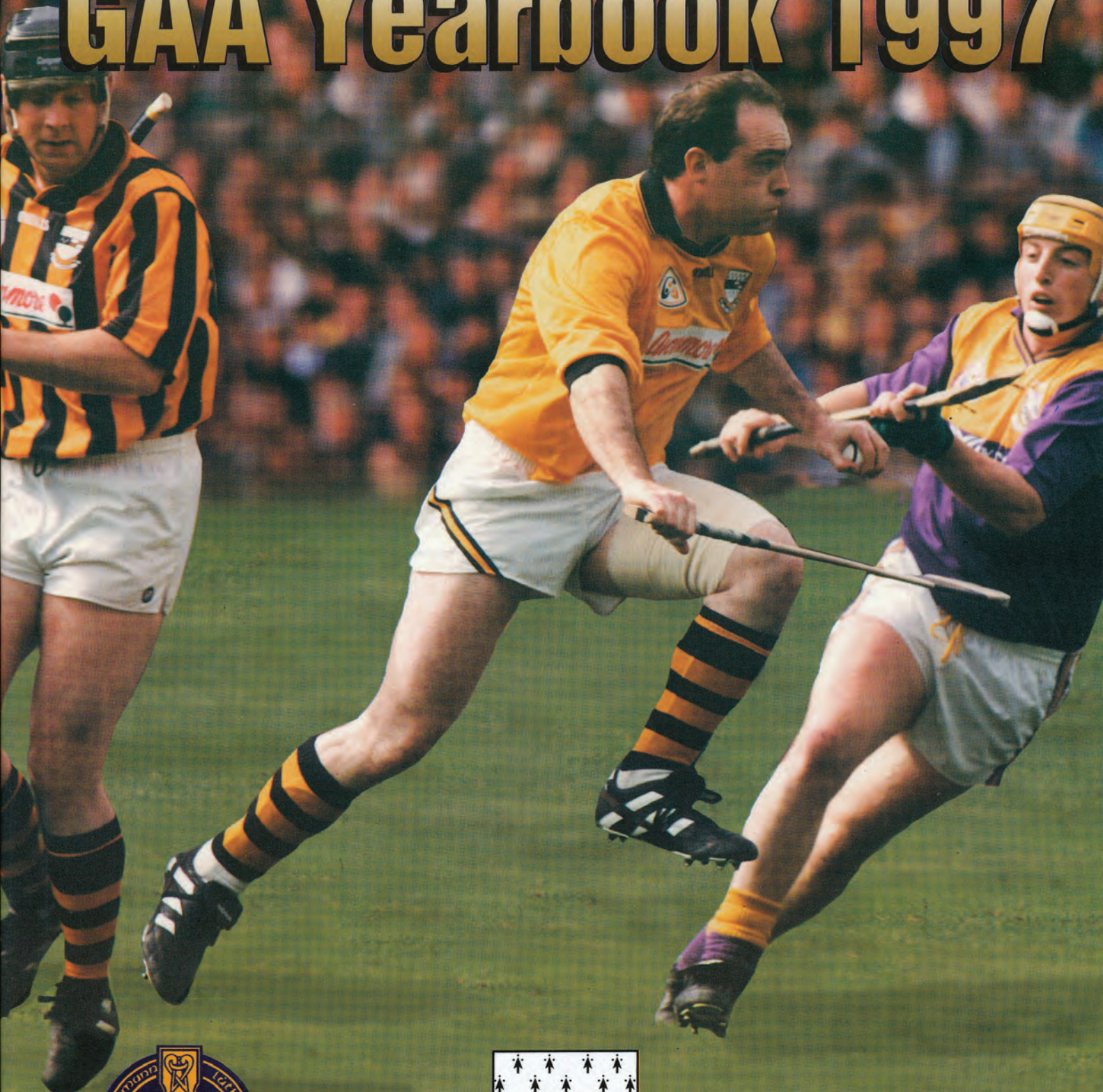


# KILKENNY

## GAA Yearbook 1997



Luach  
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# KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 1997

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# KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1997

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## **PUBLISHED BY:**

Kilkenny County Board GAA,  
Nowlan Park,  
Kilkenny

## **PRINTED BY:**

Kilkenny People Printing Ltd.,  
Purcellsinch,  
Kilkenny.  
(056) 63366

## **FRONT COVER:**

Joe Dermody in action against  
Wexford. Pat O'Neill and Gary  
Laffin look on.  
*Photo: Sportsfile*

# ***Editorial***



**E**xperience has taught us that the success or otherwise of our County teams has little bearing on the volume of material available for this publication. 1997 proves the case once again. Although our collection of national silverware is restricted to the gallant Masters, the evergreen Eugene, Duxie and colleagues, and the magnificent minnows of Tullaroan, we have no shortage of reports and reminiscences between our covers. Since any GAA year is a busy one, there is much to recall and record. We hope we have succeeded in recording as much of that activity as possible and in presenting it in an attractive form. A yearbook worthy of the name should stand as a historical record and as a reference in coming years, but it should also entertain. We hope we have succeeded in both objectives. If we have, there are many people to thank.

Firstly, I thank our many contributors, amateur and professional, who have provided us with copy - from the club PRO's to the national journalists. I thank especially our professionals - John Knox (Kilkenny People), Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune), Mick Dunne (Gaelic World) and Jimmy Magee (Sunday World) for their valued contributions.

Over the past few years, you will have noticed an increase in the colour content of the yearbook - this years book having the highest content ever - and here we are grateful to all our photographers, lay and professional - Tom Brett, Ray McManus and Tommy O'Neill especially, for their professionalism and attention. We thank also, all the local and club "snappers" who provided us with hundreds and hundreds of pictures - more in fact than we could use. The pictorial content has always been vital to the yearbook.

I thank our committee who worked very hard to compile this publication - harder than ever this year - as we took on the additional task of formatting the material ourselves. This involved an enormous increase in the volume of preparatory work.

Once again, we are enormously grateful to our advertisers, whose generous support is fundamental to the economics of this venture. Without them, this project would never get off the blocks. Please support them in every way you can.

Finally, we thank our publishers "Kilkenny People Printing" and staff for the help, encouragement, courtesy and patience they have always shown us, and, of course, for their first class professional work.

The inevitable last minute rush, which attends a publication such as this, is almost bound to generate some errors and omissions. For these, we apologise in advance, but we nevertheless hope our yearbook will give many hours of enjoyment to you, and especially to our emigrant readers.

Nollaig shona dhibh.

**BARRIE HENRIQUES**

*Editor*

# Foreword

**B**eannachtaí na féile libh arís a chairde go léir. Tá Bimleabhar iontach spéisiúil againn arís imbliana agus táim cinnte go mbainfidh lucht léite na h-irise seo an-taitneamh ar fad as. Míle buíochas do lucht eagraithe na h-irise agus do gach éinne a chabhraigh linn i rith na bliana.

1997 will probably be regarded as a very disappointing year for Cumann Lúthchleas Gael here in Kilkenny, because there were great expectations that an All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship win could be achieved. Regrettably, this did not happen even though our Seniors gave us great pleasure and entertainment up to the end of August, going out in the semi-final of the League and Championship. The Masters team were the only ones to go all the way, after a good win over old rivals, Wexford in the final. Leinster successes were achieved at Minor and Intermediate grades.

I would like to pay a very special tribute to Nickey Brennan for the time, effort and hard work he has put into the GAA in Kilkenny down through the years. He did not deserve the treatment he got from some so-called supporters. A special thanks also to Richie Power and Pat Aylward.

New club champions emerged in Kilkenny this year with Dunamaggin winning their first ever Senior Championship beating last year's champions and most people's favourites, Young Irelands, in the final. This small rural club, in only their second year as senior grade, showed fierce pride and determination in claiming the Tom Walsh Cup. The performances of Ballyhale Shamrocks, in winning Intermediate and Minor Hurling, and Tullogher, in Junior, are also worthy of mention and who can forget Tullaroan's young hurlers and their famous Féile victory.

Kilkenny Handballers again had numerous successes, doing the county proud and keeping Kilkenny very much on the top of this sport in Ireland. Once again, Duxie Walsh continued to make records, claiming his thirteenth Senior Singles and tenth Senior Doubles titles with Eugene Downey. Johnny Brennan took Intermediate Singles, Pearse O'Keeffe and Eamon Law, Intermediate Doubles. Congratulations to them all.

After three years work, the planned redevelopment of Nowlan Park is now completed. The development was essential for the safety, comfort and updating of our county facilities for all GAA patrons, now, and in the future. A sincere thank you to all who made this possible - the National Lottery, GAA Headquarters, Leinster Council, Business people, our dedicated supporters and the clubs of Kilkenny. Your continued financial support



will be necessary for the management and clearance of the debt. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have assisted the Board in any way during the past year, in particular, our main sponsors, Avonmore PLC, St Canice's Credit Union, Vale Oil, Iarnród Éireann, Hennessy Sports, Barlo Nissan, Iverk Produce and Duggan Steel.

Again, I say a very sincere thank you, on behalf of our hard-working committee, to all who contributed such splendid articles, information and photographs. The venture would never be possible without the support we receive each year from our advertisers. I urge you to give them your support in return at every possible opportunity.

Thank you sincerely to Barrie Henriques, our hard-working Editor, who, once again, has done such a splendid job, organising the material for this yearbook. Barrie is also responsible for securing the necessary advertising for the publication. I know he would certainly wish me to remember the excellent and hard-working committee, without whom, the production would not be viable. I thank them all very sincerely for undertaking such a tough task over the past few months,

I know that this year's book will find its way to many corners of the globe, not to mention many Christmas stockings. I am sure that you, the readers, will derive the same pleasure from reading it as it gave the committee in compiling it.

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

**Sean Ó hÉilí**  
Cathaoirleach,  
Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh



1964 - 1997

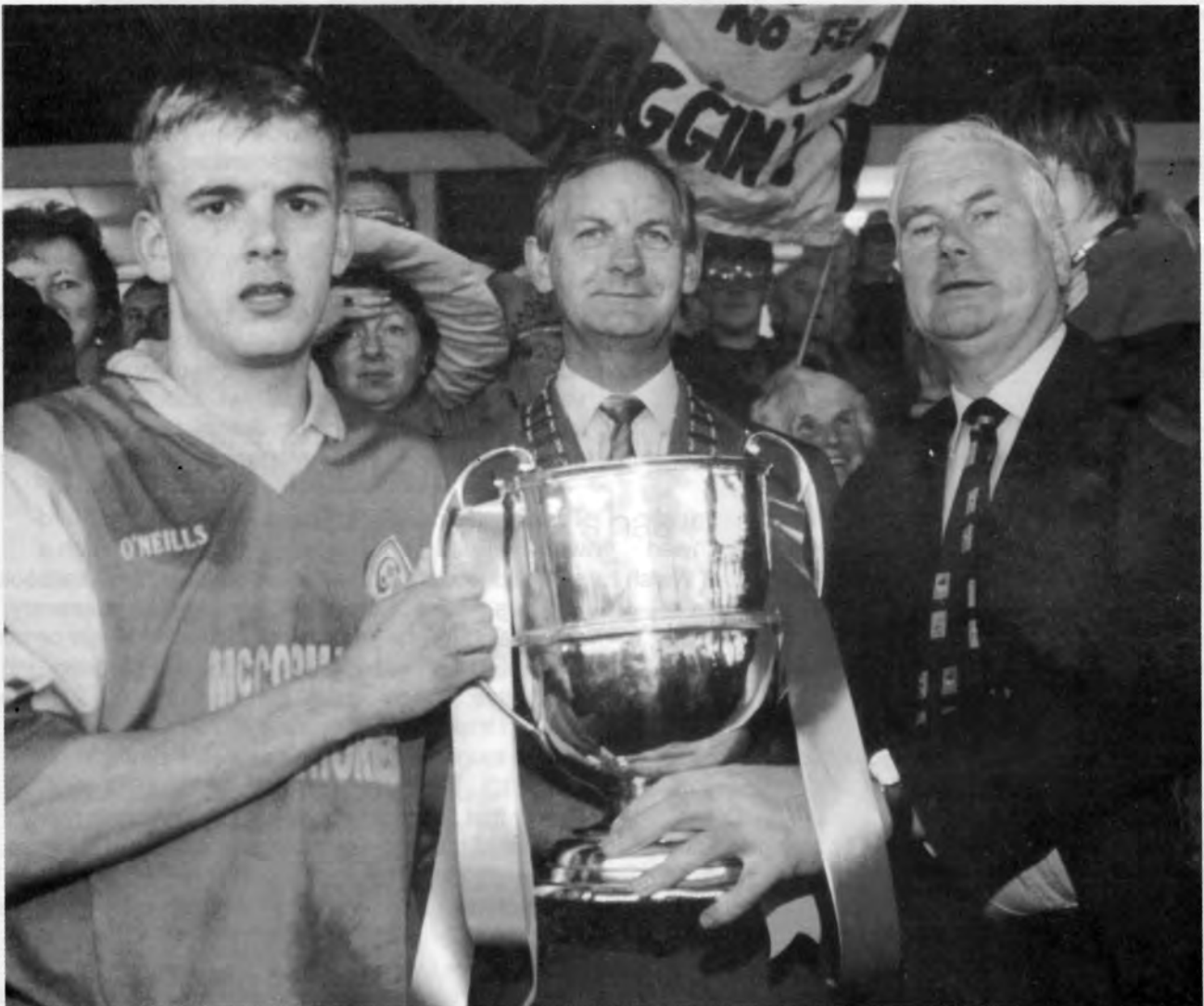
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*History Making.... Dunnamaggin won their first county senior hurling championship at Nowlan Park on 12/10/97 and team captain Paul Cahill is pictured receiving the trophy from County GAA Chairman John Healy with Michael Saunders, President St. Canices Credit Union (sponsors) in the centre.*

Photo; Tom Brett

# From rags to riches, to King of the Cats

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

John Knox, Kilkenny People

**INSTEAD** of standing back and admiring, people should examine things more closely to see what was there to be learned. For there was much to be learned.

It was a genuine rags to riches, fairy-tale like story. The former have-nots end up as high kings of hurling in Kilkenny. Hollywood epics have been concocted from far less.

Four seasons ago, the club, on its own admission, could not pluck up the collective courage to win even a divisional junior competition. Then in 1993 the roll started. The junior championship was annexed.

The following year the intermediate was claimed. A feet

finding season followed in the top flight. And in 1997 Dunnamaggin claimed the richest prize available in the county when they stormed to victory in the Credit Union senior hurling championship.

The win has to be put down as one of THE achievements in the long and proud history of the GAA in Kilkenny. The team with an average age of 21 galloped to their first senior title by trampling over defending champions, Young Irelands (Gowran), D.J. Carey and all.

Facing 'Irelands had to be a daunting prospect, bearing in mind they were champions, they hit the final on the back of an unbeaten run, they had scary fire-power and they had oodles of skill sprinkled throughout the team. Throw in the fact 'Irelands had riddled Dunnamaggin in a league semi-final earlier in the season, and it was hard to go against back-to-back wins.

## Casually viewing

Yet, one of the memories of county final day is the track-suited Dunnamaggin squad arriving at Nowlan Park and casually taking up viewing positions on the sideline late in the minor decider.

Less than 20 minutes later they had the champions bent over to breaking point, and frantically looking for a way back into the match after being bombarded during the early moments.

"When the first goal went in, I said "brilliant!", recalled cool, calculating manager, Brendan Fennelly. This guy is something else. Since he joined Dunnamaggin in 1993, the club has won a staggering 19 competitions at one grade or another. A coincidence? Come off it!

"When the second one went in I couldn't believe it", Mr. Fennelly explained further.

The final was no more than three minutes old when Dunnamaggin already had two goals on the 'board. The first was put down to Eamon Kennedy, after a 65 from him was fumbled by the 'keeper and ended in the net. The second came from a viciously dipping angled drive



Gowran Senior Finalists 1997

**Back :** Brian Treacy, Ciaran Carroll, Patrick Farrell, Daragh Phelan, Ciaran Phelan, James McDermot, Pat Drea, Eoin Farrell, Alan O'Neill, John Kennedy, Cathal Fitzgerald (Capt), Martin Treacy, Tom Drennan, John Drennan, Kevin Fennelly.

**Front :** Tommy Harding, Charlie Carter, James Fitzgerald, D.J. Carey, Oliver Carter, Toss Farrell, Jack Carey, Brian Farrell, Martin Carter, Aidan Drennan.

by Sean Ryan from the right of the city end goal.

Those two bullets, plus an out of this world stop in the 24th minute by goalie Anthony McCormack from a full force drive by D.J. Carey, were

the crucial happenings in a first half that stunned the huge attendance.

After all, it was 'Irelands who were supposed to produce the fireworks.

Instead, it was Dunnamaggin who showed 2-6 to 1-3 in front at half

time, a position which accurately reflected the breakdown of possession.

The Gowran lads tried everything to get past Eamon Kennedy, Noel Lahart, Tom and Jim Hickey and company. During the second period they concentrated on the aerial route, and while Jack Carey was able to win first phase possession in the sky, invariably he was bottled up when he came to ground.

**Mighty men**

Dunnamaggin played like mighty men, and their 2-10 to 2-7 win was well deserved. They weren't at all flattered. In fact, they might have won more handsomely, because during the hour they hit 15 wides against their opponents nine.

Different men had high moments at different times in the match. Sean Ryan dazzled early on. Denis Lahart looked good at midfield during the opening period. Afterwards he was eclipsed by his partner, Mick O'Neill. And so the story went for them.

"This win tops off a lot of great things that have been happening in our club", enthused diligent chairman, Malachy Hogan. "On the field and off it we have been making great strides in recent years. Definitely, we have one of the strongest based clubs in the county".

Physically, Dunnamaggin are far from the biggest, or strongest, team ever to win the title. Indeed, if anything, they might be neared the other end of the physical scale.

But the players believed in their manager, Mr. Fennelly and selectors, Malachy Hogan and John Hayes. And Mr. Fennelly, in turn, believed in the players. That mutual respect brought mutual good fortune.

As the heart of the team, centre-back Eamon Kennedy pointed out:"One night Brendan told us, that for all 'Irelands great play and for all they won, he would still prefer to be with us going into the county final. That meant a lot to us".

**Talent there**

In turn, Mr. Fennelly said of the players: "I was sure the talent was there after last year". On that occasion Dunnamaggin lost to 'Irelands in the semi-final.

The Southerners played nine matches. They lost two, and won the rest.

They fell to James Stephens in the opening round, and later suffered a



It's do or die...Action from the County Final shows **Brian Treacy** making a last second attempt to rescue the game for Young Irelands. Making sure that he won't be Dunnamaggin's brothers, **Noel** and **Tom Hickey** [Tom Brett]



**Dicksboro Senior Hurling Team** - BACK: S.Prendergast, T.Bawle, N.Lacey, T.Henderson, T.Carroll, D.Carroll, M.Walsh, S.Kennedy. FRONT: J.Treacy, M.Dowling, M.Hanrick, S.Morrissey, D.Beirne, J.Ayres, D.O'Neill [Tommy O'Neill]



**Glenmore Senior Hurlers 1997**- BACK: J.Phelan, PJ O'Connor, P.Fitzgerald, F.Kirwan, M.Phelan, M.Alyward, S.Vereker, R.Mullaly, R.Heffernan.FRONT: F.Freyne, D.Heffernan, E.O'Connor, J.Phelan, W.O'Connor, S.Dollard, P.Mullaly.



**Dunamaggin St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Champions 1997**

**Back Row:** Gerry Carroll, John Hickey, James Moylan, Eamonn Kennedy, Sean Ryan, Jim Hickey, Matt O' Shea, Paul Cahill (Captain), Michael Moran, Noel Lahart, Denis Lahart, Colin Herity, Pat Moylan, Richie O'Neill, Andrew Hickey.  
**Front Row:** Niall McCormack, Brian O'Shea, Michael O'Neill, Tom Hickey, Kenneth O'Shea, Paul Kearney, Anthony McCormack, Ramie Cahill, Noel Hickey, JP O'Neill, Brendan Moore.  
 Photo: Liam Butler





**MOONCOIN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM**

**Back :** M Purcell, T Dunphy, T Murphy, P Hogan, P Doyle, J Mahon, M Walsh, D Mackey.  
**Front :** B Quinn, M Tyler, L Sutton, G Kirwan, J Fitzgerald, L Mackey, J Dunphy.

mauling against 'Irelands in the league semi-final. The score there was a none too comforting 3-20 to 0-15.

In the championship proper against Erin's Own, which was a quarter-final, Dunnamaggin showed a touch of class that should have alerted us that there was something big happening in the little parish. They didn't play particularly well during the opening half. When they opted for a two-man full-forward line afterwards, they destroyed the opposition. They won by 0-18 to 1-7.

The importance of the ease with which the players were able to handle the demands of different positions, and how easily the team could change tactics was lost on us all that evening at Nowlan Park.

After that strong, versatile showing, the semi-final against Dicksboro (1-9 to 3-1) was a bit of a 'forced labour effort'. There were no frills in this one. It was a heads down, battle hard all the way effort.

The final was a different type of test again. And again Dunnamaggin had something very special to offer. They are some bunch. Fair play to them.

**Dunnamaggin** (team in county final) – Anthony McCormack, Jim Hickey, Tom Hickey, Noel Hickey, Paul Cahill (capt), Eamon Kennedy, Noel Lahart, Mick O'Neill, Denis Lahart, Paul Kearney, Matthew O'Shea, Mick Moran, Sean Ryan, Ramie Cahill, Ken O'Shea. Subs – John Hickey,

Richie O'Neill (used); Niall McCormack, Pat Moylan, Colin Herity, J. P. O'Neill, Brian O'Shea, Jim Moylan, Brendan Moore, Gerry Carroll.

**Young Irelands** – Oliver Carter, Daragh Phelan, Pat O'Neill, Cathal Fitzgerald, Brian Farrell, Pat Drea, Owen Farrell, James McDermott, Ciaran Phelan, D.J. Carey, Toss Farrell, James Fitzgerald, Dick Carroll, Charlie Carter, Jack Carey. Subs – Alan O'Neill, Brian Treacy (used).

Referee – Paddy Neary (James Stephens).

**Well Dunna' boys!**

**April 20**

Dunnamaggin 1-12 Erin's Own 0-7  
 Scorers – Michael Moran (0-3, frees); Sean Ryan (0-2); Ramie Cahill, M. O'Shea (0-1 each).

**May 4**

Dunnamaggin 0-16 Erin's Own 2-8  
 Scorers – M. Moran (0-8, seven frees); Paul Kearney (0-5); M. O'Shea, S. Ryan, K. O'Shea (0-1 each).

**May 24**

Dunnamaggin 2-15 Mooncoin 1-8  
 Scorers – K. O'Shea (2-2); S. Ryan (0-4); M. Moran (0-3); P. Kearney, M. O'Shea (0-2 each); M. O'Neill, R. Cahill (0-1 each).

**June 8**

Dunnamaggin 1-15 O'Loughlin/Gaels

1-14

Scorers – M. Moran (0-7, five frees, one penalty); S. Ryan (0-4); E Kennedy (1-0); D. Lahart, R. O'Neill, P. Cahill, K. O'Shea (0-1 each).

**June 29**

Dunnamaggin 3-12 St. Martin's 2-12  
 Scorers – K. O'Shea (2-1); M. O'Shea (1-0); S. Ryan (0-5); M. Moran (0-5); J. Hickey (0-1).

**August 14, league semi-final**

Young Irelands 3-20 Dunnamaggin 0-15  
 Scorers – P. Kearney (0-5); M. Moran (0-3, one free); E. Kennedy (0-3, frees); S. Ryan (0-2); K. O'Shea, N. Lahart (0-1 each).

**September 8, championship quarter-final**

Dunnamaggin 0-18 Erins Own 1-7  
 Scorers – M. Moran (0-8, seven frees); S. Ryan (0-5); E. Kennedy (0-2, one free, one 65); P. Kearney, R. Cahill, K. O'Shea (0-1 each).

**September 21, championship semi-final**

Dunnamaggin 1-9 Dicksboro 3-1  
 Scorers – M. Moran (0-3, two frees); K. O'Shea (1-0); E. Kennedy (0-2, one free, one 65); D. Lahart, P. Kearney, M. O'Shea, S. Ryan (0-1 each).

**October 12, county final**

Dunnamaggin 2-10 Young Irelands 2-7  
 Scorers – S. Ryan (1-1); E. Kennedy (1-1, frees); P. Kearney, K. O'Shea (0-2 each); M. Moran (0-2, one free); R. Cahill, M. O'Neill (0-1 each).

# CHAMPIONS DOWN THE YEARS.

**TULLAROAN, with 19 successes, are still the biggest winners in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship. In all, 24 clubs have won the the championship.** The previous two winners, Young Irelands (Gowran) and Dunnamaggin joined the honours list for the first time. The list reads -

1887 - Tullaroan	1917/18 - No championship.	1944 - Eire Og.	1972 - Fenians
1888 - Mooncoin	These years were combined with the	1945 - Eire Og.	1973 - Fenians
1889 - Tullaroan	1916 championship.	1946 - Thomastown.	1974 - Fenians
1890 - Bennettsbridge.	1919 - Declared null and void when	1947 - Eire Og.	1975 - James Stephens.
1891 - 1892 - No championship.	Tullaroan and Mooncoin could not	1948 - Tullaroan.	1976 - James Stephens.
1893 - Confederation	agree on a venue.	1949 - Graigue.	1977 - Fenians
1894 - Confederation .	1920/22 - No	1950 - Dicksboro.	1978 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1895 - Tullaroan.	championship.	1951 - Carrickshock.	1979 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1896 - Confederation.	1923 - Dicksboro.	1952 - Bennettsbridge.	1980 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1897 - Tullaroan.	1924 - Tullaroan.	1953 - Bennettsbridge.	1981 - James Stephens.
1898 - Threecastles.	1925 - Tullaroan.	1954 - Slieverue.	1982 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1899 - Tullaroan.	1926 - Dicksboro.	1955 - Bennettsbridge.	1983 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1900 - Mooncoin.	1927 - Mooncoin.	1956 - Bennettsbridge.	1984 - St. Martin's .
1901 - Tullaroan.	1928 - Mooncoin.	1957 - John Lockes.	1985 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1902 - Tullaroan.	1929 - Mooncoin.	1958 - Tullaroan.	1986 - Clara.
1903 - Threecastles.	1930 - Tullaroan.	1959 - Bennettsbridge.	1987 - Glenmore.
1904 - Tullaroan.	1931 - Carrickshock.	1960 - Bennettsbridge.	1988 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1905 - Erin's Own (city).	1932 - Mooncoin.	1961 - St. Lachtain's.	1989 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1906 - Mooncoin.	1933 - Tullaroan.	1962 - Bennettsbridge.	1990 - Glenmore.
1907 - Tullaroan.	1934 - Tullaroan.	1963 - St. Lachtain's	1991 - Shamrocks (B'hale).
1908 - Mooncoin.	1935 - James Stephens.	1964 - Bennettsbridge.	1992 - Glenmore.
1909 - Erin's Own (city).	1936 - Mooncoin	1965 - Mooncoin.	1993 - Dicksboro.
1910 - Tullaroan.	1937 - James Stephens.	1966 - Bennettsbridge.	1994 - Tullaroan.
1911 - Tullaroan.	1938 - Carrickshock.	1967 - Bennettbridge.	1995 - Glenmore.
1912 - No championship.	1939 - Eire Og.	1968 - Rower-Inistioge.	1996- Young Irelands
1913 - Mooncoin.	1940 - Carrickshock.	1969 - James Stephens.	1997 - Dunnamaggin.
1914 - Johnstown.	1941 - Carrickshock.	1970 - Fenians	
1915 - Tullaroan.	1942 - Carrickshock.	(Johnstown)	
1916 - Mooncoin.	1943 - Carrickshock.	1971 - Bennettsbridge.	



**Travelling in style in the official customised supporters' car!**  
Driver: Gerard O'Neill, Ger Martin, Brendan Martin and a "fare". The car was decorated by Michael Murphy, garage owner, Kells.



**The calm before the storm....**For one hour at least, the Fennelly brothers, Kevin (Young Irelands) and Brendan (Dunamaggin) were locked in "mortal combat" in the senior hurling final.

# INTER-COUNTY MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Tom Ryall



Kilkenny V Clare All Ireland Minor Semi-final: (Photo Sportsfile)

Back: Aidan Cummins, Robbie Byrne, Kevin Power, John Hickey, John Paul Corcoran, John Brennan, Henry Shefflin.  
Front: Michael Kavanagh, Paul Sheehan, Noel Hickey, Niall McCormack, Tom Digby, Jimmy Lynch, Paul Buggy, John Barron.

**T**his year's All Ireland minor hurling championship will be classed as the one that got away . Down through the years the Noresiders have had their share of good fortune in winning titles. One remembers the goal that never was against Wexford in 1990 . That game finished level and Kilkenny easily won the replay and went on to win the All Ireland title. There was another occasion in Croke Park when Kilkenny got a line ball decision that should have gone to Wexford from which they scored the winning goal.

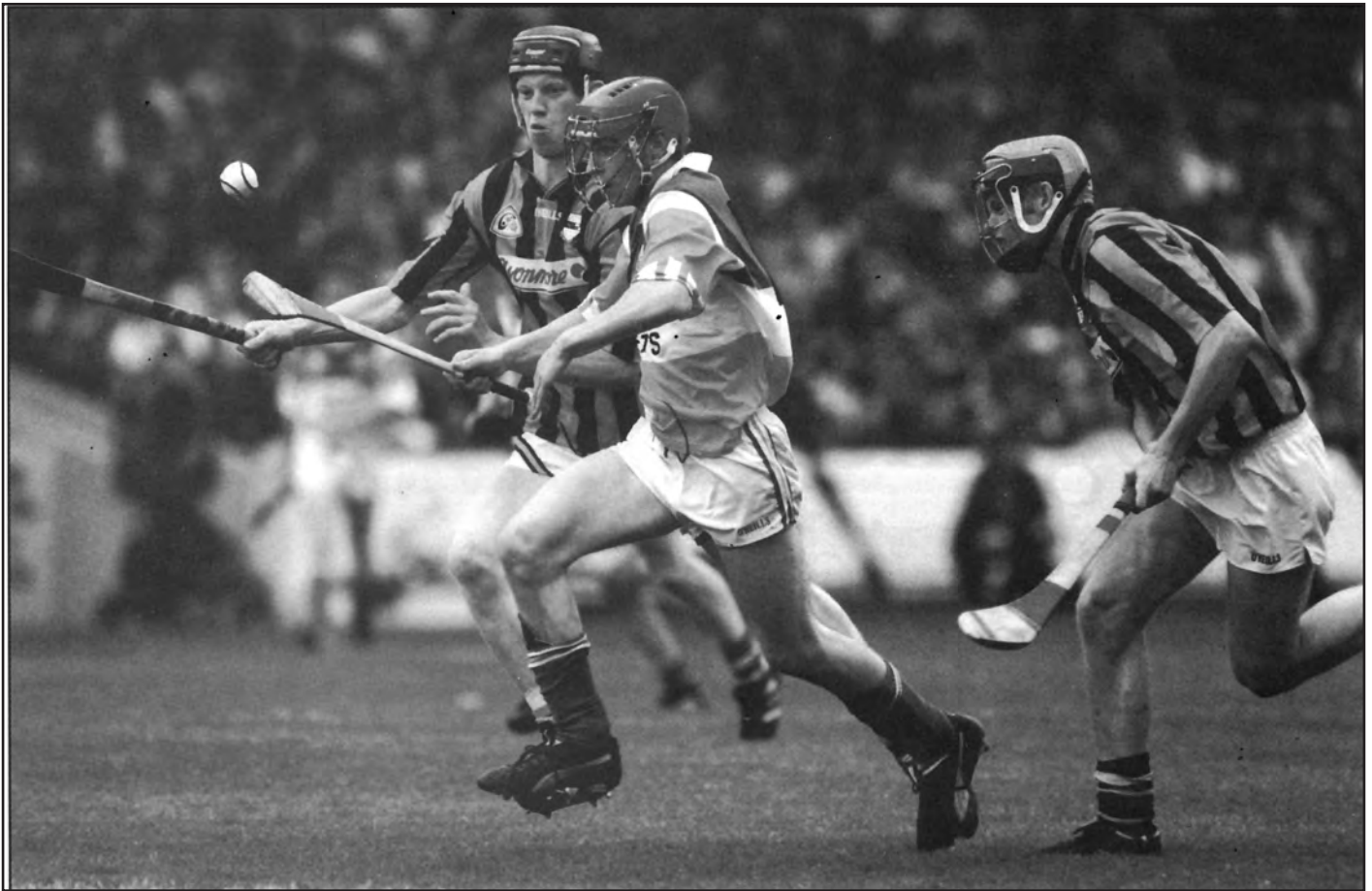
However luck balances out and in 1985 Kilkenny were disallowed a perfectly legal goal when Pat Hoban was adjudged to have been in the square. Television proved afterwards that the goal was legal. This year the new system, where the beaten Leinster and Munster finalists were allowed back into the championship, worked against the black and amber side. Having won the Leinster title, they would, under the old system, have been due to play Antrim in the All Ireland semi final. While Antrim

did give a good run to Clare, Kilkenny would have been odds-on favourites to beat them and qualify for the final. Taking that the other side of the draw worked out as it did with Tipperary scoring two late goals to pip Clare and Galway catching Tipperary in a sensational finish. I have no doubt that Kilkenny would have beaten a very youthful Galway side (eleven of whose players are eligible in 1998), had they met. While Kilkenny had enough of the play against Clare to have won, they were very much handicapped by the absence of three players out through injury. More about that anon.

Kilkenny opened their campaign against Wexford in New Ross on May 10 . The game was a curtain raiser to the clash of Kilkenny and Wexford in the National League. Wexford, powered by a number of the players who had assisted Good Counsel to reach the All Ireland Colleges final, were formidable opposition. The home side got the tonic start of a goal within a minute. The Noresiders, with their forwards impressive, ran out convincing winners on a score of 5-

11 to 3-9. Scorers were Henry Shefflin (2-3), J. P. O'Neill(1-3), Kevin Power (1-1), Paul Sheehan(0-3), Cathal Dunne(1-0), Brian O'Shea(0-1). The team was Niall McCormack(Dunnamaggin), John Morgan (James Stephens), Michael Kavanagh (St.Lachtains), Noel Hickey(Dunnamaggin), Aidan Cummins(Shamrocks), Michael Hoyne Capt (Graigue-Ballycallan), Colin Herity (Dunnamaggin), John Paul Corcoran (John Lockes), Brian O'Shea (Dunnamaggin), Paul Sheehan (Rower-Inistioge), Paul Buggy (Conahy Shamrocks), J. P. O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), Cathal Dunne (Graignamanagh), Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks), Kevin Power (Fenians). Subs-Nicky Kenny (Rower-Inistioge) for Colin Herity, John Barron (Tullogher-Rosbercon) for Cathal Dunne.

Kilkenny almost bowed out at the semi final stage when they were held to a draw by Dublin in their own Nowlan Park with the score reading Kilkenny 0-11 Dublin 2-5. Had they lost, they would have only themselves to blame as they



**Action from Leinster Minor Hurling Final:** Micheál Hoyne and John Morgan chase Offaly's Conor Gath as he runs towards the Kilkenny goal.

dominated the game but shot no less than twenty one wides. They were very much in danger of losing in the closing minutes as Dublin were having plenty of chances and Kilkenny were a man short for the last quarter after one of their defenders had been put to the line for a second bookable offence. The team showed two changes from the Wexford game with Jimmy Lynch (Graigue-Ballcallan) and John Hickey (Dunnamaggin) coming into the side in place of Colin Herity and the injured Brian O'Shea. The Kilkenny scorers were Henry Shefflin (0-3), Paul Sheehan(0-3), Kevin Power(0-2), Paul Buggy, Cathal Dunne and John Barron (0-1 each). The replay took place in Parnell Park three days later. Despite the fact that the Noresiders were short Michael Hoyne, out with a broken finger, and the out-of-bounds Jimmy Lynch, they had a very easy 3-17 to 1-4 victory. Pat Butler (Mullinavat) and John Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) came into the side in place of the absent duo. The other change on the team saw John Barron, who had come on as a sub in the drawn tie, retain his position in place of Cathal Dunne.

The scorers were Henry Shefflin (1-7), Paul Sheehan (1-2), John Barron (1-2), Kevin Power (0-2), John Hickey(0-2), Noel Hickey and John Paul Corcoran (0-1 each).

Kilkenny made it eight Leinster titles wins in a row when they easily accounted for a poor Offaly side on a score of 3-16 to 0-10 in the final. Michael Hoyne was back in the team to captain the side and collect the O'Neill Cup despite playing with a broken finger. He replaced Pat Butler in the only change from the team that had beaten Dublin. After leading by 0-10 to 0-4 at the interval, the young cats, with goals from Henry Shefflin (2) and Kevin Power, had a trouble-free second half. The margin of victory would have been much greater but for some wonderful goalkeeping by Stephen Ryan in the losers' goal. The best players for Kilkenny were Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Michael Hoyne, Paul Buggy, Henry Shefflin, Kevin Power and Paul Sheehan. Scorers were Henry Shefflin (2-4), Kevin Power (1-5), John Barron (0-2), Paul Sheehan (0-2), Michael Hoyne (0-2), J. P. O'Neill (0-1). For the record, the team was Niall McCormack, John Morgan,

Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Aidan Cummins, John Brennan, Michael Hoyne(Capt), John Paul Corcoran, Paul Buggy, Paul Sheehan, John Hickey, J. P. O'Neill, Henry Shefflin, John Barron, Kevin Power. Subs:- Cathal Dunne for John Barron, Nicky Kenny for John Paul Corcoran, Robert Byrne for J. P. O'Neill, John O'Neill, Colin Herity, Pat Butler, Tom Digby, Joey Murray.

Disaster struck Kilkenny in the run up to the Clare game. Brian O' Shea, who would have been the team's free taker, had been ruled out of all games after the Wexford tie. On a day when frees went a-begging from long and close range, O'Shea's accuracy would have been vital. Then Michael Hoyne, one of the best minor hurlers in the country, was ruled out with a broken bone in his leg. To add to the agony, sterling corner back, John Morgan, broke his finger on the Monday before the game. Tom Digby (Rower-Inistioge) and Jimmy Lynch were drafted into the team. The latter captained the team in the absence of Michael Hoyne. The other change from the side which won the Leinster title saw Robert Byrne (Graigue-Ballycallan)

come into the team in place of J. P. O'Neill. While Digby and Lynch did well, the loss of Hoyne and Morgan cut the options for the selectors. With the forwards not performing to their potential, they could have moved Michael Kavanagh (who plays his club hurling in the forwards) to this sector had Hoyne and Morgan been available. As it was, Kavanagh was the outstanding player on the Kilkenny team and, indeed, the best player on view. Others to do well were Jimmy Lynch in the first half, John Brennan, Niall McCormack (brilliant in goal), Aidan Cummins and

Paul Sheehan.

Clare had the better of the first half but did not look in a good position at the interval. Having played with the breeze, they led by just three points 0-8 to 0-5. Midway through the second half, Kilkenny were in pole position when they were just one point behind. A number of missed chances at this stage, including a great chance of a goal were to prove vital. Two late points gave the Banner boys a 0-13 to 1-7 triumph. Kilkenny had one final chance to earn a draw. They were awarded a free thirty metres out but

Henry Shefflin's effort was saved and the referee blew full time. Clare went on to win the All Ireland. Certainly one that got away. Scorers for the Black and Ambers were Kevin Power (1-0), Paul Sheehan (0-3), Henry Shefflin (0-3), John Barron (0-1). The Selectors were Bobby Jackman (Windgap) who trained the team and did well in his first year in the position, Rev Liam Barron (Glenmore), Jim Neary (Graigue-Ballycallan), Jimmy Dunne (Dunnamaggin) and Phil Fan Larkin (James Stephens).



**Action from Leinster Minor Final:** Paul Sheehan turns on the steam as he runs away from Offaly's John O'Meara.  
*Photo: Sportsfile.*



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# CLUB NEWS

## BARROW RANGERS

### Officers

Chairperson: Gerry Purcell  
 Vice-chair.: Mick Medlar,  
 Secretaries: Bob Shortall and Ed Drea,  
 Treasurer: Pat Drea  
 Asst. Treas.: Mervyn Healy,  
 PRO: Michael Shortall

"Reached three finals but no silverware." This sums up the efforts of the club during the past year.

### Schools

For the second year in a row, the Goresbridge / Paulstown schools team reached the county final only to be edged out by a fine Gaelscoil Osraí side in a game of exceptional quality. Former Wexford manager, Liam Griffin, who was present, was fulsome in his praise of both sides for having served up such brilliant hurling in atrocious conditions. The outstanding displays given by Darren O'Neill over the past two years were recognised when he was selected on the Kilkenny U/12 team to play in a hurling/shinty competition in Scotland in November. The schools football team has qualified for the semi-final of the Roinn C championship. The camogie team continues to make great strides. They reached the Roinn C quarter finals only to lose out to a stronger Castlecomer side after putting in an excellent performance. The highlight of the year was in September when they won the Shield Final at

### O'Loughlins' Blitz.

A terrific performance by all on the day to make history by winning a first ever camogie title for the parish. Congratulations to all the teachers for their trojan work in promoting our national games.

### Under age

Pride of place here must go to the U/14 team which reached the Northern final after brilliant displays against Galmoy, Dicksboro and Fenians. They lost in the final to an excellent Blacks & Whites team who went to to win the county title. If this group can be kept together it should not be long before a county title should come our way. Under 16 and minor teams went out in the first rounds to Danesfort and Conahy respectively. The U/21s were annihilated by Tullaroan in the first round. Serious questions must be asked about the grading structures after this game.

### Adult

Intermediate footballers



**Paulstown Under 13 Camogie team**

**Back** (l-r); Maria Fitzpatrick, Colette Byrne, Caitriona O'Neill, Sheila Kelly, Niamh Hennessy, Caroline Walsh, Caitriona Bambrick, Claire Brennan.  
**Front** (l-r); Aoife Murphy, Sarah Brophy, Ruth Attride, Edel Mullins, Mary Brennan, Clare Whitely, Rebecca Bambrick, Alice Walsh.

commenced with a draw against Tullogher and then lost to Blacks & Whites. Unfortunately, they were well beaten on the night and now await a relegation playoff against Conahy.

The junior hurlers had a good All County league campaign with victories over Danesfort, Tullogher, Slieverue and Cloneen. They qualified for the quarter final by giving their best display of the year beating Galmoy. In the quarter final they saw off James Stephens at the second attempt only to go down to Blacks & Whites in a semi-final played in atrocious conditions. In the first round of the Championship, they faced a young and enthusiastic Ballyragget. Rangers were 10 points down after 20 minutes but helped by the unerring accuracy of Dermot Maher, who scored 1-12, they clawed their way back well to win by the narrowest of margins.

In the Northern final against old rivals Galmoy, they had to line out without the injured Pat Drea and were not able to overcome this handicap losing by two points after a close and exciting game. A special word of thanks to the various trainers, Richie Power, Brian Keyes and Mick Doyle for their committment during the year.

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



**Under 13 Roinn D Schools hurling finalists**

**Back** (l-r); Ricky Murphy, Shane McEvoy, Darren O'Neill, John Lyons, Andrew Healy Billy Murphy, Colm Purcell, Michael Brennan, Richard Connolly, Joseph Kealy, Tomás Quinn.  
**Middle** (l-r): Colette Byrne, Maurice Drennan, Derek Whelan, Joseph Hughes, Ian Holden, Aidan Brennan, Paddy Barcoe, William Hennssy, John Byrne, Zak Shermer.  
**Front** (l-r): Seamus Brennan, Richard Kelly, Mark Lillis, Sean Barcoe.

# CLUB NEWS

## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

**O**ur year got off to a flying start when, on February 7th, exactly twenty five years after the foundation of the club, we held a super night of celebration at Eamon Langton's Hotel in John Street. The principal guest was none other than former GAA President, Peter Quinn. He gave a heart-warming talk about our Gaelic games. A lovely presentation of Kilkenny Irish Crystal was made to him by Chairman Michael Hoyne. He then presented the players with the cup and medals for the Mount Carmel Tournament - our only achievement in 1996.

In September, Shamrocks were proud winners of the Kilsheelan Tournament, and players were presented with fine plaques at a supper and get-together in Robinson's of Kilsheelan.

October 12th saw the Shamrocks Minors give good reason for further parish celebrations when they gave a wonderful display of hurling, defeating James Stephens in the Minor "A" County Final.

Just one week later, on October 18th, the spirits rose even higher when the Under 16's brought home more honours, overcoming Tullaroan in the Duggan Steel Under 16 County Final. This was another great team effort.

Less than twenty four hours later, the Shamrocks club and all its followers were on a new high when they moved themselves back into Senior ranks by accounting for Gaignamanagh. What a week of celebrations! They started with the



**Super Captains** - Thomas Coogan, Minor Captain, Pdraig Farrell, Intermediate Captain and William Coogan, U16 Captain with their silverware in Ballyhale NS.



Club Chairman, **Michael Hoyne**, presenting **Mrs Teresa Fennelly** (left) and **Mrs Patricia Walsh** (right) with silver brooches crafted by James M Kelly in the shape of the club logo. These ladies are the wives of the late Kevin Fennelly and Sean Walsh who both worked tirelessly for the development of the Shamrocks club and its facilities.

National School reception for team members and dozens of faithful followers. The crisps, minerals and chocolates were in plentiful supply and a good time was had by all. Sue Nunn's programme, Kilkenny Agenda even captured some of the excitement of the occasion.

On Monday night, the Radio Kilkenny-Avonmore outside broadcast unit visited the village and the craic was mighty. Young and old danced the night away. The excitement was infectious.



It's a knockout!!!! Kilkenney's **Pat O'Neill** lands a "knockout" punch on **Martin Storey** (Wexfor) in the Leinster Senior Hurling Final.  
*Photo: Sportsfile*

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# MEMOIRS OF AN UNSUNG HERO

Enda McEvoy

**M**rs Evelyn Crotty looked distinctly unimpressed. Sounded distinctly unimpressed, too.

"You're going to interview this lad?" she sniffed. "About his hurling career? Then make sure you ask him about the time he left me here with two screaming babies and went off to San Francisco with the All Stars!"

Sorry, Evelyn, no chance. Some family skeletons are better left undisturbed.

The subject of Mick Crotty's hurling career is fair game, naturellement. His low-key but quietly crucial membership of arguably the best Kilkenny team ever, his four All Ireland senior medals, his six Leinster medals, his 1974 All Star award, his pair of national club honours in the red and green of James Stephens. But his domestic arrangements - intriguing as they sound, unfortunately they're a different matter altogether. Perhaps the Yearbook will return another day and get the inside track from the lovely Evelyn herself. There's an interview that will be well worth waiting for..!

Back to Mick Crotty. One of the unsung heroes of a side overflowing with legendary figures, the graph of his hurling career is by and large the graph of Kilkenny hurling in the 1970s. Let's take it year by year.

**1970:** A St Canice's man who'd done a bit of hurling with his native parish before the team became defunct and most of the members gravitated across town to James Stephens, Mick won a county medal with his adopted club, the Village's first Kilkenny senior title since 1935. The Stephens victory brought him an additional honour in the shape of the mixed blessing of captaining the Black and Amber in the Leinster final. "I was captain by default. Fan was there for the first round, then Jim Treacy came back. I was the only Village player left." In the event Kilkenny failed by five points against Wexford. Shot through the losing captain's disappointment was a certain relief. At least he didn't have to face the ordeal of making an acceptance speech afterwards!

**1971:** Like many a student before and after (he was doing arts in the hurling hotbed of UCC where his contemporaries included the Cork trio of Ray Cummins, Seamus Looney and Pat McDonnell), he spent the summer in the US. Why did a member of the previous year's Kilkenny team fly the coop? Simple. Nobody in authority told him not to or said, hey, hang on there, young fella, we need you. The 1971 All Ireland final he listened to on radio in Chicago, dragging himself out of bed at six o'clock in the morning to do so.

**1972:** Kilkenny 3-24, Cork 5-11. Mick Crotty's first All Ireland medal, and he contributed two points to his side's total. "I'd been on and off the team throughout the year. I'd scored the equalising point against Wexford in the Leinster final but was substituted in the replay. I scrambled my place back for the All Ireland final and was totally in awe of the occasion. Playing in an All Ireland final, it was something beyond my wildest dreams. And what a match to win. Keher's point from under the Hogan Stand, Cummins coming through for a goal from midfield, the Delaney hop. It took me several weeks before I realised it had really happened."



**Mick Crotty** in action "supervised" by **Eddie Keher**.

**1973:** Kilkenny's dismantling of Wexford in the provincial decider - they led by 14 points with as many minutes remaining before easing off and winning by ten - is invariably touted as the team's finest moment. Mick Crotty does not disagree. A press man interviewed him afterwards, asking him for a comment on the Noresiders' "complete performance". Everything went so well, Mick replied, that something was bound to go wrong before the All Ireland. Spooky. It did, and in spades - to Purcell, Keher and Treacy.

## TURNING POINT

That said, the injury-plagued champions were level with Limerick early in the second half, having scored the last two points, when the chance to take a grip on the All Ireland decider arrived. It fell to Mick Crotty, who suddenly materialised behind the Limerick defence with only the goalkeeper Seamus Horgan to beat. He elected to handpass the sliotar. "There was more room on the left but it was a longer distance. The shorter route to the net was on the right and it would probably have paid off. By going for the longer option I gave the goalie that extra split-second to get his eye in. He turned the ball over the bar. In retrospect I would probably have been better off to kick it." On such decisions do the destinations of McCarthy Cups turn.

**1974:** "There was a fierce determination to win, to make up for 1973. Then again, there was always a fierce determination in that team to win. There was never a casual match played. When you're playing alongside the likes of Pat Henderson and Fan, there's only one thing you want to do. And Fr Maher was so highly respected. He had a great insight into the level of training required and an ability to get a team to peak on the day. He'd often tell some lads to ease off a week or two before the match if he saw they were in danger of going stale." The aforementioned fierce determination led to revenge. Kilkenny 3-19 (M Crotty 0-1), Limerick 1-13.

**1975:** As she'll doubtless have some choice words to say if we don't give her another mention or 20, we'd better bring in Evelyn Crotty again at this stage. She and

Mick - today the mam and dad of Paddy, Kathryn, Michael, Olivia and James - married in 1975, Holy Year. The wedding should have been one of the groom's more straightforward fixtures of the season. It didn't turn out that way.

The date was set back in March or April, all the relevant fixtures having been sussed out, for the Thursday after the Leinster final. But Laois and Dublin drew in the first round, with the upshot that the entire provincial championship went back by a week. In the event, the wedding proceeded on the appointed date. The honeymoon, though, had to be delayed for a few days, for the Leinster final was waiting to be played and won. Eventually the newly-weds flew to Rome on the Sunday evening, a few hours after the big match. As a matter of interest, how did they punch in the interval between Thursday and Sunday?



Tussling with **Pat Hartigan** on the 1975 All-Stars tour to San Francisco. Others in the picture are **Tom McCormack, John Horgan, Dick McNamara, Tadhg O'Connor, Pat Henderson** and **Joe McKenna**.

"That's an interesting one. I think we went on a tour of the Wicklow mountains. There was never any question of missing the Leinster final. In those days you didn't miss a match because you mightn't get your place back."

Was the 1975 victory, 2-22 (M Crotty 0-5) to Galway's 2-10, in any way anticlimactic in its ease? "God, no. All Irelands are never an anticlimax. They were the highlight of the year. The only thing we thought about was winning more of them.

"It helped that the hurling season was less frantic back then. The championship was the thing. Everything was totally geared to it. Training is so rigorous now that it's hard to see lads lasting as long as they used to. The break for the winter really meant a break for the winter. You'd come back around Easter with enthusiasm fully restored."

**1976:** Kilkenny's bid for the three in a row came unstuck, and how, against Wexford. Supporters have long attributed the crash partially to the team's misfortune in getting entangled in a prolonged, messy and unnecessary league campaign. More agreement in this regard from Mick Crotty. Had the National League final been won or lost, he avers, had it been got out of the way one way or the other, the Cats "would have been okay". They could have gone to the US, come back and prepared for the championship in time-honoured fashion.

"But drawing the league final against Clare threw things.

And Wexford really hit us with everything. The Leinster final was over, nearly, after a quarter of an hour. No matter how Kilkenny tried we couldn't rise it. I didn't consciously think I was tired on the day, but I was. I was beaten well to the first ball and I didn't hit another one afterwards."

### ABUNDANT COMPENSATION

In defeat, the dethroned champions were able to feel happy for Wexford. "We'd always try to beat Wexford, but if the worst came to the worst and Wexford beat us we were their biggest supporters. I'd have loved to see Wexford go on to win one of those All Irelands. That team deserved more success."

What the intercounty arena took away in 1976, the club scene gave back with interest. No Leinster team had won the All Ireland club title in its five years of existence before James Stephens took on Blackrock on a frightful

March afternoon in Thurles. No Leinster team was to win one for another five years. Blackrock had already won it twice and appeared set for a third triumph when they scored 1-1 in the opening minutes.

Not so. The Village rallied magnificently and triumphed by six points, 2-10 to 2-4, to blaze a trail followed in later years by Ballyhale Shamrocks, St Martin's and Glenmore. With so

many Kilkenny regulars in their midst it might be argued that an All Ireland club title - a second one followed in 1982 against Mount Sion of Waterford - was the least James Stephens ought to have managed. But the real strength of the side, Mick asserts, was its balance. "Though people talk about the big names, about the Fan Larkins and Brian Codys and Liam O'Briens, it was the lads on the fringes who made all the difference. Dinny McCormack, Jimmy O'Brien, Mick Moore, Niall Morrissey. Terrific club men, all of them."

**1977:** Defeated by Wexford in the Leinster final. Enough said.

**1978:** Defeated by Cork in the All Ireland final. Succeeding where Kilkenny had failed in clocking up the three in a row, the Leesiders "had an edge in experience whereas we had lost some old hands and were blending in a few new faces". The old hand that Mick Crotty gives the impression was most missed, although he doesn't explicitly say so, was a man whose skill did not cease to amaze him, long and all as they played together. A man whom you passed the ball to, then turned back and took your place for the puckout, safe in the knowledge that he would have despatched it between the posts. A man named Eddie Keher.

**1979:** Mick's fourth and final celtic cross was won as a full-forward, Galway again being the victims, 2-12 (M Crotty 0-1) to 1-8. There was an added pleasure for him here in that the number 14 jersey was the shirt he was

happiest in. "I liked catching the ball, and the edge of the square was the ideal position for laying it off. Also, you were close to the goal, which for a fellow with a bad shot was handy!" Four All Ireland medals in the space of eight seasons: Mick Crotty had come a long way from the teenage goalkeeper who in a provincial colleges' local derby in the early 1960s let in the late goal that gave Kilkenny CBS their first victory against St Kieran's in a quarter of a century. "Imagine what it was like traipsing back across town to Kieran's that evening..."

Regrets, he hasn't a few. Okay, one or two. He laments the passing of the tournament culture - staples such as the Bennettsbridge tournament, where the hurling was always top-class "and where you could blood new players without a world of pressure on them". He misses the company of the inimitable PJ O'Neill, driver and purveyor of finest craic on trips to and from many a Village and Kilkenny match. And the kicked goal is, he insists, a poor substitute for the handpassed goal, which he'd like to see unbanned. "Doing away with the

handpass is the reason why there are no Tony Dorans, Joe McKennas, Ray Cumminses or Christy Heffernans around nowadays. Any time Doran got the ball in his fist he brought Croke Park to its feet."

Praise, he has lots. Especially for the national teachers of the county, "the backbone of Kilkenny hurling". Proprietor of the Toymaster outlet in High Street in the city, Mick is a leading sponsor of the juvenile game locally. The emergence of new powers at senior level ("in my day it was Johnstown and Bennettsbridge and ourselves, then Shamrocks came through, and more recently Dicksboro and Gowran and Dunnamaggin have followed") is, he says, proof positive of the healthy spread of the sport in the county.

There you have him. Mick Crotty. Loads of medals and, when he gets going, loads of sensible opinions. Never the greatest at scoring points, as he'll willingly admit, but among the best at making room for colleagues who did.

How Kilkenny could do with another Mick Crotty!



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Tom Coogan, Captain of Ballyhale Shamrocks, Iarród Eireann Minor Hurling Champions, being presented with the Cup by Chairman of Bord na nÓg, Joe Pyke. Frank Hogan, (Business Development Executive, Iarród Eireann - Sponsors) is centre of picture.

Photo: Tom Brett.



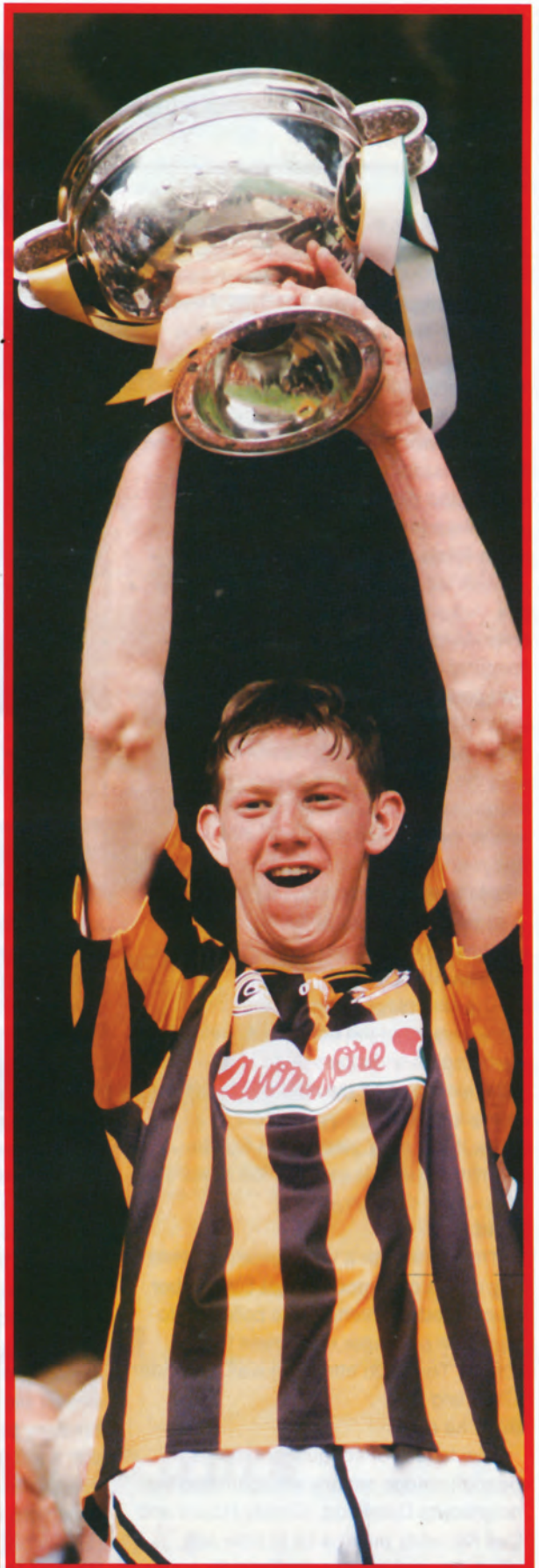
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Above Left: Cutting a dash on final day, Paddy "Kipper" Phelan and Ita Crowley support Dunamaggin.

Above: Michael collects the cup...Michael Hoyne with the Leinster minor cup after Kilkenny defeated Offaly.

Left: Eye on the ball...Niall Moloney in full flight. [Sportsfile]

# CLUB NEWS

## BENNETTSBRIDGE

In co-operation with the Tidy Towns committee, the club is slowly but surely upgrading the grounds. The boundary wall has been strengthened, raised and capped. Trees and shrubs will be sown along this wall. Work on the roadside banking at the country end of the pitch is expected to be completed in the New Year.

### Club Pitch

With the improvement to the grounds, the club pitch has come in for praise this year. Many visiting teams commented favourably on the pitch, while it has also had good reviews in the media. One county board official commented that the grounds were in lovely surroundings and that the pitch itself was excellent. Bennettsbridge is one of the few pitches where you will find the traditional white line markings. Credit for the high standard of pitch presentation must go to Michael Ryan who took over as Head Groundsman this year.

### Community Field

The club played a major part in the development of the community field which is situated beside the village school. Its ideal location has resulted in it being used to a great extent by youngsters of all ages. It is a busy place each Sunday morning when it is used for the coaching of younger children.

### Field Day

The school ran a very successful field day on the club grounds last September. Much needed revenue was collected to purchase computer equipment for the school. The main attraction was the under 12 hurling blitz.

### Bord na nOg

Due to lack of adequate numbers, Bennettsbridge minors amalgamated with neighbours Danesfort. Christy Hayes and Des Kennedy put in a lot of time and effort into making this challenging venture work. The combined team did reasonably well in reaching the Division 2 League and Roinn B Championship semi-finals. Juveniles were taken to Dublin (twice) and Thurles to see the Kilkenny Senior team in action. On the first trip to Dublin, the Under 16 team played and beat Good



### Bennettsbridge - Vale Oil Intermediate League Finalists 1997

**Back Row:** (L-R) Mark McWilliams, John Drea, Adrian Walpole, James Byrne, Tim Drea, Liam Simpson, Fintan Cleere, Tim Dooley, Dean Denieffe, Brendan Walpole, Ray Ryan.

**Front Row:** (L-R) Pakie Lennon, Wayne Dowling, Jim Lennon, Joseph Dowling, Jim McGarry, Tommy Lennon, Conor Dooley, Leo Mahon, Richie Moran.

Counsel. It is hoped to make this an annual fixture.

### History Makers 1. 50 years ago 1947 - Dan Kennedy R.I.P.

Kilkenny were seeking to win the elusive 13th. title which had eluded them on three previous final appearances in 1940, 1945 and 1946. The opposition in '47 was the highly fancied Cork side who were odds on to take the title. Over 61,000 spectators were in Croke Park to witness a magnificent game of hurling. Dan Kennedy captained Kilkenny to victory by the narrowest of margins, dominating the midfield area on this historic occasion. The final scoreline read Kilkenny 0-14 Cork 2-7. Dan was rated throughout the country as a gentleman on and off the field. Dan also played on the Kilkenny teams that lost in 1945, 1946 and 1950. He won six county medals with three different clubs, Thomastown (1946), Dicksboro (1950), and Bennettsbridge (1952, '53, '55, '56)

### History Makers 2 25 years ago 1972 - Silver Jubilee Team

Kilkenny defeated Cork to claim their 18th title by 3-24 to 5-11. Five Bennettsbridge men contributed to this fine win when rivals Cork were again favourites. Noel Skehan (Goal), Jim Treacy (Left Corner Back), Pat Lalor

(Right Half Back), John Kinsella (Right Half Forward), and Paddy Moran (Midfield) who made a big impression when he came on as a substitute. Noel Skehan had the honour of captaining the team and won the 'Man of the Match' award.

### Smithwick's Brewery

Noel Skehan, Jim Treacy and Paddy Moran are long-time employees of the famous Kilkenny Brewery. The company sports section honoured the players with presentations at a recent function to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Win.

### Kilkenny All-Stars Banquet

The club was well represented on this gala night with four players honoured. Noel Skehan (7), Jim Treacy (2), Liam Simpson (2) and Pat Lalor (1) hold a total of twelve All-stars between them. Noel Skehan holds the county All-Stars record and the National Record of nine All-Ireland Medals.

### 1997

Success for Three 'Bridge Men  
Jimmy Lennon -  
*All-Ireland Masters Medal*  
James McGarry -  
*Leinster Intermediate Medal and Kilkenny Senior Panel*  
Liam Simpson -  
*Kilkenny Senior Panel.*

# CLUB NEWS

## BLACKS & WHITES

**T**he Club Under 14 team's victory in the championship was the highlight of the year for the club on the playing fields. Victories in the Northern Championship over Lisdowney, Bennetsbridge and Barrow Rangers culminating with success over Windgap in the County Final, provided the club with its first U-14 championship.

The team also had a successful weekend in Dublin in June when they won the Leinster Féile defeating two Dublin and two Offaly teams. The club's U-11 team also had a good year, having only one defeat in eleven matches.

The club's Junior team made an early exit from the championship after being narrowly defeated in the All County League final. However, the team ended the year on a high note when they won the All-Ireland Junior Seven's Shield. The panel was James Doyle, Michael Doyle, Sean



**Black and Whites Camaint Team:** *Back: Brian Cleere, Frank Ryan, Anthony Barcoe, John Whelan, Denis Brennan, Tom Moloney, Charlie Ryan, John Murphy, Majella Kelly, Michelle Moloney. Middle: Anne Marie Moloney, Kevin Barcoe, Colm Dalton, John Lawlor, Phillip Murphy, Michael Whelan, Paddy Barcoe, Damien O'Dowd. Front: Pdraig Joyce, Christopher O'Grady, Paul Murphy.*



**Skeoughvosteen Camogie Team** *Primary Schools Roinn B Runners Up. Back: Brid Doran, Majella Kelly, Kristeen Joyce, Brigid Hearne, Aimee Murphy, Maeve Dalton, Sarah Murphy, Helena Wall, Michelle Kelly, Andrea Savage, Mary Claire Murphy. Front: Emma Ryan, Ciara Kirwan, Linda O'Brien, Lisa Hayden, Kim Nolan, Tara Kelly, Jennifer Lennon, Michelle Moloney, Aine Doyle.*

Kelly, Pat Hayden, Richard Dowling, Brian Lawlor, Michael Ryan, John Byrne, Tommy Farrell and Ned Kelly.

Representatives from Black and Whites on county teams during the year were Peter Cleere U-14 hurling, Peter Cleere and Shane O'Sullivan U-14 football and Sean Kealy U -21 hurling.

### **CLUB DEVELOPMENT**

A number of major improvements were made at Tom Walsh Park during the year. The erection of netting behind the goalposts, the extension of the parking area and the provision of dugouts were completed. Finally, the club would like to extend sympathies to all the families who suffered bereavements during the year.

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# We've Got the Product, Let's Sell It!!

Jimmy Magee,

Sports Editor 'Sunday World'

In the article which follows, commissioned for the Kilkenny GAA Yearbook, veteran Sports columnist Jimmy Magee traces his fascination with Kilkenny hurling and its many outstanding proponents. He goes on to suggest that since our Gaelic Games are such competitive, high scoring spectacles, we should be well able to sell them world wide in this new age of global and digital television.

**W**hen I was a young lad, Kilkenny took my fancy straight away. Perhaps it was because the names were different, or was it the attractive design of the jersey? My formative years were spent in a football stronghold, where hurling was seldom, if

ever played. There may not have been a dozen camáns in the whole district. However, once I saw a display of hurling balls in a Dundalk shop window. Yet hurling was talked about, often debated and occasionally gave rise to heated argument - grown men not talking to each other for months because opinion differed as to whether Mackey or Ring was the greater.

The commentaries of Michéal O Hehir were the lifeline to the larger world outside. His high octane coverage of Gaelic Games was the single greatest public relations contribution that hurling and football ever had.

From the radio, on a Sunday, we became accustomed to those strange sounding names. Where we lived was populated by McGraths, Carrolls, McKeivitts, Killens, Longs, Thorntons, Savages. We never met anyone called Langton, Blanchfield, Walton, Grace, Marnell or Prendergast.

I'd never seen a team dressed in a jersey with vertical black and amber stripes. The first time I saw Kilkenny 'in the flesh' the jerseys were a major attraction. They still are; it is probably true to say that Kilkenny's is the most recognisable jersey in Irish sport.

The Railway cup was always used as a measuring stick, it being reasoned that a man good enough to be chosen from among his peers, for his province, had to be very special. Automatically, in the uncomplicated mind of the young enthusiast, a Railway Cup man was in a category above all others. Thus it would happen that the daily paper would publish a Railway Cup selection and a young fellow, not yet in his teens, would have elevated the fifteen to a status that still holds to this day.

It is all of fifty years ago that Leinster played a Railway Cup final with TEN Kilkenny men - Dowling, Grace, Hayden, Marnell, Kelly, Mulcahy, Heffernan, Langton, Leahy and Downey. I thought they were supermen.

Then for the Centenary year of the GAA, the Irish Nationwide and Sunday Independent chose the Teams of the Century in hurling and football. Men chosen on those once-in-a-lifetime teams became

another class above and beyond.

The hurling "team of the century" had players from six different counties, one from Limerick (Mick Mackey), one from Waterford (John Keane), two Cork (Jack Lynch and Christy Ring), three Wexford (Bobby and Nicky Rackard and Nick O'Donnell), four Tipperary (Tony Reddin, John Doyle, Jimmy Finn and Jimmy Doyle) and four Kilkenny (Paddy



What do you think, Jimmy?..... Barrie Henriques (Editor and Radio Kilkenny commentator) interviews Jimmy Magee in Semple Stadium Thurles, during All Ireland "Press Night". Photo Sportsfile.

Phelan, Lory Meagher, Jimmy Langton and Eddie Keher).

I suppose if a new all-time greatest team was being chosen today a place would be found for DJ Carey. But who could possibly be omitted from a fabulous sextet of Ring, Mackey, Langton, Doyle, Rackard and Keher? It is like the oft-asked question of 1997 - "Which of the great Kerry forward line of the '70's would be left out to accommodate Maurice Fitzgerald?"

The first time that the praises of D. J. Carey were sung, in my presence, was after a quiz one night at Callan Golf Club, when at the 'afters' cup of tea, Eddie Keher marked my card about a young man going to school in St. Kieran's. "If he stays clear of injury and illness, D. J. Carey will be one of the greatest ever," said Eddie Keher.

Keher as usual was spot on, just as I am certain, that somebody during Keher's time in the 'College would have earmarked him for hurling greatness.

Kilkenny has given to the ancient game a gallery of greats. Ollie Walsh, a fantastic goalkeeper, the Henderson family, the Fennellys, the hurling artist Jim Langton, brilliant Joe Hennessy, Jim Treacy, the Larkin dynasty, unmatchable Frank Cummins, the great Noel Skehan, Liam O'Brien, Brian Cody, Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney and on and on from Lory to D.J., men apart who elevated the 'black and amber.'

Yearbook editor Barry Henriques hinted that I might write a few words about the international dimension and potential for hurling. There is evidence of audience response to suggest that both hurling and Gaelic football have global potential.

Over the past few years, I have been presenting a weekly Gaelic Games package for world distribution which is produced by Stirling Productions. The programmes have been transmitted in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, the Far East and all over

Europe. The letters received, the questions asked, the interest shown, the requests for rules and records are clear indicators that our games are a combination of excitement and freshness.

And it is only beginning. Television, generally, is on the threshold of amazing developments - we are ready to enter the realms of 'virtual stadium', and of course, digital is already with us.

Promotion is a necessity to go in tandem with marketing. If a world market can be attained for such as sumo, beach volleyball and cliff diving, and when the NBA (American professional basketball) has been bought by Russian TV then surely Gaelic Games have a chance.

Just imagine what good presentation could do to sell the skills of such as DJ, Jamesie O'Connor, Peter Canavan and Maurice Fitzgerald. Audiences anywhere would have to be enthralled by their high skill level.

You don't have to know the rules to appreciate an expert at play, but once caught by the bug of the star turn, the natural extension is to want more and know more. One doesn't require an advanced knowledge to be in awe of Michael Jordan on court, Tiger Woods on course, Pete Sampras on court or Michael Johnson on track.

You see, you enjoy, you appreciate, you want to know more. That is where marketing comes in. The promotions that Sky Sports does for its various events are outstanding. They draw you, almost insisting that you watch. To sell sports internationally takes money but it must be well spent.

Gaelic Games, with their high scoring rates, and clean supporter base are ready to become major players in a world of broadcasting that is always ready for something new, colourful and competitive. Then foreigners may get hooked on the names and the colours....isn't this where I came in??



The skill of Kilkenny hurling, brilliantly epitomised by **DJ Carey**, and greatly admired by Jimmy Magee.. *Photo Sportsfile*



**Good times, but  
reality is....  
things start from  
scratch again.**

**By John Knox, Kilkenny People**

**E**VEN THE most disappointed would have to concede ground, and admit it was a thoroughly enjoyable odyssey! Sure, Kilkenny finished as down the field runners in the McCarthy Cup stakes. But boy, they gave us some good times before bidding adieu to the competition.

In June there was a good old tussle with Dublin in Croke

Park. The following month 55,492 fans threw the clock back three score years or more to the days when Kilkenny and Wexford could nearly fill Croke for a Leinster final.

In the end the ageless Billy Byrne turned out to be the dark destroyer as the then All-Ireland champions maintained their grip on the Bob O'Keefe Cup.

And then there was the historic first All-Ireland quarter final. Will you ever forget that one?

The Cats very own 'Captain Fantastic', D.J. Carey turned up the heat to melting point. He bagged an astonishing 2-8. Galway were scorched, after they led by a daunting 10 points at one stage.

The closing act, while cruel at times, left a good post match feeling. The players had given their all. The team could have been hammered. It wasn't. The proud Cats dragged themselves back from the verge of a roasting. Clare were happy to hear the final whistle.

#### **A triumph**

In some ways, the Guinness Leinster and All-Ireland senior hurling championships were a triumph for Kilkenny. The county won nothing. It even gained the distinction of being the first side to lose twice in the championships in the one year.

But heck, there were some great times. The players did themselves, their clubs and county proud. And we, the fans, enjoyed some terrific hurling.

