

KILKENNY

GAA Yearbook



2004

€10



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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2004

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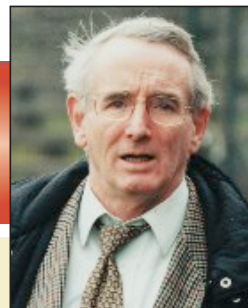
FRONT COVER:

Victory!
Final moment of 2004 U21 All
Ireland Final.
John McIlwaine

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Peter Barry
Matt Browne/SPORTSFILE

EDITORIAL



In a year that had us drooling in anticipation of treble trebles, trebles, clean sweeps, top of the hill, and so on, 2004 will have come as a disappointment to a number of Kilkenny supporters. But then what's new? Kilkenny supporters, perennially nourished on a high octane menu of success, seem to suffer pang of remorse whenever their expectations are not fully realised. Instance 1990, when the cover of the Yearbook was a collage of Kilkenny success, but it was bereft of the "big picture"- the Liam Mc Carthy Cup. A poor year.

Nonetheless, Mr. Kilkenny Supporter had a great year following his favourites. Besides Colleges, Handball, and Camogie All Ireland wins, he was party to six All Ireland finals with his beloved hurlers. We made the All Finals at Senior, Intermediate, Under-21, and Minor grades. We won one, thanks to Martin Fogarty and his merry band, but lost the other three, two of them after replays. St Kierans again did us proud, in a game where in my meagre opinion, the score of the year was provided. You remember it well I hope. I certainly do. The score itself didn't matter, as the College were "gone out the gate with the cup" at the stage. Little Richie Hogan, at fifteen years of age, the youngest player on the field, was hovering close to the St Raphael's goal. He blocked the attempted clearance of the St Raphael's goalkeeper, the ball ran loose, goalkeeper, and two other backs surrounded the sliothar. Like the artful dodger, young Hogan inserted his hurley between the unsuspecting defenders. With his stick underneath the ball, he coolly spooned it over the head of the goalie, and over the bar. Pure theatre.

Within the County, supporters had much to enthuse about. Back in July, or was it June, James Stephens suffered the ignominy- in their minds, of being wiped off Nowlan Park by Dicksboro in the League. Even the most qualified GAA actuary couldn't stab at a guess on how things would pan out. One was to be relegated, the other, James Stephens was to paint the place green and red, as they careered towards the Tom Walsh Cup for the first time since 1981. Not contented, they have now collected the Leinster Club title as we write. Carrickshock too were noteworthy winners, getting back to senior status after a lapse of forty-nine years. But the real Cinderella story was the success of lowly Galway, who have struggled to make the break-through to Intermediate grade. They made it this year with a superb display of controlled hurling, above and beyond the junior norm.

O'Loughlin Gaels won a great Roinn A minor championship, but credit Rower Inistioige for mounting a formidable, if losing opposition. There were marvellous encounters at under-age level. There were some terrific contests at schools level. Our Yearbook is packed with the stories.

My thanks to our Committee, listed on the left, to our contributors, Professional, and otherwise, our cameramen, Professional and otherwise, our advertisers who make this publication possible, and to you, our support, for your unfailing loyalty, and interest.

I hope you find great entertainment within the covers of our Yearbook.

I hope you enjoy Peace and Happiness during the Festive Season with your families.

I hope that we have managed to relive the many pleasant moments of 2004 for you within the covers of our book

And I hope that you and I will travel the many roads we have shared in good and not so good times, irrespective of the colour of our favourites, as long as they are black and amber.

Barrie Henriques

EDITOR.

Foreword



I suppose it is a measure of the level of expectation that exists in our county that as we come to the end of a year when we again contested all four All Ireland finals actually playing in six, the prevailing feeling within the county is one of disappointment due to the fact that the wonderful effort by our senior team to complete the three in a row did not succeed. Parallel to this feeling is however the tremendous sense of admiration and appreciation that exists amongst supporters regarding the players achievements in recent years which was reflected in the level of support they enjoyed throughout this years campaign. On behalf of all associated with the game in the county I extend sincere thanks to both the players and team management and I look forward with confidence to the year ahead.

It is rarely indeed that a team produces a near flawless display in an All Ireland final but such was certainly the case when our Under Twenty One team retained their title in a never to be forgotten Saturday afternoon in Nowlan Park. Displaying all the style and skill for which our county is renowned they took command of the game right from the beginning and emerged the worthiest of winners. Congratulations to both the players and team management on a truly memorable victory.

Last year it took extra time to decide the result of the Intermediate All Ireland Final and this year it went to a replay after a thrilling draw in atrocious weather conditions before we had to again settle for the runners up position. Full marks to all involved with the team over the past two years and hopefully they will be able to make it third time lucky next year.

The general consensus within the county at the start of the year was we would struggle in the minor grade to emulate the achievement of the previous two years. How wrong we all were. The displays of this years team throughout the year and particularly in both the drawn and replayed All Ireland Final were a revelations. The skill and pride that this young team displayed in representing the county was palpable and certainly augurs well for the future. I extend sincere thanks to both players and team management on their achievements.

All of our county teams continue to enjoy the benefits of our sponsors Glanbia Plc. Our association with Glanbia is now in its second decade and I look forward to it continuing for many years to come. I likewise wish to express my thanks to our Supporters Club branches in Kilkenny and Dublin and Kildare for their invaluable contributions to all our teams.

A congratulation to St. Kieran's on their clear cut victory in the Colleges "A" All Ireland Final. Awesome is the only word to describe their display in that game. The role played by all our schools both primary and post primary is a major contributory factor to the success of hurling in our county and I wish to express my thanks to all teachers for their on going promotion of our games. Congratulations also to our three All Stars Tommy Walsh, JJ Delaney and Henry Shefflin.

This year also we commemorated the centenary of our first ever Senior All Ireland Victory. A plaque containing the names of the players who represented Kilkenny on that occasion was erected in Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir where the game was played, while a Tullaroan selection played St. Finbarrs of Cork in Tullaroan in a rematch of the 1904 final.

There is a renewed effort underway regarding the promotion of Gaelic Football in our county and I wish those dedicated people involved every success. We were close to making the break through in the Leinster Minor Championship this year and hopefully we can build on this in the year ahead.

The Camogie Association celebrated its Centenary this year and honoured Kilkenny by staging their league final and both All Ireland Semi Finals in Nowlan Park. Congratulations to the St. Lachtains club in Freshford on their wonderful first ever success in this years All Ireland Club Final., truly an outstanding achievement.

Ladies football continues to develop and more teams are now playing the game. The great victory by the Railyard club in the Leinster Junior Championship will I'm sure be a further boost to the game. With every passing year my admiration for those involved in the promotion of Handball in our county increases. Scarcely a month goes by without a multiple of All Ireland medals been won. Given that so few clubs promote the game one can only wonder as to what might be achieved if all GAA clubs became involved.

Once again our local Championships provided us with some wonderful games particularly at the concluding stages. Few of those who were privileged to be present at our Senior County Final will ever forget the excitement of the occasion as James Stephens just held out against a gallant Young Irelands of Gowran team to record their first success for twenty three years in this grade. Congratulations to the Village on this win and to Carrickshock (Intermediate) Galmoy (Junior) Ballyhale Shamrocks Under 21) and O'Loughlin Gaels Minor on their great victories. Kilkenny County Board again expresses its thanks to St. Canices Credit Union, Vale Oil, JJ Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, Hennessey Sports, MJ Lyng Motors, Iarnrod Eireann and Duggan Steel for their sponsorship of all our championships.

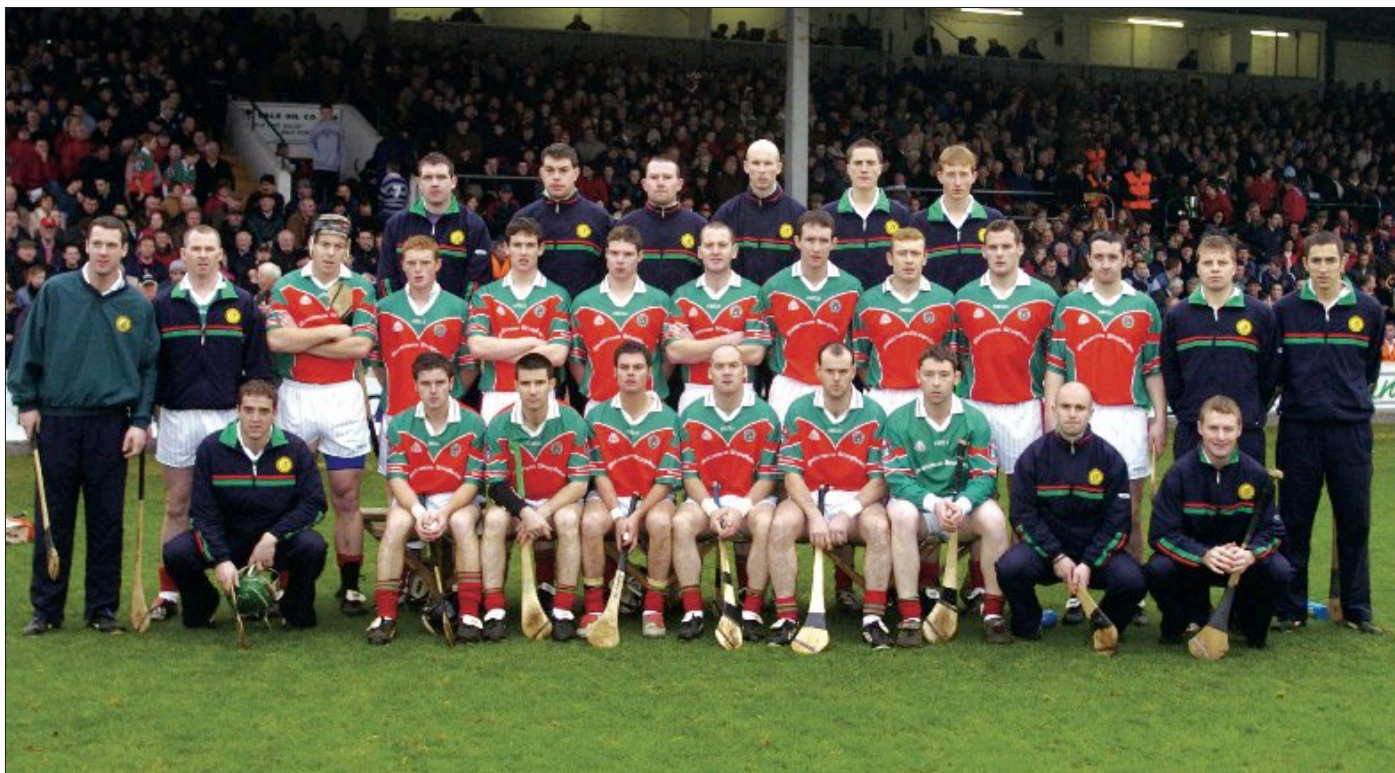
I wish to compliment our Year Book committee on another wonderful publication. It will I believe be another Must Read for all Kilkenny followers. To Pat Henderson (Chairman) Gerry O'Neill, Barry Henriques (Editor) and all who have contributed I extend sincere thanks.

*Eamonn 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.

The Village are back!

County SH Championship Report



JAMES STEPHENS - COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2004

Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

Back: Joe Murray, Joe Mernagh, Derrick Brennan, Paddy O'Brien, Matthew Ruth, Tomas Keogh.

Middle: Shane Egan, Brian Dooley, Martin Phelan, David McCormack, Donnacha Cody, Paddy Butler, Gary Whelan, Richie Hayes, Peter Barry, Jackie Tyrrell, Eoin Larkin, Mark Hoban, Peter O'Neill.

Front: Michael Fogarty, Eoin McCormack, Philip Larkin, Joe Murphy, Dermot Grogan, Brian McEvoy, Francis Cantwell, Vincent O'Brien, Niall Tyrrell.

The Village are back!

After a long, tortuous journey, spanning a complete generation, James Stephens mounted the winner's rostrum in Nowlan Park, on the last Sunday of October to collect the Tom Walsh Cup, an episode that had not been replicated within the lifespan of eight of their team.

For Village people, it was an ebullient, emotive occasion as Peter Barry of the urchin face and ginger cranium lifted the silverware, to the universal acclaim of the gathered throngs on the green surface of Kilkenny's premier arena. Grown men, men of tough disposition in a former hurling life, were seen to weep tears of unconcealed emotion, as the overcome skipper was smothered in a wave of flash bulbs, back slapping, and congratulations.

Yes indeed, the Village are back.

But when the "real deal" started out in early May the Village lads were not "throwing the shapes" that were indicative of Championship winning formulae. People were talking about Ballyhale Shamrocks, Tullaroan, Young Irelands, Graigue/Ballycallan, and O'Loughlins as strong Championship contenders, but few, if any, had James Stephens "pencilled in". Even some in-house opinion doubted the ability of the management to produce a winning outfit. Such opinion was clearly underlined when the Village went down to Dicksboro by a whopping two goals after a totally forgettable game, with barely half of the month passed. The backs are Ok, the forwards are powder puff, said the detractors.

The knockers had a ball.

Oh ye of little faith!

Graig Ballycallan (2-10) and Ballyhale Shamrocks (1-15) pro-

vided an opening cracker in their game in Bennettsbridge.

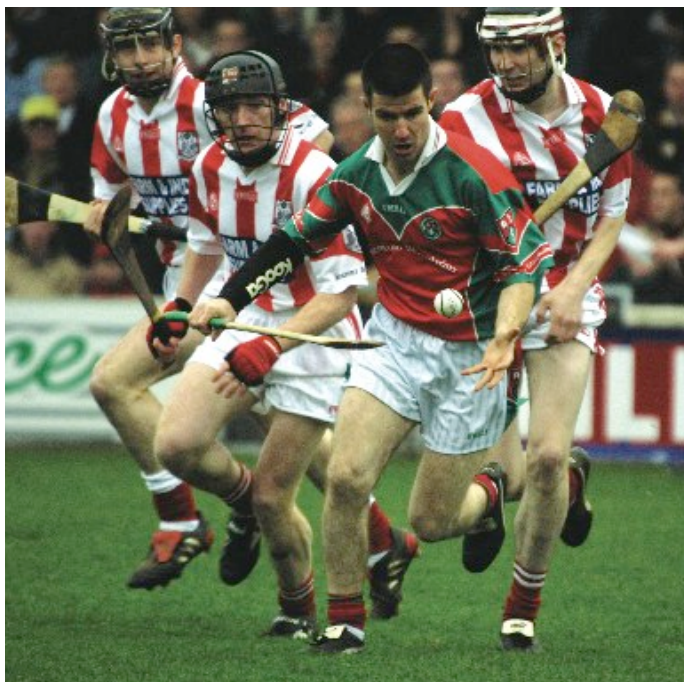
County Champions, O'Loughlins were wiped out by promoted Muckalee in their opening encounter, (5-12 to 2-11). Diarmuid Lawler went into orbit with his scoring prowess.

Glenmore, too, had an unexpected win over Gowran in their opening game. It was not the last League game that the Young Irelands men were to lose. In Group 2, James Stephens (2-15) had five points to spare against Tullaroan (3-7) in their opening game, before coming a cropper against Dicksboro in their next outing.

From Group 1, O'Loughlins and Graig Ballycallan were to storm through to the League semi-finals. From the second group, Tullaroan and James Stephens were to make up the semi-finals quartet.

There were some magnificent matches along the route. Graigue were to beat Young Irelands in a truly remarkable game, by 6-16 to 4-13 in the second round. It was a night for hotshot hitters, where the silken skills of DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, Eddie Brennan, John Hoyne and Adrian Ronan had patrons gagging with superlatives. Probably the best game in the first group was the Thomaston encounter between Young Irelands and Shamrocks, with victory barely going to the Ballyhale lads on a score of 2-16 to 4-9. Again, those two lethal free-takers, Messrs Carey and Shefflin drove sliothars through defences at a frightening Mach 2 speed.

James Stephens posted notice that they were a force in two of their games in Group 2. They beat Dunnamaggin in Callan, after a torrid affair by 1-11 to 0-13. In the next round - the last - they tumbled the Fenians from Johnstown by 1-12 to 1-9, in a superb game, where the result was knife-edge to the finish.



Philip Larkin is chased by Young Irelands **Ollie Carter, Dick Carroll** and **Tom Carroll**.
Eoin Hennessy



James McDermott (Young Irelands) chased by **Eddie Brennan** (Graigue/Ballycallan)
Eoin Hennessy

The inability of the Tullaroan forwards, other than Paul Doherty and Jimmy Coogan, to score cost them dearly as they went under to neighbours, Graigue Ballycallan by 3-13 to 3-10 in their League semi-final, while James Stephens got the better of their city rivals, O'Loughlins in their semi by 1-15 to 2-10.

On the same weekend, The first round/relegation battles got under way. Dicksboro were done and dusted against Young Irelands until DJ Carey stepped up to the line. His brilliance put paid to the Boro's advancement, and confined them to a battle for senior survival against St Martins. The north Kilkenny lads were well humbled by a Kevin Power inspired Fenians in their game in Freshford. Power finished with 1-7 to his credit as the Fenians beat Muckalee by 2-13 to 0-11. In the relegation playoff, Muckalee beat Dicksboro by 0-12 to 1-8, thus confining them to do battle at Intermediate level for 2005.

Down in Mullinavat, Dunnamaggin and Glenmore went head to frantic head in front of a huge crowd who turned up in anticipation of something special. They were not disappointed. The Dunna lads won by 2-14 to 0-18, but it needed the superb point scoring of Seoghan O'Neill and Colin Herity to get them over the line ahead of the Mullally-O'Connor-Phelan-driven Glenmore outfit.

Erin's Own, probably relieved from the worries of relegation, were content to see out their game against the Shamrocks, losing by 2-11 to 0-13. Matches were coming fast and thick at this stage. We were already starting the middle month of the autumn, and the County Board fixtures bods were steaming forward with their quarter-finals.

Graig Ballycallan faced Young Irelands, who looked threatening suddenly. They were at long odds with the bookies - some said 14-1 against. A goal some four and a half minutes into stoppage time by you-know-who, earned them a second pick at the pot - Young Irelands 1-11 Graig Ballycallan 0-14.

More of that please, pleaded the crowds coming out from Nowlan Park Twenty four hours prior to that, the reigning Champions got the fright of their lives when they were behind a very young, and impressive Shamrocks team, by a single point, and the clock in injury time. However an Alan Geoghegan point saved O'Loughlin's bacon, and they too had to try again. It was a draw that was to prove costly later.

Despite Kevin Power scoring 2-7 of his side's 3-8, the Fenians from Johnstown failed to down Tullaroan in their game. The main difference was the fact that all

of the Tullaroan forwards got on the scoreboard. The pundits looked to be on a winner here, as Tullaroan looked hugely impressive.

James Stephens (0-12) beat Dunnamaggin (0-9) in a dour, uninspiring game in Callan. A young man by the name of Eoin Larkin was "cutting a dash". We were to become more familiar with the young man later in the season. The two replays produced classics. Graig Ballycallan, stunned by the last gasp DJ Carey goal six days previously, were not going to capitulate too easily. However, they did not bargain for the intensity and drive of DJ Carey, whose contribution of eleven points was telling to say the least. Little divided the sides for most of the journey in this epic. They were level at the break, (1-6 to 0-9).

Even a last minute goal by Eddie Brennan wasn't enough to get the Graig lads home in front. The final score read, Young Irelands 1-17, Graig Ballycallan 2-



Jubilation! - **Brian McEvoy** leads the celebration after his late goal against O'Loughlin Gaels.
John McIlwaine



Eoin Larkin had a great year for James Stephens.
Eoin Hennessy



Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks) is challenged by Maurice Nolan and Peter Dowling (O'Loughlin Gaels)
Eoin Hennessy



One happy man - Captain Peter Barry raises the Tom Walsh cup. PAT MURPHY/sportsfile



Shane Hennessy (Tullaroan) chased by James Whelan (Fenians) Eoin Hennessy

11.
Now the takers of the 14-1 were smiling. In the other replay, brave Ballyhale Shamrocks, adrift of the County Champions by just four points at half time, were delighted with themselves, as they were to have full assistance from the strong wind during the second half. However a scrambled goal from Shem Cummins midway through the second half, presented a formidable obstacle to the young Ballyhale lads, who were

forced to play without the injured James "Cha" Fitzpatrick. It's hard to beat Champions, and so it was, as O'Loughlins ran out winners by 1-12 to 0-12. Hurling folk from within the County environs and further afield awaited with salivating expectation, the semi-final clashes, that were destined to produce a city/country final. Three of the semi-finalists were winners of the Tom Walsh cup within ten years, but famed James Stephens had not won since 1981. Young Irelands faced Tullaroan. The question still being asked, not least by the Tullaroan support is, "Why did we capitulate so easily in the second half, after putting in such a sterling performance in the first?" For one thing, a team whose full forward division rattles home 1-14 between them, will invariably win the game. DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, and Davy Carter were the executioners in chief, to whom Tullaroan had no antidote. The final score read, Young Irelands 1-18, Tullaroan 1-9.

No 14-1 available now. James Stephens, showing a determination, and commitment beyond the comprehension of many neutrals, were dead and buried as referee, Domo Connolly spent an inordinate amount of time looking at his watch, and counting down the last seconds. They -the Village - needed a goal to survive. A "Hail Mary" '65 was dropped into the O'Loughlins large parallelogram, populated by all except Franny Cantwell in the Village goal. With his back to the O'Loughlin's clubhouse, Franny was saying the prayers. The sliotar arrived, hurleys were waved and swung, and the ball slithered over the end line for another '65. Within a few more seconds, same scene, same requirement for James Stephens, same ash movements, glory for James Stephens, catastrophe for O'Loughlins - a Brian Mc Evoy rocket to the back of the O'Loughlins net. Parity for James Stephens, yet another replay for the reigning champs. Eoin Larkin, another eight points. Seven days later, they met again, but

Players who took part in the 2004 Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship

BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

Bobbie Aylward, Mark Aylward, Tom Coogan, Michael Dermody, Michael Fennelly, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Conor Harrington, Pádraig Holden, David Hoyne, Keith Nolan, Michael O'Sullivan, Eoin Reid, Patrick Reid, T J Reid, Dermot Ryan, Henry Shefflin, Paul Shefflin, Tommy Shefflin

DICKSBORO

Brian Barry, David Beirne, Oisín Breathnach, David Carroll, Donal Carroll, Brendan Corcoran, Ger Henderson, Tom Henderson, James Maher, Sam Morrissey, Shane McGarry, Eddie O'Donoghue, Paul O'Flynn, David O'Gorman, John O'Gorman, David O'Mahony, Dan O'Neill, Darren Tyrrell, Brian Walton

DUNNAMAGGIN

Liam Heffernan, Mark Heffernan, Colin Herity, David Herity, Andrew Hickey, Canice Hickey, John Hickey, Noel Hickey, Tom Hickey, Eamonn Kennedy, Noel Lahart, Brendan Moore, Niall McCormack, Andrew O'Neill, J P O'Neill, Seaghan O'Neill, Brian O'Shea, Ken O'Shea

ERIN'S OWN

Martin Boran, Tom Brophy, Eddie Brennan, Ken Brennan, David Buggy, John Buggy, Danny Byrne, Colin Dunne, John Feehan, Damien Fogarty, Sean Meally, Joe Meagher, Damien Mullins, Anthony Owens, Michael Owens, Eoin Rothwell, Ronan Ryan, Cormac Young

FENIANS

Eoin Behan, John Broderick, J J Delaney, P J Delaney, Declan Garrett, Kieran Grehan, Eugene Grehan, Ger Henderson, Brian Power, Kevin Power, Paul Phelan, Brian Ryan, Cathal Ryan, Jason Ryan, Lar Ryan, P J Ryan, Paul Quinlan, James Whelan

GLENMORE

David Aylward, Kenneth Cotteral, Michael Foran, Paul Fitzgerald, Fergal Freyne, Niall Mackey, Paddy Mullally, Richie Mullally, Michael Murphy, Eddie O'Connor, Willie O'Connor, John Phelan, Mark Phelan, Michael Phelan, Shay Vereker, Fintan Walsh, Jimmy Walsh

GRAIGUEBALLYCALLAN,

Johnny Butler, Eddie Brennan, J J Brennan, Kevin Cleere, Gearoid Cleere, Brian Dalton, Paul Dermody, Thomas Dermody, James Dunphy, Ciaran Hoyne, John Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Patrick Kennedy, Niall Millea, Tommy Minogue, Darragh Murphy, Pat Robinson, Adrian Ronan, James Ryall, James Young

JAMES STEPHENS

Peter Barry, Pat Butler, Francis Cantwell, Donnacha Cody, Dermot Grogan, Richie Hayes, Eoin Larkin, Philly Larkin, Joe Mernagh, Joe Murphy, Joe Murray, David McCormack, Eoin McCormack, Brian McEvoy, Peter O'Neill, Martin Phelan, Matt Ruth, Jackie Tyrrell, Niall Tyrrell, Garry Whelan

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

Niall Bergin, Kevin Cleere, Andy Comerford, Martin Comerford, Seamus Cummins, Brian Dowling, Peter Dowling, Sean Dowling, Colin Furling, Alan Geoghegan, Brian Hogan, Michael Houlihan, Brian Kelly, Jason Lawlor, Brian Murphy, Maurice Nolan, Alan O'Brien, Nigel Skehan

ST MARTIN'S

Shane Cadigan, Don Callinan, Shane Coonan, John Dooley, Liam Dowling, Martin Dowling, Aidan Lawlor, Dermot Lawlor, Brendan Maher, Damien Maher, John Maher, Paul Maher, Ronan Maher, Niall Maloney, Michael Mulhall, Alan Murphy, Stephen Murphy, Eoin McGrath

TULLAROAN

Eamon Brennan, Richard Butler, Eddie Campion, Jimmy Coogan, Ken Coogan, Paul Doheny, Shane Hennessy, Richie Holland, Chris Maher, Michael Maher, Nicky Maher, Stephen Maher, Barry Teehan, Michael Walsh, Tommy Walsh, Tom Fitzgerald, Ned Sweeney, Podge Kennedy

YOUNG IRELANDS

Stephen Byrne, DJ Carey, Martin Carey, Ciaran Carroll, Dick Carroll, Peter Carroll, Thomas Carroll, Charlie Carter, David Carter, Martin Carter, Ollie Carter, Tom Drennan, Eoin Farrell, Cathal Fitzgerald, James Fitzgerald, James McDermott, Pat O'Neill, Ciaran Phelan, Darragh Phelan

SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2003 RESULTS AND SCORES

FIRST ROUND.

Young Irelands 2-11, Dicksboro 0-14

Young Irelands; DJ Carey 1-6, D Carter 1-1, C Carter 0-2, D Carroll 0-1, C Phelan 0-1.

Dicksboro; G Henderson 0-4, D O'Gorman 0-4, E O'Donoghue 0-3, D O'Neill, B Barry and P O'Flynn 0-1 each.

B Shamrocks 2-11, Erins Own 0-13

Ballyhale Shamrocks; H Shefflin 1-4, E Reid 1-0, K Nolan 0-2, D Hoyne 0-2, P Reid 0-2, B Aylward 0-1.

Erin's Own; D Buggy 0-3, E Brennan 0-3, J Feehan 0-2, M Boran 0-2, J Buggy 0-1, R Ryan 0-1.

Dunnamaggin 2-14, Glenmore 0-18

Dunnamaggin; C Herity 0-5, S O'Neill 0-4, N McCormack 1-0, L Heffernan 1-0, C Hickey 0-2, K O'Shea, B Moore and B O'Shea 0-1 each.

Glenmore; P Mullally 0-6, P Fitzgerald 0-5, M Murphy 0-2, E O'Connor 0-2, R Mullally, K Cotteral and J Phelan 0-1 each.

Fenians 2-13, St Martins 0-11

Fenians; K Power 1-7, P Quinlan 1-0, L Ryan 0-3, B Ryan, E Behan and B Power 0-1 each, **St Martins;** D Lawlor 0-8, L Dowling, S Coonan and N Maloney 0-1 each.

QUARTER-FINALS

James Stephens 0-12, Dunnamaggin 0-9

James Stephens; E Larkin 0-8, J Murphy 0-2, E McCormack, D McCormack 0-1 each, **Dunnamaggin;** C Herity 0-5, S O'Neill 0-2, B Moore and K O'Shea 0-1 each.

Tullaroan 2-13, Fenians 3-8

Tullaroan; M Walsh 1-1, J Coogan 0-4, B Teehan 0-3, P Doheny 0-2, T Walsh, C Maher and N Maher 0-1 each, Own Goal 1-0, **Fenians;** K Power 2-7, J Whelan 1-0, E Behan 0-1.

Young Irelands 1-11, G Ballycallan 0-14

Young Irelands; DJ Carey 1-6, D Carroll 0-2, O Carter, T Carroll and D Carter 0-1 each, **Graigue Ballycallan;** P Kennedy 0-5, A Ronan 0-4, M Hoyne, J Young, J Dunphy, J Hoyne, E Brennan 0-1 each.

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-15, B Shamrocks 1-12

O'Loughlin Gaels; A Geoghegan 0-7, B Dowling 0-5, M Comerford 0-2, M Nolan 0-1, **Ballyhale Shamrocks;** H Shefflin 1-7, D Hoyne 0-2, M Fennelly, B Aylward and M Aylward 0-1 each.

REPLAYS

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-12, B Shamrocks 0-12

O'Loughlin Gaels; N Skehan 0-7, S Cummins 1-1, M Comerford 0-2, B Dowling 0-2.

Ballyhale Shamrocks; H Shefflin 0-5, M Aylward 0-2, K Nolan, T Coogan, D Hoyne, E Reid and P Reid 0-1 each.

Young Irelands 1-17, G/Ballycallan 2-11

Young Irelands; D J Carey 0-11, C Carter 0-4, D Carroll 1-0, T Carroll and D Carroll 0-1 each.

Graigue Ballycallan; E Brennan 1-4, J Young 1-1, M Hoyne 0-2, P Kennedy and A Ronan, 0-1 each.

SEMI-FINALS

Jas Stephens 2-13, O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13

James Stephens; E Larkin 0-8, G Whelan 1-0, B McEvoy 1-0, P Larkin, P Butler, E McCormack, R Hayes and J Murphy 0-1 each.

O'Loughlin Gaels; S Cummins 1-1, M Nolan 1-0, A Geoghegan 0-3, J Lawlor 0-3, B Dowling 0-2, N Skehan 0-2, A Comerford 0-1, M Comerford 0-1.

Young Irelands 1-18, Tullaroan 1-9

Young Irelands; D J Carey 0-6, C Carter 0-6, D Carter 1-2, O Carter 0-2, D Carroll 0-1, C Phelan 0-1.

Tullaroan; J Coogan 0-5, B Teehan 1-0, S Hennessy 0-3, N Sweeney 0-1.

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

Jas Stephens 1-12, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-8

James Stephens; E Larkin 1-8, J Murphy 0-2, J Tyrrell 0-1, G Whelan 0-1.

O'Loughlin Gaels; A Geoghegan 0-3, M Nolan 0-2, B Dowling 0-2, M Comerford 0-1.

FINAL

Jas Stephens 2-16, Young Irelands 3-12

James Stephens; E Larkin 0-11, E McCormack 0-3, G Whelan 1-0, J Murray 1-0, D McCormack 0-1, J Murphy 0-1.

Young Irelands; D J Carey 3-6, C Carter 0-2, D Carter 0-2, D Carroll 0-1, O Carter 0-1.

somehow it didn't seem that the Champions were clued in. They looked tired. They looked a little perplexed. In truth, they looked like the punch-drunk boxer who has had that one round too many.

Cock-a-hoop James Stephens exuded confidence, a unity of purpose, and a single-mindedness that spelt danger for O'Loughlins. The Village mentors, Adrian Finan, Tommy Lanigan and Brendan Lee were expectant of big things from their charges. The charges didn't let them down. Eoin Larkin scored 1-8 - 1-2 from play. Just what the occasion demanded. They won by 1-12 to O'Loughlin's 0-8. Still though, the forces of Carey, Carter, et al were pushing public opinion to side with Young Irelands. The final was going to come down to a battle for supremacy between the James Stephens backs - Larkin, Barry, Cody, Phelan, Grogan, Tyrrell and Cantwell - and the potent Gowran forwards - Carey, two Carrolls and three Carters.

The winning battle was won further away from the James Stephens goal. Carey scored 3-6 - its only value being in gilding the end of a scrappy County Final with an enormous TNT finish. James Stephens won a game that was nearly swept away from them with the awarding, and scoring of four frees from in front of their posts. DJ's striking of the frees was truly awesome, and will be a talked-of feature of a County Final when most other facets are forgotten. Again the James Stephens defence were remarkably brilliant, with Philly Larkin standing head neck and heels above any other. Donncha Cody, Martin Phelan and Peter Barry were willing auxiliaries, while Dermot Grogan, and Patrick Butler contributed plenty to a memorable win. But it was up front where the Village have unearthed a real gem. Eoin Larkin scored an amazing 0-11.

Need we say any more?

At half time, James Stephens led by 1-5 to 0-5. The goal was a real speculative lob by Gary Whelan, midway through the opening half. The Village ended up winners, but only just, on a score of 2-16 to 3-12.

It was an emotional scene when Peter Barry climbed the steps of the old stand, a procedure foreign to eight of the winning team.

ALL IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS UPDATE:

So near and yet so far for O'Loughlins.

O'Loughlins were cock-a-hoop travelling to Semple Stadium for the AIB All Ireland Club semi-final in February. They were Leinster Champions. Kilkenny were reigning All-Ireland Champions. The inter-county contingent on the team had returned, well rested, well bronzed from

far away Australia.

The question being asked though, was "Aus" a bridge too far? Were they too bronzed?

Answers coming up.

O'Loughlins opened with a flourish, and had a four point lead after 10 minutes. By half time, the Cork Champions, Newtownshandrum, had taken over, and led by 1-10 to 0-9. The O'Connor twins, Ben and Jerry, Pat Mulcahy, David Mulcahy, and John Paul King had been absolutely scintillating as the Kilkenny Champions were swept aside.

O'Loughlins looked in even bigger trouble within ten minutes of the re-start, as the Cork side had stretched their lead to six points. But it was the doggedness of players like Alan O'Brien, Andy Comerford, Martin Comerford, Alan Geoghegan, Sean Dowling, and his brother Brian, and young Maurice Nolan that dug their team out of such a daunting situation. They hurled their opponents into the ground for the last twenty minutes, overhauled them point by hard-earned point, levelled with them, and then headed them up as the finish line approached. However a controversially questionable free to Newtownshandrum for "killing the ball by Andy Comerford", saw the ice cool Ben O'Connor bring the game back to Semple, six days later. The final score read, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-19 Newtownshandrum 1-16.

With a different ref, expectations of a repeat of the epic seven days previously,



Nigel Skehan breaks past Ben O'Connor (NewtownShandrum) during the drawn All-Ireland Club Semi-Final. Eoin Hennessy

had even a bigger crowd present in sunny Semple Stadium for the replay. A far more disciplined Cork outfit proved too good at the second attempt for Kilkenny's representatives. Six days previously, Nigel Skehan lashed nine points over the Newtown bar from free hits. He didn't get the same chances from a very frugal Newtown defence this time round. It was a tougher game this time. It was less exciting, and it didn't have the silken skills of the previous encounter. Nevertheless, the City side looked a very attractive bet at half time, as they had soaked up a huge amount of Newtown pressure during a first half where the very strong wind favoured the Cork outfit. At half time, Newtownshandrum led by 0-8 to 1-4. It was hardly enough, we thought.

Conscious of their near total second half collapse, six days previously, the Cork lads knuckled down to fight this one to



Gary Whelan seals the fate of Oulart the Ballagh in the Leinster semi-final. Eoin Hennessy

the very end. The Mulcahys, Ian Kelleher, Philip Noonan, and captain, John McCarthy, made life extremely difficult for the O'Loughlin forwards.

O'Loughlins never gave up trying, but too many of their "big hitters" under performed on the day.

With three points, an unassailable lead as far as O'Loughlins were concerned, Newtown went for the juggular in the dying seconds. Their final throw of the dice was halted on the Newtown sixty metre line. Jerry O'Connor returned the ball back towards the O'Loughlin's goal. It rose in the air, it carried forward, and still some. It dropped right on top of Kevin Cleere's net.

Newtownshandrum 0-14 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-8.

Game set and match to the Cork Champions, and deservedly so.

Newtownshandrum: P. Morrissey; J. McCarthy, B. Mulcahy, G. O'Mahony, I. Kelleher, P. Mulcahy, P. Noonan; Jerry O'Connor, A.T. O'Brien; D. Mulcahy, B. O'Connor, JP King; J. Bowles, D. O'Riordan, M. Farrell. Subs: M. Morrissey (O'Riordan 41); J. O'Connor (Farrell 55).

O'Loughlin Gaels: Kevin Cleere; Brian Kelly, Brian Hogan, Brian Murphy; Alan O'Brien, Andy Comerford, Sean Dowling; Niall Bergin, Alan Geoghegan; Jimmy Comerford, Martin Comerford, Nigel Skehan, Maurice Nolan, Colin Furlong, Brian Dowling.

Same team in replay except for positional changes and Shem Cummins and Jason Lawlor were introduced during the game,

Att: 9,000.

James Stephens set out to emulate their city rivals, O'Loughlins, to win the AIB Leinster Club title, when they faced the Meath Champions, Kilmessan in the first round, six days after their final County Final win. Played in Pairc Tailtean, the Kilkenny representatives hit hard and early. They had a goal, compliments of Eoin Larkin, recorded before the opposition had time to exhale their first breath. By half time, the Village led by 3-7 to 0-3. The other two goals coming from the Mc Cormacks, Davy and Eoin.

While the homesters mounted a fairly spirited game plan in the second moiety, there really was only one team in it at the finish, with the Village winning by 4-13 to 1-10. Their fourth goal coming from Gary Whelan late on.

The real business arrived seven days later in Nowlan Park, when the visitors were the newly crowned Wexford Champions, Oulart the Balagh.

This Leinster semi-final was a superb game. The Wexford men, brilliantly marshalled from the central pivotal position of centre back by Liam Dunne looked hugely impressive. They led mid-way through the first half by three points, and it could have been more. However an opportunistic goal just before the break had the sides going in at half time level. Eoin Larkin got the goal, after some strong work by Davy Mc Cormack. The Village were delighted to see half time arrive.

The second half was great entertainment. Philly Larkin, Brian Mc Evoy, Richie Hayes, and Larkin were superb. The full back line, growing ever so confident, and competent were quite awe-

some. The forwards were working with a brilliant team awareness. In the end, the Kilkenny champs deserved to win. Let there be no doubt about it. A Gary Whelan goal in the 43rd minute sealed the fate of Oulart. The win was to propel James Stephens into the Leinster Final, the loss was to mark the end of Martin Storey's glorious career at Senior level. He has paid his dues.



Another Cup for Peter Barry - this time the AIB Leinster trophy
Eoin Hennessy

James Stephens ,winning by 2-13 to Oulart the Ballagh's 0-14, were to face the Dublin Champions, who had taken care of the Offaly Champions, Coolderry, in their semi-final. All roads led to O'Moore Park on the last Sunday in November, as James Stephens faced the daunting task of trying to claim the Martin O'Neill Cup from the students of UCD, whom many had thought were more than potential All Ireland Club Champions. The students had careered through their Dublin Championships with ease. They had strolled into the Leinster Final with greater ease. Their team was a conglomerate of star hurlers from strong hurling counties. They had been managed by Babs Keating. They were serious about the task in hand. Conditions were challenging in O'Moore Park. The ground was heavy, not helped by a match played beforehand. The Village had first use of a strong wind, and they exerted maximum return from the advantage. Frugal in everything they did, their forwards clattered a goal and ten points between the UCD posts in that first half. Again Eoin Larkin was executioner-in-chief. The goal was his, but the work was Dermot Grogan's

and Davie Mc Cormack's. Still Larkin had to finish it, and this he did with aplomb. The students, were a long way behind at the break with only three points on the board.

The second half was about resistance, and dogged courage. Players like Franny Cantwell, Donnacha Cody, big Martin Phelan, Dermot Grogan, Jackie Tyrrell, captain imperious, Peter Barry, and the daunting, unbending Philly Larkin expended every last tickle of breath and energy to hold their line. It was some struggle, and just when it seemed that they were about to go under, somehow they scraped the last morsel of energy from their jaded limbs, worked the ball forward, and somehow, messrs McEvoy, Barry, Hayes, and Whelan delivered a ball in the general vicinity of the muinteoir , Davy Mc Cormack. The personification of coolness, Mc Cormack slipped his marker, and guided the sliothar between the posts for the winner.

Euphoria reigned. The Village were back where they were some twenty-two years previously, and how they celebrated.

James Stephens: Franny Cantwell, Donnacha Cody, Martin Phelan, Dermot Grogan, Philly Larkin, Peter Barry, Peter Butler, Jackie Tyrrell, Brian McEvoy, Joe Murphy, Eoin Larkin, Gary Whelan, Eoin McCormack, Richie Hayes, David McCormack.

Subs: Joe Mernagh, Joe Murray, Derrick Brennan, Niall Tyrrell, Mark Hoban, Michael Fogarty, Peter O'Neill, Matthew Ruth, Paddy O'Brien, Vincent O'Brien, Shane Egan, Tomas Keogh, Brian Dooley



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - BYRNE CUP WINNERS 2004

Back: Conor Harrington, TJ Reid, Tom Coogan, Michael Paul Drennan, Jason Nolan, James Connolly.
Middle: Keith Murphy, Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Patrick Reid, John Drennan, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Michael Dermody, Keith Nolan, Anthony Walsh.
Front: Tommy Shefflin, Michael Sullivan, Barry Nolan, Eoin Reid, Liam Grant, Padraic Holden, David Hoyne, Willie Coogan, Paul Shefflin.

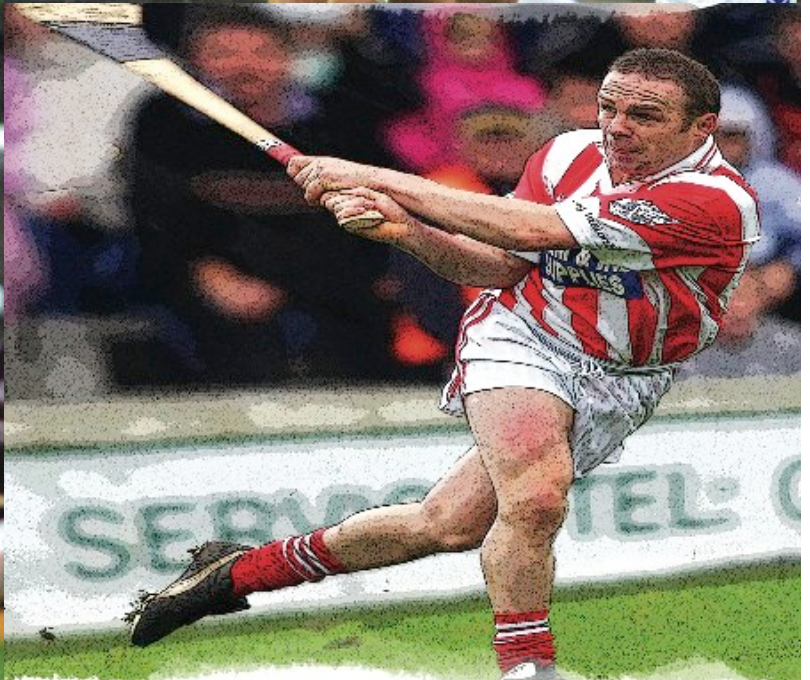
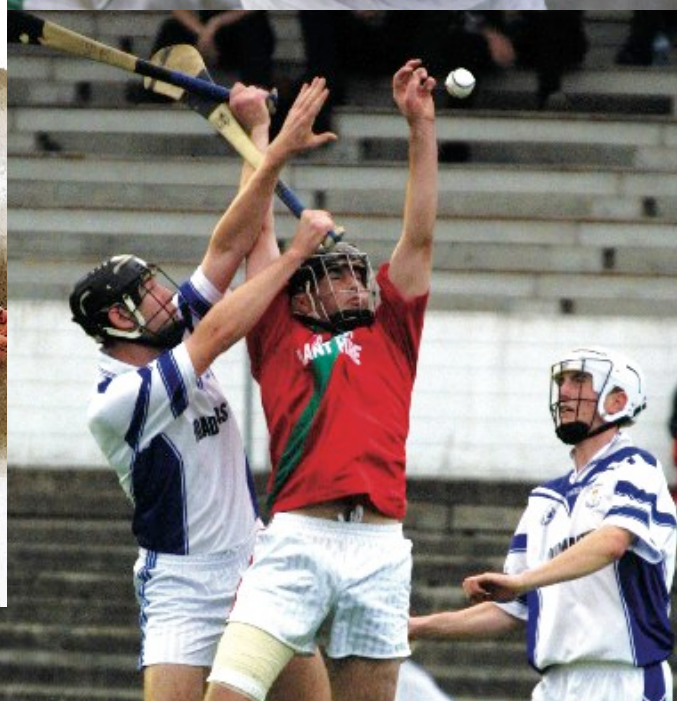


GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN - BYRNE CUP FINALISTS 2004

Back: Johnny Butler, Pat Robinson, James Dunphy, Shane Murphy, Thomas Ryan, Gearoid Cleere, Darragh Murphy, Ciaran Hoyne,
Middle: Ger Ronan, Brian Dalton, Thomas Dermody, James Young, Niall Millea, Adrian Ronan, James Robinson, Michéal Murphy
Front: Paddy Dalton, Joe Brennan, Willie Brennan, John Purcell, PJ Pollard, Michéal Hoyne.

County SH Championship Action

Photos - Sportsfile, Eoin Hennessy, John McLwaine



St Kieran's Sixteenth!

Colleges Report



ST KIERAN'S - ALL IRELAND SENIOR COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Darren O' Neill, Tomas Keogh, Adrian Harkin, Philly Walsh, Niall Fennelly, Shane Prendergast, Patrick Butler, John Joe Farrell, Jamie Quane, Niall Tennyson, Patrick Kennedy, Niall McEvoy.

Middle: Tom Hogan (Coach), John Quane (Coach), Eamonn Walsh, Richie Power, T.J Reid, Donnacha Cody, Kevin Lanigan, Neal Prendergast, Shane Campion, Padraig Treacy, Jason Dermody, Art Anglin (Mentor), Ken Archbold (Physio).

Front: Patrick O'Flynn (Ass. Coach) Willie Norton, Maurice Nolan, Mark Aylward, Richie Hogan, Patrick Hogan, John Walsh (Capt), Damien Bergin, Michael Bergin, Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Kieran Brennan.

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

By Patrick O'Flynn

2004 will be remembered fondly by the players of St. Kieran's College as they completed a clean sweep of Leinster titles and won their 16th All Ireland title on the Bank Holiday Monday in May.

As usual, the Junior team were first out in competitive action, easily beating off the challenge of St. Peter's College, Wexford. In the final round of the league it came down to a top of the table clash with old nemesis, Good Counsel with the Wexford side winning out by four points in a tight encounter consigning Kieran's to the quarter finals against CBS, Kilkenny. In an absorbing contest, the CBS put themselves in front going in at the break by five points. There was a ten point turnaround in the second half in favour of the Blacks and Whites to earn them a semi-final spot against Birr CS which they won at a canter.

The final saw the Saints having to travel to New Ross to take on Good Counsel. Neal Prendergast and Richie Hogan kept Kieran's in a game that Good Counsel were largely dominating. The second half proved to be an enthralling contest which St. Kieran's eventually won by 1-19 to 2-10 with James Dowling, Martin Walsh, and Eoin O'Shea starring along with the afore-

mentioned.

As ever the Juveniles put in a great performance with many fine victories along the way to winning the Leinster title and as usual they didn't read the script which was supposed to end with Birr CS finally breaking their dominance. Led by their inspiring captain, Shane Brennan, they swept aside all challenges put in front of them and demolished Good Counsel in the final to wrap up yet another Leinster title.

The Seniors began their year with an away assignment to Good Counsel, missing several key players due to the club finals and injury. Despite this many fringe players put in brilliant displays to win by 1-12 to 0-7. A berth in the league final was then secured with convincing victories over last year's "B" All Ireland champions, Castlecomer CS and St. Peter's College, Wexford.

In the league final they met St Brendan's, Birr who stormed into an early three point lead and put the St Kieran's defence under serious pressure with excellent ground hurling. Points from Damien Bergin, Mickey Bergin and Niall McEvoy put the Saints in front before Damien Bergin buried the ball in the back of the net to put them 1-8 to 0-4 ahead at the break. With the introduction of Richie Power in the second half there was only going to be one winner. Goals from Richie Hogan and Darren O'Neill sealed victory for the Black and Whites fourth League title.

In the Leinster Quarter final, St.Kieran's overcame Enniscorthy CBS by 2-17 to 0-10 with the highlight being Neal

Prendergast's wonderful point from inside his own 45". The semi-final proved to be much tighter with the Champions looking like being in serious trouble at the break. The introduction of Darren O'Neill at the break and the impressive display of Damien Bergin and Donncha Cody ensured a spot in the final.

The final proved to be a dull affair with both defences coming out on top with Kieran's leading at the break thanks mainly to the scoring ability of Richie Power and Richie Hogan. The second half proved to be a tense affair with the champions just about holding on to win with Willie Norton and Patrick Butler impressing.

All Ireland Semi final day - St Flannan's versus St Kieran's - the fiercest of rivals in Colleges hurling with the Clare side one behind in the All Ireland's list.

Flannan's tore into Kieran's from the off surging four points clear and would have been further ahead but for the defending of Eamon Walsh, John Walsh, Donncha Cody and Willie Norton. Up front, things slowly began to happen with Niall McEvoy and Shane Prendergast leading the charge. Kieran's took the lead at the break when Jamie Quane was fouled and Richie Power converted. They never let this lead slip in the second half as they showed why they were so feared by the rest of the country. They eventually won out by 1-15 to 1-8.

St. Raphael's College, Loughrea were no match for a very experienced St. Kieran's in the final. It proved to be no contest with Aylward, Hogan and Power in supreme scoring form and Bergin, O'Neill and Butler setting up many an attack.

As John Walsh collected the Croke Cup, despite the rain, it seemed as if the sun was shining over Fennessy's field.

HANDBALL:

What a year it's been for the College handballers! To begin, we had 40 x 20 Intermediate Singles Champion and All Ireland runner-up, Stephen Shortt, 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Leinster and All Ireland Doubles Champions Richie Hogan and Kirk Greene and a remarkable achievement by one of our students when becoming World Champion and US Singles and Doubles Champion in 40 x 20 - Richie Hogan.

Handball caption:

Stephen Shortt (Leinster SS), Kirk Greene, Ritchie Hogan (AI Inter 60x30 and 20x40)



ST KIERAN'S - LEINSTER JUNIOR COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Shane Connolly, David Walsh, Michael Rafter, Donal O'Sullivan, John Joe Farrell, Paddy Barcoe, John Brennan,
Middle: Philip Walsh (Trainer), Loran Brennan, Robbie Walsh, Stephen Dowling, Neal Prendergast, Mark Culleton, Stephen Shortt, T.J Reid, Martin Walsh, Nicky Cleere, Ken Archbold (Trainer)
Front: Donal Cody, Micheal Gannon, Darren Ferns, Niall Lanigan, James Dowling, Eoin O'Shea (Capt), Niall Tennyson, Missing from photo Liam Muldoon.



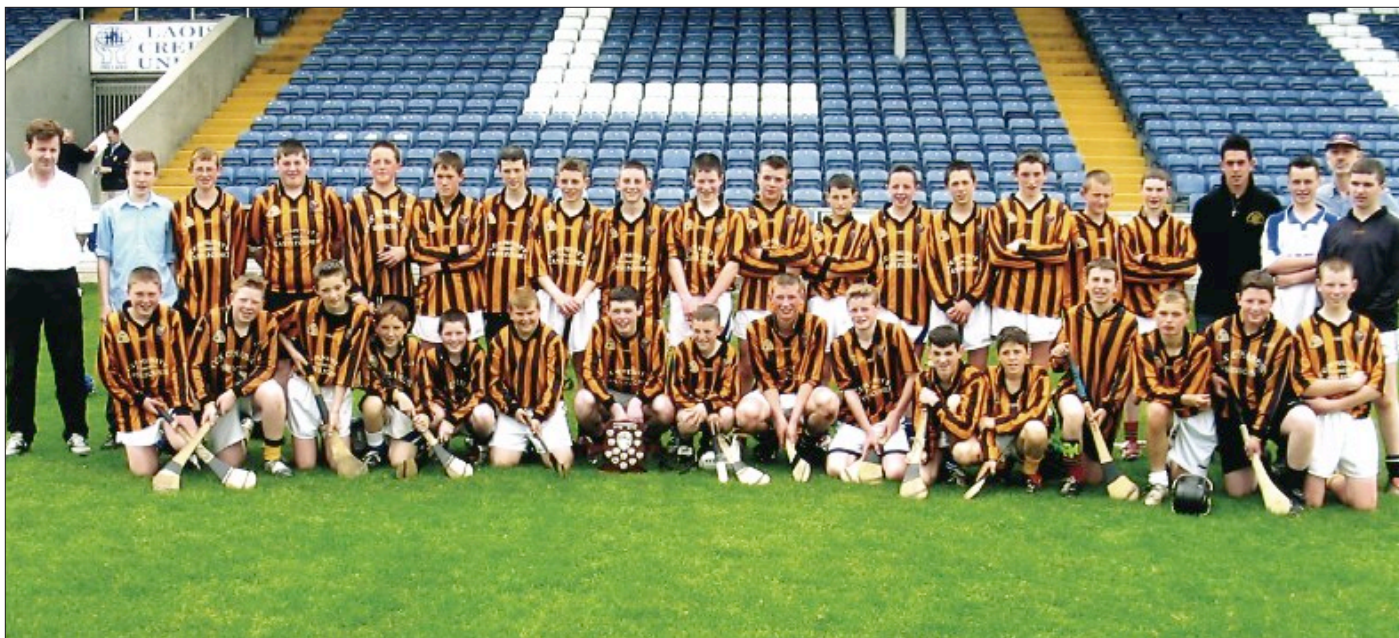
ST KIERAN'S - LEINSTER JUVENILE COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 2004

Back : T Ryan, E. O'Shaughnessy, S. Norton, R. Holohan, C. McQuillan, B. O'Shea, K.Ryan, K. Heffernan, P. Ryan, E. Walsh, D. Kennedy,
Middle: J. O' Keeffe (Coach), O. Daly, J. Dermody, M. Walsh, S. Holmes, S. Butler, A. Tyrell, M. Simpson, C. Treacy, J. Walsh, R. Troy, J. Prendergast, T. Flynn, A. Finan (Coach)
Front: P. Heafy, K. Nolan, N. McQuillan, V. Fitzpatrick, M. Phelan, S. Brennan (Capt), E. Fitzpatrick, S. Quinlan, P. Phelan, C. O'Farrell.

CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

This year was the school's first year in Roinn 'A' Senior College's hurling in over a decade. Although all of our teams have competed in the 'A' division at U-14 and U-16 levels for the past four years, senior 'A' was to prove a new experience for all. Pre-Christmas league matches saw Castlecomer go down to St Peter's (Wexford) and St Kieran's. But a good win against Good Council saw us finish third in the group and thereby

drawn against Dublin Colleges in the Leinster quarter-final. Played on a windy day in Carlow, the last Sunday in February, Castlecomer went in two points adrift at half time having played into a strong breeze. Unfortunately though, we just had one of those days when nothing went right. The ball hit the crossbar, it went wide, it hit the posts and eventually 'Comer lost by a single point. Dublin went on to lose the semi-final to St Kieran's by six points while 'Comer were left to wonder what might have been. Meanwhile, later this spring, a good U-14 Castlecomer team had a mixed bag of results. Also playing in Roinn 'A', they got their season off to a



CASTLECOMER CS - LEINSTER U14 SHIELD WINNERS 2004

Back: Pat Murphy, Brian Mulhall, Sean Delaney, Padraig Halley, Thomas McGrath, Eddie Brophy, Pierce Dargan, Anthony Kavanagh, Conor Fogarty, Thomas Keating, David Healy, John Deevy, Ronan Phelan, Thomas Nolan, Gary Kavanagh, Teilo Maher, Conor Kelly, Padraig Haughney, Mark Murphy, Eamonn Costello, Gary Delaney
Front: Mark O'Neill, Padraig Harding, Fergal Brennan, Caoimhan Dunne, Stephen Rurh, Cathal Murphy, Ollie Walsh, Andrew Ring, Geoff Morrissey, Thomas Breen, Cillian Brennan, Gerry Callinan, Stephen Shore, Aidan Moran, Cathal McDermot, James Morrissey.

winning start with a twelve point win over a combined Laois Colleges team. A last minute point by Davy Healy saw them grab an exciting win over St Peter's in their next match. However, a spate of injuries to a number of key players didn't help matters when faced with the might of a combined Dublin Colleges selection in a championship semi-final place play-off. Although the Castlecomer lads put up a brave fighting performance, the strength of the Dubs ultimately proved too much for them and saw them being knocked out of the championship proper. However, there were happier times ahead for the 'Comer boys in the Shield competition. On a sunny day in Nowlan Park they saw off the challenge of Kilkenny CBS by five points. And two weeks later, a late goal and a point from David Healy and a point from Andy Ring were enough to secure a four point victory against Birr Community School in the shield final. Castlecomer Community School, Leinster U-14 'A' Shield Winners 2004.

Back: Pat Murphy, Brian Mulhall, Sean Delaney, Padraig Halley, Thomas McGrath, Eddie Brophy, Pierce Dargan, Anthony Kavanagh, Conor Fogarty, Thomas Keating, David Healy, John Deevy, Ronan Phelan, Thomas Nolan, Gary Kavanagh, Teilo Maher, Conor Kelly, Padraig Haughney, Mark Murphy, Eamonn Costello, Gary Delaney.
Front: Mark O'Neill, Padraig Harding, Fergal Brennan, Caoimhan Dunne, Stephen Rurh, Cathal Murphy, Ollie Walsh, Andrew Ring, Geoff Morrissey, Thomas Breen, Cillian Brennan, Gerry Callinan, Stephen Shore, Aidan Moran, Cathal McDermot, James Morrissey.



In terms of gaining silverware 2003/04 proved barren for both the Juvenile and Rice Cup squads. However full credit must be given to the efforts of these panels who participated in large numbers at training in James's Park from early September until the following May. Such was their genuine enthusiasm to play each Wednesday that they disdained the comforts of the dressing rooms and in a time honoured tradition had already tagged out behind the goal before their trainers had arrived. Perhaps this was just as well given the large sixty plus numbers that turned up each week to hone their hurling skills.

The competitive games and training sessions were directed by teachers, Tom Keane, Gerard Morrissey and the new face on the block P.J. McCormack all of whom brought their wealth of hurling experience to bear on their young protégés.

However despite everyone's best efforts positive results upon the field of play proved frustratingly elusive. This was due in no small part to the very young profile of the CBS teams with but a handful of Juveniles surviving from the previous years panel to bolster the teams with strength and experience. Still in each and every game the James's Street boys acquitted themselves, competing gallantly to the bitter end against Callan CBS and Thurles CBS in the Rice Cup competition and also versus Birr Community College and St. Kierans College in the Leinster Juvenile A com-



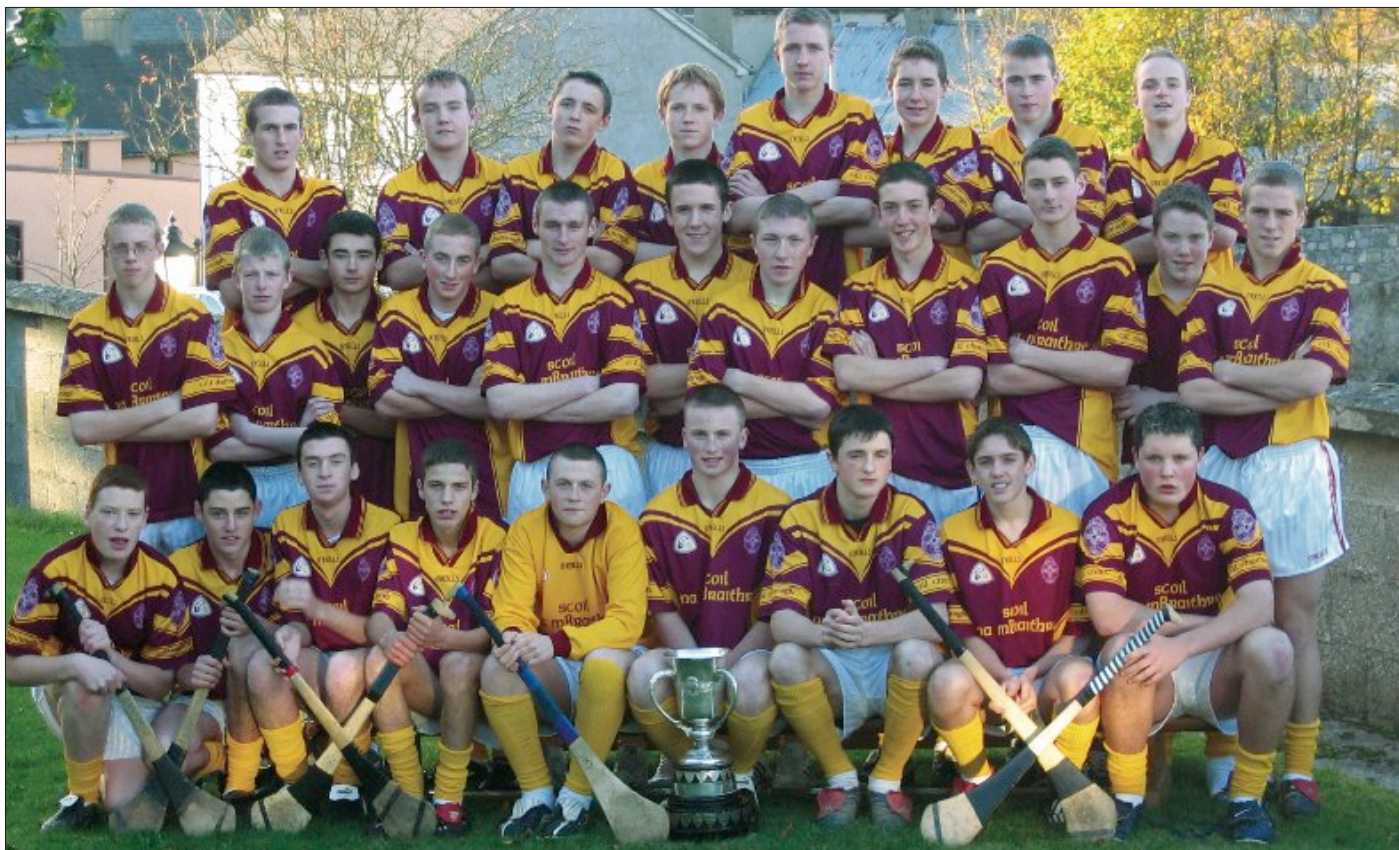
Junior Hurling Team Selectors enjoying the trophy
Seán Breathnach, Eamon Jackman, Ger Morrissey.

petition before succumbing to noble defeat.

All players involved are to be commended for their efforts with many notable hurlers emerging as leaders for the future. Suffice to suggest that with the ongoing development of the hurling prowess of such First year players as Paul Guinan, Oisín Walsh, Martin Gaffney, Darren Hogan, Simon O'Shea, Daniel Kenny, Patrick Cantwell and Derek O'Brien allied to the steadfast nature of the resolute John Traynor, stalwarts Stephen Murphy, Adam Byrne, Peter Nolan and the irrepressible dynamism that is Enda Malone the future for this group of hurlers will not be without the just reward of a trophy.

Senior Hurling 2003/2004

CBS had their first assignment in this campaign against Dublin Colleges at O'Toole's Park. The result was a disappointing one in the finish as the Metropolitans' Superior physical presence saw them scrape home by two points.



CBS LEINSTER JUNIOR HURLING TEAM 2004 /2005

Back: Liam Ryan, Bill Gannon, Tom Langton, Michael Nolan, William Cuddihy, Philip Dunne, Eddie Kearins, Paul Guinan.
Middle: Oisín Walsh, Eoin Burke, Noel Dunphy, John Traynor, Adrian Stapleton, Adam Byrne, Enda Malone, David Langton, Niall Quinlan, Philip Byrne, Fionn Lawlor.
Front: Brian Dargan, Patrick Cantwell, John Cleere, John Fitzpatrick, Diarmaid Molloy, Mark Bergin (Captain), Patrick Nolan, Mark Kelly, Shane Maher.

Round two was another away match, this time in Enniscorthy. It was a 'must win' situation for CBS, and in damp conditions a good victory was achieved. They stamped their authority on the match early and led all the way, winning by six points. The feature of the game was the scoring exploits of Matthew Ruth who contributed three goals and two points. In the final round of the league the visitors to Nowlan Park were St. Brendan's Community School, Birr. A six point victory for CBS would ensure a place in the final. After a brisk opening thirty minutes CBS held a narrow half time advantage. Mid way through the second half the margin was increased to five points but Birr to their credit rattled strongly and drew level at the death. Alas there was no final place for CBS after a mixed league campaign that included a victory, a loss and a draw.

The Championship draw pitted CBS against St. Peter's, Wexford at Dr. Cullen Park in February. The build up was good, training went well, and some excellent challenge matches gave those in charge plenty of confidence.

On the day, however, things were rather disappointing. Peters were adopting a physical approach and had a player sent off before half time. At the end of the first half CBS had a lead of two points and the benefit of an extra man. St. Peters struck early in the second half and bagged two goals in two break away situations, completely against the run of play. From there on it was a case of 'catch up' for CBS. Panic set in and efforts for goals were attempted where points could and should have been taken. The final outcome was a two point winning margin for the Wexford Academy. The result was bitterly disappointing for CBS.

From the team however Eddie O'Donoghue, Matthew Ruth, Danny Loughnane, Michael Tyrrell, and John Comerford went on to represent Kilkenny at Minor level in 2004 securing Leinster medals and losing the All-Ireland replay narrowly to Galway. Congratulations to these boys on their achievement.

Junior Hurling 2004 / 2005

CBS began their journey in this years campaign in late September against St. Peter's College Wexford. Kilkenny had

to travel to Wexford for this encounter. Although playing in the lions den CBS acquitted themselves well and held the lead after the first quarter of the game. As the game progressed St Peters stamped their authority on the game and ran up an eleven point lead going into the last ten minutes. It was in this period CBS showed real character reining in this lead to just three points with time quickly passing. They were unfortunate not to have secured a win having had a goal disallowed in the closing minutes. St Peters scraped through by two points. Next in the group came St. Kierans College. This game was played in dreadful conditions at Dicksboro's grounds in Palmerstown. The game started in a drizzle and CBS took an early lead but ten minutes into the first half St. Kierans took over and established a five point lead by half time. The second half started with St. Kierans going further in front scoring a point in the first minute but CBS took a firm grip of this game as the heavens opened holding their opponents to three points in the second half. CBS won this game by three points which set up a meeting with Birr Community school from group two in the quarter finals. Next stop Portlaoise.

On the morning of this game news broke that Adrian Stapleton one of the stars of the St. Kierans game had his appendix removed. Although this was a major blow to the CBS hopes it seemed to invigorate the team. Outstanding displays were given by Mark Bergin and Paul Guinan in the first half to give the CBS a ten Point lead. Although Birr made great efforts to make a comeback CBS were never really troubled and matched Birr score for score.

Having overcome Good Counsel, New Ross in the other Quarter final Castlecomer Community School were drawn against CBS in the Semi Final.

Thursday 21st October was set for the semi final at Nowlan Park. The weather however caused last minute arrangements to be made. Nowlan Park was declared unplayable because of non-stop rain for the previous two days so O'Loughlin Gaels provided the venue. This game was spoiled by the very strong wind which favoured Comer in the first half. They used the wind to their advantage leading by 2-6 to 1-4 at half time. A



All-Ireland Senior Colleges 60 by 30 Handball Champions 2004/ 2005 **Mark Nolan** and **Richard Nolan**

very cleverly worked goal before half time by John Fitzpatrick and excellent defending by the half back line of Patrick Nolan, David Langton and John Cleere ensured CBS were not too far adrift at half time. CBS went on to win by 2-11 to 2-9. The turning point of the match was probably the Mark Bergin goal from 80 yards. The relieved CBS outfit no awaited the result of the other semi final between St.Kierans and St. Peters which was being played the following day. As expected St. Kierans Came narrowly through this encounter at New Ross to set up an all city derby. This clash whetted the appetite of hurling followers in Kilkenny and a large crowd turned up in Nowlan Park on November 5th. They were not disappointed as a feast of hurling was provided by these two hurling nurseries. The future of Kilkenny hurling is safe judging by the standard shown. Little separated these arch rivals during the first half but St. Kierans edged in front towards the end of the first half. Leading by five points coming up to half time CBS followed a late St Kierans goal with a well taken point by John Fitzpatrick to leave only four points between the teams at half time. 2-6 to 1-5 in favour of St. Kierans. Exchanges between the sides were intense during the second half but two most important events ensured victory for CBS- A well taken 21 yard free by Shane Maher found its way to the net while a free from the same distance by Richard Hogan was tremendously saved and cleared by the CBS defence. At the end were deserving winners even if by the slenderest of margins. The final score CBS 3-8 to 2-10.

Handball

With the close of the 60 x 30 Colleges Handball season coming to a close Kilkenny C.B.S. can look back with satisfaction although not having many trophies to show for their efforts. Pupils took part in all competitions, both doubles and singles, for all age groups, from first years to seniors. One of the big surprises was the defeat of Patrick Nolan who had reached the All-Ireland finals last year. Having to play at an older age group this year definitely hindered his progress. This young man is definitely



ST BRIGID'S CALLAN - LEINSTER JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINALISTS 2004

Back: A McCormack, K Hoynes, T Hanlon, C Coonan, E Brennan, S Power, E O'Hara, A Pollard, O Neary.
Middle: G Collins, S Butler, EA Gilligan, R Freyne, E Murphy, AM Phelan, R CLoake, K Ryall, E O'Shea, S Fennelly.
Front: L Holden, d Gaule, K McDonald, L O'Halloran, S Maher Power, KA Brennan, M Luttrell, A Maher, L Fennelly. (Missing from photo - C Corrway)



ST BRIGID'S CALLAN - LEINSTER SENIOR CAMOGIE FINALISTS 2004

Back: Noelle O'Driscoll (Trainer), E Grace, E O'Shea, S Kelly, L Pollard, L Cahill, M Barry, A Pollard.
Middle: L Murphy, S Rafter, C Hassett, S Woodcock, EA Gilligan, AM Phelan, J Woodcock, K Ryall, J Dalton, T Muldowney, S Butler.
Front: A Woodcock, C Gunner, A Cunningham, G Brennan, P Heffernan(Capt), J Frisby, N Murphy, F Phelan, M Luttrell, L Sweeney.

one to watch out for in the future. First year players Graham Clifford and Edward Burke did very well winning all their games with ease before reaching the Leinster final. On their path to the final they beat St. Kierans College, Ballyhale Voc. Sc hool, St. Peters College Wexford. They met with stiff opposition, from Carnew Secondary School, in the final. Richard Nolan and Mark Nolan have successfully come through the Leinster championships and are on their way to the All Ireland final in the under 19 doubles. They Played the Munster champions Augustinians Dungarvan in the final at Ballina. The early exchanges in the first game meant the teams were level on a number

occasions but the superior serving of the CBS pair allowed them to win the game 21-14. Dungarvan were unable to match them in the second game and Richard and Mark one out easy winners 21-6. Congrats to all who played this year and best of luck in the 40 by 20 competitions in the new year. The following represented C.B.S.
 U19 S Gary Parsons
 U19 D Mark Nolan/Richard Nolan
 U17 S Patrick Nolan
 U17 D Stephen Leahy and Mark Bergin
 U15 S Jesse Watters
 U15 D Marco Ruessman/Stephen Dawson
 First Yr. Singles Patrick Walsh
 First Yr. Doubles Graham Clifford/Edward Burke.

COLAISTE MHUIRE

Extra special final decided in extra time
Coldiste Mhuire

(Johnstown)5-16

St Rynagh's (Banagher) 5-11

Colaiste Mhuire captured their first
Leinster Juvenile 'B' title in a memorable
match which needed extra time to sepa-
rate the teams.

This was an encounter which had every-
thing, including ten goals and was played
in a wonderful spirit where the emphasis
was on skill.

Johnstown were the first to settle and
quickly established a four point lead with
points from Joe Bolland and Rory Hickey.
Eamon Corcoran and Bernie Power were
establishing a vice-like grip on midfield
and the Johnstown forwards were receiv-
ing a plentiful supply of the ball. Colaiste
Mhuire, however, were rocked by a won-
derful goal by St Rynagh's centre-for-
ward Kevin Moran, their outstanding
player. Suddenly the game changed and
St. Rynagh's, lifted by their goal, rattled
off four more points to take a four point
lead.

Niall Mackey, outstanding Colaiste
Mhuire forward all year, was finding it dif-
ficult to get any decent ball, but suddenly
he picked up a loose ball and headed
straight for the St Rynagh's goal, before
being upended for a penalty. Ruairi
Hickey stepped up and blasted the
penalty to the net to leave the sides level
at 1-6 apiece at half time.

Colaiste Mhuire upped the tempo in the
second half and completely dominated
the first 20 minutes. Their full-back line of
Gary Peters, Tom Holohan and Michael
Cormack, were totally on top while
Steven Bourke and an excellent Michael
Bolger were clearing a lot of ball. Nigel
Stanley, another outstanding player all
year, was starting to get to grips with
Moran. Eamon Corcoran was causing
huge problems for St Rynagh's who had
no answer to his surging runs.

Second penalty

Johnstown were awarded a second
penalty early in the second half and once
again Ruairi Hickey blasted to the
net. This goal was closely followed by
another Mackey special who rounded the
full-back and blasted high to the net. St
Rynagh's were in serious trouble and
were further rocked by goals from Owen
Warren and Mackey again after a won-
derful run by Hickey. This left Johnstown
with a six point lead going into the last
ten minutes. The match appeared over
but St Rynagh's rose to the challenge
and attacked Johnstown with
everything. In an amazing last ten min-
utes St Rynagh's reduced the gap with
two wonderful strikes and Kevin Moran
of St Rynagh's running at the Colaiste
Mhuire defence at every
opportunity. Colaiste Mhuire still had a
three point lead with time just up when
St Rynagh's had a lucky break. A 30-
yard free was deflected past Owen



UNDER 14 LEINSTER (ROINN B) CHAMPIONS

Back: M. Kileen, J. Dollard, S. Bourke, T. Corcoran, O. Sheils, B. Phelan, K. Murphy, E. Corcoran, P. McGeehan, B. Bergin, P. Brennan.

Middle : E. Marnell (Mentor), R. Hickey, D. Lennon, S. O'Gorman, M. Bolger, J. Skully, G. Peters, D. Dermody, O. Warren, J. Sweeney, N. Stanley.

Front: T. Costigan, J. Delaney, T. Corcoran, O. Glendon, D. Clyne, M. Cormack (Captain), J. Whyte, A. Fogarty, K. Beehan, M. Lennon, N. Mackey, S. Healy.



SCOIL MHUIRE - UNDER 14 CAMOGIE LEINSTER FINALISTS

Back: Ms. K. Kilkenny, Catriona Stokes, Linda Corbett Taylor, Amy Sweeney, Nicola Power, Jessica Barton, Louise Skehan, Orla Stokes, Julie Ann O'Sullivan, Michelle Fogarty, Aisling Rice, Colette Grant, Mairéad McGrath.

Front: Nicola ryan, Siobhain Holland (Junior Player of the Year), Niamh Brennan, Eiwear Glendon, Ciara Naughton, Tracy Neary, Bryona Spellacy, Michelle King, Orlaith Curran.



COLAISTE COIS SUIRE MOONCOIN SOUTH LEINSTER JUVENILE "D" HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003/2004

Front: Adam Murphy, AK Wall, Mark Fitzgerald, Niall O'Hanlon, Stephen Crowley, Seamus Kearns.

Back: Stephen O'Keeffe [Mentor], John Healy, Eamonn Henneby, Thomas Healy, Cormack Daly, Paul Delahunty, Shane Walsh, Conor Scahill, Daniel Purcell.

Shiels who was outstanding again in goal. This left the sides tied and facing 20 minutes of extra time.

Colaiste Mhuire seemed devastated and the initiative seemed to have switched to St. Rynagh's. However, this Colaiste Mhuire team are fighters and responded in extra time to establish a two points lead with two wonderful frees from the highly talented Joe Dollard. The sides again entered the break level, thanks to two long range scores for Rynagh's.

The fitness and effort from both sides was unbelievable, and played a huge part in the Colaiste Mhuire campaign and helped them run out four point winners in the final period of extra time.

Gary Peters and Tom Holohan were tenacious in defence while Nigel Stanley and Michael Bolger struck a tremendous amount of ball. Eamon Corcoran and Bernie Power dominated midfield while Joe Dollard, James Delaney and Nigel Mackey were the pick of the forwards. John White played well when introduced.

Scorers: Joe Dollard (0-8), Ruairi Hickey (2-1), Eamon Corcoran (0-4), Owen Warren (1-2), James Delaney (0-1), Denis Lennon (0-1).



GRENNAN COLLEGE THOMASTOWN SOUTH LEINSTER 'C2' CHAMPIONS 2003/2004

Back: Terence Croke, Eoin Kelly, Jake Moran, Noel Hearne, Antony Greene, Terry Brennan, Cian Moran.

Middle: Donall Dunne (Trainer) David Kavanagh, Michael Lennon, Paddy Mullally, Patrick Malone, Nevin Kelly, Iain Egan, Derek Dooley (Trainer).

Front: J.J. Lennon, James Mullally, Andrew Aylward, Ross Dimond, Patrick Khan, Stuart Waugh, Peter Comway, David Gantley, James Forristal.

1904 -2004 Centenary Celebrations



Coming together.....Family members and relatives of the Tullaroan Team who represented Kilkenny in the 1904 All-Ireland Final against St. Finbarr's of Cork, at the commemoration of the Centenary of their victory.

On Saturday July 19th 2004, a plaque was erected at Deerpark Carrick on Suir where Kilkenny won their first All Ireland title, defeating Cork. A big crowd attended from Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny as well as many relatives of the 1904 team from all parts of the country and abroad.

Later that day, St Finbarrs who represented Cork were invited to play a match in Tullaroan (who represented Kilkenny). The Tullaroan (Kilkenny) team had representatives of all the clubs who were on the original team. Paul Doherty whose great grandfather, Ger Doherty, captained the first victorious team, captained the Tullaroan selection.

At a celebration ceremony in the Lory Meagher heritage Centre a scroll was presented to a relative of the men who played one hundred years ago. The participating players from St. Finbarrs and Tullaroan were also presented with a scroll to commemorate the event.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

Supporters



Salute the Boys of Summer!

Six All Ireland Final appearances in seven years including three victories - two NHL titles and an Oireachtas title thrown in. They owe us nothing, writes Barrie Henriques.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 2004

John McIlwaine

Back: Jackie Tyrrell, Sean Dowling, Tommy Walsh, Noel Hickey, Henry Shefflin, James Ryall, Ken Coogan, John Hoyne, Derk Lyng, Cha Fitzpatrick, Peter Barry, Brian Hogan, Walter Burke, Eddie Mackey, John Phelan, Pat Tennyson.

Front: Richie Mullally, Jamie Power, Conor Phelan, Jimmy Coogan, Eddie Brennan, Michael Kavanagh, James McGarry, DJ Carey, Martin Comerford, JJ Delaney, Mark Phelan, Aidan Fogarty, John Maher, Paddy Mullally, PJ Ryan.

