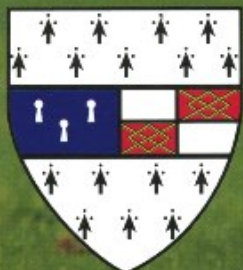
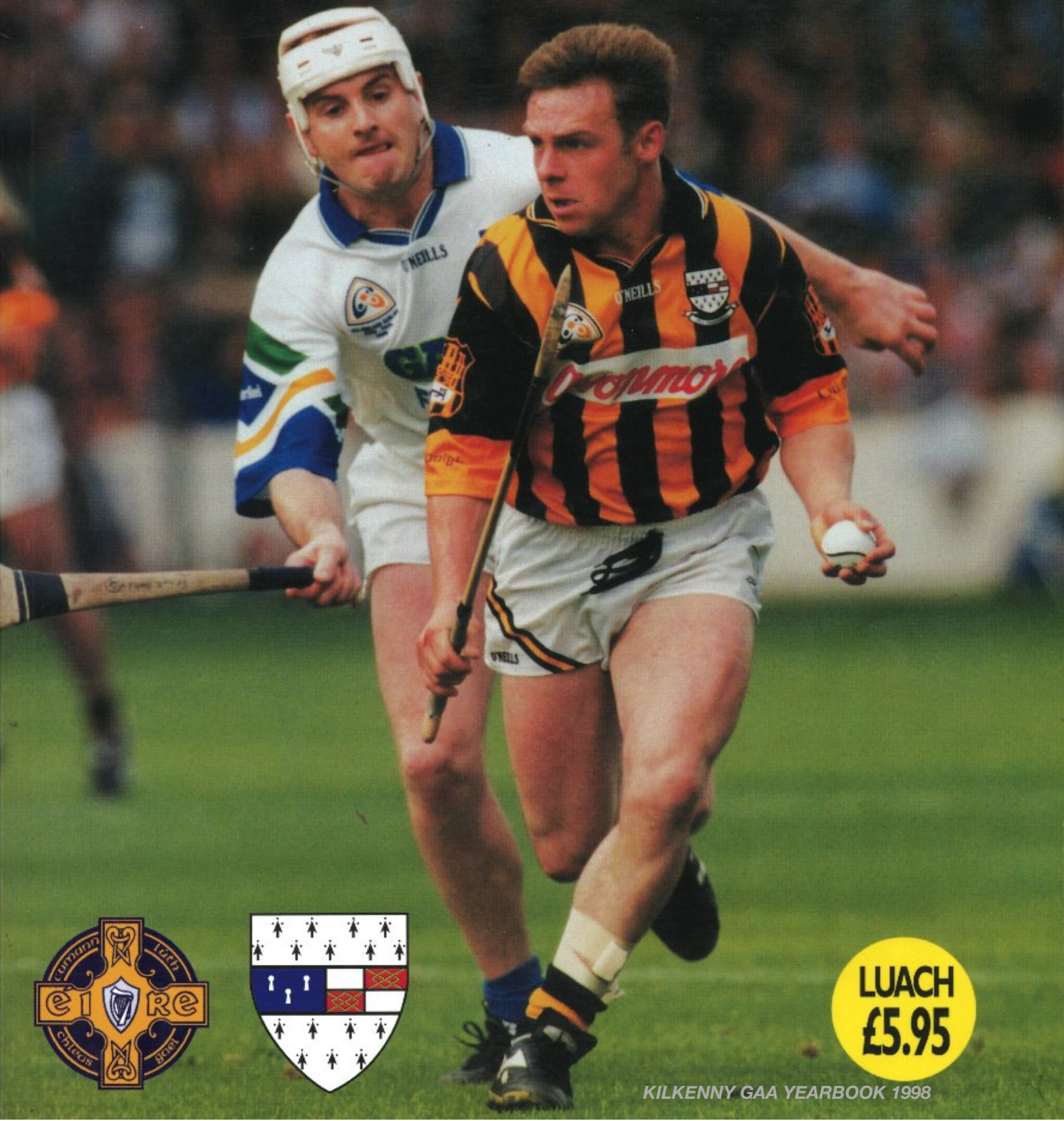


KILKENNY

GAA Yearbook 1998



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Kilkenny GAA Yearbook 1998

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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1998

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Charlie Carter races away from
Waterford's Fergal Hartley in the
1998 All Ireland Semi-final.
Photo - Sportsfile.

Poster:

Action study of Willie O'Connor.
Photo Tom Brett

Editorial



Kilkenny went all the way in four championships with the Under 21 hurlers reaching their All Ireland Semi-final. From such success came great scenes of excitement, exhilaration, colour, flags, banners, brass bands, tears and disappointment. The "hardy annuals" - our Masters hurlers - were the only ones to make it all the way. Special congratulations to them. Nevertheless, Kilkenny supporters had much to remember about 1998. Hopefully our Yearbook captures the highs and the lows and tells most of the stories. For this I have 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 - Enda McEvoy and Brenda Power (Sunday Tribune), Liam Horan (Irish Independent), Mick Dunne (Gaelic World), Brian Keyes (Leinster Express), Phil Fanning (Waterford News & Star) and Jimmy Magee (Sunday World) and our own Gerry Moran for their valued contributions.

We are grateful, as ever, to all our photographers, lay and professional - Tom Brett, Ray McManus and Tommy O'Neill especially, for their professionalism and attention. For any other professional photography, current or past, which we may have used we express our thanks. 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.

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

Táimid ag druidim chuig deireadh bliana eile agus tá Coiste an Chontae faoi chomaoin ag na daoine a d'eagraigh irisleabhar na bliana seo. Mar is gnáth tá caighdeán an-árd ag an bhfoilseachán arís i mbliana. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh chuille duine i gcéin is i gcongar taitneamh as. Guím beannachtaí an Chumainn oraibh agus táim ag tnúth le bliain iontach i 1999.

On behalf of all GAA followers, I welcome the publication of the 1998 Year Book which tells the story in words and pictures of a tremendously exciting year. Leinster titles in all grades of hurling demonstrated the great strength in depth of the game in our county, even if ultimately, with the exception of our Masters team, All Ireland glory eluded us. Sincere thanks to all the players and management teams for the wonderful enjoyment they provided during the past year and we look forward with confidence to further success in the year ahead.

The preparation of our county teams imposes many financial demands on our Co. Board and we are extremely grateful to our sponsors, Avonmore Waterford Plc, St. Canice's Credit Union, Vale Oil, Iarnród Eireann, Hennessy Sports, Barlo Nissan, Iverk Produce and Duggan Steel for their ongoing support. Kilkenny Supporters club are also deserving of thanks for their support of all our teams.

On the club scene, new county senior hurling champions were crowned when Graigue-Ballycallan fulfilled all the promise shown at underage level by capturing the Tom Walsh cup, defeating a gallant Fenians (Johnstown) team in a wonderful County Final. There were exciting finals in other grades, also with Intermediate honours going to Clara. Blacks and

Whites won their first ever Junior County title and Dunamaggin were again successful at minor level. Special congratulations to Ballyhale Shamrocks on becoming the third Kilkenny team to win the All Ireland Féile na Gael competition.

Success in Gaelic Football came via our minor team who won the International tournament staged in Louth. Other underage football teams performed well, also suggesting the future for the game may be brighter than anticipated.

Our handballers again enjoyed widespread success at all levels keeping Kilkenny very much to the fore in the sport.

A special word of appreciation to our outgoing Co. Chairman Mr. John Healy for his tremendous work over the past four years, particularly regarding the splendid redevelopment of Nowlan Park. Congratulations to Editor Barry Henriques, Chairman Pat Henderson and the entire voluntary committee responsible for yet another excellent Year Book. It is greatly appreciated by all followers of the Gaelic Games within our County and beyond.

In conclusion I wish to thank all involved in the promotion of Gaelic Games in our clubs and in our schools and I look forward to their continuing support in the year ahead.

Eamon O Coinn
Cathaoirleach

Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh



Kilkenny GAA Yearbook Committee greatly appreciates the generous support of our Advertisers, without whose faithful sponsorship, this publication would never see the light of day.

We earnestly urge our readers to support them at every possible opportunity.

League & Championship Double

By Tom Ryall

The present set up for the Credit Union senior hurling league and championship and the Vale Oil intermediate hurling league and championship came into force in 1992. Not until this year, when Graigue Ballycallan won both titles had any one completed the double. Following

the experience of the past few years a myth had grown that it was not possible to win both titles in the same year. The same scenario is often being put about by journalists with regard

to the national league and the championship. The

plain fact is that a young emerging team can only benefit by winning every match that they play as it gives them self-belief and confidence. This was the case with the Kilkenny team in 1982 and they ended up winning two league titles and two All Irelands in successive years.

During the seven years that the league and championship has been in operation, it has happened on four occasions in both grades that a team has contested the two finals, and, in the case of the intermediate of 1995, it was the same two teams in both finals. In the inaugural year 1992 Young Irelands won the intermediate championship but lost the league final to Mooncoin. The following year it was the turn of the Fenians senior team to falter. After playing a draw in the championship final with Dicksboro, they lost the replay by a goal and then beat Erin's Own in the league decider. Dicksboro were the unlucky ones in 1994. They won the league title but failed to Tullaroan in the championship final. In 1995 Bennettsbridge and Dunnamaggin reached both deciders with honours divided Dunnamaggin winning the championship and Bennettsbridge taking the league. 1996 saw O'Loughlin Gaels come close to getting the big double. They lost the league final by one point to Clara but overcame Graignamanagh in the championship. Young Irelands failed to annex the double in 1997 winning the league but losing the big one to Dunnamaggin. At intermediate level, Clara created their

own bit of history by becoming the first team in either competition to retain their league title but they lost the championship decider.

This was the background to Graigue Ballycallan's finally annexing both titles in the same year.

Bennettsbridge who won the intermediate league joined the list of those who failed to make it a double by losing their championship quarter final to St Lachtains. Graigue Ballycallan opened their league campaign in impressive fashion with a 2-17 to 1-7 victory over last years intermediate champions Shamrocks. This was the first senior championship game played at the new Dunnamaggin grounds. Their second tie was against Glenmore but torrential rain before the game left the pitch in Ballyhale

unplayable, and, by the time they got around to playing it, both teams were already through to the semi finals of the league. Graigue Ballycallan clinched their place as the top team of the group with a 1-12 to 1-9 scoreline. In the third series of games, Graigue Ballycallan beat Erin's Own in Nowlan Park 1-18 to 1-9. John Locke Park in Callan was their next port of call where they scored a victory over last year's championship winners, Dunnamaggin, in the closing stages 1-11 to 1-8. Their remaining league tie was against the reigning league champions Young Irelands in Nowlan Park and a late surge saw Graigue Ballycallan home on a score 2-11 to 2-7.

The problem for the present league comes at the semi final stage. The four teams who make it to this stage are so relieved that they have avoided relegation that interest for the league semi final is minimal. It was felt a couple of years ago that as the semi finals were played after the championship this was the cause of the lack of interest. This year the semi finals were played before the championship began but, again, there was a lack of real competitiveness. It must, however, be taken into account that the evening on which both games were played did not lend itself to supporters turning out in large numbers. Fenians and Glenmore played a close game at Nowlan Park with Glenmore getting the verdict 1-12 to 0-13. Both clubs lined out without their county players Willie O'Connor and P.J.Delaney owing to the impending All Ireland final. The other semi final was played in



Man of the Match - Denis Byrne receives his award from **Joe O'Grady** (Director) St Canice's Credit Union after Graigue Ballycallan defeated Glenmore in the St Canice's C.U. SH League Final. *Photo Tom Brett*

Palmerstown and again two points separated the sides with Graigue Ballycallan beating the home side Dicksboro 0-14 to 1-9. The introduction of John Hoyne ten minutes from time turning the game in his side's favour.

who opened the scoring in the second half to give them a six point lead. The turning point of the game came in the 42nd minute when John Hoyne goaled for the Sky Blues. It put Graigue Ballycallan ahead for the first time 1-8 to 0-10. Thereafter, Graigue Ballycallan dominated

and a Joe Young goal put the game out of the reach of the south men. Graigue Ballycallan ran out winners 2-12 to 0-13.

The switch of Micheál Hoyne from wing forward to midfield at the interval was the turning point of the game. Denis Byrne had a great second half and deservedly won the Man of the Match award. Thomas Dermody, when he came on, also played a big part in the victory.

Others to do well were Pádraig McCluskey, Johnny Butler, Tomás McCluskey, James Young and Adrian Ronan.

Glenmore's best players were Eddie O'Connor, who had a wonderful game, Willie O'Connor, Jimmy Walsh, Billy Vereker, Richie Mullally and Paddy Mullally.

Scorers- Graigue Ballycallan- John Hoyne (1-3), Joe Young (1-0), Damien Cleere (0-2), Adrian Ronan (0-2), Micheál Hoyne (0-2), John Teehan, Thomas Dermody and James Young (0-1 each).

Glenmore- Ray Heffernan (0-5), Denis Mullally (0-2), Seamus Dollard, Richie Mullally, Shay Vereker, Mark Mullally, Billy Vereker and Paddy Mullally (0-1 each).

Graigue Ballycallan-

Johnny Ronan, Johnny Butler, Paddy Dwyer, Pádraig McCluskey, Tomás McCluskey, Tomás Comerford, Alan Hoyne, James Young, John Teehan, Adrian Ronan, John Hoyne, Micheál Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Denis Byrne, Joe Young. *Sub-* Thomas Dermody.

Glenmore- Frank Kirwan, Fergal Freyne, Eddie O'Connor, Jimmy Walsh, P.J.O'Connor, Willie O'Connor, Paddy Mullally, Billy Vereker, Ray Heffernan, Shay Vereker, Richie Mullally, Seamus Dollard, Denis Mullally, Michael Murphy, John Phelan. *Subs-* Paschal Phelan, Des Heffernan, Mark Mullally.

Referee-Pat Dunphy (Carrigeen).



Glenmore SH Championship Semi-finalists 1998 Photo: T. O'Neill.

Back: Fergal Freyne, Michael Aylward, Frank Kirwan, Shay Vereker, Denis Mullally, Ray Heffernan, Des Heffernan.

Front: Eddie O'Connor, Mark Mullally, Jimmy Walsh, John Phelan, Willie O'Connor, Paddy Mullally, Johnny Murphy, Richie Mullally..



Action from St Canice's C.U. Senior Hurling League Erin's Own V Young Irelands:- From left -Sean Meally Pat Drea, Michael Owens, John Buggy, DJ Carey, James Fitzgerald, Liam Shore, Cormac Young, Michael O'Neill and John Drennan. Photo Tom O'Neill.

The second drawback with the present position is that the defeated semi finalists in the league have no competitive game on the weekend that every other team is involved, with eight teams involved in the championship and two in the league final.

The final of the league brought a good crowd to Ballyhale on Saturday September 26th. The Graigue Ballycallan team gave no indication in the first half of the hurling fury they were to unleash in the second period. Glenmore made the eventual winners look like novices in the first half as they built up an interval lead of 0-9 to 0-4. The Glenmore lead would have been much greater but for the ineptness of their forwards, a malady that they also carried into the championship. It was Glenmore

GLORY FOR G.B.C.!

Sky Blues bridge 49 year gap with dazzling double

Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship reviewed by Pat Murphy

As has been the pattern throughout the nineties, this years Kilkenny St Canice's Credit Union Senior County Hurling Championship proved fiercely competitive, interesting, exciting and above all, unpredictable. The championship again threw up 'new' champions and it would have taken a foolhardy individual to predict the fate of the old ones.

After the league stages of the championship, Dicksboro, Graigue-Ballycallan, Glenmore and the Fenians had qualified for the quarter finals leaving the remaining eight teams to fight it out for the other four spots.

Newly promoted Shamrocks gained their first and most important win of the season when they overcame St Martins 2-11 to 1-9, to ensure that they retained senior status while St Martins would have to fight relegation.

Shock of the round was when O'loughlin Gaels saw off last years champions, Dunnamaggin. After a dogfight in dreadful conditions in Callan, O'loughlins won on a 1-8 to 0-9 scoreline.

In a game that never lived up to the standard of the classic county final of two years ago, James Stephens beat their new found rivals, Young Irelands, by seven points, the late introduction of the injured D.J. Carey not being enough to save 'Irelands.

After a tit for tat first half, a string of five unanswered points early in the second half was enough of a cushion

to see Tullaroan past Erin's Own and into the next round on a scoreline of 0-13 to 0-9.

While all this was going on, Graigue-Ballycallan were quietly and efficiently going about their business of maintaining their unbeaten run in the league and becoming league champions, overcoming Glenmore by five points in the league final.

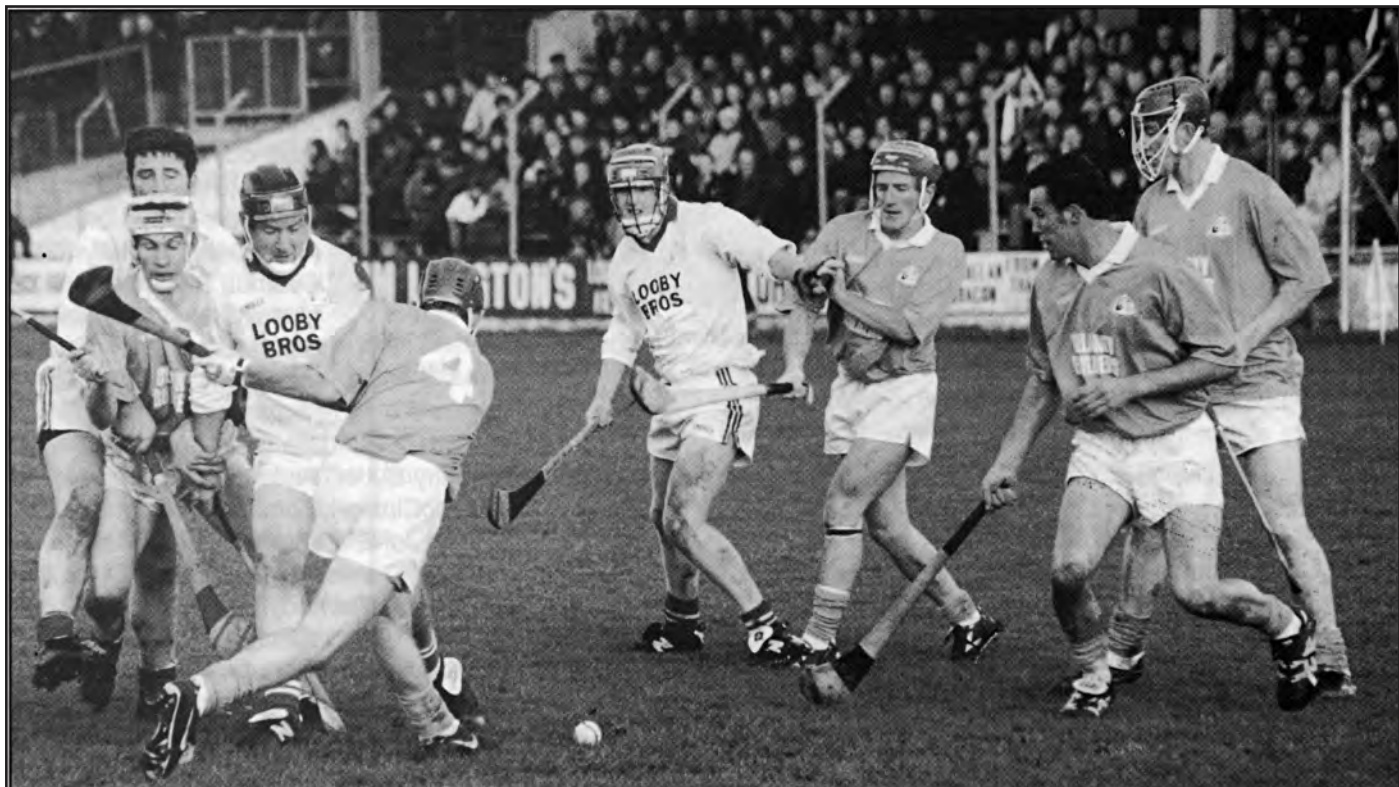
Quarter Finals:

In view of Graigue-Ballycallan's league form, it was no huge surprise that they beat a well-fancied James Stephens side. However, the manner of their victory, where they simply outhurled a good Village team, raised more than a few eyebrows. In the end, they won by 2-14 to 0-13.

Despite a fighting performance from a game Shamrocks side, the Fenians were always on top in their quarter final, winning on a 2-18 to 2-9 scoreline.

The two other quarter finals produced thrillers. A Barry Teehan goal in the last five minutes meant that Tullaroan beat their neighbours, Dicksboro by 1-11 to 0-12, despite Dicksboro's best efforts for a late winner.

Meanwhile, O'Loughlin Gaels ensured that their good championship run would continue, thanks to an Alan Geoghegan equaliser in the second minute of injury time against Glenmore. However, in the end, all they managed to do was prolong their stay of execution by another week. In the replay Glenmore managed to find another



All Eyes on the Ball: Action from the Senior Hurling County Final - From left- Matty Walsh, Tomás McCluskey, Billy Purcell, Paul Hoyne, Kevin Power, Johnny Butler, Tomás Comerford and Paddy O'Dwyer. *Photo Tom Brett*



Graigue Bally Callan St Canices Credit Union Senior Hurling Champions 1998

Front: Tomás Dermody, Johnny Butler, Alan Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Johnny Ronan, James Young, Paul Hoyne, Denis Byrne.
Back: Joe Young, Paddy O'Dwyer, Tomás Comerford, Micheál Hoyne, John Hoyne, Tomás McCluskey, Adrian Ronan.

Photo Tom Brett

er gear and ended up 2-11 to 0-6 winners.

On the relegation front Young Irelands reversed last years county final result by beating Dunnamaggin by a goal in a high quality relegation play-off. After a bad tempered start, the other relegation play-off settled down

At the other end of the scale, meanwhile, St Martins pulled off one of the shocks of the season when they beat Dunnamaggin in the relegation final to send last years champions back down to the Intermediate grade. Who would have predicted this at the start of the season?



Dicksboro County SH Quarter Finalists 1998

Photo: T. O'Neill

Back: Ger Henderson, John Marnell, David Beirne, Tom Henderson, John O'Gorman, Sean Moore, Donal Carroll, Tommy Bawle.

Front: Dan O'Neill, Mark Dowling, Cillian Breathnach, Niall Lacey, John Treacy, Jimmy Bergin, James Maher.

to see Erin's Own beat arch rivals St Martins.

Semi-Finals

The semi-finals threw up two interesting tussles. The most eagerly awaited had to be that of neighbouring parishes, and great old rivals, Graigue-Ballycallan and Tullaroan. However, this game never materialised into the titanic struggle it had promised to be. Although Tullaroan had some good individual performers, they had no answer to the all-round balance and excellence of their opponents. In the end 'Ballycallan steamrolled their way into the county final, beating their neighbours by 4-12 to 2-8.

Although the poor conditions ensured that the hurling in these semi-finals could never be of the highest quality, Glenmore and the Fenians conspired to serve up an entertaining thriller in the other semi. Fenians looked slightly the better team throughout this one but just could not put away a dogged and hard fighting Glenmore team. A pointed 65 in the fifth minute of injury time by Ray Heffernan earned Glenmore the right to a replay.

If conditions in the first semi-final were bad, they were even worse for the replay. Yet, despite the wind and the rain and the cold and the muck, both teams managed to produce another thriller. Fenians looked slightly better throughout. The return of Christy heffernan in the closing stages lifted Glenmore's spirits, but not enough, and eventually Johnstown won by a single point; 0-8 to 1-4.

The Final

The county final itself proved to be one of the most memorable and enjoyable of recent years. Before the game, the main talking points were those of, who would cope better with the heavy pitch and, more importantly, would the Fenians be able to cope with the all-round balance of 'Ballycallan.

In the end, they couldn't. However it was only in the dying minutes of the game that Graigue-Ballycallan got on top. But for a somewhat fortunate Adrian Ronan goal just before half time, the Fenians would have been four points up at the break, However, to only finish one point up after out-hurling their opponents for the first thirty minutes was a big blow. Eventually, 'Ballycallan got on top with a string of classy points from their excellent forward-line.

Between the Ballycallan forward line and midfield five of their players had represented Kilkenny at senior level in recent years. No team in Kilkenny this year could cope with that kind of firepower. Neither, in the end, could the Fenians, despite all the fighting spirit in the world.

Final Score: Graigue-Ballycallan 1-14
Fenians 0-12

Graigie-Ballycallan:

Johnny Ronan, Johnny Butler, Paddy O'Dwyer, Paul Hoyne, Tomás McCluskey, Tomás Comerford, Alan Hoyne, James Young, Micheál Hoyne, Adrian Ronan, John Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Tomás Dermody, Joe Young, Denis Byrne.
Sub: Eddie O'Dwyer.

Fenians:

Alan Behan, Gerry Quinlan, Paul Phelan, Liam McEvoy, Brian Power, PJ Ryan, James Carroll, Declan Garrett, Stephen Grehan, Brian Ryan, Matty Walsh, Brendan Ryan, Kevin Power, Billy Purcell, PJ Delaney.
Subs: Podge Delaney and Eoin Behan.
Referee: Pat Dunphy.
Attendance: 10,000.



James Stephens - Senior Hurling Quarter Finalists:

Back: Martin Phelan, Liam O'Connor, Shane Egan, Malcolm Murphy, Kevin Grogan, Peter Barry, Tomás O'Dowd, Philip Larkin.
Front: Barry Smith, Shane Doyle, Francis Cantwell, Brian McEvoy, Dermot Grogan, Liam Smith. Photo: T. O'Neill.



Tullaroan - Senior Hurling Semi-Finalists: Photo: T. O'Neill.

Back: Liam Keoghan, Adrian O'Dea, Barry Teehan, Jimmy Walton, Edward Holland, Jimmy Coogan, Liam Simpson, Mikey Maher.
Front: Philly Doheny, Tom Fitzgearld, Shem Dunne, Mickie Walsh, Bill Hennessy, John Coogan, Joe Norton, John Breen

NINTH PROVINCIAL TITLE FOR KILKENNY MINORS

Tom Ryall



Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team - All Ireland Finalists 1998

(Photo Tom Brett)

Back Joey Murray, Canice Hickey, John Coogan, James Power, Kieran Rafter, Brian Phelan, Gearóid Cleere.

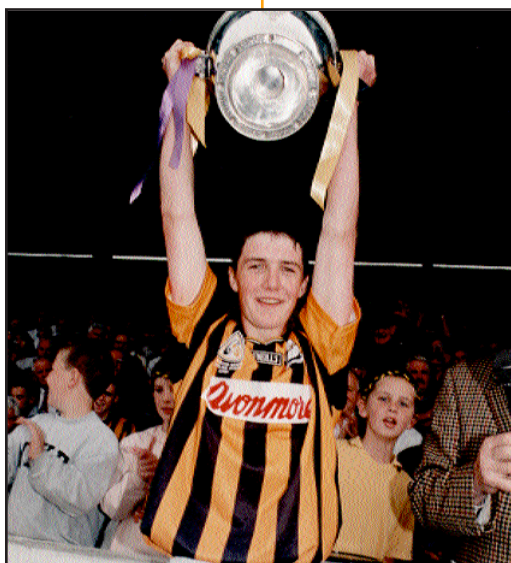
Front: Kevin Power, Noel Hickey, Paul Sheehan, Colin Herity, Paul Sheflin (Capt), John Morgan, James Ryall, Ken Moore.

The Kilkenny minor hurlers equalled their own record of nine provincial wins in succession when they retained the Leinster title. They had previously achieved this feat in the period 1971-1979. The minor team of that era went on to contest nine All Ireland minor finals winning four. The record of the present era is five All Irelands contested with three won. They were beaten in four semi-finals. Three times they lost out to Galway and once to Clare when they were plagued by injuries with three top players unable to play. It is a cause of concern for the future of Leinster hurling that the Noresiders have been so dominant. While Dublin drew with them in 1997, and Wexford put them to a second day this year, the Black and Amber boys won both replays easily. Also, a number of their Leinster final victories were by large margins.

The first round was against Offaly in Portlaoise on May 23rd. The first half was keenly contested with the

Noresiders leading by a point at the interval 0-8 to 0-7. A Gearoid Cleere goal immediately after the restart set Kilkenny on the way and they ran out easy winners on a score of 2-19 to 0-9. The two wing forwards for Offaly caused a lot of problems in the early stages but the

switch of James Ryall to wing back and Joe Murphy to midfield benefited both players and the danger was curtailed. John Morgan and Noel Hickey were outstanding in defence. The scoring honours in attack went to Joey Murray and Gearoid Cleere, with Michael Rafter having a great first half. Scorers for Kilkenny were Joey Murray (1-5), Gearoid Cleere (1-3), Kieran Rafter (0-3), Kevin Power (0-3), Ken Moore (0-2), John Morgan, Brian Phelan and Paul Sheehan (0-1 each).

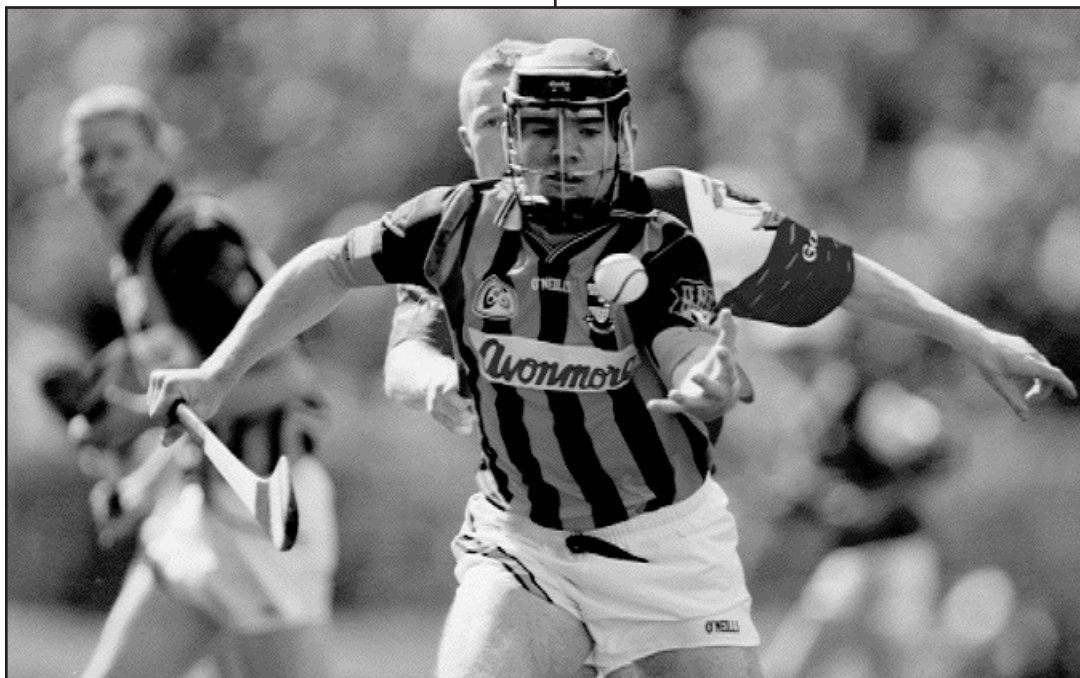


Kilkenny captain, Paul Sheflin, lifts the Leinster Cup after their victory over Wexford in the Leinster Final. Photo Tom O'Neill

Kilkenny Team: Jamie Power (Carrickshock), Paul Sheflin Capt (Shamrocks), Noel Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Canice Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Joe Murphy (James Stephens), John Morgan (James Stephens), Hugh Gannon (James Stephens), Ken Moore (Dunnamaggin), James Ryall

(Graigue Ballycallan), Paul Sheehan (Rower Inistioge), Brian Phelan (Clara), Kevin Power (Fenians), Gearoid Cleere (Graigue Ballycallan), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Joey Murray (James Stephens). Subs: David Dowling (Lisdowney) for Kevin Power, Colin Herity (Dunnamaggin) for Paul Sheehan.

The Leinster final took place in Croke Park on July 5th. Great rivals, Wexford, provided the opposition. The game finished in a welter of excitement and it took a pointed free by



Noel Hickey races away with the ball in the All Ireland Semi-final against Galway. *Photo Sportsfile*

Kevin Power to rescue Kilkenny with the sides all square when the final whistle sounded 1-11 each. The Noresiders should have had the game wrapped up in the first half but the forwards drove wide after wide. They finished with a total of fifteen wides as against six for the Slaneysiders. Kilkenny, after dominating the first half, led by just two points at the break 1-6 to 1-4, the goal for the leaders coming from Kieran Rafter. Wexford took the lead midway through the second half and looked likely winners in the closing stages. It took some great defensive hurling from Noel and Canice Hickey, Paul Shefflin and the half back line of Colin Herity, John Morgan and James Ryall to save Kilkenny's crown. The Kilkenny side showed one change from the Offaly game with Colin Herity replacing Joe Murphy. During the game Alan Barry (Dicksboro) came on for Brian Phelan while Joe Murphy replaced Hugh Gannon. The scorers were Kevin Power (0-5), Kieran Rafter (1-0), Gearoid Cleere and Joey Murray (0-2 each), Paul Sheehan and Brian Phelan (0-1 each). The replay took place in Carlow on July 18th. The selectors had chosen the same team as started the drawn game. However Hugh Gannon, who had picked up an injury in training had to cry off, and his place went to Dessie Walsh (Thomastown). To complicate matters further, Ken Moore, the other midfielder, was not feeling the best after a bout of flu and had to be replaced after five minutes by John Coogan (Tullaroan) who was new

to the panel. David Dowling and Eddie Walsh (Graignama-nagh) came on as subs in the closing stages for Paul Sheehan and John Coogan. Alan Barry, who had come on as a sub in the Leinster final, was also unavailable due to a broken collar bone.

The new midfield pairing of Dessie Walsh and John Coogan worked a dream and, despite playing against

the breeze, the Noresiders led by 0-8 to 0-5 at the interval. Two brilliant goals in the second half saw Kilkenny run out easy winners by 2-15 to 0-6. Both goals were worth going to Carlow to see. The first

came from Joey Murray who took a great pass from Kevin Power to rifle the ball to the net. The second was also a gem as Kieran Rafter and Kevin Power used the handpass to get out of trouble. They created the space for the in-rushing Gearoid Cleere who drove an unstoppable shot past the goalie. According to the "Wexford People", in their report of the game, the losers could make no headway as they could not break down the brilliant half back line of Colin Herity, John Morgan and James Ryall. The scorers were Kevin Power (0-9), Gearoid Cleere and Joey Murray (1-1 each), John Morgan (0-2), Kieran Rafter and Ken Moore (0-1 each).

Galway were the opponents in the All Ireland semi-final in Croke Park on August 16th. They had beaten the reigning champions, Clare, in the quarter final. They were the favourites as a number of their players had played in the previous year's All Ireland final. As a matter of fact, some players, who had played in 1997, were unable to get their places on this year's side. Kilkenny were overrun in the first half as the Westerners built up an interval lead of 1-8 to 0-4 while favoured by the breeze. Two minutes into the second half, the game would have been out of Kilkenny's reach but for a wonderful save by Jamie Power. Two minutes later, Kilkenny were on the road to recovery when Joey Murray scored one of the goals of the year to cut the arrears back to four points. It was Murray again who got the next score.

John Coogan flighted a high ball into the square and Murray blasted to the net to leave just a point between the sides. Kevin Power equalised from a free - 2-5 to 1-8. Points by Kieran Rafter and Brian Phelan put the Black and Amber side ahead for the first time. The tempo of the game was now at its highest as Galway came back to level the scores. In the closing seven minutes Kilkenny had points from Kevin Power and Brian Phelan to which Galway replied with a point leaving the Leinster champions winners by 2-10 to 1-12. Stars for the winners were Noel Hickey, Jamie Power, Colin Herity, John Coogan, Kevin Power, Kieran Rafter and top scorer, Joey Murray. The winners' scorers were Joey Murray (2-1), Kevin Power (0-3), Brian Phelan and Kieran Rafter (0-2 each), Gearoid Cleere and John Coogan (0-1 each). The team showed one change from that which beat Wexford with John Coogan taking over from Dessie Walsh. Eddie Walsh and Dessie Walsh replaced Gearoid Cleere and Paul Sheehan during the second half.



Kevin Power attempts to block Galways **Dermot Cloonan** as **Joey Murray** looks on in All Ireland Minor Semi-final. *Photo Sportsfile.*

Cork were Kilkenny's opponents in the All Ireland Final. The Leesiders had almost crashed out at the semi-final stage when it took two fine saves by their goalkeeper Michael Morrissey to deny Wexford victory. The Leinster runners-up had come in through the back door system and lost out on a score of 0-12 to 0-10. Kilkenny suffered a blow in the run-up to the final when Paul Sheehan, who was in his third year as a minor, was ruled out because of illness. His place was taken by Dessie Walsh. During the game, the Noresiders brought on Eddie Walsh and Hugh Gannon for Colin Herity and Ken Moore. Kilkenny, despite playing against the breeze, were doing well in the first half and a Kieran Rafter goal left them just two points behind at the interval 1-7 to 1-5. It was during this first period that the Black and Amber side lost the game. Two great chances of goals were missed which would have given the side a great boost. Kilkenny were still in the game at the end of the third quarter when just four points in arrears. Cork then got a lucky goal and after this it was a case of what the winning margin would be. The final score was Cork 2-15 Kilkenny 1-9. Kilkenny had fine performances from Paul Shefflin, Noel Hickey, John Morgan, James Ryall, Kevin Power Eddie Walsh when he came on, Gearoid Cleere and Kieran Rafter in the first half. Scorers were Kevin Power (0-6), Kieran Rafter (1-1), Gearoid Cleere (0-2).

The selectors who worked hard throughout the year were Bobby Jackman (Windgap) the trainer of the team, Gerry Drennan (Galmoy), Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks), Liam Mullen (James Stephens) and Mick Tierney (Rower Inistioge). Joe Pyke (Clara) Chairman of Bord na nÓg acted as liaison officer.



The Driving Force
Bobby Jackman, Trainer of the Kilkenny Minor Team.

"You Can't Have Too Much Sport"

- Diarmuid Healy, Radio Kilkenny's New Station Manager

By Mary O'Neill



Radio Kilkenny have embarked on a new era, with the recent appointment of Diarmuid Healy as the station's manager. Healy is no stranger to the media; he worked as a journalist with the *Kilkenny People* for seven years. He has trained hurling teams at inter-county level giving him a taste of management and a talent for public relations. His work with SOS, the caring organisation, has given him plenty of experience in business, which is, essentially, what Radio Kilkenny is.

When Diarmuid was asked to fill John Purcell's shoes, he didn't hesitate very long in reaching a decision. "Managing a business and managing a team involve the same kind of work. You are there to motivate and inspire people. When I saw the job advertised I thought it sounded ideal, and so when the board of management approached me and asked me to consider the position, I made my mind up to take it".

The station's listenership has increased significantly in the last few years and Diarmuid hopes to maintain and improve upon this success by continuing to produce a high quality and professional broadcasting service for the county. At the moment Radio Kilkenny is one of the most successful radio stations in Ireland. Healy attributes that in part to Kilkenny itself. "The franchise area for the station, which is the county of Kilkenny, is a very identifiable one, mainly due to the hurling. People from other places might not associate themselves with their counties so much."

One of the issues which Diarmuid plans to address as manager of Radio Kilkenny is the balancing of the age group that listens to the station. At the moment it is confined largely to those over 25. Diarmuid jokingly admits that he is no expert when it comes to pop music, but he hopes to find more space for it on the station's schedule in the near future. Shows like "The Hitzone" at night help to counterbalance that, but a younger audience has not yet been fully achieved.

However, there is a good balance of local and national news, a strong area in the station's schedule.

"We have the news on the hour every hour from INN but, we also deal with national news which may have a particularly local slant." The gathering of sports and the gathering of news follow a similar vein in the station. Local clubs and communities phone the newsdesk in Radio Kilkenny volunteering information. Healy is anxious that clubs avail of this service as much as they possibly can. "If the county board or the clubs themselves have any ideas on how we can improve on the gathering of information from clubs around the county, we would appreciate their suggestions. A lot of people are nervous about phoning a radio station in case they are put on air straight away, but we are anxious to get as much feedback from clubs as possible".

Needless to say, sport, particularly GAA, forms a huge part of Radio Kilkenny's line-up. On Saturdays from one o'clock to five Pat Treacy presents Saturday sport, which deals with local, national and international events, including live updates from premiership matches. Declan Gibbons hosts another sports show from two o'clock to six on a Sunday, and "Sunday Scoreboard" is broadcast later on in the day. On Monday and Tuesday evenings are "The world of Gaelic Games" and "On the Ball" respectively. "I don't think you can ever have too much sport on the station", Healy says, "there is such a huge interest in it in the county and we hope to deal more with minority sports as well".

Diarmuid is impressed with the support Radio Kilkenny has generated in recent years for the Kilkenny hurlers. The reception after the All Ireland home-coming of this year, he believes, can be largely accredited to the publicity the station created. "I have seen crowds half that size come out to greet winning teams. About 60% of the people were there that night because of Radio Kilkenny. All day their time of arrival was being announced over the airwaves". The station also ran competitions coming up to the All Ireland for the best decorated window, a boost for a county that is not renowned for a good display of colours coming up to big matches. He also feels that match attendance has improved in recent years due to the coverage and publicity it receives on weekend sports programmes.

With full-time and voluntary staff working at the station, Diarmuid is confident that Radio Kilkenny provides a good variety for the listeners of Kilkenny, but he is also at present looking into how it can be improved upon. "We will always welcome people who have special interests and a good voice to do a night programme for us, in that way we can increase the variety. For example we need to feature the Irish Language more on the station."

So far, Diarmuid is content with his job, and is anxious that the people of Kilkenny, particularly the County Board, part-take as much as they can in building upon the future of the station, by giving suggestions as to how the coverage of local issues and Gaelic games can be boosted. He believes that the service provided by a local radio station can never be overestimated.

Success from Within

By Brendan Hackett

Brendan Hackett is a sports consultant and author of the book "Success from Within". The book describes the role of mental factors in sporting success. In the book, Brendan outlines how to develop mental fitness. Brendan has close associations with gaelic games. He is a former inter-county football coach and he also coached the Irish team that won the Compromise Rules Series in Australia in 1990. He currently works with sportspeople and coaches in a variety of sports at all levels.

It is widely recognised that physical fitness, skill and tactical awareness are essential to sporting success. Most training programmes reflect this belief as many hours are spent conditioning the body, practising skills and rehearsing for competitive situations. But there is another element that is crucial to sporting success and that is mental fitness. Too often mental fitness is ignored or taken for granted in sports preparation. There are a number of reasons for this. For many, the assumption is that mental qualities are unchangeable. Others think that by mentioning a few relevant words like "concentrate" "stay relaxed" or "believe in yourself" that this will create a good mental attitude. If only it were that simple. Then there are the people who think that the mention of the word "mental" suggests a problem or weakness.

My belief is that mental fitness does not receive the attention it deserves because of lack of knowledge or understanding. So what is mental fitness? (It is a state of mind that helps a person perform to the best of his or her ability.) Playing well has much to do with creating a particular atmosphere within yourself. Mental fitness is made up of a number of elements and it is the combination of these that creates a state of mind that helps a person perform to his or her potential.

The elements of mental fitness are commitment, confidence, control and concentration. Mental fitness is similar to physical fitness in that it is composed of several elements and each of these can be developed and improved. The elements of physical fitness are stamina, strength, speed and suppleness. It is understood by everybody involved in sport that these aspects of physical fitness are improved through training. In Gaelic games, players need to develop all of these aspects of physical fitness to play well consistently. The same is true of mental fitness. It is essential to develop each of the elements of mental fitness if you are to get the best out of yourself.

A closer look at mental fitness will show just how important it is for sporting success.

Commitment is the effort and energy that goes into turning a goal into reality. Other words used to describe

commitment include; dedication, determination, persistence and drive. There are many people who have goals and dreams but it is only the successful ones who follow through with action. Commitment is fuelled by energy. The more intense your desire to be successful, the more energy you will put into achieving your goals.

Commitment tends to be stronger when the motivation to achieve comes from within. Although in gaelic games there are still some powerful external motivations such as the pride in club or county. With commitment, it is a case of actions speak louder than words. You often have to train when you would rather be doing something else. You may have to follow training programmes you don't like. You will have to overcome many setbacks. You need to stay positive when those around you are often negative. Above all, you've got to prepare thoroughly for those rare moments of success. One of the greatest examples of commitment in hurling has got to be George O Connor of Wexford. If ever somebody typified those words above it was George. Seventeen years he spent chasing his dream of winning an All-Ireland medal.

Although commitment alone will not guarantee success it is almost impossible to be successful without it.

Four things can be said of successful people.

- They know where they want to go
- They recognise where they are now
- They understand what it is going to take to get there
- They commit themselves to getting there.

Concentration is the ability to direct your attention to the relevant information in a game and maintain your attention for the full duration of the game.

A player has to contend with vast amounts of information every time he or she competes. Such things as opponents, the weather, the venue, the score, the time, the crowd, the referee, the flow of the game and personal thoughts are vying for attention throughout a game. The nature of gaelic games means that your attention has to shift constantly as the information changes. This is how players get distracted. Failure to stay focused or get back on track after a distraction has been the winning or losing of many games. Similarly failing to stay focused for the full duration of the game has proved very costly - ask Limerick hurlers for example.

Now that you know a little bit more about mental fitness your first reaction might be "that's all common sense". Yes it is, but in my experience it is seldom common practice. Developing mental fitness takes place on the training field, in the gym on the road. Basically it is developed alongside the other aspects of training such as physical fitness and skill.

The habits of training are carried onto the field of play. If you are negative, uncommitted, lazy, distracted and unfocused in your training it will be very difficult to be in a





Commitment, Concentration, Determination - All evident in this study of Niall Moloney and Waterford's Sean Cullinane in action in 1998 All Ireland Semi-final. Photo Sportsfile

mental state that is conducive to playing will on the day of a match. So the message is be aware of your mind as you train and you should be conscious of developing your mental fitness as you prepare for your sport.

Control is taking charge of your thoughts and feelings. Sport by its nature stirs up a variety of thoughts and feelings. A whole range of feelings in particular, joy, excitement and pride to fear, frustration, anger and disappointment are associated with competition and sport. Learning to control your thoughts and feelings is essential to getting the best out of yourself.

Failure to control thoughts and feelings has hindered many from realising their true potential. Of all the factors that influence how you perform in sport, your own internal environment is the one over which you can exert most control.

Feelings such as fear and anxiety create stress and tension, which expresses itself as muscle tightness, heaviness, poor co-ordination and you make basic mistakes. This happens to a lot of players before big games. It has been described as trying to drive a car with one foot on the accelerator while the other is on the break.

Confidence is the belief that you have the abilities and

resources to meet the demands of situations you are likely to face. When you are confident you feel positive, optimistic and in control - you expect to perform well. Low confidence is characterised by pessimism, doubt and anxiety. You expect to make errors and when you do it confirms your doubts.

Expectations have a huge impact on performance. Seldom do people exceed their expectations. The poem "You are what you think you are" describes this very well.

It is vital to realise that confidence is not a steady state. It is ever changing. From week to week - even within a game. But it is learned and confidence is best developed in a positive encouraging atmosphere. On the other hand, if you are constantly criticised, you take fewer risks in order to avoid censure and the opportunity to build confidence is lost.

*If you think you are beaten you are,
If you think you dare not you don't,
If you like to win but think you can't,
It's almost certain you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose you have lost,
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a person's will
Its all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you are outclassed you are,
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself
Before you can win a prize.*

*Life's battles don't always go
to the strongest or faster man
but sooner or later the man who wins,
it's the man who thinks he can.*

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UNDER 14 HURLING

A Shamrocks Double

For the third year in succession, a the double of Feile na nGael and county championship at Under 14 was achieved by Kilkenny teams. James Stephens in 1996 and Tullaroan in 1997 had pulled off this double. Shamrocks were the double winners in 1998. The Kilkenny championship was a one horse race this year with Shamrocks way ahead of the other teams. Six teams contested the competition on a league basis. The semi finalists were Shamrocks, Graigue Ballycallan, Dicksboro and Tullaroan. Shamrocks beat Graigue Ballycallan in the first semi final on a score of 2-17 to 0-4. The second semi final was a cracking game which Dicksboro won in a high scoring contest 7-3 to 4-11. James Stephens and O'Loughlin Gaels were the other teams in the championship.

The final was played in John Locke Park in Callan. Dicksboro had first use of the strong breeze and got a tonic start with a goal within a minute from Eddie O'Donoghue. Shamrocks had levelled by the tenth minute. The writing was on the wall for the City side when D.J.Molloy goaled for the Ballyhale side in the 13th minute. It was a lead they were not to lose. Another goal by Alan Knox helped the Shamrocks into an interval lead of 2-4 to 1-1. At the end of the third quarter the lead had increased to 2-9 to 1-1. In the last quarter the winners scored freely to run out winners on a score of 5-11 to 3-2. This was an impressive display by the Ballyhale boys whose forward play was on a par with that produced by their senior team in their glory days. Dicksboro displayed courage and lost no cast in defeat. They battled bravely to the end and were rewarded with two goals in the second half.

James Connolly kept a safe goal for the winners. Padraig Holden stood out in defence. He got most support from Keith Nolan and Ger Holden. Shamrocks were on top at midfield where James Fitzpatrick gave a pow-



Dicksboro - Roinn A Under 14 Finalists 1998 Photo Tom Brett

Back: Kevin Ryan (Trainer), David Foley, John O'Shea, Brian Cody, William Sainsbury, Shane McGarry, Brian Gallagher, Anrthony O'Reilly, Fergal Ryan, Phil Hogan (Trainer), Patrick Dore, David O'Mahony, Darren Tyrrell, Thomas Ryan, Killian Knox, Ben McGarry (Trainer).
Front: Alan McIntyre, David Barry, Daniel Fanning, Edward O'Donoghue, Mark O'Hara, Kenny Deegan, Philip Hogan, Michael Nolan, John Walsh, James Geoghegan, Joe Sweeney, Andy Hogan, Edward Clifford.



Carrickshock U-14 Roinn B County Champions. Photo Tom Brett

Back: Anthony Holland (selector), Tommy Brophy, Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, James Farrell, Damien Raggett, John Tennston, Anthony Holland, Patrick Duggan, Seanie Gibbons, James Moran, Robert King, Maurice Power (trainer).
Front: John Butler, David Millea, Ger Power, Denis Murphy, Richie Power, Michael Rice (capt.), Patrick Mulcahy, John Maher, Padraig Barron, Ailish Kenneally, Jackie Frisby, Gary Foley.



St. Martins U-14 Roinn B County Finalists. Photo Tom Brett

Back: Michael Brennan, Conor Kinsella, Eoin McGrath, Ciaran Holohan, Shane Cadigan, Brian Mulhall, Edward Hogan, Thomas Nolan, David Shore, Shane Coogan, Eamon Buggy, Michael Darcy, Eddie Doran.
Front: Shane Comerford, Patrick Brennan, Ciaran Byrne, Ronan Byrne, Diarmuid Brennan, Aidan Murphy, Colm Brennan, Brian Malone, James Maher, Mick Shore, Con Hogan, Eoin Bolger, Eddie Doran, David Tynan, Eugene Maher.

erful display. He got great assistance from the hard working Michael Fennelly. Mark Aylward took the scoring honours in attack. D.J.Molloy and Eoin Reid were others to impress in this sector. Brian Gallagher was the losers best player. Others to do well were Darren Tyrrell, Brian Cody, Eddie O'Donoghue, Kenny Deegan and Edward Clifford when he came on.

Scorers: Shamrocks--Mark Aylward (3-0), James Fitzpatrick (0-5), D.J.Molloy (1-1), Eoin Reid (0-3), Alan Knox (1-0), Shane Kelly and Eamon Fitzpatrick (0-1 each).

Dicksboro--Brian Gallagher (1-1), Eddie O'Donoghue (1-0), Edward Clifford (1-0), Brian Cody (0-1).

Shamrocks: James Connolly, David Healy, Pdraig Holden, Derek Fitzpatrick, Jason Nolan, Keith Nolan, Ger Holden, James Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Alan Knox, Eamon Fitzpatrick (Capt), Shane Kelly, Eoin Reid, D.J.Molloy, Mark Aylward. Subs: Jamie Fitzpatrick, Christopher Weymss, Eamon Walsh.

Dicksboro.: John Walsh, Kenny Deegan, Michael Nolan, Paddy Dore, Stephen Nolan, Brian Gallagher, Darren Tyrrell, Brian Cody, Fergal Ryan, Mark O'Hara, David O'Mahoney, Shane McGarry, Eddie O'Donoghue, Brendan McIntyre, Philip Hogan. Subs: James Geoghegan, Edward Clifford. Referee: John Walsh (Rower Inistioge).

Under 14 Championship Roinn B

Carrickshock retained their Under 14 hurling Roinn B title when they proved too strong for the other eleven contenders. Carrickshock should have been graded into the Roinn A championship. In my opinion they were the second best team in the county. Played in two groups of six teams the following clubs qualified for the quarter finals Carrickshock, Mullinavat, Rower Inistioge, Piltown, St Martins, Emeralds, St Lachtains and Fenians. The results of those games were Carrickshock 2-9 Emeralds 2-4, Mullinavat 4-15 Fenians 4-3, Rower Inistioge 3-14 St Lachtains 4-6, St Martins 3-9 Piltown 4-6, St Martins 5-5 Piltown 3-11 (Replay). In the semi finals Carrickshock beat Rower Inistioge, St Martins 5-13 Mullinavat 5-6.

The final was played in Palmerstown with Carrickshock running out easy winners on a score of 7-8 to 2-8. However the game was



Slieverue U-14 Roinn C County Champions

Back: Robert Roche, Mairead O'Donovan, James Butler, Mark Haberlain, Brendan Coady, Paul Atkins, Ciaran O'Donovan, Kieran Grant, Sean Phelan, John Freyne, Damian Manning, John Quirke, Senan Kelly, Joseph Coady.
Front: Adrian Rockett, Daniel Murphy, Gavin Quilty, Ian Somers, Paul Walsh, Robert Walsh, Aidan Hogan (capt.), Nicky Coady, Brendan Haberlain, Tony O'Keefe.



Cloneen U-14 Roinn C County Finalists. Photo Tom O'Neill

Back: Ned Lawlor, Ronan Walsh, Dale Fogarty, Sean Allen, Sean Dowd, Thomas Campion, Paul Donnelly, Tom Joe Comerford, Paul Byrne, Larry Brennan.
Front: PJ McMahon, Steve Mahon, Pauric Dowd, Gavin Dowd, Kevin Philips, Thomas Hughes, Daniel Brennan, Enda Gannon, Graham Lawlor, Niall Mooney. Missing from photo: Sean Maher, Jim Dowd.

not as one sided as the score suggests. It all went wrong in the first half for the North Kilkenny side. They conceded a number of soft goals which saw Carrickshock lead at the interval by 7-3 to 1-5. The closing five minutes of the first half were a disaster for St Martins as Carrickshock scored four goals. When the teams reappeared for the second period St Martins had drafted Ronan Maher from wing back into goal. This had the desired effect as they did not concede any further goals during this half and actually outscored the winners by 1-3 to 0-5. Carrickshock were so far ahead that they did not have the same motivation as in the first half.

Jackie Frisby gave a faultless display in the winners goal. Michael Rice was the outstanding player on view. He got most support in defence from John Tennyson and Denis Murphy. Patrick Mulcahy and John Dalton were on top at midfield. Anthony Holland was Carrickshock's best player in attack. Richard Power and Damien Raggett were also to the fore.

In Shane Coonan, St Martins had

their best player. Most prominent of the others were Conor Kinsella who did well in defence, Ronan Maher both in defence and later as goalkeeper, Brian Mulhall, Eddie Doran and Eoin McGrath.

Scorers: Carrickshock- Richard Power (0-5), Damien Raggett (3-0), Michael Rice (1-1), Patrick Mulcahy (1-1), Sean Gibbons (1-0), Anthony Holland (1-0) and Patrick Duggan (0-1). **St Martins:** - Shane Coonan (2-4), Eoin McGrath (0-2), Eddie Doran (0-1), Conor Kinsella (0-1).

Carrickshock: Jackie Frisby, Denis Murphy, John Tennyson, John Maher, Ricky Brennan, Michael Rice, James Farrell, Patrick Mulcahy, John Dalton, Richard Power, Anthony Holland, James Maher, Damien Raggett, Sean Gibbons, Patrick Duggan. Subs: David Millea, Tommy Brophy.

St Martins: Patrick Brennan, Edmond Hogan, Conor Kinsella, Michael Darcy, James Maher, Shane Cadigan, Ronan Maher, Ciaran Byrne, Brian Mulhall, Eoin McGrath, Shane Coonan, Eddie Doran, Eamon Buggy, Tom Nolan, Michael Brennan.



Rower Inistioge U-14 Roinn C League Champions. Photo: Tom Brett.

Back: Benny Holohan (trainer), Emmet Power, Michael Corcoran, Pat Digby, Noel Treacy, Luke Treacy, Pdraig Lyng (capt.), San Cummins, Michael White, Michael O'Dwyer, Richie Minogue, Nicky Murray, Ricky Lyng, Pat Corcoran (selector), Pat Tierney.

Front: Paddy Cashin, Eamon Phelan, Liam Tierney, John Butler, Paraic Tierney, Gerry Grace, Seamus Holohan, Toby Kavanagh, Martin Galavan, Kevin Corcoran, John Grace, John Kenny.

Under 14 League Roinn C

Twenty teams took part in the Under 14 hurling league Roinn C. They were divided into four groups of five teams. Three of the teams were from the Roinn B grade namely Rower Inistioge, St Patricks (Ballyragget) and Clara. All three teams made it to the semi finals and as they were also taking part in the Roinn B championship at the same time it caused big problems in making fixtures. In future this must be avoided and the teams surplus to the 16 needed for the Feile nGael competition will have to play a preliminary round to get the correct number for the finish of the Feile nGael.

The eight teams to make it to the quarter finals were St Patricks (Ballyragget), Young Irelands (Gowran), Clara, Conahy Shamrocks, Rower Inistioge, Tullogher Rosbercon, Blacks and Whites and Slieverue. The following were the results St Patricks beat Young Irelands, Clara 3-2 Conahy Shamrocks 0-7, Rower Inistioge 2-14 Tullogher Rosbercon 3-2, Blacks and Whites 2-4 Slieverue 1-7 with Blacks and Whites winning the replay. The semi finals saw Blacks and Whites defeating Clara by one point 1-9 to 0-11 while Rower Inistioge had a double score win over St Patricks 4-8 to 2-4. The fact that Rower Inistioge were a Roinn B side showed in the final as they swept to a 3-11 to 0-9 success before a large attendance in Thomastown. Best for the winners were Liam Tierney, Seamus Holohan, Nicky Murray, Luke Treacy, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael White and Toby Kavanagh. Most prominent for Blacks and Whites were Conor Murphy, James Brennan, Barry Moloney and Sean Barcoe.



Blacks and Whites U-14 Roinn C League Finalists Photo: Tom Brett.

Back: Barry Moloney, Seamus Murphy (selector), Niall Kennedy, Karl O'Dowd, Connor Murphy, Jason Carroll, James Brennan, Jonathan Burke, Sean Whitehead, Sean Barcoe, Brian Cleere, Gerry Murphy (selector), Derek Murphy, Anthony Barcoe, James Barcoe.

Front: Jamie Murphy, Phillip Murphy, John Whelan, Tom Moloney, Myles Doyle, John Murphy, Michael Doyle, Charlie Ryan, John Savage, Denis Brennan, Paddy Doyle.

Subs: David Tynan, Kieran Holohan, David Shore.
Referee: Oisín Breathnach (Dicksboro).

Under 14 Championship Roinn C

Slieverue scored a welcome victory when they took the Under 14 Roinn C county title. Their last victory at this level was the Roinn A title in 1950. 1976 was the last time Slieverue had contested an Under 14 title at Roinn C level. The final played in Palmerstown produced a nail biting finish with Slieverue snatching victory with a late goal. Slieverue had shown good form in the South final when overcoming Mooncoin in a great game on a score 3-3 to 1-4. Cloneen had eight points to spare over Conahy Shamrocks in the Northern final. The final score in the county final was Slieverue 6-2 Cloneen 5-4. Slieverue started impressively and built up an early lead of eight points. Cloneen came to grips with the game and by the interval had gone ahead by two points 3-3 to 3-1. Cloneen led for most of the second half although hampered by the loss of Kevin Phillips

through injury. Slieverue never gave up and were rewarded with two late goals by Kieran Grant and John Quirke who had come as a sub which brought them victory. Best for Slieverue were Kieran Grant, Mark Haberlin, Robert Roche, Aidan Hogan and Brendan Cody. The losers were well served by Sean Maher, Sean Dowd, Tom Joe Comerford, Kevin Phillips until injured and Sean Allen.

Slieverue: Adrian Rockett, Robert Walsh, Brendan Cody, James Butler, Joseph Cody, Aidan Hogan (Capt), Dan Murphy, Mark Haberlin, Robert Roche, Senan Kelly, Kieran Grant, Tony O'Keeffe, Ciaran O'Donovan, Sean Phelan, Nicky Cody. **Subs:** John Quirke, Gavin Quilty.

Cloneen: Tom Joe Hughes, Graham Lawlor, Sean Maher, Paul Byrne, Steve Mahon, Sean Dowd (Capt), Sean Allen, Kevin Phillips, Paul Donnelly, Daniel Brennan, Tom Joe Comerford, Ronan Walsh, Pdraig Dowd, Jim Dowd, Thomas Campion.

Referee: John Manogue (Thomastown).

Rower Inistioge: Liam Tierney, Seamus Holohan, Pat Digby, Nicky Murray, Sean Cummins, Luke Treacy, Noel Treacy, Michael O'Dwyer, Pdraig Lyng (Capt), John Kenny, Michael White, Toby Kavanagh, Martin Galavan, Emmet Power, Paddy Cashin.

Blacks and Whites: John Murphy, Conor Murphy, Jason Carroll, Charlie Ryan, Jonathan Burke, James Brennan, Myles Doyle, Barry Moloney, Caroline O'Dowd, Sean Barcoe, Michael Doyle, Niall Kennedy, Sean Whitehead, Tom Moloney, John Whelan. **Subs:** Derek Murphy, James Barcoe.

The Year of the Smiley Heads!

A Glorious Year for Colaiste Eamainn Rís by Frank McKenna

When grown ups fall crying to their knees in Nowlan Park and long forgotten past pupils suddenly contact their alma mater from far flung parts of the globe then you just know that something very special has happened. It was never in the script that famed St. Kieran's College, deserved holders of a record thirteen Colleges All-Irelands, could lose to the same team twice in one season. Certainly not to a school of under 250 pupils. Yet hurling has that knack of turning form and history books on their heads.

When Colin Herity led out the Colaiste Eamainn Ris team in the first round of this years campaign thoughts of All-Irelands were furthest from his mind. His team had the daunting task of facing St. Kieran's in their first serious contest. True, many had enjoyed under age success with both their school and clubs but Kieran's go into most campaigns as favourites.

To make matters worse, on the day, St. Johns Park was shrouded in fog and the selected alternative, Larchfield, was not much better. Ignoring the elements the sides served up an extremely hard fought encounter. We were treated to the first glimpses of the qualities that would serve Callan so well throughout the championship, determination,



We Are The Champions!

Con Ronan (Leinster Colleges) and Jim Whelan (Coca Cola) look on as Colin Herity raises the Leinster Colleges Senior Hurling Trophy. *photo: Tommy O'Neill*



Colaiste Eamainn Rís - Leinster Senior A Hurling Champions

Back: Ray Power, Kevin Cleere, Ger Corcoran, John Paul Corcoran, Aidan Brett, Shane Murray, Niall Millea.
Middle: James Ryall, James Murray, Gearóid Cleere, Noel Hickey, Brendan Hayes, Canice Hickey, Joey Gormley, Michael Roche. **Front:** John O'Neill, Daniel Hoyne, Colin Herity, (capt.), David Herity, Niall McCormack, Aidan Mackey, Keith Doheny. *photo: Ignatius O'Neill*

self belief and teamwork. Kieran's as ever were competitive to the end but on the day Callan midfielder, John O'Neill, was probably the difference between the teams. At full time Callan had notched up a famous first ever victory over the Black and Whites by 0-11 to 0-9.

The loyal contingent which followed Callan hardly knew how to react to this historic achievement. Callan next travelled to Birr to take on St. Brendans. In a downpour Birr scored three first half goals but Callan eventually pulled away to an easy 6-16 to 3-3 success. The clash between the two Kilkenny CBS and Callan had the added spice that victory for either side would guarantee a place in the Leinster semi-final. On the day Callan showed no mercy and totally overran their city opponents with James Murray amassing a personal tally of 2-5.

It was ironic that despite losing twice in the early rounds the vagaries of the draw enabled Kierans to qualify for a playoff against Kilkenny C.B.S. for the other semi-final position. The resurgent 'Kierans side did not need a second invitation and comprehensively defeated their local rivals to gain a semi-final berth against, holders, Good Counsel of New Ross.

On semi-final day the contrast could hardly have been greater. Kierans were highly convincing against their Wexford opponents. Callan were stretched to the limit by Dublin Colleges. Indeed Callan were fortunate that their self belief kept them going and eventually a strong finish saw them pull through on a scoreline of 3-14 to 1-7. The role played by the Callan backroom team should not be underestimated. Team spirit and self belief were instilled into the players by Bro. Damien Brennan over a period of six months.

And so the scene was set for the final. Decent weather at last, an excellent playing surface

in Nowlan Park and an electric atmosphere helped by those attending the Kilkenny v. Wexford NHL game. Surely the 'Kieran's tradition, allied to their more impressive recent form would more than compensate for any psychological boost Callan might have gained in the earlier rounds?

It was apparent from a very early stage that Callan had not come along to make up the numbers. The huge contingent of Callan support was treated to the perfect start with Herity's opening point and Murray's opportunist goal. Callan maintained their early lead at the interval (1-6 to 0-5).

Despite going scoreless for 15 minutes in the second half Callans backs heroically withstood a torrent of Kierans attacks. David Dowling of St. Kierans was denied a match winning goal by the bravery of young David Herity in the Callan goal moments from time.

To name individual stars would be unfair as this was essentially a victory for a team playing for each other. Subs and players alike were swarmed by their supporters on the sound of Dickie

Murphy's final whistle. The final score of 1-10 to 0-9 was incidental. Joy was unconfined interspersed with many a moist eye. Colin Herity's acceptance speech was outstanding. Showing a maturity beyond his years he enthralled the crowd, mixing wit with gravitas and sharing the credit between the players and the backroom team of Bros. Brennan, Burke and long-serving coach Tom Walsh.

Simple Stadium beckoned and an all-Ireland semi-final against Harty Cup winners St. Flannans, Ennis. The physical and emotional demands of the campaign had exacted a huge toll on the Callan lads. They did not seem to believe that they could beat the famed Clare nursery until it was almost too late.

Such was the ferocity of the finish to the game especially after Joey Gormley's late goal that Flannans were relieved to run out winners by 1-8 to 1-6.

President of the GAA Joe McDonagh officiated at a function in the Springhill Hotel which brought the curtain down on a quite exceptional year for the small school. For many of them the year brought further glory



**Castlecomer Community School
South Leinster Junior B Hurling Champions**

Back: Michael Boland, Pa O'Dwyer, Paul Mulally, John Murphy, Shem O'Dwyer, Tom Kinsella, Eamon Jackman, Shane Dowling, Kevin Maher, Larry Dunne, Peter O'Donovan, Michael Lawlor. **Front:** Pat Murphy, JJ O'Sullivan, Robert Shore, Sean O'Dwyer, Alan Healy, Adrian Hennessy, Shane Cadogan, Damien Maher, Jason Carroll, Conor Kinsella, Séan Coonan, John Coonan, Anthony Agar, John Quinn, Pat Nolan.

with the county minor teams, club sides and quite a degree of academic success as well.

A Measure of Revenge for Kieran's in Junior Final

Colaiste Eamann Rís came very close to causing a major upset in this years Coca Cola Leinster Colleges Junior A hurling championship. Appearing in their first Junior (U-16) A final, they almost snatched victory from a previously all conquering St. Kieran's side. The College had twelve of the previous years team and had been expected to dominate the competition.

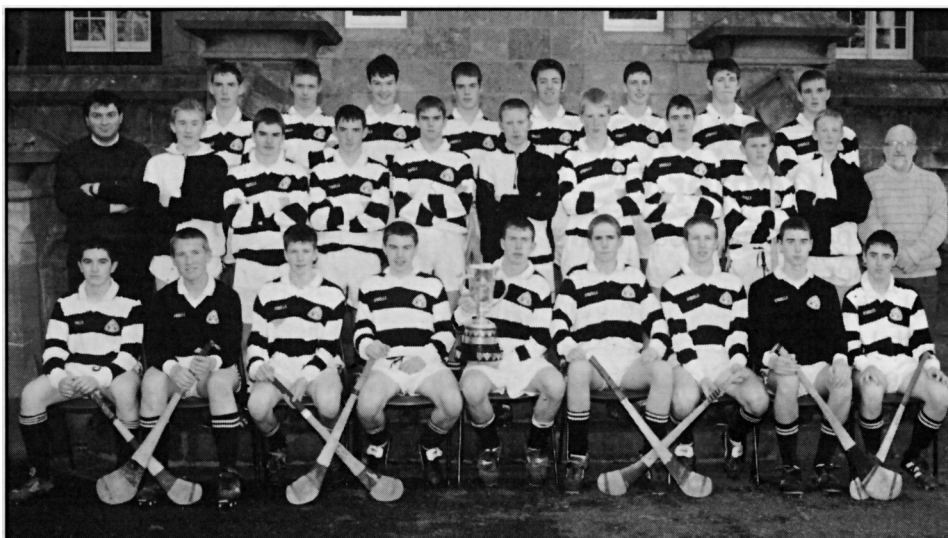
The league was played in two groups with Colaiste Eamann Rís winning convincingly against St. Peter's, Wexford, C.B.S. Kilkenny, and St. Brendan's, Birr. St. Kierans had facile victories over Enniscorthy C.B.S. and Good Counsel.

The first semi-final was a tight affair when Colaiste Eamann Rís were forced to a replay against a much improved Good Counsel side and eventually scraped home by a one point margin. St. Kieran's on the other hand encountered minimum discomfort against St. Peter's, winning unconvincingly by 2-9 to 1-2.

The final was played in Thomastown before a large enthusiastic crowd from both schools and it proved to be a tremendous game. St. Kieran's led at the interval by 1-4 to 0-4.

On the resumption Colaiste Eamann Rís thundered into the game and with full forward Niall Doran (Windgap) playing brilliantly they forged a three point lead after fifty minutes.

Several positional switches seemed to rejuvenate 'Kieran's, they took over at midfield and scored 2-4 without reply in the last eight minutes to earn a 3-12 to 1-9 victory, a margin which seemed quite unlikely for fifty



St Kieran's College Coca Cola Leinster Junior A hurling champions

Back: Podge Kennedy, John Lennon, Ger Prendergast, Jonathan Savage, Seamus Dureen, Bob Aylward, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy. **Middle:** Philip Walsh, Niall Kenny, Michael Connolly, Brian Dowling, Ned Sweeney, Robert Doran, Anthony Owens, Sean O'Neill, Tommy Walsh, Stephen Looby, Tommy Lanigan. **Front:** Shane Parsons, Michael Drennan, Michael Rice, Brian Carroll, Gary Hayes (capt.), Brendan Doyle, Brian Ferns, Enda Cleere, Michael Dermody. *photo: Tom Brett*



St. Kierans College - Coca Cola Leinster Colleges Juvenile Hurling Champions 1998

Back: Liam Hennessy, David Prendergast, Conor Whelan, Podge Kennedy, Mark Heffernan, Shane Whelan, John Lennon, Andrew Doyle, Robert Collins-Hughes. **Middle:** Tom Hogan, Liam Ryan, David Grogan, Eoin Reid, James Hickey, Declan O'Neill, Brian Gallagher, Stephen Maher, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Eamon O'Gorman, Barry Moloney. **Front:** Dermot Nolan, John Murphy, John Tennyson, James Fitzpatrick, Michael Rice (capt.), Eoin Larkin, George Hickey, Enda Holohan, David Healy. *photo: Tom Brett*

minutes. Best for Colaiste Eamann Rís were David Herity (Dunnamaggin), Ger Corcoran (John Lockes) Kevin Cleere (Graig-Ballycallan), Sean Glennon (Tullaroan) and Niall Doran, while the following were outstanding for St. Kieran's; Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy, Michael Connolly (Tullaroan), Brendan Doyle (James Stephens), Brian Carroll (Coolderry) and Brian

Dowling (O'Loughlins).

Dr. Tom Barry Cup

St. Kierans also took the honours at Leinster Colleges Juvenile A hurling with a string of impressive victories over all opposition, culminating in a thrashing of a previously highly rated Good Counsel side. The 'College had a runaway final win of 4-11 to 0-8, with young Shamrocks player James

Fitzpatrick scoring 3-4 in the final.

Successful Year for 'Comer CS

It was a particularly good year for 'Comer CS at U-14 and U-16 level. The U-16 hurlers won the South Leinster title after a string of fine victories but lost out in the final stages of the competition. The U-14 footballers fared likewise with a fine run in the championship with victories over Ballyhale VS, Kilkenny CBS, Carlow VS, Mountrath VS, Pres. Carlow and Dunlavin VS to win the South Leinster final. A very strong Malahide CS team defeated them in the provincial semi-final.

Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club Sponsor Schools Competitions

These competitions are confined to the 'B' teams from each of the four secondary schools. Rarely is there more enthusiasm shown than in the contest for these Junior and Juvenile championships. The secondary schools must thank sincerely the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters club who presented a magnificent trophy in honour of Monsignor Tommy Maher to the winners.



Castlecomer CS - South Leinster U-14 C Football Champions

Back: Edward Cody, JJ O'Sullivan, Niall Dowd, Jim Roche, Jim Dowd, Colin Phillips, James Doone, Liam Kavanagh, Séan Dowd, Damien Maher, Peter O'Donovan, Michael Farrell, Pa Dwyer.

Front: Fergal Lawlor, Ger Cody, Michael Bergin, Michael Brennan, John Coonan, Francis Whearty, Paul Brennan, Alan Healy, Conor Kinsella, Shane Coonan, Paul Mulally, Pat Nolan.

photo: Tommy O'Neill

The Junior competition was first played in December '97 and St. Kieran's narrowly defeated Colaiste Eamann Rís in the final.

John Dermody (Ballyhale Shamrocks) was the first winning captain.

The Juvenile competition, sponsored by Bord na nÓg was also won by St. Kieran's College, this time defeating a gallant Kilkenny C.B.S. side in May.

New Referees

As part of their Transition Year Programme in St. Kieran's College, twelve students qualified as GAA referees in May '98. The

course was conducted by well known referee Pat Aherne (Carlow) and consisted of eight hours instruction, a fitness test and a practical examination.

The newly qualified whistlers are: Martin Prendergast, Patrick Brennan, John Brennan (all Clara), Jonathan Meighan (Bennettsbridge), Gavin O'Donovan (Dunnamaggin), Stephen Roche (Emeralds), Bill Walsh, John Dermody (both Ballyhale Shamrocks), Tim Murphy (Danesfort), David Creane (James Stephens), Joe Delaney (Castletown), James Moran (Ballylooby).