The experiment of allowing the beaten Leinster and Munster finalists back into the championship has another year to run, and who knows what conclusions will be reached then. Under the old format, four championship outings would have sufficed to capture at least one title



#### **KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING TEAM VERSUS CLARE, ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL**

**BACK ROW L/R:** Dan O'Neill, Philp Larkin, Andy Comerford, John Power, Adrian Ronan, Canice Brennan, John Costelloe, Pat O'Neill.

**FRONT ROW L/R:** Eddie O'Connor, Liam Keoghan, P.J. Delaney, D.J. Carey (Capt.), Charlie Carter, Ken O'Shea, Willie O'Connor.



Action from the Leinster Final. **Andy Comerford** takes off as **Larry O'Gorman** (Wexford) gives chase.  
 [Photo: Sportsfile]

(Leinster), and possibly a second (All-Ireland) for Kilkenny.

Not this time. Plenty of hurling, plenty of excitement and nothing but pleasant memories to warm up the long, hard Winter nights.

Former manager, Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) and fellow selectors Pat Aylward (Shamrocks) and Richard Power (Carrickshock) laboured hard and honestly throughout. But the Gods rarely gave them an even break.

Goalie Joe Dermody was out injured for the first match. Fate dished out a cruel double blow in the provincial final when injury stole the services of Eddie O'Connor (ankle) and John Power (hamstring).

#### **Demented**

The match against Galway, probably the game of the year if you think about it, was the only time the Cats put out the team they wanted. And then for the head-to-head with Clare, the experienced Liam Simpson and Michael Phelan were knocked out with injuries.

Was it any wonder at one stage during the season a near demented Mr. Brennan pleaded with the Gods: "Give us a break, will ya".

The championship chase ended against eventual All-Ireland champions, Clare in the All-Ireland semi-final. This was a most unusual affair. The Munster champions all but played the socks off their opponents during the opening half. Still they were restricted to a relatively small interval lead of 1-8 to 0-6.

There were times during the third quarter when the Cats looked like being swamped. With 16 minutes left they were being buffeted violently, and were in danger of sinking to the depths when 0-8 to 1-16 behind.

Suddenly it all began to happen for the Cats. D.J. Carey shot a goal. The Banner men were out-scored 1-5 to 0-1 in the finishing straight. They got away with a 1-17 to 1-13 win.

Had Kilkenny dragged their game together earlier, who knows what might have happened.

Perhaps we might have enjoyed a mirror image of the quarter-final happenings?! That was a remarkable contest. Flying Galway were beaten by 4-15 (27 pts) to 3-16 (25 pts). This tie represented an assault on the senses. Too many like it couldn't be good for the heart. The Noresiders looked really threatening early on, when a Michael Phelan created goal for D.J. Carey put Galway under heavy pressure. The Connacht champions roared back. At half-time, without ever hammering the opposition, they showed 3-9 to 1-6 in front.

#### **Hurricane**

After the rest, the Tribesmen ran into the equivalent of a hurling hurricane. Within 12 minutes of the restart they were behind (3-10 to 3-11).

From there to the finish the teams slugged it out toe-to-tie. It was brilliant, smashing, wonderful. Hurling on glittering occasions like this cannot be matched.

There were two tests for Kilkenny in Leinster. The Dubs were first up. Their challenge was awkward enough. They had a strong foothold at half-time when they led by 2-11 to 0-12. In all, between the time Kilkenny lost and regained the lead, 46 minutes passed.

The second half introduction of Philip Larkin at midfield swung the pendulum of fortunes in this match.

With Kilkenny men, James 'Shiner' Brennan and Eamon Morrissey aboard, the Dubs put up a fair show. They were eventually beaten by 2-20 to 2-13.

The Cats, with Liam Keoghan at centre-back for the one and only time during the season, were doing okay against Wexford in the Leinster final when fate intervened. After leading by 1-7 to 0-5 at the break, the Norsiders were still showing in front (1-8 to 0-8) when Eddie O'Connor limped off injured, soon to be followed by John Power.

The Slaneysiders plundered a goal through the clever Tom Dempsey, and a match they had been finding difficult to control, suddenly began to turn for them.

Things were still sticky enough until Billy Byrne arrived on the scene into the closing 10 minutes.

#### **End of road**



**KILKENNY SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 1997**

*Photo: Tom Brett*

**Mick O'Flynn (Trainer), Richie Power (Selector), Nickey Brennan (Manager), Pat Aylward (Selector) and John Healy (Chairman CLG).**

## The days, the places, the scores.....

June 22 at Croke Park, Leinster semi-final

**Kilkenny 2-20 Dublin 2-13**

Scorers - D.J. Carey (1-8, five points frees); Charlie Carter (0-3); John Costelloe (0-3, one free, two 65s'); P.J. Delaney (1-0); Philip Larkin, Andy Comerford (0-2 each); Niall Moloney, Michael Phelan (0-1 each).

July 13 at Croke Park, Leinster final

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

Scorers - P.J. Delaney (1-1); Peter Barry, Charlie Carter (0-3 each); Philip Larkin, Andy Comerford, Niall Moloney (0-1 each); D.J. Carey (0-1, free).

July 27 at Semple Stadium, All-Ireland quarter-final

**Kilkenny 4-15 Galway 3-16**

Scorers - D.J. Carey (2-8, six points frees); Michael Phelan (1-1); Andy Comerford (0-3); Ken O'Shea (1-0); Canice Brennan (0-2); Charlie Carter (0-1).

August 10 in Croke Park, All-Ireland semi-final

**Clare 1-17 Kilkenny 1-13**

Scorers - D.J. Carey (1-6, points frees); Charlie Carter (0-2); Philip Larkin, Peter Barry, Canice Brennan, Denis Byrne (0-1 each); Pat O'Neill (0-1, 65).

## Cats used 24 players

KILKENNY used an unusually high 24 players during the Leinster and All-Ireland senior hurling series.

Injuries forced the selectors hands on a few occasions.

The team officials also chopped and changed the personnel as events unfolded in the championship. Michael Phelan and Liam Simpson, for example, only won starting places after doing well in the National League quarter-final against Cork, which was sandwiched between the Leinster final and All-Ireland quarter-final.

Goalie Joe Dermody was in trouble from the start, when he was sideline with his first ever hamstring injury. John Power laboured with a similar injury for most of the season.

A leg injury meant P.J. Delaney was a late starter in his bid to 'make it', and Philip Larkin found himself out in the cold for part of one match.

Those who played, and the number of games they figured in, were - Eddie O'Connor, Pat O'Neill, Willie O'Connor, Liam Keoghan, Dan O'Neill, Andy Comerford, Peter Barry, D.J. Carey (capt), Charlie Carter, Philip Larkin, P.J. Delaney (all 4 each); Adrian Ronan, John Costelloe, Brian McEvoy, Canice Brennan, Michael Phelan, John Power (all 3 each); Niall Moloney, Denis Byrne, Ken O'Shea (all 2 each); Joe Dermody, David Beirne, Liam Simpson, Aidan Lawlor (one game each).

Byrne went wild. He caught every ball lofted into the Kilkenny square. He lashed home 1-2. Had the match gone on much longer, he would probably have fired Wexford to an even bigger win (2-14 to 1-11).

In ordinary circumstances, such a defeat would have been the end of the road. Not this time. Team skipper, D.J. Carey was only warming up his championship act. He let rip with a vengeance against Galway, and again proved himself to be the greatest player of this age. If that was D.J.'s day of triumph, Willie O'Connor glittered

in every contest. The Glenmore man had a superb championship. Strong, able and dependable, he was possibly the best player over the entire season. His brother, Eddie had several fine days too, like his taming of Eugene Cloonan. Liam Keoghan and newcomer, Dan O'Neill were fair performers as well.

Andy Comerford was probably the find of the season. One's abiding memory was of him swinging a clenched fist and driving an opponent out of the way when he all but did a war dance to get things going against Galway.



**"My Ball!"** Willie O'Connor reaches for the sliotar in the Leinster Final. Photo: Sportsfile

He has made a good start. Now comes the hard part...to build on it.

Philip Larkin, Charlie Carter and the unlucky Peter Barry, whose work-rate wasn't always appreciated or understood, were others who left a fair mark on a memorable championship.

However, as one sits writing this in late November, the sad reality appears to be that the team building will have to start again from virtually scratch. A thought to exercise the minds during the Winter. And for all young hopefuls, a

cheerful note on which to end.

The team that went out of the championship against Clare was: -

A. Ronan, J. Costelloe, E. O'Connor, W. O'Connor, L. Keoghan, P. O'Neill, D. O'Neill, P. Larkin, A. Comerford, J. Power, C. Brennan, D.J. Carey, P.J. Delaney, K. O'Shea, C. Carter. Subs - P. Barry for O'Shea; D. Byrne for Power; B. McEvoy for Brennan.



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# CLUB NEWS

## CARRICKSHOCK

**1997** was a very disappointing year at adult level, the exception being the Junior Footballers who have qualified for their third County Final in a row. We wish them the best of luck in the final.

The Intermediate Hurling team were relegated to the Junior Grade for the first time in eighteen years, and the Special Juniors were beaten in the first round of the championship. With a determined effort from all, we look forward to a quick return to the Intermediate grade.

The highlight of the year was the continued success at schools' and juvenile level where our Under 14 squad achieved a magnificent treble, winning League and Championship in hurling and the Roinn A football Championship.

### **In Black and Amber**

At county level, Adrian Hudson represented the club in Under 21 hurling, and Larry O'Shea in Under 21 football. Michael Rice and Paul Barron were members of the Under 14 Tony Forristal Tournament Panel.

### **Indoor Hurling**

This year saw Indoor Hurling for



**Three Stalwarts** - Dick Power (Carrickshock) meets old adversaries, John Kavanagh and Dick Connolly

the first time in the parish, when Michael O'Dwyer and a few others got the children together in the Community Hall in Stoneyford. With special hurleys provided, it proved a great success and hopefully will continue this year.

### **Community Centre**

Development of the new community centre continued during the past year, and, at the moment, work is in progress on the lighting, heating and plastering. Early in the new year, the floor will be fitted and

the building should then be available for general use. Fundraising continues with another race night being planned for Christmas.

### **James Barron R.I.P.**

In recent weeks, the club lost a former hurling member, Jim Barron of Sheepstown, who died in tragic circumstances in October. Jim played with the club in the late fifties and early sixties, along with his brother, Paddy. We offer our sympathy to his wife Tess and all his family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

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# CLUB NEWS

## CLARA

### Community Games Football

Clara/Muckalee completed the three in a row when they retained their Under 9 Community Games Football Title at Nowlan Park beating Glenmore/Tullagher/Rosbercon in the County Final. Clara had ten representatives on the panel.

Clara progressed to the Leinster competition, drawing with Wexford champions, Bannow-Ballymitty in round one before winning the replay in Muckalee, but bowing out of the competition in the next round to Bagenalstown of Carlow.

### Nessan Tournament

Clara Under 10 hurlers took part in the Nessan Tournament in Carlow and qualified for the semi-finals with wins over Carlow Town, Clonmel Og and Taghmon/Camross. St. Martin's of Wexford proved bigger and stronger than the Clara lads in the semi-final, but despite losing the Clara team put up a spirited performance.

### Juvenile News

The Under 14 team played in the Roinn C League and Roinn B League/Championship. In Roinn C, Clara headed the table after the league stage and defeated St. Patrick's Ballyragget in the quarter-final. Galmoy were to provide semi-final opposition and forged a strong position in the first half. Despite Clara rallying, Galmoy finished stronger to win.

In the league/championship, Clara qualified for the semi-finals again, with four wins. The first semi-final against Carrickshock was a super one with Clara gaining a replay with a last minute solo point from Ger Prendergast. However, Carrickshock completely outplayed the Clara lads in the replay to win well.

On the tournament front, Clara went to the Leinster Feile in Dublin where Lucan Sarsfields were their hosts. Three wins on Saturday saw Clara winners of their section and they played Castletown of Laois in the final on Sunday morning. Trailing at half-time, Clara fought back valiantly but lost by the narrowest of margins to the Laois men.

Clara also took part in the Dicksboro and O'Loughlin Under 14 tournaments.

### Under 16

In the Roinn B hurling league, the Clara Under 16 team won three of their four games to qualify for a quarter final spot against Mullinavat. In a hard fought game



Clara Minor Hurling Team - Northern Roinn C Finalists 1997

**BACK ROW:** (L-R) T.Murphy, F.Treacy, P.Langton, E.Mulrooney, I.Treacy, J.Prendergast, M.Prendergast, T.J.Fitzgerald, B.Nolan, R.Nolan, B.Phelan, J.Brennan, J.Byrne. **FRONT ROW:** (L-R) T.Brennan, J.Bambrick, D. Mulrooney, A.Fitzpatrick, P.J. McDonald, K.Shortall, F.Knox, N.Hoyne, M.Shortall, D.Meaney, M.Barcoe.



Clara Under 11 Camaint Team 1997

**Back Row:** (L-R) Martin Meaney, David Langton, John Prendergast, Neal Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, James Nolan, Jody Creane, Eoin O'Shea, Killian Brennan.

**Front Row:** (L-R) Elaine Nolan, Sean Murphy, Nicky Creane, Michael McDonald, Liam Ryan, Lester Ryan, Brian O'Shea, Brian Prendergast, Tom Ryan, Sean O'Shea, Tom Langton, Nicky Langton

in Callan, Clara eventually came out on top and won the right to play St. Martin's in the semi-final. Despite St. Martin's physical advantage, Clara put up a creditable performance against the eventual League Champions.

In the championship Clara drew Fenians in the first round. Down eleven points at the break, Clara put in a Lazarus like performance and levelled with the last stroke of the game to earn a deserved draw. In the replay, Clara had the better of the opening half, but this time Fenians finished stronger to win by two clear goals.

In football, Clara won their first two games with victories over Lisdowney and St. Lachtain's of Freshford.

### Minor Action.

Despite getting off to a bad start in Division IV of the Minor League, losing to Conahy Shamrocks, Clara won their remaining games to qualify for a semi-final place against Windgap. Windgap were defeated in the semi-final but Conahy Shamrocks again proved too strong in the final despite the Clara team's best efforts.

In the championship, Clara overcame St. Martin's and James Stephens to qualify for another clash with Conahy in the Northern Final. Without regular goalie, Richie Nolan, Clara were unlucky to concede a late goal and Conahy again won the day.

## Duxie and Eugene Go On and On

Tommy O'Brien

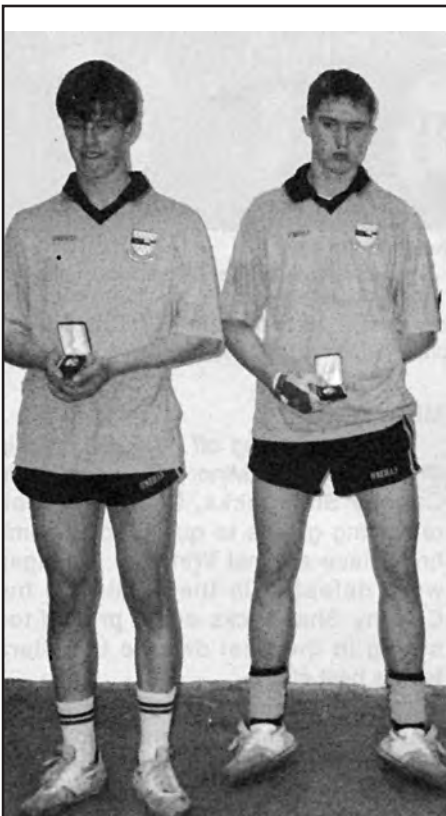
### Duxie Still on Top

The highlight of the 1997 handball year was the World Championships which were held in Winnipeg, Canada in early August. Elsewhere Ducksie Walsh reigned supreme in the 60x30 court, winning both titles, while in the 40x20 championships, the only All Ireland adult success was in Diamond Masters.

### 40x20

Kilkenny's hopes of success in the Senior 40x20 championships were as high as ever but these were dashed at an early stage. In the Leinster singles' final Ducksie came up against long time rival Peter McAuley (Louth). Things were looking good for the Kilkenny player when he won the first game 21-19, but after that it was the Louth player who took the initiative to win the next two games. He subsequently went on to win the All Ireland.

In Doubles, Ducksie teamed up with DJ Carey to play Meath's Tom



Under 17 All Ireland Champions : **PJ Hawe** (Windgap) and **David Cashin** (Mothel)



**Eugene Downey**

Sheridan and Egin Jensen. The Royal County men put in a five star performance and took yet another Leinster title on a 2-0 scoreline. They also went onto take the All Ireland title. Eddie Leahy and Pat O'Keefe, two veteran campaigners, were the only Kilkenny success in the 40x20 campaign when they won in Diamond Masters. Leahy won both singles and doubles crowns beating Roscommon in the finals.

In Emerald Masters "B", Frank Manogue (Kells) had a great season when he won the Leinster final and then teamed up with Bernie Mahon (Goresbridge) to add the doubles title. Unfortunately injury then struck, preventing the Kells player from competing in the All Ireland semi-final.

### 60x30

Kilkenny enjoyed considerably more success in the traditional bigger courts, winning both the senior and intermediate titles and Diamond Masters. Ducksie Walsh once again showed his complete domination of the Senior 60x30 grade, winning both singles and doubles titles. There was little doubt at the start of the campaign that Duxie would succeed in capturing his thirteenth consecutive title. The long time champion had comfortable wins over Dublin's Pat Hall in the quarter final and another Liffesider, Seamus Ahern, in the semi-final. This put him



**Duxie Walsh**

in the decider against his partner, Eugene Downey, who had accounted for Michael Finnegan (Cavan) and Egin Jensen (Meath). The champion showed no mercy for his long time partner and friend!

On the eve of the Football All Ireland there was a repeat of the 1996 Senior doubles final when Ducksie and Eugene played Tom Sheridan and Egin Jensen. Defending their title, the Kilkenny pair expected a tough match and they were not disappointed. The first game saw the local pair dominate and won 21-12. They were well in control in the second, winning 18-11 at one stage, when the Meath pair upped their game and took the game to level the match. This minor setback was soon rectified by Ducksie and Eugene who controlled the deciding game and thus retained the title in a 21-8 scoreline.

At intermediate level Pearse O'Keefe and Eamon Law (Mullinavat) had a quite magnificent year. Playing on the same programme as the Senior singles final the South Kilkenny pair put in a tremendous performance when they beat Mayo's Martin Cronan and John McCormack. A slow start did not hinder the 'Vat pair who win the first game 21-11. This dominance was confirmed in the second and when they won 21-4 it was no more than they deserved. They now play in the senior ranks next year.

Kilkenny also added the intermediate singles title when well known hurler, Johnny Brennan from the Mothel Club, beat Mayo's Martin

Cronin in the final. Never troubled, Brennan played some great handball to keep his opponent moving around the court. The Mothel player won 21-

10, 21-14 to achieve his life long ambition of playing in the senior grade. Although eligible for the Masters grade Brennan has decided

## HANDBALL RESULT SHEET 1997

### 40x20 County Champions

U10S	Patrick Nolan (Mothel)	Paddy Barcoe/Tony Stafford (G'Bridge)
U10 (B)S	Anne Marie Hawe (W'Gap)	Brendan Burke/John Mulhall (Kells/Mothel)
U11(A)S	Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel)	Brian Mullhall/Ronan Maher (Mothel)
U11(B)S	John Murphy (G'Bridge)	
U12S	Thomas Hughes (Clogh)	Paul Byrne/P McMahon (Clogh)
U13S	Sean O Dowd (Clogh)	TJ Comerford/T Campion (Clogh)
U14S	Brendan Barry (W'Gap)	Sean O Shea/Colin Philips (Clogh)
U15S	Niall Doran (W'Gap)	Seamus Hawe/Eamonn Hawe (W'Gap)
U16S	William Love (Clogh)	Donal Kelly/Shem Kelly (Mothel)
U17S	Paul McDonald (Mothel)	
MS	Timmy Clifford (o'L)	PJ Hawe/ Niall Kenny (Windgap)
U21S	Enda Hawe (W'Gap)	Enda Hawe/Allan Hawe (Windgap)
SPNS	Michael Clifford (St J)	Niall Kenny/Paul Doran (Windgap)
NS	John Quigley (St J)	Eamonn Purcell/Jon Ryan (Windgap)
JS	John Quigley (St J)	John Quigley/Eddie Burke (St John's)
IS	John Brennan (Mothel)	Pat Gardinar/Liam Mahon (G/Bridge)
SS	Philly Parsons (O'L)	Philly Parsons/Michael Nolan (O'L)
MAS	Michael Reade (T/I)	Johnny Brennan/Sean Walsh (Mothel)
MBS	Gerry Murphy (G/B)	Joe Anthony/Tom Anthony (Mothel)
SMS	Anthony Greene (T/I)	Eddie Leahy/Con Moore (O'L)
GMS	Frank Manogue (Kells)	Frank Manogue/Tony Nolan (Kells/Windgap)

#### Teams of 4

Div 1	Goresbridge - DJCarey - John Curran, Michael Ryan, P Gardinar
Div 2	Windgap - Enda Hawe - Alan Hawe, Eamonn Purcell , Niall Kenny
Div 3	St John's - Jim Long - Michael Clifford, Paddy Doyle , Canice Pratt
Div 4	O Loughlin's - J J Cullen, Vincent Nolan, Brian O Neill, John Direen.

### 1997 60x30 County Champions

U10S	Patrick Hogan (Kilfane)	Richard Hogan/Richard O Hara (Kilfane)
U11S	Kevin Philips (Clogh)	John Murphy/Charlie Ryan(G/Bridge)
U12S	Thomas Hughes (Clogh)	Paul Byrne/Steve Mahon(Clogh)
U13S	TJ Comerford (Clogh)	Thomas Campion/Sean Maher(Clogh)
U14S	Sean O Shea (Clogh)	Seamus Hawe/Brendan Barry(Windgap)
U15S	Andrew Hosey (Clogh)	Eamonn Hawe/Niall Doran (Windgap)
U16S	William Love (Clogh)	Brian Manogue/CJ Delaney (Kells)
U17S	PJ Hawe (Windgap)	David Cashin/Adam Cashin (Mothel)
MS	Brian Manogue (Kells)	
U21S	Enda Hawe (Windgap)	
SPNS	Joey Donnelly (G/Bridge)	
NS	Paul Dowling (Mothel)	
JS	Dick Forristal (Kilfane)	
IS	Eddie Burke (St John's)	
SS	Pearse O Keeffe (M/vat)	
MD	Enda Hawe/PJ Hawe (Windgap)	
SPND	Jim Dalton/Frank Manogue (Kells)	
ND	William Love/Andrew Hosey (Clogh)	
JD	Michael Clifford/Jim Long (St John's)	
ID	Eddie Leahy/Joe Daly (O Loughlin's)	
SD	John Curran/Pat Gardiner (G/Bridge)	
MAS	J Brennan (Mothel)	
MBS	Joe Anthony (M/vat)	
SMS	Pat O Keefe (M/vat)	
GMS	Jim Caulfield (Kilfane)	
MAD	Johnny Brennan/Sean Walsh (Mothel)	
MBD	Syd Jordon/Jack Dooley (T/inch)	
SMD	Sean Fitz/Murt Blanchfield (T/I)	

#### Teams of 4

Div 2	Mothel - S Kelly, P Dowling, J Brennan, S Walsh
Div 3	Kells - F Manogue, F Manogue Jnr, B Manogue, M Dalton.
Div 4	Clogh - B Lve, A Hozey, S Maher, S O Shea.



to have a go in the top grade next season.

Eddie Leahy and Pat O'Keefe once again achieved success in the Diamond Masters grade.

### Juveniles

At juvenile level Kilkenny won 4 All Ireland titles. The year got off to a good start in 40 x 20 when three juvenile titles were won at Leinster level. In U13 doubles T.J Comerford and Thomas Campion (Clogh) beat all before them to take the Leinster final. William Love, (also Clogh), did likewise in U16 singles and he went on to win the All Ireland title. Damien Byrne (Clogh) and Brian Manogue (Kells) achieved success at Provincial Level but lost out at the All Ireland semi-final stage.

In team events there was mixed luck when the U14/15 team won the All Ireland final, while the U12/13 team lost narrowly to Wicklow in a tie break situation.

There was also All Ireland success in the 60x30 court, where Kilkenny took home the U15 and U17 doubles titles. The winning players in these competitions came from the Mothel,

Windgap and Clogh clubs.

In U15 Doubles Eamon Hawe (Windgap) and Andrew Hosey (Clogh) beat S & R Daly (Tyrone) in the decider while in the U17 decider PJ Hawe (Windgap) and David Cashin (Mothel) beat Mayo's P. Roche and P. Nealon. Seeking to go one better in the 60x30 championships, Damien Byrne (Clogh) and Brian Manogue (Kells) came up against Tipperary in the all Ireland semi-final but alas as in the 40x20 competition they went down.

Kilkenny were also successful in the U12 and U13 grades which only go to the Leinster final stage. Thomas Hughes (Clogh) won the U12 singles. Sean Maher and Thomas Campion (Clogh) were winners in U13 doubles, while T.J Comerford (also Clogh) took the honours in U13 singles. There was also further success for Kilkenny Juveniles in the Joe Maxwell tournament, an event that they have dominated completely for years. The team was C Mahon, K Phillips, TJ Comerford, Thomas Campion, Shane Kelly and B. Manogue.



U15 All-Ireland Champions :  
**Andrew Hosey** (Clogh) and **Eamon Hawe** (Windgap)

## Waterford Institute of Technology G.A.A. Education Awards

The successful WIT Education Awards scheme is now in its third year of existence. The venture, launched in October, 1995 by the then President of the G.A.A., Jack Boothman, offers places on the diploma/degree in Recreation and Leisure Management course.

Designed to cater for a broad spectrum of sport and leisure-related activities, the course places equal emphasis on business studies and on recreation and sports studies. The aim of the course is to provide a body of graduates capable of working effectively in leisure management, coaching, amenities management, community and local authority based work and a range of careers in tourist and related fields.

A number of places will be reserved for people of outstanding achievement and potential in sporting or leisure activities who have reached the minimum academic entry requirements.

*If you feel that you fit the above description, you should contact Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board for application forms and further information in January, 1998.*



Waterford

## **Dick O'Neill - New County Selector**

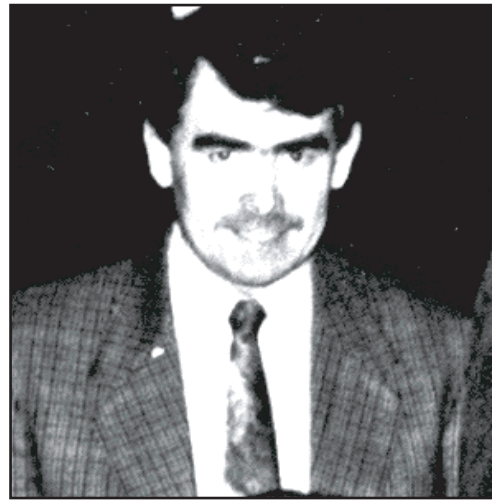
John Knox NT

**W**hen newly appointed trainer, Kevin Fennelly, announced his selectors, the name of Dick O'Neill was catapulted into the public domain. Who is Dick and what is his G.A.A. background? Dick is best known for his involvement with Kevin as selector with the Young Ireland's senior team but he has a long association with hurling.

He is a native of Thomastown, living in Bennettsbridge with his wife Margaret and two children, Eoghan and Aoife, and is vice-principal of Gowran N.S. His early love of Gaelic Games was fostered by his father with whom he followed the famous Bennettsbridge team of the sixties and seventies. This team, with greats like Seamie Cleere, Paddy Moran, Johnny McGovern and possibly one of the greatest club hurlers ever, Sam Carroll, dominated club hurling for years, and Dick has vivid memories of great tournament games in places like Dunhill against the best club teams of the time, Thurles Sarsfield's, Mount Sion and Blackrock. He received his early education in Thomastown, but it was a lean period for the school hurling team with Inistioge, powered by the Treacys and the Tierneys dominating affairs. The story was somewhat similar at under age level. At under 16, Dunnamaggin, with Malachy Hogan, Dick O'Shea and Pat Butler were to the fore and in minor years, the Shamrocks with Sean Reid and the Fennellys were on top. In St. Kieran's, Billy Fitzpatrick was the leading light on the college team and Nicky Brennan was a classmate.

Having qualified as a teacher, Dick spent three years teaching in Dublin before he took up his appointment in Gowran in 1976. Immediately on his return, he was appointed secretary of the Thomastown Hurling Club, mainly, he says himself, because no one else would take the job, and he worked with the late Joe Prendergast as chairman. He held this position for three years and was a delegate to the County Board for five years. As secretary, he was primarily involved with the under age teams and in 1978, he was nominated a minor selector by Freshford. James Delahunty was Chairman, Dermot Healy was trainer and the other selectors were Denis Butler, St. Lachtain's and Martin Brennan, Castlecomer. The team reached the All-Ireland Final but were beaten by Cork, with the seniors, including Kevin Fennelly at right half forward, faring no better on the day.

At schools' level, Gowran were enjoying a very successful spell. The team reached the hurling league and championship finals and football final in 1978 only to be defeated in all three. His first taste of success came the following year when the Roinn B Football title was captured and in 1980, the Under 14 hurling title. This team, with Toss Farrell starring, travelled to the Galway Féile. In 1982 and 1983, the double double of Under 12 League and Championship were won with D.J. on board in 1982, and Pat O'Neill, Charlie Carter and Jack Carey on both teams. These teams also enjoyed considerable success in the Midland Féile in Westmeath, reaching the final on three occasions and winning twice. On the local



**Dick O'Neill**

scene, Gowran won the Under 14 championship in 1985 and travelled to the Wexford Feile where they were beaten in the final by Blackrock.

Dick then got involved with the Gowran Under age teams, and coached sides to Under 16 and Minor successes, beginning with Under 16 B in 1986 and Under 16 A in 1988. The Minor B success came in 1987 and finally, the Minor A in 1989 although the defeat by Johnstown in 1988 was a huge disappointment, coming on the Saturday after a Kilkenny Minor All-Ireland victory with D.J., Pat O'Neill, Charlie Carter and Cathal Fitzgerald involved.

After this successful spell with the juveniles, Dick moved to the adult scene when he became selector to the Gowran Intermediate team in 1989. This team was enjoying its best spell ever, having reached the Intermediate Finals of 1989 and 1991. The following year, Kevin Fennelly was trainer and they became Intermediate champions beating Conahy in the final. Dick stayed with the team in 1993 and 1994 while Kevin was not anxious to train a team against the Shamrocks. In 1995, Kevin returned and with Dick and Charlie Carter, guided the club to its greatest achievement, its first County Championship, and this year to a re-appearance in the final.

Dick O'Neill has served a long and varied apprenticeship in the G.A.A. He began at school and under age, graduated to adult ranks and enjoyed success at all levels. His greatest disappointment along the way was losing in 1988 to the Fenians, who subsequently won the minor title. Winning the County Final in 1996 has been the highlight of his career, and while losing by three points this year was most disappointing, again it was a great achievement as well as winning the 1997 League Title. Despite his huge involvement at adult level, he still trains his school team, assists the Bennettsbridge Juvenile Committee where his son plays, coaches at the hurling summer camps and was Chairman of the Schools Board in 1996. This heavy schedule leaves very little time for the odd game of golf, his chosen pastime, along with the occasional Dick Francis mystery and books of a sporting background.

In a recent interview, Ger Loughnane went back to his roots training his school team to success. Dick has the same starting point and all Kilkenny supporters hope that Kevin and his team will bring All-Ireland success to the county.



**F**rom the humble beginnings of 1982, the WIT GAA club has grown from strength to strength and is now one of the strongest third level clubs in the country. The success is the result of a lot of hard work put in by a variety of people, not least our development officer, Paraic Fanning. No doubt it is this level of organisation that results in so many of our teams bringing back silverware from competitions.

Since our foundation, players from Kilkenny have played a significant part in the development of our club. In recent years players such as P.J. Delaney, Ollie O'Connor, Andy Comerford, David Beirne, Sean Ryan and Peter Barry have helped in bringing the Fitzgibbon Cup to Waterford on two occasions in the nineties. All of these players were a great influence on our club's progress and they have since gone on to play important roles with Kilkenny and will continue to do so as the Noresiders bid to reclaim the Liam McCarhy Cup.

This year has blessed the WIT with yet another influx of talented Freshers. There are now nine Kilkenny players among the forty currently in training for the 1998 Fitzgibbon Cup, Already this year players such as Podge Delaney, Henry Shefflin, Mickael Kavanagh and Alan Geoghegan have shown that they will play a major part in the clubs fortunes in 1997/'98.

## Hurling

The Div 1 team started their league campaign by beating UCD, QUB and the Garda College. After Christmas, league preparations were halted to prepare for the Fitzgibbon. WIT had good wins over Athlone

RTC and DIT to set up a semi-final game against Garda College. While our backs defended heroically, the forwards did not do themselves justice on a very wet, windy and difficult day and let a few chances slip, for Garda College to steal a narrow one point victory. Bitterly disappointed they picked themselves up for a semi-final league contest against Fitzgibbon champions UCC. After a tough and uncompromising game WIT emerged victors by five points.

This set us up for a repeat contest with Garda College. As you can imagine, motivation was not a problem for the Waterford boys and they set out to avenge themselves on their previous conquerors. Though depleted by injury, WIT rose magnificently to the occasion and won the Div. 1 title in great style.

## Football

'96/'97 was an historic year for WIT football as they competed in the top flight for the first time. After mixed fortunes in the league they braced themselves for a first time appearance in the Sigerson Cup. Training was intense over Christmas and the New Year and the lads were rewarded with a quarter final place against Sligo RTC.

Unfortunately we were dealt a cruel hand of fate in the form of a 'flu virus which, with added injuries, depleted our forces considerably. After a mighty contest with Sligo, the lads lost by a one point margin. This team, while not capturing any silverware, did succeed in restoring much pride to football in the College. One hopes that these improvements will be added to in the near future.

## Ladies Football

Long regarded as the weak link in the WIT GAA structure, the ladies footballers proved their mettle beyond doubt in '96/'97. Having endured eight years without a title, the girls established themselves as a major force in football this year. League competition was the start, with the girls winning all round them and soon they found themselves in the final against the kingpins of ladies football, University of Limerick, then chasing their fifth consecutive title. Showing utter determination, our ladies powered through an epic

encounter to emerge victorious by a two point margin. This was the first title in eight years and one to savour. With the league secured, attention turned to the championship. Who did we draw? None other than U.L.! Pity that only one team could make it through because after another epic encounter the Limerrick girls turned round the league result and won by a single point.

The freshers reached the final of their competition and were unlucky to lose by one point.

Overall a very successful year for the ladies and one may say that they got their just rewards for their commitment and determination.

## Camogie

This was a year of mixed fortunes for the camogie sides. After two wins and one defeat we had to beat UL in the final league game to go to the knock out stages, but unfortunately managed only to draw.

Focus now turned to the Ashbourne Cup. This saw WIT drawn against UCC in the quarter final, and in a match where the Waterford girls could not get it together, Cork ran out five point winners.

However the girls, despite a lacklustre first half against Maynooth, turned in a sterling second half performance and ran out easy winners. In the Shield final WIT met a very strong UCD side. However the will to win among the Waterford girls was tremendous that day and their determination carried them through for a smashing victory. Such is the foundation for further success and one hopes that the Ashbourne Cup will eventually come to rest within the walls of WIT.

## Handball

The handball club may be the smallest component of the WIT GAA club but its membership has been steadily growing. Unfortunately the biggest handicap is the lack of suitable training facilities for its members. This is a problem which hopefully will be soon rectified. While last year was a disappointment, one need only look back a few years to '92/'93 to see us capture the Men's Colleges League and All Ireland Championship, while in 1995 Jackie Keating was Ladies Open singles Champion.

# KILKENNY'S WILD GEESE

## Kilkenny All Ireland Medalists With Other Counties

By Tom Ryall

**K**ilkenny have won 25 All Ireland senior hurling titles all with native born players. However the county has supplied players to other counties to win All Ireland titles in Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor hurling.

Kilkenny natives have also won All Ireland football medals with their adopted counties in Senior, Junior and Under 21 football. The first Kilkenny man to win an All Ireland medal was Dan Kerwick from Tullaroan who was a member of the Kickhams (Dublin) team which beat Tulla (Clare) in the senior final of 1889. Four years later in 1893 John Phelan, a native of Rosbercon, was on the Wexford team which beat Cork in the senior All Ireland football final.

The period 1900 to 1909 saw Kilkenny born players win a total of eleven All Ireland senior football medals all with Dublin. Top of the list is Tullaroan born Jack Grace who won five medals in 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907 and 1908. In addition, he was captain of the victorious teams of 1906 and 1907. Jack Grace also played in the All Ireland hurling finals of 1902 (Home final), 1906 and 1908 during this period. However, the nearest he came to winning a medal was in 1908 when Dublin drew with Tipperary but were easily beaten in the replay. Pierce Grace and John Lynch were also attempting to become dual All Ireland medalists in that 1908 hurling final. Pierce Grace did achieve this honour later. He won two All Ireland football medals with Dublin in 1906 and 1907 which he followed up with three hurling awards with Kilkenny in 1911, 1912 and 1913.

The other two Kilkenny natives to win football honours with Dublin were both from Callan. Mick Madigan came out on top on three occasions 1901, 1906 and 1907. John Lynch was successful in 1907 and 1908. Paddy Mackey a native of The Rower became Kilkenny's second



CJ Kickhams GAA (County Dublin) Team. All-Ireland Football Champions 1906

and last dual All Ireland medalist when he assisted Wexford to win their first hurling blue riband in 1910 and followed up with four football awards in successive years (1915-1918). This record by Wexford has been equalled by Kerry twice (1929-1932) and (1978-1981) but never surpassed. The only Kilkenny man to win an All Ireland junior football medal was Martin Carroll from Hugginstown who helped Kerry to beat Westmeath in the 1915 final. Pierce Purcell from Johnstown was the first Kilkenny man to win a junior All Ireland medal. He was on the Tipperary team which won the honours in 1913.

No Dublin team has won a senior hurling All Ireland without a Kilkenny born player on board. Tommy Moore from Ballyouskill helped them to victory in 1917 and 1920. Mooncoin born Jim (Builder) Walsh went one better when he played on the the winning sides of 1920, 1924 and 1927 rated by well known G.A.A writer, Paddy Mehigan, as the best team ever to win the honours. Also on the 1920 Dublin panel was former Dicksboro stalward Joe Coyne who had played with Kilkenny in the 1916 All Ireland junior final which they lost to Cork. 1924 saw four Kilkenny men figure in the Metropolitans triumph. In

addition to Jim Walsh already mentioned Pat (Dexter) Aylward a native of Knockmoylan figured at midfield. He had previously won a medal with Kilkenny in 1922. Billy Banim, a Freshford man, was at full forward. Another Freshford native, Frank Wall, was in the subs. Frank Wall had been captain of the team in the earlier rounds but lost his place for the final. He created his own piece of history as a non playing captain and was presented with the McCarthy Cup at the end of the game. He thus became the only man to be presented with the McCarthy Cup not having played in the final.

Matty Power, rated one of the best forwards ever to play for the Noresiders, helped Dublin to victory in 1927. He also figured on the Kilkenny winning sides of 1922, 1932, 1933 and 1935. He holds the record number of appearances in All Ireland finals in senior hurling, eleven in total.

Dublin's last win in an All Ireland senior hurling final was in 1938, and, true to tradition, Kilkenny players figured on the team. Hugginstown's Mick Butler was at full back. He had also won a junior medal with the sky blues the previous year. Another Kilkenny man on that 1937 Dublin junior winning side was Urlingford's



**Watt Dunphy / Frank Wall**

Terry Leahy. He went on to win two senior awards with the Noresiders in 1939 and 1947. He wrote himself into the folklore of Kilkenny Gaeldom by scoring the final two points in the one point defeat of Cork in the greatest All Ireland final ever played - that of 1947. A panel member on the 1938 Dublin team was Jim Donegan, Troyswood. He was to win another medal on the field of play when he kept goal for the Black and Amber in that 1947 thriller.

When London won the All Ireland junior hurling title in 1938, six Noresiders were involved. Danny Hoyne from Callan kept goal with another Callan native, Tom Walker, at corner forward. John Farrell from Carrickshock was at left half back. He was on the Kilkenny panel that had won senior honours in 1933. Johnny Dunne from Bennettsbridge, an All Ireland senior medalist with Kilkenny in 1932, 1933 and 1935, was at full forward. R. Hogan who came on as a sub and M. Hoyne who was also a sub were listed as being from Kilkenny. Maybe someone would let me know what area of the county they hailed from.

When London again won junior honours in 1949, Ben Hoban was at midfield. Though listed on the paper as being from Waterford, my information is that he was from Grannagh.

Wexford benefitted from Kilkenny exiles in their All Ireland victories of 1955, 1956 and 1960. The most notable of those was Nick O'Donnell who captained the Slaneysiders to honours in 1955 and 1960. He won a

third medal in 1956 and was regarded as one of the greatest full backs of all time. He was selected on the team of the century. The Graignamanagh-born star was a sub on the 1947 Kilkenny team and he is reputed to have been disappointed that he had not been introduced when Peter Prendergast was injured. Certainly Wexford's gain was Kilkenny's loss.

Another Graignamanagh man who won two senior medals with the Model County was Oliver Gough. He came on as a sub in the 1955 triumph and was on the 1956 panel. He won a further medal with Kilkenny in 1963 when he again came on as a sub. John Mitchell, right corner back on the 1960 Wexford team, was born in Ballyragget. He also lined out with Kerry. London pulled off two All Ireland junior victories in 1959 and 1960. A member of both winning teams was Mooncoin born Paddy Murphy.

Kilkenny played their part in the All Ireland junior victories of Warwickshire in 1968, 1969 and 1973. Phil Cullen of Bennettsbridge was left half back on the 1968 side. He lined out with Kilkenny in the 1973 final lost to Limerick and came on as a sub in the 1971 final lost to Tipperary. Liam Dalton and Louis Moloney both of whom hailed from Ballyhale won their medals in 1969 and 1973. Another Noresider on the 1969 team was Mick (Cloney) Brennan from Castlecomer. He went on to win senior medals in 1974, 1975, 1979 and 1982. Mick Kenny, like Jack Grace and Nick O'Donnell, captained his adopted county to All Ireland honours. The Callan native led Tipperary to juniors honours in 1953. He also captained Kilkenny in their unsuccessful 1950 senior bid against Tipperary. He had better luck in his other senior final appearance scoring 2-5 in Kilkenny's victory over Waterford in 1957.

Dunnamaggin native, Derry Noonan, was right half back on the Kildare side which took All Ireland junior honours in 1962. Martin Murphy, a native of Mooncoin, who played with Kilkenny Minors in their defeat by Tipperary in 1959, was at midfield on the London team which won the 1963 All Ireland Junior title. Also on the London panel was Mooneenroe's Mick Baylon. Two Kilkenny-born brothers, Liam and

Colm Henphy, who hailed from the College Road, helped Derry to win the All Ireland Junior Hurling title in 1975.

The only Kilkenny born players to win All Ireland minor hurling medals with another county were Graignamanagh-born Noel Kinsella with Dublin in 1965 and Locky Byrne with Waterford in 1929. Locky Byrne was a native of Ferrybank. For years this area was a matter of dispute between Kilkenny and Waterford as to which county they should be competing in. They had played in the championship in both counties at different times. At the G. A. A. Congress in 1937, it was finally decided that Ferrybank should play in Waterford.

The matter came to a head as a result of what happened in 1936. Locky Byrne had won a senior All Ireland medal with the Noresiders in 1935. The following year Waterford selected him to play against Clare in the Munster championship. Locky did not play with them as a result of which the Waterford Co. Board suspended him for six months. Kilkenny claimed that the suspension was not in order as Locky Byrne was living and working in Kilkenny and was not eligible to play with Waterford. Central Council discussed the matter on the eve of the All Ireland final and they cleared Locky Byrne to play with Kilkenny on the following day. The Noresiders were well beaten by Limerick.

Five Noresiders have won All Ireland intermediate medals with other teams. Pat Somers from Coolagh won his medal with Carlow in 1962. Mullinavat's Liam Walsh was a winner with London twice in 1967 and 1968. Also on the London team in 1967 was well known O'Loughlin-Gaels official and present day All Ireland handball champion, Eddie Leahy, who played at left full back.

Matt Ruth from Ballyragget won his intermediate medal with Tipperary in 1971. However his name does not appear in any record books as he was playing as Mick Ryan. He also played against Kilkenny in the 1974 All Ireland senior final with Limerick. He went on to win All Ireland senior medals with his native county in 1975, 1979 and 1982. Paddy Grace of Graignamanagh who captained the

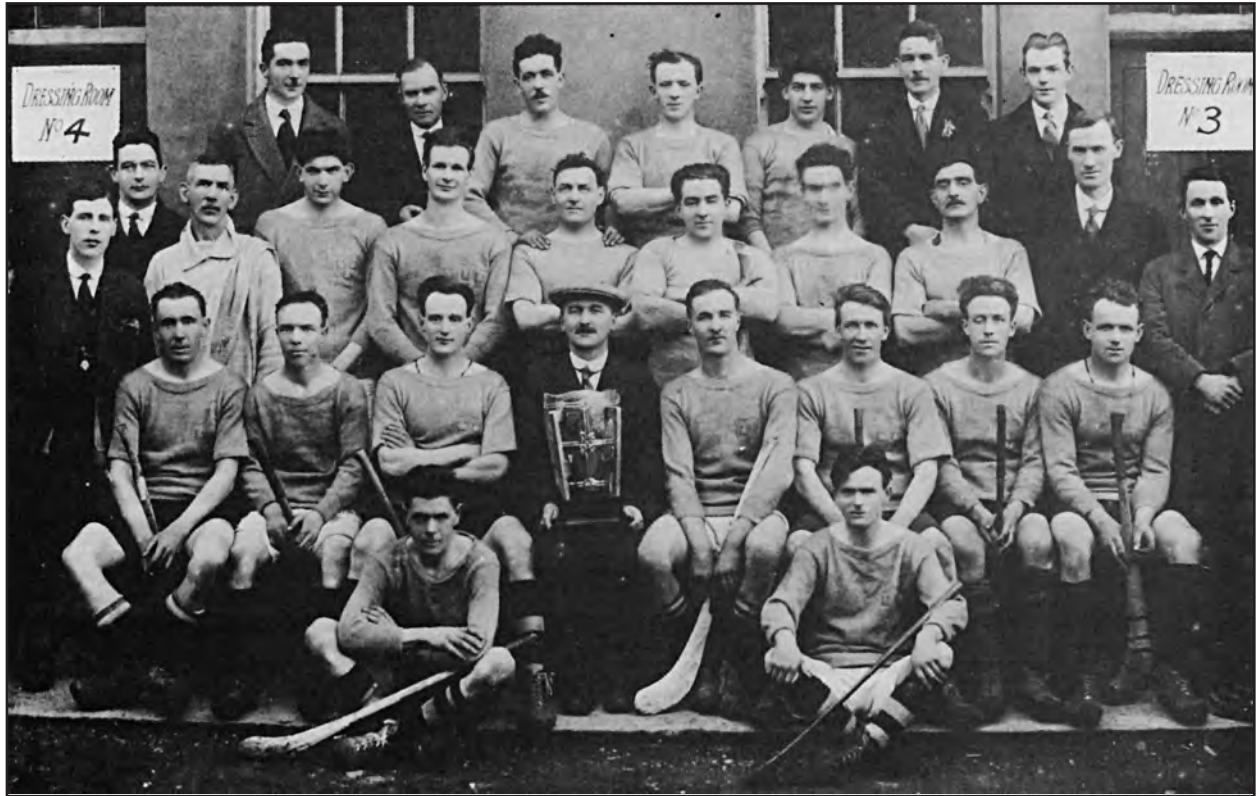
Noresiders to their only intermediate win in 1973 was sub goalie on the 1967 London team which won the title.

The last Kilkenny born man to win an All Ireland senior football medal was Enda McManus with Meath in 1996. It was the first senior medal to come to a Kilkenny born player since Paddy Mackey won with Wexford in

1918. Whereas Enda McManus never played football in Kilkenny, leaving the city at an early age, it was a different story with Glenmore-born Thomas Shine who won an under 21 All Ireland football medal with Meath in 1993. He played football in Kilkenny at both Primary Schools and under 14 level where his trainer was local teacher Michael

Lynch.

It is quite likely that some players may have been omitted in this article, particularly in the case of London and Warwickshire, as it was not easy to ascertain the origins of players on those sides. If any such omission has occurred, please let me know, as they can be included at some future date.



Dublin 1924

# **HOLDEN**

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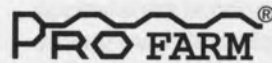
**ACTION FROM THE LEINSTER FINAL:** John Power evades the combined attentions of Liam Dunne and Rod Guiney as he races towards the Wexford goal in the Leinster Final. *Photo - Sportsfile*



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# MELODY OF CLARE

Richie Stone

**A** man with a musical name has resided in Ballyragget for a number of years now. A quiet, inoffensive, shy man, Mick won three senior championship medals with his native Scariff in the late forties and early fifties. Questioned about his feelings on the upsurge of fortunes of his beloved Clare, Mick is a little hesitant in answering. "Sure you have heard and seen enough!", is his reply. Mick could hardly believe his luck when Clare won the 1995 final. A second win in 1997 was the icing on the cake. Nobody could now say that '95 was a fluke.

A great admirer of Clare trainer Ger Loughnane, Mick recalls with glee the build-up to the 1995 final. On his many journeys into the the G.A.A grounds situated opposite his home in Ballyragget, he tells of the good natured banter with the locals as all-Ireland day approached. The majority were very supportive, he recalls. It was very hard for a Kilkenny man to understand how he felt. Kilkenny were in Croke Park on All-Ireland day every other year. Mick, now retired, had never seen his native county play in an All-Ireland final. Just think about it. Our 60 All-Irelands and very few Clare men could remember their last appearance.



Mick Melody, Ballyragget's resident Clareman

Mick feels, as do most Clare people, that the appointment of Ger Loughnane as trainer of the Clare team was a master stroke. Many a good man had tried and failed to bring championship success to Clare. Loughnane proved to be the "Messiah" His retort at half-time in the '95 final to a reporter that "We're going to do it!" is often quoted by the Scariff man when that memorable final is talked about.

Mick, a good friend of current Clare selector, Mick McNamara, travelled up to the '95 final and vividly recalls almost every incident during the game. The colour and the pageantry, not to mention the sight of Clare captain Anthony Daly holding

the McCarthy cup aloft, will live with him forever. He did not travel to this year's final. "Sure I wouldn't be able for all that excitement again!", he says.

Although a proud and committed Banner Man, Mick also follows the fortunes of his adopted Kilkenny. He feels they will not be down for long. He also keeps an experienced eye on the local St. Patrick's Club, particularly the younger players

Mick Melody's pride in the achievements of his native county knows no bounds. At the drop of a hat, he will discuss their progress over the past four years. He is also careful not to be offensive towards Kilkenny, a county he says has been good to him and his family.

Mick spends his time nowadays in his garden or walking his two dogs (one called Shannon - a present from a Clare friend - and discussing the latest hurling news with the local groundsman. Some of the contents of those conversations are part of the local folklore but unfortunately not suitable for inclusion in a publication such as the year-book. He feels there is another All-Ireland in this Clare team. His friend would probably disagree. One way or the other, the Banner will be well represented in the North Kilkenny village of Ballyragget come the 1998 Championship.



**Bobby Power,**  
Keeper of the keys in Thomastown.



**Ger Fennelly** collects South Special Junior Hurling trophy from **Andy Aylward**, Chairman, South Board



# Mick McCarthy

talks to Tommy Lanigan

**D**id you ever meet a man looking forward to a new job, relishing a challenge, confident that he can make a positive contribution, yet aware of the pitfalls and traps? Isn't it most enjoyable to talk to such a man, thoughtful yet enthusiastic, cautious yet open to new ideas, new possibilities?

Such a hurling man is Mick McCarthy, the St. Lachtains club chairman chosen by new Kilkenny coach Kevin Fennelly as one of his new selectors. Time passed quickly in amiable chat and recollection with Mick. We go back many years to 1967 when Mick won matches on his own as a towering first year in St. Kieran's College. He was the big fella, even bigger than Brian Cody. As for me and the others? We changed the rules to prevent Mick scoring direct from the puckouts on our small, muddy pitch. It didn't matter, he still won the games more or less as he liked.

Our school hurling hero was Mick's only and elder brother, Gerry, now an engineer living in Delgany, Co. Wicklow. Gerry was a star colleges hurler, a fine Kilkenny minor in 1968 and '69 and a county U21 player in succeeding years.

For Mick, progress was predictable, from powerhouse on underage teams to a pinnacle at full forward on the marvellous Kilkenny All Ireland minor winning team of 1972. They trounced Cork by 8-7 to 3-9 with Mick scoring 2-1. His goals were described on the next days 'Irish Press' as "delightful efforts" and reporter Bob Hyland felt Mick's contribution was 'quite outstanding'. That team included Kevin Fennelly in goal, Brian Cody, Ger Fennelly and Billy Fitzpatrick (who scored 3-4 in the final).

However, sadly that was the high point of his hurling career. A serious knee injury less than a year later put paid to his playing days.

By now Mick was a member of the Garda Siochána, based in Donnybrook, Dublin. After six and a half years he moved away from the Gardai into the world of sales. Presently he works for Keelan Chemicals supplying chemical and maintenance products to industry. His routes take him through the heartlands of hurling, from Offaly to Wexford, Tipperary and Waterford and major industrial plants in between.

Mick is married to Patricia O'Neill from St. Francis Terrace in Kilkenny, and she too has many close family GAA connections. One was her uncle Paddy O'Neill from Danesfort who was a stalwart of the Northern Board for many years.

Since his first stint as chairman of St. Lachtains in 1978, he has been continually involved in the club's development. Team manager in 1984 when they last won the Intermediate title, trainer of a championship U21 B side, chairman of the club again since 1988. He stepped down from this position early in November to devote all his time to the Kilkenny role.



*Kilkenny Senior hurling selector, Mick McCarthy*

Yet in talking to Mick, he continually returns to speak with quiet pride of the work of the Gaels of his club and community. Their splendid playing pitch, stand and dressing rooms are testament to his work as chairman, along with his principal sidekick Tom Doheny, N.T., and many others on a vibrant club committee over recent years.

When asked about his hurling heroes, naturally he looks at the players of the '70's, Kieran Purcell, Chunky O'Brien, Noel Skehan, and more recently, Ger Fennelly. Outside of Kilkenny, he unhesitatingly names John Connolly as his hurling role model. He mentions too, Joe Henry of Mayo a truly brilliant forward from a non hurling county, Limerick's Joe McKenna, Seanie O'Leary from Youghal, Ned Buggy of Wexford and Offaly's Pat Delaney.

What of the new role? He was genuinely surprised when chosen by Kevin, though several of Mick's friends had suggested he was in the running for a post. Perhaps it was their knowledge of the long-standing and cordial relationship and close hurling connections between Mick Mac and Kevin Fennelly which prompted such speculation. Mick brought Kevin to St. Lachtains as trainer when the club was in Junior ranks, winning the championship with them in '91.

Mick was a selector on the County junior side of 1996 and chaired the selection committee for '97. He recalls enjoying this last year as his role encompassed organising and managing as well as selectorial duties. Does he see his role wider than merely picking teams for '98? No roles have been fixed as yet but Mick expects that both himself and Dick O'Neill will be extremely busy given their previous experience of working with Kevin and the importance of sharing workloads.

I suggested to Mick there are great pressures in his new role. He disagreed, preferring to use words like intensity and concentration. He looks forward hugely to the intensity of the games themselves, the challenges facing their thinking as selectors.

From his responses it is clear he means to enjoy every minute of it all. Knowing Mick I have no doubt but that he will.

# LIFE BEGINS AT .....

*Masters succeed where all others fail.*

*Paddy Butler*



**The Masters All Ireland Champions 1997.**

*(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)*

**Back Row:** Paddy Neary, Richie Power, Billy Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Murty Kennedy, Dick Walsh, Ger Fennelly

**Front Row:** Gerry Kenny, Bobby Shore, Johnny Ryan, Joe Hennessy (Capt), Danny Coonan, John McCormack.

(Missing from photo - Jimmy Lennon.)

**W**hen Kilkenny surrendered their All-Ireland masters hurling title last year a great sense of disappointment was felt by all concerned. However, with the passing of time and a new season approaching their disappointment had diminished and a fresh enthusiasm was heralded. The 1997 draws were made which lined us up against Wexford, Tipperary, Laois, Clare and Galway in that order, with the first round down for decision on June 6th.

Eddie Keher and his co-selectors Eamonn Hennessy, Paddy Butler and Lotty Harte rounded up the troops. A few training sessions behind us and our first round beckoned at Nowlan Park. Kilkenny were finding it hard to establish control as Wexford led well into the second half. In the final quarter their challenge collapsed and the

locals ran out comfortable winners 3-15 to 1-8. The following week saw another home game against our 1996 conquerors Tipperary. Our boys were anxious to avenge that defeat. Their mission was accomplished as they won handsomely 2-20 to 1-7. Our next outing was away to Laois in Rathdowney and another two points were collected. Clare also suffered the same fate at Nowlan Park. Our last game in the league section was away to Galway in Portumna. Victory looked anything but certain as Galway led 1-13 to 2-9 entering the final moments. Kilkenny put in a strong finish to claim victory with a score of 4-10 to 2-13. With this victory Kilkenny had full points and a semi-final spot.

While Kilkenny had completed their matches on time a number of teams had back matches and play-offs which resulted in a gap of seven weeks to the semi-final.



**Billy Fitzpatrick (KK) and John Conran (Wexford) tussle in the All Ireland Masters Final. while Kevin Fennelly (KK) looks on.**  
*Photo Tom O'Neill*

Kilkenny kept in touch when they arranged a number of good challenge games against club teams. These games proved vital because when Galway eventually emerged from the pack to contest the semi-final our boys were well focused and in fine shape. Kilkenny had ten points to spare at the finish but it was only in the final ten minutes that victory was secured after a keenly fought contest that produced many passages of top class hurling. In the other semi-final a much improving Wexford side got the better of Clare, thus ensuring an all Leinster All-Ireland final.

Reports emerging from the model county were suggesting Wexford had strengthened their panel considerably from their opening game and were up for this one. Saturday, the 11th October was the date and New Ross the venue following a toss.

The heavy conditions at Kennedy Park didn't stop these great rivals from producing a highly entertaining and absorbing contest thoroughly enjoyed by a large attendance which braved the wet and windy conditions. Both sides made light of their years in a contest that would do justice to any All-Ireland final.

Exchanges were close for the opening half with Kilkenny just ahead at the break, (0-4 to 0-3). Kilkenny opened brightly on the resumption with Ger Fennelly landing an early point and then Billy Fitzpatrick adding opportunist points. The evergreen Jimmy Holohan kept Wexford in touch with a brace of points as they trailed by two points with ten minutes to go. Three minutes later the hard working Danny Coonan collected the ball sixty yards out. He carried it towards the Wexford goal before delivering a well-placed pass to Kevin Fennelly who planted the sliotar neatly in the back of MJ Murphy's net. Wexford refused to give in and, encouraged by their followers, landed three points, which again left Kilkenny two points ahead with three minutes remaining. This was a dangerous lead but substitute Kieran Brennan wrapped up the title in the final minute when he fielded a long delivery and steered the ball safely into the net.

This was a great team display. Bobby Shore dealt

capably with anything that came his way. He got great cover from a solid full-back line of Paddy Neary, Mick Fennelly and Jimmy Lennon. The half-back line was the rock that many Wexford attacks perished on. Johnny Ryan in the middle refused to yield an inch and he won many great tussles against Jimmy Holohan. Captain Joe Hennessy played a major part and displayed all his old style and craft. Murty Kennedy was a revelation and played like a man inspired, and placed strong claims to "man of the match".

Dick Walsh and Gerry Kenny gave Kilkenny the advantage at midfield and ensured a good supply of ball to their forwards. Danny Coonan was a tireless worker all through. He blocked and tackled and manufactured many scores. Ger Fennelly played another great game at centre forward and helped out in other areas when needed. Richie Power played himself to a standstill and contributed two valuable points. Billy Fitzpatrick and Kevin Fennelly benefitted from their switch and each got the upper-hand of their opponents. John McCormack had a great tussle with Father Martin Casey. Substitutes John Joe Cullen and Kieran Brennan contributed greatly to a handsome victory. Former President of the GAA, Dr. Mick Loftus, presented the cup to Joe Hennessy and congratulated both teams on an outstanding and sporting game.

**Selectors:**

- Eddie Keher (Trainer/coach) - Rower/Inistioge)
- Kevin Hennessy (O'Loughlins)
- Paddy Butler (St. Lachtains)
- Lotty Harte (Galmoy)

**First Aid:** Liam Flynn (Conahy Shamrocks)

# CATS AMONG THE LILYWHITES

Nickey Brennan

**N**ot all counties have embraced the idea of a Supporters Club. We are very fortunate here in Kilkenny to have such an organisation that gives much needed moral and financial support to the G.A.A. in the county. The work and role of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club is fairly well known yet it is fair to say that year after year senior committee members have expressed disappointment at the relatively small number of supporters who actually go to the bother of joining the organisation.

Back in 1995 a car left Kildare with two occupants to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Supporters Club in the Springhill Hotel. Sean Dunne and Paddy Slattery, although domiciled outside the county, never lost their love for Kilkenny hurling and regularly attended Kilkenny games. Despite being somewhat disappointed at the poor attendance at the AGM that year the two men decided in the car on the way home to set about forming a Kildare branch of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club. They were aware that a number of Kilkenny people were living in the Newbridge and Curragh



*Some members of Kildare Branch, Kilkenny supporters Club at a recent function in Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny. From left: John Broderick, Paddy Slattery, Liz Brennan, Nickey Brennan, John Reddy, Julie O'Shea, Josephine Brennan, John Sheehan, Liz Rowe, Sean Dunne, Bernie O'Riordan, John Mackey.*

areas, many of whom were involved with or had retired from the Defence Forces. Notices were duly put up in appropriate places and much to the surprise and delight of the two founder members twenty people turned up on the night. It was decided to run the Club on a casual basis with the emphasis on members attending Kilkenny matches.

Twenty-five members eventually joined in that first year, increasing to 50 in 1996 and to an incredible 78 in 1997. The Kildare Branch of the

Supporters Club is quite unique in that not all the members are from the Kildare area but all were recruited by Club members. The number of ladies joining was very significant as was the number of people who are not natives of Kilkenny.

In 1995 Sean Dunne was elected to the main committee of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club at its AGM and in the following year he was appointed Assistant Secretary, a position he continues to hold. This role involves Sean attending the



**Helping our games: Officers and members of Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club working hard fund-raising and supporting our games.** Seated: Tommy Murphy, Tom Holden (Treasurer), Frank Morrissey (Chairman), Jim Freeman (Secretary), Jim Dobbyn. Behind: Sean Gorey, Dan Fitzpatrick, Jim Kearns, Eamon Hennessy, Bridget Barnaville, Pat Wallace, Sean Dunne, John Murphy, Billy Norris. Missing from photo - Eddie Keher (Vice Chairman), Pa Dillon, Michael Twomey. Photo Tom Brett.

monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of every month in Kilkenny. The following week the Kildare Branch meets in the Curragh where they are briefed by Sean on the previous week's deliberations in Kilkenny.

When the "Play for the Park" Lotto was launched earlier this year, Paddy Slattery decided that the Curragh Pitch and Putt Club would participate, with the proceeds benefitting both the Kildare Supporters Club and the Pitch and Putt Club. Paddy anticipates that they will contribute somewhere in the region of £2,000 to the Lotto in 1997. Thankfully, the

Kildare Supporters Club has managed to get a few winners over the past few months.

On the 16th March this year, an enjoyable Social was held in the Curragh which attracted over 100 people. A raffle held on the night for a much sought after autographed jersey by D.J. Carey, Eddie Keher, Ann Downey and Angela Downey-Browne, helped to raise £200 for the Kilkenny Supporters Club.

Members of the Kildare Branch of the Supporters Club can be spotted at all Kilkenny games irrespective of the grade. On the occasion of the Kilkenny v Clare National Hurling

League game in Nowlan Park earlier this year over 30 members travelled down by coach and after the game enjoyed a pleasant meal in Langtons where they met many of the team members. The club purchased an average of forty tickets for all Kilkenny's championship games this year and they appreciate the assistance of County Board Runal Pat Dunphy in this regard.

On the 1st November this year, a function was held in the Mess in Stephens Barracks Kilkenny when 50 members of the Kildare Branch travelled down and enjoyed a splendid night of music and craic.

The occasion was used to make a presentation to yours truly on the occasion of my retirement from the position of Kilkenny Team Manager. John Mackey represented the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club.

The Kildare members are already eagerly looking forward to the action commencing in 1998. They are keeping their fingers crossed that a little luck will come our way, but whatever the outcome, this loyal band of followers will not be found wanting when it comes to supporting the Black and Amber.



Convention top table:

The officers of Kilkenny County Board in pensive mood at the County Convention in O'Loughlin's GAA Centre.

From left: Ned Quinn, Pat Dunphy, John Healy, Ray Anthony, Dick Dunphy.

Photo: Tom Brett

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## **RADIO KILKENNY WIN THE Mc NAMEE AWARD FOR “BEST LOCAL RADIO”**

*John Purcell, Station Manager*



**Mr Joe McDonagh, Uachtarán CLG, Presents the McNamee Award to the Radio Kilkenny Sports team.**

From left: Pat Treacy (Head of Sport), Barrie Henriques, Pat Dunphy, (Sec. Kilkenny CLG), Joe McDonagh, John Healy (Chairman Kilkenny CLG), Richie Stone and Tommy Lanigan.

Photo: Sportsfile

**I**t is fair to say that the coverage by Radio Kilkenny Sport of GAA events at all levels, of the County and Inter County scene, has helped raise public interest in the games in Kilkenny to unprecedented levels. In the past year, coverage of the build up to the County Finals, the matches themselves, and live coverage of the post match atmosphere, and celebrations in the winning Clubs, has brought a whole new dimension to these occasions.

During the All-Ireland Championships as well, Radio Kilkenny was instrumental in bringing a whole new excitement to Kilkenny's bid to reclaim the McCarthy Cup. Few will forget the scenes in Nowlan Park at the final training session before the All-Ireland Semi-Final, when literally, thousands of supporters turned up for the Radio Kilkenny/Country Style/Intosport "Fly the Flag" campaign. And surely the sight of dozens of cars bedecked in Kilkenny colours as part of the Radio Kilkenny Convoy on the "Trip to Tipp", lifted the hearts of the players, and contributed in some way to the epic performance against Galway in Thurles.

It did not escape notice, either, that Radio Kilkenny were awarded the very prestigious McNamee Award for Local Radio by the GAA. How proud we were in Radio Kilkenny when in the splendid surrounds of the Davenport Hotel in Dublin, our GAA Sports Team of Barry Henriques, Tommy Lanigan, Richie Stone, led by our Head of Sport, Pat Treacy, collected their award from Mr. Joe McDonagh, President of the GAA. Our pride was not only confined to

the Radio, but many, many Gaels in Kilkenny were delighted that another National Award had come to Kilkenny.

Radio Kilkenny Sport plays an important role all year round, and not just when the big glamour matches are taking place. Commentaries, results, interviews, analysis, all bring the sports to thousands of people who otherwise would be unable to keep in touch with what is happening on the playing fields, and behind the scenes of the GAA in Kilkenny.

It is not just in Kilkenny that Radio Kilkenny Sport attracts listeners. In Dublin, some Kilkenny people are known to regularly park their cars on Dollymount Strand, where on a good day, it is possible to receive a faint signal of 96.6 FM, bringing important news of results, fixtures and performances. In other parts of the country, some are known to get into their cars at 6 o'clock on Sunday evening, and drive to high ground to tune in to Sunday Scoreboard on Radio Kilkenny.

For those in hospitals, nursing homes or house bound, Radio Kilkenny provides a precious link with sporting action, and helps in no small way to dispel feelings of isolation, and being out of touch.

All year long, Pat Treacy and his dedicated team bring GAA - whether Hurling, Football, Camogie or Handball - to thousands of people in homes, hospitals, cars, shops, farms, factories and clubrooms.

Tune in to-day on 96.6, 96.0 and 106.3 FM. tune in to-day, and keep up to date with what is happening in the GAA in Kilkenny County and beyond.



**MINOR HURLING ACTION**

**Micheal Hoyne** gallops away with the ball in the Leinster Hurling Final against Offaly. **John Morgan** keeps Offaly forward **Conor Gath** under observation. *[Sportsfile]*





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**McCORMACK ALUMINIUM & GLAZING, DUNNAMAGGIN**



# Eddie Keher

talks to  
Mick Dunne,  
former Head of Gaelic Games  
in RTE



**H**as Kilkenny ever lacked magnificent, marvellous hurling forwards? One, two, maybe even more, appeared in every decade. So we outsiders, some of us Leinster neighbours, have been consumed with great admiration - and not a little envy - at the steady flow from what seemed to be an interminable production line down the years.

In my experience, there were Terry Leahy, Jim Langton, Shem Downey, Sean Clohosey, Chunky, Pat Delaney, Liam and Ger Fennelly, Big Christy and many more: each and every one different, all of them skilful, all of them formidably menacing. It was my privilege to report on these and many others over more than forty years (and my good fortune to be befriended by them) during that time, right down to DJ, the most notable of all present day forwards.

And, of course, there was Eddie Keher, arguably the most celebrated of Kilkenny attackers, certainly the most prolific.

It is now twenty years since Eddie retired from inter-county hurling after a spectacularly glittering career in which he set numerous scoring records - for 60, 70 and

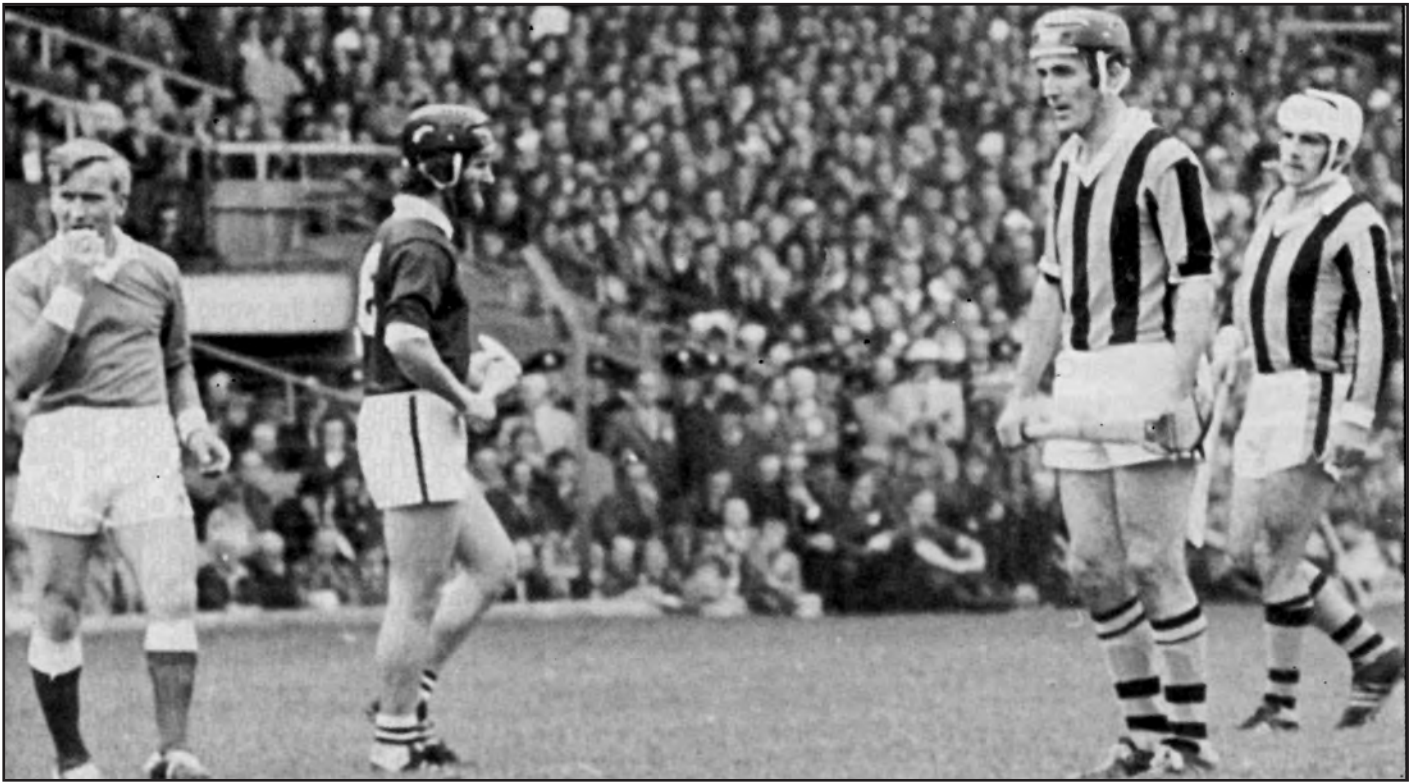
80 minute All Ireland finals. Among his many other distinctions, he was the first forward honoured with five Allstar awards, and, in early June 1976, he was the first player to score in the newly developed Cork stadium, Pairc Ui Chaoimh, with a point in the first minute and a penalty goal three minutes into the Kilkenny-Cork curtain-raiser on official opening day.