In the misery of a cold, dank, miserable November afternoon, the reasons why a season, so rich in expectation and promise ended like a bookmakers satchel after a bad day at the Galway races, are still problematic and confusing to many. After all, this double-double-winning Kilkenny outfit were being hailed as the greatest team ever.

Don't say that the fans weren't saying that.

They were.

Some had them branded as the great unbeatables. Some even thought that 2005 would have them completing the first four-in-a-row in the history of Kilkenny hurling. But the one overriding factor that many didn't entertain was the fact that we are talking about mere mortals, ordinary guys who hold down a day job, and who have, in the main, been at the coalface of high octane competition for a continuous six years or more. Such sentiments were far from the mindset of supporters when the lads eventually got together after an arduous trip down under to Australia.

“ An early portent of things to come?Surely not!”

While half of the regular starting fifteen travelled on to San Diego with the All-Stars, the other half went out to Freshford to face Dublin on the first Sunday in February in the Walsh Cup. The game went to extra time, which Kilkenny eventually won by 0-13 to 0-11. Seven days later, a collection of students from UCD came to Nowlan Park, and walloped the Cats by 2-16 to 0-5 in the final.

An early portent of things to come?

Surely not!

The Freshford setback was further underlined by defeats against Waterford in the first round of the League, going down

by 0-15 to 1-10, and against Galway in Salthill, again on the wrong side of a 0-18 to 1-12 defeat.

By mid March, the unsteady Kilkenny League outfit spluttered, and stumbled to their first points against a hard-running, no-nonsense Laois, who stayed with the Champions to the final moments. 'Twas the 66th minute before the Cats nailed the O'Moore men with a late late Eddie Brennan goal. Mc Garry particularly, Hickey, Walsh and Conor Phelan were the heroes. Ennis and a "pointer game" against the Dalcassians beckoned seven days later.

Loreto student, Joanne Cuddihy collected the Young Athlete of the Year Award on the Friday evening, as many Kilkenny supporters made their way towards Clare. DJ Carey was aboard the Kilkenny bus. Playing Clare in Cusack Park was never remotely like taking tea and scones in a nun's parlour, and so it proved on Sunday 21 March.

Clare presented a few tough questions on the agenda. Kilkenny answered with a very focussed cussedness. They won, but not before Henry Shefflin was stretchered off - not for the only time against Clare in 2004. Paddy Mullally's trip to Ennis was short-lived too, as he was subjected to an off-the-ball incident that necessitated six stitches, and precluded further action from the 14th minute.

The 2-10 to 1-12 victory helped to kick-start the Kilkenny dream.

Game five against Dublin in Nowlan Park had the statisticians, and pundits tapping calculators, and writing on the inside of cigarette packs with butts of betting-shop pencils. The Cats, to keep their hopes of retaining their League title alive, needed to beat the Metropolitanans by fifteen points. That was before the game started. However, nobody expected Clare to beat high-flying Waterford in Ennis. They did, and that helped to drop the "must win by" target down to 12 points. Kilkenny nearly did it. Leading by 9 points with minutes remaining, an excocet missile of a 20-metre free by DJ Carey dented the steel crossbar at the town-end goal. The rebound was hammered back by

Tommy Walsh, but a well-placed navy blue clad posterior stopped it on the Dublin goal line, and even when Martin Comerford drilled it back in, the massed Dublin defence never flinched as the all-important score was denied. Kilkenny won all right by 1-15 to 0-9, but their title was gone. In fact, they were forced to play to prevent relegation from there to the finish.

Offaly were despatched by 2-13 to 0-11 in Nowlan Park. Wexford too got the bum's rush, with a 3-22 to 1-17 pasting. Relegation was no longer an issue. DJ Carey's torn hamstring against Offaly looked fairly ominous. No more hurling for the Gowran maestro for a long time. The departure of Philly Larkin from the panel raised more than a few eyebrows.

Early May saw St. Kieran's collect their 16th Croke Cup, and the local Championships were well under way. Carey's hamstring was still a headline.

June 13th looked very close.

Kilkenny beat Clare in a game to mark the opening of the new Clara facilities. The Cats racked up a very impressive 3-17 while Anthony Daly was more than pleased with his side's tally of 1-17.

Wexford beckoned.

DJ fell in training and was removed to Hospital with cranium injuries.

Kilkenny went in search of their record-breaking seventh consecutive Leinster Championship. DJ was on board. Kilkenny were confident.

In a cracker of a game, not the width of a hayseed separated the sides for most of the seventy minutes.

“ Kilkenny went in search of their record-breaking seventh consecutive Leinster Championship. DJ was on board. Kilkenny were confident.”

The Champions led at half time by the odd point in 21. By the 40th minute, the sides were level at 1-12 apiece. Wexford were the better team. They were more inventive. They looked the hungrier, and they looked more fresh. That word would become more significant before year's end. Young Tommy Walsh stood head and heels over every other player afield; utter class.

The Wexford tactic of hitting targets with the ball with depressing regularity was awesome. It was perplexing to say the least, as far as Kilkenny supporters were concerned.

The Jacob brothers, and Mitch Jordan pilfered 2-6 from the Kilkenny full back line.

When did that happen before?

Enter Carey, with ten minutes left on the clock, and Wexford leading by two points. Points by Henry Shefflin, Sean Dowling and Martin Comerford shot Kilkenny into a single point of a lead, with less than five minutes remaining. Paul Carley levelled matters, with four left. Carey skinned the crossbar with a point - it could so easily have been a goal. And then the Wexford foot soldiers came storming the battlements of the Kilkenny castle.

A Fenlon line ball dropped into the square.

Peter Barry grabbed it.

Safe as a pound note in the back pocket of an Arran Islander's Sunday suit!

Barry wheeled to clear the ball to safety. Michael Jacob, with the instinct of a scorpion, struck, the ball was in the back of the Kilkenny goal, and the Bob O'Keeffe Cup, so familiar with his Kilkenny lodgings, was on its way to climes new.

The portents of early February loomed large again.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, Sean Dowling (0-2, one free), Peter Barry, Brian Hogan, Derek Lyng, Pat Tennyson (0-1), John Hoyne (0-1),



Henry Shefflin - dejected after Kilkenny's defeat by Wexford. Eoin Hennessy



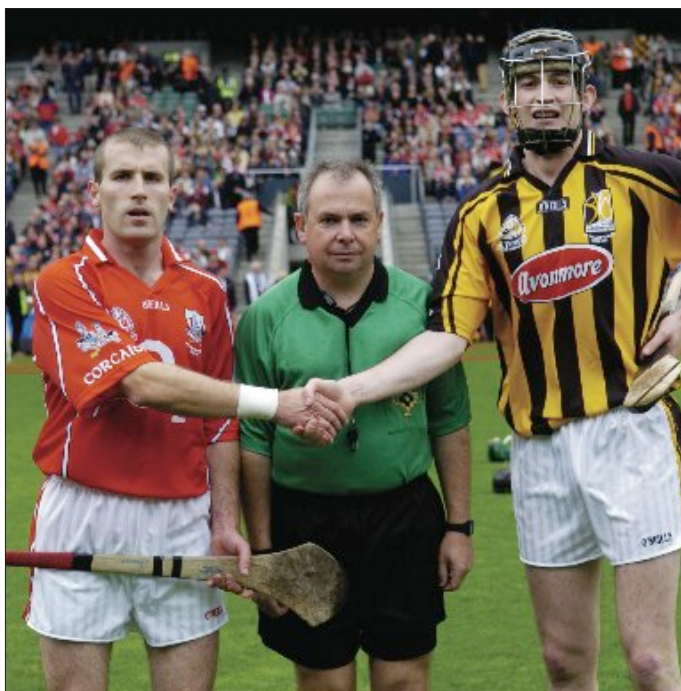
Kilkenny's JJ Delaney loses his helmet trying to get away from Cork's Ben O'Connor. Eoin Hennessy



John Hoyne, Kilkenny, in action against John Gardiner, Cork. Guinness All-Ireland Final. Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE *



Diarmuid O'Sullivan adjusts **Martin Comerford's** helmet in the All Ireland Final.
John McIlwaine



Ben O'Connor (Cork Captain) meets Kilkenny Skipper **Martin Comerford** with Referee Aodán Mac Suibhne. SPORTSFILE

Henry Shefflin (0-5 frees), Tommy Walsh 0-2), Eddie Brennan (1-1), Martin Comerford (capt)(0-2), Jimmy Coogan (0-1).
Subs: DJ Carey (0-1), Aidan Fogarty.

THE QUALIFIERS:

Kilkenny were to face Dublin in their first qualifying game. Brian Cody extolled the virtues, and the pitfalls in Leinster hurling. The fear factor assumed a paranoia that beggared belief. We are talking about the defending All-Ireland Champions playing in a winner-take-all championship encounter. Get a life please!
Dublin hadn't beaten Kilkenny in championship games since 1942 - a span of 29 games.
From the moment Eddie Brennan slammed over the first of Kilkenny's 22 points, there was a bigger chance of Salman Rushdie incanting in the Mosque of the Dancing Minarets in Isfahan than of Dublin getting any further in the Guinness Hurling Championship in 2004.

Kilkenny won in a common hack by 4-22 to Dublin's 0-8.
Kilkenny: James McGarry, Mark Phelan, Noel Hickey, Tommy Walsh, Richie Mullally, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng (0-1), Ken Coogan, Martin Comerford (capt)(0-2), Jimmy Coogan (1-2), Eddie Brennan (1-3), Aidan Fogarty, DJ Carey (0-4, 1 free, 1 '65), Henry Shedfflin (2-8, 0-6 frees).
Subs: J Fitzpatrick (0-1), John Maher (0-1), James Ryall, Sean Dowling, Conor Phelan.

“Kilkenny played the greatest hurling of the year, when they totally liquidated the Galway aspiration of All-Ireland success.”

Seven days later, and big hitters Kilkenny, Galway, Cork and Tipperary were destined for a shoot-out at the second chance saloon, with losers skulking away, trying to avoid the barbs of supporters criticism.

Kilkenny played the greatest hurling of the year, when they totally liquidated the Galway aspiration of All-Ireland ambition. Kilkenny scored a superb 4-20, Galway a meagre 1-10. The game was a triumph for the re-invention of the old Kilkenny appetite, skill, focus, and hurling instinct. Henry Shefflin scored 2-11, 1-8 of which came from frees. Eddie Brennan collared 1-3, while his clubman John Hoyne grabbed a marvellous goal. But the greatest performance came from the young Tullaroan star, Tommy Walsh, who took attacking corner back play to a new dimension. It earned him the RTE man of the match award, which was some achievement in view of Henry Shefflin's performance.

The "big talk" was back on the menu. Cork buried Tipp into the floor of Fitzgerald Stadium. They too were "throwing shapes" of great promise.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, Tommy Walsh, Richie Mullally (0-1), Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, D Lyng (0-1), Ken Coogan, Martin Comerford (0-2), Henry Shefflin (2-11, 1-8 frees), Conor Phelan (0-1), Eddie Brennan (1-3), DJ Carey (0-1,'65), Jimmy Coogan.
Subs: John Hoyne (1-0).

“ The “big talk” was back on the menu”

Cock-a-hoop Kilkenny were steaming towards Croke Park on the following Sunday to face Clare in the quarterfinal of the Guinness All-Ireland Hurling Championship.

It was not going to be a tea and brown scones on the lawn affair.

Clare had been "marmalised" west of the Shannon by their supporters. They had something to prove. They were to make liars out of many of their supporters, before the Kilkenny game was over.

Anthony Daly and his storm troopers came with a plan. It was a good 'un. It was better than that.

It unhinged Kilkenny big time. It involved a seven-man defensive wall - eight if you include the goalkeeper - behind the ball at all times. Obviously pieced together, and practiced incessantly down in Cusack Park, the plan was brilliant, and they executed it with superb adroitness.

The tempo of the game was nerve-jangling. Clare opened with a frenzy, with three unanswered points. The first half statistics will say that Clare led at half time by the odd point in eleven. They had two terrific efforts at major scores thwarted by the brilliant McGarry, while Davy Fitzgerald hardly felt the weight of the sliothar. Kilkenny were finding it difficult to counteract the withdrawal of Alan Markham from the half forward line to deep



DJ Carey, Kilkenny, in action against John Gardiner, Ben O'Connor, centre, and Jerry O'Connor, left, in the All-Ireland Final. Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE

behind his own half back line. Within twenty seconds of the restart, DJ Carey—who else?—unlocked the Clare defence with a scything run from sixty yards out towards the Railway end, delivered a pin-pointed hand pass from twenty yards into the hand of John Hoyne, who left Fitzgerald helpless with a blistering drive into the Clare net. Shefflin added two points, and suddenly Kilkenny were flying. Game on. But Clare dug deep. They fought with a huge pride in the jersey. They were not going to give up too easily. With minutes of normal time remaining, and Kilkenny leading by a brace of points, Clare came storming forward. Tony Griffin charged and was fouled; Niall Gilligan narrowed the gap. Ollie Baker stormed forward, and was fouled; "Gilly" again fired over the leveller. The drama was about to re-invent itself again. In injury time, a rare Kilkenny attack saw Henry Shefflin fouled within the square. With the sides level, Henry opted for the hoped-for winning point. He scored, but again the Dalcassins came forward. The game had entered the 72nd minute. The magnificent Gilligan somehow conjured up a mighty fetch, placed Jamesy O'Connor, and the St Flannans múinteoir did, as he had often done before when Clare needed him most, slammed over the equaliser from forty yards out from the Canal end goal. The scoreboard read, Kilkenny 1-13 Clare 1-13.

There was some confusion afterwards as to whether extra time would be played. The upshot was that they all had to get to Thurles six days later for a re-match. Kilkenny: James McGarry, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, Tommy Walsh, Richie Mullally, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Ken Coogan, Martin Comerford, Henry Shefflin (0-9, seven frees), Pat Tennyson (0-1), Eddie Brennan, DJ Carey (0-1 free), Jimmy Coogan (0-1). Subs: John Hoyne (1-0), Sean Dowling (0-1), Paddy Mullally. Kilkenny won the replay in a game rendered more memorable for non-hurling happenings than the game itself. The Clare ploy of playing Alan Markham as the seventh defender from a deep position was counteracted by Kilkenny's siting of the recalled Michael Kavanagh behind Peter Barry and in front of Noel Hickey. At half time, Kilkenny led by 1-4 to 0-3, the goal coming from the in-form Eddie Brennan. It took Clare 17 minutes to get their first score. Winning by 1-11 to 0-9, it didn't appear at any time that Kilkenny were in doubt of facing Waterford in the semi-final. They were sure, confident, and even though they over indulged

in hand passing the ball in front of the Clare goal, they still looked "good things" for the three-in-a-row. **Kilkenny: James Mc Garry, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Tommy Walsh, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Ken Coogan, Martin Comerford (0-2), John Hoyne (0-1), DJ Carey (0-3, one free, one '65), Eddie Brennan (1-2), Henry Shefflin (0-3, frees), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick.** **Subs: John Maher, Sean Dowling.** Waterford had rightfully earned a seat at the concluding stages of a memorable hurling mardi gras in Munster. Their "big" hurlers had set a headline and more. Flynn, "Dan the Man" Shanahan, Ken Mc Grath, brought their fabulous Munster form to Croke Park against Kilkenny. It was destined for further microscopic examination. After Clare, Kilkenny were in no mood to capitulate too readily. Questions about the stamina levels of the Kilkenny lads were being expounded. Two opportunistic typical Shefflin goals in the first half, plus one from Eddie Brennan had Kilkenny in front at the break by 3-6 to 0-11. But for the accuracy of Paul Flynn, the Decies lads could have been further back in the field. JJ Delaney reached heights of enormous proportions in this, probably the finest game he has ever played for Kilkenny. He totally obliterated the threat of Dan Shanahan. This game was a super hurling game. Waterford nearly won it.



Tommy Walsh tries to get around the would be challenge of Cork's Captain Ben O'Connor in the final. Eoin Hennessy

They needed a goal. They very nearly got a couple, but due to the heroics of McGarry, Kavanagh, Hickey, Ryall, Barry, JJ Delaney and Tommy Walsh, they somehow prevented the "Blues" getting through. Credit to Waterford for contributing to a tremendous hurling fest, but as they know too well, it's a difficult task to uproot champions, and the mood of the Kilkenny defence on Sunday 8th August 2004 anno domini was such that a gang of Swartzenacres would find the mission an impossible one.

Kilkenny 3-12 Waterford 0-18.

Kilkenny : James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Tommy Walsh, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Ken Coogan (0-1), Martin Comerford (capt)(0-3), John Hoyne, Henry Shefflin (2-4, points frees), Eddie Brennan (1-1), DJ Carey (0-2,one free), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-1).

ALL IRELAND FINAL.

'Twas Cork again in the All Ireland Final. They too had come the qualifier route, but in many opinions, a less arduous one. They annihilated a Wexford outfit that scarcely came "out of the traps" in their semi-final.

The Minors made it too to the Final, and they were closely followed by the under-21 lads who ploughed through Galway in a titanic second half in O'Moore Park. The Intermediate outfit arrived in their final in Semple Stadium, also against Cork.

The ticket problem was again a contentious issue, well aired on papers and radio.

Maurice Power and his mentors went to Semple to face Cork six days prior to the senior event. Hell bent on redressing the 2003 result, they came out the wrong side of a 1-16 to 1-10 drubbing.

First blood to the Rebels.

Next up for shaving was the merry band of minors led by their talisman, Br. Damien Brennan.

In a frantic finish against Galway, the young lads, going for their own three-in-a-row, collared Galway on the line, thanks to a pulsating, hard-driving final flurry. The levelling point came from the stick of the baby of the team, sixteen year old, Richie Hogan - remember the name.

“One of the most potent emotions in Irish sport is the pride of a Cork hurler who feels that his pride has been hurt.”

Cork 0-17 Kilkenny 0-9

One of the most potent emotions in Irish sport is the pride of a Cork hurler who feels that his pride has been hurt. That was the Cork who wiped the Kilkenny lads off the park in the All Ireland Final in Croke Park on Sunday, September 12th, 2004. They were hurting from twelve months previously. They remembered the ignominy of returning empty-handed to Rebel Country the previous year. It was not going to happen again. Mind you, a repeat of 2003 looked a distinct possibility during a first half that saw wind assisted Kilkenny rack up some good points, with Cork failing to get a score from play until the 32nd minute. However at the turn, there was only a single point between the sides, with Kilkenny leading by 0-7 to 0-6. Statisticians will point to the fact that during three distinct periods of the first half, where Cork were inactive for one ten minute period, one eight minute period and one nine minute period, Kilkenny did not exert the fullest return, which proved hugely costly eventually.

From the throw-in, a John Hoyne groundstroke flew towards DJ Carey. The Gowran maestro came flying in from the wing like an express train. As he went to pick the ball, he was alarmingly -for Cork- goal side of any Cork defender- another Kilkenny forward arrived and swept the ball away. The move came to nowt.



Peter Barry versus Niall McCarthy in the All Ireland Final. John McIlwaine



Mick Kavanagh (Kilkenny) is chased by Eoin Quigley (Wexford) as he clears the sliotar during their Leinster Semi-Final clash. Eoin Hennessy



Henry Shefflin under pressure from Sean O hAilpin in the final. John McIlwaine

Two other efforts at points were wide of the mark, but if all were scored, one wonders what effect it would have had on the Cork psyche.

Kilkenny were doing OK during the first half, even though the signs were ominous. Cork were not able to indulge in the much-vaunted "new Cork game" of running hurling. This game, fashioned by Newtownshandrun in their charge to the All Ireland Club Final, was hailed by many as the game best suited to unshrine the supremacy of the so-called Kilkenny physical game. It depended on keeping possession, a freedom not afforded by the Champions through the first half. Foremost in such denial was the Johnstown giant, JJ Delaney who was immaculate in every aspect of his defensive play during that amazing first half.

However, playing with the aid of the breeze in the second half, Cork, more and more were by-passing the stubborn Kilkenny half back line, and were getting more, and better ball into big Brian Corcoran and Joe Deane on their full forward line. Still dogged, tiring Kilkenny hung on. Cork threw everything at them, but it wasn't until a Niall McCarthy point in the 47th minute, that the Leesiders saw light at the end of the tunnel. Kilkenny were still within winning touch of Cork at the 56th minute mark, when Henry Shefflin doubled on a John Hoyne hand pass, but his shot for goal was saved by Donal Óg Cusack in the Cork goal.

Cork sailed on from there, growing in stature, and confidence to collect their 29th title, and more importantly to go head of the class on their very own.

Who could begrudge them? Who could say that they didn't deserve their win? Who could deny that the best team on the day won? Certainly nobody in Kilkenny.

But as day follows night, you can be sure go mbeidh Cill Chainnigh ar ais, and nobody knows that better than Cork.



The writing on the wall The Kilkenny/Wexford final score. Eoin Hennessy

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Tommy Walsh, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng (0-1), Ken Coogan, Henry Shefflin (0-5, three frees, one '65), John Hoyne, DJ Carey, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-1), Martin Comerford (capt)(0-2), Eddie Brennan.
Subs: Conor Phelan, Sean Dowling.

And what of Kilkenny?

If they were never to win another game - and who would bet against these extraordinary players garnering lots more booty - we could not complain. Six All Ireland Final appearances in seven years, including three victories - two NHL titles and an Oireachtas title thrown in. They owe us nothing.

Championship Scoreboard 2004

LAIGHIN

Preliminary Round 1

2nd May, Dr. Cullen Park:

Laois 4-19; Carlow 0-8

2nd May, Mullingar:

Westmeath 6-14; Wicklow 1-13

Preliminary Round 2

16th May, Portlaoise;

Laois 1-13; Meath 0-8

16th May, Mullingar:

Westmeath 1-18; Kildare 1-6

Quarter-Finals

29th May, Tullamore:

Offaly 2-23; Laois 1-15

13th June, Croke Park:

Dublin 2-14; Westmeath 0-11

Semi-Finals

13th June, Croke Park:

Wexford 2-15; Kilkenny 1-16

20th June, Croke Park:

Offaly 2-25; Dublin 1-13

Final

4th July, Croke Park:

Wexford 2-12; Offaly 1-11

ULADH

Quarter/Final

16th May, Ruislip:

Derry 2-14; London 0-12

Semi-Finals

23rd May, Casement Park:

Antrim 2-14; Derry 0-12

23rd May, Gaelic Park:

Down 1-19; New York 1-9

Final

6th June, Casement Park:

Antrim 1-15; Down 1-15

13th June, Casement Park (replay):

Antrim 3-14; Down 0-18

MUMHA

Quarter-Finals

16th May, Thurles:

Waterford 3-21; Clare 1-8

16th May, Páirc Uí Chaoimh:

Cork 4-19; Kerry 1-7

Semi/Finals

30th May, The Gaelic Grounds:

Cork 1-18; Umerick 2-12

6th June, Páirc Uí Chaoimh:

Waterford 4-10; Tipperary 3-12

Final

27th June, Thurles:

Waterford 3-16; Cork 1-21

QUALIFIERS

Preliminary Round

19th June, Portlaoise:

Laois 3-13; Westmeath 4-5

Round 1

26th June, Ballycran:

Galway 5-19; Down 1-14

26th June, Dr. Cullen Park:

Kilkenny 4-22; Dublin 0-8

26th June, The Gaelic Grounds:

Clare 7-19; Laois 2-15

Tipperary 3-10; Limehck 2-12

Round 2

10th July, Killarney:

Cork 2-19; Tipperary 1-16

10th July, Thurles:

Kilkenny 4-10; Galway 1-10

17th July, The Gaelic Grounds:

Clare 3-16; Offaly 2-10

ALL-IRELAND

Quarter-Finals

25th July, Croke Park:

Cork 2-26; Antrim 0-10

Kilkenny 1-13; Clare 1-13

31st July, Thurles (replay):

Kilkenny 1-11; Clare 0-9

Serm-Finals

8th August, Croke Park:

Kilkenny 3-12; Waterford 0-18

15th August, Croke Park:

Cork 1-27; Wexford 0-12

Final

12th September, Croke Park

Cork 0-17; Kilkenny 0-9

Long Road ends for Galmoy

Junior Report by Richie Stone & Jimmy Walsh



GALMOY - COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING & CAHILL CUP CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Thomas Ryan, John Phelan, Michael Harte, Padraig Gray, Brendan Delaney, Leo Doherty, Phil Brennan, Gavin Doherty.

Middle: Brian Lonergan, Charles, Brennan, Paul Delaney, Michael Brennan, David Doyle, Phil Doyle, Cathal Doherty, Gerry Drennan, Noel Doherty.

Front: Brian Kavanagh, Brian Doherty, Niall Doherty, David Delaney (Capt), Liam Drennan, Conor Drennan (Mascot), Donncha Gray, Martin Phelan, Phil Russell.

Missing from photo:- Alan Gray, Kevin Lonergan, James Dunne, Joe Ryan.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



THOMASTOWN - COUNTY JH AND HENNESSY ALL COUNTY FINALISTS 2004

Back: Joe Forristal, Mark Coone, John Joe Farrell, David Wemyss, Eoin Treacy, Ken Walsh, Fergal Challoner, Edward Tennyson.

Middle: Eamon Kenny, Steve Cullen, Aidan Lee, Brian Blanchfield, Willie Cahill, Des Walsh, Paul Treacy (captain), Michael Mahoney, Bill O'Keeffe, Peter O'Hanrahan, Dermot Lanigan, Sean Mahoney, John Lanigan (trainer).

Front: Denis Brennan (selector), Tom O'Keeffe, Mick Cullen, Derek Brennan, Richie Bolger, Paul Dempsey, Shane Lanigan, Derek Lanigan, Brian Dempsey, John Galway, (Selector)

Photo Eoin Hennessy

The toughest county title race in Kilkenny saw the ball thrown in, to begin the contest for the junior crown on May the 2nd. when Bennettsbridge faced Graigue Ballycallan in Danesfort. It entered its final hour six months later in Nowlan Park on November 5th. when the blues of Galmoy and Thomastown met for the County final prize of the Bob Aylward Cup.

J.J. KAVANAGH & SONS NORTHERN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The J.J. Kavanagh & Sons northern junior championship was played on a league championship basis for the first time in 2004 with two groups of seven teams taking part. Group 1 consisted of Conahy Shamrocks, Danesfort, Barrow Rangers, Lisdowney, Erins Own, Fenians and Galmoy while group 2 was made up of Dickboro, St Patrick's, Bennettsbridge, Graigue/Ballycallan, Cloneen, O'Loughlin Gaels and Tullaroan.

Galmoy were quickly established as favourites from group 1 with all county league champions Danesfort and dark horses Conahy Shamrocks also many peoples fancies to go through. Opinions varied as to which other team would go through to the quarter finals with them. Danesfort served early notice that were going all out to add their all county league title when they overcame Conahy Shamrocks 2-14 to 2-10 in the opening round. Lisdowney overcame Barrow Rangers 0-9 to 1-4 while Erins Own got their campaign off to a good start with 1-15 to 0-11 win over Fenians.

Round two saw Galmoy who had a first round bye enter the fray and they showed no mercy to their neighbours Fenians winning as they pleased 3-19 to 0-9. Erins Own beat Lisdowney 0-10 to 0-9 and Danesfort again gave notice of intent with a resounding 2-12 to 0-7 win

over Barrow Rangers. In round three Conahy Shamrocks had a 2-16 to 2-3 win over Barrow Rangers to keep their challenge on track, and Galmoy continued their good form with a win over Lisdowney on a 0-20 to 1-8 scoreline and there was now little doubt that they were going to be hard to stop. Danesfort were next to bite the dust when they came up against a focussed Galmoy in the fourth round. Another high score from the Galmoy men saw them win 0-23 to 0-8. Conahy Shamrocks beat Erins Own 2-12 to 2-3 and Lisdowney had their second win of the campaign when they beat Fenians 1-13 to 0-8. The big clash in round five saw Galmoy square up to Conahy Shamrocks and Conahy went the way of all others succumbing to the Galmoy men after a keenly contested game on a final scoreline of 1-19 to 2-12. Barrow Rangers collected their first points of the campaign with a 3-9 to 1-8 win over Erins Own. Things were hotting up by round six but Galmoy were not taking any chances recording a 0-22 to 0-6 win over Barrow Rangers. Conahy Shamrocks kept the pressure on with a 1-21 to 0-9 win over Fenians and Danesfort got the fright of their lives when they escaped to victory with a single point victory over Lisdowney winning 2-5 to 0-10.

By round seven Galmoy had their place in the knockout stages assured but they didn't take their foot off the pedal recording a 2-15 to 3-2 win over Erins Own to complete the group stages unbeaten.

Conahy also went through to the quarter finals recording a 2-11 to 0-11 win over Lisdowney in the final round. Danesfort and Barrow Rangers completed the quarter finalists from group 1.

A major surprise in the opening round of group 2 saw Bennettsbridge take the scalp of 2003 champions St Patrick's (Ballyragget) with a big showing from Kilkenny goalie James Mc Garry who

lined out at wing forward and ended the game his sides top scorer. Cloneen were unlucky to go under to O'Loughlin Gaels losing by a single point 2-12 to 2-11. St Patricks got their challenge back on course in round two beating Dicksboro 3-12 to 0-7 while O'Loughlin Gaels were going under to Tullaroan. Cloneen beat Graigue/Ballycallan 4-11 to 1-10 to give a first indication that they were on the up.

Bennettsbridge continued to show good form in round three beating Dicksboro 1-10 to 0-9. Tullaroan won the battle of the neighbours defeating Graigue/Ballycallan 0-16 to 1-5 an once again Cloneen were unlucky losing to St Patricks 0-15 to 1-11.

Cloneen put all their troubles behind them in round four when they had five points to spare over Tullaroan, O'Loughlin Gaels surprised Bennettsbridge with a 1-13 to 1-11 win and Graigue/Ballycallan beat Dicksboro. St Patricks began to show the form that won them the title the previous year when they had an emphatic 6-15 to 1-11 win over Graigue/Ballycallan while O'Loughlin Gaels and Dicksboro played a high scoring draw 3-14 each and Bennettsbridge beat Tullaroan.

St Patricks kept their challenge on course with a hard earned win over O'Loughlins in round six. Dicksboro beat Tullaroan while Cloneen were making people sit up and take notice when they held fancied Bennettsbridge to a draw. Cloneen 1-11 Bennettsbridge 0-14.

It was still all to play for in round seven where St Patrick's confirmed their place in the knockout stages with an easy win over Tullaroan, Cloneen beat Dicksboro 2-11 to 1-9 to ensure their place in the quarter finals. O'Loughlin Gaels and Barrow Rangers also made it through. O'Loughlin beating Graigue/Ballycallan in their last game while Barrow Rangers beat Fenians



Photo Eoin Hennessy

CONAHY - NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING FINALISTS 2004

Back Tom O'Shea, Paul Byrne, Peter Mulhall, Dave Sherman, Colm Healy, Ciaran Muldowney, Brendan Griffith, Seamus Óg Brennan, Shane Mulhall, Denis Kelly, Padraic Conway, John Muldowney, Eoin Byrne, Andy O'Keefe, Declan Buggy, Cathal Hester, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Michael Bergin, Damien Webster, Patrick Nolan.
Front: Brian Healy, Paul Downey, Gavin Nolan, Paul Buggy, John Wallace, Tomas Lawless, Eoin Murphy (Capt.), Martin Fitzpatrick, Padraic Nolan, Alan Healy, Peter Dollard, Conor Brennan.



Tullougher - Southern Junior Finalists 2004

Back: Martin Roche, Joe Murphy, John Hartley, Pat Hartley, Simon Kennedy, John Cotterell, John Murphy (Trenaree), Thomas Healy, Richard Dollard, Shem. Cummins, Richard Ryan, Amby Malone, James Grennan, Mark O'Brien, Tom Murphy, Michael Grennan, Eddie Conway.

Middle: John Grennan, Moling Cotterell, Basil Glennon, Martin Bookle, John Barron, Donal Phelan, Eoin Mullally, John Murphy (Castle), Kieran Barron, Joseph McCarthy.

Front: Richard Murphy, Shane Ryan, Edmond Cullinane, Mark Malone, Liam Barron, Declan Grennan, Michael Bookle, Dick Murphy, Eamon Bookle.

The quarter final line up saw Galmoy coasting home against O Loughlins on a 2-19 to 2-5 scoreline, Conahy Shamrocks getting the better of Bennettsbridge 0-17 to 0-12 . Cloneen's great run came to an end at the hands of Danesfort who won by seven points 2-15 to 1-11 while St Patrick's had to battle all the way to see of the challenge of Barrow Rangers 3-7 to 2-7 . Páirc Lachtain in Freshford was the venue for the semi finals and a big crowd turned up to witness what was expected to be an entertaining evenings hurling. They weren't to be disappointed. The opening game between Conahy and Danesfort turned out to be a cracker with a late goal from a Paul Buggy 20 metre free seeing Conahy through 1-13 to 1-12 after a pulsating contest. The second semi final between St Patrick's and Galmoy was no less entertaining with Galmoy finishing strongly to win by two points 2-10 to 1-11. Galmoy started slight favourites to take the Northern title after five losing appearances in a row . Conahy were equally as determined to win a title they last held in 1976. After a tight first half the teams went to the break all square Galmoy 1-4 Conahy 0-7 the goal coming from Phil Brennan. The second half was equally as competitive as the first with little or nothing between the sides . Galmoy were just hanging on by a point entering the closing stages when Conahy missed a couple of chances . Those misses were to prove crucial as two late points from Phil Russell and Martin Phelan ensured that Galmoy's luck in Northern finals had at last changed. Final score Galmoy 1-11 Conahy Shamrocks 0-11.

IVERK PRODUCE SOUTHERN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

In the Southern division seven teams took part in the closely fought league section with Tullougher Rosbercon and Windgap taking the short route to the semi-finals by topping the league section.

In the championship proper Slieverue after a good league run went down surprisingly easy to Dunnamaggin in Mooncoin. Dunnamaggin then came within a point of creating a huge shock in the quarterfinal as Thomastown scraped home by a single point on 0-15 to 1-11 scoreline. Inspired by Colin Herry Dunnamaggin were three points ahead thanks to a Mark Donovan goal before Thomastown rallied and called on all of their experience to get through with a last minute Dessie Walsh point. For neutral spectators a draw it was felt would have been the fairer result for Dunnamaggin's efforts.

In the second game Kilmacow reversed the earlier league result and overcame their neighbours Mooncoin by four points to advance to the semi-finals. At a well attended double bill of semi finals in Mullinavat. Kilmacow dominated the early stages of a close encounter and led 0-6 to 0-2 after twenty minutes following three Paddy O'Keeffe points. After a very slow start Tullougher Rosbercon came good with a crucial goal by substitute Joe Murphy just before the break to go in amazingly just 0-6 to 1-2 behind. Twice Moling Cotterell equalised for Tullougher before Paul Long pointed his side back ahead. Entering the final quarter Joe Murphy

split the Kilmacow defence to put John Murphy (Castle) through for a crucial goal. In an even steven final ten minutes Kilmacow created the bulk of the chances with a Paddy O'Keeffe goal bound shot going just over. At the other end a John Barron point eked out a hard won 2-6 to 0-10 win for another final appearance for his Tullougher side. In the first tie on the programme Windgap and Thomastown played what was to turn into a long playing a free flowing saga. Two early Aidan Mackey points and one from Gerry Meehan settled Windgap with Billy O'Keeffe keeping his side in touch from frees. On the day wind assisted Windgap managed to take in a slender 1-5 to 0-5 half time lead thanks to a Niall Doran penalty. On the restart Thomastown improved and in the thirty-eight minute Dessie Walsh goaled to put his side ahead for the first time 1-8 to 1-6. Immediately Windgap upped their game and points by Doran, Matthews Enright and O'Shea had them four ahead with five minutes to go. Staring defeat Thomastown rallied and were denied a crucial goal by a fine Pat Walsh save before substitute David Weymm's finished Billy O'Keeffe's long free to the net in the next attack. On the puckout Laurence Doyle stretched Windgap's lead to two before Billy O'Keeffe pointed a free to leave the minimum between the sides. As the clock moved into injury time Billy stood straight and erect over another free ninety yards out and coolly delivered the equaliser. With the sides level for the sixth time referee Willie Kearney called time at 2-10 each. After the replay was postponed owing to weather conditions the sides met again two weeks later in Ballyhale and served

up another thriller, that went to the wire in extra time. Windgap again took the early initiative with a James Murray goal only to be caught approaching half time as a Billy O'Keeffe's triple point salvo gave his side an 0-9 to 1-5 lead at the break. Again Windgap pulled ahead with three superb Niall Doran points and a Matthew Enright goal to go five ahead. A string of Thomastown substitutions were called on to work wonders as the sides traded points. After two Billy O'Keeffe points reduced the lead a long free broke and saw substitute Jon Jo Farrell goal to level the tie five minutes into injury time. Despite the setback Windgap rallied to go two ahead with Billy O'Keeffe keeping his side in touch. A second yellow card saw Windgap's chief scorer and play-maker Niall Doran depart the field as Dessie Walsh and O'Keeffe pointed their side ahead. Just before the break a second Farrell goal put his side in the driving seat 2-17 to 2-14 ahead. Short a man Windgap refused to throw in the towel and battled back, two quick points and a third from a saved penalty all by Matthew O'Shea saw the side's level again. As the game hung and swung in the balance, disaster and joy struck for both teams simultaneously. Windgap looked well in control of a long Paul Treacy ball. However as two defenders collided all present could only watch as the breaking ball spun away and ended up with sixteen year old wonder sub JonJo Farrell who completed his hat trick to put Thomastown 3-17 to 2-17 ahead. In the final play as Windgap moved forward Paul Treacy ensured Thomastown victory with a final point on a 3-18 to 2-17 scoreline. In the Southern Final played in

Mullinavat an improving Thomastown side looking for their first title since 1962 faced League champions and 2003 finalists Tullougher Rosbercon, Having come the more taxing route Thomastown saw Joe Murphy open Tullougher's scoring in the twelfth minute and Billy O'Keeffe equalise. Scores came slowly in the heavy conditions that saw Moling Cotterell and Eoin Mullally give Tullougher a 0-4 to 0-3 half time lead as Thomastown had the best of the goal chances on offer. On the throw in Billy O'Keeffe equalised before Pat Hartley restored his sides lead. Derek Lanigan, Dessie Walsh and O'Keeffe put the blues three ahead, before points by Hartley and Martin Bookle upped the ante to leave only a point between the sides. A Tullougher Rally yielded two points to again leave the minimum before Richie Bolger stretched Thomastown's lead to three with five minutes to go. As Thomastown pressed for victory Tullougher repelled all attacks and went for broke with Joe Murphy's late free for the equalising goal being shoved over the bar to give Thomastown victory on a 0-11 to 0-9 scoreline.

COUNTY FINAL

County final day saw Southern champions Thomastown and Galmoy who had at last won the North after years of disappointment square up to each other in pursuit of the Aylward cup and more importantly intermediate status next year. An explosive start by the Galmoy men saw points from Donnacha Gray, Noel Doherty and Phil Russell from a sideline ball before Billy O Keeffe struck over a 65' for Thomastown. Further points from

Brian and Noel Doherty plus an angled drive from Phil Russell put Galmoy five points clear after 13 minutes. Dessie Walsh hit back with a point for Thomastown but Galmoy were on fire and four pointed frees from Martin Phelan and similar scores from play by Noel Doherty and Brian Doherty put Galmoy 11 points clear at the break 0-13 to 0-2 and to say the least things were looking ominous for the Thomastown side. Donnacha Gray increased Galmoy's lead with a point early in the second half Thomastown battled bravely to get into contention but Galmoy weren't conceding anything. Just when it looked like they were beginning to make progress the game was delayed for an injury to Galmoy's Brian Doherty. When play resumed the Southerners seemed unable to get back whatever momentum they had going. Thomastown were denied a couple of times before David Wemyss forced the sliotar over the line for a goal. However it was too little too late as Galmoy put years of heartbreak behind them winning on a score of 0-17 to 1-4.
Scorers – Galmoy- M Phelan 0-5 (4 frees) P Russell 0-4 N Doherty 0-3 B Doherty 0-2 D Gray 0-2 M Brennan 0-1 Thomastown – S Wemyss 1-0 B O Keeffe 0-2 (1 65') D Lanigan 0-1 D Walsh 0-1

Galmoy - L Drennan, P Doyle, B Lonergan, C Doherty, D Delaney, M Brennan, N Doherty, B Doherty, D Doyle, D Gray, M Phelan, Noel Doherty, P Russell, K Lonergan, A Gray.
Subs – PBrennan, P Delaney, G Doherty, B Delaney, L Doherty.
Thomastown – P Dempsey, B Dempsey, B Blanchfield, S Mahoney, P

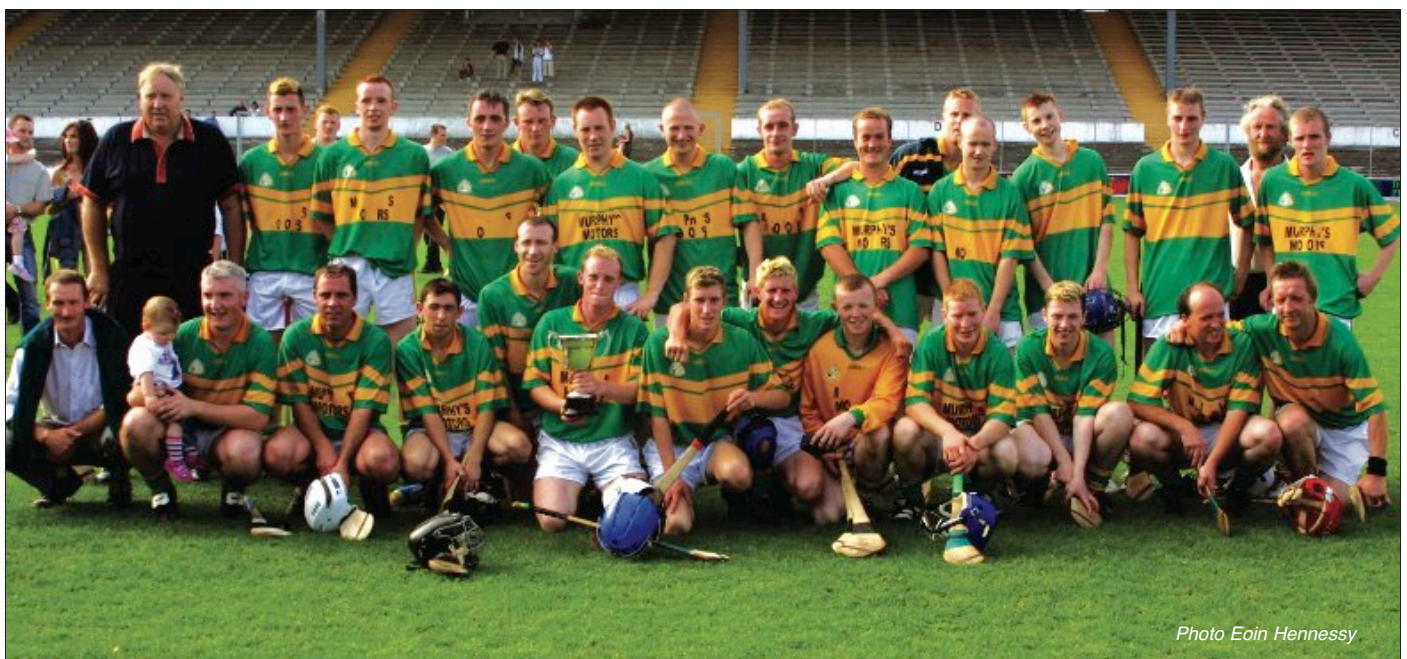


Photo Eoin Hennessy

GLENMORE - JUNIOR 'A' CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: S Culleton (selector) ,M Cody, M Foran, K Cottrell, F Walsh, E Griffin, B Aylward, P Fitzgerald, S Aylward, R Culleton, K Aylward, E Vereker, F Griffin, J Aylward (selector) , R Fitzgerald.
Front: V Mullally (selector) , PJ O Connor (with Niamh), J Walsh, D Cody, R Aylward, A Phelan (capt), J Murphy, P Murphy, D Aylward, E Griffin, R Ryan, E O Connor, J Murphy.



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY JUNIOR 'A' FINALISTS 2004

Back: Stephen Eardley, William Hoyne, Keith Morris, Pat Noonan, Alan O'Brien, David Byrne, Shane Campion.
Middle: Eamon Harris, Jonathan Savage, Anthony Lawlor, Peter O'Neill, Wayne Kelly, Thomas Keogh, Kieran Brennan, Bill Kehoe, Kevin O'Neill, James Whelan, Damien Phelan, Michael Eardley, Liam Meehan.
Front: Maurice Harris, Seamus Hennessy (Sel), Tommy Fogarty, Conor O'Grady, Tommy Hoyne, Mark Hoban (Capt), Simon Creane, Michael Fogarty, Kevin Grogan, Richard Manogue.

O Hanrahan, S Lanigan, M Cullen, Dk Lanigan, B O Keeffe, R Bolger, M Mahoney, D Walsh, D Brennan, P Treacy, David Lanigan. *Subs – J.J Farrell, S Cullen, D Wemyss.*

DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIPS

Glenmore rise again to the junior ranks Scheduled to be completed before August 28th. the junior A sides were more evenly balanced owing to timing of the competition and players benefited from the lively summer time playing conditions.

Down south, Carrickshock and Ballyhale Shamrocks registered quarterfinal wins to face Graiguenamanagh and Glenmore respectively. In another close tie between the old rivals Glenmore reversed the League final result with Ballyhale Shamrocks on a 2-9 to 0-13 scoreline with Carrickshock having an easy win over the Barrow sider's.

In the Southern Final newly promoted Carrickshock faced a strong Glenmore side and found themselves 0-3 behind after eleven minutes as experienced Glenmore dominated. Eight minutes later a Richie Frisby goal after James Farrell's shot was saved levelled the scores before Carrickshock went on to lead by two points. Double whammies of Goals in three minutes as Ken Cotterell fed Emmet Verreker and the players reversed the roles saw Glenmore lead 2-4 to 1-4 at the break. On the restart a Seanie Gibbons goal put Carrickshock 2-5 to 2-4 ahead in the eight minute. For the following twenty minutes Glenmore tacked on six scores for a 3-9 to 2-5 lead

despite the efforts of the Stephen Lonergan and Pat Dalton led Carrickshock rear guard. In the final minutes waves of Carrickshock attacks eventually earned a well deserved goal to leave the final score 3-9 to 3-5 in favour of Glenmore in an exciting finish. On the Northern Fields only four teams entered with the competition with 2003 finalists James Stephens defeating Clara 1-11 to 1-8 in the first semi-final. In the second Young Irelands beat newly promoted St Martins 1-12 to 0-10 to qualify for the final. Played in Nowlan Park as part of the Junior A/B double James Stephens recorded a 0-8 to 1-3 win. The victory set up a chance for a unique feat in having adult teams at Senior, Intermediate and junior levels.

The Junior A Final in Nowlan Park saw old senior rivals Glenmore and James Stephens compete for promotion to the junior Grade. The game saw a vastly experienced Glenmore side that featured Eddie O'Connor, Johnny Murphy and P.J.O'Connor face a young Village side led by Tommy Fogarty, Kevin Grogan and Mark Hoban. After Glenmore took the lead with a second minute Emmet Verreker goal a Richie Manogue penalty and two points from free scoring Conor Brady had the side's level 1-2 to 0-5 by the twenty fifth minute. A flurry of late points by both sides saw the Southern side lead 1-5 to 0-7 at the break. Point for point on the resumption the Village finally drew level as the game entered the final quarter. Having regained a one-point lead Glenmore were shocked when Tommy Hoyne soared high to set up Wayne Kelly for a James Stephens goal. As the tide appeared to flow against his side Eddie

O'Connor fed Johnny Murphy who drew on all his experience to crack a brilliant shot from the right hand side of the goal just inside the far post to regain the lead. Two points apiece left the minimum between the sides as the game moved into injury time before Paul Fitzgerald and Paddy Murphy points ensured a Glenmore victory on a 2-13 to 1-13 scoreline. The result ensured Glenmores return to the junior grade a feat they also achieved in 1989 and 98.

DIVISIONAL AND JUNIOR B COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Windgap conquer the unknown to take Junior B Title

An enticing junior B championship was predicted with league finalists Emeralds and Mullinavat showing slightly ahead of a strong St. Lachtains side on the bookies slate.

With all sides working from a level playing pitch on the grading front and benefiting from a lively sod, surprises came in abundance in both divisions.

Up north the first shock came with League finalists St. Lachtains going out 1-9 to 0-11 in the first round to Galmoy who then conquered Lisdowney and later fell to St. Martin's. In the semi finals Conahy Shamrocks were joined by St. Martins along with the competitions favourites the Emeralds and Threecastles who got past Clara after a close call on a 2-8 to 1-9 scoreline. In the semi's Threecastles recorded their third championship victory in a row with a fine 4-18 to 1-6 win over St.Martins third side. Led by Denis Butler and Jim Lyng the side out pointed Martin's eleven to one to set up a solid first half founda-



Photo Eoin Hennessy

WINDGAP - JUNIOR CHAMPIONS ROINN 'B' 2004

Back: Eamon Hawe, P.J.Hawe, J.J.Phelan, Tommy Fleming, James Mackey, Eoin Cody, John Mckenna, Peter Long.
Middle: Tom Egan (Selector), Niall Kenny, Philip Lonergan, Eugene Kenny, Jonathon Duggan, Colin Comerford, Richie McKenna, Matthew O'Shea (and Adam), Michael O'Shea (Manager).
Front: Eddie Meehan, Niall Fennelley, Pat Power, Tommy Lonergan (Capt.). Walter Purcell, Paul McKenna, Laurence Doyle, Conor Lonergan, Dermot O'Shea..

tion. A Damien Lennon goal just after the break provided Threecastles a Northern Final date. Conahy Shamrocks created another surprise all by beating the Emeralds who had played an important Intermediate game the previous night and went down by 0-10 to 0-5. In the final Conahy worked hard to overcome neighbours Threecastles on a 2-12 to 1-7 scoreline. Following a Daire Connery goal the side led 1-6 to 0-5 at

the break. An early Threecastles goal in the second half kept the result in the melting pot until a late Conahy goal and two points secured their county final place. Down South the inclusion of a back door losers group for the first round saw the series provided a unique final pairing when debutante finalists Mooncoin's third team faced Windgap appearing in their first final since Southern Final 1995. On the way to the final Windgap's had

victories over Slieverue, Thomastown and Tullougher Rosbercon in the semi-final in Ballyhale. Whilst the Suirsiders beat Mooncoin after a replay 1-12 to 1-8 in the first round, they then added Glenmore's scalp 2-11 to 1-8 and finally overcame Southern favourites Mullinavat by 1-10 to 0-11. In the competitions twenty first final played in Piltown, Windgap opened best only to see Mooncoin led by Peter Ryan lead 0-6 to 0-4 at the break after the best goal chances came Windgap's way. In the third quarter Mooncoin showed the way and failed to record scores thanks to the efforts of Walter Purcell in goal before Matthew O'Shea levelled the game 0-6 each at the midway stage. From here on the game took fire with Willie Fleming and Eamon Hawe trading scores before Laurence Doyle gave Windgap the lead for the first time in the fifty fourth minute. Three minutes from time a levelling shot from Mooncoin went wide and Eamon Hawe surged goalwards at the other end to net and give his side a 1-8 to 0-7 lead. Further points by both sides left the final score at 1-10 to 0-8 in favour of Windgap who were collecting their first title in the grade. In the County final Conahy Shamrocks and Windgap met in Nowlan Park on Sept. 5th. to decide the championship of their Junior grade. Straight into it from the throw in the sides were level 0-1 after three minutes before Eamon Hawe rattled the Conahy net. At the quarter way stage a similar score by Michael Bergin narrowed the lead to a single point. A fine save by Conahy's Eoin



Photo Eoin Hennessy

CONAHY SHAMROCKS - JUNIOR ROINN 'B' FINALISTS 2004

Back: Andy O'Keeffe, Cathal Hester, Damien Webster, Paul Downey, Padraic Conway, James Lawless.
Middle: Tom O'Shea, Brian Buggy, John Wallace, Eoin Byrne, Peter Dollard, Paul Byrne (Capt.), Patrick Nolan, Liam Byrne, John Muldowney, Daire Connery, David Muldowney.
Front: Ger Byrne, Conor Brennan, Shane Mulhall, Michael Bergin, Eoin Murphy, Tomas Nolan, Thomas Nolan, Peter Mulhall.



DANESFORT - HENNESSY SPORTS ALL COUNTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS & CAHILL CUP FINALISTS 2004

Back: Ciaran Walsh, Paddy Fennelly, Richie Devane, James Hickey, Mark O'Neill, Philly Walsh, Shane O'Neill, Tony Woodcock, Tim Murphy, Brendan Mullins, Shane O'Hara, Nigel O'Hara, Frank Manogue, Paul Pembroke, James Mullins, Davey Walsh, Pa Dillon, David Forrestral.

Front: Ger Power, Mick Moylan, Liam Forrestral, Maurice Woodcock, Shem Hurley, Paddy Hogan, Larry Mahony (Captain), Paucic Treacy, Thomas Ryan, Vinny Walsh, Tom Mahony.

Murphy prevented Windgap extending their lead beyond 1-4 to 1-3. at the break. On the resumption Windgap took hold of the game and driven on by Phillip Lonergan at centre back they added another Pat Power point. When Laurence Doyle latched onto a ball to goal he gave his side a 2-5 to 1-3 lead after thirty-nine minutes. In a game of free flowing play with frees at a minimum Windgap added five points to Conahy's two to run out convincing winners on a 2-10 to 1-5 scoreline.

HENNESSEY SPORTS ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE

Danesfort celebrate first adult county title in seventy two years

Twenty-four teams started the league series of sixty-nine games in late March to decide the tenth Hennessey Sports All County League Winners. Throughout April the highways and byways of Kilkenny and Carlow were travelled for points as in an election time. When the quarterfinals were reached in early May compliments of the fine weather, Mooncoin, Danesfort and Windgap were among the newer faces joining Galmoy, Thomastown, St. Mullins, the Boro, and Conahy Shamrocks in the last eight.

In the play off's good early season form was rewarded with the topside in each of the four groups eventually reached the semi's. Here highflying Danesfort ran out 0-14 to 0-12 winners over ever consistent Galmoy whilst Thomastown overcame Conahy shamrocks 2-11 to 0-13. The final was played in the Park between mid county neighbours Thomastown and Danesfort. A tonic start saw the black and amber side six points up after ten minutes thanks to a Phillip Walsh goal. Digging deep goals by Richie Bolger and Dessie Walsh levelled the tie against the run of play before Danesfort pulled ahead with Timmy



ST MARTIN'S - COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE 'A' WINNERS 2004

Back: Eoin Maher, Conor Kinsella, Patrick Byrne, Eoin Bolger, Pádraig Haughney, Declan Holohan, Martin Somers, Pádraig Keegan, Tom Agar, Don Callanan, Mick Keane, Eoin McGrath, Brian Cadigan, Willie Lawlor, Niall Clancey, Tony Morrissey.

Front: BrianMalone, Martin Dowling, Tom Kinsella, Joe Dowling, Michael Mulhall, James Maher, Richard Nolan, Dan Brennan, Brian Mulhall, Nickey Purcell, Robert Shore, Philip Shore, Aidan Murphy.



Photo Eoin Hennessy

EMERALDS - COUNTY JUNIOR 'B' LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Pat Joyce, Ger Power, Philip Fogarty, John Joyce, Francis Clohessy, Alan Guilfoyle, Ted Clohessy, Brian Doyle, Tom Walsh, Pat Moriarty, Jimmy Queally, Frank Cleere (manager).

Front: Michael Tobin, Thomas Campion, Declan Guilfoyle, Philip O' Dwyer (capt), Stephen Roche, Adrian Cleere, Niall Minogue, Sean Minogue, Pat Doheny.

Murphy and Patrick Hogan points to take a 1-8 to 2-3 half time lead. On the restart points were traded before a five-man move saw Patrick Hogan goal for Danesfort. In reply Thomastown scored two points before young Hogan added another point and a bagged a peach of a second goal. Still in the race Thomastown replied in ones as Danesfort added points in pairs before Tony Woodcock had the final score to record a historic victory for the Danesfort Club. In Larry Mahony's speech he accepted the John Joe Hennebray Cup for those involved at all levels over the years and especially Tommy Murphy "a great servant of the club" who died recently. The change of fortunes for the side was only the beginning he stated.

JUNIOR A DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY LEAGUE

Seven teams in the Southern division and eight in the North played a total of fifty-five games in the junior A leagues. The groups saw promoted Carrickshock and Carlow Town make their debut in the South with Carlow's Naomh Brid moving South and Ballinkillen North to benefit from varying opposition.

In the Northern division semi-finals Ballinkillen defeated Young Irelands and St. Martins overcame James Stephens on a 3-16 to 3-9 scoreline.

In the final St. Martins defeated an under strength Ballinkillen side by 1-6 to 0-6 in Bennetsbridge in early October.

In one of the games of the year traditional rivals at Senior level Glenmore and Ballyhale Shamrocks served up one of the games of the season in a high scoring thriller in the Southern Final played in Mullinavat. After the Shamrocks opened the scoring Glenmore set the ever-changing scene to lead 0-2 to 0-1 after

three minutes. Seven minutes later a Shamrocks goal had them 1-4 to 0-3 ahead before Paddy Murphy goaled to put Glenmore 1-7 to 1-6 ahead at the break. Three minutes later they had extended their lead to four points with a Ken Cotterell goal before Conor Harrington's goal and Mark Aylward point gained the Shamrocks parity at 2-8 each. Point for point and level on three further occasions as the game entered the fiftieth minute. In a strong surge Tommy Shefflin stretched the Shamrocks 2-15 to 2-11 ahead. Still battling with three wide's and a goal chance P.J' Connor goaled to leave a single point in it. As spectators feasted on the thoughts of extra time two Glenmore chances failed to yield the equaliser as Jim Fitzgerald called time on a 2-15 to 3-11 scoreline. The crowd returned home looking forward to L'à eile when the sides met in the championship.

The final sees Ballyhale Shamrocks play St. Martins in Bennetsbridge on Nov. 27th. as the yearbook goes to press.

JUNIOR B DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY LEAGUE

Emeralds take league title

Mullinavat pulled off a last minute shock when they took the initiative in the fifty ninth minute when team captain Eoin Maher goaled from a free to level the game. He then added a late point to grab a 1-7 to 0-9 win over a dominant Rower Inistioge side that led 0-6 to 0-3 at the break. The game saw the Tullougher Rosbercon club hosting their first southern final at their newly redeveloped pitch in Brownstown

The Mullinavat win completed the thirty game league played in two groups between twelve sides. In the knockout stages Kilmacow recorded a fine win

over Piltown and Tullougher were three points ahead of Windgap in the quarterfinals.

In the semi's the Rower Inistioges third team competition debutantes surprised Kilmacow with table toppers Mullinavat overcoming neighbours Tullougher Rosbercon late in the game on a 2-12 to 0-9 scoreline thanks to a Jamie Fennelly goal.

Up North fifty-six games saw the Emeralds face Black and whites in one semi and Lachtains and Galmoy meet in the other.

With the Emeralds recording a 0-13 to 2-3 win and Lachtains winning well on a 2-13 to 1-6 scoreline after they led 2-4 to 1-4 after playing against the wind in the first half. A cracker of a final by two sides strengthened by Intermediate players was on offer.

The game played in Freshford saw the Emeralds lead by three points at the break after a five goal first half with John Dooley Cian Waldron for St. Lachtains and Brian Doyle Sean Minogue Ted Clohessey all finding the net. Six early points put Lachtains three ahead before Alan Guilfoyle netted a free to level the sides. After an exchange of points Alan Guilfoyle pointed his side ahead before Noel McGree tied the game for a final time St Lachtains 2-12 to 4-6.

In the replay in Urlingford the sides were level at the end of the first quarter before the Emeralds struck a purple patch with four goals before the break. After the break St. Lachtains hurled with abandon and goals by corner forward Jonathon Doheny saw the comeback beaten by the clock as The Emeralds won the day on a reducing margin on a 4-12 to 3-12 scoreline

In the county final played in Callan The Emeralds marked their cards for championship progress with a fine win over

Mullinavat On the night a Brian Kenealley led under strength Mullinavat side that found themselves five points adrift at the break following an Alan Gulifoyle goal from a free. Driven on by Adrian Cleere the side ran out 1-11 to 0-5 winners.

IVERK JUNIOR LEAGUE

A well-contested Iverk Junior Hurling League saw five sides in contention for the final places as the sides entered the final round. In the end Windgap topped the table to be joined by Tullougher who came through to meet to decide the destination of the title on the banks of the Nore in Thomastown.

Twenty minutes into the game without a score an under strength Tullougher Rosbercon side played second fiddle to an often a more superior Windgap side who failed to show their dominance on the score board. In the final ten minutes the swept in 1-5 to take a half time lead over Windgap's 0-5. Stung by the score Windgap led 1-9 to 1-6 after thirty-eight minutes as the game sprang into life. With Johnny Barron lording centre field Four unanswered points flowed and put Tullougher 1-10 to 1-9 ahead before Windgap goaled through Matthew Enright o go back 2-9 to 1-10. In the fifty third minute. A late John Murphy goal in a goalmouth skirmish saw had the Noresiders slip back ahead as time was called. On the day Shem Cummins, Basil Glennon and John Cotterell played well for Tullougher Rosbercon with Eugene Kenny, Philip Lonergan Pat Walsh Aidan Phelan and Aidan Mackey giving their all for Windgap.

CAHILL CUP

Displaying consistent early season form Galmoy and Danesfort qualified for the Cahill Cup final. Played on a knockout basis the sixteen entrants joined the competition at different stages following their various runs in the Hennessey Sports all county league. Good first round wins by the Tulloroan and O'Loughlins, the Bridge and Lisdowney brought them into the second phase with the latter three moving through the second round to join Windgap and the four all county league semi-finalists in the quarter finals Galmoy at home accounted for Windgap through Phil Russell's tally of 1-8 then made the long journey to Grennan and recorded a 3-17 to 2-8 win over Thomastown who were victors over the Bridge by 2-8 to 0-9. On fire in the first half Alan Grey and Noel Doherty set them up for a 2-10 to 0-4 half time lead with two goals. An improved second half performance failed to yield Thomastown the necessary scores as Galmoy's Paul Delaney ended the comeback with his



MULLINAVAT - COUNTY JUNIOR 'B' LEAGUE FINALISTS 2004

Back: Maurice Holden, Ollie Alyward, Liam Aylward, Thomas Holden, Paddy Jones, Brendan Conway, Shane Frisby, Ger Anthony.

Middle: Pat Holden, Richie Raftice, Damien Alyward, Owen Maher, Paul Aylward, Damien Conway, Michael Duggan, James McDonald.

Front: Pat Hoban, JP Dungan, Jamie Fennelly, Brian Kenneally, Alan Wall, Paul Kenneally, John Farrell.

sides third goal.

In the other semi Danesfort having accounted for Lisdowney recorded a fine win over Conahy Shamrocks who had overcome O'Loughlins in a high scoring tie by 2-14 to 2-10.

The final saw a highly motivated Galmoy side at their second appearance in a final in three years set out to reverse the All County League semi defeat by Danesfort. However a Ger. Power goal in the first minute gave Danesfort first blood Cbefore Noel Doherty replied with a similar score to see Galmoy lead 1-6 to 1-1 half time. A late second half burst that saw Phil Brennan and Alan Grey goal in the final ten minutes to take the trophy on a flattering 3-10 1-2 scoreline.

FENNELLY CUP

Twelve teams in four groups started in the League section of the Fennelly Cup with Carrigeen, Ballinkillen, Naomh Brid, and Carlow town joining the fray from the A/B divisional leagues. Over the summer early favourites Barrow Rangers St. Patrick's, Slieverue and Tullougher Rosbercon departed to see four Carlow sides reach the knockout stages. with Carlow senior finalists and Fennelly holders Ballinkillen and Carlow Champions Naomh Brid contesting one semi-final and Mount Leinster Rangers recording a good win 2003 finalists Carlow town in the other.



HENNESSEY COUNTY LEAGUE FIXTURES COMMITTEE

Back: Ned Buggy, Mick Joyce [MLR], Gerard Lennon [St Mullins], Michael Doyle [Ballinkillen], Martin Walsh [Carlow Town], Ned Moran.

Front: Seamus Brennan [Naomh Brid], Shem Brophy [Carlow town], Paddy Gaule, Paddy Gardiner [Erin's Own]

Carrickshock reach the Top!

County Intermediate Championship Report by Conor Brennan

Photos Eoin Hennessy



CARRICKSHOCK - COUNTY IH CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Liam Barron, Gary Foley, Niall Tennyson, Ger Murphy, James Dalton, Larry O'Shea, John O'Dwyer.

Middle: Kevin Fennelly (Manager), John Raggett, Michael Rohan, David Millea, Richard Power, Martin Rohan, Richie Frisby, James Moran, Paul Barron, Michael Rice, James Farrell, Pat Dalton, John Dalton, Stephen Lonergan, Noel Maher (Selector) John Barron (Selector) .

Front: Pat Tennyson, Brendan Hoyne, Pat Cleary, Jamie Power (Capt), Shane Power, Seanie Gibbons, John Tennyson, John Murphy, William King, John Butler, Tommy Murphy (Selector) Patrick Farrell.

It may have been three years in the making, but no one could deny Carrickshock's promotion to the senior ranks following their narrow and heart-stopping victory over Mooncoin in the Vale Oil Intermediate Championship Final in Nowlan Park. Defeats in the last two years to St. Martin's and Erin's Own respectively could easily have destroyed the resolve of any team, but it is to the county champions' credit that they once again found the impetus to make the progression to senior level. The next major step for them now is to establish themselves at the highest level and with the calibre of players at their disposal, they should be capable of making a significant challenge next season.

Despite the fact that Carrickshock and Mooncoin were to contest the championship final, it was two other teams, Graignamanagh and Mullinavat that overcame them respectively in the Vale Oil Intermediate league semi-finals, with the final still to be decided. Graignamanagh already have some silverware this season thanks to victory over Piltown in the All-County final on a score-line of 1-14 to 0-13.

The first round of the championship brought together some interesting tussles and indeed some interesting results.

The major clash of the round saw Emeralds take on Rower-Inistioge, two sides that had high hopes for success. In the end, it was the Urlingford side who showed more strength in attack and were well worth their 0-14 to 1-8 win. It proved to be a one-sided affair between Clara and James Stephens as the former had too much power for the city side and scored a 1-18 to 0-10 win. The most exciting tussle of all proved to be between Piltown and John Lockes where both sides were forced to a replay after a 4-8 to 2-14 score-line. The replay was once again a tight and tense affair but what separated the sides was Piltown's better goal scoring ability. They secured a quarter final place and sent the Callan men into the relegation final by winning 3-5 to 1-10. The final match of the round saw St. Lachtain's prove too strong for a hard working Blacks & Whites side and secure a seven point victory (4-14 to 3-10). The Skeough men were then forced to face John Lockes in a dogfight for relegation at the end of the year and were unfortunate to be sent back to the junior ranks following a 1-11 to 0-7 defeat at the hands of the Callan side, thanks in no small way to the performance of former Kilkenny star John Power, who was Callan's major performer.

The quarter-finals saw the championship

semi-finalists enter the fray with all four sides facing tough opposition. Mullinavat squared up to St. Lachtain's on a miserable evening for hurling and it was the atrocious conditions that were the major factor in the outcome. Both sides had chances to gain the upper hand but with scores hard to come by, it was going to



John Dalton (Carrickshock) versus Michael Murphy (Mullinavat)



MOONCOIN - COUNTY IH FINALISTS 2004

Back: Jamie McGrath, Derek Phelan, John Phelan, Niall Mackey, Ollie Dunphy, Richard Mackey, Liam Sutton.

Middle: Mark Tyler, Alan Henneberry, Keith Kirwan, Ray Wall, Noel Delahunty, Eddie Mackey, Eoin Henneberry, Barry Purcell, Eamon Mackey, Tom Murphy, David O'Brien.

Front: Brendan Mackey, Diarmuid Mackey, Peter Ryan, Anton Lennon, Thomas O Hanlon, Patrick Kinsella, Gerry Kirwan, Billy Quinn, Ciaran Dunphy.

take something special to do so. In the end, it was the southerners who held sway at the end and salvaged a hard-earned 0-9 to 0-7 win. Carrickshock and Emeralds had similar poor conditions to deal with in their match in St. John's Park and as a result, made hurling near impossible in the circumstances. With scoring and good play at a premium, a draw (1-5 to 0-8) was a fair result in the circumstances and allowed both sides to compete in a proper fashion in a replay. This they did in a closely contested tussle in Nowlan Park. Despite the Uringford side's great start thanks to a goal from Emmett Kavanagh, they simply had no answer to the Powers, Jamie and Richie, who contributed 3-5 of the Carrickshock total of 3-12 to Emeralds 1-16 as the southerners qualified for the county-semi-final. The pitting together of Mooncoin and Clara had the potential to be a major tussle, and so it proved. Clara have always proved to be a team that could never be discounted, but even they

could not help to be impressed by the southern side as they secured a 1-14 to 1-9 win as they signalled their intent for the semi-finals. The final quarter-final saw a repeat of the all-county final between Graignamanagh and last year's junior champions, Piltown. The match was a truly high class affair, with little separating the sides throughout. Piltown looked like they turned the tables when they had snatched a one point lead with little time to go. However, Graignamanagh showed great composure to score 4 points without reply to secure a 2-13 to 1-13 win.

The semi-final draw pitted Mooncoin against Graignamanagh and Mullinavat and Carrickshock in the second semi-final. Most pundits would have expected both semi-finals to be too close to call. Mooncoin and Graignamanagh had both shown in their respective quarter-finals that they had the potential to succeed. What followed, to the surprise of many, was a one-sided affair



Eamon Phelan (Clara), pushed by **Eoin Henneberry** (Mooncoin)
Eoin Hennessy



Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin), **Shane Power** (Carrickshock), **Ciaran Dunphy** (Mooncoin) in action in the final.



GRAIGNAMANAGH - COUNTY IH LEAGUE (AYLWARD CUP) WINNERS 2004

Back: Jamie Cullen, Alan Foley, Michael Dunne, Alan Morrissey, Ken Walsh
Middle: Martin Bolger, Diarmuid O'Neill, Cathal Dunne, Matt Blanchfield, Ger Walsh, Henry Roberts, Ger Dowling, Leonard Blanchfield, Jarlath Bolger.
Front: Stephen Barron, John Carroll, Brendan Foley, Ronan Dowling, Paul Hamilton, Eddie Dowling, Eddie Walsh, Chris O'Neill, James Cahill, Hughie Flood.

as Mooncoin made use of a blistering first-half to totally outplay the Graig men. Graig did start well with a goal from Hughie Flood. But Mooncoin responded with some inspired hurling and goals from Barry Purcell, a fortunate Diarmuid Mackey free that sneaked into the net, and Peter Ryan gave them the upper hand. All that good work nearly came to nothing when a scuffle resulted in a Mooncoin and a Graig player being sent to the line followed subsequently by another Mooncoin player for a second yellow card. The extra man proved to be of little hindrance to Mooncoin, however, and after leading 3-8 to 1-1 at the break, continued to extend their lead after the break as Graig had no answer to their dominance. The final score of 3-12 to 1-7 ensured Mooncoin's passage to the final as showed to all observers that they were a team to be reckoned with.

The second semi-final between Carrickshock and Mullinavat saw two sides clearly in form, with the former showing glimpses of their true potential while Mullinavat had a 100% record in both league and championship so far this season. What proved to be the decisive factor in the game was the greater hunger of the Carrickshock men to atone for the losses of previous years. Mullinavat did look on track for a return to the top flight after one season out when they started brightly until Jamie Power batted a Michael Rice line-ball to the net. A further goal later on in the half from Seanie Gibbons gave Carrickshock further impetus as they held a two point lead at the break (2-4 to 0-8). Carrickshock's great start to the second

half compounded Mullinavat's problems, in particular through another goal from Seanie Gibbons. The scoring continued throughout the second half, but Mullinavat could not reduce their opponents lead despite the best efforts of Willie O'Dwyer, Tomás Frisby and Paul Aylward. In the end, Carrickshock had eight points to spare (3-11 to 0-12). The final, played on October 24th, brought two teams together with realistic ambitions. Carrickshock began the game in cautious fashion and Mooncoin tried to apply some pressure at an early stage. This pressure eventually paid off when Peter Ryan slammed the ball into the net past Brendan Hoyne in the

Carrickshock goal. Affairs after that became even as both sides traded points, with Richie Power and Diarmuid Mackey scoring the majority of these from placed balls. Ray Wall also proved at midfield, scoring two fine points from play for Mullinavat. A final pointed free from Richie Power left the score at the break 1-7 to 0-6 in Mooncoin's favour with the breeze in Carrickshock's favour for the second half.

The opening stages of the half continued to see both sides trade scores, with Shane and Richie Power on the mark for Carrickshock and Thomas O'Hanlon (65) and Diarmuid Mackey on target for Mooncoin. Carrickshock began to now improve in attack and points from James Moran, Michael Rice and Richie Power against a sole reply from a Diarmuid Mackey free saw the gap reduced to one point. With five minutes to go, Carrickshock then made their move. After somehow missing an earlier goal chance, Richie Power pointed a free to level affairs. Both sides then had chances to snatch victory but missed on all occasions. With a replay beckoning, Carrickshock's Michael Rice received possession on the wing from centre-back John Dalton. He struck excellently over the bar for his third point and ultimately, the decided score. Soon after, the final whistle to eventually confirm Carrickshock's long awaited promotion to the senior ranks and their first intermediate title win ever. After a double disappointment, it was the least they deserved.

VALE OIL INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

SCOREBOARD

1st Round
Emeralds 0-14 Rower-Inistloge 1-8
Clara 1-18 James Stephens 0-10
Piltown 4-8 John Lockes 2-14

Replay
Piltown 3-5 John Lockes 1-10
St Lachtain's 4-14 B & W's 3-10

Quarter-Finals
Mullinavat 0-9 St. Lachtain's 0-7
Carrickshock 0-8 Emeralds 1-5

Replay
Carrickshock 3-12 Emeralds 1-16
G'namanagh 2-13 Piltown 1-13

Semi-Finals
Mooncoin 3-12 G'namanagh 1-7
Carrickshock 3-11 Mullinavat 0-12

Final
Carrickshock 0-14 Mooncoin 1-10

To the Wire Again

Inter County IH Report

Photos - Eoin Hennessy



KILKENNY ALL IRELAND IH FINALISTS 2004

Back: Maurice Power (Manager), JP Corcoran, Denis Kelly, Peter Cleere, Eddie Walsh, Shane Lanigan, Paul Costello, John Costello, Richie O' Neill, Eoin McGrath, Diarmuid Mackey, Sean Kealy, Brian Phelan, John O' Neill.

Front: Jamie Power, Chris O' Neill, Richie Power, Colin Herrity, David Buggy (capt), John Phelan, Michael Grace, Derek Brennan, Noel Doherty, John Barron, Michael Owens.

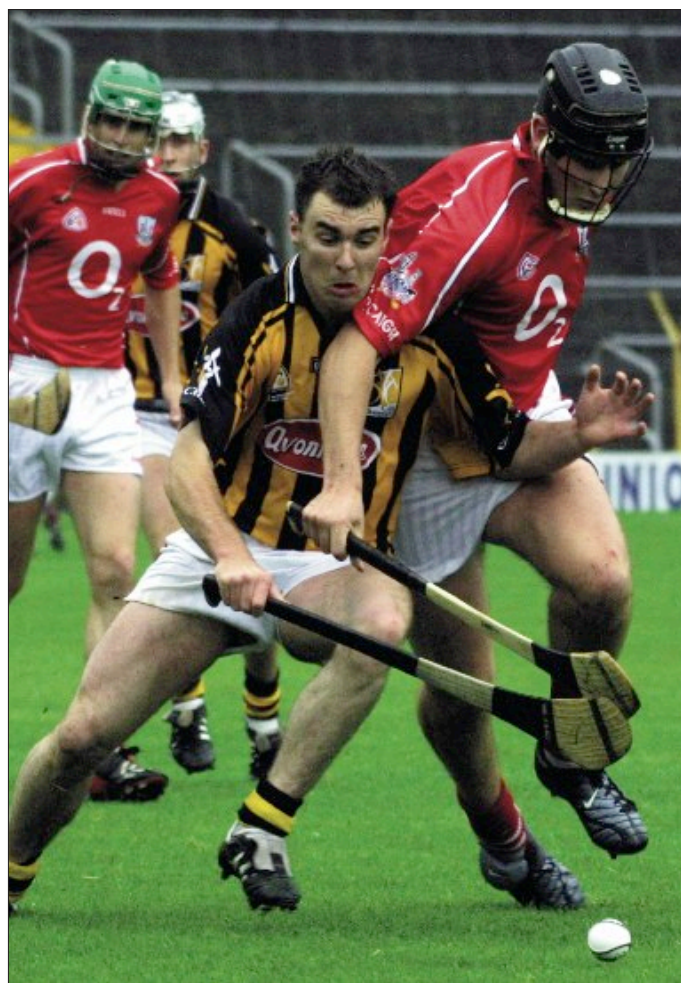
In the much maligned Intermediate hurling Championship, Kilkenny and Wexford were the only counties in Leinster affiliated, so both of them faced up to each other in Wexford Park on a balmy Wednesday evening to decide which would proceed to the All Ireland Final. The Leinster interest was symptomatic of the rest of the country, as there were only a couple of other teams from Munster interested in taking part, where Cork, the reigning Champions qualified without default.

The Leinster Final against the home team, who were certainly cock-a-hoop after their seniors had turfed the Cats out of the Leinster Championship, opened very briskly, with the usual bite. Kilkenny found themselves trailing early, but a great goal by Jamie Power, engineered by Kilkenny's best forward, Michael Grace in the 13th minute rocked the Wexford lads to the core. The break came with the visitors in front by six points, but the Wexford threat looked a long way from being snuffed out.

Wexford, thanks to a Joey Lawlor goal and Marty Kelly point had the deficit reduced to a very manageable two points within nine minutes of the restart. Showing no sign of panic, the Kilkenny lads responded the only way they knew how. Led by a superb goal from their superb captain, Davy Buggy, they reasserted themselves, and matched the Wexford lads with scores from Micheal Grace, Jamie Power, and Eddie Walsh. With six minutes remaining on the clock, the introduction of Eoin McGrath had the desired effect when the St Martins youngster slammed home a terrific goal and point to seal yet another Leinster Intermediate final for Kilkenny.

Kilkenny 3-17 Wexford 1-10

Kilkenny: Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow), Chris O'Neill (Graignamanagh), Shane Lanigan (Thomastown), Paul Costello (St Lactains), Sean Kealy (Blacks & Whites), John Costello (St Lactains), John O'Neill (John Lockes), Richie



Kilkenny's **John O'Neill** sheilds off the challenge of Cork's **Darren Dineen** during their clash in the Intermediate All-Ireland.

Power (Carrickshock), Colin Herity (Dunnamaggin), Davy Buggy (Erins Own, capt), Brian Phelan (Clara), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), Michael Grace (Rower Inistioge), Jamie Power (Carrickshock), Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin).
 Subs: Eoin McGrath (St Martins), John Phelan (Clara), John Paul Corcoran (John Lockes), Derek Brennan (James Stephens), Denis Kelly (Conahy Shamrocks), Michael Owens (Erins Own), Peter Cleere (Blacks & Whites), John Barron (Tullagher), Noel Doherty (Galmoy), Richie Power (Carrickshock), Colin Herity (Dunnamaggin), Davy Buggy (Erins Own, capt), Brian Phelan (Clara), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), Michael Grace (Rower Inistioge), Jamie Power (Carrickshock), Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin).

