

KILKENNY

GAA YEARBOOK



£5.95



KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2000

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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEAR- BOOK 2000

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Willoie O'Connor holds the All
Ireland Trophy aloft.
Photo - John McIlwaine,
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Poster:

Action study of Andy Comerford.
Photo - Sportsfile.

Editorial

After the disappointment of last year's defeat, the winning of the Millennium All-Ireland Final was most gratifying and memorable. The Senior hurlers had a marvellous season, with some magnificent games, magical scores, mouth-watering memories. Not one team got within two goals of the All-Ireland Champions as they carved a swathe through all and sundry in their quest for the Liam McCarthy Cup.

The emergence of young talent like Eamon Kennedy, John Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, Noel Hickey and Henry Shefflin was an added bonus. Their combined contribution was indeed remarkable.

It has been a labour of love to compile the yearbook that, hopefully, carries the story of their march towards success. All our great memories for the year are enshrined in the All Ireland victory. The hurling story elsewhere is not so glowing. The Intermediate team fared best of the rest. They won their Leinster title, although falling at the semi-final stage to Galway. Our under 21 team were a mite unfortunate, in so far as they were forced to line out without Henry Shefflin in the second round championship game against Offaly. He was carrying a worrying injury. Even though he did take the field late in the game, his presence was not sufficient to deny the Offaly men the spoils. Our Minor team suffered the same fate as the under 21 lads against the same opposition. Congratulations to the St.Kieran's College on winning, yet again, the All-Ireland Colleges Final against St Flannan's from Ennis. In a memorable final, one will always remember the performances of Ken Coogan, Jackie Tyrrell, and Tommy Walsh.

It was not a good year for any of the rest of our teams. Our under-age teams again failed to impress in the Tony Forristal or Nenagh Co-Op Tournaments, and our camogie queens fared no better.

It is my duty as Editor to pay due regard to the people who helped to publish this Yearbook. I am mindful of the help given by the many Club PRO's, the amateur and professional contributors. I extend my gratitude to them all. I thank the professionals, Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune), John Knox (Kilkenny People) and Diarmuid O'Flynn (Irish Examiner).

The contribution made by the professional photographers was enormous, and without them we could not have produced a book of this excellent quality. I particularly have in mind, people like Ray McManus, Tom Brett, John McIlwaine, Tommy O'Neill, and Dylan Vaughan.

I thank our committee— Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill, Tommy Lanigan, Richie Stone, Dermot Dunphy, John Knox, Tommy O'Brien, Martin Fogarty, Jimmy Walsh, and Ned Buggy.

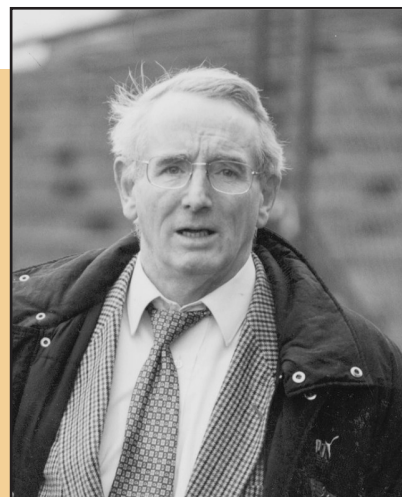
As always I exhort you to support our advertisers, without whose generosity we could not have undertaken the production of this Millenium issue of which we are all very proud.

Thanks to the staff of Kilkenny People Printing, whose professionalism was so important for this production.

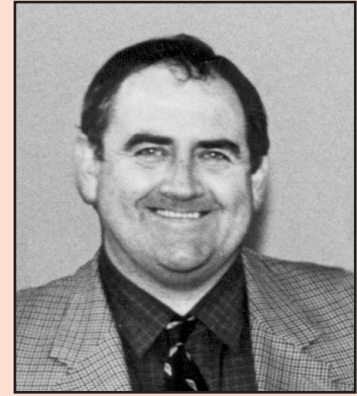
Finally, for any errors that may be within the covers of this book, I apologise in advance. I wish you, your family, and all your friends continued good health, and I hope reading this Yearbook helps to recall some of the great memories we all shared during a marvellous year for the Kilkenny GAA.

Nollaig shone dhibh go léir.

Barrie Henriques.
Editor



Foreword



Ag deireadh na bliana, is maith an rud siarfhéachaint a chaitheamh ar eachtraí an séasúir atá thart agus níl bealach níos fearr a leithéid a dhéanamh ná tré leathanaigh an fhoilsiúcháin bhreá seo.

It is a very great pleasure indeed to welcome the publication of the Kilkenny GAA Year Book, in this historic year 2000. The Millennium year hopes and aspirations of all Kilkenny followers were well and truly realised in Croke Park on the second Sunday of September when, with a magical display, our Senior Hurling Team achieved a great victory. Congratulations and thanks to Captain Willie O'Connor and to every member of the victorious panel on bringing the Liam McCarthy cup back to Kilkenny and for the joy and excitement that they gave us all along the way. Thanks also to Team Manager Brian Cody, selectors, Ger Henderson and Johnny Walsh, trainer Mick O'Flynn and the entire backroom team on a job well done. Great credit is also due to our wonderful supporters who have given tremendous support in good times and bad times and the reception the team received on their triumphant return home will long be remembered by those privileged to witness it. Congratulations, too, to our record-equalling nine All-Stars on their well-deserved distinction.

Our Intermediate team retained the Lenister title but success eluded us at both under twenty one and minor grades and so we have to redouble our efforts to recapture these titles in the coming years. St. Kieran's College and Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown kept the flag flying on the schools scene by qualifying for the All-Ireland "A" Finals in the Colleges and Vocational Schools competitions respectively for the second year in a row. Congratulations to St. Kieran's on their great victory.

Kilkenny County Board acknowledges the contribution of our ream sponsors Glanbia PLC and that of St. Canices Credit Union, Vale Oil, JJ Kavanagh and Sons, Bus Eireann, Barlo Nissan, Iverk Produce, Hennessy Sports, Michael Lyng Motors, Iarnrod Eireann and Duggan Steel sponsors of all our local competitions.

There were many outstanding achievements at club level during the past year. Our Senior County final was contested by Graigue Ballycallan, who were appearing in their third final in a row, and O'Loughlin Gaels, who were contesting their first ever senior final, with victory going to the Graigue Ballycallan club for the second time. Since then they have added the Leinster club title and we wish them well in their quest for All-Ireland honours. Dunamaggin hurling club and Kilmogany football club enjoyed a wonderful year, the hurlers winning the Intermediate, Special Junior "A" and the footballers winning the Senior Championship. James Stephens created their own piece of club history by winning the junior hurling championship thus qualifying to contest the Senior and Intermediate hurling championship for the

first time. The Emeralds club from Urlingford celebrated their first ever victory in the Roinn "A" Minor hurling championship. Mullinavat were winners in Intermediate football with the Junior title being won by the Rower- Inistioige. Our efforts to promote football at Inter county level continue to frustrate us with the only positive sign coming at the end of the year with the enthusiasm shown by our under 14's and in particular the skill and ability displayed by a very promising under 16 outfit. Kilkenny Handballers were again very successful with All-Ireland honours achieved in many grades, pride of place going once again to Michael "Duxie" Walsh who won his 15th All-Ireland Senior Singles title. This year marked the end of an era at Bord na nÓg in our county. When first formed, it was responsible for organising just three competitions, but, over the years, it has grown and expanded to where it now caters for twenty-seven competitions. Much of the credit for the enormous development must go to Mr. Tom Ryal who has been secretary of Board na nÓg for the past twenty-eight years. Tom recently relinquished his position and, on behalf of all GAA people in the county, I thank him sincerely for his unequalled contribution to Gaelic games in Kilkenny.

As we approach the end of the first year of the 21st century, how fortunate we are in Kilkenny to have so many people willing to give so much of their leisure time in a voluntary capacity to the playing, promotion and refereeing of our games. Let us all resolve in every parish to give these people the support that they deserve. By doing so, we will ensure that the glory and excitement generated by this year's wonderful All-Ireland victory will be repeated many times in future years.

Finally I wish to compliment our year book committee on a wonderful production in this very special year and also those responsible for the publication of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Bible, an outstanding statistical record of results and achievements by clubs, colleges, county and province in hurling, football and camogie. To Gerry O'Neill, compiler of the Kilkenny GAA Bible, Pat Henderson (Chairman of the Year Book Committee), Barrie Henriques (Editor) and all who have contributed, sincere congratulations and many thanks.

**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.

Delaney & Purcell & the Thunder of the Gods

By Enda McEvoy, Sunday Tribune



The Terrible Twins - Pat Delaney and Kieran Purcell

The early 1970s, the period in which the latter duo played, was the third golden age of Kilkeny hurling. There is no way of telling its story without also telling the story of Delaney and Purcell.

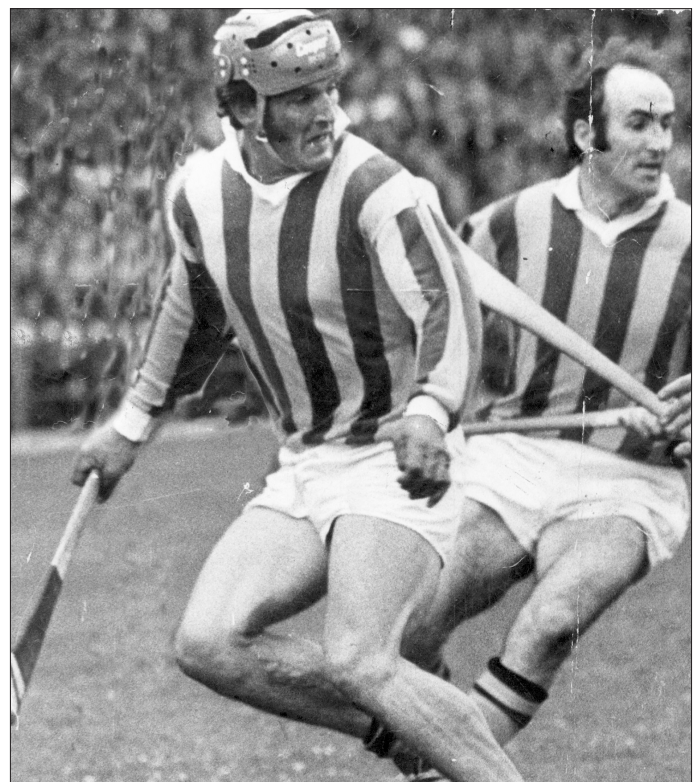
Kilkenny never had a double act like them before. Almost certainly they'll never have a double act like them again. Not at the same time, at any rate. As big as they were strong, as hardy as they were forceful, Delaney and Purcell constituted a rod of iron down the centre of the Noreside attack as the county racked up five successive Leinster titles and three All Ireland victories in the space of five seasons. Yet to hold that despite their significance they were basically one-dimensional, that their only purpose in life was to hew the wood and draw the water for the likes of Eddie Keher around them, is both unfair and incorrect. These guys could hurl.

Think of Delaney's three-goal haul in the 1969 Leinster final, which helped Kilkenny beat Offaly by two points (3-9 to 0-16), set the county on the road to another McCarthy Cup success and as a byproduct delayed Offaly's emergence by a decade. Think of Purcell's smashing goal against Tipperary in 1971. Think of Delaney bouncing the sliotar off the ground and back into his hand against Cork a year later, one of the riders on Kilkenny's last-quarter storm. Think of the blow an already punch-drunk team suffered in 1973 when Purcell was laid low

The public are not always right. Which isn't to suggest that the thousands of hurling fans from around the county who cast their votes for the Kilkeny Team of the Century recently got it wrong when they came to deciding who should fill the centre-forward and full-forward spots, but merely that two eminently well-qualified candidates who didn't make the cut had ample reason to feel hard done by. If John Power and Christy Heffernan, the chosen pair, can be classed as folk heroes of the Black and Amber - as indisputably they can - so too can the non-chosen pair, Pat Delaney and Kieran Purcell.



Kieran Purcell scores a great goal against Tipperary in the 1971 All Ireland Final



"Between them they gave Eddie Keher the freedom to exercise his skills as distinct from having to take a lot of abuse."

by an appendix operation. Fast forward to the 1976 National League final replay against Clare in Thurles and another hat-trick from Delaney.

Pat Delaney and Kieran Purcell. Kilkenny's own answer to gaelic football's terrible twins from Galway, Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell. Each was masterly, or as close to it as made no difference, in his own position. Each could also make a more than competent fist of things in the other player's position. They could, and did, interchange at a moment's notice, almost invariably initiating the switch themselves without needing instruction from the sideline. Double trouble indeed.

A county colleague of his in the 1970s, Mick Crotty had known Kieran Purcell from a long way back, the two of them having begun secondary school together in St Kieran's on the same day in 1958. Purcell wasn't slow about making an impression, showing such promise in the first-year league matches between September and Christmas that, come the new year, he graduated to the second- and third-year leagues along with his contemporaries Godfrey Moylan from Danesfort and Maurice Aylward, elder brother of current Carlow-Kilkenny TD Liam Aylward. "Right from the start," Crotty says, "it was apparent how much ability Kieran had."

Purcell's vast natural talent is a theme commented on again and again by his former teammates. While he and Delaney were broadly similar in looks and physique, in terms of style they were poles apart. Purcell was the more skilful, his excellence under the dropping ball a byproduct of his gaelic football background at home in Windgap. "Kieran was terrific at plucking the sliotar out of the air, and he guarded his catching hand very well in doing so," Pat Henderson recalls. "Pat worked a different way. He was low set to the ground, he controlled our attacks once in possession. Between them they gave Eddie Keher the freedom to exercise his skills as distinct from having to take a lot of abuse."

Too true, agrees Keher, a veteran of the old rules hurling. It wasn't, Inistioge's finest adds, that Kilkenny "were soft" in that age when men were men, John Doyle was head chef in Hell's Kitchen and opposition forwards had good cause to be very, very nervous. "Our forwards were very good, but they were



"Right from the start, it was apparent how much ability Kieran had."

light, and the opposition defences we came up against were physically strong. But once Purcell and Delaney came along we were able to match the other counties in that area."

What's more, according to Keher, the two of them couldn't have arrived on the scene at a more apposite time, with Delaney emerging after two strikingly poor junior teams in the parish of Johnstown united under the banner of Fenians to capture the county junior crown in 1968 before progressing to senior glory in 1970. Though Kilkenny had won the All Ireland in 1967, many of those players were not about to steer the county to further glory in the new decade; Tom Walsh had already departed the scene and Keher himself, a part of the furniture since 1959, was pushing on in years. Then Delaney and Purcell materialised and made a new man of him, in the process allowing him to negotiate the journey from hurling artist to hurling legend.

"A couple of the players had retired by the end of the 1960s. I was beginning to wind down myself, to lose pace, and I suppose I could easily have called it a day. But Pat and Kieran added years to my career. Over time it became easy to read their game and feed off them. When eventually they retired, I speeded up my own retirement. There was little point in staying on without them."

Delaney and Purcell provided balance along with punch. The Kilkenny team of the 1970s, Mick Crotty points out, was lucky in that it had a good mix, much of it supplied by the pair of them. "All six forwards were six feet tall or over, and strong enough to be able to hold their own. But Delaney and Purcell were the two who created the havoc. Delaney had this tremendous ability to grab a ball and run – and the more opponents that hopped off him, the more he liked it. Micheal O'Hehir would often talk in his commentaries about a player getting his dander up. When Pat Delaney got his dander up, he'd go through a stone wall."

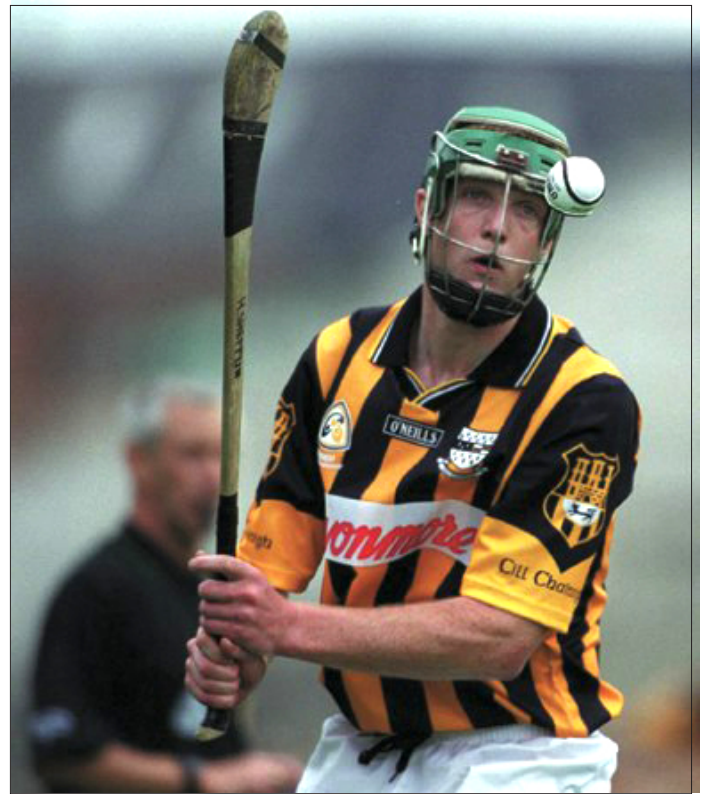
Such memories. Such men.



Pat Delaney and Billy Fitzpatrick in the 1974 Final

PARADISE REGAINED

by Enda McEvoy
(Sunday Tribune)



Henry Shefflin strikes....again! Photo Sportsfile

Langton's, the Friday night before the millennium Guinness All Ireland hurling final. "Sit down," commanded Pat Tynan, Kilkenny city walking tour guide extraordinaire. "Sit down and tell us who's going to win on Sunday. I want to talk about this match - but nobody else seems to want to. Have you ever seen so many Kilkenny people terrified to talk?" Pat Tynan was not exaggerating. "Terrified to talk" was exactly it. Terrified at the prospect of DJ and the boys making the wrong type of history by doing the wrong type of three-in-a-row, terrified to engage with the vision of Offaly coming back from

the dead in the final reel of the movie, terrified at the apocalyptic implications for Kilkenny hurling in the event of a third successive All Ireland defeat. Let's talk about the weather, let's talk about the price of cattle, let's talk about anything but this match.

Seventy-two hours later, everyone wanted to talk about nothing but that match.

The primary emotion? Relief. A huge communal sigh of relief, from Castlecomer to Carrigeen. Sure, there was plenty of



Jubilation! - Peter Barry's face says it all. Photo Sportsfile



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2000

Photo Sportsfile

Back: Philip Larkin, Noel Hickey, Henry Shefflin, John Hoyne, Andy Comerford, Peter Barry, John Power, Eamon Kennedy
Front: Michael Kavanagh, Charlie Carter, James McGarry, Willie O'Connor (Captain), Denis Byrne, DJ Carey, Brian McEvoy,



DJ Carey makes the vital catch over Brian Feeney before his great goal in the semi-final.

Photo Sportsfile

pleasure apparent at the style of Kilkenny's performance, and considerable satisfaction besides, but the Black and Amber's 26th All Ireland title was mostly about relief. Ghosts exorcised, bogeys laid, a seven-year itch comprehensively scratched and the materialisation of the long-awaited individual All Ireland display from DJ Carey that the Gowran man's reputation demanded. Put the McCarthy Cup triumph of 2000 right up alongside those of 1947, 1972 and 1982 in the Kilkenny pantheon. This was one to be savoured, cherished, gloated over for many a long day.

On a superficial level the win underlined a time-honoured sporting nostrum: when it's your day, it's your day. In atomising Offaly on September 10th, the Cats got the breaks in front of goal they hadn't got in the previous two All Ireland deciders. Think of Brian Whelahan

clearing a crucial ball off the Offaly line from PJ Delaney at the Railway End when Kilkenny were a goal up and motoring in the

first half in 1998. Or Charlie Carter putting that famous chance a couple of inches over rather than under the Cork crossbar with Kilkenny three points ahead 15 minutes from time the following year. Or Carey foiled with a late kicked effort the same afternoon.



Stay cool, Willie, Brian Cody seems to be saying to his captain.

Photo Sportsfile

match utterly. And the unfortunate Byrne ran into Kevin Martin, his own man, for the goal Shefflin kicked home to apply the

Now think of the breaks that fell their way this time around. On another day Niall Claffey would have caught and held Philip Larkin's deep delivery, not fumbled it and allowed Carey zip through to stick the first knife into what soon became Offaly's corpse. Similarly, on another day Henry Shefflin's shot from the left would have been poked away to safety by the defender on the line, not stabbed back out to the intruding Carey. Stephen Byrne's parried response to another Carey zinger fell perfectly for Carter to nick in the third goal shortly before half-time, at a stage where a green flag for Offaly would have altered the complexion of the

humane killer to the affair as a contest 14 minutes into the second half. When it's your day, indeed.

So, yeah, Kilkenny got the breaks. But if they did, that was because they'd earned them. We've all heard that famous golfing line: "The harder I practise, the luckier I get." It would have been easy for the twice-beaten finalists to run and hide, to curse the fates, to bemoan their luckless lot.

They didn't. Far from being cowed by the gorilla on their shoulder in 2000, they drew determination from it. For that, considerable credit must go to Brian Cody, Ger Henderson and Johnny Walsh for keeping the team's focus crystal clear. Kilkenny said all the right things in the build-up to the All Ireland final and didn't so much keep their eye on the ball as practically glue it. The disappointments of the previous two years were sensibly allowed to lie buried and unremarked upon. Against Offaly, the Noresiders didn't go out to try and win the 1998 or 1999 All Ireland finals - they went out to win the 2000 final. And they didn't go out trying not to lose a third final in a row - they went out to win a first final in a row. In retrospect, the 1999 disappointment against Cork, nasty though it undoubtedly was, was no bad lesson for Kilkenny hurling folk. Among the morals to be drawn from it were:

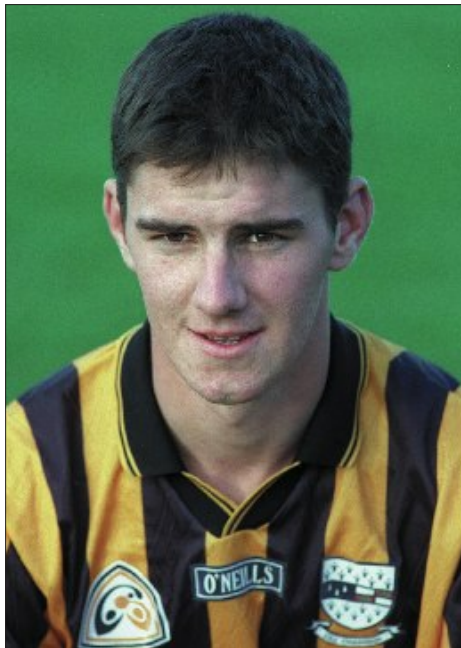
- H win the McCarthy Cup before you start celebrating;
- H there are no easy or automatic All Irelands any more;

H never underestimate Cork (as if anyone could, but that's exactly what too many Kilkenny people did);

H losing an All Ireland one year doesn't actually entitle you to win it the next year;

H if you've worked hard but failed, next time around you must work twice as hard to succeed.

One lives and learns. The millennium All Ireland champions, their management and their supporters certainly did. The manager was as splendid an advert for Kilkenny hurling as his charges were, Brian Cody's demeanour being no less serene in victory than it had been gracious in defeat 12 months earlier. Compliments too to Nickey Brennan and Kevin Fennelly, Cody's two immediate predecessors, who between them gave many of the Black and Amber's current heroes their intercounty debuts. Winning an All Ireland is a long and cumulative process, and the foundation work carried out by Brennan and



John Hoyne, new man on the Senior scene in 2000 . Photo Sportsfile

Fennelly should not be forgotten.

But this was Brian Cody's team, in a way the 1999 team hadn't been. The defensive spine was new, the switch of Denis Byrne to the half-forward line yielded a regular quota of long-range points of the kind Kilkenny had lacked for years, and right from the beginning of the season, Cody and his selectors settled on their optimum, high-explosive full-forward line of Carter, Carey and Shefflin. Dropping Pat O'Neill from the panel, meanwhile, took guts and conviction; Eamon Kennedy, sometimes gauche but never less than brave and solid, would provide ample justification for the decision.

One other brick in the building merits mention. To wit, this was an uncommonly big Kilkenny team, its commanding physical base derived from a blend of the right men (Kennedy, Comerford, Byrne, Shefflin, Grehan/Hoyne) in the right positions on the field. This was overlooked for most of the summer; Stephen Grehan, for instance, came in for petty criticism from some quarters for contributing little in a scoring sense in the All Ireland semi-final.

Such carping missed the point entirely - that wasn't what Grehan was there for. He was there to keep the ball moving and prevent his man clearing. The actual scoring was the job of the full-forward line.

In two seasons of championship hurling under Brian Cody, the Black and Amber have been both admirably consistent and consistently awesome, their scoring power blowing the opposi-



Willie O'Connor, watched by Joe Dooley, makes one of his one-handed strokes to safety. Photo Sportsfile

tion out of the water in six of their eight outings, Clare seen off with a degree of authority in the seventh and the defeat by Cork the sole aberration. A very good team, this current Kilkenny outfit? Yes. A great team? Not yet; back-to-

back titles will be required before that discussion can begin. A new year, a new summer, draws closer. How hungry will these new kings be?

* Enda McEvoy is the hurling correspondent of the Sunday Tribune.

TRAINING

- A Modern Fad or a necessity for success?

By Mick O'Flynn

Croke Park, 10th September year 2000
Kilkenny 5 - 15 Offaly 1 - 14

A truly magnificent performance! If it were gymnastics, the judges would be giving scores of 9.9 or even 10's! But, just as with the Olympic gymnasts who leave us breathless in disbelief at what they do, we know that performances like these do not happen overnight.

The foundations for this year's All Ireland victory were laid down many months ago in the Leisure Centre of Hotel Kilkenny, the track in Scanlon Park, the Gym in C.B.S., the 'Hill' in Bennettsbridge and the many hours in Nowlan Park and other pitches around the county.

Weather was never a factor, wet or dry, cold or hot, it didn't matter, training went ahead and the hours of hardship built up although there were times when questions were asked and the final goal seemed far away and clouded by mud, sweat and tears.

You may well ask was this all necessary. After all, Kilkenny had won many an All Ireland before Leisure Centres were ever thought of, or synthetic tracks were laid down. Hurling matches are played and won on grass, not in Gymnasiums or on hills. In the not too distant past, preparation for the All Ireland Championship began with the assembly of a panel of players two to three weeks before the first round and gathered momentum in July and August if the team were successful.

Changes in preparation for the Championship have come about quite dramatically in the last ten years. A number of factors have combined to bring about this change. The fact that our beloved game of hurling is a national and not an international sport meant that for decades levels of achievement and levels of preparation were based on very narrow criteria. Teams from every successful county followed the same basic routine of assembling a panel some weeks before the beginning of the Championship and All Irelands were won year in year out with this formula.

Hurling is still a national game but in the past twenty years we have all been exposed to a variety of international sports. Media coverage has increased and interest has grown hugely among sports fans. Naturally, comparisons have been made regarding preparation and levels of fitness in international sports compared to our own game.

Hand in hand with these developments, we have seen that society in general has become very conscious of the need for a healthy lifestyle and the need to keep the body fit. This has resulted in a general acceptance of the need to work at improving our levels of fitness.

So why is it that if our hurlers are faster and fitter than ever before we have injuries like "cruciate ligaments", "hamstring tears" "shin splints" etc. unheard of in the past?

The first point about this is that yes we did have all of these injuries in the 60's and 70's - but they were not as clearly defined then as they are now. Granted these injuries are more prevalent now than they were but to use an analogy, the more finely tuned a guitarist has his instrument, the more likely he is to break a string. These injuries can occur right up to the top

of the fitness scale, as exemplified by two of the top performers in the recent Olympic Games, namely Maurice Greene, the 100M champion and Michael Johnson, the 400M champion. Both of these athletes intended to take part in the 200 metres race in Sydney but both failed in their National Trials because of torn hamstrings. The months and months of pre-season training that hurlers do nowadays is essential to success. The need to work on improving stamina, muscular strength and endurance is much greater now than it was say 30 or 40 years ago when the general levels of stamina and strength were much higher.

Lifestyles and occupations have changed greatly over the years. The majority of players are employed in sedentary jobs which necessitate little or no physical activity. Mechanisation and computers have done away with the manual aspect of many jobs; even farming is less labour intensive that it was 30 years ago.

People are no longer naturally fit. Gone are the days when Irishmen could compete with the best in the World on pure natural ability; for example, the winners of the hammer throw at the first 10 Olympic Games were all Irishmen! Advances in training methods and facilities which we have not kept pace with, as well as the change of lifestyle from manual labour to more office-type jobs have resulted in Ireland's failure to compete on a level playing field.

As already stated, since hurling has not got an international outlet, advances in training methods in the sport have been slow. A lot of what we have lost in terms of general conditioning goes unnoticed because we accept our lifestyle and luxuries without compensating for what we are losing.

To take a simple observation: even at club level, where the local field is not any great distance for the majority of players, how many of those players either walk or cycle to a training session or a match? How many of the players even have a bicycle? A car, yes, but a bicycle?

By contrast the players of yore from Freshford or Thomastown or even further afield thought nothing of cycling to training in Kilkenny or to a match in Thurles. All that those fellows needed when they went training was hurling and skills practise. Their strength and stamina work was done without even thinking about it because it was just the way of life.

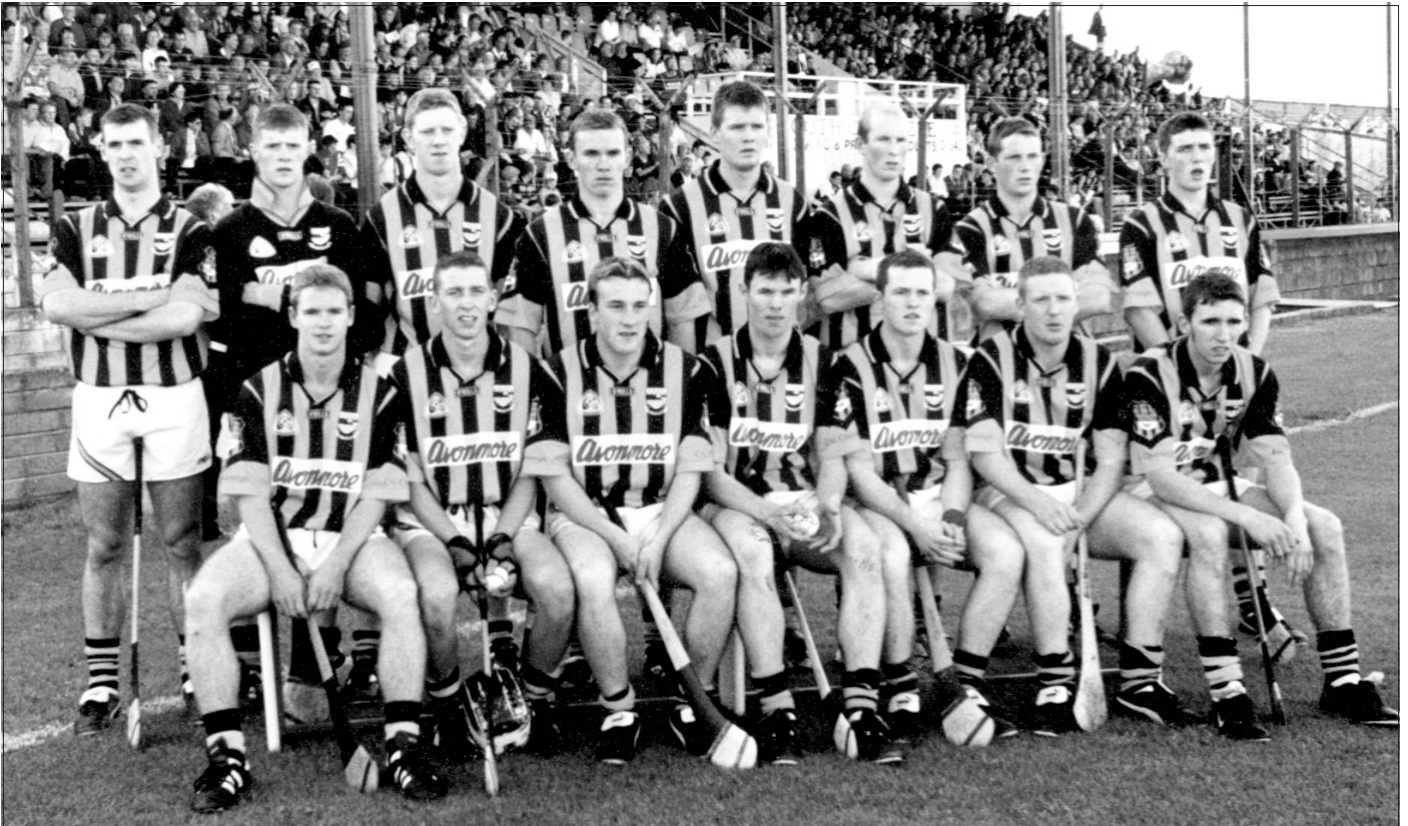
Practising the basic skills over and over is still absolutely vital in our game but there is a general acceptance among present day players for the need to improve their levels of fitness and stamina.

Despite the hardship involved, the sacrifices that have to be made and the adjustments to the social calendar, the rewards far outweigh the drawbacks. When a group of players train hard together a great camaraderie develops between them. Training on cold wet nights, running up hills, lifting weights, doing repetitive circuits and runs, all lead to a sense of achievement and a general 'feel good' factor. A well trained body leads to clear and positive thinking. It is without doubt the basis of a good performance. It is without doubt the way forward to further success.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

Inter County U21 Hurling
By Barrie Henriques



Kilkenny U21 Hurling Team 2000

Back: Jamie Power, Micheál Hoyne, Noel Hickey, Thomas Drennan, Paddy O'Brien, Pat Tennyson, Paul Shefflin.
Front: Alan Barry, Colin Herity, John Barron, Kenneth Moore, Michael Kavanagh, Kevin Power, JP Corcoran.

Photo Tom O'Neill

We thrilled to the exploits of Richie's Marvels not twelve months previously, and we left O'Connor Park, Tullamore in jubilant mood after the Tribesmen had been defeated in an aill-biting All-Ireland Final. We were more buoyant at the prospects of a repeat in the Millenium year, because the vast majority of the panel was again available to Richie Power, and his fellow selectors, John Marnell and Murty Kennedy.

Unlike 1991, when Kilkenny, with twelve of their All-Ireland winning starting team of the previous year, went out at the first time of asking against Offaly, this year's crop won their first-round game against Dublin. Though not in an overly impressive fashion, they, at least, won in Parnell Park. It was a nervous kind of game for Kilkenny as they were taking on the Dubs who had walloped Wexford some ten days previously. In Parnell Park they offered a very stubborn resistance. Early in the game, the Kilkenny selectors made an inspirational switch of personnel, by siting Aidan Cummins at centre back, and moving Micheál Hoyne onto the wing. Cummins shored up the Dubs route one to goal, and his two wing men, Hoyne and the very impressive Colin Herity, did likewise on the wings. One of the memorable moments in the match was the run of county senior, Michael Kavanagh, from his own corner back position to within twenty yards of the Dublin goal. He elected to give the ball to John Barron, whose blistering shot went into the side netting. Had the Freshford man shot for a goal, which

he probably would have scored, the All-Star corner back position on this year's team was assured as early as then. Dublin was very stubborn, and poor respecters of traditional reputation. The sides retired at half time with Kilkenny leading by 0-7 to Dublin's 0-5.

Henry Shefflin was re-sited at wing forward for the second half, and he benefited greatly from the move. Alan Barry too was flying, and his goal in the 58th minute was a real peach. Man of the Match was John Paul Corcoran from John Lockes who drilled over four magnificent points from midfield. Kevin Power too had a great hour as did the Noel Hickey at full back. Jamie Power brought off some very good saves from Manus Breathneach, Cian Daley and the impressive Damien Russell. The final score was Kilkenny 1-17 Dublin 1-6.

Team: Jamie Power, Paul Shefflin, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Aidan Cummins, Micheal Hoyne, Colin Herity, John Paul Corcoran, Kenneth Moore, Paul Buggy, Tom Drennan, Kevin Power, Alan Barry, Henry Shefflin, John Barron. *Subs (used):* Brian Phelan, Paddy O'Brien.

Scorers: Henry Shefflin 0-6, Alan Barry 1-2, JP Corcoran 0-4, Kevin Power 0-3, Tom Drennan, Kenneth Moore (0-1 each).

The Leinster Final in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise, was an epic. There was not a better match played anywhere in the country all year. Three years previously, practically the same Kilkenny team hammered nearly the same Offaly team in the Leinster Minor Final. It was never going to happen in

Portlaoise, where the supercharged Offaly men were more than a match for the Kilkenny lads in a pulsating seventy minutes of hurling. The abiding statistic of the game was that Kilkenny were forced into playing “catch-up” from the moment Conor Gath fired over a magnificent Offaly point from fully ninety yards out from Jamie Power’s goal. That score arrived inside the first two minutes. Defensive lapses allowed Brendan Murphy and full-forward, Eoin McGuinness, hammer in goals within a minute of each other midway through the first half. Tom Drennan and John Barron answered with two Kilkenny goals to leave just four points between the sides at the break.

Offaly surged forward on the resumption. They clipped over some great points from Paul Molloy, David Murray, Brendan Murphy and Rory Hannify. They were riding high. However, the Kilkenny lads were not going to die too easily. Mick Kavanagh, and Aidan Cummins ventured forward more,

Pat Tennyson was “catching hayseed” at midfield, and Rebel Power, Alan Barry and John Barron started to cause dreadful uncertainty in the Offaly defence. By the 54th minute, the huge gap had been whittled down to two points. The injured Henry Shefflin - like a demented warrior on the sideline - arrived on the park to a huge roar. The last frantic minutes were heart stopping. In fairness, the winners deserved - just about - to win, but they got some opposition on the road.

The final score was Offaly 3-14 Kilkenny 2-14.
 Kilkenny: Jamie Power, Paul Shefflin, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh (0-1), Micheál Hoyne, Aidan Cummins, Colin Herity, JP Corcoran (0-1), Pat Tennyson, Kenneth Moore, Tom Drennan (1-1), Paddy O’Brien (0-1), Alan Barry (0-1), Kevin Power (0-7, 5frees), John Barron (1-2), Subs: Brian Phelan, Paul Buggy, John Morgan, Henry Shefflin. Eddie Walsh, Pat Butler, Paul Costello, Cillian Breathneach, John O’Neill.



Noel Hickey, Kilkenny U21 and Senior star

Photo Sportsfile



Henry Shefflin, another County U21 and Senior star.

Photo Sportsfile

COLLEGES GAA



St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny - All-Ireland Colleges Senior A Hurling Champions 2000.

Photo: Tom Brett

Back: Ned Sweeney, Gary Hayes, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessey, Michael Walsh, Robert Alyward, Brendan Doyle, Peter O'Neill, John Lennon, Michael Connolly, Dick Fitzpatrick.

Middle: Stephen Dunne, Michael Rice, Derrick Brennan, Ger Prendergast, Brian Hogan, James Moran, Jackie Tyrrell, Enda Cleere, Pat Reid, Seaghan O'Neill.

Front: Adrian Finan (trainer), Eoin Kelly, Brian Carroll, Brian Dowling, Tommy Walsh, Tim Murphy, Liam Heffernan, Joe Delaney, Michael Drennan, Daire Conrny, Pat Murphy (trainer).

ST. KIERAN'S MILLENNIUM ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES CHAMPIONS

On the 9th of April 2000, in McDonagh Park, Nenagh, St. Kieran's College, the pride of Kilkenny, saw their dream of winning the millennium All-Ireland Colleges title come true against arch-rivals St. Flannan's, Ennis. In doing so, they regained pole position in the Colleges Roll of honour, capturing their 14th All-Ireland title. On the day, it took an effort of monumental proportions to recapture, the Croke Cup, last won in 1996. It also completed a treble of titles beginning with the Leinster league trophy after victories against, St. Brendan's, Birr, Callan CBS, Good Counsel, New Ross and, in the final, Dublin Colleges. January saw St. Kieran's win the old Croke Cup on a scoreline of 1-9 to 0-8. Since 1940 St. Kieran's and St. Flannan's have played annually for the honour of keeping this trophy for the following year.

The serious hurling began in New Ross on 11th February, when St. Kieran's began the defence of their Leinster Championship, with a 3-18 to 1-8 victory over St. Peter's of Wexford. This was followed by a semi-final victory over Good Counsel, New Ross (2-15 to 0-4) setting up a Leinster final clash with the combined Dublin Colleges. After a tough encounter, St. Kieran's captured their 45th Leinster Colleges title with a 3-13 to 2-10 victory. Amongst the heroes on the day were Peter O'Neill, Brian Carroll, Shane Hennessey, Derrick Brennan, Michael Walsh and Tommy

Walsh.

The All-Ireland semi-final paired St. Kieran's with Galway champions, Gort Community School, in Nenagh, on the 2nd of April. After an even first half, the college boys led by a single goal. St. Kieran's upped their game in the second half with outstanding displays from Brian Carroll, Jackie Tyrrell, Ken Coogan, Sean O'Neill, Brian Hogan and Daire Conrny. The final score was 2-14 to 0-11.

The final brought the giants of colleges hurling face to face and, with both colleges holding 13 titles each, the winner would go to the top of the Colleges Roll of Honour. St. Kieran's went into this game determined to avenge their defeat by the Ennis School in the previous years final and it turned out to be an epic encounter.

A tense opening half saw a Liam Heffernan goal separating the teams (1-4 to 0-4). Twice in the second half St. Flannan's reduced the deficit to the minimum. However, during the closing 10 minutes, St. Kieran's dug deep and produced magnificent hurling that carried them to as good a win as the school has ever scored on a hurling field. Late scores from Liam Heffernan, Eoin Kelly and captain, Tim Murphy, ensured victory on a final score of 1-10 to 0-9. St. Kieran's had heroes in all positions. Derek Brennan in goal brought off some magnificent saves; he defence conceded just three points from play, where James Moran fullback and Jackie Tyrrell at wingback were simply superb. Tim Murphy, at mid-field, played a captain's role and was a real leader. In attack, Liam Heffernan scored a crucial 1-1, and Peter O'Neill at full-forward caused end-

less problems for St. Flannan's. However, the main man in attack was Eoin Kelly who kept his best display for the final, scoring 0-7 and showed class in all aspects of his play. Twelve months earlier at Croke Park, St. Kieran's had led St. Flannan's from the opening minutes of the 1999 All-Ireland colleges final until injury time, only to be caught in heartbreaking circumstances right on the finishing line. Here they gained revenge in style. Few of the school's All-Ireland victories have tasted sweeter.

CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HANDBALL: Again, 2000 was a very successful year for handball in the school. At juvenile level Thomas Hughes won the Leinster 'A' singles 60x30 and 40x20 titles; it was the school's eighth year in a row to win these titles. Meanwhile at juvenile 'B' level, Graham Lawlor was beaten in the singles final and Paul Byrne and Willie Coogan won the 'B' doubles. In Junior 'A' handball, Sean Maher won the Leinster 60x30 and 40x20 titles only to be beaten in the All-Ireland finals by the Connaught and Munster champions, respectively. In Junior 'B' singles, Sean Keane won a Leinster title while Colin Philips and Francis Whearty won the Senior 'B' doubles. Finally, Thomas Campion and Paul Byrne represented their country with honour at the World 15 and Under Handball Championships in America. Having beaten Mexico in the quarter-final and Chicago in the semi-final

they were beaten by another Irish team from Wicklow in the final.

HURLING: The hurlers of Castlecomer Community School continued to make significant progress during the year. The senior hurlers reached the Leinster Final (Roinn B) but were unfortunate to come up against a very good Cistercian College Roscrea side who beat Castlecomer on their way to winning the All-Ireland.

At U-14 level, the school's hurlers had quite a successful year too. They narrowly missed qualification for the semi-finals by losing a qualification match to Good Council (New Ross) by only four points. Nevertheless, Castlecomer went on to win the shield competition. A creditable performance for their first year in 'Roinn A' in a decade at this level.

The schools U-16 hurlers also made the step up to 'Roinn A' hurling this year. Arguably the unluckiest team in the county— having hit the crossbar twice in the course of the match, they were eventually beaten by a single point scored in injury-time of extra-time in the semi-final by an Enniscorthy C. B. S. team who had knocked out St Kierans on their way to the semi. [At writing of the final result is not known.] Considering that Castlecomer C. S. is now the smallest school in the 'A' division, to be able to compete with the best of them at this level, in their first year up in these two grades, should give school teams confidence for the future.

FOOTBALL: Pride of place this year must go to the schools U-16 footballers who picked up the schools first U-16 Leinster title (Roinn C) back in February. In the South Leinster Final, a Michael Farrell goal in the last minute was enough to see them win out over Dunlavin. On to the Leinster semi-final, then, where they beat Tullamore by seven points. Led by Paul Roche in the final against Scoil Eanna (Dublin), it was eventually two goals by Sean Allen and a goal by Shane Dowling in an unbelievable last five minutes that saw them win out on a 3-10 to 1-9 scoreline.

CAMOGIE: The year 2000 was a successful one for the camogie girls of the school. Having beaten Banagher in the Leinster Junior 'C' semi-final, the school's junior team eventually went down to Presentation, Wexford in the final on a scoreline of 2-4 to 1-3. The school's minor team had better luck, however. They reached the final by way of beating Manor House (Dublin) in the semi-final. The final, however, produced a real thriller. Playing against Borris VS, it was a Georgina Kelly pointed free (from forty yards out on the sideline) two minutes from time which was enough to see them crowned Leinster Minor Champions (Roinn C).

KILKENNY CBS JUNIOR FINALISTS 2000.

Traditionally the Leinster Junior hurling competition kicks off the G.A.A. schools calendar each year. This millennium year pitted eight of the provinces top hurling nurseries against one another divided into two groups of four. Group one included the under sixteen's of Kilkenny C.B.S., St. Kieran's College, Enniscorthy C.B.S. and St. Brendan's Community School, Birr. Group two would be fought out by reigning 'A' champions, Good Counsel, reigning 'B' champions, Castlecomer Community School, St. Peter's, Wexford and Coláiste Eoin from the capital.

Feelings in the Kilkenny C.B.S. camp at the beginning of the competition were that the team would acquit themselves well and hold their own in this competition. Under the guid-



Castlecomer CS Roinn C U16 Leinster Football Champions 2000
Back: Paul King (Coach), Joseph Shore, Shane Coonan, Ml Farrell, Damien Maher, Colin Phillips, Sean Maher, James Doone, David Stone, Karl O'Donnell, Conor Kinsella, Terence Fahy (Coach).
Front: Peter Donovan, Paddy Nolan, John Coonan, Ronan Walsh, Paul Roche (Capt), Jim Dowd, Sean Allen, Alan Healy, James Murphy, Ted Brown (Manager).
Photo Tom O'Neill



Castlecomer CS - Roinn C Leinster Minor Camogie Champions 2000
Back: Ted Browne (Trainer) Elaine Kinsella, Nicola Brennan, Kelly Roche, Mary Love, Miriam O'Keeffe, Ruth Dwyer, Ruth Barrett, Lisa Dunne, Majella Walsh, Claire McConnell, Bridget Bergin Emma Hennessy, Ned Lawlor.
Front: Sharon Shore, Ann-Marie Nolan, Janet Boran, Martina Curry, Treasa Shore, Grainne Daly, Georgina Kelly (Capt), Carol Gunner Jackie Doran, Marian Ryan, Miriam Maher.
Photo Tom O'Neill



Leinster Junior 'A' Finalists.
Front: Martin Fitzpatrick, Bill Beckett, Mark O'Hara, Patrick Noonan, David McCormack, Darren Tyrrell, Bill Murphy, Eddie O'Donoghue.
Middle: Seán Breathnach, William Sainsbury, James Dunphy, John O'Shea, John Dooley, P.J. Pollard, Eamonn Buggy, Conor Higgins, Conor Bolger, Mark Drennan, Paul O'Donoghue.
Back: David O'Mahony, Jamie Marnell, Peter Dowling (Captain), Austin Murphy, Micheál Murphy, Patrick Murphy,

ance of Mr. Seán Breathnach and Mr. Paul O'Donoghue preparation was fast and furious, sometimes with training three times a week.

First up in mid-September was a 'derby' match against city rivals St. Kieran's. At a wet and soggy Larchfield C.B.S. shocked their highly rated neighbours in a wonderfully exciting game of hurling. Final score C.B.S. 5-4, St. Kieran's 2-11. The flame-haired Freshford marksman, John Dooley, scored four goals in the first half. This victory was a real confidence booster.

In the second of the three league matches Dicksboro was the venue for the visit of Enniscorthy C.B.S. The James's Street



Castlecomer CS student, **Andrew Hosey**, receives his European Gold medal won with Ireland from **DJ Carey**. Also in the picture is **Ned Lawlor**, school handball coach. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

youngsters cruised into an early lead thanks mainly to some clever points from village dynamo David McCormack whose tally at the final whistle was ten. Enniscorthy gave the C.B.S. outfit a nervous final ten minutes by rattling in two goals in rapid succession. Final score C.B.S. 2-14, Enniscorthy 3-6.

Having already suffered two defeats St. Brendan's Birr decided to give a walkover and this left Kilkenny C.B.S. sitting proudly at the top of their group. Enniscorthy C.B.S. finished runners-up having just edged out St. Kieran's in a thriller.

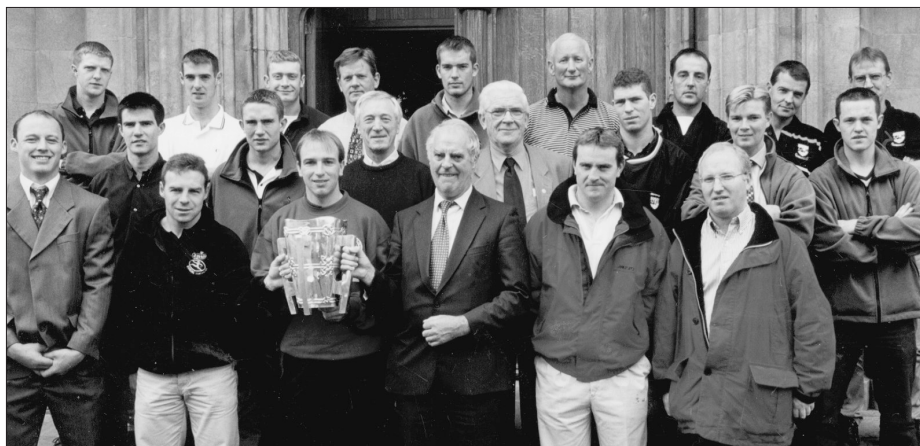
In the other group another Kilkenny school was showing the way— the 1999 'B' champions, Castlecomer. They topped their group with 1999 'A' champions Good Counsel in second place.

In two mouth-watering semi-finals Kilkenny C.B.S. faced the might of Good Counsel and 'Comer faced Enniscorthy.

Kilkenny C.B.S. stormed into the Leinster Final after a gripping encounter with Good Counsel at Carlow. Trailing 1-7 to 1-4 at the half-time whistle having played into the teeth of a stiff breeze the Kilkenny boys ran riot in the second half and ruthlessly demolished a good quality Wexford side. Final score C.B.S. 5-12, Good Counsel 3-10.

In the other semi' Castlecomer were unlucky as they failed by the minimum after extra-time. The match was played in deplorable weather conditions at Thomastown. The eagerly anticipated all-Kilkenny final was not to be.

Almost a fortnight passed before the final showdown could take place. The momentum of the competition was interrupted by inclement weather and the mid-term break. D-Day arrived on Friday, 10th November at Páirc Uí Mhordha in Portlaoise. Heavy rain and a very strong wind ensured the proverbial game of two halves. C.B.S., though wind-assisted in the first half, failed to settle early. Ten minutes had elapsed and neither side had registered a score. Ironically it was Enniscorthy who drew first blood with a point. Half-time arrived and the teams retired to their respective dressing-rooms with the scoreboard reading C.B.S. 0-7, Enniscorthy 0-2.



The chickens come home to roost! St Kieran's past pupils from the victorious Kilkenny team with their former teachers. Back: Henry Shefflin, Aidan Cummins, Peter Barry, Mr Nicky Cashin, Sean Dowling, Brian Cody, Mr Pat Murphy, Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Adrian Finan. Middle: Philip Larkin, Eddie Brennan, Mr Denis Philpott, Mr Dick McEvoy, Jimmy Coogan, Martin Carey, Michael Kavanagh. Front: Andy Comerford, Charlie Carter, DJ Carey, Mr MI Dermody (Principal), Canice Brennan, Fr Dick Scriven. *Photo Tom Brett*



St. Kieran's Juvenile Team - Leinster A Champions 1999, making it four in a row for the college. Back:: Damien Kelly, Jason Dermody, Mark Walsh, Michael Fitzpatrick, Damien Bergin, Eoin Everard, Neil Prendergast, Eamon Walsh, Padraig Treacy, Michael Bergin, Pakick Hogan, Paul Kennedy, Maurice Nolan. Middle: Tomas Keogh, William Norton, Philip Walsh, Richard Power, Niall McEvoy, John Walsh, Pakick Butler, Niall Fennelly, Richard O' Shea, James Connolly, Michael Neary, Jamie Quane. Front: John Quane (Trainer) John Hayes, Mark Aylward, Darren O'Neill, Donacha Cody (Captain), Donacha Fitzpatrick, Shane Prendergast, Richard Walsh, Tom Hogan (Trainer) Richard McEvoy (Vice-Principal). *Photo Tom Brett*



Castlecomer CS U14 Roinn A Shield Winners 2000 Back: Pat Nolan, David O'Gorman, Niall Mooney, Gavin Nolan, Aidan Murphy, Eoin McGrath, Ronan Maher, Dermot Wallace, Thomas O'Shea, MI Brophy, Cathal Hestor, Niall Gibbons, Paddy Shortall, Pat Murphy (Coach) Front: Jonathan Walsh, James Kelly, Donal Meally, Martin Boran, Paddy Brennan, Steve Mahon, Damien Fogarty, Eoin Bolger, Kevin Phillips, Peter Dollard, Pádraig O'Dowd. (Missing from photo - Graham Lawlor). *Photo Tom O'Neill*

Having failed to maximise their wind advantage, the writing was on the wall for C.B.S. The Enniscorthy goalkeeper performed miracles to keep his net intact. The Wexford lads came out with great purpose for the second half and very quickly eradicated the five point deficit. However, Kilkenny rallied in gallant

fashion and John Dooley rattled in a goal, quickly followed with a point that shaved the crossbar. A lucky goal for the Slaneysiders put them back in the driver's seat, a position they never yielded. Two more goals and C.B.S. were five behind with five minutes to go. To their eternal credit they manfully

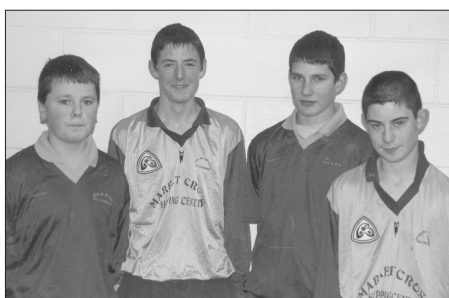
attacked the Wexford rearguard but lady Luck had deserted them. Some desperate defending and inspired goalkeeping denied them any further scores. The cup was on its way to Enniscorthy which was incidentally their first ever 'A' victory. Final Score C.B.S. 1-8, Enniscorthy 3-7.

For Kilkenny C.B.S. it was a bitter pill to swallow particularly after having previously accounted for their conquerors in the qualifying stages of the competition. The panel deserve great credit for their efforts and, in the not too distant future, their day will come.

Training sessions were always taken seriously and were attended 100%. Throughout the campaign there were many heroes but special mention goes to Peter Dowling (Captain), Martin Fitzpatrick and Darren Tyrrell in defence. Stars of the show in attack were John Dooley, David McCormack, David O'Mahony and Mark O'Hara.

Handball: After a barren spell of six years two Leinster titles (60 x 30) were won during this school year. These wins brought back memories of the Downey brothers, John and Eugene, Billy Bourke, Anthony Mulhall, mark Cantwell, Brian Power the Falsey brothers Michael and Robert and Mark Dowling. The last handball title, All-Ireland Under 16, was won by Michael Falsey and Mark Dowling. The wins this year give great hope for the future as both wins were achieved at under 14, Juvenile level.

Brian Mulhall and Mark Nolan from the Mothel club in Ballyfoyle achieved victory over St. Peters of Wexford in the in the Juvenile 'A' final. This was a hard fought victory against two very tough opponents. The St. Peters boys made C.B.S. fight all the way for their victory. In the first game St. Peters led by 7 points to 1 before C.B.S. drew level. St. Peters again took the lead 11 to 7. Kilkenny then took command and took the lead for the first time 13 to 11. Service changed hands without any points being scored before Kilkenny eventually ran out winners 15 to 11. In the second game Kilkenny took an 8 point lead but were overtaken and passed leaving the score 10 to 8. Points and services were



CBS Leinster A and B Juvenile Handball Champions
Mark Nolan (A), James Rhatigan (B), Brian Mulhall (A), Richard Nolan (B).

exchanged before Brian Mulhall finally served the winning ace leaving Kilkenny victorious 15 to 13.

In the Leinster 'B' Juvenile final James Rhatigan and Richard Nolan had to work hard before defeating Gorey C.B.S. Points were very hard to get in this match with service changing hands regularly with only one point being scored. The teams were level on three occasions during the first game. Kilkenny eventually won the first game 15 to 13. In the second game Gorey took command after conceding the first five points but were eventually overtaken and passed by the Kilkenny outfit. The game was level at 11 points each. Points



Presentation by Alma Mater to All-Ireland heroes.

Former pupils and members of the Kilkenny All-Ireland winning Senior team, **Noel Hickey, John Paul Corcoran, John Power** and **Denis Byrne** were presented with Kilkenny Crystal by the Principal of Coláiste Eamonn Rís, **Mr Donal O'Hanlon** (with Liam McCarthy Cup). Also in picture is **Mr Pat Ryan** vice Principal.



Liam comes to the CBS

From left: **Mr Mick O'Flynn, Mr Sean Breatnach, Canice Brennan, James McGarry, John Hoyne, Mr Dermot Curran** (Principal), **Micheál Hoyne** and **Denis Byrne**. James McGarry and the Hoyne brothers are past pupils of the CBS.
Photo Tom Brett

were very difficult to come by but a few fine kills in the closing stages by both James and Richard carried the day for Kilkenny C.B.S. James's ability, a newcomer to the game of handball, was much admired. With regular practice this pair could become very hard to beat.

In winning these titles Kilkenny C.B.S. have sent out a warning to other Leinster schools that they intend to be in contention for other Leinster honours and possibly All Ireland titles in the years ahead.

reception. Speaking for the party, John impressed upon one and sundry the importance of sport, and being active in sport, is in everybody's life. On behalf of the College, John, Denis, John Paul and Noel were presented with specially commissioned pieces of Kilkenny Crystal by the Principal, Mr. Donal O'Hanlon.

The under 14 also had a very successful season, with creditable victories over Castlecomer Community School, St.Kierans College, and Kilkenny C.B.S. in the Final.

Last May a very successful Football Tournament was organised by the school, with a number of teams taking part. The eventual winners were Ballinakil Community School. In handball, the school was successfully represented by Conor Lonergan, Brendan and Diarmuid Burke, Seamus Hawe, Brendan Barry, Philip Lonergan, Aaron Butler, and Brian Manogue. Brian Manogue and Diarmuid Burke competed in the World Championships in America.

COLÁISTE ÉAMON RIS

The Senior hurling team have advanced to the quarter-finals of the Leinster Roinn B Championship, with victories over Colaiste Eoin Dublin, St.Declans from Cabra, and St.Michaels from Trim. There was great excitement in the school when four former hurling students returned with the coveted Liam McCarthy Cup. John Power led Denis Byrne, Noel Hickey and John Paul Corcoran through the doors of the College to a rapturous

Against the Odds

The 1950 Kilkenny Minor
Team

By Conor Denieffe

The Kilkenny supporters who wended their way homewards from Croke Park on the evening of Sunday 3rd September 1950 must surely have experienced conflicting emotions. They had witnessed their senior team lose an All-Ireland Final to Tipperary by the minimum of margins (1-9 to 1-8) in a game Kilkenny should have won. But the disappointment at the seniors' failure was abated somewhat by the surprise victory of the Kilkenny minors against the same opposition, Tipperary. In fact, to describe the minors' win as a surprise is an understatement for it was undoubtedly the shock of the year, not just to neutral observers but to the vast majority of black and amber supporters also.

The minor campaign had opened on an optimistic note when a strongly fancied Dublin team was defeated by 3-9 to 3-3 in Wexford Park on June 18th. But a very disappointing performance against a poor Offaly team in the Leinster final followed with Kilkenny lucky to scrape home on a 4-2 to 3-2 scoreline. Incidentally, this game was played along with the Leinster senior final in front of a 36,000 plus

attendance in Nowlan Park. The consequence of this poor display was a loss of confidence in the team among even the most die-hard Kilkenny followers. The "Kilkenny People" report on the minors' performance in the provincial final was unequivocal stating "on the form shown, their chances of winning an All-Ireland title can be ruled out now" and later in the same match report "there is not the remotest chance that the team which brought the Leinster minor title to Kilkenny on Sunday could hold the Tipperary boys". Letters to the editor followed in subsequent weeks agreeing with the report's strong view and suggesting various remedies. A facile win in the All-Ireland semi-final over a very weak Antrim team at Croke Park on August 13th did nothing to restore supporters' confidence in their team, particularly as Tipperary, who were to provide the opposition in the All-Ireland final, had produced a number of very impressive performances en-route and were rated "one of the best sides ever to leave the premier county", in the national media. Kilkenny, it seemed, had about as much chance of surviving as the proverbial snowball in hell!

However, as can sometimes happen, adversity and criticism served to make this particular minor team stronger in character and determination. A strong bond had developed among the players and the team had become more akin to a club than a county selection. A great deal of the credit for this was due to team trainer, Davy Maher. A native of Sheestown (just outside the city), the Ballyline (Kilmanagh) based schoolteacher had taken over from long-time trainer, Mick Loughman for the 1950 campaign. He was a disciplinarian with a great knowledge and a "thinking" approach to the game. His emphasis throughout training sessions and games was on the skills of the game. Training sessions took place in James Park and, on at least one occasion, in a field belonging to Jack Phelan at Newpark. In those pre-GPA, days the players enjoyed none of the perks their present-day counterparts enjoy. If you were lucky, a hurl broken in training might be replaced and the only gear provided in the lead-up to the All-Ireland final was a pair of socks. Indeed, a perusal of the 1950 team photo reveals that only nineteen of the twenty-one strong panel were lucky enough to get a jersey, the other two wore their shirts and Sunday jackets.

The team departed Kilkenny by train on the Saturday evening and stayed in the Ormonde Hotel that night. Pre-match tension was relieved by a pillow fight between the two Jim Walsh's, safe in the knowledge that "Mr. Maher" had retired to his room for the night.



Kilkenny All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 50 years ago in 1950.

Back Row: Jim "Link" Walsh, Dermot Dunleavy, Paschal Lyng, John Maher, Pat Lennon (captain), Johnny McGovern, Mick Brophy, John Doherty, Micky Gardiner, Paddy Hogan, Bob Doherty.

Front Row: Richie Brennan, John Brennan, Tom Hanrahan, Paddy Johnston, Seanie O'Brien, Jim Walsh, Donal Gorey, Jack Murphy, Dinny Rafferty, Claude Gough.



Veterans of the 1950 Minor Campaign, pictured at Nowlan Park on County Final day. *Photo Tom O'Neill*
 Pat Lennon, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Johnson, Mick Brophy, Seanie O'Brien, Fr Richie Brennan, Jim Walsh, Paschal Lyng, Donal Gorey, Patsy Hogan, Bob Doherty.

Morale was high on the morning of the game and a fierce determination to win existed among the players. Having won the toss, Kilkenny's captain, Pat Lennon from Graigue, elected to play against the strong breeze. The wisdom of this decision must have been questioned by many in the attendance as Tipperary opened with a quick goal followed by three points, one from a free. However, Kilkenny rallied, courtesy of a Seanie O'Brien goal and a Pat Lennon point, and Tipperary managed only a solitary point for the remainder of the half thanks to sterling work by the Kilkenny defence. Having held Tipperary to such a slender lead (1-4 to 1-1) in the opening half and, with the wind to their backs in the second moiety, Kilkenny proceeded to dominate the game, adding three goals and an equal number of points to their tally while holding the premier county side to a solitary point, thus finishing 3-4 to 1-5 winners.

Match reports in the national and local press were loud in their praise both of the overall standard of the game, which was, in the opinion of one scribe, "one of the best

minor games seen in Croke Park", and also of the performance of the Kilkenny team. In a gruelling encounter, which was played at a hectic pace for the full hour, there was not a weak link in the champions' side. Again credit for the fitness of their players must go to Davy Maher and his selectors Christy Murray and Paddy Burke. Star player for the Leinster team was midfielder Paddy Johnston. John Maher and Johnny McGovern, who later became senior players, were outstanding in defence while Jack Murphy excelled in goal. In attack, Seanie O'Brien and another future senior player, Mick Brophy, did best. The team and scorers were – Jack Murphy, John Doherty, John Maher, Paschal Lyng, Pat Lennon (captain), Jim Walsh, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Johnston, Donal Gorey, Micky Gardiner (1-2), Mick Brophy (0-1), Tom O' Hanrahan (1-1), Seanie O'Brien (1-0), John Brennan and Richie Brennan. Claude Gough made an appearance as a substitute while the other subs were Paddy Hogan, Jim "Link Walsh, Bob Doherty, Dermot Dunleavy and Denis Rafferty.

Following a victory banquet at the Killiney Castle Hotel on the Sunday night, the minor team returned home on Monday evening to a tumultuous welcome with fog signals exploding on the track as the train reached McDonagh station. Thousands lined the streets and the players made a triumphant journey through the city centre to a civic reception in the Metropole Hotel, where praise was heaped on the team by successive dignitaries.

Even now, fifty years later, the victory of the 1950 minor team in the All-Ireland is fondly recalled by Kilkenny supporters as evinced by the reception given to the survivors of the team when they were presented to the crowd at this year's county final in Nowlan Park. The surprise nature of their victory and the stylish performance they gave against Kilkenny's great rivals, Tipperary, are the main reasons for this. However the 1950 win also stands out in the record books as being the only oasis in a long desert of All-Ireland minor titles for Kilkenny being our only victory at this level between 1936 and 1960.

The Continent Abú
 A history of the G.A.A. in St. John's Parish, Kilkenny
 by **Conor Denieffe**

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2000 THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT ROCKED



By Enda McEvoy
Sunday Tribune

Can't remember the singer, can't remember the song. I can, though, remember one of the lines (more or less). "Here comes the 21st century, it's goin' to be much better for a girl like me." So how was the first year of the 21st century for a girl - or guy - like you? Here's the way it went for me.

*** January:** Usually nothing happens, but this time something did. To Orlando with the Kilkenny hurlers. Snapshots of the eight days? Many and various, including the sight of Andy Comerford at the wheel of the splendid golden convertible he hired for the week; the episode involving a horrendously expensive bottle of wine in Charley's Steakhouse on International Drive (picture the horrified faces of ten Kilkenny folk - none of them a player, incidentally - on receiving the bill and discovering that the bottle of house red they'd consumed with such abandon had cost £90); the guaranteed-to-invert-the-contents-of-your-stomach terrors of Splash Mountain in the Magic Kingdom; Johnny Walsh vainly trying to pretend he wasn't petrified by the Back to the Future ride at Universal Studios; a night in Scruffy Murphy's in downtown Orlando, a pub co-owned by Donie Minogue from Thomastown, and listening to Denis Byrne and Andy Comerford agree that they couldn't wait to get back to play Waterford in the AIB game the following weekend. Only January, but Kilkenny already had their sights set on the second Sunday of September.

*** February:** The National League begins. For Kilkenny, it's a diet of blood and thunder most of the way, starting with a classic encounter at home to Cork. The visit of Waterford provides better fare still, Gerald McCarthy's men departing with a well-merited two points after a tumultuous match. How heartening it would

have been if Waterford had gone onto capture the league title - no team did more good hurling in the competition - but they faltered in a thoroughly winnable semi-final against Galway. What a shame.

*** March:** An early glimpse of Henry Shefflin as Waterford IT, who also feature Michael Kavanagh, John O'Neill and Alan Geoghegan alongside a raft of young men from Tipperary, retain their Fitzgibbon Cup crown amid the rain and wind of Walsh Park by seeing off UCD - for whom Michael Gordon is one of the best performers over the weekend - in the final. Limerick under-21 dual star Stephen Lucey makes a fine fist of marking Shefflin, but still there's little evidence thus far to suggest that the latter will find it difficult to cope with that "difficult" second season.

*** April:** More wind and rain in McDonagh Park, Nenagh, on the afternoon of the All Ireland colleges' decider. It's a repeat of 1999, St Kieran's versus St Flannan's, and this time it's St Kieran's day. The game revolves upon two incidents approaching half-time. First Liam Heffernan from Dunnamaggin uncorks a drive that the Flannan's goalie should save but doesn't. Then, moments later, the holders' full-forward Brian Culbert kicks the sliotar wide with the goal at his mercy. A six-point turnaround in a couple of minutes - crucial in such a tight game. Psyched to the



Andy Comerford displays the determination typified by Kilkenny in 2000 Photo Sportsfile



John Power, Kilkenny is tackled by Cork's Fergal McCormack and Wayne Sherlock. Cork v Kilkenny, National Hurling League, Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. Photo Sportsfile

eyeballs following their Croke Park heartbreak of the previous season, Kieran's are the hungrier side and richly deserve their 1-10 to 0-9 triumph, a result which puts them back on top of the colleges' roll of honour. From a strictly Noreside point of view it's not a particularly momentous result in the sense that Eoin Kelly and James Moran, SKC's two best players on the day, both hail from Tipperary, but the win is hugely satisfying nonetheless. Among the spectators in the stand is Lisdowney's Mick Carroll, who 43 years earlier had, along with his twin brother Ted, been part of a St Kieran's team that came with a late, Eddie Keher-inspired surge to catch Flannan's on the line in Semple Stadium. Today there isn't a prouder man in Nenagh.



Noel Hickey attempting to round Darren Hannify (Offaly) in the All Ireland Final.
Photo Tom O'Neill

*** May:** Galway face Tipperary in the NHL decider. Nobody cares. Galway win. Nobody cares about that either. The time has long since arrived to either kill off the competition or to make it relevant by giving the winners some sort of championship bye. But don't hold your breath.

*** June:** High summer. Down south, Cork have altogether too much class for Limerick while Tipperary spring what can scarcely be termed a surprise against a fading Clare. Elsewhere, Leinster semi-final day is a disaster. Kilkenny, in bottom gear, have 15 points to spare over Dublin as the aperitif to a gruesome main course which consists of Wexford being beaten out the gate by Offaly for the second summer in succession. More than 40,000 spectators trot along to Croke Park to watch these travesties. A thought occurs. How many of them will bother to turn up for next year's provincial semi-finals?

*** July:** Cork clock up a staggering 23 points in beating Tipp in the Munster final, the last 20 minutes of which are terrific entertainment. Naturally the game is instantly hailed as "another classic Munster final". Seven days later Kilkenny consummate a Leinster three-in-a-row. Another thought occurs. Given the fate that subsequently befell the Cats in 1998 and '99, does it matter? Credit to John Power, the RTE man of the match, for declaring in a TV interview afterwards that a Leinster medal does matter and that he's very proud to have acquired another one. Offaly gain some measure of revenge the following Saturday with a glorious win in an equally glorious provincial under-21 final in Portlaoise. Had Henry Shefflin been fit, the All Ireland champions would almost certainly have won, but Kilkenny supporters aren't carping afterwards. After the horrors of the previous Sunday, this was exactly the game and exactly the result that Leinster hurling needed.

*** August:** So much for the blather about the Munster final and the hints that it amounted to little more than a dry-run for an All Ireland showdown between Cork and Tipperary. The latter having eventually hit the equivalent of the marathon's wall against a fitter, fresher Galway in the All Ireland quarter-final on the last Sunday of July (thanks to the pig of a draw they got, it was Tipp's fourth outing of the summer), Cork proceed to bite the dust against Offaly. It is the shock of the century - all seven and a half months of it. Seven days later Kilkenny make no

mistake against Galway. Excrement or bust now.

*** September:** See practically every other article in this publication.

*** October:** Time for a holiday. Orlando was a long time ago, after all. To Lisbon for a week, centring on the Portugal/Ireland World Cup qualifier in the Stadium of Light. Two nights before the match we're discussing the prospects outside a bar called O'Neills in Cascais, a seaside resort near Lisbon, when a man from the Rower happens along. "Well," he says, "how many All Stars are we going to get?" In the end, to paraphrase Tip O'Neill, all sport is local. In the end, to paraphrase nobody at all, there's only one sport on top of a Kilkenny person's agenda, World Cup qualifiers or not.

Time then for this column's awards for 2000. They go as follows.

- # Player of the year: DJ Carey.
- # Next best: Peter Barry, Denis Byrne, Joe Deane.
- # Young player: Brendan Murphy of Offaly.
- # Next best: Noel Hickey.
- # Goal: Not one of DJ's many, surprisingly, but rather Tommy Dunne's first goal against Cork in the Munster final. Driving run and a cracking, beautifully-placed finish.
- # Point: DJ gets in here for that beauty shortly before half-time in the All Ireland final. Canice Brennan delivered the sliotar head-high, Henry Shefflin batted it down into Carey's left hand, Carey looped it between the Railway End uprights.
- # Controversy: None.
- # Badly missed because of said absence of controversies: Ger Loughnane.
- # Team: Brendan Cummins (Tipperary); Liam Hodgins (Galway), Diarmuid O' Sullivan (Cork), Willie O'Connor (Kilkenny); John Carroll (Tipperary), Eamon Kennedy (Kilkenny), Peter Barry (Kilkenny); Andy Comerford (Kilkenny), Johnny Dooley (Offaly); Denis Byrne (Kilkenny), John Power (Kilkenny), John Leahy (Tipperary); Charlie Carter (Kilkenny), DJ Carey (Kilkenny), Joe Deane (Cork), Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny).

No, your eyes aren't deceiving you - there are four players in that full-forward line. No apologies either. Let's face it, how can you possibly leave any of them out?

PS Yeah, O'Loughlins. Of course. For the last time, mind you. There may be articles like this in future Kilkenny GAA Yearbooks, but there won't be future PS's about O'Loughlins. There won't need to be. County finalists in 2000, the John's Park outfit have at long last attained genuine relevance on the local senior hurling scene. Granted, Graigue-Ballycallan beat them comfortably (as they would have practically every other team in the competition), but that's not the point - the point is, O'Loughlins are now punching their weight. One can't ask for any more. Well done. Keep it up.

KILKENNY VICTORIOUS IN GREATEST FINAL EVER

Gallant Cork Lose Title By One Point In Never-To-Be-Forgotten Game

61,510 THRILLED BY HURLING EPIC

Let them talk of past epics—glorious, gripping and memorable as they were—but who will cavil when I say that yesterday's 1947 Cork v. Kilkenny hurling final at Croke Park must be numbered with the greatest—a colourful classic that had a story in every minute and a last period of tense drama that set 61,510 people berserk with excitement, evoking a crescendo of thunderous cheering that echoed and re-echoed around the historic playing ground.

Adjectives are puerile and inadequate. Mere words fail dismally to portray all the heart-throbbing incidents which were packed into a game where every single phase of play had a dazzling sheen of brilliancy, where men hurled as if possessed with the combined genius of past great players, and where the thousands sat or stood spellbound—completely captivated and enthralled by as great an exhibition of hurling as has ever been staged in Croke Park. All honour to Kilkenny, who won by a point, and to Cork who were just as glorious in defeat.

Never have I seen a final fought out to such a sustained white-heat crackling pace, where Speed was king, and players were asked to endure and struggle on when it seemed they must collapse after duels terrific in their deadly keenness.

But this scorching pace was maintained and, indeed, the tempo accelerated from the first-minute score of Kilkenny's quicksilver Tommy Walton, who snatched a lead for the Leinster champions.

This point score, snatched from a forest of Cork

KILKENNY	0-14
CORK	2-7

hurleys, was, however, but the spicy pipe-opener, and the next minutes produced hurling dreamed about and yearned for by old-timers who had seen classics over the past fifty years.

Joe Kelly, flying Cork sprinter, was the next to thrill when he bore down on a lovely Alan Lotty centre to snick the ball over the crossbar.

Thereafter, play developed into a hectic thriller, swinging from end to end with a rapidity so bewilderingly fast that it was, at times, impossible to follow the sliotar's flight.

Even at this stage, one vital fact stood out above all others and that was Kilkenny's speed.

They were like hares, speeding in and out through the Cork lines, and all the time they eschewed the

By TRAOLACH

net, preferring to flick ball to hurley and shoot with amazing accuracy for points.

Even though Kilkenny had an advantage in speed during this first half, they had nothing soft from the reigning champions, who played as only Cork can play—never allowing the challengers to build up a commanding lead.

One score drawing crazy roars from thousands of throats, was as quickly nullified by another and when referee Purcell signalled half-time, only two pints separated the sides, Kilkenny being in front, 0-7 to 0-5.

If we thought the fare during that brilliant first half was out of the top drawer, how can we describe the duels that immediately opened up as the teams began the vital last period?

Cork turned on the heat early, and Kilkenny hearts throbbled to extra beats as Sean Condon stooped to take a close in "free."

His hard drive goalwards was stopped by Donegan—one save of many that has made him the idol of Kilkenny.

All the time these two great teams raced almost neck to neck, with Kilkenny just showing slightly ahead. Then came the 25th minute of the second half when Dr Jim Young sliced a sideline shot that Connie Murphy collected, and Mossie O'Riordan finished to the net.

For the first time, Cork were in the lead, but only for a second, as Walton again proved the opportunist with a classic point effort.

Terry Leahy, who for a brief period in the first half figured at midfield when he scored a brilliant point, now as centre forward, struck his true form, and again he had Kilkenny ahead with two white flags.

NEVER SAY "DIE"

Time was ebbing out—it looked Kilkenny all the way—but champions die hard—and there was still a sting in these Corkmen.

It came when Kilkenny, on a raid, infringed, and Bill Murphy sent a lengthy free well into the challengers' ground.

FIGURES OF THE GAME

FIRST HALF

	Frees	70's	Wides	Gls.	Pts.
KILKENNY	8	1	2	-	7
CORK	8	2	7	-	5

SECOND HALF

KILKENNY	5	-	7	-	7
CORK	4	2	4	2	2

TOTAL

KILKENNY	13	1	9	-	14
CORK	12	4	11	2	7

Again it was Connie Murphy who proved the tar and he cut a swathe through Kilkenny's defence to place Joe Kelly for a memorable goal!

At this stage with Cork just one point ahead, excitement was indescribable, and when Jimmy Langton and Cahill got off to a dazzling movement, the champions conceded a free.

The scene that followed had in it a touch of tense drama.

There was not a sound as Terry Leahy bent to oake the all-important free. He lifted, cool as a cucumber, with 60,000 eyes on him, and hit straight over the crossbar.

TURNSTILES CLICKED

The attendance at Croke Park yesterday was 65,510 and the receipts were £5,488-7-9.

Level again! Spectators weakened with excitement. Was this classic to end in a draw?

It did not seem humanly possible that two teams could do more than had been done., but with long time being played, Kilkenny showed their magnificent fighting and finishing qualities.



ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINAL 1947

Jimmy Heffernan (K), Jack Lynch (C), Dan Kennedy (K) and Peter Prendergast (K) in action

The golden winning point came when Paddy Grace raced out to hit a powerful clearance from eager Cork forwards, and Terry Leahy collected to point.

Cork made one last desperate effort, but Mossie O'Riordan's shot just went wide, and when referee Purcell signalled full time, Kilkenny followers swarmed over the pitch mobbing these players who had given the county its thirteenth title, restoring laurels last won in 1939.

While there was never much between the sides, it must be admitted that the better team won.

They were faster, more polished, and when they lost the lead twice, they came back to carry the day.

Cork's Christy Ring, that matchwinner, was never permitted to get into his stride and must, I think, have had one of his tamest forward days in years. The fact that he was held took much of the sting out of the Cork attack.

