

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK



2009
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Foreword

A chairde, tá an t-aon buailte linn arís chun cur síos ar eachtraí Cuomann Lirícheas Gael anseo leis Fheoir agus tagairt faoi leith a lua ar na gclúbanna agus ar na daoine a léirigh go soiléir dúinn choomh tréan is atá ár gclúch anseo i gCill Chaimmigh.

Táimid go léir bródúil as a ndúthracht agus níl aon aonhras ann gur chóir doom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil dóibh uilig.

Táimid fíorbhúioch do gach éinne a chabhraigh linn chun irisleabhar fíuntach, suoiriúil, a chur le cheile. Guíor rath agus séan ar ár n-ionceoirí agus ár lucht tacaíochta uilig. Go raibí fada buan sibh!

Two thousand and nine will go down as the greatest year in the history of Cuomann Lirícheas Gael here in Kilkenny. To have all four inter-county hurling teams reach All-Ireland finals for the second year in a row is a tremendous achievement and while only our Seniors were successful, our Intermediates, U21's and Minors performed with distinction and with a little bit of luck could have been successful – to players and team managements well done.

In July when I presented Martin White with his fourth All Ireland medal on the occasion of his 100th birthday I said that I hoped that 'four' would play a big part in Kilkenny's hurling history in 2009 and so it did with our Senior success and Shamrocks winning their fourth Senior Championship in a row. To Martin I'd like to say 'congratulations' on your achievement and continue to be a lucky mascot for us. Victory in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final for the fourth year in succession was the obvious highlight of the year, having already won the National League in the spring. I'm sure all the records achieved by this team and team management will receive due tribute from greater scribes than I in this publication, however, I'd like to compliment them on how their own attributes of: team, dedication and effort have filtered down through all our teams, to our Development Squads and to our Schools and Clubs.

These attributes I believe will have laid the foundation for future successes and new records. While we're all aware of their exploits on the playing field I'd also like to compliment them for the way they have represented County, Club and family off the field – surely great example to our youth. To Brian Cody, his management team and the players I'd like to say on behalf of every Kilkenny person 'a gcéim is i gcongar' sincere congratulations, we are all so proud of your achievements.

The past year saw some great club hurling in Kilkenny. All our finals were closely contested and clearly show the current strength of the game in the county. I congratulate the various winners and thank all the teams for the sporting manner in which the games were played. In particular I'd like to offer special congratulations to Ballyhale Shamrocks on achieving the elusive four in a row. I wish all the victorious Clubs success in the various upcoming Club Championships.

It is easy to forget that Kilkenny continues to have an active Gaelic Football programme in spite of so much emphasis on hurling. Successes all are too rare at inter-county level, however their performance in the Leinster Junior Football Championship was meritorious and with a little more support winning this competition is achievable. Our club football fixtures were completed on schedule with some equally exciting games, belying the low status of Kilkenny football.

Handball as is now customary had another successful season with All Ireland victories in a variety of competitions. Congratulations to all who achieved success and well done to the dedicated people who coach and administer the game in Kilkenny.

Camogie also enjoyed great success in 2009 winning the Minor Championship for the fourth year in a row and reaching the Senior All Ireland with a very young team. No doubt success at Senior level is not too far away. Congratulations to all concerned.

These are just some of the many reviews of the year that appear in the 2009 Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook. All the regular features are again included with extensive coverage of underage hurling and football, camogie and handball. The Club Focus section affords readers an opportunity to see how their club fared during 2009.

Photographs are an integral part of any publication. The Yearbook Committee have made a special effort this year to bring the colour and excitement of 2009 to you in the best pictorial coverage possible. I know you will not be disappointed. Many thanks to the many excellent photographers for allowing us to use their material.

The running of our County Board is an expensive operation and would not be possible but for the generous help of our many sponsors and advertisers. The support of our team sponsors Glanbia PLC is vital in helping us to maintain the success we've enjoyed over recent years, while St. Camce's Credit Union, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, M.L. Lyng Motors, The Citroen Centre and Duggan Steel generously help with our local Championships. I would ask all our readers to support our sponsors and advertisers whenever the opportunity arises.

Our Supporters Club branches in Kilkenny, Dublin and Kildare also make substantial contributions to the financing of our teams and I'd like to thank these small but dedicated groups for their work – hopefully the successes on the field will rejuvenate for the future.

As in previous years, this Yearbook will find its way to many parts of the world. Wherever you may be, I hope you enjoy reading of the exploits of the many sportsmen and sportswomen in our county who thrilled us all during 2008. It is fitting that their achievements and endeavours are recorded for current and future generations.

I am grateful to the Editor, Barrie Henriques, Chairman Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill and their hard working committee for the many hours spent compiling and editing the Yearbook and which I'm sure will be a keepsake for all Kilkenny people at home and abroad.

I am sure all G.A.A. supporters in Kilkenny are looking forward to a nice break before the commencement of the National Leagues in February. I am grateful for all your support during 2009 and I know it was instrumental in all teams achieving such excellent performances during the year.

Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year to all the clubs, players and supporters in the county and all Kilkenny Gaels outside the county. We can all look forward to 2010 with further hope and anticipation.

Slán agus Beannacht.

Pol Cinsealach

Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chaimmigh.



KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2009

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Martin Comerford celebrates his
goal in the All Ireland Final
John McIlwaine

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Kilkenny Four-in-Row Teams
Eoin Hennessy

Editorial



The historical significance of the winning of an All Ireland four-in-a-row will probably not register until many of you, our readers, reach middle or late years, and you are sitting round your fire at home telling your grandchildren that you were there.

Many of my generation will remember where they were in 1963 when John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. Many too will remember where they were when Buzz Armstrong stepped on the moon with that giant step. More will romanticise about who struck the Romanian penalty and who saved it, and where it happened, while more will remember the little mare (Dawn Run) trained in Doninga by Paddy Mullins, and ridden by Corkonian, Johnjo O'Neill.

Truly, 2009 is a treasury of hurling memories, principally centred around the march of Kilkenny's senior hurlers to their fabulous achievement.

For one thing it afforded Kilkenny supporters the freedom to celebrate as never before. Not given to over-elaboration of the obvious, nevertheless, Kilkenny supporters had an extra pep in their step whenever the hurling achievement step was broached.

There certainly will be no shortage of reading matter this Christmas. Never have so many GAA publications hit the shelves in the pre-Christmas period. We hope that our own publication will hold its own among them all in this our twentieth venture.

It has been a marvellous year again, with Provincial titles won in all grades. Obviously the senior All Ireland overshadows every other achievement, without lessening the achievements of other National winners. The under-21 lads went down narrowly to a very good Clare team, and few would deny them their day in the sun. Our minors too fell at the last hurdle, but sure you cannot win 'em all!

The camogie girls of St. Brigid's College who stitched another All Ireland title to their growing C.V. were excellent in the Ragg, while the County senior camogie girls were welcome finalists to Croke Park after a protracted absence.

It has been a great 2009, most, if not all of it captured in pictures and story here.

We hope you enjoy it, as the people who created it look on it as a labour of love – most of the time.

I thank all of our Committee, listed beside, for their dedication, patience, and expertise. I thank our photographers, both professional and amateur snappers. Our Pro scribblers, Diarmuid O'Flynn (Examiner), Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune) were valuable contributors. So too were the contributions of all our advertisers, whom we exhort you to support when opportune.

It has been the 125th year of the founding of the GAA. Here in Kilkenny, on the premise that all politics are local, it was the year that Kilkenny finally equaled other four-in-a-row claimants.

Enjoy your families over the Festive Season. Continued good health to you all, agus na mílte mairt againn go léir for your continued support.

Barrie Henriques

(Editor)

Four in a Row!

Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2009

By Tommy Lanigan

Photos Eoin Hennessy

Four in a row! Matching the feat by Carrickshock in the 1940's this Ballyhale Shamrocks team has written itself into the annals of Kilkenny GAA history. Can we compare the two achievements? Given that the club organisation structure is so radically different from those far off days, it is difficult to make comparisons. But a few pointers illustrate the extraordinary achievement of the Shamrocks. First their players come from a single, relatively small parish. More significantly these four titles have been achieved during the greatest years of Kilkenny's hurling glory, when the clubs and county teams are positively bristling with outstanding hurling talent.

Much has been written about the Shamrocks' almost laconic style, the ease and economy with which they move the ball, the movement of their attackers, their sure skills and teamwork. Much less has been written about their ability to graft and scrap for possession, to remain calm in the eye of the storm until the openings and opportunities appear to enable them to forge on to victory. Thus was the county senior final of 2009.

To the eventual victor it matters little that the championship in general and the final in particular were considered to be mediocre affairs. One might ask why? After all we should expect a series of scintillating contests in the noughties, since we have had such conspicuous success with our county teams at all levels. But our senior championship sometimes fails to thrill. Perhaps we expect too much in hoping for high adrenalin score fests in all competitions. But inter county fare itself rarely provides these and competitive

St.Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2009

Scoreboard

1st Round

G/Ballycallan	1-13	Tullaroan	0-15
Dunnamaggin	1-18	Young Irelands	1-8
St. Martin's	1-19	Carrickshock	1-10
Erin's Own	3-11	Fenians	2-14
Erin's Own	1-11	Fenians	0-13

2nd Round

B Shamrocks	5-21	G/Ballycallan	2-15
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-16	Dunnamaggin	1-14
James Stephens	3-18	St Martin's	1-17
Erin's Own	0-14	Clara	0-12

Semi-Finals

B Shamrocks	4-16	O'Loughlin Gaels	2-12
James Stephens	2-7	Erin's Own	0-11

Final

B Shamrocks	1-14	James Stephens	1-11
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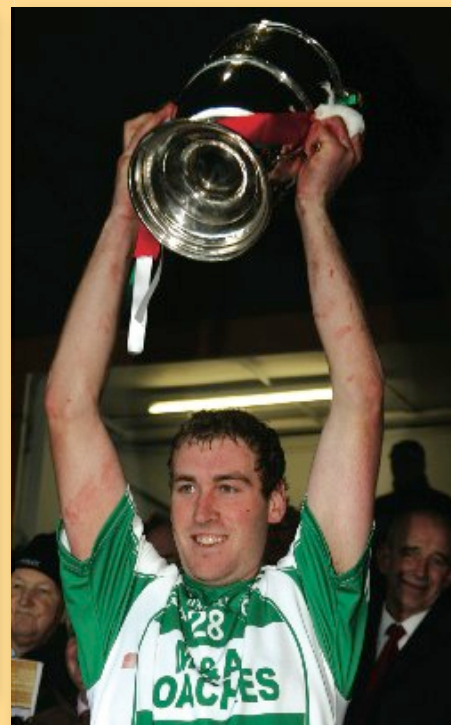
Relegation Final

Tullaroan	1-16	Young Irelands	2-13
Tullaroan	0-19	Young Irelands	0-13

sport in general does not work that way either. The best of teams often play out dour contests, dominated by defensiveness that fail to thrill either the partisan or neutral viewer.

To properly evaluate the senior championship campaign we should look at the preparedness of the teams and their clubs, their fitness, skill levels, planning and above all, their commitment to the cause of victory. It is generally accepted that this year's senior championship amply demonstrated that all those characteristics are there in abundance and that we have little to be concerned about in the near future.

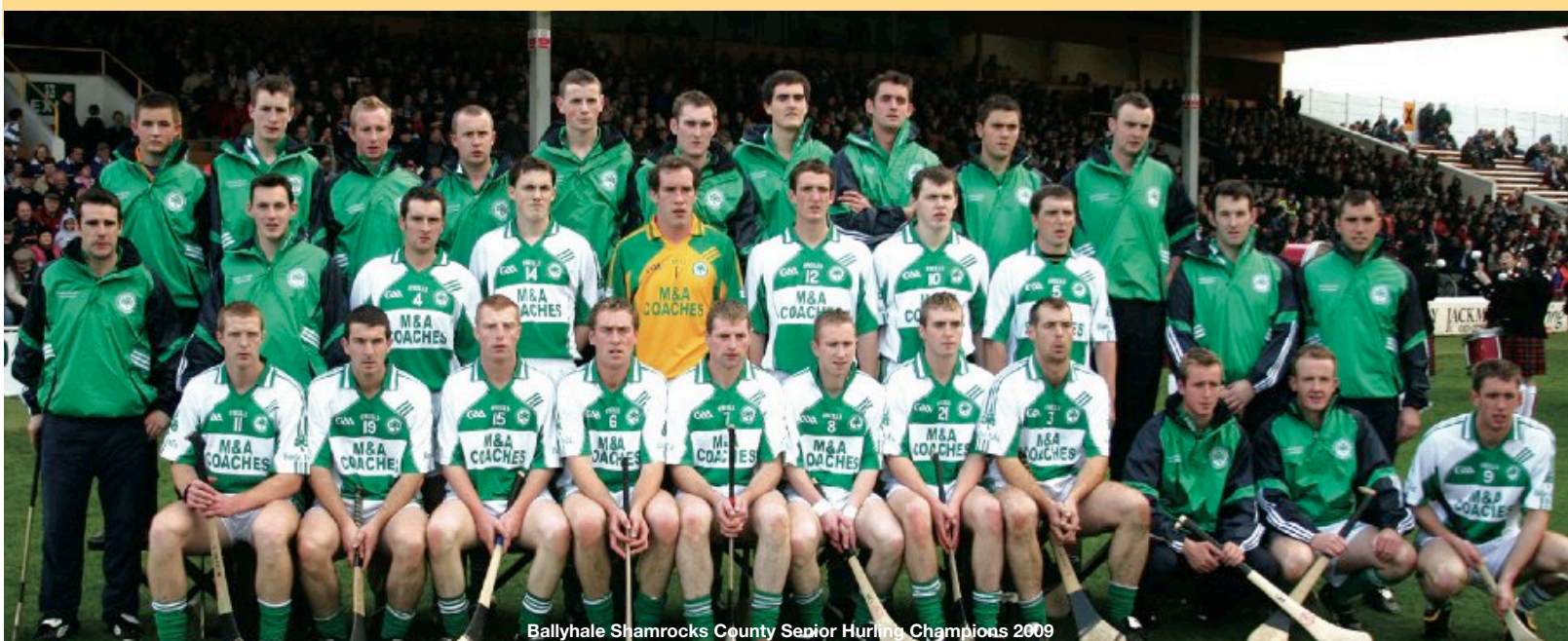
Take the county final. The half time score



Eamon Walsh, Ballyhale captain, raises the Tom Walsh cup.

of 0-7 to 0-4 with James Stephens failing to score form play suggest poor fare. Yet two very good teams gave it their all, defences dominated utterly, forwards were smothered by attention. We should accept a game on its merits. If it is a defensive contest then evaluate it as such. On that basis the final passed most tests.

County finals down the years have often been dominated by individuals. 2009 saw the day when TJ Reid delighted with a stunning display of aggression, power, skill and accuracy. He dragged the shamrocks



Ballyhale Shamrocks County Senior Hurling Champions 2009

Back: Eoin Knox, Joseph Holden, Enda Fitzpatrick, Willie Coogan, Gavin Butler, James Walsh, Richard Deasy, Brendan Costelloe, Ger Fennelly, Padraig Holden. Middle: Liam Grant, Patrick Reid, Tom Coogan, Eoin Reid, James Connolly, Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid, Paul Shefflin, Keith Nolan, John Dermody. Front: Henry Shefflin, David Hoyne, Mark Aylward, Eamonn Walsh (Captain), Bob Aylward, James Cha Fitzpatrick, Alan Cuddihy, Aidan Cummins, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Keith Murphy, Michael Fennelly.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2009



James Stephens - County Senior Hurling Finalists 2009

Back: Pa Campion, James Hennessy, Dermot Grogan, Shame Campion, Paddy O'Brien, Francis Cantwell, Joe Mernagh, Richie Hayes, Tomás O'Dowd.

Middle: Patrick Butler, Alan Tyrrell, Niall Lanigan, Shane Egan, David Walton, David McCormack, Jackie Tyrrell, Eamon Sheehy, Donnacha Cody, Shane Brennan, Gary Whelan, Niall McQuillan, Martin Phelan, Ian Hayes.

Front: Brian McEvoy, Eoin McCormack, Niall Tyrrell, Derrick Brennan, Matthew Ruth, Eon Larkin, Joe Murray, Philip Larkin, Tomás Keogh, Mark Hoban.

to victory when so many of his colleagues struggled or were too preoccupied in their own duties to have opportunity to contribute elsewhere. Sometimes you must forget the fancy stuff and simply do battle.

It is a sign of a great team that they raise their game as the winning post approaches. Thus did the Shamrocks. James Stephens can take great heart from their final performance. A bitter pill to lose consecutive finals that might have been won. But their persistence might yet bring reward.

The semi-finals proved to be poor contests in different ways. Ballyhale Shamrocks hit O'Loughlins for three early goals that meant the city side had an insuperable

task. O'Loughlins did well to get close late in the game but Shamrocks powered ahead to win by 4-16 to 2-12. O'Loughlins must surely be disappointed as they seemed to have the physical and hurling wherewithal to challenge the champions. James Stephens and Erin's Own played out a truly dour and low scoring affair with the Village well on top but unable to convert a multitude of scoring opportunities. In truth Erin's Own did very well to reach the latter stages, but with several very good young players coming through to senior ranks they should improve and show that their minor victory in 2008 will pay dividends in time to come.

Shamrocks path to the quarter final came

about via their highly efficient league performances, dropping but one point on the way and handing out a few trimmings. They disposed of Graig-Ballycallan in the quarter final stage with the same kind of efficiency we saw against O'Loughlins. For Graig it has been a mixed year, poor in the league and only scraping past Tullaroan in the first round of the championship winning by the narrowest of margins with a last second goal.