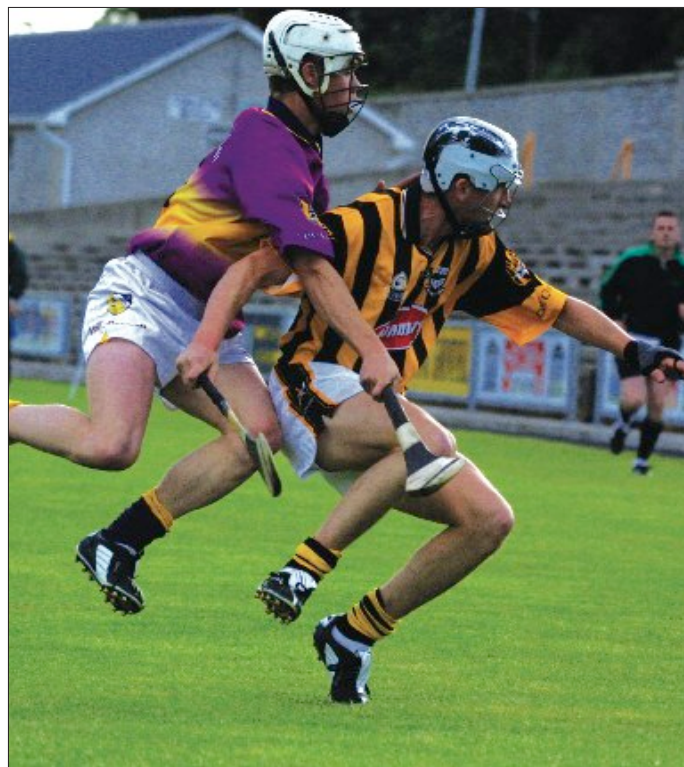
All Ireland Final.

Again Kilkenny had to face Cork in Thurles in the Final. It was the end of August, and Kilkenny had four teams still in the running for major championships. Expectations of a four-timer were high within the County. Cork had robbed Kilkenny with a sloppy goal twelve months previously. Hopefully history would not be a haunting ghost. Cork walloped Kilkenny into submission in a first half that saw the Rebels lead by 1-8 to 0-3, a lead that could have been much greater but for the heroics of Richie O'Neill in goal. Kilkenny were forced to hurl into a very stiff wind in that first half, which was drenched with an incessant downpour.

The second half dawned with a John Russell goal for Cork within a minute. It all but quenched what semblance of enthusiasm left in the struggling Kilkenny lads. Still the Cats refused to bend, and led by sterling work from captain, Buggy, Herity, Eddie Walsh, Grace and sub, John Paul Corcoran, they brought the fight to the Corkonians. Still though, Cork led by seven points with little time on the clock. It was a tall order for the tiring Kilkenny outfit. With three minutes remaining, a John O'Neill lob ended with Eddie Walsh slamming home a mighty goal, reducing the deficit to four points. On the 60th minute, Davy Buggy fired over a pointed free, but still there was a goal between the sides, and no time left. The third official signalled that there would be two additional minutes.

A Kilkenny effort was pushed over the end line for a '65. Some thirty-five seconds remained as John O'Neill again lifted the resultant free puck. Again the John Lockes man delivered, tantalisingly close to the small square. Tension was hyper. The free plopped among a battalion of players inside the large square. The entire population of Cork was there to defend. Not too many less from Kilkenny were also encamped in the area. Clara's Brian Phelan conjured up a deft stroke to slide the ball home. Kilkenny were euphoric, Cork less so. Still it was poetic justice, making up for twelve months previously.

The replay in Semple Stadium provided some terrific hurling for the fine crowd. Again, Richie O'Neill was instrumental in denying Cork major scores in a very tight first half, a half that saw both sides retire sharing twelve points. Cork looked the better



Colin Herity (Kilkenny) and Kevin Kavanagh (Wexford) both turn to try and catch the sliotar, during the Intermediate Leinster Hurling Final in Wexford Park.



Kilkenny's Richie Power and Colin Herity jump for the sliotar with Cork's Liam Hayes and Dessie Fitzgerald during their Intermediate All-Ireland in Thurles.



Sure it says it there - Kilkenny Garda John Brennan and County Board Chairman Ned Quinn that extra time was to be played after Kilkenny and Cork drew in the Intermediate All-Ireland in Semple Stadium.



Rebel breaks out - Cork Intermediate goalkeeper **Anthony Nash** tries to get away with the sliotar as Kilkenny's **Eddie Walsh** chases.

team for long periods during the second half, but Kilkenny were never in the mood to capitulate. Prompted by their captain Davy Buggy, a flying Jamie Power, John O'Neill, John Costello, Colin Herity, Michael Grace and sub JP Corcoran, they chased hard to nail the reigning Champions. They managed to get within two points of the rebels inside the last two minutes, but it was the Cork men who finished the stronger with two late points to get them home in front, winning by 1-16 to 1-10.

Kilkenny: Richie O'Neill, John Tennyson (Carrickshock), Shane Lanigan, Paul Costello, Sean Kealy, John Costello, John O'Neill, Colin Herity, Brian Phelan, Diarmuid Mackey, Richie Power, Jamie Power, Eddie Walsh, Davy Buggy(capt), Micheal Grace.

Subs: John Paul Corcoran, John Phelan, Chris O'Neill, Derek Brennan, Denis Kelly, Michael Owens, Peter Cleere, John Barron, Eoin McGrath, Noel Doherty.

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The Year of Maroon!

Under 14 Bord na nÓg Report by Barrie Henriques

Photos - Eoin Hennessy



DICKSBORO - ROINN 'A' & FEILE NA NGAEL CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Adam Barry, Eoin Pendergast, Ciaran Gough, Michael Cotter, Sean Tyrrell, Simon O'Shea, David Glynn, Ciámin Browne, Michael Hayes, Cian Tynan, Gary Gaule

3rd Row: Niall Sheehan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Darren Hogan, Daniel Kenny, Oisín Walsh, Martin Gaffney, Phillip Byrne, Sean Doherty, Kevin Nolan, Robin Kavanagh-Dunne, Briain Dolland, Paul Barrett, Michael Walsh, Declan Gough.

2nd Row: Frank Tynan, Martin Gaffney (Manager), Jesse Waters, Barry Brennan, Cillian Buckley, Enda Malone (Captain), Ollie Walsh, Eamon Campion, J.J. Hickey, Robert Dooley, John Hickey.

Front: Andrew Gaffney (mascot), Eoin Gough (mascot), Stephen Glynn, Colm Manning, Cathel Kavanagh, Jamie Lynch, Peter Nolan, Rachel Lynch.

Missing from photograph David Gaule.

Roinn A Hurling.

Maroon seemed to be the colour of winners this year in Kilkenny. We had Dicksboro winning the Roinn A Championship, and adding the Feile title as well to their CV. We then had St Patricks from Ballyraggett getting in on the colour act by winning the Roinn B title for the first time in sixteen years - for them a mighty achievement. The Roinn C arena produced some fine, exciting fare, where the feature was the reversal of League results, and producing a Championship Final that will be talked about when the contestants will be well advanced into adulthood. Yes indeed, the youngsters from Glenmore, and Barrow Rangers will look back with great glee on a truly remarkable season. The Yearbook of 2001 glorified in prose and picture the conquests of Dicksboro as they stormed to their first Roinn A under-14 title since 1992, -quite a long time. The victory then was made all the more meritorious by the victories over their more illustrious city rivals, James Stephens and O'Loughlin Gaels. Whilst the "maroons" swept all before

them then in a tide of total domination, this time round, their start in the competition was less than encouraging. They were hammered into submission by a very impressive Erin's Own, by 3-7 to 0-5. The two were to meet at a later, more significant stage of the competition, with a changed agenda. With a bye in Round 2, they were on the receiving end of another hurling lesson from Clara in round 3, losing by 4-11 to 1-7. Prospects were anything but positive. On the other hand, Erin's Own had a terrific win over Clara in Round 2, winning by 4-13 to 0-3. Mooncoin and O'Loughlins had started brightly too. Erin's Own(3-10) continued their early good work with a good win over O'Loughlins (1-0) while James Stephens (5-12) had a rather facile victory over Graig Ballycallan (0-2) in Round 3. However it was in round 4 that the Boro bandwagon really got up a head of steam. They beat O'Loughlins (1-7 to 2-1), James Stephens (2-12 to 0-3), Mooncoin (2-1 to 0-2) in rounds four to six, and got a walkover from Graig Ballycallan in Round 7. That run of success earned them a direct route into the

semi-finals.

Erin's Own were far more impressive, winning all of their games, and getting a bye from Graigue Ballycallan. Their win over the Boro in the opening round was certainly their most impressive. They too went directly into the semi-finals, and with Mooncoin winning two of their group games, they were the third team in the hat for the semi-final draws.

In the three-way play-off for the fourth semi-final spot, O'Loughlins (3-8) beat James Stephens (1-5), and Clara denied O'Loughlins their entry card, by beating them 1-4 to 0-4.

In the first semi-final, Dicksboro took care of Mooncoin with some difficulty, on a score of 1-11 to 0-9. Both sides were level at the break, sharing eight points. Ten minutes after the re-start, Sean Tyrrell, the Boro left half forward slammed home a great goal, but the Mooncoin boys never flinched from the contest. Points by Daniel Purcell, Stephen Crowley, and Mark Fitzgerald left but a single point between the sides as the clock wound down to the last five minutes, but, not for the first time this year, Oisín Walsh killed off the Mooncoin



ERIN'S OWN - U14 "A" FINALISTS 2004

Back: Pierce Dargan, Thomas Keating, James Tynan, Aidan Moran, Ciarán McDermott, Mark O' Neill, Conor Fogarty, Anthony Kavanagh, Cillian Brennan, Michael O' Neill.
 Middle: Sean Brennan, Padraig Keating, Marie Dargan, Caoimhán Dunne, Martin Hawley, Andrew Ring, Gerry Callinan, Cathal Murphy, Conor Healy,
 Front: Eoin Meally, David Brennan, Shane Renwick, Declan Dunne, Brian Deevey, Noreen Murphy, Mikey Dwyer.



ST PAT'S, BALLYRAGGET - U14 ROINN 'B' CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Bill Staunton, Geoffrey Brennan, Brian Mulhall, Enda Mooney, Thomas Mc Grath, Brendan Morrissey, James Morrissey, James Gannon, John Mooney, Eddie Brophy, T.J. Shearman.
 Front: Stephen Staunton, Liam Lacey, Robert Healy, Joseph Brennan, Michael Brennan, Murt Glennon, Mark Staunton, Donal Brennan, Paddy Mc Evoy, Joe Fitzpatrick.

challenge with some excellent point-scoring from frees.

The Boro had great performers in the Walshes, Ollie and Oisín, Sean Tyrrell, Darren Hogan, Daniel Kenny, captain, Enda Malone at centre back, and goalie, Philly Byrne. Mooncoin too had sterling performers in Daniel Purcell, Cormack Daly, Eamonn Hennebery, Stephen Crowley and Mark Fitzgerald.

Erin's Own had a more than comfortable passage to the final, as they beat a disappointing Clara by 3-15 to 0-3. The stars of the show from a Castlecomer

perspective were Conor Fogarty, Andrew Ring and the Dargan twins, Pierce at left half back and his sister, Marie at full forward.

Having already won the Féile County Title, Dicksboro were aiming to be the first under-fourteen team in the club to win the Féile/Championship double in the same year.

Dicksboro led at half time by 1-5 to 0-1, their goal, compliments of a speculative lob by left half back Kevin Nolan midway through the first thirty minutes. A couple

of early points by Andrew Ring reduced the half time deficit for the Erin's Own lads, and when a Marie Dargan shot was parried by Boro goalie, Philly Byrne, Ciarán Mc Dermott was in like a flash to hammer the ball into the back of the Boro net. Game on!

However, David Gaule eased the Dicksboro worries with a delightful goal ten minutes from time, and despite the best efforts of lads like Thomas Keating, Anthony Kavanagh, Aidan Moran, Cillian Brennan, James Tynan, Fogarty, Ring, Gerry Callinan and the Dargan twins,



GLENMORE - UNDER 14 ROINN "C" HURLING CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Eddie Aylward (Selector), Gerard Aylward, Robert Kelly, James Foran, Dennis O'Dwyer, Davey Aylward, David Boyle, Colin Hennessy, Paul Lyons, Ruth Jones, Seamus Boyle (Selector).

Front: Ciaran Doherty, Patrick Connick, James Aylward, Eoin Murphy (Captain), Colin Foran, Sean Duggan, Jim Kenny, Patrick Breen, Luke O'Connor.

they just couldn't make up the leeway on worthy winners, Dicksboro, for whom the Walshes, Philly Byrne, Kevin Nolan, Enda Malone, Darren Hogan, David Gaule, and Martin Gaffney were outstanding. It didn't help the Comer lads that they had to play their semi-final and final within forty-eight hours.

Dicksboro: Philip Byrne, Ciarán Gough, David Glynn, Camyn Brown, Kevin Nolan, Enda Malone (Capt), Peter Nolan, Daniel Kenny, Oisín Walsh, Darren Hogan, David Gaule, Sean Tyrrell, Cian Tynan, Martin Gaffney, Ollie Walsh.
Subs: Larry Burke, Simon O'Sé, Cillian Buckley, Sean Doherty, Gerry Gaule, Paul Barrett, Brian Fitzpatrick, Jesse Watters, Brian Dollard, Michael Cotter, Eamon Campion, Eoin Prendergast, Michael Hayes, JJ Hickey, Cathal Kavanagh, Robin Kavanagh-Dunne, Stephen Glynn, Keith Burke, Adam Barry, Barry Brennan, Jamie Lynch, Colm Manning.

Erin's Own: Martin Hawley, Mark O'Neill, Thomas Keating, Brian Deevy, Jerry Callinan, Conor Fogarty, Pierce Dargan, Anthony Kavanagh, Aidan Moran, Caomhán Dunne, Cillian Brennan, James Tynan, Andrew Ring, Marie Dargan, Ciarán McDermott. **Subs:** Conor Healy, Cathal Murphy, David Brennan, Sean Brennan, Michael Dwyer, Declan Dunne, Pádraig Keating, Michael O'Neill, Eoin Meally, Darragh Stone, Noreen Murphy, Shane Renwick.

Repeat last year's pic with correct cap !
! ! For your consideration Ger.

ROINN B.

Fifteen teams went into traps for the Roinn B Championship. Divided into two groups, the competition facilitated a terrific geographical mix of teams from north and south of the County. In Group 1, we had Thomastown, John Lockes and Piltown from the South, playing St.Patrick's Ballyraggett, Danesfort, Emeralds, Fenians/Galmoy and St. Martin's from the North of the County. In Group 2, we had a seven-team group made up of teams like Rower/Inistioge, Mullinavat, Ballyhale Shamrocks and Carrickshock from the South playing against Tullaroan, St.Lachtain's, and Lisdowney from the North.

It would have to be said that there were some marvellously high-scoring contests in both divisions. In Group 1, St.Patrick's from Ballyraggett (2-17), Piltown (5-10), Danesfort (6-10), and Fenians/Galmoy (7-7), posted early warnings in their games against Thomastown (1-7), John Lockes (0-6), Emeralds (0-4) and St.Martin's (0-5) respectively that they were teams that had every intention of being at the Championship coalface when the competition was nearing climax.

The Ballyragget lads clattered home 41-93 in their seven group games - quite astounding. Piltown had mighty wins over John Lockes, Danesfort, Fenians/Galmoy, St.Martin's, and Thomastown. They were held to a draw by Emeralds, and went down rather

heavily against St.Patrick's in their only losing group game. Danesfort were the only team to take points from the high-flying St. Pats, beating them in round 3 by a comfortable 3-6 to 2-5. They were to record good wins over Emeralds, Thomastown, John Lockes, St Martin's, and Fenians/Galmoy to make the quarter finals with a little in hand.

In Group 2, there were some very impressive performances too, not least of which was the march of Lisdowney towards the quarterfinals. They scored 23-32 in their opening four outings, but somehow the wheels came off their buggy in the last two rounds. However, they had done enough to get to the play-offs where they beat St Lachtain's quite convincingly, to earn the right to face their near neighbours, St.Patrick's in the first of the quarter-finals. Tullaroan, the Rower Inistioge and Ballyhale Shamrocks availed of the direct route into the quarter finals.

The storming St.Patrick's experienced little difficulty in accounting for the Lisdowney resolve by winning 4-14 to 2-6. The Lisdowney lads owed much to the efforts of Rory Hickey, Sean Phelan, James Delaney and Owen Warren for getting them as far as the quarter finals. Eventual finalists, Tullaroan, had to fight to the finish to ward off the strong challenge of Piltown in their quarter final game. It was no fault of Peter McCarthy, Niall Kinsella, Adam Murphy in goal, Brendan Norris, Georgina Culleton or Daniel Norris that the Piltown lads failed to advance further in the competition. Danesfort (2-9) carried too much firepower for the Carrickshock lads (0-4) while



Eoin Murphy (Captain) receives the U14 Hurling Roinn C Cup from **Joe Pyke** (Chairman, Bord na nOg) after Glenmore defeated Barrow Rangers in the Final in Thomastown.

the Rower Inistioge were far too good for a Muckalee team who never gave up trying.

The Tularoan/Rower Inistioge semi-final was a real gem of a contest. Both sides competed as if their very lives depended on the result. Only two points separated the sides at the break, but the overall power and skill advantage of the John Coogan-trained Tularoan side proved a little beyond the capabilities of the Rower lads, who had marvellous performers in full back Tadhg Leahy, centre back Tommy Grace, wing back David Tennyson, midfielders Joe Lyng and Paudie Fleming, and sharp shooting forwards, Dean Kehoe and James Cassin. And so to the eagerly awaited final between Tularoan and St.Patrick's Ballyraggett. A nervous Tularoan allowed the Ballyraggett lads to dictate the early pace. St. Pat's raced into a 1-2 to no score midway through the first half. But the stylish Paul Glennon brought some balance into the game when he goaled in the 17th. minute for Tularoan. At half time, the Ballyraggett lads (1-5) looked in a very good position for victory, where

Tularoan only had Glennon's goal to show for their efforts. However, the Tularoan lads really came out for the second half determined to redress the imbalance in the game. They tried very hard to get to the front, but in fairness, the better-balanced Ballyraggett lads deserved their victory, even if the final score flattered them somewhat. It's sixteen years since Ballyraggett won this title, but when you have players of the quality of Joe Brennan, who scored 1-8 of his side's total in your team, you stand a mighty chance of being victorious. Ballyraggett had terrific performers in Joe Brennan, Liam Lacey, Brian Mulhall, Bill Staunton, Donal Brennan, Enda Mooney, Michael Brennan, John Mooney, Mark Staunton, Murt Glennon, and Stephen Staunton.

Tularoan too had great performers in Fam Holmes, John Maher, Eoin Brennan, Paul Glennon, Gavin Joyce, Richard Maher, Paul Buggy, and Bill Simpson.

St Patrick's Ballyraggett: Michael Brennan, John Mooney, Eddie Brophy, Murt Glennon, Stephen Staunton, James Gannon, Bill Staunton, Geoffrey Brennan, James Morrissey, John Mooney, Joe Brennan, Enda Mooney, Mark Staunton, Brian Mulhall, Liam Lacey. *Subs: Robert Healy, Thomas Mc Grath, TJ Shearman, Brendan Morrissey, Paddy Mc Evoy, Joe Fitzpatrick, Stephen Shortt.*

Tularoan: Gavin Joyce, Richard Maher, Fam Holmes, Eoin Brennan, Con Kennedy, Paul Glennon, Ger Looby, Mark Simpson, Josh Moore, Conor Kelly, John Maher, Paul Buggy, Bill Simpson, Pauris Walsh, Ronan Byrne. *Subs: Rowena Buggy, Trevor Looby, Peter Walsh, Jack Holmes, Patrick Butler.*

ROINN C:

This was a very rewarding Championship for all the lesser lights who would have been totally overawed by competing in the higher grade of competition. Not only do the Roinn C teams have their own knockout Championship, but they also have a very efficient League competition.

In the Championship, sixteen teams set out for honours. In Round 1, Bennettsbridge (9-5) had little difficulty in taking care of the Tullogher/Rosbercon (2-3) challenge. Cloneen (6-8) too were too good for the second O'Loughlin's team (1-6), while Barrow Rangers proved far too strong for the Windgap boys, and girls in their game. Slieverue (4-6) too carried too much firepower for Blacks & Whites (0-9), but Dunnamaggin (2-4) proved a far tougher proposition for League finalists, Young Irelands (2-11) in their game. Kilmacow (2-6) had a goal to spare over the Dicksboro second string, and Conahy, the League Champions took care of the second James Stephens team. Glenmore got a walk over from Gaignamanagh.

Wins for Slieverue (6-4) over Kilmacow (2-2), Glenmore (5-10) over Conahy (4-3), Barrow Rangers (2-9) over Young Irelands (2-7) - a close one, and Cloneen over Bennettsbridge (1-1), set up Glenmore versus Slieverue, and Barrow Rangers versus Cloneen semi-final pairings.

Glenmore (5-13) had little difficulty in accounting for neighbours, Slieverue (0-2), and the Paulstown lads (2-11) had an equally easy time against Cloneen (1-3) in their outing.

The quality of the hurling in the final was as good as has been seen for many years. Both sides possessed a goodly number of high quality players, and this



CONAHY UNDER-14 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Pauric Harding, Jimmy Keohane, Paddy Mullan, Eoin Muldowney, Donal Brennan, Teilo Maher, David Healy, Sean Delaney.
Front: John Coady, Conor Whelan, Gary Kavanagh (Capt.), David Buggy, Lorraine Cass, David Healy, James Murphy.

game was on a knife-edge right up to the full time whistle. Glenmore led at half time by a single point- 2-4 to 1-6. Their star in the first half was their goalkeeper, Eoin Murphy, whose heroics were responsible for keeping the rampant Paulstown lads at bay. A Richard Doyle goal followed by a Cathal Kenny point for Barrow Rangers late in the game set it up for a rip-roaring finish, with the Glenmore lads holding onto a goal lead. Try as Paulstown could, they were not able to break down a very resolute Glenmore outfit, for whom, David Boyle, Ciaran Doherty, David Aylward, Denis O'Dwyer, Gerald Aylward, James Aylward, and goalie Murphy were outstanding.

For Barrow Rangers, none played better than Martin Bambrick, Richard Doyle, Thomas Brennan, Martin Dormer, Cathal Kenny, Patrick Drennan, Ger Walsh, and Michelle Brennan.

Glenmore: Eoin Murphy, James Foran, David Boyle, Ciaran Doherty, Colin Foran, Denis O'Dwyer, Patrick Connick, Paul Lyons, Luke O'Connor, Ruth Jones, Davey Aylward, Gerard Aylward, James Aylward, Colin Hennessy, Robert Kelly.
Subs: Sean Duggan, Jim Kenny, Patrick Breen.

Barrow Rangers: Danny Byrne, Martin Dormer, Tom Brennan, Shane O'Neill, Jason Holden, Richard Doyle, William Morrissey, Cathal Kenny, Patrick Drennan, Eddie English, Martin Bambrick, Sean Mc Donald, Cathal English, Ger Walsh, Michelle Brennan.
Subs: Kevin Leahy, Damien Barcoe, Kevin Brennan, John Brennan, Tom Brennan.

LEAGUE.

In Group 1 of the four-group league, Conahy made it quite easily to the quarterfinals with convincing wins over Blacks & Whites, Tullogher/Rosbercon and Windgap. The Blacks & Whites went the same road with wins over Windgap and Tullogher/Rosbercon. From Group 2, Glenmore careered to the quarter finals with wins over Kilmacow, Cloneen, and Dunnamaggin. Keeping them company in the "quarters" were Cloneen, who narrowly beat Dunnamaggin, and followed that up with a facile win over Kilmacow. Barrow Rangers went nap in Group 3, winning all their games against Bennettsbridge, the James Stephens second team, and Slieverue. Slieverue also made the last eight after good wins over Bennettsbridge and James Stephens. From Group 4 there was no stopping Young Irelands who beat O'Loughlins (2), Dicksboro (2) and Graignamanagh, while the Boro made it too.



Winner of the Feile na Gael skills, **Paul Glennon**, Tullaroan is presented the plaque by **Joe Pyke**. Among the runners up were **Liam Duggan** (Mullinavat), **Richard McNamara** (Kilkacow), **Ciaran Treacy** (Danesfort), **Daniel Purcell** (Mooncoin) & **Thomas Byrne** (Clara)



Joe Pyke presents **Conor Fogarty** of Erins Own with the winners plaque at the Feile na Gael skills competition. Also pictured were runners up **Niall Smith** (Carrickshock), **Alan Cuddihy** (Ballyhale Shamrocks) **Ciaran Treacy** (Danesfort), **David Healy** (Conahy Shamrocks) & **David Purcell** (Mooncoin)



ERIN'S OWN U-14F ROINN 'A' CHAMPIONS 2004
Back: Aidan Moran, (capt.) Thomas Keating, Mark O' Neill, James Tynan, Killian Brennan, Anthony Kavanagh, Conor Fogarty, Sean Brennan, Ciarán McDermott, Pierce Dargan, Martin Hawley
Front: Conor Healy, John Deevy, Caomhán Dunne, Andrew Ring, Cathal Murphy, Pdraig Keating, Mikey Dwyer, Gerry Callinan, Shane Renwick

In the quarter finals, Conahy, Glenmore, Young Irelands and Barrow Rangers showed tremendous courage, and skill, and each in their own right slammed home big scores to earn places in the semi-finals.

Conahy Shamrocks were to beat Glenmore in their semi-final on a score of 3-9 to 2-6. It was not to happen when next they met. Young Irelands (2-7) beat Barrow Rangers (2-6): again that result was reversed when next they met in the Championship.

It took two outings to decide the winner in the Final.

A David Healy point from a free, well into injury time in the first game between Conahy Shamrocks and Young Irelands, earned the Jenkinstown outfit a second bite at the cherry, a bite they probably didn't deserve. The game was a nail-biting affair, with the Gowran lads - and lassies - looking like sure winners from a long way out. But a spirited fight back by the Conahy lads - and lassies - culminating with that important equaliser from Healy, offered a second chance to both sides. Conahy had a blistering opening to the replay, where a goal from Healy and points from Joe Murphy saw them lead by 1-2 to no score midway through the first half. However, the Young Irelands team were not going to relinquish any ground to the Conahy lads, and at half time they had fought back to within a single point.

Within two minutes of the re-start, Young Irelands scored a terrific goal.

Game on!

Entering the last quarter, a goal by Healy, and five unanswered points had the Conahy team looking towards the winner's enclosure. However, Gowran dug deep into their store of determination, and resolve. They shot a great goal, compliments of Colin Dreeling just after the re-start, followed by a third goal from Eoin Walsh and three points inside the last five minutes which left but a single point between the sides. Conahy were subjected to enormous pressure, but, with players like Pauric Harding at full back playing the game of his life, the all-important levelling score never materialised for Young Irelands.

Conahy owed much to the sterling defensive qualities of Davy Buggy in goal, Mariga Nolan at corner back, Harding at full back, and Donal Brennan at the heart of the defence. Jimmy Keohane had a great season in the middle of the park, while Healy and captain Garry Kavanagh were the scorers-in-chief for this very good Conahy outfit. Young Irelands had great servants in Paul Holden, Patrick Lennon, Niamh Quinlan, Michael Walsh, JJ Lennon, Paul Kehoe, and Eoin Walsh, The Final score in the drawn game read, Young Irelands 2-10 Conahy Shamrocks 3-7. In the replay, the score read,



LISDOWNEY U14 F ROINN B LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2004

Back: Liam Healy, John Phelan, Conor Stapleton, Rory Hickey, Eoin Warren, Kelvin Skehan, Aaron Fogarty, James Delaney, Shane Healy, Michael Lennon, Ollie Stapleton, Damien Clyne, Shane Sullivan, Robert Buckley, Sean Phelan.

Front: Luke Hudner, Niall Kenny, Stephen Ruth, Robert Fitzpatrick, Edward Kenny, Kieran Delaney, Cormac Glendon, Pat O'Carroll, Shane Ruth, Laurence O'Carroll, Jamie Bergin.



ST PAT'S BALLYRAGGET - ROINN 'C' U14 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Paddy McEvoy, Donal Mooney, Robert Healy, Michael Brennan.

Middle: Thomas McGrath, James Morrissey, David Laevey, Sean McGrath, Brian Mulhall, Eddie Brophy, James Gannon.

Front: Liam Lacey, Enda Mooney, Geoffrey Brennan, John Mooney, Bill Staunton (Captain), Martin Glendon, Joe Brennan, Stephen Staunton.

Conahy Shamrocks 2-9 Young Irelands 3-5.

Conahy Shamrocks: Davy Buggy, Mariga Nolan, Pauric Harding, Telio Maher, John Coady, Donal Brennan, Lorraine Cass, Jimmy Keohane, Paddy Mullan, Conor Whelan, David Healy, Eoin Muldowney, Sean Delaney, Garry Kavanagh, James Murphy. *Subs:* Barry Waters, Tom Mullan, Philip Murphy, Ashling Cass, Lisa Nolan, John Mullan, Peter Vickery, Gearoid Whelan, James Delaney, Stephen Brennan.

Young Irelands: Paul Holden, Patrick Lennon, Michael Hutchinson, Jack Glendon, Niamh Quinlan, Michael Walsh,

Colin Dreeling, Sean Kehoe, Vincent Byrne, David Doyle, JJ Lennon, Chris Nolan, Niall Walsh, Paul Kehoe, Eoin Walsh. *Subs:* Josh Mahoney, David Kelly, Anthony McEvoy, Patrick Quinlan, Andrea Mc Evoy, Nathan Cahill, Dara Kehoe.

FEILE NA NGAEL

Twenty-two teams went in search of the County Feile Championship. After a 12-team preliminary round, the competition was divided into four groups of four teams. In Group 1, John Lockes from Callan and James Stephens qualified for

the quarterfinals. They were accompanied by St Patricks from Ballyraggett and the Rower Inistioge from Group 2, Mooncoin and Mullinavat from Group 3 and Dicksboro and Erins Own from Group 4.

The eight remaining teams were subdivided into two groups of four, with Dicksboro, Mullinavat, St Patricks and John Lockes in one group, while James Stephens, Mooncoin, Rower Inistioge and Erins Own were the teams competing in the second group. Dicksboro -easily- and St Patricks qualified for the semi finals from the first group. The Boro had great wins over Mullinavat, and St Patricks, and with the surprising withdrawal of John Lockes, both the Boro and St Patricks, who had a win over Mullinavat too, went forward.

In the second group, Erins Own beat James Stephens and Rower Inistioge but lost to Mooncoin, nevertheless the results got them into the semi finals, and Mooncoin, with three wins from three games accompanied them.

In the semi-finals, little separated the four teams. St Patricks (2-3) beat Mooncoin (0-7), while Dicksboro (1-7) took care of Erins Own (1-5).

The Final too was a ding-dong affair with the result in the balance right to the final whistle.

A goal by Ollie Walsh and points by Martin Gaffney and Cian Tynan helped the Boro to a first half lead of 1-6 to no



BARROW RANGERS U14 LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP ROINN 'D' FOOTBALL WINNERS 2004

Back: Joe English, Tommy Kelly, Shane O'Neill, Richard Doyle, Cathal Kenny, Thomas Brennan, Kevin Leahy, Patrick Drennan, Gerard Walsh, Jason Holden, Martin Dormer, Eddie English, Christy Kenny, Ollie O'Neill

Front: William Morrissey, Sean McDonald, Thomas Whitely, Ciaran Doyle, Damien Barcoe, Martin Bambrick, Kevin Hennessy, Danny Byrne, Kevin Brennan, John Brennan, Michael Lonergan.

score. Ballyraggett stormed through the second half, and with Joe Brennan scoring an early 1-2, aided and abetted by points from James Morrissey and James Gannon, the Ballyraggett lads were very much in the race right to the finish. However sterling defensive work by captain Enda Malone, David Glynn and Peter Nolan insured that Dicksboro were destined to represent Kilkenny in the

National Feile Finals. They beat Clare's finest, Sixmile Bridge by 1-6 to 1-4. A late Ollie Walsh goal getting them over the line in front. Failing to Ballygunner, and not winning by enough against Shinrone in subsequent games finished their involvement. However, with twelve of the team available for next year, things look rosy for the "maroons" next season.

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Camogie Cuttings

Better Days Ahead

This year was not a very successful year for Blacks & Whites Camogie. We entered in the following competitions: Junior, U-21, U-14 & U-12. Our U-12 girls, although young enjoyed the games. This year was our first year to enter U-21 grade and although we got straight through to the semi-final we were beaten by a stronger and fitter Windgap team.

County Panelists

There were four girls from the club on

County panels this year - U-14: Anne-Marie Lennon and Emma Carroll, U-18: Anne-Marie Moloney, Junior: Carolyn O'Dowd and Anne-Marie Moloney. The U-14 and U-18 girls secured Leinster championship medals.

Coaching

Coaching continues in the club each year and it is great to see the younger girls interested and improving their skills.

Fund Raising

Our major fund raiser each year is Bag

Packing in Dunnes Stores in which both parents and girls lend a hand.

During the year the club entered two teams in a Ladies football blitz held in O'Loughlin Gaels which was a most enjoyable day for the girls.

Thanks

The Camogie club would like to thank the Blacks & Whites G.A.A. Club for the use of their pitch and Complex during the year and also thanks to those involved in training and coaching our girls.

Well Done, Kilkenny!



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Camogie Cuttings

Under 14

Danesfort fielded a team for the first time in a number of years. This was made possible by the good work being done in the schools. The girls had games against Castlecomer, St. Annes, Ballyragget, Paulstown and the Rower-Inistioge. The team did very well considering it was their first season with competitive games. Full credit to all those who looked after them and hopefully they can look forward to building on their performance next year.

Panel: Jennifer Cunningham, Stephany Cullen, Laura Woodcock, Lyndsey Moran, Louise Dunne, Rebecca Drennan, Caoimhe Knox, Kim Leahy, Deirdre Phelan, Denise Drennan, Róisín Brophy, Jane Leahy, Anne Ryan, Aileen Troy, Ellen Corcoran, Kathy Woodcock, Laura Maher, Shauna Ryan, Galya Stanley, Rachel Hogan, Jayne King.

Junior Camogie:

Danesfort Junior camogie team made

history by reaching the county final for the first time. The campaign started with a thrilling game against Windgap, in which the girls lost out to a last minute goal for Windgap. This was followed by good victories over Piltown, Mooncoin, Carrickshock, Glenmore and St. Martin's. Freshford were the opposition in the county semi-final where the girls ran out easy winners in the end. The girls came up against Windgap again in the final. The game was played on a very windy Sunday morning in Bennettsbridge. Danesfort played against a strong wind in the first half and were in a good position to be only two points down at the break. In the second half however, Windgap played better against the wind as Danesfort did in the first and ran out winners by two points. Gráinne Brennan played the final with a broken finger and Aileen Cunningham played the second half also with a broken finger sustained just before half time. The girls were very disappointed but can still look back on

some great performances during the year. No doubt they will bounce back in 2005. Beidh lá eile againn.

Aoife Treacy, Gráinne Brennan and Julieann Woodcock were members of the Kilkenny Junior team, while Gráinne Brennan, Julieann Woodcock and Aileen Cunningham won Leinster medals with Kilkenny Under 18 team.

Junior Panel:

Marie Carroll, Orla Saunders, Deirdre Treacy, Amy Woodcock, Róisín Carey, Aileen Cunningham, Gráinne Brennan, Sarah Butler, Muireann Byrne, Julieann Woodcock, Aoife Treacy, Elaine Murphy, Gemma Dillon, Kay Hayes, Aideen Carey, Jenny Martin, Karen Costigan, Edel O' Hara, Sarah Drennan, Kate Hennessy, Kay Brophy, Sarah Woodcock, Anne Woodcock, Imelda Phelan.

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Camogie Cuttings

The camogie year 2004 for Dicksboro was one they can look back on with some degree of satisfaction. While the year did not produce any silverware for the club there were some creditable performances in all grades. The U12's went out at the quarter-final stage, the U14's just missed out on the play-off stages, eventual winners Carrickshock beat the U16's in the semi-final stage. The U2'1s lost out to Carrickshock in the latter stages of the Championship and the Intermediates lost at the quarter-final stage to Gowran after a good run through the championship.



Susan Kennedy who represented Dicksboro on the Irish team which won the International Camogie Tournament

The signs are encouraging for the under-age levels and hopefully this progress will pay dividends in the future. Dicksboro had the honour of having Susan Kennedy play for Ireland against an English selection at Croke Park in a curtain raiser for the Compromise Rules Series Ireland v Australia. Her selection was a wonderful achievement personally,



DICKSBORO U10 CAMOGIE TEAM 2004

Back: Rachel Bawle, Jenny Hayes, Laura Hickey, Claire Nolan, Muireann Brennan, Margaret O'Grady (Trainer)
Front: Niamh Tynan, Orla Hanrick, Ciara Tyrrell, Aoife Higgins, Eva Maher, Aoife Prendergast, Vivian Brennan.

so great was the competition for places to represent Ireland on the camogie scene. The Ireland v England match was an inaugural event on the camogie calendar and hopefully the event will flourish and give camogie players in Ireland a chance to represent Ireland on an International basis. Susan Kennedy played the whole match in full-back position and reports say she had an outstanding game, so congratulations to Susan.

Dicksboro Camogie club would like to thank the following people for their time and effort in training the teams - Margaret O'Grady, Therese Healy, Alice

Kelly, Nicola Tynan, Geraldine Hogan, Ann-Marie Hogan, Kay Hogan, Paddy Kelly, Phil Hogan and Aidey O'Dea and a special word of the thanks to club secretary Anne Bawle for her sterling work throughout the year. Also we want to say a big thank you to the players for turning up for training and matches and not forgetting the parents who transported them throughout the season. Hopefully we will see players and parents participate in Dicksboro Camogie Championship for 2005

Many Thanks Dicksboro Camogie Club Committee

KILKENNY CORPORATION & COUNTY COUNCIL

Well done to all Kilkenny Teams



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Camogie Cuttings

Officers

Chairwoman: Mary Howley
Vice-chair: Gretta Kelly
Secretary: Ann Mulholland
Treasurer: Finola Gorey

A Great Year for the U-14s

2004 has proved to be another successful year for the club. Teams competed at U-12, U-14 Roinn B, U-16, U-18, U-21 Ronin A and Intermediate. The big success of the year for James Stephens was winning the U-14 B county championship. The team worked hard under the mentorship of Frank Kearney, Pat Ryan, Kieran Howley and Richard Mulholland. They won all but one of their league matches, suffering defeat at the hands of Windgap. After defeating Lisdowney in a tough semi-final they faced Windgap in the final. This proved to be an entertaining affair with the Village girls overturning the earlier defeat to win 3-7 to 2-3. **Panel:** Lisa Claffey, Lisa O'Neill, Ciara Griffin, Sarah Tyrrell, Christine Campion, Dervla Murphy, Caoimhe Shiel, Vivienne Holmes, Ruby Mc Carron, Samantha Kearney, Lucy Brennan, Mairead Walsh, Jessica Cleere, Deirdre Martin, Pearl Cleere, Eleanor Lacey, Yvonne Brennan, Kate Magner, Maeve O'Brien, Sarah Moynihan, Faye Hurley, Cathy Phelan, Helena Dunphy, Amy Mulholland, Caroline Walton and Marianne Byrne.

Lots of Games

The U-10's and U-12's began their season in January with indoor camogie and continued until October. James Stephens hosted one of the U-10 blitz's held throughout the summer and the U-12's competed in the league championship. Although the U-12's were not successful in the competition, they acquitted themselves well and enjoyed the competition immensely.

The U-16 team is a young team and was competing in the most competitive competition in the county. Having had a poor start to the season, the team had successes against Clara, Emeralds and Ballyhale and competed for a place in the semi-final playoffs against a strong Windgap side. Despite a very strong finish, a single point beat the girls.

Intermediate Action

This was the second year in the

Intermediate grade for the James Stephens girls and hopes were high for success. Playing well, the girls missed out on an automatic semi-final place by a point and had to enter the playoffs, where they were beaten by City rivals, Dicksboro, who were out to prove a point after being beaten by the Village girls in the League. Both the U-18 and U-21 teams were defeated in the first round of their respective competitions

Tournaments

The club took part in the Butlerstown 7-a-side intermediate competition and a strong Cork side in the final beat the team. Another first was taking part in the Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side competition, where the girls won two out of their three matches finishing second in their group.

County and All Ireland Honours

Four club players also won All Ireland honours with the presentation secondary schools 7-a-side team. Aoife Gorey [capt]. Laura Brennan, Orla McCormack and Laura Brennan.

The club has been well represented by players at County level this year, Aoife Neary

[senior], Niamh Butler [Junior, U18], Sarah Ann Martin [junior]. Clubman Paddy Neary trained the Junior Kilkenny team. Aoife Gorey [U18], Sharon Rafter [U18], Orla McCormack, Sinead Walsh, Naomi Fogarty and Laura Brennan [U16], Caoimhe Shiel, Lucy Brennan and Pearl Cleere [U13 development squads].

Thanks to all our Supporters

James Stephens would like to thank the players, committee members and team mentors, parents, James Stephens Hurling club and the Club house hotel for all their work and support this year and we look forward to 2005.



James Stephens at the Kilmacud Crokes All Ireland Sevens
Back: Sarah Morris, Elaine O'Neill, Danielle Shortall, Aoife Neary, Grainne Howley, Louise Rafter.
Front: Sarah Ann Martin, Emer Ryan, Emer Phelan, Elaine Murphy.



James Stephens - U-14 Champions
Back: Richard Mulholland (Trainer), Frank Kearney (Trainer), Sarah Moynihan, Eleanor Lacey, Christine Campion, Faye Hurley, Dervla Murphy, Lisa O'Neill, Lucy Brennan, Sarah Tyrrell, Kieran Howley (Trainer), Jessica Cleere, Yvonne Brennan, Ruby McCarron, Mairead Walsh, Ann Mulholland (Trainer), Paul Martin (Trainer).
Front: Caroline Walton, Deirdre Martin, Amy Mulholland, Lisa Claffey, Samantha Kearney, Vivienne Holmes, Marianne Byrne, Caoimhe Shiels, Pearl Cleere, Ciara Griffin.



Camogie Cuttings

Club Officers 2004

Chairman: James Flavin
Secretary: Ailish Drennan
Assistant Sec: Margaret Brennan
Treasurer: Breda Purcell

Schools

Great work continues in the schools promoting the game. With such dedication it cannot be long until silverware comes to the parish.

Under Age

The U-10 team took part in the Co Board blitz during the Summer and had an enjoyable introduction to the game. The U-14 team reached the County Semi Final where they were beaten by Mooncoin following good victories over St. Annes, Danesfort, Castlecomer and Blacks and Whites.

Waiting for the Final

The U-16 side had a great season with victories over St Annes, Piltown, Tullogher and Lisdowney. They lost to St Martins and St. Brigids, Ballycallan. Those results got them a place in the semi final where they turned the tables on St Brigid's after a very exciting game. They now play St Martins in the final. The U-18 side beat O'Loughlin Gaels in



PAULSTOWN U-18 CAMOGIE CO CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Aoife Drennan, Claire Whitely, Julia Purcell, Mary Brennan, Leoni Staunton, Edel Mullins, Rita Coady, Caitriona Bambrick (Capt), Sarah Brophy, Fiona Brennan, Lisa Brennan, Aoife Murphy, Aisling Kealy.
Front: Leanne Corcoran, Rosanne Brennan, Collette Dormer, Laura Bambrick, Michelle Brennan, Emma Staunton, Orla Kealy, Mary Buggy, Nicola Heffernan, Aislin Staunton, Sarah Brennan.

what is now a knockout competition to earn a semi final place against Danesfort. This has yet to be played.

to the club since it was formed in 1999, when they had a one point win over Piltown 2 – 1 to 1 – 3.

In Black and Amber

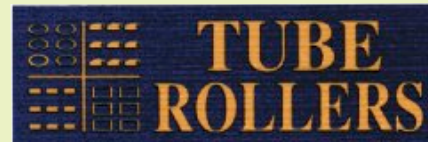
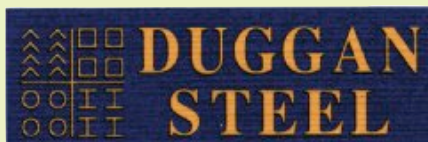
Collette Dormer, Roseanne Brennan, Rita Coady and Aoife Drennan were members of Kilkenny Minor Panel that reached the All Ireland Final where they were beaten by Galway.

Thanks for the Support

A sincere word of thanks to coaches Stephen Dormer and Derek McEvoy. Thanks also to everyone that helped the club during the year, fundraising, transport to matches etc. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Under 18 Title

The under 18 side brought the first title



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Camogie Cuttings

SENIOR STATUS FOR ST. MARTINS

The biggest highlight of 2004 was winning the Intermediate Championship and moving up to senior level. Having been beaten in 2003 convincingly by St. Annes, the girls were determined to improve and win the Championship this year. We rallied through the league with wins over James Stephens, Dicksboro, Emeralds, Rower Inistioge, Young Irelands and Thomastown. This left us top of the table with a meeting with Young Irelands in the semi-final. On the day St. Martins were in top form coming out winners with a score St. Martins 4-11 to Young Irelands 1-2 with a meeting with Emeralds in the final. On the 3rd Oct in James Stephens Grounds St Martin's met their toughest task to date. In a close-fought game, Emeralds were first to score with a point; Georgina Kelly equalised and then followed up with another point.

The first goal came when after some heavy pressure from the St. Martins forwards, Edwina Keane found the net. Emerald and St. Martins exchanged points from frees and Miriam Maher scoring another point for St. Martins, leaving the score at half Time 1-5 to 0-2.

St. Martins introduced Mary Love in the second half for Alice Farrell. Emeralds came out very determined in the second half and put a lot of pressure on our half back line with which Breda and Geraldine Roche and Mary Love coped well. The full back line of Niamh Maher, Noelle Curran and Teresa Shore also had a lot of pressure from the Emerald full forward line. Emeralds were awarded a free, which found the back of the net. Emerald were on a high and the game was very exciting at this stage. In the last ten minutes St. Martins were under tremendous pressure with excellent saves and strong defending. Emeralds then had a 45 sent over the bar to leave just one point between the teams. Martina Maher got another point from play. With just five minutes from the end Emeralds were awarded a 20 metre free. Following a bullet shot, Teresa Shore pulled off a great save on the line and St. Martins were awarded a free out following a foul on the same player. The free was cleared up the field to the St. Martin's forwards where it remained up



ST MARTIN'S U10 TEAM

Back: Carmel Hennessey, Ciara Hunt, Sarah Tynan, Rebecca Comerford, Margaret Nolan, Margaret Tynan, Cliona Manning, Carol O' Keefe, Rebecca Tynan, Michelle Taylor, Bernie Coonan.
Front: Nicole Walsh, Nicola Tynan, Edel Coonan, Evelyn Morrissey, Kelly Comerford.

to the final whistle. Final Score St. Martins 1-6 Emeralds 1-4. County Board Chairman, Liam Dunne presented the Centenary Cup to the captain Noelle Curran. This success was due to the intensive training from Mikie Maher and Bobby Shore who have given all their time to the Club in the last seven years.

JUNIOR

This was the first year for the Club to have both Intermediate and Junior teams in Championship. The Juniors started well beating Lisdowney. They then met Clara and St. Lactain's where they were beaten. A victory over Blacks and Whites put them in a Semi Final against Danesfort. Danesfort came out winners on the day. This was a great achievement for us as most of the panel were very young players.

U21

This league was run on a knock-out basis. St. Martins first met James Stephens and were convincing winners on the day. Their next opponents were St. Lachtain's who were very strong and went on to the win the match. This U.21 team are all under age again next year, so we look forward to a better achievement in 2005

U18

This league was run off on a knock-out basis also as it was near the end of October before it got under way. St.

Martins were drawn against James Stephens and won on a score of 4-8 to 1-2. This brought the team to the semi-finals against Mullinavat. Mullinavat, last year's U18 winners and having lost only two of their players, proved to be too strong on the day.

U16

It was decided this year at the players meeting that the U16 would train with all the other players and this proved to be a great success with over forty players most nights in the field training. Our U16's started off on a great roll winning matches against Lisdowney, Paulstown, St. Brigids, Piltown, Tullogher, and St. Annes. This put them into the semi-final against Piltown. This was a very close encounter and the girls came out winning by a point. In a tough final against Paulstown, the first day produced a thrilling draw. However, in the replay a fortnight later, St Martin's came out on top on a score of 4-6 to 0-4. Congratulations to all concerned.

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and supporters this year. This was a great year for our girls, they trained very hard under the guidance of Mikie Maher and Bobby Shore who never failed to turn up for training. As a result of their efforts, every grade made it to at least a quarter final while the Intermediates and U16's went all the way.



Camogie Cuttings



TULLOGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL - ROINN B SEMI-FINALS 2004

Back: Eilin Walsh, Clairc Larkin, Emlie Kennedy, Aisling Phelan, Emma O'Hanlon, Claire Lce
Middle: Lee McGrath, Laura Murphy, Roisin Young, Ann-Marie Malone, Ann- Marie Watsh, Margaret Lyng, Kathleen-Josephine Berry, Shauna Kelly.
Front: Sarah Phelan, Margaret Walsh, Anna Joyce, Susan Cullinane, Ciara Young, Katie Quigley, Sinead O'Shea, Roisin Ryan, Lil Connors.

Tullogher fielded teams in the U12, U14, U16, U18 and Senior grades. In what was a quiet year all round, the senior team recorded a win against Mullinavat and a draw against St Anne's in the Senior League. Mullinavat made up for the defeat in the league to gain victory in a closely contested first round championship tie, In the coming year the club plan to regrade the U14 & U16 panels. There is great interest in both these age groups and such a step will benefit them greatly where they will be more competitive. The U18 side were unlucky to be defeated by a goal against Carrickshock in the championship. The primary schools team fared the best where they reached the Roinn B championship semi-final and after a tight competitive game had to give way to Gowran. We would like to thank all including Moline Cotterell who managed the senior side with Michael Phelan and Martin Ryan as selectors. Also Florence Lanigan, Linda & Joanne Cotterell, Bridget Grennan, Caitriona Ryan and Brenda Murphy who were involved with the underage.

Inter-County

On the county scene we had the follow-

ing members involved:- Caitriona Ryan and Bridget Grennan were part of the senior set up, Kelly Anne Cotterell was a member of the Junior team and Marie Ryan was part of the Kilkenny U18 side which won the Leinster title. Laura Murphy, Susan Cullinane and Aisling Phelan were members of the U-13 development squad.

International Camogie Competition

Caitriona Ryan was a member of the Irish team who played in Croke Park in September, representing Institute of Technology, Carlow in the International Camogie Competition. Three teams competed, representing Ireland, England and America. Ireland beat England in the final with Caitriona playing at centre forward.

Thank you

We lost, through retirement, two stalwarts of the camogie club this year, Bridget Ryan and Ety Phelan. We thank



Caitriona Ryan (left) & **Marie Ryan** who had success with Ireland and Kilkenny respectively.

them for all they have done down through the years and we wish them both well.

Thank you to Paddy & Eleanor Ryan, our sponsors, who, as always, are of great assistance to the club. Thanks also to Tullogher Rosbercon GAA club for use of their facilities and for allowing us to display all club winning teams in the club room in recognition of its being Centenary year of the camogie association.



Camogie Cuttings

History was Made

2004 proved to be a historic year for Windgap Camogie Club, extending through from under age to adult level. At Junior Level, the club were crowned County Champions for the first time whilst competing in only their second year at adult level. In a campaign that saw wins over Carrickshock, Piltown, Danesfort, Mooncoin and Glenmore after a semi-final replay, the side did well to hold off a superb Danesfort side in a nailbiting final at Bennetsbridge on a 2-5 to 2-3 scoreline.

Great Victory for U-12s

The U-12 team were also crowned County Champions in Callan in early September. Winning the title for the first time ever was a great achievement for the club. They showed great character and determination to hold off a strong challenge from St. Brighids in a 5-6 to 4-5 thriller played in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Lots of Action

After an unbeaten run in the U-14 championship campaign, the side were beaten by James Stephens in the county final played in Kilmanagh in the end of June. Competing at Roinn A level for the first time ever, the U-16s came up against tough opposition in their championship campaign, before being eventually beaten by an excellent Mullinavat team in the County semi-final.

At present the U-18s are preparing to play Carrickshock in the B County semi-final.

Reached County Final

At U-21 level, the club reached the B County Final for the second year in a row before going down to the Emeralds. In the game played in Bennetsbridge, Windgap dominated the game for long periods but couldn't manage a win.

County Representatives

The hard work and commitment of the players, coaches and parents was rewarded when many of the girls were selected to join the county squads and represented Kilkenny at under fourteen, sixteen eighteen, Junior and senior level.

Off the Field

During the year the club held a successful table quiz in Dunnamaggin and enjoyed a social occasion at the present Bag packing weekends were among the main means of fundraising during the year.

Throughout the year the level of interest in the game in the surrounding areas has increased and the club has continued to flourish particularly at under eight and ten levels. Blitzes were a big hit with the club hosting ones at County level and local level.

Sad Loss

The club suffered a great loss with the

sudden death of Bobby Cody of Dunnamaggin whose daughters Joanne and Aisling play for the club.

Thank You

The success of the Club would not be possible without the support of many people, especially the local GAA Club, whose excellent facilities we are always free to avail of. Thank you to Pius and Sheila Phelan, Kilford Hotel for their continuing and generous sponsorship. To the parents, supporters and all who ferry girls to and fro – thank you.



Windgap Junior County Champions 2004

Back: Amy Doran, Alison Walsh, Suzie Phelan, Eleanor Barry, Katie Kirwan, Aoife Ryan, Maria Barry, Loraine Moore, Elaine O'Shea, Ann-marie Phelan, Phena Heffernan, Hillary Murphy, Eleanor Downey, Terry Mackey, Catherine Fleming, Martha Mackey.
Front: Julie Walsh, Claire Comerford, Mandy Egan, Shauna Fennelly, Annette O'Shea, Aideen Kennedy, Lisa Phelan, Sarah McCarthy, Siobhan Murphy, Fiona Kenny, Libby Moore, Caroline Mc Carthy.
(Missing from Photo Claire Moore).



Windgap - Under Twelve County Champions 2004

Back: Joan O'Gorman (Trainer), Caroline Wall, Rachel Freaney, Ciara Molloy, Laura Moore, Aisling Cody, Donna Weekes, Nicola Moore, Claire Grace, Niamh Bacon, Maria Power, Louise Carroll, Aoife Power, Michael Grace (Trainer), Christy Whelan (First Aid).
Front: Maria Comerford (Trainer), Jennifer McDonald, Amy Murphy, Suzie Dunphy, Laura Walker, Katie O'Gorman, Serena Phelan, Marie Phelan, Jane Stapelton, Karen Delaney, Ann O'Neill (Trainer).



Camogie Cuttings

The fruits of the work at underage level in recent years was evident in 2004. The Under 10 girls had a fantastic season and played in all the County Board mini leagues, doing very well on each of the days. The Saturday the league was hosted in our own field was a great day with refreshments laid on for all with the help of the parents. This typifies the spirit of the league as being a fun day for all the young girls with camogie as the winner. The ground work for a good under 12 season was laid in the school league matches. When it came to the under 12 league the girls had a marvellous season winning all of their league games except one. This qualified them for the quarter final against Clara which they won and earned them a semi final date against St Brigids. The girls put in a fine game but the Ballycallan girls just did enough to finish ahead at the final whistle. Many of the same girls were also involved with the under 14 panel which did the club proud in reaching the club's first under 14 final. Despite their best efforts they had to give way to a very good Mooncoin side in the final.

The fact that there was a huge overlap from both under 12 and under 14 teams with our under 16 team meant that we fielded a very young under 16 team. But strengthened by the handful of older girls, who had gained great experience from playing with the intermediate team, a place in the last four was achieved. The team faced O Loughlins in the semi final. On one of the worst days of the season weatherwise, the two teams deserved great credit for giving a marvellous game to all who attended. All present agreed that on the day the drawn match which resulted was the fairest result. In the replay the outcome remained undecided up to the final whistle but the O Loughlins girls finished ahead. The fact that they in turn were beaten in the final by Carrickshock, whom the Gowran girls had drawn with in the league, showed how little divided the four teams that contested the semifinals.

The Intermediate team struggled in the early part of the season but, thanks to the new qualification format, were still in with a chance of making the semi final when it came to the knock out stage. In the play off games the team recorded two fine victories over old rivals Thomastown and Dicksboro. This set them up for a semi final date with St Martins. However the eventual title winners proved too strong on the day.



YOUNG IRELANDS - UNDER 14 ROINN C FINALISTS 2004

Back: Michael Dunne, Mary McEvoy, Aoife Power, Jean Kehoe, Rowena Condron, Niamh Quinlan, Caoimhe Cullen, Stephanie Hutchinson, Laura Fennelly, Amy O'Neill, Simone Sangha, Aisling Carey, Claire Glendon, Ruth Loughlin, Suzie Byrne, Aine Byrne, Andy Comerford, Martina Byrne.
Front: Andrea McEvoy, Elaine Holden, Aisling Hennessy, Katie Dunne, Margaret Simpson, Emma Comerford, Sarah Delahaunty, Lorna Barcoe, Alice Harding, Elaine O'Neill, Julie Harding

Many thanks to the coaches and mentors of all our teams and to all the girls and their parents for their hard work and dedication during the camogie season.

The club was represented on the County Senior panel by Caitriona Carey, the Under 16 County panel by Nessa Farrell and on the Under 14 County panel by Niamh Quinlan and Andrea



The Intermediate team received a new set of jerseys sponsored by Powers Foodmarket. Pictured here at the presentation are: Aoife Connolly, Mary Power, Joan Treacy (Chairperson), Eddie Power, Suzanne Kennedy (Captain)



YOUNG IRELANDS UNDER 10 PANEL 2004

Back: Annmarie Byrne, Siobhan Power, Eibhlin Fogarty, Estelle Geoghegan, Orlaith Byrne, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Kay Drea, Elaine Rudkins
Front: Fionnuala Quinlan, Miriam Holden, Nora O'Leary, Rose Connolly, Paula Farrell

McEvoy, with the latter also qualifying to represent Kilkenny in the All Ireland Feile Skills competition.

Off the field of play some great fundrais-

ing was achieved during the year which allowed us to subsidise new club track suits. We are indebted to all our sponsors and to all who helped make the raffle, bagpacking and barbecue such successes.

SAINTS & CENTENARIES

Ned Kennedy traces the story of St Lachtain's Camogie club



ST LACHTAIN'S - ALL IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Sinead Corrigan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Aine Connery, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Jillian Dillion-Maher, Mairéad Lawler, Ann Dalton, April Purcell, Margaret Kavanagh, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Paula Dowling.

Front: Eimear Connery, Sinéad Connery, Laura Comerford, Esther Kennedy, Imelda Kennedy(Capt), Deirdre Delaney, Danielle Minogue, Mairéad Costelloe, Fiona Dowling, Marie O' Connor, Margaret Hickey.

St. Lachtain's Camogie Club was formed in 1984 as part of the G.A.A. Centenary Year celebrations in Freshford. The late Tom Waldron penned his own tribute in song to Centenary Year happenings in the local hurling club:

"Now '84 was a year of lore, full of glorious memories
When old time Gaels spun hoary tales, even some wrote histories,
But St. Lachtain's they were in disarray in the springtime of the year,
Graignamanagh town saw them go down with no Centenary cheer."

This verse was a reference to the first round defeat of the Intermediate hurlers by Graignamanagh in the special centenary year competition early in 1984. (In case anyone has forgotten, the Freshford men turned the tables on the southerners in the Intermediate county final later in the year but, as they say, that's a story for another day!)

If memory serves us right, the journey back to Freshford after the defeat was not a hurried one but we dusted ourselves off and set about picking up the pieces to celebrate the foundation of the G.A.A. in a practical manner. Two major initiatives were undertaken. One was to invite Oban Shinty Club from Scotland to Freshford for a weekend and the second was to set up a camogie club in Freshford. Having entered teams in the 1978 and 1979 FÉile na nGael competitions in Kilkenny, camogie had really taken off by then in Scoil Lachtain. In fact before the summer was out, the school team won the Primary Schools' Roinn A championship for the first time, a fitting way to signal the foundation of the club and a memorable way to celebrate the G.A.A's Centenary Year. Who could have foreseen then what this would mean for the Centenary Year of the Camogie Association twenty years later?

Of course there was a great tradition of camogie in Freshford. In the 1920s and 1930s the parish had two teams, St. Ita's and St.

Lachtain's. This was the era of the black stockings and St. Ita's famously lost a county final, through an objection, when one of their players wore a shade of dark grey stockings. Camogie in Freshford parish declined after this colourful episode but it is forever enshrined in memory in Freshford by a lengthy ballad composed by the late Julia Ryan. Here is the first verse:

"In our sweet Irish isle of late, it's colours seem to rule,
Some are condemned for wearing green and some for wearing blue
But in Kilkenny's county small where camogie's swiftly played
St. Ita's lost their medals for the wearing of the grey. "

At that time too the camogie players travelled to all the hurling matches to support the local lads. The late Lil McCarthy, no mean wielder of a cam-n herself by all accounts, informed us once of a famous battle cry she and her colleagues used after Freshford had beaten Erin's Own in the Polo Grounds: "We knocked the culm out of yer eyes today!" was the taunt from the ladies as the defeated team, including some men from the collieries, left the field.

After the foundation of St. Lachtain's in 1984, the camogie club went from strength to strength. The highlight of the club's early existence was the winning of two All-Ireland FÉile na nGael Roinn A titles in 1989 and 1990. Heady days they were with new friendships formed when meeting teams from places as far apart as Pearses of Galway, Sliabh Bloom in Laois, Drom and Inch and Burgess in Tipperary. The sweetest memories centre on the victories but there were defeats too in '88 and '91. The victory in 1989 was the first in FÉile na nGael by a club from Kilkenny. Further FÉile victories followed in Walsh Park, Waterford in 1997 and in Corrigan Park, Belfast in 2000.

1991 was a breakthrough year when the club won its first adult title, the senior B. Lisdowney were beaten by 5-8 to 1-5 in a final made unique by the presence of both Maura Costelloe and her

daughter SinÉad on the St. Lachtain's team. That year the club won all the available Roinn A under age competitions in Kilkenny. This was an unprecedented achievement and in September Margaret Hickey became the first person from Freshford to captain an All-Ireland winning team when leading the Kilkenny minor camogie team to victory in the championship. The following year the club played a notable part in regaining the Leinster junior camogie title for Kilkenny. Trained by Maura Costelloe and Sheila Dowling, this was Kilkenny's first win in this championship in 32 years.

The club made a significant contribution to the development of camogie not just in Freshford but also in the county during a very successful era. Teresa Dillon was chairperson of the county board during a period when five of the seven titles in a row were won and daughter Jillian has earned her place amongst the pantheon of senior All-Ireland medal winners in Kilkenny.

St. Lachtain's won its first senior county final in 1998. They lost three finals in a row before reaching this summit so it was well earned. They became Leinster champions for the first time the following year. They were Leinster champions again in 2003 but each time the penultimate stage of the All-Ireland championship proved a step too far until 2004.

Early this year there seemed to be a stronger sense of purpose about the team. Coach Adrian Finan combined with trainer Paul Quigley to sharpen skills and they steamrolled their way to county championship honours. The first big test came against Oulart-the-Ballagh in the Leinster semi-final. Played in Oulart, this was a character building exercise for St. Lachtain's who pulled away towards the end to secure victory. A home venue for the Leinster final was thought important but the Dublin girls were out of their depth and St. Lachtain's were crowned provincial champions in P-irc Lachtain.

The All-Ireland semi-final was another character building exercise as the Freshford girls had to travel to Ballinasloe to tackle Connacht champions Davitts of Galway. The Connacht girls collapsed in the second half as word filtered to the west that Munster champions Grannagh-Ballingarry had beaten O'Donovan Rossa from Ulster in their semi-final. The battle lines were drawn. St. Lachtain's had reached their first final. If they were to win it, they would have to see off the team that had beaten them in two All-Ireland semi-finals.

History will recall a famous seven point victory for the Freshford girls in their first final but it will not tell the story of the work put in at all levels over twenty years to reach the pinnacle of the camogie world -



Sinead Connery, St. Lachtains Freshford, in action against **Marie Collins**, Granagh-Ballingarry in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Final,
Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

All-Ireland Centenary Year Senior Club Champions. Only one other hurling club can carry that accolade, namely St. Martin's, who won the G.A.A.'s Centenary Year All-Ireland club championship. St. Martin's victory is still spoken of with respect in the hurling world. That the hurling and camogie club champions in both Centenary Years should come from Kilkenny is both an amazing coincidence and a signal honour for the county. That both are named after Saints shows that the men of Muckalee and the women of Freshford walk the right path!

They travelled from near and far to be in Parnell Park on Sunday 7 November 2004. Amongst the attendance were Paddy Lacey from Barna and John Fogarty from neighbouring Gathabawn both of whom are long domiciled in Dublin. Paddy was accompanied by his wife Kitty, daughter of Mrs. Delahunty, the former Franny Farrell of Clinstown who played camogie with the aforementioned St. Lachtain's in the 1930s and is grandaunt of Jillian Dillon. Also amongst the supporters was Murt Cuggy who left Freshford nigh on fifty years ago. He has never missed a Kilkenny match in Dublin and described this victory as one of the most enjoyable he has ever witnessed. As he often says himself: "The plover loves the moorland!"

But the most amazing story of all to come out of the events of the day involved Eamonn Meagher, formerly of Kilkenny Street but living in the capital city this many a day. Eamonn's niece Marie is an under-age player with St. Lachtain's so he too took himself off to the game that Sunday afternoon. He travelled from the centre of Dublin by bus. While waiting on the Quays he was approached by an elderly gentleman who enquired if that was a stop for the 42 bus. Eamonn answered that it was. The man informed him that he was going to Donnycarney. Eamonn said

that was where he was going too. The man then remarked that he was actually going to Parnell Park so Eamonn admitted that that was his destination also. Then his newfound friend asked him where he was from. Eamonn said he was from Freshford. With that the gentleman introduced himself as Miche-l" Broin, who has been a hurling administrator in county Louth for over quarter of a century. He informed Eamonn that he had worked in Freshford in 1951. He spent two months threshing with the late Jer Doheny of Ballylarkin. He still recalled having spent good times around the parish and when he saw that Freshford were to be represented in an All-Ireland final he set off by train and bus from his home in Drogheda to support the Black and Amber! This dedication to the game became more understandable to your scribe when speaking to Mrs. Byrne in Drogheda later that week. She revealed that soon after their marriage she remarked to Michael that as he was from Callan and she was from Galway, it was a pity that they were settling so far from their native places. He told her not to worry: "Sure, aren't we near enough to Croke Park!"

And so to the homecoming. Sunday night was memorable but Monday beat Banagher! A visit to Scoil Lachtain, the local primary school, in the morning to acknowledge that this was where it all started for the Kavanaghs, Costelloes and Kennedys, the Daltons, Dillons and Dowlings, the Minogues and O'Connors, the Hickeys and Fitzpatricks; afternoon calls to the neighbouring parishes of Conahy which supplied the Connerys and Corrigan's, MairÉad Lawlor and April Purcell and "famous" Tullaroan, home of Deirdre Delaney, with a promise to catch up on Fiona Dowling at the Rock and the Comerfords in Graine and Dunmore before the week was out; a parade to the village Green as darkness fell, followed by a cup of tea in the Community Centre and

then the mother of all celebrations in Johnny Kavanagh's! Once again they came from far and wide to join the festivities. A group of camogie supporters travelled from Carlow and even contributed a singer before the night was out. In the early evening Sean Doherty interrupted the celebrations in Galmoy, following their victory in the junior hurling county final the previous day, to come down and congratulate the locals. Needless to say a posse of Freshfordians returned the compliment and travelled to Galmoy the same evening to sample their delight. It could only happen through hurling!

As the week went on the magnitude of the girls' achievement began to dawn on players and supporters in Freshford. The most glorious chapter in the history of camogie in the parish has been written and the history books will recall 2004 as the year when team captain Imelda Kennedy received the Bill Carroll Cup for the first time and St. Lachtain's became Centenary Year Senior Club Camogie Champions of Ireland, a feat that can never be repeated.



Captain **Imelda Kennedy** and her team mates celebrate their victory. *Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE*

Well Done, Andy & Co!

John Joe Cullen

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EVERY SUCCESS TO KILKENNY IN 2005

Thomastown on Top!

Primary Schools Camogie Report by Mary Holden

ROINN A FINAL

Anna Farrell stars as Thomastown overcome Clara

Having overcome Kilmanagh in a closely fought semi-final, Thomastown had an easy win over Clara to become Roinn A Champions for the second year running. Clara had a fine semi-final victory over St John of God, the latter doing well to reach the Roinn A final in their first year to compete in this division. In the final Thomastown raced away from Clara by 12-4 to 2-1 but Clara would surely have been closer to their rivals but for the incredible form of Anna Farrell. Anna scored a whopping 12-3 with the remaining Thomastown score coming from her sister Michelle. Niamh Byrne (1-0) Aoife Murphy (0-1) and Jessica Gleeson (1-0) replied for Clara.



THOMASTOWN - ROINN 'A' WINNERS 2004

Back: Amy Wemyss, Ceoilte Dunne, Annette Reddy, Nicole Conway, Lisa Carey, Rebecca Kelly, Roisin Dunphy, Caoimhe Brennan.

Middle: Sorcha Reilly, Anne Donnelly, Aine Manning, Anna Farrell, Sinead Stapleton, Jenny Brannigan, Grace Clarke, Michelle Bergin.

Front: Claire O'Connor, Katie Walsh, Rebecca McCarthy, Michelle Farrell, Aine Lannon, Marina Walsh, Shauna Carroll.

ROINN B FINAL

Piltown finish stronger

The Roinn B championship was keenly contested with Paulstown and Piltown qualifying for the final with semi-final victories over Tullagher and Tullaroan respectively. While Piltown ran out winners on a scoreline of 7 - 2 to 2 - 1 the game was a much closer affair than the scoreline might suggest. The half time score was 2 - 1 to 1 - 1 in favour of Piltown. The Paulstown defence was excellent all through with Mary Prendergast having a great game at centre back. However in the last quarter Piltown exerted their dominance in the final 15 minutes. Karen Duggan was the star of the show in this game, scoring 3-2 despite wearing the No 3 jersey while Sarah Culleton (3-0) and Becky Malone (1-0) also scored for Piltown. Laura Bambrick (1-1) and Emma Flavin (1-0) were the Paulstown scorers.



PILTOWN - ROINN 'B' WINNERS 2004

Back Row: Seamus Dunne, Eamonn McGowan, Anthony Hearne, (Trainers) Alice Hearne, Miriam Reid.

Third Row: Aoife Ryan, Nicole Culleton, Karen Duggan(Cpt), Stacey Jordan, Eleanor Power, Katie O'Gorman, Nicola Crowe, Cathy Dunne.

Second Row: Becky Malone, Sarah Culleton, Hilary Power, Antonia Power, Leanne Scahill, Laura Foley, Lisa Walsh, Aoife Foley, Shayle Briscoe.

Front Row: Emma Walsh, Sarah Jane Hearne, Jessica Norris, Lorraine Byrne, Aisling McGowan, Leanne Dunne, Laura Norris.

ROINN C FINAL

Strong Gaelscoil overcome Mooncoin

The Roinn C semi-final between Gaelscoil Osrai and St Johns was a tight affair with eventual champions Gaelscoil Osraí coming out on top on a scoreline

of 5 - 2 to 4 - 2. Mooncoin defeated Rower Inistioge to claim the other final spot. The final saw a strong Gaelscoil team defeat Mooncoin by 8-1 to 1-1.

Once more the game was dominated by an outstanding player and in this case it was Lúsaí Ní Bhraonáin who scored a whopping 6-1 for her side. The other

Gaelscoil scorers were Cáit De Brúin and Clár Nic Aonghusa (1-0 each) while Laura Wall sent a sizzling ground shot to the net from 30 yards for Mooncoin as well as scoring their second half point.

ROINN D FINAL

St Canice's take their first title.

St Canice's won their first ever primary school's camogie title when they defeated Ballyragget in the final of the Roinn D competition. They had overcome Windgap and Bennettsbridge in their respective semi-finals.

St Canice's got off to a flying start with two quick goals from Sonia Buggy and Emma Comerford. These were followed up with a hat trick from corner forward Aoife Nolan. The St. Canice's captain, Áine Curran, who played superbly at midfield, finished the first half with a goal and a point leaving St. Canice,s with a comprehensive lead at half time

St Canice's took up where they left off in the second half. Midfielders Aisling O,Grady and Niamh Kelly continued to dominate with Sinéad Maher having an impressive game at half forward. Ballyragget didn't give up and were rewarded with two fine points from centre back, Ailish Brennan, who showed great character throughout . With Emer Walsh and Aisling White dominating the centre of defence, ably assisted by Michelle Cullinane and Siobhan Healy, St Canices held firm. Eva Nicholson added her name to the scorers with a fine goal ten minutes before the end. Áine Curran scored two more points with Eva Nicholson adding the final point for St Canice,s. The Ballyragget girls played gamely throughout but were out played by a superior team. Ailish Brennan was their best player. Emer Mulhall and Emma Holland tried hard in midfield. Emma Brophy, in goal, brought off some fine saves. Aoife O,Shea, Claire Dunne and Jessica Foley also played well for Ballyragget.

The final score was St Canices 7-4 Ballyragget 0-2.

CLARA - ROINN 'A' RUNNERS-UP 2004

Back: Margaret Rafter, Elaine Evans, Eve Brennan, Jessica Gleeson (Capt), Laura Kehoe, Maeve Quigley, Orla Quinlan, Edel Carroll
Middle: Niamh Byrne, Olive Langton, Emma Byrne, Cora D'Arcy, Isabel Robinson, Michelle Carroll, Brid Murphy
Front: Aoife Murphy, Leasa Byrne, Fiona Nolan, Catherine Murphy, Aisling Curtis.



GAELSCOIL OSRAI - ROINN 'C' WINNERS 2004

Back: Sean ó Hargáin, Cáit Ní Icí, Aisling Ní Riain, Clár Nic Aonghusa, Laoiseach Ní Braonáin, Aoiheann Ní Mheachair, Méabh Ní Bhriain, Sorcha Nic Guidhir, Aoife Ní Thirial, Pearl De Cléir, Dominic Ó Braonáin.
Front: Clár Ní Mhaol Challainn, Muireann Ní Bhroin, Cáit De Brúin, Lára Ní Mhathúna, Helena Ní Dhonnchaidh, Chloe Nic Aodh, Shauna Ní Bhraonáin, Emily Ní Riain, Roisín Ní Leathlobhair, Evie Nic Eoghán, Karen Nic Giolla Chumhaill.

Missing from Photo - Ena Ní Chiaráin, Sheena Ní Chonghaíe, Naidín Nic Aonghusa.



ST CANICE'S ROINN 'D' WINNERS 2004

Back: Eva Nicholson, Eimear Walsh, Ashling White, Niamh Kelly, Aine Curran, Niamh McGrory, Karen Cleere, Nadia Mahfoud, Anna Phelan
Front: Aoife Nolan, Sonia Buggy, Ashling O'Grady, Sinead Maher, Emma Comerford, Michelle Cullinane, Siobhan Healy, Susan Ryan, Jane Cudmore.

Missing from photo Kate Greene, Naomi Ni Chléirigh.





PAULSTOWN - ROINN 'B' RUNNERS-UP 2004

Back: Mary Holden (Coach), Duibheasa Uí Bhrannagáin, Laura Hennessy, Lisa Lillis, Ciara English, Stephanie Hanlon, Kerrie Stapleton, Laura Bambrick.

Middle: Jessica Bambrick, Mary Prendergast, Aisling Mullins, Abigail Cole, Alice Doran, Emma Flavin, Lisa Stapleton, Aisling Barcoe, Emma Staunton.

Front: Elizabeth Martin, Leonie Walsh, Emma Nolan, Mary Prendergast



MOONCOIN - ROINN C RUNNERS UP 2004

Back: Laura Cuddihy, Kim Kelly, Emma Holden, Ellen Crowley (Captain), Laura Wall, Hannah Ryan, Katie Delahunty, Niamh Flynn.

Front: Shauna Walsh, Miriam Purcell, Roisin Daly, Sarah Crowley, Margaret Grace, Gemma Croke, Evelyn Rowe, Aoife Law, Rachel O'Brien, Siobhan Brennan.



BALLYRAGGET - ROINN 'D' FINALISTS 2004

Back: Jessica Foley, Claire Dunne, Miriam Brophy, Aoife O'Shea, Eimear Mulhall, Ciara Drennan, Sarah Leavy, Lauren Brennan, Emma Holland,

Front: Eimear Stapleton, Dervla Gannon, Sarah Byrne, Kate Holland, Ailish Brennan, Emma Brophy, Breda Lacey, Fiona Mooney.