THE MATCH WINNERS

Walton and Leahy, the Kilkenny forward wings, were always brilliant and it was their opportunism that turned the game in Kilkenny's favour.

Donovan, who watched Langton until near the close—when Langton changed with Reidy—put in a fine defensive hour, though he had one of the most elusive forwards to watch.

The Cork midfield, which changed in the second half, when Condon took over from Jack Lynch—who went in as centre half-forward—had some rare duels with the Kilkenny pair, though Dan Kennedy, the Kilkenny skipper, seemed to dominate.

Man of the hour was Kilkenny's Jimmy Kelly, who at right half-back, played the game of his life, and foiled several Cork movements.

The Kilkenny backs, with Paddy Grace, Hayden and Mulcahy as the inspiration, never allowed the Cork forwards time to settle, and it was only in the last exciting minutes that they were beaten for goals.

When Prendergast (Kilkenny) retired injured, he was replaced by Kavanagh, who went in as full back and Hayden moved out.

How Scores Came

Kilkenny opened with a "blitz" point from **Tommy Walton**. Mulcahy cleared a Sean Condon "free" and Christy Ring tried to solo through seconds later, but his solo effort ended in a "70" which Lotty sent wide.

He gripped the puck-out to place **Kelly** for the equalizer.

Kilkenny took up the running and Jimmy Kelly's "beauty" centre was plucked from the skies by **Jimmy Langton**, who placed Kilkenny one point ahead. Terrific duels followed as Cork efforts were foiled, and in the ninth minute **Langton** stretched Kilkenny's lead.

Kilkenny played with great zest and when Heffernan forced a "70" **Mulcahy** had a wonder point.

Langton added another before **Condon** replied for Cork, and in the 20th minute the Cork skipper, from a free, reduced the lead with another fine point.

With the pace a cracker, Walton, going through, was fouled, and **Downey** gripped to point. **Terry Leahy** added another and before half-time **Lynch** and **Condon** pointed for Cork.

HALF-TIME

Kilkenny, 0-7; Cork, 0-5

A Cork attempt to burst through following a free by Condon was foiled by the brilliant Donegan, and Lynch was wide before **Condon** pointed.

Clashes were deadly as Cork fought might and main to reduce the lead further, but Kilkenny broke the spell, and Liam Reidy who was giving a grand display, dazzled before **Langton** pointed. Donegan saved a Cork rasper, but **Christy Ring** cut a side-line shot all the way over the bar.

Reidy and Langton switched before **Terry Leahy** sent wide from a free.

CORK TAKE LEAD

Kelly pointed for Kilkenny to put them two ahead and then came the fireworks, when Cork throwing all they knew into it, had a grand goal from **Mossie O'Riordan**, who was placed by Connie Murphy who fastened on to Young's side-line puck.

With Cork one point ahead, the game fairly sizzled but Kilkenny came back for **Walton** to level, and **Terry Leahy** shot them into the lead a second after with two points.

When Kilkenny's forwards had a free awarded against them, Connie Murphy gripped and **Joe Kelly** finished to the net.

Cork were one point ahead again and with lost time being played it looks an odds-on champion triumph, but Kilkenny, releasing an amazing reserve of energy, had a point from a "free" by **Terry Leahy**, and the same player gripped a long clearance by Paddy Grace to get the winning point.

The game was started by most Rev. Dr. Kinane, Archbishop of Cashel.

Kilkenny lined out without W. Walsh. Mulcahy was moved from midfield to left half-back, Marnell went into Walsh's position, and Heffernan came on at mid-field.

THE TEAMS

Kilkenny—J. Donegan; P. Grace; P. Hayden; M. Marnell; J. Kelly; P. Prendergast; J. Mulcahy; D. Kennedy; J. Heffernan; T. Walton; T. Leahy; J. Langton; S. Downey; W. Cahill; L. Reidy.

Cork—T. Mulcahy; M. Murphy; C. Murphy; DJ Buckley; P. Donovan; A. Lotty; J. Young; J. Lynch; C. Cottrell; S. Condon; C. Ring; C. Murphy; M. O'Riordan; G. O'Riordan; J. Kelly.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1947

Back: Mick Parsons, Tom Walsh, Nick O'Donnell, Tommy Murphy, Shem Downey, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Fr Ned Kavanagh, Terry Leahy, Tom Walton, Jimmy Heffernan, Jimmy Kelly, Bill Walsh.

Middle: Mick Dalton (Trainer), Liam Reidy, Mark Marnell, Pat Hayden, Dan Kennedy (Capt), Peter Prendergast, Bill Cahill, Paddy Grace, Syd Bluett (Trainer).

Front: Mick Joyce, Jack Egan, Jim Donegan, Pádraig Lennon, Paddy O'Brien.

FROM CRISIS TO CELEBRATIONS FOR FAMED TULLAROAN

By John Knox
Kilkenny People



Tullaroan - Senior Hurling League Champions 2000

Back: Adrian O'Dea, Shane Hennesy, Riche Cleere, Ken Coogan, Michael Walsh, Barry Teehan, Joe Norton, Liam Simpson, Chris Maher, John Coogan, Jimmy Coogan, Michael Connolly, Michael Maher, Jimmy Cleere.

Front: Eddie Campion, John Breen, Edward Holland, Patrick Campion, Tom Fitzgerald, Paul Doheny, Liam Keoghan, Bill Hennesy, Donny Hogan, Richie Holland, Tommy Walsh, Ned Sweeney.

Photo Tom O'Neill

IT WAS the season of the two Cs' for one of Kilkenny's finest. Early on they faced a serious crisis. But in the end, they had something to celebrate.

Famed Tullaroan chalked up an historic first win in the St. Canice's Credit Union senior hurling league. The longer of the two major competitions in the county – it took eight games to win the title – surely tested the mettle of the victors.

You see, Tullaroan made their bid for victory after suffering a double whammy at the beginning. They finished the 1999 season by suffering an embarrassing defeat by Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in the championship. Few feared them this time!

Tullaroan started the 2000 league by losing to Shamrocks again. And after that, they fell to then championship kings, Glenmore. Before the season even got going, Tullaroan faced something of a crisis.

"After losing those two games the talk in the club was about fighting to stay up", admitted former All-Star, Liam Simpson, one of the experienced hands who helped turn the season around.

Tullaroan, it is generally regarded, are a team on the way up. They have a fine stock of young players, but these young lads need time to find their feet in the senior grade.

If Tullaroan can hang on in the top flight during what is something of a transition period now, they can become a powerful force in the years ahead.

Experienced hands, Liam Simpson, Liam Keoghan and Bill Hennesy jumped to the force when the club needed them most this season. The trio gave terrific leadership on the training field, and with the full permission of manager, George Leahy and his fellow selectors, John Hall and Stephen Breen, more often than not led the sessions.

During games, they were like the cement mixed among the various parts of the

team that bonded it together. A group of strugglers became a team of battlers. Young players like Jimmy Coogan, who really grew up during the season, Ken Coogan, Phil Doheny, Michael Walsh and Ned Sweeney responded to the positive vibes and were carried along by the strong running tide. They grew in confidence. Learned there was nothing to fear. And before the curtain came down on the year for the club, Tullaroan were



Dicksboro SH League Finalists 2000

Photo Tom O'Neill

Back: Alan Barry, John O'Gorman, Cillian Breatnach, James Maher, Tom Henderson, Donal Carroll, Niall Lacey, Stephen Kennedy.

Front: Jimmy Bergin, Conor O'Loughlin, Alan Barry, David Carroll, Sam Morrissey, John Treacy, Dan O'Neill.

as good as anyone on their day.

"In the long run winning the League can be great for the club", Liam Simpson insisted. "Usually the talk is about winning the championship. With us it involved the fear of relegation after the early results.

"The fact we turned things around and won the title took a fair bit of doing. If the younger players respond well to the League win, who knows what they can achieve in the long run", added the former junior and senior All-Ireland medal winner.

Heart, clever planning and self sacrifice were some of the things behind Tullaroan's march to victory. They had to show heart to pick themselves up off the ground after losing the opening two games.

Taking stock of what happened in those matches, the selectors made a few telling switches. Perhaps the most important one was the shifting of former All-Star defender, Liam Keoghan up into the attack.

The energy, drive and experience of the former Kilkenny star helped give the attack direction and focus. Indeed, in his first match up front Keoghan bagged two goals. Erin's Own (Castlecomer) were beaten by 4-8 to 1-9. Tullaroan were on their way.

"The whole season changed for us after beating Erin's Own", Liam Simpson recalled. "We ran up a good score. We did the same when beating John Lockes in the next match.

"The fear of losing went out of our hurling, and a lot of the pressure was lifted from us. The two wins changed the whole mood in training. By the end of the season we feared no one".

It was some turn around,

and particularly so when it is remembered that Tullaroan went into the season without the retired Shem Dunne, Derek Gaffney, a one time Kilkenny senior panelist, Jimmy Walton and that great servant, Michael Walsh, who was happy to play a minor role as a reserve after some great years as full-back.

While Tullaroan lost against Shamrocks and Glenmore, they didn't lie down in either match. There was only a goal in it against Shamrocks (3-12 to 2-12). But for the fact Tullaroan missed three golden chances of goals during a helter-skelter opening five minutes, they might easily have won.

Jimmy Coogan laid down a marker for the season here. He shot 1-9. He followed that up with six points against both Glenmore and Erin's Own, and then nine points (four frees) in the defeat of John Lockes.

Chris Maher proved himself to be something of a goal-getter too, and he bagged three during the early season. He shot two against John Lockes, when Tullaroan ran up the hugely impressive tally of 2-22.

In round five of the league, the eventual champions beat old city rivals, Dicksboro. That victory earned a semi-final place, and set-up a mouth-watering meeting against neighbours, Graigue-Ballycallan.

Tullaroan never flinched. They motored through their fancied opponents, and faced Dicksboro again in the final.

The decider turned into a two game affair. The first match ended in a 1-10 each, and was a real topsy-turvy affair.

Tullaroan produced real fireworks early on. They ran their opponents ragged, and sprinted into a 1-5 to no score lead after 10 minutes. Liam Keoghan tipped home the goal, and Jimmy Coogan (3), Paul Doheny and Joe Norton shot the points.

By half-time the 'Boro had sneaked back into the match, and trailed by a mere 0-7 to 1-6. By the three-quarters mark, Tullaroan were pushing hard towards victory again, when 1-9 to 0-7 clear.

A flicked goal from John O'Gorman, followed by points from Sam Morrissey and Alan Barry levelled the game. And in a nail-biting finish, Jimmy Coogan and Conor O'Loughlin, in that order, swapped scores to leave it all square at the finish.

The pattern of the reply was entirely different. The scores didn't come as easily to Tullaroan, and they had to scrap for everything they got. By this stage of the season their confidence was strong, and Tullaroan feared no one.

The start looked promising. The 'Boro conceded minor scores to Jimmy Coogan and Barry Teehan. However, the city side hit back strongly. A fourth minute goal from Sam Morrissey, and

points from John O'Gorman and Donal Carroll really put it up to the opposition. Tullaroan roared back. Following a point from Liam Keoghan, a sweeping move started by Shane Hennessy and also involving Keoghan and Paul Doheny ended with the latter rattling the 'Boro net.

By half-time the winners had inched 1-7 to 1-6 in front. A second goal from Paul Doheny, this one in the 33rd minute, left the 'Boro chasing all



Action from the League/Championship

Spot a face in the crowd at the Glenmore/James Stephens game in Thomastown. Photo Tom O'Neill

the way home.

It was a fair chase. The losers threw everything into trying to save the match. Tullaroan held their nerve, and fought like tigers. A late penalty goal from Dan O'Neill left the 'Boro a mere 2-10 to 2-11 behind.

Try as they might, the city lads couldn't get the one score that would have levelled the game. Victory was Tullaroan's!

"It was nice to win", Liam Simpson offered. "Now the challenge is to build on what has been achieved this year.

"Victory won't have done the young lads any harm. Come to think of it, it won't have done the old lads any harm either", he laughed.

The teams in the final were:

Tullaroan – E. Holland, P. Campion, L. Simpson, K. Coogan, M. Maher, B. Hennessy, J. Breen, S. Hennessy John Coogan, Jimmy Coogan, B. Teehan, P. Doheny, T. Walsh, L. Keoghan, T. Fitzgerald. Sub used - N. Sweeney.

Dicksboro – C. Breathnach, D. Beirne, David Carroll, J. Bergin, M. Dowling, D. O'Neill, T. Henderon, N. Lacey, J. Maher, B. Barry, Donal Carroll, A. Barry, J. Treacy, J. O'Gorman, S. Morrissey. Subs used - S. Kennedy, S. Moore, J. Marnell.

Referee - Paddy Neary (James Stephen).

THE GRAIGUE SUCCESS STORY COULD BE SET TO RUN AND RUN

By John
Knox,
Kilkenny
People

A TOUCH of simple symbolism helped focus minds and give the Millennium Kilkenny champions firm direction for the season.

The goal setting occasion was at a meeting of the Graigue-Ballycallan players and team officials in the GAA rooms, Kilmanagh in the early part of the year. The squad marched into the meeting room through one door. Manager Jim Neary immediately bolted the door when the last man entered. The past was locked out, left behind!

When the party left after a frank and fruitful discussion, everyone exited through a different door at the other side of the hall. All stepped together into an unblemished, challenge filled future!

"We entered the 2000 hurling year intent on winning something", admitted Denis Byrne, one of Graigue-Ballycallan's, Kilkenny's and Ireland's best hurlers of the season.

During the previous season, injuries hadn't helped Graigue as they tried to build on their fabulous league/championship wins of 1998, which was Kilkenny's first recorded double, incidentally. In '99 they

"That meeting in Kilmanagh helped banish any negative thoughts that might have been left after the previous season", Denis Byrne explained. "There was nothing we could do to change the past.

But there was a lot we could do about shaping the future, and trying to win".

And so with nothing but positive thoughts on their minds, Graigue-Ballycallan took up the Millennium hurling challenge. They played nine matches between the league and championship. They won eight, including the championship title.

And they played some fantastic hurling to boot! Who could forget the free expression of talent the May evening in Freshford when they lashed home 6-

11 against Fenians (Johnstown)? Or the exhibition given by the team, but particularly Denis Byrne, in early June when



James Young (Captain) and Denis Byrne of Graigue/Ballycallan with the Tom Walsh Cup
Photo Tom Brett

qualified for the championship final, but gave best to Glenmore in a high class final.



GRAIG BALLYCALLAN - ST.GANICES CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2000.

Back: Aidan Brett, Ger Ronan, Sean Millea, Gearoid Cleere, Philip Butler, Johnny Butler, Dermot Hoyne, Joe Young, Pat Comerford, James Ryall, Jimmy Lynch, Paddy O'Dwyer, Jim Maher, Tomas Comerford, Micheal Hoyne, Damien Cleere.

Front: Padraig McCluskey, Paul Dermody, Eddie Brennan, Alan Hoyne, Adrian Ronan, Tommy Dermody, Denis Byrne, Johnny Ronan, James Young, Tomas McCluskey, Eddie O'Dwyer, John Hoyne, Kevin Cleere, Paul Hoyne.
Photo Tom Brett



O'Loughlin Gaels County SH Finalists 2000

Back: Joe Daly, Barry Power, Andy Comerford, Sean Dowling, Michael Holohan, Colin Furlong, Martin Comerford, Donal O'Dwyer.
Front: Brian Dowling, Brian Murphy, John Holohan, Paul Cleere, Alan Geoghegan, Nigel Skehan, Brian Kelly.

Photo Tom Brett

they totally out-classed O'Loughlin/Gaels in the league in Palmerstown.
 Great stuff! Fast, open, crisp hurling. Typical Kilkenny fare!
 "They are able to play like that because they love, and enjoy, the game", insisted Jim Neary when one marvelled at the hurling after that O'Loughlin's match.
 The one blip on the season was in the league semi-final, when Graigue hit a downer and were beaten by eventual champions, Tullaroan.

"I remember that League semi-final was played the Wednesday evening after Kilkenny beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. I was knackered" Denis Byrne recalled. He had turned in a super performance against the Tribesmen, and bagged a magnificent eight points. "We didn't play particularly well, and Tullaroan were good value for their win. We didn't like losing, and, as it turned out, the upset helped motivate us for the championship".

On the way to collecting the Aylward Cup for the second time, the Graigue lads saw off Erin's Own (Castlecomer) after going on a six goal scoring spree, Shamrocks (Ballyhale) after a little difficulty in the semi-final, and then O'Loughlin/Gaels in the decider.
 "Overall we were reasonably happy with the season", Denis Byrne offered. "While we won the championship, I don't think we produced our best hurling during it. I don't know why. Our form was up-and-down during games".
 Still, to take the top prize after a season that was interrupted by

the defection of Tomás Comerford, Johnny Butler, Paddy and Eddie O'Dwyer, Paul and Dermot Hoyne at different times, and for a variety of reasons, wasn't bad going at all.
 "Oh, we were delighted to win", Denis Byrne assured. "But it appeared at times as if we had to be pushed to produce our best. There were moments in each of the three championship games when the opposition got close to us and threatened seriously".



Denis Byrne (GBC) pursued by **Andy Comerford (O'Loughlins)**
Photo Dylan Vaughan

The final against O'Loughlin/Gaels was no different, even if Graigue did win by a commanding 0-16 to 0-9. Heading into the last quarter the stubborn St. John's Park crew were very much in the hunt for honours when a mere 0-8 to 0-10 behind.
 Graigue rejigged their team. The towering and mobile Joe Young was sprung from the bench and introduced at full-forward. Denis Byrne was given a much more effective midfield role.
 Hey presto, Graigue

began to motor.
 Joe Young tipped over three points, Adrian Ronan shot a brace from frees and Micheál Hoyne picked off another one as Graigue finished like an express train. Without doubt, victory went to the better team.
 Same old, same old story of the Millennium championship for Graigue-Ballycallan. They really only motored when the pressure was on them.
 In this final they shot 11 wides during the opening half. An

interval lead of 0-8 to 0-4 didn't reflect the on-field happenings, or the fine hurling of Eddie O'Dwyer early on, Denis Byrne, Johnny Butler, James Young, Paddy O'Dwyer, Tomás Comerford and company.

However, once Graigue-Ballycallan hit the 'must do it now' button, they zoomed away from opponents who kept things tight and frustrated the opposition for a long time. In the end the stubborn resistance of Andy Comerford, Colin Furlong, Barry Power, the Holohan brothers and youngsters Nigel Skehan and Brian Dowling simply wasn't enough. The story of Graigue's semi-final win over Shamrocks wasn't terribly different. This time the deciding scoreline was 2-15 to 1-12. This time the game was up for grabs heading towards the end of the third quarter.

Graigue looked a class act during the first half, when an exhibition of point scoring took them in a mid-way lead of 0-10 to 0-4. They relaxed for a period afterwards, and Shamrocks sneaked back to within 1-6 to 0-11 of the summit. Another mood swing, and away Graigue went again. All-Ireland final goal getter, Eddie Brennan went on a 40 solo run cum sprint before planting the ball in the Shamrocks net. Quick points from Tomás Dermody and Micheál Hoyne signalled the end of the game as a contest (1-14 to 1-7).

In the previous round the champions gave Erin's Own a seven point headstart before dusting themselves down and



65 Ref!
Adrian Ronan, attended by Michael Holohan, calls the shots in the County SH Final. Photo Tom Brett

clicking into gear. A pair of goals from Brian Young, and a minor score from John Feehan, all within seven minutes of the start, threw down a hefty challenge to Graigue.

No problem! Graigue-Ballycallan got down to business. When 2-6 to 2-4 in front at half-time they already looked booked for the semi-finals.

"We are one of the teams who likes to do well in the league as well as the championship", Denis Byrne revealed. "Jim Neary's thinking is that you try and make the semi-finals of the league, avoid the threat of relegation and then take things from there.

"We regard him as our 16th man", Denis continued. "He is a great manager, and deserves huge credit for everything we have achieved. He is a friend to all of us as well as the team manager.

"The only way we can thank him for the huge contribution he has made to the club is by winning things", Byrne concluded.

Mr. Neary would insist that the dedication of the players, plus the major contribution of his co-selectors Tom Hogan and John Caldbeck, and club officers, are all major components in the Graigue-Ballycallan success story. With a young and hungry team, this story could be set to run on and on.

The teams in the county final were:
Graigue-Ballycallan – J. Ronan, J. Butler, P. O'Dwyer, J. Ryall, T. McCluskey, T. Comerford, A. Hoyne, James Young (capt), E. O'Dwyer, D. Byrne, J. Hoyne, M. Hoyne, T. Dermody, A. Ronan, E. Brennan. Sub used – Joe Young; other reserves P. Hoyne, P. Dermody, D. Cleere, G. Cleere, P. McCluskey, S. Millea, D. Hoyne, J. Lynch, K. Cleere, P. Butler, G. Ronan, J.

Maheer, P. Comerford, A. Brett.
O'Loughlin/Gaels – P. Cleere, B. Power, M. Holohan, B. Murphy, J. Holohan, A. Comerford, S. Dowling, D. O'Dwyer, A. Geoghegan, M. Comerford, C. Furlong (capt), B. Kelly, N. Skehan, J. Daly, B. Dowling. Subs used - J. Comerford, B. Hogan, N. Bergin; other reserves P. Dowling, T. Doyle, S. Hogan, I. Dowling, B. Daly J. O'Keefe, B. Skehan, M. Phelan.

RONAN SHOWED THE SCORING WAY

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Tullaroan (20) – 1887, 1889, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1915, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1941, 1958, 1994.
Mooncoin (12) – 1888, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1913, 1916, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1933, 1965.
Bennettsbridge (12) – 1890, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1971.
Shamrocks, Ballyhale (9) – 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991.
Carrickshock (7) – 1931, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1951.
James Stephens (6) – 1935, 1937, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1981.
Fenians, Johnstown (5) – 1970, 1972, 1974, 1977.
Glenmore (5) – 1987, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1999.
Dicksboro (4) – 1923, 1926, 1950, 1993.
Eire g (4) – 1939, 1944, 1945, 1947.
Confederation (3) – 1893, 1894, 1896.
Threecastles (2) – 1898, 1903.
Erin's Own, city (2) – 1905, 1909.
St. Lachtain's, Freshford (2) – 1961, 1963.
Graigue-Ballycallan (2) – 1998, 2000.
Johnstown (1) – 1914.
Thomastown (1) – 1946.
Graigue (1) – 1949.
Slieverue (1) – 1954.
John Lockes, Callan (1) – 1957.
Rower-Inistioge (1) – 1968.
St. Martin's (1) – 1984.
Clara (1) 1986

SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE

THE ROAD TO VICTORY

Tullaroan 2-12	Shamrocks 3-12
Tullaroan 1-9	Glenmore 2-12
Tullaroan 4-8	Erin's Own 1-9
Tullaroan 2-22	John Lockes 0-13
Tullaroan 2-16	Dicksboro 2-11

Semi-final
Tullaroan 1-12 Graigue-Ballycallan 1-11

League final
Tullaroan 1-10 Dicksboro 1-10

League final replay
Tullaroan 2-11 Dicksboro 2-10

TULLAROAN THE 6th WINNERS

THE senior hurling league for the County Power Cup was introduced in 1992. Three clubs have already won it twice. Tullaroan, who have won a record 20 Kilkenny senior hurling championships, became the sixth club to win the title.

Graigue/Ballycallan (2) - 1995, 1998.
Young Irelands (2) - 1997, 1999.
Dicksboro (2) - 1994, 1996.
Shamrocks, Ballyhale (1) - 1992.
Fenians, Johnstown (1) - 1993.
Tullaroan (1) - 2000 (after replay).

FORMER Kilkenny star, Adrian Ronan led the scoring way when Graigue-Ballycallan recorded their second victory in the St. Canice's Credit Union senior hurling championship.

During the three knock-out championship games - Graigue avoided the first round after qualifying for the League semi-finals - Ronan helped himself to a healthy 3-8.

The Bank of Ireland employee enjoyed a wonderful start, and shot 3-2 in the defeat of Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in the quarter-finals. He also made the scoresheet in the other two matches. Overall, eight players shared in the scoring as Graigue ran up an impressive 8-43 during their match to victory. They conceded 4-27.

Their scorers were - A. Ronan (3-8); Micheál Hoyne (0-10); John Hoyne (2-3); Denis Byrne (0-8); Tomas Dermody, Eddie Brennan (1-5 each); Joe Young (1-3); James Young (0-1).

Quarter-final

Graigue-Ballycallan 6-12, Erin's Own 3-6
Scorers:

Graigue-Ballycallan - A. Ronan (3-2); J. Hoyne (2-2); T. Dermody (1-2); M. Hoyne (0-4); D. Byrne, E. Brennan (0-1 each).
Erin's Own - B. Young (2-2); M. Coogan (1-0); J. Feehan (0-2); G. Byrne, O. Rothwell (0-1 each).



Alan Geoghegan (O'Loughlin Gaels) pursued by Tomás Comerford and Alan Hoyne (GBC).
Photo Tom O'Neill

Semi-final

G/Ballycallan 2-15, Shamrocks 1-12

Scorers:

Graigue-Ballycallan - E Brennan (1-2); Joe Young (1-0); T. Dermody, M. Hoyne (0-3 each); D. Byrne (0-3); A. Ronan (0-3); J. Hoyne (0-1).
Shamrocks - H. Shefflin (0-6); B. Aylward (0-4); N. O'Keefe (1-0); L. Grant (0-2).

Final

G/Ballycallan 0-16 O'Loughlin/Gaels 0-9

Scorers:

Graigue-Ballycallan - D. Byrne (0-4); M. Hoyne, Joe Young, A. Ronan (0-3 each); E. Brennan (0-2); James Young (0-1).
O'Loughlin/Gaels - N. Skehan (0-5); S. Dowling, A. Geoghegan B. Kelly, B. Dowling (0-1 each).

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Good Luck to all our Kilkenny teams in 1997

Good Luck to all our Kilkenny teams in 2001



Handball Report

by

Martin Lalor

PRO Kilkenny

Handball Board

Duxie Retains Title in a Thriller

The highlight of Kilkenny's Handball year was the successful defence of the All Ireland Senior Singles crown by Michael "Duxie" Walsh. Kilkenny players also won two other adult titles and two at juvenile level.

40 x 20

At the start of the year Kilkenny had high hopes of at least winning one of the Senior titles on offer in the 40 x 20 alley but alas these hopes were dashed from an early stage. After winning his first round match against Tom Sheridan (Meath), the Kilkenny star came undone against Eoin Kennedy who beat him 21-18, 21-19. There was little joy also in the Doubles competition as his partner D.J.Carey was injured, so he had to play with his 60 X 30 partner Eugene Downey and they were beaten by Meath's David Gough and Egin Jensen.

In Junior 2 Singles Eddie Burke (St. John's) defeated all before him to win Kilkenny's only adult 40 x 20 All Ireland title. He was most impressive in winning the Leinster Championships. The city player then disposed of Seamus Lawlor of Clare in the semi-final at O'Loughlins and then beat Michael Campbell (Antrim) in the final.

Local players won a number of Leinster titles but failed to achieve All Ireland success.

These include Gerry Murphy (O'Loughlin's) who reached the final of Emerald Masters B Singles where he lost to Galway opposition, while in the Doubles grade of the same competition Bernie Mahon (Goresbridge) and Frank Manogue (Kells) beat Wicklow in the provincial decider but lost to Limerick at the semi-final stage.

Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) reached both finals of the Diamond Masters A competitions but came home losing both matches. In the Singles decider he lost to Mick Lally (Galway) and in the doubles he teamed up with long time partner Pat O'Keefe (Mullinavat), but, on this occasion, this very successful partnership found Sligo too hot to handle in the final.

In Diamond Masters B singles the evergreen Johnny O'Mara from the Mullinavat club played Michael Hogan (Tipperary) in the All Ireland semi-final but on this occasion had to play second best to the Munster champion.

60 x 30

The highlight of the year from a Kilkenny point of view was the successful defence of the Senior Singles crown by Duxie Walsh. Having lost the Leinster final to Kenneth Kane (Carlow), Duxie became the first player to avail of the "Back Door" system in Handball.

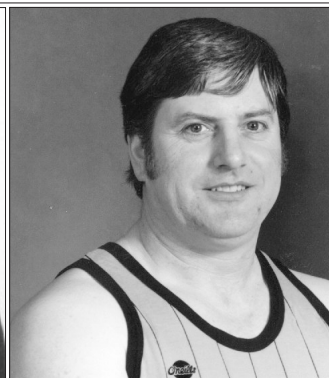
In his quarter final match he easily disposed of John Herlihy (Cork) and then after an early blip in his semi-final when he lost the first game he won the next two to see off the challenge of Michael Finnegan (Cavan). So to a rematch with his very good friend and training partner, Kenneth Kane, and didn't Duxie relish the opportunity to gain revenge for his Leinster final defeat. For the final Duxie trained harder than he has ever trained



U17 All Ireland 60 x 30 Champions
Grainne Brennan (Motheil) and Grainne Hughes (Clogh)



Johnny O'Meara (Mullinavat)
One of Kilkenny's oldest playing
Handballers



Gerry Murphy (O'Loughlins)
Winner Golden Masters "B" 40 x 20



U12/13 Team of 6 - 40x20 All Ireland Champions
Back: Jim Dalton, Brendan Burke, Patrick Hogan, Eoin Cody,
Nicholas Anthony.
Front: Patrick Nolan, Stephen Conway and Richard Hogan.

before and on the night his level of fitness was the deciding factor.

The first game saw the young Carlow star control proceedings, playing some great handball and availing of some unchar-

acteristic errors by Duxie, Kane won 21-15 to go one game up. The second game continued with the same pattern, Kane playing with confidence while Duxie struggled to put his opponent under any significant pressure. This was due mainly to the fact that he was missing a lot of "Kill" shots while the Carlow player could hardly put a foot wrong. Midway through this game Duxie more or less gave up on his "Kill" shot and this move then began to pay dividends. Duxie found himself trailing 15 - 12 but slowly he dragged himself back into the game and calling on his vast experience he levelled the match by taking the game 21-15.

The third and deciding game was a reverse of the second in that the Kilkenny star was the one in control, with his superior level of fitness being the difference. Constantly the Carlow player found himself at the receiving end of long rallies which sapped his energy even further. As the game went on, Duxie got stronger while Kane tired and in the end Duxie ran out a convincing winner by a 21-11 scoreline. This latest victory secured his 37th Senior All Ireland title. He has also contested every Singles final since 1985-a total of 16 of which he has won 15.

On the same night in Croke Park Brian Manogue (Kells) became the first player from his club to reach a Minor Singles final. Unfortunately success evaded him as Patrick Finnegan (Cavan) beat him in two games. The first game was very close 21-20 but in the second he was well-beaten 21-11.

Kilkenny's other All Ireland title was achieved in the Emerald Masters B Doubles when Sean Fitzgerald (Talbot's Inch) and Sean Curran (St. John's) saw off all comers to claim their first title together. In the semi-final they beat Kerry and then in the final they came from behind to defeat Roscommon.

Kilkenny also contested one other final but came off second best in it. Eddie Burke was hoping to add the 60x30 Junior crown to his 40x20 title but he was beaten by Niall Kerr (Tyrone) in three sets in what was a ding dong affair.

One of Kilkenny's oldest handballers, Johnny O'Mara (Mullinavat), contested the Diamond Masters B Singles final against Mayo opposition. This grade is for players in the over sixty age group and in the final the great hearted South Kilkenny player was at least ten years (if not more) older than his opponent. However O'Mara was the one who seized the early initiative winning the first game. The second game was a close win for the Westerner and in the third the younger Mayoman was the victor.

In Silver Masters B Singles Pat Savage (Talbot's Inch) won the Leinster title but was then beaten in the All Ireland semi-final by Martin Sandford (Waterford).

Juveniles

Kilkenny's juveniles did very well in the provincial championships but were unable to turn this superiority into All Ireland wins. In the 40x20 championships there were eight provincial wins but only one All Ireland success, while in the 60x30 competitions there were seven Leinster successes of which one led to All Ireland glory.

The 40 x 20 season started very well for juveniles as they won eight Leinster crowns and qualified for four All Ireland finals. Their only success in the finals was in the U14 Doubles where Maurice Nolan (O'Loughlin's) and Brian Mulhall (Mothel) won their first All Ireland title as they beat Kerry 2-1. In the U17 grade CJ Delaney and Diarmuid Burke (Kells) reached the final but went down to Tyrone in the third game.

Thomas Hughes from Clogh must consider himself one of the unluckiest players this year as he contested two All Ireland finals but lost both in the third game. First there was the 40x20 U15 decider where he teamed up with Paul Byrne, also Clogh, but they failed to Cavan and then in the 60x30 U16 Doubles he



Collecting for the cause at Nowlan park were **Jim Dalton, Liam Mahon, Eileen McCarthy, Brigid Burke, Gerry Murphy, Johnny Brennan, Grainne Brennan, Pat O'Keeffe**



60 x 30 Emeralds Masters B Doubles Champions
Sean Fitzgerald and Sean Curran

played with another clubman, Sean Maher, but also lost out as they were beaten by Roscommon in the deciding game. Hopefully for Thomas there will be better luck next year! There was more bad luck for Clogh in the U16 Singles where TJ Comerford reached the final of the 60X30 event but came off second best to Galway opposition. Kilkenny's other All Ireland victory at juvenile level came in the Girls U17 Doubles. Here Grainne Hughes (Clogh) and Grainne Brennan (Mothel) produced some wonderful displays during the year. They reached the final of the 40x20 competition but were defeated by Donegal, but then in the corresponding event both pairs again reached the final and on this occasion the honours came home to Kilkenny as both girls produced a fine display.

Kilkenny also won U12/13 All Ireland Team of Six in both 40 x 20 and 60 x 30. In the 40 x 20 championship, having beaten all before them in Leinster they overcame Kerry in the semi-final and then went on to defeat Tyrone in the final. The team was Patrick and Richard Hogan (Kells), Stephen Conway and Brendan Burke (Kells), Patrick Nolan (Mothel) and Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat).

Six of this team then completed the double by winning the 60 x 30 event. Once more, Kerry were their victims in the semi-final and in the final, against a much fresher Roscommon team, who had a bye in their semi, the Kilkenny boys produced a magnificent performance to win 86-47. The new player on this occasion was Gavin O'Keeffe (Kells).

Snippets

The O'Loughlins club in Kilkenny hosted the 40X20 Senior Singles final between Tony Healy (Cork) and Paul Brady (Cavan). Before a huge crowd both players served up some spectacular handball before the Munster champion retained his title by winning the third game



U14 - 40 x 20 All Ireland Champions
Maurice Nolan (O'Loughlins) and **Brian Mulhall**
 (Mothel)



Brian Manogue (Kells)
 All Ireland 60 x 30 Finalist

■ The final of the Men's C Singles in the Irish Open was an all Kilkenny affair between Eddie Burke (St. John's) and Paul Smith (O'Loughlins). On this occasion the honours went to Burke as he won in two straight games. Brian Manogue (Kells) reached the semi-final of the 19 & Under but was beaten by Dessie Keegan (Mayo).

■ A number of Kilkenny handballers travelled to Chicago in October to play in the World Handball championships. These included Paul Byrne and Sean Maher (Clogh) who competed in 15 & Under, Diarmuid Burke (Kells) and Thomas Campion (Clogh) participated in 17 & Under while in 19 & Under Brian Manogue (Kells) competed. In the adult events Duxie Walsh played in the Open Doubles (partnered by Kenneth Kane) but was beaten at the quarter final stage, Paul Smith and Con Moore (O'Loughlins) took part in Mens C, while in Golden Masters A Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch) was Kilkenny's only entrant. In the World Championships most of the Irish players played in the four wall events while well known administrator Billy Love (Clogh) played in the one wall competitions.

■ Clogh Handball Club is well on their way to having their own 40x20 alley. Construction work is at an advanced stage and the alley should be playable early next year

■ Kells and Mothel represented Kilkenny at this year's Féile na nGael competition.

40x20 County Champions 2000

Singles

Doubles

- U10(A) Mark O'Dwyer (Kells) Pat Funchion/Niall Smith (Kells)
 U10(B) Aidin Martin (Kells)
 U11(A) Mark Bergin (O'L G's) Niall Mulally/Damien Foley (Kells)
 U11(B) Ciaran Brennan (Mothel) Ciaran Neary (T/I)/Tomas Curran (G'bridge)
 U12 Richard Hogan (Kilfane) Steven Conway/Gavin O'Keeffe (Kells)
 U13 Brendan Burke (Kells) Eoin Coady/Ann MHawe (Windgap)
 U14 Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) Maurice Nolan/Damien Kelly (O'Loughlins)
 U15 Tomas Hughes (Clogh) Paul Byrne/Graham Lawlor (Clogh)
 U16 Sean Maher (Clogh) TJ Comerford/Tomas Campion (Clogh)
 U17 Diarmuid Burke (Kells) CJ Delaney/Anthony Martin (Kells)

Girls

- U10(A) Tina O'Brien (G'bridge)
 U10(B) Rebecca Wall (G'bridge)
 U11(A) Maire TO'Neill (Clogh) Sinead Murphy/Jane Hartley (Kells)
 U11(B) Diredre Haughney (Kells) Nadine Devitor/Clair English (G'bridge)
 U12 Clair Love (Clogh)
 U13 Ann MNolan (G'bridge)
 U15 Emar Skehan (O'L G's)
 U17 Grainne Hughes (Clogh)
 Minor CJ Delaney (Kells) Sean Maher/Sean O'Shea (Clogh)
 Special Novice JJ Gardiner (G'bridge)
 Novice Michael O'Neill (O'L G's) Michael O'Neill/Shane Hayes (O'L G's)
 Junior Brian Manogue (Kells) Joe Daly/Willie O'Neill (O'L G's)
 Senior Martin Lalor (T Inch) Pearse O'Keeffe/Eamonn Law (M'vat)
 Masters(A) Pat Gardinar (G'bridge) Pat Gardinar/Gerry Murphy (G'bridge)
 Masters(B) Eddie Leahy (O'L G's)
 Masters(C) Ray Coady (Kells) Gerry Murphy/Matt Donnelly (G'bridge)

Leinster Champions

- U12 Singles Richard Hogan (Kilfane)
 U12 Doubles Steven Conway (Kells)/Patrick Nolan (Mothel)
 U13 Doubles Eoin Coady (Windgap)/Brendan Burke (Kells)
 U14 Doubles Ann MHawe (Windgap)/Emar Skehan (O'L G's)
 U14 Doubles Maurice Nolan (O'L G's)/Brian Mulhall (Mothel)
 U15 Doubles Paul Byrne/Tomas Hughes (Clogh)
 U17 Doubles Grainne Hughes (Clogh) Grainne Brennan (Mothel)
 U17 Doubles CJ Delaney/Diarmuid Burke (Kells)
 Novice Singles Eddie Burke (St Johns)
 Emerald Masters(B) Singles Gerry Murphy (O'L G's)
 Emerald Masters(B) Doubles Frank Manogue (Kells)/Bernie Mahon (G'bridge)
 Diamond Masters(A) Singles Eddie Leahy (O'L G's)
 Diamond Masters(A) Doubles Eddie Leahy (O'L G's)/Pat O'Keeffe (M'vat)
 Diamond Masters(B) Singles Johnny O'Mara (M'vat)
 U12/13 Team 6: Richard Hogan, Patrick Hogan, Brendan Burke, Steven Conway, Eoin Coady, Patrick Nolan, Nicholas Anthony

60x30 County Champions 2000

Singles

Doubles

- U10(A) Niall Smith (Kells) Aidan Martin/Pat Funchion (Kells)
 U10(B) Mark O'Dwyer (Kells) Eoghan Hennessy/Patrick Maher (Clogh)
 U11(A) Ciaran Neary (T Inch) Damien Foley/Niall Mulally (Kells)
 U11(B) Robert Lowry (Kells) Clodagh/Darren Holohan (Mothel)
 U12 Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) Patrick Nolan/Ciarán Brennan (Mothel)
 U13 Brendan Burke (Kells) Patrick Hogan/Richard O'Hara (Kilfane)
 U14 Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel) Brian Mulhall/Mark Nolan (Mothel)
 U15 Paul Byrne (Clogh) Ricky Nolan/Patrick O'Flynn (Mothel)
 U16 Tomas Hughes (Clogh) TJ Comerford/Sean Maher (Clogh)
 U17 Andrew Martin (Kells) Sean O'Kane/Colin Phillips (Clogh)
 Minor CJ Delaney (Kells) Sean O'Shea/Sean Maher (Clogh)
 Novice Willie O'Neill (O'L G's) Billy Love/Andrew Lawlor (Clogh)
 Junior William Love (Clogh) Andrew Hosey/William Love (Clogh)
 Senior Pearse O'Keeffe (M'vat) Pearse O'Keeffe/ELaw (M'vat)
 Masters(A) Johnny Brennan (Mothel) Pat Gardinar/Gerry Murphy (G'bridge)
 Masters(B) Dick Forrester (Kilfane) Clogh or Kells
 Masters(C) Billy Hanlon (St Johns) Billy Hanlon/Sean Curran (St Johns)

Leinster Champions

- U12 Doubles: Clair Love/Maire TO'Neill (Clogh)
 U12 Singles: Richard Hogan (Kilfane)
 U12 Doubles: Patrick Nolan (Mothel)/Nicholas Anthony (M'vat)
 U13 Doubles: Patrick Hogan (Kilfane)/Brendan Burke (Kells)
 U16 Singles: TJ Comerford (Clogh)
 U16 Doubles: Sean Maher/Tomas Hughes (Clogh)
 U17 Doubles: Grainne Hughes (Clogh)/Grainne Brennan (Mothel)
 Minor Singles: Brian Manogue (Kells)
 Junior Singles: Eddie Burke (St Johns)
 Silver Masters(B) Singles: Pat Savage (T Inch)
 Emerald Masters(B) Doubles: Sean Fitzgearld (T Inch)/Sean Curran (St Johns)
 Diamond Masters(B) Singles: Johnny O'Mara (M'vat)
 U12/13 Team 6
 Patrick Hogan, Richard Hogan (Kilfane), Steven Conway, Brendan Burke (Kells), Patrick Nolan (Mothel) Nicholas Anthony (M'vat)

First Title for Mullinavat

Intermediate
Football
Championship
2000

By Tom Duggan

For the second year running, the Intermediate Football Championship was played in the early part of the season, in tandem with the Senior grade. The main difference being that this year the championship was completed on schedule with both finals taking place on May 14th. Eight teams contested the championship with two groups of four playing each other in league format. The competition started on the 26th of February and was therefore used by many clubs as a way of improving the fitness levels in preparation for the hurling campaign. The winners of each group contested the league final and this saw Conahy Shamrocks come out on top by defeating Blacks & Whites 0-13 to 1-4. Both of these teams then qualified for the semi-finals of the knockout championship while their opponents had to come through the 1st and 2nd rounds. In the semi-finals O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Blacks & Whites while Mullinavat edged out Conahy Shamrocks by three points. The final then saw Mullinavat take on O'Loughlin Gaels in Nowlan Park in the curtain raiser for the Senior Final. The football board produced an attractive programme for the occasion.

Mullinavat 1-4 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-6

Mullinavat scooped the first intermediate football title of the new Millennium following a convincing comeback in Nowlan Park. Andrew McGovern's goal for the Southerners turned the tide against city side, O'Loughlin Gaels, who had reversed a two point half time deficit with a miniature scoring spree to take the lead. O'Loughlin's were forced to start without the services of injured All-Star, Andy Comerford. The first football final of the year looked set to be an engrossing tussle between the teams until the weather intervened. The week-long sunshine finally broke, and Nowlan Park was shrouded in a steady misty drizzle which made the pitch very greasy. The teams found the conditions difficult, and the sight of players skidding past the ball became an all too common sight during the 60



Mullinavat - County Intermediate Football Champions 2000

Back: Liam Murphy, Martin Knox, Pat Hoban, Paul Mansfield, Ollie Aylward, Michael Murphy, Conor Conway, Michael Duggan.

Front: Declan Duggan, Walter Burke, JP Duggan, Andrew McGovern, Keith Madigan, Paul Aylward, Maurice Dunphy.



O'Loughlin Gaels, County Intermediate Football Finalists 2000

Back: Ollie O'Connor, Jimmy Comerford, Brian Skehan, Andy Comerford, Colin Furlong, Martin Comerford, Brian Murphy, Donal O'Dwyer.

Front: Kevin Cleere, James Deegan, Davy Ronan, Tony Doyle, Paul Cleere, Brian Kelly, Alan Geoghegan

Photo Tom O'Neill

minutes. Pre-match jitters must have been at an all time high, because both teams were guilty of some glaring misses early on. When the first score of the game finally came before the 20 minute mark through a Conor Conway free, you could sense the relief from the Mullinavat supporters as their team had enjoyed most of the possession during this period.

Mullinavat forged ahead and increased their lead on the half-hour. Conway raised the white flag with another pointed free, and some good work by

Seamus Holden teed up Liam Murphy for his first score of the game. After some early misses, Colin Furlong notched up O'Loughlin's first score before the break to leave just two points between the sides.

O'Loughlin's awoke in the second half and took the game by the scruff of the neck inside the first minute. They snatched the ball straight from the throw-in, and set up Furlong for his second point. They could and should have levelled the game on 37 minutes, but missed a relatively easy free, letting Mullinavat's

indiscipline go unpunished. However, they drew level on 38 minutes through wing-back, Brian Skehan following a poor kick-out. O'Loughlins took the lead for the first time six minutes later through Skehan, and looked set to go on to victory. However, Mullinavat blitzed their hopes of victory on 46 minutes and boosted their own chance to become champions. Substitute Ollie Aylward pumped a free dangerously towards the O'Loughlins goal. Team-mate Seamus Holden was first to react. After grabbing the ball, he quickly passed it to the advancing Andrew McGovern, who blasted past the helpless 'keeper, Paul Cleere. O'Loughlins tried hard to come back after that devastating blow. Two more points from the boot of Furlong brought them level again, but Mullinavat stepped up a gear. With only two minutes left, the Southerners scored what proved to be the winner. As the ball broke well inside the O'Loughlins half, corner-forward Michael Duggan was fouled. As time ticked by, Conway remained calm, and coolly kicked the free high and over the bar. While the scoring may not have been high, the level of heart and

effort put in by both sets of players was first class.

Best for Mullinavat were Liam Murphy and the sharpshooter Conway, while Skehan and Furlong gave their all for the Gaels.

Scorers: *Mullinavat:* C. Conway (0-3, all frees), A. McGovern (1-0), L. Murphy (0-1). *O'Loughlin-Gaels:* C. Furlong (0-4, 0-3 frees), B. Skehan (0-2).

Mullinavat: D. Duggan, W. Burke, Mce. Murphy, J.P. Dungan, P. Mansfield, J. Walsh, Ml. Murphy, M. Knox, P. Aylward, S. Holden, K. Madigan, L. Murphy, A. McGovern, C. Conway, M. Duggan. *Subs:* M. Dunphy for J. Walsh, 30 mins; O. Aylward for M. Knox, 35 mins; R. Carroll for S. Holden 57 mins.

O' Loughlin Gaels: P. Cleere, B. Kelly, K. Cleere, B. Murphy, J. O'Keeffe, M. Comerford, B. Skehan, A. Geoghegan, O. O'Connor, D. O'Dwyer, C. Furlong, T. Doyle, J. Comerford, J. Daly, S. Cummins. *Sub:* D. Murphy for J. Daly.
Referee: P. J. O'Connor.

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Billy Dwyer

By Tom Walsh, former Kilkenny hurler



Austin Flynn (Waterford) keeps a tight hold of Billy Dwyer in the 1959 All Ireland Final

Kilkenny Senior Hurler 1956 - 1963

Billy Dwyer made his debut on the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team at full forward for the Walsh Cup Final in 1956. He was better known as "Dwyer" and as well as being one of life's real characters, he was regarded by many as the best full forward to wear the Black & Amber. He was born in 1934 at Kennyswell, on the outskirts of Kilkenny City. Billy grew up with four brothers and three sisters that made up the Dwyer family. He went to Foulkstown National School and played juvenile hurling with St. Patrick's De La Salle. After leaving school Billy worked in the construction industry. Initially he worked in the Kilkenny area and later moved to Dublin where he has worked and lived since 1958. In 1964 he married Ann O'Regan, and they have two sons and two daughters.

"Dwyer" was renowned for his ability to vary his style of play during a match and this made him one of the most difficult players to mark over a full game. At 5' 8" he may have lacked height but was well built and he used every advantage to hold the ball around the goal and distribute it perfectly to his other forwards. He had an excellent hurling brain combined with a fast first time stroke on the ball which he could execute from his left or right side. He was an unselfish player and made many scores for his team-mates as well as being regularly on the score sheet himself.

Billy Dwyer's courage as a player:

He was a fearless competitor in hurling and was never known to back away from a challenge no matter what the odds. He could be best described as a bustling full forward (in the mode of Nicky Rackard, Wexford) and above all else he was a true sportsman who played the game fairly within the rules of his era. Pat Stakelum, probably the greatest-centre back for Tipperary, tells a lovely story that best illustrates "Dwyer's" courage—



"When Tipperary had John Doyle, Mick Maher and Kieran Carey as their full back line, the phrase "Hells kitchen" was coined to refer to the toughness of the play that went on in and around the Tipp goal-mouth. In one particular match "Dwyer" was, as usual, in the middle of "Hells kitchen" giving as good and more than he was getting from Mick Maher. At one stage Maher felt that he would like a breather and shouted across to John Doyle, 'Come in here at full back on this fellow for a few minutes and I'll move out to the corner.' Doyle stared in at Dwyer and shouted back, 'I'm near enough to that So and So where I am, and you stay where you are!' Dwyer just smiled and carried on."

Memorable events and Tributes to Billy Dwyer:

Kilkenny had not won an All Ireland Hurling Final since 1947, and, in the 1957 final, Waterford were six points up entering the last quarter and looking odds on to win the final. "Dwyer" had other ideas and started a storming finish for Kilkenny with a brilliantly taken goal. Kilkenny went on to win a tremendous match, 4 - 10 to 3 - 12.

In 1959 these two teams played again and it took two games to separate them. However, on this occasion a great Waterford team won. The attendance that day was 77,825.

Billy Dwyer holds the record score for a game in the history of Railway Cup Hurling (1927- 1999), and that was a magnificent 19 points—six goals and one point—in 1962.

Nick O'Donnell (Wexford), played Senior Inter-County Hurling from 1947-1962. He was an automatic choice for full-

back on both the, "GAA Century Team " (1884-1984) and the "Millennium Team" of 2000. This is what the greatest hurling full back of all time had to say about Billy Dwyer.

"I had great respect for Billy Dwyer, because he always did something different

BILLY DWYER'S PLAYING RECORDS

- * 2 ALL-IRELAND SH FINALS: 1957 AND 1963.
- * 1 NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE: 1961/62 SEASON
- * 2 OIREACTHAS HURLING FINALS: 1957 AND 1959.
- * 1 RAILWAY CUP FINAL: 1962. (PLAYED IN 5 FINALS)
- * 2 DUBLIN SH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1970 AND 1972. (FAUGHS)
- * 5 DUBLIN SH LEAGUE FINALS: 1961, '62, '64, '66 AND '71.

every time you met him. I had to watch him more carefully than any other player I've played on."

John Doyle (Tipp), another outstanding player who made the Century and millenium teams, had this to say of "Dwyer":-

"He was tough but also a great hurler. I would rather have him on my team than play against him"

Comments such as these have been echoed by many GAA followers and hurling stars who played with or against Billy Dwyer.

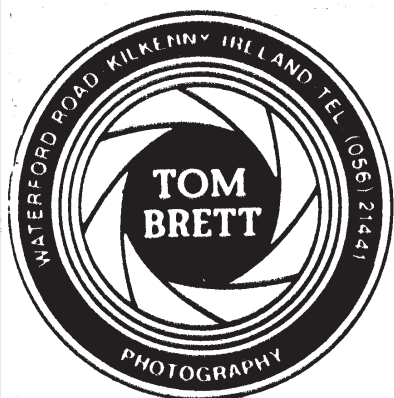
Dwyer the Practical Joker:

Every team has special characters and "Dwyer" was no exception. When the Kilkenny team flew to Chicago, USA in 1964 we had a refuelling stop in New York. Everyone was asked to leave the plane while this was happening. When we came

back on the plane "Dwyer" decided to go into the pilot's cabin (suggesting he might fly the leg to Chicago) only to learn that due to airline security a police officer was in there and our Joker was removed from the plane with a gun to his head. No diplomatic persuasion could reverse the police action and we all took off without "Dwyer". He of course had the last laugh because someone got him on the very next plane and he met a person in Chicago airport who was at the 1963 All-Ireland and he brought him to the hotel the team were staying at. The roar of laughter that went up when he burst in to the hotel was something to remember.

Conclusion:

Kilkenny people thank Billy Dwyer for the memories of his hurling skills and for being the real life character we love to remember. Continued good health to Billy Dwyer, Ann his wife and the rest of his family.



Chill Chainnigh Abú
Congratulations to all Gaelic Games Winners

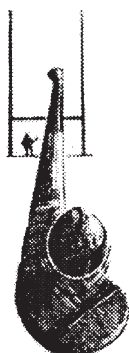
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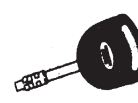
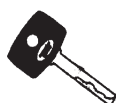


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MASTERS TAKE A YEAR OUT!

Kilkenny the Masters (over 40's) All-Ireland champions for the previous 3 years reign came to an end when newcomers Limerick proved too strong in their semi-final clash at the Ragg. This was Limerick's first year in the competition after great efforts were made to encourage teams from traditional strong hurling counties to enter the championship.

A meeting in Portlaoise saw six teams enter the competition. Kilkenny were drawn at home to Tipperary, Limerick were away to Laois, while Dublin were at home to Carlow.

Kilkenny, minus a few of their stars from previous years who had decided to call it a day, took on great rivals Tipperary in St John's Park. The game was played in a good competitive spirit and produced a fine standard.

Early points from Domo Connolly and a Lester Ryan goal gave the home side a dream start. By the 17th minute, Tipperary had fought back to within a point with scores from Tom McGrath, John Sheedy and John Sherlock. Kilkenny finished the half stronger and a second goal from Danny Coonan helped them into an interval lead of 2-8 to 0-6. Tipperary kept in touch up to midway during the second half. From there to the finish, Kilkenny took over and won comfortably. This victory put Kilkenny into a semi-final against Limerick who had accounted for Laois. Dublin also reached the semi-final by virtue of a walk-over from Carlow. Tipperary beat Laois in a play off for the fourth semi-final spot.

Kilkenny's semi-final clash with Limerick was lively and exciting. The Shannonsiders were deserving winners in a game that produced a terrific finish as Kilkenny mounted a strong closing rally. Limerick had the assistance of the breeze during the opening half. Former senior player, Ger Mulcahy, opened their account with a point. Two minutes later, Lester Ryan got Kilkenny off the mark with a similar score. Limerick kept up the tempo and shot more points before Lester Ryan and Domo Connolly pointed to leave the locals 0-3 to 0-4 in arrears after 12 minutes. From there to the break, Limerick

took over. Ger Mulcahy pointed two frees before Billy O'Connor shot to the net. Points from Mulcahy and Mike Alfred left the winners in a commanding lead of 1-8 to 0-3 at the break. Ger Fennelly gave Kilkenny a great start to the new half when he shot two points from play and converted a free. Ger Mulcahy and Domo Connolly exchanged points. Mulcahy landed another Limerick point before Dick Walsh took a hand in proceedings. He gained possession and worked his way through for a goal in the 42nd minute. A minute later he shot a point to leave his side two points adrift (1-10 to 1-8). Unfortunately, this was Kilkenny's last score. They had a number of goal chances which they failed to take. Mick Barrow and Con O'Keefe rounded off Limerick's scoring with points to give them a deserved victory 1-12 to 1-8.

Tipperary beat Laois in the other semi-final and went on to beat Limerick in the final.

Kilkenny panel

Pat Dunphy (Rower-Inistioge), Jimmy Ruth (St Patrick's), Paddy Neary (James Stephen's), Jimmy Lennon (Bennettsbridge), Paddy Crowley (Mooncoin), Jim Lyng (Threecastles), Michael Long (Piltown), Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks), Sean Fennelly (Shamrocks), Dick Walsh (Tullaroan), Eugene Byrne (Clara), Domo Connolly (Mooncoin), Danny Coonan (St Martin's), Michael Walsh (Tullaroan), Lester Ryan (Clara), Richie Power (Carrickshock), Kieran Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Kevin Fennelly (Young Irelands), Greg Power (Kilmacow), Pat Glendon (Galmoy), Michael Corcoran (Ferrybank), Malachy Hogan (Dunnamaggin), John Cahill (Dicksboro).

Selectors: Eddie Keher (Manager) (Rower-Inistioge), Eamonn Hennessy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Paddy Butler (St Lachtain's), Lotty Harte (Galmoy), Dick McNamara (Kilmacow), First Aid: Liam Flynn (Conahy Shamrocks)

Tom Walton Remembered (1921-1998)



The Walton family of Inchiholohan, Kilkenny, donated in 1999 a trophy in honour of their father and husband, the late Tom Walton former All Ireland medal winner in 1947, to the County Board. The trophy is presented each year to honour the top scorer in the combined National League and All Ireland Championship games with the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team. Henry Shefflin won the trophy in 1999 with a score of 3-56. Henry is also this year's winner with a tally of 4-61.

Picture shows (from left):- Billy Walton (son), Breda Walton (widow), Brian Cody (Kilkenny Manager), Ned Quinn (County Chairman), Pat Dunphy (County Secretary), Marita Walton Lanigan (daughter)

FAVOURITES OBLIGE

KILKENNY INTERMEDIATE HURLING 2000 ROUND-UP.

By: Nickey Brennan.

A two-horse race was how most punters saw the 2000 Intermediate Hurling Championship with the hot money going on Dunamaggin to battle their way back to the premier grade of club hurling in Kilkenny. Many felt St. Martin's would push them all the way despite a number of new and somewhat inexperienced players in their ranks. Dunamaggin, the senior champions of just a couple of years ago, flopped badly last year and but with Brendan Fennelly restored to the sideline, the attitude would surely be right to restore badly dented pride. Winning a senior championship followed by relegation to the Intermediate grade hurt deeply but the set back could now be used as the prime motivational factor in 2000. This fact coupled with a liberal supply of superb talent throughout the team saw the Southerners win the Intermediate championship in supremely impressive fashion. Pride was emphatically restored.

UNEVENTFUL OPENING.

The five initial round games in the league/championship were mostly uneventful. With most eyes focused on the inter-county scene the overall interest throughout the county tends to veer towards the actual knock-out stages. Of course the clubs themselves see the league stage as important and getting into the top two positions ensures avoiding the dreaded drop for another year.

It is not often that league form carried all the way through to the championship but such was the case this year in the Intermediate grade. Dunamaggin, St. Martin's, Thomastown and Mullinavat obliged in both competitions emphasising their credentials as the top clubs in the grade this year. The punters got the final two correct when Dunamaggin and St., Martins reached both finals. While the results were shared, the ultimate satisfaction rested with the Southerners.

THE RACE BEGINS.

Sunday 20th August saw the real action commence with the first round games. Carrickshock, fresh from their Junior championship success in 1999, came up against Tullogher Rosbercon. Both teams had met just a short time earlier in the league with Carrickshock



Dunamaggin - County Intermediate Champions 2000

Back: Eamon Kennedy, Kenneth Moore, Denis Lahart, Noel Lahart, Paul Cahill, Colin Herity, Jim Hickey, Noel Hickey.

Front: Ramie Cahill, David Herity, Niall McCormack, Ken O'Shea, Sean Ryan, Michael O'Neill, Brian Mackey.



St. Martin's - IH Championship Finalists and League Champions 2000

Back: Kieran Kelly, Philip Shore, Ger Doyle, Aidan Lawlor, Stephen Murphy, Niall Maloney, John Dooley, John Maher (Capt), Caleb Daly, Diarmuid Lawlor, Martin Dowling, Liam Dowling.

Front: P.J.Shore, Tom Agars, Alan Murphy, Tom Cody, Dick Dooley, Paul Maher, Tom Kinsella, Brendan Ryan, Nickey Purcell, Brendan Maher.
Photo: T.O'Neill

emerging comfortable winners. The championship outing was to be a much closer affair with just two points between the sides at the finish. The free taking of Tom Murphy (Tullogher Rosbercon) and Jamie Power (Carrickshock) were key factors. In a tense and exciting finish Carrickshock grabbed a couple of excellent points to record a narrow but deserved win.

A good start is half the battle and so it proved when Bennettsbridge shot two early goals to record a 3-7 to 1-11 victory

over Graiguenamanagh. The Graig side may have entered the game as favourites but they never recovered from that early body blow.

EXCITING DRAW.

A late point gave the Blacks & Whites a deserved draw in their first round tie against Mooncoin. It was a game however they might well have won with Mooncoin grateful to their goalie Mark Tyler for some outstanding saves Blacks & Whites dominated the game for fifty minutes but faded at the crucial stage to

allow Mooncoin another chance. The replay was another titanic contest between two very evenly matched sides with the Suirsiders just edging ahead by the narrowest of margins at the finish. It was cruel luck on of the Blacks & Whites who were now down in the relegation dog-fight.

O'CONNOR THE FRESHFORD SAVIOUR.

Ollie O'Connor was the St. Lachtains saviour as his side just edged out the Rower Inistioge by two points in their first round tie. The Freshford sharp shooter scored all but two points of his side's total. St. Lachtains looked to have the game wrapped up when they led by seven points with five minutes remaining but a fine fight back by the Rower helped by a Paul Sheehan goal from a free saw the Freshford side hold out in a nail biting finish.

BIG GUNS ENTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

The big guns entered the championship at the quarter-finals and, for once, league form was repeated with all four sides emerging victorious against the four first rounds winners. Hot favourites Dunamaggin encountered little difficulty when disposing of their near neighbours Carrickshock. They took control of the game from the early stages and when Ken O'Shea goaled just before the interval the final result was inevitable. Carrickshock's hopes were dealt a cruel blow in the second half when former county star Pat Dwyer had to retire injured. With this result Dunamaggin had lain down a stern challenge to all other championship pretenders.

Despite playing against the wind, Bennettsbridge led Mullinavat entering the final quarter of their championship tie. The difficult conditions made this game a stern test of endurance for all the players. Little separated the sides during the opening half and the 'Bridge would not have been happy entering the break leading by JUST a single point (0-6 to 1-2) having played with the breeze. Scores were traded again during the new half but Bennettsbridge appeared to gain a crucial edge when John Drea goaled from a penalty midway through the half. However, Mullinavat rose to the challenge and some fine points from Michael Dunphy and Maurice Murphy ensured a narrow three-point victory for the Southerners.

EXCITING DRAW IN BALLYRAGGET.

The remaining two quarter-final games ended in draws. Firstly St. Martin's and St. Lachtains served up two



Mullinavat All County IH League Champions 2000

Back: Pat Butler PJ Aylward, Raymond Carroll, Pat Hoban, Michael Dunphy, Mossy Murphy, John Paul Dungan, Kenneth Butler (Capt).

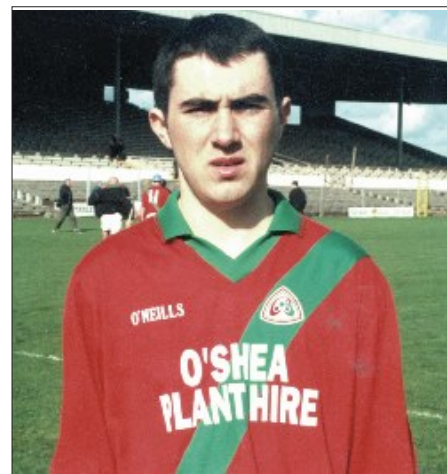
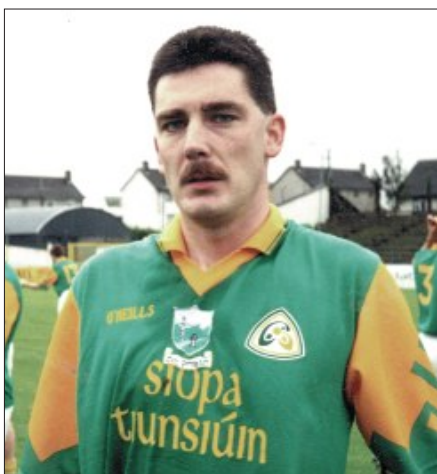
Front: Joe Walsh, Paul Aylward, Liam Murphy, Conor Conway, Martin Knox, Walter Burke, Declan Duggan
Photo: Tom O'Neill



Thomastown IH Semi-finalists 2000

Back: Billy O'Keefe, Paul Treacy, Shane Lanigan, Derek Brennan, John Donnelly, Declan Dempsey, Mark Coone, Tom O'Keefe.

Front: John Coone, Brian Dempsey, David Walsh, Derek Lanigan, Dessie Walsh, John Lanigan, Michael Donnelly.



Captains, Sean Ryan (Dunamaggin) and John Maher (St Martin's)

exciting games in Ballyragget. St. Martin's held a slight dominance in the opening half and their 0-6 to 0-3 lead was justified. St. Lachtains came much more into the game in the second half

and within ten minutes had taken the lead courtesy of a fine Ollie O'Connor goal. The Freshford side continued to lead into the closing ten minutes but St. Martin's were right back in the game

Intermediate Hurling Championship 2000.

1st Round

Carrickshock	1-12	Tull/Rosbercon	0-13
Bennettsbridge	3-7	Graignamanagh	1-11
Mooncoin	1-11	Blacks & Whites	1-11
St. Lachtains	1-14	Rower Inistioge	2-9

1st Round Replay

Mooncoin	1-14	Blacks & Whites	2-8
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Quarter-Finals

Dunamaggin	1-15	Carrickshock	1-5
Mullinavat	1-10	Bennettsbridge	1-7
St. Martin's	1-10	St. Lachtains	1-10
Mooncoin	0-13	Thomastown	0-13

Quarter-Final Replays

St. Martin's	2-12	St. Lachtains	2-10
Thomastown	2-9	Mooncoin	1-8

Semi-Finals

St. Martin's	2-22	Thomastown	1-11
Dunamaggin	1-12	Mullinavat	2-6

County Final

Dunamaggin	5-9	St. Martin's	1-6
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Relegation Semi-Final

Rower Inistioge	1-12	Tull/Rosbercon	1-12
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Relegation Semi-Final

Rower Inistioge	1-16	Tull/Rosbercon	2-9
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Relegation Semi-Final

Graignamanagh	3-14	Blacks & Whites	3-8
---------------	------	-----------------	-----

Relegation Final

Blacks & Whites	2-15	Tull/Rosbercon	1-4
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Intermediate Hurling League 2000 – Concluding Stages.

League Semi-Finals

Dunamaggin	3-6	Mullinavat	1-11
St. Martin's	1-21	Thomastown	1-10

League Final

St. Martin's	1-13	Dunamaggin	2-9
--------------	------	------------	-----

moments later when Dermot Lawler shot a fine goal from a penalty. The closing moments were fought out in a fiercely committed manner with both sides glad to hear the referee's whistle and get another chance to reach the championship semi-final. The replay was no less exciting with the pattern of play similar to the first game. St. Martin's held the upper hand for much of the game and with ten minutes remaining led by six points. James Kavanagh then came to the rescue of the Freshford side with a kicked goal but it was not enough to save his side who just lost out in a thrilling finale.

TEAMS OVERCOME TRYING CONDITIONS TO PRODUCE A THRILLER.

An overnight downpour made conditions neigh impossible for hurling when Mooncoin and Thomastown fought out an all Southern quarter-final. In a game, which saw both sides exert their influence at various stages, Thomastown took a narrow

two point lead in at the interval. Thomastown opened superbly and looked unbeatable in the opening quarter when they dominated throughout the field. Mooncoin finally opened up midway through the half and it was now their turn to take control of affairs. Amazingly the second half had a similar pattern with first Thomastown and then Mooncoin exerting their influence. Both teams had their chance of winning the game, but in the end were glad to have another chance. If conditions were bad in the opening they were simply dreadful for this early Sunday morning replay in Mullinavat. Thomastown got a great start with a goal after two minutes and while the sides were evenly matched for the remainder of the game the 'Town held out for a deserved four point victory.

DUNAMAGGIN HOLD ON.

The first semi-final was an all Southern affair between Dunamaggin and Mullinavat. The latter entered the game as outsiders but were quickly ahead with a goal courtesy of Maurice Murphy and a point from Pat Hoban. Despite playing against the elements Dunamaggin saw parity restored by the sixteenth minute with some fine points. Mullinavat restored the lead with another point but a goal from Michael O'Neill moments later saw Dunamaggin enter the break leading by 1-6 to 1-3. Despite playing against the elements in the new half, Mullinavat more than held their own. Dunamaggin edged further ahead with a brace of points but they had a slice of luck when Noel Hickey just managed to take a ball off the line as it headed for a goal. Mullinavat were not to be denied later when a superbly struck shot from Michael Dunphy ended up in the back of the net. Dunamaggin responded immediately with another point and with the defence on top held out for a merited win.

HALF TIME PEP TALK DOES THE TRICK.

The second semi-final saw St. Martin's take on Thomastown. The Southerners looked an accomplished team in the opening half with the result that St. Martin's looked to be in all sorts of trouble. Indeed their interval lead of five points hardly did justice to their first half supremacy. St. Martin's must have been given a real roasting by trainer Bobby Jackman at the interval because they were a transformed side in the second half. Everything they touched turned to gold. A brace of goals from Niall Moloney were crucial scores but a return of sixteen points tells its own story. The final margin of fourteen points at the end was cruel justice to Thomastown who fell away very badly in the second half.

LAWLER'S DOUBLE BLOW A ST. MARTIN'S NIGHTMARE.

Before a ball was struck in the county final St. Martin's were dealt a blow when influential centre half back Aidan Lawler cried off as he was away on his honeymoon. Dunamaggin on the other hand were boosted by the return from injury of Paul Cahill. The league final between the sides produced a close and exciting game and the championship finale was expected to follow a similar pattern. But oh was it so different. A hat trick of goals from Ken O'Shea was instrumental in bringing a second Intermediate title to Dunamaggin and a deserved return to the senior ranks. The winners dominated in almost every sector of the field with the early scores clearly having a detrimental effect on the St. Martin's players. The form, which brought them to the final, and indeed the earlier league success, totally deserted them on their most important day. While the loss of Aidan Lawler was sorely felt they were to suffer another body blow in the opening half when his brother Dermot had to retire with a leg injury. The loss of these two key players plus the retirement of Eamonn Morrissey some months earlier was simply too big a burden for the St. Martin's side. There was no

denying the superiority of Dunamaggin and while the result was a shattering blow to St. Martin's no one could deny the county senior champions of two years ago their right to a speedy return to the premier grade.

RELEGATION DOG-FIGHT ENDS IN TEARS FOR TULLOGHER.

The relegation battle in both the senior and intermediate grade is a cruel and intimidating conclusion to the season for the eventual losers. This is a unique championship in its own right with the games often superior in commitment to the concluding championship stages. Just ask the Rower Inistioge and Tullagher Rosbercon. It took two games to separate these neighbours with the Rower just edging ahead by four points at the second attempt. It was a case of even closer neighbours contesting the second relegation semi-final when Graiguenamanagh and the Blacks & Whites met. Although Graig had six points to spare at the finish this was another very closely contested tie, which generated plenty of excitement from the same parish sides.

SAINTS CAPTURE LEAGUE TITLE.

By: Nickey Brennan.

St. Martin's and Dunamaggin served up a stirring contest in the Intermediate League Final with the Northerners capturing their first title in the grade. Just a single point separated the sides at the finish. This was hardly a surprise as the teams had drawn twice during the year.

In the respective league semi-finals Dunamaggin scored a narrow 3-6 to 1-11 victory over the Southerners neighbours Mullinavat. St. Martin's had a more impressive win over another Southern side Thomastown on a score of 1-21 to 1-10.

The Southerners made a good start with two pointed frees from Denis Lahart. Liam Dowling got the Coon/Muckalee side off the mark shortly afterwards with a fine point after good team work. Dunamaggin were first to raise a green flag when Kenny O'Shea fastened on to a long delivery from Eamonn Kennedy

to shoot a fine goal. Niall Moloney brought St. Martins back into the game with a point but they were rocked again when Ken O'Shea's mistimed shot fell conveniently for J.P. O'Neill to shoot a second goal. This left Dunamaggin 2-3 to 0-2 ahead and in a seemingly comfortable position.

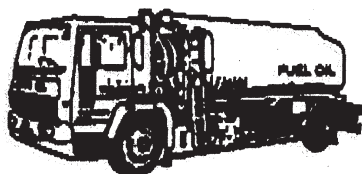
St. Martin's rose admirably to the challenge and the game was finally brought to life when Dunamaggin goalie David Herrity stopped what seemed a point only for the ball to emerge from resultant melee into the path of the in rushing John Maher. The full forward made no mistake and further points from Liam Dowling and John Dooley narrowed Dunamaggin's lead to just two points between the sides.

The Saints were on level terms within a minute of the restart and St. Martin's slowly began to exert their authority on the game and took the lead through a Dermot Lawler free in the 47th minute. Niall McCormack shot a similar score for the Southerners moments later to bring the sides level again. Throughout the field little separated two evenly matched sides. Dunamaggin were guilty of some poor shooting at a crucial stage of the game and this was to have a definite bearing on the eventual outcome. St. Martin's looked to have made the game safe with another pointed free from Dermot Lawler plus a similar score from Paul Maher but Richie O'Neill ensured a tense finish with a point for Dunamaggin. Eamonn Kennedy did have a couple of chances to save the game in the concluding moments from both a free and two 65's but in the end the title went North.

St. Martin's: S. Murphy, C. Daly, D. Dooley, G. Doyle, T. Cody, A. Lawler, A. Murphy, B. Ryan, L. Dowling (0-2), P. Shore, J. Dooley (0-1), D. Lawler (0-6), P. Maher, J. Maher (1-1), N. Moloney (0-3). *Subs: B. Maher (for D. Dooley).*

Dunamaggin: D. Herrity, C. Hickey, J. Hickey, N. Hickey, P. Carroll, E. Kennedy, N. Lahart, D. Lahart (3), C. Herrity, R. Cahill, R. O'Neill (0-1), M. O'Neill (0-1), J.P. O'Neill (1-0), K. O'Shea (1-1), N. McCormack (0-2). *Subs: M. O'Shea (for R. O'Neill) (0-1), L. Heffernan (for R. Cahill), K. Moore (for J.P. O'Neill), S. Ryan for D. Lahart).*

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'VAT TAKE ALL-COUNTY LEAGUE IN STYLE.

By Barrie Henriques

Clubs were very anxious to show their teeth early in the business of hurling matters, when the first round of the Bus Eireann All-County League got under way on April 16th. The eventual winners, Mullinavat opened impressively with a good win over Tullogher/Rosbercon. Scoring 2-11 to the Freshford men's 1-8, they gave notice that they were going to be serious competitors for trophies later in the year. The eventual runners-up, St Martins had the same score difference between themselves and St Lactains (2-12 to 1-9). Newcomers, Carrickshock had a delightful win over tough opponents, Bennettsbridge, while Rower/Inistioge (v Mooncoin), and Dunnamaggin (v Thomastown) also collected maximum points from their first games. Blacks & Whites and Graignamanagh drew their game.

Only two games in the scheduled second round were played. The papers were screaming that there was a shortage of referees. A picture of Tullaroan's Dick Walsh, complete with whistle, Levi jeans and runners, refereeing the Tullaroan versus Fenians All-County League match, attested to the shortage of whistlers. Dunnamaggin had a resounding victory over Mooncoin (0-17 to 0-5) and Graignamanagh shocked Mullinavat, winning on a scoreline of 1-13 to 0-13. The men from Dunnamaggin were shaping well, and in round three they collected their third set of points beating St Lactains by a single point (0-10 to 0-9). Mullinavat (1-15) took care of Carrickshock (0-16), while Graignamanagh (1-14) defeated Thomastown (0-7), and St Lactains (6-6) collected their first points when defeating the Rower/Inistioge (0-10) in their postponed second round game.

After round five, Graignamanagh had only dropped one point from a possible ten. Right behind them were St Martins and Dunnamaggin who had eight points apiece. Two points adrift of that pair were Mullinavat and the Rower/Inistioge. Round five would prove crucial.

St Martins marched into the semi-finals with a convincing win over Mooncoin (0-13 to 1-6), as did Dunnamaggin, Graignamanagh, and Mullinavat. The 'Vat had a fairly comfortable result against Graig, but it took two games between St Martins and Dunnamaggin to decide who would play Mullinavat in the Final. The drawn game was an epic encounter, finishing Dunnamaggin 0-15 to 1-12. St Martin's, thanks to the accuracy of Diarmuid Lawlor, ran out comfortable winners in the replay, on a score of 2-15 to 0-14.

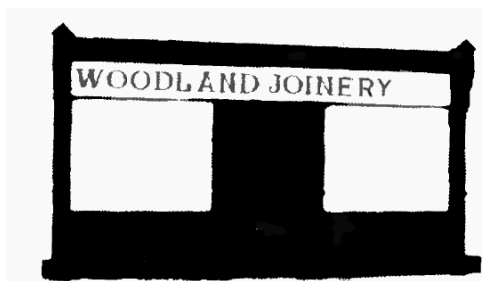
There was a nice crowd in Nowlan Park for the Final. The quality of the hurling was quite good, and the first half was a fairly level affair. Both sides spurned goal-scoring chances, not that there were many of those, as defences were well focussed, and alert. At half time, Mullinavat were in front by four points. Their first half scores came via Ray Carroll, Mossy Murphy, Mick Dunphy and a brilliant long-range effort by Pat Butler. Philip Shore, Paul Maher, Diarmuid Lawlor had collected Muckalee's first half scores. Very early in the second half, Dick Dooley saved a certain Mullinavat goal from a shot by Declan Duggan. By the 38th. minute, there were still four points between the sides, although, Dunphy, Murphy, and Hoban had swapped scores with Diarmuid Lawlor, and Paul Maher. Mullinavat's goalkeeper certainly earned his laurels with a superb save from Niall Maloney mid-way through the second half. Mullinavat stretched their lead with great points by Dunphy, and Pat Hoban. As the final whistle approached, it appeared that Mullinavat were about to collect the cup. However the Muckalee lads had a different idea. They went for the jugular. They drilled in a goal with two minutes of injury time played. But time was against them, and they had to give second best to the Rod Iron men from Mullinavat

Mullinavat: P.J. Aylward. J. Walsh. K. Butler. J.P. Dungan. P. Butler. W. Burke. L. Murphy. M. Knox. P. Aylward. M. Dunphy. P. Hoban. C. Conway. R. Carroll. M. Murphy. D. Duggan.

Subs: Michael Murphy. D. Butler.

St Martins: S. Murphy. C. Daly. D. Dooley. G. Doyle. T. Cody. A. Lawlor. A. Murphy. J. Maher, B. Ryan. P. Maher. J. Dooley. P. Shore. T. Kinsella. D. Lawlor. N. Maloney. Sub: K. Kelly.

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DICK "DRUG" WALSH

Mooncoin
1878 - 1958

By Paddy Buggy



Dick Walsh was born into the family homestead at Rathkieran a small holding of some 12 Irish acres situated on the right hand side of the road from Rathkieran to Ballinlough Creamery. He was one of a large family involved in farming, fishing on the river Suir and Cot(boat) building. Like many another family of the day they fell into rent arrears with the Landlord. The farm was sold and the Walsh family moved to Chapel St. and later Main St. Mooncoin. Dick was a good singer and was regularly called upon to sing at House parties and dances. His favourite song was "The Bold Dragoon" and from that he became known as "The Drug".

He quickly made his mark on the hurling fields with Mooncoin and Kilkenny, playing at full-back for Mooncoin and centre back for Kilkenny. Even though the GAA was founded in 1884 Kilkenny did not win its first All-Ireland until 1904, and in the next 10 Kilkenny won 7 titles in all, 1905, 07, 09, 11, 12, and 13. Four Kilkenny players figured on seven victorious sides Sim Walton, Jack Rochford, Dick Doyle and Drug Walsh. The Drug was the first to captain three winning All Ireland teams, added to his 7 Leinster Championships he won 3 Co. titles with Mooncoin, captaining the Suirsiders on two of these winning years of 1906, 08 and 13. He captained Leinster to win the Railway Shield outright in 1908, and also won a Munster Feis medal. He has the rare distinction of never having played on a losing side in an All Ireland final, proof positive of his greatness and his leadership qualities.

