Senior Doubles championships, Duxie and Eugene Downey put their title on the line when they played Tom Sheridan and Egin Jensen (Meath) in the decider – on paper a mouthwatering clash, but unfortunately, it never lived up to expectations. The first game was all Kilkenny as they took a commanding 16-2 lead before winning 21-5. Meath improved considerably in the second game, and after a close opening pulled away to lead the Noresiders 16-7. Duxie and Eugene, however, didn't panic and clawed their way back into the game. They eventually levelled at 18 and went on to take the match, winning 21-18.

This latest victory was their ninth senior doubles title and it was Duxie's 31st senior handball title, truly an incredible record that will probably never be broken. Duxie's record of 12 successive singles titles is in itself a unique achievement. Will he make it thirteen? Time will tell as there has been talk of retirement.

Billy Bourke and Ollie Harold were Kilkenny's other representatives in the senior doubles championship. Beaten finalists last year, they fell at the semi-final stage on this occasion when they lost to Meath 21-9, 21-15.

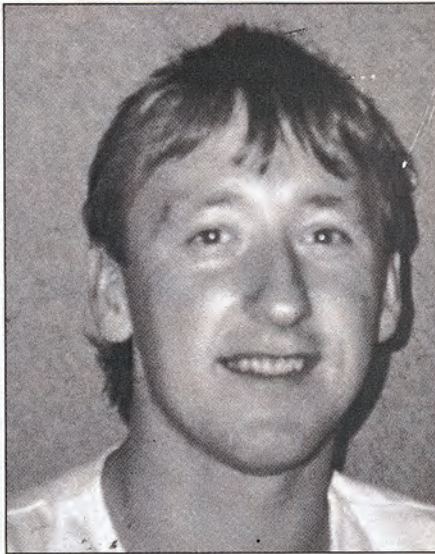
#### NOVICE SINGLES

When Eamon Law (Mullinavat) started his Novice campaign, he was hoping to emulate his fellow county man, John Curran (Goresbridge) and win the Novice Singles crown. This he did in style.

Eamon beat all before him to reach the Leinster Final where he played Jim Doyle (Wexford). The south Kilkennyman played magnificently to overcome his opponent, and in the semi-final Law proved too good for his Tyrone opponent whom he beat 2-0. In the final, Martin Kiely (Limerick) was due to provide the opposition, but was forced to cry off due to injury. His replacement, Pat Murphy stood no chance against the very strong and in-form Law who won 21-2, 21-7.



Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) won five All-Irelands



Eamon Law (Mullinavat) All-Ireland 60 x 30 winner

#### DIAMOND MASTERS

Eddie Leahy opted to play in the Diamond Masters grade where he was rewarded with two more All-Ireland successes. Firstly he captured the Diamond Masters Singles title when he overcame Michael Naughton (Roscommon) and then again partnered by Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat), he beat the same player in the doubles, partnered by Frank Kenny.

The O'Loughlin's player added to his tally of All-Ireland's when he played on the club team that beat Lisccarrol, Co. Cork in the Novice Inter-Club final. Having beaten Borris (Carlow) in the provincial decider, the city team of E. Leahy, C. Moore, P. Smith and J. Daly won the final 190-93.

For two of the veteran handballers in Kilkenny, these wins brought Eddie Leahy's total to 14 All-Ireland titles and Pat O'Keeffe has now reached 22 title wins.

#### DEFEATS

Kilkenny suffered defeats in two 60 x 30 finals. Tommy O'Brien and Mick Delaney, playing together for the first time this year, reached the final of the Golden Masters B Doubles Competition where they lost to a very strong and fit Sligo pair. This was a disappointing end to the season



Community Games U-15 gold medalists (l. to r.): Andrew Hosey, William Love, Seán Keane, Seán O'Shea. Missing from photo: Andrew Lawlor, Seán Maher (Clogh)



Clogh Community Games Bronze Medal Winners (l. to r.) Tom Joe Comerford, Sean Dowd, Thomas Hughes, Sean Maher, Thomas Campion, Colin Phillips.



Mothel team that beat Ballina, Co. Tipperary in the All-Ireland final of Féile 1996, to win the event for the second year, having won it in 1995. L. to r. - Donal Kelly, Shane Walsh, Shem Kelly, Tom Nolan.

for the Talbot's Inch pair, as they had a great win in the Leinster Final beating Jim Bennett (formerly Kilkenny) and John Molloy (Dublin).

Seamie Fitzgerald and Martin Blanchfield also got to the All-Ireland final. This time in Silver Masters B Doubles but they lost to Tipperary's John Ryan-Moore and John Ferncombe. In their Leinster Final they had beaten fellow county men, Con Moore and Mick Dalton.

In Novice Doubles Chris Dunne and John Quigley reached the Leinster Novice Doubles semi-final before losing to Wexford while Eamon Law and Paul Dowling reached the final before losing to the same pair.

### JUVENILES

Overall the Kilkenny juvenile selectors can look back on 1996 with a certain amount of satisfaction. Three All-Ireland wins in both 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 courts is a fair achievement by any standards.

Late December last year, Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's) played in the USHA juvenile championships in Arizona. Playing some magnificent handball, Timmy brought home the U-15 title and was also voted player of the tournament.

Next on the list for the O'Loughlin's player was the U-16 Singles Championship in the 40 x 20 court. Beating all opposition, Timmy won the title when he overcame M. McNamara (Tipperary) 21-1, 21-7 in the final. He also collected the 60 x 30 titles when he beat M. Roche (Limerick) 21-4, 21-19. Clifford is an outstanding talent and definitely one to watch in the future.

Another double winner during the year was William Love (Clogh) who won both of the U-15 titles on offer. In the smaller court he beat S. Lawlor (Clare) 21-6, 21-20, and later in the year repeated this victory over the same player, this time going to the tie-break, 21-15, 12-21, 11-8.

In the trials for the 1996 USHA championships, Love was one of the favourites but lost in the first round mainly due to lack of practice in the 40 x 20 court.

Donal Kelly (Mothel) was unique this year in that he won doubles All-Irelands with two different partners. Early in the year, Donal teamed up with Brian Minogue (Kells) to win the U-14 title beat in Galway narrowly in the third game 15-13. Young Minogue played in the 60 x 30 U-14 singles which allowed Donal to partner his cousin Seamus Kelly to victory in the U-14 doubles, this time beating Tipperary 15-5, 15-7. Meanwhile, Brian Minogue won the U-14 singles Leinster title, but lost to Cavan in the All-Ireland semi-final.

There was also considerable success for Kilkenny in juvenile team events. In Féile na nGael, Mothel retained the 60 x 30 crown, while in 40 x 20, Windgap went down. The teams were: *Mothel*: Shem



Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's) receiving his medal from handball president and fellow clubman Con Moore. Timmy won the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 U-16 titles in 1996. On left is his Tipperary opponent who he beat in the 40 x 20 final.



William Love (left) Clogh, receiving his U-15 winners medal from Con Moore. Looking on is S. Lawlor (Clare) beaten finalist.



Donal Kelly and Shem Kelly (Mothel) All-Ireland U-14 60 x 30 Doubles Champions.

Kelly, Donal Kelly, Shane Walsh, Tom Nolan. *Windgap*: Eamon Hawe, Seamie Hawe, Brendan Barry, Philip Lonergan, David Power.

Clogh were the representatives in both U-13 and U-15 in the Community Games, with both teams getting in the medals. The U-15 team brought home the gold, while the U-13s tried hard but only got the bronze. The teams: U-13: C. Phillips, T. Hughes, T. J. Comerford, T. Campion, S. Dowd, S. Maher. U-15: W. Love, A. Hosey, S. O'Shea, A. Lawlor, J. Keane, S. Maher. The U-15 team beat Roscommon in their final, while the U-13s beat Mayo in a play-off for the bronze medal.

Kilkenny's record in the Leinster League competition has been brilliant over the last number of years and this trend continued this year when they won the Joe Maxwell sponsored trophies again. Thomas Hughes



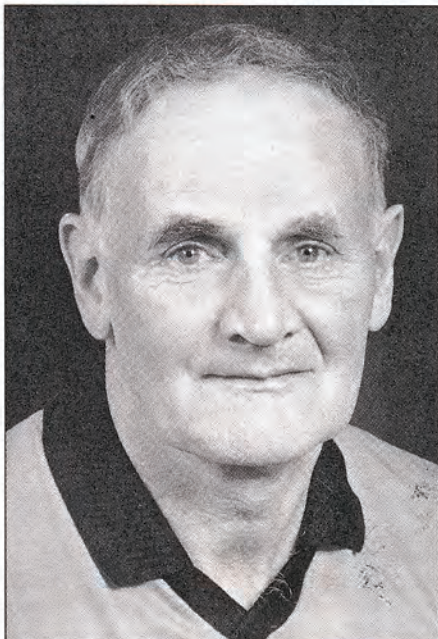
"Báire Binne" – Handball championships in Croke Park in aid of goal. Angela and D. J. Angela was invited to play against Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh



Johnny O'Meara and Jim Caulfield, winners of County Golden Masters B doubles championship. Jim, playing handball for almost 50 years is delighted with his first ever success.



"Coming and going" – incoming handball president Con Moore enjoys a game with his predecessor Seán McEntee (Antrim).



Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat) holder of 22 All-Ireland titles. he won Emerald Masters and Diamond Doubles in 1996 with Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's)

and Philip Lonergan (captain) represented at U-11, Seán O'Shea and Seamus Hawe in U-13 and William Love and Damien Byrne in U-15. This was the county's eight victory in the last ten years or so.

1996 was also a good year in the 60 x 30 U-12/13 team C where we have also done well in recent times. This year they beat a strong Mayo team 84-51, to win the title and so gain revenge for their defeat by the same team in the 40 x 20 equivalent. The winning team was: Thomas Hughes, Seán O'Shea, Seamie Hawe, Brendan Barry, C. J. Delaney, Colin Phillips and Thomas Campion.

In the Cumann na mBunscoil great wins were recorded by Thomas Hughes and Paul Byrne in the U-14 grade while C. J. Delaney won the U-13 grade. Runners-up were Philip Lonergan, U-11, and S. Hawe and D. Lonergan in the U-13 doubles.

Not to be outdone, the girls did well also. Gráinne Brennan lost in her competition, while Gráinne Hughes won the 40 x 20 U-13 singles. In U-12 doubles Ann-

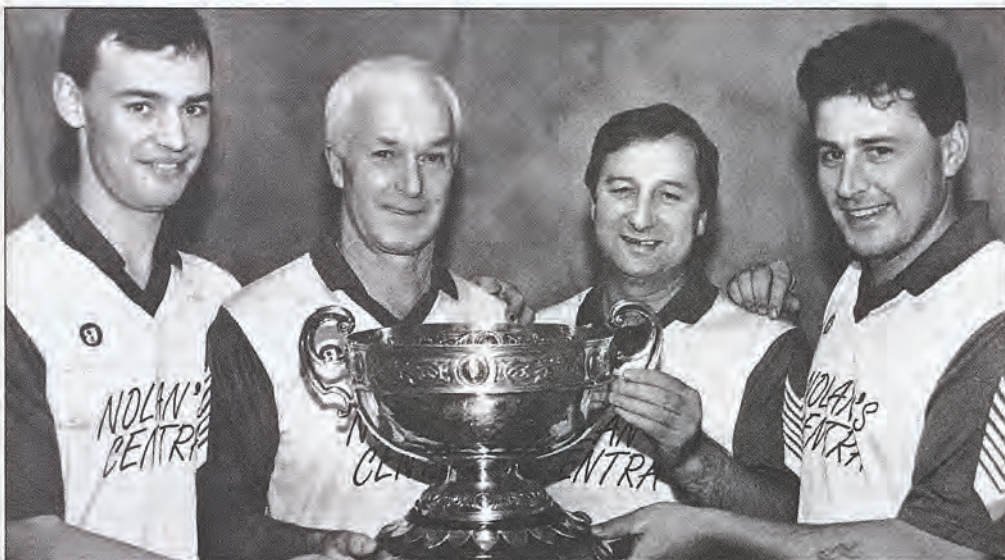
Marie Love and Claire Hughes finished runners-up.

#### DEVELOPMENT

Clogh Handball Club were very much into development of their alley in recent times. Renovations carried out on the alley included a new roof and total revamp of the indoor facilities which included the playing area, dressing rooms and toilets. The total cost of this project was approximately £23,000 towards which they received £7,000 in a National Lottery grant.

This restructuring of the alley will no doubt secure the future of handball in the court for many years and continue on the tradition of the Clogh club. Well done to all concerned and particularly the hard working committee backboned by Fr. Gerry Joyce. The committee was: Billy Love, John Doyle, Eddie Mahon, Tom Comerford, Charlie McCarthy and Sheila Hosey.

Handball had not been played in Kells for about twenty years prior to the build-



Handball Champs . . . the O'Loughlin's (Kilkenny) team who won the Gael Linn All-Ireland Club Championship by defeating Munster champions Liscarroll, Co. Cork. They are (from left); Joe Daly, Eddie Leahy, Con Moore and Paul Smith.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

ing of a new 40 x 20 court in 1983. Like most country clubs, just starting, progress was slow at first and county championship wins were mostly confined to novice and team events. The coaching of juveniles was introduced about five years ago and, in 1993, the first Leinster title was brought to Kells by Anthony McCormack. After a couple of near misses, the first All-Ireland medal for Kells was won by Brian Minogue, when partnered by Donal Kelly (Mothel) and coached by Brian's father, Frank, to win the 40 x 20 U-13 D. C. J. Delaney won medal No. 2 for Kells when he was a member of the victorious U-12/13 team of 6. With a fairly active membership, a good juvenile coaching programme and excellent facilities for players, the future of handball in Kells looks good.

#### COACHING

Also held during the year was a very successful coaching course which took place in O'Loughlin's club. Over twenty participants took part in the course under the tuition of Seán McEntee (St. Paul's, Belfast). Those involved from Kilkenny were: Jim Dalton, Frank Minogue, Tony Bolger, Gerry Murphy, Tony Stafford, Jim Holden, Liam Ryan, Alan Hawe, Billy Love, Ned Lawlor, Liam Mahon, Pat O'Keeffe, Sean Walsh, Johnny Brennan, Bobby Falsey and Anthony Bergin.

Participants had to involve themselves in some juvenile coaching before certificates were issued.

#### COUNTY REVIEW

Catering for approximately 300 players in grades ranging from U-10/11 to Golden Masters is a tough assignment by any standards. So great credit must go to county secretary Liam Mahon (Goresbridge), who once again put in tremendous work to ensure that the county championships were run off promptly and with the minimum of distraction.

Pride of place in this year's championships must go to Jim Caulfield (Kildare) who won his first county medal in the Golden Masters B grade. Jim, who is play-

ing handball for almost 50 years, was partnered by Johnny O'Meara (Mullinavat) another veteran player, Jim and Johnny also contested a Leinster final during the 60 x 30 season only to lose to Wexford's Jim King and partner in the Diamond Masters "B" decider.

Also due a mention is Eddie Leahy who won four county titles during the year to go along with his All-Ireland successes.

#### HARDBALL

There was no local success in this, the oldest form of handball. Billy Bourke and Willie Pratt entered the senior championships, but were beaten by Louth and Meath opponents.

The Leinster Council provided a new competition for novice players, introducing the novice hardball singles grade. Con Moore, Liam Mahon, Tom Mahon, Tom Bolger and Tom O'Neill all entered this competition, but all bowed out in the early stages.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

#### 40 x 20

- U-10 (A) S. - S. Mahon (Clogh)
- U-10 (B) S. - K. Phillips (Clogh)
- U-11 (A) S. - T. Hughes (Clogh)
- U-11 (B) S. - N. Kennedy (G'bridge)
- U-12 (A) S. - S. Hawe (Windgap)
- U-13 S. - C. J. Delaney (Kells)
- U-14 S. - S. Kelly (Mothel)
- U-15 S. - W. Love (Clogh)
- U-10 (A) D. - D. Brennan/B. Mulhall (Clogh)
- U-10 (B) D. - J. Murphy/C. Ryan (G'bridge)
- U-11 (A) D. - P. Byrne/P. McMahon (Clogh)
- U-11 (B) D. - J. Carroll/M. Doyle (G'bridge)
- U-12 (A) D. - T. Campion/J. J. Comerford (Clogh)
- U-13 D. - B. Barry/D. Power (Windgap)
- U-14 D. - B. Minogue/A. Martin (Kells)
- U-15 D. - T. Morrissey/R. Nolan (Mothel)
- U-16 S. - T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's)
- U-17 S. - N. McCormack (Kells)

- M.S. - T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's)
- U-21 S. - A. Hawe (Windgap)
- Sp. N.S. - J. Quigley (St. John's)
- N.S. - E. Burke (St. John's)
- J.S. - E. Leahy (O'Loughlin's)
- I.S. - P. Maher or E. Law
- S.S. - W. Pratt or M. Lalor
- Ms. (A) S. - W. Pratt (St. John's)
- Ms (B) S. - L. Mahon (G'bridge)
- Sil Ms. S. - J. O'Neill (O'Loughlin's)
- G. Ms S. - T. O'Brien
- Sp. N. (B) S - F. Minogue Jnr. (Kells)
- U-16 D. - D. Byrne/S. Maher (Clogh)
- U-17 D. - R. Phelan/P. Curran (G'bridge)
- M.D. - T. Clifford/Partner
- U-21 D. - A. Hawe/E. Hawe (Windgap)
- Sp. N.D. - S. Walsh/P. Dowling (Mothel)
- N.D. - P. J. Egan/P. Walsh (Windgap)
- J.D. - E. Leahy/C. Moore (O'Loughlin's)
- I.D. - C. Dunne/J. Doyle (St. John's)
- S.D. - D. J. Carey/J. Curran (G'bridge)
- Ms. (A) D - S. Reade/T. O'Brien
- Ms (B) D - P. Mockler/P. Doran (Windgap)
- Sil Ms D - S. Reade/A. Greene
- G Ms D - T. O'Brien/F. Minogue

#### TEAMS 4:

- Div. 1. Goresbridge: D. J. Carey, J. Curran, T. Bolger, P. Gardiner.
- Div. 2. O'Loughlin's: C. Moore, E. Leahy, P. Smith, J. Daly.
- Div. 3. Windgap: E. Hawe, P. Mockler, P. J. Egan, P. Doran.
- Div. 4. Goresbridge: G. Murphy, M. Ryan, M. Donnelly, L. Mahon.

#### 60 X 30

- U-12 S. - S. Hawe (Windgap)
- U-13 S. - C. Phillips (Clogh)
- U-14 S. - B. Minogue (Kells)
- U-15 S. - W. Love (Clogh)
- U-16 S. - T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's)
- U-17 S. - No competition
- M.S. - T. Clifford (O'Loughlin's)
- U-21 S. - E. Hawe (Windgap)
- Sp. N.S. - C. Pratt (St. John's)
- N.S. - E. Burke (St. John's)
- J.S. - E. Leahy (O'Loughlin's)
- I.S. - J. Quigley (St. John's)
- S.S. - M. Reade or P. Maher
- Ms. (A) S. - W. Pratt (St. John's)

Ms. (B) S. – E. Walsh (Motheil)  
 Sil. M. S. – E. Leahy (O'Loughlin's)  
 G.M.S. – S. Curran (St. John's)  
 U-12 D. – T. Campion/T. Hughes (Clogh)  
 U-13 D. – B. Barry/D. Powér (Windgap)  
 U-14 D. – S. Kelly/D. Kelly (Motheil)  
 U-15 D. – R. Nolan/T. Morrissey (Motheil)  
 U-16 D. – D. Byrne/S. Maher (Clogh)  
 U-17 D. – J. Harding/ (Clogh)  
 M.D. – T. Clifford/Partner (O'Loughlin's)  
 U-21 D. – E. Hawe/A. Hawe (Windgap)  
 Sp. N. D. – C. Pratt/P. O'Carroll (St. John's)  
 N.D. – T. Bolger/L. Mahon (Goresbridge)  
 J.D. – E. Leahy/J. Daly (O'Loughlin's)  
 I.D. – J. Quigley/C. Dunne (St. John's)  
 S.D. – J. Brennan/Partner (Motheil)  
 Ms. (A) D. – P. Savagè/J. Neary (T. Inch)  
 Ms. (B) D. – S. Jordan/J. Dooley (T/Inch)  
 Sil M.D. – M. Blanch/S. Fitzgerald (T/Inch)  
 G.M.D. – J. Caulfield/J. O'Mara.

#### TEAMS OF 4

Div. 1. *O'Loughlin's*: N. Reilly, M. Nolan, P. Parsons, J. Hickey.  
 Div. 2. *O'Loughlin's*: C. Moore, E. Leahy, T. Clifford, J. Daly.  
 Div. 3. *Clogh*: D. Byrne, W. Love, A. Hosey, B. Hosey.  
 Div. 4. *Goresbridge*: C. Murphy, T. Bolger, M. Donnelly, L. Mahon.

## PROFILE OF CON MOORE

**Con Moore was elected President of the Irish Handball Association in March of this year, the first Kilkenny man so honoured since Tommy O'Brien held the position.**

*Name*: Con Moore – Conchubhar Ó Mordha.

*Status*: Married to Mary Byrne from Carlow.

*Family*: Graham (24) Chemical Engineer with Irish Cement.

Conor (21) Mechanical Engineering student, University of Limerick.

Owen (19) Mechanical Engineering student, University of Limerick.

Jennifer (16) Student, Loreto Convent, Kilkenny.

*Occupation*: Electrical Foreman in Guinness, Kilkenny.

*Handball Honours*: 40 x 20 All-Ireland Novice Club Championship medal 1984.

60 x 30 All-Ireland Novice Club Championship medal 1996.

Numerous county championship medals including: 60 x 30 novice, junior and intermediate; team events in novice and junior. And in 1996, 40 x 20 junior doubles, 40 x 20 Div. 2 club championship and 60 x 30 div. 2 club championship.

*Administration*: Began in 1970 as chair-

man of Urlingford handball club, and in 1974, was elected county secretary in succession to Tom Brennan, a position held until retiring in 1994. P.R.O. of Kilkenny Co. Board for 15 years, serving for four years on the Leinster Games Development Committee. Elected Leinster chairman in 1994, and President-elect in 1995. Became President of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann in March 1996, for a three year term of office.

#### FUTURE OF HANDBALL

I see a bright future for our ancient game of handball, as we are at present putting in place structures to increase the playing population and are taking steps to increase funding and attract publicity to the game.

#### PERSONAL PLANS DURING TERM

Guinness, Kilkenny have given me extra holidays to cope with meetings, etc. It is very difficult to combine a full-time job with the Presidency, but I will be doing my best. My family will be very supportive to me as my leisure time will be curtailed. I also intend playing handball during my term.

#### DEVELOPMENT

The Coaching Council are at present accelerating their programme of courses in all Provinces, and our ideal would be to have a coach in each club within three years, who would coach and introduce juvenile players to the game.

We intend running courses to develop the administration skills of our officers at all levels, in line with the current G.A.A. programme.

Refereeing standards will need upgrading, and we will be evaluating the type of structures required in this area.

We will make further progress on the presentation of our games at all levels and urge clubs to upgrade their facilities, especially for spectators. We will be asking clubs to apply for All-Ireland programmes and make these venues responsible for all aspects of the programme including publicity of the event.

#### AMBITION AS PRESIDENT

My first ambition should be realised by the time you read this article and that is the provision of a dedicated handball magazine at Christmas to inform players of all activities during 1996 and programmes for 1997. I see this magazine as a major promotional tool and it will help us compete with other sports for young players.

My second aim is to attract publicity for handball in the media and I have already started a round of meetings with sports editors which are proving very successful.

I would like to have handball played in the Olympic Games and help in the promotion of handball in Europe – this has already started and we will be running a

European one-wall tournament in Roscommon in June '97 with players from Wales, England, France, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Finland.

It would also be my ambition to attract a Pro Stop to Ireland in 1988 which would be a major promotional venture for the game.

#### CONCERNS

Handball has been on the decline for a long time and I hope we can halt this and increase the handball playing population – it is a great game for the players but not a great spectator sport.

The 60 x 30 softball game needs urgent attention and hopefully clubs with 60 x 30 courts will foster more tournaments, to promote softball and attract more players to the game.

#### FINANCE

Handball at all levels is underfunded and we need to be more aggressive in securing sponsorship and tournament funding for our game. The G.A.A., our parent body, must also increase funding to promote handball and all Co. Boards and clubs must be urged to include handball facilities in any expansion plans in the future.

#### HANDBALL IN 10 YEARS

1. Participation in Olympic Games.
2. Playing population doubled.
3. School of Excellence in operation for young player.
4. Major European Championships.
5. Major schools competitions at all levels.

#### EXPANSION IDEAS

The introducing of One-Wall competition will be our main focus in schools over the next few years which should attract more young players to handball as most schools and colleges already have the facilities necessary for One-Wall.

We will be asking clubs to run more tournaments to attract adult players and provide competitions to keep them playing handball, especially in the 60 x 30 courts where there are very few clubs running tournaments.

Better publicity and more handball on television will be major priorities – this could be facilitated by the introduction of Provincial 'Opens' in 60 x 30 and 40 x 20.

Our coaching drive should provide the infrastructure to attract more players and we hope to supplement these courses with the provision of attractive publicity materials for our game.

The World Championship in Winnipeg, Canada, in August '97 and the possibility of a Pro-Stop in Ireland in '98 should attract a lot of players and supporters to handball.



# '66 – the best of years – the worst of years

By John Knox N.T.

1966, what a year, mid-ways through the "swinging sixties". Ireland, after the depression and emigration of the 1950's, was beginning to enjoy the prosperity brought about by the "Whitaker/Lemass" economic revolution. Eamon de Valera was facing the Irish electorate for the last time as he saw off the challenge of Tom O'Higgins for the Presidency.

In the G.A.A. world it was a time of great excitement when Galway completed their three-in-a-row of football titles under captain Enda Colleran ('66, '65) and John Donnellan (1964). This was the era of the Caltex awards long before Texaco was ever heard of or the All-Stars. The winners that year were Justin McCarthy (Cork) in hurling, Una O'Connor (Dublin) camogie and Mattie McDonagh (Galway) football. Nowadays, with so many awards on offer, it is difficult to imagine the excitement the announcement of the winners generated then.

In the minor championship Cork and Wexford had to meet twice. The first day both scored 6-7 with Wexford winning the replay convincingly 4-1 to 1-8. The U-21 championship was no less exciting with Wexford and Cork meeting on three occasions, in Nowlan Park, Wexford 5-6, Cork 3-12, in Limerick, Wexford 4-9, Cork 4-9.

On the local G.A.A. scene Railyard were football champions when they beat James Stephens after a rousing second half display – Railyard 1-11; James Stephens 2-5 (at half time Railyard 1-6, James Stephens 0-2). In March, Ballyhale, captained by Frank Cummins, won their first minor title when defeating James Stephens 8-3 to 4-3 to win the 1965 championship – a result James Stephens reversed later in October when they won 8-9 to 4-4. The senior hurling had a familiar ring to it in those days, with Bennettsbridge winning their tenth title when they were too good for Mooncoin, 4-8 to 2-4. This was their ninth win since 1952 with Sam Carroll at

his brilliant best and Noel Skehan, substituting for Liam Cleere, playing a blinder. Refereeing his seventh consecutive senior final was Paddy Johnston.

On the intercounty scene, with Kilkenny having won the All-Ireland in '63 and finalists in '64, hopes were high for the season. The league is rarely valued in Kilkenny but not so in '66 when Kilkenny defeated Tipperary in an epic home league final 0-9 to 0-7. The victory was the first over Tipperary in a major contest since the 1922 All-Ireland and the *Kilkenny People* headlines announced "Kilkenny Break 44 Years Old Hoodoo", "Tipp Toppled in Titanic Tussle". "Conditions were dreadful. It was not a good day for hurling. A gale force wind blew into the railway goal and the surface was as slippery as a skating rink" wrote J.D. Hickey. My own memory is of a downpour, as I sat in the lower covered section of the Cusack Stand with very few in attendance, as the epic struggle unfolded. The official attendance was 16,171.

Kilkenny took an early lead from a John Teehan point and Jimmy Doyle soon equalised. At half time Kilkenny lead 0-8 to 0-3 having played with the wind and this did not augur well for the second half. Who would have predicted that Kilkenny's single score of the second half, a point from a free by Tom Walsh would be sufficient and that neither side would score for the last 16 minutes. As *An Caman* reported it was "a rearguard action unparalleled in hurling history", and "the Kilkenny backs gave the greatest exhibition of defensive hurling seen in Croke Park for a long number of years". My own abiding memory is of the late Ted Carroll at centre back clearing ball after ball out of defence.

The reason for the Kilkenny victory, John D. Hickey surmised, was "Kilkenny, for once met steel with steel". *The Irish Times* agreed it was accomplished "by an infusion of dour gritty toughness that Kilkenny always lacked in their encounters with Tipperary". At that time Tipp were looked on as almost invincible not only

against Kilkenny but all-comers. As Mick Dunne (*Irish Press*) wrote "now the mantle of invincibility they have worn for so long has been decisively swept away". The Kilkenny team were nominated as the *Sports Stars of the Week* by *The Irish Independent*, an honour richly deserved. Kilkenny won the final proper over two legs against New York in September in Croke Park and Nowlan Park, 3-10 to 2-7 and 7-5 to 0-8.

*Kilkenny*: Ollie Walsh, Pat Henderson, Jim Lynch, Jim Treacy, Seamus Cleere, Ted Carroll, Martin Coogan (0-1), Paddy Moran, John Teehan (0-1), Eddie Keher (0-2), Pat Carroll, Seán Buckley (0-2), Tom Walsh (0-3 frees), Pa Dillon, Joe Dunphy.

*Subs*: Dick Dunphy, P. Delahunty, E. Connolly, Claus Dunne, Cha Whelan, Tom Murphy, Tommy O'Connell, Tom Forristal.

*Tipperary*: P. O'Sullivan, J. Doyle, K. Carey, J. Gleeson, M. Burns, T. Wall, L. Gaynor, Theo English (0-1), M. Roche, J. Doyle (0-2 frees), L. Devaney (0-3), L. Kiely, D. Nealon (0-1), M. Keating, T. Ryan.

The promise of League form in May was fulfilled in September when Kilkenny were overwhelming favourites for the All-Ireland against Cork. They had hammered Cork 4-11 to 1-8 in the league semi-final and later in June in a challenge in Nowlan Park – Kilkenny 3-12, Cork 1-10.

As a newly qualified teacher, I can well remember the excitement and colour in Dublin that weekend. The Cork support was as colourful as any modern following and they were really out to enjoy their first All-Ireland appearance since 1956 and the first against Kilkenny since the memorable 1947 final.

A treasured souvenir is a programme for the match, price one shilling, with only the cover in colour, which acknowledges photographs from Tom Brett and has one local advert for Fit Remoulds. On foot of my attendance at the league final, where Kilkenny support had been sparse, my mother had got Paddy Grace to pledge an All-Ireland ticket, a promise he duly fulfilled, my first sight of a ticket ever.

I passed on the precious piece of white cardboard to an old age pensioner preferring the 'craic' under the Cusack Stand. Getting into Croke Park was relatively easy in those days if one was prepared to travel early. The attendance that day as 68,249.

While the public saw the game as no contest some wiser heads had doubts. The late Bob Aylward stated "any time Kilkenny are favourites they don't give as good an account of themselves as when they are under-dogs". Coach, Fr. Maher was apprehensive about the feeling "with Tipperary out, it's an easy All-Ireland. With the exception of one or two, there were never any easy All-Irelands. But this is a dangerous feeling that has been created by the followers".

Cork had not been idle since their

league semi-final defeat where they had alarmingly shot 18 wides and had brought in six new players, four in the attack and Paddy Barry in the goal. On the minus side, they had lost their centre back Denis O'Riordan.

The game itself proved an anti-climax with Kilkenny not even raising a gallop. The headlines tell the story "Kilkenny Attack Was Rendered Ineffective", "Kilkenny Surprising Failure". "Cork surprised the strongly fancied Kilkenny in a game that fell far below expectations, the standard never rising above the mediocre", wrote *An Camán*. Kilkenny elected to play with the breeze and led 0-7 (5 frees) to Cork 1-2 at the break, but the final score was Cork 3-9, Kilkenny 1-10. As John D. Hickey reported "best of a Kilkenny side, not a man of which lived up to his reputation, were Coogan, Cleere, Pat Henderson, John Teehan, Seán Buckley and Eddie Keher".

The Kilkenny lineout was the same as the League team with Claus Dunne at centre forward instead of Pat Carroll. Of the seven points in the first half by Kilkenny, Eddie Keher had five from frees with two from play by John Teehan and Seán Buckley. The second half saw Eddie Keher get two points, one from a free, Joe Dunphy 0-1 and in the last minute Tom Walsh had a consolation goal. For Cork Paddy Barry starred in goal and Colm Sheehan had a hat-trick.

*The Cork line-out was:* P. Barry, P. Doolan, T. O'Donoghue, D. Murphy, T. Connolly, M. Waters, P. Fitzpatrick, J. McCarthy (0-1), J. O'Sullivan, S. Barry (0-4, 2 frees), J. O'Halloran, G. McCarthy (0-2), C. McCarthy, C. Sheehan (3-0), J. Bennett.

*Scorers for Kilkenny were:* E. Keher (0-7, 6 frees), John Teehan (0-1), Joe Dunphy (0-1), Seán Buckley (0-1), T. Walsh (1-0).

*Subs:* D. Dunphy, P. Delahunty, N. Connolly, P. Carroll, T. Murphy, W. McDonald,



1966 ALL IRELAND. Ollie Walsh in a typical pose watched by Colm Sheehan and Jim Lynch.

T. O'Connell, J. Bennett.

*Selectors:* Nicky Purcell, Jim Langton, Tom Nolan, Mick Fripps, Dan Kennedy. *Coach:* Fr. Maher. *Trainer:* Nicky McGrath.

Watching this performance, it was, in stark contrast to the match against Tipp. Only Eddie Keher and Seán Buckley seemed to be alert and up to their usual form, but the rest were strangely subdued. In the days that followed a story broke about sleeping pills. "Sleeping Pills Too Late", "Kilkenny 'Lullaby' became a 'siesta'" wrote John D. Hickey. "It was the damn sleeping pills" a Kilkenny source told him and John D. considered the team was still drowsy at match time.

The local press explanation was "Kilkenny seemed to suffer from over-confidence. It is a well known fact that they rarely rise on the occasion when they are strongly fancied, while Cork seemed to gather inspiration from being underdogs" with no mention of pills.

Sleeping pills or over-confidence or a mixture of both, the Kilkenny side never lived up to expectations and it was a sad and dejected set of supporters who

returned to Kilkenny amazed at the poor display. A new pattern for Kilkenny developed afterwards as the team, to this day, only travel up the morning of the All-Ireland. Kilkenny now usually also elect to play against the breeze when they win the toss.

The final itself was notable for many innovative features. B.B.C. T.V. broadcast the match. The teams were guests of R.T.E. to view the match and were guests of the G.A.A. at the Inter-Continental Hotel (now Jurys).

The year ended well for Kilkenny with a narrow defeat by Cork in the Grounds Tournament - Cork 1-12, Kilkenny 1-11 and victory in the Oireachtas Final played in December, Kilkenny 4-7, Wexford 1-7.

1966 will always be remembered for the League victory over Tipperary and while the defeat by Cork was a major setback at the time, the foundations were being laid for what Tom Ryall in his book described as "Another Golden Era" with All-Ireland victories in 1967, '69, '72, '74 and '75.



The Kilkenny 1966 team beat Wexford and Offaly on the path to the Final. Front Row (from left): Tom Walsh, Dick Dunphy, Tommy O'Connell, Tom Murphy and Pat Delahunty. Middle Row (from left): Jimmy Tracey, Sean Buckley, Martin Coogan, Paddy Moran, Joe Dunphy, Ollie Walsh, Pat Carroll, Tom Forristal and Claus Dunne. Top Row (from left): Jarlath Whelan, Eddie Keher, Seamus Cleere, John Teehan, Pa Dillon, Ted Carroll, Pat Henderson, Jim Lynch and N. Connolly.

# Minors: Good . . . but Christmas every day

**D**uring the festive season we all hear the very familiar phrase: "We have Christmas every day now". For most, especially for the older brigade, Christmas doesn't hold the same old magic and, while partaking in everything that goes with the special occasion, people just take it in their stride, knowing that it will pass and there will always be more to enjoy.

The same sentiments apply to hurling in Kilkenny. We are so spoiled with success, particularly those of us who made the annual trip to Croke Park, in the 60's, 70's and early eighties, that we barely create a whimper of excitement when we win. In fact, on winning Leinster Finals, we immediately question the ability of the team to go the whole way and when we win All-Irelands we contrast the teams with those of the past and immediately proclaim they won't win two in a row. Of course we have our supporters with the black and amber tinted spectacles who can never see Kilkenny lose but then launch all kinds of obscenities when things don't go according to unreasonable expectations.

The unbounded joy witnessed in Wexford throughout the summer of '96 and the scenes of ecstasy seen in Croke Park when they eventually claimed their ultimate award will never be equalled in our own county and what a loss and shame this is. Clare also had the same enviable experience in '95. How lucky some of us were to be in Croke Park on those wonderful occasions. When Westmeath won their minor football championship, the players became T.V. stars and the Laois minor victors of this year were also acclaimed in a fashion that will never be witnessed in this county. Not that anyone really cares for that type of adulation but it emphasises the point that we are spoiled with success in Kilkenny.

Our county minors were winning their seventh Leinster title in a row (a fact barely noticed) but when they lost the All Ireland Semi Final to a highly fancied Galway team the knives were out and calls were issued for an enquiry and immediate corrective action. What most punters failed to



**KILKENNY MINOR TEAM DEFEATED BY GALWAY IN ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL**

Front (l-r): John Hoyne, Michael Gordon, Ramie Cahill, Pat Holden, Dick Carroll, Jimmy Coogan, Michael Kavanagh. Back Row (l-r): Seán Dowling, Eddie Mackey, Richie Walsh, John Hickey, Tomás O'Dowd, J.P. O'Neill, Richie Mullally, Michael Hoyne.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill

realise was that trainer Fr. Barron, together with selectors Mattie Mackey, Liam Mullen, Liam Fennelly and Joe Pyke, had completed a magnificent task in selecting and moulding this team from very humble beginnings in Wexford Park in late June to a very strong and convincing outfit which, but for a quirk of fate, might have played in yet another All Ireland. I wonder would it be best to lose out in the first round nice and quietly in Carlow or Portlaoise rather than go on to the All Ireland and lose in front of the thousands of "fans" for the day, suffer unjust criticism and be told it was the worst team that ever came out of Kilkenny, as happened when beaten by a good Cork team in 1995. Hardly anyone seemed to remember that the team did win a Leinster Final and an All Ireland Semi Final.

The Kilkenny minors of '96 opened their campaign in Wexford Park on the last Friday of June in splendid sunshine. No one expected Kilkenny to be led at half time by 1-6 to 1-1 and many felt then that it was going to be a dreary summer for our minors when Wexford scored a goal on the resumption. However, when the team settled after half time with Sean Dowling and Jimmy Coogan in their more familiar positions of full-back and full-forward,

respectively, the whole team took on a new authority and asserted themselves. The two players mentioned had starred for St. Kieran's in Croke Park in their All-Ireland win.

Michael Gordon substituted for Michael Hoyne, who didn't settle at wing back, and the former added a new lively impetus to the team. Seán Millea took John Hickey's place and scored a goal after Kilkenny had been awarded a hotly debated line ball. Michael Gordon's tendency to over-run with the ball, while adding drive to the team, almost proved too costly when he conceded a free and Wexford scored what appeared to be the winning point from 60 metres.

After the puck-out, Seán Millea gained possession and scored an incredible point from an awkward angle – and under severe pressure. Kilkenny survived to fight another day and no less a figure than former Wexford senior start, Ned Buggy, told me after the game that Wexford had blown their chance away and would not win the replay.

How right he was. A week later Kilkenny totally dominated Wexford to win handsomely in Nowlan Park by 2-13 to 0-4. Kilkenny scored two fortuitous goals and in this game Michel Hoyne began to



Kilkenny Captain, Ramie Cahill, meets Galway minor captain, Micheál Healy before 1996 All-Ireland minor semi-final.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill

show his real worth to this team. Michael Gordon again impressed and Tom Coogan was another to show that his magnificent form in Wexford Park was no flash in the pan.

On, then, to the Leinster Final in Croke Park. Dublin's full-forward Ray Farrelly gained an embarrassing amount of possession but failed to score. Tomás McGrane at half-forward looked special for Dublin and well deserved the 6 points he landed from placed balls. Dublin were on top at midfield, and, had their much vaunted forward, Emmet Carroll, produced the goods, they would have easily led at half-time, rather than share the spoils at 0-7 each.

Raymie Cahill showed sparkle on the wing and Jimmy Coogan displayed class at full-forward. Michael Kavanagh, Tom Coogan and Richie Mullally were best of the backs. In the second half, Dublin had every chance of causing a major surprise up to the last quarter. Ray Farrelly (Dublin) was through for a certain goal but blazed wide and at the other end John Hoyne blasted a terrific shot at the Dublin goalie. Ramie Cahill scored four vital frees but the introduction of Seán Millea and Gerry Kirwan secured the game for Kilkenny in the closing stages. Seán again scored a life-saving goal and Gerry Kirwan stretched the lead with a point. Richie Mullally gave his best display of the campaign at centre-back.

Dublin didn't help themselves with some questionable changes which allowed the Kilkenny backs to take control and dominate. I'm convinced that, under, perhaps, Galway management, Dublin would have reversed their 1-16 to 1-11 defeat.

Before the game it was announced that Tom Digby, number 16 on the programme, would, in fact, be wearing number 25. This led to questions as to who the sub goalie was. A search through the panel didn't provide any obvious answer.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, Kilkenny took on a highly respected Galway team in a marathon programme. Kilkenny had to contend with the loss of injured start back, Tom Coogan, and when Eugene Cloonan put on a personal class performance, it looked like he was going to beat Kilkenny on his own. Tomás Dowd and Ramie Cahill were the only redeeming features up front for Kilkenny and Michael Kavanagh and Seán Dowling did their best to stem the tide at the back.

Michael Gordon had switched places with Eddie Mackey, and while both players tried hard, they didn't appear to be fully happy in their new surroundings. Kilkenny's cause looked lost when they were led 2-9 to 1-5 at half-time.

In the second half Michael Hoyne was placed at centre-back where he gave a commanding display. Richie Mullally improved his game when moved to wing



All-Ireland minor semi-final action from Croke Park involving Kilkenny's John Hickey. The scoreboard tells the tale.  
Photo: Tommy O'Neill

back and John Hoyne scored a classy point from midfield. Jimmy Coogan converted a string of frees and Kilkenny were right back in the game with a great chance. Gerry Kirwan added dash to the forwards, and just as he was making one of his customary runs towards the Galway goal, an off-the-ball minor incident changed the whole game. Kilkenny had just gained the initiative and Galway looked to be in all sorts of trouble but the free they were awarded ended in a goal which settled them and allowed them to tag on further points. They eventually won by 3-16 to 1-14.

The Kilkenny panel and selectors can be justly proud of their campaign, which could so easily have ended in glory. The team for the semi-final was: Patrick Holden, Michael Kavanagh, Seán Dowling, Eddie Mackey, Richie Walsh, Richie Mullally, Michael Gordon, Tomás Dowd, John Hoyne, Ramie Cahill (Capt.), John Hickey, Michael Hoyne, Dick Carroll, Jimmy Coogan, J.P. O'Neill. Subs: Henry Shefflin, Tom Digby, Aidan Cummins, Ger Kirwan, Michael Fogarty, Seán Millea, Kevin Power,

Podge Delaney, Tom Coogan.

Seán Millea came on as a substitute in the semi-final. This was his third time to come off the bench but he wasn't so well rewarded this time. Liam Walsh had been on the list of substitutes for the Dublin game.

Underage hurling in Kilkenny is in a very strong position and results from the Tony Forristal and the Nenagh Co-Op. tournaments in recent years would indicate that there is a bright future. The new type of minor league within the county initiated this year has given all players more games on a regular basis. This they enjoy and look forward to.

Perhaps it is now time to change the championship format to make it more meaningful and competitive. Perhaps it is also time to allow players, at all levels, to display their own raw natural flair rather than "coaching" them to stop doing what they can do well and trying to force them to do the impossible. Team plans should accommodate each player's talents rather than fitting the player into totally unsuitable positions and plans.  
**Jim Neary**



All over! Kilkenny minors leave the field after their defeat by Galway.  
Photo: Tommy O'Neill

# Inter-County Junior Championship

by Pat Dunphy

THE Junior team management for 1996 – Noel Skehan, Mick McCarthy (St. Lachtains), John Carroll (Dunamaggin), Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin Gaels) and Andy Aylward (Mullinavat) – nearly pulled off the impossible. Having won the 1995 Junior All-Ireland final, they went within two points of beating Galway in the 1996 final with a completely new 15. It would have been an incredible feat should they have won.

The first game was against Laois in Portlaoise. This was a bit of a mismatch and if it was a boxing match, the towel would have been thrown in at an early stage. With points flowing freely from the sticks of Pat O'Grady, Robert Shortall, Richie Kelly and Michael Moran, Kilkenny were never in any danger. The final score in this match was Kilkenny 5-18, Laois 1-7. Scorers for Kilkenny were:- Robert Shortall (3-3), Pat O'Grady (0-8), Brian Phelan (1-1), Richie O'Neill (1-0), Richie Kelly (0-2), Gerry Drennan (0-2), Paul Cahill (0-1) and Michael Moran (0-1).



**KILKENNY JUNIOR TEAM – ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS**

Front row (left to right) – Jim Hickey, Ken O'Shea, Robert Shortall, John Dunphy, Ciaran Connery, Alan Hearne, Richie Kelly. Back row (left to right) – Mick Fitzgerald, Brian Phelan, Michael Holohan, Brendan Treacy, Pat Hoban, Rory Moore, Brendan Barcoe, Pat O'Grady.

Photo Tommy O'Neill

Kilkenny had qualified for another Leinster final against old rivals Wexford. Kilkenny had the home venue for the Leinster final and this was always going to be a tough game. Wexford had just won the

Leinster senior final and things were on a high in that county.

This was a game that could have gone either way in the first half with scores hard to come by and a rather fortunate goal early in the half was the only difference. However, the second half saw Kilkenny get on top with good defensive hurling by Ciarán Connery, Pat Hoban and Mick Fitzgerald. Kilkenny ran out winners by 1-13 to Wexford 1-7. Kilkenny had no semi-final so the Leinster final victory brought them straight into the All-Ireland final and a meeting with Galway.

Scorers for Kilkenny were:- Pat O'Grady (0-7), Richie Kelly (1-2), Brian Phelan (0-2), Richie O'Neill (0-1) and Alan Aherne (0-1).

Kilkenny started as underdogs for this game but you would never have guessed as Kilkenny played some forceful hurling in the first half especially by Brendan Treacy, Pat Hoban, Mick Fitzgerald, Brendan Barcoe and Ciaran Connery and gave the inside forwards plenty of chances. Ken O'Shea was playing brilliantly at this stage and he got two smashing goals.

Kilkenny were leading at half time and things were looking good.

However, the Galway half-back line completely dominated the second half, with their half forwards putting pressure on the Kilkenny backs. It was one Kilkenny could have won but they were finally beaten by Galway 1-14, Kilkenny 2-9.



**LEINSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONS**

Richie O'Neill, captain of the victorious Kilkenny Junior hurling team accepts the Leinster junior cup from Jim Berry, Chairman, Leinster Council, after Kilkenny had defeated Wexford in the Leinster final.

Photo Tommy O'Neill

Scorers for Kilkenny:- Ken O'Shea (2-0), Pat O'Grady (0-5), Rory Moore (0-1), Brendan Barcoe (0-1), Brian Phelan (0-1), Robert Shortall (0-1).

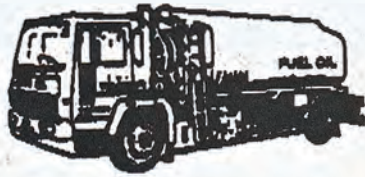
The Kilkenny panel for the games were John Dunphy (Mullinavat), Tom Hickey (Dunamaggin), Michael Holohan (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Ciaran Connery (Conahy Shamrocks), Alan Aherne (Windgap), Pat Hoban (Mullinavat), Michael Fitzgerald (Clara), Brendan Treacy (Thomastown), Rory Moore (Clara), Pat O'Grady (Blacks & Whites), Brendan Barcoe (Clara), Brian Phelan (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Ken O'Shea (Dunamaggin), Richie Kelly (Rower Instioge), Robert Shortall (Clara), Kevin Cleere (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Paul Cahill (Dunamaggin), Richie O'Neill (Dunamaggin), Michael Moran (Dunamaggin), Gerry Drennan (Galmoy), Brian Lonergan (Galmoy), Barry Power (O'Loughlin-Gaels), John Murphy (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Pa Hickey (St. Lachtains).



Action from the All-Ireland junior final. Alan Hearne clears his lines against Galway in the final. Kilkenny players are Michael Holohan, Pat Hoban and Ciaran Connery. Photo Tommy O'Neill

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# Under-21 Roinn C Hurling

The wisdom of those that fought for the introduction of the Roinn C Under 21 hurling championship was fully vindicated, with some great games throughout the competition. Six clubs took part in the competition - Barrow Rangers, Carrigeen, Cloneen, Danesfort, Slieverue and St. Patrick's (Ballyragget). The competition was completed in a four week period, thereby maintaining the interest of the players and supporters.

In the first round, Carrigeen came from seven points behind, at one stage, to beat favourites, St. Patrick's of Ballyragget by two points while Barrow Rangers had it somewhat easier when beating Slieverue by six points.

In the semi-finals, Danesfort brought Barrow Rangers to a replay, but two goals within a minute midway through the second half helped Rangers to a seven point win in the second game. A very strong



**BARROW RANGERS U21 ROINN C HURLING CHAMPIONS, 1996**

Front row l to r: Andrew O'Neill, John Dormer, David Gavin, Mervyn Healy, J.J. Staunton, Alan Walsh, Stephen Dormer. Back row l to r: Mick Doyle (coach), Patrick Maher, Trevor Walsh, Kenneth McEvoy, John Walsh, Martin Kelly, Paul Kelly, William Kealy, Martin Greene.



*D.J. shows his handball skills at 1996 Summer Camp in Freshford.*

*Photo: John Knox*

Cloneen side proved too good for Carrigeen in the second semi-final.

The final, played at windswept Palmerstown, turned out to be a game of two halves, to borrow an old cliché. Barrow Rangers, having benefit of the gale force breeze in the first half, made full use of same to open a 2-8 to 0-0 midway lead. Cloneen were not prepared to give in without a fight and a goal right at the start of the second half set them on their way, and midway through the second period, they had the deficit down to five points. It

was then that Rangers dug deep and by harrying and hassling the Cloneen boys, they prevented them getting the necessary scores. Led by Ken McEvoy, John Dormer, Patrick Maher, Mervyn Healy and John Walsh, Barrow Rangers held on for a famous victory. Cloneen were not helped by a serious injury to their best player, Damien Walsh, who had to leave the field after 20 minutes, and it was no fault of Seamus Hennessy, Niall Clancy, Liam Phillips, Tom Coogan and Cyril Steadmond that they failed to take the spoils.



*WIDE BALL11 WIDE BALL11  
Martin Carey (Young Irelands)  
watches the ball go over  
the end line in the County Final.  
Also in picture are:  
Liam Smith (James Stephens) and  
Brian Farrell (Young Irelands).*



**James Stephens County Minor Hurling Champions 1971** – Trophy being presented by Seán Reid, chairman Southern Board to minor captain Brian Cody. Front row: P. McKane, L. Tyrrell, L. Reidy, Pippy Brennan, J. O'Brien, P. Kelly, T. Leahy, T. McCormack, J. Reidy, P. Neary, M. Walsh, S. O'Brien, P. Walsh. Back row: P. Madigan, R. Walsh, J. Cremin, B. Young, E. Reidy, J. Hennessy, K. Hennessy, S. Moore, P. O'Brien, S. Reid, B. Cody, P. Butler, O. Cullen, M. Neary, V. McIntyre, G. Tyrrell, F. Larkin, R. Dowling.



## Down Memory Lane

**Tullogher-Rosbercon senior football champions 1962** – Back row (l. to r.) Mikey O'Brien (selector), R.I.P., Andy Lee, Paddy Cummins, Billy Murphy (captain), Simon Kennedy R.I.P., Mick Rellis, Tom Stephenson, Paddy Grace. Front row (l. to r.): Phil Murphy, Philly Murphy, Jimmy Cummins, Jamsie Murphy, John Hamilton, John McCarthy, Con O'Neill, Ollie Terry.



**Spike Rangers, Castlecomer – late 50's** – one of the teams that won the Street League a few times in the '50's. – Front row – (l. to r.) – Lory Byrne, Tom Deevy, Tommy O'Neill, Hughie Cullen, Paddy Brennan, Mick Sherwood, Seamie Coogan. Back row (l. to r.) Paddy Deevy, John Dwyer, Mick Rowe, Mick Byrne, Martin Coogan, Jack Mulcahy, Billy Mulcahy, Jerry Holden.





## Down Memory Lane

◀ **St. Canice's Boys' School, Kilkenny – Browne and Nolan Cup winners 1929** – Back row: M. Feehan, P. Grace, Jim O'Neill, M. Shasby, Joe Mahoney. Middle row: Ned Brett, Tommy Kerwick, Bill Drennan, John Power, John Hayes. Front row: Jim Travers, Speck Johnston, Mick Meaney, Martin Barry, Jim Ryan.

## Down Memory Lane

▶ **Seven-a-Side team 1960 (Urlingford)** – Front row (l. to r.) Liam Hanrahan, Willie Murphy, Martin Fitzpatrick, Oliver Condon. Back row: Ger Burke (trainer) R.I.P., Kevin Brett, R.I.P., Jimmy Tobin, Dan Daly, Paddy Burke, Jimmy Burke, R.I.P. Absent through injury – Myles McCabe (captain). (inset).



**Ballyragget – Under-16 County Finalists 1962** – Front row (l. to r.) John Lacey, John Walshe, Billy Brophy, Eamon Kilkenny, Tom Quirke, Mickey Butler, Pat Staunton, Pat Kelly, Pat Butler, Ned Doran. Back row (l. to r.) Paddy Doran R.I.P., Pat Stapleton R.I.P., Billy Phelan, Ned Brophy, Ted Ruth, John Kenny, Pakes Holohan R.I.P., Joe Maher, Eddie Purcell, Johnny Keaveney, Tommy Phelan, Mick Carroll and Michael Dooley.

# DICKSBORO – THE ACCIDENTAL CHAMPIONS

By JOHN KNOX ("Kilkenny People")

**T**HERE were self confessed 'accidental winners' in major Kilkenny hurling circles this season. The club went out to do its best, use the competition for team building purposes, and then ended up winning it.

Of course, Dicksboro, Credit Union senior hurling league champions, won't make any apologies for claiming their second title. Winning the league wasn't their No. 1 priority, but they were glad to get it nonetheless.

And they did it by piecing together a 7-match unbeaten run, decorated with some excellent performances along the way.

"We didn't set out to win the League, or not to win it", Dicksboro coach, Pat Henderson explained. "Like most clubs we used the competition to try and sort out

our best team for the championship. It just happened that we ended up winning every match".

The 'Boro approach was to take every game as it came, and try different combination of players here and there. All the time they knew they had the safety net of 'a second chance'. If they lost a match up as far as the semi-final stage, they could try and make up for it the next day.

## VERY DIFFERENT

"The League and championship are very different", Mr. Henderson conceded. "Teams takes chances in the League with some of the teams they field. In the Championship the one match is it, and everyone wants their best team out. Trying things is generally over at that stage".

The 'Boro hit the winning mode when opening in an inviting city derby against great rivals, James Stephens. Late points

from Shane Prendergast and Dan O'Neill did the trick as 'Stephens were downed by 1-9 to 0-10.

Wins over Graigue-Ballycallan (2-11 to 1-9), St. Martin's (5-9 to 0-10), Glenmore (2-12 to 1-6) and Erin's Own (2-13 to 1-6) followed, and suddenly it was semi-final time. Here the opposition was provided by inconsistent Fenians (Johnstown), who mirrored their up-and-down form all season when losing a high scoring game by 3-7 to 1-20.

In the second semi-final, defending league champions, Graigue-Ballycallan promised great things when beating Mooncoin by 3-11 to 1-6. But they had nothing left for the final. They flopped.

By the end of the first quarter the losers were in big trouble when already 0-1 to 1-6 down. The goal was lashed home by Stephen Kennedy.

Like scores followed from John Treacy and Martin Hanrick before half-way. Already the game was over as the 'Boro held a commanding 3-8 to 0-3 lead.

## PRESURE GAME

Credit to the winners, they kept up their impressive pressure game and roared to a comfortable 3-13 to 0-7 win. A handy day's work.

This performance installed the 'Boro as favourites in the run into the championship. The good form of Michael Walsh, he brought off one top class save in this game, John Marnell, Donal Carroll, Mark Dowling, David Beirne, Michael Kennedy, who was superb in the final, Tommy Bawle, Stephen Kennedy and new full-forward, Ger. Henderson suggested they had the balance and players to at least go a long way in the championship.

But as has happened all the league winners in Kilkenny since the League/Championship format was introduced, the 'Boro bit the dust before the knock-out hurling ran its course.

Sceptics would be forgiven for thinking there was a jinx on the league winners.

Pat Henderson thought otherwise: "It is inevitable that some club will eventually do the double. No doubt, the championship is the big competition to win. But the league is a good competition, an important one for clubs".

The teams in the League final were:

**Dicksboro** – M. Walsh, D. Beirne, J. Marnell, J. Ayres, M. Dowling, D. Carroll, T. Henderson, D. O'Neill, M. Kennedy, S. Moore, T. Bawle, M. Hanrick, S. Kennedy, G. Henderson, J. Treacy. Subs – B. Dalton, P. Henderson, T. Carroll.

**Graigie-Ballycallan** – C. Minogue, J. Butler, M. O'Brien, P. McCluskey, P. Dwyer, J. Teehan, T. McCluskey, D. Cleere, T. Comerford, M. Murphy, J. Brennan, J. Young, T. Dermody, D. Byrne, A. Ronan. Subs – J. Delaney, J. Hoyne, S. Millea.

**Referee** – P. Dunphy (Carrigeen).



Ger Henderson in action for Dicksboro v. St. Rynagh's in Palmerstown

(Photo: Tom Brett)

# JUNIOR ROUND-UP

by Richie Stone

**A**fter a number of years during which they promised more than they delivered, both Piltown and Galmoy hit the high spots in this year's Junior campaign

Galmoy, a team that has been knocking on the door for some years, finally made the big breakthrough when they won the Hennessy Sports All County league title. They defeated Piltown narrowly after a thrilling final.

In the Southern championship, Piltown were installed as favourites to come through for the second year in succession and they did not disappoint. After an early escape against Kilmacow where they won by a single point, 1-8 to 0-10, they saw the challenges of Glenmore, 4-12 to 1-11, Windgap, 2-9 to 1-11 and Slieverue, 0-19 to 0-4 to qualify for the Southern semi-final without losing a game.

Meanwhile the other fancied sides, Windgap and Kilmacow, were also making their way into the semi-finals. Slieverue, a side that had a poor league campaign, also made it through to the semi-finals claiming a couple of notable scalps along the way.

In the semi-finals, Piltown had to battle all the way to see off Slieverue, while Windgap ended Kilmacow's hopes for another year.

A big crowd descended on Hugginstown for the final and witnessed a top class display from Piltown's corner forward, Michael Gordon, who scored 3-2 of his side's total of 3-11. Two first half goals from Gordon helped his side to a 2-7 to 0-2 lead. Windgap battled their way back into contention, but Gordon's third goal with ten minutes remaining ended the game as a contest. Final score: Piltown 3-11 Windgap 1-11.

Up north, Galmoy had to battle hard in the opening to see off a stiff Erin's Own challenge. There was nothing easy either against Graigue Ballycallan in the second round but the resilient Galmoy men survived. Barrow Rangers provided the opposition in the semi-final. The Paulstown side were on top territorially for much of this game but a superb defensive display from Galmoy saw them through to the final and a crack at surprise packets, Dicksboro.

The city side had begun their campaign with a low key victory over understrength Cloneen. They raised more than a few eye-



**PILTOWN – COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1996**

Front row (left to right): Pat Long, Pat Davis, Eamonn Kenny, Michael Long, Michael Gordon, John Falconer, James Connolly, Jim Power (captain), Michael Long, Richie Connolly, John Joe Long. Back row: Jim Norris, Liam Kearns, Andrew McCabe, Brian Farrell, Liam Kenny, James Farrell, Dessie O'Dea, Michael Brennan, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael O'Shea, Denis McCarthy, Tommy Falconer, Denis Lawlor, Tommy O'Shea, Alan Walsh.



**DICKSBORO – NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1996**

Front row (left to right): Brendan Kennedy, Brian Fitzpatrick, Brendan Corcoran, Dermot Beirne, Niall Lacey (Captain), Tommy O'Neill, Michael Trait. Back row: Niall Morrissey, Jim Kerwick, Eoin Begley, David Carroll, Tom Maher, Aidan Begley, John O'Dwyer, Mark Sheehan.

brows when they edged out Emeralds in the second round.