Missing from photo ; Tracey Brennan.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE FINALS ROINN A

- 1980 Ballyhale 8-0 Castletomer 1-0
- 1981 Ballyhale 1-0 Kilmnagh 0-0
- 1982 Kilmnagh 2-3 Ballyhale 3-0
Kilmnagh 6-1 Ballyhale 1-3
- 1983 Ballyhale 11-2 Freshford 1-2
- 1984 Freshford 2-1 Mullinavat 0-0
- 1985 Kilmnagh 8-2 Mullinavat 0-0
- 1986 Kilmnagh 4-6 Freshford 0-1
- 1987 Freshford 3-1 Mullinavat 2-1
- 1988 Freshford 4-2 Mullinavat 1-1
- 1989 Tullaroan 4-1 Mullinavat 4-0
- 1990 Tullaroan 2-2 Mullinavat 1-2
- 1991 Freshford 7-1 Mullinavat 2-0
- 1992 Freshford 5-2 Mullinavat 0-1
- 1993 Kilmnagh 5-3 Freshford 1-1
- 1994 Clara 0-1 Freshford 0-0
- 1995 Ballyhale bt Mullinavat
- 1996 Mullinavat 4-1 Freshford 3-3
- 1997 Freshford 1-4 Mullinavat 1-1
- 1998 Freshford bt Carrickshock
- 1999 Freshford 7-6, Ballyhale 1-2
- 2000 Urlingford 3-6, Freshford 3-2
- 2001 Urlingford 6-6 Kilmnagh 4-5
- 2002 Urlingford 3-3 Thomastown 2-1
- 2003 Thomastown 2-5 Clara 1-3
- 2004 Thomastown 12-4 Clara 2-1

ROINN B

- 1984 Kilmacow 1-1 Lisdowney 1-0
- 1985 *No Championship*
- 1986 Carrickshock 3-0 Lisdowney 1-2
- 1987 Lisdowney 3-4 Ballyhale 2-0
- 1988 Tullaroan 1-5 Ballyhale 0-0
- 1989 Carrickshock 1-1 Lisdowney 0-2
- 1990 Kilmnagh 5-0 Clara 4-1
- 1991 Ballyhale 9-1 Clara 1-0.
- 1992 Rower Inistioge 5-1 Clara 0-1
- 1993 Urlingford 2-1 Clara 2-0
- 1994 Ballyhale 6-0 Tullogher 3-0
- 1995 Rower Inistioge bt Galmoy
- 1996 Ballyhale bt Windgap
- 1997 Listerlin bt Skeaghvasteen
- 1998 Ballyhale 2-1, Skeaghvasteen 1-2
- 1999 Mullinavat 7-3, Urlingford 3-0
- 2000 Thomastown 9-6, St Canice's 1-0
- 2001 Clara 3-1, Carrickshock 1-0
- 2002 Carrickshock 10-0, Castletomer 0-0
- 2003 St John of God 3-3 Tullogher 0-0
- 2004 Piltown 7-2 Paulstown 2-1

ROINN C

- 1986 Mooncoin 0-0 Danesfort 0-0
- Mooncoin 2-1 Danesfort 0-0
- 1987 Tullaroan 1-1 Clara 0-0
- 1988 Galmoy 4-3 Clara 0-0
- 1989 Clara 6-2 St Canice's 0-1
- 1990 Rower Inistioge 1-0 Tullogher 1-0
- Rower Inistioge 2-0 Tullogher 1-0
- 1991 Mooncoin 7-0 Piltown 3-0.
- 1992 Urlingford 4-3 Piltown 0-1
- 1993 Tullogher 3-2 St Canice's 1-0
- 1994 Castletomer 2-0 Carrickshock 1-0
- Tullogher bt St John of God
- 1996 St John of God bt Carrickshock
- 1997 Thomastown bt Bennettsbridge
- 1998 Castletomer bt Thomastown
- 1999 Gaelscoil Osraí 7-3, Thomastown 0-0
- 2000 Listerlin 4-4, Rower/Inistioge 1-1
- 2001 Paulstown 4-3 St John of God 1-3
- 2002 St John of God 1-4, Muckalee 2-1
- St John of God 6-2, Muckalee 1-2
- 2003 Piltown 3-4 Muckalee 3-1
- 2004 Gaelscoil Osraí 5-2 Mooncoin 4-2

ROINN D

- 1993 Galmoy 6-2 Bennettsbridge 1-0.
- 1994 Thomastown 3-1 Danesfort 1-0 (Replay)
- 1995 Carrickshock bt O'Loughlin Gaels
- 1996 Castletomer bt Thomastown
- 1997 *Final declared null & void*
- 1998 Tullaroan 3-1, Paulstown 1-0
- 1999 Paulstown 5-4, Danesfort 1-2
- 2000 Gowran 6-0, Skeoghvasteen 5-0
- 2001 Coon/ Muckalee 6-3, Piltown 2-2
- 2002 Piltown 10-6, St John's 3-1
- 2003 St John's 3-0, Bennettsbridge 0-1
- 2004 St Canice's 7-4, Ballyragget 0-2

Twelve months ago, with Kilkenny hurling still wallowing in the afterglow of the All Ireland senior, minor and under-21 treble, we remarked here that half the fascination of 2004 would lie in watching the county attempt to defend their titles. And so it came to pass, with "fascination" indeed the operative word. Never was there a summer as different, as enjoyable – up to the evening of September 12th, at any rate – and as just plain interesting where Kilkenny supporters were concerned. All Ireland qualifying series matches in Carlow on a Saturday evening, in Thurles at teatime on a Sunday? All very new, all immensely refreshing. This is something like how it went.

June: *Wexford 2-15 Kilkenny 1-16.*

The result that the Leinster championship needed. Don't see it coming, even with the team that the McCarthy Cup holders selected. Then again, nobody does, apart from the Wexford players, who, it subsequently emerges, have worked overtime on a self-generated approach designed to obviate the Kilkenny half-back line's superiority in the air. And still the champions are a point ahead deep into injury time. But the underdogs get the break, and if it's true that their opponents' focus was not as clear-eyed as it's been on previous occasions, it's equally true to observe that a team that's been on the road as long as Brian Cody's cannot be perfectly mentally pitched for every game. Not robots, but men. Oh, and guess what? Despite the county board's complaint that the Hurling Development Committee's proposals for the 2005 championship will reduce the number of Sundays available to Kilkenny for club matches, the powers-that-be manage to cope with the changed present circumstances so neatly that the county final will go ahead on October 31st. God help the county board if they, like their Wexford counterparts,



James McGarry...forced to magic up a blinder
Pat Murphy /SPORTSFILE

that was the year that wasn't quite...



Enda McEvoy,
Sunday Tribune

had to cater for football in midsummer as well as hurling.

July: To Thurles on a Sunday evening with a distinct end-of-empire feeling in the air. There is black and amber everywhere, and rightly so; regardless of whether the Kilkenny hordes have come to bury Cody or to praise him (knowing some of them, the former), there seems little doubt that they've come to pay tribute to a team that has provided so many thrills over the past five years and may now be reaching the end of its natural lifespan.

Far from the latter. What follows is the county's finest performance under Brian. Backs to the wall, they produce a performance of concentrated fury, focus and skill. Tommy Walsh justifies his repositioning. Henry Shefflin is immaculate: 13 shots, 13 scores. The only qualm afterwards is the suspicion, amounting to near-certainty, that Kilkenny will not – cannot – hurl like this again in 2005.

As they prove at Croke Park in the All Ireland quarter-final. Clare arrive with a gameplan, employing Alan Markham as an extra defender. Kilkenny are content to play along, and the first half consists of Markham and James Ryall banging the sliotar back and forth at one another in a simulation of a Centre Court rally at Wimbledon. Noel Skehan isn't wrong with his half-time comment that Clare's tactic hasn't unduly hurt the favourites, but the remark misses a bigger truth: the Banner, engaged on a damage-limitation exercise, have succeeded in dragging Kilkenny down to their level, setting the agenda and playing the game on their

terms. Worse follows with Walsh's dismissal; Kilkenny drop a clanger by playing five defenders rather than six, Clare exploit the ensuing gaps at the back, James McGarry is forced to magic up a blinder and while it's the challengers who are required to come from behind for a draw, it's been a close-run thing.

Closer-run than the replay at Semple Stadium the following Saturday. The champions hit the ground running, should be further ahead by the interval but never look remotely in danger on an afternoon overshadowed by Gerry Quinn's assault on Henry Shefflin. Yet there's one ominous statistic for those who look for these things. Kilkenny have managed 0-13 and 1-11 in successive outings against a Clare side that even – or particularly – their own fans will admit to being a light of other days, especially up front. Three-in-a-row champions should be made of smoother stuff.

August: Whereas for a day or two after the Galway match the Kilkenny camp appeared in danger of regressing into full-scale siege mentality, Brian Cody's post-Clare public demeanour constitutes some of his finest moments in office. He looks forward, not back. He doesn't make an issue of the Shefflin affair. Rather than grumbling about having to play three games on successive weekends, he says he'd be grumbling if his team *didn't* have matches to play. By refusing to talk about the possibility of tiredness, he gives his players no excuse to subconsciously feel tired. Nor, for an hour of the All Ireland semi-final, do they. Against opponents that drive 16 wides – that scoring problem again – Waterford wake up too late. What might have transpired had the suspended John Mullane been wearing the number 13 jersey, we will never know. But cuteness wins it for Kilkenny.



Tommy Walsh...already a living legend
RAY McMANUS/SPORTSFILE

September: History may be the songs of the victors – in this case, *De Banks* is the only song that matters – but context is important. Kilkenny in 2004 were attempting a near-impossible task in trying to successfully defend their All Ireland senior, minor and under-21 crowns. To reach all three finals again was achievement indeed. To lose two of them, one by a point in a replay, was no failure; two of those three titles won in 2003 were done so by a puck of a ball, remember. Being competitive is as much as any supporter can ask his or her county to be; breasting the finishing tape in first place is another day's work entirely. And competitive is what Kilkenny were, in spades, in 2004.

There is no argument but that Cody could have made better, timelier use of his subs against Cork, as he'd done to such effect against the same opposition 12 months earlier. Yet the real questions should have surrounded not the issue of Kilkenny's substitutions, or lack of them, but the fact that their preparations on the training field in the run-up to the big day had so clearly and utterly drained them of energy. What made the situation worse was that this was the second year in a row the Black and Amber entered the All Ireland final overcooked. In 2003 they hurled for the first 20 minutes, hurled for the last 15 minutes and just about scraped home. In 2004 they hurled for the first 20 minutes and had nothing left to offer thereafter. Something has clearly gone wrong in James's Park in successive Augusts - a case, one suspects, of an already ferociously competitive training regime simply being ratcheted to breaking point as the supreme moment approaches and a group of players already running on empty having nothing more left to give.

They raged against the dying of the light nonetheless. Required for the first summer in his intercounty career to show that he possessed brilliance as well as the other goalkeeping virtues, James McGarry had his best ever season. Michael Kavanagh bounced back well from his Wexford disappointment in the All Ireland series. The James Ryall of 2004 was a much superior model to that of 2003, as was the DJ Carey, Kilkenny's second-best forward of the championship. That JJ Delaney didn't retain his Hurler of the Year crown was no fault of his own. Tommy Walsh is already a living legend; finding his optimum position on the field and leaving him there is one task for the management to take care of in 2005 (no farther back than midfield, we'd be thinking). If Henry Shefflin was occasionally erratic as well as sometimes brilliant, there was a very good reason for that; another priority for Cody and his selectors involves the formulation of a gameplan that doesn't entail Shefflin car-



Henry Shefflin - carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. *John McIlwaine*



Brian Cody - went for size, strength and honest endeavour. *John McIlwaine*

rying the weight of the world on his shoulders. (One individual who posts on the excellent Kilkennycats.com website, for which compliments to its driving forces Paul Shortt and Pamela Farragher, does so under the nom de plume 'Henry is Overworked'. Nuff said.) And one didn't have to be a James Stephens fan to be very happy for Peter Barry at the end of the county final; Kilkenny may well have got themselves a splendid new captain.

Back to the forthcoming campaign and its essential rethink of strategy. For most of the second half of the 1990s, Kilkenny suffered from what in the newly configured landscape of the game amounted to a pronounced weakness in physique; too many ballplayers, not enough workers. Brian Cody changed that. He went for size, strength and honest endeavour. The Cody approach – bigger, better, faster, more – has served the county enormously well; quite apart from all the silverware won on the manager's watch, now it was Kilkenny who were horsing teams out of it instead of having the horsing-out-of-it done to them. Clare with flair. But the summer of 2004 brought the curtain down on the gambit. Wexford, then Cork, saw to that. The next step is obvious, yet it's of crucial importance that it be got right. Kilkenny cannot

return to the table with the same hand, the same approach, the same balance of size and hard running to skill. It's time for the recipe to be altered. Less physique, more finesse. Fewer workers, more hurlers. In particular, more natural pointscoreing forwards.

Whether Cody has the flexibility to embrace such a new regime will make for absorbing spectating. That he has stayed on is good news, not least because of the continuity it guarantees; the last thing Kilkenny would have needed in 2005 was a new backroom team coming in and having to start from scratch. Tardiness in making subs on September 12th was not a capital offence, the more so when this debit is placed alongside the string of credits to the manager's name. It would, moreover, be enlightening to hear the Cody Must Go zealots reveal who they had in mind as a replacement. The answer, of course, is nobody.

Not going top of the All Ireland roll of honour in 2004 was no loss; Kilkenny should have the chance to do so in the not too distant future, for whatever that may be worth. "Should", not "will", mind you; who'd have imagined on the evening of the first Sunday of September 1993, as we've mused here more than once before, that it would take seven years for a player in stripes to lift the McCarthy Cup again? One knows not the hour nor the day. Still, hurling on Noreside has not taken to its deathbed just yet. Anyone who witnessed the county under-21 final between Ballyhale Shamrocks and Tullaroan can be confident of that.

Right. The awards.
Hurler of the year: Sean Óg Ó hAilpín.

Next best: JJ Delaney, Ronan Curran, Dan Shanahan.

Young hurler of the year: Tommy Walsh. Obviously.

Match of the year: Cork v Waterford, Munster final.

Next best: Newtownshandrum v O'Loughlins, All Ireland club semi-final drawn game.

Team of the year: Damien Fitzhenry (Wexford); Wayne Sherlock (Cork), Diarmuid O'Sullivan (Cork), JJ Delaney (Kilkenny); Ken McGrath (Waterford), Ronan Curran (Cork), Sean Og O hAilpín (Cork); Jerry O'Connor (Cork), Adrian Fenlon (Wexford); Dan Shanahan (Waterford), Niall McCarthy (Cork), Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny); Eoin Kelly (Tipperary), Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny), Paul Flynn (Waterford).

Key word for Kilkenny in 2005: Evolution.

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

All Ireland Senior Championship Action

Photos - Sportsfile, Eoin Hennessy, John McIlwaine



J. McIlwaine



Billy Bourke - Master of 2004!

Handball Report by Martin Lalor, PRO

The dominant figure in Kilkenny handball in 2004 was Billy Bourke. The talented O'Loughlins player made a clean sweep of the Master grade by winning all four All Ireland titles on offer during the year.

Michael 'Duxie' Walsh made a comeback to the 60 x 30 championships, where he and Eugene Downey reached another Senior Doubles final.

On the Juvenile front Kilkenny took home four All Ireland titles, evenly split between the 40x 20 and 60 x30 courts, while at International level Richard Hogan brought home the Boys 15-and-Under title from San Francisco.



Billy Bourke, winner of all four All Ireland Masters A titles in 2004, is flanked by his partners, **Johnny Brennan** in 40 x 20 and **Martin Lalor** in 60x 30.

40 x 20

In this year's 40 x 20 championships Kilkenny players won a number of Leinster titles, but went on to record only two All Ireland victories, both of these involving Billy Bourke. After the disappointment of losing the Singles final in 2003, Billy was determined to go one better this year. Having come through his Leinster campaign, Billy accounted for Francie McCann (Sligo) 21-12, 21-19 in the All Ireland semi-final, and in a one-sided final he easily beat Stevie Madden (Antrim) 21-2, 21-9 to make up for the disappointment of 2003.

In the Doubles championship, Billy teamed up with Johnny Brennan (Mothel) and this proved to be a winning combination. After seeing off all challengers in Leinster, including fellow county pair Philly Parsons and Martin Lalor in the provincial final, they faced Sligo in the semi-final, a tough match that Billy and Johnny got through narrowly, 21-16, 21-17. In the All Ireland final they defeated Antrim's Paddy Gault and Brendan Rainey in two games, 21-7, 21-8.

In Junior B Singles Michael Maher (Clogh) finally made the breakthrough in Leinster, a result which set him up to play Shane Bruen (Sligo) in the All Ireland semi-final. The Clogh player won 21-8, 21-7 to advance to the decider against Finbar Rafferty (Cork). The first set went to the Cork man, 21-11, but Michael levelled by taking the second 21-19. With the scores close in the third - 7-

5 - disaster struck for the Clogh man as he injured his leg. Struggling to play on, Michael tried hard to shake off the injury, but had no joy, and only registered four more aces before going down 21-9.

Kilkenny did very well in the Leinster Junior championships, with Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlins) winning both titles. However, that was as good as it got for him. In the All Ireland Singles semi-final against Ollie Cassidy (Mayo), he was well beaten on a day when he played well below par, while in the Doubles semi-final against Galway's Ollie and Pat Conway, Timmy and partner Canice Quigley won the first game 21-13, and looked to have won the match when an unfortunate hinder went against them with the sides level at 20 all in the second game. The Westerners took the set and raised their game in the third to go through to the final on a 21-10 scoreline.

Paddy Reilly was also a double Leinster champion in the Emerald Masters A grade, but came a cropper in both All Ireland semi-finals.

In the Singles semi-final at O'Loughlins, Paddy lost two close games to Morgan Darcy (Galway), 21-20, 21-17 and in the Doubles match in Ballaghadereen, Paddy and Seamus Reade went down 21-11, 21-14 to Mayo's Seamus Clarke and Matt Coady.

On the Juvenile front, Kilkenny players had a very successful Leinster campaign, where they won nine titles. Since five of these titles were in the U12 and U13 age groups,



Under 17 Singles Champion **Brenday Burke** being presented with his All Ireland Medal by **Tony Hayes**, Uachtaran, CLLE.

only four of these provincial winners progressed to the All Ireland series. Of the four that went forward, Kilkenny were All Ireland winners in two grades, Boys U16 Doubles and Boys U17 Singles. Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) and Patrick Nolan (Mothel) teamed up in Boys U16 Doubles for the first time this year and proceeded to make a huge impact at U16 level. Their Leinster final win was followed by a victory over Mayo and a comfortable 21-5, 21-5 win over Clare's Colin Ryan and Darren Cullinane in the All Ireland final.

Brendan Burke (Kells) was the Kilkenny representative in Boys U17 Singles where he defeated Wexford in the provincial decider. He then disposed of Mayo in the semi-final in two sets, 21-14, 21-3, and, in a tough All Ireland decider against Conor Cooney (Clare), Brendan showed great resilience to grind out a tie-break win, 21-14, 19-21, 11-9.

Kilkenny also contested the Boys U14 Doubles and Boys U16 Singles finals but were defeated in both matches.

Niall Smith (Kells) and Dean Wilson (Clogh)



Under 16 Doubles winners **Nicholas Anthony** and **Patrick Nolan**.

reached the All Ireland final after beating Mayo, but were well beaten by Limerick in two games, 15-4, 15-4.

There was a shock in the Boys U16 Singles final when Richard Hogan (Kilfane) lost to Pdraig McGlinchey (Tyrone), 21-5, 21-11. Elsewhere in Juvenile news for the year, St Kieran's college won the All Ireland Intermediate Doubles crown when Richard Hogan and Kirk Greene defeated John O'Brien and David Hickey of St Augustines, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford in the final, 21-11, 21-11. Stephen Short represented St. Kieran's in the Senior Singles but was well beaten by Ger Coonan, St. Annes Killaloe, 21-3, 21-6.

Claire Love and Marie Therese O'Neill played for Castlecomer Community School in the Girls Junior Doubles final but lost to Sharon Twomey and Brenda Carmody of St Josephs Castleisland, 21-5, 21-7.

The Kilkenny U12/13 Team of four were successful in winning this year's All Ireland title. Having defeated Mayo in the All Ireland semi-final, they then accounted for Cork in the decider on an 86-36 scoreline. The team was Patrick Funchion (Kells), Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge), Pdraig Maher (Clogh), Eoin Hennessy (Clogh), Luke Greene (O'Loughlins) and David Delahunty (Kells).

On the International front, Kilkenny had two players who competed at the USHA Junior Championships in San Francisco in December last year. Richard Hogan, fresh from his World Championship win last October, brought home the Boys 15-and-Under Singles and Doubles crowns.



All Ireland U12/13 60 x 30 Team of 6 winners
Back: David Delehunty, Michael Fennelly, Patrick Funcheson, Michael O'Brien.
Front: Pádraig Maher, David Lafford, Brian Campion, Owen Hennessy.

Richard defeated Luis Moreno (Oregon) in the Singles final, 21-15, 21-15 and teamed up with Joey Peterson (Canada) to take the Doubles crown. His brother, Patrick, competed in the Boys 17-and-Under grade, where he put up a great show before bowing out at the quarter final stage to the number three seed, Bryer Bridegain, 11-7, in the tie break.

60 X 30

The big story in the 60 x 30 season was the return of Michael Duxie Walsh to competitive action. Having retired in 2002, Duxie entered this year's Coca Cola campaign with high hopes of causing an upset. This was not to be as he lost to Barry Goff (Wexford) at the quarter final stage when he went down, 21-20, 21-11.

In the Doubles championship, Duxie and Eugene Downey once again teamed up this year and surprised quite a few handball followers by making it to the All Ireland final. Along the way they produced a vintage display in the semi-final where they defeated hot favourites Tommy Hynes and Colin Keeling (Wexford) in two sets, 21-15, 21-5. They then faced Meath's Tom Sheridan and Walter O'Connor in a final that was dogged by controversy in the preceding week. Tom Sheridan had been suspended for three months but successfully got a High Court injunction against the suspension, thus allowing him to play in the final.

On the night the Meath pair proved too strong for the Kilkenny duo, winning the title 21-19, 21-7.

In the Masters A grade, Billy Bourke completed his clean sweep of All Ireland titles by winning the Singles and Doubles crowns. Having beaten fellow county man Eugene Downey in the Leinster final, Billy again renewed acquaintances with Francie McCann (Sligo) in the All Ireland semi-final. Again the Kilkenny player came out on top in two games, 21-13, 21-15. He then played John Herlihy (Cork) in the final, a match which he won easily, 21-7, 21-7.

Billy played with Martin Lalor (Talbot's Inch) in the Doubles championship and after beating fellow Kilkenny pair, Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins) and Johnny Brennan (Mothel)

in the Leinster decider, Sligo were next to provide the opposition.

On the night Bourke and Lalor were in top form against McCann and Michael Porter, winning 21-6, 21-13 to qualify to meet Tipperary in the All Ireland decider. Pat Griffin and Jimmy Mullins were Tipperary's representatives in the final, but were no match for the in-form Bourke and Lalor as they cruised to a 21-9, 21-7 victory.

Kilkenny's domination of the Masters grade continued when Jimmy Holden (Kilfane) had a fabulous victory in the All Ireland B championship.

Jimmy came very close in 2003 when he lost a marathon Leinster final to the eventual All Ireland winner. This year he made no mistake.

He came through the Leinster championship with flying colours and then faced a tricky away semi-final in Castlebar against the home player, Frank Macken.

A close first set went the way of Holden who won it by the narrowest of margins, 21-20. From this the Kilkenny player grew in confidence to take the second game 21-7 to reach his first All Ireland final.

Here he faced Kieran Burke (Limerick)



Seamus Reade and Paddy Reilly who won the All Ireland 60 x 30 Emerald Masters 'A' Doubles final when they defeated Tipperary. Paddy also won the Singles crown by overcoming Cork.

before a large crowd at Clonmel, mostly supporting the Kilfane man.

Holden, obviously the better player, took the first game 21-11 but looked to be in trouble in the second when 18-10 behind. Jimmy gradually got back to level at 20 all and scored the vital last ace to give him a memorable victory.

Kilkenny also scored a double All Ireland win in the Emerald Masters A grade.

Paddy Reilly (O'Loughlins) came back to great form in the 60 x 30 season. The city player proved too strong for all in Leinster and then had to play his semi-final against Tom Derrig (Mayo) in his home court. The experienced Reilly played clever handball to advance to the All Ireland final courtesy of a 21-11, 21-13 win. In the decider Paddy took on Dan O'Brien (Cork), a match that went the distance. The first set went to Kilkenny 21-13, Cork levelled by taking the second 21-15 and in a tight deciding game the experience of Reilly was enough to see him take the title with a 21-15 win.

In the Doubles championship Paddy and Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch) were keen to make amends when they met Mayo's Seamus Clarke and Matt Coady (Mayo) in the All Ireland semi-final at Talbot's Inch.

The Westerners had beaten them earlier in



Jimmy Holden made the breakthrough this year when he won the All Ireland 60 x 30 Masters B Singles by defeating Limerick in the final.

the year in the 40 x 20 championship. This time there was no repeat of this performance as the Kilkenny pair comprehensively beat them, 21-14, 21-9.

They now faced Tipperary's Jim Ryan and Con Collins in the decider at Thurles. A good start by the Reilly and Reade gave them the first game 21-12 and in a tight second game, Reilly and Reade came from 17-6 down to record a fantastic win by taking the match, 21-19.

Eddie Bourke (O'Loughlins) also won two Leinster titles in the Intermediate grade but found Mayo's Joe McCann too good for him in his All Ireland semi-finals at Mullingar. In the Singles tie Eddie lost the first set 21-11 against the Connaught player but put up a much better performance in the second when going down 21-14.

In the Doubles match the O'Loughlins man played with Pat Maher (Clogh) and again came up against McCann who was partnered by Campbell Brennan. This was a much tighter affair as the Kilkenny pair pushed the Westerners to 20-all in the first game when a decision went against them, thus giving Mayo a one set advantage.

The second set was controlled by McCann and Brennan who were able to raise the tempo when required, and they took the match by winning 21-11.

Kilkenny also produced the two winners of the Junior B championships. William Love (Clogh) took the Singles crown and David Clifford (O'Loughlins) and Michael Wallace (Talbot's Inch) defeated all comers in the Doubles.

After his Leinster final win, William was rewarded with a home venue for his All Ireland semi-final with Ollie Cassidy (Mayo). In a marathon match at Clogh—it lasted almost two hours—the honours went to the Mayo man who won in three games, 18-21, 21-20, 21-16.

David Clifford and Michael Wallace powered their way to the Leinster title and then faced Sligo at Williamstown. In another three-setter the spoils went to the Sligo pair who took the match, 21-17, 15-21, 21-19.

In Diamond Masters B Singles Johnny O'Mara (Mulinavat) reached the All Ireland decider but was well beaten by the younger Michael Jordan (Cork) while in the Doubles Johnny and Jimmy Caulfield (Kilfane) lost at the semi-final stage.

Con Moore (O'Loughlins) and Mick Dalton (Kells) had the honour of winning Kilkenny's first 60 x 30 Leinster title in 2004, but then

found their Roscommon opponents, James Coughlan and James Cunniffe too good in the next round.

Loretta Murphy (Goresbridge) reached the All Ireland final of the Ladies Junior B championship, losing to Cliona Collins (Tipperary) in two sets, 21-7, 21-9.

At the Leinster Juvenile finals in Kilfane, Kilkenny were successful in ten grades, of which seven went on to the All Ireland stage, where Connaught provided the opposition

Once again it was Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) and Brendan Burke (Kells) who kept the flag flying by winning the Boys U16 and U17 Singles championships respectively.

Nicholas took the Leinster title at the expense of Wexford and then saw off the challenge of Mayo in the semi-final. In a one-sided final, the South Kilkenny player was far too strong for Eoin Cahill (Limerick) winning 21-7, 21-12, and so adding the 60 x 30 title to the 40 x 20 doubles won earlier in the year.

Brendan Burke really dominated the U17 grade this year, winning both titles on offer. Having won his Leinster title at the expense of Wexford, Brendan travelled West to see off the challenge of Thomas Parson (Mayo). In the All Ireland final at Kingscourt, the young Kells player was far too strong for his Tyrone opponent, Brian Devlin, whom he defeated in two sets, 21-2, 21-7.

Kilkenny also contested three more All Ireland finals, but suffered narrow defeats in both. Patrick Nolan (Mothel) and Kirk Greene (O'Loughlins) contested the U16 Doubles decider, but lost out narrowly 21-20, 18-21, 10-11 to Tyrone while in Boys U14 Doubles Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) and Eamon Foley (Kells) also lost in the tie break. They won the first set 21-10, lost the second 21-17 and went down 11-8 in the tie break.

Niall Smith and Mark O'Dwyer reached the Boys U14 Doubles final but lost to Limerick. There were also provincial victories for Kilkenny in Girls U16 and U17 Doubles but both pairs lost to Connaught opposition. Claire Love and Marie Therese O'Neill from Clogh were beaten by Roscommon in the Girls U16 semi-final, while Libby Moore and Aoife Ryan from Windgap also played Roscommon in their Girls U17 semi-final but were well beaten on the day.

Kilkenny were victorious in the Boys U12/13 competition, adding the 60 x 30 title to the 40 x 20 crown won earlier in the year. Mayo provided the opposition in the All Ireland semi-final but were defeated 78-38 and in the decider against Limerick, the Noresiders were far too strong winning 90-29. The team was; Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge), Eoin Hennessy (Clogh), David Delahunty (Kells), Brian Campion (Urlingford), Patrick Funchion (Kells), Pdraig Maher (Clogh), Michael Fennelly (Kells) and David Lafford (Kells).

In Féile na nGael, the Kells team of Niall Smith, Mark O'Dwyer, David Delahunty, Ger McGrath and Patrick Funcheon were victorious, beating Carrickmore (Tyrone) in the final.

HANDBALL SCOREBOARD 2004

40 x 20 County Champions 2004

U10 S	Eoin Moriarty (Urlingford)	U10D	James Tobin/Conor Martin (Urlingford)
U11 S	Peter Funchion (Kells)	U11D	Cian Ryan/Sean Foley (Windgap)
U12 S	Eoghain Hennessy (Clogh)	U12D	Luke Greene/Tony O'Grady (O'Loughlins)
U13 S	Michael O'Brien (G'bridge)	U13D	David Delahunty/Michael Fennelly (Kells)
U14 S	Mark O'Dwyer (Kells)	U14D	Niall Smith/Peter Funchion (Kells)
U15 S	Eamon Foley (Kells)	U15D	Eoin Ryan/Peter Landy (Windgap)
U16 S	Richard Hogan (Kilfane)	U16D	Nicholas Anthony/Pat Rafitice (Mullinavat)
U17 S	Brendan Burke (Kells)	U17D	Gary Parsons/Paul Delaney (O'Loughlins)

(B) Champions

U10 S	Sean Tierney (Kells)	U10D	Adam Smith/Conor O'Dwyer (Kells)
U11 S	Craig Cummins (T Inch)	U11D	Nicholas Walsh/Anthony Farrell (Urlingford)
U12 S	Ciaran Roche (Kells)	U12D	Sean O'Dwyer/William Phelan (Kells)
U13 S	David O'Donovan (Kells)	U13D	James Kavanagh/Mark Phelan (Urlingford)
U14 S	James Delaney (Lisdowney)	U14D	Dyral Cummins/Jesse Walters (T Inch)
U15 S	Niall Mackey (Lisdowney)	U15D	Gerard McGrath/Ian O'Dwyer (Kells)
U16 S	John Traynor (T Inch)	U17 S	John Wallace (Lisdowney)
U16/17D	Niall Morrissey/James Hennessy (OLG)		
U10 GS	Mary Phelan (Clogh)	U10(B) GS	Ciara Holden (M'vat)
U10 GD	Maria Walsh/Susanne Power (Kells)		
U11 GS	Claire Mulholland (OLG)		
U11(B) GS	Claire Phelan (Lisdowney)	U11 GD	Carrie Grant/Sinead Costello (Urlingford)
U12 GS	Claire Mulholland (OLG)	U13 GS	Alison Walsh (Windgap)
U14G S	Rebecca Mulholland (OLG)	U15 GS	Rebecca Wall (Goresbridge)
U16 GS	Maire T O'Neill (Clogh)	U17 GS	Anne Maire Nolan (Goresbridge)
Ladies(B) S	Rebecca Walsh (T Inch)		
Minor League	Nicholas Anthony (M'vat)	Junior (B) League	Brendan Burke (Kells)
Junior League	Tomás Campion (Clogh)	Intermediate League	William Love (Clogh)
Senior League	Michael Walsh (T Inch)	Masters (A) League	Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins)
Ms (B) League	Pat Walsh (Windgap)	Masters (C) League	Pat Funchion (Kells)
Minor S	Patrick Hogan (Kilfane)	Minor D	Patrick Hogan/Edward Fitzgerald (Kilfane)
Junior (B) S	Brendan Burke (Kells)	Junior (B) D	Nicholas & Ger Anthony (Mullinavat)
Junior S	Paul Dowling (Mothel)	Junior D	Sean Maher/Thomas Campion (Clogh)
Inter S	Seamus Kavanagh (O'Loughlins)		
Senior S	Michael Walsh (T Inch)	Senior D	Michael Walsh/Martin Lalor (T Inch)
Ms(A) S	Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins)	Ms(A) D	Seamus Reade/Jimmy Neary (T Inch)
Ms(B) S	Eamonn Purcell (Windgap)	Ms(B) D	Eamonn Purcell/John Ryan (Windgap)
Special Junior S	Noel Leahy (Windgap)		

60 x 30 County Champions 2004

U10 S	Sean Tierney (Kells)	U10D	Eoin Moriarty/Conor Martin (Urlingford)
U11 S	Peter Funchion (Kells)	U11D	Andrew O'Dwyer/Michael O'Keefe (Kells)
U12 S	Eoghain Hennessy (Clogh)	U12D	Brian Campion/P J Nolan (Urlingford)
U13 S	Patrick Funchion (Kells)	U13D	Michael Fennelly/David Lafford (Kells)
U14 S	Niall Smith (Kells)	U14D	Mark O'Dwyer/Gerard McGrath (Kells)
U15 S	Eamon Foley (Kells)	U15D	Ciarán Neary/Justin Dermody (T Inch)
U16 S	Nicholas Anthony (M'vat)	U16D	Richard Hogan/Darragh Wafer (Kilfane)
U17 S	Brendan Burke (Kells)	U17D	Stephen Conway/Darren O'Dwyer (Kells)
GU12 S	Claire Mulholland (OLG)	GU14 S	Rebecca Mulholland (O'Loughlins)
GU16 S	Fiona Ryan (Clogh)		
Minor League:	Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat)	Junior (B) League:	John Morrissey (O'Loughlins)
Junior League:	Michael Wallace (T Inch)	Intermediate League:	Shem Kelly (Mothel)
Senior League:	Michael Walsh (T Inch)	Masters (A) League:	Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins)
Ms (B) League:	Eamonn Holohan (Kilfane)	Masters (C) League:	Eamonn Purcell (Windgap)
Minor S:	Gavin O'Keefe (Kells)	Minor Doubles:	Patrick Hogan/Edward Fitzgerald (Kilfane)
Jr (B)/Ms (B) S:	John Morrissey (O'Loughlins)	Junior (B) D:	Mark & Ricky Nolan (Mothel)
Junior/Inter S:	David Clifford (O'Loughlins)	Junior Doubles:	Kirk Greene/David Clifford (O'Loughlins)
Senior S:	Pearse O'Keefe (Mullinavat)	Senior D:	P O'Keefe/Eamon Law (Mullinavat)
Ms(A) S:	Jimmy Holden (Kilfane)	Ms(A) D:	Philly Parsons/Con Moore (O'Loughlins)
Ms(C) S:	John Ryan (Windgap)	Ms(C) D:	Eamonn Purcell/John Ryan (Windgap)
Ms(B) Doubles:	Billy Love/Ned Lawlor (Clogh)		

Leinster 40 x 20 Champions 2004

U12 S	Eoghain Hennessy (Clogh)	U12 D	Luke Greene(OL)/Pauric Maher (Clogh)
U13 S	Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge)	U14 D	Niall Smith (Kells)/Dean Wilson (Clogh)
U16 S	Richard Hogan (Kilfane)	U16 D	Nicholas Anthony(M'vat)/Pat Nolan (Mothel)
U17 S	Brendan Burke (Kells)		
U12 G D	Nicola Moore/Laura Moore (W'gap)	U16 G D	Claire Love/Maire T O'Neill (Clogh)
U17 G Sngls	Ann Maire Nolan (Goresbridge)	U17 G D	Aoife Ryan (Windgap)/Sarah Lafford (Kells)
Junior (B) S	Michael Maher (Clogh)	Junior S	Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlins)
Junior D	Timmy Clifford/Canice Quigley (OLG)		
Masters (A) S	Billy Bourke (OLG)	Masters (A) D	Billy Bourke (OLG)/Johnny Brennan (Mothel)
Emerald Masters (A) S	Paddy Reilly (OLG)		
Emerald Masters (A) D	Paddy Reilly (OLG)/Seamus Reade (T Inch)		
U12/13 Team 6			
Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge), Patrick Funchion, David Delahunty (Kells), Eoghain Hennessy, Pauric Maher (Clogh), Luke Greene (OLG), Peter Landy (Windgap), Brian Campion (Urlingford)			

Leinster 60 x 30 Champions 2004

U11 D	Peter Funchion/Andrew O'Dwyer (Kells)	U12 GS	Claire Mulholland (OLG)
U12 S	Eoghain Hennessy (Clogh)	U12 D	Brian Campion (Urlingford)/Pauric Maher (Clogh)
U14 D	Niall Smith/Mark O'Dwyer (Kells)	U15 D	Ciarán Neary (T Inch)/Eamon Foley (Kells)
U16 S	Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat)	U16 GD	Maire T O'Neill/Claire Love (Clogh)
U16 D	Patrick Nolan(Mothel)/Richard Hogan(K'fane)	U17 S	Brendan Burke (Kells)
U17 GS	Ann Maire Nolan (Goresbridge)	U17 GD	Aoife Ryan/Libby Moore (Windgap)
U12/13 Team 6	Michael O'Brien (G'bridge), Eoghain Hennessy, Pauric Maher (Clogh), David Delahunty, Patrick Funchion (Kells), Brian Campion (Urlingford)		
J Maxwell (A) League	Allan Funchion, Peter Funchion, Patrick Funchion, David Delahunty, Eamon Foley (Kells) Ciarán Neary (T Inch)		
Junior (B) S	William Love (Clogh)	Junior (B) D	Michael Wallace (T Inch)/David Clifford (OLG)
Intermediate S	Eddie Burke (OLG)	Intermediate D	Pat Maher (Clogh)/Eddie Burke (OLG)
Masters (A) S	Billy Bourke (OLG)	Masters (A) D	Billy Bourke (OLG)/Martin Lalor (T Inch)
Masters (B) S	Jimmy Holden (Kilfane)	Golden Masters (B) D	Con Moore (OLG)/Michael Dalton (Kells)
Emerald Masters (A) S	Paddy Reilly (OLG)		
Emerald Masters (A) D	Seamus Reade (T Inch)/Paddy Reilly (OLG)		
Diamond Masters (B) S	Johnny O'Mara (M'vat)		
Diamond Masters (B) D	Johnny O'Mara (M'vat)/Jimmy Caulfield (K'fane)		
Ladies Junior (B) S	Loretta Murphy (G'bridge)	Ladies Junior S	Mary Murphy (G'bridge)

Since Derek Lyng joined the Kilkenny senior hurling panel in 2001, it would be fair to say that he has been one of the most consistent players on the team. He has forged a reputation as one of the best midfielders around, and at the time of writing, is in line to win his third consecutive All-Star award. It would certainly be a terrific feat for a player to win an All-Star in each of their first three seasons at senior level and I'm sure there are not too many players around who have picked up three consecutive All-Stars at midfield.

I asked Derek what were his career highlights to date – 'Winning the 2002 All-Ireland with it being my first year on the team - there were also a few other new players that year, such as, Martin Comerford and Richie Mullally – was a brilliant feeling while winning the junior county championship with Emeralds in 2001 was also special'.

Kilkenny enjoyed a unique Championship run this year, when they had to play seven matches to reach the All-Ireland Final - this was due to their shock defeat by Wexford in the Leinster semi-final. I asked Derek how Kilkenny reacted to the defeat: 'After the Wexford match, we took stock and laid down what we were going to do for the rest of the year. We knew we had to 'up-the-ante'. We hurled well against Dublin in Carlow but the turning point in our season was the match against Galway. We were kind of written off, even within the county, going into the match – most people fancied Galway, who had won the National League, so we had a lot to prove. We hit form and it turned out to be one of those days when we just weren't going to be beaten'.

I asked Derek what he thought were the main reasons behind the All-Ireland Final defeat to Cork. 'We had a lot of tough matches coming up to the Final and the freshness just wasn't there – Cork were flying all-round the place. The turning point in the match was when Henry Shefflin's shot was saved in the second-half and from the resulting clearance, Cork went down the field and scored a point. We should have been a few points more ahead at half-time but overall it's fair to say that the best team won on the day'.

I felt that the Emeralds clubman got one of the best scores of the season in the All-Ireland Final – his inspirational first-half point when he burst through from midfield, tapped the ball off the ground and then struck it over the bar was a

CONSISTENT DEREK - HUNGRY FOR MORE GLORY

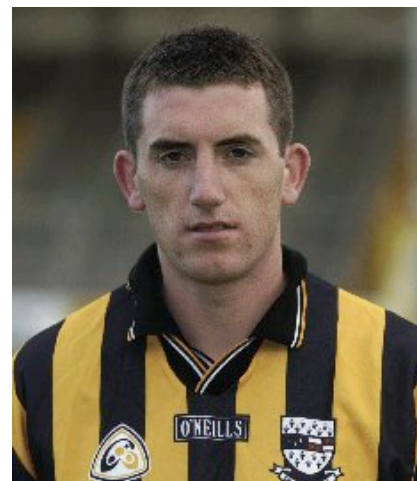
**Interview with Derek Lyng
by Richard Holden**

brilliant score. 'I got clear from midfield and just had a go, and thankfully it went over – I was overdue one!

There has been an ongoing debate about whether players should be paid, considering the huge efforts they put in. I asked Derek for his views on this issue – 'You do it for the love of the game – training during the long summer evenings is particularly enjoyable. Sure, I'd love to be a professional hurler but there would be problems at club-level and the club is the main part of the GAA. In fairness, we are well looked after by the Co. Board and the Supporters Club with meals provided after training and also a plentiful supply of gear being provided during the year'.



Derek Lyng on a typical run with Clare's Colin Lynch in pursuit.
John McIlwaine



Factfile

Age: 26
Club: Emeralds (Urlingford)
Honours: 2 All-Ireland SH
1 All-Ireland U-21H
3 Leinster SH
1 Leinster U21H
2 Leinster IH
2 NHL and
2 Railway Cup
2 All-Stars
1 Fitzgibbon Cup
1 Co. JHC.

asked the 26-year-old medical representative, would Kilkenny find it difficult to have the same levels of motivation and commitment for the year ahead bearing in mind that there had been so much talk this year about the three-in-a-row being achieved. 'The three-in-a-row wasn't talked about much to be honest, we just saw it as another year. We'll refocus over the winter, and will have that added bit of determination to make up for this year'.

I wondered did Derek feel that there was now too much of an emphasis being placed on fitness, as opposed to players concentrating on mastering the basic skills of the game; 'I think to be honest they go hand-in-hand – we would do a certain amount of physical training during the early months of the year, building up our stamina but would then concentrate mainly on ball-work after that and we would regularly have matches in training'.

Derek picked out former Kilkenny great, Ger Henderson as one of his favourite players from the past. 'I liked his style of play, he was great to catch the ball and burst out through a wall of players. During his playing days, Ger used to regularly drop into our shop in Woodsgift so I got to meet him a few times, which was a great thrill.

In more recent times, I admired Andy Comerford, Ciarán Carey and Colin Lynch - they would all be brilliant fielders'.

I asked Derek who he felt were the up and coming players to look out for – 'Richie Power, Richie Hogan, who is a cousin of DJ and was on this year's county minor team and Eoin Larkin, who put in some very good performances for James Stephens this year, have all impressed me. From our own club, Colin Grant – Kilkenny's minor goalkeeper this year, county senior panellist Aidan

Fogarty, Willie Norton and Eamonn O'Gorman would be players to keep an eye out for'.

I also asked the Kilkenny midfielder who had most impressed him during the year. 'It will be a close-run thing for Hurler of the Year between Sean Óg O'hAilpin and J.J. Delaney. J.J. was unreal again for us this year – he has been our most consistent player over the last number of seasons, it is hard to remember him having a poor match'.

Derek has won two Railway Cups and I

asked him did he see a future for the series; 'I actually missed this year's Railway Cup, as I was away when it was played. It has a future, the players enjoy it and you get to meet lots of new players from the other counties. It is a good competition as you have the best players playing for their province but the timing of the series needs to be looked at while it could also be marketed better'.

It was a pleasure to meet Derek, and he will certainly have a major role to play in Kilkenny's quest to regain the Liam McCarthy Cup in 2005.



KILKENNY ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1979 - HONOURED BY IRISH NATIONWIDE AT THE 2004 ALL IRELAND SH FINAL

Back: Kevin Fennelly, Frank Cummins, James Hennessy (son of Joe), Ger Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Matt Ruth, Paddy Prendergast, Fan Larkin, Maurice Mason, Mick Crotty, John Marnell, Tommy Malone, Dick O'Hara, Patsy Moran.

Front: PJ Ryan, Mick Brennan, Liam O'Brien, Nicky Brennan, Aenghus Fanning, GerFennelly (Capt), Nigel Skehan (son of Noel), John Henderson. *John McIlwaine*

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Ladies Football



MULLINAVAT LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM 2004:

Back: Carol Phelan, Marie Ryan, Laura Gahan, Carol Culleton, Marie Atkins, Marita Aylward, Paula Butler, Lucinda Gahan, Elaine Kenneally, Anna Woods, Paul Kenneally (Coach).

Front: Paul Whelan (Manager), Miriam Frisby, Ciara Lanigan, Kellyann Cotterell, Trish Duggan, Deirdre Dempsey, Amy Butler, Trish Dungan, Elaine Aylward.

Officers 2004:

Chairperson: Paul Whelan
Secretary: Deirdre Dempsey
Treasurer: Anna Woods

Mullinavat Ladies Football club was set up in 2003. At the time Railyard was the only other ladies football club in Kilkenny. Mullinavat were welcomed in by Wexford Ladies Football to play in their Championship and League. This year they reached the semi-final of the Championship against Clongeen but

Clongeen proved to be the better team on the day.

However the highlight of their year was winning all their league games and as a result they reached the league final where they beat Bannow/Ballymitty on a score line of 1-9 to 2-2. Well done to Carol Phelan who received player of the match award.

The driving force behind their success



Captain Deirdre Dempsey receiving the league trophy

was their management team Paul Whelan (Ja) and Paul Kenneally.

Finally a special thanks to everyone who helped the girls during the year both financially and in any other way.

Ladies Football Club Panel :

Amy Butler, Laura Gahan, Trish Duggan, Maria Atkins, Anna Woods, Carol Phelan, Marita Aylward, Elaine Aylward, Paula Butler, Lucinda Gahan, Deirdre Dempsey (Cpt.), Marie Ryan, Miriam Frisby, Kellyann Cotterell, Elaine Kenneally, Trish Dungan, Claire Aylward, Carol Culleton, Ciara Lanigan, Brigid Aylward and Margaret Delahunty.

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Ladies Football

Railyard reached dizzy heights in 2004. Having claimed the 2003 Junior title they set their sights on the Intermediate title. The fairytale journey started on Good Friday against Ballylynan. Railyard came through a tough encounter to win 4-6 to 4-4. In the semi final they faced Ratheneska and seemed to be cruising at half time leading by 3-4 to 0-5. They survived 8 unanswered points from Ratheneska in the second half to scrape through 4-7 to 0-16. In the final they met first round opponents Ballylynan and another tight game ensued. On a balmy Sunday in August at Crettyard the game was on a knife edge throughout. Railyards 2pt lead at half time was vital and they were crowned intermediate champions on a scoreline of 2-9 to 3-4. In 2005 Railyard will enter the battlefield of senior football in Laois.

This however was just a stepping stone for the north Kilkenny girls. Although playing in Laois, they must represent their own county in the Leinster club championship at junior level. In round one it took a scorching 1-2 in the final ten minutes from corner forward Alice Farrell to secure a 1-7 to 0-5 victory. Round 2 was away to Mullinlaghta of Longford where the girls were in cruise control, scoring 1-14 in the second half to win 1-19 to 0-5. After a long delay the Leinster semi final was played in October against Sylvesters of Dublin. The Dubs were confident but Railyard cared not for tradition. Played under floodlights in Portarlinton, they dominated the second half, limiting Sylvesters to a single point and recorded a 2-10 to 0-8 victory. This secured a place in the Leinster club final against Leixlip. Kildare had just been crowned all Ireland junior champions and with county stars in their side, Leixlip were hot favourites. But, Martin Buggy has installed a self belief and confidence in this side that belies their three short years in existence. In a carbon copy of the semi final, Railyard were a point behind at half time and once the equalizer arrived on the re-start, Railyard never looked back. Grainne Daly's goals in each half would prove vital. As the final whistle sounded in O'Moore Park Portlaoise, the scoreboard will long live in the memories of players and supporters alike, Railyard 2-8, Leixlip 0-8. The huge Railyard support was ecstatic. As Captain and player of the match Ger Roche accepted the Leinster club trophy, the happiest man was team manager Martin Buggy. While many teams have big back room guidance, Martin has single handedly guided this team since the outset. Ably assisted by Jo Roche in 2004, Martin should be proud of his own achievement. In 4 years he has led the team to 2 Laois championship titles and a Leinster club title, - no mean feat for any manager, let alone a football manager in Kilkenny. Indeed the Railyard ladies became the first adult team from Kilkenny to win provincial honours in football since 1922! The team that won the Leinster club title was; K.Forster-Murphy, Andrea Murphy, M.



RAILYARD LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM 2004

Back: Helen Murphy, Alice Farrell, Mary Love, Catriona Grace, Eilish Bollard, Rose Mullins, Breda Roche, Kerry Forester, Michelle Dowd, Ann Marie Murphy, Aisling Murphy, Aoife Brennan, Marianne Ryan, Kathy Gibbons, Annette O'Shea, Adrian Love.

Front: Noelle Curran, Brigid Murphy, Jenna Phelan, Miriam Mulkeffe, Andrea Murphy, Geraldine Roche, Kelly Roche, Martina Maher, Emma Nolan, Grainne Daly, Stella Cody. Mascots: Eoin Buggy, Sarah Roche, Denise Love, Sarah Buggy, Roisin Cody, Siobhan Cody, Shauna Cody.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

Dowd, K. Roche, C. Grace, G. Roche, M. Maher, B. Roche, M. Love, M.O'Keeffe, E.Keane, S. Cody, A. Farrell (0-3), G. Daly (2-0), N.Curran (0-5). E. Nolan, H. Murphy, Aisling Murphy, R. Mullin, E. Bollard, J. Phelan, B. Murphy, A. Brennan, M. Ryan, E. Murphy, L. Murphy, A.m. Murphy.

The girls were back in action a week after their Leinster win and came so close to an all Ireland club final spot. Against Ulster champions, Inniskeen of Monaghan, lady luck abandoned Railyard. Missed chances and an opportunistic goal for Inniskeen saw them grab a 2 pt win in injury time and an all Ireland club final place. Every Railyard player knows this could have been and should have been them.

However the Railyard ladies should be proud of themselves. Combining camogie and football, they gave 100% commitment to both. Ten of the team won the Kilkenny intermediate camogie title with St. Martins in October, in the midst of their Leinster football campaign. In 2005, no club will relish the prospect of facing the ladies from north Kilkenny.

COUNTY SCENE

The Kilkenny ladies football team first entered the Suzuki national league in 2002, but with just 2 clubs in the county suffered heavy defeats to counties with a pick from ten or twenty clubs. However, these days the opposition are made fight all the way. Made up almost entirely of players from Railyard, the girls opened with three narrow defeats in the National League, Carlow 1-10, Kilkenny 1-6. Wicklow 3-11, Kilkenny 3-9. Offaly 1-6, Kilkenny 1-2. Surely a win was on the cards and in May the cats hit peak when they trounced Westmeath 5-16 to 1-3. They secured a place in the Division 4 semi final but lost out to a Wicklow side who this time knew what to expect. The

Leinster championship overlapped with the national league and county championships and the girls had little time to rest between games. Carlow, Wexford, Dublin and Laois proved too strong. The girls had to play Laois two days after winning the county championship there. This emphasized the need to increase the number of clubs in the county. However the future looks bright with the success of Mullinavat and Railyard and the recent formation of a club in Thomastown, who knows? The ladies in black and amber could yet become a force in football

7 A SIDE BLITZ

Anyone in the vicinity of the O'Loughlins Gaels club on July 3rd got a pleasant surprise. Girls from all over the county converged to take part in a 7 a side blitz organized by the ladies football county board and Railyard. With the assistance of the county's camogie clubs, 12 teams entered - Thomastown, Ballyhale, Paulstown, Muckalee, O'Loughlins, Emeralds (3 teams), Carrickshock (2), and Blacks and Whites (2). Although none of the girls had played competitive football before, onlookers were amazed at the level of skill on display as the girls competed like seasoned campaigners. After four tough rounds, Ballyhale and Thomastown were finalists and served up a treat with Ballyhale the winners in extra time. Final score 4-6 to 4-1. Fifteen year old Sally Teehan from Thomastown won player of the tournament. An exciting penalty shoot out took place with twelve players squaring up to county keeper Kerry Forster. Emeralds Siobhan O'Hara won a sudden death thriller to be crowned Penalty Queen 2004. The day was about fun but the skills displayed proved that footballing talent is in abundance among the ladies of Kilkenny.

There are always memories when Kilkenny play Cork in the All Ireland final, says Monsignor Ned Kavanagh via email from Sacramento in California, where he's ministered for the last 56 years. No encounter yielded as many memories as the 1947 decider did. This is how Monsignor Ned remembers it.

The summer was a very hot one. The young Ned Kavanagh, a seminarian about to enter his final year, played for Tullaroan in the county final in August. They lost to Eire Og, but he had "a fairly good game", so much so that shortly afterwards, when he was on holidays in Tramore, he received a call from Joe Young, the secretary of the Kilkenny county board. "Bill Walsh was injured and wouldn't be playing, he told me, and would I oblige by coming into training. I had just three days to get ready." Knowing he was bound for the diocese



Fr Ned Kavanagh

of Sacramento following ordination, he didn't pay any attention to the rule that forbade seminarians studying for the priesthood in Ireland from playing competitively. "That was the reason Tommy Maher couldn't participate. But we must all be very grateful to Tommy for what he's done for hurling in Kilkenny since."

The big day, September 7th, dawned damp and gloomy before opening up in the afternoon. Being resident in Dublin for the past number of years, Terry Leahy had trained for the final in the grounds of St Patrick's College in Drumcondra. After eight o'clock Mass, Leahy, his brother Tommy and Matty Power, the famous Kilkenny forward of the 1930s, repaired there for a few pucks. They took frees from the most acute angles. "There was only about 36 inches between the posts to aim at," Leahy recalled in the 1986 edition of the Kilkenny GAA Yearbook. "The practice was certainly a great help when I came to take the equalising free."

The showpiece found Cork, 16 times All Ireland champions, in their pomp after winning five of the last six titles and Kilkenny, 12 times champions but beaten

THE GREATEST FINAL



Enda McEvoy, Sunday Tribune

in the previous two finals, swamped in a recession that was to yield only one McCarthy Cup between 1939 and '57. "We had every reason to be happy we could manage Kilkenny," Con Murphy, the holders' full-back, recalls. "Roughly the same two teams had played in 1946, and we'd won that comfortably." In achieving hurling's only All Ireland four-in-a-row, Cork had defeated Dublin three times and Antrim. Not that they would have said it aloud, but seeing off Kilkenny in '46 had been a feather in their cap.

That was the day Ring went supernova, scoring a famous goal shortly before half-time after slipping Shem Downey. Downey had been plucked from the Kilkenny junior team and handed his senior debut on All Ireland day, at centre-back, on Ring. Incredible to imagine it now. "If it was today," he says, "I'd be gone forever. I don't know why they had such faith in me. Afterwards some people said that I should have been left there on Christy rather than being moved to mid-field for the second half. If I had been, he'd have destroyed me." Downey was back again in 1947, reinvented

as a corner-forward and destined to enjoy a rather more auspicious afternoon.

How good was the game? Tremendous, Murphy says. "There were long passages of non-stop play, no wides or lineballs. That introduced great excitement. Looking back over the finals I've seen, I'd regard '47 as exceptional."

So did the *Irish Press*, who decreed that adjectives were "puerile and inadequate", then dived into an ocean of purple prose regardless. "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."

John O'Grady, later Cúlbaire of the Tipperary Star, had played in goal on Tipp's victorious minor team earlier in the afternoon and thus was "probably in the mood to appreciate anything. But I've always thought that the only final I've seen to compare with it was 1956. It was a great game for three-quarters of the way in '47 – and a marvellous game for the final quarter."

Tom Walton opened the scoring in the first minute for Kilkenny, who led by 0-7 to 0-5 at the interval in front of 61,510 spectators, an attendance that yielded gate receipts of £5,483. Sitting on the sideline at the old long stand, O'Grady was nearby when Con Cottrell, one of the Cork midfielders, broke his hurley. As no replacement stick emerged, Johnny Leahy, the Tipperary county secretary, grabbed the nearest to hand and threw it



Pressure on the Kilkenny goal 1947. From left, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Donegan (Goalie) Jack Lynch and Diamond Hayden.

to Cottrell. It was O'Grady's hurley. He's still waiting for it back.

Faster, sharper and hungrier, the challengers were looking like winners until the second-half loss of Peter Prendergast, who'd been doing well on Ring. Tom Walsh, the Kilkenny county chairman, instructed Ned Kavanagh to come in – “but tell Diamond to go out and mark Ring, and you take his place at full-back”. Kavanagh duly came in at full-back, with Diamond Hayden being switched out to mark Ring. Understandably, Kilkenny lost their shape, and the champions pounced for goals by Mossie O’Riordan and Joe Kelly to lead by a point at the death.

With time almost up, Terry Leahy levelled from a 30-yard free on the left. The early-morning practice had paid off. But mere fleeting fame wasn't crooking its finger in Leahy's direction. Immortality was.

Tom Mulcahy, the Cork goalie, pucked out long from the Railway End. Improbably, Paddy Grace beat the sprint champion Kelly in the race to the ball and cleared it back down the field. The sliotar plopped Mulcahy-wards.

“It came out of nowhere, dropping in towards the goal,” Mulcahy recalls. “I was standing there with half a dozen lads around me, all ready to cut the head off me. I caught the ball. There was a sigh of relief. All I wanted to do was get it out somewhere.” Mulcahy got it out alright, but he didn't get it out very far.

At home in Urlingford in his youth, as the youngest child inevitably put in goal, Leahy had often been sermonised by his brother Jerry. “Ter, when you stop the ball, hit it out into open space where there's nobody.” At the supreme moment, Leahy remembered the advice. The ball was directed to where Leahy suspected it would be, to an empty space out around Hill 16. He was moving even before Mulcahy struck it, got five yards up on Alan Lotty, gathered and sent the ball over the bar and into hurling legend. Murphy can still see the sliotar in sail. Mulcahy won't repeat what one of his defenders turned and said to him.

That was it. Kilkenny 0-14 Cork 2-7. One Noreside youth, temporarily let down by his maths (“14 points, and two sevens are 14”), assumed the game had ended in a draw and was halfway out of Croke Park before an acquaintance put him right. For the fifth time in history, Kilkenny had beaten Cork by, in the rueful words of Jack Lynch – a victim of the most recent one-point defeat, in the 1939 Thunder and Lightning final - “the usual point”.

The day's paths divided at the sound of referee Phil Purcell's final whistle, one or two of them to reconverge in later life. Leahy went to New York, O’Riordan to Australia. Shem Downey went on to father camogie-playing girls called Ann and Angela, Paddy Grace to father a daughter who married a Tullaroanman called Walsh and had a son they named Tommy. Con Murphy went on to become president of the GAA. Christy Ring just went on.

If Ring was, to quote his friend Dave O'Brien, “very sore” over his treatment in 1947, both Murphy and Mulcahy, not to mention the papers next day, aver it was more a case that The Greatest simply wasn't allowed time and space by Kilkenny to repeat his legerdemain of 12 months earlier. Once bitten, etc. He needn't have fretted about any dip in his stock; holidaying in Florida after winning the 1989 All Ireland, a suitably



Mark Marnell (Kilkenny) pursued by Mossy O’Riordan (Cork) in the 1947 final.

astonished group of Tipperary players encountered an immense black gentleman who enquired if “that guy Christy Ring was still playing”. It turned out their new friend had for years worked on the buses in New York with Leahy, who never tired of waxing lyrical about Ring's brilliance

The respect cut both ways. Tom Walton died six years ago. Much to his family's puzzlement, a wreath arrived from Australia within 48 hours. Not for a while did they realise that the sender, Mossie O’Riordan, had been an opponent half a century before.

As for Tom Mulcahy, he plugged away till 1950, when he retired and started a family. Today he's hale and hearty in Ballinlough in Cork city at the age of 81, and adamant that the pre-All Ireland hype was as frantic back then as it is today. “Money was scarce. The war was not long over. But you'd be amazed how the fans scraped the money together to get to the match.”

And what a match they got, that far-off September afternoon. Black and amber, red and white, the greatest final of them all.

** A version of this article first appeared in the Sunday Tribune on September 5th 2004.*



Players of 1947 meet players of the 70's. Liam Reidy, Tom Walton, Terry Leahy, Shem Downey, Jim Langton and Bill Cahill with Billy Fitzpatrick, Eddie Keher, Mick Brennan, Mick Crotty and Pat Delaney.

SLIEVERUE 1954 - 2004

On County Final day, 2004, the County Board invited the survivors of the Slieverue 1954 County Senior Hurling Final winning team to Nowlan Park as special guests at the Senior and Minor finals and afterwards to a reception sponsored by Springhill Court Hotel. Slieverue won the County Junior title in 1950 when they beat Urlingford. They contested the 1953 Senior final in 1953, losing to Bennettsbridge, before reaching the pinnacle in the county the following year when they took the title in the final against Tullaroan on a score of 6-5 to 4-3. (Several of the team played senior hurling with Kilkenny and Michael Walsh, Paddy Buggy and Dick Rockett were to win All Ireland SH medals with the victorious 1957 team. Paddy Buggy served as Uachtarán of the GAA from 1982 to 1985.



FIFTY YEARS ON - THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE SLIEVERUE 1954 KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING COUNTY CHAMPIONS WHO WERE HONOURED IN NOWLAN PARK ON COUNTY FINAL SUNDAY.

Back: Paddy Grant, Andy Irish, John Hartley, Pat Irish, Dick Rockett, Tommy Walsh, Gerry Buggy.

Front: Sean Griffin, Michael Walsh, Martin Hanrahan (Food & Beverage Manager, Springhill Court Hotel), Neddy O'Dwyer (Captain), Ned Quinn (Chairman, Kilkenny GAA), Paddy Buggy, Martin Buggy.



SLIEVERUE - COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1954

Back: Michael Grant, Tommy Walsh, Dick Mahoney, Gerry Buggy, Paddy Grant, Dick Rockett, Eddie O'Dwyer [Capt], Andy Irish, Jimrny Walsh, Tom Walsh, Michael Griffin, Michael Walsh.

Front: John Hokey, Billy Cahill, Paddy Buggy, Seanie Griffin, John Hartley, Martin Buggy, Michael Murphy, Pat Irish.Grace.

Clara Again!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report by Jim Fennelly PRO



CLARA - ROINN "A" & COUNTRY CUP CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Richard Mulrooney (Coach), Ayrton Gleeson, Seb Ryan, James Barry, Philip Corr, David Carroll, Sean Lennon, Brian Delaney, Kieran Casey, John Bolger (Coach)

Middle: Kevin Barcoe, John Murphy, Thomas Byrne (Capt), Nicky Creane, Patrick Galvin, David O'Connell, Matthew Byrne, Brian Prendergast, Killian Phelan.

Front: Shane Cassin, Ciaran Prendergast, Paul Murphy, Noel Kehoe, Billy Leydon, Peter Nolan, Jack Langton, Darragh Carrigan, Conor O'Shea.

"PRIMARY SCHOOLS EMBRACE CHANGES"

We live in times of change and especially in the organisation of our national games. More games, bigger crowds and high profile stars are now part and parcel of hurling at national level. These changes are now reflected in the organisation of primary school's hurling. Four years ago Cumann na m Bunscoile voted to combine Roinn C and Roinn D for the league stages. This increased the number of games considerably. True, it had its critics and probably none more vocal than those who suffered heavy defeats at the hands of the stronger C rated teams.

But the system was under heavy scrutiny by the officers of the Board and while it has its flaws it became the blueprint for the running of the Roinn A and Roinn B divisions for 2004.

So how would 24 teams combine to form one league and at the end produce the top eight teams for Roinn A and the next eight for Roinn B? Would the competition keep its integrity and would the teams favour or frown upon the extra games? Well the master plan threw up three

groups of eight, two in the north and one in the south. It had a built in incentive scheme, the top three teams went straight to the quarter finals. In Olympic style, the best of the second finishers also got the nod into the quarter finals. The remaining 8 teams played out for a quarter final spot. The same model applied to sort out the B division. And how did it fare out? Well! like a dream really but perhaps the true endorsement of the system will not be forthcoming until convention.

While convention is many full moons off yet consider these intriguing facts. Two teams, graded as Roinn B teams in 2003, contested the Roinn A semi-finals. The first team, St John's, were beaten B finalists by Urlingford in 2003. The second team - also from the city - St Canice's, actually contested the A final against the powerful Clara.

If you look at how matters panned out in Roinn B, there are more tales of intrigue. Kilmanagh last contested and won a Roinn B final in 1981. Since then, they have hurled in the premier grade.

Goresbridge /Paulstown won a Roinn C championship in 1999. They would be the first to admit how difficult it would be

to take a B title. But win it they did and they beat Kilmanagh in one of the most thrilling games ever seen in Nowlan Park on finals day.

So will it be the same again next year? If you ask me, I say why not? If you are good enough you can take the top prize. Sure Clara, Freshford, Thomastown, Rower Inistioge and the city teams can look forward to a good campaign but the way is now clear for a surprise package to challenge for top honours. It also virtually guarantees balanced finals, which is what spectators like to see and the little guy or girl goes into a final with a reasonable chance.

The INTO mini sevens always provides a barometer for who might likely contest the A final. Last year, a very good Ballyragget side, hurling in Roinn C, contested the Country Cup final against Clara only to lose, as all eyes were on Freshford and Clara. Freshford took the 7's title but didn't make the A final, as St Canice's had the joker in the pack.

Roinn C and D combined provided its own share of drama. Last year Callan almost burst a gut trying to win Roinn C.

They commanded respect all summer in the south but fate, in the guise of Ballyragget, denied them the holy grail in the final. But character will keep bringing you back and back they were in Nowlan Park this year against a good Mullinavat side. Character was tested to the last degree as both teams played a draw in the final. In the replay Callan held their nerve and the hurling world could be looking at an ascending power in school's hurling.

Roinn D saw two teams familiar to the knock-out stages of this grade. Windgap, however, had never won it though they did win a Roinn E championship in 1993, a competition since discontinued. Conahy had two previous wins in 1984 and 1990. They added their third this year in a thrilling final to complete the picture for the Cumann na m Bunscoile programme in 2004.

A word of thanks for our sponsors, Educational Supplies, Tedcastle Oils, Toymaster and TC Tyres. We are delighted to have their support but it is fair to say that each one is passionate about the value of sport for young people and are more than happy to invest in the future of our youth.
Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Roinn A Final

Back to back titles for Clara

Clara 2 -13
St. Canices 1-11

Educational Supplies Roinn A Final

Clara N.S. retained their Primary Schools Roinn A hurling title when they defeated St. Canices Co.-Ed. N.S., who were appearing in their first final. Having served up a thrilling match earlier in the season both sides entered the final respecting their opponents. St. Canices elected to play with the strong breeze. Early points by Patrick Galvin and a Thomas Byrne free gave little indication of the pattern which would follow. Aided by the elements and steeled with determination the bigger St. Canices side dominated most areas of the field. The Clara defence superbly led by Nicky Creane, Brian Prendergast and Conor O'Shea kept their opponents at bay for long periods. A Cian Tynan point from play was followed by seven frees from all angles by the unerring Cillian Buckley. With Clara's Killian Phelan operating as an extra defender, the winners prevented St. Canices from scoring a goal. A Thomas Byrne point left the half-time score – St. Canices 0-8 Clara 0-3.



ST CANICES - ROINN 'A' FINALISTS 2004

Back: Nicholas O'Shea, Sean Treacy, Conor Maharaj, Peter Vickery, Aidan Nolan, Hugh Walsh.

Middle: JJ Hickey, Evan Guilfoyle, Cillian Buckley, Ciaran Gough, Colm McPartlan, Andrew Cantwell, David Glynn, Eoin Prendergast.

Front: Shane Clohessey, Michael Hayes, Caimin Browne, Sam Johnston, Evan Walsh, David Gaule, Cian Tynan, Denis Hogan.

With the wind favouring them, Clara looked much more settled after the interval. A Thomas Byrne free was replied to by a fine Cian Tynan point. From the puck out Clara's youngest player Ciarán Prendergast soloed through on goal only to be upended. The referee Podge Butler had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Patrick Galvin goaled and it was game on. Pointed frees from Byrne (3) and Buckley left the sides level at 1-7 to 0-10. A fine point from play by John Murphy and another Byrne free gave Clara a two point lead. The next score was the turning point in the match. A long range free from Thomas Byrne was flicked to the net by Killian Phelan. The winners sensing victory began to hurl with the skill they had shown all season. St. Canices matched them in every department. Two more pointed frees from Clara's Thomas Byrne and one from play by Patrick Galvin gave Clara a comfortable cushion, but the St. Canice's boys replied with a Cillian Buckley point and a well worked goal from Conor Maharaj.

Clara had a fine goalkeeper in Billy Leydon. The full back line as already mentioned were fantastic. David O'Connell and Jack Langton were excellent as wing backs. Thomas Byrne and David Gaule had a tremendous tussle from start to finish. Byrne's freetaking was a highlight of the match. Both Clara's midfielders were in fourth class – John Murphy and Ciarán Prendergast – and are two fine prospects. Kevin Barcoe and Mathew Byrne gave assistance to the hard working Patrick Galvin. The inside forwards of Darragh Carrigan

and Peter Nolan worked hard. The roaming Killian Phelan scored the vital goal. Substitutes Noel Kehoe, Shane Cassin and Paul Murphy showed themselves worthy of places on the team. St.Canices goalkeeper Sam Johnston was solid throughout. The full back line of Eoin Pender, Caimin Brown and Colm McPartlan were unbeatable. Wing backs J.J. Hickey and Ciaran Gough gave great support to David Glynn in trying to curb Patrick Galvin. Glynn's duel with Galvin was tough and uncompromising. Both hurled their hearts out. Michael Hayes and Andrew Cantwell broke even with their respective opponents. Cillian Buckley and Aidan Nolan moved the ball quickly to the inside forwards. David Gaule gave everything in pursuit of victory. Cian Tynan was always dangerous as were Evan Guilfoyle and Evan Walsh. Conor Maharaj made an immediate impact when introduced.

Clara: B. Leydon, C. O'Shea, N.Creane, B. Prendergast, D. O'Connell, T. Byrne (0-10 frees & 65s), J. Langton, C. Prendergast, J. Murphy (0-1), K.Barcoe, P. Galvin (1-2, goal pen.), M.Byrne, D.Carrigan, K.Phelan(0-1), P.Nolan, N.Kehoe, S.Cassin, P.Murphy, A. Gleeson, D.Carroll, B. Delaney, P.Corr,C.Casey, S.Lennon, J. Barry, S.Ryan

St.Canices: Sam Johnson, Eoin Pender, Caimin Brown, Colm McPartlan, J.J. Hickey, David Glynn, Ciarán Gough, Cillian Buckley (0-9 frees & 65's) , Andrew Cantwell, Evan Guilfoyle, David Gaule, Aidan Nolan, Cian Tynan (0-2),MI

Hayes, Evan Walsh, Peter Vickery, Conor Maharaj (1-0), Shane Clohosey, Sean Treacy, Peter Turley, Tomas Phelan, Garren Clarke, Aaron Duggan.

Referee: Podge Butler

ROINN B FINAL

A FIRST FOR GOESBRIDGE/PAULSTOWN

**Goresbridge/Paulstown
3-12
Kilmanagh 2-11**

Goresbridge/Paulstown won their first Roinn B schools hurling final when they defeated Kilmanagh in a gripping tie. Both teams showed skill in abundance. There was great striking and the commitment was first class. Players, coaches and handlers have to be praised on the quality of the fare.

The exchanges during the opening minutes were even. Kilmanagh's William O'Connor opened the scoring with a point from 40 metres.

James Power at centre-back was dominant for the losers. Danny Byrne had the winners' first score, a point from 30 metres.

Kilmanagh's Dermot Healy put them a point ahead before Paulstown's Richard Doyle balanced the scores again. This was the pattern of the first half exchanges.

Gradually the winners' midfielders got on top. Kilmanagh's John Robinson grabbed the first goal. With a minute remaining, a shot from 50m went all the way to the Kilmanagh net. A good point from Dermot Heafey (K) levelled at 1-5 each, which was the score at the break. Playing with the wind in the second half, Goresbridge/Paulstown made all the early running. Kilmanagh goalie Eoin Robinson brought off a great save and Goresbridge shot two wides.

The winners half-back line was powerful, and kept a good supply of ball going to the forwards. Points by both midfielders from Goresbridge were answered by one from James Power.

The winners pointed again. Kilmanagh replied with two, one a brilliant effort from Dermot Heafey and the other from Sean Dwyer.

The scores were level at 1-8 when super sub Cathal English shot a goal for Paulstown. R. Doyle added a point before English landed another goal. Kilmanagh sub Shane Butler pointed. Paulstown's Martin Dormer sent a huge puck-out which was gathered by Thomas Whitely. The latter blasted at goal, but the ball was deflected over the bar by corner-back, Eoin Corcoran.

At this stage Goresbridge led by 3-10 to 1-9. Kilmanagh had a point from captain



GOESBRIDGE/ PAULSTOWN - ROINN "B" CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Aaron Nolan, Tommy Wall, Peter Treacy, Emma Staunton, Micheál Power, Daniel O'Neill, Eugene Kealy, Cathal English

Middle: Mr Joe Doyle (Coach), Martin Dormer, Sean Leahy, Tom Brennan, Cathal Kenny, Thomas Whitely, John Brennan, Kevin Brennan, Michael Lonergan, Mr Conor Murphy (Coach)

Front: Sean McDonald, Michael Whitely, Danny Byrne, Richard Doyle, Padraic Cowman, Ciaran Doyle, Edward Prendergast

Missing from Photo: Brian Attridge



KILMANAGH - ROINN "B" FINALISTS 2004

Back: David Delaney, Joey Corcoran, PJ Trant, Conor Cleere, Tommy Egan, Jamie Hogan, Shane Butler.

Middle: Eamon Butler, William Harrison, James Gleeson, William O'Connor, Daragh Egan, Sean O'Dwyer, James Power, Eoin Corcoran, John Dunphy, Michael O'Sullivan.

Front: Gerard Teehan, Liam Doyle, Martin Doheny, Eoin Robinson, Conor Hogan (Capt), Dermot Heafey, John Robinson, Pádraig Tynan.

Conor Hogan. Midfielders Dermot Heafey and Richard Doyle exchanged points.

Kilmanagh pressed hard, and with three minutes remaining Shane Butler sent a rocket of a shot to the net. A goal now separated the sides. Kilmanagh attacked strongly, but they could not get that vital goal.

Scorers:

Goresbridge/ Paulstown - C. English (2-0); R. Doyle (1-5); C. Kenny (0-3); D. Byrne (0-3); T. Whitely (0-1).

Kilmanagh - S. Butler (1-1); J. Robinson (1-0); D. Heafey (0-4); C. Hogan (0-2); S. O'Dwyer (0-2); J. O'Connor, W. O'Connor (0-1 each).

Goresbridge/Paulstown: Ciaran Doyle, Padraig Cowman, Martin Dormer, Sean McDonald, Kevin Brennan, John Brennan, Tom Brennan, Cathal Kenny, Richard Doyle, Michael Whitely, Thomas Whitely, Michael Lonergan, Edward Prendergast, Danny Byrne, Sean Leahy, Tommy Wall, Aaron Nolan, Michael Power, Emma Staunton, Cathal English, Brian Attridge, Eugene Kealy, Daniel

O'Neill, Peter Treacy.

Kilmanagh - Eoin Robinson, Eoin Corcoran, Martin Doheny, Darragh Egan, Ger Teehan, James Power, John Dunphy, John Robinson, Dermot Heafey, Michael O'Sullivan, Conor Hogan, William O'Connor, James Gleeson, Sean O'Dwyer, Liam Doyle, Tommy Egan, Shane Butler, Jamie Hogan, PJ Trant, Eamonn Butler, David Delaney, Padraig Tynan, Conor Cleere, William Harrison, Joey Corcoran.

Roinn C Final

Callan CBS take title at second Attempt

Callan CBS 4-4, Mullinavat 2-10

Callan CBS 2-6, Mullinavat 1-4

Mullinavat and Callan CBS played out a thrilling draw in the Roinn 'C' Schools' county final at Nowlan Park on Saturday. Mullinavat, playing with the aid of the breeze, opened the scoring with a point from a 65 by Pádraig Gahan after 90 seconds. Gahan pointed again for Mullinavat from a free before Callan hit back with their first score, a fierce shot from Shane Bergin which hit the net. Gahan led the way with another point, but Callan struck back with a beautiful goal from midfielder Dan McCormack. Mullinavat pressed hard at this stage but Callan coped well under pressure, none more so than goalkeeper Jason Corcoran who made many fine saves. The 'Vat pressed on, and tacked on more points through Gerard O'Brien, with singles from Thomas Aylward and Pádraig Gahan. Callan replied with a Dan McCormack point, but a last gasp goal from Gerard O'Brien left Mullinavat three clear at the break (1-7 to 2-1). Callan were quick into action in the second half, and drew level when Shane Bergin scrambled a loose ball to the net for his second goal of the game. Dan McCormack was next on the scoresheet, putting Callan ahead with his second point of the game. However the lead was short-lived when Mullinavat struck back with a 65 from Pádraig Gahan and a Tommy Lanigan goal. McCormack and Gahan swapped frees in what was turning out to be a very exciting game. Evan Mockler then shot to the net for Callan, bringing the sides level again. Two minutes from the end Thomas Aylward put Mullinavat in front again with a point, but Callan were not to be outdone, as Dan McCormack saved the day with a late, late point as time ticked away. Best for Mullinavat were goalkeeper, Gary Law who was ably supported by



CALLAN - ROINN "C" CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Niall Maher, Lee Delaney, Damian Roche, Liam Byrne, Jack Purcell, Peter Funcheon, DJ Bergin.
Middle: Eric Costigan, David Phelan, Evan Mockler, Niall Dawson, Emmet Nolan, Tony Delaney, Ryan O'Dwyer, Tomás Óg Roantree, Cathal Byrne.
Front: Shane Power, Matthew Holohan, Jason Corcoran, Dan McCormack, Jamie Bergin, Jason Foran, Owen McGrath, Shane Bergin. *Missing from photo- JJ O'Keefe.*



MULLINAVAT - ROINN "C" FINALISTS 2004

Back: Mark McDonald, Chris Brown, Patrick Butler, Mark Mansfield, James Woods, Joey Byrne
Middle: Simon Aylward, Emmet Fell, Ciaran Boyle, Ger O'Brien, Gerard Malone, Mossy Jones, Andrew Delahunty, Sonya Aylward, Gary Madigan, Thomas Mulhern, Pat Mulhern,
Front: Darren Waters, Robert Malone, Thomas Aylward, James Dalton, Gary Law, Padraig Gahan, Darren Kenneally, John Fitzpatrick, Mark Phelan, Elaine Fitzpatrick, Luke Gaule, Noel Doyle
Missing from photo Tommy Lanigan

Gerard Malone and Andrew Delahunty in defence. Pádraig Gahan, Thomas Mulhern and Gerard O'Brien were best up front.

For Callan CBS Jason Corcoran brought off many fine saves in goal and Jamie Bergin played very well at full-back. Dan McCormack was good all through the game at midfield while Shane Bergin and Niall Dawson were best in the forwards.

Scorers

Mullinavat – P. Gahan (0-7); G. O'Brien

(1-2); T. Lanigan (1-0); T. Aylward (0-1). Callan CBS – D. McCormack (1-4); S. Bergin (2-0); E. Mockler (1-0).

Mullinavat: Gary Law, Simon Aylward, Thomas Jones, Sonya Aylward, Gerard Malone, Andrew Delahunty, James Dalton, Ciarán Boyle, Thomas Aylward, Thomas Mulhern, Pádraig Gahan, John Fitzpatrick, Tommy Lanigan, Gerard O'Brien, Darren Kenneally, Emmet Fell, Robert Malone, Joseph Byrne, Mark McDonald, Patrick Butler, Mark Phelan,



CONAHY - ROINN D HURLING CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Emma Baldwin, Emma Bergin, Elaine Webster, Rebecca McEntee, Áine Phelan, Sarah McEntee, Anna Buggy.

Middle: Eoin Coogan, Padraig Delaney, Ashton Creedon, Tom Mullan, John Coady (Capt.), Donal Brennan, Phillip Murphy, Barry Waters, James Delaney, Phillip Cass, Sean Walsh.

Front: Eoin Cleere, John Mullan, Jack Kelly, James Murphy, Gary Dunne, Stephen Brennan, Tom Phelan, Wayne Cuddihy, Joe Mullan.

Elaine Fitzpatrick, James Woods, Pat Mulhern, Christopher Brown, Jason Phelan, Luke Gaule, Mark Mansfield, Noel Doyle, Gary Madigan.