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HELEN CARROLL



Helen Carroll, daughter of the late Ted, has recently become sports presenter in Ireland's new television station TV3.

Helen began her career in journalism at the age of 19 when she began working in Aertel while still attending college. During her four years there, she was responsible for news and sports reports. She also did freelance radio work .

From Aertel she moved to RTE where she was involved in the research and presentation of various programmes. Her research work began with "Gerry Ryan Tonight", where she stayed for the duration of the programme. She then moved on to "Davis", where she worked for two Summers. Her knowledge of and background in GAA was put to good use on the "Kenny Live" All Ireland programmes, and last summer, she was a member of the "Prime Time" research team. Most people probably know her best from "Winning Streak", where she co-presented the National Lottery game show with Mike Murphy.

TV3 was launched in September of this year, and Helen is part of the start-up crew. The sports section has not yet the rights to big GAA games but hopes to in the future. At the moment the station has had a good response from minority sports and Helen and the other reporters have travelled the country doing features on various aspects of Irish sporting life.

It's nice to see one of our own carrying the flag on the new channel and we wish her all the best in her career.

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At The Time of Writing...

By LIAM HORAN
Gaelic Games Correspondent, Irish Independent



AT THE time of writing...a beloved phrase of reporters.....

At the time of writing, Kilkenny have no senior hurling manage. Kevin Fennelly has resigned after just one year, the previous manager, Nicky Brennan, lasted just two in the job.

At the time of writing, it is possible to label the job of managing Kilkenny the 'poison challenge' of inter-county hurling".

Some of those who might be suitable for the job are doubtless turned off by the pressure which has now come to be associated with the post.

And with every passing year, the clamour for an All-Ireland title grows stronger in Kilkenny. Wexford, Clare and Offaly have all had a slice of the action in recent years, and Kilkenny have grown impatient.

It is now abundantly clear that Kilkenny hurling, like a Government in time of crisis, needs a period of stability.

The irony is that Kilkenny did well in 1998, win-

ning the first Leinster title since 1995, beating the team that eventually (but only after a Himalayan trek) won the All-Ireland. Kilkenny reached the All-Ireland final, too, but they did not perform particularly well.

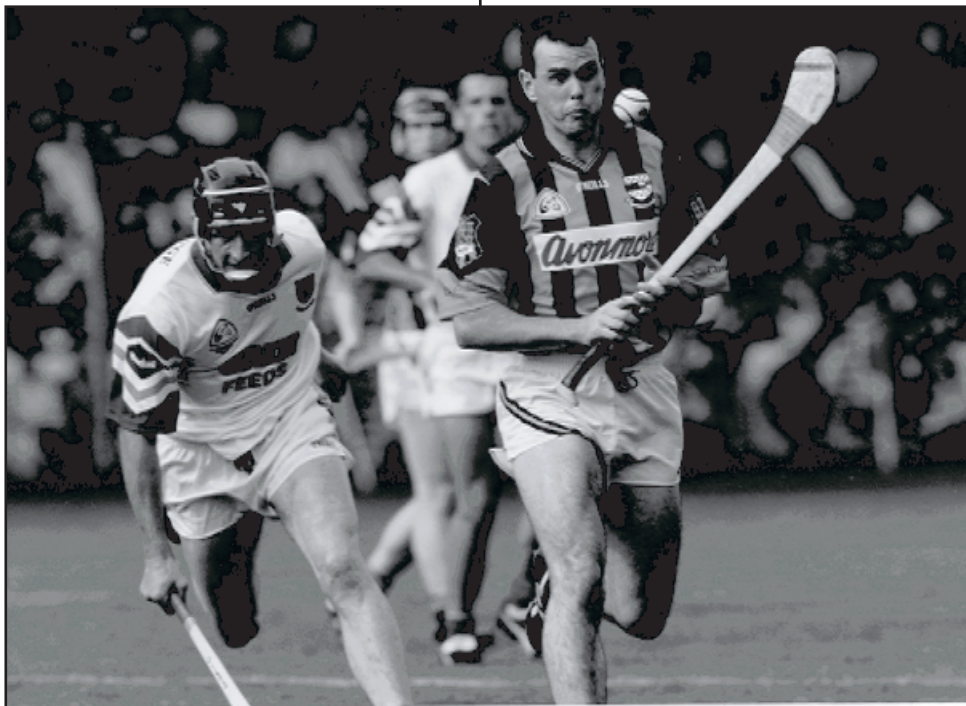
When one considers Kilkenny's starting-point, it was a season of miracles. DJ Carey's shortlived

retirement threw hurling into the county into disarray. A retirement of that magnitude, coming so young and with no convincing reason for it, casts a long shadow; tensions developed that may not have been healed even by All-Ireland time.

Kilkenny did well to

recover from that setback, and from the dismal league campaign which saw them cast in a relegation dogfight with Antrim. The league saw huge experimentation, including the wild card of Philly Larkin at full-back, and it was easy to write Kilkenny out of the reckoning at the start of the championship.

They did little to convince us otherwise in the

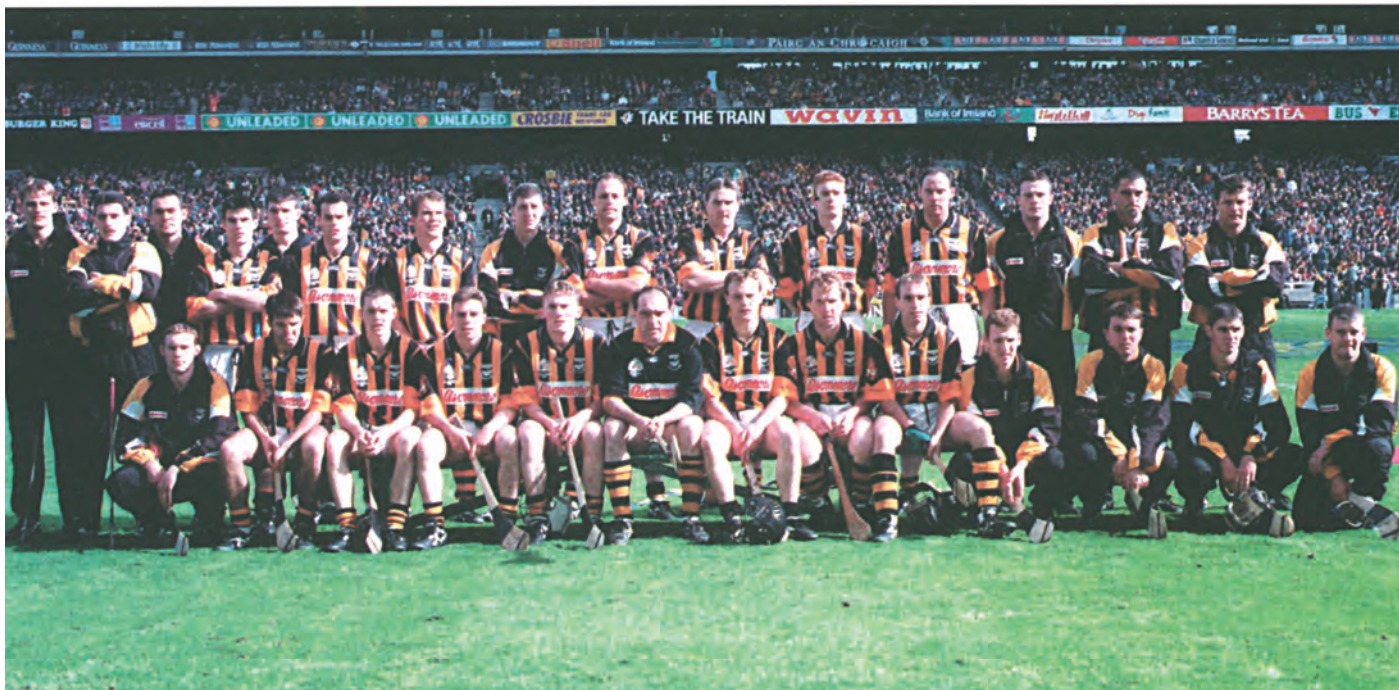


Action from the All Ireland Semi - Final

Brian McEvoy (Kilkenny) about to shoot goalwards against Waterford, chased by Waterford full-back, Sean Cullinane.

Photo Sportsfile

Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Finalists 1998



Back: Shane Prendergast, Sean Ryan, Liam Simpson, Philly Larkin, John Costello, Brian McEvoy, Liam Keoghan, Michael Phelan, Andy Comerford, Canice Brennan, Peter Barry, Pat O'Neill, Miall Moloney, John Dooley, Patsy Brophy.
Front: Rory Moore, Ken O'Shea, Michael Kavanagh, Charlie Carter, Tom Hickey, Joe Dermody, PJ Delaney, Willy O'Connor, DJ Carey, Denis Byrne, James McGarry, John Hoyne, Dan O'Neill
Photo Tom Brett



Collared - Billy O'Sullivan (W) is well held by Canice Brennan and Willy O'Connor in the All Ireland SH Semi-Final. *Photo Sportsfile*



On A Run - Andy Comerford races away with the ball, chased by Offaly's Johnny Pilkington. *Photo Sportsfile*



Action from the All Ireland Final - From left - **John Troy** (Offaly), Canice Brennan, **Joe Errity** (Offaly), **Tom Hickey**, **Dickie Murphy** (Ref) and **Johnny Dooley** (Offaly) Photo Tom O'Neill

Leinster semi-final against Laois, an average side who played even below form on that day. The rest is mystery: from these lowly points, Kilkenny evolved into a formidable side, good enough to win a poor Leinster final, and better again to end the run of one of the form, happening sides of the championship, Waterford.

Whoever comes in as Kilkenny manager - and I trust he is in place by the time this lovechild of Barrie Henriques' hits the streets - will have a big job on his hands. Carey has made it known he will

play again next season. Recovering his best form will be a major task. The forward line needs a leader, a man who will carry them in games.

The defence is solid and as good as most teams in the country, even if it lacks the fearful presence of Clare and Offaly. Hurling being hurling, and Kilkenny being Kilkenny, the prospect of a good run, and possibly even an All-Ireland, in 1999 cannot be ruled out.

At the time of writing, the Special Congress on the All-Ireland championship format has not been held. Ergo, next year's championship draw is still awaited. Michael Bond has not let it be known if he will be returning to Offaly. Galway are without a manager.

The uncertainty, in itself, is tantalising. Recent hurling seasons have seen fluctuating standards, but a steady supply of drama, excitement, controversy and romance. There's not much more you could ask for!

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Inter - County Underage Tournaments

By Richie Stone

Nenagh Co-op Tournament

The Kilkenny Under-16 hurlers reached the final of the shield of this year's re-vamped Nenagh Co-Op under-16 inter county tournament. Defeat at the hands of Galway in the opening round meant Kilkenny went into the shield competition.

A hard earned 2-20 to 1-18 win over a good Waterford side put them in the final against home county, Tipperary.

The final was played in Cloughjordan, on October 17th. A very much understrength Kilkenny struggled from the start. They trailed 0-5 to 0-2 after twenty minutes. Kilkenny fought back well and levelled matters at 0-7 each approaching half time. Then a rather fortunate goal from corner forward Tony Ruth put the home side in control.

That goal seemed to drain all confidence from the Noresiders. Three points in quick succession left Tipperary 1-10 to 0-7 ahead at the break. It was all Tipperary in the second half and they eventually ran out easy winners on the scoreline 2-22 to 1-12.

Once again Kilkenny were forced to line out without several first choice players due to club commitments. However, the likes of Kieran Rafter, Conor O' Shea, Peter Cleere, David Hoyne, Tommy Walsh and goalie Michael Drennan proved that they could hold their own with the best.

Kilkenny Panel: Michael Drennan (Shamrocks), Jim Rice (Carrickshock), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Conor O' Shea (Piltown), Ken Coogan (Tullaroan), William King (Carrickshock), Peter Cleere (Blacks & Whites), Michael Walsh (Tullaroan), Patrick Reid (Shamrocks), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Niall Doran (Windgap), Ned Sweeney (Tullaroan), David Hoyne (Shamrocks), Mark Phelan (Glenmore), Michael Connolly (Tullaroan), Jamie Kennedy (St.Lachtains), Keith Murphy (Carrickshock), Robert Cody (Mooncoin), Richard Dalton (St.Lachtains), Damien Kelly (Piltown), Anthony Walsh (Shamrocks), John Bergin (Lisdowney), Brian Tennyson (Carrickshock).

Tony Forristal Tournament

Kilkenny failed in their bid to win the Tony Forristal tournament when they were beaten by eventual winners,

Cork.

In the opening round, they defeated Offaly by 0-10 to 1-4. Offaly had a tonic start when Paul Horan goaled for them in the opening minute. Kilkenny hit back, and mid-way through the half, they had drawn level 0-4 to 1-1. The Noresiders gradually got on top in the second half. They went three points clear and looked set for victory. Offaly stormed back and were unlucky to have a goal disallowed for a square infringement. That was to be the midlanders last chance.

Kilkenny's defence stuck to their task well in the closing stages and they held on for a deserved win.

In their second game against Cork, the Noresiders conceded two rather easy goals in the first half. This proved fatal. Cork led 2-4 to 0-4 at the break. Kilkenny put in a good second half, with both William O' Dwyer and John Fitzpatrick unlucky with goal attempts. At the other end Richard Butler brought off a great save to keep his side in the running.

Brendan Guilfoyle kicked a goal and "Cha" Fitzpatrick pointed a free but the Cork lads held firm in the closing stages to record a 2-7 to 1-5 victory.

So, once again, Kilkenny failed to make any real impression in this prestigious tournament. This time, lack of preparation cannot be cited as a reason for our lack of success. This was one of the best prepared Kilkenny sides to take part in the competition. Numerous trials and challenge games were played over a three month period. The time and effort put in by the panel and selectors deserved a better fate.

Panel: Richard Butler (Tullaroan), John Tennyson (Carrickshock), Patrick Holden (Shamrocks), David Reid (Piltown), Podge Kennedy (Tullaroan), Keith Nolan (Shamrocks), Brian Gallagher (Dicksboro), Michael Rice (Carrickshock), Kieran Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Robert Dowling (St.Lachtains), Stephen Maher (Tullaroan), Brian Cody (Dicksboro), Nicholas Maher (Tullaroan), Brendan Guilfoyle (Emeralds), John Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks), Thomas Neary (Emeralds), Richie Raftice (Mullinavat), Richard Brophy (Piltown), William O' Dwyer (Mullinavat), Brian Doheny (John Lockes), Eamon Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks), Eoin Larkin (James Stephens), Eoin Reid (Shamrocks), Michael Reid (Rower-Inistioge).

Leinster SH Fixtures

30/5/1999 (a) Dublin V Wexford Kilkenny

Semi - Finals

A. (20/6/99) Winners (a) V Offaly Croke Park
B (20/6/99) Laois V Kilkenny Croke Park

Final

11/7/99 A V B Croke Park



Le gach dea-mhéin ó
Chomhairle Laighin C.L.G.
Micheál Ó Dubhshláine
Rúnaí.



Action from Leinster Senior Hurling Semi-Final

PJ Delaney races towards the Laois goal, closely watched by **Andy Bergin** (Laois), **Michael Phelan**, **John Shortall** (Laois), **Niall Maloney** and **DJ Carey**.

Photo Tom O'Neill

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Whither Now, Kilkenny?

By Brian Keyes (LEINSTER EXPRESS)

An all-Leinster clash in the All-Ireland final for 1998 was a fitting tribute to what talent and fine matches the province of Leinster has witnessed throughout the eighties and nineties. The emergence of Offaly as a recognised hurling force, the resurgence of Wexford and the ever present black and amber bear witness to the strength of Leinster hurling. And until this year, with the present system providing the showcase, that particular strength in the game has never been fully recognised.

Kilkenny have every reason to be disappointed. Primarily tradition in the county more than suggests that All-Ireland titles usually come back to the Nore, once the Cats get there.

But as Leinster champions, losing to modern-day rivals, Offaly in a whirlwind finish, normally a hallmark of Kilkenny hurling makes the All-Ireland defeat a bitter pill to swallow.

Kilkenny must take great consolation in having contributed to one of the finest deciders and most entertaining of championships - certainly in this decade. If the Kilkenny players need tangible proof of same, just look at the welcome home!

The standard of sportsmanship, getting on with the job in hand and not making a meal out of every one of the tight challenges which characterise Leinster hurling is something every

young hurler can learn an awful lot from.

After the gamesmanship, and sometimes downright dirty play that had dogged the Munster championship, in particular its showcase final, this All-Ireland was a fine finale to a year in which hurling hit the headlines more than ever before, and unfortunately sometimes for the wrong reasons.

The Leinster championship began with a potential minefield for Kilkenny. Dublin, in the tight surroundings of Parnell Park, was deemed a tricky

opener for the black and amber. Indeed the national media predicted a 'shock', but, in truth, the real shock would have been a Kilkenny defeat.

Kilkenny simply have the measure of Dublin, have shown it in the past and went about their task in superb fashion.

The return of D.J. Carey was marked with a cracking goal and an all-round pleasing performance from the Young

Irelands star. The purposeful use of the ball in attack, the defensive stranglehold at the back and the timely introduction of score-getting substitutes all heralded the headlines that Kilkenny were back.

The double header in glorious weather at Croke Park for the final spots in the Leinster championship produced the most thrilling hurling of the year. This 140+ min-



Well Saved: Joe Dermody clears his lines despite the attentions of David Cuddy (Laois) in the Leinster Semi-Final. Looking on are Liam Keoghan and Tom Hickey *Photo: Tom O'Neill*



Blocked: Dublin full back Seán Power is well blocked by Charlie Carter and Niall Maloney in the Leinster Hurling Championship at Parnell Park. *Photo: Sportsfile*



Going for Goal!: PJ Delaney chased by Ray Fogarty (Laois)
Photo: Sportsfile

utes of hurling was the best showcase of '98.

In a low scoring opening match, a Ken O'Shea goal pushed Laois aside as Kilkenny advanced. With fifteen minutes remaining, the game could have gone either way. Laois had defended superbly but some crucial errors with the ball in their own collective grasps cost Laois, and players like Philip Larkin, Charlie Carter and P.J. Delaney rose to the occasion. The result saw Kilkenny installed as serious All-Ireland contenders.

The second semi-final between defending Leinster champions Wexford and Offaly was in doubt right up to the final whistle. How Johnny Dooley got room to swing, let alone connect with the dropping '65', is still a mystery to the Slaneyside back six.

Wexford took the wrong options on the line. Taking off two key players like Tom Dempsey and Larry Murphy, admittedly not playing well yet capable of scoring, suggested the purple and gold felt they had made it, four points up with time ticking away.

But that fighting quality of this Offaly team, witnessed in '94 with Limerick and once again in '98 was on view for the first, and not the last, time this year.

Yet what a traumatic month for Offaly hurling. Bab's Keating was lauded by the Faithful, even by those who were uncomfortable with his appointment. And while Offaly, more than any other team had to endure reading premature epitaphs this year, there was still plenty of belief that their team was strong as ever, buoyed up by Birr's All-Ireland club success.

Against them was a rejuvenated Kilkenny, making their first appearance in the Leinster final in five years. Had Kilkenny lost, it would have been the longest run without the O'Keefe Cup returning Noreside.

A lot was at stake, but the surreal atmosphere of the Leinster Final made it the least enjoyable in many years.

First of all, Offaly and Kilkenny had their injury worries being without their centre-back and centre-forward respectively, Hubert Rigney and Michael Phelan.

Secondly, while Kilkenny hurled well in the second half, the finished article was still a long way off, with options limited in the heart of the attack, and proved to be elusive by

the end of the year.

Offaly had overcome Meath in an opening round, but having 'stolen' a march on Wexford, and with their injury problems, Kilkenny were favourites.

It didn't look like the bookies got it right in the first half. Tom Hickey made a goal line clearance from a ground shot that looked certain to end the net, and, at the end of it all, trickery on the '21' yard line from D.J. Carey, scoring two goals left Kilkenny winners by five points.

The fallout in the Offaly dressing room and corridors of the Cusack Stand was unprecedented and remarkable.

Nowadays, Offaly people look back on that week after the Leinster final in more jovial form, but, at the time, the county was very hurt. Offaly, as McCarthy Cup winners in '94 and fielding a strong Birr contingent from the All-Ireland club win, were likened to sheep by the manager Bab's Keating. Babs, hurt by defeat, let go to a media which was 'gentle' in its reporting of his comments.

While the former Tipperary and later Laois manager put forward his points on the eve of the All-Ireland final in his Sunday newspaper column, (and few could argue with him,) Johnny Pilkington's stance received 100% approval from the people that mattered most - the players.

The arrival of Bond, Michael Bond, turned Offaly's hurling year around. He had nothing to lose and thus everything to gain. Training right through the Antrim match, Offaly were prepared for Clare and played the better hurling on the first and third days - overall deserving winners of that series of matches, and the All-Ireland final.

And so looking ahead to 1999, what lies around the corner? Kilkenny are young, and will bounce back but the retirement of Kevin Fennelly means that the new man will need time to put his plans in motion. The panel was limited for the final with the influential Michael Phelan sidelined, Kilkenny were not six points off the pace of that game.

Kilkenny, unusual for a team that has reached an All-Ireland final, will have to once again trawl the county to offer some variety to their forward play in particular if they are to succeed in the near future, and retain their penchant for procuring double success.

Offaly won't go anywhere. The All-Ireland win will see to that. Certainly at under-age level, Offaly have not got the brightest sparks on the scene coming in to their senior set up. Yet the strength of their club hurling is remarkable. You can take your pick - Birr (Whelehans), St Rynaghs or Seir Kieran (Dooleys). Should any of them advance from Offaly, they certainly have the talent to win an All-Ireland club.

And that's a fair measure of a county's standing. Have Kilkenny, Wexford or Laois three clubs with a good chance of All-Ireland honours? Laois who have not won a championship match in Leinster in nine years, have been represented in the last two Leinster club finals and seem to be in a strong position, notably Camross winning in '96.

Yet Kilkenny's last club win was Glenmore in '91, and that helped spark a double All-Ireland success for the county side. Birr have won two All-Irelands in the interim.

The semi-finalists this year, Laois and Wexford have every reason to feel aggrieved. Both conceded late goals that proved their downfall, Wexford's heartbreaker arrived in injury time.

The Slaneysiders were missing All-Stars at centre back and full forward this year;- the heart of their team was gone. Their more senior players may find the appetite hard to regain for the coming year, but one can only expect a comeback from Wexford as they look back on a year which was an underachievement, considering what they had produced



On yer bike Philly: Phil Larkin races away from Offaly's Johnny Dooley, Joe Dooley and Billy Dooley in the All Ireland Final.
Photo: Sportsfile

the previous two years and the potential of their team.

With the Laois scene, loyal fans can only be happy with the progress made this year in terms of remaining in Division One. They really put it up to a Kilkenny side which may have suffered somewhat from over-confidence considering their superb display against a very disappointing Dublin side, as nerves jangled by the home fires. Experience told in the end, and another year in Division One, along with this year's knowledge gained, will help Laois.

Laois manager, Padraig Horan, is a very competent coach and one of his strengths is his ability to instill confidence in the team. Laois have suffered terrible results at the hands of Wexford, and it's a bogey they will have to come to

terms with. Yet over the last two seasons, just one puck of a ball kept them from defeating both Offaly and Kilkenny, the two All-Ireland finalists.

If Laois don't do it over the next two to three years, they will find it very hard to recover and remain a force in senior hurling, the county's last win in 1949, compared to the 'Big Three' who have all won titles this decade.

Tradition has crumbled in hurling over the past fifteen years with Offaly emerging and Clare breaking the longest running hurling famine in '95 and still the team to beat in the All-Ireland series.

The NHL, played in decent conditions offers fans an insight in to how teams are 'shaping up,' yet read too much in to the results at your peril.

Many question the value of a provincial title after this year's result. There is no doubt that for young teams, and teams making the elusive breakthrough, winning a provincial crown is a huge boost, irrespective of the significance of results later in the year. Kilkenny fall into the first category.

Yet what will go through Kilkenny's collective minds as they prepare this year for the Leinster campaign There is no doubt that winning the title puts you in a greater position, but it's a task that Kilkenny will find very difficult in the year ahead.

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Ballyhale Shamrocks

All Conquering U-14s

Pride of place this year must go to our U-14 team, who represented Kilkenny in Feile na Gael. They did our parish proud by winning the prestigious Christy Ring Memorial Trophy. On the local front they completed a smashing double by winning the U-14 hurling and football championships.

These achievements are recorded elsewhere in the book. Congratulations to all concerned with the team, especially Frank Costello, Mairéad Coogan and the juvenile committee.

Coca Cola Sevens

Once again this year Joe Dunphy took his charges to Lisdowney and for the second consecutive year came away with the Coca Cola title. These boys gave a wonderful display of all the skills of hurling. With all the young talent that is in our parish the future of the club looks assured.

Our U-16 panellists performed very well during the year and reached the league and championship hurling finals. On both occasions they were unlucky to lose to very strong James Stephens teams. After the great heights achieved by the minors last year there was disappointment when they went down tamely to Dunnamaggin in the first round.

Senior Campaign

The Seniors in their first year back in the top grade found the going tough and received something of a baptism of fire in the league. Great credit must go to Maurice Aylward and his selectors who worked hard to put a team together for the championship. A good first round win

against St. Martins ensured senior status. In the quarter final they played quite well but were not good enough to see off the challenge of Fenians.

County Players

Several players represented the club at county level throughout the year. Congratulations to Paul Shefflin and Sean O'Keeffe at minor level, Henry Shefflin

and Aidan Cummins at U-21 and Intermediate while Tommy Shefflin and Padraig Farrell also featured on the Intermediate team. Well done to Michael and Ger Fennelly who played starring roles on the victorious Masters team.

As the curtain closes on another year we would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters.



Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens Champions

Back: Larry Hamilton (Lisdowney), Joe Dermody, Richard Holohan, James Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Eamon Nolan (Lisdowney), Eamon Walsh, Eamon Dunne (Lisdowney), Joe Dunphy N.T.

Front: James Connolly, Michael Fennelly (capt.), TJ Reid, Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Michael Fitzpatrick.



Presentation to our Feile na Gael hosts Ferns - St. Aidans

Michéal Hoyne (selector), Seamus Murphy (Ferns), Mairéad Coogan (Juv. Sec.), Joe Morris (Ferns), Frank Costello (Juv. Chairman), Sean Reid (selector), Michael Fennelly (selector).

BARROW RANGERS

Club Officers '98

Chairman: Mick Medlar
 Vice-Chair: Tommy Dowling
 Secretary: Bob Shortall
 Asst. Sec: Ed. Drea
 Treasurer: Philip Maher
 Asst. Treas.: Tommy Dowling
 PRO: Michael Shortall.

On the Playing fields

A very disappointing year on the playing fields with the club making no impression in any competition culminating in a defeat by Blacks & Whites in the first round of the Junior Championship.

At schools and underage level pride of place must go to Goresbridge/Paulstown school teams on their victories in Roinn C football where they had a convincing victory over a gallant Bennettsbridge side. They succeeded at the third attempt in winning the Roinn D hurling title beating Windgap in a thrilling final. The school had other fine

achievements in reaching the finals of the Sevens in both hurling and football. Unfortunately they lost both finals to Carrickshock and Ballyhale respectively. Elsewhere there is little to report with teams in all grades eliminated early in the various competitions. One disappointing aspect is the continued failure to take part in the U-11 Camaint competition.

In Black and Amber

1998 was a great year for those two ageless veterans and outstanding clubmen Syl Hennessy and Mick Doyle. They were members of the Kilkenny Masters hurling side which brought All Ireland glory to the Noreside. Long may they continue to play and enjoy the games in which they have so gracefully participated for many years. Diarmuid Maher was once again a prominent member of the county Intermediate side which won Leinster honours and narrowly lost out to Limerick.

Hugh Doyle RIP

In recent weeks the club and parish lost a dedicated player and official with the sudden death of Hugh Doyle, Doninga. Hugh played for the club for over 30 years spanning four decades, the fifties to the eighties. During that time his commitment and dedication was admirable and an example to all his colleagues. His lifetime dream was fulfilled when he was a member of the Junior football and hurling teams which created history by bringing the first adult championships to the parish in 1982. He was secretary of the club from 1967 to 1983. With his wife Breda, sons, mother, family and friends we mourn his passing. 'Ní bheidh a leitheid ann arís.'

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



Mick Doyle, a member of the All Ireland Masters team.



Syl Hennessy, a member of the All Ireland Masters team.



Hugh Doyle R.I.P.



Paulstown NS

Roinn D Camogie Co. Finalists and O'Loughlins Blitz Winners

Back: Margaret Lennon, Aoife Murphy, Lisa Brennan, Edel Mullins, Sheila Kelly, Niamh Hennessy, Caitriona O'Neill, Claire Brennan, Helena Brennan, Caitriona Bambrick.
Front: Caroline Walsh, Mary Brennan, Sara Brennan, Aisling Kealy, Ruth Attride, Sarah Brophy, Leonie Staunton, Claire Whitely.

BENNETTSBRIDGE

"This one was for the late, great Jim," were the sentiments expressed by the Bennettsbridge captain James McGarry, when he accepted the Pat Tierney Cup from Co. Board Chairman, John Healy, following the club's victory over Thomastown in the Intermediate League final last September. Our second victory in recent years of the Intermediate league was dedicated to the late Jim Dobbyn, a former player, chairman and a trojan worker for the club.

Expectations were high for the championship following this great win but our luck ran out in the quarter final against St. Lachtains. After leading for most of the game, we were very unlucky to concede three goals during a five minute spell late in the contest. The final whistle did not allow us the necessary time to come back.

Bord na nÓg

Bennettsbridge and Danesfort are again amalgamated in the minor grade. This partnership has been working well and great progress has been made this year with very limited numbers.

Coaching in our club has gone from strength to strength thanks to all the willing workers involved. A special word of thanks must go to our schools coach, Georgie Leahy. We have some very encouraging talent in our young teams and the future looks good if we continue with the great work being done by our coaches and selectors.

Congratulations

This year three of our younger members figured prominently with the St. Kieran's College Junior team which won the Leinster Colleges final against Colaiste Eamonn Rís, Callan. Gary Hayes (capt.), Enda Cleere

and John Lennon all played their parts well and are a source of great pride to the club.

Fundraising

Fundraising for the Juvenile Club this season consisted of a Concert in the Community hall, a Cabaret in the Long Man, Kilfane, The Grand National Draw and Flag Day at Nowlan Park.

The Bord na nÓg section of the club would like to thank Pat Dunphy and Barry Hickey for their generous allocation of juvenile passes to games in Croke Park and Thurles.

These enabled us to bring many of our young players to Croke Park, some of them for the first time, days they will never forget.

Finally we sympathise with the Dobbyn family on their sad loss and our condolences go to other families in the parish who were bereaved during the year.



Remember the Team?? Bennettsbridge Senior Champions 1960, 'Bridge 4-5, Glenmore 3-4

Back: S.Treacy, Henry Drea, Larry Cleere, Jimmy Dowling RIP, Frankie Ryan, Liam Cleere, Seamus Cleere, Mick Kelly, Dick Power, Jim Dobbyn RIP, Maurice Walsh RIP (mentor).

Front: Paddy Moran, Liam Hackett, Jim 'Sam' Carroll, Jack Galway, Johnny McGovern, Dick Carroll RIP, Martin Treacy, Mick McCarthy, Tim Kelly RIP.

BLACKS & WHITES

Glory at Last!

October 11th erased the memories of many disappointments and near misses when the Junior hurlers won the championship for the first time in the club's history. The team had an amazing year, winning the ACHL for the second time and the Paddy Cahill Cup. After an indifferent league campaign, only making the playoffs on scoring average, the team went 20 games unbeaten in league, championship and Cahill Cup under trainer Larry O'Neill and selectors, Michael O'Dowd and Seamus Murphy.

The Special Juniors reached the semi-final of the Div. 3 league but lost narrowly to Danesfort and were well beaten in the championship by Tullaroan. The Intermediate footballers made an early exit losing to O'Loughlins and Mooncoin. Our U-21 hurlers performed bravely against Cloneen but lost by five points.

After winning the Shield last year the club again contested the St. Judes All Ireland Junior Sevens. However we were beaten in the Cup by the host club on a 2-3 to 0-6 scoreline. Panel: Michael O'Dowd, Brian Lawlor, James Doran, Peter Farrell, David Murphy, Cathal Moran, Martin Byrne, Peter Cleere, Liam Aylward and Ned Kelly.

Bord na nÓg

It was a good year for the club at underage level. On Camaint final day in Nowlan Park our U-11s had two wins and a draw. The U-12 footballers travelled to Tinahely and beat the home side in a tournament final. They reached the final of the Davy Power Shield losing to Rower-Inistioge.

The U-14s won six games and drew one on their way to the league final, but lost narrowly to Rower-Inistioge. They had a good win in the championship against Barrow Rangers but lost narrowly to Conahy Shamocks. In U-14 football a good opening win over Lisdowney was followed by defeat by Clara.

The U-16s also reached the league final after five wins but

Tullagher/Rosbercon defeated us easily in the final. League form did not show much when Conahy Shamocks defeated us in the championship following a replay.

Our minor hurlers had a poor league campaign before an opening round championship victory over Barrow Rangers, but lost by five points to Cloneen.

County Players in '98

Players from the club on Kilkenny panels during the year were Peter Cleere (U-16 hurling), James Doran, Shane Murphy & Peter Cleere (U-16 Football), Peter Cleere, Shane O'Sullivan & Shane Murphy (U-15 football), James Brennan, Barry Moloney & Michael Doyle (U-14 football). James Doran and Peter Cleere represented North Kilkenny in U-16 hurling.

Club Development

Improvements to the club grounds this year included new entrance gates, central heating in the club rooms, new gangmower shed and

new juvenile goalposts. The Hurlers Co-op Draw was the main source of income. Congratulations to John and Majella Byrne on winning £8,500.

Obituaries

The Davy Power Shield is in memory of one of the club's greatest players who passed away in May '98. The club also lost another great servant in July with the passing of Eddie Doyle. May they rest in peace.



Blacks & Whites Junior Hurling Captain of '98, Michael Doyle, with the Junior Cup, Northern Cup, ACHL and Paddy Cahill Cup.



Blacks & Whites Camaint 1998

Back: John Lawlor, Bríd Doran, Colm Dalton, Michelle Moloney, Denis Brennan, Majella Kelly, Damien O'Dowd, Christopher O'Grady, Peter Cleere, Philip Murphy.

Front: Kevin Barcoe, Richard Barcoe, Paul Murphy, Aidan O'Dowd, Michael Moloney, Robert Kirwan, Padraig Joyce.

CLUB NEWS

CARRICKSHOCK

1998 will be remembered as a very successful year for the club. On the playing fields the club qualified for 12 county finals and so far we have been successful in six.

Adults

Despite losing the County Junior final and the ACHL final our Junior hurlers made great progress in '98. We won the South Junior final and the Carmelite tournament. Our Special Junior team won the league final. Thanks to our dedicated trainer Domo Connolly.

Underage

The U-14's won the Roinn B title and lost narrowly in the football final. The U-16's won a magnificent double, defeating St. Martins in the Championship and League finals. The minor team have qualified for the Roinn C County final. The U-21's were beaten by Piltown in the first round but only after a brave second half performance.

Schools

The U-13's won the Country Cup after a great final with neighbours Ballyhale. They also win the final of the mini sevens in football. Congratulations to Tom Duggan for this great run of success. Thanks to the sponsors of all our teams and club activities during the year.

Emily Puts Hugginstown on the Map!!

The double gold medal success of Emily Maher at the International Youth Olympics in Moscow was the greatest achievement ever by a member of our parish. She struck gold in the 100 and 200 metres and became the toast of the whole country. National and local media



Our main sponsor presents a new set of jerseys to the Club

Denis Doyle (main sponsor), Christy Dwyer (JH capt.), Jimmy Sheehan (treasurer) and Richie Power (chairman).

descended on Hugginstown for the homecoming celebrations which continued for a full week! Congratulations to Emily on her great achievements and on her nomination as Smithwicks 'Athlete of the Year'.

Obituaries

Richard O'Gorman RIP

The sudden and untimely death of Richard O'Gorman last July was greeted with great shock in the parish. Dick was a former hurler and an active club member. He was Chairman of the Field Committee for many years and was always willing to loan

whatever was required for the upkeep of the field. We offer our sympathy to his wife Marie, his mother and all his family.

Neddy Fitzpatrick RIP

Carrickshock lost one of its loyal supporters during the year when Neddy Fitzpatrick passed to his eternal reward. He was always first to pay his membership and following Kilkenny and local teams was his great passion. He was also first to make a contribution to the new Community Centre. What a pity he did not live to see the official opening. We offer sympathy to his wife Kitty and all his family.



Richard O'Gorman RIP



Neddy Fitzpatrick RIP

JOHN HEALY - A JOB WELL DONE.

BY NICKEY BRENNAN

I am sure that when John Healy steps down as Chairman of the Kilkenny GAA County Board at the 1998 Convention, it will be with a some disappointment but certainly with a lot of relief. John will have concluded four eventful years as Chairman of the largest sporting body in the county and no one will begrudge him a well-earned rest. Somehow, though, when you have been involved in the GAA as much as John Healy it is difficult to give up something that has been so much part of your life.

The role of Chairman of the Kilkenny GAA County Board has changed and is continuing to change. The demands on the Chairman's personal time are growing and this despite the fact that roles and tasks are being delegated to other County Board personnel. Regrettably, this may be one of the reasons why the role is becoming less attractive to others in the county.

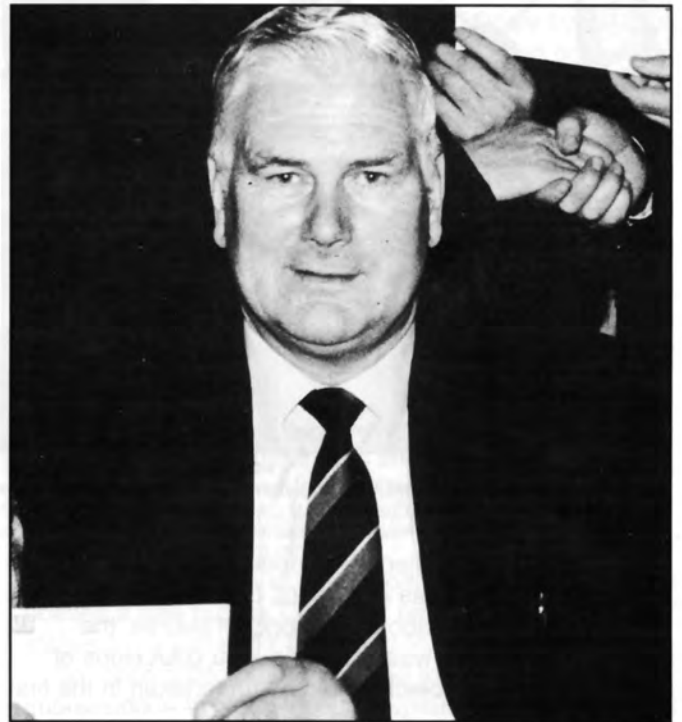
John Healy was born in the parish of Tullogher and continues to live in the homestead with his wife Bridget, daughter Maura and sons Thomas and Sean. John's hurling career brought little reward. He played with Tullogher in two County Junior Hurling Finals in 1969 and 1977, but his parish team lost out on both occasions to Clara. Football brought John's sole club success when Tullogher won the Kilkenny Minor Football championship in the sixties.

Macra na Feirme was a thriving organisation in rural Ireland in the sixties and seventies and this attracted many young men to participate in its various activities, particularly in the field of stock judging. John Healy's presence at Field Evening and other Macra events ensured a significant level of success for himself and his local Macra branch.

If Gaelic Games brought little success to John, the same could not be said of his prowess in the field of Athletics. Walking was John's speciality event and he performed in the highest company, recording many successes along the way.

You would expect most County Board Officers to have come through the ranks of their club structure and so it was with John Healy. He operated in many roles in his club over the years and continues his involvement to the present day, albeit in a reduced role, due his County Board work. When the Southern Board Convention in 1976 went looking for a new Vice Chairman, John Healy answered the call and thus began a long association with that Board. John's role as Vice Chairman extended from 1977 to 1980. At the 1980 Convention, John became Chairman of the Southern Board and remained in the office to the end of 1984.

In 1990 when the Kilkenny County Board decided to restructure its operations, a new position of Vice Chairman was established. John Healy was the choice of the Kilkenny County Convention to be its first Vice Chairman and he remained in the role until the end of 1994. One of the first issues I had to address when I became County Board Chairman myself in 1991, was to



**John Healy, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board
1995 - 1998**

nominate individuals as the Chairmen of key committees. The area of fixtures had always been a contentious issue and I felt the new Games Committee needed an astute and strong-minded individual to handle the many difficulties a comprehensive fixture list demanded. John carried out the job in a fair and even handed manner and clearly set a standard that was long overdue in Kilkenny in the area of fixtures management. The success of John's four years has been carried forward by Ned Quinn to the present day.

My own term as Chairman was very demanding and took place at a time when the GAA both nationally and locally was changing at a rapid pace. I will be forever grateful to John for his loyalty and support during that period.

When I decided my own term as Chairman should come to an end at the 1994 County Board Convention, John Healy was the unanimous choice of the delegates as my replacement. I don't know to this day if John planned at some stage to be Chairman of the County Board but it was an honour well deserved by the Tullogher man.

I was in the fortunate position to be living relatively close to Kilkenny but I don't know how many of the readers have travelled from Tullogher to Kilkenny. Suffice to say I have travelled on better roads. Distance was no deterrent to John Healy as he set a frantic pace managing the affairs of the County Board. The early work in relation to the Nowlan Park took place towards the latter stages of my own Chairmanship, but this mainly dealt with legal matters and planning issues.

The newly re-developed Nowlan Park has given all GAA patrons a stadium of which they can be very proud. I saw at very close hand the painstaking work undertak-



Lory Meagher Museum

Cllr Paddy Millea (Chairman Bród Tullaroan), Duncan Cameron (Camanacht Board, Scotland), Joe McDonagh (Uachtarán CLG), John Healy (Chairman CLG Cill Chainnigh), Jimmy Coogan, Pat Molloy, Gerry Doheny, Paddy Clohessy (All Tullaroan), Tom Ryall (PRO Kilkenny GAA).
Photo Tom Brett

en by John as the project developed. Meetings were taking place by the day as engineers, builders and others had to be consulted about the work. Of course, the biggest undertaking was convincing the GAA clubs of Kilkenny that the project should be undertaken in the first place.

It was far from unanimous that the development should be undertaken. Some expressed serious doubts about the ability of the County Board to undertake the project. The project initially envisaged grew significantly when it became clear that the necessary commitment was forthcoming from the GAA clubs. Once this support was forthcoming, banks and other GAA units had to be approached for the necessary funding. This was a particularly demanding period for John Healy but he undertook the work in a vigorous and energetic manner. The fruits of his labour are now very evident for us all to see. The


Nowlan Park re-development should be a reminder to us all of John's supreme commitment to the project and to the GAA public of Kilkenny. Our main GAA centre in Kilkenny now has more seated accommodation than most grounds in the country. In addition, the new office, Áras Cearbhall, will be a focal centre for all GAA administration in the county in the future.

It is not too difficult to recall the most disappointing issue of John Healy's term as Chairman and it was something he could do little about. Over the past four years Kilkenny inter-county sides have promised much but delivered little. We did manage

to win a couple of Leinster titles, but All-Ireland success eluded Kilkenny over that period, if one excludes the Master side. I know John felt very disappointed at missing out on All-Ireland success. His efforts in supporting all Team Managers (myself included) over the four years deserved to savour the joy of an All-Ireland success for his native county.

Although the curtain may be coming down on John Healy's reign as Kilkenny County Board Chairman, I suspect he will continue to be involved with the GAA at some level. The GAA needs the expertise and astute leadership of people like John Healy and I for one hope he will continue to make himself available to our organisation.

For the moment at least, the road from Kilkenny to Tullagher will be less busy at the midnight hour.




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Brian Cody

Welcoming the Challenge

By *Barrie Henriques*

When Kevin Fennelly announced he was retiring as manager of the Kilkenny senior hurling team, the general consensus, in the media world at least, was that you'd have to be crazy to want to fill his shoes. But Brian Cody, Fennelly's successor, sees things differently and says that he is looking forward to handling the fortunes of the senior team.

The Village man is 44 years of age and has been on the hurling scene in Kilkenny for years, winning All Irelands at minor, under 21, senior and club level in the seventies and eighties. As a primary school teacher, he will have plenty of time on his hands during the summer months to work on the strengths of the hurlers. A morale boost is always necessary for a team that have just come out of losing an All Ireland Final, and Cody is determined to get the players back on their feet. "The development of a strong team spirit is essential to the whole set up. It's vital that we achieve that and everything will be geared towards that".

Brian is used to pressure from a player's point of view, but being manager of the county team is a very different kettle of fish. Hurling jobs don't come much more pressurised than managing the Kilkenny team, a team that is invariably going to receive an enormous amount of media attention, and has an avid following in the county. "Managing is a completely different ball game from playing, You're dealing with the best hurlers in the county, you've all those players at your disposal. I would see it a lot as dealing with, and get-

ting the best out of players. The job is to gel a team together, have them playing for each other. Call it what you like, man management, even," he said.

Despite the fact that Kilkenny teams haven't brought All Ireland cups home in the last few years, Cody is adamant that there is talent in abundance in Kilkenny. "It's a fallacy to say that there isn't talent there, look at the under 21 team of 1988, they got trashed, yet players like Bill Hennessy and Michael Phelan emerged from there. We mightn't have won anything in the last few years but there have been some very good players performing. Even one player can make a huge difference to a team nowadays. If you look at any of the recent club matches, you will see a good blend of players from between the ages of 18 and 32." He also made the point that counties like Offaly and Wexford have not reached success at minor levels in recent years, yet their senior teams have triumphed. "A fella might be 29 years of age and played minor all of eleven years ago. There was a good county final in Kilkenny this year and I think it's fair to say that there have been good county finals over the last few years. To my mind there's enough talent there to get a good team out."



Assuming the Mantle

Brian Cody accepts the Manager's regalia from County Chairman, **John Healy** and **Pat Dunphy**, Secretary, Kilkenny County Board. *Photo Tom Brett*

The backdoor system creates a far more open championship, where no one county really dominates anymore. Personally Brian is against the idea of the backdoor, favouring the more cut and thrust form of championship. He admits however that it generated some great matches. With so many teams capa-

ble of winning an All Ireland final, the question on everyone's lips in Kilkenny is whether Cody can lead them to the McCarthy cup this year. "My real ambition for the team is to win the All Ireland Final, but only one team can do that and there are ferocious candidates out there striving to win. We want to put ourselves in a position where we are capable of winning an All Ireland. That means a skilful team playing good hurling", he said.

However, the game today demands more than just that, as intense physical training has evolved to become the main criteria for success. Clare set the trend a few years back when Ger Loughnane realised that his county lacked the tradition for winning All Irelands. Now almost every county has taken on board the importance of physical fitness. "I suppose it's gone very much like professional soccer in England", Cody said, "you have pre-season training

which is a very important part of building up a whole base of fitness and stamina for the year. I'm no expert at physical training but I have an idea of what's needed. I would see it as an essential for the pre-season stuff. Build up your fitness and strength, then let the hurling take over".

For hurling is, as far as Brian Cody is concerned, top of the menu at the end of the day. "You cannot substitute supreme skill.

Even when Brian Whelahan is sick he can change a whole game around", he said. Skill can play a big part in leading the team to good fortunes this year. The National league in March, and the South Eastern leagues, he believes, are important from the point of view of getting players in the shop window and bringing the team up to the championship. "Success breeds success, and in that way the leagues are important, as they help build the team for the summer."

Brian Cody has undoubtedly taken on an enormous

task, but one that he believes will be enjoyable. His wife, Elsie, played camogie with Wexford, and his two children are both big fans of hurling. Staying out late on the training field in the thick of the season will be

made easier for Brian because of this. He sees hurling as not just a game, but as a way of life for many Irish people. "You meet people from all different places around the country, you meet so many different players and you'll always bump into lads here and there." He feels the key is to enjoy

the game. "sometimes there is no lighter side to hurling, like when you are trying to win an All Ireland Final, and the pressure becomes intense. But it can be hugely enjoyable. None of us would be involved if it wasn't. That's why everyone gets stuck into it. Winning is great at the end of the day and winning is what makes it enjoyable for everybody".

A win in 1999 would certainly bring enjoyment to the followers of the black and amber.



John Walsh (Shamrocks) and **Ger Henderson** (Fenians), Brian Cody's chosen Selectors for the coming year.



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Ballyhale are Féile Champions

Young Shamrocks make it three in a row for Kilkenny

By Joe Dunphy



Ballyhale Shamrocks. Féile na nGael Champions 1998

Back Row: Michael Fitzpatrick, Christy Wemyss, Edward Walsh, Richard Holohan, T.J. Reid, Shane Holden, Michael Carroll, Keith Nolan, Eamonn Walsh, Derek Fitzpatrick, Donal Dempsey, Barry Nolan, Tomas Cullen, Jason Nolan, David Healy.

Front Row: Nicholas Fitzpatrick, Shane Kelly, Eoin Reid, D.J. Molloy, Eamonn Fitzpatrick (Capt), James Connolly, James Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Padraig Holden, Ger Holden, Mark Aylward, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Alan Knox.

The Féile na nGael Show, with all its trappings, moved on to Wexford this year - a most suitable venue for the '98 festival of Under 14 hurling. Kilkenny, in the form of James Stephens and Tullaroan, respectively, had claimed the title in 1996 and 1997.

Ballyhale were victorious in the local competition, the Paddy Grace Tournament. They had qualified to represent Kilkenny in Féile Loch Garman by defeating Piltown, James Stephens, St. Lachtain's and Carrickshock on the way to the Kilkenny final. There, they overcame Dicksboro who had narrowly defeated Tullaroan in the other semi-final. Added to this success, Eoin Reid won the Féile Skills in Kilkenny, but due to his participation in the hurling finals was unable to take part in the national skills competition.

A noteworthy point here too, was that Ballyhale made a little bit of history in the county because the Shamrocks' girls also qualified for the Camogie Féile and we understand that this was the first time the county was represented by one club in one year in both Hurling and Camogie. I'm sure the deeds of the Camogie girls will be penned elsewhere in this yearbook so I will concentrate on the hurling.

Féile is a big undertaking in any club. There is a big money commitment for new gear - jerseys, togs, banners, tops or tracksuits, jumpers, presents for host clubs, transport - all a big undertaking. However, the officers of the Juvenile Committee and the parents of the parish were superb and nothing was too big for these people as they backed a superb panel of youngsters whom we all knew were our once in a lifetime chance of Féile glory.

After all the hard work, the preparation, the training and the fundraising, this band of young hurlers boarded Michael Kilbride's bus on a wintry type of evening - Thursday the 25th.

of June to be exact - and we headed into the unknown. Our destination was Ferns, where the local club were to be our hosts until Sunday evening, and what excellent and warm



Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Captain of the victorious Shamrocks, receives the Christy Ring Trophy at Féile na nGael in Enniscorthy.

hosts they proved to be. On the way down, we talked hurling and hurling strategy, what we hoped for, what was needed, what had to be avoided and we each promised each other to give it our all. There were 20 boys, of necessity, listed in the official panel but our entire Under 14 panel travelled. The back-room team of Michael Hoyne, Michael Fennelly and Sean Reid was for me a very pleasing one as each of the three lads had themselves been Under 14 heroes of school teams in their day - Michael Hoyne as captain of our first final team in 1963 and Sean Reid and Michael Fennelly as members of our first victorious school team in 1966, with the latter Michael as captain. On this occasion, Sean and Michael had sons starring on our Féile team.

The check in was at Enniscorthy and the size of some of the teams on view was awesome. We met old friends from St. Vincent's, Dublin, took a long hard look at our opposition for Friday, struck up immediate friendships with our hosts from Ferns and moved on to our Féile accommodation in the town where hospitality abounded.

On Friday morning, things were hectic. We had an early start versus our hosts, Ferns St. Aidan's. On a beautifully manicured pitch, the Ballyhale boys got into their stride early on and showed some excellent form as they overcame a gallant opposition on a scoreline of 5-6 to 0-2. The entire team played like stars but we were very conscious that the afternoon game versus Glen Rovers of Cork would be a vital clash that would decide whether our interest would continue or not. They came to Féile na nGael as hot favourites in many people's minds but we quietly fancied our chances.

As we made our way to the afternoon venue in Bunclody, the skies opened and what looked a lovely pitch turned out to be very wet and heavy with surface water in many places. Bunclody got the better of Ferns in the opening game by the narrowest of margins and then it was showdown time for us. The pep talk over, the lads took the field and what a revelation it was. There had been a good crowd from Ballyhale in Ferns for the opening game but the reception for the young Shamrocks was something else. More than half the parish was there and people, God bless them all, came from the city, Freshford, Graiguenamanagh, Tullaroan - literally from all over the county - to support the representatives from Kilkenny. And what a match they got. Most people have said it was the best hurling match they saw all year. It had everything. Skill abounded on both sides, there were great scores, defending was also superb, there were great saves and goalmouth incidents and sportsmanship was in great evidence.

Against a stiff breeze in the first half, Ballyhale were first to score and had points from James Fitzpatrick, DJ Molloy (2) and Eoin Reid to keep them a few points ahead at half time. In this first half, Pádraig Holden gave an exhibition of defensive play and his reading of the game and lengthy clearances were of the highest order. Keith Nolan and Ger Holden were also superb and got great assistance from Jason Nolan, David Healy and Derek Fitzpatrick. Behind them James Connolly never put a foot wrong in goal and the three points lead enjoyed at half time was well deserved.

Michael Fennelly and James Fitzpatrick were winning the midfield battle but Glen Rovers were far from dead and only a brilliant save from James Connolly and an equally brave interception from David Healy kept us a goal to the good, 0-6 to 0-3, with time almost up. Then on the stroke of time, Glen Rovers levelled with the only goal of the game - from a placed ball - and many a heart froze. But, in injury time, with the spirit and determination that is typical of the team, James Fitzpatrick and his namesake, Eamonn, the team captain, drove over two fine points to seal victory over a gallant Cork side.

As well as the scorers already mentioned, Mark Aylward, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Shane Kelly, Alan Knox and Eamonn Walsh all played a vital part. A noteworthy point on the final scoreline of Ballyhale 0-8, Glen Rovers 1-3 was that all the Kilkenny scores came from play whereas all the Cork scores were from



Player of the tournament

James Fitzpatrick receives his "Player of the Tournament" award from **Seosamh Mac Donnchadha**, Uachtarán C.L.C.G

frees.

The scenes of excitement after this victory were something and while many felt that this game was the final, we were well aware that there was still stern opposition ahead and that our feet must stay on the ground if we were to complete the job.

Later Friday evening, Ballyhale comfortably saw off Bunclody while the plucky Glen Rovers accounted for Ferns St. Aidan's, leaving the Shamrocks top of the group and into the last four.

The semi-final game was against Tommy Larkin's of Galway. They got off to a great start with an early goal but Ballyhale soon picked off the points and it remained close until Shane Kelly buried a great goal and with further major scores from Mark Aylward and DJ Molloy, the Kilkenny champions ran out winners on a scoreline of 4-8 to 1-2.

This led to the final against Toomevara of Tipperary - famed opposition - and again this proved to be a tense affair. Ballyhale always had that bit extra with James Fitzpatrick and Michael Fennelly taking over in midfield, Keith Nolan and the Holdens in command in defence, and nice points coming from Mark Aylward, Eoin Reid, Shane Kelly, Jamie Fitzpatrick and Eamonn Fitzpatrick, who carried an injury into the final. A great goal from DJ Molloy secured a deserved 1-10 to 1-2 win and a three-in-a-row of Féile na nGael titles for Kilkenny clubs. Surely Kilkenny juvenile hurling must be in a very healthy state.

On Sunday evening, June 28th 1998, the blue riband of Under 14 Hurling - the Christy Ring Trophy - was presented to team captain, Eamonn Fitzpatrick. James Fitzpatrick won the Player of the Competition award and what a popular and deserving winner he was. Indeed many of his teammates, particularly Pádraig Holden, Keith Nolan, Michael Fennelly, Eoin Reid and Ger Holden must also have been serious contenders for this trophy. But, above all, this was a team success.

That night the victorious panel entered the parish of Ballyhale in triumph on John Kenneally's Lorry to a tumultuous reception from the whole parish. It was a fitting finale for a wonderful panel.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone connected in any way with our Féile success and, from me, a special thanks to the three selectors, Michael Hoyne, Michael Fennelly and Sean Reid who invited me to join them and be part of this great occasion.

1998 - That was the Year that Nearly was.

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

Four provincial titles won (senior, minor, under-21 and intermediate), with the senior title captured for the first time in five years. Appearances in three All Ireland finals, the senior one - again - for the first time in five years. All in all, the makings of a very good year in most counties. But not in Kilkenny. Discuss.

It really hangs on one's personal view of things, doesn't it? On whether you're naturally inclined to always look on the bright side of life, to accentuate the positive, or whether you instinctively see the cloud before you notice whatever silver lining is attached. Optimism or pessimism, the glass half-full versus the glass half-empty. Take your pick.

Kevin Fennelly did. "I don't want to travel to Florida with losers," he announced before the Guinness All Ireland final. Not subtle, but not hard to understand what he was on about, either. The man may have had a hand in Kilkenny's first Leinster senior hurling success since 1993, their first September appearance in Croke Park in the same period, but from where Kevin Fennelly was coming, that wasn't enough. Kilkenny are not the possessors of the McCarthy Cup, therefore, in his eyes, 1998 cannot be regarded as a success.

The county minor selectors took their pick too, strongly objecting to the contention (by the present writer, as it happens, not that that's the point) that victory in Leinster for Kilkenny at under-age level is nothing to be proclaiming from the rooftops. Again, easy to see where they were coming from. Any county that secures a quartet of provincial titles in the course of a single summer must be doing something right somewhere along the line.

So which is it? And which was it? A good year, a forgettable year or a bit of both? And what was the nature of the twilight zone into which all of these Kilkenny teams sooner or later disappeared on emerging from their province?

The seniors first. A satisfactory season for them without being quite satisfactory enough, obviously. As a means of uncovering why, consider the following two paragraphs from the comparative 'That Was the Year...' article in the 1997

Yearbook:-

'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 mid-field 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' fourteen. Thirteen versus Clare to their opponents' seventeen: simply insufficient. Not until sixteen or seventeen 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.'

Plus ca change. The points are still not being landed from out the field, a consistently higher yield is still not being returned by the half-forward line, ergo the McCarthy Cup does not rest on Noreside again. QED.



All Eyes on the Ball

Kilkenny's **Andy Comerford** and **PJ Delaney** keep a close eye on Michael Jordan (Wexford) in the NHL game in Nowlan Park. Photo Tom O'Neill

NOT SCORING ENOUGH POINTS

For the purposes of illustration, think back on Kilkenny's scoring totals during 1998, the aberration of the championship opener in Parnell Park excepted. Eleven points against Laois, who were only beaten by Kenny O'Shea's late goal, the winners' third of the afternoon. Ten points in the Leinster final against Offaly, who were only beaten by not one but two goals from near-identical close-in frees - an almost freakish occurrence. Eleven points against Waterford: when was the last time an All Ireland semi-final was won with the derisory score of 1-11 (on a dry day too)? Thirteen against Offaly second time around. In an era when Clare score 20 points to win an All Ireland final (and win it by a mere point),



Above - Up for the Match..... Displaying their colours outside Croke Park were **Sarah McCann**, Lavistown, **Kate Fahy** Haggardsgreen, **Jimmy McCann**, **Eoghan Fahy** and **Declan McCann**. (Kilkenny by adoption - Offaly by origin).

Right - No generation gap... **Ann Purcell**, Mooncoin brought her granddaughter, **Hazel Purcell** on her first visit to Croke Park.

Photos - Tom Brett



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Kilkenny's point scoring continues to fall well below the standard required.

Irrespective of in how unspectacular a manner it might be won, an All Ireland victory is never to be sniffed at. The roll of honour, the bottom line where All Irelands are concerned, does not differentiate between the great McCarthy Cup triumphs and the forgettable ones. If a county can win an All Ireland by doing just about enough in every game, fair play to them. Over the years, we've seen enough teams play exceptionally well in two or three matches in the same championship (Clare this summer being the latest instance), yet still not manage to bring home the silverware that matters most; there's precious little glory in that. With Cork shaping as champions of the not-too-distant future, so golden an opportunity as Kilkenny were presented with in 1998 may not manifest itself again for some considerable time.

All of the above said, dare one go some way towards contradicting it by adding that though Kilkenny supporters would naturally not have turned their noses up at a 26th All Ireland, the less than memorable progress of their heroes to Croke Park in September would have rendered it a slightly unsatisfactory success? Not to the players and the management, of course. Certainly not. But to the supporters and to the hurling world at large. More so than other counties, rightly or wrongly the Black and Amber are supposed to do things in style, with spectacular goals and winged points, with hooks and blocks and flicks and flourishes. In 1998 they didn't.

"Disappointing," as a twenty-something female neighbour of mine remarked the week after the Guinness All Ireland final. "But it's not as if they'd hurled so well throughout the year that it was a tragedy." Nicely phrased. Or to look at it another way, reflect on the number - on the lack of number, rather - of Kilkenny players who were deemed worthy of Eircell All Star nominations. Have any All Ireland finalists ever been so poorly represented before? And is there the slightest reason for these ones to feel in any way hard done by? Willie O'Connor and Charlie Carter were Kilkenny's two cast-iron All Stars. Pat O'Neill was not a million miles away. Most of the rest, however, were not within shouting distance. Not one Kilkenny man featured among the six nominations for the GAA Writers' Player and Young Player of the Year awards, moreover.

That's not to apportion blame, it's simply to call it as it was. But there is more to it than that. The task of doing justice to Kevin Fennelly, his selectors and their charges demands that one truth be trumpeted: Kilkenny were deprived of the ultimate honours in 1998 only at the

death, and only by the luckiest All Ireland champions in living memory. The luckiest All Ireland champions ever, perhaps.

LOADSA LUCK

Offaly's good fortune - and come the evening of September 13th they had proved beyond doubt that they were well worthy of same - began in June in their Leinster semi-final encounter with Wexford, in which they were comprehensively outplayed, might have had two players sent off, unquestionably ought to have had one dismissed, rode their luck and scraped through by means of a late goal. It continued in July with the departure of a manager who had

made the mistake - not for the first time - of imagining that he was bigger than his team. It continued some more by virtue of the get-out-of-jail card the back door system handed them.

It reached dizzying heights in August in the shape of the decisions of Jimmy Cooney in the second of Offaly's three meetings with Clare - not so much the referee's now legendary timekeeping error, more his refusal to send off Michael Duignan for two of the most blatant sending-off offences imaginable at a time when Offaly were trailing badly, and his subsequent benign view of Johnny Pilkington's kick at Niall Gilligan. It didn't stop until the second Sunday of September, when a wing-back in big trouble in his own position was switched up front and turned the Guinness All Ireland final. Hell, even the goal with which Brian Whelahan sealed the destination of the McCarthy Cup arose from a mis-hit by Joe Errity - and this after the wind, having assisted the defeated Leinster finalists in the first half, changed direction at the interval to favour them in the second half too! Faced with so vast a conspiracy by the pro-Offaly fates, what could Kilkenny do?

Not a lot with Michael Phelan injured again and both Shane Prendergast and John Dooley persistently hors de combat. Has the absence of Phelan, the long-wished-for big man to hold up the ball on the edge of the square and a guy capable of taking his point to boot, as he demonstrated late on in the Leinster final, cost Kilkenny one or other of the past two All Irelands? Would Prendergast and/or Dooley have injected the necessary physique and drive into a half-forward line which patently big matches (NHL semi-final, NHL final, four in Munster and two in the All Ireland series) between the first Sunday in May and the third in August, seven of which yours truly attended. Browne was excellent or better in no fewer than five, a record of form that's little short of incredible. Was good in one (versus Kilkenny) and for obvious reasons can't be judged on the Munster final replay.

Next Best: Brian Whelahan. A couple of corking perfor-



John Morgan and Paul Sheflin in action against **Cork** in the All Ireland Minor Final 1998. *Photo Tom Brett*

lacked both? We will never know. All we do know is that the Cats would have been a hardier proposition in attack with one or more of this trio than without. And up front was where the McCarthy Cup was lost.

While comparisons are usually odious, it is not an idle exercise to draw distinctions between the Kilkenny of 1993 and the Kilkenny of 1998. In 1993 a half-back line of Liam Keoghan, an outstanding Pat O'Neill and Willie O'Connor were shovelling clean low ball forward at a rate of knots; in 1998 the equivalent line of Michael Kavanagh (surely an eventual regular in the full-back line rather than the outer line of defence), Canice Brennan and Keoghan were not. In 1993 a midfield pairing of Bill Hennessy and Michael Phelan were winning possession and driving up the field with it; in 1998 the Philip Larkin / Peter Barry partnership were positioned so deep that they couldn't make thrusts from halfway. In 1993 the human whirlwind that was John Power created endless crumbs for DJ Carey, and DJ duly gorged himself; in 1998 Kilkenny had no human whirlwind on the 40'. With Brian McEvoy dropping back to reinforce midfield, they often dispensed with the traditional half-forward three-some altogether, indeed - part of the reason for the lack of points from out the field.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS

An incomparably better team, that of 1993, and the memory of how skilfully and thoughtfully they did what they did has not faded. But 1998 had its memories also. The composure of the teenage Michael Kavanagh. The dignity of Canice Brennan (by the way, did any of the frontal lobotomies who jeered Canice in the past feel even the slightest twinge of guilt after his performance in the All Ireland final and admit they'd done him a fairly disgusting injustice?). Charlie Carter's ongoing evolution into a corner-forward of the highest class. The Kilkenny public's gracious, ungrumbling acceptance of

McCarthy Cup denial at the hands of a team who came through the back door.

Gracious and correctly gracious: all told, it was not a year that repaid much grumbling. The progress made under Nickey Brennan in 1997 continued under Kevin Fennelly in 1998. Kilkenny are close - very close - to the summit once more. The time for the final push has arrived.

A couple of new faces will be required, notably at full-forward and in the middle third of the field. Graigue-Ballycallan's run to the county final marked out the Hoyne brothers as potential stars of the future. It won't be difficult for Kevin Fennelly's successor to draft the pair of them, or Henry Shefflin, into Kilkenny senior ranks, even if all three are a little young yet, Micheál Hoyne especially. But will the new man be capable of more than the obvious? Will he have the gumption to take a chance on the likes of Rory Moore, Sean Kealy, Brian Kelly or Johnny Butler? The imagination to knock on the doors of Diarmuid Maher, Damien Cleere or Ciaran Connery and say, "You were brilliant under-age, you've got lost in the meantime, there's plenty of work to be done on you but hey, let's make a start"? We will see. As noted at the beginning of the article, Kilkenny were Leinster hurling champions in four grades this year. Good for them. But don't ignore the big picture. Three of those teams were beaten in their respective All Ireland finals - the intermediates by five points, the seniors by six, the minors by nine. The under-21s were massacred in their All Ireland semi-final by Galway, who in turn were murdered by Cork in the final. Despite producing the winners of the last three Féilte na nGael, Kilkenny continue to make a negligible impression on the Nenagh Co-op or Tony Forristal tournaments, the All Ireland under-16 and under-14 championships in all but name. Why?

The county minor selectors chose to damn this

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writer's view that Kilkenny don't have to be particularly talented to win under-age Leinster titles as "an insult not only to Kilkenny but to the other counties in the province". Really! So maybe under-age hurling in Leinster is actually at an all-time high and we just didn't notice. Maybe the Offaly minors didn't lose by 16 points to Kilkenny this year or the Offaly under-21s by 20 points (see the previous paragraph for what happened to the Kilkenny under-21s afterwards and for how awful, by implication, their demise left Offaly looking). Maybe Laois didn't score the unprincipled total of 0-1 against Wexford in the 1997 provincial under-21 championship. Maybe Michael Delaney, the Leinster Council secretary, is talking through his cap when he maintains that Kilkenny keep winning provincial under-age titles "without necessarily having to do much".

Or maybe the opposite.

All of this is not to be peddling doom and gloom for no good reason, or to be calling into question the preparations of the various teams. These preparations have to be pretty good, for Kilkenny are clearly doing reasonably well at all levels. No less clearly, they're currently having trouble bridging what has become a gap between the under-age Leinster championships and the under-age All Ireland series. It's going on for six years since the Black and Amber carried off the All Ireland minor crown, and in that period no fewer than three different Munster counties have done so. Precisely what good is the interminable extension of the Noresiders' unbeaten minor run in Leinster - nine in a row and rising - doing Kilkenny themselves, no less than the province in general? Is the county happy to settle for success in Leinster and leave it at that? Are the things that Kilkenny did to win under-age All Irelands a few years ago still sufficient, or has the bar been raised in the meantime and the county hasn't realised it? Or is it basically that the productive years of the early 1990s for minor and under-21 hurling in the county have, as productive years inevitably do, given way to a fallow period?

There is abundant food for thought, for conversation and for debate here. As the local press has never regarded itself as a forum for debate, that leaves Radio Kilkenny. In turn, mention of Radio Kilkenny automatically leads one to think of that storm in a teacup following the defeat of the under-21 team at Semple Stadium in August. It may fairly be said that certain contributions could have been couched in more diplomatic terms - this writer's not least, perhaps. But at least there was a dis-



O'Loughlin Gaels SH Team 1998

Back: Derek Shelley, John Dowling, Barry Power, Joe Daly, Brian Kelly, Mick Doyle, Martin Comerford, Colm Furlong.

Front: Paul Cleere, Philip Holohan, Andy Comerford, Johnny Holohan, Alan Geoghegan, Jimmy Comerford, John Dowling.

Photo Tom O'Neill

cussion, and that's the important bit. When nothing is said, automatically no problems come up for discussion - and without problems being aired, no solutions can be posited.

Let the debate begin.

Time for the McEvoy awards for 1998. They go as follows.

Hurler of the Year: Tony Browne. Appeared in eight mances, a couple of poor ones too. Overall, doesn't match Browne for consistency.

Kilkenny Hurler of the Year: Willie O'Connor. Getting older and, staggeringly, getting better.

Next Best: Charlie Carter.

Match: Offaly v Clare, Semple Stadium, August 29th.

Next best: Offaly v Kilkenny, Croke Park, September 13th.

Worst Match: Offaly v Kilkenny, Croke Park, July 5th.

No argument here. The fact that the pair went on to contest the All Ireland final doesn't change matters one iota.

Goal: Anthony Kirwan for Waterford against Clare early in the second half of the drawn Munster final. Power, pace and precision. Against Brian Lohan!

Point: John Troy for Offaly approaching half-time in the Leinster final. Under pressure, minimal backlift, over the bar. Beautiful economy of effort.

Team: Stephen Byrne (Offaly); Martin Hanamy (Offaly), Sean Cullinane (Waterford), Willie O'Connor (Kilkenny); Stephen Frampton (Waterford), Seanie McMahon (Clare), Kevin Martin (Offaly); Ollie Baker (Clare), Tony Browne (Waterford); Johnny Dooley (Offaly), Michael Duignan (Offaly), Jamesie O'Connor (Clare); Joe Deane (Cork), Brian Whelahan (Offaly), Charlie Carter (Kilkenny).

Oh yes: O'Loughlins. Knocked out the holders Dunnamaggin and lasted longest of the city teams in the county championship. Did flop badly in the replay against Glenmore, but getting so far marked steady progress. Nothing for anybody to be complaining about there.

WATERFORD / KILKENNY RIVALRY TRADITIONAL, FRIENDLY AND ENDURING.

By Pat Fanning

County allegiance is a potent force in the G.A.A. scheme of things. County pride to a great degree, has been nurtured and strengthened through the years by rivalry between counties in the hurling and football arenas. There is more than a grain of truth in the saying: it took a British Act of Parliament to create the counties of Ireland, but it took the G.A.A. to make them permanent!

Well in the world of hurling there are few rivalries to match that which exists between Waterford and Kilkenny, or to be precise, between the adjoining areas of South Kilkenny and the city area of county Waterford.

This past year, the meeting of Kilkenny and Waterford in the All-Ireland semi final was one of the highlights of the G.A.A. year, not just for producing one of the best games but for the enthusiasm and interest generated, particularly on Suirside, that brought families and communities together, and into opposition, in a festival of friendly rivalry that would not be emulated in any other part of the country. As always seems to be the case in championship hurling, Waterford, yet again, brought out the best in their traditional rivals and when Kilkenny went on into the All-Ireland final, they did so with the best wishes of their neighbours and the pledge that, as in '59, there would be "Lá eile ag an bPaorach".

Down the years Kilkenny's phenomenal success in terms of All-Ireland victories has tended to focus national attention on the rivalries with peers such as Cork and Tipperary in the periods when they were in the ascendancy in Munster and Kilkenny were their natural opponents when it came to Croke Park on All-Ireland day. Likewise in Leinster, when Dublin faded in the fifties, the emphasis shifted to the Kilkenny / Wexford rivalry and that has been maintained since.

And yet the Kilkenny / Waterford rivalry which peaked in the years between 1956 and 1966 was every bit as intense as those mentioned and probably more so, as it was deep rooted in the social and economic development of the region that saw the culture of county and city merging over a long period to the modern scenario where education, communication and recreation has all

sections of the community living and working together.

Some things never change, however, and when Kilkenny and Waterford were thrust into direct opposition by fate (and the back door) in this year's All-Ireland semi-final, the prospect initiated a ground swell of enthusiasm and excitement that brought memories flooding back into those who experienced and remembered the great All-Irelands of '57, '59 and '63 while arousing in

the younger generation of Waterford folk feelings of county pride and an awareness of a tradition that had faded through lean years.

That effect on Waterford people was understandable, given the long success starved period since the early sixties, but what was surprising was the reaction in



Paul Flynn (W) races away from Pat O'Neill and Canice Brennan (K) in the All Ireland Semi-final. Photo Sportsfile

Kilkenny to the Suirside rivals meeting in such a game.

Driving through Kilkenny in the lead up to the Leinster final with Offaly and in the weeks following that victory, the almost bizarre lack of interest in the county hurling team was manifest in the absence of the outward trappings of black and amber flags and bunting normally associated with a county bent on All Ireland glory.

Suddenly Waterford were the opponents and the scene had changed. Supporters and colours came out of the closets of South Kilkenny and the weeks before the big game saw a hype to equal that of forty years ago and the pubs, factories, shops and schools on both sides of the Brother Rice bridge echoed the good humoured banter of young and old alike as the past was relived and the present played out.

And why did this meeting of neighbours have such an effect? It was not just because of the events of '57 to '63, the reasons go further back than that.