However, the real shock came at the semi-final stage. They were given little hope of victory against red-hot favourites Blacks and Whites, but a late goal from Eoin Begley gave them a second chance. Many of the experts felt that the Skeough side had been caught unawares and would make no mistake in the replay. Once again, the Boro proved them wrong, winning on the score 1-9 to 0-9.

In a thrilling Northern final against Galmoy, Michael Trait point in injury time gave the city men a deserved draw. The final score read Galmoy 0-14, Dicksboro 0-14.

The replay turned out to be, another thriller. A Derek Kenny goal in injury time took the game to extra time. In extra time, the Boro looked set for victory until a late

rally by Galmoy almost snatched the honours. The city side, however, conceded nothing in the closing minutes and they just held on for a deserved victory after 150 minutes of thrilling hurling.

County final day and Piltown were favourites to succeed where they had failed last year. After a close enough opening half, the South side led by 0-7 to 1-1. They increased their lead to four points early in the new half. The city side fought hard to get back into contention in the final quarter, but this time there was to be no fairytale ending. Piltown finished full of running and ran out winners on the score of 0-11 to 1-3.

In the annual Jim Farrell Memorial Cup challenge, South Kilkenny Juniors retained the trophy beating the North 1-17 to 2-11.



**SOUTH FINAL ACTION**

Windgap goalkeeper clears his lines in the South Junior Final against winners, Piltwon. Michael Brennan is the Piltwon player attempting to block the Windgap man, as Eamonn Murray (Windgap) looks on.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill



"Howld him back 'til I drive this yoke a mile". Piltwon goalkeeper Jim Power clears his lines, as his colleague, Mick O'Shea holds off Galmoy forward in the all-county Junior League Final.

Photo: T. Brett.



**KILKENNY SOUTH - JIM FARRELL CUP**

Back row (left to right): Tom Egan (Windgap), Sonny Walsh (Slieverue), Walter Purcell (Weindgap), Dessie O'Dea (Piltwon), Brian Farrell (Piltwon), Paddy Gahan (Kilmacow), Michael O'Shea (Piltwon), James Connolly (Piltwon), Ian O'Callaghan (Kilmacow), P.J. Egan (Windgap), Gerry Meehan (Windgap), Gay Doyle (Windgap). Front row: Paddy Moran (Carrigeen), Liam Kenny (Piltwon), James Power (Carrigeen), Jim Power (Piltwon), Pat Power (Windgap), Declan Gahan (Kilmacow), Alan Hearne (Windgap), Sean Caulfield (Kilmacow), Dermot Tierney (Kilmacow).

Photo: Tom Grace.



**KILKENNY NORTH TEAM - JIM FARRELL TOURNAMENT**

Back row (left to right): Jarlath Duggan, Cathal Doherty, Brian Doherty, Pat O'Grady, Alan Grey, Michael O'Dowd, Damien Walsh, Michael Brennan. Front row: Michael Houlihan, Davy Ronan, Kevin Cleere, Mick Doyle, Gerry Drennan, Brian Lonergan, Larry O'Mahoney.

Photo: T. Brett.

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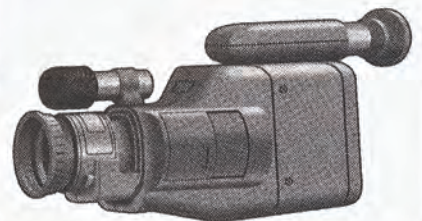


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# A Man for all Seasons

By Enda McEvoy  
(Sunday Tribune)

**ONE hundred and ten All-Ireland senior finals not out. That's the proud spectating record of Inistioge man Patrick Foley. and guess what? He hopes to make it 112 in 1997!**

A retired Kilkenny County Council employee, Patrick saw his first hurling decider in 1939. The game in question was, as every Noresider should know, the never-to-be-forgotten Thunder and Lightning final held on the day World War Two was declared. "And Jimmy Kelly, another County Council man, scored the winning point." Since then, thanks mostly to the purchase of 25-year, ten-year and five-year tickets, he's attended almost as many finals in both codes as it's been possible to attend. The only ones he missed out on were the two All-Irelands in 1947 (the hurling showdown coincided with the birth of his daughter Rita, the big ball equivalent was held in the polo Grounds, New York – good excuses, both!), the centenary hurling decider at Semple Stadium in 1984 and Clare's triumph in 1995 (couldn't get a ticket).

The stars of Gaelic games, he's seen them all. Joe Keohane of Kerry he rates the best full-back in football, Mick O'Connell the top midfielder. "That was when it was midfield football, mind. Now they've spoiled it." Kilkenny's Sean Clohosey comes in for special mention as "the most polished midfielder in hurling" Pat has witnessed. And Nicky Rackard "the best forward of them all", would have won his first All-Ireland medal in 1954 rather than 1955 "had Wexford not made the mistake of switching Bobby Rackard to full-back after Christy Ring had pulled straight down on Nick O'Donnell as the ball came in and broken his collarbone."

These days Patrick, 85 years young, has the O.A.P's. free travel. He also has a daughter Maura in Galway and a son Francis in Dublin, which makes overnight stays possible and the whole process of getting to and from a match altogether an easier, more leisurely process than it used to be. Drive to Thomastown, hop on the train and away he goes.

Speaking of his family (he is a grandfather eleven times over and a great-grandfather twice), one member of the clan to watch out for in the coming years is his camogie-playing granddaughter, Deirdre Brennan from



Patrick Foley

Ballygub. A member of the Rower-Inistioge club, Deirdre was Kilkenny under-14 skills champion last season. Much of her aptitude clearly comes from the Foley side, for Patrick in his youth kicked football for the Rower-Inistioge (Eddie Keher's father was a team mate) and for Tullogher at centrefield and in goal. His brother Mick was a terrific full back, "as good as Joe Keohane." Challenge games in New Ross against outfits from Wexford were a regular occurrence, Tullogher being widely regarded as worthy opposition. With justification, as they were Kilkenny senior football champions in 1941 and 1944. Another member of the team was Jack Mulcahy.

Travelwise it wasn't always as straightforward for Patrick as it is now. For decades the bicycle was his chief mode of transport. He rode to Thurles three times, and to Dublin on the Saturday for the 1943 finals. Fortunately it was an activity he was thoroughly cut out for: 33 years a rent collector with the County Council, his regular beat was a 32-mile round trip taking in Graignamanagh, Bennettsbridge, Goresbridge and finishing within 7 miles of Waterford.

Odd how the little things stick in the mind. A council tenant paying six pence a week off £17 would take 24 years to clear the debt. There were 44 houses in Graignamanagh, and one day Patrick, his receipts written out beforehand, got them all visited in the space of 40 minutes. That remained his all-time

record!

When he didn't cycle to Dublin he travelled by bus from Graignamanagh or the 7 a.m. train from Borris. "One morning we were waiting for ages before a man with a bike came into the waiting room and asked us were we going to the match. He was Jim O'Donnell, a brother of Nick's. The train from New Ross had been left a few miles up the line. He went up, brought it back and nine of us got in. On we went to Bagenalstown and came in on the main Kilkenny Dublin line."

The price of being a G.A.A. supporter was far from exorbitant back then. Six bob return on the train from Borris, a shilling into Croke Park, another shilling into the Hogan Stand. Five bob for tea in Barry's Hotel, six pence for a bottle of stout. All told, "you couldn't spend a pound on the day out."

The logistics became less complicated in the late 1950s when Patrick began driving to All-Irelands. Petrol cost 3/6 a gallon and Fr. Tommy Maher supplied him with tickets.

Any day Kilkenny won was a great day. One that wasn't so great was the 1959 All-Ireland final; he can still picture Seamus Power's shot deflecting off the Link Walsh and beating Ollie Walsh to secure a last-gasp draw for Waterford. A pity also, Patrick laments, about the death of overhead hurling. "You don't see the ball hitting the sky any more." There was plenty of overhead stuff in the best All-Ireland football final he ever watched, one of the Kerry/Down clashes in the 1960s. "The catch and kick. To see them go up for the ball! Mick O'Connell! Sean O'Neill! Famous!!!"

Strangely, the above-mentioned game was not the best game of Gaelic football he's had the pleasure of being part of. That honour goes to a wartime encounter in Thomastown between Tullogher and the army.

The 2nd Battalion were stationed in Floodhall at the time and "had the pick of Ireland," including Wexford star Bill Goodison. The crowds came from far and near by bicycle, ringing the pitch four-deep. A cracking encounter ensued, decided by a late goal which gave the army a fortunate two-point win.

Here's to many more years of happy memories for Patrick Foley. (Thanks to Michael Shortall of Barrow Rangers and Kilkenny County Council for his help with this article).

# CLUB SCENE

## CLONEEN

### OFFICERS:

**President:** Tom Brennan (Roe).  
**Vice President:** Fr. Jerry Joyce P.P.  
**Chairperson:** Donal Brennan.  
**Vice-Chairperson:** John Cahill.  
**Secretary:** Charlie McCarthy.  
**Treasurer:** Tim Wilson.

**Juvenile Chairperson:** Larry Brennan.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

**Under 21 Hurling Roinn C - Co. Finalists**  
**COUNTY PLAYERS 1996**  
 Tom Coogan (Minor Hurling)

The highlight of the year for Cloneen in 1996 was the purchase of land for developing their own pitch in Clogh. Having failed in their bid to buy a 12 acre field in conjunction with the local Parish Council, the Cloneen committee turned their attention to a four acre field and house which



**CLONEEN JUNIOR HURLING 1996**

*Front l/r: Tommy Brennan, Alan Hosey, Damien Walsh, Cyril Stedmond, Niall Cloney, Michael Brennan, David Clancy. Back l/r: Ted Cahill, Seamus, Hennessy, Michael Delaney, Thomas Brennan, Brendan Smyth, Adrian Brennan, Ger Campion, John Cahill.*

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

came on the market.

As the field in question was not big enough to fit a full GAA pitch, they decided to try for extra land at each end. At the Village End, a small field, owned by Mr. Jim Buggy, was willingly made available and bought. This would provide access and space for a clubhouse and car park.

Forty yards were still required at the other end for a full size pitch. The adjacent property, known locally as 'The Plots', has been occupied for about ten years by St. Pats Utd. soccer club.

The owners, Clogh Community Council, had no hesitation in transferring the required forty yards to the hurling club, free of charge, as this portion was not being used by the soccer club.

Local land reclamation contractor, Eamon Mooney, was given the job of lev-

elling and draining, while landscape expert, Tom Beckett from Freshford did the cultivation and sowing.

The new green sward is now a joy to see as the committee continues its efforts to raise funds. A new financial committee was put in place for this purpose and has been tremendously successful to date.

The club has so far invested £40,000 in purchase and development and plans are in hand to build a clubhouse, recreation centre and 40 x 20 handball alley with an estimated cost of £100,000.

On the playing fields, the Cloneen Under 21 team went to the final of the Inaugural Roinn C Championship, where a series of misfortunes, including three bad injuries, played a considerable part in their loss to Barrow Rangers.

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# CLUB SCENE

## CONAHY SHAMROCKS

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. Dollard P.P.

*Chairperson:* Tommy Downey.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Seanie Mahony.

*Secretary:* Toddy Lacey.

*Treasurer:* Pat Cahill.

*P.R.O.:* Nickey Brennan.

*Juvenile Chairperson:* Ger Nolan.

*Juvenile Secretary:* Kathleen Corrigan.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C*  
- County Finalists.

*Tara Ryan Shield Under 14 Hurling* -  
Winners.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996

Canice Brennan (Senior Hurling)

Ciaran Connery (Junior Hurling)

Tomas Lawless (Minor Football)

Brendan Griffith (Under 16 Hurling)

Conor Brennan (Nth. Kilkenny Under 16)

Paul Buggy (Vocational Schools'  
Football)

"What's another year?", might be the cry of all Conahy hurlers and footballers as they look back, somewhat in anger, on the past year. Despite the many setbacks during 1996, the club trophy board can at least show some reward for the season's endeavours with a fine win by the Minor hurlers in the Northern Championship, an Under 14 Tara Ryan Shield win and a highly successful Under 11 Ground Hurling campaign.

The club's premier side, the Intermediate hurlers, were once again involved in a right dogfight to avoid relegation. In a highly charged tie against Tullogher-Rosbercon, Conahy just held on for a narrow win. The side's championship battle with Thomastown was one of the games of the championship with the Southerners grabbing a couple of late scores to clinch an exciting victory. In the earlier league competition,



### CONAHY U-14 HURLERS, WINNERS OF TARA RYAN SHIELD

*Back row:* P. Nolan, S. Connery, S. Byrne, O. Fitzpatrick, P. Walker, B. O'Neill, E. Lennon, K. Downey, T. Nolan, J. Bergin. *E. Butler.* *Front row:* V. O'Brien, N. Eustace, D. Kelly, G. Nolan, S. Walsh, M. Fitzpatrick, P. O'Keefe, A. Healy, J. Kavanagh, P. Nolan.

*Photo:* T. O'Neill

Conahy displayed indifferent form and just missed out on a semi-final spot. Despite the disappointing results, the commitment from the players was much improved on previous years and, with a little bit of luck, the team could well have negotiated the first round hurdle.

The Special Junior hurlers had a poor league campaign and suffered a heart-breaking first round exit from the championship, when a last minute goal gave Tullaroan victory. A very youthful Under 21 side were no match for a physically stronger St. Martin's team.

The Intermediate footballers were also involved in a relegation battle but a good display against Barrow Rangers ensured another year in the grade.

It was a year of unrelenting activity in all juvenile grades. The Minor hurlers took the honours with a number of excellent displays. The team marched impressively to the County Final but were no match for a fine Kilmacow side. Injuries to a number of key players in the latter stages of the championship had an unsettling affect on the team and the side never displayed the same form as in earlier rounds. Conahy also met Kilmacow in the County League semi-final and, while the margin of victory was much closer, there was little doubting the merit of the Kilmacow

side's win. St. Lachtain's, Freshford saw off the challenge of Conahy Sarsfields in the first round of the Minor Football Championship.

The Under 16 hurlers pulled off a major surprise when defeating Bennettsbridge in the first round of the championship but were no match for an excellent Clara side in the next round. The team operated out of Roinn B in the league and found the going tough, with just one victory over Erins Own. At the time of writing, the Under 16 footballers are still in contention.

The Under 14 hurlers scored a fine win over St. Patrick's, Ballyragget, in the Tara Ryan Shield in Castlecomer. The team gave a number of excellent displays in the league and championship. They also performed impressively in the Leinster Feile competition when Raheny from Dublin were visitors to the club.

The Under 13 hurlers had a great year, putting up a number of magnificent displays before going down to a physically stronger Glenmore side in the county quarter-final. Some of the best displays of the year came from the Under 11 side which took part in the inaugural Ground Hurling Tournament. Conahy played eighteen games in the competition and more than held their own against all opponents. The side ran out impressive winners of their group



### CONAHY SHAMROCKS INTERMEDIATE HURLING 1996

*Front llr:* Paul Brennan, Ciarán Muldowney, Sean Cahill, Mike Feehan, Peter Mulhall, Ciarán Connery. *Back llr:* Seanie Mahony (capt.), Geoff O'Shea, Canice Brennan, Philip Carroll, Kevin Healy, Paul Byrne, Kenny Dooley, Eoin Murphy.

*Photo:* T. O'Neill

defeating Slieverue, James Stephens II and the Emeralds in the concluding games. Later in the year, the club played St. Carthages/Mucklagh from Offaly, in a ground hurling challenge game and recorded a good win.

In the annual Under 10 Jim Comerford Tournament, St Martin's were impressive winners over a Clara side that narrowly defeated Conahy in the semi-final.

For the first time ever Conahy took part in the Primary Schools Cumann na mBunscoileanna football competition. It was a most enjoyable experience for all the players.



**CONAHY SHAMROCKS UNDER-11 GROUND HURLING SQUAD 1996**

Back: Gavin Nolan, Patrick Nolan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Brian Healy, Tomas Nolan, Alan Healy, Shane Walsh, Jimmy Campion, Michael Bergin, Peter Dollard, Sinead Corrigan, Ciara Brennan, Miriam O'Keeffe, Patrice Maher, David Healy. Front: Damien Webster, Micheal Lawlor, Andrew O'Keeffe, Sean Delaney, Joseph Delaney, Patrick Cass, Joseph Cass, Noelle Corrigan, Ian Kavanagh, Eamonn Maher, John Wallace, David Baldwin.



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# CLUB SCENE

## DANESFORT

### OFFICERS:

*Presidents:* Msr. J. Carey, Msr. M.

Campion, Paddy Nolan, Jimmy Byrne.

*Chairperson:* Dick Mahony.

*Vice-Chairperson:* John Joe Kenny.

*Secretary:* Finbarr Kelly.

*Asst Secretary:* Pat Hayes.

*Treasurer:* Tommy Murphy.

*Asst Treasurer:* Maurice Woodcock.

*P.R.O.:* Shane Sinnott.

*Groundsman:* Jimmy Cahill.

*Northern Board Delegates:* Tom

Mahony, Joe O'Neill.

*Co. Board Delegate:* Pat O'Neill.

*Junior Selectors:* Mick Hanrahan, Ger

Woodcock, Feeky Tierney.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*All County Junior Hurling League -  
Semi-finalists.*

The hurling season in Danesfort started on a very positive note with new trainer, Noel Skehan, attracting large numbers of players to the pitch from mid-February onwards, for intensive physical training. Such numbers were encouraging and the benefit was manifest in a very successful league campaign, which saw Danesfort reach the semi-final, only to be ousted by a very robust Galmoy team.

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Noel Skehan could not continue coaching the team, but luckily, preparation for the championship was overseen by the watchful eyes of Georgie Leahy and Ger Woodcock. Training was tough and team spirit at a high. However, our championship hopes were brought to an abrupt end, as we bowed out gallantly to a strong Blacks and Whites side, losing by four points in a most thrilling and entertaining encounter. There was a feeling of great disappointment in the club as a whole, but there is also great reason for hope. This is the first year in many in which there is a panel with a great blend of experience and youth - a sure fire

recipe for success.

In the new Roinn C group of the Under 21 hurling championship, Danesfort made the semi-final against Barrow Rangers. In a thrilling replay, we lost out by only a few points. Many felt that this game had been left behind the first day. Due to a lack of numbers and imbalance in ages, no minor team could be fielded this year. The Under 16 team again fell prey to the Blacks and Whites in the Roinn C championship, after another full blooded performance.

In the schools' championship, falling numbers was again a problem, but with the great dedication of new Cuffesgrange N.S. Principal, Jim Fennelly, and club officials, all fixtures were fulfilled. The Under 11 ground hurling competition saw Danesfort win half their games.

Good success was had by our Junior Football team as they reached the Northern semi-final against O'Loughlin Gaels and again were only defeated after a replay. One feels that a championship title in this competition looms in the not too distant future.

Finally, the club's greatest success was probably off the field, with a well organised flag day in June, for which all members must be congratulated. Here's to a bright '97.

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*Ned Quinn (Proprietor)*

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# CLUB SCENE

## DICKSBORO

### OFFICERS:

*Presidents:* Denis Meaney, Eddie O'Donoghue, Tommy Brennan, Alfie Cullen.

*Chairperson:* Shem Tynan.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Eugene Begley.

*Secretary:* Mick Byrne.

*Treasurers:* Donal Carroll, Noel Deevy.

*P.R.O.:* Ned Buggy.

*Irish Officer:* Richie Mulrooney.

*Registrar:* Gerry O'Neill.

*Juvenile Chairperson:* Kevin Ryan.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Senior Hurling* - League Champions.

*Junior Hurling* - County Finalists.

*Junior Hurling 'B'* - Northern Finalists.

*Feile Peil na nOg* - Divisional Winners.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Michael Walsh, Mark Dowling, Dan O'Neill, David Beirne, Donal Carroll (Senior Hurling)

Brendan Dalton (Under 21 Hurling)

Cillian Breathnach, Alan Barry (Under 16 Hurling)

Brian Barry (Under 14 Hurling)

A triumphant march through the Credit Union Senior Hurling League culminating in a comprehensive defeat of Graigue-



**DICKSBORO FÉILE PEIL NA NÓG WINNERS 1996**

*Back Row:* Kevin Ryan, Bryan Barry, Michael Keenan sr., John Marnell, Jim Murphy, Jamie Kennedy, Niall Bambrick, Kieran Cuddihy, Gavin Bourke, Dermot Cantwell, Brian Murphy, Denis Long, Phil Hogan, Thomas Fortune. *Front row:* Michael Manning, J.J. Hogan, Andrew Lowry, Michael Burke, Brian Cody, Derek O'Gorman (capt.), Michael Keenan, Neil Andrews, Shane McGarry, Eoin Morrissey, Conor Hogan. *Lying in front:* Paddy Kiely.

Ballycallan in the final established Dicksboro as firm favourites, not only in the club but throughout the county, to take the championship title. Saturday, September 7th., however, put paid to all that when a leaden performance against a deserving Dunnamaggin saw the 'Boro out of the championship. The excellent displays and masterly winning of the League title were unfairly overshadowed by the extreme disappointment of both players and supporters in view of the high expectations carried by this team, proving once again that there are no certainties in sport, as Sonia O'Sullivan, Oscar Schindler and



### LEAGUE FINAL MAN OF THE MATCH

*Stephen Kennedy (Dicksboro), receives his man of the match award from Paddy Fry, St. Canices Credit Union. Looking on is John Healy, Chairman Kilkenny County Board.*

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*



**DICKSBORO - CREDIT UNION S.H. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1996**

*Back row:* T. Henderson, D. Carroll, S. Moore, T. Bawle, M. Hanrick, T. Carroll, G. Henderson, J. Marnell, S. Kennedy. *Front row:* B. Dalton, M. Dowling, J. Treacy, M. Walsh (capt.), D. Beirne, J. Ayres, M. Kennedy, D. O'Neill. *Mascots:* Diane and Oliver Walsh.

Mike Tyson can testify. It is consoling, however, to know that this fine team will still be around next year, under the continued expert guidance of trainer, Pat Henderson.

Dicksboro Juniors and Special Juniors were to do us proud later in the year, with the former claiming the first Northern title since 1973, beating Galmoy in extra time of a thrilling replay, following an equally thrilling draw. The victory went a long way towards lifting the pall of doom which had surrounded the club since the Senior's demise. Their subsequent defeat by Piltown, in the County Junior Final, while disappointing, was accepted with fortitude by supporters who were proud that our second team had acquitted themselves so well. Their was pride too, in the performance of the Special Juniors who reached the Northern final where they fell victim to a good Tullaroan team. It was felt that a little more aggression by goalie Paddy Grace might have done the trick. (Joke, Paddy)

The highlight of the Juvenile year was the victory of Dicksboro Under 14 footballers, representing Kilkenny in Feile Peil na nOg in Mayo. In the final at Castlebar, Dicksboro defeated Tir Chonaill Harps (Glasgow). Our Under 13's captured the Gathabawn Cup and Hennessy medals at the Lisdowney seven-a-side festival, while the Under 14 hurlers once again took the Tommy Martin Shield in our own club tournament, beating Graigue-Ballycallan in the final. Over 130 children took part in our Under 10 and Under 12 street leagues, a continuing success story.

On the development front, preparatory work has been done on an extension at the rear of the clubhouse, comprising a new cool room, Members' bar and toilets. While this work will not be completed in the near future, the preliminary work is being undertaken by a chain gang including Eugene Begley, Tom and John Rafter, Jim Hogan, Andy Phelan, Jimmy Dunphy and Martin Shasby, under the stern eye of gaffer, Joe Walton.

Approximately 130 members have joined our newly formed Supporters' Club, the brain child of Martin Morrissey. The revenue



**DICKSBORO SPECIAL JUNIOR TEAM**

Front row l/r: M. Treacy, M. Devane, G. Maher, J. Cunniffe, J. O'Dwyer, K. Philpott, K. O'Sullivan, P. Grace. Back row l/r: C. Pratt, D. Kenny, B. Phelan, B. Murphy, B. O'Neill, N. O'Gorman, G. Rowe.

Photo: Tommy O'Neil



**TEDCASTLES SPONSOR DICKSBORO'S PADDY GRACE TOURNAMENT**

l/r: Mark Dowling (D) - area rep., Tedcastles Oil; Michael Walsh, captain Dicksboro; Paddy Grace jnr., Roy Mannion, captain St. Rynagh's and Shem Tynan, chairman Dicksboro.

generated by this enterprise will be of considerable help in defraying the many expenses of a busy club like Dicksboro. It is hoped that membership of the Supporters' Club will increase in the new year. Prospective members are asked to contact club secretary, Mick Byrne.

A remembrance Mass was celebrated in the club for old 'Boro stalwart, Michael 'Sla' Berry, who died in England during the year. Together with all the clubs in the county, Dicksboro members were devastated by the sudden death of Ted Carroll last December. Dicksboro will not forget Ted's help, advice and support over the years, and for many of us, Sunday nights will never be the same again. The sudden death of Ted's illustrious team mate, Ollie Walsh was another severe

blow to the club. To the Carroll and Walsh families, and to all Dicksboro families bereaved during 1996, go the heartfelt sympathies of all club members. Ar dheis De go raibh siad uilig.



**I'M MINDING IT FOR MY DADDY**

Little Ollie Walsh (named after his legendary Grandad) keeps a tight hold of the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling League Cup, won by Dicksboro, which was captained by his father, Mickie.



Admiring the "Paddy Grace Perpetual Trophy" are Paddy Grace (Junior), Shem Tynan (Chairman Dicksboro), Shem Dunne (Tullaroan), Pat O'Donoghue (Cashel King Cormacs) and Richie Grace.

Photo: T. Brett

# CLUB SCENE

## DUNNAMAGGIN KILMOGANNY

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. Pat Farrell P.P.  
*Vice President:* Fr. Fergus Farrell C.C.  
*Chairperson:* Malachy Hogan.  
*Secretary:* Eugene O'Donovan.  
*Treasurer:* Sean Ryan.  
*P.R.O.:* Pat Moylan.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Dick O'Shea.  
*Juvenile Secretary:* Brian Mackey.  
*Juvenile Treasurer:* Sean Costelloe.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Senior Hurling Championship - Semi-finalists.*  
*Minor Hurling Championship Roinn A - County Finalists.*  
*Special Junior 'B' Hurling Championship - County Champions.*  
*Under 16 Hurling Championship Roinn A - County Finalists.*  
*Senior Football Championship - County Finalists.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Sean Ryan, Tom Hickey, Ken O'Shea (Senior Hurling)  
 Tom Hickey, Paul Cahill, Ken O'Shea  
 Michael Moran, Jim Hickey, Richie O'Neill (Junior Hurling)  
 Tom Hickey, Paul Cahill, Ken O'Shea (Under 21 Hurling)  
 Ramie Cahill, John Hickey, J.P. O'Neill (Minor Hurling)  
 Noel Hickey, Kenneth Moore, Colin Herity (Under 16 Hurling)

A year of Promise. After the club's outstanding achievements in 1995, it was always going to be difficult to repeat the success in '96. 'Nobody said it was going to be easy'. The senior hurlers historic debut year brought great excitement and pride to the parish. They opened nervously in the league against the Fenians. Two draws and two losses later proved a baptism of fire in the league campaign.

In the championship we were pitted against Erin's Own. Some of the magic of '95 returned and continued into the quarter final where pre-championship favourites Dicksboro were outwitted in a



### DUNNAMAGGIN - SPECIAL JUNIOR "B" COUNTY CHAMPIONS

*Back row l-r:* John Carroll (selector), Jimmy Dunne, James Moylan, Tom McCormack, Michael Carroll (selector), Paul Whelan, J. P. O'Neill, Brian O'Shea, Willie Drennan, John Hickey, Shane Kirwan. *Front row l-r:* Noel Hickey, Malachy Hogan, Colin Herity, Seamus Kennedy (captain), Adrian Moran, Andrew O'Neill, William Kearney, Brendan Moore, Kenneth Moore.

close tense game. In the semi-final, we drew eventual champions Young Irelands, where Dunnamaggin were edged out in the final ten minutes. All in all, however, a memorable debut in the Senior Grade.

Pride of place in 1996 must go to our Special Junior Hurlers who brought home the 'B' County Championship. They also have reached the League semi-finals. They fulfilled early promise defeating Windgap, Carrigeen, both after replays, and near neighbours, John Lockes to claim the Iverk Produce Southern Championship. In the County Final, Dunnamaggin proved too strong for Tullaroan to become champions on a scoreline of 1-13 to 0-7. Great credit to all involved as the importance of this grade of hurling in the club cannot be stressed enough.

The Under 21 team have qualified for the Southern Final.

Our Minor Hurlers qualified for the Roinn A county final for the fourth year in succession beating Mooncoin and the Rower-Inistioge on the way. In the county final against Graigue-Ballycallan, they never really performed and were defeated 2-10 to 0-11.

Our Under 16 hurlers reached the Roinn A championship final only to come up against a far stronger James Stephens team, consisting of players all up to the

age. Dunnamaggin battled gallantly against impossible odds.

Our Under 14 hurlers were beaten by eventual finalists Freshford in the Paddy Grace tournament. They were also beaten by Freshford, after a replay, in the Roinn B championship quarter final. Our Under 14 footballers lost in the Southern Final to Carrickshock.

### FOOTBALL

Kilmoganny Footballers also made their Senior debut during the year, having followed their hurling counterparts up the ladder in the past two years. They opened brightly with a win over Glenmore, and a comprehensive victory over Dicksboro before succumbing to the Railyard in the final league game. Having qualified from the group, they took on Muckalee in the championship semi-final, and in a tough close affair, Kilmoganny came good in the last five minutes.

In the final they came up against an experienced and physically stronger James-Stephens, but pushed them all the way to the finish, eventually losing by just two points.

The Under 21 footballers were beaten in the 1995 final, played in May of this year, by great rivals Graigue-Ballycallan. They won the Southern Final by defeating neighbours, Carrickshock.



### KILMOGANNY - SENIOR COUNTY FOOTBALL FINALISTS 1996

*Back row l-r:* Michael O'Neill, John Hickey, Jim Hickey, Paul Kearney, Andrew Hickey, Malachy Hogan, Sean Ryan, Mick Carroll (selector), Paul Whelan, Adrian Moran, John Joe Kennedy, Michael Moran, Matthew O'Shea, Gerry Carroll, Tom Hickey, Willie Kearney (selector). *Front row l-r:* John Carroll (selector), Christy Whelan, Noel Lahart, Ramie Cahill, Eamonn Kennedy, Kenny O'Shea, Anthony McCormack, Brian Mackey, Michael Davis, Denis Lahart.

**FIELD DEVELOPMENT**

Following an extremely successful fund raising draw, held at the Club Dinner Dance in February, work began in earnest on our newly acquired field. The playing surface is now ready and the perimeter boundary prepared for planting. Tenders have been received for the dressing rooms and the goal posts plus nets have been erected. Hopefully, all will be in readiness for the grand opening in 1997. Great credit is due to the Heffernan family, Caherleske, for the use of the old pitch, which has now returned to agricultural usage.

During the year, Monsignor Paudge O'Neill visited for a brief while from the U.S.A. He is a member of the O'Neill family of Ballintee. While home, he watched the senior hurlers in action and presented a magnificent glass trophy to the club, to be awarded to the outstanding sports person in the club on an annual basis.



*Presentation of Monsignor Paudge O'Neill, Perpetual Trophy to Club Chairman Malachy Hogan in Bob Doherty's Lounge.*

A Community Lotto was launched in the parish in October. Proceeds will be equally divided among the Senior Hurling Club, the Juvenile Hurling Club, Kells Sports Complex, Kilmoganny Community Centre and the Old School, Dunnamaggin.

This will be a most welcome fund raiser for the club as the cost of running teams has increased considerably in recent years. Please give it your whole support.

Go mbeimid le cheile ag an am seo, an bhliain seo chugainn.



**ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FINAL**

*Ken O'Shea (Kilkenny) greets Noel Larkin (Galway) prior to the All-Ireland Final in Tullamore. Referee Michael Wadding (Waterford) looks on.*

*(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)*



**KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING SELECTORS**

*Left to right - Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's), Andy Aylward (Mullinavat), Pat Dunphy (County Secretary), Michael McCarthy (St. Lachtain's), Noel Skehan (trainer/manager), John Carroll (Dunnamaggin).*

*(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)*

**O'DWYER'S LOUNGE BAR  
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*and*

*Kilmoganny Football club*

*from*

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# CLUB SCENE

## EMERALDS

### OFFICERS:

President: Fr. L. Dunphy P.P.  
 Chairperson: Luke Roche.  
 Vice-Chairperson: John Minogue.  
 Secretary: John Cahill.  
 Treasurer: Tom Phelan.  
 P.R.O.: Fionan O Driscoll  
 Juvenile Chairperson: Fionan O Driscoll

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996.

Under 14 Hurling Championship  
 Roinn B - County Champions.  
 Under 16 Hurling Championship  
 Roinn B - County Champions.  
 Under 16 Hurling League Roinn B -  
 County Champions.  
 Minor Hurling Championship Roinn B  
 - County Champions.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

Kieran Rafter, Aidan Fogarty (Under  
 14 Hurling)  
 Brendan Joyce, Ken Hughes (Under 21  
 Hurling)



**HEROES OF OLD** – Front row left to right: Paddy Holohan 1947; Tom Gorman 1950 and '52; Nicholas Healy 1950 and '52; Jimmy Holohan (Sec. when field at Urlingford was purchased).  
 Back row Joe Gorman 1950 and '52; Kieran Bergin 1950 and '52; Christy Large 1947, 1950 and 1952.

After three years of hard work, the Club completed the development of the Club House and Pitch, which is now of full championship size. The Club House contains two large dressing rooms with showers and toilet facilities, a referees' room and a large garage. Surrounding the Club House is an extensive and well laid out car parking area. We also installed flood lighting on one side of the pitch in order to facilitate training on darker evenings.

We took part in both Junior and Senior Scor competitions, and in the latter our Quiz Team of Eamonn Ryan, John Cahill and Nicholas Walsh again emerged victorious. We also gave good exhibitions in Drama and Set Dancing.

Thurles CBS won the White Cup, the Munster 'A' Under 15 title and the

Emeralds were honoured when Brendan Cahill captained the team. Gerard Joyce and Joe Ryan also featured on the winning fifteen, while younger players, Alan Guilfoyle and Aidan Fogarty, were among the subs.

Fund Raising continued unabated during 1996 by the Urlingford Action Group during 1996.

Surely the social highlight was our Club Party and Dance at which many of our former greats were honoured. During the year, we hosted Ferbane-Belmont in the Leinster Feile and this was a most sociable visit by a very sporting club.

Our Junior Team were unlucky to exit from the championship by a mere two points at the hands of Dicksboro, but we take encouragement from the fact that most of this team are still Under 21. The Rody Kilbride Memorial Tournament was played with Dunnamaggin, Graigue-Ballycallan, Tullaroan and Fenians taking part. After three very close games, Tullaroan emerged winners and are proud holders of this fine trophy.

Pride of place must go to our under age teams in 1996. The Emeralds have achieved what must be a unique treble in winning Under 14, Under 16 and Minor Championships in the same year.

Foundations laid and promise shown by our under age teams in previous years came to fruition in 1996. We now look forward to the coming year with renewed enthusiasm and confidence in our squads.

### OBITUARY

Our most loved former player of note, and treasurer of the club for many years, Kevin Brett, passed to his eternal reward unexpectedly during the year. To say that all Club members and everyone in the parish was saddened would be an understatement. This was evident by the huge turnout at his obsequies. Ar dheis De go raibh sé.



Ned Curran, Chairman of Urlingford Club in the 50's and 60's and Northern Secretary from 1968 – 1981 with Nicky Brennan.

# CLUB SCENE

## ERIN'S OWN

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. Mark Kirwan.  
*Chairperson:* Harold Stone.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Martin Walsh.  
*Secretary:* John Rothwell.  
*Treasurer:* Walter Power.  
*P.R.O.:* Eugene Murphy.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Under 21 Football Roinn B (1995) -  
 County Champions.  
 Under 14 Football Roinn B - County  
 Champions.  
 Under 14 Hurling Feile Laighean -  
 Divisional winners.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Michael Owens, Sean Meally, Ken  
 Brennan, David Buggy (Senior  
 Hurling)  
 Sean Meally (Junior Hurling)  
 David Buggy (Under 21 Hurling)



At the 1996 Tara Ryan Tournament: Thomas, Bernadette, Betty and Ronald, children of Tara Ryan.



### UNDER 14 ROINN B COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1995

Back row l to r: N. Walsh, S. Walsh, P. Campion, B. O'Neill, S. Dwyer, Stephen Dwyer, T. Cordell, R. Brennan, J. Nolan, D. McInerney, S. Phelan, A. Holden, D. Byrne, N. Lawler, S. Lyons.  
 Front l to r: E. Jackman, D. Renwick, H. Kelly, N. Murtagh, A. Owens, A. Lawler, Ed Brennan, A. Brennan, G. Byrne, S. Dwyer, C. Dunne, G. Lawler, N. Delaney.



County secretary Pat Dunphy presenting Bernie Byrne from Ardra, Castlecomer with a cheque for £8,000 as winner of the Piltown Co-op draw for May. L - R: Harold Stone (Chairman Erin's Own), Pat Dunphy, Bernie Byrne (winner), James Dormer (Committee, Erin's Own), sellers of the winning ticket were Larry O'Neill and Martin Walsh.

Photo T. O'Neill

# CLUB SCENE

## ERIN'S OWN

### OFFICERS:

President: Fr. Mark Kirwan.  
 Chairperson: Harold Stone.  
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 Secretary: John Rothwell.  
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### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Under 21 Football Roinn B (1995) -  
 County Champions.  
 Under 14 Football Roinn B - County  
 Champions.  
 Under 14 Hurling Feile Laighean -  
 Divisional winners.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Michael Owens, Sean Meally, Ken  
 Brennan, David Buggy (Senior  
 Hurling)  
 Sean Meally (Junior Hurling)  
 David Buggy (Under 21 Hurling)



At the 1996 Tara Ryan Tournament: Thomas, Bernadette, Betty and Ronald, children of Tara Ryan.



### UNDER 14 ROINN B COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1995

Back row l to r: N. Walsh, S. Walsh, P. Campion, B. O'Neill, S. Dwyer, Stephen Dwyer, T. Cordell, R. Brennan, J. Nolan, D. McInerney, S. Phelan, A. Holden, D. Byrne, N. Lawler, S. Lyons.  
 Front l to r: E. Jackman, D. Renwick, H. Kelly, N. Murtagh, A. Owens, A. Lawler, Ed Brennan, A. Brennan, G. Byrne, S. Dwyer, C. Dunne, G. Lawler, N. Delaney.



County secretary Pat Dunphy presenting Bernie Byrne from Ardra, Castlecomer with a cheque for £8,000 as winner of the Piltown Co-op draw for May. L - R: Harold Stone (Chairman Erin's Own), Pat Dunphy, Bernie Byrne (winner), James Dormer (Committee, Erin's Own), sellers of the winning ticket were Larry O'Neill and Martin Walsh.

Photo T. O'Neill



Survival in Senior grade for 1997 was the highlight of the year for the senior side. After losing a first round encounter with Dunnamaggin, and then being paired with last year's Leinster club champions in a relegation semi-final, it looked as if the team were in trouble. However a heartening display against Glenmore boosted the confidence somewhat. In two great battles against John Lockes, Erin's Own prevailed by a single point after a replay. Fergal Slevin was the hero in that replay when he slotted over a 70 yard point to secure

senior status.

The Junior side battled hard against eventual Northern finalists, Galmoy, before bowing out. They also performed well in the All County League with a win and a draw to show for their efforts. In the Michael O'Kelly Cup for Junior teams, Erin's Own defeated Cloneen by 5 points in the final in Castlecomer.

At under age levels, the club had mixed luck. In the 1995 Under 21 football Roinn B final, we took the honours over Mooncoin. Also in football, our Under 14's

had a splendid win over Shamrocks, Ballyhale, in the Roinn B Final. This side gave a wonderful exhibition of football in winning their title. The club competed at Under 16 and Minor football and hurling, with little success. The Under 14 hurlers were runners-up to St. Martin's in the Tara Ryan Cup, which is competed for every year and hosted by Erin's Own.

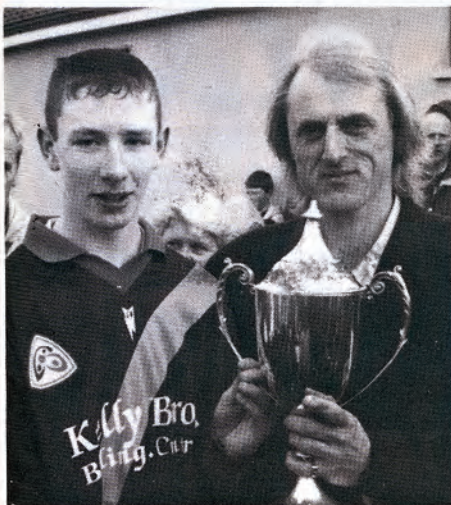
Development continues in the Prince Grounds and in Ballycomey. Dug outs are being built in the Prince Grounds at present and new goal posts are being made.



**UNDER 21 FOOTBALL 1995 - ERIN'S OWN**

Back row l to r: P. Shore, J. Byrne, P. Phelan, S. Kennedy, T. Brophy, M. Dempsey (trainer), S. Purcell, K. Brennan, E. Rothwell, David Dunne, T. Dunne, D. Mullins.  
Front l to r: F. Byrne, Martin Owens, Ml. Owens, F. O'Neill, L. Shore, M. Rothwell, D. Dunne, D. Mullins.

Photo T. O'Neill



**TARA RYAN TOURNAMENT 1996**

Ronald Ryan presents his father's trophy to St. Martin's captain Seamus Kelly.



**ERIN'S OWN, CASTLECOMER, SENIOR HURLING**

Back row l to r: T. Coogan, P. Shore, K. Brennan, M. Brophy, P. Healy, E. Holland, J. Breen, B. Judge, J. Buggy, M. Owens, M. Coogan, T. Dunne, B. Young.  
Front row l to r: L. Shore, T. Brophy, D. Buggy, M. O'Neill, S. Meally, J. Slevin, J. Meagher, D. Fogarty, D. Dunne (mascot).

Photo T. O'Neill



**ERIN'S OWN JUNIOR HURLING**

Back row l to r: M. O'Shea, M. Holohan, P. Shore, T. Brennan, P. Mullins, M. Rothwell, D. O'Rourke, M. Owens, D. Mullins. Front row l to r: T. Dunne, M. Gogarty, T. Coogan, D. Brennan, J. Brennan, B. Judge, S. Coogan, F. Byrne, D. Dunne.

Photo T. O'Neill

# CLUB SCENE

## FENIANS

### OFFICERS:

*Presidents:* Fr. F. Maher, Pascal Tynan.  
*Chairperson:* Sean Warren.  
*Vice Chairperson:* Larry Nolan.  
*Secretary:* Oliver Sharkey.  
*Treasurer:* Thomas Henderson.  
*P.R.O.:* Michelle Grehan.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

P.J. Delaney, Matty Walsh, Briain Ryan,  
 Stephen Grehan, Alan Beehan  
 (Senior Hurling)  
 Eoin Beehan, P.J. Ryan (Under 21  
 Hurling)  
 Kevin Power (Minor and Under 16  
 Hurling)

1996 began with the presentation of medals in Langton's Restaurant to our Northern and County Final winning teams of 1995.

On the Hurling front, the Senior team's league campaign began well with wins over Dunnamaggin, John Locke's and Tullaroan, a draw with Young Irelands and a defeat by Mooncoin in the last round game. Seven points were enough to guarantee a semi-final against Dicksboro. On the day, however Dicksboro were by far the better team. Having qualified through the league to the quarter-finals of the championship, the Fenians played and beat St. Martin's to set up a clash with old rivals, James Stephens, in the semi-finals.

The Village played very well, while the Fenians gave probably their worst display all year, as James Stephens won by nine points.

The Juniors played eight games in the All County League, winning three and drawing two, thus narrowly missing out on a place in the knock-out stages of the league. In the first round of the Junior Championship we were drawn against Barrow Rangers. This game was a close affair, but in the last ten minutes, Barrow Rangers superior fitness made all the difference as they won by 1-12 to 0-12.

The Special Junior team played well during the league, qualifying for a quarter-final spot. After defeating Conahy Shamrocks, we should have played Barrow Rangers in the semi-final. The original fixture was cancelled and as no date could be agreed for the re-fixture, the game was awarded to Barrow Rangers.

The hurling year for the Under 21 team began and ended on the first Sunday in November when we played and were comprehensively beaten by Young Irelands.

The minors, playing in Roinn A, fared

exceptionally well playing the elite of the county. They have qualified to play James Stephens in the semi-final of the league. In the championship, we beat O'Loughlin Gaels to qualify to meet The Village, who on this occasion were the stronger side, but were made work hard by a very spirited Fenians team.

The Under 16 team made a very poor start to their league campaign, losing their first two games. They recovered to win their remaining games to qualify to meet St. Lachtain's in a play-off, where they were unfortunate to lose. In the championship, the Fenians came up against Emeralds and were narrowly beaten by the eventual County Champions. The Under 16 footballers have just begun their campaign with a narrow win over Dunnamaggin.

Our under age teams, from Under 11 to Under 14, fared well during the year. They participated in various leagues and tournaments within the county.

Finally, we wish to thank everyone who supported the club during the year, especially our club sponsors, Arcon.



**JOHNSTOWN SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALISTS 1996**

Back l - r: Owen Behan, Paul Phelan, Stephen Grehan, Alan Behan, Gerry Quinlan, Brian Ryan, Billy Purcell, Michael Phelan. Front l - r: Anthony McEvoy, James Carroll, P.J. Delaney, Liam McEvoy, P.J. Ryan, Brendan Ryan, Matty Walsh.

Photo Tommy O'Neill

# KILKENNY CORPORATION and COUNTY COUNCIL



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
 COUNTY HALL  
 KILKENNY  
 Tel. 056-21196  
 Fax 056-63384

*Best wishes to our men and ladies  
 in Black and Amber in 1997*



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

# CLUB SCENE

## GALMOY

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. Liam Dunne  
*Chairperson:* Charlie Brennan  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Stephen Delaney  
*Secretary:* Joe Corcoran  
*Asst Secretary:* Ger Phelan  
*Treasurer:* Phil Bowe  
*P.R.O.:* Jerry Drennan  
*First Aid:* Sean Doherty  
*Junior Selectors:* Lottie Harte, Tom Russell, Ger Phelan.  
*Junior Trainer:* Pat McCormack.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996.

*All County Junior Hurling League - Champions*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

Brian Lonergan, Jerry Drennan (Junior Hurling)

1996 was the year in which Galmoym won their first major adult title in 30 years, and yet, many will look back upon the year as one of missed opportunity. For the second year in a row, the Junior hurlers sailed through the preliminary stages of the All County Junior Hurling League, to advance to the final against southern kingpins, Piltown. After a hard fought encounter, Galmoym emerged victorious by two points. This win was a good appetiser for the upcoming championship. The team were less than impressive in their first two victories over Erin's Own and Graigue-Ballycallan, but showed improvement in winning the next round against Barrow Rangers. Galmoym now faced Dicksboro in the Northern Final, succumbing only after extra time in a replay. The statistic of only one defeat in 17 games is a very impressive record, yet the fact that the club are still Junior remains a reality.

Apart from the Junior team, success was scarce among the other club representatives. This does not, however, reflect the huge effort put in on the training field from January onwards. The club are grateful to Pat McCormack for his tremendous

commitment and dedication to training Galmoym throughout the year. Probably the greatest upset on the field of play occurred in the St. Jude's seven-a-side competition, where Brian Lonergan suffered a broken leg. We all look forward to seeing Brian back in action in 1997. Our seven-a-side panel was Paul Morrissey, Brian Lonergan, Brian Doherty, Cathal Doherty, Jerry Drennan, Michael Brennan, Philip Brennan, Alan Gray, Peter Ryan, Declan Fitzpatrick and Leo Doherty. Leinster Junior medals were won by Brian Lonergan and Jerry Drennan, while David Delaney, Paul Delaney and Noel Doherty all played for

the North Kilkenny minors. David Delaney also won an All Ireland Freshers medal with Waterford RTC. Galmoym had seven representatives on the Northern Junior team in the Jim Farrell Cup.

Congratulations to Brian Doherty who won a Volkswagen Polo in the Co. Board Co-op Members' Draw. Pride of place must go to the Primary School team who had another very successful year. The club would like to extend a very sincere wish of sympathy to the Ryan Family on the death of Mrs. Margaret Ryan, and to all families who were bereaved during the year.



**GALMOYM JUNIOR - FULL PANEL**

*Front row (left to right):* Noel Doherty, Pat Laherty, Leo Doherty, Peter Ryan, Brian Doherty, Jarlath Duggan, Declan Fitzpatrick, Gerry Drennan, Philip Brennan, Paul Morrissey. *Back row:* Pierce Harte, Sean Ryan, Liam Corcoran, Pat McCormack, Kevin Lonergan, Cathal Doherty, Alan Grey, Joe Coecoran, Shane Doherty, Brian Lonergan, Tommy Drennan, David Delaney, Michael Brennan, Paul Delaney.

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*



**GALMOYM UNDER 14 TEAM 1996**

*Back row (left to right):* Jerry Drennan (Trainer), Eamonn Butler, Martin Phelan, Eoin Phelan, Philip Doyle, Fr. Liam Dunne (President), Philip Russell, James Hickey, Sean Doherty (Trainer), Michael Sherman, Jonathan Smith, Peter Paul Maher. *Front row:* David Lee, Brian Kavanagh, Georgie Hickey, Niall Doherty (Captain), James Dunn, Pdraig Gray, Seamus Dillon, Michael Harte, Thomas Dillon, David Murphy.

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*



*Chill Chainnigh Abú*  
 Congratulations to all Gaelic Games Winners

# TOM BRETT PHOTOGRAPHY

Waterford Road, Kilkenny. Tel: 21441

*Over 31 years photographing the Black and Amber*

# CLUB SCENE

## GLENMORE

### OFFICERS:

*Presidents:* Fr. Barron P.P., Fr. Mernagh O.S.A.

*Chairperson:* Frank Ennett.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Paul Fitzgerald.

*Secretary:* Seamus Dunphy.

*Asst Secretary:* Thomas Mullally.

*Treasurer:* Paddy Fitzgerald.

*Asst Treasurer:* Martin Freyne.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996.

*Under 13 Hurling Roinn D -  
Champions.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

Willie O' Connor, Michael Phelan  
(Captain) (Senior Hurling)

Jimmy Walshe, Paddy Mullally, P.J.  
O'Connor (Senior Football)

Richard Mullally (Minor Hurling and  
Football)

In the last year, our Senior Hurlers won the Leinster Club Hurling Title, winning a great game against Oulart-The Ballagh of Wexford. However, we were surprised by Dunloy of Antrim in the All-Ireland Semi Final.

Unfortunately 1996 has been a disappointing year for the club, with none of our teams reaching a final thus far. Our

Senior Hurlers surrendered their title in the first round to Young Irelands, but were fortunate enough to stay in the senior grade with a victory in the relegation play-offs.

Congratulations to Richard Mullally on winning his second Leinster Minor Hurling Medal. Congratulations also to Frank

Kirwan on capturing his third successive County Long Puck Title. Pride of place goes to the Under 13 hurlers who captured our first school title since 1977.

Plans are under way to improve the lot of Denis Phelan, our hardworking groundsman, by purchasing a new mower for the field.



Frank Kirwan (Glenmore) - winner of the Kilkenny Long Puck Competition 1996

Photo: T. O'Neill.



### GLENMORE SENIOR HURLING TEAM

Front row (left to right): Des Heffernan, Paddy Mullally, John Phelan, Shay Vereker, P.J. O'Connor, Eddie O'Connor, Mark Mullally, Willie O'Connor. Back row: Ray Heffernan, Michael "Titch" Phelan, John Heffernan, Frank Kirwan, Paul Fitzgerald, Jimmy Walsh, Michael Aylward, Pat Barron, Johnny Murphy, Pascal Phelan.

## Mr. L. Duggan



**T**HE death of Larry Duggan severed another link with the great Kilkenny hurling team of the 'thirties. Larry was an outstanding hurler, along with his brothers Jack and Dinny.

Dinny won an All-Ireland junior medal with Kilkenny in 1928.

Jack Duggan played in the famous All-Ireland final of 1931, coming on as a sub for Dick Morrissey in the first game. He retained his place for the two subsequent games. He won three All-Ireland senior medals.

Larry Duggan joined his brother on the 1935 panel, and collected his All-Ireland when coming in as a sub for Johnny Dunne in the

famous one point victory over Limerick in a game played in torrential rain. Martin White is the last surviving member of that great 1935 team. Also a member of the 1936 panel which lost to Limerick, Larry starred in the All-Ireland final of 1937, when a side captained by his brother, Jack, crashed to Tipperary.

The final that year was played in Killarney.

On the local scene, Larry played with Mooncoin. He helped them to county honours in 1932 and 1936.

He was also an accomplished footballer, playing with Mullinavat, who lost successive county finals to Tullagher and Barrow Rovers (a selection from Glenmore and Slieverue) in 1934 and 1935.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

# CLUB SCENE

## GRAIGUE- BALLYCALLAN

### OFFICERS:

Patrons: Rev R. Phelan P.P., Rev M. Delaney C.C.

President: Nicholas Teehan.

Chairperson: Pat Brennan.

Vice-Chairperson: Kieran Hoyne.

Secretary: Pat Hayes.

Treasurer: Michael Dermody.

P.R.O.: Tom Ryall.

Co. Board Delegate: Michael Dermody.

Northern Board Delegates: John Power, John Caldbeck.

Juvenile Chairperson: Jim Neary.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn A - County Champions.

Minor Hurling League Div. 1 - County Champions.

Under 21 Hurling Championship Roinn A - Northern Champions.

Senior Hurling League - County Finalists.

O'Byrne Cup Hurling - County Finalists.



### GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN LEAGUE RUNNERS UP

Back row l - r: Mark O'Brien, Michael Murphy, Tomás McCluskey, Joe Brennan, John Teehan, Paddy Dwyer, Tomás Comerford, Denis Byrne. Front row l - r: Thomas Dermody, Adrian Ronan, Pádraig McCluskey, Damien Cleere, Conor Manogue, Joe Young, Johnny Butler.

Photo T. O'Neill

Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Junior Hurling - Final to be played.

Under 16 Hurling League Roinn A - County Finalists.

Under 13 Country Cup Football - County Finalists.

Minor Football Championship (1995) Roinn A - County Champions.

Minor Football Championship (1996) Roinn A - County Finalists.

Under 21 Football Championship (1995) Roinn A - County Champions.

Under 16 Football Championship (1995) Roinn B - County Finalists.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Damien Cleere, Adrian Ronan, Declan Byrne (Senior Hurling)

John Teehan, James Young, Thomas Dermody, Thomas Comerford (Junior Football)

Damien Cleere (Under 21 Hurling)  
Micheal Hoyne, John Hoyne, Sean Millea (Minor Hurling)  
Micheal Hoyne, John Hoyne, Edward Brennan, Joe Young, James Cullinan (Minor Football)  
James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, Joe Brennan (Under 16 Hurling)  
James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, Brendan Hayes, Patrick Dalton (Under 16 Football)  
Niall Millea (Under 14 Hurling)

### INTERNATIONAL PLAYER

Damien Cleere, Ireland vs Scotland - Under 21 Hurling/Shinty.

The club had its highs and lows during the year. The tragic death of Billy Ronan cast a gloom on the parish and the attendance at his burial was the largest ever seen.

The Minor hurling team winning their fourth county title was the highlight of the year. Another notable success was the



### GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN UNDER 16 FOOTBALLERS ROINN B RUNNERS-UP 1995

Back row - Eamon Delaney, James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, David Harrison, Alan O'Shea, Robert Byrne, Anthony Drohan, Michael Hoyne, Jimmy Lynch, Karl Keane. Front row - John Dermody, Brendan Marnell, Patrick Dalton, Paul Dermody, Joe Brennan, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Teehan, Brendan Hayes, Shane Murphy, Tim Purcell, Aidan Brett.

Photo T. Brett



**GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS ROINN A – 1995**

Back row – Jimmy Lynch, Paul Hoyne, Samuel Ryall, Alan Trayer, Joe Young, Edward Brennan, John Hoyne, Philip Butler, Joe Cody, Robert Byrne. Front row – Michael Teehan, Gearoid Cleere, Paul Dermody, Anthony Drohan, James Cullinan, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Pat Marnell, Sean Millea. Photo T. Brett

winning of the Northern Under 21 title for the first time.

The Senior team qualified for the Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final but put up a pathetic performance in surrendering their title to Dicksboro. They also reached the O'Byrne Cup Final but went down to St. Martin's. In the championship, they led Young Irelands by four points with five minutes remaining but lost to a D.J. Carey goal and, of course, the rest is history.

The Junior hurlers put in some good displays in the Hennessy Sports League and were beaten by Galmoy in the championship on a score of 1-11 to 2-5. They are also to play Emeralds in the final of the Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup.

The Under 16 hurlers gave the hardest game to James Stephens in their grade, losing out in the championship to the powerful city side by eleven points, after they had led by two points at the interval. They also lost the League Final to James Stephens.

The Under 14 hurlers reached the semi-final of their competition, but again, James Stephens won easily.

The Primary School's team lost out to Ballyhale in a great game in the semi-final, thus breaking their chain of appearances in this particular final. They had contested twelve finals in a row. The Primary School's footballers lost the Country Cup Final to Ballyhale by 1-6 to 1-4.

The Senior Footballers held on to their senior status. The Under 21 and Minor footballers both won county titles in Roinn A grade for the first time ever. They were the 1995 finals played earlier this year. The Minors reached the County Final for 1996 but lost to James Stephens by 1-7 to 1-3. The Under 16 footballers lost their replayed 1995 Roinn B County Final to Young Irelands.

Damien Cleere was a member of the

Ireland Under 21 Hurling/Shinty team which beat Scotland in a game played in Ennis. Damien scored 1-2 for Ireland.

Denis Byrne was a member of the Garda Team which won the Annual Representative series. The final was played in Westmanstown, Dublin.

Kevin Cleere won the County Feile na nGael Skills' Competition. He came third in the All Ireland in Waterford and is still eligible for 1997.

On the Colleges' front, Joe Young kept goal for St. Kieran's College in their All Ireland Senior Hurling win over St. Colman's, Fermoy. Declan Byrne, Patrick

Dalton, Tim Purcell and Brian Dalton won Leinster Junior Colleges' medals with Kilkenny CBS. Declan Byrne, Brian Dalton and Paul Cullinan won Leinster Juvenile Colleges' medals with Kilkenny CBS also.

Gearoid Cleere, James Ryall and Brendan Hayes won Leinster Junior Colleges' Roinn B Hurling and Leinster Junior Colleges' Roinn D Football medals with Callan CBS.

The death took place during the year of Joe Brennan and Jack Nolan, winners of County Junior medals with the club in 1946. May they rest in peace.



Kevin Cleere, Winner of the Kilkenny Feile na nGael Skills Competition 1996. He came third in the National Competition held in Waterford. Photo T. Brett

# CLUB SCENE

## GRAIGNAMANAGH

### Officers:

President: Fred Randle.  
 Vice President: Tod Whelan.  
 Chairperson: John Meaney.  
 Vice-Chairperson: Michael Walsh.  
 Secretary: Anna Dunne.  
 Treasurer: Evelyn Blanchfield.  
 Asst Treasurer: Hugh Ryan.  
 P.R.O.: Paul Ryan.  
 Juvenile Chairperson: Nan Brett.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996.

Intermediate Hurling Championship -  
 County Finalists.  
 Minor Hurling League - County Semi-  
 finalists  
 Special Junior Hurling - County Semi-  
 finalists.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

Diarmuid O'Neill, Chris O'Neill (Under  
 14 Hurling)

1996 was a busy year for the club. We are, at present, in the process of constructing our dressing rooms. The job is being done in stages. At the moment we have the building up, with doors and windows in place. There is, however, still a lot of work to be done, with the installation of toilets, showers and the completion work like painting. Much fund-raising was done over the year. We ran discos, cabarets and a sports day in the hurling pitch. We held an auction on November 29th, which helped in raising much needed funds. This year we employed a groundsman to maintain the field under the F.A.S. scheme. There were no trips away this year as all our resources were channelled into our building fund.

Our Intermediate team were beaten in the County Final by O'Loughlin Gaels. A lot of time and energy went into coaching and looking after the team, and we say thanks to trainer, Willie O'Connor and his ever helpful selectors, Jack Dunne, John Meaney and Hugh Ryan.

Our Special Junior hurlers also gave a good account of themselves, only losing in the League semi-final to Dunnamaggin. Our minor team were beaten in the semi-



Referee Eddie Mahon introducing captains Paul Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels) and Jim Whelan (Graignamanagh) at Intermediate County Final.



Goalmouth action from Intermediate County Final.

final of the league by Thomastown. Many of these games are being played late in the year and it is hard to keep momentum up for such a long time.

The Juvenile section of the club was looked after by Nan Brett, who accompanied the younger children to the coaching sessions in Ballyhale. We would like to


thank Ann Walsh, Ken Walsh, Thomas Brett and John Meaney who gave a lot of time to the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 16 age groups.


Finally, the club would like to thank our many sponsors who were so generous to the club for the County Intermediate Final.





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# Record-equalling Féile win for James Stephens

**J**AMES STEPHENS joined Cork club Na Piarsaigh on top of the role of honour when the club won the National Féile na Gael title in June. In winning the local Féile, the Paddy Grace Shield for the fourth year in a row, James Stephens disposed of Clara in round one by 8-14 to 0-1, Tullaroan by 4-5 to 0-4, Emeralds by 4-7 to 1-1 and St. Martins by 1-6 to

0-1. The final saw the Village get the better of St. Lachtains by 4-6 to 0-1.