Laois beat Kilkenny in the Leinster final of 1914, and again won the Leinster Championship in 1915. Bob O'Keeffe President of the GAA, 1935/38, after whom the Leinster S.H. trophy is named was a native Glangrant Mooncoin and a schoolteacher in Borris-in-Ossory and played with Laois. Before the 1915 All Ireland final which Laois won, they travelled to play Mooncoin in a challenge in Waterford Sportsfield, possibly because of the Bob O'Keeffe connection. Afterwards Drug Walsh went to Portlaoise where he stayed and trained this winning Laois team. Later in 1925 Waterford defeated Clare to reach the Munster final. This caused great excitement in Waterford and a public collection, which was very well supported, was taken up. As a result the Waterford travelled to Dungarvan where they stayed and prepared and trained for the Munster final. Mooncoins Drug Walsh trained the team, which was overwhelmed by Tipperary in the Munster final. 1925 was the first time that collective training was used to prepare a GAA team.

The Drug had great regard for Christy Ring who called to see him in 1954, when Christy was going for eight medal and about to beat the record of seven titles won, and offered to get him a ticket for the final if he wished to go. The Drug didn't take up the offer, but as a result he had great regard for the Cork hurler.

The Drug is buried in Carrigeen Cemetery and his medals were melted down to make a Chalice for Mooncoin Parochial Church.

This outstanding sportsman and hurler deserves to be fondly and proudly remembered by the generations of Kilkenny hurlers and supporters to the present day. He and his famous team of 1904 and the following decade set the mould and built Kilkenny's hurling tradition that has ensured so many hurling successes ever since

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TITLES SPREAD FAR AND WIDE

Cumann na
mBunscoileanna
Report

By
Dermot Dunphy

Hurling titles were spread far and wide in a season where all corners of the county were represented at Nowlan Park, from Piltown, Mooncoin and Glenmore in the south to Castlecomer up north and many in between. The premier championship, The Educational Supplies' Roinn A went to the city, where Scoil Iognáid Rís, Kilkenny C.B.S., captured their eighth title at this level and again moved one clear of St. Patrick's de la Salle at the top of the title charts. It was seven years since the CBS boys won this title and their delight was clear at the final whistle. Throughout the campaign they had looked strong with only one reverse to Coon-Muckalee and in the final they confirmed their status as favorites with a fine win. However, the title was hard won as they had to overcome a resilient Ballyhale side, who were again vying for top honours. Ballyhale were defending champions and gave their title away very reluctantly making life difficult for the CBS team, threatening deep into the second half before the city side made sure of victory. The night of the final saw terrible weather but these two teams served up top quality fare with great scores, none better than the goals of Liam Lenihan, his second, a volley, even D.J. would have been proud of.

The Hennessy Cup for the Roinn B Title went south to Piltown who pulled off a great win over Castlecomer in the Hennessy Fuels' League decider. Both teams had come through their league campaign's without loss, though Piltown had dropped a point in a draw with neighbour's Mooncoin. Both teams showed their class in the knockouts and came to the final with hopes high. It had been a number of years since either had been in the final, so there was plenty at stake. Castlecomer had a size advantage but in a pulsating game, Piltown turned up



Kilkenny CBS – Educational Supplies' Roinn A Champions 2000

Back: Mr. Denis O'Reilly (Principal), Conor Bergin, Cillian Starr, Brendan Delaney, Darren Leahy, Dean Brennan, David Broderick, Brian O'Shea, Mark Bergin, Anthony Lawlor, Mr. Joe Hickey, (Coach).

Front: Darren Leahy, Shane Maher, Stephen Tyrrell, Ger Reade, Sean Hickey, Niall Morrissey (Captain), Derek Deegan, Adrian Stapleton, Niall Kiely, Stephen Murphy, Philip Dunne. *Absent: Liam Lenihan.*



Piltown – Hennessy Fuels' Roinn B Champions 2000

Back: Paul McNamara, Mr. Mark Connolly (Coach), Tommie O'Gorman, John Duggan, James Norris, Mark Culleton, Kevin Brophy, Seamus Norris (Captain), Fran Duggan, Robert Blackmore, David O'Shea, Nigel Brennan.

Front: Liam White, Christopher Falconer, Robbie Culleton, Neil Kelly, Martin Gordon, Brendan Norris, Shane McCarthy, Michael Burchill, Niall Kinsella.



Clara – Tedcastle Oils' Roinn C Champions 2000

Back: Lester Ryan, Stephen Quinlan, Michael Meany, Jody Creane, Brian O'Shea, Paddy Foley, Martin Meany, James Brennan, Michael McDonald, James Nolan, Tom Langton, Keith Hogan, Conor Phelan

Front: Sean O'Shea, Kevin Nolan, Declan Rafter, David Langton, Eoin O'Shea (Captain), Liam Ryan, Tom Ryan, John Prendergast, Michael O'Riordan..



Mullinavat – Tedcastle Oils' Corn de bhaldraithe Chapions and Roinn C Finalists 2000

Back: Mr Tom O'Brien, Stephen Duggan, Nicholas Anthony, Joseph Wall, Martin Delehunty, Patrick Jones, Patrick Woods, Patrick Raffice, Michael Farrell, Mark Dempsey, Miriam Frisby, Niall Frisby, Caroline Phelan, James Walsh, Sinéad Aylward, Mr Liam Kenneally.

Front: Paul Culleton, Robert Jones, Stephen Ryan, Thomas Corcoran, Edward Freyne, Michael Cunningham, James Freyne, Michael Malone, John T Murphy, Paul Fitzgerald, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Patrick Brennan, John Dalton, John Reade.
Photo Tom O'Neill



Glenmore Tedcastles Oil Roinn D County Champions

Back: Eoin Aylward, Mr. Eddie Aylward, James Irish, Daniel Cummins, Ciaran Doyle, Tommy Dollard (Captain), David Boyle, Seamus Culleton, Nicholas Walsh, David Garvey, Colm Hennessy, James Cody, John Cody, Mr. John Flynn.

Middle: Eoghan Foran, David Aylward, Paul Lyons, Eoin Murphy, Denis O'Dwyer, Darren Aylward, Ciaran Foran, Alan Flynn, Liam Grace.

Front: Patrick Connick, James Aylward, Eamon Jones, Gerard Aylward. Photo: Patrick J. Browne.



Thomastown Boys' National School U-13 Roinn A and County Cup Champions 1999

Back: Andrew Aylward, Michael Dunne, Ian Egan, Vincent O'Donoghue, Noel Hearne, Paul McDonald, John McDonald, Paul Brennan, Dominic Dempsey, Brendan O'Sullivan (Principal).

Middle: Dermot McMahon, Ciaran McCarthy, Stephen Harrison-Daly, Martin Lawrence, Diarmuid Aylward, R. O'Flaherty, James Kennedy, Callum O'Sullivan.

Front: Alan Byrne, Patrick Khan, Jake Moran, Jamie Tennyson, Ross Diamond, Patrick Mullally, Daniel Reid.
Seated: Joseph Butler, Paucic Caulfield, Stephen Cody, John Joe Farrell, Richard Hughes, Darragh Wafer.

trumps and built a good first half lead that they were not to surrender. Disappointment for the 'Comer boys but having won a title in Football last year, there will be more good times to come for these lads.

For the first time in a few years the league and cup double was not achieved. Mullinavat came close to another bit of double history by being the first Roinn C side to do the double. However, it was their league championship that eluded them at the final hurdle and the Rod Iron team did achieve history by being the first Roinn C side to bring home the Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldraithe. Indeed the Corn final was unique as no Roinn A side won through to the final. Last year's Roinn B finalists, Mooncoin, were back this season for the Corn final but the boys from Mooncoin were unfortunate to come off second best again to a fine Mullinavat side. Both sides proved their pedigree in reaching the final seeing off some fancied sides and past champions en route and then served up an absorbing encounter in the final. Mullinavat proved stronger on a windy night and making best use of the wind they built a half time lead that a gutsy Mooncoin could not reverse.

Mullinavat's demise in the Tedcastle Oils' Roinn C came at the final stage against another fine team, Clara. Clara captured the Hurling Sevens Crown early in the season and built on this to come through and win an amazing Roinn C final. As with Roinn B, Clara and Mullinavat had both topped their respective divisions during the league and as they progressed through the knockout stages, this pairing was seen to be a 'dream' final. That's how it turned out with an exceptional game and Clara proving real champions by turning a half time deficit of seven points around to win by seven at the end. Great teams and a great game which would have graced any level. One note of interest is that many of the Clara side, who most agree were as good as any in the county, are still available for this coming year. Watch this space!!!

The last of the trophies, the Tedcastle Oils' Roinn D title was an all southern affair when Glenmore and Dunnamaggin clashed. This was the second year of the combined Roinn C/Roinn D League and many would consider it a great success, as when the divisions spilt for the knockout stages, all eight teams left in Roinn D were very much in the hunt for honours. The playoff games threw up plenty of surprises but the final pairing were well worthy of their evening in Nowlan Park, and neither side let themselves down with a splendid game which went to and fro before the Glenmore side won out in the end. However, hurling was a true winner in this final and throughout finals' week as another year ended on a high with a standard that all school players can be proud of.

Ní bheidh a leithéidí!!

Finals' week 2000 brought the end of one



Ballyhale - Educational Supplies' League Roinn A Finalists 2000

Back: David Hession, Roisin Fennelly, Catherine Power, Michael Mason, James Walsh, Joseph Dermody, Lorna Fennelly, Leona Kinehan, Killian Holden, Deirdre O'Brien, Declan Long, Gerard Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, Liam Muldoon, Padraic Butler.

Front: Eoin Long, Alan Cuddihy, Thomas Hession, Gary Fitzpatrick, Enda Fitzpatrick, Eoin Knox, Greg Murphy, Kevin Healy, Patrick O'Neill, Kieran Grace, T.J. Reid, .



Mooncoin Corn de Bhaldrathie Finalists 2000

Back: Chris O'Hanlon, P.J. Rowe, Padraig Doody, Thomas Kearns, Com Walsh, Thomas Hennebry, Liam Walsh, Robert Flynn, Jamie Cody, Stephen O'Brien, Shane Walsh, Frank Law, Shane Dowley, Michael O'Hanlon, Brian Meade, Nickey Henebery, Seamus Dunphy.

Front: Daniel Purcell, Richard Doyle, Eamonn Hennebry, Paddy Quinn, Ian Dunphy, Mark Fitzgerald, Kevin Law, Michael Grace, Eoin Gallagher, Ricky Croke, Liam Daly. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

of the longest careers in Cumann na mBunscoileanna and also reminded us that in the past few years two other famous names have taken their leave of the teaching profession and schools' hurling. When CBS Kilkenny defeated Ballyhale in this year's Roinn A final, the Shamrock's boys were denied their fourth title in five years and their teacher and mentor, Joe Dunphy, was denied his sixth Roinn A title in total, having won two as far back as 1969-70. However, while it was not a fairytale ending, Ballyhale's presence in the final was itself a victory for the tenacity and ability of the Scoil Phadraig school-boys and girls and the end of a remarkable run for the man who led his school team with the same determination and skill as when he started in 1959. When most teachers are winding down to retirement

and taking some kind of a back seat, Joe continued to coach from the sidelines, or from far inside them quite often! In his final twelve years teaching, from 1988 to 2000, Ballyhale reached thirteen finals in total, and won a double double of Roinn A and Corn de Bhaldrathie in that run. Shamrocks have had many glory days in the past, at the very highest level, but the foundation was always solid and with the talent on tap of the past numbers of years, they have good years ahead. Aside from the hurling teams coached and successes gained, Joe was also very active in the Board activities and was Chairman of Cumann na mBunscoileanna on six occasions and was well known for being as passionate at an AGM as on the sideline. As his son, his retirement is a sad moment for me personally, but Ballyhale

and Kilkenny Schools' Hurling will have to continue without one of its leading lights. CBS Kilkenny's victory in that final was also notable for an absentee from the city boys' sideline, as former CBS principal and hurling maestro, Tommy O'Brien, retired from the school life in 1999. Tommy was another great stalwart of the Schools' Board and gave huge service to the Board in his many years as teacher and principal of Scoil Iognaid Ris. His ability as a coach was also highly noted and CBS teams in his charge were always well prepared and highly skilful. In his different times in charge of CBS teams, he captured half of those eight titles now held by CBS and his first was as far back as 1968! Three titles from 1988 to 1993 were won by teams who never knew the meaning of the word beaten and their ability was only matched by the desire instilled by Tommy. At Board level, Tommy was also very active and served on a number of occasions as Chairman. Always a great organiser and administrator, he also chaired to great effect the Feile na nGael in Kilkenny in 1978-79, when Under 14 games were still under the control of Cumann na mBunscoileanna. Added to this, Tommy was also busy in other fields, notably handball, being National President in the Centenary Year of 1984 and coach to 'Duxie'. Tommy is now a noted member of Radio Kilkenny's Sports Team and presents The World of Gaelic Games with Pat Treacy and as Schools' Board PRO, I thank him for all he still does for Schools' games.

Another face missing from the sidelines on Finals' Week this year was that of Mick Lynch. When Glenmore headed out for the Roinn D final this year, they had to do without the guidance of Mick, the Kerryman, who aided Glenmore, a noted football parish, to become hurling king-pins of Kilkenny and Ireland! Teaching in Ballyfacey NS, Mick was the drive behind the Glenmore school teams and brought home titles in 1977(Roinn B) and 1996 (Roinn D). At senior level, Glenmore developed into a great team and if you ask those men who brought home so much glory to the Glen' where their early inspiration came from, one name crops up regularly, Mick Lynch.

To three men who gave more than they were asked for to schools' hurling, we say go raibh maith agaibh uile, ni bheidh bhur leithéidi aris ann.

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

The I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens were again played with great enthusiasm this year and from our county winners, four teams went to play in the regional games where girls and boys went forward to play at All-Ireland Semi-finals and Finals. The hurling award went to Clara, a precursor to their fine win in Roinn C. The Clara side always looked strong and seeing off Mullinavat, Ballyhale, and Tullaroan in the final confirmed their ability and skill. Goalie, David Langton went on to play on



Castlecomer - Hennessy Fuels' Roinn B Finalists 2000

Back: James Hurley, Alan Phelan, Michael Moran, Liam Oates, Kevin Lawlor, Donal Fenlon, Michael Murphy, Jimmy Byrne.

Middle: Billy Dooley, Thomas O'Neill, Shane Walsh, John Meally, Eddie Dwyer, Wayne Kavanagh, Ronan O'Neill, Liam Carroll.

Front: Eric Kavanagh, Peadar Boran, Conor Fogarty, Mark Delaney, James Mullins, Keith Knox, Brian Dillon, John Brennan.

Photo Tom O'Neill



Dunnamaggin - Tedcastles Oil Roinn D County Finalists

Back: Oliver Weekes, Christopher Brennan, Darren Fitzpatrick, Darren Coffey, James Ryan, JJ Dunphy, Nicky McCarthy, William Hughes, Gavin O'Keeffe, Ann Marie Phelan, Sean Murphy, Elaine O'Shea.

Front: Daniel Breen, Eoghan Wallace, Darragh Smith, Christopher Delehunty, Patrick Kenneally, Jim Power, Sean Kennedy, Brendan Martin, Áine Delehunty, Sarah McCarthy, James Kehoe, Lynn Power, Aisling McCormack.

All-Ireland semi-final day while on the big occasion, Lester Ryan, son of Johnny, played on Croke Park's hallowed turf. Kilkenny were also well represented at the camogie sevens where Freshford again were victorious in the county. Ann Dalton played on All-Ireland semi-final day while Marie Anderson played at the final. Ann's twin sister, Mary, an equally fine player, made an unusual appearance as she travelled to the semi-final and ended up as linesperson for the sevens!! Well done to her also.

In football the boys title went to Mullinavat, who had represented the county at girls' football on a number of occasions. They had two representatives at the semi-final, where Mark Dempsey and Nicholas Anthony played. In Girls' Football, Ballyhale were victorious for the first time and Leona Kinehan and Roisin Fennelly went to Croke Park for the All-

Ireland semi-final. This first win for Ballyhale meant that the South Kilkenny school have now captured all four Mini-Sevens titles in the county at some stage! The handball games this year went from strength to strength, with a sixty children taking part. This year saw the introduction of beginners finals also for those new to the game and two great nights were held in O'Loughlin Gaels as Under 11's and Under 13 final were decided. All winners went to regional finals and from here, Mark Bergin (Kilkenny CBS), Sinead Murphy and Jane Hartley (Scoil Mhuire, Callan), Richard Hogan (Bennettsbridge), Eoin Cody and Conor Lonergan (Windgap) went to the finals day in Croke Park. All had a great time, but Mark Bergin must be singled out as, though the games were not competitive, Mark didn't lose a single match in the competition. Well done to all who participated.

Sponsors

Again this season, we thank all who sponsor schools games. Church and General are the national sponsor of Cumann na mBunscol while in Kilkenny we are fortunate to have good sponsors at local level. Mick Crotty of Educational Supplies' (Roinn A Hurling) and Toymaster (Roinn B Football) has been with a long term sponsor as have Hennessy Fuels (Roinn B Hurling). Tedcastle Oils have for the last number of years sponsored Roinn D hurling and the Corn de Bhaldrathie. This year, the combined Roinn C/D league was sponsored by them and we say thanks. The sponsorship of schools games goes into promoting the games and keeping the cost of games for our youngest group as low as possible and for that, we say to all our sponsors, Mile Buíochas.

**Educational Supplies' Roinn A
CBS take Eighth Title
CBS Kilkenny 5-7 Ballyhale 1-5**

At a rainsoaked Nowlan Park, Kilkenny CBS powered their way to a magnificent victory in the Educational Supplies sponsored Roinn A Schools' Final, over a gallant Ballyhale side. In the end, the victory margin of fourteen points probably does not do justice to the closeness of the exchanges for much of the game or indeed to the brave effort of the Ballyhale side.

The game opened with a point from a free by Mark Bergin for CBS which was quickly replied to by a point from Ballyhale's midfielder T.J. Reid. After nine minutes Mark Bergin pointed a '65 for CBS. Then Dean Brennan scored the first goal of the game for CBS when he lofted along ball goalwards. And the slotar ended over the line. The conditions were now dreadful and the heavy rain made it difficult for both teams. David Broderick pointed for CBS after he received a nice handpass from Niall Kiely. Then Liam Lenihan struck for the first of his three goals for CBS when pulled on the rebound and sent the slotar to the net. Four minutes later, Mark Bergin pointed for CBS and this was quickly followed by another CBS point from Dean Brennan after a short solo-run. Things looked bright for CBS who with a ten point lead they seem to be coasting to an easy victory. However, there was plenty of fight left in the Ballyhale boys and girls. T.J. Reid pointed a free for Ballyhale at one end and Lorna Fennelly made a great save at the other end. There was now a period of sustained pressure by Ballyhale which resulted in a brilliantly taken goal by T.J. in the second minute of injury time. This left the half-time score CBS 2-5 Ballyhale 1-2.

As the second half began, Ballyhale continued to apply the pressure. After five minutes T.J. Reid pointed a free and during Ballyhale's best period in the game, they exerted enormous pressure on the CBS backline. Derek Deegan, who had a wonderful game in the CBS goal made

three fantastic saves in succession before he conceded a point after the ball went up off his hurley from a shot by T.J. Reid. There was now only four points between the teams. Ballyhale were right back in the match. There was some thrilling fare now and the crowd got behind both teams. However, the strong CBS boys were soon to strike again. Dean Brennan lobbed in a high ball which was pulled on by Liam Lenihan for a brilliantly taken goal. Ballyhale continued to fight hard but it was CBS who got the crucial scores. Darren Leahy pointed and Liam Lenihan scored another well executed goal in the thirteenth minute. T.J. Reid had Ballyhale's final score shortly afterwards when he pointed a free. In the nineteenth minute, CBS struck for goal again when Adrian Stapleton pulled first time to the net. Darren Leahy completed the scoring with a point for CBS in the twentieth minute. At the end, Lorna Fennelly made some fine saves in the Ballyhale goal and certainly could not be blamed for this defeat.

Best for CBS were Derek Deegan, who had a great game in goal. Sean Hickey, Niall Morrissey and Mark Bergin in the backline. Dean Brennan and David Broderick proved a formidable midfield pairing while best of the forwards were Darren Leahy and the brilliant Liam Lenihan.

For Ballyhale, as already stated Lorna Fennelly had a fine game in goal. Leona Fennelly, Liam Muldoon, Colin and Roisin Fennelly all played well in the backline. T.J. Reid played a star game at midfield and indeed got all Ballyhale's scores. he got fine assistance from Kieran Grace. In the forward line, Gerard Fennelly, Enda Fitzpatrick and James Walsh tried hardest.

CBS Kilkenny: Derek Deegan, Brian O'Shea, Stephen Tyrrell, Sean Hickey, Anthony Lawlor, Niall Morrissey (Captain), Mark Bergin (0-3, 1 free, 1 '65), Dean Brennan (1-1), David Broderick (0-1), Darren Leahy (0-2), Shane Maher, Cillian Starr, Liam Lenihan (3-0), Niall Kiely, Adrian Stapleton (1-0). *Subs: Conor Bergin, Philip Dunne, Ger O'Donoghue, Mark Kelly, Dwyane Quigley, Darren Leahy, Ger Reade, Brendan Delaney, Kelvin McCormack, Eamonn Mahony, John Murphy, Ciaran O'Neill, Darren Kelly.*

Ballyhale: Lorna Fennelly, Leona Kinahan, Liam Muldoon, Paraic Butler, David Hession, Colin Fennelly, Roisin Fennelly, Kieran Grace, T.J. Reid (1-5, 3 pts frees), Declan Long, Gerard Fennelly, Enda Fitzpatrick, Killian Holden, Deirdre O'Brien, James Walsh. *Subs: Michael mason, Joseph Dermody, Catherine Power, Thomas Hession, Eoin Knox, Patrick O'Neill, Gary Fitzpatrick, Greg Murphy, Alan Cuddihy, Kevin Healy, James Byrne.*

Referee: Pat Hayes

Hennessy Fuels' League Roinn B. Powerful Piltown Piltown 4-7 Castlecomer 3-4

Piltown and Castlecomer contested the Hennessy Fuels' Roinn B Final in Nowlan Park last Monday night in front of a large attendance, and served up a game worthy of the occasion. Playing with the wind in the first half, Piltown opened the scoring with a well taken point from Shane McCarthy after four minutes. Skilful full forward, Shane Norris added a goal and a point before Castlecomer had their first score, a point from Michael Moran. The hurling was top class and further scores from wing forward John Duggan (1-1) and James Norris (1-1) were replied to by an excellent Castlecomer goal from full forward Michael Murphy and a point from James Hurley which left the half time score Piltown 3-4 Castlecomer 1-2.

The second half began with brilliant centre back, Seamus Norris pointing for Piltown from a free but the northern boys, with the wind now in their favour showed their true mettle. They attacked constantly and by the fifteenth minute had doubled their score of a goal and two points with Jimmy Byrne goaling and Kevin Lawlor and Michael Murphy hitting minor scores. Excitement was now running high but a great set of Piltown backs defended superbly. James Norris pointed a penalty for Piltown before Michael moranfired an unstoppable shot to the Piltown net from



Clara - I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Hurling Champions 2000.
Back: David Langton, Eoin O'Shea, Jody Creane, Keith Hogan, James Nolan.
Front: Tom Langton, Lester Ryan (Captain), Liam Ryan, John Prendergast, Michael McDonald.



Mullinavat - I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Football Champions 2000.
Back: Mr Liam Kenneally, Michael Farrell, Mark Dempsey, Stephen Duggan, Patrick Jones, Nicholas Anthony, M. Tom O'Brien.
Front: Patrick Wall, Joseph Wall, Patrick Raftice, Michael Malone, Patrick Woods, John Dalton.



Freshford - I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Footballcamogieons 2000.
Back: Mt T Doheny, Kim Farrell, Angela Dalton, Niamh Dawson, Carol Kavanagh, Christina Neary.
Front: Laura Grace, Ann Dalton, Mary Dalton, Caroline Champion, Marie Anderson.

40 yards out to leave just three points between the teams. From the puck out Piltown attacked and Shane McCarthy goaled to set a seal on victory for the boys from the south. With the puck out, referee, Willie Kearney, blew the final whistle to bring an end to a terrific final where both teams displayed great skill and determination.

Outstanding for Piltown, on a night where every player deserves mention were Seamus Norris, James Norris, Tommy O'Gorman, Nigel Brennan and Kevin Brophy. Castlecomer had their stars in Kevin Lawlor, Jimmy Byrne, Eddie Dwyer, Mark Delaney, James Hurley and Michael Murphy.

Piltown: Brendan Norris, Neil Kelly, Nigel Brennan, Kevin Brophy, Michael Burchill, Seamus Norris (0-1), Fran Duggan, Mark Culleton, Tommie O'Gorman, Martin Gordon, Paul McNamara, John Duggan (1-1), David O'Shea, James Norris (2-4), Shane McCarthy (1-1), Robbie Culleton, Christopher Falconer, Liam White, Robert Blackmore, Niall Kinsella, David Corcoran.

Castlecomer: Mark Delaney, John Meally, Liam Oates, Shane Walsh, Donal Fenlon, Kevin Lawlor, (Capt.) (0-1), James Mullins, Michael Moran (1-1), James Hurley (0-1), Eddie Dwyer, Jimmy Byrne (1-0), Conor Fogarty, John Brennan, Michael Murphy (1-1), Peadar Boran, Alan Phelan, Ronan O'Neill, Liam Carroll, Thomas O'Neill, Wayne Kavanagh, Eric Kavanagh, Keith Knox, Billy Dooley, Brian Dillon, Joseph Murphy, Liam Bergin.

**Tedcastle Oils' League Roinn C
Clara win a classic
Clara 4-8, Mullinavat 3-4**

The Millennium Roinn C Primary Hurling Final will be remembered as a classic encounter, providing an absorbing and exciting tussle between two talented and sporting teams. In ideal summer conditions a large appreciative crowd witnessed a fine exhibition of hurling adorned with elegant stickwork and wholehearted endeavour. Great credit is due to both teams for providing a standard of hurling that would do justice to a more senior age group. Clara finally managed to stamp their authority on the game and were worthy victors. Mullinavat contributed handsomely to the top class fare and lost no honour in defeat.

The game started at a blistering pace and the early exchanges were furious and uncompromising. Barely four minutes had elapsed when Mullinavat's midfielder Nicholas Anthony grabbed a high ball and crashed it to the net from 20metres out. Clara fought back and within a few minutes were rewarded with a penalty which midfielder James Nolan duly netted. Clara kept up the pressure and were awarded a



David Langton and Lester Ryan who represented Clara N.S. in Croke Park this year at the I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Games. David, a great-grandnephew of the great Jim Langton played on All-Ireland Semi-final day, while Lester, son of Clara stalwart Johnny Ryan, played on All-Ireland Final Day.



Roisin Fennelly and Leona Kinehan of Scoil Phadraig, Ballyhale who played in Croke Park in the I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Games at the All-Ireland Semi-final between Kildare and Galway.

free, which was pointed by James Nolan to put them in the lead. Undaunted, Mullinavat went on the offensive and despite heroic work by the Clara defence, Mullinavat's Patrick Brennan eventually broke through to shoot a great ground ball on the rebound to the net. Within a minute Mullinavat stretched their lead when centre forward Michael Malone latched on to a centre to crash the ball to the net. Clara replied with a point from a "65" by James Nolan. Two fine points from midfield by the stylish Nicholas Anthony (M) underlined Mullinavat's superiority at this stage and his deadly accuracy from the placed ball was demonstrated when he concluded the first half scoring with a point from a 55 metre free.

Half time score: Mullinavat 3-3
Clara 1-2

The second half began at a frantic pace. The flair of Mullinavat's Nicholas Anthony was matched by the elegant stickwork of Clara's James Nolan. Lester Ryan, now operating at midfield, showed a tremendous appetite for hard work and played a crucial role in determining the outcome of the contest. Five minutes into the new half

Nicholas Anthony (M) pointed. This was quickly followed by a pointed free from James Nolan (C) after good work by Lester Ryan. A few minutes later a beautifully angled stroke from the left wing by corner forward Tom Ryan (C) found the top corner of the net. Clara had now gained the initiative and with excitement growing to fever pitch Mullinavat backs were placed under intense pressure. Almost 10minutes into the second half Clara narrowed the margin to just a single point when James Nolan finished a great solo run from the wing with a rasping shot to the net from 30 metres out. Clara were now hurling with great power and style. With 12 minutes left Clara took the lead when Jody Creane (C) goaled with a fine ground shot from 25metres out. This was followed by a pointed free from James Nolan (C) and a well earned Lester Ryan (C) point. Mullinavat battled hard to reverse the pattern of play but Clara were not to be denied victory. Three points in the last 5 minutes, two by marksman James Nolan from "65"s and the third from lively and industrious full forward Liam Ryan, ensured a Clara triumph.

For Clara this was a glorious and well merited victory. Their delightful hurling artistry, gritty determination and excellent team work more than compensated for any disadvantage in physique. Their success was a result of a wholehearted effort from the full team and substitute Declan Rafter. Particularly outstanding in defence were wingback Keith Hogan, centreback and captain Eoin O'Shea. Midfielder James Nolan, with an amazing personal tally of 2-6, had a memorable day, using an array of hurling skills to lethal effect. Clara's forwards were relentless in their pursuit of scores. Centre forward Lester Ryan's contribution to the triumph was immense. He was untiring in his efforts and very effective particularly in the second half when playing at midfield. Jody Creane at wing forward, showing some deft touches, was very much to the fore. Mullinavat's commendable contribution to this final will not be forgotten. As newly crowned Country Cup champions, Mullinavat went into this final with tremendous fire and determination. They can take solace from the fact that they played their part in providing one of the highlights of the Primary Schools finals. All of their players were unstinting in their efforts and their unyielding spirit ensured that the outcome was in doubt until the closing minutes of the game. Among their outstanding players were Stephen Duggan--their ever dependable goalkeeper. Powerful full back Patrick Jones repulsed many attacks with mighty clearances. Nicholas Anthony at midfield was one of the outstanding players on view and he was ably assisted by Micheál Farrell. The forwards fought hard against the tight marking Clara defence but as the game wore on scoring opportunities were severely curtailed. Full forward Patrick Raffice proved to be a tireless worker and played a significant role in several Mullinavat scores.

Clara : David Langton, Brian O'Shea, Michael McDonald, Sean O'Shea, Keith Hogan, Eoin O'Shea, John Prendergast, James Nolan (2-6), Tom Langton, Jody Creane (1-0), Lester Ryan (0-1), Stephen Quinlan, James Brennan, Liam Ryan (0-1), Tom Ryan (1-0). *Subs.: Declan Rafter, Martin Meany, Michael O'Riordan, Paddy Foley, Michael Meany, Kevin Nolan, Conor Phelan, Thomas Armitage.*

Mullinavat : Stephen Duggan, James Freyne, Patrick Jones, John Thomas Murphy, Joseph Wall, Mark Dempsey, John Dalton, Nicholas Anthony (1-4), Micheál Farrell, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael Malone (1-0), Patrick Woods, Patrick Brennan (1-0), Patrick Raftice, Paul Fitzgerald. *Subs.: Martin Delahunty, Edward Freyne, Michael Cunningham, Sinéad Aylward, Miriam Frisby, Carol Phelan John Reade, Thomas Corcoran, Stephen Ryan, Paul Culleton, Kevin Knox, Gary Ayres, James Walsh, Niall Dungan, Niall Frisby, Robert Jones.*
Referee : Ger O'Grady

**Tedcastle Oils' League Roinn D
Great Win for Glenmore
Glenmore 4-6, Dunnamaggin 4-3**

Glenmore and Dunnamaggin served up a thriller in this Tedcastle Oils Roinn D school's hurling final in Nowlan Park to a crowd which sat on the edge of its seat for all of the second half. It was Glenmore who settled from early on and they opened up a commanding lead of 1-3 to no score after fifteen minutes. Midfielder Tommy Dullard (G) was in fine form throughout the quarter and had the ball in the net after only three minutes. He added a further point to his tally while forwards David Garvey and Eoin Murphy added two more between them.

This one way traffic was soon to end as Dunnamaggin turned defence into attack when goalkeeper William Hughes brought off a fine save from a Glenmore '65 and found Darren Fitzpatrick with his clearance. Fitzpatrick made a telling run and finished to the back of the net. This Dunnamaggin revival continued with a point from the impressive Fitzpatrick, and almost on the half time whistle, he found the net again when he put away with a quick flick from a goalmouth melee. This period of dominance brought Dunnamaggin back into serious contention as they lead at the break by 2-1 to 1-3

At the restart Glenmore showed that they were determined to get back into the game when Paul Lyons fired over a superb point to level the match. Indeed this was to be the pattern of all of the second half as the sides drew level on three occasions and the lead changed hands on six occasions in all.

Dunnamaggin replied almost four minutes into the half with a goal from Nicky McCarthy who displayed great individual skill. Tommy Dullard missed a free close in and just when it appeared that Dunnamaggin were dictating the play up popped Dullard with the perfect reply! - a goal to level the match again. James Cody (G) and Nicky McCarthy (D) exchanged points and the excitement in the stand was now at fever pitch.

Full forward Nicholas Walsh for Glenmore got a touch to long delivery from James Cody and netted to give Glenmore a four point advantage. Dunnamaggin sought to haul them back and forced a great save from Darren Aylward and in what was to be a nailbiting passage of play Glenmore added a further point while Dunnamaggin midfielder Darren Fitzpatrick also added a point to leave Glenmore with a one goal lead 3-6 to 3-3.

With about three minutes remaining Darren Fitzpatrick gathered a ball thirty metres out from goal and surged forward. With a blistering shot he gave the goalkeeper no chance and the sides were level again with little time left. Both teams dug deep in search of the winning score and on this occasion the chance fell to full forward Nicholas Walsh. Dunnamaggin struggled to clear their line and Walsh used his physical presence to finish the ball to the net to the delight of the Glenmore supporters. There was no time for Dunnamaggin to reply and the referee blew the final whistle on a thrilling final. Both teams can take great credit for the quality of the game and its level of excitement.

For the winners Tommy Dullard was outstanding as were Ciarán Doyle, Seamus Culleton, John Cody Paul Lyons, David Garvey, Darren Aylward, Eoin Murphy and two goal hero Nicholas Walsh.

SCOREBOARD 2000.

Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A).
Kilkenny CBS 5-7 Ballyhale 1-5.

Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B).
Piltown 4-7 Castlecomer 3-4.

Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) Hurling League (Roinn C).
Clara 4-8 Mullinavat 3-4.

Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D).
Glenmore 4-6 Dunnamaggin 4-3.

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie.
Mullinavat 2-3 Mooncoin 0-2.

GARDA SIOCHANA CITY CLASS LEAGUES

Second Class: St. Patrick's beat St. Patrick's
 Third Class: St. Patrick's beat CBS Kilkenny
 Fourth Class: St. Canice's beat St. Patrick's
 Fifth Class: St. Patrick's beat CBS Kilkenny
 Sixth Class: Gaelscoil Osrai beat St. Patrick's

INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens

Hurling: Clara.
Football: Mullinavat.
Camogie: Freshford.
Girls' Football: Ballyhale.
Girls' Handball:
Under 11 (D): Sinead Murphy Jane Hartley (Scoil Mhuire, Callan)
Under 13 (D): Maire Therese O'Neill/Claire Love (Clogh)
Boys' Handball:
Under 11 (S): Mark Bergin (CBS Kilkenny)
Beginners: Mark O'Dwyer (Stoneyford)
Under 11 (D): Ciaran Brennan/Conor Kelly (Muckalee)
Beginners: Jonathan Kearney/Stephen Forristal (St. John's)
Under 13 (S): Richard Hogan (Bennettsbridge)
Beginners: David Broderick (CBS Kilkenny)
Under 13 (D): Eoin Cody/Conor Lonergan (Windgap)
Beginners: Wayne Walsh/Joe Mulcahy (St. Patrick's)

For Dunnamaggin Darren Fitzpatrick was brilliant and might easily have won the man of the match award Others to impress were William Hughes, James Ryan, J.J Dunphy, Gavin O'Keefe Anne Marie Phelan and Elaine O'Shea.

Glenmore: Darren Aylward, Daniel Cummins, Ciaran Doyle, Ciaran Foran, James Irish, Seamus Culleton, John Cody, Tommy Dollard (2-2), Paul Lyons (0-1), Cian Flynn, David Garvey (0-1), James Cody, Eoin Murphy (0-2), Nicholas Walsh (2-0), Denis O'Dwyer.

Dunnamaggin: William Hughes, Jim Power, Oliver Weekes, Aine Delaney Anne Marie Phelan, James Ryan, Elaine O'Shea, Darren Fitzpatrick (3-2), J.J Dunphy, Gavin O'Keefe, Nicky McCarthy (1-1), Darren Coffey, James Kehoe, Stephen Conway, Shaun Murphy.

**Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie
Mullinavat win Historic Final
Mullinavat 2-3 Mooncoin 0-2**

The Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie Final of 2000 was unique. Mullinavat won this trophy for the first time and became the first side from Roinn C to win it. Their path to the final was not easy as they had to beat Ballyhale, Conahy, Piltown and Coon/Muckalee to earn their place. Their opponents were last year's Roinn B finalists Mooncoin who had recorded good wins over Rower-Inistioge, K.S.P, Clara and Callan in their route to Nowlan Park.

Both sides were evenly matched and the match was entertaining from start to finish. Mullinavat fully deserved to take home the trophy as they made better use of their chances and made it very difficult for Mooncoin to get in a telling blow.

Mullinavat had first use of the strong breeze blowing from the town goal, and were first to score when Nicholas Anthony, their best player on the night pointed a free in the third and he added another point from a free two minutes later. Mullinavat struck a decisive blow when Paul Fitzgerald was on hand to whip a ground shot to the net in the seventh minute. Mooncoin tried hard to get back in the game and Frank Law was doing trojan work in midfield to get his side on the scoreboard. However the Mullinavat defence stood firm and with Patrick Jones and Mark Dempsey solid at the heart of the defence, Mooncoin were finding it difficult to break them down. Mullinavat increased their lead ten minutes from the break when Patrick Brennan found the net with a ground shot. They could have increased their lead but for some excellent goalkeeping from Kevin Law in the Mooncoin goal. Mooncoin finally got the reward their determined hurling deserved when Thomas Kearns pointed after lovely work from Shane Dowley. When the half time whistle sounded Mullinavat had a seven point lead and one wondered was it enough as the breeze was quite strong and Mooncoin had been coming back strongly throughout the first half.

Half time score: Mullinavat 2-2 Mooncoin 0-1

Mooncoin made some positional changes at the break with Thomas Hennebry moving upfield as they sought to reduce the Mullinavat lead. Mullinavat brought Patrick Raftice back from the full forward line in an effort to protect their lead. The hurling was fast and furious as both sides fought tooth and nail to gain the upper hand. Mooncoin seemed to think that they needed goals from the outset and Jamie Cody made some surging runs into the Mullinavat defence but the 'Vat defence stood firm. Michael Malone scored a beautiful point ten minutes into the half to put Mullinavat eight points clear. Mooncoin were not beaten and sprung Kevin Law from the goal in an effort to wrest the game from their opponents. Another Jamie Cody surging run yielded a '65 which Thomas Hennebry pointed. Mooncoin threw everything into the final minutes to get the scores but Mullinavat were not to be denied and when the final whistle sounded the 'Vat boys were the winners.

Great credit must go to both sides for a wonderful contest. The scoreline does not do justice to the huge effort put in by the Mooncoin boys. They never gave up and chased and fought for everything. Mullinavat, though deserved to win and it took a real team effort from all their players to earn their victory.

Mullinavat: Stephen Duggan, James Freyne, Patrick Jones, John Thomas Murphy, Joseph Wall, Mark Dempsey, John Dalton, Nicholas Anthony (0-2 frees), Michéal Farrell, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael Malone (0-1), Patrick Woods, Patrick Brennan (1-0), Patrick Raftice, Paul Fitzgerald (1-0).

Mooncoin: Kevin Law, Christopher O'Hanlon, Thomas Hennebry (0-1 '65), Stephen O'Brien, Pádraig Doody, Jamie Cody, Michael O'Hanlon, Frank Law, P.J. Rowe, Michael Grace, Shane Walsh, Thomas Kearns (0-1), Daniel Purcell, Shane Dowley, Robert Flynn.

Referee: Podge Butler.

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Y2000 - A YEAR TO REMEMBER IN KILDALTON COLLEGE

By Pat Moylan

Kildalton Agricultural & Horticultural College, Piltown grabbed Kilkenny's first All Ireland Hurling Crown for of the year when they defeated a dogged Rockwell College (Cashel) side in a pulsating final in June. This competition, kindly sponsored by the National Farm Relief Services, is run each year for all agricultural colleges in the country and the standard of hurling is usually excellent. For Kildalton, this win yielded their 9th crown and completed a back-to-back double with Kildalton's win in 1999. Past Kilkenny hurlers to don the black and amber college jersey include Christy Heffernan, Paddy Prendergast, Sean Fennelly, Charlie Carter and Noel Hickey.

By the nature of the draw, Kildalton advanced to the semi-final stage untried, to face Salesian College, Pallaskenry (Co. Limerick). In a tough encounter, in no way helped by erratic refereeing, the game ended in chaos as the referee deemed Pallaskenry the victors by one point. This was in contrast to the 2-11 (K) to 2-11 (P) score-line recorded by both teams. The game concluded in a "heated discussion". Following an appeal, Pallaskenry graciously agreed to a replay a week later.

Following a close tense affair, Kildalton emerged victorious on a 0-11 to 0-09 score-line. On to the final.....

Kildalton entered this final as rank outsiders as a fancied Rockwell College had "walloped" Mountbellew Agricultural College (Galway) by 7-17 to 5-03 in the semi-final. However, enormous spirit, no shortage of skill and pure determination, inspired by a gigantic performance by captain Pat O'Regan (Cork) helped Kildalton capture this coveted prize at colleges level. The game, played in excellent conditions in New Inn, Co. Tipperary, proved to be a thrill-a-minute passionate display of hurling by both teams, whose rivalry in this competition bears close resemblance to the Kilkenny-Tipperary relationship in hurling.

The half-time score of 3-08 a piece tells its own story. This was a half where the scores came fast and furious. Rockwell powered by Limerick's Andrew Hayes and Tipperary duo Tim Minogue and Tom Butler, raced into an early five point lead—were the pundits to be correct? In stepped the aforementioned O'Regan to upset the odds. Firstly he arrowed two John Fenton-

like pointed frees from 70 yards, moments later a long free from same man somehow deceived Rockwell's guardian, Niall Butler, to nestle in the back of the net - game on! Kildalton gained in confidence and self-belief and rallied to the challenge of their Tipperary foes. The game erupted into a crescendo of scores Rockwell's Tim Minogue and Tom Butler exchanging goals with Kildalton's brace from Pádraig Quinlivan. This mutual exchange of scores continued until both sides retired 3-08 each on the half-hour.

In the second half, both defences tightened up considerably and scores were limited in this "feast and a famine" game. The "tit-for-tat" scoring continued; captains Pat O'Regan (K) and Tim Minogue (P) being the main contributors. With three minutes remaining and the scores locked at 3-12 each, Kildalton's John Phelan struck the all-important goal, to send the Piltown college supporters delirious. Rockwell, sensing their impending fate,



Kildalton College-All Ireland Agricultural Colleges Hurling Champions 2000

Back: Kevin Buckley, Eddie Gavin, Richard Freyne, John Phelan, Seamus Wilson, John Dowling, John O' Sullivan, Ger Power, Pat O' Regan (capt), Jamie McGrath, Richard Kinsella, Nat Smith, Bill Doyle, James Butler.

Front: Andrew English, Niall Morrissey, Paul Fennessy, Pádraig Quinlivan, Sean Minchin, Michael Murphy, P.J. Burke, Seamus Brennan, Michael Redmond, Kevin O'Carroll, Eddie O'Grady, Denis Hearn.

fought back for their hurling lives but found the Kildalton defence a bridge too far. The final whistle signalled scenes and sounds of jubilation, joy and immense pride, as Kildalton regained the Farm Relief Services trophy which they had won in 1999. Final score— Kildalton 4-12 Pallaskenry 3-12

Kildalton Panel & Scores (in Final): Sean Minchin (Carlow), Michael Redmond (Wexford), Seamus Brennan (Kilkenny - Conahy Shamrocks), Michael Murphy (Wexford), Pat O'Regan, Captain (Cork) (1-09), P.J. Burke (Tipperary), Ger Power (Waterford), Jamie McGrath (Kilkenny - Mooncoin) (0-01), Kevin O'Carroll (Wexford), John Phelan (Kilkenny - Mooncoin) (1-00), Pádraig Quinlivan (Tipperary) (2-01), Eddie O'Grady (Wexford) (0-01), John O'Sullivan (Wexford), Paul Fennessy (Waterford), Robert Fennell (Waterford), Richard Freyne (Wexford), John Dowling (Wexford), Niall Morrissey (Tipperary), Richard Kinsella (Kilkenny - Mooncoin), Denis Hearne (Waterford), Kevin Buckley (Wexford), Seamus Wilson (Cork), Eddie Gavin (Kilkenny - Barrow Rangers), Andrew English (Wexford), John Phelan (Waterford), Nat Smith (Tipperary), Bill Doyle (Wexford), James

Butler (Kilkenny), Tomas O'Dwyer (Tipperary), John Walsh (Tipperary), James Kelly (Kilkenny - Glenmore), John Coady (Carlow).

Mentors: Pat Moylan, Fred Townsend & Perrow Murphy Dunn

Kildalton Roll of Honour(9)

1976, 1978, 1980, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1999 & 2000

Further sporting glory was brought to Kildalton College later in the year as college lecturer, Meadhbh Stokes repeated her feat of 1999 and captured a second Senior Camogie All-Ireland medal with Tipperary as a panel member. In football, Kildalton duo John Doyle & Tadgh Fennin carried the Kildalton banner only to be defeated at the semi-final stage by Galway. To round off a proud sporting year, past pupils, Charlie Carter and Noel Hickey, helped Kilkenny to their 26th All-Ireland Hurling Crown. Both had tasted success at All-Ireland level with Kildalton—Charlie Carter in 1988/89 and Noel Hickey in 1998/99. Both players visited the college with the Liam McCarthy cup in October to a rapturous reception. Certainly the year 2000 will be proudly remembered in Kildalton's sporting folklore.



"Liam McCarthy comes to Kildalton"

Past pupils, **Noel Hickey** and **Charlie Carter**, pictured chatting with **Michael Calvin** (Kildalton) and **Dr. Liam Downey** (Director of Teagasc) at a Careers Open Day in the College in October.

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Well Done Kilkenny!

SERIOUS STUFF!

Diarmuid O'Flynn (Cork Examiner) talks to Denis Byrne before the Final

Some players like to play games when it comes to filling in pre-game questionnaires on their various likes and dislikes. You know the drill - favourite actor, David Ginola, favourite comedy, Oireachteas Report. That sort of thing. But when Denis Byrne lists his favourite pastime as fly-fishing, you know he's serious. He's just that kind of guy. In the Kilkenny colours, he's a hard-hurling wing-forward, pacy, accurate, one of the finest strikers in the game. But off the field, he's just one of the quietest, shyest, most introspective guys around. Fly-fishing? Yeah, that would be Denis. Time to think, but with a battle always being played out, a bit of sport to be had.

Like most of his Kilkenny team-mates, he's not big into interviews, the hardy builder from Graigue Ballycallan, prefers to let his hurley do the talking. But he can occasionally have his arm twisted, be persuaded by talk about duty to the thousands of kids now going around in black-and-amber jerseys who need to hear, occasionally, from all their heroes. And when he does open up, you wonder why he doesn't do it more often. Like many a quiet man, he has much to say, and says it well.

First issue to be addressed is the fear factor, as Kilkenny face into their third successive All-Ireland final, and the possibility of a third loss. "Oh it's serious alright, into the third final in a row. We've done all the training, as much as the teams that have won it, but nothing to show for it. We surely don't want to lose again - you don't want to lose any game - but it's like this; if the fear of losing sets in, it could cripple the team. But fear



Denis Byrne, one of Kilkenny's most consistent players.
Photo Sportsfile



Denis Byrne is airborne, but still manages to score a fine point against Offaly in the Leinster Final. *Photo Sportsfile*

of losing can be a positive thing too, it can be a driving force, and we'll need everything we can have going for us. It's a serious game, more serious for us, having been beaten twice before. Three in a row would probably finish a lot of us, finish most of us".

For that reason, this Kilkenny team will probably be as intense as any side that ever took the Croke Park field on All-Ireland final day. Forget the fact that once already this season, in the Leinster final, they have dismissed the challenge of Offaly. This time, and despite the fact that once again, they will probably be favourites, there won't be even a sniff of complacency, from fan or player. "I don't know - anyone around Kilkenny who knows anything about hurling, or anyone in Ireland who knows anything about hurling, just needs to take one look at that Offaly team", says Denis, with a shake of the head. "And that is some team. They brought in four new fellas there over the last few years - Simon

Whelehan at corner-back, Niall Claffey in the other corner, Hannify at centre-forward, and Murphy on the wing. Sure they're four hurlers as good as you have in the country. Add to that then the experienced lads that are there already, fellas like Johnny Dooley, Johnny Pilkington, Brian Whelehan, Joe Dooley, Michael Duignan, Kevin Martin - they are as fine a set of hurlers as ever caught a hurl, without a shadow of a doubt. Mixed with the young lads, they're as good a team as we've seen in the last twenty-five years".

Put like that, Kilkenny will have their work cut out

for them, this Sunday. "Oh serious, serious stuff", he emphasises. "And they're never bet either, could be six or seven points down with minutes to go, as we saw a few years ago, and still come back and win. They have all the talents, the belief, the coolness, the leaders on the field - the whole lot".

Surely however, third successive All-Ireland final, Kilkenny have all that too? "I don't know", he counters, "we thought that too, last year, but unfortunately, we met a better team on the day, a team that wanted it more, in the finish. We can't blame hard luck, weather, nothing; we were four points up in that match, and Cork came back. They wanted it more in the end, and that's what it comes down to. You can have all the skill in the world, but that's what it comes down to - we have to die e game. Tragedy alright, but what can you do", and the voice tails off. The pain is still there, still raw, and it shows. Some things really ARE serious.

From an early age, Denis Byrne showed talent, huge talent. Nurtured by local schoolteacher Jim Neary, to whom Denis attributes much of the credit for the health of hurling in the Graigue Ballycallan club, he won a plethora of underage honours, including All-Ireland titles with Colaiste Eamon Ris in Callan (their one and only, to date), minor and U-21 titles with Kilkenny. "I played some amount of hurling underage", he recalls now, "but I loved it. My father and mother were big into it. Me mother would always drive a car to the matches, and they would always bring me to the Kilkenny matches - that's how I got an interest in it".

Soon, still a teenager, that underage talent took him to the senior panel, and the future looked rosy. But it didn't last. Dropped, soon after, but where others might have sulked and gone away, Denis Byrne just worked harder. "I spent four years trying to get on this team", he says, "so I appreciate the jersey - any jersey. I was on the team in Ollie Walsh's time, when we had a very good team, I was the only youngfella who kind of got in on the team. But I lost my place then for a few years. It's fierce hard to nail down a position in Kilkenny, but last year gave me a lot of confidence. Brian Cody was very good to me, brought me along a bit. I find him a great trainer, a player's man, very definitely".

Brian Cody recognises talent, that's all. Last year, Denis



Denis Byrne's excellent eye/hand co-ordination - a perfect study for young players
Photo Sportfile

Byrne was the most consistent midfielder in the country, deprived of an All-Star award by god-knows-what kind of logic. But even that kind of form didn't satisfy this hurling perfectionist. If Kilkenny were to win an All-Ireland, they would have to improve, he would have to improve. Hard work required, so he roped in another hard-working neighbour. "I worked very hard on my game this year, worked a lot on my striking, with another member of the team, John Power. We went up to the hurling team a good few evenings, on our own - it brings on your striking, and that's a very important part of hurling. Presuming you can get the ball, of course!".

Denis Byrne will get the ball, and that's sure. Whatever else happens, no-one will work harder around the field, not even the ferocious Power, and work will eventually get you into any game, no matter how things are going. "If you can get into the game early, you're grand, but if you're caught on the outside, it can be very hard to get back into it. That seventy minutes goes by very quickly. Thirty-five gone, and you don't know where you are then, if you haven't got into it". He will get into it. Because this year, Denis Byrne is a driven man. "It takes up a lot of your time, takes over your life, really, but the motivation is to win an All-Ireland medal, that would be the motivation for me anyway, to prove yourself, win an All-Ireland medal". Only one? "Well jaysus one would do me this year anyway!", and he smiles, a grand smile. "But they're not easy won, are they? You have to earn it". That's what he's doing.

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(This article was published before the All Ireland Final -B Henriques, Ed.)

MINOR HURLING

BORD NA HÓG REPORT

By Barrie Henriques



Emeralds - Minor A Champions 2000

Back: B Doyle, P Tobin, E O'Gorman, A Fogarty, G Power, A Guilfoyle, B Guilfoyle, E Kavanagh, K Rafter, J Joyce, T Kennedy, G Pheelan, Front: O Quinlan, T Neary, S Roche, J Dullard, J Joyce (Capt), C Grant, F Tobin, S Minogue, T Burke, P Tobin, W Norton.

Photo: Tom O'Neill

WHAT A YEAR FOR THE GREENS!

Roinn A

Twelve teams were listed to kick off the Roinn A race to the Championship, among them last year's winners - Tullaroan, and runners up - Ballyhale Shamrocks. The three main city teams were there, as were Graig Ballycallan, Carrickshock, Graignamanagh, Bennettsbridge/Danesfort, Mullinavat, and Dunnamaggin. The Championship was dissected into four groups of three teams. In Group 1, Dicksboro beat O'Loughlins by 4-8 to 2-8, but they came a cropper against the Emeralds in round two, losing by 2-14 to 2-4. In Group 2, Mullinavat beat Bennettsbridge/Danesfort by a slender two points, after a titanic battle. (Mullinavat 3-11, Bennettsbridge/Danesfort 3-9). However, Graig Ballycallan defeated Mullinavat in round 2 by 2-11 to 0-13. In Group 3 Ballyhale Shamrocks were far too good for Graignamanagh, winning by 3-20 to 1-5, and confirmed that result with a great second round win over Tullaroan by 2-8 to 0-7. Finally, in Group 4 a stylish James Stephens were too good for Carrickshock, winning by 4-13 to 3-1. (A word of caution about this Carrickshock outfit -- they might just be in the race



Ballyhale Shamrocks - Roinn A Minor Finalists 2000

Back: Jamie Fitzpatrick, John Dermody, Robert Aylward, MP Drennan, MI Dermody, Anthony Walsh, David Hoynes, Liam Walsh, Keith Nolan, Patrick Reid, Jason Nolan.

Front: DJ Molloy, Alan Knox, MI Fennelly, Keith Murphy, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Eoin Reid, Pádraig Holden, Ger Holden, James Fitzpatrick, Derek Fitzpatrick, Shane Kelly. Photo: Tom O'Neill

longer next year!) The city side were far too hot for Dunnamaggin in round 2, winning by 3-18 to 1-6. And so to the semi-finals, where James Stephens faced Ballyhale Shamrocks, and Emeralds took on Graig Ballycallan. The first semi-final took place in Callan on Friday evening September 16th. This was indeed a memorable game.

Defences were magnificent on both sides, and it was going to take something special to break them down. The Ballyhale lads had the "special" in Michael Paul Drennan. He scored two goals, one in the first half which was excellent, but his second in the 39th minute was superb. The Village indulged in overplaying the ball, whilst the more

direct approach by the Shamrocks lads was more rewarding. Despite moving the towering Jackie Tyrrell to centre-forward late in the second half, James Stephens could not penetrate the sturdy Shamrocks defence in which Eoin Reid, Michael Fennelly, Keith Nolan and Padraig Holden were magnificent. In the other semi-final the Emeralds gave a near faultless display in easily overcoming the challenge of the Graig Ballycallan lads to win by 1-20 to 1-4.

There was a touch of anti climax about the County Final. From a long way out, there did not seem to be any winner but the Emeralds. To their credit the Shamrocks fought the brave fight, but they were unable to counteract the powerful hurling of centre-back, Ger Joyce, or wing back,

Thomas Neary. Big Kieran Rafter at centre field was awesome, while Aidan Fogarty led the Shamrocks backs a merry dance, switching from one wing to the other, with equal success. Alan Guilfoyle's accuracy from long range frees was important, and Emmet Kavanagh had a terrific game at corner forward. At half time the winners were out in front by 1-8 to 0-3. Emeralds drilled over a couple of valuable points at the start of the second half, and they seemed to knock the impetus out of the Shamrocks surge. The Shamrocks did however make a spirited effort to take the game out of the fire in the last ten minutes but even taking superb goal-keeper Eoin Reid out of goal didn't have the desired effect. Mind you, but for the bravery of little Colin Grant in the Emeralds goal, the Ballyhale lads would have been much closer.

Eventually Ger Joyce collected the Mick Joyce Cup for the first time in Emerald's history, much to the delight of their huge following. The mardi gras continued late into the night out in Urlingford, as all traffic was brought to a standstill, as the lads paraded through the main street in the same JJ Kavanagh open-topped bus used by Kilkenny in their triumphant return in September. Final score, Emeralds 1-12 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-7.

EMERALDS: C. Grant, T Kennedy, G Power, F Tobin, S Roche, G Joyce, T Neary, K Rafter, A Guilfoyle, A Fogarty, S Minogue, E O'Gorman, E Kavanagh, B Guilfoyle, P Tobin.

SHAMROCKS: E Reid, M Fennelly, K Murphy, M Dermody, K Nolan, P Holden, G Holden, J Dermody, A Walsh, J Fitzpatrick, R Aylward, E Fitzpatrick, MP Drennan, D Hoyne, L Walsh.

Sub: J Fitzpatrick.

ROINN B

The Roinn B Championship had nine teams fighting for their place at the Northern Final table, while only six teams were fighting for a similar place down South. Up North, a preliminary round had



Windgap Roinn C Minor Champions 2000

Back: Niall Kenny, Jonathan Duggan, Philip Lonergan, Tommy Lonergan, Brendan Barry, Eamon Hawe, Niall Lanigan, Seamus Landy, Padraig Power, David Power, Aidan Phelan, Seamus Hawe, PJ Egan (Trainer), Richard Barry (Selector).

Front: Brian Hennessy, Ronan Molloy, Brian Lanigan, Niall Doran (Captain), Leo Power, Eugene Kenny, Niall Phelan, James Mackey and Richard Grace.



Galmoy Minor Hurling Roinn C Runners Up.

Back: James Dunne, Jonathon Smith, James Hickey, Phil Doyle, Martin Phelan, Thomas Dillion, Kenneth Walsh, Eoin Phelan.

Front: Micheal Sherman, Niall Doherty, Padraig Gray, Phil Russell, Donica Gray, Georgie Hickey, Seamus Dillion.

Clara facing Blacks & Whites, and what a cracking game this turned out to be. The fare was terrific, with an aggregate of 34 scores bisecting the posts at either end. Clara scored a marvellous 3-12, but it was not enough to gain victory over the Blacks & Whites, who registered a whopping 2-17. One of the big under-age teams of the year in the North, St Martin's, had a hard earned victory over St. Lactain's, winning by 1-17 to 3-6. Conahy Shamrocks were beaten by the Fenians— just a goal between them at the finish, (1-12 to 0-12). Near neighbours, St. Patrick's from Ballyraggett and Lisdowney were forced to replay their opening game as it ended in a welter of excitement, and a draw to boot at the first offering. Ballyraggett came out on top in the replay, winning by 2-14 to 1-5.

In yet another tremendous game, Erin's Own barely "got up on the line" to pip preliminary winners, Blacks & Whites, by 5-9 to 5-8. In the Northern semi-finals, St Martin's proved too strong for the Fenians, winning by 3-12 to 1-9, and Erin's Own earned their place at the final table with a comprehensive win over St. Patrick's, 3-13 to 2-3.

The Northern final between St Martin's and Erin's own was a geographic replica of the South Final— two finals between "neighbours' childer". St Martin's would carry the favourites tag into the North final, but Erin's Own were not about to be used as fodder for the lions. It was a dogged affair, in atrocious conditions, and when David Stone rammed in a 'Comer goal inside the final five minutes, it seemed that St Martin's were about to

capitulate. But they fought back, and players like Shane Coonan, Damien Maher, Shane Cadogan, Tom Kinsella, and the Kellys, Shem and Kieran, steadied the Muckalee ship, slipped over a few valuable points, and when the final whistle was sounded, both sides were delighted to face another day "in court".

The South Championship was less dramatic, with only six teams involved. Wins for Mooncoin, Tullogher Rosbercon, Rower Inistioge and Piltown had that quartet fighting out the South semi-finals to the exclusion of John Lockes and Thomastown. With the Rower Inistioge easily accounting for Piltown and Tullogher Rosbercon (1-14) defeating Mooncoin (1-7), a good south Final was in prospect with the clash between neighbours, Rower Inistioge and Tullogher Rosbercon. In a windy, wet Skeaghvosteen, both sides put on a display of whole-hearted hurling that warmed the cockles of the hearts of a reasonable crowd. Playing with the wind and rain in the first half, the Tullogher lads were quickly into their game, and a goal inside the opening two minutes by Eddie Conway followed by a couple of good points rattled the Rower lads. Their first score, a point, was scored after nine minutes by Michael White. An exchange of points between Ger Mullally, and John Murphy from Tullogher, and Micheal Grace and Daniel Cotterell on the Rower side left the half-time score, Tullogher Rosbercon 1-5 Rower Inistioge 0-3.

A stiffening wind favoured the Rower boys in the second half and the game developed into an intriguing contest between the Rower forwards, and the Tullogher backs. While the Rower reopened with a smart Peter Barron point, Tullogher answered in no uncertain terms with two massive points from Moling Cotterell and Martin Malone. As the sides approached the final ten minutes, the Rower procured two very valuable scores. Firstly, Peter Barron got a mighty point, and this was followed by a Michael White goal, which knocked the fire out of the Tullogher lads. They were still in the game with a great chance, but they were visibly waning. Two points from centre-back, James Roche had the sides level with minutes to go. As extra time beckoned, Micheal Grace fired over the all-important winning point in injury time. A great game between two very evenly matched teams.

TULLOGHER ROSBERCON: R Murphy, A Murphy, C Barron, C Grennan, J Cotterell, R Gaule, D Heffernan, J McCarthy, M Malone, M Cotterell, M Woods, E Conway, J Murphy, G Mullally, R O'Neill, *Subs: J Mullally, R Ryan.*

In the replayed Northern B championship final at the Prince Grounds (Castlecomer), St Martin's made no mistake winning 1-18 to 2-4. As they did in the drawn game, they set the early pace. Erin's Own lost one of their most influential players Anthony Owens through injury after only ten minutes and thereafter they were fighting an uphill battle. Erin's Own battled hard to stay in the game in the second half but Martin's were simply too strong and they ran out easy winners to qualify for a crack at Rower-Inistioge in the county final.

In the county final played before a huge crowd at Bennettsbridge, St Martin's again set the early pace. They averaged a point a minute for the first six minutes to go into a 0-6 to 0-0 lead. A kicked goal from Michael White brought the Rower back into the game. At half time, Martin's were still in command leading 0-9 to 1-1. The Rower slowly fought their way back into contention. Michael White's second goal in the 53rd minute gave them the lead for the first time. Eoin Mc Grath and Brendan Maher edged St Martin's clear with pointed frees. Then in the dramatic closing seconds, the Rower's Michael Grace sent the game to a replay when he pointed a free.

(At the time of going to press, this replay is as yet unplayed owing to postponement due to bad weather.)

ROINN C

It needed just two games to sort out the divisional winners. In the North, a keenly fought game between Young Irelands and Cloneen resulted in a slender win for the Cloneen lads. They edged home by 3-5 to 3-4. Barrow Rangers scored a creditable 4-5 against Galmoy - a score that would merit victory in most other games, but it was not enough to win. Galmoy scored a terrific 1-21. In



Ger Joyce, Emeralds Captain with the Mick Joyce Cup Photo Tom Brett



Windgap minor captain, Niall Doran, receives the County Championship trophy from Bord na nOg Chairman, Joe Pyke

the Northern Final, Galmoy again shot a mighty 1-13, while Cloneen could only manage 2-3. Down south, Windgap had a rather facile win over Slieverue, while Glenmore's 2-12 was a little too strong for Kilmacow's 1-10.

In the County Final, Windgap beat favourites Galmoy by 3-10 to 2-11. The quality of this game was very impressive. The accuracy of Eamon Hawe was a mighty factor to the Windgap win. Windgap led at half time by a solitary point - 1-5 to 0-7. The Windgap goal, a fortuitous one, was scored by half-back David Power mid-way through the first half. Phil Russell, too, was in excellent shooting form, firing over eight points, five of which were from placed balls. Jonathan Smith shot Galmoy into a two point lead after a minute of the second half. However the destiny of the championship was probably influenced by Niall Doran of Windgap, who hit a purple patch inside the first six minutes of the new half. He scored 1-3 without reply. While Georgie Hickey pulled back a goal for Galmoy in the sixteenth minute, Windgap replied nearly instantly with a goal by Pádraig Power. From there they were never going to be beaten. For Windgap, David Power, Brendan Barry, Eamon Hawe, Aidan Phelan and Niall Doran impressed, and Phil Russell, Pádraig Gray, Phil Doyle, Niall Doherty, and James Hickey were very impressive for Galmoy.

WINDGAP: L Power, E Kenny, A Phelan, P Lonergan, D Power, B Barry, E Hawe, N Lonergan, P Power, S Landy, B Lanigan, N Doran, S Hawe.

GALMOY: P Gray, K Walsh, P Doyle, T Dillon, S Dillon, N Doherty, E Phelan, M Phelan, J Hickey, D Gray, P Russell, J Dunne, G Hickey, J Smith, M Sherman.

THE STORY OF THE LEAGUES.

DIVISION 1

In Division 1, Tullaroan accompanied the Shamrocks into the Divisional semi-finals from group 1, where they were joined by James Stephens and Carrickshock. Whilst Tullaroan hammered out a draw first time round against James Stephens, they got the verdict at the second attempt. The Shamrocks, on the other hand, had four points to spare over Carrickshock in their semi-final.

The final was an exciting affair with victory going to the Shamrocks on the narrowest of margins, Shamrocks 3-9 Tullaroan 2-11.

In the losers' group, O'Loughlin Gaels beat Mullinavat by 2-13 to 1-10 in one semi-final, and Dicksboro defeated Bennettsbridge/Danesfort by 2-20 to 2-11 in the other. Dicksboro had a more than comfortable win over O'Loughlin Gaels in the final, winning by 4-7 to 0-7.

DIVISION 2.

In Division 2, St Martin's and Clara careered through group 1, and Emeralds and Graig/Ballycallan joined them in the semi-finals. St Martin's proved too strong for Graig/Ballycallan, winning by 2-9 to 1-4. Emeralds, the Minor Champions elect, made life difficult for Clara in their semi. Emeralds won that one with a score of 4-9 to Clara's 1-12.

In a terrific final, the Emeralds posted notice that they were a team to be reckoned with, when they took care of the Muckalee lads by 1-14 to 2-8.

In the losers' group, Tullogher Rosbercon had two points to spare over Graignamanagh in a high-scoring game, the Tullogher lads recording 4-10 to the Graig lads' 3-11. Dunnamaggin also qualified for the losers' group final with an emphatic win over St. Patrick's from Ballyraggett. The boys in green and gold scored 3-11, while Ballyraggett registered 0-7. In a very high-scoring final, Tullogher surprised everybody, including themselves, with a 5-15 to 3-11 win over Dunnamaggin.

DIVISION 3

In Division 3, John Lockes from Callan and the Rower/Inistioge emerged from Group 1, while Erin's Own and Piltown came out of the pack in Group 2. The Callan boys had a fine win over Piltown, but the Rower had a fair battle against Erin's Own, eventually winning by 1-12 to 1-9. In yet another nerve-wracking encounter, the Rower Inistioge barely got over the line in front of a hard-chasing John Lockes outfit, the final score, Rower Inistioge 3-16 John Lockes 3-13.

The semi-finalists in the losers' group were Thomastown, Mooncoin, Lisdowney and Blacks & Whites. Mooncoin and the Blacks & Whites had very easy wins over Thomastown and Lisdowney respectively. The final produced an excellent game, with Mooncoin eventually emerging winners by 3-12 to 2-7.

DIVISION 4

There were three groups in Division 4. An impressive St Lactain's roared through the League without a blemish on their scorecard. They had some good initial wins over Conahy, the Fenians, Slieverue, and Galmoy. Kilmacow, too, had a good run with wins over Cloneen, Glenmore, and the Fenians. The final between St Lactain's and Kilmacow produced an epic encounter, with victory just going to the north Kilkenny side by the slenderest of margins— St Lactains 1-11, Kilmacow 2-7. The losers' Group produced some sterling performances, particularly from teams like Conahy Shamrocks and Glenmore. Glenmore accounted for Young Irelands in the quarter final, while Conahy took care of Cloneen. Windgap too got into the shake up, but went out at the semi-final stage. Eventually, it came down to a clash between Glenmore and Conahy Shamrocks, with the Glenmore lads taking the spoils on a score of 3-14 to 0-11.

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UNDER AGE TOURNAMENTS

Richie Stone

TONY FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT

Defeat by Tipperary in the opening round of the Tony Forristal Tournament proved costly for Kilkenny under 14 hurlers in Waterford. That loss effectively ended Kilkenny's interest in the competition, as, by the time they faced Galway in the second round, both sides were already out of the running for honours. Tipperary had also beaten Galway to ensure their place in the semi-finals.

Only pride was at stake when the Noresiders crossed swords with Galway. It proved to be a one sided contest. Kilkenny led at the break 0-10 to 0-1. They took complete control in the second half. Goals from James Quane, Alan O'Brien, Pat Tierney and Aidan Brennan wrapped up an easy victory for the Kilkenny side on a 4-10 to 0-1 scoreline. Kilkenny had good players in Gavin Quilty, Pat Hartley, Pat Tierney, Eoin Guinan, and Tom Moloney.

Panel: Gavin Quilty (Slieverue), Neil Prendergast (Clara), Noel Delahunty (Mooncoin), John Hayes (Bennettsbridge), Damien Kelly (James Stephens), Alan Mc Intyre (Dicksboro), Ronan Maher (St Martins), Pat Tierney (Rower - Inistioge), Nicholas Kenny (Piltown), Eoin Guinan (St Lachtains), Pat Hartley (Tullagher-Rosbercon), James Quane (James Stephens), Tom Moloney (Blacks&Whites), Daniel Looby (Fenians), Maurice Nolan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Aidan Brennan (Barrow Rangers), David O'Gorman (Erins Own), Eamon Walsh (Shamrocks), Edward O'Donoghue (Dicksboro), Gavin O'Dowd (Clonee).

Selectors: John Mc Cormack (James Stephens), Tony Maher (St Martin's), Tommy Kelly (Shamrocks), Maurice Power (Carrickshock), Paddy Prendergast (Clara).

NENAGH CO-OP UNDER 16 HURLING TOURNAMENT

Kilkenny's bid to win their second Nenagh Co-op under 16 tournament ended at the quarter-final stage when they were beaten by old rivals Tipperary in the quarter final at Dr. Morris Park (Thurles) on Saturday. The Noresiders qualified for the quarter-final by virtue of a good win over Laois following defeat by Galway in the opening round. In that first round game a very strong Galway side, led by brilliant full forward Brian Lucas who scored 2-3 of his sides total, proved much too strong for a Kilkenny team that only came to grips with the hard grafting Westerners in the closing stages. That Galway side included current minor star Joe Gantly who was well policed by Kilkenny's David Prendergast. Galway led 0-7 to 0-2 at half time. A good point by Robbie Dowling immediately on the restart gave

Kilkenny renewed hope. However, once Lucas struck for his first goal in the 5th minute it was always uphill for the Noresiders. Galway's second goal came midway through the half and ended the game as a contest.

Kilkenny did have a goal in the closing stages when a long-range free by Michael Rice deceived the Galway goalie, Aidan Ryan, and ended in the net but it was too little too late as Galway ran out easy winners on the scoreline 2-10 to 1-7. Kilkenny's next game was against Laois. The prize for the winners here was a place in the quarter-finals. The Noresiders wasted no time in asserting their superiority in this game. Goals in the 2nd, 5th and 15th minutes by corner forward Robbie Dowling set them up for a 4-7 to 0-1 half time lead, and, although Laois improved somewhat in the second half, further Kilkenny goals by Richard Power and Nickey Maher killed off any chance the Laois men had as Kilkenny romped home the easiest of winners. Final Score-

Kilkenny 6-9 Laois 2-3.

That win put Kilkenny into the quarter final and a crack at the old enemy Tipperary. This game turned out to be a cracking contest that held the interest to the end. Tipp led 0-3 to 0-1 at the end of the first quarter. By the interval they had increased that lead to four points 0-6 to 0-2. Kilkenny were very unlucky just before the break when Robbie Dowling was just wide after making a fine catch and turning his man brilliantly.

It seemed all over for Kilkenny when Francis Devaney goaled for Tipperary early in the second half. However Kilkenny kept plugging away and were rewarded when Richie Power goaled. Power had just come on as substitute having failed to make the starting line up due to injury. Kilkenny were right back in the game at this stage. David Moran steadied Tipperary with a point. Then Shane Coonan cracked home a fine goal for the Noresiders and there were only two points in it. Alas, time ran out for the Kilkenny men as Tipperary held on for a narrow victory.

This was Kilkenny's best performance in the tournament for some time. Missed chances in their game with Tipperary proved very costly. However, they had some good performances from the likes of Michael Rice, David Prendergast, William O'Dwyer, PJ Delaney, Robbie Dowling, Tom Frisby, Richard Power, Peter Donovan, and Andrew Mc Carthy.

Panel: Richard Butler (Tullaroan), Andrew McCarthy (Piltown), John Tennyson (Carrickshock), Peter O'Donovan (Erins Own), David Prendergast (Clara), Michael Rice (Carrickshock), Brian Gallagher (Dicksboro), Pat Mulcahy (Carrickshock), PJ Delaney (Fenians), William O'Dwyer (Mullinavat), Shane Coonan (St Martin's), Stephen Maher (Tullaroan), Robbie Dowling (St Lachtain's), Anthony Holland (Carrickshock), Nicholas Maher (Tullaroan), Richard Power (Carrickshock), Pádraig Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Anthony Holland (Carrickshock), Darren Morton (O'Loughlin's), Thomas Frisby (Mullinavat).

UNDER 14 HURLING/FOOTBALL

BORD NA nÓG REPORT



Looking at the under-14 championship, two questions need to be addressed. Firstly, are the expectations of clubs being lowered and, secondly, are the ambitions of once mighty clubs deteriorating drastically? Only five clubs took part in the Roinn A championship, three of whom are city-based. Has the "win something" syndrome led to the diminution of club values and ambition? Casting a cursory glance down the list of teams competing in the lesser grades, one is immediately struck by the listing of great clubs like Glenmore in Roinn C. Glenmore have plenty of high profile company down there too. Dunnamaggin - County Champions in 1997-are there. So too are Mullinavat, and Graignamanagh, former hotbeds of under-age hurling in Kilkenny. So I refer you to the opening questions.



JAMES STEPHENS - U14 ROINN A & PADDY GRACE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
Back: Damien Kelly, John Comerford, Eoin Everard, Podge O'Keeffe, Paul Grogan, Jason Mullins, Tony Hoyne, Kieran Brennan, Ross Hennessy, Jamie Quan, Alan O'Brien, James Whelan, Shane Campion.
Front: Adrian Walsh, David Walton, Michael Neary, John Taylor, Tomas Keogh, Matthew Ruth, Patrick Neary, Killian Everard, Shane Brennan, Damien Phelan.
Photo: T O'Neill.

Roinn A

James Stephens, Dicksboro, O'Loughlins, Graig Ballycallan and Ballyhale Shamrocks went to post for the Roinn A title. Played on a league basis, there were five teams competing for four semi-final places. High-flying Ballyhale Shamrocks, with a wealth of talent, opened their account with a more than convincing win over Graig Ballycallan. The Ballyhale lads fired home 6-7, while Graig Ballycallan could muster but a single goal and a single point. The Graig cup of woe continued in their next game against O'Loughlins. They lost by 5-9 to 2-3. James Stephens made their debut against Ballyhale Shamrocks. A classic game between two very evenly matched teams resulted in a one-point victory for the city lads- 4-7 to 4-6. That result was to be greatly underlined as the Championship unfurled. Graig Ballycallan were beaten for the third time, this time by Dicksboro, which effectively brought the curtain down on their championship aspirations for the season. The all-city semi-final between James Stephens and Dicksboro in Callan was a crack-er of a game.

Thanks to goals by Michael Tyrrell and



Tullogher/Rosbercon U-14 Hurling Roinn B County Champions
Back: Richard Dollard, Edmund Cullinane, Michael Ryan, Joseph Ryan, Declan Grennan, Pat Hartley (capt), Richard Phelan, Joseph Corcoran, James Ryan, Shane Ryan, Arron McCarty, Liam Barron.
Front: Patrick Grennan, Pdraig Ryan, Patrick Mullally, Patrick Malone, Seamus Frisby, Jamie Malone, Michael Gaule, Ned Conway, James Mullally, Damien Ryan, Kelly-Ann Cottrell, Marie Ryan.

ROWER/INISTIOGE UNDER 14 ROINN C HURLING DOUBLE CHAMPIONS

Back: Noreen Tierney (Selector), Benny Holohan (Trainer), Eugene Murphy, Seamus Corcoran, Kieran Joyce, Liam Tierney, Seamus Holohan (Capt), Joe Pyke (Chairman Bord na nOg), Pdraic Tierney, Pat Tierney, Eamon Cassin, Paddy Grace (Sel), Paddy Grace (Sel).

Front: Jim Killen, Fergus Power, Damien Flood, Martin Kennedy, George Phelan, Eamon Kavanagh, Walter Kavanagh, Ruairi Galavan, Pdraig Grace, John Grace. (Missing from picture: John Kenny, Paul Nolan, Paddy Lanigan.)
Photo T O'Neill.





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Erin's Own - U-14 Roinn A Football Champions 2000

Front: Mark Delaney, Robert Brennan, James Mullins, Alan Phelan, Richie Lynch, Martin Boran, Barry Dunne, Peadar Boran, Conor Fogarty, Peter Coughlan, Christopher Brennan, Leon Brennan.
Back: Canice Phelan, Liam Oates, David O' Gorman, James Hurley, Donal Meally, Daniel Walsh, Colin Phelan (capt.) Robbie Lynch, Michael Moran, Johnny Dowling, Keith Renwick, John O' Gorman.



St Martin's - Roinn B U14 Football Champions 2000

Back: John Maher, Niall Gibbons, James Kelly, Diarmaid Brennan, Brian Mulhall, Aidan Murphy, Eoin Bolger, James Maher, Pádraig Callanan, Con Hogan, Ronan Maher, Jonathan Walsh, Pádraig Haughney, Shane Comerford.
Front: Chris Mahony, James Dowling, Patrick Nolan, Mark Murphy, Colin McGrath, Mike Nolan, Mick Morrissey, Gary Brennan, Robbie Healy, John Mulhall, Joe Maher, Michael Stapleton.



ROWER INISTIOGE UNDER 14 ROINN C FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS.

Back: Pat Tierney, Eugene Murphy, Liam Tierney, Pádraig Tierney, Bill Cuddihy, Fergus Power, Seamus Corcoran, Eamon Cassin, John Kenny, Paddy Lanigan, Kieran Joyce, Paddy Lyng, David Morrissey, Benny Holohan, Paddy Grace.
Front: Paul Nolan, Stephen O'Connor, Seamus Holohan, George Phelan, David Lyng, Niall Doran, Liam Lyng (Capt), Pádraig Grace, Rory Galavan, John Grace, Damien Flood, Eoin Kavanagh. Photo: T.O'Neill.