The hurling tradition, so strong in South Kilkenny since the days of Mooncoin supremacy was always going to rub off on Waterford where the Sportsfield, now Walsh Park, was used to host Kilkenny championship games in the twenties and thirties and numerous youngsters from the county crossed the bridge to the secondary schools of Mount Sion C.B.S. and De La Salle. From the twenties onwards, many hurlers from



Waterford SH Team 1998

Back: Brian Greene, Paul Flynn, Tony Browne, Fergal Hartley, Dan Shanahan, Seán Daly, Anthony Kirwan, Ken McGrath
Front: Brian Flannery, Micheál White, Stephen Frampton, Brendan Landers, Peter Queally, Seán Cullinane, Tom Feeney.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

Slieverue, Mooncoin, Kilmacow and Glenmore played Munster Colleges hurling and some, including former G.A.A. President Paddy Buggy, went on to play in the colleges interprovincials.

Each decade has thrown up many players from Waterford and Kilkenny who played alongside each other at school and against each other for club and county on both sides of the Suir. Indeed it would be a very interesting exercise for some local hurling historian to compile the names of those who made their mark on both sides of the river Suir with school, club and county. Here, space and time allows but mention of a few as examples.

In the thirties Jim Phelan of Ballyragget spent many of his school years in Mount Sion while living with relations in Waterford, playing Harty Cup hurling in the company of great players such as John Keane before returning home to win an All-Ireland medal in 1939. Perhaps the best known player of the time to make the river crossing was Locky Byrne who, having won an All-

Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 1935, played for Waterford in the 1938 final against Dublin.

That Byrne achieved that distinction was down to the "Ferrybank factor" that for many years allowed a person living in the borough of Waterford city, north of the Suir, to choose allegiance to the Waterford or Kilkenny cham-

pionships and to assist either county in any one year. Locky Byrne was born in the Glen in Waterford and lived in Sallypark when assisting Kilkenny in the 1935 championship. As a hurler with Mount Sion he played a leading role in the clubs first championship win in 1938, going on to three in a row before dying in his prime in 1941.

The Heffernan brothers of Glenmore, Jimmy and Mickey, were

others who played in Mount Sion, with Jimmy winning his All-Ireland medal in 1947 for Kilkenny while Mickey had the distinction of playing at club and intercounty levels in three counties, with Glenmore and Kilkenny, New Ross O'Hanrahans and Wexford, and Mount Sion and Waterford.



Willie O'Connor under pressure from Waterford's **Gerry Kirwan** and **Dan Shanahan** in the All Ireland Semi-Final. Giving Willie a hand is **Liam Keoghan**.

Photo: Sportsfile

When Waterford and Kilkenny met in the All-Ireland final of 1957, Paddy Buggy of Slieverue found himself lined up against a number of players with whom he had played while attending school in Mount Sion.

Club Rivals:

At club level down the years rivalry between Waterford city teams and the South Kilkenny clubs was particularly intense. The great Waterford Erin's Own team of the twenties and thirties swept all opposition aside in Waterford and found real tests against the great club teams of the era in Kilkenny such as Mooncoin and Tullaroan.

The forties and early fifties saw some memorable clashes between Mount Sion and Jimmy Langton's Éire Óg while the rivalry between the Waterford champions and Kilkenny king pins Bennettsbridge in the fifties and early sixties packed tournament venues in Kilkenny and Waterford putting many a brick into a new parish church or developing a new club ground. It has been suggested that the biggest crowd ever at the club tournament game was present in Dunhill when Mount Sion and the "Bridge" produced a hurling classic in the final of the 1960 tournament.

In that great era of the hurling tournament, Waterford clubs, Mount Sion and Erin's Own, were always available for events in Slieverue, Mooncoin, Kilmacow, Dunamaggin and Piltown while a young Ballygunner club in the fifties began its rise to prominence gaining valuable experience on the fields of South Kilkenny.

The Factory Leagues:

The other level at which Waterford and Kilkenny rivalry and friendship went side by side was in the Factory Leagues of the fifties and sixties. In these days of county leagues and league championships, people would find it hard to imagine the impact made by the Waterford Factory Hurling League on the players and supporters of that time.

Big employers such as Clover Meats, National Board and Papermills at Grannagh, Waterford Ironfounders, Waterford Glass and other groupings such as Printers, Builders and Commercial, and Public Authorities fielded amazingly strong teams drawn mainly from the top clubs

in Waterford and South Kilkenny with club and county rivals playing side by side and in opposition. After such games it was handshakes, most times, and back to club or county the following Sunday.

Forty years ago Martin Óg Morrissey and John Barron, two Waterford players with strong Kilkenny connections, played beside John Sutton for Clover Meats as did Paddy Buggy play alongside Seamus Power for Public Authorities before and after meeting in All-Ireland finals. Mickey Walsh of Slieverue played for Kilkenny in the '59 decider and came on as a sub for Waterford in the 1963 All-Ireland. So it goes on, rivalry and friendship, colleagues and opponents.

College Connections:

Today things have not really changed. Third level colleges bring players together from all counties and at Waterford Institute of Technology, formally Waterford R.T.C, hurling forms a great bond between students. Kilkenny's P.J Delaney and Brian Flannery of Waterford shared rooms while students at the college while Andy Comerford also won a Fitzgibbon Cup medal in 1992 with the college. More recently, Peter Barry figured on college teams with Ken McGrath and Anthony Kirwan while Michael Kavanagh was one of the stars on the W.I.T. team that won the Freshers All-Ireland this year for the third year in a row. In the underage groups many Kilkenny players have made their mark with the Waterford college. As times change the Waterford / Kilkenny rivalry remains constant.

The "craic" as we know it was great this year for both counties and the scenes in Ferrybank in the lead up to the semi final last August were savoured and will long be remembered. In Waterford we will hope that this is the start of an era such as began with the All-Ireland against Kilkenny in 1957 and we know that is a sentiment shared by many Kilkenny people. That fact was brought home when, in 1992, Waterford beat Offaly in Nowlan Park to win the All-Ireland U-21 final and all the way back to Waterford, through Ballyhale, Mullinavat and Dunkitt, people came out to offer congratulations. Hurling needs such rivalry as exists between Waterford and Kilkenny. Long may it last.

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Mol an Óige, how are ya!!

Joe Dunphy, Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

Tá an seanfhocal sa Ghaeilge, “Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh siad”. “Moladh” in Irish means praise or encouragement and it is obvious that C.L.C.G. has heard the seanfhocal and in fairness has made a token effort to heed it.

Ach tá ráiteas sa Bhéarla freisin a deir, “Damn with faint praise” agus ba chóir féachaint chuige nach é sin a dhéanamí. Mar, go dtí seo tá an óige ag teacht - through club efforts they are coming in big numbers to our big games in Croke Park, but how long will they continue to be attracted to the second rate seats offered to clubs and parents who wish to bring their children to our showpieces. Má's mian linn na daoine óga - ógánaigh na hÉireann - a bheith i láthair sna blianta at-romhainn, and they are our future, our players and legislators, we must treat them better. Otherwise we might lament getting our priorities wrong and be made to take note of another seanfhocal, a deir, “Ní bhíonn in aon rud ach seal”.

Cheap mé i mbliana that perhaps the “cúpla focal” might be read more readily than alt iomlán as Gaeilge.

Ba bhreá liom bhúr dtuairimí a chlos and all comments, favourable or otherwise, will be welcomed.

As Oifigeach na Gaeilge, it has been my pleasure to again promote Scoláireachtaí De Bhaldráithe to Coláiste na Rinne. Chuir slua mór, a great number of entries, isteach ar na Scoláireachtaí seo and this years lucky winners were Emmet Costigan, Threecastles, Brian Hennessy, Windgap, Gary Treacy, Inistioge, Geraldine Holohan, Goresbridge, Ann Marie Kelly, Johnswell Road and Michelle Culleton, Templeorum.

At the annual reception i “Shems” i Sráid Eoin, the scholarships were presented by Briain De Bhaldráithe, mac Thomáis, nach maireann. Ár mbulochas le Liam Suipéal, Bainisteoir Coláiste na Rinne, who attended the occasion and a big “Go raibh maith agaibh” to the County Board, The Northern and Southern Boards and Bord na nÓg a chuireann na scoláireachtaí ar fáil.

As Irish Officer, I hope this worthy venture will continue sa bhliain seo chugainn agus le fada an lá. Slán tamail.



Pictured at the presentation of the Scolaireachtaí de Bhaldráithe in June.

Back Row Emmet Ó Costigáin (Babhún Ó nDuach), Brian Mac Aonghusa Bearna na Gaoithe, Gearóidín Ní hUallacheain Cois Bearbha, Áine Máire Ní Cheallaigh, Cill Chainnigh, Michelle Ní Chodlatáin, Teampall Fhothram, and Garra Ó Treasaigh Inis Tióg.

Front Row: Seosamh Ó Donncha (Oifigeach na Gaeilge), Pádraigh Ó Donnchú (Rúnaí, Coiste Chontae), Liam SuipÉal (Bainisteoir, Coláiste na Rinne) and Seosamh Pyke (Cathaoirleach, Bord na nÓg)

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HURLING, THE UPS AND DOWNS - TWO MEMORIES

By: Gerry Moran

smooth. We had babes in arms, men in soft hats, women in macs There were kids on shoulders, chaps on pillars, folks hanging from windows and the rest of us, stretching and straining to get a look. We had go-cars, bicycles, prams, even skateboards. The only thing missing was the kitchen-sink. And, of course, black and amber everywhere, banners, scarves, jerseys and hats. We had cameras flashing, people pushing, passions stirring and emotions running high. Palm Sunday had nothing on our demi-gods re-entry to the city. No green fronds were strewn before them but the green, white and gold of our majorettes and the festive reverberations of Saint Patrick's Brass ~ Reed Pipe Band. The Courthouse was like the storming of the Bastille all over again as black and amber clad fans scaled windows and walls in an attempt to glimpse their long-awaited, returned warriors. The city Sanhedrin were there, bedecked in robes of royal red and

AMBERAMMERGAU !

(September, 1979. Monday Night (night of the Homecoming)

Once every ten years a quiet village in Bavaria bursts into life, erupts into drama and pageant as the populace re-enacts the last week of Christ's life on earth. This is the Passion Play, the place is Oberammergau and the staging of the event is something very precious and special. Once in a lifetime, and only once, can a city welcome home the McCarthy Cup and its gallant guardians, for the twenty first time. This Monday night that privilege was ours. This was our Passion Play, our AMBERAMMERGAU and the event was truly something very precious and special indeed.

Hurling tonight was our play, our passion. The limelight, of course, belonged to our fifteen stalwart seniors who had just defeated Galway, 2 - 12 to 1 - 8 to come of age in this our national game. The limelight surely belonged to our hurling heroes but the night belonged to us all. One and all participated in this pageant, policeman, publican, passer-by and yes, they also served, who only stood and waited. From John Street to the Parade and from there to Irishtown, the streets were choc-a-bloc with eager-eyed fans, anxious to catch a glimpse of their heroes: "Chunky", "Cloney", "Fan", Joe Hennessy, Frank Cummins, Billy Fitz.

The good, the bad, the ugly, the pretty and the plain, they all were there, the denimed, dark suited, wrinkled and



Smiles Turn Upside-down!

(Photos - Tom Brett)

Changing expressions on the faces of Kilkenny Supporters as All Ireland 1998 began to slip away.



black their glittering chains of office evoking an atmosphere of power, pomp and glory.

The inevitable speeches and backslapping ensued but the crowd were not appeased, they wanted their "Jesus", not to crucify, but to crown. "Chunky..Chunky..Chunky". came the chant.."Chunky..Chunky..Chunky" until, at last, their god was delivered up to them. What a pity Pontius

Pilate hadn't a "Chunky" O'Brien to offer to the rabble instead of a Barabbas. They would have taken him to their bosoms, raised him shoulder-high and completely forgotten about the one who called himself God. The thought occurs to me that, had they hurling in Palestine, Jesus might never have been crucified.

Then the aftermath, the crowd winding its murmuring way home, spilling into chippers and pubs, the merriment and merry making, the black and amber liquor flowing down, smoothing throats, loosening tongues. The song and dance, chatter and talk late into the night, the clock ticking quietly away, totally unaware that tonight, for the twenty first time, the McCarthy Cup, the Holy Grail of Hurling, is ours.

BLACK & AMBER BLUES

(September 1998, Sunday Night (night of the Hurling All-Ireland)

Hard to write when the heart is heavy. Hard to write when the heart is like a lead ball in your chest, with only one way to go - down. Down. Down. To the very tips of your toes. In fact, I'm not so sure I have a heart right now. I'm not so sure but I lost it, let it slump from my body as my son and I, slouched towards our car, the deafening cheers of jubilant Offaly supporters, ringing in our ears behind us.

I hate that walk to me car. The walk of defeat. Head down. Shoulders bent. Gait slow. Spring gone from our step. Cup gone from our grasp. Team colours mocking you, burning into you like an unwanted stigmata. I really didn't want to get into that car. I wanted to keep on walking. Off the face of the earth, or at least out of earshot of me Offaly supporters whose thunderous cheers told me that they were lifting the McCarthy Cup now. The McCarthy Cup that could have been ours. The Holy Grail of Hurling, for which we've thirsted, these five long, dry years. And now the drought continues. And what a drought, this Second Sunday in September. Two finals and we come away with both hands hanging.

On that long, drive home, I avert my gaze from the Offaly cars, beeping and hooting every KK Registration they pass, colours flying, as they whiz towards Birr, the buzz, the craic and the recalling and recounting of every puck and catch of today's game.

The car-radio is full of it. Interviews with every Tom,

Dick and Dooley from the Faithful County. I can't stomach it. We switch to Atlantic 252, a station guaranteed NOT to mention sport. And what do I hear? Some invidious, pop-song, beating out a chorus of "DJ DJ DJ" All to do with some Disc Jockey or other, but the irony struck home. We switch off and settle for silence instead.

And as if that wasn't enough, driving through Inchicore I spy, out of the corner of my eye, a little take away, called..D.J's. Damn it, there's no escape. The Fates were definitely conspiring against us today.

As we near Kilkenny I stop off at the Fox ~ Goose for a pint and to impart to my son a little of his family history (any old excuse, says you). Two gulps into my pint and he lands himself a game of pool with some youngster and duly loses. Definitely not our day. And as I sip my pint, I read the following on their menu:

"Not responsible for lost or stolen articles, rainy days, long queues at the movies, potholes in Kilkenny, delayed flights, bad hangovers or Kilkenny not winning the All-Ireland..". Oh God.

The two pints didn't come near drowning my sorrows. A barrel of beer couldn't drown them. The entire stock of Smithwick's Brewery couldn't. But we have homes to go to and bellies to fill with a bit of grub.

In the chipper I am flanked by two people I have a nodding acquaintance with. One nods to me with a knowing look that says: "we won't even talk about it". And we don't. Instead, we queue there in a state of silent, mutual mourning. The other, however, for some bizarre reason, is quite chirpy.

"I had me doubts", he tells me. "Had me doubts all week..I even said it to the boys". I want to shove a black pudding in his face. Goddam it, we all had our doubts. But we also had that innate Kilkenny belief - that quiet optimism, that we could do it. Just as we had done twenty five times before.

In fairness to my man, however, he was good-humoured about it all and lifted my spirits a little. At one stage I had to ask him was he actually from Kilkenny, as he seemed immune to the doom and gloom that was down like a thick November fog on the city. "God I am", he smiled. And then his parting shot:"But sure you know us...we'll be back". Christ I hope so because the way I'm feeling now, I wouldn't be surprised if it's the grandson I'll be bringing to the next Kilkenny All Ireland Hurling Final.

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CLUB NEWS

CARRIGEEN

A Busy Year

The past year was an active one for the club. The first event to take place was our annual social in The Royal Oak. A large crowd attended a very successful function. Our Senior Scór team represented the county in the Leinster semi-finals and the novelty act team qualified for the Leinster final in the Dun Mhuire Theatre, Wexford. Despite an excellent performance the team failed to make the All Ireland Final.

On the Fields

Our hurlers competed in the Junior B and U-21 Championships and league. A strong John Lockes team beat us in the championship after a hard fought contest. We also failed to make progress in the league, though a good effort was put in by most of the panel under team manager Mickey Lannon.

Talent Competition

The highlight of the year was the organisation of a talent competition in September. This venture was the most successful fundraising event in many years. Club member Wally Morahan and

Pat Kearns, of poetry fame, teamed up to spearhead the competition and succeeded in obtaining the services of 52 top class performers from the South East. The outright winner was Michael Quirke from Fiddown. Many thanks to all the sponsors, in particular local businessman Willie Foran of WF Installations, our main sponsor. Thanks also to Waterford Crystal who presented a large trophy to the winner.

Thanks to All

The club would also like to thank all those who supported 'Play for the Park' Lotto each week. Thanks also to lotto sellers for their commitment to a difficult job. The committee must also be praised for their hard work during the year and also the various Board delegates, gate collectors, referees, umpires and linesmen for their commitment to the county's needs whenever called.



Willie Foran of WI Installations presents sponsorship for the Carrigeen GAA talent competition to Wally Morahan and Pat Kearns.



Pat Dalton Carrigeen GAA Club
Winner - Recitation
Kilkenny GAA Scór '98



Carrigeen Novelty Act - Leinster Finalists Scór '98
Tina Dalton, Jim Kearns, Pat Dunphy, Therese Moore, Seamus Kearns, John Gallagher, Paddy Power.

CLARA

Community Games

Clara/Muckalee won their fourth Kilkenny Community Games football title in a row defeating Tullogher by 6-2 to nil. They went on to defeat Graiguecullen and the Louth champions but narrowly lost to Stradbally (Laois) in the Leinster final. Team: John Prendergast, Conor Kelly, Noel Darcy, Jamie O'Brien, Roderick Hogan, Patrick Nolan, Declan Rafter, James Nolan, Brian O'Shea, Tom Langton, Fionn Lawlor, Ciaran Brennan, Liam Ryan, Colin McGrath, David Langton. Subs: Stephen Quinlan, Conor Phelan, Kevin Nowlan, Darren Holohan, Sean Ryan, Tom Ryan, Thomas Breen, Nicky Langton.

U-10 Hurling

Clara won the Judge Comerford Memorial Tournament, defeating St. Martins, Conahy Shamrocks, and Erins Own on the way. Panel: John Prendergast, Michael McDonald, Sean O'Shea, Tom Langton, Lester Ryan, Brian O'Shea, James Nolan, David Langton, Martin Meaney, Liam Ryan, Conor Phelan, Declan Rafter, Stephen Quinlan, Kevin Nolan, Nicky Langton, Tom Ryan.

U-11 Camaint

In the U-11 Camaint competition Clara played Conahy Shamrocks, Blacks & Whites, Erins Own, St. Martins, James Stephens B, O'Loughlins B, Dicksboro and Young Irelands. Panel: Lester Ryan, Michael McDonald, John Prendergast, Elaine Nolan, Sean O'Shea, Shane Prendergast, Declan

Rafter, Tom Langton, Eoin O'Shea, James Nolan, Sean Murphy, Liam Ryan, Martin Meaney, Neal Prendergast, David Langton, Brian O'Shea.

U-14

Clara headed the Roinn C league with victories over Young Irelands, Danesfort, Bennettsbridge and Barrow Rangers. They made heavy weather of the quarter final game against Conahy before scraping through. However luck ran out in the semi-final against Blacks & Whites when without Liam Ryan we lost by a single point. Clara played in the Roinn B Championship and found the going very tough, our only victory being against Erins Own.

We had a great run in the football championship defeating Conahy Shamrocks, Young Irelands and Blacks & Whites to qualify for the Northern final. But Railyard proved superior on the day and ran out easy winners. Panel: Patrick Foley, Niall Costigan, David Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, Neal Prendergast, John Murphy, Denis Tobin, Ciaran Kirwan, Shane Murphy, Austin Murphy, John Brennan, Mark Drennan, Sean Murphy, Michael Bergin, Liam Ryan, Fintan Brennan, Michael McDonald and Lester Ryan.

U-16 Hurling and Football

Clara playing in the Roinn B league defeated St. Particks, Erins Own, St. Lachtains and Lisdowney before defeating James Stephens II in the quarter final. But all conquer

ing Carrickshock decisively beat us in the semi-final.

In the Championship we did not reproduce our league form and despite a great rally in the final quarter lost to Bennettsbridge, who recorded their first victory over us in some years. In football Clara were defeated by Lisdowney in the first round. Panel: Michael Barcoe, David Prendergast, John Phelan, Paddy Brennan, Jack O'Keeffe, Fintan Treacy, John Murphy, Tom Brennan, Ger Prendergast, Kieran Tobin, Conor Phelan, Fergus Knox, Liam Ryan, John Nolan, Dermot Nolan, Eamon Kealy, Derek Knox, Mark Drennan, Shane Murphy and John Brennan.

Minor Hurling

Clara played in Div. IV defeating Cloneen, St. Martins, Barrow Rangers, Conahy Shamrocks and James Stephens and defeated Carrickshock in the league semi-final. In the championship Clara defeated Erins Own but were defeated by Tullaroan in the second round. Panel: Michael Barcoe, Fintan Treacy, Martin Prendergast, John Prendergast, Adrian Fitzpatrick, Richie Nolan, TJ Fitzgerald, Brian Phelan, Patrick Langton, Gerry Byrne, David Mulrooney, Declan Meaney, John Brennan, Fergus Knox, Noel Hoyne, Tom Brennan, Mark Shortall, Tommy Dowling, Conor Phelan, Dermot Nolan, John Phelan.

Clara U-10 Hurling team Winners

Judge Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament

Back: Christopher Cody, James Nolan, David Langton, Lester Ryan, Martin Meaney, John Prendergast.

Middle: Brian O'Shea, Liam Ryan, Séan O'Shea, Conor Phelan, Nicky Langton, Declan Rafter.

Front: Tom Langton, Tom Ryan, Kevin Nolan, Michael McDonald, Stephen Quinlan, Tomás Armitage.



CLONEEN

Major Developments

Another year of near misses for the babe club from the Northern tip of the county, yet Cloneen Hurling Club continues to make steady progress. Starting the final year of the millenium, the compact club is well into planning for 2000 A.D. and beyond.

Development Plans

The major development plan undertaken in 1997 consists of a new playing pitch, a fully functional clubhouse and a 40 x 20 handball alley. The first problem facing the club officers was to secure sufficient land on which to locate their project.

Back to the Drawing Board

There was universal disappointment when at auction, a very suitable patch of land was sold as part of a bigger package and went out of reach of those who had formulated a progressive plan for Parish development, of which, Cloneen H.C. was to be a major player.

Not to be beaten, the club officers put their heads together and quickly put another idea in motion. Approaching two owners of small land holdings they sur-

prised even their fellow committee members when they outlined the package which they had put together.

Co-operation

With the co-operation of the Parish Finance Committee, The Colliery Heritage Group and Kilkenny County Council a deal was struck which to the less discerning might not have seemed impressive. However, in a very short time, the fruits of their foresight are very evident.

A New Pitch!

Fourteen families recently moved into their new homes built by Respond on part of the site while space has been made available for a small enterprise centre and of course, Cloneen Hurling Club have completed phase 1, their new pitch. Onlookers continually remark about the excellent playing surface which will soon be second to none. While dressing facilities are a little further off, club officials confirmed that home games in the All County League will be played at the venue in 1999.

What at one stage seemed a very serious obstacle was over-

come when the river running alongside the pitch began to cause concern. A decision was taken that this problem would have to be sorted and now there is no sign of the river. It ambles on its merry way underground through two large ducts, thus providing added safety and a further 12 feet of valuable width to the excellent playing pitch.

New Venue

Railyard G.F.C. who have a magnificent facility in Moneenroe, have for years had problems with their playing surface, have decided to attack this problem in the near future. The Cloneen Club has invited its sister club to move its activities to the new pitch in Clogh, will result in a hive of activity in the new Spring.

Two County Finals

Two Cloneen teams reached their respective county finals in Roinn C during recent months. The U-14 side must rank as the hard luck team of the year. After a great performance they came so close to defeating an excellent Slieverue side. The -U21 side reached their 3rd final in a row when, after a great game, they lost to Danesfort by 0-13 to 1-6.

Cloneen Camaint 1998

Back: Larry Brennan (mentor), Ian Brennan, Oisín Kavanagh, Aiofe Brennan, Eoghan McDonald, Noel Phelan, Christopher Clancy, Gavin Dowd, Paraic Dowd, Timmy Wilson (mentor).

Front: Gary Delaney, Charlie Cook, Marie Therese O'Neill, Harry Cooke, Shane Delaney, Dean Wilson, Harry Phelan.

In Front: Breanáinn Buggy.



Conahy Shamrocks

After a twenty two year period which saw the club operate in the Intermediate and Senior Hurling grades at various times, Conahy Shamrocks return to the Junior Hurling grade in 1999 as a result of losing their relegation battle in the Intermediate grade this year. The team's performances in the League this year were very good, the same could certainly not be said of the championship campaign.

The team opened impressively against St. Lachtains (Freshford) and further victories were secured against Tullogher Rosbercon and Graiguenamanagh. Narrow defeats against Thomastown and Bennettsbridge meant the team just missed out on reaching the League Semi-Finals on scoring average. Conahy faced Clara in the opening round of the championship and right from this game it was downhill all the way. The side's displays in the Clara game and in the subsequent relegation clashes against Graiguenamanagh and Piltown were in sharp contrast to the performances during the League. The Conahy Intermediate footballers had a dreadful year losing all their games.

SPECIAL JUNIOR

The Special Junior hurlers had another outstanding year reaching the County Final. Conahy scored impressive wins over Threecastles and St. Martins in the Northern campaign but were no match for a star studded Glenmore in the County Final.

Apart from one defeat against St. Martins, the Special Junior side went undefeated through the Northern Division II League. A good display against Tullaroan ensured a Northern Final place against James Stephens but the side lost this game after waiting many weeks for it to be played. The Under 21 hurlers made a disappointing exit in the first round at the hands of Lisdowney.

MINORS

The Minor hurlers had a magnificent year winning the championship at the third attempt. The League campaign was used to good effect by the team mentors to prepare the side for the championship. Conahy met St. Martins in the championship and the sides played a very exciting draw in Ballyragget. St. Martins made all the early running but Conahy staged a powerful second half recovery. It took a late point from St. Martins to grab a draw. The replay never reached the same heights as the drawn game as Conahy took firm control from an early stage. Cloneen provided the opposition in the Northern Final and after the sides were evenly matched in the early stages, Conahy eventually ran out comprehensive winners.

Carrickshock provided the opposition in the county final and following a superb game it took a late point from a free from team captain Conor Brennan to secure a famous victory.

UNDER 16

The Under 16 Hurling and Football sides enjoyed a good year. The hurlers had a mediocre league campaign but managed a number of good championship victories to reach the Northern Final where they lost out by the narrowest of margins to Galmoy. The footballers won their first round game against St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) but came a cropper against Bennettsbridge in the second round.

UNDER 14

The Under 14 hurlers also reached the Northern Final after a number of promising displays along the way. Cloneen provided the opposition and Conahy could not cope with the physical presence of their opponents.

SCHOOL TEAMS

The Cumann na mBunscoileanna hurlers reached the championship quarter-final but gave a disappointing display against Bennettsbridge. The football side provided the real high-

light of the year with an historic victory in the Roinn "C" championship. Victories over Windgap, Danesfort and Slieverue saw Conahy defeat Slieverue once again in the county semi-final. A superb second half recovery saw Conahy avenge an earlier league defeat by Bennettsbridge to secure a first ever Schools Football title.

UNDER 10'S

The Under 10 hurlers had a great season with the annual Jim Comerford Memorial competition which was played on a league basis this year. The side played a thrilling Semi-Final against Clara and only lost out narrowly when the winners grabbed a brace of late goals. The installation of large netting behind both goals at the Polo Grounds was very welcome, while the entrance and most of the area inside was lain with tarmacadam. This work has greatly enhanced the appearance of the Polo Grounds.

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Club players again played significant roles with Kilkenny teams during the past year. Canice Brennan silenced his critics from 1997 with a number of outstanding displays for the Kilkenny Senior hurlers. John Brennan won a Leinster Championship medal with the Kilkenny Under 21 hurlers, while Ciarán Connery was a substitute on the Kilkenny Intermediate side which lost to Limerick in the All-Ireland Final and came on for an injured colleague in the first half.

Darragh Connery played with the North Kilkenny Minor hurlers, while Niall Burke and Patrick O'Neill had a number of outings with the Kilkenny Minor Footballers. Peter Dollard played with the Kilkenny Under 12 side which took part in the annual hurling/shinty festival in Scotland. The only All-Ireland medal to come to the club in 1998 was won by Kieran Brennan who played a prominent role with the Kilkenny Masters in their exciting victory over Tipperary.

DANESFORT

Officers 1998

Presidents: Mgr. M. Campion, Mgr. J. Carey, Paddy Nolan, Jimmy Byrne.

Chairman: Dick Mahony

Vice-Chair: John Joe Kenny

Secretary: Finbar Kelly

Asst. Secretary: Maurice Woodcock

Treasurer: Tommy Murphy

Asst. Treas.: Maurice Woodcock

PRO: John Joe Kenny

Groundsman: Jimmy Cahill

Co. Board Delegate: Pat O'Neill

North. Board Delegates: Tom Mahony, Shane Sinnott.

Club Success

Two very good wins for the club this year included the performance of the Special Juniors who won the Barlo Nissan Div. 3 League accounting for a strong O'Loughlins side in the final. Selectors for this team were

Dick Mahony, Pat Hayes and Pat Forristal.

The U-21's had an excellent win over Cloneen in the final of the C Championship.

Official Opening

The highlight of 1998 for the whole club had to be the official opening of the grounds and club house by Co. Board Chairman, John Healy. Kilkenny and Tipperary played a very entertaining challenge in front of a huge crowd.

Best Wishes

The members of every club who have used our facilities will know Jimmy Cahill, famous for his hard work and dedication to maintaining our playing surface. Unfortunately Jimmy was taken ill recently. However the good news is that he is making good progress and it is hoped that when grasscutting time comes around again, he will be aboard

the Ferguson and the field will be returned to its former glory!

Junior Affairs

The Juniors who had mixed fortunes in the ACHL, missed out by the narrowest of margins for a semi-final spot. In the championship first round Emeralds proved too strong in the final ten minutes. The loss of some key players due to emigration made coach Georgie Leahy's job all the more difficult.

Despite a great effort by players and officials the Junior footballers were beaten by a strong Young Irelands outfit in the Northern Final. The selectors were Paschal Slattery, Mick O'Hanrahan and Finbar Kelly.

The arrangement to amalgamate with Bennettsbridge at minor level again has proved a very successful venture for both clubs. All must be highly commended for the co-operation shown.



Danesfort Special Juniors, Div. 3 League Champions

Back: Dick Mahony (selector), Pat Forristal (selector), Frank Minogue, Paul Cunningham, JJ Drennan, Paschal Slattery, Shane Sinnott, Tony Woodcock, Alan Pembroke, John Davis, James Stapleton, David Forristal, Pat Cahill, Tim Murphy, Pat Hayes (selector).

Front: Maurice Barden, Tom Murphy, Pat Murphy, Brendan Donohue, Pat Kenny, Fergal Doyle, Derek Dooley, Finbar Kelly (capt.), Eamon Barden, Vinny Walsh.

DICKSBORO

Development

1998 has seen two major pieces of development work in the club. A barrier has been erected between the two pitches. This allows spectators who wish to stand on the far side of the main pitch to rest themselves as they keep an eye on the games in progress. Hopefully this new barrier added to the bank on the road side of the pitch will make Palmerstown a better venue for spectators.

Signs are been added to the barrier to give the main pitch a more enclosed feel, hopefully defining the pitch in a more obvious way.

The second task undertaken by the development committee under Chairman, Shem Tynan, is a widening of the road outside the ground. The main road to Palmerstown has been developed this year by the County Council and this extra work undertaken by the club should make for easier access to the venue. Well done to the development committee for all their good work during the year.

Friendly Juveniles

Added to the many League and Championship games, street leagues and training sessions, the younger members of the club played a whole host of "friendlies". These involved visitors to Palmerstown and visits away by the club. The list makes for substantial reading! The major movers were the U-14 and 13s, but the U-12's and 10's

also got in on the act. Visitors included Ballyboden-St. Enda's (twice), Rathnure and Raparees and Fingallians of Dublin. The teams frequently travelled away to play - Ballyboden-St. Enda's twice, Durlas Og, Mount Sion and on a very active weekend, when the U-13s were at the Lisdowney Sevens, three teams travelled for a super day to Clane in Kildare. Not to be outdone, the youngest members of the club, the U-8s travelled to the excellent Roanmore Tournament. The Under 8's are still hard at work indoors in St. Patrick's, Kells Road each week with great numbers in attendance. All in all, a busy lot are the 'Boro juveniles.

Coaches

The club held a coaching weekend for members back in Palmerstown.

Briain Ryan and Georgie Leahy came to the club to give the course over two days in March. In all 25 people attended and attained the first level coaching award. Of the 25 there, 19 were from the 'Boro club, providing great experience in the club to be passed on to the

youngsters. Well done to all.

Paddy Grace Tourney

The club held its bi-annual Paddy Grace tournament with generous sponsorship from Tedcastle Oils. The home side progressed to the final with a good win over Rathnureto meet Tullaroan in the final. A fine crowd saw the 'Boro overcome Tullaroan by 0-16 to 0-11. Tullaroan overturned the result in a later competition!! The Paddy Grace Memorial trophy was presented to John Marnell by Paddy Hennessy of Chicago, representing the Grace Family who themselves were there in great numbers. In the year the Dicksboro team of 1950 were honoured at the County Final, the game was a fitting tribute to one of that great team and one of Kilkenny's greatest hurling servants.



Tom Ryall presents the Byrne Cup to winning captain John Marnell after Dicksboro's win over Graig-Ballycallan.



Generations of Graces!

Paddy Grace and son, Patrick at the Paddy Grace Memorial Final.



John Marnell receives the Paddy Grace Memorial Trophy from Paddy Hennessy (Chicago) with Mick Lawlor, Tedcastles Oils in the centre.

DUNNAMAGGIN



Tom brings 'Bob' to Dunnamaggin

Senior captain Tom Hickey proudly displays the Leinster Senior hurling trophy.

'Nobody said it would be easy'

Dunnamaggin found out for themselves as they endured a trying and disappointing year in '98 at senior grade. Club members learned the harsh realities of life in the top flight as the club will find itself operating in the Intermediate grade next year. However the magnificent victory of our minor hurlers helped ease the pain of defeat at adult level.

Dinner Dance

The year began with the Victory Dinner Dance in February when a huge crowd of over 350 celebrated Dunnamaggin's senior championship victory of '97. The club was deeply honoured by the presence of Olympic Champion Michelle De Bruin who presented the 'gold'.

Magnificent Seven!

Pride of place goes to the Dunnamaggin Seven! - senior captain, Tom Hickey, Ken O'Shea, Sean Ryan, and minors Noel and Canice Hickey, Colin Herity and Kenneth Moore who brought home Leinster medals to the parish and gave such pride and joy to all Dunnamaggin folk. What a thrill to see Tom Hickey

lift the magnificent Bob O'Keeffe Cup and lead Kilkenny senior hurlers behind the Artane Boys Band on All Ireland Day!

Dunnamaggin received massive media coverage over the Summer with club members featuring on 'Kenny Live' and other shows. A massive crowd welcomed home

the vanquished on the Tuesday night after the All Ireland to a parish bedecked in black and amber.

The Work Continues

Clubroom and pitch developments continued steadily in '98 with the erection of perimeter fencing, levelling the carpark, shrub planting, completion and maintenance of a splendid stone wall entrance. More plans are in the pipeline and all should be ready for the official opening in 1999. The club hosted several

games during the year, one of the most successful on 4 May between the local lads and the Kilkenny senior team in aid of a local charity. Great credit is due to the hard working field committee and to groundsman Paddy Moore for keeping the pitch in fine trim.

Juvenile News

At juvenile level, boys and girls from the parish represented the club in the inaugural 'camaint' competition - ground hurling at U-11 level, coached by Kells school teacher, Irene Browne. Great enjoyment was had by all and playing in Nowlan Park was a special treat.

Bon Voyage!

The club wishes to thank Fr. Fearghus O Fearghaill for his wonderful work and leadership in the parish over the past four years. All wish him well in his new appointment. Valued club members the Martin family were bid fond farewell in August at a special function in Delaney's Bar, Kells. Summer visitors included Paddy, Lorcan and Noreen O'Neill from Los Angeles, USA for a gathering of the Ballintee clan.



Dunnamaggin Camaint Panel '98

Back: James Ryan, Stephen Conway, Aidan Donovan, Patrick Phelan, Christopher Carey, Darren Fitzpatrick, Thomas Maher, Nicky McCarthy, Christopher Brennan. **Front:** Ann Marie Phelan, Elaine O'Shea, Gavin O'Keeffe, Oliver Weekes, William Hughes, James Kehoe, Garry Coyne, Sarah McCarthy, Craig O'Dwyer.

Freshford '98 Camogie Queens



Freshford - County Senior Camogie Champions

Back: Julie Ryan, Caitriona Cormack, Kathleen Ryan, Margaret Hickey, (capt.), Gillian Dillon, Martina Maher, Margaret Kavanagh, Mary Ellen Butler, Mary Ryan, Cora Dowling, Breda Dooley.

Front: Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling, Sinéad Connery, Imelda Kennedy, Esther Kennedy, Paula Dowling, Sinéad Costello, Mairéad Costello, Helen McGrath, Emma Fitzpatrick. **Mascot:** Georgina Power. *photo: Tommy O'Neill*

In July '98 St. Lachtains won the county senior camogie title for the first time since the foundation of the club in 1984. Though they lost three finals in recent years nevertheless it was expected that eventually the years of underage success at local and national level would bring senior success.

They were highly impressive through the whole year as they beat Tullogher, St. Brigids, Lisdowney and, in the semi-final, Shamrocks, all in some style.

St. Brigids were quite a different proposition in a very tough final. But from the time Imelda Kennedy goaled from an early

free the Freshford girls were in the driving seat and well deserved their three point half time lead. Gillian Dillon-Maher's goal ten minutes from time built an unassailable lead and the St. Brigids challenge eventually faded. The final score read 3-10 to 2-3.



Graig-Ballycallan - County Senior Camogie Finalists

Back: David O'Neill (selector), Katie Dunphy, Deirdre Treacy, Laura Sweeney, Mary Purcell, Orla Ryall, Una Hennessy, Johnny Ronan (selector), Ursula Walton, Aisling Byrne, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Mary Ryall, Richie Moran (trainer), Aoife Brennan.

Front: Catherine Keogh, Deirdre Malone, Pauline Comerford, Ann Marie Ryall, Mary McGrath, Michelle Fennelly, Sinéad Millea, Margaret Comerford, Tracey Millea, Aoife Neary. **Mascot:** Laura Ronan. *photo: Tommy O'Neill*



The Cup that Cheers!

Margaret Hickey waves the Cup in the air after St. Lachtains defeated St. Brigids in the Kilkenny County Senior Camogie Final.

photo: Tommy O'Neill

Kilkenny - Leinster Minor Camogie Champions

Kilkenny qualified for this year's Leinster Minor Camogie championship final by virtue of a 4-5 to 2-2 win over Laois whereas Wexford qualified with a 2-10 to 1-3 win over Dublin.

In the final which was played in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny emerged victorious over Wexford on a scoreline of 3-7 to 1-7. In the All-Ireland semi-final against Derry which was played in Castledawson the Kilkenny team was defeated by 2-8 to 1-7.

25 Leinster Minor Camogie Championships have been completed since the competition's inception in 1974. Kilkenny lead the roll of honour having won this championship on 10 occasions.

Kilkenny have appeared in the final 17 times & Dublin have done so 18 times, winning on 9 occasions. Wexford with 6 wins out of 11 final appearances complete this very short list. Of the other Leinster counties, only Westmeath (twice), Kildare & Offaly have ever managed to make it to the decider.

The record for the longest winning sequence is held by Kilkenny with 6 wins in a row between 1988 & 1993. Dublin completed a 5 in a row sequence between 1980 & 1984. Wexford longest sequence was a 3 in a row between 1994 & 1996. Kilkenny first won the cup in 1974, the inaugural year.

Panel: Laura Comerford (Emeralds), Eimear Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Linda Crennan (Lisdowney), Sarah O'Gorman (Emeralds), Ciara Fennelly (Shamrocks), Caitriona Treacy

(Thomastown), Angela Kenneally (Mullinavat), Karen Morrissey (St. Martin's), Bronagh Neary (St. Brigid's), Lizzy Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Aoife Neary (James Stephens), Sinead Connery (Freshford), capt., Caitriona Cormack (Freshford), Brenda Kenny (Piltown), Ann Walsh (Rower-

Inistioge), Fiona Dowling, Mairead Lawlor, Aoife Fitzpatrick (all Freshford), Aine Mackey (Windgap), Sinead Fitzpatrick (James Stephens), Ciara Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jane Gibbons, Eimear Phelan, Laura Hanlon (all James Stephens), Bernie Ryall (St. Brigid's), Sinead Kavanagh (Freshford), Aoife Treacy (Danesfort).



Leinster U-14 Camogie Champions

Back: Jackie Frisby, Meabh Dalton, Marie O'Connor, Caroline O'Dowd, Susan Kennedy, Deirdre Delaney, Sinéad Corrigan, Aoife Neary, Grace Dermody, Kay Gaffney, Emily Dermody, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Terry Mackey, Bríd Mackey, Mary-Anne Murphy.

Front: Breda Kavanagh, Caitriona Maher, Sarah Buckley, Lisa Millea, Fiona Kenny, Siobhán Hickey, Fiona Dowling, Edel Maher, Catherine Kavanagh, Nicola Minogue, Ailish Kenneally, Mairéad Lawlor, Patricia O'Neill.

photo: Tommy O'Neill



Leinster Minor Camogie Champions

Back: Aoife Fitzpatrick, Mairéad Lawlor, Aoife Treacy, Linda Crennan, Karen Morrissey, Jane Gibbons, Laura Hanlon, Caitriona Treacy, Ciara Fennelly, Brenda Kenny, Áine Mackey, Bernie Ryall.

Front: Fiona Dowling, Angela Kenneally, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Aoife Neary, Caitriona Cormack, Sinéad Connery (capt.), Sarah O'Gorman, Laura Comerford, Bronagh Neary, Ann Walsh.

Missing from Photo: Ciara Murphy, Eimear Phelan.

photo: Tommy O'Neill

Leinster U-14 Camogie Champions

1998 proved to be a very successful year for Kilkenny's U-14 team. Having won the Leinster Championship in '97 the young camogie stars of the future were victorious again in '98. With a panel of 33, trainer Noelle O'Driscoll had a difficult task when naming her team for each of the five games. The teams first outing was in April against Wexford with Kilkenny winning by 3-6 to 2-4. They next played Dublin in a classic game which ended level 4-4 to 3-7.

As the camogie championship is played on a home and away basis we next faced Wexford at home and won by 2-12 to 2-4. We defeated Dublin by 2-4 to 1-2 but then had to face the same opposition in the Leinster final. Played in Dublin Kilkenny put on a storming performance to win by 4-3 to 1-5.

Scorers in all games were: Aoife Neary 9-13, Edel Maher 3-3, Maire O'Connor 2-1, Emily Dermody 1-1, Aoife Fitzpatrick 0-1.

Castlecomer Community School

The senior camogie team had a reasonably successful year.

They won the inaugural Kelly Tournament run by Muckalee club. They reached the semi-final of the Leinster B competition after three victories but lost narrowly to Kilcormack.

They reached the final of the Kilkenny senior schools championship. En route they beat Callan and Thomastown but had to give best in the final to Presentation Kilkenny.

Castlecomer CS Senior Camogie - Kelly Tournament Winners

Back: Ned Lawlor, C. Coogan, C. Roche, N. Maher, L. Dowd, M. Murphy, E. Maher, A. Shore, L. Crennan, A. Farrell, G. Hughes, M. Phelan. **Front:** L. Stapleton, M. Dillon, M. Coady, C. Dowling, D. Coonan (capt.), T. Keogh, E. Cantwell, N. Butler, S. Lyons, R. Doran. **Missing from photo:** K. Morrissey.

photo: Tommy O'Neill



Loreto Secondary School - Kilkenny First Year Downey Cup Champions

Front: Marina Butler, Nicola Minogue, Ciara Lawlor, Fiona Dowling, Mairead Lawler (Captain), Aoife Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Delaney, Orla Lawlor, Anita Gittens. **Middle:** Elaine Gittens, Caitriona Kavanagh, Tracy Lynch, Ciara McKenna, Vicky Lawrence, Laura Lynch, Laura Brennan, Louise Hogan, Caroline Hoyne, Deirdre Cotterell, Michelle Pembroke, Jenny Doheny, Orlaith Ryan, Ria Loughlin, Sarah Kennedy. **Back:** Elaine Tierney, Christine Kelly, Sinead Corrigan, Grace Dermody, Emma Dunne, Eimear Cashin.



St Brigid's College Callan - Leinster Senior Camogie Shield Winners 1998

Back: M. O'Dea, G. Dillon, A. Tennyson, L. Kenny, M. Comerford, AM Raffice, O. Kearney, A. Neary. **Middle:** N. O'Driscill (trainer), A. Treacy, A. Carey, P. Doheny, L. Sweeney, L. Lawlor, B. Neary, N. Fitzpatrick. **Front:** E. Maher, C. Saunders, D. Treacy, ME Butler (capt.), N. Murphy, A. Neary, B. Marnell.





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Victory at Last. . .

Damien Cleere (Capt) Graigue/Ballycallan is presented with the Tom Walsh Cup after his club won the St. Canices Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship. Representing St. Canices Credit Union is Mr. Michael Saunders.

Photo Tom Brett

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 1998

NOEL SKEHAN



“Give us a Bite!” - Ger Fennelly asks Noel Skehan for a bite of the “famous apple” after the 1982 All Ireland Final. *Photo Austin Finn*

There is this Corkman so rightly proud of his native county, and dedicated to all its people and everything associated with it, that his acquaintances are aware of one guaranteed way to rise his hackles. Just mention that Noel Skehan has won eight All-Ireland medals and my southern friend becomes red-faced, almost apoplectic with anger.

He adopts this attitude, of course, because of his reverence for the late Christy Ring, the hurler who created the record by being the first to get eight medals, and he acknowledges (begrudgingly, maybe) that John Doyle of Tipperary also won eight.

Believe me, you are in further danger of drawing down greater ire upon yourself if you correctly point out to him that you have actually seen those precious medals occupy an honoured and prominent position in Noel’s home at Bennettsbridge. “But he didn’t *win* them all,” the dismissive retort will insist—and rightly. Because “win” is the operative word since the first three medals in Noel’s collection were obtained in 1963, ’67 and ’69 when he was the goalkeeping understudy to the great Ollie Walsh and not “won on the field” as in the case of Ring and Doyle—something my Cork pal quickly emphasises.

Not that it really troubled Noel Skehan at the time that he had to sit-out so many championship games on the substitutes’ bench. “Not really frustrated,” he remembers, “It wouldn’t have been as bad as in the case of an outfield player or with a player you were the same age as. I was much younger than Ollie and I had a few years on my side

at the time. And, then, you’re talking about someone who was the best goalie in Ireland and being a sub to him didn’t feel as bad as, maybe, being sub to someone who mightn’t have been as good.”

The irony of that situation in the Sixties was that Noel and the late Ollie were cousins. “In that way it was somewhat easier,” recalls Noel. And, as he points out, he did have time on his side, so he went on to establish himself as one of the sport’s best goalkeepers—continuing the impressive Kilkenny tradition of producing magnificent net-minders down the years, the likes of Fox Maher, Jimmy O’Connell, Jim Donegan and Ramie Dowling before Ollie—and was to collect another five medals before he eventually retired at the end of the 1984 championship.

Of course, Noel can claim a ninth medal as he was the goalkeeper on the minor team that beat Tipperary in the 1962 All-Ireland final. Which, in hindsight, is ironic because that’s something which never happened when he was playing in senior finals. “Tipperary weren’t quite as strong then,” he says, “and I didn’t meet Tipp ever in an All-Ireland final.” He did, however, pick up (let’s use this euphemism in deference to my Cork friend) a senior medal when he was the subgoalkeeper for the 1967 final in which the traditional, keenest rivals Tipperary were beaten.

Noel didn’t have much opportunity to reveal his great talents during his apprenticeship as a senior sub. “Ollie wasn’t injured all that much,” he remembers, “just for the odd league match, so I got very little games, in fact. I got a match or two when he was suspended and again in the first round in 1971 when he was in hospital and he came back for the All-Ireland final.”

But when Noel eventually took over after that ’71 final, in which Kilkenny lost to Tipperary, he arrived at the start of one of the most productive eras in the county’s history although he would not be so immodest as to claim that this period of success was attributable entirely to his presence between the posts. On the contrary, he says: “From 1972 to ’84 it was a pretty good time and we were lucky enough to have a good team at the time, so I got a lot of matches and the chance to prove myself. It really worked out pretty well in the end for me.” And that’s putting it mildly because Noel’s collection of All-Ireland medals was to be enlarged considerably with success in 1972, ’74, ’79, ’82 and ’83, then there were three National League medals (1976, ’82 and ’83) and he still holds the distinction of being the only recipient of seven Allstar hurling awards.

Nor should his role in club hurling be overlooked. At a time when Bennettsbridge were such a power at senior level he won six county championship medals and even though he was spending so much time on the subs’ bench with the county, there was plenty of match practice with the club. He states: “Bennettsbridge were good at the time

By Mick Dunne, Gaelic World



Action from the 1982 All Ireland Final

Noel Skehan (1) saves.... (2) collects.... (3) moves clear.... and (4) delivers safely from a potentially lethal Cork attack. Other players in the picture are John Henderson (K), Jimmy Barry Murphy (C), Seanie O'Leary (C), Pat Horgan (C), Dick O'Hara (K), Tony O'Sullivan (C) and Brian Cody (K).

and that kept me hurling and I played a bit of outfield hurling with them, too. That was in '64 and when we won the county championship I was on the half-forward line. We were going well, so I didn't feel frustrated because I was getting a lot of hurling with the club."

At the height of Skehan's career I happened into conversation with a forward from another county with which Kilkenny has had many memorable battles and not long before had suffered another defeat by the black and amber. Maybe it was the consequent feeling of self-pity which prompted this forward to chastise me, and my fellow sports journalists, for heaping too much praise on the Kilkenny goalkeeper and then to deliver the final condemnation by declaring to my astonishment "you fellows never hear what he says on the field; he's only a friggin'mouth!" In deference to the sensitivity of Kilkenny Yearbook readers' ears, the expletive has been toned down.

When I put this to Noel during our recent chat there was a guffaw in response before he stated: "I wouldn't say I'd be giving off to opponents. I'd be getting on to our own backs, keeping them on their toes. Especially early on, it's easier to get on to a back early in a game to stop him making a mistake rather than picking a ball out of the net. Yes, I talked to backs all the time."

That brought us conveniently to the subject of opposing forwards. "Most of the forwards you play against, you have to respect," asserts Noel. "They all have their days, at different times. A forward worth his salt at all who gets a complete chance will put it away, but the forward who's able to take the half chance is the one who'd worry you most. The likes of Tony Doran, Charlie McCarthy and Ray Cummins. These guys were always able to take the half chance. Jimmy Barry Murphy would be another. They didn't have to be presented with a ball in a good position or anything else. They'd grab the half chance on you very fast. In our own county, the likes of Eddie Keher was the same way.

"There were better quality forwards, in those days. They were stronger and better ball players, too, great men to catch balls in the air. The likes of Ray Cummins and Tony Doran, you wouldn't push them off the ball too easily. And apart from getting scores themselves they created a lot of chances for others as well."

Wexford and Cork provided the most formidable opposition during Noel's career and the games against them probably provided his most cherished memories. He remembers: "That time, we had Wexford strong.

We met them in lots of

Leinster finals and we beat them, but in fairness to them if they had beaten us they'd probably have gone on to win All-Ireland finals in the Seventies. Cork were great, too, at the time, but Tipperary weren't quite as strong."

Noel, of course, didn't confine his activities solely to hurling and he also played handball and squash, both games which helped "keep his eye in" for the goalkeeping. At squash racquets he reached a very high level and in fact was selected for the Munster interprovincial team, which once gave him an unusual weekend in Dublin. He played squash at the Fitzwilliam club for Munster on the Saturday and hurling for Leinster at Croke Park the following day. Due to the influence of a friend, Pat Butler, who worked in Kilkenny city, he later joined the Curragh squash club and won Leinster League division I and II medals with them.

By coincidence, when Noel's playing days ended at hurling he once again followed in the footsteps of his cousin Ollie Walsh. That was in 1991 when Ollie was appointed manager of the Kilkenny senior team and Noel then replaced him as manager of the junior side. He has filled the position since and guided the county to an All-Ireland success at junior level in 1995 and was in charge of the intermediate team in this team's All-Ireland final against Limerick. Ambitions to take over the senior squad someday? "Oh, no, there's such a lot of time involved in it," says the busy transport supervisor at Smithwicks, 53 this December. "Anyway Kevin [Fennelly] has another year. It is easy to stand back and criticise: Kilkenny had a very lean period for a while, but they came back this year and won the Leinster and got to an All-Ireland. That's not so bad."

Indeed, his managerial record is even better. His teams have won every Leinster championship at junior and intermediate, with one exception, since he took over and in addition to the junior All-Ireland won, they qualified for two other finals. As he says himself, "and that's not bad."

BRIEF INTERLUDE

A ONE-SUMMER ROMANCE WITH THE GAME OF HURLING
By BRENDA POWER (Sunday Tribune)



MY INTEREST in hurling, my understanding of the game's skills and strategies and my appreciation of the unmatched excitement of seeing your own colours win through a crucial tournament, began and ended sometime during the late summer and autumn of 1976. After that few brief months of intense drama and concentration, of the build-up and the speculation and the worrying reports from the training sessions and the opponents' camps, I think I concluded that hurling was far too draining a game to follow seriously, and too serious a game to follow half-heartedly.

And so, after the final of that particular tournament in 1976, I never again went to a hurling match out of interest.

I'll watch the televised All-Irelands and, once or twice, when there's been a group outing and a ticket to spare, I've gone on the train to Semple Stadium, but it is always with a deep feeling of smug security in the knowledge that a defeat for our team would not necessarily ruin my week.

I can watch with mild interest and even, to beat the crowds, leave before the end, but never without recalling my brief brush with the all-consuming, life-or-death-or-more-important-still sorcery of the sport that has enthralled so many other Kilkenny women and men to the point of gibbering incapacity.

In 1976 the eldest two of my five brothers were the stars, as far as I could tell, of the Mullinavat Under-16 team, and out of nowhere they had become hot favourites to win the County Final that year. Out of nowhere, at least, is how it seemed to me: The efforts that were beginning to pay off were, most likely, the result of several years of earnest preparation and hard work by the men who ran the village team but to a schoolgirl who had taken little previous interest in the fortunes of the parish club, it seemed like a meteoric progress to county glory. Hurling matches, as far as I had previously been concerned, meant either enormously exciting day trips to Dublin or else boring freezing so-called summer evenings loitering around the Mullinavat pitch. Since it must be nearly 20 years since I set foot there, I'm pretty sure that the basic pitch I remember has long since become an impressive sportsgrounds with swish tartan turf and, probably, a running track and cov-

ered stands and more than one functioning toilet, but in the 70s it consisted of a grassy mound of bulldozed earth that sloped away from a fairly pock-marked field that was railed off by narrow white wooden fencing far too uncomfortable to sit on for very long. It may even have an impressive name and a merchandising concession, now, but 20 years ago it was known as "The Field", like the John B Keane play, and you bought cloakroom tickets from a man at the gate to get in, and I remember that they hardly ever charged for me. I went to matches because the alternative was to stay at home

alone and miss the crisps and minerals that usually rounded off such an outing, and because some of my school-friends went along for precisely the same reasons, and you never knew who you might see. The only, all-too-rare, highlight of these occasions was the odd fistfight, or "feelings running high" as the television commentators prefer to term it these days, and once or twice I had the unexpected good fortune to be perched on the uncomfortable white railings when a player was laid low with a belt of a hurley right on the sidelines in front of me,

and I got a bird's eye view of the imprint of the metal hoops on his bloody forehead before the Seconds clustered round with their damp sponges and bottles of water and blocked my view.

Before those county championships in 1976, the only previous indication I had of the passions that hurling could provoke came in 1969 when we drove all the way to Dublin after early Mass on the morning of All-Ireland Sunday because our uncle Ted Carroll was playing. We made a black and amber flag and flew it out the window of the Wolsley all the way up, and we bought those those crepe-paper hats with the flimsy white brims that took on the colour and texture of wet cornflakes if you wore them in the rain, and we won. Back at home, we cut a colour picture of the team out of the next day's Irish Independent and evicted a faded old saint from his elaborate gilt surround in order to frame the cutting and hang it on the wall, in a prominent position to scald the hearts of any Cork people who might have ventured into our kitchen, even though the only Cork people who ever came into our kitchen at the time were Cha and Miah on 'Hall's Pictorial Weekly'. And when the newspapers selected our Uncle Ted as the Sportstar of the Year for 1969, we had another picture



Over the Bar... Liam Thompson



The Post Mortem Liam Thompson

to clip and hang in the gloating hall of fame and a real 'coup de grace' for any passing Leesiders.

But this was only a foretaste of the absolute excitement that can grip a whole community, especially when it's a small community, when a hurling victory is at stake. The Under-16 team, in the white strip that made them look even paler and their noses and knees even ruddier during those chilly autumn afternoons, showed the most promise of any of the parish's under-age teams of recent years, and a County Final win would be a fairly historic event. Just about the whole village, it seemed, turned out for every single match along the way, no matter how miserable the weather or how (relatively) far the distance to be travelled, and positive orgies of crisps and minerals followed every successful game. Instead of trailing along behind the crowds huddled in small knots on the banks around these unfamiliar pitches, looking for friends or keeping an eye out for gory mortal injuries on the near sidelines, I actually stood and watched every stroke with my heart in my mouth. Every injury in the thick of a tackle, with hurleys and elbows and boots flailing, looked potentially fatal, and even today the resilience of hurlers who can walk out of a frenzied crush like that, or get up off the turf after a blow of a hurley and race back into the fray, still amazes me. But back then it was always an anxiety tempered with the hope that it might be one of the other lads who got sent off or else limped away with a small but niggling injury, and when the jersey on the teenage chap, who was left lying on the ground when the bodies cleared, bore the Glenmore or Ballyhale colours then your satisfaction was complete. If Mullinavat weren't several points ahead at half-time then the bag of Tayto and the glass bottle of Fanta would be like ashes in your mouth, although if they were too far ahead by the half-way mark that, too, was pronounced an ill-omen by the Job's comforters amongst the home supporters: The lads would get cocky, they'd start playing to the gallery, conceding openings to the cunning opportunists on the Ballyhale/Glenmore side. I think, in hindsight, that championship sort of spoiled me for subsequent games

and tournaments: From the outset it had the feeling of a corny old movie where you just knew from the start that the good guys in white would prevail because of all the familiar faces on their side. After all, if Robert Redford and Paul Newman and Steve McQueen had ever appeared on the same side in a hurling movie, you could have been pretty sure they wouldn't be knocked out in the first round by an anonymous bunch of square-jaws from Central Casting. And so, because the Mullinavat lads were all local heroes (at least by the time they got to the semi-finals, and then only briefly) you had the feeling they couldn't lose.

They were prayed for at early Mass on the morning of the Final, which seemed to me a bid for unfair advantage at the time but then, since the priests of Graig/Ballycallan were hardly behind the door in calling in divine favours that morning either, the playing pitch was probably level enough from the start. The day, as far as I can remember, was typically grey and drizzly, but at least Nowlan Park had covered stands and wooden seats which were a serious luxury after a whole championship fought off bulldozed mounds in the rain. After more than 20 years I can't remember the score but I'll never forget (a) That they won and (B) That I spent much of the second half eyeballing the other Mullinavat supporters in the hope of spotting the man who shouted, "Wouldja keep yer two hands on the hurley, young Power!" in what I felt were unnecessarily scornful tones. It had, of course, been noted at home that one of my brothers had a tendency to poke his hurley into a fray with one hand, as though he was trying to fork sausages off a spitting pan, but that didn't give anyone else the right to make the observation, least of all when they were winning.

The plaques they got, mounted on solid oak-effect plastic, are tarnished in the back of the glass cabinet at home, the rather skimpy engraving of the date and the honour almost worn away now, but I doubt that, in their day, they were any less admired and polished than an All-Ireland medal. Another saint was ousted from his frame to make way for the team photo, and now the middle-aged men I see occasionally around the village bear little resemblance to the smooth skinned goose-bumped youths posing with crossed arms and stern expressions around the cup they kept for a year. As far as I remember the same team went on to win again the following year, and even had considerable success at a more senior level some years later, but by then I had lost interest. I learned from other tournaments, other championships, other inter-county battles that, no matter how intense the build-up or how fervent the prayers from the Sunday morning altar, the good guys with the familiar faces didn't always win, and that the disappointment could be as bitter as anything. I'd never have made a hurling fan for the long road, anyway, I'd have given up in despair, I'd have been unhinged with the injustice of it all if I'd taken more than a passing interest in this year's All Ireland Final. I'd have been gutted, gobsmacked, sickened like a parrot by a few bad beatings and the mounting evidence that real life, even if it was only a game, didn't always work out like the movies. So the one time it did seemed like a good time to quit.

A man for all seasons - For all the right reasons Michael Fennelly (Ballyhale Shamrocks)

Joe Dunphy

Few people may realise how significant the year 1960 was to be in forming the history of club hurling in Kilkenny. That was the year that Kevin Fennelly, God rest him, and his wife Theresa moved with their young family of six boys from the parish of Piltown to Castlebanny in Ballyhale. What was to be Piltown's loss was very much Ballyhale's gain, for those six young lads, Michael, Ger, Kevin, Brendan, Liam and Sean, together with the youngest boy, Dermot, who was born in Ballyhale, were to become household names in the hurling world. Later, two girls, Theresa and Monica completed the family of nine for Kevin and Theresa. In November 1960, the four oldest, Michael, Ger, Kevin and Brendan enrolled in Ballyhale N.S., and the rest is history.

In June 1966, Ballyhale won its first ever school title - the Under 14 Roinn B Championship and the victorious captain on that occasion was the eldest of the Fennellys - Michael. He was joined in the panel by Ger and Kevin, and, hard as it may be to believe, these same three "young lads", 32 years later in 1998, collected All-Ireland Masters Hurling medals for the second consecutive year. Most players' careers have ended by the time the grand old age of 32 arrives. But these lads have had careers spanning 32 years and are still going strong, and nobody has used the word retirement.

They say that "Age is honourable", but also because of the facts that I've admired his hurling skills since 1966, and that I've come to know Michael best over the years, let us look at the career of the eldest Fennelly, a quiet and unassuming star.

I think that all of us who know him would agree that Michael Fennelly has been, over the many years of his hurling career, the Shamrock's most versatile player. Few players can play different positions really well, but Michael has literally played in every line of the field for the Shamrocks, except on goal. In his early days he was in midfield, he moved to centre forward when needed, played on the wings as well and in 1985, as the Shamrocks captured their sixth Senior Title, he had a great final at full forward, when faced by no less an opponent than his cousin, the great Brian Cody.

In later years, he filled Maurice Mason's centre



Father and son - **Michael Fennelly Sr.**, All-Ireland Masters Medal winner and **Michael Fennelly Jr.**, Féile na nGael Medal winner.

back spot and finished his club days at corner back. usually in the right corner, but when the need arose, over in Wattie's left corner too. Whenever there was a job to be done it was a case of, "Send for Michael Fennelly", and Michael was never found wanting. Indeed the case has been made that it was perhaps the same versatility that deprived him of a longer and more illustrious career at county level. There is no doubt that this man was inter county material, yet only one National League Winners medal came his way from that quarter.

Above all, Michael was and continues to be a great club man. A look at his vast medal collection is very impressive. In the formative years of the Shamrocks he won two Under 21 County titles in 1972 and 1973. The Junior Hurling Title was captured in 1973 also, while, one year later, the Shamrocks won the Intermediate Championship to become a Senior Club in the fourth year of their existence.



Fennelly Force - Kilkenny full-back, Michael Fennelly, wins the chase for the ball against Tipperary forwards Timmy Stapleton and Seamus Bourke in the All-Ireland Masters Final. Photo Tom Brett

Heady days followed for the club, as in the fourteen years between 1978 and 1991, nine Senior Hurling Championships were won - the victorious years being 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1989 and 1991. Senior doubles were recorded in 1979, 1980 and 1982 when the County Senior Football Titles were added to the hurling. In 1980 Michael captained the footballers to the Championship. There were also two Junior Football medals and one Intermediate Football medal which came Michael's way. And, of course, there were tournament victories, all over the country, too numerous to list.

Added to all this success at County Championship level, the Shamrocks achieved even greater glory. Four Leinster Club Titles came to Ballyhale in 1979, 1981, 1984 and 1989 and while their first Club All Ireland Final in 1979 was narrowly lost to the might of Blackrock of Cork, who were assisted by Frank Cummins, the Shamrocks were not to be denied. Michael and his team-mates went on to win three All Ireland Club Titles in 1981, 1984 and 1989, overcoming St. Finbarr's (Cork), Gort (Galway), and Ballybrown (Limerick). In doing so, they join Blackrock as the only two clubs to date to win three Club Titles. Michael Fennelly was always high among the list of stars in all these achievements.

On the National scene there was also success. A Junior All-Ireland Medal came Michael's way in the Inter-Firms Competition as the eldest and youngest Fennellys, Michael and Dermot helped Waterford Stanley to victory. As already mentioned, on the Kilkenny County Senior Hurling Team, Michael's lone reward was a National League Medal in 1975-1976. Many throughout the county felt that Mick Fennelly was very unlucky not to be selected in the County panel with brothers Ger, Kevin, Liam and Sean in any or all of the All-Ireland winning years in the late seventies and early eighties. Still, as they say, "All things come to him who waits", Michael's perseverance has been rewarded in more recent times as he starred with the Kilkenny Masters team as they brought All-Ireland titles to the county in 1995, 1997 and 1998. In adding these further medals to his collection, it was again typical of the man's ability that his first title was won as a forward and the last two as full back. The words "last two", are probably inappropriate. I suppose I should say "most recent two", as I feel that Michael should and will continue to wield the camán for some time yet.

Everyone in Ireland has heard of the famed seven Fennelly brothers, the sons of Kevin Fennelly and Theresa Hoyne. Kevin Senior, as he was known, and his own brothers wrote their own names in Kilkenny Hurling

Folklore winning Championships with clubs like Dicksboro, James Stephens and Carrickshock in the parish rule days. It must be stressed, however, that all the hurling skills and ability did not come from just the paternal side. While many of the Fennelly cousins have shone with their respective parishes, the Hoyne element, on the maternal side, has also played a strong role. The Hoynes of Carrigeen, Knocktopher, have their own claim to fame with the Shamrocks and elsewhere, the Codys of James Stephens, the Treacys of the Rower-Inistioge and Thomastown, the Kirwans and the Skehans have all been to the fore in Kilkenny hurling. Certainly the genes were strong on both sides for the Fennelly boys. Kevin Senior was a huge influence in the Shamrocks Club and it was often said that you weren't up against seven but eight Fennellys! All the while, Mrs. Fennelly was there, supporting the team and the achievement of the sons were undoubtedly a great source of satisfaction and pride for their parents.

Michael married Margaret Grace from Kilbride, Glenmore and they have continued in the mould of the generation before them, encouraging and coaching their own children. They have a family of six - four girls and two boys - Grace, Ciara, Michael, Lorna, Colin and Margaret Mary. And yes, you've guessed it, there's an abundance of talent in each one of them. The older girls, Grace and Ciara, have starred at school, club and county level on the camogie scene. Lorna has already shown great ability with the school team and Colin and Margaret Mary will soon follow.

No, I haven't forgotten Michael Junior. I come to him lastly because if ever there was a carbon copy of a father here's one. Firstly with Ballyhale School Team and more recently with the Shamrocks, he gets through a mountain of work and is often one of the unsung heroes in what is a great young team. And like his father, if ever there is a position that needs filling, young Michael Fennelly will solve the problem.

This year, as Michael Fennelly won his third Masters All Ireland medal, he still found time to be a selector with the Shamrocks Senior Team and also to be part of the backroom team with Sean Reid, cousin Michael Hoyne and myself when his son Michael and his team-mates brought the Christy Ring Trophy of Feile na nGael - the blue riband of Under 14 Hurling - plus the Under 14 double, hurling and football, to the little parish of Ballyhale.

Indeed, this player, whose playing career has spanned 32 years, mentor of Seniors and selector of Juveniles, clubman and family man alike, is in my book "A man for all seasons" and for all the right reasons."



LIAM AYLWARD, T.D.
 Greetings to all my Supporters
*and the very best of good fortune to all our
 Kilkenny Teams.*

1947 - LIAM REIDY REMEMBERS

By Mary O'Neill



As the fire crackles in Liam Reidy's cosy sitting room in Shandon Park, the veteran hurler admits he could talk all day about 1947. His hurling career isn't just about that year and its victory. On the mantelpiece is a runner's up plaque from the 1950 All Ireland final. His club days with Éire Óg, the old town team, form part of his happiest hurling memories. In retirement he enjoys travelling to matches as a spectator, although for the time being a sore leg prevents him from making it to the county semi-finals that are on down the road in Nowlan Park.

Liam agrees with those who claim that 1947 was the greatest All Ireland final of all time. It was more than just

a game for those involved, and the accuracy with which he can remember it, almost half a century on, is proof of this.

You only have to walk to into O'Riada's pub on Parliament Street to be reminded of that game. Hanging on the wall is a list of the team and even the name over the door brings you back to when Liam was playing as corner forward for Kilkenny. He joined the team in 1945 but broke his ankle in the All Ireland semi-final against Galway in Birr, so, although picked to play in the final of that year against Tipperary, he was unable to do so. A further defeat in '46 again denied him a medal but all fell into place for Reidy and his comrades the following year when Kilkenny and Cork battled in a not-to-be forgotten match that gained the cats their thirteenth title.

That even the great Christy Ring was unable to perform to his explosive best is a sign of how well the Noresiders played that day. The scores were close the whole way through and at half time Kilkenny were leading by 7 points to 5. "It was up and down the whole time", Liam recalls.

The second half proved even more nail-biting. Kilkenny created a four point margin at one stage, which Cork quickly narrowed down to two, before the Leesiders got a goal that put them ahead for the first time in the game.

"We battled back again until we were a point ahead, and, the next thing, they got another goal. We were losing by a point again. It was almost full time at that stage, then Terry Leahy got the two points that made all the difference".



National League Home Final 1950

Liam Reidy scores a great goal against Tipperary. The Tipp players are Micky "Rattler" Byrne and goalkeeper, Tony Reddin. Guest umpire for the day was Humphrey Bogart!

Liam talks of the "colossal excitement" afterwards. "The homecoming was very special to us, we came down on the train, and from a window in the Metropole Hotel, the players were introduced to the crowds one by one. It was a great night. There may not have been quite as many flags and banners as you'd see nowadays but there was the same excitement and enthusiasm as after any All Ireland final in the nineties."

Liam's club was Eire Og, an old town team comprising former pupils of the Christian Brothers, although Liam was an exception as he had actually been educated at St. Kieran's College. The club won four county championships in the 1940s and boasted other inter-county hurlers such as Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy, and Peter Blanchfield.

Liam began hurling with Eire Og in the early 'forties. He was working in Enniscorthy at the time and recalls the cumbersome journey to matches and training. "In those days cars were at a premium. It was war time and I had no choice but to make the trip from Enniscorthy. I'd get up on a Saturday morning and get a bus to the bridge in New Ross. From there I'd cycle to Thomastown, which was the best part of twelve miles, to play a match on a Sunday. After the match, I'd go home, have my tea, and get up on the bike again".

Parish rule did not apply at this time and, at one stage in the forties, when Eire Og were short a full back, they travelled to Graiguenamanagh in an endeavour to recruit Bill "Diamond" Hayden to join their side. Hayden agreed on condition that Nick O'Donnell could be brought along as well. O'Donnell's subsequent involvement with Eire Og brought him to the attention of the Kilkenny selectors and he was a substitute in the '47 All Ireland. However at the time only 21 winners' medals were issued and so O'Donnell was forced to do without; a fate that many unfortunate subs suffered at the time.

The players may not have had as much to show for their endeavours in the forties but Liam believes that the standard of hurling was still very high. "The ball was passed a lot. My main job as corner forward was to pass the ball out to Jim Langton, so he could get the scores. Jim Langton was a great Kilkenny hurler, as too were Jack Mulcahy and Terry Leahy.

Liam's hurling career ended in 1950, following the disbandment of Eire Og. Their problem in continuing lay in the fact they had no other team apart from the senior. "We had no minor team coming up. There was the 22 panel senior team and that was it.", he said. After the team were defeated by Dicksboro in the replay of the county final of that year, many of the players retired. "I could have carried on but I would have had to look for a team to play with, so I thought it best to retire altogether.", Liam said.

This year Liam travelled to the Munster Final for the first time in years and was amazed at how completely different the game had become. "The players were so psyched up - they seemed to want to win at all costs. I think it's sad to see it gone that way. Players put a lot of pressure on themselves and there is a lot of unnecessary pressure put on them. They commit themselves so much, I think the time has come for players to get some reward. There would be no harm in the game becoming professional. It's played in a professional manner anyway. Croke Park has become an industry in itself, you go up to a match today and there are bars and restaurants open on the grounds, that's a huge change from the GAA I used to know. ", he said.

The game moves on but the memories remain intact. Liam shows me the runners up plaque from 1950. It's as clean and polished as if it were new. He still has his medal from 1947. No doubt that still shines as brightly as the thirty men from Kilkenny and Cork did all those years ago

jr Joe Reidy nsurances

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UNDER 14 FOOTBALL

COUNTRY TEAMS TO THE FORE

Tom Ryall

The surprising fact about the Duggan Steel Under 14 football championship Roinn A was that two country teams reached the final. Five teams contested the competition-- Shamrocks, who were the eventual winners, Carrickshock, the holders, who were runners up, Dicksboro, James Stephens and OíLoughlin Gaels. Played on a league system, it was Shamrocks and Carrickshock who made it to the final. Hugginstown was the venue following a toss. Shamrocks were seeking their first title at this level and also hoping to complete the hurling and football double.

The game itself was a fine contest with the Ballyhale boys coming out on top on a score of 3-6 to 2-6. Carrickshock were handicapped by the fact that they had to line out without one of their better players Damien Raggett. Shamrocks best players on the night were D.J.Molloy, Michael Fennelly, Ger Holden, Padraig Holden, Keith Nolan, Jason Nolan, James Fitzpatrick and Derek Fitzpatrick. Carrickshock did all in their power to retain their title but despite the best efforts of Anthony Holland, Denis Murphy, Ricky Brennan, Patrick Mulcahy, Michael Rice, John Dalton, Richard Power and Sean Gibbons they had to bow to a better team.

Shamrocks:- Edward Walsh, David Healy, Michael Fennelly, Derek Fitzpatrick, Jason Nolan, Padraig Nolan, Eamon Walsh, Keith Nolan, Eamon Fitzpatrick, James Fitzpatrick, D.J.Molloy, Shane Kelly, Eoin Reid, Ger Holden, Alan Knox.

Carrickshock:- Tommy Brophy,



Shamrocks U-14 Roinn A County Champions Photo: Tom Brett.