Callan CBS: Jason Corcoran, Jason Foran, Jamie Bergin, Shane Power, JJ O'Keeffe, Emmet Nolan, Tony Delaney, Dan McCormack, Ryan O'Dwyer, Cathal Byrne, Matthew Holohan, Niall Dawson, Tomás Óg Roantree, Shane Bergin, Eva Mockler, Niall Maher, Liam Byrne, Lee Delaney, Owen McGrath, David Phelan, Damien Roche, Rickie Buckley, Jack Purcell, DJ Bergin, Jack McDowell, Peter Funcheon.

Referee – Podge Butler.

In the replay, at Nowlan Park, Callan CBS finally came through after another close encounter. Mullinavat, aided by a strongish breeze in the first half, exerted early pressure on the Callan defence and this yielded a point by midfielder, Ciarán Boyle, after some fine saves by Callan goalie, Jason Corcoran.

After seven minutes, Ryan O'Dwyer levelled matters with a Callan point from a '65. In the first quarter, Callan CBS had the better of the exchanges, but both defences, however, were on top in this period. After seventeen minutes, Ryan O'Dwyer had his second score for the CBS when he pointed a free. Two minutes later, the same player pointed from far out to put his team two points ahead. Shortly afterwards, Mullinavat missed a great goal chance when Pádraig Gahan dropped a 30 metre free in the goal-mouth but the ball was eventually cleared by the Callan defence. Just before half time, Shane Bergin netted for Callan. Gary Low brought off a



WINDGAP - ROINN D FINALISTS 2004:

Back Simon Brophy (Trainer), Paul Comerford, Sean Foley, Ian Murphy, Nicola Moore, Laura Moore, Edward Cunningham, Seamus Hennessy, Michael O'Shea (Trainer).

Middle Kieran Purcell, Shane Walsh, John Flemming, Conor Lowry, Lauren Cashin, Marie Phelan, James Vaughan, Darren Walsh.

Front Michael Power, Adrian Landy, Gary Lyons, William Phelan, Ryan Murray, Kieran Fennelly, Kieran Power, Gerard Phelan.

great save, a melee developed and the ball was eventually scrambled over the line by Bergin. Certainly, the goalie could not be faulted.

Half Time score - Callan CBS 1-3 Mullinavat 0-1.

In the second half, the Callan boys attacked from the throw-in and midfielder, Ryan O'Dwyer, pointed again from a '65. The wind was now strengthening in the Callan boys' favour. After six minutes, Dan McCormack pointed to put Callan seven points in front.

At this stage, Mullinavat were holding

their own in the possession stakes, but failing to convert their frees into scores. The team lacked penetration up front and Callan repeatedly repelled attacks. However, centre forward, Padraig Gahan pointed two frees in quick succession. A rally by the 'Vat boys now seemed on. Callan full forward, Shane Bergin, pointed to stem the tide. Soon afterwards, Ciarán Boyle rallied Mullinavat with a lovely point. After much pressure, and a great save by Jason Corcoran, Ciarán Boyle goaled for the 'Vat when he brat the Callan goalie with a powerful ground

shot.

The Callan lead was now cut to two points. Callan responded well under pressure and Shane Bergin burst through and booted the ball to the net. Mullinavat attacked again but the final whistle sounded and the trophy was on its way to Callan after two fine games. Best for the victors were Jason Corcoran who played another fine game in goal. He was ably assisted in defence by Jason Foran, Tony Delaney and Jamie Bergin. Ryan O'Dwyer had a great game at midfield and in the forward line Niall Dawson, Dan McCormack and Shane Bergin were best.

For Mullinavat, Gary Law proved an able goalkeeper under pressure. Defenders Simon Aylward and James Dalton also played well. At midfield, Ciarán Boyle was good all through while Pádraig Boyle and Gerard O'Brien were best of the forwards.

Scorers:

Callan CBS: Shane Bergin (2-1), Ryan O'Dwyer (0-4), Dan McCormack (0-1). Mullinavat: Ciarán Boyle (1-2), Pádraig Gahan (0-2)

Callan CBS: Jason Corcoran, Shane Power, Emmett Nolan, Jason Foran, Tony Delaney, Jamie Bergin, Eoin McGrath, Tomás Óg Roantree, Ryan O'Dwyer, Niall Dawson, Matthew Holohan, Dan McCormack, Evan Mockler, Shane Bergin, Cathal Byrne.
Subs: JJ O'Keeffe, Niall Maher, Liam Byrne, Lee Delaney, David Phelan, Damien Roche, Richie Buckley, Jack Purcell, DJ Bergin, Jack McDowell, Peter Funcheon, Eric Costigan Thomas Aylward, Andrew Delehunty, James Dalton, Ciarán Boyle.

Mullinavat: Gary Law, Simon Aylward, Gerard Malone, Thomas Jones, Thomas Aylward, Andrew Delehunty, James Dalton, Ciarán Boyle, Thomas Mulhern, Emmett Fell, Pádraig Gahan, John Fitzpatrick, Sonya Aylward, Gerard O'Brien, Darren Kenneally. *Subs: Robert Malone, Tommy Lanigan, Joseph Byrne, Mark McDonald, Patrick Butler, Mark Phelan, Elaine Fitzpatrick, James Woods, Pat Mulhern, Christopher Brown, Jason Phelan, Luke Gaule, Mark Mansfield, Noel Doyle, Gary Madigan, Darren Waters.*

Roinn D Final

Conahy's Second title

Conahy 4-2
Windgap 3-2

Referee: Podge Butler.

Conahy secured their second Primary Schools (Roinn D) under-13 hurling title in three years following a thrilling encounter against Windgap at Nowlan



FRESHFORD - CORN DE BHALDRAITHE FINALISTS 2004

Back: Odrán Waldron, David Allen Michael O'Brien, Paul Dermody, Bernard Mullan, Liam Hickey, Peter Dalton, Simon Rafter

Middle: Gary Corcoran, Patrick Rafter, Edwin Brennan, Kieran White, Michael Grace Denis Lennon, Michael Neary

Front: Brendan Quinn, Lachtaín Kennedy, Steven Farrell, Conrad Cooper, Brian Kennedy, Thomas Condon, James Meagher, John Delaney

Park on Saturday, June 26th.

In what was a huge effort from Conahy, the team was led valiantly by midfielder and attacker supreme, Donal Brennan, who contributed 2-2. He shot 1-1 during the last quarter when Windgap exerted fierce pressure in a bold bid to take the title.

Conahy drew first blood when the ball was tipped to the net after a goalmouth melee. On the puck-out Gary Lyons (W) won possession and fired over his side's first point. Two minutes later he repeated the act.

Donal Brennan and John Mullen were a handful for Windgap. But for their inaccuracy during the opening quarter, Conahy would have built up a comfortable lead.

Then Windgap hit a purple patch. Star forward Kieran Fennelly goaled in the 15th minute to bring his side back into contention. Sean Foley and Kieran Power thundered into the game as well. When the ball broke in front of the Windgap goal, Emma Baldwin fired a brilliant ground shot to the net (2-0 to 1-2).

Centre-back John Coady (W) drove his side forward thanks to some excellent fielding and striking. Donal Brennan put wide from a favourable position and Tom Mullan at full-back at the other end saved what looked a definite goal.

The teams retired after a thrilling half with one point dividing them in Conahy's favour.

On the resumption, Conahy corner-forward Lauren Cashin brought the best out of William Phelan in the Windgap goal. Mullen at centre forward was on fire.

Pressure paid off in the fifth minute when Donal Brennan shot 1-1 in the space of a few seconds. As was the pattern throughout, Windgap responded. Some three minutes later the skilful Michael Power, defender turned attacker, shot a great goal. Brennan responded immediately with a point to leave a goal between the sides.

As the game edged into the last quarter, the action flowed from end to end. The stiff breeze was against Windgap.

Conahy extended their lead with a goal from the now sweet striking Brennan. Ryan Murray, the Windgap full-forward, replied to restore the one goal margin. Supporters were on the edge of their seats as the game drifted into injury-time. Kieran Fennelly had a great chance to equalise, but lady luck abandoned the gungo forward.

Conahy - J. Murphy, E. Webster, T. Mullen, P. Murphy, J. Delaney, J. Coady, E. Bergin, D. Brennan (2-2), R. McEntee, G. Dunne, J. Mullen, T. Phelan, E. Baldwin (1-0), B. Waters (1-0), S. Brennan, W. Cuddihy, P. Delaney, E. Coogan, A. Buggy, A. Creedon, E. Cleere, S. McEntee, Joe Mullen, A. Phelan, J. Kelly, P. Cass, S. Walshe.

Windgap - W. Phelan, A. Landy, S. Walshe, K. Power, M. Power (1-0), Paul Comerford, N. Moore, C. Lowrey (0-1), G. Lyons (0-1), L. Moore, K. Fennelly (1-0), L. Cashin, R. Murray (1-0), G. Phelan, C. Ryan, E. Cunningham, S. Hennessy, I. Murphy, J. Fleming, K. Purcell, D. Walsh, M. Phelan, J. Vaughan.

Referee - Podge Butler.

Country Cup Final

Clara, in Style

**Clara 7-9,
Freshford 2-7**

Clara retained their Corn de Bhaldraithe title in impressive fashion against a skilful and brave Freshford side in a sun drenched Nowlan Park.

Freshford had defeated Clara in the final of the Mini-Sevens a few weeks before and entered the final with high hopes. The opening exchanges suggested a close contest with Stephen Farrell scoring a fine point for Freshford. This was cancelled out through a Thomas Byrne free, before Patrick Galvin goaled for Clara. The diminutive Farrell replied with a smashing goal. Two goals from Patrick Galvin and Darragh Carrigan opened up a six point lead for Clara, but two more Stephen Farrell points kept the losers in touch. Gradually the stronger Clara outfit began to gain control in the middle of the field through John Murphy and Ciarán Prendergast. With a plentiful supply of ball coming their way, forwards Matthew Byrne (2), Killian Phelan and Patrick Galvin (2) added on points to stretch Clara's lead. These scores in addition to another Galvin goal left the half-time score 4-6 to 1-3.

Freshford continued to battle bravely and the determined play of Thomas Condon, Brian Kennedy and Brendan Quinn was to be admired. The outstanding Stephen Farrell added three frees to keep his side in touch. However, at the other end Patrick Galvin was simply unstoppable and he finished the game with a personal tally of 5-4. A Thomas Byrne free and a tremendous goal from Nicky Creane rounded off the scoring for Clara, while Bernard Mullan struck a fine goal for Freshford.

For Clara, who were winning their third Country Cup in four years, this was a real team effort. Billy Leydon was solid in goal. Conor O'Shea was excellent when moved to centre back, while Nicky Creane and Brian Prendergast were unbeatable. David O'Connell and Jack Langton were dependable wing backs and Thomas Byrne gave a great display as captain, both at centre and corner back. Despite being very young, both Ciarán Prendergast and John Murphy excelled in the mid-field area. Along the wings, Kevin Barcoe and Matthew Byrne kept the ball moving as did Peter Nolan and Darragh Carrigan. Patrick Galvin's performance was heroic and Killian Phelan was both stylish and influential at full forward and in midfield.

Conrad Cooper could not be faulted in the Freshford goal. Lachtain Kennedy was a very dependable full back ably assisted by Brendan Quinn and Denis Lennon. James Maher, Patrick Rafter and Michael Neary gave their all against a strong Clara half forward line. Brian Kennedy and Thomas Condon displayed an array of fine skills at centre field. John Delaney, Michael Grace and Garry Corcoran worked hard throughout as did Kieran White and Edwin Brennan. Stephen Farrell gave a tremendous display, scoring all but one of Freshford's scores.

Clara: Billy Leydon, Conor O'Shea, Nicky Creane, Brian Prendergast, David O'Connell, Thomas Byrne(Capt), Jack Langton, John Murphy, Ciarán Prendergast, Kevin Barcoe, Patrick Galvin, Matthew Byrne, Darragh Carrigan, Killian Phelan, Peter Nolan
Subs: Noel Kehoe, Paul Murphy, Ayrtton Gleeson, Shane Cassin, David Carroll, Brian Delaney, Kieran Casey, Philip Corr, James Barry, Sean Lennon, Seb Ryan.

Freshford: Conrad Cooper, Brendan Quinn, Lachtain Kennedy, Denis Lennon, James Maher, Patrick Rafter, Michael Neary, Brian Kennedy, Thomas Condon, John Delaney,

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***Congratulations
to All Cumann na
mBunscoileanna
Winners in 2004***

Michael Grace, Garry Corcoran, Kieran White, Edwin Brennan, Steven Farrell. Subs: Paul Dermody, Bernard Mullan, Liam Hickey, Simon Rafter, Michael O'Brien, David Allen, Odrán Waldron, Peter Dalton.



SCOIL LACHTAÍN, FRESHFORD, PRIMARY SCHOOLS' 7-A-SIDE HURLING CHAMPIONS 2004.

Back: Denis Lennon, Lachtain Kennedy, Conrad Cooper, Patrick Rafter, Michael Grace.

Front: Michael Neary, Thomas Condon, Steven Farrell, Brian Kennedy, Brendan Quinn.

Leinster Schools Handball Finals in Kilkenny

A game which does not get that much coverage but is very vibrant in Kilkenny is Handball. During the year the Kilkenny Schools Board hosted the Leinster Finals of the boys/girls U-11 and U-13 Singles and Doubles at the O'Loughlin/Gaels Centre. The skill level was quite good with many of the players very proficient with both hands even at this early age. Surely a testament to the trojan work undertaken by Coaches, and parents of the children. Handball can have many benefits on the hurling /camogie field also - just ask DJ.

The competitions started at 12.00 a.m and continued without a break for the officials/referees until well into the evening , much longer than a game of hurling/camogie !!

Well done all concerned.

(A special mention to that dedicated woman Bridget Bourke who refereed from 12.00 am until 5.30 p.m without a break !) Pictured above are two of the Kilkenny team Sinead Costello, Mam Anne-Marie Costello and Carrie Grant from Urlingford enjoying the finals action.



Pictured above are two of the Kilkenny team **Sinead Costello**, Mam **Anne-Marie Costello** and **Carrie Grant** from Urlingford enjoying the finals action.

Cumann na mBunscoileanna

Scoreboard 2004

Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A).

Clara 2-13 St. Canices 1-11

Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B).

Goresbridge/Paulstown 3-12 Kilmanagh 2-11

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

Callan 4-4 Mullinavat 2-10

Callan 2-6 Mullinavat 1-4

Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D).

Conahy 4-2 Windgap 3-2

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathe.

Clara 7-9, Freshford 2-7

GARDA SIOCHÁNA CITY CLASS LEAGUES

6th Class: St Canice's beat St John's

5th Class: St John's beat St Canice's.

4th Class: St Patrick's beat St Canice's

3rd Class: Gaelscoil beat St Canice's.

2nd Class: St John's beat St Canice's.

INTO/GAA MINI-SEVENS

Hurling: Freshford.

Football: Callan.

Camogie: Kilmanagh.

Girls' Football: Gaelscoil Osraí.

BOYS HANDBALL

U11S Winner: Peter Funchion, Callan C.B.S.

R Up: Cian Ryan, Windgap

U11D Winners: Tony O'Grady/Daniel Lenahan, St. Johns

R Up: Pat Mulheam/John Fitzpatrick, Mullinavat

U13S Winner: Michael C O'Brien, Goresbridge

R Up: David Lafford, Kells

U13D Winners: Eoin Hennessy/Pádraig Maher, Clogh

R Up: Conor Coffey/William Phelan, Dunnamaggin

GIRLS HANDBALL

U11S Winner: Claire Mulholland Gaelscoil, Osraí

R Up: Laura Moore, Windgap

U11D Winners: Sínéad Costelloe/Carrie Grant, Urlingford

R Up: Julie Ann Malone/Marie Murphy, Mullinavat

U13S Winner: Nicola Moore, Windgap

U13D Winners: Clodagh Holohan/Stacey Quirke, Muckalee

R Up: Sonya Aylward/Sarah Grennan, Mullinavat

All the winners qualified for the Leinster finals which were held in O'Loughlins. Schools from Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Carlow, Wexford and Kilkenny participated in these finals. Kilkenny were successful in all of the boys competitions and in the Under 11 Girls Singles. Kilkenny had seven representatives from five different Primary schools participating in Cumann namBunscol Skills Exhibition Days In Croke Park.



Brian & Georgie's Corner



Hi All,

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 puck or kicks of Gaelic football to keep the "eye in" for the GAA school/club activities 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 2004. Bye for now and enjoy the hols and I look forward to meeting you all in the New Year.

Brian Ryan

(Kilkenny G.P.O)

WORDSEARCH

Our wordsearch this year contains the names of all the clubs which have won the All Ireland SH Club Championship.

The 21 clubs are:-

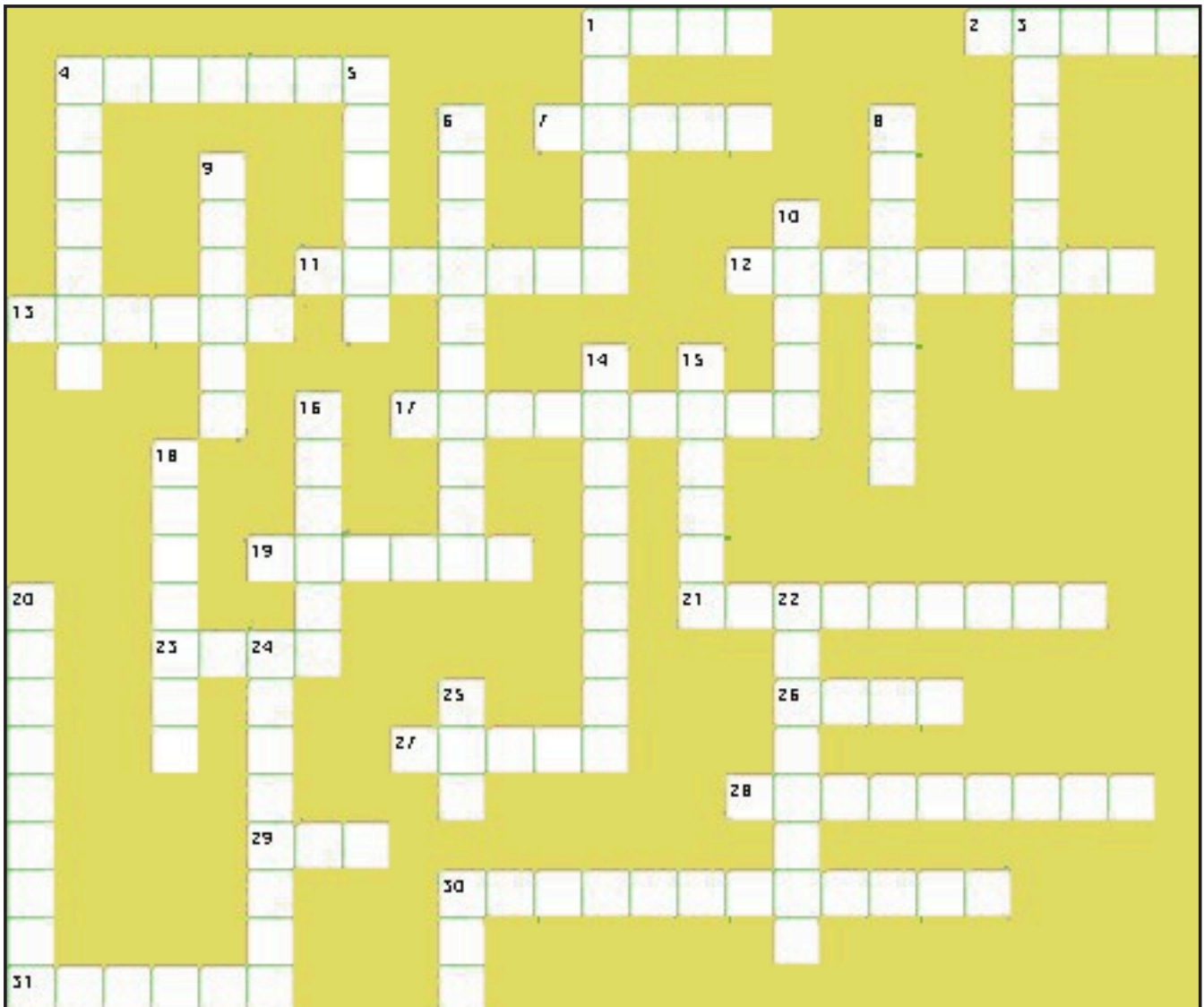
- Birr
- Blackrock
- Ballyhale Shamrocks
- Athenry
- Glen Rovers
- St Finbarrs
- James Stephens
- Sarsfields
- Roscrea
- Castlegar
- Loughiel Shamrocks
- St Martins
- Kilruane McDonaghs
- Borrisoleigh
- Midleton
- Buffers Alley
- Glenmore
- Kiltormer
- Sixmilebridge
- St Josephs
- Newtownshandrum

Unfortunately, Georgie added the names of three other non-Kilkenny clubs who didn't win this competition.

Can you find them?

U	H	B	O	R	R	I	S	O	L	E	I	G	H	S	D	L	E	I	F	S	R	A	S	E
R	R	C	W	L	P	C	P	J	L	O	N	S	I	X	C	B	S	Y	Y	U	R	Y	B	S
S	N	O	T	E	L	D	I	M	D	I	T	Y	A	P	J	V	X	E	A	R	K	A	N	Z
D	Q	F	R	I	X	Q	F	S	O	J	R	K	G	S	A	Y	L	U	G	I	L	I	U	U
O	M	C	E	S	R	E	M	R	O	T	L	I	K	Q	Y	L	V	X	L	L	T	C	J	B
T	J	V	N	C	U	P	G	S	O	R	F	S	F	G	A	G	N	R	Y	R	E	C	L	C
Q	E	R	N	J	H	Y	E	O	T	S	X	F	E	S	O	I	U	H	A	Q	A	A	Z	N
G	W	A	U	P	E	P	J	F	E	M	X	L	R	X	L	A	A	M	L	S	C	Z	M	G
A	C	T	G	H	H	F	C	I	V	N	E	E	N	T	N	L	T	P	T	K	L	Q	D	W
R	Z	H	Y	S	P	Y	U	V	I	Q	F	H	E	E	E	S	D	L	R	R	V	G	M	H
O	O	N	L	O	I	D	O	K	B	F	V	H	M	S	J	M	E	O	E	A	G	E	H	S
S	A	U	L	D	T	U	B	A	U	W	K	C	H	U	C	G	C	E	D	Q	Y	S	K	K
C	R	R	A	M	E	G	L	B	X	D	D	A	Y	G	A	K	I	Z	U	Y	Y	T	U	S
R	A	E	B	O	G	N	Q	S	M	O	M	W	N	R	Z	X	N	I	V	C	U	F	W	A
E	V	I	F	O	C	P	P	M	N	R	E	G	D	I	R	B	E	L	I	M	X	I	S	Z
A	E	N	X	L	M	C	M	A	O	K	E	H	T	A	G	F	M	X	J	R	H	N	E	U
Y	M	W	F	G	E	X	G	C	Q	I	E	G	C	J	C	Q	A	V	K	R	Q	B	K	D
I	O	V	V	W	C	H	K	T	G	U	X	F	A	X	G	G	X	S	B	I	P	A	T	H
H	O	B	N	T	S	S	E	P	G	L	R	E	M	H	U	D	V	L	C	B	Y	R	K	N
C	T	W	C	B	N	W	M	R	S	N	E	H	P	E	T	S	S	E	M	A	J	R	K	Y
V	S	K	C	O	R	M	A	H	S	L	E	I	H	G	U	O	L	J	Y	R	L	S	Q	P
U	M	O	S	M	H	C	Z	X	G	L	E	N	R	O	V	E	R	S	Q	A	Q	S	A	A
U	J	E	W	Q	Y	N	K	G	L	E	N	M	O	R	E	S	H	Z	F	L	N	I	K	H
I	D	E	K	H	L	Z	I	P	S	P	R	R	V	P	A	T	H	E	N	R	Y	N	J	K
N	Q	F	A	M	U	R	D	N	A	H	S	N	W	O	T	W	E	N	C	U	N	Q	V	N

Brian & Georgy's GAA Crossword



Across

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. All Ireland IH Champions 2004 | 19. Gooch's surname. |
| 2. Conor Phelan's club | 21. Walsh Park is here |
| 4. Faythe Harriers are in this county | 23. Number of goals in 2004 All Ireland SH Final |
| 7. Home to Marcievcz Park | 26. Connacht 2004 SF Champions |
| 11. Number of SH titles won by St Kieran's | 27. 2004 NFL Champions |
| 12. Waterford SH Champions | 28. Richie Hogan's club |
| 13. NHL Champions 2004 | 29. 2004 Dublin SH champions |
| 17. Tipperary SH Champions 2004. | 30. Richie Power's club |
| | 31. Surname of Kilkenny U21 Goalie |

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Roinn 'C' Schools Hurling champions 2004 | 14. President of GAA |
| 3. Ahane are 2004 SH champions here | 15. Rathvilly are County SF Champions here |
| 4. Only Kilkenny club with an all-red jersey. | 16. 2004 All Ireland MF Champions |
| 5. Beaten in Ladies SF Final this year. | 18. Surname of Kilkenny Minor goalie |
| 6. O'Moore Park is here | 20. Leinster SF Champions 2004 |
| 8. Diarmuid Mackey's Club | 22. Kilkenny SH champions win this cup |
| 9. U21 Football Champions 2004 | 24. Kilkenny Co Board PRO |
| 10. Nickname of Kilkenny's 2004 captain | 25. First name of Cork SH captain |
| | 30. Nickname of Kilkenny U21 H Captain |

Around the Summer Camps



Mullinavat



O'Loughlin's



Piltown



O'Loughlin's



O'Loughlin's



O'Loughlin's



O'Loughlin's



O'Loughlin's

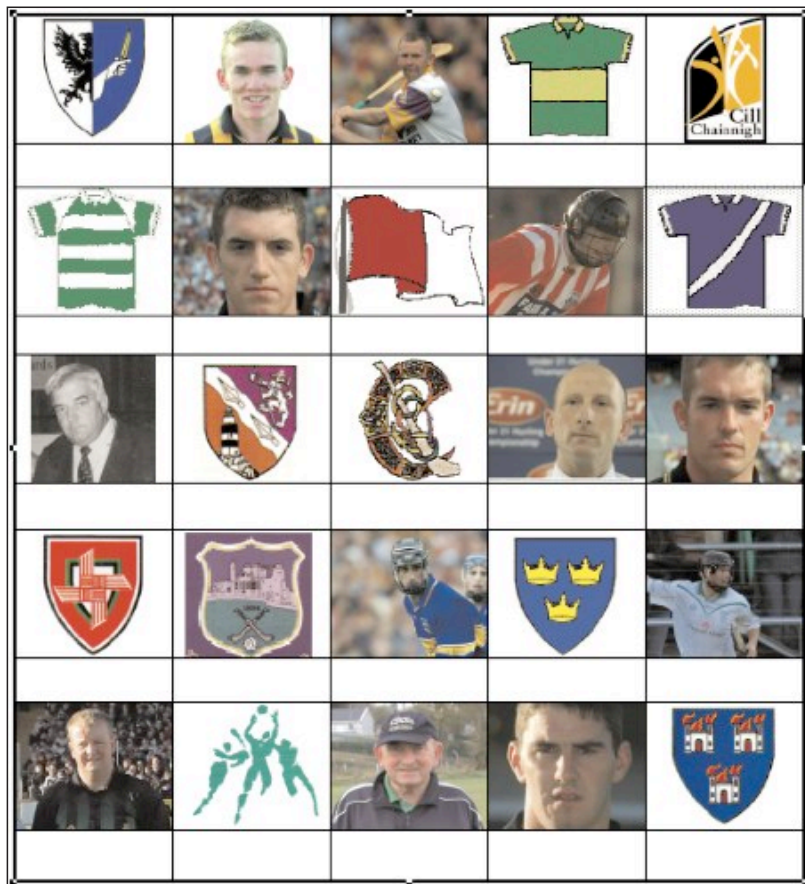
Can you name the objects and people in the grid above. They are (but not in order)-

Martin Fogarty, Dublin Co Crest, Richie Stone, Galmoy Jersey, Podge Butler, Derek Lyng, Louth Co Crest, Westmeath Flag, John Hoyne, Dick Carroll, Glenmore Jersey, MunsterCrest, GAA Museum Logo, Wexford Co Crest, Connacht Crest, Tommy Dunne, Denis O'Sullivan, Sean Dowling, Tipp Co Crest, Noel Hickey, Graignamanagh Jersey, National Camogie Logo, New Kilkenny Co Crest, Martin Fitzhenry and Nigel Skehan.

Can you unscramble the names of these Kilkenny clubs?



transmits
Mr Sealed
vanilla tum
new irons
angry delusion
smooth want
forest dan
relieve us
snatch tails
sandwich stab elk
my goal
cooks bird



Wishing Séan "Georgie" Leahy all the best

Well known and highly respected GAA Coach , Séan "Georgie" Leahy , as everybody involved in Coaching and Games Development in Kilkenny will be aware , has recently retired from his role as Coaching and Games Promotion Officer in the county. It is quite fitting that we remember Georgie on County Final day as the man was involved in so many County Final days, first as player then manager of his beloved James Stephens, training numerous teams to win County finals at all grades and All-Ireland Finals. Georgie also gave numerous years training county teams from Waterford to Westmeath to Laois.

A shrewd man on the line and so well respected within GAA Circles, that one day while getting ready to prepare his own team James Stephens, he was asked to referee a Senior Championship game between two rivals clubs in the curtain raiser before his team took to the field.

In his role as Games Promotion Officer he continued to be a great ambassador for the games with his work in amongst other areas, schools/ clubs, conducting Coaching Courses and giving his expert advice to Coaches . At meetings his input was also greatly sought after as the man had experience at every level of GAA activity and his opinions were always sought.

To Georgie and Rita we hope they enjoy their break and knowing Georgie he will never be too far away from GAA activities wherever they take him.

Prepared by Brían Ryan on behalf of all Gaels



Have a quick look at the career of Séan "Georgie Leahy"

Georgie Leahy PROFILE

Date of Birth: 10/9/'38

Honours: County senior medal 1969. County junior medal 1965 County junior football medal 1965. Leinster senior championship medal 1971. Runners – up medal All -Ireland series 1971.

Teams trained:

COUNTIES:

Laois: (Promoted to Division 1 of NHL. Reached Centenary competition final 1984 and Leinster final 1985).

Waterford: ('91 - 94).

Westmeath: ('95-'96 Promoted to Division 2 of NHL).

Offaly: (Leinster title 1985).

Kilkenny: (2 All Ireland titles U21, one minor 1972 .

Selector on the Kilkenny senior team 1972 -1978 winning 3 All Ireland titles.

Manager of the Leinster team to win the Railway cup 1979.

CLUBS:

James Stephens: (All grades, winning county winning county titles from U16 to Senior level including two Club All Ireland's 1976 and 1980).

Glenmore: (Two county titles and a club All –Ireland 1991).

Barrow Rangers: (Two county Junior titles) John Lockes (one Junior county Title)

St. Martin's: (Wexford).

Castletown: (Intermediate title) .

St. Mullin's: (Carlow – County Senior title) .

St . Paul's: (3 All Ireland titles and 4 county titles)

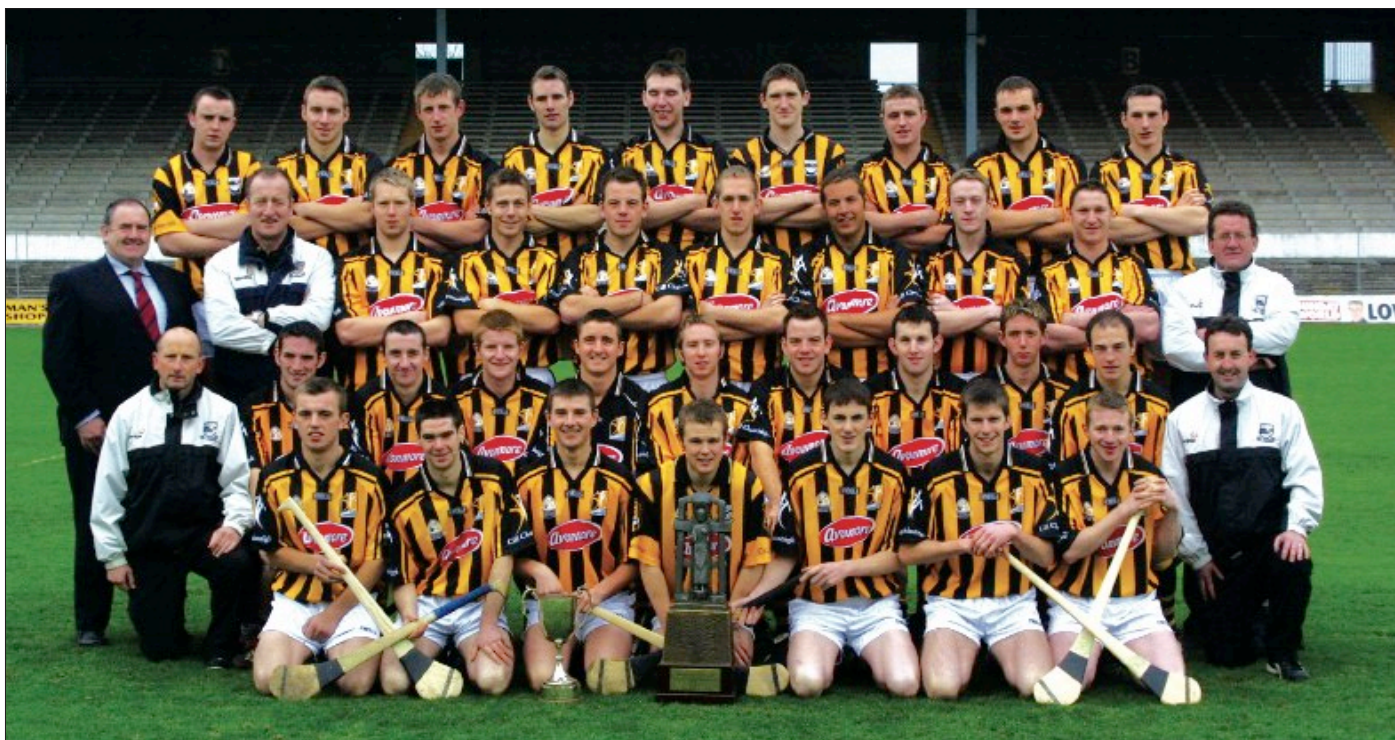
Positions Held:

Chairman Kilkenny Bord na nÓg -12 years. Leinster council delegate 1982 - 1987.

Chairman Coiste Iomana 12 years.

Tipp-Topped in Park

Kilkenny record their first U21 Double since 1975



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND U21 CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Padraig Holden, Mark Heffernan, John Tennyson, Seaghan O' Neill, P.J. Delaney, Eddie Champion, Stephen Maher, Shane Hennessy, Willie O' Dwyer. Absent Robbie Dowling.

3rd Row: Ned Quinn (Co. Board Chairman) Michael Dempsey (Trainer) Anthony Owens, John Murphy, John Phelan, Pat Robinson, Peter Cleere, Colin Dunne, Ciarán Hoyne, Tom Doherty (Selector)

2nd Row: Martin Fogarty (Manager) Brian Dowling, Eoin Larkin, Richie Power, David Herrity, James Fitzpatrick (Capt.) Conor Phelan, Keith Nolan, Michael Fennelly, Martin Phelan, Richard Mulrooney (Selector)

Front: Niall Moran, Tomás Frisbey, James Maher, Tommy Walsh, Eoin Reid, Michael Rice, Niall Doherty.

PHOTO EOIN HENNESSY

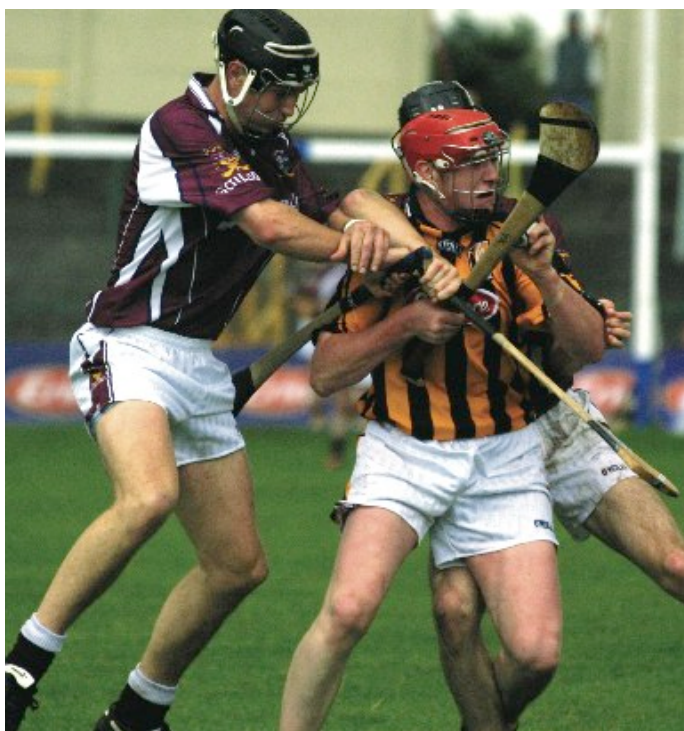
September 18th. 2004 will be remembered for a long time by Kilkenny fans that were fortunate enough to be in Nowlan Park to witness the absolute and total demolition of the "auld enemy"- Tipperary in the All-Ireland Under 21 Hurling final. Kilkenny were majestic and confident and gave an exhibition of hurling that was wonderful to behold. Manager, Martin Fogarty, Trainer Michael Dempsey and selectors Tom Doherty and Richie Mulrooney had the players tuned to perfection for the occasion and from the outset it was evident that the cats were out for the kill. Spare a thought for a gallant and courageous Tipperary team that fought fairly, to the bitter end. This was an excellent Tipperary team that accounted for a fancied Cork side in the Munster Final and while they won plenty of possession against Kilkenny they were just closed down time after time. Kilkenny now move in to second place in the U-21 honours list with 9 titles, behind Cork who have 11 and followed by Tipperary with 8. This is just Kilkenny's second time to achieve the double, the last time being 1974-75.

Kilkenny started their campaign in early February when despite being champions and despite having more or less the same management team in place as last year they commenced a meticulous process of training and trials to sift through the available talent in the County and try to come up with the best panel possible.

Their first game in the Leinster championship was against Special Championship winners Laois, in O' Moore Park on June 2nd. As it transpired this was to be the eventual champions hardest and tightest game. The O' Moore men matched the Cats stroke for stroke and Kilkenny enjoyed a single point lead at half time. As normal time ended the sides



One armed bandit - James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick lifts the All-Ireland U21 Trophy after Kilkenny defeated Tipperary in the Final. Eoin Hennessy



Kilkenny's **Ciaran Hoyne** is caught and held by Galways **Eoin Lynch** and **Tony Regan** during their U21 All-Ireland Semi-Final clash in Portlaoise. *Eoin Hennessy*

were level (0-16 KK to 2-10 L) following a tremendous encounter with neither side giving an inch. Kilkenny never panicked despite the vocal enthusiasm of the home following. Laois on the other hand were possibly overawed by the fact that an historical surprise was within their grasp and they allowed the dogged Cats to register four unanswered points in added time, to secure victory on a score line of 0-20 KK to 2-10 L.

Kilkenny returned to Portlaoise for their Leinster Semi-Final clash with Dublin. Despite public opinion that the Cats would have an easy run into the Leinster Final the Kilkenny mentors were proved correct as they warned their charges about the potency of this Dublin side. No fewer than 12 of the "Dubs" saw action with their seniors a week previously against Kilkenny and for the third consecutive year they certainly had a team capable of taking a Leinster Title. At half time they led Kilkenny by a point (1-3 D to 0-5 KK) and it wasn't until midway through the second half that Kilkenny got a run on the game and shot six points on the trot. Dublin brought it back to the minimum with a goal but Kilkenny finished the stronger and again recorded a four-point victory on a score line of 0-15 KK to 2-05 D.

Due to a long standing home and away agreement between Kilkenny and Wexford the Leinster Final between the pair was set for Wexford Park on July 14th. The Kilkenny players relished the challenge of heading into the "Lions Den" to get revenge for the cruel last minute defeat inflicted on the Cats by the Slaney-siders in Nowlan Park in the semi-final of 2002 and more so to make up for the heart breaking defeat in the final of 2001 in Wexford Park. This final promised to be an epic with a massif home crowd expected, following Wexford's recent win over Kilkenny in the Senior Leinster final. Having used the Intermediate Championship to build their U-21 team and following a convincing win over Offaly in the semi-final the home side were understandably optimistic about their chances of victory. Kilkenny faced a strongish wind in an unspectacular first half and were quite contented to go in at half time two points to the good. 0-4 KK to 0-2 Wex. They had contained a Wexford attack that included a few highly regarded sharpshooters. The second half was a different kettle of fish. Within five minutes of the restart Kilkenny had a goal. A similar score followed this for Wexford but the Cats were on the prowl. They



John Phelan (Kilkenny) in action against Laois, as his brother **Conor** watches on from the sideline. *Eoin Hennessy*

took over the game and raced into a thirteen point lead. Wexford, whose supporters were leaving the grounds in droves at this stage got a late goal but there was no stopping Kilkenny retaining their title and they were good value for their 1-16. to 2-3 victory.

The next obstacle was Galway, in the All-Ireland Semi-final again in O' Moore Park on August 28th. Apart from the obvious bonus of reaching an All-Ireland final, victory over Galway would also provide a crack at archrivals Tipperary, who had just defeated Down. There would surely be a backlash from Galway following last years defeat by the Cats in the final. Kilkenny, however were ready for it and had trained very hard. Galway with many fine players including Tony Regan, Kevin Hayes, Joe Gantley, Ger Farragher and Kenneth Burke would present a formidable task. The game started at a fast pace and despite Kilkenny recording the first brace of scores, Galway took the initiative. They were generally on top in all quarters in the first half and it is fair to say that Kilkenny were not dominating any sector. Galway retired at the interval three points ahead. 0-10 G to 0-7 KK. While Kilkenny seemed to be playing better at the re-start it was Galway that registered the scores and they went in to a commanding six point lead 0-13 to 0-7. The Cats kept hurling, waiting for their turn of the spoils. Astonishingly, while on top, Galway made a couple of substitutions. Midway through the second half with Galway sensing victory, Kilkenny found the form that they were looking for. Galway all but stood back and watched in awe. Following a few astute positional moves and later with the introduction of "fresh legs" the Cats shot ten unanswered points and were in total control of the game. They finished strongly and marched to their second final on the trot leaving hapless Galway pondering on what might have been. Score: Kilkenny 0-20 Galway 0-15.

The stage was now set for a classic final, Kilkenny V's Tipperary and again due to a long standing "home & away" arrangement between the counties the game was set for Nowlan Park on September 18th. Kilkenny had travelled to Thurles in 1995 and were beaten on a score line of 1-14 to 1-10. The great debate centred on the question as to whether home advantage would actually be an advantage or whether it would put added pressure on the players. The Kilkenny manager Martin Fogarty was quoted as saying that he never saw anyone coming down from the stands to put a ball over the bar for a team and that it would be "how" the team played not



Quick look up - Kilkennys **P.J. Delaney** takes a look before clearing the lines as Tipperarys **Evan Sweeney** closes in. *Eoin Hennessy*



Who's marking No 13? **Colin Hegarty** marshalls his backs in the final. *Damien Eagers / SPORTSFILE*



Kilkenny's **Willie O'Dwyer** steps clear of three possible challenges by Tipperary's **Evan Hanley, Joe Ceaser** and **Diarmuid Fitzgerald** during their U21 All-Ireland clash in Nowlan Park. *Eoin Hennessy*

“where” they played that would determine the outcome. Everything was on a high in Kilkenny with all four teams again in their respective All-Irelands. In 2003 the U-21’s were “under pressure” to deliver the hat trick of victories, the Minors & Seniors having landed their titles. 2004 was to be so different. The Intermediates, Minors & Seniors had all failed to collect a trophy (though the Minors would get a second shot at it) and suddenly all hopes were pitched on the U-21’s to salvage something. The public and the media had earlier lost the run of themselves with talks of a clean sweep in Kilkenny. Tommy Walsh, a player with his two feet firmly planted on the ground, put it all into perspective in a T.V. interview after the Galway match, when asked for a comment on the possible “clean sweep”. “We’ve nothing won yet” quipped Tommy, “so we won’t be talking about all that”. That was the approach adopted by

the U-21’s in the build up to the Tipperary game. They kept their concentration, some players even stayed away from the senior final in order to stay focussed. When Kilkenny ran out on to the hallowed turf of a packed Nowlan Park on that fine but windy September Saturday, they had but one thing on their mind, to hold on to that unusual but distinctive trophy – “The Cashel Cross”. The game was delayed for 15 minutes due to the crowds still arriving for the game. Tipperary supporters were there in abundance as, justifiably, they had great hopes that this would be the team to lead them out of an emerging wilderness and provide some badly needed fresh talent for their senior panel. They had already trounced Limerick, beaten favourites Cork and demolished Kilkenny earlier in the year in the Gortnahoe tournament (not a yardstick for things to come but nevertheless a psychological

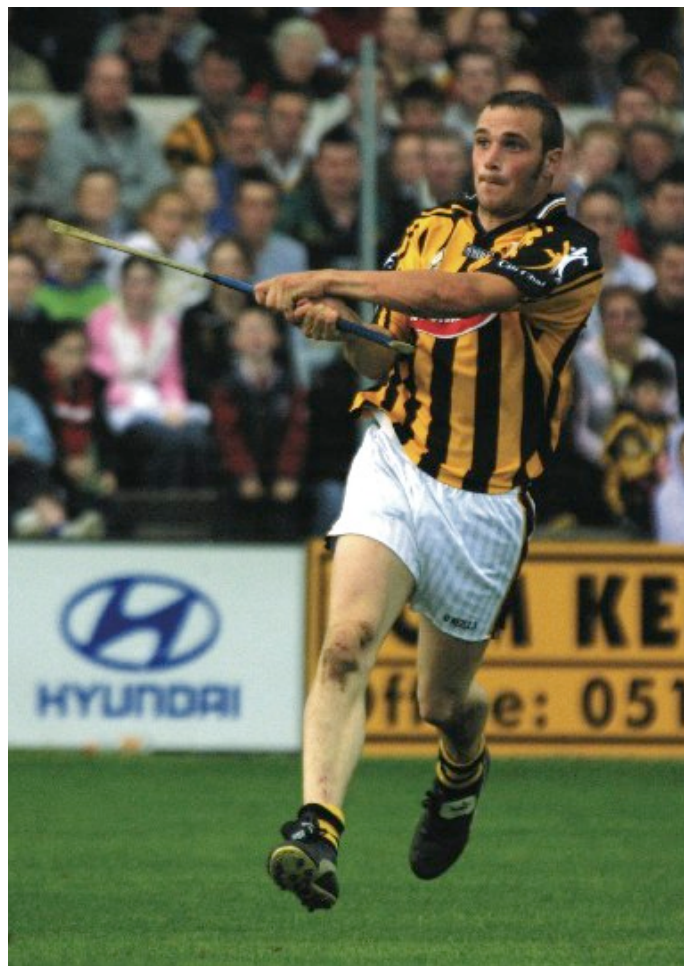


Kilkennys **Sean O'Neill** and Tipperarys **Hugh Moloney** contest the sliotar as during their U-21 All-Ireland clash in Nowlan Park. *Eoin Hennessy*

boost) Tipperary won the toss and did as Kilkenny would have done, elected to play against the breeze. How much of a lead would Kilkenny need at half time? What if they were not leading at half time? Well, the wind provided by Mother Nature was nothing to the tornado that this fine Kilkenny team blew up. They ran at the opposition from the start and tore them apart. The half time lead of 2-12 to 1-1 was ominous not because of the 2-12 but because of the 1-1. Kilkenny scored at will, some dazzling hurling. Tipperary won plenty of possession but were seldom allowed to deliver, be it at the back or up front. Kilkenny hooked, blocked, tackled, flicked and scutched to such an extent that regardless of Kilkenny's score Tipperary were going to be confined to a very small take home pay. Indeed had Kilkenny played against the wind for the two halves they would still have won pulling up. This was exhibition hurling at it's best and the loss through injury in the first half, of captain and senior player Cha Fitzpatrick, made absolutely no difference to the cats march. This was to be seen more clearly in the second half when Kilkenny introduced the full compliment of substitutes, one better than the next and indeed any or all could justifiably have started the game.

When the final whistle blew the Kilkenny players were swamped by thousands of ecstatic supporters. Tipperary for their efforts deserved better than a score line of 3-21 to 1-6 but it was not to be. They were on the wrong side of "one of those days" and hopefully their followers, that abandoned them early in this final, will come to realise that those young players had a tremendous year, they gave all they had in the final and that is as much as anybody can do. For Kilkenny, when "Cha", with his broken collar bone, lifted the Cashel Cross it was a dream come true.

Twenty-two players saw action for Kilkenny throughout the campaign. David Herrity manned the sticks majestically for his third consecutive year. Stephen Maher, John Tennyson, Michael Fennelly, Niall Doherty and Niall Moran did service on



Shane Hennessy in action in the All Ireland Final. *Eoin Hennessy*

the full back line and destroyed many an opponent's reputation. Tommy Walsh, P.J. Delaney and Ciarán Hoyne served most of the campaign on the half back line and were rock solid. In all five games the backs conceded just 7-39. Mid Field was ably marshalled generally by Peter "Chap" Cleere, combined with Richie Power or Shane Hennessy. Michael Rice following a terrible early year finger injury eventually got to play a part, coming on for the injured "Cha" in the final. The talent up front was something to behold this year and was a selectors dream. Even when playing well, players were replaced, as there just weren't enough places to cater for all deserving a start. The talent of these players was reflected in the staggering score they



Kilkenny Gaffer **Martin Fogarty** and Tipp mentor **Jackie Bolger** exchange thoughts during the All Ireland final. *John McIlwaine*



Richie Power keeps a very close eye on the sliotar in the All Ireland Final.
John McIlwaine

amassed during the campaign, particularly the points. They flagged an incredible 4 goals and 92 points in five games. Largely responsible for these scores and playing in a variety of forward positions were Brian Dowling, The Phelan Twins, John & Conor, Eoin Reid, Sean O' Neill, Anthony Owens, Willie O' Dwyer, Eoin Larkin and Captain James "Cha" Fitzpatrick. Panel members that played just as much a part in the victory and with great futures ahead of them were: Backs Padraig Holden, Eddie Champion, Mark Heffernan, John Murphy, Colin Dunne and Keith Nolan Forwards, Martin Phelan, Tomás Frisby, James Maher, Robbie Dowling and Pat Robinson.

ALL IRELAND UNDER 21 HURLING ROLL OF HONOUR

CORK (11) - 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1997, 1998.

KILKENNY (9) - 1974, 1975, 1977, 1984, 1990, 1994, 1999, 2003, 2004.

TIPPERARY (8) - 1964, 1967, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1989, 1995.

GALWAY (7) - 1972, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1991, 1993, 1996.

Limerick (4) - 1987, 2000., 2001, 2002

WEXFORD (1) - 1965.

Waterford (1) - 1992.



The joy of victory - Kilkenny U21s celebrate their victory over Tipperary in Nowlan Park.

Eoin Hennessy

All Ireland U21 Championship Action

Photos - Sportsfile, Eoin Hennessy, John McIlwaine





around the clubs

Committee 2004

Chairman: Patrick Holden
Secretary: Dave Gallagher
Vice Chair: Sean Reid
Treasurers: Neddy Walsh / John Drennan
Registrar PRO: Dave Gallagher
Juvenile Chair: Sean Reid
Juvenile Sec: Jimmy Walsh

Dinner Dance

One of the biggest events undertaken by the Club in recent years was the Shamrocks Celebrations Dinner Dance. This was a combination of last year's medals presentation with a more historic overview of Shamrocks victories in County and Club All-Ireland Championships. It was a huge occasion and a very well attended and enjoyable event. Thanks are due to the former players who brought the idea to the Club.

Underage

The underage levels of the Club continue to grow and organise. All the young Shamrocks have done themselves proud. Coaching has been continued by adults of teams as young as under 10's. Parents of these lads have been particularly active and this year sponsored a lovely new set of jersey's.

Minor

The Clubs minor team made it to the County semi-Final, only losing to the eventual County Champions. So, although disappointed, they can certainly hold their heads up. Selectors Michael Fennelly, John Drennan and Brendan Mason were very proud of the effort put in by the team.

U-21 Hurling

Having won last year's County Championship, Shamrocks expect to have a strong enough team again this year, despite losing 6 players. At the time of writing Shamrocks are waiting to play the Southern Final against the Rower-Inistioge. The Best of luck to Captain Michael Dermody, all the lads and selectors Paul Phelan, Brendan Mason and Ger Fennelly. By the time you read this hopefully they will have won!

Junior 'A' Hurling

This year saw us clash with rivals Glenmore. We drew the league fixture, narrowly won the Southern League Final but were beaten in the Championship match, despite leading for most of it. There was some (small) consolation in that Glenmore went on to win out the Championship. Captain Michael O'Sullivan and the team have yet to play the County League Final. Thanks to Paul Phelan, Ger Fennelly and Dave Gallagher for their efforts with the team this year.

Senior Hurling

Shamrocks Seniors were building well this year. They won the Byrne Cup, after an intense and prolonged Final. They won local tournament, the Mount Carmel Cup and at the time of writing have reached the final of the Graiguenamanagh 800 tournament. Having made it successfully through the relegation trap and beating Castlecomer in a tough, strongly contested match, Shamrocks Seniors turned their attention to the Senior County Championship. Once again, though, we were to be disappointed. Having drawn the then County Champions everyone knew it would be a tough assignment. The first day we were very unlucky to concede the draw. The replay was a tougher match and unfortunately things didn't go our way. Over the last few years only a very small margin has stood between the Shamrocks Seniors and progress in the Championship. Captain Paul Shefflin and the lads were all very disappointed but we're sure they will all bounce back next year. Special thanks are due to Trainer, Sean Fennelly, who is stepping down after three years hard work with the team. Also to Joe Dunphy and Paul Phelan, who were selectors with Sean for that time.

Fundraising

The Annual Golf Classic was once again a great success this year raising much needed funds for the Club. Thanks are due to the organising committee, all the competitors and especially to our sponsors. The Piltown draw produced two local winners for the Club which is always good. Sales were slightly down this year but still respectable and the

income generated was very welcome. Other fundraising includes the ongoing local Lotto which continues to be a success thanks to the commitment of all sellers and organisers. Thanks also to Andy's, Sheff's, The Little Arrigle, Pakie's Bar and now also Reade's and The Old Inn for helping to make the weekly draw an event in itself!

Dressing Rooms

The Club started to build the new dressing rooms early this year. Progress was very slow at first but thanks to the huge efforts of a few single-minded and determined volunteers has now thankfully speeded up. These should be finished soon and will be a great addition to the Club. Many thanks to Martin Holden, who is overseeing the work and to all those who gave up their time to volunteer.

County Players

Shamrocks Club, given the size of the Parish has a spectacular ability to keep producing County Players and this year was no exception. Henry Shefflin and James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick represented the Club on the Senior team. Cha, Eoin Reid, Michael Fennelly, Padraig Holden and Keith Nolan were all involved with the All-Ireland winning County Under 21's, with Cha and Eoin Captain and Vice-Captain respectively, while Mark Aylward and Eamonn Walsh were on the County Minor team.

Sympathy

The sympathy of the Club was extended to all the families who lost loved ones during the year. They will be remembered not just by their families but by the entire community.

Thanks

The Club would like to thank everybody at every level for their participation and effort on our behalf including Players, Captains, Trainer, Selectors, Physio's, Committee, Field Committee, Volunteers, Families and all sponsors, in particular Sue and Garrett Dillon, who sponsored the Hurling balls this year but especially to our main sponsor Andy O'Keeffe from Andy's Bar who has been very generous to the Club over recent years.



around the clubs



BARROW RANGERS U-12 WINNERS SUMMER MINI LEAGUE

Back: P. Treacy, S. Leahy, D. O'Neill, M. Whitely, K. Brennan, J. Brennan, B. Aldritt, S. McDonald, T. Brennan, M. Dormer, C. Nolan.
Front: E. Nolan, E. Prendergast, C. Breen, C. Doyle, T. Wall, N. Walsh, K. Flavin, A. Nolan, M. Lonergan.

Officers 2004

Adult	
Chairman:	Charlie Purcell
Vice Chair:	Mick Barcoe
Secretary:	Bob Shortall
Asst. Sec:	William Hanlon
Treasurer:	Philip Maher
Asst. Treasurer:	Pat Drea
PRO:	Mick Medlar
Juvenile	
Chairman:	Liam Kavanagh
Vice Chair:	Christy Kenny
Secretary:	Tommy Kelly

Adult Grades

Once again a disappointing year in the adult grades. The junior hurling failed to qualify for the knock-out stages of ACHL and were beaten in the Paddy Cahill Cup. Four successive defeats in the early rounds of the Championship meant that they struggled to reach the knock out stages. However, they reached the quarter final where they were narrowly beaten by St. Patrick's, Ballyragget. The Special Juniors failed to make progress on last years performances. The U-21s have only just commenced their championship campaign.

Underage

The underage section of the club had a season of mixed fortunes. The under 14 football team completed the League and Championship double. The U-14 hurling team were also beaten by Young Ireland's in the League semi final. They reversed this result in the Championship semi final before losing

out narrowly to Glenmore in the final. Both the U-16 and Minor teams had very disappointing seasons.

Juvenile

The U-13s played in the prestigious Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens. They were unlucky to be drawn against an outstanding Dicksboro team who beat them in the quarter final. The U-12s were successful for the third year running in the Summer League. They also won their section in the Dublin County Board Hurling Blitz.

The U-11s went through their section in the Camaint competition unbeaten. The U-8s and U-10s took part in a number of blitz and tournament games. The club hosted the third annual Anne Brennan Memorial Blitz in Paulstown, with 8 teams taking part. It also ran the Stephen Byrne Memorial U-10 competition with 8 teams taking part and Graignamanagh took the spoils with a final victory over the home team.

Schools Hurling

Paulstown / Goresbridge captured Roinn B Schools Hurling Championship for the first time. A separate report appears elsewhere.

Thanks

A special word of thanks to all who helped with coaching: Junior: Ollie O'Neill, U-21: Stephen Dormer, Minor and U-16: JJ Staunton and Derek McEvoy, U-14 and U-12: Joe English, Christy Kenny, Ollie O'Neill and Tommy

Kelly, Juveniles: Michael Lonergan, Jimmy Wall, Peter Breen, Liam Whitely.

In the Black and Amber

Aidan Brennan played for the Kilkenny minor football team and was also a Kilkenny Minor Hurling panellist. Martin Bambrick was a member of the Kilkenny U-14 team. Cathal Kenny and Richard Doyle represented Kilkenny in the final of the "lift and strike" competition which took place in Croke Park in conjunction with All Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Darren O'Neill on winning an All Ireland Senior Colleges Medal with St. Kieran's College and to Danny Kearney on winning a Walsh Cup Hurling medal with UCD. Building still continues on the dressing rooms, boxing hall and indoor court. Fundraising continues for the centre and many thanks to all who helped with the sponsorship.

March of Time

People of the parish were saddened earlier this year at the death of Jim Harding of Gowran. The parish was also saddened by the death of juvenile player Stephen Byrne. Sympathy is also extended to Mrs Eileen Meaney on the death of her brother, New York Gael John J Byrne and to all friends who suffered bereavements during the year. Ar dheis lamh De go raibh siad.



around the clubs

Club Officers 2004

President: Canon Duggan
 Vice Pres: Johnny McGovern
 Chairman: Eamon Hanrahan
 Secretaries: D O'Neill, B O'Brien
 Treasurer: P J Cullen
 PRO: Ian Morrissey
 Co. Bd Rep: Martin Treacy
 Registrars: John Drea, Martin Treacy
 North Board: B O'Brien

Adults

This was the first year in the junior grade after falling from intermediate last year. Having trained hard all winter, and playing plenty of challenge matches, all was set for a long run in the championship. Starting in the league with wins against Ballyraggett, Barrow Rangers, Graigue Ballycallan and Dicksboro. With these wins Bennettsbridge qualified for the quarter finals of the Northern championship against Conahy Shamrocks. This was so disappointing having led for the first half, it all went wrong in the second half, so that finished junior for this year. All must regroup for next year and have a real go at winning the Northern Junior Hurling Championship.

Bord na nÓg

This board had a very busy year with teams U-8, 11, 12, and even U-7. The U-8 team travelled all over the county playing in tournaments. With victory in their own tournament, and a brilliant win in Saint Mullins it all looks good for the future.



BENNETTSBRIDGE U-8 HURLERS 2004

Back: Richie Moran, Shane Byrne, Luke Gannon, Kevin Brennan, Sean Morrissey, Joseph Murphy, William Korb, Shauna Cleere, Drew De Cox.

Front: Jason Cleere, Hugh Corkery, Liam Blanchfield, Kevin Blanchfield, Micheal Shiel, Luke Moran, Dean Malone.

U-11 and 12 all worked hard and trained every week, with success in the camáint going all the way to Nowlan Park. A special word of thanks to those who took part in any way.

Pitch Development

There were much improvements here, having a great playing surface and with people giving all their spare time, the pitch is all railed off, seats on both sides of the ground, nets are up behind both goals, showers in the dressing rooms. Plans are underway to upgrade our dressing rooms soon. It is now a ground of which the whole parish can be proud.

Fundraising

Our main fundraising was a golf classic held in Gowran Park, again many thanks to all who helped organise our classic. All going well we will do it again next year.

The club would sincerely like to thank all those who sponsored us during the year and in the past.

County

Once again James McGarry was our local hero keeping a good eye on the ball in the Kilkenny goalmouth, well done James, we are all so proud of your achievements.



TEXACO

Blackquarry

Service Station

Bennettsbridge Road
Tel: 7761864

General Grocery - Newsagents - Sweets - Ices
Lotto agent - Hot Bread - Delicatessen

BOTTLE GAS, POLISH COAL, ANTHRACITE, BRIQUETTES, HEATLOGS, PARAFFIN

Tyres-Car Accessories-Passport Photo's, Puncture Repairs-Car Wash-Hoover

OPEN 7 DAYS: 8.00A.M. TO 10.00 P.M.



TEXACO



around the clubs

Officers 2004

President: Jack Kelly
Vic Pres: Mikey Brien
Chairman: Joe Lawlor
Vice Chair: Michael Byrne,
 Dr. Michael Helly
Secretary: Gerry Murphy
Treasurer: Nancy Moloney
Registrar: Michael Lennon
PRO: Lily Brennan

Adult Teams

Our Intermediate team were unsuccessful in remaining in the intermediate grade loosing out to St. Lachtains in the first round of the championship. In the relegation final our opposition were John Lockes (Callan). They just proved to be too strong for us on the day, running out winners on a score line of 1-11 to 0-7.

Bord na nOg

Pride of place must go to our minor hurlers who brought the only hurling county title to the Club, when they were successful against John Locks in the Roinn B League Final. After a slow start, John Locks dominated the first half, and went in at half time leading by 0-7 to 0-2. The Blacks & Whites picked up a gear in the second half, scoring 2-3 without reply. Although John Locks fought bravely to cut the deficit, they were unable to break down a resilient B&W defence. We ran out winners on a score line of 3-7 to 1-9.

We were beaten in the Roinn B minor championship quarter-final by Mooncoin after a replay.

Football

Our minor footballers were also successful when they beat Mullinavat in a thrilling final played in Ballyhale on a scoreline Blacks & Whites 1-10 Mullinavat 1-09.

Summer Camp

The Club wish to congratulate all the players and coaches who took part in a very successful summer camp.

Congratulations

Well done to Peter (Chap) Cleere who

won his second U-21 All Ireland Hurling medal with Kilkenny. Also well done to Tom Maloney on winning a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny and to Sean Kealy on winning a Leinster medal with the Kilkenny intermediate hurling team.

Club Developments

Work is progressing on the second phase to upgrade facilities. This is a major undertaking for the club, and fundraising will be ongoing during the coming year.

Bereavements

The club would like to extend sincere sympathy to the Murphy family Gurteen, on the death of Annie. We sympathise with all our members and friends who have lost loved ones during the year.

Thanks

Thanks to all who were involved in any way in the running of the Club during the past year. Especially the very loyal supporters who turned up for every match to cheer on our teams.



Blacks & Whites - Minor Football Roinn C Champions 2003

Back: Joseph Murphy, Denis Brennan, Christopher Whearty, Tom Moloney, John Whelan, Joh Murphy, Frank Ryan, Brian Cleere, Ray Coady, Sean Murphy, John Lawlor, Derek Murphy.
Front: Paschal Murphy, Charlie Ryan, Anthony Barcoe, Paul Murphy, Peter Cleere, Philip Murphy, Colm Dalton, Niall Kennedy.



Blacks & Whites Camaint 2004

Back: Johnny Barcoe (selector), Brid Kelly, Elizabeth Barcoe, Brian Barcoe, Michael O'Brien, Emmet Foley, Joseph Kelly, James Barcoe, Alicia Barcoe, Chloe O'Shaughnessy, Michael Doyle (selector).
Front: Gary Maher, Edward Murphy, Martin Kelly, Aaron Foley, Patrick Nolan, Owen Doyle, Jamie Byrne, Sean Doyle, Daniel Drennan, James O'Brien.



around the clubs

Deliverance

The twenty fourth of October 2004 marked the culmination of a twenty five-year journey for the club when a team with an average age of twenty-one took the final step up to the Senior grade. After a half century's absence the name Carrickshock will feature in the Kilkenny Senior championship once more.

Following two years of disappointment and near misses the management team of Kevin Fennelly, Noel Maher, John Barron and Tommy Murphy had their team in peak shape for the knockout championship.

To add to the occasion on county final Day, a group of more than eighty supporters used a phone link to deliver commentary on the match to Letterkenny Co Donegal. Former player Anthony Aylward had hardly anticipated a clash when he and Olivia had set the date for their wedding.

Inter-county Action

Pat Tennyson and Jamie Power were members of the unsuccessful County Senior panel. The two Powers Jamie and Richie as well as John Tennyson represented Kilkenny in their ill fated intermediate Campaign. This team was trained by Maurice Power. Darren and Mark O Dwyer played for the county U-16 & U-14 teams respectively. Pride of place goes to the clubs three representatives on the county U-21 team John Tennyson, Michael Rice & Richie Power. John Murphy joined them on the panel.

Other Club Teams

A young Junior team had a very successful debut year in the "A" competition losing narrowly to Glenmore in the the Southern Final. The U-21 team crashed out to Rower Inistioge in the first round. The inevitable slack time arrived in the under age section in 2004. While honest efforts were put in by all teams from U-13 to minor, success eluded the 'Shocks'. The biggest success of the under age set up was without doubt the continued improvement of the U8s & 10s.

Improved facilities

The club has embarked on a one hundred thousand development at the grounds. The total renovation of the dressing rooms was followed by an extensive draining of the pitch. Car parking is also to be extended at the ground.

Fundraising

Great credit is due to Richie Power and

Sharon Ireland for organising the Golf Classic. Richie also co-ordinated the "Dream Trip to the All Ireland" fundraiser. The weekly Lotto continues to be a staple in financing the club. As ever Doyle Concrete & Norograde Construction (Seamus Roche) continue to be loyal club sponsors. They presented new strips to adult and juveniles respectively before the current season.

Bereavements

The club wishes to extend sincerest sympathy to the families of Peggy Brennan, Alex Holland, Teresa Carr, David Kenneally, Catherine O Hanlon and Willie Brennan. Willie won a minor County Championship with Monroe in 1940.

Obituary

One link with the old Carrickshock club of the forties and fifties passed on. Peter Mc Bride, Kilfera, Kilkenny was a sub on the four in a row team. As daddy of the team at thirty five, he was full back on the fifty one Senior Championship winning team. A public servant, he was one of the few car owners on the team. On retiring as Town Clerk in Tullamore, he returned to Kilkenny and rejoined his beloved "Shocks" and took great pride in the exploits of our young guns in Croke Park in recent years. A guard of honour at the church in Loughboy with his former colleagues from no less than six neighbouring parishes reminded us of what Carrickshock meant in pre-parish rule days.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Carrickshock U-12 Hurling Team 2004

Back: Paddy Farrell, Eoin Finnegan, Eoin Grace, Tommy Hearne, James Grace, P.J. Gaule, Gary Foley, Jonathan Murray, Stephen Carr, Richie Kenneally, Ciaran Roche, Robbie Power, Robbie Power.
Front: Patrick Foran, Conor O'Dwyer, Stephen Farrell, Aaron Roche, Edward Dunphy, John Power, Christopher Roche, Jamie Molyneux, Patrick Cantwell, David O'Dwyer, Cillian Cantwell.



Carrickshock U-8 and U-10s meet Michael Rice and Richie Power with the All Ireland U-21 Trophy.



around the clubs

As usual the club had a busy and active year. Training commenced in March under the management of Kevin Kennedy, Jamie Froggy Carroll and Tommy Brown. Most players put in a good effort and there was plenty of activity in the field. The league campaign commenced in April and, following indifferent form, the club failed to qualify for the concluding stages. However, it was felt that lessons were learned that would stand to the team in the championship that lay ahead. Training continued and the club were drawn against Kilmacow in the first round of the Junior B championship. Once again we were beaten by our neighbours and were then drawn against Thomastown in the playoffs. After a good start in Ballyhale things went against the team with Thomastown eventually running out winners. The local bye laws allow Junior A & B clubs to line out players who are playing in a grade or more higher than junior A & B. This means that for most of the league and championship season, clubs like Carrigeen encounter teams who are a much stronger grade than Junior A or B and more often than not will put genuine Junior A & B teams out of the championship. Later on these clubs will lose a lot of the higher grade players and will in fact field weaker teams as the championship progresses. The whole system is very unfair. However it does not stop the club having a go.

Chairman Richard Quinn has been running a successful Junior tournament for the past number of years to compensate for a lack of competitive games. A number of teams in South Kilkenny and Waterford take part and play each other in a league-type system with the winners in each of the two groups playing the final. This year saw Carrigeen reach the final against Waterford club Fenor. After a pulsating game the Carrigeen boys took the title for the first time winning by a point. This was the first silverware the club had won since the 1950s. There was great excitement as this well merited win meant an awful lot to the Carrigeen Club.

The year also saw the installation of an all weather, synthetic grass playing pitch in the grounds of Asper park. This pitch is unique in the South East as normal football/hurling boots can be worn and games of the football and sliotar can take place on this pitch. The club will be making the pitch available to all neighbouring clubs or groups to rent and it is



CARRIGEEN JUNIOR 'B' TEAM 2004

Back: Liam Knox, Kevin Kennedy, Jamie Froggy Carroll, Patrick Dalton, Michael Murphy, Ivan Tobin & Fintan Dermody.
Middle: Tommy Walsh, Wayne Kelly, James Power, Michael Jacob, Stephen Blackmoor, Wally Morahan, John Hearne, Seamus Jacob.
Front: Kevin Murphy, Hillary Delahunty, Eoin Gallagher, Seamus Dunphy, Shane Walsh, Tommy Brown, Pa Walsh, Mossy Brown.

hoped to run competitions under lights throughout the winter. Full marks to the drive of Chairman, Richard Quinn, who has spearheaded this costly but excellent venture.

The club committee worked hard during the year trying to raise the finance to run the club, not to mention huge insurance bills and county board levies. For many in the wider family of GAA workers, much of the enjoyment of being involved in the local club has been nullified by constant fundraising. This trend will have to change, otherwise clubs will begin to find themselves struggling financially more than player-wise in order to keep in existence. Thankfully this year, the club ran an excellent Christmas raffle and many thanks to all the support received throughout the county and in neighbouring counties. A dog racing night in Waterford Greyhound Racing Stadium was another money spinner and the club appreciate very much the sponsorship given by local businesses. The officers of the club wish to thank all members and players for their help, work, commitment and loyalty throughout the year and wish them all, including sponsors and supporters, a good Christmas and a successful new year. Special congratulations to loyal club member, Nicky Dunphy of Ballygorey who tied the knot with



Carrigeen Chairman **Richie Quinn** taking down wire behind the goals for the €300,000 development and provision of an all weather pitch in Asper Park..

Catherine Burke of Turkstown during the year. Nicky and Catherine now live in Ballygorey. Best of luck to them both. Go raibh mile mhaith agaibh go leir.



around the clubs

Cloneen Come of Age

Cloneen Hurling Club was formed in Centenary Year 1984 and celebrates it's 21st birthday by announcing the official opening of it's marvelous new playing pitch and clubhouse in May 2005.

Fr. Jerry Joyce and Mikey Maher RIP
The year ending had a share of sadness too for the club members with the passing of both Life Presidents last spring - Parish Priest, Fr. Jerry Joyce who was a stalwart in his help in the development effort now evident and Mikey Maher who was the last remaining member of the Cloneen Football team which won the 1933 County Junior Championship. Ar dheis De go raibh said.
Both men will be remembered in the annals of Cloneen Hurling Club and the parish in general. They are probably in serious discussion about the fortunes of Kilkenny hurling with their predecessor club presidents Tom Brennan (Roe) and Larry Brennan (Rushe).

A Very Busy Year

On the playing front, there was a marked improvement in the performance levels of the junior team which had been under achieving during recent years. The introduction of John Lyng as coach - with considerable assistance from Eddie Mahon and Tom Brennan (Cloney) - had a very positive effect in training and match results. In the first year of the new championship format, Cloneen reached the quarter finals only to lose narrowly to a very useful Danesfort side, who in turn were very unlucky to lose by a last minute score to new county champions, Galmoy.

Much Juvenile Promise

The minor team under Ned Lawler, showed considerable promise and were fancied by many to go all the way, but on a cold Saturday in Thomastown they

never got off the blocks against Glenmore in the county semi-final and went down by 9 points. The most improved squad in the club during 2004 was the U-14 and schools group under the management of the three Michaels - Feehan, Delaney and McDonnell. There was a great air of enthusiasm at training and in their games where there were some very promising performances.

The members of Cloneen were grateful to enterprising local building contractor Stephen Kerr who generously sponsored the junior team's playing kit.

There was good news for club worker Mary Dormer who won first prize of a new car in the County Board (Piltown) draw.



Fr. Jerry Joyce RIP



Mikey Maher RIP



Sponsor Stephen Kerr with Club Officers

John Delaney, Don Lawler, Stephen Kerr, Donal Brennan, Shane Coogan, Alan Hosey.



Cloneen Camaint 2004

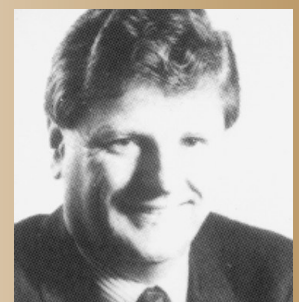
Back: Meabh Mansfield, Aisling Brennan, Sean O'Neill, Colm Egan, James Treacy, Joe Maguire, David Wilson, Kevin Delaney.

Front: Ciara Mahon, Sinead Brennan, Nora Daly, Kieran Whelan, Mark Maguire, Owen Doyle, Bryan Mahon, Dean Shortall, Michael J Feehan, Ciaran Brennan, Anthony O'Neill, Ronan Egan.

Liam Aylward, T.D.

Greetings to all my Supporters

Well done, Carrickshock!



around the clubs



CONAHY U11 CAMÁINT TEAM 2004

Back: Gary Dunne, Wayne Cuddihy, Emma Baldwin, Áine Phelan, Eoin Carroll, James Delaney, John Mullan, Stephen Brennan, Peter Vickery, Joe Keohane, Gearóid Whelan.

Front: Ashton Creedon, David White, Sean Walsh, Padraig Delaney, Kieran Delaney, David Kennedy, Tom Phelan, Sean Brennan, Anna Buggy, Eoin Coogan.

It has been a year of many highs both on and off the field for Conahy Shamrocks in 2004, but ultimately disappointing at adult level. For the first time in a long number of years, both adult teams were competitive in both their respective campaigns. The special junior hurlers secured a county final place by defeating neighbours Threecastles in the Northern Junior B Final but Windgap proved too strong in the final in Nowlan Park. The junior side enjoyed an excellent season and qualified for the Northern final but were to suffer defeat at the hands of old rivals Galmoy. On the football side, the intermediate footballers qualified for the county final for the second year in a row, only to be denied this time by Mullinavat. At the time of writing, the under-21 side face into a Northern championship campaign.

Bórd na n-Óg

It has proved to be a very successful year once again at juvenile level with county titles won at schools, under-14 and under-16 level. The schools team secured the Roinn D title while the

under-14 side won the Roinn C league title. However, the under-16 hurlers proved most successful by winning a league-championship double to cap a marvellous season. The club once again competed successfully in at under-10, under-11 and under-12 level with increasing numbers of young players playing at these levels. Work continues apace with the major highlight being the local street leagues at under-11 and under-14 level which concluded to great success. The year concluded recently when all the winning teams were recently presented with their county medals by Kilkenny goalkeeper James McGarry in Conahy Hall.

Fundraising

The club undertook some various forms of fundraising throughout the year with the most prominent of which being the Golf Classic held in Castlecomer Golf Club on June 4th. It proved to be a most successful event with a large number of teams participating. Great credit is due to all those who organised the event and assisted in preparations for the day.

Other minor fundraising ventures were organised throughout the year for which support was greatly appreciated, such as the poker classic and greyhound race night. We hope that all club members and parishioners will continue to support the club in any fundraising ventures in the coming year. The club was also once again supported in kind sponsorship by NN Euroball, Purcellsinch, Kilkenny.

County Players

Conahy was once well represented on the inter-county scene in 2004. Gavin Nolan had an excellent season with the Kilkenny minor side and was most unfortunate not to bring another All-Ireland medal to the parish. Denis Kelly was also a member of the Kilkenny Intermediate panel that was defeated by Cork in the All-Ireland final. Kieran Mooney also represented the club at under-15 level and David Healy was part of the Kilkenny Under-14 panel that took part in the Tony Forristal tournament in Waterford.

LEINSTER SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

Preliminary Round
Laois v Dublin

Semi-Finals
Laois/Dublin v Wexford
Kilkenny v Offaly



Le gach dea-mhéin ó
Chomhairle Laighin CLG

Micheál Ó Dubhshláine
Runaí



around the clubs

The junior hurlers under the guidance of trainer Bobby Jackman, Gerry Doyle and Pat Treacy had their most success season in along time. They defeated Thomastown to win the All County League and they also reached the Paddy Cahill Cup Final where they were defeated by Galmoy.

In the championship Danesfort won five matches out of six and went on to defeat Cloneen in the Northern Quarter Final. In the Northern Semi Final a last gasp Conahy goal sent Danesfort crashing out of the championship by a point.

The special junior hurlers under Ted Walsh, John Devane and Derek Dooley had a mixed campaign. They performed well in the league and after an exciting play off victory over Threecastles, they were beaten by eventual winners Emeralds in the quarter final. Emeralds also defeated Danesfort in the first round of the championship.

The under 21 hurlers under Ted Walsh, Noel Morrissey and Con Barry were also defeated in the first round of the championship by a strong St Lactains outfit. However with 13 of the team underage in 2005 victory in this grade might not be too far away.

The junior footballers under Maurice Woodcock and Mick Hanrahan also enjoyed mixed fortunes. They drew their opening game with Erins Own and despite victory over Railyard subsequent defeats to Clara and St Lactains ruled Danesfort out of the knockout stages.

It was a very special year for the club with both Patrick and Richard Hogan selected to play on the Kilkenny minor

team. Both players represented their club with great honour and hopefully will reap better rewards next year.

It was a very busy year for the juvenile section in the club with the U 8s, U10's, U 12's and the minors participating in challenge games, invitation tournaments, camaint league, minor league and championship competitions.