Brian Staunton, the Boro led at the break by an impressive 2-5 to 0-2. However, the re-siting of Micheal Neary from goalkeeping duties to corner-forward duties on the re-start paid an immediate dividend for James Stephens. He slammed in a goal after 32 minutes, which was quickly followed by another from his brother Patrick. With Damien Kelly very sure on his free-taking duties, the Village reeled in the Boro lads to win eventually by 2-10 to 2-5

Dicksboro: P Grace, B O'Donoghue, A Dunne, D Tynan, C Purcell, A McEntyre, T McSharry, J Roberts, L Reidy, G Brennan, C Hogan, C Lanigan, M Tyrrell, D Brennan, B Staunton.
Subs: C Cahill, D Broderick.

The other semi-final between Ballyhale Shamrocks and O'Loughlin's also was a terrific game, with victory eventually going to the Shamrocks lads on a score of 3-9 to 3-2. At half time Shamrocks led by 1-3 to O'Loughlins' 1-1. O'Loughlin's goal was scored by Eamonn Walsh, while Mark Aylward scored the Shamrocks goal. Aylward got another Shamrocks goal shortly after the re-start, and Donnacha Fitzpatrick got his sides third goal mid-way through the second half. Two late goals by Niall McEvoy and Aaron Rowe for O'Loughlins were not quite enough to see their side progress to the Final.

O'Loughlins: D Loughnane, S Tyrrell, J Corcoran, Tyrrell, A Kerins, M Lambert, M Bergin, P McGeeney, M Nolan, D Hayes, S Wall, M Griffith, K Morrissey, N McEvoy, A Rowe.
Subs: M Kelly, N Kelly.

The Final was played in Callan on the last evening in July. On a glorious sod, and balmy Summer evening, James Stephens proved far too strong for the Shamrocks lads, and girls. In a one-sided game, the Village won quite convincingly, by 4-8 to 1-2. Playing with the breeze in the first half, the Shamrocks suffered a very early setback when Tommy Hoyne shot a great goal for the City lads. However Shamrocks weathered the initial storm, and came back with a Ger Fennelly goal and a brace of points by E.Walsh and M.Aylward. Unfortunately those were the last scores recorded by the much smaller Shamrocks team. At half time James Stephens led by 2-3 to 1-2.

With Jamie Quan, Matt Ruth and the Neary brothers excelling in the second half, it was always an uphill battle for Shamrocks. In Damien Kelly, the Village had a real gem at centre-back. In addition to the lads mentioned above, the Village had Eoin Everard in fine form at mid-field. The Shamrocks had great players in James Connolly, Tomás Cullen, Michael Fitzpatrick and Eamon Walsh, not forgetting Keeva Fennelly.

James Stephens: M Neary, J Taylor, T Keogh, PGrogan, A O'Brien, D Kelly, S Campion, E Everard, A Walsh, J Quan, T Hoyne, J Comerford, P Neary, M Ruth, K Brennan.
Subs: J Whelan, P O'Keefe, J Mullins, R Hennessy.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: T J Reid, L Muldoon, T Cullen, A Weymss, C Fennelly, J Connolly, M Fitzpatrick, J Walsh, E Walsh, D Fitzpatrick, D Dempsey, C.Grace, JJ Farrell, M Aylward, G Fennelly.
Subs: L Kinehan, K Fennelly, D Hession, T Hession, E Fitzpatrick, E Knox.

ROINN B

Fourteen clubs took off in the Roinn B Championship. This Championship was a very interesting, highly-charged affair, with draws the order of the day. First-round defeats saw Thomastown, John Lockes, Emeralds, Erin's Own, St.Patrick's Ballyraggett, and the Fenians bow out. It took three meetings between Tullogher/Rosbercon and St Martin's to decide who would advance to the semi-final. In a power-charged first game the Tullogher lads came with a late flurry to catch the Muckalee boys on the line. The score here was St.Martin's 1-8, Tullogher/Rosbercon 2-5. Quite the reverse scenario was the scéal in the first replay, with Tullogher setting the pace, but being caught in the last minute by the St Martin's. The scoring in this game was much higher with the Tullogher lads shooting some delightful points. They scored 2-12 with St Martin's scoring 4-6. Eventually the result was decided in the second replay, with Tullogher leading from the front, holding their lead, and winning by 2-8 to 1-7. They went on to beat Mooncoin in the first of the two semi-finals on a score of 1-11 to 2-2. Piltown faced Bennettsbridge in a terrific game which ended all square. Both sides recorded 3-5 apiece. In the replay, Piltown proved far too good for the Bridge, winning by 2-15 to 2-3.

At a very windy Mullinavat, the two Southern clubs faced each other, with Piltown contesting their second County Final in a row. (They had been beaten by Mooncoin twelve months previously.) The first ten minutes were scoreless, but then Tullogher went on a shooting spree with some terrific points by Pat Hartley, Richard Dollard, and a goal by Shane Ryan, before Piltown registered their first score, a point by Richard Mc Carthy. At half time the writing was on the wall for Piltown. They were behind by 1-5 to 0-1, and Tullogher were by far the more impressive. Piltown opened smartly in the second half with a point by Shane Kinsella, but try as they might, they could not match the strength and skill of the Tullogher lads, for whom Pat Hartley (capt), Michael Gaule, Kelly-Ann Cotterell, Aaron Mc.Carthy, Declan Grennan, Richard Dollard, and the three Ryans, Pádraig, Marie, and Shane were great. Piltown had mighty players in Conor Walsh, Shane Kinsella, John Brophy, Nicholas Kenny, Mark Culleton and Richard Mc Carthy .

Tullogher/Rosbercon: M Gaule, Kelly-Ann Cotterell, L Barron, R Phelan, A McCarthy, D Grennan, Jos Ryan, R Dollard, P Hartley, E Cullinane, Jas Ryan, P Ryan, Marie Ryan, S Ryan, P Grennan. *Subs: J Corcoran, Michael Ryan, P Malone, J Malone, S Frisby, N Conway, J Mullally, D Ryan, J O'Neill.*

Piltown: C Walsh, D Byrne, P Kelly, N Brennan, K Norris, S Kinsella, J Brophy, N Kenny, T O'Gorman, S Norris, K Kelly, M Culleton, J Norris, G Quirke, R McCarthy. *Sub : J. Blackmore.*

ROINN C.

With seventeen teams taking part in the Roinn C competition, it was always going to be difficult to win it, and it confined the art of punditry to the realm of redundancy. Clara had a terrific opening game against the Dicksboro second string, winning by 3-10 to the Boro's 4-3. Their joy was short-lived as they came a cropper against Danesfort in their next game, losing by 7-9 to 3-7. That was an impressive win by the 'Fort lads. Barrow Rangers had a runaway victory over Cloneen in their first game, while the Blacks and Whites would have relished their victory over neighbours, Young Irelands, with a winning score of 6-2 to 3-5. Conahy too looked impressive in their first game against Lisdowney winning by 5-7 to 1-2. Slieverue's win over Mullinavat by 3-4 to 2-0 set them up for a well earned semi-final spot in the southern half of the draw. While Windgap beat Graignamanagh, the real dark horses in the race, Rower/Inistioge, experienced few problems in their first round game against Glenmore, winning by 7-7 to 3-2. One of the better games involved Kilmacow and Dunnamaggin, who fought out a thriller. They drew first time out- 2-7 apiece, but, in the replay, Kilmacow won by 2-9 to 3-4. The Divisional semi-finals had the Rower/Inistioge facing Kilmacow, and Slieverue opposing Windgap in the South, while Barrow Rangers faced Conahy and Danesfort took on Blacks and Whites. The Rower were far too good for Kilmacow, winning by a whopping 9-16 to Kilmacow's 2-3. In the other semi-final, Slieverue surprisingly defeated Windgap by 2-15 to 2-2. In the North, the seeding system held up when, in two tight games, Barrow Rangers beat Conahy, and Danesfort proved too good for Blacks and Whites.

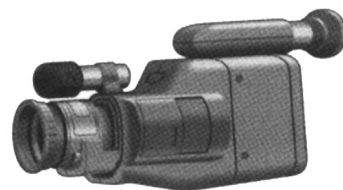
In the South Final, the Rower/Inistioge absolutely annihilated poor

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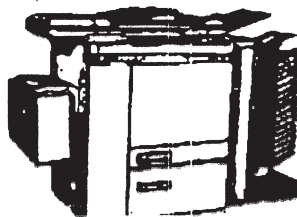
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Slieverue, while in the North, Barrow Rangers were not quite as convincing in their win over Danesfort. The score in that game was Barrow Rangers 4-7 Danesfort 0-3. Relative to the South Final result, that victory margin was not too awesome.

In a very one-sided County Final, the Rower lads were far too good for a hard-trying Rangers side who included two girls in their line-up. (Take a bow, Aisling Kealy and Cathriona Bambrick.) Prevailing conditions did not help the smaller, lighter Paulstown lads. The Rower had 1-2 on the scoreboard inside the opening five minutes. They had terrific players in John Kenny, Pat Tierney, Pauric Tierney, Liam Tierney, John Grace, and Owen Kavanagh. Paulstown too had great workers in goalkeeper Ian Holden, Richard Connolly, Mark Lillis, and Aidan Brennan. The final score was Rower/Inistioge 9-5 Barrow Rangers 1-4.

Rower/Inistioge: Jim Killen, Seamus Holohan, Damien Flood, Kierran Joyce, Billy Cuddihy, John Kenny, Pat Grace, Owen Kavanagh, Pat Tierney, Liam Lyng, Eamon Cassin, Paul Nolan, John Grace, Pauric Tierney, Liam Tierney. *Subs:* Paddy Lanigan, Eugene Murphy.

Barrow Rangers: Ian Holden, Kevin McDonald, Richard Connolly, Mark Morrissey, Niall Heffernan, David Walsh, Tom Brophy, Mark Lillis, Billy Murphy, Aisling Kealy, Aidan Brennan, Raymond Healy, John Kearney, Damien Brennan, Willie Hennessy. *Subs:* Ger Walsh, Cathriona Bambrick, Edward Lillis, Aidan O'Neill.

ROINN C LEAGUE.

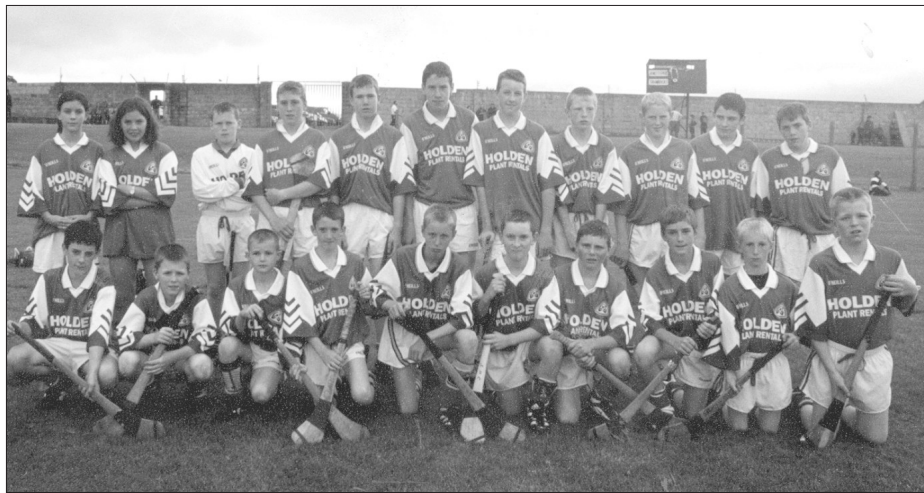
In the Roinn C League, wins for Rower/Inistioge, Slieverue, Windgap and Mullinavat in the South set up the semi-final games for the southern half of the competition. The Rower did look very impressive, and even at that early stage it looked like they were going to be the team most likely to succeed. They justified their reputation, with a 1-6 to 0-2 win over Slieverue in the south semi-final, while Mullinavat beat Windgap in the other semi-final.

Up North, Danesfort, with impressive wins over Dicksboro (2), and Lisdowney, coupled with a walk over from Cloneen and a bye in round five, found themselves in the Northern semi-finals. Conahy Shamrocks also arrived there with nice wins over Blacks & Whites, Clara, and Young Irelands. Barrow Rangers emerged from group 1 with Danesfort, and Blacks & Whites accompanied Conahy from group 2.

In the North semi-finals, Conahy beat Danesfort by 3-10 to 1-3, and Blacks & Whites fell to Barrow Rangers by 5-7 to 3-8.

The County semi-finals saw a flying Conahy Shamrocks emerge victorious with a very impressive scoreline of 5-4 against Mullinavat's 1-3. In the other semi-final, the Rower/Inistioge proved a little too good for a hard-trying Barrow Rangers. The Rower won by 8-8 to the Rangers 5-4.

In the League Final, the Rower proved a little too sharp for the Conahy lads, winning by 3-8 to 1-3. This Final was much closer than the score would suggest. The Conahy lads took an early goal lead, thanks to a terrific shot by John Wallace, but the Rower fought back from that early setback, and with two points by Pat



Ballyhale - U14 Roinn A Finalists 2000

Back: Leona Kinehan, Keeva Fennelly, T. J. Reid, Eamonn Walsh, Donal Dempsey, James Connolly, Tomas Cullen, Mark Aylward, Michael Fitzpatrick, Liam Muldoon, Ger Fennelly.
Front: Anthony Wemyss, Thomas Hession, Eoin Knox, Colin Fennelly, Donncha Fitzpatrick, James Walsh, Kieran Grace, John Joe O'Farrell, Enda Fitzpatrick, David Hession.



Barrow Rangers - Roinn C Under 14 County Hurling finalists

Back: Ollie O'Neill (trainer), Mary Brennan, Sarah Brophy, Claire Whitely, Claire Brennan, Lisa Brennan, Cathriona Bambrick, Aisling Kealy, Tomy Morrissey, Raymond Healy, Billy Murphy, Tommy Kelly, (trainer), Mark Lillis, Richard Connolly, David Walsh, Jimmy Staunton (selector), Aidan Brennan, Damien Brennan, Tom Brophy, Mark Morrissey.
Front: Collette Dormer, Aoife Drennan, Eddie Lillis, Leonie Staunton, Rita Cody, Patrick Purcell, John Kearney, Thomas Brennan, Niall Heffernan, James Collins- Hughes, Kevin McDonald, Aidan O'Neill, Gerard Walsh, Olan Holden, William Hennessy, Leane Corcoran.

Tierney and 1-1 by Pauric Tierney, they led at half time by 1-3 to Conahy's lone goal. Second half goals by Eugene Murphy, and John Grace, plus more Tierney points saw the Rower lads victors by 3-8 to 1-3.

Rower/Inistioge: J Killian, S Holohan, D Flood, K Joyce, P Grace, J Kenny, B Cuddihy, E Kavanagh, P Tierney, P Nolan, E Cassin, L Lyng, J Grace, Pauric Tierney, E Murphy. *Subs:* R Galavan, M Kennedy, P Lanigan, S Corcoran, G Phelan, F Power.

Conahy Shamrocks: I Kavanagh, J Cass, B Healy, P Harding, C Gunner, P Dollard, D Webster, T O'Shea, J Muldowney, S Buggy, E Buggy, J Wallace, P Cass, G Nolan, M Lawlor. *Subs:* C Brennan, E Maher, K Mooney.

PADDY GRACE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT.

Nineteen teams went to post for the Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament. The winners of this Tournament qualify to represent Kilkenny in the National Féile Competition, which, this year, was hosted in Antrim. In a preliminary round, O'Loughlin Gaels, John Lockes and Tullogher/Rosbercon bade farewell to the Tournament. But then, because of the fact that

Piltown pulled out of the Tournament, and because other replacements showed a lack of interest, O'Loughlins re-entered the competition. The subsequent 4-team - 4-group leagues produced Ballyhale Shamrocks, Dicksboro, James Stephens, and O'Loughlin Gaels who won their group- to scrap for the County Féile Final. Shamrocks had a 4-10 to 1-2 victory, while James Stephens beat O'Loughlins by 4-6 to 3-2. James Stephens qualified to represent Kilkenny at the Féile Final by virtue of their 4-6 to 3-2 win over the Shamrocks from Ballyhale. James Stephens were hosted by Loughiel Shamrocks. In a group with the host club plus Dunloy and Duffrey Rovers, they drew with the locals, beat Dunloy, and drew with Duffrey Rovers. Unfortunately, they made their exit from the competition, based on a poorer scoring average than the Wexford lads. Still this team enjoyed a great year.

U14 FOOTBALL

ROINN A

Erin's Own from Castlecomer slammed their way to the final, courtesy of some impres-

sive wins over O'Loughlins, Piltown and Dicksboro, together with walk-overs from James Stephens and Ballyhale Shamrocks. However, all three, plus Comer, made up the semi-finals, where Erin's Own faced O'Loughlin/Gaels and Piltown were drawn against the Boro. Comer defeated the Gaels by an emphatic 2-8 to 1-3, and Piltown had just three points to spare over the Boro (1-8 to 1-5).

The County Final produced a nail-biting encounter, with the final result very much in the balance all through. This game was a credit to underage football in the county. At half time, Piltown were in front by 1-5 to 0-6, but when the final whistle sounded, the lads from Comer were on their way to collect the cup.

Erin's Own: Robbie Lynch, Peter Coughlan, Christopher Brennan, Donal Mealy, Jonathan Dowling, David O'Gorman, Alan Phelan, Daniel Walsh, Richie Lynch, Keith Renwick, Colin Phelan, Michael Moran, James Hurley, Barry Dunne, Martin Boran. *Subs: Mark Delaney, Liam Oates, Peadar Boran, Leon Brennan, Canice Brennan, James Mullins, Conor Fogarty, Robert Brennan, John O'Gorman.*

Piltown: Shane Aherne, Seamus Norris, Peter Kelly, Joe Blackmore, Kieran Norris, Shane Kinsella, Leon Walsh, Kevin Kelly, Nickey Kenny, Kieran Kelly, Garry Quirke, John Duggan, Mark Culleton, Richard McCarthy, Paul O'Shea. *Subs: John Brophy, David Byrne, James Norris, Barry O'Shea, Kevin Brophy, Shane McCarthy.*

FOOTBALL ROINN B

In the North half of the draw, Railyard had a big win over Graig Ballycallan in the preliminary round. They subsequently got a walk-over from St Lactain's in the North semi-final while St Martin's defeated St Patricks, Ballyraggett. St Martin's won the North final with a more than impressive win over the Railyard, winning by 2-9 to 0-3.

In the South, only four teams showed any interest in the competition. Tullogher Rosbercon defeated Carrickshock while Thomastown (3-7) defeated Mooncoin (1-4). Thomastown, in easily taking care of Tullogher in the South final, faced St Martin's in the County Final. In a fair game of football, the Muckalee lads emerged in front by 2-9 to 1-5.

St Martin's: Eoin Bolger, James Dowling, Mike Keane, Con Hogan, Shane Comerford, Ronan Maher, John Maher, Brian Mulhall, Diarmuid Brennan, Joseph Maher, Aidan Murphy, Jaames Kelly, John Mulhall, James Maher, Mike Morrissey, Chris O'Mahoney. *Subs: Niall Gibbons, Jonathan Walsh, Padraig Haughney, Robbie Healy, Michael Stapleton, Pat Nolan, Colm McGrath, Padraig Callanan, Garry Brennan, Mark Murphy, Eoin Holohan, Paul Coogan.*

Thomastown: Noel Hearne, Dwane Tennyson, Sean Doyle, Peter O'Hanrahan, Thomas Kavanagh, Shane Hoyne, Thomas Daly, Richard O'Hara, Jamie Tennyson, Robert Grace, Steven Cullen, Marty Lawrence, Alan Byrne, Dean Waugh, John Joe Farrell. *Subs: Mark Delahunty, Jake Moran, Ian Egan, Richard Hughes, Steven Cody, Ross Kelly, Andrew Aylward.*

FOOTBALL ROINN C

The Rower/Inistioge capped a brilliant year for the club when they won the Roinn C title in a very competitive Division. They flew through the five team South section, defeating Slieverue in the South Final by 3-8 to 1-3. Conahy Shamrocks, too, had a very rewarding year, and even though they did not win a title, they were in the shake-up when many of their more vaunted opponents were finished. In an interesting final, the Rower lads just about came out on top by two points. The final score was Rower/Inistioge 1-7 Conahy Shamrocks 1-5.

Rower/Inistioge: Liam Tierney, Damien Flood, Liam Lyng, Kieran Joyce, Steven O'Connor, Padraic Tierney, John Kenny, Eoin Kavanagh, Paul Nolan, Pat Tierney, David Morrissey, Padraig Grace, John Grace, Eamonn Cassin, Seamus Holohan. *Subs: Eugene Murphy, Seamus Corcoran, Fergus Power, Niall Doran, George Phelan, Martin Kennedy.*

Conahy: Ian Kavanagh, Joseph Cass, Brian Healy, Carol Gunner, Damien Webster, Peter Dollard, Peter Harding, John Muldowney, Tom O'Shea, Stephen Buggy, Owen Buggy, John Wallace, Pat Cass, Gavin Nolan, Michael Lawlor.

Subs: Joseph Delaney, Andrew O'Keefe, Davy Healy, Colin Murphy, Aine Connery, Brigid Bergin..



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KILKENNY EXIT AT SEMI-FINAL STAGE

INTER-COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING.

By Barrie Henriques



Kilkenny - Leinster Intermediate Hurling Champions:

Back: Pat Butler, Paul Morrissey, Derek Lyng, David Lynch, Sean Kealy Eoin Behan, Ollie O'Connor, Ger Walsh, Alan Grey, Joe Young, Brian Phelan, Declan Roche.
Front: Liam Sutton, Alan Barry, Michael Gordon, John Drea, Adrian O'Sullivan, Brendab Joyce, Shane Lanigan, Joe Dermody, Noel Hickey.

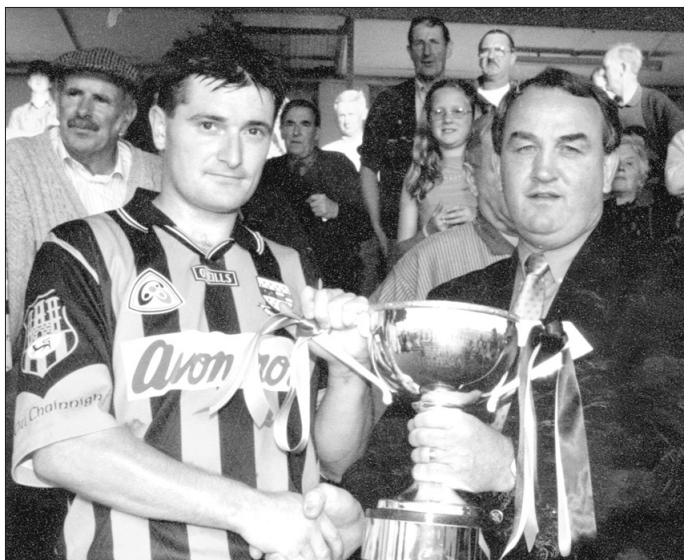
Photo T O'Neill.

Under the stewardship of Manager, Noel Skehan, Kilkenny set out in search of the Intermediate title against Laois in Nowlan Park on June 7th. Kilkenny won quite easily against opposition that were "pulling" from their second-best string, but at a price that was subsequently to prove rather costly to both the Intermediate team, and the Under-21 team. Young John O'Neill suffered an arm injury that was to render him inactive for the entire inter-county season.

He was also a member of the Senior panel at the time. Kilkenny scored 1-15, of which Eoin Behan from the Fenians collected 1-7. Six of the points came via frees. Up to half time, it was Laois who dominated the exchanges, with Enda Meagher dominating centre-field, and veteran Joe Dollard and Barry Keenan creating plenty of good chances up front. Laois had the assistance of the breeze in that first half. But as usual with the Black and Amber, when they focus themselves on a serious situation, they usually come away with the spoils. So it proved. Centre back, Derek Lyng, Ger Walsh from Graignamanagh, and John Barron from Tulloghger started to "motor" in the second half. The flow of ball to the Laois forwards petered out, and pressure was exerted on the Laois back division. Behan, Michael Gordon (Piltown), John Paul Corcoran (John Lockes), Brendan Joyce (Emeralds) and substitute, David Lynch (John Lockes) all scored good points, and at the end of the day, the spoils rested deservedly with the Black and Amber. Laois had commendable hurlers in centre-back, Ray Fogarty, Joe Dollard, Paul O'Shea, Michael Bove, Robert Delaney, and Enda Meagher. For Kilkenny, Sean Kealy, Adrian O'Sullivan, Derek Lyng, Brian

Phelan, Eoin Behan and John Barron impressed. Kilkenny's next outing was against a second string Offaly outfit. The match in Nowlan Park was a thriller, with the "Faithful" having to come inside the last seconds to draw it. The Kilkenny defence conceded three rather needless goals to Offaly at vital stages in this game. Kilkenny were cruising for most of the first half. They led comfortably by five points at the 20 minute stage. Brian Phelan (St Patricks) and Noel Hickey (St Lactains) were dominating centre-field. Barron was flying inside, and Behan too was going great guns. However, just before half time a ball was bouncing around the penalty area in front of Joe Dermody's goal. Kilkenny backs were looking askance as Offaly forward, Joe Guinan, slipped in to hammer the sliothar to the net. Now Kilkenny were only two points in front, and were suddenly looking very vulnerable. Offaly scored their second goal mid-way through the second half- a real sucker punch of a goal. With the Kilkenny defence at sea, corner forward, Damien Murray slipped in to clatter the ball to the net. Kilkenny steadied the ship once more and shot into a one point lead by the 48th minute. Declan Pilkington drove them back on their haunches once again with an opportunist goal in the 50th minute. Michael Gordon and Derek Lyng levelled up matters by the 58th minute, and John Barron shot Kilkenny back into a lead which looked more than a little shaky. On the call of full time, Offaly's Willie Comerford drilled over a point from ninety yards out to give his side another chance. They certainly deserved it.

On Wednesday 19th July, Kilkenny travelled to Birr to take on the Offaly lads in the replay. They did not make the mistakes that the Minor or Under-21 teams made when going under to Offaly in their campaigns. This was Kilkenny's best display of the campaign. The backs were exceptionally tight. Centre-field pairing, Ger Walsh and Sean Kealy were impressive, and the forward division were more than a match for the Offaly backs. At half



Adrian O'Sullivan, Kilkenny captain, is presented with Leinster IH Championship cup by **Nicky Brennan**, Vice Chairman, Leinster Council.
Photo Tom O'Neill

time, Kilkenny were in front, 0-8 to 0-2. The re-shuffled forward division saw Ollie O'Connor coming to mid-field. Behan went to full forward, and Alan Grey (Galmoy) came on as substitute for the injured John Barron. Joe Young's goal in the 43rd. minute sealed a great victory for Kilkenny.

The Leinster Final against tough Wexford was eventful, to say the least. It may be suggested with certain justification, that Kilkenny would not have won, but for the sidelining of half back, Barry Doyle. The Kilkenny backs, particularly Declan Roche, Henry Roberts and goalkeeper, Joe Dermody were having a torrid time trying to contain the Wexford forwards. Wexford's only goal came from a penalty, awarded for a foul on Colm Byrne.

Goalkeeper, Paul Carley came up to take it. The shot was blocked, but the re-bounce was hammered home by Carley. Kilkenny's two goals were special. Firstly Michael Gordon shot one into the narrowest of margins in the 20th. minute, and Joe Young slammed home the second three minutes later. Impressive for Kilkenny were Declan Roche, Henry Roberts, Derek Lyng in the second half, Adrian O'Sullivan, Ollie O'Connor when he came to midfield, and John Barron.

The All-Ireland semi-final had Kilkenny facing their Final conquerors of 1999, Galway, in Birr. It was generally felt that Kilkenny would win this one with a little to spare. Galway were forced to pick their team from third choice players. There was nothing third rate about the Galwegians in Birr on Saturday September 2nd. The failure of the Kilkenny forwards to capitalise on chances created by hard-working centre-forward, David Lynch proved costly. Galway took the lead inside the first minute with a point. They were never headed after that. Despite numerous changes, Kilkenny were never able to come to terms with the determination of a Galway outfit, hell-bent on winning. Kilkenny were behind (1-7 to 0-5) at the break, and were in all sorts of trouble. They did have enough good ball, but alas they were unable to capitalise- Galway winning by 1-15 to 1-12.

The Kilkenny panel: Joe Dermody (St Lactains), Henry Roberts (Blacks & Whites), Declan Roche (John Lockes), Brendan Joyce (Emeralds), Adrian O'Sullivan (John Lockes), Derek Lyng (Emeralds), Shane Lanigan (Thomastown), Brian Phelan (St Patricks), Ger Walsh (Graignamanagh), Noel Hickey (St Lactains), Sean Kealy (Blacks & Whites), Liam Sutton (Mooncoin), Pat Butler (Mullinavat), John Drea (Bennettsbridge), John Barron (Tullagher), Michael Gordon (Piltown), David Lynch (John Lockes), Ollie O'Connor (St Lactains), Alan Grey (Galmoy), Eoin Behan (Fenians), Paul Morrissey (John Lockes), Joe Young (Graig/Ballycallan), Alan Barry (Dicksboro).



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CAMOGIE CLUBS



BLACKS & WHITES

Thanks

Many thanks are due to all our players for their commitment during the year. John O'Grady was club trainer and he was greatly assisted by selectors, many parents and supporters. We thank the local GAA club for the use of their pitch and dressing rooms.

Teams

The U-12 team was beaten by Thomastown and Windgap. We recorded good wins over Gowran and Danesfort. The U-14 team did the club proud by winning the Roinn B championship beating Emeralds in the final by 4-3 to 2-2.

The U-16 side reached the semi-final of the Roinn C championship but were beaten by a strong Tullogher side.

The primary school team put up a very good show in the Roinn D final but lost to Gowran.



Blacks & Whites - U-14 Roinn C Camogie Champions 2000

Back: Aine Butler, Ellen Brennan, Mary-Clare Murphy, Jennifer Lennon, Tara Kelly, Michelle Moloney, Jane Maher, Majella Kelly, Sarah Cass, Ann-Marie Moloney, Emma Ryan.
Front: Mairead Morgan, Aine Phelan, Aine Doyle, Lisa Hayden, Brid Doran, Ciara Kirwan, Dawn Nolan, Loretta Murphy, Colette Cleere.

WINDGAP

Club Officers

Chairman: Matt Doran.

Secretary: Katrina Ryan

Treasurer: Therese Walsh

Committee: Pat Moore, Helen Walsh, Marie Comerford, Joan Phelan, Mary Heffernan, Marie Landy, Madge Barry

Clubs First ever-County title.

A very dedicated and hard working U14 team recorded the club's first championship title when they defeated Mooncoin in the Roinn "C" final in Mullinavat.

Training/Games

Windgap Camogie Club commenced training on Sunday mornings in February for all age groups up to minor, with trainers, Maria Comerford, Matt Doran, Pat Moore and John Ryan. The U16 team, many of whom had played at U-14 level, was denied a place in the County semi-final after being beaten by local rivals, Carrickshock. At U-12 level, there were impressive victories over Gowran and Skeoughvosteen before Thomastown beat them and then went on to the County final. The Minor side have still to play their county semi-final game with Lisdowney.

Juveniles

A feature of the clubs activities was the numerous trips to various clubs for series of challenge games. The friendly rivalry against O'Loughlins was renewed again this year with many matches, at both venues at U-8, U-10 and U-12 level.



Windgap - Roinn C U14 County Champions

Back: Matt Doran (Trainer) Katie Burke, Ann Marie Culleton, Aisling Phelan, Anne-Marie Brawders, Lorraine Hartrey, Anita Meagher, Carol Ryan, Rosie O'Donovan, Maria Barry, Aoife Ryan, Marie Foley.
Front: Elaine Kenny, Monica Purcell, Elizabeth Moore, Eimear Fitzpatrick Leza Cahill, Phena Heffernan, (captain), Elaine O'Shea, Anne-Marie Phelan, Liza McCormack, Sarah McCarthy Aimee Doran.

Under twenty ones

The club fielded a team in the U21 championship for the first time.

Tournaments

In the Dunhill tournament, Windgap Minors came out on top.

Presentations:

A set of jerseys were presented to the club by county senior camogie team trainer, Bobby Jackman, who gave great support and encouragement to the U14 team. Pat Foley of

Callan Tyre Co. presented a new set of jerseys for the juveniles. After the county final the victorious team celebrated with a meal, sponsored in the Rising Sun, by local publicans Eddie & Mary Guinan.

Bereavements

During the year the death took place of Claire O'Meara, Clonea, formerly Claire Purcell of Baunreigh who was one of the prominent players when camogie reached a high point in the parish over fifty years ago.



CAMOGIE CLUBS



CLARA CAMOGIE CLUB

Clara Camogie Club has gone from strength to strength in this millennium year. All four teams put up excellent performances in their respective championships, spurred on by the total dedication and commitment of their trainer, Anthony Prendergast.

The U12 girls started the year at the tournament in James Stephens. They were narrowly defeated by Dicksboro in their opening match but they went on to win their matches against Paulstown and Carrickshock and were rewarded with a shield and medals for players and subs. Unfortunately, the girls weren't so lucky in their championship campaign but with the majority of the team still underage for the next few years, we are looking forward to great matches from them in the future.

The camogie season started for Clara with the under 14 Championship and matches against Emeralds, Tullogher, Blacks and Whites and St Brigids. The semi-final against the eventual winners

Blacks and Whites saw the girls improving their performance 100% on their earlier meeting but it was not enough to keep them in the race.

Having won the Roinn C Championship in '99 and now competing in Roinn B, the U16 team dedicated themselves totally to the task of retaining a championship title and they did this in fine style against strong opposition from St Anne's of Johnstown. The team pulled together from start to finish scoring 3-2 to 1-7 and making it another memorable year for the club.



Clara - U16 County Roinn B Champions

Back: Clare Bremnan Gemma Dowling, Margaret Nolan, Laoighseach Ougley, Orla Healy, Mairead Barcoe. Aisling McDonald (Capt) Angela Cody. Elaine Costigan, Carol Doyle.

Front: Amy Byrne, Edel Mullins Ciara O'Loughlin Clare McDonald, Deirdre Shortall, Emer Cashin, Fiona Phelan, Elaine Nolan. (Trainer - Anthony Prendergast)

The U18 team have also made their way to a county semi-final. Unfortunately, they were stopped in their tracks by St Anne's and thus ended the season for Clara Camogie Club. Everyone involved was proud of the girls and their performances and we are looking forward to an even better year in 2001.



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CAMOGIE CLUBS



COON/MUCKALEE



Coon Muckalee School Camogie Team

Back: Sarah Shore, Eilish Ryan, Claire Coonan, Aisling Holohan, Karen Breen, Marion Murphy, Imelda O'Flynn, Michelle Walsh, Calire Haughney, Michelle Comerford.
Front: Sheelagh Teehan, Marie Butler, Rosemary Maher, Brenda Buggy, Deirdre Haughney, Hannah Maher, Aoife Dunne.



Coon/Muckalee U10 Camogie Team 2000

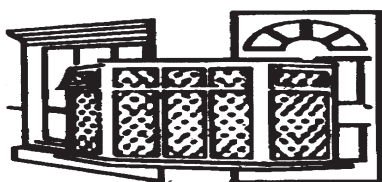
Back: Ann Marie Walsh, Annette Morrissey, Edwina Keane, Sinéad Quirke, Michelle O'Keeffe, Michelle Mulhall, Marie Stapleton,
Front: Fiona Morrissey, Orla Butler, Joanne Kelly, Emer Fitzpatrick, Leanne Taylor.

Our newly formed Coon/Muckalee school camogie team showed much promise this year to reach the semi-finals of the Schools Championships - Roinn B. One has never seen such commitment and determination from such a young team. The teams we met were – Lisdowney, Ballyragget, Castlecomer, Carrickshock, Clara and St.Canice's.

We also entered the U12 Championships and gained valuable experience. We met Clara, Paulstown, O'Loughlin's, James Stephens and Dickboro. Our U10 teams were equally ambitious reaching two finals of Blitzes– meeting Castlecomer and The Emeralds. Unfortunately, we were runners-up on

both occasions. With such determination we can't wait to bite into 2001. We wish to thank our 46 young ladies for their effort and commitment during this year and also their parents, trainers, teachers, helpers and supporters.

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CAMOGIE CLUBS



GLENMORE CAMOGIE CLUB

As Glenmore Camogie Club faces into the new millennium, it does so a more hopeful club than it did at the beginning of this year. Even though our intermediate team was beating in the semi-final of this year's championship, we have for the first time in years got together a juvenile side and we hope to enter them into competitions next year. We are holding indoor training for them this winter in the parish hall, which we hope will be beneficial to developing their camogie skills for the coming year.

The club has found it difficult up to now to get enough interested under-age players for a juvenile section, so we are delighted to have now got this off the ground. As we realise only too well, there is no future for any club unless they have a juvenile section where players can be taught the skills of the game at an early age and will hopefully develop a love for the game which will encourage them to continue to play the game as they get older.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm showing so far by the girls themselves and their parents. To run any juvenile club successful it is important to have the support and help of the parents.

The club would like to thank Tom Sheehan of Sheehans Plant Hire, for his very generous sponsorship over the last couple of year, and we hope our association with him will continue for many years to come. We would also like thank our trainer, Seamus Hennessy, for all the time and effort he has put into the club



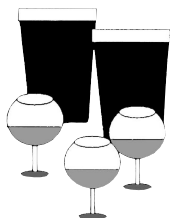
Glenmore Juvenile Camogie Team 2000
Back: Christine Drohan, Maria Phelan, Breta Kirwan, Lorraine Walsh, Lisa Mernagh, Mairéad Freyne, Michelle Hartley, Orla O'Keeffe.
Middle: Margarette Green, Lara O'Sullivan, Emma O'Keeffe, Orla Doyle, Geraldine Ryan, Clare Aylward, Nicola Power, Danielle Power, Ruth Jones.
Front: Sara Treacy, Miriam Hoynes, Michael Boyle (Mascot), Ashling Irish, Nora Lee Phelan, Linda Long.

since his involvement began.

The club would like to congratulate Bridget Mullally who was on the County Senior team and Helen Murphy who was on the County U14 team. One of the biggest challenges now facing clubs is the fact that so many girls are now going on to third level college after secondary school. In most cases this results in the girls moving away from home and thus only being available to their club for training or matches for 2 days of the week, if at all. This is why it is all the more important to nourish and develop the game at underage level so

that when girls move away from home to college they will not only continue playing for their club but also will play the game in College. Camogie in third level college's thus will play a very important roll in the future survival of the game.

Camogie, like hurling, is not only about the dream of playing for your club, college or county and winning medals. It is also about playing and training with a team and the enjoyment one gets from this and the friendships one makes through the game, which will go on to last a life time well after one finishes playing the sport.



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CAMOGIE CLUBS



MULLINAVAT CAMOGIE CLUB



Mullinavat - Intermediate Camogie 2000

Back: M. Delahunty, B. Raftice, S. Maddock, B. O'Keefe, B. Aylward, L. Foskin, E. Kenneally, A. Kenneally, AM Raftice, A. Kavanagh, N. Sutton, V. Sutton, P. Madigan, P. Duggan, J. Quinn, K. Atkins.

Front: A. Aylward, E. Aylward, P. Duggan, D. Aylward (Capt), C. Butler, E. O'Neill, E. Aylward, C. Dwyer, A. Kenneally.

Officers 2000

Chairman: John Joe Aylward
Secretary: Deirdre Aylward
Treasurer: Anna Kavanagh
Primary: Tom O'Brien
U-14: Michael Law
U-16: Andy Aylward
U-18 and Intermediate: Jim Conway, Seamus Sutton, Mick Sutton, John Joe Aylward, Mick Carroll (trainer).

County Players

U-14: Claire Aylward
U-16 :Elaine Aylward
U-18: Angela Kenneally
Senior: Kathleen Atkins and Angela Kenneally

Intermediate

The intermediates defeated

Tullogher, Gowran Dicksboro and Glenmore in the league. They had a narrow one point win over St. Annes in eth semi-final and captured the title after an epic encounter with Tullogher. We subsequently played in the senior league and only narrowly lost to an experienced Lisdowney side in the semi-final.

U-21 Victory

After the disappointment of losing two county finals in 1999, the players were detemined to make amends this year. Our U-21s got our season off to a great start when they defeated Emeralds and Windgap. They claimed the county title with a great win over James Stephens in a closely con-

tested game.

Juvenile

The juvenile section of the club had a very successful year. Our school team progressed to the semi-finals only to come unstuck against Emeralds. The U-14s bounced back after earlier defeats and reached the county final only to lose to a strong Freshford team.

Unfortunately for our U-16s, we again met Freshford in the final and they proved far too strong for us.

After such a good year, the future of camogie seems asured judging by the large numbers currently playing the game.



UNDER 16 HURLING

BORD NA NÓG REPORT



CARRICKSHOCK UNDER 16 ROINN A HURLING COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Back: Colm Mullally, James Moran, Ricky Brennan, Anthony Holland, Patrick Mulcahy, John Tennyson, Micheal Rice (Capt), Joe Pyke (Chairman Bord na nOg), Tommy Brophy, John Dalton, Sean Gibbons, Damien Raggett, John Maher, James Farrell.

Front: Richard Power, John Sheehan, Pdraig Barron, Denis Murphy, John Butler, Patrick Duggan, Kieran Holden, Thomas O'Leary, Gary Foley, David Millea, John Murphy. *Photo: T.O'Neill.*



ST. MARTINS UNDER 16 ROINN B HURLING LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Back: Eoin Holohan, Eddie Doran, Shane Coonan, Ciaran Holohan, James Maher, Michael Darcy, Brian Mulhall, Conor Kinsella (Capt), Joe Pyke (Chairman Bord na nOg), Thomas Nolan, Aidan Murphy, Eamonn Buggy, Eoin McGrath, Ronan Maher.

Front: Eugene Maher, David Tynan, Kieran Byrne, Shane Cadogan, Edmund Hogan, David Shore, Patrick Brennan, Patrick O'Flynn, Brian Malone, Luke Maher. *Photo: T O'Neill.*

The Duggan Steel Roinn A Championship was a carousel of excitement, good hurling, good skill, and nail-biting finishes. In the considered opinion of many - and they were not all Carrickshock supporters, the youngsters from the Parish of Aghaviller could lay claim to be the under-age team of the year, and I would not disagree with that opinion.

On Monday 24th July, near neighbours, Graig/Ballycallan and Tullaroan clashed in an eagerly awaited game in Freshford. After a hectic encounter, the Tullaroan lads came out on top rather easily, winning on a score of 2-14 to Graig's 2-7. The quality of this game was terrific, and it set a trend for the competition that was maintained to the very last game. The Northern semi-finals were anticipated with relish. James Stephens faced Tullaroan, the conquerors of Graig/Ballycallan in the first round, while the eventual county finalists, Dicksboro, faced O'Loughlin Gaels. The

Tullaroan/James Stephens game in well-attended Callan was a bit of a mis-match. The greater physique of the Village lads was a severe disadvantage to the Tullaroan team. The disparity in skill between the two was also very obvious. James Stephens got their first goal in the 9th minute from Jamie Quan. That rocked Tullaroan. The Village followed it up with smart goals from Kevin Byrne and Conor Whelan, which contributed to the Village half time score of 4-11 to Tullaroan's 0-3. They eventually ran out easy winners, with the scoreboard reading - James Stephens 5-15 Tullaroan 1-6. In the other Northern semi-final, Dicksboro faced O'Loughlin Gaels, and won quite impressively by 3-11 to 1-11. Brian Cody got an early settling down goal for the Boro in the 2nd minute. Further first half scores from Coady (1-1), Paul O'Flynn (0-4), Brendan McIntyre (1-0), and a point from Brian Gallagher had the Boro out in front comfortably leading by eight points. Despite the best efforts of Mark Colgan, Stephen Galvin, Paul O'Brien, Peter Dowling and Maurice Nolan, O'Loughlins had to bid adieu to this year's Championship.

Carrickshock eventually came through the South to face hot favourites, Shamrocks in the Southern Final. A mighty game, played in Callan, had the big crowd on tenterhooks all the way through. The sides were level on several occasions. At half time, the Ballyhale lads led by a single point. The strong defending of players like John Tennyson and Micheal Rice made life extremely difficult for the Shamrocks. Anthony Holland's two second-half goals were very important for Carrickshock. However, two goals for the Shamrocks in quick succession after Holland's first effort restored the lead to the Shamrocks with fifteen minutes left. Holland drilled home a great goal for Carrickshock inside the last six minutes, followed by a brilliant point from Rice, and the favourites were out.

The final in Bennettsbridge was an epic - not the width of an eggshell between two very evenly matched sides. Both sides were striving to win their first Roinn A title. The Boro had a storming opening eight points with two goals by Paul O'Flynn. Carrickshock were struggling. However, they clawed their way back, and at half time the sides were level at 1-5 to 2-2. The inability of the Boro lads to score points proved a drawback for them, as the 'Shock had great score-getters in Richard Power, Anthony Holland and Damien Raggett. In addition to those mentioned, Carrickshock owe a great debt of gratitude to Micheal Rice, John Tennyson, John Dalton, and John Maher.



Thomastown - U16 Roinn C League Champions 2000

Back: Dermot Lanigan, Edward Tennyson, Jamie Wemyss, Sean O'Mahoney, Eoin Treacy (Capt), Damien Maher, Eoin Hayes, John Furlong.
Front: Liam O'Mahoney, Seamus Kelly, Gary Ryan, Billy McMahon, Stephen Cullen, Evan Kelly, Stuart Tennyson.



Rower/Inistioge - U16 League Roinn B Finalists

Back: Martin Galavan, Noel Treacy, Derek Moylan, Pat Digby, Loje Treacy, Sean Cummins, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael White, Pádraig Tierney, Seamus Corcoran, Michael Clifford, Conor Lyng.
Front: Pat Tierney, Seamus Holohan, JJ Fitzpatrick, Toby Kavanagh, Pádraig Tierney, Liam Tierney, Gerry Grace, JJ Kenny, John Grace, John G Butler, Eamon Phelan. *Photo Tom O'Neill*



Blacks and Whites U-16 Roinn C Champions Photo Tom O'Neill

Back: Michael Kealy (Selector), Niall Kennedy, Wyles Doyle, James Brennan, Sean Barcoe, Pyke (Chairman Bord Na NOg), Liam Dowling (Selector), Barry Moloney (Capt.), Peter Farrell (Selector), Jason Carroll, Sean Whitehead, Michael Doyle, Jonathan Burke, Conor Murphy, Pat O'Grady (Selector), Conor Nolan.
Front: Phillip Murphy, Derek Murphy, Peter Cleere, Brian Cleere, James Barcoe, John Whelan, Paddy Doyle, Charlie Ryan, Denis Brennan, Tom Maloney, Paddy Barcoe, Anthony

The Boro were well served by Paul O'Flynn, Paddy Grace, Willie Sainsbury, Brian Gallagher, Darren Tyrrell, and Eddie Clifford.

The final score was Carrickshock 2-9, Dicksboro 4-2.

CARRICKSHOCK: Pat Duggan, Richie Brennan, John Tennyson, David Millea, James Farrell, Micheál Rice, John Dalton, Pat Mulcahy, Tom Brophy, Damien Raggett, Richie Power, John Maher, Sean Gibbons, Anthony Holland, James Moran.
Subs: Garry Foley, Pádraig Barry, Colm Mulligan.

DICKSBORO: Paddy Grace, Conor Higgins, Willie Sainsbury, Pat Dore, Jason Bryan, Brian Gallagher, Darren Tyrrell, Shane Mc Garry, John O'Shea, Hugh Kelly, David O'Mahoney, Mark O'Hara, Eddie Clifford, Brian Cody, Paul O'Flynn. *Subs: Eddie O'Donoghue, Hugh Kelly, Phil Hogan, Shane Mc Garry, Andy Hogan.*

ROINN A LEAGUE

Seven teams went to post for the League. Every one of them had reason to fancy their chances of winning. Public opinion favoured Tullaroan or the Shamrocks, while there were "whispers" for Carrickshock, and James Stephens. Carrickshock posted early notice of their intent with a facile win over O'Loughlins, with a score of 6-13 to 2-4. O'Loughlins were nearly gone after their second match, when they were again beaten by Dicksboro - 4-13 to 3-5. Shamrocks came thundering into the League with a terrific win over Graig Ballycallan, winning by 6-8 to 1-5. Their next game was a much tighter affair against James Stephens, where they won by a narrow four points - Shamrocks 1-9, James Stephens 1-5. After the heavy defeat by Shamrocks, Graig Ballycallan came back into the big picture with a hard-earned victory over neighbours, Tullaroan, winning by 2-11 to Tullaroan's 3-6. In the same round, the Boro shocked the "Shock with a 4-7 to 2-10 victory.

So it continued until the semi-final pairings produced Dicksboro against city rivals, James Stephens, while Shamrocks faced Carrickshock in the other semi-final. The all-city affair produced superb hurling, with the lads in maroon winning by 1-11 to 1-9. The other semi-final was far more decisive, the Shamrocks winning by a whopping 11 points - Shamrocks 5-8 Carrickshock 0-12. What a turn round there was on the cards later in the Championship when the same teams met! The Final was a rather tame affair with the Boro offering little resistance to the power-packed hurling of the impressive Shamrocks. The Ballyhale lads winning by 2-16 to 0-4.

SHAMROCKS: James Connolly, David Healy, Pauric Holden, Barry Nolan, Ger Holden, Keith Nolan, Derek Fitzpatrick,

Michael Fennelly, Jamie Fitzpatrick, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Alan Knox, DJ Molloy, Eoin Reid, Shane Kelly. *Subs: Richie Holohan, Eamonn Walsh, Donncha Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, Michael Carroll, Shane Holden, Jason Nolan, Edward Walsh.*

ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP.

Setting the early pace in the Duggan Steel Roinn B Championship were Clara and St Patrick's Ballyraggett who drew their match, scoring 3-10 apiece. One week later, the Ballyraggett lads made no mistake, winning by 3-14 to 3-7. Unfortunately for Slieverue, they fell at the first fence, going down to Tullogher/Rosbercon 0-12 to 2-2. However, there was no doubting the team that was going to cause more than a few ripples on the championship waters when they opened their campaign. St Martin's had a more than a convincing win over Conahy Shamrocks (2-10 to 2-6), while the Emeralds had a very satisfactory winning opener against Bennettsbridge. Up North, St Martin's were too good for St Patrick's, winning by 3-8 to 1-4, while the Emeralds cruised by St Lactain's, winning by 5-21 to 3-12. Down South, Mullinavat had a less than convincing win over Tullogher/Rosbercon, winning by a single point in a very tense game. The final score here was Mullinavat 0-6, Tullogher/Rosbercon 1-2. The other match between the Rower/Inistioge and Piltown was no less close, with the former getting home with a score of 2-14 to Piltown's 4-6 in a terrific game. In the South semi-final, John Lockes were well beaten by the Rower on a score of Rower/Inistioge 8-20 John Lockes 2-2.

The Divisional Finals threw up two great games. Down South, Mullinavat, showing much improved form, were a shade too good on the night for a very impressive Rower/Inistioge outfit that never gave up trying. The final score here was - Mullinavat 2-10 Rower/Inistioge 2-6. The Northern Final was a tense affair all the way through. St Martin's eventually proved too good for the Emeralds, winning by 3-10 to 3-8. St Martin's went on to win the County Final, beating Mullinavat quite easily by 2-20 to 0-7. This was a fantastic achievement for the Martin's, as it completed the double of League and Championship. They set a blistering opening pace to the game, when, assisted by the wind, Shane Coonan and Eoin Mc Grath settled their side with some excellent points. The game was all but over as the half-time whistle sounded, with St Martin's leading by 0-14 to 0-2. On the change-over, Mullinavat tried very hard to haul in the St Martin's lads, with Willie O'Dwyer driving over two very good points from his centre-forward position. However, a goal by Eoin Mc Grath mid-way through that second half, followed shortly afterwards by another goal, this time scored by Michael Darcy, scuttled whatever hope they had of pulling the game out of the fire. Mullinavat battled bravely to the end but their cause was lost.

St Martin's: David Shore, James Maher, Shane Cadigan, Patrick Brennan, Kieran Byrne, Conor Kinsella (Capt), Ronan Maher, Edmond Hogan, Eoin McGrath, Michael Darcy, Shane Coonan, Brian Mulhall, Eamonn Buggy, Thomas Nolan, Eddie Doran *Subs: Aidan Murphy, David Tynan, Eugene Maher, Brian Malone, Patrick O' Flynn, Ciarán Holohan, Eoin Holohan.*

Mullinavat: Patrick Jones, Stephen Grace, Richard Raftice, Jason Duggan, Robert Farrell, Tomás Frisby, David Maddock, Martin Mc Donald, Alan Madigan, Derek Aylward, Willie Dwyer, Damien Kelly, Anthony Kennealy, Michael Loughlin, Jamie Fennelly. *Subs: Patrick Raftice, Michael Anthony, Pat Hogan.*

ROINN B LEAGUE

Quite simply, it was a marvellous year for the youngsters from Muckalee at under-16 level. They completed the great double of League and Championship. Their League campaign started with a narrow three-point win over Conahy Shamrocks - St Martin's 2-10 Conahy 3-4. In the same week, Lisdowney 3-9 beat Bennettsbridge 4-5: St Lactain's 5-6 beat Clara 1-7:

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Emeralds 5-11 beat St Patrick's 1-8, and Tullogher/Rosbercon 4-5 beat Slieverue 3-2. The following week, Mullinavat 2-12 had an easy win over hapless Slieverue 1-2, while the Emeralds from Urlingford (1-15) defeated St Lactain's (3-5). In their second round game, St Martin's (2-18) continued on their victorious way with a convincing win over St Lactain's (3-5). Eventual finalists, Rower/Inistioge (1-9) had a shaky opening game against Mullinavat (1-6). In the North semi-finals, both games were thrill-a-minute stuff. St Martin's, again scoring 2-18, beat St Lactain's, who scored a creditable 3-5, while Emeralds (6-8) beat Conahy Shamrocks (5-7). From the south section came Piltown and Rower/Inistioge. The County semi-finals saw St Martin's (3-7) beat Piltown (1-3), while Rower/Inistioge (2-11) had little difficulty in defeating the Emeralds (0-4). In a classic encounter, St Martin's eventually overcame the hard-trying Rower lads. winning by 1-10 to 2-3.

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championship started a little earlier in the north than down south. Cloneen had a hard-earned victory over the Fenians from Johnstown. Cloneen were always in front, and although they had to withstand a late Fenians flourish, they held out to win by 0-8 to 1-4. The Championship really took off on Monday evening, July 31st, when Erin's Own (5-14) had a huge win over Young Irelands (0-2), while Barrow Rangers got up late in their game against Lisdowney to win by 3-8 to 2-7. The Blacks and Whites had no trouble in accounting for the challenge of Danesfort. Down South, Windgap had two points to spare against Glenmore - a good win for the Windgap lads. They won by 4-8 to 4-6. In a very high-scoring first round game, Thomastown, who amassed 5-7, eventually got the better of Graignamanagh who rattled in 4-7 in reply. In the next round, Cloneen went out to Barrow Rangers on a score of Barrow Rangers 3-7, Cloneen 1-10. A similar fate awaited Windgap in the South, when they were beaten by Mooncoin on a score of 3-13 to 2-3. Thomastown too advanced, comprehensively beating Dunnamaggin by 4-18 to 0-3. Blacks & Whites eliminated Erin's Own in the North semi-final, scoring 3-13 to Erin's Own 2-4. This win set them up for a County semi-final game against Barrow Rangers. In the semi-finals, Blacks & Whites were far too good for their near-neighbours, and there was never a chance that they would do anything less than win. This they did, quite convincingly, by shooting a huge 5-11 to a Rangers reply of 0-7.

The South Final was a much tighter affair, with fortunes switching on a number of occasions between Mooncoin and Thomastown in a very entertaining game. Mooncoin won eventually, and deservedly, but Thomastown made them earn their honours. The final score was Mooncoin 4-6, Thomastown 2-9. In the County Final, Mooncoin had an unbelievable start against Blacks & Whites down in Ballyhale. Dick Howley shot a goal within ninety seconds of the start. He added two more points himself, and Pat Kinsella had another, and the Blacks & Whites hadn't registered a score. Eventually they opened their account with a Niall Kennedy point. It all changed within a few minutes at the start of the second quarter. Sean Barcoe got a goal for the Skeagh men, James Brennan landed two excellent points, and

by the 17th minute the sides were level. However, Pat Kinsella slammed in a great goal in the 26th minute to give his side the lead, a lead that was short lived when Niall Kennedy brought the sides level with a great Blacks & Whites goal in the 28th minute. Kennedy gave his side the lead with a point just before half time. At the start of the new half, James Brennan fired over two good points for the Blacks & Whites, but again Mooncoin rallied to draw level with three unanswered points from Keith Kirwan. That was to be the last time that Mooncoin were to score. Inside the last 12 minutes, points from the Maloney brothers, Tom and Barry, plus one from Niall Kennedy set the Blacks & Whites on the road to victory. A goal in the 58th minute by Tom Maloney finished off the Mooncoin men. Blacks & Whites were the winners by 3-10 to Mooncoin's 2-6, in a thrilling final.

Blacks & Whites: John Murphy, Jonathan Burke, Sean Whitehead, Anthony Barcoe, Myles Doyle, Jason Carroll, Conor Murphy, Barry Maloney, James Brennan, Niall Kennedy, Michael Doyle, Pat Doyle, John Whelan, Tom Maloney, Sean Barcoe.
Sub: Charlie Ryan.

Mooncoin: Shay Nolan, Derek Phelan, Anton Lannon, Richard Holden, Paul Norris, Tom O'Hanlon, Kieran O'Brien, Noel Delahunty, Ray Wall, Michael Jones, Nicholas Delahunty, Keith Kirwan, Pat Kinsella, Dick Howley, Tom O'Brien. *Sub: Sean Wall.*

ROINN C LEAGUE.

The opening rounds of the League were high-scoring affairs. Windgap scored 6-15 against Dunnamaggin (4-3), while Cloneen went much higher against Danesfort. The score here was Cloneen 10-10 to Danesfort's 2-2. In round two, Windgap (2-14) beat Glenmore (3-5), Graignamanagh (3-2) beat Dunnamaggin (2-2), Danesfort (7-9) beat Galmoy (0-4), Mooncoin (5-11) beat Kilmacow (1-1) and Erin's Own (2-8) beat the Fenians (2-3). Eventually, the quarter-final stages were reached, with Thomastown (3-11) beating Graignamanagh (3-7), Erin's Own (5-2) beating Cloneen (0-8), Blacks & Whites (1-10) beating Fenians (0-11) and Mooncoin (1-12) beating Windgap (2-5). In the semi-finals, Thomastown defeated Erin's Own, while Blacks & Whites defeated Mooncoin. The Final was drawn first time round, with Thomastown scoring 3-8, and the Blacks & Whites getting 2-11.

After a replay in Thomastown, the home team came out on top with a narrow victory, winning on a score of Thomastown 2-6 Blacks & Whites 1-8.

Thomastown: Billy Mc.Mahon, Stewart Tennyson, Sean Mahoney, Evan Kelly, Jamie Wyemss, Eoin Treacy, Stephen Cullen, Dermot Lanigan, John Furlong, Michael Mahoney, Damien Maher, Seamus Kelly, Garry Ryan, Eoin Hayes, Liam O'Mahoney. *Subs: Donal Brennan, Kevin Chandler, Philip Heafy.*

Blacks & Whites: John Murphy, Jonathan Burke, Sean Whitehead, Anthony Barcoe, Miles Doyle, James Brennan, Conor Murphy, Jason Carroll, Barry Maloney, John Whelan, Michael Doyle, Niall Kennedy, Sean Barcoe, Tom Maloney, Paddy Doyle.

Did You Know?.....

- J That the Sam Maguire was first presented for the 1928 All-Ireland Senior Football final and that Kildare were the first champions.
- J That "The Liam McCarthy" cup was first presented in 1921 for the final between Limerick and Dublin, but the final itself was not played until March 1923. Fixture backlogs or what !!!!!
- J That in 1908 a 14 acre site , which we now know as "Croke Park" was bought for £3,250 by the well known GAA Frank B.Dineen, who borrowed much of the finance in the hope that it would become a major venue for GAA games. In 1910 Dineen, who had run up debts due to the purchase of the property, had to sell 14 acres to the Jesuit Fathers of Belvedere College. This land remained in their possession until 1991, when it was repurchased by the GAA. Little did Frank know how much the stadium would be worth less than a hundred years later.
- J That in 1917 Hill 16 was constructed from the rubble left in Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) after the 1916 rising.
- J That the first Hogan stand was built in 1924, followed by the Cusack Stand in 1937. The Canal End terrace was completed in 1949 and the Nally Stand 1951 . Work on a "New" Hogan stand started in 1957 and completed in 1959. 1989 saw a "New" Hill 16 , 1996 saw the opening on the "New" Cusack and shortly we will have completed Canal End and Hogan Stands . All this started with Frank's purchase.

Eamon Throws the Question.....

By John Knox, Kilkenny People



THE future all hinged on the message hidden in a few innocent words in response to a serious question. And the respondent wasn't even aware of the wafer thin ice on which he was walking. Powerfully built Kilkenny centre-back Eamon Kennedy was the one throwing the question. It was aimed at Cats' boss, Brian Cody, whose well chosen words offered encouragement, but no guarantees of job security.

Still, the manager won over the player through his honesty, and the way that was about him that suggested he cared.

The throw back was to the early part of 1999, when newly appointed Kilkenny senior hurling manager, Brian Cody was assembling his first squad. He approached Dunnamaggin man, Eamon Kennedy, and offered him a place in the panel.

"I remember well the day he asked me to join the panel", Kennedy recalled for the Yearbook. "I asked him what was the story. Would I be used for a couple of weeks, and then thrown aside?"

"Brian said "no", I would get a proper chance. On that assurance, I decided to go for it. If he had given me a different answer I would probably have left it, not bothered. "I was after getting a few chances with other managers. I got a few runs, but no one showed an awful lot of interest in me. Brian Cody gave me a real chance".

Around 18 months later Eamon Kennedy danced a

jig of victory around buzzing Croke Park. He was one of the conquering warriors.

He had repaid the manager's belief and confidence in him. It was September. He had helped Kilkenny to their 26th All-Ireland championship victory, and first since 1993.

"With Eamon you always get honesty", Brian Cody said. "He gives the team everything that is in him. I have always admired him for his spirit, commitment and attitude. He is living proof that nice guys can be winners".

The 28-year-old, 6' 3" Dunnamaggin giant filled the demanding centre-back position, where all good teams are strong. He became a winner, and followed in the foot-steps of greats like

the Hendersons', O'Neill, Carroll et al who became household names for the leading roles they played in the position.

"Being part of a senior All-Ireland winning team was a dream for me", the softly spoken Dunnamaggin man assured. "Seeing Willie (O'Connor) lifting the McCarthy Cup, and knowing I had played a part in it, was brilliant, terrific".

The All-Ireland success was one of the great things the hurling year threw up. With county full-back, Noel Hickey, he became the first player to bring All-Ireland gold to Dunnamaggin since the mighty Jim 'Link' Walsh and Tom Walsh did so in 1957.

Further to that, Eamon Kennedy became the first Kilmoganny native to bring a senior All-Ireland medal to the area.

How did that feel, one wondered?

"Good, I can tell you", he assured. And then in a flash he added: "Hopefully I won't be the last".

Can't come over as being big headed or anything like that.

That's not the Kennedy way. It was a hard grind, but the achievement erased the pain.

And then, before the year ran its course, there was additional glory to be savoured. His beloved Dunnamaggin won the intermediate hurling championship, and regained senior status.

"My twin aims for the year were to help Kilkenny win the All-Ireland, and

Dunnamaggin to win the intermediate champi-

onship", the Suir Electric fitter revealed. "One couldn't but be delighted after achieving two huge goals like that".

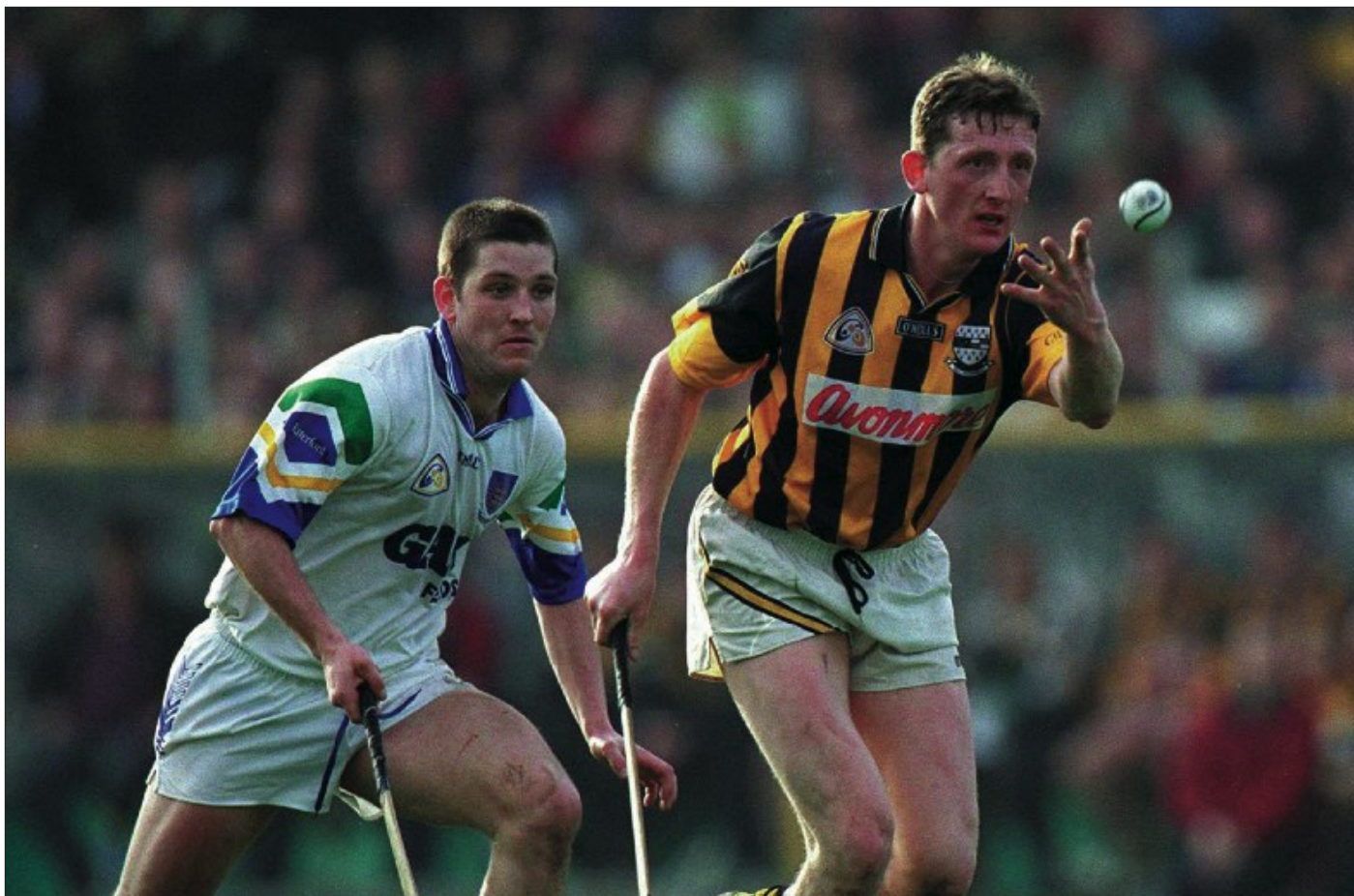
True! Now what about the future?

"The way I see it is I am 28, and I have only a couple of years left in me", Eamon said with firmness in his voice. "I will give it lash, try and win as much as I can because I think this Kilkenny team can win again. I am already looking forward to next season.

"It took a massive effort from everyone, the players, manager Brian Cody and selectors Ger. Henderson and Johnny Walsh, trainer Mick O'Flynn and everyone involved with the team to make things happen this year. Winning the title was hard. Retaining it will be even harder".



Eamon Kennedy drives the ball up the field against **Johnny Pilkington's** best efforts, watched by **Michael Kavanagh** and **Willie O'Connor**. Photo Sportsfile



Ken McGrath (Waterford) watches as **Eamon Kennedy** handpasses to a colleague in the NHL in Kilkenny in March.
Photo Sportsfile

Kennedy had come a long and torturous route to be side-tracked easily. Last year he had shown promise during a fine campaign in Leinster, but then an ankle injury knocked him out of the All-Ireland series.

At another time he sat on the bench and watched as a bit of a queue made up by Pat O'Neill, Canice Brennan and even Peter Barry formed in front of him for the No. 6 shirt.

He knew he wasn't flavour of the month with some fans. Brian Cody's belief in him, and the encouragement he got from within the squad, kept his spirits high. When the management team trimmed the panel for the championship, and Kennedy was the obvious No. 1 candidate for the centre-back position, he knew there was no going back.

"That was it, confirmation of Brian Cody's belief in me", Eamon recalled. "The challenge was there for me to prove myself. I enjoyed the season, let's put that way".

He admitted he had helpers aplenty on his climb to the hurling summit. His partner, Aisling Dack from Thomasatown, and the mother of his one-year-old daughter, Chloe, was a tower of strength in the background. Likewise his family and club. Kilkenny trainer, Mick O'Flynn even devised a special training and muscle stretching programme to help Kennedy improve his pace.

And his second cousin, former professional cyclists, Sean Kelly had a word or two of advice to offer when asked. It was the former Festina and Kas rider who gave Kennedy a gift some time ago of a 15-gear racing bike to help him build up strength in his legs.

"I often spoke to Sean about his sport, and what sort of food he ate during the season", Eamon admitted. "The way hurling has gone now, with a massive level of fitness demanded, what you eat and drink is most important. Sean was able to help me with that, for example".

Chips were out. So too was drink, apart from an odd pint to celebrate the various championship victories. The Kelly bike was used for additional training Kennedy did on his own, often

up to 15-miles of a morning.

"You have to make the sacrifices to survive at inter-county level", Eamon explained. "I don't mind that. I want to be part of this so badly, that the hard work and apparent hardship doesn't bother me. Trying to get the balance right between family, sport and work is not easy".

As the centre-back on an All-Ireland winning team, it could be said Eamon Kennedy has arrived. But would you believe, he nearly wasn't a defender at all.

When he first started hurling he was used as a forward. He was played in the attack for years, and made a decent fist of it too. Then one day Dunnamaggin man, Ramie Cahill, father of current club player, Paul, switched one E. Kennedy into the defence. The youngster never looked back.

Before this year's triumph, Eamon figured on a losing team in the under-21 All-Ireland championship final (1993), and won a junior All-Ireland (1994). With his club he has now won two intermediate, one senior and one junior championship.

"Ramie Cahill doesn't know the favour he did me that day he moved me to centre-back", Eamon laughed. "I was a different person altogether when put in the position. From the word go it just felt right for me".

More than a dozen years on, and without ever coming to the notice of county minor selectors, Eamon Kennedy has earned his stripes at senior level.

"Had Kilkenny lost the All-Ireland final this year, the likelihood is that the team would have been broken up because it would have been the third defeat in-a-row", Eamon suggested. "This team has come back from the edge. The possibilities that are there now are wonderful.

"We have some magnificent hurlers who have won only one senior All-Ireland medal. They feel that doesn't accurately reflect their worth, and I agree. They are hungry for more. So am I", he concluded.



CAMOGIE CLUBS



PAULSTOWN/GOESBRIDGE CAMOGIE CLUB



Paulstown/Goesbridge U-12 Camogie

Back: Aoife Drennan, Siobhan Murphy, Julia Purcell, Collette Dormer, Rita Coady, Carmel Lennon.

Front: Alison Staunton, Michelle Brennan, Mary Buggy, Laura Bambrick, Emma Staunton, Rosanne Brennan.



Paulstown /Goesbridge U-14 Camogie

Back: Aisling Kealy, Shiela Kelly, Lisa Brennan, Aoife Murphy, Claire Whitley, Catriona Bambrick, Rita Coady, Aoife Drennan.

Front: Sara Brophy, Leoni Staunton, Orla Kealy, Julia Purcell, Collette Dormer, Lee-Ann Corcoran, Mary Brennan.



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CAMOGIE CLUBS



ROWER/INISTIOGE CAMOGIE CLUB

Camogie Club Officers 2000

Sean 'O Huiginn
 Chairman: Sean O'Huiginn
 Vice Chairperson: Mary Lyng
 Secretary: Benny Holohan
 Treasurer: Mary Cottrell

The disappointment of narrowly losing the '98 and '99 Junior Finals to Mullinavat and St. Anne's respectively was well and truly banished when the camogie girls of Rower - Inistioge scored a thrilling victory over St. Brigids, Ballycallan, in an action-packed Junior County Final played in Bennetsbridge this year.

The girls showed tremendous character and battling qualities to take the title in this, only their third year to compete at junior level. Achieving an historic and vital success in this the Millennium year will now consolidate the club's position as we prepare to compete in the Intermediate Grade for the first time ever next year.

Certainly, when one sees what the club achieved after a slow start to the year, it is obvious that, with a more enthusiastic approach on the part of all involved, the future of the club can indeed be a very bright one. While the junior success was the highlight of the year, the achievement of the schoolgirls



ROWER INISTIOGE - COUNTY JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2000

Back: Mary Lyng, Selector. Briona Langton, Geraldine Tierney, Liz Kennedy, Deidre Brennan, Mairéad Holohan, Siobhán White, Brid Corcoran, Anne Walsh, Áine Murphy, Benny Holohan (Trainer).
Front: Lizzie Lyng, Emer Lyng, Geraldine Holohan (Captain), Áine Holohan, Michelle Cahill, Sharon Murray, Gillian Dunphy, Kathleen Cahill, Lee Galavan, Becky Dempsey.

in reaching the County Final for the first time since '92 was a most heartening sign for the clubs. Though losing to Tullagher in the final after a hard fought game, it was a delight to see a lot of skilled and talented young players on view.

Martin Murphy, Nora Mahony and Mary Lyng did trojan work in looking after the school team and taking them to the County Final this year.

The club would like to congratulate two players from the club, Emer Lyng and Lizzie Lyng who played on the victo-

rious Kilkenny Under 18 team that captured the Leinster title this year.

The Camogie Club is deeply indebted to all our sponsors who contributed so generously to our County Junior Final Training Fund and we take this opportunity to thank them sincerely.

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CAMOGIE CLUBS



ST ANNE'S CAMOGIE CLUB

St. Annes Camogie Club Officers

Chairman: Sean Warren
 Vice Chairperson: Mary Phelan
 Secretary: Ashling Delaney
 Asst. Secretary: Margaret Maher
 Treasurer: Triona Delaney
 Asst. Treasurer Gina Morrissey
 PRO: Delores Tynan
 Trainer Michael Glendon
 Selectors: Michael Glendon, Sean Warren,
 Jack Phelan.

2000 was a good year for St. Annes, even though the club did not win any silverware. The U-21 team entered the championship for the first time and had wins over Ballyragget and Lisdowney. These young players will be the stars of the future.

The U-14 team competed in A this year and reached the semi-final stages of the Feile and the championship, going out to the eventual winners Freshford.

The U-16 team reached the County final. After a very tough and exciting game our girls went down one point to a very strong Clara team.

The U-18 team have reached the semi-final also against Clara and we await the results of this game with great expectation. The U-21 team played in A for the first time at this grade. It was a great experience to be playing against the top players in the county. We played St. Brigids twice but in the end they were too strong. A lot was expected of our Intermediate team after our great win in the Junior championship last year. The team played excellently in the League series of the



St. Annes U-16 County Finalists

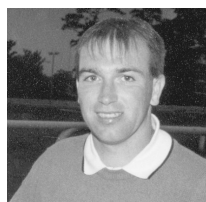
Front: Aishling Tobin, Mary Ryan, Lorraine Burke, Tara Warren, Edel Maher(capt), Mairead Henderson, Gene Ann Phelan, Helen Phelan, Siobhan Henderson.

Back: Patricia Orr, Rachael Glendon, Mary Margaret Campion, Claire Phelan, Michelle Garrett, Emer Power, Anne Marie Phelan, Mary Lonergan, Laura Walsh, Orla Hughes, Brenda McEvoy, Michael Glendon(Trainer), Noelle Walsh.

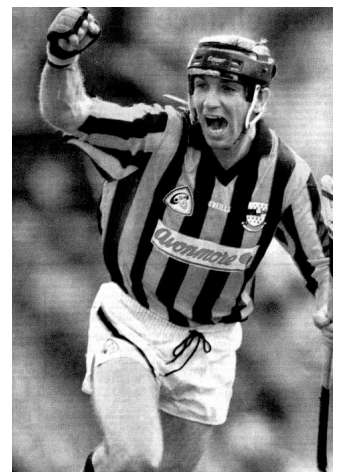
competition, beating Dicksboro, Gowran, Mullinavat and Tullogher to qualify for the semi-final, losing after a tough hard game by a single point. It a great learning experience in our first year at Intermediate and are now ready to challenge for Senior status. The Club had a number of Inter county players, Claire Phelan and Orla Hughes at U-14 and Edel Maher on the U-18 winning team. Claire Delaney, Lorraine McCarthy, Theresa Glendon, Orla Phelan and Edel Maher on the County Junior team

Managed by club chairman Sean Warren. Claire Doherty played on the County Senior team and Edel Maher was on the panel. The club thanks its sponsor Pat Delaney and all who helped during the year. Founder member Sean Hanrahan RIP who died during the year is a sad loss. He was a tireless worker for the Club and will be sorely missed. ar deis go raibh a anam. The club looks forward to the new year with confidence of continued success.

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CAMOGIE CLUBS



ST LACTAIN'S CAMOGIE CLUB

It was a terrific year for the under 14 team who won their County Championship and also won the County Féile final, beating Ballyhale Shamrocks and James Stephens, respectively in the finals. As guests of the Castledawson club in Derry for the duration of the Feile competition, they beat the host club, Greenlough, and Cuchulainns, Dunloy to qualify for the semi-finals where they easily defeated Glenealy from Wicklow. In dreadful conditions, they defeated Lismore from Waterford in the final on a score of 1-2 to 0-1, thus winning the Division 3 title.

Panel: Noelle Corrigan, Elaine Grace, Ciara Brennan (Capt), Michelle McGrath, Catherine Neary, Aine Connery, Marie Anderson, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Ann Dalton, Marion Maher, Rachel Hogan, Cathriona Maher, Emma Behan, Niamh Kennedy, Louise Murphy, Mairead Phelan, Mary Dalton, Debbie Rafter, Caroline Campion, Brigid Bergin, Nicola Bowden, Aileen Marnell, Ann Walsh, Donna Butler, Roisin Kennedy, Angela Dalton, Kim Farrell, Siobhan Dawson, Christine Neary, Emer Harding, Fiona Muldowney, Marie Dollard. *Selectors: Michael Cormack, Sheila Killeen, Kathleen Corrigan.*

The under 12 team have qualified for their semi-final with wins over Ballycallan, Lisdowney and Ballyraggett. They play Ballyhale Shamrocks in the semi-final, with the winners playing James Stephens.

Panel: Ann Dalton, Mary Dalton, Caroline Campion, (Capt), Angela Dalton, Roisin Kennedy, Carol Kavanagh, Laura Grace, Emer Harding, Siobhan Dawson, Noelle Corrigan, Fiona Muldowney, Christina Neary, Kim Farrell, Marie Dollard, Lidia Barnaville, Jennifer Hickey, Stacy Beckett, Majella Bowden, Lorian Bowden, Linda Rafter, Lea Gibbons, Shauna McGrath, Emma Bergin, Mary Bergin, Jamie Ann Cuddihy, Jacinta Rafter, Lyndsey Kelly, Ciara Phelan, Georgina Power, Emily Theloke,

Marie Dowling.

In the under 16 Championship St. Lactain's emerged on top of the league table with wins over Ballycallan, James Stephens, St. Annes, Clara, Shamrocks and Mullinavat. In the Championship proper, they faced James Stephens in a terrific semi-final with victory coming late to the Freshford girls. This was a truly amazing game of camogie. In the final against Mullinavat, the game was pretty evenly balanced all the way with not a big margin separating the sides.

However, St. Lactain's got a couple of priceless scores towards the end of the game which made all the difference.

The under-18 team are presently caught up in an objection saga, so their Championship will run a little longer.

The under 21 Championship was won after a tough, dour encounter with St. Brigids Ballycallan. The Champions of the past two years were however downed after a titanic game.