O'Loughlins put paid to Dunnamaggin's hopes in the quarter final with a narrow victory 1-16 to 1-14 with the City side doing well to scramble over the finish line after a strong Dunna' rally.

James Stephens best performance of the year came at the quarter final stage against



Erin's Own - County SH Semi-finalists 2009

Back: Donal Mealey, Patsy Brophy, Thomas Dwyer, Mikey Dwyer, Stephen Daly, Declan Dunne, Eoin Mealey, Damien Mullins, Martin Owens, Jimmy Byrne.

Middle: Dermot Wallace, Ronan Ryan, Peter O'Donovan, Michael Moran, James Mullins, Michael Owens, Gordan Byrne, Peadar Boran, Gerry Callinan, Eddie Brennan

Front : Donal Fenlon, Martin Boran, Sean Meally, Conor Fogarty, Aidan Moran, Tom Brophy, Michael Murphy, David Buggy, Damien Fogarty, Joe Meagher.



Co SH Action 2009





O'Loughlin Gaels - County SH Semi-finalists 2009

Back: Brian Murphy, Stephen Murphy, James O' Keeffe, Pat Cantwell, Anthony Forristal, Nigel Skehan, Mark Dowling, Conor Bergin.
Middle: Sean Dowling, Mark Kelly, Seamie Cummins, Peter Dowling, Bryan Skehan, Brian Kelly, Brian Hogan, Alan O' Brien, Andy Kearns, Paddy Delaney, Niall McEvoy, Niall Bergin.
Front: Johnny Kearney, Ricky Leydon, Paul Kelly, Eddie Kearns, Ollie Blanchfield, Brian Dowling Mark Bergin, Danny Loughnane, Maurice Nolan, Alan Geoghegan, Martin Comerford.
Children: Luke Leydon, Jamie Malone, Paddy Deegan Eoin Deegan (baby), Ben Leydon.

St. Martins winning 3-18 to 1-17 in a fine game. 'Stephens played fluently and showed their experience from the start. St. Martins never threatened and were disappointing. But they have some very good young players and perhaps reaching the county final two years ago was not the best thing for their development as a team.

Erin's Own defeated a fancied Clara side which had shown much promise early in the year. Again there are many similarities between themselves and their Muckalee neighbours in terms of the development of their teams. It will be interesting to see which if either can find a winning formula within the next three years.

Tullaroan had a miserable year, failing to achieve anything of merit in the league and losing, undeservedly so, to neighbours Graig-Ballycallan in the first round. But they showed real character in staving off relegation. They should have learned a serious lesson regarding preparation and planning and they have the players to keep them afloat in senior ranks.

Young Irelands have been fighting relegation for three years and it was inevitable that they would slip to Intermediate ranks. However they fought valiantly and would not have been in the nether regions but for the curse of scoring average and a hammering by an in-form Shamrocks in the league. It is unfortunate for them as they have unearthed some very good young players.

As for the League and Shield finals, Shamrocks and O'Loughlins were respective winners, though it is clear over the past several years that the clubs are more interested in avoiding the first round of the championship than winning either competition.

Will we see an unprecedented five consecutive titles in 2010?

The following are the players who took part in the 2009 Kilkenny Senior Hurling championship.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: James Connolly, Alan Cuddihy, Aidan Cummins, Tom Coogan, Paul Shefflin, Eamon Walsh, Bob Aylward, James Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, T.J.Reid, Henry Shefflin, Colin Fennelly, Eoin Reid, Patrick Reid, Mark Aylward, Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Joseph Holden, James Walsh, David Hoyne, Brendan Costello, Padraig Holden.

Carrickshock: Emmett Dunphy, John Dunphy, John Tennyson, Darren O'Dwyer, Niall Tennyson, John Dalton, Pat Tennyson, David Franks, Michael Rice, Michael Rohan, Jamie Power, Mark O'Dwyer, Brian Donovan, Richie Power, John Power, Shane Power, Willie Hoyne.

Clara: Michael Barcoe, Dermot Nolan, Shane Prendergast, Eoin O'Shea, Lester Ryan, Conor Phelan, David Langton, David Prendergast, Liam Ryan, Rory Moore, Neal Prendergast, James Nolan, Keith Hogan, Brian Phelan, Tom Ryan, Stephen Quinlan, Brian O'Shea, T.J.Fitzgerald.

Dunnamaggin: David Herity, Mark Dowling, Noel Hickey, Mark Heffernan, Aidan Donovan, Canice Hickey, Andrew Hickey, Colin Herity, Kenny Moore, Liam Heffernan, Noel Lahart, Seaghan O'Neill, Tom Maher, J. J. Dunphy, Kieran Bergin, Michael O'Neill, Sean Connery, Brendan Moore.

Erins Own: Tom Brophy, Aidan Moran, Sean Meally, Peter Donovan, Gerry Cullinane, Damien Fogarty, Conor Fogarty, Gordan Byrne, Ronan Ryan, Michael Murphy, Michael Owens, Donal Meally, Peadar Boran, Davy Buggy, Martin Boran, Jimmy Byrne, Eddie Byrne, Michael Moran, Patsy Brophy, Eddie Brennan (20).

Fenians: P. J. Ryan, J. P. Grehan, Ger Henderson, Declan Garrett, John Henderson, J. J. Delaney, P. J. Delaney, Kieran Grehan, John Broderick, Kevin Power, Brian Power, Kevin Reid, Jason Ryan, Paul Quinlan, Lar Ryan, Daragh Tobin, Daniel Dermody, Eoin Shiel.

Graigie Ballycallan: Tomas Ryan, Adrian Burke, Dermot Hoyne, Daragh Walton, Jimmy Murphy, Michael Hoyne, James Ryall, Ciaran Hoyne, Patrick Kennedy, Eddie Brennan, John Hoyne, Kevin Cleere, Dermot Heaphy, John Purcell, Sean O'Dwyer, Denis Byrne, James Robinson, Gearoid Cleere, Jimmy Smith, Niall Millea, Johnny Dunne. (21 Players)

James Stephens: Derek Brennan, Niall McQuillan, Philip Larkin, Tomas Keogh, Jackie Tyrrell, Donnacha Cody, Eamon Sheehy, David McCormack, Niall Tyrrell, Mark Hoban, Eoin Larkin, Garry Whelan, David Walton, Matt Ruth, Eoin McCormack, Joe Murray, Shane Brennan, Shane Egan, Brian McEvoy, Shane Campion.

O' Loughlin Gaels: Ollie Blanchfield, Brian Kelly, Andy Kearns, Eddie Kearns, Alan O'Brien, Brian Hogan, Niall McEvoy, Brian Dowling, Alan Geoghegan, Danny Loughnane, Peter Dowling, Mark Bergin, Paul Kelly, Martin Comerford, Maurice Nolan, Niall Bergin, Sean Dowling. (18)

St.Martin's: Colin McGrath, Shane Cadigan, Paddy Nolan, Ollie Walsh, Niall Moran, James Maher, Damien Maher, James Dowling, Paul Maher, John Mulhall, Joe Maher, John Maher, Shane Coogan, Eoin McGrath, Thomas Breen, Brian Mullhall, Ronan Maher, Canice Maher. (18)

Tullaroan: Richard Butler, Paddy Campion, Ken Coogan, Stephen Dowling, Stephen Maher, Tommy Walsh, David Dowling, Martin Walsh, Richard Cleere, Mark Simpson, Chris Maher, Shane Maher, Paul Doheny, Jimmy Coogan, Mark Walsh, Padraig Walsh, Paul Glennon. (17)

Young Irelands: Martin Carey, Ciaran Carroll, Stephen Byrne, Martin Carter, J. J. Lennon, James Fitzgerald, Michael Walsh, Eoghan Farrell, David Carter, Thomas Carroll, Thomas Drennan, Ollie Carter, Paul Kehoe, Dick Carroll, Sean Kehoe.(15)

Four in a Row!

Kilkenny's Championship Story 2009

How Kilkenny reached and won the Dream Final.

By Barrie Henriques

The bronzed Waikiki torsos had barely dulled before the three-in-a-row Kilkenny hurling Champions were back in harness challenging for whatever gong was available. As it was, the Walsh Cup was first up, and in true Codyism, "if it's worth entering it's worth winning", the champs started with an opener against Antrim in Casement Park. Richie Hogan bagged 1-10, Kilkenny registered 1-20, while the Glensmen scored 2-12. In the semi-final Richie Hogan (2), Michael Rice, Michael Grace, Aidan Fogarty and Paddy Hogan enabled Kilkenny to decimate the Dublin challenge, winning quite comfortably by 6-12 to 0-12. The final, played in Freshford was a stirring encounter, demanding extra time to decide a winner. Eventually Kilkenny won by 2-17 to Galway's 1-18, with Richie Power scoring a whopping 1-11. This was an historical occasion as it featured Galway playing a first Final in Leinster.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Kilkenny 0-15, Limerick 0-14 Nowlan Park Feb 15th.

Kilkenny opened their National League campaign against Limerick in Nowlan Park on a sunny Sunday, February 15th. A good travelling support swelled the crowd to a tidy number in expectation of a close encounter, seeing how their team would address the challenge against the All Ireland triple Champions, and of course watching as their new Manager, Justin McCarthy, pulled the strings on the sideline. Limerick were determined, and competitive. They could have considered themselves rather unfortunate not to have at least shared the spoils with Kilkenny. Wrong option-taking at a seminal moment in the game could have been very costly. At halt time they were behind by four points, having played against the stiff breeze. A collision immediately after the restart saw Brian Hogan and David Breen being stretchered off. It was not a pretty sight. Limerick still pushed on. Tom Ryan slashed a powerful shot across PJ Ryan's goal midway through the second half Justin McCarthy in the post-match interview was delighted, but insisted that his side should have been ahead at the finish by an unflattering four points. Nobody better than Kilkenny to tough out a win in such circumstances.

The League was away, and the Cats had stolen two points.

PJ Ryan, John Dalton, Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrrell, James Ryall, John Tennyson, JJ Delaney, Tommy Walsh (0-1), Damien Fogarty, Willie O'Dwyer, Richie Power (0-9, six frees), Michael Rice, Richie Hogan, Eddie Brennan (0-2), Aidan Fogarty (0-2).

Subs (used): Shem Cummins, Michael Grace (0-1), Martin Comerford, John Mulhall.



Michael Kavanagh and Brian Hogan celebrate at the final whistle.
Oliver McVeigh / SPORTSFILE



One of P.J. Ryan's many fine saves during the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final.
Eoin Hennessy

Waterford 2-17 Kilkenny 1-16 Walsh Park March 1.

In a sense there was an element of déjà vu about this second-round tie. In addition, the dreaded, and much maligned *one-strike and you're out* yellow card experiment was in operation. It certainly got plenty of airing during and after this game. There were four yellow – Tommy Walsh, Eoin Kelly, Seamie Prendergast, Jackie Tyrrell, and red cards for Eddie Brennan and Declan Prendergast in a game that was moderately competitive, but never less than interesting.

Waterford led at half time by 1-11 to 0-11.

We awaited with anticipation a rousing second moiety. It never happened. Ken McGrath was back at centre forward. PJ Ryan posted notice that he was going to have a good season. A save from Stephen Molumphy late in the game was stupendous. Richie Power was scorer-in-chief for the Kilkenny lads, Ken McGrath grabbed 0-9 for the Decies – all from placed balls. The Brick Walsh was outstanding at number six for the winners. A Richie Power special nearly pulled the game out of the fire for the visitors, but the Waterford men were not for bending on this occasion. Their support was deliriously happy coming out of Walsh Park. First strike to the Decies, but it was only March, and no All Irelands are ever won in the month of St Patrick.

The new Waterford Manager's post-match comment was "Kilkenny won't lose any sleep after this defeat".

He was correct.

PJ Ryan, John Dalton, Sean Cummins, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, James Ryall (0-1), John Tennyson (0-2, one '65), Michael Rice (0-1), Eddie Brennan (0-2), Willie O'Dwyer, Eoin Larkin (0-1), Michael Grace, Richie Power (1-8, four points frees), Aidan Fogarty (0-1).

Subs (used): TJ.Reid, Canice Hickey, Richie Hogan.

Kilkenny 1-20 Galway 0-12 Pearse Stadium March 8.

The order given on the road to Salthill was of the must-win variety. After the setback against Waterford seven days previously, anything other than a win against Galway would

have made qualification for the League more than hazardous.

If Kilkenny supporters were apprehensive after the Waterford game, they need not have worried. This was a need-to-win situation, and boys, how the Kilkenny lads responded to the order. There was no room for compromise, less for sentiment. Excuses were not in the game's vocabulary.

Kilkenny relished the challenge. With Galway now a permanent fixture in the Leinster Championship it was necessary to lay down some markers. Kilkenny did so in spades, prompting John McIntyre to remark afterwards, "maybe it is time that some Galway people realise that we are not as good as they think. We just weren't able for Kilkenny's slick hurling or the power in their game". JJ Delaney was elegant at full back, while Brian Hogan was Cummins-like at number six. The Carrickshock pairing of Richie Power and Michael Rice played consistently solid games.

Kilkenny reached the half time break leading by the odd point in 13. They were looking like a team that would get home in front. They duly obliged.

PJ Ryan, Canice Hickey, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Johan Dalton, John Tennyson, PJ.Delaney, Martin Comerford, Micheal Rice, Eoin Larkin, Eddie Brennan, Richie Power, Michael Grace.

Subs (used): Willie O'Dwyer, Shem Cummins, Damien Fogarty.

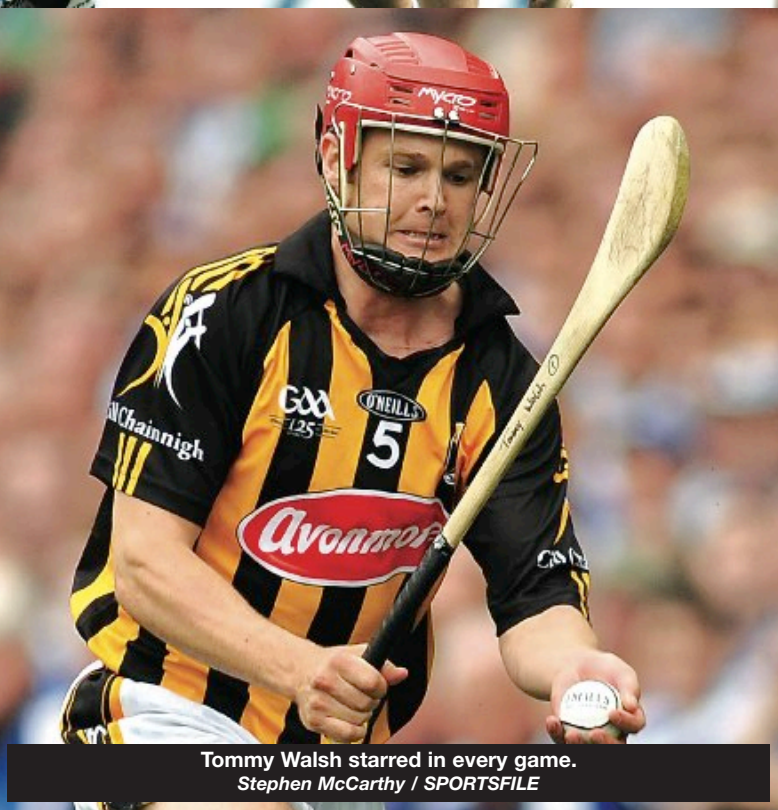
Kilkenny 5-17 Tipperary 1-12 Nowlan Park March 22.

This was a banana skin of a game as far as Kilkenny was concerned, because it had the traditional ingredients of a Tipperary upset. Having lost to Waterford, Kilkenny just could not afford another defeat, and one could bet that the Tipperary mindset would be focussed on such a scenario. They would bury the Cats if they could!

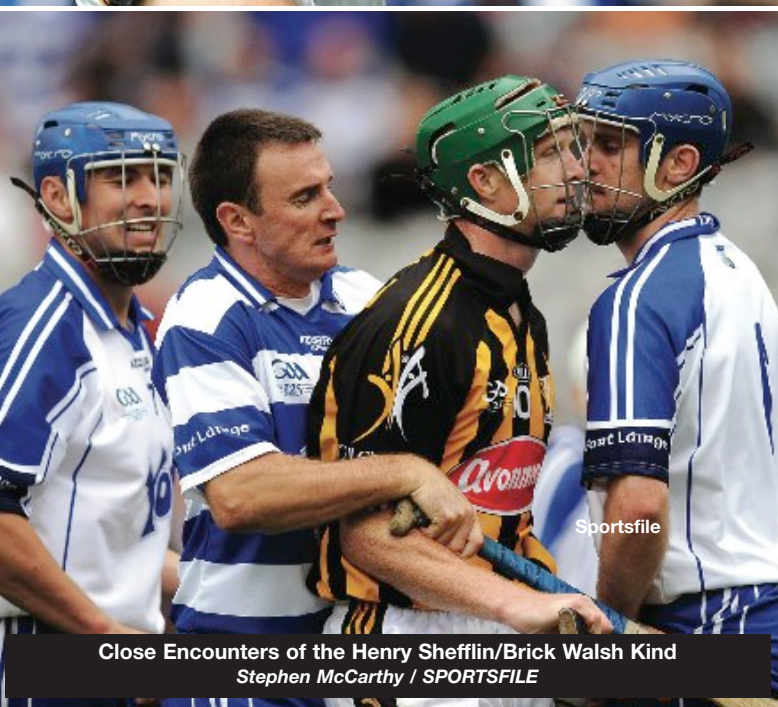
This was one of the finest games that Kilkenny was to play for the entire season. They swept the Tipp challenge to one side. Martin Comerford was THE MAN. He clattered three goals by Brendan Cummins inside the first thirty minutes. His first went in before the game had crept into the second minute. A feature of the afternoon's proceedings were the



Richie Power, Kilkenny, in action against Noel Connors, Waterford. in the All-Ireland Semi-Final.
David Maher / SPORTSFILE



Tommy Walsh starred in every game.
Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



Close Encounters of the Henry Shefflin/Brick Walsh Kind
Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

standing ovations offered the departing Eddie Brennan, Tommy Walsh, PJ Ryan and the team as they left at half time. The defending champions got a lesson; of that there was no doubt, but time would alter the storyline later in the year, though not the result.

PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, John Tennyson, James Ryall, Michael Fennelly, Michael Rice (0-1), Martin Comerford (3-2), Eddie Brennan (0-2), TJ Reid (1-2), Richie Hogan (0-5, one free), Richie Power (0-2, frees), Aidan Fogarty (1-1).

Subs (used): Michael Grace (0-1), David Herity, Damien Fogarty (0-1), Eoin Larkin, Shem Cummins.

Kilkenny 3-16 Clare 1-9 Cusack Park March 29

It's never easy to travel to Clare, and quarry a win. Irrespective of what score is registered, and notwithstanding the result, games against Clare teams in any code are always teak tough. The skill might not exactly be copybook, but there is always an honesty about the confrontation, and invariably a sense of relief afterwards.

In truth this encounter was a stroll in the park for the black and amber brigade. Mick Kavanagh, John Tennyson, Tommy Walsh and in particular James Ryall were regal in most defensive situations. Kilkenny led by 0-5 to no score until the 15th minute. They led at half time by 0-9 to 0-6, but it was a very comfortable lead.

They comatosed Clare with a goal within thirty seconds of the re-start, and it was one-way traffic from there. Henry Shefflin scored 1-5, Aidan Fogarty bagged 2-1, Richard Power collected 0-4. With fire-power like that, how could you miss getting home in front? Add in contributions by Eddie Brennan, Michael Rice, Eoin Larkin, Richie Hogan, and Michael Grace – Clare hadn't a prayer.

David Herity, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, John Tennyson, James Ryall, Michael Fennelly, Michael Rice (0-1), Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan (0-2), Henry Shefflin (1-5, four points frees, one '65), Richie Hogan (0-1), Richie Power (0-4), Aidan Fogarty (2-1).

Subs (used): Eoin Larkin (0-1), Michael Grace (0-1), TJ Reid, Canice Hickey.

Kilkenny 4-26 Cork 0-11 Nowlan Park April 5.

This was the game that all of Kilkenny wanted to be at. For a whole raft of different reasons, supporters wanted their team to whup Cork, and whup 'em good. They didn't expect what they witnessed in a bright sunny, well-populated Nowlan Park on the first Sunday in April. How good were Cork, after all of the shenanigans down Leaside? How would the new Manager, Denis Walsh get on against Brian Cody? How would the travelling Cork support behave out of their own town? How valuable was the collective training in Mallow going to be with the Cork Rebels. Questions, questions, questions.

Kilkenny tore the heart out of the Rebels. They were masters of every developing situation, with every one of the Kilkenny players truly impressive. Additionally, they won their way into yet another National League Final after one of the most clinical displays of hurling seen for quite some time, as they chased, pounded, and hurled Cork into oblivion.

Richie Power was the target man at 14, and how Kilkenny played him to clinical effect. He grabbed three of the goals, with Eddie Brennan getting the fourth. It was a marvellous display if you were a Kilkenny supporter; rather sad if you supported the blood and bandage.

PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, John Tennyson, James Ryall, Michael Fennelly (0-3), Michael Rice (0-2), Ryall, TJ Reid, Henry Shefflin (0-10, six frees,



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2009

Back Row: Eoin Reid, Sean Cummins, Eoin McGrath, Canice Hickey, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney.

Third Row: John Dalton, Aidan Fogarty, Damien Fogarty, Michael Grace, TJ Reid, Michael Kavanagh, Richie Hogan.

Second Row: PJ Delaney, Brian Hogan, John Tennyson, Richie O'Neill, PJ Ryan, David Herity, Derek Lyng, Eoin Larkin, Willie O'Dwyer.

Front Row: Michael Rice, Richie Power, Henry Shefflin, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Fennelly (Captain), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Tommy Walsh, Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan.

(Photo Eoin Hennessy)

THE ROAD TO CROKER 2009	
ULSTER	
First Round	
Sat, May 9 Enniskillen	Fermanagh 0-13 Cavan 1-9
Sat, May 9 Armagh	Armagh 1-22 Monaghan 1-8
Sat, May 9 Letterkenny	Donegal 1-21 Tyrone 0-6
Second Round	
Sun, May 17 Letterkenny	Armagh 3-24 Donegal 2-12
Sat, May 23 Ruislip	London 1-23 Fermanagh
Quarter Finals	
Sun, May 31 Casement Pk	Derry 4-10 London 3-12
Sun, May 31 Casement Pk	Down 5-21 Armagh 0-13
Semi-Final	
Sun, June 14 Casement Pk	Down 2-17 Derry 1-15
Final	
Sun, June 28 Casement Pk	Antrim 3-20 Down 4-15
LEINSTER	
First Round	
Sat, May 30 Wexford	Wexford 2-17 Offaly 0-16
Sun, May 31 Portlaoise	Galway 5-29 Laois 0-17
Sun, June 7 Croke Park	Dublin 2-16 Antrim 0-12
Semi-Finals	
Sat, June 20 Tullamore	Kilkenny 2-20 Galway 3-13
Sun, June 21 Nowlan Park	Dublin 0-18 Wexford 1-13
Final	
Sun, July 5 Croke Park	Kilkenny 2-18 Dublin 0-18
MUNSTER	
First Round	
Sun, May 31 Thurles	Tipperary 1-19 Cork 0-19
Semi-Finals	
Sun, June 14 Thurles	Waterford 0-11 Limerick 1-8
Sat, June 20 Thurles	Waterford 0-25 Limerick 0-17
Sun, June 21 Thurles	Tipperary 3-18 Clare 1-22
Final	
Sun, July 12 Thurles	Tipperary 4-14 Waterford 2-16
ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Qualifiers	
Phase 1	
Sat, July 4th Tullamore	Cork 3-19 Offaly 1-12,
Sat, July 4th Portlaoise	Laois 0-18 Antrim 1-12
Phase 2	
Sat, July 11 Ennis	Galway 2-18 Clare 1-11
Sat, July 11 Wexford	Limerick 1-13 Wexford 0-14
Phase 3	
Sat, July 18 Thurles	Galway 1-19 Cork 0-15
Sat, July 18 Thurles	Limerick 0-20 Laois 1-14
All Ireland Quarter-Finals	
Sun, July 26 Thurles	Limerick 2-18 Dublin 1-17
Sun, July 26 Thurles	Waterford 1-16 Galway 0-18
All Ireland Semi-Finals	
Sun, August 9: Croke Park	Kilkenny 2-23 Waterford 3-15
Sun, August 16: Croke Park	Tipperary 6-19 Limerick 2-7
All Ireland Final	
Sun, Sept 6 Croke Park	Kilkenny 2-22 Tipperary 0-23

one '65), Eoin Larkin (1-2), Eddie Brennan (0-4), Richie Power (3-1), Aidan Fogarty.

Subs (used): Martin Comerford, Richie Hogan (0-3), Shem Cummins, Canice Hickey, Michael Grace (0-1).

Kilkenny 1-23 Dublin 3-15 Nowlan Park April 19th

The result mattered not a whit, but the application was very important to both managers. Anthony Daly was preaching the gospel of being hard to beat to the Dubs, and in fairness, they proved a very difficult nut to crack from a Kilkenny perspective. Without being in any way patronising, one could concede that Dublin were a mite unlucky not to have taken the points after a very spirited display. They certainly ruffled many Kilkenny feathers, and their tactical awareness was most admirable.

But they didn't win.

It was a terrific spin for the Kilkenny lads, who were scheduled to face Tipperary two weeks on in Semple Stadium. Kilkenny had racked up 17 points by the half time break, with Dublin on 1-10. Dublin forced the pace all through the second half, and just as it seemed that they were on the cusp of winning a great encounter, the Kilkenny selectors were forced to introduce Cha Fitzpatrick and Eddie Brennan late on to steady the wobbling ship.

David Herity, Canice Hickey, JJ Delaney, Michael Kavanagh, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, John Tennyson, Michael Fennelly, Paul Murphy (0-1), TJ Reid (0-3), Henry Shefflin (0-11, nine frees), Eoin Larkin (1-3), Richie Hogan (0-4), Martin Comerford (0-1), Michael Grace.

Subs (used): Jackie Tyrrell, Eddie Brennan, Cha Fitzpatrick, Aidan Fogarty.

Kilkenny 2-26 Tipperary 4-17 (aet) Semple Stadium May 3. National League Final

The Kilkenny People Sports editor wrote on the Friday after this national League Final, "When played like this, hurling most certainly is one of the greatest games in the World, and don't rule out another instalment from this pair in the Championship. You've been warned. Don't miss it".

How appropriate, and prophetic.

Kilkenny were short a number of regulars. Opinion was that Tipperary would need to restore some semblance of self-esteem after the drubbing in Nowlan Park, and this would be a driving factor in their game plan. As a National League Final it was one of the memorable ones. Tipp were more than ready. They threw their bodies into every contest with an increasing torque. Kilkenny were no less determined.

Hurling certainly was a winner, so were the supporters of both sides.

The game flowed with tremendous energy. There were some magical scores from both sides. The aggregate of 6-43 does not lie, it was as exciting as the score would suggest.

It went to extra time. Brian Hogan shipped a bad injury, one that was to curtail his hurling interest for a while. Martin Comerford came on and went off within seconds. Henry Shefflin stayed much longer but took the same short walk. Tommy Walsh fired his hurley – it made bigger news than the Lisbon Treaty Referendum. Those infernal yellows were being thrown around like snuff at a wake.

And a youngster by the name of Richie Hogan stepped up to the plate, landed 1-10, was the most spoken name for the post-match debate, and the Cats collected a second cup.

We were not even into the second week of May.

PJ.Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, James Ryall, Michael Rice, John Tennyson, Richie Hogan, Henry Shefflin, Eoin Larkin, Eddie Brennan, TJ.Reid, Aidan Fogarty.

Subs (used): Martin Comerford, Michael Grace, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Sean Cummins.



Eoin Larkin comes to the rescue against Galway.
John McIlwaine



Martin Comerford, Man of the Match in the Leinster Final
Eoin Hennessy

The Championship

Kilkenny 2-20 Galway 3-13 Portlaoise, June 20.

This was a real spit in yer eye and come out fightin', rip-roaring encounter between two beautiful hurling teams. Galway had the skill and style to win and didn't. Kilkenny had those as well, but they combined them with their three-in-a-row All Ireland winning experience, grit, patience, and of course the old Kilkenny reliable of not doing panic.

Kilkenny were hit with an early Galway barrage from the elegantly laid-back Joe Canning, but they didn't panic, and led at the break by 2-7 to 1-8. Galway again opened the new half with a two-goal slap, but again the Cats caught and passed them. Eoin Larkin was marvellous. Derek Lyng came thundering into his first game in eight months as if he never missed a moments training. TJ Reid was magical. Richie Power was explosive, and Michael Rice and Henry Shefflin added further lustre to their respective reputations.

One up for the Champions.

PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, John Tennyson, John Dalton, Michael Fennelly (capt), Michael Rice, Henry Shefflin, Martin Comerford, Eoin Larkin, Eddie Brennan, Richie Power, Aidan Fogarty.

Subs (used); Derek Lyng, Sean Cummins, Richie Hogan, TJ Reid.

**Kilkenny 2-18 Dublin 0-18 Croke Park July 5.
Leinster Final**

Dublin, under Anthony Daly, had qualified for their first Leinster Final since 1991. They had beaten Wexford, who had conquered Offaly, so on the face of it, the Dubs were in there on merit. Great progress had been made under the stewardship of Clare's Anthony Daly. Kilkenny were 1/25 to win; Dublin were 11/1 against. Despite the best efforts of some to talk up the game, most hurling people would not, and could not perceive a Dublin win. Nevertheless there was a tidy crowd of nearly 30,000 in before curtain-up.

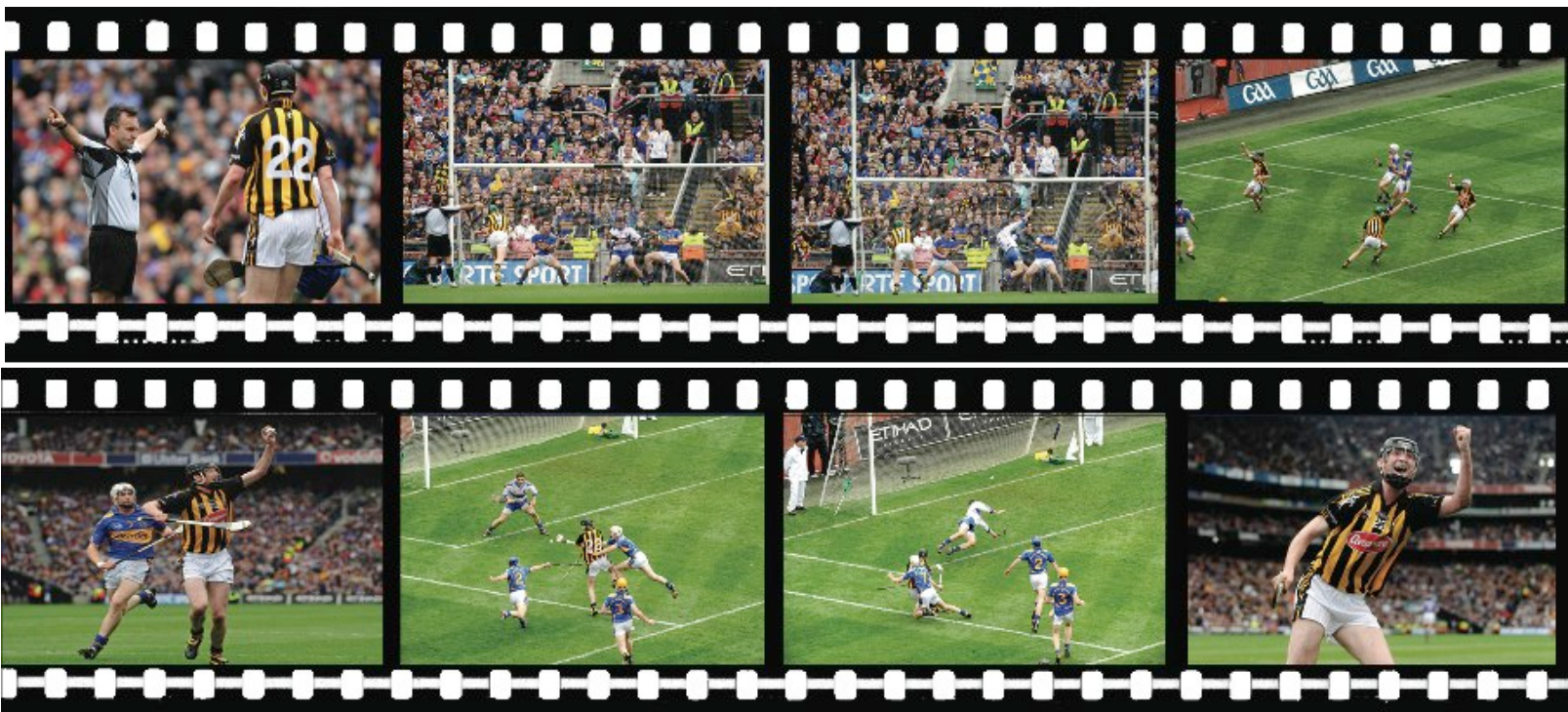
Some would have you believe that Kilkenny didn't have to slip a gear higher than second to win. That is being somewhat disrespectful to the gallant Dubs.

Martin Comerford scored a terrific 2-4. Alan McCrabbe registered 0-12 for the double blues. What a terrific hurler this lad is. We had spotted him in Nowlan Park a couple of years previously as a potential star. Tommy Walsh, after plenty of headlines of the wrong sort after the Galway game, hurled up a storm.

Kilkenny led by 1-10 to 0-7 at half time.

It was a solid controlled performance by lads who knew what was required, and applied themselves accordingly.

PJ.Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh (0-1), John Tennyson, John Dalton, Derek Lyng (0-2),



Michael Rice (0-1), Henry Shefflin (0-6, all frees), Martin Comerford (2-4), Eoin Larkin (0-2), Eddie Brennan (0-1), Richie Power, Aidan Fogarty (0-1).

Subs (used): TJ Reid, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick.

Kilkenny 2-23 Waterford 3-15 Croke Park August 9. All Ireland Semi-Final

Waterford were back in Croke Park for another tilt at Kilkenny, but this time it was a battle for the right to march behind the Artane band on All Ireland Final day. Nevertheless there was a poignancy about this fixture. Waterford, would still have been smarting from the clash twelve months previously. There was a definite air of quiet confidence down Decies way. Kilkenny were careful.

We were not subjected to the pre-match histrionics of 2008, although a pre-start bit of handbags earned the unfortunate Tommy Walsh an un-warranted yellow card.