The minors went very close this year in the championship but went down to a very determined O 'Loughlin's minor team in a wet and windy quarter final in Callan. The team were also without the services of Richard Hogan who missed the game through injury. This team is certainly on the verge of making the breakthrough so roll on 2005.

The U12's put in a great performance in the summer league and reached the final against Piltown in Danesfort. This final produced a great game of hurling from both sides and Danesfort were very unlucky not to record a great victory and were just pipped at the post. The lads did the club proud.

The U 12's also reached the quarter final of the Callan invitation tournament and the lads put in great displays to over for games. There were some great individual performances during this tournament for the Club U 12's and many of these lads have a great future ahead of them.



Brothers in arms.....Patrick Hogan his brother Richard with Shane and Neal Prendergast join an exclusive club of brothters who have won a minor Leinster title on the same day. Eoin Hennessy

The U 8's, U 10's and U 11 produced some great displays during the season in many tournaments and under the guidance of John Cooney, Jim Fennelly, Martin Tynan, Pat Tynan, Liam Mullen and Michael Rossiter the lads gave great displays of skill, commitment and entertainment in training and tournaments during the year. The underage hurling has grown at great rate and the commitment to training sessions from the kids was very positive and certainly gives great encouragement for the future of hurling in the club.

So 2004 for Danesfort hurling club was a year when many teams in the club went very close to achieve their aims and ambitions but in many cases were just pipped at the post. But the experience gained from this year will certainly be of great benefit for next year's battles.

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around the clubs

JUVENILE NEWS

2004 has proved to be a very busy year indeed for Dicksboro Juvenile section. Thanks to the tremendous work being done by the club mentors involved with each group and we can look back on 2004, as been a very successful year. The club U-8's and U-10's continue to gain great enjoyment from their hurling activity and participated with great skills in tournaments such as the James Stephen's Tournament and in Roanmore, Co. Waterford. The clubs U12 hurlers also had a great end to their competitive year. They won two prestigious tournaments in the space of two weeks. They travelled to Cork to partake in the U-12 Blackrock sponsored hurling tournament defeating the host clubs in the final. The following week the team had an excellent victory in the O'Loughlin Gaels U-12 event defeating Sixmilebridge in the final. JJ Hickey and Conor Maharaj captained the teams respectively.

The U-14 panel however set the standard this year in what was without exception a spectacular year as they won everything they entered. For the first time the Club won the Kilkenny Féile title and represented Kilkenny at the All-Ireland Féile Finals in Kildare putting in great performances along the way. On returning from the Féile, they set their minds to winning the Roinn A U-14 County Final, which they did defeating Erin's Own in an action packed Final played in Nowlan Park. This panel also won the Declan Byrne tournament, the Lisdowney 7's and Dicksboro's own Millennium Windows tournament. Special thanks to all the mentors and selectors involved for such dedicated work throughout the year.

Our U-16's reached the final of the Roinn A Hurling league but were defeated by O'Loughlin Gaels and were defeated in the Championship by the same opponents. The U-15's reached the final of the County U-15, 11 aside competition. The year opened in the best possible fashion when the Clubs Minor Footballers won the 2003 Roinn A Minor Football final. Well done to both teams for wonderful game in such awful conditions. Our minor hurlers had some excellent results in the league and were unfortunate to lose to a very good Rower Inistioge team in the Championship semi final.

Despite a valiant effort by all concerned, the club senior hurlers were defeated in the relegation final by St. Martins losing



Dicksboro Under 6 Hurling Panel 2004

Back: Eric Gordan, Robert-----, Hannah Lacey, Robert Crotty, -----, Darragh Lynch, Conor Doheny, Cian Lyng, -----, Andrew Gaffney, Bill Sheehan, Edward Moylan, Chris Kavanagh, Gavan Byrne, Emma Bawle, ---

Front: Andrew Bashorum, James Griffin, Evan Carroll, Evan Stapleton, Jack Condren, Aidan Nolan, Oisín Gough, Nicholas Butler, Eoghan Moylan, Colin Dempsey, Aine Fennelly & Conor Fitzpatrick.

by the narrowest of margins the players and mentors can be proud of the hard work and commitment shown by the senior panel in 2004. The Senior Footballers were defeated in the League Final by The Railyard and were only beaten in a replay by Glenmore in the Championship. The Juniors, Junior B and 21's also had a busy year and great work is being carried out at these grades too. As evidenced by the juvenile report there are many talented hurlers within the club and the club's return to senior status will not be far away.

Thanks to all players, managers and selectors for their dedication and commitment throughout a very long and busy year.

DEVELOPMENT

Development Chairman Tom Rafter has had a very busy year, the construction of a garage to house grounds equipment, new railings on the bank, new railed footpath along the No1 pitch and painting of Clubhouse are just some of the projects completed. Floodlighting of No 2 pitch a redesigned entrance to the grounds and tarmac the carpark are in progress. The Clubs Lotto is still proving very successful, many thanks to the Lotto committee, our ticket sellers and buyers for all their support.

SOCIAL

Each Saturday night still provides excellent entertainment in the Clubhouse with popular bands playing all kinds of music. Denis Molloy and Martin Morrissey make



Dicksboro Féile na nGael captain, **Enda Malone** receives the trophy from Bord na nÓg Chairman, **Joe Pyke**.

sure that these nights are great fun. So if you are fond of a waltz, foxtrot, tango or boogie and a bit of craic then why not come out. The Ladies group was reformed two years ago and goes from strength to strength. The Ladies organise trips to shows and musicals and also assist with fund raising and hospitality.

BEREAVEMENTS

This year Dicksboro said goodbye to some very loyal, committed and wonderful members and friends. Tom Cunniffe, Marty Barry, Bill Maher, Paddy Treacy, John Joe Heneberry, and Tommy Brennan. Their contribution to Dicksboro GAA Club throughout their lives was greatly appreciated and admired by all members and supporters. Ar dheis De go raibh said. Special Thanks to all our Sponsors, Members and Players, Coaches and Selectors, and supporters.



around the clubs

Club Officers

Chairman:	Seamus Martin
Secretary:	Eugene O' Donovan
Treasurer:	Niall McCormack
PRO:	John Hickey
Juv. Chair:	Johnno Reid
Juv Sec:	Mark O' Donovan
Juv Treas:	John O' Dwyer
Juvenile PRO:	John Kelly

Social Events

At the end of 2003, Noel Hickey brought the Liam McCarthy Cup back to the parish, to a night of celebration in Comerford's Bar in Kells. The achievements of the Dunnamaggin's inter-county representatives were fully on view that night as the under 21 All-Ireland Cup was also on show, with Dunnamaggin having three representatives on the under-21 All-Ireland panel, those being Seaghan O' Neill, David Herity and Canice Hickey, while Mark Heffernan was a member of the training panel. Presentations were made to all club members who had brought so much honour to the club during 2003 through their exploits with the Kilkenny teams. 2004 started with a social night held in Townsend's of Dunnamaggin. The Monsignor O' Neill Player of the Year Trophy went to Mark Heffernan, while Seamus Knox won the Shirley's Clubman of the Year Trophy for his great efforts with the club during 2003.

Pitch Developments

The pitch continues to improve from year to year, while the surrounds are also in pristine condition. Credit must be paid to all those involved in the Field Committee, to Paddy Moore and John Walsh for keeping the grass cut, to Oliver Herity whose great work is now becoming clear as we enjoy the benefits of the shelter provided by the surrounding shrubs and trees, and to Thomas O' Shea for his dedication in ensuring that the dressing rooms are kept in tip top condition.

Senior

The selection team behind the senior team in 2004 was Tommy Phelan, Dick O' Shea and Pat Long. The year began very positively with wins over Dicksboro, Castlecomer and a draw against Johnstown. However, defeats by one point in the final two games of the league saw the team just fail to qualify in the top two of the group. As a result, the team faced first round championship action against Glenmore, and after a hard fought game made their way to the quarter-finals after a two point win. In the quarter-finals Dunnamaggin were faced with James Stephens, and on a windy day in Callan the senior teams season



DUNNAMAGGIN - ROINN 'C' U14F COUNTY FINALISTS 2004

Front: Jamie Murphy, William Phelan, Conor Coffey, Andrew O'Dwver, Peter Kenneally, Liam Davies, Kieran Bergin, Chris Murphy.
Back: Patrick Kenneally, Niall Moore, Eoghan Wallace, Sean Davies, Shane Kelly, Jim Power, Daniel Breen, Ian O'Dwver.

came to an end following a 3 point defeat. Thanks must go to the selectors who did all they could to drive the team to success. Once again, Thomas O' Shea put in his usual great effort, while Paddy Reade and Fr. Flavin looked after first aid.

Junior

Pat Moylan, Richie O' Neill, Larry Costello and Dick O' Keeffe were selectors for the junior team. The team was boosted this year with the return of some hurlers from abroad, and others from injury. However, during the Southern league some heavy defeats were suffered, with the only league victory coming against Slieverue. However, things were to change in the Championship. An easy win against Slieverue in the first round saw the Juniors face Thomastown in the quarter-finals. With a bit of luck the team could have reached the semi-finals, but just missed out by one point. However, it was a great performance from the team, and all club members had reason to be proud of the players.

U 21

The U-21s began the season with a victory over Graiguenamanagh in Thomastown, with Seamus Knox, Jim Hickey and Eamon Kennedy in charge. At the time of writing, the team were preparing to face either Glenmore or Tullagher in the Southern semi-final.

Juvenile

The juvenile end of the club enjoyed some success in 2004, with the under 14's winning the 11-a-side tournament. The final of this competition was held in James Park on 7th November, with Dunnamaggin scraping home as winners

ahead of Slieverue. There were scenes of great celebration once the final whistle blew, and it was great to see these young players getting a taste of victory. Hopefully, in time, they will represent the club at adult level. Thanks must go to all those people who are involved with the juvenile teams, be it through training, administration or supporting.

Acknowledgements

The club would like to thank all who supported them during the year, in particular Comerford's Bar and Lounge who was main sponsor of the hurling club, all those who participated in the Golf Classic, those who supported the parish lotto and all those who took the time to follow and cheer on the teams. In an era when the running of clubs has become so expensive their contribution cannot be overestimated. Congratulations to all those who represented the County at any level during the year. In particular, a special word of congratulations to Seaghan O' Neill, David Herity and Mark Heffernan who won All-Ireland U-21 medals. Hard luck to Noel Hickey and Colin Herity who just missed out on All-Ireland medals with the seniors and intermediates respectively.

Bereavements

During the year Pakie Phelan and Paddy Martin passed away. Paddy Martin's son Seamus is the current chairman of the club, while Pakie Phelan's son Tom has been involved in the club in numerous capacities through the years. The club would like to pass on their condolences to the Phelan and Martin families, and would also like to offer their condolences to any member of the club that suffered a bereavement during the year.



around the clubs

Committee 2004

President: Canon Dunphy PP
Chairman: Pat Joyce
Secretary: Shane Ahearne
Bernard Kavanagh
Treasurers: Joe Gleeson
JJ Kavanagh
PRO: John Cahill

Mol an Oige

The Emeralds Bord na nOg section had a busy year with the under age groups. (8,10,12,14,16 and minor). One of the successes of the year was the large number of children that participated in training and matches in the club with numbers of children that participated in training and matches in the club with numbers of up to 50 children at most of the training sessions. The club is very grateful to the mentors, trainers and helpers who gave of their time so generously and looking forward to more parents participating next year. This year could be described as a year of near misses with a number of teams narrowly beaten in the finals and the semi-finals. One of the highlights of the year was the American Tea Party – Presentation night held in Urlingford Parochial Hall with up to 400 people attending. Brian Coady was guest speaker who gave great words of encouragement to both parents and children on the night.

Many Games at Underage

An U-8 tournament was organised for the boys and girls on the June Bank Holiday week-end. The Moycarkey Tournament ran for four weeks during the Summer and our U-10s did very well to win the tournament. The U-11s reached final in the shield of the Bernie Stone Tournament. They also performed very well in the Camaint Competition. The U-14s were knocked out of the championship by Piltown.

Great Run by Intermediates

The Intermediate team started poorly in the league losing out to Mooncoin and Carrickshock. However after these set backs they secured a nine point win over James Stephens then they followed this up with wins over Black & Whites and Rower-Inistoige. This brought the club into the quarter finals and another clash with the Hugginstown side. The first game ended level on a score of 1-5 to 0-8 for Carrickshock. The replay turned out to be an excellent derby with the southern side winning by two points. Over all our club was delighted with the efforts made by the players and management. Once again we were delighted to support Derek Lyng and Aidan Fogarty on the Kilkenny Senior Team and Willie Norton on the Minor panel.

Junior B Success

Our Junior B hurling team put in many convincing displays in 2004. They had two memorable games with near neighbours Freshford. The first game ended in a hive of activity with both sides hoping to snatch victory. This team lost out to Conahy in the Northern Final. However we beat Mullinavat in the Junior B League Final in Callan which was an excellent victory.

Well Done to our Minors

Our Minor team lost to John Lockes in the league final by one point. The U-16 team made huge progress during the year, with full back Joe Doheny injured, this team lost to Conahy in the county semi-final.

Financing a Busy Club

Fund raising once again occupies a lot of time by Club Management. Once again the chief source of revenue comes from our very successful weekly lotto. Great credit is due to all the volunteers who work weekly on the lotto. The Golf Classic is one of the largest in the county. This year over sixty teams took part and it is nice to see many of our club members feature in the prizes. The club also sold over 200 County Board Tickets. As a result due to the dedication of a small but loyal group of committee members our club is healthy financially.

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around the clubs

The past year was indeed busy and enjoyable as there was plenty of activity both on and off the field. The club was buzzing with enthusiasm all during the year and with a great blend of new and older faces at both committee and team management level Erin's Own is certainly in a healthy position.

Senior:

Following the hurlers speedy return to the Senior ranks it would have to be said that the team had a reasonably good year. The premature retirement of a couple of experienced players coupled with a bad run of injuries cost them some points in the early rounds of the league and indeed probable victory in the inaugural Leinster. League final. However following plenty of dedication and hard work the team finished strong, avoided the relegation zone and lost out narrowly to a promising Shamrocks team in the knockout stages. The footballers had joy and disappointment, joy at reaching the Co. Final and looking like winning it but disappointment at letting neighbours Muckalee back into the game to draw and eventually to win the replay.

Junior Hurling:

The aim of every hurling team at the start of the year has to be "to be hurling in September" That usually means the team is doing well and are possibly training for the Co Final. Well, as we write (in November) the Juniors are still involved so the players are certainly getting value for their membership. However, the championship, unfortunately, is over and Galmoy are the winners. This year, relegation has been introduced to junior and Erin's Own are caught up in round-robin play-offs to see who will take the drop, having held up the championship proper earlier, again tied up in a round robin but this time to see who would qualify for the quarter final. The team had a great year and well done to all concerned.

U-21

The U-21's were knocked out in the Northern Semi-Final by Tullaroan having been a point up with two minutes to go. Tullaroan sneaked ahead, got a late goal and won by five points. This had to be one of the gutsiest performances delivered by an Erin's Own team for a long time. No one gave this young team a chance of staying anywhere near the star-studded Tullaroan side particularly with Peter Donovan out through injury and with Anthony Owens awaiting a groin operation. The performance given, in particular the commitment and will to win, augurs well for the future of the club and will have several of these young players

pushing hard for a place on the senior team next year.

Minor

Having won last years B championship, this year's Minor team were very young and were always going to be up against it in Roinn-A. However, the team worked hard and gave a good account of themselves in every game before going out of the Championship to County runners-up, The Rower Instioge.

U-16

The U-16's had a great run, unfortunately going down in the League Final to St. Martins and in the Championship quarter final to Mullinavat. Like the Minors, this is an excellent crop of players and if they keep up the training and commitment then there are almost certainly exciting days ahead of them.

U-14

The pride of the parish for 2004 has to be the Under-14's. A great little group of players that had an outstanding year. They won the football championship and lost the Roinn-A hurling final narrowly to Dicksboro. Unfortunately they were forced to play the final the day after the semi-final and this was just too much to ask of young boys. That is not to take from Dicksboro's victory as when the sides met in the Féile semi-final the city side again emerged victors. Who knows what a few days rest would have done, though? However, the young players had a great time as they travelled to the North of Ireland to represent Kilkenny in the Féile na nGael competition. It was a tremendous occasion and the boys brought back memories that will stay with them for ever.

Primary School & Juvenile

The Primary School and Juvenile end of the club is flying with so much work being done. Every youngster wants to hurl and the unselfish dedication of so many coaches at this level is laying an excellent foundation. Training, practice matches and tournaments were the order of the year and to see upwards of 60 young players in the Prince at any one time was most encouraging. This is the most important cog in the wheel that is the club and if there are any people interested in helping out in this area they should get in touch with the officers.

Sadness:

Erin's Own extends its deepest sympathy to the following members who were bereaved during the year. The Salter & Byrne families on the death of Sally. Kieran Moran on the death of his brother Paddy. Tommy, Dinny and Paddy Brennan



Davy Buggy, Kilkenny Inmediate captain receives the Leinster Trophy from Chairman, Nicky Brennan.

on the death of their brother Jimmy. The Keating family on the death of Jack. The Sherwood family on the death of Eileen. Maeve Connolly on the death of her grandmother. Julia Bryan and Kieran Brennan on the death of his mother Kathleen. May they Rest in Peace.

Development:

There has been plenty of development work carried out in the club during the year. Early on new floodlights were erected in the Prince to help with pre-season training. Everyone is delighted that the wonderful Clubhouse "Áras Ó Meallaigh" has been completed and is now fully operational. Facilities are top class and are admired by the many visiting teams. The official opening of Áras Ó Meallaigh and Canon Kearns Park will take place in 2005.

Snippets:

Congratulations to Davy Buggy and Michael Owens who were members of the Co. Intermediate Team that again narrowly missed out on All-Ireland honours. Davy was captain of the team. Congratulations also to Harold Stone who was a team selector. Well done also to Anthony Owens and Colin Dunne who were members of the All-Ireland winning Kilkenny U-21 panel. Congratulations to Martin Fogarty, manager of the team for the second year and best wishes to him on his appointment as selector with the Kilkenny Senior team. Well done to Conor Fogarty who won the County U-14 long puck and went on to take second place in Leinster. Well done also to Conor and Anthony Kavanagh who played for Kilkenny in the Tony Forristal tournament and to Brian Dillon who played for Kilkenny U-15's. A speedy recovery to Peter O' Donovan who missed out on the year due to a cruciate ligament injury early in the season and to Anthony Owens who is recovering from surgery following a severe groin injury.



around the clubs

The club would like to thank all those involved, who assisted in all capacities, with the running of the club for the past year and look forward to their continued support in the future.

Senior

The year just finished saw the Fenians go out at the quarter final stage of the Championship.

In the league, the only victory came against Dicksboro, with two draws against Dunamaggin and Erins Own and defeats suffered at the hands of Tullaroan and The Village. This tally of four points was not enough to escape the dreaded 1st round with losers fighting for relegation. St Martins were the first round opponents, with an excellent first half display setting the tone for a well deserved Fenians win.

With the pressure off, the quarter final opponents were near neighbours Tullaroan, but unfortunately the Fenians never looked to be able to do enough to win, losing out by a mere 2 points. Selectors: J Carroll (manager) J Ryan & P McCormack

Junior

The Fenians Juniors were totally out of their depth this year. The team was made up of the very young and not so young. Perhaps a move down to Special Junior may encourage a return to training. It is difficult to play & train when each game throws up the same one sided result.

U-21's

This was another year where unfortunately no progress was made. This was another 1st round exit to Freshford, giving an important group of club player's only one competitive game against players their own age.

Minors & U-16's

The Fenians under age teams had a quiet year on the hurling front in 2004. The under 16's performed well in the early stages of the league, they won their first four matches defeating John Lockes, Black & Whites, Graigue Ballycallan and Lisdowney. They were narrowly beaten by St Martins and Erins Own in their last two matches and thus failed to qualify for the later stages of the



FIRST THREE CUSTOMERS ON THE NEW HILL

Noelle Walsh, Siobhán Henderson and Helen Phelan were the first patrons on the new Hill 16. They are pictured here with Seamus Meade, Croke Park, on their arrival for the All Ireland Hurling Final on September 12th. The girls each received a souvenir photograph and gift token in honour of the occasion.

league. Moincoin knocked them out of the championship at the first hurdle. The minors, after winning the league with the assistance of Galmoy in 2003, went it alone in 2004. A lot of fringe players benefited greatly from match experience and improved as the year progressed. County minor prospect Daniel Looby was badly missed throughout the year due to a serious knee injury. The Fenians failed to win a match this year but some consolation is that all the panel are under age next year. Those who impressed at under age level were James Dermody, Sean Warren, Eoin Phelan, Kevin Reid John Henderson, Eoin Shiel, Darragh Tobin, Tom Barry, Philip Ryan, James Quinlan, Daniel Dermody and the impressive Under 16, Kieran Grehan who got a few runs for the senior team this year.

Much thanks must go to Tommy Hanrahan, Michael (Beardy) Tobin, Eugene Grehan, Richard Beehan, Joe Reid and Michael Phelan who helped with these teams through out the year.

Juveniles

The u-14's looked promising during the year, they were beaten by St Patricks, Ballyragget in the championship, who later went on to win out the competition. In the Lisdowney mini sevens, they qualified for the second day and were narrow-

ly beaten in the semi-final.

The u-12's played in a tournament in Castlecomer, and made it through to the final, but lost out to a strong James Stephens side.

The u-10's had a busy summer, playing in the camant 11 a side tournament and in a competition run by Two-Mile-Borris. In both competitions, games were played at various venues in the locality and the Johnstown team were presented with trophies in each.

Much thanks must go to Dan Hughes and his committee for their commitment to the development of hurling in the parish.

County Players

Congratulations to PJ Delaney who played a major role in helping Kilkenny win the u-21 All Ireland title. And to JJ Delaney and PJ Ryan for helping Kilkenny Seniors reach the All Ireland final.

Obituaries

The club lost some valued members of the community during the year. We would like to pass on our condolences to the families of the late Jimmy Nolan, Theresa Walsh, Richard Purcell and David Greene.



around the clubs

Club Officers 2004

Presidents: Fr. Tom Coyle PP, John Harte, Mattie Phelan & Willie Drennan
Chairman: Brian Lonergan
Vice-chair: Brian Doherty
Secretary: Nicky Maddock
Asst-Sec: Phil Brennan
Treasurer: Gerry Maher
Asst-Treas: Joe Ryan
PRO: Jerry Drennan

History

History was made this year when Galmoy won the County Junior hurling title for the first time since 1966 with a comprehensive victory over Thomastown. The excitement, satisfaction and celebrations for the ensuing days and weeks will live long in the memory of the parishioners and the hordes of well wishers from neighbouring clubs. Club Captain David Delaney also brought home the Northern Championship Cup and the Cahill Cup during a most successful year. Great credit for these successes must go to team trainer Jimmy Ruth and his selectors Jarlath Duggan and Pat Glendon. Our Junior Football team also qualified for their county final when they were pipped by Windgap in Nowlan Park on 9th May.

Crest

The new club crest was designed by Michael Vaughan and further developed by Noel Doherty. The crest features the traditional white sash in the background, fronted by two symbols which are intimately associated with the history of Galmoy. The first of these is the sword of St. Michael, the patron saint of Galmoy. In front is a shield bearing a red cross, part of the regalia of the Knights Templar. Among the lands owned by the Templars were those of Eirke, the civil parish that contains the present day Galmoy. The crest is completed with the Irish language name from which Galmoy is derived, Gabhalmhaigh, 'the plain of the river Gabhal'.

Finance

The club firmly supported the County Board Lotto throughout the year. The parish auction on February 8th raised an unprecedented E7,500 for club funds while we also had some prominent winners in the Members Co-Op draws.

Development Squads

During the year the following players attended various county development

squads: U-16 - Stephen Delaney, Stephen Maher and John Phelan, U-14 - Eamonn Corcoran, Joe Dollard and Thomas Corcoran. Billy Harte was a coach with the Northern U-16 squad.

Juveniles

The club is very grateful to the following men for all their work during the year with the juveniles, Pat Glendon, Frank Grace, Sean Phelan, Jimmy Duggan and Arthur Hynes.

Honours 2004

Niall Doherty and Martin Phelan added Leinster and All-Ireland U-21 medals to those that they won in 2003. Niall also lined out for Kilkenny's U-21 footballers. Noel Doherty won his second Leinster Intermediate medal while James Dunne won an All-Ireland U-21 B medal with Laois. The club also had four players on the Colaiste Mhuire Johnstown Juvenile hurling

panel which won the Leinster final, Eamonn Corcoran, Nigel Stanley, Joe Dollard and Thomas Corcoran.

Sympathy

The club extends deepest sympathy to the families of the following who passed away in 2004, Tom Fletcher, Mrs. Mary (Mai) Russell, Jack Cleere, Willo Gannon, John Mulhall, Des Egan, Mrs. Kitty Fogarty and to all those who were bereaved.

Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamnacha.



The Cup comes to Galmoy National School
 Ms. Liz Fitzgerald, Mrs. Therese Finnegan (Principal), Fr. Tom Coyle PP, Alan Gray, Conor Drennan, Liam Drennan and Ms. Bernadette Bergin.



Galmoy Camaint Team 2004.

Back row: Pat Glendon, Jimmy Duggan, Arthur Hynes, Brendan Phelan, Thomas Corcoran, Sean Phelan, Tommy Phelan, Frank Grace.

Third Row: M. Duggan, Niamh Glendon, Cian Hynes, Lloyd Bassett, Thomas Phelan, Jason Stanley, Thomas Phelan, George Bassett, Timothy Laherty, Cormac Glendon, Michael Phelan, Eimear Grace.

Seated: Siobhan Corcoran, Conor Grace, Sarah Whelan, Mary Corcoran, Kieran Phelan, Eoin Vaughan, Frank Phelan, Deanna Phelan, Martin Duggan, Darren Grace, Michael Vaughan.

Kneeling: Bethan Hiscock, Matthew Hiscock, Kevin Duggan, Brendan Phelan.

'Gael's on the Double

Bord na nÓg Under 16 Report by Richie Stone

Photos Eoin Hennessy



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - ROINN 'A' U16 CHAMPIONSHIP & LEAGUE WINNERS 2004

Back: Anthony Bergin, Sean Cleere, Gerry Tyrrell, Eanna Walsh, Enda Butler, David Carter, Chris Lambert, Andy Smith, Benny Cleere, Darren McGrath, Joe Walsh, Eddie Kearns, Niall Phelan, Conor Bergin, Darren Leahy, Pat Cantwell, Paul Delaney, Niall Kiely, Stephen Murphy, Denis Tyrrell, Nigel Skehan.

Front: Gerry Rowe, Robbie Dowling, Kevin Morrissey, Andy Kearns (Capt), Brendan Cleere, Mark Bergin, Owen Wall, Stephen Shortt, Brian Cooper, Brian McPartlan, David Grincell, Dick Leydon, Ronan O'Driscoll, David Rice.

ROINN A

Seven teams took part in the Duggan Steel Roinn 'A' under 16 championship. O Loughlin Gaels, Tullaroan, Danesfort, Dicksboro, James Stephens, St Lachtains and Clara set out in search of honours in July with O Loughlins strongly fancied to make a bold bid for honours as they had been Feile Na Gael winners in 2002. They opened their campaign with a 2-12 to 1-9 win over city rivals Dicksboro in a hard fought game played at Larchfield. Up and coming Danesfort were another side with plenty of promise and they got their campaign off to a good start with a 1-17 to 1-9 win over Tullaroan. In the other first round game James Stephens proved much too strong for St Lachtains (Freshford) winning 5-15 to 0-5. The semi finals saw James Stephens get the better of Danesfort 2-16 to 1-13 and O Loughlin Gaels beat Clara 1-18 to 1-9.

In the final which proved to be a disappointing affair O Loughlins got a tonic start when Mark Bergin goaled two minutes into the game after being set up by Kevin Morrissey. Weather conditions were against good hurling and with defences generally on top scores were at a premium in those early stages. Niall Kelly increased O Loughlin lead with a point in the 8th minute before James Stephens had their first point a minute later from Joe Mulcahy. Shane Brennan pointed a free for Stephens in the 19th minute. Then the floodgates opened. Mark Bergin took advantage of some poor defending to crack home O Loughlins second goal. This was followed by their third goal by David Grincell and the same Grincell popped up for his second and O Loughlins fourth to give the St Johns Park an almost unassailable lead at half time. Stephens opened brightly in the second half with a pointed free from Shane Brennan but that was as good as it got for the Larchfield lads. From there to the end O Loughlins were in cruise mode

and they ran out the easiest of winners on a 5-7 to 0-4 scoreline.

O'Loughlin Gaels – Brendan Cleere, Bryan Mc Partland, Chris Lambert, Andy Kearns, Darren Mc Grath, Stephen Shortt, Niall Phelan, Kevin Morrissey, Mark Kelly, Conor Bergin, Niall Kelly, Eoin Wall, David Grincell, Mark Bergin, Eddie Kearns.

Subs – Gerry Rowe, Rick Leydon, Stephen Murphy, Andy Smith, Pat Cantwell.

James Stephens – Keith Morris, Glen Campion, Niall Lanigan, Sean Ryan, Conor O'Brien, James Hennessey, Niall M C Quillan, Conor Mc Quillan, Joe Mulcahy, John Brennan, Conor Crowe, Shane Brennan, Ciaran Neary, David Walton, David Lynch. **Subs** – Keith Ryan, Adam Byrne, James Meehan.

ROINN B

The under 16 Roinn B championship saw fourteen teams compete for honours and this was probably the most competitive of the under 16 championships. With the exception of a couple of games there was little between any of the sides in the opening round. The best game was probably Erins Own versus John Lockes which the 'Comer side edging out the Callan men by a goal 2-9 to 1-9. Rower/Inistioge saw off the Lisdowney challenge on a 2-7 to 0-7 scoreline. Mooncoin proved too strong for Fenians/Galmoy winning 1-11 to 1-3. Mullinavat beat Thomastown 3-11 to 2-6. St Martins one of the favourites for honours had little difficulty seeing off the challenge of Carrickshock 2-19 to 1-2. Piltown were equally as impressive easily defeating Shamrocks (Ballyhale) with something to spare. The quarter finals saw Mullinavat beat Erins Own 3-9 to 1-9. Blacks & Whites withdrew leaving Piltown with a free run into the semi finals. St Martins got the better of Lisdowney 2-11 to 1-5 to keep their challenge on course and Mooncoin proved too



CONAHY SHAMROCKS - U16 ROINN 'C' LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2004

Back: Paul Buggy (Coach), Colin Murphy, James Murphy, Paddy Mullan, David Buggy, Padraig Harding, Barry Waters, Sean Delaney, Tom Mullan.
Middle: Donal Brennan, Conor Whelan, Patrick Cass, David Baldwin, Gary Kavanagh, David Healy, Darren Rafter, Michéal Lawlor, Seamus Óg Brennan (Selector).
Front: Joseph Cass, Jimmy Keohane, Joseph Delaney, Andrew O'Keeffe, David Maher (Capt.), Ian Kavanagh, Pauric Hally, Kieran Mooney, Teilo Maher, Ciaran Muldowney (Selector).

strong for Graigue/Ballycallan winning impressively 4-12 to 1-7. The semi finals were both closely contested . Mullinavat and Piltown played out a three game thriller. On the first occasion the ended level 1-5 each. In the replay they ended all square again Piltown 3-11 Mullinavat 4-8. Some controversy ensued after this game as extra time was not played due to failing light. However in the second replay Piltown made no mistake winning 3-14 to 2-5 to set up a final clash with neighbours Mooncoin who caused a mild surprise by beating St Martins by a single point 2-6 to 1-8 in the other semi final.

Old rivals Piltown and Mooncoin faced each other in the final. After an even first half the sides were level 0-5 each. The second was just as competitive with Mooncoin leading 0-9 to 0-8 with just six minutes remaining when an opportunist goal by Robbie Culleton put Piltown on the victory trail. Mooncoin tried hard to get back into the game but it was Piltown who finished stronger with three further points to take the title on a 1-11 to 0-9 scoreline. Best for Piltown were Neil Kelly, Michael Burchill, Frankie Kenny, Martin Gordon, John Duggan and David O Shea while Mooncoin had fine performers in Padraig Doody, Shane Walsh, Cormac Daly, P.J. Roe and Thomas Kearns who scored six points of his sides total.

Piltown – Peter Mc Carthy, Brendan Norris, Nigel Brennan, Kevin Brophy, Frankie Byrne, Seamus Norris (0-3) Matthew Kenny, Michael Burchill, Neil Kelly, 0-4 Joseph O Shea, 0-1 Martin Gordon, David O Shea 0-1 Robbie Culleton 1-1 John Duggan 0-1 Shane Mc Carthy. *Subs* – *Conor Scahill, Kevin Dunphy, Edward Blackmore, Kieran Fahy, Jack Millar.*

Moncoin – Kevin Law, Padraig Doody, Shane Walsh, Nicholas Heneberry, Michael Grace, Shane (Mossy) Walsh, Cormac Daly, P.J Roe, Thomas Healy, John Healy, Thomas Kearns (0-6) Richie Doyle, Michael O Hanlon, Thomas Heneberry (0-1) Jamie Cody (0-2). *Subs* – *Daniel Purcell, Mark Fitzgerald,*

Robert Flynn, Eric Walsh, Colm Wall, AJ Wall, Ian Dunphy, Brian Meade.

ROINN C

The Roin C championship had fourteen teams chasing honours. O'Loughlin Gaels entered their second string side and they got off to a flying start with a win over Cloneon on a 3-4 to 0-7 score line. Kilmacow beat Barrow Rangers 0-12 to 1-4. Conahy Shamrocks who were seeking a league/championship double beat Bennettsbridge whom they had beaten in the league final 2-16 to 2-11 to show they meant business. Glenmore beat Tullogher/Rosbercon 1-11 to 2-5 . St Patricks(Ballyragget) had a massive 5-15 to 0-6 win over Young Irelands and Windgap walked over from Dunnamaggin. The quarter finals saw Kilmacow and Graiguenamanagh play out a 2-10 each draw with Kilmacow winning the replay 4-6 to 1-7 . St Patricks were proving to be the big hitters in this grade recording a 5-14 to 2-4 win over O Loughlin Gaels second string. Conahy had a bye after Windap withdrew and Emeralds defeated Glenmore 3-7 to 2-4. The semi finals saw Conahy Shamrocks overcome Emeralds 1-10 to 0-10 and St Patricks were held to draw by a hard trying Kilmacow 1-6 each. In the replay the Ballyragget side came out on top 4-7 to 1-9 . The final played in good conditions at Nowlan Park as was expected a tight and hard fought game. St Patrick's led at the break 0-5 to 0-3 at half time. The vital score came when David Healy goaled for Conahy mid way through the second half. That goal was the tonic Conahy needed . St Patricks battled with a strong resolve to get back into the game in the closing stages but Conahy fought a fierce rearguard action and held on to win 1-8 to 0-7 to complete a league/championship double. **Conahy** – A O Keeffe, D Baldwin, J Delaney, T Maher, D Maher, K Mooney, P Cass, C Murphy, I Kavanagh, G

Kavanagh, D Rafter, J Cass, P Healy, D Healy, D Brennan. *Sub* – J Keoghane.
St Patricks – M Gannon, E Brophy, L Bergin, J Holland, S Brennan, G Morrissey, S Kenny, T Mc Grath, S Mooney, J Morrissey, M Price, B Mulhall, J Gannon, B Staunton, D Brophy. *Subs* – L Lacey, G Brennan.

UNDER 16 LEAGUE

Division 1

As was the case in the championship seven teams went in search of honours in the Duggan Steel under 16 Division 1 league. James Stephens, Danesfort, St Lachtains, Tullaroan, Clara, Dicksboro, and O Loughlin Gaels began the quest for honours on April 7th. By mid July the three city teams were left standing. All three finished on ten points having lost just one game apiece. O Loughlin had the best scoring average and went through to the final while Dicksboro and James Stephens played an exciting draw (4-11 each) in the play off for the other final place. Dicksboro won the replay 2-14 to 1-11 to set up a final against their great rivals from across the city. The final was competitive but the St Johns Park outfit had six points to spare at the end. Final Score O Loughlin Gaels – 1-14 Dicksboro 1-8.

O'Loughlin Gaels

Brendan Cleere, Chris Lambert, Andy Kearns, Stephen Murphy, Niall Phelan, Stephen Shortt, Darren Mc Grath, Mark Kelly, Mark Bergin, Eoin Wall, Niall Kiely, Conor Bergin, David Grincell, Kevin Morrissey, Eddie Kearns. *Subs* – Bryan Mc Partland, Rick Leydon, Gerry Rowe, Andy Smith, Pat Cantwell, Joe Walsh, Enna Walsh, Paul Delaney, Darren Leahy, Ronan O Driscoll, David Carter, David Rice, Enda Butler.

Dicksboro

David Ryan, Enda Malone, John Traynor, Drew Phelan, John Fagan, Lorcan Brennan, Peter Fitzpatrick, Colm Brady, Brian O Shea, Michael Fagan, Shane Maher, Diarmuid Molloy, Liam Ryan, Adrian Stapleton, Marco Russman.

Division 2

Fourteen teams competed in the division 2 league. The teams were divided into two groups. Group 1 consisted of Blacks & Whites, Erins Own, Lisdowney, St Martins, Graigue/Ballycallan, Fenians/Galmoy, and John Lockes while Shamrocks (Ballyhale) Mullinavat, Thomastown, Piltown, Carrickshock, Mooncoin and Rower/Inistioge made up group 2. St Martins and Erins Own qualified from group 1 while Piltown and Thomastown made it through group 2. The semi final draw paired St Martins and Piltown which finished all square St Martins 0-11 Piltown 2-5. St Martins won the replay 3-10 to 2-2 to qualify for a crack at their nearest neighbours Erins Own who had defeated Thomastown 3-6 to 1-8 in the other semi final. The final was an exciting affair with the Coon/Muckalee side coming out narrow but deserving winners on a 3-10 to 3-6 scoreline.



ST PAT'S, BALLYRAGGET - ROINN C' RUNNERS-UP 2004

Back: Barry Staunton, Liam Bergin, Sean McGrath, Stephen Brennan.
Middle: Joseph Brennan, Eddie Brophy, Sean Mooney, Seoirse Kenny, Tony McGrath, Myles Price, Geoff Morrissey, Brian Mulhall, Brendan Morrissey.
Front: Stephen Staunton, Dermot Brophy, James Gannon, James Morrissey, Michael Gannon, John Holland, Bill Staunton, Enda Mooney, John Mooney, Donal Brennan, Liam Lacey, Martin Glennon, Geoffrey Brennan.



ST MARTIN'S - DIV 2 U16 CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Noel Darcy, Craig Dowling, Fionn Lawlor, Paddy Nolan, John Mulhall, Mark Murphy, Colin McGrath, Darren Holohan, Oliver Walsh, Conor Kelly, Tomás Morrissey, Stephen Shore.
Front: Geoff Doyle, Roderick Hogan, Ciarán Brennan, Thomas Breen, James Dowling (Capt), Darragh Callanan, Michael Nolan, Canice Maher, Micheál Morrissey, John Haughney, Tomás Coonan, Paddy Dowling.

Division 3

Division 3 consisted of fifteen teams and was also divided into two groups. Emeralds, (Conahy Shamrocks, Barrow Rangers, Cloneen, Bennettsbridge Young Irelands O Loughlin Gaels(2) and St Patricks made up group 1 while group 2 consisted of Kilmacow, Windgap, Slieverue, Glenmore, Graiguenamanagh, Tullogher/Rosbercon, and Dunnamaggin. Bennettsbridge and Conahy Shamrocks came through group 1 while Tullogher/Rosbercon and Glenmore qualified from group 2. The semi finals saw Bennettsbridge edge out Tullogher/Rosbercon 1-9 to 2-4 while Conahy had a massive 5-15 to 1-5 win over a luckless Glenmore. The final was much closer affair with Conahy getting the better of Bennettsbridge 0-13 to 1-5.

Captains & Cups

Photos - Eoin Hennessy & Charlie Maher



It Was Lachtain's Year!

Camogie Report by Tommy O'Brien PRO

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

St Lachtain's Win Easily

St Lachtain's 4-9 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-1

The guile and experience of St Lachtain's (Freshford) proved too much for a very young Ballyhale Shamrock's team as the champions added another JJ Kavanagh & Sons senior title to their glittering list of honours.

St Lachtain's opened the scoring when Deirdre Delaney scored a point after 7 minutes but senior star Jacqui Frisby had the sides level after 12 minutes when she pointed a free from 40 yards. Speedy hockey international Sinéad Connery put her side ahead within a minute with a neat point and the lead was stretched by two Imelda Kennedy pointed frees with a brilliant Marie O'Connor point sandwiches between them.

Any hopes of a Shamrocks revival were dealt a body blow after 20 minutes when Deirdre Delaney scored a goal from long distance although the south Kilkenny side held firm in defence for the rest of the half before conceding a point to Imelda Kennedy on the call of half time to leave St Lachtain's ahead by 1-6 to 0-1 at the break.

Three goals in the opening 10 minutes of the second half put the champions well in control with Imelda scoring two major scores and Marie O'Connor adding her goal after 7 minutes. The competitive element was gone from the game at this stage although Ballyhale continued to try to contain their rivals and kept the St Lachtain's total for the rest of the half to points by Imelda Kennedy and Ann Dalton.

Imelda Kavanagh was awarded "Player of the Match" award as well as being captain of the winning team and was generous in her praise of the future of Ballyhale camogie when she accepted the trophy from county camogie Chairperson, Liam Dunne.

This was the 6th senior title for St Lachtain's with titles also coming in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. They will now face the Wexford champions in the Leinster club championship.

St Lachtain's (Freshford): Laura Comerford; Danielle Minogue, Gillian Dillon Maher Mairead Lawlor; Aine Connery, Deirdre Delaney, Mairead Costelloe; Aoife Fitzpatrick, Esther Kennedy; Sinead Connery, Margaret Kavanagh, Marie O'Connor; Imelda Kennedy (Capt), Eileen Fitzpatrick, Ann Dalton *Subs: Paula Dowling, Fiona Dowling, April Purcell, Ruth Comerford, Eimear Connery, Sinead Corrigan, Margaret Hickey, Emma Hickey*

Ballyhale Shamrocks: Trish Mason; Olive Ryan (Capt), Ciara Fennelly, Mary Connors; Breda Walsh, Eleanor Walsh, Roisin Fennelly; Kiera Fennelly, Lisa Ryan; Lorna Fennelly, Assumpta Fennelly, Grace Fennelly; Keeva Fennelly, Jackie Frisby, Emily Darmody *Subs: Aisling Walsh, Belita Fennelly, Orla Ryan, Kathleen Cummins, Emma Nolan, Paula Kenneally, Siobhan Kenneally, Geraldine Walsh*

Referee: Pat Hayes

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

St Martin's 1-6 Emeralds 1-4

The JJ Kavanagh & Sons Intermediate final between neigh-



ST MARTIN'S - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Miriam O' Keefe, Mary Love, Breda Roche, Marie Therese O' Neill, Aidean Dwyer, Georgina Kelly, Joan Maher, Miriam Maher, Collete Coogan, Siobhan Dooley, Martina Maher, Alice Farrel, Ethel O' Flynn, Eimear Maher.

Front: Cathy Gibbons, Kelly Roche, Aoife Dunne, Noirin O' Keefe, Hannah Maher, Edwina Keane, Sara Shore, Grainne Daly, Noelle Curran, Sharon Shore, Theresa Shore, Niamh Maher, Eilish Cantwell.



KILKENNY MINOR (U16) CAMOGIE TEAM WHO BEAT DUBLIN IN THE LEINSTER FINAL AND WENT ON TO PLAY GALWAY IN THE ALL IRELAND FINAL.

Back: Laura Galvin, Niamh Culleton, Kay Ryall, Siobhan Fahey, Lorna Fennelly, Carol Phelan, Naoimi Fogarty.

Middle: Aoife Drennan, Kathleen Corrigan(Selector), Elaine O'Shea, Hannah Maher, Liam Dunne(Manager), Carol Kavanagh(Captain), Roseanne Brennan, Ann Dalton, Regina Madigan, Rita Cody, Collette Dormer, Lucinda Gahan, Nessa Farrell, Sarah McCarthy, Laura Brennan, Ann Marie Phelan, Mary Dalton, Sarah Byrne, Stephen Dormer(Manager)

Front: Nicola Foley, Claire Coonan, Lisa Phelan, Noelle Corrigan, Marie Murphy, Noreen O'Keeffe, Sarah Shore, Marie Dargan, Paula Butler, Orla McCormack, Sinead Walsh, Laura Kavanagh.

bours St Martin's and Emeralds was an absorbing affair with the result in doubt right up to the final whistle. Siobhan Fahey opened the scoring for Emeralds with a point but Georgina Kelly equalised after 10 minutes. Siobhán Fahey was once more on the scoresheet after 15 minutes but St Martin's were level once more when Georgina Kelly scored her second point.

Two further Georgina Kelly points put the favourites 2 points clear and an Edwina Keane goal really put St Martin's in the driving seat when the under 14 star forced the ball to the net. Miriam Maher extended the St Martin's lead to leave the half time score St Martin's 1-5 Emeralds 0-2.

Emeralds began the second half in a very determined mood. They hit the post twice in the opening minutes and there was some ferocious pulling around the St Martin's square. Then after 4 minutes Áine Fahey sent a long range free all the way to the net to narrow the gap to a goal. Áine Fahey had the point of the day a minute later and 23 minutes had elapsed in the half before the same player converted a 45 to leave just a point between the sides.

Martha Maher restored the St Martin's lead and Emeralds laid siege to the St Martin's goal for the last few minutes. Áine Fahey sent a screamer from a 20 metre free which was stopped on the line and the ensuing scramble in the goalmouth was not for the faint hearted!

But St Martin's, last year's losing finalists, held firm and won the JJ Kavanagh & Sons Centenary Cup 1-6 to 1-4.

St Martin's: Joan Maher; Niamh Maher Noelle Curran Teresa Shore; Alice Farrell Geraldine Roche Breda Roche; Martina Maher Miriam Maher; Collette Coogan Siobhán Coogan Georgina Kelly; Aideen Dwyer Edwina Keane Gráinne Daly
Subs: Mary Love, Miriam O'Keeffe, Noreen O'Keeffe Sarah Share Sharon Shore Eimear Maher Ethel O'Flynn Kelly Roche Hannah Maher Aoife Dunne Eilish Cantwell Marie Therese O'Neill Cathy Gibbons

Emeralds: Siobhan O'Hara; Marion Clohessy Mary Burke Clodagh Cleere; Sarah Byrne Aine Fahy Claire O'Gorman; Shona Power Selina Power; Sarah O'Gorman Claire Ryan (Capt) Siobhan Fahey; Laura Kavanagh Katherine Ryan Sheila Doyle
Subs: Eileen Hughes Marietta Doheny Maura Brennan Danielle Champion Sinead Curran Lorraine Peters Collette Grant Aine Brennan Patricia Norton Susan Breen Elaine Hayes Bridget Champion Geraldine Moriarty Brid Leahy Eileen Fitzgerald Orla Gleeson Helen Power Sarah Kavanagh Eilish Brennan Aisling Fitzgerald Davina Tobin

Referee Martin Quilty

KILKENNY WIN TREBLE

Kilkenny 3-4 Dublin 2-3

Kilkenny under 14 camogie team won a thrilling Leinster final against Dublin at Nowlan Park on Saturday when they withstood tremendous Dublin pressure to get through by 4 points—with the winning scores coming deep into injury time. In one of the most exciting camogie games played in Kilkenny this year both sides showed rare commitment as they fought for scores which were far from easy to come by.

Kilkenny began well after 3 minutes when Marie Dargan converted a free after a foul on Edwina Keane. A minute later Amy Maher sent a screamer of a ground shot to the net to put Kilkenny 4 points ahead. 13 minutes had passed before Dublin opened their scoring with a free by Kirsten Farrell but after 16 minutes the sides were level when Rachel Costello scored Dublin's first goal.

Indeed but for a brilliant save by Elizabeth Kavanagh at this stage the Dubs would have gone ahead. Marie Dargan rallied her side with a fine goal but Dublin came back at the end of the first half with scores from Sorcha Forde (0-1) and Kirsten Farrell (1-0) to leave the visitors ahead by 2-2 to 2-1 at half time.

Edwina Keane gathered a long clearance by Mariga Nolan and



EMERALDS - U21 'B' CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Brid Leahy, Elaine Hayde, Aine Fahy, Siobhan Fahy, Claire O'Gorman, Clodagh Cleere, Shona Power, Lorriane Peters, Siobhan O'Hara, Danielle Campion, Trish Norton, Mariette Dohney.

Front: Brigid Campion, Marion Clohessy, Eileen Fitzgerald, Orla Gleeson, Susan Breen, Eileen Hughes, Selina Power (Capt), Geraldine Moriarty, Sarah Byrne, Laura Kavanagh, Colette Grant, Helen Power, Aine Doyle.

scored the equaliser after just 3 minutes of the second half. 15 minutes passed before the next score—an extremely skilful point by Michelle Mulhall from an acute angle. Kilkenny led by this single point until the 30th minute of the half when Rachel Costello equalised for Dublin.

A draw looked on the cards at this stage but a point by Maria Dargan gave Kilkenny the lead and the game finished as a contest when Michelle Mulhall was on hand to hammer the ball to the net when the Dublin goalie fumbled a shot.

Kilkenny: Elizabeth Kavanagh (O'Loughlin's); Niamh Quinlan, Sarah Walsh (Thomastown), Mariga Nolan (St Lachtain's); Leanne Fennelly (Mullinavat), Kate McDonald (Clara) Róisín Byrne (St Lachtain's), Marie Dargan (Lisdowney), Sinéad Long (Piltown), Amy Maher (Thomastown), Ann Marie Walsh (St Martin's), Anna Farrell (Thomastown); Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat) (Thomastown), Edwina Keane (St Martin's), Michelle Mulhall (St Martin's)

Subs: Ciara Lyng (Rower Inistioge) Emma Carroll (Blacks & Whites), Aisling Butler (O'Loughlin's), Andrea McEvoy (Young Irelands), Aisling Maher (St Anne's), Alice Heafey (Thomastown), Emma Staunton (Paulstown), Georgina Culleton (Blacks & Whites), Michelle O'Keeffe (St Martin's), Orla Gleeson (Emeralds), Sarah Morrissey (O'Loughlin's), Ann Marie Lennon (Blacks & Whites) Grace Brennan (Thomastown), Michelle Brennan (Paulstown) Ruth Bergin (Clara) Katie Power (Piltown) Siobhán Holland Claire Comerford.

Kilkenny 6-7 Dublin 2-8

Kilkenny scored a clearcut victory over rivals Dublin in the Leinster minor A championship final at Bennettsbridge on Sunday. The teams had finished level (Dublin 0-7, Kilkenny 1-4) when they met in the league proper in Good Counsel grounds in Dublin.

However, the improvement in the Kilkenny team was soon apparent as they overcame their opposition in almost every position. Ann Dalton opened the scoring with a point from a free and Laura Kavanagh had the first of her three points from play before Dublin opened their account with a very good point from Clodagh Cooney.

Orla McCormack soon had Kilkenny in control with a brilliant point and Ann Marie Phelan gathered the ball after an Ann Dalton solorun to hammer the ball past the Dublin goalie and leave Kilkenny 1-3 to 0-1 in front after 15 minutes. After 24 minutes of the game Laura Kavanagh had the best point of the day but Dublin replied with 2 goals to leave the scores level (Kilkenny 1-6, Dublin 2-3) as half time approached.

Then an Ann Dalton free was doubled on overhead by Claire Coonan for a goal and when Lucinda Gahan gathered the puckout and hammered home a screamer Kilkenny were in front by 3-6 to 2-3 at the break.

Any hopes of a Dublin revival were soon dispelled when Claire Coonan had her second goal of the afternoon on the resumption. Laura Kavanagh sandwiched a point in between 4 Dublin points before Ann Marie Phelan had another Kilkenny goal. The final goal of the day was probably the best. Marie Dargan gathered the ball 50 yards from goal and sped past a now dejected Dublin defence to hammer the ball to the net.

Kilkenny: Noelle Corrigan (St Lachtain's); Noreen O'Keeffe (St Martin's), Elaine O'Shea (Windgap), Sarah Shore (St Martin's); Paula Butler (Mullinavat), Carol Phelan (Mullinavat), Carol Kavanagh (St Lachtain's); Lucinda Gahan (Mullinavat) (1-1), Ann Dalton (St Lachtain's) (0-2); Claire Coonan (Lisdowney) (2-0) Collette Dormer (Paulstown) Marie Dargan (Lisdowney) (1-0); Laura Kavanagh (Emeralds) (0-3) Ann Marie Phelan (Windgap) (2-0) Orla McCormack (James Stephens) (0-1)

Subs: Laura Brennan (James Stephens) Sarah Byrne (Emeralds) Rita Cody (Paulstown) Niamh Culleton (Piltown) Mary Dalton (St Lachtain's) Aoife Drennan (Paulstown) Siobhan Fahey (Emeralds) Nessa Farrell (Young Irelands) Lorna Fennelly (Shamrocks) Naomi Fogarty (James Stephens) Laura Galvin (Clara) Lisa Hanrick (Dicksboro) Regina Madigan (Mullinavat) Hannah Maher (St Martin's) Sarah McCarthy (Windgap) Maria Murphy (Clara) Lisa Phelan (Windgap) Kay Ryall (St Brigid's) Sinead Walsh (James Stephens) Nicola Foley (Piltown) Roseanne Brennan (Paulstown)

Management: Liam Dunne, Stephen Dormer, and Kathleen Corrigan:

Time has not dimmed the memory, nor has it dulled the enthusiasm of Pat Fanning, whose eighty-six years on God's Earth has been an historical kaleidoscope of enormous proportions. I met the graciously amenable man in the front room of his home, where he now lives alone, still in the heart of Mount Sion country.

"Tá fáilte romhat", was the salutation as his hand gripped mine on the front door step.

His front room is a well organised, veritable Aladdin's cave of GAA paraphernalia. Signature creations in crystal, bronze, silver and antique timber adorn his "cave", treasures from grateful admirers.

Born at the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars, Pat Fanning, whilst he would have no memory of the time, had first seen the light of day in an occupied, troubled land. Not surprisingly, his family, like many more around the country were deeply involved with various Nationalist movements at the time. That influence was to course through his very being to this present day.

Life in one of Ireland's oldest cities on the banks of the Suir at Pat's birth was typically maritime.

Tall ships plied their trade into the Port of Waterford. Five masters swayed bow-by-stern with the new sailing concept - steam driven, iron-hulled sailing ships. Class segregation was manifestly obvious. But for the Christian Brothers, founded by the City's Edmund Rice, the street urchins of the city had no chance of any educational training whatsoever. Survival was a way of life, not a privilege.

Pat Fanning will tell you of the importance of the GAA to the development of our country. He will underline its contribution, its longevity, its solidarity, its unity of purpose, and its unifying qualities with undeniable conviction. Although in the twilight years of a long life, Pat Fanning can, as very few can, talk with a profound knowledge, and an unbridled grá for his subject.

I was in awe of the man, envious of his memory treasure, and a far wiser man leaving than before I went to see him. Whenever historians sit in discussion, or write in their solitary confinements about the GAA, its importance, its contribution, its people, then without fear of contradiction, I can say that the name of Pat Fanning will figure among its giants.

In a sense, it's ambiguous to say that he is a Waterford man. In truth, he is, and will forever remain, a Mount Sion man with an allegiance to the Decies. He won a Minor Championship with Mount Sion in 1934 - two years after its foundation. The same team were to win the Waterford Senior Championship in 1938. They were to put 38 more with it, including a nine-in-a-row between '53 and '61,

Wearing the GAA on his Sleeve

***Barrie Henriques
talks to
Iar-Uachtarán,
Pat Fanning***



Waterford and Mount Sion's Pat Fanning

during his stewardship.

A brief resumé of his "watch" with his beloved Mount Sion shows that he filled the office of Secretary for fifteen years, he was Chairman for two separate periods of fifteen and eight years, and his club honoured him with a Life Presidency in 1985. His career with the Decies was no less distinguished. He served as Chairman on three different occasions, from 1955 to 1963, from '69 to '70, and from '75 to '78. He is currently an Honorary Life President of the County Board.

He also served as Chairman of the Munster Council from 1962 until 1965, but top of the distinguished career was his election as Uachtarán CLG in 1970. His election to the highest office of the Association was to coincide with some of the most monumental events ever to visit the GAA.

Pat Fanning never ceases to wear his allegiance to the GAA on his sleeve, and he unapologetically avails of every opportunity to extol its virtues, its importance, its contribution. Because it has made a huge contribution. Fanning would say that, "Its effect on the social history of Ireland was surely crucial in the historical development of modern Ireland. Even such a luminary as Conor Cruise-O'Brien, not a great lover of the GAA, was moved to say that the GAA was the most durable, and important of all the mass movements of nineteenth century Ireland", he said.

As Uachtarán, his tenure was anything but a bed of roses. It was a time where the GAA needed safe hands as a veritable minefield of admin problems took on a life of their own, each accompanied by a phalanx of headline-seeking media eyes.

CONGRESS IN BELFAST

"The first decision made was to hold the Congress in the Whitlow Hall in Belfast. At the time, the six counties were a powder keg, ready to explode. I had the call, and against mounting protest, I personally decided that we should go to Belfast. There was a strong lobby not to go, but I considered that our Association was a thirty-two county association, and, as such, I couldn't see why we should not have gone. It was risky as far as I was concerned. The British army had taken over Casement, and that didn't help my decision. It was put to me that protests outside the park should have been mounted. I had no problem with that. But I was sickened when it was intimated that a few fatalities would garnish the demonstration with a huge propaganda value. Safe hands like Sean O Sióchán and a great friend of mine from Derry, Tommy Mellon, were of enormous help to me in making my decisions. I remember going to the House of Commons with Jack Rooney, Seán O Sióchán, and a great Gael from Liverpool, Tommy Walsh, to meet with the Labour Government of the day under Jim Callaghan. It was a trying time, where progress was painfully slow".

RULE 27.

" Now here was the most contentious issue of all, an issue that was destined to test the entire superstructure of our Association. Thirty of our thirty two counties - the dissenters being Sligo and Antrim- had mandated their Congress representatives to vote to rescind Rule 27. I personally decided that the decision to rescind had been taken out of our hands by the clubs of Ireland exercising their democratic right to have the rule wiped from the rule book. I had received a huge number of letters from well-meaning members of the

Association, with a huge cacophony of differing suggestions. Some letters were for the retention, some were opposed to the rule, and even some were of a threatening quality. It was a time of great tension, great passion, and great trauma. Never has there been a more visible presence of media. People were asking what way will the "chief" - that's how some referred to me - travel? After an inordinate amount of soul searching, I personally decided for the sake of the Association, that once the decision had been made, that further discussion should be avoided.

After a slight vexed hiccup with Lar Brady from Laois, I got the motion moved, passed, and I summarily said that Rule 27 of the Official Guide was rescinded. No more, no less. Truly a momentous day for the GAA. It proved to be a huge anti-climax for the gathered media circus, but it also generated a great sigh of relief for our Association."

I asked Pat whether the abolition of the rule mirrored his own personal doctrine.

"I was against the removal of the rule, but I had to subscribe to the dictum of a democratic union, where the will of the majority - in this case a huge majority - is upheld".

NEW YORK.

"We had a situation in New York where Clem Foley, the Dublin referee suffered a serious injury as a result of an assault after a match. After a protracted investigation, the New York Board would not subscribe to the ruling of the ruling of Central Council, which after all is, and was then, the governing body. New York had the same autonomy as the four Provinces, or the English Board. In conclusion, I was left with no option but to declare the New York Board suspended for twelve months. I had plenty of rows with the supremo in Gaelic Park, John Kerry O'Donnell, but I would have to say that I also had great respect for him as a man, an administrator, and I would also contend that, but for him, Gaelic Park, as we know it, would never have existed. At an All-Star occasion in Dublin one time, I met Kerry, who had arrived in his full Knights of St. Gregory regalia. Part

of the regalia was a ceremonial sword, which he wasn't wearing. I asked him why he was not wearing his sword, to which he replied, "I was afraid that I might cut the heads off a few of ye lads". That was Kerry O'Donnell".

I pushed the delightful historian for a few regrets he may have. "The demise of big name Colleges, like Blackrock, Belvedere, Galbally etc. as schools playing our games, is a source of regret to me. The hue and cry to open Croke Park upsets me, as I feel that by doing so, we run a terrible risk of eventually having all our resources being open house to every other sport. Let no one tell you about the Government investment. Our facilities were hard won before any Government came on board, and if the Government of any day were to contribute towards the GAA what they are morally bound to, it would be a figure far in excess of their paltry present funding.

On the contribution made by the Irish Christian Brothers, Pat had this to say." Irrespective of what a small minority have to say about that august body, the Irish Christian Brothers were the biggest influences in the creation of modern Ireland. Edmund Rice , at a time when there were thirteen fee-paying schools for the middle classes in Waterford, made education of the proletariat his chief concern. Pupils were never turned away from the Christian Brothers schools. Even though it was voiced at the time that there was no need for the Christian Brothers, Rice persisted, and set up his schools in Waterford, Callan, Dungarvan, Clonmel and elsewhere. The Christian Brothers' influence was to manifest itself fourfold, and more, for generations. We, as a nation, despite the backbiters, owe an enormous debt of gratitude to them".

He is thrilled with the ongoing development of the GAA. We should not sit on our laurels, or mark time, because to do so would lead to stagnation, and that would be self-destructive. Pat Fanning has travelled the road further than most. His lovely wife, Maura, sadly passed away some months ago. She was his greatest friend, his finest critic, and his most trusted confidante.

Pat Fanning - truly a man for all seasons.

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Normally he can be found on duty as an umpire at games in the local field. But last week one of the most discreet workers in sport in Kilkenny enjoyed tea with the President. Mullinavat GAA club official, Jim Conway, discarded the white coat of an umpire and instead donned his finery for a meeting with President Mary McAleese.

Mr Conway of Killandrew, Mullinavat, was one of the chosen few honoured during a Day for Sports Volunteers in Áras An Uachtaráin. Mr Conway was nominated for the honour by Kilkenny County Board in recognition of his dedication to his native club and parish. "His contribution has been immense, but you will never find him looking for praise," offered GAA Development Officer, Barry Hickey when he informed the monthly meeting of the Board of the honour accorded Mr Conway. He has served as treasurer of Mullinavat GAA club for 43 years. He organised the famous Gold Watch tournament in the town which attracted teams for all parts of the country for over 28 years.

And he has been caretaker of the club grounds virtually since he was able to push a pitch marker.

Mr Conway has been an umpire for over 30 years, and only recently he was on duty by a post during a Kilkenny camogie final at Nowlan Park. Anything that needed doing in Mullinavat, Jim Conway was prepared to put his shoulder to the wheel. "He has gracefully given his life to the GAA," Mr Hickey added. "He is a gentleman, a person any club would be proud to have involved." "If you ever want to find him he will be the umpire on the duty at the right hand post of the goal at the town end in Mullinavat on match days," advised County Board chairman, Ned Quinn.

"The GAA is blessed to have people like Jim Conway in its ranks," he added.

From KILKENNY PEOPLE

Jim and his sister, Margaret, are pictured here with President Mary McAleese, and her husband Martin, in Áras an Uachtaráin.



DE BHALDRAITHE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2004

Aisling Ní Cearrúill, Jenkinstown; Séamas Ó Muiríosa, Béal Átha Ragad; Caoimhín Ó Teimhnéain, Baille Phóil; Conchúir Mac an Ghoill, Geata Bán; Máire Ní Bhróithe, Béal Átha Ragad agus Aoife Breathnach, Rioch's Tce., Cill Chainnigh with Eamon Ó Coinn, Cathaoirleach CLG, Cill Chainnigh.



A meeting between **Jack Anthony**, veteran of the 1904 Kilkenny All Ireland-winning team and **Christy Ring**. Jack Anthony was uncle to County Board Auditor, Ray Anthony



Great GAA servant, **Georgie Leahy** who recently retired as Schools Coach, receives a presentation from **Ned Quinn**, Chairman, CLG, at the Kilkenny Medal Presentation ceremony

NOTES FOR CLUB SECRETARIES/PRO'S

There has been a great improvement in quality and presentation of Club Notes over the past few years. Almost all club reports are now submitted in digital form and, with a few exceptions, in reasonably good time. We thank the club Secretaries/PRO's for their co-operation in this. However, a few pointers follow which may be of help:-

When submitting notes for the Yearbook, please note:-

- ★ A full page of text in the Club Notes section takes about 1000 words. The notes, however, will be more attractive if photos are included.
- ★ An average photo (eg a team picture), plus caption, will reduce the above total by at least 250 words.
- ★ A small photo (eg individual or small group picture) plus caption will take the space of at least 100 words. Therefore, a Club Report with team photo and a small photo should not have more than 650 words, and clubs submitting more than this number of photos should reduce the text content pro rata.
- ★ Photos submitted should ideally be in digital form or at least good quality professionally developed prints. Computer printouts will not work. All hard-copy photos will be returned.
- ★ Please send all text either by e-mail or on disk with photos as attachments, remembering to include captions, players' names etc.
- ★ This year, where provided, we have included the club crest in the banner heading. If your club crest was not submitted this year, perhaps you might obtain a quality coloured image of the crest for next year.

County JH Championship Action

Photos - Eoin Hennessy,



County IH Championship Action

Photos - Eoin Hennessy,





around the clubs

Another year has passed us by and we were very competitive in all grades. Our seniors won two of our league games and were narrowly beaten by Dunnamaggin in the championship. Our Junior A team had a welcome change of luck winning both South and County Championships and congratulations to all concerned both mentors and players. Our Junior B team also gave a good account of themselves winning a number of games.

In football Erins Own narrowly beat our senior team in the semi-final of the championship after a drawn game.

In the underage competitions we won our 2003 championship in U-16 football C football played in January. In this years championships we were competitive in all grades being beaten by an injury time goal in the Minor County Hurling final against Kilmacow.

Our school competitions are dealt with by our special juvenile committee.

In intercounty hurling we had three panellists Richie and Paddy Mullally and Mark Phelan on the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team narrowly beaten by Cork in the final and we wish them Bon Voyage on their holiday in America next January

Club Developments

Our new dressing rooms are now in general use for teams and for club meetings. We are still actively trying for a juvenile pitch, as space is very limited in the present complex, any offers will be considered.

Fund Raising

The cost of running a hurling club continues to escalate and is a constant battle with our friendly bank manager. The Kilkenny Co-op Draw continues to be our main fundraiser and no praise is too high to Watt Cody who single hand almost runs the whole operation.

We have also run a successful dog night in Waterford track for the last two years, and next year a Golf Classic is in the pipeline.

Thanks are also due to our main sponsor Murphy Motors who are with us for a number of years.



GLENMORE JUNIOR HURLING TEAM 1949

Glenmore Junior hurling team, who beat Slieverue (Southern Champions 1948), who were junior hurling finalists 1948, in Mullinavat, May 1949. Jimmy Doherty of Coolnaleen our goalkeeper was tragically killed a fortnight after. The side was later beaten in the Southern Final after a replay by Knocktopher in Mullinavat.

Players only

Back: John Doherty (Ballinlammy), Tommy Phelan (head down), Mick Fitzgerald, George O'Connor, Richard Flynn (Milebush), Bill Grace.

2nd row: Bill O'Connor, Peter Roche, Jimmy Doherty, Dick Hanrahan, Garda Sean O'Connell, Henry Doolan, Paddy Heffernan, Paddy Roche, Bill Heffernan (injured).

Front row: Jimmy Roche, Pat O'Conor, Paul Fitzgerald,

Near Front: Tommy Fitzgerald (chairman), Seamus Dunphy (secretary).



GLENMORE MINOR TEAM 1956

Photo shows the Glenmore Minor hurling team beaten by Freshford in the Minor A Final of 1955. The game was played in March of 1956. Glenmore defeated Coolroe of Graiguenamanagh in the Southern Final. The team is unique in that five of them were ordained to the priesthood afterwards -(Monsignor Paul Fitzgerald P.P. Thomastown, Dick Phelan P.P. Kilmanagh, Michael Mernagh OSA Dublin, Nicky Duggan U.S.A. and Dan Cody U.S.A.)

Back: Fr. F Greene (manager), John Doherty, Jimmy Hartley, Paul Fitzgerald, Michael Mernagh, Paddy Griffin, Richard Doherty, Paddy Boyle, Dick Dowling, Larry Griffin, Luke Doherty, Martin Murphy (with coat on injured for final).

Middle: John McDonald, Nickey Hanrahan, Martin Cass, Sean Fitzgerald, John Power, Michael Barron, Dan Cody, Nicky Duggan, Dick Phelan.

Front : Jack Barry, John Vereker, Larry Ryan.



around the clubs

Club Officers

Patrons: Fr. Phelan, Fr. McGree
Fr. Buckley

Chairman: Kieran Hoyne

Vice Chairman: John Caldbeck

Secretary: Michael Marnell

Asst Secretary: Eamon Marnell

Treasurer: John Robinson

PRO: Philip Cody

Asst PRO: Maurice Ronan

Co. Board Del: Ben Hayes

North Bd Del: Kieran Brennan

Bord na nÓg: Michael Dermody

Football Board: John Power

Liaison Officer: Tom McGrath

School Liaison: Maurice Ronan

On the Field

The seniors enjoyed a good run in the league and qualified for the league final, where they are due to play county champions James Stephens. Their bid for the senior championship was halted at the quarter-final stage when they were defeated by Young Irelands after a replay. Both the juniors and special juniors had a disappointing year. The U-21's were knocked out of the championship by Tullaroan after a replay

A Busy Juvenile Year

There was plenty of activity on the juvenile scene with teams from primary level to minor level competing in various competitions. The biggest success was the U-13 's reaching the 'B' final where they were beaten by Paulstown. Panel: Eoin Robinson, Eoin Corcoran, Martin Doheny, Darragh Egan, Ger Teehan, James Power, John Dunphy, John Robinson, Dermot Heafy, William O'Connor, Conor Hogan, Michael O'

Sullivan, Liam Doyle, Sean O'Dwyer, James Gleeson, PJ Trant, Eamon Bulter, Shane Bulter, Tommy Egan, Conor Cleere, James Hogan, Padraig Tynan, Joey Corcoran, William Harrison, David Delaney.

The minors exited the championship at the hands of Shamrocks while the under 16's lost to Mooncoin.

Club Development

The additional two dressing rooms, which were completed at the end of last year, were in great demand this year. The groundsstaff were very active in keeping the pitch and grounds in pristine condition throughout the year. The goalmouths were re-sodded earlier this year and presently more wire fencing is being put up around the field.

The club continues to have an active underage development policy and it was n't unusual to have sixty or more juveniles training on Saturday mornings.

Social

The annual dinner dance in association with St. Brigids Camogie club took place in Springhill Court Hotel. It was well attended and a great night was had by all.

Fundraising

Graigue Ballycallan held a Golf Classic in Callan Golf Club on the 1st and 2nd of July to raise funds. It proved very successful with over sixty teams taking part and it is hoped this will become an annual event.

The weekly lotto and sale of Piltown tickets continue to be a major source of

income for the club and many thanks is extended to all who buy and sell the tickets.

Local Tournaments

The 2003 final of the Billy Ronan Memorial Tournament was played in March with all proceeds going to the John Coogan Injury Fund. Tullaroan beat Graigue Ballycallan on a scoreline 1-12 to 1-9.

Twelve teams took part in the Declan Byrne Tournament with Dicksboro winning the Cup Final and O'Loughlins winning the Shield Final.

Representing the Club

Ciaran Hoyne won a U-21 All-Ireland medal. Jason Dermody and Patrick Kennedy were on the St. Kiernans College All-Ireland winning panel. Eddie Brennan, John Hoyne and James Ryall were part of the Kilkenny All-Ireland team.

Handball

The club enjoyed some success at an often overlooked arm of the GAA with Ciaran Neary and Justin Dermody crowned Lenister U-15 Handball Champions.

James Power and Sean Dwyer also won the Cumann Na mBunscoileanna Handball competition.

Sympathies

The club extends sympathy to all those who experienced bereavements during the year including the families of Nicholas Purcell, John Dermody, Paddy Burke, Paddy Buckley and Ken Byrne.

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around the clubs

Mick Butler RIP

The sudden death of Mick Butler severed a link with the team that brought the first county hurling title of the club when they won the Junior Championship in 1972. An unselfish corner forward he had great vision and set up many scoring opportunities for his colleagues.

As a member of the defence forces in his youth he was a valued member of the western command team that won the all army championship.

The club extends sincere sympathy to his wife Ann & grieving family. He will be fondly remembered for his great contribution to the club. May he rest in peace.



Mr. Mick Butler RIP
 holding the Liam
 McCarthy Cup



Graignamanagh GAA Club Committee 2004
Back: Mary Blanchfield, Paul Ryan, Billy Hoare, Liam Walsh, Pat Doyle, Robbie Carroll, Hugh Ryan, Valerie Ryan.
Seated: Mary O'Donnell, Jim Whelan, Breda O'Shea.

Sincere Thanks

The Club would like to thank main sponsor Michael Doran also our other loyal sponsors.

We would also like to thank our neighbouring clubs for the use of their facilities to train while our own development work was taking place and a special word of thanks to Clara for the use of their pitch on numerous occasions.

Lotto

Our Club has joined forces with Highview Athletic soccer club to launch a new local lotto. This has proved a successful venture and thanks must go to all our sellers, promoters and those who support the lotto each week. This is a major source of funding for both clubs.

Development Work

The Development work continued this year with the completion of the pitch & surroundings. More work is still to be undertaken but once completed the club will have first class facilities.

Dinner Dance

The Clubs very successful dinner dance was held in January this year Langtons. At the event the achievements of all teams and players from 2003 were recognised.

Special guests on the night were the members of the clubs Minor team who won the first county title in 1978. Team and Mentors as follows:
 Fred Randle, Mikey Byrne, Lar Doyle, Pat Doyle, Philip Cahill, Sean Holden, John Meaney, John Crean, Bob Grace, Fiaca O'Brien, Tom Burtchall, Philip Parsons, Martin Kelly, Denis Randle, Willie Lennon, Cyril Lynch, George Parsons, Declan Joyce, Richard Dunne, Kim Buckley, Harry Randle, John Grace, Joseph Haire and Jim O'Donnell.



Graignamanagh U-16 Roinn D Football League Winners 2003
Back: Kevin Cushen, Eddie Doran, Conor Sheehy, Stuart Kinsella, James O'Neill, Padraig King, Sean Ryan, Padraig Whelan, Michael Savage, David Cody, CJ Browne.
Front: James Foley, Shane Foley, Duane Mangan, Jim O'Donnell, Kevin Canning, Nicholas O'Donnell, Francis Duggan, Michael Cushen.



Graignamanagh U-10 Hurlers - Winners of the Stephen Byrne Tournament, Paulstown
Back: Seamus Canning, Jack Conran, Ciaran Manning, James Doyle, Stephen Browne, Dylan Conran, Michael Bolger, James Meaney, Patrick Dowling, Paul Kavanagh, Adam Kennedy.
Front: Liam Hearne, Michael Coady, Gerard Hennessy, Adam Canning, Sean Dowling, Ryan O'Halloran, Jamei Dunne, Ciaran Kavanagh, Shane Kavanagh.



around the clubs

Minor Hurling Tournament

Since 1991 the club has run a hugely successful minor hurling tournament in late June. The competition is named after two former stalwart club members Paddy Mullen and Peter Conroy. This year eight teams from all four provinces participated in a great days hurling. Antrim minors represented Ulster, Craughwell from Galway, Durlas Og, Glen Rovers from Munster, Ballyboden St. Endas, Naomh Eanna, Gorey represented Leinster while Kilkenny was represented by Graig Ballycallan and the host club. Glen Rovers won the Cup and James Stephens captured the Shield.

U-10 Action

The U-10s were involved in four tournaments during a very busy and successful year. They played very well to win the Seamus Fry tournament. They were also involved in the O'Loughlins Tournament, Naas U-10 and Naomh Eanna, Gorey tournaments. Great work was done by the selectors Elsie Cody, Niall Connolly, Pat Drennan, Eddie Kelly, Pat Drennan, Michael Slattery, Conor Hogan and Eamon Tyrrell.

U-15 Winners

James Stephens captured their second U-15 tournament title in November when defeating Dicksboro in a very exciting all city final. Well done to selectors Billy Walton, Dan Cody, Richie Manogue, Ger Tyrrell and Fergus Heffernan. The team was captained by Glen Campion.

Underage County Players

The club was well represented at all grades of county teams. Adam Byrne was a panellist on the Tony Forristal team, Keith Morris and Niall Lanigan were on the Arrabawn Co-op panel, Matthew Ruth captained the minors to Leinster success while John Comerford was a panellist. We were well represented on all the development squads in hurling and football.

Fundraising

'Who wants to be a Thousandaire?' was a huge success in Langton's Hotel. Other successful fundraisers were the Hurlers Co-op Draw and our weekly 300 Club. These were all co-ordinated by our club treasurer, Tom Keane. We must thank most sincerely all our sponsors and supporters for ensuring a hugely successful year for the club in so many ways.



Andy Egan Tournament Finalists 2004

Front : Robert Hayes, Declan Mc Quillan, Hugh O'Brien, Luke Hickey, Dean Walsh, Ian O'Brien, Stephen Thompson, Conor Gorey, Ollie O'Neill, William Murphy, Brian Hickey.
Back: Thomas Phelan, Tim Kealy Brennan, Brendan Dowling, James O'Shea, Mike Drennan, Diarmuid Cody, Craig Cummins, David Hennessy, Peter Lydon, Michael Dunne, Nathan Owens.



Seamus Fry Tournament Winners 2004

Back: Eddie Kelly, A. Corr, A. McClean, P. Butler, R. Kelly, J. Cotter, C. Connolly, P. Duggan, P. Lynch, R. Drennan, J. Tyrrell, Michael. Slattery.
Front: D. Ryan, H.Wallace, D. Carney, N. Mullins, S. Fitzpatrick, D. Cody, M. Drennan, D. Maher, A Valentine, D. Walsh, J. McGrath, J. Hayden



James Stephens Minor Hurling Tournament Final 2004

Jimmy O'Brien, Chairman, Tommy Hoyne, Capt, Liam Mullen, Committee, Niall Murphy, Glen Rovers, Teresa Mullen, wife of the late Paddy Mullen after whom the trophy is named.



around the clubs

As can be seen from the Intermediate Hurling Report, our team promised much, but again, they had to mount a traumatic, stubborn defence of their status in a winner take all relegation game against Blacks and Whites. It took a couple of titanic games by players of the ilk of John Power, and John O'Neill to haul the team away from the dreaded drop. In the All-County League, the team made it to the semi-finals to be beaten by Graignamanagh.

The most successful team of the year in the club would have to be the Minor outfit that blazed an impressive trail through their League campaign, eventually contesting the Final against Blacks and Whites. After a fine opening half, the concession of a couple of fortuitous goals in the second half put paid to their chances, and despite the spirited play of Martin O'Connell, Paul Roche, and Kieran O'Dwyer, the Lockes were behind by four points at the end of a frenetic game.

Our County representatives, were John O'Neill and John Paul Corcoran, who were instrumental in getting Kilkenny to the All Ireland Final against Cork. It was a far easier game for the Cork lads this time round, as the report elsewhere will show. Nevertheless the two stars were very prominent in the campaign, and yet again contributed hugely to the team effort.

Brendan Bourke, brought handball honours to his Parish and College-Collaiste Eamon Ris-, by winning All Ireland Doubles and Singles titles.

Development:

A huge investment in voluntary work and financial input created a superb Juvenile facility on the site of the old field. New high-rise keep nets, as well as a new security railing were installed. New sideline dugouts were also built inside John Locke Park. New gates, inside and outside the park has really given the entire complex a new ambience.