Eddie had first come to national prominence at senior level when he was introduced as a substitute during the 1959 All-Ireland final replay against Waterford - a month after he had played in the minor final on the first Sunday in September. Between then and his last appearance in the black and amber (the Kehoe Cup final against Wexford in August 1977), he did everything in hurling and achieved all the honours. Well, everything except an All Ireland minor championship medal!

Why did Eddie decide to retire then in '77 - not a year earlier, not a year later? He reflects; "I still played club hurling for a good few years afterwards, but, at the time, I retired I felt it was the time to go. Six months before that, I thought I'd still be able to go on, but it suddenly came to me that I was not going to be able to face around into



Attending the launch of "**The Eddie Keher Story**" by Ultan Macken in Kilkenny Castle in November 1978 were- Alderman Tommy Martin RIP, Jim Gibbons TD, Con Murphy Ex GAA President, Jim Langton RIP, Eddie Keher, Paddy Grace RIP, Luke Boyle (Mayor of Kilkenny), Mr James Fitzpatrick (Chief Executive AIB) and the great Christy Ring RIP. Photo : Tom Brett



A tense moment in the 1975 All Ireland Hurling Final as **Eddie Keher** stands over the ball, before taking a free. Referee, **Sean O'Connor** has whistle at the ready. **Sean Silke** (Galway) is afraid to look, while **Kieran Purcell** offers moral support.

Photo : Tom Brett

another championship and I said to myself that it was time to go.

I was fairly drained that particular year after a very hectic club scene - we in Rower-Inistioge had a number of draws and replays before reaching the county final where we were beaten and were playing almost up to Christmas. Then the league started and I knew I was not going to be able to turn out for the League games, although while I was playing I always turned out for everything."

Of course long before he made his dramatic entrance in that 1959 decider, Keher's name was on the lips of knowledgeable hurling people. He had already been eminently successful with that production line for young Kilkenny hurlers that is St. Kieran's College and collected two All Ireland Colleges medals. A Kilkenny minor for four years, he also won Leinster championship medals.

He was ardently devoted to the sport of hurling from early childhood and even in the latter stages of his career, he took delight in playing the game - as he states he "turned out for everything" and never indulged - nor did most of his contemporaries - in the nowadays fashionable custom of "taking a rest for the winter". Yet it is fair to say that Eddie, his team-mates and indeed their opposition, undertook as much training over just as onerous and lengthy campaigns as any of the successful sides of latter times.

Keher's comment: "No, I always enjoyed the different phases of the year: it was a different type of game in the winter and often we got grand weather, sometimes the winter conditions were better than the Summer conditions, but it was a different type of game. It was probably a more relaxed pace and it was enjoyable for me and I was able to switch over to that. Come the Spring then, and hopefully we were into the league semi-finals and we were able to up the gear again. The

championship was around the corner and it was a different phase again, so I enjoyed all aspects of the game."

In his long career Eddie was reasonably fortunate to have escaped too many serious injuries - except, of course, that one major injury which kept him out of an All Ireland final. This was the 1973 final against Limerick and what a blow for Kilkenny when they had to line out without three of their key men - the sterling defender Jim Treacy, the powerhouse forward Kieran Purcell (who did enter later as sub.) and scorer-in-chief Keher. A handicap of enormous proportions.

Without taking from Limerick's victory on that day of dreadful rain, it's not unreasonable to suggest that Kilkenny were too severely disadvantaged - and, but for that defeat, they would have recorded the county's first four-in-a-row and emulated Cork's historic feat of the 'Forties.

"I didn't get many injuries," Eddie recalls. "I was very lucky that way, I suppose. There were only two injuries of note that I remember: there was the collarbone in 1973, which was more serious because of the timing in that it was before the All-Ireland final, and in the '67 All Ireland, I had a broken wrist. Other than that I had very little in the way of injuries. I had of course, the odd finger broken but they didn't come at crucial times of the year so I was able to heal. I had quick healing powers anyway and they didn't keep me out of the game for too long."

It is inevitable, almost, in this sort of interview situation, that the journalist asks the cliched question about the outstanding memories. Eddie has no hesitation with the answer: "There were three that spring to mind, four games really... and in no particular order except the way they came chronologically. The first All-Ireland in 1963 was certainly one. We had a young team and we beat Waterford and so on: That would have been a very

memorable time. Then the subsequent trip to America in May '64. It was the first time I went to America. That doesn't seem so wonderful now but it was in those days. We played Tipperary in New York and then Kilkenny went on to Chicago (Tipp. remained behind to play New York in the NHL final in Gaelic Park). That was my first trip across the Atlantic.

Then there was our one and only senior county final success in 1968. The Rower-Inistioge beat Bennettsbridge and as a result I was then captain of Kilkenny and was fortunate that I captained the winning team in 1969 when we beat Cork. Those two games, county final and All Ireland were highlights. As a game to savour and enjoy, there was the greatest All Ireland that I was fortunate enough to play in - the '72 All-Ireland against Cork where, if you remember, we were nine points down."

Eddie was chosen on the inaugural All star team in 1971 and he won another four awards in the succeeding years. He has always had a particular fondness for the Allstar scheme and the American trips that it brought him. "The Allstars were other highlights of my career - the first one particularly - the excitement of this new adventure, and, in '72, the trip to the West Coast of America as a result. That was really fantastic in those days."

As already mentioned, Eddie missed an All-Ireland minor medal and, despite all the honours won, that was a regret. He believes the minor teams he played with were in hard luck. He states: "I have four Leinster medals (I was sub. one year and I played in three subsequent years) and we were narrowly beaten in '57 by a Jimmy Doyle-powered Tipp. team. We were beaten by Galway then in '58. And we were beaten - I would say, to be charitable - controversially - in '59. There were a few wrong decisions given against us. We were five points up with not too long to go, and Tipp were given a sideline ball that should have gone our way. It was cut into the square and ended in the net.

I do regret not being successful at minor, but I also think that maybe it's no harm to suffer the auld pain of defeat at that level: maybe it inspires you later on to make sure it doesn't happen too often again when you get to senior level."

Over the past two summers, the game of hurling has

been tremendously boosted, among other things, by the great support from Guinness, the sponsors, and by the live television coverage. All of which delights a player of Keher's calibre. "The boost the sport has got is terrific. But I suppose we're still waiting for the international appeal. I don't mean that we should play international teams. That is not realistic, but I mean, with Sky TV and everyone else promoting all sorts of games, I'm looking forward to the day when it'll be a sport that will be admired and seen by the rest of the world on a regular basis."

But would Eddie like to be involved as a player in this age of greater glamorisation of the sport? "Not really. Obviously you have to be realistic. Seeing some games and some players, you'd think 'God, it'd be lovely to be playing in them or with him if you were back again' - when you see the likes of D.J. Carey or someone like that - but I never felt at any stage that I really wanted to be back playing hurling. I was a realist enough to know it would be stupid to be thinking that way at my age."

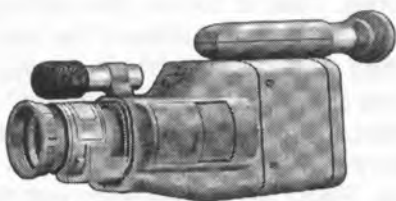
Eddie had a stint as manager of the Kilkenny team in 1979 and, as he states, was fortunate enough to win the All Ireland that year. He was with Pat Henderson in '80 as a selector and a third time was a selector with Diarmuid Healy. He enjoyed those times because it kept him in touch with the scene very closely. But he adds: "It's a big pressure job, it's frustrating in lots of ways in that you can be fully involved right up to the throw-in and then you are practically helpless after that."

Nowadays he confines his interest to managing the county's over-40's team. "That is a tremendous thing," he asserts. "There's tremendous commitment from the fellows at that level and it's a very easy task. They're great guys and we have great times, it's a wonderful social competition and I'm enjoying the fact that we won the All Ireland this year, having won it two years ago as well. So we're going pretty well with it."

The recently retired banker is also deeply devoted to the home parish and he helps out with the Rower-Inistioge club giving assistance to club manager Richard Tierney. He is hopeful for the club, which made encouraging progress in '97 with a fairly young team. He states: "We hope there's a good future for us."

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## UNDER 14 FOOTBALL

# Carrickshock Complete Double

**C**arrickshock's victory in the Under 14 football Roinn A championship was the fairy tale of the year. Competing in the Roinn A grade for the first time ever, they had a great win over the reigning champions, James Stephens, in the final. The winners had given notice of their intentions in the league section of the competition when they had victories over O'Loughlin-Gaels 3-8 to 2-2, Shamrocks 6-8 to 0-0 and Dicksboro 2-8 to 0-2. They lost out by a point to James Stephens on a score of 1-4 to 1-3. It was James Stephens, who won all their league games, and Carrickshock who contested the final.

Fixed originally for Callan, the game went ahead in Kilmanagh at short notice. The Village boys had the better of the first half when, favoured by the breeze, they led at the interval 0-5 to 0-2. The wide open spaces of the Kilmanagh pitch suited the far lighter Carrickshock team and they proceeded to dominate the second period. Their superiority during this half was such that James Stephens only notched one point and that was just a minute from time. In the third quarter, points by Patrick Mulcahy, James Moran and Richard Power had the sides all square. Damien Raggett gave Carrickshock the lead with a goal after 46 minutes. When Brendan Hoyne had a further goal, any doubt about the outcome was removed. The final score in favour of Carrickshock was 2-5 to 0-6.

**Scorers:- Carrickshock:-** Brendan Hoyne(1-0), Damien Raggett (1-0), Richard Power (0-2), James Moran (0-2), Patrick Mulcahy (0-1). **James Stephens:-** David Ruth (0-4), Brendan Doyle (0-2).

**Carrickshock:-** Anthony Holland, Denis Murphy, John Murphy, Leo O'Gorman, John Tennyson, Paul Barron, James Dalton, Michael Rohan, James Moran, Brendan Hoyne, Richard Power, Patrick



**Emeralds Roinn B U14 Football Finalists**

**Back:** Rd Brennan, Emmett Kavanagh, Jos Webster, Jonathan Behan, Brendan Guilfoyle, Sean Minogue, Eamon O'Gorman, Thos Kennedy, Brian Doyle, Thos Neary. **Front:** Joe Pollard, Paul Broderick, John Joyce, Fergus Tobin, Alan Guilfoyle, Pat Tobin, Ray Pollard, Jamie Dollard, Gary Phelan. **Mascot -** Shane Pollard.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



**Piltown Roinn B U 14 Football Champions** **Back:** Ber. Flood (Trainer), Colm Flood, Eamon Kenny, Rd Brophy, Andrew McCarthy, Rd Power, Brendan Doyle, David Reid, David Prendergast, Ml Galvin, Gary Byrne, John Duggan, Mick Hickey (Trainer). **Front:** Paul Maher, Ciaran Galvin, John Norris, David Walsh, Ml. Dineen, Finbar Dineen, Niall Brophy, Shane Fitzpatrick, Nicholas Kenny, Cormac Gilligan, Phil. Kenny, Evan Walsh.

Mulcahy, Michael Rice, Damien Raggett, John Dalton. **Sub:-** Diarmuid Murphy.

**James Stephens:-** David Carroll, Simon Creane, Andrew Doyle, Declan O'Neill, David Grogan, Brendan Doyle, John Comerford, Michael Morris, Mark Hennessy, David Ruth, Redmond Dunphy, Paul Hindle, Michael Phelan, Jonathan Savage, Eoin Larkin. **Subs:-** Donnacha Cody, Conor Whelan, Liam Meehan.

### Roinn B

Twenty one teams took part in the Under 14 Roinn B football championship, played on a knock-out system. Piltown came through the South section with wins over Mooncoin, Slieverue, who gave a walk over, Thomastown (in a replay) and Rower-Inistioge. Emeralds emerged from the Northern section following wins over Young Irelands, Blacks and Whites and Muckalee.

The final took place on a beautiful evening in Bennettsbridge. The

highlight of the game was the point taking of the Mick Hickey and Bernard Flood-trained Piltown side, with Michael Galvin getting some great scores. Two goals before the interval for Emeralds set up a grand stand second half with three points between the sides at the break - Piltown 1-9, Emeralds. 2-3 It was a see-saw struggle for the second half with the football reaching a high standard. Six minutes from time, just one point separated the sides. It was Piltown who got the all important point to gain the laurels on a score of

1-14 to 3-6. Both sides had been well trained by their mentors but Piltown had more fluency in attack. Best for the winners were Finbarr Dineen, David Prendergast, Richard Brophy, Michael Galvin, Philip Kenny and David Reid in the second half. Jonathan Behan, Joe Webster, Brendan Guilfoyle, Sean Minogue, Richard Pollard and Alan Guilfoyle did best for the losers.

**Piltown-**: Finbarr Dineen, Niall Brophy, David Prendergast, Eamon Kenny, David Reid Richard Brophy, Andrew McCarthy, Brendan Doyle,

Colm Flood, Ritchie Power, David Walsh, Shane Fitzpatrick, Philip Kenny, Michael Dineen. Subs:- John Norris, Paul Maher.

**Emeralds**:- Jonathan Behan, Thomas Kennedy, Joe Webster, Emmet Kavanagh, Edward O’Gorman, Garry Phelan, Brian Doyle, Brendan Guilfoyle, Sean Minogue, Thomas Neary, Pa Tobin, Fergal Tobin, Ramie Pollard, Oliver Quinlan, Alan Guilfoyle. Subs: Paul Broderick, Joe Pollard, James Dollard, John Joyc

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# GRAIGUE 1949 REVISITED

Tom Ryall

Over the past eight years, the Kilkenny Co Board has been honouring the surviving members of various All Ireland winning teams and county final winning club sides. This year it was the Graigue team of 1949 who brought the only senior title ever to the parish. Introduced to the crowd at the interval in the senior final, they were later entertained and made a presentation in the Newpark Hotel. The gesture is much appreciated by the players, many of whom might not have met one another for years. It is a night for nostalgia as many great games of the past are relived. The deceased members are spoken about and their deeds brought to mind. Hopefully it is a function the County Board will continue in the years ahead.

The 1949 county title was hard won. Graigue had to overcome Éire Óg, Mooncoin and Tullaroan to win the honours. Éire Óg were a star-studded side with such household names as Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy, Pat (Diamond) Hayden, Ramie Dowling and Nick O'Donnell in their team. Graigue came through in a thriller by 3-5 to 2-6. Mooncoin were stiff opponents in the semi final where again one score separated the sides at the finish 2-10 to 3-4. The highlight of this game was the midfield clashes between Martin McEvoy and Mick Fripps.



*Graigue 1949 Team at their 1997 Celebration:*

**Back Row:** Bill Cahill, Nicholas Purcell, Dick Cleere, James Fennelly, Tom Ryall,  
**Front Row:** Pat Brennan, Mick Kenny, Paddy Burke, Tommy Hoyne, Pat Hayes.

The final against Tullaroan drew one of the biggest attendances up to then at a county final. Tullaroan were the reigning champions and looked like retaining their title when they led by five points going into injury time. Two sensational goals by Billy Daly and Jim Walton put Graigue ahead. Tullaroan came back to level.

Amidst great excitement Martin McEvoy grabbed the ball from the puck, out burst through the Tullaroan defence and scored a point. Consternation reigned amongst the Graigue followers as the referee called back the play and disallowed the point. He awarded a free to Graigue which Mick Kenny sent over the bar for the winning score. The final score read Graigue 3-12 Tullaroan 2-14.

Ten of the panel of twenty one are still alive and eight of those were able to attend. Those present were John Keane (Capt), Paddy Burke, James Fennelly, Nicholas Purcell, Mick Kenny, Bill Cahill, Dick Cleere and Willie Hoyne. Maurice O'Shaughnessy now resides in Canada while Peadar Maher, who was unable to attend, nowadays lives outside New Ross. The deceased members of the panel are Dinny Holohan, Mick Coonan, Bob Woodgate, Paddy Cahill, Henry Giles, Martin McEvoy, Billy Daly, Jim Walton, Jimmy Maher, Martin Brennan and John Donnelly.

May they rest in peace.

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**Leinster Cup for Barry**

Barry Power receives the Leinster Intermediate Hurling Cup from Jim Berry, Chairman Leinster Council, after Kilkenny defeated Carlow in Leinster Final. *Photo: Tommy O'Neill*



**Ann Marie Collects the Cup**

Anne Marie Hughes receives the cup from Sheila Dowling (Chairperson) after Lisdowney defeated Freshford in the County Senior Camogie Final in Nowlan Park.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



**All Mod Cons!!**

The "Grandstand" in Lisdowney from where Radio Kilkenny's Pat Treacy and commentator, Tommy Lanigan did a "live transmission" on the All Ireland Club Camogie semi-final between Lisdowney and Grannagh/Ballingarry (Limerick). *Photo: Tom Brett.*



**Cup for Lisdowney**

Patrick Bowden, Captain, is presented with the cup by Tom Delehunty, Bord na nÓg, after Lisdowney defeated Tullogher/Rosbercon in the Roinn C Under 16 County Final. Representing the sponsors is Mr Michael Egan (Director Duggan Steel Group). *Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

# THE BACK DOOR

A PAINFUL EXIT

NICKEY BRENNAN

**I**t probably sounds a little biased to suggest that hurling once again dominated the G.A.A. scene nationally. The new two-year trial format for the National Hurling League and the Championship generated much debate around the country, some of it fairly heated at times. We are now half way through this trial period and while the overall thrust of the changes has received favourable comment, it is a little too early to draw conclusions on the eventual outcome until about this time next year.

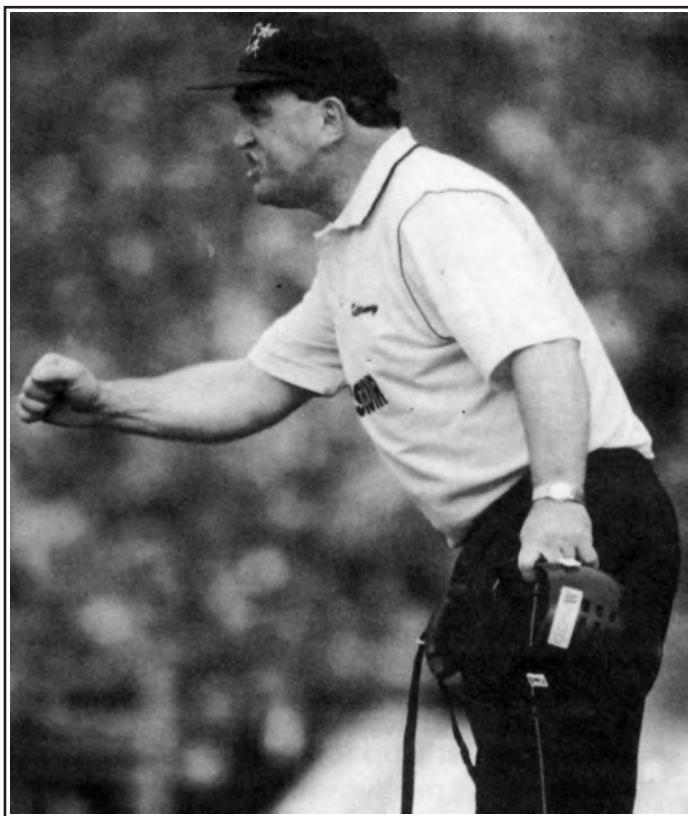
The playing of the National Hurling League in the Spring was aided by Summer-like conditions for most of the games. This certainly helped to swell the numbers attending the matches. The fact that most teams fielded more or less full strength line-outs ensured that the competition enjoyed a much greater focus and profile than in previous years. However, if the qualifying rounds of the League enjoyed unprecedented success, the same could not be said of the knock-out stages. Suffice to say that this part of the experiment will never be tried again.

## THE BACK DOOR.

The 1997 Hurling Championship was always going to be different once Congress agreed to the losing Leinster and Munster Finalists being re-entered in the competition at the Quarter-Final stage. Some people expressed the view that such a change would seriously affect the Provincial Finals. However, as events turned out this was certainly not the case. Indeed, I never had the slightest doubt that any county would approach their Provincial Final without the same commitment and determination as shown in the past. One glance at the shattered faces of the Kilkenny and Tipperary teams after their respective Provincial Final defeats and you would have seen what I mean.

As one who strongly advocated the two year hurling experiment it is perhaps ironic that Kilkenny should be the first team to experience two championship defeats in the one year. Tipperary were to join this unique and dubious roll of honour some weeks later, but they at least had the consolation of contesting an All-Ireland Final.

Clare were worthy champions. Indeed there is little argument that they have been the best team around for



Laying it on the line: Nickey Brennan urging on his players.  
Photo: Sportsfile.

the past three years. They had to work hard for most of their victories this year but the hallmark of a great side is their ability to dig themselves out of trouble when most needed. They always held the upper hand against ourselves in the semi-final although they were under considerable pressure in the closing stages. I can only ponder and think what might have been had both Liam Simpson and Michael Phelan not been injured on the day. Somehow, as with Wexford in 1996, I feel that Clare's name was on the Liam McCarthy Cup from the start of 1997.

## GAME OF THE YEAR.

Kilkenny at least had the consolation (if that is what it might be called) of participating in the best hurling game of the year against Galway in Thurles in the Championship Quarter-Final. I have never experienced such mixed emotions during a game, ranging from utter and absolute frustration in the first half, to extreme and tremendous relief at the end of seventy minutes. To be honest, it was impossible to take in the victory such were the extremes of emotions which we all experienced with the team during that particular Sunday.

## MANAGER MANIA.

The past year once again saw the spotlight all too firmly fixed on the various Team Managers. Their current profile is gone totally overboard and is clearly a follow-on from the soccer scene. It constantly amazes me when the media announce team selections and team changes during a game in the name of the Team Manager. It has certainly been my experience with Kilkenny sides over many years (and I am certain the same applies to all other inter-county teams) that the Team Manager and his co-selectors make all such decisions collectively.





**About to be "Nailed"!** Pat O'Neill (left) and Dan O'Neill (right) bear down on Mick Morrissey (Dublin) in 1997 Leinster championship. (Photo: Sportsfile)

Much has been written in recent times concerning the role of the Team Manager during games. The present arrangement is totally unsatisfactory and I understand it will be addressed in the near future. The Team Manager must be allowed far greater freedom to communicate with his players during games, since the pressure on him to succeed is now greater than ever. It is perhaps for this reason that the issue of paying Team Managers has evoked so much debate and no little controversy. Strangely enough, the payment of Team Managers is a far bigger problem at club level rather than inter-county level. It is certainly an area for concern and must be strictly monitored to ensure such payments operate within existing agreed guidelines.

The recent Congress decision to allow players to promote products and services is to be welcomed, although, to be honest, I believe it will only benefit a limited number of key hurlers and footballers. Nevertheless, I look forward to the day when G.A.A. players will look down on us from a big poster as we drive around the country.

#### **GLORIOUS DUNAMAGGIN.**

The local hurling scene in Kilkenny saw a first championship win for Dunamaggin. Attitude was to play a vital role in this year's county final with the winners also clearly showing the necessary commitment on the day. It has been a fairytale few years for the new champions and all their victories had as much to do with off the field organisation as it had with the playing of games. Any club with ambitions to go places in Kilkenny hurling would be well advised to follow Dunamaggin's (and Brendan Fennelly's) example. Of course, Young Irelands are well capable of recapturing the title in the near future and the costly lesson learnt this year will stand them well in 1998.

At the back end of each year we start the process of picking All-Star teams and deciding the best teams of 1997. I will leave the All-Star selection to you the reader

but I have no problem naming my teams of 1997. I have selected three teams and I am sure many will disagree with the selection plus the order.

#### **FIRST TITLE.**

In third place I have picked Dunamaggin for their first senior hurling county championship title victory. Given the level of success the club achieved at both under age, Junior and Intermediate level, it was inevitable that Senior success would not be far away. For most pundits it would perhaps be achieved next year or the year after but Dunamaggin players and officials obviously decided there was no time like the present. They could be around for quite a while, you know !

#### **FOOTBALLERS SO NEAR.**

In the middle of this year, a Kilkenny team went to Portlaoise to play Laois in the first round of the Leinster Minor Football Championship. The locals, you will recall, were the reigning All-Ireland Minor Football Champions. The very top playing the very bottom: surely there could only be one result? At the end of sixty minutes (and a few more, I believe as well), the All-Ireland Champions were still in this year's campaign but what a fright they experienced. The luckless Kilkenny lads deserved better on the night and the Laois side would have been very happy with a replay entering the closing stages. As events later turned out, this fright was to stand the Laois side in good stead for the remainder of their 1997 campaign. I saw them play on a number of occasions and they were magnificent, playing a quality brand of football not witnessed at senior grade all year. The retention of an All-Ireland title with almost a new team (including a new manager) by a county with only one previous success to its name was an incredible achievement. I have no hesitation selecting the Laois Minor Footballers for second spot. Two All-Ireland successes in a row must surely give great hope for the future but I would advise

caution, and hopefully not too much will be asked of these young players for a couple of years yet.

#### **FOR THE GLORY OF THE PARISH.**

Coming as I do from the country, there is always something special about a rural club achieving national success. Our own neighbouring club St. Martins had their hour of glory in the eighties when they captured the All-Ireland club title. This year it was the young boys from Tullaroan who captured the All-Ireland Feile na nGael title. This was, in my opinion, the outstanding achievement by any team this year. Given the strength of underage hurling in many counties and the huge catchment areas around the large towns and urban areas, the achievement by Tullaroan in Walsh Park, Waterford in July was almost beyond belief. It is only fitting that the famed Tullaroan name should be alongside the great club underage sides of the country, among which is our own city side James Stephens who have

almost made a habit of winning the Christy Ring trophy themselves. Of course, this achievement does not guarantee Tullaroan further success with this side in the future but nothing can take from the club and players' hour of glory in 1997.

#### **BEWARE THE DUBS.**

And so to 1998. Kilkenny's draw in The Leinster Senior Hurling Championship is as good as can be expected but we will need to be cautious as Dublin will improve with Division I hurling next year and Parnell Park will be a tight compact ground. If this obstacle is overcome, Laois, with Padraig Horan now at the helm, will relish the opportunity to tackle their near neighbours. Indeed, over the past few years Laois have usually reserved their best displays for games against Kilkenny. If we can get over these two hurdles anything is possible. Kevin and company are wished the very best for 1998 and hopefully Lady Luck will decide to pay us a visit during next year's campaign.

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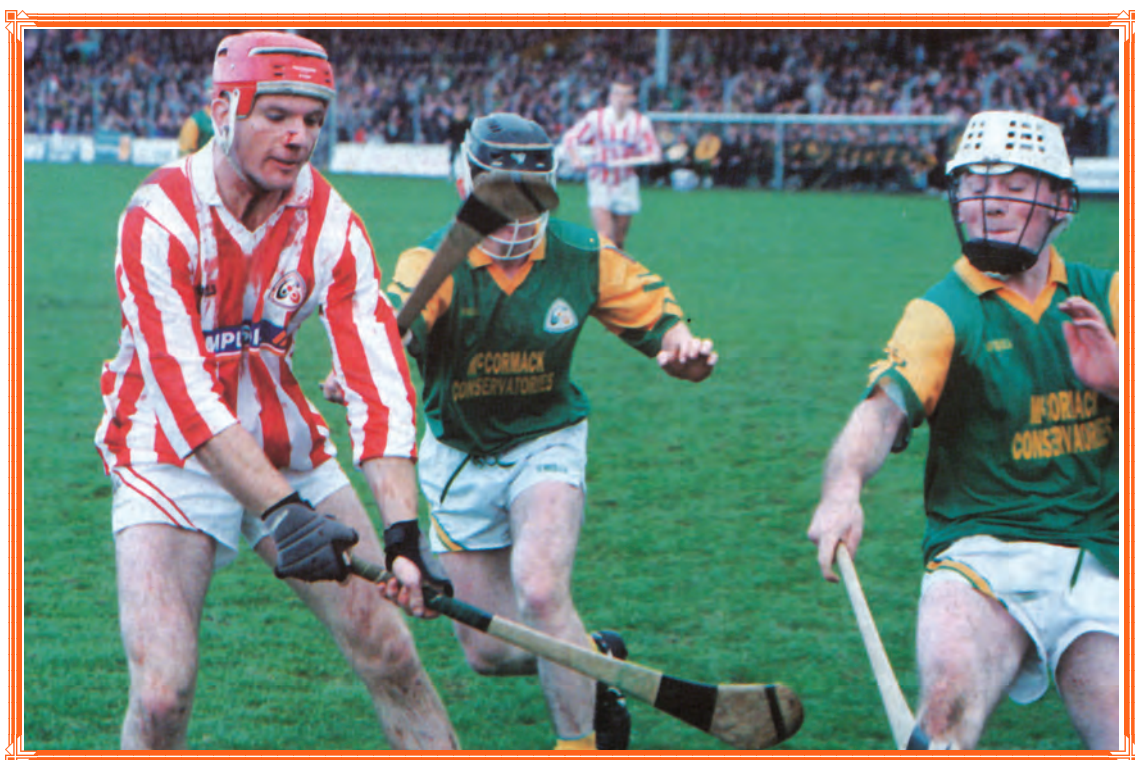
# ST. CANICE'S CREDIT UNION COUNTY FINAL ACTION



## Second Goal

**Sean Ryan** shoots Dunamaggin's second goal early in the first half.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



## Tough work!

A bloodied **Jack Carey** (Young Irelands) tries to get his shot in despite the attentions of the **Hickey** brothers, **Noel** (behind hurley), and **Tom**.

*Photo: Tom Brett*

## International Hurling/Shinty Match Under 12.

# Kittens Star in Scotland !

*Dermot Dunphy*

**A**s part of the weekend International Series of Hurling/Shinty, an Under 12 Kilkenny selection represented Ireland against a local selection in Oban, Argyll, West Scotland last Saturday and Sunday. The young hurlers from Kilkenny did themselves, their county and their country proud in seeing off the Scottish challenge twice, bringing two trophies and some great memories home with them.

The International series has been played for quite some time now, firstly at Under 21 level, then Senior and Under 21, and, in the past two years, an Under 12 fixture has been arranged. This year, the Kilkenny U-12's represented Ireland and next March, the International series comes to Kilkenny when again, Kilkenny will be the Under 12 representatives.

In total, eighteen players travelled, one from each of the semi-finalists of Cumann na mBunscoileanna's competitions last Spring. The boys set off from all parts of the county early Friday morning, flying from Dublin to Glasgow, by bus to the town of Oban on Scotland's west coast and made the return journey on Sunday evening. Oban, 'Gateway to the Isles', was chosen due to its proximity to Iona, home of the exiled St. Colmcille, (or Columba as the Scots know him), and this is the 1400th anniversary of the death of the great saint. The boys were hosted there by the Scottish Camanachd Association, played two games against the local district side, Lorn, were royally entertained, showered with gifts and dispatched for home exhausted and happy. They also met and mingled with senior stars from the Munster Inter-provincial side and the successful Cork Under 21 side. To complete the weekend perfectly, they won both their games in convincing style.

On Saturday morning, in Ganavan, two miles from Oban, the first challenge took place. Kilkenny had most of the early pressure with Bill Beckett pointing after three minutes. It took a long while for the pressure to turn to

scores until Mark Aylward goaled after eighteen minutes with a cracking turn and shot to the net. The Scots threatened with quick breaks out of defence but a stern Kilkenny defence dealt with allcomers well. The team was addressed before taking the field for the second half by the President of the GAA, Joe McDonagh, and Duncan Cameron, President of the Camanachd Association, and whatever about those of their mentors, the Presidents' words seemed to work wonders as the Kilkenny lads turned on the style. Micheál Murphy pointed after three minutes. Alan Madigan, Mark Aylward and Richard Walsh all goaled before Mark Aylward completed his hat trick on 18 minutes. Austin Murphy had another point before Richie Power rounded things off with a last goal. The Lorn boys tried hard but found it difficult to break through a resolute Kilkenny defence and when they finally got a blistering shot on goal, Eddie O'Donoghue, who had moved back to the goal from the forward line, pulled off a super save. At the final whistle, Kilkenny had won by 21 points, 6-3 to nil. Captain for the first match, Ballyhale's Mark Aylward, accepted the trophy, the 'Colmcille Quaich'

at the after-game meal, before the boys headed for the Under 21 and Senior Internationals in Mossfield Stadium, Oban.

Next day, the game was again played at Ganavan, as the chosen venue of Dalmally was unplayable. One difference for the second game was that the point bars had been removed and the game was played in the more traditional Shinty style of

goals only. Again, Kilkenny had the better of the opening exchanges and indeed led within thirty seconds, Mark Aylward striking in the first attack. James Dunne, scored a second, and Micheál Murphy a third, within eleven minutes of the start, but from here to half time, Lorn defended stoutly and were dangerous on the break. In the end the Scots raised a big local cheer with Calum Fox rattling a goal with a powerful shot.

At half time in the second game, the boys exchanged sticks and the Kilkenny lads adapted quickly to the longer and narrower Shinty Caman. The Scots were again pinned back and eventually, the Irish boys found the range with Cian de Bhaldrathe, Bill Beckett (2), Richie Power (2), and Liam Barron all adding goals to leave the Kilkenny team 9 - 1 winners. Richie Power scored with a highly impressive flick for his first goal. Captain for the second game, Bill Beckett of Freshford, picked up the 'Scottish Power Plate' at the after-match reception. Apart from the games, the boys were treated to top class hospitality from their Scottish hosts all weekend. On



**Kilkenny's Under 12 Irish Representative Shinty Team**  
**Back :** Mark Aylward, Bill Beckett, Eddie O'Donoghue, Alan Madigan, Micheál Murphy, Darren O'Neill, James Dunne, Sean Cummins, Richard Walsh.,  
**Front:** Shane Doyle, Ronan Maher, Austin Murphy, Cian de Bhaldrathe, Liam Barron, Donncha Cody, William Norton, Peter Dollard, Richie Power.

Friday night, their host families entertained the boys. After the game on Saturday, they went to Mossfield Stadium to watch the Under 21 and Senior games. (Unfortunately Scotland claimed both 'Quaichs'). That evening at Mass in Oban Cathedral, the parish priest especially welcomed the Irish boys, before they went to a specially arranged night of entertainment, with traditional Scottish music and singing, followed by a disco. On Sunday, after the game, they visited Cruachan Power Station, saw the generating rooms, one kilometre under Cruachan mountain. They were presented with Shinty Sticks, (and bags to hold them) by the Scottish players while the boys all brought hurleys for the Scottish boys. They also received a full Irish rig-out, jumper and kitbag as part of their trip.

The weekend proved to be highly successful and much thanks is due to the Lorn Area Coaching Committee, who organised the Under 12 end of the trip. Thanks was offered by Tom Duggan, Chairman of Cumann na mBunscoileanna, Cill Chainnigh on behalf of Kilkenny with a special word for Jeff and Maggie Anderson who worked tirelessly over the weekend. Undoubtedly, great credit is due to the boys who represented Kilkenny so well, not only on the pitch where they adapted to the compromise rules to great effect, but also off the pitch where they were ambassadors for their sport and county. We look forward to the return visit at St. Patrick's Weekend, here in Kilkenny.

**Ireland Under 12:** James Dunne (Galmoy), Sean



Schools and County Board Officials in Oban with Uachtarán CLG, **Joe McDonagh** - John Knox, Diarmaid Dunphy, John Healy, Tom Duggan, Pat Dunphy and Paul Kinsella.

*Cummins (Rower-Inistioge), Shane Doyle (Gowran), Ronan Maher (Coon-Muckalee), Donnacha Cody (St. Patrick's), Darren O'Neill (Goresbridge-Paulstown), Bill Beckett (Freshford), Richie Power (Carrickshock), William Norton (Urlingford), Eddie O'Donoghue (St. Canice's), Micheál Murphy (Kilmanagh), Cian de Bhaldraithe (Gaelscoil Osrai), Mark Aylward (Ballyhale), Alan Madigan (Mullinavat), Peter Dollard (Conahy), Austin Murphy (Clara), Richard Walsh (Bennettsbridge), Liam Barron (Tullogher-Rosbercon).*

**Mentors:** Tom Duggan (Carrickshock), Paul Kinsella (St. Patrick's), John Knox (Gowran), Dermot Dunphy (CBS Kilkenny), John Healy (Chairman, County Board), Pat Dunphy (Secretary, County Board).



**Sony Summer Camp in O'Loughlin Gaels 1997:**

*Included are Conor Brennan, PJ Delaney, Canice Brennan and Brendan O'Sullivan. Photo: Tom Brett*

# Cé a bheadh ina Bhainisteoir ???

le Seosamh Ó Donnchadha, Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

**B**hl mé i mo shul cois tine olche le déanal, "Ag machnamh seal liom fhéinig, ag déanamh mo smaointe", mar a rith an sean dán - faoi na blianta atá caite agam le foirne scoile agus an méid taitnimh a bhain mé as. Agus an smaoinemh a bhuaill mé ná go raibh an t-ádh ceart liom gur fhan mé i gconal riamh le daltaí scoile. Mar, nuair a smaionlann tú air, an bhfuil post níos measa ar an saol ná bheith mar bhainisteoir ar fhoireann chontae sa lá atá inniu ann.

Féach an brú ata orthu go léir. An mblo dh an brú sin ann fiche no tríocha blian ó shin ? Ní dóigh liom é. Féach an méid bliain a d'fhan Monsignor Tomás Ó Meachair i mbun cursaí anseo i gCill Chainnigh. Bhuaigh sé roinnt mhaith Chraobh na hÉireann ag an am ach bhí bearnaí ann freisin nuair a theip orainn sa tréimhse sin. Ach sna blianta nár éirigh linn, an raibh a cheann á lorg ar phláta. Ní dóigh liom go raibh agus ní cóir go mbeadh.

Ach cinnte, bheadh, sa lá atá inniu ann. I mbliana amháin, féach céard a tharla dár mbainisteoir fhéin, Nioclás á Braonáin. D'imigh nó briseadh as a bpostanna freisin, Tomás Ó Riain i Luimneach, Seán Mac an tSaoir in Ua Fáilil, Micheál Ó Faoláin i mBaile Átha Cliath, agus Máirtín Mac Aodha Ó Co. an Chabháin. Cé'n fáth? Bhuel, dáiríre, an t-aon freagra ná an brú atá ann chun torthaí a fháil. Ní hamháin san ach caithfear torthaí a fháil

láithreach. Ní féidir le héinne a bheith foighneach. 'Torthaí nó ceann' an rosc catha atá ann anois.

Agus fiú, na bainisteoirí a fhaigheann torthaí, féach cad a dhéanann muintir an chumhachta, na fir i gcultacha i bPáirc an Chróchaigh, leo san. "Buachaillí dána! Suilgí síos ansin ar an mbíne sin agus ná corraigí as go ndéarfadh mé libh é. Is cuma faoin bpéint a bheith fluich! Suilgí síos agus déanaigí mar a deirtear libh." Ar chuala éinne a leithéid riamh? Seo anois agaibh fir a chaith furmhór d'ólcheanta na bliana amuigh i soineann agus doineann, i bpluda agus salachar, scartha ó chéile agus ó pháistí, ag líonadh pócaí an Chumainn lena n-iarraichtaí agus sin a tharla dóibh. Ábhar do thaom croí a bhí ann. Taispeáin dom bainisteoir gur fiú faic é agus ní fhéadfadh sé fanacht ina shul d'aon chluiche, gan trácht ar Chraobh na hÉireann.

Agus ar fhan siad ina suí. B'í deimhin nár fhan. Chuaigh siad i mbun na hoibre a bhí idir lámha. Bhí sárchluiche ann, slua millteach mór agus 'geata' breá dá bharr don Chumann. Cé'n deireadh a bhí leis ?? Tugadh Gearóid agus Lìonard os comhair 'cuirte' de shaghas éigin, cuireadh fíneáil ar a gCoisdí Contae agus cuireadh plonóis ar bheirt laoch. A Thiarna Dia, nár bheag mar bhulochas é. Cé, in ainm Dé a bheadh ina bhainisteoir?? Go n-éirí an t-ádh leat, a Chaoimhín.

## Scoláireachtaí De Bhaldráithe

Bronnadh Scoláireachtaí arís i mbliana i gcuimhne Thomáis De Bhaldráithe ar seisear scoláirí ó bhunscoileanna an Chontae. As beagnach dhá chéad iarrtais roghnaíodh tríur buachaill agus tríur cailín ó Rang a Sé.

Bhronn DS Ó Ciardha, Captaen Chill Chainnigh, na scoláireachtaí ar Mhicheál De Faoite, Inis Tíog, ar Bharra Ó Caoinealáin, Scoil Iognáid Rís, Cill Chainnigh, ar Sheán Walkin, Scoil Eoin Naofa, Cill Chainnigh, ar Bhríd Ní Landaí, Bearna na Gaoithe, ar Mháire Nic Ghiolla Phádraig, Baile Héil, agus ar ar Chlár Rothwell, S.N. Firoda in Ostán Shems i Sráid Eoin, Cill Chainnigh. Chomh maith, bhí Liam Uas Suipéal, Bainisteoir Choláiste na Rinne, i láthair ar an oíche, chun gach chuile rud a eagrú i gceart dóibh.

D'fhreastail an seisear ar chúrsa trí sheachtain i gColáiste na Rinne ins na Déise. Ó gach scéal a



Scoláireachtaí De Bhaldráithe '97:

*Ar chlé:* Liam Suipéal, Bainisteoir Choláiste na Rinne, Seán Ó hÉilí, Cathaoirleach an Choisde Chontae, Pádraig Ó Donncha, Runaí an Choisde Chontae, Seosamh Ó Donnchadha, Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

*I lár:* Clár Rothwell, D.S. Ó Ciardha, Máire Nic Ghiolla Phádraig.

*Chun tosaigh:* Seán Walkin, Barra Ó Caoinealáin, Micheál De Faoite, Bríd Ní Landaí.

*Photo: Tomás de Breit*

chualamar, bhain siad taitneamh agus tairbhe as.

An Choisde Chontae agus na

Boird éagsúla a chuireann na scoláireachtaí ar fáil. Nár laga bhúr lámh.

# Boro Best with the Big Ball.

Dermot Dunphy



**Dicksboro Senior Football Champions 1997** Photo: Tom O'Neill

**Back:** Tom Henderson, Aidan Begley, Niall Morrissey, Derek Kenny, Brian Brennan, Simon Walton, John O'Gorman, Mark Sheehan.

**Front:** Brian Kennedy, Brendan Dalton, Gussie Roberts, Niall Lacey, Martin Hanrick, Stephen Kennedy (Capt), Tommy Bawle.

**D**icksboro captured the first senior county title of the year on June 24th, 1997 when they overcame neighbours, James Stephens, in a rain soaked John Lockes Park, Callan. For the fifth year in a row, the county football title rests in the city, as Dicksboro regained the title they last held in 1994, from the defending champions from '96. In fact, the last time one of these two clubs didn't hold the title was 1992, when it rested in the home of Kilkenny football, The Railyard. Since then, the Village (3) and the 'Boro (now twice) have been champions.

This year's league/championship began in late March, with the first of three league rounds to decide the semi-finalists in the championship. In all, eight senior teams were involved, in two groups of four. Group A consisted of Dicksboro, Graigue-Ballycallan, Kilmoganny and Thomastown, while James Stephens, Railyard, Glenmore and Muckalee were all in Group B. Round one saw the 'Boro, Kilmoganny, James Stephens and Railyard all record wins. The following week, the 'Boro and the Village were left as the only unbeaten clubs with important wins over Kilmoganny and Railyard respectively. Glenmore and Graigue-Ballycallan put themselves back in the frame with wins over Thomastown and Muckalee. All was still to play for in Round three, and Railyard and Kilmoganny both bounced back from the previous week's losses to

see off the challenges of Glenmore and Graigue-Ballycallan and book the two runners-up spots. James Stephens finished atop of Group B with a win over Muckalee and Thomastown conceded to Dicksboro to leave the 'Boro leaders in Group A.

The semi-final pairings were decided. Top of Group A, Dicksboro were to face Railyard, and James Stephens, leaders of Group B, were to face Kilmoganny in the last week of April. Defending champions, the Village, were first into the final with a fine performance to see off Kilmoganny. On the night, James Stephens had too much for the Southerners and won comfortably in the end by eight points, 1-11 to 0-6. A few days later, the 'Boro made it an all-city final when they also gave a strong showing to outscore Railyard by seven points. At the final whistle, the Moneenroe team were well beaten on a scoreline of 1-12 to 1-5 for Dicksboro.

And so to the final. Just two months passed between semi-finals and final, as the game was scheduled and re-scheduled, fixed and re-fixed. Finally, Tuesday June 24th. was agreed and the game was moved to Callan, as the Leinster Under 21 quarter-final was scheduled for Nowlan Park. The night was anything but kind for football. Despite the closeness to midsummer, it was bitterly cold with driving rain and a cross-field breeze. This did not, however, stop the teams from serving up a fine game of



**James Stephen's Senior Football Team - Runners up 1997 Senior Football Championship**

**Back:** Philly Larkin, John Larkin, Brian McEvoy, Liam O'Connor, John Grace, Fergus Hickey, Peter Barry,  
**Front:** Noel Prendergast, Niall Lahart, Barry Smith, Brian Leahy, Shane Doyle, Richie Minogue, Francis Cantwell, Ned Kelly.  
*Photo: Tom O'Neill*

football, played in a sporting spirit. Dicksboro had the better of the first half and had opened up a four point half time lead. Simon Walton, both from placed balls and play, led from the front while captain, Stephen Kennedy, was outstanding in the half back line. The 'Boro deserved their half time lead of 0-7 to 0-4 and could have been further ahead at the interval.

James Stephens needed to make some changes, and

brought Martin Phelan to midfield, moving Peter Barry into the half forward line. Brian Leahy had two early points for James Stephens to narrow the gap to two, but the 'Boro defence played superbly, with every man playing his part in a well-marshalled back line. With ten minutes left, Dicksboro introduced Sam Morrissey, who made an immediate impact. Martin Hanrick and Peter Barry had swapped points before Morrissey put Brendan Dalton through for a score with his first touch and then rounded off the 'Boro scoring with a point of his own. Noel Prendergast left just three points between the sides with a pointed free, but there the Village challenge ended and Dicksboro claimed victory and the title. Final Score: Dicksboro 0-11 James Stephens 0-8.

Despite soaking up a lot of pressure in the second half, Dicksboro remained cool and deserved their win over the hour. Their defence proved their worth, especially in the second half, with goalie, Derek Kenny solid, Niall Morrissey and his two cornermen, Brian Kennedy and Tom Henderson keeping their end up and the half line of Brian Brennan, John O'Gorman and Stephen Kennedy in top form. Tipperary county star Mark Sheehan and Tommy Bawle played solidly in the middle of the field. Simon Walton was the star of the attack, with good assistance from former Wexford star, Martin Hanrick. Gus Roberts and Brendan Dalton played well throughout, while Aidan Begley, Niall Lacey and sub Sam Morrissey all played their parts.

The Village had their star performers as well, with Francis Cantwell very capable in goal. Shane Doyle was their best defender over the hour and he got good assistance from Richie Manogue when he moved to defence. Liam O'Connor and Martin Phelan, in the second half got through a lot of work in midfield while Brian Leahy was always dangerous, Brian McEvoy had a fine second half and Peter Barry contributed handsomely with three fine points.

It was Dicksboro's night and the trophy was presented

**Senior Football Scoreboard 1997**

*Round 1*

Dicksboro 0-11	Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6
Kilmoganny 2-17	Thomastown 0-3
James Stephens 1-10	Glenmore 1-5
Railyard 0-9	Muckalee 0-7

*Round 2*

Dicksboro 1-4	Kilmoganny 0-5
Graigue-Ballycallan 0-11	Thomastown 1-4
James Stephens 1-13	Railyard 1-6
Glenmore 1-4	Muckalee 0-6

*Round 3*

Dicksboro w/o	Thomastown
Kilmoganny 3-9	Graigue-Ballycallan 2-1
James Stephens 3-13	Muckalee 1-10
Railyard 0-11	Glenmore 0-5

*Semi-finals*

Dicksboro 1-12	Railyard 1-5
James Stephens 1-11	Kilmoganny 0-6

*Final*

Dicksboro 0-11	James Stephens 0-8
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*Leinster Club Championship Round 1*

Moate All Whites 4-5	Dicksboro 2-4
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by Jim O'Hanlon, Chairman of Kilkenny Football Board to the Dicksboro captain, Stephen Kennedy.

The 'Boro went on to play in the Leinster Club Championship on October 26th, a full four months after their win. Their opponents were Moate All Whites of Westmeath and the Kilkenny champions put up a brave show before capitulating on a scoreline of 4-5 to 2-4. Dicksboro were well in the game at half time trailing by only two points. However, three Moate goals in six minutes during the third quarter sealed the game and though the 'Boro got two late goals, it was not to be enough.

**Dicksboro:** Derek Kenny, Brian Kennedy, Niall Morrissey, Tom Henderson, Brian Brennan, John O'Gorman, Stephen Kennedy

(Captain), Mark Sheehan, Tommy Bawle, Niall Lacey, Aidan Begley, Brendan Dalton, Gus Roberts, Simon Walton, Martin Hanrick, Sam Morrissey, David Beirne, Eoin Begley, Michael Kennedy, Jesse Wise, Ciaran Philpott, Sean Fitzpatrick, Stephen Guidera, Brendan Kennedy.

**James Stephens:** Francis Cantwell, Shane Doyle, Ned Kelly, Fergus Hickey, Barry Smith, Philip Larkin, Niall Lahart, Liam O'Connor, Peter Barry, Richie Manogue, Brian McEvoy, John Larkin, Brian Leahy, John Grace, Noel Prendergast, Martin Phelan, John Scott, Nicky Boyd, Tommy Fogarty, Paddy Crotty, Dermot Grogan, Wayne Kelly, Michael Fogarty, Martin Ryan, Podge Butler, Liam Smith.



**Tommy Bawle** Dicksboro, with son, Darren, and Senior Football Cup.

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**Kilmoganny - Under 21 Football Champions 1996:**

*Back:* Noel Lahart, Mick O'Neill, Andrew Hickey, Fergal O'Shea, Paul Cahill, John Hickey, JP O'Neill. *Front:* Tom Hickey, Paul Kearney, Anthony McCormack, Niall McCormack, Ramie Cahill, William Kearney, Andrew Moran, Noel Hickey.

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*



**Graigue Ballycallan Under 21 Football Finalists 1996:**

*Back:* Jimmy Lynch, Paul Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne, Samuel Ryall, Edward Brennan, Michael Teehan, Sean Millea, Michael Quirke, Michael Hoyne, Joe Young, Philip Butler, Paddy Dwyer, Sean Dermody, Robert Byrne.

*Front:* Joe Cody, Anthony Drohan, Gearoid Cleere, Paul Dermody, Alan Hoyne, John Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Tom Dermody, Pat Comerford, James Cullinane, Pat Marnell, James Young.

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

# THE GOAL OF THE YEAR!

Photos by Sportsfile



**It started with a handpass...**

*Michael Phelan evades the attention of Galway full back, Willie Burke, to handpass the ball to DJ Carey*



**... it finished in the net.**

*DJ Carey slams the ball to the back of the net for the **GOAL OF THE YEAR**. Galway players in picture are Nigel Shaughnessy (5) and goalkeeper Pat Costelloe.*

# Charlie's Year

Richard Holden



Charlie lets one rip. Charlie Carter races towards the Wexford goal in Leinster hurling Final as Liam Dunne can only watch.

Photo: Sportsfile

**I**t is often difficult for promising minors to make good seniors. For Charlie Carter that proved especially true. The Gowran attacker was one of the stars of Kilkenny's All-Ireland Triumph back in 1988. Pat O'Neill, D.J. Carey and Adrian Ronan were just some of Charlie's team-mates on that minor team and they all went on to figure prominently on the senior team. For Charlie, it has been a long and painful process to become established on the senior team. He started his first championship game against Wexford in last year's ill-fated Leinster quarter final but has remained an ever-present since.

Such has been the Gowran hurler's progress this year that many are tipping him for an All-Star. He was probably Kilkenny's most consistent forward during the Championship as evidenced by his contribution of 0-9 in the four games. His best match was probably in the opening round against Dublin. While others around were struggling to get on top of their opponents Carter proved a consistent thorn in the Dublin defence and made an immense contribution to Kilkenny's victory on the day. Next year's Championship draw has paired the two sides together in the first round and while some observers have hinted that Kilkenny got the better side of the draw, avoiding the likes of Offaly and Wexford, Charlie doesn't necessarily view it that way. "There is not a whole lot between any of them and we can't take any of them for granted. In last year's game we only beat Dublin by a few points so they will prove a tough side to overcome this year". Charlie regards the Galway match as the highlight of the year: "It was a memorable game coming back from a position in which we looked dead and buried" he said. The Championship defeat by Clare ranks as his biggest disappointment: "We gave them too much of a lead and yet, despite that, we still managed to bring it down to just

three or four points in the end".

The new Championship system has come in for much debate. What are your views on it, Charlie? Well, I would prefer to go back to the old way. It has taken the emphasis off the Leinster Championship, but it's there and you just have to get on with it". With regard to the National League, the Gowran forward felt that it worked out well till the start of the Championship. He said: "There were great crowds at the beginning but when the Championship started there was a lack of interest - just look at the attendance for the semi-finals". He believes, however, that it will work out all right now that the League is to be finished before the Championships begin.

I was very interested to get Charlie's views on how the game could be marketed better in light of the increasing competition from other sports. Charlie says: "They have begun to get their act together. The new system brought increased exposure through the two extra games. We have to compete with the other sports and now is the time to do it".

Charlie cites his biggest disappointment this year as the Co. Final defeat by Dunamaggin. "Everyone in the County had us hyped up, but we knew how difficult Dunamaggin would prove to be. The game just drifted away from us in the end, he said, but fair play to Dunamaggin, they deserved it". While Young Irelands just lost one game all year Charlie readily admits that they would have swapped everything just to retain their County title. "No one remembers who won the League", he said, although he readily admits it would have been a real downer to have lost both Finals. Last year's County Final ranks as his career highlight and he regards the two Finals last year as probably the best club matches he has seen. "Would you like to name the best?", I asked Charlie, and the Skeogh resident was quick to nominate the Shamrocks. "All you have to do is look at the number

of Championships they have won. They seem to have a good strong team on the scene again and a lot of good youngsters are coming through”.

This year also marked Charlie’s first appearance on the Railway Cup Team. "How do you feel about this particular competition?", I asked. "The emphasis is going off it. There were only about two hundred people at it and some of these were in attendance for the All-Ireland “B” Football final. However, it is an honour to play in the tournament and all the lads who travelled gave it their very best”.

This year brought the end of Nickey Brennan’s reign and I put it to Charlie that the circumstances that surrounded his resignation were disappointing. The treatment which Canice got was unfair, Charlie said. “It should never have happened and it was not a nice

development to witness”.

Charlie’s advice to young players is to keep training and to listen to their coaches. The ace Kilkenny attacker lists D.J., Liam Fennelly and Ger Henderson as the players he most admires, and he lists his teachers: John Knox / Dick O’Neill, and his father as having the biggest influence on his career.

Charlie has won almost every honour in the game, having been a sub. on the 1992 All-Ireland winning team. He is now one of the more senior players on the Kilkenny team and he will be under greater pressure next year as a result of the standards he has set this year. “I would like to go on for as long as I can and stay injury free”. These sentiments would be echoed all around the County.

*Michael and Theresa Nolan*

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# Hendersons' – the Johnstown bravehearts

By John Knox, Kilkenny People

**ONE almost cold-blooded answer relating to a happening all of 23 years ago gave a glimpse into the soul, showed the essence of the being. The key was turned, and the mystery of the hidden spirit that lies deep within, was revealed.**

"I could not wait to get back to beat Limerick", he said as a sharp coldness swept through the voice, not for an instant even considering that there was a chance the Shannonsiders might win again.

"That had to be done", he galloped on, eyes alight with the memory of a sweet victory he helped attain. "It just had to be done. It was as simple as that. There was no other way about it. No disrespect to Limerick, but they just weren't going to win that day".

The firm words of Pat Henderson, Kilkenny county hurler of 17 years, told one story. His body language another.

Together they painted a telling image. Helped give an understanding of the volcanic-like spirit, the fire that burned deep within and turned easy-going street gentleman into fierce warrior on a hurling field.

The pleasure-giving event we were speaking about was the All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1974. It was a repeat of the previous year's decider. In '73 the Cats limped into battle minus four of their Leinster championship winning side.

Between provincial and All-Ireland final, Eamon Morrissey emigrated to Australia. Jim Treacy and Eddie Keher picked up injuries. Kieran Purcell joined the fray at half-time, still less than fully fit after an appendix operation.

## Wished life away

Henderson, Treacy, Larkin, Cummins, Crotty, Delaney and company all but wished their lives away in the 12 months between the games. They wanted to put the record straight. A 1-14 to 1-21 defeat one year was turned into a 3-19 to 1-13 victory the next.

Henderson did well both years, and was picked on the All-Star teams.

He mellowed again as we moved on: "I had to live '73 to enjoy '74", he enlightened. "You prepare well and get fired up. That was my career in full. There were ups and downs".

There sure were. He played in a hard to believe 10

senior All-Irelands. He enjoyed a 50% success rate.

His brothers, Ger and John followed in his footsteps. Like their big brother, both won minor All-Irelands, Ger as a sub in 1972, John as corner-back on the team of 1975. Pat pioneered the trail in 1961, and then took the route to the senior team via the county intermediate side.

The "boys" took the current orthodox route, and played at under-21 level, again winning All-Irelands. By the time John, 14 years a junior to Pat, retired, the Johnstown hurling brothers had given a remarkable 52 years service between them to Kilkenny at all levels. And they amassed nineteen All-Ireland winners medals.

If there were pension rights within the GAA, then surely the Hendersons', Pat, Ger. and John had earned their books.

You have often heard it said of certain sporting types: "They are made of great stuff. You could depend your life on them".



The Henderson Dynasty John, Pat and Ger

The Hendersons' prompted such eulogies many a time. Brave, honest, hard, dependable, loyal, fair. Brilliant, fantastic, incredible. Still room to be gentlemanly. All that and more was written about them. All hard-earned plaudits too.

Two dazzling and teak tough centre-backs. And a gutsy, uncompromising full-back line defender.

## After life

Another thing about the Hendersons that was they all enjoyed an after-life, or hurling life beyond their playing careers.

Pat took over as manager of the Kilkenny seniors in 1978. After sharing the duties with Eddie Keher for the All-Ireland win of '79, he helped plunder a never before achieved All-Ireland/National League double-double in 1982 and '83.

In fact, in the earlier year a treble was accomplished, because the Noresiders won the Division A and B Leagues, as well as the McCarthy Cup.

That reign lasted up to the 'nineties. Even this season, Pat was still involved, be it as manager at club level with Dicksboro, in the senior championship.

Meanwhile, Ger has been a selector at senior, minor and under-21 level with the county. As manager, he guided the Fenians into a county final against Glenmore. These times his energy is channelled into the under-21 club team.

"Sure I love the game, and anyway, what else would I be doing", wondered Ger (43) when asked about his continued commitment.

John (40) only hung up his boots last season. He went out on a high. He lined out at full-forward, and scored a point, in Glenealy's victory in the Wicklow senior hurling championship.

“This was the first year I walked away from the game”, explained John, who won his first All-Ireland with the county vocational team in 1973. “Even when I finished with Johnstown, I reckoned there was more in me. When I won with Glenealy, and at my age, I said this was as good as it gets. So I quit”.

### **Entered arena**

He too has been on the management merry-go-round. He was boss with Wicklow on two separate occasions, in 1984/85 and again in 1991, after he retired from the inter-county scene.

“Pat was the inspiration”, Ger. admitted. “My father died when I was 15. I was close to Pat. I looked up to him, and as a player, I wanted to be like him, to be as good as him”.

He didn't do half bad. Like his brother before him who had proved himself to be a lover of the big time, Ger did the same. He won five All-Star awards.....each one in a year in which he played in an All-Ireland final.

Pat received infectious encouragement from his father, Gerard, whose own sporting passion was bike racing. Yet, Mr. Henderson (senior) had a zeal for hurling, and he revered the Gaelic heroes of the day.

Pat Henderson attended Thurles CBS. The Christian Brothers spotted the talent, worked on it, and the rest, as they say, is history. He won his first medal at under-15 level with Thurles.

And ironically, to claim his first All-Ireland gold in 1961, he had to inflict the pain of defeat on some former colleagues. Tipperary were the team beaten in the final. Thurles CBS boys included.

Being handed the jersey with the famous black and amber stripes was, to him, like winning the Lotto. Now in a very, very different era you know values have changed, and dramatically.

“There was something about the jersey, and wearing it”, he recalled. “That was always fiercely important. The image, the meaning behind it”.

Winning that minor all-Ireland was a proud day for the Hendersons', and all Johnstown hurling folk. The pleasant North Kilkenny town was not exactly a hurling stronghold at the time.

When Pat won his first senior medal in 1967, it was an even bigger moment. He was the first Johnstown person since John Holohan, the full-back on the 1922 team, to win a senior medal.

### **Difference**

There was an important distinction. In the pre-parish rule times, Mr. Holohan played his club hurling with Tullaroan. Henderson played with his own people, the parish team, the Fenians.

His achievement was a catalyst of sorts for the club, a junior outfit at the time. When Kilkenny won the senior All-Ireland again in 1969, Henderson was joined on the team by clubmate, Pat Delaney.

The trickle through of talent was getting stronger. Nicky Orr, Billy Fitzpatrick, P.J. Ryan, Shem Delaney and others followed after.

The Henderson hurling dynasty was established. By the time Pat moved off the stage in 1978, Ger already had two senior All-Irelands in the bag. John won his first in Pat's first year as manager.

“I suppose I would have to admit it was tough following after the two lads”, John conceded. “You are never as

good as your brothers in the eyes of the public.

“I always played on the full-back line, and they did most of their hurling at half-back. Any time I saw them on the full-back line I wasn't too impressed. But I feel sure I would have been very good on the 40”, he laughed.

When many had doubts about the “kid” making it, he received a tough baptism of fire in his debut All-Ireland final against Galway. He was against P.J. Molloy, the hot, hot forward of the season. And Molloy threw over the first point of the match after only a few seconds.

“I remember a friend of mine had joked he had a £5 bet that I would be the first player taken off”, John recalled. “That went through my mind after Molloy's score. I said hell, I better get stuck in here, so I did. Things worked out well afterwards”.

His survival plan always was to concentrate, first and foremost, on stopping his man scoring. Each minute that passed without a score being conceded brought him a minute closer to achieving his goal.

“There were a lot more spectacular people before and after me”, John said. “In a playing sense I was afraid of no one. The bigger the game, the better I liked it. I always felt the pressure was on my opponent. He had to score or do something spectacular to be deemed a success. I just had to stop him”.

### **The drive**

While the three brothers soldiered for years at club level, Ger reckoned they only played together once, in some obscure fixture, with Kilkenny. He couldn't even remember the match.

“What kept driving me on was I hated losing”, Ger, a Texaco award winner in 1979, said of his near fanatical approach to the game. “I was a bad loser. Not bad in the sense that I could not take it. I could. But losing upset me so much I might not sleep for nights thinking about the game.

“All I ever wanted to do when I was growing up was to win an All-Ireland”, added the senior captain of 1978. “It was my goal. Then when I did it, I liked it so much I wanted to do it again and again”.

Never was his commitment tested more than in the All-Ireland final of 1987 against Galway. In an accidental tangle with an opponent during the opening period, Ger's hand was sliced opened in the middle of the four fingers of his left hand. He thundered on. Played a star match. Sure he is a Henderson. You would expect nothing less!

### **Some of their honours**

**Pat Henderson** – 5 senior All-Irelands (1967, '69, '72, '74, '75,); 2 National Leagues (1966, 1976); 1 minor all-Ireland (1961); 5 Railway Cups with Leinster, including one as captain; 5 Kilkenny SHC; 1 Leinster club medal; 3 three Oireachtas; 2 All-Star awards; 1 Texaco award; 10 Leinster SHC.

**Ger Henderson** – 5 senior All-Irelands (1974, '75, '79, '82, 1983); 3 National Leagues (1976, '82, 1983); 2 under-21 all-Irelands (1974, '75); 1 minor all-Ireland 1972 (sub); 2 Railway Cups; 5 All-Star awards; 1 Oireachtas; 1 Texaco award (1979); 8 Leinster SHC.

**John Henderson** – 3 senior All-Irelands (1979, '82, 1983); 4 National Leagues (1982, '83, 1986, 1991); 1 All-Ireland under-21(1977); 1 all-Ireland minor (1975); 1 Railway cup (1988); 1 All-Star (1983); 1 Oireachtas; 8 Leinster championships.

## CAMOGIE REPORT

# Lisdowney Fall at the Last Hurdle



### Lisdowney Senior Camogie All-Ireland Finalists

**Back:** Sandra Gleeson, Adrian Finan (Trainer), Theresa Rowe, Aine Dunne, Kelly Long, Olivia Donnelly, Ann Downey, Angela Downey-Browne, Catherine Dunne, Miriam Holland, Lizzy Fogarty, Ann Holland, Deirdre Morrissey.  
**Front:** Deirdre Delaney, Claire Tallis, Bridget Barnaville, Fran Shore, Ann Marie Hughes (Captain), Marina Downey, Anna Whelan, Noelle O'Driscoll (Selector), Kevin Kavanagh (Selector).  
*Photo: Tom Brett*

**A** first Club Championship Senior Medal win is a memorable occasion in the life of a Camogie player, but for the players from Lisdowney the winning of their fifth Senior Championship was the start of what was to be a most memorable and enjoyable year.

Lisdowney's progress to the county final included wins over Ballycallan, Freshford and Shamrocks in the semi-final, and the latter win qualified us for another tilt at Freshford in the County final. Nowlan Park was the venue for what proved to be a classic county final on 11 July against Freshford.

Lisdowney got off to a storming start with the forwards flying and it was only in the second half did Lisdowney come under any real pressure. Twice Freshford came within minutes of ending Lisdowney's impressive run.



### Safe with Grandad

Shem Downey with his grandchildren, Katie and Conor Browne at a camogie match.

But when the chips were really down the champions were able to call on extra reserves to save the day. With 5 minutes remaining Lisdowney were two points ahead, Miriam Holland made the save of the season when she made a point blank stop and thus saved the day for Lisdowney.

Lisdowney continued on their winning way when they took on Dublin Champions Celtic at Lisdowney. Their meeting with Laois Champions Camross in the Leinster Club Final was a show of guts and commitment. But it was the All-Ireland Club semi-final over Munster Champions Granagh-Ballingarry that really brought out what was best in the Lisdowney girls. Their skill and fitness was a joy to behold by all who were lucky to be in Lisdowney on 2nd November. To be involved in an All-Ireland was the highlight of the year.

Though failing narrowly at the final hurdle to All Ireland champions Pearses of Galway, Lisdowney performed with great skill and commitment.

Bus loads of supporters travelled to Galway and all the efforts by the girls were appreciated. From January to November it had been a long, but enjoyable 11 months. Team trainers Adrian Finan and Fiona O' Driscoll had worked hard with the girls and selectors Noelle O'Driscoll and Kevin Kavanagh also played a vital part in the preparations.

Senior Panel: Miriam Holland, Bridget Barnaville, Fran Shore, Kelly Long, Olivia Donnelly, Ann Downey, Catherine Dunne, Marina Downey, Angela Downey-Browne, Anna Whelan, Ann-Marie Hughes (Captain) Aine Dunne, Sandra Gleeson, Lizzie Fogarty, Clare Tallis, Deirdre Delaney, Deirdre Morrissey, Ann Holland and Theresa Rowe.

The Juniors also captured the County Final thus achieving a unique county double, defeating St. Anne's twice, James Stephen's and Mullinavat. The girls played brilliantly

in the final to defeat Mooncoin by 3-7 to 0-4. Many thanks to mentors Anna Whelan and Bridget Barnaville for looking after the team for the year.

Junior Panel: Brid Blanchfield, Aisling Fitzpatrick, Teresa Rowe, Deirdre Morrissey, Ann Holland, Sandra Gleeson, Annie Murphy, Catherine O'Loughlin, Deirdre Hosey, Noelle O'Driscoll, Deirdre Delaney, Katie Kilkenny. Subs: Ann Marie Lacey, Veronica Walsh, Lesley Stapleton.

Our juvenile section didn't enjoy the same success as their adult counterparts, nevertheless they acquitted themselves admirably. On a few occasions it was our lack of scoring power that was just that little bit short. If all players continue to put in the same commitment their day will come soon. A special word of thanks to Bridget Barnaville, Mgt. Kenna and Lizzie Fogarty for their trojan work throughout the year.

The Lisdowney GAA Club's encouragement, helpfulness, reassuring and positive words have instilled in us a great pride in our small but proud parish. We are more

than fortunate to be associated with the Club. Many thanks to John Mackey for his indefatigable efforts. To Tony O'Hara, John Carroll, Shay Downey, Ollie & Brendan Blanchfield and to anybody who helped in anyway throughout the year, particularly with our staging of the All-Ireland semi-final, our sincere thanks. To our marvellous supporters who never lost faith in us, for the kind words and constant motivation we are very grateful.

To all our sponsors we are extremely grateful for all their kindness, we are as always in their debt. Many thanks to Tommy Butler (Freshford) for all his assistance. To the hard working committee, who so selflessly gave of their time when asked, we are very grateful. Sincere thanks to all our Lotto supporters who's great work has been of enormous value to us.

Congratulations to Marina Downey named as "Smithwicks Camogie Sports Star" for 1997.

## ST ANNE'S CAMOGIE CLUB

### Under 16 County Final.

On Wednesday 10th September 1997, St Anne's took on Castlecomer in the U-16 County Camogie Final. The game started very well for St. Anne's when Annette Egan blasted a goal to the back of the net. Corner forward, Edel Maher, scored two points, followed by a great point by Claire Delaney.

The score at half time left St. Anne's very confident on a lead of 1-3 to no score.

However, the Castlecomer girls opened up their score line early in the second half with an excellent goal. This was followed by a point by St. Anne's captain, Orla Phelan from a thirty. Linda Crennan from Comer then scored another great goal which left St. Anne's girls just a point ahead.

The Saints struggled on to the end and took the Roinn B County Title on a score line of 1-4 to 2-0.

### St. Anne's Do It Again.

Riding on the crest of a wave, following the U-16 County Final success, the U-18's took to the field



**St. Anne's U-16 County Final Winners.**

**Back :** Barbara Brown, Mary Shortall, Lorraine McCarthy, Sarah Maher, Angela Quinlan, Marie Ann Tobin, Deirdre Doyle, Lisa Moriarty.

**Front :** Emer Power, Claire Delaney, Marguerite Hickey, Edel Maher, Orla Phelan (Capt), Theresa Glendon, Annette Egan, Eibhlis Delaney, Laura Murphy.

at Thomastown to contest the County Final against Mullinavat.

St. Anne's started the scoring with two early points, one from a free by Aine Henderson, followed by a well taken point by Catherine Doherty. The Midfielders were playing very well and this was rewarded with two

great goals by Lorraine McCarthy and Edel Maher. A strong St. Anne's defence was unyielding and limited Mullinavat to two points, scored from frees by Bridget Aylward, at half time. Half time score St. Anne's 2-2 Mullinavat 0-2.

St. Anne's started the second half



with growing confidence and an early goal by Edel Maher set the Saints up for a very convincing win. Goals by Edel Maher, Tricia Fitzpatrick and Orla Phelan put the contest beyond Mullinavat, whose only reply was a point which was countered by a great point by Claire

Delaney. Final score St. Anne's 6-5 Mullinavat 0-3.

Laura Murphy kept a clean sheet in goal pulling off some wonderful saves. The full back line of Therese Glendon, Annette Egan, Geraldine O'Loughlin and Orla Phelan did magnificent work, while midfielders,

Ailish Doyle, Aine Henderson and Claire Delaney, kept the ball flowing. The forwards, Catherine Doherty, Edel Maher, Lorraine McCarthy and Tricia Fitzpatrick performed excellently and subs, Angela Quinlan and Deirdre Doyle also did well.

## Danesfort Camogie Club

**C**amogie continued to grow and prosper in Danesfort in 1997 with the club competing in the under 18 championship for the first time. The club was pleased to welcome back some local girls who prior to 1997 could not compete at their age group due to the lack of numbers, and also to attract new players. We hope to consolidate on this and to move forward in the years ahead.

### Schools .

A young school team, small in stature but not in heart, played their way through to the Quarter finals where they were beaten by the eventual county champions.

#### Under 14.

In the U-14 championship, after good wins over James Stephen's, Lisdowney and Young Irelands, Danesfort were defeated in the Semi-final by a very talented Windgap team.

#### Under 16.

A very talented U16 panel in their first outing had a comprehensive victory over Lisdowney with a narrower victory over Young Irelands before being defeated by James Stephens in the final round. The team qualified to meet Thomastown in the county semi-final where they were narrowly defeated in a closely contested and entertaining game.