Back: Tomás Cullen, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Alan Knox, Eamon Walsh, Eamon Fitzpatrick, DJ Molloy, Padraig Holden (capt.), Keith Nolan, Ger Holden, Jason Nolan, Edward Walsh, Derek Fitzpatrick, Christy Wemyss, Shane Holden.

Front: Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, TJ Reid, Dónal Dempsey, Barry Nolan, Shane Kelly, Eoin Reid, James Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, David Healy, Mark Aylward, Michael Fitzpatrick.



Piltown U-14 Roinn B County Football Champions Photo: Tom Brett.

Back: Bernard Flood (trainer), Kevin Kelly, Shane Kinsella, Eamon Kenny, Richard Brophy, Paul Kirby, David Reid, Cormac Gilligan, David Walsh, Brendan McCarthy, Mick Hickey (trainer).

Front: Nicholas Kenny, Raymond Scahill, Peter Kelly, Richard McCarthy, John Norris, Shane Fitzpatrick, Andrew McCarthy, Padraig McNamara, Michael Dineen, Paul Maher, John Kennedy.

Denis Murphy, Anthony Holland, Ricky Brennan, James Farrell, John Tennyson, David Millea, Patrick Mulcahy, Michael Rice, John Dalton, Richard Power, James Moran, Gary Foley, Sean Gibbons, John Maher.
Sub:- Patrick Brophy.

Roinn B Championship

Twenty seven teams took part in the Roinn B Under 14 football championship which was played on a knock out system. Piltown, the holders, came out of the South with wins

over Mooncoin, Mullinavat, Slieverue and Thomastown. Railyard took the Northern honours with victories over Erin's Own, Muckalee thanks to a goal in the last minute, Emeralds and Clara. The final played in Bennettsbridge, was a fine spectacle of football with victory going to Piltown on a scoreline of 4-9 to 1-12.

The main difference between the teams was the fact that Piltown had the better forwards. All six combined beautifully and they got four smashing goals. At the end of the first quar-



Cloneen/Railyard Under 14 B Football County Finalists Photo Tom Brett

Back: Sean Allen, Ronan Walsh, Ciarán Walsh, Tom Joe Comerford, Sean Dowd, Sean Maher, Thomas Champion, Jim Dowd, Aidan Whelan, Niall Dowd, Paul Donnelly, Patrick Dowd (Manager).

Front: Noel Roche, Gavin Dowd, Michael Fitzgerald, Pádraig Dowd, PJ McMahon, Niall Mooney, John Power, Anthony Nolan, Billy Brennan, Kevin Phillips.

ter, Railyard led by 0-2 to 0-1. David Walsh then struck for the winners' first goal. This helped them lead at the interval by 1-4 to 0-6. Piltown had the best of the opening ten minutes in the second period and built up a lead of five points. Railyard staged a great rally and levelled the scores at 2-5 (P) to 1-8 (R) with the game rising to great heights. Piltown came back and

goals by Michael Dineen and Shane Fitzpatrick put them on the road to a wonderful win. Piltown had fine performances from Paul Kirby, who made one great save, David Reid, Paul Maher, Eamon Kenny, Richard Brophy, John Norris, Michael Dineen and Richard McCarthy. Sean Allen at full back for the Railyard was the outstanding player on view. Others who

impressed were Sean Dowd, Paul Donnelly, Cathal Phillips, Jim Dowd and Tom Joe Comerford.

Scorers:- Piltown:- Michael Dineen (1-4), David Walsh (1-1), Shane Fitzpatrick (1-1), Richard McCarthy (0-3), Brendan McCarthy (1-0).

Railyard:- Sean Dowd (0-6), Sean Allen (1-0), Jim Dowd (0-2), Ronan Walsh (0-2), Paul Donnelly (0-1), Tom Joe Comerford (0-1).

Piltown:- Paul Kirby, Kevin Kelly, Paul Maher, Eamon Kenny, Andrew McCarthy, David Reid, Cormac Gilligan, John Norris, Richard Brophy, Brendan McCarthy, Michael Dineen, Paddy McNamara, Richard McCarthy, David Walsh, Shane Fitzpatrick.

Cloneen:- Aidan Whelan, Cathal Phillips, Sean Allen, Billy Brennan, Anthony Nolan, Niall Dowd, Thomas Champion, Jim Dowd, Paul Donnelly, Niall Mooney, Tom Joe Comerford, Sean Dowd, Pádraig Dowd, Ronan Walsh, Michael Fitzgerald.

Referee:- Willie Kearney (Kilmoganny).

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'DUXIE' SURRENDERS SOFTBALL TITLE

Once again Kilkenny handball supporters can look back on a very successful year in which the county won six adult All-Ireland titles and a number of Juvenile titles. The big surprise of the year was the defeat of 'Duxie' Walsh by Walter O'Connor (Meath) in the 60 x 30 Senior Singles final. 'Duxie' and his partner, Eugene Downey, also lost the Doubles decider to Meath. Elsewhere Kilkenny captured five All-Irelands in the 40 x 20 court while in the traditional 60 x 30 competitions there were only two successes.

The 1998 40 x 20 season will be remembered most for two very different reasons; one for the number of matches that had to be abandoned due to condensation, the other for the Leinster Senior Doubles final between Kilkenny and Meath. This match, played at Leixlip, was really the All-Ireland final as the winners were hot favourites to take the ultimate honours. Apart from that, this must rank as one of the most exciting matches ever played. It had everything—excitement, commitment, agility and most of all a very high level of skill and fitness.

The first game was very close with Meath's Tom Sheridan and Egin Jensen narrowly winning 21-20. 'Duxie' Walsh and D J Carey levelled the match when they took the second game 21-20 after coming from 12-6 behind. In the deciding rubber Kilkenny looked to be strolling to victory when they led 12-6 but this time it was the turn of the Meathmen to rally. This they did and drew level at 18 and then went ahead. The black and amber pair reached 20 before losing their hand but the Royal county could not get the necessary aces to finish the match. With both sides locked on 20 it was the local pair who got the deciding ace to win their third Leinster title.

'Duxie' and D J got a bye from Connaught in their semi-final and went on to beat Antrim's Paddy Crothers and John McGarry in the All-Ireland final to capture their third crown.

In the Singles championship 'Duxie' also enjoyed ultimate success when he beat Tyrone's Ciaran Curran in the All-Ireland final. His Leinster final, at Ballymore Eustace, had to be aban-

doned after two games due to condensation. His opponent, Peter McAuley (Louth) agreed to come to Kilkenny to replay the match from start at the new O'Loughlin's court. Before a packed gallery the Kilkenny star turned on the style, winning both games comfortably. 'Duxie' also played his All-Ireland semi-final in O'Loughlin's where he overcame Francie McCann (Sligo), also in two sets.

The Senior final against up and coming star Ciaran Curran (Tyrone) was fixed for Roscommon but never took place there, as, due to condensation, (yet again!) the match had to be transferred to Ballaghaderreen. The northerner had a huge crowd supporting him but they went home disappointed as 'Duxie' won 21-14 21-14.

Kilkenny also enjoyed success in Silver Masters 'B' Doubles and in Diamond Masters where they won two titles. Current Handball President, Con Moore, distinguished himself in the court when he partnered Pat Gardiner to the Silver Masters 'B' crown having beaten all before them in Leinster. The O'Loughlin's / Goresbridge duo saw off Roscommon's challenge in the semi-final and that victory set them up for a final meeting with Tipperary's Billy McCarthy and Martin Maher at Garryhill in the final. The honours were evenly shared for the first two games but in the third the Kilkenny pair dug deep to come from 12-6 behind to win the game 21-12.



Frank Manogue (Kells) with U 16 All-Ireland Doubles Champions, Brian Manogue (Kells) and Andrew Hosey (Clogh) Pic. T Brett



CJ Delaney (Kells) with Jim Dalton, Chairman Pic. T Brett



All Ireland Champions Under 14 - 60 x 30
Eddie Hawe (Windgap), Manager, Tomás Lonergan Seamus Hawe, Brendan Barry (Windgap), Sean O'Shea, Sean Maher, Sean Dowd (Clogh) Pic. T Brett

For the past few years Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) has been winning national titles on a frequent basis. This he continued to do in the early part of the year when he won another two in the Diamond Masters grade. Eddie beat Declan Mulcahy (Waterford) compre-

hensively in the singles decider, while in their Doubles they disposed of Mulcahy and his partner Br Finbar Spring.

Other Kilkenny players who featured strongly during the 40 x 20 Championships but failed to take All-Ireland glory included Anthony Greene and Jim O'Neill who lost the Golden Masters semi-final to Mayo and Frank Manogue who was beaten by Leitrim's Sean McKeon. Pat Gardiner almost completed the double in Silver Masters but lost to Mayo in his Singles semi-final (21-17) in the decider.

In Novice Singles, John Quigley (St John's) reached the Leinster final where he was beaten by Carlow's Jimmy King. Similar fates awaited Willy Pratt in Masters Singles going down to Billy Mullins (Offaly) and in Masters 'A' Doubles, where Seamus and Mick Reade also lost to Mullins and his partner Paddy Hope. Bernie Mahon and



Frank Manogue (Kells), and **Bernie Mahon** (Goresbridge) - EM Doubles Champions
Pic. T Brett



Eddie Burke (St John's), All Ireland NS Champion

Frank Manogue were no match for Kildare in their Leinster final.

60 x 30

All good things come to an end might be 'Duxie' Walsh's feelings on this year's 60 x 30 Championships. After thirteen years as Senior Singles champion he was finally beaten by long time rival Walter O'Connor (Meath). A great champion through the years 'Duxie' was very dignified in defeat complimenting the Meathman on his persistence over the years.

Unfortunately for the Talbot's Inch player he picked up an injury prior to his semi-final with Francie McCann which resulted in him having to take an injury time out during the match and playing over two games with practically his left hand.

Despite intensive treatment 'Duxie' entered the Singles final suffering from the effect of the injury. The first game was very much controlled by the Meath player who won it comfortably. In the second 'Duxie' put up a better contest and when he went 17-15 ahead it was looking like a third game decider. However, O'Connor had different ideas as he put in a storming finish to win the game and take the Senior title for the first time.

This was the fifth time that these two players had met in the 60 x 30 decider with all the previous honours going to the Kilkenny star. After the match the big crowd applauded both players with 'Duxie' getting a standing ovation.

'Duxie' and Eugene Downey fared little better in the defence of their Doubles crown in the semi-final. 'Duxie' could not play due to his injury so fellow Clubman Ollie Harold deputised. The new partnership of Downey and Harold had an exciting win over Meath's Egin Jensen and David Gough.

For the final against Tom Sheridan and Walter O'Connor, 'Duxie' had recovered to take his position. On the night, the large audience were treated to a cracking match. Meath took command during the opening set winning 21-14, the second set saw Kilkenny go ahead early on only to be hauled back. However, 'Duxie' and Eugene kept their composure to level the match by taking the second set 21-16.

The destiny of the title for 1998 rested on the third and deciding game. After racing ahead to lead 8-2 Sheridan and



All Ireland Champions Under 14 - 40 x 20

TJ Comerford (Clogh), Brendan Barry (Windgap), Sean O'Shea (Clogh), Billy Love (Clogh) Manager, CJ Delaney (Kells), Sean Maher (Clogh).
Pic. T Brett

O'Connor pressed home their advantage to win the game 21-10 and so claim their first Senior Doubles title.

Kilkenny did win two all-Ireland titles in the big court, one in Novice and the other in Emerald Masters. In Novice Singles, Eddie Burke (St. John's) became the first player from his Club to win a national title. The Cityman beat all before him to qualify for the final where he played John Ryan (Tipperary). Burke started well in the first, taking control early on and winning 21-14 to go one game up. the Kilkenny player look on course for a two-nil victory when he led 14-1 in the second. However, the Munsterman played himself back into the match and brought the final to the deciding rubber when he won the second game 21-10. In this deciding game it was Burke who had the courage to go for it as he raced ahead and won the marathon match on a 21-14 scoreline.

For Frank Manogue and Bernie Mahon there was no marathon final. In fact it was the opposite. Having qualified for the Emerald Masters 'B' Doubles the Kells/Goresbridge pair had home advantage when they played Kerry at Kilfane. The Kilkenny duo were never really tested as they ran out convincing winners on a score of 21-3, 21-4.

Local players also took a number of Provincial titles but did not collect the ultimate honours. Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reade won in Golden Masters but failed to Mayo in the next round when Reilly could not play due to work commitments. Ger Murphy (O'Loughlin's) deputised.

Having won two crowns earlier in the year Eddie Leahy was seeking further glory in the 60 x 30. this he failed to do as he lost his Singles semi-final to Michael Naughton and in the Doubles final himself and Pat O'Keeffe went down to Waterford's Declan Mulcahy

and Br Finbar Spring.

For the second time this year Frank Manogue found Leitrim's Sean McKeon too hot to handle as he lost his Singles semi-final 21-12, 21-18.

Kilkenny had no luck at Minor level where they reached two deciders. William Love was involved in both, losing to Dublin's Eoin Kennedy in the Singles and then with Damien Byrne losing to Meath's Carl Brown and Peter Reilly. There was also Provincial defeat for Sean Fitzgerald and Martin Blanch in Golden Masters 'B' Doubles and for Anthony Greene in Golden Masters 'A' Singles.

JUVENILES

Once again Kilkenny Juveniles had a good year, winning three All-Irelands and a number of Leinster crowns. Cousins Shem and Donal Kelly (Mothel) took home the U16 Doubles crown when they beat Tyrone in a tie-breaker in the 40 x 20 final, while in the 60 x 30 Championships C J Delaney (Kells) won the U15 title and Brian Manogue (Kells) and Andrew Hosey captured the U16 honours.

Kilkenny players also reached two more finals only to be defeated. P J Hawe (Windgap) was beaten by Clare's Seamus Lawlor in the U17 final in the 40 x 20 and in the 60 x 30 Thomas Champion and Thomas Hughes went down to a strong Tipperary pair in the U14 decider.

In the U14 Singles Kilkenny's Seamie Hawe (40 x 20) and T J Comerford (60 x 30) won the right to represent their province but in both cases they were beaten by Galway's N McHugh. There was also Provincial success in the 40 x 20 Doubles and U13D in 40 x 20. Ronan Maher and Brian Mulhall (Mothel) won in Under 12 while in under 13 Paul Byrne and Thomas Hughes (Clogh) were successful. These four players, along with Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel) and Philip Longeron (Windgap), also took honours in the Leinster 40 x 20 U12/13 Team event. In the 60 x 30 competition they were beaten in the final.

Kilkenny's U14/15 captured All-Ireland honours in the 40 x 20 competition with the team being C J Delaney, Sean O'Shea, T J Comerford, Thomas Champion, Sean Maher and Brendan Barry.

In October they completed the double when they won the equivalent 60 x 30 competition. They scored a 90-45 victory over Mayo in the semi-final and then disposed of Kerry in the final by 26 aces, 83-57. The team on this occasion was: S O'Shea, J Nolan, T Lonergan, S Hawe, S O'Dowd, S Maher and B Barry.

SNIPPETS

The first match at the new 40 x 20 court in O'Loughlin's was the replayed Leinster final between 'Duxie' Walsh and Peter McAuley. A capacity crowd attended the match which was also shown in the bar by means of a video link.

The inaugural running of the new format Leinster Open was held at Kilkenny venues in November.

'Duxie' Walsh reached the semi-final of the Irish Open before suffering a rare defeat to Meath's Tom Sheridan and in the semi-final of the Men's 'B' Martin Lalor went down to Antrim's Seamus O Tuama in the tie-break.

• Pat Gardiner and Con Moore reached the final of the Munster Open Masters where they were beaten by Tipperary.

In the Feile na nGael competitions, Clogh reached the final of Section A in 60 x 30 while in Section C 40 x 20 Goresbridge reached the semi-finals.

Clogh also reached the finals of the U13 and U15 competitions in the Community Games.

40 x 20 County Championship Winners 1998

	Singles	Doubles
U/10A	R. Hogan (Kilfane)	C. Lonergan/ T. Gorman (Windgap)
U/10B	S. Conway (Kells)	P. Nolan/ J. Mulhall (Mothel)
U/11A	E. Coady (Windgap)	P. Barcoe/ T/ Stafford (Goresbridge)
U11/B	P. Hogan (Kilfane)	B. Burke/ K. Quirke (Kells)
U/12	D. Brennan (Mothel)	R. Maher/ B. Mulhall (Mothel)
U/13	P. Lonergan (W'gap)	T. Hughes/ G. Lawlor (Clogh)
U/14	S. Hawe (Windgap)	TJ Comerford/ T. Campion (Clogh)
U/15	C.J Delaney (Kells)	B. Barry/ T. Lonergan (Windgap)
U/16	S. Kelly (Mothel)	N. Doran/ E. Hawe (Windgap)
U/17	P.J Hawe (Windgap)	R. Nolan/ T. Morrissey (Mothel)
Minor	W. Love (Clogh)	
SpN	F. Manogue (Kells)	F. Manogue Snr/ F. Manogue Jr (Kells)
Nov	J. Donnelly (G'bridge)	A. Hawe/ E. Hawe (Windgap)
Jr		P.J Egan/ P. Walsh (Windgap)
Int	M. Maher (Clogh)	M. Maher/ C. Love (Clogh)
Sr	W. Pratt (St Johnis)	J. Curran/ DJ Carey (Goresbridge)
M(A)	W. Pratt (St Johnis)	S. Reade/ M. Reade (Talbot's Inch)
M(B)	J. Anthony (M'vat)	J. Dalton/ F. Manogue (Kells)
SMS	P. Gardiner (G'bridge)	J. O'Neill/ G. Murphy (O'Loughlins)
GM	T. O'Brien (T's Inch)	J. O'Mara (M'vat)/ S. Curran (St John's)
DM	T. Nolan (Windgap)	
Team of 4 A	Clogh:	(M. Maher, P. Maher, D. Love, and C. Love)
Team of 4 B	Mothel:	(P. Dowling, S. Kelly, S. Walsh, and D. Cashin)

Leinster/ All Ireland Champions

SS	M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch)
SD	M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch)/ DJ Carey (G'bridge)
SMS	P. Gardiner (Goresbridge)
SMD	P. Gardiner (G'bridge)/ C. Moore (O'Loughlins)
GMD	J. O'Neill (O'Loughlins)/ A. Greene (T's Inch)
EMS	F. Manogue (Kells)
DMS	E. Leahy (O'Loughlins)
DMD	E. Leahy (O'Loughlins)/ P. O'Keefe (M'vat)
U12 D	R. Maher/ B. Mulhall (Mothel)
U13 D	T. Hughes/ P. Byrne (Clogh)
U14 S	S. Hawe (Windgap)
U16 D	S. Kelly/ D. Kelly (Mothel)
U17 S	P.J Hawe (Windgap)
U12/13 (Team)	D. Brennan, R. Maher, B. Mulhall (Mothel)
U14/15 (Team)	T. Hughes, P. Byrne (Clogh) P. Lonergan (Windgap) C.J Delaney (Kells) B. Barry (W'gap) S. O'Shea, S. Maher, TJ Comerford, T. Campion (Clogh)

60 x 30 County Championship Winners 1998

	Singles	Doubles
U/10A	R. Hogan (Kilfane)	S. Conway/ G. O'Keefe (Kells)
U/10B	J. Mulhall (Mothel)	D. Wafer/ J. Forrester (Kilfane)
U/11A	P. Hogan (Kilfane)	E. Coady/ C. Lonergan (Windgap)
U11/B	B. Burke (Kells)	G. Brennan/ P. Nolan (Mothel)
U/12	S. Mahon (Clogh)	D. Brennan/ P. Nolan (Mothel)
U/13	P. Byrne (Clogh)	P. McMahon/ P. Cooney (Clogh)
U/14	TJ Comerford (Clogh)	T. Hughes/ T. Campion (Clogh)
U/15	C.J Delaney (Kells)	B. Barry/ S. Hawe (Windgap)
U/16	B. Manogue (Kells)	A. Hosey/ S. O'Shea (Clogh)
Minor	W. Love (Clogh)	W. Love/ A. Hosey (Clogh)
SpN	N. Burke (St John's)	N. Burke/ R. Burke St John's)
Nov	B. Manogue (Kells)	M. Dalton/ B. Manogue (Kells)
Jr	B. O'Keefe (Kilfane)	W. Love/ D. Love (Clogh)
Int	M. Maher (Clogh)	
Sr	P. O'Keefe (M'vat)	P. O'Keefe/ E. Law (M'vat)
M(A)	P. Savage (T's Inch)	P. Savage/ J. Neary (Talbot's Inch)
M(B)	J. Anthony (M'vat)	M. Dalton/ F. Manogue (Kells)
SMS	P. Savage (T's Inch)	P. Savage/ B. Mahon (G'bridge)
GM	S. Curran (St John's)	
Team of 4 A	Clogh:	M. Maher, N. Lawlor, D. Love, C. Love
Team of 4 B	Kells:	M. Dalton, B. Manogue, F. Manogue Sr, and F. Manogue Jr

Leinster/ All Ireland Champions

NS	E. Burke (St John's)
GMD	P. Reilly (O'Loughlins)/ S. Reade (Talbot's Inch)
EMS	F. Manogue (Kells)
EMD	F. Manogue (Kells)/ B. Mahon (Goresbridge)
DMS	E. Leahy (O'Loughlins)
DMD	E. Leahy (O'Loughlins)/ P. O'Keefe (Mullinavat)
U14 S	TJ Comerford (Clogh)
U14 D	T. Hughes/ T. Campion (Clogh)
U15 S	C.J Delaney (Kells)
U16 D	A. Hosey (Clogh)/ B. Manogue (Kells)
U14/15 (Team)	J. Nolan (Mothel) B. Barry, S. Hawe, T. Lonergan (Windgap) S. O'Shea, S. Dowd, S. Maher (Clogh)

ERINS OWN

A Busy Year

The past year has been a very busy one for Erin's own hurling Club with teams from U-8 right up to Senior being very active.

Juveniles

The Club played games at U-8, U-9, U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13 and U-14 levels and 1998 will have to go down as a year where juvenile interest in the game was tremendous. A number of factors contributed to this interest, the work carried out in the schools, Monday evening training from March to October and which has involved in the region of 100 players. The revival of the U-14 street league catered for eighty four players. The Trip to Croke Park, the success of the County senior team, the promotion of the game at County Board level and in particular promotions such as the player profile cards all contributed to the progress.

The U-8's and U-9's played a number of useful friendlies. The Under 10's won the Nissan Hurling Tournament in Carlow in June and narrowly lost the final of the Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament. The U-11's had their best year to date in camaint. The U-13s qualified for quarter finals in both the league and Country Cup losing to the Rower in both competitions. The U-13 footballers lost to Graignamanagh in the semi-finals. The U-14's battled uphill for most of the year with a very small and young team and if they keep up the effort they will come good in the near future.

The U-14 street league enjoyed a great revival and attracted players and parents alike to the Prince grounds for the Sunday morning encounters. The U-16 hurlers had a very busy year and while a county title did not come their way the foundations are being laid for the future.

The Minors lost to Clara in the Championship and the U-21s lost to Young Irelands. The Club has some good talent at these ages and if players stick with it they are well capable of taking their places on the Club Senior or Junior teams.

The Special Juniors had an enjoyable year. The hurlers lost out to Tullaroan in the Championship but the footballers picked up the 1997 football title following an exciting final with Muckalee.

The Juniors bowed out of the Championship by an injury time point to Ballyragget in a cracker.

The Intermediate Footballers did not stay for long in the Intermediate grade. In just their first year they took the title in style and will be promoted to senior football for next year. This win was just returns for great work put into football by Dick Mullins and his men.

The senior hurlers had everyone hopeful this year. Manager Donal Dunne, engaged the services of Martin Fitzpatrick from Johnstown. The absence of some key players against Tullaroan did nothing to help the championship cause. Relegation raised it's head once again with a match against great rivals Muckalee.

Thankfully, the team approached the relegation encounter firing on all cylinders and pushed aside the challenge of St. Martins to retain their senior status for the fortieth consecutive year.

County Players

Masters: Martin Fogarty and Tommy Brennan

Senior & Intermediate: Patsy Brophy

Sympathy

The Kirwan family on the death of Fr. Mark, Club President, the Young Family on the untimely death of Catherine, the McNamara family on the death of Fr. Tom.

Development

The dugouts in the Prince were completed to a high standard. Each dugout will seat 75 people and as such should be very versatile.

Netting was finally completed in Ballycomey and is a tremendous job. Club House: A committee has been put in place to take on the construction of a Club House at Ballycomey

Officers '98

President; Canon Mark Kirwan (RIP)
Vice-Pres; Mgr. Michael Ryan PP,
Pat Owens.

Chairman; Martin Walsh
Vice-Chair; Tommy Buggy
Secretary; John Kelly

Treasurer; John Rothwell
Registrar; Harold Stone

Co. Board Rep.; Martin Fogarty
Nth. Board: Michael Holden, Paddy Phelan.

PRO: Larry O'Neill.



Castlecomer Camaint 1998

Back: Brendan Stone, Kevin Lawlor, Shane Walsh, Jimmy Byrne, Michael Murphy, Barry Dunne, Liam Oates, Liam Carroll, Donal Fenlon, Paul Healy.

Front: James Hurley, Conor Fogarty, James Mullins, Peadar Boran, Mark Delaney, John O'Gorman, John Brennan, Danny Dowd, Eddie O'Dwyer.

Absent from photo: Michael Moran, Michael O'Dowd, Raymond Dowd, Wayne Kavanagh.

FENIANS

Club Officers '98

Chairman: Sean Warren
 Vice-Chair: Larry Nolan
 Secretary: Oliver Sharkey
 Treasurer: Billy Purcell
 Groundsman: Raymond Beehan

County Players in '98

Senior: PJ Delaney
 U-21: PJ Ryan, Podge Delaney, Eoin Beehan
 Minor: Kevin Power
 U-16: JJ Delaney

A Good Year

The year has been a very successful one for the Fenians. Reaching the County senior hurling final for the second time in four years was a great achievement but unfortunately we had to give best to a smashing Graig-Ballycallan side. We reached the semi-final of the league losing narrowly to a strong Glenmore side. We must thank all our sponsors but in particular, Looby Brothers, our chief sponsors.

U-21 Hurling

Unfortunately our U-21 hurlers failed to get past O'Loughlins in a hard fought game a week after our senior final defeat.

Juniors Did Well

Our Juniors acquitted themselves very well. They beat near neighbours Galmoy in the first round in a thrilling game in Ballyragget. But our luck just ran out in the second round losing by a single point against James Stephens. Maybe next year...

Underage Hurling

The minors and U-16 teams had very poor seasons and it is hoped next year will bring better things. Our U-14 team fared well this year despite not winning any silverware. They enjoyed an excellent hurling weekend in Offaly. Our Camaint team had mixed luck with the highlight of the year reaching the group

finals in Nowlan Park.

Underage coaching in the club has been very successful throughout the year and we welcome new primary school Principal Mr. John Curran who has organised street leagues.

Development

Off the field the club has erected flood lights around the pitch which has been a great boost in assisting late night training sessions. The club has joined with the Sportsfield Committee and Spa Utd. to form a 500 Club Draw. The aim is to enable them to erect basketball and tennis courts alongside the dressing room during the coming months.

Sympathies

The club extends sympathies of the members to the following families who suffered bereavements during the year; the McEvoy family, Spenser family, Tynan family, Dermody and Hanrahan families.



Action from Senior Hurling Semi-Final

John Phelan (Glenmore) tries to control the ball under pressure from Fenians players, **Brian Power** and **Paul Phelan**. Looking on is Glenmore's **Ray Heffernan**. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

CLUB NEWS

GALMOY

Presentations

County Board Vice Chairman Ned Quinn and his wife were special guests at the Galmoy GAA club Dinner Dance in the Anner Hotel on 20th March. An attendance of over 160 had a very enjoyable night as the Galmoy Junior team received their 1997 Northern Junior medals.

The Galmoy club also made a presentation to James Cullinane, N.T. in Sept. on the occasion of his retirement after 29 years teaching in St. Michaels N.S. Galmoy. Mr. Cullinane made a huge contribution to the development of hurling in Galmoy turning out a great number of successful primary school teams during his time in the parish.

Hurling Action

On the playing fields our Junior team never lined out at full strength during the year due to injuries and summer emigration and paid the price in failing to get over the first hurdle in the Northern Championship.

Our U-16 team on the other

hand, enjoyed a very rewarding year progressing to the semi-final of the Roinn C league and winning the Northern final of the championship before succumbing to Tullogher-Rosbercon for the second time this year in a county final. The merit of these achievements can only be fully appreciated when one considers that fourteen of this team will be eligible for under 16 again in 1999.

Our U-21 team bowed out of the Roinn C championship at the semi-final stage when losing by two points to eventual winners Danesfort in October.

Club Development

As in previous years the main financial income was from the sale of 192 Kilkenny Hurlers Co-op draw tickets. Unfortunately we had only one winner. Mr. Dan Daly ran a poker classic raising £500 for the club. 1998 saw the erection of new goalposts on our pitch while poles and netting for behind the goals have been secured.

Well Done!

Congratulations to James and

George Hickey who won Leinster Colleges Juvenile medals with St. Kieran's College and also to Donnacha Grey who captained Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown to a Leinster Juvenile C title. Club members Lottie Harte and Jerry Drennann served as selectors on Kilkenny teams in 1998.

Obituaries

On a sad note, Galmoy GAA lost one of its mentors in September when 38 year old Ger Phelan met an untimely death in a car accident. Ger had hurled for Galmoy for many years and had been Junior team selector for the past five years. He will be a huge loss to Galmoy and sincere sympathy is tendered to his family.

Sympathies are also extended to the Grace family, Bayswell on the death of Tommy Quaid, and to the Brophy family, Bricana, McCormacks, Glashare, Scotts, Mountpleasant, Bergins, Coolnacritta and the Molloy's, Moneynamuck on their sad bereavements.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad.



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GLENMORE

A Closed Season!!

Despite 1998 being a most successful year on the inter-county hurling scene with the success of the back door system etc. the club scene was completely different.

Our club players started training in mid January and after 90 training sessions it was the end of September before our senior hurlers had a meaningful game, with the matches then coming thick and fast through each weekend in October in wet and windy conditions.

Unless there is a complete reappraisal in the management of the club hurling championship it seems, in future, the closed season will be the mid summer and championship games will be confined to October, November and December!

Some Great Wins

Since last years Yearbook publication we won the 1997 Roinn A U-21 Football title and the 1998 Roinn A Special Junior Hurling championship. We were also beaten in the replay of the Senior Hurling semi-final after two great contests against the Fenians. We are still involved in four championship competitions.

Social Scene

We had a terrific weekend in Ennis in February, a great occasion which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Money, Money!

Our finance sub-committee worked hard through the year.

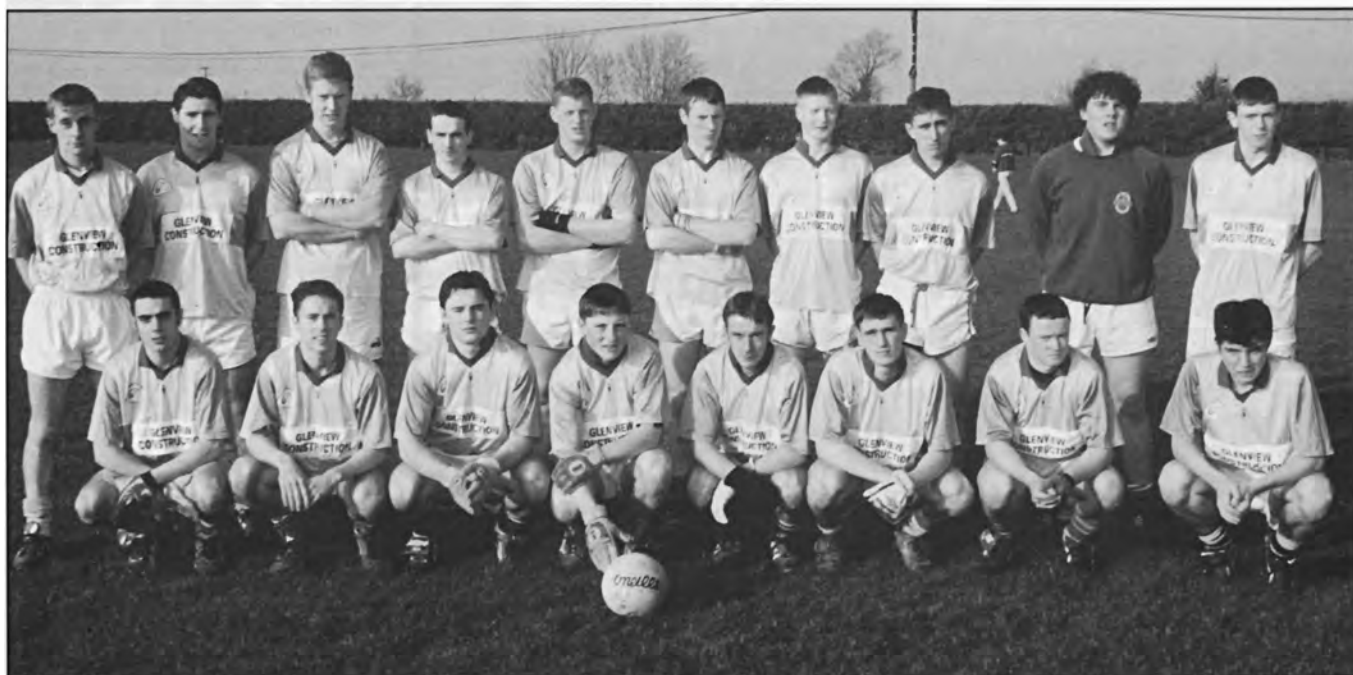
Our main source of revenue

was the Hurlers Co-op Draw and the 'Play for the Park' Lotto which was expertly organised by Wat Cody.

The Field Committee as usual kept the pitch in pristine condition and also put up very elaborate wire netting in Ballyfasey National School.

Obituaries

Since last year two ex players passed away. Eddie Hartley of Weatherstown won senior football championships in 1955 and '56. John Culleton, Kilbride won Senior Football Championships in 1938, '39, '42, '43 and '46. Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh Siad.



Glenmore - U-21 A 1997 Football Champions

Back: Paul Fitzgerald, Fergal Freyne, Michael Kelleher, Mark Mullally, Declan Cody, Eoin Grennan, Tommy Griffin, Paddy Mullally, Niall Mackey, Donie Aylward.

Front: Michael Lynch, Ciaran Lynch, John Phelan, Michael Phelan, Willie Fitzgerald, Richard Mullally, Kevin Aylward, Laurence Ryan.

CLUB NEWS

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN

Our Greatest Year!

1998 will go down as the greatest year ever in the history of the club with the annexing of the senior hurling championship for the first time. The previous senior title had been won in 1949 when the club was called Graigue.

Well Done, Jim!

Jim Neary created a record as trainer of the team. He has now trained winning teams to county honours at every level from primary schools to senior. This comprises six grades namely Primary Schools, U-14, U-16, Minor, U-21 and Senior. Three of the team now hold county medals in each of the six grades. They are Damien Cleere, Paddy Dwyer and Alan Hoyne. Damien Cleere has captained the team to victory in four of the grades U-14, Minor, U-21 and Senior. As well Jim Neary has trained teams to win football titles at the top grade in Primary Schools, Minor and U-21 level.

Credit Union SHL

The team also created history by winning the Credit Union senior hurling league thus becoming the first team to achieve this double. They beat Glenmore in the final on a score of 2-12 to 0-13. The winning team was Johnny Ronan, Johnny Butler, Paddy Dwyer, Padraic McCluskey, Tomas McCluskey, Tomas Comerford, Alan Hoyne, John Teehan, James Young, Adrian Ronan, John Hoyne, Michéal Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Denis Byrne, Joe Young. Sub. Thomas Dermody.

First Ever U-21

Since last years Yearbook hit the market the club had another great first when they won the Under 21 title. Their final opponents were Rower Inistioge and Graigue-Ballycallan won by 0-11 to 0-6. Team: Paul Dermody, Paul Hoyne, Paddy Dwyer, Philip Butler, Dermot Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Pat Marnell, Alan Hoyne, James Ryall, Edward Brennan, John Hoyne, Michael Millea, Gearoid Cleere, Sean Millea,

Tommy Manogue. Subs. Michael Teehan, Sean Dermody. Six of that team won senior medals in 1998 and Joe Young also played on the senior team but was unavailable for the U-21 final. A further four players were subs on the senior winning side.

Declan Byrne RIP

A great wave of sadness hit the parish on Saturday September 19th with the news that sixteen year old Declan Byrne had died. While it had been known that Declan had a serious illness nevertheless his death came as a big shock.

Ever since he was able to carry a hurley he was practicing the game. He never missed a training session of the Graigue-Ballycallan team or the St Brigids camogie team and always with his hurley pucking around with whoever was available and if he was on his own he delighted in driving the ball into the net of the big goals behind the camogie ones. In his mind he was scoring a goal in an All Ireland final or a county final. Pass the road by his house and you would surely see Declan out with his hurley and ball.

He loved the game. Not alone did he play but he followed it with a passion. He could talk about the game all day. He knew of the great players and their deeds not alone of the present era but also of the past because of reading all he could lay his hands on about the GAA.



Declan Byrne RIP

Many Successes

Declan had a great innings himself in his short career. He won a Primary Schools Roinn A county medal in 1992. In 1995 he won the Kilkenny U-14 long puck competition and represented the county in the Leinster event. That same year he was on the Kilkenny U-14 team in the Tony Forristal tournament. With Kilkenny CBS he won Leinster Colleges Juvenile and Junior championships being their leading scorer in both finals.

While Declan will be missed by everyone who knew him the greatest loss will be felt by his parents Liam and Philomena his brother Denis and his sister Aishling. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a ainm dhilis.

Dick Mahony RIP

The death took place recently of Dick Mahony who won county minor titles with the club in 1948 and 1949. He played on the Kilkenny minor hurling team which lost the All Ireland final to Tipperary in 1949. He went on to win a senior county medal with Slieverue in 1954. May he rest in peace.

Achievements

Other achievements by club members not described elsewhere in the Yearbook are as follows:

* Michéal Hoyne won Agricultural Colleges All Ireland hurling and football medals with Rockwell College and played with Ireland in the shinty International.

* Tom Ryall was appointed Secretary of the Bye Laws Committee in Croke Park by Joe McDonagh.

* Tom Ryall won the 'Endeavour Award' at the Hotel Kilkenny / Kilkenny People Sports Personality Awards.

* Thomas Dermody helped A.I.B. to win the annual hurling tournament against the Defence Forces.

GRAIGNAMANAGH

Pitch Development

The completion of the dressing rooms was one highlight in our club year. The type of shower system provided much food for thought and many clubs were visited before we found the highest quality system to serve our needs efficiently and satisfactorily.

Landscaping and pitch improvement are the next steps in our grand plan to make our headquarters one of the best in the county and we hope that all phases will be completed for a grand official opening in 1999.

The problem with the protective netting behind the goal area was given special consideration and following months of planning, technical advice and surveys, a satisfactory system was devised. Special poles were imported from England and new netting manufactured in Wexford will solve the problem and be pleasing to the eye.

Helicopter lands on pitch

There was great excitement during the Summer when a group of businessmen on their way to a meeting in Waterford were forced to land their helicopter due to bad visibility. Naturally we were glad to accommodate their request for a safe haven. Our eager-beaver PRO, Joe Hehir was on hand to record the event on film.



Presentation to Michael Moore.

Billy Hoare, Chairman, John Bolger, Michael Moore, Ned Fenlon, Fred Randle.

25th Celebrations

In January a function was held at Langton's, Kilkenny to mark the 25th anniversary of the clubs first title win. The heroes who brought the Junior Championship to Graig in 1972 were feted in a wonderful occasion. People travelled from all over the country to renew old friendships and recall those heady days when a long cherished dream became reality.

Golf Classic

The golf classic at New Ross was an outstanding success. Thanks to generous sponsorship and widespread support a sizeable sum was raised. Highlight of the evening was the presentation made by the club to founder member and former chairman, Michael Moore, Rosbercon.

Michael, believing he was there to make the presentation to the winners of the classic, was

speechless when chairman Billy Hoare presented him with a painting of Graignamanagh Bridge by one of his former pupils, artist Ted Fenlon. Michael was the first chairman when the present club was formed in 1953. Other founder members present were John Bolger, Fred Randle and Ned Fenlon.

We congratulate Blacks & Whites on winning the Junior title and we look forward to the possibility of an Intermediate championship meeting. We retained Intermediate status thanks to our comprehensive win over Conahy.

We send condolences to the families of Paddy Bolger, Jimmy Grace and Harry Hayles all of Tinnahinch, Mrs. Margaret Ryan, Akyletawn on their recent sad bereavements.

We wish all our supporters a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Helicopter landing at Harristown, with a mist shrouded Brandon Hill in the background.



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UNDER 16 HURLING

DOUBLES ALL THE WAY

By Tom Ryall

Last year the six competitions in the Under 16 hurling went to six different teams whilst this year it was doubles all the way in Roinn A, Roinn B and Roinn C. James Stephens were the king-pins in Roinn A, Carrickshock were too good for everyone in Roinn B while Tullagher Rosbercon were way ahead of every one in Roinn C. For their future development they might have been better served by competing in Roinn B. On the other hand every club needs a success to maintain interest and competing in the minor hurling Roinn B will be of great benefit to these under 16 players

Tullaroan had an easy win over Graigue Ballycallan 4-17 to 1-5 in the first round of the championship with James Stephens overcoming city rivals O'Loughlin Gaels by 5-9 to 3-4. Tullaroan and Emeralds had a great tussle in Kilmanagh with the Tullaroan boys coming through by 1-15 to 1-7. James Stephens next outing was against another city side, Dicksboro, finishing eight points ahead 1-18 to 2-7. The northern final played in Callan ended in a welter of excitement with the city side coming through by one point in a high scoring game 3-17 to 5-10. Only two teams played in the Roinn A grade in the south and the reigning champions Shamrocks beat last years Roinn B title holders Graignamanagh by 3-13 to 3-6.

The final took place in Callan and after a well contested contest Shamrocks relinquished their title on a score of 1-14 to 2-4. Playing with the strong breeze in the opening half James Stephens built up an interval lead of 1-9 to 0-1 with their goal coming from their man of the match Eoin McCormack. It was obvious the south boys needed a goal to get back into the game and it came eight minutes into the new half when a Patrick Reid free ended in the net.



Tullagher U-16 League and Championship Winners Roinn C

Back: Richard Gaule, Gerard Mulally, Richard Ryan, Andrew Murphy, Martin Malone, Martin Lanigan, Edward Conway, Martin Woods, Moling Cotterell, Steve Cotterell, Kieran Grennan, John Murphy.
Front: Dermot Heffernan, James Grennan, Philip Boyle, Kieran Barron (capt.), Martin Roche, John Cotterell, Eamonn Saunders, Joseph McCarthy, Richard Murphy. *Photo Tom Brett*



Galmoy U16 Championship Finalists 1998

Back: Seamus Dillon, Eoin Phelan, Eamonn Butler, James Hickey, Martin Phelan (capt.), Phil Doyle, Phil Russell, Niall Doherty, Donncha Gray, Thomas Dillon, Johnathon Smith.
Front: Michael Sherman, P.P. Maher, James Dunne, Georgie Hickey, Padraig Gray, Brian Kavanagh, Michael Harte, David Murphy, David Lee, Thomas Ryan.

James Stephens upped their tempo and put the game out of the loser's reach with three unanswered points. John Dermody did get another goal for the Shamrocks with nine minutes left to play but they could not build on it and James Stephens ran out convincing victors.

As stated already, Eoin McCormack was the star of the winning side and caused endless problems for the Losers' defence. He got most support from Eoin Larkin in

goal, Peter O'Neill who was best in defence, Jackie Tyrrell a stalwart full back, David Quinn who was the best midfielder on view and Michael Morris who got some lovely points. Best for the losers were Michael Drennan, Anthony Walsh, Padraig Holden, Robert Aylward and Patrick Reid.

Scorers—James Stephens—Eoin McCormack (1-3), Conor O'Grady (0-4), Michael Morris (0-4), Mark Hennessy, Jonathan Savage and

Shane Parsons (0-1 each). Shamrocks—John Dermody (1-1), Patrick Reid (1-1), David Hoyne and Eoin Reid (0-1 each).

James Stephens--Eoin Larkin, Derek Buckley, Jackie Tyrrell, Joe Mernagh, Andrew Doyle, Peter O'Neill, Brendan Doyle, David Quinn, Richard Hayes, Conor O'Grady, Mark Hennessy, Shane Parsons, Jonathan Savage, Eoin McCormack, Michael Morris. Subs—David Ruth, Niall Bergin.

Shamrocks—Michael Drennan, Michael Fennelly, Keith Murphy, Michael Dermody, Ger Holden, Anthony Walsh, Pdraig Holden, Keith Nolan, Robert Aylward, Patrick Reid, David Hoyne, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Eoin Reid, John Dermody, D.J.Molloy. Subs—Liam Walsh Jason Nolan.

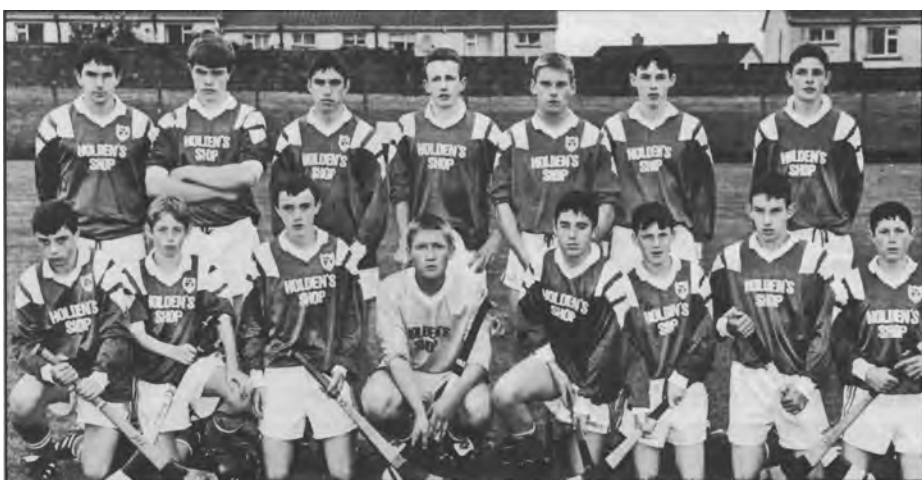
Referee—Willie Kearney (Dunnamaggin)

James Stephens also beat Shamrocks in the league decider with the scores reading 3-9 to 1-10. The Village boys were retaining their title. The eight teams were divided into two group of four and the teams to make it to the semi finals were James Stephens, Emeralds, Shamrocks and Graigue Ballycallan. The city side had to pull out all the stops to beat Emeralds 2-10 to 2-6. Shamrocks beat Graigue Ballycallan in the other semi final 2-10 to 1-6. The league final was a more exciting game than the championship final. James Stephens had a great start and led by 2-5 to 0-3 at the interval thanks to a brace of goals from Michael Morris. Patrick Reid brought the game alive early in the second period when he goaled for the southern side. It took a wonderful save by Eoin Larkin in the village goal to keep his side ahead. With a goal between the sides Michael Morris finally wrapped up the destination of the title when he completed his hat trick. David Quinn was the winners' star performer with most support coming from Eoin Larkin, Peter O'Neill, Jackie Tyrrell, Richie Hayes, Michael Morris and Conor O'Grady. Patrick Reid and David Hoyne were best of the losers. Others to do well were Michael Drennan, Keith Murphy, Pdraig Holden, Michael Dermody and James Fitzpatrick when he came on. *Scorers—James Stephens—Michael Morris (3-1), Conor O'Grady (0-3),*



James Stephens U-16 Roinn A League & Championship Winners 1998

Back: Tom Mulcahy, Tom Mulhall, Derek Buckley, John Savage, Niall Bergin, Jackie Tyrrell, Diarmaid O'Dowd, Chris Burke, David Quinn, Peter O'Neill, Richie Hayes, Andy Doyle, Conor O'Grady.
Front: Mark Hennessey, Eoin Larkin, Michael Morris, Simon Greene, Shane Parsons, Eoin McCormack, David Grogan, Joseph Mernagh, Brendan Doyle. *Photo Tom Brett*



Shamrocks U-16 League & Championship Roinn B Finalists 1998

Back: David Hoyne, Liam Walsh, John Dermody, Keith Murphy, Anthony Walsh, Patrick Reid, Robert Aylward.
Front: Ger Holden, Michael Fennelly, Pdraig Holden, Michael Drennan, Michael Dermody, Eoin Reid, Keith Nolan, Eamonn Fitzpatrick. *Photo by: Tom Brett*

Shane Parsons (0-2), Eoin McCormack (0-2), Brendan Doyle (0-1) Shamrocks—Patrick Reid (1-7), David Hoyne (0-2), James Fitzpatrick (0-1).

Both sides showed one change in personnel from their championship tie. Niall Bergin who did not start the championship final because of an injury was on in the league final in place of Andrew Doyle who came on as a sub in the league decider. On the Shamrocks team Liam Walsh who came on as a sub in the championship played in place of D.J. Molloy with Molloy coming on as a sub in the league decider. *Referee—Dermot Ronan (Graigue Ballycallan).*

Roinn B

The Roinn B championship and league deciders were also contested by the same teams with Carrickshock having a double over St Martins.

In the northern section in the first round Erin's Own beat St Lachtains, St Patricks (Ballyragget) 5-6 James Stephens No 2 4-6, Bennettsbridge beat Clara, St Martins 2-15 Lisdowney 1-7. The semi finals saw St Patricks edge out Erin's Own in a thriller 2-4 to 1-5 while St Martins had an easy win over Bennettsbridge 3-16 to 0-6. The northern final was a disappointing affair with St Martins beating St Patricks 4-14 to 0-1. In the southern section Piltown 0-10 and John Lockes 1-7 finished level but because of the lateness of the competition the teams played extra time with Piltown coming out on top 1-13 to 1-7, Mullinavat beat Rower Inistioge 2-13 to 2-7, Mooncoin beat Thomastown and Carrickshock had one point to spare over Dunnamaggin. In the semi finals Mullinavat beat Piltown 4-11 to 2-2 and Carrickshock got the better of Mooncoin 5-16 to 3-9. The southern

final was a great game with Carrickshock just edging out Mullinavat on a scoreline 2-7 to 1-4.

The championship final took place in Palmerstown with the 'Shocks coming out on top by double scores 2-16 to 1-8. The game was decided in the ten minutes before the interval when Carrickshock's Michael Rice shot two goals and a point, Brian Tennyson four points and Shane Power a point to give their side an interval lead of 2-9 to 0-4. Best for the winners were William King and Michael Rice who were a cut above the others, Brendan Hoyne, Liam Barron, Jim Rice, Richie Cahill, Brian Tennyson and Michael Rohan. The losers had hard triers in Brendan Maher, Michael Mulhall, Tom Kinsella, Shem Kelly and John Buggy. Scorers for the winners were Michael Rice (2-9), Brian Tennyson (0-3), Dan O'Brien, Shane Power, Pat Cleary and Michael Rohan (0-1 each).

Carrickshock—Brendan Hoyne, Eric Loneragan, Jim Rice, Richard Power, John Murphy, Liam Barron, William King, Richie Cahill, Paul Barron, Dan O'Brien, Brian Tennyson, Michael Rohan, Michael Rice, Pat Cleary, Shane Power. *Subs*—Gerry Mulcahy, Robert Lee.

St Martins—Stephen Murphy, Patrick Quirke, Brendan Maher, Conor Kinsella, Michael Walsh, Michael Mulhall, Damien Maher, Shem Kelly, Tom Nolan, Shane Coonan, Tom Kinsella, Kieran Kelly, Niall Moran, John Buggy, Donal Kelly.

The same two teams made it through to the League final. The semi finals saw Carrickshock beat Clara 4-11 to 2-3 while St Martins overcame Rower Inistioge 0-13 to 0-7. The league final took place in Clara and Carrickshock again proved the superior side coming out on top on this occasion on a score of 0-16 to 1-6. Both teams were the same as played in the championship except that Patrick Byrne (St Martins) saw action in the league final.

Roinn C

Tullogher Rosbercon had facile wins in both the championship and league finals in the Roinn C grade.

The results in the championship were Northern group –1st Round Conahy Shamrocks got past Fenians, Blacks and Whites beat



Carrickshock U-16 Roinn B League & Championship Winners Roinn B 1998

Back: Leo O'Gorman, Eric Loneragan, Richie Cahill, Liam Ireland, Brian Tennyson, Jim Rice, Paul Barron, John Murphy, Richie Power, Robert Lee, Gerry Mulcahy, Anthony Holland, James Dalton.

Front: William King, Pat Cleary, Michael Ronan, Michael Rice, Brendan Hoyne, Liam Barron (capt.), Dan O'Brien, Patrick Mulcahy, Shane Power, Richard Frisby, John Tennyson, Richard Power. *Photo Tom Brett*



St. Martins U-16 Roinn B League & Championship Finalists 1998

Back: Joseph Shore, Donal Kelly, Anthony Agar, John Buggy, Shem Kelly, Michael Mulhall, Tom Kinsella, Adam Cashin, Stephen Murphy, Patrick Byrne, Kieran Kelly, Brendan Maher.

Front: Pat Quirke, Don Callanan, Robert Shore, Niall Moran, Thomas Nolan, Shane Coonan, Damien Maher, Michael Walsh, Conor Kinsella, Donal Keane *Photo Tom Brett*

Young Irelands easily, Galmoy had the better of Barrow Rangers while Cloneen beat Danesfort 2-11 to 2-8. The semi finals saw Conahy Shamrocks and Blacks and Whites finish all square with Conahy Shamrocks scoring 2-6 to Blacks and Whites 1-9. Conahy Shamrocks won the replay by 3-4 to 0-8. In the other semi final Galmoy easily mastered Cloneen 4-11 to 0-5. The Northern final was a nail biting game with Galmoy edging out Conahy Shamrocks 1-10 to 1-9. Tullogher Rosbercon opened their southern campaign with a 6-13 to 0-9 victory over Windgap. Windgap had previously beaten Kilmacow in the first round. Neighbours Glenmore and Slieverue had an exciting contest with Glenmore just getting home by 2-8 to 2-5. Tullogher Rosbercon beat Glenmore in the Southern final 3-14 to 0-7.

The final took place in Palmerstown and the southerners

took an early lead and were ahead at the interval 2-8 to 0-0. While the Galmoy side improved in the second half they never looked likely to pull back the lead. The final score was Tullogher Rosbercon 4-13 Galmoy 1-4. Galmoy will be pleased with their performance as they were up against an exceptional Tullogher Rosbercon side for the Roinn C grade. Galmoy will be looking with hope to 1999 as they will have fourteen of their team available. Tullogher Rosbercon had good performers in Kieran Barron who captained the side, Martin Lanigan, Richard Gaule, Richard Ryan, Moling Cottrell, John Murphy, Edward Conway and Ger Mullally. Galmoy had some nice hurlers in James Hickey who got all their scores, captain Martin Phelan, Eoin Phelan, Niall Doherty and Donncha Gray.

Scorers—Tullogher Rosbercon— Edward Conway (1-5), John Murphy (1-3), Ger Mullally (1-1), Moling

Cottrell ((0-2), Philip Boyle and Martin Malone (0-1each) and an own goal. *Galmoy*—James Hickey (1-4).

Tullogher Rosbercon.—Richard Murphy, Andrew Murphy, Kieran Barron, Joseph McCarthy, Martin Lanigan, Richard Gaule, Dermot Heffernan, Martin Woods, Richard Ryan, Martin Malone, Moling Cottrell, Edward Conway, John Murphy, Ger Mullally, Philip Boyle.

Galmoy—Pdraig Gray, Ken Walsh, Eoin Phelan, Thomas Dillon, Seamus Dillon, Niall Doherty, Phil Doyle, Martin Phelan, James Hickey, Donncha Gray, Jonathan Smith, Phil Russell, Georgie Hickey, Eamon Butler, James Dunne. Sub—Michael Sherman.

Tullogher Rosbercon, Galmoy, Blacks and Whites and Kilmacow qualified for the semi finals of the Under 16 hurling league. Both semi finals were one sided with Tullogher Rosbercon beating their championship final opponents Galmoy by 6-18 to 1-3. Blacks and Whites beat Kilmacow in the other semi final by 4-11 to 1-3. The final played in Thomastown also proved one sided



B & W's U-16 Roinn C league Finalists 1998 Photo Tom O'Neill

Back: Michael Moran, Sean Whitehead, Fiacre Moran, Liam Dalton, Shane O'Sullivan, Shane Murphy, James Doran, Peter Cleere, Edward Kelly, James Burke.

Front: Brian Moloney, Niall Kennedy, James Brennan, Jimmy Whelan, Jason Carroll, Keith Byrne, Barry Moloney, Michael Doyle, Liam Kelly, Barry Dalton.

as Tullogher Rosbercon ran out convincing winners by 6-21 to 1-5. The winners had sterling displays from Kieran Barron, Richard Gaule, Martin Woods, Martin Malone, Moling Cottrell, Ger Mullally and Edward Conway. Those who did best for the losers were Shane Murphy, James Doran, Shane O'Sullivan and Peter Cleere.

Tullogher Rosbercon.—Same as

played in championship final.

Blacks and Whites—Jason Carroll, Brian Moloney, Shane Murphy, Liam Kelly, Barry Dalton, James Doran, James Brennan, Michael Doyle, Shane O'Sullivan, Edward Kelly, Peter Cleere, Barry Moloney, Jimmy Whelan, Keith Byrne, Sean Whitehead. *Subs*—Fiacre Moran, James Burke.

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The Late Late Senior Football Show



Glenmore - Senior Football Finalists '98

Back: Eoin Grennan, Johnny Murphy, Kevin Aylward, Frank Kirwan, Fergal Freyne, Stephen Hartley, Jimmy Walsh, Denis Mullally, Richie Mullally, Paschal Phelan, Michael Aylward.

Front: Noel Doherty, Michael Murphy, John Phelan, Michael Phelan, Seamie Dollard, Paul Mullally, Paddy Mullally, PJ O'Connor, Eddie O'Connor. *Photo Tom O'Neill*



James Stephens - Senior Football Finalists '98

Back: Brian McEvoy, Tomás O'Dowd, Liam O'Connor, Neil Lahart, John Scott, Peter Barry, Fergal Hickey, Philip Larkin
Front: Richard Minogue, Shane Doyle, Francis Cantwell, Tommy Fogarty, Brian Leahy, Michael Fogarty, Dermot Grogan

Photo Tom O'Neill

At the time of going to press the County Senior football champions are not yet known. Several factors are responsible for this unfortunate state of affairs, the last one being that James Stephens and Glenmore drew in the long awaited county final on 28 November. If, last year Kilkenny could boast the

earliest county champions of the year anywhere in Ireland when Dicksboro won the title in May, then we must admit that fixtures have gone quite awry in '98.

Glenmore and James Stephens played out a very good final encounter in Thomastown with both sides feeling rather unlucky

not to have taken the silverware at the first time of asking.

Played in ideal conditions for the time of year, Glenmore got off to a great start with two good points each from Michael Phelan and Frank Kirwan before James Stephens settled into the game. When they did, they made up ground very quickly with a succession of scores from Brian

McEvoy, Mick Fogarty and Richie Manogue. But Michael Phelan scored three outstanding points just before half time to give Glenmore a two point interval lead of 0-7 to 0-5.

The second half was a rugged encounter which saw the Village creep back into a two point lead with excellent scores coming from the Grogans, Dermot and Kevin and Liam O'Connor. In the final two minutes Glenmore pressure paid off when PJ O'Connor and Michael Phelan both pointed from placed balls to give Glenmore a deserved draw.

Early in the Year!!

The following were the two groups of four teams which set out in March to contest the Kilkenny senior football championship: A - Glenmore, Muckalee, Dicksboro, James Stephens, B -

Railyard, Kilmoganny, Piltown, Graig-Ballycallan.

The action commenced on St. Patrick's Day. Each team played three games in its group and the results provided semi-finalists thus: Glenmore v. Railyard and James Stephens v. Graig-Ballycallan.

Glenmore had to work very hard to beat a dogged Railyard side who simply refused to give in. But two very well worked goals proved to be the difference between the sides at the end, Glenmore 2-6, Railyard 0-10.

James Stephens and Graig-Ballycallan served up another fine game with the City side pulling away in the last quarter. They executed some fine scores on their way to a result of 2-12 to 0-6.

AIB Club Championship

As the final between Glenmore and James Stephens was pushed out to late in the season, James Stephens were nominated to represent Kilkenny in the AIB Leinster Club Championship. They got an unfavourable draw, playing away to Dublin and former All Ireland Champions Kilmacud Crokes at Glenalbyn.

The Village team put up a great performance against a star studied 'Crokes side who had eight intercounty players from five different counties. Unfortunately the Kilkenny side missed a penalty and conceded the goal in the last seconds of the game which put an undeserved slant on the scoreboard of 1-15 to 0-5. The huge home following stayed right to the end and accorded James Stephens a standing ovation for their gallant efforts.

**Young Irelands
Junior Football Champions**

Back: James Fitzgerald, Rory O'Donnell, Brian Whelan, Paul O'Hagan, Paul Murphy, Brendan Kehoe, Peter Carroll, Thomas Drennan, PJ Hickey, Ciarán Carrol, Tom Hunt, (Coach).

Front: Darragh Hunt, Aidan Drennan, Alan O'Neill, JP Carroll, David McDowell (Capt), Colin Madden, Billy Doheny, Dick Carroll, Patrick O'Neill, Philip Twomey..



**Kilkenny Football Team
c. 1959**

Back: Joe Walsh (Ry), Nicksie Comerford (Muckalee), Paddy Walsh (Ry), _?_, Mick Egan (Cotterstown), Larry Murphy (Tullagher), Simon Kennedy (Tullagher), Paddy Somers (Coolagh), Andy Heffernan (Muckalee), Martin Meally (Railyard), Paudie Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Michael Meally (Railyard).

Front: John Heffernan (Glenmore), John Nash (Railyard), Mick Rellis (Tullagher), Billy Fitzgerald (Tullaroan), Podge Butler (Kilmoganny), Luke Morrissey (G'namanagh), Micky Fitzgerald (Glenmore), _?_, Sean Higgins (G'namanagh), Billy Fitzgerald (Glenmore).



GAELIC FOOTBALL - THE CINDERELLA SPORT OF THE GAA WORLD

By Michael Moore

To the above heading, one might add, with considerable justification, the forgotten sport of the Kilkenny G.A.A. world. Strange, when you consider the passion Kilkenny folk have, for sport, in general, and, in particular, all other branches of the G.A.A. organisation, as is evidenced by the fact that Kilkenny teams excel at hurling, in all grades, at inter-county and at club level, while camogie has always had a highly successful profile, and continues to grow in popularity, and Kilkenny handballers, throughout the decades have held a near monopoly on national titles, at all levels.

It is something of a contradiction then, to have to accept, that Gaelic football, the strongest arm of the organisation, nationwide, is, by far, the weakest in Kilkenny, with little, or no standing in the eyes of the GAA authorities, the clubs, and consequently, the general public.

Indeed, the editorial staff of this much respected annual publication cannot escape criticism, on this issue, as in 1996, no article, or photographs appeared in that year's edition, on the Kilkenny senior football final, which, in terms of importance, ought to be presented as the second most important championship title, to be won within the county, in the annual review of all G.A.A. matters in the county.

It might seem strange for a Kilkenny person to declare that Gaelic football is, indeed, a wonderful game. It is an intriguing fact, not often contemplated, that as a sport, Gaelic football utilises more of the faculties given to man (and women) to perfect, display and compete with, by comparison with any other football team sport. One has the natural athleticism and physical contact, that demands fitness of the highest order, spectacular kicking and judgement of eye to register long range point scoring, both from play and placed balls, the excitement of scoring goals, and/or wonderful saves from agile goalkeepers, coupled with the awesome sight of top athletes leaping into the air, on the run, to pluck balls from the sky in mid-field duels with opponents, the exciting combination of toe-to-hand solo-running, the sharpness of eye to deliver a punted pass to a colleague some distance away, most of which if, not all, are unique to Gaelic football.

Contemplate, for one minute, the potential worldwide appeal, this game could have had, if an American, Australian or English tycoon, had invented, or, indeed bought into this game, decades ago, and invested millions, Rupert Murdoch style, into the development of an inter-city type league, as in the N.F.L. in America, or the premiership in the U.K., in both soccer and, now, rugby union, what a spectacle

it would make. But no, it was, and is a product of our own Irish culture, and is part of our rich heritage and, yet, we singularly fail, in this county to appreciate its many magnificent qualities.. It is also a fact that the game can be played to a reasonable standard, within the county, as is amply proven by the competitiveness and high quality of the county championship finals of recent years.

It must also be acknowledged that the present apathy for the game, has been evolving over decades, and in fairness, all blame cannot be levelled at the current county administration. But, where do we go from here?. Do we continue to ignore the problem and let the game slowly strangle itself, with continued disinterest, at all level of responsibility in the county? Surely not, must be the answer. Starting with the County Board, who must lead in taking responsibility for raising the profile of the game to a level of respect, initially, by seeking out suitable, enthusiastic, sponsors to promote the county's premier championships, senior and intermediate, by the development of schools of excellence at under-age to hone the skills and interest of our youth, and by encouraging clubs to run tournaments, at all levels, to promote a wider interest in the game . To end, one fact is clear, the game cannot survive, let alone thrive, in the years ahead, unless positive initiatives are taken to stem the decline of this great game, in Kilkenny..

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BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

A Good Year at Underage

Shamrocks Camogie Club had a good year all round. Our talented U-10 team showed great potential in the Thomastown blitz. The primary school team were Roinn B winners beating a skilful Skeaghvosteen side and many of the same players won the O'Loughlins U-12 blitz. Our U-14's were beaten in the semi-finals by Mullinavat but did the county proud when representing Kilkenny in the Feile finals in Wexford, where they were hosted by Buffers Alley.

Our U-16 team beat Graig-Ballycallan, Rower-Inistioige and in the county final a hotly fancied Freshford team. They played excellent camogie throughout the year. The U-18 team was very young this year and were beaten by eventual winners Graig-Ballycallan.

The U-21's also reached the county final, defeating Dicksboro but failed to St. Brigids, Ballycallan. In defeat they showed great spirit which bodes well for next year as all except one player is underage again. Our best players in the final were Eleanor Walsh, Maresa Fennelly in goal, Grace and Catherine Fennelly, Marie Walsh, Olive Ryan and Nicola Hughes.

Our Junior team gained valuable experience from this year's campaign. The seniors were beaten by a classy Freshford side in the championship.

Thanks

The club wishes to thank all the parents and supporters who provided transport and assistance during the season particularly for the Feile weekend. We all look forward to a very successful '99.



Shamrocks - Primary Schools Roinn B Champions

Back: Imelda Moloney, Natasha Knox, Ellen Molloy, Noreen Sullivan, Christabel Walsh, Aisling O'Dwyer, Orla Ryan, Keeva Fennelly, Roisin Fennelly, Aisling Costello, Deirdre Cullinane. **Front:** Melissa Morrissey, Deirdre O'Brien, Elaine Kelly, Belita Fennelly, Lisa Millea, (capt.) Siobhán Kenneally, Mary Aylward, Leona Kinahan, Lorna Fennelly.



Shamrocks - Kilkenny Feile winners '98

Back: Deirdre Dempsey, Niamh Kelly, Janelle O'Brien, Aisling Walsh, Lisa Ryan, Margaret Malone, Orla Ryan, Keeva Fennelly. **Front:** Christabel Walsh, Gemma Walsh, Amy Kehoe, Cathleen Cummins, Jenna Kenneally, Ciara Kinahan, Emily Dermody, Jenny Walsh, Siobhán Kenneally, Elaine Kelly.



Shamrocks - U-16 Roinn A Camogie Champions

Back: Emily Dermody, Krystle Fennelly, Deborah Walsh, Maria Connolly, Paula Kennedy, Breda Walsh, Mary Connors, Aisling Walsh, John Kenneally. **Front:** Jenny Walsh, Jenna Kenneally, Ciara Kinahan, Carol Hughes, Ciara Fennelly (capt.), Assumpta O'Farrell, Geraldine Fennelly, Siobhán Dermody, Lisa Ryan.

CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

BLACKS & WHITES

Camogie Revival

This year camogie was revived in Skeoughvosteen after a few years lapse. Due to great work being done at primary school level it enabled Blacks & Whites to field teams at primary and U-14 levels.

Our primary school teams reached the finals of the Roinn B Championship but had no luck at the final hurdle.

Pride of place must go to our U-14 team who captured the Roinn C County Championship in June. It is hoped to field at U-14 and U-16 in 1999.

Many Helpers!

Many thanks must go to Caitlin Brennan-Kelly for coaching our U-14 girls and Tony Dalton N.T. for our success at primary level.

Congratulations to Carolyn O'Dowd and Maeve Dalton who won Leinster U-14 championship medals with Kilkenny.

The club would like to thank the parents, supporters, and the GAA club for use of Tom Walsh Park and anyone who helped in any capacity during the year.

Club Officers '98

Chair: Bernie Cleere

Vice-Chair: Breda O'Dowd

Secretary: Mary Murphy

Joint Treasurers: Ned Moran,

Mary Murphy.



Skeoughvosteen - Primary Schools Finalists '98

Back: Mary Claire Murphy, Tara Kelly, Kristeen Joyce, Michelle Moloney, Michelle Kelly, Aimee Murphy, Helena Wall, Aine Doyle, Majella Kelly.

Front: Ciara Kirwan, Kim Nolan, Bríd Doran, Lisa Hayden.



Blacks & Whites Roinn C U-14 champions 1998

Back: Catherine Morrissey, Kristeen Joyce, Grace Hughes, Caitlin Brennan-Kelly (coach), Brigid Hearne, Kate Doyle, Andrea Savage, Jennifer Lennon, Michelle Kelly, Doireann O'Neill, Sarah Murphy.

Middle: Marie O'Brien, Kate Byrne, Lisa Hayden, Aimee Murphy, Michelle Moloney, Carolyn O'Dowd (Capt.), Maeve Dalton, Mary-Claire Murphy, Bríd Doran.

Front: Aine Doyle, Tara Kelly, Majella Kelly, Emma Ryan, Kim Nolan, Jane Maher.



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Camogie Club News

GLENMORE

What a Year!

A tremendous year again for the Glenmore Camogie club! Winning the Intermediate championship really put the icing on the cake for such a small club. On 15th August the county final was played in Hugginstown between Glenmore and Thomastown.

Glenmore had a great start with a fine goal scored in the first minute by Brigid Mullally.

Thomastown goaled soon after but from then to the end it was all Glenmore, winning by a convincing scoreline of 4-12 to 2-3.

Glenmore have previously won one Junior B title and two Junior A titles and we are delighted to have added the Intermediate title to our collection. A great achievement for a small club, in existence only eight years with a small panel of fifteen players.

Thanks to All

Much credit is due to trainer Seamus Hennessy and all the

players who worked so hard. The club was very busy during the year with several fundraising events and we had fine social trips to Killarney and Wexford.

Thanks to our supporters, Tom Sheehan's Garage, our team sponsors. Congratulations to Joan Aylward who wed Pierce Hendrick during the year.



Glenmore - County Intermediate Champions '98

Back: Tom Sheehan (sponsor) Valerie Boyle, Marie Hanrahan, Marie Ennett, Catherine Hartley, Joan Aylward, Margaret Aylward, Mary Dowling (selector), Annette Phelan, Seamus Hennessy (trainer).

Front: Fidelous Doherty, Martina Murphy, Margaret Hehir-Doherty, Brigid Mullally, Brigid Murphy, Jo Dowling, Marie-Therese Doherty, Denise Drohan, Geraldine Cotterell. **At front:** Helen Murphy.

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LISDOWNEY

All Ireland 7-a-side Champions

Lisdowney broke new ground in 1998 when on their first appearance in the All Ireland 7-a-side championships they won convincingly.

Semi-final Exit

Early success in 1998 against Shamrocks, Tullogher and St. Brigids saw Lisdowney into the semi-final. But after a two month wait for the game, on 10 July Lisdowney were outclassed by the in-form Ballycallan girls who were worthy and deserving winners on the night. So after two hectic years of non-stop camogie the girls could have a well deserved rest!! Or could they?

Ready for the Sevens!

Plans were quietly put in place

to reward the players for their efforts of the previous years. Hotels, meals and a whole weekend was organised to include the Kilmacud Sevens along the way!

Clubs from the 32 counties participated. Lisdowney, St. Brigids, Freshford and Tullogher all travelled from Kilkenny. Lisdowney emerged victorious from their section and qualified to meet old rivals St. Brigids in the semi-final. It proved to be a top class game which drew a great crowd. Lisdowney just about got the upper hand to avenge their championship defeat and won by three points.

A Memorable Victory

Their final opponents were Granagh/Ballingarry from Limerick. This was a thoroughly

entertaining clash. Lisdowney won because of the exceptional performances of defenders Kelly Long and Sandra Gleeson, elusive midfielder Marina Downey and forceful forwards Ann and Angela Downey. Goalkeeper Miriam Holland was outstanding in every game.

A New Challenge

The big question for next year concerns the introduction of 15 a side. Many clubs will be under pressure. All clubs will need time and experience to help them find their feet. No doubt that players will be very eager to commit themselves to the changes in the new year and we hope that with a blend of experience and new players Lisdowney will find the right balance to remain at the top.

THOMASTOWN

A Good Year

1998 proved to be another good year for camogie in Thomastown. Three of our teams reached county finals and even though no trophies were won great credit must go to all players for putting such time and effort into training.

Our primary school team competed in the schools league. They were beaten in the final. Sr. De Lourdes and Bríd O'Shea are to be thanked for their time and dedication at this level. At underage we competed in all competitions from U-14 to U-21 and reached the knock out stages in all levels. In U-16 and U-21 we reached the finals. Our

U-16's who came through a tough group but were unfortunately beaten by a stronger Tullogher side.

At U-21 level we reached the final also by beating Tullogher and then getting a walk over from Clara in the semi-final. In the final we were narrowly beaten by a very fancied Rower Inistioge side.

No luck in Intermediate

The Intermediate team was trained by Ann Marie Brennan and Tom O'Keeffe. They did tremendous work by guiding the team to the final for the second successive year but alas, were beaten by Glenmore. Hopefully

1999 will prove to be third time lucky.

Under 11 Victory

This year at U-11, clubs organised their own tournaments and our U-11's under the guidance of Helen Farrell and Michelle Conway won the James Stephens tournament.

Well Done to All

Congratulations to all players who represented the club at county level. Well done and thanks to all involved in training our underage teams. The club could not exist without the assistance of such a willing band of workers.

MULLINAVAT

A Great Year

1998 was a great year for Muullinavat camogie club winning three county finals at U-16 and U-18 Roinn B and the Junior Championship. They also reached finals at U-14 level in championship and Feile na Gael. This is the first time in the history of the Camogie club that the Junior Cup came home to Mullinavat. So there were great celebrations all round. The girls are hoping it won't take as long to bring home the Intermediate title.

Mullinavat played the Rower in the Junior final in what was a very exciting game. The Rower fought to the very end but eventually went under by 2-7 to 1-6.