Presently the Club is seeking outline planning permission for twelve houses in the angle of the outside pitch, bordering on Green Lane. Three major fundraising events during the year defrayed the costs to a large extent.

Development Squads:

Great work is ongoing with the develop-



JOHN LOCKE'S U-12 TEAM WINNERS OF JOHN LOCKE U-12 TOURNAMENT

Back: Niall Maher, David Phelan, Jack McDowell, Damien Roche, J.J.O'Keeffe, Own McGrath, Jason Corcoran(Capt.) Ryan O'Dwyer, Luke Burke, Emma Hennessy, Ricky Buckley.

Front: Liam Byrne, Tony Delaney, Jason Foran, Jamie Bergin, Matthew Holohan, Shane Bergin, Graham Bergin, Nicholas Roche, Jodie Henderson, J.J.Corrigan, D.J.Bergin.

ment of youngsters within the club. Presently, the club has teams from under-8 to under-16 inclusively. Coaching is ongoing, with superb input by people like Martin Doheny, Richie Buckley, Paddy Phelan,

Jimmy Corcoran, Colin McGrath, Kevin"Butty" Coffey, Murt Nolan and Bosco Bryan. People like Aidan O'Dwyer, Mick Melia, Martin Fahey and Eamon Kennedy have done a superb job with the older players.

Of course the big event on the underage scene was the annual hurling jamboree, with the Colm Nolan Cup the focal point. Teams from all over the County, and some from without, feature in this prestigious tournament.



Three Callan girls on Windgap team Jane Stapleton, Laura Walker & Louise Carroll. First winners Callan Girls to win Camogie county medals in over 50 years

Choreographed as always by Harry Bryan, the year's hurling fun would not be complete without the bands, the razzmatazz, the tea and buns, and of course the awards. Credit to a huge number of people for making it the success that it is. Even the Mammies get involved, particularly the Mrs Corcoran, Leahy, Bryan, Doheny and many more. The under-16 team performed better than last year, and went out of the Championship early, but won four of their games in the League.



around the clubs



KILMACOW - MINOR HURLING LEAGUE WINNERS RECEIVING THE SHIELD FROM JOE PYKE, CHAIRMAN, BORD NA NÓG

Back: T. Flynn, L. Kearns, P. Laffan, B. King, S. McGrath, R. Walsh, M. Heffernan, P. Brick, P. Kelly, Joe Pyke, C. Gahan, G. Harney, D. Duggan, S. Deegan, T. Barron.

Front: PJ Ivory, E. Irish, S. Ivory, C. Dowling, M. McGuinness, E. Doody, N. Irish, R. Kearns, R. McNamara, J. Power, P. Skehan.

Club Officers 2003

President: Fr. B. Flynn / Michael O' Neill
Vice-President: Tom Caulfield
Chairman: Noel Dunphy
Vice-Chairman: Adrian O' Keeffe
Secretary: Paul O' Dwyer
Ass. Secretary: Paul Long
Treasurer: Eamon Irish
Ass. Treasurer: Michael Brick

Juvenile Section

Under 7

A great day out in Carrick-on-Suir for the youngest players brought the U-7 boys and girls of Kilmacow their first trophy and medals. Nurtured by Sheamus Kennedy and the childrens parents this was indeed a sign of things to come for the underage teams of the Parish.

Under 11, 12, 13 & Schools

Our Under 12 side also had success winning the Kilkenny summer league. Following on from their victory in Division 3 in 2003, they went to the Final of Division 2 this year only to be defeated by Passage in the Final. When going to press the team has reached the Schools League Hurling Final and are to meet the Kilkenny Schools Project in the Co. Final of the Schools Football competition in the near future.

The Under 11 side a young yet determined team had mixed luck this season but gae good accounts of themselves in their games. The Under 13 team had a very good run in Division 2 of the Waterford City League. They were beaten by Mooncoin after a good display in

the Semi-final.

Under 14, 16

The Under 14 team again a very young side with only two players upto the age gave a good account of themselves and we look forward to much more team success for these young hurlers in the future.

At Under 16 level the team reached the Semi-final of the Championship and the quarter-final of the league. This team flatters to deceive and much more of an effort should see them successful in next years campaigns.

Minor

These lads gave it their all under very shrewd guidance from their coaching team. They were victoripous in the League final and had to battle all the way in the Championship Final against a strong classy Glenmore side. On the day the two teams were evenly matched with no more than a point or two between them at any one time. It was pure heart and a belief in themselves that won for Kilmacow their double of the year and the County Championship for the club. A hearty congratulations to all in this regard.

Junior 'B', Junior & Under-21

These sides struggled this year to find a continuity in their play. Abscences through travel, work and injury made it difficult to field the same team twice in succession and this factor was evident in the Championship in particular. On a

more positive note the Junior side in particular were committed and endeavoured through the dedication of both themselves and their coaching team to play as a unit and were unlucky to be defeated by Tullogher-Rosbercon in the Southern Semi-final. We look forward to a similar level of commitment for the forthcoming year.

Junior Football

Having progressed to the County Final of the 11-a-side competition the team fell at the final hurdle in what can only be described as gale force conditions in St. James' Park. This competition was enjoyed by all who participated and we look forward to going one step further in next years competition.

Annual Night Out

The club shall have it's Annual Night out early in the New Year where the presentation of medals and kit bags to the victorious teams shall take place

Obituary Notice

The club wishes to acknowledge the passing of one of it's great hurlers Mr. Michael 'Mikey' Kelly of Dunkitt. Michael played for Kilkenny in 1945 & 1946 and won both Leinster and Oireachtas Medals. He played his club hurling with Mooncoin and the Dunkitt Ramblers. A great sportsman and a gentleman, he will be missed by all.



around the clubs



Lisdowney Parish Shield - Cormac Glendon's team

Back: Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), Conor Brennan (Organiser).

Middle: Claire Phelan, Pat O'Carroll, Eoin Lyons.

Front: Michael Kenny, Edward Connery, Cormac Glendon (capt), Kieran Skehan, Kevin Sweeney.

On the playing field

It was a disappointing year on the Adult scene with the Junior Hurlers and Special Junior Hurling teams struggled all year. The Junior team were drawn in a tough group in the Championship with three of the All county League Semi Finalist. After the end of the league stages the team finish tied with Erins Own and Barrow Rangers. The top team of the three would get the last North quarter final stage, it took 2 round robins before the teams could be separated. So after 11 Championship games the Juniors were knocked out. The Special Junior struggled to field teams all year with too many Under age hurlers been thrown in at the deep end. The under 21s have just start the championship which is on a league basis with winning one match and losing the other. The Underage Hurling section had good year with the club competing in Roinn B in Minor, Under 16, Under 14, and Primary schools for the first time in living memory. The Minors had their best year in a long time with a young team putting in many good performance and were a little unlucky to be knocked out of the Championship by a point. The Under 16 Hurlers also gave a good account of

themselves being beaten by late scores in a couple of league matches. The Under 15 Hurlers qualified for 11 a side B Final but were beaten by a good Rower Instiogue team by two points after two great games. The Under 14 hurlers qualified for the quarter final but were beaten by a eventual winners Ballyragget who pulled away in the final 10 minutes. Pride of place must go to the Under 14 footballers continued on winning ways, unbeaten now for 3 years wining the Double for the 3rd year in a row. The Under 13s qualified for the local 7s final being beaten by Dicksboro in the final, A young schools team battled hard all year and gave some good performances but were hampered by the injuries all year. The Saturday morning training continues to be a success thanks to the dedicated mentors doing the training The club entered various underage tournaments in Ballacolla, Conahy, Ballyragget, and James Stephens and played in a number



Best Player Award

Sean Phelan (Best Player), **James Cha Fitzpatrick** (Best Player 1997 & '98, Under 21 capt).

of challenge matches,

Handball

The handball club continues to gather strength with the club winning numerous B County Finals and the club running it own Handball league for the underage during the winter months. Pitch Developments The club built a Steel canopy with a concrete floor at back of the community centre providing shelter for spectators.



around the clubs

Club Officers 2004

Chairman: Nicholas Hennebry
 Vice Chair: Paddy Crowley
 Secretary: Pat Kinsella
 Asst. Sec: Davy Cody
 Treasurer: Jamie Dunphy
 Asst Treas: Frank Meade
 PRO: Tom O'Hanlon
 Co. Bd. Del: Eugene Dunphy
 South Board: Johnny Phelan

Field of Play

Our intermediate team reached the county final and lost to Carrickshock by one point, They also reached the league semi-final losing to Mullinavat by three points. Our Junior hurlers lost to Thomastown in the league and Cahill Cup and were beaten by Kilmacow in the championship. Our Junior B team had the best year yet reaching the knockout stages of the league and Southern final. The intermediate footballers won two league games and lost to Blacks & Whites in the championship.

Inter County Success

Congratulations to Eddie Mackey who won a Leinster senior medal and Diarmaid Mackey who won a Leinster Intermediate medal. Noel Delahunty and Sean Wall were members of the minor squad where Joe Dunphy was a selector.

Social

Our annual dinner dance took place in February. The clubs Silver Circle Draw, Golf Classic, Hurlers Co-op Draw and Play for the Park Lotto are our main fund raising events. Many thanks to all who organise these and we also thank our many sponsors.

Development

During the year we purchased extra ground to provide another pitch. It is also planned to build more dressing rooms. The development is now in the planning stage.

Sympathy

The club wishes to extend sympathy to all members who suffered bereavements during the year.

Juvenile Events

The juvenile club had a very busy year with teams competing in grades from U-8 to minor. Our U-8 team had a great win in the Roanmore tournament. Both the

U-11 and 12 teams were beaten in the Waterford City League finals. Many thanks to Pat Duggan and Mr. Morris for their work in the schools. Our U-14s had a very busy year and reached the football league semi-finals. They were beaten by Dicksboro in the hurling semi-final. They travelled to Tyrone to Feile Peil na nOg and reached the division final. The U-16s had a good year and reached the semi-finals. Well done to all who played for Kilkenny during the year: Daniel Purcell, Cormac Daly, Eamon Hennebry, PJ Rowe, Shane Walsh, Thomas Kearns and Michael Grace.



MOONCOIN U-8 HURLING TEAM, WINNERS ROANMORE TOURNAMENT

Back: Ian Delahunty, Kieran Dillon Dunphy, Sean Walsh, Ian O'Keeffe, Eddie Doherty, Adam Skehan, Jamie Dunphy
Front: Deirdre Walsh, Roisin Crowley, John Fitzgerald, Eoin Purcell, Andrew Brennan, Niall Blanchfield.

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around the clubs

Club Officers:

Presidents: Fr. Larry Wallace, Fr. John Delaney, Fr. Martin Ryan.

Chairman: Larry Maher.

Vice Chairman: Nicky Morrissey

Secretary: Paddy Morrissey.

Treasurer: Patsy Murphy

On the field

The past year has seen the Langton cup make a return to Muckalee when the senior team were crowned senior champions last May for the seventh time. They last held the title in 2001. Since last year's book was published our u-21's contested the 2003 A final only to go under to Carrickshock. Our junior team fared well also and reached the quarter final but were beaten by Ballyragget. The senior team got off to a bad start to the year and were beaten by Dicksboro and Erins Own in their first two games. They then received a walkover from Graigue- Ballycallan and also received a walkover from O Loughlin Gaels. These results saw them paired against Railyard in the quarter final. They played their best football of the year in this game and pulled away for a comprehensive victory. It was city side James Stephens in the semi-final and another solid display saw Muckalee come out on top. The final saw a repeat of the 2001 final and had them pitted against neighbours Erins Own. Like the 2001 final this game ended in a draw with Muckalee coming from six points down to snatch a draw. The replay was as keenly contested and as close a match as the drawn encounter and only a point separated the

teams at the end but luckily enough it was to the hills the cup was returning.

The senior teams participation in the Leinster club championship ended in Castlecomer on Sat 23rd Oct when Carlow champions Rathvilly beat them by 4--7 to 0--4. Muckalee gave as good as they got for most of the game and should have been well ahead at half time, but with only a few nights training done as they were in the hurling until the Sunday before, it was expecting too much to think they would be the first Kilkenny team for a long time to make it past the first round of the Leinster club championship.

Our u-21's put together some promising displays during the championship but on the day of the final nothing went right in atrocious weather and they were soundly beaten by a much better Carrickshock team. Muckalee were going for two in a row in Roinn 'A' U-21 titles and as long as they can keep contesting finals they cant be too disappointed.

The minor team went out at the semi-final stage to Dicksboro after a replay. The U-16 team won the 'B' championship when they accounted for Piltown in the final.



Pádraig Keegan (Vice-Captain, Muckalee) receives the Senior Football Cup from **Tommy Duggan** (Chairman, Football Board) after they defeated Erins Own in the Final Replay.

The junior team beat Ballyragget and Bennettsbridge in the group stages of the league. They were then paired against Ballyragget again in the quarter final but this time around Ballyragget gained revenge.

Development

On the development front a new frame and netting was erected behind the bottom goalposts in Muckalee pitch. This was badly needed and should prevent many balls being lost.



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around the clubs

Club Developments

2004 began with the construction work proceeding at a steady pace. Phase 1 of the development: the new changing rooms/toilets began in October 2003 and were completed by the end of April 2004. It was a tribute to the contractors and to the development committee that the job could be completed in this short space of time. And what a job it is. We are rightly proud of our magnificent new development and we would like to thank the people of Mullinavat for their generosity in financing the new building. The response to the appeal for funds has been fantastic. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go IÉir. The building was blessed and officially opened on the 9th May and a large crowd turned up to witness the historic event.

On the Field

The year began brightly with the performance of our footballers who reached the final of the 11 a side league. The Intermediate Football Championship was won in fine style and hopes were entertained that the hurlers could perform a similar feat and regain the senior status we lost the previous year. An unbeaten run during the league campaign kept this hope alive. However our hopes disap-

peared in the semi-final when we went down tamely to Carrickshock. Regaining senior status must be the immediate priority for the forthcoming season. The hurlers finished the year on a winning note by defeating Graignamanagh in the league final while the footballers earned themselves a place in the record books by defeating Valleysmount of Wicklow in the Leinster Championship.

Bord na nOg

2004 was a busy year at all underage levels. Training began with the 8-11

squad and much work was done with this group. The primary school team had a great year reaching the county final before losing out to Callan after a replay.. Jimmy Rohan took over the training of the U-16 and minor squads and put in a great year's work with these players. The U-16 team reached the semi-final and lost out to Piltown after a replay and extra time. At the time of writing the minors have qualified for the Roinn B championship final. This is a fitting reward for a long year's work for Jimmy and his troops.



Mullinavat U-11s who competed in Finals in Nowlan Park

Back: Niall Mulhearn, Robert Malone, Thomas Aylward, John Fitzpatrick, Simon Aylward, Pat Mulhearn, Mark Mansfield, Jason Phelan, John McCabe.

Front: Patrick Murphy, Darren Waters, Larry Gaule, Michael Jones, Brian Phelan, Matthew Reade, David Holden, Michael Reade.



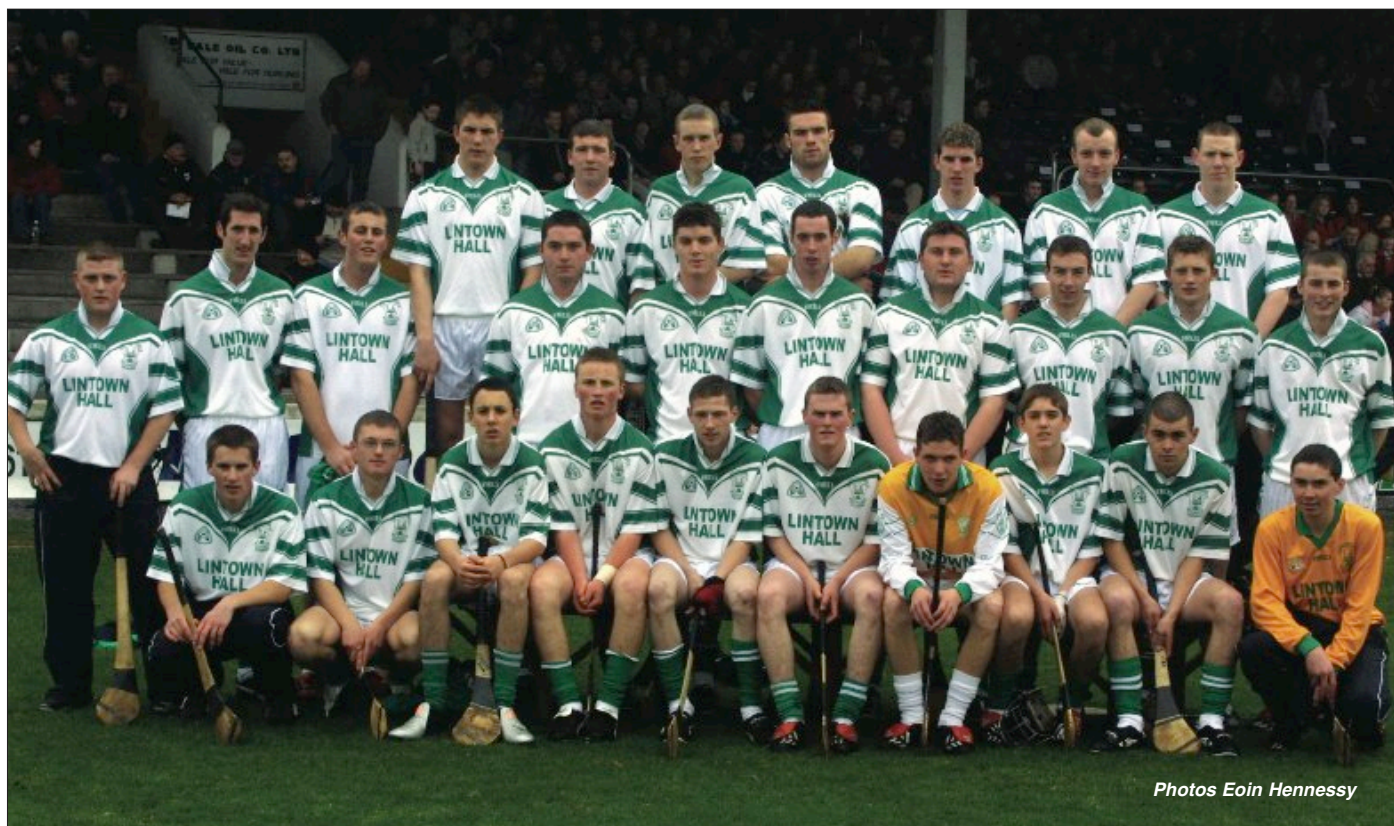
Blessing and opening of new club rooms 9th May 2004

Back: Bobby Aylward, Fr. Liam Barron PP, Dick Dunphy, Tommy Delahunty, John Paul Phelan, Richie Carroll, John Healy, Catherine Phelan-Holden, John Joe Aylward, Jim Conway, John Dunphy, Pat Rohan.

Front: Michael O'Neill, Tommy Frisby, Ned Quinn, Peter Foskin, Fr. Tommy Maher, Paddy Buggy, Liam Aylward, Andy Aylward, Joe Pyke.

Gaels Keep the Trophy in Town

County Minor Hurling Report by Conor Brennan



Photos Eoin Hennessy

O LOUGHLIN GAELS - ROINN 'A' MH CHAMPIONS 2004

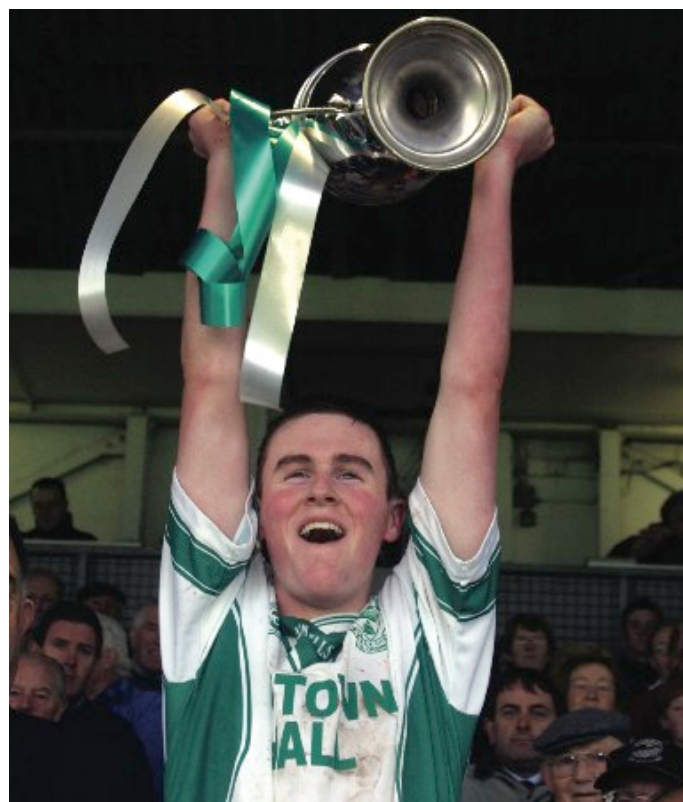
Back: Eoin Wall, Stephen Shortt, Niall Phelan, Michael Murphy, Stephen Wall, Martin Wall, Darren McGrath.

Middle: Frank Hayes, Pat Bergin, Aaron Rowe, Derek Cleere, Matt Comerford, Niall McEvoy, Mick Lambert, Stephen Tyrell, John Corcoran, Andy Kearns.

Front: Sean Hickey, Chris Lambert, Conor Bergin, Mark Bergin, David Broderick, Maurice Nolan, Danny Loughnane, Mark Kelly, Kevin Morrissey, Brendan Cleere.

Having watched their city rivals James Stephens secure minor Roinn A glory last year, O'Loughlin Gaels secured the title themselves this year to keep the trophy in the city for another year. But it was not without a large amount of drama and excitement, particularly in the final as Southern outsiders the Rower-Inistioge almost managed to capture the title for themselves but were just thwarted by the city side that just held on for victory. This minor triumph will surely give O'Loughlin's renewed hope for the future and with talented hurlers like Maurice Nolan, Niall McEvoy, Mark and Conor Bergin and Andy Kearns the coming years can only be positive for the club.

The first round of the Roinn A championship paired O'Loughlin's with their city rivals and champions of last year James Stephens. This was bound to be a tight and uncompromising game and so it proved. Little separated the sides throughout but it was O'Loughlin's strong defensive display that secured them a 0-11 to 0-8 victory. The other first round match was similar tough but not equally as even as the Rower-Inistioge signalled their intent for the coming season by defeating Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in a high-scoring encounter. The



O'Loughlin's' Captain, Maurice Nolan raises the trophy. Photos Eoin Hennessy



Photos Eoin Hennessy

ST. LACHTAIN'S - ROINN 'B' MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2004.

Back: Michael Fitzpatrick, Brendan Dalton, Mark Geraghty, John Kennedy, Andrew Hughes, Conor Britton, Paul Mullan.

Middle: Michael Farrell, Mark Nolan, Keith Hughes, Noel McGree, Naoise Waldron, Donal O'Sullivan, Gerard O'Reilly, Barry Hughes, Vincent O'Donnell, Michael Cormack.

Front: Derek Deegan, Nicholas Maher, Michael Walsh, Eoin Guinan, capt., Cian Waldron, John Fitzpatrick, Liam Darcy, Tomas Flynn.



Photos Eoin Hennessy

ROWER/INISTIOGE - MINOR "A" COUNTY FINALISTS 2004

Front: Michael Cassin, Pdraig Grace, Kieran Joyce, Liam Tierney, Pat Tierney, John James Kenny, Billy Cuddihy, Micheal Meaney, Fergus Power.

Middle: Seamus Corcoran, Ruari Galavan, Damien Flood, James Doyle, Paul Gannon, Liam Lyng, Seamus Holohan, Eoin Kavanagh, David Lyng, Pdraig Tierney, Eugene Murphy.

Back: Michael Nolan, Martin Moylan, James Meaney, Sean Grace, Paudie Fleming, Paul Nolan, John Grace, George Phelan.



JOHN LOCKES - ROINN 'B' MINOR FINALISTS 2004

Back: AJ Webster, Noel Dawson, Chris Walsh, Thomas Melia, Thomas Collins, Mark McDowell, Paul Roche, Martin O'Connell (Capt) Bill McCormack, Dwyan Hanrahan, James Hartley.

Front: Brian McCann, Robbie O'Brien, Liam Kennedy, Simon Burke, Brendan Grace, Ger Shelly, Eoghan Fahy, Mark Nolan, Eoin Wall, Keith O'Dwyer.

score at the final whistle read 5-20 to 3-9 in the Southerners' favour and was showed due recognition of the great physical strength running through their side.

The quarter finals saw six other teams enter the championship fray, namely Shamrocks, Danesfort, Graigue-Ballycallan, St. Martin's, Dicksboro and Clara. O'Loughlin's were drawn to face an up and coming Danesfort side and performed excellently to defeat them 0-12 to 0-5. Shamrocks faced Graigue-Ballycallan in what proved to be an excellently contested game. In the end, the Southern side just has about enough in reserve to win (2-15 to 3-9). The most closely contested match of the round saw the Rower-Inistioge and last year's beaten finalists St. Martin's needing a replay to be separated after the sides played out a 2-8 to 1-11 draw. In the replay, the Rower held sway to qualify for the semi-finals, winning 1-5 to 0-6. The remaining quarter-final saw Dicksboro account for Clara on a score line of 2-10 to 1-6.

The semi-finals saw O'Loughlin Gaels take on Shamrocks and Rower-Inistioge face up to Dicksboro. The opening semi-final resulted in a triumph for O'Loughlin's with a 2-14 to 2-8 win and the second semi-final saw the Rower score a 2-12 to 2-8 victory over a gallant Dicksboro side.

The final in Nowlan Park was typically tough with the conditions proving difficult for both sides. The Rower had the brighter start to the match with their forwards particularly sharp in front of goal, with centre-forward John James Kenny the major threat.

What proved to be the crucial scores were the two goals scored by O'Loughlin Gaels. Both were scored against the run of play, in particular the second which was well taken by Conor Bergin. In the second half, the exchanges began to even out and O'Loughlin's came more into the game, especially down the middle of the field. The Rower battled very hard right until the end, but try as they might, they could not break down the staunch city defence. Crucial scores from Maurice Nolan gave O'Loughlin's the breathing space they needed as they secured a 2-6 to 0-10 win.

Roinn B

The Roinn B championship was expected to be as equally open as the higher division with a high number of strong teams in competition for honours. The opening round saw Tullogher-Rosbercon record an easy victory over Tullaroan (2-15 to 1-5), St. Lachtain's overcoming Carrickshock (2-12 to 0-8), Emeralds defeating Conahy Shamrocks (2-9 to 1-6) and Piltown, Thomastown and Blacks & Whites recording easy victories over John Lockes, Slieverue and Fenians respectively.

The quarter-finals proved to be more competitive in more cases with Piltown recording a 5 point win over Thomastown (3-13 to 4-5) and thus staking their claim for favouritism for the rest of the championship. The tussle between Tullogher-Rosbercon and St. Lachtain's proved to a brilliant tussle with the Freshford men edging through on a 1-16 to 1-13 score line. Mooncoin and Blacks & Whites needed a replay to be separated following a draw (2-8 to 1-11) in their quarter-final. It result-



KILMACOW - MINOR C CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Back: P. Ivory, Ned Gahan, PJ Ivory, R. Walsh, I Power, L. Kearns, P. Laffan, D. Dwyer, Gerry Harney, S. Deegan, M. McGuinness, Michael Heffernan, B. King, P. Skehan, C. Gahan, P. Brick, T. Barron, P. Kelly, D. Byrne.

Front: Richard McNamara, E. Irish, Conor Dowling, E. Doody, F. Walsh, R. Kearns, T. Flynn, P. Kelly (capt), N. Irish, S. McGrath, S. Ivory.



Minor A Co Final Action Eoin Hennessy



Minor A Co Final Action Eoin Hennessy

ed in a narrow victory for the Southern side on a 1-9 to 1-7 score line.

The opening semi-final between St. Lachtaín's and Piltown saw arguably the two best sides in the division go head to head. With both sides having county minor stars Eoin Guinan (St. Lachtaín's) and Nicholas Kenny (Piltown) as their respective main threats in attack, it was always going to be a high class affair. Little separated the sides throughout, but it was the Freshford side's better balance throughout the side and with their key players performing well, they seemed to have a slight edge. They held their advantage to the end and secured an excellent 2-7 to 1-7 win. The other semi-final pitted neighbours Mullinavat and Mooncoin against each other. Tough conditions made scoring difficult but Mullinavat made little of this and were well on top to qualify for the final, winning 2-7 to 1-4.

The final, like all other finals, had a lot at stake. This was evident in the opening half as both the Freshford and Mullinavat men were nervous in their play. However, once both teams had settled, it was evident that the Northerners had their greater ability and hunger, their tough campaign to date standing them in good stead. Their star forward Eoin Guinan was particularly to the fore and was scoring freely from play and frees. However, it was not until midway through the second half that they managed to develop a substantial lead. It was in this period that they scored two quick goals and in the end, they were able to progress until the end and secured the title winning 2-16 to 0-7.

ROINN C

The opening rounds of the Roinn C championship saw possibly the most exciting hurling of all the hurling championships. The highlight of these was the excellent tussle between Dunnamaggin and Bennettsbridge in which the Southern side sneaked a two point victory (3-11 to 2-12). Cloneen secured a handsome 1-17 to 3-1 victory over Barrow Rangers in the opening tussle. The remaining two opening round matches were both equally close affairs, with Lisdowney getting the better of Young Irelands (1-10 to 0-10) and Kilmacow snatching a two point victory over Galmoy (3-6 to 1-10).

The quarter-finals continued to provide excellent entertainment throughout, the most notable being Lisdowney's tussle with Cloneen, which the latter narrowly won on a 2-12 to 3-8 score line. Glenmore also managed to gain passage to the semi-finals when they accounted for Windgap (1-11 to 1-7). The final two semi-final places were secured by St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) who defeated Dunnamaggin (1-12 to 0-9) and Kilmacow. The Southerners now faced the Ballyragget men in the semi-finals and they were able to secure a well-merited 2-8 to 2-3 victory over them qualify for the final. Glenmore then won their passage to the final themselves when they soundly defeated Cloneen (1-12 to 0-6). The final between the two Southern sides was a dramatic tussle from start to finish with little separating the sides. Both sides had their chances to gain an upper hand but in the end, it was Kilmacow who had the edge at the final whistle and they secured the Roinn C title with a score of 2-7 to Glenmore's 2-5.

County MH Championship Action

Photos - Eoin Hennessy



Excellent Quality Football

Football Report



MUCKALEE - COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2004 Photo Eoin Hennessy

Back: Pádraig Keegan (+ Allannah), Shane Coonan, Michael Mulhall, Niall Moloney, Niall Moran, Mick Dempsey (Trainer) Eoin McGrath, Damien Maher, Alan Murphy, Philip Shore, Ronan Maher, John Coonan, Martin Dowling, David Shore, Conor Kinsella, Donal Brennan, Ronan Ruane.

Front: Paul Maher, Tom Kinsella, Richard Nolan, Liam Dowling, John Maher, John Dooley (Capt), Aidan Murphy, Nicky Purcell, Stephen Murphy, Niall Clancy, Paul Brennan, Robert Shore, James Maher, Larry Maher (Chairman).



MULLINAVAT - INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2004 Photo Charlie Maher

Back: Keith Dungan, Brian Keneally, Ger Anthony, Damien Aylward, Dinny Butler, Eoin Maher, Ollie Aylward.

Middle: Derek Dungan (Selector), Shane Frisby, Paul Aylward, Declan Duggan, John Geary (Captain), Tommy Duggan (Chairman Football Board / Manager), Liam Murphy, Michael Murphy, Rodney Duggan, Willie O'Dwyer, John Paul Dungan.

Front: Seamus Farrell, Maurice Murphy (Selector), Walter Burke, Andrew McGovern, Tony Duggan, Conor Conway, Paul Ja, Jamie Fennelly.

Senior Football 2004

The Kilkenny championships 2004 produced an excellent quality of football with all games proving to be highly competitive. Muckalee and Railyard ensured that both trophies went to the "Far North" as they took the silverware in the Championship and League respectively.

After a good run in the league section Railyard knocked out 2003 winners Erin's Own in the Semi-final of the league while

Dicksboro got the better of city rivals James Stephens in the other semi-final. Railyard proved too strong for "the Boro" in the final and claimed the trophy.

Glenmore, Erin's Own, Muckalee and James Stephens emerged as semi-finalists in the championships with Glenmore / Erin's Own and Muckalee / James Stephens making up the pairings. It took two games to separate Erins Own and Glenmore in Thomastown with two excellent games providing

great entertainment and high quality football as Erin's Own emerged winners to meet neighbours Muckalee who went through after seeing off James Stephens in the other semi-final. The major surprise was that the League Champions –Railyard failed to make the semi-finals as they fell to Muckalee at the quarter-final stage. It took two games to decide who would be crowned champions as Erin's Own and Muckalee slugged it out. The first game finished all square at Erin's Own 0-10 Muckalee 1-7 in an exciting contest in Nowlan park on May 9th. The 'Comer lads looked like winning that game and indeed with ten minutes remaining seemed to be home and dry, enjoying a five point lead and holding the Lions share of possession. However, Muckalee burst back, got on level terms and could have stolen the show so both teams were happy to settle the issue on another day. Four weeks later they were back in the park for stage 2. Again it proved value for money as both teams produced a wholehearted contest. The sides were level at 0-4 each at the break but the Muckalee men edged in front for an 0-9 to 0-7 victory after a pulsating second half which had the good attendance on their feet throughout with end to end football.

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL REPORT 2004:

By Tom Duggan

Mullinavat dominated the Intermediate Football campaign of 2004. In 2003 they were relegated from the senior ranks but bounced back up by winning the league and championship in style. In addition to these successes they reached the final of the 11-a side football competition. And as we go to print they have proved to be worthy standard bearers for the county by emerging winners in a round robin group involving teams from Wexford and Wicklow in the Leinster Junior Football Championship. All in all, a good year, s work by the lads from the CERod Iron!

In fact they were unbeaten in the Intermediate league and championship with wins against Conahy, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Blacks and Whites and in the league final they defeated Carrickshock after a replay. This earned them a place in the semi-final of the championship where they again defeated Blacks and Whites. Conahy earned their place in the final for the second year in a row with a gutsy win against Carrickshock. The final was played in Bennettsbridge on Easter Monday. Could Mullinavat keep up their winning streak or could Conahy make up for their defeat of the previous year. Early goals from Jamie Fennelly and two from Conor Conway gave Mullinavat a lead that they never relinquished. At half time they led by 3-2 to 0-4. On the restart they went in for the kill and within three minutes they scored their fourth goal. Willie



ERIN'S OWN - COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS 2004: Photo Eoin Hennessy
Back: Tarla Dunne, Shay Kennedy, Ken Brennan, Paul Mullins, Robbie Lynch, Edward Brennan, Adam Holden, David Buggy, Ronan Ryan, David Lynch.
Front: Neil Murtagh, Danny Byrne, Gordon Byrne, Liam Shore, Donal Dunne, Micheál Coogan, Peter O'Donovan, Damien Mullins, Patrick Shortall.



RAILYARD - SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE WINNERS 2004
Back: Laurence Lyng, P.P. Roche, Shane Deegan, Donal Hennessy, Nigel Dowd.
Middle: Larry Buggy, Sean Dowd, Paul Roche, Paul Donnelly, Jim Dowd, Jimmy Roche, Shane Coogan, John Delaney, Eoin Boran, Damien Walsh, Eamon Mooney, Andrew Brennan, Ronan Walsh.
Front: Martin Dowd (selector) Noel Roche, Alan Hosey, Ian Booth, Seamus Hennessy (Capt.) Eddie Roche, John Dowd, Ger Campion, Seanie Brennan, Philip Roche, Paul McGuire. Photo Eoin Hennessy

O,Dwyer fielded a high ball and set off for goal. He passed to Michael Duggan who rifled a crisp shot low and hard to the net. The Shamrocks tried hard to get back in the game but it was not to be and Mullinavat ran out winners and earned the right to play senior football for 2005. Final Score: Mullinavat 4-7 Conahy Shamrocks 0-6

Scorers:

Mullinavat: C. Conway (2-3), M. Duggan (1-1), J. Fennelly (1-0), A. McGovern(0-3).

Conahy Shamrocks: C. Brennan, C. Muldowney (0-2 each), E. Murphy, A. Healy (0-1 each)

Mullinavat : Declan Duggan, John Geary, Maurice Murphy, Seamus Farrell, Walter Burke, Dinny Butler, Michael Murphy, Tony Duggan, Paul Aylward, Willie O,Dwyer, Michael Duggan,Liam Murphy, Jamie Fennelly, Conor Conway, Andrew McGovern. Subs: Paul Whelan, Eoin Maher, Brian Kenneally.

Conahy Shamrocks: Ger Byrne, Tomas Nolan, Liam Byrne,



WINDGAP - JUNIOR 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2004

Back: Johnny Cody (Supporter), Christy Whelan (First Aid), JJ Phelan, Thomas Fleming, PJ Barron, Noel Power, Niall Fennelly, Peter Long, Jonathon Duggan, Eoin Cody, Conor Lonergan, Matthew Enright, Walter Purcell, James Murray, Matthew O'Shea, Pat Walsh, Tom Mackey (Manager).

Front: Eamon Hawe, Philip Lonergan, Aidan Phelan, Aidan Mackey, David Power, Tom Egan (Capt.), Alan Hearne, James Mackey, Dermot O'Shea, Paul McKenna, Sean Power, John McKenna, Pat Power.

Brendan Griffith, Seamus Óg Brennan, Paul Byrne, Peter Dollard, Denis Kelly, Declan Buggy, Eoin Murphy, Ciaran Muldowney, Conor Brennan, Colm Healy, Pauric Nolan, Alan Healy. Subs: Martin Fitzpatrick, David Muldowney, Daire Connery, Eoin Byrne, Tomas Lawless.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

The JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior Football championship saw thirteen teams take part in three groups on a league basis. After the league series Clara defeated Erin's own by a big margin in one quarterfinal with St. Patrick's defeating neighbours Muckalee. In the remaining games championship favourites started to show with Tullougher Rosbercon overcoming St. Lactains by two points and Thomastown getting past Graiguenamanagh in a thriller by one point 1-6 to 0-8 in reputedly one of the best junior games played for many years. In the semi-finals Thomastown continued on their winning ways with a good win over Clara with Tullougher and a single point

1-6 to 0-8 win by the Noresiders over St. Patrick's in the park. In the County Final Thomastown recorded a 0-10 to 0-9 win in thriller.

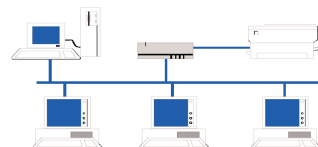
JUNIOR "A" FOOTBALL

Once the football hotbed in the county Windgap with a pedigree that included Slatequarries, Lamoque, Cotterstown and St. Nicholas made history when they captured their first county football title in the fifty year history of the club. The competition semi-finals saw Galmoy defeat Lisdowney 2-5 to 0-7 at the second attempt, after a Paul Mullally netted well into injury time to give Lisdowney a second chance with Windgap defeating Slieverue in the second.

In the Park an early James Mackey goal pulled back by a similar score for Galmoys Phil Brennan saw the southerners lead 1-2 to 1-0 at the break. Driven on by Aidan Mackey and Walter Purcell Windgap stretched the lead before a Davy Power penalty four minutes from time eventually saw them come out on top 1-5 to 1-2

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Inter County MH Report by Brian de Bhaldráithe



KILKENNY ALL IRELAND MH FINALISTS 2004

Damien Eagers/SPORTSFILE

Back: Tom Moloney, Pat Hartley, Eoin Guinan, Nicky Kenny, James Maher, Liam Tierney, Kieran Joyce, Neal Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, Noel Delahunty, Eddie O Donoghue, Danny Loughnane, Mark Aylward, Eamonn Walsh.

Front: Matthew Ruth, Richie Hogan, Paddy Hogan, Gavin Nolan, Maurice Nolan, Paddy Cahill, Ronan Maher, John Joe Farrell, John James Kenny, Willie Norton.

There is something magical about achieving three titles in a row. It is magical because it is so hard to achieve. It is as hard to achieve in hurling as it is in any other sport, even for a super power on the hurling field like Kilkenny. "The three in a row" was the mantra which engrossed Kilkenny minor hurlers in 2004 and which manager Bro. Damien Brennan and his selectors Brian Waldron, Joe Dunphy, Tony Maher and Joe Hennessy set out to achieve. A link with the last Kilkenny three in a row at minor level was provided by selector, Joe Dunphy who twice captained Kilkenny to success in the years 1960 to 1962. Another interesting statistic concerning the selectors was that Joe Hennessy and Brian Waldron both featured on the 1974 minor team that failed to achieve the three in a row, both having won in 1973. Bro. Damien and his selectors sifted through the talent and eventually settled on a panel which they hoped would bring back the Irish Press cup once more. Chairman of Bord na nÓg, Joe Pyke saw to it that all arrangements ran smoothly as the year was set out. The long road started on a beautiful day in Carlow against a highly rated Offaly side. Offaly were quickly into their stride and lead by 0-3 to 0-1 after twelve minutes. A point by Paddy Hogan and a goal by his brother Ritchie signaled that Kilkenny were coming more into the game. A goal by Maurice Nolan was followed by another goal from Eoin Guinan and Kilkenny lead by 3-6 to 0-5 at half-time. Try as they might in the second half Offaly struggled to close the gap. When substitute Matt Ruth crashed home their fourth goal Kilkenny were well on their way to the Leinster final. The final score Kilkenny 4-12 Offaly 0-7.

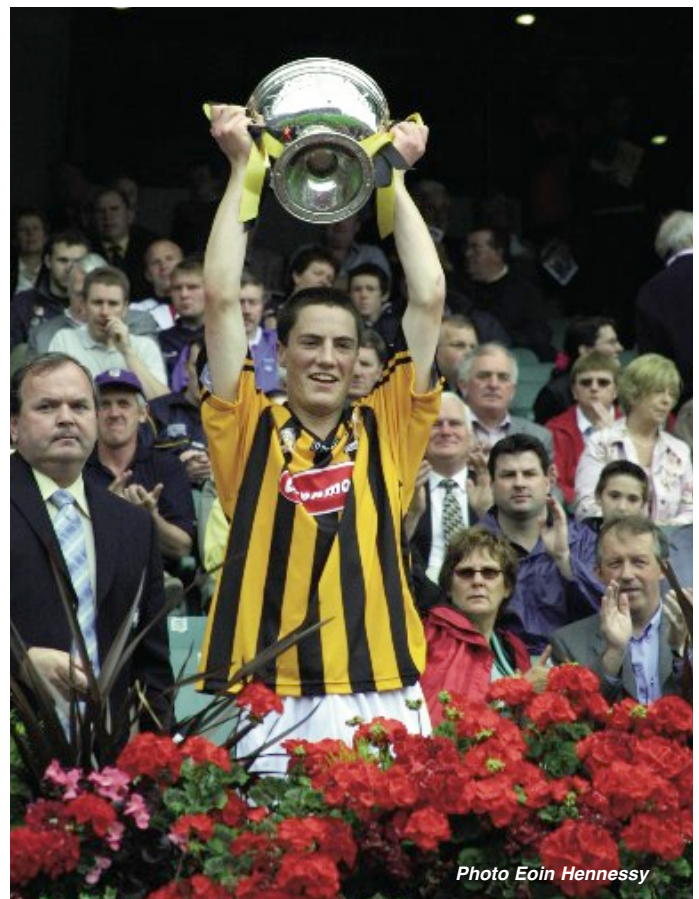


Photo Eoin Hennessy

Kilkenny Captain, **Matthew Ruth** hoists the Leinster Trophy.

Scorers : M .Nolan 1-2, R. Hogan 1-2, E. Guinan 1-1, M. Ruth 1-0, P.Hogan 0-3, E. O'Donoghue 0-2, G.Nolan 0-1, S. Prendergast 0-1.

Team : L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, W.Norton, N.Prendergast, R. Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, N.Delahunty, G.Nolan, P.Hogan, E. O'Donoghue, R. Hogan, M.Nolan, E. Guinan. **Subs** : M. Ruth, E.Walsh, N.Kenny, P.Cahill, J.J Farrell.

Dublin awaited Kilkenny in the Leinster final. They had defeated Wexford in a hard fought semi-final. In contrast to the glorious weather in Carlow the weather was wet and not conducive to classical hurling. Dublin opened the scoring with a point but Kilkenny responded with four points in a row. Both sides struggled to overcome the conditions but a feature was Eoin Guinan's five points from play in the first half. Gavin Nolan slammed in a first half goal. At half time Kilkenny lead by 1-9 to 0-4. Dublin scored an early goal in the second half but they shot too many wides to mount a serious challenge. The final score Kilkenny 1-16 Dublin 1-4.

Scorers : E.Guinan 0-6, G. Nolan 1-2, M. Nolan 0-5 (Frees), R. Hogan 0-2, P. Hogan 0-1.

Team : L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, W.Norton, N.Prendergast, R. Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, N.Delahunty, G.Nolan, P.Hogan, E. O'Donoghue, R. Hogan, M.Nolan, E. Guinan. **Subs** : M. Ruth, T. Maloney, E. Walsh, JJ. Kenny, M.Aylward.

Old rivals Tipperary provided the opposition in the semi-final. The wet conditions once more inhibited both sides but while Kilkenny looked the superior side for most of the match they had to struggle to emerge with a one point victory. Gavin Nolan settled Kilkenny nerves with a fine goal. Some fine defending kept Kilkenny's goal in tact and enabled them to lead at half time by 1-5 to 0-5. Tipp closed the gap but two great points by Ritchie Hogan kept Kilkenny in front. Tipperary kept plugging away but a huge point by Paddy Hogan from mid field left three points between the sides. Tipp closed out the match with two points but some great defending from James.Maher, Kieran.Joyce, Eamon Walsh, Neil.Prendergast, Ronan. Maher and Shane.Prendergast kept Kilkenny in front.



Richie Hogan - here in action against Dublin - shows his uncanny resemblance to his cousin, DJ Carey. Photo John McIlwaine.



Kilkenny's **Gavin Nolan** in the All Ireland Final in Croke Park. Damien Eagers/SPORTSFILE

Scorers : R.Hogan 0-4, E.Guinan 0-2, G.Nolan 1-0, P. Hogan 0-1 M .Nolan 0-1.

Team : L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, E. Walsh, N.Prendergast, R. Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, P.Hogan, G.Nolan, N.Kenny, E. O'Donoghue, R. Hogan, M.Nolan, E. Guinan. **Subs** : M. Ruth, JJ. Farrell.

The All-Ireland final once again pitted Kilkenny and Galway against one another. Last years final was a classic and this

years final matched it for sheer skill and drama. The match ebbed and flowed from start to finish. After thirteen minutes Galway led by 0-3 to 0-2. Galway then injected real pace into their game and opened up a gap of seven points coming up to half time. Kilkenny clawed their way back but still found themselves in arrears by four points at half time with the score Galway 1-7 Kilkenny 0-6. This was the first time that Kilkenny were behind at half time and the big question was how would they react. Kilkenny showed great heart and with some

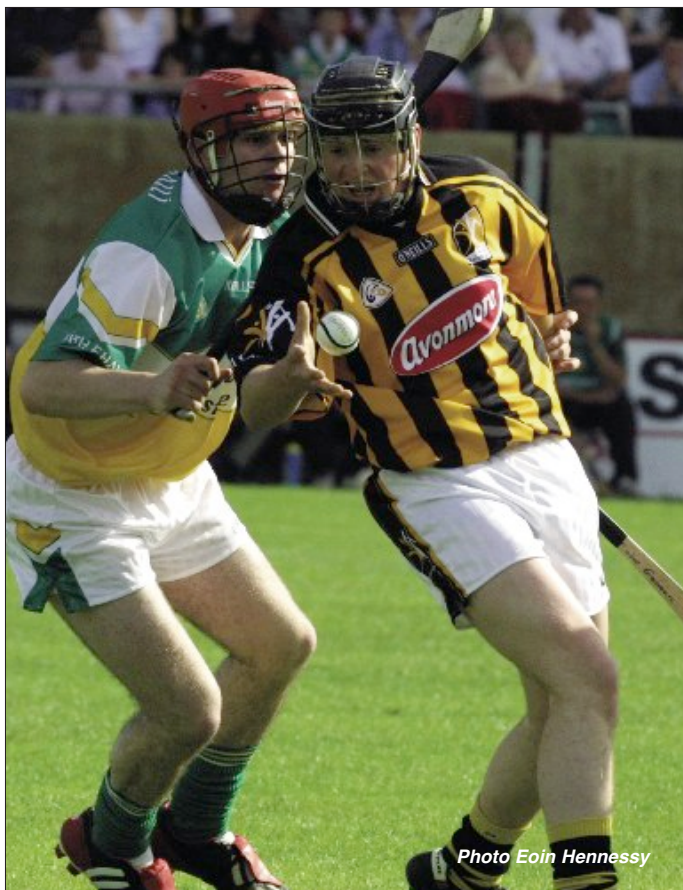


Photo Eoin Hennessy

Eoin Guinan (Kilkenny) tries to get control of the sliotar as **Mark Quinlan** (Offaly) challenges in the Minor Leinster Hurling Semi-Final in Dr Cullen Park.

scorching pace and great scores from Gavin Nolan Kilkenny came thundering into the game. Pat Hartley and Paddy Hogan were working hard at midfield. Nicky Kenny scored some fine points. A Maurice Nolan 65 fell to Matt Ruth who dispatched the sliotar to the net. Eoin Guinan put Kilkenny in front for the first time when he pointed with six minutes to go. A Galway goal and a point rocked Kilkenny. The huge Kilkenny support got behind the minors and the team responded with two points from Nicky Kenny and Gavin Nolan. A minute into injury time Ritchie Hogan careered towards goal and shot over the equalizing point. This was a brilliant game of hurling and a real credit to both teams.

Scorers : M.Nolan 0-5 (frees,) G. Nolan 0-4, E.Guinan 0-3, N.Kenny 0-3, M.Ruth 1-0, P. Hogan 0-2, R. Hogan 0-1.

Team : L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, E. Walsh, N.Prendergast, R. Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, P.Hogan, G.Nolan, M.Nolan, N.Kenny, R. Hogan, E. O'Donoghue, E. Guinan.

Subs : M. Ruth, N.Delahunty.

The supporters of both teams traveled in their thousands to O'Connor Park, Tullamore for the replay. Another rip roaring game but alas for the Kilkenny minors it was to end in disappointment. Kilkenny played against the wind in the first half and did well to be level at 0-2 apiece after eight minutes. Kilkenny capitalized from a hotly disputed line ball. Ritchie Hogan floated it in and Eoin Guinan met the sliotar with a perfectly timed flick to shake the Galway net. Kilkenny held the upper hand despite playing into the stiff breeze. Galway signaled their resolve when they scored three points without reply and Liam Tierney in the Kilkenny goal showed his ability with a fine save. The half time score was Kilkenny 1-6 Galway 0-9. Galway, despite playing against the breeze, started the second half as



Photo Eoin Hennessy

A disconsolate **Br Damien**, Kilkenny trainer speaks to the press after the replay in Tullamore. His achievement with Kilkenny Minors, however, has been enormous

they finished the first with three points in a row. They were in control of the game and were in no mood to let it slip. Eddie O'Donoghue was introduced by Kilkenny and scored a fine point with his first touch of the ball. Galway replied and led by four points with six minutes remaining. Paddy Hogan started the Kilkenny comeback with a great long range point. Neil Prendergast added a tremendous point directly from the puck out. Liam Tierney brought off another fine save. Maurice Nolan added a point from a free. Could Kilkenny force the game into extra time? Time ran out and the Kilkenny team fell to the ground shattered. They had given their all in quest of an All-Ireland title and accepted defeat with dignity. Supporters had witnessed two thrilling games and the players can be proud of their contribution.

Scorers : E.Guinan 1-1, M.Nolan 0-4 (0-3 frees), P.Hogan 0-3 (0-2 frees 0-1 65), M. Ruth 0-1, R.Hogan 0-1, E. O'Donoghue 0-1, N.Prendergast 0-1.

Team : L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, P.Cahill, N.Prendergast, R. Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, P.Hogan, G.Nolan, M.Nolan, N.Kenny, R. Hogan, E. Guinan M.Ruth

Subs : E. O'Donoghue.

Kilkenny Minor panel 2004

Liam Tierney, James Maher, Kieran Joyce, Paddy Cahill, Nei Prendergast, Ronan Maher, Shane Prendergast, Pat.Hartley, Paddy.Hogan, Gavin Nolan, Maurice Nolan, Nicky Kenny, Ritchie Hogan, Eoin Guinan Matt Ruth Eddie O'Donoghue, Danny Loughnane, Noel Delahunty, Eamonn Walsh, Willie Norton, John Joe Farrell, Mark Aylward, John James Kenny, Tom Maloney, John Comerford, Niall McEvoy, Ritchie Dollard, Michael Tyrell, Seán Wall, Aidan Brennan.

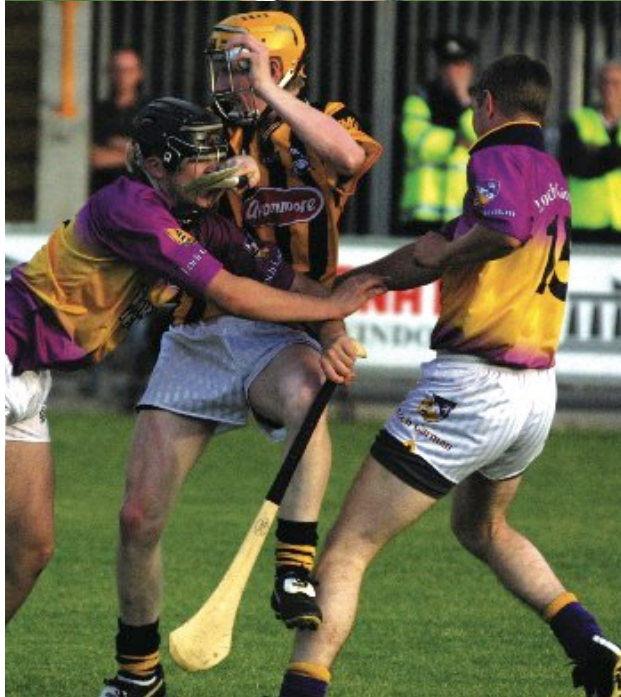
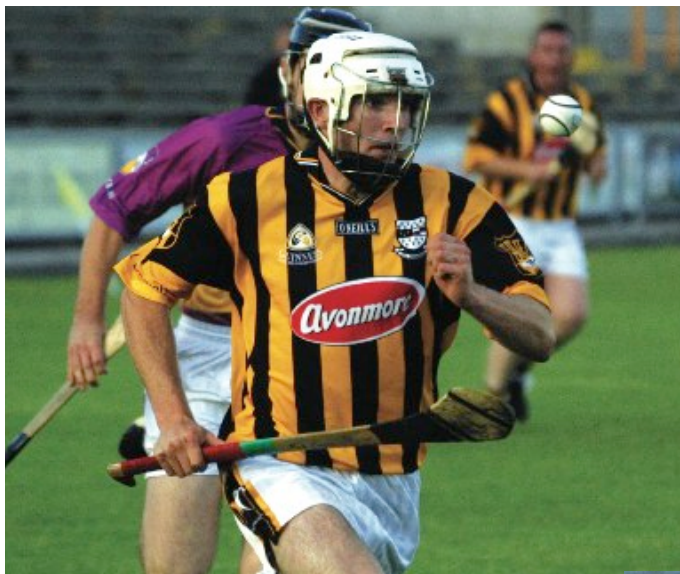
All Ireland Minor Championship Action

Photos - Sportsfile, Eoin Hennessy, John McLwaine



All Ireland IH Championship Action

Photos - Eoin Hennessy



Nicky Purcell

A Servant of the Community



After a long distinguished career as a business executive and a GAA official, Nicholas, or as he was more endearingly referred to, Nicky, Purcell joined the Heavenly Ard Comhairle, in his eightieth year, after an extended battle against a debilitating illness. From farming stock, Nicky never deviated from his roots- no pun intended.

His early days were spent around his native sod in Graigue, where he went to National School. One of the lads who started school with him to the day, William Fennelly, is still with us thankfully.

Nicky completed his second level education in famed St. Kieran's, then, as now a hurling nursery.

Mind you he didn't need any indoctrination in the skills of hurling when going in the road the few miles to Kieran's. No indeed. He knew plenty about it before he ever darkened the hallowed halls of Kilkenny's premier nursery. Nicky would have learned much from playing with, and watching his Graigue contemporaries like Jack, Ned, Ted, Paddy, and Billy Fennelly, Pat Robinson, Ned Walsh, Bill Phelan, and the Cahills.

There was a terrific bond of friendship and solidarity between them. They were later to establish the Graigue club in 1943, which eventually, and prematurely won the Kilkenny County Junior title of 1946 played in a snowstorm in '47, and the Blue Riband, the Senior title in 1949, beating the all-star Éire Óg team, and Mooncoin on their way to a final victory over neighbours and arch rivals, Tullaroan. Nicky contributed handsomely to those great victories as a wing forward of great ability.

With St Kieran's College, he won a Leinster Colleges title in 1943, and also played with Leinster with whom he won an Interprovincial medal. There was no All Ireland series in those days.

He was on the victorious UCC team of '46/'47 that won the Fitzgibbon Cup. Fellow Cats included Billy Cahill and Billy Houlihan. Fr. Paddy Gantley, the Becketts of Cork - Derry and Arthur, and Mick Herlihy, also a Cork star shared in that great victory

Nicky gained a Degree in Dairy Science in UCC, and completed his internship in Ballyhaise in Cavan, before returning to his home place. He started gainful employment, as he would say

himself in Ballybur Creamery, and thus became involved in the milk production business, within which he established a great respect of, and contribution to the farming community. Nicky Purcell was well known to the farmers of Tullaroan, Muckalee, and Ballyraggett and around the rest of the county. Besides his business interest, he also had a great rapport with these communities through the game of hurling. The game gave them all a common identity.

He eventually rose to the position of Company Secretary of Avonmore, in which he played a monumental role in its development and standing in the commercial life of rural Ireland. As a hurling man, he was a founder of the Graigue Club- which was founded in Fennelly's forge at the Cross of Graigue. They hurled in Teehan's field in Shipton, a place that nurtured some of the greatest hurlers that Kilkenny has ever known. He was a member of the

Kilkenny team that won the Leinster Senior title in 1950.

As a GAA administrator, Nicky was elected Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board in 1959, and was still there when Kilkenny beat Waterford and Tipperary in 1963 and 1967 respectively.

He represented Kilkenny with distinction on the Central Council for eighteen years. He was honoured with the Management of many All Star teams to the USA, and he was also involved with Kilkenny trips to the States in 1964 and again in 1967.

As a GAA administrator, Nicky Purcell had few rivals in the field of meeting management, rule interpretation, or the cut and trust of GAA politics. He established a highly respected niche for himself, and the respect he gained led to his being approached on more than one occasion to throw his hat into the Presidential ring, an honour he consistently refused. In 1995, together with Paddy Buggy and Mick O'Neill, Nicky was made joint Honorary President of Coiste CLG, Cill Chainnigh.

In later life he became hugely involved with golf, being a founder member of the Kilkenny Hurlers Golf Society. He was a very active and valued member of Kilkenny Golf Club, and eventually the Kilkenny Seniors Golf Club.

Nicky Purcell left a valuable legacy behind to his beloved parishioners, and members of Graigue country. His contribution to the commercial and sporting lives of his own place and his County was enormous, and should never be forgotten.

Whenever people in that area sit down to evaluate the contribution of their many eminent community servants, you can be assured that the name of Nicholas Purcell will not be too far removed from the top of the list of credits.

To his wife, Daisy, his daughters Kathleen, Paula, and Nicola, his son Philip, his sister May, his brothers Paddy, and Phil, his grandchildren, relatives and numerous friends, we tender our heartfelt sympathies.

The world is a poorer place for the passing of Nicky Purcell.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



GRAIGUE SENIOR HURLING TEAM 1957

Back: Joe Cleere, James Fennelly, Nicholas Teehan, Simon Cleere, PJ Claffey, Mick Walsh, Mick Coonan, Nicholas Purcell, Ned Walton.
Front: Tom Walton, Billy Daly (Capt), Paddy Burke, Patsy Lahart, Abby Holmes, Billy Ronan, Dick Cleere, Tom Ryall.

Ballyhale Double Up!

Under 21 Report by Barrie Henriques.



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS ROINN 'A' U21 CHAMPIONS 2004U21

Back: Colin Fennelly, Donal Dempsey, James Walsh, Jason Nolan, Barry Nolan, Ger Fennelly, James Connolly.

Middle: Alan Knox, Liam Walsh, Robbie Aylward, Pádraig Holden, Michael Fennelly, Eoin Reid, Michael Dermody (Capt), Mark Aylward, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Eamon Walsh.

Front: TJ Reid, Keith Nolan, Cha Fitzpatrick, David Healy, Kieran Grace, Donncha Fitzpatrick, Mickey Carroll.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



TULLAROAN - ROINN 'A' U21 FINALISTS 2004

Back: David Walsh, Damien Connolly, Shane Connolly, Tom Butler, Stephen Dowling, Richard Walsh.

Middle: Shane Hennessy, Nicky Maher, Stephen Maher, Michael Walsh, Robbie Moore, Pádraig Kennedy, Eddie Champion, Richie Butler, David Dowling.

Front: Sean Glennon, Eamon Brennan, Tony Wall, Mark Walsh, Martin Walsh, Chris Breen, Tommy Walsh (Capt).

Photo Eoin Hennessy

ROINN A

By a distance, the most successful segment of the under-21 championship was the Northern end of things, where ten teams went to traps to decide the ultimate County Finalist. By the same token, there were only four teams in the South who played two semi-finals and a South Final to determine who would contest the County Final.

In a preliminary round game in the North, Graig Ballycallan had a facile victory over James Stephens, winning by 1-13 to 0-5. For their trouble, fate dealt them Tullaroan in their very next game, a daunting task indeed, considering that Tullaroan were the fancy of many to win the title.

Last July, Erin's Own of Castlecomer were fancying their chances of cutting a bit of a dash in the competition. They looked quite good when defeating the Emeralds from Urlingford in their first round game by 1-17 to 2-8. St. Martins (3-16) were too good for O'Loughlins (2-8), while Clara (2-12) carried too much power for a hard-trying Dicksboro (1-11). It took two outings to decide the ultimate winner between the near neighbours, Tullaroan and Graig Ballycallan. At full time in the first meeting, the sides were level at 1-15 apiece, in a superb game. The replay was anticipated with relish. It was a waste of time, as Tullaroan completely demoralised their opponents by 4-10 to 0-9.

In the Northern semi-finals, Clara (0-12) took out St. Martins (0-7), where the presence of the Phelans and the Prendergasts were huge contributors to a fine victory. The Erin's Own/Tullaroan game was a corker, with the Comer lads showing tremendous application, drive and no little skill.

In fact the Comer lads were in front at the break by 0-8 to 0-6. They were still in front when Martin Boran pointed in the 56th minute, but a Nickey Maher goal in the 58th minute finished their ambitions, and Tullaroan ran out winners by 1-14 to 0-12. The Northern Final was a superb affair with the result very much in doubt right to the finish. Tullaroan eventually got there at the end, winning by 1-9 to 0-9.

The Southern Championship came down to two semi finals and

a final. Ballyhale Shamrocks had their hands full with high flying Mullinavat, eventually winning by 0-16 to 0-13. The Rower Inistioge had an equally testing time in trying to put down the challenge of favourites, Carrickshock, in their semi final. The Rower eventually won by 1-13 to 2-9. In the final, the Ballyhale lads really turned on the style and skill to emerge winners by recording 0-17 while the Rower lads slammed home 1-11. Nonetheless, it was a terrific year for the Rower, as their minors had qualified for the Roinn A Final.

In probably the best hurling game of the year, Ballyhale Shamrocks barely held on to win the Michael Lyng Motors Cup by the minimum of margins, from a hard-trying Tullaroan outfit, who were fancied by many to win the title.

A goal by Donnacha Fitzpatrick as early as the eighth minute settled the Ballyhale lads early. However, as often before, Tullaroan fought back strongly, and with the very accurate Shane Hennessy on song, Tullaroan had got themselves well into contention by half time, which saw the Ballyhale lads lead by 1-7 to 0-6. In a dramatic second half, the sides were deadlocked on two occasions. Still level at the 57th minute, a Shamrocks attack was halted some fifty yards from the Tullaroan goal, unfairly said the referee, Denis O'Sullivan. "Cha" Fitzpatrick stepped up to the ball, and drilled over what subsequently proved to be the winner for his Shamrocks side. Tullaroan did have a chance after that but the effort landed short of target, and so for the fifth time, the cup went south to Ballyhale.

The winners had stars all over the park, not least of which was their captain, "Cha" Fitzpatrick, who was superb in the middle of the field. Not too far behind "Cha" was Michael Fennelly, a giant on the half back line, while Michael Dermody, Jason Nolan, Keith Nolan, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, and Donnacha Fitzpatrick were also outstanding.

For Tullaroan, who lost little in defeat, Shane Hennessy, Eddie Campion, Richie Butler, Chris Breen, and Sean Glennon were best.

The final score: Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-14 Tullaroan 0-16



ROWER/INISTIOGE - ROINN 'A' SOUTHERN U21 FINALISTS 2004

Front: Gerry Grace, Danny Cotterell, Toby Kavanagh, Sean Cummins, Seamus Holohan, David Dunphy, Rauri Galavan

Middle: Luke Treacy, James Roche, Kieran Joyce, Liam Tierney, Michael O'Dwyer, John James Kenny, Pdraig Tierney, Liam Lyng, Michael White, Pdraig Lyng, Conor Lyng

Back: Eoin Kavanagh, Shane Knox, Pat Tierney, Philip Moylan, John Grace, Billy Cuddihy, Damien Flood, Paul Nolan, David Lyng, Noel Treacy, Pdraig Grace



CONAHY - U21 ROINN 'B' FINALISTS 2004

Back: Cathal Hestor, Tomas Nolan, Alan Healy, Gavin Nolan, David Healy, Patrick Nolan, John Muldowney, Paul Downey, Eoin Fitzpatrick, John Wallace, Damien Webster, Peter Dollard.

Front: Ian Kavanagh, Joseph Delaney, Brian Healy, Peter Harding, Tom O'Shea, Martin Fitzpatrick (Capt.), Kieran Mooney, Michael Bergin, Andy O'Keeffe.



SLIEVERUE - ROINN 'C' FINALISTS 2004

Back: Liam Knox, Pat Cody, Aidan Hogan, Niall Knox, Mark Haberlin, Robert Roche, Brendan Cody, Declan Ryan, Kieran Grant, Conor Grant, Adrian Rockett, Ian Sommers, Ted Rockett,

Front: Andrew Hogan, Cian Tyler, Ricky Hogan, Gavin Quilty, Niall WALSH, Paul Walsh, Nicky Cody, Sean Roche.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: James Connolly, Kieran Grace, Pdraig Holden, Eamon Walsh, Keith Nolan, Michael Dermody(capt), Michael Fennelly, Jason Nolan, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Mickey Carroll, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, TJ Reid, Eoin Reid, Donnacha Fitzpatrick.

Subs: Barry Nolan, Liam Walsh, Ger Fennelly, Alan Knox, David Healy, Donal Dempsey, Colin Fennelly, James Walsh.

Tullaroan: Tony Hall, Robert Moore, Tommy Walsh(capt), Pdraic Kennedy, Stephen Maher, Eddie Campion, Richie Butler, Shane Hennessy, David Dowling, Mark Walsh, Michael Walsh, Eamonn

Brennan, Chris Breen, Martin Walsh, Mickey Maher.
Subs: Sean Glennon, Stephen Dowling, Tom Butler, David Walsh, Richard Walsh, Shane Connolly, Damien Connolly.

ROINN B.

In the Northern Championship, it looked odds-on that Conahy Shamrocks had the potential to go a long way along the winning road, such was the quality of their team. Who would join them was anybody's guess, but smart money was on the lads from Freshford. It was tight enough for St Lachtain's against Fenians in their first game, but eventually the

Freshford lads chiselled out a 3-10 to 2-7 win for themselves. Danesfort had a fine opening win against Young Irelands, winning by 0-18 to 0-5, while Conahy opened with a rather facile victory over Galmoy.

In the semi-finals, Conahy continued on their winning ways, easily accounting for Blacks & Whites on a score of 3-15 to 0-7. St Lachtain's had a far tougher encounter against a youthful Danesfort, eventually winning by 3-10 to 2-9. The final was a classic with the result in doubt right to the final whistle. The sides were level at half time at 0-7 apiece, and St Lachtain's were in front as the finishing line approached, thanks in the main

to superb accuracy by free-taker Bill Beckett, and point scoring by Eoin Guinan. The threat of Alan Healy and Gavin Nolan on the Conahy half forward line was fairly obvious on the stats board too, as they contributed a formidable 1-10 of the Conahy total between them. A Guinan point in the 54th minute had the sides level, and a James Meagher point shot the Freshford lads to the front with four minutes remaining, but the final call was with the Conahy lads as Nolan, the County minor, slipped over two magnificent points to hand victory to the Conahy outfit.

A preliminary round was required in the South to get the competition onto a level format. After a replay, Tullogher beat Glenmore by 1-10 to 0-9, while Mooncoin had three points to spare over Windgap. Mooncoin went on to beat Thomastown by 0-12 to 2-4 in their quarter-final game, while Tullogher (4-11) beat Kilmacow (0-6), Dunnamaggin (0-16) beat Graignamanagh (0-4), and Piltown (2-16) beat John Lockes (0-12).

Tullogher carried too much fire power for Dunnamaggin in their semi-final, winning by 0-12 to 0-8, while Piltown had four points to spare over near neighbours, Mooncoin, in the other semi-final. Piltown won that one, 1-11 to 2-4.

Tullogher earned the right to take on Conahy in the County Final by virtue of a rather easy win over Piltown in the South Final, which they won by 4-8 to 2-5.

ROINN C.

The Roinn C Championship was played on a round robin basis, with five teams competing. Slieverue alone carried the hopes of the South of the County, and they acquitted themselves well in their opening game against Bennettsbridge, which they won by 5-8 to 1-10. Lisdowney too had a competent opening game against northern neighbours, Cloneen, whom they beat by 1-11 to 2-3. However the Rangers from Paulstown/Goresbridge carried too much firepower for Lisdowney in their very next game, which Paulstown won by 1-8 to Lisdowney's 0-5. What followed was a little farcical, with teams giving walk-overs willy nilly. It forced the fixtures committee to eject teams, thus resulting in one semi-final game, which saw Slieverue beat Lisdowney by 0-6 to 0-2, and the winners to face Barrow Rangers in a County Final.

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The Kilkenny All Ireland SH panel were presented with vouchers by Michael Wall, the Man's Shop, High Street.
From left: JJ Delaney, Michael Wall, DJ Carey (team capt), Brian Cody (team manager)
(Photo Tom Brett)

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Waterford IT GAA CLUB



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College Members of the Victorious U21 Team;

Conor Phelan, John Phelan, Brian Dowling, Shane Hennessy, Anthony Owens, Eoin Reid, PJ Delaney, James Meagher, Mark Heffernan.

The following current Senior players have won Fitzgibbon Cup medals with WIT;

JJ Delaney, Conor Phelan, Brian Dowling, Ken Coogan, Henry Shefflin, Michael Kavanagh, Derek Lyng, Peter Barry, Andy Comerford, Aidan Cummins.

GAA Club Scholarships

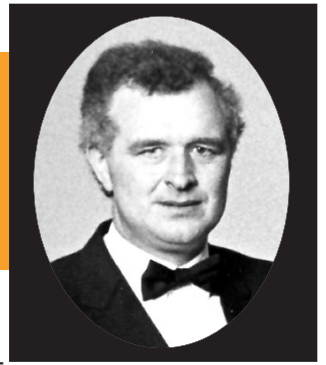
The WIT GAA Club have just launched a new Scholarship Scheme, where a number of Scholarships will be offered to full time students who are accepted into a course at WIT. These Scholarships give students from all GAA backgrounds the opportunity to enhance their skills and achieve excellence with the benefit of full time training facilities, physical and technical advice, and personal development, in tandem with obtaining a qualification from WIT.



KILKENNY MEMBERS OF WIT - FITZGIBBON CUP CHAMPIONS 2004
Back Row L to R; John Phelan, Ken Coogan, Alan Healy, PJ Delaney, Eoin Reid, James Meagher.
Front Row L to R; Ray Wall, Chris O'Neill, JJ Delaney (capt), Brian Dowling, Conor Phelan, Mark Heffernan.
(missing from photo; Anthony Owens)

Tommy Murphy

Always at the Coalface of the GAA



Tommy Murphy of Danesfort, former Chairman of Kilkenny County Board CLG, sadly passed away in May of 2004. A well loved and greatly respected man, Tommy's loss was greatly felt throughout the GAA and general community in this county and beyond. Here follows the graveside tribute of Cathaoirleach CLG Cill Chainnigh.

Rarely indeed has such a deep sense of sadness and loss been felt throughout Co. Kilkenny as there was last Friday when the news came through that Tommy Murphy had lost his battle with an illness that he had borne with such great courage and dignity right to the very end.

And so we have gathered here in Danesfort in large numbers last evening and again today to say our farewells to a friend and colleague and to offer our sympathy and support to his loyal and loving wife Marian who has been such an immense support to Tommy not just during his recent illness but throughout their married life. We offer our sympathies and support also to his daughter Katie and to his son Paul both of whom he idolized. How proud he was last summer as he watched Paul play his part in helping Kilkenny to victory in the Tony Forriestal tournament.

Tommy was born and lived all his life here in Danesfort. His contribution to many local organizations sporting and otherwise are well known and it was considered a major advantage to have him on your team in any quiz competition. But all will agree that his greatest contribution has been to the Gaelic Athletic Association which he served with unswerving loyalty both as a player and administrator for almost 40 years. He subscribed totally to the ethos of club and parish and no rule or

byelaw was required to ring fence his membership of his beloved Danesfort. In 1971 while still playing and at the comparatively young age of 22 he became secretary of the club a position he held until 1985. In 1991 he became treasurer of the club and only relinquished this position in 2002. The development and official opening of the club grounds would rank highly amongst his list of achievements during that time.

In 1985 Tommy was elected chairman of the Northern board and one year later in 1986 he was elected to the highest office, that of county chairman and was re elected to that position in both 1987 and 1988 a year when Kilkenny won both minor and junior all Ireland titles. In 1989 Tommy was elected as Kilkenny delegate to the Leinster council a position he has held ever since. His last official function as a member of Leinster council was earlier this year when he presented the Walsh Cup to the victorious UCD team which included his nephew Timmy. In the years 1994, 1995, 1996 Tommy served on the Games Administration Committee in Croke Park. Throughout all of these years Tommy maintained the same friendly mild mannered and courteous manner so long as Kilkenny's credentials were not called into question!

Today on behalf of Kilkenny County Board I wish to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Tommy Murphy to our Association at all levels. May the sod of his beloved Danesfort rest softly on him.

Slán go fóil a chara dilis, beimid go léir le chéile arís ag am éigin eile. Ar Dheis Dé thú go dtí sin. Ni fheicimid bhúr leithéid san saol seo arís.



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around the clubs

Executive Committee 2004

Chairman: John Skehan
Vice Chairman: Jim O' Hara
Secretary: Margaret Hanlon
Finance: Joe Nolan
Hurling/Football: Mick Nolan
PRO: Conor Denieffe
Youth: John Joe Cullen
Pavilion: Benny Walsh
Grounds: Martin Hanlon
Social: Paddy Greene
Development: Colman Loughnane
Handball: Con Moore
Membership: Marguerite O'Connor
Co Board Delegate: Martin Brennan

The year 2004 will be remembered as the year of the semi-finals or even the replayed semi-finals for all involved with the O'Loughlin's senior hurling side as they exited the All-Ireland club series with a defeat to Cork's Newtownshandrum and the local championship to James Stephens in replayed semi-finals. Add in a defeat at the semi-final stage of the senior hurling league to the Village also and one can see why the penultimate stage was an unlucky one for O'Loughlin's this year. The club's other adult teams at Junior and Special Junior did not capture any titles in 2004 although the juniors did well, consolidating their re-attained status in the junior championship proper and exiting to eventual champions Galmoy.

It was at under-age level that success arrived, with a 24-year gap being bridged in capturing the Minor A championship title on county final day and the successes of our U/16's in winning both the league and championship. These victories were due reward for the wonderful work which goes on at under-age level in the club. Great credit is due to the mentors at minor level, Philip Holohan, Derek Shelly, Peter Dowling, Séan Tyrell and Brian Murphy while those associated with the Under/16 successes were Benny Cleere, Gerry Tyrell, Nigel Skehan, Anthony Bergin, Jack O'Kelly and Séan Cleere. It is also appropriate at this point to remember James O'Donoghue (R.I.P.) who made a huge contribution to the club's under age structure and who passed to his eternal reward earlier this year. An obituary to James is carried elsewhere in this year-book, Ní bheidh a leithéad an arís.

The work of developing future generations of hurlers for the club continues apace with large numbers from 6-12 years old participating in the Sunday



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS U8 TEAM - WINNERS OF JAMES STEPHENS U8 HURLING BLITZ 25/9/2004
Back: Robert Buckley, Ross Wallace, Michael O'Halloran, Patrick Butler, Daniel O'Driscoll, Ross Wallace, Ben Leydon, (Capt). Cian Loy, Daniel Bolger, Garry Bryan.
Front: Shane Fahy, Pat Clifford, Shane Maher, Jack Lawlor, Patrick Mulally, Jamie Conway, Thomas Gleeson, Hugh Lawlor, Kevin Rowe, Eoin Croghan.

morning coaching and leagues. The U/8's had a wonderful year playing a large number of games and winning the James Stephen's Tournament. Working diligently as coaches at this level were Hugh Mahon, Neil Loy, John Collins, Gerard Flynn and Pat Clifford. Our U9's won the John Locke's Tournament while our U/10's looked after by Liam Leydon, Eddie Burke, Gerry Buckley and Johnny Holohan were extremely unlucky finishing as runners up in a number of competitions.

Our U/12s won the Shield in our own tournament with Richie Kearns, John Wemyss, Mick Burke, Joe Nolan and Kevin Lenihan in charge while at under 13 level the shield in the Lisdowney '7s was won and at under 14 level there were successes in the Declan Byrne Shield, the Rower Instiogue's Meaney Shield and our own Billy Keane Shield. Coaches with these sides were Gerry Tyrell, Dinny Tyrell, Tony Forristal, Brendan McPartlan, Philip Twomey and Mick McGuinness. The juvenile section would like to thank the selectors, parents and sponsors for their terrific support throughout the year.

O'Loughlin's were very well represented at county level again this year. Joining captain Martin Comerford at senior level were Séan Dowling and Brian Hogan while Maurice Nolan played his part on the Kilkenny minor team where he was joined by panellists Niall McEvoy and Danny Loughnane. Brian Dowling was a member of the Kilkenny Under 21 side,

which defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland final.

To run a club like O'Loughlin Gaels successfully is a major operation in personnel and financial terms. Thanks to the many people who give of their time at all levels of the club. The club's Lotto continues weekly while a very successful Golf Classic took place in Gowran Park during the year. A major fund raising initiative for club development undertaken by members during the year culminated in a night at the dogs in "St. James Park". Thanks to all who supported this and all the club's ventures.