Panel: Deirdre Delaney, Cathriona Cormack, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Eimear Connery, Mairead Lawlor, Emma Fitzpatrick, Fiona Dowling, Mary-Ellen Butler, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Danielle Minogue, Breda Kavanagh, Marie O'Connor, Catherine Kavanagh, Martina Maher, Cora Dowling, Sinead Connery.

The Senior Championship was won with great style. Shamrocks were defeated in the semi-final, and Freshford faced the "ould enemy", Lisdowney in yet another County final. Lisdowney had beaten Ballycallan in their semi-final. In

an exciting encounter, only a Cora Dowling goal separated the sides at half time. Imelda Kennedy was immaculate from frees, while Mairead Costello was master of any opponent that came her way. The introduction of Mary C Ryan and Eimear Connery was inspirational. Between them they engineered a match-winning goal late in the game, which gave the title to the Freshford girls. In a fitting climax to the final, Mairead Costello was deservedly awarded the Player of the Match Award.

"Twas on to the Leinster Club Championship in late August. Ballyboden St. Endas were defeated in the first round, and this left Freshford into the Leinster final. On a day when "Murphy's Law" applied, the Wexford girls came out on top by a goal.

Panel: Deirdre Delaney, Cathriona Cormack, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Helen McGrath-Burke, Eimear Connery, Paula Dowling, Mairead Lawlor, Emma Fitzpatrick, Fiona Dowling, Mary-Ellen Butler, Mairead Costello, Sinead Costello, Esther Kennedy, Mags Kavanagh, Mary C Ryan, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Danielle Minogue, Marie O'Connor, Imelda Kennedy, Fiona Connery, Martina Maher, Cora Dowling, Sinead Connery, Gillian Dillon-Maher.

After a brilliant season, the club thanks especially the great Tom Ryan, our main sponsors, Crosby Brothers, our mentors, selectors, and our very loyal supporters.



St Lactain's - U16 Roinn A Campgie Champions 2000

Panel: Grace Dermody, Nikki Minogue, Fiona Dowling, Claire O'Donnell, Ciara Brennan, Sinead Corrigan, Mairead Lawlor, Catherine Neary, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Delaney, Marie O'Connor, Danielle Minogue, Breda Kavanagh, Catherine Kavanagh, Niamh Kennedy, Cathriona Meagher, Michelle McGrath, Brigid Bergin, Aine Connery, Marina Butler, Aileen Marnell, Marie Anderson, Ann Dalton, Mary Dalton, Noelle Corrigan.



CAMOGIE CLUBS



THOMASTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB

Club Officers 2000

Chairperson: Deirdre O'Keeffe
Vice-chair: Bridget Tready
Secretary: Liz Dempsey
Asst. Sec.: Patricia Dempsey
Treasurer: Olive Lannon
PRO: Michael Dempsey

A Good Year!

2000 proved to be another good year for Thomastown camogie club, even though no silverware was won in the club after the glorious year of 1999. Our first year in senior ranks after a nine year lapse saw us lose to St. Brigid's, Ballycallan but we showed on the day that we can compete with the best. Who knows what would have happened if we had our full panel

of players on the day? We also competed in the senior league and were unlucky not to qualify for the knockout stages.

Primary School

Pride of place must go to the primary school team who, under the guidance of Brid O'Shea and Sr. De Luourdes, won the Ronn B county title for the first time in their history.

Under Age

At under-age we competed in all competitions from U-14 to U-21 and all sides performed with distinction and enthusiasm. Congratulations must go to our U-12 team who reached the county semi-final

but were beaten by a strong James Stephens side. We must mention our U-10s who won their annual blitz, beating Paulstown. The future of camogie is in safe hands with these young players. Great work is being done with them by Helen Farrell and Michelle Conway.

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.



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CAMOGIE CLUBS



TULLOGER CAMOGIE CLUB

Tullagher Camogie Club had another successful year, fielding in all grades except U.21. Our Intermediate Team began slowly in the league section of the championship losing to Mullinavat, Glenmore and St. Annes, while defeating Dicksboro and Gowran. Qualifying for the Co. Semi-Final against Glenmore, we reversed the earlier league result to reach the Co Final only to be defeated by a fine Mullinavat side by a single point in a closely contested match. We would like to thank our trainer, Eoin Kenny, and selector, Jimmy Mullally, for their work throughout the year and hopefully we can go one step further next year.

Team & Panel: *Catriona Ryan, Martina Lanigan, Brenda Murphy, Stephanie Cotterell, Bridget Grennan, Dolores Lanigan, Fiona Doolan, Mary Doolan, Linda Cotterell, Elaine Mullally, Deirdre Lyng, Yvonne Malone, Martina Mullally, Bridget Ryan, Elaine Nolan, Ety Phelan, Edel Fitzgerald, Sharon Walsh, Elizabeth Walsh, Olivia Lyng, Maire O'Gorman, Denise Foran, Claire Fitzgerald, Tracey Malone, Ciara Lee, Una Murphy.*

Our U14 team reached the semi-final stage, while our U18 team lost out in the league section, both in Roinn B. The first major highlight of our year was the success of our primary school team, Listerlin, who won the Roinn C championship, defeating near neighbours, Rower Instioge, in Nowlan Park. On the day the team played out of their skins to win convincingly on a scoreline of 4-4 to 1-1. The scorers were: Siobhan Murphy 3-3, Claire Lanigan 1-0 and Marie Conway 0-1.

Team & Panel: *Siobhan Murphy, Jordana Flynn Wall, Rosemarie Quigley, Joan Ryan, Maeve Ryan, Aoife Ryan, Ann Marie*



Tullagher Camogie Club U16 Roinn C Champions 2000

Back: Dolores Lanigan (Trainer), Marie Ryan, Margaret Walsh, Tara Lee McCarthy, Bridget Phelan, Evelyn Dollard, Cathy Walsh, Niamh Mullally, Helen Murphy, Elaine Mullally, Barbara Phelan, Marie Phelan, Una Murphy (Selector).

Front: Kelly Ann Cotterell, Helen Coady, Irene Woods, Joanne Cotterell, Linda Cotterell (Captain), Laura Aylward, Michelle Murphy, Siobhan Murphy, Bernadette Phelan. (Absent from photo- Sarah Wallace).

Green, Marie Meaney, Maura Healy, Marie Conway, Noreen Murphy, Claire Lanigan
Subs: *Roisin Walsh, Noreen Lanigan, Margaret Ryan, Mairead Ryan, Anna Ryan, Aoife O'Neill, Kayleigh Morrissey and Ann Power. (rainer: Florence Lanigan.*

Our other major success was with our U16 team who defeated Carrickshock, Windgap and Thomastown to reach the Roinn C Co Final. In a hard fought battle against Muckalee, with the result in doubt until the final whistle, Tullagher won on a scoreline of 1-3 to 0-4. The scorers were: Cathy Walsh 1-0, Linda Cotterell 0-2, Marie Ryan 0-1. **Team & Panel:** *Siobhán Murphy, Irene Woods, Joanne Cotterell, Bridget Phelan, Helen Cody, Helen Murphy, Elaine Mullally,*

Barbara Phelan, Linda Cotterell, Elaine Mullally, Marie Ryan, Laura Aylward, Kelly Ann Cotterell, Cathy Walsh, Michelle Murphy, Sarah Wallace, Bernadette Phelan, Evelyn Dollard, Margaret Walsh, Tara Lee McCarthy, Marie Phelan. I rainer: Dolores Lanigan, Selector: Una Murphy
 We would like to congratulate Marie Ryan, Kelly Ann Cotterell and Helen Murphy who represented the club on the Co. U.14 team. Finally we would like to thank our two main sponsors "Paddy Ryan's" and "The Parish Pump" who sponsored the club a new playing strip and track-quits respectively. Also, thanks to all team mentors who worked so hard all year.

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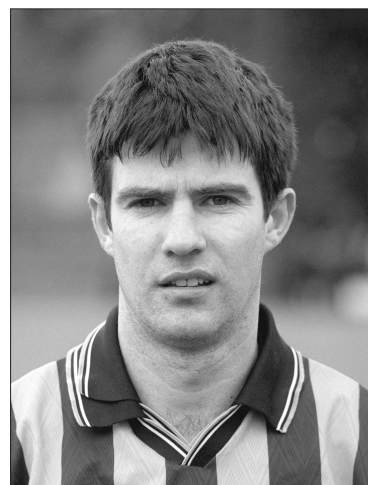
The Larkin Dynasty.



Paddy Larkin



Phil "Fan" Larkin



Philip Larkin

When the final whistle pealed round Croke Park on All-Ireland day, pundits and scribes were scratching for the unusual, the exclusive, the one that everybody missed. One factor manifested itself immediately. Phil "Fan" Larkin caught Philip Larkin in a bear-hug for all to witness. A piece of history, unique in the annals of hurling, had been created. Philip, the younger, was the third direct generation of the Larkin family to have won a Senior All-Ireland medal. And what a glorious hurling dynasty the Larkin family has created. Grandfather, Paddy Larkin, starred at corner back in the 1932 All-Ireland Final against Clare. He starred again in the 1933 final against Limerick. Kilkenny also won the National League that year. Again, at corner back in 1935, Paddy played his part in Kilkenny's defeat of Limerick in the final, and in 1939 he collected his fourth celtic cross, when Kilkenny beat Cork in one of the greatest finals of all time. He won Senior Championships with Tullaroan (1933 and '34), James Stephens in 1935 and '37, Eire Og in 1940. He won four Railway cup medals (once as captain), one Oireachtas, and nine Leinster Championship medals. Phil "Fan", won five All-Ireland Senior medals in 1963, '72, '74, '75 and 1979, two All-Ireland Club Championships with James Stephens, six Railway Cup medals, eight Leinster Championships, and captained Kilkenny to victory in the 1976 National League Final. Grandson of Paddy, and in direct lineage, Philip completed the hat trick of All-Ireland Senior medal winners on that unforgettable day last September. No wonder the Dad was a proud man, as surely was the grandad looking down from the Croke Park in the sky.



Fan mans the Scoreboard

Phil "Fan" Larkin operates the scoreboard in Nowlan Park at the Dublin/Laois SH Round Robin match in May.

Photo Sportsfile

LISDOWNEY SEVENS 2000

Over three Saturdays in September and October 28 teams gave displays of skilful and committed hurling. Teams from Kilkenny (20), Tipperary (3), Laois (3), Galway (1) and Kildare (1) took part in the Sweeney Cup and Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield (first round losers). The finals in both competitions produced old-firm rivalries between Kilkenny and Tipperary. Honours were divided as Ballyhale defeated Moycarkey in the Cup and Ballingarry defeated St. Martins in the Shield. The Coca-Cola Trophy for the Best Player was won by Sean Cahill of Ballingarry (brother of Tipperary senior player Liam).

The Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens was started in 1982 by teachers Larry Hamilton (Sec.) and Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.) along with Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola) and they have been at the helm ever since. Club officers P.J.Kenny (Chairman), John Mackey (Sec.) and Lar Carroll (Treasurer) also do trojan work with invaluable assistance from juvenile and adult members, not forgetting the hard-working catering committee of Monica Thornton, Michelle Maher, Sinéad Mackey, Bridget Nolan and Patricia Dowling.

The competition is for under 13 players on teams with panels of 10. One important exception to the normal rules is that the solo-run is banned. This has proved very effective and has led to an improvement in both personal skills and teamwork.

For years now many of these young hurlers have progressed to wearing the black and amber at under age and senior level. This year was no exception as players like Henry Sheflin, Aidan Cummins, Brian McEvoy, Philip Larkin, Peter Barry, Michael Kavanagh, Denis Byrne, John Hoyne, Micheál Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, Johnny Butler, Canice Brennan, James McGarry, Stephen Grehan, Sean Dowling and Jimmy Coogan were previous participants. As well as those on the Co. Panel many more of the Co. Champions, Graigue-Ballycallan team were also successful competitors.

The Parish Sevens is also a very important part of the tournament. This year over 70 boys and girls took part in a round-robin event, involving over 20 games. After much endeavour and excitement Matthew Thornton's team overcame a gallant Ronan Quinn's team by 2-2 to 1-1 to raise the Lisdowney Shield.

In all competitions sponsorship is very important and the organisers are deeply indebted to Paddy Sweeney of Spa Construction, Kilkenny Supporters Club, Lisdowney Club and Coca-Cola who provide trophies for both winners and runners-up in all three competitions. Brian O'Flynn has proved to be a very effective referee over the past 6 years and this year was no exception.

The support of the officers of the Co. Board over the years is much appreciated. Among those present on final day were Ned Quinn (Co. Chairman), Barry Hickey (Co. Development Officer), Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bórd na nÓg), John Mackey and Eamonn Hennessy (Kilkenny Supporters Club), Denis Byrne and Brian McEvoy (Senior Players)

and Brian Ryan (Hurling Coach). A very special word of thanks to the media people - Pat Treacy and Tommy O'Brien (Radio Kilkenny), John Knox (Kilkenny

People), Brian Ryan (Kilkenny Web Page) and Barry Henriques for his much-appreciated article in the Irish Examiner supplement (The County).



Ballyhale - Sweeney Cup Winners

Front: Enda Fitzpatrick, James Walsh, Donnchadha Fitzpatrick (capt.), Kieran Grace, Colin Fennelly.
Back: Joe Dunphy (Ballyhale), Ned Quinn (Co. Chairman), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Padraig Butler, Liam Muldoon, David Hession, T.J. Reid, Ger Fennelly, Eamonn Dunne (PRO), Larry Hamilton (Sec.), Barry Hickey (Dev. Officer).



Ballingarry - Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield

Front: Sean Cahill (Best Player Award), Jason Lalor, Michael Fogarty (capt.), Richard Butler, Thomas Maher, Sean Maher.
Back: Larry Hamilton (Sec.), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), John Mackey (Club Sec.), Philip Ivers, James Molloy, Damien Fitzgerald, Jonathan Hayes, Tom Butler (Coach), Eamonn Dunne PRO)



Matthew Thornton's Team - Lisdowney Shield Winners

Front: Jamie O'Sullivan, Niamh Brennan, Stephen Ruth, Robert Buckley, Niamh Dowling, Jamie Bergin.
Back: Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Julia Fitzpatrick, Padraig Kenny, Matthew Thornton (capt.), Paul Murphy, Shane Healy, Larry Hamilton (Sec.), Eamonn Dunne (PRO.)

KILKENNY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2000

By Pat Moylan



Kilmoganny – Senior County Football Champions 2000.

Back: Malachy Hogan (trainer), Jim Hickey, Noel Lahart, Paul Cahill, Canice Hickey, Andrew Hickey, Noel Hickey, Eamonn Kennedy.

Front: Michael O'Neill, Brian Mackey, Sean Ryan, Ken O'Shea, Matthew O'Shea (capt.), Paul Kearney, Colin Herity, Denis Lahart. (Missing from photograph–Niall McCormack.)

Photo Tom O'Neill

Kilmoganny, the football trading division of the Dunamaggin GAA club completed an outstanding GAA roll of honour when they won the Senior Football Championship in May. With senior, intermediate, junior and under-age honours won in all grades and codes, this was the one title the South Kilkenny outfit had not claimed. In beating city side; Dicksboro after a replay, Dunamaggin GAA club joined an elite group of clubs in the county with senior, intermediate and junior titles at both hurling and football.

This year the senior football championships was played on a league basis initially with two groups of five teams. The winners of each group (Dicksboro and Railyard) qualified for the semi-finals of the knockout championship. Unlike 1999, this year's championship was run off efficiently early on in the year culminating in Kilmoganny being the first qualifiers for the A.I.B. Leinster Club Football Championship by May. By and large, the



Dicksboro SF County Finalists 2000

Back: Paul King, Mark Andrews, Cathal McDonald, Stephen Kennedy, John O'Gorman, Niall Morrissey, Simon Walton, Dave Cremin, Donal Carroll, Tom Henderson, Jim Kerwick.

Front: Brian Kennedy, Sam Morrissey, Kieran Philpott, John Treacy, David Carroll, Dermot Beirne, Bobbie Lawlor, Gussy Roberts, Stephen Rochford. Missing from photo: Jesse Wyse, David Beirne.

championship was a success as football enthusiasm in the early months livened up the common misery and drudgery of early spring training programmes around the county. Most clubs showed a healthy

On to the League where matches on consecutive Saturdays saw football compete with the Premiership overseas.

Following five rounds of honest football, Group A winners; Dicksboro, qualified to join Group B winners Railyard in the League final. In a low scoring midweek League final – Dicksboro shaded the honours on a 0-06 to 0-05 scoreline.

In the Championship proper the first round yielded James Stephens, Muckalee, Kilmoganny and Erin's Own as championship contenders. The second round saw Kilmoganny defeat James Stephens on a 2-09 to 1-03 scoreline while Muckalee enjoyed a big win over Erin's Own on a 4-12 to 0-10 local derby scoreline. The latter winning teams joined League finalists Railyard and Dicksboro in the final quartet.

Kilmoganny who had drawn great rivals, Railyard, advanced to the final on a 3-09 to 2-05 scoreline, goals from Ken O'Shea (2) and Noel Hickey spearheading their charge. The other semi-final was not so clear-cut as Dicksboro and Muckalee played out a three-game saga before Dicksboro advanced to the final on a 1-09 to 1-06 scoreline. These replayed games served up three hours of enthralling passionate football.

The final dawned on a wet evening in May. Conditions were anything but good, and the fare was never more than average. There was a lot of dragging and pulling and the accuracy of kicking on both sides worried the corner flags on several occasions. With time almost up and city side Dicksboro leading by seven points to six, lively substitute Niall McCormack pointed for Kilmoganny to keep their hopes of claiming their first title alive. On to the replay...

The replayed final produced a fast open game with football as good as you'd see anywhere. There was nothing between the teams during the opening half as the scores were tied at 0-2, 0-4, 0-5 and 0-6 each, the latter at the interval. Noel Lahart (K) was the star of the half, shooting four fine points from play for the winners. Simon Walton, from placed balls, kept the 'Boro in touch. Kilmoganny enjoyed a great start in the second half. In the 33rd minute the elusive Ken O'Shea, crashed a powerful drive against the underside of the 'Boro goal. Niall McCormack pounced on the breaking ball to be upended in the small square. Up stepped Matthew O'Shea who duly obliged from the penalty



"It's Ours!" - Kilmoganny captain **Matthew O'Shea** accepts the Ned Langton cup from the Co. Board Football Chairman, **Tommy Duggan**.

Kilkenny Senior Football Championship 2000 Results

1st Round Championship			
James Stephens	2-12	Graigieballycallan	1-07
Muckalee	4-12	Glenmore	0-10
Kilmoganny	3-13	Young Irelands	2-03
Erins Own	3-10	Piltown	1-08
2nd Round Championship			
Kilmoganny	2-09	James Stephens	1-03
Muckalee	4-12	Erins Own	0-10
Semi-Finals			
Kilmoganny	3-09	Railyard	2-03
Dicksboro	1-11	Muckalee	2-08
Dicksboro	1-07	Muckalee	0-10
Dicksboro	1-09	Muckalee	1-06
Final			
Kilmoganny	0-07	Dicksboro	0-07
Kilmoganny	2-11	Dicksboro	1-09

spot. Unperturbed, Dicksboro, six minutes later claimed their solitary goal – a defence-splitting pass from John O'Gorman being punched to the net by Sam Morrissey. In the 47th minute the winners sealed their victory when the aforementioned McCormack bravely blocked down goalkeeper Jesse Wyse's attempted clearance to the net. Kilmoganny kept their composure, seeing the victory straight ahead, tacked on further pointed scores to claim their first historic senior football title on a 2-11 to 1-09 scoreline.

Victory for Kilmoganny came at the end of a ten game campaign. The fine play of Brian Mackey, Sean Ryan, Eamonn Kennedy, Noel Lahart but especially Ken O'Shea and Niall McCormack bore

the hallmark of players well acquainted with the game. Best for Dicksboro in this replayed final were John Treacy, David Cremin, Stephen Kennedy, Niall Lacey and John O'Gorman.

Footnote: Due to a fixtures clash on the day of the Intermediate Hurling Co. Final and despite appeals to the Leinster Council, Kilmoganny were denied their chance to represent Kilkenny in the A.I.B. Leinster Football Championship. Finalists Dicksboro subsequently were defeated by O'Hanrahans (Carlow) by 2-10 to 2-02 in the first round.

Teams & scorers in final:

Kilmoganny: C. Hickey, D. Lahart, J. Hickey, B. Mackey, M O'Neill, P. Cahill, A. Hickey, S. Ryan, E. Kennedy, N. Hickey (0-02), N. Lahart (0-04), K O'Shea (0-01), N. McCormack (1-04), M O'Shea (1-00), P. Kearney. *Subs: D. Herity, B. Moore.*

Dicksboro: J. Wyse, J. Treacy, T. Henderson, D. Beirne, D. Cremin, D. Carroll, N. Morrissey, J. O'Gorman (0-02), B. Kennedy, C O'Loughlin (0-01), S. Kennedy (0-02), N. Lacey, E. Begley (0-01), S. Walton (0-02), S. Morrissey (1-01). *Subs: B. Lawlor, D. Beirne, K. Philpott, L. Maher.*

Referee: Paul Devlin (Carlow)

SENIOR HURLING ALL-COUNTY LEAGUE

By *Barrie Henriques*

Dicksboro collect the "boots."

City side Dicksboro went all the way in the St Canice's Credit Union Senior hurling all-county league, with a near perfect run over the eight round series. Starting way back on the 16th of April, the Boro had a rather facile win over city arch-rivals, James Stephens, winning by 1-10 to 0-4.

On the same evening, their final opponents, O'Loughlins, got their campaign off to a winning start by beating Tullaroan 2-11 to 1-10. Hot shots, Graig/Ballycallan, posted early notice that they were well focussed for the up-coming Championship, by dishing out a 4-10 to 2-5 beating to Erin's Own, while Intermediate Champions of 1999, John Lockes, gave an excellent account of themselves in a thrilling - albeit a losing - performance against seasoned campaigners, Fenians.

One week later, the best match of the series took place in Tullaroan, where the home side were five points adrift of the Fenians in a titanic engagement..A feature of the game was the long distance striking by both teams. There were great performances too by PJ Ryan, Stephen Grehan, Declan Garrett, Lar Ryan and Podge Delaney for Fenians, and by John Breen, Chris Maher, Paul Doheny, Liam Keoghan

and Liam Simpson for Tullaroan. James Stephens collected their first points with a good win against Erin's Own, while John Lockes also did the same in their game against Clara. The Boro beat Young Irelands thanks to a 2-7 contribution by Sammy Morrissey. O'Loughlins had three points to spare over Ballyhale Shamrocks, and Graig Ballycallan steamrolled Glenmore into the Glenmore turf.

In round three, the eventual finalists, O'Loughlins and Dicksboro remained inactive, while Graig/ Ballycallan continued to roll, winning easily against John Lockes. After three rounds, Graig/Ballycallan headed the table with maximum points, with Dicksboro, O'Loughlins and James Stephens on four points each, but the Village had played one more game than their city rivals. In round five, Graigue and Dicksboro continued to win while O'Loughlins fell to a resurgent Glenmore, and James Stephens were "nailed" by a determined Tullaroan (Tullaroan 1-18, Jas Stephens 2-10)

The sixth and final round was the all-important one, as the postponed round three game between O'Loughlins and Dicksboro was incorporated into this. Both sides were forced to play two

games. The postponed game resulted in a three point win for O'Loughlins, but both sides went on to exact maximum points from their games against Graig /Ballycallan (Dicksboro 3-8, Graigue/ Ballycallan 1-13) and John Lockes (O'Loughlins 4-10, John Lockes 1-8).

The semi-finals had O'Loughlins giving a "bit of a lesson" - one that was redressed in the League Championship later - to Graig Ballycallan, winning by 3-16 to 1-11. The other all-city semi-final resulted in a big win for the Boro over James Stephens, on a score of 5-16 to 2-7.

The final did not exactly set Nowlan Park on fire. The hurling



Dicksboro - All County SH League Champions 2000

Back: Brendan Dalton, Cillian Breatnach, Tom Henderson, James Maher, Donal Carroll, John O'Gorman, Patrick Henderson, Stephen Kennedy.

Front: Dermot Beirne, Jimmy Bergin, Oisín Breatnach, John Treacy, Conor O'Loughlin, David Beirne, David Carroll
Photo Tom O'Neill

lacked that bit of bite synonymous with finals, although the quality of the game was reasonable. In a poorish first half, the winners, Dicksboro, led by 0-6 to 0-3. The impressive Conor O'Loughlin shot eight points for the Boro, and as the finishing line approached, they were out in front by double scores (0-10 to 0-5). Suddenly, Joe Daly, the burly O'Loughlins full forward, drilled in a semi-penalty, following a foul on Colin Furlong. With just two points between the sides, we were treated to a frantic final ten minutes. A point by Tom Henderson steadied the Boro, as they went on to win their first St.Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling All-County League.

Dicksboro: Cillian Breathnach, David Beirne, David Carroll, Jim Bergin, Oisín Breathnach, Tom Henderson, Dermot Beirne, Jim Maher, Paddy Henderson, Conor O'Loughlin, Stephen Kennedy, Donal Carroll, John Treacy, John O'Gorman, Brendan Dalton.

Subs (used); Niall Lacey, Derek O'Gorman.

O'Loughlin Gaels: Paul Cleere, Brian Murphy, Mickey Holohan, Barry Power, Johnny Holohan, Sean Dowling, J.Dowling, B.Hogan, Davy Ronan, Donal Dwyer, Colin Furlong, Brian Kelly, Niall Skehan, Joe Daly, B Dowling. *Subs (used): J.Comerford, N.Bergin.*

'VAT TAKE BUS ÉIREANN ALL-COUNTY LEAGUE IN STYLE.

By Barrie Henriques



Mullinavat All County IH League Champions 2000

Back: Pat Butler PJ Aylward, Raymond Carroll, Pat Hoban, Michael Dunphy, Mossy Murphy, John Paul Dungan, Kenneth Butler (Capt).

Front: Joe Walsh, Paul Aylward, Liam Murphy, Conor Conway, Martin Knox, Walter Burke, Declan Duggan

Photo: Tom O'Neill

Clubs were very anxious to show their teeth early in the business of hurling matters, when the first round of the Bus Eireann All-County League got under way on April 16th. The eventual winners, Mullinavat opened impressively with a good win over Tullagher/Rosbercon. Scoring 2-11 to the Freshford men's 1-8, they gave notice that they were going to be serious competitors for trophies later in the year. The eventual runners-up, St Martins had the same score difference between themselves and St Lactains (2-12 to 1-9). Newcomers, Carrickshock had a delightful win over tough opponents, Bennettsbridge, while Rower/Inistioge (v Mooncoin), and Dunnamaggin (v Thomastown) also collected maximum points from their first games. Blacks & Whites and Graignamanagh drew their game.



St. Martins - All County IH League Finalists 2000

Back: Kieran Kelly. Philip Shore. Ger Doyle, Aidan Lawlor. Stephen Murphy. Niall Maloney. John Dooley. John Maher (Capt). Caleb Daly. Diarmuid Lawlor. Martin Dowling. Liam Dowling.

Front: P.J.Shore. Tom Agar. Alan Murphy. Tom Cody. Dick Dooley. Paul Maher. Tom Kinsella. Brendan Ryan.

Nickey Purcell. Brendan Maher.

Photo: T.O'Neill.

Martin's, thanks to the accuracy of Diarmuid Lawlor, ran out comfortable winners in the replay, on a score of 2-15 to 0-14.

There was a nice crowd in Nowlan Park for the Final. The quality of the hurling was quite good, and the first half was a fairly level affair. Both sides spurned goal-scoring chances, not that there were many of those, as defences were well focussed, and alert. At half time, Mullinavat were in front by four points. Their first half scores came via Ray Carroll, Mossy Murphy, Mick Dunphy and a brilliant long-range effort by Pat Butler. Philip Shore, Paul Maher, Diarmuid Lawlor had collected Muckalee's first half scores. Very early in the second half, Dick Dooley saved a certain Mullinavat goal from a shot by Declan Duggan. By the 38th. minute, there were still four points between the sides, although, Dunphy, Murphy, and Hoban had swapped scores with Diarmuid Lawlor, and Paul Maher. Mullinavat's goalkeeper certainly earned his laurels with a superb save from Niall Maloney mid-way through the second half. Mullinavat stretched their lead with great points by Dunphy, and Pat Hoban. As the final whistle approached, it appeared that Mullinavat were about to collect the cup. However the Muckalee lads had a different idea. They went for the jugular. They drilled in a goal with two minutes of injury time played. But time was against them, and they had to give second best to the Rod Iron men from Mullinavat

Mullinavat: P J Aylward. J. Walsh. K. Butler. J.P. Dungan. P. Butler. W. Burke. L. Murphy. M. Knox. P. Aylward. M. Dunphy. P. Hoban. C. Conway. R. Carroll. M. Murphy. D. Duggan.

Subs: Michael Murphy. D. Butler.

St Martins: S. Murphy. C. Daly. D. Dooley. G. Doyle. T. Cody. A. Lawlor. A. Murphy. J. Maher, B. Ryan. P. Maher. J. Dooley. P. Shore. T. Kinsella. D. Lawlor. N. Maloney. Sub: K. Kelly.

Only two games in the scheduled second round were played. The papers were screaming that there was a shortage of referees. A picture of Tullaroan's Dick Walsh, complete with whistle, Levi jeans and runners, refereeing the Tullaroan versus Fenians All-County League match, attested to the shortage of whistlers. Dunnamaggin had a resounding victory over Mooncoin (0-17 to 0-5) and Graignamanagh shocked Mullinavat, winning on a scoreline of 1-13 to 0-13. The men from Dunnamaggin were shaping well, and in round three they collected their third set of points beating St Lactains by a single point (0-10 to 0-9). Mullinavat (1-15) took care of Carrickshock (0-16), while Graignamanagh (1-14) defeated Thomastown (0-7), and St Lactains (6-6) collected their first points when defeating the Rower/Inistioge (0-10) in their postponed second round game.

After round five, Graignamanagh had only dropped one point from a possible ten. Right behind them were St Martins and Dunnamaggin who had eight points apiece. Two points adrift of that pair were Mullinavat and the Rower/Inistioge. Round five would prove crucial.

St Martins marched into the semi-finals with a convincing win over Mooncoin (0-13 to 1-6), as did Dunnamaggin, Graignamanagh, and Mullinavat. The 'Vat had a fairly comfortable result against Graig, but it took two games between St Martins and Dunnamaggin to decide who would play Mullinavat in the Final. The drawn game was an epic encounter, finishing Dunnamaggin 0-15 to 1-12. St

JAMES MC GARRY, KILKENNY'S NO 1

By Fergal Purcell

That the number on a hurling goalkeepers back is one is more apt than is often realised. It is the most unique position on the pitch; it requires all the hurling attributes and even more than are necessary anywhere else on the park. Periods of seeming inaction are followed by moments of intense activity that make great demands on a person's power of concentration and mental and physical agility.

Number one, the first name on the team sheet. Number one, co-ordinator of the fullback line. Number one, the placer of tactical puck outs. Number one, who must clear the ball left and right. Number one, the speed and quality of whose reactions are the difference between defeat and victory for his team. Number one, in whom everybody must have an unshakeable belief. In Kilkenny that number one is James McGarry. A man who hails from Bennetsbridge a parish whose tradition is second to none. A man born less than 100 metres from two former goal-keeping greats, Liam Cleere and Noel Skehan. There must be something in the water out there! He is a man whose ability is matched only by his humility.

Like any young fella in Kilkenny he had a Hurley in his hand from the beginning.

His talent was apparent from an early age and he soon showed an aptitude for life between the sticks. As part of Brother Donohue's CBS side defeated by Kieran's College in the 1990 Leinster Colleges final, James came up against many of the players who would be part of All Ireland success with him in later years— not that Canice Brennan, Andy Comerford, Philly Larkin were overly upset at the time, I'm sure! Initial recognition at county level came when James was replacement keeper on the 1989 Minor team beaten by Offaly in the Leinster Final (replay), a team that included Brian Whelahan and John Troy et al. And when James started on the Kilkenny U/21 team, that same Offaly side would prove to be Kilkenny's nemesis again.

An examination of James involvement with the County team reveals an initial pattern of misfortune in terms of finals and semi-finals lost before success eventually came calling. James played with a Kilkenny Junior

team that contested three All Ireland Finals, 1991 against Tipperary (sub), 1993 against Clare and 1994 against Cork in Dungarvan, all ending in defeat. He was coming to learn the harsh realities of life at the top. 1995 however saw James receive his first All Ireland title when Kilkenny turned over Clare in the All Ireland Junior Final. A person who encounters such disappointment prior to coming out on top should know the value of victory and that can certainly be said about him. He is

utterly self-deprecating when speaking of victory and philosophical about the losses, "Nobody likes to lose of course but it does make you more determined to make up for it. Noel (Skehan) was in charge for most of those games and I learned a lot from him."

Like many who secured their place on the Kilkenny team, James' chance of establishing himself at Senior level came through a culmination of circumstances. In March of 1999 during a match against Tipperary in Freshford, the then first choice Joe Dermody, sustained a fairly serious injury. His replacement, Martin Carey, went on his honeymoon, shortly afterwards.

The door was finally open for James and he strode through with conviction That he is the first choice keeper since is a tribute to a man who displayed patience and comprehensively

seized the moment when the chance arose. Being a goalkeeper requires good nerve at the best of times and James must have known that an opportunity like this one was unlikely to come again. To excel as he did under such circumstances is highly impressive and says a lot about the maturity of the man.

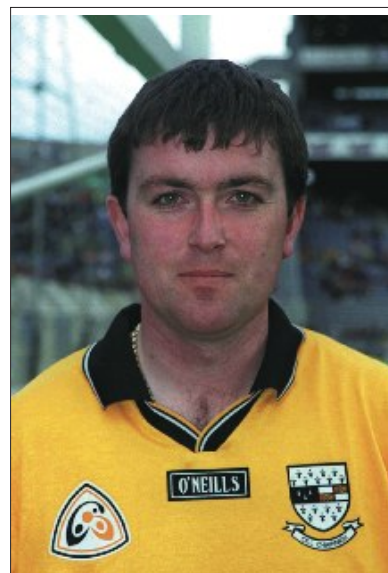
Ironically James graduation to senior level saw him experience desolation and elation within the space of two years. The defeats of 1998 and 1999 have been well documented at this stage. To say that they made the victory of 2000 all the sweeter is an understatement. James goes on to say,

"I remember going back training for this year's championship. There was an amazingly quiet determination, very little was said, I mean what could you say? We trained like mad."

It is probable that the apprenticeship served under Noel Skehan and the spell spent as number two during Kevin Fennelly's tenure in charge are proving to

be invaluable, both in terms of his approach to the game and his desire not to lose out. Whatever the reason, Brian Cody and his fellow selectors are reaping the rewards.

An examination of the specifics of James ability is an interesting exercise. Here Noel Skehan provides some good insights. Noel, so long a familiar sight between the posts for Kilkenny, cannot seem to leave that part of the ground behind him. One can observe him behind the goal area surveying the scene at



James McGarry Sportsfile



James McGarry exemplifies concentration and determination.
Photo John McIlwaine, Pacemaker.

the back for Kilkenny and feeding words of encouragement to James during championship matches. Noel explains, "We generally talk before the game about how best to approach it, discuss the forwards, their particular style and how they like to play. Puckouts are vital too, as they might be part of how Kilkenny are going to play on a given day. One of the things I like most about James is he never lets play develop around the goal area and that prevents Kilkenny conceding messy or soft goals. He nearly always manages to get his body behind the ball when catching or blocking which is down to his positional sense. He is safe out, and that gives the whole team great confidence."

When asked about James development as a player Noel goes on to say,

"I was sure of James from the start. James has improved every year since I first saw him and that is because he works so hard at his game. He is a real hurling goalkeeper, he has every skill in the book and shows that by coming out the field when the 'Bridge need him. He is very consistent and not flashy. I remember one game where he was outstanding, an intermediate All Ireland semi-final against Cork in Dungarvan in '97—that was a great display."

When asked about the general criteria he uses for choosing a goalkeeper and about James in particular, Kilkenny's chief mentor Brian Cody stated the following,

"A goalkeeper is picked on the basis of his all round game and his form in a position which is after all very unique. I would have difficulty in recalling a fundamental error made by James since I took over the job as Kilkenny coach. One of his best attributes is his hand. There is nobody around that can take a ball out of the sky under pressure like him."

The selection of a goalkeeper is a source of serious concern for many inter county selectors, get it wrong and the price is high. The hurling fraternity, at the outset of the year, watches with interest, especially if doubts exist about the previous incumbent or if that person has retired. Kilkenny were fortunate and unique in possessing an

awesome goal-keeping dynasty that spanned many years. Among them Ollie Walsh and Noel Skehan.

Their combined contribution to the county team is a story in itself. Suffice to say there was little cause for concern among the wags when they were between the sticks. A similar confidence now exists in James McGarry. The Kilkenny selectors can sleep easy.

The periods of inaction a goalkeeper is subject to can be his greatest test. There is a danger of being lulled into a false sense of security.

However, James is renowned for his constant reading of the game regardless of where the play is happening. Being tuned in, as he is, means the difficult

task is made look easy due to an awareness that affects his sense of positioning and that of his backs. Likely avenues of attack are mentally identified which leaves him in a better position to deal with the unexpected when it does happen. Brian Cody again,

"James is an unfussy 'keeper. He is cool and remains so throughout the game. With him the basics are solid and that is a great consolation to the selectors and me. You can expect him to get the bread and butter stuff right. However that's not



Under severe pressure from Offaly's John Troy, James McGarry collects the ball while Noel Hickey tries to lend a hand. Photo John McIlwaine, Pacemaker.

to say he can't do the spectacular when required. I remember one save in particular. It was during a league game in Nowlan park, in February of 1999. Alan Browne of Cork gained possession inside the 21 and flashed a shot that was heading for the top right hand corner. I still don't know how James got to that

one!"

Brian Cody points to another aspect of Kilkenny's play during this year's final which highlights the value of James to the side,

"Noel Hickey played in his first senior final this year and showed great maturity during the course of the game. One particular aspect was very pleasing. Noel resisted the temptation to play every ball that was sent in, especially the high ones in the knowledge that James was behind him"

James is very proud of his Bennetsbridge background. Even though they did win two Intermediate League titles, in 1995 and 1997, there has been a lack of success at the club in recent years. This does not dull the passion James has for his club.

"Both Liam Cleere, who played ten county finals for the 'Bridge, and Noel Skehan, were born a few doors down from me, I had plenty of advice available to me. The Lennon brothers too were great to play with. Jimmy, Jack and Tommy, well.....put it this way I felt safe playing behind them! Tommy was one of the best I have seen."

Ned Ryan, in his capacity as Bennetsbridge coach, is as qualified as anybody to assess James both as a player and a person,



Two happy 'Bridge and Kilkenny keepers, Noel Skehan and James McGarry, after the 2000 All Ireland SH Final. Photo Tom O'Neill

"More famous clubmen than me will tell you of James ability. I trained the team for a while and James, as well as being a consistently outstanding player, is always co-operative with the management, in fact he is a great help to me. When the 'Bridge are in trouble he will come out the park, usually up to right half forward, sure he is brilliant there as well.... We had a night for James in Meehans and Byrnes and there was a massive turnout, people wanted to pay tribute to a great hurler and great fella."

That is a constant refrain from those asked about James. People are anxious to point to his self-effacing nature as well as his ability. A talented player



James satisfies eager autograph hunters at one of the Kilkenny Summer camps.

who goes about his business on and off the field of play without any fuss. Make no mistake when the moment comes to stand up and be counted the Kilkenny number one will do just that.

"I have great hope for the future, I would love to win more. Two years on the senior team have done my confidence the world of good."

That is the key point. James looks to the future, disappointments are accepted with grace and seen as a sometimes necessary obstacle on the path to glory. Never doubt the hidden steel in him however, a gentlemanly nature belies a quiet determination.

James McGarry, Kilkenny's number one.



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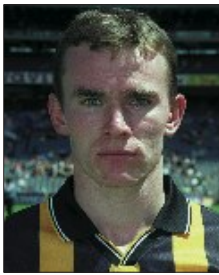
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Kilkenny's 2000 All-Stars

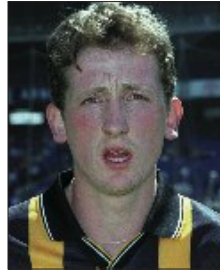
Nine Kilkenny players received All Star Awards for Hurling in the year 2000, a record only equalled by Kilkenny - again with a tally of nine - in 1983.



Noel Hickey



Willie O'Connor



Eamon Kennedy



Peter Barry



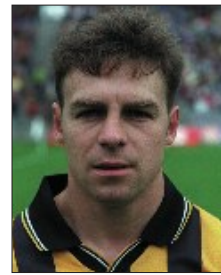
Andy Comerford



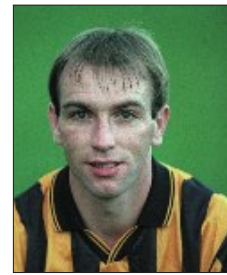
Denis Byrne



Henry Shefflin



Charlie Carter



DJ Carey

CHARLIE JOINS TOP TEAM



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From left: Paul Kinsella (Sec Cumann na mBunscoileanna, Charlie Carter and Seamus Grace (Top Oil)

Photo Tom Brett

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AROUND THE CLUBS



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

Shamrock's celebrate the 70's:

A most enjoyable gathering was held in the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny on Saturday 22nd January 2000. A committee comprising Club Chairman, Pat Aylward, Secretary, Paddy Harahan, also Michael Hoyne, Michael Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly and Michael Kelly was set up to oversee the proceedings. The occasion was to honour the first winning teams of the Shamrock's in Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Club All-Ireland Championship teams in hurling. Each member, plus the selectors, was presented with a specially struck framed photograph-type wall hanging of the four teams.

Master of ceremonies for the night was Kevin Fennelly who introduced the guest speaker, Michael O'Muircheartaigh, who spoke about the Shamrock's in great length and detail.

During the year the Club purchased a new set of jerseys courtesy of the club's main sponsor Paul and Catherine Holden, Ballyhale.

It is hoped to hold another fund-raising event in the very near future. All in all, as you will see elsewhere in the book, a very good year for the Shamrock's Club.

Review of the year 2000:

The year 2000 was as good a year as any club would expect, but in Ballyhale a lot of disappointment was felt at not winning any County Championship. Most of our grades reached County Finals but failed to finish. Two leagues were won at Under 16 and Under 18 level. The following is the full situation achieved by each grade.

Under 14:- Reached finals of the Féile and the A Championship but were beaten by James Stephens on both occasions.

Under 16:- Won League A - beat Dicksboro. Beaten by Carrickshock in the Semi-Final of the Championship.

Under 18:- Won League A - beat Tullaroan. Beaten by The Emeralds in the County Final.

Under 21:- Beaten by Dunnamaggin in the Southern Semi-Final in the Championship.

Spl. Junior A:- Won the Iverk League and were beaten in the County League final by O'Loughlins. The Club was very disappointed to be dismissed from the Championship by the County Board for failing to fulfill a fixture at Southern Semi-Final Stage.

Senior:- Reached Semi-Final of the Senior Championship and were beaten by the eventual County Champions



Shamrocks supporters, **Patrick Holden** and **Patrick Reid** in Thomastown.



Officials of Shamrocks GAA Club at their Silver Jubilee Celebrations:

Seated: Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh (RTE, Guest of Honour), Michael Fennelly, Pat Aylward (Chairman), Paddy Harahan (Sec).

Behind: Liam Fennelly, Sean Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Michael Kelly, Frank Holohan, Tommy Phelan, Michael Hoyne (Treas), Kevin Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Dermot Fennelly. *Photo Tom Brett*

Graigue-Ballycallan.

Retirement of Joe Dunphy:

The Shamrock's Club would like to pay a special tribute to our Retired National Head Teacher, Joe Dunphy. Joe, who retired at the end of October, has been involved in Cumann na mBunscoile and handling our Primary Schol Teams for the past 40 years or so in the parish of Ballyhale. He has a record of achievements with Ballyhale that is unlikely to be ever achieved again by any individual. He has overseen the winning of Championships and Leagues in both

hurling and football at all grades. Words cannot express our sincere gratitude to Joe for all the hard work and effort he put into our young players over the years. We definitely would not have achieved anything like the success that we reached but for Joe's input at the most important stage of a young boy's career.

We would like to wish him every success and good health in his retirement. We know he will still be around to help. On behalf of the Shamrock's Juvenile and Senior Club, - Thank you Joe.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



BARROW RANGERS

Officers 2000

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

On the Playing Fields

Once again, no luck in the adult grades. The Junior team put up their best display for some years before going down by the minimum margin to the Fenians in the first round. The Special Juniors reached the League semi-final but lost to O'Loughlins by a point. The Junior footballers were beaten by Danesfort in the North Final.

Underage

These grades continue to impress and it cannot be long before some silverware is collected. The U-14 side was unlucky to meet an exceptional Rower-Inistioge team in both the league and championship. The U-16 and minors were beaten by Blacks & Whites and Galmoy respectively, while the U-21s never reached their potential and early elimination from the round robin was the result.

Schools

Great work continues to be done in

both hurling and camogie. Sincere thanks to the teachers concerned for their continuing enthusiasm. A team also participated successfully in the camáint competition. One highlight of the year was the visit of DJ Carey to the school with the McCarthy Cup.

In Black and Amber

Aidan Brennan was a member of the Kilkenny team which played in the Tony Forristal tournament while Darren O'Neill was a member of the U-15 County Development squad.

Development

Major developments are taking place in Páirc an Phobail, the parish sportsfield. The GAA have exclusive use of the hurling pitch section. A major building project has just commenced, consisting of dressing rooms, showers, boxing ring and indoor arena for basketball, badminton and indoor games.

Thanks

A special word of thanks to all team coaches, Georgie Leahy, Brian Keyes, Ollie O'Neill, Stephen Dormer and Ken McEvoy and to our sponsors during the year.

March of Time

Sympathy is extended to Ed and Pat Drea and family on the death of

Martin, and to Eamon Cahill on the death of his mother. We remember players, supporters and friends who suffered bereavements during the year.

Paddy 'Soldier' Reeves

Paddy played on the famous Castle Rovers side that included Nick O'Donnell, Pat 'Diamond' Hayden, Tom Ryan and Mons. Tommy Maher. After 1954, he played for Paulstown and proved to be an outstanding centre forward and leader on the field. His sportsmanship was exemplary in the days of hard knocks. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Lil, and family.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.



Paddy 'Soldier' Reeves - 1921 - 2000



Barrow Rangers Minor Hurlers 2000

Back: Martin Brennan, Darren O'Neill, John Murphy, Michael Walsh, Robert Collins-Hughes, Ciarán Cooke, Stephen Brophy, Derek McEvoy, Danny Kearney, Raymond O'Neill, Seamus Brennan, Peter Brophy, Ricky Murphy.

Front: Eddie Gavin, Billy Murphy, Shane McEvoy, Denis Kealy, Derek Whelan, David Kelly, Liam Walsh, Aidan Brennan, Thomas Kavanagh, Damien Keyes.



AROUND THE CLUBS



BENNETTSBRIDGE



Members of Bennettsbridge 1951 - 1972 Teams at their Reunion

Photo Tom Brett

Back row: Dick Power, Noel Ryan, Mick Phelan, Noel Skehan, Liam Mulhall, Mick McCarthy, John Holohan, Larry Cleere, Barry O'Brien, Paddy Moran, Martin Crowe.
Third row: Paddy Kealy, Henry Drea, Michael Bourke, Conor O'Brien, John Kinsella, Liam Bookle, Tom Skehan, Mick Kelly, Kevin Dunne, Sean Holden, Liam Cleere, Liam Bennett, Bobby Maher, Ned Ryan, Jim Marnell, Seamus Cleere.
Second row: Derek Galway, Frank Ryan, Jim Treacy, Tom Walsh, Tom Lineen, Jack Galway, Paddy Ryan, Billy Dobbyn, Martin Treacy, John McGovern.
Front row: John Dowling, Joe Galway, Sam Carroll, Paddy Treacy, Mick Treacy, Sean Treacy, Pat Lawlor, Christy Hayes, Jim Bennett.

Club Officers

Chairman: Rev Patrick Duggan PP
 Secretary: Christy Hayes
 Vice-Chairman: Martin Treacy
 Treasurer: PJ Cullen
 Groundsman Barry O'Brien
 PRO Des Kennedy

Bennettsbridge GAA Club is looking to the future. The introduction of younger players to the Intermediate team is paying dividends and the blend of experience and youth is working well for manager, Ned Ryan. The team performed well in both League and Championship and was unlucky not to have qualified for the Championship semi-final, having put in a good performance against Mullinavat in Hugginstown. The under-age teams are also producing good hurlers and credit is due to mentors and selectors for their commitment.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The year 2000 saw James Mc Garry adding another All-Ireland medal to the clubs tally, making it a grand total of 42. James is a great ambassador for the club and he is wished every success in the future.

The junior footballers, under Michael (Bonetti) Burke, captured the County Junior Football Championship by beating Thomastown.

Enda Cleere, John Lennon and Gary Hayes were members of the St Kieran's College hurling team which won the Colleges All-Ireland

when they beat St Flannan's, Ennis, in an exciting final.

In handball, Patrick and Richard Hogan won All-Ireland medals with the Kilkenny team of six in the 60 X 30 All-Ireland in Roscommon. Patrick now has four All-Ireland medals and Richard has two. In swimming, The Dowling brothers continue to represent their school and county with distinction.

GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The installation of tarmac at the entrance and forecourt of the sportsfield has added to the appearance of the grounds, as have the replacement of the old wooden goal posts with aluminium ones. Plans for the future include the railing of the pitch. Our sponsors deserve great credit, particularly Bennettsbridge Limestone and Roadstone for their on-going support. The field committee do a trojan job throughout the year.

HIGHLIGHT

This year another chapter was written in the history of the famed Bennetts-bridge club when senior county medal winners from 1952 to 1971 were honoured at a special function held on St Patrick's night in the Springhill Court Hotel. The recipients travelled, with their families, from as far afield as England, America and Australia for the occasion. Specially commissioned pieces of Nicholas Mosse pottery were presented to over seventy players. Deceased medal holders of that era were represented by family members. Sadly, since then, two more stalwarts have passed

on, Michael Jackman and Jack Galway. Michael Jackman won Junior Titles with Bennettsbridge in 1948 and 1951. He was a member of the 1949 Senior team which went down to Carrickshock in the first round and was the holder of two senior medals, 1952 and 1953. Jack Galway won six senior hurling championships with Bennettsbridge in the fifties. He was also a founder member of Thomastown Juvenile GAA Club. He won Junior and Senior championships with Thomastown in 1946. He had a number of outings with Kilkenny and had the distinction of playing on the famed Nicky Rackard.

During the year two former officers of the club passed on to their eternal reward, John Cullen and Michael Kealy. John Cullen hurled with Killarney in the thirties. He was chairman of St Chad's Hurling Club, Birmingham for a number of years and two of his sons, Phil and Noel hurled with the English club. During the seventies he served as chairman of Bennettsbridge G. A. A. club and also headed the Community Council during that period.

Michael Kealy helped Danesfort to win Junior and Intermediate Championship titles back to back in 1930 and 1931. Michael also featured on the Killarney team in the thirties. Throughout the fifties and early sixties he was secretary of the BB GAA club and also gave great service to the Bennettsbridge Festival. Both men were staunch community workers and were involved in many local development initiatives.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



BLACKS & WHITES

Intermediate

Blacks and Whites showed marked improvement on their 1999 form in the league beating Thomastown and Mullinavat. We had a great contest with Mooncoin in the first round of the championship but lost by three points after a replay. Drawn against neighbours Graignamanagh in the relegation semi-final, we were unlucky to concede early goals and now meet Tullogher-Rosbercon in the final.

U-21

This championship is played on a round-robin system and we did very well to come through against Slieverue, Cloneen and Barrow Rangers to earn a semi-final place.

Under Age

In the minor B championship we had a great win over Clara in the preliminary round and in the quarter final we went down narrowly to Erin's Own after a very exciting contest.

A great year for U-16 team as they won the Roinn C championship. We beat Barrow Rangers in the first round and then Danesfort. In the Northern final we defeated Erin's Own and recorded a terrific 3-10 to 2-6 victory. Thomastown narrowly pipped us in the League final following a replay.

In U-14 Roinn C we beat Young Irelands in the first round but then lost to a strong Danesfort side.

Blacks & Whites also had a team in the Camaint competition, playing very



Blacks & Whites Camaint 2000

Back: Aidan O'Dowd, Michael Cass, Ann-Marie Lennon, Colette Cleere, Damien O'Dowd, Fergal Helly, Keith Doherty.

Front: Niall Foley, Jason Foley, Richard Barcoe, James Kennedy, Michael Moloney, John Lennon, Michael Barcoe, Brian Barcoe.

well against Bennettsbridge, Slieverue, Glenmore and Rower-Inistioge.

The U-10s took part in a blitz in Mullingar, winning three matches but lost the final to Birr by one point.

Summer Camp

The club ran a very successful three-day Summer camp, co-ordinated by Caitlín Brennan, assisted by Elaine Murphy, Georgina Cleere, Ruth Cleere, Orla Dalton, Deirdre Lawlor and Caitriona Barcoe.

County Players 2000

Intermediate: Sean Kealy

U-16: James Brennan, Michael Doyle.

U-15: Niall Kennedy.

U-14: Tom Moloney.

Club Development

Work has commenced on the juvenile pitch this year. We are also in the process of planting ash trees.

We must thank all those who supported us in our development programme and in any other way throughout the year.

Obituaries

The club extends sympathy to all who suffered bereavement in the parish during the past year. Jim O'Rourke, former chairman of the club, Elizabeth Barcoe, Sheila Kelly, Josephine Kelly and Danny Nicholl.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

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AROUND THE

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CARRICKSHOCK

A Historic Victory

Carrickshock entered the new millennium winning their first Roinn A hurling title at underage level. Our gallant U-16 squad took the honours, beating Dicksboro in a thrilling final. Competing against the best clubs in the county, they had a terrific campaign which culminated in a 2-9 to 4-2 victory over Dicksboro in the final. They also reached the semi-final of the league. Congratulations to the trainer and selectors on a great success.

Adult Hurling

Our Club returned to the Intermediate grade after being relegated in 1997. We retained our Intermediate status after a very committed performance against Tullogher in the first round but were beaten in the quarter final by Dunnamaggin.

A number of our players made valuable contributions to a South Junior selection defeating a North selection to win the O'Farrell Cup in Hugginstown in May.

With half of our Minor team on board, the Special Junior team reach the League final which they lost to Kilmacow. They lost the first round of the championship to a stronger Carrigeen team.

U-21

Our U-21 side qualified for the Roinn B South Final and are hopeful of making further progress in this competition before the year end.

The U-21 footballers were beaten in the 1999 county final in April.

Minor

The Minor hurlers reached the semi-final of the league and were surprisingly well beaten in the first round of the championship by James Stephens, a team they had earlier beaten in the league.

U-14

Our U-14 team won two rounds in the league championship but lost to Bennettsbridge in the quarter final.

County Players in 2000

U-21 (Hurling): Pat Tennyson, Jamie Power.

Minor (Hurling): John Murphy.

Minor (Football): John Murphy, Paul Barron, Shane Power, Brendan Hoyne, Eric Lonergan.

U16 (Hurling): Michael Rice, Richie Power, John Tennyson, Patrick Mulcahy, Anthony Holland.

Club Development

A new scoreboard and concrete wall surrounding the far side of the

GAA field were sponsored and erected by the clubs main sponsor Doyle Concrete. A major overhaul of the showers was also undertaken. Showers and dressing rooms were newly painted and plans to have the whole premises rewired and fitted are underway.

Social

Our year commenced with a very well attended Annual Dinner Dance to celebrate our 1999 Junior Championship Success. Medals were presented by Chairman Ned Quinn.

Bereavements

Kathleen O'Shea. R.I.P.

On 10 May Kathleen O'Shea passed to her eternal reward. She was a great supporter of the club and her sons are playing members. She was a promoter and loyal supporter of the local parish GAA lotto and she was ever present at the weekly draw on Monday nights.

The club would also like to sympathise with the families of Billy Mc Carthy of Aghaviller, a former player with the club, Kathleen Sadler of Sheepstown, Bill Barron of Croan, Joe O'Brien of Catstown, Mary Cuddihy of Ballinteskinn, and any other families in the parish who suffered bereavements during the year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

LIAM AYLWARD, T.D.

Greetings to all my Supporters

Well Done, Kilkenny!





AROUND THE **CLUBS**



CARRIGEEN

Fennelly Cup

Another year has passed without any trophy for the sideboard. The club contested their first final at any grade when they reached the final of the Fennelly Cup where their opponents were Cloneen. The final was played in early August in Nowlan Park again another first time club who had never played in the home of Kilkenny hurling previous to this. The game was hard-fought and passionate with honours ending all square on the day. The replay, played in October, saw the Cloneen men win by seven points. The club's championship aspirations were blown away by a more determined Windgap team in Piltown in September. Though not winning a trophy, fortunes on the field of play improved as did training sessions. The players must be complimented for their efforts and, in particular, the team manager/trainer, Michael Brophy from St Saviours, Waterford.

Fundraising

The club ran many events during the year, mostly of a fund-raising nature. In the modern era of high expense, regrettably, fund-raising has become a major feature of a club's activities. It tends to lessen the enjoyment of being part of the GAA and makes it difficult for club officers to obtain the necessary help required to stay financially healthy. With this in mind, the club is grateful for the help and assistance given by a small

group of people during the year. More help will be required if the club is to meet its financial requirements in the future. The first event was the annual Christmas Raffle. Club members sold tickets throughout most of Kilkenny and Waterford selling raffle tickets as they have done since 1975.

Annual Social

Our annual social in the Royal Oak, Rathkieran, also proved to be a good success. A large crowd attended and enjoyed the night. Speakers included former GAA President Paddy Buggy and County Chairman, Ned Quinn, to whom and to his wife Lucy, we offer best wishes, following their retirement from the family local grocery business.

Tournament

During the summer, the committee organised a Junior "A" hurling tournament in league format which benefited many surrounding clubs with extra games. Hopefully this competition will run again in 2001.

Talent Competition

This was the Talent Contest commenced in September. This venture has been very successful over the last couple of years. The main sponsor of this years competition was WF Installations, Ardera, Mooncoin whom we thank for their generosity. We thank The Royal

Oak, Rathkieran, who have been very supportive of the event. Thanks also to all the other sponsors especially, Michael and Jodie Murphy for their generous donation. Profound thanks to the organisers who, week after week, kept the show on the road, namely, Pat Kearns, Pilot Conway, the club committee, Judges - Michael Lonergan and Paddy Grant- excellent musician, Dick Quinn, interval entertainers, ticket sellers and door personnel. The club greatly appreciates the contestants who took part, for their time and effort, well done and thanks to all.

Busy Club Officials

The club is also proud of officials who have officiated as referee and umpires both on the local and provincial scene, including the Leinster minor hurling final in Croke Park. Congratulations to Pat Dunphy on having been linesman at the All Ireland Minor final. We would like to acknowledge the commitment they give as representatives of the club and the county in these roles. Also thanks to the officials from neighbouring clubs who help out during the year. Finally we express their condolences to the families of deceased members and supporters who have died during the year.

May They Rest In Peace.

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AROUND THE **CLUBS**



CLARA

U-10 and U-11 Hurling

Clara defeated St Martin's and Young Irelands in the preliminary rounds of the Jim Comerford Memorial tournament. For the first year, Clara entered two teams in the Camaint competition. Both sides won all their matches on final day. They also won the U11 Jim Phelan tournament in Ballyragget in convincing fashion. Liam Ryan won the 'player of the tournament' award.

Denis Molloy Cup

After reaching the semi-finals in 1999, the U12's went further this year, and, having defeated O'Loughlins, St Martin's and Conahy, disposed of Dicksboro in the semi-final. The final against O'Loughlins was a tremendous contest. Behind by 1-6 to nil at the interval, Clara fought back brilliantly and a James Nolan goal in the dying moments earned the battling Clara team a fine victory. Captain of the team was Michael McDonald.

U-14 and U-16

Clara played in Roinn C at U14 level but did not have much luck with a young team, losing in the second round to Danesfort. The U16's failed to make the league semi-finals and were beaten by St. Patricks in the Championship.

Minor Hurling

Having won the Div. IV and III leagues in previous years, Clara did very well after stepping up to Div. II. In the league we defeated Tullogher-Rosbercon and St Patrick's but lost narrowly to eventual 'A' county champions, Emeralds. We lost narrowly to Blacks & Whites in the hurling and football championship.



Clara U-11 Camaint 2000

Front: Thomas Armitage, Liam Ryan, Kevin Nolan, Nicky Creane, Christopher Cody, Tom Ryan.
Middle: Stephen Quinlan, Patrick Galvin, Matthew Byrne, John Costigan, Gary Armitage.
Back: Philip Ryan, James Nolan, Catherine Nolan, Terry Murphy, Laura Galvin.



Clara U-11 Camaint 2000

Front: Claire Murphy, David Langton, Danny Brennan, Thomas Byrne, John Prendergast, Tom Langton.
Middle: Alicia Langton, Roisin Byrne, Patricia Carrigan, Naomi Hope, Grainne Byrne, Nicky Langton.
Back: James Dowling, Conor Phelan, Brian Prendergast, Brian O'Shea, Declan Rafter.

Clara U-12 Hurling Team 2000

Denis Molloy Cup Winners



Front: Stephen Quinlan, Liam Ryan, Michael McDonald (Capt.), Thomas Armitage, Tom Ryan.
Middle: Keith Hogan, Nicky Langton, John Prendergast, Kevin Nolan, David Langton, Conor Phelan.
Back: Tom Langton, James Nolan, Declan Rafter, Lester Ryan, Sean O'Shea, Martin Meaney, Brian O'Shea.



AROUND THE

CLUBS



CONAHY SHAMROCKS

The end of year report on the Conahy Shamrocks hurlers reads – Must Try Harder. For the second year in a row, the club's main team, the Junior hurlers, crashed out at the first hurdle to Urlingford side, the Emeralds. Unlike last year when Conahy might well have won the game, there was no disputing the result of this year's encounter. Early first half promise gave way to a very subdued second half display and with it another disappointing championship exit. It is becoming an all too familiar annual occurrence.

The team's performances in the all-county Junior Hurling League while never spectacular were nonetheless workman-like. The quarter-final saw Conahy faced very familiar opposition in the Emeralds. If only the display in Ballyragget could have been bottled and shared out on other more competitive days. Conahy were simply awesome but, as events transpired some weeks later, it was the Urlingford side who were to learn most from the game. Conahy fell at the next hurdle when well beaten by James Stephens. The team also surrendered their hold on the Paddy Cahill Cup, losing to Dicksboro.

It was a nightmare year for the Special Junior hurlers most of which was not of their own making at all. Too many games

were called off with the gap between the league and championship close to three months. Not surprising then, that the team were well beaten by O'Loughlin Gaels in the championship. Some months earlier, Conahy ironically defeated the same opposition in the league. The Under 21 hurlers restored some pride to the club by reaching the Northern Final only to lose to Clara. The team played superbly to defeat St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) and Erins Own in the earlier rounds. A gap of nine weeks between the semi-final and final effectively ended any chance the team had of remaining competitive for the final.

Another case of a fixtures cock-up. The Intermediate footballer had an excellent year winning the league title against the Blacks & Whites and just failing to Mullinavat in the championship. At the time of writing it looks like the Under 21 footballers will play two championships in 2000. In the early part of the year the 1999 campaign saw wins over St. Lachtain's and St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) with the Railyard proving too strong in the Northern Final. The 2000 campaign got underway in late November. The Conahy Bórd na nÓg had another very busy year. The minor hurlers had a good league but lost out narrowly to the Fenians in the championship. The Under

16 team had a great year losing a highly competitive championship tie against St Martins who eventually won the championship. This tie could have gone either way and, with the bulk of the team underage again next year, the prospects look promising. The Under 14 hurlers reached the Northern Final only to lose narrowly to Barrow Rangers. The Under 14 footballers reached the County Final but the Rower Inistioge gained sweet revenge for last year when Conahy had a comprehensive win.

The Under 13 footballers played in the first Coillte competition and reached the concluding stages before losing out to Castlecomer. The Schools Football side had a great year reaching the County Final against Callan. After a classic game, the sides ended level with the replay awaited as this report is penned. The Schools Hurling side won all their games in the league but then flopped badly against Kilmacow in the quarter-final.

On the inter-county scene Canice Brennan brought a Senior All-Ireland medal to the Parish. Others to wear the Kilkenny jersey this year were Paul Buggy (Under 21 Hurling) and Peter Dollard (Under 14 Football).

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AROUND THE

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CLONEEN



The steel frame of Cloneen's new Clubhouse and Handball Court, under construction Oct. 2000

Cloneen Hurling Club can look back on the year 2000 with positive thoughts. The ongoing development of the new grounds saw the recent erection of the steel frame for the new clubhouse.

The imposing structure at the Cois na hAbhann end of the ground will include two large dressing rooms with individual showers, a referees' room, men's and ladies' toilets, a kitchen, a large function room, and a fully functional 40'x 20' handball court.

The entire outside walls will be finished in local Terra Cotta bricks, with a brown double-clad Kingspan roof, costing about £130,000.

While the club has been sanctioned for a £45,000 National Lottery grant, the fund-raising work of the Finance Committee is immense. They recently ran a very successful Golf classic in Castlecomer Golf Club. The weekly "Spin the Wheel" continues to be very well supported and the draw was enhanced recently by a visit from the Kilkenny All Ireland winning captain, Willie O'Connor and the Mc Carthy Cup.

On the playing front, the club ran a

junior tournament in which the home team beat Laois side Ballypickas to reach the final in which they lost a six point lead before going down by a goal to Carlow senior side Naomh Brid.

The team's hopes of progress in the Championship were seriously undermined when forced to take on Galmoys without five key players, and were well beaten.

There was some consolation when, in a replay, they beat southern side, Carrigeen, to win the inaugural final of the Kevin Fennelly Cup.

The U21 side were still in contention for the U21 'C' championship at time of going to press. Three members of this squad travelled to Chicago for the World Handball Championships in October. Thomas Campion and Paul Byrne reached the final of the U17 doubles, while Sean Maher reached the semi-final of the singles. Sean had earlier partnered Thomas Hughes to All Ireland honours, while Thomas' sister Gráinne won the parish's first girls All Ireland title along with Gráinne Brennan (Mothel).

On the underage scene, the club was active on all fronts but had great dif-

ficulty getting help from parents. Several appeals were made for new faces to get involved but without success. However, club officials have faced this problem before with the formation of a new juvenile committee under the guidance of Fr. Purcell, Ned Lawler and Larry Brennan.

Larry hit the news recently when he presented Willie O'Connor with a replica of a hurley used in Kilkenny's first ever All Ireland success which he was lent by the famous Doyle family of Mooncoin.

After a few difficult years, Cloneen members are looking forward to the future with renewed optimism. The junior squad consist of mostly very young players who have a very good attitude and camaraderie. The new approach to juvenile development should bring better results in the younger grades while the Clubhouse building should play a major part in consolidating the club as a focal point of the community.

During the year, club chairman Donal Brennan was bereaved by the death of his father Danny, while finance committee member Sheila Hosey, had a double loss with the deaths of her mother, Mrs. Wallace, and her brother Willie. Ar dheis de go raibh siad.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



DANESFORT

Junior Hurling

Trainer Pat Brennan and his selectors Dick Mahony, Mick Hanrahan and Tosh O'Neill commenced the hard work in March and it paid off with a good league campaign and a thrilling win over Piltown in a great semi-final in Ballyhale. Hopes of a title were high but a long lay-off before the final was eventually played seemed to affect the team's performance when they lost to a strong James Stephens side.

Special Junior Hurling

Having won in Sp Junior B last year, promotion to the A division and the loss of Junior players meant that we were always likely to struggle against bigger clubs. So it turned out and a lack of commitment to training will have to be addressed for the coming year.

Junior Football

The Junior Footballers were this year's providers of silverware when they won the Northern final. However, the county final proved a bridge too far and a strong Rower-Inistioge side were superior on the day. After a bright start at wet and windy Thomastown, the loss of some key players due to injury and emigration proved too much. The experience gained should be beneficial in the coming season.

Minor Hurling

Having won Roinn B in a joint effort with



Danesfort U14 Hurling Team 2000

Back: Julianne Woodcock, Grainne Brennan, Aileen Cunningham, Michael saunders, Pádraig Treacy, Shane O'Hara, Liam Forristal, Johnny Corr.

Front: Martin McMahon, Donal Maher, Jason Cody, Pádraig Daly, Michael Cunningham, Robert Walsh, Paul Murphy.

Bennettsbridge, hopes were high for a good run in the 'A' championship. However we were caught on the line by Mullinavat in the first round. As numbers have improved in both clubs, Danesfort will revert to entering their own team and so end what proved to be a worthwhile experiment.

Sheep Shearing

The All Ireland Sheep Shearing

Championship took place in Danesfort GAA Grounds in June. This joint effort with Fort Rangers was a huge success. Planning for the event commenced in 1997 when Committee members travelled to Athlone to the All Ireland of that year. It was a big commitment in time and money but everyone in the community gave full co-operation and are to be congratulated.

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AROUND THE CLUBS



DICKSBORO

Juvenile News

The year 2000 saw tremendous activity in our juvenile section. The huge commitment from players, coaches and parents is setting a solid foundation for future years. The U-8/U-9 teams took part in tournaments in Roanmore, Co. Waterford, Carlow and Clara. In Waterford, two teams won their respective groups while in Clara, the boys reached the final, losing narrowly to the host club. Our U-10 team trained all year round, playing several matches while our U-11 players provided two teams for the Camaint leagues. At U-12 level, a fine Dicksboro team reached the final of the John Lockes' tournament before losing to O'Loughlins. Our own U-12 tournament was a tremendous success with ten teams taking part. Clara were victorious, defeating Dicksboro and O'Loughlins in the knockout stages. Great credit is due to tournament organizers, Liam Maher and E.J. Ryan. We entered two teams in the Coillte U-13 Football League with our 'A' team reaching the final. Two teams were also entered

in both the U-14 hurling and football championships. The U-14 'A' hurlers put up a great display before bowing out to eventual county champions James Stephens. Alan McIntyre, Patrick Grace and Eddie O'Donoghue represented Kilkenny at U-14 hurling.

The U-16 players gave us great enjoyment and encouragement for the future when reaching both the Hurling League and Championship finals. Losses to Shamrocks and Carrickshock do not detract in any way from a tremendous bunch of players. Brian Gallagher represented Kilkenny at U-16 level. At Minor level, a fine victory over O'Loughlins gave great hope of a long championship campaign. Unfortunately, eventual winners, Emeralds, were just too strong in the next round. Conor O'Loughlin played for Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship,



Nobody said it was going to be easy! Niall Sherwin, Cian Lynch, Peter Nolan, Aidan Nolan, Darragh Buggy and Declan Reidy brave the elements at the Clara U9 Tournament.

youth its fling gives great hope for the coming seasons.

The Junior team, which lost to Galmoey in the first round of the championship, gave some fine displays during the year. At Junior B level we bowed out to Lisdowney. A very young U-21 team had a fine victory over St.Lachtains before losing out to James Stephens. Alan Barry played for Kilkenny in the Leinster U-21 championship while Cillian Breathnach was also a member of the panel.

Our senior footballers won the Senior Football League defeating Railyard in the final. They reached the Senior Football County Final also, before losing to Kilmoganny in a replay. Dicksboro represented Kilkenny in the AIB Leinster Club Football Championship. A fine display was given against Carlow champions, O'Hanrahans, who were just a little too strong.

Development

The parking area of the club's grounds was extended with the completion of the boundary wall. The development committee has turned Palmerstown into one of the finest venues in the county.

Lotto

The club launched it's own weekly lotto this year. Special thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who run the draw so successfully every Thursday night.

Social Committee

The club's Social & Entertainment Committee ensured regular music on Saturday nights and deserve a special mention for their efforts

All in all, a busy and hectic year for the Boro!

BORO CAMAINT 2000 TEAMS



Back: Kevin Maher, Kieran Carroll, Eric Cantwell, Eoin Burke, Edward Hogan, Liam Ryan, Sean Doherty, Ger Brennan.

Front: Kevin Molloy, Larry Burke, Sarah Bawle, Ben Dyer, Tristan Dyre, Ben O'Mahony, Brian Dollard, John Horan



Back: William Cuddihy, Daniel Kenny, Eric Cantwell, Simon O'Shea, Jonathan Kelly, Bill Gannon, John Traynor.

Front: Michael Dunne, Martin Gaffney, Sam Dunlop, Adam Comerford, Eamon Campion.



AROUND THE CLUBS



DUNNAMAGGIN

The millennium year 2000 will go down as one to remember in the Dunnamaggin parish as the club grounds officially opened in May, Kilmoganny footballers captured the elusive senior crown, Noel Hickey, Eamonn Kennedy, Liam Heffernan & Sean O'Neill brought home All-Ireland glory and Dunnamaggin bounced back to the senior hurling grade with an emphatic win over St. Martins. At the time of writing, the club is contesting the Junior A Co. Final and the U-21 A championship. For Dunnamaggin folk everywhere Y-2000 will be proudly remembered in sporting folklore.

In capturing the senior football championship, the club joined an elite number of clubs in the county with senior, intermediate and junior wins at both hurling and football. Great credit is due to the players and particularly 'Mr. Football' Malachy Hogan and his co-selectors Willie Kearney & John Ryan.

On Saturday evening May 20th, the club celebrated the long awaited official opening of the G.A.A. grounds marked by a senior hurling challenge between Kilkenny and Limerick. Over 3,000 witnessed the event which bore good testament to the many years of fundraising, hard work and parish spirit shown by many inside and outside the parish. To mark the occasion, the history of the club was compiled in a souvenir booklet titled 'On the Banks of the Glory'. Copies

priced £3, are still available from club secretary Eugene O'Donovan – good read guaranteed.

"We're on the Web" - During the year Dunnamaggin G.A.A. made its appearance on the Kilkenny G.A.A. website. To access, type in

parade. At a function later that night presentations were made to Eamonn & Noel by the Kilmoganny Millennium Committee. Hopefully by the time you read this, the club will be celebrating its first G.A.A. All Star awards.

In the spring of the year, club mem-



A Dream is Realised" - Pictured at the Official Opening of Dunnamaggin G.A.A. Grounds were (L to R) ; Pat Moylan (Club P.R.O.), Ned Quinn (Chairman Kilkenny Co. Board), Malachy Hogan (Club Chairman), Seamus Aldridge (Chairman Leinster Council), Tommy Duggan (Chairman Kilkenny Football Board), Sean Ryan (Club Treasurer) & Eugene O'Donovan (Club Secretary).

<http://kilkenny.gaa.ie>, click on schools/club profiles to access club information and photographic material. It is hoped to update the information regularly to keep Dunnamaggin folk worldwide in touch with club developments.

bers Liam Heffernan and Sean O'Neill played a prominent part in St. Kieran's College's All Ireland Championship win. Liam "assisted" by Sean scored the decisive goal which brought home the All Ireland crown.



"Liam McCarthy, your're welcome" - Noel Hickey, Henry Shefflin, Malachy Hogan,(Chairman), Eamonn Kennedy, John Power, Aidan Cummins & Eugene O'Donovan (secretary) welcome the McCarthy cup to Dunnamaggin.

"The Famine is Over" - After a 43 year wait, Eamonn Kennedy and Noel Hickey brought the Liam McCarthy cup and All Ireland senior hurling medals to the parish. Huge celebrations followed as the McCarthy trophy visited the schools and the hostels of the parish. Unfortunately on the night of the 'official visit' inclement weather forced the cancellation of the welcoming

Obituary - On Saturday, 30th September, the club grieved the loss of Leo O'Dwyer, Kells, a prominent past member. A native of Ballingarry, Leo never forgot his grá for Tipperary hurling and served as club secretary of the Dunnamaggin juvenile club in the '80's. In 1983, with his co-selectors Matty Mackey and Dick O'Neill, he guided the club to what was then a rare U-16 Roinn "C" hurling championship win over Conahy Shamrocks. He will always be remembered as an easy going, steady and ever helpful club official who spoke 'not often but well' between puffs of his favourite pipe tobacco. To his final days he remained a great club supporter and sponsor. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



AROUND THE CLUBS



ERIN'S OWN

Erin's Own had a busy year once again both on and off the field and the Club is happy that our National games are getting the best promotion possible in the parish. A club rule that allows officers just three consecutive years in any one position is really proving it's worth as the relatively new executive of Tommy Buggy (chairman) David Buggy (treasurer) and Gearóid Moran (secretary) are keeping a freshness at the steering level of the club while the committee is laden with members that have an abundance of managerial experience.

Pride of place this year must go to Seán Meally who won his first senior All-Ireland medal. Seán played at full back for all the league matches this year. He lined out in the championship against Dublin but the return of Willie O'Connor saw him lose out for the Leinster Final. A measure of Seán's commitment to his club was his appearance at training on the Tuesday following the All Ireland victory.

Development:

Plans are driving ahead on the development front and under the guidance of development chairman, Kieran Meally, it is hoped to turn the grounds at Ballycomey into one of the best in the country. Progress has been steady so far

J a m i e Dowling has done his club and parish proud again winning a National B o x i n g c h a m p i o n s h i p and more recently by representing Ireland in the World Championships

A Friend Departs!

The "Lowry" Byrne went to his eternal reward during the year and

both Castlecomer & Erin's Own lost a dear friend. A hurling man all his life, Michael never missed a game and he loved to go back over matches debating how they were won or lost.

During his working life Lowry was the local postman and following an Erin's Own victory, one would look forward to meeting him on his bike. However, if 'Comer were beaten you would hope there wouldn't be a parcel for you the following morning! R.I.P.

On the Field:

The Club enjoyed a successful year on the playing fields. The Under 14's won the county football

final and represented Kilkenny with distinction in the Leinster Féile while the school hurling team lost out in the final following a great run. The Under 11's once again excelled at the ground hurling competition "Camaint" which is proving to be a great success throughout the county. They also won the Conahy tournament and the under 10's are doing well in the Jim Comerford Tournament which is not yet completed. The U-16's had a great run in the league losing out in painful circumstances to eventual winners Thomastown. Most of this team however will be underage next year and should make a good challenge at a title. The minors are still in contention for honours at the time of going to press. A very young U-21 side lost out in the second round to Conahy. The

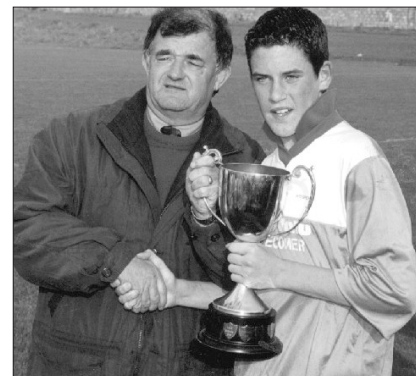


Erin's Own Camaint team 2000

Back: Wesley Kavanagh (selector) Eddie Dwyer, Michael Murphy, Joseph Murphy, James Sherwood, Brian Dillon, Ciarán McDermott, Conor Fogarty, Peadar Boran, Conor Healy, Aidan Moran, John Deevy, Wayne Kavanagh (selector)

Front: Eric Kavanagh, Marie Dargan, Mark O'Neill, Martin Hawley, Caoimheán Dunne, Gerry Callinan, Cathal Murphy, Anthony Kavanagh, Michael Dwyer, Stephen Murphy.

Missing from photo John Brennan.



Joe Pyke presents the Under 14 football cup to Colin Phelan

Juniors and special Juniors played some good games during the year but will need to step up a few gears if they are to progress. Following an up-and-down year, the Seniors lost out to eventual county champions, Graigue Ballycallan, in a game that saw Erin's Own race into a seven point lead. However, the Graigue side had too much strength in depth which leaves 'Comer looking to 2001 for possible honours.

Development Squads:

Erin's Own had Peter O'Donovan, Damien Fogarty, Paddy Shortall and Dermot Wallace attending under 15 County development squads. Damien and Peter won the U-15 Leinster league with Kilkenny while Peter also represented Kilkenny in the U-16 Tony Forristal tournament. Martin Boran represented Kilkenny in an under 14 County blitz. Kevin Lawlor who attended Firoda school played with Kilkenny in a Primary Schools representative game in Croke park before the Leinster semifinal. Kevin now plays with his parish Cloneen and Erin's Own wishes him all the best. He has a bright future.