#### Under 18.

This was the club's first year in this age group with a surprising



**Danesfort Camogie Club**

*Back:* Carol Ireland, Susie Ireland, Karina Saunders, Niamh O'Hanrahan, Lisa Marnell, Julie-Anne Woodcock, Michelle Morris, Aileen O'Hanrahan, Gemma Dillon, Marie Carroll, Elaine Phelan, Orla Saunders, Grainne O'Keeffe, Marian Walsh, Aoife Marnell, Roisin Carey, Natasha Cousin, Aideen Carey, Aileen Phelan, Yvonne Martin, Niamh Gaffney *Front:* Amy Marnell, Louise Maher, Emer Gaffney, Deirdre Brennan, Emma King, Jane Dillon, Laura King, Maria Dooley, Tina Hoyne, Emma Maher, Aoife Treacy.

outcome where the girls again won through to the county semi-final with victories over Carrickshock and James Stephens. In a rain-drenched Ballyhale, the hard battling young Danesfort squad succumbed to a stronger and more experienced Mullinavat. The club looks forward to working with this panel again in 1998.

#### **Alan Murphy Memorial Tournament.**

In the expanded Alan Murphy Memorial U-16 Tournament, Danesfort caused a few surprises in retaining the trophy for their third successive year. In their first game, Danesfort were drawn against City kingpins Dicksboro, who were considered by many to be the team to qualify from this section. After a thrilling win, Danesfort went on to defeat Tullogher, winners over Young Irelands, thereby qualifying for the tournament final. Here they were to meet St. Brigid's Ballycallan who qualified from

the other group which contained teams of the calibre of Bennettsbridge, James Stephens and Thomastown. The final again held in conjunction with the Parish "Field Day", attracted a sizeable audience and a hard fought and closely contested game maintained great interest up to the final whistle. Once again the determined Danesfort team overturned their fancied opponents to be victorious on the day. The Alan Murphy Memorial Cup and trophies were presented by the tournament sponsors John and Joan Murphy.

*Danesfort Panel :* Marie Carroll, Niamh Gaffney, Roisin Carey, Lisa Marnell, Orlaith Saunders, Lorraine Lawlor(Capt), Marian Walsh, Natasha Phelan, Aileen Carey, Aoife Treacy, Yvonne Martin, Aileen Hanrahan, Breda O'Neill, Elaine Phelan, Marie Dooley, Deirdre Brennan, Jane Dillon, Julie Burke, Vivien Walsh.

# SCÓR 1997



Recitation : Harry Bryan



Question time - John Bowden and Eamon Dunne



Instrumental music (Emeralds) - Danny Webster, Pat Wall, Seamus Webster



Novelty Act : Pat Dunphy, Seamus Kearns, Jim Kearns, Martina Dalton, John Gallagher, Pat Dalton



Ballad Group (Emeralds)- Hannah Hogan, Marie Drennan, Mary Murphy, Margaret Murphy, Pat Wall



Ceili dancing (Emeralds)- Laura Comerford, Carol Comerford, Maureen Wall, Mary Drennan, Anna Fox, Julie Drennan



Set Dancing (Emeralds)- Phil Fogarty, Kitty Fogarty, Lil Hayden, Margaret Doyle, Joe Beehan, Mary Brennan, Michael Healy, Catherine Cody.

# The Clara 14 did it against all the odds

INTERMEDIATE HURLING LEAGUE

John Knox, Kilkenny People

**THIS is one of those things that will have to be seriously addressed in Kilkenny, because it adds a degree of difficulty to an already difficult life for clubs. There is no ready-made solution, however.**

There are pressures on the one hand, from within the county, to fit in local matches, and from outside, to cope with a very crowded inter-county programme. The juggling of the fixtures that goes on behind the scenes would astound, because the rules of engagement change every year, and sometimes from week to week at the height of the season.

The serious conundrum is.....how to keep games flowing freely, one after the other. Not to have big gaps between rounds, particularly between the end of the qualifying stages and the start of the sudden death sections in the senior and intermediate hurling leagues.

Admittedly, the Co. Board has been trying to come to grips with the difficulty, along with bidding to kill the perceived "second class" status of the leagues. This is a perception that is peculiar to the GAA, because in virtually every other sport proving yourself over the long haul, in a league, is THE thing.

The seeds of that GAA image were sown a long, long time ago, and they thrive to this day. Apparently, Kilkenny are thinking of trying something different to change the mind set.

#### Over seas trip

An idea to put up a sizeable monetary prize, or an overseas trip, for the winners has been discussed. One or the other could be on the way. Anything would be worth trying!

The difficulties these delays cause were highlighted by Clara's involvement in the intermediate hurling league final. Between the time Clara were knocked out of the championship (August 31), and their next game, the league final (October 19), the gap stretched to a lengthy



Anthony Prendergast receives Vale Oil Intermediate League Trophy from John Healy, Chairman CLG. Representing Vale Oil is Sales Manager, Michael Hayes. Photo: Tommy O'Neill

seven weeks.

A long time to keep players interested, and keep them coming to the field for training, particularly so when there was no date set for the final. At least if that had been set, everyone could focus on it. Talk about operating in a vacuum.

In fairness to the Co. Board, their hands were tied, because of the huge number of fixtures. The good thing is that the difficulty is recognised. The bad thing is that a solution is not easily found.

At least Clara coped admirably. They won the league final. And they did it the hard way at that. They were reduced to 14-men for most of the second half. Still they beat neighbours and great rivals, Bennettsbridge by 1-12 to 1-8.

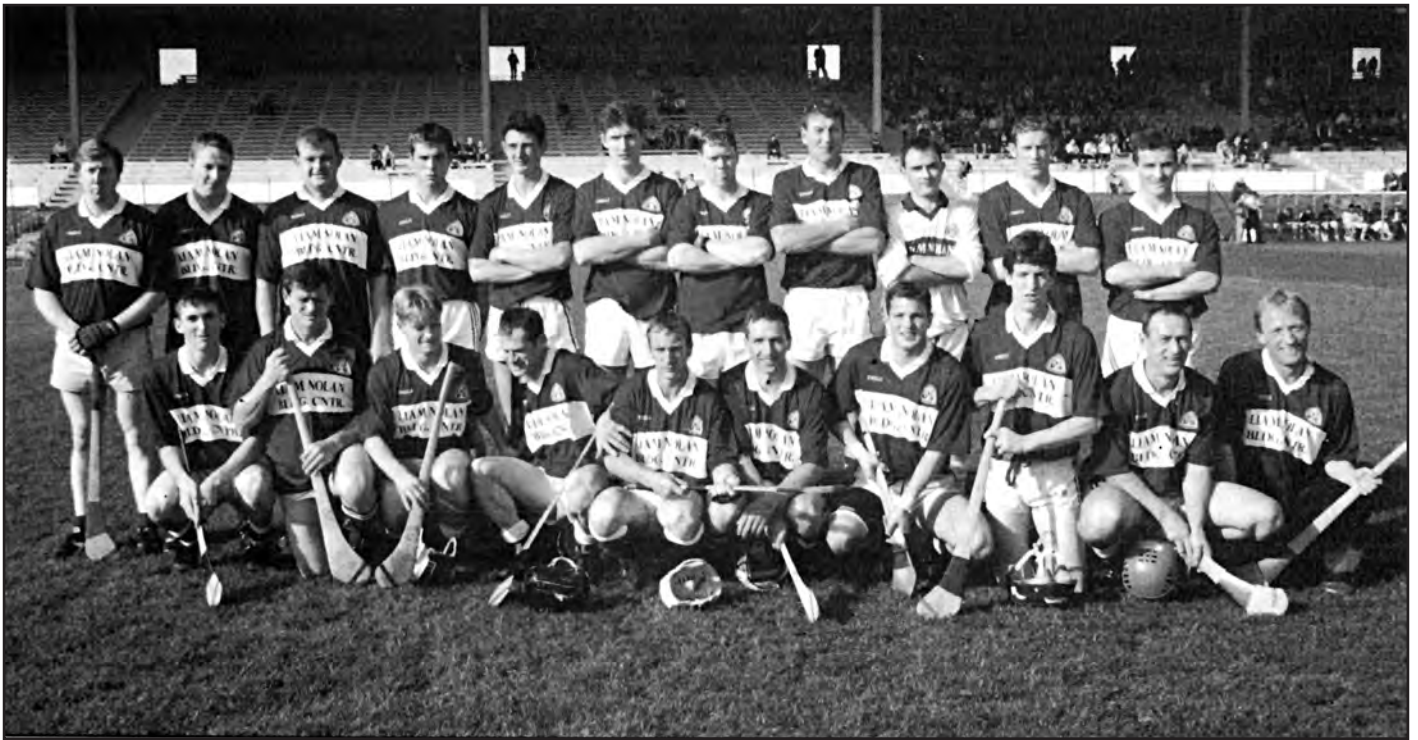
#### Indelible mark

The man who left an indelible mark on the final was Clara's 'Captain Courageous' Anthony Prendergast. The play-anywhere skipper, who saw duty in goal, in defence, midfield and attack during the season, slapped over six points in the final. This was after picking himself up off the ground during the opening half having been felled by a heavy knock.

Prendergast is one of the finest strikers of a sliothar, not only in Kilkenny, but in Ireland. In the final he gave a display of free taking. With a free flowing, almost golf-like stroke, he arrowed over points from all angles and distances.

A well taken 20th minute goal by Rory Moore, added to Prendergast's rush of points, drove Clara into a 1-6 to 0-5 half-time lead. They didn't get things all their own way, and three times the scores were level as the 'Bridge' slogged it gamely during the early stages.

After the change of ends, the Clara skipper slipped over another point. Then came the setback of having a man sent off. The 'Bridge, as has often happened to teams, found it difficult to work any worthwhile advantage out of the extra man.



**Clara Intermediate League Champions 1997**

**Back:** Pat Bolger, Patrick Langton, James Langton, Joe Tierney, Eamonn Phelan, Pat Barcoe, Dan McDonald, Anthony Prendergast, Anthony Murphy, Rory Moore, Michael Fitzgerald. **Front:** T.J.Fitzgerald, Johnny Ryan, Padraig Brennan, Kevin Ryan, Eamonn Whearty, Joe Casey, Martin Corrigan, Colman Ryan, Lester Ryan, Eugene Byrne. *Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

Sure, they managed to apply a bit more pressure, but the deficit at the time of the sending off – five points – and at the finish of the match – four points – hardly changed.

**Showed best**

The Clara fourteen all but ran the hearts out of themselves. Prendergast was brilliant, and the best came from Michael Fitzgerald, Eamon Whearty, Joe Casey, Lester Ryan, Rory Moore and Kevin Ryan when their backs were to the wall.

It was a fine way for Clara to finish out the season. And, you know what, had the league final been played earlier, the boost in confidence could have done who knows what good for them. Anyway, well done all!

Good for Bennettsbridge were Richard Moran, Tommy

Lannon, Pakie Lannon, Liam Simpson and James McGarry.

Interesting to note that, in an earlier round of the league, the 'Bride beat Clara by 1-12 to 0-10.

**Clara** team in final – A. Murphy, E. Whearty, M. Fitzgerald, J. Treacy, E. Phelan, P. Brennan, K. Ryan, J. Casey, A. Prendergast (capt), M. Carrigan, C. Ryan, R. Moore, D. McDonald, L. Ryan, P. Barcoe.

**Bennettsbridge** – J. McGarry, J. Byrne, L. Simpson, L. Mahon, J. Dowling, T. Drea, A. Walpole, R. Moran, P. Lannon, J. Drea, J. Lannon, C. Dooley, F. Cleere, T. Lannon, W. Dowling. Sub – S. Moran.

*Referee – P. Hayes (Graigue-Ballycallan)*



**South Kilkenny - Leinster Minor League Winners:** *Back:* Peter Mullally, Richard Roche, Aidan Cummins, Brian cantwell, JP O'Neill, Henry Shefflin, Tommy Coogan. *Middle:* Paul Knox, Brian Fleming, Eoin Doyle, Tom Walsh, Niall McCormack, James Walsh, Sean Tyler, John Hickey, Pat Butler, Brian O'Shea, Ken Moore, Noel Hickey, Colin Herity, James Murray, *Front:* Fr Liam Barron, Dermot Haberlin, Bobby Jackman, Jimmy Dunne, Joe Pyke, Tom Deleahunty, James Norris. *Photo: Tom Brett*

**A familiar face at most games, Tommy Connolly's eighty six years has been entwined with many of the old traditional values, with the game of hurling up near the top.**

From Harristown in the shadow of "Leac an Scail", the great stone dolmen known as the "Druids Rock", he played, refereed and supported games all over the country in good times and in hard times. In the early years, it was walking, then by bicycle, all over the South to Kilkenny and Waterford and then by train to Dublin and Killarney in "37" all before the advent of the car.

One of a family of fifteen his early memories are of thirty to forty playing the game in the local fields in the evenings as there was nothing else to do. His big games were played in his father's fields in the thirties when Mooncoin, Thomastown, Carrickshock and Hugginstown competed in the Junior Championships.

Raised in Garryduff, he attended school in Templeorum and moved to Harristown when he was ten, where he was taught by Peter Walsh an intercounty referee of the time.

In his playing days, he lined out for Hugginstown in the forwards reaching the County Final in 1941 against ÉireÓg, having defeated the Rower. Against an opposition that contained Paddy Grace at fullback, with Mick Brett and Jack Mulcahy, they came from two points behind near the end to win. His brother John, Patsy Corcoran, Paddy and Jimmy Hearne were on the local side. Along with Larry O'Gorman, Skeough, they are the only survivors of a Divisional Final appearance. His younger brother, Dick, won county honours in 1954 with Carrickshock.

A neighbour of Divisional Chairman Johnny Lonergan, he was cajoled into refereeing and through Secretary Seamus McKenna, went on to referee a minor County Football Final and the meeting of Mooncoin and Knocktopher in the Southern Final

# Tommy Connolly



**Tommy Connolly**

played in Irish's field in Owing in the early sixties where Denis Heaslip, Neddy Hogan, Joe and Dick Dunphy lined out in opposition. Fetes and tournaments were regular events, where referees got "no pay, a cup of tea and whatever abuse was going".

As a spectator, he travelled the country with Dick Power and Pat Fitzgerald, nowadays commuting with neighbours and Piltown supporters Andy and Denis McCarthy. A non drinker and non smoker, he worked with local

farmers all his life. He resides with his brother Paddy, sisters Ellie and Alice, who along with Dick and Annie are all octogenarians. Card games are his other big pastime, once played nightly in neighbours houses. He now travels with Nancy Dwyer and Bid Moran to twenty five drives.

Fitted with a pacemaker five years ago, he is now as active as ever and can be seen gardening with every vegetable and a couple of long rows of potatoes all dug, barrowed and pitted by hand. The first sign of a break in the summer weather would bring out the fork for the turning and cocking of hay.

Over the years he has seen many changes and "all for the better". He remembers some of the great names including Neddy Doyle, Wattie Dunphy, Paddy Phelan, Lory and Henry Meagher. In more recent times among the stars was his neighbour, Liam McCarthy.

Today he feels there are "too many attractions and pubs". Comparing players, he feels the present stars "all have a good and bad day" whereas the old hurlers "had a good day every day". This remarkable gentleman looks forward to many more good days and games.



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Keep your eye on the ball, Philly....Kilkenny's **Philly Larkin** shows great concentration as he races away with the ball, closely followed by **Rory Boland**, in the Leinster championship game against Dublin. Photo - Tom Brett



Leave him alone....Kilkenny defender **Liam Simpson** stands watch over **Adrian Ronan** as he clears the ball against Galway in the All Ireland quarter final. The Galway player is **Justin Campbell**. [Sportsfile]

# Blazing a Trail: Monsignor Maher and the GAA

Fr F. Ó Fearghail

**F**or many years now 'coaching' has been taken for granted in GAA circles. But the concept was unheard of forty years ago when Fr Tommy Maher took over the Kilkenny senior hurling team. Little or no thought was put into the preparation of teams before the contest apart from individuals who might have thought about how best to play an opponent. The same was true for team tactics or combination on the field. That changed in Kilkenny when the thirty five year old Gowran man agreed to take over the training of the senior team on the invitation of a rather despondent county secretary Paddy Grace (Kilkenny had not won an All-Ireland since 1947) and the urgings of Bennettsbridge (then county champions). Fr Maher was to be in complete charge of the preparation of the team but was not a selector nor was he involved in making changes on the field. Although he had guided St. Kieran's to All-Ireland glory that year, the Leinster final of 1957 was really the first major test of his philosophy.

Wexford with an exceptional team of strong, skilful and clean hurlers were the king pins of hurling in the country at the time. They had already won successive All-Irelands in the previous years (and should have won four, according to Mgr Maher). And while Kilkenny had talent and skill, they could not match Wexford at their own game, nor did they have sufficient combination. A strategy was developed to concentrate on the use of ground hurling and the quick low ball to the forwards - never above shoulder high. The plan worked well and Wexford suffered a major and unexpected defeat. Kilkenny went on to beat an exceptionally good Waterford team in the All-Ireland final. Ned Power, the great Waterford goalie who was later to work with Mgr. Maher as a coach, attributes Kilkenny's win over what he considers a superior Waterford team



Monsignor Tom Maher

to Fr Maher's intelligent coaching.

For ten years before Fr Maher joined Kilkenny the county team had been in the hurling doldrums. When he 'retired' as coach twenty-one years later in 1978 Kilkenny had won seven All Irelands under his tutelage. It was a remarkable achievement by any standards, but particularly so since it coincided with the presence on the hurling scene of great teams from Wexford, Cork, Tipperary and Waterford. But perhaps more remarkable and certainly less well-known is the fact that in that time he and a small group of 'thinking' hurlers succeeded in first making coaching respectable and then fully accepted in GAA hurling circles.

The three pioneers in the field were Fr Maher, Dessie Ferguson of Dublin and Donie Nealon of Tipperary. They were later to be joined by two other teachers, Ned Power of Waterford and Sean Hanly of Clare, and later still by Diarmuid Healy. In 1962 the three pioneers were invited by the GAA authorities to prepare "an instructional course" in hurling. It was part of Alf Murray's vision for hurling and was set up under the auspices of An Coiste Iomána. The word coaching was never used. It was a term regarded with some suspicion in the higher echelons of the GAA, Dessie Ferguson recalls. Perhaps it was

thought that coaching would suppress individuality. Perhaps it was too reminiscent of other codes.

For the best part of a year the three met in a room in Barry's Hotel in Dublin, and "on good days" in Croke Park. They dissected the game of hurling, breaking down and describing ninety or so skills and counter skills (e.g. blocking, hooking, tackling, etc.) and they indicated how each should be practised. The idea was that they would prepare coaches from all over the country who would in turn teach these skills at under age level in their counties. The time needed to learn the basic skills of the game would thus be much reduced and faults problems could be identified and ironed out at an early stage. Later in Gormanston, Fr. Jackie Moran, who had been making films from his north Kilkenny base in Galmoy for many years, was enlisted to make coaching films. This was certainly trail blazing stuff.

Fr Tommy, Dessie Ferguson recalls, was "the leading trainer of the time" - the manager, coach and trainer all rolled into one - with a vast



Des Ferguson

experience of training All-Ireland teams both at college and county level. His coaching and organisational abilities were second to none. Those who took part in this phase and later phases of this ground-breaking work point to his thoughtful, reflective approach, his insights into the skills of hurling, tactics and the coaching of teams,

and his readiness to share his knowledge with others. He had a real grasp of what he was about, Donie Nealon recalls, and a self-confidence and authority that struck all who came into contact with him. Who could not be moved by the evident enthusiasm for the game of this quiet spoken man with his crooked pipe,



**Donie Nealon**

who insisted over and over again on the importance of getting the basic skills of the game right, and who communicated his deep knowledge of the game with an economy of words, a dexterity of expression and a generosity of spirit that won disciples far and wide.

One such disciple, Ned Power of Waterford, acknowledging his “wonderful contribution” to the game, recalled how he inspired him to reflect on the game and the wonder of its skills, and how he brought him and many others to appreciate how much effort was needed to master these skills. In Ned’s words he taught them that it is not practice that makes perfect but proper practice - otherwise you could practice the wrong thing again and again and as an acquaintance of his once said “Tis worse you’d be improving”. For him and for many others Fr. Tommy is seen as the Father of coaching - the inspiration of a sea change in attitudes and in the direction of hurling in Ireland.

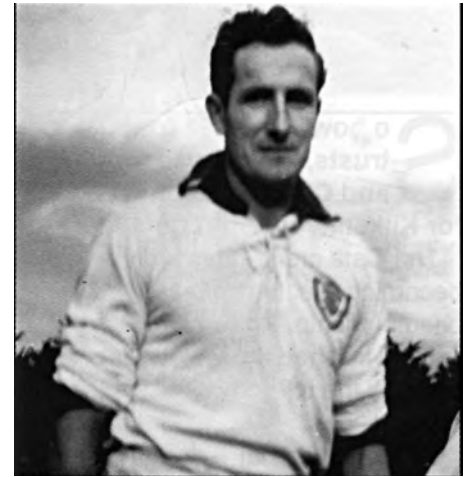
Mgr. Maher’s own active hurling career was brief. He played junior and senior hurling with St. Kieran’s, captaining the College to a Leinster senior championship in 1941. The previous year he starred at midfield in a marvellous game in Nowlan Park in

which Leinster (with Nicky Rackard at full forward) won a thrilling extra time victory over Munster in the interprovincial final. His minor career with Kilkenny lasted part of one game - he was knocked out in a championship game against Dublin in Wexford and Kilkenny lost. While a student for the priesthood in Maynooth (1941-48) he was picked to play at right half forward alongside Jim Langton in the 1945 All-Ireland against Tipperary in the wake of a great midfield display in a club championship game a couple of weeks earlier. He scored 1-1 that day (“An Camán” in the Post highlighted his a “fine display”) but Kilkenny lost. He won a Kilkenny senior championship medal with Thomastown in 1946 - he played in their crucial semi-final match against James Stephens in which his “powerful” second-half display (to quote “An Camán”) was a crucial factor. He was back in Maynooth for the final. Ordained in 1948 he decided to hang up his boots and end his active involvement in hurling. But the best laid plans of.... Perhaps it was the brevity of his active hurling career that led him to devote so much thought to the game and how it should be played, perhaps it was his natural reflective spirit.

In 1952-54 he found himself a curate in Crumlin where hurling was highly organised at school level by the Christian Brothers (to whom, he gladly admits, the GAA owes a debt it can never repay). Brother McCormack invited him to become involved in hurling and a new club, St. Columbas, named after the school and closely associated with it, was formed. His new ‘career’ had begun. He was also involved with the Dublin minors, even accompanying them to play Kilkenny in Nowlan Park. His only major ‘disaster’ in Dublin was in a street league competition that was run in conjunction with the Kimmage-Crumlin civic week. The final played before a huge crowd had to be abandoned ten minutes from the end after a controversial free and a ‘sit-down’ by the penalised party. It was, he says, “a black day for me in Crumlin”.

He was recalled to St. Kieran’s to take over the teaching of English from the late Bishop Birch in 1953, obtained the H.Dip in Maynooth in

1955, and returned to teach maths in St. Kieran’s the following year. He



**Ned Power**

took over its hurling team and had immediate success, winning All-Ireland championships in 1957 and 1959 and in 1961 with a marvellous display in Thurles against North Mon. He trained the county team to three Leinster championship wins from 1957 to 1959 and to memorable All-Ireland finals against Waterford in 1957 and 1959 and a semi-final against Tipperary in 1958. His ability as a ‘manager’ (to use a modern term) was unquestioned. He related very well to the players. He knew them, knew what they were capable of, and was able to bring them with him as he forged what was in reality a new approach to the game. It was a great asset that he could communicate his ideas and instructions clearly and concisely. The experience and the knowledge gained in those years made him an obvious choice for the ‘instructional’ course of 1962.

The Gormanston course that stemmed from it soon became an institution, with coaches being prepared for every county in Ireland. Donie Nealon credits Fr. Maher with doing more than anyone else to break down the barriers between counties. He was prepared to share the knowledge of many years experience with all who would listen from whatever part of Ireland - his mission, Donie puts it, was to spread the gospel of hurling particularly in the weaker counties. Anyone who has attended these course knows exactly what he means. It was not an easy task to have this new philosophy accepted. One student of his in St. Kieran’s recalls Fr Maher





**Fr. Maher with All-Ireland Winning Panel 1967 and Mentors.**

*Back:* Paddy Moran, Noel Skehan, John Kinsella, Frank Cummins, Brendan Phelan, Liam Dalton,

*Middle:* Billy Culleton, Jim Lynch, Tom Walsh, Fr. Patsy Foley, Claus Dunne, Sheamie Cleere, Chew Leahy, Jim Bennett, Ted Carroll, Pat Carroll, T.J. Bergin.

*Front:* Fr. Tommy Maher, Mick Lanigan, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Ollie Walsh, Jim Treacy, John Teehan, Dick Blanchfield, Tom Nolan, Pa Dillon and Paddy Grace.

arguing passionately in those years for the need for coaching in hurling - just as much as in golf or in other sports.

In a recent interview Mgr Maher again emphasised that the first priority of the coach must be the skills of the game and their development - put rather bluntly, it's no use making a tremendous athlete who can't hit the ball. He lamented the passing of the handpassed goal - replaced now

by the "inglorious" kicked goal. The handpass had speeded up the game, he maintained, cutting down on dangerous melees and lessening the possibility of serious injuries. In a parting comment he called for more uniformity in refereeing.

As the Monsignor prepares to celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination and to retire from his pastorate of Mullinavat next year - it

is meet and just to recognise the immeasurable contribution he has made to hurling not just in Kilkenny but throughout the country. For Donie Nealon, Mgr. Maher's ideas are every bit as pertinent today as they were back in the early 60s when he set out to spread the "gospel of hurling" and "to make the weak strong".

**Best Wishes to All Kilkenny Teams  
in 1998**



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**Launch of Babs Keating's book - "Babs" - Babs Keating with Mickey Walsh, Jim Fogarty, Martin Storey and Nickey Brennan.**

*Photo: Tom Brett*



**"On behalf of my husband...." Breda Fennelly stands in for Brendan at Dunamaggin celebrations. Looking on are Breda's mother, Moira and sister, Sinead.**

# 1997 - THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT COULD HAVE BEEN

Enda McEvoy

**S**o how was 1997 for you, then? Better, one trusts, than it was for Di and Mother Teresa and Charlie Haughey. Better also than it was for Kilkenny hurling. Consider.

The Cats created unwanted, ineradicable history by becoming the first county ever to lose twice in the same championship.

They finished the well-beaten finalists in what was patently the inferior of the two big provincial competitions.

Of the traditional three powers laid low by Clare, they were the ones laid low most convincingly.

Handed the chance of ending the year on a high by winning the piece of silverware that the amount of hurling they had done during the season suggested they were not unentitled to, they to all intents and purposes threw in the towel in the semi-final of hurling's second most important competition.

Concluding that there was nothing more they could do short of beating their heads against a brick wall (or was that what they were doing anyway...?), the manager and selectors resigned an hour later.

It is now four years, going on five years, since Kilkenny defeated top-rank opponents in a championship match at Croke Park. Half a year short of half a decade. Not a statistic to be proud of.

To pile on the displeasure, the 1997 minors and under-21s succumbed with barely a whimper to teams that could by no stretch of the imagination have been described as being more skilful. No, not a good year, regardless of the angle from which one views it.

But, to be fair and unsensational, not a terrible year either. By no stretch of the imagination was 1997 that on Noreside. The bleak picture painted in the preceding paragraphs is not the whole picture.

For the first time since that 1993 McCarthy Cup triumph, the Black and Amber were serious contenders again. For the first time, etc, they gave their followers an extended summer. They scored a truly exhilarating victory in the most dramatic match of the year. They uncovered a healthily extensive quota of promising new faces. For the third time in four seasons and the second season in succession, the team which ended their interest in the championship was the team which went on to bring home the ultimate silverware. No shame on any of these counts, you'll agree - and less so given the enforced chopping and changing in goal, at full-back and

centre-back. A little more stability and security in defence would have gone a long way for the Cats. Sooner or later it will.

The current state of play might be summed up thus. Kilkenny are, if not there, then at least thereabouts. And moving in the right direction. And if, as the present writer suspects, the honours cycle is poised to shortly swing back towards the traditional big three, the leap from "there" to "thereabouts" will be no chasm.



DJ Carey, Brian Lohan, Liam Doyle, Charlie Carter and Frank Lohan in combat. [Sportsfile]

To negotiate the leap, two important on-field changes will be required (this assumes that the off-field wherewithal such as dressing room harmony and collective purpose is in place, as it must be for any winning side). Firstly, more physical presence in attack. Secondly, more points scored by that attack.

## SAME OLD PROBLEMS

Kilkenny's chronic absence, post-Christy Heffernan, of big men to lead the line has been too well documented to have to be rehashed here. But the bottom line remains the same. For their supposedly superior hurling to sway the day, the Cats first have to fight for - and win - the right to bring said hurling into play. As they did in the first half against Wexford. As they didn't do against Clare. Or, more accurately, were not allowed to do by a physically superior Clare.

Incidentally, you'd be surprised, or perhaps you wouldn't be, at the number of outsiders who willingly maintain that, all things being equal, there is no county to touch the Black and Amber for pure hurling skill. Many of the Clare players will concur. Of all the teams to have coming back at the Banner in the closing stages of an All Ireland semi-final, Kilkenny were the ones the Munster champions least wanted to see pouring forward on top of them. Thing is, by the time Kilkenny got around to doing the pouring forward, the game had already been long won and lost. All "things" were not equal, so the losers' nifty touches didn't enter the equation.

The second problem is similarly not new, although it was better disguised in 1992-93. Kilkenny do not score enough points from out the field. Goals, while they decide the majority of championship matches in this day and age, only really kick in in terms of importance when both sides have hit more or less the same number of points (e.g. Clare 1-18 Tipperary 0-18 in the Guinness Munster final). Kilkenny are good at scoring goals, thanks mostly

to the presence of one man (DJ Carey, if you have to be told). They are not good at scoring points.

An improvement in this respect manifested itself during the spring, with Charlie Carter, who went on to enjoy a fine season, being a regular contributor and the midfield chipping in with a couple of white flags per outing. But come the crunch in the championship the scores from long range dried up again. Eleven points against Wexford to their opponents' 14, 13 versus Clare to their opponents' 17: simply insufficient. Not until 16 or 17 points are landed per game and not until a consistently higher yield is returned by the half-forward line will the McCarthy Cup rest on Noreside again.

Despite the preponderance of 1992-93 survivors who made their way back into contention as the summer ripened, this was a relatively new Kilkenny team. New teams, by their very nature, lack experience in crunch situations. This team was no exception.

For all their early possession in the provincial showdown, the Cats failed to threaten Damien Fitzhenry's net until the concluding minute of the first



PJ Delaney in action in the Leinster Final.

[Sportsfile]

half. Contrast this with a few years ago, when Eamon Morrissey would have had the Wexford full-back line in knots. Inexperience showed its head upon the resumption, when the challengers bunched themselves to death up front. And the lack of nous was evident again versus Clare, when instead of popping over straightforward points in the closing ten minutes they naively insisted on going for goals against a defence which up to Liam Cahill's goal in the Guinness All Ireland final had conceded two green flags - one to Kerry, the other to Carey - in 340 minutes of championship hurling in 1997.

To be fair, it has to be admitted that the Black and Amber enjoyed little in the way of good fortune throughout. All was going swimmingly against Wexford until Eddie O'Connor's injury, which probably didn't cause Kilkenny's demise but unquestionably hastened it. A bigger loss was the absence of Michael Phelan, precisely the type who was needed to lead the attack, get stuck into the enemy rearguard and make space for his colleagues.

These qualities he showed to perfection in the next two outings, hitting two goals in the NHL quarter-final in Pairc Ui Chaoimh and one in the All Ireland quarter-final. The smooth target man's layoff for Carey's first goal against Galway in Thurles was the type of subtle, experienced touch the Cats had been missing all summer.

#### WHAT A COMEBACK!

Ah yes, the Galway game. It ain't wot you do, it's the way that you do it. The manner of Kilkenny's victory, the style with which they coolly came back from interval arrears of nine points, explained the exultation that engulfed their supporters afterwards. The determination of the O'Connors, the strength of Pat O'Neill, the hard

work of Andy Comerford, the magic of Carey: this was the Noresiders in full spate, a spate not witnessed since the championship of 1993. The O'Connell Street-wide grins of the faithful on the way out of Semple Stadium, the excitement in the pubs that night and the number of black and amber jerseys visible on High Street next day proved as much.

A team that loses both its full-back and its full-forward on the morning of an All Ireland semi-final cannot reasonably be expected to pull through. Had Michael Phelan been there to tie up Brian Lohan on the edge of the Clare square, had he broken even two clean balls for Carey...well, we'll never know what might or might not have happened. It is inarguable that Kilkenny would have

been a different, better proposition with the Glenmore man. Though they would not have been a better team than Clare, they might - just might - have shaded the issue. Yet is there a county that the Cats could possibly begrudge victory less to?

People will say, and have said, this, that and the other about Nickey Brennan and his fellow selectors. They cannot, to hark back to a

point made earlier, accuse them of being lucky (viz. the Phelan and Eddie O'Connor injuries). Much that was said about the mentors, indeed, was nonsense. The team that was supposed to be burned out in the Leinster final hurtled through like an express train to see off Galway a fortnight later and finished patently the stronger against Clare. In circumstances where other managements might have lost their heads, Brennan et al remained calm at half-time in the Galway match, avoided the temptation to make changes for changes' sake (Kilkenny were not playing badly enough for that, they were merely defending badly) and were duly rewarded. Nickey Brennan can take the rap for the county's pathetic exit to Wexford in 1996. He should not take the rap for the county's failure at the hands of superior teams in 1997.

His brother Canice? A limited but honest trier who would have come in for ne'er a word of criticism had his surname been Drennan. His 1-2 against Wexford in the league game in New Ross and his 0-2 against Galway in Thurles, where his shoulder on Nigel Shaughnessy started the move that led to Michael Phelan's goal, counted for little in the face of the consumer resistance to him. This consumer resistance got through to the selectors before the Leinster final; one of the few who could have been relied to stand in with Liam Dunne and pull for all he was worth, as he had in New Ross, Canice was left to cool his heels on the bench.

Canice Brennan was far from the best hurler to represent the Black and Amber this year or any other. But - and this is a truth many of his detractors conveniently ignored - it wasn't that he was keeping any better players off the team. If the minority of idiots who booed him against Limerick reserved their venom for Kilkenny players who don't give 100 per cent, as Canice Brennan



**Liam Keoghan** tackles **Alan Kerins** (Galway) in the All Ireland quarter final.

[Sportsfile]

always did, we'd all be better off.

Almost finally, the McEvoy Awards of 1997. They go as follows.

Player: Too difficult to separate Brian Lohan and Jamesie O'Connor, so we'll make this a joint award.

Newcomer: Not too difficult. Colin Lynch of Clare. It had to be.

Kilkenny player: Taking the broad view and including the preliminary rounds of the league, in which he was outstanding, DJ Carey is the obvious choice. His pre-county final form domestically has to count for something as well. Is the man improving with age? There is no evidence to suggest he is not. His anonymity in the provincial final and for most of the proceedings against Clare was, however, puzzling as well as worrying. Too often DJ fails to take games by the scruff of the neck. And it's not that he's not capable of doing so.

Next best: Willie O'Connor, who took time during the league to realign his game with the strictures of his new position in the left corner but proceeded to have a fabulous championship, when he was the county's most consistent - and consistently excellent - performer.

Newcomer: Good news here as regards the future, with three fresh faces laying down personal markers. Andy Comerford's invisibility versus Clare, when he looked as if he had reached the dregs in his personal petrol tank, did not dim the memory of his energy and honesty against Dublin, Wexford (in the first half) and Galway (two beautifully struck lineballs equalling two points equalling the difference between the sides in the end). Philip Larkin put some early-season ups and downs behind him to prove himself the talent everyone (or presumably everyone) always knew he was; the task of settling on his best position, which was the stumbling block that prevented his hammering down a place from the beginning of the year, does remain. And please don't overlook a young man for whom this observer has enormous time - Peter Barry, who brings size, strength and honesty to the Kilkenny half-forward line. Another plus is that he can score points, as he did against Wexford in the first half. So utterly unlike many other of the county's forwards, therefore, he is on these grounds alone a key man for the future.

Group of younger newcomers: The Ballyhale Shamrocks minors, superb in the county final. A nice

case of success literally breeding success, and how refreshing to see a young man like Paul Phelan already putting back some of what he got out of his career with the club.

Match: Kilkenny 4-15 Galway 3-16, Semple Stadium, July 27th.

Next best: Clare 1-18 Tipperary 0-18, Pairc Ui Chaoimh, July 6th.

Goal: Anything by DJ. A personal preference is for his first against Galway. Larkin's low ball, Phelan's layoff, Carey's run and icily explosive finish.

Point: Jamesie O'Connor's effort against Tipperary on September 14th. A point to win a Guinness All Ireland. It did.

Save: For importance, Davie Fitzgerald's from DJ's penalty.

Team of the championship: Damien Fitzhenry (Wexford); Stephen McDonagh (Limerick), Brian Lohan (Clare), Willie O'Connor (Kilkenny); Liam Dunne (Wexford), Sean McMahon (Clare), Anthony Daly (Clare); Colin Lynch (Clare), Tommy Dunne (Tipperary); Jamesie O'Connor (Clare), John Leahy (Tipperary), DJ Carey (Kilkenny); Seanie McGrath (Cork), Kevin Broderick (Galway), Ger O'Loughlin (Clare).

Finally finally, to continue the tradition of annually tailpiecing this article with a word or three about O'Loughlins, my local gang. This year the words are, the club's worthies will doubtless be astonished - and probably disappointed - to discover, kindly ones. O'Loughlins didn't win the Credit Union championship in their first year up in senior, but they did not fail to give a good account of themselves. Which was as much and as little as anyone could reasonably have asked.

Even better, in securing their newly-won status for another twelve months one Saturday night in Ballyragget, they demonstrated guts, enthusiasm and purpose by rolling back, point by point, a daunting half-time deficit against St Martin's - doughty opponents always - and running out worthy winners. Good! More such guts, enthusiasm and purpose and O'Loughlins' seat at the top table of Kilkenny hurling will be assured. Given their playing resources, nothing less should be required of them, which was the point of the argument in the first place.

# Good Counsel Nearly Make it.



**Good Counsel College New Ross. Leinster Colleges Senior "A" U-18 Hurling Champions 1997.**

**Back :** Niall Mackey(Glenmore), Francis O'Brien(Rathgaroge-Cushinstown), Martin Bolger(Graignamanagh), John P Phelan(Tullagher-Rosbercon), Michael Redmond(Rathnure), Thomas Howlin(Horeswood), Phillip Wallace(Gusserane), Shane Barron(Rathnure), Michael Murphy(Mullinavat), Edward Lawless(Ballygarrett).

**Middle :** Fr. John Cosgrave(Principal), James Tierney(Rower-Inistioge), Paul Colfer(Gusserane), Keith Madigan(Mullinavat), Leon O'Connell(Rathnure), Patrick Kehoe(Rathnure), Pdraig Kehoe(Horeswood), Michael Martin(Rathnure), Michael O'Neill (Rathnure), Robert Codd(Rathnure), Mr. Tom Walsh(Trainer).

**Front :** Mr. Kevin Kehoe(Trainer), Paul Sheehan(Rower-Inistioge), Thomas Digby(Rower-Inistioge), John Barron(Tullagher-Rosbercon), Paul Doyle(Bannow-Ballymitty), Karol Lawlor(Mount Leinster Rangers), Stephen Hunt(Horeswood), Tom Doyle(Rower-Inistioge), Keith O'Grady(Gusserane), Mr. Mick Purcell(Trainer).

**Seated :** Paul Bolger(Rathgaroge-Cushinstown), Nicholas Kenny(Rower-Inistioge), Michael Doyle(Rower-Inistioge), Nigel Higgins(Rathnure).

**S**ince 1992 Coiste Cill Chainnigh has rendered considerable assistance to all second level schools in the Kilkenny student catchment area in the form of equipment grants. Five years ago, the schools represented by Tom Walsh, Tommy Lanigan and Sean Walsh approached the late County Secretary Ted Carroll and then Chairman Nickey Brennan with a view to assisting the second level schools. They readily agreed to help and were joined enthusiastically by the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club. The deal is unique to Kilkenny and is valued annually at almost £7,000. The schools, 23 in all including the camogie playing convent schools are very grateful, particularly as the G.A.A is the only sporting organisation so far to significantly assist second level schools in the development of sport.

Recent concerns that only a few students were getting the opportunity to wear their school jersey in Gaelic Games competitions, particularly hurling, have been addressed by two initiatives. The first one was in 1994 when a new juvenile 'B' competition was initiated sponsored by Bord na nÓg. This competition is played during April and May and runs concurrent with the Colleges A competition. The first two years of this competition were dominated by 'Comer Community School who proved worthy winners in those years. However it was the St. Kieran's B squad who proved best in 1997. The panel was: Brian Ferns (Capt.) Barrie Hogan, Diarmuid O'Dowd, Ian Phelan, Ciarán Bergin, Niall Kenny, Jonathan Savage, Anthony Cass, Edward Fitzpatrick, Brian Dowling, Don Callanan, Robert Collins-Hughes, Terry Doran, Larry Dowling, Joe Forristal, John



**Coláiste Eamainn Rís - Winners of the Rice Cup U-14 Hurling Championship**

**Back Row**(l-r): Seamus Landy, Brian McCarthy, Richie Butler, Niall Doran, Billy Fitzpatrick, Kevin Cleere, Martin Cahill, Sean Keane.  
**Middle Row**, (l-r): Dermot Ronan, Tom Walsh, Shane Murphy, James Fennelly, Michael Rohan, Brian Cahill, James Mullins, Brendan Barry, Eamonn Hawe, David Power, Gary Burke, Catherine Rice-Kelly (Trainer), Br. Liam Burke.  
**Front row** (l-r): Barry Cahill, Nicholas Maher, Niall Millea, David Herity, Sean Glennon, Brendan Hoyne, Dermot Hogan.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



**Awards and Presentation Night in C.B.S Callan - 1997**

Left to right: Catherine Rice-Kelly (Trainer, Rice Cup), Sean Glennon (Capt., Rice Cup), Br. Liam Burke, Niall McCormack (Capt., Senior Hurling), D. J. Carey, Guest of Honour, Niall Millea (Capt., U-14 Hurling), John Timmons (Trainer, Senior Football), Noel Foxe (Capt. Sen. Football), Tom Walsh (Trainer, Senior Hurling).

*Photo: Tom Brett*

Lennon, Ciaran Cooke, Andrew Doyle, Mark Heffernan, Declan O'Neill, Garret Hickey, Robert Quinn, Niall Staunton, Sean Whitehead, Pdraig O'Connell.

This year a follow up competition for U-16 i.e. Junior level, has been sponsored by the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club. This competition too runs parallel to the A championship, though we presently await the final. It has proved to be a fine competition with huge enthusiasm being shown by the participants. It is hoped that this competition will continue to give the chance to over 100 extra students annually to represent their schools.

**Colaiste Eamonn Rís Callan**

**T**hose involved in the promotion of Gaelic Games in Colaiste Eamonn Rís, Callan, were delighted when D.J. Carey agreed

**to present the medals at our awards night this October. The fact that he was entering 'enemy territory' so to speak, two days before Dunnamaggin played Young Irelands in the county final added lots of banter to the night. It was significant that we had someone of D.J.'s stature to honour what had to be one of the most successful years on the sporting field in the school's history. In the space of a month five trophies were won in both hurling and football.**

The school was not the least bit surprised when Kilkenny minor footballers were only beaten in the last minute by a Laois team which eventually won a second successive All Ireland. Anyone who had been involved with John Timmons charges throughout the year would have known that they were probably the best prepared footballers to come out of the school. Indeed their

demolition of St. Fintans, Swords in the Senior Cup Final had onlookers, including media, extremely complimentary of the Callan lads. It was hardly surprising that so many of that side made it on to the county minor team.

Ms. Catherine Rice-Kelly wrote her own bit of history when in the space of two weeks she trained the winning Rice Cup team and the South Leinster and Leinster U-14 'B' teams. Just like our football side, her team was drawn from practically every school in the area with representatives from Tullaroan, Windgap, Dunamaggin, Kil managh, Grangemockler, Burnchurch, Callan, Carrickshock and Kells among the panel. The South final versus St. Brendan's, Birr was certainly the match of the year at underage level.

Callan C.B.S. at the end of May became the first ever winners of a new competition, the Dalton Cup, specifically designated for 5th years

and under in Christian Brothers schools. Callan defeated Kilkenny C.B.S. in Nowlan Park in a keenly contested final, having previously accounted for Templemore and Thurles C.B.S. Trainer Tom Walsh would hope that this side might provide much of the panel for this years senior campaign.

D.J. would have been a tired man when the last of these medals were awarded. While doubtful if a school of our size could ever reap such a harvest again in one year yet one lives in hope. To our sponsors, parents, staff members and anyone who assisted, we say a big 'thank you'.

## St. Kieran's College

The past year was one of mixed fortunes for the College teams in action in Leinster. It was a tremendous years hurling for our Juvenile and Junior teams but unfortunately for our flagship team, the seniors, the year ended abruptly enough.

Powered by county minor players Mick Kavanagh, Aidan Cummins, J.P. O'Neill (Kilkenny) and Willie Maher and Donnacha Fahy (Tipperary) we had high hopes of retaining the Leinster Senior A title. However it was not to be. A superb performance on the day by Good Counsel, played in Kennedy Park, New Ross ensured that they grabbed their second title in three years. Led ably by their Kilkenny players Paul Sheehan, Michael Doyle, John Barron, Nicky Kenny and Tom Digby, they finished three points ahead in an absorbing encounter.

In May '97 our juveniles did us proud when capturing the Coca Cola Leinster (Dr. Tom Barry Cup) Juvenile Final after an impressive campaign. In the preliminary stages of the competition they saw off the challenges of CBS Kilkenny, Good Counsel and St. Peters and easily defeated Good Counsel in the semi-final. Against Enniscorthy C.B.S. the team struggled for quite a while until goals by Brian Carroll (Coolderry) and Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan) set them on their way to a comprehensive win by 4-15 to 2-3.

The 1997 Junior championship proved to be one of the best and most open for years with four teams having a good chance of victory.



**St. Kieran's College, Coca Cola Leinster Juvenile Roinn 'A' Hurling Champions - 1997**

**Back:** Tom Hogan (Trainer), Enda Cleere, Michael Walsh, Brendan Doyle, Seamus Dreen, Declan Brennan, Gary Hayes, Michael Rice, Dick McEvoy (Vice-Principal), Conor Whelan, Anthony Owens, Seán O'Neill, Shane Hennessy, Pdraig Kennedy, Ken Coogan, Michael Connolly, Seamus Knox (Coach).

**Front:** Brian Tennyson, Michael Dermody, Stephen Luby, Richard Kenny, Noel Rafter, Brian Carroll, Tommy Walsh (Capt.), Robert Aylward, Shane Parsons, Ned Sweeney, Derry Kearney, Shane Whelan, Ger Prendergast.

*Photo Tom Brett*



**St. Kieran's College, Coca Cola Leinster Senior Hurling Finalists, 1997.**

**Back:** Martin Prendergast, Gary Hayes, Seamus Dreen, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Connolly, Stephen Roche, Ken Coogan.

**Middle:** Brian Carroll, Liam Barron, James Moran, Daire Connery, Ned Sweeney, Shane Hennessy, Bob Aylward, Damien Conway.

**Front:** Philip Walsh (Trainer), Ger Prendergast, Brian Tennyson, Derek Brennan, Peter O'Neill (Capt.), Joe Delaney, Richard Fitzpatrick, William King, Tommy Walsh, Tommy Lanigan (Coach).

*Photo: Tom Brett*

Colaiste Eamonn Rís were only narrowly defeated by C.B.S Kilkenny who then contested a brilliant semi-final with St. Kieran's. Four points down with two minutes to go, 'Kieran's dragged themselves back to level terms with a goal by James Moran and a '65' by Shane Hennessy. In extra time they just held out against a strong C.B.S. challenge.

The final against Birr Community School was played in Portlaoise and proved to be an even closer contest. Birr outplayed the 'College boys for long periods and only first class defending prevented the Offaly side from running away with the game. Yet St. Kieran's steadied and were three points ahead on the

call of time. However Birr struck for a brilliant goal and extra time beckoned. This time Birr forged well ahead, leading by six points at the midway stage. But scores from semi-final heroes Carroll and Moran ensured the sides ended level after ninety minutes of top class hurling. The replay was another close fought affair. The sides were level at half time but Kieran's had improved their performance and sharpness well in the intervening two weeks and fine scores from Pat Reid (Shamrocks) and Martin Prendergast (Clara) gave the College a 2-12 to 2-7 victory margin.

A final highlight of the year was when Kilkenny played Galway in the All Ireland senior hurling quarter final in Semple Stadium on 27th July, ten past pupils of St., Kieran's played during t that game. To our knowledge that is the highest representation we have ever had on a county senior side. They did well too!!



**C.B.S. Kilkenny, Coca Cola Leinster Senior hurling semi-finalists 1997.**

**Back (l-r):** Brian Murphy, Michéal Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne, Brian Power, Jimmy Cleere, Shane Egan, Joe Murray, J.P.Carroll.  
**Front (l-r):** Anthony Drohan, Ian Morrissey, Darren Carroll, Paul Forristal, Killian Breathnach, Ger Galvin, Oisín Breathnach.

*Photo: Tommy O'Neill*

## NENAGH CO-OP TOURNAMENT

*Richie Stone*

**K**ilkenny's U-16 hurlers failed to make any real impressions in this year's Nenagh Co-op tournament. After a bright start, on which they defeated Wexford in the opening round at Nowlan Park, they lost out to Tipperary and Cork in the following two rounds before beating Waterford in the last round of the group section. Alas, that resounding win over the Waterford boys was not good enough to see

### them into the knock-out stages.

The timing of this tournament continues to cause problems for Noreside selectors, as it clashes with the closing stages of the various leagues and championships in Kilkenny. the selectors seldom had a full strength side at their disposal, hence their inability to make a strong showing.

Nevertheless the likes of Peter Dowling (O'Loughlin's), Keith Doheny (John Lockes), Darren Carroll (O'Loughlin's), Peter O'Neill (James Stephens), Tom Murphy (Danesfort), Diarmuid Dowling (Lisdowney), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), Willie Coogan (Shamrocks) among other proved they can compete with the best.

#### **Kilkenny Panel:**

Peter Dowling (O'Loughlins), Keith Doheny (John Lockes), Peter O'Neill

(James Stephens), Jackie Tyrell (James Stephens), Darren Carroll (O'Loughlins), Brian Murphy (O'Loughlins), Canice Hickey (Dunamaggin), Tom Murphy (Danesfort), James O'Keeffe (O'Loughlins), David Dowling (Lisdowney), Brian Power (Young Irelands), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), Liam Heffernan (Dunamaggin), Joe Ryan (Emeralds), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Ger Behan (St Lachtains), Gerry Byrne (Clara), Tom Kinsella (St.Martin's), David Murphy (Rower Inistioge), Ger Joyce (Emeralds), Gary Whelan (James Stephens), David Hoyne (Shamrocks), Paul Doheny (Tullaroan), Tommy Lahart (O' Loughlins), Keith Madigan (Mullinavat), Pat Grogan (James Stephens), Brendan Cahill (Emeralds).



**The Officers of Kilkenny County Board Cumann Luthchleas Gael 1997**



## ON A CLARE DAY...

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

**T**he back yard of an Ennis alehouse late on the Wednesday night after the 1997 Guinness All Ireland decider. Inside the pub, which is jampacked with carousing Clare men and women, the band are running through a medley of Banner battlesongs. "How's it goin', Lohan, sure it's great to be alive," goes the chorus line of one.

Outside in the yard is the ballad-beatified Brian Lohan. Hard to realise it from his expression, perhaps, but he does realise it's great to be alive. Better than 1995, Brian?

"Yes," he replies, thoughtfully. "More satisfaction."

An rud is annamh is iontach. For sheer joy and

inferiority complexes, no apologies to any of their supposed betters.

The Banner used to be popular losers. They will not be that again. Nor will they be quite as popular winners ever again as they were in 1995. It is as they would wish it.

They might be taken aback nonetheless to learn that a few Kilkenny people who really should have known better were cheering for Tipperary at Croke Park in September. Unbelievable? Gospel truth.

Why did these Noresiders want to see Clare beaten (naturally it wasn't a case of their wanting to see Tipp win!)? Not because Clare were a dirty or unsporting team; they clearly were not. Not because they were not a good team; they were the best team in the country by a mile, and it's always heartening to see the best team bring home the bacon. Not because they hadn't played the finest hurling of the summer, particularly against Tipp in the opening 25 minutes of the Munster decider in Pairc Ui Chaoimh; Clare's play that day was not only the fastest produced by any county in 1997, it was also the most fluent and watchable.

No, the problem in some eyes was that by training so hard, getting so fit and preparing so painstakingly, the Banner had upped the ante to near dangerous levels in an amateur sport. Therefore it would, according to this naysaying school of thought, have been better for the sake and future of hurling if Clare had not won the All Ireland again.

To an extent there is validity in the argument. To another extent it's pure garbage.

Agreed, it is far from desirable that hurling should become a game of speed and fitness as opposed to skill. A game where superbly-drilled artisans impose their powerplay on ostensibly more naturally talented opponents. A game where some of Clare's less celebrated forwards now own the same number of All Ireland senior medals as DJ Carey.

### GOD HELPS THOSE...

But be fair. It's not as if - and these would have constituted legitimate grounds for shooting them down - Clare clogged or fouled their way to glory. They emphatically didn't. It's not as if the Tipperary 15 they faced in the final, a Tipp line-up onto which Sheedy, McGrath and O'Meara had been grafted solely for the purposes of size and physical strength, were superior hurlers. They categorically weren't.

What, for God's sake, were the Banner supposed to do, coming from the starting point they came from? What would any team in their position, with a sackful of neuroses and damn-all silverware on the sideboard, have done?

Clare didn't moan, didn't ochon, didn't curse fate. They identified where they were going wrong (their hurling was too slow for the championship arena) and set about correcting their faults and weaknesses. They looked for players who possessed character, intelligence and skill - in that order. In a nutshell, they helped themselves. They deserve nothing but praise for doing so.

No, of course it's not the stuff of 69-gun salutes that hurlers should have to train like demons. Yet to train like demons was the one and only course of action open to



John Costello clears under pressure from Jamesie O'Connor in the Church & General NHL game in Nowlan Park. (Tom Brett)

wonderment Clare's McCarthy Cup breakthrough of 1995, their first All Ireland senior win in 81 years, could never be touched by whatever triumphs came after it. If the county's 1997 exploits did not have the same delirious innocence of 1995 about them, the honest explanation for that is that they couldn't.

But there are other pleasures besides joy and innocence and delirium. More mature pleasures such as the satisfaction Brian Lohan referred to. Proving themselves to be more than mere one-hit wonders...winning a second McCarthy Cup in three seasons...winning it in the manner they did, by beating each of the traditional big three and Tipp twice...coming back on blue riband day from what to a lesser team would have been the dead, and against Tipperary into the bargain ("much better to do them by a point than had we won by six or seven points," was a common refrain in Ennis that Wednesday night)...for good measure bringing home the minor title too... Mark September 14th 1997 down as the day Clare finally and fully took their place among the hurling counties of the earth. No hang-ups, no

Clare. If by taking it they changed the nature of the game, maybe irretrievably and not for the better, they do not deserve to be pilloried. There is no county, Kilkenny included, that in similar circumstances would not have done likewise.

Clare's 1997 successes would, one scarcely needs to add, have been more warmly received had Ger Loughnane not gone around rubbing up so many people the wrong way. Eamon Cregan, Len Gaynor, Babs Keating, Wexford, Tipperary's PRO Liz Howard, Jim O'Sullivan of The Examiner, the six players who after slogging their guts out in winter training were axed from the panel prior to the Guinness All Ireland semi-final, the Clare minors he refused to allow travel with the seniors the same day, the Clare men and women of Kilkenny - Loughnane is not a man who takes prisoners.

He might not have been there to not take them at all had Clare hurling's history skewed off in a different direction 20 years ago. The fanatic heart would not be beating half as furiously as it does today had Loughnane fulfilled his ambitions on the field of play as opposed to off it. Had his membership of the team that up to recently would have been described as Clare's greatest ever, the 1977-78 outfit, culminated in the Munster and/or All Ireland medals it ought to have, his connection with the county senior hurlers would have ended there and then.

The medals didn't arrive and the connection didn't cease, the latter springing automatically from the former. The rage inside Ger Loughnane still burned, more furiously than ever. A rage totally and utterly on behalf of Clare hurling. He is consumed by it. His fellow selector Tony Considine, on calling in to see Loughnane in school in Shannon one day, was stunned to hear his colleague announce that "there's not a minute in the day I don't think about hurling". Considine had never doubted his own love of hurling. But this, he decided, was devotion above and beyond the call of duty.

Hardhearted. Ruthless. Tyrannical. Ger Loughnane is all of these. He admits it willingly. With a touch of pride, even.

If he is, what of it? Clare could have done with his brand of ruthlessness in the past. They endured decades as good losers. There's no glory in that. "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser," as Joe Louis used to growl.

Loughnane's public pronouncements, far from being examples of a manager foolishly shooting his mouth off, can be regarded as part of a calculated pattern. They're the verbal equivalent of somebody breaking a bottle, brandishing it in the direction of his enemies and sneering, "Come and have a go if you think you're hard enough."

#### **NO EXCUSES ACCEPTED**

Clare's relationship with Tipperary he viewed as the hurling equivalent of an abusive domestic situation. "Oh, don't," acquaintances told him. "Don't say anything to annoy or upset Tipp." Clare the battered wife or children, Tipperary the terrifying father who delivers ferocious



**PJ Delaney** under pressure from the **Lohan** brothers [Sportsfile]

beating when sufficiently maddened.

But Loughnane was not one of the ex-St Flannan's people who hated and feared the sight of the Blue and Gold, as many a student from the early 1960s did; the Premier County were busy winning four All Irelands in five years at the time and the Tipperary boys, who comprised half the school population, were insufferable.

Loughnane's days in Flannan's came later, when Tipp were not so successful - and were definitely not successful during his time on the Clare team, when the Banner went nine years undefeated by their neighbours.

It is not a coincidence that one of Ger Loughnane's favourite songs is Eric Bogle's "And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda", which he came across in an English poetry book in school one afternoon a few years ago. The verse about the Circular Quay homecoming of the Gallipoli survivors touched him most. The crowds that had seen off the Anzacs with tears and cheers and flagwaving "just stood and stared, and they turned their faces away". A familiar story to a Clareman whose blood and hopes had metaphorically stained the sand and the water in Thurles, Limerick and Cork.

He sings the song occasionally. On a weekend away in Killarney a couple of years back before this Clare team was famous. On the bus back from the 1997 Guinness Munster final. He sings it not only because he likes it but also because of the message contained therein. A message for the players. Don't lose. Don't see the supporters turn their faces away.

Stephen McNamara got the message the Tuesday night week after the 1995 provincial breakthrough when a massive crowd thronged Cusack Park to watch the men of the moment, Clare's first Munster championship-winning side in 63 years, in training. The opening five minutes of the evening's practice match were harmless in the extreme, the new pride of the Banner understandably seizing the opportunity to show off. Loughnane, the steam hissing from his ears, blew the whistle and hauled them inside to the dressing room where he delivered the mother of all bollockings to his stunned listeners, beginning with the captain. He finished with McNamara, who before the session had been complaining of a sick stomach.

"Sick?" shouted Loughnane, hitting the corner-forward a puck in the stomach. "Sick is coming out of Croke Park a

beaten team, as ye will be against Galway if ye don't cop on. Now get back out there." They did - and put in an all-time best session.

An earlier manifestation of the Loughnane sound and fury had been visited upon Anthony Daly after Clare drew with Waterford in the first round of the 1992 championship. Daly, pleased with his performance at corner-back (nice, tidy, didn't do anything very positive, but what had his marker done?), was a good deal less pleased when Loughnane, a selector that year, collared him. "You're much better than that," Loughnane bellowed. "You're selling yourself short. You should be clearing the ball as well as marking your man."

Daly took the advice on board for the replay and had a blinder. Don't settle for second best. A memo to the county as much as to the individual.

Ger Loughnane didn't settle for second best in coaching the first of Wolfe Tones na Sionna's Feile na nGael hat-trick teams of the mid-1980s. He trained the side for two years, night and day, winter and summer. "They weren't outstanding individually but they made a marvellous unit. Crowds came to see them play club matches. They had this following. Everyone knew the young lads' names."

#### **MEN ONLY NEED APPLY**

What he did with the Wolfe Tones under-14s he knew he could do with the Clare seniors. Just knew it. "I always felt I was the man for the job. I know it sounds terrible, the way this will come out, but it's true. And it's not egotism, because I'm not interested in fame. The cheering of the crowd means nothing to me. But if Clare were to win a Munster championship, I felt I was the one."

By the time the Feakle native took over as county senior manager in the autumn of 1994, he had long since identified what the Banner required. Men and speed.

The task of uncovering gutsy types who would not evaporate in the summer heat of Semple Stadium or the Gaelic Grounds threw up some unlikely candidates.


Michael O'Halloran, "an absolute disaster" first time out against Kilkenny in the league in Sixmilebridge, gritted his teeth to such effect against Kerry in the Oireachtas the following weekend that Loughnane, Considine and McNamara were instantly charmed by his determination. They took him off after 20 minutes. They'd seen enough.

Ollie Baker, similarly regarded by the conventional local wisdom as being not even related to a hurler, was another who showed he possessed the right stuff. He buried an elderly relative on the Sunday morning of one league match, thumbed from Ennis, bowled into Racket Hall five minutes behind the rest of the panel (they spluttered into their pre-match tea at the sight of him) and proceeded to play a stormer against Laois. Never mind the quality of their hurling, feel the size of their hearts. And remember how Baker put an indifferent summer of '97 and a worse spring behind him to rise to the occasion and claim the man of the match award on the day that mattered most.

Upping the speed on the training field was not a big deal for Loughnane. Johnny Callinan, who had served as an under-21 selector with him, recalls the tempo of the coaching he did. "You could see that his regime, followed and believed in by the players, would over a period of time be guaranteed to improve them." Correct, agrees Bishop Willie Walsh, a fellow former labourer in the under-age vineyard. "Ger's coaching was outstanding. Everything the players did, they had to do at speed. Approaching the ball, getting possession, delivering. He came to sessions well prepared, knew precisely what he was going to do and varied each session."

You may not like Ger Loughnane. You cannot but admire his achievements. Has any one individual made a greater contribution to hurling's new-found public eminence? Doubtful. Very doubtful.

How's it goin, Lohan, sure it's great to be alive.





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# Shamrocks back where they belong

INTERMEDIATE HURLING  
CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Knox, *Kilkenny People*

'seventies, its stylish and accomplished teams roared through the junior and intermediate hurling championships to gain a strong footing in Kilkenny hurling.

And then in a glorious run between 1978 and 1991, Shamrocks reeled off nine wins in the senior championship, including a magnificent three in-a-row immediately after making the breakthrough.

Throw-in a few Leinster and All-Ireland club championship victories on top of that, and you have one of the most honour laden outfits in the whole country.

It was no secret on the Noreside that after relegation Shamrocks found life in the intermediate division less than to their liking. To them it was like wearing someone else's suit...the fit just wasn't right.

### Fortunes dipped

At a time when they were still developing a top class grounds, with excellent dressings-room and so on, fortunes dipped on the field. However, they turned around sharply this time.

The intermediate team scored a fantastic win in the championship. The minors thundered to a great win in their division. And school teams have literally been cleaning up in recent years.



### Ballyhale Shamrocks - Intermediate Hurling Champions 1997

BACK: Declan Mullan, John Drennan, Paul Phelan, TJ Farrell, Conor Harrington, Sean Fennelly, John Shefflin, Bobby Alyward, Brendan Mason, Seamus Ryan, Noel O'Keefe, Paschal Farrell, David Harrington.

FRONT: Leonard Farrell, Dermot Ryan, Tom Coogan, Pdraig Farrell (Capt), Aidan Cummins, Henry Shefflin, Tommy Shefflin, Dermot Fennelly, Paul Shefflin, Liam Grant. (Photo-T. O'Neill)

**I**T WAS like having the old order restored, when the once powerful, all conquering Shamrocks (Ballyhale) won their way back into the senior hurling grade. They had vacated it for two seasons, but come 1998 one of the most famous clubs in the country will once again parade among the best. Talk to any outsider about Kilkenny hurling, and the names of famous clubs and famous names from such hurling strongholds as Tullaroan, Bennettsbridge, Carrickshock, Mooncoin and yes, Shamrocks in Ballyhale will immediately trip off their tongue. Shamrocks have one of the most stunning short histories of any club, anywhere. Only founded in the

If Shamrocks hit a valley period in recent times and suffered as a result, the rehabilitation has started in earnest. And they appear to be set-up nicely for the future.

Their trip through the intermediate grade was steady more than wonderful. But the closing act in the championship final against Graignamagh was spectacular. In a throbbing tie that matched the Kilkenny/Galway All-Ireland quarter-final clash for thrills and spills, Shamrocks got to the finishing line a somewhat flattering 4-12 to 3-7 ahead.

This final took off like a rocket. With goals from Henry Shefflin, after less than 30 seconds, and John Shefflin,

the Ballyhale boys sprinted 2-4 to 0-1 ahead after 16 throbbing minutes.

Poor Graig. didn't appear to know what hit them after those near knock-out blows. However, after losing the final the previous year, they picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and set about doing something serious about their sad situation.

**Frightening form**

With the experienced John Carroll in frightening form, they roared back. Carroll bagged a goal and a few points, and Michael Dunne shot a second goal as the match was turned on its head. Graig claimed parity at 2-4 each in the 27th minute.

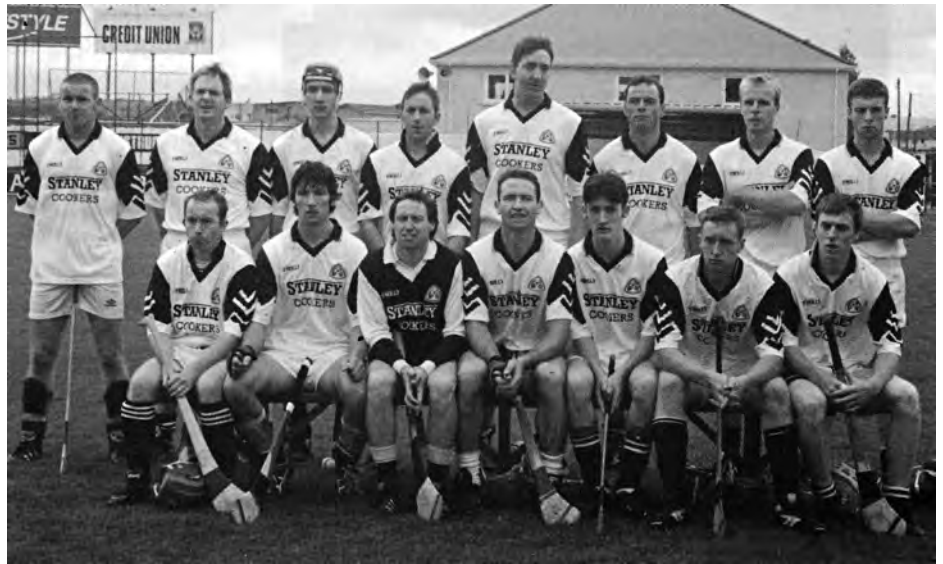
Henry Shefflin won back the lead with a point for Shamrocks, and it was that lone score which separated the teams at half-way. The fans loved the helter-skelter-like hurling, and the teams were given a standing ovation going in for the rest.

The great thing was, there was plenty more to come. The second half was still in its infancy when Michael Dunne netted again to put the Barrow Boys in front for the one and only time (3-5 to 2-6).

The Shamrocks went through a testing period afterwards, but once they got through that, they let rip again. They hit the front in the 43rd minute when Conor Harrington scored a divine solo goal (3-6 to 3-5).

It was almost as if the whole team had a collective vision after that, and they saw VICTORY before their eyes. They went for it with all guns blazing.

Paraic Farrell and Seamus Ryan powered things from the centre of the defence. The sweet-striking Henry



**MULLINAVAT INTERMEDIATE TEAM:**

**Back:** R. Carroll, J. Walsh, L. Murphy, P. Roughan, P. Hoban, S. Foskin, O. Alyward, P. Butler.  
**Front:** W. Carroll, M. Murphy, J. Dunphy, M. Dunphy (Capt), Ml. Murphy, P. Alyward, S. Holden.

Shefflin - he scored 1-6 - carved-up the opposition at times at the other end. Tommy and John Shefflin, Conor Harrington, Aidan Cummins and the long serving Paul Phelan also went with the tide and beat all before them.

**Courageous battle**

Poor Graig fought a courageous battle, but they were destroyed in the dying moments. John Shefflin hit a purple patch and tipped over two points, while he also made a goal for Damien Mason. Those three scores all came between the 59th and 63rd minutes, and made the losers look worse than they actually were.

The interesting thing about this championship for the Shamrocks was it nearly never got off the ground. They lost out on making the League semi-finals when beaten by 1-13 to 1-

11 by Bennettsbridge in the last round.

In the opening championship engagement against a P.J. Cody inspired John Lockes, (Callan) it took a late, late point from Henry Shefflin to earn the eventual champions a 1-9 to 0-12 (L) draw. They made no mistake in the replay, and won by six points.

Conahy Shamrocks, who were flying up to that, were tripped up in the quarter-final. Mullinavat were next up in a neighbour-against-neighbour semi-final. The 'Vat men were given a dose of shock treatment early in the second half – they were hit for 1-4 in minutes – and their challenge was all but dead afterwards. Sean Fennelly was brilliant in this match.

On the big day in the county final, Shamrocks, true to form, produced their biggest showing of the season. There was more than a match, or county title, involved for them. They were after a way of life on the senior scene that they regard as rightfully theirs. As ever, their slick hurling earned them rich fruits.

**Shamrocks** team in county final – John Drennan, Paul Phelan, Seamus Ryan, Tom Coogan, Aidan Cummins, Paraic Farrell (capt), Dermot Ryan, Bob Aylward, Sean Fennelly, Henry Shefflin, Noel O'Keeffe, Tommy Shefflin, Conor Harrington, Dermot Fennelly, John Shefflin. *Subs* – Damien Mason (used); Declan Mullan, Brendan Mason, T.J. Farrell, Paschal Farrell, Leonard Farrell, Liam Grant, Paul Shefflin, David Harrington.

**Graignamanagh** – Ken O'Shea, Jim



**ROWER-INISTIOGE I.H. TEAM:**

**Back:** R. Kelly, T. Digby, E. Prender, B. Cotterell, J. Kelly, P. Cotterell, G. Fitzpatrick.  
**Front:** B. Bolger, E. Kenny, E. Bolger, P. Sheehan, N. Kenny, M. Doyle, R. Flood.

O'Driscoll, Martin Bolger, Bernard Dunne, Leonard Blanchfield, Henry Roberts, Ken Walsh, Ger. Walsh, Willie Blanchfield, John Carroll, Jarlath Bolger, Johnny Prendergast, Noel Dunne, Michael Dunne, Jim Whelan. *Subs* – Cathal Dunne, Ivan Morrissey, John Flood (used); Alan Foley, Eddie Walsh, Paul Ryan, Paul Hamilton, John Brett, Timmy McDonald.  
Referee – J. Guinan (Lisdowney).

**The route back up**

**April 20**

Piltown 3-14 Shamrocks 0-13  
Scorers – B.Mason (0-5); D. Fennelly (0-3); C. Harrington (0-2); D. Madden (0-2); J. Shefflin (0-1).

**May 4**

Shamrocks 1-9 Thomastown 0-9  
Scorers – H. Shefflin (1-1, point free); C. Harrington (0-3, two frees); D. Fennelly (0-2); B. Aylward (0-2, frees); B. Mason (0-1).

**May 25**

Mullinavat 2-11 Shamrocks 1-14  
Scorers – H. Shefflin (0-6); J. Shefflin (1-2); N. O'Keeffe (0-3); T. Shefflin, D. Mason, D. Fennelly (0-1 each).

**June 8**

Shamrocks 2-15 Clara 2-10  
Scorers – C. Harrington (1-5); J. Shefflin (1-3); D. Fennelly (0-3); N. O'Keeffe, T. Shefflin, S. Fennelly, B. Aylward (0-1 each).

**June 29**

Bennettsbridge 1-13 Shamrocks 1-11  
This defeat cost Shamrocks a place in the league semi-finals.

**August 17, start of championship**



**GRAIGNAMANAGH - INTERMEDIATE COUNTY FINALISTS**

**Back:** John Meaney (Selector), John Brett, Paul Hamilton, Cyril Hughes, John Flood, Henry Roberts, Johnny Prendergast (Capt), Martin Bolger, Jarlath Bolger, Ger Walsh, Ken Walsh, Bernard Dunne, Leonard Blanchfield, Paul Ryan, Timmy McDonald, Hugh Ryan.

**Front:** Noel Dunne, Edward Walsh, Cathal Dunne, Alan Foley, Jim Whelan, Ken O'Shea, Jim O'Driscoll, John Carroll, Willie Blanchfield, Ivan Morrissey.

(Photo-Tommy O'Neill)

Shamrocks 1-9 John Locke 0-12  
Scorers – D.Mason (1-2); C.

Harrington (0-2, frees); J. Shefflin, N. O'Keeffe, T. Shefflin, D. Fennelly, H. Shefflin (0-1 each).