The team and mentors departed for Waterford on Thursday 20th June and travelled to Walsh Park where they were met by officials of the Mount Sion Club who escorted them to their clubhouse where a magnificent welcome was extended to the Kilkenny champions.

The hospitality accorded to James Stephens by the host club over the next three days was absolutely outstanding. On Friday morning it was down to the real business of the weekend as the Village boys took on the host club in the first round. After an absorbing and extremely close first half James Stephens led by 2-3 to 1-2. On the resumption Mount Sion applied tremendous pressure on the Kilkenny defence and the Village backs did well to weather the storm.

A smashing goal by Niall Bergin knocked the stuffing out of the Waterford challenge and James Stephens took control from then on to win by 6-4 to 1-3. Scorers; Richie Hayes 3-0, Niall Bergin 3-2, Eoin McCormack 0-2.

On Friday afternoon James Stephens defeated, rather surprisingly the Tipperary



Richard Hayes captain of James Stephens receiving the Christy Ring Trophy from Mr. Joe McDonagh President Elect of the GAA after his team won the All Ireland Féile na Gael title in Waterford 23 June 1996.

champions Toomevara, who had been expected to put up a very strong challenge. A feature of this game was the immaculate free-taking of Conor O'Grady, the final score being 5-12 to 0-1. Scorers: R. Hayes 2-1, N. Bergin 2-0, E. McCormack 1-4, C. O'Grady 0-4, M. Harkin 0-3. On Friday night local side De La Salle were next to fall on a score line of 9-10 to 0-2. Scorers: Conor O'Grady 3-4, Niall Bergin 2-1, Richie Hayes 2-1, Eoin McCormack



**JAMES STEPHENS – ALL-IRELAND FÉILE WINNERS 1996**

BACK ROW (l-r): Michael Moore (Club Secretary), Matt Ruth (Trainer), Derek Buckley, Jackie Tyrrell, Conor O'Grady, Kenneth Grogan, Peter O'Neill, Niall Bergin, Patrick O'Shea, Tom Keane (Selector), Liam Tyrrell (Club Chairman). MIDDLE ROW (l-r): Val Malone (Selector) Joe Mernagh, Declan Brennan, David Quinn, Maurcie Harkin, Christy Burke, Eoin McCormack, Liam O'Shaughnessy, Fergal Walsh (Selector). FRONT ROW (l-r): Stephen Byrne, Andrew Doyle, Brendan Walsh, Richie Hayes (Captain), Shane Parsons, David Ruth, Brendan Doyle.



1-2, David Ruth 1-2.

On Saturday morning the semi-final opponents were St. Vincents of Dublin who had beaten Ballyduff, Butlerstown, St. Saviour's and last years holders Sixmile-bridge. In a very close and tough encounter the Village found it very hard to come to terms with a very strong and uncompromising Dublin side in the first half but still managed to lead at half-time by 1-4 to 0-1. The second half saw the James Stephens boys up their game considerably and the Dublin team had to succumb to the better all-round skills of the Kilkenny team who won by 3-7 to 0-1. Scorers: E. McCormack 1-1, C. O'Grady 0-4, N. Bergin 1-0, R. Hayes 1-0, David Quinn 0-1. On Saturday afternoon all the teams taking part in the Féile paraded through the city to Walsh Park where they were addressed by Jack Boothman, Uachtarán of the GAA. Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Dr. Lee, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

Limerick champions Kilmallock, who had defeated Glen Rovers in the other semi-final, provided the opposition in the final played on Sunday afternoon. A huge James Stephens following travelled down to the final in Walsh Park and were treated to a fabulous display of skill, determination and courage by their heroes and after a tremendous display James Stephens emerged victorious by 4-3 to 2-2



**Peter O'Neill, James Stephens**

*Peter is the only Kilkenny player to have won two Feile medals. Only one other player in Ireland has equalled his achievement.*

over a very fine Kilmallock side. Scorers: R. Hayes 1-0, E. McCormack 1-0, M. Harkin 1-0, S. Parsons 1-0, C. O'Grady 0-2, C. Burke 0-1.

There were jubilant scenes after the game as the Christy Ring Trophy was presented to the captain, Richie Hayes, by GAA President-Elect, Joe McDonagh. He presented winners medals there and then to all the panel members.

Speaking after the game, club chair-

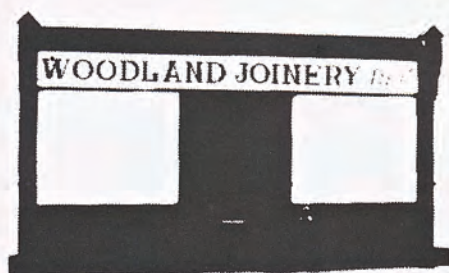
man, Liam Tyrrell paid tribute to all concerned in what was a magnificent weekend for the James Stephens club and for underage hurling in Kilkenny. He acknowledged in a special way the tremendous work being done for hurling in schools in St. Patrick's parish and also the excellent work of Sean Brennan and his Sunday morning workers over the years.

Immediately after the game the Christy Ring Trophy was proudly brought back to the Mount Sion club and the team and officials were later treated to a meal in Dooleys Hotel. After the meal the team bus proudly returned to Kilkenny. The James Stephens flag and the beautiful Christy Ring Trophy were brought through the hurling strongholds of south Kilkenny. Finally they were brought on a tour of Loughboy, Patrick St., Castle Road and Larchfield where a tremendous reception awaited the team and officials at the clubhouse.

Special mention must be made of Peter O'Neill, Kilfera, who won his second All-Ireland Féile medal. Peter was corner back on the 1994 All-Ireland winning team which was captained by his brother Eoin.

Many thanks to the players, mentors, supporters, sponsors, host club Mount Sion and the many people who helped to make the weekend and the victory such a memorable one for the James Stephens club, players and families.

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In aon bhliain amháin eile, nior chuala me riamh an méid gearáin agus cleamhsáin is a chuala me i mbliana. Ta an-chuid mishástacht i meoin na ngnáth daoine i gCumann Lúth Chleas Gael.

Timpeall ar thinte, i dtithe tabhairne, ar an mbus, ar thaobh na sráide – cibé áit ina gcastar daoine ar a cheile, tá na ceistean-na céanna i mbéal an phobail.

“Céard ata ar siúl?” “Cá bhfuil ár dtriail?” “Cé’n deireadh a bheidh leis?”

Cé hiad na ‘gnáth’ daoine seo? Bheul, ón méid a fheicimse, ‘siad na daoine a bhailíonn i gcibé faiche ina mbionn ár gcluichi ar siúl – lucht leanúna ár gcluichi a sheasann i soineann agus doineann o cheann ceann na bliana. Daoine nach bhfeicfidh taobh istigh de na boscaí i bPáirc an Chrócaigh riamh agus nach gcuirfidh sé isteach orthu go ró-mhór. Agus ceard atá ag cur as dóibh? Céard é bunábhar an chómhra? Freagra – na hathraithe go léir a thárla i rith na bliana seo caite.

Ar an gcéad dul síos, bhí athrú ó thaobh Cluichi Ceannais Laighean agus Mumhan san iománaíocht. Tá an-chuid timpeall nach n-aontaíonn leis an socrú seo ar chor ar bith. “Cé’n mhaith a bheidh sa chraobh anois?” a deir siad. “An fiú dul ann? Is cuma cé a bhuann nó a chailleann an cluiche mar beidh an da fhoireann fós sa chomortas”.

“B’fhéidir gur bheag iarracht a dhéanfaidh foireann amháin don chéad lá ag iarraidh an dubh a chur ina gheal ar an ndream eile”. “Cé’n sórt onóra a bheidh ag dul d’fhoireann a chailleann Craobh na Cúige agus a bhuann Craobh na hÉireann ina dhiaidh sin?” “Ni chóir a bheith ag iar-

# Óir is libhse an Chumhacht

SEOSAMH Ó DONNCHADHA  
(Oifigeach na Gaelge)

raidh rud nach bhfuil briste a dheisiu”. Sin iad na smaointe atá le cloistéal i ngach aird. Feicimid!

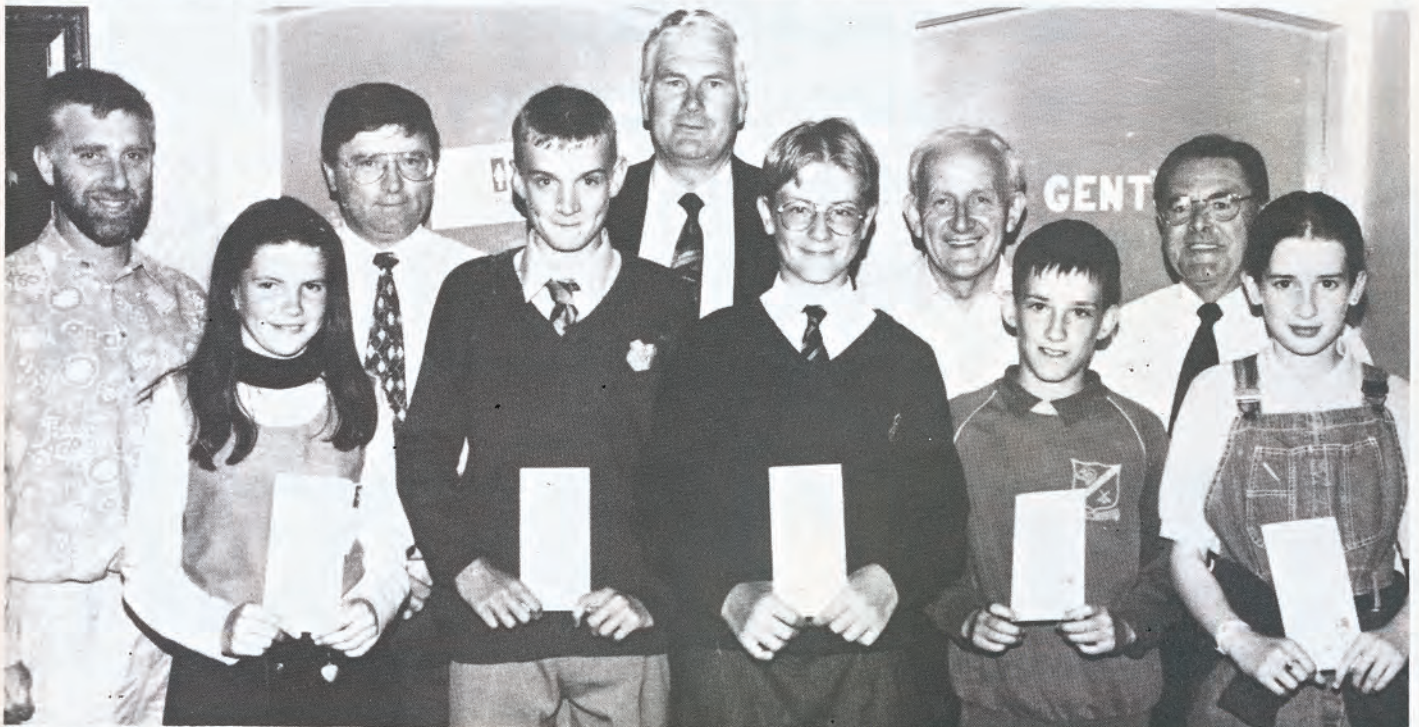
An dara chúis imní agus feirge ná an t-athru mór ata déanta o aistriodh Cluichí na Sraithe. Anois beidh cluichi ó’n dá chomortas is mó ar siúl ón Earrach go Deireadh Fomhair. Tá daoine ann a déarfáidh leat go bhfuil dearmad glan déanta acu siúd leis an gcumhacht ar bhunchloch an Chumainn – na clubanna. “Cathain a n-imréofar comórtais na gClub anois?” Sin an príomh cheist i mbéal an phobail agus imní le cúis orthu. “Cuirfear an Club sa dara nó sa triú háit”. “Is ro-chuma leo ach breis airgid ó na geataí a sholáthair ag an mbarr”. Ach má’s fíor sin agus má dhéanann siad dearmad ar na clubanna agus a ndaoine, cuirfear deireadh le sruth fola an Chumainn. Agus muna sroicheadh

an sruth fola ceann scribe, cailfear an corp mar iomlán. Tá daoine eile ann a deir gur é seo an slí is tapiúla chun cursaí pá a thabhairt isteach inár gcluichi agus d’réir dealraimh, ta furmhór na ngnáth daoine go mór ina choinne sin. Ach, arís, cé atá ag éisteach leis na gnáth daoine?

Ábhar cómhra eile, ach ní ceann nua é seo, atá go mór le clos ná finéail airgid atá a leagadh ar chlubanna agus ar Choistí Chontae. Ó athimirt Craobh Peile na hÉireann i mbliana tá an-chuid cainte faoi seo. Ni aontaíonn éinne le droch iompar, troideanna agus eile inár gcluichi, nó leis an droch shampla a thugann sé don aos óg. Bhí gá le pionóis a chur ar na himreoirí i gceist ach, in ainm Dé, tar eis dha gheata a fháil, le beagnach dhá mhiliún punt astu, ce’n chúis a bhí ann le finéail airgid a chur ar na Coistí Contae i gceist. Ní raibh aon lámh acu insna heachtraí a thárla ar fhaiche na himeartha agus ní raibh seans dá laghad acu stop a chur leis. Mar sin cloiseann tú an cheist. “Cé’n fáth a leagadh fineáil cúig mhíle punt ar dhaoine neamhchiontacha?” Agus arís, cad as a thagann airgead na gCoistí Contae ach ó phócaí na ngnáth daoine – na daoine céanna is a íoc furmhór an dá mhiliún sin. Má leantar de bheith ag baint airgid as ‘tobar’ na ngnáth daoine, tiocfaidh an lá nuair a bheidh an tobar sin folamh.

B’fhéidir gur fiú do ‘Mhuintir na Cumhachta’ cluas a chur orthu agus éisteach lena bhfuil le rá ag na gnáth daoine. Sin iad na daoine is tábhachtaí sa Chumann agus na daoine leis an bhfíor chumhacht i ndeireadh na dála. B’fhéidir go bhfuil sé thar am éisteach leo.

Sin an dearcach a chloisimse, ar aon nós, nuair a chuirim cluas le haer, nó le talamh, na laethanta seo.



Scoláireachtaí de Bhaldráithe – Ag Bronnadh na scoláireachtaí i mbliana. Ar chúil (ó chlé): Briain de Bhaldráithe, Liam Ó Suipéal, Seán Ó hÉilí, Tomás Ó Raghail, Seosamh Ó Donnchadha. Chun tosaigh (ó chlé): Ciara Ní Chineatháin, Cólín de Barra, Cormac Ó Cullinn, Stíofáin Ó hAodha, Bríd Ní Aodha.

# JAMES STEPHENS WIN MINOR FOOTBALL

By TOM RYALL

This year the Iarnród Éireann minor football championship was played in the spring because when it was played in the autumn, it usually went back into the new year because of clashes with other fixtures particularly hurling with finals in all grades taking place. The new format was a qualified success with both the Roinn A & roinn B finals taking place in Nowlan Park on Sunday, May 12th. Eight teams took part in the Roinn A competition and it was played on an all county basis. This could well be the norm in the future for hurling.

The results were: Graigue-Ballycallan 1-8 Kilmoganny 1-6; Dicksboro 3-14 Piltown 0-2; James Stephens 1-9 O'Loughlin-Gaels 0-10; Railyard 4-10 Young Irelands 2-6; Semi-finals: Graig-Ballycallan 0-5 Dicksboro 0-4; James Stephens 1-9 Railyard 1-7.

The final saw the reigning champions Graigue-Ballycallan opposing James Stephens. At the interval the City side led by 0-3 to 0-2. They dominated the early stages of the second half but found it difficult to put scores on the board. The game was still in doubt until three minutes from time when a Tomás O'Dowd point put the Village ahead by 0-7 to 0-3. Both sides scored goals in the last minute. The James Stephens one came from a Tomás O'Dowd penalty while John Hoyne scored for the losers. Patrick Holden, Paul Carroll, Joey Murray, Tomás O'Dowd, Shane Carew and Paddy O'Brien did best for the winners. The losers best players were John



Paul Carroll, James Stephens captain, is presented with the minor football championship cup, 1996, by Joe Pyke (Chairman Bord na nÓg).

Photo: Tom Brett.

Hoynes, Michael Teehan, Michael Hoyne, Edward Brennan and James Cullinan.

## SCORERS

**James Stephens:** Tomás O'Dowd (1-2), Shane Carew (0-3), Paddy O'Brien, Geoffrey Brennan (0-1 each). **Graigue-Ballycallan:** John Hoyne (1-1), Sean Millea (0-1), Edward Brennan (0-1).

**James Stephens:** Patrick Holden, Eoin Larkin, Paul Carroll, Diarmuid Herlihy, Brian Holden, Michael Fogarty, Joe Murray, Tomás O'Dowd, John Cullen, Geoffrey Brennan, Shane Carew, Paddy O'Brien,

Stephen Murphy, Mark Power, David Tyrell. Subs: Shane Egan, Nigel Skehan.

**Graigue-Ballycallan:** Brendan Hayes, Samuel Ryall, Michael Teehan, Jimmy Lynch, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Anthony Drohan, James Cullinan, Patrick Nugent, Edward Brennan, John Hoyne, Robert Byrne, Gearóid Cleere, Joe Young, James Ryall. Sub. Sean Millea.

**Referee:** Tom Anthony (Mullinavat).

John Lockes captured the Iarnród Éireann Minor Football title with a 1-9 to 0-6 win over St. Lachtain's (Freshford). John Lockes got a great start and led by 0-5 to



## JAMES STEPHENS, CO. MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Front row l-r: David Delaney, Pdraig Devlin, John Cullen, Stephen Murphy, Brian Holden, Paul Carroll (captain), Diarmuid Herlihy, Niall Grogan, Geoffrey Brennan, Paddy O'Brien, Eoin Larkin. Back row l-r: Hugh Gannon, Bryan Tyrell, Shane Egan, Ian Morrissey, Tomás O'Dowd, Joe Murray, Patrick Holden, Shane Carew, Michael Fogarty, David Tyrell, Mark Power, Nigel Skehan, Gary Whelan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

0-0 at the end of the first quarter. The vital score came near the interval when Shane Whelan goalied for the winners to give them an interval lead of 1-6 to 0-2. John Lockes did enough in the second half to run out convincing victors. For the record the scores in the Minor "B" Football Championship were -

**North** St. Lachtain's 2-7 Conahy Sarsfields 1-8; **1st Round (proper)** St. Lachtain's beat Erins Own; Clara 2-5 St. Patrick's 2-2. **Semi-finals** St. Lachtain's 1-9 Clara 0-5; Muckalee 2-6 Barrow Rangers 1-5. **North final** St. Lachtain's 1-13 Muckalee 1-5; **South** John Lockes 1-8 rower-Inistioige 1-4; Graignamanagh 2-7

Tullagher-Rosbercon 3-3; Mullinavat 4-12 Kilmacow 1-2; **2nd Round** Mullinavat beat Thomastown; Mooncoin a bye. John Lockes 6-5 glenmore 1-1; Graignamanagh 4-10 Slieverue 0-0.

**Semi-finals** Mullinavat 3-5 Mooncoin 3-3; John Lockes 3-7 Graignamanagh 1-6.

**South final:** John Lockes 2-6 Mullinavat 1-4. Scorers in the final were **John Lockes** John Paul Corcoran (0-4), Shane Whelan (1-0), John Norris (0-2), Ross Holden Keith Doheny, Andy Power (0-1 each).

**St. Lachtain's** John Flynn (0-2), Brian Minogue (0-2), Michael Kavanagh, Colin McGree (R.I.P.) (0-1 each).

**John Lockes:** Micky Roche, Oisín Daw-

son, Conleth Nolan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, John O'Neill, Stephen Byrne, Denis Nolan, John Paul Corcoran, Michael Dunne, Ross Holden, John Norris, Andy Power, Ger Tobin, Shane Whelan, Keith Doheny. Subs. Christopher Vaughan, William Doheny.

**St. Lachtain's:** Tommy Fortune, Liam Cahill, Paul Costelloe, Alan Bowden, John Joe Bourke, Michael Kavanagh, Niall Phelan, Brian Duignan, Ger Dalton, Pat Morrissey, Colin McGree (R.I.P.), Brian Minogue, John Flynn, Darren Burke, John Joe Grace. Sub. Michael Hickey.

**Referee:** John Direen (O'Loughlin-Gaels).



**ST. LACHTAIN'S MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN B**

Back row llr: Denis Long, Michael Hickey, Paul Costelloe, Richard Teehan, Brian Duignan, Raymond Dawson, Pat Morrissey, Ger Beehan, Niall Phelan, David Burke, Liam Cahill, Richard Dalton, Karl Barnaville, Roy Kavanagh, Martin Daly, Colin McGree (R.I.P.), Darren Burke, Ml. Kavanagh. Front row llr: Tommy Kennedy, Jonathan Doheny, Jamie Kennedy, Billy Minogue, Ger Dalton, J.J. Grace, J.J. Burke, Tommy Fortune, Alan Bowden, John Flynn, Brian Minogue.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**JOHN LOCKES - IARNRÓD ÉIREANN MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS ROINN B**

Back row llr: Tom Walsh (Trainer), Joey Gormley, Michael Dunne, Conleth Nolan, Michael Hennessy, Michael Roche, J.P. Corcoran, Shane Whelan, Ger Tobin, William Doheny, John Norris, Davy Kelly (Trainer). Front row llr: John O'Neill, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ross Holden, Stephen Byrne, Keith Doheny, Denis Nolan, Oisín Dawson, Andy Power, Christopher Vaughan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**GRAIG-BALLYCALLAN ROINN A MINOR FOOTBALL R/U 1996**

Front row llr: Joe Brennan, Jimmy Lynch, Gearoid Cleere, John Hoyne, Anthony Drohan, Dermot Hoyne, James Cullinane, Edward Brennan, Paul Dermody.

Back row llr: Alan O'Shea, Michael Hoyne, James Ryall, Joe Young, Michael Teehan, Samuel Ryall, Patrick Nugent, Robert Byrne, Brendan Hayes, Brendan Marnell.

Photo: T. Brett.

# JOHNNY McGOVERN

By PADDY BUGGY



**M**OST famous hurlers are first attracted to the camán by the traditions and involvement of the residents of their local place, by the leadership and influence of prominent people in the area.

Johnny McGovern was such a star, and the influence of his native Bennettsbridge, the leadership and guidance of a school-teacher, a priest, hurlers and supporters in the parish of Tullaherin were major influences on the young McGovern from his childhood through to manhood.

Johnny McGovern's father, Joseph, was a native of Newcastle on the Dublin/Kil-



Johnny McGovern

dare border and worked for the Pilsworth family in Thomastown. He married Bridget Jackman from Barronsland and, having resided for a few years in Kilfane, they moved to Bennettsbridge. Joseph, a hurling enthusiast and a great supporter of Mooncoin and Carrickshock, could talk at length about the Doyles and the Dunphys, and travelled to most hurling games. Johnny, as soon as he was old enough, was brought along.

In 1941, Ned Lyng arrived as Principal of Bennettsbridge N.S. Intensely committed to fostering a love of hurling, and with a keen eye for the promising young player, he entered the first Bennettsbridge school team in the Kilkenny Schools' League in 1943. The following year brought the First schools' title when Bennettsbridge beat Ballyhale in the final at

Nowlan Park. The late Dick Carroll was captain and John McGovern was a prominent member of that team. So began a great hurling career and a great Bennettsbridge team that was to appear in 16 County finals between 1952 and 1974, winning 11 senior county titles. Remarkably, McGovern appeared on all 11 teams.

In 1946, Father Patrick Nugent was appointed as Curate in Bennettsbridge, and most would agree that his influence on the subsequent phenomenal success of the 'Bridge was crucial. From the moment of his arrival, he immersed himself in the affairs of the club and set himself the target of achieving a Kilkenny Senior Championship title. It is a matter of history now that he not only fulfilled this ambition but had seen the club win a Minor title in 1947, Junior titles in 1948 and 1951, six Senior titles by the time he was transferred to Cullohill in 1960. He was, undoubtedly, the master tactician behind the team, and the standards he set were of the very highest.

The practice ground for all 'Bridge teams was the property of Paddy O'Neill, a man of great involvement with club and county hurling. Known as the "Wood", no rent was ever required for its use. The Wood, historically significant in that William of Orange and his troops struck camp there in 1690, is today the site of Bennettsbridge's outstanding club grounds opened in 1989.

On Sunday mornings in the 50's and 60's, the Wood was the scene of great activity as the young men of the area gath-

ered to play hurling. As Johnny McGovern recalls, if there was no game in the afternoon, the players gathered in the field after 11 o'clock Mass, the hurls were thrown in a heap on the ground and Sam Carroll undertook the job of dividing them alternately into heaps until two teams were formed. Sam was one of the greatest club hurlers I have seen or played against, and evidently was also an astute off-the-field operator for, as McGovern recollects, he invariably contrived to finish up on the stronger team!

Henry Drea, Matty Hayes, Dan Kennedy and Michael Kealy were other dedicated and efficient club officials who had a major influence on the well-being of hurling in Bennettsbridge and on Johnny McGovern's hurling career.

Johnny McGovern is widely acclaimed as one of the most outstanding, most determined and soundest defenders in the history of hurling. If I was asked for one word to describe Johnny, it would be "consistency". He didn't know how to play a bad game. Five foot eight inches tall and weighing a little over 11 stone, his was an outstanding career on the hurling fields of Ireland. He was, furthermore, a tremendous sportsman. I doubt if he ever took unfair advantage of any player during his long involvement with club and county.

Johnny McGovern was a star on the Kilkenny Minor teams of 1949 and 1950, winning the All-Ireland against Tipperary the second year. He won a Junior All-Ireland in 1951 and went on to win Senior All-Ireland medals in 1957 and 1963 when he played at centre-forward. He won a National League title in 1962, captained Leinster to Railway Cup honours in 1954, playing on Willie John Daly of Cork. He won five Leinster championships, two Oireachtas medals, played with the Rest of Ireland and is, of course, the holder of a record 11 County Championship medals with Bennettsbridge.



**BENNETTSBRIDGE JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS - 1951**

BACK: L. Ryan, L. Cleere, M. Kelly, P. Ryan, P. Lyng, M. Jackman, J. Wemyss, P. Kelly, J. Dobbyn, J. Carroll. FRONT: R. Bolger, R. Galway, L. Hackett, T. Walsh, R. McGrath, J. McGovern, J. Nolan, M. Phelan.



**OLD ADVERSARIES MEET AFTER 30 YEARS**

*The Bennettsbridge team that played Mooncoin in the County Final of 1965 at the re-union with their opponents of the day. Seated (l-r): Noel Skehan, Martin Treacy, Sam Carroll, Tony Bennett, John Kinsella, Jim Treacy, Paddy Treacy, Johnny McGovern. Back (l-r): Paddy Moran, Jim Dobbyn, Jim McCarthy, Larry Cleere, Liam Cleere, Christy Hayes, Mickey Kelly Seamie Cleere, Henry Drea.*

*Photo: T. Brett*

Johnny's first appearance with Kilkenny was against Antrim in the National League in 1952, and his involvement with the county ended in 1965. He won numerous tournaments with Bennettsbridge who were, in those days, more than a match for the best in the country, playing regularly against the likes of St. Vincent's, Glen Rovers, Thurles Sarsfields, Mount Sion, Blackrock, St. Finbarr's and the best of the Kilkenny clubs in the 50's and 60's. A great Tipp character, the late Jacksie Ryan, recalling the 'Bridge's tournament exploits throughout the county in those days, remarked that "In their day, they built more churches and schools than any team in the country."

Johnny's abundant hurling talents were well documented in the newspaper reports of his day. Some contemporary reports will help convey the esteem in which the 'Bridge man was held through-

out the country in his heyday. From a report on the Kilkenny-Wexford Leinster Final of 1957:-

*"At the end of the first quarter, scores were level, with Wexford attacking deep in the right flank of the Kilkenny defence. Suddenly, over from his post on the left wing swooped Johnny McGovern. He checked the Wexford raid, got the leather into his hand and, hopping the sliotar on his hurley, started diagonally upfield. Evaidng tackle after tackle, he broke out of Kilkenny territory, and as he approached midfield, he found himself in the clear. There he balanced ball on stick in the best egg-and-spoon style and went speeding on. It was an inspired movement which placed the Wexford defence in a nasty dilemma: should they go to meet McGovern or let him come to meet them, or fall back to guard the goal; and it was while they momentarily hesitated that the*

*stocky Bennettsbridge star reached the 50 yard mark and thence sent the leather sailing into the Wexford goalmouth. From that centre came Kilkenny's first goal, and so began the landslide of scoring which engulfed the champions' hopes in such spectacular fashion."*

From 1959:-

*"From his success with the Kilkenny Minor team in 1950 to the present time, the sturdy Bennettsbridge man, Johnny McGovern, has been consistently brilliant. Johnny has, through thick and thin, been top man in that part of the field which has been assigned to him. Even when the result was a foregone conclusion, he was still there battling away, beating his man and sending the ball into attack, as big-hearted a hurler as Kilkenny ever produced."*

Johnny was injured by a very heavy tackle from the late Duck Whelan in the



**1959 BENNETTSBRIDGE HURLING TEAM**

*Back row (l to r.) Liam Cleere, Timmy Kelly (R.I.P.), Seamus Cleere, Paddy Moran, Jim Dobbyn, Mickey Kelly, Jimmy Dowling (R.I.P.). Front row: Johnny McGovern, Martin Treacy, Dick Carroll, Sean Treacy, Liam Hackett, Sammy Carroll, Jack Galway, Frankie Ryan.*

drawn All-Ireland final between Kilkenny and Waterford. Excellent as Waterford were, with such outstanding men as Flynn, Barron, Morrissey, Kiely, Grimes, Walsh, Power, etc., I am convinced that there would have been no replay if Johnny had not to leave the field with a broken collar bone. Johnny played in the replay, but the shoulder was still very tender and he now believes that he should not have lined out on the second day. In any case, Waterford had a comfortable victory.

Other quotations extolling the excellence of McGovern are:-

*"Unlike many noted Kilkenny hurlers from Lory Meagher to Jim Langton and Clohosey, McGovern is not a stylist. He doesn't delight you with the sweetly doubled overhead ball or the well-timed drop-puck, but his virtues are solid and substantial. He is first of all a worker, a dogged and determined bulldog type, active and tireless. In physique he is stocky, but with strength and solidity of chest and shoulder. A quick and decisive tackler, he clears without hesitation, seldom venturing to lift and strike unless he has ample time to do so."*

And again:-

*"If one were to pick out a single incident from his many fine displays over those years which typifies the man's fighting spirit and will to win, one could hardly overlook his astonishing solo foray through the Tipp defence in the dying moments of the '58 semi-final, and the defiant point with which he crowned it."*

The half-back line is vital sector on any team, for an attack thwarted is an attack started. Johnny McGovern was sharp and incisive in the tackle. He never allowed an opponent to settle on the ball. His play was varied and while he was quick to clear his lines, he would, when the occasions demanded, solo into the opposing half to



#### SCHOOLS' HURLING CHAMPIONS 1944

**Front:** Jim Brennan, John McGovern, Terence Hayes, Dick Carroll (Capt.), John Kelly, Jim Dobbyn, Paschal Lyng. **Middle:** Eamonn Jordan, John Norris, Frank Murphy, Paddy Kennedy, Tommy Martin, Joe Galway, Jackie Power, Billy Dobbyn. **Back:** Rev. N. Sandvoss, C.C., Mr. Ned Lyng N.T., Ven. Archdeacon Drennan, P.P.

score, or place a team-mate to finish the move.

He considers that Tim Flood, Jimmy Doyle, Tim Sweeney, Jimmy Smyth and Jimmy O'Brien were the pick of the many outstanding forwards he played against on the inter-county scene.

Today, Johnny is retired from employment and resides with his wife at Bennettsbridge where his interest in Kilkenny hurling is as keen as when he played the game.

A quiet and popular man, he is admired and esteemed by the team-mates and opponents of other days who wish him well, with many years of health to enjoy his gardening and his travels through Kilkenny and neighbouring counties.

#### BENNETTSBRIDGE GOLDEN ERA

- 1952 Bennettsbridge 5-3, Tullaroan 4-5.
- 1953 Bennettsbridge 3-11, Slieverue 3-6.
- 1955 Bennettsbridge 6-6, Mooncoin 1-4.
- 1956 Bennettsbridge 2-8, John Lockes 3-3
- 1958 Bennettsbridge 3-2, Tullaroan 1-12.
- 1959 Bennettsbridge 4-6, Erin's Own 1-4.
- 1960 Bennettsbridge 4-5, Glenmore 3-4.
- 1962 Bennettsbridge 5-7, Lisdowney 2-8.
- 1964 Bennettsbridge 4-9, Glenmore 1-4.
- 1965 Mooncoin 2-8, Bennettsbridge 1-8.
- 1966 Bennettsbridge 4-8, Mooncoin 2-4.
- 1967 Bennettsbridge 3-10, Thomastown 1-4.
- 1968 Rower/Inistioge 3-9, Bennettsbridge 3-7.
- 1971 Bennettsbridge 3-10, Fenians 1-7.

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**I T WAS a journey back to a beautiful time! Patriotic times! A time of innocence! Times when people had little! A time when the nation and its people were galloping to catch up on the rest of the world.**

When the man spoke about going to matches in a "car", he actually meant by horse and trap. Television wasn't even a dream then. The radio didn't come into his life until he was in his early twenties.

Your environment, and the folk who inhabited it, were your influences, moulders of the person. The greater outside world might have been as far away as Mars.

His eyes lit up, his faces glowed a joyous glow when he made the mental trip back in time. It was an education to listen, and observe the body language. The thought just wouldn't leave. It was that this nice, unassuming and knowledgeable man would make a prime candidate for an in-depth radio interview.

I lost him for a moment. His spirit departed the cosy room. He was back in Croke Park after the 1935 All-Ireland final. He was congratulating the legendary Lory Meagher.

#### REVERED

"Oh Richie", a breathless Meagher had said to him after he galloped onto the pitch to embrace a neighbour he revered. Tears welled up in his eyes. For an instant he was back with Meagher swimming in the excited and chaotic scenes after Kilkenny's 11th All-Ireland success.

Tullaroan man Dick Walsh can relive it all as if it were only yesterday. He wears his 78 years very well. Still blessed with good health, and a great memory. And still crazy about the game he has known as boy and man. Hurling is his passion, his passion, his . . .

"I still enjoy going to the matches", he assured, and anyone who has ever seen him on the sideline with Tullaroan will agree. "I didn't know much about other sports until television came in. They used to tell us about rugby, American football, baseball, soccer and all the rest and how fast they were. But none of them can compare with hurling".

He grew up with hurling, more hurling, and still more hurling. The Well field in Tullaroan was their stadium of dreams. A pair of sticks, with a twine across for a cross-bar, was all they needed to let the fun begin.

"They were simple but lovely times", Dick assured. "We had no money, not much of anything really. But we made our own fun and sport".

To this day, when he walks through the fields he just can't help himself. Every straight ash tree is an object to be

# He was a believer in the days before radio and TV

By JOHN KNOX, *Kilkenny People*



DICK WALSH

admired . . . exclusively as a source of camáin.

#### LOST LIVES

He reckoned the Walshs' have been in Tullaroan since the sixteen hundreds. Two of them, James and Tom Walsh left there to fight in Wexford in 1798. They only got as far as New Ross, where they lost their lives.

Proud Tullaroan has been part of the GAA for 100 years. This year the club was féted in Croke Park for the contribution it made to the 'Association. Dick Walsh enjoyed the fuss. He felt it was important to remember the heroes, the workers who have gone before. The people who helped make Kilkenny, and the GAA.

One asked him specifically about three Kilkenny greats – Lory Meagher, Jack Mulcahy and Paddy Phelan. The memory went into over-drive.

**Lory Meagher** – "He was a legend. I remember him well. He played centrefield up to the day he retired. I thought the likes of him was a God. What he said was law. No one ever questioned him. If he said you had to do something on a hurling field, that was the way it was to be done.

"No one ever knew what he was going to do with the ball. One time he would catch it. The next time he would strike it first time. He had a woeful hand to grab a ball. He could grab it from anywhere.

"He was a strong man with big arms, and he was very supple. He had wide shoulders, and a pair of iron hips. I got a shot of those hips once, and I tell you it was like running into a pier. Many a man felt those hips. He was a stylish hurler, and no one ever frightened him".

#### FEARLESS

**Jack Mulcahy** – "He was a fearless man. He was built for hurling. There were no weak points in his make-up. He could strike with either hand, and he was as fast a lightning. He would go into anything".

Dick, who in 1948 won his one and only senior hurling championship with Tullaroan, laughed when he recalled the day he clashed with mighty Mul. It was in the 1947 county final, which Eire Og won by 3-10 to 0-13. Mul. shot the first point after the ball broke to him from the throw-in.

"You won't lay another stick near that ball today", Dick recalled warning Mul.

Then he burst into laughter as he remembered: "We wore sticks off each other that day".

Afterwards they drank pints together to beat the band. They were friends for life.

**Paddy Phelan** – "He brought a new dimension to hurling the minute he arrived. He brought a handling into the game that was never there before. He could almost call the ball from the sky. It was like he had it on a string sometimes.

"He had unique footwork, and he could read the game very well. Funnily enough he played on goal for Leinster before he played for Kilkenny. He was a wonderful half-back. Jack Lynch classed him as the greatest ever".

## CYCLED

Dick galloped through the years. There was a time in the 'forties when he left his own house at 2 a.m. on a Sunday morning to cycle to a match in Tullamore. A blessing with holy water from his mother, and away he went.

He cycled to Dublin for a match once. That was an all day journey, because there was many a stop to be made in the "houses of call".

Horse and trap, bicycle or on the back of a lorry was the usual mode of transport to Tullaroan games.

One of the greatest adventures of all was undertaken when he was an innocent 13-year-old. He went to Dublin for the first replay in the epic 1931 All-Ireland final against Cork.

The teams drew 1-6 each the first day, and 2-5 each when Dick was there. Cork eventually beat opposition missing Lory Meagher by 5-8 to 3-4. This trilogy of gripping games led to an explosion of interest in Gaelic games. The 'Association never looked back.

Dick, although too small to reach the

pedals if sitting on the saddle, cycled into town on his mother's bike. With Stephen Kerwick he took the train to Dublin.

## DICK THE READER

"I felt so proud to have seen all those great men", he enthused. "I was the only chap in our school who was at the match".

And as usually happened in school, the day after such matches, the master, Danny Brennan, asked a pupil to read the match report aloud from the newspaper for the rest of the class. Who was called to read . . . Dick Walsh.

He let the cat out of the bag that he was in Croke Park when he commented too knowledgeably on a save made by goalie Jim Dermody.

He never forgot that match, and he will never forget '35 either. After shaking Meagher's hand, he congratulated the mighty Jack Duggan from Mooncoin.

Mr. Walsh was always involved in some way with the Tullaroan club. He was a selector with the 1958 senior championship winning side.

"We won that championship out of a few houses", he recalled. The Hogans', Clohoseys' and Waltons' backboned the team.

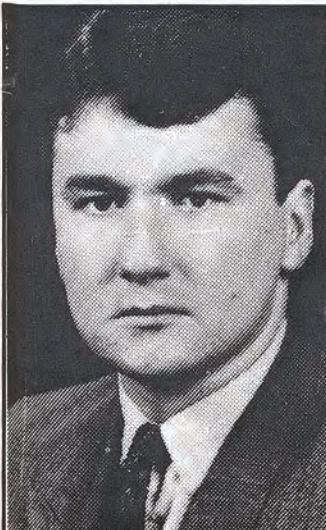
There were many down days afterwards, and it wasn't until 1994 that Tullaroan won again. There were times when he had wondered would he live to see the day when the proud club was back on top.

"There is something there that will always keep this club going", he insisted. "This club was never short. Even when people had little, money always came out of somewhere. There was always someone who would make a contribution".

He could recall the days the club could be run for about £24 a year. Now costs run into thousands.

"Times have changed, but not the spirit at the heart of this club", he declared.

And most certainly not the bright spirit within Dick Walsh, who in his own way, has led a life dedicated to hurling.



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# Martin Meally - a footballer first, a hurler second, or was it the other way round?

By Barrie Henriques

The parish of Clogh/Moneenroe and Gaelic football were synonymous with football, long before that meeting was held in Thurles, or anywhere else for that matter. They were inseparable bed partners. They were soul mates, before the expression was coined in Woodstock (not the Inistioge Woodstock), or wherever the "flower people" congregated.

As identifiable as football was with that "corner field" in North Kilkenny, at the confluence of the Laois Carlow borders, the name MEALLY, was tattooed into the pages of the Railyard history, with equal indelibility.

I met the most be-medalled of the "Clan Meally" early in November of 1996. I thought he was taller, but Martin Meally surprised me. It wasn't going to be the first surprise – there were a few more on the horizon.

'Twas 1972, when first I saw the same Meally play for his club, who were representing Kilkenny in the initial Leinster Club football championship. The venue was the Mill Field in Portarlinton – the same Portarlinton that still weeps. The opposition was the Offaly champions from the Gracefield Club, just across the River Barrow. The Faithful County men were the hottest of hot favourites to win.

Not only were they to win that game, but the Leinster Final beckoned – bar a fall. After all, Offaly were reigning All-Ireland champions of 1971, and the double was coming up in September. The elegant Meally was lording it at midfield, ably abetted by his young brother, Michael. But let's start at the start.

"Before I start", said the so-shy retired Community Nurse attached to St. Canice's Hospital for over 40 years', "I want to say that I was most fortunate and privileged to have played with so many great players during my playing career. I was blessed with many people who helped me, starting with an Armagh man, who was the Principal at Moneenroe National School. His name was Francis Bernard McCann. Every day, he would organise a match at lunch-break in the field beside the Chapel. Mr. McCann was the first football Profes-



sor I ever had" said Martin. "He, it was, who corrected our every fault. He it was, who noticed whether you favoured one foot more than the other when kicking. He it was, who first taught me how to catch a ball over my head, and not in "my waistcoat", continued the affable Martin.

There was always football in Clogh/Moneenroe parish. At the time the young Meallys were developing, the football talk was about the exploits of Cloneen and particularly great Railyard teams of times past.

"There were great pockets of football elsewhere in the county, even when we were going through the McCann school of excellence", said Martin. "There were great footballers in Glenmore, Muckalee, Kilmoganny, Cotterstown, Conahy, St. John's in Kilkenny City and Tullogher. Con Harrington, who hailed from Cork (Ollie's father), was a teacher in Kilmoganny at the time, and that was one of the reasons why players like Podge Butler and Mick Egan were so good. Con knew no other game" said Martin.

"Your father, too, must have been fairly influential on all three of you", I prompted. "Without doubt, he was. Although he came from a hurling background, he was chairman of the Railyard and the County Board for years", said he.

"I suppose it was 'fairly hot' at the dinner table in Massford, betimes", I suggested. "It used to get tough at times, but the people I felt sorry for, were my mother, God rest her, and my four sisters. Football was our life, and everything else took a back seat. When we had football to play, the work at home was often done by my poor mother, and my sisters, Phyllis, Ann, Marie and Noleen", said Martin.

## RAILWAY CUP FOOTBALL

As there was no organised under-age football at the time, Martin Meally had to wait until 1950 to win his first medal as a footballer, when Railyard beat Eoghan Rua (Callan) in the minor final. He was 15 years of age. He played junior football in 1952, and whilst still a minor, he collected his first senior championship medal in 1953, by beating Cotterstown by 1-4 to 0-3. That was the first of his 15 senior championship medals. The Railyard were setting records that all other clubs in Ireland, could only admire from afar. At the time, Railway Cup competition were "big potatoes", drawing upwards of 40,000 spectators to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day. Martin Meally was one of a very few Kilkenny footballers called to trials for the Leinster football team. It happened in 1966. Mick Connolly (Glenmore) and Wat-tie Landy (Cotterstown) were the only

players who appeared on Leinster football teams who had "Kilkenny" under their names on the team sheet. Mind you, the great Seán Brennan, who was an automatic selection on Leinster teams, was a born, bred and trained footballer from the Railyard nursery, although he played all his senior football with Kildare.

#### A FORCE ABROAD

During his extensive Railyard career, Martin, with his brothers, Kieran and Michael, together with many other Railyard men, were permanent fixtures on Kilkenny teams. One of the major reasons why the Railyard club was so far ahead of the rest of the county, was that they took part in noted football tournaments at the time, in counties like Laois, Carlow and Kildare. They "teased" the footballing lions of those counties, and came home, wiser, craftier, better and often winners.

#### THE HURLING CONNECTION

Though there was no hurling in the National School in Moneenroe, nevertheless, hurling had an exalted position in the normal lives of Kilkenny's population. It didn't stop kids trying to emulate the exploits of Langton, Mulcahy, the "Link", Heaslip, McGovern, Jimmy Doyle or indeed Christy Ring. The Meally lads were no different. Like all the kids of the time, they too hammered out an "All-Ireland" victory behind a shed, or again the gable-end of the house. Their "hurling guru" of the time, was Michael Ó Hehir. "How we looked forward to his commentaries on a Sunday", said the elder Meally. "On Saturday, we would go down to King's Garage in 'Comer, to get the wet battery for the Radio charged, for the match on Sunday. When the match would be over, we'd have a game outside, and 'twas then the sport would happen. Even before a ball was struck, there would be a row as to who was going to be whom. The same fella couldn't be the same star hurler, everytime. He'd have to give a chance to someone else. That's what made life so uncomplicated and free for kids like us at the time", he said. The Meally lads wouldn't be short of "hurling genes" either. They had two uncles, Jack Meally and Gerry Delaney (their mother's people) who both hurled for Kilkenny junior teams. Besides which, they both played for Moneenroe, Conahy and Dicksboro. Under the stewardship of secretary, Bobby "Roe" Brennan and the legendary Tom Owens, Martin commenced his hurling career with the Erin's Own club in 'Comer. They lost two Northern titles to the Mick Loughman-trained Dicksboro minors in 1952 and 1953. "They were superb minor teams", Martin assured us. Playing both codes as a minor in '53, the Kilkenny minor hurlers were beaten by Dublin in the semi-final stages of both competitions. Dublin won the All-Ireland football titles,



*The Meally Clan – Martin Meally (senior), Michael Mealy, Martin Meally (junior) and Kieran Meally.*

but lost the hurling final to Tipperary.

Martin Meally was the only player in Ireland to have played minor, junior and senior hurling and football for his county.

#### FIRST COUNTY SENIOR TITLE

Erin's Own first hurled in the senior championship in 1959, having won the junior title in 1958. "Who played with you on that team:?" I queried.

"Martin Coogan was on it. It was a great privilege and honour for me to have played beside Martin for a long time for Erin's Own. Larry O'Keeffe, Edward Holland, my brother Kieran, Tom Shalloe, Mick Rowe, Michael Baylon and your Year-book photographer, Tommy O'Neill. Another man on that junior team was Councillor Dick Brennan. The year of 1958 was a memorable year for Erin's Own hurling club. We beat Knocktopher in the junior final, a final I will never forget", said Martin.

#### FIRST SENIOR FINAL

'Comer set sail for the senior title in 1959. Their ambitions of "making a bit of a stir" were a little tenuous. We are talking at a time when Bennettsbridge were at their zenith. Not only in Kilkenny, but nationwide, the 'Bridge reigned supreme. They were the uncrowned Kings of Ireland. 'Comer made the county final that year. They were beaten by the 'Bridge, on a score of 4-6 to 1-4. The score doesn't tell the whole story. That will be told another day.

Mind you, Martin Meally didn't hold "any grudge" against the 'Bridge. No sir! He married a lady from the parish in 1964. Kathleen Murphy became Mrs. Martin Meally that year. With Kathleen he reared a delightful family of three girls, Mary, Ann and Claire, two boys, Michael and Aidan.

#### REFEREE

Martin's first refereeing assignment, involved a National Football League match between Waterford and Wexford, played in Waterford. In a refereeing career that took off like wildfire, Martin Meally officiated at a huge number of major National games, including All-Ireland Under-21 finals, All-Ireland junior final, All-Ireland minor finals, Sigerson Cup finals, Colleges finals and five Kilkenny senior hurling finals. "If there was one match that gave you the ultimate satisfaction, which match would you opt for?", I asked.

After a few moments, Martin answered, "It would have to be the county senior hurling final of 1980, between the Shamrocks and Muckalee", he said. "I hardly heard myself blowing the whistle, it was that intense" said he.

The *Martin Meally Story* has been a very chequered, rewarding and fulsome story. There have been many questions asked and answered honestly. There were many more questions, I could have asked, but time and space was not in our favour.

Name some of the great footballers that came from your "own place". He considered – I knew that he didn't want to forget any. There had to be no mistakes here. Finally he had great regard for all players, but he had a "great meas" on players of the quality of the Brennan "Durricks", Willie Dowd, Joe and Jim Buggy, Pat and John Nash, Timmy Wilson, Sonny Browne, Paddy and Jim Shea, Tom, Murt and Mick "Cloney" Brennan, Michael Baylon, Jim Hetherington and many more.

He mentioned plenty of great men that hurled for Erin's Own during our conversation, but alas, they are too numerous to mention.

That's the kind of man Martin Meally is

– he is very conscious of offending the feelings of others. Even to this day, he has a great reverence for his father, as a parent, a confidante, an administrator, and as a friend. And speaking of reverence, he idolised the memory of Canon John Kearns, the 'Comer parish priest. "He was more than a Confessor", said Martin.

He was as close to being all things to all men in 'Comer, as any man alive could manage". He was a priest, a confessor, an arbitrator, a shoulder to cry on, a hand to help you along with and a great hurling coach – ah yes indeed, he was a legend in his own lifetime", said Martin, and I felt as if the Canon would arrive in at any second.

Martin is a delightful, if somewhat bashful man. He still looks a little intimidating, but over a long career in both hurling, footballing and refereeing, he was never sent off in his life. He is a strict disciplinarian and during our entire conversation, which was lengthy, not one expletive,



**Fr. Maher Tournament winners 1966** – beat Graiguecullen (Laois champions) in final. Railyard were senior football county champions also that year. Back row (l. to r.) Martin Meally, Murt Brennan, Tim Wilson, Mike Kelly, Richie Keating, Michael Meally, John Nash, Tom Shalloe. Front row: Seamus Walsh, James O'Shea, Tom Brennan, Kieran Meally, Michael Browne, Pat Nash and Danny Dowd.

or swear word passed his lips.

Oh yes, Gracefield did win that match

in the Mill Field, in Portarlinton, at the start of this story – but only just.



**THE MOONCOIN CHAMPIONS OF 30 YEARS AGO**

Front (l-r): Dick Dunphy, Mick Conway, Pat Delahunty, Martin Howley, Jim Lynch, Tom Nolan, Ed. Murphy, Joe Dunhy, Noel Doyle. Back Row (l-r): Jim Byrne, John Howley, Claus Dunne, Martin Delahunty, Ned Coyle, Ned Connolly, John Walsh, Billy O'Keeffe, Wattie McDonald, John Lynch, Tommy Ryan.

Photo: T. Brett



Celebrating great year in 1995 are former members of the Dunnamaggin Club at their Annual Dinner Dance in Langtons. From left: Tom Hughes, Pat O'Neill, Colm Ryan, Tom Walsh, James Treacy, Dick O'Neill, Mattie Mackey, Dessie Lahart, Tom Lahart.

Photo: T. Brett

# IRELAND BOYS HURRAH, HURRAH!

By JOHN KNOX, *Kilkenny People*



It's all eyes on the ball . . . wherever it is . . . in the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship. Players from the left are: Liam Smith (James Stephens), Cathal Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Ciaran Phelan (Y.I.), John Scott (J.S.), Brian Leahy (J.S.), Brian Farrell (Y.I.) and Liam O'Connor (J.S.). (Photo: T. O'Neill)

**L**IKE THE All-Ireland hurling victory of Clare in 1995, and Wexford this season, it should be an inspiration to everyone. The dividing line between winning and losing is not all that great, really.

A lucky break here and there, the right attitude among the players and decent handling of the team could just be enough to throw anyone into the frame.

If you don't believe that, ask Kilkenny senior hurling kings, Young Irelands (Gowran), who annexed their first title this season. In the previous three years toiling in the top division, they failed to win a championship match. Battling relegation had been their lot.

They won a tough match at the start of this campaign. Suddenly their hurling life took on a whole new meaning. The ugly ducklings were transformed into beautiful swans. Instead of strugglers in the relegation zone, they were potential champions.

"One vital victory changed the whole thing for us", insisted 'Irelands and Kilkenny captain, D.J. Carey afterwards. "When we drew champions, Glenmore in the first match, it was a bit of a sickener. But when we beat them it changed our whole season. The win gave us a whole new belief in ourselves".

#### DECENT TEAM

Let us not for a moment forget that Young Irelands were a decent enough team. They were. They have been involved in some terrific matches in the senior



**YOUNG IRELANDS (Gowran) – COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1996**

FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Dick O'Neill, Charlie Carter, Martin Carter, James Fitzgerald, Ciaran Phelan, D. J. Carey (Capt.), Martin Carey, Dick Carroll, Jack Carey, Charlie Carter. MIDDLE ROW (l.-r.): Kevin Fennelly, Brian Treacy, James McDermott, Patrick Farrell, Daragh Phelan, Pat Drea, Eoin Farrell, Mattie Byrne, Cathal Fitzgerald, Pat O'Neill. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Ciaran Carroll, David O'Neill, John Kennedy, Toss Farrell, Alan O'Neill, Brian Farrell.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

division. Too often for their own good, however, they conceded too many scores. They needed a break to kick start their effort, if you like. When they got it, they were motoring.

That was an opinion shared by shrewd team manager, Kevin Fennelly, who saw his charges grow up before his eyes one Sunday evening in Ballyhale.

"Beating Glenmore, and particularly the way we played, gave us a belief we never had before", Kevin Fennelly insisted.

That was a memorable August evening. A streaker added to the fun, and you know, his bare cheeked romp in the park could have had a bearing on the destiny of the Tom Walsh Cup.

The half-time score was 2-6 to 2-5 in favour of defending champions, Glenmore. When the streaker made his grand entrance in the 40th minute, Glenmore were still hanging on to the slenderest of leads.

In the midst of the confusion when the 'intruder' galloped on to the field three times, D.J. Carey sneaked a Young Irelands goal. During a vital seven minute spell, Glenmore lost the lead, and were out-scored 1-3 against a single point reply. 'Irelands roared away to a commendable 3-13 to 3-10 win.

#### A WARNING

'Irelands sent out a warning to all and sundry. They were genuine contenders this time. This was the first time they really revealed the clever game plan that was to serve them so well right through the campaign.

They used a two man full-forward line, this time with D.J. Carey and David O'Neill inside, and Charlie Carter the drifter around the field. Alternatively Carey or Carter got the 'go and play anywhere' instructions. It was an ingenious plan concocted by Fennelly and fellow selectors, Dick O'Neill and Charlie Carter (senior).

That uplifting start was followed by a nervy victory over Graigue-Ballycallan (3-11 to 1-14). Again Carey and Carter were supreme. The semi-final against intermediate champions and surprise packet, Dunnamaggin was a real cat and mouse affair. Negative, containment tactics all round nearly choked the match to death.

Talk about brother against brother. Kevin Fennelly was in one corner pulling the strings. Brendan Fennelly was in the other.

With four nerve testing minutes remaining, it was anyone's game. The score was 1-8 (YI) to 0-11. D.J. won the eventual champions the lead when he threw over a 65. He doubled the advantage with a score from an 85 yards free.

James McDermott added a like score quickly. Carey had another contribution to leave Dunnamaggin 0-11 to 1-12 behind at the call of time.

# CHAMPIONS ONE AND ALL

**TULLAROAN, with 19 successes to their credit, are still the biggest winners of the Kilkenny senior hurling championship.**

In the county final, James Stephens were chasing their 7th success. They won the title in 1935, 1937, 1969, 1975, 1976 and 1981.

Young Irelands (Gowran) had never won the Tom Walsh Cup. The roll of honour reads:

1887 - Tullaroan  
 1888 - Mooncoin  
 1889 - Tullaroan  
 1890 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1891 - 1892 - No championship.  
 1893 - Confederation  
 1894 - Confederation.  
 1895 - Tullaroan.  
 1896 - Confederation.  
 1897 - Tullaroan.  
 1898 - Threecastles.  
 1899 - Tullaroan.  
 1900 - Mooncoin.  
 1901 - Tullaroan.  
 1902 - Tullaroan.  
 1903 - Threecastles.  
 1904 - Tullaroan.  
 1905 - Erin's Own (ccity).  
 1906 - Mooncoin.  
 1907 - Tullaroan.  
 1908 - Mooncoin.  
 1909 - Erin's Own (city).  
 1910 - Tullaroan.  
 1911 - Tullaroan.  
 1912 - No championship.  
 1913 - Mooncoin.  
 1914 - Johnstown.  
 1915 - Tullaroan.  
 1916 - Mooncoin.  
 1917/18 - No championship. These years were combined with the 1916 championship.  
 1919 - Declared null and void when Tullaroan and Mooncoin could not agree on a venue.  
 1920/22 - No championship.  
 1923 - Dicksboro.  
 1924 - Tullaroan.  
 1925 - Tullaroan.  
 1926 - Dicksboro.  
 1927 - Mooncoin.  
 1928 - Mooncoin.  
 1929 - Mooncoin.  
 1930 - Tullaroan.  
 1931 - Carrickshock.  
 1932 - Mooncoin.  
 1933 - Tullaroan.  
 1934 - Tullaroan.  
 1935 - James Stephens.  
 1936 - Mooncoin.

1937 - James Stephens.  
 1938 - Carrickshock.  
 1939 - Eire Og.  
 1940 - Carrickshock.  
 1941 - Carrickshock.  
 1942 - Carrickshock.  
 1943 - Carrickshock.  
 1944 - Eire Og.  
 1945 - Eire Og.  
 1946 - Thomastown.  
 1947 - Eirge Og.  
 1948 - Tullaroan.  
 1949 - Graigue.  
 1950 - Dicksboro.  
 1951 - Carrickshock.  
 1952 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1953 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1954 - Slieverue.  
 1955 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1956 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1957 - John Lockes.  
 1958 - Tullaroan.  
 1959 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1960 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1961 - St. Lachtain's.  
 1962 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1963 - St. Lachtain's (Freshford).  
 1964 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1965 - Mooncoin.  
 1966 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1967 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1968 - Rower-Inistioige.  
 1969 - James Stephens.  
 1970 - Fenians (Johnstown).  
 1971 - Bennettsbridge.  
 1972 - Fenians (Johnstown).  
 1973 - Fenians (Johnstown).  
 1974 - Fenians (Johnstown).  
 1975 - James Stephens.  
 1976 - James Stephens.  
 1977 - Fenians (Johnstown).  
 1978 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1979 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1980 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1981 - James Stephens.  
 1982 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1983 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1984 - St. Martin's  
 (Ballyfoyle/Coon/Muckalee).  
 1985 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1986 - Clara.  
 1987 - Glenmore.  
 1988 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1989 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1990 - Glenmore.  
 1991 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale).  
 1992 - Glenmore.  
 1993 - Dicksboro.  
 1994 - Tullaroan.  
 1995 - Glenmore.  
 1996 - Young Irelands (Gowran).

## CAPTURED IMAGINATION

"The man who would be king was Lord of the Dance" screamed the *Kilkenny People* heading over that week's match report. D.J. Carey had proved himself the difference again.

The final against a young James Stephens team really captured the imagination of fans, and over 14,000 packed into Nowlan Park. They were treated to hurling of the highest order . . . fast, open, sporting, skilful, thrilling.

'Irelands were red hot at the start. Goals from Carey and Carter took them 2-2 to 0-3 clear after only 10 minutes or so. Poor 'Stephens looked set for a right hiding.

Great credit to the Larchfield outfit, they juggled their forces about, re juggled them twice afterwards, and each time got more and more out of their players. At half-time they were back in the race when 0-9 to 2-5 down. At the finish they had had as good a chance as their opponents of winning. The eventual score was 2-10 to 0-16.

The magnificence of the drawn match was reflected in the crowd for the replay, which swelled to 18,000. Again 'Irelands and Carey proved themselves masters at making the best of a break. The Kilkenny star snatched a first half goal from a free that stunned the opposition, and took them 2-7 to 0-4 clear at half-way.

At one stage 'Stephens were 10 points down. They powered their way back to

parity, but in the end they were sunk by a Jack Carey goal (3-9 to 2-10). Supporters had thought they had seen in all in the first clash. The replay was just as good.

## MASTER TACTICIAN

Again Kevin Fennelly proved a master tactician, and he made the best of a depressing sight before Young Irelands went out on the field. The intermediate final between O'Loughlin-Gaels (winners) and Graignamanagh was the curtain-raiser. Fennelly showed his eager troops the depression of the Graig dressing-room.

"The sight of the sad Graig. faces helped focus the minds of the players", Fennelly revealed. "The lads saw the dejection of the losers, and heard the cheering of the winners. They knew then exactly what they wanted from the replay".

As ever, D.J. Carey played a huge, huge part in making things happen for 'Irelands. He had a magical campaign. His goal in the early moments of the drawn final must stand as one of the best ever scored at Nowlan Park, or anywhere for that matter.