Development for Erin's Own G.A.A. Canon Kearns Park

DEVELOPMENT PHASES	
1. Purchase of Grounds	Phase 1
2. Pitch No. 1 Development	Phase 2
3. Erection of seating	Phase 2
4. Provision of seating	Phase 2
5. Car Park	Phase 3
6. Construction of Entrance	Phase 3
7. Construction of Clubhouse	Phase 4
8. Provision of covered seating area	Phase 5
9. Landscaping green area	Phase 5
10. Pitch No. 2 development	Phase 6
11. Provision of all-weather health training area	Phase 7
12. Construction of indoor training area	Phase 8

Ballycomey, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

Proposed Development Plans for Erin's Own grounds at Ballycomey.

with the pitch in excellent condition this year. Nets have been erected behind the goals and a car park has been developed. At the moment, dressing room plans are being revised and shortly a major fundraising drive will take place. A lottery grant of £50,000 has been promised and in order to draw down this grant everything has to be carried out according to proper procedure.

Congratulations to John Kelly who has recently been appointed Principal of his "Alma Mater" - Castlecomer Boy's school. John has done trojan work for the Club down through the years and his contribution to juvenile hurling has been immeasurable. It is heartening to know that juvenile hurling is in safe hands for many years to come.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



EMERALDS

Pitch

The club has been granted £25,000 by The National Lottery for floodlighting towards an estimated cost of £130,000. We are presently examining various lighting systems to ensure that the development will be to the highest standards to allow for ground hurling under lights (a first in the country).

Fundraising

The Emeralds Golf Classic was again our major fundraiser of the year. The net profit from the event exceeded £16,000. The club also raised £1,200 at a table quiz which was donated to St Luke's Hospital CAT Scan Appeal. The club also received generous sponsorship from its main sponsor Bernard Kavanagh & Sons.

The Chairman and committee would like to thank all patrons of the club for their generous sponsorship and support during the year.

A Great Years Hurling!

Our junior team reached the quarter final of the ACHL and bowed out of the Championship in the Northern semi-final.

The special juniors performed very well reaching the Northern League final losing narrowly to Graigue/Ballycallan. Our U-21's were surprisingly beaten in the first round by O'Loughlin's.

Highlight of the year was the performance of our Minors who captured the Roinn A Championship for the first time in the club's history after earlier winning the league final.

Our U16s were in hard luck in the championship losing narrowly to eventual champions St. Martin's.

Our U14, U12 and U11's did the club proud in their outings.

The participation and interest in the under-age street leagues was the best to date and everyone was a winner.

Social Events

The reconvened Dinner Dance was marked by the return of many former club members who swelled the attendance at Langtons to nearly three hundred.

Highlight of the evening was the award of 'Clubperson of the year' to the popular and hard working Jim Tobin. This award was initiated and sponsored by former club member Jimmy Holohan who now lives in Mitchelstown.

A weekend away for the junior hurling team, mentors and friends in Killarney last February was a resounding success.

Other Events

Emeralds wish to thank Mairéad Power and Ann Pembroke who designed our logo for the county patchwork wall mural, which was displayed in County Hall.

Media

The parish newsletter has been very supportive of the club, keeping the parish at large informed of the Club's activities. The club would like to express a sincere thanks to the Club

President, Canon Dunphy for his help.

WebSite

Eoin Hennessy, who maintains the Emeralds section on the Kilkenny GAA web site, is presently working on our own emeraldsgaclub.com web site which will replace the site currently available. Recent pictures in the Kilkenny People and the Irish Examiner were contributed by Eoin.

High Achievers

Club members who represented Kilkenny during 2000 were:

Senior/Intermediate Hurling:

Brendan Joyce & Derek Lyng

U-21: Niall Cahill

Minor: Ger Joyce, Kieran Rafter & Aidan Fogarty. Ger Joyce captained Thurles CBS and was voted player of the year in the school.

Obituaries

Sympathy is extended to the following families: Grant, Kennedy, Campion, Coady, Doyle, Moore & Fox for their sad losses during the year.



Committee and Team Mentors at Club Dinner Dance

Seated, I-r: Richard Hayes, Paul Kavanagh (treasurer), Tommy Kavanagh, Tom Phelan (Chairman), Bridget Hennessy (Secretary), Canon Dunphy, John Lyng.

Standing, I-r: JJ Kavanagh, Michael Bourke, Dan Norton, Jarlath O'Dwyer, Paddy Ryan, Brendan Joyce, John Holohan, Kieran Rafter, Sean Norton, Jim Tobin, Martin Power, John Minogue, Eddie Holohan, Patrick Joyce.

Photo: Tom Brett



AROUND THE

CLUBS



FENIANS

Officers

Chairman: Michael Ryan
Vice-Chairman: Niall Tynan
Secretary: John Maher
Treasurer: Paschal Tynan
Assistant -Treas. : Brian Ryan
PRO: Geena Morrissey
Senior Manager and selectors: Pat Henderson, Pat McCormack and Billy Purcell.

The year 2000 was not a very successful one for the Fenians on the hurling front, in terms of trophy returns. However, the youngsters are well catered for, and, in time, the effort on the training field will reap benefits in future years. Thanks to everybody who contributed in any way to the running of the club during 2000.

Senior

The Senior Hurling team, in a transition period, with a few new faces making their senior debuts, came very close to losing their senior status, won way back in 1968. The relief was widespread in the parish when the final whistle blew on the Fenian's Senior hurling teams campaign for 2000 in the relegation final. Hopefully, this young team will learn from this experience and ensure that the same situation does not occur in 2001.

Junior

The Junior team played some exciting matches in the league campaign. In the championship, a good win over Barrow Rangers led the boys into action against near neighbours, Lisdowney. After an evenly contested match, Lisdowney pulled away in the final two minutes to record a just about deserved victory.

Manager: N.Tynan

Bórd na n-Óg

Probably one of the most positive developments of the year was the "Parish Hurling League 2000" with the final taking place on Sunday, may 28th in the Johnstown Sports field. Several League matches were played over successive Sundays, with teams managed by current senior hurlers. The final, on a miserable day, brought a good sized crowd to the field, with the number of "hurlers" rising from 21, on the first league outing, to 42 on final day. Well done to all concerned.

Organisers : Billy Dermody , Tom Dollard, PJ Ryan, Jimmy Brennan and Brian Ryan. **Ref :** E.Ryan

Minor

League: Lost to Freshford (1st Round), drew with Conahy Shamrocks, defeated Windgap lost to Kilmacow in the Semi-final.

Minor Championship: Defeated Conahy Shamrocks, lost to St Martin's.

U-16 League : Defeated Young Irelands,



The Fenians team finalists in the "Parish league 2000"

Back: Michael O'Grady, Stephen Delaney, Kevin Shiels, John Broderick, John Paul Grehan, James Whelan , Michael Murphy, Paddy O'Gorman, !!!! , Ciaran Ryan.
Front: Michael Quinlan, Damien Delaney, Cathal Ryan, James Tynan , Frank Renehan, Kieran Grehan, Paul Murphy, William Tobin , Daniel Dermody, Kieran Behan.



The Fenians "Parish league champions 2000"

Back: Joe Lupton, Paul Donovan, Brendan Gleeson, Noel Doran, Michael Murphy, Kevin Shiels, Roger Greene, Daniel Looby, Brian Hickey.
Front: James Dermody, Eoin O'Meara, Joe O'Grady, Declan Brennan, Stephen McCarthy, Martin Purcell, John Henderson, Timmy Purcell, John Whyte.

lost to Erin's Own, defeated Barrow Rangers. Semi-final– lost to Blacks and Whites by two points.

U16 Championship: Lost by one point to Cloneen.

Juvenile

The Juvenile club had another successful year. The school team were beaten by Mullinavat in the quarter final. The Camáint team had mixed luck, the highlight of the year being reaching the group finals in Nowlan Park and afterwards visiting Supermacs restaurant. The U-13's played host to Dublin side, Ballyboden St Enda's in April and played a brilliant last quarter to draw the match .The highlight of the Juvenile year was our visit to the GAA Museum in Croke Park in July.

Coaches : Dan Hughes, Richard Curran, Willie Costigan and Peter Norton.

Web-Site

Check out all our activities at <http://kilkenny.gaa.ie> on the School/Club Profiles pages on our Fenian GAA Club's Webpages.

Obituaries

The club lost some very valued members and supporters during the year, including Mrs. Henderson, (mother of the famous hurling Hendersons), Séan Hanrahan and Maureen Ryan. To all bereaved members we send our our deepest sympathy.

Séan Hanrahan

With a deep sense of loss we remember the death of Séan Hanrahan on the 9th March '00. He was a popular and well loved club member. Working tirelessly, he helped the club at all levels and while his responsibilities were many he was a natural fundraiser. The club will certainly be the poorer for his passing.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



AROUND THE CLUBS



GALMOY

Pitch Renovation

During the past year Galmoy GAA club embarked upon a major pitch renovation. Many thanks are due to all the local farmers who supplied tractors and trailers to facilitate the smooth completion of the operation. The pitch will be ready for the coming year.

Hurling Action

Our Junior team, under the shrewd tutelage of Joe Tynan, once again reached the Northern Junior Final only to be usurped by James Stephens. In the Cahill Cup, Galmoy played a draw in the final against Kilmacow before going under by two points in the replay. One pleasing aspect of the Junior team's performance was the introduction of six new players to championship hurling, and, with all of these under the age of twenty, there is hope for the future. Many of these same players were members of the minor team beaten by a two point margin, again, in the Roinn C championship County final against Windgap. This team put in some very creditable performances throughout the year, notably in the league semi-final against eventual winners, St Lachtain's. With only two of this panel overage next year, it hoped that this year's campaign will prove a solid foundation for the future.

Specials!

Our Special Junior team enjoyed a very successful league campaign culminating in a League final (Div 3) appearance against O'Loughlins. Galmoy's brave effort proved insufficient and, two weeks later, O'Loughlins again narrowly defeated us in the championship. In the U-21 championship Galmoy lost to Erin's Own.

Well Done

The club was very proud to have two players on the Kilkenny Minor hurling panel, Niall Doherty and Martin Phelan. Both were members of the North Kilkenny side beaten by Offaly, in the Leinster League final. Congratulations to Paul Delaney who added a Dublin senior championship medal with UCD to his U-21 medal won in 1999.

Alan Gray won a Leinster Intermediate medal with Kilkenny Intermediate team.

Others to gain recognition were:- Donica Gray won his second Leinster Senior Vocational schools medal with Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown.

Georgie Hickey won a Leinster medal with Kilkenny U15 in the Easter U15 tournament.

Thomas Ryan won a Leinster U14 medal with St. Fergal's, Rathdowney. Pdraig Gray won the North Kilkenny Féile skills and was second in the long puck.

Finance

Despite the absence of a main sponsor, the club has raised sufficient finance during the year, thanks mainly to the Hurlers Co-op draw and particularly to our hugely successful parish auction last December. The club is indebted to all those who contributed.

The minor hurling team received kit bags from Oldtown Construction for their County Final and sincere thanks goes to Billy McEvoy for his kind gesture.

Sympathies

During the year the club lost some great Gaels namely, Tommy Corocoran, Mick Ryan, Mick Lennon, Charlie Doherty Snr, Mrs Nancy Delaney, Mrs. Nora Doyle and Canon Michael Purcell, PP.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to the families of the bereaved.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam-nacha."



Golden Jubilarians

Three surviving members of the Galmoy 1949 County Junior Title-winning team pictured at a special presentation in Galmoy Parochial Hall. They are, (seated from left) - Roddy O'Neill, Willie Drennan, John Spenser. Behind:- Club officials, Gerry Maher (Treasurer), Gerry Drennan (Secretary), Stephen Delaney (Chairman), Sean Doherty (Vice Chairman). Photo Tom Brett



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



GLENMORE

Captain Fantastic

Another historic year for the club as Kilkenny's 26th All Ireland winning team was captained by clubman, Willie O'Connor. He is the first winning captain of the Millennium, and follows his brother, Eddie, Kilkenny's last winning captain of the last Millennium. The scenes of joy when Willie and Paddy Mullaly returned on the Tuesday night with the Liam McCarthy Cup defied description.

Hurling Affairs

Despite making a valiant bid to defend our senior title, we bowed out to Dicksboro after a replay in the quarter-final. Our other hurling and football teams were very committed but failed to win any titles. Our underage and school teams were also kept busy during the year. The highlight was the U13 school team winning the Roinn D League title. No praise is too high for the dedicated trainers of the various teams.

Social Affairs

On the social front, we had a very successful dinner dance in the Rhu Glen at which the county senior hurling medals were presented. Early in March, a very enjoyable weekend in Edinburgh was organised.

We welcomed Murphy Motors as our sponsors for the next three years. The following fundraising enterprises were held: 'Play for the Park' Lotto, the Hurlers Co-op Draw, and a golf classic in New Ross. Much thanks must go to Wat Cody for his work with these events.

Bereavements

The club extends its sympathy to the Power family, Forristalstown, on the death of Tom Power, who was President of the club. Tom was Glenmore's senior citizen at 95 years young and was still attending games shortly before his passing. In his youth he was a top class hurler while in the army, and played with clubs in a number of counties and the Westmeath senior hurling

team. He was grandfather of Ciarán Power, cyclist on the Irish Olympic team in Sydney. Sympathy is also extended to the relatives of Tom Malone, The Mile Bush, who won senior football titles in 1949 and 1950.

Finally, the parish was shocked at the untimely deaths of Mrs. Bridie O'Connor and Mrs. Kitty Murphy. Bridie was mother of Eddie and Willie O'Connor and Kitty was mother of John Murphy, Rickersland.

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh Siad.



Tom Power, 1905 - 2000
President Glenmore GAA Club

THE GLEN BAR & LOUNGE. GLENMORE

Well done, Willie and Paddy!

PAT AND GERALDINE BARRON

TEL. NO. 051 - 880142





AROUND THE **CLUBS**



GRAIGNAMANAGH

Club Officers 2000

The following Club Officers were elected at the AGM early in the year;

- President: Jackie Ryan
- Chairman: Val Lonergan
- Asst. Chairman: Robbie Carroll
- Secretary: Paul Ryan
- Asst. Sec.: Paddy Corbett
- Treasurer: Ann Walsh
- Asst. Treas: Nan Brett & Anna Walsh
- Field & Provision Officer: Hugh Ryan
- Juvenile Officers: Danny Grace & Jim Coady
- Intermediate Selectors: Bob Grace and Philip Cahill
- Junior Selectors: Michael Dunne and Willie Blanchfield.

Under 21 Tournament

We held a very successful tourna-

ment in memory of Tom Whelan who died during the year. Jim Coady organised this tournament during the summer. Teams who competed were Geraldine O'Hanrahans, Mooncoin, Thomastown, Rower-Inistioge, Graignamanagh, Black & Whites, Young Irelands.

Graignamanagh defeated Young Irelands and Rower-Inistioge on the way to the final where they met and defeated Geraldine O'Hanrahans.

Fundraising

We held a very successful quiz night in March in the Anchor Bar and a golf classic in August in Borris Golf Club.

Intercounty Players

Ger Walsh and Henry Roberts played on the Intermediate Team, Eddie Walsh played with the U-21's, Chris O'Neill played at Minor Level and Niall Coady played in the U-15 Hurling Team.

Deceased Members

Tom Whelan was a player for Graignamanagh and later played in London. He was a club selector a number of years ago. Jack Dunne played for Kilkenny in the 1950's and played for Graignamanagh in all grades for many years. These two men loved the game of hurling and always encouraged players at matches.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha dhílis.



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AROUND THE **CLUBS**



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN

It was a wonderful year for the Graigue Ballycallan club as they regained the senior hurling championship after a lapse of one year. In the league section they had victories over James Stephens, Fenians, O'Loughlin Gaels and Young Irelands, while they drew with Clara at a stage when they were already through to the league semi finals. They suffered their only defeat of importance when Tullaroan beat them by 1-12 to 0-11 in that league semi final. In the championship they beat Erin's Own, Shamrocks and O'Loughlin Gaels to take the Tom Walsh Cup. Full report elsewhere.

All Ireland final day was a marvellous one for the club as five All Ireland senior medals came to the parish. When the full time whistle blew, half the Kilkenny attack were from the club. Denis Byrne contributed four points during the game while Eddie Brennan, who came on for the last seven minutes realised the dream of every Kilkenny youngster when he scored a great goal. Johnny Butler who was dogged by injury throughout the year and Micheal Hoyne were members of the extended Noreside panel. Joe Young was a member of the Kilkenny Intermediate team which won the Leinster title by beating Wexford. They were beaten by Galway in the All Ireland semi final.

The special junior hurlers won the JJ Kavanagh Division 2 League Northern final. They lost to Emeralds but victories over St Patricks, Blacks and Whites and Lisdowney gave them a semi-final place. They scored another victory over St Patrick's and reversed their previous result with Emeralds in the final holding out for a 0-10 to 0-9 win. The team was Michael Wall, Shane Murphy, Tom Hogan, Brian Dalton, Pat Comerford, Bill Ryan, John Caldbeck, Billy Fitzpatrick, Patrick Dalton, Aidan Brett, Tom McGrath (Capt), Brendan Marnell, Brendan Hayes, Jim Maher, John Dermody. Subs—Eamon Marnell. For the first time a county final was run in this competition but they had to give best to Kilmacow

1-10 to 1-6. Lining out without three of their team was too much of a handicap



JJ Kavanagh presents the Kavanagh Cup to **Tom McGrath**, Captain, Graigue/Ballycallan, following their victory over Emeralds in the Northern Junior League, Division 2 Final. Also included is **Ned Moran**, Northern Board Chairman.

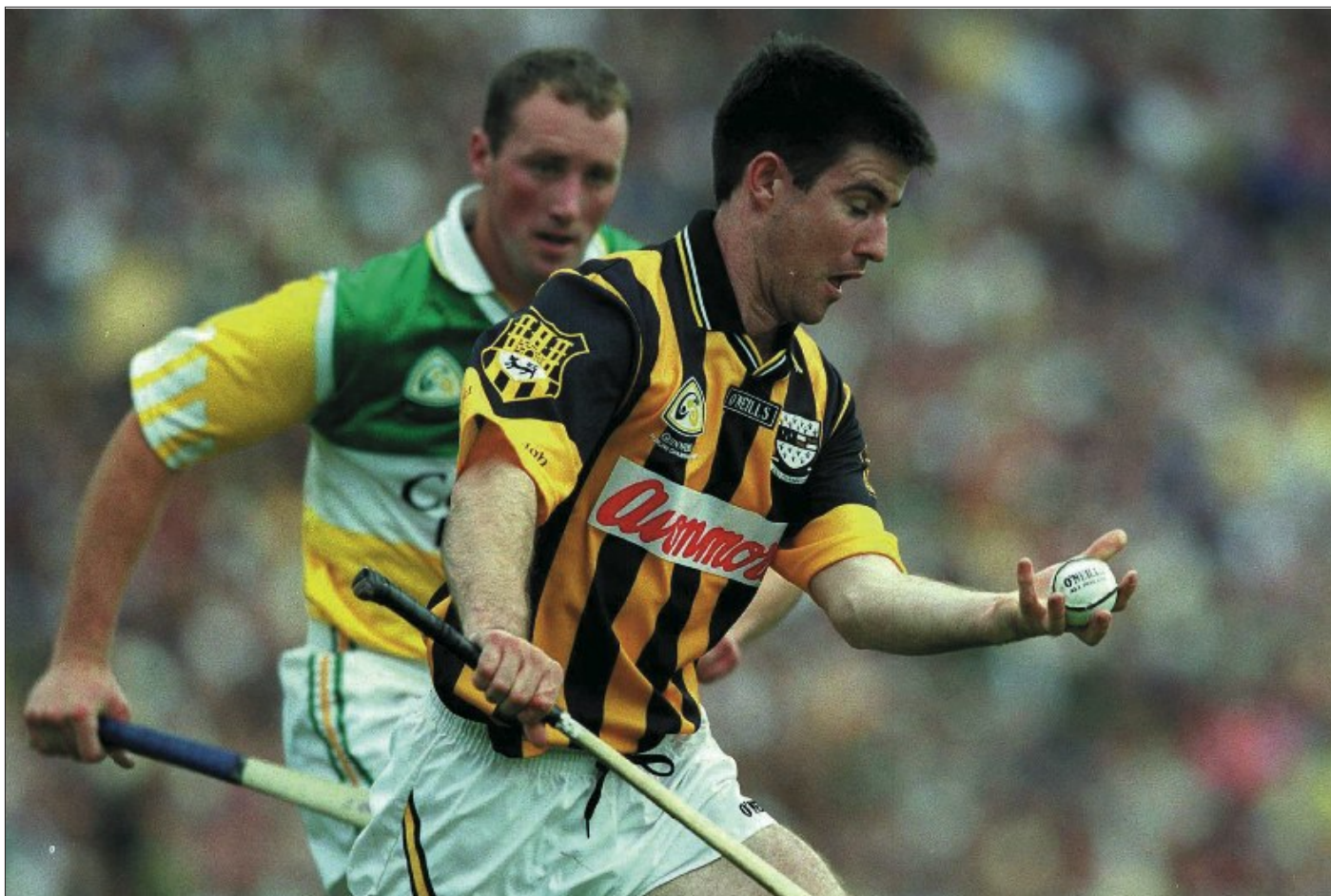
and Kilmacow were the better side. In the championship, they were leading by five points with five minutes to go but conceded two goals and two points to James Stephens who won by three points- 3-13 to 4-7. The Junior hurlers were beaten in the first round by Lisdowney 1-13 to 2-5. The Under 21's also bowed out in the first round losing to James Stephens 2-14 to 2-7. The minors reached the semi-final of the championship when, after a bye in the first round, they beat Mullinavat 2-11 to 0-13. In the semi-final they were well beaten by the eventual champions Emeralds 1-20 to 1-5.

The Under 11 's did well in the Camáint winning all their games except the one against Fenians when the sides played a scoreless draw. They beat Tullaroan, Emeralds, Galmoy and Freshford. In the finals in Nowlan Park they beat Tullogher/Rosbercon and Dicksboro No 2 before losing to Erins Own. The panel was James Power, David Kennedy, Ian Hennessy, David O'Dea, Paul Harrison, John Cleere, PJ Delaney, Justin Dermody (Capt), Ciarán Neary, Thomas Purcell, Niall Cleere, Brendan Phelan, Philip Heaphy, Joseph Johnson, Conor Hogan, Martin Doheny, Gerard Hall, Eoin Doheny,

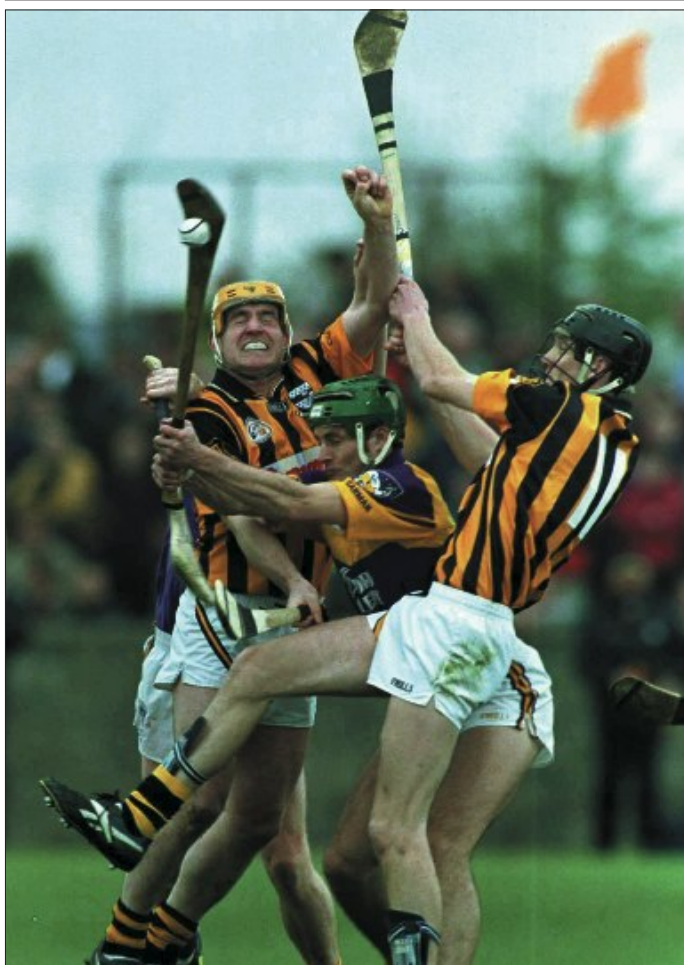
Damien Carroll, Jamie Hillman, Stephen Kenna, Damien Maher, Darragh Marnell. The club continued with improvements to the field. They fenced off the area near the river which will make it much safer particularly for children.

During the year, two members of the 1949 county final winning team passed to their eternal rewards. Midfielder, James Fennelly died suddenly at his residence in Jamestown, Mullinahone, while the captain and centre-back on that day, John Keane, died in Dollymount in Dublin. John was the first man to be presented with the Bob O'Keeffe Cup when he led Kilkenny to Leinster honours in 1950. May they rest in peace.

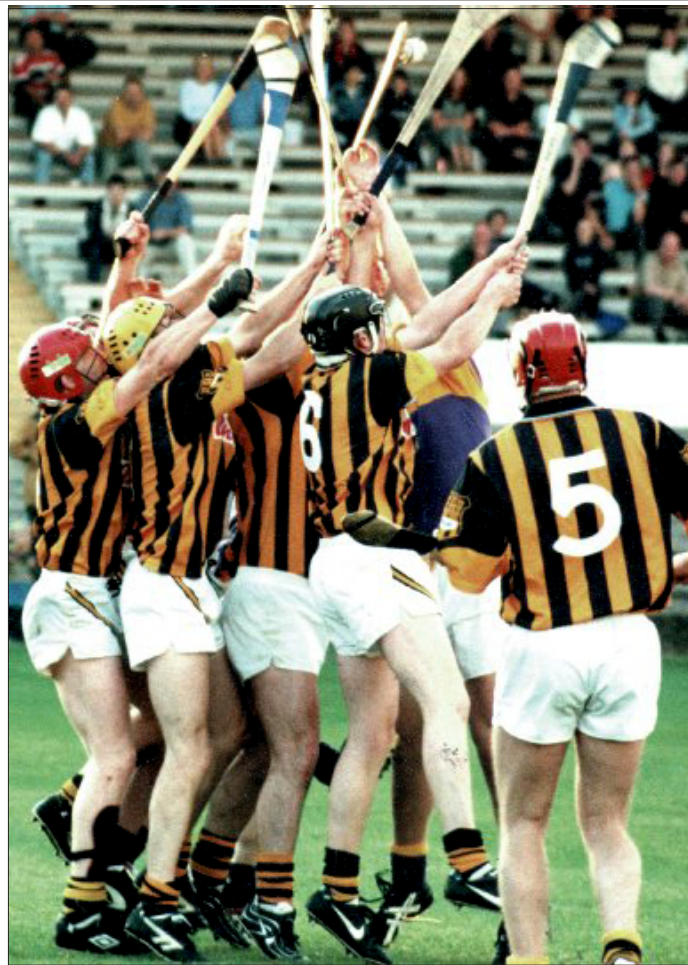
Since the production of the 1999 Year Book, Graigue Ballycallan footballers contested the 1999 senior football final. This will always be remembered as the one that got away. Railyard took the title on a 1-5 to 0-7 scoreline. The team was Paul Dermody (Ballyline), Johnny Butler, Paddy Dwyer (Capt), Tomas McCluskey, Dermot Hoyne, Tomas Comerford, Alan Hoyne, James Young, Damien Cleere, Gearoid Cleere, Thomas Dermody, Sean Millea, Adrian Ronan, John Teehan, Johnny Ronan. Subs—Micheal Hoyne, Patrick Dalton.



Phillip Larkin moving out of defence, pursued by John Ryan (Offaly) in the All Ireland Final Photo Sportfile



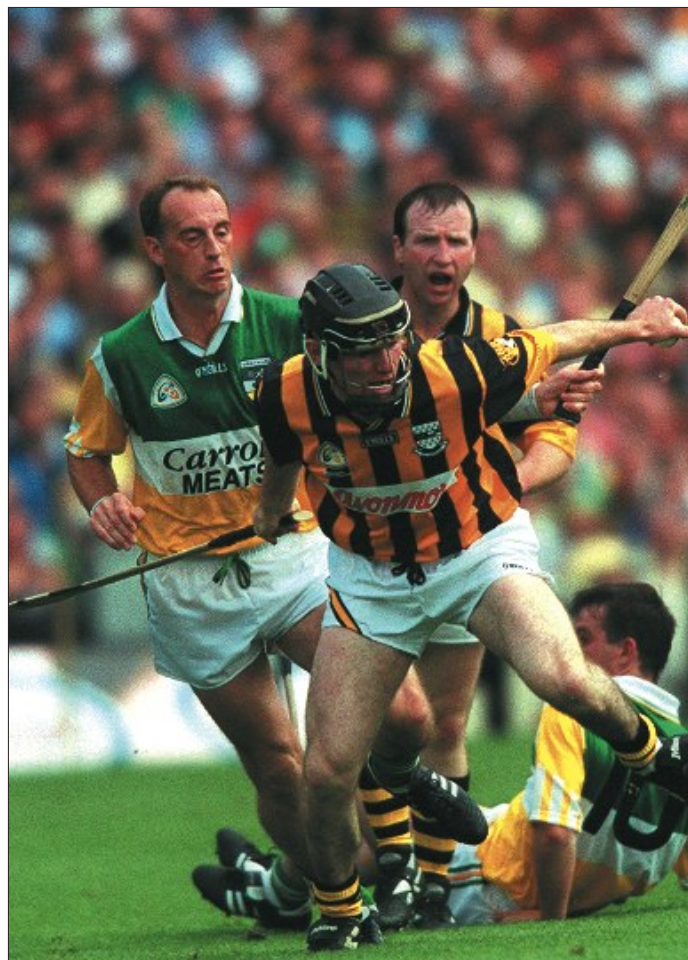
Canice Brennan, Rory Kavanagh (Wexford) and Stephen Grehan in the NHL game at New Ross in April. Photo Sportfile



Don't Bunch, Lads!
Kilkenny Intermediate defenders surround a Wexford forward in the Leinster Final In Kilkenny. Photo Tom O'Neill



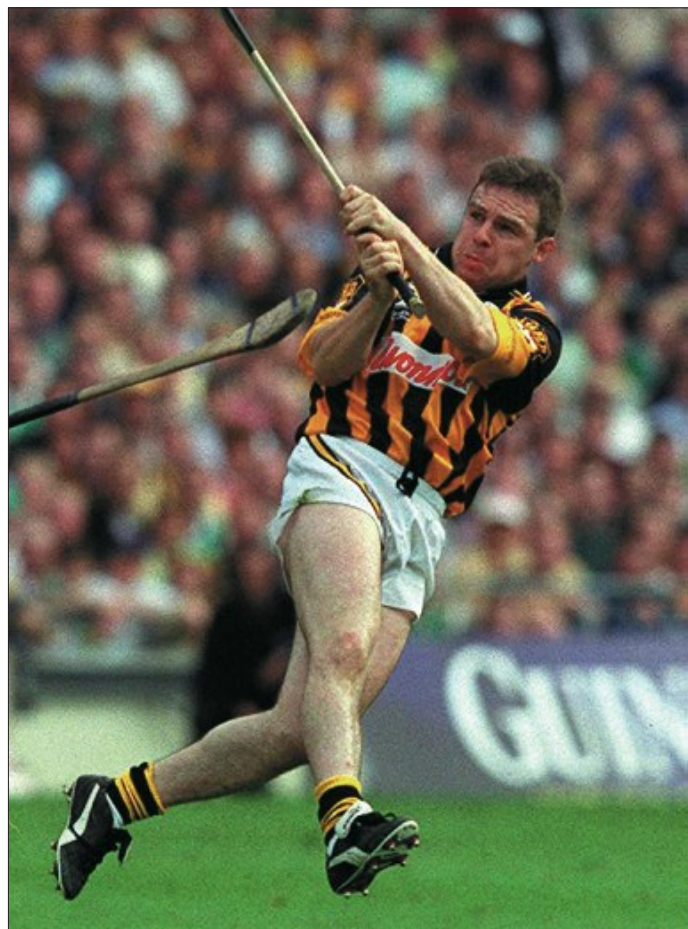
Joy Unconfined!
Charlie Carter, Willie O'Connor, Eddie Brennan and Peter Barry
 on the podium. *Photo John McIlwaine (Pacemaker)*



Walk Out with it!
Willie O'Connor urges Noel Hickey to relieve an Offaly attack led by Joe Dooley. *Photo John McIlwaine (Pacemaker)*



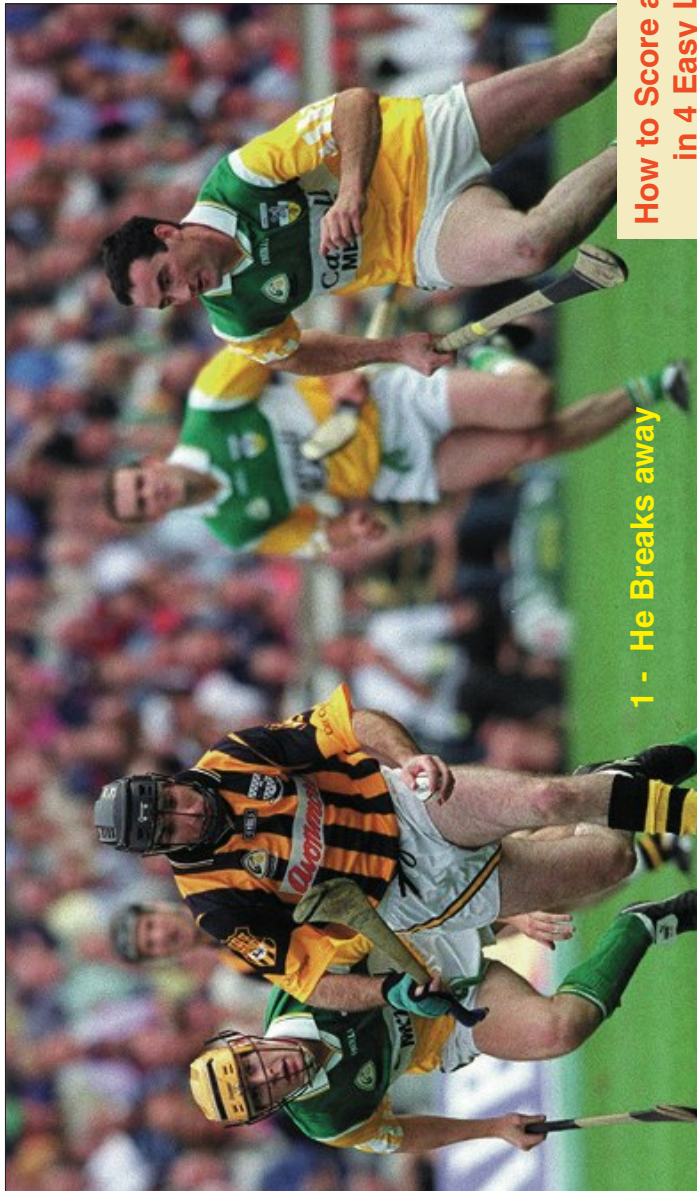
John Power keeps control of the ball, despite attention from Brian Wheahan.
Photo John McIlwaine (Pacemaker)



Charlie Carter points for Kilkenny in the All Ireland Final
Photo John McIlwaine (Pacemaker)



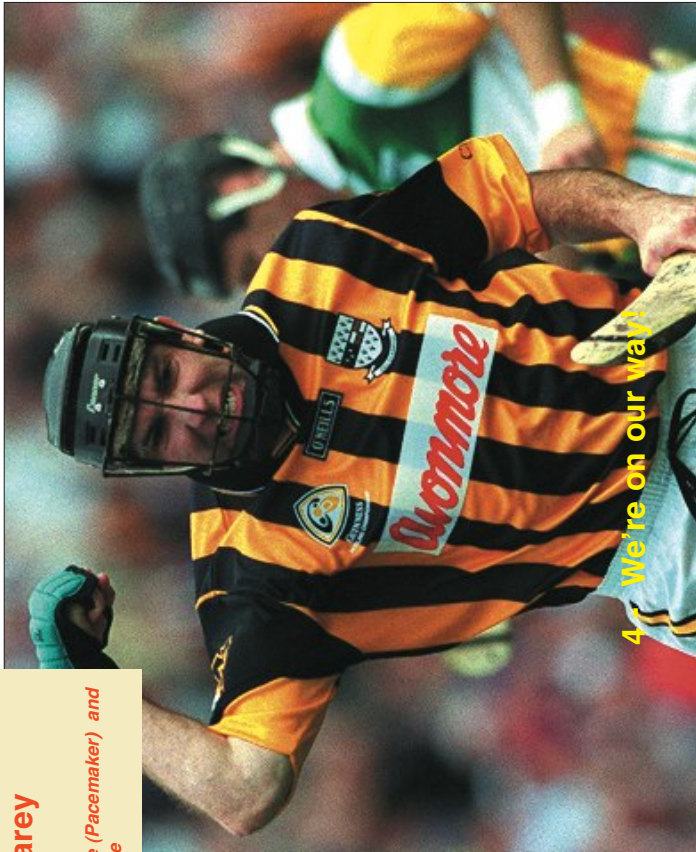
2 - He strikes!



1 - He Breaks away

**How to Score a Great Goal
in 4 Easy Lessons
by DJ Carey**

Photos by John McIlwaine (Pacemaker) and Sportsfile

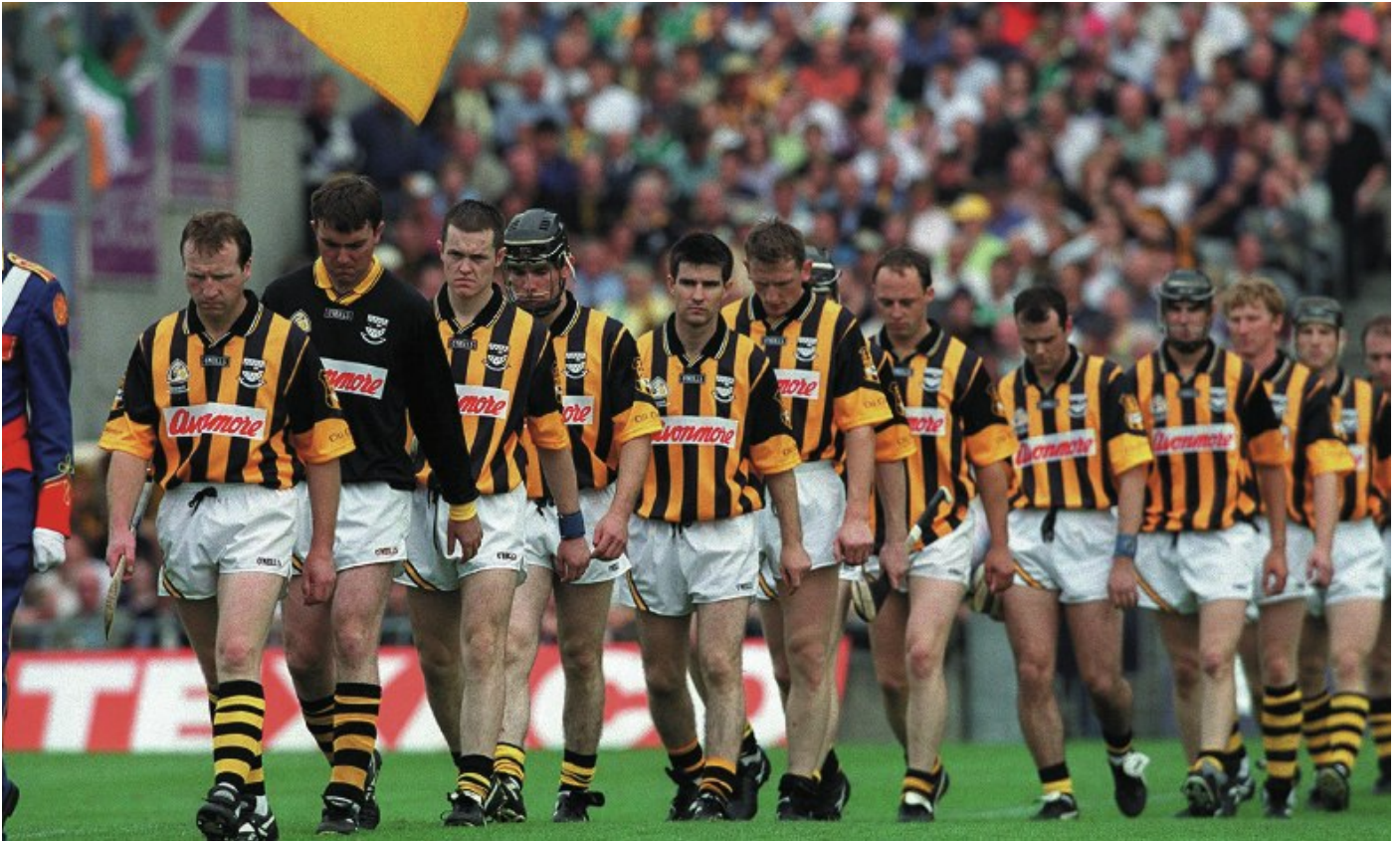


4 - We're on our way!



3 - It's in the net!

All Ireland Day 2000



No Laughing Matter

Winning an All Ireland is a serious business as can be seen from the determined Kilkenny faces in the parade.

Photo John McLwaine (Pacemaker)



What will it be like next year?

Croke Park from the air during the 2000 Final.

Helicopter shot by Sportsfile



WIT - Fitzgibbon Cup and Division 1 League Champions 2000

Front: Leigh O'Brien, Alan Geoghegan, Declan Browne, Damien Young, Andy Moloney (Capt), Michael Bevens, David Dowling, Niall McCormack.
 Middle: John O'Neill, Kevin Power, David Bourke, Paraic Fanning, Paul Shefflin, Cathal Murray, John Morgan, Michael Kavanagh, Damien Jacob, Brian Forde.

Back: Eamonn Corcoran, Adrian Gaffey, Willie Maher, Henry Shefflin, Paul Curran, Aidan Cummins, Jesse Foley, Kevin McCarthy,



Waterford

Waterford Institute of Technology GAA Club Football - Hurling - Camogie - Handball

Greatly appreciates the contribution made by both present and past members from Kilkenny in making the club one of the most successful in Third Level Gaelic Games.

ROLL OF HONOURS: 1982 - 2000

1982 - 1983	Division 3 Hurling League	1989 - 1990	Purcell Cup Camogie Championship	1995 - 1996	Freshers Camogie League
1983 - 1984	Division 2 Hurling League		Division 2B Intermediate Football League		Division 1 Freshers Hurling League
1984 - 1985	Division 3 Football League		Division 2B Intermediate Hurling League		Division 2 Football League
	Freshers Football League				Handball Ladies Open Singles
1985 - 1986	Division 1 Hurling League			1996 - 1997	Division 1 Freshers Hurling League
1986 - 1987	Division 1 Hurling League	1990 - 1991	Purcell Shield Camogie Championship		Ashbourne Shield
	Hurling Championship		Division 2 Football Trench Shield		Division 1 Ladies Football League
	Division 3 Hurling League	1991 - 1992	Division 1 Camogie League	1997 - 1998	Division 1 Hurling League
	Freshers Football League		Purcell Cup Camogie Championship		Division 1 Freshers Hurling League
	Munster Freshers Football Championship		Division 1 Hurling League		Division 1 Hurling League
1987 - 1988	Division 1 Freshers Hurling League		Fitzgibbon Cup		Division 1 Camogie League
	Ladies Football Championship	1992 - 1993	Division 1 Camogie League	1998 - 1999	Division 3 Hurling League
	Munster Freshers Hurling Championship		Purcell Cup Camogie Championship		Ashbourne Cup
	Fitzgibbon Plate Hurling		Freshers Football League		Fitzgibbon Cup
1988 - 1989	Division 1B (Intermediate) Hurling League	1993 - 1994	Handball League and Championship		Division 1 Camogie League
	Division 1 Freshers Hurling League		Division 1 Freshers Hurling League		Division 1 Ladies Football League
	Munster Freshers Hurling Championship		Munster Freshers Hurling Championship		Division 1 Freshers Ladies Football Championship
	Freshers Camogie League	1994 - 1995	Ashbourne Shield		O'Connor Cup Plate - Ladies Football
	Division 1 Ladies Football League		Fitzgibbon Cup	1999 - 2000	Fitzgibbon Cup
			Division 2B Intermediate Football League		Division 1 Hurling League
					Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

VOCATIONAL REPORT

SCOIL AIREAGAIL, BALLYHALE.

LADIES FOOTBALL

Scoil Aireagail began playing Ladies Football in 1993. For a number of years we had very little success but we continued to put in the effort. All the hard work paid off and achieved results this year when the seniors won the first ever Leinster Title with a brilliant win over Cross & Passion, Kilcullen. The U'16 girls also reached the Leinster Final but were beaten by Athlone Community College.

SENIOR HURLING

The Senior Hurlers reached the Leinster Final against Colaiste Muire, Johnstown. The game, which was played before a huge attendance, in Nolan Park prior to the Waterford v Kilkenny league match, was very even up to half-time but in the second half Colaiste Mhuire were by far the better team and won quite easily.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

The Senior Footballers after a long campaign were narrowly beaten by Oldcastle Co. Meath in Scoil Aireagail's first senior football final. The two point defeat was hard to take, particularly in the light of the fact that we were two points ahead with ten minutes to go. Missed chances in the first half, proved very costly at the end. The match was played in Carlow in Dr. Cullen Park. The team we played was Newbridge from Kildare from a good footballing background. The conditions were very bad with wind, hail and driving rain. The opposition, being from Kildare, played a fast, short, passing game which caused problems for the Scoil Aireagail team, particularly in the first half. However, the Ballyhale boys adjusted to the conditions and style of play and put on a very exciting second half display.

While everybody on the team had to play to their maximum, a number of players really stood out including Jason Nolan,

COLAISTE MUIRE UNDER 14 DIV B LEINSTER COLLEGES SEMI-FINALISTS

Back: R O'Hara, MI Tobin, D Looby, P O'Shea, N O'Reilly, P Gray, J Scott, S Webster, T Burke, N Campion, J Tobin, M Purcell.

Front: J Lennon, G Glendon, S McCarthy, P Webster, MI Harte, S Rothwell, B Kavanagh, S Gibbons, N McGree, MI Webster, (Absent - L Bergin)



Scoil Aireagail - Leinster Girls Football Champions:

Back: Linda Power, Deborah Walsh, Hazel Butler, Maria Connelly, Amy Kehoe, Niamh Cottrell, Una Murphy, Janelle O'Brien, Siobhan Lynch, Jemma Walsh, Breda Brophy, Sarah Brennan, Ellen Grant, Ciara Fennelly.
Front: Lisa Millea, Catherine Duggan, Denise Duggan, Mary Connors, Keira Kinahan, Valerie Sutton, Carol Hughes, Patricia Duggan, Assumpta O'Farrell, Dlane Aylward, Paula Kenneally.



Scoil Aireagail - Leinster U16 Boys Football Champions.

Back: Anthony Martin, Anthony Holland, Pdraig Holden, Keith Nolan (captain), David Reid, Keith O'Carroll, Leo O'Gorman, Alan Knox, Damien Ragggett, Jason Nolan.
Front: Andrew McCarthy, Patrick McNamara, David Millea, Shane Holden, Barry Nolan, James Fitzpatrick, John Maher. Absent from the photograph was C.J. Delaney and Patrick Mulcahy.



C.J. Delaney, Anthony Holland, Keith Nolan and Padraig Holden.

When the captain, Keith Nolan, accepted the winners trophy it was a most significant first, because this was the first Leinster football final ever, to be won, by a Scoil Aireagail team.

COLAISTE MHUIRE, JOHNSTOWN

SENIOR HURLING

The Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown senior hurling team began their 1999/2000 campaign with the hope of retaining the Leinster title and possibly going one better and winning the All Ireland title which has eluded them since 1982. They also began with the hope that last year's disappointment of losing the all-Ireland by the narrowest of margins to Atherny could be overcome, but the task was made much harder without such names as Kevin Power, Raymond Moriarty and Kevin Fitzpatrick, who were some of the key figures on the team last year.

The preliminary rounds of the championship were run off in October and November and very good wins were recorded over Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale and Borris of Carlow. This got the team up for a Leinster semi-final against local rivals, St Fergal's of Rathdowney who were building on a very successful year at Junior hurling level. The game was played at a very high tempo in Freshford in early December with the Johnstown boys coming out victorious by four points with a very impressive display by PJ Delaney, JJ Delaney, Dermot Power and Emmet Kavanagh.

The Leinster Final was contested against Ballyhale whom they had beaten earlier in the season but had improved through out the campaign over powering St Rynagh's CC, Banagher in their semi final. This game was played prior to the Kilkenny/Waterford Senior hurling league match in Nowlan Park. As in the previous encounter, Johnstown powered their way to a 2-14 to 0-9 victory with corner forward Jonathan Doheny scoring 2-7 of the total. JJ Delaney again dominated centre field but was well supported by Ger Henderson, Thomas Neary, and Richard Dalton.

The All Ireland semi-final was contested against Munster Champions, Coachford of Cork, in Cashel in April of last year. This proved to be the team's best game of the year and indeed, it needed to be, to overcome a very strong Cork side who had never reached this position before. Johnstown won by the narrowest of margins and while the whole team played exceptionally well, James Maher in goal, Anthony O Hara at



COLÁISTE MHUIRE JOHNSTOWN - SENIOR LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

Back: James Whelan, Robert Dowling, Noel Dowling, Niall Anderson, Tom Neary, Rodger Greene, John Bergin, Tom Holohan, PJ Delaney, Willie Cahill.
Front: Dermot Power, Emmet Kavanagh, Philip Cormack, JJ Delaney, James Meagher, Ger Henderson, Declan O Shea, Anthony O Hara.



COLÁISTE MHUIRE JOHNSTOWN - JUNIOR LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

Back: Seamus Nolan, Dave Brennan, Tom Neary, Robert Dowling, James Dunne, Frank Murphy, Donnacha Gray, Philip O Loughlin, Martin Henderson.
Front: Sam Gibbons, Jamie Dollard, Pat Tobin, Colin Grant, PJ Delaney (Captain), Eoin Delahunty, Noel Dowling, Mark Kavanagh.



COLÁISTE MHUIRE FIRST YEAR BLITZ WINNERS 2000

Back: N McGree, M Tobin, P O'Shea, J Scott, S Webster, P Gray, Darren Moore (RIP), J Tobin.
Front: S McCarthy, P Webster, MI Harte, S Rothwell, S Gibbons, T Burke.

full back and James Whelan at corner back, were best and brilliant individual goals by JJ Delaney and Richard Dalton saved Johnstown's blushes.

The All Ireland Final was contested against an extremely strong Loughrea team who were building on junior suc-

cesses and ColáisteMhuire knew they would have to play at their very best if they were to match the high profile enjoyed by Galway teams over the past decade. The Johnstown heroes were struck a severe blow a week leading to the game when county minor JJ Delaney broke his arm in a county Vocational



Col Mhuire U14 Captain, **Daniel Looby** receives his trophy from **Mr Jim Walsh**, Kilkenny VEC

school game against Cork. The game, played at Mc Donagh Park, Nenagh, saw Johnstown well beaten long before the final whistle but they fought gallantly to the bitter end, losing on the scoreline of 0-23 to 2-4 with good performances by goalie James Maher (who did not concede any goals throughout the whole campaign), Thomas Neary, James Whelan and Dermot Power.

Team and Panel: James Maher, James Whelan, Anthony O Hara, Dermot Power, PJ Delaney, Ger Henderson, Willie Cahill, John Bergin, Thomas Neary, JJ Delaney, Richard Dalton, Thomas Holohan, Noel Dowling, Emmet Kavanagh, Jonathan Doheny, Robbie Dowling, Colin Grant, Niall Anderson, Brian O Gorman, Declan O Shea, Donncha Grey, Rodger Greene, Philip Cormac, Tony Hughes, Eugene Grehan, David Moriarty.

U 16 HURLING

Eight schools from Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny took part in the 1999/2000 Leinster Hurling Championship. In the early stages Johnstown overcame Scoil Aireagail Ballyhale, Coláiste Cois Siúire, Mooncoin and Presentation De La Salle, Bagenalstown. In the Semi final, Johnstown had a convincing win over Bridgetown Vocational school Wexford.

In this game, Freshford's Robert Dowling scoring 3-2 from play was man of the match.

The Leinster Final, versus Borris VS played in O'Loughlin Gaels, Kilkenny, was one of the better games in the championship. Over the last five years both schools have clashed a lot and many fine encounters occurred. Borris rattled in three goals, enough to ensure victory against most sides, but, on this day, the Johnstown side stepped up a gear when necessary. Again Robert Dowling scoring 2-5 and James Dunne, Galmoey scoring 1-2, laid the foundation for victory.

This competition played early in the school year is great in that the ground conditions are good and this leads to very skilful play. All the Johnstown boys were stars and as a result they all figured very prominently for their clubs later in the year. Colin Grant had an excellent year in goal, Donnacha Gray, Galmoey was very solid on the full back line while Seamus Nolan, Martin Henderson and Pat Tobin were always reliable in defence. PJ Delaney, Captain, was outstanding all year. Philip O Loughlin and Tom Neary were a strong mid-field pairing. Once again, Robert Dowling was the star forward all year but he got great assistance from James Dunne, Frank Murphy, David Brennan, Noel Dowling and Jamie Dollard. Other players used during the championship and who served the school well were Niall O Hara, Joseph Phelan, Mark Kavanagh and Sam Gibbons.

U-14 HURLING

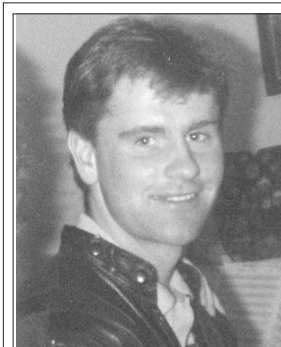
After a sluggish start to the year and mixed fortunes in practice matches, the U-14 hurlers finally put in a solid performance against Kilkenny City Vocational School in the opening round of the county championship. They followed this up a fortnight later with a good

win over old rivals Scoil Airigeal Ballyhale, and Grennan College to run out worthy winners of this V.E.C sponsored competition.

In the Colleges "B" competition in the Spring, they were runners up in their group, winning against Heywood College, Ballyfin, but going down to St. Fergals - the eventual winners. They then came up against a stronger Gorey side in the Leinster semi final and were beaten by a better team on the day. **Panel:** R O'Hara, M Tobin, D Looby, P O'Shea, G O'Reilly, P Gray, J Scott, S Webster, T Burke, N Campion, J Tobin, M Purcell, J Lennon, G Glendon, S McCarthy, P Webster, M Harte, S Rothwell, B Kavanagh, S Gibbons, N McGree, M Webster, M Bergin.

KILKENNY VEC-SPONSORED FIRST YEAR BLITZ

A strong First year squad proved their class when they overcame the challenge of Kilkenny City, Graignamanagh /Slieverue and Grennan College, Thomastown to retain the VEC sponsored trophy, at Thomastown in May. **Panel:** S McCarthy, P Webster, M Harte, S Rothwell, S Gibbons, T Burke, N McGree, M Tobin, P O'Shea, J Scott, S Webster, P Gray, J Tobin, Darren Moore (RIP).



*Congratulations to our senior hurling Coach **Martin Gleeson** on winning an Intermediate All Ireland medal with Tipperary this year. Martin played a major role in defence. This is his third All Ireland medal - he previously won an All Ireland Junior*

Junior Medal with Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule and another one with the Tipperary County Vocational Team. He also was a key figure on the Tipperary Minor team that were narrowly defeated in the All Ireland Final 1991.



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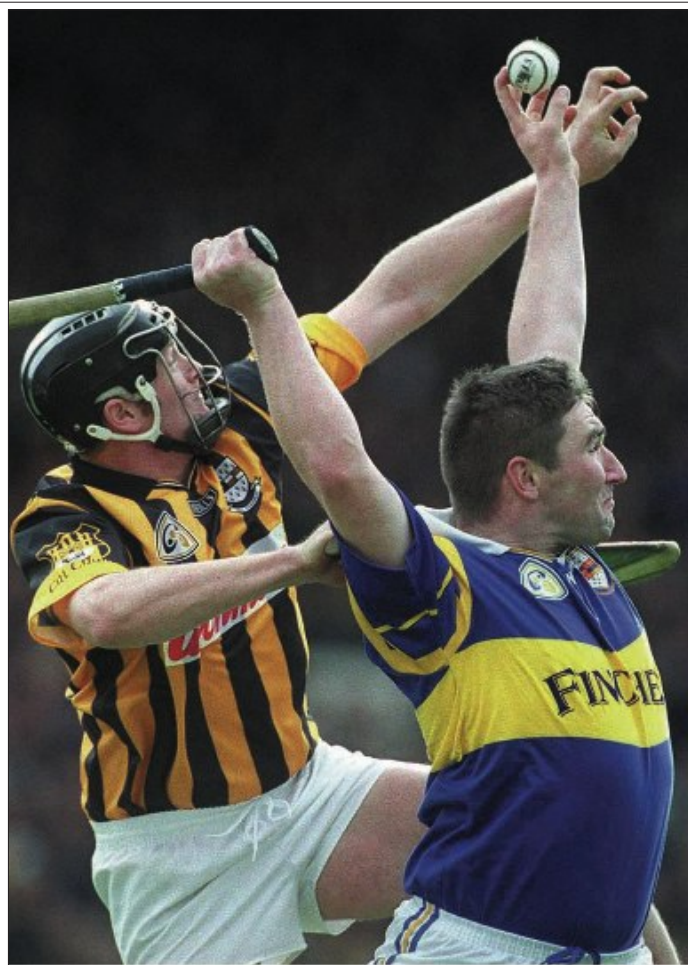
Agony and Ecstasy.

The difference between defeat and victory as illustrated by Andy Comerford's expression after last year's final (left) where he is consoled by Cork's Tom Cashman, and this year's (right) congratulated by a Kilkenny supporter. *Photos John McIlwaine (Pacemaker Press).*

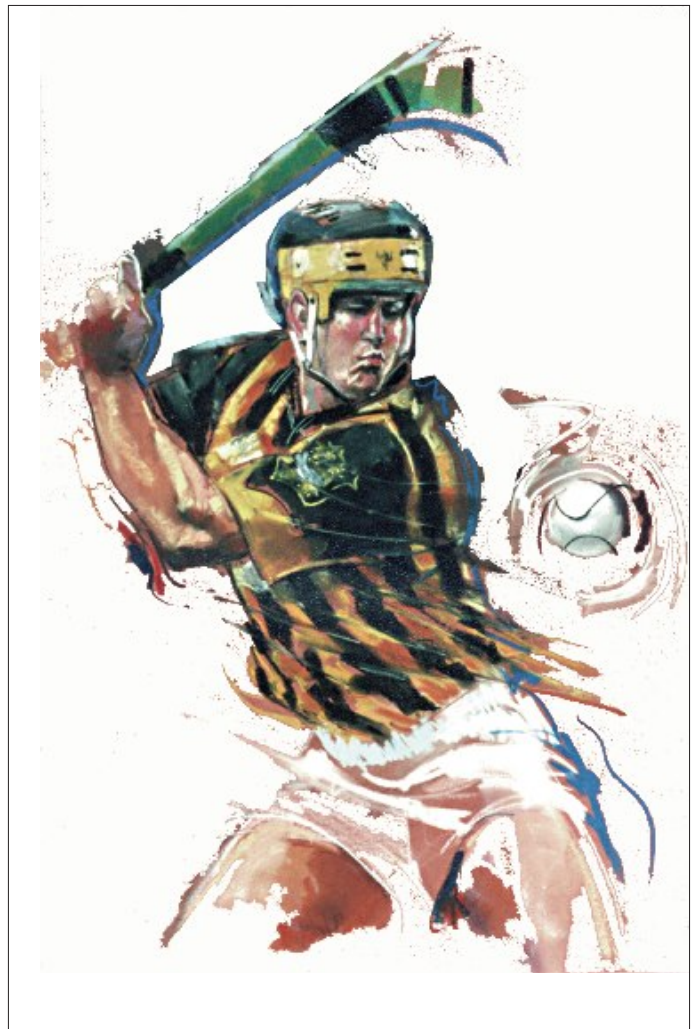


Johnny Butler

But for injury, Johnny would surely have been deeply involved in the All Ireland campaign *Photo Tom O'Neill*



Sean Meally and Paul Shelley in an aerial tussle in the NHL game in Thurles. *Photo Sportsfile*



Details from two of **Anne Farrall's** excellent hurling paintings which were on display in Kilkenny County Hall in October. Anne is based in Ballingarry Lower, Gorey, Co Wexford. Featured here are **DJ Carey** and **Canice Brennan**.



Meeting the President
Captain, **Willie O'Connor**, introduces his team to President, **Mary McAleese**, before the All Ireland Final

Photo Tom Brett

MINORS RELINQUISH THEIR 10 YEAR GRIP

By Jerry Drennan



Kilkenny Minor Leinster Championship Team 2000

Back: Conor Phelan, Canice Hickey, David Hoyne, Conor O'Loughlin, Paddy Reid, Jackie Tyrrell, Aidan Fogarty, JJ Delaney.
Front: Niall Doherty, Eoin McCormack, Tommy Walsh, Mark Phelan, David Herity, Ger Joyce, Clive O'Neill. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

After 10 years of dominance in Leinster Minor hurling circles, the year 2000 provided the occasion when Kilkenny minors relinquished their grip on this championship with a first round exit at the hands of eventual champions, Offaly. That Offaly ran the All-Ireland champions Galway to a very close finish in the All-Ireland semi-final proved little consolation to a Kilkenny side who had been moulded into a squad with good expectations after five months of continuous effort by their management team.

If one were to examine the fortunes of the Kilkenny second-level schools in their respective hurling campaigns in the Spring, then one could be forgiven for expecting a lengthy summer involvement for the county minor team. On closer examination, however, the schools scene didn't provide the expected successful platform for the county outfit.

St. Kieran's college were worthy winners of the All-Ireland Colleges championship, Castlecomer Community School reached the Leinster B Colleges final while Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, advanced to the All-Ireland Vocational schools Final, having defeated Scoil Arrigal, Ballyhale, in the Leinster final. On examining the starting line-out of these four school sides at their penultimate

appearance in their respective competitions, it is interesting to note that only three of these players were present on the Kilkenny minor line-out in the first round of the championship.

The reasons for this vary from college players being over-age for minor hurling to the presence of players from outside the county and so on. Whatever the situation, it highlights, in a small way, the amount of sifting and searching that has to be done by a minor management team to try and come up with a successful combination.

Taking the team's preparation into account, good challenge game victories were recorded over Limerick, Cork and Galway, all away from home, with the forward division accumulating some very high scores, providing hope for a good performance in the championship.

However, when June 24th finally arrived, Kilkenny came up against a crack Offaly outfit whose totally focussed attitude on the night proved the undoing of the champions. The midlanders minor side in 2000 were the product of a Development Squad which had been nurtured together over a period of four years and had three championship outings in the round-robin system under their belts before they lined out against Kilkenny.

In addition, Offaly, this year, possessed a number of players who will most likely be seen in the Offaly senior jersey in the very near future. Names like Joe Brady, Stephen Brown and Michael Cordial are stars in the making, while Ger Rafferty and Neville Coughlan have already lined out for Offaly senior footballers in the Allianz National Football League. On the night in question, Kilkenny made a bright start with Eoin McCormack threatening havoc at corner forward in the opening minutes. Aidan Fogarty too, looked impressive but it was ominous that the remaining forwards seemed to have left their early season form well behind them. Offaly clawed their way back into the game and a goal on the stroke of half-time, in addition to two top-class long range points from wing back Brown, gave them the upper hand at the interval. Kilkenny introduced third season minor, Kieran Rafter, for the second half and, although he did hit a goal midway through the half, the introduction of three more substitutes failed to swing the pendulum as Offaly hit further goals to strengthen their lead. Despite the eventual disappointing loss, there were some very impressive defensive displays on the night and players like Canice Hickey, Tommy Walsh, Niall Doherty and Chris O'Neill stood up manfully to the task right up to the final whistle..

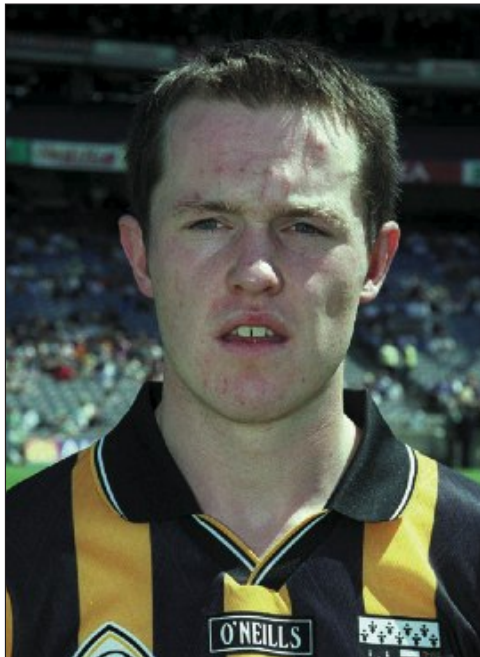
ROCK-SOLID MICK HUNGRY FOR MORE SUCCESS

Not many hurlers can claim the distinction of having played in 3 consecutive All-Ireland Senior Finals by the age of 21. One such player to achieve that feat is Kilkenny's right-full back this year, Michael Kavanagh and it is a testament to his consistency since arriving on the senior scene in February '98. Nor can too many Kilkenny people have played football in Croke Park. Michael made his Croke Park debut back in 1991 when playing on goal for a 7-a-side football team during half-time of the All-Ireland Football Final.

I asked the Waterford-city based Bank official what made the difference this year. "We had a fierce hunger after the last two years. We were very focused and wanted it big time, you could see that in the training." Michael felt that Galway was their toughest match all year. "We had to be a bit more patient in that game, in the others the goals came fairly early. Once DJ got our second goal, I thought we hurled very well and hit some fine scores." I asked Michael about the level of training Kilkenny did this year. "We were invited back to training last November and did two nights a week in the Hotel Kilkenny gym up till Christmas. Then in January, we stepped it up to three nights a week with a match at the weekend. The emphasis was very much on building up our stamina levels early on in the year - it was pure torture, especially those hills in Bennetsbridge!" A lot of people don't appreciate the efforts that go on early in the year and are quick to criticise players in the League games, it's easy to hurl from the stand."

That level of training is serious commitment for an amateur sport, and I asked the Freshford clubman how he viewed the way players were looked after. "No player should be out of pocket and should receive adequate expenses. I know that we're very well looked after, in comparison to some other counties. I think the Kilkenny Supporters Club deserve a special mention in this regard - they have been very good to us and anything we ever wanted, all we had to do was ask."

I asked Michael for his views on the current back-door system in the championship. "Personally, I find the system okay. I sup-



pose it's been more beneficial to the Leinster counties. A lot was said about this year's Leinster Final but I know from talking to the Offaly players afterwards, how disappointed they were. They told me that their main aim at the start of the year was to win the Leinster title. I'm sure they wouldn't have wanted us to beat them in a third successive Leinster Final. We were just on fire that day and blew them away. I don't know if an open-draw would be any better and if it was to go like the new football system, how would you fit in all those extra games around the club scene?"

This interview took place on the weekend of the Railway Cup and Michael was right-full back on the Leinster side. I asked him what he thought of this much-maligned competition. "Well, I was a sub when we won two years ago but have yet to receive the medal. I think it's played at the wrong time of the year, players just want to have a break or are busy with their clubs. I enjoy playing in it, there's good camaraderie between the players and I think if they played it just before the National League started or around St. Patrick's weekend, it might prove more attractive for everyone concerned."



Mick Kavanagh and Canice Brennan celebrate Kilkenny's All Ireland victory
Photo Sportsfile

Another competition that receives its share of brickbats is the National League but Michael thinks this competition serves a useful purpose. "It's a great break from the training and it gives the selectors a good chance to get to know their best team for the championship. It lacks the cut and thrust of the Championship but I'd still like to win a League medal and I know a lot of the other players feel the same".

It wasn't all sweetness and light for Michael this year. He was a member of the Under-21 side that surprisingly relinquished its Leinster and All-Ireland titles when defeated by Offaly in a pulsating Leinster Final. "That was a big disappointment as I felt we had a very good side - I thought there could have been another All-Ireland in this team. Maybe we weren't focused enough on the night while we also had key players like John O'Neill and Henry Shefflin missing through injury. That was my last under-age match for Kilkenny and looking back I feel I should have won more All-Irelands than just the one - last year's Under-21 - hav-



Michael Kavanagh clears his lines in the All Ireland Final
Photo Sportsfile

ing played for six years between Minor and Under-21. His club, St. Lachtain's were also defeated by St. Martin's in the Intermediate quarter-final. "While we didn't make any great strides this year, we're still a fairly young team - five of our backs are under-21, and over the next couple of years, I would hope that we would be challenging strongly for senior status."

ed for referees - there are not enough top-class referees out there." He also feels there should be a better way of monitoring the injury time played. "It's hard to know the best way to improve the timekeeping but definitely we felt that more injury time should have been played in last year's All-Ireland Final - it was blown-up early."

In his spare time, Michael admits to been an avid Leeds United fan and also watches a bit of athletics. "I think Leeds are doing great at present, considering all the injuries to their high-profile stars. I hope the Co. Board will put on a trip for us to see one of their games!"

As regards any improvements to the game, Michael would like to see an improvement in the refereeing standards. "I feel better training should be provid-

Finally, I asked Michael who he saw as the main challengers to their title in 2001. "I think Cork still have a fairly good panel and should be strong in Munster again, Tipperary made good strides this year and are progressing nicely while Galway have plenty of talent to choose from and will be pushing us hard next year. It will also be interesting to see how Clare fare without Ger Loughnane."

One thing's for sure, whoever Kilkenny square up to next year, not many left-full forwards will relish the task of putting one over on Michael Kavanagh. A tight marker and skilful on the ball, he looks set for the long-haul and that's something all Kilkenny fans should be glad of.

Factfile:

Michael Kavanagh
 Age: 21
 Club: St. Lachtain's (Freshford)

Honours

1 All-Ireland SH,
 1 All-Ireland U-21H,
 3 Leinster SH and MH,
 2 Leinster U-21H,
 2 Fitzgibbon Cup,
 1 Leinster & All-Ireland Colleges SH
 1 Railway Cup.

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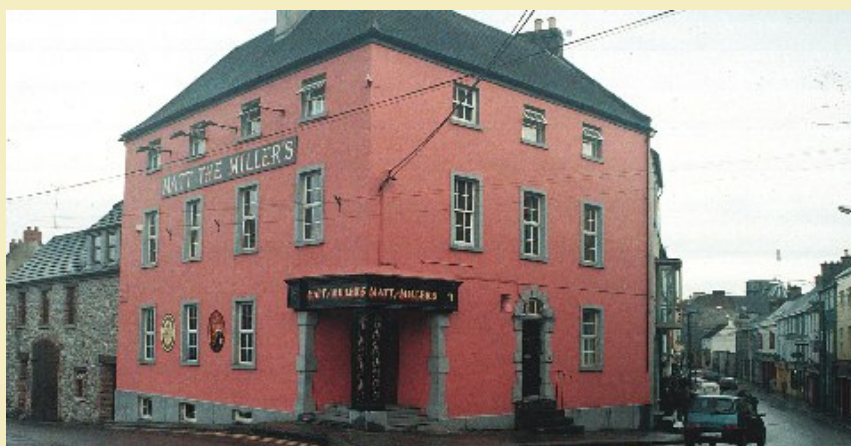
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PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE

By Mary Holden



The Primary Schools Camogie finals took place in Nowlan Park on Sat June 17th. Some close finals and a number of outstanding individual displays matched the brilliant weather. As always we are indebted to the work done at this level by teachers and club mentors. It is here that the players of the future have their skills developed and nurtured so as to be built on in years to come.

Roinn A

Urlingford 3-6 Freshford 3-2

Defending champions, Freshford, were opposed by Urlingford in the Roinn A decider. After the preliminary rounds Urlingford had beaten Kilmanagh in the quarter finals. Mullinavat provided were semi final opponents with Urlingford emerging winners on a scoreline of 1 – 2 to 0 – 1. Freshford meanwhile had a bye into the semi finals where they took two attempts to beat a gallant Ballyhale team.

The final turned out to be a tremendous game. Urlingford were first to score when Laura Kavanagh got a fine goal. Freshford quickly responded with an equaliser from full forward, Mary Dalton.

Laura Kavanagh had her second goal for Urlingford when Ann Dalton—twin sister of Freshford's first scorer—narrowed the gap with a point for her side. Freshford—going for their fourth title in a row—were ahead for the first time when Claire Fortune scored a fine goal. Late in this first half Áine Fahy and Ann Dalton swapped points to leave the holders a single point ahead at halftime (2-2 to 2-1).

Áine Fahey was the dominant force in the second half as she raced through the Freshford defence. She scored four fine points in a row to give Urlingford a three-point lead. Ann Dalton forced her way through for a Freshford goal to bring the sides level once more.

Both sides had chances in an exciting final few minutes but it was rampant Áine Fahey who finished strongest scoring a further 1-1 to leave Urlingford worthy winners.



Urlingford - Primary Schools Roinn A Camogie Champions 2000 Photo Sean d'Arcy
Back: Ms. Mary Cowhig, Amanda Connolly, Marietta Doheny, Niamh Bergin, Margaret Norton, Helen Power, Clodagh Large, Suzanne Large, Orla Stokes, Brid Leahy, Tracey Neary, Mr. Henry O'Grady.
Middle: Marian Clohosey, Bridget Campion, Marie Power, Patricia Norton, Amy Moore, Susan Breen (Captain), Claire O'Gorman, Aine Fahey, Eileen Queally, Aine McGeehan, Orla Gleeson.
Front: Eimear Bowden, Eileen Fitzgerald, Michelle Neary, Annie Doyle, Laura Kavanagh, Colette Grant, Siobhan Fahey, Elizabeth Hennessy, Sarah Byrne, Danielle Campion, Ciara O'Flaherty, Brid Breen.



Thomastown Convent Primary School Camogie Team 2000
Back: Patricia Moran, Rebecca Mullins, Aine Sheehy, Mag Laherty, Jenny Lannon, Linda Murphy, Lorraine Maher, Sinead O'Mara, Graine Stapleton, Aisling Dempsey, Breda O'Shea.
Front: Chloe Conway, Grace Brennan, Sarah Walsh, Loise Bower, Sinead Brennan, Jennifer Reddy (Capt), Rebecca Walsh, Caroline Donnelly, Ciara Coone, (missing from Photo: Darine O'Connor, Sarah Dunphy).



Listerlin - Roinn C Champions 2000
Back: Anne-Marie Greene, Margaret Ryan, Roisin Walsh, Marie Conway, Maeve Ryan, Jordanna Flynn-Wall, Rosemary Quigley, Aoife Ryan, Aoife O'Neill, Maura Healy, Anna Ryan.
Front: Claire Lanigan, Noreen Murphy, Siobhan Murphy, Noreen Lanigan, Marie Meaney, Kayleigl Morrissey, Joan Ryan, Anne Power, Mairead Ryan.



Young Irelands Primary Schools Roinn D Champions 2000

Back: Melissa Jacob, Cara O'Neill, Elaine Doyle, Aoife Connolly, Christina Foley, Ber Nolan, Margaret Nolan, Charlene Nolan.

Front: Rachel Hanlon-Kehoe, Niamh Quinlan, Laura Fennelly, Lisa Nolan Sarah Dreeling, Aoife Byrne, Frances Delaney, Andrea McEvoy, Shiela Nolan.



Rower Instioge U-13 Camogie County Finalists

Back: Nora O'Mahony(Selector), Michelle Cahill, Genevieve Murphy, Lisa Brennan, Caroline Walsh, Emma Hynes, Brid Treacy, Lisa Cassin, Martin Murphy(Selector), Sinead Hanrahan, Rita Freeney, Sarah Dunphy, Mary Lyng(Selector).

Front: Martina Grace, Catriona Crotty, Michelle Murphy, Linda O'Mahony, Sarah O'Mahony, Sinead Holohan, Eimear Curran, Ruth Kavanagh, Bridin White.



Skeaghvasteen N.S. Camogie Team

Back: Caroline O'Brien, Sarah Aylward, Emma Carroll, Collette Cleere, Christine O'Sullivan, Mary Cleere Lisa Hayden(Capt), Linda O'Brien, Fiona Barcoe.

Front: Emma Ryan, Aine Doran, Una Dalton, Stephanie Whearty, Ann Marie Lennon, Lisa Kirwan, Sinead Kelly, Avril Kelly.

This was a terrific Roinn A final and both sides contributed handsomely to an epic encounter.

Urlingford: Elizabeth Hennessy, Aine McGeehan, Claire O'Gorman, Eileen Queally, Susan Breen, Amy Moore, Aine Fahey, Sarah Byrne, Laura Kavanagh, Colette Grant, Patricia Norton, Siobhán Fahey
Subs: Danielle Campion, Marie Power, Ciara O'Flaherty, Annie Doyle, Marion Clohesey, Eimear Bowden, Eileen Fitzgerald, Tracey Neary, Brid Breen, Amanda Connolly, Clodagh Large, Michelle Neary, Orla Gleeson, Shauna Pollard, Elaine Tobin, Suzanne Large, Margaret Norton, Marietta Doheny, Orla Stokes, Niamh Bergin, Brid Leahy, Bridget Campion.

Freshford: Laura Grace, Caroline Campion, Siobhán Dawson, Marie Anderson, Christina Neary, Niamh Dawson, Ann Dalton, Kim Farrell, Claire Fortune, Stacey Beckett, Róisín Kennedy, Mary Dalton. *Subs: Angela Dalton, Shauna McGrath, Majella Bowden, Lorraine Bowden, Jennifer Hickey, Linda Rafter, and Lydia Gibbons.*
Referee: Liz Dempsey (Thomastown)

Roinn B

Thomastown 9-6 St Canice's 1-0

St Canice's represented the city in the Roinn B final where their opponents were last year's defeated Roinn C finalists, Thomastown. Thomastown had beaten Mooncoin in the quarter final and Paulstown in the semi final. St Canices had a bye to the semifinal where they defeated Muckalee who were competing in the competition for the first time.

The final saw Thomastown get off to a great start when Grace Brennan goaled for them. This was followed by a scoring spree featuring Jenny Reddy, sister of soccer star, Michael. Michael attracted an amount of attention when he arrived in the stand but the spotlight was soon shifted on to his sister as she scored 2-2 before St Canice's got their first score, a goal by Sinéad Slater.

Jenny Reddy continued on her scoring way with a further 1-2 before the half time break. Leaving Thomastown 4-4 to 1-0 ahead.

St Canice's tried hard in the second half but came up against an in-form Thomastown side who had second half scores from Lorraine Maher (2-0), Jenny Reddy (1-2), Grace Brennan (1-0) and Chloe Corrway (1-0) while Róisín Trait, Helen Byrne and Sinéad Slater tried hard for St Canice's but failed to add to their single first half goal.

Thomastown: Sinéad Brennan, Ciara Coone, Jenny Lannon, Gráinne Stapleton, Linda Murphy, Sinéad O'Hara, Rebecca Walsh, Aisling Sheehy, Margaret Laharty, Jenny Reddy, Aisling

Costello, Louise Bower. *Subs: Lorraine Maher, Sarah Walsh, Aisling Dempsey, Rebecca Mullins, Grace Brennan, Chloe Corrway, Caroline Donnelly, Sarah Dunphy, and Dairne O'Connor.*

St Canice's: Róisín Trait, Karen McPartlan, Deirdre Manning, Siobhán Slater, Niamh O'Donoghue, Helen Byrne, Ailish Sweeney, Marie Connolly, Laura Shea, Lisa Hanrick, Elaine Slater, Yvonne Hickey. *Subs: Aisling Ruesman, Stacey Dunne, Karen Hayes, Ciara McGovern, Sarah Minogue, and Elanagh Tyrrell.*

Referee: Patrick Treacy (Gowran)

Roinn C Listerlin 4-4 Rower-Inistioge 1-1

The Roinn C final brought together two south Kilkenny neighbours both of which had qualified impressively. The Rower beat Conahy in the quarter final and had a good win over St Johns in the semi final. Listerlin had a one point victory over Gaelscoil in the quarter final – 3 – 3 to 3 – 2. They went on to beat Tullaroan in semi-final.