The U-18 girls won their final well beating James Stephens by 3-8 to 1-5. The U-16 girls again met James Stephens in their final. The first game ended level but in the replay the girls made sure the cup came home to Mullinavat.

Panel: Joanne Quinn, Paula Madigan, Fiona Sutton, Lorraine Roche, Etain Aylward, Jean Murphy, Patricia Duggan, Elaine Aylward, Brigid Raftice, Denise Duggan, Mary Ann Murphy, Angela Kinneally (Capt.). Subs; Catherine Walsh, Ellen Grant, Sarah Kelly, Margaret Delahunty, Catherine Butler, Fionnuala Wall, Aileen and Marie O'Keeffe.

The camogie club wishes to thank the Hurling club for the use of the pitch and Jim Conway for always having it in great playing condition. We also thank Andy Aylward and Mick Carroll for training the teams.

Club Officers:

Chair: Margaret Ann Raftice
Secretary: Anna Kavanagh
Treas. & PRO: Majella Sutton.



Mullinavat U-18 Camogie Champions Roinn B '98

Back: Majella Sutton (selector), Mick Carroll (trainer), Valerie Sutton, Nora Sutton (capt.) Sinead Maddocks, Aida Kinneally, Ann Marie Raftice, Fiona Sutton, Mary Ann Murphy, Elaine Aylward, Anna Kavanagh (selector).

Front: Paula Madigan, Tricia Duggan, Brigid Raftice, Etain Aylward, Louise Foskin, Joanne Quinn, Angela Kinneally, Ann Aylward, Jean Murphy.

Missing from photo: Kathleen Atkins, Brigid Aylward.



Mullinavat Junior Camogie Champions '98

Back: Nora Sutton, Brigid Aylward, Valerie Sutton, Ann Aylward, Anna Kavanagh (capt.), Ann Marie Raftice, Aida Kennedy, Brigid Duggan, Etain Aylward, Tricia Duggan, Mick Carroll (trainer).

Front: Kathleen Atkins, Joanne Quinn, Louise Foskin, Ellen O'Neill, Deirdre Aylward, Angela Kinneally.

At front: Marie Atkins. **Missing from photo:** Caroline Dwyer.

League Win Dedicated to a Departed Friend

Nickey Brennan.

When Bennettsbridge played near neighbours Thomastown in the Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final at the end of September they had one great motivating factor entering the game. Just a few weeks earlier club stalwart and former Chairman Jim Dobbyn was laid to rest. Jim epitomised the great club mentor and his loyal and patriotic service to the famed yellow and green was not lost on the Bennettsbridge players as they played Thomastown. Jim would have been thrilled with the result which saw the 'Bridge sore an impressive 2-14 to 1-12 victory over their neighbours. In accepting the Pat Tierney Cup from County Board Chairman John Healy, team captain James McGarry dedicated the victory to "the late great Jim".

The overall standard in the early rounds of the league was of the mediocre variety. The end result saw Mooncoin and

Mullinavat from Section 1 and Bennettsbridge and Thomastown from Section 2 reach the league semi-finals. The main excitement in the league came in a delayed final game in Danesfort. Due to atrocious weather conditions the game between Clara and John Lockes had to be abandoned many weeks earlier. As events turned out Clara only required a draw to secure the remaining semi-final spot and edge out Mooncoin. Favourites Clara disappointed on the day as the men from Callan secured a merited if surprising victory.

Section 2 of the league was particularly competitive all through with most teams still in contention right up to the final game. It was not too surprising then that the teams which came through this group, Bennettsbridge and Thomastown, would eventually contest the League Final.

For the first twenty five minutes of the final Bennettsbridge laid siege to the Thomastown goal, helped by a decisive midfield pull from Richard Moran and Larry Cleere. Despite the constant pressure from

the winners Thomastown struck a purple patch just before the interval break when they launched a series of attacks which yielded 1-2. This left the halftime score at 2-7 to 1-6 in favour of Bennettsbridge.

The second half saw Thomastown introduce Brendan Treacy to midfield and his physical presence brought a steadying influence to the team. An early brace of points for the 'Bridge from Tommy Lennon and Richard Moran edged the winners further ahead, but Thomastown

came back strongly with a string of points to narrow the margin to a goal.

With Thomastown now posing a serious threat, the Bennettsbridge mentors gambled on taking James McGarry out of the goal to strengthen the attack. Richard McCarthy took over in goal.

The move had

the desired effect with Richard Moran and McGarry adding points shortly afterwards. These scores rattled Thomastown and thereafter they were chasing the game. The final whistle was sweet music to the Bennettsbridge players, officials and supporters and fond memories of their departed friend Jim Dobbyn were recalled as they celebrated a deserved victory.

For the record, the scorers and teams in the 1998 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final were:

Bennettsbridge: J. McGarry (0-1), A. Walpole, J. Lennon, B. Walpole, J. Byrne, S. Moran, J. Drea, L. Cleere, R. Moran (0-6), T. Lennon (0-1), P. Lennon (0-1), W. Dowling (1-0), D. Dowling, T. Drea (1-2), R. McCarthy (0-3). *Sub:* T. Dooley.

Thomastown: J. Brennan, M. O'Keeffe, J. Donnelly, B. Dempsey, J. Lanigan, S. Lanigan, M. Donnelly, N. Nevin, B. O'Keeffe (0-2), R. Bolger (0-2), N. Holden (0-3), D. Walsh, P. Treacy, T. O'Keeffe (1-4), D. Lanigan. *Subs:* B. Treacy (0-1) & R. Galway.



League Champs:

James McGarry receives the cup from **John Healy** (Chairman) after Bennettsbridge defeated Thomastown in the Vale Oil Intermediate League. **Michael Hayes**, Sales Manager Vale Oil is also in the picture.

Photo Tom O'Neill

Clara back with the Big Boys after Four Year Wait

By: Nickey Brennan.



Clara Vale Oil Intermediate Champions 1998

Photo: T. O'Neill.

Back: Eamon Whearty, Michael Fitzgerald, Joe Treacy, Brendan Barcoe, Anthony Prendergast, Rory Moore, Eamon Phelan, Coleman Ryan.

Front: TJ Fitzgearld, Pauric Brennan, Joe Casey, Kevin Ryan, Robert Shortall (capt), Lester Ryan, Brian Phelan.

Clara will get an opportunity to reclaim the glory days of the mid eighties when they play in the Kilkenny Senior Hurling grade in 1999. The side's success in this year's Intermediate Hurling campaign was well deserved. Right from their opening championship game when they demolished Conahy Shamrocks through to the County Final against Mooncoin, they displayed supreme commitment and an abundance of skill. With a sprinkling of youth and experience in their ranks Clara had the right balance to overcome all opponents along the championship route.

Clara's championship prospects looked anything but rosy when they lost out on a league semi-final spot after a poor display against John Lockes in their final league outing.

The Callan side's success in this game ironically allowed Clara's championship final opponents Mooncoin through to the league knock-out stages. Disappointed and somewhat chastened by this defeat, Clara planned out a new strategy that would eventually secure the Hanrahan Cup.

The opening round of the 1998 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Championship produced what was perhaps the best game of the entire competition when neighbours

Rower Inistioge and Graiguenamanagh battled for supremacy in Thomastown. The sides met at the semi-final stage last year with Graiguenamanagh proving successful. A similar result looked on the cards in this year's

game when Graiguenamanagh led by eight points in the early stages of the second half courtesy of a third goal from Eddie Walsh.

But we all know hurling games can swing around very quickly, and so it was in this case with the Rower Inistioge making a dramatic recovery scoring 2-5 without reply. That scoring blitz rocketed Graiguenamanagh, but a rejuvenated Inistioge side maintained their grip on the game right to the finish. A late goal from Eddie Walsh

was not enough to save the game for the Graig side.

John Lockes secured their first championship success in the Intermediate grade for four years when they had a handsome victory over Piltown. The Callan side looked winners from a very early stage and were helped along the way by a goal from a penalty by John Power just on half time. The eventual twelve point victory margin established John Lockes as one of the favourites for the



Robert Shortall, captain of Clara, Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Champions, receives the cup from **John Healy**, Chairman of Kilkenny Co. Board.

Photo Tom O'Neill

Intermediate Championship.

Clara had little difficulty overcoming a hugely disappointing Conahy Shamrocks team in their opening game. The sides were evenly matched in the opening ten minutes, but thereafter Clara went on a point scoring spree. Conahy simply had no answer to the power hurling of the winners and the final whistle was a relief to the beleaguered Conahy players and their supporters.

St. Lachtains (Freshford) had 2-2 on the score board before opponents Tullogher Rosbercon opened their account when the sides met in their first round championship tie in Bennettsbridge. Kilkenny senior goalie Joe Dermody was moved out the field to strengthen the Freshford attack and the move worked well in all the side's

championship outings. The early scoring spree laid the foundation for the Northern side's success, but Tullogher will curse their inaccuracy over the hour which cost them a possible victory.

Mooncoin's first championship outing saw them pitted against impressive first round performers John Lockes (Callan). It took an injury time point from Michael Walsh to divide two sides that provided an entertaining game. The Callan side enjoyed the bulk of the possession over the hour but were unable to convert their supremacy on to the score board, the only place it really mattered. The fiercely committed Mooncoin side was far more economical with the opportunities that came their way and the introduction of Ger Kirwan made a major impact in the winner's attack. The loss of Declan Roche, injured the previous week while playing for the Kilkenny Intermediate side in the All-Ireland Final against Limerick, was an immense blow to John Lockes.

The Rower Inistioge were not able to build on their first round promise against Graiguenamanagh when they lost by four points to Thomastown in their second round game. The physical strength of the winners was a crucial factor in determining the outcome as the youthful Inistioge side found it difficult to secure sufficient possession to make the necessary impact. Thomastown held a commanding 2-10 to 1-5 lead entering the final quarter and looked to have the game and a championship semi-final spot safely secured. However, a fine closing quarter saw Inistioge narrow the gap to three points but it was the closest they were to get as Thomastown once again exerted their superiority to record a deserved victory.

Bennettsbridge were left wondering what hit them when St. Lachtains (Freshford) scored a nine point victory in their second round clash. With twelve minutes

remaining in this game the losers had a narrow one point lead and looked like securing a championship semi-final place. Between the 50th and 52nd minute St. Lachtains began the scoring blitz of the championship shooting three goals, two courtesy of Joe Dermody. Bennettsbridge were left shell shocked and found it impossible to recover. The final result certainly flattered St. Lachtains, but they took the chances when they were

presented and this is ultimately what championship games are all about.

Clara had to withstand a brave challenge from Mullinavat before securing a three point victory and the final championship semi-final spot. The closing stages of the game proved a test of endurance for the players and supporters from both sides and the Clara contingent were



Freshford Vale Oil Inremediate Semi-finalists 1998 Photo: T. O'Neill

Back: Gerard Dalton, Noel Dalton, Niall Phelan, Noel Walsh, Pa Dillon, John Costello, Michael Hickey, Ollie O'Connor, John Connolly, Damien Anderson, Ger Behan, Noel Maher, Lorcan Carroll, Eamon Maher, Richard Costello, Ian Colclough, Bobby Dillon,
Front: John Flynn, Mick Kavanagh, Pa. Hickey, Niall O'Connor, Joe Dermody, Seanie Hickey, Paul Costelloe, Noel Hickey, Joe Ryan, Jimmy Kavanagh, Declan Connolly

more than relieved to hear the referee's whistle at the end of a game that could have gone either way.

The first of the relegation semi-finals saw Tullogher Rosbercon and Piltown make an early Saturday morning start due to a wedding in the afternoon. It was Tullogher who adapted better to the conditions but it was mightily close with just a goal between the sides. The second semi-final between Graiguenamanagh and Conahy Shamrocks was not such a close affair. The winners defence may have leaked three goals but the attack more than compensated and left the Conahy defence floundering on numerous occasions scoring five goals themselves in the process.

The eventual relegation final between Piltown and Conahy Shamrocks saw the Southerners secure a deserved victory. Defeat for Conahy saw them return to the Junior grade for the first time in twenty two years. The absence of Canice Brennan who is away on United Nations duty in the Lebanon did not help Conahy's cause but the Northerners were never really in the game and put up a dismal challenge in a bid to save their Intermediate status. In the end there was no disputing the merits of the Piltown victory as they not Conahy lived to play another year in the Intermediate grade in 1999.

The two championship semi-finals in Nowlan Park produced disappointing fare but neither Clara nor Mooncoin were complaining. In the opening game between St. Lachtains and Clara the Freshford side missed at least three excellent goal scoring opportunities in the first half and in the end those missed chances were crucial in determining the outcome of the game. The heavy pitch made conditions difficult for the players but when Clara led by just a single point at the interval having played with the stiff breeze, the initiative looked to be with the

Freshford side in the second half. The elements however were to be no disadvantage to Clara as they controlled the game without ever reaching the heights of their earlier championship performances. St. Lachtains disappointed and were left to rue those first half goal scoring chances which they squandered.

The second semi-final between Thomastown and Mooncoin was a dour affair and it fell to Michael Purcell with a last minute goal to secure victory for Mooncoin. The game was delicately poised for most of the hour but the powerful hurling of Tom Murphy around the middle of the park gave his side a decided edge in this area.

Mooncoin led by two points at the interval (0-6 to 0-4) and the second half continued in much the same fashion as the first. As the game ebbed towards a conclusion a draw looked a strong possibility until Michael Purcell pounced on a rare error in the Thomastown defence. Goalie John Brennan did well to save from Michael Walsh but when he failed to control the ball Michael Purcell was on hand to shoot the crucial goal. It was a victory Mooncoin just about deserved.

The first half of the County Final between Clara and Mooncoin produced little excitement for the modest attendance. To be fair to the players, ground conditions were poor and this impacted their ability to collect the ball at speed. Clara dominated the play to a significant degree in the opening half but failed to reflect this superiority on the score board. Anthony Prendergast was a colossus at midfield while Robert Shortall and Brendan Barcoe were causing all sorts of problems in attack. The Mooncoin defence, although stretched to the limits in the first half, were holding their own thanks to some splendid hurling from Domo Connolly and Jimmy Dunphy in particular. Perhaps they had a tendency to commit a few unnecessary frees and in Anthony Prendergast and Robert Shortall Clara had the perfect executioners. In the final five minutes of the half two points from Michael Walsh left the interval score at 0-7 to 0-5 in favour of Clara.

The hurling improved considerably in the second half and the attendance was treated to a fiercely committed display from two sides hell bent on making it back to the senior ranks of Kilkenny hurling. Mooncoin were a much improved side after the break and this was best epitomised by a dazzling penalty save from Anthony Prendergast in the opening moments of the new half. Although Prendergast pointed the resultant '65 Mooncoin took tremendous heart from this let off to take a firm grip on the game. Tom Murphy began to exert a strong

influence around the middle of the park and a point from Murphy and three from Michael Walsh, two of which came from frees, edged Mooncoin ahead for the first time since the opening moments of the game.

This precarious situation prompted the Clara mentors to make a number of switches and these had the desired affect. Joe Casey who was being well contained by his

former club colleague Domo Connolly found a new lease of life at wing forward. Two points from Casey were important scores in bringing Clara right back into the game. The second of these points followed a fine score from Billy Quinn for Mooncoin but entering the closing stages a draw looked a definite possibility.

The final moments of the game were played out in dramatic fashion. Robert Shortall at last escaped the shackles of glue like Jimmy Dunphy to shoot a point and when Anthony Prendergast pointed again from a line ball it was simply the icing on the cake. Mooncoin never gave up and pressed right up to the final moments to grab the elusive goal that would secure a quick return to the senior ranks.

Clara will be grateful to many players for this famous victory but most especially to veteran Eamonn Whearty who deservedly secured the Man of the Match award. The remaining defenders plus goalie Lester Ryan can also take a lot of satisfaction from their displays, particularly Padraig Brennan, Michael Fitzgerald and Eamonn Phelan. Anthony Prendergast and Rory Moore controlled midfield in the first half but had to play second fiddle after the break when Tom Murphy and Billy Quinn took over for Mooncoin. The winners attack had to work extremely hard for every score. Robert Shortall, Brendan Barcoe and Joe Casey played major roles in securing victory.

Mooncoin will be bitterly disappointed at failing to make an immediate return to the senior ranks but they played their part in an entertaining game particularly in the second half. Just like Clara, the Mooncoin defence was superb all through with Domo Connolly, Jimmy Dunphy and Liam Sutton in particular leading by example with superb displays. Once the Mooncoin midfielders got to grip with their direct opponents after the break the losers attack saw much more of the ball. Apart from one point from Michael Purcell, the Mooncoin attack depended far too much on Michael Walsh for their scores. This was ultimately to prove their achilles heel.

TEAMS & SCORERS.

Clara: Lester Ryan, Eamonn Whearty, Padraig



Mooncoin - Vale Oil Intermediate Finalists 1998

Photo: T. O'Neill

Back: Jimmy Holden, Jamie Dunphy, Eoin Henebry, Alan Henebry, Domo Connolly, Michael Purcell, Richard Hogan, Trevor Dunphy, Patrick Doyle, Michael Walsh, Barry Purcell, Kevin Dunphy, Liam Walsh.

Front: Eamonn Mackey, Tom Murphy, Ciaran Dunphy, Diarmuid Mackey, Liam Sutton, Gerry Kirwan, Mark Flynn, Jim Dunphy, Joe Murphy, Billy Owen, Andy Phelan, David Cody.

Brennan, Joe
 Treacy, Kevin
 Ryan, Michael
 Fitzgerald,
 Eamonn
 Phelan, Rory
 Moore,
 Anthony
 Prendergast
 (0-5), T.J.
 Fitzgerald,
 Colman Ryan,
 Brendan
 Barcoe (0-2),
 Brian Phelan,
 Joe Casey (0-2), Robert



Thomastown - Vale Oil Intermediate Semi-finalists 1998 Photo: T. O'Neill

Back: Noel Moore, Michael Treacy, Declan Dempsey, Derek Brennan, John Brennan, Billy O'Keeffe, Michael O'Keeffe, Kevin Treacy, Richie Galavan, John Donnelly, Richie Bolger, Paul Treacy, Niall Nevin, Brendan Treacy, Niall Holden, Seamus O'Hara, Derek Lanigan, Dessie Walsh.

Front: Dermot Woods, Shane Lanigan, Mick Coone, Ken Walsh, John Dempsey, Brian Dempsey, Tom O'Keeffe, Rory Burke, Dessie Walsh, John Lanigan, Mick Donnelly, Ciaran Kenny, Paul Dempsey.

Shortall
 (Captain)(0-3).
Subs: Bill
 O'Keeffe,
 Patrick

Langton (used), Richard Nolan, Gerry Byrne, James Langton, Dan McDonald, Johnny Ryan, Tom Murphy, Brendan Nolan, Eugene Byrne, David Mulrooney, Pat Bolger, Martin Óg Carrigan.

Team Officials: Nicky Cashin (Team Manager / Selector), Gerry Nolan (Selector) and Paschal Connolly (Selector).

Mooncoin: Mark Tyler (Captain), Jimmy Dunphy, Domo Connolly, Joe Murphy, Ciarán Dunphy, Pat Hogan, Liam Sutton, Tom Murphy (0-2), Billy Quinn (0-1), Ger Kirwan, Trevor Dunphy, Pat Doyle, Diarmuid Mackey, Michael Walsh (0-6), Michael Purcell (0-1).

Subs: Eamonn Mackey (used), Liam Walsh, Alan Hennebry, Barrie Purcell, Jamie Dunphy, Davy Cody, Kevin Dunphy, Andy Phelan, Eoin

Hennebry, John Fitzgerald.

Team Officials: Eddie O'Connor (Team Manager / Selector), Eddie Crowley (Selector) and Jimmy Holden (Selector).

Final Score:

Clara 0-12 Mooncoin 0-10

Man of the Match: Eamonn Whearty (Clara).

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Blacks & Whites - At Last!

Junior Hurling Championship Report

By Richie Stone



Blacks & Whites Kilkeny Junior Hurling Champions 1998

Blacks & Whites Junior Hurling Champions 1998

Back: Cathal Moran, Liam Aylward, John Farrell, Denis Carroll, David O'Neill, Peter Cleere, Peter Farrell, James Doyle.

Middle: Seamus Murphy, Martin Byrne, Brian Lawlor, Sean Kealy, Pat Nolan, Pat Hayden, James Carroll, Pat O'Grady, Martin Farrell, Tommy Farrell, Thomas Phelan, David Murphy, Michael O'Dowd

Front: Lar, James Doran, Decke Dowling, Ned Kelly, Donie Whelan, Michael Doyle (capt.), John O'Grady, Pat Ryan, John Byrne, Michael Ryan. Photo Tom O'Neill

It was a long time coming but battling Blacks & Whites will look back on 1998 as the year they finally hit the big time. Years of frustration, bitter disappointment and near misses were forgotten as they swept to victory over fancied Carrickshock in a cracking county junior final at Nowlan Park.

The Northern standard bearers had already won the all county league title, beating the same opposition earlier in the year. However the Southerners went into the final as slight favourites. Despite playing into a stiff breeze, Blacks & Whites set the early pace. By the 18th minute they led 0-4 to 0-2. Then John Byrne slipped the ball to corner forward Donie Whelan who in turn found Pat O'Grady on the edge of the square and O'Grady planted the ball in the net. That score proved to be very important especially as

the winners were playing against the wind. Carrickshock thundered into the game in the early stages of the second half. Bit by bit they chipped away at the Skeough side's lead. By the end of the third quarter they had reduced the

arrears to a single point. It was at this stage that Blacks & Whites showed their true mettle. A long delivery from a free by the excellent Sean Kealy was caught by Tommy Farrell and he sent over a fine point. Pat Nolan added another point for the winners in the 48th minute to put them 1-8 to 0-8 ahead. Things looked bad for the Southerners at this stage. However, they pulled themselves together again with points from Adrian Hudson and John Power which left the minimum between the sides again. The big crowd were really on their feet at this stage as both sides strove manfully for victory.

Pat Nolan pointed in the 55th minute to put Blacks & Whites two points clear again.



To the Victor the Spoils

Blacks & Whites captain, Michael Doyle, receives the cup from John Healy, Chairman County Board. Photo Tom O'Neill

The decisive score came when substitute Dennis Carroll pounced on a breaking ball and goaled after goalie Jamie Power had saved superbly. That goal ended the game as a contest. Blacks & Whites added two further points in the closing minutes to record a memorable victory.

The Skeough men had won this game because they had top performers in vital positions. Goalie John O'Grady, full back Martin Farrell, centre back Sean Kealy together with John Byrne, Ned Kelly, Pat O'Grady and Pat Ryan in particular all starred on the day. But this was a a great team effort. On different days throughout the campaign they had different stars. This was the real strength of their side.

On their way to the final they defeated Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) by 1-8 to 0-9, G/Ballycallan 0-11 to 0-9 after a replay, St.Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-9 to 1-12 and Emeralds by 0-5 to 0-4.

For Carrickshock, whose contribution to a great final was immense, Pat Tennyson, William Duggan, Pádraig Rohan, Tom Murphy and Adrian Hudson all played well.

The Southern championship is played on a league basis. Carrickshock remained unbeaten throughout. They beat Slieverue, Mooncoin, Kilmacow and Windgap on their way to the county final.

Blacks & Whites: John O'Grady, Michael Doyle, Martin Farrell, Richard Dowling, Pat Hayden, Sean Kealy, Jamie Carroll, Ned Kelly, John Byrne, Michael Ryan, Pat Nolan, Pat Ryan, Donie Whelan, Pat O'Grady, Tommy Farrell, Paul Whelan, David Murphy, David O'Neill, Johnny Maher, Dennis Carroll, Brian Lawlor, Peter Farrell, James Doyle, John Farrell, Liam Alyward, Thomas Phelan, Peter Cleere, James Doran, Martin Byrne, Cathal Moran.

Carrickshock: Jamie Power, George Frisby, Pat Dwyer, Tommy Murphy, Michael Walsh, Pádraig Rohan, John Gorman, Jason Cuddihy, Phillip Fennelly, Pat Tennyson, Pat Farrell, Adrian Hudson, William Duggan, John Power, Brian Hudson, Christy



James Stephens Sp Junior B Northern League Champions 1998

Back: Tom Fogarty, Brian Dooley, Shane Egan, Billy Walton, Frank Morgan, Michael Fogarty, Tomás Dowd, Hugh Gannon.

Front: John McCormack, Stephen Drennan, John Morgan, Dermot Grogan, Joe Murray, Nigel Skehan, Pádraig Larkin.

Photo Tom O'Neill



Carrickshock Junior Championship & League Finalists 1998 *(Photo Tom O'Brett)*

Front: Michael Murphy, Tommy Murphy, Christy Dwyer (Capt), Brian Hudson, Jamie Power, Jason Cuddihy, Michael Walsh, Pat Tennyson, Adrian Hudson, Niall Lawlor.

Front: Clive Cuddihy, John Cuddihy, Edward Power, John Hoyne, Adrian Burke, John Gorman, Pat Dwyer, Pat Cantwell, Philip Fennelly, Martin Rohan, William Duggan, Pádraig Rohan, George Frisby, Patrick Farrell, Pádraig Crowley.



Ballyraggett Northern Junior Semi-finalists

Back: Sean Foley, Alan Culleton, Adrian Stone, Adrian Walsh, Mark Swan, Jody Phelan, Brian Phelan, John Staunton.

Front: Joe Dowling, Kieran Delaney, Brian Phelan, Gerry Kennedy, John Shiel, Tom Carroll, Michael Whelan.

(Photo Tom O'Neill)

Dwyer, Martin Rohan, John Hoyne, Niall Rohan, John Raggett, Edward Power, Pat Cantwell, Padraig Crowley, Jim O'Shea, Tom Cashin, Michael Murphy, Martin Cuddihy, Clive Cuddihy.

Final scorers: Blacks & Whites: Pat O'Grady 1-1; John Byrne 0-4 (3 frees); Dennis Carroll 1-0; Pat Ryan 0-2; Tommy Farrell 0-2; Michael Ryan 0-1; Pat Nolan 0-1.

Carrickshock: Adrian Hudson 0-2; William Duggan 0-2; Christy O'Dwyer 0-2 (1 free); Patrick Farrell 0-1; John Power 0-2; Pat Tennyson 0-1.

What a year it has been for Larry O'Neill, trainer of Blacks & Whites. The Erin's Own clubman took over as trainer of the new champions early in the league campaign. He guided them to the all county league title in which they beat Carrickshock by a point in the final. They then won the Paddy Cahill Cup tournament for



GLENMORE SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING SP JUNIOR A COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Back: Mick Aylward, Stephen Hartley, Noel Doherty, Paschal Phelan, Mark Mulally, Michael Phelan, Niall Mackey, Kevin Aylward, Patsy Kehoe, Paddy Hanrahan, Eoin Grennan, Declan Cody
Front: Des Ennett, Pat Barron, Denis Mulally, Michael Murphy, Johnny Murphy(capt.), Richard Aylward, Jimmy Walsh, Richard O'Connor, Laurence Ryan, Paul Mullally..

Northern teams. This was followed by a single point victory over Emeralds in the Barlo-Nissan Northern Final. And finally they achieved a long standing ambition

by winning the junior championship. Certainly, the likeable Larry proved to be an inspired choice as manager.

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Yearbook Special

Brian & Georgie's Corner

Hi Boys and Girls,
 Welcome to our YEARBOOK SPECIAL. The next few pages should give you lots of fun during the Christmas Holidays. (Answers are on p. 114 if you are stuck!!)
 From Briain & Georgie we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again in 1999.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped us in 1998.
 Nollaig faoi shona agus faoi mhaise doibh go léir.

Match the Player to the Club

Young Irelands	Kevin Power
Fenians	Denis Byrne
James Stephens	Jamie Power
St. Martins	Peter Barry
Carrickshock	Johnny Dooley
Graig-Ballycallan	Martin Carey

Believe it or not!!

* Harry Boland, a great friend of Michael Collins, was a well respected referee. He refereed the 1914 All Ireland Final between Wexford and Kerry. I bet nobody questioned his decisions!!

* The sideline kick in football was not always used. In the early days of the GAA players were allowed throw the ball as far as they could from the sideline!! The first film footage of a gaelic football game shows the sideline taker throwing the ball as far as he could to a team-mate.

Match the babies to the hurling stars

A

B

C

D

E

F



1

2

3

4

5

6

Who Am I?

Club: Dunnamaggin

Age: 22

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 12 st.

Fav. Player: DJ Carey

Joined Panel: 1996/'97

Occupation: Information Technologist

Skill Tip: Practice your first touch frequently.



G A E L I C

G is for Gaelic which we all play

A is for Atmosphere as cheers roar above

E is for Eager to players who can't wait

L is for Leap before it's too late

I is for Interest of all to view

C is for Crowd both old and new.

Unravel these letters to find famous Kilkenny hurlers who won All Stars in 1997

1. liliwe onoronc
2. mial ghkeona
3. jd yerac

Know Your Game!

How many steps are you allowed to take before soloing or passing the ball?

- a) two steps
- b) three steps
- c) four steps

True or False

1. Bobby Jackman trained the Kilkenny minor hurling team in 1988?
2. Hurler Adrian Ronan and referee Dermot Ronan are brothers?
3. Church and General sponsor the National Football League?
4. Joe McDonagh is President of the GAA?
5. Kilkenny goalie Joe Dermody plays outfield for his club?
6. St. Lachtains are the Kilkenny camogie county senior champions?

True or False?

- 1 = True
- 2 = False
- 3 = True
- 4 = True
- 5 = True
- 6 = True

Wordsearch

Find the names of county players, managers and camogie stars hidden in the letters below

E Y E R O T S N I T R A M H Y F E R T
 E O J Y D O M A V R T I P Q R S P I T
 B R I D G E T M U L L A L L Y T R O W
 D I C K O N E I L L H T O M I P M T R E
 C H A R L I E C A R T E R N Q R H I P N
 G T O P J D E L A N E Y G H T H I R L I
 A B C D E V B W U M K J C S Q P O X P
 T L P E T E R B A R R Y V F R T H R L
 D J J I N M M Y H A E L E I G R O E G E
 O M M Y S E A N R Y A N I O P J M L G
 I D W G V I E I L O M B Z A W T E A F L
 A W R P H I L I P L A R K I N N H O Y P
 A S R B R I A N W H E L E H A N R B T
 Z C F M I C H A E L B O N D O O R F T
 S W E R O N N O C O E I L L I W H Y U
 T B R I A N M C E V O Y D G R W Q V A
 C F E G E R L O U G H N A N E H J O Y P A T

Know your Game
 b) Three steps

Unravel to find All Stars
 1. Willie O'Connor
 2. Liam Keoghan
 3. DJ Carey

WHO AM I?
 Tom Hickey, Kilkenny senior captain

Match the Babies with the Hurling Stars.
 A = 2, B = 6, C = 1, D = 5, E = 4, F = 3.

Put the Players in their Clubs
 Martin Carey - Young Irelands, Jamie Power - Carrickschock, Peter Barry - James Stephens, Johnny Dooly - St. Martins, Kevin Power - Fenians, Denis Byrne - Graig-Ballycallyan

Wordsearch
 Martin Storey, Bridget Mullally, Dick O'Neill, Charlie Carter, PJ Delaney, Sean Ryan, Georgie Leahy, Brian Whelehan, Phillip Larkin, Michael Bond, Ger Loughnane, Willie O'Connor, Brian McEvoy, Peter Barry.

Answers to GAA Crossword
 Across 1. Johnny Ronan, 6. Bobby, 9. Rebel, 10. Ray, 11. Offaly, 14 Bennettsbridge, 17. Pete, 18. Leahy, 19. Healy, 20. Troy. Down: 1. Johnny Dooly, 2. Ray Silke, 3. Noel Lane, 4. Peter Barry, 5. Lisdowney, 7. Tom, 8. Kevin, 12. PJ, 13. Neary, 14. Brendan, 15. Noel, 16. Brian, 18. Larry.

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

Results

Boys' Handball:

Under 11 Singles Patrick Hogan (Bennettsbridge)
 Under 11 Doubles Eoin Cody & Conor Lonergan
 Under 13 Singles John Murphy (Skeoughvosteen)

1998 Champions:

Hurling: Ballyhale.
 Football: Carrickshock.
 Camogie: Freshford.
 Girls' Football: Carrickshock

Each year, at half time in the All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals, young Irish schoolchildren take the field in Croke Park for short demonstration games. These are the INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens' games and though twenty boys and twenty girls make their way onto the hallowed turf of Croke Park on these special Sundays, what you see is the culmination of nationwide competition.

The structure of the competition is varied in each county, but in Kilkenny a competition is run in each of four codes, Hurling, Camogie, Football and Girls' Football, on a blitz basis, with rounds leading to a final. The county champions then represent Kilkenny in the regional finals for the south eastern counties.

At regional finals' stage, the competitive element is removed with teams from each county mixed and games are played strictly for fun. However, the host county has the responsibility of selecting players for the games in Croke Park, so players who impress on regional finals' day can find themselves playing at GAA Headquarters and every year some players from Kilkenny make the grade, in all four disciplines.

Added to this, there are handball competitions for boys and girls and again the winners within the county go to a regional day which is played in the courts in Croke Park, so again they have the fun of playing in Ireland's most distinguished venue.

This year, the hurling title went to Ballyhale for the third year in a row. The young Shamrocks are unbeaten for quite a while in sevens hurling in Kilkenny and again this year they had representatives in Croke Park. James Connolly played in the All-Ireland semi-Final, in the Offaly colours!! while T.J. Reid became the second member of his family to play in the demonstrations when he played on All-Ireland day in black and amber. His brother, Eoin had played in the past two years in hurling and football.

Camogie winners, Freshford had three representative in Croke Park. Danielle Minogue and Eileen Fitzpatrick played in the Offaly colours on All-Ireland semi-final day and Catherine Kavanagh played on the day of the All-Ireland itself when she wore the Kilkenny colours. Catherine's brother Michael was involved in a more serious encounter later that day, also in black and amber. Strangely enough, the same Michael Kavanagh had also played in the INTO Mini-Sevens, in 1991 - in the colours of Down on All-Ireland Football semi-final day.

This years' football representatives both came from Carrickshock, who won both boys and girls football com-

petitions in Kilkenny. Linda Power pulled on the Galway colours for their semi-final clash against Tyrone, while Jamie Fennelly wore Kildare colours when he marched out behind the Artane Boys' Band on All-Ireland Football Final Day itself - a first for the family - even if Jamie's father Liam did lift the McCarthy Cup twice!! Both Linda and Jamie got special mention in the programmes. There were handball champions in in only three events this year, Under 11 Boys, Singles and Doubles and Under 13 Boys Doubles. The winners who went to the alley in Croke Park are named in the box at the top of this article.



Carrickshock I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Boys Football Champions 1998
Back Row: (L-R) John Dalton, Colm Mullally, Tommy Brophy, Richard Power, Gary Foley, Tom Duggan (Coach).
Front Row: (L-R) Paraic Barron, John Butler, Jamie Fennelly, Kieran Holden, John Sheehan.



Carrickshock I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Girls Football Champions 1998
Back Row: (L-R) Rebecca Phelan, Jennifer Dalton, Valerie Poole, Linda Power, Elizabeth Mulcahy, Tracey Walsh.
Front Row: (L-R) Katriona Walsh, Anne Marie Brophy, Lorraine Fennelly, Aoife Millea, Rachel O'Farrell, Marisa Cahill.



TJ Reid and James Connolly (Ballyhale) who represented Kilkenny in Croke Park in Mini Sevens.

ROWER-INISTIOGE

What a Year!

1998 will always be remembered as a special year in the history of Rower-Inistioge Camogie Club. The club is indebted to the officials who put in so much ground work with our younger players. Deirdre Brennan, Carmel Cahill and Rita Brennan put in a huge effort in coaching and training these teams. Well done to all concerned.

The amount of time and effort devoted to coaching, training and promoting camogie by a small dedicated band of officials was nothing short of heroic. The fledgling club was rewarded for ambitious plans adopted at last year's AGM. A record number of teams fielded during the year U-10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21 and Junior.

Rower-Inistioge U-21 Roinn B Champions

Back: Sian Murphy, Geraldine Tierney, Deirdre Brennan, Miriam Lyster, Siobhan White, Mairead Holohan, Kathleen Cahill, Anne Walsh, Linda Cotterel, Becky Dempsey.

Front: Linda O'Neill, Elaine McCarthy, Briona Langton, Geraldine Holohan, Lizzie Lyng, Emer Lyng, Tracey Flood, Aine Holohan.

Rower-Inistioge School Camogie Team 1998

Back: S. O'Mahony, S. Lyng, AM Lawlor, L. Doran, G. Dunphy, O. O'Mahony, C. Hogan, A. Cahill, B. Treacy, D. Brennan (coach).

Front: L. O'Mahony, S. Holohan, C. Walsh, L. Cassin, E. Hynes, S. Cullen, S. Hynes, A. O'Neill.

Junior Team

For the first time we fielded in Junior ranks with a very young team. We stormed through an exciting and tough campaign beating Carrickshock, Mooncoin and St. Annes en route to the county final. The final against Mullinavat was a thrilling game, skilful and tense but Mullinavat's all round strength and experience gained them the title by 2-9 to 1-8. Later the Juniors entered the Clane Sevens and won the competition with Lizzie Lyng winning 'player of the tournament'.

U-21 Championship

With the same panel of girls involved, club history was made when they won a first ever U-21 title at the second attempt, having lost the 1997 decider.

The final victory over Thomastown was hard earned

after a close fought encounter. With all girls eligible for next year a great effort should be made to win the A title. Well done to our players who played on Kilkenny county teams, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Anne Walsh, Siobhán White, Miriam Lyster and Deirdre Brennan.

The club is deeply grateful to all our sponsors during the year, Michael Lyng Motors, John Kelly, Builder, Fintan Murphy, Marty Butler, Tom Morrissey, Builder, Grace Bros, O'Donnell's Lounge.

Officers '98

Chairman: Sean O hUiginn

Vice-Chair: Mary Lyng

Secretary: Benny Holohan

Treasurer: Mary Cotterel

Committee: Rita Brennan, Carmel Cahill, Maurice McCarthy, Kathleen Corcoran, Deirdre Brennan.



CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

ST. BRIGIDS BALLYCALLAN

A Great Year

Despite losing the senior final it was a great year for St. Brigids camogie club. County honours were annexed at U-18 and U-21 levels. In the senior championship St. Brigids lost their first two games against Lisdowney and St Lachtains. Victories followed against Tullogher-Rosbercon and Shamrocks. St Brigids created a big surprise defeating reigning Leinster and county champions Lisdowney by 3-8 to 0-14. Scorers: Sinead Millea (1-4), Margaret Comerford (1-2), Mary McGrath (1-0), Pauline Comerford (0-2).

St Lachtains defeated us in the final by 3-10 to 2-3. Team: Michelle Fennelly, Ashling Byrne, Mary Purcell, Orla Ryall, Tracy Millea, Una Hennessy, Ann Marie Ryall, Ursula Walton, Margaret Comerford (1-0), Pauline Comerford, Mary McGrath (1-0), Sinead Millea (Capt.) (0-3). Subs: Laura Sweeney, Mary Ryall, Kay Dunphy.

U- 21 Victory

The club bridged a twelve year gap in winning their second U-21 title beating St. Lachtains in the semi final and gaining a hard earned victory over Shamrocks in the final.

U-18 Champions

In winning the U-18 title St. Brigidsovercame Shamrocks, Rower Inistioge and St Lachtains. St. Brigids first win since 1986. Team: Aoife Neary, Mary Purcell (Capt), Nicola Murphy, Bernie Ryall, Eimear Walsh, Bronagh Neary, Pauline Comerford (1-5), Deirdre Treacy, Laura Sweeney, Una Hennessy, Lizzie Teehan (2-1), Lily Maher (0-1).

The Primary schools, U-14 and U-16 teams also played in their respective competitions but without success. For the first time in many years a junior team was fielded. They did not make it to the semi

finals but gave promising displays

Achievements

County Players: Tracy Millea, Margaret Comerford, Sinéad Millea, Pauline Comerford, Michelle Fennelly, Ursula Walton, Laura Sweeney, Deirdre Treacy, Orla Ryall, Ann Marie Ryall, Una Hennessy, Bronagh Neary and Bernie Ryall.

Michelle Fennelly, Ursula Walton and Ashling Byrne helped Waterford I.T. to reach the Ashbourne Cup final. They lost to

U.C.C. by one point 1-7 to 1-6.

Tracy Millea was a panelist on the Sunday Game with R.T.E. for the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

Sinead Millea was interviewed on 'Sideline View' in a preview of the Senior Camogie All Ireland Final.

Finally congratulations to trainer Richie Moran, selectors Dave O'Neill and Johnny Ronan who pulled off two county finals out of three.



St. Brigids U-21 Camogie Champions

Back: Lillie Maher, Bernie Ryall, Moira Cody, Elizabeth Teehan, Martina Comerford, Nicola Murphy, Aoife Brennan, Elaine Murphy, Bronagh Neary, Mary Purcell, Aisling Murphy, Ursula Walton, Ann Marie Ryall, Andrea Murphy, Michelle Fennelly. **Front:** Pauline Comerford, Laura Sweeney, Una Hennessy, Aisling Byrne, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Aoife Neary, Deirdre Treacy. **Mascot:** Laura Ronan.



St. Brigids U-18 Camogie Champions

Back: Una Hennessy, Bernie Ryall, Moira Cody, Martina Comerford, Deirdre Treacy, Aoife Brennan, Nicola Murphy, Pauline Comerford, Andrea Murphy, Laura Sweeney. **Front:** Lillie Maher, Bronagh Neary, Elizabeth Teehan, Mary Purcell (capt.), Aoife Neary, Aisling Murphy. **Mascot:** Laura Ronan.

ST. LACHTAINS

Sweet Senior Victory

On the 17th July '98 was seen the culmination of fourteen years hard work when St. Lachtains won the county senior camogie title for the first time. After losing three finals in recent years we had wondered if we would ever win one!

On the way to winning the title St. Lachtains beat Tullogher, St. Brigids, Lisdowney and, in the semi-final, Shamrocks.

St. Brigids were our final opponents in a very tough encounter. We had a great start when Imelda Kennedy goaled from a free, spurred on by this, we led at half time by three points. Gillian Dillon-Maher's goal ten minutes from time signalled the end of the St. Brigids challenge. The final score read 3-10 to 2-3. Tears of joy flowed as team and supporters celebrated a great win.

Congratulations to the girls, the selectors and trainer Tom Ryan. Many thanks also to Paddy Flynn, groundsman of St. Lachtains for all his help during the year. Imelda Kennedy was voted 'player of the game' and received her trophy from the late Jim Dobbyn, long time friend of Freshford and Kilkenny camogie.

Panel: Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Mary Ellen Butler, Sinéad Costello, Margaret Hickey (capt.), Mary C. Ryan, Margaret Kavanagh, Esther Kennedy, Mairéad Costello, Gillian Dillon-Maher, Imelda Kennedy, Martina Maher. Subs: Cora Dowling, Kathleen Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Julie Ryan, Sinéad Connery, Breda Dooley, Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling, Caitriona McCormack. Trainer: Tom Ryan, Selectors: Sheila Dowling, Maura Costello, Teresa Dillon, Donal Heaphy.

Underage Success

After the success of the U-14 team in 1997, little was expected from the team. However they performed very well in the county Feile defeating St. Annes and James Stephens. But against Mullinavat in the semi-final we started well but were hit for five second half goals which ended our hopes.

In the championship we had good wins over St. Brigids and Emeralds to reach the final against Mullinavat. This time we extracted revenge for our earlier defeat and regained the county title. The county U-14 team regained the Leinster title this year and our representatives were: Fiona Dowling (capt.), Mairead Lawlor, Sinéad Corrigan, Nicola Minogue, Breda Kavanagh, Marie O'Connor, Catherine Kavanagh, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Grace Dermody and Caitriona Meagher.

While our U-16 team was beaten in the county final by Shamrocks, we were well represented on the county team which won the Leinster title. Sinéad Connery captained the side, which included Sinéad Kavanagh, Caitriona McCormack, Fiona Dowling, Mairéad Lawlor and Aoife Fitzpatrick.

The U-18 team was beaten in the Roinn A final by St. Brigids. On the county side were Mairéad Costello, Mary C. Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Cora Dowling and Mary Ellen Butler.

The U-21's lost to St. Brigids in the county semi-final. The primary school side defended their Roinn A title convincingly.

The club thanks all their trainers, selectors, committee and supporters for their commitment and encouragement to us all year, with a special word of thanks to our trainer Tom Ryan.



St. Lachtains U-14 Roinn A County Champions '98

Back: Marina Butler, Grace Dermody, Marie O'Connor, Ann Beckett, Breda Purcell, Claire O'Donnell, Ann Marie Bergin, Marian Maher, Ciara Hayes.

Middle: Ciara Brennan, Caitriona Maher, Aileen Marnell, Sinead Corrigan, Danielle Minogue, Caitriona Kavanagh, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Aine Connery, Niamh Kennedy.

Front: Aoife Fitzpatrick, Mairead Lawlor, Maria Kennedy, Fiona Dowling, Breda Kavanagh (capt.), Nicola Minogue, Catherine Kavanagh, Sarah

Camogie Club News

WINDGAP

Windgap Camogie Club had another successful year with increased membership and seventy five ladies attending training for all age groups from over a wide area.

The U-16s won their way to a Southern semi-final where they were beaten after a replay. At U-14 level a young team went down to old rivals Carrickshock. Both teams showed great improvements under trainers Matt Doran and Pat Moore. A milestone was reached with club players Terri and Aine Mackey featuring on county panels.

Great progress was made at U-10 level where Marie Comerford and John Ryan were the busy trainers. Blitzes were won in O'Loughlins, Thomastown and Windgap and new friends were made in Ardkeen and Butlerstown

in Co. Waterford.

Due to the falling numbers in the rural schools, it was necessary to obtain a concession allowing Kilmoganny, Dunnamaggin and

Windgap to join forces in order to field at school level. It looks like a necessary option to keep the game thriving in the club for the future.



Windgap U-10 Camogie

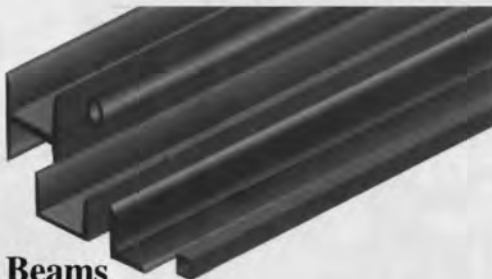
Back: Aoife Ryan, Hazel Hickey, Carol Ryan, Anita Maher, Elizabeth Moore, Bríd Kennedy, Amy Doran, Monica Purcell. **Front:** Lorraine Hartery, Lisa Phelan, Sara McCarthy, Ann Marie Phelan, Shauna Fennelly, Annette O'Shea, Rachel Maher.

 **DUGGAN STEEL**

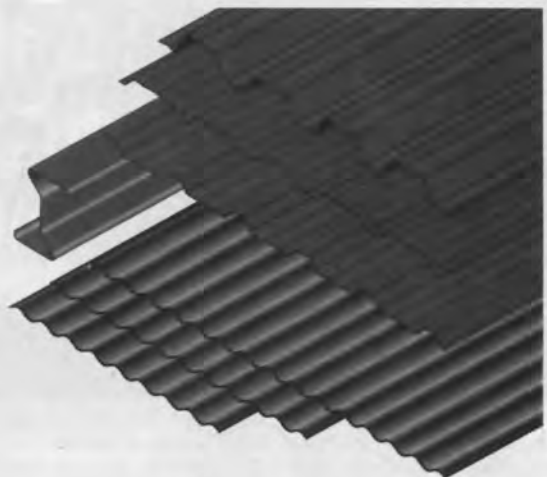
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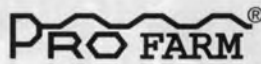


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Fenians (Johnstown) County SH Finalists 1998

Back: Paul Quinlan, Brian Power, Stephen Grehan, William Cleary, Declan Garrett, Paul Phelan, Billy Purcell, Gerry Quinlan, Brian Ryan, Owen Behan, Kieran McEvoy, Ger Henderson, Martin Quinlan, Mick Phelan.

Front: Jason Ryan, JJ Delaney, PJ Delaney, Liam McEvoy, Kevin Power, PJ Delaney, Alan Behan, Mattie Walsh (capt), James Carroll, Brendan Ryan, Podge Delaney, Anthony McEvoy, John Loughlin, Jimmy Brennan.

Photo: Tom Brett.



Kilkenny U-14 Shinty Team which represented Ireland V Lorn of Scotland in Nowlan Park on March 14th.

Back: David Aylward, Daniel Looby, Adrian Rockett, Trevor Egan, Donal Mealy, James Hartley, Mark Hanrahan, Stephen Cullen, Kevin Phillips, Matthew Thornton, Mark Walsh.

Front: James Mackey, Richard O'Shea, Alan Walsh, Brian O'Donoghue, Richard McCarthy, Shane O'Hara, Philip Cushin, Patrick Cahill, Mark Griffith.

Photo: Tom Brett



Danesfort County U-21 Hurling Champions Roinn C

Photo: T. O'Neill.

Back: Mick Hanrahan (selector), Frank Manogue, Maurice Barden, Tom Murphy, Dereck Walsh, Eoin Moyles, James Stapleton, Pat Murphy, William Walsh, Eoin Cunningham, Ciaran Walsh, (Tony Woodcock, Paddy Forristal, Ger Woodcock - selectors).

Front: Gary Ireland, Raymond Pembroke, Phillip O'Shea, James Tierney (capt), Seamus Hurley, Alan Pembroke, Pdraig Forristal, Tim Murphy.



Top Left: Kevin Martin (Offaly) and PJ Delaney whis-per little nothings during the All Ireland Final.

BottomLeft: The clash of the Peters - Barry and Queally - in the All Ireland Semi-final.

Top Right: Joe Dermody attempts to drive past Sean "Growler" Daly in the 1998 Semi-final.

Bottom Right: Referee Dickie Murphy smiles, but Hubert Rigney and Tom Hickey, Offaly and Kilkenny captains, know there's serious business ahead.

Photos Sportsfile

Pat Lawlor - A Connoisseur's Hurler

By Enda McEvoy, Sunday Tribune

His is not among the names that spring most readily to mind when talk turns, as talk on hurling on Noreside so often does, to the subject of the Kilkenny hurling team of the early 1970's. Henderson, yes, Skehan, yes, Chunky, yes, Keher, most certainly. But Pat Lawlor...?

Not a living legend, not an obvious star, not a name in lights. And yet, and yet. When the talk does come around to the above topic, and when the talk is done by men who really know their hurling, the name of Pat Lawlor does feature. In glowing terms.

As in, what a fine hurler he was. How underrated he was. How that Kilkenny team, for all its famous front-of-house men, would not have been half as effective without the leavening of enduring steadiness injected into the mixture by the likes of Pat Lawlor in defence and Mick Crotty up front. And how, moreover, Lawlor - typically of the man, the manner of his departure echoing his moves on the field in the glory days - retired without noise or fuss, drifting quietly off into the celtic twilight.

This last bit isn't strictly true, but more of that anon. For the moment, and for the benefit of younger readers, who was Pat Lawlor, and what made him the hurler he was?

Nurture is the short answer to the latter question. Brought up where he was in the Ring in Bennettsbridge, surrounded by the neighbours he was surrounded by, he couldn't but have become a hurler. Though there was no tradition of hurling in the Lawlor family, in the circumstances which obtained in his young days it didn't matter in the least. The Lawlors lived in the first house in the Ring. John Kinsella hailed from number 3, Noel Skehan from 4, Sam and Dick Carroll from 10, the Cleeres - Seamus, Liam and Larry - from 16. Hurlers at every hand. Unusually talented hurlers as well.

None more talented, arguably, than Pat Lawlor's idol, Johnny McGovern. "For me as a young lad, Johnny was

something special. Seeing him perform week in, week out for the club as well as the county was an education. His attitude, his skills, his tenacity and determination. He was a very clever player, had all the tricks. I tried to model myself on him." The ample spare time of Pat's childhood (at school under Master Ned Lyng they hurled for 15 minutes at 11 o'clock, for 20 minutes at 1 o'clock, "and at home you hurled in the evening until your father called you in out of the dark") handed him the ideal opportunity to do so.

Getting one's place on the Bennettsbridge senior team back then was almost as difficult as getting one's place on the county team. Although Pat, younger than his neighbours, was later in graduating to an automatic starting position - the team's golden era was approaching an end as his career was beginning - his potential was, for one colleague at any rate, first highlighted fully in a tournament match in Cork. The colleague was Seamus Cleere.

We were playing in a tournament final in Cork, I can't remember who we beat, but Pat had a stormer," Seamus recalls. "At the meal afterwards quite a few of the Cork lads were wondering who this young lad was. He was skil-

ful and he read the game so well. The ability to read the game is a wing-back's most important strength - you have to be able to anticipate - and it was something we always stressed in the club. If an opposition defender down the other end of the field moved to the right and cleared the ball, you had to be moving to that side of the field yourself and get there early. Pat wasn't an aggressive player, it wasn't in his nature. But with the anticipation he had, he



United in Victory: Pat Lawlor embraces Eddie Keher after Kilkenny beat Limerick in the 1974 All Ireland Final

didn't have to be."

HAPPIER IN DEFENCE

Oddly, Pat began his career with both club and county in the half-forward line. Not a natural scorer, as he's prompt in admitting, though he did take Gay O'Driscoll for 1-4 in Kilkenny's defeat of Dublin in the first round of the Leinster championship at Wexford Park in 1969, a match that saw Des Foley's last outing in the Dublin colours, he soon moved back a line to team up with Paddy Moran, his midfield partner with Bennettsbridge for many a year. A further instalment of his hurling education beckoned.

"I learned so much from Paddy. A brilliant centrefield man. His positional sense, how he made room for himself - he was an expert at that." Seamus Cleere too, the starting point at wing-back for many a Bennettsbridge attack. By the time a second switch in the direction of his own goal had established Pat in his optimum position of right-half back ("I felt most comfortable in a defensive role"), the lessons he had been exposed to with Bennettsbridge were to serve him well against opponents like Eamon Grimes and Bernie Hartigan of Limerick, Francis Loughnane of

Tipperary, Cork's Seanie O'Leary and, domestically, Eddie Keher, customarily his direct opponent in clashes between Rower-Inistioge and the 'Bridge.

His first bite at the cherry with the county ended unhappily. A Leinster under-21 medallist in 1968 (Kilkenny were beaten by six points by Cork in the All Ireland final) and marked out as a promising prospect, he had a bad day in the provincial senior showdown versus Offaly a year later and lost his

place on both team and panel for the All Ireland. He shrugs. "I was young, inexperienced, and couldn't handle Croke Park very well that first time. It was tough being dropped.

Bennettsbridge didn't have a county selector that year, which may have been part of it. But it made me determined that there would never be a repeat." There wasn't.

Kilkenny's myriad triumphs and occasional disasters of the period 1971-75 are too exhaustively documented to require much retreading here. That said, Pat Lawlor's memories do offer some food for thought. The one that got away was, in his opinion, not the 1973 All Ireland final, it was that of 1971. "On the day, on the field, that was one we should have won." (For six marks: where did Pat start against Tipperary in 1971 and where did he finish? Answer: He began at midfield, partnering Frank Cummins, and took over at number five when Willie Murphy went off injured. There was no moving him out of right-half back thereafter.)

The comeback against Cork twelve months later remains his happiest single memory, the famous destruction of Wexford in 1973 the team's most outstanding performance. "When you're playing with a team you probably don't realise until later what people are saying. But when people like Fr Tommy Maher and Micheal O' Hehir go into ecstasies, as they did over the 1973 Leinster final, you have to sit back and think."

It wasn't only the winning, though, where Pat Lawlor was concerned. It was more the taking part. Honestly!

"I have to say that the enjoyment and pleasure I got from playing with those guys was fantastic. Like Fr Maher, who had such a brilliant insight into the game. At team talks before an All Ireland he'd tell you about the player you'd be marking and it would be like an x-ray. He really knew his players, he had a great insight into what would happen and he was a wonderful coach. Or Eddie Keher, who didn't rate himself one bit better than us and was a perfect gentleman and still is. They hurled for the love of it, not for anything they got from it. We'd be lucky to get a free pair of boots before an All Ireland final. Maybe I got one or two tracksuits in my time. But you'd have to win an All Star to get a blazer."

ABRUPT ENDING

Pat did, in 1972. The first of five trips to the US followed. One season Kilkenny even went twice. First to the east coast shortly after the 1974 McCarthy Cup victory against Limerick (they watched Dublin beat Galway in the football final on a big screen in New York), then to the west coast the following May. San Francisco? "Some city. The hills, the streetcars, everything." And, purely as a matter of

interest, the reaction of these sons of the Irish soil to the arresting sight of Frisco's large gay population? "Let's say we were aware of them!"

The end for Pat Lawlor came suddenly, prematurely and painfully. He did an achilles in the spring of 1977 and struggled ever after. A comeback in the National League the following year failed. Kilkenny took on Cork in the 1978 All Ireland decider without his services. He was 29. Only 29. "I honestly



Spectators at 1975 All Ireland Club Final (Fenians V St Finbars): Noel Skehan, Pat Lawlor, "Chunkie" O'Brien and Phil "Fan" Larkin. Behind is Christy Ring (with cup).

believe I had another three years left in me. No question about it."

There is not a trace of boastfulness in his next comment. What might have been in 1978? "We had an inexperienced half-back line against Cork, and maybe if I had been around I might have made some small difference. On a big occasion experience does help."

The injury meant he was lost to Bennettsbridge also. So how did he actually sustain it? At last the truth can be revealed. (Yearbook exclusive coming up.) "Playing soccer for East End. The ankle was pushed out and it tore. It's alright to say it now, I think!"

A carpenter cum building supervisor, Pat is married to Patricia. They have five children: Mark (23), Anne Marie (21), David (18), Ciara (14) and Orla (13). Ciara and Orla play hockey with Loreto convent secondary school, Kilkenny, and camogie with James Stephens, with whom they won a county under-14 championship last year. Chips off the old block.

Two closing thoughts from their dad. One concerning the disappearance of Kilkenny's use of the quick ground ball ("hit it first time, just keep it moving, from one man to the next - we don't do it any more and it's hurting us"), the other the decline in Bennettsbridge's fortunes. Pat is saddened but pragmatic.

"You have to expect it. This is one of the smallest parishes in the diocese. You can't keep it going all the time. Just because hurling was a religion here... Things change, and the local soccer team has been very successful. But I'm sure that Bennettsbridge will be back again."

One hopes for Pat Lawlor's sake that the upswing in the fortunes of his beloved green and gold will not be too long delayed.

Schools' Board Hurling

Success ongoing!

Dermot Dunphy

Photos Tom Brett

The last few years have been excellent for under age hurling in Kilkenny. Three Feile na nGael Titles in a row have come to the county. Those titles, 1996 James Stephens, 1997 Tullaroan and 1998 Shamrocks are mirrored very closely in Kilkenny itself, 1994 St. Patrick's, 1995 Tullaroan, 1996/1997 Ballyhale, the results of the Educational Supplies Roinn A Finals! The teams involved are not identical, but show huge similarities, and the stars of the past three Féiles had already shown themselves in Nowlan Park on Schools' Finals nights.

International Successes!

Thankfully, every year, the standard of the schools' games remains high and while that standard is displayed in great finals, it is also seen from the first puck of a ball in and around Easter time. And lest anyone think that this high standard is present only in the higher divisions of schools' hurling, let me say straight away, it is not. Skill abounds in every division, in every parish. The proof of this was seen in Oban, Scotland in November '97 and in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny last March. Kilkenny provided two representative teams for hurling/shinty games against a Scottish district selection, Lorn. The first team consisted of

Scoreboard 1998.

Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A).

St. Patrick's D L S 4-10 Freshford 1-6.

Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B).

Coon-Muckalee 5-6 Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-4.

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

Gaelscoil Osrai 4-2 Clara 2-3.

Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D).

Goresbridge-Paulstown 1-10 Windgap 1-2.

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie.

Carrickshock 1-6 Ballyhale 1-5.

Garda Siochana City Class Leagues

2nd Class: St. Pat's 5-0 CBS 3-0

3rd Class: CBS 5-7 St. Pat's 4-6

4th Class: Gaelscoil 3-4 St. Canice's 2-2

5th Class: St. Pat's B 6-4 St. Pat's A 3-3

6th Class: St. Pat's A 3-5 St. Pat's B 0-4

eighteen boys from eighteen parishes in the county. The 1998 team for

the games in Kilkenny consisted of twenty boys from the remaining twenty parishes of the county. Thirty eight parishes provided a player of quality to represent this county. The main problem each parish had was that they had to choose only one person to go forward. We are lucky in Kilkenny that so many boys hurl, and hurl well. The Kilkenny boys won all those hurling/shinty games. They represented their county with distinction on and off the field.

Great Finals

This year, our games were again of a good quality. The finals in June provided excellent entertainment and top class hurling. Many teams were reappearing in those finals for the second or even third year running. Some were reappearing after a number of years. All teams gave their best and made their schools and parishes proud. Yet the finals are only the culmination of a season of games, and some of those games saw great displays of hurling in all divisions. Undoubtedly, while the

titles went to the top team in each of the four roinnnte, all teams had their highlights in the season gone.

The Roinn A title, the Educational Supplies' League returned to Kilkenny City for the first time since 1994, when St. Patrick's de la Salle were crowned champions after a masterful display



Coon/Muckalee Under 13 Roinn B Champions 1999

Back: Chris O'Mahoney, Pádraig Haughney, Anthony Kelly, Brian Mulhall, Jonathan Walsh, John O'Brien, Eoin McGrath, James Maher, Niall Gibbons.

Middle: John Mulhall, James E Kelly, Diarmaid Brennan, Mark Nolan, Shane Comerford, Con Hogan, James Kelly, Michael Keane, Michael Morrissey, Colm Brennan, Brian Malone.

Front: Joseph Maher, John Maher, James Dowling, Patrick O'Flynn, Ronan Maher, Aidan Murphy, Mark Murphy, Patrick Brennan, David Shore, Eoin Holohan, Eoin Bolger, Michael Stapleton, Eamonn Buggy.

in the final. Since the introduction of the sliding age scale a number of years ago, this talented bunch became the first team to win the title with a team playing with a pick that were all under twelve and a half years old. In the final, they overcame another talented bunch, Freshford, who had a great season also. While St. Patrick's pulled away towards the end of the game, both teams served up a great game and it wasn't until the final minutes that the city side secured victory. Many of the victorious side are young enough to play again next year, which will make St. Patrick's a fancied side again this season.

Freshford were reappearing in Nowlan Park after capturing the Roinn B title in 1997, and often schools have a successful run where they return to the "Park" in consecutive years. So it was with Roinn B, the Hennessy Fuels' League, and Roinn C, the Paddy O'Connell League. Coon-Muckalee had won Roinn C in 1997, and this season continued on winning ways when they captured the Roinn B crown. Gaelscoil Osrai won Roinn D in 1997 and they also repeated that success with the annexation of the Roinn C title this year gone by. There is no doubt that success does come runs, and both these teams were fortunate to have quality players, to be able to win back to back championships.

Coon-Muckalee beat Tullogher-Rosbercon in the Roinn B final. Tullogher-Rosbercon have had plenty of success in the last few years themselves and while losing out to a slick St. Martin's side this time, they are a young side and will be surely there or thereabouts again this year.

Gaelscoil Osrai defeated a gallant and young Clara team to capture the Roinn C title. This young school had their first success last season last year and showed great quality in winning a second title. Clara are a team beginning a run, with plenty of ability. With some famous Clara names appearing on their teamsheets, they too will be hoping to return successfully to Nowlan Park soon.

Losing One to win one:

The final titles of 1997, the Roinn D title and the Corn de Bhaldrathe, both sponsored by Tedcastle Oils, went to teams who proved the adage, "you have to lose one, to win



St. Patrick's de la Salle Educational Supplies' League Roinn A Champions 1998.

Back: Darren Bourke, Eoin Everard, Patrick Butler, Kevin O'Neill, James Hickey, David McCormack, Jonathan Barry.

Front: Donncha Cody (Capt), Adrian Harkin, John Taylor, Conor O'Grady, Maurice Nolan, Matthew Ruth, Tomás Keogh, David Ring.

one". In Goresbridge-Paulstown's case, they had to lose two to win their title. Finalists in Roinn D in 1996 and 1997, the Barrow Rangers boys finally got their hands on the Roinn D trophy the so narrowly missed out on the previous two seasons. Windgap were the team who were to succumb on the night, but not until they had made a good fight of it. However, Goresbridge-Paulstown were not to be denied for the third time. In the Corn de Bhaldrathe, Carrickshock turned the tables on their neighbours Ballyhale. Since beginning on a successful run with wins in Roinn B Hurling and football, Carrickshock had seen two Roinn A football finals and a Corn de Bhaldrathe final go against them, so with great determination, and top class scores they won a great final against Ballyhale, all conquering in 1996 and 1997. The Shamrocks' boys gave second best this time but showed that a belief you can win makes a team hard to beat and Carrickshock will tell you how hard won the final was. Their resolve was greater and they deserve their win. There was some consolation for Ballyhale in winning the INTO Mini-Sevens earlier in the year, their third win in the competition in a row.

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Educational Supplies' Roinn A Final

St. Pat's show great style

*St. Patrick's de la Salle 4-10
Freshford 1-6*

St. Patrick's de la Salle wrote another chapter in the school's great hurling history when scoring a merited victory over Freshford in the Educational Supplies' Primary Schools' Roinn A. This final lived up to expectations in providing a fast entertaining encounter. Both sides showed absolute commitment and an abundance of hurling skills. St. Patrick's played with power and style while Freshford contributed handsomely to this memorable final with a display of elegant stickwork and unyielding determination.

A hectic pace was set from the throw-in. Pressure from the physically stronger St. Pat's side was rewarded in the fifth minute when Jonathan Barry shot to the net. Freshford replied within a minute. Good work by Eoin Guinan was rewarded with a free which sharpshooter, Bill Beckett pointed. This was matched with a point from a free by Maurice Nolan. Freshford's Noel McGree then showed delicate stickwork in pointing from the wing. St. Pat's replied instantly with two pointed frees from Maurice Nolan. He followed up a further point from the left wing with a goal from a terrific ground shot from 20 metres out.

However, Freshford now took the initiative and began to pressurise the Village defence. Good work by the forwards, Catherine Kavanagh in particular, resulted in a 65m free which Bill Beckett duly pointed. Midfielder, Noel McGree, played his part in ensuring that the Freshford forwards enjoyed a good supply of ball but the gallant efforts of the St. Pat's defence marshalled by captain Donncha Cody and full back Patrick Butler denied them much needed scores.

Half Time Score: St. Patrick's de la Salle 2-4 Freshford 0-3

Freshford began the second half with renewed vigour and determination. They were first to score in the second period with a point from a free from Bill Beckett. However, St. Patrick's replied quickly with a point and a minute later they edged further ahead when Matthew Ruth finished a run from the left wing with a point. A goal in the eighth minute by Bill Beckett from a long range free left just five points between the sides with the final outcome very much in the balance. Points from frees were swapped by Maurice Nolan (St. P) and Bill Beckett (F) but in the fourteenth minute Maurice Nolan struck the decisive blow when he rattled the Freshford net with a good goal. St. Patrick's David McCormack, pointed on the run from 30 metres out. Undaunted, Freshford's stylish wing-back, Danielle Minogue registered a beautiful point from 40 metres. The concluding five minutes were dominated by the victors. David McCormack cut through the Freshford defence on a solo-run, passed to Maurice Nolan, whose perfect finish found the Freshford net. St. Pat's completed their scoring tally



Freshford Educational Supplies' League Roinn A Finalists 1998.

Back: Ciara Brennan, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Danielle Minogue, Conor Britton, Gerard O'Reilly, Thomas Gibbons, Bill Beckett, Noel McGree, Brian Barnaville, Eoin Guinan, Catherine Kavanagh, Keith Hughes.
Front: Vincent O'Donnell, Matthew Theloke, Eoin Buggy, Donal O'Sullivan, Nicholas Maher, Trevor Walsh, Brendan Dalton, Barry Hughes, Michael Fitzpatrick, Emmet Costigan.



Tullogher-Rosbercon - Hennessy Fuels League Roinn B Finalists 1998.

Back: Michael Gaule, Kevin Gahan, Robert Forristal, James Doolan, John O'Neill, Thomas Cullinane.
Centre: Joseph Corcoran, Shane Ryan, Damien Ryan, Pdraig Ryan, Pat Hartley, Joseph Ryan, Thomas Connick, Richard Phelan.
Front: Michael Croke, James Ryan, Aaron McCarthy, Richard Dollard, Liam Barron, Garry Hill, Declan Grennan, Michael Ryan, Shane Roche, Patrick Grennan.

with a pointed free and a beautifully executed point from 50 metres on the stroke of time.

Full Time Score: St. Patrick's 4-10 Freshford 1-6.

Village folk will savour this triumph and the style and manner of its execution. It was a full fifteen man effort. Adrian Harkin gave a brilliant display of confident, safe goalkeeping. John Taylor and Patrick Butler were solid in the full back line with good assistance from James Hickey. Stylish captain, Donncha Cody led by example and David Ring proved to be a fine wing back with Kevin O'Neill also

lending good support. Midfielder Tomás Keogh did excellent work while Eoin Everard had a great duel with his opposite number. Top scorer, Maurice Nolan, gave an exhibition of hurling artistry. Centre forward David McCormack played an equally crucial role by providing his forwards with a good supply of ball. Jonathan Barry and Matthew Ruth showed deft touches in taking their scores and Conor O'Grady and Darren Bourke put in a workmanlike performance.

Freshford will of course be disappointed with the result but they can be consoled by the fact that they



Gael scoil Osraíl - Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) League Roinn C Champions 1998.

Ar Chúil: Gordon de Báth, Tomás Ó D'naigh, Lorcán Ó Cuain, Séamus Ó Cuain (Capt), Risteárd Mac Giolla Chaoimh, Fearghal Ó Riain, Pilib Breathnach, Niall Ó Faoláin.

Ó Lár: Daithí Ó Conchubhair, Piaras Ó Caoimh, Seán Ó Madáin, Colm Ó Fearghall, Daithí Ó Broin, Diarmuid TÚibln, Ross Mac Aonghusa, Seán Ó Néill.

Chun Tosaigh: Damian Ó Ceallaigh, Seán Tirial, Ian Ó Floinn, Micheál Ó Náraigh, Cian de Bhaldráithe, Dónal Ó Lachtnáin, Pádraig Ó Náraigh, Roibeárd Breathnach, Aindl Ó Ciaráin.

Everard, Darren Bourke, David McCormack (0-1), Maurice Nolan (3-6), Jonathan Barry (1-2), Conor O'Grady, Matthew Ruth (0-1). **Subs:** Patrick Grace, Denis Parsons, James Moran, Derek Duggan, Derek Cleere, Matthew Gannon, Niall Lanigan, Jonathan Walsh.

Freshford: Trevor Walsh, Nicholas Maher, Michael Fitzpatrick, Keith Hughes, Brian Barnaville, Emmet Costigan, Danielle Minogue (0-1), Noel McGree (0-1), Bill Beckett (Capt. 1-4), Brendan Dalton, Eoin Guinan, Eoin Buggy, Catherine Kavanagh, Gerard O'Reilly, Barry Hughes. **Subs:** Conor Britton, Donal O'Sullivan, Vincent O'Donnell, Ciara Brennan, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Thomas Gibbons, Matthew Theloke.

Referee: Pat Hayes

Hennessy Fuels' Roinn B Final Coon-Muckalee champions again

Coon-Muckalee 5-6

Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-4

Coon-Muckalee won the Hennessy Fuels' Roinn B Hurling Title, when they defeated Tullogher-Rosbercon by 5-6 to 1-4. The Coon-Muckalee boys, champions of Roinn C in 1997, were physically a much stronger team than Tullogher-Rosbercon.

Tullogher-Rosbercon were first to attack and in the second minute Richard Dollard scored a point. After some nice end to end exchanges, Coon-Muckalee equalised with a point from their captain, Eoin McGrath. The same player pointed a free two minutes later. In the ninth minute the Coon-Muckalee full forward, Eamonn Buggy scored a great goal after a fine solo-run followed quickly by Eoin McGrath, who scored a beautiful goal after another solo-run. The Tullogher-Rosbercon goalkeeper, Michael Gaule, made a great save initially but had no hope with the rebound. Tullogher-Rosbercon now fought back and Shane Ryan had a fine goal after sixteen minutes. However, Coon-Muckalee went on the attack again and hit the side netting. Eoin McGrath pointed a free and Eamonn Buggy struck for a goal after a mix-up in the Tullogher-Rosbercon back line. The Coon-Muckalee captain, Eoin McGrath completed the first half scoring when he shot a point after another fine solo-run.

Half-time Score: Coon-Muckalee



Clara - Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) League Roinn C Finalists 1998.

Back: Ciara O'Loughlin, Ciarán Kirwan, Neal Prendergast, Austin Murphy, Seán Murphy, Martin Meally, James Hanlon.

Centre: Claire McDonald, Michael Bergin, Jody Creane, Shane Prendergast, Seán O'Shea, Michael McDonald, Eoin O'Shea.

Front: James Nolan, Liam Ryan, Lester Ryan, Daniel Hope, Tom Langton, David Langton, Aoife Quigley, Laoighseach Quigley.

concluded a great league campaign with a display of skill and courage in the final. Goalkeeper, Trevor Walsh, foiled the St. Pat's forwards with many brilliant saves. the full back line of Nicholas Maher, Michael Fitzpatrick and Keith Hughes work solidly and valiantly though under severe pressure at times. Danielle Minogue gave a star performance at half back while Brian Barnaville and Emmet Costigan tried hard. Midfielder Noel McGree got through an amount of work and got able assistance from sharpshooter, Bill

Beckett. Centre forward Eoin Guinan was one of the most impressive hurlers on the field even when at centre back and midfield. Corner forwards, Catherine Kavanagh and Barry Hughes were unlucky to find the St. Pat's goalie in such brilliant form. Brendan Dalton, Eoin Buggy Gerard O'Reilly and substitutes Conor Britton and Donal O'Sullivan battled on bravely.

St. Patrick's: Adrian Harkin, John Taylor, Patrick Butler, James Hickey, David ring, Donncha Cody (Capt), Kevin O'Neill, Tomás Keogh, Eoin



Paulstown-Goresbridge - Tedcastle Oils' League Roinn D Champions 1998

Back: Mark Lillis, Darren O'Neill, Richard Connolly, Richard Kelly, Michael Brennan, Peter Cleere, Tomás Quinn.

Centre: Billy Murphy, Colm Purcell, Niall Carroll, Mark Morrissey, Ian O'Neill, Aidan Brennan, Joseph Kealy, Seán Holohan.

Front: Maurice Drennan, William Hennessy, Joseph Hughes, John Byrne, Kevin McDonald, Stephen Brennan, David Walsh.

3-4 Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-1.