Charlie Carter had a brilliant season too. His speed of foot, mind and hand proved a stunning combination. In league with Carey, he dragged and pulled opposing defence this way and that until they eventually broke.

If the heavy dose of C&C sickened many, there was no respite from the other 'Ireland boys either. Pat O'Neill, who battled through the final and replay with a

painful heel injury, enjoyed his best club season since he was a boy. Pat Drea's performances too rose with the tide as the team galloped from one exciting victory to another.

This turned into a great season for Toss Farrell, who started at full-back, and ended as a wing forward, and had a bit of midfield play thrown-in around midway. Ciaran Phelan showed blinding form on occasions, as did Cathal Fitzgerald, David O'Neill and James Fitzgerald.

A great victory for a great team. And one to give encouragement to all others come next season.

The teams in the replayed final were:

**Young Irelands** – Martin Carey, Cathal Fitzgerald, Pat O'Neill, Pat Farrell, Eoin Farrell, Pat Drea, Brian Farrell, Ciaran Phelan, James McDermott, James Fitzgerald, Toss Farrell, D.J. Carey, Charlie Carter, Jack Carey, Dick Carroll. Subs – Oliver Carter (used), Ciaran Carroll, Kevin Fennelly, Brian Treacy, John Kennedy, David O'Neill, Matty Byrne, Alan O'Neill, Eoghan Farrell.

**James Stephens** – Francis Cantwell, Malcolm Murphy, Philip Larkin, Tobias White, Vinny O'Brien, Shane Doyle, Martin Phelan, Peter Barry, Liam O'Connor, Brian McEvoy, Tommy Fogarty, Liam Smith, Brian Leahy, Richard Manogue, Noel Brennan. Subs – John Scott, Brian Dooley, Fran Whelan, Barry Smith, Frankie Morgan, Fergal Cantwell, Neil Lahart, David Cowhig, John Grace, Dermot Grogan, Tomás O'Dowd, Stephen Drennan, Billy Walton.



**JAMES STEPHENS – COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 1996**

FRONT ROW (l.-r): Vinny O'Brien, Tommy Fogarty, Brian Leahy, Philip Larkin (Capt.), Francis Cantwell, Noel Brennan, Shane Doyle. BACK ROW (l.-r): Richie Manogue, Tobias White, Liam O'Connor, Malcolm Murphy, Peter Barry, Brian McEvoy, Martin Phelan, Liam Smith. MASCOTS: James Hennessy and Billy Walton (jnr.).

(Photo: Tom Brett)



## MINOR HURLING

# GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN WIN IN STYLE

## EMERALDS COMPLETE HAT-TRICK



**GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN – IARNRÓD ÉIREANN MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS ROINN "A"**

Front row - left to right: Patrick Dalton, Alan O'Shea, Joe Brennan, James Cullinane, Paul Dermody, Sean Millea (capt.), Gearoid Cleere, Tom Butler, Anthony Drohan, Brendan Marnell. Back row - left to right: Jim Neary (Trainer), Brendan Hayes, James Ryall, Robert Byrne, Patrick Nugent, Dermot Hoyne, John Hoyne, Jimmy Lynch, Michael Hoyne, Joe Young, Michael Teehan, Samuel Ryall, Declan Byrne, Edward Brennan. (Photo: Tom Brett)

**G**RAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN took the Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling championship for the fourth time when they beat Dunnamaggin in the county final on October 6th. The winners had five points to spare at the finish 2-10 to 0-11.

The minor championship has been dominated by these two clubs for the past four years, Dunnamaggin taking the title in 1993 and 1995 with Graigue-Ballycallan coming through in 1994 and 1996. Both the Graigue-Ballycallan triumphs came at the expense of Dunnamaggin.

Eleven teams started out in the competition and the results were:

**North:** Fenians 3-10, O'Loughlin/Gaels 2-9; Graigue-Ballycallan 3-20, St. Lachtains 2-4.

**Semi-Finals:** Graigue-Ballycallan 4-20, Dicksboro 2-4; James Stephens 1-10, Fenians 0-9.

**North Final:** Graigue-Ballycallan 5-11, James Stephens 2-11.

**South:** Rower-Inistioge 1-19, Piltown 2-3.

**Semi-Finals:** Dunnamaggin 2-7, Mooncoin 0-11. Rower-Inistioge 4-11, John Lockes 2-6.

**South Final:** Dunnamaggin 0-11, Rower-Inistioge 0-11; Dunnamaggin 1-13, Rower-Inistioge 0-12.

Dunnamaggin played against the strong breeze in the first half, and looked in a good position when they trailed by 0-4 to 1-5 at the interval. The winners goal had come in the 29th minute when Edward Brennan made a great run and set up Sean Millea for the goal. A 44th minute goal by Edward Brennan was the clinching score for the winners. Dunnamaggin rallied in the closing stages, but could not get the goal they needed to bring them back into the game.

Michael Hoyne at centreback gave one of the finest individual displays ever given in a minor decider and was the star of the winners' victory. Others to do well were Paul Dermody, Edward Brennan, Joe Young, Jimmy Lynch and Anthony

Drohan. Noel Hickey was the losers' best player with Niall McCormack, a competent goalie, Colin Herity, J. P. O'Neill, Brian O'Shea and John Hickey also performed well.

**Scorers - Graigue-Ballycallan:** Sean Millea (1-2), John Hoyne (0-4), Edward Brennan (1-0), Michael Hoyne (0-2), Joe Young (0-2).

**Dunnamaggin:** Brian O'Shea (0-6), Ramie Cahill (0-3), Noel Hickey (0-2).

**Teams - Graigue-Ballycallan:** Paul Dermody, Samuel Ryall, Michael Teehan, Jimmy Lynch, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Anthony Drohan, Patrick Nugent, James Cullinan, Sean Millea, John Hoyne, Robert Byrne, Gearoid Cleere, Joe Young, Edward Brennan.

**Dunnamaggin:** Niall McCormack, Canice Hickey, Brendan Moore, Noel Hickey, Kenneth Moore, Colin Herity, Andrew O'Neill, Brian O'Shea, Willie Kearney, J. P. O'Neill, John Hickey, Niall Brett, Liam Heffernan, Ramie Cahill, Brendan Delahunty.

**Referee:** Paddy Neary.

Thirteen teams contested the Roinn B hurling championship. The results were:

**North:** Tullaroan 3-9, Lisdowney 0-10, Young Irelands 3-11, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 4-4, Emeralds 2-15, Erins Own 1-9.



**EMERALDS – MINOR 'B' COUNTY CHAMPIONS**

Back Row - left to right: Sean Norton (selector), John Campion (selector), Andrew Laffan, Tom Walsh, Eoin Hennessy, Tom Campion, Kieran Rafter, John Burke, Cathal Hennessy, Edward Hughes, Derek Lyng, David Roche, Joe Ryan (selector), Nicholas Walsh (trainer). Front Row - left to right: Niall Cahill, Philip Fogarty, Brendan Cahill, Kieran Joyce, Philip O'Dwyer, Bobby O'Hara, Joe Ryan, Adrian Cleere (capt), Michael Byrne, Michael Moriarty, Ian Tobin, James Kennedy, Michael Power, Ray Moriarty.

**Semi-Finals:** Young Irelands 3-10, Tullaroan 2-11; Emeralds 5-10, Bennettsbridge 0-6. **North Final:** Emeralds 2-7, Young Irelands 2-5.

**South:** Graignamanagh 4-13, Glenmore 0-6; Thomastown 1-8, Mullinavat 2-4. **Semi-Finals:** Shamrocks 4-11, Graignamanagh 1-7; Thomastown 2-11, Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-2. **South**

**Final:** Thomastown 2-10, Shamrocks 2-10 (draw); Thomastown 3-5, Shamrocks 0-11 (replay).

The County Final took three games to decide. The first game in Callan saw Thomastown get a late goal from Brian Blanchfield when his mishit free took a deflection and ended in the net, leaving the final score Emeralds 2-5,

Thomastown 1-8. Scorers were:

**Emeralds:** Adrian Cleere (1-2), Derek Lyng (0-2), John Burke (1-0), Raymond Moriarty (0-1).

**Thomastown:** Murty Hughes (0-4), Niall Nevin, Shane O'Keeffe, Derek Brennan, Derek Lanigan (0-1 each), Brian Blanchfield (1-0).

It was back to Callan for the replay and this time no goals were scored as the sides again drew, scoring twelve points



**KILMACOW – MINOR ROINN 'C' LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS**

Back Row - left to right: Dick McNamara, Pat Gaule, William Kelly, Brendan Kennedy, John Carroll, Francie Walsh, Fergal Grant, Ray Hennessy, Leonard Egan, Conor Walsh, Barry Murphy, Lory O'Hanlon, John Barron, Dermot Haberlin (manager), Robbie Ryan. Front row - left to right: Brendan Maher, John Walsh, Richard Walsh, David Walsh, Peter Mullally (capt), Paddy O'Keeffe, Ian Walsh, Stephen O'Keeffe and Robert O'Keeffe. Mascots - Helena Walsh and Richard McNamara.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**JOHN LOCKES – DIVISION 2 MINOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1966**

Back Row - left to right: Alan Morrissey, Ger Corcoran, Ramie Power, Damien Burke, Denis Nolan, Ger Tobin, Joey Gormley, Conleth Nolan, J.P. Corcoran, Michael Roche, Ross Holden. Front Row - left to right: Paddy Fitzpatrick, John Norris, John O'Neill, Kevin Fitzpatrick (capt), Keith Doheny, Andy Power, Oisín Dawson, Michael Dunne.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

each after extra time. The sides had been level at normal time at eight points apiece. Scorers in this game were:

**Emeralds:** Kieran Rafter (0-4), Derek Lyng (0-2), Adrian Cleere (0-2), Raymond Moriarty (0-2), Thomas Campion (0-1), James Kennedy (0-1). **Thomastown:** Derek Lanigan (0-5), Murty Hughes (0-3), Derek Brennan (0-2), Paul Hearne (0-2).

The third game drew a massive crowd to Nowlan Park. On this occasion Emeralds had the best of matters and were in the driving seat at the interval when they led by 1-3 to 1-1 after playing against the strong breeze. The vital goal came just on the stroke of half time from Raymond Moriarty. The final score was: Emeralds 3-7, Thomastown 2-1. Scorers:

**Emeralds:** Raymond Moriarty (1-3), Adrian Cleere (1-2), Cathal Hennessy (1-0), Kieran Rafter, Philip Fogarty (0-1 each). **Thomas-**

**town:** Murty Hughes (1-1), Dessie Walsh (1-0).

The outstanding player on view in this game was Derek Lyng who lorded it at midfield. Others to show up for Emeralds in the three games were Joe Ryan, a brilliant goalie, Niall Cahill, Cathal Hennessy, Raymond Moriarty, captain Adrian Cleere and Kieran Rafter who was eligible for the Under-14 team.

Thomastown's best performers were Brian Blanchfield, Niall Nevin, Murty Hughes, Paul Dempsey and Derek Lanigan. The teams in the final game were:

**Emeralds:** Joe Ryan, Ian Tobin, Noel Cahill, Andrew Laffan, Tommy Walsh, Cathal Hennessy, Michael Moriarty, Derek Lyng, Thomas Campion, Edward Hughes, Philip Fogarty, James Kennedy, John Burke, Adrian Cleere, Raymond Moriarty. **Subs:** Kieran Rafter, Michael Byrne. The same players figured in all

three games with Michael Byrne playing in first game. Michael Moriarty took his place for other games.

**Thomastown:** Paul Dempsey, Declan Dempsey, Brian Blanchfield, Richard Bolger, Sean Walsh, Niall Nevin, Niall Kiely, Patrick Whitty, Shane O'Keeffe, Murty Hughes, Paul Dunne, Derek Lanigan, Paul Hearne, Dessie Walsh, Derek Brennan. **Sub:** Michael Dempsey. Tony O'Neill played in the first two games. Michael Dempsey played in first game. Niall Kiely did not start in first game, but played in next two games. Paul Dunne came on for third game.

Referee: Podge Butler.

Fourteen teams entered for the Iarnrod Éireann Roinn C minor hurling championship. However three teams gave walk overs namely Dicksboro II, Blacks & Whites and Danesfort. The results were: **North:** St. Martin's 4-8, Cloneen 3-6. Clara 1-10, James Stephens II 0-2



**DUNNAMAGGIN – ROINN "A" COUNTY MINOR RUNNERS-UP**

Front row (L/R) – Leonard O'Shea, Sean O'Neill, Jamie O'Keeffe, David Herry, Niall McCormack, Canice Hickey, Kenneth Moore, William Kearney, Ramie Cahill, Noel Hickey, Donal O'Shea.

Back row (L/R) – Richard Cahill, Mark Drennan, Andrew O'Neill, J.P. O'Neill, Liam Heffernan, Colin Herry, Niall Brett, John Hickey, Brendan Moore, Brendan Delahunty, Brian O'Shea.

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

(unfinished). James Stephens II 4-13, Clara 1-10 (after extra time).

**Semi-Finals:** Conahy Shamrocks 2-13, Barrow Rangers 0-4, James Stephens II 2-10, St. Martins 3-4. **North Final:** Conahy Shamrocks 1-18, James Stephens II 3-7.

**South:** Windgap 3-11, Mooncoin II 0-1. **Semi-Finals:** Carrickshock 2-7, Windgap 2-5; Kilmacow 4-13, Slieverue 2-2. **South-Final:** Kilmacow 2-13, Carricksock 1-8.

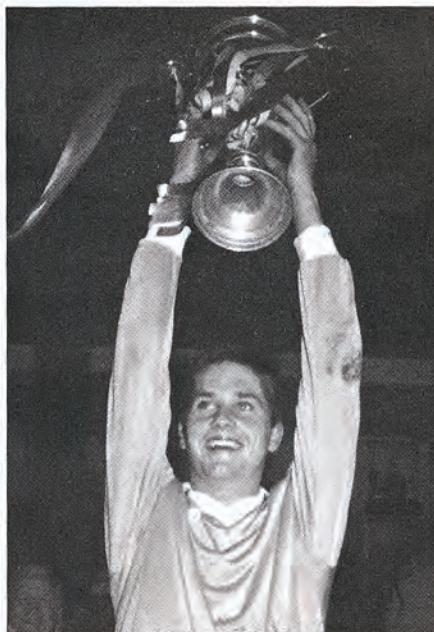
The final took place in Callan and Kilmacow took the first leg of a double – they were later to win the league – when they had an easy win over Conahy Shamrocks on a score of 3-11 to 1-4. The winners led by 2-5 to 1-3 at the interval. A goal by David Walsh within a minute of the resumption finished the game as a contest. Kilmacow had fine players in Francis Walsh the star of the game, Peter Mullally, Brian Fleming, Richard Walsh, John Barron, David Walsh and Stephen O’Keeffe. Best for the losers were Paul Buggy, Brendan Griffith when moved to defence, Conor Brennan, Tomás Lawless and Mark Mooney.

**Scorers - Kilmacow:** David Walsh (2-2), Francis Walsh (0-5), Stephen O’Keeffe (1-2), Peter Mullally, Ian Walsh (0-1 each). **Conahy Shamrocks:** Paul Buggy (0-4), Niall Burke (1-0).

**Kilmacow:** Paddy O’Keeffe, Raymond Hennessy, Leonard Egan, Brendan Maher, Brian Fleming, Peter Mullally, Conor Walsh, Francis Walsh, Richard Walsh, John Barron, Stephen O’Keeffe, Lory O’Hanlon, David Walsh, Pat Gaule, Ian Walsh. **Subs:** John Walsh, John Carroll, Brendan Kennedy.

**Conahy Shamrocks:** Conor Brennan, Brian Heverin, Liam Byrne, Seamus Brennan, Eoin Byrne, Tomás Lawless, Daragh Connery, Niall Burke, John Brennan, Brendan Griffiths, Paul Buggy, Patrick O’Neill, John Darcy, Mark Mooney, Eoin Flynn.

**Referee:** Podge Butler.



**CAPTAIN VICTORIOUS!**

Seán Millea raises the Mick Joyce Cup, as captain of the Graigue-Ballycallan team, victors in the Iarnród Éireann minor hurling championship final. (Photo: T. O’Neill)

The minor hurling leagues this year took on a new format. Previously there were three competitions in Roinn A, B and C, which embraced the teams as graded for championship purposes.

This year there were four groups which saw teams graded not as in the championship, but the first eight teams in Division I, the next eight in Division II, the following eight in Division III and the remainder in Group IV.

John Lockes (Callan) carried off the Division II Final. It was the club’s third league title in succession. John Lockes had a one point win over St. Lachtain’s in the semi-final while their opponents Mullinavat had a surprise win over Shamrocks. It was an easy win for the

Callan boys as they triumphed by 2-7 to 0-3. Mullinavat failed to score from play. John Lockes led by 2-5 to 0-2 at the interval. Both the John Lockes goals were scored by Ger Tobin.

**Scorers - John Lockes:** Ger Tobin (2-0), Andy Power (0-3), Michael Dunne (0-2), John Norris (0-1), R. Power (0-1). **Mullinavat:** Michael Murphy (0-2), Kenneth Slattery (0-1).

**John Lockes:** John O’Neill, Micky Roche, Denis Nolan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Oisín Dawson, Conleth Nolan, Damien Burke, Michael Dunne, John Paul Corcoran, Andy Power, John Norris, Joey Gormley, Ramie Power, Ger Tobin, Keith Doheny. **Sub:** Alan Morrissey.

**Mullinavat:** P. J. Aylward, Martin Knox, John Paul Dungan, Tony Duggan, Paul Aylward, Pat Butler, Seamus Holden, Kieran Laherty, Andrew Duggan, Richard Butler, Keith Madigan, Kenneth Slattery, Alan Wall, Jonathan Duggan, Michael Murphy.

Kilmacow followed up their championship victory by beating Clara 0-11 to 1-2 to take the Division IV league title. It was a low scoring first half, with the Southerners leading by 0-3 to 0-2 at the interval. The switch of Richard Walsh outfield paid dividends for the winners who had other good performers in Paddy O’Keeffe in goal, who made one tremendous save near the finish. Peter Mullally, Brian Fleming, Francis Walsh, John Barron and Richard Walsh. Clara had good performances from Gerry Byrne, Richard Nolan, Patrick Meaney, Patrick Langton, Dan McDonald and Conor Shortall.

**Scorers - Kilmacow:** John Barron (0-6), Peter Mullally (0-3), David Walsh (0-1), John Walsh (0-1). **Clara:** Tom Murphy (1-0), Dan McDonald (0-2).

**Kilmacow:** Paddy O’Keeffe, Barry Murphy, Raymond Hennessy, William Kelly, Brian Fleming, Peter Mullally, Brendan Maher, Francis Walsh, Brendan Kennedy, Stephen O’Keeffe, John Barron, John Carroll, David Walsh, Richard Walsh, Ian Walsh. **Sub:** John Walsh.

**Clara:** Gerry Byrne, Patrick Meaney, Richard



**BALLYRAGGET CHAMPS!**

Jody Phelan, captain (behind right) of the Ballyragget team which defeated Thomastown to win the Minor Division III Iarnród Éireann League receives his trophy from Joe Pyke, Chairman, Bórd na nÓg. Included are: Behind – Eddie Delaney (Juvénile Treasurer), Jimmy Ruth (trainer), John Walsh (selector), John Paul Comerford, Gene Ryan, Mark Swan, Robert Lyttle, Shane Phelan, Brian Phelan, Richard Stone (Juvénile Chairman), Tommy Phelan (Club Chairman), Mick Foley (selector). Front – Richard Stone, Eoin Holohan, Brian Phelan, Brendan Dooley, David Kenny, Eamonn McEvoy, Pat Callanan, Stephen Roberts, Tony Stapleton, Billy Irwin.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**THOMASTOWN – MINOR "B" FINALISTS**

Back – Kane Ryan, Dessie Walsh, Oscar Ryan, Sean Walsh, Patrick Whitty, Richard Bolger, Niall Kiely, Martin Hughes, Niall Nevin, Paul Hearne, Shane O’Keeffe, Brian Blanchfield.

Front – Wayne McMahon, Declan Dempsey, Derek Brennan, Derek Lanigan, Paul Dunne, Paul Dempsey, J.J. Roche, David Walsh, Michael Dempsey, Tony O’Neill.

(Photo: T. O’Neill)

Nolan, Colm Brennan, Adrian Fitzpatrick, Patrick Langton, T. J. Fitzgerald, McDonald, Bill O’Keeffe, Edmond Mulrooney, Brian Phelan, P. J. McDonald, Kieran Shortall, Tom Murphy, Conor Shortall. **Sub:** David Mulrooney.

The Division III final was the black spot on the year, following incidents at the end of the game which certainly did no good to the image of the Association.

St. Patrick’s took their second successive league title with a 3-2 to 0-4 victory. Thomastown were hampered by the absence of Niall Nevin (not available) and Murty Hughes (injured). St. Patrick’s got a tonic start with a Gene Ryan goal inside two minutes. A John Paul Comerford goal helped St. Patrick’s into a half-time lead of 2-2 to 0-2. St. Patrick’s only score of the second half was a Mark Swan goal.

Best for the winners were Thomas Carroll, Shane Phelan, Brian Phelan,

Eamon Delaney, Jody Phelan, Billy Irwin, Gene Ryan and Mark Swan. Best for the losers were Richard Bolger, Declan Dempsey, Brian Blanchfield, Dessie Walsh and Shane Lanigan.

**Scorers - St. Patrick’s:** Gene Ryan (1-0), John Paul Comerford (1-0), Mark Swan (1-0), Brian Phelan (0-2). **Thomastown:** Derek Lanigan (0-2), Brian Blanchfield (0-2).

**St. Patrick’s:** Thomas Carroll, Brendan Dooley, Shane Phelan, Richard Stone, Tony Stapleton, Brian Phelan, Eamon Delaney, Billy Irwin, Jodie Phelan, Gene Ryan, Robert Lyttle, Brian Phelan (B), Stephen Roberts, John Paul Comerford, Mark Swan. **Subs:** Eamon Cuggy, Eoin Holohan.

**Thomastown:** Paul Dempsey, Richard Bolger, Declan Dempsey, Niall Kiely, Sean Walsh, Brian Blanchfield, Patrick Whitty, Paul Dunne, Paul Hearne, Dessie Walsh, Shane O’Keeffe, Derek Lanigan, Derek Brennan, Oscar Ryan, Michael Dempsey.

Graigue-Ballycallan completed the double when they won the Division I

League final by beating Fenians in a top class game in Freshford on a score of 1-13 to 2-7. In the semi-finals, Graigue-Ballycallan beat Rower-Inistioge 8-10 to 0-2 while Fenians beat James Stephens by 1-10 to 0-7. The decisive score in the final was a late goal by Edward Brennan.

**Scorers - Graigue-Ballycallan:** Edward Brennan (1-4), John Hoyne (0-3), Joe Young (0-3), Michael Hoyne (0-3). **Fenians:** Jason Ryan (1-4), Kevin Power (1-1), David Delaney (0-1).

**Graigue-Ballycallan:** Paul Dermody, Samuel Ryall, Michael Teehan, Jimmy Lynch, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Anthony Drohan, Patrick Nugent, James Cullinan, James Ryall, John Hoyne, Robert Byrne, Gearoid Cleere, Joe Young, Edward Brennan. **Sub:** Sean Millea.

**Fenians:** Michael Glendon, Martin Quinlan, Joe Delaney, Aidan Butler, Jason Ryan, Brian Power, Declan Garrett, Paul Delaney, Paul Cashman, Kevin Power, David Delaney, Charlie Doherty, Laurence Ryan, William Cleary, Podge Delaney.



**CONAHY SHAMROCKS – ROINN "C" MINOR HURLING COUNTY FINALISTS**

Back – Paul Buggy, Liam Byrne, Brendan Griffith, Eoin Flynn, Brian Heverin, Eoin Byrne, Niall Burke, Patrick O’Neill, Denis Kelly, Pat Kenny, Gerard Byrne.

Front – John Brennan, John Daley, Mark Mooney, Seamus Brennan, Conor Brennan, Darragh Connery, Tomás Lawless, John Bergin, Pauric Nolan, Davu Bergin. (Missing from photo: Colm Healy)

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**RISING GAELS!**

Managers Sean Brennan and Sean O'Keeffe with their hurling trainees from St. Patrick's parish in Kilkenny.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

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**CLUB  
SCENE**

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**JAMES  
STEPHENS**

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**OFFICERS:**

- President: Bill Cody.
- Vice-President: Sean Tyrrell.
- Chairperson: Liam Tyrrell.
- Vice-Chairpersons: Phil 'Fan' Larkin,  
Willie Smith.
- Secretary: Michael Moore.
- Treasurer: Liam Mullen.
- Bar Treasurer: John O'Neill.
- P.R.O.: Val Malone.
- Registrar: Seamus Kenn edy.

**CLUB SUCCESSES:**

Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn

- A - County Champions.
- Under-14 Football Championship Roinn A - County Champions.
- Under-14 Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament - Champions.
- National Féile na nGael (Under 14) - All-Ireland Champions.
- Under-16 Hurling League Roinn A - County Champions.
- Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn C - County Champions.
- Minor Football Championship Roinn A - County Champions.
- Senior Football Championship - County Champions.
- Senior Hurling Championship - County Finalists.

**COUNTY PLAYERS 1996**

- Tomás O'Dowd, Pat Holden, Michael Fogarty (Minor Hurling).
- Liam Smith, Vincent O'Brien, Shane Doyle (Under-21 Hurling)
- Fergus Gickey, John Grace, Brian Leahy (Senior Football).
- Philip Larkin, Brian McEvoy, Peter Barry (Senior Hurling).

**DEVELOPMENT**

During the Autumn for the first time our new pitch formerly known as St. Josephs was used. Extensive development works have been carried out to ensure a well bounded and level playing surface for camogie and under-age games. This pitch will be a welcome addition to ease the pressure on our main playing surface.

This year too the clubhouse frontage was revamped to include a wheelchair entrance. Raised flower beds, feature windows, lighting and repainting have combined to improve the appearance of the clubhouse.

**GAMES**

We provided the first County Champions of the year on 12 May when the Senior football teams defeated Kilmoganny by 0-12 to 2-4. John Grace went on to captain the County Senior football team. On the same day our minor footballers under the captaincy of Paul Carroll defeated Graigue-Ballycallan by 1-7 to 1-3 to win the Roinn 'A' Championship.

Training had started in February for our senior hurlers under the guidance of Richard Willis of Kilkenny College. After a fine run through the League and Championship we contributed to two outstanding County finals. The Committee of Seamus Kennedy, Fergal Walsh, Aodhán Ó Ruairc and the Ladies committee organised banner competitions, best-dressed supporter and best-dressed house in the parish. The supporters shop did a roaring trade in red and green paraphenalia, hundreds of jerseys were sold and all this contributed to unforgettable scenes of colour and atmosphere on county final days.

At under-14 we achieved the distinction of winning the national Féile na nGael for the first time since 1994, still the only Kilkenny holders of the Christy Ring Trophy trophy.

*Continued at bottom of next page.*



**JAMES STEPHENS - MINOR "A" LEAGUE 1996**

Back - Matty Kelly (selector), Liam Mullen (selector), Brian Tyrrell, Michael Fogarty, Gary Whelan, Tomás O'Dowd, Geoffrey Brennan, Diarmuid Herlihy, Karl Conroy, Dermoty Ryan, Niall Bergin, Brian Holden, Seán Brennan (trainer), Joe Gannon (selector).  
Front - Eoin Murphy, Paddy Hogan, Eoin O'Neill, Ian Morrissey, Patrick Holden, John Morgan, Paddy O'Brien, Joe Murphy, Nigel Skehan, Shane Egan, Derek

# CLUB SCENE

## KILMACOW

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Rev. Brian Flynn.  
*Vice President:* John Dunphy.  
*Chairperson:* Gerard Mulligan.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Michael O'Neill.  
*Secretary:* Seamus Walsh.  
*Asst Secretary:* Jim Phelan.  
*Treasurer:* Gerard O'Neill.  
*Asst Treasurer:* Jim Kinsella.  
*P.R.O.:* Tom Caulfield.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Joe Quinn.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996

*Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C*  
 - County Champions.  
*Minor Hurling League Roinn C*  
 - County Champions.

Treasurer Ger O'Neill came up with a novel financial idea, called the 'Hurling Fantasy League'. Based on exactly the same ideas most of the fantasy leagues in the national newspapers. It created great interest and we hope to run the same again next year, hopefully with more support from around the county.

We also entered a quiz team in the T.C. Tyres/Radio Kilkenny sports quiz. We qual-



**KILMACOW MINOR COUNTY CHAMPIONS R.C. 1996**

*Back Row:* Francie Walsh, Brendan Maher, Peter Mullally, Rory O'Hanlon, Ray Hennessy, Brendan Kennedy, Conor Walsh, John Barron, Fergal Grant, John Carroll, Barry Murphy, Ian Walsh. *Front Row:* (Mascot) Dick McNamara, Brian Fleming, Leonard Egan, Richard Walsh, Pat Gaule, Paddy O'Keefe, Dave Walsh, J. Walsh, Stephen O'Keefe.

ified from the first round in Piltown, but lost the second round, live on Radio Kilkenny. It was an enjoyable experience for our team members, G. Mulligan, S. Walsh, N. Walsh and W. Kelly.

We had an enjoyable visit by the Erins Isle Under 14 hurling team, who stayed for a weekend in our parish during the summer. We hope the young Dubs enjoyed life in the countryside for the weekend. They are not bad hurlers either.

We are in the process of putting a new railing around our pitch and hope to see the job done in the not too distant future.

The social highlight of our year was our Annual Dinner Dance. We honoured the men of 1956 who won the Junior Hurling and Football Championships. A lot of these players hadn't seen each other for years, so it was a very nostalgic night, and also a very successful one for all concerned. Our Minors were presented with their medals for winning the League and Championship Double this year on the same night. Hopefully, we can look forward to a very bright future.

### MINOR GLORY

There was rejoicing in Kilmacow when the minor hurlers won the county final. This is a very special panel in that each member is skilled in the art of hurling. From the tender age of seven years upwards, they have shown exceptional dedication and their mentors, coaches and trainers deserve much credit as they succeeded in keeping the panel together throughout the years, and while have been involved in various other sports, they have always been available for hurling training and matches.

The club is very grateful to this panel of players. Apart from their dedication, they are a determined bunch and the thought of defeat never entered their heads. They were always prepared to do whatever had to be done to get the win in all games they played. It is a tough task to keep this spirit alive and to foster the emerging talent for the years ahead. It is now up to the club to take up the challenge and if it does so, this panel will bring back the glory days of 1956.

# James Stephens (Continued)

*(Continued from previous page)*

They were honoured as the *Kilkenny People/Hotel Kilkenny 'Sportstars of the Month'* for June, another club first!

In the under 16 grade we became the first club to win two championships at one age group when both our 'A' and 'C' teams won their respective championships. These achievements could not have been possible without the tremendous commitment from the primary schools in our parish who continually promote our games so well. The efforts of the Sunday morning coaching schemes and leagues under the direction of Sean Brennan and his colleagues too provide countless hours of quality games and coaching for hundreds of youngsters in our parish.

The Paddy Mullen Minor hurling tournament in July again proved to be a great success, with visitors from Glen Rovers, Ballyboden/St. Enda's, Coolderry and Thurles Sarsfields along with O'Loughlins, Rower-

inistioge and Graig-Ballycallan taking part. The home sided narrowly defeated Sarsfields in the final.

### SPECIAL MENTION

Without our Ladies' Committee the club would be a much poorer place. They have contributed huge efforts to the running of our club lotto which is a resounding success. In addition, they laid on meals throughout the year to both our own and visiting teams. For all their work we thank them most sincerely.

### OBITUARIES

On Saturday 2 November the club lost one of its best supporters when Michael Phelan passed away. He was father of Martin who starred on our senior team this year and Michael who plays at junior and under-21 level. In October James Slattery, father of hardworking committee member Michael, passed away. *Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad.*



*Three lovely lassies up for the county final.*

# CLUB SCENE

## JOHN LOCKES

### OFFICERS:

*Chairperson:* Pat Power.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Michael Lynch.  
*Secretary:* Tom Ryan.  
*Asst Secretary:* Tom Walsh.  
*Treasurer:* E.J. Ryan.  
*P.R.O.:* Barrie Henriques.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996

*Special Junior 'B' Hurling Championship - Southern Finalists.*  
*Under 21 Hurling Championship Roinn B - Southern Finalists.*  
*Minor Hurling League Division 2 - County Champions.*  
*Minor Football Championship - County Champions.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996

John Power (Senior Hurling)  
 Paul Morrissey (Under 21 Hurling)  
 J.P. Corcoran, Michael Dunne (Minor Football)  
 Conleth, Denis Nolan, John O'Neill  
 (South Kilkenny Selections)

The year of 1996 will be written into the club annals as the year that promised so much, yet culminated with the worst scenario of all - relegation to Intermediate hurling for 1997.



**JOHN LOCKES SENIOR HURLING PANEL 1996**

*Front Row (l-r): Kevin Coffey, Andy Power, Seán Hogan, John Power, Stuart Donovan, Paul Morrissey, Liam Egan, P.J. Coady, Jack Lynch, Adrian O'Sullivan. Back Row (l-r): David Lynch, Denis Nolan, Colm Nolan, J.P. Corcoran, Donal Maher, Tommy Hennessy, David Cahill, Mick Lynch, Nigel Donovan, Conleth Nolan, Jim Lynch, Declan Roche, Robert Jackman.*

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

The Lockes opened their campaign with a nail biting one point win over Mooncoin. A leaky defence cost them dearly against the Fenians in the next round, but they redeemed themselves with a gritty performance against Dunnamaggin. A postponed third round win in the new Kilmanagh Complex, had the team near the top of the table and flying. Trainer, Bobby Jackman, had his players in a buoyant, optimistic mood. However, the holiday month (August) took a terrible toll on the entire effort. Facing a Gowran team, minus D.J. Carey, all that was needed was a draw. They didn't get it and so were back in the melting pot for the first round of the championship.

St. Martin's were our first round opponents. The Coon/Muckalee/Ballyfoyle men, without the services of Aidan Lawlor, once more finished the Lockes' aspirations. The four teams left fighting in the relegation zone were Glenmore, Tullaroan, Erin's Own and Callan. We 'pulled' Tullaroan in the first match. We should have 'taken' them but we didn't. The final game was against Erin's Own. After two extraordinary 'scraps', both of which Callan should have won, by common consent, we finally capitulated and will do our hurling in the intermediate grade in 1997.

Our Special Junior team were beaten by Dunnamaggin in the Southern Final, but have qualified for the Southern League Final against the same opposition.

Our Minor team were beaten by the Rower-Inistioge in the Roinn A championship, but managed to win the Division 2 League Title. They also won their Minor Football Championship.

The Under 16 team were very young and were beaten by Mooncoin in the first round of the championship. Our Under 14 team lost out in a three-way play-off, with Dunnamaggin and Johnstown, at the semi-final stages of the Roinn B championship.

Our Under 11's played in the 'Camant' competition, and won their division, collecting their medals, after a terrific weekend of hurling in Nowlan Park.

Our Under 12 and Under 13 teams took part in tournaments and blitzes, playing a lot of hurling.

Our very young Under 21 team had a good South campaign, but lost in the final to Piltown.

During the year, Jim Power passed away, and we extend the sympathy of the entire club to his sons, Pat (Club Chairman), Michael, Jim, John, and Edmond and daughter Eileen.

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# CLUB SCENE

## LISDOWNNEY

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996.

*Under 16 Hurling Championship  
Roinn C - County Champions.  
Under 14 Hurling Championship  
Roinn B - County Finalists.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

Ollie Blanchfield (Under 21 Hurling)

Lisdownney juveniles had mixed fortunes during their 1996 campaigns. For the first time in many years, the Under 13 team failed to reach the knock out stages of the league (Roinn C).

The Under 14 team fared better. They were beaten by Cloneen in the play-off stages of the Supermac's League. In the championship campaign, they had good wins over Barrow Rangers, Cloneen and Blacks and Whites to capture the Northern Title. They were then unfortunate to come up against a very strong Carrickshock team in the county final, almost a repeat of last year's Under 13 Final.

Lisdownney played hosts to St. Oliver Plunkett's, Dublin on June 15th. and 16th. as part of Feile Iomana Laighean.

### LISDOWNNEY COCA-COLA SEVENS.

This was the 15th. year of the highly popular, Lisdownney Coca-Cola Sevens, held during September. County Chairman, John Healy, described it as one of the most important and enduring competitions for the young hurlers of the future. He was speaking at the presentation of trophies on Finals day. Other officials in attendance were Pat Dunphy (Co. Sec.), Barry Hickey (Dev. Officer), Tom Ryall (Bord na nOg Sec.) and Jim Freeman (Chairman Kilkenny Supporters' Club).

Thirty two teams from, Kilkenny, Waterford, Tipperary, Galway, Laois, Kildare, Carlow and Wicklow participated. The main competition was for the Sweeney Cup and was won by a very

promising Tullaroan, who beat Moycarkey (Tipperary) in the final.

The first round losers played for the Kilkenny Supporters' Club Shield. In the final Mount Sion (Waterford) beat host club, Lisdownney.

The third competition for second round losers, for the Gathabawn Cup and Hennessy Sports' Medals was won by Dicksboro who beat Meelick-Eyre court (Galway) in the final.

In the first two competitions, both winners and runners-up received Coca-Cola Trophies. There was also a special Coca-Cola Trophy for Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan) who got the Best Player Award.

The Parish Sevens was also a great

success. Six teams took part and, in the final, Declan Tallis' team beat Noel Dowling's team by a single point in a very exciting game.

Secretary, Larry Hamilton thanked all the County Board officials who attended, the very efficient young referees, Oisín Breathnach, Brian O'Flynn and Dermot Mulhall, the Ladies' Committee and Club members.

He had a special word of thanks for sponsors, Coca-Cola, Kilkenny Supporters' Club, Hennessy Sports and Sweeney Brothers.

Organisers for the Lisdownney Coca-Cola Sevens are Larry Hamilton (Secretary), Tommy Maher, Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.) and Eamonn Nolan



**LISDOWNNEY COCA-COLA SEVENS, 1996. PARISH SEVENS WINNERS DECLAN TALLIS TEAM.**  
*Included: Declan Tallis (Captain), Seamus Nolan, Peter Dowling, Alan Ruth, Peter Bergin, David Buckley, Liam Bergin. Back row: Eamon Nolan (Coca-Cola), Richard Marum (Vice-Chairman Lisdownney GAA), John Healy (Co. Chairman), Eamon Dunne (Coca-Cola Sevens PRO), Rev. S. McEvoy PP.*



**TULLAROAN UNDER 13 TEAM SWEENEY CUP WINNERS AT LISDOWNNEY COCA-COLA SEVENS**  
*Included: Richard Butler, Tommy Walsh, Eddie Campion, Sean Glennon, Michael Walsh, Nicholas Maher, Stephen Maher, Chris Maher, Niall Ronan, Shane Hennessy (Captain). Back: Eamon Nolan (Coca-Cola), Bobby Sweeney, Ned Kennedy and Tom Cleere (Tullaroan), Eamon Dunne (Sevens PRO), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.), John Healy (Chairman Co. Board)*



**LISDOWNNEY COCA-COLA SEVENS, 1996**  
*Left to right: Richard Marum (Lisdownney Vice-Chairman), Kieran Costelloe (Asst. Secretary), Eamon Nolan (Coca-Cola), Rev. S. McEvoy PP, Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan, Best Player Award), John Healy (Co. Chairman), Larry Hamilton (Coca-Cola Sevens Sec.), Jim Freeman (Chairman Kilkenny Supporters Club), Eamon Dunne (Coca-Cola Sevens PRO).*

# CLUB SCENE

## MOONCOIN

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Canon Francis Grace P.P.  
*Chairperson:* John Crowley.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Billy O'Keefe.  
*Secretary:* Pat Kinsella.  
*Asst Secretary:* David Phelan.  
*Treasurer:* John Walsh.  
*P.R.O.:* Paddy Crowley.  
*Irish Officer:* Edmond Quinn.  
*Delegate Co. Board:* Eugene Dunphy.  
*Delegate Southern Board:* Nicholas Henneby.  
*First Aid Officer:* Eddie O'Hara.  
*Groundsman:* Eamon Holden.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996.

*Special Junior Hurling 'A'*  
*Championship - County Champions*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996.

Ger Kirwan, Eddie Mackey (Minor Hurling)  
 Michael Purcell, Eamon Mackey (Under 21 Hurling)

Pride of place this year goes to our Special Junior A Team who won the County Championship. They also reached the semi-final of the league. The Special Junior B Team beat Tullogher-Rosbercon, and drew with Thomastown in the league but lost their championship match to Tullogher.

The Senior Hurling Team performed very well this year. The team reached the semi-final of the league, losing to Graigue-Ballycallan after a poor showing. However, they came good for their quarter-final championship clash with James Stephens. The first quarter of the game was a disastrous one for Mooncoin, going seven points behind, but they kept plugging away and forced a draw. In a tough and tense replay, we failed by the narrowest of margins to beat James Stephens.

Our Under 21 team has reached the Southern Final.

In football, we reached the semi-final of



### OBITUARY

#### Sean Tyler

Last August a great clubman and friend passed to his eternal reward. Sean was treasurer of the Juvenile section for many years and also a selector. Sean was also a trojan worker for his parish. The attendance at his funeral bore full testimony to the respect in which he was held by all in Mooncoin and beyond. His passing was mourned by his many friends. Sympathy is extended to his wife Winnie, sons Mark, Sean, Liam and brother Paul.



### MOONCOIN LEAGUE SEMI-FINALISTS 1996

Front row (left to right): Domo Connolly, Ger Kirwan, Mark Tyler, John Mahon, Billy Quinn, John Fitzgerald, Eamonn Mackey. Back row: Joe Murphy, Tom Murphy, Pat Hogan, Eddie Crowley, Pat Doyle, Michael Purcell, Liam Walsh, Michael Walsh.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill



### MOONCOIN UNDER 11 1996

Front row (left to right): Stephen Murphy, Derek Phelan, Joseph O'Hanlon, Darren Treacy, Liam Henneby, Michael O'Hanlon, Patrick Kinsella, Michael Kinsella, Sean Wall. Back row: Noel Delahunty, Daniel Sinnott, Keith Kirwan, Andrew Walsh, Michael Jones, Thomas O'Hanlon, Paul Norris, Kevin Haley, Cathal O'Keefe, Ger Purcell, Paul O'Neill, Ray Wall.

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the Intermediate Championship, and the same stage was reached in the Special Junior Championship.

Our Minor footballers lost in the first round, while the Minor hurlers were beaten by two points by Dunnamaggin.

On the first of Decémbér last year, the Club had a re-union with the players and officials of Bennettsbridge, as both teams had participated in the 1965 Senior Hurling Final.

Ned Quinn was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the County Board. Tom O'Hanlon was elected Chairman of the Football Board. Dick Dunphy was elected Treasurer of the County Board and Tommy Delahunty was re-elected Vice Chairman of Bord na n-Og.

Our sincere sympathies to all who suffered bereavements during the year.

In juvenile matters, it was a busy year with all teams involved in their various competitions.

The Under 10 hurlers took part in a ground hurling blitz in Waterford, where they were successful in the majority of their games. The Under 11 team were defeated by the narrowest of margins by Ballygunner in the final of the W.C.L., in a fantastic game of hurling. They also took part in the Camant competition and finished second out of 32 teams.

The Under 12 hurlers were beaten by Slieverue in the final of the Garda Tournament, in yet another great game. The Primary School's Teams had a good year in both hurling and football, winning most of the games they played.

The Under 14 team were beaten by Emeralds in the quarter final of the championship, after a replay. The Under 16 team won their first round clash with Piltown but were defeated by John Lockes in the next round.

The Club would like to express sympathy to the Tyler Family on the death of Sean, who will be sadly missed by them and by the Juvenile Club.

The Juvenile Officers were: Chairman:

Paddy Crowley, Vice Chairman: Eamon Holden, Secretary: Betty Power, Treasurer: Eamon Delahunty, P.R.O.: Tom O'Hanlon, Bord na nOg Rep.: James Delahunty, Schools' Board Rep.: Pat Duggan.



#### JERSEY PRESENTATION

(Left to right): Joe Dunphy (Trainer), Pat Kinsella (Secretary), John Crowley (Chairman), Joe Wall (Selector), Billy Kelly (Sponsor), Billy O'Keeffe (Vice-Chairman), Eamon Holden (Caretaker and Groundsman).



#### MOONCOIN UNDER 12

Front row (left to right): Richard Hogan, Thomas O'Hanlon, Ray Wall, Thomas O'Brien, Keith Kirwan, Daniel Sinnott, Wayne Kelly, Cathal O'Keeffe. Back row: Bill Quinn Shane Nolan, Dick Howley, Jonathan Webster, Andrew Walsh, Nicholas Delahunty, Anton Lennon, Michael Jones, Eoin O'Keeffe, Ger Purcell, Paul Norris, Paul O'Neill.



#### SUMMER CAMP IN O'LOUGHLIN'S

Adrian Ronan presents Summer Camp T-Shirts to the boys and girls at a Summer Camp in O'Loughlin Gaels Club. Looking on is co-ordinator John Knox, N.T., and Noel Power, N.T.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

# CLUB SCENE

## O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

### OFFICERS:

Chairperson: Eamon Doyle.  
 Vice-Chairperson: Tom Crowe.  
 Secretary: Gerry Deegan.  
 Treasurer: Sean Casey.  
 P.R.O.: Gerry Tyrrell.  
 Juvenile Chairperson: John Skehan.  
 Hurling Officer: Michael Nolan.  
 Development Officer: Seanie Tyrrell.  
 Social Officer: Sam Geoghegan.  
 Pavilion Officer: Ned Brennan.  
 Groundsman: Tommy Roche.  
 Membership Officer: John Direen.  
 Handball Officer: Anthony Bergin.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996

Intermediate Hurling Championship -  
 County Champions.  
 Junior Football Championship -  
 County Champions.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996

Andy Comerford (Senior Hurling)  
 Kevin Cleere, Michael Holohan, Barry  
 Power (Junior Hurling)  
 Alan O'Brien (Under 14 Hurling  
 Captain)  
 Brian Murphy, Mark Phelan (Under 16  
 Hurling)  
 Sean Dowling (Minor Hurling)

Pride of place in the club went to the Intermediate Team who won the county title and put the team into the senior grade for the first time since 1981. This was a remarkable achievement considering we only came up from Junior last year. The team also contested the League Final, but lost to a last minute penalty to Clara. Their only other defeat in the league was also to Clara, but they overturned these results in beating Clara in the championship semi-final.

The Junior Footballers provided another county championship when they captured the Junior Cup in a final against Carrickshock. The team was captained by Benny Cleere. Well done to selectors Michael Nolan, Jim O'Hara and Martin Brennan on their fine wins.



Presentation to Con on being elected Irish Handball Association President - Back Row: Tom Walsh, Leinster Chairman; Anthony Bergin, O'Loughlin Gaels; Lorcan Roche, Irish Handball Council; Jim King, National Coach. Front Row: Eamon Doyle, O'Loughlin's Chairman; Con Moore, President Irish Handball Association; Seán McEntee, outgoing President.



### GREETINGS EXCHANGED

Ken Dunphy (Carrickshock) and Benny Cleere (O'Loughlins) exchange greetings before the County Junior Football Final. Referee is Ger O'Grady.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill

The Special Juniors were beaten by the last puck of the game in the championship by Tullaroan. The same opposition also beat them in the league semi-final.

The Under 21 team went out of the championship in the first round, losing to Dicksboro.

The Juvenile Section of the club continues to be one of the busiest sections of the club. The lack of silverware, this year, does not reflect the amount of work done.

Sunday morning leagues continue to be a huge success. The Under 10's relinquished their All-Ireland crown in Limerick this year, but not without a fight. After winning their group, they lost to St. Rynagh's (Offaly) in the semi-final on a scoreline of 4-1 to 2-4. The Under 11 team won their section of the Camant competition.

The Under 14 team also relinquished their county titles this year, but with most



He's Our Daddy . . . Paul Cleere, captain of O'Loughlin's, shares his "dream" with his children.

Photo: T. Brett



**O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1996**

Back Row (l-r): Niall Lanigan, B. Kelly, J. Holohan, D. Ralph, P. Fitzpatrick, J. Foster, D. Ward, W. O'Neill, K. McCormack, J. Daly, B. Daly, M. Barcow, M. Doyle, M. Bolger. Front Row (l-r): M. Holohan, K. Cleere, T. Doyle, B. Buckley, B. Cleere, P. Cleere, D. Ronan, A. Comerford, R. Stephenson, D. Doheny.

of the team under age for next year, there is hope of better success. Alan O'Brien captained the County Under 14 team in the Tony Forristal Tournament.

The Under 16 squad had a great league campaign, qualifying for the league semi-final. Here they met Graigue-Ballycallan who got the better of them. The same teams also met in the championship with the Graigue-Ballycallan boys coming out on top again. Congratulations to Ger O'Brien and Brian Murphy on captaining their respective C.B.S. teams to Leinster titles this year.

The minors qualified for the league quarter-final where they were beaten by the Rower-Inistioge. In the championship, they went out at the first hurdle to Johnstown/Galmoy. Sean Dowling, Alan Geoghegan and Brian Holohan all won All-Ireland Colleges Medals with St.

Kieran's College. Sean Dowling also won the St. Kieran's Sports Award and Juvenile Player of the Year in the Club.

The handball section of the club had a very fruitful year with over eight All-Irelands coming to the club.

Eddie Leahy brought home five of these titles along with the Irish Open Title. Timmy Clifford won two All-Irelands for the club and will represent Ireland at the Under 17 World Championships in the U.S.A. next year. The Club team of Eddie Leahy, Joe Daly, Paul Smith and Con Moore captured the All-Ireland Club Title.

Congratulations to Con Moore who was elected President of the Handball Council of Ireland.

The club would like to extend deepest sympathies to club members who suffered bereavement in the past year.



Terry Lyons (Banqueting Manager) at the presentation of the Newpark Hotel sponsored "O'Loughlin's Man of the Match" Award to Paul Cleere, after winning the Intermediate Championship. Picture shows (from left): Eamonn Doyle (Chairman), Paul Cleere and Michael Nolan (Trainer).

# CLUB SCENE

## PILTOWN

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. P. Moore P.P.

*Vice Presidents:* Canon Woods, Fr. L. Dunne.

*Chairperson:* Dan Kenny.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Bill Costelloe

*Secretary:* Jimmy Walsh.

*Asst Secretary:* Michael Brennan.

*Treasurer:* Ed Power.

*Asst Treasurer:* Liam Kearns.

*P.R.O.:* Tommy Falconer, Eddie Blackmore.

*Irish Officer:* Liam Ryan.

*Juvenile Chairperson:* Bill Costelloe.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996

*Junior Hurling Championship - County Champions.*

*All County Junior Hurling League - County Finalists.*

*Intermediate Football Championship - Semi-finalists.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996

Michael Gordon (Minor Hurling and Football)

Liam Kenny (Senior Football)

Tadhg Kenny (Under 21 Football)

James Norris (Under 16 Hurling)

October 13th was a Red Letter day for Piltown when our hurlers landed their second Junior Hurling Championship Title, defeating Dicksboro by 0-11 to 1-3 in Nowlan Park. Considering that the same team had lost the All County Junior Hurling League Final to a late Galmoy goal, this was all the more praiseworthy and more than compensated for that setback.

Great credit is due to the panel of 26 players, selectors, Pat Long and Gerry Kenny, trainer, Maurice Mason and to hard working Club Chairman, Dan Kenny. They gave much enjoyment to the parish and brought much pride to the parish. Four of the team also won medals in 1981. The survivors from the first Junior win were Michael Long, John Joe Long, Pat Long and Jim Norris.

On the football front, the narrow losses of two intermediate finals in succession seemed to take its toll and a few players didn't appear to have the usual appetite. The team did qualify for the semi-finals,



**SOUTH CHAMPIONS - PILTOWN**

*Piltown's captain, Jim Power, collects the awards on behalf of his team from the Chairman of the South Board, Andy Aylward.*

*Photo: Tommy Neill*

but gave best to a strong Clara side. Perhaps they will rise to the occasion in 1997.

The Under 21 Hurlers have qualified for the Southern semi-final.

The club again ran another successful Niall O'Brien Parish League and victory went to Club Captain, Jim Power's well balanced team.

### OFF THE FIELD!

Piltown were again the leading ticket sellers in the County Board Draw. Ground improvements during the year saw the erection of speed limits and safety signs on the entrance roads, plus the erection of the safety railing at the corner of the juvenile pitch. New goalposts were erected on both pitches. Currently under way are the renewal of nets behind the goals of the main pitch and the completion of the dressing rooms in the back field. It is also planned to have a new scoreboard before the start of the 1997 season.

The G.A.A. complex continues to grow in popularity, with increased activity in handball, squash, racquetball and the gymnasium. The function room saw increased activity with many successful and enjoyable nights for various parish activities. The Thursday night Progressive 30's continues to grow in popularity.

Major work on the pitch and putt course early in the year raised the quality of the greens, and there has been a large increase in usage.

The club would like to sincerely thank those who provided sponsorship during

the year, and trust that they receive the support they so richly deserve.

### BORD NA NOG

At minor level, despite a few good showings in the league, against Roinn B teams, Piltown were out of their depth in Roinn A and bowed out of the championship to the Rower-Inistioge.

The Under 16 hurlers were a committed bunch and trained hard under Bobby Dillon. They didn't enjoy much luck and lost to Mullinavat in the championship.

Piltown bowed out of the Minor football at the first hurdle, but got their Under 16 football campaign off to a winning start in the first round of a league.

The Shamrocks from Offaly were hosted by Piltown in the Leinster Feile, whilst the Under 13's performed creditably in the Lisdowney sevens.

In another year, an Under-13 hurling tournament was organised by the club, with eight teams from South Kilkenny and Tipperary participating. Victory went to Piltown in an enthralling final with Carrickshock. Tullogher-Rosbercon were the Shield winners. Our Under-11 squad derived great enjoyment and benefit from the county wide Camant series and are competing in the local Three County League at the moment. Nine players from Piltown helped Mooncoin Vocational School win their first ever Leinster Senior Hurling title during the year. Those who brought further glory to Piltown were Michel Gordon (captain), Andrew Norris, Liam Knox, Paul Walsh, James Norris, Peter Falconer, Joe Walsh, Richie Fitzpatrick and Richie Norris.

# CLUB SCENE

## RAILYARD

### OFFICERS:

*Chairperson:* Eddie Mahon.

*Vice-Chairperson:* Tom Brennan.

*Secretary:* Jim Purcell.

*Treasurer:* Liam Mooney.

Not a great year on the playing fields for this once dominant football club. Although a few promising youngsters have appeared in the under age teams, lack of numbers has become a major factor. The Under 14 and Under 16 teams have a number of good footballers but unfortunately the teams are made up of too many boys who are possibly too young for their respective competitions.

The Senior team failed to make the

county semi-finals for the first time in many a year, and ended up having to play to avoid relegation to Intermediate. To try to bring new players to the surface, the club undertook a nine-a-side tournament, which was a reasonable success, but did not unearth any new hidden talent.

In order to get operations under way as early as possible, the Railyard AGM was brought forward to November this year, in the hope that management structures would be in place in time to get players organised for the championship. The new committee has vowed to do all in its power to pave the way for the restoration of Railyard to the position of number one football club in the county.



**RAILYARD G.F.C. - RUNNERS-UP 1995 MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN "A"**

Front Row (l-r): Patrick Holohan, Tommy Treacy, Daniel Lawlor, Cyril Stedmond, William O'Shea, Jimmy Kealy, Billy Dowd, Michael O'Shea. Back Row (l-r): W. Hennessy, David Clancy, Sheamus Hennessy, Owen Boran, Raymond Holohan, Shane Coogan, Seanie Brennan, Paul Maguire, Colm Coogan.

Photo: Tom Brett

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# CLUB SCENE

## SLIEVERUE

### OFFICERS:

**Presidents:** Paddy Buggy, Rev T. Murphy.

**Chairperson:** Nicholas Haberlin.

**Secretary:** Pat Walsh.

**Treasurer:** Michael O'Neill.

**P.R.O.:** Jim Walsh.

**Juvenile Chairperson:** Jim Walsh.

1996 has been a year of intense activity in our club. Teams were fielded at adult age in hurling and football, and at under age grades from Under 21 to Under 9. In all, 13 different teams represented the club during the year and between championships, various other competitions and challenges, more than 100 matches were played. When one considers the hundreds of training sessions which took place involving all 13 teams, we realise the huge workload there was for team trainers and organisers. If one was to imagine life in Slieverue without the club, many dozens of young people would find less excitement, less activity, fewer challenges, fewer opportunities to meet their friends, fewer friends. Meanwhile the Slieverue community would probably experience more problems, from bored and uninvolved youths, many families would likely have more dissension, less to talk and get excited about. Bearing in mind that the above scenario is replicated in every parish, in every county throughout Ireland, we get some appreciation of the importance of the GAA in Irish society.

Despite the level of activity referred to above, it did not yield visible rewards of any great note, no county championship was won for example. However, it did provide countless hours of enjoyment for many people - players, trainers, parents etc. Indeed, without the games, life would be poorer for not just the young but for many adults also.

1996 was the first time 'Camán't' (ground hurling) was introduced to this area of the country. We experienced it at Under 11 level in Kilkenny, and at Under 10 level in a local league, involving some Waterford and South Kilkenny teams. Most are agreed that it is an excellent way to introduce children to competitive hurling.



**SLIEVERUE MINOR HURLING TEAM 1996**

*Back (l-r) Eddie Walsh, Liam O'Donovan, Noel Walsh, David Walsh (Kilasp), Kevin Haberlin, James Walsh, Brian Kirwan, Eoin Grant, David Walsh (Treasurer), David Barrett. Front (l-r): Eoin Phelan, Anthony Phelan, John Mooney, Paul Knox, Michael Forristal, Denis Keogh, Eoin Dollard, Alan Atkins, Brian Delahunty.*

In our own club we then organised an Under 9 Camán't competition. We had five teams of eight players each and all got great enjoyment from it. We find that parish leagues for younger age groups are very successful in getting children and parents involved.

During the year we had good success in getting young teenage players to take on responsibility with younger teams. Some of the boys have done the coaching course in Transition Year in the Vocational School and are happy to accept the challenge. One of them prepared his team to win the Under 9 league!

In April, we had the first edition of the

'Informer', our club newsletter. It is produced fortnightly and carries news of all club activities. Our feedback from club members is very positive. The club runs a fortnightly 'Blotto', a form of Lotto, for fund-raising. The tickets are sold by the club members and in visiting the houses they distribute the 'Informer' free of charge. So while the sellers are collecting they are also giving! This formula seems to be working well to date.

The team members are looking forward to 1997. They and club members are hoping that the good work of recent years will produce a championship winning team in at least one grade.

## SCHOOL'S UNDER-13 TEAM 1996



*Back (l-r): Senan Kelly, James Butler, Joseph Coady, Aidan Hogan, Brendan Coady, Seán Phelan, Mark Haberlin, Robert Roche, Kieran Grant. Front (l-r): Paul Atkins, Adrian Rockett, Tony O'Keefe, Gavin Quilty, Nicky Coady, Brendan Haberlin, Ciara Phelan, Daniel Murphy, Martin Quilty.*



# CLUB SCENE

## ST. LACHTAIN'S

### OFFICERS:

*Chairperson:* Michael McCarthy.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Tom Beckett.  
*Secretary:* Paddy Butler.  
*Treasurer:* T.J. Kelly.  
*P.R.O.:* Tom Doheny.  
*Irish Officer:* Brian Waldron.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Declan Killeen.  
*Juvenile Secretary:* Colette Flynn.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Special Junior Hurling 'A' League -*  
County Finalists.  
*Paddy Grace Tournament Under 14 -*  
County Finalists.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

John Costelloe, Joe Dermody (Senior Hurling)  
John Costelloe, Pa Hickey, Ollie O'Connor (Under 21 Hurling)  
Michael Kavanagh (Minor Hurling)  
Colin McGree R.I.P., Pat Morrissey, Brian Duignan (Minor Football)  
Niall Phelan, Gerard Behan (Under 16)



Above - Back: Kevin Dalton, Jamie Marnell, Patrick Burke, David Brennan, John Dooley, Jamie Kennedy, Niall Anderson, Vincent Bergin, Eoin Morrissey, Thomas Ferture, John Paul Kavanagh, Richard Dalton, Gary Dawson, Denis Long. Front: James Fitzpatrick, Mark Kavanagh, James Meagher, Eoin Guinan, Philip Cormack, Billy Bradley, Ger Doheny, Robert Dowling, Tony Hughes, Eoin Condon, Joseph Phelan.

### ST. LACHTAIN'S, FRESHFORD, INTERMEDIATE HURLING

Back row llr: Ollie O'Connor, Patrick Hickey, Noel Hickey, John Costello, Damien Anderson, Declan Killeen, Bobby Dillon, Michael Kavanagh. Front row llr: Noel Dalton, David Martin, Paul Phelan, John Connelly, James Kavanagh, Michael Walsh, Joe Darmody.



A view of the new stand at St. Lachtain's

**Hurling)**  
International Player.  
John Costelloe, Ireland vs Scotland -  
Under 21 Hurling/Shinty.

The club enjoyed a reasonable year on the playing fields. The Intermediate team bowed out of the championship at the quarter final stage to the eventual winners, O'Loughlin Gaels. The Special Junior team went under to Young Irelands in the League Final. The minor team made their exit from the championship at the hands of the champions, Graigue-Ballycallan. An agonising single point defeat by league winners John Lockes was their fate in the league semi-final. The all conquering Emeralds put paid to our hope in Under 16 and Under 14 grades. The Under 14's put in a great performance in the Feile na nGael tournament only to go down in the final to James Stephens.