**Replay:** Shamrocks 1-13 John Lockes 0-10

Scorers – B. Aylward (0-5); H. Shefflin (0-3); C. Harrington (1-0); N. O'Keeffe, J. Shefflin (0-2 each); D. Mason (0-1).

**August 31**

Shamrocks 2-12 Conahy Shamrocks 0-16

Scorers – B. Aylward (0-6, five frees); C. Harrington (1-3); H. Shefflin (1-2); S. Fennelly (0-1).

**October 5, championship semi-final**

Shamrocks 2-12 Mullinavat 0-10  
Scorers – C. Harrington (0-5, frees); D. Fennelly (1-1); J. Shefflin (1-0); S. Fennelly (0-2); B. Aylward, N. O'Keeffe, T. Shefflin, D. Mason (0-1 each).

**October 19, county final**

Shamrocks 4-12 Gaignamanagh 3-7  
Scorers – H. Shefflin (1-6, three points frees); C. Harrington (1-1); J. Shefflin (0-3); N. O'Keeffe, D. Mason (1-0 each); T. Shefflin (0-2).

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# Absurd finish that left few happy.

COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Knox, Kilkenny People



**JUNIOR CHAMPIONS:** Martin Bookle (Captain) accepts the cup from Ned Quinn after Tullogher/Rosbercon had beaten Galmoy in the County Final Junior Championship.

**T**HE conclusion was absurd! There was no real winner, and everyone probably felt short changed. Two clubs who had obviously worked their hearts out during the season were left less than totally satisfied at the finish. Human error was the root cause of the difficulty. It was one of those things.

For Tullogher-Rosbercon it should have been one of the biggest days in the history of the club. After all, they won their fourth Kilkenny junior hurling championship. But they must have left Nowlan Park less than totally satisfied.

Defeated finalists, Galmoy, well, they were really cheated off. A minute from the end their free taker,

Declan Fitzpatrick looked to have delivered a real haymaker when he surprised everyone by going for a goal from a 21 yards free.

He staggered the opposition, and the hard chasing Northerners jumped 1-8 to 0-10 ahead. Their third – they won in 1949 and 1966 – title looked in the bag.

When Tullogher snatched an equaliser through stylish free taker, Tom Murphy in 'lost time', no one was particularly put out. After all, we could look forward to a second dollop of what had been a wholesome county final.



**Tullogher Rosbercon County Junior Champions 1997**

**Back :** James Lyng, Eamon Bookle, Edmond Hanrahan, Joe Murphy, Seamus Phelan, Tom Murphy, John Lawlor, Eamon Phelan, Robbie Hennessy, Enda Cummins, Kevin Murphy, Johnny Barron (Darbystown), Damien Cummins.

**Front :** Eddie O'Sullivan, Michael Bookle, Shemmy Murphy, Richard Walsh, Shem Cummins, John Barron (Brownsford), John Gaule, Raymond Roche, Martin Bookle, Dick Murphy, Mark Malone



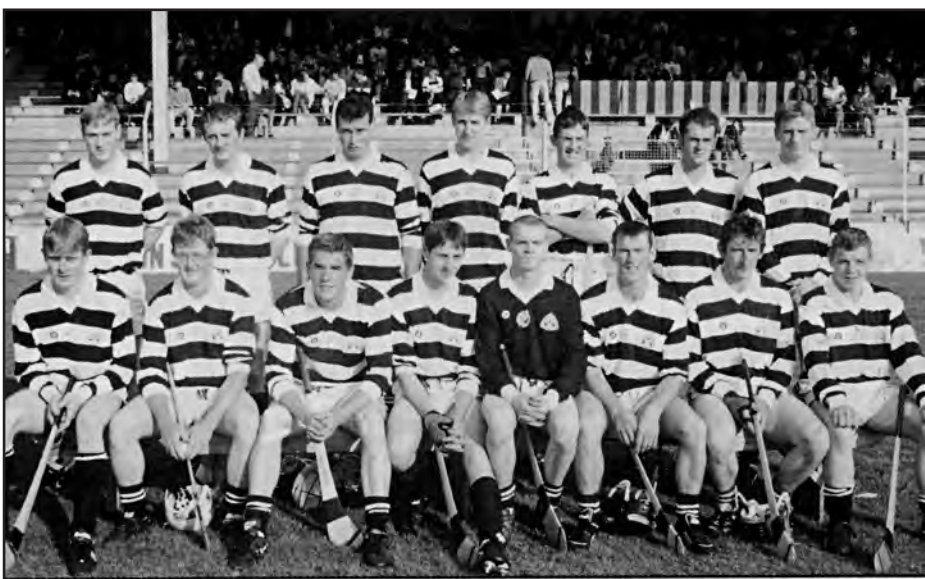
**BARROW RANGERS J.H. TEAM:**

BACK: K.McEvoy, D.Maher, S.Dunne, M.Kelly, P.Purcell, J.Hennessy, T.Walsh, P.Brennan, E.Gavin, S.Hennessy, T.Brennan, P.Kelly, P.Maher, P.Drea. F  
 RONT: D.Holmes, J.Dormer, M.Medlar, JJ Staunton, J.Gavin, A.Walsh, E.Drea, P.Maher, M.Healy, G.Purcell.



**LISDOWNEY JH TEAM:**

BACK: A.Thornton, O.Blanchfield, J.Moore, J.Nolan, D.Doran, B.Purcell, G.Henderson, D.Fitzpatrick, L.McEvoy, PJ Kenny, G.Bergin, B.Fitzpatrick, V.Mullally, K.Fitzpatrick  
 FRONT-B.Blanchfield, P.Tallis, M.Bergin, J.Carroll, E.Murphy, J.White, S.Downey, T.Bergin, D.Dowling, D.Fitzpatrick, T.Mackey, M.Dunphy.



**BLACKS & WHITES 1997:**

BACK: P.O'Grady, M.Farrell, J.Prendergast, S.Kealy, L.Alyward, P.Farrell, P.Hayden  
 FRONT: T.Farrell, MJ Doherty, M.Doyle, M.Ryan, J.O'Grady, J.Byrne(Capt), N.Kelly, D.Whelan.

**Play drifted**

Remarkably, the referee allowed play drift on, and on, and on. In fact, when play skated into the 63rd minute, the same Tom Murphy converted a close in free for Tullogher to give them a 0-12 to 1-8 lead.

Nearly another minute passed, and play continued to swing up and down the field. Galmoy got one chance to equalise, a free from a distance by Declan Fitzpatrick. Unluckily for him and club, the sliothar fell short.

When the final whistle sounded, the Northerners found themselves beaten by that 63rd minute point.

To say some of their officials were furious would be an understatement. The referee was struck by a disgruntled Galmoy official as he left the field. He was verbally abused by others.

The whole affair turned out to be a bit of a nonsense. To err is human.

It wouldn't have been easy to get that message through to Galmoy people at the time. Some of them erred.....and reacted.

Subsequently suspensions were dished out when the Disciplinary Committee of the Co. Board dealt with the affair. A lenient view was taken, apparently, "bearing in mind all the circumstances".

Easy to say "it was one of those things". Being as dismissive as that doesn't take into account the huge amount of work put in by a big number of people over many months of the season. Galmoy had our sympathy. Tullogher had the cup, however.

**A really good one**

What a pity, because the final was a really good one. The opening half wasn't great, and at the end of it Tullogher led by 0-6 to 0-5.

But if that period had been insipid, the second was engrossing. Both sides simply cut loose. Everyone tore into everything, and chased every ball. A manly contest, played with fairness of spirit and with total honesty.

Tullogher jumped three points in front when Tom and John Murphy rose the white after the change of ends. Declan Fitzpatrick had one smart reply for Galmoy, and the teams became embroiled in a nervy contest in which the margin varied between two and three points.



The losers were still coming from behind when Declan Fitzpatrick pilfered that aforementioned goal from a 21. The rest, as they say, is history, unpleasant though it may be for some.

The conclusion deflected a lot of attention from the core matter...the hurling. It was good, with a clutch of stars from Tullagher including the hugely talented John Barron, Martin and Michael Bookle, Tom and Shem Murphy, Seamus Phelan, John Gaule and Joe Murphy.

Galmoy deserved a second chance. The fact they didn't get it wasn't the fault of Alan Gray, Kevin Lonergan, Brian Doherty, Michael Brennan, Jerry Drennan and Jim Bergin.

Earlier, in the Southern final, Tullagher had beaten Kilmacow in what had been a most disappointing affair. All credit to the team handlers, Johnny Walsh (trainer/coach), plus selectors Paddy Phelan and Anthony Cotterell; they got much more out of the players on the big day.

#### Tough passage

In their run through the South they beat Mooncoin (3-15 to 0-7) and Windgap (3-6 to 2-8) in the semi-final.

In the North, Galmoy beat James Stephens (1-18 to 1-13), Fenians (2-7 to 0-7), Graigue-Ballycallan (4-7 to 0-13) and Barrow Rangers (3-9 to 1-13) in the final. A tough passage, it has to be admitted. They deserved more on county final day!

**Tullagher-Rosbercon** team in the county final – Eamon Phelan, Eddie Sullivan, Seamus Phelan, Michael Bookle, Shem Cummins, Martin Bookle (capt), Richard Walsh, Tom Murphy (0-5), John Murphy (0-1),



**Marina Downey** (Lisdowney) receives Smithwicks Camogie award from Tony Joyce. Also in the picture are **DJ Carey** (hurling) and **Duxie Walsh** (handball)



#### GRAIG BALLYCALLAN J.H. TEAM.

BACK: P.Butler, J.Maher, S.Millea, J.Caldbeck, M.Murphy, E.Brennan, J.Delaney, J.Nugent.

FRONT: P.Ronan, P.Marnell, W.Ronan, T.Hogan, J.Cullinan, T.Manogue, T.McGrath



#### JUNIOR HURLING FINAL ACTION:

**Jarlath Duggan** (Galmoy) tussles with Tullagher's **Shem Cummins** and **Eddie O'Sullivan** in the County Junior Hurling Final. Looking on is Galmoy's Kevin Lonergan  
Photo: Tommy O'Neill

John Lawlor (0-1), Joe Murphy, Shemmy Murphy, John Gaule (0-1), Raymond Roche, John Barron (0-4). *Subs* – Eamon Bookle, Edmund Hanrahan, Dick Murphy, Tom Doherty, Robbie Hennessy, Johnny Barron, Mark Malone, Kevin Murphy, Enda Cummins, Tommy Bookle, Damien Cummins, James Lyng.

**Galmoy** – Liam Drennan, Peter Ryan,

Tommy Drennan, Shane Doherty, Brian Doherty (capt), Michael Brennan, Cathal Doherty, Paul Delaney, Jerry Drennan (0-1), David Delaney (0-1), Kevin Lonergan, Alan Gray (0-2), Phil Brennan (0-1), Jim Bergin, Noel Doherty (0-1). *Subs* – Declan Fitzpatrick (1-2) and Jarlath Duggan used; Tim McCormack, Robert Delaney, Brendan Delaney, Pat Laherty, Leo Doherty, Pierce Harte, Brian Lonergan, Paul Morrissey, Charles Brennan, Joe Ryan, David Doyle, Gavin Doherty, Eamon Doherty. *Officials* – Pat McCormack (manager) and fellow selectors Tom Russell, Ger. Phelan and Lottie Harte.

# Kilkenny Unlucky to Lose to Laois

Tom Ryall



**Kilkenny Under 17 Football Team that competed very successfully in the International Tournament in Co Louth**

**Back:** Michael Byrne, Michael Dunne, Tom Coogan, Andy McGovern, Martin Knox, James Ryall, Fergal O'Neill, Sean Phelan, Joey Gormley,

**Front:** Willie Coogan, Andrew Duggan, Mark Quinn, Keith Doheny, Michael Teehan, Adam Holden, Aidan Mackey.

**The Kilkenny Minor Footballers put up one of their best ever displays when they lost out to the eventual All Ireland champions, Laois with a goal scored in the second minute of injury time. The final score read Laois 2-14 Kilkenny 4-5. It was even enough in the first half with Kilkenny missing some good chances from play and frees. Laois were leading by 0-7 to 0-2 just on the interval when Callan boy, Miley Dunne made a great run through the winners' defence and while his first effort was saved, he followed up, and with the help of James Walsh, they put the ball in the net to leave Laois leading by 0-7 to 1-2 at the break.**

When the Noresiders resumed, Henry Shefflin, who had not started owing to illness, was drafted in at full forward where he created havoc in the last quarter. Laois had had the

better of the third quarter when they pulled ahead to lead by 1-14 to 1-5. With John Paul Corcoran getting on top at midfield, and Henry Shefflin and Paul Sheehan causing panic in the Laois defence, Kilkenny got through for goals by Henry Shefflin, John Paul Corcoran and Brian Cantwell to level the scores.

Laois were now on the rack and in a race for the ball between Paul Sheehan and the Laois goalie, the latter clearly picked the ball off the ground outside the square, and when Paul Sheehan went over him, the referee gave a free out. Kieran Kelly in a Laois breakaway, got the winning goal in the second minute of lost time. The "Leinster Leader", in their report of the game, stated they were glad of the generous overtime given by the referee.

Kilkenny had great performances from Pat Shore, John Morgan, J.P.O'Neill, Niall Nevin, John Paul

Corcoran, Michael Hoyne in the first half, Niall McCormack, Paul Sheehan and Henry Shefflin when he came on.

**Kilkenny scorers** - Paul Sheehan (1-3), Henry Shefflin (1-1), John Paul Corcoran and James Walsh (1-0 each), Niall McCormack (0-1).

The team was -Fergal O'Neill (Erin's Own), Michael Kavanagh (St Lachtains), Pat Shore (Erin's Own), Noel Hickey (Kilmoganny), John Morgan (Capt) (James Stephens), Niall Nevin (Thomastown), J.P.O'Neill (Kilmoganny), Michael Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), John Paul Corcoran (John Lockes), Miley Dunne (John Lockes), James Walsh (Slieverue), Paul Buggy (Conahy), Niall McCormack (Kilmoganny), Brian Cantwell I (Carrickshock), Paul Sheehan (Rower-Inistioge). Subs-Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks), John Brennan (Conahy).

# Michael O'Neill —The Quiet Man.

John Knox NT

**M**ichael O'Neill, or Mick as he is better known, is one of the many unsung heroes of the GAA who serve their time on the club, local and national scene. Mick, of a shy quiet disposition, gave a lifetime of service to his club as secretary, the Southern Board as Chairman, fifteen years as Chairman of the County Board, and, in 1995, he was made a life President of Kilkenny County Board, an honour richly deserved and much appreciated. Under his stewardship, Kilkenny enjoyed possibly its most successful period ever on the national scene capturing seven All-Ireland titles.

Mick's earliest memory is of playing school league, when, at ten years of age, he cycled to Slieve rue to try to postpone a match which was subsequently played the following Sunday when they were hammered 15-11 to nil. He recalls with affection one big fellow Spuddy Grant, who literally walked through them. He later went on to win a championship with Slieverue and became manager of Waterford Greyhound Track. But such an inauspicious start did not dampen his enthusiasm. As he says himself "they were all hurling mad in these days".

Mick's entry into administration was somewhat fortuitous. At twenty five, having played junior with Mullinavat, he helped found the St. Senan's Club in December 1950 with the local Fr. Mullen who was Chairman and Dick Rellis, who taught in Strangsmills, as secretary. In 1951 they lost to Thomastown in the championship but the secretary assured them that they would have plenty of challenges that summer. Mick recalls that it was the only game of the year and this gave rise to fierce dissatisfaction with moves afoot to shift the officers and bring in younger fellows. The meeting place was in the late Paddy Knox's tailor shop, and a large crowd attended but an equally large crowd stayed outside as they saw little point in attending. On the way in, the same Paddy, having heard the complaints, suggested a "Vice-Chairman". During the meeting the outgoing Chairman was re-elected and the outgoing Secretary elected Vice-Chairman. Paudie Connolly eventually took the secretaryship on condition that Mick was his assistant. Later, when Paudie transferred to Dublin, Mick became Secretary, a position he held until he became Chairman of the County Board in 1969.

In 1957 he became a delegate to the County Board and he also attended the Southern Board where he was Chairman from December 1963 to January 1969 having succeeded the long serving Johnny Lonergan. Again, as he puts it, it was by accident he became Chairman. Pat Connors suggested he might have a go at the chair. "That struck a thought and I said maybe I will". This completed his apprenticeship for the highest office in the County and he succeeded Nicky Purcell as County Chairman.

Secretary of Kilkenny County Board at that time was Paddy Grace or "Grace" as he preferred to be called. Mick has many fond memories of his partner in arms for many years. Paddy was one of the great characters, along with others like the late Jim Brophy, Chew Leahy



**Mick O'Neill** *Photo: Tom Brett*  
Chairman Kilkenny County Board 1969 - 1986

and P.J.O'Neill. The stories are legion and Mick fondly recalls an occasion during a League Final when Jim had been put in charge of a roast chicken as sustenance for himself and Grace at half-time. Both had missed their meal in the Hollybrook, having spent the time getting liquid refreshments instead, but when Grace came to claim his share all the chicken had been devoured. On another occasion in the 50's, during a Railway Cup match, Grace had charge of a bottle of whiskey which was purely for warming up or medicinal purposes. Grace entrusted the bottle to Chew for safe keeping and when required at half-time, the call went out for Chew who eventually came from the Canal end only to tumble feet up in the air with an empty whiskey bottle! P.J.O'Neill knew anybody who was worth knowing with lots of connections in other sports, including tennis, soccer and rugby. All these good friends and many more helped to lighten the more serious business of the times.

Recalling the All-Irelands he was involved in - a labour of love for Mick - each holds its own special memory for him and his voice rises with excitement and the old enthusiasm as he recollects treasured moments from the past.

**1969 Kilkenny 2-15 Cork 2-9.** In his first year, the team reached the final and were lucky to beat Cork and it was, in Mick's words, "similar to nearly all the games against Cork, we came from behind - I really enjoyed that final. The first is always special. We started poorly and Cork were a couple of goals up with Ray Cummins lording it at full-forward. We had picked the team on the Wednesday night and Johnny McGovern (Selector) had mentioned that Paddy Moran had flu symptoms, but we

all expected him to play on Sunday. Nevertheless, we made a decision on who would take his place. Come Sunday, Paddy couldn't field and it transpired none of us were happy with our decision. Grace got wind that we were all growling that the wrong decision had been made and said we better have a meeting. We reversed the decision and Mick Lawlor came on and had the game of his life. He was marking a little fellow called Roger Touhy who had to be replaced". Mick ruefully recalls the vagaries of being a selector. "During the minor match, he was accosted by a well known Kilkenny supporter who enquired who was Moran's replacement. on being told he replied, "Mick Lawlor - have ye no one else?" Needless to remark there was no comment afterwards especially since the game hinged on a side-line ball taken by Mick that went straight to the net although Mick O'Neill feels Joe Millea might have got a slight touch.

**1971 Tipperary 5-17 Kilkenny 5-14** This game has memories of "the greatest goal I ever saw scored. Kieran Purcell got the ball between mid-field and centre forward position and worked his way in, beating one man after another and struck the ball into the back of the net. It would have gone down in history but unfortunately we were pipped at the end of a high scoring game". Shades of recent times "We got a bit of flack after that but sure you can always expect this when you lose".

**1972 Kilkenny 3-24 Cork 5-11** "That was some game against Cork - team beaten - twenty minutes to go - eight points down - the team came alive. Keher was playing left half forward and the boys said to shift him into the corner. I had to go to the Hogan Stand side. Keher came out to the line and as he moved, Paddy Barry had saved a ball and cleared it straight to Keher. I was standing right beside him as he struck with the sun. I could see Barry looking for something and the next thing he was looking in the net. The game changed and we won by seven or eight points. That was something special", he enthuses, "We scored fifteen or sixteen points and gave Cork no score after we looked all over a beaten team".

**1973 Limerick 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14** "Sadly that was a disaster, not from the game's point of view, but the way things worked out. I have no doubt but the 1971-1976 team was one of the greatest ever of any generation. They could have won five in a row, certainly four. We were short four Keher, Purcell, Treacy and Morrissey. If

any of those had been playing I doubt if Cummins would have played. He had a strapped shoulder but had to play. We lost Chunky - after the first ball he was gone. The day was completely against Paddy Broderick. He wore glasses and on such a wet day he had no wipers. We certainly had problems; yet, a game we could have won with a bit of luck".

**1974 Kilkenny 3-19 Limerick 1-13** "We won handy"

**1975 Kilkenny 2-22 Galway 2-10** "We beat Galway handily enough after getting some lucky scores".

**1979 Kilkenny 2-12 Galway 1-8** "Cloney had a long range goal against Seamus Shinnors. Babs was in charge of Galway that year. It was really a great year under Keher and Henderson".

**1982 Kilkenny 3-18 Cork 1-13** "Eighty two was special too. It was really a great win over what was supposed to be a super Cork team. Going into that final, we were given no chance and the game was over at half time".

**1983 Kilkenny 1-17 Cork 1-14** "The day of the storm, with a gale blowing down the field and it looked curtains at half time. When we went back out, Ritchie Power had a goal. He took about four belts going through and the scene was changed and we were there with a chance. It was the longest thirty five minutes I ever remember, as we were under pressure the whole time".

Mick's swan song was one year later and he contemplates the difficulty of achieving the three in a row. "What's it about this three-in-a-row that we can't do it? After '74 and '75, we came to the end of our tether, having beaten Clare in the League Final. After the double of '82 and '83. hopes of succeeding were even greater than in 1973 but alas it was not to be. 1984 - for a year that began with such high visions, it was an awful year in every way but especially because we lost Grace. The way I felt, I thought he'd go on forever-I couldn't believe he'd die", he recalls his voice tinged with regret.

Mick resigned as County Chairman in 1986 and was succeeded by Tommy Murphy. He then kept active with Kilmacow and is still involved on the local scene. In 1995 he was honoured by being appointed a life President of Kilkenny County Board, an honour he is extremely proud of. When asked to nominate some of the great Kilkenny hurlers his thoughts turn automatically to the great seventies team and he nominates Keher, Cummins, the Hendersons, Purcell ("who could make the ball talk"),



### 1969 All Ireland Final

#### A first for Chairman, Mick O'Neill.

A sideline ball from Mick Lalor is missed by Cork goalie, Paddy Barry, and finishes in the net.

From left: Denis Murphy (C), Joe Millea (K), Tom Donoghue (C), Martin "Goggy" Brennan and Paddy Barry.

Delaney, and Chunky O'Brien. "Where do you stop?" is his problem.

He has a huge regard for Wexford who were the toughest opposition always and he feels they were the unluckiest team of his era as they only lost by a point to great Kilkenny teams, all through the seventies. "When we were gone, if anyone was to win, we would always be up for Wexford. Grace always said "Wexford have to win an All-Ireland soon, and, if they don't, we'll be in trouble with them". A problem solved in style in 1996. Reminiscing on his great opponents he recalls "Tony did us in 1984 when he got a great goal in the last minute. He was always a devil, you never knew when you had him.

He had a hand like a shovel. His brother Colm was another fierce opponent and the Quigleys and Mick Jacob, one of the greatest centre backs ever for a small man".

Mick, who is now in his seventies, feels the GAA will survive and prosper, although the players need to practice more at developing their skills. He is enjoying his retirement and is deeply proud of the honorary title of President of Kilkenny GAA. A modest man, his achievements speak for themselves and they make him one of the great Chairmen of Kilkenny County Board - indeed of any County Board.

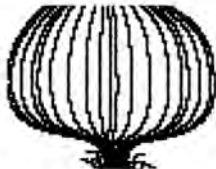


### MEMORY LANE

Kilkenny Camogie Team, defeated by Cork in 1972 All Ireland Final. Score - Cork 2 -5 Kilkenny 1 -4.

Back: Ann Carroll, Phil O'Shea, Breda Cassin, Ann Phelan, Maura Cassin, Carmel O'Shea, Liz Neary.  
Front: Mary O'Neill, Bridie Martin, Helena O'Neill, Angela Downey, Theresa O'Neill.

Photo: Tom Brett



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# IT WAS THE YEAR THE "DJ FACTOR" BECAME A REALLY SERIOUS ISSUE

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE

JOHN KNOX, KILKENNY PEOPLE

**IT WAS A fair test of stamina, commitment and ability, and it produced an absolutely true line of form this season. The team with the best record in the county ran away with the title.**

Young Irelands (Gowran), last year's senior hurling championship winners, did a two-step of sorts this time round. When they missed out on retaining the knock-out crown, they made off with the Credit Union league title instead.

Of all the teams in the senior division, 'Irelands had the best record. Such teams usually win leagues, one can Hear you say. Not always, the way GAA leagues are constituted.

Anyway, 'Irelands lost only one of the 10 competitive matches they played during the season. That was the championship final. They drew another, a league tie against Graigue-Ballycallan. And they won the other eight. Fair going!

Of course, when you mention Young Irelands, you immediately think D.J. Carey. Why not? Sure isn't he Gowran's most famous son?

'The D. J.' was such a prolific scorer and contributor to the cause, that the phrase the 'D.J. factor' came into being. This 'factor' was the extent to which Carey's contribution contributed to the winning of matches, and the destroying of teams. In all cases it was considerable. His tally in the seven league games was a mind blowing 9-51. Yes, 9-51.

### Staggering

In the first match against mentally brittle Tullaroan, it ran to a staggering 1-12. In the next one against uneasy Glenmore, the count stopped at 11 points. And on and on it went.

In the final someone else get two scores – Dick Carroll shot 1-1 – and D.J. Carey walked off the pitch after shooting all the rest....2-9. That was some going for a man who was still trying to shake off the debilitating effects of food poisoning, and was additionally hampered by a touch of tonsillitis.

A helpful 'Irelands mentor was near at hand most of the



Shall we dance?...Dunamaggin's **Tom Hickey** keeps a very close eye on Young Irelands **DJ Carey** in the senior hurling final.

[Photo-Tom Brett]

time with the 'bottle', and when D.J. was not having a drink he was shooting scores. Poor James Stephens could not handle him. Their challenge disintegrated, and they were well beaten by 3-10 to 2-6.

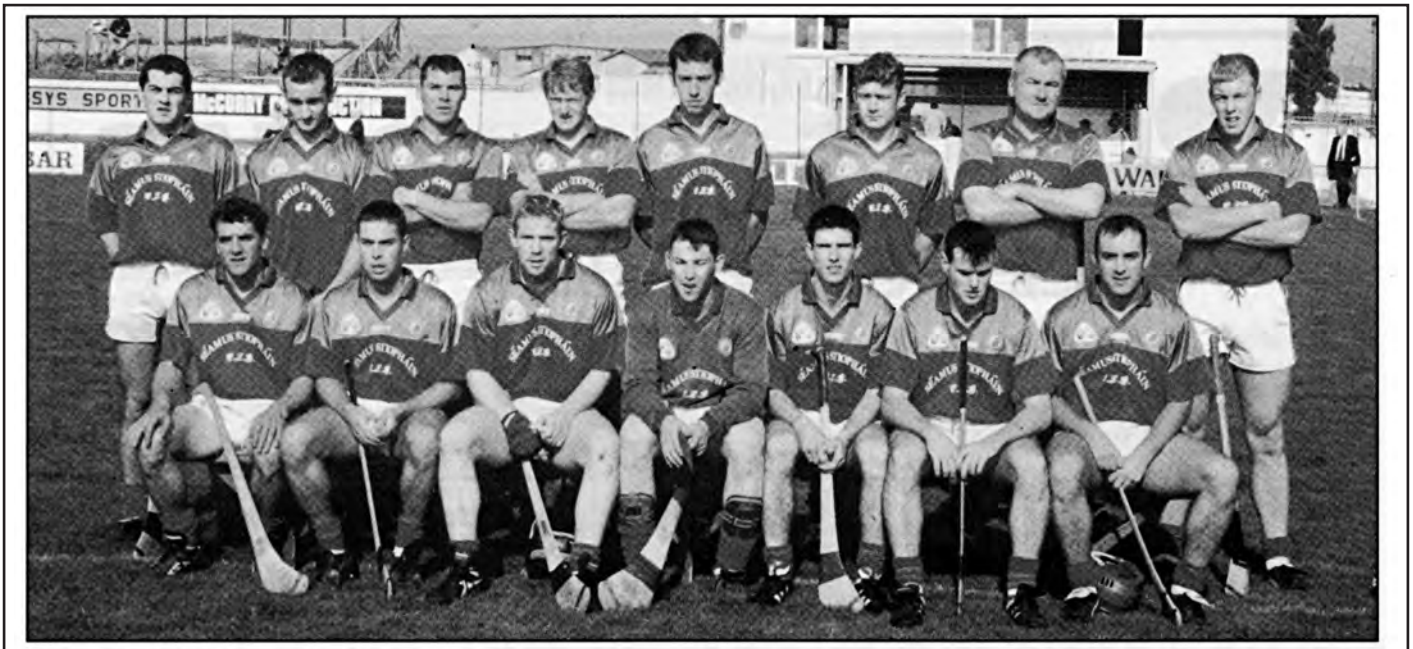
This self effacing individual would not like all this to be turned into a one man band story. Yet, even his own colleagues will readily admit that he drums up some devastating tune when he is on-song, which is most of the time.

The league final looked to be going away from 'Stephens after a mere six minutes. Already they were 1-2 to no score behind. They put in a strong effort for a while afterwards, and a goal from Liam O'Connor was followed by points from Brian McEvoy and Kevin Grogan to level the match.

By the time the end of the quarter was reached, the city side were on the slide. Carey hurt them badly. He galloped past two defenders before shooting a terrific goal. By half-time he had 2-3 in his credit account, and 'Irelands were 3-4 to 1-2 ahead.

### On their way

Barely five minutes had gone in the second half when 'Stephens looked like getting back into contention. Liam



**JAMES STEPHENS - SHC SEMI-FINALISTS.**

BACK: Malcolm Murphy, Niall Lahart, Kevin Grogan, Tobias White, Tomas O'Dowd, Peter Barry, Liam O'Connor, Martin Phelan.  
 FRONT: Tommy Fogarty, Barry Smith, Shane Doyle, Francis Cantwell, Philip Larkin, Brian McEvoy, Liam Smith  
 [ Photo - Tommy O'Neill]

O'Connor and Richard Manogue slipped over points, and then the latter netted (3-4 to 2-4).

Carey sliced over a hat-trick of points during the following five minutes, and 'Irelands were on their way to their first senior league success.

D.J. walked off with the man of the match award, which was not surprising. Had they been available all season, he would have collected a fair few of them.

Of course, he had some very able men with him. County colleague, Charlie Carter was one. In the semi-final against eventual county champions, Dunnamaggin this pair literally went to town.

They plundered a fantastic 3-14 between them, Carter getting 1-6. So often it was the C&C scoring show, and they left the opposition with massive hang-overs. Pat O'Neill turned in some accomplished performances too. That Dunnamaggin match was one such occasion. He showed real character because it came shortly after the county's demise in the All-Ireland series.

Cathal Fitzgerald, Owen Farrell, who had a magical opening half in the championship decider, Ciaran Phelan, the much improved Jack Carey and Dick Carroll and James Fitzgerald were others who showed blinding form at times.

**Young Irelands** league final team – Martin Carey, Brian Farrell, Pat O'Neill, Cathal Fitzgerald, Owen Farrell, Pat Drea, Daragh Phelan, Oliver Carter, Ciaran Phelan, D.J. Carey, Toss Farrell, James Fitzgerald, Charlie Carter, Jack Carey, Dick Carroll. Subs – Alan O'Neill, Brian Treacy (used); Ciaran Carroll, Thomas Drennan, Aidan Drennan, Peter Carroll, John Drennan, Kevin Fennelly, John Kennedy, Martin Carter, Pa Farrell. Team selectors – Kevin Fennelly, Dick O'Neill, Charlie Carter (snr).

**James Stephens** – Francis Cantwell, Malcolm Murphy, Tobias White, Barry Smith, Vinny O'Brien, Martin Phelan, Shane Doyle, Philip Larkin, Niall Lahart, Tomas O'Dowd, Kevin Grogan, Noel Brennan, Brian McEvoy, Liam O'Connor, Richard Manogue. Subs – Tommy Fogarty,

Liam Smith, Brian Leahy (used); Peter Barry (inj), Frank Morgan, Billy Walton, Stephen Drennan, John Larkin, Liam O'Brien, Michael Phelan, Fergal Cantwell, Michael Fogarty, Dermot Grogan.

Referee – P. Dunphy (Carrigeen).

#### HOW THE YOUNG MEN MARCHED TO VICTORY

**April 20**

**Young Irelands 3-15 Tullaroan 0-14**

Scorers – D.J. Carey (1-12, three points frees, one 65); Charlie Carter (1-2); Jack Carey (1-1).

**May 4**

**Young Irelands 1-17 Glenmore 0-13**

Scorers – D.J. Carey (0-11, two frees, one 65); J. Carey (1-0); C. Carter (0-3); J. Fitzgerald (0-2); J. McDermott (0-1).

**May 24**

**Young Irelands 2-13 Dicksboro 1-13**

Scorers – D.J. Carey (2-5, four points frees); C. Carter (0-5); J. Fitzgerald (0-3).

**June 8**

**Young Irelands 1-13 Graigue-Ballycallan 1-13**

Scorers – C. Carter (0-8, one free); D.J. Carey (1-3, points frees); James McDermott (0-1); Pat O'Neill (0-1, 65).

**June 29**

**Young Irelands 2-10 Fenians 0-12**

Scorers – D.J. Carey (1-3); C. Carter (0-3); B. Treacy (1-0); D. Carroll (0-2); P. O'Neill (0-2).

**August 14, league semi-final**

**Young Irelands 3-20 Dunnamaggin 0-15**

Scorers – D.J. Carey (2-8, 1-5 frees); C. Carter (1-6); Dick Carroll (0-3); James Fitzgerald (0-2); J. McDermott (0-1).

**October 26, league final**

**Young Irelands 3-10 James Stephens 2-6**

Scorers – D.J. Carey (2-9, five points frees, two 65s); D. Carroll (1-1).

# CLUB NEWS

## CONAHY SHAMROCKS

Conahy Shamrocks qualified for the Roinn C Minor Hurling Championship County Final as a result of a hard earned but deserved win over a gallant Clara side in Kilmanagh on Saturday afternoon last. The County Final will take place in two weeks time on Saturday 18th October in Palmerstown as part of a double header with the Roinn B Final. Windgap will provide the opposition for Conahy in the final. The locals dominated the game against Clara in the opening stages but had only a four point advantage at the interval.

Conahy squandered a good goal scoring opportunity mid way through the first half and this gave their opponents a boost which saw them come much more into the game approaching the interval. A great goal from Mark Mooney stretched the Conahy lead in the second half but straight after this score Clara took a firm grip on the game and the winner's defence had to work overtime to contain a rampant Clara attack. The lead was narrowed to five points when Clara got through for a goal and while Conahy managed to slip over two points the losers continued to punish Conahy with pointed frees. Conahy continued to concede frees at an alarming rate and when Clara got through for another goal late in the game just the minimum margin separated the sides. The game was finally made safe when a long distance free from Paul Buggy went all the way to the Clara net. The Conahy defence can take a lot of credit for this win as they had to soak up constant pressure in the closing quarter, while various midfield pairings were on top except for a period in the second half. The attack looked in complete control in the first quarter but a solid Clara defence ensured scores were at a premium for the remainder of the game. After the game Kilkenny Bord na nOg Chairman Joe Pyke presented the cup to team captain John Brennan. Training for the County Final continues on this Wednesday evening in the Polo Grounds.

**Conahy :** Conor Brennan, John Bergin, Liam Byrne, Brian Heverin, Darragh Connery, John Brennan, Seamus Brennan, Niall Burke, Brendan Griffith, Eoin Byrne, Paul Buggy, Patrick O'Neill, Mark Mooney, Colm Healy, Pauric Nolan.  
Subs : Pat Kenny & Thomas Nolan.

### Special Junior Hurling.

Conahy Shamrocks play O'Loughlin Gaels in the Special Junior B Northern Final on Saturday afternoon next. The



**Conahy Shamrocks 1997 Northern Division III League Champions & Special Junior County Finalists**  
Back : Michael Healy, Brian Maher, Tommy Lawlor, Brendan Griffith, Kenny Dooley, Brian Burke, Kevin Healy, Pat Nolan, Eddie Comerford, James Lawless, Ollie Dunne, Larry Deevy Front : Darragh Connery, Brian Lacey, Willie Lawless, Tom Brennan, Brian Buggy, Padraig Downey, Shane Mulhall, Declan Buggy, Conor Brennan, Eoin Byrne, Liam Byrne.



**Conahy Shamrocks U-11 Ground Hurling Squad** with their Coach Conor Brennan at the finals in Nowlan Park in September. Back: Ian Kavanagh, Ciara Brennan, Brian Healy, Eamonn Maher, Joseph Delaney, Peter Dollard, Conor Brennan, Graham Cuddihy, Gavin Nolan, John Wallace, John Muldowney, Peter Harding, Michael Lawlor, Damien Webster, Ciaran Walsh. Front: Joseph Cass, David Baldwin, Paddy Mullan, Patrick Cass, Marian Walsh, Louise Murphy, Noelle Corrigan, Marie Dollard, Paraic Harding, James Delaney, Kieran Delaney, Kieran Mooney, Sean Delaney, Andrew O'Keeffe, David Healy.

sides have already met once this year in the Northern Division III League decider which Conahy won after a magnificent encounter. Both sides will show a few changes from their last encounter with a number of players having moved up a grade. Conahy will be a little more handicapped than their opponents in this regard, so the task on Saturday will be all the more difficult. The team has trained hard over the past few weeks and will not lack motivation as they attempt to reach the County Final.

### Scanlon Park.

The successful training sessions which the Conahy Shamrocks players undertook in Scanlon Park last Winter will recommence shortly. The floodlit area has been booked by the club from 9.30 p.m. to

10.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

### Squash.

The dark evenings can only mean one thing - the commencement of the squash season in the Polo Grounds. The court is available to all who have paid their membership. Games can be booked by completing the booking sheet in the Squash Court. Adult and juvenile leagues will commence in a couple of weeks.

### Schools Football.

Danesfort proved too strong for Conahy in the Schools Football League last week. This week's game against John Lockes (Callan) takes place in the Polo Grounds on this Wednesday evening at 5.30 p.m. in the Country Cup. Players to be in Jenkinstown at 5.15 p.m.



# ***The Agony and The Ecstasy***



"LEMME GO" : **Canice Brennan** wins as he thunders through the Galway defence in the All Ireland Quarter final in Thurles. The Galway player in view is **Rory Gantly**. [Sportsfile]



Kilkenny Football Champions : **Stephen Kennedy** receives the cup from **Tom O'Hanlon** (Football Board Chairman) after Dicksboro defeated The Village in the Final [Tommy O'Neill]



"Master Joe"....A delighted **Joe Hennessy** is congratulated by former President **Dr. Mick Loftus** captaining Kilkenny to their All Ireland Masters Final. Looking on is **Kevin Fennelly**. [Tommy O'Neill]

# Noel Doyle

**T**he tragedy of Noel Doyle's death on Good Friday last, struck deep into the lives of many more than his immediate family and friends. It is said that "From little acorns great oaks grow", and in Noel Doyle's case, that proverb essentially describes his life and times. Let it be said at the outset, that Noel Doyle was "Mooncoin through and through". He came from honourable stock, who were themselves steeped in the great Gaelic traditions. His late father, Eddie—remembered in song, verse, and wherever men gather to talk of times past, and the great games of hurling— had captained Kilkenny to All-Ireland League victories.

From that base, Noel lacked nothing in environmental encouragement. He knew no other way of life. It was inevitable that his sporting ambitions would be encapsulated within the GAA ethos.

He hurled with his "alma mater"—De La Salle in Waterford. On "the field of dreams", he won championships (U-16, Minor and Senior) with his beloved Mooncoin. He was active—in its absolute sense—in every facet of the club's managerial structures. More than anything else he wanted "his Mooncoin" to win. His love of "things Kilkenny" was only a short head behind his love for his native place. With Kilkenny too, he acted as selector on a number of County teams, culminating with an All-Ireland win in 1994, with the U-21 team against Galway.

He had a dynamism that was awesome. He was the driving force behind the huge development of the Mooncoin Club and Parish Developments. It has been known for Noel to make contact from far off Japan, and advise the listener that "I will be back Saturday for the match". The success that is Suir Electric, owes its reputation, and standing in

the business world to Noel Doyle. His Company has its own office in London, and it has been involved in huge construction projects in Holland, Japan, Germany and at the Olympics site in Barcelona. Employing over 400 workers, "Suir" in general, and Noel Doyle in particular ensured that, whenever a hurler needed work, they were never refused "the start". From that point of view alone, his input was immeasurable.

He had a big interest in horse racing, and it was only a short while before his death, that he managed to "take out" a private trainer's license. He had horses in training with Pat Flynn and Aidan O'Brien on many occasions.

Yes indeed, "Doyle" —as his Cousin and great friend Paddy Murphy would call him— will be missed by many, but at the end of the day, his lovely wife, Pauline will miss him most, as will his sons, Colm and Eoin. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam.



Noel Doyle RIP with his "Suir Electric" Inter County stars, Pat O'Neill, Tom Murphy and Bill Hennessy.

# CLUB NEWS

## DANESFORT

**T**he work carried out by Kilkenny Co. Council at Danesfort Cross has brought a great improvement to the area and to the security of the pitch. The provision of a bank along the school side of the field was carried out by the Council, and the Club will be erecting a railing around the playing pitch.

The year was a very busy one even though the Club was not rewarded with any trophies. The Junior Hurlers trained hard since February under George Leahy, but lost out in the All County League after playing and winning some good games. The outcome in the Junior Championship was no better when they were beaten by a point by Dicksboro.

The U-21 team, who found it very difficult to get fifteen, played very well against St. Patrick's, but were beaten by four points. Some consolation can be taken from the fact that St. Patrick's went on to win the Co. Final.

The Minors Joined up with Bennettsbridge and played well in the League, but lost to St. Lactain's in the semi-final and were beaten by Young Irelands in the Championship. Our U-16 team had a good year and reached the Northern Final going down to a very good Lisdowney team.

Tim Murphy and Tony Woodcock played for Kilkenny in the Nenagh Co-op Tournament. The Primary School team, under teacher Jim Fennelly, had a great year and played about forty games the highlight of which was the winning of the Ground Hurling in Nowlan Park, and getting to the County Semi-Final of the Gaelic Football.



**Danesfort Camaint Team Back :** Michael Saunders, Shane Coady, Graine Brennan, Paul Murphy, Liam Forristal, John Corr, Phillip Walsh, Rickie Cunningham, Derek Brennan, Jason Bardon, Katie Murphy, Shane O'Hara, Padraig Treacy, Brian Maher. **Front :** Robbie Walsh, Jason Coady, Julie Ann Woodcock, Oisín Daly, Padraig Daly, Donal Maher, Mike Maher, John Casey, Dwane Martin. **Behind :** Mr. Jim Fennelly (Teacher).



**God helps those that help themselves.**

Danesfort Workers : Monsignor Martin Campion P.P. Danesfort, Jimmy Cahill (Caretaker).



Will this yoke cut the grass in wet weather? - Danesfort Groundsman, **Jimmy Cahill** wonders.

# CLUB NEWS

## DICKSBORO

### Addition to Clubhouse

Development to the clubhouse continued this past year with the building and opening of a new members' bar. The new 'Snug', gives a more hospitable welcome during week nights and can also be used by members when the main bar is hosting a function. The new area can be accessed through the main room and separately from a new back door. Altogether, it makes for extra convenience for all visitors to Palmerstown.

### The Bulletin

The club also began producing its own monthly newsletter this year. 'The 'Boro Bulletin began life in May and is now five issues old. The bulletin details club fixtures, results and updates on progress throughout the club and is distributed through the schools and local shops.

### Shinty at Palmerstown

The Shinty players of Glenurquhart visited Palmerstown during the summer and played two challenge games under compromise rules. Tullaroan and Dicksboro both played and overcame the Scottish visitors in two hugely enjoyable games at the 'Boro grounds. The social side of the visit went quite well too! A return visit is not out of the question.

### Get Well Soon, Ned.

Long time Dicksboro secretary and secretary of the Northern Board, Ned Buggy, has been laid low for a while and is presently in St. Luke's Hospital. All at the 'Boro and in GAA circles generally wish Ned a speedy recovery and we hope to see Ned out and about very soon.

### Street Leagues and Under 14 Tournament

As usual, the club ran Street leagues at Under 10 and 12 and an Under 14 inter club tournament for the Billy Hogan Cup and Tommy Martin Shield. The Street leagues again attracted big numbers as eight teams took part over five Sundays in Summer. Winners at Under 10 were Michael Tyrrell's team while Mark O'Hara



**Dicksboro U-14 Hurling Team Winners Of Billy Hogan Cup**

*Back :* Pdraig Ryan, J.J. Brennan, David O'Mahony, Edward Brennan, Alex Dunne, Stephen Neary, Darren Tyrell, Paul O'Flynn, Shane McGarry, Brian Gallagher, Kieran Cuddihy, John Marnell. *Front :* Brian Shields, Denis Foley, Fergal Ryan, Kenny Deegan, Laurence Dowling (Capt), Phillip Hogan, Stephen Nolan, Thomas Manning, William Sainsbury, Michael Nolan.

captained the victorious team in the Under 12 competition. Well done to both teams.

In the Annual Under 14 tourney in Palmerstown, Dicksboro captured the Billy Hogan Cup defeating Graigue-Ballycallan in a thrilling final which went to extra time. In the competition for first round losers, victory for St. Martin's over Mullinahone saw them capture the Tommy Martin Shield. Eight teams competed in total. Other visitors to Palmerstown were Erin's Isle of Finglas in Dublin who brought an Under 13 team on a day trip to Kilkenny. The teams played each other in both hurling and football and an enjoyable day was had by all.

### Floodlit Hurling!

To continue the good work of Sunday mornings, the Under 10 and 12 coaching is to continue throughout the winter. Saturday evenings, 5 - 7p.m. in Scanlon Park under floodlights!



**Laurence Dowling**, (Grandson of Paddy Grace), receives the Billy Hogan Cup from **Shem Tynan**, Chairman, Dicksboro.

### Patsy Trait RIP

This year, Dicksboro club lost a vaulted member and servant with the untimely passing of Patsy Trait on September 30th last. An active member of the juvenile section of the club, Patsy played for the 'Boro in the 1970's and won an All-Ireland Intermediate medal with Kilkenny. He also coached Tullaroan for a number of years. All of Patsy's children play with Dicksboro, hurling and camogie, and Patsy's great love of the games has passed to them. To Marie and all of his family we offer our sympathy at their great loss. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

# THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!

*Tullaroan Féile Winners - Small is beautiful.*

*Ned Kennedy*



**Tullaroan - All Ireland Féile na nGael Champions 1997:**

**Front Row:** Paul Kinsella, Damien Delaney, Gerard O'Dea, Tommy Walsh, Nicholas Maher, Alan Connolly, Martin Brennan, Richard Walsh, Chris Breen, Robert Moore, Michael Mullally, Michael Maher.

**Centre:** Stephen Maher, Niall Ronan, Sean Glennon, Pdraig Kennedy, Shane Hennessy (Capt), Richard Butler, James Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Eddie Campion, John Joe Mullally, Michael Ryan, Eamon Brennan.

**Behind:** Team Officials, Michael Walsh, Bobby Sweeney, Ned Kennedy.

*Photo: Michael O'Hehir*

**Tullaroan's achievement in winning the All-Ireland final of Féile an nGael has added a new dimension to this prestigious competition. Long the preserve of the major city clubs nationwide, Tullaroan's 2-12 to 2-7 defeat of Sarsfields of Cork in the 1997 Division One final singles them out as the smallest club to win the championship.**

It is every young hurler's dream to take part in the national finals of Féile na nGael. To win outright is an honour achieved by a select eleven clubs in the twenty seven year history of the competition. However, to have taken part in what was labelled "one of the greatest ever finals" has been a source of justifiable pride to Tullaroan people everywhere.

The road to glory for these under 14's began with a practice match in Portlaoise on Easter Sunday. A

series of challenge games followed against Emeralds, Durrw, Mount Sion and Ballyboden/St. Endas.

The first round of Féile was played in atrocious weather conditions in Thomastown in May. The stars in the first victory over Callan were Richard Butler, Tommy Walsh, Eddie Campion, Michael Walsh, Shane Hennessy and Stephen Maher. Erin's Own proved more difficult in the second game. For the first time in the competition, but not for the last time as it turned out, Tullaroan's Niall Ronan supplied an important goal when it was needed to inspire his colleagues. Qualification was ensured with a win over Windgap.

The last round of games in Kilkenny brought a long-awaited semi-final victory for Tullaroan over James Stephens, the reigning All Ireland Féile champions. Highlights for the challengers included the

mighty defending of the diminutive Chris Breen at left-half-back, James Fennelly's timely interceptions and a magnificent point from Damien Delaney.

### **The final against Ballyhale**

Shamrocks was the first seriously competitive game for Tullaroan who displayed great character in coming from behind to win. This time it was Seán Glennon who delivered the all-important goal. Goalkeeper Richard Butler saved a penalty and his entire defence held firm when it mattered. The player of the tournament was unquestionably Michael Walsh who assisted his team to a 1-6 to 1-3 victory to claim the Paddy Grace Memorial Shield for the first time.

For the national finals in Waterford, (June 19th - 22nd), due to a late withdrawal by a Waterford club, Piltown were Tullaroan's hosts. The

hospitality was superb as no stone was left unturned in making the visitors feel at home. However, Tullaroan had the upper hand over their hosts in the opening game, remembered in particular for Tullaroan's first Féile scores - a goal by Damien Delaney, a point by Eamon Brennan and Alan Connolly's superb point.

The second game that day against Kilmallock of Limerick has gone into the annals of Féile hurling for many reasons. For now, suffice it to say it was the day the Tullaroan defenders put on a performance worthy of adult counterparts. They held Kilmallock's forwards scoreless for the duration of the twenty minute second half and only gave way in extended injury time. Three times in the course of the game, corner back, young Gerry O'Dea threw himself where many a man would baulk, in order to block down a certain shot for goal. James Fennelly, and Pádhraic Kennedy too, will remember this game with pride. However the resulting draw sent Kilmallock away in elation as it seemed aggregate scores would see them top the group.

The downcast Tullaroan party withdrew to Piltown to contemplate better times. Then, as evening approached, the omens turned in Tullaroan's favour. Crucially Kilmallock's last game came before Tullaroan's final outing and Tuallaraon knew what was required.

The unexpected late arrival from his London holiday of Jim Hennessy, father of team captain Shane, heralded good fortune. ( Though little did we think that, after a lifetime of devotion to his club as player and supporter, it was the Lord's intention that this would be one of Jim's last engagements on the sideline; go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.)

Carloads of supporters arrived in Piltown for this final game of the day to be told that Tullaroan needed to win by a whopping 33 points in order to qualify from the group. Team captain Shane Hennessy seized the moment and the rest is history. His personal tally of 11-4 was enough to ensure qualification but his team-mates also made sure that there was



*Tullaroan Captain, **Shane Hennessy** receives the Christy Ring trophy from Uachtarán CLG, **Joe McDonagh**.*

plenty to spare at the end.

In Saturday morning's semi-final Craughwell of Galway provided the opposition. Both teams looked tired but they served up an entertaining game in the presence of GAA Director General, Liam Mulvihill. Pádhraic Kennedy had established himself on the half-back line by now, and, with Eddie Campion and Chris Breen, the line was rock solid for the remainder of the games. Niall Ronan scored another vital goal. Stephen Maher added a second as Tullaroan qualified for Sunday's All Ireland final against Sarsfields of Cork.

Sunday dawned windy but dry. A tour of Kildalton Agricultural College had been arranged to occupy nervous minds. In this, it proved successful. A puck around on Mullinavat hurling pitch was followed by final instructions from team officials and a colourful speech by club chairman Gerry Doheny.

After soup and sandwiches in the quiet surroundings of the "Rising Sun", the time had come for departure to Waterford and destiny.

The team arrived in Walsh Park at 2pm and were pleased to see neighbours St. Lachtains camogie team in the driving seat in their final. At the final whistle, victory for St. Lachtains meant one up for Kilkenny and another incentive for Tullaroan.

As the teams lined up side by side in the tunnel waiting for word from the

stewards, the first contest of the day took place when shouts of "Come on Sars.", and "Up Cork.", were answered by "Come on the sash." and "Up Kilkenny."

To parade behind the Artane Boys Band is another young hurler's dream. For this panel of Tullaroan players, it had come true and the memory will live forever.

After the match, GAA president, Mr. Joe McDonagh, complimented both teams on their display and described the game as "one of the greatest ever Féile na nGael finals." Such words are not spoken lightly and the match obviously meant a lot to the GAA hierarchy. It was truly an inspired game of hurling.

Early dominance saw Sarsfields into a 2-2 to 0-3 lead. A change in the Tullaroan line-up benefitted a number of players as the Maher cousins Stephen and Nicholas, Seán Glennon and Shane Hennessy set about putting their stamp on the final. A great point from a 65' by Michael Walsh against the wind, started the comeback. Shane Hennessy played a captain's part by working very hard for his first goal. Nicholas Maher struck top form with help from Alan Connolly and Eamon Brennan. Tommy Walsh's performance drew praise from none other than Waterford's own 1959 All Ireland hero Ned Power in his weekly newspaper column. At half time Sarsfields led by 2-2 to 1-4. After the re-start, play moved from end to end until Shane Hennessy struck his second goal. Next, a huge effort by Michael Walsh from 60 metres went over for a crucial point from play.

Now this final became the stuff of legend. From inside his own 65 metre line, Shane Hennessy launched a massive drive. "Great clearance Shane!", shouted his team-mate, Chris Breen, from the left-wing back position. Then Chris and the rest of us watched in awe as the sliotar sailed on and on and over the bar for an unforgettable 100 metre point. The distance may grow in the telling and Chris' second comment is unprintable! Shane had another similar effort moments later and was successful again. Deservedly Niall

Ronan got on the score sheet with a point and Stephen Maher closed the scoring to leave the final tally: Tullaroan 2-12; Sarsfields 2-7.

Tullaroan is only the second club from Kilkenny to win Féile na nGael and only the third Leinster club to achieve the honour.

The Victory drive home in 1997 revived memories of Tullaroan on tour in 1994. The arrival in the village on board Dick Walsh's Avonmore Express was another highlight. The bonfire and greetings from the crowd were memorable.

On Monday morning, players and supporters gathered at Scoil Ruadháin to show the Christy Ring trophy. Lessons were left aside for an hour or two. Sure, didn't fifth class

pupil Paul Kinsella forego a family holiday in Spain in order to take part in Féile. You can't buy that kind of commitment.

It was said in the 1980's, that, with the spread of professionalism, romance had been taken out of sport. Then along came Dawn Run and Danoli, Donegal, Derry and Dicksboro! In 1994, Tullaroan seniors topped the pile in Kilkenny and gave the young lads homegrown heroes. Then came Clare and Wexford. Now in 1997 the smallest club ever to win Féile na nGael has shown again that, in sport, anything is possible.

They said it couldn't be done; that you needed a big team to win Féile. Well, Tullaroan had half a big team. The rest, Gerry, Chris, Stephen, Alan

and Eamon were big in heart. What this team has done "for the credit of the little village" will be recalled at firesides with the legends of Lory and all the others.

Travelling officials were Bobby Sweeney, Michael Walsh, Nicky Maher and Ned Kennedy.

**Panel:** *Richard Butler, Gerry O'Dea, Tommy Walsh, James Fennelly, Eamon Brennan, Eddie Campion, Chris Breen, Michael Walsh, Stephen Maher, Alan Connolly, Seán Glennon, Pádhraic Kennedy, Nicholas Maher, Shane Hennessy (Capt), Niall Ronan, Richard Walshe, Damien Delaney, Paul Kinsella, Robert Moore, Michael Ryan, Martin Brennan, Michael Mullally, John-Joe Mullally and Michael Maher.*



**Two Masters** Joe Hennessy (Captain) and Eddie Keher (Manager), in joyful mood after Kilkenny's Masters victory. Photo: Tommy O'Neill



**"What do you think, Dickie?"** Fan larkin deep in conversation with Wexford referee, Dickie Murphy, in Nowlan Park Photo: Tom O'Neill



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# CLUB NEWS

## DUNAMAGGIN

**W**hat a year of achievement and celebration - the likes of it never seen before down Gloryside! In the dying moments of 1996 Dunnamaggin captured their second U-21 'A' hurling title in a row, overcoming great rivals Graig-Ballycallan at the second attempt. It's a pity that this fine championship has become the forgotten championship of Co. Kilkenny.

In the first days of the new year Kilmoganny footballers landed the U-21 'A' (1996) title to complete a historic year at this grade.

Friday night 17 January saw a huge crowd gather at Eamonn Langton's, John St. for the club's annual Dinner Dance celebrations. Guest personality Michael 'Duxie' Walsh made the presentations.

Our Special Junior team clinched the 'A' Southern title, seeing off the challenge of Graignamanagh but had to give way to a hungrier Young Irelands in the County final. On the senior side, things were building to a steady climax. Come Sunday 12 October, Dunnamaggin braves went



*The impressive Clubrooms in Dunnamaggin*

out and did the business against a much fancied Young Irelands team and brought home an historic first Senior title victory.

Thanks to the encouragement and efforts of the ladies of the Supporters Club, the parish was swamped in a sea of green and gold. Flags, bunting and banners hung from every nook and cranny. Everything somehow changed colour from Billy Heffernan's ewes, Joss O'Neill's 'car', Christy Whelan's teddybear, Trish

Proctor's bike and even the 'Kipper's' beard!

Who can forget the descent into Kells village on Larry Costello's trailer - Tom Walsh Cup held aloft - supporters cheering, clapping and the odd tear? Dunnamaggin - no matter what way you spell it - had arrived. Now we were No. 1 and with only one championship defeat in four years. At the time of writing we look forward with great excitement to the clubs experiences in the All Ireland series. Exciting days down Gloryside! Go mbeimid le chéile ag an am seo an bhliain seo chugainn!!

### **GAA Ground Development**

Following decisions made on dressing room design and location, building works commenced in the third week in January. Thanks to steady workmanship and good building weather, the clubrooms stand now in all their finest - a fitting premises for a worthy club. The playing surface is now in excellent condition thanks to the meticulous work of our groundsman Paddy Moore.

In the early hours of Saturday 20 September, the countryside awoke to the hum and roar of Operation



*Site manager Aidan Farrell supervises 'Operation Clayload'*



Clayload - a huge convoy of over thirty tractors and trailers drawing clay from the Slatequarries to build a massive clay bank along one side of the hurling pitch. Who says mountains cannot be moved? Fencing and planting of suitable shrubs was also carried out during the year under the close supervision of club members, Aidan Farrell and Oliver Herity respectively. Huge credit to all concerned - a typical display of parish spirit and unity. Since then, the second bank has been installed. Club players and officials duly repaid their supporters

efforts.

### Harry Kearney RIP

The club lost a valued supporter and past servant with the untimely passing of the affable Harry Kearney during the Summer. Harry served as treasurer of the club during the late 50's and 60's and was proudly involved in Dunnamaggin's Southern win of 1966. To all who knew him, Harry was a likeable fellow, well able to engage in hurling banter over a few pints. To his relatives and friends we extend a vote of sympathy. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé.

### Community Lotto

The community lotto continues to grow from strength to strength and provides much needed support and funding to its benefactors. It is providing much needed cash flow to the G.A.A. club whose day-to-day costs have risen in line with the clubs many successes. Great credit is due to the lotto co-ordinators, hard working promoters and the people of the parish. Your continued support is much appreciated.

## EMERALDS

**T**he year started on a bright note for the Emeralds G.A.A. club.

On 7th February, over one thousand people attended our presentation night in Kavanagh's magnificent new premises. The night began with the Artane Boys Band leading the teams which won five county finals in 1996 down the town of Urlingford. The Band played in the hall while the massive crowd sat down to a four course meal.

Following the meal, 156 medals, 20 pieces of cut glass and 12 certificates were presented to players, selectors, and officials. After the presentation, the crowd danced the night away to the music of the Paddies.

The 18th May was a very big day for the club, when we opened our new pitch and clubhouse. This project dates back to 1992 when the committee, led by Luke Roche and John Cahill, decided to buy extra land to extend the pitch and build a badly needed clubhouse.



**Emeralds open their new dressing rooms**

L/R: Patrick Joyce (secretary), Fr Lar Dunphy PP, John Healy, Chairman, Kilkenny Co. Board, Tom Phelan (Chairman), Sean Norton (Treasurer), Fionan O' Sullivan (AIB).

The project cost well in excess of £100,000. Great credit is due to all the people of Urlingford who helped in every way possible. The Chairman of the County Board, John Healy, kindly performed the opening ceremony, Kilkenny and Laois senior hurlers played a very exciting game of hurling and the music was again

provided by the Artane Boys band.

After all the success of '96, 1997 was a very disappointing year on the playing field, but the players and officials are eagerly looking forward to '98 when all our young players will be a year older. Who knows, we might have more nights like that special night - 7th February '97.

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# ST LACHTAIN'S CAMOGIE CLUB

## Club Officers 1997:

*Chairperson* : Donal Heaphy.  
*Vice-Chairperson* :: Esther Kennedy.  
*Secretary* : Sheila Dowling.  
*Asst. Secretary* : Sinead Costelloe.  
*Treasurers* : Peggy Dowling & Maura Costelloe.  
*PRO* : Teresa Dillon.

## Club Successes in 1997:

*Primary Schools Roinn A* - County Champions.  
*Under 14 Roinn A* - County Champions.  
*Under 14 Feile na nGael* - County Champions.  
*Under 14 Feile na nGael Division 2* - All-Ireland Champions.  
*Under 16 Roinn A* - County Champions.  
*Under 18 Roinn A* - County Champions.  
*Under 21 Roinn A* - County Champions.  
*Senior* - County Finalists.  
 Winners of the Harrison Cup.

## County Players in 1997:

*Senior* : Gillian Dillon, Sinead Costelloe, Margaret Hickey, Esther Kennedy, Mairead Costelloe, Mary Carmel Ryan and Fiona Connery.  
*Junior* : Mary Carmel Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Paula Dowling and Mairead Costelloe.  
*Under 18* : Mairead Costelloe, Emma Fitzpatrick and Mary Carmel Ryan.  
*Minor* : Mairead Costelloe, Cora Dowling, Sinead Kavanagh, Catheriona Cormack and Sinead Connery.  
*Under 14* : Catheriona Cormack, Sinead Connery, Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling and Breda Kavanagh. (This team won the Leinster Championship).



**St. Lachtains - Senior Camogie Finalists 1997.**

**Front:** Tom Ryan (Trainer), Geraldine Ryan, Mary Carmel Ryan, Mairead Costelloe, Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Fiona Connery, Emma Fitzpatrick, Imelda Kennedy, Esther Kennedy and Eithne Keoghan.  
**Back:** Sheila Dowling (Team Official), Maura Costelloe (Team Official), Sinead Costelloe, Kathleen Dooley, Cora Dowling, Margaret Hickey, Margaret Kavanagh, Gillian Dillon, Hilda Butler, Breda Dooley, Julie Ryan, Marie Dowling, Eimear Connery.



**St. Lachtains - Primary Schools Roinn A County Champions 1997.**

**Front:** Marina Butler, Bernadette Delaney, Ruth Gibbons, Grace Dermody, Ann Beckett, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Nicola Minogue.  
**Middle:** Jenna Kavanagh, Ann Walsh, Ciara Brennan, Caitriona Meagher, Ann-Marie Bergin, Danielle Minogue, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Marian Maher.  
**Back:** Edel Condon, Ciara Hayes, Naomi Fox, Claire O'Donnell, Sarah Theloke, Breda Purcell, Aileen Marnell, Catherine Kavanagh. (Missing from Photo - Triona Heaphy)

1997 was a wonderful year on the playing fields for the St. Lachtains (Freshford) Camogie Club winning five Roinn A County Titles and being narrowly beaten in the Senior County Final. The senior team also won the local tournament for the Harrison Cup while the local Primary Schools team won the Roinn A County Title.

The year got off to a wonderful start with the winning of the County Under 14 title at the expense of the Shamrocks. The club then travelled to Waterford to represent Kilkenny in the annual Feile na nGael competition. The team and officials were based in Ferrybank and defeated the host club, Naomh Marnóg from Dublin and Kiltealy from Wexford on route to the semi-finals. On the Saturday morning in Tramore the team defeated another strong Kilkenny side, Mullinavat, to go through to the final. On Sunday afternoon in Walsh Park, Waterford they defeated Naomh Marnóg from Dublin to win the Division 2 Feile na nGael title. A week later the team defeated the Shamrocks once again to win the Roinn A County title.

The Senior team defeated St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) in the county semi-finals to qualify for the county final against near neighbours

## St. Lachtains - Under 21 County Champions 1997.

**Front:** Ann Wall, Mary Carmel Ryan, Sinead Costelloe, Kathleen Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Mairead Costelloe.  
**Middle:** Bernadette Dooley, Fiona Dowling, Sinead Connery, Cora Dowling, Catheriona Cormack.  
**Back:** Julie Ryan, Marie Dowling, Sinead Kavanagh, Breda Dooley, Margaret Kavanagh.



Lisdowney. In a well-contested game Lisdowney came out on top by two points. However, the club received some consolation when Imelda Kennedy received the Player of the Final award presented by Jim Dobbyn.

The minor team qualified for the Roinn A county final where they were pitted against a very strong Rower Inistioge side. After a great contest when either side could have emerged winners it was the Freshford girls who just managed to edge ahead at the finish.

Next on the agenda was the local Harrison Cup Tournament competition. Teams from Burgess (Tipperary), Dromoninch (Tipperary) and St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) together with the host club took part. In the semi-finals, Dromoninch defeated St. Brigid's while the St. Lachtains proved too strong for Burgess. The Freshford girls defeated their Tipperary visitors in the final to win the trophy for the first time. The club would like to thank Paul Harrison for presenting the trophy for the competition.

The Under 18 team continued the great run of success in the club when they won the Roinn A title defeating the Shamrocks in the final in Bennettsbridge.

The Under 21 side reached the county final without having to play any game as a result of two walkovers. This was a most unsatisfactory situation. Despite this set back and the absence of a number of key players St. Lachtains scored an impressive 4-11 to 2-7



**St. Lachtains - Under 14 Feile na nGael (Division 2) Champions & County Champions 1997.**

**Front:** Catriona Kavanagh, Carol Guinana, Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Sinead Connerly, Caitriona Cormack, Maria Butler, Mairead Lawlor. **Middle:** Ann Beckett, Breda Kavanagh, Ruth Gibbons, Catherine Kavanagh, Jenna Kavanagh, Nicola Minogue, Catriona Maher. **Back:** Sabrina Grace, Mary-Ann Kenny, Grace Dermody, Mary Bergin, Maria Kennedy, Miriam Marnell, Juliet Ryan, Catherine Delaney, Jennifer Quinn, April Purcell, Sine-d Corrigan. **Mascot** - Georgina Power



**St. Lachtains - Under 16 County Champions 1997.**

**Front:** Miriam Marnell, Jennifer Quinn, Carol Guinan, Caitriona Cormack, Catherine Kavanagh, Cora Dowling, Marie O'Connor, Breda Kavanagh, Ann Fortune. **Middle:** Ellie Butler, Mairead Lawlor, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Maria Kennedy, Fiona Dowling, Marie Phelan. **Back:** Grace Dermody, Mairead Costelloe, Bernadette Dooley, Nicola Brennan, Sinead Corrigan, Brena Phelan, Sheila Dalton, Edel Tierney, Sinead Kavanagh, April Purcell

victory over St. Brigid's (Ballycallan).

The St. Lachtains Club would like to congratulate School Principal Tom Doherty on his team's great victory in the Primary Schools Camogie competition and to thank him for his work for camogie at schools level. The club would also like to thank all others involved in training and selecting the teams in a year that was so successful. A special word of

thanks to the trainer of the senior team Tom Ryan, for all his work during the year. The camogie club is indebted to the local St. Lachtains G.A.A. Club for the use of all the facilities at Pairc Lachtain during the past year.

The club has enjoyed a wonderful 1997 and would like to extend thanks to everyone who helped in any capacity during the year.

## GLENMORE CAMOGIE CLUB

**H**aving had great success in winning the County Junior title in 1996, St. James Camogie Club from Glenmore were very pleased with our achievement this year in the Intermediate Championship, reaching the semi-final only to be beaten by a single point by near neighbours Tullogher. This was a very close tough encounter played in ideal conditions in Mullinavat with the winning score coming with the last puck of the game.

We would like to congratulate a young member of our club, Marie Therese Doherty, who won a Leinster

Under 14 championship medal with Kilkenny this year.

The club travelled to Ennis in Clare for a weekend break earlier in the year and had a wonderful time. During their brief visit to Ennis the team played the Clare County Junior team in a challenge with the game ending in a draw. Plans are already being made for another visit to Ennis in 1998. The club would like to congratulate one of its members, Edel Drohan, who got married last September to Paul O'Malley. Following some great displays in 1997, the club is looking forward to success in the Intermediate grade in 1998.



**Marie Therese Doherty**  
Member of Kilkenny Under 14 Team

# MULLINAVAT CAMOGIE CLUB

Chairperson : Margaret Ann Raftice.  
Secretary : Anna Kavanagh.  
Treasurer and PRO : Majella Sutton.

**M**ullinavat Camogie Club had a mixed year during 1997, fielding teams at primary school, U-14, U-16, U-18, U-21 and Junior levels.

We hosted a team from Dunloy in County Antrim for the Féile Na Gael which the girls reached the semi final stages of. The same team reached the semi final stages of the U-14 Championship only to be beaten by a very strong St. Lactain's side. Our Primary school team also met St. Lactain's in the final of this stage only to be beaten again. Our U-16 team also reached the semi final stages only to be beaten by Castlecomer.

Our U-18 girls reached the County Final of the B Section only to be beaten by a much stronger St Anne's side.

The U-21 team were beaten by Mooncoin in the first round of this section. Our Junior team were very



**Mullinavat Under 18 Camogie Team**

**Back:** MI Carroll (Trainer), Sinead maddocks, Nora Sutton, Aida Kenneally, Anastatia Dungan, Valerie Sutton, Ann Marie Raftice, Diane Coughlan, Maria Aylward, Ann Aylward, Elaine Wall.  
**Front:** Kathleen Atkins (Capt), Tricia Dungan, Molly Carew, Fiona Sutton, Louise Foskin, Angela Kenneally, **Front:Centre:** Maria Atkins

unlucky to be beaten by Lisdowney in the semi final stages of this section. Lisdowney who went on to meet Mooncoin and win the County Final. Mullinavat having beaten Mooncoin in one of their first matches. Our Club will be hoping for better things in 1998.

The Club would like to thank our supporters, players and trainers. Mr. Tommy O'Brien, Primary school, Mr. Tom Anthony U-14, and a special thank you to Mr. Michael Carroll for all the time and commitment he gave to training the other teams during the year.

## COACHES



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## INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

# PILTOWN START EARLY

Dan Kenny

Intermediate football, dormant since late Spring and early Summer '96, slowly came to life with the crocuses and snowdrops fading and daffodils beginning to push their way to the fore. St. Patrick's day was still over a week away and the centre stage in the club activities lies vacant.

For the moment football can be, tentatively, the focus of club attention for the eight intermediate teams. The first hurdle is to get 15 players plus back into action. In the initial rounds substitutes and spectators could both be counted on the fingers of one hand. Resuscitation might seem to have been more logical process for the backroom teams.

However, all teams fielded full sides as most players like a game of football and perhaps the hint of a challenge that the first title of '97 might be theirs. The Blacks and Whites began as if they had spent their entire eleven months rest 'revving up for the '97 campaign. Playing open fast football, allied to some clinical finishing, they breezed past Barrow Rangers scoring 3-10 to 1-5. On the same day, Tullogher, down from senior, had a hard fought encounter with Clara. They had to survive a late missed Clara penalty to win by one point 2-5 to 1-7. Clara, '96 finalists, suffered a jolt to their championship ambitions as they were hit by the metaphorical express train in the very next round. They were outplayed by the in-form Blacks and Whites who notched up 2-10 to 0-4 with slick free-flowing football.

This defeat left Clara contemplating their prospects for '98. Barrow Rangers kept their hopes alive with a good 1-8 to 1-8 draw with Tullogher, but conceded three goals to Clara in the final round and lost 0-6 to 3-0. They were now left to fight a relegation battle with the lowest team in the other half of the draw.

The Blacks and Whites finished their three game series with a comfortable 2-10 to 1-8 win over



**Piltown Intermediate Football Champions 1997:**

**Back:** Andrew Mc Carthy, Daniel Mc Sweeney, Michael Brennan, John Falconer, Kevin O'Shea, James Farrell, Brian Farrell, Tadhg Kenny, Liam Kenny (Capt.) Michael O'Shea, Michael O'Dwyer, Seamus Norris, Tommy O'Shea, Barry Walsh.

**Front:** Aubrey Storey, Michael Gordon, James Connolly, Jim Power, Richie Connolly, Denis Lawlor, David Stepney, Kevin Kelly, Eamonn Kenny, Tommy Falconer, Paul Brady.

Tullogher with both teams safely through to the semi's. Dressing rooms, empty all winter, were now being filled with loud exhortations of the vanquished that training must get really serious or face the reality that their hurling might follow the lowly path of their footballers. A calm transient glow of satisfaction pervaded the victor's dressing rooms that this finally might be their year.