Three minutes into the second half Eoin Bolger shot to the net for Coon-Muckalee after Tullogher-Rosbercon goalie, Michael Gaule, firstly parried the shot. Tullogher-Rosbercon then scored two points, one from a '65' by Pat Hartley and another from Liam Barron, a great point from the left wing. At this stage, an injury to Tullogher-Rosbercon full back, Robert Forristal, saw him replaced by Damien Ryan. The Coon-Muckalee corner forward, David Shore now burst onto the scene and after a solo-run he kicked over a point. The same player then shot a great goal. Shortly afterwards, he struck again but Tullogher-Rosbercon's sound goalie, Michael Gaule forced the ball out for a '65'. After twenty two minutes, Pat Hartley pointed a '65' for Tullogher-Rosbercon. The scoring was completed by Coon-Muckalee captain, Eoin McGrath, when he pointed after receiving a short pass from Ronan Maher from a '65'.

Best for Coon-Muckalee were Colm Brennan, James Maher, Ronan Maher, and Brian Malone in the back line. Eoin McGrath had a fine game at midfield and picked off some wonderful scores. In the forwards Shane Comerford, Diarmuid Brennan and Eamonn Buggy were best while David Shore played a great second half.

For Tullogher-Rosbercon Michael Gaule had a fine game in goal.

Declan Grennan and Aaron McCarthy were best in the back line. Both midfielders, Garry Hill and Pat Hartley played well while Richard Dollard and Shane Roche were pick of the forwards.

Coon-Muckalee: Patrick Brennan, Aidan Murphy, Mike Keane, Colm Brennan, James Maher, Ronan Maher, Brian Malone, Eoin McGrath (1-5), Con Hogan, Shane Comerford, Brian Mulhall, Diarmuid Brennan, Eoin Bolger (1-0), Eamonn Buggy (2-0), David Shore (1-1). *Subs:* James Kelly, James Dowling, Joseph Maher, Mark Nolan, Chris O'Mahony, Eoin Holohan, Jonathan Walsh, Patrick O'Flynn, John Maher, James E. Kelly.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: Michael Gaule, James Ryan, Robert Forristal, Declan Grennan, Joseph Corcoran, James Doolan, Aaron McCarthy, Garry Hill, Pat Hartley (0-2), Padraig Ryan, Michael Croke, Richard Dollard (0-1), Liam Barron (0-1), Shane Ryan (1-0), Shane Roche. *Subs:* Damien Ryan, Joseph Ryan, John O'Neill, Patrick Grennan, Thomas Cullinane, Kevin Gahan, Richard Phelan.

Referee: Oisín Breathnach.

Paddy O'Connell Roinn C Final Gaelscoil Abú!

Gaelscoil Osraí 4-2 Clara 2-3

Gaelscoil Osraí captured their second title in two years when they captured the Paddy O'Connell Roinn C

title, to add to their Roinn D win of last year. In winning this second title, they had to overcome stubborn resistance from a fine Clara side, who fought all the way to the final whistle.

The game was played on a terrible evening for hurling with driving rain throughout. Both teams displayed great skill and determination in overcoming the poor conditions.

Clara got off to the better start and after some early pressure, Austin Murphy scored a goal from the first 65 of the game. Clara kept the pressure on the Gaelscoil defence, but excellent work from Damien Ó Ceallaigh led to a Gaelscoil goal, finished by Cian de Bhaldráithe. The Clara goalkeeper, Lester Ryan, made some excellent saves to deny the Gaelscoil forwards. The breakthrough finally came after twenty two minutes when captain, Séamus O Cuinn made a great run from midfield and gave a pass to Pilib Breathnach who scored an excellent goal. Just before half time, Clara hit back with a pointed free from Austin Murphy to leave the score at the break reading Gaelscoil Osraí 2-0 Clara 1-1

The second half began with a pointed free for Gaelscoil Osraí. Gaelscoil had a lot of possession in the next few minutes and were rewarded with another goal when a free was finished to the net by Risteárd Mac Giolla Chaoin. Clara fought back straight from the puck out and Austin Murphy played a great ball to James Nolan who finished with a lovely goal. Clara had another pointed free from Austin Murphy to reduce the margin still further.

The last quarter of the game saw some excellent play by both goalkeepers, and when Clara scored another point from a Austin Murphy free they put great pressure on the Gaelscoil defence. Séamus O Cuinn pointed a free after he had been fouled. Clara again responded with good pressure but the Gaelscoil defence delivered a great ball to Pilib Breathnach who goaled from close in. An excellent point by Damien Ó Ceallaigh from a 65 settled the Gaelscoil team, and was the final score of the game.

In a very well contested and sporting game both sides had heroes all over the park.

Ar son na Gaelscoile, bhí Micheál Ó Náraigh go maith sa chúl. Bhí Damien Ó Ceallaigh ar fheabhas mar

cheannaire na cosanta, agus bhí cabhair maith aige ar na cleití ó Roibeárd Breathnach agus Aíndí Ó Ciaráin. Ós chomhair an chúil bhí triúr laoch acu i Gordon de Bath, Ian Ó Floinn agus Pádraig Ó Náraigh. D'imir Séamus Ó Cuinn go hiontach i lár na páirce, agus bhí Risteárd Mac Giolla Chaoin go maith in aice leis. Ghnóthnaigh Pilib Breathnach dhá chúl iontach, agus é ar bharr a chluiche. Timpeall air, thóg Cian de Bhaldrathe a scór go deas, agus bhí cluichí maithe freisin ag Piaras Ó Caoimh, Seán O Néill, Fearghal Ó Riain agus Dónal Ó Lachnáin.

Clara battled bravely to the final whistle, none more so than Lester Ryan who gave a display of goal-keeping worthy of any game. In front of him, Neal Prendergast had a fine game well supported by Liam Ryan and Laoighseach Quigley, while the half back line of Eoin O'Shea, Shane Prendergast and Sean Murphy all played well. Austin Murphy had a great game in midfield, contributing handsomely to his team's total, and beside him he got good support from Ciaran Kirwan. Michael Bergin and James Nolan, who scored a splendid goal, were tormentors in chief from the two corners, ably aided by Aoife Quigley, Jody Creane, Michael McDonald, Niall Costigan and James Hanlon.

Gaelscoil Osraí: Micheál Ó Náraigh, Gordon de Bath, Ian Ó Floinn, Pádraig Ó Náraigh, Roibeárd Breathnach, Damien Ó Ceallaigh (0-1), Aíndí Ó Ciaráin, Séamus Ó Cuinn (0-1), Risteárd Mac Giolla Chaoin (1-0), Cian de Bhaldrathe (1-0), Piaras Ó Caoimh, Seán O Néill, Fearghal Ó Riain, Pilib Breathnach (2-0), Dónal Ó Lachnáin. *Fir Ionaid:* Seán Tirial, Tomás Ó Dúnaigh, Daithí Ó Conchubhair, Colm Ó Feargháil, Seán Ó Madáin, Lorcan Ó Cuain, Diarmuid Tóibín, Ross Mac Aognhása, Daithí Ó Broin, Niall Ó Faoláin.

Clara: Lester Ryan, Liam Ryan, Neal Prendergast, Laoighseach Quigley, Eoin O'Shea, Shane Prendergast, Sean Murphy, Austin Murphy (1-3), Ciaran Kirwan, James Hanlon, Michael McDonald, Jody Creane, Michael Bergin, Aoife Quigley, James Nolan (1-0). Subs: Niall Costigan, Ciara O'Loughlin, Claire McDonald, Tom Langton, David Langton, Daniel Hope, Sean O'Shea, Martin Meany.



Windgap - Tedcastle Oils League Roinn D Finalists 1998

Back: Tom Egan (Trainer), Thomas Cronin, Bryan Lanigan, Jonathan Duggan, P.J. O'Keefe, Ronan Molloy, Dominic Lavelle, Brian Hennessy, Tom Mackey (Trainer).

Centre: Jason Burke, John Doran, Eoin Cody, Richard Grace (Capt), Niall Phelan, James Mackey, Derek Hartery, Ben Lavelle, Sean Hennessy.

Front: Adam Smith, Eamonn Comerford, Thomas Fleming, J.J. Phelan, Niall Fennelly, Conor Lonergan, Vincent Purcell, Gerard Purcell.

Referee: Podge Butler

Tedcastle Oils' Roinn D Final Goresbridge-Paulstown get it right.
Goresbridge-Paulstown 1-10
Windgap 1-2

Beaten finalists of the past two years, Goresbridge-Paulstown, finally realised their ambitions by winning the Tedcastle Oils Roinn D Under 13 Hurling County Final. Their opponents, Windgap, put up a gallant display and it wasn't until the last quarter that Goresbridge-Paulstown stamped their authority on the game and ran in those last few scores to leave them clear at the final whistle. Goresbridge-Paulstown were the favourites going into this final and midfield supremo, Darren O'Neill was the player who would have to be curbed if Windgap were to in any way contest this final let alone have a chance at winning it. O'Neill started in menacing fashion and had four points to his credit before Windgap opened their scoring with a twelfth minute goal, well taken by full forward Brian Lanigan. This score brought Windgap back into the game but some fine ground hurling by half backs, David Walsh, Mark Lillis in particular and Richard Kelly ensured a good supply of ball to the Goresbridge-Paulstown forwards. Thomas Phelan, Brian Lanigan and Niall Phelan (W), all tried hard to put another goal past Richard Connelly,

(G-P), but he was equal to the task. Niall Fennelly, Windgap's keeper, was in equally good form at the other end and he must take most of the credit for keeping Goresbridge-Paulstown from raising a green flag in this half. Darren O'Neill added two further points from play to leave the half time score at 0-6 to 1-2 in favour of Goresbridge-Paulstown with Windgap's two points coming from the stick of the in form Richard Grace, who by now was brought to midfield to try and hold Darren O'Neill.

The second half resumed with a period of dominance by Goresbridge-Paulstown and centre back Mark Lillis came more into the game with surging runs deep into the Windgap defence. They added two points to their tally, both from frees and then in the fifteenth minute, following a goal-mouth melee, the ball was stroked to the net by a jubilant William Hennessy. This vital score for Goresbridge-Paulstown seemed to kill off the Windgap challenge. Two further points were added by Billy Murphy and Mark Lillis. Windgap can take great credit for their spirited display and players like Niall Fennelly, Conor Lonergan, PJ O'Keefe, Ronan Molloy, Jonathan Duggan in defence, midfield pairing of Thomas Fleming and James Mackey, while up front, Richard Grace, Brian Lanigan and Niall Phelan all played their part and per-

haps their day of glory is not too far away.

For the winners, Mark Lillis in defence was excellent, ably assisted by Richard Connelly, Mark Morrissey and Richard Kelly. Darren O'Neill who finished with a total of seven points proved to be too much of a handful. His partner at midfield, Michael Brennan also showed up well. Leading the attack was Joseph Hughes who was assisted well by Billy Murphy and William Hennessy. A fine year for Goresbridge-Paulstown who earlier this year won the Roinn C Football.

Goresbridge-Paulstown:

Richard Connelly, Colm Purcell, Mark Morrissey, Paddy Barcoe, David Walsh, Mark Lillis (0-2), Richard Kelly, Darren O'Neill (0-7), Michael Brennan, John Byrne, Joseph Hughes, Aidan Brennan, Maurice Drennan, Billy Murphy (0-1), William Hennessy (1-0). *Subs:* Tomás Quinn, Paddy Barcoe, Peter Cleere, Kevin McDonald, Ian Holden, Sean Holohan, Stephen Brennan, Ian O'Neill, Niall Carroll.

Windgap: Niall Fennelly, Conor Lonergan, PJ O'Keefe, Brian Hennessy, Ronan Molloy, Jonathan Duggan, Dominic Lavelle, Thomas Fleming, James Mackey, JJ Phelan, Richard Grace (0-2), Eoin Cody, Thomas Cronin, Brian Lanigan (1-0), Niall Phelan. *Subs:* Sean Hennessy, Eamon Comerford, Derek Hartrey, Gerard Purcell, John Doran, Adam Smith, Ben Lavelle, Jason Burke. *Referee:* John Minogue

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe Final First Corn for Carrickshock Carrickshock 1-6 Ballyhale 1-5

Carrickshock recorded their first ever Corn de Bhaldráithe title when they overcame near neighbours, Ballyhale in a pulsating match. Ballyhale were striving to achieve their third title in a row in a game which was a repeat of the 1997 final. The game was played in very wet conditions but this did not deter both teams from turning in brilliant displays in all that is best in schoolboys' hurling. Both sets of supporters were kept on tender hooks to the final whistle.

Ballyhale opened the scoring when Mark Aylward was fouled and TJ Reid made no mistake with the resultant free. It didn't take Carrickshock



Carrickshock Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe Champions 1998.

Back: William Ryan, Eoin Smith, Darren O'Dwyer, Emmet Murphy, John Kirkbride, John Murphy, T.J. Mills
Centre: Patrick Walsh, Brian Dunne, Patrick Carr, Gary Foley, John Sheehan, Gerard Power, Richard Power, Linda Power, Rebecca Phelan, Denis Murphy.
Front: Niall Tennyson, Kieran Holden, John Butler, Páraic Barron, Jackie Frisby, John Dalton, Jamie Fennelly, Tommy Brophy, Seán Gibbons, John Power.

long to draw level, when Richard Power pointed a free to equalise. Two minutes later Jamie Fennelly, operating at right half forward, shot Carrickshock into the lead with a great point. Ballyhale then had their best spell of the match when Mark Aylward scored a tremendous point. A minute later Tomás Cullen provided a great centre for Donnchadh Fitzpatrick to gather and drill over a terrific point for Ballyhale.

Carrickshock began to dominate but were wayward in their scoring efforts. They moved Richard Power to centre back in a switch with John Dalton and both players began to leave their imprint on the game. After fifteen minutes, the strongly built Sean Gibbons gathered the sliotar forty yards out from the Ballyhale goal and soloed his way through to goal for Carrickshock. This goal gave them a great lift and they dominated possession until half time. Ballyhale were playing very economically, however, and they scored a fine point when Mark Aylward slotted a minor score. This left the minimum between the sides at half time with Carrickshock in the lead by 1-2 to 0-4.

After three minutes of play in the second half, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick shot a super goal from thirty yards to give Ballyhale the lead. With Richard Power grabbing hold of the game from centre back, Carrickshock attacked in wave after wave. In the sixth minute, he pointed a long range free and the same player equalised

with ten minutes remaining with another might long range free. Both teams were giving their all for victory and the enthusiastic crowd roared their appreciation. Richard Power was almost unstoppable at this stage and he scored a real rallying point to put Carrickshock into the lead with eight minutes left to play. Jackie Frisby, soloing across the face of goal scored a superb point to increase Carrickshock's lead. Ballyhale now showed true character and laid siege to the Carrickshock goal. With three minutes left, TJ Reid scored a beautiful point to leave the minimum between the sides. Carrickshock held out for a richly deserved win but full praise to both teams for a superb display of hurling in such dreadful conditions. Tommy Brophy was soundness personified in the Carrickshock goal. Paraic Barron, Denis Murphy and Rebecca Phelan formed a really tight defensive unit around the Carrickshock square. Richard Power was in inspirational form for Carrickshock at centre back. He was ably supported by Linda Power and John Butler. John Dalton and Gary Foley worked hard at midfield. Jamie Fennelly showed great skill at wing forward. The immensely strong Sean Gibbons caused great excitement every time he gained possession as he alternated between centre forward and full forward. Jackie Frisby was always in the thick of the action. Niall Tennyson, Kieran Holden and John

Sheehan combined to great effect and always looked dangerous near goal. John Murphy and John Kirkbride played their part when introduced.

For a gallant Ballyhale side, Martin Healy was superb in goal. James Connolly was a tower of strength at full back and was well supported by Anthony Wemyss and Dwayne Holden. Richard O'Brien, Michael Fitzpatrick and Donal Dempsey soaked up a lot of pressure but never wilted. Eamonn Walsh at midfield treated the crowd to a superb display and was ably supported by TJ Reid. Niall Muldoon, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick and John Joe O'Farrell were lively on the half forward line and were always seeking opportunities to score. The full forward line of Tomás Cullen, Lisa Millea and Mark Aylward strove mightily to add to Ballyhale's total.

Carrickshock: Tommy Brophy, Paraic Barron, Denis Murphy, Rebecca Phelan, Linda Power, John Dalton, John Butler, Richard Power (0-4), Gary Foley, Jackie Frisby (0-1), Sean Gibbons (1-0), Niall Tennyson, Jamie Fennelly (0-1), Kieran Holden, John Sheehan. Subs: John Murphy, John Kirkbride.

Ballyhale: Martin Healy, Anthony Wemyss, James Connolly, Dwayne Holden, Richard O'Brien, Michael Fitzpatrick, Donal Dempsey, Eamonn Walsh, TJ Reid (0-2), Niall Muldoon, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick (1-1), John Joe O'Farrell, Tomás Cullen, Lisa Millea, Mark Aylward (0-2).
Referee: Oisín Breathnach

Garda Síochána City Class Leagues.

The finals of the City Class Hurling



Ballyhale Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe Finalists 1998.

Back: Jason O'Brien, Colin Fennelly, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, Dwayne Holden, Jason Keogh, John Joe O'Farrell, David Hession, Niall Muldoon, Thomas Hession.

Centre: Ger Fennelly, Liam Muldoon, Donal Dempsey, Tomás Cullen, Kieran Grace, Philip Long, Anthony Wemyss, Lisa Millea, Ian Dempsey, Eamonn Walsh.

Front: Martin Cass, T.J. Reid, Richard O'Brien, Martin Healy, James Connolly, Michael Fitzpatrick, James Walsh, Michael Mason, Enda Fitzpatrick, Pádraig Butler.

Leagues, with trophies sponsored by the Garda Síochána were played in the last week of June also. These competitions provide lots of hurling for each class in the city schools and in all five finals from second to sixth classes are played. Each year, the excitement from the youngest participants of eight and nine years old, to the biggest in primary schools is great as they represent not only their schools, but their individual classes. The hurling games this year were of high quality and great fun. Each goal of the second class final was greeted with a lap of honour. The third class game was a super affair, with marvellous scores and point taking of great

quality on both sides. The fourth and fifth class games were no less exciting and close finishes in both, while the sixth class game showed the true worth of these competitions as two teams from the one school fought manfully for every ball, and then at the end left the field as the friends they are. Altogether, these games provide fun and good hurling for all in the city schools.

At the end of the week, St. Patrick's de la Salle added to their Roinn A success with three titles while CBS Kilkenny and Gaelscoil Osraí each captured a title. Well done to all involved in what were some great games of hurling.

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INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

ERIN'S OWN MAKE THE BREAKTHROUGH



Erins Own Intermediate Football Champions 1998 (Photo Tom O'Neill)

Back: Ken Brennan, Sean Meally, Cormac Young, Charles Brennan, Shay Kennedy, Mark Rothwell, Pat Shore, John Delaney, David Lynch, Joe Meagher, Martin Owens, David Dunne.

Front: Michael Owens, Fergal O'Neill, Tom Brophy, Tom Coogan, Donal Dunne, Damien Mullins, Liam Shore, Brian Judge, Tarla Dunne, David Buggy.

Erin's Own Castlecomer won the County Intermediate Football Championship for the first time, when they overcame a determined challenge from Clara in the final at Dicksboro grounds Palmerstown, on a score of 0-10 to 1-3.

This was a fine achievement for Castlecomer considering that they had just joined the Intermediate ranks, having won the Junior Title the previous year. Great credit is due to Dick Mullins for the outstanding effort he puts into football at the Club.

The path to the final for Erin's Own involved a series of excellent games in particular their epic encounter with Mooncoin. It took three games to divide these teams, and, at that, there was just a single point between them at the end of the second

replay.

Clara and Erin's Own qualified for the semi-finals from group one, with O'Loughlins and Mooncoin coming through group two. In the semi's Clara edged out O'Loughlins on a

scoreline of 3-3 to 0-9, to qualify for the final. Erin's Own drew with Mooncoin in Danesfort on a scoreline of 1-6 each. The replay, played in poor conditions in Thomastown, saw Castlecomer coming back from

the dead to earn another replay on a scoreline of 1-7 each. In the third meeting, it took a last minute point from Ken Brennan to give 'Comer a place in the final by the narrowest of margins.

The final in the 'Boro grounds was dominated in the opening half by Erin's Own which saw them enjoy a half time lead of 0-5 to 0-1. Clara put in a determined fight back in the second half to reduce the arrears. Lester Ryan won a lot of posses-



Tommy Duggan, Chairman, Football Board, presenting the Mick Meally Cup to **Tom Brophy**, Captain Erin's Own Intermediate footballers following their victory over Clara.
Photo Tom O'Neill

sion in front of goal but his finishing was not as clinical as it would be with the ash. A brilliant point from David Buggy and two pointed frees from Sean Meally steadied the 'Comer lads as they held out for victory on a scoreline of 0-10 to 1-3

Tommy Duggan, chairman of the football board, presented the "Mick Meally Cup" to Tom Brophy Erin's own captain to complete a marvelous campaign for his club.

Erin's Own

Fergal O'Neill, Damien Mullins, Pat Shore, Liam Shore, Donal Dunne, Ken Brennan, John Buggy, Eamon Holland, John Delaney, David Dunne, Eoin Rothwell, Sean Meally, David Buggy, Brian Judge, Tom Brophy, *Sub.* Cormac Young

Clara.

Edward Mulrooney, Colman Ryan, Johnny Ryan, John Prendergast, Michael Fitzgerald, Anthony Prendergast, Seamie Crean, Liam Cassin, David Mulrooney, Lester Ryan, Brendan Barcoe, David Shortall, Eamon Phelan, Paschal Connolly, Robert Shortall, *Subs.* Daniel McDonald, Eamon Whearty, Kevin Shortall.

1997 Special Junior Football Final

The delayed 1997 Special Junior Football was won by Erin's Own at sunny Ballyragget against arch-rivals, Muckalee. This championship, similar to the Intermediate, was somewhat of a marathon for

Erin's Own. Playing with just fourteen men for fifty minutes of a closely fought semi-final replay they pulled out all the stops to edge out a talented Windgap side for a place in the final.

The Final, played at well attended Ballyragget was most entertaining with both these great rivals giving it everything. The game ended in a draw - Erin's Own 0-9 to Muckalee 1-6. The replay, played on a scorching Sunday morning, was a classic with the advantage moving from one team to the other as the game progressed. After sixty minutes the sides were still level and in extra time Erin's Own finally got the breaks to take the title on a scoreline of Erin's own 1-12 Muckalee 0-13.



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JAMES RYALL - - A MAN FOR THE BIG OCCASION

By Jerry Drennan

When one looks back on the details of the 1998 Minor Hurling Championship, the records will prove that Munster champions Cork beat Leinster champions, Kilkenny, in the All Ireland minor final on Sunday, September 13th. But from a Kilkenny viewpoint, while the ultimate victory wasn't achieved, it must be admitted that there was much more to the year than finishing runners up in the All Ireland. Starting with the first set of trials, on the 24th-25th January, the minor panellists and management met on a total of over eighty occasions.

From their first victory over Offaly on May 23rd in PortLaoise, to the final day four months later, there were many excellent performances along the way. Some which

spring to mind are Gearóid Cleere's goal after half time against Offaly, Kevin Power's nine points in the replayed Leinster final against Wexford, Kieran Rafter's goal in the All Ireland final, Joey Murray's two wonder goals against Galway, Jamie Power's brilliant triple save in the All Ireland semi-final, the utter consistency of Noel Hickey at full back, and the swashbuckling clearances of John Morgan from the centre of defence.

One player, not mentioned above, who proved himself to be a man for the big day was left half back James Ryall. This tall 6ft 2inch defender was one of the automatic selections

throughout the year and proved himself a player who may have plenty to offer Kilkenny hurling. James would be what one might call a "late developer" in hurling terms. Coming from a club with one of the most success-



Mission Accomplished - **James Ryall** shares the joy of defeating Galway with his captain, **Noel Hickey**. Photo Sportsfile

ful underage records in recent years under the shrewd tutelage of Jim Neary, this graduate of the Graigue-Ballycallan academy has enjoyed a fair amount of success. Having won a Rice Cup medal with his secondary school, Coláiste Iognáid Rís, Callan, in an under 14 competition for CBS secondary schools, James was then a substitute at the age of 16, on the Graigue-Ballycallan minor team, which won the 1996 Roinn A county final. In that same year, he was a member of the Kilkenny under 16 side which competed in the Nenagh Co-op tournament.

During the ensuing winter months, James

matured both physically and as a hurler to the extent that he became a regular on his club's under 21 team which brought an historic county title to their parish in November 1997. There were signs in his county final performance that this was a player with a serious cutting

edge when the chips were down. In 1997, James also represented Kilkenny in the international minor football tournament.

Came the winter of 1997-'98 and James was part of a Callan CBS senior team that was making people sit up and take



Minor Action - **Kieran Rafter** kicks the ball goalward against Cork in the All Ireland Minor Hurling Final. Photo Sportsfile

notice, with their league victories over such notable hurling nurseries as St. Kieran's college and Kilkenny CBS. In the spring of 1998, these victories proved to be no fluke when Callan CBS qualified to renew rivalry with St. Kieran's college in the Leinster colleges final in Nowlan Park.

For this writer, this was the day that James Ryall came of age giving a performance of power hurling on the Callan half back line that reminded one of the performances of Pat Henderson in his hey-day. Bearing a striking physical resemblance to the aforementioned star, James epitomised the spirit of Callan on a day when their sheer hunger for success gave them a deserved victory over a young St. Kierans side. Midway through the second half of this game, James shipped a heavy ankle injury but played on to the end. The extent of the injury became apparent to spectators when James failed to complete the lap of honour with the Colin Herity-led victorious Callan side. This ankle injury continued to niggle the Graigue lad over the following weeks, yet he continued to play, turning in another solid display in the All Ireland colleges semi-final where Callan CBS, due to a lack of forward power, had to give best to a strong St. Flannan's outfit. James also continued to turn out for Graigue-Ballycallan minor hurlers and footballers during this period.

James's first half performance against Wexford in the drawn Leinster minor final was that of a man possessed, displaying the ability to catch and strike over a succession of opponents without breaking his stride. This

was to be the trend for the number 7 for the remainder of the campaign where he lined out for his county in a minor All Ireland on a team seeking Kilkenny's first victory at this stage since 1993. And what a fitting achievement it might have been for the Ryall family, as it was while watching the exploits of Kilkenny's double winners in 1993, that James' father, Oliver, took ill in Croke Park and sadly passed to his eternal reward. Alas, victory was not to be, as Kilkenny gave best to a powerful and skillful Cork squad.

Off the field of play, James displays a coolness and sharpness of wit which belies his onfield displays. Dismounting the team bus on the way into Croke Park for the All Ireland semi final against Galway, James, in his usual relaxed manner, called out to team manager Bobby Jackman, "Hey Bobby did you remember to bring the money for the ref?"

On another occasion, following a gruelling training session in Clara, it was discovered that James's car had a flat tire. In the course of rectifying the situation, watched by few of his team mates, James was asked by a member of the team management "Have you got a puncture there James?". Without batting an eyelid, the cool response came. "Ah no, sure I'm only changing the wheel."

This typified the relaxed approach of the Graigue-Ballycallan. It only erupted in the course of battle, showing him to be "a man for the big occasion".

Dominic Delaney

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O'LOUGHLINS AND EMERALDS TO THE FORE



O' Loughlins Gaels - Minor Football "A" Champions 1998 Photo: Tom Brett.

Back: James Purcell, Brian Murphy, Donal Madden, Sean Cleere, Damien Griffiths, Peter Dowling, Stephen McCormack, Brian Hogan, John Rowe, Darragh Murphy, Seamus Cummins, Mark Sheridan, Brian Dowling.
Front: James Kelly, Seamus Direen, Paul Kavanagh, Bryan Skehan, Tommy Lahart, Darren Carroll, Mark Phelan (capt.), James O Keefe, Nicky O'Connor, Mark Dowling, Gerard O' Brien.



Graigue Ballycallan Roinn B Minor Football Champions 1998 Photo: Tom Brett.

Back: Michael Wall, David Harrison, Michael Teehan, Edward Delaney, James Ryall, Joe Brennan, Gearoid Cleere, Alan O'Shea, Aidan Brett, Tim Purcell, John Dermody, James Murphy.
Front: Aidan Brett, Patrick Dalton, Keith Gladney, Billy Fitzpatrick, Paul Cullinan, Shane Murphy, Brendan Marnell, Brian Dalton, Brendan Hayes, Kevin Cleere.

The minor football championship was again run off in the early part of the year. Despite some trouble in getting suitable dates due to clashes with colleges fixtures, both the Roinn A and Roinn B finals were completed by May 3. The experience of the past three years has proved that this is now the proper time to run these competitions. Previously the minor football was run in the later part of the year and because of clashes with Under 21 hurling and Under 21 football, the minor finals

were running into the following year. Clubs now know that there is a set period for the finals and the competition will be brought to a successful conclusion.

Seven teams contested the Roinn A championship which was played on an open draw basis. The following were the results:- Mullinavat 1-8 James Stephens 1-8; Mullinavat 2-5 James Stephens 0-9 (replay); Graigue Ballycallan 2-11 Erin's Own 3-7; O'Loughlin Gaels beat Kilmoganny and Dicksboro had a bye.

Semi finals: O'Loughlin Gaels 3-6 Mullinavat 2-5; Graigue Ballycallan 2-12 Dicksboro 1-1.

County Final: O'Loughlin Gaels 2-10 Graigue Ballycallan 1-1.

O'Loughlin Gaels bridged a twenty year gap when they scored an easy victory over Graigue Ballycallan in the Iarnród Éireann minor football final played at Nowlan Park. It was the winners' fourth title having previously won it as St John's in 1947 and 1958 and as The Gaels in 1978. The winners dominated the game from start to finish. Their midfield pairing of Brian Skehan and Brian Murphy were on top and this gave the City sides forwards plenty of chances to show their prowess. The game was over as a contest at the interval when O'Loughlin Gaels led by 1-4 to 0-1 after playing against the breeze. Points in the third quarter from Darren Carroll, Brian Skehan, Mark Dowling and Seamus Cummins further increased the winners lead. Graigue Ballycallan, thanks to the efforts of Paddy Dalton in particular, put on a bit of pressure but Tommy Lahart in the winners' goal twice denied them major scores with two fine save - the second from a penalty taken by Brendan Hayes. The sides traded goals in the closing stages with Darren Carroll registering for the winners and John Dermody for the losers. In addition to those already mentioned, others to play well for the winners were Mark Phelan, Nicholas O'Connor, Darren Carroll, Peter Dowling, James O'Keefe and Mark Dowling. Patrick Dalton was the losers' best player. Others to do well were Michael Teehan, Brendan Marnell, who had a fine second half, James Ryall and Gearoid Cleere.

Scorers: O'Loughlins Gaels-- Darren Carroll (1-3), James O'Keefe (1-2), Mark Dowling (0-2), Seamus Cummins, Brian Skehan and Ger O'Brien (0-1 each).

Graigue Ballycallan: John Dermody (1-0), Aidan Brett (0-1).

O'Loughlin Gaels: Tommy Lahart, Damien Griffiths, Stephen McCormack, Johnny Rowe, Seamus Cummins, Mark Phelan (Capt), Nicholas O'Connor, Brian Skehan, Brian Murphy, Darren Carroll, James O'Keefe, Brian Hogan, Peter Dowling, Darragh Murphy, Mark Dowling. *Subs:* Mark



Emeralds Roinn B Minor Football Finalists 1998

Back: Michael Rafter (selector), Michael Byrne, Ray Moriarty, John Clohesy, Kieran Joyce, John Holohan (sel).
Middle: John Minogue(selector), Stephen Roche, Michael Power, Tommy Holohan, Vinny Cleere (capt), Michael Joyce, Willy Tynan, Benny Cahill, Johnny Moriarty (selector).
Front: James Kennedy, Sean Minogue, Aidan Fogarty, Alan Guilfoyle, Ger Joyce, Emmet Kavanagh, Ian Tobin, Cathal Hennessy, Declan Guilfoyle (mascot). *Photo: Tom Brett.*



Mooncoin Roinn B Minor Football Finalists 1998

Back: Colm O'Keefe, John Phelan, Jamie McGrath, Micheal Begen, Eoin Henebery, Michael Fielding, Richard Mackey, Richard Kinsella, Ciaran Reid, Jonathan Kelly, Gerard Foran, Shane O'Hanlon, Ivan Tobin, Jamie Rochford.
Front: John Nolan, Brendan Mackey, Niall Mackey, Vincent Power, Michael Frisby, David Dunphy, Mark Quinn, Robert Cody, Shane Kinsella, Maurice Flynn.

Sheridan, Ger O'Brien, Paul Kavanagh.

Graigue Ballycallan: Michael Wall, Shane Murphy, Michael Teehan (Capt), Brian Dalton, Kevin Cleere, Joe Brennan, Brendan Marnell, James Ryall, Gearoid Cleere, Aidan Brett, Brendan Hayes, Alan O'Shea, Niall Millea, Patrick Dalton, John Dermody.

Referee: Shem Gibbons (Young Irelands).

ROINN B.

Twenty seven teams entered the Roinn B championship, with twenty five eventually taking part. The results:-

North: Clara beat Blacks and Whites; Conahy Sarsfields 2-5 Bennettsbridge 1-6; Emeralds w.o. Young Irelands Scr; Fenians 4-6 Lisdowney 2-3; St Patricks 2-7 Muckalee 1-6; Railyard 1-5 St Lachtains 0-5.

2nd Rd: Clara 5-8 Conahy Sarsfields 0-6; Emeralds 0-7 Fenians 1-0 (Unfinished); Emeralds 3-11 Fenians 0-3 (Refixture); St Patricks 2-8 Railyard 1-6; Tullaroan 3-5 Danesfort 0-5;

Semi Finals: Emeralds 1-9 Clara 2-6; Emeralds 2-5 Clara 0-6 (Replay); St Patricks 2-8 Tullaroan 1-7; North

North Final: Emeralds 2-9 St Patricks 1-8;

South: John Lockes 0-6 Kilmacow 1-0; Rower Inistioge 4-8 Piltown 1-5; Shamrocks 2-13 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-8; Glenmore 1-8 Graignamanagh 2-4; Thomastown beat Slieverue.

2nd Rd: Rower Inistioge w.o. John Lockes Scr; Shamrocks beat Glenmore; Thomastown w.o. Carrickshock Scr; Mooncoin 6-7 Windgap 0-6;

Semi Finals: Rower Inistioge 2-6 Shamrocks 1-7; Mooncoin 1-7 Thomastown 0-9;

South final: Mooncoin 1-4 Rower Inistioge 0-5.

County Final:

Emeralds 1-9 Mooncoin 2-4.

Emeralds took their first ever minor football title when they just got the better of Mooncoin in the Roinn B final played at Nowlan Park. Despite playing against the breeze, Mooncoin dominated the opening twenty minutes. They had a tonic start with a goal from Brendan Mackey. This score helped them into an interval lead of 1-3 to 0-3. Emeralds turned over a different side and within five minutes were two points ahead following points from Ray Moriarty and Vincent Cleere and a goal by Kieran Rafter. Further points followed from Vincent Cleere, David Moriarty and Ray Moriarty to put them ahead 1-8 to 1-3. A point, followed by a goal, both scored by Jonathan Kelly, had Mooncoin back within a point of the leaders. Emeralds got the final score - a point from Kieran Joyce. Mooncoin threw everything into trying to snatch a winning goal but the Emeralds defence held firm.

Emeralds built their victory around the diamond of Willie Tynan, Vincent Cleere, Michael Byrne and Kieran Rafter. Others to play well were Brendan Cahill, Michael Power, Cathal Hennessy, Ray Moriarty and Kieran Joyce. Mooncoin's most prominent players were Michael Frisby, Richard Kinsella, Jamie McGrath, Shane O'Hanlon, Eoin Hennebery, Michael Fielding, Jonathan Kelly, Brendan Mackey, Vinny Power and Robert Cody when he came on.

Scorers: Emeralds: Kieran Rafter (1-0), Vincent Cleere (0-3). Kieran Joyce (0-2), Ray Moriarty (0-2), Cathal Hennessy (0-1), David Moriarty (0-1).

Mooncoin: Jonathan Kelly (1-2), Brendan Mackey (1-0), Vinny Power (0-1).

Emeralds: Alan Guilfoyle, Ian Tobin, Brendan Cahill, Michael Power, Kieran Joyce, Willie Tynan, Ger Joyce, Vincent Cleere, Michael Byrne, Tom Holohan, Kieran Rafter, Ray Moriarty, David Moriarty, Cathal Hennessy, Aidan Fogarty. *Sub:* James Kennedy.

Mooncoin: Michael Frisby, Richard Mackey, Richard Kinsella, Jamie McGrath, Shane O'Hanlon, Micheal Begen, David Dunphy, Michael Fielding, Eoin Hennebery, John Phelan, Kieran Reid, Jonathan Kelly, Vinny Power, Brendan Mackey, Mark Quinn. *Subs:* Robert Cody, Shane Kinsella.

Referee: Pat Hayes (Graigue Ballycallan).

MINOR HURLING

Dunamaggin Spring a Big Surprise

Tom Ryall

Dunnamaggin created a big surprise by winning the Iarnród Éireann minor hurling championship against all the odds. It was the club's third success at this level. They had previously taken the honours in 1993 and 1995. They were contesting their fifth county final in six years. The Roinn B final is between Mullinavat and Tullaroan. Conahy Shamrocks, after failing in the previous two finals, which they lost to Kilmacow and Windgap, finally made good in the Roinn C grade with a narrow one point win over Carrickshock.

Nine teams contested the Roinn A championship. Only three were involved in the South. In the semi-final, last year's champions, Shamrocks, lost their title to Dunnamaggin on a score 1-15 to 2-3. In the south final, Dunnamaggin were not as impressive when overcoming Rower Inistioge who had to play without their star player, Paul Sheehan, out through illness.

The final score was Dunnamaggin 1-12, Rower Inistioge 2-5. In the first rounds in the North, O'Loughlin Gaels had a facile win over Emeralds 1-17 to 1-0 while Graigue Ballycallan beat Fenians 2-14 to 2-5.

In the Northern semi-finals O'Loughlin Gaels beat Dicksboro 0-11 to 0-6 with James Stephens having the better of Graigue Ballycallan 4-10 to 0-7. The

Northern final was another easy win for James Stephens who beat local city rivals O'Loughlin Gaels by 6-7 to 1-4.

James Stephens came into the final as raging hot favourites for the second year in succession. Last year they had been surprised by Shamrocks. Some of

the 1997 final. Following their two big wins in the North, they were even hotter favourites than they had been the previous year. Dunnamaggin were working off a panel of just twenty one players. To make matters worse, two of those, Donal O'Shea and Brendan Delahunty were not

available for the final owing to injury. The Dunnamaggin team rose to the occasion in marvellous style. They played with pride and passion and a will to win that carried them to a famous victory. Despite playing against the breeze it was the southern champions who quickly showed they meant business. Colin Hickey, who



Dunnamaggin Iarnród Éireann Minor County Champions 1998

Back: Richie Cahill, Mark Drennan, Liam Heffernan, Kenneth Moore, Colin Herity, Noel Hickey, Thomas O'Brien, Frankie Hughes, Leonard O'Shea, Kevin Walsh, Donal O'Shea.

Front: Brendan O'Donoghue, Jamie O'Keeffe, Denis O'Sullivan, Colm Lydon, Mark Heffernan, David Herity, Canice Hickey, Sean O'Neill, Gavin O'Donovan.

Photo Tom O'Neill

those who figured in the previous years final were unable to get their place on

dominated the game, shot two early points. It was the 22nd minute before James Stephens levelled at 0-3 each. The vital goal came in the 23rd minute when a long centre from midfield was finished to the net by Frankie Hughes. This helped Dunnamaggin into an interval lead of 1-4 to 0-4.



Action from Iarnród Éireann County Minor Final

Ian Morrissey (JS) clears his lines although challenge by **Frankie Hughes (D)**. **John Morgan (JS)** looks on. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

the city side this year. Also, the Village side contained eleven who had played in

James Stephens tried everything in the second half but they could not break down a magnificent winners' defence in which Noel Hickey, Canice Hickey and Ken Moore were outstanding. David Herity made one fantastic save in the closing stages. The other defenders, Leonard O'Shea, Mark Heffernan, Tomas O'Shea and, in particular, Mark Drennan, played so well that

James Stephens only scored a goal during the second half while Dunnamaggin

replied with three points to run out victorious on a score of 1-7 to 1-4. The losers ran up ten wides in the second period. Some of them looked easier to score. Credit, however, the winners' defence for their heroic work and their willingness to thunder into tackles which went a long way towards

gaining victory. Sean O'Neill gave great assistance to Colin Herity at midfield. In attack Liam Heffernan was the star turn when Noel Hickey moved to defence after fifteen minutes. Richie Cahill gave him most assistance. Frankie Hughes' goal will go into the folklore of the parish. Colm Lydon, Brendan Donoghue and Donal O'Shea, when he came on in the last minute, all played their part in a superb victory. Ian Morrissey was the losers' best player. Others to do well were Niall Grogan, John Morgan, Derek Brennan, Gary Whelan and Paddy Hogan.

Scorers - Dunnamaggin - Colin Herity (0-6), Frankie Hughes (1-0) and Liam Heffernan (0-1). **James Stephens** - Paddy Hogan (1-1), Joe Murphy (0-2) and Eoin McCormack (0-1).

Dunnamaggin - David Herity, Leonard O'Shea, Canice Hickey, Mark Heffernan, Tomas O'Brien, Ken Moore, Mark Drennan, Colin Herity, Sean O'Neill, Colm Lydon, Noel Hickey (Capt), Richie Cahill, Brendan Donoghue, Francie Hughes, Liam Heffernan. *Sub* - Donal O'Shea.

James Stephens - Derek Brennan, Niall Grogan, Ian Morrissey, Eoin O'Neill, David Quinn, John Morgan, Joe Murphy, Paddy O'Brien, Hugh Gannon (Capt), Nigel Skehan, Gary Whelan, Eoin McCormack, Shane Egan, Joey Murray, Paddy Hogan. *Subs* - Niall Tyrrell, Shane O'Grady. *Referee* - Ger O'Grady (Erin's Own).

Roinn C

Eight teams contested the Iarnród Éireann minor hurling championship Roinn C, five in the north and three in the south. The first rounds in the north saw Conahy Shamrocks and St Martins



James Stephens Iarnród Éireann Minor Finalists 1998

Back: Dermot Ryan, Brian Tyrrell, Bill Keogh, David Quinn, John Morgan, Hugh Gannon, Ian Morrissey, Gary Whelan, Joseph Murphy, Joe Murray, Niall Tyrrell, Shane Egan, Richie Hayes, Kieran Keane, Shane O'Grady, Jackie Tyrrell, Peter O'Neill.

Front: Niall Bergin, Pat Grace, Eoin O'Connor, Paddy O'Brien, Eoin O'Neill, Derek Brennan, Niall Grogan, Nigel Skehan, Paddy Hogan, Eoin Dunphy, Alan Dunne, Michael Eardley, Conor O'Grady. *Photo Tom Brett*

play a draw 1-11 to 2-8 with the Conahy side coming out on top in the replay 1-8 to 0-6 while Blacks and Whites beat



Penalty Save

Dunnamaggin Goalkeeper, **David Herity** saves a James Stephens penalty, while **Ken Moore, Canice Hickey** and **Noel Hickey** watch anxiously. *Photo Tom Brett*

neighbours Barrow Rangers by 4-16 to 2-6. Cloneen defeated Blacks and Whites in the next round 1-11 to 1-6. The northern final saw Conahy Shamrocks win the title for the third successive year with a 1-14 to 1-6 scoreline. Glenmore and Slieverue played an exciting semi final in the south with the Glen boys coming through by 1-10 to 1-6. The south final was one-sided with

Carrickshock making their first appearance a winning beating Glenmore by 3-5 to 0-1.

The final took place in Palmers-town and produced a real cracker with Conahy Shamrocks taking the title at the third attempt. The final score was Conahy

Shamrocks 1-7 Carrickshock 1-6. Five minutes from time it looked as if the title was heading south when Carrickshock led by a goal. Conahy Shamrocks forced a 65 in the last minute of normal time. A well struck effort by Conor Brennan was doubled to the net by Mark Mooney who had come on as a sub to level

the game. It was into injury time when Conor Brennan shot the winning point from a difficult free. Carrickshock had the better of the opening half but found scores hard to come by against the winners defence. Despite having less of the play it was the north Kilkenny side which led at the interval 0-4 to 0-3. Three Jamie Power points put Carrickshock ahead at the start of the second half. Back came Conahy Shamrocks to level the game with points by Conor Brennan. Carrickshock seemed to have got the break to win the game when a long delivery by Jamie Power was won by substitute Pat Cleary who shot a goal. An injury to Darragh

Connery (Conahy Shamrocks) who had been starring in defence meant he had to switch to the forwards and it was one of his sorties that resulted in the free from which the equalising goal came.

Ger Byrne was an outstanding goalie for the winners. Darragh Connery, until injured, was the lynchpin in defence. The other five defenders John Bergin, Denis Kelly, Thomas Nolan, Brendan Griffith



Conahy Shamrocks Roinn C Minor Hurling County Champions 1998

Back: Jamie Kavanagh, Martin Brennan, Brian Kavanagh, Pauric Nolan, Brendan Griffith, Niall Burke, Denis Kelly, Pat Kenny, David Bergin, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Gerard Byrne.
Front: Eamonn Lennon, Patrick Nolan, Eoin Byrne, Patrick Walker, Patrick O'Neill, Conor Brennan (Capt.), Thomas Nolan, Seamus Brennan, Darragh Connery, John Bergin. (Missing from Photo: Mark Mooney). Photo Tom Brett



Carrickshock Roinn C County Minor Finalists 1998

Back: Jim Rice, Richie Power, Eric Lonergan, John Murphy, Liam Barron, Daniel Hoyne, Pat Dalton, Niall Rohan, Stephen Lonergan, Matthew Hanrahan, William King, Jim Rohan.
George Frisby, Michael Rohan, Paul Barron, Michael Rice, Brian Tennyson, Gerard Murphy, Brendan Hoyne, Jamie Power, Shane Power, Dan O'Brien, Pat Cleary. Photo Tom Brett

and Seamus Brennan saved their side in the first half. Pat O'Neill and Niall Burke broke even at midfield. Conor Brennan played a captain's part in attack with his accuracy from placed balls playing a big part in the victory. Mark Mooney, back after being out for a long period with an injured shoulder, paid his way after coming on with the equalising goal. Pauric Nolan was best of the others but Eoin Byrne, Pat Walker, Pat Kenny and David Bergin all played their parts in a great win. Jamie Power was the best player on view and he could not have done more for his team. Brendan Hoyne did well in the losers goal. Niall Rohan was Carrickshock's best defender getting most support from Pat Dalton, William King and Liam Barron. Matty Hanrahan and John Murphy gave nothing away soft. Pat Barron was an able partner for Jamie Power at midfield. Brian Tennyson was their best forward and was a big loss when he retired injured in the last

quarter. Michael Rohan, Stephen Lonergan, Ger Murphy, Daniel Hoyne and Shane Power tried hard with little reward. Both substitutes- Michael Rice and Pat Cleary- left an imprint when they came on.

Scorers- Conahy Shamrocks—Conor Brennan (0-6), Mark Mooney (1-0), Pádraig Nolan (0-1). **Carrickshock**—Jamie Power (0-6), Pat Cleary (1-0).

Conahy Shamrocks: Ger Byrne, John Bergin, Darragh Connery, Denis Kelly, Thomas Nolan, Brendan Griffith, Seamus Brennan, Niall Burke, Pat O'Neill, Eoin Byrne, Conor Brennan (Capt), Pat Walker, Pauric Nolan, Pat Kenny, David Bergin. **Subs-** Mark Mooney. **Carrickshock-** Brendan Hoyne, Matty Hanrahan, Pat Dalton, John Murphy, William King, Niall Rohan, Liam Barron, Jamie Power (Capt), Pat Barron, Michael Rohan, Brian Tennyson, Stephen Lonergan, Ger Murphy, Daniel Hoyne, Shane Power. **Subs-** Michael

Rice, Pat Cleary.
 Referee- Oisin Breathnach (Dicksboro).

Roinn B

Eighteen teams entered the Iarnród Éireann minor hurling championship Roinn B with Tullaroan and Mullinavat making it to the final. The northern championship opened with a preliminary round which saw St Patricks (Ballyragget) getting the best of Young Irelands (Gowran) 5-10 to 2-11. The quarter finals saw James Stephens(No2) 3-11 St Patricks (Ballyragget) 1-9, Bennettsbridge-Danesfort 0-18 St Lachtains 0-6, Tullaroan 2-10 Lisdowney 1-5 and Clara 3-8 Erin's Own 0-5. The semi finals saw Bennettsbridge Danesfort beat James Stephens No 2 and Tullaroan beati~ Clara. The Norlthern final was close enough until the closing stages when Tullaroan had a series of goals to run out convincing winners 6-10 to 0-8. The preliminary round in the south saw Graignamanagh beat Tullogher Rosbercon 3-7 to 0-8. The quarter finals saw Mooncoin overcome Graignamanagh, Mullinavat defeat Piltown, Kilmacow 1-12 Windgap 0-7 and Thomastown knock out John Lockes. The semi- finals saw Mullinavat beat Mooncoin 2-13 to 0-7 and Kilmacow beat Thomastown 1-12 to 2-5. The Southern final was an easy 4-13 to 0-2 win for Mullinavat over Kilmacow.

The four teams to reach the semi-finals of the Div 3 were Thomastown, Graignamanagh, Piltown and Tullogher Rosbercon. Thomastown beat Graignamanagh 2-16 to 2-1 with Piltown having a point to spare over Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-7 to 2-9. The final took place in Ballyhale in terrible conditions following heavy overnight rain. The final ended all square on a score Thomastown 1-8 Piltown 2-5. It took a last minute point by Philip Kenny to rescue Piltown. A draw was the fairest result in the circumstances. Piltown were on top in the first half and two goals by Philip Kenny gave them an interval lead of 2-3 to 0-2. Thomastown had the opening five points in the second half with three coming from Dessie Walsh and one each from Derek Brennan and Paddy Whitty. Philip Kenny, who got all but one pomt of the Piltown total, had a point to put his side ahead by three. Derek Brennan narrowed the gap to two points. Thomastown took the lead for the first time three minutes from time with a goal by John Coone. Man of the match Philip Kenny got the equalising point for Piltown.

In addition to Philip Kemny, others to do well for Piltown were David Kirby, Damien Kelly, Joe Walsh, Pa Comnolly, Conor O'Shea, James Norris, Ronan Costelloe and Gary Power. Thomastown's best were Jason Burke, Kane Ryan, Michael Doyle, William



Mullinavat Roinn B Minor Champions 1998

Back: Michael Walsh, Walter Burke, Tony Duggan, Eoin Maher, Keith Madigan, Conor Conway, Michael Murphy, Andrew McGovern.

Front: Andrew Duggan, Damien Conway, Dinny Butler, PJ Aylward, John Paul Dungan, Martin Knox, John Rohan. *Photo Tom Brett*



Tullaroan Roinn B Minor Finalists 1998

Back: Edmund Campion, Ken Coogan, Martin Óg Kennedy, Patrick Campion, Richard Cleere, John Coogan, Tom Fitzgerald, Richard Holland, Jimmy Cleere, Shane Hennessy, Richard Butler, Nicholas Maher.

Front: David Cleere, Stephen Luby, Paul Doheny, Chris Maher, Michael Maher, Tommy Walsh, Michael Connolly, Ned Sweeney, Michael Walsh, Sean Glennon. *Photo Tom Brett*

Hoynes, Paddy Whitty, Richard Bolger, Dessie Walsh, Derek Brennan and John Coone.

Scorers: Thomastown— Dessie Walsh (0-5), John Coone (1-0), Derek Bremlan (0-2), Paddy Whitty (0-1). *Piltown-* P Kenny (2-4), J Norris (0-1)

Thomastown: Jason Burke, John Whitty, Michael Doyle, Kane Ryan, Paul Dunne, Richard Bolger, William Hoynes, Paddy Whitty, Dessie Walsh, Wayne McMahon, Derek Brennan, Brian O'Keeffe, Fergal Challoner, Danny Shanahan, John Coone. *Subs:* Pat Brannigan for John Whitty. **Piltown:** David Kirby, Joe Walsh, Damien Kelly, Gerry Long, Peter Falconer, Pa Connolly, Conor O'Shea, Ronan Costelloe, James Norris, Connie Enright, Gary Power, Richard Brophy, Eddie Butler, Vincent Long, Philip Kenny. *Referee-Paschal Connolly (Shamrocks).*

Mullinavat won the minor B hurling championship for the first time since 1981 when they edged out Tullaroan in an exciting game at Bennettsbridge. The

final score was Mullinavat 1-11 Tullaroan 2-5. The south side led by 1-5 to 1-3 at the interval. They had to save a twenty metre free from John Coogan in the last minute to clinch their title. Best for Mullinavat were P.J.Aylward, John Paul Dungan, Walter Burke, Keith Madigan and Denis Butler, who were on top at midfield, Conor Conway, Andrew Duggan, Eoin Maher and Michael Murphy who caused a lot of problems at full forward. For the losers, Richie Holland, Tommy Walsh, Michael Maher, Ken Coogan, John Coogan, Ned Sweeney and Tom Fitzgerald did best.

Scorers—Mullinavat—Michael Murphy (0-6), Conor Conway (0-3), Denis Butler, Andrew Duggan and Eoin Maher (0-1 each). *Tullaroan—*Tom Fitzgerald (1-3), Richie Cleere (1-0), John Coogan and Patrick Campion (0-1 each).

Mullinavat—P.J.Aylward, John Rohan, John Paul Dungan (Capt), Tony Duggan, Martin Knox, Walter Burke, Michael Maher, Keith Madigan, Denis Butler,

Conor Conway, Andrew Duggan, Damien Conway, Eoin Conway, Michael Murphy, Andrew McGovern.

Tullaroan—Richie Holland, Tommy Walsh, Jimmy Cleere, Michael Maher, Ken Coogan, John Coogan, Michael Connolly, Michael Walsh, Patrick Campion, Paul Doheny, Chris Maher (Capt), Ned Sweeney, Shane Hennessy, Tom Fitzgerald, Richard Cleere. *Sub—*Martin Óg Kermedy.

Referee: John Walsh (Rower Inistioge).

Piltown won the minor hurling league Division 3 final replay when they beat Thomastown 1-7 to 0-4. Piltown had one change from the drawn game - Richie Power for Richard Brophy - while Thomastown fielded the same team with Dermot Lanigan coming on as a sub. A wonderful display by Ronan Costelloe and a scoring spree by Eddie Butler were the main reasons why Piltown pulled through. Others to do well were Pa Connolly, Damien Kelly, Conor O'Shea, James Norris and Vinny Long. Thomastown's best were Jason Burke, Michael Doyle, Dessie Walsh and Derek Brennan.

Scorers—Piltown—Eddie Burke (1-4), James Norris (0-3). Thomastown Derek Bremlan ~3, Dessie Walsh (0-1). *Referee—Paschal Connolly (Shamrocks).* Clara atoned for their defeat in last year's Div 4 league final by taking this year's title with a 2-15 to 1-8 win over St Martins. Clara led at the interval by 1-7 to 0-4. Fourteen of the St Martins side will be eligible for the minor grade next year. Best for Clara were Michael Barcoe, Fintan Treacy, Richard Nolan, Eddie Fitzpatrick, David Mulrooney, Gerry Byrne, T. J.Fitzgerald, Fergus Knox and Brian Phelan. St Martins had good displays from Stephen Nhrphy, Paddy Quirke, Brendan Maher, Michael Mulhall, Tom Morrissey, Martin Dowling, Kierah Kelly, David Cashin and Tom Kinsella.

Scorers—Clara- Ger Prendergast (1-1), Brian Phelan (0-4), Fergus Knox (1-0), Gerry Byrne (0-3), David Mulrooney (0-2), T.J.Fitzgerald (0-2), Con Phelan (0-2), Patrick Langton (0-1).

*St Martins—*Ciarán Hassey (1-0), David Cashin (0-3), Martin Dowling (0-2), Tom Kinsella (0-2), Tom Morrissey (0-1).

Clara—Michael Barcoe, John Prendergast, Martin Prendergast, Fintan Treacy, Declan Meaney, Richard Nolan, Eddie Fitzpatrick, David Mulrooney, Gerry Byrne, T.J.Fitzgerald, Brian Phelan, Fergus Knox, Con Phelan, Patrick Langton, Ger Prendergast.

St Martins—Stephen Murphy, Paddy Quirke, Brendan Maher, Tom Nolan, Raymond Buggy, Michael Mulhall, Michael Walsh, Martin Dowling, Tom Morrissey, Kieran Kelly, Larry Comerford, David Cashin, Tom Kinsella, Paul O'Dwyer, Ciarán Hassey. *Sub—John Buggy.*

Referee-Ger O'Grady (Erins Own)

FROM SKY HIGH TO ROCK BOTTOM

All Ireland Under 21 Championship

Richard Holden

While there were no great hopes for an All-Ireland title from this year's Under-21's at the outset, the excellent win over Offaly in the opening round soon revised people's opinions. Alas, the Kilkenny U-21s couldn't sustain that level of performance and in the end they limped out of the Championship, losing 4-18 to 3-7 to Galway in the All Ireland semi-final.

Kilkenny opened their campaign with a landslide victory over a highly-rated Offaly side. The Midlanders boasted six inter-county seniors in contrast to the Noresiders' two, namely Michael Kavanagh and John Hoyne. The Cats romped home by 3-24 to 1-10 with a five-star performance from Eoin Behan, who bagged 2-2. Others to impress that evening were Henry Sheflin who shot over nine points - four from play, John Hoyne, Shane Lanigan and Paul Hoyne. Offaly's misery was complete when senior centre-forward Mark Hand was sent-off for a bad foul on Kilkenny's centreback, P.J. Ryan. Hand received a three month suspension which effectively ruled him out of Offaly's entire championship campaign.



Paul Hoyne receives the Leinster U21 Cup from **Jim Berry**, Chairman, Leinster Council) after Kilkenny defeated Dublin in the Leinster Final in Carlow. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

In the Leinster Final, Kilkenny met surprise-packets, Dublin, who had defeated Leinster champions for the past two seasons, Wexford, by eight points in the semi-final. The Dubs provided a much sterner test with their senior stars, Tomas McGrane, David Sweeney and Shane Martin most notably to the fore. They got off to a flier with four unanswered points inside the first seven minutes but Kilkenny, aided by a Henry Sheflin goal from a penalty, had clawed their way back and at the break went in level - despite having played against the wind. A



Kilkenny - All Ireland U21 Finalists 1998

Back: Jimmy Coogan, Henry Sheflin, Joe Young, Micheál Hoyne, John Brennan, Sean Dowling, Noel Lahart, Richie Mullally.
Front: Mick Kavanagh, Alan Geoghegan, John Hoyne, Anthony McCormack, David Carroll, Mikie Maher, Shane Lanigan.

Photo Tom O'Neill

well-taken goal from the impressive Micheál Hoyne appeared to put Kilkenny in the driving-seat but the plucky Dubs were still very much in it when trailing by just two points with five minutes left. However, the Cats finished the stronger and outscored the Dubs by three points to one in those closing stages, to run out winners on a 2-10 to 0-12 score-line.

The decision of the Leinster Council not to stage the game with the Minor Final, which was held the previous evening at the same venue, was hard to credit and this, allied, to the Munster Final replay in Thurles, resulted in the U-21 decider attracting a paltry crowd to Carlow. A pity, but such is bureaucracy.

The All Ireland semi-final was played as a curtain-raiser to the third Clare-Offaly game and Kilkenny went into it quietly confident of repeating their minor win over Galway, three years earlier. However, Kilkenny's preparations were severely disrupted with three first-choice players, Paul Hoyne, Podge Delaney and Eoin Behan all unavailable due to a combination of injuries and holidays. Behan's loss, in particular, was a big handicap to the team as he had been their best forward during the Leinster campaign, scoring 2-5 from play in the two matches against Offaly and Dublin. Diarmuid Mackey and Michael Doyle were added to the panel to compensate for the absence of Delaney and Behan while Sean Dowling and David Carroll were selected at centre-back and midfield respectively, despite not having played any part in the earlier rounds.

Galway, with six seniors involved, were a cut above Kilkenny and strolled to a fourteen-points win. Kevin Broderick was a constant threat to the Kilkenny rear-guard, ending up with 1-6 from play and it was surprising that Andrew Hickey was not brought on to try and curtail him. The Cats were never in the hunt and at the interval trailed by 2-11 to 1-5. Only Michael Kavanagh, Richie Mullally, Shane Lanigan and Henry Shefflin - who notched up 3-4 - did themselves any justice as Kilkenny made a tame exit from the Championship.

Kilkenny have ten of this year's panel under-age again next year but it would be difficult to see them matching Galway, Cork or Tipperary. A final salvo; one always looks to the Under-21's for the senior stars of the future and it might be worth giving Henry Shefflin and Eoin Behan, from this year's crop, their chance in the forthcoming National League.

Panel: Anthony McCormack (Dunamaggin); Michael Maher (Tullaroan), Michael Kavanagh (St. Lachtains), Paul Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan-capt.), John Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), P. J. Ryan (Fenians), Shane Lanigan (Thomastown), Sean Dowling (O'Loughlins); Richie Mullally (Glenmore), P.J. Cody (John Lockes),



Mikey on a Chase - Kilkenny's **Mikey Maher** chases Galway's Kevin Broderick in the All Ireland U21 Semi-Final in Thurles. *Photo Sportsfile*

Noel Lahart (Dunamaggin), David Carroll (Dicksboro); Alan Geoghegan (O'Loughlins), John Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Micheal Hoyne (do.), Jimmy Coogan (Tullaroan), Joe Young (Graigue-Ballycallan), Podge Delaney (Fenians), Eoin Behan (do.), Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks); Aidan Cummins (do.), Andrew Hickey (Dunamaggin), Ger Kirwan (Mooncoin), Michael Doyle (Rower-Inistioge), Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin) and Bob Alyward (Shamrocks).

Management Team: Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), Tom Kinsella (St. Martins), Seamus Martin (Dunamaggin), Nicky Teehan (Graigue-Ballycallan) and Joe Dunphy (Mooncoin).

WHERE AND HOW IT HAPPENED ...

June 24 - Portlaoise

Kilkenny 3-24 Offaly 1-10

Scorers: H. Shefflin (0-9, 0-5 - frees); E. Behan (2-2); J. Hoyne (0-4); J. Young (1-1); P. Delaney (0-3); A. Geoghegan, M. Hoyne (0-2 each); J. Coogan (0-1).

July 19 - Carlow

Kilkenny 2-10 Dublin 0-12

H. Shefflin (1-4, 1-0 pen. 0-3 - frees); M. Hoyne (1-1); E. Behan (0-3); A. Geoghegan, J. Coogan (0-1 each).

August 30 - Thurles

Kilkenny 3-7 Galway 4-18

H. Shefflin (3-4, 1-0 pen. 0-4 - frees); J. Young, N. Lahart and S. Lanigan (0-1 each).

Smithwicks Sports Awards Happy Birthday



Smithwicks All Stars of the Past in Action

Noel Skehan, 1998 Hall of Fame Award Winner, makes a famous save in the 1974 All Ireland Final against Limerick. Watching very closely are **Pat Henderson, Jim Treacy, Tom McCormack, Phil "Fan" Larkin, Pat Lawlor and Nicky Orr.**

Photo Tom Brett

The prestigious Smithwicks Sports awards has been galloping along a glorious road for 25 years now. Since its inception, 280 awards have been presented to men, women, boys and girls, who have distinguished themselves in their chosen sport.

The much treasured "Hall of Fame Award has been bestowed on such sporting luminaries as the late Ollie Walsh, who brightened up the lives of so many hurling supporters, throughout the land. The legendary greyhound trainers, the late Paddy Dunphy from Castlecomer, and Din Lennon from Freshford, were also winners. The late Jack Nottley collected one for his services to rugby, as did the greatest "number 8" in the Rugby World, Willie Duggan. One of the greatest pound for pound fighter that ever left these shores, one Mick Dowling from Castlecomer, took one

home. Liam Reidy was honoured for his services to golf -- the same Liam Reidy that hurled as a star forward in All-Irelands for Kilkenny in the forties and fifties. The list is a relative "Who's Who" of Kilkenny sport. Mick Lanigan (Athletics), Tommy Brennan (Show jumping), John Dunne (Handball), Frankie Shortt and Paddy Mullins (Horse racing), they all collected awards. But overall, it was in GAA that the greatest sports stars were winners.

The list is very long. Keher, Skehan, Henderson, Hennessy, Cummins, Grace, Carey, and Carter, they were all winners. The original Committee are but 4 now. Jim Finnegan, and Sean Byrne are still there. Tommy O'Brien, full-time teacher, and part-time commentator is still doing his "fear an tí" stunt, as well as ever. The PRO, Tom Brett -- well known Kilkenny photographer -- is still doing his "P.R.O'ing". Long may it stay on the tracks.



Gaelic Games Award winners at the 1998 Smithwicks Sports Awards dinner: Charlie Carter (Hurling), Brigid Mullally (Camogie), DJ Carey and Duxie Walsh (Handball), Noel Skehan (Hall of Fame).

Photo Tom Brett

Intermediates Go a Long Long Way

NICKY BRENNAN

The 1998 Inter-County Intermediate hurling campaign was a long drawn out affair with the All-Ireland Final not played until the 11th October. When you consider that Kilkenny played Kildare in the first round of the Leinster Championship on the 20th June, with subsequent games in Leinster on the 4th July and the 19th July, one has to wonder how serious G.A.C. took this competition during 1998.

time of the sad passing of their mentor, rose to new heights in the last ten minutes to secure a merited victory. How ironic it was that at the start of the year Limerick County Board Chairman Donal Fitzgibbon sensed his county had a right good chance in the Intermediate grade and requested Tommy Quaid to move on from the County Under 21 squad. The All-Ireland victory for Limerick over Kilkenny was a fitting tribute to the astute



KILKENNY ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINALISTS 1998

Back: Ollie O'Connor, Tom Murphy, Adrian O'Sullivan, Declan Roche, Brian Phelan, Jarlath Bolger, Brendan barcoe, Henry Shefflin, Austin Cleere, Patsy Brophy, Patrick Farrell, Kieran Connery, Paul Treacy.

Front: Rory Moore, Aidan Cummins, Robert Shortall, Jim Walsh, Martin Bookle, Martin Carey, Seamus Moran, Tommy Shefflin, John Dunphy, PJ Coady. *Tom Brett*

The unsatisfactory running of the championship though was very much over shadowed by a tragic accident to Limerick team official Tommy Quaid prior to their All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny. This extremely tragic event cast a long and dark shadow over the All-Ireland Final, and while all in Kilkenny willed on the team to victory, there was no denying the enormous sympathy for Limerick and their critically ill colleague who at the time of the game was fighting for his life in a Cork hospital. The occasion took a final and poignant turn during the All-Ireland Final when Limerick officials were informed of Tommy's death. Kilkenny looked to be very much in control in the early stages of the second half but the Limerick team, who were not aware at the



Pádraig Farrell, Kilkenny Intermediate Captain, raises the Leinster Cup after their victory over Wexford. *Photo Tommy O'Neill*

coaching of Tommy Quaid. How very very sad that he should be called to his eternal reward just as his county were savouring one of their greatest days since the 1973 Senior All-Ireland success. Kilkenny's campaign began in Newbridge against the Pierce Freaney trained Kildare side. This game more than any other showed the futility of playing such matches as Kilkenny had a facile victory on a score of 4-30 to 0-8. The hapless Kildare side was simply overwhelmed, as Kilkenny scored almost at will to record a very easy victory. Kilkenny's second round game against Wicklow was almost as one-sided ending on a score of 3-23 to 1-8. In the previous year's campaign Wicklow gave a right fright to Kilkenny in Nowlan Park, but in their own venue on this occasion they had no answer to a power

display from the Cats. The defeat was particularly demoralising for Wicklow and the faithful hurling followers in the Garden County.

Kilkenny's first real test in the 1998 campaign came against great rivals Wexford in the Leinster Final in Enniscorthy. The team produced a brand of fast open hurling and were well worth their 3-11 to 0-11 victory. Goals on either side of half time, the first from Paul Treacy and the second from Tommy Shefflin left Wexford reeling. A superb display from the Kilkenny half back line, where Martin Bookle in particular stood out ably assisted by Patsy Brophy and Seamus Moran, was the launching pad for many a Kilkenny score. The Kilkenny midfield pairing of Dermot Maher and Jarlath Bolger dominated this sector, while Austin Cleere led the attack by example. Just as Wexford were making some headway in the second half with a couple of points, their cause became a forlorn one as Henry Shefflin slipped in behind a hesitant defence to score Kilkenny's third goal following a long delivery from Patsy Brophy. The Wexford challenge evaporated after this score as Kilkenny ran out convincing and deserving winners. In a pulsating All-Ireland semi-final played in Tullamore, Kilkenny just got the better of Galway on a score of 2-12 to 2-11. This game had enough drama and excitement to cover the entire Year Book. Mixed in with much superb hurling was a period of madness from Galway which saw two of their players dismissed by referee Gerry Devlin from Armagh. As often happens when faced with such adversity, Galway rose to the challenge with their remaining thirteen players and almost caught Kilkenny at the finish.

Kilkenny started in whirlwind fashion with goals from the Shefflin brothers Tommy and Henry and led by 2-3 to 0-1 after fifteen minutes. However, Galway came back strongly in the final quarter of the half to leave the interval score at 2-6 to 1-6 in favour of Kilkenny. Despite the loss of their two players Galway were level with Kilkenny by the tenth minute of the second half when Basil Larkin scored, and actually led moments later from a pointed a free. Kilkenny eventually levelled through Robert Shortall and despite taking the lead on two occasions they were hauled back each time by thirteen man Galway. Henry Shefflin eventually came to Kilkenny's rescue with three minutes remaining when he pointed a '65. Referee Devlin had to endure some unsavoury moments at the end of the game as Galway supporters vented their anger at some of his decisions, particularly the dismissal



Action from All Ireland Final versus Limerick Limerick's **James Butlers** gathers the ball as Kilkenny's **Declan Roche** prepares to pounce. **Patsy Brophy** and **James Walsh** look on.
Photo Tom Brett

of the two players, but it was difficult to fault the referee for the decisions he took in a tough encounter.

When Limerick and Down drew their semi-final Kilkenny were left waiting around for their All-Ireland opponents for a number of weeks. With the concluding stages of the local championships also taking place at the same time, Team Manager Noel Skehan and his selectors found it almost impossible to assemble the squad for training. This unsatisfactory situation was not to help Kilkenny's cause in the final.

The All-Ireland Final in Thurles saw Kilkenny and Limerick serve up a superb game of hurling with great scores, thrilling bouts of play and some smashing individual performances. The game started tamely with the sides level after ten minutes. Limerick slowly began to take the initiative and actually led by four points (1-8 to 0-7) at one stage, their goal being a soft score after a bad lapse in the loser's

defence. Kilkenny responded in great style and worked a remarkable nine point turn around to go 1-13 to 1-8 ahead. The cats looked to be in control at this stage but the eager Limerick sides was quickly back on level terms.

Kilkenny lost dependable corner back Declan Roche in the first half and his absence had a very unsteady affect on Kilkenny's last line of defence. The highlight of the opening half was a superb goal from Henry Shefflin when he shot the ball over his shoulder following a pass from Robert Shortall.

By the 44th minute Limerick were starting to come much more into the game. A long free from their own half back line ended with Andrew Ryan shooting the ball to the net. The same player shot the equalising point moments later. Kilkenny took the lead again on two occasions but each time Limerick responded with similar scores. In the 53rd minute Limerick got the crucial score that turned the game in their favour. A dreadful defensive clearance from Kilkenny saw the ball returned to the Limerick full forward Owen O'Neill who rounded his marker to shoot a superb goal. Kilkenny made a late rally with a goal from Ollie O'Connor but it was not enough to deprive the Shannonsiders of a famous victory.

Martin Carey had a great game in the Kilkenny goal and made a number of superb saves in the opening half. The defence had a tortuous time in the second half but it is doubtful if any team could have stayed with Limerick in the closing quarter. Martin Bookle and Patsy Brophy in

the second half were the best of the Kilkenny rearguard. Midfield and attack were best served by Dermot Maher, Austin Cleere, Brian Phelan, Henry Shefflin and Robert Shortall.

At the end of a very entertaining game former G.A.A. President and Kilkennyman Paddy Buggy presented the cup to the Limerick Captain John Cormican. The word began to filter through to all those present in Thurles at that stage that Tommy Quaid had died. Victory for the large Limerick contingent seemed very hollow at that very sad news. When Donal Fitzgibbon asked Tommy Quaid to become involved with Limerick at the start of the year could either one of them have known the eventual outcome of a year that filled all Limerick followers with the joys of victory and the pain of the sad departure of a great Limerick hurler and a wonderful gentleman? The Kilkenny Intermediate team which played Limerick in the All-Ireland Final was:

Martin Carey (Young Irelands), Declan Roche (John Lockes), Padraig Farrell Capt. (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Jimmy Walsh (Glenmore), Martin Bookle (Tullaghan Rosbercon), Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own), Seamus Moran (Bennettsbridge), Dermot Maher (Barrow Rangers), Jarlath Bolger (Graigueanamanagh), Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Austin Cleere (Emeralds), Brian

Phelan (St. Patrick's Ballyragget), Tommy Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Brendan Barcoe (Clara), Robert Shortall (Clara).

Subs: Ciarán Connery (Conahy Shamrocks) for Roche; Rory Moore (Clara) for Moran; Ollie O'Connor (St. Lachtains) for Barcoe; Tom Murphy (Tullaghan Rosbercon), Aidan Cummins (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Adrian O'Sullivan (John Lockes), John Dunphy (Mullinavat), Paul Treacy (Thomastown) and P.J. Cody (John Lockes).

Footnote: The funeral of the late Tommy Quaid was a sad occasion for all G.A.A. followers and the huge crowd, including many of his playing colleagues and opponents, that descended on Effin in County Limerick was testimony to the esteem in which Tommy was held. I encountered Tommy Quaid on many occasions during my own playing career but as we operated at different ends of the field we never came "in contact" with one another during an inter-county game. We did end up playing on each other in an Inter-Firms All-Ireland Final in Kilsheelan when Golden Vale just got the better of an injury hit Avonmore in a superb game of hurling. Tommy was a great goal-keeper and his untimely death is a reminder to us all that perhaps there are sometimes more important things in life than hurling.

**St Pat's Under 13 Roinn A
Dublin Kilkenny Association
Football League Champions
1998**

Back: David Lanigan, Jamie Owens, John Comerford, Christopher Moriarty, James Crotty, Eoin Everard, Damien Kelly, Shane Champion.

Middle: Tomeas Keogh, Adrian Walsh, Maurice Nolan, Julian O'Dwyer (Capt), Donal Cody, James Doyle, Alan O'Brien.

Front: Killian Everard, Niall Lanigan, Matthew Ruth, Brendan Cleere, Dermot Moynihan, Joseph Mulcahy, John Taylor.



**Thomastown Under 13 Roinn A
Dublin Kilkenny Association
Football League Finalists 1998**

Back: Richard O'Hara (Capt), Philip Lee, Shane Hoyne, Bernard O'Flaherty, Ross Kelly, Peter O'Hanrahan, Pádraig Nolan, Frank Conway, Robert Grace, Mark Delehunty, Mark Lee, Micheál Kirwan.