O. Morrissey, D. Long, J. Kennedy and T. Fortune were members of the Dicksboro team which won a National Title at the Feile Peil.

### GROUND DEVELOPMENTS

Major improvements were carried out to Pairc Lachtain during the year. In the early

part of the year, a new floodlighting system paid early dividends with the minor football team reaching the county final and the Under 14 team going one better and capturing the title. The next major venture began in late March with the construction of a new stand. Tremendous work by all saw the stand completed by mid May.

To fund the major developments at Pairc Lachtain, the club ran a weekly bingo and lotto. The bingo provides Freshford with a great weekly social night. The lotto offers the chance of big prize money. Both ventures are quite popular.

The club participates in a local Community Employment scheme. Great work is done for the club by the participants.

### UNDER AGE LEAGUES

John Dooley became the second holder of the Corn de Bhaldrathie after a thrilling final in which he defeated J. Marnell's team. This league, which was run in late June attracted large crowds to Pairc Lachtain. The Philip Kinane Under 13 League, now in its twelfth year, saw Tony Hughes capture the title. The summer Camant league run by Bord na nOg proved to be a great success with both children and parents alike.

### OBITUARY

The untimely death of Colin McGree cast a dark shadow over the whole community. Colin excelled at all sports and was a proud wearer of the county minor football jersey during the year. To Colin's parents, Martin and Peggy, his brothers, Liam Shane and Noel, we express our sincere sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



# CLUB SCENE

## ST. MARTINS

### OFFICERS:

President: Fr. Brennan.  
 Vice President: Fr. Delaney.  
 Chairperson: Billy Costigan.  
 Vice-Chairperson: Phil Purcell.  
 Secretary: Marie Butler.  
 Asst Secretary: Tom Kinsella.  
 Treasurer: Tom Dowling.  
 Asst Treasurer: Pat Mulhall.  
 Juvenile Chairperson: Anthony Maher.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

O'Byrne Cup Senior Hurling - County Champions.  
 Under 14 Hurling Championship Roinn B - County Finalists.  
 Under 21 Hurling Championship Roinn B - County Champions.  
 Under 13 Hurling Championship Roinn C - County Finalists.  
 Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament Under 10 - Winners.  
 Tom Kinsella Memorial Tournament - Winners.  
 Tara Ryan Under 14 Hurling Tournament - Winners.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Aidan Lawlor, Niall Moloney (Senior Hurling)  
 Niall Moloney (Under 21 Hurling)  
 Thomas Kinsella, Seamus Kelly (Under 14 Hurling)  
 Bobby Shore, Danny Coonan, Jimmy Kelly (Masters Hurling)



Naomh Mairtín Abú . . . the team from St. Martin's GAA club (Muckalee-Ballyfoyle) won the final of the TC Tyres - Radio Kilkenny "Great Sports Challenge Quiz" at the Dicksboro GAA Club and are pictured receiving their trophies from Tom Cantwell of TC Tyres. Included are (from left): Michael Mulhall, Tommy O'Brien (Quizmaster), Eamonn Breen (Captain), John Dooley, Tom Cantwell and Gerald O'Reilly.  
 Photo: Tom Brett

In June St. Martin's were hosts to a group of 22 Under 14 boys and three adults from St. Mank's Club, Tallaght, Co. Dublin. Competing in the Feile Iomana Laighean, they all stayed with families in the parish. St. Martin's won their group in the competition beating St. Brendan's, Birr, Co. Offaly in the group final on a score line of 1-4 to 0-5.

The St. Martin's Club Quiz team had a marvellous win in the T.C. Tyres/Radio Kilkenny Great Sports Challenge Quiz. They beat O'Loughlin Gaels in the final in the Dicksboro Pavilion.

### Obituary.

It was with great sadness that the club learned of the sudden death of Jim Gibbons, Inchakil, Corbettstown, Ballyfoyle as a result of an accident on September 21st. He was just 51 years of age. Jim, originally from Thomastown, hurled with his native parish until 1976 and with St. Martin's from 1976 onwards. He played Minor Hurling for Kilkenny in 1962 and 1963, and Under 21 Hurling for the county in 1965 and 1966. We wish to offer our deepest sympathy to his family, his wife Eileen and children, Cathy, Fiachra and Niall.

### Mothel Handball Club.

The boys of Mothel Handball Club had a highly successful year, both in the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 courts.

In the smaller court, Shem Kelly won the Under 14 singles county title, while Tom Morrissey and Rory Nolan captured the Under 15 doubles title.

Shem Kelly, Tom Morrissey, David Cashin and Donal Kelly all were picked to represent the county. In the Under 14 Singles, Shem Kelly reached the Leinster Final. Tom Morrissey joined up with P.J. Hawe (Windgap) and were unlucky to lose the Under 15 Doubles All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. David Cashin linked up with Damien Byrne (Clogh) in the Under 16 Doubles, winning the Leinster Final before losing out in the All-Ireland Semi Final. Donal Kelly teamed up with



ST. MARTIN'S O'BYRNE CUP WINNERS 1996

Front row l-r: Joe Brennan, P.J. Shore, L. Dowling, B. Shore, M. Maher (capt.), B. Ryan, N. Purcell, J. Maher, J. Brennan, T. Cody, N. Shortall. Back row l-r: D. Lawlor, A. Lawlor, P. Kehoe, E. Breen, J. Dooley, N. Moloney, G. Doyle, C. Daly, P. Brennan, G. Kinsella, T. Agar, P. Shore, R. Nolan.



Jim Gibbons and son Niall, Inchakil, Corbettstown, Ballyfoyle.

Brian Minogue (Kells) in the Under 14 Doubles and a marvellous combination they proved to be, capturing the All-Ireland Title.

In the 60 x 30 competitions, Mothel had players in all grades, capturing four county titles. Cousins, Donal and Shem Kelly won the Under 14 Doubles. Rory Nolan and Tom Morrissey captured the Under 15 Doubles while David Cashin and Paul McDonald claimed the Under 16 Doubles crown. Tom Morrissey, David Cashin and Paul McDonald went on to represent the county in the Leinster Championships. Donal and Shem Kelly stayed together to play for Kilkenny in the Under 14 Doubles, going the full distance to win the All-Ireland title.

In team play, the Mothel boys had a great year, winning the Feile na nGael competition for the second year in a row. The winning Feile squad was Tom Nolan, Shane Walsh, Donal Kelly and Shem Kelly.

It was a super year for the Mothel boys, bringing seven All-Ireland medals back to the club, and for Donal Kelly, in particular.



**U-11 B TEAM CAMAINT GROUND HURLING 1996**

Front row l-r: J. Maher, M. Murphy, Jos. Maher, J. Dowling, C. Mahoney, E. Kelly, C. McGrath, A. Kelly, J. Kelly. Back row l-r: J. Kelly, N. Gibbons, C. Brennan, M. Morrissey, P. Flynn, S. Comerford, J. Walsh, P. Murphy (mentor), E. Bolger, D. Shore (capt.), B. Malone, P. Haughey.



**U-10 JIM COMERFORD MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS 1996**

Front row l-r: D. Brennan, J. Maher, J. Kelly, C. Moloney, R. Maher, A. Murphy (capt.), J. Maher. Back row l-r: C. Hogan, B. Mulhall, J. Walsh, N. Gibbons, S. Comerford, E. Holohan, E. Bolger, M. Kane.

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# UNDER-16 HURLING AND FOOTBALL

## Stephens win Roinn "A" but Emeralds en route for historic treble



**EMERALDS – U-16 ROINN "B" LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS**

Back (left to right) – Johnny Moriarty (trainer), David Roche, Brendan Cahill, Joseph Ryan, Vinnie Cleere, Kieran Rafter, Michael Moriarty, John Clohosey, Gerard Joyce, Paddy Ryan (selector), John Power (selector).

Front – Keith Grant, Ray Moriarty, Kieran Joyce, Philip O'Dwyer, Stephen Roche, Aidan Fogarty, Michael Byrne, Cathal Hennessy, Alan Guilfoyle, Graham Flaherty, Ian Tobin, James Kennedy, Michael Power.

**JAMES STEPHENS** Under-16s, just as they did in the Under-14 two years ago, completely dominated the Roinn "A" both in the championship and league. The nearest anyone got to them in the championship was Graigue-Ballycallan in the Northern Final, which

the city side won by 4-16 to 3-8.

In the County Final they scored a 5-18 to 0-4 victory over Dunnamaggin. The winners led by 4-11 to 0-2 at the interval. In the second half the winners did not show the same urgency and did not score after the interval until the 11th minute.

**Scorers: James Stephens** – Joey Murray (1-4), Shane Egan (1-3), Nigel Skehan (2-0),

Paddy O'Brien (0-4), John Cullen (0-3), Hugh Gannon (0-2), Karl Conroy (1-0), Joe Murphy (0-1), John Morgan (0-1). **Dunnamaggin** – Noel Hickey (0-2), Colin Herity (0-2).

**James Stephens** – Niall Grogan, David Delaney, Eoin O'Neill, Ian Morrissey, Hugh Gannon, John Morgan, Alan Dunne, Joey Murray, John Cullen, Joe Murphy, Brian O'Dwyer, Paddy O'Brien, Karl Conroy, Shane Egan, Nigel Skehan. *Subs.* – Brian Tyrell, Peter O'Neill.



**JAMES STEPHENS – ROINN "A" UNDER-16 CHAMPIONS 1996**

Back (L/R) – Tim Grogan (trainer), Michael Slattery (selector), Joe Murphy, Eoin O'Neill, Karl Conroy, Joe Murray, John Morgan, Garry Whelan, Hugh Gannon, Ian Morrissey, Dermot Ryan, Peter Garrahy (selector).

Front (L/R) – Seamus Kennedy (selector), John Cullen, Neil Grogan, Alan Dunne, Paddy O'Brien, Nigel Skehan, Shane Egan.



**SHAMROCKS (BALLYHALE) – UNDER-16 HURLING RUNNERS-UP 1996**

Front row – Eamon Frisby, John Healy, Anthony Walsh, Kieth Murphy, Michael Drennan, Ross Connolly, David Hoyne, William Coogan, Patrick Reid.  
 Back row – John Kennedy, Richard Fitzpatrick Johnny O'Brien, Seamus Walsh, John Paul Fitzpatrick, Sean O'Keeffe, Paul Shefflin, Joseph Walsh, Bill Walsh, Brendan Costelloe.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

**Dunnamaggin** – David Herity, Colm Lydon, Canice Hickey, Leonard O'Shea, Kenneth Moore, Colin Herity, Mark Drennan, Noel Hickey, Seán O'Neill, Jamie O'Keeffe, Brendan Delahunty, Brendan Donoghoe, Rory Dunne, Liam Heffernan, Donal O'Shea.

James Stephens completed the double when they beat Graigue-Ballycallan in the league final on a score of 3-19 to 2-4. The city-side led by 1-11 to 0-2 at the interval. The winners got two soft goals while on the other hand Niall Grogan denied the losers a goal with a great save from Brendan Hayes. Paddy O'Brien got the goal of the game seven minutes from time.

James Stephens almost crashed out of the competition when they were held to a draw in the semi-final by Tullaroan. They made no mistake in the replay with a one-sided victory.

**Scorers: James Stephens** – Shane Egan (1-3), Paddy O'Brien (1-2), John Cullen (0-4), Joey Murray (0-3), Joe Murphy (0-3), Karl Conroy, Brian Tyrell (0-1 each), Nigel Skehan (1-2).  
**Graigie-Ballycallan** – Declan Byrne (2-0), Gearóid Cleere (0-4).

**James Stephens** – Niall Grogan, Declan Ryan, Eoin O'Neill, Ian Morrissey, Hugh Gannon, John Morgan, Alan Dunne, John Cullen, Joe Murray, Joe Murphy, Shane Egan, Paddy O'Brien, Karl Conroy, Gary Whelan, Nigel Skehan. *Subs.* – Brian Tyrell, David Delaney, Paddy Hogan.

**Graigie-Ballycallan** – Michael Wall, Shane Murphy, Michael Teehan, Kevin Cleere, Niall Millea, Joe Brennan, Brendan Marnell, Gearóid Cleere, James Ryall, Aidan Brett, Brendan Hayes, Alan O'Shea, Declan Byrne, Patrick Dalton, Tim Purcell.

Emeralds pulled off the double in Under-16 Hurling Roinn "B", winning both the championship and league. The championship final, played in Nowlan Park, was a real thriller as Emeralds reversed the previous year's result by beating the reigning holders, Shamrocks, on a score of 3-10 to 4-2. After a marvellous first half the sides were deadlocked on a score of Emeralds 2-5, Shamrocks 3-2.

The Ballyhale boys were held to a goal in the second half as Emeralds, with Kieran Rafter in great form, pulled ahead for victory.

**Scorers: Emeralds** – Kieran Rafter (2-4), Joe

Ryan (1-1), Ray Moriarty (0-2), Michael Moriarty (0-2), Vincent Cleere (0-1). **Shamrocks** – Paul Shefflin (1-0), Seamus Walsh (1-0), David Hoyne (1-0), William Walsh (0-2).

**Emeralds** – Alan Guilfoyle, Kieran Joyce, Brendan Cahill, Ger Joyce, Ian Tobin, Michael Moriarty, James Kennedy, Michael Byrne, Cathal Hennessy (capt.), Vincent Cleere, Joe Ryan, Ray Moriarty, Keith Grant, Kieran Rafter, Aidan Fogarty.

**Shamrocks** – Michael Drennan, John Healy, Eamon Frisby, Anthony Walsh, John P. Fitzpatrick, Paul Shefflin, Seán O'Keeffe, Seamus Walsh, Joe Walsh, William Coogan, John Kennedy, Ross Connolly, David Hoyne, William Walsh, John O'Brien. *Sub.* Brendan Costelloe.

The Urlingford side completed the double when they beat Clara in the league final on a score of 2-12 to 0-7. A goal by Kieran Rafter helped the Emeralds into an interval lead of 1-4 to 0-4. A goal by Aidan Fogarty was the decisive score of the second half as the winners pulled ahead for an eleven points victory.

Alan Guilfoyle kept his net intact for the winners, while others to play well were



**JAMES STEPHENS – ROINN "C" UNDER-16 CHAMPIONS 1996**

Front row (L/R) – Seamus Kennedy, Brendan Coyle, Richie Hayes, Mark Hoban, Brian Rogers, David Quinn, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Eardley, Dermot Ryan (captain), Derek Brennan, Patrick Grogan, Killian Byrne, Tim Grogan, Michael Slattery.

Back row (L/R) – Pat Grogan, Eoin McCormack, Eamonn Mernagh, Conor O'Grady, Derek Buckley, Kieran Keane, Niall Tyrrell, Maurice Harkin, Niall Bergin, Bill Keogh, Barry O'Neill, Shane O'Grady, Gary Whelan, Brian Mulhall, Paddy Hogan, Eoin Dunphy, Peter Garrahy.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**LISDOWNEY – UNDER-16 ROINN "C" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1996**

Back row (L/R) – Micheál Bergin, Pdraig Bergin, Paul Bergin, Pat Dunne, John Bergin, John Carey, Pat Bowden, Kevin Fitzpatrick, David Hogan, James Muldowney, Declan Tallis.

Front (L/R) – David Dowling, Noel Dowling, Thomas Mackey, Patrick Bowden, Ronan Costelloe, Liam Grogan, Richard Blanchfield, John William Bowden, Paul Mullally, Michael Dowling, Pdraig Doheny, Brendan Cahill, Michael Moriarty, Michael Byrne, Cathal Hennessy, Kieran Rafter, Aidan Fogarty and Ray Moriarty.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Gerry Byrne was Clara's best player but Richard Nolan, Patrick Langton, John Prendergast, David Mulrooney and Brian Phelan also played well.

**Scorers: Emeralds** – Kieran Rafter (1-4), Aidan Fogarty (1-1), Ray Moriarty (0-2), Michael Moriarty (0-2), Michael Byrne (0-1), Vincent Cleere (0-1), Joe Ryan (0-1).

**Clara** – Gerry Byrne (0-4), Patrick Langton (0-1), Brian Phelan (0-1), David Mulrooney (0-1).

**Emeralds** – Alan Guilfoyle, Kieran Joyce, Brendan Cahill, Ger Joyce, James Kennedy, Michael Moriarty, Ian Tobin, Michael Byrne, Cathal Hennessy (capt.), Vincent Cleere, Joe Ryan, Kieran Rafter, Aidan Fogarty, Raymond Moriarty, Philip O'Dwyer.

**Clara** – Michael Barcoe, Martin Prendergast, Richard Nolan, Declan Meany, Trevor Murphy, Patrick Langton, T.J. Fitzgerald, John Prendergast, Gerry Byrne, John Bambrick, Brian Phelan, David Mulrooney, Martin Kealy, Adrian Fitzpatrick, Noel Hoyne.

James Stephens pulled off an historic

victory in the Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn "C" to become the first club to win two Under-16 championships in the same year.

The margin of their victory over Tullogher-Rosbercon, 3-15 to 1-2, was a surprise because in the league semi-final they had just two points to spare over the same opposition – 3-5 to 3-3. The James Stephens team had a large sprinkling of their all-conquering Under-14 team.

James Stephens had their closest game in the North Final when they beat Lisdowney by 1-9 to 0-9. Lisdowney had beaten them in the league final

**Scorers: James Stephens** – Conor O'Grady (1-3), Paddy Hogan (1-2), Eoin Dunphy (1-0), Niall Bergin (0-3), Gary Whelan (0-2), Barry O'Neill (0-1), Eoin McCormack (0-1), Brian Rodgers (0-2), Shane O'Grady (0-1).

**James Stephens** – Derek Brennan, Michael Eardley, Pat Grogan, Jackie Tyrell, David Quinn, Dermot Ryan (capt.), Kieran Keane, Bill Keogh, Eoin McCormack, Niall Bergin, Gary Whelan, Barry O'Neill, Brian Rodgers, Shane O'Grady, Paddy Hogan. *Subs.* – Conor O'Grady, Eoin

Dunphy, Niall Tyrell.

**Tullogher-Rosbercon** – Richard Murphy, Kieran Barron, Michael Grennan, Mark O'Brien, Alan Malone, Donal Phelan, Gerard Mullally, Eoin Mullally, John Mullally, Simon Kennedy, Canice Grennan, Joseph Croke, Keith Malone (capt.), Martin Woods, Stephen Cotterell. *Subs.* – Edward Conway, James Walsh, Tommy Maher.

James Stephens failed to win the double when Lisdowney beat them by 1-10 to 0-3. At the interval the sides were level at 0-3 each. A Pdraig Bergin goal gave Lisdowney the initiative and they ran out convincing winners.

**Scorers: Lisdowney** – David Dowling (0-8), Pdraig Bergin (1-0), Thomas Mackey (0-1), Patrick Bowden (0-1). **James Stephens** – Gary Whelan (0-2), Brian Rodgers (0-1).

**James Stephens** – Noel Dowling, Michael Bergin, Kevin Fitzpatrick, John Bergin, John Carey, Michael Dowling, Pat Bowden, Paul Bergin, Pdraig Bergin, Thomas Mackey, David Dowling, Patrick Bowden, Liam Grogan, Richard Blanchfield, Ronan Costelloe.

**James Stephens** – Derek Brennan, Michael Eardley, Pat Grogan, Jackie Tyrell, Mark Hoban, Peter O'Neill, Kieran Keane, Bill Keogh, Dermot



**CLARA – DEFEATED LEAGUE FINALISTS ROINN "B"**

Back row – Patrick Langton, Gerry Byrne, Richie Nolan, Noel Hoyne, Brian Phelan, David Mulrooney, Martin Prendergast, John Prendergast, Fintan Treacy, John Brennan, Tom Brennan.

Front row – T.J. Fitzgerald, Trevor Murphy, Martin Kealy, Declan Meany, Michael Barcoe, Adrian Fitzpatrick, John Bambrick, Fergus Knox, Tommy Dowling, Mark Shortall.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Ryan, Barry O'Neill, Gary Whelan, Patrick Hogan, Brian Rodgers, Brian Mulhall, Eoin Dunphy. Subs. – Killian Byrne, Niall Tyrell, Niall Bergin.

James Stephens completed a great year when they took the Under-16 football championship. Normally played on a league basis, because of the lateness of the year it was played as a knock-out competition.

The results of the semi-finals were: James Stephens 1-13, Dicksboro 1-2; O'Loughlin' Gaels 2-10, Railyard 0-3.

After holding the Village to level scores in the first half – 1-1 to 0-4 – O'Loughlin Gaels were overpowered in the second half and were beaten 4-13 to 1-3.

**Scorers:** James Stephens – Joey Murray (1-4), Gary Owens (1-3), Shane O'Grady (1-0), Shane Egan (1-1), Brian Rodgers (0-2), Nigel Skehan, Paddy O'Brien, John Morgan (0-1 each). **O'Loughlin Gaels** – Peter Dowling (1-0), Brian Murphy, Mark Phelan, Denis O'Brien (0-1 each).

**James Stephens** – Niall Grogan, Eoin O'Neill, Ian Morrissey, Alan Dunne, Paddy

O'Brien, John Morgan, Joe Murray, John Cullen, Shane Egan, Cathal Daly, Shane O'Grady, Joe Murphy, Brian Rodgers, Gary Owens, Nigel Skehan. Subs. – Barry O'Neill, Gary Whelan, Bill Keogh.

**O'Loughlin Gaels** – Jason Pierce, Nicholas O'Connor, Stephen McCormack, Damian Griffith, Paul Kavanagh, Mark Phelan, Ger O'Brien, Brian Murphy, Denis O'Brien, Brian Hogan, John Roe, Tommy Lahart, Michael Comerford, Peter Dowling. Subs. – Darragh Murphy, Cormac Dalton, Jack Brett.



**TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON – UNDER-16 ROINN "C" FINALISTS**

Back (L/R) – Jason McCarthy, John Grennan, Gerard Mullally, Tommy Barron, Eoin Mullally, Alan Malone, Austin Lee, Martin Woods, John Mullally, Donal Phelan, Patrick Gaule, James Walsh, Canice Grennan, Martin Kennedy.

Front (L/R) – Michael Grennan, Simon Kennedy, Kieran Barron, Joseph Croke, Keith Malone (capt.), Michael Murphy, Edward Conway, Mark O'Brien, Tommy Maher, Stephen Cotterell, Richard Murphy, Moling Cotterell.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



**IT'S BETTER TO BE BORN LUCKY THAN RICH**

Pat Treacy, trainer of camogie County Champions 1995, St. Brigid's (Ballycallan), enjoying the "fruits of his labours" as they celebrate their win at the annual presentation dance. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Breda Power, Sinead Millea, Deirdre Treacy, Margaret Comerford. MIDDLE ROW (l.-r.): Vera Morrissey, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Mary Ryall, Tracy Millea, Pat Treacy, Mary McGrath, Catherine Keogh, Pauline Comerford. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Katie Dunphy, Mary Purcell, Aisling Byrne, Ursula Walton, Ann Marie Ryall, Orla Ryall, Deirdre Malone.

# The Women in the Wings

by Nikki O'Neill



**THE tale was told some years ago of a golf widow who'd had enough. In one fell swoop, she beheaded her husband's precious golf clubs with a hacksaw, boil-washed his top-of-the-range golf sweaters, attacked his (non-human) golf caddy with an axe, and left the house, never to return. Later she declared: "I'd just had enough, that's all."**

So what of our 'G.A.A. widow'? How do they cope with the ebb and flow of their partners' careers? What's it like to take a back seat in the glory days? How do they deal with the down times? And is there ever such thing as a free Sunday? We took time out to talk with three of Kilkenny's hurling wives, and asked them those very questions.

Of course, for the recently-wed Mrs Denis Joseph Carey, it's all still very new, though she's coped remarkably well since she met D.J. just before he played in the 1990 League Final.

"I'd no real interest in hurling, to tell you the truth," Christine admits. "My dad, Pat, would have gone to lots of matches, but I never played any sport. During that 1990 match, I stayed in the car until half-time! But since those early days, I've learned a lot – both from D.J. himself, and from going to matches. There was a time, not so long ago, when if people asked me how he'd played, I'd have to say 'I don't know.' But nowadays, I'll shout 'Foul' with the rest of them!

"It's D.J.'s life and I knew that when I met him. And up to a point, it's my life now too. I love the craic after matches, and I've made loads of new friends – people like Elaine Walsh, Ann Power and Joan Fennelly."

Attending the numerous functions associated with hurling stardom was difficult at first for Christine. "I'd find myself stuck for things to say sometimes," she smiles. "But now I know a little more and have a bit more confidence, so I'm beginning to enjoy it all."

For the Careys, there's rarely a free Sunday, right enough. But D.J. and Christine work closely together in the family business, Carey Enterprises, selling and distributing hygiene products nationwide.



*Christine Carey and Sheena Walsh at the Smithwicks All-Star Awards.*

"And besides," says Christine, "I'm never at a loose end. There's always so much to do in a new house, and I read a good deal too (Hurling books? Never!). We work our social life around D.J.'s training nights, and there's something on almost every weekend, but to tell you the truth, I think we'd both be at a loose end without it all."

The best moment so far? "Probably the 1992 All-Ireland Final – it was brilliant to see Liam Fennelly holding both the old and new McCarthy Cups, and of course, it was D.J.'s first senior All-Ireland medal, so we were both thrilled.

"There haven't really been any bad times to speak of, except perhaps earlier in that year, when D.J. got a belt of a hurl on the head during a club match, and suffered concussion. Not long after that, he got another clatter, and for a little while, he was confused, to say the least. We'd be talking away to good friends, and after they'd left, he'd ask 'Who was that?' A bang on the head is probably the worst thing that can happen. Other bones will heal, but head injuries can be serious. The only other bad situation I can think of is when there are bad vibes on the pitch, but

then, D.J. isn't the type to get into a row.

"Overall, I'd say it's a great life, I enjoy every bit of it, and if we're lucky enough to have a family, I wouldn't mind a bit if they got into G.A.A. – anything but boxing, that's what I say!"

Of course, if the former Christine O'Keefe could be called a greenhorn, Ella Dunphy just might be considered an 'old timer.' Though husband Pat has served as County Secretary for only a matter of months, he's been up to his neck in G.A.A. – both as a player and as an administrator – for well over twenty years.

"It's been part of Pat's life since we met," says Ella. "Up until less than two years ago, he was playing for as long as I'd known him. He served as treasurer for the Rower/Inistioge for nearly twenty years, and was treasurer of the County Board for the past ten years, so I'm well used to his 'clerical' side."

Of course, it was in circumstances of great tragedy that Pat inherited the mantle of County Secretary earlier this year.

"Pat and Ted Carroll were great buddies as well as close colleagues," says Ella. "Ted would telephone almost every day,





Ella Dunphy

for one reason or another. I have to say that although in many ways I came into all this from the outside, Ted's passing was by far the lowest point in my G.A.A. life. Ted and Angela would have been among our very special family friends, and we miss him dreadfully.

"Both of them are hard acts to follow. Often Pat would find himself in a certain situation, perhaps with a particular decision to make, and I can see him thinking 'What would Ted have done?' And for me, though I could never fill Angela's shoes, I feel secure knowing that's she's always there, at the end of the phone, ready and willing to offer the benefit of her wisdom and experience.

"No, I can't say I have hurling in my blood, even though I'm from Tullagher! But though I grew up playing hockey and tennis, and now enjoy a game of golf, I do my best to support Pat in his current position, and yes, I do enjoy it very much, I'm learning all the time, and can now deal with some of the many phone calls to the house - I'm getting quite expert at dispensing pensioners' passes, for instance! Even though we now have a permanent office at Nowlan Park, we still get at least twenty letters every day, as well as numerous telephone and personal calls to the house. People haven't got used to the idea of the office yet....

"I suppose every year has its different pressures. When the teams are doing well, there's the distribution of tickets - this year, that hasn't been a problem, but there's the refurbishment of Nowlan Park,

with all the many consultations and fundraising events which that involves. It was a major venture in every way, costing over £1m, and we still have to come up with around £400,000.

"I'd like to be able to attend more functions and matches, but with my own interests, my own business and a young family, there's only so much that one can do. The social life is great - we've met many fine people and made many friends through G.A.A., and now this year, I'm getting to know some new faces at club level.

"Yes, of course it all takes up a good deal of Pat's days, but we try to make sure that the time we spend together as a family is quality time. Our boys all play hurling, and young Orla plays camogie for the Village, so really, it's a big part of our family life...."

And a good life it is too, according to our third Black and Amber widow, Richie Power's wife Ann.

"We were married before Richie started hurling with the seniors, but even then it was his life. I used to watch him out training alone, running round a huge field on a frosty morning. And I used to say to myself, 'Sure that lad is cracked!'

"I played - and still play - camogie for Carrickshock, our parish, so there was never a conflict of interest. Sport was our only real outlet in those days, and when it came to Sundays, we'd pile the five kids into the car and away we'd go to a match. As a result, when any of our kids go out the door, nine times out of ten, it's with a hurling ball. But then, if they hadn't sport, what would they be up to?

"We both felt it was a privilege for Richie to be asked to train the Kilkenny team when he retired - I encouraged him all the way to take up the post. He's out two or three nights a week these days, and we both still jog around three miles a day to keep in trim....

"It was a bad day when Tipp beat us in 1991. Richie had a brilliant game, though. He'd been listening to local radio at a physio session and had heard a Tipperary supporter say 'Richie Power's given great service to Kilkenny, but he's gone too old for the centre of the field.'

"That was like a red rag to a bull! Richie said, 'I'll show that so-and-son,' and he

went out and played his heard out! He's always been consistent and dedicated - you'd have to be proud of him. He was never sent off in his life.

"Winning the double/double in 1982/83 was a great achievement. There's not too many counties who can pull off two leagues and two All-Ireland's like that.

"Any time we've been abroad, it's been with the hurlers. In Chicago and San Francisco in 1986, we were the only Kilkenny people there, so we had to mix, it was a marvellous experience.

We've got used to all the functions. I enjoy a night out at any time, and we make a point of going out together once or twice a week. But a free Sunday would be a rare thing. There's always a match to be played or watched.

"Then, of course, you get to meet great characters. People like Galway's Sylvie Linnane, a real hurling hero. Donegal footballer, Anthony Molloy, always good for a song and the craic. Offaly's Pat Delaney. Our own Adrian Ronan, a gas card. So many great people we met through Richie's involvement in G.A.A.

"I think that it's a great way of life. Being in the public eye improves your personality no end, when all's said and done. It's good for your character. Me? I love it!"

So, how do they cope? The answer - they don't. It's not a question of coping, it seems. They contribute. They support. They participate. They're out there in the thick of it all. In every sense, Kilkenny's Black and Amber widows are part of the team.



Ann Power



## LIAM AYLWARD, T.D.

*GREETINGS TO ALL MY SUPPORTERS*

*and the very best of good fortune to all our  
Kilkenny Teams.*

**L**IFE CAN be a bitch, but even in its worst guise, it is infinitely more acceptable than death!" One cannot recall the name of the wise wordsmith, but there is no disputing the absolute wisdom of the utterance.

Death divides, never to reunite again in this life. To think about the finality of death sends a shiver down the spine, pains even.

*"The glories of our blood and state  
Are shadows, not substantial things,  
There is no armour against fate,  
Death lays his icy hand on kings".*

So beautifully and graphically put by James Shirley in *Death The Leveller*. Not even kings can escape!

Nor heroes either, people we sometimes subconsciously think will live forever. Come to think of it, they do live forever... in our subconscious, where death cannot stretch its icy hand. A paradise for fond, and maybe not so fond, memories.

And while death cruelly visited a Kilkenny hurling king this year, in some ways, only part of him died. Part still lives. We keep it alive in the subconscious. It maintains the bond.

#### AT HOME

How many of you remember where you actually were when John F. Kennedy was assassinated? I was at home in 48 Lord Edward Street. I can still remember the dread that overcame me when my late parents wondered had there been some sinister plot, and could Kennedy's death lead to another World War.

They had often told us how the last one had so savagely tossed their lives about. That they dreaded something might spark another war was not lost on a young, impressionable boy that night. One never forgot that experience.

And one will never forget Saturday, March 9, 1996 either. The 'phone rang not far off midnight. A good friend, Brendan O'Sullivan was at the other end. The message was a shocker. Ollie Walsh had just died. He was only 58.

I sat on the floor in the hall and just cried. My first ever sporting hero, a former neighbour and friend too, was gone forever.

You see, I grew up during the 'sixties when the television wasn't nearly as influential it is today. People of my era and further back will know what I mean.

To me Ollie Walsh was a flesh and blood hero. He wasn't a television image, or a glossy magazine creation. He was real in terms of being human, but unreal in the gifts bestowed on him for sport.



*Passing of a Legend . . . The late great Ollie Walsh pictured with his son Michael when he was Kilkenny senior hurling team manager and Michael was goalkeeper. The large bossed hurley was manufactured and made famous by Ollie.*

*(Photo: Tom Brett)*

# Departing was sad, but it was a joy to know the legend

By JOHN KNOX, *Kilkenny People*

I remember the first day I taught myself to spell the name O-L-L-I-E. It was in the Carlton Ballroom. All the CBS boys had been herded down to watch some Gaelic games promotion. A huge projector, complete with big reel, splashed the images onto a screen at the top of the hall.

Ollie had his own sequence. His name was emblazoned across the screen. To twist the words of a song, I spelled all the way home. Ollie had entered my life forever.

#### JOINED POSSE

That was one memory. There was another when I joined the posse, brought

by my father Tom may I add, behind Ollie's goal for a match against New York in Nowlan Park. The competition escapes me.

But I remember New York had lovely jerseys, the exchanges were fierce tough, and I got close enough to hear Ollie speak. And after making one save, he jinked through a forest of charging bodies to drive the ball out of sight up towards the city end.

That was something to tell the lads in school the next day. Trouble was, most of them were at the match anyway.

Where, though, does Ollie Walsh stand in the history of the GAA? Definitely one of the all time greats. You see, what singles him out is that he did it as a player and team manager/coach.

As an incredibly talented goalkeeper he won five senior All-Irelands; 10 Leinster championships; two National Leagues; five Oireachtas; four Railway Cups; eight Walsh Cups and he was Texaco hurler of the year in 1967.

Beyond that he managed a record four junior All-Ireland winning teams. He was the boss with two McCarthy Cup winning sides, and the National League champions of 1995.

#### **DISTINCTION**

He was an adviser with the Kilkenny CBS team when they won their one and only colleges senior hurling title in 1981. His son, Billy Walsh, filled the No. 1 jersey with distinction, but hardly ever played the game afterwards.

Throw in a five year stint as manager of Carlow, and a near miss with a Kilkenny minor team in an All-Ireland final, and you begin to see the man had an incomparable Curriculum Vitae.

Ollie had it every way . . . he was a distinguished dresser – remember his togs with the silver buckle/tie on the front? – he could make incredible saves; he could drive the ball a mile; it appeared he could ghost through opponents who were out to bury him in the net, and he had a quick turn of phrase that made him a dressing-room character.

Some rate his performance in the 1967 All-Ireland win over Tipperary as his finest hour. Kilkenny lay the 45 year bogey of defeats by Tipp. in the championship. Ollie brought off a string of smashing saves. And he played with seven stitches in a wrist injury, consequence of an accident on the train on the way to the game.

There are varying stories as to why Ollie played so well that day. His own view was simple. It was his day.

"Just accept it the day things go right for you", he often urged his players when manager. "Because there will come the balancing times when things won't go your way".

# THE OLLIE FILE

## **OLLIE WALSH gave in the region of 50 years services to hurling, as player, official and even hurley maker.**

He carried a stick from the time he walk. His father, Michael and mother Johanna from Mill street, Thomastown and later Dangan Terrace gave their son every encouragement.

He showed exceptional promise from an early age. He won his first medal as a slightly built 10-year-old when Thomastown captured the under-14 hurling championship in 1947.

He won a junior championship with Thomastown in 1962, and he figured on the team beaten by Bennettsbridge in the senior final of 1967.

His inter-county career started with the minors in 1955. In line with his entire career, his performances were far from ordinary. His beloved Kilkenny gt to the All-Ireland semi-final, but were well beaten by Tipperary.

Ollie started in goal, but then moved out the field. He made an instant and major impact, and received a standing ovation leaving the field.

*Later he went on to win:*

**5 All-Ireland SH medals** – 1957, 1963, 1967, 1969, 1972 (sub).

**10 Leinster SHC medals** – 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972 (sub).

**2 National Leagues** – 1961/62, 1965/66.

**5 Oireachtas** – 1957 1959, 1966, 1967, 1969.

He did not play in the '57 or '67 finals because of injury.

**4 Railway Cups with Leinster** – 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967 (capt).

**8 Walsh Cup medals** – 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1970, 1971.

**1 Leinster MH medal** – 1955.

**3 Gaelic Weekly All-Stars** – 1963, 1964, 1967.

**Texaco hurler of the year 1967.**

**3 under-14 HC county medals** – 1947, 1949, 1951 with Thomastown.

**3 under-16 HC medals** – 1951, 1952, 1953 with Thomastown.

**1 JHC medal** – 1962 with Thomastown.

**1 SF medal** – 1956 with Graignamanagh.

He was brought on a World tour with the late Christy Ring by the late John Kerry O'Donnell (New York) with the New York hurlers.

He trained 4 All-Irelands junior hurling winning teams – 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990.

Trained 2 senior All-Ireland winning teams – 1992 and 1993. Kilkenny won the League in 1995.

He helped Bro. Malone train the Kilkenny CBS team that won the colleges senior hurling championship in 1981.

He also trained the Carlow senior hurling team for five years.

#### **GREAT STORIES**

Ollie had some great stories, and he had an inimitable way of telling them. I remember one he told me in 1991, prior to the All-Ireland final against Tipperary.

It was about a day he was playing a foursome golf match in Rosslare, and his partner was a Wexford lady. She refused to speak to him during the round. This bugged him. He wanted to get to the bottom of it. He asked her what was up.

"I hate you", she blazed at him.

"Okay", I remember him saying, "we had her talking at least".

It turned out the root cause of the woman's resentment was she blamed Ollie for beating Wexford so often in major hurling games! He recalled he didn't exactly win her over, but they parted on a lot better terms than they had met. Ollie saw to that. It was his way.

There was something else I had always wanted his view on. There were those

who tried to question his bravery, even though he played at a time the 'keeper appeared to be there to be trampled on. Ollie's survival technique was to smother his natural instincts.

#### **WALKED AWAY**

"I had a fierce temper", he admitted. "I knew if I lost it in a match someone could get hurt. So rather than risk that, I often walked away from opponents who had hit me or knocked me down. People read what they wanted into that".

Fear . . . he didn't fear any fair opponent, but he kept an eye on others he didn't trust.

For a gregarious character, there was a certain shyness about him. He liked company of his own choosing. Still, he always had a smile and word for everyone.

One can still see him alone in the dressing-room after the Leinster and All-Ireland wins of 1992 and '93. While the

O'Keeffe and McCarthy Cups were being presented, he faded into the background. He viewed that as the players' time. It was their moment, and theirs alone.

His relationship with the press blew hot and cold. Personally, I always got on well with him. I respected his space, and he mine. Grabbing him alone in the dressing-room for an interview was always profitable. He could sum up a game in an instant. It was an education to listen to him.

"Managers don't make teams", he always insisted. "The players do".

Good managers help, however. And two good ones met in Manchester in late 1993 when Ollie Walsh and Manchester United boss, Alex Ferguson shook hands.

My colleague, Sean Hurley was

present. He was knocked back by the way to two men jelled instantly. They may have been from different sporting worlds, but the chemistry was there.

Ollie had that thing about him, a disarming nature, an aura. The magnificent coaching job he did with the 1992 and 1993 teams should never be underestimated. Teams that were beaten for size, licked the opposition with pure hurling.

Ollie Walsh always believed in Kilkenny hurling. On most big match days he sat with his wife, Olive, in the seats behind the Hogan Stand press box. One always exchanged pleasantries. He was invariably up-beat about the county's chances.

And he was able to communicate his solid belief into the players he worked

with. That was why he was so successful with so many different teams. He believed. Hot got others to believe too. That way he brought out the best in them.

Ollie Walsh was a legend, a very, very special person to all Kilkenny folk. He loved hurling. He loved hurling people. It was his game. They were his people.

He would tell you straight up, he had no convoluted plan about how hurling should be played. The simpler you kept the game, the better, he always felt.

"Sure if it was that complicated a game, I would never have made a fist of it", he laughed.

And he did make some fist of it, didn't he? His departure was sad. But the fond memories will never die!



Action from a Leinster final. Ollie clears as Pa Dillon keeps Tony Doran of Wexford "busy".



One of the numerous encounters between Kilkenny and Tipperary . . . Ollie (R.I.P.) (on the ground), "Fan" Larkin, Jimmy Doyle, John Flanagan (R.I.P.), Cha Whelan (R.I.P.), Liam Devaney.

# What a great year for O'Loughlin Gaels!

## A memorable Intermediate Championship

By PAT TREACY - Radio Kilkenny



*You shall not pass!* – The Holohans from O'Loughlin's make life difficult for Graignamanagh's Jim Whelan in the Intermediate Hurling Final, while John Carroll and Alan Foley look on. O'Loughlin's Derek Shelly and Philip Holohan are watchful. (Photo: T. O'Neill)

**T**he Vale Oil Intermediate Championship proved as exciting and certainly as unpredictable as ever in 1996. Who would have had the daring to mention O'Loughlins or Graignamanagh in their predictions as 1996 finalists? Maybe my colleagues in Radio Kilkenny, Ber Scott or Barrie

Henriques could manage it but their track record in nominating winners wouldn't put them at the head of the tipsters league.

The city lads had only won the Junior Championship in the previous year and if the truth was admitted consolidation was their aim for the year and very little else. Then again what Dunnamaggin had done before them could be repeated again. O'Loughlins had been relegated from the



**O'LOUGHLIN GAELS – KILKENNY INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 1996**

BACK ROW (L/R) – Derek Delaney, Derek Ralph, Jack Kinsella, Mick Nolan, Eugene Buckley, Barry Power, Michael Holohan, Derek Shelly, Davy Ronan, Keith McCormack, Andy Comerford, Sean Dowling, Mick Doyle, Benny Cleere, Alan Geoghegan, Sean Tyrrell.  
FRONT ROW (L/R) – Nial Lanigan, Donal O'Dwyer, Tony Doyle, Barry Daly, Philip Holohan, Brian Kelly, Rory Stevenson, Kevin Cleere, Paul Cleere, Johnny Holohan, John Dowling, Joe Daly. (Photo: T. O'Neill)

Intermediate grade in 1994 and the fact they were able to bounce straight back and then went the extra step into the Senior grade made their achievement all the more creditable.

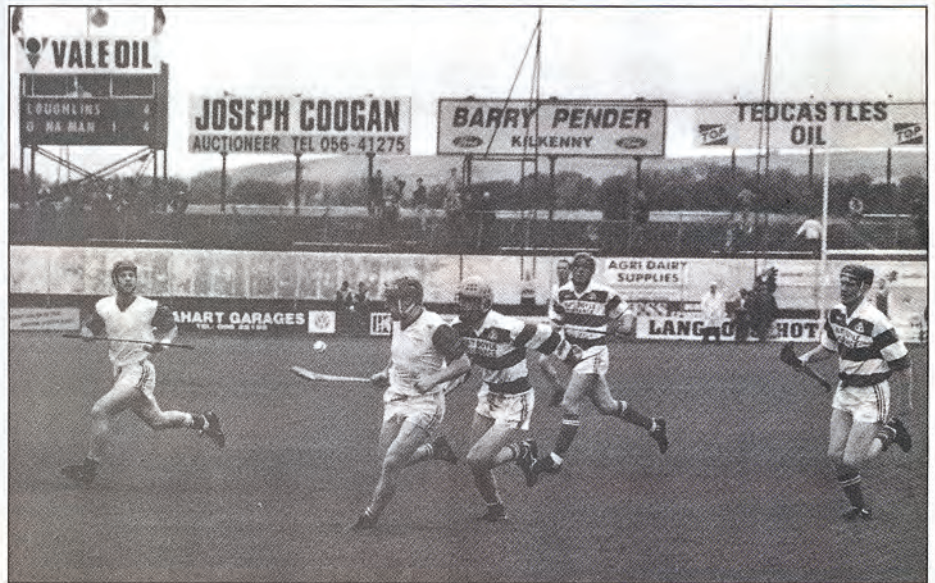
### NEW ARRIVALS HELPED

The return of talented exile Andy Comerford helped. The arrival of Derry inter-county player Rory Stephenson was also a huge bonus. Both were instrumental in forming the new O'Loughlin's. Mind you, all the great performers were not inside the white lines alone. They had a good team on the sideline too. Michael Nolan trained them as if his entire being depended on their survival. He had marvellous lieutenants in Martin Brennan and Jim O'Hara.

The team had achieved a maturity and Nolan put the steel into them that had been obviously and sadly lacking in previous O'Loughlin's teams in former years. Young players like Joe Daly, Barry Power, Sean Dowling, Brian Kelly and Philip Holohan have matured into very good players. That, added to the guile and strength of Mick Doyle, Paul Cleere and Derek Shelley, were the main ingredients involved in winning the Intermediate championship.

### LEAGUE LOSS – NOT A PROBLEM

They fought their way to the league final and were just pipped at the post by a fast-finishing Clara outfit. Any doubts that anybody had about the capabilities of O'Loughlin's had been obliterated during the league campaign. In the quarter final St Lachtain's were defeated



Intermediate action – Paul Cleere (O'Loughlin's) races towards the Graignamanagh goal followed by Henry Roberts (Graignamanagh). Looking to give Paul a hand is Rory Stephenson (O'Loughlin's). The other Graignamanagh players in the picture are Willie Blanchfield and Alan Morrissey. (Photo: T. O'Neill)

0-13 to 1-8 after a mighty battle. Sweet revenge was gained over near-neighbours Clara in the semi-final. It took a replay to decide who advanced to the final. It was a titanic struggle all through.

The drawn game was a proverbial 'jingle' with the final score at 1-14 apiece. The replay was no less riveting. Played in hurricane conditions, the city lads led at the break by ten points. Clara had to play catch up and they nearly managed it but were eventually overwhelmed by 3-8 to 1-7.

### GRAIGNAMANAGH MAKE IT

A slightly poorer scoring average cost surprise packets Graignamanagh dear. In

the same league group as Clara and O'Loughlins, they were barely edged out of the championship quarter-final. They accounted for Mullinavat in the first round and took care of Carrickshock in the quarter-final, winning by a clear seven points. In a terrific semi-final against Shamrocks, Graig got to the winning post first by a mere two points. The lads from Barrowside had arrived and people were forced to admit that these lads should not be taken lightly.

However, in a rip-roaring final against O'Loughlin's they found the going tough against a city defence where the record setting Holohan brothers, Barry Power,



### GRAIGNAMANAGH – INTERMEDIATE COUNTY FINALISTS 1996

Front (L/R) – Patrick Ryan, Cathal Dunne, Noel Dunne, James Meaney (mascot), Jim O'Driscoll (captain), Ken O'Shea, John Carroll, Paul Ryan, Ger Walsh, Brendan O'Brien and Johnny Prendergast.

Back (L/R) – Jack Dunne (Selector), Willie O'Connor (Coach/Trainer), Ivan Morrissey, Martin Bolger, Leonard Blanchfield, John Brett, Ken Walsh, Thomas Brett, Alan Foley, James Dowling, Henry Roberts, Jim Whelan, Seamus Canning, Bernard Dunne, Mark Hamilton, Willie Blanchfield, John Flood, Alan Morrissey, Jarlath Bolger, John Meaney (Chairman/Selector), Hugh Ryan (Selector).

(Photo: T. O'Neill)



**TO THE VICTOR THE SPOILS**

Paul Cleere, captain of O'Loughlin's (Vale Oil Intermediate Champions) being interviewed by Tom Phelan for TNT television. Looking on is "Kilkenny People" photographer Tom Brett.

(Photo: T. O'Neill)

Shelley and Sean Dowling were not going to be denied their moment of glory. They lost by five points but this Graig team are now established. They have a nice blend of experience and youth. Players like Willie Blanchfield, Bernard Dunne, Ken Walsh, Henry Roberts, John Carroll, Ger Walsh, Jarlath Bolger and Johnny Prendergast will be back and in quick fashion.

**WHAT OF THE REST?**

The Ballyhale Shamrocks were very lively championship contenders for a long time but they only flattered to deceive. It tells its own story that one of their most consistent players was the irrepressible and seemingly ageless Ger Feinelly.

Murty Kennedy's charges from Freshford were nailed in the first round but they have a number of good players on their books and they could well be figuring in next year's main event. The Kavanaghs, O'Connors Hickeys and John Costello are good hurlers but this year they lacked consistency and that cost them dearly.

Carrickshock made the league semi-finals but bowed out of the championships at the quarterfinal stage, beaten by Graignamanagh. They have some good players – Hudsons, Rohans, Pat Cantwell, P.J Cuddihy and Eamon Whelan – but still they pin too many of their hopes on old reliables Richie, Pat and John Power, and Pat and Christy Dwyer.

Another outfit which flatters to deceive is Thomastown. They trained well, had a terrific victory over Conahy Shamrocks but were well beaten by Balyhale. They need leadership, a certain discipline and a better focus. If these can be attained they will go places.

Bennettsbridge decided not to get seriously involved in the league after winning it last year and losing the championship. It looked as if their



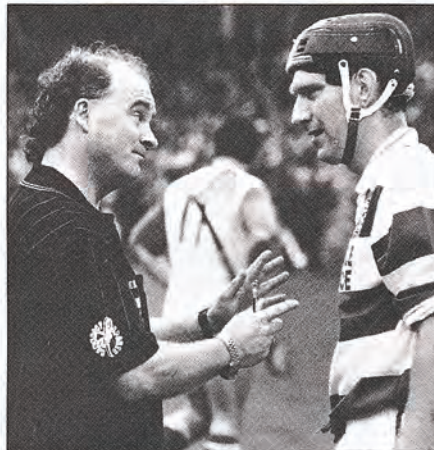
**O'LOUGHLIN GODFATHERS CELEBRATE IN NEWPARK HOTEL**

Celebrating the Intermediate Championship win of their charges are (from left) – Anthony Bergin, Gerry Deegan, Eamon Doyle (Chairman), Sean Casey, Sammy Geoghegan, Sean Tyrrell, Paul Cleere (Captain), Tom Crowe, John Skehan, Mick Nolan (Trainer), Ger Tyrrell.

(Photo: T. Brett)

reasoning was right after dismissing a none too impressive Tullogher in the first round. Their next game against Clara was both painful and disappointing. A lack of discipline and a paucity of the basic skills proved a burden that was difficult to carry.

Conahy Shamrocks presented and persisted with a very young batch of talent. Some would have you believe that they were the coming team. However, they were beaten in the first round of the championship which was disappointing as



Now, I don't care what you had for your breakfast, but . . . Referee Eddie Mahon has a "little chat" with Graignamanagh's Jim O'Driscoll during the Vale Oil Intermediate final.

(Photo: T. Brett)

they had done well in the league. They avoided relegation and at the end of the day were probably satisfied with that.

Mullinavat had a big, hard strong team on paper. They can play a bit as well, but for some extraordinary reason, known only to themselves, they fail to deliver. Players like Pat Hoban, Pat McEvoy, John and Mick Dunphy and even younger players like Ray Carroll and Declan Wall should be able to get more for their club than they are presently collecting.

The Rower-Inistioige are betwixt and

between at present. They made a very poor show in both league and championship. Admittedly they have good crop of talent on the way but will have to wait a while for them. Until such time as the youngsters arrive consolidation will suffice.

If any team was likely to take the dreaded step back to Junior ranks, Tullogher was the side most likely to face the drop. They did not go back without a scrap. What a pity their efforts in the relegation playoff had not manifested itself earlier and events could have been so different.

Yes, it was a memorable year in Intermediate hurling. The bookies favourites didn't figure. We still have to wait for the Intermediate league and championship double. Will Piltown do a Dunnamaggin or O'Loughlins in 1997 and travel first class? Can John Lockes get back to senior at the first attempt? The answers to these and many more questions this time next year le cúnamh Dé.



**VROOM . . . VROOM!!! WATCH ME TAKE OFF!** O'Loughlin's centre-back Derek Shelly attempts to fly over Graignamanagh's Noel Dunne in the Intermediate final.

(Photo: T. Brett)



# PADRAIG PUIRSEAL

By: MICK DUNNE ("Gaelic World")

**I**T WAS during the Leaving Cert year five decades ago that a recently-ordained and very enthusiastic English-teaching cleric, determined to improve our reading skills and broaden our vocabularies, persuaded the authorities to restock the college library with up-to-date material including popular novels. That was when I first became aware of Padraig Puirseal who, not many years later, was to become a colleague and friend.

Of course, in the late 1940s nobody anywhere knew him as Padraig Puirseal: that was to come later when he established himself as a highly-respected writer on Gaelic games in the now defunct and lamented Irish Press newspaper. As a novelist of the Forties, this son of Kilkenny was Patrick Purcell, but to some who came to know him well through sports journalism much later, he was affectionately "Paddy P".

Those of us schooled on the banks of the Barrow had our first introduction to Purcell when his first, and most acclaimed novel, "Hanrahan's Daughter", was placed on the shelves of that school library. Impressionable as we were, and engrossed in an ever deepening devotion to Gaelic games, this story was enthralling and sensational – in the best sense of that often misused word – because of the impact it made on our young minds with its setting in a rural background where hurling played such a significant role in the lives of the people.

Since most of the not very sophisticated youths who clamoured to get their hands on this novel were themselves, or the majority of them, from similar rural backgrounds in Kildare and Leighlin, and were now surrounded by the national sports during every recreational break from class, it was not surprising that a story set in familiar culture with hurling a prominent feature of the tale, should have been so popular. And now be remembered with such affection.

Purcell, of course, was on familiar ground having been reared in Mooncoin and educated in St. Kieran's College. In his earliest years in journalism he was prolific as a novelist and, in addition to "Hanrahan's Daughter", he also wrote "Fiddler's Green", "A Keeper of Swans" and "The Quiet Man" – the latter not to be confused with Maurice Walsh's short story from which the John Wayne – Maureen O'Hara movie was adapted.

Perhaps, Purcell was ahead of his time as a chronicler of rural happenings in novel form and

it would be interesting to see a publisher re-issue some, or all, of his books at a time when home-produced reading matter is proving so successful.

After an honours M.A. degree in English at UCD – where he was auditor of the Literary and Historical Society in the 1930s – he worked as an editor of the "English Digest" produced in Dublin, and later joined the *Irish Independent* as a sub-editor. He also founded a weekly newspaper on Gaelic games, "The Gaelic Sportsman", and joined the sports department of the *Irish Press* in the mid-Fifties. For a time he was features editor of that newspaper but reverted to the sports desk before "going back out on the road" to use the common journalistic phrase when he became Gaelic Games Correspondent in 1970.

But, in addition to his work at national newspaper level, Paddy contributed to several publications under various pen-names such as "Moonharrig", "Oldtimer", and "Terence Ronayne". Although one of the best-known reporters of Gaelic games for so many years, it was, I believe, as a storyteller rather than as an on-the-spot daily reporter that his immense talents shone brightest. This was best exemplified in his "All in a Day's Sport" column in *The Irish Press* where he told tales of the games – and of any sport – that were hugely entertaining.

In that excellent column we repeatedly had evidence of Purcell's encyclopedic knowledge of sport. Although he specialised in hurling and football, he was astonishingly familiar with all sports and had a great liking for most of them. Moreover, he could talk most expertly about any of them including the American games, baseball and gridiron football, even in an era when there was no such thing as satellite television showing us these sports in this country and when mention of them in our newspapers was minimal.

Paddy's knowledge was gained through his voracious reading, not through first-hand experience because he first visited America only relatively late in life when covering an All-Star tour in the mid-Seventies. For many years, he was reluctant to fly anywhere, let alone across the Atlantic, and on one occasion in the 1950s, when some of us were talking about two teams going to New York for the old Brendan Cup competitions, he asserted he "wouldn't get into a plane to cross the Atlantic." Yet, twenty years later, he was happy to travel not only to New York, but all the way to California. And there he was one day lounging at the side of a pool in a Hollywood Hotel, jacket discarded and shirt collar loosened as the only concession to the baking sun, and declaring to colleagues: "Fellows, this



certainly beats working!" A few minutes afterwards, he was away to transmit his latest report to his paper because Paddy P. never missed a deadline.

Outwardly, Paddy seemed to saunter through life, unhurried and unperturbed. He had a placid nature, gentle and utterly incapable of being hurtful in either his spoken or written words. It could truly be said of him that he never harmed a living soul in his lifetime. That is not to say that he tolerated fools or smart alecks; in fact he could put these in their place very decisively, cutting them down to size very effectively, but never offensively.

One of his consuming interests was in the history of the GAA and he did original research into the beginnings of the association long before others. He put this to good use when he produced the 120 page booklet "Sixty Glorious Years of the GAA" in the mid-Forties and he continued this work with a view to publishing the full history of the association. For a variety of reasons, this did not appear in print before his death in 1979 and it was left to his sister Mary to ready it for publication by Paddy's family under the title "The GAA in its Time" in 1982.

In 1978 Paddy watched his 100th All-Ireland Final between hurling and football and his report of that year's Kerry-Dublin decider earned him a McNamee Award.

Sadly it was to be his last football final because death took him early in 1979, aged sixty four, and just a few months before he would have gone into well-earned retirement from the grind of daily sports-writing. Kilkenny lost one of its most noted sons, sports journalism lost a superb practitioner and those of us fortunate enough to work alongside him lost a dear friend.



# VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

## Co. Vocational Schools

Our committee was particularly pleased around Christmas when Ollie Walsh agreed to help out with the preparation of the County Vocational Schools' Hurling Team. We were struck by the manner in which he quickly came to know the panel members by name and the good camaraderie he established with the team.

During his all too short association with us, we came to realise how good he was with people. May he rest in peace.

Noel Skehan willingly agreed to take up the position of team trainer. Noel invited Brendan O'Sullivan to help out and they formed an excellent combination. We played Kerry in Killarney, and after very stubborn resistance by the hurlers from the Kingdom, we eventually did enough to win by a few points. Cork were our next opponents. Cork had an excellent team and scored a decisive win that day. They then went on to win the All-Ireland by beating Galway in a classic final.

Our thanks are due to Noel Skehan and Brendan O'Sullivan for their input with the team. We thank also the teachers and parents who helped with transport and in particular, Christy Walsh and Sean Hanrahan, the mini-bus drivers, without whom life would be much harder.

We appreciate the efforts of the teachers in the seven vocational schools who continue to keep hurling to the forefront in the sporting lives of the schools.

## Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown

### LEINSTER SENIOR HURLING - DIV. B

Johnstown Senior hurlers got off to a good start on October 18 against Kilkenny VS in the first round. After a number of years in the doldrums at this level, Johnstown were looking forward to a good campaign.

Kilkenny provided stiff opposition and tested Johnstown in every area. Johnstown had a bit more class and fitness and emerged worthy winners. In the second round, Johnstown saw off the challenge of Clonaslee on their home pitch,



Eddie Mackey, Captain Kilkenny Vocational Schools shakes the hand of his Cork counterpart, prior to their meeting in Nowlan Park. The referee is Willie Barrett (Tipperary).

T. O'Neill



### KILKENNY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS HURLING TEAM

Front row l to r: Michael Sweeney, Jason Cuddihy, Dick Walsh, Eddie Mackey, Cathal Dunne, Michael Gordon, Brian Blanchfield. Back row l to r: Adrian Cleere, Tom Coogan, Bill Cotter, Thomas Bergin, Kevin Power, Joe Delaney, Niall Nevin, Martin Hughes.

Photo T. O'Neill



### KILKENNY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FOOTBALL TEAM

Front row l to r: J. Cuddihy, E. Doyle, Mark Brett, Wm. Flood, E. Hanrahan, Tom Murphy, Paul Buggy, J.P. Kelly, Tom Fitzgerald, D. O'Neill, Chris O'Neill. Back row l to r: John McCormack, Robert Stapleton, Ivan Fenlon, James Hickey, Trevor Cummins, Noel Maher, John Monaghan, M. Knox, David Maher. Not in picture: P. Doyle, B. Hickey.

proving too strong for the Laois men on the day.

The semi-final was held on October 8 in Danesfort.. However, Paul Costello, Adrian Cleere, Kevin Power, Pat Morrissey, Tommy Bergin and the rest of the squad failed to halt the advance of a strong Thomastown team.

#### JUVENILE FOOTBALL.

Johnstown juvenile footballers enjoyed considerable success in the Leinster VS football competition of 1995-96. Having defeated Ballyhale VS and Kilkenny VS to win Roinn 2, they were narrowly defeated by Carlow VS in the quarter final.

The game against Carlow VS was an epic encounter. Carlow dominated the early exchanges and were leading by eight points after twenty minutes. Two great goals by Ger Doheny restored Johnstown's fortunes. The game ebbed and flowed until the final whistle and the lead exchanged hands on several occasions. Carlow gained the upper hand to go on and win by two points.

## Mooncoin V. S.

#### SENIOR HURLING - DIVISION A.

Mooncoin Vocational School were very lucky that a very dedicated bunch of fellows came to the school all at the one time in 1993. These lads won the integrated Leinster Hurling Championship for the first time ever, and reached the Vocational Schools' Junior Final.