The game rollicked along in entertaining fashion, sometimes laced with nuggets of excellence, at other times tremendous feats of courage and sportsmanship. At no time could one envisage a Kilkenny capitulation, but it was never going to be a rout of 2008 proportions. Waterford stuck to the tails of the Cats, and even though they looked a beaten docket with ten minutes remaining, they still found the energy, and courage to frighten the livin' bejzus out of the Kilkenny supporters with a slashing shot that PJ Ryan deflected over the bar. How he did it, one will never know, but he did. A save like that would have gurranteed an All Star for James McGarry in his day.

There were some marvellous performances from many star hurlers. Primarily, with 1-14 to his credit, Henry Shefflin shaded Eoin Kelly (1-10) for the man-of-the-match award. But Tommy Walsh was right at the top of the heap too.

It was Kilkenny's 17th successive Championship game win. It set up the four-in-a-row attempt. It set up another National League/All Ireland double. It afforded another Kilkenny attempt to increase their lead at the head of the All Ireland Roll of Honour. There were other first-time achievements in the offing.

Seven days later, we knew that the dream Final was on. Kilkenny versus Tipp..... how could the hurling party be bettered?

PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, John Tennyson, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-1), Michael Rice (0-1), Henry Shefflin (1-14, eight points frees), Martin Comerford, Eoin Larkin (0-2), Eddie Brennan (1-2), Richie Power (0-1), Aidan Fogarty (0-1).

Subs (used): TJ Reid, Richie Hogan (0-1), Derek Lyng.

Kilkenny 2-22 Tipperary 0-23 Croke Park September 6. All Ireland Final

There was an outstanding account in the Kilkenny hurling vault from 1991 which had to be serviced. The excitement around both Counties was mega. Never have Kilkenny supporters been more nervous prior to any game, and that, when we had conceivably the greatest team ever going out to do battle. But this was Tipp, and there were sad vibes being banded about.

Team selection, based on training endeavour, or so we were being told, was being speculated upon all over the place. There were crowds of some five to six thousand turning up at Nowlan Park for the training sessions. They were not all Kilkenny people, and neither were they spies from across the border. One met hurling enthusiasts from Antrim, Kildare, Galway, Clare and even Lovely Leitrim.

They were coming to see the talking team of all Centuries. Our Minors were in the Final as well.

It was shaping to be a great day.

For whom, was the question.

The Minors should have won, and didn't.

That didn't help the half-time consummation of warm beer, and expensive sandwiches.

We needen't have worried.

The substitutions were key. TJ. Reid, Michael Fennelly, and Martin Comerford – a stroke of genius, or just pure luck?

Debt settled in full!

The lads came home in front, heroes all;

WINNER ALL RIGHT, WINNER ALL RIGHT.

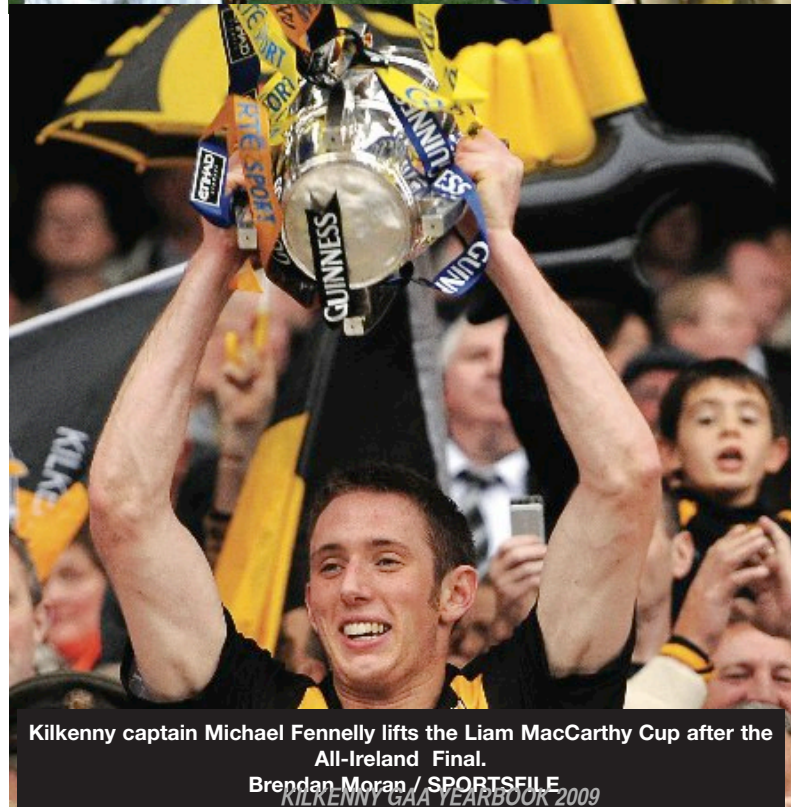
PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, John Tennyson, Derek Lyng, Michael Rice, Richie Hogan, Henry Shefflin, Eoin Larkin, Eddie Brennan, Richie Power, Aidan Fogarty.

Subs (used); TJ Reid, Michael Fennelly (capt), Martin Comerford.

Rest of panel: David Herity, Noel Hickey, Eoin McGrath, Richie O'Neill, John Dalton, James Ryall, Eoin Reid, Michael Grace, Shean Cummins, PJ Delaney, Willie O'Dwyer, Canice Hickey, Damien Fogarty.

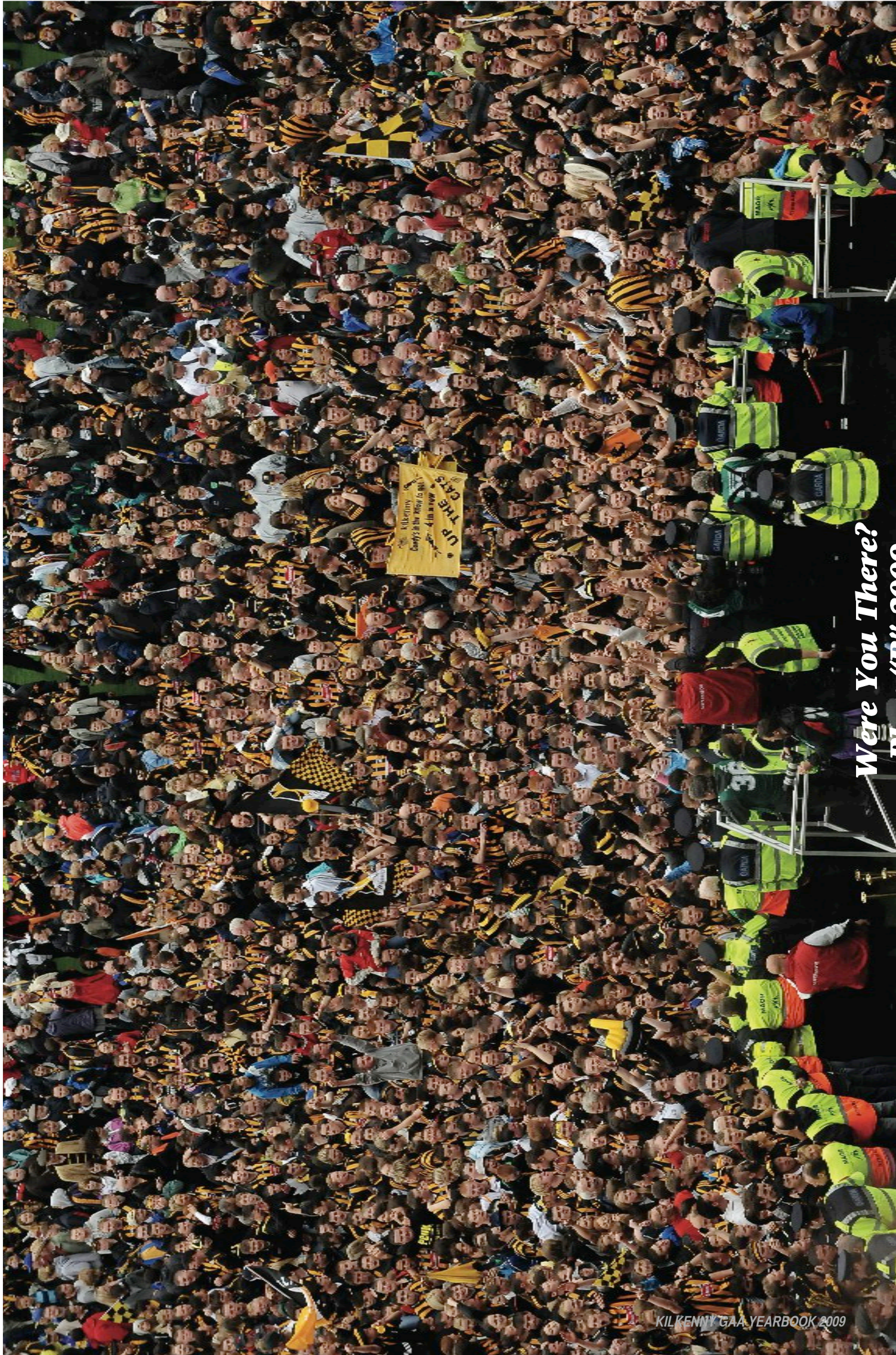


Brendan Cummins congratulates P.J. Ryan after the final whistle.
Eoin Hennessy



Kilkenny captain Michael Fennelly lifts the Liam MacCarthy Cup after the All-Ireland Final.

Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE
KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2009



Were You There? Plan 'B' 2009

Picture Pat Murphy SPORTSFILE

Lachtain's are Senior Again

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2009
by **Conor Brennan**

Photos Eoin Hennessy

The title of "perennial underachievers" was one that St. Lachtain's of Freshford were having some difficulty in shaking off throughout this particular decade. Having been consistently defeated by teams that shrewd observers would suggest would have been well within the capacity of the Freshford men in overcoming, they were a constant source of frustration to their followers. They had players in their group who had proven ability but had not been able to register this to any great effect. Yet, a new direction, enthusiasm and determination were added to the mix of potential and undoubted skill to ensure that they finally made the long awaited progression to the senior grade and won their first intermediate title in 25 years.

Their vanquished opponents in the county final, Dicksboro, could only be left to reflect on what might have been. It seemed that they were primed for a swift return to the upper ranks, but there always seemed to be questions unanswered. But with the gradual progression and addition of some of the many talented youngsters to the adult grades, they will know that the raw talent is there to ensure that the final step upward will be achieved sooner rather than later. Self-belief will be the key.

The remainder of the teams in the intermediate championship ensured, without doubt, that this was an extremely competitive championship and should remain so in 2010. The Rower-Inistioge, though they faltered badly when it mattered most, made significant progress and did manage to capture some silverware, namely the league title, emphatically defeating Danesfort in the league final (1-24 to 0-11). Last year's junior champions, Tullogher-Rosbercon, had some good results throughout the season and but more a little bit more luck could have snatched for themselves a semi-final place. Mooncoin and Emeralds also showed signs of potential throughout the year but a better consistency will definitely be a key objective for both sides during next season's activities.

Even the opening round of the championship threw together pairings that most experts would have had difficulty in predicting the outcome. Perhaps the most interesting and close fought

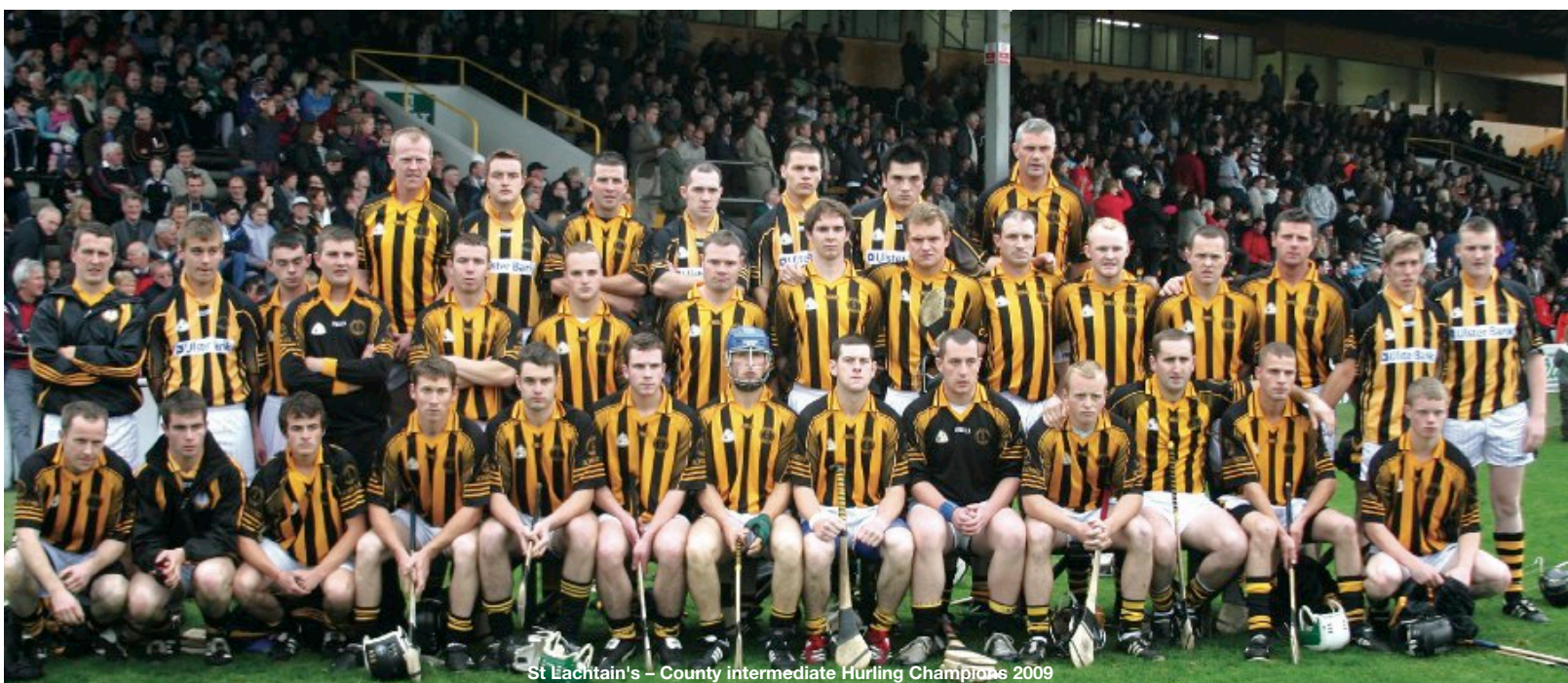
was expected to be the Southern derby game between Mooncoin and Mullinavat. It was the Mooncoin men who produced their best form when it mattered most. They started in a whirlwind fashion with a goal from a Diarmuid Mackey free and led 1-7 to 0-3 at half-time. Though Mullinavat fought back to level matters in the closing stages, three consecutive late points ensured Mooncoin's passage to the quarter-finals

(1-13 to 1-10). A equally tight encounter took place in Bennettsbridge between Conahy Shamrocks and Glenmore. Though the quality of the hurling was far from memorable, little could separate the sides even though both could point to missed opportunities that could have swung the balance in their individual favour. In the end, a draw and replay were more than justifiable for both teams (0-10 apiece). The replay on the following weekend was, without question, a more open and even bizarre game. With Conahy producing a superb spell early in the second half to build up a significant lead, Glenmore managed to breach the heretofore miserly Conahy defence on three separate occasions for goals in the final frantic minutes. Time was not on the Southeners side, however, as Conahy held on to win, though it should have been more comfortable than they allowed it to be (3-16 to 4-10).

Meanwhile, Thomastown could clearly be seen as a team struggling for form, having failed to gain a single victory in the league.



Niall Phelan and Eoin Guinan St Lachtains celebrate their side's County Final victory.



St Lachtain's - County intermediate Hurling Champions 2009

Back: John Paul Kavanagh, Ger O'Reilly, Mark Kavanagh, Jim Costelloe, John Delaney, Derek Deegan, Martin Power.
Middle: Michael Hickey, Lachtain Kennedy, James Meagher, Barry Hughes, Paul Guinan, Paul Costelloe, Bill Beckett, Davy Brennan, John Costelloe, Noel McGree, Michael Kavanagh, Niall Phelan, Brendan Dalton, Steven Farrell.
Front: James Kavanagh, Brian Kennedy, Tomas Flynn, Ger Dalton, Seamus Hayes, Michael Cormack, Noel Hickey, Robbie Dowling, Thomas Delaney, Eoin Guinan, Ollie O'Connor, John Fitzpatrick, Paul Mullan.



Dicksboro – County Intermediate Hurling Finalists 2009

Back: Marco Ruessmann, Cillian Buckley, David Carroll, Ollie Walsh, Liam Lenihan, Cillian Breatnach, Paddy Henderson, Collins Connolly, Martin Gaffney.

Middle: JJ Hogan, Philly Byrne, Michael Rafter, Kieran Cuddihy, Tom Manning, David Glynn, Shane Maher, Darren Tyrrell, Danny Kenny, John Kelly.

Front: David Ryan, Oisín Breatnach, John Fagan, Derek O'Gorman, Michael Fagan, Paul O'Flynn, Sam Morrissey (Captain), Eddie O'Donoghue, Cillian Starr, Dan O'Neill, Enda Malone, Adrian Stapleton.

Mascots: Darraagh Murphy, Tom O'Neill, Kevin Murphy.

Their opponents in the opening round of the championship, Tullogher-Rosbercon, have hopes of making a serious impact. Thomastown looked to have found more confidence as they made a solid start to the game. But Tullogher soon settled, thanks mainly to some poor indiscipline in the Thomastown defence which free-taker Liam Barron duly punished, to level matters at half-time (1-6 to 0-9). Though Thomastown managed to maintain parity into the final quarter, Tullogher got crucial scores at important stages, namely three goals from Eoin Mullaly and Edmund Cullinane (2), to establish a strong advantage. It was a body-blow that Thomastown did not recover from, as Tullogher progressed by 3-19 to 1-14, thus sending the losers in the relegation battle.