In the other half of the draw Mooncoin set the standard with a workmanlike display against Piltown. This was quite a tough encounter with, perhaps, a certain rule latitude being allowed. One player sustained an accidental back injury which kept him out of action for over five months. Club priorities vis-a-vis hurling versus football, began to get an airing. A few Piltown calls were made that football be left to those 'who know something about it' - namely the footballing counties. Mooncoin, for their part, showed the greater commitment and though behind for most of the game deservedly snatched victory with a late Brian

Conway opportunist goal, having had another one by the same player disallowed - 1-4 to 0-5.

Conahy and newly crowned junior champions, O'Loughlin Gaels, were engaged in an equally low-scoring game with Conahy's intermediate experience helping them to pip the city side by two points. Conahy would stay in the intermediate grade and O'Loughlin Gaels would play Barrow Rangers sometime before March '98 to decide which team goes down into the junior ranks. Mooncoin kept the foot on the pedal and eased past O'Loughlin Gaels and Conahy Shamrocks by 10 points and 6 points respectively to earn their way into the semi's.

Piltown, smarting from their first defeat, began to find greater urgency and didn't leave any doubt about their real intentions with a 16pt victory over Conahy Shamrocks and an equally comprehensive victory over O'Loughlin Gaels. New trainer, John Lonergan, was pleased. It was now five days into April and these semi-

## INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Pts		P	W	D	L	Pts
BLACKS & WHITES	3	3	-	-	6	MOONCOIN	3	3	-	-	6
TULLOGHER	3	1	1	1	3	PILTOWN	3	2	-	1	4
CLARA	3	1	-	2	2	CONAHY S'ROCKS	3	1	-	2	2
BARROW RANGERS	3	0	1	2	1	O'LOUGHLIN GAELS	3	-	-	3	0

finals

would be moved off centre stage as the first round hurling league championship games were imminent.

The general standard of football was surprisingly good especially be teams putting ten or more points on the board. Their individual flair, teamwork and point taking were very commendable. Foundations, laid at primary and post primary, Bord na nOg and U-14, U-16, U-18, U-21 and junior county teams, have been very influential in helping clubs to reach a reasonably good level of quite entertaining football, despite playing only one month's football in the year. The knights of the football whistles, despite some early season whistle cobwebs and some on-field animated discussions with mentors, kept good control generally and ensured a well run competition.

In a strange semi-final, Piltown got the upper hand of the Blacks & Whites, after conceding an early goal. Both sets of forwards, prolific scorers in the earlier rounds, could manage only three scores in total. Midfielders, eight points and subs, 1-3, accounted for most of the scoring. Blacks and Whites missed a penalty towards the end of the game and Piltown survived to qualify for the final 1-9 to 1-4. The other semi-final saw Mooncoin find the Tullogher net four times in the first half and paved the way for a relatively easy passage into the final despite a spirited fight-back by Tullogher in the second half. Final Score - Mooncoin 4-10 to 1-6.

### THE COUNTY FINAL

*PILTOWN 3-5 MOONCOIN 2-6*

*(Report : Ed Blackmore)*

Piltown won the first championship of 1997 when they captured the Intermediate Football title by deservedly defeating Mooncoin in this closely fought county Final at damp Mullinavat, to join the senior ranks for the first time in their history. The wet conditions made things difficult for both sets of players early on. When they came to terms with the greasy ball, they turned in an

absorbing game which had the sizeable attendance on their toes to the final whistle.

Piltown hero, James Farrell, scored the first of his three goals mid-way through the first half when will-o-the-wisp, Michael Gordon sent over an inch-perfect ball to the edge of the square and Farrell flicked it to the corner of the net. Within two minutes, he repeated the dose, with Gordon again the provider. That left the score 2-3 and 0-3 and it looked as if Piltown might win comfortably. Mooncoin had other ideas however, and after Diarmuid Mackey had a good point, the game was thrown wide open when Pat Dobbyn crashed home from the penalty spot. Fintan Lowry narrowed the gap to one point as wind-assisted Mooncoin were enjoying their best period in the match just before the interval. The half time score was Piltown 2-3 Mooncoin 1-5.

The second half was barely three minutes old when a problem ball from substitute Barry Walsh proved too hot to handle for the Mooncoin defence and Farrell was on hand to punch the ball to the net. Both sides were finding scores hard to come by as the tight marking defenses dominated. Kevin O'Shea and James Connolly were seen to great effect for Piltown during that period with Joe Murphy and Pat Dobbyn no less effective for Mooncoin. Liam Kenny was dominant in the middle of the field and his fine fielding was a feature of the game. Piltown forwards missed a few chances to wrap up the issue and, as the game entered the last quarter, Mooncoin were awarded their second penalty from which Pat Dobbyn made no mistake to level the scores. As if sensing the danger Piltown dug deep and Kevin Kelly sent over a real pressure free kick from thirty meters. The same player had another point from play to leave the score 3-5 to 2-6 with only ten minutes on left on the clock.

The only blemish on an otherwise

sporting contest followed which resulted in three players being sidelined by Referee Pat Hayes. This left Mooncoin with a numerical advantage but Piltown packed their defence and it paid off as in the final ten minutes Mooncoin were denied a shot at the goal. The best chances in fact came to the winners in the final minutes but they failed to get the insurance point, which kept the game in the melting pot right to the very end.

There can be no denying that the laurels rested firmly where they belonged as Piltown proved worthy winners, banishing the memory of their two previous final defeats. For the winners; Denis Lawlor in goal, Kevin O'Shea, James Connolly, Brian Farrell and Michael O'Shea were best in defence. Liam Kenny was the outstanding midfielder on view, whilst Michael Brennan, Michael Gordon, Kevin Kelly and three goal hero James Farrell were best. Best for Mooncoin: Joe Murphy, Eamonn Mackey and Pat Dobbyn in defense, Pat Hogan had his moments at midfield; while up front, Diarmuid Mackey, Mark Tyler and Domo Connolly fared best.

**PILTOWN:** Denis Lawlor, Brian Farrell, James Connolly, Eamonn Kenny, Kevin O'Shea, Richie Connolly, Liam Kenny, Tadhg Kenny, Michael Brennan (0-1), Daniel McSweeney, Jim Power, Michael Gordon, James Farrell (3-0) and Kevin Kelly (0-4). Subs: Barry Walsh and Andrew McCarthy.

**MOONCOIN:** Liam Purcell, Joe Murphy, Billy Quinn, Eamonn Mackey, Eddie Mackey, Pat Dobbyn (2-1), John Mahon, Tom Murphy, Pat Hogan, Diarmuid Mackey (0-1), Mark Tyler (2-1), Bernard Keane (0-1), Liam Sutton, Domo Connolly (0-1) and Fintan Lowry (0-1). Subs: Ger Kirwan and David Coady.

**Referee:** Pat Hayes (*Graiguel Ballycallan*).

# Honours are Evenly Shared

This was one of the rare occasions when the three championship and the three league titles available went to six different teams. It is very pleasing to see the honours being shared around.

In the Roinn A championship, both finalists, Shamrocks and Tullaroan, were seeking their first ever title in the grade. Only once before had either team reached the final. The Shamrocks, when known as Ballyhale, lost out to St.Patrick's, now known as James Stephens, in the 1974 final. Shamrocks had only one game on the way to the way to the final having an easy win over Dunnamaggin on a score of 1-12 to 0-0. Six teams took part in the North. In the first rounds, Graigue-Ballycallan beat Dicksboro while James Stephens overcame Emeralds. O'Loughlin-Gaels beat the champions for the past three years, James Stephens, by one point 0-13 to 1-9. Tullaroan had five points to spare over Graigue-Ballycallan 0-15 to 2-4. The North final was another cliff-hanger as Tullaroan edged out the City boys on a scoreline of 2-8 to 0-13.

The final, played in Callan, produced a thrill-a-minute contest. At half time, the sides were locked together with each side having scored four points. Shamrocks won the match between the 39th and 47th minutes when they added on 1-2 without reply from the losers. The points came from David Hoyne with Liam Walsh cracking home the goal. Tullaroan came storming back in the closing stages and narrowed the gap to a point but the Shamrocks held out for a historic victory on a 1-6 to 0-8 scoreline.

There was much to admire about many of the players on both teams. There was the style of Brendan Hoyne and Patrick Reid, the dependability of Eamon Frisby, the strength of captain Willie Coogan, the pace of Brendan Costelloe, the opportunism of Liam Walsh and the goalkeeping of Michael Drennan for the Shamrocks. Tommy Walsh was one the best players on view, starring in the Tullaroan defence. He got most assistance from

## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS U16 ROINN "A" CHAMPIONS 1997



**Ballyhale Shamrocks Under 16 Roinn A Champions 1997** *Photo: Tommy O'Neill*  
**Back:** Seamus Walsh, Liam Walsh, Keith Murphy, Dick Fitzpatrick, Anthony Walsh, Brendan Costello, Bill Walsh, John Kennedy, Robert Aylward, Larry Aylward, Eamon Frisby, William Holohan.  
**Front:** Eddie Fitzpatrick, Michael Dermody, Eoin Reid, William Coogan (Capt), Michael Drennan, John Dermody, Patrick Reid, David Hoyne, Padraig Holden, Ger Holden.

## LISDOWNEY U16 Hurling Team



**Lisdowney U-16 Hurling Team** *Photo: Tommy O'Neill*  
**Back:** J.P. Dowling, John Bergin, Declan Tallis, Michael Dowling, David Hogan, Michael Bergin, John Carey, Padraig Bergin, Pat Bowden, Eoin Maher, Brendan Maher, John Murphy, Kevin Maher, Declan O'Shea.  
**Front:** David Dowling, Paul Mullally, Noel Dowling, John Willie Bowden, Anthony O'Hara, Pat Dunne, Patrick Bowden (Capt.), Ronan Costello, Niall O'Hara, Padraig Doheny, Richie Kenny.

Martin Og Kennedy, Ned Sweeney, Richard Butler, Shane Hennessy, Paul Doheny and Eddie Campion.

**Shamrocks**-Michael Drennan, Larry Aylward, Eamon Frisby, Keith Murphy, Anthony Walsh, Willie Coogan, Richard Fitzpatrick, Brendan Costelloe, John Dermody, David Hoyne, John Kennedy, Robert Alyward, Patrick Reid, Bill Walsh, Liam Walsh.

**Tullaroan**- Richard Butler, Tommy Walsh, Michael Maher, Eddie Campion, Ken Coogan, Martin Og Kennedy, Michael Connolly, Paul Doheny, Michael Walsh, Ned Sweeney, Sean Glennon, Shane Hennessy, David Cleere, John O'Flynn, Richard Cleere.

### Roinn B

Graignamanagh bridged a ten year gap when they won the Roinn B championship. They turned in an impressive performance in the county final against Fenians played at Nowlan Park. On the way to the final, they disposed of Mullinavat, John Lockes and Rower-Inistioge in a well-contested South final on a score of 2-10 to 2-5. Fenians, on the other hand, beat Clara after a replay, St.Patrick's (Ballyragget), Young Irelands and had a point to spare over Cloneen in the North final, the score reading 3-3 to 0-11.

Graignamanagh, giving a delightful display of stylish hurling, proved too good for Fenians in the final played in Nowlan Park. They ran out winners on a score of 3-12 to 1-5. At the interval, the South side led by 2-5 to 0-4, the goals coming from Pdraig Foley and Diarmuid O'Neill. Whatever hope Fenians had vanished at an early stage of the second period when the winners had their third goal. Following good work by Diarmuid O'Neill, Stephen Fitzgerald and Pdraig Foley were on hand to put the ball in the net. Fenians did get a goal from a Joe Ryan free and were denied another by a brilliant save by Robert Dreeling in the winners' goal. While Fenians tried hard in the last quarter, they could not get the scores they needed. On the other hand, Eddie Walsh, the star of the game, rattled off five points in succession to give his side an impressive win.

In addition to Eddie Walsh, the winners had fine performances from Robert Dreeling, a fine goalkeeper, Eddie Doyle, Gerard Brett, Hughie Flood, Christopher O'Neill, his twin brother Diarmuid and Pdraig Foley.



### Fenians Roinn B Finalists 1997

**Back:** Ciaran Ryan, PJ Delaney, Dermot Power, Roger Greene, Michael Quaney, Paul Quinlan, JJ Delaney, Ger Henderson, John O'Loughlin, Philip Maher, Brian O'Gorman, Francis Hawkes. Eugene Grehan

**Front:** Declan Duggan, Brendan Gleeson, Patrick O'Gorman, James Hickey, Martin Phelan, James Whelan, Philip O'Loughlin, Niall Doherty, Joe Ryan, Donncha Gray.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



### Tullaroan Under 16 Roinn A Under 16 County Finalists

**Back:** Richard Cleere, Ogie Kennedy (Capt.), Michael Maher, John Flynn, Michael Walsh, Michael Connolly, Ken Coogan, Sean Glendon.

**Front:** David Cleere, Paul Doheny, Richard Butler, Ned Sweeney, Eddie Campion, Shane Hennessy, Tommy Walsh. *Photo: Tom O'Neill*



### James Stephens U-16 Duggan Steel Hurling League Champions

**Back:** Timmy Grogan (Trainer), Richard Hayes, Peter O'Neill, Conor O'Grady, Derek Buckley, Gary Whelan, Kenneth Grogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Bill Keogh, Niall Tyrrell, Niall Bergin, Dermot Tyrrell (Selector).

**Front:** Michael Slattery (Selector), Brian Tyrrell, Alan Dunne, Pat Grogan, David Quinn, Niall Grogan (Capt.), Derek Brennan, Barry O'Neill, Mark Hoban, Michael Eardley.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



An unusual aspect of the team was that it contained two sets of twins. As well as the O'Neills, Gerard and P.J.Brett are also twins.

**Scorers- Graignamanagh-** Eddie Walsh (0-10), Diarmuid O'Neill (1-1), Pdraig Foley (1-0), Stephen Fitzgerald (1-0), Christopher O'Neill (0-1). **Fenians-** Joe Ryan (1-3), J.J. Delaney(0-1).

**Graignamanagh-** Robert Dreeling, James Cahill, Gerard Brett, James Kinsella, Dermot Ryan, Eddie Doyle, Trevor Savage, Christopher O'Neill, Hughie Flood, Diarmuid O'Neill, Eddie Walsh (Capt), Bernard Cushen, Stephen Fitzgerald, Pdraig Foley, P.J.Brett. **Subs-** Eoin Lyng, Graham Foley.

**Fenians-** Philip Loughlin, Niall Doherty, Michael Quaney (Capt), James Whelan, Paul Quinlan, Ger Henderson, Dermot Power, John Loughlin, Brian O'Gorman, J.J.Delaney, Philip Maher, Martin Phelan, Donnacha Grey, Joe Ryan, Eugene Grehan.

*Referee-John Dureen.*

#### **Roinn C**

Lisdowney denied Tullogher-Rosbercon the double when they beat them in the Roinn C championship final on a score of 1-9 to 1-7. The game, played in Callan, was a cracking one with the sides level at the interval on four points. Tullogher-Rosbercon were the stronger side and missed two great chances of goals in this first half which proved crucial at the finish. Lisdowney did have the three best players on view in John Bergin, a magnificent full back, Patrick Bowden and David Dowling who scored 1-5 of his sides total. In addition, their goalie, Brendan Maher brought off a string of great saves. It was nick and tuck in the second half until the 54th minute when David Dowling goaled from a free to put his team seven points ahead. Tullogher-Rosbercon did not surrender easily and scored 1-2 in the closing five minutes.

Lisdowney, in addition to those mentioned, had good performances from Owen Maher, Michael Dowling, Patrick Dunne, John Willie Bowden and David Hogan when he came on. Best for the losers were Donal Phelan, Ger Mullally, Martin Woods and Alan Malone who dominated midfield for long periods, Moling Cottrell and Martin Malone.

**Lisdowney-** Brendan Maher, Owen Maher, John Bergin, Anthony O'Hara,

John Carey, Michael Dowling, Michael Bergin, Pdraig Bergin, Pat Bowden, John Willie Bowden, David Dowling, Patrick Bowden, Noel Dowling, Patrick Dunne, Ronan Costelloe. **Sub-** David Hogan.

**Tullogher-Rosbercon-** Richard Murphy, Mark O'Brien, Donal Phelan, Kieran Barron, Ger Mullally, Amby Malone, Eoin Mullally, Martin Woods, Alan Malone, Martin Malone, Michael Grennan, Edward Conway, Simon Kennedy, Stephen Cottrell, Moling Cottrell.

*Referee-Dermot Ronan.*

James Stephens retained their Under 16 Roinn A Hurling League title when they overcame fellow City side O'Loughlin-Gaels in the final played in Nowlan Park. Three City sides reached the semi finals, with Dicksboro going down to O'Loughlin-Gaels. Emeralds were defeated by

James Stephens in the other semi final 4-11 to 2-3. The final produced a great game with O'Loughlin-Gaels having the better of the first half to build up an interval lead of four points 0-6 to 0-2. James Stephens made some changes on the resumption and gradually pulled down the lead and went on to win by 2-9 to 0-8, the all important goals coming from Brian Tyrrell and Niall Tyrrell. The Village boys came out on top because they had the better forwards. The winners' best players were Derek Brennan, Jackie Tyrrell, Peter O'Neill who had a great game, Barry O'Neill, Niall Grogan, Brian Tyrrell and Conor O'Grady. It was no fault of Brian Murphy, Denis O'Brien, James O'Keefe, Darren Carroll and Tommy Lahart that O'Loughlin-Gaels lost. **Scorers** James Stephens- Conor O'Grady (0-4), Niall Tyrrell (1-1), Brian Tyrrell (1-1), Niall Bergin, Barry O'Neill



**St. Martin's U-16 Roinn 'B' League Champions**

**Back :** Kieran Kelly, Tom Morrissey, Larry Comerford, Paul O'Dwyer, Declan Morrissey, Michael Mulhall, Brendan Maher, Seamus Kelly, John Buggy, James Holohan, Patrick Byrne.  
**Front :** Damien Maher, Brian Cadogan, Tom Kinsella, Stephen Murphy, Michael Walsh, Pat Quirke, Donal Kelly, Tom Nolan, Derek Mahony, Niall Moran.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



**Tullogher-Rosbercon Under 16 Roinn C League Winners & C'ship Finalists**

**Back:** Eoin Mullally, Richard Gaule, Richard Ryan, Patrick Gaule, Tommy Maher, Amby Malone, Gerard Mullally, Donal Phelan (Capt), Martin Woods, Simon Kennedy, Martin Malone, Stephen Cotterell, Mark O'Brien, Eddie Mullally, Michael Grennan.  
**Front:** Joseph Croke, Dermot Heffernan, Andrew Murphy, John Murphy, John Grennan, Michael Murphy, Richard Murphy, Kieran Barron, Edward Conway, Moling Cottrell, Alan Malone.

and Gary Whelan (0-1 each).

**James Stephens**-Derek Brennan, Pat Grogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Eardley, David Quinn, Peter O'Neill, Alan Dunne, Barry O'Neill, Niall Grogan (Capt), Niall Bergin, Brian Tyrrell, Conor O'Grady, Bill Keogh, Gary Whelan, Niall Tyrrell. *Sub*-Richard Hayes.

St.Martin's won the Roinn B League title beating the championship winners, Graignamanagh, in the final. The game was played in Bennettsbridge and after a fine contest, the Coon-Muckalee-Ballyfoyle based side won by 2-12 to 2-9. In a game of contrasting fortunes, a goal in the 55th minute by Paul O'Dwyer proved the clinching score.

Graignamanagh started well and, despite playing against the breeze, led at the end of the first quarter by 0-4 to 0-1. Points by Tom Kinsella (2) and Brian Cadogan had the sides level by the 20th minute. At the interval, the sides were all square with 0-6 each. There was some wonderful hurling as an Eddie Walsh goal from a penalty put Graignamanagh ahead by 1-6 to 0-7. Midway through the second half, Graignamanagh were again in the lead when Eddie Walsh scored another goal to put his side into the lead again 2-7 to 1-9. The sides were level with five minutes to go when Paul O'Dwyer made his strike. Two late attacks by Graignamanagh were beaten off and St. Martin's were champions.

Best for St.Martin's were Stephen Murphy, Brendan Maher, Damien Maher, Shem Kelly, Larry Comerford, Declan Morrissey, Tom Kinsella, Paul O'Dwyer and Brian Cadogan. For Graignamanagh, Eddie Doyle, Christopher O'Neill, Diarmuid O'Neill, Pdraig Foley and particularly Eddie Walsh did well.

**Scorers- St.Martin's**- Paul O'Dwyer (2-2), Tom Kinsella (0-6), Shem Kelly (0-2), Brian Cadogan and Kieran Kelly (0-1 each).

**Graignamanagh**- Eddie Walsh (2-6), Diarmuid O'Neill (0-3).

**St.Martin's**-Stephen Murphy, Pat Quirke, Brendan Maher, Micky Walsh, Damien Maher, Shem Kelly, Michael Mulhall, Larry Comerford, Donal Kelly, Declan Morrissey, Tom Morrissey, Kieran Kelly, Paul O'Dwyer, Tom Kinsella, Brian Cadogan.

**Graignamanagh**-Robert Dreeling, James Cahill, Gerard Brett, James Kinsella, Dermot Ryan, Eddie Doyle,



#### **Carrickshock Under 16 Hurling Roinn C South Runners-up**

**Back:** Pat Dalton, Richie Cahill, Stephen Lonergan, William King, Brian Tennyson, Niall Rohan, Jim Rice, Matthew Hanrahan.

**Front:** George Frisby, Liam Barron, Michael Rice, Dan O'Brien, Shane Power, Brendan Hoyne, Pat Cleary. *Photo: Tom Brett*



#### **Graignamanagh U-16 Roinn B Hurling Champions**

**Back:** Ger Brett, Paul Keating, Eddie Doyle, Dermot Ryan, Eddie Walsh, Hughie Flood, Pdraig Foley, Christopher O'Neill, James Cahill, Eoin Lyng, Bernard Cushen.

**Front:** P.J. Brett, Diarmuid O'Neill, Leonard Hayden, John Kinsella, Canice Morgan, Robert Dreeling, Graham Foley, Trevor Savage, Stephen Fitzgerald. *Photo: Tom Brett*

Trevor Savage, Christopher O'Neill, Hughie Flood, Diarmuid O'Neill, Eddie Walsh, P.J.Brett, Pdraig Foley, Bernard Cushen, Garreth Foley.

Tullogher-Rosbercon got some consolation for their championship defeat when they took the Roinn C hurling league title by mastering Carrickshock on a score of 0 10 to 0-2. The final was played in Bennettsbridge and it was a good win for Tullogher-Rosbercon as they have been consistent at under age level for the past numbers of years. Eight of the Tullogher-Rosbercon players figured in the scoring. They led by 0-6 to 0-0 at the interval. Carrickshock improved in the second half but could not break down the winners' defence.

Tullogher-Rosbercon had a strong full back line in Mark O'Brien, Donal Phelan and Kieran Barron. The half back line of Amby Malone, Gerard Mullally and Eoin Mullally were outstanding. Martin Woods and Alan Malone were on top at midfield. All the

winners forward posed problems for the Carrickshock defence. Best for the defeated side were Richard Cahill, George Frisby, William King, Jim Rice, Danny O'Brien and Brendan Hoyne.

**Scorers- Tullogher-Rosbercon**- Stephen Cottrell (0-3), Amby Malone, Martin Woods, Alan Malone, Michael Murphy, Edward Conway, Tommy Maher, Michael Grennan and Joseph Croke (0-1 each).

**Tullogher-Rosbercon**-Richard Murphy, Mark O'Brien, Donal Phelan, Kieran Barron, Gerard Mullally, Eoin Mullally, Martin Woods, Alan Malone, Martin Malone, Michael Grennan, Edward Conway, Tommy Maher, Stephen Cottrell, Joseph Croke.

**Carrickshock**- Richard Cahill, Stephen Lonergan, George Frisby, Niall Roughan, Liam Barron, William King, Michael Rice, Jim Rice, Matt Hanrahan, Pat Dalton, Pat Cleary, Brian Tennyson, Brendan Hoyne, Danny O'Brien, Shane Power.

# Erin's Own Tops in Football

**E**rin's Own created history when they won the Roinn A under 16 football championship for the first time. They were competing in the A grade because they had won the Roinn B under 14 football championship two years ago. Four teams took part in the competition. In the semi finals Erin's Own defeated Dicksboro 8-13 to 1-5 and O'Loughlin-Gaels knocked out the reigning champions James Stephens on a score of 0-10 to 1-4.

The final took place in Palmerstown and was a low scoring affair with the North Kilkenny side coming out on top on a score of 0-5 to 0-4. It was a well taken point two minutes from time by Niall Murtagh that proved the winning score. The wind made life difficult for forwards with Erin's Own clocking up thirteen wides and the City side having seventeen. O'Loughlin-Gaels had first use of the breeze but were in a poor position at the interval when their lead was just a single point 0-3 to 0-2. Erin's Own levelled the scores in the 42nd minute with a point from Eddie Brennan. Nine minutes from time, Adrian Brennan gave Erin's Own the lead. The City side came back to level the scores. For a while, it looked as if the sides would draw until Niall Murtagh got his point.

Erin's Own had good performances from Trevor Condell, David Renwick, Gordan Byrne, Stephen Dwyer, Justin Nolan, Adam Holden and Adrian Brennan. The losers' best players were Paul Kavanagh, Brian Murphy, Stephen Murray, James O'Keefe, Darren Carroll and Mark Sheridan.

**Scorers:** *Erin's Own*- Adam Holden (0-2), Eddie Brennan,



**Erin's Own U-16 Football Co. Champions.**

**Back :** Jamie Dowling, Sean Dwyer, Finbarr Kelly, Adrian Brennan, Justin Nolan, Sean Phelan, Stephen Dwyer, Trevor Condell(Capt.), Brian O'Neill, David Renwick, Eddie Brennan, Andrew Lawlor, Edward Brennan.

**Front :** Danny Byrne, Michael Boland, Colin Dunne, Seamus O'Connor, Donal McInerney, Adam Holden, Neil Murtagh, Jonathan Kenny, Gordan Byrne, Anthony Owens, Thomas Comerford, Hugh Kelly.



**O'Loughlin Gaels Roinn A Under 16 Finalists**

**BACK:** Jas Kelly, Jas Purcell, Jas Kavanagh, Brian Murphy, Jas O'Keefe, Brian Hogan, Jason Pierce, Stephen Murray, Darragh Murphy, Seamus Direen, Peter Dowling, Sean Cleere, Donal Madden. **FRONT:** Liam O'Hara, Trevor Anderson, Niall Trehy, Tom Lahart, Damien Griffiths, Ger O'Brien, Denis O'Brien, Darren Carroll, Jack Brett, Mark Sheridan, Ian. Dowling

[Tom Brett]

Adrian Brennan and Niall Murtagh (0-1 each).

*O'Loughlin Gaels*- Darren Carroll (0-2), Brian Murphy and Niall Trehy (0-1 each).

**Erin's Own:** Finbarr Kelly, Brian O'Neill, Trevor Condell (Capt), David Renwick, Jonathan Kelly, Sean Phelan, Stephen Dwyer, Gordan Byrne, Adrian Brennan, Justin Nolan, Adam Holden, Seamus O'Connor, Eddie Brennan, Neil Murtagh, Donal McInerney. *Sub*- Eamon Brennan.

**O'Loughlin-Gaels:** Tommy Lahart, Damien Griffith, Jason Pierce, Jack Brett, Gareth O'Brien, Brian Murphy, Brian Hogan, Stephen Murray, James O'Keefe, Niall Trehy, Darren Carroll (Capt), Denis O'Brien, Seamus Direen, Peter Dowling, Darragh Murphy.

*Referee*-John Minogue.

# Poetry in Motion



**He grabs it....**

In the dying minutes of the Leinster semi-final against Dublin **DJ Carey** grabs the ball high above Dublin defender **Rory Boland**...



**...he buries it.**

...Having swivelled in mid-air, the perfectly balanced Carey buries it in the Dublin net, despite the best efforts of Dublin goalkeeper **Brendan McLoughlin**.

PHOTOS: Tom Brett

# Coaching Report 1997

by *Briain Ryan, Coach Organiser*  
*Coiste Chill Chainnigh*

**O**ver the past four years many changes have taken place within the coaching world. When I first took over my position as Coach/Organiser my work was mainly concentrated in the school environment. Visiting 37 Primary schools and nine post primary schools, allied with the hugely successful Summer Camps was generally where my services were utilised.

Since then the coaching has branched out to many areas including

- Transition year courses,
- Foundation Level coaching courses (juvenile club courses),
- Level One coaching courses (Adult club courses),
- Development of an U-10 coaching programme for clubs,
- Involvement in the U-11 Ground Hurling competition,
- Appointment of the school / club liaison officer
- Summer Camps.

While it can be very difficult to measure the effectiveness of any coaching term, there are a few obvious indicators to measure the benefits:

- a) a greater number of helmets than ever have been sold,
- b) a higher percentage of clubs have undertaken U-10 coaching,

c) Foundation courses have been run successfully not only to improve coaches training methods but also to lead to involving new coaches in the juvenile sections of their clubs,

d) numbers at the Summer Camps have remained steady in recent years, a measure of the quality of the coaching taking place. Here the key words are involvement and skill development.

Earlier this year we embarked in an U-10 coaching (see below) programme with the specific aim of assisting clubs in the coaching of children at this early age. Thankfully many clubs have been previously coaching at this age group. In the morning practical sessions drills and skill developments were re-enacted with groups of children. It was hoped that this part of the course gave the coaches new ideas and contacts.

There was also an open forum where coaching problems were discussed. We hope that sessions like these give the coaches new heart for the tasks of games development and they also see the type of work being done successfully at other clubs. In these sessions, club rivalry is put aside and tips and hints as to how to make the best use of each session were freely exchanged.

Indeed we found that these people were a credit to themselves and the

Association. It is imperative that we grab our children's interest at a very early stage or risk losing them to other codes and interests. That is why the G.A.A. must move with the times and create enough well organised games and structures so that not only do we hold onto the elite player but also grab and keep the interest of the average one.

It goes without saying that over the past few years our work would not be as successful only for the help of numerous people: Paul Kinsella, Chairman, and members of the Development Committee, Lester Ryan, Leinster Coaching Director, all the teachers in our schools and the dedicated club members of our county who give of their time freely without always receiving the recognition that they deserve.

While there are quite a few people who still have to be convinced as to the benefits of 'all this coaching', and some will never be convinced, I think anybody who talks to children who have been involved in the U-10 coaching programme, U-11 ground hurling competition, Summer camps or school coaching the benefits are clear. Ultimately these children are the association's future; we must carry on regardless of doubts which may arise in some quarters.

To all the teachers and club coaches



Kilkenny County Board helps with Equipment Grants to 23 Second-Level Schools (Tom Brett)

we wish a merry Christmas and best of luck in the New Year at whatever level they promote Gaelic games. Nollaig faoi shona agus faoi mhaise dhaoibh.

**Coaching and Games Promotion Officers: Briain Ryan & Georgie Leahy.**

### **Under 10 Coaching Programme 1997**

**E**arly in 1997 we decided to take an overall look at our club coaching scheme and its successes. As both coaches felt the club visits were not having any tangible benefits, we decided to embark on a new development. In consultation with Paul Kinsella (Chairman, Development Committee) and Lester Ryan (Leinster Coaching Director), we developed an U-10 coaching programme for every club. We felt that this could be of enormous benefit for a number of reasons:

- it would not put an increased workload on the active members of the club,
- from our experience this age group was the most rewarding to work with,
- it was an area which had not been fully developed in most clubs,
- clubs would hopefully have a bigger base of numbers from which to develop in future years (Unfortunately declining population is a reality we must all face in the near future).

The following steps were taken to develop the programme:

**Step One;** At the County Convention clubs were given notice of a three year plan with specific aims for club coaching.

**Step Two;** A letter was drafted and sent to each of our club contacts on 17 January 1997 informing them of an upcoming meeting to be held in Aras Ó Cearbhaill a week later.

**Step Three;** Thirty two people attended that meeting representing twenty six clubs, a very encouraging start for us and it showed a high level of commitment by dedicated club men in underage hurling within the county. An agenda was drafted for the night and each topic was covered in great detail, including the idea of the school/club liaison officer, a proposal which had been passed at Convention a year earlier.

At the meeting, a list of Transition Year coaches, Foundation coaches from courses which we had run over

the past few years was made available to the club contacts so that these qualified people could be utilised by their club.

The county was divided into six groups geographically (three North and three South), and each club contact was responsible for having 3-4 people present who were going to undertake to coach the programme in his own club. Each club contact was given a date, time and central venue for their club coaches to attend a practical session organised by the county coaches. On a designated morning a coaching practical session took place where;

- i) the U-10 coaching programme was presented,
- ii) ideas and views were expressed as to how to get the best out of each coaching session,
- iii) a foundation type practical session took place,
- iv) discussion took place on how to deal with potential problems,
- v) start dates were taken from each club for the programme,
- vi) school / club liaison officers were appointed.

From here it was up to each club to organise its own coaching sessions and as usual the county coaches were only a phone call away if any difficulties arose.

Benefits of a successful coaching programme

To illustrate the benefits I decided to use my own club as a case study. Our club works from a small population base, so we decided to include every school going child. This proved to be a great success for a number of reasons:

- all school going children received one hours coaching instruction per week.
- two new coaches, Oliver Sharkey and Anna Culleton, became involved. In addition, Bart O'Meara who has been involved over several years as a club coach, worked on the programme. This scheme therefore did not put an increased workload on people already actively involved in the coaching area.
- attendances at training increased over the twelve weeks, and this showed that the content of the programme was correctly geared for this age group.
- attendance of parents also increased. In our club prior to this, parents just dropped their older children to the field, but with the

younger children the parents stayed and often assisted. This created a much better atmosphere in the field.

- the club's PR status improved because the parents appreciated coaches giving of their free time to an area which was often regarded as the less glamorous side of coaching.
- the programme ran on a very low budget, financed by the children themselves. They were levied £1 on the first morning.
- the children were much better prepared for the upcoming U-11 ground hurling competition. All in all a very successful club project.

### **Summary**

Kilkenny is fortunate to have such an active development committee and dedicated club members who give so much of their free time without any reward. The U-11 ground striking competition which is run throughout the country is a testament to this trojan work being completed without the recognition it deserves. We hope that this years venture is only the start, and as with any new venture there are bound to be problems encountered, In the future we will fine tune the structure so that these problems can be overcome.

While a number of clubs were previously coaching at this level, it gave those people encouragement on the morning of the practical sessions, to see that they were not fighting a lone battle, but people were encountering the same problems everywhere. Those mornings also gave the coaches a chance to discuss the coaching sessions and also gain contacts for the upcoming year. New initiatives are important and hopefully in the not too distant future the few clubs who did not take part in the programme will see the error of their ways and come on line with the rest!

Finally it would be remiss of us not to thank a number of people who assisted us in this venture; Paul Kinsella, Lester Ryan, all our club contacts, the G.A.A. clubs who gave their facilities so freely, the parents and the children themselves. Ní neart go chur le chéile.

Coach organisers:

**Briain Ryan, Georgie Leahy, Bobby Jackman.**

# All Ireland Intermediate Hurling By Tom Ryall

**T**he All Ireland Intermediate Hurling championship was re introduced this year as part of the new hurling experiment. It was the first time this competition was played since 1973 when Kilkenny won their one and only title in the grade.

The Noresiders first outing was on June 22nd when they faced Dublin in their own Parnell Park. It was an early start as the senior sides of both counties were meeting later in Croke Park in the Leinster senior semi final. The Black and Amber wearers had it all to do to overcome the Metropolitans, eventually coming through by 3-16 to 1-11.

After an even first half Kilkenny just edged ahead at the break 0-8 to 0-7. It was still all to play for midway through the second period when Kilkenny struck for two goals to put some light between the teams. The first came from Ollie O'Connor and the second was scored by Dermot Fennelly after he had been put through by his Shamrocks clubmate Conor Harrington, who had come on

as a sub. Kilkennys third goal came from Rory Moore to give the Noresiders a flattering eleven points victory margin. Best players in this win were Barry Power, Ciaran Connery, Dermot Maher, when he moved to midfield, Willie O'Keeffe, Paul Treacy and Ollie O'Connor.

**Scorers**-Ollie O'Connor (1-11), Dermot Fennelly (1-2), Rory Moore (1-1), Ciaran Connery (0-1).

The team was John Dunphy (Mullinavat), Barry Power (Capt) (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Pa Hickey (St Lachtains), Ed Drea (Barrow Rangers), Austin Cleere (Emeralds), Ciaran Connery (Conahy Shamrocks), Jarlath Bolger (Graignamanagh), Willie O'Keeffe (Thomastown), Rory Moore (Clara), Dermot Maher (Barrow Rangers), Paul Treacy (Thomastown), Ger Walsh (Graignamanagh), Dermot Fennelly (Shamrocks) Brendan Barcoe (Clara), Ollie O'Connor (St Lachtains). Subs-Conor Harrington (Shamrocks), Alan Aherne (Windgap).

Wicklow, who had won Division 3

of the National League were the opponents in the Leinster semi final on July 5th in Nowlan Park. The team showed three changes with from the Dublin game with Joe Daly (O'Loughlin-Gaels) coming on at full forward, Brendan Barcoe moving to centre half back and Ciaran Connery switching to left half back with Jarlath Bolger dropping to the reserves. James McGarry (Bennettsbridge), who had been selected to play in goal against Dublin but could not play as he was required for the senior game as sub goalie was back in goal in place of John Dunphy. Brian Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels) came in at left corner back with Ed Drea moving to full back to the exclusion of Pa Hickey.

Ollie O'Connor lined out carrying an injury and was clearly hampered. He had to retire in the second half. A Ger Walsh goal helped put the home side ahead 1-7 to 0-6 at the interval. Dermot Fennelly goaled in the second half to give his side some breathing space. The team had to



**Kilkenny Intermediate Hurlers 1997**

**BACK:** Ned Drea, Billy O'Keefe, Barry Power (Capt), Brendan Barcoe, Dermot Fennelly, Niall Lacey, Paul Treacy, Austin Cleere.  
**FROM:** Brian Kelly, Ger Walsh, Ciaran Connery, James McGarry, Ollie O'Connor, Robert Shortall, Dermot Maher.

[Tommy O'Neill]

pull out all the stops in the closing minutes to prevent the Garden County boys from equalising. The final score was Kilkenny 2-13 Wicklow 1-13. Kilkenny had to bring on their full compliment of subs to resist the challenge with Conor Harrington , Robert Shortall (Clara) and Richie Kelly (Rower-Inistioge) coming on. Kilkenny won this game mainly because of the point scoring ability of Rory Moore and Paul Treacy.

**Scorers-** Paul Treacy(0-4), Rory Moore(0-4), Dermot Maher(0-3), Ger Walsh(1-0), Dermot Fennelly(1-0), Austin Cleere(0-1), Conor Harrington(0-1).

Neighbours Carlow were the opponents in the Leinster Final which was played in their own Dr Cullen Park on July 20th. An interesting side to the contest was the fact that Brendan Fennelly was training the Carlow side while his brother Dermot was on the Noreside team. Having competed in the senior championship in 1996 and with Cork senior captain of 1996 Mark Mullins back with them Carlow had high hopes of doing well.

Kilkenny dominated from start to finish. They led by 3-7 to 0-6 at the interval, the goals coming from Ollie O'Connor(2) and Robert

Shortall. There was no let up in the second half and further goals by Paul Treacy and Dermot Fennelly saw the reigning champions run out winners by 5-15 to 1-11. The losers goal came in the closing stages.

**Scorers-** Ollie O'Connor( 2-5), Paul Treacy (1-3), Robert Shortall (1-2), Dermot Fennelly (1-1), Willie O'Keeffe (0-2), Dermot Maher (0-1), Ritchie Kelly (0-1).

The victorious team was James McGarry, Barry Power(Capt), Ed Drea, Brian Kelly, Niall Lacey, Brendan Barcoe, Ciaran Connery, Willie O'Keeffe, Austin Cleere, Rory Moore, Paul Treacy, Dermot Maher, Dermot Fennelly, Robert Shortall, Ollie O'Connor. Subs-Conor Harrington, Ger Walsh, Richie Kelly.

It was on to Dungarvan on September 13th for the All Ireland semi final against Cork. The Rebels with the aid of the breeze in the first half led by 0-9 to 0-4 at the interval. With the aid of the elements in the second half Kilkennys position looked favourable. Twelve minutes into this period the Noresiders looked on the road to victory when they took the lead.

The loss of Robert Shortall at this stage with an injury was a blow. The Kilkenny goal came from Ollie

O'Connor. It was nip and tuck from here to the finish and it took an injury time point from Ollie O'Connor to draw the tie on a score Cork 0-12 Kilkenny 1-9.

The scorers were Ollie O'Connor (1-4), Dermot Maher(0-2), Paul Treacy, Robert Shortall and Willie O'Keeffe (0-1 each). The team was the same as played Carlow except that Richie Kelly was on in place of the injured Dermot Fennelly. Ger Walsh and Conor Harrington again came on as subs.

The replay was in Dungarvan two weeks later on September 27th. On this occasion there was no doubt about the superiority of the Munster champions. They led by 0-6 to 0-2 at the interval. Kilkenny tried hard to get back into the game in the second half and had hard luck when a goal bound shot from Ollie O'Connor struck the post and was cleared by a relieved Cork defence. The last hope went when Cork goalie Donal Og Cusack brought off a wonderful save from Robert Shortall.

The scorers were Ollie O'Connor(0-6), Ger Walsh(0-2), Austin Cleere(0-1). The final score was Cork 0-13 Kilkenny 0-9. Cork went on to win the All Ireland beating Galway by 2-11 to 1-12.

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Best wishes to all Kilkenny teams for 1997

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# CLUB NEWS

## ERIN'S OWN

### Hurling:

The seniors were beaten in all their league games, sometimes by just a single score. However, a great win was recorded in the first round of the championship following a replay with Graigue Ballycallan. In the quarter final, a hungrier Dunnamaggin took the laurels and went on to become champions. Well done, Dunnamaggin.

The Juniors had a very good year, reaching the All County League semi-final and giving Emeralds a real fright in the championship.

The U21's never really got going this year and bowed out in the first round. The minors worked hard, though with a small panel, success was hard to come by. Their efforts however, were rewarded with a fine win in the football.

Under 16's and under 14's trained hard and played plenty of games. The 16's looked a good bet for either championship or league but unfortunately lost their concentration somewhere mid-stream.

The schoolboys got plenty of activity playing more games and tournaments than they had for a number of years but again no silverware was collected.

### Football:

Pride of place this year goes to the footballers, where considerable success was achieved. The Junior title was claimed at last with an impressive win over Carrickshock. Not to be outdone by the big boys, the U-16's won the Roinn A title following an impressive campaign and a nervous final. To complete the hat trick, the Minors took the Roinn B title. The schoolboys played some lovely football in their competitions and were unlucky to lose out by a single goal in both the League semi-final and the Country-Cup semi final.

### Tournaments:

The Club hosted two tournaments during the year the Tara Ryan Tournament for under fourteens and the Erin's Own Senior tournament. St. Martin's won both competitions, taking the Tara Ryan Cup for the fourth consecutive year.

### Indoor Hurling:

Indoor hurling continues to prove very popular and is played by the juveniles during the winter both in the Community School hall and in Firoda School Hall

### Weddings:

Congratulations to Eamon Holland &



**Erin's Own Senior Hurling Team 1997**

Back : Donal Dunne, James Breen, Martin Holohan, Cormac Young, Mike Brophy, Brian Young, Peadar Healy, Eamonn Holland, Eddie Brennan, Victor Smyth, Sean Meally, Paul Mullin, Tarla Dunne, Ken Brennan, Tommy Brennan.

Front : Pat Shore, Michael Owen, Martin Shea, Michael Coogan, Davy Buggy, Liam Shore, Tom Brophy, John Buggy, Tommy Buggy, Joe Meagher, Martin Fogarty, Mascot : Conor Fogarty.



Jim Buggy RIP



Joe O'Neill RIP



Tom Shalloe RIP

Josephine Freaney, and to John Buggy & Lorraine Brennan who were married during the year.

### Obituaries:

The past year will stand out in Erin's Own Hurling Club as the year in which we lost "Buggy", "Barton" and "Shalloe" - Jim Buggy, Joe O' Neill and Tom Shalloe R.I.P. These dedicated and loyal Clubmen went to their eternal reward during the year and will be sadly missed by us all for many a year. Joe, a current senior selector got ill following the Graigue Ballycallan match while Tom, a senior selector and player for many years, was the happiest man in 'Comer the night of that same match but passed away the next morning. Jim, father of current players Tommy, John and Davy, had been a staunch and respected

Clubman since he moved to the parish many years ago. The Club also lost a very quiet and loyal member and supporter - Vincent Moran - during the year and very recently Paddy (Swack) Brennan, a member of the '58 team who had emigrated to England.

### Medals:

Congratulations to Miriam Holland, Ann Cahill (Holland) and Fran Shore on their County Championship win with Lisdowney Camogie Club and their subsequent appearance in the All Ireland Club Final. Also to Martin Fogarty on winning an All Ireland Medal with the Kilkenny Masters team.

### Social:

Among the most memorable events enjoyed during the year were: the Hurlers'

Weekend in Cork and Quiz with a difference", the Stephen's Day Match and of course the Annual Dinner Dance.

**Lotto:**

Among the big winners in the Local Lotto during the year were: Kathleen Kelly £2,300, Tom Brennan £500,

Kathleen Comerford £500, Nicholas Cummins £1200, Tessie Coogan £800, Seamie Walsh £500, Eddie Brennan £1100, and Karena Dowling £1800. In the Piltown draw, George Meally was a lucky winner of a car.

**Development:**

Dug-outs have been installed at the Prince Grounds and work has recently commenced at erecting netting behind the goals in Ballycomey.

**Thanks:**

Many thanks to all our sponsors and supporters who backed us during 1997.

## FENIANS

**1997** was a very disappointing year for the club. The Senior Hurlers had a poor League campaign, losing all five games. This trend continued, unfortunately, into the Championship losing to Tullaroan in the first round. The team reserved its best performance of the year for the relegation play-offs and beat Graig-Ballycallan with a fine spirited display.

The Junior Team had a mixed League campaign finishing mid-table. In the Championship. However, they were no match for neighbours, Galmoy.

The U-21 Team is still active in the Championship having drawn their last game with Tullaroan.

County team representatives were : P.J. Delaney(Senior Hurling), P.J. Ryan (U-21 Hurling), Kevin Power (Minor Hurling).

The Minors and U-16 teams acquitted themselves well. The minors lost out to a strong James Stephens side in the Championship and the U-16's were runners up to Graiguenamanagh in the County Final. The U-14's fared



**Fenians U-11 Team Runners Up Camáint Competition.**

Back : Claire Henderson, William Tobin, Kevin Doran, Daniel Looby, Tom Barry, Tara Warren, David Keelin, Jonathan Ryan, Dan Hughes (Juvenile Chairman), Orla Hughes, Kieran Graham, Frank Renehan, Patrick Norton, Damien Delaney.

Middle : Aisling Tobin, James Tynan, Scott Gray, Timmy Purcell, Stephen Maher, Eoin Ryan, Darragh Tobin.

Front : Paul Murphy, Sean O'Gorman, Edward Hughes, John Henderson, John White, Kevin Reid, Maria Hughes, James Dermody, James Hollywood, Sean Warren, Diarmuid Broderick, (Missing from picture- Stephen Delaney).

Mascot : Conor Tobin.

well during the year. They had a great weekend in Dublin for the Leinster Féile, the highlight of which was a trip to Croke Park for the Leinster Hurling Semi-Finals.

The U-11 Camáint competition was a great success with large numbers turning up for weekly training sessions

and each of the organised games. The Club would like to thank all Sponsors for their support during the year. The Club also extends its sympathy to all families who suffered bereavements during the year.

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# “I suspended Barrie Henriques”

**D**uring a chat with well-known Kilkenny cobbler, Tom Scully, the fact surfaced that he had the dubious honour of suspending the Editor of this Yearbook!

This all happened many years ago—when Tom was Chairman of Lancashire County GAA Board and Barrie decided to take the law into his own hands on the field of play! Nevertheless, he has great admiration for the Callan-based publican- “I remember Barrie travelling 3,000 miles to play in a Laois County Final”, Tom recounts.

The popular Clareman—and boy, is he proud of his native county—reminisced on his days working for the GAA in England and also shared his thoughts on the emergence of Clare as a major power in both hurling and football.

The Ace Repairs proprietor was chairman of the Lancashire County GAA Board from the mid fifties to the mid sixties and the huge impact he made is best demonstrated by the number of times he had been guest of honour at Annual Dinners in what Mr Scully sees as “the strongest County Board in Britain”.

He faced major problems trying to promoting his beloved Gaelic games in Britain. Hurling and Football were not allowed on the parks in Britain—“because we were Irish”—and Tom and his friends had to canvass the local councillors to overturn the decision of the Parks Directors.

“The Park Director was as powerful as the county manager here”, the Clareman remembers, “but we beat him on it.”

Although from a football area in Clare, Tom has an abiding love of hurling and he remembers some major efforts to promote the game in Lancashire.

“One week-end I flew to Dublin and bought 20 hurleys from my own pocket,



Tom Scully

I brought them back, shared them out and we had a game,” he remembers. “We hadn’t huge wage-packets but we never claimed expenses for any of our activities—we did everything for the love of the game.”

## Back in Ireland

Tom returned to Ireland in 1972 and chose Kilkenny as his new home because of the many great friends he had made in England who were Kilkenny people. He has no regrets about choosing Kilkenny

He had a long wait until Clare became the great force he had prayed for. Tom sees 1992 as the year it all started. Clare won the Munster Football championship and this gave great heart to hurlers and footballers alike.

Then came 1995 when the great work of Ger Loughnane brought All Ireland to success to Clare. Tom feels that Clare should have won in 1996 also but lacked concentration at vital stages.

With just a trace of a twinkle in his eyes, the Clareman also cites the “fact” that his county often slackens off just to give others a chance!

He has no doubt but that Kilkenny folk are as fair as they come.

“There are no begrudgers in Kilkenny,” he states categorically. “I lost count of the number of Kilkenny people who called to my shop in 1995 to wish me luck. I never had a problem with

tickets either—if anyone had a ticket to spare, it seemed to come my way”.

“I had the best wishes of everyone in 1997, also”, he grins”, but only after Kilkenny had lost to Clare!”

He does remember one caller who gave Clare no chance against the Noresiders in that All Ireland semi-final. The Kilkenny fan felt that Clare would find the opposition too cute.

Being a model of discretion, Tom refuses to name the Kilkenny fan—he just comments that he is a local plumber!

He has some special heroes on the Clare teams. Liam Doyle and Seanie McMahon are his top hurlers—“Liam Doyle can turn on a sixpence and proved his brilliance in the All Ireland final”.

Frank McInerney and Ger Keane are his favourite Clare footballers but there is one player he can’t wait for to return to the football side.

“If Tom Morrissey is back he will shake Munster,” Tom states without fear of contradiction. “He’s had two years hard work in Boston so he’s ready for anyone!”

## Wait for 1998

He forecasts that 1998 will be the best year ever for Clare—they are going to win senior hurling and senior football. He feels that his countymen may possibly allow someone else to win minor or junior!

Come next summer, Tom Scully may have more than his plumber calling his bluff!

However, no matter how Clare, or indeed Kilkenny, enjoy the action of the playing fields next summer, Tom Scully will be working away at his “Ace Repairs” premises in Rose Inn Street happy in the knowledge that his immense work for the Gaels of Britain will never be forgotten either by those who worked with him or who are now fostering the game after him.

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# CLUB NEWS

## GALMOY

### Medals' Presentation.

The first official function for Galmoy GAA Club in 1997 was the presentation of the 1996 All County Junior League Medals. The presentation took place in the famous Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, on March 7th.

### Juniors Victorious

Unlike 1996, the Junior Team did not approach the All County League with the same level of application and lost their title with elimination by Barrow Rangers in the quarter final.

However, the championship saw the team in better form, reversing the loss to Barrow Rangers to capture the Northern Junior Title, and losing out narrowly to Tullagher-Rosbercon in the County Junior Final to a late injury time point. Despite the result, it was a good year and the experience of playing in a county final will stand to the younger players in the club.

### Juvenile News

The Under 14 team also put up a strong show, reaching the Roinn C League Final before losing to a strong Carrickshock team.

Seven Galmoy players were part of the combined Johnstown/Galmoy Under 16 team which reached the Under 16 Roinn B County Final.

There were also four Galmoy boys involved with St. Fergal's College, Rathdowney who won the Leinster Junior Vocational Schools Championship and played the Munster champions in the All-Ireland final. Well done to all involved.

### Lotto Winners!

Off the field of play, the weekly Lotto proved the most consistent fund-raiser. Two particularly big winners were Matty Phelan and Tommy Brophy who shared a £6,000 jackpot in mid-summer. The club also ran a successful Poker Classic.

### Thanks!

Galmoy GAA Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who generously contributed to



**Lotto Winners (l-r):** Phil Bowe (treasurer), Tommy Brophy, Mattie Phelan, Charlie Brennan (Club Chairman).



### Galmoy - Northern Junior Hurling Champions 1997

Back (l-r): David Delaney, Kevin Lonergan, Liam Drennan, Michael Brennan, Alan Gray, Paul Delaney, Cathal Doherty, Noel Doherty.

Front (l-r): Shane Doherty, Peter Ryan, Declan Fitzpatrick, Brian Doherty (Capt.), Tommy Drennan, Jerry Drennan, Phil Brennan.

the club's preparation for the County Junior Final.

### Obituaries.

On a sad note, the Galmoy club lost one of its greatest players in October, when Joe Doherty passed to his eternal reward after a short illness. For many members, Joe's last appearance was in the dressing room after the Northern Final victory on September 7th. A

true testimony of Joe's love for and interest in the club, he served with distinction for many years on the playing field. The club extends its sympathy to the Doherty Family, to the Hennessy Family on the death of Sean Hennessy, to Rody O'Neill on the death of his brother, Billy, and to all those families bereaved in 1997. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha

# CLUB NEWS

## GRAIGUE- BALLYCALLAN.

**T**he highlight of the year was the opening of the new field and dressing rooms in Kilmanagh on Sunday May 25th. The opening was to have taken place on May 19th the previous year. However, the Co.Board needed that date for the opening of their new stand and complex in Nowlan Park. As fate would have it, that evening turned out to be one of the worst of the year. May 25th this year was one of the best of the summer and as a result a massive crowd turned up for the official blessing performed by local Parish Priest Fr Richard Phelan. He was assisted by Dean Lynas.

The official opening was performed by Jim Berry, Chairman of the Leinster Council. Two games took place with local camogie team St.Brigid's beating Toomevara and Kilkenny defeating Cork in a well contested contest. Margaret Comerford took the Woman of the Match award while Nora Dwan (Toomevara) was the losers' Woman of the Match. The Kilkenny hurling team was captained by Adrian Ronan while local player Damien Cleere who scored 0-10 won the Man of the Match award. Joe Deane (Cork) won the losers' man of the match trophy. The total cost of the venture was in excess of £100,000. It would have been much greater but for the amount of voluntary effort put into the project by the committee members and many others from the parish.



Graigue Ballycallan Committee 1997

### County Players 1997:

Adrian Ronan, Denis Byrne, Damien Cleere, Eddie Dwyer (Senior Hurling).Damien Cleere, James Young (Junior Football).Damien Cleere, Paddy Dwyer (Under 21 Hurling), Paddy Dwyer (Under 21 Football).Michael Hoyne (Capt), Robert Byrne, Jimmy Lynch (Minor Hurling).Michael Hoyne, Michael Teehan (Capt International Tournament), James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, Dermot Hoyne, Anthony Drohan (Minor Football).Patrick Dalton, Brendan Hayes (Under 16 Football).Kevin Cleere, Paul Cullinan, Gary Burke (Under 14 Hurling).Kevin Cleere (Under 14 Football).Michael Murphy was a member of the Kilkenny Under 12 Shinty team which won their two games in the International tournament in Scotland.

The following players played with county camogie teams-Sinead Millea,

Treacy Millea, Margaret Comerford (Senior).Bronagh Neary, Pauline Comerford, Ursula Walton, Orla Ryall, Ann Marie Ryall, Deirdre Treacy (Junior).Bronagh Neary, Pauline Comerford, Deirdre Treacy (Under 18), Lizzie Teehan (Under 16), Bronagh Neary (Under 14).

The surviving members of the 1949 senior championship team were the guests of the Co Board at the senior county final and later in the Newpark Hotel for a meal. (See special article).

The death took place of Bill Phelan a long time supporter and a selector on the junior championship winning team of 1946.He was also a selector on the Kilkenny All Ireland junior winning team of that year.Two members of that junior championship team also passed away during the year - Henry Giles and Michael McCarthy. May they rest in peace.



## LIAM AYLWARD, T.D.

Greetings to all my Supporters  
*and the very best of good fortune to all our  
Kilkenny Teams.*

# THE ROSE OF MOONCOIN

1.  
*How sweet 'tis to roam by the sunny  
 Suir's stream,  
 And to hear the doves coo 'neath the  
 morning's sunbeam.  
 Where the thrush and the robin their  
 sweet notes entwine  
 On the banks of the Suir that flows down  
 by Mooncoin.*

Chorus

*Flow on lovely river, flow gently along.  
 By your waters so clear sounds the lark's  
 merry song.  
 On your green banks I'll wander where  
 first I did join  
 With you lovely Molly, the Rose of  
 Mooncoin.*

2.  
*Oh Molly, dear Molly, it breaks my fond  
 heart  
 To know that we two forever must part.  
 I'll think of you, Molly, while sun and  
 moon shine,  
 On the banks of the Suir that flows down  
 by Mooncoin.*

3.  
*She has sailed far away o'er the dark  
 rolling foam,  
 Far away from her friends and her dear  
 native home.  
 Where the fisherman sports with his  
 small boat and line  
 On the banks of the Suir that flows down  
 by Mooncoin.*

4.  
*Then here's to the Suir with its valley so  
 fair,  
 Where oft times I roamed in the cool  
 morning air.  
 Where the roses are blooming and the  
 lilies entwine  
 On the banks of the Suir that flows down  
 by Mooncoin.*

**Watt Murphy, the rebel poet and author of "The Rose of Mooncoin", was born an only child of Pat Murphy and Eleanor Walsh in the parish of Mooncoin in April 1790. Pat Murphy had started a hedge school in Ballyfoy, Mooncoin in 1785 and was succeeded by his son in 1807. Following the disastrous wheat harvest of 1827, wide scale evictions occurred and Ballyfoy school was levelled to the ground.**

In 1831, Watt Murphy built a private school in Chapel Street in Mooncoin village. One of his pupils was John Walsh, Middlequarter, later Archbishop of Toronto. In 1833, Chapel Street became a parochial school, Watt remaining as teacher at an annual salary of £10.00. This school became a National School in 1839 with Watt as Principal and Richard Walsh, assistant.

By 1846, Watt seems to have run foul of the educational authorities. A School Inspector's report for September 30th of that year shows "Salary withdrawn from Watt Murphy". A report of 21st December 1846 contains "School closed, teacher, Watt Murphy dismissed, Chapel Street National School struck off the National Register 16/12/1847".

Watt Murphy then resided in Polerone, Mooncoin, close to the river Suir. In January 1846, Rev. James Wills, Church of Ireland

Curate, was appointed Vicar of Polerone, residing in the Minister's house (now demolished). Rev. Wills' family consisted of three boys and a girl. Watt Murphy and the Wills family had basically common, if ultimately, divergent, interests. Rev. Wills' daughter became fascinated by Watt, the "rebel poet" and both spent much time in poetry and song as the Suir stole silently by.

However, when the Rev. Wills discovered that his daughter had become very attached to Watt, she was packed off to England and Rev. Wills himself obtained an immediate transfer to Kilmacow on June 28th 1848. Watt's world was shattered and, as he paced the river bank alone, he composed "The Rose of Mooncoin".

"The Rose of Mooncoin" was adopted as their anthem by successive generations of hurlers, and, eventually, on the insistence of the late Mr Paddy Grace, then County Secretary, it became Kilkenny's song in Croke Park on big match days.

Currently, a local committee in Mooncoin are organising the erection of a monument to honour the memory of Watt Murphy.

*Material for the above article was obtained from Walter McDonald's "History of the Parish of Mooncoin" (1959) and Tom Ryan's "Mooncoin History 1750-1975 " (Part 1) (Mooncoin 1975).*

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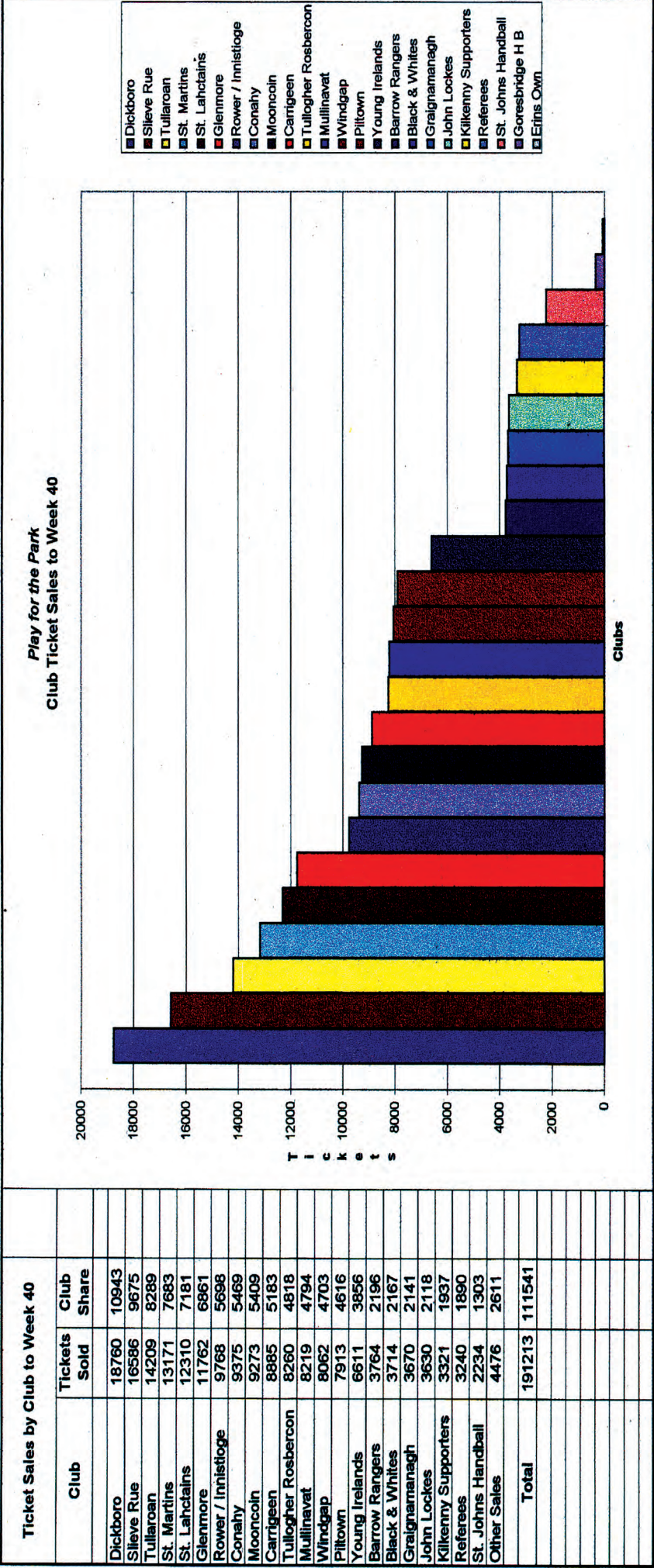
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# Play for the Park

*The Nowlan Park Lottery for club development and county board funds*



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**Following a recent decision to open "Play for the Park" to other organisations we are asking camogie clubs, schools and other organisations to consider selling tickets.**

**For further information contact Barry Hickey or Pat Molloy or come along any Tuesday night to Langtons of John St. at 8:00pm and join the fun of the draw.**

# NOWLAN PARK DEVELOPMENT

Pat Henderson

**T**his year, 1997, will see the completion of a 1.5 million pound investment in Nowlan Park. The work, which was planned and carried out over the last three to four years, comprises a new stand, **Árdán De Grás**, with covered seating for up to 10,000, a new Administration Block, **Arus O'Cearbhuill**, which includes Meeting Rooms, Offices and First Aid facilities.

Improvements to the existing stand, **Árdán Breathnach**, involved the provision of a much needed new Ladies Wash Room, improvements to the layout of the building and the building of a modern Press Box. The perimeter walls of the Park have all been upgraded and new turnstiles and large exit gates help patrons enter and exit in comfort and safety. Wheelchair access and accommodation by way of a purpose-built stand have also been provided.

Nowlan Park can now stand favourable comparison with any of the other provincial stadia, providing an ideal setting where patrons of our games can be accommodated with a high degree of comfort and safety.

The people who planned and oversaw this development, notably Nicky Brennan, Ted Carroll (RIP), John Healy, Pat Dunphy and a small group of helpers can feel justifiably proud of the result, and deserve all our thanks for having the vision and courage to take on such a daunting task.



Many individuals, groups, sponsors and other units of the Association played their parts, but without the enthusiastic backing of virtually all the clubs in the County, the project could not have succeeded.

Clubs have to date, through various fund-raising efforts such as the Hurlers Co-Op Draw, Play for the Park Lotto, sale of Five Year Tickets and Levies etc., contributed £275,000. They have also committed to providing a further £200,000, the balance of the outstanding debt, over the next five years. National Lottery grants amounted to £350,000. Leinster Council granted £125,000 (with a promise of a further £50,000 in future years). Croke Park granted £50,000 and a loan of £100,000. Kilkenny County Board from its own resources invested £275,000.

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# Tony Forristal Tournament

By Ritchie Stone.

**K**ilkenny U-14 hurlers' bid to bridge a fifteen year gap in the "Tony Forristal Tournament" ended in failure again. This year, however, unlike some previous efforts, 'Lady Luck' played a major part in their exit from the competition. A controversial point conceded to Galway in the opening game proved to be very costly.

In that opening game, the Noresiders trailed by a single point at the interval. The early stages of the second half were evenly contested. Then three unanswered points from Galway's full forward, William Donnellan, turned the game in their favour. The second of these points came in somewhat controversial circumstances. The linesman had signalled a line ball but was ignored by the referee and play was allowed to continue. Donnellan put the ball over the bar for a vital score.

Kilkenny hit back with two pointed frees, to leave just a single point between the sides. Alas, despite creating several chances late in the game, they failed to score and Galway survived to win.

Offaly provided the opposition in the second round. Kilkenny dominated this game throughout. A long range goal from Kevin Cleere set them up for a 2-6 to 0-2 half time



**Kilkenny U-14 hurling team in the Tony Forristal Tournament 1997.**

**Back :** Ger Prendergast, Gary Bourke, Richard Gaule, Kevin Aylward (partly hidden), Mark Hennessy, Peter Cleere, Robert Aylward, Andrew Doyle, Paul Barron, Paul Cullinane, Richard Butler, Seamus Direen.

**Front :** David Ruth, Michael Rice, Moling Cotterell, Tommy Walsh, Kevin Cleere, Brendan Doyle (Capt), David Herity, Shane Hennessy, Edmond Campion, Michael Dermody, Sean Glennon.

lead. Further goals from Shane Hennessy and David Ruth in the second period earned them an easy victory by 4-11 to 0-3.

By the time the third game was played, Kilkenny knew their fate. Galway had topped the group and were through to the final. Their opponents, Waterford, were also out of contention. Nevertheless the game was well contested.

Waterford began well and opened up a four point lead early in the game. They were still ahead at the break 0-6 to 0-4. A goal from David Ruth early in the second half turned the game Kilkenny's way. From there until the end, it was pretty even. Then a late Shane Hennessy goal settled the issue in Kilkenny's favour on a scoreline of 2-7 to 0-8. Kilkenny were extremely unlucky not to have at least reached the final. Galway's controversial goal in the opening round proved crucial.

Top performers were David Herity, Kevin Cleere, Tommy Walsh, Ed. Campion, Michael Rice, Moling Cotterell, Sean Glennon and David

Ruth.

Kilkenny's scorers during the tournament were : Shane Hennessy 2-14, David Ruth 2-2, Kevin Cleere 1-3, Ger Prendergast 1-3, Peter Cleere 0-2, Seamus Direen 0-1, Paul Cullinane 0-1, Robert Aylward 0-1. Panel : David Herity (Dunnamaggin), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Michael Dermody (Shamrocks), Ed. Campion (Tullaroan), Kevin Cleere (Graig-Ballycallan), Brendan Doyle (James Stephens), Paul Cullinane (Graig-Ballycallan), Moling Cotterell (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Michael Rice (Carrickshock), Peter Cleere (Black & Whites), Ger Prendergast (Clara), Sean Glennon (Tullaroan), Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan), Seamus Direen (O'Loughlins), David Ruth (James Stephens), Mark Hennessy (James Stephens), Gary Bourke (Graig-Ballycallan), Richard Butler (Tullaroan), Robert Aylward (Shamrocks), Andrew Doyle (James Stephens), Kevin Aylward (Mullinavat), Peter Barron (Carrickshock), Richard Gaule (Tullogher-Rosbercon).

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# Cumann na mBunscoileanna

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS BOARD REVIEW

Dermot Dunphy

(All Photos in this article by Tom Brett)



**Ballyhale 1996-1997 - Treble Treble Champions - Roinn A, Corn de Bhaldráithe and INTO Mini Sevens Hurling Champions 1996 and 1997. Roinn B, Country Cup and INTO Mini Sevens Football Champions 1996-97.**

**Back Row:** (L-R) Mr. N. Murphy, Marcus Connolly, Michael O'Sullivan, Jason Nolan, Edward Walsh, Keith Nolan, James Connolly, Christy Wemyss, D.J. Molloy, Mr. J. Dunphy. **Fourth Row:** (L-R) Shane Kelly, Tomas Cullen, Jim O'Sullivan, Diarmuid Murphy, Alan Knox, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Shane Holden, Niall Muldoon, Donal Dempsey. **Third Row:** (L-R) Ger Fennelly, Michael Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, Darren Holden, Eamonn Walsh, Michael O'Neill, Richard Holohan, Barry Nolan, Paul Murphy. **Second Row:** (L-R) James Fitzpatrick, Eoin Reid, Ger Holden, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Liam Walsh, Michael Fennelly, Derek Fitzpatrick, James Moran, David Healy, Emilie Dermody. **Front Row:** (L-R) Martin Healy, Anthony Wemyss, Richard O'Brien, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Michael Carroll, John Joe O'Farrell, T.J. Reid.

### Contrasting Fortunes

**E**very June, as the schools' hurling campaigns come to a close, people look back and debate the season just past. Thankfully, one comment is a constant, that yet again the standard of our schools' games is high and the future is bright. This was demonstrated emphatically when eighteen boys from eighteen parishes represented Kilkenny and Ireland in a shinty hurling game in Oban, Scotland and performed with skill and style in defeating their Scottish counterparts in two U-12 games.

Each year, mentors and parents alike look back on what was, or could

have been, and talk of the future of their parishes and clubs based on what the present school team is like. For some parishes and clubs, the talk is of optimism, for often a victory at school level is signs of success down the road, at Minor or even adult level. Check the records of Dunnamaggin in the late eighties and early nineties, and see the success at schools' level. Check slightly further back and Gowran's successful run at this level contains many extremely familiar names. There is a reason that successful schools' teams generate excitement in their parishes and clubs. No doubt, the sight of boys and girls playing our great game, performing all the skills, and providing super entertainment is reason enough. Added to this, the

possibility of further success in the years to come makes for great discussion, planning and plotting.

So which teams are planning and plotting based on the year past? Undoubtedly, top of the pile is Ballyhale. Three titles in eight days towards the end of October should be enough for any club but at the end of June, the people of Ballyhale were already celebrating hard. Their school team had just passed another year undefeated and had retained the three titles they had won in 1996 - The Educational Supplies' League Roinn A, the Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe for all country schools and the INTO/GAA Mini Sevens Hurling. They had also added the Football Mini-Sevens and in all competitions were undefeated in 66 games. The Roinn A championship

had been won back to back as in 1969-70, and the title had been won in style with a comprehensive win over rivals, Kilmanagh, a fine team with buckets of ability also.

The Corn de Bhaldraithe victory over neighbours, Carrickshock was harder won, as the team showed character to come from three goals behind early in the second half to win a super game of hurling. The Sevens titles were bonuses for a parish which has had a magnificent two years at this level and you can be sure that the minds of the Shamrocks are already looking forward to things to come. Nine titles in fourteen months represents unprecedented success and Ballyhale in 1996-97 graced our fields with a skilful presence.

Moving from a school that had retained its titles, we come to a school which was celebrating a first ever title at schools level. Gaelscoil Osrai claimed its first ever trophy in Cumann na mBunscoileanna when they captured the Tedcastle Oils' League Roinn D Cup. A young school in playing terms, there was great joy when the young 'laochra', buachailli agus cailíní, produced a marvellous performance in the second half of the final to defeat Goresbridge-Paulstown. Having won their first 'Class League' with the bones of the same team, they had high hopes at the start of the season, and they turned those hopes into reality with some fine play and great scores on a cold wet evening when even the ducks might not have been happy. Their skill was matched by determination as they held the Barrow Rangers side scoreless in the second half to forge their historic win. Spare a thought for the Goresbridge-Paulstown team who were losing out for the second successive year. They will be back again, and will undoubtedly return to win that elusive title.