We qualified for the Leinster semi-final after playing Ballyhale VS and New Ross VS. St Fergal's, Rathdowney, Leinster champions for a number of years were our semi-final opposition in early February 1996. The game in Ballyragget was a difficult one, but a good performance saw Mooncoin through to a first final.

The final took place in March in Nowlan Park, where Ballyhale VS were the opponents. Over the years, many fine games were played between the schools and it was great to see two Kilkenny schools in the final.

When the referee called full time, there was a delirious outpouring of joy from the Mooncoin team, parents and supporters. Captain, Michael Gordon got a rapturous reception as he made his way to receive the cup.

The match took place on the weekend of Ollie Walsh's death and the captain paid a moving tribute to Ollie and especially his involvement with the County Vocational Schools' Team.

The staff of Mooncoin VS wish all our students, past and present, the best of success in the future with their clubs and county.



**GRAIGNAMANAGH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL – JUVENILE BLITZ 1996, SOUTH LEINSTER CHAMPIONS. RUNNERS UP IN LEINSTER FINAL**

Back row: C. Norton, L. King, J. Barron, E. Cullen, P. Skelton, C. O'Neill, P.J. Brett, J. Cahill, D. O'Neill, B. Cushen, G. Brett (C), D. Brophy. Front row: L. Fitzgerald, R. Foley, S. Reddy, J. Kinsella, R. Dreelan, S. Fitzgerald, G. Foley, M. Nolan, M. Fenlon.



**COLAISTE MHUIRE SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM**

Back row l to r: Marie Phelan, Sinéad Kavanagh, Ann Marie Bergin, Kelly Long, Ann Marie Gray, Juliet Ryan, Sinéad Delaney, Margaret Tobin. Front row l to r: Donna Spellacy, Kathleen Peters, Elaine Fox, Lorraine McCarthy, Brena Phelan, Rosemarie Sheehy, Suzanne Stapleton.



**COLAISTE MHUIRE SENIOR BOYS HURLING TEAM** – Back row l to r: Damien Sheehy, Padraig Bergin, Paul Bergin, Declan Garrett, Michael Glendon, Martin Quinlan, Kevin Power, Tommy Bergin, John Burke. Front row l to r: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Patrick Kennedy, Raymond Tallis, Paul Costelloe, Raymond Moriarty, Kieran Rafter, Michael Moriarty, Pat Wall.

We played Loughrea VS in our first All-Ireland final in Semple Stadium, Thurles. This was a first chance for most of our lads to play on this famous stage. Loughrea were All-Ireland Champions from 1994-95. On the day, they had match winners in abundance and despite our team's best efforts, Loughrea ran out worthy winners. Our congratulations to them.

The 1995-1996 season will be never

forgotten in Mooncoin VS, a season of many highlights. One highlight was the presentation of the Leinster Medals by Willie O'Connor in Mooncoin. Mooncoin VS, Leinster Champions 1995-96.: R. Coady, P. Delahunty, E. Mackey, B. Mackey, L. Dunphy, M. Gordon (Capt), S. Tyler, R. Walsh, M. Sweeney, L. Knox, L. Kelly, A. Norris, J. Norris, R. Roche, P. Walsh. Subs: B. Fleming, R. Norris, J. O'Hanlon, R. Carroll, P. Walsh, V. Power, R. Fitzpatrick, P.

Falconer, J. Walsh, O. Hennebery, P. Phelan.

## JUVENILE HURLING

In juvenile hurling, Mooncoin had a good run in the league and were finally beaten in the quarter-final by New Ross CBS. We lost by two points, leading until a minute to go when New Ross scored a winning goal.

Team: A. O'Keeffe, A. Dunphy, C. O'Keeffe, J. Rochford, J. Daniels, J. McCarthy, J. Foran, L. Tyler, R. Coady, T. Ryan, D. Ryan, V. Power, R. Byrne, S. Quinn, D. Blackmore.

## GIRLS' FOOTBALL AND CAMOGIE

Mooncoin VS has for some years now promoted Ladies' Gaelic Football and Camogie, and this year was no exception. Mooncoin is one of the few local schools promoting Ladies' Football, the fastest growing sport in Ireland.

The following are some of the participants in camogie and ladies' football.

A. Power, H. Walsh, L. D'Alton, P. D'Alton, N. Gordon, H. Walsh, A. Rothwell, R. Dunne, A. Dunne, C. O'Brien, M. Gordon, B. Delahunty, E. Doody, J. Kennington, M. Knox, R. Coffey, C. Roche, M. Power, M. O'Brien, S. Grant, D. D'Alton, U. Kirwan, M. Roche, S. Roche, L. Hassett, E. Hassett, S. Murphy, D. Coughlan, A. Coffey, L. Hearne, A. Walsh, M. O'Keeffe, C. Murphy, M. Rowe, G. Foran, E. Roche, C. O'Dwyer, A. Delahunty, L. Coady, A. Gahan, M. Delahunty, S. Grace, S. Walsh, A. Phelan, B. Phelan, J. English, E. Walsh, E. Kenny, S. Kearns, S. Kinsella, C. Falconer, C. Rowe, M. Quinn, M. Walsh.

# Slieverue V.S.

A GAA coaching course, which lasted eight weeks, commenced in Slieverue Vocational School on September 19 1996. Each week, there is one session which lasts for two hours. The coach is Bobby Jackman, from Windgap. He teaches us to coach primary school students the basic skill of hurling and football. Our year, which is Transition Year, takes part in warm-ups, skills, games and warm-downs. The aim of the course is that on completion, we should be able to go to primary schools and coach eight to twelve year olds.

In the first of our sessions, we took notes and got handouts on 'Safety and Skill'. We also watched a video on the first aid side of coaching. Every session after that has been practical work down in the football pitch. Each week, a new team does the warm-ups and the skills as practice for the schools. Then, we go back to class and revise and take notes of what we have done.

Its quite a worthwhile course and I'd recommend it to all Transition Year students. After all, at the end of the course, you receive a nice certificate of coaching, that would look quite well on your curriculum vitae.



### COLÁISTE MHUIRE JUNIOR BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

Back row l to r: Brian Doyle, Billy Bradley, James Whelan, Dermot Power, Anthony O'Hara, Declan Tallis, Roger Greeme, John Bergin. Middle row l to r: David Lee, James Maher, Donnacha Gray, Emmet Kavanagh, Seán Minogue. Front row l to r: Noel Dowling, Joseph Webster, Eoin Morrissey, Patrick O'Gorman, Richard Collinson, Padraig Doheny.



### MOONCOIN, LEINSTER VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS SENIOR CHAMPIONS

Front row l to r: Vincent Power, Richard Walsh, Brendan Mackey, Michael Gordon (captain), Robert Cody, James Norris, Lee Kelly, Paul Walsh. Middle row l to r: Martin Gordon (trainer), Patrick Delahunty, Seán Tyler, Laurence Dunphy, Edward Mackey, Richard Roche, Andrew Norris, Michael Sweeney, Liam Knox, Peter Falconer. Back row l to r: John O'Hanlon, Richard Norris, Eoin Henebery, Richard Fitzpatrick, Brian Flemming, David Walsh, Joe Walsh, John Kennedy (trainer).



### MOONCOIN VS. SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM

Front row l to r: Helen Walsh, Úna Kirwan, Melissa Rowe, Nora Gordon, Susan Henebery, Gemma Foran, Evelyn Roche, Charlene Murphy. Back row l to r: Rose Purcell (trainer), Claire Falconer, Ann Power, Caroline Roche, Deirdre Dalton, Alison Rothwell, Mary Gordon.



**MOONCOIN, LEINSTER VS, SENIOR CHAMPIONS**

T. Walsh, School Principal, with M. Gordon, captain.



**MOONCOIN VS, JUNIOR CAMOGIE TEAM**

Front row l to r: Siobhán Walsh, Alison Phelan, Pamela Horgan, Amy Coffey, Catherine O'Brien, Charlene O'Keeffe, Laura Hearne. Back row l to r: Rose Purcell (trainer), Rachael Coffey, Catherine O'Brien, Aoife Holden, Sandra Grace, Bernie Phelan, Maureen O'Brien, April Dunne, Mary Gordon, Marie Walsh.



**SLIEVERUE VS SENIOR HURLING TEAM**

Back row l to r: Pat Tyler, Kevin Haberlin, Shane Bohell, Michael Walsh, Liam O'Donovan, Noel Walsh, David Barrett, Declan Walsh. Front row l to r: Brendan Maher, Alan Atkins, Michael Forristal, David Walsh, David O'Donovan, John Paul Kelly, Eoin Dollard, Martin Knox, Denis Keogh.



**SLIEVERUE VS JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM**

Back row l to r: Neill McDonald, Noel Walsh, Seamus Grant, Kevin Haberlin, Kieran Murphy, timothy Murphy, Declan Walsh, Michael Walsh, Derek Bolger. Front row l to r: David O'Donovan, John Kearney, Michael Forristal, P.J. White, David Walsh, Martin Knox, Andrew Keogh, John Paul Kelly.



**SLIEVERUE VS JUNIOR HURLING TEAM '95/'96 - LEINSTER FINALISTS**

Back row l to r: David Walsh, Alan Boyle, Michael Forristal, Brendan Maher, Eugene Kenneally, Noel Walsh, Michael Walsh, David Barrett, Colm Haberlin, Martin Knox, Hugh Doran. Front row l to r: Alan Atkins, Jamie McDonald, Eoin Phelan, Robert McDonald, Eoin Dollard, Michael Ryan, Kathleen Atkins, Kevin Aylward.

# Forty years of hurling memories

By Proinsias Ó Donncha

## "OVER THE BAR SAID LORY MEAGHER"

I CAN'T recall exactly when I first heard those memorable and oft quoted words. Maybe I heard Micheál O'Hehir say them, or, more likely, I heard the grown-ups around me repeat them. Anyway, it is a starting point to recalling 40 years of Kilkenny Hurling Memories.

I held my first hurley in my hand when I was about 10. My brothers, home on holidays from such exotic places as Hospital, Limerick, and Ardee, Co. Louth, usually brought hurlers with them. As far as I

recall, they were used mainly as a protection against cross dogs when they went to visit neighbours. A good deterrent they were, too.

It was in 1952 that hurling seriously became a part of my life. In September of that year I was in a boarding college in Mallow, Co. Cork. Out of 70 boys, there were seven from Kerry and 7 from Kilkenny. We formed somewhat of an alliance as a defence against the remaining 56 who had one thing in common – an intense dislike for our respective counties. Perhaps it had something to do with our success in hurling and football. We were both high on the winners' list.

While at 14 I had mastered all the basic skills of football, I found the hurley hard to handle. I stuck to ground hurling for most of that first year. I marvelled at the ease with which the lads from Mooncoin, Thomastown, Tullaroan and Callan could handle camán and sliotar as if by genetic inheritance. It was in Mallow, also in the Spring of 1953, that I saw my first inter-county game of hurling.

I was, of course, aware that an All-Ireland final had been played in Killarney in 1937 when an ageing Kilkenny team fell victim to a young and vibrant Tipperary fifteen. That game in the Park in Mallow was my introduction to some of the greats of hurling, which included Tony Reddan, Pat Stakelum, Mickey Byrne and Seamus Bannon of Tipperary; Dave Creedon, Matt Fouhy and Willie John Daly of Cork. But the man on everyone's lips that day was the great and awe-inspiring Christy Ring.

Thirty years later when I met Dave Creedon at a book launch in Croke Park he could vividly recall the game in Mallow and he was still annoyed that Tipp. had won by a point. It was only a tournament game but the winners got a suit of clothes each, good pickings in the lean 'fifties.

From 1953 to 1957 my knowledge of hurling was gleaned in the main from All-Ireland and Railway Cup radio broadcasts and from reading accounts of the big games in the press.

In 1957, I went to train as a National Teacher in De La Salle College, Waterford. It was my great good luck to witness many games between top-class teams whose likes it will be difficult to see again. This was the era when Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford, Cork and Tipperary contested All-Ireland finals. I saw them in action on many an occasion in league, championship and tournament games. One of the first Kilkennymen to impress me was Paddy Buggy playing at right half-back. He looked frail and light when togged out but I rarely saw any forward get the better of him over 60 minutes. He could strike a ball long and low, parallel to the sideline, and he was a difficult hurler to block down.

Other men from Noreside who came to my notice in those days were Johnny McGovern, Denis Heaslip, Mick Kenny and the red-haired Seán Clohosey. Indeed Seán Clohosey was very stylish, particularly in the art of overhead striking. However, the man who stands out from all the others from those games of almost 40 years ago was the one and only, the irreplaceable



The great Kilkenny team of 1972. Name the missing player!

Photo: T. Brett

Ollie Walsh. I was enchanted with his dancing style and with his fearless courage. I was honoured beyond measure to get to know him personally when I moved to Kilkenny 15 years ago.

Spread over five decades between 1957 and 1996, Kilkenny contested 19 All-Ireland finals and on a dozen occasions the McCarthy Cup was brought home to appreciative followers. Three of those finals – '57, '59 and '63 – were played against the mighty Waterford team of the time and Kilkenny were a shade lucky to win two out of three.

In 1957, Mick Kenny was the man in form and he scored a total of 2-5 against that fine centre-back, Martin Óg Morrissey. Eddie Keher was the giant-killer in 1963, scoring a record-breaking tally of 14 points. Even though he was beaten on six occasions that day in '63, Ollie Walsh made a succession of marvellous saves that kept Kilkenny in the game to the end.

Two games in the 1960's stand out for different reasons. In 1967 the "Cats" faced the old enemy, Tipperary. This was a tense encounter and for most of the game there was little between the teams. Pat Henderson, Jim Treacy, Seamus Cleere, Eddie Keher and Tom Walsh fought like tigers against the likes of John Doyle, Len Gaynor, Tony Wall, Mick Roche, Jimmy Doyle and "Babs" Keating and the game flowed and ebbed like a raging tide.

With about 10 minutes remaining a late pull on Tom Walsh saw him leave the field with an injured eye. That was it. The Kilkenny roar went up. The players responded and in a driving finish they conquered the men from the Premier county and in the process wrote a new and brilliant chapter in Kilkenny's hurling folklore.

In 1969, Cork were favourites to retain the title they had convincingly won the previous year. All the expert sportswriters of the day gave Kilkenny little chance. Paddy Grace, who was then County Secretary, agreed wholeheartedly with them. Kilkenny would, of course, tog out on the day but, to put it bluntly, their chances of victory were slim. Kilkenny won, pulling up, and the rebels went home with their pride severely dented.

The 1970's were most assuredly the golden decade of Kilkenny hurling. They contested 7 finals, winning four. Many would argue that the teams that played on those occasions were as good as the great teams of the 1930's under the leadership of the immortal Lory Meagher. Certainly it will be difficult to produce players in the future of the class of Cummins, Keher, Delaney, Purcell, Crotty, Larkin and Skehan to name but a few. Their deeds of skill and bravery will long be remembered whenever and wherever hurling is spoken of.

The last two decades brought four All-Irelands to the wearers of the renowned

	<b>OLLIE WALSH</b>	
<b>PADDY PRENDERGAST</b>	<b>BRIAN CODY</b>	<b>JIM TREACY</b>
<b>JOE HENNESSY</b>	<b>GER HENDERSON</b>	<b>SEAMUS CLEERE</b>
<b>FRANK CUMMINS</b>	<b>LIAM "CHUNKY" O'BRIEN</b>	
<b>SEAN CLOHOSEY</b>	<b>PAT DELANEY</b>	<b>EDDIE KEHER</b>
<b>BILLY FITZPATRICK</b>	<b>MICK CROTTY</b>	<b>D.J. CAREY</b>

black and amber strip. In 1982 and 1983 Cork, glistening as they were with star hurlers, were overcome in style. When you consider that they had outstanding hurlers such as Brian Murphy, Tom Cashman, Tim Crowley, Tony O'Sullivan, Ray Cummins and Jimmy Barry Murphy at the zenith of their careers you begin to understand the extent of Kilkenny's excellence. The new stars for Kilkenny from those games to take their place with the greats of the century were Paddy Prendergast, Christy Heffernan, Richie Power, Ger Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Brian Cody, Liam "Chunky" O'Brien and the Fennellys, Liam and Ger.

I started my review of Kilkenny hurling in 1957 when Ollie Walsh was on the threshold of a brilliant career as the outstanding goalkeeper of our time. It is particularly fitting to bring the review to a close with Kilkenny's victories of 1992 and 1993. Ollie, now in the twilight of a life devoted to hurling, was team manager and he moulded a bunch of talented players into a winning combination, bringing forth in the process yet another batch of hurling greats: Michael Walsh, Pat Dwyer, Pat O'Neill, John Power, Eddie and Willie O'Connor and the magical D.J. Carey.

As we face into a new millenium, now a paltry three years away, we can look forward with confidence to a further flowering of Kilkenny hurling. I have no doubt but that 1997 will bring back the McCarthy Cup to another joyful welcome on the

streets of the Marble City in early September. Mark my words, next year D.J. Carey will step out of the shadows of Mackey, Ring, Rackard and Keher and will cast a long shadow of his own across the decades of the next millenium.

I have chosen a team drawn from the five decades of my review to represent Kilkenny in the playing fields of my imagination. I've chosen Ollie Walsh in goal, although I found it difficult in the extreme to leave out Noel Skehan. Ollie wins because of his exuberant showmanship. Paddy Prendergast gets in ahead of Fran Larkin because I would trust Paddy with my life. Brian Cody was simply the best and Jim Treacy in the corner picked himself. I put Joe Hennessy at right half-back since he was the most graceful hurler I have seen.

Ger Henderson had no rival at centre-back, particularly when the going got really tough. Seamus Cleere exuded class. At centrefield, Frank Cummins was the powerful engine of the team and "Chunky" O'Brien could swing a hurley in a match-box. Seán Clohosey was consistently effective and Pat Delaney was unstoppable on the '40'. Eddie Keher ranks with Mackey and Ring – enough said. Billy Fitzpatrick scored consistently. Mick Crotty was the powerful fulcrum that made scores possible for team-mates and D.J.'s sleight of hand and foot leaves defenders chasing shadows.



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# Developments on the secondary school scene

**T**he secondary schools in Kilkenny had a particularly good year both on the playing fields and in games development. Each of the four schools won competitions with St. Kierans amassing a record thirteenth All Ireland Colleges senior hurling title, CBS Kilkenny winning both the Leinster juvenile and junior championships both in very exciting fashion.

Callan CBS won Leinster junior titles in both hurling and football while Castlecomer Community School won the Bord na nÓg sponsored county juvenile competition for the second consecutive year.

The latter competition has been devised for players who do not feature on their school's first team and is tailored to allow for school size. Both St. Kieran's and CBS James' St. entered two teams and next year it is hoped to extend to a junior competition on the same lines during 1997. The competition gives over 140 extra stu-

dents the opportunity to wear their school jerseys in a serious competition. This joint venture with Bord na nÓg sponsorship has been hugely successful in the past two years.

Since 1992 a total of sixteen second level schools have received generous grants of equipment annually from Kilkenny County Board. This scheme is administered by Development Officer Barry Hickey and is funded by the generous assistance of the Supporters' Club and the various sponsors of the County Board. Kilkenny was the first county to have developed such a support scheme for second level schools and only now are some other counties beginning to realise the importance of supporting the second level school sector.

A new development this year has been the young reporters' programme in Transition Year where two students from each school have the opportunity to gain some first hand journalistic experience by becoming their schools GAA correspondents. Unfortunately, this Leinster Colleges sponsored programme has been taken up

by very few schools. However the St. Kieran's pair of Leonard O'Shea (Dunnamaggin) and Nigel Skehan (James Stephens) have been helping to fill many newspaper column inches with match reports. In addition, a large part of their duty includes in-school games promotion and record keeping. It is hoped that many other schools will become involved in this scheme in the near future which should help in the training of future PROs and perhaps may encourage some of the participants to careers in journalism.

One area which seems always to be taken for granted is the relationship between club and second-level school. It has been suggested that, in the future, clubs and schools will be enabled to forge closer links through the appointment of a schools' liaison officer in each club to maintain contact with the second-level schools in the area. We are hopeful that this proposal will enable both parties to prosper in co-operation in the development of Gaelic games in our secondary schools.



**ST. KIERAN COLLEGE – LEINSTER JUVENILE (UNDER-14) FINALISTS 1996**

Front row (L/R) – Declan Brennan, B. Carroll, Alan O'Brien, John Dermody, Pat Reid, Ned Sweeney, Shane Hennessy, Ken Coogan.  
Second row (L/R) – Tony Walsh, Michael Connolly, Stephen Roche, William King, Damian Conway, Robert Aylward, Gerard Murphy.  
Third row (L/R) – Brian Tennyson, Donal O'Shea, Peter O'Neill, John Brennan, Brian Tyrell, Kenny Lynch.  
Back (L/R) – Jackie Tyrell, Joe Delaney, Martin Prendergast, Jim Rich, Darragh, Connery. Missing from photo: Liam Brennan.

## LEINSTER COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 1995



**LEINSTER AND ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS PICTURED AT  
BALLYMORE EUSTACE**

Front row (L/R) – S. Hawe (U12), O. Kelly and B. Minogue (U14), W. Love (U15), C. Phillips (U-13). Back row (L/R) – S. Walsh (secretary), B. Falsey (Secretary, Juvenile Committee), N. Lawlor (Chairman), S. Kelly (U14), T. Morrissey and P.J. Hawe (U-15), F. Minogue (Secretary), S. Hawe (Secretary)..



A. Lawlor (U14B), S. Kelly (U14A), W. Love (U14A), T. Morrissey (Jnr.), D. Byrne (U14A), D. Kelly (Jnr.). All are pupils to Castlecomer Community School. Also in photo are Michael Hester, Principal, CCS, and New Lawlor (coach).



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Seán Millea (Captain of Graig/Ballycallan) accepts the County Final Roinn "A" Cup from Joe Pyke (Chairman Kilkenny Bord na nÓg) Looking on is Mr. Frank Hogan, Iarnród Éireann, sponsors of the Minor Hurling Championships.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill



Congratulations O'Loughlin Gaels – Michael and Theresa Nolan

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TRIPLE HYGIENE AWARD WINNERS



# CLUB SCENE

## MULLINAVAT

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Msr Tommy Maher P.P.  
*Vice Presidents:* Fr. Denis Purcell C.C.,  
 Fr. Donie O'Brien  
*Chairperson:* Tommy Frisby  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Richie Carroll  
*Secretary:* John Dunphy  
*Asst Secretary:* Andy Aylward  
*Treasurer:* Jim Conway  
*P.R.O.:* Tommy Duggan  
*Irish Officer:* Sean O Meachair  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Liam Kenneally

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Minor Hurling League 'B' - County Finalists  
 Under 16 Hurling 'B' - Southern Finalists  
 Primary Schools' Camogie - County Champions  
 Junior Camogie 'B' - County Finalists  
 Eamon Law (Handball) - All-Ireland Junior Singles Champion  
**COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:**  
 John Dunphy, Pat Hoban (Junior Hurling)  
 Tony Duggan, Keith Madigan, Andrew Duggan (Under 16 Football)  
 Damien Conway (Under 14 Hurling)

To keep up with the ever increasing cost of running many club teams, Mullinavat Club embarked on various fund



Mullinavat N.S. INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens Girls' Football champions 1996 - Three-in-a-row.



Denise Duggan (Mullinavat) who played in the INTO/GAA Mini Sevens football on All-Ireland semi-final day, pictured with her parents.

raising activities. In late March, a successful 'Race Night' was held in the Rod Iron Bar in Mullinavat and an enjoyable night was had by all.

Keeping with the sporting themes, we held our 3rd Annual Golf Classic in New Ross Golf Club on the May Bank Holiday

Week-end. Again we enjoyed another pleasant and worthwhile day.

The club also participated in the County Board Co-op Members' Draw. All funds were put to good use ensuring that the club was run smoothly and we would like to thank all our supporters and sponsors.

# CLUB SCENE

## ROWER- INISTIOGE

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Marty Butler.  
*Vice Presidents:* Fr. P Grace P.P.,  
 Micheál Roche, Fr. Noonan.  
*Chairperson:* Michael Tierney.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Michael Lyng.  
*Secretary:* Fr. Tom McGree.  
*Asst Secretary:* Eddie Prendergast.  
*Treasurer:* Richard Tierney.  
*Asst Treasurer:* Pat Dunphy.  
*P.R.O.:* Matt Galavan.  
*Irish Officer:* Sean O hUigin.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Richard Tierney.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Richard Kelly (Junior Hurling)  
 Greg Fitzpatrick (Senior Football)  
 Brendan Bolger (Under 21 Hurling)  
 Tom Digby (Minor Hurling)  
 Paul Sheehan (Under 16 Hurling)  
 Briona Langton, Deirdre Brennan, Siobhan White (Under 16 Camogie)  
 Elizabeth Lyng, Kathleen Cahill, Eimear Lyng (Under 14 Camogie).

# CLUB SCENE

## ST. PATRICK'S BALLYRAGGET

### OFFICERS:

*Chairperson:* Tommy Phelan.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Michael McCraith  
*Secretary:* John Lacey.  
*Asst Secretary:* Martin Foley.  
*Treasurer:* Sean Foley.  
*Asst Treasurer:* Pat Gannon.  
*P.R.O.:* Richard Stone.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Richard Stone.  
*Juvenile Secretary:* Eddie Delaney.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Minor Hurling League Division 3 -  
County Champions.*  
*Camant Under 11 - Divisional  
Winners.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Brian Phelan (Junior Hurling)

Once again, our minor hurlers provided the highlight of the year by winning the Iarnrod Eireann League Division 3. The league competition began in early April and finished in November, after a number of delays. However, the Ballyragget side held their form well and beat county championship finalists, Thomastown in a cracking league final. In the championship, they were most unfortunate to lose out to a useful Young Irelands of Gowran.

It was another disappointing year at adult level. The Junior team had an indifferent league campaign before losing out to Emeralds in the opening round of the championship. The Under 21 side were shocked by Carrigeen in their first round championship game.

In the newly inaugurated Camant, ten-a-side league, Ballyragget won their division. On finals day in Nowlan Park they defeated Graignamanagh, Young Irelands and Fenians to capture the gold medals.

Highlight of the year for the Under 14 side was the visit of Kilmessan of Meath for the Leinster Feile. In that competition, St. Patrick's beat St. Monica's (Dublin),



*Help for St. Patrick's . . . Northern club St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) were presented with a set of jerseys by M. and A. coaches. Pictured (left to right) are Michael McCraith, Michael Dowling, managing director of M. and A.; Richard Stone, juvenile club chairman; Tommy Phelan, club chairman and John Lacey, club secretary.*

Conahy Shamrocks and Kilmessan to reach the final. In the final they lost out to neighbours Erin's Own.

St. Patrick's paid a return visit to Kilmessan later in the year to compete in an Under 13 tournament. They saw off the challenges of Boardsmill and Dunshaughlin only to lose out in a great final to the host club.

The Under 14 team also had a good run in the 'Tara Ryan' tournament in Castlecomer, as did the Under 13's in the

Lisdowney 'Sevens'.

Clara put an end to our Under 16 team's championship ambitions when they recorded a somewhat flattering victory.

Brendan Dooley was selected to play on the North Kilkenny Under 16 team. The Under 16 footballers are still involved in the championship. The School's Football team reached the league quarter final where they lost to Graignamanagh.



### ST. PATRICK'S, BALLYRAGGET UNDER-14

*Back l/r: Tommy Phelan (selector), Sean Kavanagh, Liam Kavanagh, Vincent Wallace, Peter Breen, Danny Phelan, Dara Delaney, Shane Dowling, John Kavanagh, Brendan Stone, Kevin Malone, Kieran McGrath, Maurice Walsh, Seamus Lacey (trainer), Gerry Glendon, John McDermott, Harry Stone (trainer). Front l/r: Michael Dowling, Gerry Walsh, Killin Murphy, J.J. O'Sullivan, Michael Dunne, Niall Kenny, Niall Staunton, Conor Delaney, Stephen O'Gorman, Fergal Lalor, Darren Crosby, Michael McCraith (selector), Enda Holohan.*



### ST. PATRICK'S U-21 HURLING PANEL 1996

*Back row l-r: Richie Stone (selector), John Lacey (selector), Adrian Walshe, Paul Walsh, Pat McGrath, Michael Lawlor, Oliver Culleton, Shane Phelan, Jody Phelan, Brian Phelan, Seamus Lacey, Robert Lyttle, Martin Gleeson, John Staunton, Lar McEvoy (selector). Front row l-r: Liam Lacey (mascot), Gerry Kennedy, John P. Comerford, Thomas Carroll, Harry Stone, Billy Irwin, Mark Swan, Richard Stone.*

# CLUB SCENE

## THOMASTOWN

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Fr. Fitzgerald P.P.  
*Chairperson:* Willie O'Keeffe.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Martin Walsh.  
*Secretary:* Noel Moore.  
*Treasurer:* Ger Walsh.  
*P.R.O.:* Brendan O'Sullivan.  
*Groundsman:* Joe Kelly.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Intermediate Football Championship - County Champions.*  
*Minor Hurling Championship Roinn B - County Finalists.*  
*Minor Hurling League Roinn B - County Finalists.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Brendan Treacy (Junior Hurling)  
 Brian Blanchfield, Niall Nevin, Martin Hughes (Vocational Schools)

This year will be remembered in Thomastown for many different reasons, the winning of a County Football Title, a Southern Minor Hurling Final, the completion of the development work in Grennan and sadly the deaths



**CONVENT OF MERCY, THOMASTOWN, ROINN D PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE RUNNER UP**  
 Back l-r: Laura Aylward, Sandra Forristal, Amy Byrne, Michelle Kirwan, Elaine O'Hara, Mary Cassin, Siobhan Sheehy, Rebecca Nevin, Siobhan Hughes, Kathy Behan, Sinead Brennan, Jenny Murphy.  
 Front l-r: Ciara Stapleton, Elaine Mullally, Fiona Sheehy, Niamh O'Neill, Aoife O'Neill, Emma Lannon, Frances Delaney, Ciara Bolger, Denise O'Hara.

of so many members.

The Intermediate Football team kept up the proud tradition of football in the parish, by beating Clara in the County Final. Under the guidance of P.J. Whelan, Willie Lannon and Ger Walsh, the team showed great character, skill and commitment all through the championship.

Our Intermediate Hurlers got to the quarter-finals of the championship, where they were unlucky to fall to the Shamrocks.

Our Junior Hurling team performed well in both league and championship before falling to the Shamrocks.

Our Minor Hurlers, under the management of John Lanigan, John Donnelly and Eamon Dempsey, succeeded in reaching the championship and league finals, where they lost to the Emeralds, after three matches, and to Ballyragget respectively.

The final stages of development work was completed this year in Grennan. The club now have two adult pitches, one juvenile pitch and an eight lane running track. The juvenile pitch is

also floodlit. A special word of thanks to Liam Aylward, T.D. for all his help. Also a special word of thanks to Joe Kelly, our groundsman, who keeps Grennan in such great order.

Our main club sponsor this year was the Jerpoint Inn. Thanks to Tadhg and Kevin for their generosity.

Whilst looking through the minute book of the Northern Board of 1933, which came into my possession, courtesy of Michael Hayes, from Knockreigh, in Callan, I chanced upon names of clubs, long ago extinct. The location of some of them, in truth, was puzzling. I'll throw a few of them in your direction, and maybe you might mull over them in your spare time, and try and "give them a home". Names like St. Colemans, St. Magdalens, Ballyconra and Seven Houses were prominent at the North Board meeting of 6 October 1935. At the same meeting, Bennettsbridge withdrew their objection to St. Magdalens being awarded a Junior Hurling championship match, played in Nowlan Park on Sept.



**THOMASTOWN RANGERS REUNION 1996**

*Left/right:* Pat Fennelly, Joe Devoy, Tony Walsh, Jim Brennan, John Walsh, Michael Fennelly, Michael Treacy, Michael Farrell, Michael Kirwan, Paddy McDonald, John Healy (chairman Kilkenny County Board). Brian Doolan, Paddy Cullen, Paddy Ryan, Jim Forristal, Luke Donnelly, Ray McEntee, Tadhg Feeney, Mikey Bookle, Denis Treacy, Paddy O'Keeffe, Jack Kavanagh, James O'Neill, Jimmy Bookle, Eamon Dempsey, John O'Keeffe, Albert Kavanagh, Johnny Minogue, Billy O'Neill, Pat Bookle, Fr. Leonard Forristal, Fr. James Cassin, Donal Walsh.



**THOMASTOWN BOYS N.S. LEAGUE '96 WINNERS**

Back: Eddie Lee, Damien Maher, Barry Maher (capt.), David Parslow.  
Front: Enda O'Sullivan, David Begley, Jamie O'Keefe, Sean Doyle.



**THOMASTOWN BOYS N.S. LEAGUE '96 RUNNERS UP**

Back: Stuart Tennyson, David Dempsey, Brendan Heafey, Jason Kelly.  
Front: Michael Egan, David Wemyss (capt.), Billy McMahon, Declan Fennelly.

8th. Down south, we had names like Cotterstown, Crowraddie, Eoghan Rua and Thomastown Rangers, which was more recent than 1934.

The Rangers came and went in a relatively short space of time. During their existence (1956 – 1971), they left quite an impression. They must have. There were over 400 people in attendance at their reunion in the Thomastown Community Hall on November 2nd last. That was some response to a club that went out of existence some 25 years ago. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Forristal in Chapel Hill Church. The "Rangers" played in a blue and yellow strip, had only one chairman, Jim O'Neill, and only one secretary, Richard Forristal.

In their day, they had a reputation of "pulling" great crowds to matches. They contested three Southern Finals, and one County Junior Final. One of the best remembered Southern Finals, was the all-Thomastown clash, in Grennan, between Rangers and Thomastown. The latter won by 1-8 to 2-1. Their only County Final appearance resulted in a whopping defeat by Gowran by 9-7 to 1-3. Prominent among the family names attached to the Rangers were, Forristal, O'Neill, Bookle, O'Keefe, Treacy, Donnelly and McEntee.

Incidentally the first colours worn by the newly-formed Ballyhale Shamrocks, were the now defunct colours of Thomastown Rangers.

## OBITUARIES.

This is a year when Thomastown lost so many of its great and loyal members.

### Ollie Walsh

A legend in the GAA, but a man who never forgot his home or its people. His contribution to teams was immense. His fund-raising for the purchase of Grennan and its development was legendary.

### Cha Whelan

Cha played with Kilkenny and Thomastown, at all levels, with distinction. He was a great character and a man who loved all sports. Cha was a great supporter of the club, both on and off the field.

### Joe Prendergast

Joe could be best described as the anchor of Thomastown Club for many years. His work with under-age teams in the town was well known and appreciated throughout the county.

### Richard Forristal

Richard was a great administrator in our club, serving as club treasurer for twenty one years, and before that, was the only secretary ever of Thomastown Rangers.

### Jim Challoner

Jim won a senior county medal with Thomastown in 1946. He always had a great interest in club matters.

### Tommy Delaney

Tommy was an active member of the club all his life. He was always willing to lend his help for both club and county.

### Jimmy Gibbons

Jimmy played a lot of hard, honest games for Thomastown in the past. Even though he lived away, he always supported the club.



Football Board Chairman Tom O'Hanlon presents the Intermediate Football Championship trophy to Thomastown captain Robert Maher.

### Larry O'Neill

A highly active member of the community, Larry hurled school age and later with the Rangers.

### Kieran Power

An honest and skillful player, Kieran played on the successful Thomastown Minor team of 1981.

The club extends sympathy to the above families on their sad losses.

# CLUB SCENE

## THREecastLES

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Jack Cleere R.I.P.

*Vice Presidents:* Rev O'Connor, Rev S. Henry, Billy Murphy.

*Chairperson:* Denis Butler.

*Vice-Chairperson:* John Fitzpatrick.

*Secretary:* Nicky Grace.

*Asst Secretary:* Billy Minogue.

*Treasurer:* Dick Dalton.

*P.R.O.:* Nicky Grace.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Junior 'A' Hurling League - Semi-finalists.*

*Junior 'A' Football Championship - Semi-finalists.*

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Damien Lennon (Senior Football)

The year 1996 was a very average one for the Threecastles' club, as nothing very significant happened on or off the field.

On the hurling front, we reached the semi-final stage of the Barlo-Nissan Junior 'A' League, only to go down to our fellow parishoners, St. Lachtain's. However, our defeat by James Stephens in the quarter-



*The late Jack Cleere, centre, pictured with his two sons, Jim on the left and Andy on the right.*

final of the championship was most disappointing. The chances were there to win but unfortunately we were not capable of taking them. For one reason or another we were short of seven of last year's team who reached the Northern Final. To try and replace nearly half a team proved too much for such a small club.

On the football front, we have fared that much better. For the first time, an effort was made to prepare for the big ball game and it has paid off to date. We reached the County semi-final of the Junior 'A' Championship and await to see who our opponents will be.

### DINNER DANCE

This year's event was held back in March with well in excess of 100 guests attending. Ned Moran, Chairman of the

Northern Board, presented the team with medals from the Paddy Cahill Cup winning team of the previous year.

### ANNUAL OUTING

This year's trip was to Galway on the October Bank Holiday Weekend. It was a low key affair, with the weather very poor. Nevertheless, those who travelled made the most of the break.

### OBITUARY

It is with regret that we record the passing of our Club President, Jack Cleere, to his eternal reward. Jack, who was active up to the end, had reached a fine age. He took a deep interest in club affairs and seldom missed a game in which the club was involved.

To his wife and family, we offer our sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace.

## Scoláireachtaí de Bhaldraithe

*Seosamh Ó Donnchadha (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)*

Cuireadh seiséar scoláire chuig Choláiste na Rinne, i lár na Déise, arís i irth an tSamhraidh. Chuir breis is dhá chéad scoláire ó bhunscoileanna an chontae ar na scoláireachtaí seo agus mar is ngáthach anois, bronnadh trí chinn ar bhuaicillí agus trí chinn eile ar chailíní. Ciara Ní Chíneatháin, Baile hÉil, Clár Nic Aindriú, Carraigín, Bríd Ní Aodha, Bearna na Gaoithe, Coilín de Barra, Scoil Eoin Naofa, Cormac Ó Cuilínn agus Stíofáin Ó hAodha, Scoil Iognáid Rís, Na Bráithre Críostaí, na daoine a tháinig as an hata agus nuair a ghlac siad part ins na Cursaí Samhraidh sa Rinn, bhain siad taitneamh agus tairbhe astu.

Ag an mbronnadh i 'Shems', i Sráid Éoin, bhí Cathaoirleach an Choiste Contae, Seán Ó hÉilí, an Runaí, Pádraig Ó Donnchú, Oifigigh ó Bhord an Tuaiscirt, Bord an Deiscirt, Bord na nÓg agus Cumann na mBunscoileanna. I láthair freisin, bhí Liam Suipéal, bainisteoir Coláiste na Rinne, Briain de Bhaldraithe a bhronn na scoláireachtaí agus Seosamh Ó Donnchadha, Oifigeach na Gaeilge. Tá buíochas ag dul don Choiste agus do na Boird éagsula a sholátharaíonn an t-airgead do na scoláireachtaí seo i gcuimhne Thomáis de Bhaldraithe nach maireann.

Táimid ag súil go leanfar leo an bhliain seo chugainn.

# CLUB SCENE

## TULLAROAN

### OFFICERS:

President: Chris Walsh.  
Chairperson: Jerry Doheny.  
Vice-Chairperson: John Teehan.  
Secretary: John Glennon.  
Treasurer: Dick Walsh.  
P.R.O.: Chris Walsh.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Under 11 Camant - Section Winners.  
Lisdowney Sevens Under 13 Hurling -  
Winners.  
Under 14 Hurling Championship -  
Semi-finalists.  
Special Junior Hurling 'B'  
Championship - County Finalists.  
Special Junior Hurling 'B' League -  
County Champions.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Bill Hennessy, Liam Keoghan, Derek  
Gaffney (Senior Hurling)  
Jimmy Coogan (Minor Hurling)  
Ned Sweeney, Shane Hennessy (Under  
14 Hurling)



**TULLAROAN MINOR HURLING 1996**

Back row: John Glennon (selector), Tom Fitzgerald, Sean O'Neill, Michael Kennedy, Eamon O'Neill, Jimmy Cleere, Matt Butler, John Coogan, David Glennon, John Delaney, Richard Holland, Michael Maher, Chris Maher (selector). Front row: Jimmy Maher (trainer), Patrick Campion, Eoin Hall, Pat Campion, Chris Maher, Jimmy Coogan, Martin Kennedy, John Breen, Richard Cleere, Eamon Delaney, Mark Holmes, David Millea.

The Tullaroan Seniors had an early start to the year with the Commemoration Games to mark the first All Ireland Finals played in Croke Park on March 15th. The hurling match was Tullaroan against Boherlahan-Dualla, who were known then as Tubberadora, representing Tipperary. In the Football Final, Arravale Rovers of Tipperary played Pierce O'Mahony's of Meath. These games were played 100 years to the day after the original ties.

Tullaroan won the hurling by 1-7 to 1-6, reversing the result of 1896. Several players, who would never have played in Croke Park, had their special day. At the function in Ceannaras afterwards, the four panels were presented with specially commissioned medals and commemorative scrolls. Mr. Jack Boothman, President of the GAA, unveiled a commemorative

plaque at the rear of the Hogan Stand.

The Senior team did not have a great run in the league, and were beaten by James Stephens in the first round of the championship, by a controversial goal. They retained their senior status by defeating John Lockes.

Well done to our Special Juniors, who reached the finals of both league and championship. They lost to Dunnamaggin in the Championship but later won the League Final against Barrow Rangers.

The Minor team lost to Freshford in the championship.

The Under 16 team drew with The Village in the semi-final of the league but failed badly in the replay. Graigue-Ballycallan beat them in the championship.

The Under 14 hurlers opened the year with a victory in their section of



The Tullaroan senior team that played Boherlahan in Croke Park on 15th March, 1996 to commemorate the centenary of the first All-Ireland senior hurling final played in Croke Park - Back row: Liam Keoghan, Pat Doheny, Joe Norton, Edward Holland, Derrick Gaffney, Jimmy Walton, Sean Teehan Ned Fennelly. Front row: Philip Coogan, Shem Dunne (captain), Michael Maher, Michael Walsh, Bill Hennessy, Dick Walsh, Philip Doheny.



Left to right: Liam Mulvihill, Director General Croke Park; Jim Hogan, Paddy Clohosey, Chris Walshe, Jer Doheny, Bridget Mulooney, Jack Bootman, President; Tom Teehan, Mick Walton, John Walton, Kieran Tobin.



Anthony Dooley R.I.P.

Feile Laighean. They reached the semi-final of the Roinn A Championship, with victories over Dicksboro, O'Loughlin Gaels, Graigue-Ballycallan and Ballyhale Shamrocks. Ballyhale reversed their league defeat in a replay of the county semi-final after a great drawn game. In Feile, Tullaroan lost the first round to James Stephens. The year ended with long awaited victories in the O'Loughlin Gaels and Dicksboro Tournaments. The team also travelled



#### TULLAROAN SPECIAL JUNIOR TEAM

Front Row: Eoin Hall, Adrian O'Dea, Mark Holmes, Pat Fennelly, Simon Walton, Joe Walsh, John Coogan, Dan Hogan, Donal Doheny, Chris Maher, Brian Maher, David Millea. Back Row: Tommy Norton (selector), Tommy Crosby, David Glennon, Eamon O'Neill, Ian Dowling, Michael Walsh, Jimmy Glennon, Thomas Hennessy, Eamon Delaney, Matt Butler, Michael Kennedy, Noel Treacy, Larry Cummins, Derek Holmes, James Hennessy, Seoirse Butler.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill

to Coolderry for a tournament.

The Under 13 hurlers had league victories over St. Canice's, CBS, St. John's and Graignamanagh to qualify for the quarter finals of the Roinn A champ

ionship. St. Canice's reversed their league defeat to put Tullaroan out of the campaign and put a three year run of championship success to an end. In the Corn de Bhaldrathe, Tullaroan were beaten by Kilmanagh.

Tullaroan hosted the final series of games in the seven-a-side competition, reaching the final for the second year in a row. In a great game Ballyhale won by 3-5 to 2-2.

One of the highlights of the year was the success of the Under 13 Seven-a-side team in the Lisdowney tournament. Shane Hennessy won Player of the Tournament and brought

the Sweeney Cup to Tullaroan for the first time.

Quite a bit of development work has been completed in the park. Extra car parking has been added, two dug-outs built, new netting erected behind the goals, a new scoreboard put in place and dashing completed to the dressing rooms and paling.

#### OBITUARY

The untimely death of Anthony Dooley was a major shock to our parish, his family and friends. Anthony played all grades of hurling with our club and was one of the finest hurlers to come through at under age. He was superbly strong on his left-hand, and in one championship game he scored 1-14 from play. He also hurled for Kilkenny Vocational Schools. Ar dheis De go raibh se.

# CLUB SCENE

## TULLOGHER ROSBERCON

### OFFICERS:

*President:* Jimmy Cummins  
*Vice Presidents:* Fr. Michael Norton  
 P.P., Jimmy Phelan, Michael Moore.  
*Chairperson:* Paddy Grennan.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* Pat Lyng.  
*Secretary:* Eamonn Phelan.  
*Asst Secretary:* Shem Cummins.  
*Treasurer:* Paddy Gaule.  
*P.R.O.:* Joe Conway.  
*Irish Officer:* Luke Grennan.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* Joe Conway.  
*Juvenile Secretary:* Matt O'Brien.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996

Under 16 Hurling Championship  
 Roinn C - County Finalists.  
 Féile Iomána Laighean - Group  
 Winners

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996

John Murphy (Junior Hurling)  
 John Gaule (Minor Football)  
 Richard Walsh (Minor Hurling)

This year was a disappointing one for Tulloghger-Rosbercon, as our Intermediate Hurlers were relegated to



**UNDER-14 ROINN B COUNTY SEMI FINALISTS**

Front l-r: John Murphy, Kieran Grennan, Declan Phelan, Richard Murphy, Richard Ryan, Martin Roche, Andrew Murphy, Edward Conway, Joseph McCarthy. Back l-r: Thomas Mullally, Dermot Heffernan, Gerard Mullally, Eoin Gory, Richard Gaule, Martin Malone, Moling Cotterell, Martin Woods, Kieran Baron, Philip Boyle.



**TULLOGHER/ROSBERCON U-16 ROINN C COUNTY FINALISTS 1996**

Front l-r: Michael Grennan, Simon Kennedy, Kieran Barron, Joseph Croke, Kieth Malone (capt.), Michael Murphy, Edward Conway, Mark O'Brien, Tommy Maher, Stephen Cotterell, Richard Murphy, Moling Cotterell. Back l-r: Jason McCarthy, John Grennan, Gerard Mullally, Tommy Barron, Eoin Mullally, Alan Maher, Austin Lee, Martin Woods, John Mullally, Donal Phelan, Patrick Gaule, James Walsh, Canice Grennan, Martin Kennedy.

Junior grade for 1997.

Our Special Junior Team had a good win over Mooncoin but lost to John Lockes in the next round.

The Under 21 team were defeated in the first round of the championship.

The Minor Hurlers were defeated in the Southern semi-final of the championship. After a good run of victories in the league, losing only one game in six starts, they qualified for the semi-finals, only to be defeated by St. Patrick's of Ballyragget. The Minor Football Team lost in the first round of the championship.

The Under 16 Hurlers were defeated by James Stephens in the semi-final of the Roinn C League. In the championship, they recorded wins over Slieverue, Glenmore and Carrickshock to win the Southern Final, but were well beaten in the County Final, again by James Stephens.

The Under 14 team had four wins to reach the quarter-final of the Roinn B Championship. They then defeated the Rower-Inistioge in a great game of hurling but lost the semi-final to St.

Martin's. The same panel of players took part in Féile Iomána Laighean. The club hosted Cruimlin of Dublin. They won their three games in the group and defeated Graignamanagh in the final.

The Under 13 schools' team had a good run of successes in the Roinn B Hennessy Fuels' League, but were defeated at the quarter-final stage. This team won the Shield Final of the Piltown Tournament, defeating Mullinavat.

Edward Conway and Eoin Gorry won Leinster Under 14 'A' Football medals with Good Counsel College, New Ross.

### OBITUARIES

Martin J. Malone of Hoodsgrove who won Senior Football Championships with the club in 1930, 1931 and 1934.

Mikey O'Brien of Tinneranny, who was captain of the Junior Football Championship Team of 1948, and won a senior medal in 1941. He was club treasurer and club secretary for a number of years.

May they rest in peace.



**TULLOGHER/ROSBERCON U-11 TEAM**

Front l-r: Aaron McCarthy, Martin Gladney, Edward Forristal, Michael Gaule, James Ryan, Liam Barron, Shane Ryan, Patrick Grennan, Damien Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Richard Phelan, Francis McInerney. Back l-r: Michael Ryan, Richard Dplard, Thomas Lanigan, Pat Hartley, Robert Forristal, Jim Prendergast, Joseph Ryan, John Hartley, Michael Croke, Declan Grennan, John O'Neill, James Doolan.



# CLUB SCENE

## WINDGAP

### OFFICERS:

Chairperson: P.J. Egan.

Secretary: Simon Brophy.

Treasurer: Eamonn Doyle.

P.R.O.: Jimmy Walsh.

Committee: Denis Foley, Pat

Lonergan, Tom Mackey, Pat Moore,

John McKenna, Jim Phelan, Frank

O'Brien, Alan Hearne.

Groundsman: George Watters.

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

Junior Hurling Championship -  
Southern Finalists.

### COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Alan Hearne (Junior Hurling)

Enda Hawe (Minor Football)

Aidan Mackey, James Murray (Under  
16 Football)

The hopes expressed at the Club AGM, last year, were certainly realised, and more, during 1996. We had a memorable year, by any standards, thanks in the main to the enthusiasm of all club officers, particularly that man for all seasons, Simon Brophy, our amazing secretary. Work on the re-development of our entire facilities commenced and have been completed. We now have a pavilion, with meeting rooms, dressing rooms, a catering room and a first aid room, rivalling the best that is available in Kilkenny. The interest in the club is extremely encouraging.

Tipperary star, John Leahy, trained our



**WINDGAP, SOUTH JUNIOR FINALISTS**

Front row l-r: Colin Comerford, Gerry Meehan, Gay Doyle, Pat Power, Eamonn Murray, Alan Hearne, Tom Egan, William Walsh. Back row l-r: P.J. Egan, P.J. Barron, Niall Kenny, Mick O'Shea, Pat Foley, Walter Purcell, Paddy Walsh, Jimmy Walsh.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill



**LOUGH LEANE GAELS - WINDGAP VISITORS FOR LEINSTER FEILE NA nGAEIL**

Front l-r: P.J. Dobson, Paraic Fitzsimmons, Niall Conaty, Matthew Tormey, Killian Cosgrove. Centre l-r: David Kelly, Keith Fitzpatrick, Fergal Moran, Derek McNicholas, John Molloy, Keith Weldon, Andrew Simpkin, Shane Kelly. Back l-r: Pat Slevin, Tom McNicholas, Finbarr Fagan, Mark McNicholas, Maurice Gavigan, Brian Conaty, Rory O'Donnell, John O'Farrell, John Paul Hannon, Eamonn Potter, Shane Fitzpatrick.



**RAISING THE ROOF IN WINDGAP** - Carpenters at work on the roof of the new dressing rooms in Windgap, l-r: Gay Doyle, John McKenna, Paddy Walsh (contractor), Ray Dunne.

Junior team, which reached the Southern Final. Alan Hearne starred for the Kilkenny Junior team beaten in the All-Ireland Final. This was the 'cream on the cake', a cake which saw a big number of our clubmen participate in inter-county hurling, football, camogie and handball. Noel Power picked up an All-Ireland Freshers medal with W.R.T.C. Our club hosted Lough Leane Gaels for the Leinster Feile Competition.

Our extra curricular activities involved the entire Windgap community, who provided much needed financial assistance for the ongoing club developments. We are indebted to all

the people who organised, promoted and supported events such as the Tea Party, Race Nights, 300 Club, Card Games and the Piltown Co-op draw. We particularly thank all the people who participated in the 'Call to Beef' scheme. Our gratitude goes, also, to those officials who procured Lotto funds for our club.

If the determination of all people in the club during 1997 matches the dedication of Pat Walsh, who played in the Southern Final, despite a broken hand, then the Windgap club can look forward with renewed enthusiasm to a bright future.

## OFFICERS:

*President:* Canon Madigan.  
*Vice President:* Fr. Dalton.  
*Chairperson:* Eddie Power.  
*Vice-Chairperson:* M. Kealy.  
*Secretary:* Johnny Comerford.  
*Asst Secretary:* Jim Dunphy.  
*Treasurer:* Paddy Brennan.  
*Asst Treasurer:* Toddy Farrell.  
*P.R.O.:* Beatrice Treacy.  
*Finance Chairperson:* Willie Delaney.  
*Finance Secretary:* Toddy Farrell.  
*Field Committee:* Martin Kealy, Noel Roche.  
*Juvenile Chairperson:* John Connolly.  
*Juvenile Secretary:* John Carroll.

## CLUB SUCCESSES 1996:

*Senior Hurling Championship - County Champions.*  
*Special Junior Hurling 'A' League - County Champions.*  
*Special Junior Hurling 'A' Championship - County Finalists.*  
*Under 21 Hurling Championship Roinn B - Northern Finalists.*  
*Minor Hurling Championship Roinn B - Northern Finalists.*  
*Minor Football Championship Roinn B - County Champions.*  
*Under 16 Football Championship Roinn B - County Champions.*

## COUNTY PLAYERS 1996:

Pat O'Neill, D.J. Carey, Charlie Carter Jnr., Ciaran Phelan, Martin Carey (Senior Hurling).  
Dick Carroll (Minor Hurling).

# CLUB SCENE

## YOUNG IRELAND'S

### THE HOME-COMING

There is no doubt as to the highlight of the year for the last hurling season, achieving the ultimate in any county, becoming

County Champions. Those lucky enough to have witnessed those two fine games will reminisce for years to come. Well done to the Senior hurlers for capturing our first Senior Hurling Title.

The build up was a sea of red and white, bunting, flags, songs and poetry. The home coming was electric, horns blowing, aerial ribbons fluttering, cheering everywhere. The Green was adorned in red and white as the cavalcade arrived. Young and old hailed the new Senior Champions home.

The next morning came the visit to the school, greeted by a very proud Principal, John Knox along with Dick O'Neill and the other teachers. Great thanks goes to our two teachers who have contributed much towards hurling in the parish, great ambassadors both.

### OTHERWISE!

Our Special Junior 'A' team, captained by Pat Lennon, also gave us many thrills



**YOUNG IRELAND'S - NORTH SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING ROINN A CHAMPIONS 1996**  
Standing, l to r: Tom Carroll (selector), Oliver Byrne, Pat Kennedy, Peter Carroll, Thomas Drennan, Brendan Kehoe, Billy Doheny, John Brennan, Patrick Treacy, John Holden, Liam Phelan, Noel Roche (selector). Front: Dick Carroll, Ciarán Carroll, Eoin Drea, John Middleton, Gary Farrell, Aidan Drennan, David Carter, Philip Twoomey, Martin Carter, Pat Lennon, Charlie Carter senr. (selector).



**YOUNG IRELANDS UNDER-16 FOOTBALL ROINN B CHAMPIONS 1995 (Played in 1996)**

Back Row: Alan Power, Patrick O'Neill, John Paul Comerford, Brian Power, Tadgh Hurt, Colin Madden, Stephen Nolan, John Paul Carroll, Brian Whelan, Tom Hunt (trainer). Front row: Paul Hickey, Brendan Hickey, Barry O'Donnell, Tom Drennan, John Whelan, Stephan Byrne, Alan Roche, David Carter, James Hickey. Robert Simpson is missing from photo.

this year. Four of the 1985 champions combined with younger members to bring their own brand of excitement. Wins over Clara, James Stephens, Emeralds, Threecastles and St. Martin's set up a League Final clash with St. Lachtain's. The Barlo-Nissan League Title won, they qualified to meet James Stephens in the Northern Championship Final, which they won, making club history as a father and two sons played together. Lady luck deserted us in the County Final and Mooncoin were victorious by three points. Well done to Tom Carroll, Noel Roche and Charlie Carter Snr.

The Under 21 team were successful in their early rounds qualifying for the Northern final, losing narrowly to St. Martin's. Credit to trainers and selectors, Cathal Fitzgerald, Ciaran Phelan and Charlie Carter Jnr.

Our minors reached the Northern Final also, only to be beaten by a much more experienced Emeralds side. Well done, however, to the boys and their mentors, Michael Kehoe, Tom Drennan, John Comerford and Donal Twomey.

Both the Under 16's and Under 14's played well during the year. The good work will pay off in the end. To John Carroll, John Connolly, Paddy Comerford and Tom Drennan, thanks for all the travelling and hard work.

The very successful Under 11 coaching was the brainchild of Club Chairman Eddie Power. 80 boys and girls attended the eight week course in hurling skill, taught by D.J. Carey, Pat O'Neill and Lester Ryan, Leinster Coach. The Under 11's went further afield playing 'Camant'. Thanks to Frankie Farrell and Gerry Corcoran who travelled with the team.

Brian Power was a member of the Kilkenny CBS hurling team which won Leinster Junior honours this year. Owen Drea and Barry O'Donnell both played for St. Kieran's.

Well done to our Minor and Under 16 footballers on becoming County Chamre. We have also put the finishing touch to a new carpark.



Young Ireland's Hurling Club Senior County Champions celebration photo.

Congratulations to Brian and Ann Farrell, and to Michael and Claire Mackey, members of our club who were married this year. Best wishes to Charlie Carter and Marie Whitehead who were engaged during the year.

A great night was had by all at the Club's Social Night held in Langton's. Medals were presented to the Junior Camogie Champions and All Ireland medal winners, Peg Muldowney and Mary Canavan. Also present were the hurlers who won the All-Ireland seven-a-side competition. Recipients of the Hall of Fame Awards were Jim Harding and Paddy Brennan.

The club extends its sincere sympathy to anyone who suffered a bereavement during the year. May they rest in peace.



Captain Pat Lennon (Y. Ireland's) receives Special Junior A Trophy from Northern Chairman, Ned Moran. Photo: T. O'Neill

## ANSWERS TO G.A.A. QUIZ

1. Carrick-on-Suir
2. Blackrock (Cork)
3. Laois
4. 1993
5. Liam Dunne
6. Tipperary
7. False
8. 1938
9. Brendan Fullam
10. Paschal Long (1984)
11. True - 1941-43
12. Lusmagh
13. 1965
14. Trevor Giles
15. Meath 1990/1991
16. Seamus Durack
17. Anglo Celt Cup

18. Wolfe Tones
19. Red & White
20. Wexford Creamery
21. Mooncoin
22. No. 14
23. Monaghan
24. Ned Quinn
25. Frankie Walsh
26. Joe McDonagh
27. Jim English
28. Anthony Daly
29. 1927
30. Dublin
31. 1973
32. 1913
33. Bill Walsh
34. None

35. Sligo and Down
36. Twelve
37. Fenians (1975)
38. 1933
39. Urlingford
40. Tullaroan. (A goal outweighed any number of points)
41. Both played minor football with Tyrone
42. Birr
43. Kilmacow (1987)
44. Fan Larkin
45. Pat O'Connor
46. 1971
47. 1937
48. 1959
49. 1933 (Cavan)
50. 1983

Interview with Kevin Fennelly

# Kevin and Gowran – A Success Story

by Richard Holden



**I**T COULD be the case of the Saviour returning to his flock. Four years ago, Kevin Fennelly was at the helm when Young Irelands of Gowran won their first Intermediate Championship and this year he returned to Gowran where he helped steer them to their first senior championship. Fennelly had tired of playing and had lost his appetite for top-flight hurling. Having lived in Gowran for the past six years, he was anxious to train the team this year and felt that he could not combine both jobs, that of playing with the Shamrocks and training with Gowran.

Gowran's success this year was surprising to say the least as they had not done anything special during the League and had failed to win a senior championship match since joining the ranks for the first time in 1993. I asked Kevin for the secret behind Gowran's success this year – what was it that made the D.J. Carey led outfit turn from perennial losers to hurling kingpins. "If there was a secret, it was in getting our backs to be much closer and tighter than previous years. I remember going into a pub in Gowran on the evening of their championship defeat by The Fenians last year and all the lads were saying that it was a great match and that it was a great score to put up. I replied that yeah, while 4-10 was a good score, ye still lost by 11 points. Gowran conceded 4-21 in that match and I was determined to learn from that. We had to get our backs from conceding goals. Another aspect that I was intent on instilling into the lads was discipline. I would admit that I'd be very hard on players. I would keep at them to do the right thing and play to my pattern. I could socialise with them and yet be totally switched off from them on the field. Another important factor was the contribution of my two fellow selectors Dick O'Neill and Charlie Carter (snr.). They were a great support and always willing and ready when I was tied up in doing other things. They were very level-headed and a big assistance to me all year."

I asked Kevin who was the best manager he had seen in the game. "It would be a toss-up between Kevin Heffernan and Sean Boylan. Heffo brought the Dubs up from Division 2 to win an All-Ireland. He hadn't the same talent available as Mick O'Dwyer had but yet he was able to work with the players, who weren't all that well-rated, and get them to match the great Kerry teams. Sean is another manager I would rate very highly. He has the ability year after year to put out a Meath team that proves tougher than all the rest. He has a will-to-win above the norm and is able to get the very best out of his players. He has been manager for the last 12 – 14 years and that is a great achievement in itself."