Middle: Thomas Harrison/Daly, Rabert Cahill, Dwayne Tennyson, Deane Waugh, Michael Brennan, Dan Conway, Michael Malone, Cathal Treacy, Sean Brennan.

Front: Jamie Tennyson, Thos Kavanagh, Martin Lawrence, Diarmaid Aylward, Richard Moore, Alan Byrne, Peter Birch, Jamie Whitty, John Joe Farrell.



CLUB NEWS

JAMES STEPHENS

Under Age Coaching

The club continued this summer with our successful under age coaching courses, with 1st and 2nd class on Tuesday nights and 3rd and 4th class on Thursday nights. Each night attracted up to 80 boys who were coached in the basics of hurling. This coaching was possible only through the efforts of over 20 adult coaches and parents.

Andy Egan Tournament

The Andy Egan Tournament, which commemorates the late Andy Egan, Club All-Ireland Medallist, was completed in late September, with Tomás Keogh's team emerging as winners, having beaten Maurice Nolan's team in the final.

The contribution of our under age activities to hurling in the parish can be seen in the success of school teams, St. Patricks and Gaelscoil Osraí, in winning their respective schools finals and of the parish team in reaching the county final of the Community Games.

Michael Phelan Tournament

The inaugural Michael Phelan Memorial U-16 Hurling tournament, which commemorates a late prominent supporter and father of two adult playing members of the club, was organised by the club in conjunction the staff of St. Canices Hospital.

The initial rounds of the tournament were held in atrocious conditions at Larchfield and, by kind permission of Dicksboro, at Palmerstown. The final of the tournament, which had to be deferred due to the inclement conditions, saw James Stephens defeat Tullaroan in an excellent decider.

Paddy Mullen Tournament

The Paddy Mullen Memorial Tournament which has become established as one of the foremost minor hurling tournaments in the country, featured teams from four counties, Galway (Mullagh), Offaly (Coolderry and St. Rynagh's), Cork (Glen Rovers) and Dublin (Ballyboden/St. Endas) in addition to a strong Kilkenny presence. Played with the co-operation of Bennettsbridge Club, the tournament culminated in victory by James Stephens over Glen Rovers of Cork.

Thanks to the Ladies!

On the occasion of these tournaments and in catering for other visiting teams, the club's Ladies Committee has gained a reputation second to none for the quality of the welcome at Larchfield.

The Social Club has continued to develop the social facilities for members, inaugurating an annual outing to Tramore.

Well Done to the B teams!

While the exploits of successful under age and adult teams from James Stephens are well known, the club is equally proud of the efforts of the players and mentors of our 'B' under age teams and our special junior team.

A very young Special Junior team has reached a Northern final and a league final, while our 'B' U-16 and minor teams provided good experience to our younger players.

Club Coaches

Many of the clubs coaches attended the Level 1 coaching course organised by the County board during last winter and have started to apply the methods learned on the course in the preparation of teams. Nine club

members completed the course in total and from the above it is clear there is plenty of opportunity for them to test their new skills and methods.

Camogie

The James Stephens camogie club continues to prosper, contesting county finals at U-14, U-16 and U-18 and gaining Roinn 'A' status at U-14. The Saturday morning coaching continues to provide Camogie coaching to growing numbers of girls.

County Players

Many members of the club represented Kilkenny with pride during the year, none more so than the six Village men who represented the county on all Ireland day in Croke Park, John Morgan, Joey Murray and Hugh Gannon in the minor final and Philip Larkin, Peter Barry and Brian McEvoy in the senior decider.

Obituaries

Richie Fennelly was a member of our first Championship winning team in 1935. One of the famous seven Fennelly brothers, he helped Stoneyford to win the 1943 Junior title by beating James Stephens in the final.

Jimmy Morrissey, a native of Upper Patrick St., was a member of the first Kilkenny minor hurling team to play in an All Ireland final when they lost to Tipperary in the 1930 decider, but he won a minor title in 1931. He won county senior medals with the club in 1935 and '37 and was a member of the Kilkenny senior side who were defeated in the '37 final in Killarney. A noted musician he played with St. Patricks Brass Band for over fifty years and was a founder of the majorettes corps.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad.

KILMACOW

Club Officers

The club held its AGM in January and the following club officers were elected for 1998.

President: Fr. Brian Flynn
Chairperson: Gerry Mulligan
Secretary: Seamus Walsh
Treasurer: Eamon Irish
PRO: Anita Gahan

Addition to Dressingrooms

Development in the Kilmacow Sports Complex continued this past year with the building of an extra set of dressingrooms which were well overdue. A railing was erected around the hurling pitch. Great credit goes to all those who gave up their time to get both of these essential jobs done.

North/South

Kilmacow was well represented in the annual North/South Junior Jim Farrell Cup held in Tullogher this year. The North selection took the cup back to North Kilkenny for another year. From Kilmacow, Thomas Reddy, Declan Gahan, Sean Caufield, Noel Dunphy and Trevor Sutton all contributed well to this game. The final scoreline was North 0-17, South 0-12.

Kilkenny Over - 40's

This was a first for Kilmacow and hopefully will not be the last when Kilmacow took on the mighty over - 40's in a challenge game played in Kilmacow. The fact that the Black & Amber was worn by the over - 40's team did not at all detract from the merits of Kilmacow's performance and contribution both teams made to a competitive and entertaining game. It was youth and fitness that took command of this game. Kilkenny's fire and skill could not turn back the clock, but they are far from over the hill. The final score in this game was Kilmacow

4-14, Over - 40's 2-10.

Team: Dermot Haberlin, Padraig Fleming, Sean Caufield, Peter Ryan, Declan Gahan, Thomas Reddy, Brian Fleming, Dermot Tierney (0-5 2f), Peter Mullally (0-1), John Barron, Noel Dunphy, Trevor Sutton (0-1), Ger O' Neill, Michael Sweeney (2-3), Paul Long (2-4) Subs: John Walsh for Ger O'Neill, Ned Gahan for Paul Long, John Phelan for Michael Sweeney, David Long for Dermot Haberlin (Injured), William Kelly, Damian Grant, Michael Ryan.

Congratulations

The club wishes to congratulate two of our own players who were involved with the over - 40's and brought home another National title, Greg Power and Dick McNamara.

Juvenile News

The U-10's and 11's took part in Ground Hurling Competitions, the under 9's, 10's in Waterford and the under 11's in Nowlan Park.

The U-11's beat Dickboro, Bennettsbridge and James Stephens in their path to the finals. This was a great achievement and it was enjoyed by all. After all, the chance of playing in Nowlan Park is every child's dream!

The year ended on a high note for the juvenile teams. Following coaching from March to October, the club organised a tournament for the kids from the ages of 5 - 11 years with 64 youngsters participating. Each player went home with a medal at the end of the day.

U-16

We were beaten in the first round of the Championship by Windgap. In the league we reached the semi-final where we

were defeated by a stronger Blacks & Whites team.

Minors

Our Minors had an up and down league campaign. We won three games and lost four, so failed to reach the play offs. In the Championship we got things together beating Windgap in the first round. Following that victory, we then beat Thomastown in the semi-finals. We played near neighbours Mullinavat in the South Final.

Football

In football, Kilmacow reached the South semi-finals against near neighbours Mullinavat. On the day, Mullinavat were narrowly the better team.

Panel: David Long, Jamie Ryan, Damian Grant, Stephen O'Keeffe, Paul O'Dwyer, Greg Power, Michael Ryan, Dev Lowe, Eamon Reddy, Jim Kinsella, William Kelly, Thomas Reddy, Declan Gahan, Trevor Sutton, Neil O'Callaghan, David Walsh, Paul Long, John Dalton, John Walsh, Michael Sweeney, John Carroll, David Ryan, Ned Gahan, Mark McDonald, James O' Neill, Pat Gaule, Conor Walsh, Ian Walsh, Sean Caufield, John Phelan.

Junior

In the Championship, we lost to Windgap in the Southern semi-final by 0-9 to 1-12.

The Special Juniors reached the Southern Roinn B final against Carrickshock and after a replay, Carrickshock took home the trophy.

Obituaries

The club extends its deepest sympathy to all the clubs family, friends and relatives who were bereaved during the past year.

CLUB NEWS

LISDOWNEY

Underage Teams

Juvenile training is done every Saturday and it couldn't happen without the help of Margaret Kinane and PJ Kenny. The U-10's had a great run in the Nissan Tournament in Carlow reaching the semi-final. The U-11's did very well in the ground hurling competition. The Primary school and U-14 teams were less successful.

The U-16 football team qualified for the Northern final but the same age team did not do as well in hurling but they did have a good run in the league. The minors have reached the semi-final of the league which has yet to be played.

The Specials began well but their good luck didn't last. The Junior team reached the quarter final of the ACHL but had a short spell in the Championship being knocked out in the first round. The team was greatly weakened by the loss of Shay Downey



Lisdowney U-11 Camaint '98

Back: PJ Kenny (trainer), E. Hickey, R. Randall, N. Campion, S. Stapleton, M. Thornton, D. Buckley, B. Campion, P. Murphy, D. Ayres, P. Kenny.
Front: S. Murphy, M. Phelan, R. Buckley, N. Mackey, P. Sweeney, R. Quinn, P. Bergin, J. Burns, R. Hickey, A. Ruth, D. Lyons, P. Burns, J. Bergin.

through injury. For the first time in a number of years, we fielded a football team which reached the Northern semi-final.

County players during 1998 were: minor; David Dowling, U-16; John Bergin, County Vocational School; Kevin Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny and Ireland Schools Shinty; Matthew Thornton.

Social Events

The annual Dinner Dance will be held again in Langtons. Lisdowney GAA along with two 'former greats' Patsy Murphy and Michael Hickey staged the 'Alternative All Ireland' and over £600 was raised for Prague House and the O'Gorman Home. There is a very real danger that this may become an annual event.

TOM CUNNIFFE



Super Valu
SUPERMARKET

JOHN'S GREEN.
056-65026.

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Fresh Daily
in our modern
in-store Bakery

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MOONCOIN

Juvenile Report

Congratulations to Keith Kirwan who represented Kilkenny in the U-14 skills competition in New Ross and Alan Walsh who played for Kilkenny in the Shinty International. Thanks to Pat Duggan and Eamon Holden for taking care of the Primary Schools teams. The U-14 hurlers were narrowly defeated in the Southern final by Slieverue. The U-16's were narrowly defeated in the championship after good work done during the year. The U-12's retained the Sean Tyler Cup defeating Kilmacow and Mullnavat and were narrowly beaten in the semi-final of the WCL by Mount Sion. Both the U-13 and U-11 teams reached semi-finals of the WCL and the latter won all their eight games in the Camaint competition.

Coaching

There has been a great response to our juvenile hurling coaching held on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. At the end of the season we held a parish league which turned out to be a great success, thanks to Tom Hickey and Eddie O'Connor who presented the medals. The club wishes to thank all those who hosted visitors and supported the club through '98.

Football

This year was a very busy one for our club. The delayed 1997 U-21 football began in Jan '98. We defeated Windgap, Carrigeen and Mullinavat to reach the county final against Young Irelands. However the team did not perform as well as in previous rounds and were defeated.

Our minor footballers reached the county final but lost to Emeralds by 1-9 to 2-4. We lost all our games in Junior Football. Our Intermediate Football team reached the county semi-final stage. We drew twice with Erins Own, losing finally by one point.

Hurling

The disappointment of the season surely was the defeat of our Intermediates in the county final. The Junior hurlers took part in the ACHL. The minors lost to Graignamanagh in the championship. Gerry Kirwan, Diarmuid Mackey and Liam Walsh were involved with the Kilkenny U-21 squad.

Development Work

The old railing around the pitch was replaced. Work will soon start on upgrading the drive way into the pitch and the area fronting the complex.

New Chairman

Paddy Murphy was chairman of the club for 1998. All other officers were as in 1997



Mooncoin U-11 Panel 1998

Back: Frank Law, Jamie Cody, John Doody, David Rowe, Christopher Hearne, Sean Wall, Liam Hennebry, Kevin Law, Thomas Hennebry, Martin Murphy, Damien Jacob, John Kenny.

Front: Pauric Doody, Shane Dowley, Joseph O'Hanlon, Seamus Dunphy, Michael Grace, Michael O'Hanlon, Stephen O'Brien, Niall O'Hanlon, James O'Brien, Stephen Crowley, Walter Crowley.



Mooncoin U-14 Hurling '98

Back: Joe Dunphy (trainer), Tomás O'Hanlon, Stephen Murphy, Patrick Kinsella, Richard Hogan, Ray Wall, Dick Howley, Ger Purcell, Shane Nolan, Anton Lennon, Paul Dunne, Michael Jones, Nicholas Delahunty, Joe Kearns, Helen O'Hanlon, Noel Delahunty.

Front: Joseph O'Hanlon, Daniel Sinnott, Paddy Byrne, Tom O'Brien, Sean Wall, Keith Kirwan, Frank Law, Alan Walsh, Cathal O'Keeffe, Niall O'Hanlon.

MULLINAVAT

Club Development

Much work was carried on in the putch under the watchful eye of Jim Conway. Both goals were resodded at the beginning of the year. New nets were erected behind the goal and during the Summer the dressing rooms were painted.

The finance for this and other club expenses came from three sources; Hurlers Co-op Draw, 'Play for the Park' Lotto and the annual Golf Classic held in New

Ross Golf Club. Great credit is due to the hard working promoters of these fund-raisers especially club stalwart Richie Carroll for outstanding work in this area.

To the people of the parish we say thank you very much for your continued support.

Coaching Developments

In the Spring a foundation course was held in Mullinavat for the Southern clubs. Georgie Leahy and Briain Ryan were the

tutors on a very successful course. Mullinavat proved again to be a popular venue for the GAA Summer Camps and the organisers are very grateful to Jim Conway for having the pitches and grounds in such good condition for the week.

On the Playing Field

Pride of place in the parish for '98 goes to the Mullinavat Camogie club for their outstanding year winning titles at U-16, 18 and Junior.

Well done also to the Junior footballers who reached the county final and went down fighting against Young Irelands. This youthful side had five minors on board and played excellent football all year. Hopefully next year they can go one better.

Our Intermediate hurlers failed to keep their good early season momentum going. Injuries to key players Maurice Murphy and Jimmy Rohan weakened the championship effort and Clara ended our championship hopes.

Congratulations to William O'Dwyer who won the Leinster U-14 Poc Fada on the day of the Leinster senior hurling final.



Mullinavat Camaint '98

Back: Michéal Farrell, Patrick Jones, Mark Dempsey, David Browne, James Murphy, Niall Coughlan, Nicholas Anthony, Paddy Brennan, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Patrick Raftice, Paul Culleton. **Front:** Gary Ayres, Martin Delahunty, Joseph Wall, Stephen Duggan, Gary Law, Ian Duggan, Stephen Ryan, Michael Cunningham, James Freyne, Kevin Knox.



Stars of the Future?

Guarding the Bob O'Keeffe Cup at the Mullinavat Summer Camp.

Back: Paul Haberlin, Seamus Farrell, John Power, Joseph Wall, Liam Barron, Michéal Farrell. **Front:** Michael Cunningham, Ian Duggan.



William O'Dwyer receives his U-14 Poc Fada winners trophy from Jim Berry, Cathaoirleach of the Leinster Council. Photo: Tommy O'Neill

Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens 1998

The 17th Annual Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens for U-13 players took place in September. Ballyhale retained the Sweeney Cup by overcoming stiff opposition from 24 teams from Kilkenny, Tipperary, Laois, Dublin, Kildare and Galway.

On their way to the final, Ballyhale defeated James Stephens B, Moycarkey, Ballyboden St. Enda's, Freshford and then conquered a very gallant Clara team in the final. Clara had victories over Naas, Freshford, St.Martin's and James Stephen's A.

The first round losers took part in the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield competition. The final was a close fought encounter between near neighbours Ballyragget and Harps (Durrow), with Ballyragget edging out deserving winners.

Ballyragget had earlier beaten O'Loughlin's, Naas and James Stephen's B, while Harps had defeated Blacks and Whites, Tullaroan and Meelick-Eyrecourt.

The Parish Sevens always provides entertaining fare and this year was no exception. The final was full of thrills and excitement with Seamus Nolan's team pipping Gary Glendon's team by two points. The other teams were captained by Eoin Sherman, Matthew Thornton, Patrick O'Shea and Barry O'Hara.

James Fitzpatrick (Ballyhale) created his own bit of history by winning the coveted 'Coca-Cola Best Player Award' for the second time. He was presented with his award by Fr. O Farrell P.P.

Guest of honour was Kilkenny goalkeeper, Joe Dermody, himself a former winner. He presented the Sweeney Cup and Coca-Cola trophies to Ballyhale while Eamonn Nolan (Coca Cola) presented the runners up trophies to Clara.

The Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield was presented to Ballyragget by Eamonn Hennessy, and the trophies were presented to Ballyragget and Harps respectively by Kieran Costelloe (Chairman) and Lar Carroll (Treasurer). The Lisdowney Shield and Coca-Cola trophies were presented to Parish

Sevens winners and runners up by David Dowling (Lisdowney - a member of the Kilkenny Minor team).

Joe Dunphy (Ballyhale) spoke on behalf of the competing teams and thanked organisers Larry Hamilton, Eamonn Dunne and Eamonn Nolan for yet another superbly run tournament in which nearly 300 young players took part.

Competition Secretary, Larry Hamilton, thanked all who contributed to the suc-

cess of the tournament- all 24 teams and their mentors, the sponsors Coca-Cola, Sweeney Brothers, Kilkenny Supporters and Lisdowney G.A.A., the Ladies Committee, the officers and members of the Club, Michael & Tommy Bergin and Catherine Nolan, young referees Oisin Breatnach and Brian O'Flynn along with Larry Maher and John Mackey. He also thanked Co. Chairman, John Healy and Co. Secretary, Pat Dunphy for turning up in spite of a busy schedule. Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.) thanked the Kilkenny People (John Knox), Radio Kilkenny (Pat Treacy and Tommy O'Brien) and the Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook Committee for continued invaluable coverage.

Ballyragget: K. Murphy, B. Morrissey, S. Dowling, J. Staunton, P.Cahill, P.Shortt, M.Brennan, M.Brophy, G.Callinan and A.Phelan. Harps: A.Brennan, T.LeMon, L.Bourke, D.Bowe, J.Brophy, N. Brophy, R.Young, B. Dunphy and T. Moore.



Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club Shield Winners - Ballyragget

Back: Kieran Costello, Michael Brennan, Shane Dowling, Eamonn Hennessy (Supporters Club), Brian Morrissey, Pat O'Neill (trainer), Michael Brophy.
Front: James Staunton, Killian Murphy, Patrick Cahill, Paul Shortt.



Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens '98

Larry Hamilton (sec.), Brian O'Flynn (ref.), Kieran Costello (chairman), Oisín Breathnach (ref.), Eamonn Nolan (Coca Cola), Eamon Dunne (PRO).



Northern Board CLG Cill Chainnigh 1998

Photo Tom Brett



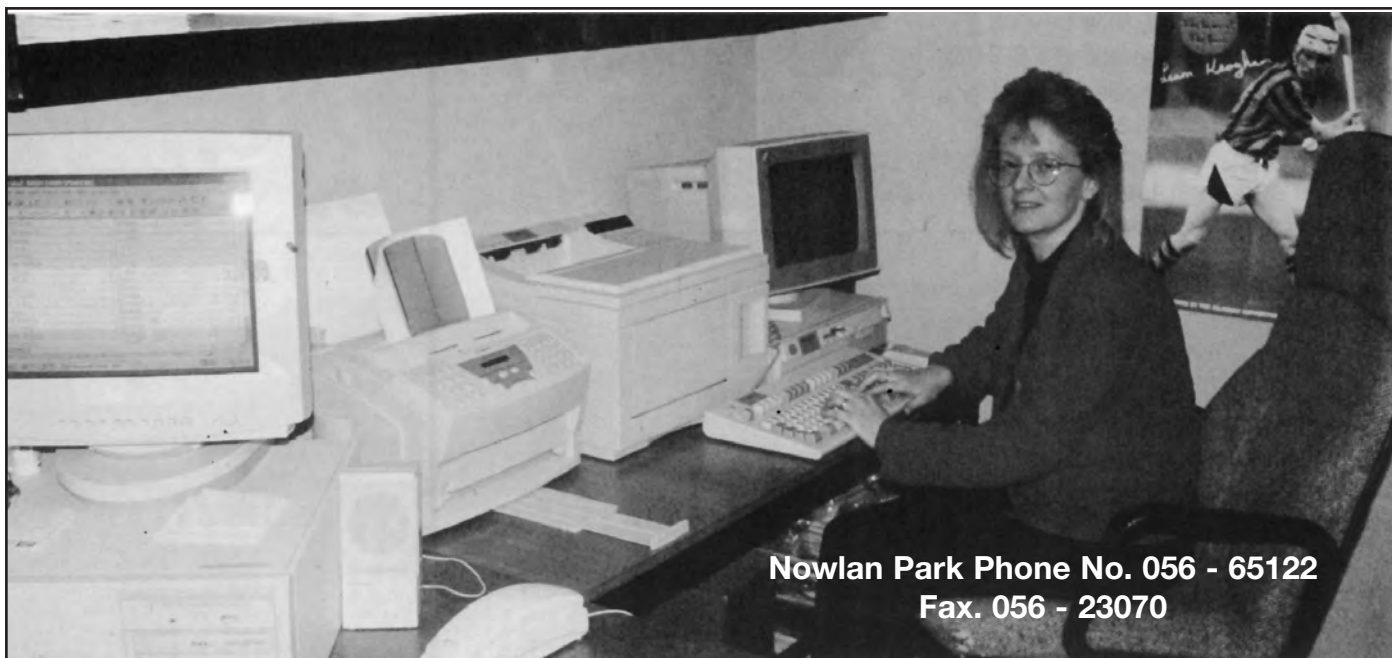
County Board CLG Cill Chainnigh 1998

Photo Tom Brett



Secondary Teachers from Kilkenny, Laois, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary and Carlow at their Presentation night.

Photo Tom Brett



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OUR GIRL IN NOWLAN PARK: Caroline Morrissey surrounded by all the “mod cons”, busy at her desk in Nowlan Park.

What a baptism of fire the newest recruit, Caroline Morrissey had to the hurly (no pun intended) - burly of GAA activity in a busy County like Kilkenny. The County was on course for all national titles, and with it came the knock-on workload that such success brought with it. But Caroline is no stranger to the hectic ruaille buille of hurling. She comes from a household steeped in the traditions of the native game. She is a member of the Fennelly family in Cuffesgrange. “How could I miss’, she asked, “with five brothers playing hurling for the school, and Danesfort?” How indeed, I intone. And then she married into the more fanatical Morrissey family, from the City and Muckalee. “Sure they’re even worse than my own lads at home. Noel is a cousin of Eamonn, and they are related to Eamonn who won All-Irelands with Kilkenny in the 60’s before emigrating to Australia”, she continued. Even her only sister, Ailish, married into the famed Cork family of the Kehillys, but alas her husband was killed tragically in a car accident some two years ago. Her Grandfather, known as “Powder” Fennelly, or “Woeful”, was a referee of great standing in his time. “Even when my mother met my father, it was after a hurling match, and he was heavily bandaged around the head, the result of an unsavoury incident on the field”, she smiled. Ah yes, our Caroline comes to Nowlan Park with a good pedigree.

Photo Tom O’Neill

Best Wishes and Good Luck to all the Kilkenny Teams in 1999



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MASTERS ARE MASTERS AGAIN!

By Paddy Butler



All Ireland Champions - Kilkenny Masters

Back: Paddy Neary, Murty Kennedy, Greg Power, Tommy Brennan, John Joe Cullen, Michael Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Syl Hennessy, Bobby Shore, Andy Aylward, Mick Doyle, Mick Garret, Gerry Kenny.

Front: Malachy Hogan, Kieran Brennan, Jimmy Lennon, Joe Hennessy, Ritchie Power (Capt), Danny Coonan, Johnny Ryan, Dick Walsh, John Cahill, Ger Fennelly, Mickey Walsh, Martin Fogarty.

Photo Tom O'Neill

For the second year in succession, it was a situation of the masters succeeding where all others failed. Yes! the over 40 hurlers ensured that the Kilkenny sideboard would not be bare of an all-Ireland title as they retained the masters title against old rivals Tipperary in a highly entertaining encounter.

When Kilkenny won the title in 1997, the cup travelled to almost all clubs where there was a representative and great enjoyment was had by all. Here was a group of seasoned campaigners who took their hurling seriously but enjoyed the social side. When the side was invited to play the Cork victorious 3 in-a-row team of 1976-78 in a charity game in Bandon a full compliment of 27 players travelled for what was a very enjoyable occasion where a local charity benefited financially from an entertaining game that finished all square.

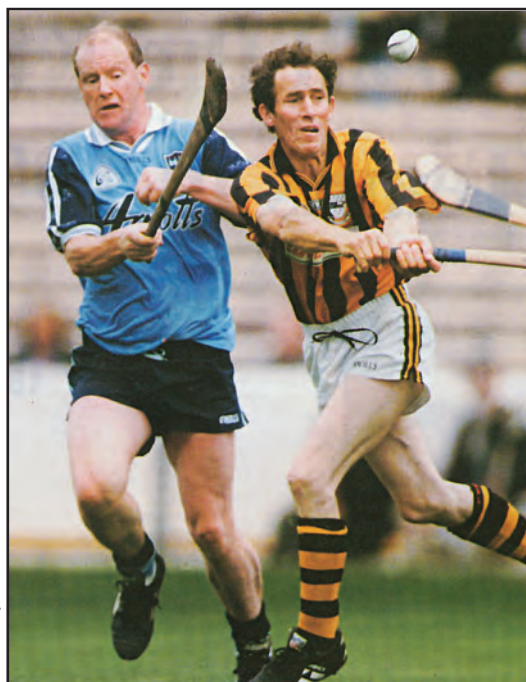
The 1998 draw saw Kilkenny, Wexford, Laois and Dublin in one group. Eddie Keher and his co-selectors got preparations under way in early May. In the opening round, Kilkenny took on Wexford in Enniscorthy on 25th May. Kilkenny were slow to settle as Wexford held

the upper hand for 45 minutes. However, the Noresiders finished the stronger to run out convincing winners.

Kilkenny's next outing was at home to Laois. Kilkenny got off to a flying start and built up an early lead of 2-4 - 0-1. The hard working P.J Cuddy brought Laois back into the game but good defensive play and a couple of fine saves by Bobby Shore saw the locals winners by 6 points.

Kilkenny's third game in the group was away to Dublin in Croke Park. This game was the first game in a treble header on Leinster final day. Many of the players were returning to the venue that they graced with such success in the 70's and 80's. Early comers to headquarters were treated to some passages of vintage hurling, which they thoroughly enjoyed as Kilkenny strolled to a comprehensive victory and booked their place in the semi-final.

Wexford were their opponents in the semi-final which took place in Nowlan Park. Kilkenny took control from an early stage. They put together many passages of good play resulting in several fine scores. Wexford rallied in



On its way - **Danny Coonan** shoots a great point for Kilkenny in the Masters Hurling Championship.

Photo Sportsfile



Winning Goal! **Kevin Fennelly** scores the winning goal against Tipperary in the All Ireland Masters Final in Thurles. *Photo Tom Brett*

the 2nd half and got to within three points of Kilkenny. The Noresiders upped the tempo and ran out convincing winners 2-17 to 2-7. Kilkenny were through to another final where they awaited the winners of the other semi-final between Tipperary and Clare. There was a delay in getting this semi-final played due to the Clare/Offaly saga but Kilkenny kept in touch when they arranged a number of good challenge games against club teams. Tipperary eventually defeated Clare to set-up another eagerly awaited final between these great rivals. Sunday 20th September was the date, Semple Stadium the venue, being the curtain raiser to the Cork-Galway All-Ireland under 21 final.

In what was an excellent advertisement for the game at this level, both sides contributed enormously to an entertaining hour. Five times in all, the scores were level and the quality of the hurling made the match compelling viewing right to the finish. Tipperary were the livelier at the start and jumped into a three points to one lead after five minutes but then Billy Fitzpatrick hit them with an opportunist goal. Midway through the half, Tipperary's Seamus Burke showed he had lost none of his power when he blasted a penalty to the net to put his side 1-4 - 1-1 clear.

The threat posed by the Kilkenny full forward line was again underlined in the 20th minute when Kevin Fennelly broke through for his side's second goal. Half time

arrived with Tipperary leading 1-7 to 2-3 after playing with the breeze. Though Tipperary had the opening point of the second half, it was Kilkenny who took over, hitting five points without reply one being a great effort by Michael Walsh from all of 80 yards, to leave Kilkenny ahead 2-8 to 1-8, midway through the half. Entering the closing ten minutes, the losers were four points down and in danger of losing touch but a point from Tom McGrath kept their hopes alive. Two minutes from time, Richie Power showed the style of old when he dashed up the right wing and in full flight shot a point that revived past memories. On the stroke of full-time, Seamus Burke had a good effort stopped by Bobby Shore and so Kilkenny took

their third title in this competition. President of the GAA, Joe McDonagh, presented the cup to Captain Richie Power and complimented both teams on a memorable game and on giving the competition the lift that it deserves.

The full Kilkenny panel used during the entire campaign: *Bobby Shore (St Martins), Paddy Neary (James Stephens), Mick Fennelly (Shamrocks), Jimmy Lennon (Bennettsbridge) Murty Kennedy (St Lachtains), Johnny Ryan (Clara), Joe Hennessy (James Stephens), Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks), Syl Hennessy (Barrow Rangers), Danny Coonan (St Martins), Dick Walsh (Tullaroan), Richie Power (Carrickshock), Kieran Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians), Kevin Fennelly (Shamrocks), Jimmy Ruth (St Patricks), Greg Power (Kilmacow), Gerry Kenny (Piltown), Michael Walsh (Tullaroan), John Joe Cullen (O'Loughlins), Eamon Whearty (Clara), Martin Fogarty (Erin's Own), Tommy Brennan (Erin's Own), Andy Alyward (Mullinavat), Malachy Hogan (Dunamaggin), John Cahill (Dicksboro), Mick Garrett (Fenians), Mick Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Jimmy O'Brien (James Stephens).*

Selectors: Eddie Keher Trainer/Coach (Rower/Inistioge), Eamon Hennessy (O'Loughlins), Paddy Butler (St Lachtains), Lotty Harte (Galmoy), Dick McNamara (Kilmacow)

First Aider: Liam Flynn (Conahy Shamrocks).

E.J. McDermott

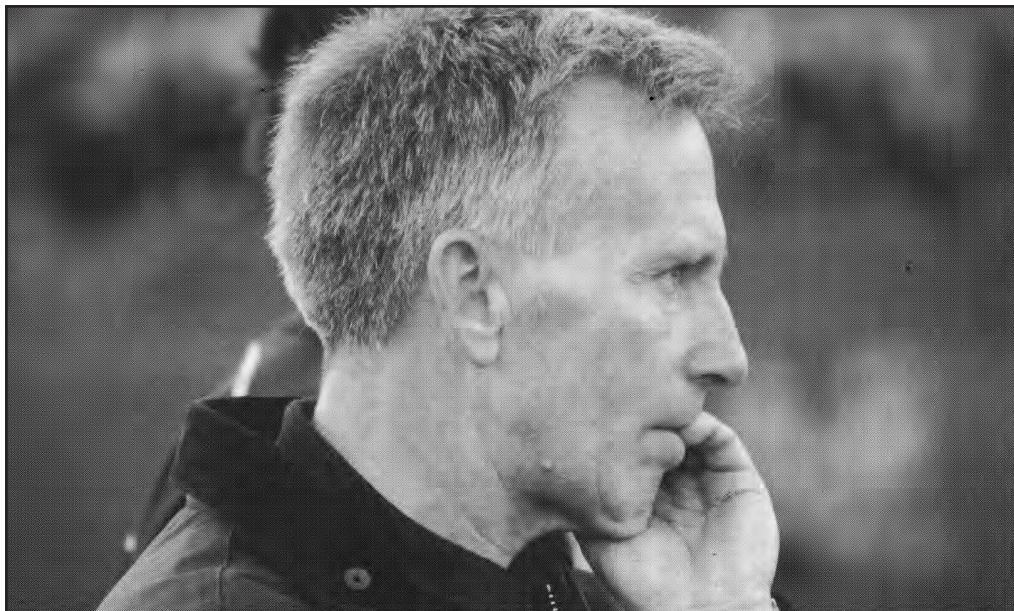
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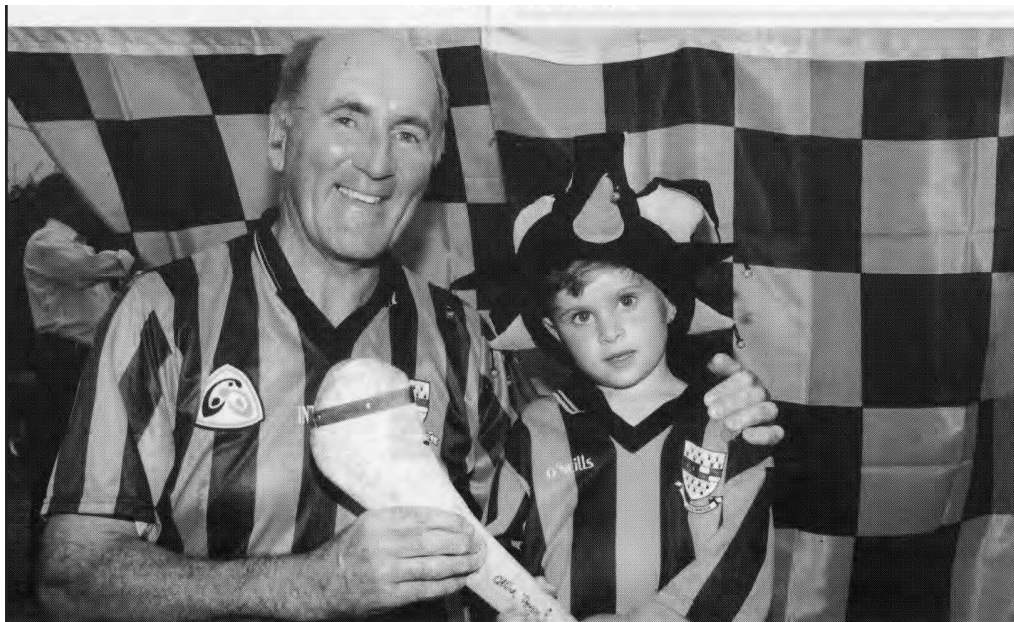
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Deep in Thought: The Graigue Ballycallan Trainer, **Jim Neary** in pensive mood.
Photo Tom Brett



Danesfort Captain, **Jim Tierney** collects Roinn C Under 21 Cup from County Board Chairman, **John Healy**.
Photo Tom O'Neill



My Hero! **Killian Treacy** (Danesfort) is delighted to show his hurley to former Kilkenny star, **Eddie Keher**.
Photo Tom Brett



What are ye lookin' at, lads? Photo Tom O'Neill

Clann na Gael - The Kilkenny Version

by Conor Denieffe

In its relatively short existence the club managed to capture one junior and two senior Kilkenny football titles as well as being senior finalists on two other occasions. What makes these achievements even more noteworthy is the fact that the club was an "itinerant" one, having no home of its own, but moving from pitch to pitch around the city. Among its homes were St. Kieran's College, St. James's Park and a public pitch in Larchfield, which has since being built on for housing. Of greater relevance in an era when inter-provincial games were still of enormous public interest, the Clann na Gael teams often featured not alone players from each of the provinces but, at one stage or another, players from practically every county in Ireland, along with a good sprinkling of Kilkenny natives.

Teachers, guards, bank officials, civil servants, Social Science students (from Peace in Christ), Christian Brothers, seminarians from St. Kieran's and even some of the Capuchin friars were joined up to the club by Seamus Delaney (of Patrick St.) and also by Pádraig Leydon. Both men were expert in locating newcomers to Kilkenny with footballing pedigrees and these new arrivals in turn were delighted to be able to pursue their interest in football in their new surroundings. Combined with the football-loving locals there was never any difficulty in fielding not alone a team but a full complement of substitutes as



Clann na Gael who won the 1963 County Senior Football Final, beating Lamoigue Photo Tom Brett

Back: Jim Treacy, Paddy Mullins, Seamus Cleere, Liam Hehir, Michael Regan, Donie Murphy, Kieran Dollard, Dick McGrath, Martin Coogan, Pádraig Leydon, Mick Mullins, Jack Walsh.

Front: Paddy Byrne, Tommy Ward, Michael Walsh, Phil Larkin, Peter Flannery, Bill Nolan, Andy Heffernan, Seamus Delaney, Cyril Keegan.

Mention the name "Clann na Gael" and perhaps the first club to spring to mind would be the Roscommon football one which contested and lost a number of club All-Irelands in the last decade. But for over a dozen years (1961-73) Clann na Gael was one of Kilkenny's foremost football clubs. It was a club which grew out of the enthusiasm of a number of young men from footballing counties who found themselves living and working in probably the most exclusively hurling based county in Ireland. This enthusiasm was equalled by the interest in football of a number of Kilkenny men who, contrary to most of their county men, preferred the larger ball game.

well.

The same Seamus Delaney (long a mainstay of Kilkenny football) was one of the prominent founders of the Clann na Gael club, when a number of city based players, who had been kicking football with other teams in the county, realised there was sufficient talent to form their own city-based side. Among the other founders were Andy Heffernan, an inter-county player of note, Fan Larkin (a very talented football forward), Jack and Michael Walsh, Jim Treacy, Cyril Keegan and the chairman of club and enthusiastic trainer, Con O'Shea. The chosen name was a most appropriate one considering the multi-countied backgrounds of many of the players. The issue of club colours was decided for the new club with the acquisition of a set of blue and white jerseys from the defunct Bonnettstown club.

On the playing field, the club was to find almost instant success. Beginning in junior football, the newcomers reached the county final in 1962 and defeated St. Senan's

(Kilmacow) in a replayed game on a scoreline of 2-7 to 2-4. Their confidence high from this success, they bid for senior honours in 1963 and having disposed of some fancied sides in the earlier rounds they qualified to meet Lamogue in their first senior final. A major boost to the Clann na Gael Club at this time was the arrival of Donie Murphy in Kilkenny. Donie had won minor and senior All-Irelands with Kerry and now, having been coaxed out of retirement, he was to prove a great asset to his new club both as a trainer and a player. Clann na Gael had the distinction of winning successive junior and senior football titles when they defeated Lamogue by 1-6 to 0-2. Even better was to follow. The senior title was retained the following year when the same opponents, Lamogue, were defeated in a final replay by 3-3 to 0-4. The teams which brought senior honours to the club were picked from L. Hehir, M. Coogan, A. Heffernan, C. Keegan, W. Nolan, P. Flannery, M. Walsh, M. Mullan, S. Delaney, J. Tracey, P. Leydon, F. Larkin. S. Cleere, D. Murphy, K. Dollard, D. McGrath, J. Furlong, J. Kehoe and N. Nolan.

The early sixties were certainly the club's heyday as they never reached the same heights again despite being senior finalists in both 1967 and 1972. Both of those games were lost to the Railyard. Among the notable Clann players were the afore-mentioned Andy Heffernan, Cyril Keegan, Donie Murphy and Padraig Leydon. Two other players, Fan Larkin and Seamus Cleere won Senior All-Irelands with Kilkenny hurlers. Tom Cunniffe and Eamon Doyle were two other talented footballers who represented Clann na Gael without winning county titles. Many Clann players represented Kilkenny in football while Louis Feeley was a player, trainer and prominent football referee from the club.

Although they reached the county final in 1972, the club was in decline in the early seventies. There were a number

of reasons for this. The absence of a permanent home certainly hindered the club's development. In many ways it was more a team than a club fielding only at senior level while many of the team's stalwarts were reaching the end of their playing careers. Being a Kilkenny based football team, there were only a few games each year in the championship and very often this competition would be completed a year behind schedule. Realising their predicament, a decision was made at a club meeting to amalgamate with O'Loughlins, the new club becoming the O'Loughlins Gaels. This brought to an end the brief existence of Clann na Gael football club although many of its former members continue to be involved with the G.A.A. in Kilkenny.

That the club was a success on the field is undisputed as its titles attest, but it also served as an introduction to their new home for many newcomers to Kilkenny as well as an opportunity for Kilkenny-born football lovers to play the game. It established friendships and memories which still endure among former players. Memories such as the night the players travelled to Jenkinstown on the open back of one of Con O'Shea's gravel lorries and couldn't see the ball in the first half because of the sand in their eyes. Or the tournament in Mullinahone when it was deemed safer not to be in possession of the ball, such was the nature of the tackles and challenges being encountered.

Apart from their county titles, club members proudly remember being nominated to represent Kilkenny in the fledgling Leinster club football championship and losing narrowly to Carbury of Kildare.

Such is the stuff of memories, and while there may be more famous Clann na Gael clubs around the country, the 1960's provided an hour in the sun for the Kilkenny version of the same, in that small universe that is Kilkenny football.



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Good luck to all our Kilkenny teams in 1999

CLUB NEWS

O'LOUGHLIN-GAEELS

Juvenile Section

The Sunday morning leagues continue to be great successes with over 100 boys attending the U-8, 10 and 12 coaching. The U-9s won the John Lockes hurling tournament for the second year running. Well done to all the coaches and helpers. The U-14s had a poor year with some bad results but with many players underage for next year their fortunes will hopefully change.

The U-16s did far better than expected but bowed out of the championship to James Stephens. Brian Dowling represented the club on the county team.

The minors had a great start to the year when winning the Roinn A football title but failed to do the double losing to James Stephens in the Northern hurling final. On route they had fine wins over Emeralds and Dicksboro. Brian Murphy won a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny.

Adult teams

The seniors went out of the championship at the quarter final stage to Glenmore after a replay but not before pulling off one of the shocks of the year by beating reigning champions Dunnamaggin in the first round. Andy Comerford featured well on the county senior team and won a Leinster medal.

The special juniors reached the league final against Dicksboro and the Northern final against Tullaroan but failed to win either. They went through the league sections unbeaten. Sean Dowling and Alan Geoghegan played on the U-21 county team, winning Leinster medals.

Development

There has been major developments in the club over the last 18 months with the provision of a state of the art 40 x20 handball alley. It has been a tremendous boost to the game at local and

national level. Indeed Duxie Walsh and DJ Carey won the '98 All Ireland doubles there watched by over 300 people.

Incorporated into the Complex are two new dressingrooms, showers and sauna which will benefit our members immensely. A balcony has also been added to the gym which will greatly improve the viewing facilities.

This would not have been possible without the great success of the club lotto, run with the help of a host of sellers, a hardworking committee and the generosity of the players.

Much work has gone into the pitches with new goalposts purchased and the pitch railed at either side. Much care has been put into the maintenance of the pitch which has resulted in some big games being fixed there.

Finally the club wishes to extend deepest sympathies to club members who suffered bereavement in the past year.



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PILTOWN

Coaching

Five people received Foundation Coaching Certificates in 1998. They were Pat Duggan, David Kinsella, Peadar Kelly, Ger Norris and Mark Connolly.

Sunday morning training and coaching sessions continue to be a great success, with large numbers of beginners at U-8 level. County Hurling Coach George Leahy's visits to our schools continue to be hugely popular and of great benefit.

Juvenile Games

1998 proved to be the busiest year yet for our Juvenile players. Entry to the Waterford City Leagues meant a huge increase in the number of games played. Piltown were represented in all competitions from U-8 to U-13.

The Pat Kirby Memorial League was again keenly contested, whilst our school teams acquitted themselves well in the Hurling and Football competitions, organised by Cumann na mBunscoileanna.

U-14 to Minor

Our U-14 Footballers pulled off a great double by winning the Roinn B championship for the second successive year. Trainers Bernard Flood and Mick Hickey deserve the highest praise for their efforts with these players.

The U-14 hurlers reached the quarter final of the championship where they had two tremendous games with St. Martins but lost narrowly after a replay.

At U-16 Piltown won the first round of the hurling championship after extra time against John Lockes, but later lost to a good Mullinavat team.

The Minor Hurling team have qualified for the knockout stages of the league. This team started poorly, but sheer dedication by the players and trainer Jim Power

saw gradual improvement which was just reward for all their hard work.

In the Championship first round Piltown gave a very fancied Mullinavat side a tremendous game before losing by five points.

U-17 Tournament

The U-17 Hurling Tournament for the Anthony Cup has again proved a very worthwhile venture. Seven clubs took part and the benefit gained in making the transition from U-16 to minor and preparing an U-18 team for the following year was welcomed by all participants.

Adult Competitions

Our Special Junior Hurlers lost to eventual champions Glenmore after a close game.

Our Intermediate Hurlers had a repeat performance of 1997 when they successfully contested the relegation final, this time they prevailed in impressive fashion against unlucky Conahy Shamrocks. Whilst it was pleasing to secure their Intermediate status for at least another year, let's hope that they will contest a final of a different nature in 1999.

Our injury-hit senior footballers were narrowly defeated in their three League games. This team deserves to remain in the senior grade, and it could be argued that without a spate of injuries they would have been there or there about at the business stage of the competition.

Fundraising

The Hurlers Co-Op Draw has since its inception been promoted by Piltown is a major source of revenue for the local club. We also participate in 'Play For The Park' Lotto. The Thursday night Progressive 30's also provide funds for our underage teams.

Development Work

The new dressing rooms at the

back pitch were opened during the year. These were badly needed given the amount of activity on the playing fields, with all three pitches often being used simultaneously.

A new scoreboard was built during the year on top of a new storeroom which is used to house, the stretcher, flags, pitch marker and lime etc. The major sponsor was Iverk Produce to whom the Club is very grateful.

The G.A.A. Complex is now over twelve years old and the hard working committee are embarking on a major refurbishment project to maintain the high standards of the facility.

Social Membership

Membership of the social section of the club has increased dramatically. Members of this section enjoy social evenings in the Bar Facilities, weekly Set Dancing and weekly card games.

The Complex is also used for fundraising activities such as player injury funds and travelling expenses for players based away from home.

The Complex also has two Squash Courts, a Handball Alley and an 18 Hole Pitch and Putt Course. Maintaining such a large facility is a difficult task and the club greatly appreciates the continued support of its growing number of members.

Obituaries

Eddie Norris, a former Chairman and trustee passed away during the year. We also bade farewell to **Pa Walsh** a Former County Minor, who also wore the Piltown Jersey with distinction for a decade and a half. **Davy O' Mahony** another former hurler and long time supporter died after a brief illness.

CLUB NEWS

ROWER-INISTIOGE

A Bright Future

During the past year the young players of Rower-Inistioge parish attended a record number of training and coaching sessions. '98 has been satisfying and successful for all our Bord na nÓg teams and mentors. The club is deeply indebted to underage team managers, Jim Mooney, Martin Barron, Benny Holohan, Pat Corcoran and their selectors for all the time and effort they have given so willingly to promote Gaelic Games in our parish. Well done also to James Cashin, Paul Nolan, Danny Meaney, and Ger Mackey for their trojan work at U-10 and U-11 level.

U-14's Bridge a 16 Year Gap

The U-14 hurlers were our most successful team winning the Roinn C League, our first U-14 success in sixteen years. Alas, Carrickshock halted our progress in the Championship semi-final.

Our U-12 footballers won the Davey Power Shield, sponsored by Blacks & Whites club. As we go to press the U-13's have reached the concluding stages of the schools championship. The football tradition is there - after all the late Paddy Mackey of

Kylemore, The Rower won four All Ireland senior football medals with Wexford.

Development

The club is continuing with pitch and dressing room development at Inistioge and are launching a major fundraising campaign

to finance this necessary work.

Well done to Paul Sheehan on winning a Leinster minor hurling medal this year.

Earlier in the year presentations were made to Pat Dunphy on becoming Co. Secretary and Richard Tierney, ten years chairman of our club Bord na nÓg.



Davey Power Shield Winners '98

Back: F. Power, J. Killian, B. Cuddihy, K. Joyce, L. Tierney, E. Cashin, P. Tierney, L. Lyng, P. Tierney, D. Flood, E. Murphy, S. Corcoran, Benny Holohan (trainer). **Middle:** S. Holohan (capt.), JJ Kenny, J. Grace, M. Cashin. **Front:** W. Kavanagh, P. Grace, D. Garvey, M. Malone, E. Kavanagh, S. O'Connor, N. Doran, G. Phelan, D. Lyng, B. Lyng, P. Lyng.

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Eamon Whearty (Clara) receives his Man-of-the-Match award from Michael Hayes (Sales Manager), Vale Oil, after Clara defeated Mooncoin in the Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling final. Also in the picture are John Healy (Chairman Kilkenny Co. Board) and Jack Dwan (Vale Oil).



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CLUB NEWS

ST. LACHTAINS

Underage Tournament

The Philip Kinnane Cup now in its 14th year still continues to be a highly enjoyable and competitive tournament. Organised to promote underage hurling in the club it has gone from strength to strength. Over 40 boys took part in this years competition. Four teams battled for the Kinnane Cup and this year, for the first time, the Colin McGree Memorial Shield. The McGree family generously sponsored a trophy in honor of Colin who died in 1996.

The two finals attracted large crowds, which saw B. Beckett's team capture

the Kinnane cup and D. Brennan's team become the first winners of the Colin McGree Memorial Shield.

Team A: B. Beckett, N. McGree, M. Fitzpatrick, E. Buggy, M. Theloke, D.O'Sullivan, B. Hughes, P. Mullan, S. Buggy, T. Flynn, M. Dawson, M. Rafter.

Team B: D. Brennan, E. Costigan, G.O'Reilly, K.Hughes, V.O'Donnell, A. Hughes, E. Rafter, M. Farrell, S. Byrne, M. Cormack, D. Fitzpatrick, W. Walsh.

Team C: T. Delaney, E. Guinan, C. Waldron, T. Gibbons, P. Guinan, M. Walsh, J. Bergin, N.

Waldron, M. Geraghty, C. O'Donnell, L. Darcy, D. Rafter.

Team D: J. Marnell, N. Maher, B. Dalton, C. Britton, B. Barnaville, F. Mullan, T. Walsh, D.

Buggy, J. Fitzpatrick, D. Treacy, J. Kennedy, E.O'Donnell.

Obituaries

The familiar sight of **Jack Lacey** on the sideline or manning the gate is no longer, as Jack was called to his eternal



Jack Lacey RIP

reward. His ticket booked for the Kilkenny v. Waterford clash, Jack received his call from the Lord on Saturday. His Sunday evening funeral was a moving sight as young and old gathered in large numbers to bade farewell to a gallant Gael.

Michael Bergin, a great servant to the club as gateman and in particular as a ticket seller at the club's Bingo sessions, was also called to his final reward.

Alice Dalton's sudden death certainly brought the happenings of our daily lives into perspective. Always willing to lend a hand Alice's passing is deeply mourned by her family and friends

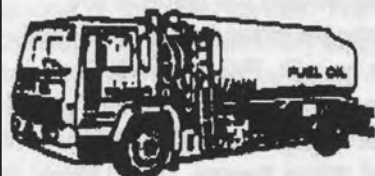
Ar Dhéis Dé go raibh síad.



Kinnane Cup / McGree Shield

Eileen Kinnane presents the Philip Kinnane Memorial Cup to Bill Beckett. Peggy and Martin McGree present the Colin McGree Memorial Shield to David Brennan.

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CLUB NEWS

ST. PATRICKS



St. Patricks, Ballyragget, County Junior Champions 1978

Back: Brian Butler, Tom Stapleton, Tommy Phelan, Sean Treacy, Martin McGrath, Matt Ruth, John Brophy, Eugene Ruth, Ned Brophy. **Middle:** Pat Gannon, Mick Dooley, John Walsh, Jimmy Ruth, Mick O'Shea (capt.), Patsy Trait (RIP), John Lacey, Ted Ruth, Philip Kenny. **Front:** Lar McEvoy, John Holland, Noel Callinan, Shem Brophy.



St. Patricks, Ballyragget, Feile Peil na nÓg Finalists, Donegal 1998

Back: Michéal ÓConchubhair, Gordon Callinan, Michael Fitzpatrick, John Murphy, Michael O'Shea, Ger Staunton, Don O'Regan, John Doheny, Sean Kavanagh, Patrick Rudkins, Liam Brennan. **Middle:** Alan Phelan, Michael Brennan, James Staunton, Francis Brophy, Kieran Doheny, Alan Phelan, Michael Stapleton, Michael Brophy, John Butler. **Front:** Patrick Cahill, Eoin Delaney, Killian Murphy, Danny Byrne, Brian Morrissey (capt.), Shane Dowling, Edward Dermody, Paul Shortt, Ciaran O'Neill, Eddie Thornton.

Development

Development work continued at the local park during 1998. This year new seating was installed inside the perimeter wall which should add to spectators comfort and enjoyment at games.

Inter County Players

Brian Phelan (Finnan) won an Leinster Intermediate medal and Jimmy Ruth was a member of the Masters team which won the All Ireland. Paddy Cahill was a playing

member of the Irish Shinty team which beat Scotland in the annual U-12 Shinty International.

Fund raising

The club lottery was once again the main revenue source. The Hurlers Co-op Draw also brought in much needed funds.

Good Performances

The minor footballers beat Muckalee, Railyard and Tullaroan reaching the Northern final but were narrowly beaten by Emeralds. The

U-16 hurlers did

very well, reaching the Northern final but losing to St. Martins.

Feile Peil na nÓg

St. Patricks U-14 footballers represented Kilkenny in this years Feile in Donegal. They beat Melvin Gaels (Leitrim), Hertfordshire but lost to their weekend hosts Grange-Cliffony (Sligo). They were extremely unlucky to be eliminated on score difference.

Disappointment

The major disappointment of the year was the junior hurlers loss to Blacks & Whites in the Northern semi-final. Many felt that this game should have been won. The Skeough side went on to win the County title.

Down Memory Lane - 1978

Twenty years ago St. Patricks collected their first and only Junior hurling championship when they beat Mullinavat in a very good game in Nowlan Park.

The 'Kilkenny People' described the fare in the opening half as 'comparable with the best in the county at any grade'. St. Patricks led 2-3 to 1-4 at the interval having played with a strong breeze. Mullinavat, aided by the breeze, exerted fierce pressure on the Ballyragget rearguard in the second half. The Southerners were awarded three 21 yard frees in front of the goal late in the game but failed to score from any of them.

Then a last minute goal from Tommy Phelan sealed the issue in the Ballyragget sides favour. The final score was St. Patricks 4-6, Mullinavat 1-5.

Team: Patsy Trait (RIP), Brian Butler, Sean Treacy, John Lacey, John Brophy, Noel Callinan, Shem Brophy, Pat Gannon, Michael O'Shea (Capt.) Jimmy Ruth, Tommy Phelan (2-1), John Holland (0-2), Eugene Ruth (1-0), Matt Ruth (1-3), Ted Ruth. Sub: Ned Brophy for Sean Treacy (inj).

SLIEVERUE

A Busy Year!

1998 was a busy year on and off the field for Slieverue G.A.A. We organised several events to coincide with the Tour de France, including a hurling game against Naas and a Sports Day which included an U-12 game against the Rower-Inistioge.

Dressingrooms

Early in the year plans were drawn up for the refurbishment of the two dressing rooms, new shower rooms, a new meeting room and referees room. Most of the work has now been completed, thanks to a hard working committee who carried out many of the jobs themselves. Special thanks must also go to our Finance Committee who organized several fund raising events.

Games

On the playing field even though our Junior team did not win any silverware there were many positive points. The team selectors had hoped to advance well in the championship but did not always have a full panel because of injuries and players unavailability.

Well Done Juveniles!

The Juveniles had an excellent year. The U-11's were extremely busy. Early in the year they qualified for the final of the Waterford City League narrowly losing the final. Later they competed in the Kilkenny ground hurling competition and wall bar one of fourteen games. The U-12s won the Waterford City League. This win was inspired by our U-14s winning their county championship. All our U-12s were present when the U-14s beat Cloneen in the final and this had a great influence on them. Winning the U-14 final was the highlight of the clubs year and the club would like to congratulate all the players and trainers for bringing a county championship back to Slieverue.

Summer Camp

Another highlight in the club this



Slieverue U-12 Waterford City League Champions

Back: Justin Doran, Conor O'Toole, Ciara Phelan, Adrian Rockett, Niall Cullen, Gavin Quilty, John Fitzpatrick, Sean Connolly, Conor Grant, Brendan Haberlin, Cian Tyler, Declan Ryan, Stephen Treacy, Ian Somers.

Front: Darragh Cullen, Paul Walsh, James Phelan, Sean Loughman, Kevin Mulligan, William Walsh, Jason Colclough, Andy Hogan, Sean Roche, Stephen Doherty, Stephen Geary, John Maher, Niall Walsh.



U-11 Kilkenny Camaint and Waterford City League Finalists

Back: Conor O'Toole, Declan Ryan, Conor Grant, John Fitzpatrick, Andy Hogan, Sean Loughman, Sean Roche, Stephen Doherty, Niall Walsh, Bill Stuart.

Middle: Sean Connolly, Jamie Murphy, William Walsh, Kevin Mulligan, Daniel Cummins, Michael Hoynes, Jason Colclough, Paul Doherty.

Front: Jessica Hayden, Aine Coady, Enda Loughman, Michelle Quilty, Rickie Hogan.

year was the holding of the County Board summer camp for our younger players. All enjoyed the week learning new skills and refining skills already acquired. A special word of thanks must go to Geogie Leahy and Briain Ryan.

Thanks to All Who Helped

This year has been a tremendous year on and off the field, one of the most pleasing aspects has been the increased number of people coming forward to play their part in the club.

A special thanks must go to every one involved in the various committees and to the team trainers. The effort that has been forthcoming did indeed make a huge impact this year.

Richie Kearns RIP

Earlier in the year the club lost a valued member with the untimely death of Richie Kearns as a result of a tragic accident. Club members would like to remember him and his family when we remember the year.

Éire Óg - Giants of the Past

By Dan McEvoy

To younger readers of the Yearbook, the name Éire Óg means little more than precisely that - a name. To older readers it evokes memories of an era when the city club were one of the powers of Kilkenny hurling and a household name among the GAA community country-wide. How did they rise to prominence, and how did they fall from grace?

minor team of 1935 was captained by Paddy Grace and contained eleven Éire Óg players. The trophy was retained in 1936 by a side captained by Eamon Tallent and comprising no fewer than thirteen Éire Óg representatives. What was good for one club was equally good for the county.

Given such a depth of underage talent, success at adult level was bound to arrive sooner rather than later. It did. Éire Óg won the county junior championship in



Éire Óg - County SH Champions 1939

Back: J Dunne, M Tyrrell, P Gorey, P Power, J Downey, P O'Brien, S Bluett

Middle: J Kealy, S O'Brien, E Brett, K Carroll, J Power, B Holohan, L Carroll, J Walsh, P Larkin, J Duggan, M Loughman.

Front: C Murray, Moscow Larkin, J Mulcahy, R Dowling, J Langton, P Boyle, P Kiely, P Kavanagh. Mascot - P Dowling OFM Cap.

Anybody who ever attended a film or stage show in Stallard's theatre in Patrick Street will certainly remember Mick Loughman, an usher cum general guardian of public morals there, and, when he wasn't keeping a stern eye on the activities of the younger Stallard's patrons, was one of the founder members of Éire Óg. The CBS secondary school in James's Street was the venue, 1931 the year, and the establishment of a minor hurling team in town the objective. Mick Loughman, Dan Dunne, John Houlihan and Brother McNamara were the men involved in the conception. The team was initially called Young Irelands, its chosen colours blue and white, but after some time the name was changed to Éire Óg, their colours green and white.

Drawing their players from around the city, Éire Óg quickly found success, capturing the county minor title in 1932, when they beat John Lockes in a replay, and racking up four in a row between 1934 and 1937. Their wins had wider ramifications: Kilkenny's victorious All Ireland

1936, the intermediate in 1937 and reached the senior final in 1938, losing by a goal to Carrickshock. They gained revenge on the 'Shocks a year later to claim the first of their four county senior crowns.

Throughout the 1940's Éire Óg were a regular fixture at the top of the Kilkenny hurling tree. Around the middle of the decade, they were little short of unstoppable, being county champions three times in the period 1944 to 1947. Such feats and the reputation of Jim Langton, who was probably their best known player marked them out as one of the leading club teams in the land. Éire Óg frequently featured in tournament matches held in aid of worthy causes, travelling all over the southern half of the country to face the likes of Thurles Sarsfields (who beat them in a famous game in the Fairgreen in Callan, shortly after Tipperary had beaten Kilkenny in the 1945 All Ireland Final), Glen rovers and Ahane. Suit lengths were usually the prize. The joke went that Éire Óg won enough of them to stock the Monster House!

One year they even travelled to Tulla for the opening

of the pitch there named in honour of Dr. Tommy Daly, the famous Clare hurler killed in a motor accident. Travelling to Tulla was not easy, petrol was severely rationed and could only be obtained by coupons. Getting one's hands on coupons usually involved a battle of wits. Transport was provided by hackney cars owned by Paddy Phelan (the legendary wing back of the 1930's), Jim Cantwell, who was always in demand because of his wide repertoire of songs and stories, and Martin Tierney.



Éire Óg Members of Kilkenny Minor team 1935

Back: Paddy Phelan, Seanie O'Brien, Bobby Brannigan, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Christy Murray.
Front: Eamonn Tallent, Mick Loughman, Tom Delaney.

Talented and all as Éire Óg were, defeat was sometimes their lot, and defeat had an occasionally nasty habit of stinging. Tommy "Spud" Murphy of the Metropole Hotel - the Metropole was to Kilkenny GAA then, what Langtons is today - relates a story about a gold watch tournament final against Bennettsbridge in Thomastown. Éire Óg were leading by five points with as many minutes remaining. In his own mind, Spud had the watch already on his wrist. Then Liam Hackett had the sliotar in the Éire Óg net. A minute later, Sam Carroll repeated the dose. Bennettsbridge won by a point. Spud still feels the loss of the gold watch.

The parish rule did not apply in those days, and Éire Óg's habit of acquiring the most promising youngsters from around the county did not make them the most popular of clubs; their 1939 championship winning side was described by some as a mini League of Nations. One year, Liam Reidy, Jim Langton and Billy Houlihan went out to meet Bill Hennessy of Barracore to ask for the services of his foreman and Jack of all trades, Diamond Hayden. Bill agreed, provided they also took on a younger player who was out doing contract ploughing at the time. "Grand", they said. The younger player's name? Nick O'Donnell, destined to be full back on the *Sunday Independent* hurling Team of the Century. Not totally unexpectedly, Éire Óg's magpie tendencies caught up with them in the end, for in 1953 the County Board introduced a three--parish rule with the city counting as one parish. Joe Gargan, who got married and went to live in Cuffesgrange, found himself the subject of an objection after Éire Óg beat Tullaroan. Tullaroan won the objection and the result was reversed.

While Carrickshock were Kilkenny's other club power of the 1940's, reaching seven county finals in a row, and winning the first four, a tremendous rivalry existed between Éire Óg and Dicksboro. At County Convention each year, there would be a list of players transferring back and forth. The rivalry was particularly evident when the Kilkenny Agricultural Society put James's Park up for lease annually and the two clubs vied with each other, one placing a bid of £10, the other upping the ante to

£12. Tensions and excitement reached a zenith in 1950, one of the greatest years ever for hurling in the city, when the pair reached the county final. The first match ended in a draw (Dicksboro 3-17, Éire Óg 6-8), the massively anticipated replay, in victory for the 'boro - 4-6 to 1-5.

One trophy Éire Óg did win was a certain cup they brought to Langtons of John's Street to be filled. Ned Langton, Eamon's father, noticed that the cup wasn't very clean and asked Chew Leahy, the barman, to bring it into the kitchen and do the honours. After a while, the cup emerged shining, to be duly filled with whiskey. Unfortunately, the first mouthful taken was immediately deposited on the ground - Chew had omitted to remove the liberal dose of Brasso he had applied to the silverware! The cup was left on a shelf, together with its contents a sip of which was requested next morning as a hangover cure by a well known city drinker, lacking an "entrance fee".

The late 1950's and early '60's saw a changing of the Éire Óg guard. The great names of the 1940's - Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy, Seánie O'Brien, Joe Gargan et al - retired, to be replaced by the likes of Fan Larkin, Bosco Buckley, Seán Buckley, the Johnswell trio of Teddy Bennett, Billy Hanlon and Joe McCullagh, and Tommy O'Connell, who scored three goals against Waterford in the drawn All Ireland Final of 1959, having hurled minor with St. John's and junior with Newpark Sarsfields.

Mick Neary was club chairman and Colm Kennedy and Paddy Johnston - Kilkenny's minor starlet of 1915 - the other major influences.

It didn't last. It couldn't, because Éire Óg, in stark contrast to their beginnings, had no minor nursery. The supply side dried up, the playing side contracted. The club's final game took place against Rower Inistioge in Thomastown in 1968. Éire Óg finished on the wrong end of an 8-21 to 1-3 scoreline. The rest is silence. Only the name and the stories remain.

Tom Walton - Tullaroan and Kilkenny



January 18th, 1998 saw the passing of a former Kilkenny and Tullaroan hurling star, Tom Walton. Born in Reimeen, Tullaroan in 1922 into a staunch G.A.A. family, his father, Simon was a first cousin of the legendary "Little Sim" Walton who won seven All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Kilkenny from 1904-1913.

Tom was a regular on the Tullaroan team from 1944 until the mid 1950's. In all, he played in six county senior hurling finals, winning in 1948, when he captained Tullaroan to beat old rivals, Carrickshock by 1-12 to 2-3.

His inter-county career for Kilkenny commenced in 1944 and lasted until 1950. He played in four senior All-

Ireland finals, in 1945 v Tipperary, 1946 v Cork, 1947 v Cork and 1950 v Tipperary (sub), and three Leinster senior hurling finals, all v Dublin - 1945, '46 & '47. Tom also played Inter-Provincial hurling with Leinster in the Railway Cup and was a member of the Kilkenny team beaten by Limerick, after a replay, in the National Hurling league final of '46/'47. He won an Oireachtas medal in 1947, when Galway were defeated by 2-12 to 2-6. Tom holds the distinction of being the only Kilkenny man to score the first point in two successive All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finals, 1946 and 1947. The highlight of his hurling career was the All Ireland Final of 1947 when Kilkenny defeated Cork by a solitary point, 0-14 to 2-7. The Kilkenny Journal of 13th September, 1947 stated, "Tom Walton gave Kilkenny a flying start with a grand point and this player's speed and hurling ability gave the Cork defenders many anxious moments." His duels with Jim Young were amongst the many features of an eventful game. He proved a most consistent performer throughout the entire championship.

Many tributes have been paid to Tom, but two deserve special mention:

In the programme for the 1997 Leinster Senior Hurling Final between Kilkenny and Wexford, Tom Walton was profiled by Kilkenny G.A.A. Historian, Tom Ryall, author of "*Kilkenny - The G.A.A. Story 1884-1984*". In it, Tom states:

"In his heyday, Tom Walton was one of the greatest forwards in the game. Stockily built, he was not easily taken off his feet and his speed was a decided asset that left some of the greatest defenders of that time trailing in his wake. He was what one would call a "citog", but his speed helped him in his efforts to make room for himself and he was rarely blocked down. This Kilkenny follower will always remember the flying forward, with the "citog" shot, from famous Tullaroan."

In Raymond Smiths "*Book of Hurling*", published in



TULLAROAN - KILKENNY COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS, 1948

Back: Bill Preston, Tom Hogan, Jack Egan, Jackie Cahill, Chris Walsh, Pierce Doheny, Peter Dowling, Shem Downey, Jimmy Purcell, Paddy Malone, Fr. Ned Kavanagh, Paddy Teehan.

Front: Jimmy Clohesy, John Walton, Jim Hogan, Stephen Marnell, Tom Walton (Captain), Dick Walsh, Tom Teehan.

1974, the legendary Tipperary defender, John Doyle stated "I regard Tom Walton as the first corner forward from the Noreside that I feared. He displayed all the skill and neat stick work that you expect from top class Kilkenny forwards". A fitting tribute from one of hurling's greats.

In 1953, Tom married Breda Hogan of Troy's Gate, Kilkenny, and after residing at 10 Vicar Street, Kilkenny, they moved to Inchiholohan House, Kells Road, where they raised a family of eleven children. Tom, always

remained, however, a Tullaroan man, and followed the fortunes of Tullaroan hurling with keen interest.

Tom combined farming with his Rate Collector's job for Kilkenny County Council, where he was employed for 37 years. At a meeting of Kilkenny County Council following Tom's death, the Chairman, Dick Dowling stated that Tom was "a great servant to the County and a man of great integrity."

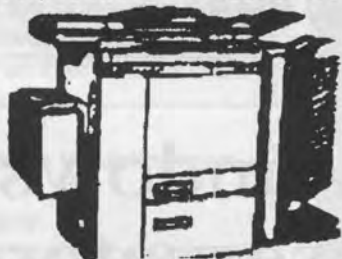
He will be sadly missed by all who knew him

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VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

BALLYHALE VS

The 1997/98 G.A.A. school year was a very significant one for Ballyhale Vocational School, the Boys Senior Hurling Team won the first Leinster Title in the history of the school. The Girls Senior Camogie team won the Senior Colleges B Championship for the first time ever. The girls also won the Leinster Vocational Schools Senior A Championship. The Boys Under 16 Hurling Team and the Girls Minor Camogie Team were beaten finalists in their respective championships. The Boys Senior Football Team were beaten in the Leinster Semi-finals while the Under 14 Football Team were beaten in the South Leinster Colleges Final. The Girls Senior Gaelic Football Team did not have the best of years but they are improving. In a survey done in connection with participation in sport in school, it emerged that in excess of two thirds of the students in Ballyhale participated in/competed in G.A.A. activities on an inter schools basis in 1997/98.

Coláiste Mhuire VS Johnstown

Senior Hurling

Defending champions, Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, started their campaign with a good win over old rivals, Ballyhale at Johnstown. Little did they realise at the time that they would need a repeat performance five months later - in march - to retain their title. Johnstown looked the better team on that occasion deserving of their five points winning margin. A faultless campaign followed which saw them score notable victories over Kilkenny, Mooncoin and Kilcormack and earned them a place in the Leinster Final in March. Johnstown were favourites. Ramie Moriarty, their star forward was back after a long enforced absence through injury sustained early in the season. However, Ballyhale had other ideas. They were the liveliest outfit on the day and their hunger and determination saw them through to an historic win. Missed chances, including a penalty miss cost Johnstown dearly and in spite of



Ballyhale VS Camogie Team:

Back: Valerie Sutton, Nicola Hughes, Grace Fennelly, Ciara Fennelly, Carol Hughes, Paula Kenneally, Mary Connors, Ciara Kinahan, Maria Connolly, Frances Dempsey (Team Coach/Trainer)
Front: Patricia Duggan, Catriona Fennelly, Maresa Fennelly, Miriam Reid, Assumpta O'Farrell, Deborah Walsh, Geraldine Fennelly and Mary Connors.



Ballyhale VS Hurling Team:

Back: Pat Mulrooney, Ross Connolly, Gerard Connolly, P. J. Aylward, Brendan Delahunty, Andrew Duggan, William Coogan, Tom Hunt (Principal & Team Trainer) Kenneth Moore, Tony Duggan, Pat Dalton and Brendan Costelloe.

Front: Mark Raggett, Eamonn Frisby, Conor Conway, Thomas Coogan, Sean O'Keeffe, Anthony Walsh, Michael Drennan, Liam Grant (Captain) J.P. Dungan, David Hoyne and Stephen Lonergan.

sustained pressure in the closing nailbiting stages, failed to bring a goal that would have forced a draw, and a second change to make amends for earlier misses.

Three of the Johnstown squad went on to play for Kilkenny in the Minor Championship ie. Kieran Rafter at 16 years of age gave a tremendous performance in Croke Park on All Ireland Day and must be a bright prospect for the future. Kevin Power also turned in a great performance for the minors and will be hoping to do even

better next year, - his third year in this grade. Ramie Moriarty was also a member of the panel.

COLÁISTE MHUIRE SENIOR HURLING PANEL 1997/98

Paul Quinlan (Fenians), J.J. Delaney (Fenians), Kevin Fitzpatrick John Bergin, Paul Bergin (All Lisdowney), Paul Costelloe (Capt) (St. Lactains), Pat Wall (Gortnahoe), Ramie Moriarty (Emeralds), Kevin Power (Fenians), J.J. Grace (St.

Lactains), Jonathan Doheny (St. Lactains), John O'Loughlin (Fenians), Denis Long (St. Lactains), David Burke (St. Lactains), William Looby (Fenians), Pdraig Bergin (Lisdowney), Ger Henderson (Fenians), James Maher (St. Lactains), Sean Minogue (Emeralds), Kevin Ryan (Fenians)

Colaiste Mhuire Win First Colleges Title.

Colaiste Mhuire won the Leinster Under 16 Colleges Roinn C final last October in Thomastown. They defeated a very skillful New Ross CBS by four points. This game was level on three occasions in the 2nd half and only for JJ Delaney pointing three great points in the last 20 minutes, New Ross would have been a lot closer. This is a new competition in Leinster incorporating Colleges and Vocational Schools and it gives greater variety of games to many schools. Michael Reynolds, secretary of Aras Laighin in Portlaoise, does trojan work for all schools - arranging games, pitches and referees.

All the Johnstown side were stars in this grade. Kieaan Rafter, our captain, led by example. Other players with a very bright future are John Bergin, Lisdowney, Denis Long of Freshford, Eoin Morrissey, Anthony O'Hara, JJ Delaney, Ger Power and Phil Cormack.

The Johnstown Panel was James Maher, James Whelan, Dave Moriarty, Dermot Power, John Bergin, Phil Cormack, Kieran Rafter, 0-3, Brian O'Gorman, 0-1, JJ Delaney 0-3 John O'Loughlin, 0-1, Jonathan Doheny, Denis Long, 0-3, Eoin Morrissey, Anthony O'Hara, Richard Dalton and Ger Power.



Leinster Junior colleges and Vocational Champions 1997 & 1998

Back: Richard Dalton, John Bergin, John O'Loughlin, Ger Henderson, Paul Quinlan, Kevin Power, Kieran Rafter, Thomas Holohan, David Moriarty. **Middle:** Brian O'Gorman, J. J. Delaney, Dermot Power, Philip Cormack, Eoin Morrissey, Anthony, O'Hara, James Meagher, Declan Tallis, William Cahill. **Front:** Thomas Fortune, Robert Dowling, Sean Minogue, Noel Dowling, Jonathon Doheny, Emmett Kavanagh, James Whelan, Declan O'Shea.



Juvenile Leinster Champions 1998

Back: Frank Murphy, Robert Dowling, Philip O'Loughlin, P. J. Delaney, Thomas Neary, Martin Henderson, David Hughes, Noel Dowling. **Middle:** Martin Gleeson (Teacher), Raymond Pollard, Niall O'Hara, Kevin Dalton, Bnan Doyle, William O'Gorman, Paul Sheil, Eoin Delahunty. **Front:** Mark Kavanagh, Joseph Phelan, Jamie Dollard, Patrick Tobin, Gavin Burke, Donnacha Gray, David Brennan, Colin Grant.