The Listerlin mentors decided to start the game with listed goalkeeper, Siobhán Murphy at midfield. This proved to be a masterstroke as Siobhán dominated the game and opened the scoring for her team with a neat point.

This was soon followed by a Claire Lanigan goal and the Rower were finding themselves under a lot of pressure. Siobhan Murphy and Claire Lanigan added goals before half time to leave their side 3-1 to 0-0 ahead at half time.

The Tullogher girls continued to dominate in the second half. Siobhán Murphy (1-0) and Ann Marie Green (0-1) added scores with Siobhán Murphy adding two further points before the Rower selectors decided to follow the Listerlin lead and bring their goalkeeper outfield. It proved to be a good move as Linda O'Mahony soon raised a green flag for her team. The Rower added a further point through but time ran out and Listerlin were deserving winners.

Listerlin: Siobhán Murphy; Jordana Flynn Wall; Rosemarie Quigley, Joan Ryan, Maeve Ryan; Aoife Ryan, Ann Marie Green, Marie Meaney; Maura Healy, Marie Conway, Noreen Murphy, Claire Lanigan. *Subs: Róisín Walsh, Noreen Lanigan, Margaret Ryan, Mairead Ryan, Anna Ryan, Aoife O'Neill, Kayleigh Morrissey, Ann Power.*

Rower Inistioge: Linda O'Mahony, Catherine Crotty, Michelle Murphy, Caroline Walsh, Lisa Brennan, Emma Hoyne, Bríd Treacy, Eimear Curran, Martina Grace, Sarah O'Mahony, Martina Cahill, Sinéad Holohan. *Subs: Lisa Cassin, Sarah*

Hoyne, Rita Freyne, Brídín White, Sinéad Hanrahan, Andra Lyng, Sarah Dunphy, Ruth Kavanagh, and Jenevieve Murphy.
Referee: Liz Dempsey (Thomastown)

Roinn D Gowran 6-0 Skeaghvasteen 5-0

The Roinn D final brought together near neighbours Gowran and Skeaghvasteen. The Gowran girls had a fine win over Castlecomer in the quarter final and held out well to beat Piltown in the semi final on a scoreline of 4 – 0 to 3 – 0. Skeough had beaten Lisdowney in the quarter final and Callan in the semi final.

What a game the final turned out to be!

Gowran were quicker to settle and applied a lot of early pressure. Centrefield player, Andrea McEvoy was moving very well and it was no surprise that it was she who opened the scoring with a fine goal for Gowran. The Skeough backs were absorbing a lot of pressure and Andrea McEvoy was soon through for her second goal.

Skeagh began to settle midway through this half and, following a great run down the wing their star player, Emma Ryan crashed toe ball to the Gowran net. Frances Delaney added a Gowran goal before the break but Emma Ryan quickly replied with her second goal to leave Gowran a goal ahead at the break.

Gowran were quick to settle in the second half with Andrea McEvoy adding two more goals to her side's tally. With things looking bleak for Skeagh, they began to play their best camogie. Emma Ryan began to dominate the game and scored three wonderful goals to level the scores on 5 goals each. With Ber Nolan beginning to curb the effect of Emma Ryan the game was very tight. Then, just when a draw looked very much on the cards Andrea McEvoy scored the winning goal for Gowran.

Gowran: Melissa Jacob, Aoife Connolly, Christine Foley, Margaret Nolan, Lisa Nolan, Andrea McEvoy, Ber Nolan, Elaine Doyle, Frances Delaney, Cara O'Neill, Sarah Dreeeling, Aoife Byrne.

Subs: Charlene Nolan, Niamh Quinlan, Sheila Nolan, and Laura Fennelly.

Skeaghvasteen: Avril Kelly, Lisa Hayden, Stephanie Whearty, Caroline O'Brien, Fiona Barcoe, Emma Ryan, Linda O'Brien, Colette Cleere, Emma Carroll, Christine O'Sullivan, Sinéad Kelly, Ann Marie Lennon, Sarah Aylward. *Subs: E Carroll, Mary Cleere, Lisa Kirwan, Una Dalton, and Áine Doran.*
Referee: James Maher.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP 2001

Round Robin:-

Laois v Kildare and Westmeath v Meath: April 22.
Westmeath v Laois: April 29th.
Laois v Meath and Kildare v Westmeath: May 6/7th.

Quarter-Final: May 20th

Round Robin winners v Dublin.
(If Laois v Dublin at Nowlan Park)

Semi-finals: June 10th at Croke Park.

Kilkenny v Offaly.
Dublin/Round Robin winners v Wexford.



Le gach dea-mhéin ó
Chomhairle Laignin
C.L.G.

Micheál Ó Dubhshláine
Runaí



Brian & Georgy's



COACHING CORNER

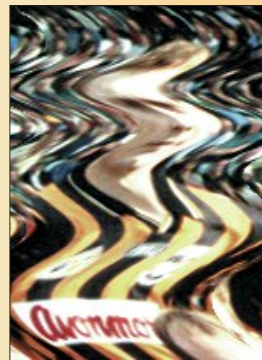
Hi,
 Hope that you are all enjoying your Christmas break. If you do get a nice day over the hols it would be no harm to head outside for a few pucks or kicks of Gaelic football to keep the "eye in" for the upcoming competitions in the new year. In the meantime, enjoy the few pieces which we have put together to pass some of your time over the Holidays, and also take a look at some of the Coaching and Games Development work, which has been undertaken in Kilkenny during 2000. Bye for now and enjoy the hols, we look forward to meeting you all in the new year,
 Brian and Georgie

BRIAN & GEORGY'S WORD SEARCH

See if you can find the Kilkenny All Ireland 2000 team in the grid below. All the players are there from goalie to No 15. Then see if you can find three "intruders" from the Offaly team.



Open Day in the Park 27/08/00
 Opportunity for Children to meet the Players
 A novel and new initiative took place in the lead up to this years All-Ireland Guinness Senior Hurling Championship Final. In order to give "cats" supporters a chance to meet their stars without disturbing the vital preparation taking place under the watchful eye of manager Brian Cody, it was decided to organise an "open day". In conjunction with the Team Management and the Kilkenny Development Committee, under the chairmanship of Development chairman Barry Hickey, wheels were put in motion to stage the event. Sponsors provided magazines, courtesy of "HighBall", refreshments for all children including Coke, Taytos and Mars bars, of which some parents received their child's allocation!!!! Due to the late arrival of one ingredient, the gates were not opened until 11.15 a.m with the sort of crowds gathering around Nowlan Park, which no-one could forecast. In the region of 3,000 cans of coke were distributed and this observer estimates in the region of 4,000 - 5,000 people attended the event. All players must have had sore wrists singing all the autographs, standing in for all sorts of photos, for the young and not so young fans



Unfortunately, Georgy put this Kilkenny hurler into his famous torture machine. Can you identify the player? He's really much better looking than this!

KILKENNY GAA HURLING/FOOTBALL COACHING BOOKLET

The Coaching and Games Promotion Officers in conjunction with the Kilkenny Development Committee and the Kilkenny Primary Schools board have joined forces to bring you these booklet productions. Available to all primary schools and clubs in the county. Hopefully the coaching aids will be of some assistance to yourselves as you undertake another coaching year. Also available on the "Resources" page of the "Kilkenny GAA Website". Log on at <http://kilkenny.gaa.ie>.

VISIT KILKENNY GAA WEBSITE

Log on to Kilkenny's informative, award winning and well-updated GAA Website. Keep up to date with all of Kilkenny's Intercounty matches from the League and Championship 2000 with reports and pictures. Check out "The Local Club scene" with well-updated "Fixtures and Results", the "Kilkenny GAA Weekly Lotto" results, as well as your chance to get involved, chat about GAA topics on our "Discussion pages". Alternatively, you can source our "Past Articles, our "All-Star" section, sure to expand this year, our "Roll of Honour Section", our "Coaching Developments", "School Board News" and our "School/Club Profiles".
 Log on to the Kilkenny GAA Website at <http://kilkenny.gaa.ie/>
 E-mail Brian Ryan coachkk@indigo.ie or Martin Fogarty at mfogarty@iol.ie

FAMILY QUIZ

RULES

(Can be worked as a table quiz)

1. Divide teams into club or county teams
1. One point for each question. Question 6 is worth three points or a goal.
2. Word search is worth one point per correct named person. 5 minutes allowed to complete word-search.
3. "Link the colours with club", one point for each correct answer .
4. Enjoy !!!!!

ROUND 1

- Q1. Who captained the Dunnamaggin team to win this years IH Championship?
- Q2. What county is known as the "Premier County"?
- Q3. Which Kilkenny clubs who have won the the All-Ireland club SH championship?
- Q4. Who refereed this years Intermediate Hurling County Final?
- Q5. The Kilkenny Senior Fotball champions are?
- Q6. Who scored the first score in this years All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final?

ROUND 2

- Q1. Who trained the Kilkenny Minor Hurling team in 2000?
- Q2. Who refereed the Junior Hurling County Final?
- Q3. In what county would you find Parnell Park?
- Q4. How many All-Star has DJ Carey won?
- Q5. How many All-stars did Galway hurlers win?
- Q6. Who beat Athenry in this year's Galway SH County Final?

ROUND 3

- Q1. Who won the Primary Schools Roinn A hurling final for 2000?
- Q2. Who sponsors the "Junior Hurling Championship in Kilkenny?
- Q3. Who captained the O'Loughlin/Gaels Senior Hurling team in 2000?
- Q4. Who sponsors the Senior Hurling Championship in Kilkenny?
- Q5. How many All-Stars did Kerry Footballers win this year?
- Q6. Which Kilkenny man refereed the All-Ireland SH Final of 1984?

ROUND 4

- Q1. Who are the county camogie champions for 2000?
- Q2. Who trained the Kilkenny Senior Camogie team in 2000?
- Q3. Name the only man to be presented with the old and new "Liam McCarthy"?
- Q4. Who won the Roinn A Minor Hurling championship for the first time in 2000?
- Q5. Where would you find Casement Park?
- Q6. Who captained Derry to win this years National Football league title?

ROUND 5

- Q1. In what year was the "Liam McCarthy" cup first presented?
- Q2. The club colours of James Stephens are?
- Q3. Name the author of "Fennessy's Field"?
- Q4. What is the name of the new book by Kilkenny star Eddie Keher?
- Q5. Who was named Centre Half back on the "Kilkenny Team of the Millenimium"?
- Q6. In what year was the Sam Maguire first presented?

ROUND 6

- Q1. Who captained Kerry in this year's All-Ireland Senior Football final?
- Q2. Who captained Graigue/Ballycallan in this year's County SH Final?
- Q3. Who is chairman of the Kilkenny County Board?
- Q4. Who is the author of the "Kilkenny GAA Bible"?
- Q5. Where would you find Dr.Hyde Park?
- Q6. Name Kilkenny's 2000 SH selectors.

CLUB MENTORS - TAKE A BOW!

Over the past few years major developments have taken place in the world of Coaching and Games development in Kilkenny. The advent of the Coaching and Games Promotion Officer, whose role is to compliment the fine work being undertaken in the county, together with Sceim Iomana, have seen plenty of new initiatives organised throughout the county. These many jobs would never have seen fruition, without the many mentors who still give of their time freely to ferry children to matches, competitions, training sessions, etc, to take care of injured parties, and to pass on their own coaching knowledge and expertise to out future generation of Gaelic games players. Clubs on their own initiative are organising such competitions as the "Lisdowney Sevens "The Jim Comerford u-10 " "The Molloy Tournament" which are complimenting the county/school based competitions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those unsung heroes, who by their trojan work will ensure that Kilkenny GAA remains to the forefront of each and every community within the county, and by doing so remains to forefront of Gaelic games in the country.

Brian and Georgie



Can you name this Kilkenny Hurler who got reversed in our



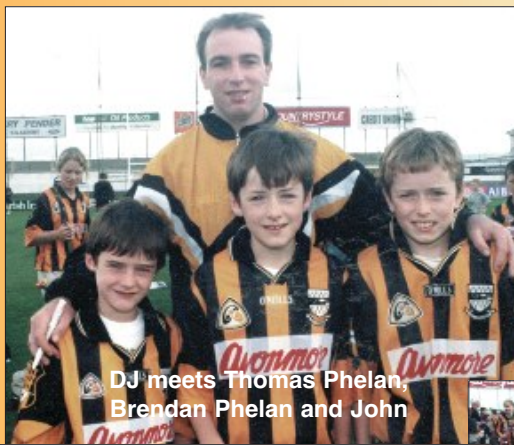
INDOOR HURLING COMPETITIONS

THIS YEAR THE COACHING AND GAMES PROMOTION OFFICERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA, HAVE ARRANGED AN EXPANSION OF LAST YEAR'S SUCCESSFUL "PILOT" INTER CLUB/SCHOOL " INDOOR HURLING COMPETITION". THIS COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AND INCLUDES EVERY CLUB IN THE COUNTY. OVER 300 CHILDREN AND CLUB/SCHOOL MENTORS GOT A CHANCE TO WITNESS "INDOOR HURLING" FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS COULD BE A GAME WHICH CLUBS CAN UTILISE DURING THE VERY DEPTHS OF WINTER.

- MATCH THE CLUBS WITH THEIR COLOURS**
- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| TULLAROAN | MAROON / WHITE |
| DICKSBORO | GREEN / GOLD COLLAR & CUFFS |
| GLENMORE | RED / GREEN |
| FENIANS | LIGHT BLUE/WHITE COLLAR & CUFFS |
| JAMES STEPHENS | WHITE/GREEN COLLAR & CUFFS |
| GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN | DARK BLUE/WHITE COLLAR & CUFFS |
| O'LOUGHLIN/GAELS | BLACK / AMBER |
| ERIN'S OWN | WHITE/GREEN SASH |
| DUNNAMMAGGIN | GREEN/WHITE SASH |
| ST.LACHTAINS | RED / WHITE STRIPES |
| MOONCOIN | GREEN / GOLD HOOPS |
| YOUNG IRELANDS | WHITE/BLUE COLLAR & CUFFS |



BRIAN & GEORGY'S PICTURE GALLERY



DJ meets Thomas Phelan, Brendan Phelan and John



Dwayne Hanrahan, Bill McCormack and William Hughes Callan at GAA Playstation Summer camps 2000

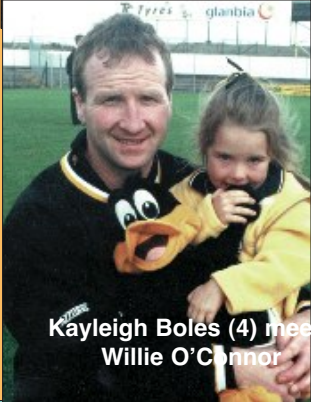
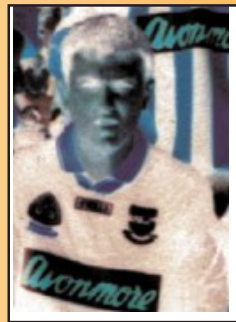
More negatives - Who are these Kilkenny players?



Sean and Michael Carey, sons of DJ and Christina



Twins Sean & Matthew Philips with sister Jordan meet Mick O'Flynn and Johnny Walsh



Kayleigh Boles (4) meets Willie O'Connor



Kilkenny Trainer, Brian Cody signs up for his fans



Are you here?



Peter Barry signs his autograph for David Garvey at Slieverue Summer camp 21.7.2000

Or Here?



Young Kilkenny supporters outside Clonliffe College on All





A group, pictured during the "County Jersey" day held at the Kilkenny / Playstation Summer camps in Urlingford, County Kilkenny during summer 2000.



U15 & U16 DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

As a continuation of last years U-15 Development squads, it was decided to expand the squad system to include the U-16 age group during 2000. These squad sessions give some of our future county players their first taste of the type of commitment, discipline and attitude required to make the Kilkenny Minor team in a few short years. Clubs, can also use this opportunity to bring your players to selectors notice, for the future.

At a meeting of the County Board it was agreed that that players must take part in the Squad sessions in order to be considered for county selection. A special committee was set up to look at the expansion of this years Development Squad set up for next year, and have had meetings with all clubs to discuss the future of such squads. A very encouraging turn out just shows the commitment that all club mentors have to ensuring that our club players and future county players are well catered for.

Organisers ; Barry Hickey , County Board Development Chairman in conjunction with the Coaching and Games Promotion Officers
Coaches : Liam Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Bobby Jackman, Brian Ryan , Georgie Leahy and Martin Gordon.



LEINSTER GAA/PLAYSTATION SUMMER CAMPS

The summer camps were once again a big success during Kilkenny's successful run to the Liam McCarthy cup. A big highlight for the youngsters was to see so many of their stars appearing as "Guest players" on the camps. Over 900 children were treated to 5-day a week, long camps, in central venues throughout the county.

Check out action from this years camps by logging on to the Kilkenny GAA Website at <http://kilkenny.gaa.ie> on the "Summer Camps" pages.

Organisers : John Knox and Paul Kinsella in conjunction with the Development Committee and The Coaching and Games Promotion Officers.

U11 CAMAÍNY COMPETITION

The u-11 ground striking competition finals took place over the five action packed weekends, commencing Sat 9th September.

This competition has become of the most successful competitions in the county with each team playing 15 preliminary games and playing four final games in Kilkenny's "theatre of dreams" Nowlan Park. In total over 1,000 children, many accompanied by their parents, were present in Nowlan Park over 5 great weekends of action, with each player receiving a specially commissioned "Camaint" medal. An annual event which is anticipated by all camaint hurlers/camogie players /parents throughout the county. The number of teams participating has risen from 32 in the first year to 42 during 2000, with many clubs entering a second team.

Organisers : John Comerford, in conjunction with The Development Committee and The Coaching and Games Promotion Officers.

U15 FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The U-15 Footballers, during the year, received expert tuition from two well known Carlow Footballers. All the tips which are passed on in these excellent coaching sessions, will hopefully be used in clubs for the further development of football in the county.

Organisers : Barry Hickey (Development Chairman) , Tom O'Hanlon in conjunction with the Kilkenny Development Committee.

APPRECIATION

A quick mention to acknowledge the assistance, regarding equipment, which "The Kilkenny Yearbook committee and "Cumann na mBunscoileanna" have supplied over the past few years to the Coaches, for use in the Coaching and Games Development arena. It has been of great benefit, and has given the Coaches the chance to develop other areas which compliment the ongoing field work.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



JAMES STEPHENS

The All-Ireland win over Offaly afforded the Club much reason to celebrate. Firstly, our clubman, Brian Cody brought more honour to our club, which was augmented by capital displays by our three representatives, Philly Larkin, Peter Barry and Brian McCevoy. The Club also contributed three players to the St.Kieran's College team who captured the All-Ireland Colleges Championship with some power-packed hurling, ultimately winning the Final against St.Flannan's from Ennis. Derek Brennan was a superb goalkeeper, while Jackie Tyrrell, and Brendan Doyle were magnificent half backs.

Earlier in the year, our club honoured another "batch" of All-Stars, when Peter Barry and Brian McEvoy were honoured by the All-Star process. They now join an illustrious band of Village All-Stars, like "Fan" Larkin, Brian Cody, Mick Crotty, Joe Hennessy, and "Chunky" O'Brien.

On the same evening, long service awards were presented to President Bill Cody, Vice-President Sean Tyrrell, and current Chairman, Liam Tyrrell. Our Junior hurlers had a blemish-free year, winning the double- League and Championship. Not since 1955 has the Junior Championship come to Larchfield. Our under 14 players won the County Féile title for the second year in a row. As Kilkenny Champions, they failed to emerge from their group in the National Finals, due to the fact that they had to travel without some injured players. Nevertheless, they had meritorious wins over Loughgiel and Dunloy, and a very good draw against Duffrey Rovers. The Paddy Mullen Tournament entertains teams from seven counties, and we won it ourselves, after a losing sequence of two years.

The Michael Phelan Tournament between the three city clubs plus Muckalee, at under 16 level produced a marvellous few games of the highest quality, with ultimate victory going to Muckalee after a marvellous final game against O'Loughlin Gaels.

Our Social Club has a memorable two-day visit to Cork in July.

The millennium photocall night brought a huge crowd to the club. Committees were "snapped", but it was only a smoke screen for bigger things on the night. The Club presented special crystal creations to our latest All-Stars, Peter Barry and



James Stephens' latest All Stars, **Peter Barry** and **Brian McEvoy**, join **Fan Larkin**, **Joe Hennessy**, **Brian Cody**, **Mick Crotty** and **Liam "Chunky" O'Brien**, former club recipients of the award. *Photo Tom Brett*



In a surprise 'This is your Life' style presentation, long serving club officers, club President, **Wm. Cody** Vice-President, **Sean Tyrrell** and current club Chairman, **Liam Tyrrell**, were honoured for their dedicated service to the club. *Photo Tom Brett*

Brian McEvoy, and what a reception they got.

The big occasion of the year was the 25th Anniversary of the all-conquering exploits of the 1975/76 team. They were the first Kilkenny and Leinster club team to win the All-Ireland Club Championship, and they were also the first team from the club to win the County Senior Football Championship. They came from all over to be "with the lads" for one more time. Niall Morrissey came from Australia, Jim Houlihan came from

Galway, Dinny McCormack from Mullingar, Tom, his brother, from Dublin, John Gargan from Cork, and Jim Dollard came from Waterford.

In a night to remember, former players relived their long lost youth, plucking sliothars out of the sky, (ceiling) pulling on the ground (timber floor) josteled for possession (at the bar), until reality re-emerged again and exhaustion finally hit, in the early hours, of a wonderful night's entertainment. Roll on the Fifty!!!!



AROUND THE

CLUBS



JOHN LOCKES

In Black and Amber

John Power and John Paul Corcoran brought home two senior All-Ireland medals. Adrian O'Sullivan captained the Kilkenny intermediates and other Lockes men on the team were Paul Morrissey, David Lynch, Declan Roche and John O'Neill. John won an All-Ireland medal with Suir Electric and third level honours with WIT.

Senior Matters

Mick Power took over the reins this year but things did not go according to plan. The Lockes failed to win any matches in the league. We lost to Shamrocks in the first round of the championship and then faced the awful prospect of a relegation play off semi-final against the mighty Fenians. Fortune shone on us and after a poor start we finally ran out comfortable winners to retain senior status.

Two Great Teams

In December the club will honour the two great Lockes teams of the 1950's— the junior champions of 1952 and the senior county champions of 1957. It is only right that these teams are honoured now for their achievements when so many of them are still hale and hearty.

Commercial!

On the commercial side this year companies were approached to advertise on the perimeter of John Locke Park. We received a terrific response which brought much needed revenue to the club. Our annual golf classic proved to be a great success and the lotto continues to yield funds.

Underage

It was a very mixed season for the minor and U16 teams. The minors were unbeaten all through the league but lost the final to Rower-Inistioge..

Piltown gained revenge on the Lockes in the first round of the championship. The u-16s were quite a young team this year and terrific work was done with them by Brendan Power and his fellow selectors Paddy Donovan, Jimmy Murphy and Willie Holden.

Juvenile Club.

Pride of place this year goes to the U9 team who won the Callan Tournament for the first time in the four years of its existence. Proud captain and Man of the Match, Daniel McCormack, received the Eamon Teehan trophy after defeating Castlecomer in the final. The U13 schools team reached the semi-finals in the championship and county cup only to suffer defeat by Mullinavat and Mooncoin respectively. Nevertheless it represented considerable progress on previous years and these lads have the potential for success in the future,

John Locke Tournament

In the John Locke Tournament the U12's qualified for the 'A' semi-final by defeating Kilmanagh and Dunnamaggin before suffering defeat at the hands of Dicksboro in what was

the game of the tournament. The eventual victors of the tournament were city club, O'Loughlin Gaels who received the Colm Nolan cup for the first time. Once again, the August weekend tournament was a huge success.

Tournament Success

John Lockes took part in the U11 camaint tournament while they also competed in the Mullinahone tournament, winning the 'B' final.

An U9 team competed in the Roanmore (Waterford) tournament while the U12's took part in Dicksboro tournaments. At the time of writing the primary school team have qualified for the Roinn C county football final for the first time since 1990.

This year sees the introduction of indoor hurling for the juveniles for the first time. This will continue throughout the winter months.

Noel Dawson and Alan Costigan represented the club on the county U14 football team while Brendan Burke won an All-Ireland handball title recently. his brother Diarmuid travelled to Chicago to represent Ireland in the world handball championships.



U9 Eamon Teehan Cup Winners 2000

Back: Jamie Doheny, Nigel Cahill, Jason Corcoran, Luke Burke, Ryan O'Dwyer, Darren O'Dwyer, Emmett Nolan, Sean Bryan.

Front: Daniel Doheny, JJ Doheny, Alan Bergin, Daniel McCormack (Capt), Shane Bergin, Matthew Houlihan, Eoin McGrath.



AROUND THE

CLUBS



KILMACOW

Over One Hundred Years of Gaelic

Games in Kilmacow Gaelic Games have been played in the parish since the early days of the Association. Indeed, Kilmacow footballers made history by being the first parish team to win a Kilkenny county championship. In 1887 Kilmacow beat a Kilkenny City team. Ballyduff, Waterford played against them also in that year. St. Patrick's football team, Kilmacow got a special invitation to play in a centenary football tournament in 1987, which they won.

All Ireland Semi-final

It was about this time that a Kilmacow Parish team played Cork in an All Ireland semi-final in Dungarvan. It is reported that a huge crowd travelled by train and some had to climb on the roof because it was so packed. It is recorded that the Kilmacow players were bigger and stronger and were victorious by four points to nil. In 1888 they again won the County championship in football.

A Problem of Unity

There has always been a problem of unity for the Dublin Road splits the parish into a east and west division. Waterford City is more convenient for the eastern side to shop, attend religious services and school. There has been a history of suspicion that players from the eastern side are ignored. Down the years, various clubs have been formed and at one time there were three separate teams in the parish— Grannagh, Dunkitt and Kilmacow Village.

County Title

It is no wonder that success at county level has been very difficult to achieve and the first county win in twentieth century was in 1942. The records show that the team was *Ned Kelly, Michael, Nick, Willie, and Stephen Kelly, Mick and Paul Crowley, Richard Aylward, Bro Benignus, Bro Camillus, Eoin O'Neill, S McDonald, W Walsh, Matthew Maher, John Costello.*

A New Club - St. Senans

In the last half of the century, hurling has always got preference despite the earlier success of the football teams. A big effort at parish unity was achieved in 1950. At a well attended meeting at Strangmills School on



Kilmacow Under 11 Winners of Camaint in Nowlan Park

Back: Joseph Delahunty, Connor Dowling, Billy Joe Murray, Ricky Stacey, Ivan Power, Edward Brick, Shane Deegan, Gerry Harney, Thomas Durney, Damien O'Brien, Cregg Waters

Front: Adrian Crowe, P.J. Ivory, Owen Sheehan, Daniel Malone, Richard McNamara, Emmet Blanchfield, Declan Walshe, Patrick Sheehan

December 3rd, it was agreed to form a new club - Saint Senan's. The colours adopted were green and white. Membership subscription was a half crown. The committee of this fledgling club was hard working and succeeded in getting a competent panel of players together. **A Great Year**

After five years of failure to win anything, they made a major breakthrough in 1956 and had the unique distinction of winning the double at junior level in hurling and football. This panel of players included:- Paddy Lawlor, Sean Whelan, Sean Connolly, Jimmy Dunphy, Henry Matthews, Michael O'Neill, John Linnane, Jim Fleming, Billy Atkins, Jim Phelan, Paddy Grace, Ned Fleming, Ned Hoban, Pat Forristal, Bill Kinsella, Paddy Hoban, Mick Fleming, Patrick Quinlan, Tony Dowling, Sean Costello. This win qualified the club to play senior hurling and football but the supporters are still waiting for the next adult success in hurling.

1987 - Breakthrough! In the late seventies there was a split again in the parish and a new club Saint Patrick's was formed. The new club agreed to concentrate exclusively on Gaelic Football. In 1987 they made the breakthrough and won the Junior Championship by beating Railyard at

Nowlan Park on a wet and windy October evening. This panel included;- *Seamus Skehan, Gerry Mulligan, Michael Flynn, Peadar Kelly, Martin Grace, Jimmy Hennebery, Seamus Purcell, Greg Power, Sean Caulfield, Sean Ryan, Andy Ryan, Seamus Ryan, Paul Grace, Dick Tyler, Jack Tyler, Bobby Ryan.*

Kilmacow GAA Club

In 1990, discussions took place between St. Patrick's football club and St. Senan's hurling club under the chairmanship of the late Ted Carroll because of the wasteful double cost of insurance and registering of same players for both codes. It was agreed that both clubs would disband and a new club, Kilmacow Hurling and Football Club, would look after the interests of all those who wanted to play Gaelic games. In 1996, this club held a reunion social to present special memorial trophies to all those who played in the 1956 championship and brought the double to Kilmacow for the only time.

Great Expectations As the century draws to a close, there are heightened expectations that the present panel of special junior hurlers will again bring glory to the parish. They await a date to play John Locke's in the Southern Final as this article is being prepared.



AROUND THE

CLUBS



LISDOWNEY

Officers 2000

President: Fr. O'Farrell
 Vice President: Fr. Condon
 Chairman: PJ Kenny
 Vice Chairman: Shay Downey
 Secretary: John Mackey
 Asst. Sec.: Catherine McEvoy
 Treasurer: Lar Carroll
 PRO: Paul Tallis
 Northern Board Delegate: John Mackey.
 Committee: Kieran Costelloe, Tom Carroll, Marie Kenny, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Paul Bergin.
 Junior Hurling Selectors:
 Michael Campion, Dick Blanchfield, Michael Murphy.
 Sp. Junior Selectors: PJ Kenny, Tony O'Hara, Paul Tallis.

On The Field

The Junior and U-21 teams both reached the Northern Semi-finals of the Championships. The Juniors began well in the League with some solid displays but lost out in the latter stages of the campaign. They defeated Graigue-Ballycallan and Johnstown in the Championship and lost to James Stephens in the Northern Semi-Final in Nowlan Park.

They participated in the William Quinn Tournament in Thurles and won it defeating Thurles Fennellys in the final. The Junior team was presented with a Cup and medals after the match.

The U-21s were beaten by Clara in the Northern Semi-Final of the Championship.

The Special Juniors got to the Semi-

Finals of the League and were beaten in the second round of the Championship by a strong Emeralds side.

Juvenile

All under-age teams played good matches during the year. The Primary school team had their best run in years reaching the semi-final and beaten by John Lockes.

The Community Games team won the football county final beating Glenmore-Tullagher Rosbercon. Perhaps this is the beginning of something good for Lisdowney football!

Coaching

Thanks to Georgie Leahy and John Phelan who provided valuable coaching to our underage players on Saturdays. Good coaching is essential for development of the necessary skills at an early age.

Appreciation

Thanks to all the Officers of the club for their work during the year. A lot of time was given unselfishly during the past year for the successful running of Lisdowney GAA Club.



Memory Lane - Lisdowney 1956

Back: Nicky Murphy, Ber Drennan, Jack Kelly, Jim Delaney, Mick Carroll, Harry Quirke, Ted Carroll, Martin McEvoy.

Front: Ned Wall, Noel Murphy, Martin Ryan, Dick Blanchfield, Mick Henderson, Billy Fogarty, Ned Walsh.

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AROUND THE

CLUBS



MOONCOIN

Honoured

On 19 Feb. 2000 a plaque was unveiled at the GAA Centre by County Chairman Ned Quinn to honour the late Noel Doyle's contribution to club and parish. Pat O'Neill, Captain of Suir engineering paid tribute to Noel as a GAA man and employer.

Suir Make History

Suir Engineering made history by capturing their third consecutive All Ireland Inter-Firm hurling title. Well done to Eddie Crowley, manager, and his team.

County Players

Liam Sutton won a Leinster Intermediate medal. Eoin Hennebry represented the club on the South Junior team. Domo Connolly and Paddy Crowley played on the Masters side. Johnny Phelan, Jamie McGrath and Richard Kinsella won All Ireland medals with Kildalton.

Bereavements

During the year, John Kinsella, Ardera, and Tom Phelan, Luffany, died. Both men played with the club at all levels and were great supporters of the club. To their wives and all the families in our club who suffered bereavements during the year we extend our sympathies.

U-16

The team managed by Joe Dunphy won the Southern championship but unfortunately lost to Blacks & Whites in the county final. They also ended our league hopes after a replayed semi-final.

U-14

After a good run in the Paddy Grace tournament, we lost to a strong Dicksboro outfit. We had a good championship campaign but lost to

Tullagher in the semi-final.

Waterford City Leagues

Pride of place must go to the U12 team who had a fine victory in the Waterford City League. They beat all before them including a good Roanmore side in the final.

Many of these players also played in the U13 Waterford City League and did very well. We played a great final against De La Salle but

the team, managed by Joe Wall, lost narrowly.

Presentation Night

On 20 October, inter county star, Peter Barry presented medals to our juvenile teams. A great social night was enjoyed by members, parents and players.



Mooncoin U-13 - Waterford City League Finalists

Back: Thomas Hennebry, Liam Hennebry, Chris Hearne, Shane Dowley, Jamie Cody, Sean Wall, John Kenny, Frank Wall. **Front:** Pauric Doody, Shane Walsh, Christopher O'Hanlon, Michael O'Hanlon, Michael Grace, Kevin Law, Joseph O'Hanlon.



Mooncoin - U-11 Camaint Team

Back: Mark Fitzperald, Noel O'Keeffe, PJ Rowe, Shane Walsh, Nicky Hennebry, Richie Doyle. **Front:** Thomas Healy, AJ Wall, John Healy, Liam Wash, Stephen Crowley, Donnacha Hassett.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



MUCKALEE FOOTBALL CLUB

The year 2000 did not bring any silverware to the club but a lot of progress was made, especially with the senior team who made it to the county semi-final. It took three games before Dicksboro eventually came out on top to contest the final. Muckalee were drawn in a group which contained Piltown, Graigue-Ballycallan, Kilmoganny and Railyard.

They drew with Graigue-Ballycallan and beat Piltown in their first two games. Kilmoganny beat them by a point and Railyard beat them by two points in their next two games to leave them playing Glenmore in the first round. They beat Glenmore by two points and were then drawn against Erin's Own in the quarter-final. They won this game easily to earn a shot at Dicksboro in the semi-final. However, as already stated, luck deserted them at this stage.

The junior team had no luck either in their quest for glory and was soundly beaten by Railyard away and by Danesfort at home.

The U-21 team got a walkover from Clara in their first game but were beaten by three points by Railyard in the Northern semi-final. On the day, they had to field some very young players for one reason or another, but they had to give second best to a better balanced Railyard outfit.

The under age teams from minor down are now under the umbrella of our sister club St. Martin's.

Congratulations must go to the u-14 team who retained the Roinn B championship. This augurs well for the future of football in the parish.

A very successful league was run after Christmas in which four teams took part made up of minors, u-21, junior and seniors. It was run over four Sundays. It helped to get players fit and gave them a bit of football practice which



Muckalee' Senior Football Champions 1977
Front: Pat Maher, Martin Morrissey, Larry Maher, Zack Morrissey, Mikey Maher, Murty Coonan, Jimmy Kelly, Nicky Morrissey, Tom Daly (Trainer & Chairman)
Back: Patsy Moran, Dick Nolan, Jim Moran, Jimmy Maher, Brendan Morrissey, Tom Maher, Tom Moran, Nicky Morrissey, Anthony Maher, John Moran, Martin Nolan, Paddy Morrissey. Also in picture: John Morrissey, Padraic Hunt, Micheal Brennan and John Nolan.

stood to them for the championship.

One sad note for the club was the enforced retirement of Eamonn Morrissey or "Yommie" as he is more popularly known. Eamonn was probably known better as one of the parish's most famous hurlers but he was also a footballer of considerable talent and will be sorely missed.

On the development front, preparatory work was done for the extension to the existing dugout in the pitch in Muckalee. Pat Hanlon, America, who was home during the year, will generously fund this venture. He left Clopook at the young age of sixteen and eventually settled in Tampa, Florida where he set up a very successful business. He returns home every year and loves attending G.A.A. matches. He

has always remained a true Muckalee and St. Martins hurling supporter and we are indebted to him for his generosity. Some more poles were erected near the existing ones at the rear of the goal posts during the summer.

Malachy Murphy, Ballyfoyle, of MGM Construction, very kindly sponsored a full set of shorts and socks for the senior semi-final which was a great help to the club and ensured that the team looked well on the day. He has also agreed to sponsor the football team for the next three years which must be a first for football clubs in Kilkenny.



Coon/Muckalee U13 Football Team
Back: C O'Flynn, K Tynan, MI Nolan, P Dowling, T Breen, T Coonan, C Maher, C Kelly.
Middle: D Holohan, F lawlor, E Kelly, P Nolan, C McGrath, N Darcy, O Walsh, R Hogan.
Front: T McPhillips, G Doyle, A Ring, G Brennan, J O'Brien, G Walsh, P Doran, E Downey.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



MULLINAVAT

Coaching Developments: Mol an Óige

Great work continues to be done by our dedicated underage coaches: Michael Duggan, John Haberlin, Liam Kenneally and Pakie Wall. Their U11 charges had a good season and performed well in the finals in Nowlan Park. The hard work put in by these men and by local teacher Tom O'Brien over the past three years paid dividends when our primary school team, had their most successful year ever reaching five finals in all: Corn De Bháldraithe champions, I.N.T.O. sevens football champions, I.N.T.O. sevens hurling finalists, Roinn C hurling finalists, and Corn na Tuaithe finalists. Well done to all concerned. The Sean Tyler tournament was added in July and, to round off a great season, Nicholas Anthony and Mark Dempsey had the honour of playing in Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final day. Congratulations also to the hardworking parents' group in Bigwood for providing a new playing field and community hall adjacent to the school. This should greatly benefit the juvenile players from the area.

Under 16's:

Fr. Liam Barron P.P. took charge of our under 16's and this squad worked hard all year and had a great run in the championship battling their way to the county final. Unfortunately, they came up against an outstanding St. Martin's team but they can look back on their year with great satisfaction as they gave their supporters great value.

On the playing field:

In the dying moments of 1999, the Roinn-B under-21 hurling championship was won and the 1998 football title was added a few weeks later. In May 2000 the Intermediate Football Championship was won for the first time after a close encounter with O'Loughlin's in Nowlan Park. We hoped this might be a good omen for the hurlers. When the Bus Eireann all county league title (and the boots) were won in July in Nowlan Park after a great game against St. Martin's, hopes were high that the Intermediate team might go one better than they did in 1999. However the team failed to improve on that performance and, after qualifying for the league semi-final, where they were unlucky to be beaten, their form disappeared when it was



Down memory lane: Bigwood - 1979 Junior Football Champions

Back: Philly O'Neill (Sec.) Michael Duggan, Nick Fitzgerald, John Delaney, Michael Delahunty, Paudie Holden, Jim Walsh, Timmy Gough, John Fitzgerald, Jim Dollard, Davy Aylward, Pascal Power, **Front:** Eamon Kelly, Michael Dollard, Andy Aylward, Sean O'Neill, Tommy Duggan (capt.), James Aylward, Michael Fitzgerald (R.I.P.), Leo Carroll, John Foskin, Pat Duggan.



Mullinavat U11 Camáint panel at the finals in Nowlan Park

Front: Thomas Jones, Ger O'Brien, John Fitzpatrick, Gerard Malone, James Dalton, Daniel Davis, Pat Mulhern, Thomas Mulhern, Gary Law, Ciaran Wall, Padraic Gahan. **Back:** John Haberlin (coach) Padraic Frisby, Edward Freyne, Ian Duggan, Tommy Lanigan, Paul Haberlin, Kieran Corcoran, Niall Coughlan, Joseph Gahan, James Culleton, Paul Culleton, James Walsh, Michael Malone, Niall Frisby, Robert Jones, John Reade, Michael Duggan (Manager).

most needed. An unimpressive win against Bennetsbridge saw them meet up with Dunnamaggin in the semi final in October. On the day there were no excuses as they failed to sparkle and went out of the championship after an insipid performance. And so, a year that began with much promise ended in disappointment. The players know that the Intermediate title is within their grasp and the lessons learned this year will hopefully spur them on to greater efforts in the coming year.

Obituary:

The parish was shocked at the untimely death of Michael Fitzgerald, Fahee, in October. One of the great characters of the parish, Mick the Miller as he was affectionately known, was a long serving playing member of Mullinavat hurling club and Bigwood football club. He was a member of the victorious 1979 junior football panel, the 1984 Junior-hurling panel, and the 1989 Intermediate-hurling panel. He played senior football with the county team in 1979. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



AROUND THE

CLUBS



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

The year 2000 will long be remembered as a historic one in the history of the club. Andy Comerford, who had become the first player from the club to receive an All Star Award when he was picked on the 1999 All Star Hurling Team, also became the first player to bring an All Ireland Senior Hurling Medal to the club. He was joined on the panel by Sean Dowling.

On the club scene, our seniors qualified for their first county final. They started their championship campaign with victory over Clara and followed this with a great win over Young Irelands that set them up for a clash with city rivals Dicksboro in the semi-final. Two goals in the first half set them up for victory and a place in the final against Graig-Ballycallan who were contesting their third final in a row. After a spirited display that had them in with a shout up to the last few minutes, they eventually had to give best to the experienced Ballycallan team.

Our Junior Team were winners of the special junior 'A' All County league and have also reached the county championship final.

The U21's have reached the Northern Final where they will play city rivals James Stephens. Great praise is due to all connected with our teams and long may it continue.

Juvenile Section

Juvenile section the Sunday morning hurling coaching continues to be a success with boys from 6 years to 12 years of age been catered for. Team from U9 down competed in tournaments in Waterford, Callan while the U10's also competed in the Camáint competition while street leagues were also run during the summer. Well done to coaches John Wemyss, Kevin Lenihan, Mike Bourke (U8), John Grant, Tony Forristal (U10). The U12's had a great season winning the Callan, Ballingarry, Leinster Féile while finishing runners-up in the Denis Molloy cup (Dicksboro tournament). The U11's competed in the Camáint competition, and there were also street leagues held during the summer. Several mem-



O'Loughlin gaels Camáint Team 2000

Back: David Rice, Mark Bergin, Andrew Smith, Chris Lambert, David Carter.

Front: Philip Johnston, Joe Walsh, Michael McCarthy, Brian Cooper, Brian McPartlan

bers of the U12 team won the Roinn A schools county final with the CBS; they were Mark Bergin, Mark Kelly, Conor Bergin, Niall Kiely, Stephen Murphy and Darren Leahy. Over 50 boys attended training sessions since last February. Coaches here were Denis Tyrrell, Ger Deegan, Richie Kearns, James O'Donoghue, Gerry Tyrrell.

The U13's won the club's own tournament, the Diarmuid Shortall Tournament after a great win over Dicksboro. Eight teams competed for the cup and shield. North Kildare won the shield after beating St Martin's. The other teams were Ballingarry, Geraldine O'Hanrahan's (New Ross), Clara and the Harps of Durrow.

Three members of the U13 team won the roinn a schools county final with the CBS; they were Sean Hickey, Stephen Tyrrell and Brendan Delaney

The U14's had a great start to the year when winning the Roinn B Coillte Final. They also qualified for the semi-finals of both the Roinn A Hurling and football championships as well as the semi-final of the Féile. Maurice Nolan won the county Féile skills competition and had the honour of representing his club and county at the All Ireland Féile in Belfast. Maurice also played with the county U14 team in the Tony

Forristal tournament in Waterford. Selectors were Benny Cleere, Hugh Mahon and Johnny Sheridan. Maurice Nolan and Niall McEvoy both won Leinster schools medals with St Kieran's College.

The U16's were runners up in the James Stephens tournament when going down to St Martin's in the final. In the championship, they were beaten by Dicksboro. Most of the team are underage next year. Selectors were Philly Holohan, Brian Murphy and Peter Dowling. Peter Dowling and Paul O'Brien won Rice Cup medals with Kilkenny CBS, while Peter Dowling is currently captain of the CBS junior team in this year's Leinster final. The minors put in some great performances in the league but were beaten in the championship by Dicksboro. Brian Dowling represented the club at minor county level. Brian Hogan, Brian Dowling and James O'Keeffe all won All Ireland colleges medals with St Kierans college.

Juvenile committee

Chairman: John Joe Cullen

Vice Chairman: Peter Dowling

Secretary: Hugh Mahon

PRO: Gerry Tyrrell

Bord na nÓg: Peter Dowling & Seanie Tyrrell



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



PILTOWN

Juveniles

It was another very busy year for our young hurlers and footballers, with a huge number of games played at all levels from U-9 to Minor. Teams were fielded at U-10, 11, 12 and 13 in the Waterford City Hurling Leagues. These competitions, along with the U-11 Camaint series, are proving invaluable in developing the skills of our youngest players.

At primary schools' level, Piltown won their first hurling title since 1988, with a thrilling victory over Castlecomer in the Roinn B Final.

Many of these players also competed in the U-14 B & A county hurling and football finals. Tullogher-Rosbercon were too strong for our hurlers, however, while Castlecomer defeated our footballers in a closely-contested final.

Success may have eluded our U-16's and minors, but the hard work put in by trainers and players was admirable.

After a break of several years, it was wonderful to see camogie training recommence. With the number of young girls attending, future prospects look very encouraging.

Junior Hurling

Disappointment was the lot of our junior hurlers in their first year back from the intermediate grade. Unbeaten in the south league championship, they qualified for the southern final with a superb performance against Kilmacow.

They had a two month wait for their next game which saw them notch up a hard-earned win against Wingap to capture the south junior title.

In a very evenly contested county final, they just failed to a sharper James Stephens outfit on the day and must set about the task again in the new year.

Michael Phelan and his eager team

put in a huge effort but the unavailability of some key players, and a very small panel, hindered their efforts to make a quick return to the intermediate grade.

Special Juniors

Registering one win in four league games and conceding one walk-over, this team lost heavily to Dunnamaggin in the championship. This was partly due to losing six to the junior team whilst their opponents hadn't lost anyone as their intermediates hadn't played a knockout game in the championship as well as failing to provide a panel for training. On the positive side, a large number of younger players had to be fielded for the last game and this should help to give much-needed numbers for club training in 2001.

U-21

They put up a great battle against Tullogher before being beaten in the final minutes, despite having to field U-14 players.

U-17 Tournament

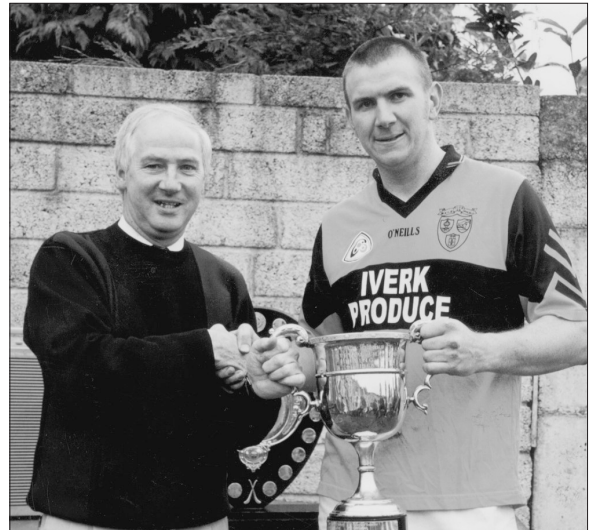
Victory in the 1999 final and a place in this year's final augurs well for next year's minors.

Football

The senior footballers had little luck in fielding full-strength sides. They had two very good displays against Muckalee and eventual winners, Kilmoganny, but returned tamely in the relegation game to intermediate status.

Congratulations

Michael Gordon donned the Kilkenny jersey in the National Hurling League



Paddy Gaule, Southern Board Chairman, presents the Fr John Kearns cup to James Farrell, captain of Piltown, Southern Junior champions

as well as winning a Leinster intermediate hurling medal and winning a Dublin senior hurling championship with UCD.

David Kirby gained his place in goal on DCU's Fitzgibbon Cup side which reached the quarter-final spot.

Club Development

FAS workers have kept the grounds and premises in very good condition during the year. Further improvements are planned for the lounge area of the social club. Work on the nets behind the goals in the back field will soon be completed.

Co-Op Draw

This still provides much needed revenue for the club and membership was up for the year.

The 'Play for the Park' Lotto still continues to struggle despite tremendous work by club treasurer David Kinsella.

Obituary

Willie Walsh, The High Road, died suddenly during the year. He played for the Suir Rangers hurling team which represented the parish in the earlier part of the last century.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



ROWER/INISTIOGE



ROWER INISTIOGE - JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2000

Back: Richard Tierney, Manager, C. Keher, B. Cottrell, N. Lyng. Bolger, J. Murphy, G. Fitzpatrick, R. Flood, T. Digby, B. Bolger, M. Byrne, J. Galavan, N. Cottrell, Selector, P. Flood.
Front: A. Proctor, J. Griffin, M. Drea, M. Doyle, P. Sheehan, M. Grace, N. Kenny, R. Kelly.

The Rower-Inistioge GAA Club has enjoyed a very successful start to the new millennium with county titles in Hurling, Football, and Camogie. The Bord na nÓg Club had one of their most successful years to-date with County titles in the U14 hurling league and championship, U14 Football, U11 ground hurling, minor Hurling league, and now awaiting the Northern champions in the Minor B hurling county Final. The U14 team under Manager Benny Holohan and his fellow selectors were simply unbeatable this year in hurling and football, making up for the disappointments of 1999 where they were beaten in three county finals. The great progress of this team was evident in the final of the rejuvenated Clover Meats tournament in Waterford where they turned in one of the displays of the year to beat a much-fancied Shamrocks side in a thrilling final.

The schools team were a little unlucky not to have achieved more this year as they suffered narrow defeats in a number of their games. The displays of the U10 hurlers in reaching the final of the Caulfield's south east hurling league where they were narrowly beaten by the home side was more evidence of the great work being done by Peter Nolan, Jimmy Cashin and Co in coaching and promoting our national game. This year

the Club was able to field two teams in the U11 ground hurling competition as a result of the large number of children playing hurling in the Club. These successes, together with victories in the Danesfort U10 tournament, Roanmore U9 group Final, and the introduction of training and coaching for the U8's is evident that under-age Hurling is alive and healthy in the parish of Inistioge.

The U16 Hurlers with Jim Mooney and Co to the fore were unlucky to be beaten by St. Martin's in the League final having led for 80% of the game. Our hopes of an opportunity to avenge this defeat in the Championship were not to be, as Mullinavat beat us by a narrow margin in the Southern Final.

The minor hurlers are now preparing for the Minor B championship final under Manager Martin Baron, Trainer Pat O'Neill and fellow selectors. The minors have already been victorious in the league where they narrowly defeated John Lockes in a thrilling final.

At the start of the year the Club looked forward with great optimism to the U21 championship. Having defeated John Lockes in the first round of the championship, our hopes of reaching the South Final were dashed by a very young and determined Carrickshock team in the

semi-final.

The intermediate team and our Special Juniors suffered early exits from their respective Championships. The intermediates went down to Freshford by a margin of two points in the first round of the championship having enjoyed little success in the league. However the determination and commitment shown in defeating neighbours Tullagher in the relegation play-off was encouraging for the future.

The great promise shown at under-age Football was finally realised this year at adult level with a great victory in the Junior Football county Final against Danesfort. With Richard Tierney and Noel Cotterell as joint managers, the Junior Footballers gave a great second-half display to record a memorable victory.

The Club were very honoured this year with the selection of Eddie Keher on the team of the Century. Eddie, one of the all time greats' has served Club and County proudly for over the past 40 years.

The Club would also like to congratulate the Kilkenny senior hurlers for their great achievement in capturing the Liam McCarthy cup this year and to thank them for all the wonderful memories we have of Croke Park this year.



AROUND THE CLUBS



SLIEVERUE

This being the millennium year, it was an occasion in many communities to reflect on past generations and their achievements. The process of looking to the past highlighted how indebted Slieverue GAA Club is to past and present generations in keeping the Club active in difficult circumstances since 1884, the very year the G.A.A was founded. In an effort to try and consolidate the link between past and present generations of members, the committee decided to symbolically represent that link with a new club crest.



Slieverue's Refurbished Dressing Rooms



The crest has a number of symbolic representations within it. There are five main elements within the crest: -

1. The predominant colours are black and amber, representing the Club colours.
2. The majority of the text is red Gaelic script. The red represents Sliabh Rua – translation - red rock or red mountain.
3. A Castle is depicted within the crest representing the three castles in the Parish.
4. The overall shape of the crest is round representing a football. Within this ball is the familiar stitching of a sliothar. This represents the predominant games within the Club.
5. Lastly at the bottom of the crest is the blue representing the two rivers – the Barrow and the Suir, and 1884 was the year Slieverue Club was founded.

This year also saw debate within the committee as to the needs of future generations. The refurbishment of the Club dressing rooms was ongoing and was

due to be finished this year. The Club membership felt that room was needed for more pitches but the location of the Club so close to Waterford meant that land purchase was out of the question. It was decided that efficient use of existing grounds was the only alternative to the Club. With this in mind, a survey was carried out and it was found that a juvenile pitch could be fitted into the existing grounds. This would be of enormous benefit in alleviating the ever-increasing demand on the adult pitch.

Work on the new juvenile pitch started during the summer and is scheduled to be finished in October 2001. The work that will have to be carried out is very extensive. It will include moving the existing adult pitch, laying drains and the erection of no less than three sets of nets. This will be a very expensive exercise for the Club but it is the most cost-effective action open to it. The bottom line is if the Club is to stay vibrant in the future and continue its long history, these are the minimum facilities needed.

This year was the first year in a long time that the club had a representative on the Kilkenny U-14 team that took part in the Tony Forristal tournament. Gavin Quilty secured the position of goalkeeper and had a very successful tournament. There are one or two others in the club at juvenile level capable of making county teams. Let's hope things work out for them in the future. The Slieverue U14 and U13 teams did very well this year. The U-14 's were beaten in the

Southern final by the Rower/Inistoige who eventually ran out easy winners of the competition. This team improved enormously throughout the year and we hope the best is yet to come. Some of the members of this team were also on the U-13 team that won the U-13 Waterford City League earlier in the year. Congratulations to everyone concerned.

Slieverue GAA Club lost two valued and loyal members during the year with the deaths of Gretta O'Niell and Tom (Builder) Walsh. Gretta was the wife of our long-serving treasurer, Michael. She was a very active and enthusiastic club worker for all club projects. Gretta was also an accomplished camogie player winning a Senior County Championship with St Clairs (Ballymountain) in 1958. Gretta's untimely death was regretted by everyone associated with the Club.

Tom Walsh had a long playing career, playing with both Slieverue and the great Carrickshock team of the 1940's. His first success was winning a Junior County Football Championship with Slieverue in 1939. With Carrickshock, he won four Senior Hurling Championship medals. Towards the end of his career he was back with Slieverue and won a Junior Hurling Championship medal in 1950 and was a member of the Slieverue Senior Championship team of 1954. When his playing career was over, he turned his talents to fund-raising activities and these talents were honed in both sporting and political circles. May they both rest in peace



AROUND THE CLUBS



ST MARTIN'S

St. Martin's made a brave bid to return to senior hurling, after one year at Intermediate level, but were disappointingly beaten by Dunnamaggin in the Championship final. However, looking back, it was a good year and could have been a great year for the club. We contested the final of all three Intermediate competitions, All County Intermediate League, Vale Oil League and Championship but, unfortunately, came away with only the League Title.

Shane O'Neill Hurling Tournament

In April St. Martin's travelled to St. Brigid's in Dublin to play in the Shane O'Neill Hurling Tournament. This tournament was first organised in 1997 following the untimely death of Shane at the age of 25. Shane was nephew of Phil Shore of Coon and first cousin to Philip who plays with St. Martins. Shane was a keen fan of hurling and played with St. Brigid's senior team. He was an avid follower of the fortunes of St. Martin's and also of Kilkenny hurling. The entire tournament is played over one week-end with teams from Wexford, Kilkenny and Dublin participating. This year St. Martin's defeated St. Brigid's in the semi-final and were beaten by one point, in a very entertaining game, by Raparees of Wexford.

Tom Kinsella Memorial Cup.

St. Martin's hurling tournament for the Tom Kinsella Memorial Cup was contested this year by St. Martin's and old rivals and neighbours Erin's Own, Castlecomer. At the end of a keenly contested final, Erin's Own won by one point.

Best Wishes.

Congratulations to Conor Moloney, Coon and Martina Ryan, Muckalee who were married in August, also, to Aidan Lawlor, Coon and Tracey Cummins, Castlecomer who married in October.

Eamonn Morrissey

The enforced retirement of Eamonn Morrissey (Yommie) during this years campaign was a severe blow to the championship aspirations of both St. Martin's hurling club and Muckalee football club.

Eamonn transferred to St. Martin's from O'Loughlin's at age 18. A sub on the St. Martin's team which won the Kilkenny Senior Championship in 1984, he helped St. Martin's to glory with one memorable point from under the stand in the All Ireland Club Final replay. He was also on the St. Martin's team which was beaten in the 1991 County Final. Eamonn was also an accomplished footballer and won two county championships with Muckalee Football Club in 1987 and 1991.

Eamon represented Kilkenny at minor and U21 level and joined the senior panel in 1988, winning a NHL medal in 1990, Leinster medals in '91, '92 and '93 and All Ireland medals in '92 and '93, a Railway Cup medal in '93 and an All Star award in 1990. In 1996 he transferred to Dublin as work and travel commitments were taking their toll. He spent three years with O'Tooles Club in Dublin, where he won two county championships and played with Dublin's senior team. He decided



St Martin's - Winners Declan Byrne Memorial Tournament 2000

Photo Tom O'Neill

Back: Mark Nolan, James Maher, Diarmaid Brennan, James Kelly, Jonathan Walsh, Aidan Murphy, Brian Mulhall, Michael Keane, Con Hogan, Pádraig Haughney, Niall Gibbons.

Front: Luke Maher (Physio), Robbie Healy, John Mulhall, John Maher, Eoin Holohan, Eoin Bolger, Ronan Maher (Capt), James Dowling, Shane Comerford, Joe Maher, Chris Mahony, Canice Maher (Selector).

to end his playing career with his home club, St. Martin's, and duly returned in 1999. His retirement this year, due to ill health, will be sorely felt. We thank Eamonn, Muckalee's most decorated player, for the memories, and both clubs send him their sincerest wishes for a healthy and enjoyable retirement.



Presentation by St Anthony's Gaels, Leeds to St Martin's who hosted St Anthony's on a visit at Easter. Patsy Murphy, John Keogh (St A), Eddie Stapleton (St A and formerly St Martin's - the link man), Tyrone Brennan, (St A), Anthony Maher, Ann Kelly, Sean Kelly (St A), Paul Kinsella and Marie Keogh (St A) The success of the weekend was due mainly to the hospitality of the host families to whom the Club is extremely grateful.

Photo Tom O'Neill

St. Martin's Bord na nÓg.

Officers 2000 were:- *Chairman:* Tony Maher, *V/Chairman:* Richard Nolan, *Secretary:* Patsy Murphy, *Treasurer & PRO:* Ann Kelly, *Bord na nOg Reps:* Johnny Buggy & Patsy Murphy. Our U'14's won the Roinn B Football Championship and also the Declan Byrne Hurling Tournament. The U'16's won the League and C'ship double and the Michael Phelan Memorial Tournament.

Our Minors were beaten in the League Final, after a great game of hurling, by Emeralds. In the Championship the team has qualified for the Northern Final and hopes are high that this team can go all the way this year.

The U'8's played in the Roanmore Tournament and lost out in the Final on score difference.

The U'10's are again taking part in the Jim Comerford Tournament which is in progress at the moment.

The U'11's won their group in the camáint finals at Nowlan Park.

The U'12's won their section of the Leinster Mini Feile in Dublin and also took part in the

Denis Molloy Cup run by the Dicksboro Club. U'13's took part in the Lisdowney Sevens and were beaten in the Shield Final for the second year in a row. They were also unlucky to be beaten in the Shield Final of the O'Loughlin Gael Tournament.

A number of under age players represented the Club at county level during the past year.

U'14 Hurling: Ronan Maher *U'14 Football:* Ronan Maher, Aidan Murphy and James Maher. *U'15 Hurling:* Shane Cadigan *U'15 Football:* Eoin McGrath, David Shore, Ciaran Byrne and Eamonn Buggy. *U'16 Hurling:* Shane Coonan. *Minor Football:* Brendan Maher, Stephen Murphy, Thomas Kinsella, and Ciaran Kelly *Handball:* Patrick Nolan and Brian Mulhall won All-Ireland medals.

The Club had a number of selectors with county teams last year.

U'14 Hurling: Tony Maher *U'14 Football:* Patsy Murphy. *U'15 Football:* John McGrath. *U'16 & Minor Football:* Richard Nolan

The Club also had ten players, who won Bronze Medals with Clara/Muckalee in the Community Games U'12 at Mosney. The winners were: P. Nolan, Jos. Maher, J. Maher, J. Dowling, C. McGrath, J. Mulhall, M. Murphy, N. Darcy, C. Kelly and F. Lawler.

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AROUND THE **CLUBS**



ST LACHTAIN'S

All-Ireland

Congratulations to Michael Kavanagh on winning his first All-Ireland Senior medal. The disappointments of the previous years were quickly forgotten as Michael's and Kilkenny's performances were celebrated with great gusto.

A bleak November day in St. Lachtain's National School was magically transformed into a wonderful day with the arrival of Willie O'Connor, Michael Kavanagh and the McCarthy Cup. Hopefully the pupils will follow in the footsteps of Michael to All-Ireland glory.

Hurling/Football

The minor team captured the Division 4 League title with an exciting victory over Kilmacow. The same team were somewhat unlucky to fall to St. Martin's in the championship. Good displays by many of the other teams, however, failed to deliver any silverware.

Fielding understrength teams and failing to fulfil fixtures was the order of the day for our football teams in an extremely disappointing year.

Kinnane Cup/McGree Shield

The under 13 club league again provided many exciting games. 52 players took part in the tournament during September and October. The Kinnane Cup was won by Keith Hughes with Vincent O'Donnell capturing the McGree Shield. This year sadly saw the passing of Ciarán Turner, a winning captain of the Kinnane Cup in 1986.

Winter is usually the closed season for hurling but not for these under-age players as they move indoor for their weekly leagues being organised by Michael Cormack and John Kennedy.

Ground Improvements.

The erection of nets at the rear of both goals proved to be quite effective saving many a sliotar from a premature end. The work of erecting steel mesh to cover the lower area is currently underway. The club would like to acknowledge the support of the National Lottery in this work.

Obituaries

The year gone by saw the passing of three former hurlers. Alfie Hickey, Jim Ryan and Din Maher went to their eternal reward. All three played a major role in the winning of the Senior Championship in 1961 and 1963.

In September another man to play a leading role in these successes, Fr. Richard Holohan, a former curate of Freshford and chairman of the club also died.

To their families and to all members bereaved during the year we extend our deepest sympathy.



St Lachtain's - Minor Division 4 League Winners:-

Back: David Hughes, Philip Cormack, Jamie Kennedy, David Brennan, Owen Condon, Kevin Dalton, John P. Kavanagh, Robert Dowling, Richard Dalton, Denis Long, Tommy Fortune.

Front: Mark Kavanagh, John Joe Phelan, Niall Anderson, James Meagher, Gerard Doheny, Owen Guinan, Pat Morrissey, Tony Hughes, Gavin Burke.



St Lachtain's U11 Camáint Team

Back: Steven Farrell, Thomas Condon, Kieran White, John Fitzpatrick, Shane Byrne, Naoise Waldron, Seamas Ryan, John Kennedy, Tomas Flynn, Liam Darcy.

Front: Paul McGrath, Patrick Rafter, Michael Neary, Brendan Quinn, Lachtain Kennedy, Colin Corcoran, Brian Kennedy, Gary Corcoran, Conrad Cooper.

Club Officers:

Chairman: Michael McCarthy
 Vice-chairman: Donal Heaphy
 Secretary: Tom Doheny.
 Treasurer: Paddy Butler
 PRO: Jamie Kennedy
 Co. Board Delegate: Eamonn Kelly
 Northern Board Delegate: Jim Dalton.



Kinnane Cup/McGree Shield

Martin/Peggy McGree, Vincent O'Donnell, Michael Kavanagh, Eileen Kinnane, Keith Hughes.



AROUND THE

CLUBS



ST. PATRICKS, BALLYRAGGET

Phelan Tournament

One of the major success stories of the year in Ballyragget hurling circles was the inaugural running of the Phelan U-11 hurling tournament which took place in May. The tournament was sponsored by Jimmy Phelan, formerly of the Green, and the only surviving member of the starting line up in the famous 1939 All-Ireland final in which Kilkenny beat Cork.

The tournament, which will now become an Annual event, commemorates Jimmy's brother, the late Tom Phelan. After four week-ends of top class juvenile hurling, a brilliant Clara side, managed by former Clara star, Johnny Ryan beat a gallant Erin's Own side in the final. The shield competition for first round losers, run in conjunction with the main tournament, was won by Graigue-Ballycallan. They pipped Conahy Shamrocks in a thriller.

Reunion

The panel members of the successful junior and intermediate championship winning teams of 1978 and 1979 were honoured at a function in October. Former players from all over made the journey home for the occasion. Each player received a special presentation on the night as many old friendships were renewed.

Fund Raising

The club's main fund raiser was once again the weekly lottery which continues to be well supported. This year the jackpot payout reached a record £10,000 in May. Two winners, from Urlingford and Athy, shared the record cash prize. The hurlers co-op draw also helped keep finances in a healthy state.

Club Development



Jimmy Phelan, star of 1939 All Ireland Final v Cork, chats with current Kilkenny star, **Denis Byrne**, at Phelan Cup Under 11 Final in Ballyragget

Major development plans have been made for the local Park for the coming year. Some floodlighting has been installed and this will be completed during the coming year. The entrance area and dressing rooms have both been earmarked for upgrading in the near future.

Honoured

Jimmy Phelan, a native of Ballyragget, and one of the stars of the 1939 All-Ireland final between Kilkenny and Cork, was honoured at the club's Annual Dinner Dance in March. He received a presentation of a gold watch by club chairman, Micheál McCraith. The minor hurlers who won the roinn 'C' championship were also presented with their medals by special guest, All Star hurler, Peter Barry. Peter proved to be one of the most popular guests ever at this annual function.

Inter County

Shane Dowling was a member of the successful Kilkenny under 15 hurling team. Maurice Walshe represented

the club on the North minor squad while a number of players from the club took part in the U-15 and U-16 coaching development squad sessions organized by the county board.

No Titles

Although the club fielded teams in all grades of hurling and football, no titles were won.

The junior hurlers were once again disappointing. They were not helped by a spate of injuries prior to their Northern quarter-final championship game against James Stephens. They lost that game to the city side who went on to win the Northern championship. The U-21 hurlers were a little unlucky to be beaten by Conahy Shamrocks after a replay. Despite some good performances at under-age level no trophies were won. The Camáint team acquitted themselves well in the annual ground hurling finals at Nowlan Park. The U-11 side also did well in a Leinster Feile in Dublin while the U-14 hurlers took part in a hurling festival in Wicklow.



AROUND THE CLUBS



THOMASTOWN

Club Officers

Chairman: Ben Walsh
 Secretary: Frances Dempsey
 Treasurer: John Moore
 Vice-Chair: Noel Moore
 PRO: Seamus Reade
 Field Chair.: Willie O'Keeffe

Intermediates

From what looked a very bleak situation early in the year, the Intermediates kept all their followers enthralled until they were knocked out of the championship in the semi-final. The management team consisted Jim O'Connor, John Donnelly, Noel Moore and Christy Doyle.

Mooncoin were our championship opposition in Mullinavat and it took two great games to eventually qualify for the semi-final. St. Martin's were again our opposition in Nowlan Park and despite a great start, the outcome was similar to that of the League semi-final.

Minor Matters

The minors and U-21's struggled and were knocked out of the championship at an early stage. Special Juniors also were well beaten.

U-16

Pride of place this year must go to the U-16 squad who landed the club's only title. Obviously, the good work undertaken in recent years in the juvenile coaching area is now bearing fruition. Another major factor for this particular team was the Trojan work done by Derek Dooley with Grennan College over the winter months. The club side was unlucky to be beaten in the Southern Championship Final but more than made up for this with landing the county league title with a great win over Blacks & Whites after a replay.

Grounds

The field committee, under the chairmanship of Willie O'Keeffe, was active during the year in re-sodding goals and marshalling of car parks for big games. Many club officers put in huge efforts to ensure that we have an excellent playing surface in Grennan and Club Chairman, Ben Walsh, had a huge per-

sonal commitment to the presentation of the ground for all games.

Families to the Fore!

In Thomastown, families have always made a huge contribution to the welfare of the club. At present, two families are much to the fore in the running of different aspects of the club.

The Dempseys from Boher have been hugely influential in recent years. Paddy, Frances, Michael Tricia, John and Paul have contributed hugely to the many operations in which the club is involved.

The Moores, Noel, John and Richard from Columbcille are the other family that come to mind at present. These are but two families involved in Thomastown and exemplify the dedication that is the lifeline of the GAA.

Web-Site

Besides manning the score-board in Grennan, Eoghan Reade, 12 year old son of club PRO Seamus, is presently developing a club web-site. It may be accessed at <http://my.treeway.com/GAA>. It is also linked to the Kilkenny GAA website.

Juvenile Section

Chairman: Martin Farrell, Sec: Helena O'Hara, Treasurer: Richard Moore.



"Ben at work".....Club chairman Ben Walsh in a typical pose. This was preparing the ground at Grennan for an under 21 Roinn B game at the end of season. Ben took particular pride in how the grounds at Thomastown were presented no matter what grade of game was to be played.

The U-11 Camáint programme is well supported by the club and the U-13's took part in a Féile competition in Dublin. The committee continues to bring juveniles to big matches in Croke Park and they work closely with the Boys' School.



Thomastown Camáint Team 2000

Back: Jack O'Connor, Jonathan Hynes, Jack O'Carroll, Paul Hoyne, John Griffin, James O'Hanrahan, Stephen Clark, Patrick Khan, Colin Clarke.
Front: Thomas Moore, Adam Butler, Philip Moore, Cian Moran, David Brannigan, Stuart Somers, Stephen O'Donoghue, William Delahunty



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



THREecastLES

A Varied Year

This year has been one of variety at the club. At the beginning of the year it was felt important that the Club and Community should mark the millennium in a meaningful way, so a committee was put together for that purpose.

The primary business of a GAA club is of course to promote our games and to field teams to compete for all available honours.

The club participated wholeheartedly in both League and Championship this year.

Our first round in the Championship was an exciting contest with Tullaroan in Jenkinstown. Passion and determination were not qualities lacking with either team and with nothing in it up until the final whistle, Tullaroan were eventual winners with three points to spare.

A Fitting Memorial

The life of a club does not begin or end with a final whistle and so the preparations made at the beginning of the year bore fruit in July.

Ruairi Carroll was engaged to create a suitable monument to commemorate the hurlers of Threecastles who had brought honour to both Club and County.

The purpose of the work was that it should remember those who are gone and inspire those yet to come. The

sculpture does not represent a particular hurler but seeks to express the qualities of the game we love so much, not alone skill, but bravery, imagination, daring and determination.

The sculpture was unveiled in July by Paddy Buggy before a large crowd. Paddy spoke passionately about the place the club and our games have in our society. County Chairman Ned Quinn, Vice Chairman of the Leinster Council Nicky Brennan and John Teehan, whose hurling exploits are celebrated by the sculpture, also made contributions.



Sculpture

This superb sculpture was created by Ruairi Carroll to celebrate the hurling exploits of Threecastle men who won All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny.

The men honoured included John Rochford, Jim Lalor, Martin Lalor, Tommy Murphy, Joe Glennon, Paddy Phelan, Jim Dermody, Martin "Roundy" Lalor, Jack Egan, Pierce Dwan, John Teehan.

A History of Threecastles

July also saw the launch by the Heritage Group of their book 'Threecastles'. Written by Eleanor Cantwell it chronicles the history of Threecastles including the contribution made by the G.A.A. to the cultural life of the community.

To complete the celebrations, the annual Dinner Dance held in the Ormonde Hotel attracted a large crowd and was a very pleasant evening and a proper way to end the week of celebrations.

Annual Trip

The Annual trip this year is to Donegal. This annual event is always a great success and if it is half as good as last year's trip to the Silver Spring's Hotel in Cork during the Jazz Festival, it should be something to which we may eagerly look forward.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a constant in any club, so, with the Lotto we run ourselves, we are now involved with the 'Play for the Park' Lotto. The 'Rock Bar' will be the venue for a table quiz as will 'Campion's Bar'. These annual events are very popular and attract young and old alike. They should be very attractive to people preparing for an appearance on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?'

Obituaries

Tommy Murphy, Castle View and Kevin Hennessy.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the families and friends of the above who were sadly lost to the community. May they rest in peace.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



TULLAROAN

Officers 2000

President: Chris Walsh
 Chairman: Dick Walsh
 Vice Chair: John Teehan
 Secretary: Simon Walton
 Asst. Sec. : Danny Hogan
 Treasurer: Tom Cleere
 Asst. Treas: Peter Holland
 PRO: Chris Walsh

League Champions

Tullaroan senior hurlers defeated Dicksboro to win the League final for the first time, an outstanding achievement. Alas, we lost to Ballyhale Shamrocks a week later in the championship quarter final.

The Special Juniors qualified for the league semi-final where they lost to O'Loughlins and in the championship they lost to St Martin's.

The U-21s were beaten in the second round of the championship by O'Loughlins. After several great matches, the minors qualified to play Shamrocks in the League final. Unfortunately, we lost the final and were also beaten by them in the championship. The U-13, 14 and 16 teams went out of their respective championships at the quarter final stages. The U-12's performed very well in the 'Molloy' Tournament where they were finally defeated by O'Loughlins in the semi-final and did very well in the Callan Tournament.

Finance

The main sources of income came from the Hurlers' Co-op Draw and the 'Play for the Park' Lotto. The club has also commenced a calf-rearing project in conjunction with the Parish Fund Raising Committee. We erected pull back netting behind the goalposts in the field during the year.

County Players

Congratulations to Jimmy Coogan on winning his first Leinster and All Ireland county senior medals. County players at minor level included Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan and

Eddie Champion. At U-16 level Tullaroan was represented by Richie Butler, Stephen Maher and Nicky Maher. Dick and Michael Walsh played with Kilkenny Masters.

Colleges

Six players from the club won All Ireland senior medals with St. Kieran's College: Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy, Michael Walsh, Ned Sweeney and Michael Connolly.

Paddy Malone RIP

Paddy Malone, who passed away during the year, was a legend in Tullaroan and Kilkenny hurling circles. He played junior and senior hurling with Tullaroan for over twenty years. He won two senior championships with Tullaroan in 1948 and 1958 but was on the losing side in five county senior finals. He captained the Kilkenny senior team in 1949 and won an Oireachtas medal in 1951.

Beside his many other activities, Paddy and his wife Kathleen were active in Comhaltas Ceoltoeiri Éireann and they both took part in many set dancing competitions.

Obituaries

The sympathies of club members are extended to the families of Betty Hennessy, Jimmy Treacy, Neddy Brennan, Paddy Malone, Pat Tynan and Seamie Walsh.

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh Siad.



Liam Simpson holds the Credit Union Senior Hurling League Trophy assisted by his sons Mark, Bill, and Dylan. Also included are Ned Quinn, and Tommy Thompson, Director St. Canices Credit Union.
 Photo: Tom Brett



Tullaroan Under 12 Hurling Team 2000

Back, l-r: Danny Coogan, David Walsh, Martin Walsh, Stephen Dowling, Chris Walsh, Tony Moore, Mark Simpson, Thomas Hogan, Tony Hall, Sam Holmes, Damien Connolly, Bill Simpson, Ian Doheny, Richie Maher.
Front, l-r: Michael Brennan, Shane Walsh, Paul Glennon, John Maher, Shane Connolly, Trevor Luby, Gerard Luby, Padraig Walsh, Josh Moore, Conor Kenny, Paul Buggy, Jack Holmes.



AROUND THE CLUBS



TULLOGHER - ROSBERCON

Redevelopment

The club playing-field was back in action for the first time in over two years this summer. While the work on the actual pitch is complete, new toilet facilities and storage shed are presently under construction. The work has been funded by a mixture of both a National Lottery grant and our involvement in the weekly "Play for the Park" lotto.

Thanks to Sponsors

A special word of thanks to Paddy Ryan, of Ryan's Bar Listerlin, who is our main sponsor, and has been for the last couple of years. Thanks also to all those who sponsored teams and events during the year.

Social Events

Kilkenny captain Willie O'Connor presented medals to our victorious U-14 hurlers in November at the Parish Hall.

Fund Raising

The annual Christmas Raffle was held, along with the hurlers co-op draw. This year also, because of the redevelopment and other rising costs, it was decided to run a race night in the Parish Pump in Rosbercon.

Played with Kilkenny

John Barron featured on both the Kilkenny U-21 and Intermediate teams. Richard Gaule played Minor football with the county team. Also John Hartley, John Cotterell and James Grennan played U-16 football, and Pat Hartley, Joseph Ryan and Declan Grennan played U-14 football with the county. Pat Hartley also figured on the county U-14 hurling team as did John Cotterell on the South Kilkenny U-16 hurling team. Shem Cummins, John Gaule, Basil Glennon and John Grennan were all part of the county Junior football panel.

On the Playing-Field

The club's Intermediate hurlers are battling for survival at time of going to press. The U-21 hurlers lost the Roinn B south-final to Carrickshock. At underage level it was a real mixed bag this year. But the undoubted highlight was the success of the U-14 hurlers in the Roinn B Championship. Elsewhere, the minor hurlers made it to the south-final only to be beaten by a point. The primary-school footballers were beaten in the Roinn B county-final by O'Loughlin Gaels.

Obituaries

Michael Morrissey from Tinneranny, died during the year. Michael won three senior and two junior football championships with the club. He will also be remembered as a referee who took charge of two junior and seven senior county-finals.

Jim O'Dwyer, originally of Listerlin and latterly of Knocktopher, also passed away during the year. Jim won five county Senior football championships with the club, and was captain of the 1941 winners. He was club secretary for a while as well.

Tom Malone of Hoodsgrrove also died

during the year. He won several championships with his native parish, and also with Glenmore.

Seamus Barron, formerly of Darbystown, who was a former player also passed away in England during the year after a short illness.

Great sadness was occasioned during the year with the death, following an accident, of Jackie Barron. Jackie was a former player and great club supporter.



Kelly-Ann Cottrell and Marie Ryan

Each girl has won six county titles in camogie, football and hurling since 1997.



Tullogher-Rosbercon U-13 Coillte Roinn B finalists

Back: Seamus Hartley (Selector), James Ryan, Aaron McCarthy, Joseph Corcoran, Richard Dollard, Pat Hartley, Shane Ryan, Declan Grennan, Michael Gaule, Richard Phelan, Jamie Malone, Pat Ryan (Selector).

Front: Marie Ryan, Pdraig Ryan, Liam Barron, Kelly-Ann Cottrell, Joseph Ryan, Edmund Cullinane, Patrick Grennan, Ned Conway.



AROUND THE CLUBS



WINDGAP

After twenty years of on going development work on the field, alley and club rooms, the club took time out to concentrate on the games.

After going out at the quarter final stage of the All County League, the team regrouped and put in the biggest effort for many years under Richie Power and Pat Walsh. After weeks of genuine effort and large turnouts, many new faces made their appearance in the squad who came within a whisker of defeating championship favorites, Piltown, in the South Final in Hugginstown.

For the junior B side, a great start in both competitions was hampered by the loss of players to the junior side following the summer exodus of students abroad. At under twenty one level, Thomastown came out on top strong.

Pride of place for the year went to the minors who, despite being unable to field a side for a league game against St. Lactains, bounced back to win the Championship in a series of thrilling finals against Glenmore in the South and Galmoy in the County final, played in the Bridge. (See Bord na nOg section) Windgap Bus (Photo)

Passengers on the Windgap Club Bus to the All Ireland semi-final in Dublin.