The final first round game pitted Emeralds against another team who were struggling for good form, Graignamanagh. Goals either side of the half-time break from Aidan Fogarty and Brian Campion for the Urlingford men were the crucial scores in the game. Graig just did not have the same level of opportunism among their ranks, though they battled extremely hard and it was really only in the last few minutes that Emeralds managed to feel comfortable in their dominance. In the end, the score line probably flattered them (2-10 to 0-11), but it mattered little as they avoided the possibility of relegation drama which the Graig men now had to endure.

The reward for Tullogher-Rosbercon in qualifying for the quarter-finals was a tussle with Dicksboro. The city's side confidence took a slight beating in their previous game with St. Lachtain's, who defeated them in the league shield final. Tullogher looked to have scented a chance to

cause an upset and performed accordingly. But their free-spirit attitude meant Dicksboro were able to work many openings and had built up a 1-16 to 1-10 lead by the final quarter. Yet the Tullogher men showed remarkable qualities with a unexpected comeback, with two quickfire goals together with a run of five late points to snatch an unlikely draw and leave the 'Boro men stunned (2-15 to 1-18). One felt, however, that the 'Boro had more to give and that Tullogher, game as they were, seemed to be playing at full capacity. And so it proved in the replay. Their attack functioned far better as a unit, with less dependency on Eddie O'Donoghue for scores, as Shane Maher, Paul O'Flynn and Adrian Stapleton more to the fore. Tullogher were not as fortunate this time round as the city men proved to be not as generous and duly qualified for the semi-finals, winning 2-17 to 2-9.

St. Lachtain's were seemingly coming into some excellent form as their championship campaign began with their quarter-final match up with neighbours Emeralds. The main difference between the teams on this occasion, however, was the performance of Freshford's marksman, Eoin Guinan, who was quite superb all through, together with his main support in attack, Bill Beckett. They accounted for all bar two of their side's points total, Guinan scoring 12 while Beckett contributed 4, as they carried the fight to Emeralds. Together with the usual determined play of the Costelloe brothers, John and Paul, in the Freshford defence, the winners served notice that they would be a force to be reckoned with as they secured a place in the final four (0-17 to 0-13).

The Rower-Inistioge had served notice of

their potential for glory in destroying Danesfort in the league final. Now they faced Conahy Shamrocks in the championship quarter-final with the tag of overwhelming favourites. They started well with an early goal from Padraig Tierney, but Conahy put up a stubborn resistance to leave just the goal between the sides at the interval (1-8 to 0-8). But with the aid of the breeze in the second half, the Rower soon asserted their dominance and held the Conahy men to just two points extra in the half. They managed to tack on seven of their own in a largely disappointing game to win on a 1-15 to 0-10 score line.

The league runners-up, Danesfort, had to prove straightaway that the league final result was only a temporary blip when they took on Mooncoin in the final quarter-final. Mooncoin, buoyed by victory over Mullinavat, brought that good form once again to this encounter. Danesfort, however, seemed subdued, with their main attacking threat, Richie Hogan, clearly hampered by the effects of an ankle injury. Mooncoin produced a good all round team performance, led well by the experienced Diarmuid Mackey, Ray Wall and Keith Kirwan. Danesfort did threaten to upset their hard work midway through the second half when Paul Murphy worked his way up the field to finish a Richie Hogan pass to the net, but Mooncoin responded in great fashion to cancel out the goal and rebuild their lead, which they deservedly held until the final whistle (0-17 to 1-9).

With the final four now decided, St. Lachtain's and Mooncoin were the first to fight for a place in the final. The Freshford men were the better side all through against a labouring Mooncoin side. The credit for



Co IH Action 2009



their performance rested mainly with their superb defence, who were well organised all through, and led by the typically sound Michael Kavanagh and equally determined John Costelloe. They did have a bit of good fortune with their first goal when, following a mix-up in the Mooncoin defence, John Fitzpatrick finished a loose ball to the net. A further goal from Bill Beckett in the second half opened up a 2-10 to 0-7 lead and although Mooncoin responded with a consolation goal from Keith Kirwan, it was too little, and very much too late. St. Lachtain's were full value for their victory, winning 2-11 to 1-7.

Who their final opponents would be was certainly going to be interesting, with little between Dicksboro and Rower-Inistioge. As it turned out, the city men clearly looked like the more assured and confident team while the southerners performed in a slow and ponderous manner. It was probably the Boro's best performance to date, as the defence was well marshalled by Kieran Cuddihy and the ageless Dan O'Neill, while Eddie O'Donoghue again proved to be their best forward, and rarely missed the target from play or frees. The Rower managed to secure a bit of luck when they scored a soft goal to take the gloss of the 'Boro's total dominance in the opening half (0-11 to 1-4). The 'Boro continued to nullify any threat that the Rower seemed to provide during the second half, despite the best efforts of Sean Cummins, Kieran Joyce and Michael Grace. Though they did manage to score another fortunate goal late on as a 21 yard free was scrambled into the net, Dicksboro had more than enough scores in reserve to ensure their final place (0-20 to 2-11).

And so, the league shield finalists had progressed to take their place in the championship final. Simple logic suggested that the victors on that occasion, St. Lachtain's, would be favourites to win out again, but this would be ignoring the improved form Dicksboro showed in the semi-final. As it turned out, the performances of both teams pretty much matched their league form as Freshford's key men, once again, showed great leadership in rising to the 'Boro challenge. Though he was well supported by his five fellow defenders, John Costelloe truly gave one of his best performances in his club career. His aerial ability and sound positional sense meant he dominated for the majority of the game. In doing so, he completely snuffed out the threat of Eddie O'Donoghue, who only a single point from a free during the game. The other Dicksboro forwards, particularly Paul O'Flynn (though erratic on occasion), Adrian Stapleton and Killian Starr did compensate for this somewhat and came close to turning things around.

Indeed the sides remained deadlocked at the half time break (1-7 to 0-10), the only goal of the half coming from Paul O'Flynn, who worked hard to create the opening for himself. The early stages of the second half was when the game was won and lost. Freshford zopened up a lead, thanks mainly to Eoin Guinan, who was positioned at centre-forward and put his direct opponent Dan O'Neill under pressure, and Bill Beckett and John Fitzpatrick, who put in great work on the wings.

It was then that the city men put on tremendous pressure, but ultimately yielded little reward. Again, John Costel-

loe and the Freshford defence were the sole cause of this. Though Paul O'Flynn, Adrian Stapleton and Killian Starr worked hard at making chances, they could not secure the sought-after score. It was destined to be Freshford's day. Though they may have given their supporters a few nervous moments at the end, it was the least the team deserved, winning 0-16 to 1-11, and returning to senior grade after a 23 year gap.

Intermediate Hurling Championship 2009

1st Round

Emeralds 2-10, Graignamanagh 0-11
Tullagher Rosbercon 3-19, Thomastown 1-14
Glenmore 0-10, Conahy Shamrocks 0-10
Mooncoin 1-13, Mullinavat 1-10
1st Round Replay
Conahy Shamrocks 3-16, Glenmore 4-10

Quarter-Finals

Rower Inistioge 1-15, Conahy Shamrocks 0-10
Mooncoin 0-17, Danesfort 1-9
St. Lachtain's 0-17, Emeralds 0-13
Dicksboro 1-18, Tullagher Rosbercon 2-15
Quarter-Final Replay (Extra Time)
Dicksboro 2-17, Tullagher Rosbercon 2-9

Semi-Finals

St. Lachtain's 2-11, Mooncoin 1-7
Dicksboro 0-20, Rower Inistioge 2-10

Relegation Final

Graignamanagh 1-11, Thomastown 1-11

Relegation Final Replay

Graignamanagh 1-15, Thomastown 1-6

Final

St. Lachtain's 0-16, Dicksboro 1-11



Rower Inistioge – Intermediate Hurling League Champions 2009

Back: David Tennyson, Toby Kavanagh, Rory Galvin, Neil Lyng, David Murphy, Brendan Lyng, Paul Nolan, James Roche, Michael Meaney, Nicky Kenny, Conor Joyce, Páidí Flemin, Tom Murphy, Paul Flood.

Middle: Mick Nolan, Tadhg Leahy, Joe Lyng, John James Kenny, Pádraig Tierney, Sean Grace, James Doyle, David Lyng, Eoghan Kavanagh, Conor Lyng, Páidí Grace, P.J. Wilmot.

Front: James Cashin, Sean Cummins, Michael Doyle, Kieran Joyce, Liam Tierney capt, Tomas Grace, Michael Grace, Paul Sheehan.

AGAINST THE TIDE

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2009

Photos - Eoin Hennessy

By **Conor Brennan**

Of the four All-Ireland titles that our county were fortunate enough to capture in 2008, Kilkenny supporters were quick to acknowledge that the intermediate crown would prove to be the most difficult of all to retain. The fact that all of the players who played a part in the winning run last year were all declared ineligible for this season meant that team manager Pat Hoban and his selectors had to spread their net far and wide in order to build a new team to take up the challenge.

They were extremely fortunate that they put together both a youthful and experienced team for the opening clash against Dublin in the Leinster championship in Nowlan Park. It would prove to be a ferociously tough game against a Dublin team who Kilkenny only managed to defeat after extra-time in last year's Leinster final. That Kilkenny managed to secure the win owed greatly to their performance in the last quarter of the game, and a number of key switches which ultimately paid great dividends. Substitute Cathal Dunne scored the crucial goal with his first touch which separated the sides and this was followed with five points in those final minutes to ensure victory.

Up until that time, Dublin were proving, as expected, a particularly tough nut to crack. They lead 0-8 to 0-6 at half-time and indeed stretched that lead to five points early in the second half. But the aforementioned switches with which Kilkenny turned the game around were made at this point. The winning points came in the final two minutes when John Joe Farrell pointed twice and Eddie Hickey with another ensured a hard-earned passage to the Leinster final.

If Kilkenny thought that their Dublin experience was intense, then they surely would have expected a similarly tough encounter with Wexford in the Leinster final. And so it proved as little separated the teams all through. Kilkenny probably had the better of the exchanges in the opening half, but could not turn their dominance into scores and held only a minor lead all through. They were fortunate that their defence were holding the Wexford attack reasonably well, led superbly by Paul Murphy at full-back. The Wexford men did look like mounting a push for victory when they managed to draw level at 0-11 apiece with only a few minutes remaining. Yet, luck was again on Kilkenny's side as Eoin Guinan, who was accurate all through from placed balls, scored a '65 to give Kilkenny an extremely hard-earned victory (0-12 to 0-11). It may have been achieved with a degree of difficulty, but Kilkenny were in another final, seemingly this time against the odds.

These odds needed to be seriously in Kilkenny's favour for the All-Ireland final in Fraher Field, Dungarvan against Cork. Their opponents had breezing through their Munster campaign and their panel was filled with players who had good experience at this level, indeed winning at the expense of Kilkenny at one occasion before. So when Cork forward Luke Farrell burst through the Kilkenny defence to finish to the net after ten minutes, the mountain that Kilkenny had to climb suddenly grew in height. Though Walter Burke came on for Kilkenny to nullify the threat of the Cork dangerman, Cork continued to add scores to their total. Kilkenny did improve as time went on, and were only two points in arrears by the time the half-time whistle sounded (1-8 to 0-9).



Kilkenny - Leinster IH Champions 2009

Back: Eddie Hickey, Rob O' Keeffe, Garrett Hickey, J.J. Kenny, Gavin Nolan, Michael Murphy, Michael Moran
Middle: Nicky Cleere, Tony Woodcock, Ray Cody, Brian Lennon, John Cotteral, Eoin Kavanagh, Eddie Brennan
Front: Derek Brennan, Martin Boran, Paul Murphy, Conor Fogarty, Peter O' Donovan, Tom Brophy, Martin Phelan, Eoin Guinan, John Joe Farrell

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2009



Inter Co IH Action 2009



The second half saw Cork renew their intensity and completely dominate the game, particularly at midfield, where Leigh Desmond was very much the main figure. Kilkenny send Paul Murphy to this sector to impose his influence and he did so manfully against a growing Cork tide. He was greatly helped by Walter Burke and Conor Fogarty in this regard, but when Cork scored their second goal in the last dying minutes of the game, it was the final blow for Kilkenny from which there was no recovery. In the end, even the most ardent Kilkenny supporter could have few qualms about the result, as Cork were comprehensive winners on a 2-23 to 0-16 score line. Yet the mere fact that Kilkenny had progressed

to this position, with essentially a brand new panel and limited scope of players, means that both the panel and management deserve immense credit for their performances throughout the campaign. It will surely lead to great optimism for 2010.

The full Kilkenny panel was as follows:

Tom Brophy (Captain, Erins Own), Derek Brennan (James Stephens), James Cahill (Graignamanagh), Kieran Mooney (Conahy Shamrocks), Gavin Nolan (Conahy Shamrocks), Paul Murphy (Danesfort), Martin Phelan (Lisdowney), Eddie Hickey (Lisdowney), Peter O'Donovan (Erins Own), John Cottrell (Tullogher Rosbercon), Ray Cody (Graignamangh), Cathal Dunne

(Graignamanagh), Walter Burke (Mullinavat), Tony Woodcock (Danesfort), Conor Fogarty (Erins Own), Niall Kennedy (Black and Whites), Nicky Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Eddie Brennan (Erins Own), Michael Murphy (Erins Own), JJ Farrell (Thomastown), Brian Lannon (Bennettsbridge), Martin Boran (Erins Own), Eoghan Kavanagh (Rower Inistioge), Eoin Guinan (St. Lachtain's), Rob O'Keeffe (Kilmacow), Gareth Hickey (Bennettsbridge), Dessie Walsh (Thomastown), John James Kenny (Rower Inistioge), Robbie Walsh (Danesfort) Michael Moran (Erins Own). Management: Pat Hoban, Tommy Brennan, P.J. Kenny, Paschal Connolly & Ciarán Muldowney.



Captain, Tom Brophy raises the Leinster IH Trophy



Eoin Guinan in the Leinster Final against Wexford



Niall Kennedy in action in the All Ireland Final against Cork



John Joe Farrell and his opponent hit the deck in the Wexford game.

Dicksboro All the Way!

Bord na nÓg U14 Report by Martin Quilty PRO



Dicksboro U14's – Roinn "A" League & Championship Winners and County & National Féile na nGael Champions 2009

Back: William Oakes, Jason Carroll, Sean O'Neill, Frank Nolan, John Hanrick, Ronan Butler, Brian Comerford, Dion Guilfoyle, Billy Rowe, Cillian Murphy, Michael Phelan.

Middle: Eddie Holohan, Paddy Cahill, Martin Hanrick, Patrick Boyd, Thomas Carroll, Aiden Walsh, Mark McGarry, Kevin Kenny, Stephen Farrell, David Kenny, Dylan Scott, Evan Cody, Seamus McGrath, Marc Cudmore, Sam Dunlop, Liam Maher, Mick O'Flynn.

Front: Pat Cody, Patrick Cahill, Jeff Murphy, Cory Cahill, Shane O'Brien, Robbie Fitzpatrick (Captain), Jamie Byrne, Mark Slater, Darragh Holohan, Barry Hennessy, John Curtin, Brian Fitzpatrick.

Championship Roinn A

While just four teams competed for the Roinn A championship last year, there was an improvement to six teams competing at the top level this year. The teams were divided into two groups of three with each team playing each other on a league basis. St Lachtains played O Loughlin Gaels in the first quarterfinal with the lads from Freshford coming out on top by just three points. The second quarterfinal saw James Stephens take on Erin's Own. The Village boys were far too strong for the 'Comer lads winning by eleven points. The semi-final draw saw Dicksboro play James Stephens, which was a repeat of last year's final. The 'Boro lads were comfortable winners on this occasion winning by nine points. The second semi-final saw newcomers at this level Rower-Inistioge play St Lachtain's. The southerners were slight favourites going into the match and the result justified that favouritism with the southern team winning by seven points.

Thus the A final saw a novel pairing, Dicksboro playing Rower Inistioge. This game was played in Thomastown in front of a very large crowd, Dicksboro were by far the favourites going into the game and the result proved that this favouritism was justified. The Rower Inistioge boys put up a brave effort against the best under 14 team in the county but displaying just

that little bit more experience the 'Boro lads captured the title on a score of Dicksboro 3-16, Rower Inistioge 1-6.

Championship Roinn B

Fifteen teams played in the Roinn B championship this year, which was put back to its original format of a straight knock out. The consolation was that this year's first round losers would contest a shield competition. The championship itself proved to be a very competitive competition. After all the preliminary rounds and quarterfinals the draw for the semi finals saw Danesfort play Lisdowney and Glenmore meet Mooncoin. The semi-final between the two northern teams taking part was a close game until the final quarter minutes when Danesfort pulled away to win the game on a score of Danesfort 4-9 Lisdowney 1-2. The second semi-final saw Glenmore take on Mooncoin. The result would suggest that this was one-way traffic but that was not the case. Mooncoin battled hard but just could not break down the Glenmore defence, Glenmore went on to win comfortably on final score Glenmore 0-16, Mooncoin 0-2.

The final then saw Glenmore take on Danesfort in Ballyhale in front of a large crowd. The game itself was of high quality, with skill and determination on both sides. Glenmore just edged the Danesfort boys as the southern team's forwards took

their score when the opportunity arose. The final score was Glenmore 0-10, Danesfort 0-4.