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THE HENNESSY FAMILY - TULLAROAN



The five Hennessy brothers, members of the victorious 1958 County Championship team. Paddy, Tommy, Jim, Bill and Joe.

The untimely death of Jim Hennessy reminded all of us in Tullaroan of the Hennessy families contribution to hurling in Tullaroan and Kilkenny.

The five Hennessy brothers Paddy, Tommy, Jim and the twins Bill and Joe were on the Tullaroan team that won the 1958 county final. All were accomplished hurlers in their day. Apart from Jim, who went on to play for Kilkenny, the others distinguished themselves during the 50's, 60's and 70's with Tullaroan.

Bill Hennessy Jnr played at the highest level with Kilkenny from 1989 - 95 winning two All Ireland and two National League medals. Bill won a Senior County Championship medal in 1994 emulating his father Bill and his four uncles. He went on to captain Kilkenny in 1995 when Kilkenny won the National League title.

Jim's son, Shane, looks set to follow in his father's footsteps. Last year he captained Tullaroan at U14 team to win the All Ireland Féile na nGael Trophy Roinn A championship. Shane also captained the Tullaroan U14 team to win last year's Roinn A County Championship. What a pity his father Jim did not live to witness this feat. The Hennessy family have played hurling with Tullaroan and Kilkenny from the 40's to date. Six decades of participation which is no mean achievement.

We in Tullaroan are very proud of the Hennessy families contribution to the GAA in Tullaroan and Kilkenny.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM HENNESSY

Jim Hennessy, you've gone to God and left us here alone.
We'll never see your likes again in dear old Tullaroan.
You tossed the sheaf, threw weights and darts, ran greyhounds far and near;
A man who didn't know his strength, a man who knew no fear.

You hurled for club and county too, you played hard and fair,
And those who put it up to you were levelled in the square.
You played the game on every stage; with Langton Grimes and Ring,
And all will meet in heaven now; O death where is thy sting?

A linesman with the E.S.B, to many you brought light
And when you ventured on your own, you worked both day and night.
The Hymac and the J.C.B, they were your stock and trade
With engineering and with slig you really had it made.

But fate's cruel blow then laid you low and put your life in doubt;
Although the doctors had no hope you stood and walked back out.
You smoked and drank and drove machines, you took your own advice;
For thirteen years you lived life well, for life is not lived twice.

You bridged the generation gap with every girl and boy.
When Shane led out the Féile team it was your pride and joy.
You'd lived your life, you'd seen it all, you were prepared to go;
Your family and friends are shocked; it's such a painful blow.

From every part of Ireland and from parts of England too,
They came to pay their last respects and say goodbye to you.

You had the finest funeral we've ever seen or known
In that small place you loved so much, your native Tullaroan.

A Friend

Fennessy's Field Revisited

Enda McEvoy's "Fennessy's Field", subtitled 'A Century of Hurling History at St. Kierans College' is a welcome addition to the historiography of Gaelic Games. It is published in association with the College Past Pupils Union, assisted by AIB Bank and written by the well known Sunday Tribune Gaelic Games journalist.

The book traces the development of hurling from its earliest stages in the College in the 1890's to the present day.

A past pupil, Enda's enthusiasm for and love of his subjects shines forth as he revels in describing the effects of these games on the lives of the schoolboy participants.

The author follows a distinguished line of past pupils whose passion was Gaelic Games - journalists, Pdraig Puirseál and Con Kenealy, and Tom Ryall, author of the official history of Kilkenny GAA.

The author manages to neatly sidestep the bugbear of statistical overload which too often mars such publications. He achieves this by relying for the most part on contemporary newspaper reports combined with anecdotes and observations by participants in many of these stirring encounters. The result, while understandably parochial in tone, is a joy to read thanks to the author's well honed journalistic skills.

For those who love hurling and have followed its fortunes through the years, this book is a gem. Dip into it to read of 'the greatest wizard with a hurling ball I ever saw' as the late Nicky Rackard described Fr. Kevin Brennan of Tullaroan. Follow 'the stupendous performance' (*Kilkenny People*), of Pat O'Neill in the All Ireland Colleges final of 1989 and dozens of other shining jewels to entertain and jog the memory.

While great players dominate so many pages of this book- Nicky Rackard, Ted Carroll, Eddie Keher, Billy Fitzpatrick, DJ Carey- the story is not altogether about them. One feels that the real heroes are those who were stars in their time as College players in black and white but never made it to the wider stage.

The history provides fascinating insights into the young careers of many hurlers from all corners of Ossory and far beyond. The reader frequently wonders why many of these youthful giants of the ash never graced the great venues and adult teams. But such speculation is part of any response to a history of youth in action and merely distracts from the real stories of juvenile endeavour.

The book also chronicles the careers of the senior team trainers through the years. Traditionally the role of senior trainer remained in the hands of the College Dean of Boarders until the mid 1980's. It was only then that laymen came to perform the roles of motivator, tactician and training ground torturers. Here too is an example of a changing society both inside and outside of the school.

But in the midst of all the changes the author points out that "some certainties endure....sound structures, a stirring tradition, fanatically enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff...an unbending emphasis on discipline and sportsmanship."

Wherever hurling is played or discussed, this book will prove a welcome addition to fuel the endless debates about great young players and perhaps be an inspiration for some of those to come.

Fennessy's Field, by Enda McEvoy, 303pp., Red Lion Press, Callan, £15.

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CAMOGIE GETS ITS OWN "FAIRY GODMOTHER"

With the huge interest, and upsurge in support of Camogie, and Ladies Football too, it was inevitable that Camogie in Kilkenny --- one of a growing number of commercially marketable Camogie counties -- would, sooner or later, be sponsored by a "Fairy Godmother" of its own making. "She" arrived in the form of the Caulfield Super-Valu chain of stores.

As a result of negotiations between the Caulfield Management and officers of the Kilkenny Camogie Board, last April, it was agreed that Caulfields would be the sole sponsors of all Kilkenny Camogie teams for the duration of the 1998 Championships and Leagues. So, for the first time in its history, the Kilkenny Camogie Board would be in a position to "do its own thing", with its own monies, gleaned from a very lucrative sponsorship deal. They were no longer dependant on "hand-outs" from their male counterparts in the Kilkenny County Board of the GAA. The sponsorship afforded them the freedom of being able to provide all their teams with the most professional equipment, medical care, and after-match catering. Their playing gear would carry the "Caulfield, Super-Valu" logo. The new jerseys carried a very distinctive design, incorporating the Kilkenny City coat of arms on its sleeves, a design that was not missed by the designers of the hurlers' jerseys. They too carried the same designs on their sleeves. While the sponsorship did not yield the exposure an All-Ireland Final might bring, nevertheless, all parties concerned, were delighted with the deal. The Caulfield family have always been



Sponsors Meet Players

Tom Caulfield, Brigid Mullally, Miriam Holland (Captain), Noelle O'Driscoll (Board Secretary), John Caulfield and Pat Synott, Manager Caulfield's SuperValu Callan at the presentation of sponsorship.
Photo Tom O'Neill

very supportive of the GAA. A younger member of the extended family, Sean, has been hurling with Kilmacow for years. He is the proud possessor of two All-Ireland Junior Championship medals with Kilkenny in 1988 and in 1990.



Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team in their Caulfield "SuperValu" Sponsored Kit


Front: Laura Sweeney, Maireead Costello, Sinéad Costello, Martina Maher, Miriam Holland, Sandra Gleeson, Bridget Barnaville, Marina Downey, Grace Fennelly.

Back: Caitriona Ryan, Ursula Walton, Margaret Hickey, Margaret Comerford, Bridget Mullally, Gillian Dillon, Tracey Millea, Kelley Long, Una Murphy, Eleanor Walsh, Pauline Comerford, Anne Downey.
Photo Tom O'Neill


KILKENNY

CORPORATION and COUNTY COUNCIL

*Best wishes to our men and ladies
in Black and Amber in 1999*



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KILKENNY
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KILKENNY CORPORATION
CITY HALL
KILKENNY
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CLUB NEWS

ST. MARTINS



St Martin's in Leeds

Back: Sean Comerford, Anthony Maher, Mick Conrecorte (Chairman, Yorkshire GAA Board), John Buggy, Richard Nolan, Phil Shore, John McGrath, John Molloy, Tom Shore.
Front: Frank Ainsborough (Chairman Mayo Association), Patrick Heneghan (Councillor), Paddy Cadogan, Eddie Stapleton, Donal Shore, Patsy Murphy, Patrick Brennan.

Juvenile Board

In keeping with previous years, the juvenile section of the club was very well catered for with trips and competitions. During the Summer, for the second year in a row, the U'14's travelled to the St. Anthony Gaels Club, Leeds. They took part in a football tournament, and gave a hurling exhibition.

The U'14's also took part in the Leinster mini-feile in Meath, hosted by Navan O'Mahony's Club. Our U'16's took part in a hurling tournament in Carlow.

One of the highlights of the year

was the winning of the schools Roinn B Championship after a great campaign. Many of the players from that team played in the Castlewarren Community Games with players from Clara.

The U'10 Community Games Football Team reached the Leinster Semi-final, and they also competed in the Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Bobby Shore and Danny Coonan on winning All-Ireland medals with the Kilkenny Masters Hurling Team.

Award For Anthony

St Martin's club and parish take great pride in the fact that Anthony Maher was the recipient of the prestigious National Coaching and Development Award for Hurling earlier in the year.

The award, presented by AIB, is in recognition for outstanding work in the area of promoting hurling among young people.

The GAA followers of Muckalee, and especially the parents of our young players will readily endorse the choice of Anthony for this great honour, as will the youngsters who have responded so successfully to his skillful and dedicated coaching.



Obituary

Joe Kelly: Died 11th March 1998. Age: 79 years

A man of outstanding sporting ability which is clearly evident from his long list of achievements. In 1937, aged 18 yrs., he won his first Leinster Championship in the 56 lbs W.F. This title he won 5 times. He won one Leinster Championship over the bar and several County Championships, both along the ground and over the bar. In 1948 he won an All Army Championship in the 56lbs.W.F. He was a member of the Tug-of-War team which won All-Ireland Titles, in 1948, '49, '50, '51. Thankfully, his sporting talent is proudly carried on to-day by his grandchildren Donal and Shem Kelly who have several County and All-Ireland Titles in Handball, and have also represented the County on juvenile hurling teams. Joe was a true and loyal supporter of St. Martin's all his life, and we extend sincere sympathy to his family and friends. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Seosamh Mac Donncha (Uachtarán CLG) and Hugh Cawley (Gen Manager AIB present the National Coaching and Development Award to Anthony Maher, St Martin's.

THOMASTOWN

A Busy Year!

1998 was a very active year for the club both on and off the field. Many good performances on the field warmed the hearts and while at the end of the year there was little silverware to show, the future looks bright.

Underage Hurling

Grennan was full every Sunday with boys aged from eight to twelve. Thomastown entered two teams in the Camaint ground hurling competition and finished the year

with our U-11's winning the Rower-Inistioge tournament.

Intermediate Hurling

At adult level the intermediate team had its best run in years, reaching the final of the league. After a great opening in the championship against Rower-Inistioge we fell at the semi-final stage to Mooncoin in a close fought game in Nowlan Park on 25 October. The Intermediates also reached the semi-final of the Byrne Cup.

Ground Development

A great deal of work was carried out in Grennan this year. A new scoreboard was erected at the country end of the field.

Volunteers were ready and willing on match days to help with stewarding and parking to ensure the best for all our visitors. A special word of thanks is extended to all the people who helped with finance, sponsorship and running the club throughout '98.



Garda **Paul Martin** presents the cup to winning captain, **Robert Galway**, after the school league final. Looking on is **Liam O'Mahoney**, captain of the runners-up.



Captain **Robert Galway** raises the cup after his team's victory in the school league final. Looking on are Garda **Paul Martin** and school Principal, **Eddie Kennedy**



Thomastown BNS Hurling League Final Winners

Front: Patrick Mullally, Pdraig Nolan, Martin Lawrence, Robert Galway, David O'Neill.
Back: Jamie Tennyson, Shane Ryan, Derek Webb, Dwayne Tennyson, Thomas Harrison Daly.



Thomastown BNS Hurling League Final Runners-Up

Back: Dean Kelly, Robert Grace, Ross Kelly, Jamie Whitty, Joseph Butler.
Front: Richard Ryan, Noel Ahearne, Jamie O'Keefe, Liam O'Mahoney, (Capt), Paul O'Neill.

CLUB NEWS

THREecastLES

Action on the Field

Threecastles enjoyed lots of games including friendly, League and Championship encounters. We had a good run in the League but narrowly missed the semi-final stages. The championship pitted us against Conahy Shamrocks and sadly after a hugely entertaining game we went under to the power and superiority of Conahy. Great praise is due to Jim Lyng for his intense and committed training during the year.

Off the Field

We ventured into some novel fundraising for our club, with a golf classic held at Rathdowney and we fared very well from the venture. Sponsorship was very good and many thanks are due to Michael Dermody for his support

and organising skills. We also ran a few table quizzes in the Rock Bar.

Social Events

Our Dinner Dance was held in Hotel Kilkenny and it proved to be an excellent evening. We also played host to a club from Belfast St. Enda's for a game on Easter Monday. This club was particularly welcomed because of its troubled past.

Thanks to Gerry and Josephine Rafter for their hospitality at 'The Rafter Dempseys' for this occasion and their kind sponsorship during the year. They also donated a new set of jerseys.

The club enjoyed a very successful trip to Ennis.

Local Garda Sgt. Jim Lyng organised a well attended and

informative Drug Awareness meeting through the club in the local hall.

Good Man Michéal!

No article on Threecastles GAA would be complete without a word of praise and thanks to Michéal Whitty who braves the elements in fundraising for the Lotto. Keep up the good work Michéal!

Obituary

Sadly this little area experienced a most tragic and untimely death when Alice Dalton, wife of our Treasurer Dick, was taken from us. She was a hard working, bubbly and selfless person who did much work for the club. Our sympathies go to her young family and her husband Dick. She has left a huge void in the lives of those lucky to have known her.



Barlo Nissan



Barlo Nissan were sponsors of the Northern Junior Hurling League and Championships in 1998. Pictured at the presentation of the cheque are, Back row: Ward Kinsella, Barlo Nissan, Ned Buggy, Northern Board, John Kinsella, Barlo Nissan. Front row: Pat Egan, Barlo Nissan, Ned Moran, Northern Board, Alan Barlo, Barlo Nissan.

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CLUB NEWS

TULLAROAN

Officers 1998

President: Chris Walsh
Chairperson: Gerry Doheny
Vice-Chair: John Teehan
Secretary: Simon Walton
Treasurer: Dick Walsh
PRO: Chris Walsh

Good Start to '98

The year started on a very successful note with the nomination of Liam Keoghan as an All Star, the first Tullaroan man to achieve the feat. Former All Star and All Ireland medal winner Liam Simpson joined our club and we were further boosted by Bill Hennessy's return from Australia.

At Senior level, Tullaroan reached the championship semi-finals beating Erins Own and Dicksboro but losing to near neighbours Graig-Ballycallan. The Special Junior team won the Northern B title beating O'Loughlins in a reply.

Our U-16 team was narrowly beaten by James Stephens in the Northern final. The U-14s failed to defend the Paddy Grace Trophy, losing to Dicksboro in both the Feile and Championship semi-finals. The school team lost to Freshford also in the semi-final while the U-11s really enjoyed the camaint competition.

Club Funding

Club funding this year came from the County Board Lotto and the Hurlers Co-op Draw. These provide much needed cash flow for the club whose running costs have increased dramatically in recent years.

The club is organising an auction in conjunction with the Parish Building Committee to raise further funds. We must thank our sponsors Offtech, New St, Kilkenny who presented us with new jerseys this year.

County Players

These players represented Tullaroan on County panels in '98

Senior: Liam Keoghan, Liam Simpson.

U-21: Jimmy Coogan, Michael Maher.

U-16: Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan, Michael Walsh, Ned Sweeney, Michael Connolly, Eddie Campion.

U-14: Rd. Butler, Podge Kennedy,



Tullaroan Camaint 1998

Back: Deckie Dowling, Michéal Brennan, John Vidler, Brian Kinsella, Alan Carter, David Walsh, David Dowling, Shane Gleeson, Dan Coogan, Martin Walshe, Josh Ronan, Ian Doheny. **Front:** Luke Gleeson, Pierce Doheny, Kevin Hoyne, Shane Connolly, Tony Hall, Stephen Dowling, Mark Kinsella, Pdraig Walshe, Tom Hogan, Joe Cleere, Paul Buggy.



Scoil Ruadháin, Tullaroan, Primary Schools Roinn D Camogie Champions 1998.

Back: Ruth Grace, Aisling Pollard, Linda Sweeney, Lorraine Maher, Mary Maher, Ciara Fennelly, Karen Maher, Claire Walshe. **Centre:** Emma Maher, Aine Doheny, Lisa O' Dea, Elaine Tynan, Rachel Hogan, Jacinta Doran, Mary Walshe. **Front:** Nicola Fennelly, Yvonne O'Flynn, Gillan Walshe, capt., Sarah Grace, Leandra Pollard, Claire Doheny.

Nicky Maher, Stephen Maher.

Masters: Dick Walsh, Michael Walsh.

Obituaries

The sympathies of the club is extended the families of Tom Walton, Kieran Tobin, Jack Hall, Mick Maher, Tommy Marshall, Neddie Tynan, Packie McCabe, Teresa Delaney, Nora-Mary Cass.



Tullaroan Club Officers 1998

Simon Walton (Secretary), Gerry Doheny (Chairman), Dick Walsh (Treasurer).

CLUB NEWS

TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON

Social Events

The club held its annual Dinner dance in Brandon House Hotel in January when the victorious Junior hurlers of 1997 were presented with their medals.

Four weeks later All Star hurler Willie O'Connor presented medals to our victorious juveniles.

On the Field

After winning the Junior hurling title in '97, we won two of our five games in the Vale Oil League but lost in the first round of the championship to St. Lachtains.

The Intermediate footballers were defeated in their three games, while the U-21 hurlers lost to Mullinavat. The minor hurlers qualified for the semi-final of the Div. III League but lost to Graignamanagh in the championship.

Our schools teams have had a great year, reaching the Roinn B final in hurling but lost to a very good St. Martins side. The footballers made it to the Country Cup final and semi-finals of the league.

The U-11 hurlers enjoyed the Camaint tournament and the finals in Nowlan Park.

But stars of the year were the U-16 hurlers who won the Roinn C league final and then beat Galmoy in the Championship decider. This was the first double achieved in underage hurling in the club.

All Ireland Sevens

St. Judes hosted the annual All Ireland Junior Sevens and after victories in the earlier rounds we

defeated Ahascragh (Galway), St. Judes, Dublin and following a very exciting game were victorious over Castlelyons (Cork) in the final. Team captain Eamon Phelan was presented with a magnificent Perpetual Cup while John Barron won the 'player of the tournament' award. Panel: Eamon Phelan, John Lawlor, Michael Bookle, Shem Cummins, Tom Murphy, John Murphy, Richard Walsh, John Barron, John Gaule, Joe Murphy.

Redevelopment

At the moment the playing field is being levelled and we are upgrading our facilities by erecting floodlighting and new netting behind the goals in

addition to clubhouse improvements.

A developments fund is financed by the successful 'Play for the Park' Lotto and we appeal to parents and players to support this weekly lottery aimed at improving facilities for our young players.

The club sincerely thanks Paddy Grennan, Ballyreddy who has made his field available to us while development work in being carried out.

Obituaries

Tom Fitzgerald, Cooleen, was the first club secretary and a past player.

Matty Phelan, Shanbough was a past player with the club.

May they rest in peace.



Tullogher U-11 Camaint team

Back: David Bird, Edmund Cullinane, Shane Ryan, Matthew Ederton, Edward Forristal, Richard Dollard, Michael Gaule, Damien Ryan, Patrick Grennan, Padraig Ryan, Sean Meaney.

Front: James Power, Ned Conway, Philip Walsh, James Lawlor, Anthony Saunders, James Mullally, Morgan Lawlor, Luke Hennessy, Patrick Malone, Patrick Mullally.

O'DWYERS LOUNGE BAR

*Congratulations to Dunamaggin Minor Hurlers
and the best of luck in 1999*

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CLUB NEWS

WINDGAP

Presentation nights for the handballers and the hurlers attracted large crowds. Handball President Con Moore presented thirty four champions with awards, including five All Irelands. Golden Master Tony Nolan was the clubs first Hall of Fame award. Anne Marie Hawe made history with her under ten boys victory. By the end of '98 another twenty six titles had been won. Enda Hawe competed in the US Collegiate championships.

Hurling

The second coming of trainer Barrie Henriques gave the adult teams renewed enthusiasm. Some premature retirements saw changes in Junior personnel, but the mixture of youth and experience qualified for the Southern final against Carrickshock, losing narrowly.

A solid league campaign saw the junior B side lose on scoring average, then go out of the championship to Tullogher.

Fund-raising

The Lotto, with over one hundred winners, was the main earner along with the Co -Op draw, cards and a huge membership drive led by Paul Doran were all well supported.

Achievements

Martin O'Shea won a Maurice Davin award for his work with Carricks Green School juvenile hurlers. Brian Hennessy won a GAA scholarship to Ring Gaeltacht. Alan Hearne the first recipient of the county boards third level scholarship scheme graduated from WIT. Club P.R.O. Jimmy Walsh was re-elected Southern Board Secretary.

Football

The clubs historic fame in football was recalled when Aidan Mackey captained the county minor side to victory in the International Series and lined out in the Championship with the county team. The Juniors had a good run to the semi-final.

Coaching

Great work was done by Darragh Guinan and Enda Hawe under the Students Third Level Jobs scheme.

Juveniles

A great run by the U-13's saw them qualify for a county final appearance in Nowlan Park against Goresbridge/Paulstown. James Mackey represented the parish in the Shinty Internationals.

The minors reached the league semi final where they went close to a win against St. Martins. Aidan Power, Aidan Mackey and James Murray made the South Minors and Niall Doran the Nenagh Co-Op side.

Club players featured in victorious Callan CBS and Carrick VS sides.

Grounds development work continued with provision of dug outs and surfacing of the car park.

Events

Keeping pace with the countys senior run the match bus was in greater demand than ever. The club also participated in Scór na nÓg.

The March of Time

The march of time deprived the club of a number of its supporters over the year most notably Jimmy Mackey, who played hurling and football with neighbouring clubs before Windgap was formed.



Windgap Junior Hurling Panel - Southern Finalists

Back: Matthew Enright, Alan Hawe, Paddy Downey, Paul McKenna, Sean Power, Laurence Doyle, PJ Barron, Tom Egan, Sean Hegarty, Gerry Meehan, Edmund Meehan, Keith Doran, Niall Kenny, Vincent Meehan, Enda Hawe, Jimmy Walsh.

Front: PJ Hawe, Aidan Mackey, Anthony Meehan, Ray Brawdgers, Pat Walsh, Gay Doyle, Alan Hearne, James Murray, Noel Power, William Walsh, Dermot O'Shea, Pat Power, John McKenna.



Windgap Camaint '98

Back: Enda Hawe (trainer), Jason Burke, Cait Mackey, Lee Quinn, JJ Phelan, Thomas Fleming, Thomas Cronin, Eoin Cody, Eamon Comerford, Conor Lonergan, John Doran, Martin Meagher, Darragh Guinan (trainer).

Front: Wesley Smith, Claire Comerford, Leigh Ann Hennessy, Lorraine Hartery, Gerard Purcell, Sean Hennessy, Lisa Phelan, Adam Smith, Derek Hartery, Ben Lavelle.

CLUB NEWS

YOUNG IRELANDS

Senior Hurling

Capt.: Pat Drea

Trainer: Paddy Johnson,

Selectors: Michael Hayes, Matty Byrne.

When one reflects on this year's achievements, one might say that we were not at the races! The disappointment of last year took its toll. Missing eight players from last year due to injuries and emigration, it was bound to be an uphill struggle.

Unfortunately the injuries were at their worst at championship time and we lost to James Stephens.

Junior Hurling

Capt.: Pat Kennedy

Selectors: Paddy Johnson, Tom Drennan, Tom Carroll, Jimmy Holden, Michael Kehoe, Brian Farrell.

This group of players contested each game with great heart and loyalty, this being their first time in this grade. Three wins, three losses and one draw completed the league. We won two rounds in the championship but lost narrowly to Emeralds. A great start in this grade and well done to all players and mentors.

Two Football Titles

The club won two football titles this year. First we had a great performance at U-21, defeating Mooncoin in the final. The Juniors defeated Mullinavat in the final. Many thanks must go to Tom Hunt, a quiet, able man who worked wonders with this group of players.

Social and Fundraising

We wish to thank Paddy Johnson, DJ Carey and Matty Byrne for making our Golf Classic such a wonderful success, and indeed to all the other sponsors and participants.

Early in the year our supporters enjoyed an excellent social night when last year's Senior League and Special Junior medals were presented by Ned Moran. Tom Carroll received the 'Hall of Fame' award.

Our intercounty players were feted with a Parade during the year. Thanks to the teachers, parents and children of the parish who produced such excellent banners and floats and also to the sponsors.

Vincent Kehoe RIP

Vincent passed away late last year after a short illness and his untimely death was a great shock. In his early years he played with Clara. In 1953 Young Irelands became his adopted club. He held many administrative positions including Chairman 1957-'62 and Juvenile Chairman 1981-'90. He will be remembered in earlier days travelling all over the country on his bicycle to support Kilkenny, a sure sign of a

great Gael! The club extends sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Sincere sympathy to all families who had bereavements during the year in the parish.

Congratulations to Pat O'Neill and Siobhan on their recent marriage.

We extend thanks to all the mentors and players who worked so hard during the year to bring such enjoyment to us all, and to our sponsors who provided such valuable financial assistance.



Vincent Kehoe RIP



Young Irelands - U-21 B Football Champions '97-'98

Back: Tom Hunt (coach), Ciaran Carroll, Paul Murphy, Brian Whelan, Billy Doheny, PJ Hickey, Eoin Drea, Jimmy Curran, Brian Byrne, Thomas Drennan, Richard Kennedy, Liam Kirk.

Front: Aidan Drennan, Stephen Nolan, Colin Madden, Dick Carroll, Peter Carroll (capt.), Alan O'Neill, JP Carroll, Darragh Hunt, JP Comerford.

Willie O'Connor - A Name to Conjure with.

Kilkenny's evergreen corner back talks to John Knox NT

Willie O'Connor a name to conjure with, a supreme stylist, with a cavalier attitude, fiercely effective and rarely beaten. Yes, Willie O'Connor has his distinctive style but he is, in many ways, the archtypical Kilkenny half back, corner back, the current exponent of the art of defensive play in a line that stretches back through Joe Hennessy, Dick O'Hara, Pat Lawlor, Seamus Cleere, Martin Coogan, Paddy Buggy, John Maher and many others.

The Kilkenny fans love their forwards, who all too often are the glamour stars of teams, but they really appreciate their defenders and, in particular, those with skill, style and tenacity like that displayed by Willie O'Connor. Willie is currently playing some of his best hurling ever, having gained an All-Star in '97 at corner back and this year was as good as ever, giving in, the All Ireland Semi-Final against Waterford one of the best solo performances I've ever been privileged to see and I know I'm not alone in that opinion. Rarely does one individual dominate a match to the extent that Willie did on that glorious day last August. We all await eagerly another All-Star award this year to add to those gained in 1992 and 1997.

The Glenmore man's list of honours includes all the major honours. As well as the All-Stars in '92 '97, he was the first Kilkenny man to earn the new Eircell award for his display against Waterford. He has two All-Irelands '92, '93, two National Leagues '90, '95, Leinster medals '92, '93, '98, Leinster U-21 in 1988, four Co.Championships '87, '90, '92, '95, one club All-Ireland '92, two Railway Cup medals in '92, '98, as well as being honoured as Captain of the Leinster side. Despite all his many honours, Willie's two feet are still firmly on the ground and when talking to him, his love of Glenmore can only be matched by his enthusiasm for Kilkenny. His eyes light up and a smile dances on his lips as he recalls his early days. "It all started underage in Glenmore, six boys in the one family, with little else to do. You'd live and die hurling". He has fond memories of travelling to matches with his parents in "the old Cortina", and- "you'd live for the matches and you'd go wearing the togs".

In 1977 Glenmore won their first U-12 school final under Mick Lynch. He recalls, "I was one corner back and Richard was the other. They were great memo-

ries. When we were small, at All-Ireland half time, you'd be out in the yard and we'd fight to be whoever was on the television. Ordinarily, we never watched television when we were young, we were always too busy out playing". Willie never had much luck playing under-age for Kilkenny. He played minor for two years and, in 1985, Wexford beat them and- "I played two years U-21. One year in Carlow, Wexford beat us in the Leinster final, and the next year we got hammered in Birr" (in the All-Ireland)". This U-21 team, however,

provided four outstanding seniors - Liam Keoghan, Bill Hennessy, Michael Phelan and Willie.

He progressed to the Senior team in 1988 - "I wasn't an official sub but I was in training and at the end of the League, I played my first match at corner back". With Dermot Healy, he won the League in 1990. "Ollie Walsh was the first one to try me on the wing. It wasn't an awful change really, as I was playing centre back for Glenmore anyway". When pressed as regards his favourite position he replies "left corner, it's my favourite position no. 4 or no.7". As regards his best display he recalls the All-



Willie O'Connor exhibits one of his great strengths - striking off his back foot under pressure near his own end line against Waterford in the 1998 All Ireland Semi-final.

Photo Tom O'Neill

Ireland semi-final in '92 "Galway got a goal on me in the first two minutes so it took a bit of doing to come back and undo that". Many people would argue for his display against Waterford, and, when asked to explain what happened, he modestly shares the credit. "Pat O'Neill was beside me. The ball went for me that day. I looked at the video the other night and I wasn't over impressed with the way I played. The way people were talking, I thought I was going to keep the ball for the 70 minutes. The atmosphere that day was special,

This year, we were very close to Waterford. I have a sister married in Waterford and I work in Waterford. It was a tense build up and there was so much hype". But for Willie the club holds a special place. George Leahy praises him as never missing training.

Even when he trained with the county team he still turned up for the club training. "I like hurling", Willie explained. "When Glenmore are training I don't like missing it. I think the world of Glenmore. When we go down and do the hurling, its hard to walk off and the

rest of them watching you". Having lost the county final in 1985, their first title in 1987 was something special. "We beat the Shamrocks that year and lost to them in 1989 and that was another heartbreak because we were so close to winning. We came back (1990) and beat Clara, and we went on to win the club All-Ireland. In 1992, when we beat Tullaroan, I had a groin injury; I wasn't able to play centre back. Seanie Kelly strapped me up. I played corner back that day. I remember the ball went over my head and I went back, I felt my groin going but the bandage held". In '95, Glenmore won their fourth title with Willie restored to centre back. But 1991 the All-Ireland club year is a highlight.

George Leahy recalls his best display was at full back on Michael Conneely in Carlow when he lined out against St. Rynagh's with a groin injury. Winning the club All-Ireland "was special - an ordinary everyday person from Glenmore playing up in Croke Park. It's not packed and you can see all the parish in the stand". Willie is pleased with their record but feels "we should have won more. It's hard going the full season - Glenmore believe in socialising as well as hurling. The two don't mix". Talking to Willie O'Connor is a real pleasure and his cool, casual, seemingly easy going style at times covers up his professional attitude and approach to the game. He thinks deeply about the game and is nostalgic about the past while recognising the reality of the present. He says, "It's getting pressurised. I enjoy hurling but I miss the simple things like walking down to Croke Park, parking your car and meeting the supporters, the laughing and joking. It is all kind of serious now. You are bussed into the park and

you can see no one until it's over. I'd prefer to be more casual".

As a player over the last ten years he is nostalgic for the old league format. "I like hurling at this time of the year. I always thought October/November a grand time for hurling. It also gives the supporters somewhere to go during what can be a depressing time of the year with the short dark days. If you could hurl up to Christmas and then start back in March, the year doesn't seem as long. But I'm only a small fry and I don't make the decisions". Looking to the future his priorities are as expected:- "I would like to get to another All-Ireland but my chances are dwindling, and maybe another county final. An All-Star this year would be nice but its looking doubtful."

At times his career has been marred by injury but Willie has always fought back. His great form this year can be perhaps explained by his training over last winter as he recuperated from his groin operation. For twelve weeks he trained every night of the week. Willie well deserves all the honours he has achieved because he has always had a great commitment to his club and his county and long may he delight fans all over Ireland with his marvellous displays.



Willie O'Connor holds the Railway Cup Trophy after Leinster's 1998 victory over Connaught in Nowlan Park *Photo Tom O'Neill*



Kilkenny's representatives on the victorious 1998 Leinster Railway Cup team -
Back:- Charlie Carter, Niall Maloney, DJ Carey.
Front: Liam Keoghan, Willie O'Connor and Brian Mc Evoy. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

"True Kilkenny Mould "

By Michael McEvoy

One morning in July, I sat up in bed about to read the paper when this thought came to my head, that I should try to write a poem about my favourite hurler, in the true Kilkenny mould, whom Micheal O Hehir was prone to name "the ever smiling JIM LANGTON of EIRE OG." What first attracted me to this great man was all that I heard and read about this star of the greatest game on earth.

The first time that I saw him in the flesh, the occasion was the evening when with my late sister Helen we were making our way home up the Hebron Road. She said "Do you see those two young men sitting on the other kerb, the near one is Jim Langton, the other Jackie Mul." A further year would elapse before I would see them again. It was through the courtesy of my friend and neighbour Joe Grace who asked if I would like to accompany him as he went to unlock the dressing rooms which at that time was forbidden territory as far as youngsters were concerned, so I had no alternative only to wait in the stand for to see my hurling hero. I can still see him as if it were but yesterday, stepping on to the hallowed pitch of Nowlan Park with his hurl tucked neath his arms leaving his hands free to pull up his socks when a team mate struck him over a searing ball, no more than a foot from the ground, then he casually stooped down to catch it swivelled around and left handed hit back unerringly to the striker. OH what sheer artistry ? Amidst his vast repertoire of skills chiefly was his ability to thrust his hurl among a forest of others and as if by magic contrived to get ball run radar-like into his hand, then neatly side-step the opposition to send the sliotar straight between the uprights. Having such a reputation, it was inevitable that he would be a marked man in the full meaning of the word, but who can say that they saw him retaliate with his hurl for he used his fists to force his adversary to desist

Regretfully, not all my county men shared my adulation conveniently forgetting the great games he played which was to earn for him that coveted title, best marksman in the land only to recall with a trace of bitterness those inexplicable misses in the 50's in the All Ireland. Still he was not the only one that gave Tipperary what was akin to a gift. Now he was to be subject to scurrilous remarks that would inflict more hurt than a blow from a hurl and make one ashamed to be a Kilkenny person.

A few days after that ill-fated game, I spoke to him for a while when he cried openly like a child, as my heart went out to him I asked myself who'd be a hurler. Then a brighter thought came to mind, what would other counties not give to have him on their side, for down in Cork, where they say good hurlers grow on bushes, he had his share of worshippers so much so that in Blackrock one of the locals was known as "Langton." While no less a man than Mick Mackey said of him "he would simply lose you".

Even when named on the Century team, Jim Langton remained the same, the essence of modesty and a thorough gentleman.

To conclude, I can think of no finer tribute than that composed by the late John Dollard of Greenshill a staunch follower of hurling, not that he looked solely through black and amber tinted glasses, for had unbounded admiration for great hurlers from other counties.

"Farewell to thee thou prince of hurling lore ~How great, how sweet those feats with dazzling EIRE OG nor shall we forget those feints, those swerves as the sliotar sailed unerringly over the bar. May thy star shine for evermore above that Croke Park in the sky" - all hail.

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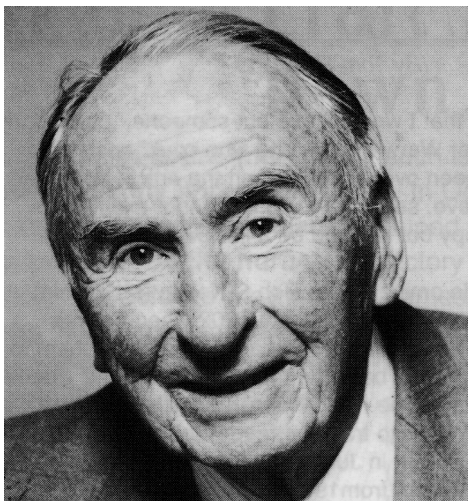
Good luck to all Kilkenny Teams in 1999

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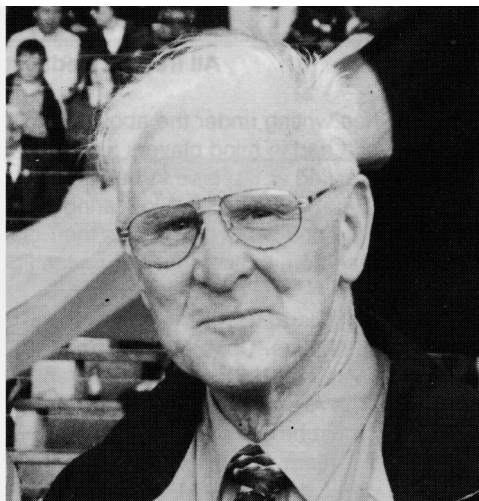
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ALFIE CULLEN



JIM DOBBYN.

Alfie Cullen was a most dedicated player and official in both hurling and handball.

He began his hurling career with Erin's Own club, from the St Canice's area in the city, and was such a prestigious hurler that he was selected on the Kilkenny minor team when an under 14. He was one of thirteen Erin's Own players on the Kilkenny team which beat Laois in the first round of the 1928 minor championship-but the team was disqualified as they failed to hand in a players' list.

His big year in minor came in 1931 when he was part of a Kilkenny side which avenged the previous year's All Ireland final defeat by Tipperary. In the previous year he had captained the Kilkenny CBS side which won the Leinster junior colleges' title and he was selected on the Leinster colleges' senior side in 1931.

He played all his senior hurling with Dicksboro but found Tullaroan and Mooncoin tough teams to beat. Then in 1937, when Dicksboro did make their way to the county final, they met a powerful James Stephens side and lost out.

He was on the Kilkenny senior team for four years and reached two senior All Irelands in that time - 1936 and 1937. Unfortunately for Alfie, he was on the losing side in both finals. It was a tremendous pity that Alfie lost out in that 1937 final because in the same year he partnered his great friend John Joe Gilmartin to the senior handball title.

However, tragedy struck shortly afterwards. He married Rita Neary, aunt of camogie star, Liz Neary, in 1938. When Rita died in 1939, Alfie's world fell apart and he never hurled again.

He continued to play handball and reached a further All Ireland final in 1945.

He trained many Dicksboro teams and had most success with the club's minors whom he trained to win the county titles of 1951, 1952 and 1953.

As Deputy Principal in Kilkenny CBS - a school in which he worked all his teaching career, having been a student there - he promoted hurling all his life.

A number of honours came his way in later life. Hall of Fame awards were made to him by Kilkenny CBS Secondary School and by Smithwick's Sports Stars Committee. He never lost his keen interest in both hurling and handball and had no doubt about his greatest player of all time - Frank Cummins!

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam d'Ilis.

God's ways are strange at times, but I suppose it is not for us to ask the question, why ? . . . Although when He called Jim Dobbyn "home", one was sorely tempted to ask the question. On the other hand, He organised it so that Jim passed away in a place he probably would have wished for! 'Twas down in the field in Bennettsbridge, he was, when the "call came". He was readying the pitch for a Camogie Championship match -- Jim was never happy until he was readying something for someone. He gave his life helping people and causes. He was yer quintessential "Bridge man.~

He was involved in most, if not all "Bridge efforts. If it wasn't the Tidy Towns, it was the old folks, or the building of the Community Hall, or the fundraising for the new School, or fundraising for the Development of the hurling Field. He was involved in all of them and more. On the hurling front, his involvement was a little broader. He was an officer of the Kilkenny Supporters' Club. He did trojan work on their behalf. He took a tremendous interest in the affairs of the vibrant Kilkenny Camogie Board. The list is endless. He even became an ardent photographer of games around the country, wherever Kilkenny were playing.

Everyone has his favourite "yarn" about a dearly departed friend. For my own part, he will always be the man that provided the "cupán tae and apple tart" at half time during the matches in Bennettsbridge. Such consideration was simple, but thoughtful, particularly when the weather was a little inclement, or he knew that you were "chasing" matches around the county for Radio reports. Yes indeed, Jim looked after his own. He was a hurling man's hurler. He loved hurling men, and he loved talking to, and about them. He was a much bemedalled player himself in his day. He won numerous honours with his Club, Bennettsbridge, at all levels, culminating with Senior Championship medals in 1952 and 1953. He hurled with Kilkenny minor teams in 1948 and 1949. Kilkenny was defeated by Waterford in the 1948 Minor All-Ireland Final. His team mates on the famed "Bridge team were the Treacys, Cleeres, Mickie Kelly, Johnny McGovern, and Dick Carroll.

His loss to all that knew him is enormous. Everyone will miss their own special piece of Jim Dobbyn, that they treasured. I will miss his benign friendship, his warmth, his laid-back disposition, and his generosity. The biggest loss of all will be felt by his wife, Ann, his son, Seamus, and his daughter, Noreen. Jim Dobbyn was unique among men. His likes may never pass this way again. They threw away the mould when he "was made". Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam d'Ilis.

All Ireland Medalists with other Counties. *(By Tom Ryall)*

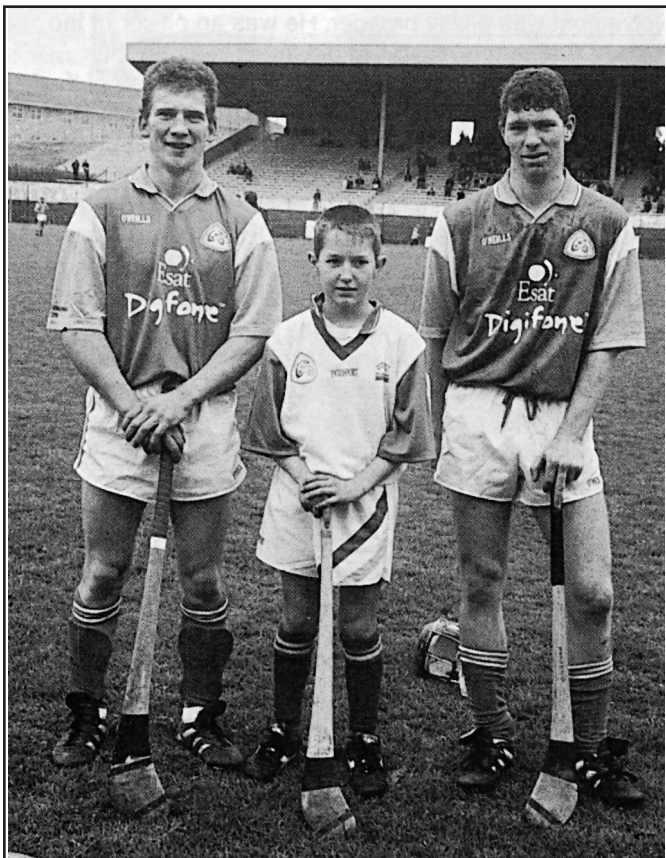
Last year when writing under the above heading, my greatest fear was that I would leave out someone, particularly at junior level. I had in mind players who might have won with London or Warwickshire and who could easily be overlooked. I asked at the time to be informed if, indeed, anyone had been overlooked. When the article appeared I, was immediately struck with two glaring omissions at, would you believe, senior level. I just cannot explain my memory lapse. I could say that is was the Editor pressurising me for copy but it would be a lie. Barry Henriques would not be so demanding considering the liberty he gives to clubs!

The two people omitted were Bob O'Keeffe (Mooncoin) and Tom Ryan (Clara). Bob O'Keeffe first played for Meath in the Leinster championship of 1902 when he was teaching in Dunboyne. Upon taking a position in Borris in Ossory, he threw in his lot with Laois. He helped them to Leinster honours in 1914 and 1915. Beaten by Clare in the 1914 final, he was back the following year to help Laois beat Cork in the All Ireland. That Laois team was trained by Kilkenny star of the time, Dick Drug Walsh from Mooncoin. It must be assumed that it was Bob O'Keeffe who got Drug Walsh to train the team. Bob O'Keeffe was on the Leinster team which won the Railway Shield outright at St James' Park in July 1908. He later became a top official and was Leinster Chairman 1924-1934. He was president of the G.A.A from 1935 to 1937. The present Leinster senior hurling trophy commemorates this outstanding Kilkennyman.

Tom Ryan was a native of Clara and won his All Ireland medals with Wexford in 1955 and 1956. Unfortunately, since the article was written last year, Tom has sadly passed away. Billy Rackard, Tom's old playing colleague writes of Tom elsewhere in this publication. My omission is all the more inexplicable considering that I sat beside his late brother, Liam, in the Nally stand on the day he won his first medal in 1955. Tom played with the Kilkenny minors, winning a Leinster medal in 1942 the final which took place as a curtain raiser to the 1943 All Ireland senior final between Cork and Antrim. This was a star-studded Kilkenny side and might well have taken All Ireland honours if the competition had been played. He hurled with the Leinster Colleges team which lost to Munster in 1943. In 1949 he was on the Kilkenny junior team which lost the All Ireland Home Final to Clare.

The other two players not included last year both won All Ireland junior medals with Louth. I learned this through research I did during the Summer. Michael McGarry (Dicksboro) came on as a sub for the Wee county against Mayo in the 1976 final. I checked it out with his brother Jimmy to make sure I had the right person. The following year 1977 Nicky Hoyne (Graigue Ballycallan) was a sub on the Louth team which beat Fermanagh in the final. Nicky is a former secretary of the Graigue Ballycallan club and an uncle to present players John and Micheál.

TULLAROAN INTERNATIONALS



Tullaroan Hurling Club was the only club with three representatives at the Hurling-Shinty International games held in Kilkenny in March. From left:- **Liam Keoghan** (Senior), **Mark Walsh** (U12), and **Jimmy Coogan** (U21). *Photo Tom O'Neill*

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Kilkenny Craft Behind Hurling Success Down Under

By 'Setanta'

The sight of the black and amber is usually enough in itself to strike fear into the hearts of any opposition on the hurling field. While the colours may not have been clearly discernible on the playing fields of Australia this year, the thumb-print of the Cats was very much stamped on the success enjoyed by the newly formed Sydney Shamrocks team and the representative team of New South Wales.

Bubbling under the blue and white-sashed jersey of the Shamrocks, and the sky blue of the NSW team at the Australasian Games in Brisbane, was the Kilkenny factor which erupted in spectacular fashion on numerous occasions during the eight month season.

The Shamrocks were founded last year by All Ireland medal winner Bill Hennessy (Tullaroan), Nicky Murphy (Carrickshock) and Larry Delahunty (Mooncoin), with the assistance of Harry Dermody (Mooncoin), Mike Dunphy (Carrickshock) and Niall Keogh, son of Paudge, from Wexford.

In only its second season, the club surpassed the traditional sides in the state - Michael Cusacks and Central Coast - to win a clean sweep of shield, league and championship honours. That it did so without the aid of the Hennessy brothers (Bill and Paul), and some of the stalwarts of last season, such as Patsy Brophy and John Delaney (both Erins Own), and Sean Teehan (Tullaroan), speaks volumes for how the club has progressed.

Instrumental in this development has been Nicky Murphy, on whose shoulders rests much of the burden of running the club.

Plagued with financial problems, injuries and shortages of hurleys and sliothars, the tenacious corner-back is unswerving in his loyalty to the cause and has been known to sign players on airport runways, such is his commitment.

In October, Nicky captained the NSW team to victory in the state games at which teams from all over Australia and New Zealand competed. The team also included Mike Holohan (O'Loughlins), Paudge Hennessy (Threecastles), Eddie Mackey (Mooncoin), Philly Coogan (Tullaroan), Eddie Brennan (Erins Own), Kevin O'Shea (Piltown), Damien Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks) and Eamon Phelan (Carrickshock).

"It was a great honour for me to captain such a great bunch of lads in the state games," Nicky said. "It was also brilliant to win out all the competitions in NSW with the Shamrocks, which is a tribute to the work put in by Bill Hennessy and the other club founders."

From Hugginstown, Nicky encourages young people coming to



Captain of New South Wales, Nicky Murphy (Carrickshock), receives the Australasian Games Hurling Cup from GAA President Joe McDonagh.

Australia to get involved in the GAA. "It's a great way to meet people and for getting work," he points out, "Once they play with us, that is!" he adds.

But Nicky has two regrets: watching Kilkenny lose out to Offaly in the All Ireland final and missing 'Shocks involvement in the county junior final. "We read about them both in the Kilkenny People, which we get sent out every week."

Carrickshock's loss, has been Sydney Shamrocks' and NSW's gain.



Sydney Shamrocks

New South Wales League and Championship winners 1998

Back: Tony Hough, Paddy McCarthy, Michael Finn, Nicky Murphy (Carrickshock), Brian McCarthy, John Nugent, Eddie Brennan (Erins Own), Danny Lawlor (Cloneen), Seamus Byrne (St. Martins), Michael Burke, Sean Teehan (Tullaroan), Paul Hennessy (Tullaroan), Eddie Carroll.

Front: Brian Murphy, Trevor Sinnott, Niall Carroll, Eamon Phelan (Carrickshock), Darren Owens, Philly Coogan (Tullaroan), James Lee, Bill Hennessy (Tullaroan), Garret Dorian, Ollie Fitzgerald, Peter Walsh, Brendan Fitzgerald.

Missing from photo: Mick Dunphy (Carrickshock), Kevin O'Shea (Piltown).

To all Welsh folk who follow their national rugby team home and away, the journey across the Irish Sea for the biennial gathering of the clans is something to look forward to. However, not for the Pontypridd boys the lure of Dublin's fair city. Oh no, no, no! For them, Kilkenny is the place to be. Ever since the advertisement submitted by Willie Duggan and the Irish Tourist Board appeared in the Wales-Ireland programme at Cardiff in 1991, Kilkenny has been the destination for our crowd. We will be eternally grateful to Willie for extolling the virtues of your wonderful city—the number of superb pubs and bars may also be a contributory factor!

Our gang has grown from the original five die-hards who made the initial journey in 1992 to the fourteen who made the crossing in March of this year. We have made many friends since coming to Kilkenny for the first time but two have to be mentioned in particular. It was at Kilkenny Railway Station on the morning of the 1992 International that we first bumped into Tommy O'Brien and Joe Ayres. This liaison has continued ever since, with reciprocal visits to Pontypridd by Tommy, Joe and many other friends.

Sometime during February of this year, I received the usual phone call from Tommy checking on the arrangements for the coming sojourn. During the conversation he mentioned the fact that on Sunday, March 21st, there was a hurling match taking place in Kilkenny and were we interested. I have to admit that, never having seen a live confrontation, the prospect did spark more than a little interest! He went on to explain that the game was against Wexford.

I am acutely aware of the intensity a game of this nature would arouse, as a result of a conversation I had with a Wexford colleen on the evening of an international in Cardiff. She explained the neighbourly rivalry between Kilkenny and Wexford. Armed with this knowledge, I stirred up interest among our party as I felt Kilkenny would need as much support as possible against such deadly rivals. With this task duly undertaken, fourteen tickets were ordered during my next conversation with Tommy the Tout.

During the coming weeks building up to the trip, the Ponty contingent continually spoke of a successful weekend—Wales beating Ireland on Saturday; Kilkenny beating Wexford on Sunday; and a Welsh/Irish type celebration on Sunday night.

The Saturday, as history will show, saw Wales defeat Ireland 30-21 and we were especially heartened by the performances of two Pontypridd players who contributed a whopping 25 of the 30 points.

Sunday 21st dawned bright and sunny and, following the usual full English (Irish?) breakfast at the Metropole Hotel, the party gathered at the bar for another assault on the Black Stuff. I must compliment Robert Delaney, the proprietor of the hotel, who proves an excellent host on each occasion when we visit Kilkenny. Simon Brennan from Johnswell had the job of guiding us to Nowlan Park and promised us that, after the game, we would be whisked away to Brennan's Bar for a cultural evening with the Brennan family.

We were surprised at the huge crowds mulling around the stadium prior to the game. Not really having a feel for the sport, we did not know really what to expect.

Sardis Road, our home ground where we have average home crowds of 6,000, carries with it the nickname "The House of Pain" because of the mauling rival teams can expect at the hands of our heroes. However, Nowlan Park appeared to us to carry a similar mantle as hurling is certainly not a game for faint hearts.

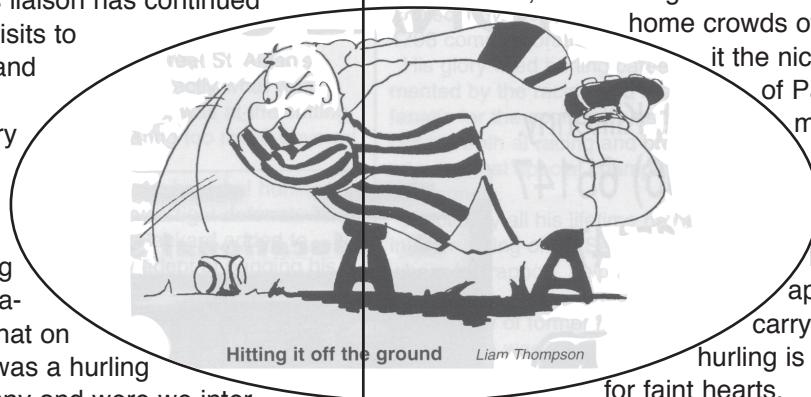
One Pontypridd player—Dale McIntosh—is notorious for his robust tackling and his attitude in the face of adversity when he is incapable of taking a step backwards. However, I think even Dale would feel a little uncomfortable facing the challenges we witnessed during our hurling match.

On entering the stadium, we bought our colours (black and amber, of course) and moved to seats around the halfway line as near the action as possible, ready to cheer Kilkenny on to victory. Sat behind us were a group of Wexford fans equally determined to shout their side on to an away win. This was a recipe for a bit of friendly banter—or at least that was the general idea!

However one Wexford lady seemed determined to

WELSH SUPPORT FOR KILKENNY HURLERS

By Mal Davies, Pontypridd Rugby Football Club.



scream her home team to victory on her own. This inevitably led to a bit of Mickey-taking from our crowd, which spurred her on to even greater heights as the first half went on. I felt sorry for Simon, our host for the game, as he tried to explain the niceties of the game over the wails of the Wexford banshee!

Halftime arrived and, at this point, I felt the need to go for a natural break. This was the first time I would get sighting of our enemy. I fully expected to see a huge Amazon type character. Imagine my surprise as I was walking up the steps and this petite young girl rose from her seat and, with her nose virtually touching my face, subjected me to a verbal assault.

At first I thought she was greeting me in Gaelic but I have to admit that I did recognise some of the language and it would not have sounded out of place in the most aroused dressing room! Suffice to say that the second half brought much of the same and was brought to a peak by an injury to one player the like of which I have not seen for a long time. The Wexford wailer was in her element when the stick of a Wexford player seemed to "collide" with the helmet of a Kilkenny player.

At this point I was extolling the wisdom of the protective headgear when the trainer ran on to treat the injured player. He removed the helmet and I now understand the phrase "a mask of blood". Had this type of injury occurred in some other sports the player would have been rolling around on the ground before being carried off on a stretcher to an awaiting ambulance. Not this guy! He walked off nonchalantly for treatment!

I would not attempt to give an opinion on the standard of the game but, for entertainment value, it was compulsive viewing. As you will appreciate, in rugby it is generally the idea to win the ball and keep it as long as possible. I was bemused to learn that in hurling, having got control of the ball, the idea is to hit it as far down the pitch as possible. But hurling fans will know that mine is just the simplistic view from someone who knows nothing about the game.

All I will say is that it is the fastest live sport I have ever watched and that the players' skill in bringing the ball under control was something to behold. We were delighted that the second leg of our weekend ambitions was realised with a Kilkenny victory.

Following the game we retired to Brennan's in Johnswell to enjoy a cultural exchange with Simon and his family. Simon inevitably produced his guitar and treated us to an evening of wonderful Irish songs while our contingent did much to refute the commonly held view that the Welsh can sing! A great evening was enjoyed by all and the third leg was well under way!

The next morning dawned and the journey to Dublin Airport loomed—but not before scouring the town for a Kilkenny jersey to proudly boast that I was there the day the hurlers did your county proud.

POB HWYL KILKENNY O'R PONTYPRIDD!

MICHAEL CROTTY

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Tom Ryan Remembered

A Tribute to the late Tom Ryan of Maddockstown, by his former playing colleague, **Billy Rackard** of Wexford.

In recent weeks, spreading like a forest fire across county Wexford and further afield, the news of Tom Ryan's tragic untimely death was greeted with deep sadness. Yet another icon from the halcyon hurling days of the fifties had departed this life to join quite a number of his team mates. Present day hurling followers might ask, who was Tom Ryan? For those of us who remember back to the great era of not just a provincial and All-Ireland final, but a hurling calendar of wonderful Oireachtas, League and Railway Cups, Tom Ryan was a central figure in many of Wexford's great triumphs. A Kilkenny man from Maddockstown, Clara, he arrived in Enniscorthy in 1952 having resigned his position as a member of the Garda Síochána, a job he just did not care for. Unknown and unheralded and now twenty eight years of age, no one could possibly forecast the impact that this man was to make on his adopted county. Also unknown to many was the fact that his record would have shown that he had represented Kilkenny in all grades of hurling, and when in Dublin in the Gardai, he had also played at top level.

At the time of his arrival in the Model county, the mighty Wexford hurling machine of that decade had been kick started, but was not ticking over properly. Something was needed.

Ryan, who had linked up with the great St. Aidan's team of that time, turned out to be exactly what was needed. My brother, Nickey Rackard, was at the cutting edge of Wexford attacks and bearing too much physical attention from defenders.

Ryan, now alongside him, played a brand of hurling chicanery that was to disrupt many a tight defence. The result: much-needed freedom for Rackard added to which Ryan turned out to be very adept at bagging his own scores, goals in particular.

The Wexford machine was now purring perfectly. He may not be looked upon as one of the great stars of his era - he never wanted to be; he was the original low profile county hurler both on and off the field.

An enigmatic player, his style was an odd mixture but hugely effective. Controversy where Tom was concerned was never far away. His contretemps with Cork back Tony O'Shaughnessy both in the 1954 and '56 finals is the stuff of legend.

Whenever the subject is mentioned, Wexford followers who were at both games show a dignified restraint for discussion, but usually display broad smiles of approval.

I wish to say here that I had the honour of marking him on, I think, three occasions, and even in the most torrid exchanges he was the ultimate sportsman. Gifted with a



Tom Ryan

wry sense of humour, he was also a born prankster. In fact he was nicknamed 'Trick' Ryan. This latent sense of fun whenever the opportunity arose saw him cause hilarious humorous annoyance to a pal of perhaps a member of his family.

A deeply religious man, he was very much part of the social, sporting and political fabric of his adopted town, Enniscorthy. He took a keen interest in the wonderful 1798 commemorations taking place this year.

His glory-filled hurling career, once over, was supplemented by the racing and breeding of greyhounds. A fanatic for the sport, he was rewarded with many successes both at racing and breeding, always hoping that one day that special champion would first see the light in his kennels.

Practically all his lifetime he held a responsible position in the running of St. Senan's hospital, Enniscorthy, where his rapport, help and kindness to patients was well known.

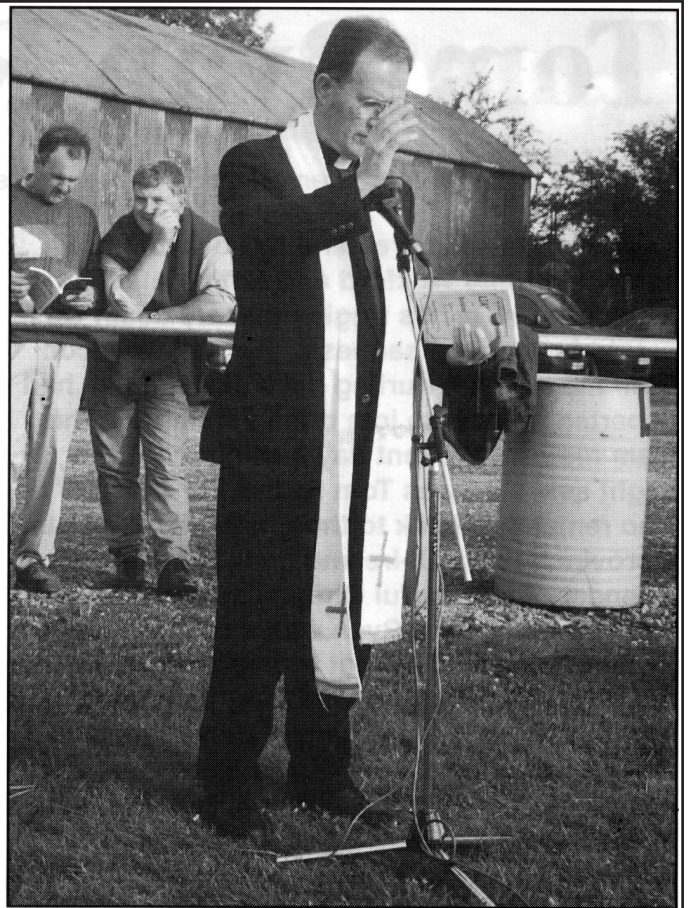
A nephew of former Minister for Agriculture, Tom Walshe, he was married to Breda Doyle whose brother, John, has raised the spirits of many a hurler in the famous Duffry pub. They were blessed with a fine family of six boys and three girls.

Tom's life was a happy scene. I know I speak for thousands both in side and outside the county when I offer my very deepest sympathy to his family on the loss of a husband and father.

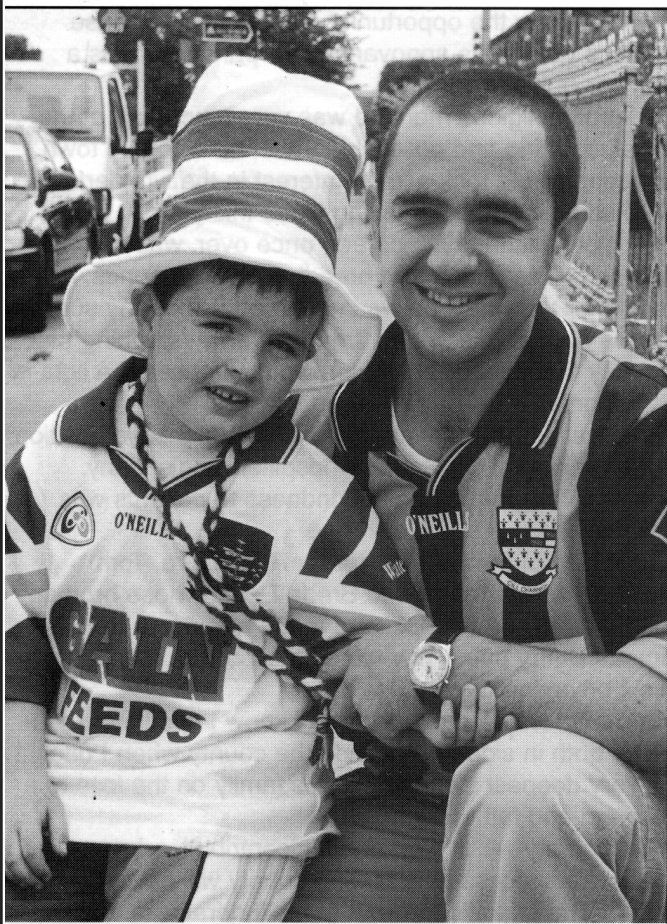
His memory will live on and his contribution to Wexford's success as a hurling county will never be forgotten. The gigantic turn-out at his funeral was indeed eloquent testimony to the high esteem Tom was held in, not just as an outstanding hurler but also as a member of the community in which he lived.



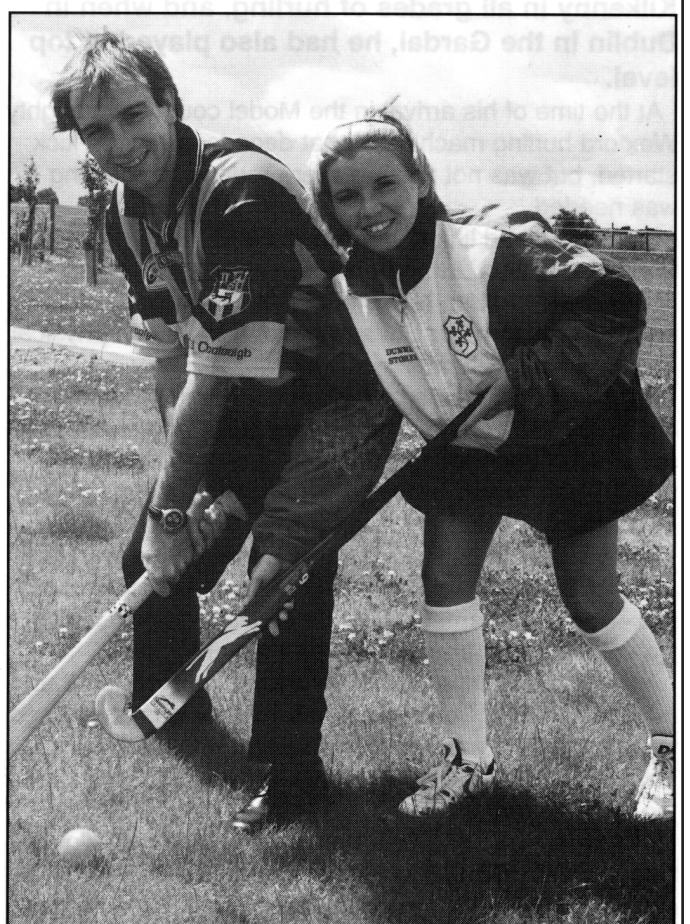
Lory Meagher giving Jimmy Walsh, Kilkenny Goalkeeper sound advice. Leinster Final 1945



Fr Jim Murphy, PP Clara blesses their new pitch.
Photo Tom O'Neill



Best of Pals: James O'Hanlon and his son, Jamie (6) were in opposite corners at the All Ireland Hurling Semi-final.
Photo Tom Brett



Kilkenny hurler DJ Carey matches his skills with his international hockey playing sister, Caitriona.
Photo Tom Brett

KILKENNY GAA RESULTS 1998

Credit Union Senior Hurling Final Graig-Ballycallan.....1-14 Fenians.....0-12	Glenmore.....0-14 Dunnamaggin.....1-9	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B South Final Mullinavat.....4-13 Kilmacow.....0-2
Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Final Clara.....0-12 Mooncoin.....0-10	Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn A North Final Conahy Shamrocks.....3-14 St. Martins.....0-8	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C North Final Conahy Shamrocks.....1-14 Cloneen.....1-6
Junior Hurling County Final Blacks & Whites.....2-11 Carrickshock.....0-11	Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn B North Final Tullaroan.....2-12 O'Loughlin-Gaels.....1-15 (Replay) Tullaroan.....2-9 O'Loughlin-Gaels.....1-9	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C South Final Carrickshock.....3-5 Glenmore.....0-1
Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final Glenmore.....2-13 Conahy Shamrocks.....0-8	Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn B South Final Carrickshock.....2-7 John Lockes.....1-7	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Final - John Tobin Memorial Cup James Stephens v. Shamrocks Emeralds v. Fenians
Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final Tullaroan.....2-6 Carrickshock.....2-6 Replay Tullaroan.....2-10 Carrickshock.....0-5	Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Roinn A Final Glenmore v. Rower-Inistioge	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final Mullinavat v. Tullaroan or Bennettsbridge / Danesfort
Under-21 Hurling Roinn A County Final Unfinished	Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Roinn B Final Carrickshock.....1-10 Kilmacow.....1-10 Replay Carrickshock.....1-12 Kilmacow.....0-9	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Final Piltown.....2-5 Thomastown.....1-8 Replay Piltown.....1-7 Thomastown.....0-4
Under-21 Hurling Roinn B County Final Unfinished	Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. II Final James Stephens.....3-9 Conahy Shamrocks.....2-8	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. IV Final Clara.....2-15 St. Martins.....1-8
Under-21 Hurling Roinn C County Final Danesfort.....0-13 Cloneen.....1-6	Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. III Final Danesfort.....3-7 O'Loughlin-Gaels.....1-9	Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn A County Final James Stephens.....1-14 Shamrocks.....2-4
Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A County Final Dunnamaggin.....1-7 James Stephens.....1-4	Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final Blacks & Whites.....3-11 Dicksboro.....1-16	Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn B County Final Carrickshock.....2-16 St. Martins.....2-8
Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B County Final Mullinavat.....1-11 Tullaroan.....2-5	Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn A North Final Graig-Ballycallan v. James Stephens	Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn C County Final Tullagher-Rosbercon.....4-13 Galmoy.....1-4
Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C County Final Conahy Shamrocks.....1-7 Carrickshock.....1-6	Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling Roinn A South Final Dunnamaggin v. Mooncoin or Graignamanagh	Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling League Roinn A Final James Stephens.....3-9 Shamrocks.....1-10
Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final Graig-Ballycallan.....2-12 Glenmore.....0-13	Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn B North Final Unfinished	Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling League Roinn B Final Carrickshock.....0-16 St. Martins.....1-6
Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final Bennettsbridge.....2-14 Thomastown.....1-12	Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling Roinn B South Final Shamrocks v. Mullinavat	Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling League Roinn C Final Tullagher-Rosbercon.....6-21 Blacks & Whites.....1-5
Byrne Cup Hurling Final (Open Draw) Dicksboro.....2-9 Graig-Ballycallan.....1-9	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A North Final James Stephens.....6-7 O'Loughlin/Gaels.....1-4	Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling Roinn A County Final Shamrocks.....5-11 Dicksboro.....3-2
Hennessy Sports All County Junior Hurling League Final Blacks & Whites.....1-11 Carrickshock.....1-10	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A South Final Dunnamaggin.....1-12 Rower-Inistioge.....2-5	Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling Roinn B County Final Carrickshock.....7-8 St. Martins.....2-8
Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling Final Blacks & Whites.....0-5 Emeralds.....0-4	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B North Final Tullaroan.....6-10 Bennettsbridge/Danesfort.....2-5	Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling Roinn C County Final
Iverk Produce South Junior Hurling Final Carrickshock.....0-11 Windgap.....0-6		
Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn A South Final		

County Fina	
Slieverue.....	6-2
Cloneen.....	5-4

Under-14 Hurling Féile na nGael (Paddy Grace Memorial)	
Shamrocks.....	6-15
Dicksboro.....	1-4

Duggan Steel Under-14 Hurling League Roinn C Final	
Rower-Inistioge.....	3-8
Blacks & Whites.....	0-9

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn A County Final (Educational Supplies League)	
St. Patricks DLS.....	4-10
Freshford.....	1-6

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn B County Final (Hennessy Fuels League)	
Coon / Muckalee.....	5-6
Tullogher / Rosbercon.....	1-4

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn C County Final (Paddy O'Connell Dublin League)	
Gaelscoil Osraí.....	4-2
Clara.....	2-3

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn D County Final (Tedcastles Oil)	
Goresbridge-Paulstown.....	1-10
Windgap.....	1-2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Hurling Final (Tedcastles Oil)	
Corn Na Bhaldraithe	
Carrickshock.....	1-6
Ballyhale.....	1-5

Football

Senior County Football Final	
James Stephens.....	0-9
Glenmore.....	0-9
Replay not played to date	

Intermediate County Football Final	
Erins Own.....	0-10
Clara.....	1-3

Junior County Football Final	
Young Irelands.....	0-9
Mullinavat.....	0-6

Special Junior Football Final	
No Competition	

Under 21 Football Roinn A Final	
Unfinished	

Under 21 Football Roinn B Final	
Unfinished	

Northern Junior Football Final	
Young Irelands.....	5-6
Danesfort.....	0-8

Southern Junior Football Final	
Mullinavat.....	2-9
Kilmacow.....	0-9

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A County Final	
O'Loughlin-Gaels.....	2-10
Graig-Ballycallan.....	1-1

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B

Final	
Emeralds.....	1-9
Mooncoin.....	2-4

Duggan Steel Under-16 Football Roinn A Final	
James Stephens.....	2-8
Emeralds.....	1-11
Replay not played to date	

Duggan Steel Under-16 Football Roinn B Final	
St. Lachtains v. Mullinavat or Carrickshock	

Duggan Steel Under-16 Football Roinn C Final	
Bennettsbridge v. Mooncoin or Tullogher	

Duggan Steel Under-14 Football Roinn A Final	
Shamrocks.....	3-6
Carrickshock.....	2-6

Duggan Steel Under-14 Football Roinn B Final	
Piltown.....	4-9
Mooneenroe.....	1-12

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn A Football Final - Bertie O'Callaghan Cup (Kilkenny Association, Dublin)	
St. Patricks DLS.....	2-6
Thomastown.....	0-3

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn B Football Final (Toymaster League)	
Coon / Muckalee v. Rower-Inistioge	

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn C Football Final (Tedcastles Oil)	
Conahy Shamrocks.....	3-3
Bennettsbridge.....	2-3

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Football Final	
Coon / Muckalee v. Tullogher / Rosbercon	

Northern U-21 Football Roinn A Final	
Unfinished	

Southern U-21 Football Roinn A Final	
Unfinished	

Northern U-21 Football Roinn B Final	
Unfinished	

Southern U-21 Football Roinn B Final	
Unfinished	

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B North Final	
Emeralds.....	2-9
St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....	1-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B South Final	
Mooncoin.....	1-4
Rower-Inistioge.....	0-5

Special Under 14 Football Final	
Unfinished	

The Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A championship is played on an open draw basis.

Outstanding Results 1997

Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn B County Final	
Fenians.....	1-11
Piltown.....	1-2

Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling Roinn B North Final	
Fenians.....	2-9
Young Irelands.....	3-6
Replay	
Fenians.....	3-19
Young Irelands.....	2-8

Special Junior Hurling Championship Roinn B (refixture)	
Conahy Shamrocks.....	3-7
John Lockes.....	2-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Final	
James Stephens v. Emeralds	

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final	
Tullaroan.....	3-8
St. Lachtains.....	1-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Final	
Lisdowney.....	2-7
Thomastown.....	2-4

Special Junior Football Final	
Erins Own.....	0-9
Muckalee.....	1-6
Replay AET	
Erins Own.....	1-12
Muckalee.....	0-13

Under 21 Football Roinn A Final	
Glenmore.....	0-9
Erins Own.....	0-6

Under 21 Football Roinn B Final	
Young Irelands.....	0-9
Mooncoin.....	0-1

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn C Football Final	
Goresbridge / Paulstown.....	3-6
Bennettsbridge.....	1-2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Football Final	
St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....	2-10
Graignamanagh.....	3-7
Replay	
St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....	2-7
Graignamanagh.....	1-4

Northern Under 21 Football Roinn A Final	
Erins Own.....	2-9
Dicksboro.....	2-5

Southern Under 21 Roinn A Football Final	
Glenmore.....	2-10
Kilmoganny.....	2-4

Northern Under 21 Football Final Roinn B	
Young Irelands.....	1-10
Railyard.....	0-6

Southern Under 21 Football Roinn B Final	
Mooncoin.....	0-8
Mullinavat.....	0-8
After Extra Time	
Mooncoin.....	1-10
Mullinavat.....	0-9