Handball

In a disappointing year for activity at club level, the intercounty scene saw most success with Eoin Cody and Anne Marie Hawe winning the Gael Linn Cup and under thirteen 40 by 20 county title. Eoin was a member of the victorious Kilkenny team of six at under 12/13. Club seniors, Pat Walsh and P.J.Egan, represented the club in the Leinster championships

Football

The under twenty one side put in some great performances in the early part of the year when they defeated Kilmacow and Carrigeen after a replay before going down to Carrickshock in the Southern Final.

Bereavements

During the year, the club lost one of its founder members, Ned Fitzpatrick, along with one of its best supporters, Pat Power, in whose field many games were played. The area was shocked by the sudden death of Val Lanigan a staunch and loyal Tipperary follower who won a county junior football title with Grangemockler in 1957 before he move to Rossanenny. He died shortly after the death of his match-going partner, Johnny Phelan. Also Jimmy Norris, who lined out with the hurling club in the early days, and Michael Brophy, who played football

with Cotterstown.

Honoured Home on holidays from the Windy City for the All Ireland was Club co-founder, Geoff Butler, who was recently inducted into the Chicago Hall of Fame for his service as a player and as Chairman of the North American Board. Former county player, Kieran Purcell, was nominated at full forward for Kilkenny's team of the century. Club member, Jimmy Walsh, attended the Centenary Leinster Convention held in Croke Park.

Fund Raising

Raising

The weekly Lotto, Co-op Draw, Membership and the annual card game were well supported and provided the bulk of the year's finances. On two occasions the top prize came to the club.

Here and There

Flying out to New Jersey for the Summer with a half dozen hurleys and balls, Laurence Doyle soon found many others of a like mind. During the following months, players from Kilmacow, Clare, Waterford and Antrim had many puckabouts on Wildwoods American football pitch and the nearby beach. Also in the US for the Summer was Aidan Mackey who was part of the UCD squad that defeated St. Vincents to win the Dublin Senior championship. They were by joined Enda Hawe, back from New



Windgap Slatequarries Festival Williams Tournament side

Back: Brendan Grace, JJ Phelan, John Doran, Tommy Fleming, Conor Lonergan, Sean Hennessy, Maria Barry, Tom Egan (Trainer).

Front: Lorraine Hartery, Cait Mackey, Gerard Purcell, Eoin Ryan, Derek Hartery, Thomas Cronin, Adam Smith.



Passengers on the Windgap Club Bus to the All Ireland semi-final in Dublin.

Zealand for the end of the junior campaign in September.

Juveniles

Players from the age of six to eleven participated in the Camaint competition during the summer and in the indoor training during the winter months under the guidance of John Ryan, Simon Brophy, Marie Comerford and Eoghan Guinan. At school level, training is organised by teachers Deidre Finn and Margaret Lowry. During the holidays the school sides participated in the Mike Williams tournament in the Slatequarries.

Social

A large crowd turned out for the Annual Dinner Dance in Hotel Kilkenny where John Power presented the minor league medals. Their trainer, Shem Power was also honoured.



AROUND THE **CLUBS**



YOUNG IRELANDS



Group pictured at the official opening of Gowran GAA grounds - Sunday May 28th 2000

John Comerford, Ned Quinn (Chairman Co Board), Donal Twomey, Seamus Pattison TD, Eddie Power, John Carroll, Brendan Kehoe, Willie Delaney, Michael Doyle, Beatrice Treacy, Tom Drennan, Pat Treacy. *Photo Tom Brett*

The first year of the new millennium was not a very successful one on the field of play for our club.

Our Senior panel had a good league campaign and reached the semi-final where they were beaten by Dicksboro. They qualified to meet O Loughlins in the quarter final of the championship but, to our disappointment, were beaten by a better team on the day. The task of preparing club teams for the championship is never easy but having players involved in training at county level makes it more difficult and the club is often the loser.

Captain: James McDermott
Selectors: Tom Hunt, Philip Twomey

The junior panel contested all league games but lack of dedication to training continues to be a factor at this level. One of the stars of this panel, John Paul Carroll, suffered multiple injuries during a game early in the year. We wish him well in his recovery.

Captain: John Brennan
Selectors: John Comerford, Jimmy Holden, Jim Byrne

In a continuing effort to strengthen our under-age teams, a very successful street league was run. The skills displayed during these games were encouraging. We are very grateful to those members of our Senior panel and others who gave willingly of their time in training our under age teams. It would be great to see more par-

ents willing to become involved with these teams. The U14 panel had a very enjoyable trip to the midland Féile in Westmeath and the U11 squad enjoyed success in many of their camáint games. One of the highlights of the year for these youngsters must have been the visit of the crew of "Breaking Ball" in the build up to the All Ireland day in September. On All Ireland day, the fact that D J Carey, Charlie Carter and Martin Carey were part of the team gave an extra sense of enjoyment to our club. Well done to all concerned.

Off the field of play, however, we had a very busy year. The annual dinner dance kicked off the year in January. Presentations were made to the eight players who had represented our club on the county panel in 1999. Jim Fitzgerald was the recipient of the Hall of Fame award. Sunday May 28th was the date set to be worked towards for the official opening of our GAA grounds. Work was delegated to various sub committees and each put in many hours of hard work in the early months of the year. Nothing was spared in ensuring the pitch had a perfect sod for the big event. Also, a second bank was completed, dugouts erected and new sideline seating put in place. The dressing rooms were refurbished and surroundings resurfaced. While this was going on, another subcommittee was hard at work collating material for the publication of "The Gowran GAA Story". None of this

could have taken place without the funds which were raised by the finance committee and to our many sponsors we are most grateful.

The evening was a great success. County Board Chairman, Ned Quinn, performed the official opening. Our primary school camogie and hurling teams were given the honour of opening the evening's proceedings with 7-a-side games. The main event was the attractive pairing of Kilkenny and Clare senior teams. On a fine evening, the sight of both teams parading behind the Rathanna Pipe Band on a perfectly manicured pitch was one to remember. Spectators were treated to a fine display of hurling. Both team managers, Ger Loughnane and Brian Cody, were presented with a sliotar on a pedestal of Irish elm. The evening ended with a meal for teams, mentors and club workers in the parish hall.

Congratulations to Charlie & Maria Carter and to Cathal & Bernadette Fitzgerald on the birth of their baby girls and to Martin & Diane Carey on the birth of their baby boy.

To all those club members who suffered bereavements we offer our sympathies. To all those who helped our club in any way during the year – committee members, coaches and mentors, players, supporters, sponsors, Fr Pat Dalton, - we say thank you.

Village People take first Junior Title in 45 Years

The Junior Scene

By
Richie Stone &
Jimmy Walsh



JAMES STEPHENS - COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS.

Back: Brian Leahy, Noel Burke, James Murphy, Owen Larkin, Brian Dowling, Jackie Tyrrell, John Grace, Dermot Herlihy, Brian Tyrrell, Richie Hayes, Ashley O'Keefe, Tobias White, John Scott, Billy Walton.

Front: Mark Hoban, Conor O'Grady, Eoin Dunphy, Eamon Larkin, Joe Murphy, Fran Whelan (Capt), Brendan Doyle, Eoin McCormack, Niall Grogan, Tommy Fogarty, Niall Lahart. Mascot: Noel Whelan.

Photo: T O'Neill.



Piltown - Southern Junior Hurling Champions 2000

Back: Kevin Maher, Liam Kenny, Andrew Norris, Michael Brennan, James Farrell, Tom Anthony, Michael O'Shea

Front: Liam Kearns, Brian Farrell, Philip Kenny, Jim Power, Michael Gordon, Pa Connolly, Michael Long, John Falconer.

James Stephens upset predictions somewhat when they annexed their first junior championship since 1955 by defeating Piltown in the first final of the new millennium at rain sodden Nowlan Park in late October. In a game played in atrocious conditions, the city men overcame the weather and the stiff challenge of the Southern standard bearers to record a memorable victory. The final win may have been a victory for hard graft but Stephens proved on their way there that they had skill in abundance as they took on all comers in a competitive Northern championship.

Having already won the all county league, they were expected to beat Clara in the opening round of the Barlo-Nissan Northern championship. This they did without too much effort winning 3-9 to 1-5. By the time they played St Patricks in the second round they had lost a number of players to their senior side. The Ballyragget side had just edged out Young Irelands (Gowran) in the opening round but were now in trouble with injuries and holiday arrangements and were very much understrength. With the game delicately balanced entering the final ten minutes, a James Stephens sideline ball taken, by Eoin McCormack, deceived everyone and ended in the St Patricks net. That score turned the game in the city side's favour and they went on to win on a 2-15 to 1-10 scoreline. That win put the Village men in the semi-final against a Lisdowney side that had beaten Graigue-Ballycallan, and Fenians, who had shocked Barrow Rangers on their way to the last four. Once again, the city standard-bearers came out on top to claim their place in the Northern final.

Meanwhile the other side of the draw contained some of the more fancied sides in the competition. Galmoy, Emeralds, Conahy Shamrocks and recent county league runners-up Danesfort were amongst the teams expected to do well. The big match of the opening round was expected to be the clash of Emeralds and Conahy Shamrocks. Conahy had ended Emeralds great league run on a 6-12 to 0-11 scoreline earlier in the season and now the Urlingford men wanted revenge. This time the Emeralds, thanks mainly to a good defensive display, came out on top winning 1-13 to 3-4. Galmoy defeated Dicksboro after a highly competitive game in Ballyragget while Danesfort edged out a battling Erins Own at Jenkinstown 1-13 to 0-13. Emeralds followed up their win over Conahy with a 1-15 to 0-7 victory over a disappointing Danesfort while Galmoy eased past Cloneen 4-15 to 1-5. This was Cloneens first match in the com-



Wndgap - Southern Junior Finalists 2000
Back: PJ Egan, Jimmy Walsh, James Murray, Brendan Barry, Niall Doran, Colin Comerford, Gerry Meehan,
Front: Niall Kenny, Pat Walsh, Paul McKenna, Dermot O'Shea, Tom Egan, Eoghan Guinan, Enda Hawe, Matthew Enright.



Galmoy - Northern JH Finalists and Cahill Cup Runners-up 2000
Back: Liam Drennan (Capt.) Brendan Delaney, Phil Brennan, Alan Grey, Micheal Brennan, Cathal Doherty, Paul Delaney.
Front: Martin Phelan, Shane Doherty, Phil Russell, David Doyle, Brian Doherty, Niall Dohery, Jerry Drennan.



KILMACOW PADDY CAHILL CUP WINNERS 2000 (Drawn Game)
Back: Brian Fleming, David Ryan, Sean Caulfield, Micheal Sweeney, John Phelan, Peter Ryan, Noel Dunphy, Paddy O Keeffe.
Front: Padraig Fleming, Jimmy Walsh, Denis Scully, Capt. Paul Long, Robbie O Keeffe, Dermot Tierney, Thomas Reddy, Declan Gahan.

petition having had a first round bye.

The stage was now set for a mouth-watering semi-final clash between Emeralds and Galmoy. When these sides met in the 1999 Northern final, it took two games to separate them, Emeralds winning the replay after a cracking drawn game. This time round, Galmoy avenged last year's defeat to win on a scoreline of 2-11 to 2-7 to qualify for the final and a crack at their city rivals James Stephens. The game, played in Ballyragget, was a close affair all through. With time running out, James Stephens were leading by two points when a goal from Alan Gray seemed to put the Galmoy men on their way to victory. However, this particular Stephens side showed rare fighting qualities to claw their way back into the game. Two pointed frees from the unerring Eoin Mc Cormack put them back in front 0-13 to 2-6. Then, in the dying seconds, super-sub John Scott ensured the city side victory when he sent over a fine point.

Just four teams contested the Iverk Produce Southern championship. Kilmacow Windgap, Slieverue, and Piltown played out a round-robin tournament to decide this particular championship. When the dust settled, Piltown had qualified for the final while Windgap and Kilmacow were through to the semi-finals. In that semi-final, a high-scoring affair, goals from Gerry Meehan and Colin Comerford in the 11th and 13th minutes helped Windgap to a 2-3 to 0-5 interval lead. On the restart, Windgap hit a purple patch hitting 1-5 without reply. The introduction of Paul Long, Sean Caulfield and John Barron plus a couple of positional changes revitalised Kilmacow. The losers had a goal from play by John Barron and a similar score from a penalty by Paddy O'Keeffe. In between, James Murray had a goal and a point for Windgap. With just over five minutes left, Windgap led 4-10 to 2-10. The winners added a point via Gerry Meehan but Kilmacow were not finished. Dermot Tierney added a goal to leave just four points in it again. However, time ran out on the Kilmacow men as Windgap held on for a just about deserved win.

In the Southern final, played at Hugginstown, two first half goals, the first by James Farrell from play and a similar score from a penalty by Mick Brennan, after the aforementioned Farrell had been fouled, gave Piltown a 2-2 to 0-8 interval lead. Those first half goals were to prove vital. In an absorbing and tense second half, the sides were level on three occasions. Entering the closing minutes, Piltown had edged three points clear and seemed safe. Windgap had other ideas, though, and in a final attack Matthew Enright was fouled on the 20 metre line. The resultant free by Niall Doran flew over the bar and with it went Windgap's last chance.



Cloneen: Fennelly Cup Champions. (Drawn Game)

Back: Eamon Hosey, Seamus Hennesy, JJ Lyng, Ian O'Keeffe, Adrian Brennan, Damien Walsh, Seanie Brennan, Patrick Brennan.

Front: Brendan Hosey, Tommy Treacy, Colin Coogan, Alan Hosey, Cyril Stedmond, Donal Lawlor, Thomas Coogan.



Carrigeen - Fennelly Cup Finalists 2000 (Drawn Game)

Back: Seamus Jacob, Shane Walsh, John Fripps, Jimmy Carroll, James Power, John Hearne, Richie Roche, Paul O'Toole, Pat Dunphy, Wally Morahan.

Front: Ivan Tobin, Jamie Carroll, Kevin Kennedy, Mossy Browne, Brian Murphy, Paddy Moran, Jerry Moran, Eddie Moran, Michael Murphy, Tommy Browne.



James Stephens Hennessy Sports Junior All County League Winners

Back: J. Murphy, H. Gannon, F. Whelan, J. Murray, J. Tyrrell, P. Hogan, P. O'Brien, S. Egan.
Front: R. Hayes, N. Tyrrell, N. Grogan, D. Brennan, E. McCormack, B. Doyle.

County final day and the question on everyone's lips– would James Stephens emulate Glenmore, whose second team won the junior championship a few years ago? Things did not look great in the early stages. Piltown were first off the mark when James Norris pointed a free. A couple of minutes later, Stephens had a lucky escape when James Farrell's scrambled goal was disallowed by referee Pat Hayes. The city side made most of that let-off. They opened their scoring with a point from Joe Murphy. The remainder of the half saw both sides miss chances in the atrocious conditions. Piltown goalie Jim Power proved to be his sides hero on a couple of occasions during that opening half. His save from Joe Murphy in the 19th minute was out of the top drawer. At the break, the sides were still locked together at 0-4 each.

The second half continued in much the same vein as the first with both sides finding scores difficult to come by in the fast-deteriorating conditions. The best score of the game came in the 47th minute– fittingly from young Jackie Tyrrell who was the best player on view. Tyrrell robbed Tom Anthony of the sliothar and drove over a long-range point. At that stage, the scoreline read– James Stephens 0-7, Piltown 0-6. Philip Kenny equalised with a free. Two points in quick succession from Eoin McCormack and a similar score from Joe Murphy saw the Village men home. The foundation for this victory was laid on the Stephens half back line– Jackie Tyrrell, Fran Whelan and Tommy Fogarty were superb. Full back, Tobias White, was also in top form. Up front, Eoin Mc Cormack was outstanding. Not far behind came Joe Murphy. However, this victory was based on a huge team effort . For a Piltown side that never really played up to their best form, James Norris, Philip Kenny, and Michael Gordon (who flew home from Paris where he is employed), tried hard throughout.

James Stephens: N Grogan, A O'Keefe, T White, D Herlihy, J Tyrrell, F Whelan, T Fogarty, B Doyle, E Larkin, R. Hayes, N. Lahart, B Dooley, J Murphy, J Grace, E. McCormack. Sub: J. Scott for Larkin, 57 mins.

Piltown: J Power, P Connolly, M O' Shea, K Maher, M Long, B Farrell, L Kearns, L Kenny, M Gordon, J Norris, M Brennan, T Anthony, A Norris, J Farrell, P Kenny. Subs: P Dunne for J Norris, 38 mins, R Connolly for P Connolly, 55 mins.

**All County competitions
open new
horizons for Junior
Players**

The year 2000 saw the Junior Club



Danesfort - All-County Junior League Finalists 2000

Back: F. Minogue, P. Fennelly, F. Doyle, B. Mullins, T. Murphy, J. O'Neill, B. Reddy, P. Slattery, A. Pembroke, D. Dooley, J. Mullins, D. Walsh, J.J. Drennan, T. Walsh, D. Forristal, J. Stapleton, J. Tierney.
Front: J. O'Dwyer, B. Ayres, P. Murphy, M. Woodcock, P. Cahill, L. Mahony, T. Mahony, P. Hayes, P. Forristal, B. Donoghue, P. Dillon, T. Murphy, T. Woodcock.



South Division - Winners Jim Farrell Cup 2000

Back: P.J. Barron (Windgap) John Raggett (Carrickshock) Eamon Phelan (Carrickshock) Martin Rohan (Carrickshock) James Power (Carrigeen) Pat O' Dwyer (Capt) (Carrickshock), Jamie Power (Carrickshock) Brian Fleming (Kilmacow).
Front: William Duggan (Carrickshock), Matthew Enright (Windgap), Dermot O'Shea (Windgap), Tommy Murphy (Carrickshock), John O Gorman (Carrickshock), Paddy O Keffe (Kilmacow), Brian Hudson (Carrickshock), Owen Henneby (Mooncoin).



North Division - Jim Farrell Cup Finalists 2000

Back: Brendan Joyce (Emeralds), Jim Tierney (Danesfort), Frank Minogue (Danesfort), Derek Lyng (Emeralds), Paul Buggy (Conahy Shamrocks), Michael Doyle (Emeralds), Shane Doherty (Galmoy), Alan Grey (Galmoy).
Front: Noel Doherty (Galmoy), Brian Doherty (Galmoy), Ciaran Mulldowney (Conahy Shamrocks), Joe Ryan (Emeralds), JJ Staunton (Emeralds), Gerry Drennan (Galmoy), Michael Brennan (Galmoy).

Hurlers take to the highways and byways of the County as never before. Once restricted to their own divisions either North or South, constantly meeting the same clubs, and playing on the same grounds, they have now become seasoned wayfarers with the advent of four new All-County Competitions supplementing the highly successful Hennessy Sports All-County Junior Hurling League. The competitions are organised by the Northern and Southern boards in addition to their own competitions.

Hennessy Sports All-County Junior Hurling League

In its sixth season, the Hennessy Sports All-County Junior Hurling League saw James Stephens record their first win over surprise packets and neighbours, Danesfort, in Nowlan Park. In all, twenty-three clubs participated in eighty four games with Conahy and Galmoy making the semi-finals. Among the highlights were the participation of Carlow sides Ballinkillen, Erin's Own (Bagenalstown), Mount Leinster Rangers and Naomh Brid and the sponsorship of jerseys, togs, and socks to the finalists.

All-County Cahill Cup

The upgrading of the Paddy Cahill Cup from a Northern to an All-County competition saw Kilmacow become the first Southern winners when they defeated Galmoy in Danesfort. In being since 1990, the competition now caters for the top sixteen junior sides in the County, providing a total of thirty-one games.

Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup Final

The inaugural Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup saw a thrilling draw played between a unique pairing with Junior B side, Carrigeen, making their first appearance in a county final in Nowlan Park and Northern standard bearers, Cloneen. In the replay, Cloneen took the trophy. The competition provided eleven games for clubs from the Junior and Junior B grades.

All County Junior A and B League Finals

At Junior A and B levels, the Divisional competitions were revamped following seven seasons of Junior Division One and Division Two leagues in the North, and Roinn A and Roinn B Junior leagues in the South.

The new format provided a County Final appearance for the respective winners and saw O'Loughlin Gaels defeat Ballyhale Shamrocks in the A final in the Park and Kilmacow overcome Graigue Ballycallan in the B decider in Danesfort.

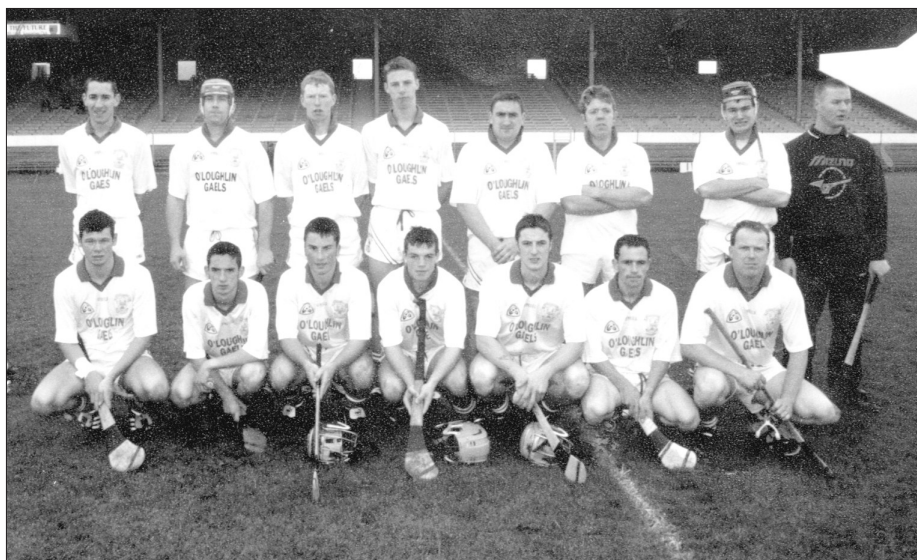
Farrell Cup Representative Game

For the top players in the grade, the



Dunnamaggin Iverk Junior A & All-County Champions 2000

Back: Matthew O'Shea, Mark Heffernan, Paddy O'Neill, Anthony McCormack, John Hickey (Capt.), James Moylan, Michael Kennedy, Brendan Moore.
Front: JP O'Neill, Richie O'Neill, Pat Long, Pat Moylan, Liam Heffernan, Sean O'Neill, Andrew O'Neill,



O'Loughlin Gaels - Junior 'A' League Winners 2000

Back: Donal O'Dwyer, Kevin Cleere, Seamus Cummins, Brian Hogan, Barry Daly, Paudie Bergin, Philip Holohan, Peter Dowling.
Front: Nigel Skehan, Brian Dowling, Niall Bergin, Ian Dowling, James O'Keefe, Ollie O'Connor (Capt), Pakie Fitzgerald



KILMACOW JUNIOR B COUNTY AND SOUTH LEAGUE WINNERS 2000

Back: Richard O'Neill, Dermot Tierney, Martin Moloney, Greg Power, Thomas Reddy, Connor Walsh, Eamon Reddy, Paul O Dwyer.
Front: Jimmy Walsh, Martin Tynan, James O'Neill, David Long, Stephen O'Keefe, Ian Walsh, Robert O'Keefe, Dermot Haberlin.

Farrell Cup Interdivisional game, inaugurated in 1993, provided a representative outlet. The series now stands at four-three in favour of the Southern Division, following their win in the annual game, which was played in Hugginstown. In the final, a Carrickshock-powered side overcame the northern selection built around the Emeralds and Galmoy on a scoreline 4-14 to 3-12. Played alternatively at the Northern and Southern champion's venue, the game is scheduled to be played as a National Hurling League curtain raiser in Nowlan Park in 2001

South Board Report 2000

Paddy Gaule became the fifteenth Chairman of the Southern Board when he took over from Andy Aylward of Mullinavat. During his five year stint, Andy was instrumental in providing a professional attitude and more games for players in all grades. Having spent three years as vice-chairman, he became the second Tullougher Rosbercon clubman to hold the position and Nicholas Henneby of Mooncoin replaced him. All of the Board's main competitions were sponsored by Piltown-based Iverk Produce.

Junior Hurling A and B North

Five teams contested the Northern Junior A championship. In a preliminary round Tullaroan beat Three-Castles to qualify for the semi-final. In that semi-final, they were beaten by St Martin's. The other semi-final saw O'Loughlin Gaels see off the challenge of Conahy Shamrocks to set up a final date with St Martin's. In the final, the city standard bearers took the title on a 2-7 to 1-5 scoreline. That completed the double for O'Loughlins club as they had already won the division 1 league title beating their city neighbours, James Stephens, in the final by a single point 2-7 to 0-12.

At the time of writing the Junior B championship has not been completed. Emeralds and James Stephens have qualified for the final. Emeralds had a walkover from Cloneen in the opening round. They went on to beat Lisdowney and Clara to reach the final. James Stephens defeated Graigue-Ballycallan, O'Loughlin Gaels and St Lachtain's to qualify for the final.

The division 2 league title was won by Graigue-Ballycallan, who defeated Emeralds 0-10 to 0-9, while the division 3 league title went to Galmoy who beat Clara in the final 2-12 to 4-2.



JOHN LOCKES IVERK SOUTHERN JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS

Back; John Murphy, Donnacha O Sullivan, Derek Hally, Nigel O'Donovan, Micheal Hartley, John Bergin, Micheal O Leary, Martin Cahill, John Power, Micheal Lynch, Joey Gormley.

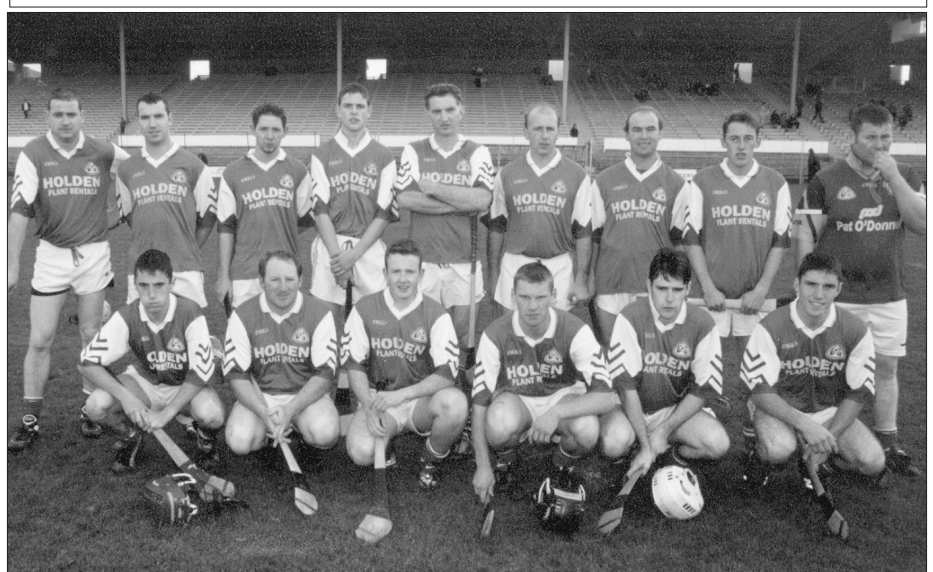
Front; Brian Cahill, Kevin Coffey, Barry Cahill, Tommy O Sullivan Capt. Ramie Power, Denis Nolan, John Tobin, John Lynch, Stewart O'Donovan.



Graigue Ballycallan All County Junior Hurling B League Runners-Up & Northern Division 2 Champions

Back; Maurice Ronan (selector), David O'Neill (selector), Tim Purcell, Aidan Brett, David Harrisson, John Dermody, Billy Fitzpatrick, John Kenny, Edward Delaney, John Caldbeck, Pat Comerford, Bill Ryan, Micheal Doran, Clive Kenny, Micheal Teehan, John Robinson (selector), Fr. Tom McGree (selector).

Front; Eamon Marnell, Brendan Marnell, Brendan Hayes, Pat Dalton, Tom McGrath (captain) Micheal Wall, Jim Maher, Tom Hogan, Joe Delaney, James O'Connor, Micheal Darmody (Chairman) Lying down; Brian Dalton, Shem Murray.



Ballyhale Shamrocks - All-County Junior A Leauge Finalists 2000

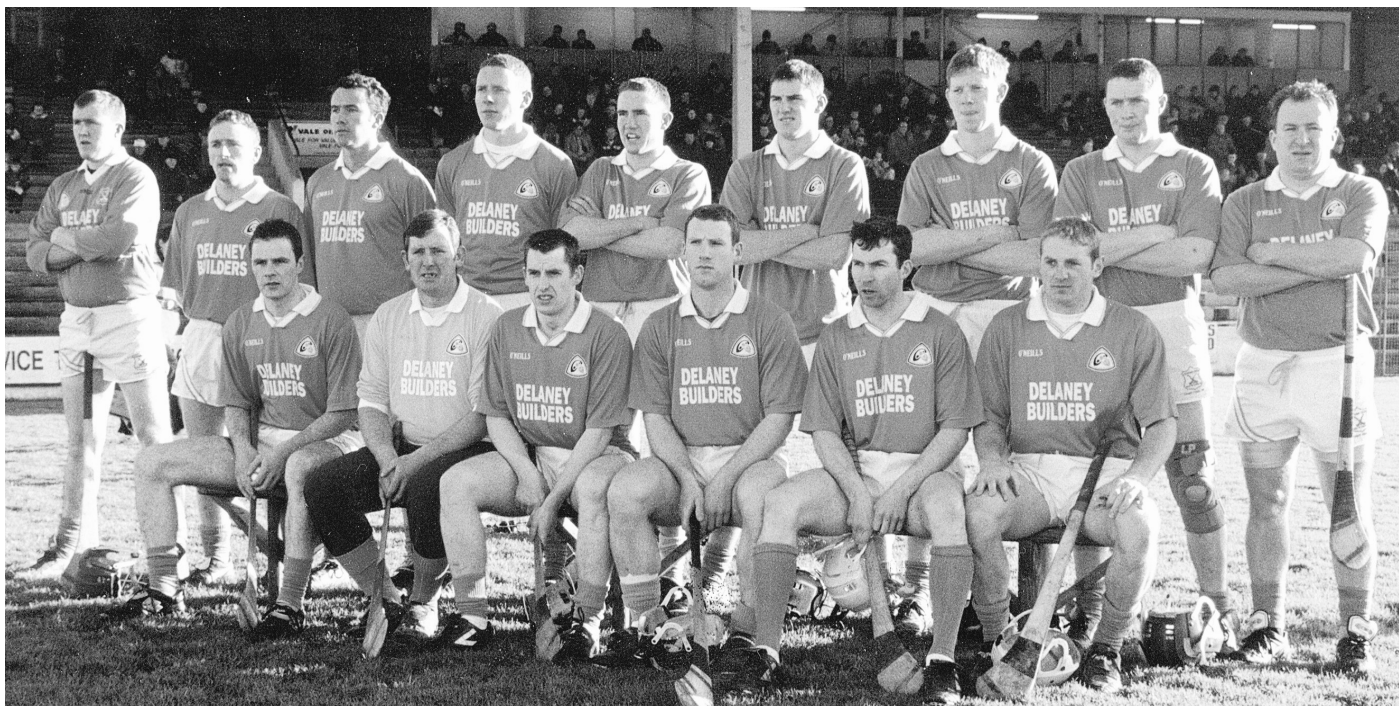
Back; William Dempsey, Leonard Farrell, Joseph Walsh, Robert Aylward, Sean Fennelly, Brendan Mason, TJ Farrell, Michael O'Sullivan, John Drennan.

Front; Michael Dermody, Paul Phelan, Keith Murphy, Anthony Walsh, Liam Grant, John Dermody.

KINGS OF LEINSTER.

Graigue/Ballycallan's Progress through Leinster

By Barrie Henriques.



Graigue Ballycallan - Leinster Club Hurling Champions 2000

Back: Paddy O'Dwyer, Johnny Butler, Tomás Comerford, James Ryall, Eddie Brennan, John Hoyne, Micheál Hoyne, Eddie Dwyer, Adrian Ronan.

Front: Tomás Dermody, Johnny Ronan, James Young, Denis Byrne, Tomás McCluskey, Alan Hoyne. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

The Graig Ballycallan hordes would have settled for the Tom Walsh Cup at the start of the season. The players would too. Their messiah, Jim Neary, would have been delighted if he had been assured that the County title was destined for Ballycallan, thus sparing the anxiety, apprehension, and incessant repetition of the same pre-match diatribe over a long number of months. Having realised their ambition, serious thought was diverted towards having a go at the Leinster Club Championship for the first time in their history. There were going to be no slip-ups this time round.

Graigue opened their Leinster campaign against little fancied Trim, the Meath champions. The game was played in Nowlan Park. There was probably more interest in how footballing giants like Darren Fay and Ronan Fitzsimmons fared with a smaller ball. To their credit the Royal County representatives, playing against the breeze in the first half, looked impressive for a while. That was until a fierce shot by Micheal Hoyne was brilliantly blocked by Trim's goalkeeper, Brian Carley, but the flying Eddie Brennan slammed home the rebound. A classic

Adrian Ronan goal after ten minutes set the trend for the rest of the game. At half time, Graig were gone out of sight,

leading by 2-9 to 0-2. The second half was formality stuff, with the Trim lads trying very hard to match the Kilkenny champions. Defeat with honour is the stock expression. With goals by Adrian Ronan (2), John Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, and Tommy Dermody, the end result was a foregone conclusion long before the final whistle sounded. Graig Ballycallan 5-15, Trim 0-8.

Laos were to provide the opposition for Graigue in the Leinster semi-final in Carlow. The "poor but proud" county's representatives, Castletown, were expected to offer stout resistance to the Kilkenny champs. They had defeated the Offaly representatives, Birr, just ten days before the joust with Ballycallan. On a heavy pitch, the Laois lads offered stern resistance to the Graigue onslaught. Graig lost Joe Young inside seven minutes. Denis Byrne had to go to full forward, and Tommy Dermody came on at wing forward.

The first moiety was hard fought, with little between the sides. Castletown would have been delighted retiring at the break just two points adrift of their opponents- (0-7 to 0-5), having played against the strong breeze. However, on the resumption, Denis Byrne silenced the the Castletown war cries by slamming the ball into the Castletown net before people had time to take their places. Castletown played a strong game afterwards, but it was the Kilkenny champs who won the day with a controlled pas-

sion, better skill, and sharper resolve. The half back line for Ballycallan was superb all through, with Alan Hoyne and Tomas McCluskey flanking a brilliant Tomas Comerford. John Hoyne, Denis Byrne and Tommy Dermody were very good up front.

And so to the Leinster Final against the Dublin champions, UCD, again in Nowlan Park, on a soft but good surface. This was a mighty game, particularly in the second half, and if Graig Ballycallan did win by 0-14 to 1-8, it would have to be said that they just about deserved to collect the O'Neill Cup for the first time in their history.

Much interest focussed on the Kilkenny representation on the students' team. They didn't disappoint. Rory Mopre was superb until tiring late in the game.. Pat Fitzgerald, too, caused huge problems with his direct running, though Michael Gordon has had better days. It was fitting that captain, James Young, would dedicate the cup to his chief mentor, Jim Neary. Rarely has a mentor given so much time and effort in producing a championship winning team, as the Kilmanagh schoolteacher.

The final is won, and now the horizon has been extended. Methinks that the Graig lads' horizon will extend even further when business is resumed on the Kilmanagh pitch after the festive season. The All-Ireland club-semi-final beckons next February—a new dawn, a new day, a new Cup?

MEMORIES, GLORIOUS MEMORIES FOR CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE

By John Knox
Kilkenny People

A Profile of Liam "Chunky" O'Brien

HE WAS always told that the enduring friendships would be the real treasure! That nothing would be greater! Now he knows! A GAA President he marked in an All-Ireland final, and won a 'man of the match' award against, is numbered among his many friends.

So too is a former under-age hurling star, now soccer international, who paid him the considerable honour of putting his name to a prized possession, a racehorse.

The unique charisma of Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien. Adored as a Cuchulain-like figure in his day, he was a genuine, full blown champion of the people.

"Ollie (Walsh) always said that to me", Chunky explained. "The medals, the matches and things are fine, but it is the memories, the friendships. You can't beat that. He was spot on".

Ah yes, for Chunky – like everyone else, one uses the nickname automatically – there were memories, and many of them. He won four All-Ireland senior hurling medals, and played in three different positions when doing so. And twice in finals he was deemed 'man of the match'

He won All-Ireland club, National League and Oireachtas honours too. And sure he was an All-Star four times.

He was rated the best in the land in 1975, and was judged the Texaco hurler of the year.

"That was nice", he said of the latter honour, his one concession to anything near personal praise.

Yes, 1995 was some year. He shot five points in the All-Ireland final when Galway were riddled.

"He wrought havoc, and performed every art and stratagem of the game to perfection", wrote that great student of hurling, Tom Ryall in his book Kilkenny :The GAA Story. He was chosen as the man of the match.

Fast forward to the All-Ireland final of 1979. He turned in another man of the match show, this time against none other than Galway captain and recent GAA President, Joe McDonagh.

The start of a great friendship. To this day, McDonagh will never see Chunky stuck for ticket for a big game.

In that final, a first half goal from a 70 (yes, not a 65) by Chunky was a vital score. He finished with 1-7 to his credit after the 2-12 to 1-8 victory.

The fans went wild.

"Chunky, Chunky, Chunky" they roared during the packed homecoming reception at the Courthouse in Kilkenny city on the night after the final. Being greeted like that by his own people was something special, very special.

When Chunky made his way from the back of the knot of players and waved the McCarthy Cup in the air, the screaming hordes was placated.

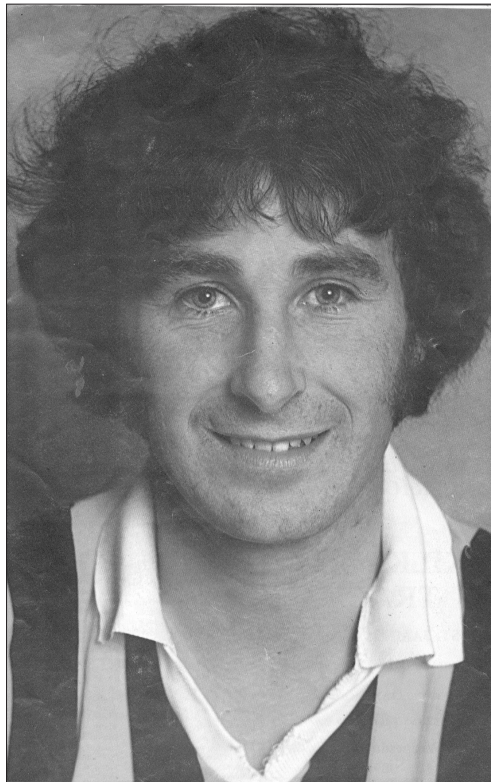
Less than a year later one of the greatest free spirits the game

has known walked out of Croke Park as a player for the last time. His beloved Kilkenny beaten. After close on 10 years, he stepped off the inter-county stage.

It was in the Leinster championship against Offaly. O'Brien was brought on at half-time to the exclusion of his long time midfield buddy, Frank Cummins.

"I was on Ger Coughlan and I didn't get a puck off him", Chunkey remembered. "That was may last game for Kilkenny. It was the start of the rise of Offaly hurling".

It was always likely that Liam 'Chunkey' Brien would end up a hurler. His father, Paddy played in the 1946 All-Ireland, and was a sub on the victorious team of '47. He wanted his son to follow suit.



From when he was only a child, Chunkey had a hurley in his hand. He would beat a ball around the street for hours. He virtually lived in Nowlan Park.

When Kilkenny were playing games at the 'Park, or were training for big matches, he was there, admiring his heroes. He remembered as a child when he belted shots at Ollie Walsh, his all time hero.

"Ollie was brilliant", he enthused. "As a young lad he was my hero. To end up playing on the same team as him was unbelievable".

He travelled to nearly all the away games in Ollie's car. Still remembers the registration number...NIP 103.

"I was born into a great era for Kilkenny hurling", O'Brien insisted. "I was lucky". Actually, luck did play a part. Chunkey was first brought into the fold in 1969. It was three years later that he won his first All-Ireland. The season very nearly didn't take off.

The Cats used up one of their nine lives during the Leinster championship clash against mighty Wexford. The Slaneysiders were a point up with only seconds of the match remaining. Mick Crotty gained pos-

session about 50 yards out, and landed an extraordinary equaliser.

Kilkenny powered through the replay. Keher, Henderson, Delaney, Purcell, Crotty, Cummins and company started a glorious run that should have earned an All-Ireland four in-a-row. Our friend McCarthy was brought home in 1972, 1974 and '75. However, injuries to Kieran Purcell, Jim Treacy and Eddie Keher weakened the team in the '73 final. As well, O'Brien got a knock on the face at the throw-in and ended up with one eye swollen and closed. On top of all that, Eamon Morrissey had emigrated to Australia.

Limerick won. Revenge was extracted in a repeat final the next year.

"That Crotty point was so very, very vital", insisted Chunkey, who was a clubmate of Mick Crotty at James Stephens. "It possibly made the difference between our team being great and average, because it opened up all sorts of possibilities.

"Tony Doran often said to me that Wexford were the second best hurling team in Ireland at that time".

But they couldn't break the Cats. For five consecutive years Kilkenny reigned supreme in Leinster. Mighty men with talent and physique – Chunkey said himself and Phil 'Fan' Larkin were the smallest – had a mighty coach behind them. The then Fr. Tommy Maher was a "genius", O'Brien insisted.

Fr. Tommy recognised Chunkey's special talents.....his blistering pace, stamina, neat side-step, ability to run with the ball, sure striking and temperament for the big day. Fr. Maher offered Chunkey freedom.

"He never tied me down within the team", Chunkey explained. "I could more or less roam where I liked, do what I liked. I had orders to do certain things a certain way, but I was never asked to mark a man, for example".

One day, in the 1972 All-Ireland final, Chunkey ignored the few instructions he was given. He was soon called to heel. The brief was that he was to strike the first ball he got, no matter what, off his left. The idea was to confuse his marker.

In the excitement of the big occasion, he forgot the instruction.

"Fr. Maher gave out stink to me", Chunkey recalled. "I didn't ever forget his instructions again".

Would you believe, Chunkey, Kilkenny's finest, used a Tipperary man's hurling stick in that 1972 final? The camán belonged to none other than the great Jimmy Doyle. It was acquired through O'Brien uncle, Billy Bowe.

"It was a bit shorter and lighter than the one I had", Chunkey explained. "It suited me down to the ground. I loved it. I got a replica made, and the late Mick Neary made me sticks to measure after that".

Actually, there is a bit of a story about hurling sticks and Chunkey O'Brien. Whereas most players would have three, four and maybe more sticks in reserve just in case one broke, Chunkey rarely had more than one.

"You could throw him in the handle of a brush and he could score points to beat the band with it", the late Billy Culleton often observed.

Youngsters often asked Chunkey what glue he used to stick the sliothar to the camán when galloping on the solo runs that lit up Croke Park and many a venue up and down the country. The late RTE broadcaster, Micheál O'Hehir loved O'Brien, and that dashing solo run. O'Hehir virtually came through the radio or TV once Chunkey took off.

"I didn't have to work too hard at the skills of the game", Chunkey explained. "Sure I had a stick in my hand since I was four or five, and I was always playing".

In fact, he was a fair 'player' in the broadest sense. He was a handy handballer. He was an excellent soccer player. He kicked ball with Kilkenny A and Evergreen, and won league and cup honours.

He even played in the Oscar Traynor Cup (national inter league competition) with Kilkenny. There was strong talk at that time that Waterford, then one of the powers of Irish soccer, wanted

to sign him.

"Hurling was the game I loved", Chunkey assured. "There was a buzz to it, be it playing for Kilkenny, the Village, Newpark Sarsfields or whoever".

He actually started with St. John's, and a Bro. Ailbe was his first mentor. As he made his way to Croke Park for the '72 final, Bro. Ailbe stepped from the crowd to shake his hand and wish him well. He hadn't seen the Brother for years.

Chunkey played with Newpark Sarsfield. By the time they won the junior championship in 1991, he had moved on. With James Stephen he won senior championships in 1975 and '76, and an All-Ireland club title the same season. On the opposing Blackrock team was his inter-county colleague, Frank Cummins.

"That was a great 'Stephens team too", Chunkey recalled, and he rattled off names like Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Joe Hennessy, Mick Crotty, Paddy Neary, Tom and Dinny McCormack, who were terrific Village players.

Again there was an excellent coach in the background. George Leahy, now one of the county GAA coaches, was the lone coach/trainer/selectors with the side.

Chunkey enjoyed that win. Celebrated long and hard after it. Missed a chance to play with Leinster the following week-end. Laughed when it came out over the radio that he was absent because he had a touch of flu. These times the celebrations are more modest. His favourite tipple now is a soft drink, and has been for two years or more.

Ah yes, but he left the rest of us with a treasure trove of enriching memories. And he has friends in all quarters, even across the Atlantic in America, where he won

three New York championships with Galway.

"I wouldn't mind to be starting all over again", he mused. "I would like to be playing with the present Kilkenny team. I think it has super potential. The performance in the All-Ireland was absolutely brilliant".

Chunkey should know. He was everybody's friend, and was brilliant in his day. He played for three years at minor level with Kilkenny - the first year he was in goal – and also at under-21 level, but never won anything.

That all changed when he progressed to the senior stage. He became a household name.

Among his admirers was one Niall Quinn, former Dublin minor hurler, and now a soccer star with Sunderland and Ireland. Quinn has a horse in training with Jim Bolger. He called it after one of his all time favourite sport stars.....Chunkey O'Brien.

"It better not turn out to be an old nag", Chunkey laughed. Never mind, he has promised to take up Quinn's invitation to travel to Sunderland for a Premiership game.

Ollie was right, you know. At the end of the day it is all about memories and friendships.



Liam O'Brien, part of Kilkenny's midfield during their greatest era.



The Three Wise Men

Kilkenny's Selectors who orchestrated the 2000 All Ireland Victory - **Johnny Walsh, Brian Cody (Manager) and Ger Henderson.**

Photo Tom Brett



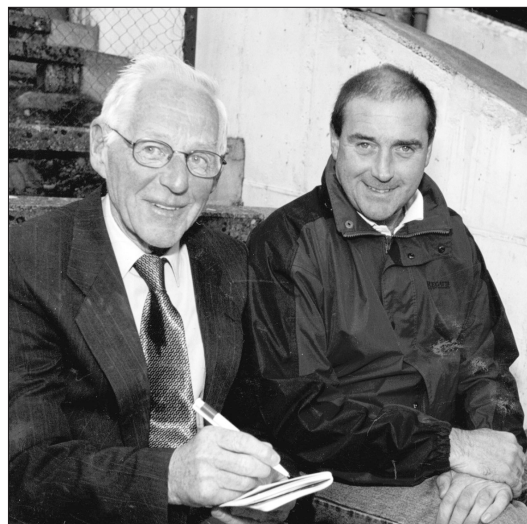
Sunset Tableau

James Meehan, Bamford Cross, Kenneth Heffernan, Loughboy, Ian Hayes, Broguemaker's Hill and Matthew Byrne, Castlewarren, captured at the opening of Gowran GAA Grounds in May.

Photo Sportsfile



Watched by **DJ Carey**, 1930's Kilkenny hero, **Martin White**, meets An Taoiseach, **Bertie Ahern**. *Photo Tom Brett*



Assisted by **Ollie Walsh**, honorary Kilkenny Selector, **Billy O'Sullivan**, picks the Kilkenny team in Nowlan Park. *Photo Tom Brett*



Where are the Conahy Notes? Editor, **Barrie Henriques** issues **Nicky Brennan** with a stern warning.



Aboard the Phelan Express!

The inclusion of Paddy Phelan on the GAA millennium team and also on the Kilkenny Team of the century will bring back happy memories of the great man to many who played hurling as youngsters in the Fair Green in Kilkenny in the early fifties.

Competitions for youngsters were few and they were played on a knockout basis at that time. Schools organised the U14 championship while the U16 hurling championship was in its infancy. Both were played on a knockout system. The losers in the first round played only one competitive game each year.

Paddy Phelan who lived in Blackmill Street and had a coal yard in Friary Street was unhappy with this situation and decided to do something about it. During the summers of 1953 and 1954 Paddy organised matches all over Kilkenny and also outside the county for a team that became known as Paddy Phelan's team.

All matches were played on Thursday evenings. This was the official half-day in Kilkenny at that time. The transport to all matches was via Paddy's uncovered coal lorry.

On the evening of matches the players would gather outside Paddy's house. When the lorry, driven by Paddy's brother Tommy, arrived all the players would climb into the back and grab a canvas bag to sit on.

All matches were played away. After games, Paddy would bring the team to the nearest shop and buy bottles of lemonade for everyone. During the period that the team was together it remained unbeaten. The majority of the players went on to win two U16 hurling championships with St. Mary's in 1957 and 1958.

Back: Peter McEaney, Kevin Phelan, Jimmy O'Leary, Paddy Golden, Eamon Hehir, Jim Buggy, Liam Hehir, Ned Buggy, Michael Hogan.

Middle: ??, Joe Ayres, Seamus Kelly, Michael O'Dwyer, Paddy Lyons, Joe Green, Peter Maher.

Front: Michael Hurley, Leo Phelan, Ollie Conway, Noel O'Sullivan.



I'm watching you! County Chairman, **Ned Quinn**, spots a Kilkenny supporter about to jump the fence after the final. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

KILKENNY FANS



THE JUNIOR HURLER



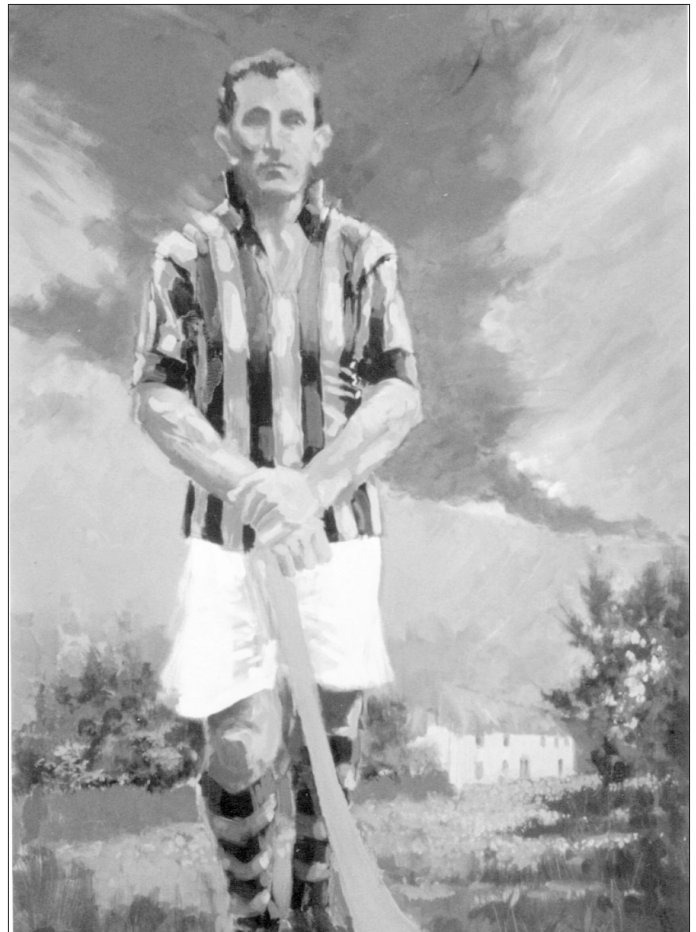
You know you're a junior hurler when.....

1. You spend all winter on the beer speculating on who will be brought in to manage the junior hurling team next year.
2. The hardest tackle you will make all year is in an indoor soccer match in January.
3. When you break your brother-in-law's leg.
4. There are 35 at training under lights on a bitter February night (unfit but enthusiastic) - the average for August is 7 (unfit, sick of training, reading Teagasc manuals and making silage)
5. The club treasurer spends some time at the AGM lamenting the yearly cost of running a club and especially the bill for hurleys; a month later, the team is being urged to "give 'em timber lads - we have plenty of hurleys on the sideline..."
6. When you go for a pick-up, you tap the ball at least twice on the hurley before you fumble it.
7. Ground hurling is for juveniles and camogie players.
8. The full forward has his son and grand nephew in the corners.
9. The grand nephew is two years older.
10. For a 2.30 throw-in, you start packing your gearbag at 2.40 and still manage to be on the field before the referee even arrives.
11. You can get a match called off because your star player is playing divisional under-16 the following week
12. Your tight-marking corner back never gives an inch - except, of course, when the ball gets inside his own 50 and he charges out after it with all the other backs, forgetting that the other team are even on the field.
13. Your goalie lets in a sitter every second game - this usually happens after you have scored 5 points from play to reel in a difficult half-time deficit.
14. Or in the first minute if it is a final.
15. Your full-forward can't score but "he's a good man to bust up the play".
16. Your centre-forward can't score either but "he'll stop a good man from hurling".
17. Your championship is either a round robin that requires you to play six league games to eliminate one team, or a knockout starting in October.
18. Any members of your panel who claim to have back injuries are either lazy or completely daft. Unless you can see blood, bruises or bandages, they are making it up.
19. Before every match, the forwards are told to stay wide and not bunch but this is not what happens. The only time any forward goes wide is to take a sideline cut or if they are looking for water.
20. Your backs play from behind waving a hurley with one hand while resting the other on the forward's back - this is why all your scores and all their scores come from frees.
21. You can't field a team during the fortnight of the Leaving Cert.
22. The more people instruct you to "let fly if you don't get it up the first time", the more you ignore them.
23. Your left-corner-back plays at No.4 because he can only strike off his left side.
24. Ditto No.7.
25. Your star player always has one other brother "that was even better but he couldn't stay off the drink".



Musical chairs

County Chairman, **Ned Quinn** with incoming Southern Chairman, **Paddy Gaule** (Tullagher Roshercon) on his right, and outgoing Chairman, **Andy Aylward** (Mullinavat) on his left at the Southern Convention held in Ballyhale.



Lory Meagher from a painting by Anne Farrell, Wilde Ransoms Studio, Gorey



The ICA and the GAA

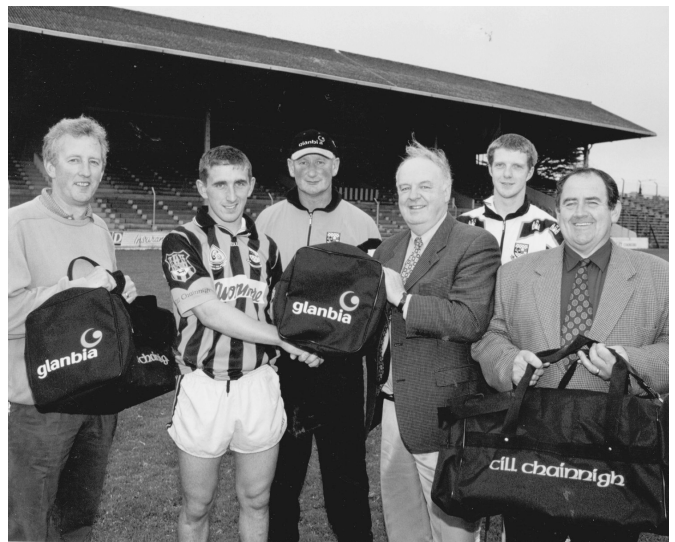
Both of the above organisations have a lot in common in that they are generally parish-based, have county committees and are controlled by a central body appointed from the membership. The contribution by both groups to society in Ireland is enormous and could never be equalled by any other organisation.

In Kilkenny this year, both organisations came together to produce a Millennium Wall Hanging. The idea came from Mrs. Ann Kelly, a member of Crannagh ICA Guild. Ann approached the County Board of the GAA in 1999 and said that the ICA would like to make a wall hanging, which would have the names of all the clubs in the county. Mrs Mary Maher, Chairperson of the ICA, and Ann Kelly attended a meeting of the board and explained the idea to the delegates. All the clubs contributed towards the cost of the material and the work commenced in early 1999.

The idea was that each Guild would complete the section for the club or clubs in their area and all the sections would be brought together to make the twelve feet square wall hanging. Each club section had to be made to particular measurements in order to fit in to the overall plan. All the ladies involved spent a number of nights in Nowlan Park pinning all the different pieces together and putting the various crests onto the material for the centrepiece and corners. A lot of time was spent getting the overall dimensions uniform and having a finished product, which they could be proud of. The project was an ambitious one, and it was only made possible by the hard work of Ann Kelly and all the ladies, throughout the county, in the ICA. A reception was held in the County Hall last April and the wall hanging was handed over to the County Board. It has been on display in the County Hall on two occasions since then and it is intended to put it on display in towns like Castlecomer, Thomastown and Callan over the next twelve months. It has been shown on TV3 recently in Tullaroan and it is hoped to have it on display in the Museum in Croke Park over the next year. All credit must go to the ICA for a job well done, bringing something special to the GAA in Kilkenny in the year 2000. It will hang nicely next to the McCarthy Cup for the Millennium and add another very important section to the history of the G.A.A. for the future.



Poc Fada Finalists 2000 - Michael Slattery (Danesfort), Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan), Paddy O'Keeffe (Kilmacow), winner, Darren O'Neill (Barrow Rangers), John O'Grady (B & W's).
Photo Tom Brett



Jim Tobin (Glanbia), presents gear to Paddy Mullally (Capt) at the start of Kilkenny's campaign. Also in picture - Pat Dunphy (Secretary), Brian Cody (Manager), Henry Shefflin, and Ned Quinn (Chairman) Photo Tom Brett



At the Glanbia Day at Gowran Park Races, Mick O'Neill (Former Co Chairman), Jim Treacy, Cyril Farrell (former Galway Manager), Kieran and Jo Jo Purcell.
Photo Tom Brett



Were you there? A shot of the crowd in the uncovered section of the old Hogan stand at the All Ireland Final.
Photo Tom O'Neill



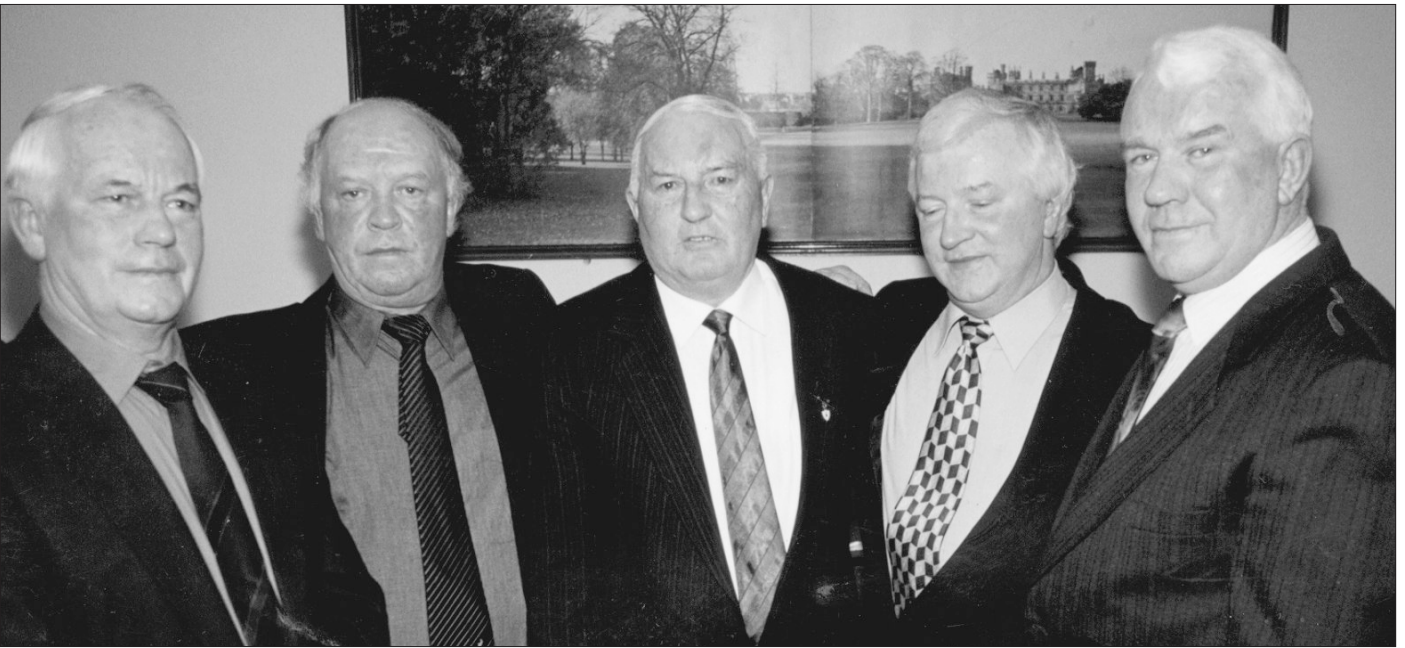
Kilkenny Captain, **Willie O'Connor**, surrounded by boys and girls who received their certificates for completing Kilkenny County Council's multi-sports Summer Camp in Scanlon Park. Also included in the picture are **Jimmy Gibbons** (Admin Officer, Kilkenny Co Council), **Tom Keane**, **Mick O'Flynn** and **Sinéad Foley** (Coaches)
Photo Tom Brett



Three St Kieran's stars - **Donncha Cody** (Junior Capt, Leinster Champions), **Tim Murphy** (Senior All Ireland Champions), **Eoin Kelly** (Hurler of the year).
Photo Tom Brett



Sponsorship presentation from Iarnród Éireann to Kilkenny County Board.
 From left- **Joe Pyke** (Chairman, Bord na nÓg), **Ned Quinn** (Chairman, Co Board), **Frank Hogan** (Iarnród Éireann) and **Tom Delehunty**, (Bord na nÓg).
Photo Tom Brett



The Treacy brothers, Sean, Paddy, Martin, Michael and Jim at the Bennettsbridge reunion.

Photo Tom Brett



Ned Quinn (Chairman, Co Board), **PJ Delaney**, **Paddy Mullally** (Kilkenny Captain), **Fergal Ryan** (Cork Captain) and **Jimmy Barry Murphy** (Cork Manager) before the PJ Delaney Benefit match in May.
Photo Tom Brett

Pennefather's Lot

HEBRON ROAD, KILKENNY.

Farm, Residence and Out-Offices FOR SALE

McCreery & Son will Sell by Public

AUCTION

On the Lands as above, for Peter Corcoran, Esq,

On FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1926

At 12 o'clock.

His Fee-Simple Interest in part of the Lands of Pennefather's Lot, Hebron Road, Kilkenny, containing 12 Acres 2 Roods and 18 Perches, Statute Measure, subject to an Annuity of £14 13s. 10d., payable to the Irish Land Commission.

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

The Farm for Sale is situate mostly within the City Boundary, and is close to the Railway Station. A nice compact Farm, good residence with Garden and Herd's House, Town Water Supply laid on. The Land is of good quality and is all under pasture, is well fenced and has Town Water Supply laid on also. The Dwelling is slated, consists of two bedrooms, parlour and kitchen; Out-offices consist of Herd's House, Fowl and Coal Houses, &c.

The Dwellinghouse and Garden are in possession of a yearly tenant at a rent of £20 yearly and taxes. Immediate possession of the Herd's House and Out-offices.

For title and conditions of sale apply to :

NICHOLAS HEALY, Solicitor, High St., Kilkenny, having carriage;

OR TO,

McCREERY & SON

Auctioneers, &c., 40, Parliament Street, Kilkenny.

KILKENNY PEOPLE LTD.

The Auction Notice for the plot of land, owned by Peter Corcoran, which was to become Nowlan Park. Under the Chairmanship of Tom Walsh, the County Board bought the land for £700 and the pitch was officially opened on August 28th, 1928. The feature game was the All Ireland semi-final between All Ireland Champions, Dublin, and Cork. Cork won by 5-3 to 0-2.

Copy of notice supplied by Dan McEvoy, Michael Street.

Obituaries

Alfie Hickey



Alfie Hickey, who died on April 12th last, was a former star Kilkenny hurler. He was originally from Ballylarkin and later of Ard Lachtain, Freshford. He passed away in the loving care of the staff of St Vincent's Hospital, Athy.

Alfie captained the Kilkenny senior team when Cork were beaten by 1-16 to 1-8 in the National League final of 1961/62. He was also skipper when the county lost narrowly against Wexford in the Leinster Final of the same year. Alfie was a member of the Kilkenny panel that beat Waterford in a high scoring All-Ireland final the following year.

He was deeply committed to the game at all levels and, with his club, St Lachtains, he also reaped a rich harvest of honours. He won a junior county championship against Thomastown in the final of 1959 and added two senior championships in 1961 and 1963. He captained the '61 team against the Near South selection which was a combination of players from junior clubs which included Ollie, Tom and Jim (Link) Walsh as well as Denis Heaslip. Tullogher/Rosbercon were beaten in '63 when Alfie was one of the star players.

He played all of his hurling at centre-back and was widely regarded as a real stylist. He had all the attributes of a centre-back and could strike right or left with equal dexterity, on the ground or in the air. He was a commanding figure under the dropping

ball and was a wonderful reader of the game.

Following his hurling days, he spent a number of years in England. In 1994, he returned to his native Freshford when his health deteriorated. He lived for a number of years with his brother Tommy and family and he spent his final days in St Vincent's.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

Ned Fitzpatrick (1922 – 2000)



During the year Windgap lost one of its founding members with the death of Ned Fitzpatrick Gortnaglough. Widely known as one of the "Butcher" Fitzpatricks, he was born and reared in the heart of the Slatequarries. There he inherited his passion for sport from his father, John, who was a member of the Miners side who won the Leinster Senior football championship in 1911. As a player, he lined out with St. Joseph's and Windgap in hurling and won a junior football county title with Kilmoganny. In the Handball alleys, he won three-walled county championship titles with Windgap and the Slatequarries at team of six with Billy Murphy, Paddy Murphy, Dan Phelan, Sean Ryan and his brother Paddy, and with Sean Ryan at doubles level.

In 1954, with the advent of the parish rule, he co-founded Windgap Club with Dan Phelan, Seamus Horgan, Geoff and Jimmy Butler. In their first championship game against Carrickshock in Callan, he led the team out as captain in the number

eleven jersey. He was also the club's first vice chairman. A great character through out his life, he wore a cap in the tradition of the time in all games and also sported a black togs way ahead of their time.

His interest in the games continued through his nephews who lined out for Windgap and Dunnamaggin, Portlaw, Erins Own, Waterford, and Carrick Swans. His brother, Paddy, played senior for Tipperary.

As a talented set dancer, he won many competitions and toured Russia with the Village Inn set in 1991.

Having worked in the Slatequarries Davis and Brett's horse racing, music, song, fishing and a trip to the village on his bicycle were among his many other interests. All were reflected at his final visit to the village from the guard of honor by his teammates to the moving music, song and oration at his graveside.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

BRENDAN (BENNY) STONE.



The tragic loss of a young life called to the door of a great friend of this publication, Richie Stone and his wife Ann, on the eve of the All-Ireland Final. Whilst nearly everybody in the County was sleeping the uneasy sleep of supporters prior to the great occasion, Richie, Ann and their family were awakened in the small hours to be informed that their young son, Brendan, or Benny as he was more endearingly referred to, had been tragically killed on the roadside not too far from the safety of his home in Ballyraggett. Benny was just eighteen

years old.

As most Kilkenny people will have terrific memories of a marvellously exciting week-end, the Stone family will forever remember All-Ireland week-end for the dreadful abyss of pain, shock, and horror that was such an unwelcome visitor to their home. Like most normal teenagers, whose life revolved around their native environs, Benny was a fun-loving youngster, without a care or a problem in the world. Looking forward to pursuing his studies at Carlow Regional College, he was also gainfully employed as a part-time butcher with Noel Meade, the Ballyraggett family butcher.

He was captain of the St. Patrick's under-16 team in 1998, whence he progressed to the minor grade last year. He was also a valued member of Brookville Soccer Club. His funeral was the finest ever seen. Every sporting organisation in the county was in attendance, and it was fitting that in the midst of the euphoria abounding on the Monday evening that the triumphant Kilkenny team were presented to their fans, the Chairman of Kilkenny County Board saw fit to extend the sympathy of all to the Stone family. To Richie, Ann and their family the Kilkenny Yearbook Committee in particular, and Gaels in general, extend a heartfelt vote of sympathy.

PETER HOLOHAN



MR Peter Holohan, who worked on the reporting staff of the *Kilkenny People* for 47 years, died at the week-end. Aged 83, he passed away at his home on the Circular road, Kilkenny, on Saturday, after a comparatively short illness.

Mr Holohan was widely known as a sports and general news reporter. He was noted for his reporting of hurling

in particular and also coursing. He also spent many years reporting on the meetings of Kilkenny Corporation and the County Council.

From Ballylynch, Thomastown, Mr Holohan joined the *Kilkenny People* in 1935. He became Chief Reporter and held the position up to his retirement in 1982.

As a young man he was a prominent member of the Mount Juliet Cricket Club.

Throughout his life, he retained a huge interest in card playing, particularly Twenty fives.

Just three years ago, he was predeceased by his wife Norrie.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

(Reproduced from the "Kilkenny People"

John Clarke - New York Minor Football Board

On my own behalf and on behalf of Kilkenny Football Board, I wish to extend to the Clarke family and the New York Minor Board our deepest sympathy on the death of John Clarke, a true friend and Gael, whom I looked forward to meeting each year when we would reminisce on the previous year's activity both at home and in New York.

My first meeting with John was in 1992 in Shannon at the Minor Football International Tournament. We had our own bus, but we had to take second place as the New York lads took it over! From this meeting in 1992 a firm friendship developed between us, which was further enhanced when I visited New York in 1994.

John was a remarkable man, who could charm his way into any household, and it's no wonder he was such a success with the New York lads. They knew they could trust him when he got them on the training ground, and that they would be looked after by a first-class coach and manager. He will be a huge loss to the G.A.A. in New York, but I know that the best memorial to John would be to see the Minor Board continue the great work he was involved in.

Pat Mulrooney Runai

OLLIE BERGIN



Ollie Bergin, who died peacefully at his home on November 26th after a brave battle against illness, was a lifelong supporter of O'Loughlin Gaels. A magnificent hurler, he won All Ireland honours with Kilkenny minors in 1973 when his teammates included County Secretary, Pat Dunphy, as well as Team of the Century players, Joe Hennessy and Dick O'Hara. Three years later he was on the Kilkenny Under 21 side which hammered Wexford in the Leinster final but lost to Cork in the All Ireland final.

Ollie's first county medal was won with Kilkenny CBS when his school won the first ever county under 12 title. He won Under 16 hurling and football double with St John's in 1971 and in the same year starred for a St John's 7-aside team which won a Leinster tournament and qualified to play in Warwickshire!

Minor honours came his way in 1972, again with O'Loughlin's and he won further honours with his club when on the team which won the junior county title in 1975 (against Emeralds) and the Intermediate title three years later when Lisdowney were the victims. He followed this with a spell with O'Loughlin's seniors.

He maintained his avid interest in hurling and his pub "Ollie's" in John Street was a Mecca for hurling followers after Nowlan Park games. He invariably booked a carriage on trains to Kilkenny's big games in Croke Park and there was always a rush to get a place on "Ollie's Train".

Go raibh leaba i measc na Naomh aige.

KILKENNY GAA RESULTS 2000

Credit Union Senior Hurling Final <i>(Tom Walsh Memorial Cup)</i>	O'Loughlin Gaels.....2-5	Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup Final
Graigue-Ballycallan.....0-16	Bus Éireann All-County IH League Final <i>(Aylward Cup)</i>	Cloneen.....2-11
O'Loughlin Gaels.....0-9	Mullinavat.....0-16	Carrigeen.....2-11
Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Final <i>(Hanrahan Cup)</i>	St Martin's.....1-12	Cloneen.....0-17
Dunamaggin.....5-9	Hennessy Sports All County JH League Final	Carrigeen.....1-7
St Martin's.....1-6	James Stephens.....0-16	Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn A North Final
JJ Kavanagh & Sons JH County Final <i>(Bob Aylward Memorial Cup)</i>	Danesfort.....0-9	James Stephens.....2-12
James Stephens0-10	Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling Final	O'Loughlin Gaels.....1-7
Piltown.....0-7	James Stephens.....0-14	Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn A South Final
Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final <i>(Shem Lawlor Cup)</i>	Galmoy.....2-6	Dunnamaggin.....3-16
Dunamaggin1-9	Iverk Produce South Junior Hurling Final	Graignamanagh.....1-6
O'Loughlin Gaels.....0-10	Piltown.....2-9	Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn B North Final
Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final <i>(Not yet Played)</i>	Windgap.....0-13	Clara.....1-15
Michael Lyng Motors U- 21 Hurling Roinn A County Final	Special Junior Hurling League Div 1 Final	Conahy Shamrocks.....0-8
Dunnamaggin.....2-6	O'Loughlin Gaels.....2-12	Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn B South Final
James Stephens.....1-9	Ballyhale Shamrocks.....2-5	Carrickshock.....1-12
Michael Lyng Motors U - 21 Hurling Roinn B County Final	Special Junior Hurling League Div 2 Final	Tullagher/Rosbercon.....1-8
Clara.....1-10	Kilmacow.....1-10	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B North Final
Carrickshock.....3-4	Graigue/Ballycallan.....1-6	St Martin's.....0-9
Clara.....1-3	JJ Kavanagh & Sons Special Junior Hurling Roinn A North Final	Erin's Own.....1-6
Carrickshock.....0-6	O'Loughlin Gaels.....2-7	St Martin's.....1-18
Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn C Final	St Martin's.....1-5	Erin's Own.....2-4
Blacks & Whites.....1-9	Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn A South Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B South Final
Cloneen.....0-6	Dunnamaggin.....1-14	Rower/Inistioge.....1-10
Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn A County Final	Mooncoin.....1-10	Tullagher/Rosbercon.....1-9
Blacks & Whites.....1-9	JJ Kavanagh & Sons Special Junior Hurling Roinn B North Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C North Final
Cloneen.....0-6	Emeralds V James Stephens	Galmoy.....1-13
Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A County Final <i>(Joyce Memorial Cup)</i>	<i>(Not yet Played)</i>	Cloneen.....2-3
Emeralds1-12	Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn B South Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C South Final
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....0-7	John Lockes.....1-7	Windgap.....2-6
Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B County Final <i>(Ted Carroll Memorial Trophy)</i>	Kilmacow.....1-6	Glenmore.....1-7
St Martin's0-11	Iverk Produce Southern Junior Hurling League Roinn A Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div I Final <i>(John Tobin Memorial Cup)</i>
Rower Inistioge.....1-8	Ballyhale Shamrocks.....2-9	Ballyhale Shamrocks.....3-9
St Martin's1-8	Dunnamaggin.....0-11	Tullaroan.....2-11
Rower Inistioge.....1-5	Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling League Roinn B Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final
Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C County Final	Kilmacow.....5-7	Emeralds.....1-14
Windgap.....3-10	Carrickshock.....1-7	St Martin's.....2-8
Galmoy.....2-11	Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. 1 Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Final
Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final <i>(Matty Power Cup)</i>	O'Loughlin Gaels.....2-7	Rower/Inistioge.....3-16
Tullaroan.....1-10	James Stephens.....0-12	John Lockes.....3-13
Dicksboro.....1-10	JJ Kavanagh & Sons Northern Junior Hurling League Div. II Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. IV Final
Tullaroan.....2-11	Graigue/Ballycallan.....0-10	St Lachtain's.....1-11
Dicksboro.....2-10	Emeralds.....0-9	Kilmacow.....2-7
Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final <i>(Pat Tierney Cup)</i>	JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling League Div. III Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Losers Final
St Martin's.....1-13	O'Loughlin Gaels.....4-8	Dicksboro.....4-7
Dunnamaggin.....2-9	Galmoy.....0-9	O'Loughlin Gaels.....0-7
St Canice's Credit Union All-County SH League Final <i>(Byrne Cup)</i>	Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final	Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Losers Final
Dicksboro.....0-13	Kilmacow.....1-5	Tullagher/Rosbercon.....5-15
	Galmoy.....0-8	Dunnamaggin.....3-11
	Kilmacow.....0-10	
	Galmoy.....0-8	

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League
Div. III Losers Final**

Mooncoin.....3-12
Blacks & Whites.....2-7

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League
Div. IV Losers Final**

Glenmore.....3-14
Conahy Shamrocks.....0-11

**Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling Roinn A
County Final**

Carrickshock.....2-9
Dicksboro.....4-2

**Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling Roinn B
County Final**

St Martin's.....2-20
Mullinavat.....0-7

**Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling Roinn C
County Final**

Blacks & Whites.....3-10
Mooncoin.....2-6

**Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling League
Roinn A Final**

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....2-16
Dicksboro.....0-4

**Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling League
Roinn B Final**

St Martin's.....1-10
Rower/Inistioge.....2-3

**Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling League
Roinn C Final**

Thomastown.....3-8
Blacks & Whites.....2-11
Thomastown.....2-6
Blacks & Whites.....1-8

**Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Roinn A
County Final**

James Stephens.....4-8
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....1-2

**Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Roinn B
County Final**

Tullagher Rosbercon.....
Piltown.....

**Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Roinn C
County Final**

Rower/Inistioge.....9-5
Barrow Rangers.....1-4

**Under-14 Hurling Féile na nGael Final
(Paddy Grace Memorial)**

James Stephens.....4-6
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....3-2

**Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling League
Roinn C Final**

Rower/Inistioge.....3-8
Conahy Shamrocks.....1-3

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling
Roinn A County Final**

(Educational Supplies League)
Kilkenny CBS.....5-7
Ballyhale.....1-5

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling
Roinn B County Final**

(Hennessy Fuels League)
Piltown.....4-7
Castlecomer.....3-4

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling
Roinn C County Final**

(Paddy O'Connell , Dublin League)
Clara.....4-8
Mullinavat.....3-4

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling
Roinn D County Final**

(Tedcastles Oil)

Glenmore.....4-6
Dunamaggin.....4-3

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup
Hurling Final (Tedcastles Oil)**

(Corn Na Bhaldrathie)
Mullinavat.....2-3
Mooncoin.....0-2

Football

Senior County Football Final

Kilmoganny0-7
Dicksboro.....0-7
Kilmoganny2-11
Dicksboro.....1-9

Intermediate County Football Final

Mullinavat.....1-4
O'Loughlin Gaels.....0-6

Junior County Football Final

Rower Inistioge.....3-5
Danesfort.....0-6

Senior Football League Final

Dicksboro.....0-6
Railyard.....0-5

Intermediate Football League Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....0-13
Blacks & Whites.....1-4

U-21 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

U-21 Football Roinn B Final

Not yet finished

Northern Junior Football Final

Not yet finished

Southern Junior Football Final

Not yet finished

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A
County Final**

Not yet finished

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B
Final**

Not yet finished

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B
North Final**

Not yet finished

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B
South Final**

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn A Final

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn B Final

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn C Final

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-14 Football Roinn A Final

Erin's Own.....2-10
Piltown.....2-7

Duggan Steel U-14 Football Roinn B Final

St Martin's.....2-9
Thomastown.....1-5

Duggan Steel U-14 Football Roinn C Final

Rower-Inistioge.....1-7
Conahy Shamrocks.....1-5

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn A
Football Final (Bertie O'Callaghan Cup)**

(Kilkenny Association, Dublin)
Not yet finished

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn B
Football Final (Toymaster League)**

Not yet finished

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn C
Football Final (Tedcastles Oil)**

Conahy.....1-1
Callan CBS.....0-4
Conahy.....1-1
Callan CBS.....0-3

**Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup
Football Final**

Not yet finished

Northern U-21 Football Roinn A Final

Not yet finished

Southern U-21 Football Roinn A Final

Not yet finished

Northern U-21 Football Roinn B Final

Not yet finished

Southern U-21 Football Roinn B Final

Not yet finished

Outstanding Results

1998

Football

Under 21 Football Roinn A Final

Kilmoganny.....2-10
Erin's Own.....1-6

Under 21 Football Roinn B Final

Mullinavat.....0-7
Railyard.....0-5
(Unfinished. Mullinavat awarded title)

Outstanding Results

1999

Hurling

**Michael Lyng Motors U21 Hurling
Roinn A Final**

Dunamaggin.....2-7
James Stephens.....2-6

**Michael Lyng Motors U21 Hurling
Roinn B Final**

Mullinavat.....3-7
Erin's Own.....1-5

Corrected Score:

**Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div
II Final Replay**

B'Bridge/Danesfort.....1-15
Rower/Inistioge.....1-12

Football

Senior Football County Final

Railyard.....1-5
Graigue/Ballycallan.....0-7

Intermediate Football County Final

Young Irelands.....1-8
O'Loughlin Gaels.....1-8
Young Irelands.....0-9
O'Loughlin Gaels.....1-4