Shield Competition

All of the first round losers were out into a draw and paired off on a knock out basis. The semi-finals were played with Barrow Rangers defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks by 4-10 to 1-4 while John Lockes defeated Piltown on a final score of 3-4 to 3-1. Barrow Rangers took the Duggan Steel Under 14 Roinn A Shield with a hard earned victory over a gallant John Lockes side after a hugely entertaining game. The scoreboard did not do full justice to the efforts of the Callan boys as only heroic efforts by Rangers defence and a tendency to go for goals when point chances were there helped to keep their score down. Final score:

Barrow Rangers 2-15, John Lockes 1-7

Championship Roinn C

11 teams took part in this Roinn. Favourites St Martins and Tullogher Rosbercon contested the Lge final and if they could be kept apart would probably contest the County Final also. This was the case and both teams reached the County Final with fairly comfortable wins in their respective semi-finals. St Martins overcame Conahy Shamrocks by beating them well, while Tullogher Rosbercon also had an easy victory over Tullaroan.



Glenmore Roinn "B" U14 Champions 2009

Back: Paddy Gahan, Mark O'Connor, Adrian Doherty, John Caulfield, Phipip Roche, Christy O'Connor, Luke Walsh, Colm Doherty, Willie Treacy, Liam Duggan, Michael O'Connor, Liam Hennessy, Ger Kehoe.

Front: John Ganan, Michael holden, Niall Dunne, Eoin Aylward, Cian O'Connor, Alan Murphy, Michael Burke, Shane Murphy, Maurice Fitzgerald, Eric Walsh.



Eoin Hennessy

St Martin's - U14H "C" League & Championship Winners 2009

Back: Damien Egan, Eoin Murphy, Josh Dowling, Eoin Shortall, Ronan Tynan, Jason Shore, Adrian Farrell, Alan Kelly, Donal Shore, Thomas Davis, John Joe Kelly, Stephen Walsh, David Healy.

Front: William Trousdell, Aidan Egan, Conor Dowling, David Walsh, Shane Kinsella, Patrick Brennan (Capt), Mark Dowling, Diarmuid Murtagh, Arron Healy, Shane Dowling.

The County final was played in Palmerstown in front of a sizeable crowd. If it was like the league final this would go down to the wire, and that was the case. Both teams have extremely skilful players and they really shone in the final. St Martins however did come out on top on a final score St Martins 1-9, Tullogher Rosbercon 0-7 so a double victory over Tullogher for the Northerners.

Shield Competition

Again the 1st round losers were out into a shield competition run on a knockout basis. Kilmacow played St Patricks in the 1st semi-final and it was played on a great day for hurling. It was a very close game up to the final five minutes when Kilmacow got the breaks they needed and

converted the scores they needed to win the game final score Kilmacow 3-10, St Patrick 2-5. Second semi-final saw Young Irelands play Fenians, this was the closest game in the whole competition with two excellent teams playing some very nice hurling. Young Irelands did come out on top on final score Young Irelands 2-10, Fenians 2-7

Shield Final then would see Kilmacow play Young Irelands in Ballyhale. Both teams had a great chance of victory but the Gowran boys wanted it more and when you score 15 points in a game along with a couple of goals you have a great chance of winning. Final score Young Irelands 3-15, Kilmacow 3-0

Championship Roinn D

Only four teams took part in the championship in this Roinn which meant that there would only be two semi-finals. This competition was for teams that could only field 13 players and to give teams a chance to play hurling this year. Carrickshock played Windgap in a very evenly contest which Carrickshock came out on top, final score 4-11 to 3-5. Second semi-final was between Galmoy and Dunnamaggin. These two teams reached the league final so it would be a great chance for both teams to see how each other plays in time for the league final. The score was very close and hung in the balance for long periods of the match Galmoy did come out on top final score 3-10 to 3-4.



Galmoy - U14H Roinn "D" Champions 2009

Back row (L to R): Frank Grace (Manager), Ciaran Murphy, Martin Duggan, Cameron Murphy, Jason Stanley, Frank Phelan, Lloyd Bassett, Cian Hynes, Eoghan Vaughan, Tim Molloy, Michael Molloy (Selector), & Jimmy Duggan (Selector)

Front Row: Darren Grace, Conor Kelly, Kieran Phelan, Brandon Phelan, Kevin Duggan, Conor Grace & Sean Phelan.



Barrow Rangers - Roinn "A" Shield Champions 2009

Back: J.J. Staunton (Trainer), James Hogan, Stevie Dormer, Dylan O'Shea, Graham, English, Billy Hanlon, Ciaran Breen, Adam O'Neill, Brian Kelly, Richard Heffernan, Michael Brennan, Stephen Dormer (Trainer).

Front: Conor English, March Drennan, Kevin Hennessy, Darragh O'Connor, Sean Murphy, Mark Doheny, Dylan O'Neill, Evan Foley, Leon Gordon.

Carrickshock played Galmoy in the County Final played in St John's Park. Both teams were bidding for silverware this year and as the score suggests it was a keenly contested final. Both teams really wanted this trophy but Galmoy came out victors in the end Final score Galmoy 3-8, Carrickshock 2-7.

Under 14 League Finals

Roinn A after last year it was decided to put 12 teams into the Roinn A league splitting them up into groups, this was then revamped to see the Roinn spilt up into 2 groups of six with each team playing one another and then going on league results teams were then put into either 1A League or 1B League and a Shield Competition. Dicksboro would play St Lachtains after the Freshford lads had a surprise victory over Rower Inistioige in the semi-final. The Final was played in

Nowlan Park on a great day in front of a large crowd. It was a great chance for these young players to show off their talent in our County ground. However Dicksboro had a little too much experience for the Freshford lads and ran out victors. Final score Dicksboro 2-16, St Lachtains 2-6

The 1B Final was also played in Nowlan Park as part of a tripple header with the 1A final. This game saw O Loughlin Gales take on Erins Own. This was by far too close to call on the day with both teams looking like they were gearing up to play extra time as they could not be separated, but O Loughlin Gales just did enough at the end to claim victory by a solidarity goal. Final score O Loughlin Gales 4-8, Erins Own 3-8

The Shield Final was also played in Nowlan Park and saw Barrow Rangers take on John Lockes. In a good game of

hurling the Rangers lads just had a little more in the tank and would claim victory by 11 points. No shame on the Callan boys who fought hard and will remember the experience of playing in a top venue for a final.

Roinn B was an even competition with all 13 teams having a chance of winning the league. The final however would see Mooncoin play Lisdowney in Nowlan Park. On a great day for hurling the shine shone and the grass freshly cut which made for a great occasion for these young players. It was a great game of hurling with goal mouth scrambles a feature of this game. You could say it was bad play by both defences which made for an open game and it really delivered to the large crowd in the stand who cheered for every score. In the end Lisdowney claimed victory, Final score Lisdowney 6-3, Mooncoin 4-6.

In Roinn C both St Martins and Tullogher Rosbercon had easy passages into the County Final played as the curtain raiser to the B League Final. It was an excellent contest with no team wanting to lose the game. The scores were hard to come by due to the defences on both sides. Both teams exchanged the lead on several occasions and with only minutes left it looked like it would go to Extra-Time. Seconds into injury time St Martins took the lead but Tullogher came back at them with only seconds left to leave the game tied. But a long solo up the field, hand pass out to the wing and a score that deserved to win any match went over the Tullogher crossbar for St Martins to claim victory by 1 point and relief for the Martins management team. Excellent game of hurling that deserved to be played in the County Ground, Final score St Martins 1-6 Tullogher Rosbercon 0-8

Roinn D this competition set up for teams struggling to field enough players enabled them to play hurling this year as it was decided and passed to allow these teams play 13 a-side. It gives all players a chance of playing and does not leave any player out. Roinn "D" League final result was Dunamaggin 4-11, Galmoy 3-2.

Football

There were four divisions in the football competition comprising of just championship, all divisions had quarter finals, semi-finals and the Co Final.

Division 1

James Stephens and Dicksboro had easy wins in their respective semi-finals and would contest the county final which was played in Clara. It was a very close contest with either team looking like they could win the game. James Stephens did just that and won the game by 1 goal. Final score James Stephens 3-4, Dicksboro 2-4

Division 2

In the quarter finals Mooncoin defeated Ogra Graig/Blacks & Whites, Barrow Rangers received a w/o from Emeralds. In the Semi Finals Barrow Rangers defeated Mullinavat by 2 points and Thomastown defeated Graigue Ballycallan by 2 points also. The Final was played in



Lisdowney - Roinn "B" U14 League Winners & Roinn "C" Football Finalists 2009

Back: Tom O'Carroll, Darragh Mackey, Kevin O'Sullivan, Brian Kavanagh, Morgan Grace-Cashin, James Murphy, Stephen Delaney, John Brennan, Liam Dunphy.

Middle: Eileen Connery, Jack Dunphy, Kevin O'Sullivan, Alan Murphy, Conor O'Carroll, Edward Connery, Brian O'Carroll, Eoin Walsh, Philip Walsh.

Front: Dylan Jordan, Darren Mullin, Ciaran O'Carroll, Ian Buckley, Kieran Skehan, William Kenny, Niall Buckley, Michael Kenny.



Rower Inistioge - Roinn "A" Finalists 2009

Back: Patrick Lyng, Shane Foskin, Gavin Feeney, Cathal Bolger, Ciaran Ryan (Capt), Sean Grace, Tony Whelan.

Middle: Darragh Joyce, Jim Murphy, Pat Lyng, Diarmuid O'Brien, Robert Lyster, David Miskella, Michael Barco.

Front: Thomas Allen, Kevin Murphy, Shane Ryan, Richie Leahy, Sam Watkin, Dylan Kehoe, David Kelly. Missing from Photo: William Allen.



Young Irelands - Roinn "A" U14 Shield Winners 2009

Back: Ciaran Carroll, John Drennan, Eoghan Murphy, Se-n O'Neill, Sean Lynch, M J Kelly Horgan, Philip Dreeling, Michael J Comerford, Paul Delehanty, J P Treacy, Michael Dunne, Se-n Farrell, Bill Brenna, Kevin Brennan, Alan Roche.

Front: Jeremy Farrell, Geoff Brennan, Sean Carey, Mikie Carey, Brian Rudkins, Philip O'Donnell, Peter Hutchinson, Jamie Bryan, Jamie Mahoney, Danny Kealy.

Bennettsbridge and turned out to be a very high scoring game with Barrow Rangers winning. Final score Barrow Rangers 5-14 Thomastown 4-9

Division 3

Danesfort, St Martins, Tullogher, Lisdowney all had victories over Railyard, St Patricks, Glenmore and Conahy Shamrocks. Semi-Final pairings Danesfort v Lisdowney which Lisdowney went onto win by 2 points, and Tullogher Rosbercon v Glenmore which saw Tullogher Rosbercon winning by 2 points also. The final was played in Bennettsbridge and was a very close encounter for most of the game before Tullogher went on to win the game by 11 points. Final score Tullogher 4-8 Lisdowney 2-3

Division 4

In the Quarter Final Bennettsbridge defeated Carrickshock, and James Stephens B defeated Kilmaganny. Semi-Finals saw James Stephens B play Windgap which the Windgap lads won by 10 points. Second semi-final saw Ballyhale defeat Bennettsbridge by 9 points. The final was Windgap v Ballyhale Shamrocks which was played in Callan. A very high competitive game of football which saw Ballyhale Shamrocks just run out victors on Final score Ballyhale Shamrocks 5-2 Windgap 4-3.

Dicksboro add to Centenary joy with top Féile win

MAGIFICENT Dicksboro hurlers swept to a magical victory in the final of Division 1 of the Coca Cola sponsored Féile na nGael at O'Connor Park, Tullamore on Sunday, 21st June, 2009.

In the decider they scored a comprehensive 3-14 to 0-5 win over Kilcormac/Killoughey of Offaly. The success means the Christy Ring trophy, a two foot tall solid silver replica of the Tower at Cloyne in East Cork, was retained in Kilkenny.

James Stephens won the title last year. Dicksboro, in their Centenary year, becomes the fourth Kilkenny club after Ballyhale Shamrocks, Tullaroan and James Stephens to win the premier Féile competition.

The 29th festival of hurling, camogie and handball was hosted in Laois/Offaly, with the support of clubs in East Galway and North Tipperary.

Dicksboro opened on Friday afternoon with an easy 5-8 to 0-1 win over hosts Craughwell (Galway) in Moystown, near Ferbane. It was then a quick dash to the opening ceremony and parade in Birr.

WON EASILY

Saturday's action started with a game against Liam Mellows, the defeated Galway Féile finalists. The Noresiders came out winners by 2-6 to 0-3.

Their closing game in the section against strong and skilful Dungarvan (Waterford) was more difficult. A goal in the first minute settled the 'Boro. They added two more goals to lead by 3-3 to 1-3 at half-time. Dungarvan were determined afterwards and an excellent save by James



Eoin Hennessy

James Stephens - Div 1 U14 Football Champions 2009

Back: Sean Sinnott, Dean Conlon, Sean Moran, Cormac Connolly, Niall Mullins, Jack Drew, James Tyrrell, Killian Cantwell, Cathal O'Neill, Dylan Drennan, Jamie Byrne.

Front: Alan O'Beirne, Eoin Delaney, Conor Browne, Ben Hickey, James Rafter, Ricci Drennan (Captain), Cian Morton, Daniel Burke, Brian Fitzpatrick, Matthew McVey.



Eoin Hennessy

Barrow Rangers - Roinn "B" U14 Football Champions 2009

Back: Leon Gordon, Marc Drennan, Evan Foley, James Hogan, David Mullins, Kevin Hennessy
Middle: Stephen Dormer (Trainer), Brian Kelly, Stevie Dormer, Sean Murphy, Ciaran Breen, Dylan O'Shea, Billy Hanlon, Conor Brennan, Graham English, J.J. Staunton (Trainer).

Front: Conor English, Keith Flavin, Richard Heffernan, Darragh O'Connor, Dylan O'Neill, Jimmy Brennan, Michael Brennan.



Dunamaggin - Roinn "D" U14H League Champions

Back: Pat Long (Trainer), Joan Kenneally, John Fitzpatrick, William Bergin, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Adam Kenneally, Ray Cody, Eoin Kearney, Ronan Coffey, Stephen Lawlor, James Rossiter (Trainer), Martin Coffey (Selector).

Front: Megan Kenneally, Jack Brett, Victor Costelloe, Brian Farrell, Paul Kirwan (Captain), Morgan Thomas, Greg O'Donnell, Aaron Doherty, Ryan Thomas.

Byrne stopped them getting back into the game. In the end the 'Boro eased into the quarter-finals.

Mighty Cork champions, Blackrock, provided the opposition here. The Leesiders

were bigger physically, but the more skilful touches of the Kilkenny boys neutralised that advantage. Again Dicksboro got away to a fast start with a few early points. But it was a tense, low scoring

affair before the Kilkenny lads won by 1-8 to 0-4.

It was off to Shinrone for the semi-final against Éire Óg, Nenagh. The Tipp side was brushed aside, the 'Boro winning 3-10 to 0-4, and qualified for the final in the process.

Dicksboro headed to Tullamore on Sunday for the final. They had clocked up over 500 kilometres getting to and from the various games.

Dicksboro opened in the final with a point from Darragh Holohan, which was quickly followed by points from Shane O'Brien and Michael Phelan. The latter then rifled the ball into the net to really hurt the opposition. The soon to be champions were flying.

IN TOTAL CONTROL

At half-time the losers were 0-2 to 2-5 down. A blast of 1-1 from Kevin Kenny put the 'Boro in total control, but all the forwards got in on the scoring.

While the forwards were enjoying themselves, the foundations for success were provided by the backs and midfield. While he didn't have much to do in the final, goalkeeper James Byrne enjoyed a very successful two days. The full back line of Thomas Carroll, Evan Cody and Corey Cahill repelled all attacks.

Carroll was an injury worry following an unfortunate clash in the first game, but his performance in the final belied any suggestion that he wasn't at his best. At full-back Evan Cody was one of the most



Robbie Fitzpatrick, Dicksboro Captain
with Christy Ring Cup

consistent performers. His high fielding would do justice to many a senior.

Corey Cahill, one of the younger players, put in a wholehearted effort and outplayed a number of highly regarded forwards. In the half back division, the very determined Mark Slater, captain Robbie Fitzpatrick and Dylan Scott were simply great. The best commentary on the work of the backs was that only 2-20 was scored against them in all the matches.

FULL RANGE OF SKILLS

At midfield the skilful and athletic Marc Cudmore and Stephen Farrell displayed the full range of hurling skills. Their defensive efforts were relentless, while the delivery of fast, accurate ball to the forwards was superb.

Dicksboro did not have a physically large half forward line, but they possibly had the fastest and most mobile trio in Shane O'Brien, Kevin Kenny and Michael Phelan. These guys can run and score.

The inside forwards Darragh Holohan, Aidan Walsh and Patrick Cahill were deadly at taking chances. The panel scored 17-55 during the six games. That was some going in a national final!

Two substitutes, John Curtin and Patrick Boyd had an opportunity to enjoy the final when introduced. The other substitutes Jason Carroll, David Kenny, John Hanrick, Seamus McGrath, Mark McGarry and Ronain Butler, who were utilised over the weekend, also contributed handsomely to the overall team effort. Boyd scored a point from the first ball he received in the semi-final and it turned the game.

ENJOYABLE

The off-the-field activities were equally enjoyable. Hosts, Craughwell GAA Club, were extremely welcoming and very professional in all aspects of their preparations for the Féile. Many of the city boys received an introduction to country living, and long term connections between the clubs were forged.



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Well Done Kilkenny - Another Great Year!