This year, Kilkenny were beaten in the first round of the Championship for the first time in a number of years. I asked the former county goalie for his views on the Cats disappointing display against Wexford. "I believe that too many players went up with hidden agenda's and had wrong attitudes before the match. Too many players were speaking to the press before the match. Too many players were blaming everybody else but themselves – there

were too many looking for reasons to get beaten."

Kevin is the holder of three All-Ireland senior medals but spent a considerable part of his inter-county career as sub-goalie to Noel Skehan. In 1985 the great Bennettsbridge stalwart finally called it a day and I asked Kevin was it a big ordeal to replace a goalkeeper of Skehan's stature. "I didn't replace Noel Skehan, I replaced "Stoney" Burke. "Stoney" got in ahead of me for the Leinster semi-final against Offaly. It was a pleasure to be between Billy Fitzpatrick and Brian Cody in the dugout. I was the grand age of 30 and Billy and Brian were 31. I would have thought that two players of their calibre would have been better used elsewhere, rather than in the dugout. (That's enough said about '85). The following year, the then Shamrocks 'keeper made the position his own and went on to hold down the No. 1 till the end of the 1990 season. He regards the 1987 All-Ireland Final as his greatest disappointment. "If someone had told me on the morning of the match that we would let in 1-12, I wouldn't have expected to get beaten by six points. There was far too much criticism of our best players by the Kilkenny public and hardly any criticism of those who didn't perform all year. There was just 0-1 scored between the six forwards, while in the Leinster Final Ger and Liam scored 2-9 between them and that shows you where the problems were. The real prob-



Kevin Fennelly

lem was never addressed before the Final. It was definitely one of those ones that got away."

Next year, for the first time, the beaten Leinster and Munster finalists will be readmitted into the championship at the All-Ireland quarter-final stage. Regarding this new format, Kevin, is very much against the proposed changes. "I think it is ridiculous – there should be an open draw so that every team gets the same chance of winning the All-Ireland. By introducing this new format, they have taken the emphasis off the provincial championships so why not get rid of them. The only reason they're holding on to them is to keep people in paid jobs in an amateur organisation. If they want to play them, they should run them off in the winter-time instead of the League or the Oireachtas."

There has been much debate on the issue of professionalism in the GAA recently, with the Pro-Active Sports Agency reputed to have signed up a number of leading players. I asked Kevin would he be in favour of the GAA going professional – "I don't agree with professionalism – as in players being paid but I believe that a player should be allowed to make money from an organisation/business. I don't think officials who are paid for what they do in the GAA should dictate to players what they should or should not do, for instance accepting payment to attend functions or to open up supermarkets or new businesses. I also feel very strongly that players should get three weeks off in the summer for their holidays, rather than having to get time off work for them later in the year."

The problem of obtaining tickets for big matches continues to get worse every year. I asked Kevin for his views on this issue – was there a better way? "Tickets are more and more to do with money than ever before and the ordinary people are getting their hands on less and less". This is going away from what the GAA stands for. I was in a corporate box for the Leinster Final last year and I met this woman who asked me who was playing! This woman then said "I hope Offaly win because I hate Kilkenny", (I won't say what county she's from – but it's close to both counties mentioned)."

Regarding the All-Ireland Championship next year, Kevin feels that Kilkenny or Galway will have the edge. "This year, some of our players went in with the wrong attitude against Wexford yet were only beaten by a puck of the ball. In other words we're only a puck of the ball away from winning the All-Ireland. If the players can give the manager the commitment I see no reason why Kilkenny couldn't contest and win an All-Ireland in '97. With regard to Galway, they have possibly the best panel in the country and Cyril

Farrell might be the difference."

I asked the Gowran trainer what he thought of the standard of hurling today. "I feel that the absence of the shoulder has taken some of the grit out of Kilkenny hurling. Hurling has got very clean here, players are not as involved as much as before and are not taking or giving the leadership they used to. Other teams seem to be that little bit tougher outside the county especially at Minor and Under-21 level. The last two to three years have been very disappointing for Kilkenny at Minor and Under-21. The staging of our own Under-21 championship in November doesn't help matters". Kevin was manager of the Under-21 team this year, which was beaten after a replay by Wexford. What were the reasons behind Kilkenny's poor Championship, I asked. "I couldn't believe the difference in attitude of some players from what I would have expected. Players from some clubs had a 'devil-may-care' attitude and the lack of fitness of some of the players was frightening. The will to win at both Minor and Under-21 level seemed not to be there with some players."

Kevin has had a long and varied career at both club and county level. He picks out the winning of Shamrocks first Co. title in 1978 and their first Club All-Ireland in 1982 as his most memorable matches. At county level he picks out the 1975 Under-21 All-Ireland victory, when he was captain, as the highlight. He regards Frank Cummins and Maurice Mason as two of the best players he's ever seen or played with. "Frank could do the work of 2 men in midfield while Maurice was without exception the best centre-back in the game". His brothers Ger and Michael also warrant special mention. "Ger had an extraordinary ability to read a game while Michael was the best all-round player for the Shamrocks over the years". Kevin has spent almost 30 years in the game, from winning his first Under-14 medal in 1966 to winning his tenth senior championship medal as sub-keeper with Gowran this year. He played in goal from '86 – '90 with the honoured seniors and in his first year was Kilkenny Hurler of the Year. He has trained four Championship-winning teams – Gaignamanagh to the Intermediate title in 1985, St. Lachtains (Freshford) to the Junior title and Young Irelands of Gowran to the Intermediate and Senior titles.

The Councillor, Publican, Life-Assurance Agent and Trainer has given the Shamrocks and Kilkenny great service down through the years. He admits that he will probably face a new challenge next year – "having achieved what we set out to achieve with Gowran". One thing's for sure, Kevin Fennelly will not take a back-seat for some time to come and that's something we should all be thankful for.



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# CHRISTY'S

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*Congratulations to Young Irelands  
and the best of luck in 1997*

# DAN PHELAN

## WINDGAP

This is a short profile of a faithful, hardworking club man whose life since childhood had been bound up with his parish and club. It could be repeated a thousand times throughout the parishes of the thirty two counties. Every good club has its own Dan Phelan. These people are the life and soul not only of the organisation, but of their own parish and community, without whom, Irish rural life would be immensely the poorer. Without them, the GAA would simply not exist.

The history of Windgap club is closely reflected in the life and times of club stalwart, Dan Phelan. Born and reared in Seskin, he was educated in Windgap National School. He went on to devote much of his lifetime to the playing, promotion and organisation of the games.

In an era when Kilkenny football was at its peak and the local sides were among the pick of the county, Dan made his debut with Lamogue at fourteen years of age in a game in which he broke his collar bone. Having given a stint with Cotterstown, he moved on to play with Cuaille. During this period, he wore the black and amber for three years with the County Seniors in their campaigns with Louth and Wicklow. Lining out at half forward, he

numbered among his teammates Paddy Grace (late County secretary) and Peter Vaughan of Garryricken.

With the county-wide transition to hurling and the one-parish rule, Dan was co-founder of the Windgap club in 1954 with Ned Fitzpatrick, Seamus Horgan, Geoff and Jimmy Butler. The first Chairman, he served for eleven years – still a record – in the post.

Having played successfully with Ballycallan, he lined out at full back with the new side, reaching a Southern Final in 1964. When injury forced his retirement the following year, acted as selector with many teams, including the County Juniors in 1971. As a trainer, he was with the club in the halcyon days of Senior quarter-final and semi-final appearances of 1973 and 1974.

As a referee, Dan officiated in all grades over a ten year period which included the Southern Junior Final of 1981 in Hugginstown.

For twenty years, he represented the club at Divisional and County Board level.

A keen handballer with Windgap and the Slatequarries, he won County honours in 1943 with Sean Ryan, Ned and Paddy Fitzpatrick, Paddy and Billy Murphy.

Listed high among his cherished memories are the county championship wins of



1970 in Junior and 1994, in Under-21 grade, the achievements especially of such players as Kieran Purcell and Pat Walsh who made the vital breakthrough for the club by winning All Ireland medals. Further back, he recollects the great games and teams that graced the Bog Field in the Windgap fetes and the thousands that attended. Overall, he greatly values the many friendships he made and still retains.

A life long pioneer, Vice-President and honorary member of Windgap club, Dan lives in Birchwood with his wife, Mary, and family, Seamie and Judith. In recent years, he has added bingo and badminton to the tremendous interest he still maintains in the games.

For generations, he has inspired those around him with his great commitment. To many, he was their first contact on the field or at meetings, while his car provided the first lift to that all important game.

*Jimmy Walsh*



Hall of Fame . . . Kilkenny and Johnstown former senior hurler Pat Henderson won the "Hall of Fame" award at the Smithwicks 1996 Sports Stars Awards in Springhill Court Otel and is pictured (centre) with his wife Mary, sons, daughter and members of his family. Included are (from left) Mary, Ger (son), Margaret Fitzpatrick (sister), Tom (son), Breda and Michael Henderson (brother), Noreen and Ger Henderson (brother), Elizabeth (daughter) and Patrick (son). Pat's three sons play senior hurling with Dicksboro G.A.A. club.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



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Young Ireland's (Gowran) St. Canice's Credit Union senior hurling champions. John Healy (chairman Kilkenny Co. Board) presents the "Tom Walsh Cup" to Young Ireland's captain D. J. Carey. Looking on is St. Canice's Credit Union President Mr. Jack O'Shea. (Photo: Tom Brett)



Man of the Match – D. J. Carey collects his award from Jack O'Shea, President of St. Canice's Credit Union. Looking on is a very delighted John Knox (St. Canice's C.U.), John Healy, Chairman, Kilkenny Co. Board and Inspector Aidan Roche, Kilkenny Gardaí. (Photo: Tom Brett)

# 1996 – That was the year best forgotten about

By ENDA McEVoy

**I**T was the best of years, it was the worst of years. The best of years of you hailed from Wexford, the worst of years if you hailed from Kilkenny. The best of years if the broad health of hurling nationally was your concern, the worst of years if the narrow health of hurling on Noreside was your priority. Off the field as well as on, it was for the Black and Amber a very sad year.

Off the field, Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Cha Whelan. On the field: defeat by Laois in the NHL quarter-final followed by, and put in the ha'penny place by a gutless



D.J. Carey "belts" over a point against Wexford in the Leinster Hurling Championship. Referee, Aidan Mac Suibhne keeps an eye on proceedings. Kilkenny players in picture are Pat O'Neill and Charlie Carter. (Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

capitulation to Wexford in the first round of the championship. And that was, more or less, that! Kilkenny's summer was done and dusted by the evening of June 2nd. We really should have known better than to expect anything much from a year ending in 6.

Still, maybe a smidgin of humility wouldn't go astray here. To be out of the championship by the first weekend in June, or by the second or the third, is the norm rather than the exception. Across the land, teams in hurling and Gaelic football spend the winter and spring training for a first-round championship date that, inevitably, only 50% of them will negotiate successfully. If the Cats had a long and parochial summer ahead of them after the Wexford match, it's no more than what Wexford had ahead of them so often in the past. And Laois. And Waterford. And Clare. And a whole host of Gaelic football counties. But who mourns for Longford, Sligo, Fermanagh and their unloved partners in anonymity? At least

Kilkenny will be back again – and know it.

The signs of the impending crash had been there for a while. Ever since the 1996 championship draw the previous autumn, in truth. What seemed like half of the county had been saying it. "If Wexford are ever to beat us, this is the year. They'll never have a better chance." Half of the county was dead right.

As if to confuse the issue, Kilkenny began 1996 in style. A deserved victory ground out in the mud of Cusack Park in Ennis, a win against Cork in a smashing match at Nowlan Park, a narrow but well-merited success against Tipperary at the same venue. Things were looking up. Or were they?

Hindsight suggests there was a touch of hollowiness about each of those wins. Clare were barely back from their Thai holiday. Cork's courage on the day could not hide limitations that would be laid savagely bare by Limerick come the championship. Tipp had already qualified for the knock-out stages of the league. And it



Kilkenny – defeated in the first round of the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship by All-Ireland champions, Wexford. Front row (L/R) – Brian Ryan, D.J. Carey, M. Phelan (captain), Michael Walsh, Charlie Carter, P.J. Delaney, Willie O'Connor. Back row (L/R) – Phillip Larkin, Liam Keoghlan, John Costello, Derek Gaffney, Pat Dwyer, Aidan Lawlor, Canice Brennan, Pat O'Neill. (Photo: Tommy O'Neill)





wasn't as if the Noresiders had uncovered any new talent in the areas new talent was needed – midfield and the attack.

It took Babs Keating's Laois to expose the distressing lack of weight in the Kilkenny forward line. The exposition occurred on the day of the league quarter-final at Semple Stadium. Laois hit hard but fair; Nickey Brennan's charges did not possess the height or the weight or the presence to stand up to the opposition. Opposition, moreover, whose ultimate fate was to be humbled by Offaly in the provincial semi-final. It was surely just as well Kilkenny did not overcome Wexford.

They never looked likely to. In the past, close encounters between the two were usually decided by a silly Wexford mistake or a flash of Kilkenny skill. This meeting of the neighbours had little in the way of skill but plenty in the way of mistakes. All by the Black and Amber!

To nitpick for a moment. A goal separated the sides at the final whistle. Two of Martin Storey's points were presented to him by sloppy clearances from enemy defenders. Larry O'Gorman's second-half point from under the new stand came about when the losers failed to pick up their men at a line-ball. Three points = one goal. And Storey would never have finished with six points to his credit had the Kilkenny selectors been brisk about sending the fire brigade to tackle a problem even Stevie Wonder could have seen: Philip Larkin's glaring inexperience. Fiddling while the debutant was being burned – intelligent people can, indeed, do stupid things!

But there was more to it than that. Much more. In essence the Slaneysiders won not because they were better hurlers but because they made fewer mistakes. No mistakes, in fact. And, most importantly of all, because their desire for victory was infinitely greater. It was as if they equated defeat – another defeat, another humiliation at the hands of their eternal tormenters – with death. Whereas Kilkenny . . . Kilkenny didn't want to win as badly as Wexford wanted to. As simple and uncomplicated as that.

The favourites' attitude screamed indifference and lack of passion, reeked of a "well, if they gift it to us, fair enough, but we're not going to bust a gut trying to beat them" mentality. It wasn't until the arrival of John Power, all carrot-topped honesty and fire and commitment, that the Croke Park attendance finally saw a Cat who was prepared to launch himself through and beyond the pain barrier to achieve results. The Callan farmer has never had a nobler 35 minutes for his county.

What has gone wrong with the Black and Amber? It was a question that cropped up on a regular basis in conversation with hurling men from other counties



*P.J. gets away! Action from the Leinster Hurling Championship as P.J. Delaney gets away from Rory McCarthy and Larry O'Gorman. Keeping an eye on things in the background is Kilkenny trainer Richie Power.*

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

during the latter half of 1996.

There is no glib solution, no single all-encompassing answer. Call it a combination factors. Call it a consequence, too, of the high standards Kilkenny have set themselves. In the space of six seasons in the 1990s they won two All-Ireland senior titles, three Leinster titles, two National Leagues, three All-Ireland minor crowns and two All-Ireland under-21 championships. Suddenly they don't win anything of consequence for a year or two, and everyone wonders why. It's a compliment, not a crisis.

Not that there aren't some serious problems. A few questions that should be asked and answered as follows:

- Why has almost an entire generation of under-age starlets gone missing? Is it that they won too much too young? Is it that the senior selectors haven't trawled the county sufficiently thoroughly? Is it that, spoiled for choice in terms of the numbers playing the game, Kilkenny do not – for better or worse – have to settle on certain players, coach them, bring them along quietly and generally make the most of them? It cannot be emphasised often enough how Diarmuid Healy had the percipience and imagination to recognise and blood a frankly obscure intermediate hurler from Carrickshock with no notable under-age CV to his credit. His name was Pat Dwyer.

- The ongoing absence of two big men in the centre of attack. Do two such individuals exist? If so, would they be accepted by the supporters if their strength and enthusiasm were not quite matched by their skill? Or would Kilkenny fans whinge and whine, as Kilkenny fans often do, that these guys "are not fit to lace Keher's boots" and should, therefore, be condemned to eternal darkness?

- Canice Brennan and Aidan Lawlor scored six points between them, three

apiece, from midfield against Wexford. Strange, that, because a notable shortage of scores from out the field has been the county's next biggest problem, after a lack of physical power up front, in recent years. How can the Black and Amber have garnered so many under-age honours in this decade and yet be apparently incapable of fielding one consistently scoring midfielder and one consistently scoring wing-forward at senior level?

- The management took a hammering in the aftermath of the championship exit, and fair enough – but what of the players? Part of the buck surely has to stop with them too. Remember, it was the players who downed tools against Tipperary in that farcical NHL quarter-final at Croke Park in 1994. It was the players who were beaten by eleven points by Offaly in the 1995 Leinster final (in weather conditions that ought to have rendered an eleven-point losing margin a physical impossibility, to boot). It was the players who threw in the towel against Wexford in 1996. Perhaps 1992-93 sated the collective appetite; certainly there are at least two big-name survivors of 1993 who have not hurled a decent game in the county colours since then. But the time when past exploits guaranteed present security has come and gone.

- How in the name of heaven could a group of players who won the 1993 All-Ireland minor title in enchanting style turn into such a lousy under-21 side? Alchemy in reverse. Gold into straw, handsome princes into frogs. To repeat: *how?*

Enough doom and gloom for now. a look at the bright side instead. The splendour of the county final two-parter – hugely enjoyable on its own terms, downright fabulous compared with the standard witnessed from other counties on *The Munster Game* on the TNT channel on Wednesday nights – provided ample proof

that there really is little wrong with Kilkenny hurling. No less relevantly, the past two seasons have shown that great forward lines aren't a *sine qua non* when it comes to winning the McCarthy Cup any more. Assuming Nickey Brennan, Richie Power and Pat Aylward show energy and enterprise in casting their selectorial net to all corners of the county, reports of the demise of the Black and Amber should prove to have been greatly exaggerated. And soon!

Finally, the E. McEvoy awards for 1996.

*Man of the year:* Liam Griffin.  
Obviously.

*Hurler of the year:* Larry O'Gorman.

*Newcomer:* Mark Foley.

*Match:* Wexford 2-23, Offaly 2-15; Croke Park, July 14th.

*Second half:* The drawn Munster final, Limerick, July 7th.

*Score:* Ciaran Carey's winning point against Clare.

*Team of the year:* Damien Fitzhenry (Wexford); Colm Kehoe (Wexford), Brian Lohan (Clare), Sean Flood (Wexford); Dave Clarke (Limerick), Liam Dunne (Wexford), Mark Foley (Limerick); Sean O'Neill (Limerick), Adrian Fenlon (Wexford); Kevin Broderick (Galway), Declan Ryan (Tipperary), Tom Dempsey (Wexford).



Willie O'Connor just fails to prevent Rory McCarthy shooting goalwards in the Leinster Hurling Championships.  
(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

P.S.—To maintain tradition, an addendum about O'Loughlin's, my lot. Their relegation to the junior grade two seasons ago genuinely *has* turned out to be the blessing in disguise many suspected at the time, ignominy subsequently making achievers out of Kilkenny hurling's chronic under-achievers.

Congratulations to the St. John's Park club on their newly-secured senior status. But before they start patting themselves

on the back too heartily, let one point be borne in mind.

Not until or unless O'Loughlin's are an established, successful senior outfit — as any club with such numbers to choose from ought to be — can they truly be said to be punching their weight at adult level. Anything short of that, any flirtation with relegation in 1997, and they're failing. Yes, failing!

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Is a ghuth ag dul le h-aer  
'Sinn ag claoi le gach aon fhocal  
A labhair Micheál Ó h-Eithir.

Is iomaí uair a rinne sé  
Sár chluiche as ceann bocht.  
Gach imreor díobh mar fhathach  
Gach gaiscíoch úd gan locht.

San am sin ins na triochaidí  
Ó thosaigh sé ina phost  
Ar aghaidh go h-ochtó is a chúig  
Ní raibh sé ina thost.

Gack Domhnach ina na dachaidí  
Nuair a bhí gach éinne bocht  
D'éist mé lena ghlór bhinn  
Is mo chroí ag léimt im' ucht.

Bhí aithne ag gach éinne  
Ar Christy Ring is Paddy Bán  
Do mhúnláigh sé gach phictiúir  
Nuair nach raibh againn scannán.

Amhrán na bhFiann á sheinm  
Ag buachaillí Áird Aidhin  
Na sluaite is an t-aitmeasféar  
'Chuir sé ós ár gcomhair go deimhin.

"Ó Ciethir ar rith aonair  
An sliotar thar threasnán  
Níl ach noiméad anois f'ágtha  
Is níl ann ach scór amháin.

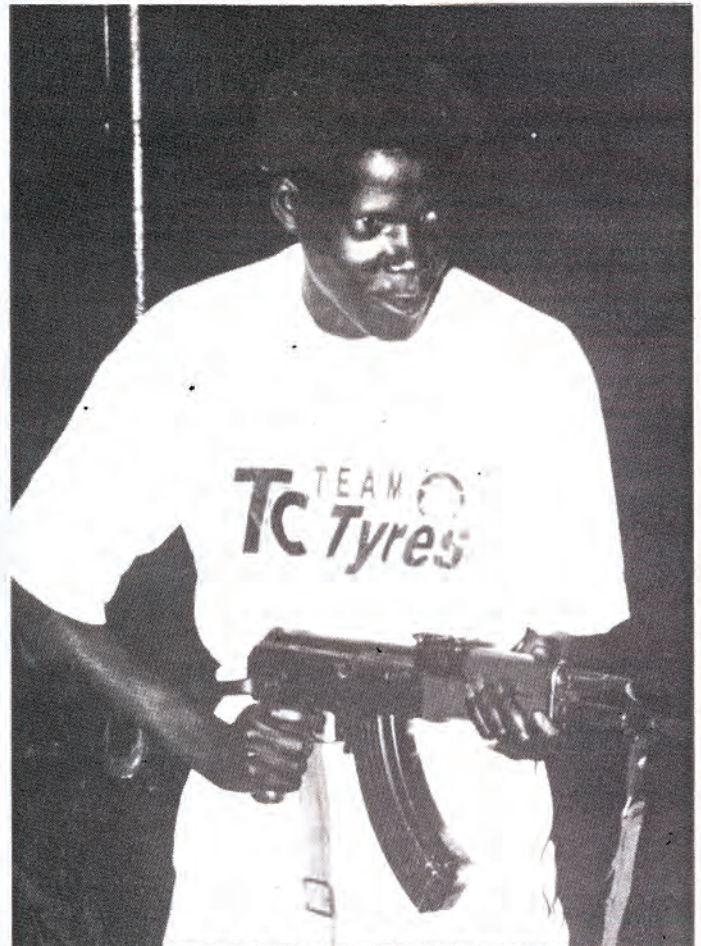
Ó Conaill i lár páirce  
'Seo chugainn Mickó féin  
Is tá Sam ag dul abhaile  
Go Ciarraí ar an draein."

Na míle míle laoch úd  
Ó gach condae thart fá'n tír  
Micheál a chuir in aithne iad  
Go macánta is go fíor.

Ar na cluichí thar na blianta  
Ní dhéanfaimid dearmad  
Ná ar Ó h-Eithir ach oiread  
An fear uasal iontach úd.

Is é a chuir cluichí Gaelach'  
Chuig 'cuile áit ar domhan  
Árdaimid ár hatai dó  
Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.

Ár míle míle buíochas duit  
Ó Mhuintir Luth Chleas Gael  
Ní dhéanfar riamh dearmad ort  
A las solas inár saol.  
- Seosamh Ó Donnchadha



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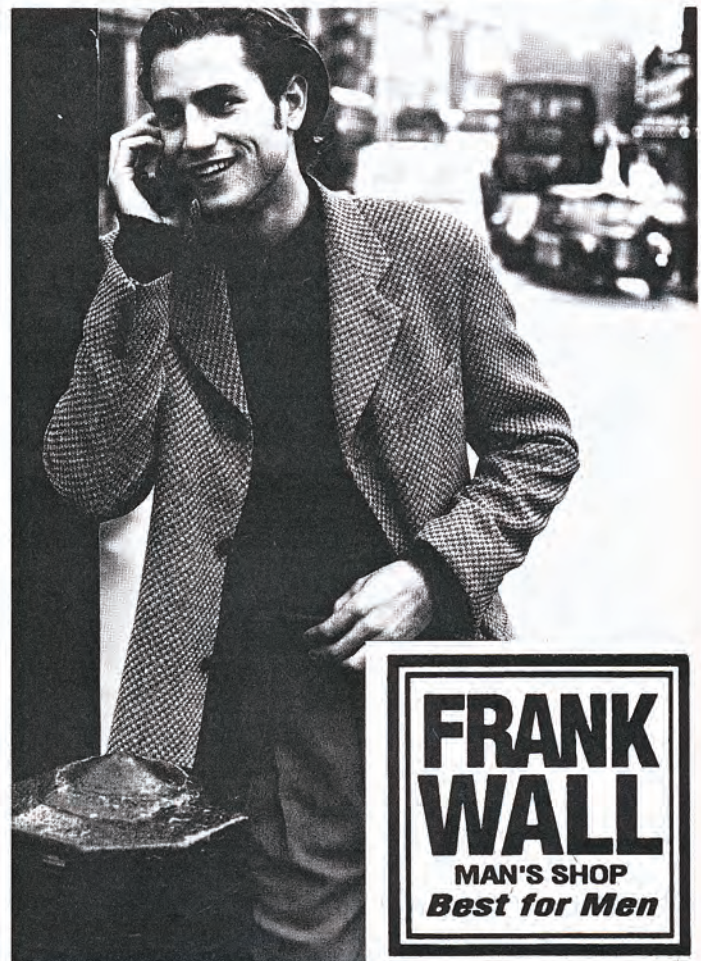
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Dunnammaggin*

*Teams*

*on another  
brilliant year*

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# CHA WHELAN

By Tom Ryall - PRO Kilkenny Co.  
Board

**When Jarlath "Cha" Whelan passed away suddenly a short time after the sudden deaths of Ted Carroll and Ollie Walsh Kilkenny Gaeldom was again plunged into mourning. People began to ask was there no end to this series of tragedies which had seen the central defence of the 1963 All-Ireland senior winning side struck down so cruelly.**

Cha Whelan may not have grabbed the headlines in his playing career to the same extent as Ollie and Ted but nevertheless he played his part in some notable Black and Amber triumphs. When Cha first appeared on the Kilkenny team he was listed as Charlie Phelan. He had a few runs in National League games in the 1960/61 campaign but did not command a regular place. Emigrating to London he joined the Seán McDermotts club with whom he won a London senior hurling championship medal in 1962. That same year he played full-back on the London Intermediate side that lost the All-Ireland to Carlow in a game played at Croke Park on September 9th.

Returning to Ireland, Cha was chosen as a substitute when Kilkenny faced Wexford in the first round of the Leinster Championship in 1963. Jim 'Link' Walsh was full back that day. Cha was introduced at half time and held his place for the next two years collecting an All-Ireland medal, a runners-up medal in 1964 and two Leinster senior medals. He also toured America in 1964. The *Kilkenny Journal* report of the 1963 All-Ireland had this to say re Cha: "made a reasonably good job of curbing John Barron. He was drawn out on a couple of occasion with the result that the 'cover' for Ollie Walsh suffered. He came through his first big test quite well and will improve with experience". Shortly after that All-Ireland he



lost his place at full-back to Pa Dillon but fought his way back to gain the right full-back position and had a famous clash with Tipperary's Seán McLoughlin in a Wembley tournament final when both players received their marching orders. This was an era when goalies were fair game for intruding forwards and backs made sure their goalie got protection. This resulted in some fierce goalmouth skirmishes and Cha was well able to hold his own in these hectic clashes.

Cha Whelan was recalled to the Kilkenny team for the All-Ireland final of 1967. He had not been on the panel for the Leinster Championship. That year he turned in good displays with his club Thomastown as they reached the County Final where they lost out to neighbours Bennettsbridge. When Kilkenny found themselves against Tipperary in the All-Ireland, the selectors felt that they had no cover if anything happened to Pa Dillon. As a result they recalled Cha to the panel who thereby collected his second All-Ireland senior medal. Later that year he won an Oireachtas medal when he came on as a sub in the final against Clare. He toured America for the second time where the Noresiders recorded a victory over New York in the grandly titled "World Cup" Final.

Cha Whelan is mourned by all those who knew him. He suffered tragedy during his lifetime when his son was taken away suddenly but he bore his cross with dignity and got on with his life to build up a thriving tarmacadam business. His other love outside of his family and hurling was greyhounds and it was while attending a greyhound meeting at Kilkenny Track that he suffered his final illness. To his wife and family all Gaels in Kilkenny offer sincere sympathy. He served his county nobly.

## The Commentator

By Charles O'Neill



*Micheál Ó Hehir's strain will never die  
In the mind's eye and ear of every boy  
Who thrilled to hear his echo ring the air  
A grandstand view behind the fireside chair.  
Old boned, grown stiff, but youthful spirits free,  
In benediction, men knelt on one knee,  
Heads bowed, before the Murphy set  
While we played out in mime  
The classical melee where warriors let loose  
Their savage ire and one emerged triumphant  
from the fire  
Yet none lay dead in pools of blood.  
Great God! What glory was played out upon  
that sod!  
And great glory later tinged the tale,  
Embellished with the clout of stour or ale.  
Our limbs in spirit raced to every ball  
And breathlessly our minds absorbed it all.  
While fathers, tense, impatiently cried "Shush!"  
As time stood still, we waited in the hush  
When in around the house the ball, it fell  
And heroes fought and stormed the gates  
of hell.  
Hearts sank or surged in other counties too  
As time gave way and stoically we knew  
The drama of the hour had set the fate  
of idols old or made the young ones great  
Afterwards, upon the patch of green  
we relived, with commentary, each scene.  
We were the Rackards, Doyles or Keher or Ring  
As 'o'er the bar, says Lord Meagher', we'd sing.  
Now, though the boy is man he hears with ease  
The broadcast whispered at each game he sees.  
'He lifts, he strikes, he sends it o'er the bar . . .  
The rapturous cheer is heard both loud and far.  
'He's on the fifty, forty . . . time is up . . .'  
The vanquished quelled, the victors prize the cup.  
Each game was not by man but Godly given.  
And when we won we knew the bliss of heaven.*

# C.B.S. ON THE DOUBLE

Kilkenny C.B.S. Juvenile hurlers bridge a 17-year gap

**K**ILKENNY C.B.S. won their first Juvenile "A" Leinster Colleges title in 17 years when they defeated old rivals, St. Kieran's College, in a thrilling final played in Nowlan Park on 8th May.

This victory was the culmination of a tremendous year's work which began back in the previous September. U-14 hurling leagues were organised on every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year and the response from the pupils and the enthusiasm shown by all meant that Kilkenny C.B.S. fielded there U-14 teams for the first time in its history. One U-14 team competed in and won the Leinster Colleges' "A" title and the other two teams competed gallantly in another competition sponsored locally by Board na nOg Cill Chainnigh.

The Juvenile "A" team opened their account at Callan C.B.S. grounds on March 6th on a bitterly cold, wet, miserable afternoon. Victory was achieved a little bit 'easier' than anticipated on a score-line: Kilkenny C.B.S. 4-10, Coláiste Eamon Rís 0-2.

The C.B.S., unfortunately, during the course of that game, lost David Quinn, one of their many stars on the day, through injury and he was unable to take

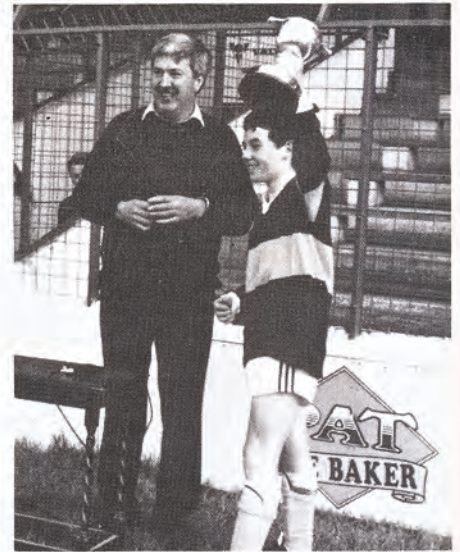
any further part in the competition. The second round in the league section against St. Kieran's College was played in James's park on Wednesday, March 27. This game was also played in wet, miserable conditions and was another gripping contest. There was very little between the sides during the opening period.

The C.B.S. enjoyed a slender lead at the break due to a smashing goal scored by Richard Hayes after about 20 minutes of the half. After the break, St. Kieran's forwards applied some fierce pressure on the C.B.S. backs, but magnificent defending by Eddie Campion, Dan Campion and Brian Butler held them at bay and the C.B.S. lads held on to win: C.B.S. 2-8, St. Kieran's 2-2.

St. Peter's College, Wexford, provided the opposition in the semi-final of the competition, which was played in New Ross on April 24. The C.B.S. boys took the initiative in this game from the throw-in and led at half-time: C.B.S. 0-7, St. Peter's 0-2.

Scorers: Declan Byrne 0-4, Tommy Lahart 0-3, Brian Power 0-3, Michael Mulhall 0-1, Bryan Barry 0-1, Conor O'Loughlin 0-1.

The scene was now set for another showdown with the 'ould enemy' St. Kieran's College who had defeated Good



C.B.S. Captain, Gerard O'Brien (O'Loughlin Gaels) after receiving the Dr. Barry Cup from Mr. Brendan O'Sullivan.

Counsel College, New Ross, in the other semi-final. The final took place in Nowlan park on May 8th and what a thriller it turned out to be!

Kilkenny C.B.S. took the game to their opponents from the throw-in and looked the far better team during the opening half. One feature of the C.B.S. play during this half was their ability to score outstanding long-range points from well outfield



**KILKENNY C.B.S. - LEINSTER JUVENILE (U-14) HURLING CHAMPIONS**

Front Row: Joseph Mernagh, Michael Mulhall, Barry O'Neill, Richard Hayes, Brian Dalton, Damien Fox. Middle Row: Richard Cleere, Brendan Maher, Edmund Campion, Conor O'Loughlin, Tommy Lahart, Gerard O'Brien (Capt.), James Holden, Niall Tyrrell, Niall Bergin, Eoin McCormack. Back Row: Tom Keane (Trainer), Declan Byrne, Paul Cullinan, David Quinn, Dan Campion, Paul Glennon (Principal), Brian Power, Christopher Burke, John Brett, Bryan Barry, Niall Sheehan (Coach).

and this was to prove extremely valuable before the end of the game.

Brian Power, Declan Byrne, Tommy Lahart and Barry O'Neill were in sparkling form during the opening half and C.B.S. led at the break, 1-9 to 1-1. The C.B.S. boys continued to dominate matters during the third quarter and seemed to be cruising to victory when suddenly St. Kieran's came to life and banged home two goals within a minute. Kilkenny C.B.S. backs were now certainly to the wall but they responded magnificently with two points from Declan Byrne to relieve some of the pressure.

In a nail-biting finish, St. Kieran's scored another goal and on the call of time drove another shot wide from about six yards out, straight in front of goal. John Guinan

blew the final whistle just after the puck-out, much to the relief of all concerned with the C.B.S. Final score: C.B.S. 1-14, St. Kieran's College 4-2.

This was certainly a five star show by the C.B.S. but they needed a large slice of luck in the end to claim the title for the first time since 1979. There was some outstanding young talent on view on both sides and we look forward to some more great contests between these sides in the years to come.

Scorers: Declan Byrne 0-6, Michael Mulhall 1-0, Tommy Lahart 0-3, Brian Power 0-2, Conor O'Loughlin 0-1, Bryan Barry 0-1.

Mr. Paul Glennon, School Principal, after the game, thanked all concerned in

what was a wonderful occasion for the C.B.S. He also paid tribute to the great work being done for hurling in all the clubs throughout the county.

Eight clubs from the County Kilkenny were represented on the C.B.S. panel: James Stephens, Dicksboro, O'Loughlin Gaels, Graigue-Ballycallan, Lisdowney, St. Martin's, Young Irelands, Tullaroan.

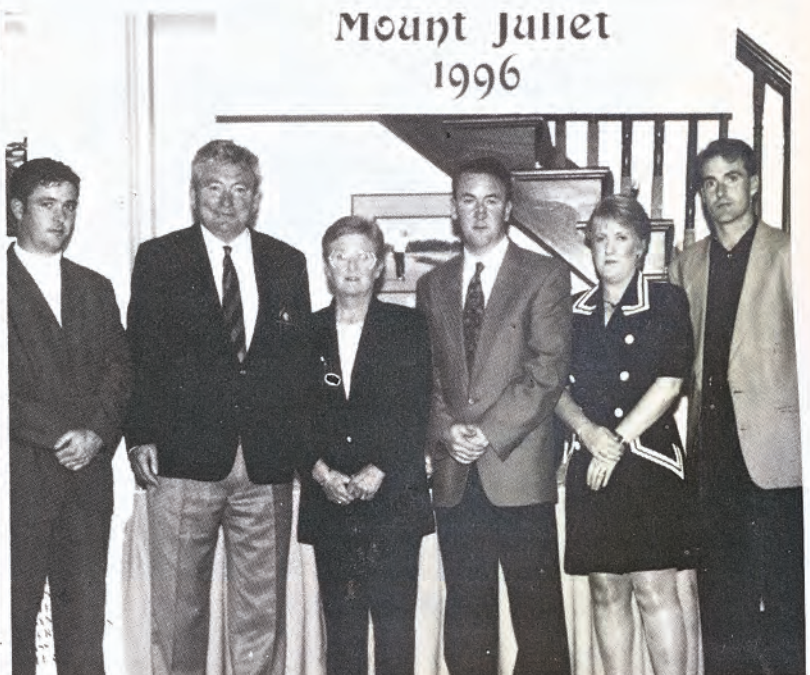
At a prizewinning night in the school, all panel members were presented with their winners' medals by Mr. Joe McDonagh, President Elect of the G.A.A. Six members of the C.B.S. panel went on later in the summer to win All-Ireland Féile na nGael medals with their club James Stephens – they were: David Quinn, Eoin McCormack, Joe Mernagh, Richard Hayes, Christy Burke and Niall Bergin.



County Board Officers and teachers in local second level schools who were presented with equipment grants.



Winners(l-r): Michael Clohessy, Pat Kavanagh, Dr. Tim O'Mahony, Liam Hanrahan, John McCormack.



Dr. T. O'Mahoney with the Walsh family (l-r): Ollie Jr., Olive, Michael, Ann and Billy.

# Kilkenny's Master Hurlers – the 1996 version

By Paddy Butler

**K**ILKENNY surrendered their All-Ireland title in 1996, but it was not without a tough campaign and a lot of honest endeavour. They lost out at the semi-final stage to old rivals, Tipperary, going down by three points.

Both of these teams posted early intentions when they met in the league campaign in the Ragg, Thurles, in August. The home side opened in lively fashion and raced into a four-point lead without reply. But Kilkenny fought back, and with goals by Brian Waldron and Billy Fitzpatrick they led at the break by a single point – 2-2 to 0-7.

As the clock touched 45 minutes, Kilkenny led by a clear five points, thanks in the main to some superb shooting by Ger Fennelly. However, Tipperary substitute Tommy Butler made a big impact when he came on, and he scored a good goal just before the finish. Kilkenny eventually came home winners – 2-10 to 1-11.

Wexford in Enniscorthy proved weak opposition as the "Cats" ran riot and ran out easy winners as well. They won by 5-14 to 3-8. When Dublin failed to field, Kilkenny had six points from three games and they were "cruising".



**OVER 40s ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL**

Kilkenny captain Michael Fennelly meets Tipperary captain Dan Shelly prior to the All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park.

However, Kilkenny were brought back to ground level when, after a long trip to

Clarecastle on a Monday evening, they went down to Clare by six points.

Kilkenny's last game in the league section was against Galway in Nowlan Park. Here the "Noresiders" ran out comprehensive winners. Kilkenny had topped their league section and now awaited opponents in the semi-final. Tipperary eventually came through, having qualified by beating Laois in a play-off. The Laois men didn't die too easily either, as it took Tipperary two efforts to dispose of the challenge of the O'Moore men.

Tipperary had to travel to Nowlan Park for the semi-final, and with six minutes remaining it looked all over for Kilkenny. At that stage Kilkenny were "gone", being led by eight points. However, in those last hectic minutes Kilkenny, and in particular Billy Fitzpatrick, nearly pulled the game out of the fire. "Fitz" belted home two brilliant goals and he was unfortunate not to have collected a third.



**KILKENNY OVER-40s TEAM, 1996**

Front row (left to right) – Danny Coonan, Joe Hennessy, Kevin Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Johnny Ryan, Dick McNamara, Gerry Kenny. Back row (left to right) – Jimmy Ruth, Billy Fitzpatrick, Paddy Neary, Jimmy O'Brien, Eugene Graham, Ger Fennelly, Bobby Shore, Murty Kennedy. (Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

In truth, Tipperary deserved their win, as they were the better team on the night. The two games against Laois were a big help. Playing with the aid of the breeze in the first half, the Tipp lads led at the break by 1-6 to 0-7. Midway through the second half it was all square - 1-7 to 0-10. Again, a feature of the game was the point-scoring of Ger Fennelly.

Even with the "flying" Billy Fitzpatrick up front, and the equally dominant Ger Fennelly at midfield, Kilkenny just couldn't get their noses in front, where it mattered. Tipp won by two points and they went on to beat Clare in the final by three points.

*The full Kilkenny panel was:* Bobby Shore, Jimmy Ruth, Paddy Neary, Bobby Jackman, Dick McNamara, Jimmy O'Brien, Johnny Ryan, Murty Kennedy, Gerry Kenny, Joe Hennessy, Eugene Grehan, Michael Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Danny Coonan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Kevin Fennelly, Mick Garrett, Jimmy Kelly, John McCormack, Andy Aylward, Shem Power,



Gerry Kenny drives towards the Tipperary goal in the Over-40s championship. Kilkenny players are Johnny Ryan and Ger Fennelly (No. 12)

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

Malachy Hogan, Wilo Phelan, Richard Walsh, Jimmy Dunne, Brian Waldron, Greg Power.

*Selectors:* Eddie Keher, Paddy Butler,

Eamon Hennessy, Lotty Harte, Diarmuid Healy.

*First aid:* Liam Flynn. *Inventory manager:* Billy Culleton.



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Barlo Nissan were sponsors of the Northern Junior Hurling Leagues and Championships in 1996. Pictured at the handing over of the sponsorship cheque were: Ned Buggy, Secretary, North Board; Alan Barlow, Barlo Nissan; Pat Egan, Barlo Nissan; Jim Rice, Co. Board; Ned Moran, Chairman, GAA North Board; John Lynch, Barlo Nissan; John Kinsella, Barlo Nissan

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# Peter Dukelow – a man with a football mission

by Pat O'Hanlon, Kilkenny Senior Football Trainer 1994-1996

ON a wet February night in 1989, a good friend of mine was awakened from the comfort of his sitting room fire by the sound of his doorbell. The greeting was to the point – "My name is Peter Dukelow, I train the 'Boro Junior Footballers and I hear you played in the Laois Championship with Portarlington. Would you consider throwing in your lot with us this year?"

There and then, a new footballer had declared for the 'Boro; the Duke was a happy man, and between 1989 and 1993 the club climbed from Junior to Senior status. I was indeed fortunate to carry on the good work of Peter in 1994, training them to win their only Senior title.

Peter Dukelow's roots are firmly set in football folklore. He hails from Bantry in West Cork where the sight of a caman is as rare to the natives as the O'Neill football is to a Tullaroan man. Indeed, one of his happiest moments was when his beloved Bantry Blues lifted the Cork Senior title in 1995. Peter is married to a Cork girl, Joan, and now reside in Wexford town with their two sons. The regard in which Dicksboro held Peter was evidenced when, prior to his departure from Kilkenny, the club committee unanimously granted him life membership of the club.

In August 1994, I met the then Chairman of the Football Board, Kieran Meally. We talked for well over an hour and thankfully reached the same conclusion – that Kilkenny needed someone of the



**DICKSBORO SAY GOODBYE TO PETER DUKELOW**

Left to right: Shem Tynan (Chairman), Niall Morrissey (Captain, Senior Football Team), Joan Dukelow, Ned Buggy (Secretary), Peter Dukelow.

vision and pragmatism of the 'Duke'. Peter was approached and Kilkenny football began a new epoch! He straight away set down his markers for the future – a new selection committee was put in place, I was given the task of coaching and training the team, Joe Malone was brought aboard as team masseur. Great attention was paid to detail, proper training, players' welfare, team talks, fitness and skill work, and, above all else, a sense of loyalty was created between all panel members regardless of club allegiances. Two years on, the team is announced five days

before every N.F.L. game. The days when the bus driver or the local darts player might be called on were well and truly over.

Liam Cassin, probably the most experienced member of the current panel, comments "He has this presence about him, he is 100% committed to the game, and he expects the same of all his players. He is the best and most organised manager Kilkenny ever had."

Peter has given two years to the job with Kilkenny. He travels a ninety mile round trip three times weekly; makes over thirty calls a week and retains a remarkable affinity with the big ball game in Kilkenny. This commitment and dedication to the very difficult task of keeping Kilkenny football alive; is strikingly in contrast with many, though not all, within the county, who, for reasons, best known to themselves would like to bleed the game to death. In recent weeks, Peter and followers of Kilkenny football are busy organising a draw which, hopefully, will raise much needed funds to promote the game from Senior right down to Minor ranks within the county. The Kilkenny footballers may never lift the Sam Maguire on the back of a lorry in High Street, but the goal lies not in winning, but in playing the game for its intrinsic pleasure, the Duke's Way!



**The Kilkenny football team which played Tipperary in the National Football League, 1996.** Front (l-r) – Paddy Mullally, Paul Kearney, Seamus Creane, Paul Morrison, Eddie Roche, Jimmy Walsh, James Young, Ken O'Shea. Back (l-r) – Jim Murphy, Bernard McGuire, Liam Cassin, Pat Drea, John Dooley, Fergus Hickey, Damien Walsh, John Grace. (Photo: Tom Brett)

# Ask not what your county can do for you but what you can do for your county

Since the publication of last year's book, who amongst us could have predicted the cruel devastating blows we would receive during the last weeks of 1995 and the first weeks of 1996. First, we lost Ted Carroll. Much has been said and written about Ted since his untimely death by people much more qualified than me.

And if the loss of Ted was not cruel enough for us to endure, we were dealt another savage blow a short few weeks late by the untimely death of one of the all time heroes of sport in Ireland, Ollie Walsh.

Again, as with Ted, so much has been and will be written and said about Ollie who brought so much joy and pride to Kilkenny people throughout his playing career and also as a Team manager. We, in the Supporters Club will always be indebted to Ollie,

To Angela and Olive and their respective families, and to all supporters who were bereaved during this last year, may I, on behalf of all the Supporters Club, extend our sympathy. Ar Dheis de go raibh siad.

On the playing fields 1996 would not rank among the most successful. Nevertheless, St. Kierans got us off to a great start by winning once again the All Ireland Colleges title. Congratulations to them. We also won four Leinster titles with Glenmore, our minors and our junior and camogie teams successful in the province. Indeed our juniors were very unlucky when beaten by Galway in the All Ireland final. Once again, Duxie Walsh brought further honour to himself and the county by retaining his handball title and has written himself once more into the record books.

On the local front we were fortunate to have had so many good matches at all levels during the year. We were given the added bonus of two excellent matches in the Senior final and replay between Young Irelands of Gowran and James Stephens. The talent on display in all grades must give us great hope for the future.

From a supporters point of view, the decision by Croke Park to change the League from its normal dates to early next year was, to say the least, a strange one. The reason put forward by the authorities was that hurling should not be played during the Winter months. If this is the reason, why then was the league replaced by the Oireachtas, which, with its new intensive format.

So much for having no hurling during the Winter months! On top of this, in the new South East League. The result of all this is that come March 1997 our county team will have to play at least every second week until June, and if they are lucky enough to progress in the Championship the county team will face a real fixture pile up. In addition, the local club games have also to be played. So much for promoting hurling! It makes you wonder how much thought if put into making such decisions. From a supporters point of view it means that because fixtures will be very congested, we will have to make many choices in 1997.

As we look forward to 1997 as supporters we will be looking to our Senior team to



**OLLIE RETIRES**

Kilkenny's trainer, the late Ollie Walsh being presented with a token of appreciation by the Chairman of the Kilkenny Supporters Club, Jim Freeman, on the occasion of his retirement. Also in the picture is John Healy (Chairman Kilkenny County Board), and the late Ted Carroll (Secretary Kilkenny County Board) Photo: Tom Brett.

bring us further success. If the last two years have taught us anything it must be that skill alone will not bring success. Both Clare and Wexford have shown other counties that it takes huge commitments from all concerned if you are to be successful.

The time has come in Kilkenny in my opinion when both players and supporters must ask themselves WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OUR COUNTY RATHER THAN WHAT CAN OUR COUNTY DO FOR US. The players must be prepared to give total commitment. They must also give total loyalty to their team mates, team management and to Kilkenny hurling. When that success has been achieved, only then should thoughts of rewards be entertained. The Supporters Club has promoted and has contributed substantial funds for foreign holidays for the All Ireland champions of 1992 and 1993 and will not be found wanting if the Senior team bring home the McCarthy cup in 1997.

An increasing problem over the last number of years, is the loss of many fine hurlers who are forced to emigrate to find work. We must take steps to ensure that at least our county panelists and those of the future are provided with employment opportunities at home. This, in my opinion, is a problem that we as supporters can help to solve.

The development of Nowlan Park is another area where supporters must play their part. While it is the responsibility of the County Board to see that this project is completed, we as supporters must play our part to raise the necessary funds to ensure completion of this wonderful project. After all, it is we who will benefit from its use. The many thousands of us who attended the drawn county final and the replay will have seen at first hand the benefit of this facility.

If we as Supporters, play our part, the finance required to ensure that all our teams are supported and to repay the debt on the Nowlan Park Development will be available.

A county with such a long tradition as

Kilkenny needs a stadium that we can be proud of, and in the New Nowlan Park, we have a stadium which can stand with the best.

The Supporters Club channels its resources into all these areas and, by becoming a member, your money will be used to ensure the future of Kilkenny hurling. It only costs ten pounds a year or twenty pence a week to become a member.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who joined our Supporters Club during 1996 and also the people who supported our various events during the year. I look forward to your continued support in 1997. I would also like to thank the various sponsors who again supported our County teams and championships during the year. I wish to thank my own hard working committee who have once again put in a great effort during the year.

We supported the following during the year: St. Kierans College - All Ireland Colleges Winners:

James Stephens - Féile na nGael;  
Dicksboro - Under 14 Football Winners;  
Junior Team - All Ireland Junior Runners Up;  
Nowlan Park Development;  
Schools Board Grant;  
County Coaches Grant;  
CBS Junior Leinster Winners;  
Lisdowney Sevens;  
Kilkenny Under 14 - Tony Forristal  
Tournament;  
Kilkenny Senior Football Team;  
Glenmore - Leinster Club Champions;  
Mooncoin Vocational School -  
All Ireland Finalists  
Angela Downey Retirement Fund

**JIM FREEMAN**  
Chairman Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club



**BOOTS FROM SUPPORTERS CLUB FOR  
JUNIOR TEAM**

John Murphy (Supporters Club) presents boots to Richie O'Neill Captain of the Kilkenny Junior Team prior to the All-Ireland Final against Galway. Looking on is Frank Morrissey (Hennessy Sport), and Noel Skehan (Trainer).

Photo: Tom Brett.



**KILKENNY SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE**

Seated I.Ir. Michael Twomey, Frank Morrissey (secretary), Eddie Keher (vice-chairman), Jim Freeman (chairman), Sean Dunne, Tom Holden (treasurer). Back I.Ir. Jim Kearns, Pat Wallace, Billy Norris, Jim Fitzgerald, John Murphy (PRO), Dan Fitzpatrick, Billy Dobbyn, John Mackey, Sean Gorey, Denis Hogan.



**THE ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONS REMEMBERED**

L.Ir. John Healy (Chairman County Board), Shem Downey, Paddy Heffernan, Billy Cahill, Mick Kenny, Podge Dack, Paddy Stapleton, Ned Power, Paddy O'Connor.

Photo: Tom Brett.

# BOBBY HINKS

**BOBBY HINKS, who died in Tramore late last year, was a member of the great Kilkenny senior All-Ireland winning side of 1939.**

He played at right half back and gave an accomplished performance against a Cork team that included former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch.

Tom Ryall, in his book "*Kilkenny the G.A.A. Story*" describes the half-back line of Hinks, Billy Bourke and Paddy Phelan as the "saviours of the team" on that most memorable of days.

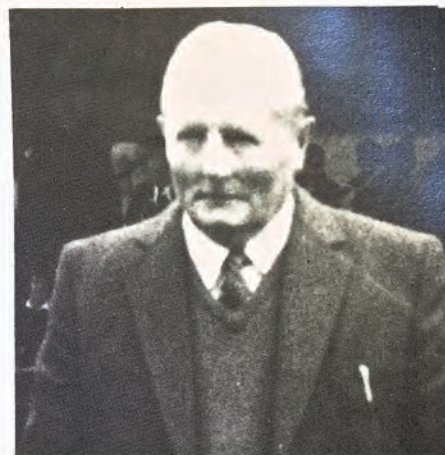
Bobby started his hurling career with Mount Sion C.B.S. He won two minor All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny in 1935 and 1936, playing at right half back in 1935

and moving to the centre for the following year.

After the senior victory in 1939, Bobby Hinks played against Limerick in the 1940 final which Kilkenny lost. The same year, he was a member of the Kilkenny team which won the Oireachtas final against Cork.

In 1941, Bobby captained the Leinster Railway Cup winning team which was one of the highlights of an outstanding career.

At club level, the teak tough defender also distinguished himself. He played on the great Carrickshock team of that period, winning five senior county championships. Included was the never-repeated four-in-a-row from 1940 to 1943. His other county success was enjoyed in 1938.



In 1989, Bobby and the surviving members of the 1939 Kilkenny team were guests of honour with Jack Lynch at the Hotel Kilkenny/*Kilkenny People Sports Stars* banquet, to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic win.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

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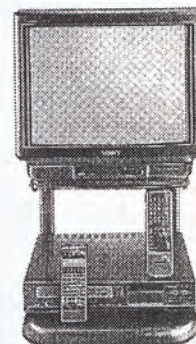


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**Le Gach Dea-Mhéin**  
ó  
**Chomhairle Laighean C.L.G.**



Micheál Ó Dubhshláine (Rúnaí)

# —Lisdowney Camogie Club—

If a championship can be judged on the quality of its last few games, then this year's senior championship will go down in the annals as a classic.

Lisdowney had their first Championship outing against Champions, Ballycallan and after a thrilling and highly entertaining game, Lisdowney won by 3-10 to 1-13. Playing without the influential forward Angela Downey, it was a real confidence boost to the team.

Tullaroan were next to fall to the Lisdowney onslaught 2-16 to 0-3. Lisdowney next entertained St. Lachtain's. After a great game of camogie and some miraculous saves from goalie Miriam Holland, Lisdowney hung on for a well earned victory.

St. Brigid's were the next opposition in Kilmanagh. After a very exciting game Lisdowney ran out winners.

With full points, Lisdowney were straight through to the final. The scene was now set for a repeat of the 1995 Final against St. Brigid's in Nowlan Park on the 26th July.

The previous year Lisdowney and St. Brigid's played a thrilling game in the Senior Camogie Final with the latter snatching a last minute goal in a dramatic climax to gain victory. The large attendance present didn't expect this year's final to reach the same standards. But if anything it was better than the '95 clash.

On this occasion it was the brilliance of Marina Downey, who snatched an unbelievable point from under the stand 50m out which sent the teams to a replay.

Two highlights of the night were the return to camogie of team trainer Anna Whelan and the return to the playing pitch for Angela Downey, following the birth of her son Conor. Both entered the fray in the second half and had an immediate impact on the outcome.

The dominance of the Ballycallan team the previous week forced Lisdowney to



Action from camogie county final.... Deridre Malone makes life difficult for Angela Downey.

Photo: Tom Brett

make several tactical changes. However, it looked ominous for Lisdowney when after a highly entertaining half which was full of drama the scores were the same as the previous week, St. Brigid's ahead by the minimum of margins 0-6 to 0-5.

Shortly after the resumption, St. Brigid's hit a purple patch, and took a four point lead. But for all Ballycallan's domination they should have had more on the scoreboard. This was mainly due to the hard-working Lisdowney defence and in particular goalkeeper Miriam Holland.

As in the previous week Lisdowney pulled back a four point deficit to level the game, compliments of a Catherine Dunne goal, and a last minute pointed free from Marina Downey. At the end of 50 minutes the teams were still inseparable.

The game was now to be decided in extra time. Following a tension filled opening half in which both goalies and defenders were on top the teams had only scored a point each, from frees, to leave it 1-10 apiece at half time of extra time. The crowd were on the edge of their seats, they couldn't have imagined Lisdowney's

complete transformation in the final ten minutes, the defence held St. Brigid's scoreless, who in turn didn't know what hit them, they must have wondered what went wrong.

The dour struggle eventually ended and Lisdowney were again champions on a scoreline 1-14 to 1-10. Both teams must be congratulated for the fierce passion and commitment they showed, the game(s) will be remembered as one of the best games played in Kilkenny in 1996.

Marina (Dublin) were the opposition for the Leinster Club Semi-Final. Lisdowney ran out unimpressive winners 2-14 to 1-8.

Lisdowney was the venue for the Leinster Senior Final, on Sept. 6 against Rathnure (Wexford), the reigning all-Ireland Champions. The game attracted a huge crowd, despite clashing with some important GAA fixtures. Lisdowney had been slow to settle.

Rathnure ran out 6-11 to 2-10 winners, the two goals coming in the final five minutes. Credit must be given to Caroline Glendon, for rearranging her honeymoon, she had been married on the previous Friday.

**Victorious Panel:** Miriam Holland, Brigid Wall (Capt.), Bridget Barnaville, Sandra Gleeson, Fran Shore, Olivia Donnelly, Marina Downey, Catherine Dunne, Ann-Marie Hughes, Anne Downey, Aine Dunne, Noelle O'Driscoll. **Subs:** Angela Downey, Anna Whelan, Caroling Glendon, Claire Tallis, Martina Tallis, Ann Holland and Lizzie Fogarty.

The other teams in the club had mixed fortunes during the year, a "rub of the green" on a few occasions might have seen a few more titles coming to the club. Our U-21's were defeated by a good Dicksboro team in an entertaining semi-final on April 6 on a scoreline 1-4 to 1-2.

The Junior team this year had a good mixture of youth blended with experience,



Angela, this is your life! The organisers of the surprise function for Angela Downey, celebrate the event with the "Queen of Camogie": (l. to r.) Mary Fennelly, Noelle O'Driscoll, Ann-Marie Hughes, Angela, Pat Treacy, Ann Downey, Mary McCorry (nee Conway), Breda Ryan

Photo: Tom Brett

though they were defeated by Clara 3-6 to 5-6, they over came St. Lachtain's, St. Anne's, James Stephen's and St. Brigid's. But Glenmore were far stronger, and ran out 3-13 to 2-1 winners, one wondered how they were in the junior grade such



As the banner says – "Up Lisdowney"... Lisdowney's Camogie Captain Brigid Wall raises the Championship Trophy aloft, after her club beat St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) in the Final.

Photo: Tom Brett.

was their high standard. Despite their big victory margin the team never gave up and fought to the end – goalie Ann Marie Lacey had to retire injured after eight minutes, Maria Moore filled in admirably. Deirdre Morrissey and Moira Glendon were best in defence while Ann Holland, Mary Rose Ryan, Annie Murphy, Angela O'Carroll and Deirdre Delaney, C. Nolan were best of the forwards and midfield.

**Panel:** A. M. Lacey, M. Glendon (capt.), D. Morrissey, A. Holland, R. Comerford, L. Phelan, C. Nolan, A. Murphy, A. O'Carroll, Lesley Stapleton, D. Hosey, Mr. R. Ryan, K. Kilkenny, D. Delaney, S. Cummins, G. McConnell, S. Cummins, M. Moore and A. Whelan.

A special mention to the Bennettsbridge club, for the manner in which their facilities, pitch were in on our arrival, a good example to everybody.

The U-16 team had a tough group, they lost narrowly to James Stephen's 2-2 to 4-1, Danesfort 4-0 to 1-7 in a thrilling game, they defeated Gowran 3-7 to 2-0 and were defeated by an extremely skillful and far superior Piltown team 7-6 to 1-3.



Ashbourne '96: Sinéad Millea (U.L.), Miriam Holland (U.L.) and Fran Shore (W.R.C.) (all Lisdowney players)

Photo: Tommy O'Neill



#### LISDOWNEY SENIOR TEAM – SENIOR CO. CHAMPIONS, 1996

Back Row: Martina Tallis, Ann Cahill, Fran Shore, Noelle O'Driscoll, Miriam Holland, Olivai Donnelly, Aine Dune, Bridget Barnaville, Lizzy Fogarty, Caroline Glendon. **Front Row:** Anna Whelan, Ann Downey, Sandra Gleeson, Catherine Dunne, Bridget Wall (captain), Katie Browne (mascot), Anne-Marie Hughes, Marina Downey, Anela Downey, Claire Tallis.