In Roinn B, the Hennessy Cup went to Freshford, who got back into the winners circle after defeating neighbours Urlingford. Unfortunately for Urlingford, they too were losing out for the second successive year, but they could not complain on the day as Freshford came from behind to win, showing with their skill and ability why they were fancied in this Roinn from early in the campaign. They got off to a bad start in the final,



### **Gaelscoil Osrai - Tedcastle Oils' League (Roinn D) Champions 1997**

Ar Chul: (O Chle) Sean O Mathuna, Sinead Ni Mhairtin, Tadhg O Broin, Colm O Caoimh, Eamonn O Maolmhaigh, Ronan O Creimin, Seamus O Cuain, Piaras O Caoimh, Ian O Floinn, Cearuilin Ni Dhuda, Aindrias Huggard, Aoife Ni Naraigh, Shay O Leathlobhair, Pilib Breathnach, Fearghal O Riain.  
Chun Tosaigh: (O Chle) Daithi O Conchubhair, Donal O Lachtnain, Sean Tirial, Damien O Ceallaigh, Cian de Bhaldraithe, Eamonn O Sithigh, Susan Ni Chinneide, Caoimhin Mac Eochaidh, Ciaran O Broin, Micheal O Naraigh, Liam O Teachain, Risteard Mac Giolla Chaoin.



### **Clara - Paddy O'Connell League (Roinn C) Finalists 1997**

Back Row: (L-R) Denis Tobin, Orla Healy, Mairead Barcoe, Caroline Hoyne, Francis Knox, David Prendergast, Shane Murphy, Tadhg Corley, Patrick Foley, Austin Murphy, Ciaran Kirwan, James Hanlon. Front Row: (L-R) Elaine Costigan, Niall Costigan, Killian Brennan, Neal Prendergast, Fintan Brennan, John Brennan, Liam Ryan, Michael Bergin, Shane Prendergast, Liam Ryan, Sean Murphy. Mascot: Brian Prendergast.

but still showed their worth to pull away in the second period.  
In Roinn C, the Paddy O'Connell League title went to a team who also lost out last season, but bounced back this year to claim their win. In 1996, Coon-Muckalee gave second best to Galmoy, but with many of that team still involved, they led from the front all season and put in a most convincing display in the final to overcome neighbouring parish Clara. A powerful display early in the

second half left a young and gallant Clara side with a mountain to climb. They did finish on a high but the St. Martin's boys were not to be denied for the second time.

Well done to all our champions, and spare a thought for the losing sides in the finals. Both Urlingford and Goresbridge-Paulstown were out of luck for the second year in a row, but to reach two finals promises a bright future ahead. Clara are regular

visitors to Nowlan Park, and with a lot of younger players still available, will undoubtedly be making a return visit quite soon.

Carrickshock, after capturing Roinn C and Roinn B in succession were back for their fourth appearance in finals' week in four years and when you add three football appearances also, the years ahead are full of hope. As for Kilmanagh, well, after the long run of successive Roinn A Hurling finals ended last year, the boys of Kilmanagh are just beginning a second run. Each year, they come back with renewed enthusiasm and be sure, they won't be far away in 1998!

### **Educational Supplies' Hurling League Final - Roinn A Ballyhale Champs Again**

Ballyhale 5-13 Kilmanagh 1-6

**Ballyhale retained their Educational Supplies' Roinn A League Title, and extended their magnificent two year unbeaten record with an impressive win over great rivals, Kilmanagh. Having been under pressure for much of the first half, Ballyhale really turned on the style after the interval, and hard though Kilmanagh tried, they could not contain a brilliant Ballyhale forward line.**

Kilmanagh had wind advantage in the first half and had early chances which Ballyhale cleared. Ballyhale opened the scoring with a James Fitzpatrick free before Kilmanagh applied strong pressure on the Ballyhale goal, with goalie James Connolly clearing his lines on several occasions. A Daragh Murphy point put Kilmanagh in front before Ballyhale landed a double body blow. Firstly, Ballyhale captain, Eoin Reid set up Mark Aylward with a beautiful pass which he duly blasted to the net. A minute later, James Fitzpatrick's long range free eluded everyone and ended in the corner of the net.

The same player pointed two place balls to two replies from Kilmanagh from Ciaran Hoyne and John Purcell to leave Ballyhale 2-3 to Kilmanagh's 0-4 ahead at the break. Ballyhale began the second half in style with a point from Mark Aylward and a well worked goal by D.J. Molloy. Ballyhale were now rampant



### **Kilmanagh - Educational Supplies League (Roinn A) Finalists 1997**

Back Row: (L-R) James Dunphy, Pat Robinson, Brian Hogan, Ciaran Hoyne, James Harrison, P.J. Pollard, Padraig Dermody, Mark Fitzpatrick. Middle Row: (L-R) Micheal Murphy, Alan Doheny, James Robinson, Richard Devane, Daragh Murphy, Michael Lynch, John Paul Dunphy, John Murphy. Front Row: (L-R) Padraig Neary, Declan Brett, Martin Carroll, John O'Dea, William Brennan, Jimmy Murphy, Emmett Gladney, John Purcell, Jason Dermody.

and added points from Eoin Reid and James Fitzpatrick and another Mark Aylward goal. Ciaran Hoyne led the way for Kilmanagh who never said die and two surging runs from Ciaran yielded points. However, Ballyhale had added six more points without reply before Kilmanagh goaled through Micheal Murphy. It wasn't to be Kilmanagh's day as Ballyhale responded with a further goal and point to run out well deserving winners.

For Ballyhale, James Connolly was very sound in goal and their defence was superbly marshalled by James Fitzpatrick at centre-back. Michael Fennelly and James Moran ran the show in the midfield and in a sparkling forward line Eoin Reid, Mark Aylward, Eamonn Fitzpatrick and D.J. Molloy stood out. Kilmanagh had a sound 'keeper in Jimmy Murphy. James Harrison and James Robinson hurled well in defence. Ciaran Hoyne gave a great display at centre back. James Dunphy and Daragh Murphy showed well at midfield while P.J. Pollard and John Purcell were the pick of the forwards.

#### **Ballyhale:**

James Connolly, David Healy, Eamonn Walsh, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Christy Weymss, James Fitzpatrick, Jamie Fitzpatrick, James Moran, Michael Fennelly, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Emilie Dermody, Eoin Reid (Capt.),

D.J. Molloy, Mark Aylward.

Subs: Edward Walsh, Michael Fitzpatrick, Barry Nolan, T.J. Reid, Shane Holden, Marcus Connolly, Michael Carroll, Michael O'Neill, Michael O'Sullivan, Richard Holohan, Darren Holden, Richard O'Brien, Niall Muldoon, Jason Keogh, John Joe O'Farrell, Donal Dempsey, Ger Fennelly, Martin Healy.

#### **Kilmanagh:**

Jimmy Murphy, James Harrison, Padraig Dermody, James Robinson, John O'Dea, Ciaran Hoyne (Capt.), William Brennan, James Dunphy, Daragh Murphy, Richard Devane, Pat Robinson, Brian Hogan, P.J. Pollard, Micheal Murphy, John Purcell. Subs: Declan Brett, Alan Doheny, Martin Carroll, Michael Lynch, John Murphy, Padraig Neary, Jason Dermody, Mark Fitzpatrick.

### **Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League Final - Roinn B**

*Freshford finish with with a flourish.*

Freshford 3-6 Urlingford 2-4

**F**reshford justified their ranking as favourites when capturing the Hennessy Fuels' League Roinn B title at the expense of plucky Urlingford. Urlingford, contesting their second consecutive final, put up a great fight and in the first half

looked the stronger team. However, a second half flourish from fancied Freshford saw them win through and capture the Hennessy Cup.

Urlingford got the better start, and raced into a four point lead in the early stages. Tom Neary, at centre forward was causing all sorts of problems for the Freshford defence and Patrick Tobin and Eamonn O’Gorman were dominating midfield. Freshford moved Robert Dowling to centre back and this move proved decisive as he curbed Tom Neary and gave a brilliant display. For Urlingford, goalie, Colin Grant and full back Thomas Kennedy dealt with every Freshford attack, but just before half time D Brennan scored a superb goal for Freshford reducing the half time deficit to a point. The signs were ominous for Urlingford.

Early second half play was fast and furious. Two pointed frees from Robert Dowling put freshford in front but Urlingford resisted strongly, William Norton and Thomas Kennedy outstanding. It was still anyone’s game until N. Maher finished delightfully to give Freshford breathing space. Robert Dowling struck three further points from place balls and though Tom Neary crashed a late 20 metre free to the net, it was too late for Urlingford.

Overall, Freshford were that bit stronger than their neighbours and deserved their win. Apart from the outstanding Robert Dowling there were good displays from N. Maher, N. McGree, Bill Beckett, K. Dalton J. Dooley and J. Marnell. For a gallant Urlingford team who suffered the disappointment of a second final loss, Colin Grant in goal, Thomas Kennedy, William Norton, Lorraine Peters, Eamonn O’Gorman and Tom Neary all performed very well.

**Freshford:** E. Guinan, D. Hughes, J. Marnell, J. Costelloe, T. Delaney, J. Dooley, K Dalton, B. Beckett, R. Dowling, N. Maher, D. Brennan, S. Gibbons, N. McGree, J.J. Phelan, M. Kavanagh. Subs: T. Walsh, F. Costigan, E. Costigan, B. Dalton, P. Walsh, M. Fitzpatrick, E. Buggy, S. Buggy, T. Gibbons, G. O’Reilly, K. Hughes, F. Burke.

**Urlingford:** C. Grant, A. Byrne, T. Kennedy, J. Doheny, P. Moriarty, W. Norton, L. Peters, P. Tobin, E. O’Gorman,



### Freshford - Hennessy Fuels’ League (Roinn B) Champions 1997

**BACK:** J.Marnell, T.Delaney, D.Brennan, R.Dowling, S.Gibbons, K.Dalton, F.Costigan, P.Walsh. **MIDDLE:** S.Buggy, M. Fitzpatrick, B.Dalton, E.Costigan, F.Burke, T.Gibbons, C.Britton, K.Hughes, N.Maher, E.Buggy. **FRONT:** N.McGree, J.Costelloe, D.Hughes, E,Guinan, J.Dooley, T.Walsh, B.Beckett, M.Kavanagh, JJ Phelan.  
Absent from photo : G.O’Reilly



### Urlingford - Hennessy Fuels’ League (Roinn B) Finalists 1997

**Back Row:** (L-R) James Doheny, Mr. P. Doyle, Thomas Neary, Jamie Dollard, Anthony Byrne, Lorraine Peters, Eamonn O’Gorman, Thomas Kennedy, Patrick Ryan, Patrick Moriarty, Shane Webster, Mr. H. O’Grady. **Front Row:** (L-R) Patrick Tobin, Raymond Pollard, Patrick Doheny, William Norton, Colin Grant, Michael Tobin, Jimmy Tobin, Declan Guilfoyle, Selina Power, Michael Webster.

J. Tobin, T. Neary, J. Dollard, P. Ryan, R. Pollard, P. Doheny. Subs: S. Power, D. Guilfoyle, M. Webster, S. Webster, M. Tobin.

### Coon-Muckalee Convincing Champs

Coon / Muckalee 4-5 Clara 2-1

**C**oon-Muckalee, beaten finalists in 1996, captured the Paddy O’Connell Cup, beating a gallant Clara in an entertaining and hard fought Roinn C Schools’ Final. Playing with great skill and determination Coon-Muckalee emerged worthy winners over a

### Paddy O’Connell Hurling League Final - Roinn C



### **Coon-Muckalee - Paddy O'Connell League (Roinn C) Champions 1997**

Back Row: (L-R) Thomas Brennan, Eoin Bolger, Colm Brennan, Jonathan Walsh, David Shore, Patrick O'Flynn, Thomas Nolan, Conor Kinsella, Shane Coonan, Brian Mulhall, Ciaran Holohan, Kieran Byrne, Eoin McGrath, Michael Darcy, Eoin Holohan.  
Front Row: (L-R) Brian Malone, Mark Nolan, Eamonn Buggy, Patrick Brennan, James Kelly, Mike Keane, Eugene Maher, David Tynan, Ronan Maher, James Maher, Eddie Doran, Con Hogan, Aidan Murphy, Shane Comerford, Diarmuid Brennan.

### **Clara side who also hurled with great spirit and contested strongly to the last puck.**

From the throw in Coon-Muckalee went on the offensive with centre forward Shane Coonan in dazzling form. He scored two early points and only a terrific save by John Brennan in the Clara goal prevented him adding a goal. However, within a few minutes Eamonn Buggy doubled on Eoin McGrath's centre to goal for Coon-Muckalee.

Clara responded positively and Austin Murphy pointed a 65. He and Liam Ryan worked tirelessly at midfield but Clara found it difficult to convert possession into scores. Meanwhile a vigilant Coon-Muckalee defence led by Michael Darcy and Conor Kinsella kept Patrick Foley and his colleague at bat.

From the restart, Coon-Muckalee regained the initiative with another Shane Coonan point. The St. Martin's boys pressed home their advantage with Ciaran Holohan goaling, further points from Shane Coonan and Eoin McGrath and another goal from Eoin McGrath. Eamonn Buggy scored his second goal with nine minutes remaining and Freshford were well on their way.

Many teams would have wilted in face of such an onslaught but Clara, led by their captain, Liam Ryan rallied well. Patrick Foley got their first goal with four minutes left and before the finish the same player notched a second. However it was not enough to save the day.

Coon-Muckalee supporters can be justly proud of their team. They had many heroes. Goalkeeper, Eugene Maher was reliable and sound. The full back line of James Maher, Michael Darcy and Mike Keane were steadfast while David Tynan, Conor Kinsella and Ronan Maher were no less daunting to the opposition. Captain, Kieran Byrne, Ciaran Holohan and later Eddie Doran enjoyed a great duel at midfield with their opponents. Shane Coonan had a memorable game, ably assisted by Brian Mulhall and Thomas Nolan while Eamonn Buggy and Eoin McGrath were skilful opportunists of the finest quality.

Clara will be disappointed but can be consoled with their part in a fine exhibition of hurling. John Brennan was brilliant in goal. Under great pressure the defence led by Shane Murphy and Ciaran Kirwan worked tirelessly. Shane and David Prendergast, Denis Tobin, Caroline Hoyne and later Niall Costigan all worked hard. Midfielders, Liam Ryan (Captain) and Austin Murphy performed well.

Clara's young forwards struggled manfully, with Patrick Foley showing his class, and Tadhg Corley, Elaine Costigan, Michael Bergin, Mairead Barcoe and the youthful Neal Prendergast all relentless in their efforts.

**Coon-Muckalee:** Eugene Maher,

James Maher, Michael Darcy, Mike Keane, David Tynan, Conor Kinsella, Ronan Maher, Ciaran Holohan, Kieran Byrne (Captain), Brian Mulhall, Shane Coonan, Thomas Nolan, Eamonn Buggy, Eddie Doran, Eoin McGrath. Subs: Diarmuid Brennan, Aidan Murphy, David Shore, Colm Brennan, Thomas Brennan, Brian Malone, Patrick Brennan, Patrick O'Flynn, James Kelly, Jonathan Walsh, Mark Nolan, Niall Gibbons, Shane Comerford, Eoin Holohan, Eoin Bolger, Con Hogan, Christopher Mahony.

**Clara:** John Brennan, Ciaran Kirwan, Shane Murphy, Shane Prendergast, Denis Tobin, David Prendergast, Caroline Hoyne, Liam Ryan (Captain), Austin Murphy, Tadhg Corley, Patrick Foley, Elaine Costigan, Michael Bergin, Neal Prendergast, Mairead Barcoe. Subs: Niall Costigan, Fintan Brennan, Orla Healy, Sean Murphy, James Hanlon, Lester Ryan, Francis Knox, Liam Ryan, Killian Brennan.

### **Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League Final - Roinn D**

#### ***Crioch Mhaith lan na hoibre***

Gaelscoil Osrai 2-8 Goresbridge-Paulstown 2-2

**Gaelscoil Osrai won the Tedcastle Oils' Roinn D Hurling League in Nowlan Park to capture their first ever Schools' Board Crown. The young 'oglaigh' of the Gaelscoil made history for their school with a display of hurling in the last quarter that they can be proud of for a long time to come.**

Gaelscoil opened the game in promising fashion with Damien O Ceallaigh having a blistering shot strike the crossbar. Their efforts were later rewarded as star forward Ciaran O Broin got on the end of a 65 to finish to the net. Goresbridge-Paulstown were spurred into action and within minutes, pressure generated by Sean Barcoe, Ian Holden and Darren O'Neill paid off as O'Neill levelled the game as a result of some slack marking from Gaelscoil Osrai.

Faoi seo bhi se ag cur baisti agus bhi an phairc imirthe an shleamhain,

ach d'eirigh le Baile Phoil-Cois Bhearbha cúl agus dha chuilin a fhail ó Deiric O Faoileain agus an tuama imreoir Darren O'Neill. D'eirigh le Aoife Ni Naraigh dha chuilin a fhail roimh leath ama agus an scor 2-2 go dtí 1-2, Baile Phoil-Cois Bhearbhe chun tosaigh.

Goresbridge-Paulstown applied pressure right from the restart as Billy Murphy at left half back made some fine runs down his wing, delivering ball after ball to his forwards. Full back Shane McEvoy, Joseph Hughes and Darren O'Neill were playing with great confidence. However, Eamonn O'Sithigh (Gaelscoil) converted a 65 to put only two points between the sides.

Ag an bpointe seo, mhuscail an leath chulai on Gaelscoil, Pilib Breathnach a mhisneach agus d'imir se go sar mhaith. Chuir se liathroid in aghaidh liathroid ar fail do na tosaithe is fuair Aoife Ni Naraigh leath seans agus ghnorthaigh si cul gleoite. Anois, bhi an Ghaelscoil cuilin chun tosaigh. Ghnorthaigh Cian de Bhaldráithe agus Eamonn O'Sithigh cuilin an duine agus an scor 2-5 in aghaidh 2-2 i bhfabhar na Gaelscoile.

Billy Murphy and Darren O'Neill (G-P) tried valiantly to rally their team but it was that wizard, Ciaran O Broin who had the last word in this match to finish it as a contest. Ghnorthaigh se tri chuilin in aghaidh a cheile agus bhi an Ghaelscoil ar an tsli mar bhuaitheoiri.

Full credit to Goresbridge-

Paulstown for not giving in but they will be left to wonder how they failed to score in the second half as their form of the first half just seemed to desert them. Best for Gaelscoil Osrai on this historic day were Ronan O Creimin, Pilib Breathnach, Cian de Bhaldráithe, Ciaran O Broin and Aoife Ni Naraigh. Shane McEvoy, Billy Murphy, Sean Barcoe, Darren O'Neill and Ricky Murphy tried hardest for Goresbridge-Paulstown.

### **Tedcastle Oils Corn de Bhaldráithe Brilliant Ballyhale!**

Ballyhale 4-8 Carrickshock 4-1

**Ballyhale, undefeated in schools' hurling in the past two years, had to come from behind to maintain that record and capture the hurling treble of Roinn A, Corn de Bhaldráithe and INTO/GAA Mini-sevens for the second successive year. Put to the pin of their collar by determined and gallant neighbours, Carrickshock, the Shamrocks' boys proved their quality with a brilliant final quarter to turn a nine point deficit into a seven point winning margin in the 'Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe.**

It seemed that a second treble was to elude the Ballyhale squad when Richard Power broke forward and scored Carrickshock's fourth goal early in the second half to put the

Aghavillar boys three goals clear, but despite the tremendous defensive effort of Carrickshock, Ballyhale rallied and found the scores that brought them their second title in the week.

Carrickshock may have entered this final as underdogs in many people's minds but it was obvious from the out that they did not believe this. Beginning with a reshuffled side from the start, they got the perfect start when Damien Raggett scored a goal inside the first minute. A fresh breeze at their backs they pressed for more scores to be denied by a stout Ballyhale defence. In the fifth minute, Emilie Dermody registered Ballyhale's first score as she slotted a fine point and a full fifteen minutes were to pass before the next score. Meanwhile, a superb battle emerged with both sides hurling with great heart and skill.

Chances were missed at both ends but Ballyhale finally scored a goal with Eamonn Fitzpatrick bundling the ball over the line after a mad scramble in front of the Carrickshock goal. Carrickshock were stung into action and in the final minutes of the half they applied all the pressure and just before the break, Anthony Holland scored two goals, to give the Carrickshock boys a huge lift going into the break.

Five points behind at the break but with the help of the wind in the second half, Ballyhale might have felt that they were in a good position but



**Goresbridge-Paulstown - Tedcastle Oils' League (Roinn D) Finalists 1997**

**Back Row:** (L-R) John Lyons, Colm Purcell, Michael Brennan, Seamus Brennan, Sean Barcoe, Mark Lillis, Darren O'Neill, Thomas Quinn, Billy Murphy, Ricky Murphy, Richard Connolly, Andrew Healy, Mark Morrissey.

**Front Row:** (L-R) John Byrne, Maurice Drennan, Collette Byrne, Shane McEvoy, Joseph Kealy, Ian Holden, Joseph Hughes, Derek Whelan, Aidan Brennan, William Hennessy, Richard Kelly, Zak Shermer, Paddy Barcoe, Peter Cleere.



### **Carrickshock - Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathe Finalists 1997**

Back Row: (L-R) John Murphy, Tommy Brophy, Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, Damien Raggett, Padraig Holden, John Maher, Anthony Holland, John Tennyson, Ailish Kenneally, Ciara Power.

Front Row: (L-R) Ger Power, Kieran Holden, John Butler, Jackie Frisby, Richard Power, Darren O'Dwyer, John Sheehan, Patrick Duggan, Paraic Barron, James Farrell, Dennis Murphy, Jamie Fennelly.

when Carrickshock began the second half with another two quick scores, a point from Damien Raggett and a fine goal from Richard Power, the title seemed destined for Carrickshock [4-1 (C) to 1-1 (B)]. James Fitzpatrick, replied with a quick point for Ballyhale from 50 yards. Ballyhale then literally laid a siege to the Carrickshock goal, with James Fitzpatrick driving ball after ball back down the field. However, scores just did not come as the Carrickshock defence, blocked, harried and chased for all they were worth. After eight minutes, James Moran pointed for Ballyhale and the vital breakthrough came on fourteen minutes when Eamonn Fitzpatrick, now at full forward, controlled a high ball from Michael Fennelly and lashed a ground shot to the net. James Fitzpatrick pointed a free to leave a goal between the teams, before the same Fennelly-Fitzpatrick combination levelled the game with another goal. This time the full forward making a super catch before firing an unstoppable shot to the net.

The game was now finely poised and Carrickshock, to their full credit, again raised themselves and went on the attack, but the breakthrough score came with seven minutes left and what a score it was. The superb James Fitzpatrick gathered the ball

on his own forty, set off on a mazy run, beating five defenders before pointing Ballyhale into the lead. It was probably as fine a score as ever graced a school league final. Eoin Reid added another point within a minute. Carrickshock weren't done yet and Anthony Holland broke clear and seemed certain to score when a great interception by Christy Wemyss averted the danger. D.J. Molloy gave Ballyhale a goal lead when he pointed with a fiery ground shot. In the final minutes Ballyhale secured victory when Eamonn Fitzpatrick scored his and the team's fourth goal and Eoin Reid pointed just on the time.

It was a great final and both sides deserve credit for the manner and skill with which they hurled. Carrickshock can be consoled in that they put up a tremendous effort full of character, epitomised in the work of goalie, John Maher, who made fine saves, a tenacious back division led by John Dalton and Padraig Holden and well aided by Tommy Brophy, Dennis Murphy, Ailish Kenneally and James O'Farrell. In midfield, captain, John Tennyson and Ricky Brennan tried tirelessly while an attack, including Richard Power and Anthony Holland, aided by Jackie Frisby, Patrick Duggan, Jamie Fennelly and Damien Raggett all did well.

For the Champions, James Connolly brought off some fine saves in goal, David Healy and Christy Wemyss were solid on the right wing, and Eamonn Walsh, Jamie Fitzpatrick and Thomas Fitzpatrick all played soundly. Centre half back, James Fitzpatrick was simply outstanding. Michael Fennelly as captain and James Moran provided a great supply of ball while the forwards were led by Eamonn Fitzpatrick who notched four goals. Eoin Reid, Mark Aylward, Emilie Dermody and Donnchadh Fitzpatrick all added their bit, while T.J. Reid, who filled in for the late D.J. Molloy performed well in the first half, while D.J. had a storming second half. A super game, and a credit to both parishes!!

### **Spotted..... in Croke Park**

**As with other years the AINTO/GAA Mini Sevens competitions were well supported and strongly contested. In hurling Ballyhale retained the title they had won in 1996, and went on to add the football title to the hurling.**

In total four Ballyhale players played in Croke Park. **Eamonn Walsh** sported the Kilkenny colours on All-Ireland Semi-Final day while **James Fitzpatrick** and **Michael Fennelly** played in Clare colours at half time on All-Ireland Hurling Final day. **Eoin Reid**, who missed much of the Sevens hurling through injury was chosen to play football on All-Ireland Final day and sported the Green and Red of Mayo.

Gaelscoil Osrai preceded their historic win in Roinn D by capturing the Camogie County title at Sevens and they had three players play in Croke Park. Bhi **Susan Ni Chinneide** agus **Cearuilin Ni Dhuda** i ndathanna Chill Chainnigh ag an gCluiche Leath Cheannais i gcoinne an Chlair, agus ar an la mor, an Cluiche Cheannais bhi an sar imreoir, **Aoife Ni Naraigh** i lathair mar theachta a scoile.

Piltown girls won the football title, replacing champions of the previous few years, Mullinavat and the Piltown girls had two representative chosen to play at headquarters. **Paula McSweeney** was present at the All-Ireland Semi-Final between Offaly and Mayo, which was appropriate as her father has Mayo connections, while her teammate **Jennifer Kelly**



was selected to play on the big occasion itself, the All-Ireland Football Final between Kerry and Mayo. Hearty congratulations to all and we hope to see you back in Croke Park some day, hopefully in Black and Amber!

### 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 D Hurling - **Tedcastle Oils** Corn de Bhaldrathie - **Tedcastle Oils**  
 Roinn A Football - **Kilkenny Association (Dublin)**  
 Roinn B Football - **Toymaster, High St. Kilkenny**

# Scoreboard 1997

**Educational Supplies' Hurling League Roinn A**  
 Ballyhale 5-13, Kilmanagh 1-6.

**Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League Roinn B**  
 Freshford 3-6, Urlingford 2-4.

**Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) Hurling League Roinn C**  
 Coon-Muckalee 4-5, Clara 2-1.

**Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League Roinn D**  
 Gaelscoil Osrai 2-8  
 Goresbridge-Paulstown 2-2.

**Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie**  
 Ballyhale 4-8, Carrickshock 4-1.

**Kilkenny Association (Dublin) Football League Roinn A**  
 St. Patrick's 3-8, Carrickshock 1-2.

**Toymaster Football League Roinn B**  
 Ballyragget 4-5  
 Coon-Muckalee 3-4.

**Roinn C Football League**  
 Bennettsbridge vs  
 Goresbridge/Paulstown or  
 Slieverue.

**Football Country Cup**  
 Ballyragget vs Graignamanagh

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

**Hurling:** Ballyhale.  
**Football:** Ballyhale.  
**Camogie:** Gaelscoil Osrai.  
**Girls' Football:** Piltown.

### Garda Siochana City Class League

**Second Class:** CBS beat St. Patrick's  
**Third Class:** Gaelscoil Osrai beat CBS  
**Fourth Class:** St. Patrick's beat St. Canice's  
**Fifth Class:** St. Patrick's beat St. Canice's  
**Sixth Class:** St. Canice's beat CBS

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# CLUB NEWS

## GLENMORE

**1997** was a very busy year for Glenmore GAA club. Our Social Committee organised a very successful function in the local hall to honour the 1953 Junior Hurling Championship winning team, most of whom were present and despite the 43 years in between, still looked fit enough to take the field again. The Social Committee again organised a hugely successful golf classic, 54 teams, with wonderful help from Dick and John Dowling. The Kilkenny GAA Lotto started in March and it has proved a great money spinner for the Club, thanks in the main to our organiser, Pat Cody.

Since last year, the Club has purchased a tractor and at present are about to trade in our mower for a more efficient model. We have also put up wire netting and new goal posts in Glenmore School Ground and also have plans to put up wire netting in Ballyfasey School.

This year, Glenmore Club lost two ex-players. Mick O'Rourke who went



**Glenmore Hurling Team**, winners of Kilkenny Junior Championship 1953, at re-union and presentation in New Hall, Glenmore, March 1997.

*Back row:* Billy Murphy, John Doherty, Paul Fitzgerald, Mick Fitzgerald, Jack Hartley, Tom Murphy. *Second row:* Jimmy Heffernan, John Murphy, Dick Cody, Richard Doherty, John Dillon, John Heffernan. *Front row:* Fr. L. Barron P.P. Glenmore, Jim Culleton, Jimmy Roche, Pat O'Connor, George O'Connor, Seamus Dunphy, (Secretary 1953 and 1997)

*(Missing from photo: Tommy Phelan, Jimmy Phelan, and Sean Phelan - since deceased.)*

to New York in 1949 and turned into a superstar there in the Fifties. His remains were brought home in September to be buried in Glenmore. We also remember Sean Phelan of

Tullagher, a member of the 1953 Junior Hurling Team, who were honoured this year, recently died suddenly.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.*

## MICHAEL CROTTY

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# CLUB NEWS

## JAMES STEPHEN'S

### "The Village Field"

**O**n the 27th September, the official opening of the club's much needed new juvenile / camogie field and dressingroom complex took place at the old Sisters of Charity grounds on Nuncio Road. The tape cutting and formal naming ceremony was performed by Mr. Seamus Pattison, T.D. and Ceann Comhairle to the 28th Dail. The field and buildings were blessed by former club President Rev. Liam Barron, P.P. Glenmore.

Incorporated in this fine club complex are two large dressingrooms, shower / toilet facilities and a separate referee's room which also includes all facilities.

Located about one hundred and fifty yards away from the club's main grounds at Larchfield, this new complex is intended to facilitate all the fast growing camogie activity within the club, the juvenile hurlers for training and coaching, as well as the early season training programme for our senior and adult hurling panels under the powerful floodlighting system installed for that purpose.

The entire development was completed at a cost of £125,000 within the targeted four year time-span envisaged by the committee from the date of purchase from the Sisters of Charity in 1993.

#### **U.S.A. Trip - 1999**

An enthusiastic group of players, led by Philip Larkin, Brian McEvoy, Malcolm Murphy and Richie Manogue are at the early stages of planning for the big 'lift off', in March 1999 to the 'Big Apple' and possibly further afield. A group of seventy players, supporters and social members of the club hope to travel.



**The Official Opening of "The Village Field" - 27 September 1997**

(L-R): Michael Moore, Club Sec., Ald. John Coonan, Seamus Pattison, Ceann Comhairle, Liam Tyrrell, Chairman, Ald. Eamon Waters, Bill Cody, Club President, Cllr. Joe Cody, Rev. Liam Barron P.P. (Former Club President), Jimmy O'Brien, Chairman, Camogie, Phil 'Fan' Larkin.

*Photo: Tom Brett*

This adventure will take place just twenty one years after the club's inaugural and most memorable trip to the 'New World', as it was then for many, to New York and Washington.

As in 1978 the organisers are hoping to arrange games in the famous Gaelic Park against local opposition along with interesting excursions to other cities and around the 'Big Apple' itself. We wish them 'bon voyage' when the time comes and good luck with the planning for the moment.

#### **Obituary - Lou McCarthy**

In March the club members were shocked by the untimely death of Lou McCarthy. Lou loved sport and was an accomplished hurler, footballer, basketballer and in latter years, golfer as a member of Kilkenny Golf Club.

However it was in his youth that Lou showed his emerging talents winning u-14 and u-16 football titles in 1953 and 1955 before capturing county minor hurling and football titles in 1957. In 1955 he was also a member of the victorious James Stephens junior championship winning side.

In 1957 he had the distinction of marking the legendary Jimmy Doyle

in the All Ireland minor hurling final against Tipperary, which the latter won. Lou went on to give many years of loyal service in the senior ranks to his club before being forced to retire from hurling due to ill health. He won a junior football title in 1965.

Lou McCarthy's all round sporting abilities came to the fore early in life, when in boxing he won a Leinster Schoolboy's title. Later in basketball he performed with distinction winning numerous county titles and Dean Cavanagh Cups, before switching his allegiance to golf. Here he won a coveted Captains Prize in the early 1990's in Kilkenny Golf Club.

"Ar Dheis Dé go raib a anam'.



**Lou McCarthy RIP**

# CLUB NEWS

## JOHN LOCKES

One of the major developments in the club was the re-establishing of a vibrant Juvenile Hurling Committee, under the Chairmanship of Harry Bryan. His Secretary is Trish Leahy, while his Treasurer is Bosco Bryan. This “new” committee, augmented by the qualities of interested people like, Brigid Burke,—a terrific teacher in the CBS Primary School, Aidan O’Dwyer, and Willie Holden, has placed the entire juvenile situation on a strong footing.

The new impetus has seen the youngsters competing in tournaments in Tipperary, Wexford, Carlow, as well as probably the best organised Tournament of the lot, in their own town. There was a parade with banners, a band, flags, day-long refreshments for all, five hurling pitches, and magnificent competition for twelve visiting teams. John Doheny (Doheny Grain and Milling) presented the U-12’s with a new set of jerseys, while the John Lockes Club did the same for the U-9 kids. There were no winners or losers really, everybody had a terrific time, and the hurling was great too.

The “Nissan” tournament in Clonmel - another one in Bennettsbridge - whilst they didn’t yield any “gongs”, nevertheless, were construed as very much part of the learning process. In the County Camaint competition, we fared very well, beating the likes of O’Loughlins, and Castlecomer. The U-10’s were in Carlow for the local “Town” tournament. A great experience, good performances, and happy memories. The U-12 street league is progressing very favourably, nearing completion.

It was a very traumatic year off the field too, for the club. The club was rocked when on October 3rd, word was that Colin Nolan, a very talented youngster —-academically and as a



Jack Gardiner, Colm Nolan and Mixie Connell RIP

corner back with the intermediate team —- had suddenly passed away. He was 24 years young. He had won an All-Ireland medal with Callan CBS. He had figured on all club teams from an early age. To his parents, —-Eddie and Anna, his brothers and sisters —-especially the “hurling twins”, Denis and Conleth —-the profound sympathy of all Gaels is offered.

Two former stalwarts of the club went to their eternal reward also,

unwavering interest, was always the man available with the “story”, or whenever anyone wanted to talk about hurling.

The stout-hearted Micksie Connell also passed away, last April. He was a “Lockes” man to the marrow of his bones. He hurled with them, won championships with them, as a player and selector, never missed an opportunity to extol the virtues of his home town club. A prince of centre-backs, Mixie too, will be sadly



U-10 Nissan Tournament Carlow July 1997.

Back : John Kennedy, Liam Kennedy, Patrick Holden, Brian McCann, Sean Bryan, Eoin Lyons, Owen Wall, Christopher Walsh, Conor Freeney, Mark Nolan.  
Front : Robert O’Brien Ger Shelly, Keith O’Dwyer, Simon Burke, Brendan Grace Brendan Burke, Bill McCormack, Robbie Wall, Eoghan Fahy, J.J. Webster, Thomas Melia.

during the year. The much vaunted, much written about Jack Gardiner died at the marvellous age of 95 years. Jack a paragon of virtue, the doyen of the John Lockes Hurling Club, the lovable, sometime roguish, Tipperary man, who adopted his Callan Club with great pride, and

missed.

The club too contributed to many of the Kilkenny representative teams, including John Power (Senior), J.P. Corcoran, John O’Neill, Joey Gormley and Michael Dunne (Minor), Paul Morrissey (Football) and Keith Doheny (Under -16).

# CLUB NEWS

## KILMACOW

### 1956 Celebration

It was a special night for Kilmacow Hurling and Football Club with the reunion of the 1956 Junior Hurling and Football Champions. These past players travelled from near and far to attend a dinner dance held in their honour. They were all presented with a memento by the club and a great night was had by all.

### Leinster Feile

Kilmacow Under 14 hurling team travelled to Dublin to take part in the Leinster Mini Féile. The players and mentors were hosted by Thomas Davis Club and all and sundry had a most enjoyable weekend.

### New Minor Tournament

This year, former player Seamus Sutton's untimely passing was marked by a minor tournament, organised by the club in his memory. Four teams took part - Mullinavat, Slieverue, Ferrybank and Kilmacow. Kilmacow and Mullinavat reached the final and it was Mullinavat who took home the Sutton Memorial Trophy presented by the Sutton family.



Seamus Sutton R.I.P.

### Camaint

The Under 11 hurlers took part in the ground hurling tournament in Kilkenny. A great time was had and every player got a medal at the end of the tournament.



**Kilmacow South Minor Finalists 1997:**

Back: Fintan Tynan, John Carroll, Peter Mullally, William Kelly, Conor Walsh, Barry Murphy, Raymond Hennessy, Brian Fleming, Paddy O'Keeffe, Brendan Kennedy, Tom Caulfield. Front: David Ryan, John Walsh, Robert O'Keeffe, Ian Walsh, Sean Flynn, David Walsh, Paddy Gaule, Francie Walsh, Derek Ryan.



**Kilmacow Under 12 - Waterford City Winners 1997**  
Back Row: (L-R) Eoin Dalton, Niall Irish, Nicky Owens, Paul Laffan, Damien Walsh, Liam Kearns, Sean Ivory, William O'Toole, Conor Gahan, Alan Grace. Front Row: (L-R) Michael Tobin, Trevor Egan, Mark McGuinness, Paul Kelly, Brian Grant, Richard Kearns, P.J. McGrath, Fergus Walsh, Brian King.

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dick McNamara and Gregory Power of the Over 40's All Ireland Kilkenny Team. Also to Brian Fleming and Peter Mullally who took part in the South Leinster League with South Kilkenny.

### Obituary

The untimely death of Seamus Sutton was a major shock to our parish, his family and friends. Seamus won a league and championship under 16 with Kilmacow and played up to minor grade. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

### Did you know?....

1. **Liam Fennelly** is the only man to have accepted both the old and new McCarthy Cups as captain (1983, 1993).
2. **Noel Skehan** holds a record *seven* All Star awards - five in a row from 1972-1976, and two more in 1982/83.
3. **Brian Murphy** (Cork), Detective Garda based in Kilkenny, won All Ireland medals in Senior Hurling, Senior Football, U21 Hurling, U21 Football, Minor Hurling, Minor Football, Colleges Football and Club Football.

# CLUB NEWS

## LISDOWNEY

### Lisdowney Coco-Cola Sevens 1997.

This is the 16th year of the popular Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens Tournament for U-13 players. This year 24 teams from five counties spread over three provinces took part, i.e. Kilkenny (17 teams), Laois (three), Tipperary (two), Waterford (one) and Galway (one).

The main competition was the Sweeney Cup and Coca-Cola trophies. Ballyhale, Mount Sion, James Stephen's and Tullaroan made it to the semi finals, with Ballyhale overcoming the James Stephens challenge to take the title for the third time and create their own piece of history. James Fitzpatrick of Ballyhale received the trophy for the outstanding player of the tournament. The twelve first round losers played for the Kilkenny Supporters' Club Shield. Camross, Meelick/Eyrecourt, O'Loughlins and Ballyragget qualified for the semi finals. Meelick/Eyrecourt (Galway) defeated O'Loughlins in the final.

Once again, the local Parish Sevens proved a resounding success. Teams led by Kevin Maher, Paul Mullaly, Frank Murphy, Niall O'Hara and Eoin Delahunty played a round robin league. After a play off, Kevin Maher and Frank Murphy reached the final. The final ended in



Lisdowney Parish Sevens Winners.

Back : Richard Marum (Chairman), William Gorman, Paul Eyre, Kevin Maher (Capt), Thomas Kenny, Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola).

Front : Robert Randall, Pdraig Kenny, Patrick O'Shea, Peter Bergin

a draw, extra time also ended in a draw and eventually, in a replay, Kevin Maher's team came out victorious to claim the Lisdowney Shield.

At the presentation of trophies to the winners and runners-up, Richard Marum, Chairman of Lisdowney Club thanked all the teams, their managers and supporters. He also thanked all the players in the Club, the Ladies Committee and the Sevens Organising Committee of Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), John Mackey (Lisdowney, Kilkenny Supporters Club) and Larry Hamilton. He welcomed Barry Hickey (Co.

Development Officer) on behalf of the County Board and Fr. Pat Farrell, newly appointed Parish Priest of Lisdowney. He also complimented young referees, Brian O'Flynn, Dermot Mulhall and Oisín Breathnach, on their efficient handling of the games. He concluded by thanking main sponsors Coca-Cola, Sweeney Brothers and Kilkenny Supporters' Club.

Joe Dunphy (Ballyhale) on behalf of the visiting teams described the Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens as "one of the country's best tournaments for under age players" plkaplayers.the country".

## TOM CUNNIFFE



TOM CUNNIFFE, Prop.

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**NEWSAGENT AND LOTTERY  
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**H**ad things gone to plan this year, Kilkenny would have won the All Ireland and maintained a 25-year sequence of success. The Black and Amber having triumphed in 1922, 1947 and 1972, glory in 1997 would have had a neat symmetry to it.

Their failure was disappointing, of course, but not half as disappointing as the years leading up to one of the victories mentioned above, that of 1947. After ending the 1930s - a decade dominated by themselves and Limerick - in style by winning the Thunder and Lightning All Ireland of 1939, Kilkenny endured eight unsuccessful years before the sun came out again in 1947. While there was the small matter of a world war going on for most of that time, there is little doubt about which was the more serious matter in the eyes of many Kilkenny people. If the Emergency was not pleasant, neither were the Black (in hurling terms) Forties.

The Noresiders' defeat in the 1940 All Ireland final, 3-7 to 1-7 at the hands of Limerick, coincided with rationing. Petrol rationing saw car owners given coupons to be used when buying petrol. Tea and sugar were also rationed and, though hoarded by many people, ran out at the end of the year.

Soon a new problem appeared on the scene - the foot and mouth disease. Breaking out in January 1941, it lasted until September of that year. The movement of cattle was forbidden, and more than 10,000 animals were slaughtered south of a line between Durrow and Ballingarry. The disease was

## THE WAY WE WERE

by Dan McEvoy

widespread in Kilkenny. As a result, GAA matches were cancelled. A bath of disinfectant was positioned at every farm gate and every person entering required to dip their feet in the tub.

The outbreak of the foot and mouth disease led to the exclusion from the championship of both Kilkenny and Tipperary. Dublin were nominated to represent Leinster, Cork to represent Munster, and Cork clocked up the first leg of the only All Ireland senior hurling four in a row by beating the Dubs by 4-8 to 1-4 on September 28th. Ironically, the Leesiders were comfortably defeated by Tipperary when the Munster final eventually went ahead the following month. For the record, the Kilkenny county final was staged on December 14th, Carrickshock pipping Eire Og by a point.

By now the harsh realities of the Emergency were biting. Imported coal had all but disappeared. Turf and timber were the only sources of heat. In order to keep warm, many poor people in Kilkenny would go to the pictures in Tom Stallard's of Patrick Street, where a place in the pit cost four old pence, and remain there until the second show ended at 11pm. Stallards had a sweet shop in Parliament Street and were agents for Lemons sweets. Every Saturday morning a long queue formed to buy a quarter-pound of

sweets.

The bicycle became king. Anyone who possessed a bike could cycle to club matches in Thomastown and Callan or to the point to point on Easter Monday in Balleen, near Freshford. Shop assistants, factory workers and tradesmen who lived in rural areas but worked in the city were forced to stay in digs in Kilkenny. A familiar sight in John Street on a Sunday evening was the hurling match between the lodgers in Gaffneys', Codys' (the Central hotel) and Langtons'. The only interruptions were caused by the sight of that huge Wexfordman, Garda Tom Synnott!

There was hurling too in the Market Yard, the Ring at Smithwick's brewery, the Fair Green, the Waterbarrack and the Har Murphy-owned Moate, now Larchfield, where Eire Og trained. In Nowlan Park the pitch was enclosed by a wooden railing with a bank outside. The site of today's new stand was then a training pitch about 100 yards in length. Its surface was red due to overuse by a myriad of schoolboys from St John's.

Then there were the homing pigeons, which became a common sight at games, carried there in small baskets. At half-time the score was written down, placed in a little container on the leg of the bird and the pigeon was released. The same occurred at full-time.

On the intercounty front Kilkenny's fortunes went from bad to worse. The 1942 Leinster final defeat by Dublin at Nowlan Park was followed by the 1943 disaster against Antrim in Belfast's Corrigan Park - arguably the biggest upset in hurling history.

How did it happen? Certainly the losers' preparations for that All Ireland semi-final left much to be desired, as Mick Heffernan, a member of the team, recalls. Kilkenny stayed in Barry's hotel in Dublin on the Friday night and checked out at ten o'clock the following morning. From then till three o'clock that afternoon they had to wait in boiling heat on the platform in Connolly station, and when the packed train finally left



John Street flooded 1947

they were forced to stand all the way to Belfast.

That night a ceili was held in St Mary's hall in honour of the visitors. All told, the exertions of the day left Mick Heffernan, who at the time was working as a shop assistant in New Ross, scarcely able to walk when the band led the teams around in Corrigan Park on Sunday afternoon. Clearly he was not the only one affected; Kilkenny lost by 3-3 to 1-6. After the final whistle the players sold their hurleys for 12/6 each to Antrim people delighted to have Kilkenny-made sticks.

The 1944 provincial semi-final brought further disappointment in the shape of a 6-4 to 4-6 reverse at the hands of Wexford. This was the signal for supporters to seek entertainment elsewhere. Kilkenny people headed in droves to Thurles for what proved to be the game of the year. The road was black with cyclists travelling to see Cork and Limerick play an epic draw in the Munster final. The replay drew even bigger crowds, with Cork, soon to complete their All Ireland four in a row, winning by 4-6 to 3-6.

This hunger for action and desire for sporting success, however vicarious, led many of us to become stay-at-home supporters of the Roscommon footballers, a team we knew from Dansie Hoare in goal right through to corner forward. I had the privilege of seeing this fine team in the 1943 All Ireland semi-final, in which they defeated Louth before beating Cavan in a replay in the final and overcoming Kerry in the 1944 final.

The concluding year of the war saw Kilkenny reach the All Ireland final again. It would not have taken much to turn a 5-6 to 3-6 defeat by Tipperary into a victory. The switch of Jack Mulcahy from corner forward, where his strength was wasted, out to centre forward, where Jim Langton was no match for Tipp centre back John Maher, would have done the trick. An enthusiastic 17-year-old who had not remotely visualised defeat for Kilkenny, I sat down and cried in the long stand at Croke Park when the final whistle sounded.

The same year, 1945, was the

year of the so-called Battle of Jenkinstown, a game that has endured in local folklore. St Rioch's - the Rocks - from Walkin Street met Lisdowney in the northern junior hurling final in June. Every available means of transport was used to bring people out from town. The Shawlies of Walkin Street, old women who wore shawls, travelled out on Billy Culleton's lorry. Their team was leading when a row broke out and the wooden railings surrounding the pitch were uprooted and used as weapons. The game was abandoned with St Rioch's leading by 2-3 to 1-3. In the end they were awarded the title by the County Board.

Another McCarthy Cup failure, 7-5 to 3-8 against Cork in 1946, had to be endured before the trophy returned to Noreside. A contributory factor to the never-to-be-forgotten triumph of 1947 was Kilkenny's junior All Ireland victory of the previous season. A number of the successful juniors quickly graduated to the senior team. The county's one and only All Ireland senior title between 1939 and 1957 soon followed.

Throughout the period under discussion, there were far fewer competitive matches played than is the case now. The county championship was run on a knock-out basis. Every year, therefore, half of the teams had but one outing. Saturday and midweek fixtures were unheard of, and, astonishingly by modern-day norms, the first Sunday of every month was also a blank - the reason being that a holy hour was held in each parish in the county on the first Sunday and rival attractions could not be permitted. Come the long winter evenings the radio was useful, provided a family could afford one. On Sunday nights the card games were suspended at 10pm to listen to Seán O Ceallacháin broadcast the GAA results on Radio Eireann. Another Sunday night fixture was the post-Confraternity discussion of the composition of the Railway Cup teams for the following St Patrick's Day.

Those indeed were the days.

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# CLUB NEWS

## MOONCOIN

**T**his year was a disappointing one for Mooncoin as our Senior Hurlers were relegated to the Intermediate Grade for 1998. The Club's Junior teams did well with the Junior team reaching the knock-out stages of the All County League and the Special Juniors also making the knock-out stages.

In the championship, the Junior side lost out, after a replay to Kilmacow, in Round 2 while the Special Juniors beat Kilmacow to reach the Southern semi-final before losing to John Lockes. The Under 21 team were defeated by Dunnamaggin after one of the best performances by a Mooncoin team for years.

The minor team lost to Shamrocks in the championship. Seanie Tyler, Richard Roche, Tom Walsh and Eoin Doyle were part of the South Kilkenny Minor Team while Billy Quinn and Michael Purcell were involved with the Kilkenny Under 21 squad.

### Football

In football, Mooncoin reached the County Intermediate final but lost to Piltown. Our Special Junior team won the delayed 1996 championship in February this year. In Junior football for 1997, we lost to The Rower-Inistioge and Kilmacow while the Minor footballers went out in the second round.

### Juvenile News

The Under 10's and 11's took part in Ground Hurling Competitions, the Under 10's in Waterford and Under 11's in Camaint in Nowlan Park. There were also local competitions for the Under 9's which were enjoyed by all involved. The Under 11 team won the W.C.L. Final beating Kilmacow in the final. Under 12 and 13



**Mooncoin - Intermediate Football Finalists 1997.** Back Row: (L-R) Michael Purcell, Brian Conway, William Walsh, Davy Cody, Alan Hennebry, John Mahon, Domo Connolly, Pat Hogan, Tom Murphy, Fintan Lowry, Mark Tyler, Eddie Mackey, John Gallagher, Eddie Crowley. Front Row: (L-R) Gerry Kirwan, Andy Phelan, Joe Murphy, Eamonn Mackey, Stephen Phelan, Liam Purcell, Liam Sutton, Bernard Keane, Billy Quinn, Diarmuid Mackey, Matt Gannon.

teams were involved in various tournaments throughout the year and the Under 12 team are still involved in the Garda Tournament.

The Primary Schools enjoyed a fairly good year in both hurling and football. The Under 14's reached the Southern Final of the championship but were beaten by Windgap in a thrilling game. The Under 16's went to the second round of the championship, beating Piltown in Round 1 before losing to the Rower-Inistioge.

The Club would like to extend deepest sympathies to Pat Duggan, Principal, Mooncoin Boys School on the death of his father, John during the year.

### Memorial Cup

The club wish to thank Winnie and the Tyler family for the presentation of the Sean Tyler Memorial Cup. It is indeed a fitting tribute to Sean R.I.P. for all his trojan work for the club. A tournament will

be held annually for this beautiful trophy.

### New Treasurer

Eamon Mackey was elected treasurer of the club for 1997. All other officers were returned as 1996.

### Dinner Dance

The Mooncoin Dinner Dance was held in The Rising Sun, Mullinavat in February. Medals won in Special Junior A Hurling and Special Junior Football were presented to the teams by John Healy, County Chairman, Andy Aylward, Southern Board Chairman, and Tom O'Hanlon, Chairman of the Football Board.

### Club Awards

The Hurler of the Year Award went to Mark Tyler. Club Person of the Year was Billy O'Keeffe.

The Club would like to extend deepest sympathies to club members who suffered bereavement in the past year.



**With Waterford League (Div 2) U11 Cup:** Alan Walsh (Capt), Kevin Law and Michael O'Hanlon. Looking on are Richie Delehunty and Ned O'Keeffe.



**Mooncoin U-11 Team.** Back: N. O'Hanlon, C. Hearne, N. Delahunty, D. Treacy, S. Murphy, P. Kinsella, J. Cody, L. Hennebry, J. Kenny, S. Wall, F. Law, A. Walsh, R. Norris, T. Hennebry. Front: K. Walsh, J. O'Brien, M. O'Hanlon, S. Dowley, J. Doody, D. Phelan, C. O'Hanlon, J. O'Hanlon, M. Kinsella, K. Law, C. McCarthy.

# CLUB NEWS

## O'LOUGHLIN-GAELS

In 1997 the club has been extremely active both on and off the field. Some marvellous performances on the field warmed the heart and whilst at year's end there was little 'silverware' to show, nevertheless the future looks very exciting.

Club hurling starts as early as under 9s and following all-year-round Sunday morning sessions (indoor and outdoor) involving 160 boys and a host of coaches, we were thrilled to see our young lads win the Callan John Lockes "Alive" tournament. Congrats all round!

Our u-14s won the Diarmuid Shortall Tournament and County football league. Again, well done to all concerned.

Both u-16 teams had the ill luck to be beaten by one point by eventual winners Tullaroan in hurling, and Erins Own in football in the county championships. A very young minor team had some promising times and showed good potential eventually losing out at the semi-final stage.

We had the misfortune again at both u-21 and Special Junior levels of losing at Northern final stages but their performances were hectic and a great treat for our supporters.



**O'Loughlin-Gaels Under 9 team, winners of the Callan 'Alive' tournament**

Back(l-r): Shem McEvoy (Coach), Stephen Lynch, Stephen Shortt, Dara Leahy, Keith Hogan, Keith Kirwan, Michael Meaney, Daniel Nolan, Niall Phelan, Denis Tyrrell (Coach). Front (l-r): Robbie Dowling, Mark Kelly, Conor Bergin, Evan Ryan, Brendan Cleere, Andy Kearns, Matthew Deegan, Gerry Rowe.

Piltown beat us in the playoff stages of the Intermediate football. We had two good wins in the Senior hurling league. The championship began with a stirring win over St. Martins before losing out to James Stephens in the quarter final by 0-10 to 0-6.

In the handball alleys, Eddie Leahy again won four All Irelands in Masters competition, 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 in singles and doubles. The club team of

four - Con Moore, Timmy Clifford, Joe Daly and Eddie Leahy are again Leinster Champions. During the season the club won numerous county titles. Our state-of-the-art new 40 x 20 alley will be ready shortly.

A tremendous amount of work goes on behind the scenes in development, gym, pavilion, grounds finance, social etc. and a fine spirit prevails in the club.

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# Erin's Own Make History

**A**s in 1996, the minor football championships were run off in the earlier part of the year and again they proved an outstanding success. with the Roinn A final taking place on March 16 and the Roinn B final one week later. James Stephens retained their title. Erins Own captured their first ever minor football title when they won Roinn B.

Six teams took part in the Roinn A championship played on an open draw basis. The results were Graigue-Ballycallan 3-6 O'Loughlin-Gaels 2-9; Replay- Graigue-Ballycallan 1-10 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-3; James Stephens 1-5 Kilmoganny 2-2; Replay- James Stephens 1-11 Kilmoganny 1-3. Semi Finals- Graigue-Ballycallan 1-8 Young Irelands 1-4, James Stephens 1-11 Dicksboro 1-3. County Final- James Stephens 0-7 Graigue-Ballycallan 0-4.

The standard of play in the final was not up to that of the previous year between the same two teams. It was only in the closing ten minutes that the city side pulled ahead and scored the three points that gave them victory. This was a game that the losers could have won as they dominated for the opening twenty minutes of the second half. The inability of their forwards to make an impression was a major cause of their defeat. James Stephens had first use of the breeze and they had the better of the proceedings but their position looked none too sure at the interval when they led by just two points 0-4 to 0-2. The Graigue-Ballycallan defence with Michael Teehan having a stormer, ably assisted by James Ryall and Michael Hoyne kept the Village in check. The country side did level the scores on resuming with points from Gearoid Cleere and Anthony Drohan, but could not edge in front. The introduction of David Tyrell brought a



**James Stephens County Minor Football Roinn 'A' Football Champions**

**Back:** Shane O'Grady, Brian Holden, Podge Devlin, Cathal Daly, Hugh Gannon, Eoin O'Neill, John Morgan, Gary Whelan, Tommy Tyrrell, Dermot Ryan, Brian Rogers, Joe Murray.  
**Front:** David Tyrrell, Brian Tyrrell, Shane Egan, Nigel Skehan, Garry Owens, Niall Grogan, Ian Morrissey, Paddy O'Brien, Joe Murphy, Kieran Keane.

Photo: Tom Brett

big improvement in the winners and they clinched victory with points from Shane Egan, Gary Whelan and Joe Murphy.

John Morgan was the outstanding player on view. Graigue-Ballycallan tried four different opponents on him to no avail. He was the reason why James Stephens took the Paddy Dunphy cup. David Tyrell played his part when he came on. Eoin O'Neill had a fine game at full back. Joey Murray and Paddy O'Brien were attacking wing backs. Hugh Gannon and Joe Murphy took control of midfield in the closing stages. Best of the forwards was Shane Egan while Niall Grogan did well in goal. In addition to those already mentioned, Anthony Drohan, when he came to midfield, Joe Brennan, in the second half, Jimmy Lynch and Dermot Hoyne were best for the losers.

**Scorers-** James Stephens - Shane Egan (0-3), Gary Whelan, Joe Murphy, Tommy Tyrrell and Cathal Daly (0-1 each).

**Graigue-Ballycallan** -Robert Byrne (0-2), Anthony Drohan & Gearoid Cleere (0-1).

**James Stephens-** Niall Grogan, Ian Morrissey, Eoin O'Neill, Dermot Ryan, Joey Murray, John Morgan (Capt), Paddy O'Brien, Hugh Gannon, Joe Murphy, Nigel

Skehan, Shane Egan, Gary Whelan, Cathal Daly, Gary Owens, Tommy Tyrell. *Sub-* David Tyrell.

**Graigue-Ballycallan-** Brendan Hayes, Alan O'Shea, Michael Teehan, Jimmy Lynch, Joe Brennan, Michael Hoyne, James Ryall, Dermot Hoyne, Robert Byrne, Aidan Brett, Anthony Drohan (Capt), Patrick Dalton, John Dermody, Gearoid Cleere, Paul Dermody. *Sub-* Niall Millea. Referee- John Manogue (Thomastown).

## ROINN B

Twenty teams took part in the Roinn B championship which was divided into North and South. The results-

North- Conahy Shamrocks 2-7 St.Lachtains 1-10; Replay- Conahy Shamrocks 1-5 St.Lachtains 0-6.

Quarter Finals- Emeralds 2-8 Muckalee 2-2; St.Lachtains (Nominated) 6-4 Fenians 2-5; Erins Own 6-9 St.Patricks 0-2; Railyard 2-8 Clara 1-5.

Semi Finals- Emeralds 3-4 Conahy Shamrocks 0-4; Erins Own 5-8 Railyard 1-3.

North Final- Erins Own 2-3 Emeralds 0-8.

South- Mooncoin 2-2 Mullinavat 0-3; Piltown beat Thomastown; Graignamanagh 4-5 Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-8; Carrickshock 2-7 Kilmacow 2-2; John Lockes 1-9 Rower-Inistioge 1-5.

Quarter Finals- Mooncoin 2-9 Glenmore 0-3; Slieverue 0-8 Piltown 1-4; Carrickshock 4-6 G'managh 0-2; John Lockes 2-6 Shamrocks 1-3.  
Semi Finals- Mooncoin 2-13 Slieverue 1-

2; John Lockes 3-5 Carrickshock 0-4.  
South Final- John Lockes 0-7 Mooncoin 1-3.  
County Final- Erins Own 0-8 John Lockes 0-3.



**Erin's Own Minor B Football Champions 1997**

**Back:** Pat Shore, JD Harding, Jas Byrne, Charles Brennan, Trevor Condell, Derek Campion, Sean Phelan, James Quinn, Eamon Brennan, Justin Nolan, Finbarr Kelly.  
**Front:** John Brennan, Adam Holden, Richard Mullins, Niall Murtagh, Gordon Byrne, Fergal O'Neill, Gordon Byrne, David Lynch, William Brennan, Fionán McGrath.

*Photo: Tom O'Neill*



**John Lockes Roinn B Minor Football Finalists 1997**

**Back:** Michael Roche, Ramie Power, James Hennessy, Ian Devoy, Declan Burke, John O'Neill, Joey Gormley, Andy Ryan, Ger Corcoran, Jason Corcoran.  
**Front:** John M Egan, Michael Dunne, Alan Morrissey, Steven Byrne, Keith Doheny, Jas Murphy, Wm Doheny, Wm Holden Holden.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



**Graigue Ballycallan Minor Football Roinn A Finalists 1997**

**Back:** Brendan Marnell, Robert Byrne, David Harrison, James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, Edward Delaney, Patrick Dalton, Michael Teehan, Brendan Hayes, Michael Hoyne, Niall Millea, Aidan Brett.  
**Front:** Kevin Cleere, Alan O'Shea, Joseph Brennan, Dermot Hoyne, Jimmy Lynch, Anthony Drohan, Paul Dermody, John Dermody, Tim Purcell, Shane Murphy.

*Photo: Tom Brett*

John Lockes suffered a blow before the final when star player, John Paul Corcoran, was ruled out of the game due to illness. Except for a strongish breeze conditions for the game were ideal. Erins Own had first use of this breeze, but found it hard to get scores. At the end of the first quarter they led by 0-2 to nil. The Comer boys struck a purple patch between the 16th and 21st minutes when they had points from Adam Holden, Niall Murtagh, Gordan Byrne (Red) and Gordan Byrne (Marymount) to lead by 0-6 to nil. With Michael Dunne giving a brilliant display at midfield for John Lockes, they struck back for points before the interval from Ross Holden and Michael Dunne.

In the second half scores were hard to come by. There were just three points in this period and two of them came from placed balls. John Lockes last chance of getting back into the game came eight minutes from time when they were awarded a penalty but Derek Campion saved Keith Doheny's effort.

Derek Campion had a great game in the Erins Own goal. Pat Shore was their best player in defence, getting most support from Trevor Condell and James Byrne. Charles Brennan did most work at midfield with good support from David Lynch. Fergal O'Neill was a tower of strength in attack with Adam Holden and Niall Murtagh giving him most support. Michael Dunne, for John Lockes, was the best player on view. They had other good performers in Micky Roche, John O'Neill, Keith Doheny, Ger Corcoran and Joey Gormley.

**Scorers-** *Erins Own* - Fergal O'Neill (0-2), J.D.Harding, Gordan Byrne (Red), Gordan Byrne (Marymount), Adam Holden, Niall Murtagh, David Lynch (0-1 each). *John Lockes*- Ross Holden, Ger Corcoran and Michael Dunne (0-1 each)  
**Erins Own-** Derek Campion, Richard Mullins, Pat Shore, Trevor Condell, Sean Phelan, James Byrne, Willie Brennan, David Lynch, Charles Brennan, Adam Holden, Fergal O'Neill (Capt), Gordan Byrne (Red), Niall Murtagh, J.D.Harding, Gordan Byrne (Marymount).

**John Lockes-** James Murphy, Michael Hennessy, Micky Roche, Ramie Power, Stephen Byrne, John O'Neill, Andy Ryan, Michael Dunne (Capt), Ross Holden, Declan Burke, Joey Gormley, Keith Doheny, Ger Corcoran, Willie Doheny, Alan Morrissey. *Sub-* Jason Corcoran.  
*Referee-* Podge Butler.

# CLUB NEWS

## PILTOWN



**Piltown U14 Roinn B Football Champions:** *Back:* Paul Maher, Ciaran Galvin, John Norris, David Walsh, Michael Dineen, Finbar Dineen, Niall Brophy, Shane Fitzpatrick, Nicholas Kenny, Cormac Gilligan, Philip Kenny, Evan Walsh. *Front:* Bernard Flood (Trainer), Colm Flood, Eamon Kenny, Richard Brophy, Andrew McCarthy, Richard Power, Brendan Doyle, David Reid, David Prendergast, Michael Galvin, Gary Byrne, John Duggan, Mick Hickey (Trainer). *Photo: Tom Brett*



**Joe Pyke**, Chairman, Bord na nÓg, presents Under 14 Roinn B cup to **David Prendergast**, Captain of Piltown after their defeat of Emeralds in the final. *Photo: Tom Brett*

**P**iltown created something of a record when they hosted Tullaroan in the 1997 Feile Competition. This came about due to the late withdrawal of one of the host clubs in Waterford. Piltown willingly came to the rescue and were proud to host the eventual winners Tullaroan as well as Mount Sion and Killmallock. Our Under - 11 hurlers again derived great benefit from the 'Camaint' competition. There was also a great increase in the numbers of Under - 9's training on Sunday mornings - great credit to our trainers/coaches.

A new innovation was the Club's

decision to host an Under 17 Hurling Tournament which proved very worthwhile. Eight teams took part with Piltown winning out in a highly entertaining final against Carrickshock after which they were presented with the Joseph Brophy memorial Shield. It is intended that this competition will be an annual event.

The Niall O'Brien memorial Parish League was another success story with more interest than ever and proved a great starting point after the winter months. Fund raising events during the year included the Co-op draw, the Play for the Park Lotto, the progressive 30's every Thursday and

the Golf Classic. There were a number of events held to supplement the Players Injury Fund and to help to defray the cost of bringing players long distances for training etc. A great deal of gratitude is due to the Grounds Staff who do tremendous work for maintain the pitches in what are generally accepted as among the best in the country and it seems a great pity that their efforts are not rewarded with more top class matches especially when one considers the top class enclosed pitch and the availability of twenty acres of parking space right beside the ground. On the playing field Piltown won the Intermediate Football Championship for the first time.

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# CLUB NEWS

## RAILYARD

**T**he weekend of the August Bank holiday was a special one for Clogh, Moneenroe and the Railyard. Players from the 1957-'61 era returned from the U.S., England, and the four corners of Ireland accompanied by their wives and families. The weather forecasters got it all wrong and the heavens opened and poured down a constant deluge all day Sunday.

Nothing, not even the torrential rain, could dampen the spirit of the Railyard. From the clubhouse to the church gates was decked in colourful bunting, and a banner above the church gates said it all: "Welcome to our parish," it proclaimed.

Every returned Railyardite was welcomed by members of the organising committee as they arrived at the church. Many had not seen each other for 40 years. At noon the church was full and there was a great feeling of togetherness.

The Mass was a moving occasion and the homily was delivered by Fr. Joyce P.P. The Offertory procession consisted of the bread and wine, football, black and amber jersey, football boots and the Smithwick Cup, won outright in 1961. Afterwards, a wreath was laid on the grave of Paddy O'Shea, the only member of the group to have gone to his eternal reward.

Remembered too was Margaret Walsh or Mrs. Joe as she was affectionately called, who passed away that weekend. For years, she



**Railyardites of 1957 - 61 reassembled**

washed the jerseys on a washing board, registered players and was one of Railyard's best supporters.

The Railyard clubhouse then became a nest of activity, as all the players and friends came together, recalled old times, added or subtracted to events as memory served. The air was full of friendliness, just like old times. All the matches were replayed again and the spirit of the Railyard was brought back refreshed and revitalised.

Sunday night was fabulous. Almost 200 filled the dining room of the Newpark hotel, and Kieran Meally, the organising chairman ran the event like clockwork.

Sean Brennan, the guest of honour and hero of the Railyard, Sarsfields, Kildare, Leinster and New York and the only Kilkenny-born footballer to win Railway Cup medals with Leinster in 1952 and '53, was

presented with a Kilkenny Crystal trophy.

Sean responded with some very kind words. Then the players of 1957-'61 were presented with a reunion memento of inscribed Kilkenny polished limestone, and a souvenir programme that recalled the five glorious years.

The commemorative programme itself is a gem of local history, covering not only the county finals of those years, but also containing a wealth of reminiscences and articles about the area, surely a collector's item in years to come! There is a great outpouring of story and yarn, few of which have shortened in the recalling.

That August weekend will live forever in the minds and hearts of those warriors of almost forty years ago who set a remarkable winning record in the annals of Kilkenny football.



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## Tullaroan Make History

Last year it was the Roinn A and Roinn C championships which were one sided affairs with the Roinn B grade providing the most interesting contests. In 1997 it was the complete opposite. The Roinn A and Roinn C provided outstanding competition while Roinn B was dominated by Carrickshock. Carrickshock had the unusual distinction of winning Under 14 titles in A, B and C. In the early part of the year they competed in the Roinn C league which they duly won. Promoted to Roinn B for the championship they overcame all opposition to run out convincing winners. Taking part in the Roinn A football, they surprised everyone by winning the honours.

Tullaroan made history by winning the Roinn A hurling title for the first time. The highlight of their year, however, was the winning of the All Ireland Féile na nGael title when they beat Sarsfields (Cork) in the final which took place in Waterford. This achievement is fully covered in a special chapter. Tullaroan, James Stephens, Shamrocks and Graigue-Ballycallan qualified for the semi-finals where Tullaroan accounted for Shamrocks on a score of 3-12 to 2-4 and James Stephens beat Graigue-Ballycallan by 4-7 to 2-4. The other teams to take part were Dicksboro and O'Loughlin-Gaels. This set up a mouth-watering clash in the final and followers were not disappointed as the teams provided one of the best finals ever played.

Conditions for the final were ideal and the second half, in particular, produced hurling of the highest quality. Tullaroan led at the interval by the minimum margin 1-5 to 1-4 with their goal coming after 26 minutes from Shane Hennessy. Almost immediately the losers replied with a David Ruth goal. On resuming Tullaroan opened up a five point advantage. James Stephens subjected the Tullaroan defence to fierce pressure and everything was still to play for as Stephen Maher goaled for Tullaroan and Jonathan Savage replied for the City side. Brilliant defensive play by Tommy Walsh, the outstanding player on the field, Pdraig Kennedy and Edmond Campion kept



**Tullaroan; U14 Roinn A County Hurling Champions**

BACK: Tommy Walsh, Niall Ronan, James Fennelly, Stephen Maher, Edmund Campion, Michael Walsh, Podge Kennedy, Sean Glennon, FRONT: Nicholas Maher, Chris Breen, Gearoid O'Dea, Shane Hennessy(Capt), Eamonn Brennan, Alan Connolly, Richie Butler.



**James Stephens U-14 Championship Roinn 'A' hurling runners-up**

Back (l-r): Andrew Doyle, Michael Morris, Declan O'Neill, David Ruth, Jonathan Savage, Mark Hennessy, Conor Whelan, Brendan Doyle, Liam Meehan, Shane Whelan. Front (l-r): John Comerford, David Grogan, Paul Hindle, Redmond Dunphy, Michael Phelan, David Carroll, Donnacha Cody, Simon Creane, Patrick Butler, Eoin Larkin. Photo: Tom Brett

the Village boys at bay. The game finally swung Tullaroan's way when Neil Ronan got through for a soft goal eight minutes from time. James Stephens kept battling away but a Michael Morris goal was too little too late and the white and green clad boys triumphed by 3-13 to 3-5.

In addition to those already mentioned, others to play star roles were Richard Butler, a safe goalkeeper, Shane Hennessy when he moved to midfield, Michael Walsh who had a great first half, Sean Glennon and Stephen Maher. On the night, however, all players contributed to a famous victory. Best for James Stephens were

Brendan Doyle, Declan O'Neill, Mark Hennessy, Jonathan Savage, David Ruth and Michael Morris.

**Scorers-Tullaroan :-** Shane Hennessy (1-8), Neil Ronan (1-1), Stephen Maher (1-1), Michael Walsh (0-2), Sean Glennon (0-2). **James Stephens:-** David Ruth (1-1), Michael Morris (1-1), Jonathan Savage (1-1), Brendan Doyle (0-1), Mark Hennessy (0-1).

**Tullaroan:-** Richard Butler, Gerry O'Dea, Tommy Walsh, James Fennelly, Pdraig Kennedy, Edmond Campion, Chris Breen, Michael Walsh, Nicholas Maher, Alan Connolly, Shane Hennessy(Capt), Eamon Brennan,

Stephen Maher, Sean Glennon, Neil Ronan.

**James Stephens:-** Michael Phelan, Simon Creane, Andrew Doyle, Declan O'Neill, David Grogan, Brendan Doyle, Conor Whelan, Mark Hennessy, John Comerford, Michael Morris, Redmond Dunphy, Eoin Larkin, Jonathan Savage, Shane Whelan, David Ruth. *Sub:-* Donncha Cody.

## ROINN B

Fifteen teams took part in the Roinn B championship divided into three groups of five. The six teams which made it to the closing stages were Carrickshock, Clara, Tullogher-Rosbercon, Rower-Inistioge, St. Martins and Emeralds. In the quarter finals, Tullogher-Rosbercon beat Emeralds easily by 3-7 to 0-2. Carrickshock had ten points to spare over St. Martins 1-14 to 1-4. Carrickshock almost slipped up in the semi final when they were held to a draw by Clara, each side scoring 2-4. They made no mistake in the replay running out easy winners by 6-4 to 1-1. Tullogher-Rosbercon qualified for the final with a one point win over neighbours Rower-Inistioge on a 3-10 to 4-6 scoreline.