St Canice's Take Second Title

Primary Schools Camogie Report 2009

Photos - Eoin Hennessy

ROINN "A" FINAL St Canices 3 - 3 Piltown 2 - 3

In qualifying for this Roinn A County Final St Canice's defeated Clara in the semi final and Piltown were winners over Muckalee. The Piltown girls made St Canices work all the way before they captured the Roinn A title in a great game of camogie.

The game was a lively one all through and it was ten minutes into the game before the first score was registered by St Canices. Katelynn Phelan, who had a great game for Piltown, combined well shortly after with Chloe Blackmore and the ball went narrowly wide for Piltown. With both sets of forwards anxious to keep the ball in front of their respective goals the defences were allowed no easy clearances, but neither did the backs concede scores. The stalemate was eventually broken when a free for St Canices, taken by Sarah Lanigan, ended up in the back of the net for a goal. The very lively Lisa McCarthy for Piltown caused some problems for the St Canice's defence but Eadaoin Doheny was alert in the goal. Piltown had their efforts rewarded with a goal when Kelly Ann Doyle lopped in a great sideline ball. St Canice's pointed before half time courtesy of Bronagh Cleere who took a lovely pass from the hard working Jenny Clifford. This left the score at half time St Canices 1 - 2 to Piltown 1 - 0.

St Canices goaled early in the second half with a shot to the net by Sarah Wiley. Almost immediately Piltown replied with a well taken goal from April Kelly. Piltown had a point from a free to leave the minimum between the teams. A great clearance from Alex Lawless for St Canices was gathered and pointed by Bronagh Cleere. St Canices continued to pile on the pressure but led by Katelynn Phelan and with some great saves from Aoife Norris Piltown



St Canice's - Roinn "A" Champions 2009

Back: Hannah Lacey, Kate Walsh, Michaela Delaney, Sarah Kate Lacey, Anna Walsh, Eva Minogue.

Middle: Alex Lawless, Sarah Lanigan, Eadaoin Doheny, Jenna Sherwin, Jenny Clifford.

Front: Danielle Kenny, Emma Bawle, Sarah Kent, Aoife Prendergast, Kirsty Maher, Bronagh Cleere, Sarah Wiley.



St John of God - Roinn "B" Champions 2009

Back: Lauren Reade, Lauren McDonald, Aoife Kavanagh, Olivia Butler-Davis, Caitlin Martin, Megan Hughes, Shauna Conry, Sarah McGrath, Jane Murphy, Sarah Kiely, Rachel Tobin, Ciara O'Keeffe.

Middle: Ms. Miriam O'Keeffe, Fionnuala Walton, Saoirse Claffey, Kate Crotty, Sarah O'Brien, Niamh Ayres, Ciara McGrath, Amy Devlin, Ms. Eileen Fitzpatrick.

Front: Milda Plukaite, Megan Lacey, Orlaith Conlon, Becky Leahy, Lucy Teehan, Josie Carthy (captain), Sophie O'Dwyer, Tara Conry, Carole Manning.

held firm. In turn Kelly Ann Doyle made some great runs from defence to launch attacks from the Piltown forwards. Piltown added points from Katelynn Phelan (free) and Sarah Murphy. But St Canices Aoife Prendergast relieved the pressure with a well taken goal. Piltown's last score of the game was a point from Chloe Holden.

St Canices N.S.:

Eadaoin Doheny, Jenna Sherwin, Danielle Kenny, Alex Lawless, Emma Bawle, Sarah

Kent, Sarah Lanigan, Aoife Prendergast, Kirsty Maher, Sarah Wiley, Bronagh Cleere, Jenny Clifford, Sarah Kate Lacey, Hannah Lacey, Anna Walsh, Kate Walsh, Eva Minogue, Michaela Delaney

Piltown:

Aoife Norris, Jean Power, Ciara Phelan, Katelynn Phelan, Ellen Commings, Chloe Blackmore, Sarah Murphy, Kelly-Ann Doyle, April Kelly, Chloe Holden, Rebecca Kelly, Lisa McCarthy, Leanne O'Hara, Stacey O'Brien, Nicola Phelan, Shauna Coady, Sinead Walsh

**ROINN "B" FINAL
St. John of God 1-5
St. Aidan's N.S Kilmanagh 2-1**

A thrilling Primary schools camogie final saw St. John of God overcome their Kilmanagh counterparts in an enjoyable encounter, as the city school overcame a 5-point half-time deficit.

Inspired by the magnificent Tara Conry, St. John of God clawed their way back to secure a famous victory as the commitment, skill and whole-hearted approach from both sets of players had to be admired.

Possessing the advantage of breeze during the opening 25 minutes, St. Aidans built up a 2-1 to 0-2 lead at the interval. Lena Butler opened the scoring with a pointed free in the 5th minute, before Conry equalised for John of God.

Butler saw a goal chance in the 12th minute agonisingly hit the crossbar, but the Kilmanagh school made amends two minutes later. Ciara Murphy teed up Eadoin Murphy and her shot looped over the advancing goalkeeper. (1-1 to 0-1.) Within 60 seconds, Tara Conry blazed a goalchance agonisingly over the crossbar with the goal at her mercy, before Ciara Murphy became goalscorer for the Kilmanagh school in the 19th minute.

A long delivery from the excellent Ann Doheny found Murphy and her low shot found it's way past the goalkeeper as they'd built up a five point cushion at the interval.

St. Aidan's squandered a goal chance early in the 2nd half as Ciara Murphy's goal shot was well blocked by the John of God goalkeeper Ciara McGrath. Orlaith Conlon pointed a free to narrow the gap before Tara Conry added a point seconds later when handpassing the sliothar over the crossbar. (2-1 to 0-4.) The decisive moment came in the 10th minute of the restart, with a superb individual goal by Conry. The industrious Kate Crotty blocked down Lena Butler's attempted shot and her clearance eventually found Conry. Conry set off on a mesmerising 50metre solo run as she cut loose from the right. Her initial shot was blocked, before regaining her stance to flash a low shot for a brilliant equalising goal.

Orlaith Conlon pointed a free for the lead point in the 13th minute, and despite the final 10 minutes failing to produce a score, excitement levels were at a maximum.



Ballyragget – Roinn "C" Champions 2009

Back: Imelda Lennon, Sophie McGuire, Kate Maher, Katie Brophy, Eimear O'Doherty, Eve Hegarty, Katie Delaney, Chantal Geoghegan, Rachel Lawless, Katie Brennan, Karen Delaney.

Middle: Ms. M. Kennedy, Lisa Delaney, Orla Jacob, Kelly Dowling, Laura Doyle (Captain), Laura Hegarty, Lauren Dermody, Sheila Kenny, Sr. M. Freeman.

Front: Gabriella Tallafus, Jennifer Healy, Eimhear Shortall, Niamh Butler, Laura Walsh, Arianna Walshe, Chantelle Wallace.



Bennettsbridge – Roinn "D" Champions 2009

Back: Sadhbh O'Mahony, Aoife Doyle, Orlaith O'Connell, Sarah Lewis, Orla Tynan.

Middle: Laura Kane, Clíodhna Mullin, Aoife Jones, Ali McCarthy, Sarah Young.

Front: Aoife Tynan, Vicky Lennon, Aoife Hughes, Megan Walsh (capt), Jennifer O'Neill, Sarah Molloy, Orla McGovern.

Kneeling: Eimear Mahon, Hannah Walsh Brennan.

The Kilmanagh school tried manfully, and twice they were agonisingly denied goalscoring chances. Firstly, Lena Butler raced through the St. Johns defence and her shot was denied by the despairing efforts of Sarah O'Brien, while substitute Siun Corcoran saw her shot hit the goalpost as the victors escaped.

St. John of God held out for a famous victory inspired by the brilliance and skill of Tara Conry along with the imperious Tara O'Brien, while Becky Leahy, Kate Crotty and Megan Lacey also performed diligently.

St. Aidans played their part in a thrilling spectacle as the magnificent Ann Doheny, full-back Caoimhe

Murphy, and the skilful Lena Butler all performed heroically but unfortunately for them lost out by the narrowest of margins.

St John of God:

Ciara McGrath, Becky Leahy, Sarah O'Brien, Kate Crotty, Megan Lacey, Niamh Ayres, Josie McCarthy, Tara Conry, Carole Manning, Sophie O'Dwyer, Lucy Teehan, Orlaith Conlon, Fionnuala Walton, Saoirse Claffey, Amy Devlin, Lauren McDonald, Sarah McGrath, Shauna Conry, Megan Hughes, Olivia Butler-Davis, Lauren Reade, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Jane Murphy, Caitlin Martin, Milda Plukaite, Sarah Kiely, Ciara O'Keeffe, Rachel Tobin, Aoife Kavanagh.

St Aidan's Kilmanagh:

Charlotte McCluskey, Caoimhe Murphy, Emma Wall, Ann Doheny, Aisling Kelly, Margaret Caldbeck, Lena Butler, Grace Quigley, Eadaoin Murphy, Kayleigh Nolan, Eimear Keoghan, Ciara Murphy, Niamh O'Connor, Siun Corcoran, Sarah Ging, Rebecca O'Neill, Therese Purcell, Anna Robinson, Celine O'Dwyer, Lisa Hogan.

ROINN C COUNTY FINAL

Ballyraggett 6 - 5 Johnstown 4 - 1

Johnstown and Ballyraggett qualified to meet in the Roinn D Primary Schools Camogie Final having defeated St Johns and the Rower Inistioige respectively in their semi finals.

The Ballyraggett girls started the game in a determined fashion and put early pressure on the Johnstown defence. Johnstown goalie Maria Cullinane needed be very alert in these early stages and brought off some good saves. Good teamwork for Johnstown between Niamh Sweeney, Aoife Sweeney and Ellen Fitzpatrick resulted in the ball being diverted out for a 45 which Chloe Purcell pointed. However from the resulting puck out Ballyraggett replied with a well taken point from Laura Hegarty. For the next five minutes the Ballyraggett defence was busy as Johnstown maintained a steady attack and none worked harder in that defence than full back Kelly Dowling who got in some good clearances. It was from one of these clearances that the ball was worked into the Ballyraggett full forward line and team captain Laura Doyle finished to the net. Two further points from Laura Hegarty and a second goal from Laura Doyle stretched Ballyraggett's lead. This did not deter the Johnstown girls and they continued to battle their way into the game and were rewarded before half time with a goal finished by Rachel Dermody. This left



Piltown – Roinn "A" Finalists 2009

Back: Tom Holden, Katelynn Phelan, Ellen Commins, Sarah Murphy, Chloe Blackmore, Aoife Norris, Jean Power, Ciara Phelan, Leanne O'Hara, Rebecca Kelly.

Front: Sophie Holden, Stacey O'Brien, Nicola Phelan, Lisa McCarthy, Shauna Coady, Kelly-Ann Doyle, April Kelly, Chloe Holden.



St Aidan's – Roinn "B" Finalists 2009

Back: Siun Corcoran, Niamh O'Connor, Rebecca O'Neill, Sarah Ging, Anna Robinson, Celine O'Dwyer, Therese Purcell.
Middle: Mrs. Helen Murphy (Trainer), Ciara Murphy, Caoimhe Murphy, Ann Doheny, Margaret Caldbeck, Grace Quigley.
Front: Ashling Kelly, Eimear Keoghan, Kayleigh Nolan, Emma Wall, Lena Butler, Charlotte McCluskey, Eadaoin Murphy.

the half time score Ballyraggett 2 – 3 to Johnstown 1 – 1.

Johnstown got a great start to the second half a 45 taken by Laura Hegarty dropped in to the back of the Ballyraggett net for a goal. Almost from the puck out Lauren Dermody gathered the ball and following a great run up the field goalied for Ballyraggett. Not to be deterred Johnstown upped their game again and with some good play from Alison Muldowney, Niamh Sweeney and Ellen Fitzpatrick continued to apply the pressure. They were rewarded with a goal and a point from Niamh Sweeney. With the game finely balanced at this stage Ballyraggett came

back strongly and and a goal and a point from Lauren Dermody was followed by two further goals from Arianna Walsh leaving the Johnstown with too much to do.

Ballyraggett:

Niamh Butler, Laura Walsh, Kelly Dowling, Gabriella Tallafus, Jennifer Healy, Laura Hegarty, Orla Jacob, Lisa Delaney, Lauren Dermody, Eimear Shortall, Laura Doyle, Arianna Walsh, Sheila Kenny, Chantelle Wallace, Katie Delaney, Sophie McGuire, Katie Brennan, Katie Brophy, Emer O'Doherty, Karen Delaney, Imelda Lennon, Chantal Geogheghan, Eve Hegarty, Kate Maher, Rachel Lawless.

Johnstown:

Maria Cullinane, Eileen Vaughan, Edel Hughes, May Doyle Ryan, Alison Muldowney, Laura Whelan, Niamh Sweeney, Chloe Purcell, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Helen Reid, Rachel Dermody, Aoife Sweeney, Caoimhe Glendon, Ashleigh Tully, Niamh Sweeney, Amy Keelan, Meadhbh Ryan, Sinead O'Connell, Jessie Brennan, Caitriona Henderson, Danielle Neary, Stacy Dunne, Meadhbh Duggan.

ROINN D COUNTY FINAL

Naomh Fiachra 0 - 2

Bennettsbridge 2 - 4

Bennettsbridge won their first ever Primary Schools camogie title when they defeated Naomh Fiachra, Skeoughvosteen in the Roinn D final. On their way to the final Bennettsbridge had defeated Glenmore in the semi final while Naomh Fiachra had beaten Callan.

From the start of the game Bennettsbridge looked the stronger team and despite the best efforts of the Naomh Fiachra defence Sarah Molloy goaled early for Bennettsbridge. A free by the lively Megan Walsh was finished to the net again by Sarah Molloy. Naomh Fiachra registered their first score when Ellie Barcoe pointed from a 45. Muireann Murphy and Denise Carroll continued to work hard for Naomh Fiachra in the middle of the field and a great shot on goal from the latter brought a brilliant save from Bennettsbridge goalkeeper Vickie Lennon. Niamh Nolan added a point for Naomh Fiachra. However the Bennettsbridge defence was not for conceding scores and with Aoife Jones and Aoife Hughes clearing well each time the Skeough girls found it difficult to make any further headway. Jennifer O'Neill added a point from a 45 for Bennettsbridge to leave the half time score—

Naomh Fiachra 0-2 Bennettsbridge 2-1

Bennettsbridge began the second half strongly with the midfield trio of Cliona Mullen, Megan Walsh and Jennifer O'Neill doing some great work. The Naomh Fiachra defence led by Orla Cleere and Enya Foley did well to keep the Bridge girls from scoring. A good piece of team work between Niamh Nolan, Denise Carroll and Muireann Murphy gave Naomh Fiachra a great scoring chance but the ball went nar-



Johnstown – Roinn “C” Finalists 2009

Back: Catriona Henderson, Amy Keelehan, Meadhbh Ryan, Jessie Brennan, Meadhbh Duggan, Sinéad O'Connell, Niamh Sweeney, Ashley Tully.

Middle: Eileen Vaughan, Laura Phelan, Aoife Sweeney, Maria Cullinane, Rachel Dermody, Niamh Sweeney, Cloe Purcell, Eileen Fitzpatrick.

Front: Caoimhe Glendon, May Doyle Ryan, Danielle Neary, Edel Hughes, Helen Reid.



Naomh Fiachra – Roinn “D” Finalists 2009

Back: Grace McDonald, Áine Ryan, Aoife Moore, Siobhán O'Brien, Megan O'Grady, Megan Savage, Erin Barcoe.

Middle: April Purcell (manager), Emma Neville, Aoife Drennan, Enya Foley, Mary McDonald, Ellie Barcoe, Tara Treacy, Sinéad Maher, Adela Linton.

Front: Rebecca Doyle, Cieragh Tarpey, Denise Carroll, Aisling Cullen, Niamh Nolan (capt), Mary Lennon, Orla Cleere, Muireann Murphy, Nadine O'Brien.

rowly wide. Grace McDonald and Megan Walsh (free) added further points before the end of the game for Bennettsbridge and they held on to run out winners ahead of the game Naomh Fiachra girls.

Bennettsbridge:

Vickie Lennon, Aoife Jones, Laura Kane, Aoife Hughes, Aoife Tynan, Cliona Mullen, Megan Walsh (Capt), Jennifer O'Neill, Orlaith McGovern, Ali McCarthy, Sarah Young, Sarah Molloy, Sarah Lewis, Sadhb

O'Mahoney, Orlaith O'Connell, Hannah Walsh-Brennan, Eimear Mahon, Orla Tynan.

Naomh Fiachra:

Mary Lennon, Aisling Cullen, Orla Cleere, Nadine O'Brien, Enya Foley, Ellie Barcoe, Niamh Nolan (Capt), Mary McDonald, Denise Carroll, Muireann Murphy, Tara Treacy, Grace McDonald, Aoife Drennan, Sinead Maher, Megan O'Grady, Aine Ryan, Erin Barcoe, Aoife Moore, Emma Neville, Katie Heffernan.

Gallant Bid Pipped at the Final Whistle by Bannermen

Photos - Eoin Hennessy

All-Ireland U21H Championship 2009

By Jimmy Walsh



Kilkenny - Leinster U21H Champions 2009

Back: Shane Maher, Martin Phelan, Keith Hogan, David Lyng, Michael Walsh, Nicky Cleere, Colin McGrath, Martin Walsh, David Langton, John Joe Farrell, Paul Murphy, Mark Kelly, Colin Fennelly, Peter McCarthy.
Front: Richie Hogan, Thomas Breen, John Mulhall, Paddy Nolan, Eoin Murphy, James Nolan, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan, Mark Bergin, Liam Ryan.