With one game remaining, this had to be moy and gaelcoil but we defeated



#### KILMACUD CROKE'S (7-A-SIDE), 1996

Ann Downey, Noelle O'Driscoll, Ann Marie O'Connor (Wexford), Sinéad Millea, Tracey Millea.

won to reach the semi-finals. Tullogher were the opposition and although domi-



Brigid Wall (Lisdowney captain), Valerie Crean (Carlow referee), and Orla Ryall (St. Brigid's captain) nating for long periods were couldn't get through an excellent defence and goalie and lost 3-2 to 1-2. Players to watch in the future R. Comerford, D. Morrissey, K. Kilkenny, S. Cummins, M. Moore, M. Dowling, L. Phelan.

The U-14 team played Danesfort, James Stephen's and Gowran and lost narrowly to the latter two. With the majority of the players underage next year they can only improve.

Our Primary team was defeated by Gal-

Mooneenroe and Castlecomer but lost the quarter final to Skeaghvasteen 5-0 to 1-0.

A special word of thanks to all the trainers and selectors but particularly Maria Downey and Bridget Barnaville whom the club owe a great deal of gratitude to, on top of playing themselves, they also time to train and look after Primary with Nora O'Carroll, U-14, U-16 teams.

Send our congratulations to Caroline Glendon, Nora O'Carroll and Veronica Wall on their wedding during the year and wish them well for the future. Also to Angela Downey on the birth of her son Conor. Dierdre Delaney won an Ashbourne Cup Medal with U.C.C.

The club is grateful to the hardworking committee, the GAA club for the constant use of the pitch and facilities and Liam Maher for all his work.

The club would like to sincerely thank Avonmore Foods Plc. for their continued sponsorship. At present we are indebted to the hurling club for giving us the opportunity to become involved in a weekly lotto in conjunction with them – Lisdowney Hurling/Camogie Club Lotto, this lotto has proved to be an immense success, with badly needed money filtering into both clubs weekly. Long may this continue.

# ST. BRIGID'S CAMOGIE CLUB

The senior team figured in two great county finals against Lisdowney which gave a great boost to camogie in the county. Lisdowney eventually came through by four points in extra time after the second game had again finished all square.

The St Brigid's team was: Pauline Comerford, Catherine Keogh, Mary Ryall, Deirdre Malone, Tracy Millea, Orla Ryall, Katie Dunphy, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Mary McGrath, Breda Power, Margaret Comerford, Sinéad Millea. Aisling Byrne came on as a sub in both games. Ursula Walton also came on as a sub in the first game.

The Under-16 team took the Roinn B County honours when they beat Clara, again in a replay. The sides had finished level in the first game on a scoreline of 2-8 to 3-5 (Clara). St. Brigid's won the replay by 4-5 to 1-4. The victorious team was Bronagh Neary, Mary Purcell, Andrea Murphy, Martina Comerford, Bernie Marnell, Nicola Murphy, Aoife Neary, Lily Maher, Elizabeth Teehan, Pauline Comerford, Siobhán Maher, Deirdre Treacy. Subs: Bernie Ryall played in the drawn game which Martina Comerford missed because



## ST. BRIGID'S, BALLYCALLAN – SENIOR CAMOGIE RUNNERS-UP

Front row (L/R) – Shane Power (mascot), Louise Young, Elizabeth Teehan, Pauline Comerford, Deirdre Treacy, Pauline Ryall, Mary McGrath, Orla Ryall, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Aisling Byrne, Bronagh Neary, Lily Maher, Padraig Treacy (mascot).

Back row (L/R) – Breda Power, Aoife Neary, Nicola Murphy, Martina Comerford, Deirdre Prenderville, Catherine Keogh, Margaret Comerford, Sinéad Millea, Tracey Millea, Ursula Walton, Ellen Murphy, Mary Ryann, Katie Dunphy, Mary Purcell.

(Photo: T. O'Neill)

of injury. Moira Cody was unable to play in the replay. Her place was taken by Siobhán Maher. The club had no luck at Under-21, Under-14 or Primary Schools level but participated in all grades.

Four players figured on the county senior panel beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final. They were Tracy and Sinéad Millea (captain) who played, Margaret Comerford who came on as a sub.

and Deirdre O'Sullivan who was on the panel. The same four girls won Leinster medals when Kilkenny beat Dublin in the final. The Milleas and Margaret Comerford were on the team while Deirdre O'Sullivan came on as a sub.

Other players who figured on various county teams at under-age level were Pauline Comerford, who played in four county finals during the year, two senior and two Under-16; Bronagh Neary, Aoife Neary, Mary Purcell and Martina Comerford.

Sinéad Millea assisted in the training of the Limerick senior hurling team which reached the All-Ireland Senior final. Bronagh Neary won the Féile na nGael county skills competition and represented Kilkenny in the national finals in Waterford. She came fifth in the All-Ireland final. She is still eligible for the coming year.

The club has again commenced their indoor camogie sessions in St. Kieran's College. They take place on Wednesday nights 8-9 p.m. The club would like to thank Dicksboro GAA club for the use of their premises during the past year for whist drives which have proved very successful.



## ST BRIGID'S BALLYCALLAN – UNDER 16 ROINN B CHAMPIONS

Front row – Lily Maher, Nicola Murphy, Bernie Marnell, Pauline Comerford (captain), Deirdre Tracey, Elizabeth Teehan, Bronagh Neary, Aoife Neary.

Back row – Philomena Byrne (trainer), Ashling Murphy, Andrea Murphy, Mary Purcell, Siobhán Maher, Nora Comerford, Bernie Ryall, Ann Marie Lynch, Moira Cody, Martina Comerford; mascot: Laura Ronan.

I'm wasting me time. She's smilin' at another lad now. Shane Power, son of St. Brigid's Breda, seems to have lost out in "cutting a big impression" on Laura Ronan.

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)



# ST LACHTAIN'S CAMOGIE CLUB

**1996** was a good year on the playing field for St. Lachtain's camogie club. We fielded teams from primary school to senior level. We contested six county finals out of a possible seven. In turn we contested four county finals, winning three.

We also won the county seven-a-side competition and went on to represent Kilkenny in Portlaoise in the Leinster area finals. On that day three players were picked to represent their club and county in Croke Park, Marie O'Connor, Catherine Cormack and Grace Dermody.

The Primary school team were beaten in the Roinn 'A' final by Mullinavat. The Under-14 team qualified for the county Roinn 'A' semi-final where they were beaten by a point by Shamrocks.

The minor team qualified for the Roinn 'A' semi-final against near neighbours Tullaroan. Played in Lisdowney, this was one of the best minor games this year. Tullaroan led at half time but St Lachtains had a great second half to emerge winners. They contested the final against Rower-Inistogie and won well.

The Under-18 final was a repeat of the minor semi-final against Tullaroan who were hot favourites, having easily disposed of St. Annes in the semi-final. Freshford had only a narrow win over the Rower. However the skill and determination of the Freshford girls proved decisive in the final. This is the eighth U-18 in a row excluding the unplayed 1994 championship. The Under-16 and 18 trainer and selectors were Maura Costello, Brendan Williams and Sinéad Costello.

The Under-21 team defeated St. Anne's and Mullinavat and met Dicksboro in the final. The game was played in Páirc Lachtain. St. Lachtain's were expected to win this game comfortably but Dicksboro put up stiff opposition and we narrowly won. This is the seventh consecutive U-21 title. Trainer was Brian Waldron with selectors Sheila Dowling and Michael McCormack.

It was disappointing again for our senior team to be beaten by Graigue/Ballycallan by a point.

During the year the Harrison family presented the club with a beautiful cup. The club ran a tournament involving Lisdowney, Ballycallan and Leinster and All-Ireland champions Rathnure and the host team. Freshford easily disposed of a weakened Lisdowney while Rathnure defeated Ballycallan by a point. In the final, victory went to Rathnure. A special word of thanks to the Harrison family for presenting the trophy.



## FRESHFORD I.N.T.O. SEVENS

Back row; Miriam Marnell, Catherine Cormack, Grace Dermody, Carol Guinan, Gillian Dalton.  
Front row; Breda Kavanagh, Maria Kennedy, Marie O'Connor, Patricia Rafter, Catherine Kavanagh.

Three girls from the club won Ashbourne Cup medals with UCC, Paula Dowling, Fiona Connery and Margaret Hickey who captained the team. Kathleen

and Margaret Dooley won Purcell Cup medals with DCU.

The club wishes to thank all who helped out during the year.



## ST LACHTAIN'S - ROINN A MINOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1996

Back row; Sinéad Kavanagh, April Purcell, Ellie Butler, Bernadette Dooley, Edel Tierney, Claire Dermody, Nicola Brennan, Cora Dowling, Sinéad Shortt.  
Front row; Emma Fitzpatrick, Brona Phelan, Catherine Cormack, Mary C. Ryan, Sinéad Connery, Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling, Sheila Dalton, Mairead Costello.



## ST LACHTAIN'S - U-18 CAMOGIE WINNERS

Back row - Breda Dooley, Bernadette Dowling, Kely Long, Julie Ryan, Claire Dermody, Emma Fitzpatrick,  
Middle row - Sinéad Kavanagh., Cora Dowling, Nicola Brennan, Ellie Butler, April Purcell, Mairead Costello,  
Front row - Máry C. Ryan, Catherine Cormack, Eimear Connery, Sinéad Connery, Fiona Dowling.  
Missing from photo; Sinéad Shortt, Edel Tierney, Brona Phelan.





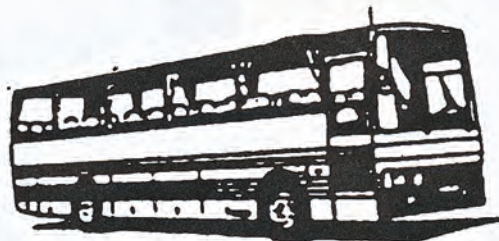
Paul Harrison (centre) presenting the Harrison Cup to Jimmy Dooley (Chairman) and Sheila Dowling (Secretary).



**ST. LACHTAINS - U-21 CHAMPIONS**

Back row - Eimear Connery, Cora Dowling, Kelly Long, Kathleen Ryan, Paula Dowling. Middle row - Anne Wall, Margaret, Kavanagh, Kathleen Dooley, Mairead Costello. Front row - Mary C. Ryan, Sinéad Costello, Imelda Kennedy, Emma Fitzpatrick. (Missing from photo: Margaret Hickey, Fiona Connery, Patricia Dalton).

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# Shamrocks Camogie Club

**Pride of our club this year were our Intermediate team, who won their title, beating a very strong and skilful Tullogher team in Mullinavat.**

We would like to thank our supporters who provided us with transport during the year. To John and Joan Kenneally, our trainers, we say thanks for all your time and effort.

At juvenile level, our under 14 team reached the Roinn A final where they lost out to a fine Rower-Inistioge team in the decider played at Thomastown.

The Under 16 team were unlucky to be beaten in the semi-final, also by Rower-Inistioge, who were too powerful on the day. However, we take heart that almost all the team are eligible for next year's competition.

Our Under 18 team were beaten by a strong and physical Tullaroan side in the quarter-final. We are hopeful that they will stay together and could be a force in next year's championship.

The youngest teams in the parish, the school teams, had a successful run. The School team won the Roinn B Championship. In the final, Ballyhale proved strongest as they recorded a good win over Windgap.

Earlier in the year, the School Seven-a-side team had finished runners-up to Freshford in the INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens competition.

For the first time this year, Ballyhale were invited to take part in The O'Loughlin Gaels Camogie Blitz, the Tim O'Mara Cup. This competition is for fifth class and lower. Emilie Dermody was captain and had the honour of accepting the beautiful trophy on behalf of her team.



**SHAMROCKS INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1996**

*Back row: John Kenneally, Eleanor Walsh, Martina Aylward, Ber Doyle, Alma Fitzpatrick, Emmalene O'Brien, Maresa Fennelly, Karina Connolly, Anne Marie Coogan, Caitriona Fennelly, Sinead Ryan, Marie Walsh, Joan Kenneally. Front row: Alison Hayes, Maureen Cullen, Carmel Ryan, Christine Aylward, Siobhan Ryan, Grace Fennelly, Nicola Hughes, Geraldine Walsh, Olive Ryan.*



**COUNTY CHAMPIONS - ROINN B PRIMARY CAMOGIE**

*Back: Jemma Walshe, Janelle O'Brien, Helena Aylward, Aislinn Walsh, Krystle Fennelly, Emilie Darmody, Lisa Ryan, Imelda Moloney (coach), Jennifer Walshe, Niamh Kelly. Front: Niamh Cottrell, Cathleen Cummins, Margaret Malone, Deirdre Dempsey, Keira Kinahan, Cindy Knox, Jenna Kenneally, Lisa Millea.*



**TIM O'MARA CUP - WINNERS 1996**

*Back: Imelda Moloney (coach), Carmel Millea, Nora Darmody, Margaret Kelly, Margaret Walsh, Bernie Dempsey, Joan Ryan, Joan Kenneally, Jack Kenneally. Middle: Niamh Kelly, Janelle O'Brien, Marie Kelly, Aislinn Walsh, Lisa Ryan, Niamh Cottrell, Jemma Walshe, Jennifer Walshe, Orla Ryan, Shane Kelly. Front: Belita Fennelly, Margaret Malone, Elaine Kelly, Lisa Millea, Emilie Darmody, Deirdre Dempsey, Siobhan Kenneally, Caoimhe Fennelly.*

# CLARA CAMOGIE CLUB

**T**he club is fortunate to have four very dedicated people involved and a good structure in place in the club. Primary school camogie is managed by teacher John Bolger who does trojan work with the girls. John Phelan formerly of Lisdowney is the trainer/coach of all the teams from U-14 to juniors for the past two years.

The year the girls have given a very good commitment to him and accounted very well for themselves in all competitions. John and Phil Dowling are the father figures of the club. They have kept it going through good and bad times over the years and it would be fair to say only for them there would be no club. They organise everything – panels, games and fund-raising – which has become a major task each year to keep the club afloat financially.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Clara enjoyed a good run in the competition and gained full points from their section with wins over Paulstown, Skeough, Bennettsbridge, Gowran and then Windgap in the quarter-final. There was a great tussle against Mullinavat in the semi-final and Clara led with only five minutes remaining. However, a late Mullinavat goal sank our chances of reaching a final.

**Team:** Claire McDonald, Jane Gibbons, Elaine Costigan, Brid O'Shea, Christine Matthews, Gemma Dowling, Aisling McDonald, Alison Bergin, Marilyn Nolan (captain), Deirdre Shortall, Mairead Barcoe, Jennifer Armitage, Ann Dunne, Aoife Quigley, Orla Healy, Ciara O'Loughlin, Margaret Nolan, Elaine Nolan, Sarah Moylan, Fiona Phelan, Rosemary Meaney, Laoiseach Quigley.

We were beaten in the Community Games by Rower Inistioge.

## UNDER 14

Great effort and commitment was given by all the panel. They defeated Tullaroan, Mullinavat, Shamrocks, Freshford, Rower-Inistioge and St. Brigids. In the county semi-final they met Rower-Inistioge again on a wet and windy evening in a very hard game. The Rower won by the only point of the game, though Clara fluffed numerous chances of scores. The girls were very disappointed but took their defeat in good spirits.



**CLARA JUNIOR CAMOGIE TEAM**

Front row (L/R) – Majella Hickey (Captain), Maeve Cashin, Lisa Collins, Mairead Dowling, Jennifer Dillon, Laura Hanlon, Jane Foley.

Back row (L/R) – Olive Kearney, Deirdre Dowling, Denise Dowling, Gillian Meaney, Anne Hickey, Elizabeth Dowling.

**Panel:** Mairead Dowling, Valerie Mulrooney, Laura Hanlon, Patrice Mullins, Pauline Walsh, Alice Butler, Alison Carrigan, Jane Gibbons, Maeve Cashin, Bronagh Ryan (Captain), Sharon McDonald, Roseanne Murphy, Emer O'Loughlin, Sarah Costigan, Elaine Costigan, Ashling McDonald, Deirdre Shortall, Marlyn Nolan, Lisa Collins.

## FÉILE

This same panel represented the club in Féile. Clara defeated all opposition on the way to the final against a fancied James Stephens side. This game was played in St. John's Park in front of a great crowd. Clara managed to get on top and win easily in the end.

Butlerstown, Co. Waterford were our hosts and we won two of our three games. We were unlucky not to win in the semi final but a great time was had by all during the weekend.

## UNDER 16

The good U-14 panel joined Jennifer Dillon (captain), Olive Kearney, Elizabeth Drea, Karen Kealy and Jane Foley at this level. Clara proved too strong for Carrickshock, Dicksboro and Mooncoin. This put us through to the final against St. Brigids. The level of commitment shown by the girls was outstanding but we had to settle for a draw on the first day.

The same level of spirit and effort was shown in the replay but unfortunately the game went against Clara. However, almost all of these players are under age next year which gives us great hope.

## JUNIOR

Most of the Junior panel was made up of the young successful teams, ably captained by Majella Hickey. It was a great achievement to qualify for the semi-final with such a young team having beaten St. Anne's, Freshford, Lisdowney, James Stephens and St. Brigid's. However, a very strong Mooncoin team defeated us in the semi-final.

## JUNIOR B

This competition gave three extra games to our junior team and we did very well to qualify for the final against a fancied Mullinavat side. A few missed frees did no help Clara's cause and a strong 'Vat team won in the end.

**Junior panel:** Mairead, Denise, Deirdre and Elizabeth Dowling, Jane Foley, Olive Kearney, Jennifer Dillon, Ann Hickey, Majella Hickey, Gillian Meaney, Bronagh Ryan, Laura Hanlon, Maeve Cashin, Lisa Collins, Karen Kealy, Elizabeth Drea, Alison Carrigan, Emer O'Loughlin.

Our slogan is: *Winners don't quit – quitters don't win.*

## Dicksboro Camogie Club

**D**ICKSBORO camogie club had a mixed year during 1996, fielding teams at Under-14, under-16, Under-18, Under-21 and intermediate levels.

While playing in Roinn B, our Under-14's, a very young team, did not win any games, but we hope that, with the added year and experience, we will be able to make a better effort at the 1997 championship.

While Castlecomer beat us in the Féile competition, highlight of the year was a visit to our club by St. Patrick's Camogie Club, Keady, Co. Armagh, and our return visit to Keady. It was a pleasure to host one of the finest Under-14 teams ever seen in James's Park. Their skill was a joy to watch, and they would be well capable of living with the best in Kilkenny. They also played a match on the Sunday with our neighbours, James Stephens, whom they also beat.

We made a return visit to Keady during the October weekend, and a great time was had by all. Hopefully, this will not be the last time these clubs visit each other to further the firm friendships made.

Our Under-16 squad went out in the first round to St. Bridget's, which was disappointing, but, most disappointing of all was the exit of our Under-18 team against St. Bridget's, as we had high hopes of this team.

Our Under-21 team must take pride of place, having reached the final, only to go down to a great St. Lachtain's team on a scoreline of 0-9 to 0-5. In the first round we had a walk-over from Thomastown, while in the semi-final we recorded a great victory over Lisdowney, only to fall at that last hurdle at St. Lachtain's.

Our intermediate team reached the semi-final for the second year running but went down to Tullogher by a single point in a terrific game in Thomastown. The year had begun very badly with losses to Tullogher and Thomastown. The year had begun very badly with losses to Tullogher and Thomastown. We bounced back, however, with a great victory over Young Irelands to earn us a semi-final spot. Short a few regulars, Dicksboro put up a great fight to narrowly lose out to a good Tullogher team. We are hoping for greater things in 1997.

The club would like to thank all our supporters, players, committee and trainers, especially Lilian Kavanagh, our under-age trainer.



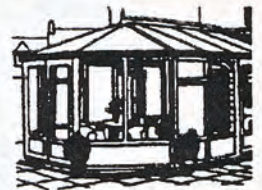
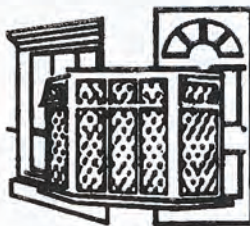
**DICKSBORO UNDER-14 CAMOGIE TEAM 1996**

Front: Niamh O'Donoghue, Susan Kennedy, Jenny Martin, Christine Kelly, Orla Kelly, Laura Lynch, Edel Fitzpatrick, Andrea Marnell, Rachel Knox. Back: Tom O'Donoghue, Ciara McKenna, Sarah Jean Kennedy, Ashling Deevy, Therese Wall, Lorraine Maher (Capt.), Linda Maher, Catriona O'Donoghue, Sarah Quinlan, Kay Gaffney, Lilian Kavanagh (Trainer), Séamus Knox.



*Combined Dicksboro/Keady U-14 Camogie teams.*

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# WINDGAP CAMOGIE CLUB

**C**AMOGIE was revived in Windgap in 1993 after a lapse of over 25 years. This year we combined with our neighbouring parish of Dunnamaggin / Kilmoganny to enable us to field teams at primary schools and under 14 level.

1996 has been our most successful year to date - our primary schools team reached the final of Roinn B after a marathon struggle against Skeoughvos-

teen in the semi-final which ran to two matches and extra time. In the final played on a glorious sunny afternoon in Nowlan Park, Balyhale proved too stong for us.

The Primary schools team trainer was P. Mackey.

#### CLUB OFFICERS;

*Chairperson* - Mary Molloy  
*Vice-Chairperson* - Frances Mackey  
*Secretary* - Kathy Burke  
*Treasurer* - Mary Fleming  
*P.R.O* - Pat Moore.



**WINDGAP CAMOGIE TEAM - PRIMARY SCHOOLS ROINN B RUNNERS UP**

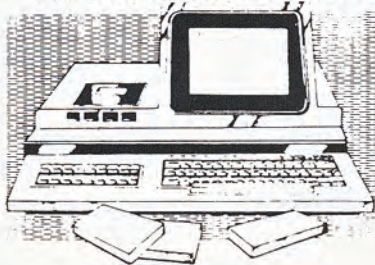
*Back row* - Katy Ryan, Amy Phelan, Amanda Noonan, Miriam Maher, Lorraine Kearney, Caroline Noonan, Georgina Moore, Eleanor Downey, Terri Mackey, Teresa Meagher, Aoife Brett.

*Front row* - Brid Landy, Phena Heffernan, Brid Mackey, Claire Wilkins, Pamela Kearney, Anne Marie Browders, Eavan Molloy, Lorraine Moore, Michelle O'Sullivan.



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Paul Cleere accepts the Intermediate Cup from John Healy (chairman Kilkenny Co. Board). Looking on are Michael Hayes (sales manager), Vale Oil and Jack Dwan (director) Vale Oil, sponsors of the Intermediate hurling championship.



Intermediate man-of-the-match - Derek Shelly receives his Man-of-the-Match award from Mick Hayes, Sales Manager, Vale Oil Ltd. (sponsors). Looking on is Jack Dwan and John Healy. (Photo: Tommy O'Neill)



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# ROWER-INISTIOGE CAMOGIE CLUB

**C**AMOGIE continues to prosper in the Rower-Inistioge area under the guidance of Noreen Tierney, Mary Lyng and Mary Cottrell who did outstanding work with the girls this year.

1996 was yet again a very successful year, competing in Roinn A in all grades for the first time. The club fielded teams at school level, U-14, U-16 and for the first time U-18 levels.

The school team had wins over Thomastown, Tullogher, Ballyhale, and Tullaroan to reach the semi-final. Played in Freshford against a very strong Freshford side, the girls were well beaten on the day.

The U-14 team had it all to do this year having lost eight of the team which won Roinn B last year. They had wins over St Brigid's, Freshford, and Tullaroan and were beaten by Shamrocks, Mullinavat and Clara. In doing so they qualified to meet Mullinavat in a play-off which the girls won. The semi-final against Clara was a



**ROWER-INISTIOGE – U-14 CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS**

Back row (L/R) – Sian Murphy, Brid Murphy, Karen O'Neill, Michelle Cahill, Sandra Corcoran, Anne Walsh, Geraldine Tierney, Brid Corcoran, Bridget Cassin.

Front row (L/R) – Linda O'Neill, Bridgette Croke, Geraldine Holohan, Kathleen Cahill, Aine Holohan, Tracey Flood, Jean Kavanagh, Michelle Cahill, Eimear Lyng, Lizzy Lyng.

very close, sporting game which the Rower-Inistioge won by the only point of the match.

The county final was played on 4th of July in Thomastown against Shamrocks before a large crowd of supporters from both sides. The victorious Rower girls cele-

brated their first Roinn A title, winning at their first attempt on a scoreline of 2-3 to 1-2.

Our U-16 team had wins over Freshford, Shamrocks, Mullinavat and a draw with Tullaroan on their way to the semi-final against Shamrocks whom we beat by 3-4 to 2-3. The county final against Freshford was played at Danesfort on 9th September. The girls never really got going on the day and were beaten by Freshford on a scoreline of 1-6 to 1-0.

Competing for the first time at U-18, the girls gave a good account of themselves. They had good wins over Young Irelands and St. Brigids on their way to the semi-final against Freshford. This game was a hard-fought one right to the final whistle with Freshford winning by two points.

Our county players for this year were Eimear Lyng, Lizzie Lyng, Kathleen Cahill at u-14, Siobhán White, Briona Langton and Deirdre Brennan at u-16.

Club Officers 1996; Mary Cottrell, Noreen Tierney and Mary Lyng.

Our club would like to thank our sponsors, Tim Kelly, John Tobin and Paddy Lawlor, the Hurling club for the use of their pitches and also our faithful supporters.



**ROWER-INISTIOGE – U-16 ROINN 'A' CAMOGIE RUNNERS UP.**

Back row (L/R) – Karen O'Neill, Brid Corcoran, Catherine Corcoran, Siobhan White, Deirdre Brennan, Geraldine Tierney, Briona Langton, Linda O'Neill.

Front row (L/R) – Jean Kavanagh, Eimear Lyng, Lizzie Lyng, Becky Dempsey, Aine Holohan, Bridgette Croke, Kathleen Cahill,

Missing from photo; Tracey Flood, Elaine McCarthy, Kathleen Cahill, Caitriona Holohan, Lizzie Cahill.

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# MULLINAVAT CAMOGIE CLUB

**1996** will go down as a memorable year in the sporting annals of Mullinavat camogie which drew its players from St. Beacan's NS and Bigwood NS. The team, trained by Tom Anthony and Principal Pat Bacon, began with a huge win over Piltown by 8-0 to 0-0. They went one goal better against Windgap and got a walkover against Mooncoin. The team then met Skeaghvosteen and led by midfielder Bridget Raftice and with the full forwards D. Duggan, S. Kelly and M. Murphy playing well won on a scoreline of 4-1 to 0-1.

At this stage it seemed that nothing could stop the 'Vats from reaching the final. They next met Gael Scoil Kilkenny. It proved to be a tremendous battle. Gael Scoil had many good players and led by 2-1 at half time. However, the tide turned in the second half and with the 'Vat backs playing very well, the centre-



**MULLINAVAT PRIMARY SCHOOL - ROINN A WINNERS 1996**

Front row (L/R) - Patricia Duggan, June Grennan, Grace Aylward, Elaine Aylward, Denise Duggan, Bridget Raftice (Captain), Glna Murphy.

Middle row (L/R) - Sarah Kelly, Ann-Marie Freyne, Aileen O'Keeffe, Margaret Roche, Mary Ann Murphy, Bridget Langan, Fionnuala Wall, Celiene Brown.

Back row (L/R) - Paula Madigan, Elaine Fitzgerald, Catherine Freyne, Bríd Aylward, Louise Aylward, Lorraine Roche, Katherine Butler, Deirdre O'Neill.

field began to take control. Finally, after a gripping struggle, Mullinavat grabbed victory. After a good semi-final win over Clara we looked forward to the final. Mullinavat had been there before, in fact Tom Anthony brought no fewer than seven teams to county finals.

The final was played against old rivals Freshford and it turned out to be a very

close fought affair. Halfway through the match it seemed that Mullinavat would again end up as bridesmaids. But everyone forgot the reserve strength of the team. From goalkeeper Elaine Aylward to the full-forward line a tremendous determination not to concede was evident and to the amazement of all spectators the girls fought back and snatched victory for the first time. Well done to all!

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# PILTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB

**T**HE highlight of the year for our club was the winning of the county U-16 Roinn 'C' Camogie title. Unbeaten in the league, we played Danesfort in the semi-final in Mullinavat. The blustery conditions failed to dampen the determination of both sides and in a game full of skill and style, Danesfort led by 0-2 to 0-1 at the interval. Our girls turned in a brilliant performance in the second half and won convincingly by 2-7 to 0-2.

The final was played in Mullinavat on 14 September against Tullogher. Piltown deservedly won their first u-16 title, atoning for the defeat in last year's final. The first half was very closely contested. As ever between these sides, it was rarely dull and Piltown led at half time by 0-4 to 0-2. The sides were evenly matched until the closing minutes when Piltown's Ann Marie Aylward goaled twice in quick succession to leave the sides 2-6 to 0-3 at full time. The second goal was a particularly brilliant one, shot to the corner of the net.

A special presentation night was held in the GAA Complex when the shield was presented to the Captain Miriam Reid and medals to the players by County Board



**PILTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB – U-16 ROINN C CHAMPIONS**

Front row (left to right) – Maura Brennan (Chairperson), Mary Gordon, Helen Walsh, Grace Coffey, Lorraine Brophy, Helena Brennan, Rachel Dunne, Aoife O'Sullivan, Nora Gordon.

Back row – Mairead Brennan (Trainer), Mary Anne Kenny, Deirdre Galvin, Miriam Reid (Captain), Avril O'Brien, Ann-Marie Aylward, Brenda Kenny, Michelle Hickey, Ailish Brophy, Brid Cunningham, Cathy Brennan (Trainer).

representative John Minogue. Our U-12s reached the quarter-finals of Roinn 'C' but were outclassed by a much stronger Urlingford side. With more commitment from our players we should go further next year. Well done to all concerned.

The big disappointment for the club was our inability to field an U-14 team. At the beginning of the year things were looking good, but lack of interest among the players forced the club to drop out of

the championship.

The club would like to thank the GAA club for continued support, Noel Martin the groundsman for keeping the pitch in good playing order. Thanks also to Donal McCarhty and Dick Walsh for the fundraising night to help finance the club.

A special word of thanks to Cathy and Mairead Brennan for their help in training the teams. We look forward to better things next year.

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# CASTLECOMER CAMOGIE CLUB

A busy and enjoyable year was had by all involved in camogie in Castlecomer between Primary and Community school level. We won the Primary Schools Roinn 'D' competition. On the way to victory we defedated Moneenroe but lost to Lisdowney and Galmoy.



Jackie Mansfield (captain) receiving the Roinn D Cup from Brendan Williams, Chairman of the Primary Schools Camogie Board.

However the other results went in our favour and in a play-off Castlecomer beat O'Loughlins to reach the final. In the final we defeated Thomastown in St. James's Park and a very happy captain, Jackie Mansfield, received the trophy from Brendan Williams, chairman of the Primary Schools Camogie.

We can celebrate too the victory of the girls in the Under-14 'B' championship. Well done to all concerned. Thanks must go to our sponsors, M & A Coaches and Castlecomer Credit Union for all their help.

Danny and Sheila Lawlor who organised and trained the teams, would like to thank all who supported the club in 1996,



**CASTLECOMER CAMOGIE CLUB – ROINN D CHAMPIONS 1996**

Front row – Aoife Comerford, Audrey Farrell, Susan Meally, Miriam Dillon, Sinéad McDonnell, Jackie Mansfield (captain), Leeanne Brennan, Danielle Coonan, Majella Walsh, Leeanne Dooley, Darlene Horgan, Karen Farrell, Sharon O'Connor.

Back row – Danny Lawlor (trainer), Emma Hennessy, Caroline McDonnell, Treasa Shore, Bridgette Brennan, Ashling Comerford, Georgina Kelly, Susan Boland, Kathleen Joyce, Ann-Marie Kelly, Stephen Lawlor, Mary Mullins, Hazel Murphy, Ruth Dwyer, Marcella Coonan (vice-captain), Sheila Lawlor (coach and trainer).



**CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL – KILKENNY UNDER-14B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1996**

Back row (L/R) – D. Lawlor, H. Mooney, E Dunne, L. Mansfield, J. Brennan, E. Brophy, H. Nolan, E. Maher, S. Lawlor

Front row (L/R) – L. Dowd, K. Morrissey, C. Dowling, L. Brennan (captain), M. Cody, R. Rothwell, A.M. Minogue, T. Browne.

particularly those who helped - Liz Joyce, Mrs. Shore, Martin Fogarty, and Sr. Nuala in the Presentation primary school.

#### PATH TO VICTORY

Castlecomer beat Moneenroe first round, Lisdowney beat Castlecomer second round, Galmoy beat Castlecomer

third round. In a play-off Castlecomer beat O'Loughlin's. In the final Castlecomer beat Thomastown.

Danny and Sheila Lawlor would like to thank all who helped with the club in 1996 – Liz Joyce, Mrs. Shore, Martin Fogarty, Sr. Nuala, Primary Convent.

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# DANESFORT CAMOGIE CLUB

**I**N 1996 Danesfort camogie club continued in a positive vein with increased participation by the girls of the parish. The club was prominently in school's , under 14 and under 16 competitions, reaching a quarter final, semi-final and county final.

**SCHOOL TEAM** – A very young school's team qualified for a quarter final and were beaten by the eventual county champions in an entertaining and keenly contested game.

**UNDER 14** – The under 14 panel was successful in their league and qualified to play Mooncoin in a close semi-final winning narrowly to progress to the county final. At a well attended final neighbours James Stephens and Danesfort produced a skilful, friendly and highly entertaining game with James Stephens taking the honours. The favourable comments from the large attendance was a fitting tribute to the level of skill shown and the sporting manner in which the game was played.

**UNDER 16** – After a slow start the under 16 panel improved greatly, qualifying for the county semi-final. The girls showing a high level of skill and determination lost out to an experienced and well balanced Piltown side.



**DANESFORT U-16 – WINNERS OF THE ALAN MURPHY MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT 1996**

*Back row (L/R) – John Murphy (sponsor), Michelle Morris, Lisa Marnell, Aoife Marnell, Aileen Hanrahan, Karen Devane, Natasha Phelan, Niamh Gaffney, Elaine Phelan, Marie Carroll, Orlaith Saunders, Niamh Hanrahan, Joan Murphy (sponsor), Corina Saunders.*

*Front (L/R) – Gary Murphy, Breda O'Neill, Aoife Treacy, Yvonne Martin, Roisin Carey, Deirdre Brennan, Aideen Carey, Pam Ireland, Maria Dooley, Susan Ireland, Marian Walsh.*

Once again we finished our busy and successful year with a long awaited and richly deserved victory over local rivals James Stephens in the final of the Alan Murphy Memorial Tournament.

In continuing the efforts of previous years and the increase in interest shown, Danesfort will participate at under 18 level in 1997.

We would like to congratulate club members who were involved at under 14 county level and all parents for their efforts and encouragement during the year.

The year would not have been as successful without the help of our sponsors: John and Joan Murphy of Murphy's DIY; John Morrissey of Singer, High St.; Paul Morrissey of Marble City Fireplaces; TC Tyres, Grange Inn and The Harvester. We could not have functioned without the enormous and untiring assistance of Jimmy Cahill. We thank you all.

Club officers - Anthony Martin, Kevin Gaffney, Martin Carey, Mick O'Hanrahan, Sheila Marnell, Peter Marnell.



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# ST JOHN OF GOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

**C**AMOGIE was introduced to St. John of God approximately six years ago by teachers Marion Ryan and Ann Foley. 1994/95 was the first time the school entered the Primary schools competition. This proved a very worthwhile experience, providing great enjoyment for the children. Representing their school was a source of great pride for everyone involved. It was also a very successful exercise as the team reached the final of Roinn 'C'.

The improving standard of camogie in the school is the result of great dedication and co-operation between teachers Deirdre O'Neill, Ann Foley and parents Geraldine Hayes and Anne Power. Thanks must also be given to James Stephens Camogie Club who have supported the school in every way possible, in particular with the loan of jerseys. The constant support of parents is also very much appreciated, in particular those who provide transport to games. The interest of both pupils and teachers in St. John of God school is a great source of encouragement to all associated with the team.

With the number of enthusiastic camogie players in the school the future of St. John of God Camogie looks very bright.



**ST. JOHN OF GOD CAMOGIE PANEL**

Front row (left to right) – Elaine O'Neill, Natasha Hayes, Catherine O'Donoghue, Emert Shehan.  
Middle row – Emma Dooley, Laura Boland, Michelle Power (Capt), Linda Fogarty, Niamh Fitzpatrick.  
Back row – Mairead Mc Carthy, Christina Doyle, Emer Phelan, Fiona Burke, Caroline Brennan.

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

(On the occasion of Michael Walsh's retirement)

You were never overwhelmed  
by the legend's legacy;  
the shadow he cast  
radiated down the years,  
drawing us close  
in a warm embrace,

and you,  
apprenticed to the master craftsman,  
absorbed inspirations like a willing sponge  
as he handed down the skills;  
not the flamboyance, though:  
nobody has had that.

The shared back-garden dream  
came true on the double  
as he masterminded hurling's  
ultimate triumph,

and you filled his boots.

From behind the town goal  
we eyed up the opposition  
with him, with you;  
saw him, saw you puck  
a million sliotars out,  
break a million forwards' hearts.

And I can understand  
you handing back the **No. 1**:  
victory's cheer would ring hollow  
without Ollie on the line.

**MICHAEL MASSEY**  
November 1996



**MINOR FOOTBALL INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN LOUTH**

Back – Pat Shore, John Gaule, James Byrne, Eoin Boran, Sean Brennan, Paul Sheehan, Colin McGree (R.I.P.), Danny Lawlor, Enda Hawe, Eddie Brennan, David Kennedy. John O'Neill, Pat Morrissey, Anthony Drohan, Brian Duignan, Fergal O'Neill, Niall McCormack, Dermot Hoyne, Tomás Lawless, Michael Lynch, Miley Dunne, Tom Coogan, Tom Murphy.

# JAMES STEPHENS CAMOGIE

## CLUB OFFICERS:

Chairman: Jimmy O'Brien  
Secretary: Anne Power  
Treasurer: Joan Cody  
Co. Board Rep.: Breda Ryan

**1996** was a very successful year for the James Stephens camogie Club. Our numbers have increased to over 160 girls between the ages of six and eighteen with an average of 100 girls turning up to our coaching sessions each Saturday.

Our annual camogie blitz, which was run for the third time this year, involved 18 teams of 7-a-side. The girls, who are all club members, were divided into three groups and played a league section before going on to the knock out stages. Winners and runners-up medals were presented to each girl at the end of the competition.

The success of this day was due to the great organisation skills of Anne Power, Gretta Kelly and Helen O'Rourke together with about 25 other enthusiastic officials.

In competition we salute the success of the St. John of God school team in winning Roinn 'C' of the primary schools championship. Together with the Gaelscoil and the Kilkenny School Project we are very fortunate to have these great nurseries for our games in the parish.

Our under 14's did us proud this year. While losing the Feile and Community Games county finals they overcame their disappointment by winning the Roinn 'C' championship against a gallant Danesfort side.

Our under 16's made it to the county semi-final where they were beaten by Tullogher.

Our wish for the coming year is that all our members continue to enjoy their game and perhaps to bring home a trophy or two.



**JAMES STEPHENS U-14 ROINN 'C' CHAMPIONS 1996**

Back row (L/R) – Michelle Power, Kathleen Cody, Elaine Murphy, Danielle Shortall (Captain), Laura English, Briana Campbell, Ciara Ryan, Angela Power, Fiona Boland, Lisa Murray.  
Front row (L/R) – Niamh Fitzpatrick, Natasha Hayes, Rena McMorrough, Emma Dooley, Philly Larkin, Emer Phelan, Aoife Neary, Sinéad Fitzpatrick, Orla O'Shea, Sinéad Gorey.  
Missing from photo; Mary Tierney.

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# KILKENNY

## G.A.A RESULTS 1996

### Credit Union Senior Hurling Final

Young Irelands	2-10
James Stephens	0-16
(Replay)	
Young Irelands	3-9
James Stephens	2-10

### Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Final

O'Loughlin Gaels	2-13
Graignamanagh	2-8

### Junior Hurling County Final

Piltown	0-11
Dicksboro	1-3

### Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final

Mooncoin	1-9
Young Irelands	1-6

### Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final

Dunnamaggin	1-13
Tullaroan	0-7

### Under-21 Hurling Roinn A County Final

Dunnamaggin	1-13
Graigue/Ballycallan	2-10
(Replay)	
Dunnamaggin	4-9
Graigue/Ballycallan	0-12

### Under-21 Hurling Roinn B County Final

St. Martin's	3-7
Piltown	0-11

### Under-21 Hurling Roinn C County Final

Barrow Rangers	2-10
Cloneen	2-4

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A County Final

Graigue/Ballycallan	2-10
Dunnamaggin	0-11

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B County Final

Emeralds	2-5
Thomastown	1-8
(Replay)	

Emeralds	0-12
Thomastown	0-12
(after extra time)	

Scores at end of normal time:

Emeralds	0-8
Thomastown	0-8

(Second Replay)

Emeralds	3-7
Thomastown	2-1

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C County Final

Kilmacow	3-11
Conahy	1-4

### Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final

Dicksboro	3-13
Graigue/Ballycallan	0-7

### Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final

Clara	1-9
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-8

### Byrne Cup Hurling Final (Open Draw)

St. Martin's	1-14
Graigue/Ballycallan	2-8

### Hennessy Sports All County Junior Hurling League Final

Galmoy	1-14
Piltown	1-11

### Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling Championship Final

Dicksboro	0-14
Galmoy	0-14
(Replay)	

Dicksboro	1-14
Galmoy	2-9
(After extra time at end of normal time)	
Dicksboro	1-9
Galmoy	2-6

### Iverk Produce Junior Hurling Championship Final

Piltown	3-11
Windgap	1-11

### Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final

Young Irelands	2-15
James Stephens	1-4

### Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final

Mooncoin	3-11
Shamrocks	2-10

### Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final

Tullaroan	1-10
Dicksboro'	1-5

### Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final

Dunnamaggin	2-11
John Lockes	2-6

### Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Final

Dunnamaggin v. John Lockes (not played)

### Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. II Final

Young Irelands	3-14
St. Lachtain's	1-9

### Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. III Final

Tullaroan	2-9
Barrow Rangers	0-8

### Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final

Graigue-Ballycallan v. Emeralds (not played)

### Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn A Final

Graigue-Ballycallan	0-16
St. Lachtain's	1-8

### Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling Roinn A Final

Dunnamaggin	2-11
Mooncoin	0-9

### Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn B Final

St. Martin's	1-12
Young Irelands	2-6

### Iverk Produce Under-21 Hurling Roinn B Final

Piltown	1-11
John Lockes	0-8

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A North Final

Graigue/Ballycallan	5-11
James Stephens	2-11

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A South Final

Dunnamaggin	0-11
Rower-Inistioge	0-11

(Replay)

Dunnamaggin	1-13
Rower-Inistioge	0-12

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B North Final

Emeralds	2-7
Young Irelands	2-5

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B South Final

Thomastown	2-10
Shamrocks	2-10

(Replay)

Thomastown	3-5
Shamrocks	0-11

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C North Final

Conahy Shamrocks	1-18
James Stephens II	3-7

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C South Final

Kilmacow	2-13
Carrickshock	1-8

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Final

#### John Tobin Memorial

Graigue/Ballycallan	1-13
Fenians	2-7

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final

John Lockes	2-7
Mullinavat	0-3

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Final

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget)	3-2
Thomastown	0-4

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. IV Final

Kilmacow	0-11
Clara	1-2

### Under-16 Hurling Roinn A County Final

James Stephens	5-18
Dunnamaggin	0-4

### Under-16 Hurling Roinn B County Final

Emeralds	3-10
Shamrocks	4-2

### Under-16 Hurling Roinn C County Final

James Stephens II	3-15
Tullogher-Rosbercon	1-2

### Under-16 Hurling League Roinn A Final

James Stephens	3-19
Graigue/Ballycallan	2-4

### Under-16 Hurling League Roinn B Final

Emeralds	2-12
Clara	0-7

**Under-16 Hurling League Roinn C Final**

Lisdowney	1-10
James Stephens II	0-3

**Under-14 Hurling Roinn A County Final**

James Stephens	4-19
Shamrocks	0-3

**Under-14 Hurling Roinn B County Final**

Emeralds	3-11
St. Martin's	4-8

*(Replay)*

Emeralds	3-8
St. Martin's	1-8

**Under-14 Hurling Roinn C County Final**

Carrickshock	8-12
Lisdowney	1-1

**Under-14 Hurling Féile na nGael****(Paddy Grace Memorial)**

James Stephens	4-6
St. Lachtain's	0-1

**Under-14 Hurling League Roinn C Final**

Carrickshock	3-4
Graignamanagh	0-7

**Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling Roinn A County Final (Educational Supplies League)**

Ballyhale	1-6
St. Patrick's	2-1

**Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling Roinn B County Final (Hennessy Fuels League)**

Carrickshock	2-8
Urlingford	1-2

**Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling Roinn C County Final (Paddy O'Connell Dublin League)**

Galmoy	2-10
Coon/Muckalee	0-3

**Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling Roinn D County Final (Tedcastles Oil)**

Glenmore	2-3
Goresbridge/Paulstown	2-1

**Cumann na mBunscoil Country Cup Hurling Final (Tedcastles Oil)****Corn na Bhaldráithe**

Ballyhale	6-11
Galmoy	6-2

**Senior Football Final**

James Stephens	0-12
Kilomoganny	2-4

**Intermediate Football Final**

Thomastown	2-8
St. Colman's (Clara)	1-7

**Junior Football Final**

O'Loughlin/Gaels	1-9
Carrickshock	0-8

**Special Junior Football Final****Under-21 Football Roinn A Final****Under-21 Football Roinn B Final****Northern Junior Football Final**

O'Loughlin/Gaels	2-7
Bennettsbridge	2-3

**Southern Junior Football Final**

Carrickshock w.o. Mullinavat scr.

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A Final**

James Stephens	1-7
Graigue/Ballycallan	1-3

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B Final**

John Lockes	1-9
St Lachtain's	0-6

**Under-16 Football Roinn A Final**

James Stephens	4-13
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-3

**Under-16 Football Roinn B Final****Under-16 Football Roinn C Final**

Emeralds v. Clara (not played)

**Under-14 Football Roinn A Final**

James Stephens	2-13
Dicksboro	2-6

**Under-14 Football Roinn B Final**

St. Lachtain's	2-11
Carrickshock	2-3

**Cumann na mBunscoil Roinn A Football Final - Bertie O'Callaghan Cup (Kilkenny Association Dublin)**

Kilkenny C.B.S.	3-4
Carrickshock	2-4

**Cumann na mBunscoil Roinn B (Toymaster League)**

Ballyhale	3-4
Graignamanagh	2-2

**Cumann na mBunscoil Country Cup Football Final**

Ballyhale	1-6
Kilmanagh	1-4

**Northern U-21 Football Roinn A Final****Southern U-21 Football Roinn A Final****Northern U-21 Football Roinn B Final**

Muckalee v. Young Irelands (not played)

**Southern U-21 Football Roinn B Final**

Mooncoin v. Carrickshock (not played)

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B North Final**

St. Lachtain's	1-13
Muckalee	1-5

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B South Final**

John Lockes	2-6
Mullinavat	1-4

The Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A Championship was played on an open draw basis.

**Southern U-21 Football Roinn B Final**

Mooncoin	2-12
Tullagher-Rosbercon	0-4

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B North Final**

Young Irelands	6-6
Conahy Sarsfields	2-9

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B South Final**

Rower-Inistioge	1-8
John Lockes	0-4

**Under-16 Football Roinn A Co. Final**

Dicksboro	3-5
James Stephens	3-4

**Under-16 Football Roinn B Co. Final**

Young Irelands	0-6
Graigue/Ballycallan	0-6

*(Replay)*

Young Irelands	2-7
Graigue/Ballycallan	0-5

**Under-16 Football Roinn C Co. Final**

Conahy Sarsfields	1-8
Emeralds	0-6

**Under-14 Football Roinn A Co. Final**

O'Loughlin Gaels	2-10
James Stephens	2-4

**Under-14 Football Roinn B Co. Final**

Erin's Own	5-5
Shamrocks	0-5

**Under-14 Football Special Final**

Emeralds	4-7
Dicksboro	0-3

The Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A Championship was played on an Open Draw basis.

**Outstanding Results****1994****Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A South Final**

Glenmore	2-10
Piltown	0-2

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A County Final**

Glenmore w.o. James Stephens scr.

**1995****Under-21 Hurling Roinn A County Final (replay)**

Dunnamaggin	0-10
James Stephens	0-9

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final (replay)**

John Lockes	2-7
Tullaroan	0-4

**Under-21 Football Roinn A Co. Final**

Graigue/Ballycallan	2-7
Kilmoganny	0-4

**Under-21 Football Roinn B Co. Final**

Erin's Own	1-7
Mooncoin	1-5

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A County Final**

Graigue/Ballycallan	3-10
Railyard	1-1

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B County Final**

Young Irelands	3-4
Rower-Inistioge	0-7

**Northern U-21 Football Roinn A Final**

Graigue/Ballycallan	3-6
Railyard	1-9

**Southern U-21 Football Roinn A Final**

Kilmoganny	2-12
Carrickshock	1-8

# CAMÁINT

## – WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA

by John Comeford

**A**n immensely enjoyable, under 11, ten-a-side, ground hurling competition, where all participating teams were winners. In a nutshell, those words could aptly describe what the concept of Camáint is all about.

It is a new concept in the promotion of hurling, in so far as, it was conceived in County Clare in 1995, taken on board by the Hurling Committee of the Leinster Council, and funded / sponsored by that august body. Its ideals are manifold, not least of which is the philosophy, that hurling for youngsters of 11 years and under, is purely for sport, entertainment, and recreation. When questioned about the attainment of those ideals, Paul Kinsella (Chairman Kilkenny County Board Development Committee) and the chief organiser of Kilkenny Camáint, said "the win-at-all-cost sentiment was all but eradicated, and for that reason alone, the Camáint was successful".

The ground rules were surprisingly simple. There was no lifting of the ball allowed, under any circumstances. The only person allowed to catch the ball was the goalkeeper. All frees were "cuts", and

65's were 30's. Every team had a panel of 20 players, with ten players allowed on the pitch at any given time. Substitution at all times was permissible. The duration of matches was 10 minutes, with a half time break of 5 minutes.

When Paul Kinsella announced the idea at a Bórd na n.Óg meeting last June, over-worked club officials reacted with "not another competition". To overcome their reticence, he explained that it was an opportunity to encourage "non-involvers" within their clubs to take this idea on. He told the meeting that it was an ideal way of getting players in their clubs involved in administration. He was certainly proved right, based on the numbers of new faces present at the "Finals" in Nowlan Park.

The competition was played over a 5 week period during July and August. The games in the different geographical locations only served to organise the teams for the divisional finals in Nowlan Park during the last week-end in August. The beauty of the competition was the fact that every player in the twenty-player panels received the same quality commemorative medal. Great credit must be due to people like Paul Kinsella, Tom Ryall, and of course the many officials at the grounds used around the county. So a big "Bualadh Bas" to Ned

Habberlin (Mullinavat), Tommy Kelly (Ballyhale), John Minogue (Thomastown), Oisín Breathnach (Dicksboro), John Dowling (Clara), Paddy Flynn (Freshford), Adrian Muldowney (Jenkinstown) and Jim Fennelly (Danesfort).

Yes indeed, Camáint was a brilliant idea, but like all ideas their merits depend on the enthusiasm of others. In that respect, it was an unqualified success as well. The numbers of mothers, and fathers present at the matches in the run-up to the finals were encouraging. And of course, Finals Day in Nowlan Park was "Mega". The parents certainly enjoyed the entire scenario, and needless to re-iterate, the players had "a ball". Kilkenny coaches Bobby Jackman, and Briain Ryan also had a huge input during the entire campaign. It will be interesting to see, whether Camáint will have improved the skills of these youngsters, people like Bobby and Briain will best be the judges of that, during the coming year.

I asked the Hurling Officer for Leinster, Brendan O'Sullivan, what one aspect of Camáint would have pleased him particularly. The articulate Brendan (Chairman of this Yearbook Committee), said "every player on all competing 32 teams got an opportunity to play in Nowlan Park, and to



Windgap - Camáint . . . Back Row (l to r): Eamon Comerford, Eoghan Cody, Richard Grace, Jonothan Duggan, Ronan Molloy, Bryan Lanigan, Brian Hennessy. Front Row (l to r): Thomas Fleming, Niall Phelan, Niall Fennelly, J.J. Phelan, James Mackey, Sean Hennessy, Thomas Cronin. Insert; Dominic Lavelle (right), James Meehan (left).



see the unrequited joy, and wonder on the faces of these kids, some of whom may never be in Nowlan Park again, never mind play in it, convinced me that the logistics

of the whole enterprise were more than worth taking on". This article falls well short of the impression Camaint created. It does not do justice to the efforts of the

many volunteers, required to make the event happen. One thing I hope I have done, is convinced you, dear reader, of the merits, and values of Camaint.



*Erin's Own, Castlecomer U-11, Camaint Team . . . Back Row - Coaches Nicky Walsh, Tom Brennan, Ned Lawlor, Brian O'Neill. 2nd Row; Graham Lawlor, Donal Meally, Barry Dunne, David O'Gorman, Michael Dunne, Michael Moran, Damien Fogarty, John Dowling, Thomas Dwyer, Peter Donovan, Dermot Wallace, Claire O'Neill. Front; Kevin McDonnell, Patrick Brennan, John O'Gorman, Ger Coady, Christopher Brennan, Karl O'Donnell, Mark Delaney, Martin Boran, Ronan Dowling, Canice Brennan, Caroline McDonnell.*

*St. Martins U-11, A team, Camaint Ground Hurling finished third in group one. Front Row (l to r): M. Kane, T. Brennan, P. Brennan, R. Maher, D. Brennan, C. Hogan, E. Buggy (capt.), J. Maher. Back Row: A. Maher (mentor), K. Byrne, M. Darcy, A. Murphy, B. Mulhall, S. Cadigan, E. Holohan, E. McGrath, P. Murphy (mentor).*



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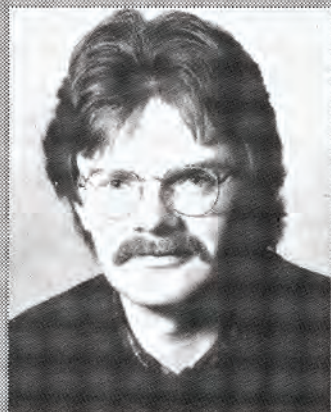
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# ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

Tom Mooney (Editor, Echo Group of Newspapers)



**I**n Ireland, nights are often longest in Wexford. This is a county that needs to party, and knows how to. No county has as many festivals as Wexford. A party could be organised at the drop of a hat. Politicians would turn up at the opening of an envelope, if invited. This is the county that gave the world the longest opera festival, 21 days at the last count. Sadly, the best party has just ended.

Liam Griffin continues to tell people outside the county that you cannot buy the feeling that is in Wexford at the moment. The party began in earnest after the Leinster Final. Stuffing Galway was a bonus and the All Ireland Final was a day-out to be enjoyed.

We knew in Wexford that Limerick could be beaten. We also realised that, whatever happened, Wexford would celebrate. The win was the icing on the cake. I don't mean to appear so casual about the achievement, but, initially, only Liam Griffin and his squad believed in their ability to be the best team in Ireland.

The team had the support and goodwill of the county behind them. No county has supporters like Wexford. No county is without Wexford supporters. Even in Kilkenny, I remember the purple and gold in Thomastown on my way to the Under 21 final in Thurles a week after winning the All Ireland. Magic. As Griffin said, hurling is the Riverdance of sport.

But I digress. After the defeat of Kilkenny, we knew anything was possible. But Wexford supporters are not traditionally endowed with optimism. The most common myth was that the senior hurling team was cursed by undeserved bad luck. Along came Griffin, a magician who worked with reality and dispensed with the hocus pocus.

A huge psychological barrier was dismantled in the first round defeat of Kilkenny. A myth had been destroyed by sheer hurling skills. Was there a more gracious opposition than Kilkenny this year? Not a chance. Kilkenny hurlers don't whine.

Griffin's greatest skill, excluding his public speaking, was his ability to spot the potential for greatness in ordinary players. He made Larry O'Gorman the best hurler in Ireland. How did he do that? He translated his business life skills

onto the playing field. Attitude determines altitude. Here was a coach who was a winner. What you take, is equal to what you make.

There is a beautiful scene captured by television after the All Ireland final when George O'Connor is carried from the field by supporters. Overcome with emotion, George grasps his jersey with clenched fists as if to say "This is what it is all about" - the purple and gold.

Defeating Kilkenny convinced the players that they had the beating of anybody. The road to Camelot was long and winding, but the Holy Grail was in sight. In fact, Kilkenny's play on that day was reminiscent of Wexford's in recent years, clueless.

In the Leinster Final, Wexford played without fear. It was the third Championship outing on the trot in which Wexford never surrendered a lead. Griffin had instilled confidence in the players by showing his faith in their ability to do the best for the team effort.

Injury aside, Griffin sent out the same fifteen players in the five championship matches. Faith can be spurned or rewarded, but in either case, you learn the measure of your man.

No field game in the world can equal



The official Echo Newspaper photograph of the 1996 All-Ireland Hurling Champions Wexford. Back Row (from left) Dave Guiney, Paul Finn, Larry O'Gorman, Rod Guiney, George O'Connor, Gary Laffan, Adrian Fenton, Larry Murphy, John O'Connor, Ger Cush, Billy Byrne, Jim Byrne, Declan Ruth. Front Row (from left): Paul Codd, Seamus Kavanaugh, Lian Dunne (man of the match), Tom Dempsey, Martin Storey (Captain), Damien Fitzheary, Sean Flood, Eamon Scallan, Colm Kehoe, Rory McCarthy, Tommy Kehoe, Shane Carley. Management team: Liam Griffin (Manager) and Rory Kinsella, Seamus Barron.

hurling for stimulating the intellect and animating the emotions of both player and spectator. Nowhere is a victory more celebrated than at a crossroads in Wexford.

The pleasure of sport can be at the expense of another's pain, but Wexford hurling knows all about pain. It discovered pleasure in full in September.

Between the idea and the reality, Griffin roamed, looking for means to formulate a winning plan. Against Galway, Wexford gave a gutsy performance, similar to the style of the teams in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

Griffin's faith in his troops, however, did not stop him in the second half of the semi-final doing several laps of Croke Park issuing instructions.

This was an extremely fit Wexford team, and those hours running up and down the dunes in Curracloe paid off. This fitness enabled the team to maintain a pace and a rhythm in the dying embers of matches, such as produced the plethora of points scored in the Offaly tie.

Essentially the players were sent out to do a specific job, and if the plan did not succeed, the decision-making was to be left to Liam Griffin. At the core of the Wexford revival, and central to its spirit was the leadership of Martin Storey, the consistency of Ger Cush and the versatility of Larry O'Gorman.

There was also, in the accomplished artistry of Liam Dunne and the new kids



Wexford maestro - Liam Griffin



The famine over, Wexford fans celebrate at last.

on the block, Rory McCarthy and Garry Laffan.

Watching Martin Storey lead his team past Hill 16 in the All Ireland final as the Wexford crucible of colour exploded, you sensed that round one in the psychological battle with Limerick had been won even before the sliothar had been thrown in.

It was a memorable moment, etched forever in the heart, when Storey held the line after Limerick took the decision to snub the Wexford supporters in the pre-match parade.

With his chest out and a strut like Jeff Goldblum, Storey completed the circuit of Croke Park while Limerick stood exposed in the middle of the pitch, with no opposition to mark.

"Nice dress, Mary", quipped Larry O'Gorman earlier when he was introduced to the President. This was typical Larry, and Larry was typical Wexford. Unfazed. Relaxed. The stress was palpable, though, on Limerick faces. Ciaran Carey looked like he hadn't slept in ages.

Larry epitomised the attitude of the team, an attitude wrought by the conviction and determination of Liam Griffin and his coaching staff. While Limerick were reserved, Wexford were composed. The subsequent victory was, as The Echo headline put it "Our Greatest Day."

No Kilkenny supporter can know how dry a throat is after a 28 year drought. Suffice it to say that it was more than appropriate that the main sponsor of the hurling championship was Guinness. Nobody said it was going to be easy, tell

George O'Connor.

In sport, expectation is impotent without a myriad of factors to engineer victory. Stamina, skill, luck, determination and coolness are ingredients that separate victory and defeat. It also helps if you keep a cool head, and Wexford did, for once.

Kilkenny did have a role in the post match celebrations. 24 hours after the McCarthy Cup was Slaney bound The Echo newspaper was published a day earlier, with a difference.

A special All Ireland edition of the Echo featured the first colour poster of the Wexford squad, published by the Kilkenny People. The Echo on that Tuesday sold out within hours, a rare event for any provincial newspaper. The Echo had no option but to triple its normal run to meet the demand for the special edition. To this day, we get requests from Wexford emigrants in the most obscure of places for a copy of the poster.

Isn't it fitting that this Echo poster of the All Ireland Champions, Wexford, published by the Kilkenny People, adorns a thousand living rooms throughout the world.

A final word about Liam Griffin. He was the inspiration that turned fifteen talented players into a magnificent team. He gave every village in the county, and many in Wicklow and wherever there is Wexford blood, the pride to fly the Wexford flag.

Liam Griffin has steered hurling in Wexford from the doldrums into a new era of hope and confidence. He asked for nothing in return except pride and passion.