As Carrickshock and Tullogher-Rosbercon had played a draw in an earlier league tie, the final was expected to be a hard fought contest. It turned out to be a disappointing game as Carrickshock won easily 2-12 to 1-1. The winners built up an interval lead of 0-6 to nil thanks to points by Michael Rohan (2), Michael Rice, James Moran, John Dalton and Brendan Hoyne. Tullogher-Rosbercon opened the scoring in the second half with a point from John Murphy. Then Pat Mulcahy put Carrickshock in the driving seat with a goal. Moling Cottrell gave hope to his side when he raised a green flag. Tullogher-Rosbercon had a player dismissed and this ended their challenge. Best for the winners were Richard Power, Michael Rice, the best player on view, John Murphy, Brendan Hoyne, Michael Rohan, Paul Barron and Pat Mulcahy. The losers best players were Martin Roche, a fine goalkeeper, James Grennan, John Cottrell in the first half, Andrew Murphy and Richard Gaule.

**Scorers:- Carrickshock:-** Brendan Hoyne (1-2), Patrick Mulcahy (1-1), Michael Rohan (0-4), Anthony Holland, Paul Barron, James Moran, John Dalton and Michael Rice (0-1 each).  
**Tullogher-Rosbercon:-** Moling Cottrell (1-0), John Murphy (0-1).

**Carrickshock:-** Richard Power, Denis Murphy, John Murphy, Leo O'Gorman, John Tennyson, Paul Barron, James



### Carrickshock Under 14 Roinn B County Hurling Champions

Back (l-r): Robert King, Damien Raggett, Anthony Holland, Paul Barron, Leo O'Gorman, John Murphy, Michael Rice, Prichard Power, James Moran, John Tennyson, Denis Murphy. Front (l-r): James Dalton, John Maher, Patrick Duggan, David Millea, Patrick Mulcahy, Brendan Hoyne, Michael Rohan, John Dalton, Richard Frisby. Mascot: William Hoyne. *Photo: Tom Brett*



### Tullogher - U14 "B" Finalists 1997

BACK: John Cottrell, James Doolin, James Grennan, Thomas Lanigan, Tom Mullally, Moling Cottrell, Andrew Murphy, Richard Gaule, John Murphy, Joseph McCarthy, Eamonn Saunders, John Hartley. FRONT: Francis McInerney, Ml. Croke, Robt. Forrestal, Colin Gorry, Jim Prendergast, Ml. Gaule, Liam Barron, Martin Roche, Pauric Ryan, Pat Hartley, Aaron McCarthy  
*(Tom Brett)*



### Blacks & Whites U14 Roinn C County Champions

**Back:** Edward Kelly, Sean Whitehead, Conor Nolan, Patrick Doyle, Conor Murphy, Shane O'Sullivan, Liam Kelly, Bryan Maloney, Shane Murphy, Ml Moran, Barry Dalton, Fiachra Moran, Jas Brennan, Caroline O'Dowd, John O'Grady (Trainer). **Front:** Ch Ryan, Anthony Barcoe, Jas Barcoe, Jn Whelan, Jn Murphy, Ml Doyle, Jason Carroll, Pr Cleere, Myles Doyle, Tom Moloney, Jim Whelan, Barry Moloney, Niall Kennedy.

Dalton, Brendan Hoyne, Michael Rohan, Richard Frisby, Michael Rice, James Moran, Patrick Mulcahy, Anthony Holland, John Dalton.

**Tullogher-Rosbercon:-** Martin Roche, Jonathan Lanigan, Andrew Murphy, James Grennan, John Hartley, Richard Gaule, John Cottrell, Moling Cottrell, Joseph McCarthy, Francis McInerney, John Murphy, Pat Hartley, Eamon

Saunders, Tomas Mullally, Liam Barron.

## ROINN C

Blacks and Whites made history when they won their first ever Under 14 county title. They swept to victory in the Roinn C grade where there was an entry of seventeen teams. In the first round they had their toughest outing before seeing off the challenge of



Lisdowney on a 4-7 to 1-10 scoreline. Bennettsbridge also made them fight for victory with five points to spare 3-10 to 3-5. In the northern final they saw off near neighbours Barrow Rangers by 3-10 to 0-8. Another of the smaller clubs in the county, Windgap, won their way into the county final from the southern division. They had a walk-over in the first round from Graignamanagh. They then accounted for Glenmore in the next game. A surprise was in store in the south final when they had a goal to spare over famed Mooncoin, the scoreboard reading 5-2 to 4-2 at the finish. A large crowd turned up for the final expecting a close contest but the game was very one-sided as the Blacks and Whites romped to victory on a score of 5-11 to 0-6. Goals from Peter Cleere, Shane O'Sullivan and Niall Kennedy helped them into an interval lead of 3-5 to 0-2. Further goals in the second half by Jimmy Whelan and Michael Doyle set up Blacks and Whites for their win.

Blacks and Whites had outstanding performances from Jason Carroll who made some great saves in goal, Shane Murphy, Barry Dalton, Shane O'Sullivan, a great prospect, Peter Cleere, a member of the county Under 14 team, Jimmy Whelan and Niall Kennedy. Best for a Windgap side that fought to the finish were James Mackey who saved his side from a heavier defeat, Aidan Phelan, Brendan Barry, Tom Lonergan, David Power and Jonathan Duggan.

**Scorers:- Black and Whites** - Peter Cleere (2-5), Shane O'Sullivan (1-4), Michael Doyle (1-0), Niall Kennedy(1-0), Jimmy Whelan(0-2). **Windgap-** David Power(0-3), Brendan Barry (0-2), Tom Lonergan (0-1).

**Blacks and Whites:-** Jason Carroll, Liam Kelly, Shane Murphy, Brian Moloney, James Brennan, Barry Dalton, Myles Doyle, Barry Moloney, Shane O'Sullivan, Michael Doyle, Peter Cleere, Niall Kennedy, Jimmy Whelan, Edward Kelly, Tom Moloney. **Subs:-** Fiacre Moran, Sean Whitehead, Conor Murphy.

**Windgap:-** James Murray, Dominic Lavelle, Aidan Phelan, Ivan Phelan, Philip Lonergan, Brendan Barry, James Fleming, Seamie Hawe, Tom Lonergan, Niall Lanigan, David Power, Leo Power, Niall Fennelly, Jonathan Duggan, Richard Landy. **Subs:-** Ronan Molloy, Thomas Fleming, Richard Grace(all used), Brian Hennessy, Brian Lanigan.

Twenty two teams took part in the Roinn C minor hurling league which was divided into four groups. The eight teams who got through to the quarter finals were Carrickshock, Windgap, Blacks and Whites, Mullinavat, Galmoy,



**Windgap Under 14 Roinn C Finalists 1997**

Back: James Fleming, Leo Power, Ivan Phelan, Thomas Lonergan, Brendan Barry, Aidan Phelan, Richard Landy, Niall Lanigan, Seamus Hawe, David Power. Front: Thomas Fleming, Philip Lonergan, Niall fennelly, James Mackey, Dominic Lavelle, Jonathan Duggan, Ronan Molloy, Richard Grace, Brian Lanigan, Brian Hennessy



**Galmoy U-14 Roinn C League Runners Up 1997.**

Back : Donica Gray, Seamus Dillon, Jonathan Smith, Martin Phelan, Phil Doyle, Niall Doherty, Eamonn Butler, Richard Collinson, Peter Paul Maher, Eoin Phelan, James Hickey, Jerry Drennan(Trainer). Front : Kenneth Walsh, Thomas Ryan, David Murphy, Thomas Dillon, David Lee, James Dunne, Georgie Hickey, Brian Kavanagh, Michael Harte, Padraig Gray.

James Stephens No 2, Clara and St. Patricks. Making it to the semi finals were Galmoy who beat James Stephens No 2, Clara who overcame St. Patricks, Blacks and Whites with a big win over Mullinavat and Carrickshock who ousted near neighbours Windgap. Carrickshock had eight points to spare over Blacks and Whites, 3-8 to 0-6. Galmoy got through to the final with a hard earned win over Clara.

The final was a great advertisement for hurling with fortunes swinging from one side to the other. Galmoy, playing great hurling and with the help of a Donnacha Gray goal, built up a lead of 1-6 to 0-2. However, by the interval, thanks to a Paul Barron goal, Carrickshock had reduced the lead to two points 1-6 to 1-4. Michael Rice put the Southerners into the lead early in the second half when he goaled from a free. Carrickshock took control after this and restricted the losers to just a single point in the second half. A further goal by Richard Frisby eight minutes from time helped The 'Shock to a 3-8 to 1-7

victory. Carrickshock had a good goalie in Richard Power while Michael Rice was the best player on view. Others to play well were John Murphy, Paul Barron, John Tennyson, Michael Rohan and Brendan Hoyne. For the losers, James Dunne had a wonderful game in goal. Best of the others were Niall Doherty, Eoin Phelan, Phil Doyle, Martin Phelan in the first half, Donnacha Gray and James Hickey.

**Scorers:- Carrickshock:-** Michael Rice(1-5), Richard Frisby(1-1), Paul Barron (1-0), Brendan Hoyne (0-2). **Galmoy:-** Donnacha Gray (1-2), Martin Phelan (0-2), James Hickey ((0-2), Phil Doyle (0-1).

**Carrickshock:-** Richard Power, Denis Murphy, John Murphy, Leo O'Gorman, John Tennyson. Paul Barron, James Dalton, Michael Rohan, James Moran, Patrick Mulcahy, Michael Rice, Brendan Hoyne, John Dalton, Anthony Holland, Richard Frisby.

**Galmoy:-** James Dunne, David Murphy, Niall Doherty, Eoin Phelan, Padraig Gray, Phil Doyle, Thomas Dillon, Seamus Dillon, Martin Phelan, James Hickey, Donnacha Gray, Georgie Hickey, David Lee, Jonathan Smith, Eamonn Butler. **Sub:-** Kenneth Walsh.

# “Guys and dolls” days out are strictly out!

By John Knox, Kilkenny People

**IT MAY be deemed chauvinistic or whatever, but under the new order of things, Kilkenny match days will no longer be “guys and dolls” affairs.**

It will be strictly “men only” when the players head off to the serious hurling work in the National League, and during the Leinster and All-Ireland championships.

In a county renowned for its relaxed and easy going ways, and where the women were always welcome, new manager Kevin Fennelly and fellow selectors, Michael McCarthy (St. Lachtain’s) and Dick O’Neill (Young Irelands) will fashion things the way they see fit. And a rigid match day routine will be part of their formula.

“Match days are not a day out for a man and his wife”, Kevin Fennelly told the Yearbook. “The minute the players leave their homes for the matches I want them thinking about the game and getting their mind together for the test that lies ahead”.

Mr. Fennelly was not against the ladies being around. Far from it. However, the ladies will be invited to get to games themselves. After matches they will be welcomed into the fold with open arms, and to join the panel for meals.

The idea the management envisaged was for the players to travel together to matches in cars, virtually in convoy. Having everyone travelling together by bus was a less than appealing idea.

The officials realised the new situation might inconvenience some couples for a while, but once it was done a few times people would get used to it.

## **Not on**

“This thing of everyone travelling together and arriving at the hotel with the players going one way and the women another is not on”, Kevin Fennelly insisted. “It is too late at that stage to start the mind-tuning for games.

“You’re only two hours or so before a match. Trying to start really focussing then is a bit late. By being together, the players should be able to help each other settle and to get the mind together properly”.

The new manager said there won’t be anything too radical during his reign. However, he envisaged his approach being a bit more costly in some ways,



and the Co. Board purse strings might have to be loosened a bit more.

He was thinking about bringing in a dietician to advise on diet. Expert advice on training might be sought too. He wanted the players and all on the backroom team compensated quickly for any out of pocket expenses.

“There are major changes in the GAA now”, Mr. Fennelly went on. “Some in this county do not seem to think we have to change. We have. Some of the rest are already in a semi-professional mode.

“I am not trying to make the game into a lucrative job for the manager or the players”, he went on to explain. “No one should make money out of it. But no one should be out of pocket either. I think this manager/trainer thing is overdone.

“But they should be looked after. We are talking about facilitating a person for the 16 or 17 hours a week they put into the job. It is the same with the players. This county has never been bad with regard to looking after people. But things might have to be looked at in the light of developments, and the additional hours everyone seems to have to put into the game these times”.

## **Upbeat**

Issues like that apart, Mr. Fennelly was upbeat about Kilkenny’s chances next season. He didn’t beat about the bush.

“We have as good a chance as anyone of winning the All-Ireland”, he declared, looking right through the Leinster championship. “I won’t be unduly worried if things don’t work out in the National League. But if we are progressing in the right direction, and things are going okay we should not have to worry about relegation in the League”.

Barring injuries or whatever, he would hope to know his championship team by the end of the League campaign.

“I would like to think I would know most of the team by next April”, he insisted.

Since his appointment in October, Mr. Fennelly chose merely to keep things ticking over in the Oireachtas and Waterford Crystal South East League.

While the competitions weren’t run as professionally as he and his selectors would have liked, they kept chopping and changing the squad and giving fringe players a taste of wearing the famous striped jersey.

“Kilkenny are only a puck of the ball away from winning the All-Ireland any year”, the manager insisted. “Last year was a typical example. We were only beaten by four points by Clare in the All-Ireland semi-final, and they went on to win the final”.

## **Wouldn’t speculate**

He wasn’t prepared to speculate on who might or might not be in his squad. He wouldn’t get rid of any player because of age. Neither would he shy away from giving a young lad a chance.

“Last year I reckon we had no one settled up the middle of our team, from goalkeeper to full-forward”, Mr. Fennelly recalled. “We tried 13 different people in the central positions in the championship.

“If you are not settled up the middle, you can’t start to build a team”, he reckoned. “Getting that part of the team together will be our first and biggest job”.

In his pre-Kilkenny management days, Kevin Fennelly worked the oracle with Shamrocks (Ballyhale), St. Lachtain’s (Freshford), Gaignamanagh, Tullogher under-age and, of course, Young Irelands (Gowran). He won championships with them all.

## **He liked the buzz of management.**

“I like authority”, he freely admitted. “At times you wonder why you bother. Then there are other times when you wouldn’t be without the involvement, hassle and all. The job of managing the Kilkenny senior team is one of THE jobs in sport in Ireland. I am aware of the responsibilities I have, and I aim to do the very best for the county that love”.

# CLUB NEWS

## ST LACHTAIN'S

**H**ighlight of the year was the winning of the schools Roinn B Championship. Freshford proved to be worthy winners over a gallant Urlingford side in a thrilling final. The Minor Team have reached the League Final and now await the outcome of the other semi-final. The Intermediate Team under the guidance of Martin Brennan had a great start to the year. Injuries to a number of key players in the latter stages hampered further progress. Club Leagues

The Corn de Bhaldrathe and Kinnane League continue to be

exciting and entertaining games for the underage players. The winner of this years Corn de Bhaldrathe was Bill Beckett.

### County Lotto

The Club enthusiastically Welcomed the launch of the County Board Play for the Park Lotto. The proceeds of the Lotto are the main source of income for the Club.

### Wally Coady

The Club was saddened with news of the sudden death of Wally Coady in March last after a short illness. Wally was an outstanding full-forward and won a County Junior Hurling

Championship medal in 1959 and a Senior Championship medal in 1961. Wally also played a number of games for Kilkenny.

### Jim Molloy

On Sunday November 9th the news broke of the sudden death of Jim Molloy. Jim was an accomplished hurler and played on the Freshford Team that was beaten in the 1939 County Junior Final. Jim was a man of many talents and played the role of the Dame in pantomimes. Ar dheis Dé go raibh slad.



### KILKENNY UNDER-14 LEINSTER CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS

Kilkenny Under-14 Leinster Camogie Champions 1997.

Back row (from left): Regina Hickey, Anne Marie Shore, Margaret Byrne, Sarah O'Gorman, Edwina Whearty, Ann Walsh, Laura Murphy, Therese Glendon, Siobhan Hickey, Marie Doherty, Tara Keogh, Bronagh Neary, Breda Kavanagh, Laura Comerford, Noeleen, Butler, Aoife Treacy, Kay Gaffney.

Front row (from left): Aoife Neary, Jane Gibbons, Emma Henebery, Edel Maher, Lizzy Lyng (Captain), Sinead Connery, Fiona Dowling, Marie O'Connor and Caitriona Cormack.

Kilkenny had a 2-7 to 1-2 win over Dublin in the final at Danesfort.

*Photo: Michael Brophy*

# CLUB NEWS

## ST. MARTIN'S

**I**t was a good year, on and off the field for our club. Many trips were organised for our under-age teams

Our Juveniles travelled to the St. Anthony's Gaels club in Leeds in July. The team took part in the first Leeds Irish Festival, Chairman of which is Eddie Stapleton, formerly of Ballyfoyle. Twenty adults and thirty two juveniles took on the journey. A visit to Elland Road and Leeds Tropical Gardens formed part of the weekend. The young players took part in a football tournament and also gave a hurling exhibition. The weekend was highly enjoyable and we are very grateful to Eddie Stapleton, his wife and family and all who helped make this trip so enjoyable.

The Under 14's also travelled to the Leinster Feile and were hosted by ~Trinity Gaels. They played four games over the weekend, reaching the Leinster Finals. The Under 13 school team, which won the Roinn C County Final, were taken to Croke Park for the All Ireland semi-final against Clare.

The Under 12 team took part in a tournament in Dublin organised by the Leinster Council where they were hosted by Ballyboden, while the Under 10's competed in a tournament in Carlow and played teams from Carlow and Wexford.

### LOCAL TOURNAMENTS:

Our Under-10 team won the Jim Comerford Memorial hurling tournament for the third year in a row when they beat Clara by 3-0 to 2-0 in the final.

### HANDBALL SUCCESS:

Two club members won All Ireland handball medals during the year. Johnny Brennan won the All Ireland



### St Martin's on tour in Leeds. Exhibition Hurling team A:

*Back:* Joseph Shore, Eoin McGrath, John Coonan, Damien Maher, Brian Cadigan, Tom Nolan, Niall Moran, Anthony Agar. *Front:* Eddie Doran, Eugene Maher, Donal Keane, Padraig Murphy, David Shore, David Tynan. Mentors: Pat Holohan, Phil Shore.



**Exhibition Team B:** *Back:* Shane Coonan, Robert Shore, Ciaran Holohan, Michael Darcy, Brendan Maher, Kevin Malone, Conor Kinsella, John Buggy, Declan Holohan. *Front:* Paul Kinsella (Mentor), Eamonn Buggy, Brian Mulhall, C. Mc Grath, Shane Cadigan, Adam Cashin, Kieran Byrne.

Intermediate Singles title and David Cashin (with PJ Hawe of Windgap) won an All Ireland U17 Doubles title. Johnny Brennan, Donal and Shem Kelly took part in the World Handball Championships in Canada in August.

### MASTERS:

Bobby Shore and Danny Coonan represented the club on the victorious Kilkenny Masters team which beat Wexford in the All Ireland final.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

### BALLYHALE VS

#### HURLING

The U-14 hurling team did not enjoy much success in this competition. They played three matches but lost their final two, which prevented them from reaching the knockout stages of the competition.

The First Years were also involved in a very enjoyable hurling blitz in May. They were one of four teams who competed for the Brendan Conway Cup. Emerging with only one defeat from the league rounds, Ballyhale met Johnstown in the final and were beaten by four points in a keenly contested match.

The U-16 team has enjoyed a lot of success in the last few years in this competition, reaching the Leinster final on the last two occasions. This year they followed the same pattern. Having beaten St. Rynagh's, Banagher and St. Fergal's, Rathdowney in the league stage, Ballyhale faced a final showdown with St. Fergal's at Nowlan Park. The team were very slow starters and were five points down within the first 10 minutes. Although they tried to rally back from an eight point deficit at half time, it proved too much an uphill task, despite a brace of goals in the last

quarter of the game. St. Fergal's ran out five point winners in the end.

The U-18 (senior) team reached the Leinster semi-final last year only to be beaten by St. Fergal's, Rathdowney. This year's competition is in full flight with Ballyhale having played two matches, with a fifty per cent record so far. This should guarantee the team at worst a playoff with the other two teams in their half of the competition, Johnstown and Mooncoin V.S.

#### GAELIC FOOTBALL

In this year's U-14 competition, the league stages having just been completed, Ballyhale have a record of two wins and two losses. They had good wins over Slieverue V.S. (away) and Kilkenny City V.S. (home) but were beaten by the much stronger Castlecomer Community School and Kilkenny C.B.S. This now qualifies them for the knockout stages of the Leinster "D" competition.

The U-16 football team was unfortunate to be knocked out in the early stages of the competition by St. Fergal's, Rathdowney.

The U-18 (senior) team achieved a good deal of success this year. After coming through the opening stages, they came up against the eventual winners of the competition, Callan C.B.S., in the quarter finals. After a hard fought encounter,

Ballyhale were forced to concede to the stronger team on the day, having given their all.

#### Camogie

Ballyhale Vocational School won the 1996-97 Leinster Vocational Schools Junior 'A' Camogie Championship, defeating Borris in the quarter final, Thomastown in the Semi-final, and, for the second year in a row, meeting Kilkormac in the decider.

The Semi-final, played in Danesfort, was a tough match with both teams equally matched but Ballyhale eventually coming out winners.

The Leinster final, played in Portlaoise, was a repeat of the previous year and the result was reversed with Ballyhale coming out on top this time due mainly to a tight knit defence and forwards well capable of taking their scores, with Roisin Mc Cormack accepting the Leinster Trophy.

Unfortunately, there was no All-Ireland competition for Junior Camogie so it was disappointing not to have the opportunity to progress further.

In Colleges' Junior 'A', the Juniors progressed to the quarter final before losing out.

The Seniors were not as lucky losing out in the first round of the Vocational Schools competition. However, in the Colleges' senior 'B' Competition, they progressed to the Leinster quarter final, losing out to Borris.

#### Ladies' Football

The Ladies' senior football team again decided to give it a go, widening our range of sporting activities, but fell at the first hurdle to Hacketstown.



#### Ballyhale VS Leinster Junior Camogie Champions 1996-97

Back Row: Brigid McNamara, Jean O' Carroll, Ellen Grant, Mary Connors, Irene Connolly, Catriona Fennelly, Valerie Sutton, Paula Kenneally, Maria Connolly, Deborah Walsh, Helena Aylward, Carol Hughes, Krystle Fennelly.

Front Row: Deborah Corcoran, Catherine Duggan, Roisin McCormack (Capt.), Geraldine Fennelly, Ciara Fennelly, Grace Fennelly, Alma Fitzpatrick, Assumpta O'Farrell, Elaine Aylward, Irene Brennan, Jenna Kenneally, Keira Kinahan.

### KILKENNY VS

Once again, it was a long, but extremely enjoyable sporting year, particularly with the capture of a Leinster title.

The year 1997 proved to be a great one for Kilkenny City Vocational School as they annexed

the Leinster Senior Vocational "B" title for the first time in many years. In an extremely exciting final at Dr. Cullen Park, on November 6th, they defeated Enniscorthy V.C. by the narrowest of margins (2-9 to 1-11). The team displayed impressive grit in coming back in the second half against a team which seemed to be well in control during the opening half, before clinching victory with a pointed free by Paul Buggy in injury time. It was a fitting reward for players who had worked hard without success since juvenile years. For the record, games played were:

K.C.V.S. 1-19 THOMASTOWN V.S. 1-7  
 K.C.V.S. 1-12 MOUNTRATH 1-9  
 K.C.V.S. 4- 6 TULLAMORE C.C. 2-5  
 K.C.V.S. 2- 9 ENNISCORTHY V.C. 1-11

All the panel were major contributors to victory during the campaign but special mention goes to Michael Barcoe, Tom Murphy, Denis O'Brien, Kevin Curran, Ger. Behan, Tom Fitzgerald and captain Paul Buggy. The Junior team also had a good run in their championship before eventually bowing out at the quarter final stage.

## COLÁISTE MHUIRE JOHNSTOWN

### Camogie

The Johnstown Senior Camogie team enjoyed another successful season during the 1996-97 school year. They reached the Leinster Intermediate Camogie Final only to lose by one point to Mountmellick Community School.

Johnstown defeated St. Feargals, Rathdowney, in the first round. This was an interesting encounter as both teams were backboned by members of St. Anne's Camogie Club in Johnstown. Goals from Lorraine McCarthy and Veronica Walsh ensure an early Johnstown lead, which they never surrendered. A. Doyle and A. Russell were very good for Rathdowney.

La Santa Union Secondary School, Banagher, were Johnstown's opponents in the Leinster quarter final. The first in Johnstown ended in a draw, as did the second game in Banagher. Extra time was then played. Three outstanding points by Sinead Kavanagh settled the issue.



**Kilkenny Vocational School Team Leinster B Champions 1997** Photo: Tom Brett  
*Front:* D. Young, B. O'Neill, G. Behan, M. Barcoe, P. Buggy (Capt.), P. Murphy, M. Hoyne, S. Hurley, K. Curran, S. Cleere, M. Hoban *Back:* D. O'Brien, M. Bryan, S. Cummins, N. Hoyne, T. Fitzgerald, D. O'Connell, E. Delaney, T. Murphy, S. Dunne, B. Heffernan, J. Bambrick, L.O'Neill.



**Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown - Senior Camogie Team**  
*Back:* Rose Sheehy, Veronica Walsh, Dunna Spellacy, Kelly Long, Sinead Delaney, Anne Marie Gray, Lorraine McCarthy, Sinead Kavanagh, P. Broderick. *Front:* Brena Phelan, Kathleen Peters, Suzanne Stapleton, Louise Burke, Anne Marie Bergin, Marie Phelan, Kathleen Tone, Juliet Ryan.



**UNDER 16 VOCATIONAL WINNERS 1997**  
*Back:* David Moriarty, Richard Dalton, Kevin Power, Kieran Rafter, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ger Henderson, Pdraig Bergin, Denis Long. *Front:* John Bergin, J.J. Delaney, William Cahill, Paul Quinlan, Johnathan Doheny, Philip Cormack, Eoin Morrissey. Johnstown's outstanding players in these games were Captain Kelly Long, Sinead Delaney, Brena Phelan, Sinead Kavanagh, Rose Sheehy and Lorraine McCarthy. Against Thomastown in the semi-final, Donna Spellacy, Veronica Walsh, Susanne Stapleton and Juliet Ryan stood out. K. Dempsey was outstanding for Thomastown. Johnstown encountered Mountmellick Community School in

the final. The game was played in Portlaoise in dreadful conditions. The game ebbed and flowed from start to finish and there were never more than two points between the teams. A late point from Mountmellick centreback settled the issue. In this final engagement Louise Burke, Rose Sheehy, and Annemarie Gray played well. Debutante Marie Phelan was outstanding. Kelly Long, Brena Phelan, Sinead Kavanagh and Lorraine McCarthy were excellent as always.

#### *Johnstown Team*

Louise Burke, Sinead Delaney, Donna Spellacy, Kelly Long (Capt.), Annemarie Gray, Brena Phelan, Kathleen Peters, Sinead Kavanagh, Rose Sheehy, Susanne Stapleton, Lorraine McCarthy, Veronica Walsh, Marie Phelan, Juliet Ryan, Kathleen Tone, Caroline Thornton, Sabrina Grace, Margaret Tobin, Elaine Fox, Annemarie Bergin.

### **UNDER 14 HURLING AND FOOTBALL**

Last year our under 14's had a very good run in both hurling and football competitions, with both groups reaching the knockout stages. During the championship it became evident that the school had some very good dual players who could deal with the small or big and match it with the best of them. Both teams were beaten by separate teams from Bunclody after two well fought, sporting matches, and Bunclody V.S. went on to win out the football competition.

*Football Team* : Tony Hughes, David Lee, Owen Morrissey, James Meagher, Anthony O'Hara, Declan Tallis, Joseph Webster, John Bergin, Pdraig Doheny, Roger Greene, Dermot Power, James Whelan, Richard Collinson, Brian Doyle, Colin Wilson, Declan Duggan, Jonathan Behan, Gavin Burke, Thomas Butler, Noel Dowling, Donnacha Gray, Emmet Kavanagh, Sean Minogue, Patrick O'Gorman, Niall O'Hara, Oliver Quinlan, Ger Doheny, Billy Bradley, Eamon Butler, Declan O'Shea.

*Hurling Team* : Tony Hughes, David Lee, Owen Morrissey, James Meagher, Anthony O'Hara, Declan Tallis, Joseph Webster, John Bergin, Pdraig Doheny, Roger Greene,



### **COLAISTE MHUIRE, U-16 COLLEGE WINNERS**

*Front*: Philip Cormack, Sean Minogue, Eoin Morrissey, Robert Dowling, James Whelan, James Meagher, Declan Tallis, Anthony O' Hara, Noel Dowling, Jonathan Doheny, Donnacha Gray. *Back*: Declan O' Shea, Thomas Fortune, John O' Loughlin, Ger Power, J.J. Delaney, David Moriarty, Kieran Rafter, Denis Long, John Bergin, Dermot Power, Brian O' Gorman, Richard Dalton, Emmet Kavanagh.

Dermot Power, James Whelan, Richard Collinson, Brian Doyle, Colin Wilson, Declan Duggan, Jonathan Behan, Gavin Burke, Thomas Butler, Noel Dowling, Donnacha Gray, Emmet Kavanagh, Sean Minogue, Patrick O'Gorman, Niall O'Hara, Oliver Quinlan, Ger Doheny, Billy Bradley, Eamon Butler, Declan O'Shea.

#### **First Year Blitz.**

This year saw the introduction of an all ground hurling tournament held at Danesfort for 1st year students only. The tournament held over one day only, was keenly contested by Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, Slieverue, Ballyhale and Mooncoin.

The tournament, kindly sponsored by our ex C.E.O. Mr. Brendan Conway, saw great ground hurling skills, which it must be said, have been under used in recent years. The games were made up of two fifteen minute periods and the final was keenly contested by Johnstown and Ballyhale with the Johnstown boys seeking revenge after being beaten earlier in the day by their opponents. The final again showed great skill and rivalry and was played at an electrifying pace, with Johnstown coming out as deserving winners. The cup was presented by Mr. Conway to Sean Minogue who shone out as one of the best players on the day.

*Johnstown Panel* : Gavin Burke, Emmet Kavanagh, Brian Doyle, Colin Wilson, Noel Dowling, Sean Minogue, Niall O'Hara, Jonathan Behan, Aaron Fitzgerald, Donnacha Gray, Patrick O'Gorman, Declan O'Shea, Oliver Quinlan, Richard Collinson, Brendan Gleeson.

#### **Colaiste Mhuire Win B Title.**

Colaiste Mhuire won the under 16 Vocational Leinster Hurling Final for the first time in 1997. In all, approximately 20 teams started out in this competition. In their path to the final, Johnstown defeated St. Aongus Post Primary, Mountrath, Tullamore V.S., Edenderry V.S. and Bridgetown in the final. The final was an epic between two evenly balanced sides. Paul Quinlan was excellent in goal, William Cahill was sound at full back, While Kevin Fitzpatrick and Ger Henderson were stars on the half back line. Kevin Power -a county minor in 1997 was our star player, while Kieran Rafter, Vinnie Cleere and Dennis Long all impressed.

*Colaiste Mhuire* : Paul Quinlan, John Bergin, William Cahill, David Moriarty, Michael Power, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ger Henderson, Kevin Power, Kieran Rafter, Vinnie Cleere, Pdraig Bergin, J.J. Delaney, Brian O'Gorman, Denis Long, Richard Dalton. *Subs* : Roy Condon, Pat Dunne, Michael Bergin, Pat Bowden, John Doheny.

#### **Colleges Title For Colaiste Mhuire.**

Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, captured the Leinster Under 16 Roinn C Colleges Title in 1997. During this campaign, Johnstown defeated Presentation De La Salle, Bagnelstown, Kilkenny City Vocational School, Mooncoin V.S. and New Ross CBS in the final. The final played in Thomastown was a thriller, with the sides level at half time, and only three points between them with ten minutes left to play. Kieran Rafter was the star player for Johnstown, but James Meagher, John Bergin and Phil Cormack were



**Colaiste Mhuire 1997 Leinster Champions.**

*Back :* Raymond Tallis, J.J. Grace, Martin Quinlan, Kevin Power, Kieran Rafter, John Burke, Paul Quinlan, Pat Kennedy, Jim Ryan (Trainer).

*Middle :* Pat Morrissey, Tommy Bergin, Michael Glendon, Pat Wall, Michael Moriarty, Raymond Moriarty, Paul Costello.

*Front :* Kevin Fitzpatrick, Declan Garrett, Paul Bergin, David Burke, Padraig Bergin, Denis Long.

stars in defence .J.J.Delaney was the star forward for Johnstown while Eoin Morrissey scored a spectacular goal in the final. John O'Loughlin and Dermot Power all contributed in a big way to the victory.

*Johnstown :* James Meagher, James Whelan, David Moriarty, Dermot Power, John Bergin, Phillip Cormack, Brian Gorman, Kieran Rafter, John Doheny, John O'Loughlin, J.J. Delaney, Eoin Morrissey, Denis Long.

*Subs :* Sean Minogue, Ger Power, Anthony O'Hara, Robert Dowling, Richard Dalton, Declan Tallis, Thomas Fortune, Declan O'Shea, Donnacha Gray.

#### **Senior Hurlers**

The Senior Hurlers of Colaiste Mhuire bridged a six year gap when they recaptured the Leinster Vocational Schools Senior Hurling "A" title for the fourth time at a wind swept but sunny O'Moore Park, Portlaoise in March after a hectic battle with near neighbours, St. Fergals of Rathdowney. This was to be the high light of a great year that earlier saw them brush aside the challenges of Ballyhale and Banagher before they bowed out at the semi final stage to the ultimate All-Ireland Champions, Mannix College , Charleville, the Munster Champions at Cashel a few weeks later when their luck ran out in the first half against a gale force wind and a super fit Cork outfit. The winners showed their mettle in the first half when they successfully

defended against their very determined opponents and showed 1-2 to 1-0 at half time after shooting six wides to four for Rathdowney. They turned on the style in the second half and against the elements ran up an eight point lead with three minutes to go. St. Fergals got a consolation goal in the dying minutes but it was too little too late as Colaiste Mhuire ran out deserving winners, 2-11 to 2-4.

Captain Michael Glendon in goal was always dependable while the corner backs Michael Moriarty and Raymond Tallis were very solid, ably marshalled by tigerish full back, Martin Quinlan. The half back line of Paul Costello, Kevin Power and Pat Wall were superb throughout. John Burke had a super partner in Declan Garrett at mid field. Up front all the forwards played their part, but Ramie Moriarty's daring runs at goal tore the heart out of the opposition. When he combined with Pat Morrissey and Kieran Rafter, the scores came freely. Tommy Bergin shot some fine scores. Pat Kennedy showed tremendous work rate while J.J. Grace also played his part.

St. Fergals, gracious and sporting in defeat, can be proud of their whole hearted never-say-die performance that contributed greatly to a memorable occasion. Noel Brennan at full back, Robert Jones at centre, Eddie Dowling in midfield, Gerry Drennan and Kevin Galvin up front all showed commitment, determination and skill to match the

best. However Colaiste Mhuire's truly great team performance won the day as indicated by the fact that eight players got on the score board.

*Colaiste Mhuire :* Michael Glendon (Fenians), Michael Moriarty (Urlingford), Martin Quinlan (Fenians), Ramie Tallis (Lisdowney), Paul Costello (St. Lactains), Kevin Power (Fenians), Pat Wall (Gortnahoe), John Burke (Emeralds), Declan (Fenians), Ramie Moriarty (Emeralds), Tommy Bergin (Lisdowney), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Pat Kennedy (Lisdowney), Pat Morrissey (St. Lactains), J.J. Grace (St. Lactains).  
*Subs :* Paul Bergin (Lisdowney), Padraig Bergin (Lisdowney), Paul Quinlan (Fenians), Kevin Fitzpatrick (Lisdowney), Denis Long (St. Lactains).

*Scorers :* P. Morrissey 1-2, P. Kennedy 1-0, R. Moriarty 0-2, D. Garrett 0-2, K. Rafter 0-2, J. Burke 0-1, J.J. Grace 0-1, K. Power 0-1.

### **Vocational Schools Inter County Teams.**

#### **Hurling :**

Kilkenny beat Offaly in the 1996/97 All-Ireland Championship before going down to Cork in Fermoy on April 12th. Cork had an excellent team and went on to win the All-Ireland for the second consecutive year. The Kilkenny boys acquitted themselves very well and were in touch and competing strongly for 50 minutes when Cork got a goal and two points to put a clear gap between the teams.

All seven schools had representatives on the panel. The team was prepared by Brendan O'Sullivan and Noel Skehan, both of whom deserve our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

#### **Football:**

We competed in the Leinster "B" Championship and played Laois in the Leinster Final on October 10th 1997. Laois won after a highly competitive game which reflected very well on the Kilkenny boys. The final score was Laois 5-10 Kilkenny 4-8. P.J. Whelan trained the team and really got their best effort from them. We thank him for his interest and effort. Six schools were represented.



## Down Memory Lane 1



### Clann na Gael: Senior Football County Finalists - 1972

Back (l-r): John Meagher, John Treacy, John Gough, Seamus McKeon, John Madden, Colm McCafferty, Packie Fitzgerald, Pat Hurley, Mick Gannon, John Byrne, Tom Cunniffe. Front (l-r): Sammy Geoghegan, Padraig Leydon, Donal Lyne, Podge Butler, John Joe Higgins, Ben Halpin, Eamonn Doyle, Pat Keohane.

Young supporters include from back Liam Leydon, Mark Cody and Brian Glynn.

*Photo: Tom Brett*

### Thomastown U-16 Roinn 'A' Hurling Champions - 1972

Back (l-r): Jim Cassin, Ian Doyle, Michael Wemyss, Jimmy Dalton, Alan Hoyne, Séan Murphy, Liam Kelly, Eamonn Farrell (RIP), Dick O'Hara, John Costello, Christopher Beck, Joe Wemyss, Séan Reid.

Front (l-r): Tony Carroll, Dan Dempsey, David Prendergast, Eddie Byrne, Eugene Kavanagh, Tony Murphy, Pat Minogue, Páidí Lannon, Dan Breen, John O'Brien, John McDonald.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



### Gowran - U-14 Roinn 'B' Hurling Champions - 1972

Back (l-r): Ger Bourke, Pat Holden, Pat Ryan, Pat Whelan, Frank Brennan, Tom Keogh, Michael Mackey, Martin Butler, P.J. Farrell, Matty Byrne.

Front (l-r): John Knox N.T., Christopher Delaney, John Comerford, Jack Lennon, Pat Butler, Larry Fenlon (RIP), Pat Kirwan, Philip Harding.

*Photo: Tom Brett.*



## Down Memory Lane 2



### St. Lachtains, Runners-up Co. U-16 Hurling Roinn 'A' - 1972.

Back (l-r): Jim Mullan, Martin O'Donnell, John Lennon, Pat Buggy, Bill Mullan, Noel Buckley, Dick Dalton, Frank Doheny, Brian Waldron, Johnny Dawson, Ned Lennon.

Front (l-r): Tom Lennon, Jack Buckley, Michael Morrissey, Murty Kennedy, Ger Dawson, Nicky Bergin, Tommy Maher, Michael Campion, Tom Brennan, Wattie Lennon.

*Photo: Tom Brett*

### St. Patricks De La Salle U-14 Roinn 'A' Hurling Champions - 1972

Back (l-r): Martin Morrissey, John Delaney, Eddie McPhilips, Michael O'Neill, Declan Dowling, Richie O'Keeffe, Paddy O'Driscoll, Eddie Kelly, Ger McCarthy, Billy Walton, Jimmy Grace, Barry O'Donovan.

Front (l-r): Kevin O'Donovan, Latiff Bashorum, Michael Manning, Philip Brennan, Dermot Reidy, Liam Molloy, Jim O'Neill, Michael O'Keeffe, Tom Deere.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



### O'Loughlin/Gaels Roinn 'A'

#### County Minor Hurling Champions at their Club Dinner Dance - 1972

Back (l-r): Dermot Tyrrell, Pat Cantwell, Jim Brennan, Jim Gibbons, Larry Murphy, Jimmy Byrne, Richie Delaney. Middle (l-r): Gerard Campion, Eamonn Doyle (Selector), Kevin Robinson (Capt.), Pat Fanning (President G.A.A.) Rev. Tommy Murphy (Selector), Dinny Lanigan, Anthony O'Driscoll, Ned Curran (Chairman, Northern Board).

Front (l-r): Ollie Bergin, John Skehan, Michael Lanigan, Francis Nolan.

*Photo: Tom Brett*



## Down Memory Lane 3



**1956**

**Kilmacow**

**County Junior Hurling Champions**

Back (l-r): Paddy Lawlor, Sean Connolly (RIP), Jimmy Dunphy, Harry Matthews, Michael O'Neill, John Lenane, Jimmy Fleming, Sean Phelan (RIP), Billy Atkins, Jim Phelan.

Middle (l-r): Paddy Grace RIP., Ned Fleming, Noel Hoban, Pat Forristal, Bill Kinsella (Capt.), Paddy Hoban, Mick Fleming, Patrick Quinlan.

Front (l-r): Tony Doolan, 'Sailor' Costello.



**1953**

**Glenmore -**

**County Junior Hurling Champions**

Back (l-r): Seamus Dunphy, Sean Phelan, Johnny Murphy, John Dillon, Richard Doherty, Paul Fitzgerald, Edward O'Rourke, Jack Hartley, Mick Fitzgerald, Tom Phelan, Billy Murphy, Tim Phelan, Jim Culleton.

Front (l-r): Dick Cody, George O'Connor, Jim Roche, John Doherty, John Heffernan, Jimmy Heffernan, Tom Murphy, Pat O'Connor. (John, Bill and Tom Murphy, Jim and Sean Phelan were all from Tullogher.

## Inter County Under 21 Hurling

### **Kilkenny lose out to Wexford**

**T**he Kilkenny U-21 hurling team made an early exit from the championship when at the semi final stage they were beaten by the reigning champions Wexford on a scoreline of 1-10 to 1-9. This was a very disappointing result, as the team with home advantage, had been expected to win.

**The U-21 team is the most difficult to get together. Most of the members are in third level education and their exams, which begin as early as April, continue into mid-June. Players find little time to train or play games during this period due to exam pressure. Their education must always be top of their priority list.**

Kilkenny's preparations began in May with a tournament game against Waterford in Dungarvan when they were defeated by one point in a highly competitive game. This was the closest they came to having a full team for any challenge game. Further games against Tipperary (2), Clare, Limerick and Waterford saw little improvement in the team's fortunes as no victory was recorded during this period. By mid-June most players became available for training and the players worked hard for the two weeks before the Wexford game.

Before the Wexford game team captain Michael O'Neill was suspended and he was a huge loss to the team. He was the engine of the team and was sorely missed.

The game itself was a very physical encounter from the throw in. Kilkenny were on top early on but missed some easy scoring chances. Midway through the half they lost David Carroll who suffered a serious knee injury and not long after Richard Mullally had also to be replaced following some heavy tackles on him. Kilkenny moved wing forward Brian Kelly to wing back from where he gave a "man of the match" display. At half time Wexford led 0-7 to 0-3.

Kilkenny opened the second half with a goal by Ken

O'Shea within 30 seconds. This was followed by a Damien Cleere point to level the scores after three minutes. Damien Cleere and Paul Codd exchanged points until, with ten minutes to go, James Purcell scored the vital goal for Wexford. Kilkenny drew level again with five minutes left but Paul Codd edged Wexford ahead with another point from a free. Kilkenny had two chances to equalise but failed due to over elaboration.

Best for Kilkenny on a night when some of their stars failed to shine were Anthony McCormack, Paddy Mullally, Michael Maher, Martin Phelan, Sean Kealy, Brian Kelly and John Maher.

Final score Wexford 1-10 Kilkenny 1-9.

Scorers for Kilkenny: D. Cleere 0-6 (0-5 from frees), K. O'Shea 1-1, J. Maher 0-1, M. Purcell 0-1.

**Kilkenny team and panel:** Anthony McCormack (Dunamaggin), Paddy Mullally (Glenmore), Pa Hickey (St. Lactains), Michael Maher (Tullaroan), Ger Doyle (St. Martins), Martin Phelan (Jas. Stephens), David Carroll (Dicksboro), Richard Mullally (Glenmore), Sean Kealy (Blacks and Whites), Brian Kelly (O' Loughlins), Damien Cleere (Graigue Ballycallan), Michael Purcell (Mooncoin), Ken O' Shea (Dunamaggin), Kevin Lonergan (Galmoy), Jimmy Coogan (Tullaroan). Subs: Alan Hearne (Windgap), John Maher (St. Martins), Adrian Hudson (Carrickshock) all used, Joe Ryan (St. Lachtains), Paddy Dwyer (Graigue-Ballycallan), Billy Quinn (Mooncoin), Sean Dowling (O' Loughlins), Andrew Hickey (Dunamaggin), Shane Lanigan (Thomastown).

**Selectors:** Seamus Martin (Dunamaggin), Nicholas Teehan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Tom Kinsella (St. Martins), Michael Fox (Mooncoin) and Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown).

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# CLUB NEWS

## ST PATRICK'S BALLYRAGGET

**D**evelopment work at the local park continued this year with the erection of nets behind both goals. The walls surrounding the pitch were given a facelift. These walls were painted by third level students under the Student Employment Scheme. Future plans include the erection of ladies' toilets.

### Sad Story

Unluckiest player on the club books must surely be Brian Phelan. Brian suffered a bad leg injury in the first game of the year against Mooncoin and was ruled out for the rest of the season. A member of the county junior team in 1996, he was a huge loss to the club this year.

### Fund Raising

Major fund raising for the club was once again the weekly 'Lotto'. As well as being the main source of revenue,



The lonesome warrior! 'lottery night' has turned out to be a great social occasion for members. The other valuable source of revenue was the 'Hurlers' Co-op' draw.

### County Players

John Cahill, Ciarán Delaney and

David Kenny were included in the county U16 panel for the Nenagh Co-op Tournament but had to withdraw due to club commitments. David Kenny represented the football team. Jimmy Ruth won an All-Ireland Masters medal with the county team.

### Match of the Year

St. Patricks v Young Irelands The Northern Minor Roinn 'B' final turned out to be a cracker with the issue in doubt up to the very end of the game. St. Patricks emerged narrow winners after an enthralling encounter.

### Highlight of the Year

This was surely winning the U-21 Roinn 'C' county championship by defeating Cloneen in the final at Nowlan Park. This victory was the club's first at this level and went a long way towards compensating for a one point loss in the Minor Roinn 'B' final a couple of weeks earlier.



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# CLUB NEWS

## SLIEVERUE



**Slieverue Adult Parish League Finalists 1997. "Dublin"**  
*Back* :: Eamonn O'Donovan, Richard Walsh, Michael O'Halloran Ian Atkins, Martin Kiely.  
*Front* :: Robert Freyne, John Kelly, Ray Murphy, David Walsh.



**Slieverue Adult Parish League Finalists 1997. "Tipperary"**  
*Back*: Willie Fleming, Lenny Doyle, Eamonn Dowling, Niall Fleming, Billy Griffin.  
*Front*: Noel Murphy, James Walsh, Kevin Haberlin, Paul Knox.



**Slieverue Vocational School Transition Year Students who completed GAA Coaching Course 1996/97** *Back*: Bobby Jackman (Coach), Hugh Magee, Brendan Harney, Lisa Doyle, Alan Atkins, David Barrett, David Walsh, Kevin Aylward, Seamus Scannell, Paul Walsh, Madeline McCann (Course Co-ordinator).  
*Front*: Joseph Byrne, Sineid O'Donovan, Pat Butler, Emma McDonald, Christopher O'Brien, Ann Marie Vereker, Clare Owens, J.P. Kearney,



**Slieverue Set Dancers. Special Award.** Included are : Gavin Quilty, Michelle Quilty, Kelly Delahunty, Shane Meagher, Kerry Ryan, Stephan Roche, Danielle O'Keeffe, Alan Dempsey.

## Le Gach Dea-Mhéin Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.



Micheál Ó Dubhshláine  
Rúnaí

# CLUB NEWS

## THREecastLES

There were no spectacular happenings during the year, with our Junior team going out of the championship in their first outing. However, they did reach the Barlo Nissan Junior League Div II final, but proved no match for a sparkling Young Ireland's outfit. Still what's another year! **Dinner Dance.**

This year's event was held back in the early part of the year. An enjoyable night was had by all with dancing continuing until the small hours.



**Damien Lannon**, Captain Threecastles Junior Hurling Team 1997

### Trip.

The annual October Bankholiday trip by the club this year returned to Kerry after an absence of some years. Again, satisfaction was expressed with the event.



**Jim Cleere** (R) presents a cheque for £500 to **Bob Murphy**, winner in the Hurlers' Coop Draw

### New Member.

This year the club welcomed a new prestigious member - the former Rower-Inistioge and Dublin player, Jim Lyng. Jim, who now resides in the area, is an example to all young players with the amount of time and effort he puts into his game. Hopefully, his enthusiasm will rub off on his new colleagues during 1998.

### Obituary.

It is with regret that we record the passing of a former player of the 1940's era - Matt Walsh.

He had tremendous hurling skills, showed a great turn of pace and was an exciting playing member for many years. Matt was also a founder member of the Macra na Feirme branch in the area and was instrumental in the building of the local hall in the fifties. Although he lived outside the area he never forgot his roots and took every opportunity to visit his birthplace. To his wife Phil and family we offer our deepest sympathy.

Ar Dheis Dé go raib sé.



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# CLUB NEWS

## TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON

### CLUB SUCCESSES 1997:

#### *Under Age Hurling*

U-13 Schools Roinn B Semi-Finalists  
U-14 Roinn B Championship Finalists  
U-16 Roinn C League Winners.  
U-16 Roinn C Championship Finalists.

*Junior Hurling* - All County League Winners.

Championship Winners.

Best Wishes go to Shemmy Murphy from Ballyreddy who emigrated to Australia for twelve months. Shemmy was a playing member on the Junior Hurling Team this year.

John Barron won Leinster Minor Hurling medal with Kilkenny.

John Barron and John Phelan won

Leinster Colleges A medals with Good Counsel College New Ross.

Richard Gaule, Dermot Heffernan and Kieran Grennan won Flogas medals with New Ross CBS in the Wexford Competition.

The Club are participating in the weekly Lotto for Nowlan Park and we intend using the income towards the development of our playing field at Brownstown.

### Obituaries:

Sean Phelan and Danny Phelan of Curraghlane, Tullagher, were both brothers of our Vice-President, Jimmy Phelan from Smithstown and uncles to Seamus, Eamonn and John who are all Playing members with the club.

Sean played hurling for the Club in the late Forties and into the late fifties. He won a Junior Hurling County Final with Glenmore in 1953 along with some other players from Tullagher. Danny played hurling for the Club into his early twenties.

Denis Hogan, late of Ballymagill and Kilkenny, was a past Official and Selector with the Club.

Grace Heffernan at Ballyneal was wife of Jimmy who won an All-Ireland with Kilkenny in 1947. She was mother of Tom, Andy, Jimmy, Paddy, John and Liam who all played for the Club.

And Denis Power, Darbystown who was a loyal supporter

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad.

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# CLUB NEWS

## TULLAROAN



**Tullaroan Rice Cup Winners in Colaiste Eamonn Rís Callan**  
 ( Nicholas Maher, Sean Glennon, Richie Butler, James Fennelly.  
*Photo: Tom Brett*



**Tullaroan supporters in Waterford at Feile na Gael**  
 (L-R): Margaret Helena Byrne, Carmel Breen, Claire Brennan,  
 Terry Maher, Elaine Maher.

**The year 1997 for Tullaroan will always be very special. Our U 14 team represented Kilkenny in Feile na Gael and made history by winning the prestigious Christy Ring Memorial Trophy. These achievements are covered elsewhere in this book.**

The U16 team reached the county final and lost by a single point to a very strong Shamrock team.

At senior level Tullaroan reached the quarter finals by loosing to Dicksboro. The emigration of county player Bill Hennessy, in addition to Sean Teehan and Vincent Norton left this team very much depleted.

The special junior team won a couple of matches but lost to O'Loughlins. At minor level the team reached the Northern semi-finals losing to Ballyragget and we still have to play in the league semi-final.

**Club Developments**

The car parking area was resurfaced and a new scoreboard was erected at the pitch.

### Jim Hennessy An Appreciation

Big Jim has gone to his eternal reward. Jim Hennessy died recently after a short illness. Although in poor health for some time Jim was an active member of the local community. Jim had a long and distinguished hurling career. With his four brothers Paddy, Tommy and twins Bill and Joe they helped Tullaroan win a Senior Hurling Title in

1958. Jim went on to play for Kilkenny at senior inter-county level on many occasions.

His early working life was spent with the ESB. He worked all over the country bringing electrification to rural areas. He was also very involved in greyhounds where he achieved considerable success. When Jim purchased a JCB in the 70's it brought with it another phase in his working life. He ran a successful business until struck down by illness.

His illness must have been very frustrating for Jim. For a man who was so well able to embellish every occasion with fine words and stories,



**Father and Son**

Jim Hennessy shares a wonderful moment with his young son Shane as they admire the Christy Ring Trophy.

it must have been very difficult for him to come to terms with being unable to express himself clearly.

However, Jim coped and those of us who knew him well were able to hold great discussions with him.

When Tullaroan won through to the Feile na Gael finals this summer a brief sojourn by Jim in England had to be suspended as the Tullaroan team captained by his youngest son Shane came first.

It was to be his proudest moment when his son Shane having made a superb contribution in the tournament accepted the Feile na Gael trophy. The many tributes received from hurling supporters from far and wide at the achievement of such a small parish made Jim a very proud man. It was a fitting tribute to Jim to see Shane achieve the acclaim for his achievements.

His funeral was one of the biggest ever seen in Tullaroan. Friends and hurling people came from far and wide. The GAA was represented by John Healy, Pat Dunphy and many other members of the County Board.

The Hennessy family have contributed and continue to contribute enormously to Tullaroan hurling. For that we are very grateful.

To Jim's wife Kathleen, daughters Claire, Martina, Ann, Frances, Geraldine, Olive and Una, sons James and Shane, brothers Paddy, Tommy, Bill and Joe, sisters Betty, Tess and Rita, many relatives and friends, we offer sincere sympathy.

# CLUB NEWS

## WINDGAP

**.A year in a line**

County Minor Hurling Champions, finalists in U-14 Hurling and Camogie, All-Ireland Handball Champions at many levels and Football for the first time in school were the highlights.

**Development**

Work continued on the bank, scoreboard numbers and dugouts with the general area getting a facelift with paint.

**Funding**

Racing fever took a hold for a while when the Club Organised a highly successful Race Night. The year's big success was the well supported Lotto that helped fund further works and released the regular fundraising events to the Community.

**Honoured**

Kieran Purcell returned to Croke Park on Final Day as a member of the Jubilee Champions of 25 years ago. Tommy Hearne was the recipient of a Maurice Davin triangular award as Waterford Hurler of the Past. Brid Landy was the recipient of an Irish Scholarship sponsored by the County Board.

**Day Trip**

Over three hundred supporters, aged from ten to eighty, travelled to support the County on the Club buses throughout the Summer, the Juveniles benefitting from group passes.

**Behind the Scenes.**

Thanks to the endless dedication of Officials, Mentors, Players and Parents, the groundwork has been laid for a successful 1998.

**Minor Trainer**

Bobby Jackman became the first clubman to coach a county side when he



**A "Day At The Office"** Volunteers doing a great job in Windgap: Pat Purcell, P.J. Egan (sitting on the tractor), Seamus Power, George Watters, Sean Cronin, Pat Moore, Paul Doran, Simon Brophy, Walter Purcell.

was appointed as minor trainer.

**Jim Phelan RIP**

In March the Club and Community lost a valued member when Jim Phelan met an untimely end in a collision near Tipperary town. Aged thirty seven, he was a prominent figure in the Club as a Committee Member, Vice-Chairman, Football Secretary and a delegate over the years. His farming experience was invaluable to the successful calf to beef schemes that helped drain the Grounds and build the Dressing Rooms.

As a hurler, he played in all grades and was a dependable corner back in the 1986 Junior County Championship winning side. A hard worker, he had a jolly sense of humour and enjoyed life to the full. His loss will be most deeply felt by his wife Elizabeth, son Jonathan, daughter Jamie, and parents, Johnny and Mai. Surrounded by his friends and team mates, his remains were laid to rest on a beautiful Spring day in Windgap scenic Cemetery.



**Laurence Doyle** is presented with the Roinn C Minor Hurling Trophy by **Joe Pyke**, Chairman, Bord na nOg, after Windgap had won the Roinn C Title. Photo: Tom Brett

In addition to Jim Phelan, the sympathy of the Club is extended to the families of Conor Purcell, Nicky Landy (Seskin) and Larry Purcell (Inchnaglock) former players with Windgap.

**Windgap Camogie Club**

Back: Katie Ryan, Brid Mackey, Terri Mackey, Caroline Noonan, Amy Phelan, Frances Mackey, Claire Williams (Mentor), Lorraine Kearney, Amanda Noonan. Ciara Fitzpatrick, Pamela Kearney.

Front: Eleanor Downey, Brid Landy, Miriam Maher, Georgina Moore, Michelle Brawders, Lorraine Moore, Phena Heffernan, Evan Molloy.



# CLUB NEWS

## YOUNG IRELANDS

### Senior Team.

1997 was another successful year for the seniors captained by Cathal Fitzgerald. The team lost only one game during the season and failed by only three points in succeeding to put championships back to back. There was some consolation in defeating James Stephens in the League Final by seven points. All the parish thank the panel and selectors Kevin Fennelly, Dick O'Neill and Charlie Carter Snr. for their commitment and the many hours of enjoyment during the season.

### Special Junior A.

This panel captained by Patrick Treacy won the county championship, a goal which had evaded the club since 1985. They never faltered in any game, including the League Final and the Northern Final defeating James Stephens, Emeralds, Threecastles, St. Martins, St. Lachtains and Clara in the Barlo Nissan League, Threecastles in the League Final, old rivals Clara in the Northern Final and Dunamaggin in the County Final. This was a great exhibition of hurling by both sides. The side contained four of the 1985 panel Pat Lennon, Phil Twomey, Patrick Treacy and Brendan Kehoe who had suffered many disappointments in Northern and County Finals. This victory was especially sweet for them and the lads who joined them from the senior ranks, brothers John and Pat Kennedy, John Brennan, Charlie Carter and the maestro himself Kevin Fennelly. Special thanks are due to Kevin Fennelly (Trainer) and selectors Tom Carroll, Noel Roche and Charlie Carter Snr. and we wish the team all the best in the Junior Grade next year.

Many of the special junior squad are on the U-21 panel captained by Alan O'Neill and they are doing well with victories over Emeralds and Lisdowney to reach the Northern Final. Great credit is due to Senior players Pat O'Neill, Cathal Fitzgerald, Charlie Carter and Ciaran Phelan for looking after these lads.

The minors captained by Thomas Drennan reached the Northern Final where they lost to Ballyragget and Thomastown defeated them in the League semi final. It was felt that these



Special Junior "A" Champions

BACK: Pat Lannon, Pat Kennedy, Peter Carroll, Barry O'Donnell, Tom Drennan, Kevin Fennelly, Brendan Kehoe, John Drennan, John Brennan, John Kennedy, Brian Treacy. FRONT: Davy Carter, Philip Twomey, Ciaran Carroll, Brian Power, John Paul Carroll, Aidan Drennan, Patrick Treacy (Capt), Darragh Phelan, Martin Carter

boys had the potential to go all the way. Selectors here were Shem Gibbons (Trainer), Johnny Comerford, Tom Drennan, John Connolly and John Carroll. The Saturday coaching scheme for juveniles was again a major success as was the camáint competition.

Congratulations to D.J.Carey and Christine on the birth of their son Sean, and to Cathal Fitzgerald and Bernadette Treacy, Charlie Carter and Maria Whitehead, Toss Farrell and Aisling Smyth on their recent marriages.

1997 has to be considered a very successful year for the club's teams. As one of the smallest clubs in the county, this Success owes much, to our dedicated teachers John Knox and Dick O'Neill who continue to mould players for the future and also the hard working committees in providing funding and grounds in top condition. Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters for their help and we look forward to the new year with optimism. Finally congratulations to Kevin Fennelly on his appointment as manager of the county team and to Dick O'Neill as county selector. We wish them every success.

### Paddy Brennan Treasurer 1946-96.

The late Paddy Brennan RIP passed suddenly from our midst on December 22nd 1996. He resided at Neigham, Gowran all his life. His home became Young Ireland's as one of his fields became their playing pitch for many years. During the 40's and 50's many

great players including Diamond Hayden, Nick O'Donnell and Mons. Tommy Maher played there. In the 80's this field was again used while the club developed its own grounds and present stars such as D.J.Carey, Pat O'Neill and Charlie Carter played many great matches there.

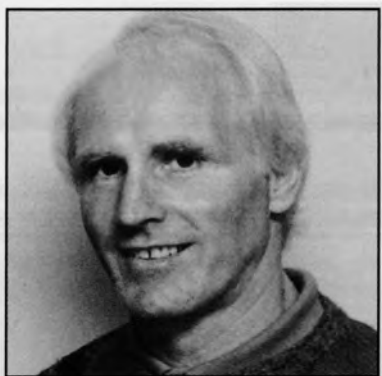
In 1946 Paddy first became Treasurer with Castle Rovers and he held this



Paddy Brennan RIP

post for six years under the three parish rule. In 1952 he was elected Treasurer of Young Ireland's Club, a post he held until his death. Paddy was a quiet reserved gentleman who was held in high regard by all who knew him and he brought huge integrity and respect to his office as treasurer. During his 44 years Paddy's ledgers and accounting were impeccable and our club will always cherish and remember his work on our behalf as will these who had the honour of knowing and working with him. Our sincerest sympathy to Bridget, Thomas, Marie and Fr. Paddy Brennan. May he rest in peace.

**Joe Doherty  
An Appreciation**



**Joe Doherty RIP,  
Galmoy and Kilkenny**

**F**or some weeks we knew that Joe Doherty was very ill - but that did not prepare us for the shocking news on Saturday 25 October that he had died.

Joe played a special part in the hurling story of Galmoy, as a player as a trainer, as a selector and as a county board representative. But simply to list his involvement and achievements under those headings does not convey the real impact of his contribution to our club.

Over a long playing career whether at junior, senior or intermediate level, he was a wonderful example to his fellow players in terms of preparation, training and organisation. His professional approach helped the club to make the transition from junior to senior ranks. As a small rural club faced with the challenge of playing in the senior championship, it was Joe's leadership qualities that enabled us to compete with the best, and when the club played in its only county senior final (1975) Joe was player and selector.

Prominent features of the hurling scene of the '60's and 70's were the annual tournaments at Rathdowney, Urlingford and Durrow. We have happy memories of victories in these tournaments sometimes played before very large attendances. Joe treated these games with the game respect as he would playing for Kilkenny in Croke Park and invariably he was the star.

Even though he moved to live in Kilkenny city and played a prominent part on the wider stage of inter-county hurling, he remained a devoted Galmoy man. One of his proudest moments this year was when he stood beside his nephew, Brian, as he accepted the Rafter Cup after the Northern Junior final as captain of Galmoy.

The club wishes to extend to his wife, Marian, sons, Peter and Eoin, and to the Doherty family our deepest sympathy in their tragic loss.  
*Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam Dílis.*

**MY MIND STILL WANDERS  
by Fr. Liam Barron**

*This evening at the hurling game the night was stirring.  
The master of ceremonies had thrown in the sliothar.  
The impressive liturgy moved forward.  
That sliothar flew from celebrant to celebrant,  
As everything had been minutely planned in advance.  
It slipped from hurley to hurley,  
slipped along the sod, and flew overhead.  
Each man was at his post, taking the ball in turn,  
passing it to the next one ,  
who was there to receive, and pass again.  
And because each one did his part in the right place.  
Because he put forth the effort required.  
Because he knew he needed all the others.  
Slowly but surely the ball made ground,  
and reached the goal.  
While at the end the crowd flowed out into the streets.  
I reflected that human history, our history -  
for us a long game - is a great liturgy.  
In this world, we each have our place.  
The far-sighted Team Manager has planned it for us.  
He needs us here,  
our brothers need us and we need everyone.  
It is not the position we hold that is important.  
It is the reality and strength of my presence.  
What difference whether I am a forward or a back,  
goalkeeper or centre-field man,  
as long as I am fully what I should be.  
Here is my day before me.....  
Did I sit too long on the side-line,  
criticising the play of others, my hands in my pockets?  
Did I play my part well?  
Did I catch my team mate's pass,  
and that of the player at the end of the field?  
Did I co-operate with my team without seeking the limelight?  
Did I play the game to obtain the victory,  
so that each one should have a part in it?  
Did I battle to the very end  
in spite of set-backs, blows and bruises?  
Was I troubled by the shouts of the crowd?  
Discouraged by their lack of understanding  
and their criticism?  
I come now to rest in the dressing room  
and freshen myself up.  
To-morrow I will play in a new position.  
And so each day.....  
So that when the final whistle interrupts our lives.  
We shall be declared the champions.....  
the entire team and I.  
Anyone got a hurley.....  
and sliothar.....  
please.....*

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# KILKENNY

## G.A.A. RESULTS 1997

### Credit Union Senior Hurling Final

Dunnamaggin.....2-10  
Young Irelands.....2-7

### Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....4-12  
Graignamanagh.....3-7

### Junior Hurling County Final

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....0-12  
Galmoy.....1-8

### Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final

Young Irelands.....2-11  
Dunnamaggin.....0-8

### Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final

John Lockes .....0-11  
Conahy Shamrocks.....2-5

John Lockes .....0-4  
Conahy Shamrocks.....0-2  
Abandoned at half time owing to fog

### Under-21 Hurling Roinn A County Final

Graigue-Ballycallan.....0-11  
Rower-Inistioge.....0-6

### Under-21 Hurling Roinn B County Final

Piltown v. Fenians or Young Irelands

### Under-21 Hurling Roinn C County Final

St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....6-12  
Cloneen.....0-2

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A County Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks .....2-18  
James Stephens.....2-5

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B County Final

John Lockes.....1-9  
St. Patricks (Ballyragget).....1-8

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C County Final

Windgap.....2-10  
Conahy Shamrocks.....0-10

### Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final

Young Irelands.....3-10  
James Stephens.....2-6

### Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final

Clara.....1-12  
Bennettsbridge.....1-8

### Byrne Cup Hurling Final (Open Draw)

Clara.....1-13  
St. Martins.....1-7

### Hennessy Sports All County Junior Hurling League Final

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....3-17  
Blacks & Whites.....4-11

### Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling Final

Galmoy.....3-9  
Barrow Rangers.....1-13

### Iverk Produce South Junior Hurling Final

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....1-11  
Kilmacow.....1-9

### Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn A South Final

Dunnamaggin.....0-10  
Graignamanagh.....0-3

### Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn A North Final

Young Irelands.....1-12  
Clara.....1-6

### Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn B North Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....1-7  
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....2-4  
(Replay)  
Conahy Shamrocks.....4-13  
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....3-7

### Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn B South Final

John Lockes.....0-7  
Tullagher-Rosbercon.....0-7  
(Replay)  
John Lockes.....1-12  
Tullagher-Rosbercon.....2-5

### Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....1-13  
Thomastown.....0-8

### Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. II Final

Young Irelands.....4-10  
Threecastles.....1-6

### Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. III Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....2-9  
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....1-10

### Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final

Dicksboro.....1-16  
Emeralds.....1-8

### Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn A North Final

Graigue-Ballycallan.....2-10  
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....1-4

### Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling Roinn A South Final

Rower-Inistioge.....2-11  
Dunnamaggin.....3-6

### Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn B North Final

Fenians v. Young Irelands

### Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling Roinn B South Final

Piltown.....1-7  
John Lockes.....0-8

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A North Final

James Stephens.....3-13  
Emeralds.....0-3

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A South Final

Shamrocks.....1-15  
Dunnamaggin.....3-9  
(Replay)  
Shamrocks.....1-6  
Dunnamaggin.....1-4

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B North Final

St. Patricks (Ballyragget) .....1-10  
Young Irelands.....2-5

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B South Final

John Lockes.....1-6  
Kilmacow.....0-8

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C North Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....2-11  
Clara.....2-7

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C South Final

Windgap.....6-11  
Slieverue.....0-6

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Final

**John Tobin Memorial**  
James Stephens v. Graigue Ballycallan  
Emeralds v. Rower-Inistioge

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final

Thomastown v. Lisdowney or Kilmacow

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Final

### Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. IV Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....2-15  
Clara.....2-10

### Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn A County Final

Shamrocks.....1-6  
Tullaroan.....0-8

### Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn B County Final

Graignamanagh.....3-12  
Fenians.....1-5

### Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn C County Final

Lisdowney.....1-9  
Tullagher-Rosbercon.....1-7

### Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling League Roinn A Final

James Stephens.....2-9  
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....0-8

### Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling League Roinn B Final

St. Martins.....2-12  
Graignamanagh.....2-9

**Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling League Roinn C Final**

Tullaghan-Rosbercon.....	0-10
Carrickshock.....	0-2

**Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling Roinn A County Final**

Tullaroan.....	3-13
James Stephens.....	3-5

**Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling Roinn B County Final**

Carrickshock.....	2-12
Tullaghan-Rosbercon.....	1-1

**Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling Roinn C County Final**

Blacks & Whites.....	5-11
Windgap.....	0-6

**Under-14 Hurling Féile na nGael (Paddy Grace Memorial)**

Tullaroan.....	1-6
Shamrocks.....	1-3

**Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling League Roinn C Final**

Carrickshock.....	3-8
Galmoy.....	1-7

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn A County Final (Educational Supplies League)**

Ballyhale.....	5-13
Kilmanagh.....	1-6

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn B County Final (Hennessy Fuels League)**

Freshford.....	3-6
Urlingford.....	2-4

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn C County Final (Paddy O'Connell Dublin League)**

Coon / Muckalee.....	4-5
Clara.....	2-1

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn D County Final (Tedcastles Oil)**

Gaelscoil Osraí.....	2-8
Goresbridge-Paulstown.....	2-2

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Hurling Final (Tedcastles Oil)****Corn Na Bhaldráithe**

Ballyhale.....	4-8
Carrickshock.....	4-1

**Football****Senior County Football Final**

Dicksboro.....	0-11
James Stephens.....	0-8

**Intermediate County Football Final**

Piltown.....	3-6
Mooncoin.....	2-7

**Junior County Football Final**

Erins Own.....	1-10
Carrickshock.....	0-4

**Special Junior Football Final****Under 21 Football Roinn A Final****Under 21 Football Roinn B Final****Northern Junior Football Final**

Erins Own.....	0-11
Bennettsbridge.....	0-4

**Southern Junior Football Final**

Carrickshock.....	0-9
Mullinavat.....	0-9

(Replay)

Carrickshock.....	0-12
Mullinavat.....	0-9

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A County Final**

James Stephens.....	0-7
Graigue-Ballycallan.....	0-3

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B Final**

Erins Own.....	0-8
John Lockes.....	0-3

**Duggan Steel Under-16 Football Roinn A Final**

Erins Own.....	0-5
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....	0-4

**Duggan Steel Under-16 Football Roinn B Final**

Emeralds.....	3-10
Mullinavat.....	1-3

**Duggan Steel Under-16 Football Roinn C Final**

Muckalee.....	2-7
Carrickshock.....	0-6

**Duggan Steel Under-14 Football Roinn A Final**

Carrickshock.....	2-5
James Stephens.....	0-6

**Duggan Steel Under-14 Football Roinn B Final**

Piltown.....	1-14
Emeralds.....	3-6

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn A Football Final - Bertie O'Callaghan Cup (Kilkenny Association, Dublin)**

St. Patricks.....	3-8
Carrickshock.....	1-2

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn B Football Final (Toymaster League)**

Ballyragget.....	4-5
Coon / Muckalee.....	3-4

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn C Football Final****Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Football Final****Northern U-21 Football Roinn A Final****Southern U-21 Football Roinn A Final****Northern U-21 Football Roinn B Final****Southern U-21 Football Roinn B Final****Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B North Final**

Erins Own.....	2-3
Emeralds.....	0-8

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B South Final**

John Lockes.....	0-7
Mooncoin.....	1-3

**Special Under 14 Football Final**

O'Loughlin-Gaels.....	2-7
Shamrocks.....	3-2

The Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A championship and the Special Junior Football championships are not played on a divisional basis.

## Outstanding Results 1996

**Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final**

Emeralds.....	2-11
Graigue-Ballycallan.....	2-2

**Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Final**

Dunnamaggin.....	2-11
John Lockes.....	1-3

**Special Junior Football Final**

Mooncoin.....	2-5
Erins Own.....	0-6

**Under 21 Football Roinn A County Final**

Kilmoganny.....	2-7
Graigue-Ballycallan.....	1-6

**Under 21 Football Roinn B Final**

Muckalee.....	0-8
Carrickshock.....	0-6

**Under 16 Football Roinn B County Final**

Mullinavat.....	2-1
Shamrocks.....	1-2

**Under 16 Football Roinn C County Final**

Emeralds.....	3-4
Clara.....	1-4

**Northern Under 21 Football Roinn A Final**

Graigue-Ballycallan.....	3-5
Erins Own.....	0-8

**Southern Under 21 Football Roinn A Final**

Kilmoganny.....	4-8
Piltown.....	2-5

**Northern Under 21 Football Roinn B Final**

Muckalee.....	2-8
Young Irelands.....	0-5

**Southern Under 21 Football Roinn B Final**

Carrickshock.....	2-4
Mooncoin.....	0-6

**Special Under 14 Football Final**

Piltown.....	w.o.
Erins Own.....	scr.