Development work will begin shortly on re-surfacing and lightning the car park, up-grading the existing dressing rooms, providing dug outs and drainage of pitches. The Club's dinner dance was a highlight during the year with a large attendance-enjoying Captain Andy Comerford bringing the county and Leinster senior hurling trophies along. The various Player of the Year Awards were presented at the dinner dance to Brian Hogan (Senior) Tommy Lahart (Junior) and Paul O'Brien (Juvenile). Finally the O'Loughlin Gaels club would like to extend its deepest sympathies to club members who suffered bereavements during the past year.

It was another busy year on the handball front with significant success at national level. Kirk Greene and Stephen Shortt won the schools Intermediate Doubles All Ireland for St Kieran's while Billy Bourke won a clean sweep of Masters titles at All Ireland level.



around the clubs

Club Officers 2004

Chairman:	John Maher
Vice Chair:	Jim Fitzgerald
Secretary:	Philip Walsh
Treasurer:	Cepta Brennan
PRO:	Robert Blackmore
County Board:	Eddie Blackmore

Intermediate Hurling

It was a steep learning curve for many players and points proved hard to come by during our return to the Intermediate grade. They needed two nerve jangling games to overcome John Lockes. In the quarter final against Graiguenamanagh, Piltown werew hit with some late scores leaving them to ponder what might have been, tempered by the knowledge that Intermediate hurling status was secured for 2005.

They lost the final of the Alyward Cup to Graiguenamanagh. The Special Juniors performed very well in some of their games, with many of the minors showing potential for the future.

U-16 Champions

Pride of place goes to the U-16 squad who won the "B" County Final, by defeating near neighbours Mooncoin by five points. The securing of the title will be particularly memorable for the three games required to overcome Mullinavat in the semi-final. This team also reached the semi-final of the League earlier in the year, but lost in a replay to St. Martins.

Minor

The hopes of securing a Minor title was dashed at the semi-final stage of the Hurling Championship, where St.Lactains won out in a closely fought game by three points. The squad showed good promise early in the year, performing in the "A" League, and they are due to play in a semi-final shortly. Our U-14 Hurlers, played some splendid hurling throughout the year but succumbed to Tullaroan in the semi-final.

U-12

Each Sunday morning throughout the year large numbers of youngsters train under the guidance of dedicated coaching personnel, with many challenge games organised home and away. All age levels from U-8 to U-13 were catered for. The Waterford City Leagues provided much needed competitive action & entertainment, where the U-13's, U-12's, U-11's & 10's tried there utmost in all games. The u-13's reached

the semi-final of their league. The school teams meanwhile acquitted themselves well in both codes but major success eluded them.

Football

The Club once again competed at Senior level on the Football scene. Following league stage results they had to play a first round match, losing out narrowly to O'Loughlins. In a relegation play off, they out pointed GraigueBallycallan to maintain Senior status.

In the 11 A-Side Football competition they reached the quarter final stages before succumbing to Castlecomer. Our U-14 Footballers performed excellently in their series of Championship games and in the County Final, lost out narrowly to Lisdowney.

Coaching

Jim Norris and Pat Duggan assisted with the County Development squad at U-14 level, whilst Martin Gordon was involved with the U-15 Hurling squad and U-14 Footballers. The Winter Indoor Hurling coaching in the Handball & Squash courts proved popular again, being held three nights a week to cater for all needs.

The club has an abundance of coaches, selector and helpers who can be seen week after week providing their time and energies in the promotion of the games. Special thanks from the Club goes to one and all.

Club Development Work

Development of the second pitch into an all – weather pitch is ongoing under the stewardship of Bill Costello. Sand has been spread to a depth of a quarter of an inch at a time over the whole surface a number of times this year. By the end of next year a total of two inches coverage will have been put in place. When dispersed through the soil, the sand will provide excellent drainage through to the underground drains installed last year. The first stage of permanent floodlighting has been installed on the rear pitch, with the adaptability to extend it fully around the pitch. This will be a huge advantage in winter preparation for games. New posts and netting have been installed behind one of the Juvenile Goals and in the near future behind the country end goal of the main pitch. A new Piltown GAA website is currently under development and it is hoped to have it up and running by the start of

events next Spring.

A group of twenty people attended a First Aid seminar, where advice and information was provided via a Doctor and First Aid Instructor. The Club made the decision at committee level to have voluntary First Aid personnel at all fixtures, in an effort to provide adequate care and treatment of all players.

Fundraising

The Hurlers Co-Op Draw run in conjunction with the County Board was a resounding success for the club in our Fund Raising efforts, with in excess of six hundred tickets sold again this year through the club. The "Play for the Park" Lotto was run by the Juvenile section of the club and was also well supported throughout the year. Thursday night Progressive 30's Cards in the Complex provides steady funding towards our underage teams.

Social Membership / Developments;

The social activities in the GAA Complex continues apace, with dancing every Saturday night and various fund raising functions for worthy causes throughout the year. The club Squash Courts & Handball Alley and Fitness Gym are valuable assets during the Winter months, when outdoor activities are less hospitable.

Achievements

Nicky Kenny represented the club on the County Minor Hurling team. Peter McCarthy, Edward Blackmore, Neil Kelly, Seamus Norris, Nigel Brennan, Paul McNamara, Mark Culleton, Paul McNamara, Shane Kinsella, Peter Kelly, Kevin Kelly & Nicky Kenny, were on various county underage panels.

Obituaries

During the year, Dick Murphy of Hillcrest, passed to his eternal reward. He was always willing to help out and contribute wherever possible. The Club also mourned the sad loss of Richie Walsh of Three Bridges, earlier this year in tragic circumstances. Richie played for Piltown in the late 50's and in the 60's and had won a Junior All Ireland in 1958 with Tipperary, whilst playing for the Carrick Davins. The Club wishes to extend its sincere sympathy to their families and all members & associates who suffered bereavement during the past year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



around the clubs

Mixed Fortunes

The 2004 football season for the Railyard Club has been a mixture of highs and lows throughout all grades. Along with their County fixtures the Seniors were also involved in the Carlow League which lengthened their football year up until the early summer. Both sets of fixtures led them to the Quarter-Final and Semi-Final respectively.

The Juniors and U 21's had a short year and this is something the Club would like to see greatly improved.

Busy Juveniles

As always, our Juveniles have been the busy players of the year, they are going from strength to strength and are constantly on the go for either Football or Hurling, in all grades they are on the young side but of course this will be an advantage in the next few years and will build up their confidence, Having said that, they did us proud by reaching the County Semi-final. The Minor team were also entered in the Carlow League this year and we hope to follow this up in 2005.

All this of course could not happen without their Mentors, and I would like to thank all of them collectively for the fine work they are doing, and also for organising their much enjoyed trip to Croke Park for the International Rules Series.

Major Club Development

Our main priority this year has been to finish the Pitch Development, all the major work has been carried out and has been a great success so far. We hope that it will be fully operational by next summer. As with all developments fund-raising was a big issue for us, considering we are the only sole Football Club in the County we were limited as to where we could find the funding, the Committee organised a range of events for this one of them being the Golf Classic. This was our second year to run this event and by all accounts is growing in popularity, we would like to thank all our sponsors and the organising committee for this.

Champion Ladies!

Last but not least I come to the Ladies! The Railyard Ladies football team have had the most successful year to date and they are only 3 years old! They are Leinster Junior Club Champions 2004. Under a heavy match schedule they made history representing their own County by defeating the Kildare Champions, Leixlip 2 – 8 to 0 – 8 on 24th October in O'Moore Park. With their own style of football the Railyard ladies out played, some would say, the favourites.



Seamus Hennessy (Capt) receives the Senior Football league trophy from Football Board Secretary Michael O'Dowd.

This led them to the Quarter – Final the following Sunday which were held in Monaghan against the Northern Champions, Iniskeen. This was a very tight match, Railyard led by a point at half – time. The second half was even tighter, and the teams were level at full – time. Deep in all seven minutes of injury time, Iniskeen pulled away and won by 2 points. History was indeed made, for the Railyard Ladies GFC, for the Railyard Club and for Kilkenny. Well done to all involved in this great progress.

Every Success to Kilkenny in 2005

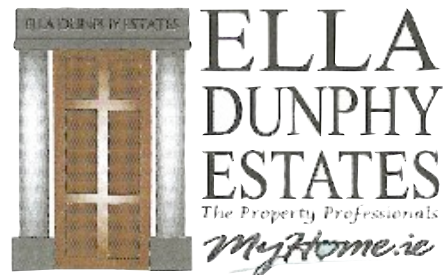


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around the clubs

2004 Club Officers

President:	Dick Bolger
Vice Pres:	Michael Roche, Fr. M. Noonan, Fr. S. McEvoy, Fr. P. Grace, Sean Higgins
Chairman:	Jack Lyng
Vice Chair:	Michael Lyng
Secretary:	Matt Galavan
Treasurer:	Richard Tierney
PRO:	John Dunphy
Juv. Chair:	Richard Delahunty
Secretary:	Breda English

Bord Na nOg

2004 was again another very successful year for under age hurling and football teams with the highlight been the success of the minor hurlers qualifying for the Roinn A final for the first time in over 30 years. Well done to all involved with the minors and congratulations to Liam Tierney, Kieran Joyce and John James Kenny who were all members of the county panel who lost to Galway in the All Ireland Minor final replay. The U-14 and U-16 Teams also had a busy year with the U-14's narrowly missing out on a county final appearance following a two point defeat to Tullaroan in the semi-final after extra time. The U-16 team had some good performances in the league but found Lisdowney too strong in the Championship. The Michael Meaney Tournament again provided some great entertainment for many U-14 teams in Sept and Oct, with the local Team defeating Clara in the Cup Final and O'Loughlins overcoming Danesfort in the shield Final.

Schools Hurling

The Schools hurling team had a very successful year qualifying for the Roinn A quarter finals following their success in winning the Southern Group. St. Canices proved too strong for the local boys as did Clara in the semi-final of the Country Cup. The U-12 team participated in a number of Tournaments with the highlight been the winning of the Shield Final in the Paulstown tournament. The U-10 team took part in the Waterford City League and in the New Ross Caulfields league while the U-9 team also played many games during the season. The U-8 Team had a great victory in the Saint Mullins Tournament and also played in Blitzes at St, Martins-Wexford and Roanmore-Waterford.

Intermediate and Junior

While the Intermediate hurlers showed promising form in the early league

games, a two point defeat to Emeralds in the first round of the Championship ended our hopes for success in 2004. The Junior A team suffered an early exit from their Championship campaign also going down to Carrickshock, while the Junior B team although getting to the Southern league Final exited the Championship in the first Round too. The U-21 hurlers enjoyed a good victory over Carrickshock in the first round, but lost to Shamrocks in the Southern Final.

Other Events

This Year's Golf Classic was another great success with many team from all over Ireland participating. Congrats to the Walsh Family of Inistioge who were the lucky winners of a car in the well supported Hurlers Co-op draw.

Johnny Murphy RIP

In April this Year the Club and all the Community were saddened with the very sudden death of Johnny Murphy. Johnny was a life-long member of the Club, worked for many years with Bord Na nOg helping to promote hurling with various under age teams. A great supporter of Club and County, Johnny will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all members of the club who knew him so well. To his wife, Phil, daughter Michelle, and son, Brian we offer the clubs deepest sympathy. We sympathise too with all members of the Club who suffered bereavements during the year.

Thanks to All

The Club Committee would like to thank all the Club Officials, Bord Na nOg members and Officials, Team Mentors, Players, First Aid Personnel, Field Caretakers, Golf Classic Committee and the supporters and Members of the Club who helped make 2004 another enjoyable and successful Year. A special word of thanks to the club members who assisted on so many occasions as line-men and umpires, no names mentioned for fear of missing out somebody, but all Club members and supporters know who they are. To all the Club sponsors who contributed so generously to allow us keep the finances in order, we thank you very much for your great support.

New Website

Why not check out our website on www.rowerinistiogegaclub.com?



Johnny Murphy RIP



Rower- Inistioge U-8 & U-9 2004

Back: Tony Clifford, Diarmuid O'Brien, Cathal Bolger, Pat Lyng, Patrick Lyng, William Allen, Shane Foskin, Sean Grace, Ciaran Ryan, Kieran Meaney, Shane Ryan, John Murphy.

Front: Richie Leahy, Kevin Murphy, Jim Ryan, Dean Hamilton, Dylan Kehoe, David Kelly, Thomas Allen, Timmy Cummins, James Tennyson, Jim Murphy, David Miskella.



around the clubs

Coaching Course

The significant development in the early part of the year was the very successful Foundation Coaching Course that was held on the weekend of 27th/28th March. Fifteen members participated and all were very enthused by the course content, the work ethic of the course leaders, Brian Ryan and George Leahy, and by the collective enthusiasm of the group.

Ten of those who graduated took very proactive roles in coaching and management duties with the juvenile section of the club throughout the summer and up to the time of writing – mid October, are still arranging training sessions. Most of the others contributed in a supporting role by providing supervision and transport to games.

The club officers and committee are very appreciative of the work done and feel sure that the long-term benefits will reward the efforts made.

Juvenile Pitch

We have planned this development for a few years and it was most rewarding for all who worked at it to witness the pitch being put into service during the year. Coaching and training for the underage teams can now progress in tandem with the training taking place on the main pitch by the adult teams.

Again long term gains must accrue.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

In 1954 Slieverue won the County Senior Hurling Championship for the first and only time. That success has become even more significant as the years roll by due to the fact that club teams since then have failed to emulate the team of '54.

The team and their spouses were treated to an evening of celebration and reminiscing at the Rhu Glen Country Club on 8th October to mark the Golden Jubilee occasion.

Each team member, or their representative, was presented with a suitable memento of the occasion and many memories were recalled and relived. The team panel was composed of twenty players and it is a compliment to their resilience that fifteen of them are still alive and in relatively good health.

The present club members compliment and take great pride in those heroes of fifty years ago.

For the record the team was, Tommy

Walsh, Ned O Dwyer, John Hokey, RIP, Mick Walsh, Jimmy Walsh, Paddy Grant, Paddy Buggy, Dick Rockett, Pat Irish, Gerry Buggy, John Hartley, Michael Murphy, Willie Cahill, RIP, Dick Mahony, RIP, Sean Griffin, Tom 'Builder' Walsh, RIP, Martin Buggy, Andy Irish, Martin Dowling, RIP, Larry Roche.

Club Chairman Pat Walsh addresses the faithful on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1954 Senior Championship victory.



FOUNDATION LEVEL COACHING COURSE IN SLIEVERUE 2004

Back: Vera Dolan, Terry Brophy, Georgie Leahy, Pat Power, Eamon O'Donovan, Ger Frisby, Andrew Murphy, Michael Freyne, David Dodd, Laurence Walsh Robbie Roche, Martin Quilty, Brendan Cody.

Front: Darren Dwyer assistant coach, Joe Mulcair, Pat Murphy, Patrick Murphy, Kieran Grant, Michael Alcock, Martin Dowling, Jim Walsh.



Slieverue U-14 Hurling Team 2004

Back: Stephen Purcell, Mark Walsh, William Walsh, Ciaran Dowling, Eamonn O'Donovan, Jamie O'Brien, James Roche, Christopher Butler, Stephen Kehoe.

Front: Eoin Carroll, Brian Grant, Paul Rockett, Niall Hogan, Martin Dowling, Patrick Murphy, (Ballinlaw), Patrick Murphy, (Ringville), Keith Haberlin.



around the clubs

The year 2004 was another busy year for St. Martins G.A.A. Club. Teams were fielded in all grades from senior right down to U 8. On the senior front the club had an up and down year. We won the inaugural midlands hurling league. This competition was run by the Leinster Council and included teams from, Offaly, Laois, Carlow and North Kilkenny. St Martins beating Erins Own in the final. On the local front we ended up in the relegation final. Against all the odds we survived in the senior ranks of Kilkenny hurling by narrowly defeating Dicksboro. The Special Junior A team won the northern junior league final and are awaiting the county final.

Juvenile Section

It has been another hectic year for our juvenile section.

Success came the way of our U16 hurling team when the team won the Roinn B league.

Further down the line teams were fielded at all ages down to U8 and great fun was had by all concerned with all these teams. The U10 team reached the final of the Jim Comerford Tournament but lost out to Erins Own. The U9 team won the shield final in the Paulstown Tournament. Training continues for all national school players every Saturday morning from March to October. All are welcome, including parents who may wish to get involved.

County Involvement

It has been another good year for Kilkenny G.A.A. on the county front.

The St. Martins club was well represented on Kilkenny teams during the year. John Maher (senior), Niall Moran (U21) Ronan Maher and James Maher (minor), Eoin McGrath (intermediate) were involved with the various county panels. Ronan Maher had the distinction of been the first man from the club to lead out a Kilkenny team on All Ireland Final day. Tony Maher was a selector again with the minor team. Tom Dowling was a selector with the intermediate team. The club continues to participate in the County development squads providing players at all levels.

Development News

On the development front the St. Martins / Muckalee G.A.A. member's draw



ST MARTIN'S - JIM COMERFORD TOURNAMENT FINALISTS 2004

Back: Shane Kinsella, Aaron Dreeling, Nigel Agar, Cliona Quirke, Patrick Brennan, Shane Dowling, Jason Shore, Michelle Taylor, Adrian Farrell, Nicole Walsh, Carol O'Keeffe,

Middle: David Healy, Richard Teehan, Alan Kelly, James Callanan, Martin Healy, Donal Shore, Damien Egan, Aidan Egan.

Front: Ronan Tynan, Conor Doyle, Ben Tynan, David Walsh, Jack Dowling, Anthony Reid, William Trousdell.



COON/MUCKALEE - U13 SCHOOLS TEAM 2004

Back: John Haughney (Dietician), David Downey, Canice Maher, Keith Davitt, Patrick Lawlor, Graham Farrell, **Middle:** Anthony McNeill, Sean Hennessy, Sean Meany, Cornelius O'Flynn, Ger Walsh, Damien Tynan, Thomas Tynan.

Front: David Walsh (Physio), Jason Allen, Alan Lawlor, Ruairi Kinsella, David Breen, Michael Moylan, Cathal Healy, Luke Maher, Paddy Dowling, Ronan Tynan (Team Psychologist).

continues to be a great success. It is the main source of revenue for both clubs, providing the funding for the everyday running of the clubs and for any other developments that need to be implemented.

This year extra drainage work was completed in the GAA pitches in Coon and Muckalee. Permanent netting was also installed behind the lower goal in Muckalee. Our main sponsor O Shea Plant Hire continue to provide great support to our club.

Best of Luck

Brendan O Sullivan and Michael Dempsey have decided not to continue training our senior team for the coming year having completed three years with the club .

During that time they guided the team to an intermediate title and consolidation in the senior ranks. We thank them for their effort, time and expertise and wish them well for the future. In particular we wish Michael Dempsey the very best of luck in his new role with the Kilkenny senior hurling team.



around the clubs

A Very Successful Year

St. Lachtain's Camogie Club and St. Lachtain's GAA Club jointly hosted a Dinner Dance in the Springhill Hotel on Saturday 21 February to present medals and to honour local representatives on the previous year's All-Ireland winning teams. Pride of place for the medal presentation went to the senior camogie team which won the Leinster championship in 2003. The Northern Junior B hurling champions also received their medals. The teams which won the 1964 Roinn B U-14 hurling championship and the 1966 U-16 Roinn A championship were guests of honour at the Dinner Dance. The former players were presented with a framed photograph of the 1964 and 1966 teams produced by local photographer Terry Campion. A video of the occasion was made by Tommy Butler. The Social Committee organised the Dinner dance, the Golf Classic and a Poker Classic in memory of the late Johnny "Killarney" Butler. Thanks to the chairperson Mary Fortune and the committee members and to the following who helped with the Golf Classic: Eileen Marnell, Mick McCarthy, Terry Campion, Thomas Brennan, Tony Brennan and Donal Heaphy.

New Members

There was an excellent response to the appeal made at the beginning of the year for people to join the GAA Club. Most families are now represented. The hope is that members of each household, which enjoys the use of Pairc Lachtain in one way or another, would join the club.

Young Stars

The youngest team to take the field this year was the U-8 team which played Tullaroan on a home and away basis. With one victory each, supporters are already looking forward to same classic games between these old rivals in future years. The U-10s travelled to Borris again in September and enjoyed a great day's hurling. The U-11s took part in the Cam-int competition. Thanks to JJ Donnelly, Noel Maher, Mike Cormack, Paddy White, Andy Cleere and Sean Boland for their work with these age groups. Scoil Lachtain are Primary Schools' Seven-a-Side hurling champions for the first time since 1998 and the third time in all. Once again Brian

Waldron spent much of the summer holidays coaching under-age players, from as young as 6 years, in Pairc Lachtain.

In April St. John's GAA Club from Belfast visited Freshford with an U-10 and an under 12 team. St. Lachtain's made a return visit to Belfast in August when the U-12 hurlers took part in the 75th Anniversary celebrations of St. John's GAC. They travelled on Friday, played in an eight-team tournament on Saturday and returned home on Sunday. In their opening game St. Lachtain's beat Ballygalget by 4-6 to 3-2. The game against Ballyboden was a titanic struggle which saw St. Lachtain's produce their best hurling of the day to edge out the Dubliners in a thrilling finish. The semi-final against Ballycran of Co. Down was an epic game. St. Lachtain's were ten points down with only seven minutes remaining in the game but came storming back to force extra time and won by two points. The final proved a step too far for the Freshford boys as they went down to a very strong home team, St. John's A. Team manager James Farrell, Ned Kennedy, Noel and Jillian Maher and team mascots Patrick and Darragh Maher accompanied the players.

The U-12 hurlers won the final of their section of the summer tournament when they beat Urlingford by 4-6 to 2-3. Team captain Steven Farrell received the Annie Hayes Memorial Trophy after the game.

Code of Conduct

Bord na nOg adopted a Code of Conduct early in the year. In future players, parents and coaches will be invited to sign up to the principles of the code each year. Chairman, Paddy White, Noel Maher, Mary Neary and JJ Donnelly are to be congratulated for overseeing this important development in the club. Bord na nOg fund-raising ventures were very successful again. Juvenile membership, the Easter raffle and the Forecast competition for the All-Ireland helped with Bord expenses. Thanks to Kathleen Guinan for taking on the role of secretary during the year.

Busy Selectors

Thanks to the following selectors who worked with the various Bord na nOg teams : Under 14 - Jim Lyng, Mike Cormack, John Kennedy, Paddy Flynn

and Paddy White; Under 16 - Brian Waldron, Jerry Beckett, Johnny Fitzpatrick, Paddy Flynn, James Farrell; Minor - Brian Waldron, Dr. Jerry Beckett, Ray Nolan, Martin O'Donnell and James Farrell. The minors provided the highlight of the year by qualifying for the Roinn B hurling final for the first time since 1990. The U-21 Selectors were Pa Hickey, Jerry Beckett and Paddy Moriarty. Thanks also to the following selectors who worked with the adult teams this year: Special Junior - Richard Costelloe, Pat Anderson, Paddy Butler; Intermediate - Jim Marnell, Brian Waldron and Ned Kennedy

County Panellists

John and Paul Costelloe represented the club on the Kilkenny Intermediate team this year. Eoin Guinan was on the Kilkenny minor team while Michael Kavanagh played in his fifth All-Ireland senior hurling final in 2004. Robbie Dowling and Jimmy Meagher were on the U-21 panel. Tom Doheny was a selector with the U-21 team while Brian Waldron spent a fourth season as a selector with the Kilkenny minors.

Great Venue

Pairc Lachtain hosted a number of championship games during the year including the semi-final of the O'Byrne Cup, the replay of the All-Ireland Colleges senior camogie final, the Leinster senior camogie final and the Northern junior hurling final. Great credit is due to the efforts of the Field Committee, and chairman Jim Marnell, in presenting the field in such good condition to the various boards without causing any disruption to preparation of camogie or hurling teams. Preparations were made for adding an extension to the existing dressing rooms at Pairc Lachtain. Planning permission has been granted and hopefully this project will come to fruition next year.

Cobhron

Sympathy is extended to the families of the following who passed away during the year: former club chairman Shem Costelloe and his father Jack, Paddy White, Mrs Mary Teehan, Mrs. May Jackson, Neddy Hickey, Michael Dowling, Mrs Teresa Shannon, Mrs Nora Minogue. Ar dheis Dé go raibh said.



around the clubs

First Phase Completed

The first phase of major development work at the GAA grounds has been completed. Four changing rooms, referees room, meeting room, showers and toilet facilities are included in the new development. Plans are advanced for further improvements including lengthening of the pitch. The project is being funded by National Lottery grants and from the proceeds of the clubs own very successful weekly lottery draw. It is planned to have the official opening early in the New Year.

Tournament

The clubs very successful Phelan / Stone memorial tournament sponsored by our main sponsors M & A Coaches goes from strength. This year for the first time a team from outside the county took part in the competition. Ballyboden / St. Endas (Dublin) were welcome visitors. After an opening round loss to O'Loughlin Gaels they stormed back to win the Benny Stone Memorial Cup defeating Emeralds (Urlingford) in the final. The Tom Phelan memorial trophy was won by James Stephens who defeated O'Loughlin Gaels in a hard fought final. Kilkenny manager Brian Cody presented the trophies to the winners.

On the Field of Play

A very successful year at under age level is reviewed elsewhere. The club won the Roinn B U-14 hurling championship by defeating Tullaroan to bridge a sixteen years gap. They also reached the final of Feile na Gael where they lost out to Dicksboro. In the U-14 Roinn C football championship final a defeat in the league final by Young Irelands (Gowran) was avenged. They contested the U-16 Roinn C hurling championship final losing out to Conahy Shamrocks. Our minor hurlers reached the semi final of the

Roinn C championship where they were beaten by Kilmacow. The club was also well represented at several under age tournaments including the camaint ground hurling tournament throughout the Summer.

At adult level the junior hurlers lost out to Galmoy in the Northern semi final while the junior footballers won the eleven a side tournament (Roinn B) beating Kilmacow in the final. The footballers also reached the semi final of the championship where they lost out to Tullogher-Rosbercon after a replay.

Finance

Once again the weekly lottery has been our main source of income. A golf classic held in Castlecomer during the year was very successful. The club is also indebted to our main sponsors M & A Coaches and the numerous other sponsors who contributions are much appreciated.



Phelan / Stone Tournament, Ballyragget, Michael Dowling, M & A Coaches (Tournament Sponsors) presents the 'man of the match' trophy to Michael Drennan (James Stephens).



St. Patricks, Ballyragget - magnificent new clubhouse which will be officially opened in 2005

Doyle Concrete

Readymix Concrete Products. Hugginstown.



Well done Carrickshock. We are very proud of you all!
From David and all the staff at Doyle Concrete
Tel No. 056-7768650.



around the clubs

Club Officers 2004

President: Chris Walsh
 Chairman: Dick Walsh
 Secretary: Simon Walton
 Treasurer: Tom Cleere
 Bd na nOg Ch: James Moore
 Bd na nOg Sec: Elizabeth Maher
 Bd na nOg Tr: Joan Connolly

On the Playing Field

The Seniors qualified for the League semi-finals after defeating Fenians, Dicksboro and Dunnamaggin and losing to James Stephens and Erins Own. In the semi-final of the League we were beaten by Graigue-Ballycallan. We played Fenians in the quarter final of the championship and emerged victorious after a good performance. In the semi-final, we were denied a place in the final by Young Irelands.

Our Junior hurlers had a good run in the League. They also had some good performances in the Championship but failed to qualify for the knock out stages.

Juvenile Activities

There was plenty of activity on the Juvenile scene with teams from Under 8 level right through to Minor level taking part in the various competitions. The school team were beaten in the semi-final of their competition. Great credit must go to Breda Holmes for all her work in the school and all the excellent underage coaches and selectors. The Under 14 team reached the Roinn B County Final but were beaten by a stronger St Patricks, Ballyragget team. The U-16 team competed in Roinn A but found the standard high. The Minor team had a good run in the League but were defeated by Tullogher in the championship. This year saw the first U-8 team in the club, they played some challenge games and provided great entertainment during the year. We look forward to the future in anticipation. The U-11 team participated in the camáint competition and U-12's took part in the Summer tournament.

Development

Work has commenced to develop a sec-

ond playing pitch. It has been levelled and re-seeded and will be in use for the coming season. Floodlighting and a new railing were erected this year around the main pitch. There are more works to be completed in the near future.

Fundraising

The club held its second Golf Classic in Rathdowney on the August Bank Holiday weekend. This again proved to be a tremendous success. The "Play for the Park" lotto, The Hurler's Co-op Draw and the Christmas Draw were the other sources of income.

County Players

Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan and Jimmy Coogan were members of the Senior panel. Tommy Walsh, Shane Hennessy, Stephen Maher and Eddie Campion were members of the U-21 Leinster and all-Ireland winning team. Martin Walsh was a member of the U-16 team and Paul Glennon and Sam Holmes were members of the U-14 team.

Obituaries

Sympathy of the club is extended to the families of Paddy Hennessy, Billy Doheny and Billy O'Neill.



Tullaroan U-8 team 2004

Back: Robert O'Flynn, Diarmuid Doheny, John Walton, Jack Keoghan, Jim Moore, Kieran Lanigan, David Sweeney, Patrick Grace, Niall Buggy, Bob Cuddihy, Daniel Mullally, Jason O'Riordan.

Front: Katie Coughlan, Liam Teehan, Jessica Tallis, Shane Joyce, Dylan Simpson, Shane Walsh, Sean Buggy, Bill Gaffney, Martin Keoghan, Aidan Cleere, John Dooley.

Missing from photo: Tommy Walsh, Bill Cuddihy, Joey Walsh.



Tullaroan U-14 team 2004 - County Finalists Roinn B

Back: Mattie Butler, John Buggy, Ronan Burns, Patrick Butler, Bill Simpson, Sam Holmes, John Maher, Paul Glennon (Capt), Josh Moore, Columb Kennedy, Mark Simpson, Rowena Buggy, John Glennon, John Coogan

Front: Padraig Walsh, Trevor Looby, Paul Buggy, Gavin Joyce, Ger Looby, Eoin Brennan, Jack Holmes, Conor Kenny, Peter Walsh, Richie Maher.



around the clubs

Club Officials 2004

President: M.O'Brien
 Vice Pres: Jimmy Cummins,
 Fr. Michael Norton P.P.
 Jimmy Phelan

Chairman: Pat Lyng
 Vice Chair: M. Rellis
 Secretary: Shem Cummins
 Asst. Sec: E. Phelan
 Treasurer: Joe Conway
 Asst. Treas: Paddy Gaule
 PRO: Pat Ryan
 South Bd: John Kennedy
 Co Board: Jim Ryan
 Juv. Chair: Jimmy Mullally

Club Development

The clubs ongoing policy of upgrading the grounds and clubhouse continued in 2004 with the refurbishment of dressing rooms and showers. The playing field is a credit to all those involved in its upkeep and is now one of the finest fields in the county.

On the Field of Play

The Junior hurlers won the Southern Hurling League Final with a hard fought win over Windgap. They then reached the Southern Final of the Championship but were defeated by Thomastown. Thomastown again proved our undoing in the Junior County Football Final. Our Special Juniors had a limited year. Our U-21 hurlers are in the Roinn B Southern Final at the time of going to press.

Minor

Our Minors competed in Roinn A of the League for the first time and acquitted

themselves well. They reverted back to Roinn B in the Championship and after a good win over Tullaroan went out to eventual champions Freshford after a hard fought game.

U-16

Our U-16s started the year by winning the Roinn C League Football Final but did not fare well in the hurling league or Championship and our U14 fared no better.

County Officials

The club is well represented by Paddy Gaule who is chairman of the Southern board and John Healy who is Central Council Delegate and Leinster Council Delegate for Kilkenny.

Playing for Kilkenny

Well done lads to Pat Hartley & Richie Dollard with the Kilkenny Minor team and to John Barron with the Kilkenny Intermediate team. Seamus Hartley was a selector with the Minor Football team.

Juvenile Coaching

Many thanks to John Ryan, Hugh Byrne and Peter Ryan for their work with the U-12 & U-10 hurling squads. Indoor Hurling will take place in the Albatross Centre this winter.

Obituaries

Matt Cody of Ballyrue, New Ross and formally of Ballyreddy, Tullogher passed away during the year. Matt was a member of the 1935 Junior County Football Championship winning team.



John Barron
Kilkenny Intermediate Team 2004



Pat Hartley and Richard Dollard - County Minor Panellists 2004



Tullogher - Rosbercon - Southern Junior League Champions 2004

Back: Liam Barron, Amby Malone, Owen Mullally, Basil Glennon, Martin Bookle, Thomas Healey, Richard Ryan, Edward Conway, Donal Phelan, John Murphy, John Murphy, Mark Malone, Michéal Bookle, Tom Murphy, Richard Murphy, Joe Murphy.
Front: James Grennan, Edmund Cullinane, Moling Cotterell, John Hartley, Simon Kennedy, John Cotterell, John Barron, Declan Grennan, Shem Cummins, Kieran Barron, John Grennan, Joe McCarthy, Dick Murphy.



around the clubs

The Year 2004 ended on a very disappointing note with defeat in the County junior Final to Galmoy. However, when the disappointment of that day is set aside, the Club can look back on a highly successful year with much progress being made. Under the stewardship of John Lanigan, Denis Brennan, Ber Donnelly and Richard Galway the season got off to a bright start with the team going through the league section of the All County League with seven victories on the trot. However, they did not reach the potential shown in earlier games when they lost to Danesfort in the first of three final visits to Nowlan Park. Despite the best efforts of the team, a very impressive Danesfort side inspired by the Hogan brothers were fully deserving of their first title in many years.

A second visit to HQ in the Junior Football Championship had a much happier ending when Thomastown won out in a tight game against Tullogher Rosbercon. Again the side went through this championship undefeated and the victory was a huge morale booster going into the hurling championship. There is a tradition of football in Thomastown and when added to the under-16 title won in late 2003, there is no reason why the club cannot continue to prosper in this code in the years ahead.

The league championship was a mixed bag with some great victories and some very poor performances. They suffered a particularly heavy defeat to Windgap whom they were destined to meet later in the knock out stages. Despite some good performances towards the end of the league the team lost out on automatic qualification on score difference. After an epic dual with Windgap they eventually won through to the Southern Final. In the first game against Windgap, they looked dead and buried being 5 points down with time almost up. But the team demonstrated great courage and resolve and got the important scores to bring the tie to a replay. The second game was similar and the team found themselves in an even worse predicament with time also up. But the introduction of County Minor panellist Johnjo Farrell had the desired effect and three goals from the youngster ensured victory after extra time. The Club secured its first Southern Title since 1962 with a very well merited but hard fought victory over Tullogher Rosbercon in Mullinavat. On a very sticky pitch, much courage and perseverance was required, but inspired by stalwarts Billy O'Keeffe and Paul Treacy and an absolutely phenomenal performance from full back line Brian Dempsey, Brian Blanchfield and young Sean Mahony the club landed its first silver-

ware since 1983. However, the county title proved to be a bridge too far and after a whirlwind start by Galmoy the team were chasing the game and never had the composure to make a serious challenge. Billy O'Keeffe, Dessie Walsh and Johnjo Farrell were all nominated in the Michael Lyng Motors Team of the Week promotion. Shane Lanigan had a fine season with the County Intermediate team reaching another All Ireland Final.

Much work was completed on the club grounds in Grennan although like the hurlers, the season ended on a disappointing note when the perimeter fence was badly damaged by the November flood. With the excess clause on the GAA property insurance, the club will need to raise the necessary funds to have this work completed. Dugouts were constructed on the No 1 pitch during the year. Dressing rooms got a major renovation with new doors, painting and a new shower system. The Club also purchased a new grass mower and would like to thank all those who gave up their time to maintain the grounds in pristine condition during the season.

The Club sends on its congratulations to Davy Walsh who won a Cork Senior championship medal with Na Piarasigh. Davy played with our junior team last year but is now teaching and living in Cork City. He played an important role in their championship win and rubbed shoulders with Cork Senior players John Gardiner, Sean Og O'Hailpin and Setanta who returned home from Australia to play in the Compromise Rules games in Croke Park.

Under Age Section

The club enjoyed some success during the year at under-age level and wish to thank all clubs who invited us to participate in tournaments throughout the year. The club continues to encourage children to become involved in sporting activities for health and social reasons and is committed to providing the facilities and coaching expertise at all levels. This can only be achieved through volunteers who give up their time to train teams and organise challenge matches. We thank all involved in the club.

The U-8's had only a few training sessions this year as there was no full time trainer. Thanks to Frank Cullinane who took the team training on several occasions. It is important to encourage children from the earliest age in order to compete with the variety of other sporting activities. We hope to have several volunteers for next year.

The U-10's, trained by Tom Donnelly and

Adrian Burke, were involved in several challenge matches during the year and were very successful. Thanks to James Stephens who invited them to play in their tournament which Thomastown went on to win.

The U-12's, also trained by Tom Donnelly and Adrian Burke, had a very successful year. This was the first year of the Nore-Barrow Tournament which Thomastown hosted in memory of Joe Pendergast. Eight teams participated and fittingly, Joe's grandson Barry Whelan captained Thomastown to victory over Windgap in the final. The team were also involved in the U-12 Summer League and the Paulstown tournaments which they won and also the James Stephens tournament in which they reached the semi-final.

The U-14 team, trained by Brendan Cooke and Sean O'Carroll, got to the Football semi-final. The hurling team got off to a slow start but finished strongly. The damage had been done in the early stages however and the team failed to reach the later stages of the championship. They did however show great promise for the coming year.

The U-16's, trained by Martin Farrell, had a great start to the year finishing the league with 11 points from a possible 12. That was the height of their success however as they lost to Castlecomer in the league semi-final and Mullinavat in the first round of the championship. We must also congratulate the U-16 team of 2003 on their victories in the football league and championship which did not conclude until after last year's Year Book had gone to print. We wish them the best of luck in their quest this year to complete the "double-double".

Thomastown was also represented on various under-age Kilkenny teams, the most notable of which was Jonjo Farrell who was selected on the Kilkenny Minor panel.

At U-16 level, Eoin Ramsbottom, Iain Egan and Jonjo Farrell made county teams while Ross Diamond was selected on the South Kilkenny team. At U-15 level Stuart Waugh, Patrick Khan, Thomas Moore and James O'Hanrahan were selected on the South Kilkenny team.

The juvenile club in Thomastown is very grateful to all who gave their time during the year and we continue to look for new members who can give their time and commitment to developing and improving the sport in our locality. We hope to build on and to improve our record to date.



around the clubs

Juniors Almost There!

The Junior team opened with good wins over Bagenalstown, Fenians, Graig-Ballycallan and Dunnamaggin qualified them for the league quarter final. However the team lost to Danesfort, who went on to win the league, trained by Bobby Jackman.

Windgap lost to Tullogher by a couple of points in the first round. The opening defeat was set right with victories against Mooncoin, Thomastown, Kilmacow, Dunamaggin and Slieverue. Up next was Thomastown in the south semi-final played in Mullinavat. Both teams gave their all in a tense physical game that finished in a draw. The replay two weeks later was one of the best matches in the championship but, alas, we lost narrowly.

Great Junior B Success

Windgap fielded one of their strongest Junior B panels in a number of years and won the Southern final against Tullogher. Windgap were pitted against Conahy Shamrocks in the county final in Nowlan Park, the first time many of the team played there. However Windgap produced one of their best displays all year in the second half to win comfortably. Again another first for the club and there were great scenes of joy and celebration afterwards.

Special credit must go to Barry Henriques and Brendan Fennelly for all the work they put in with the players. Windgap also won the junior B football after being involved in a round robin series of games against Galmoy, Carrigeen, and Lisdowney. In the semi final Windgap had an easy victory against Carrigeen and defeated Galmoy in the final. Captain was Tom Egan. At U-21 level Windgap's team managed by Paddy Walsh and PJ Egan lost by 3 points to Mooncoin in the championship.

Underage Activities

The clubs minor defeated Dunamaggin, Bennettsbridge, Gowran, Paulstown and Kilmacow in the league. The team managed by Pat Foley and PJ Egan were overturned by Glenmore in the championship by a narrow margin. They qualified for the league final against Kilmacow and were beaten by very impressive opponents.

Due to a shortage of numbers Windgap struggled to field U-16 and U-14 teams but the club did partake in an 11-a-side U-14 competition. The U-12s, managed by Simon Brophy and Mick Shea quali-

fied for the Roinn D county final and unfortunately were beaten by Conahy. At Camaint level the club had a 100% record under the tutelage of Simon Brophy, testament to all the hard work put into indoor hurling through the winter.

County Representatives

Conor Nolegergan played for the Kilkenny U-16 team. Niall Fennelly collected his second senior college's medal. Aidan Mackey played on the Kilkenny Junior team and Gerard Purcell played for the South and county u-15 teams.

Club Developments

Gay Doyle construction sponsored new jerseys incorporating a new club crest representing 3 areas of the parish. The club was founded 50 years ago and a social in Hotel Kilkenny with the founders of the club in attendance was held in late November.

The 3rd annual golf classic was held in Ballyhale and this together with the lotto and Piltown tickets are vital sources of funding. The fortunes of the club took an upward swing during the year and it is hoped that the building blocks put in place in 2004 will reap rewards for 2005.



Windgap U-9 Hurlers 2004

Back: Pat Walsh, Mick O'Shea and Michael Grace (Trainers).
Middle: Adam O'Gorman, Brendan Power, Paraic Walsh, Daniel Cashin, Patrick Moore, Amanda Power.
Front: William Phelan, Darragh O'Shea, Peter Hennessy, Niall Walsh, Conor Fennelly.



Windgap U-11 2004

Back: Michael O'Shea (Trainer), Leeann O'Neill, Michael Power, Shane Walsh, Kieran Power, Cian Ryan, Kieran Fennelly, Ryan Murray, Nicola Moore, Claire Grace, Simon Brophy (Trainer).
Front: Laura Walker, Katie O'Gorman, Laura Moore, Ian Murphy, William Phelan, Seamus Hennessy, Nicola O'Neill, Marie Phelan, Katie Power.



around the clubs

The year was one of mixed fortunes for the club. The senior team struggled through the league campaign. However they beat Dicksboro in the first round of the championship and, following victories over Graigue Ballycallan and Tullaroan, the club contested their third consecutive senior final a feat which the team can be justifiably proud of. Captained by James Fitzgerald the team had hoped to make up for the loss of last years defeat but despite their best efforts it was not to be. To our gallant senior panel we extend a sincere thank you for the joy they have given and for the example they have shown to younger players. We know they will take up the challenge again in the coming season.

The Special Junior campaign provided many of our younger senior panelists with some experience at adult level. They reached the semi final of the league and contested the Northern Semi Final of the Championship against . Our Under 21 team was again disappointingly beaten in their first round game. The Minor team had a relatively successful year in the hurling league and were unlucky not to progress in the championship campaign. Earlier in the year the majority of this years panel had been part of the team which were narrowly defeated by Glenmore in the 2003 minor football final.

A very young under 16 team fielded with little success. The Under 14 Football league was captured for the second year running and was followed by a very successful hurling league campaign, qualifying to meet Conahy in the final. It took two outings to separate the teams but victory was not to be ours as despite the best efforts of the Gowran boys Conahy emerged victorious.

Hopefully all of these underage teams will take a leaf out of the book of our senior hurlers and continue to put in the hard work that is needed to bring the potential that is there to fruition. Good work continues to be put in with the younger age groups. The club is indebted to all involved with these young players including the vital work carried out at school level. To have these youngsters playing and enjoying their hurling at this young age is a priority as we build for the future.



YOUNG IRELANDS U12 TEAM - JOE PRENDERGAST SHIELD WINNERS IN THE THOMASTOWN TOURNAMENT.

Back: Patrick Drennan, Brian Walsh, Niall Walsh, Eoin Murphy, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Kelly Treacy, Jack Glendon, Emmett Byrne, Dara Kehoe

Front: Brian Donnelly, Eoin Murphy, Michael Lennon, Paul Holden, Patrick Quinlan, Paul Delahaunty, J P Treacy, Gearoid Kennedy

Young Irelands was represented on county panels during the year - D J Carey was very much a part of the Kilkenny effort to bring the illusive three in a row to the county., JJ Lennon and Michael Walsh were on the under 14 hurling panel and were joined on the football panel by Paul Kehoe, Michael Lennon was on the under 16 panel, Kevin Quinlan and Alan Drennan were on the Under 18 Football panel. And of course Frankie Farrell spent two months in hospital in Waterford following a fall. We wish him well as he continues to recover.

The club lost one of its founder members during the year with the death of Jim Harding. Jim was one of those involved in the purchase of land for the hurling pitch from the Land Commission in 1956. He rarely missed a match in which the club was involved, cycling to many across the length and breadth of the county in his younger days.

The death also occurred of John O Neill. John was a hard working committee member and was always at the ready with his camera to record various club events. Many of these were used in the 2000 publication on the history of the club.

To the Harding and O Neill families, and to all who suffered bereavements, we offer our sympathy.

Congratulations to James McDermott



GROUP WHO TOOK PART IN THE U9 TOURNAMENT IN ROANMORE:

Back: J P Treacy, Eoin Murphy, Paul Delahaunty, Michael J Comerford

Front: Fionnuala Quinlan, Estelle Geoghegan, Eibhlin Fogarty

and his wife Olga on their marriage. Congratulations also to those club players and other members who celebrated new arrivals to their families during the past year.

We very much appreciate the financial contribution of our main sponsors, Farm and Industrial Supplies and all those sponsors who continue to contribute to our club. To those who support our teams and club fundraising endeavours we are very grateful.

ALL STARS!

Kilkenny's 2004 All Stars

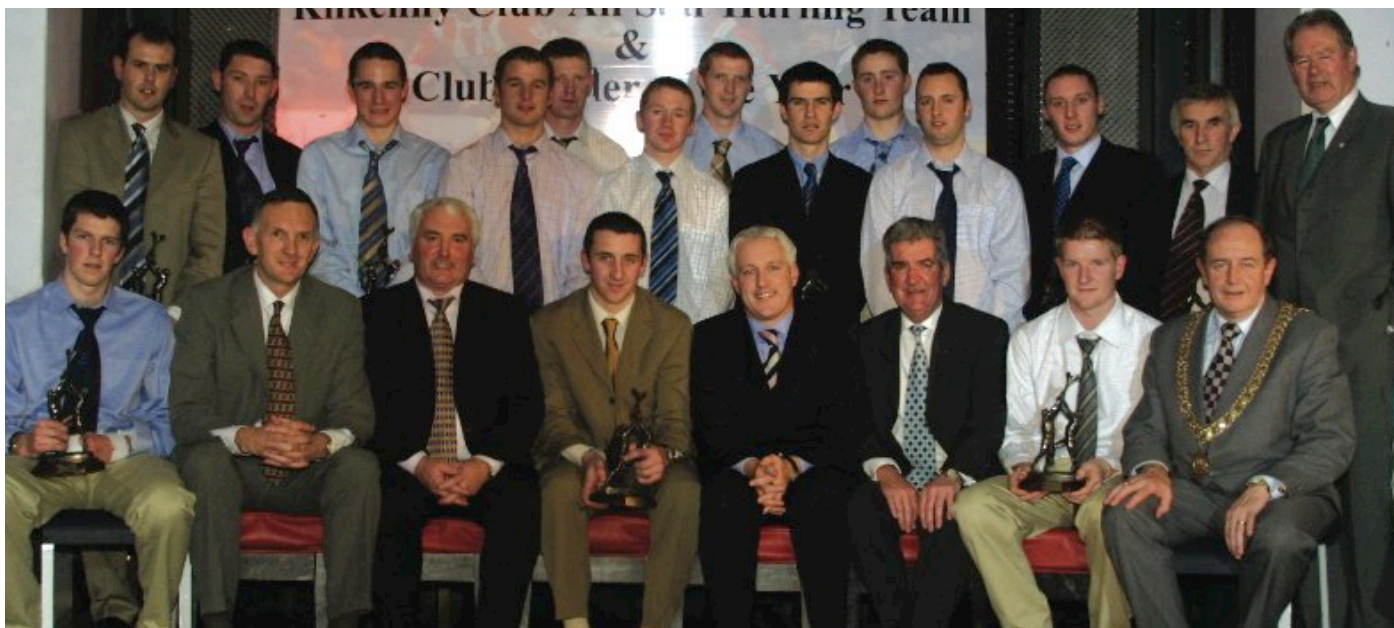
Three Kilkenny players won All Star awards this year - **Tommy Walsh** (2nd award), **Henry Shefflin** (4th award) and **JJ Delaney** (2nd award).



Photo SPORTSFILE

HURLING ALL STARS 2004

Damien Fitzhenry (Wexford), Wayne Sherlock (Cork), Diarmuid O'Sullivan (Cork), Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny), JJ Delaney (Kilkenny), Ronan Curran (Cork), Sean Óg O hAilpin (Cork), Ken McGrath (Waterford), Jerry O'Connor (Cork), Dan Shanahan (Waterford), Niall McCarthy (Cork), Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny), Eoin Kelly (Tipperary), Brian Corcoran (Cork), Paul Flynn (Waterford).



The first Kilkenny Hurling All-Star night in a packed Langton House Hotel on Wednesday night, December 1st went way beyond the expectations of its originator, Michael Lyng. Known as the **LYNG/MITSUBISHI MOTORS KILKENNY HURLING ALLSTARS 2004**, the huge audience applauded as the sixty nominees marched into the auditorium. The nominees embraced all levels of the adult hurling spectrum. This was the idea of Michael Lyng, who wanted to honour the hurlers who had done most for their own clubs. Players from Junior, Intermediate and Senior ranks figured in the weekly Team of the Week, picked by an illustrious panel of selectors, who also picked the All Star team.

Michael Lyng also thought that there should be a Club Player of the Year, and with the co-operation of Mitsubishi, they agreed that the winner, also picked by the panel of selectors, would be given a Mitsubishi Lancer for twelve months.

The winner, from the James Stephens Club, was a very popular one, free-scoring centre forward, Eoin Larkin. He was also presented with a specially crafted Waterford Crystal creation, sponsored by the Company.

This idea, which proved to be a howling success, is here to stay.

THE LYNG/MITSUBISHI MOTORS KILKENNY HURLING ALL STARS 2004.

Back: Brian McEvoy (James Stephens), Francis Cantwell (James Stephens), Noel Delahunty (Mooncoin), JJ Delaney (Fenians), Micheál Hoynes (G.Ballycallan), Niall Doherty (Galmoy), Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks), Philly Larkin (James Stephens), John Dalton (Carrickshock), Alan Geoghegan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Dick Carroll (Young Irelands), John Carey (Young Irelands, standing in for DJ), Micheal O Muircheartaigh (Fear a' Tí)

Front: Michael Rice (Carrickshock), John Downey (Mitsubishi), Michael Lyng (Michael Lyng Motors), Eoin Larkin (James Stephens), Billy Riordan (CEO Mitsubishi), Paddy Murphy (Mitsubishi), Richie Power (Carrickshock), Mayor Martin Brett.

Photos Eoin Hennessy



Hurler of the Year, **Eoin Larkin** receives his award from **Michael Lyng** (Sponsor, M Lyng Motors) and **Paddy Murphy** (M.D. Mitsubishi).



LYNG/MITSUBISHI MOTORS ALL STARS 2004 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Back: Pat Dunphy (Sec, CLG), Georgie Leahy, Pat Henderson, Jim Freeman.

Front: John Knox (Kilkenny People), Michael Lyng, Barrie Henriques, Eddie Keher.

Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club

Photos Eoin Hennessy



Dick Phelan receives first prize on behalf of the Irish Life team from Dr. Sean Dunne (Kildare Branch, Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club) and John Mackey (Chairman, Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club) in the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club Golf Classic in Gowran Golf Club.



Pádraig Tierney receives his prize for longest drive from John Mackey (Chairman, Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club) and Barry Hickey (Development Officer, Kilkenny GAA).



Former Chairman of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club Frank Morrissey shakes hands with John Mackey on being voted in as the new chairman, also photographed Ned Quinn (Chairman County Board).

KILKENNY GAA SUPPORTERS CLUB

Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club raises its funds annually mainly through Membership fees, Golf competitions and its GAA Shop. Among the contributions made are Kilkenny Holiday Fund (40,000), Coaching Grant (5,000) Schools' Grant (5,000) as well as contributions to Piltown, O'Loughlin Gaels, Castlecomer (Féile Peile) Kilkenny Camogie Board, Dicksboro (Féile na nGael) and Lisdowney 7 aside. You may join the Kilkenny GAA Supporters by sending 20 membership Fee and your name and address to anyone named below at c/o Nowlan Park, Kilkenny and you will be issued with a membership card and car sticker without delay.

John Mackey, Eddie Keher, Jim Freeman, Seán Dunne, Eamonn Hennessy, Tommy O'Brien, 14 Michael Street, Kilkenny Frank Morrissey, Jim Kearns, Eugene Grehan, Senan Cooke, Frank Holohan, Tommy Walsh, John Cahill, John Lyng, Luke Roche, Dick Dunphy.



CARRICKSHOCK - COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1979 - 25 YEARS AGO

Back: Jimmy Phelan, Michael Phelan, Michael Dunphy, George Power, Pat Duggan, Joe Brennan, Noel Maher, Richie Power, Dixie Bourhe, Wallie Broderick, PJ Rohan, James Ireland, Tommy Foran (deceased)

Front: John Poole, Maurice Power, Tom Walsh, John Power, Jimmy Walsh, Patsy Brennan, Martin Raggett, Michael Dwyer, Pat Power, William Power.



Obituaries



John Dermody

On the 27th of December 2003 the Parish of Kilmanagh awoke to the tragic news of the untimely death of John Dermody. The sense of numbness which pervaded the parish was palpable as one of its finest young men was laid to rest.

John, known affectionately to his peers as "Spudy", was a fine son, brother, cousin and friend. As an avid sports fanatic, John had helped Graigue Ballycallanto an Intermediate Football title and contributed to River Rangers winning the Division 2 title, the same year.

John had come through the ranks at St. Aidan's National School, St. Kierans College and Graigue Ballycallan. In hurling he won many underage honours including U13 and U16 leagues. He also helped Graigue Ballycallan to U15 and Intermediate football titles.

John, in recent years, wore the no 15 jersey with Graigue ballycallan at Junior and Special Junior level. He was a tidy, skillful, accurate hurler and freetaking had become his forte. His familiar style of forward play in his customary yellow helmet will be sadly missed by all.

Outside of hurling John was a very caring and reliable friend. He immersed himself in anything to do with parish or local activities. As his cortege passed through Kilmanagh the crowds that turned out were testament to the great regard his people had for John Dermody. His untimely passing and his loss to the parish of Kilmanagh is immense, but the loss to his parents, brothers, sisters and all his close friends and relatives is immeasurable in every sense.

John may your familiar and friendly smile be with us forever.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Paddy Hennessy 1930 - 2004

The death took place of Paddy Hennessy, Ardabawn, Tullaroan on the 20th of March 2004. Paddy's death came as a great shock to the people of Tullaroan where he was held in the highest of esteem.

Paddy, with his brothers, Tommy, Jim (RIP), Bill and Joe won a senior county championship with Tullaroan in 1958. He was a tenacious and un-yielding corner back and was respected throughout the county and further afield.

Paddy's playing career was cut short due to a serious knee injury sustained at work but Paddy continued to be a prominent member of Tullaroan Hurling Club and was vice-president of the club at the time of his death.

A man of great strength and a powerful worker, you could always depend on Paddy when work needed to be done. Paddy loved hurling and followed all Tullaroan teams from Senior down to under-age levels and was very proud to see his grandson, Paul Buggy wear the famous green and white.

Outside of GAA Paddy was also a great parish man and was chairman of Tullaroan Water Scheme for thirty years. Paddy was a great character and could hold the attention of young and old with his stories and yarns.

He is sadly missed by his wife Kathleen, sons John Joe and Thomas and daughters Brigid, Margo and Caitriona and by his grandchildren Rowena, Paul, Niall, Sean and Jade, his son in law John and daughter in law Wendy. He is also greatly missed by his sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and many friends in Tullaroan who remember him with great affection.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Tom Cunniffe

It was with great sadness that Kilkenny mourned the passing of a very popular businessman, Tom Cunniffe, on the 28th May 2004. Tom lived for his family, his business and his beloved Gaelic football.

Tom Cunniffe, Broguemakers Hill, Kilkenny was a life-long supporter of Roscommon football and it was fitting that a guard of honour was formed at his funeral by former players from his old club, Roscommon Clan na Gael, including former Roscommon inter-county greats, Tony White, P.J. Shine and Peter Watson. They were joined by comrades from his playing days in Kilkenny, made up of Clan na Gael. Kilkenny Football Board led by Pat Mulrooney and members of Dicksboro, which he coached for years. Tom came from a small village called Drum, not far from Athlone and enjoyed a great Gaelic football career. He played under-age for his county before winning a number of senior county championships with Clan na Gael. Roscommon.

He moved to Kilkenny in 1968 and started to play with a newly formed GAA team established by Con O' Shea, Listry, Co. Kerry and Vicar Street Kilkenny. Tom won a number of championships with the club. He normally played at full back and it was true to say that he was strong in the tackle with a great pair of safe hands. He always found a man with his clearances and was highly regarded by those who played with him.

When he came to Kilkenny city, it was to manage a supermarket in Parliament Street, which he eventually took over. Later, he moved and bought another supermarket owned by the late Francie McGuinness at John's Green where Tom's son Alan now runs a very

successful Centra store, Tom was an excellent businessman who always looked after his customers, always using a personal touch in his supermarket.

Tom was very well thought of and was also involved with the Dicksboro club for many years. He hardly ever missed a Roscommon senior football match and always made a point of meeting the players and mentors afterwards, win or lose. It is with great affection and a sadness in our hearts that we can remember Tom in the words of the Roscommon song, "We're all part of Toby's army..."

He is survived by his wife Muriel; sons Declan, Alan, James, Enda and Thomas and by his daughters Ann, Muriel and Emily; daughters-in-law Joan and Catherine and grandson Tadhg.

I measc na naomh go raibh sé.



Richard Mullally

The rather sudden death of Richard Mullally on the morning of the All Ireland Final shocked all Glenmore and further afield.

It was typical of the man that his last wish was that his sons Paddy and Richie should tog out and play in Croke Park on the Sunday even if he passed on, which unfortunately came to pass. Richard was a member of the Glenmore team that played in the 1964 Senior Hurling County Final against Bennetsbridge and scored Glenmore's only goal on that occasion.

Richard was better known as an international plough man who won the top title of the time the Irish Senior two furrow tractor title in the early sixties. An interest shared with his twin brother Tommy who also won a National title and his sister Peggy who won the Queen of the Plough title when it was held in Tramore one year.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Maureen, sons Paddy, Richard and Thomas and daughter Bridget who was an All Ireland camogie player.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



James O'Donoghue

Many of the O'Loughlin Gaels panel of players of today will have owed much to James O'Donoghue who sadly passed away earlier this year after a brave battle with illness.

At just 36 years of age, his life was short but what James packed into that time is a reminder to us all of what can be achieved with the right positive attitude and conviction.

Jayo, as we affectionately knew him was from Tipperary town and was a teacher in Thurles CBS before he got involved with O'Loughlin Gaels in the late nineties. Having moved to Kilkenny to the Orchard Estate, Jayo being a GAA man, wanted to get involved with the parish team and so started to train the U-12 team weekly and was to stay with that group of players for the following five years. He coached this team to U-14 Féile and county championship wins and to the Féile All-Ireland final held in Belfast in 2002. This year, Jayo was coaching the U-16 and minor teams in the club.

He was not only a brilliant coach but also a brilliant motivator to both young and old.

He had an infectious personality where you always wanted to be part of the team, squad and coaching set-up. He always went with the positives and reminded players of their good points, that mistakes happen and to get on with the game. The same applied to his own outlook on life. His dedication to coaching and development of players in both O'Loughlin Gaels and Thurles CBS was exemplary.

Jayo refereed a minor challenge game last March. Little were we to know that this would be his final physical action with O'Loughlin Gaels. We were unaware of a serious illness which was overtaking him and neither did he want us to know. He obviously had known this for some time and I am sure that he simply wanted us all to get on with life, not feel anxiety, sorrow or pity for him and carry on as normal. Such was the character of this remarkable man.

He was a Tipp man through and through and used to take great delight in wearing his blue and gold socks to train-

ing and took even further delight if any of the lads wore a Tipp jersey or even a similar one and reminding us all how well the jersey looked. Needless to say, we took great delight in reminding him of the league final of 2003 and the All-Ireland semi-finals of '02 and '03. He took the banter well and was well able to remind us of previous Tipp victories over Kilkenny.

Jayo was a true Gael, one who always saw the big picture, believed in his principles of always doing the right thing, being fair and unbiased and, above all else, to respect his fellow man. Our club will be a lesser place now, but his memory will live on with those who had the privilege of knowing him. Hopefully those who worked with him on the hurling field will continue to preach the hurling gospel as well as he did. We can only try but we have served with a good mentor, coach and above all a trusted friend.

Jayo had many friends which could be seen by the huge turnout at his funeral. His coffin was draped in the colours of his home club Arravale Rovers, his school, Thurles CBS and his adopted club, O'Loughlin Gaels.

We sympathise sincerely with Jayo's family, particularly parents, Seamus and Mary, his sisters Marguerite and Nichole, brother-in-law Anthony, his grandfather, his good friend Ann, his many friends, his work colleagues and pupils in Thurles CBS, his home club Arravale Rovers and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.
GT O'Loughlin Gaels GAA*



Shem Costelloe

Great regret was felt throughout Freshford and beyond on Thursday, March 18, when news of Shem's passing spread. Though he had been unwell for some time, everyone hoped that he would recover sufficiently to take his place again at his business and to travel to the various hurling fields of north Kilkenny but it was not to be.

Shem and Maura came to live in

Freshford twenty years ago. He was no stranger, of course as he worked at the Saw Mill in the 1960s. At that time, Freshford was a hive of activity morning, noon and evening with the coming and going of the workers from the two mills and the creamery. Shem and his father Jack were familiar cyclists as they travelled to and from Clontubrid.

In 1984 Shem and Maura left Ballyragget and came to Bootstown. No better family could have been found to set up home in what was originally Phelan's of Bootstown. The house is built on what was once the garden of Kilkenny's famous hurler Paddy Phelan. The Costelloe family have maintained Bootstown's and Sart's connections with hurling and camogie teams at local and county level. Shem himself won two under-age titles with his native Lisdowney in the 1950s.

When he worked in the sawmill Shem gained an intimate knowledge of the timber industry. After spending some years in the reclamation business with his brother-in-law, Chris Maher, he put that knowledge to good use when he and Maura set up their own successful timber business at Bootstown. His love of the native timbers was demonstrated when he looked around his own home and pointed out which tree each door or shelf came from and where it had once grown.

Six o'clock each evening was knocking off time from work and Shem and Maura spent their spare time driving the family to and from hurling and camogie matches until it came to the turn of the younger clan to drive. An ever present at P-irc Lachtaín, Ballyragget and Nowlan Park, he thought nothing of driving to Ballyhale or Mullinavat on a summer's evening to watch a good championship game. He cast an astute eye over the proceedings and reported back bluntly if those on view didn't measure up. On one of his last visits to P-irc Lachtaín, club chairman Pat Anderson commented that a certain St. Lachtain's player had shown improvement. "Well," said Shem, "he's at it long enough!" He was chairman of St. Lachtain's G.A.A. Club from 1991 to 1993. In that role he oversaw the successful timber auctions and the building of the dressing rooms at P-irc Lachtaín. Before that he was an official with the under age teams. He was a selector with the Under 14 hurlers when they won the Roinn B title in 1989.

Outside of hurling Shem liked to play a game of cards and to attend quizzes.

The attendance at his funeral on

both days showed the esteem in which Shem, Maura and their family are held. The guard of honour on both days was made up of members of St. Lachtain's Camogie Club, St. Lachtain's G.A.A. Club and his card-playing friends. His coffin was draped with the Cumann Lachtaín flag.

Sadly Shem's father Jack passed away some weeks later. Sincere sympathy to Maura, John, Richard, Paul, and Jim, to SinÉad and MairÉad and to Bartie and Richard, Mrs Peg Costelloe and the extended family.

Leaba i measc na nGael go raibh aige.



Tommy Brennan. (1918-2004)

Tommy Brennan 9 Blackmill Street, Kilkenny who died on 31/10/2004 was a life long member of the Dicksboro G.A.A. Club. When the club was reformed in 1969 Tommy was one of the many of the older members who returned to help revive the club.

From the outset Tommy was a valued member of the committee and held his position on same until his health deteriorated in the last couple of years.

He was joint treasurer of the club (1971-1974) and was a member of both the finance and Social committees for over 25 years.

When the club decided to purchase Palmerstown and build the club house Tommy was the leader in raising money for the club. In one of the major draws that the club organised which was confined to 300 members at £100 per ticket Tommy sold 104 of them.

He was also sales leader in the weekly draw and the lotto and a lot of his customers will tell the story that when they saw Tommy approaching you just reached into your pocket.

He was president of the club at the time of his death.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.



Pat O'Connor

Pat O Connor who died on the 1st December after a short illness was a member of the Glenmore club all his life. At the time of his death he was president of the club.

He won a junior All-Ireland hurling medal with Kilkenny in 1946 at corner back playing beside two famous players in Mark Marnell and Pat Diamond Hayden.

He won a junior hurling championship medal with Glenmore in 1953 and was a member of their senior team that was beaten by Bennettsbridge in 1960. He also won senior football championships with Glenmore in 1949-50-55-56.

He was also a prominent referee and was a selector on many Glenmore hurling and football teams for many years.

To his wife Kathleen and son P.J. and daughter Patricia sincere sympathy is extended.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé



John Byrne 1914-2004

Proud Kilkenny man, John Byrne (90), who has died in New York, once had a day dedicated to him in his home from home in the Big Apple. To mark the opening of the 1997 playing season, the GAA in New York decreed that it would be called 'John Byrne Day' in honour of the Kilkenny man who gave a lifetime of service to sport in their city. After forty years of loyal and dedicated service to

the Echo, and 60 to the GAA, John Byrnes was bestowed with an honour that was richly deserved.

John Byrne was born in Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on September 19, 1913, the fourth of seven children. When he was 15 months his family moved to Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny. He attended Paulstown National School, where the seed of his passion for sport were sown. In his youth he was an able athlete, be it as a runner, hurler, footballer or handballer. His first job was in a law office, which was followed by a stint in the beet factory, Carlow. He spent a year in England, and after returning briefly to Ireland, he emigrated to America in February 1937.

In the colours of his native Kilkenny he trod the green sward of Gaelic Park with distinction. He was a nippy forward in both codes, and his haul of medals includes six championships, one as manager of a junior team. The great Terry Leahy, Gus Fitzpatrick, Fr Sean Reid, Monsignor Henry Meagher, the Cahill brothers, Jim and Jackie were cherished

colleagues. Mr Byrne was also head-neck-and-heels involved in Kilkenny Hurling and Football clubs and he served the GAA in a host of executive board positions.

He was appointed Irish Echo sports editor in succession to his great friend, Patrick 'Wedger' Meagher, who had commenced his career in the Tipperary star. In 1950 John Byrne assumed the post of New York correspondent for the Kilkenny People. In the mid-fifties he served as an unofficial assistant to his Echo pal, Meagher.

On Saturday, March 7, 1959 the Irish Echo headlines heralded the official appointment of John Byrne as sports editor following the death of his great colleague. Mr Byrne did not confide his writing to hurling and football. He also covered camogie, rugby, golf, soccer, marathons, the World Cup and track and field events. He even covered the NY Football Giants games for the Echo. If it had to do with Kilkenny or Ireland, John Byrne wanted to know, and he wanted to write. His flowing prose reached special

heights when he wrote about his beloved Kilkenny and the hurlers he loved above all others. He was a familiar face at training sessions before All-Ireland finals. He earned the respect of the stars, and in return he made sure they received star treatment any time they visited the Big Apple.

Despite the years he spent in the US, his heart was always in Ireland. His trips home were many and he spent most of his holidays with his sisters, Eileen and Josephine, who died in 1991, and their families.

John presented the New York Challenge Cup to Goresbridge-Paulstown GAA in 1976 in a bid to promote juvenile sport. He also presented a set of trophies to Goresbridge handball club in 1980.

Due to his failing health Mr Byrne took up residence in St Joseph's nursing home, Yonkers in 1998. Visitors were many and frequent. He passed away peacefully on St Joseph's on Dec 27.

Solas na Bfhlaithas air.

CENTENARY MASS

A special concelebrated Mass to commemorate the Centenary of Kilkenny's first All Ireland title in 1904 was celebrated in St John's Church, Kilkenny on November 30th. Fr Tommy Murphy PP Ballyragget was the main celebrant and Bishop Laurence Forristal presided. After the Mass, a presentation was made to Monsignor Tommy Maher by members of Kilkenny Supporters' Club in recognition of his monumental contribution to Kilkenny hurling. There was a large congregation of GAA folk from all over the county and readings etc were performed by prominent past and present players, including Martin White, veteran of the 1932 All Ireland Final. The celebration was organised by Kilkenny Supporters' Club.



Martin White, Rev Bishop Forristal and Msgr Tommy Maher at the Centenary Mass



Eddie Keher, with Supporters Club members, John Mackey (Chairman) and Eugene Grehan make a presentation to Msgr Maher

Results 2004

HURLING

Credit Union Senior H Final (Tom Walsh Memorial Cup)

James Stephens 2-16, Young Irelands 3-12

Senior H Relegation Final

St Martins 0-12, Dicksboro 1-8

Vale Oil Intermediate H Final (Hanrahan Cup)

Carrickshock 0-14, Mooncoin 1-10

Intermediate Relegation Final

John Lockes 1-11, Blacks & Whites 0-7

JJ Kavanagh & Sons JH Co Final (Bob Aylward Memorial Cup)

Galmoy 0-17, Thomastown 1-4

Special Junior H Roinn A Final (Shem Lawlor Cup)

Glenmore 2-13, James Stephens 1-13

Special Junior H Roinn B Final

Windgap 2-10, Conahy Shamrocks 1-5

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H Roinn A Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-14, Tullaroan 0-16

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H Roinn B Final *To Be Played*

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H Roinn C Final *To Be Played*

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn A Co Final (Joyce Memorial Cup)

O'Loughlin Gaels 2-6, Rower Inistioge 0-10

Iarnród Éireann MH Roinn B Co Final (Ted Carroll Memorial Trophy)

St Lachtains 2-16, Mullinavat 0-7

Iarnród Éireann MH Roinn C Co Final

Kilmacow 2-7, Glenmore 2-5 Iarnród Éireann

Minor H League Div I Final *To Be Played*

Iarnród Éireann MH League Div II Final

Blacks & Whites 3-7, John Lockes 1-9

Iarnród Éireann MH League Div III Final

Kilmacow 4-10, Windgap 0-14

Iarnród Éireann MH League Div IV Final *no competition*

Credit Union Senior H League Final (Matty Power Cup) *To Be Played*

Vale Oil Intermediate H League Final (Pat Tierney Cup)

Mullinavat 1-13, Graignamanagh 1-10

St Canice's CU All-Co SH League Final (Byrne Cup)

Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-18, G/Ballycallan 2-7

Bus Éireann All-Co IH League Final (Aylward Cup)

Graignamanagh 1-14, Piltown 0-13

Hennessy Sports All Co JH League Final

Danesfort 2-13, Thomastown 2-8

JJ Kavanagh Northern Junior H Final

Galmoy 1-11, Conahy Shamrocks 0-11

Iverk Produce South Junior H Final

Thomastown 0-11, T/Rosbercon 0-9

Junior Hurling 'A' League Co Final

St Martins 0-13, Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-9

Junior Hurling 'B' League Co Final

Emeralds 1-11, Mullinavat 1-6

JJ Kavanagh & Sons JH 'A' North Final

James Stephens 0-8, Young Irelands 1-3

Iverk Produce JH 'A' South Final

Glenmore 3-9, Carrickshock 3-5

JJ Kavanagh & Sons JH 'B' North Final

Conahy Shamrocks 2-12, Threecastles 1-7

Iverk Produce JH 'B' South Final

Windgap 1-10, Mooncoin 0-8

Iverk Produce South JH League 'A' Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-15, Glanmore 3-11

Iverk Produce South JH League 'B' Final

Mullinavat 1-7, Rower Inistioge 0-9

JJ Kavanagh Junior H League Div. 1 Final

St Martins 1-6, Ballinkillen 0-6

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Nth JH League Div. II Final

Emeralds 4-12, St. Lachtains 3-12

Iverk Produce South JH League Final

Tullogher Rosbercon 2-11, Windgap 2-10

Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final

Galmoy 3-10, Danesfort 1-2

Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup Final *To Be Played*

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H 'A' North Final

Tullaroan 1-9, Clara 0-9

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H 'A' South Final

Shamrocks 0-17, Rower Inistioge 1-11

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H 'A' North Final

C/Shamrocks 1-11, St Lachtains 0-13

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H 'B' South Final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 4-11, Piltown 2-15

Iarnród Éireann MH Roinn B North Final

(Open Draw - No Competition)

Iarnród Éireann MH Roinn B South Final

(Open Draw - No Competition)

Iarnród Éireann MH Roinn C North Final

(Open Draw - No Competition)

Iarnród Éireann MH Roinn C South Final

(Open Draw - No Competition)

Duggan Steel U16 H Roinn 'A' Co Final

O'Loughlin Gaels 5-7 James Stephens 0-4

Duggan Steel U16 H Roinn 'B' Co Final

Piltown 1-11, Mooncoin 0-9

Duggan Steel U16 H Roinn 'C' Co Final

Conahy Shamrocks 1-8, St Patricks 0-7

Duggan Steel U16 H League 'A' Final

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-11, Dicksboro 1-8

Duggan Steel U16 H League 'B' Final

St Martins 3-10, Erins Own 3-6

Duggan Steel U16 H League 'C' Final

C/Shamrocks 0-13, Bennettsbridge 1-5

Duggan Steel U14 H Roinn 'A' Co Final

Dicksboro 2-6, Erins 1-5

Duggan Steel U14 H Roinn 'B' Co Final

St. Patricks 1-10, Tullaroan 1-3

Duggan Steel U14 H Roinn 'C' Co Final

Glenmore 3-10, Barrow Rangers 2-10

Under-14 H Féile na nGael Final (Paddy Grace Memorial)

Dicksboro 1-7, St Patricks 1-4

Duggan Steel U-14 H League 'C' Final

C/Shamrocks 3-7 Young Irelands 2-10

C/Shamrocks 2-9 Young Irelands 3-5

C na mB Roinn 'A' Hurling Co Final (Educational Supplies League)

Clara 2-13, St Canice's 1-11

C na mB Roinn 'B' Hurling Co Final (Hennessy Fuels League)

G'bridge/Paulstown 3-12, Kilmanagh 2-11

C na mB Roinn 'C' Hurling Co Final (Paddy O'Connell, Dublin League)

Callan CBS 4-4, Mullinavat 2-10

Callan CBS 2-6, Mullinavat 1-4

C na mB Roinn 'D' Hurling Co Final (Tedcastles Oil)

Conahy 4-2, Windgap 3-2

C na mB Country Cup Hurling Co Final (Corn Na Bhaldrathie)(Tedcastles Oil)

Clara 7-9, Freshford 2-7.

FOOTBALL

County Senior Football Final

Muckalee 0-10, Erins Own 1-7
Muckalee 0-9, Erins Own 0-7

Intermediate Co Football Final

Mullinavat 4-7, Conahy Shamrocks 0-6

Junior Co Football Final

Thomastown 0-10, T/Rosbercon 0-6

Junior 'A' County Football Final

Windgap 1-5, Galmoy 0-2

Senior Football League Final

Railyard 2-9, Dicksboro 1-6

Intermediate Football League Final

Mullinavat 2-7, Carrickshock 1-5

U-21 F Roinn 'A' Final

(to be played)

U-21 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Northern Junior F Final

no competition

Southern Junior F Final

no competition

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn A Co Final

(to be played)

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Iarnród Éireann MF 'B' North Final

no competition

Iarnród Éireann MF 'B' South Final

no competition

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn A Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn C Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn D Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 1 League

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 2 League

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 3 League

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 4 League

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn A Final

Erins Own 1-4, Mooncoin 1-2

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn B Final

Lisdowney 3-4, Piltown 1-5

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn C Final

St Patricks 3-7, Young Irelands 0-9

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn D Final

Barrow Rangers 6-9, Shamrocks 0-4

Duggan Steel U-14 F League Div II Final

Lisdowney 3-5, Clara 2-6

Duggan Steel U-14 F League Div III Final

Young Irelands 1-3, St Patricks 1-1

C na mB Roinn 'A' Football Final

(Bertie O'Callaghan Cup/Kilkenny Association, Dublin)

(to be played)

C na mB Roinn 'B' Football Final

(Toymaster League)

(to be played)

C na mB Roinn 'C' Football Final

(Tedcastles Oil)

(to be played)

C na mB Country Cup F Final

(to be played)

Northern U21 F ootball Roinn 'A' Final

(to be played)

Southern U-21 F Roinn A Final

(to be played)

Northern U-21 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Southern U-21 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Camogie

Senior

St Lachtain's 4-9 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-1

Intermediate

St Martin's 1-6 Emeralds 1-4

Junior

Windgap bt Danesfort

Under 21A

St Lachtain's 5-5 Mullinavat 1-2

Under 21B

Emeralds 2-1 Windgap 0-3

Under 18A

Mullinavat 3-6 St Lachtain's 0-4

Under 18B

Emeralds 2-8 Windgap 2-5

Under 18 C

Paulstown 2-1 Piltown 1-3

Under 16A

Mullinavat v St Lachtain's or Thomastown

Under 16B

St Martin's 0-11 Paulstown 2-5

Under 16C

Carrickshock 2-3 O'Loughlin's 1-1

Under 14A

Thomastown 5-6 Mullinavat 0-1

Under 14B

James Stephens 3-7 Windgap 2-2

Under 14C

Mooncoin 9-5 Young Irelands 5-2

Primary Schools Roinn 'A'

Thomastown 12-4 Clara 2-1

Primary Schools Roinn 'B'

Piltown 7-2 Paulstown 2-1

Primary Schools Roinn 'C'

Piltown 7-2 Paulstown 2-1

Primary Schools Roinn 'C'

St Canice's 7-4 Ballyraggett 0-2

Under 12

Windgap 6-4 St Brigid's 4-5

Outstanding Results - 2003

Michael Lyng Motors U21 'A' Hurling Championship Final.

Ballyhale Shamrocks 5-9
Tullaroan 1-9

Under 21 'A' Football Championship Final.

Carrickshock 3-6
Muckalee 0-4

Iarnrod Eireann Minor 'A' Football Championship Final.

Dicksboro 2-3
James Stephens 1-4

Iarnrod Eireann minor 'B' Football Championship Final.

RowerInistigue 2-9
Conahy Shamrocks 1-11

Iarnrod Eireann Minor 'C' Football Championship Final.

Blacks and Whites 1-10
Mullinavat 1-10

Iarnrod Eireann Minor 'D' Football Championship Final.

Glenmore 1-10
Young Irelands 1-6

Duggan Steel under 16 'A' Football Championship Final

Thomastown 2-7
O'Loughlin Gaels 0-4

Duggan Steel U16 'B' Football Championship Final.

St.Martins 3-5
Piltown 2-3

Duggan Steel U16 'C' Football Championship Final.

Conahy Shamrocks 2-10
TullagherRosbercon 2-4

Duggan Steel U16 Roinn II Football League Final.

Danesfort 1-6
John Lockes 2-1

Duggan Steel U16 Roinn III Football League Final.

TullagherRosbercon 1-6
Conahy Shamrocks 0-5

Duggan Steel U16 Roinn 'D' Football Final.

Glenmore 0-8
Windgap 0-3

11-A-Side Senior Football Roinn 'A' Tournament Final.

Erins Own 3-14
Mullinavat 2-5

11-A-Side Senior Football Roinn 'B' Tournament Final.

St.Patricks 2-5
Kilmacow 1-2

Peter Casey