Having capped a historic year in 2008 when they won the final leg of Kilkenny's All Ireland Hurling Grand Slam, the under twenty one side faced the daunting task of retaining their own title. Coming from the position of champions in comparison to the outsider status they held a year earlier, trainer Michael Walsh and his mentors Pat Walsh, Pat McCormack and James Maher were without seven members of their winning line up as they trawled every club for the talent required to do it all over again.

Laois in First Round

On 27th May in Nowlan Park the under twenty one show was back in action against a Laois side who ran them close in the Leinster championship of 2007. With the champions mantle that would rise all comers, they started slowly against a stronger Laois side before a run of seven unanswered points saw them lead 0-14 to 0-5 at half time. With Mark Bergin in fine scoring form when he accumulated ten points, a Colin Fennelly goal on the three quarter way stage put the game beyond reach as Kilkenny ran out winners by 1-21 to 1-10

Kilkenny : Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Andy Kearns, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan, David Langton, Martin Walsh, James Dowling, John Joe Farrell, Colin Fennelly, Mark Kelly, Liam Ryan, Mark Bergin, John Mulhall, James Nolan, Substitutes used: Peter McCarthy, Shane Maher, Nicky Cleere, Paddy Nolan,

Semi-Final date with Faithful men

If ever a game was to be a stumbling block, the replay of the provincial final of 2008 that took place in Tullamore when Kilkenny played in front of a huge crowd supporting a home side that was backboned by many of their senior stars, then this was it!. With Richie Hogan back after injury, Kilkenny got off to a flyer and led 0-7 to 0-2 after the first quarter. From there on Offaly settled and thrived and showing great first touches and catching abilities they created the best of the goaling chances as they went on to tie the game at 0-13 at the end of the third quarter. After a swift Kilkenny rally that re-opened a four point lead Offaly's never say die attitude saw them come back twice to score points. In a tense finish one Offaly attempt had the attendance on their toes it was so close to being in the net. As time ran out a sweet point from John Mulhall was crucial as it made the

scoreline safer and with a three point margin gave his side an 0-18 to 0-15 victory.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Andy Kearns, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan, David Langton, James Dowling, Mark Kelly (0-3), Martin Walsh, (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-2), John Joe Farrell (0-2), John Mulhall (0-3), Mark Bergin Richie Hogan (0-6) inc. (0-30 frees) Liam Ryan, Substitutes Used James Nolan (0-1), Paddy Nolan,

Dub's provide stern opposition in Provincial Final

After a fine 1-24 to 0-8 win over Wexford, Dublin the 2007 provincial champions backboned by a number of senior stars provided the opposition in the Leinster final in mid July. After a full round of local championships the previous weekend, injuries to panel members was an added worry as Kilkenny traveled to The Dub's home in Parnell Park. In a memorable game of hurling Kilkenny opened on fire with a brace of points and when John Joe Farrell netted, the side was 1-3 to 0-0 ahead after six minutes. Following fine defensive play, Dublin got back into the game and led by target man Liam Rushe had reduced the lead to four points 1-9 to 0-8 approaching half time. Within an instant Kilkenny hit back and with three free flowing points in the final minutes and had stretched the lead to 1-12 to 0-8 at the break. After another lightning start Kilkenny moved to eight ahead before Dublin rallied in front of an enthusiastic crowd and added a goal through Peter Kelly. Two further points had the game in the melting pot at 1-16 to 1-13 with just seven minutes left. As the ecstatic home supporters sensed a winning comeback, the crucial score of the game came within a minute as John Joe Farrell grabbed his second goal to widen the gap to six points. From that score to the final whistle both sides battled it out as Dublin out pointed the visitors 0-6 to 0-4. To win they needed a big score, and as it was not forthcoming Kilkenny held onto their provincial crown on a 2-20 to 1-19 scoreline to the great satisfaction of their traveling band.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Paddy Nolan, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan, David Langton, Martin Walsh, Mark Kelly, Liam Ryan, Colin Fennelly, Mark Bergin, John Mulhall, Richie Hogan, John Joe Farrell, James Nolan. Substitutes Used Keith Hogan,



Inter Co U21H Action 2009



Antrim provide semi-final opposition in Navan

In Páirc Tailteann in Navan, Kilkenny overcame Antrim to make it a clean sweep in the semi-finals and see the county appear in all four major All Ireland hurling finals for the second year in succession. On the day as Richie Hogan tormented the Antrim defense registering fourteen points his side only led by two points at the interval (0-8 to 1-3) after Darren Hamill nipped in to finish a close in free to the net. The second half saw a far better performance as a succession of points along with goals from John Mulhall and John Joe Farrell saw them earn a comfortable victory and a place in the final against Clare on a score of 2-22 to Antrim's 2-7.

The Kilkenny team and scorers were Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy (0-2, 0-1 free), Paddy Nolan, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan (0-1), David Langton, Martin Walsh, Mark Kelly, Liam Ryan (0-1), Colin Fennelly, Mark Bergin (0-1), John Mulhall (1-1), Richie Hogan (0-14, 0-8 frees, 0-2 65's), John Joe Farrell (1-1), James Nolan
Subs used: Nicky Cleere (0-1), Kieran Mooney, James Dowling, Peter Mc Carthy, Andy Kearns

Back on Croke Park's New Sod for Final

Facing Clare in their first ever appearance in All Ireland final in Croke Park came as no great surprise as their strengths had been noted in a challenge game in Nowlan Park earlier in the summer. Having come through an exciting and high scoring Munster campaign where there were a number of surprises as favorites Tipperary after accounting for Cork were overcome by Waterford in one semi-final. In the other side of the draw Clare with a mission to revenge the perceived injustice of the previous years championship final defeated Limerick 4-22 to 2-13 and then traveled to Fraher Field in Dungarvan to capture their first title in the grade when they defeated Waterford 2-17 to 2-12. Their form was embellished in an All Ireland semi final thriller when they defeated their Joe Canning led neighbors Galway by 3-23 to 5-15 after extra time.

On the day of the final the traveling contingent of local supporters, still glowing and contented on their four in a row Senior Hurling success was strengthened by the presence of the Camogie team that were playing Cork beforehand in the Senior final.

Without the unmentioned burden of completing the grand slam in the previous year, it was replaced by a two in a row dream when they met a Clare side with a growing purpose and belief. In a tightly contested low scoring game that saw the sides level eight times, Kilkenny outscored the banner from play but not on the scoreboard as only a last minute point separated the sides at the end.

At the break Kilkenny were just 0-8 to 0-6 behind, thanks mainly to timely interventions by goalkeeper Colin McGrath and Paul Murphy on Clare attacks led by Colin Honan. Having the best of play in second period Kilkenny had nipped ahead by a point after only seven minutes. After Clare leveled the score with their second point from play Kilkenny took the games maximum two point lead when James Nolan and Richie Hogan pointed. As the game moved into the last quarter both sides created goal chances with Clare's resulting in a point and their keeper Donal Touhy who pushed Richie Hogan's fine shot over for a similar score for Kilkenny. In a thrilling finish three points on the trot saw Clare lead 0-13 to 0-12 with a handful of minutes to go. Within two minutes Kilkenny after adjusting their scoring sights were back in front 0-14 to 0-13 after Richie Hogan leveled and Mark Kelly landed a monster of a score from half way. As it may have looked and many hoped that it would be enough of a margin to hold too and win Colin Ryan leveled the scores with a minute to go before Cormac O Donoghue created Clare history when his long range effort sailed over the canal end cross bar. With a never say die attitude Kilkenny finished in attacking mode as the clock ran out and

Clare took their first ever All Ireland title in the grade by a single point 0-15 to 0-14

For the stewards manning the sidelines Plan B was again invoked as the Banner supporters with Biddy Early and her curse on winning All Irelands now a distant memory they appeared in their thousands to celebrate on Croke Park. As the Under 21 All Ireland hurling trophy was presented to their jubilant captain Ciaran O Doherty, the Hurling World's joy at Clare's breakthrough was tempered by the Kilkenny players disappointment of being so close to victory.

The Kilkenny team and scorers were Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Paddy Nolan, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan, David Langton, Martin Walsh, Mark Kelly (0-3), Liam Ryan, Colin Fennelly (0-2), Mark Bergin, John Mulhall (0-2), Richie Hogan (0-5, 0-1 free), John Joe Farrell, James Nolan (0-2),
Sub: Nicky Cleere.



David Langton lifts the under 21 Leinster cup in Parnell Park.

Clare: Donal Touhy, Eamonn Glynn, Cian Dillon, Ciaran O Doherty, Domhnall O Donovan, Nicky O Connell, James Gunning, Enda Barrett, Cormac O Donovan (0-2), Caimin Morey (0-1), John Conlon (0-3), Sean Collins, Conor Tierney, Darach Honan, Colin Ryan (0-9). Subs: Conor McGrath Patrick O Connor, Eoin Hayes. Referee Cathal McAllister (Cork).

Team Spirit and Commitment

To achieve an all Ireland final appearance in any grade requires dedication, commitment and a team effort and so it was during the year as a squad was built through numerous trials and challenges against Tipperary, Clare, Galway and Waterford at intercounty level. At club level St. Lachtains, De La Salle, Mooncoin, Muckalee and Tullougher Rosbercon provided testing opposition at a range of venues from under lights in Piltown to Callan and Kilmacow before the squad trained at their more regular haunts in St. Kieran's College and Nowlan Park. Through their combined efforts of the players, county board and the management team of Manager:

Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), Selectors: Pat Walsh (Windgap), Pat McCormack (Fenians), Trainer: James Maher (St Lachtain's), Physios: Grace McCormack (St. Martins), Martin Phelan (James Stephens) Team Doctor: Jim Ryan from Callan and Alan Kavanagh who looked after the Hurley's, the blend of some last years minors, existing and new players they proved that another title is well within their grasp.

Kilkenny 2009

The Kilkenny 2009 County under 21 Panel at the All Ireland Final was Colin McGrath (St. Martins), Paul Murphy (Danesfort), Paddy Nolan (St. Martins), Conor Fogarty (Erin's Own), Lester Ryan, (Clara), David Langton (Clara), Martin Walsh (Tullaroan), Mark Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Liam Ryan (Clara), Colin Fennelly (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Mark Bergin (O'Loughlin Gaels) John Mulhall (St. Martins), Richie Hogan (Danesfort), John Joe Farrell (Thomastown), James Nolan (Clara), Eoin Murphy (Glenmore), Michael Walsh, (Young Irelands), Kieran Mooney, (Conahy Shamrocks) Andy Kearns, (O'Loughlin Gaels), James Dowling, (St. Martins), Nicky Cleere, (Bennettsbridge), Thomas Breen, (St. Martins), Shane Maher, (Dicksboro), Peter McCarthy, (Piltown), Kieran Grehan, (Fenians), Keith Hogan, (Clara), Martin Phelan, (Lisdowney), P.J. Rowe, (Mooncoin), David Lyng, (Rower Inistioge), Joe Brennan, (St. Patrick's).

SONG FOR A TAGGY BOY



By Mark Townsend

"Taggy". It's an unusual one, but then the history of Kilkenny hurling has been littered with unlikely monikers. From "Diamond" to "The Link", from "Chunky" to "Titch", "Taggy" is merely following a time-honoured and noble tradition. To hazard a guess at such an obscure name would be ridiculous, so rather than embarrass oneself, it's probably best to let the man himself explain its origins.

"It came from me brother. He was called Froggy. I was called tadpole for obvious reasons, I was the younger brother. Then tadpole became Taggy. Only my mother and father and girlfriend call me Aidan. If someone else called me Aidan now, I'd be looking twice."

He started playing hurling at a young age with the Emeralds in Urlingford. With them he has won a county junior title in 2001 and a minor A championship in 2000, two achievements he ranks as highly as any others. His inter county career began at under 14 level, and he progressed onto the fringes of the minor side in 99. He was a starter on the team in 2000, the black sheep of the county's underage conveyor belt, being the first side in more than a decade not to win the Leinster title.

Some hurlers seem destined for greatness. DJ. Henry. Eddie Keher. Others like Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan and Derek Lyng need a little more time and perhaps a particularly observant mentor to notice their true gifts. For Taggy, the potential was always evident, but for a while it remained untapped.

Sure, he hurled three seasons at under 21 level, winning an All-Ireland in his final year in 2003. He was promoted to the senior panel the same summer, and notched his first medal as replacement. He made his debut against Wexford as a sub the following year and then had his first championship start in a qualifier against Dublin.

All of this hinted at progress. But after that came a relative stagnation. He didn't start a championship game for the rest of that season, and made no appearances the following year. A change was needed. Coming into 2006, he made a person-

al pledge to himself not to let the year pass him by:

"I said, I've been on the panel three years now and I haven't really made much of an impact. So if I don't make an impact now, it won't last. A lot of good lads had come onto the panel and been dropped off it. I didn't want that to happen to me."

It certainly didn't. Having performed excellently in the league that year, he seemed odds on for a starting place in the championship. But an unfortunate collar bone injury in late spring curtailed his involvement come summer time. As such, he was somewhat of an unknown quantity going into that year's All-Ireland final. It was a situation he exploited to the full:

"I was under the radar really. People weren't looking out for me, they were expecting Henry Shefflin or the bigger names to watch out for. It was just one of those things on the day, I couldn't predict it. It just went right for me"

Right to the tune of 1-3 and a man of the match award in his first All-Ireland start. In terms of his greatest games for the county, that particular one will always be mentioned, but his performance in the League final of this year was surely just as good. In a game in which Kilkenny struggled for long periods, he was the go-to guy in attack, notching a personal tally of 1-5 and having another goal disallowed. He attributed this, at least partially, to his strong connections with the old enemy, having gone to school in Tipperary and lived on the border of the county his whole life:

"I like playing Tipp in big games because everyone's around locally. I mean, you try and win every game really, but from where I live in anyway, you'd be even more motivated maybe to play Tipp"

All of those scores came from his familiar station of left corner forward. In contrast with the rest of the Kilkenny forward line, and despite playing right half forward for his club, it's



an anomaly that practically all of his county career has been played in that position. Even he himself is a little perplexed by it "Maybe it's because I can turn inside on my right side. But I don't really know to be honest. As long as I'm playing I don't mind".

Up against the same opponent(Paddy Stapleton) who was so stung in May, he possibly didn't have his best game in this year's final. Still and all a fourth consecutive All-Ireland medal, and fifth overall, is certainly not to be sniffed at. And even though his personal display wasn't of as high as standard as that of 2006, he still ranks it on a par with that year's success.

To have such a level of success as he has had would please anybody. But his appetite is not sated. In particular, he highlighted the silverware cabinet of his club as a situation that needs addressing: "One of my goals is definitely to win an intermediate title with The Emeralds. If we put in a good enough effort I think we're good enough to go up senior. There's nothing more satisfying than winning with your own

people and where you grew up. There's a great bond between your own people."

One final topic that I, and possibly every back who has ever marked him wanted to broach, relates to his own hurling style. The Fogarty grip is a unique one, and defies almost all conventional coaching technique. It is further complicated by his ability to catch the ball with either hand. It's a situation that previous trainers have attempted to alter, and one he is acutely aware of:

"It's kind of all over the shop now to be honest. I should put my right hand on top but I put my left hand on top. That would be OK if your good hand was your left hand but my good hand is actually my right hand. It's a bit all over the shop but I'm not going to change now."

It's probably just as well. When you think of a career like his thus far, you'd hardly want to change a thing either would you?

Liam Aylward, MEP

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SENIOR HURLING

Prem. Rd	Carlow v Laois
Round 1	Dublin v Carlow/Laois
	Wexford v Galway
	Antrim v Offaly
Semi-Finals	Dublin/Carlow/Laois v Kilkenny
	Wexford/Galway v Antrim/Offaly

INTERMEDIATE HURLING

	1. Kilkenny v Wexford
FINAL:	1 v Dublin

U21 HURLING

1. Kilkenny v Offaly
2. 1 v Dublin
3. Wexford v Laois
FINAL: 2 v 3

MINOR HURLING

ROUND 1	1. Kildare v Wicklow
	2. Westmeath v Meath
ROUND 2	3. Carlow v 1
	4. 2 v Laois
	5. Kilkenny v Dublin
	6. Offaly v Wexford
ROUND 3	7. Winners 4 v Loser 6
	8. Winner 3 v Loser 5
SEMI-FINALS	9. 8 v 5
	10. 7 v 6
FINAL:	9 v 10

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Micheál Ó Dubhshláine
Runaí

Lady Luck switches Sides!

All-Ireland Minor Championship 2009

By Conor Brennan



Kilkenny – Leinster MH Champions 2009

Back: James Cassin, Martin Gaffney, Luke Harney, Sean Phelan, Walter Walsh, Richie Doyle, Cathal Kenny, Liam Lacey, Danny Kenny, Danny Dermody, Paul Holden, Pdraig Gahan.

Front: Cathal English, Ian Duggan, Ger Aylward, Willie Phelan, Canice Maher (Capt), Cillian Buckley, John Power, Ollie Walsh, Geoff Brennan, Joe Lyng

Eoin Hennessy

When it came to the All-Ireland minor hurling championship in 2008, Lady Luck was definitely wearing the black and amber as Kilkenny secured a nineteenth title with a late goal against a dumbfounded Galway side, who were without question, the better side of the day. But the good Lady's allegiances were definitely swayed towards the maroon of Galway in 2009 as the Westerners continued their great success at minor level by capturing their fourth title of the decade and reserving the result of twelve months previously.

It was the least Galway deserved when one takes all their 2009 performances into consideration, in particular in the final as they proved beyond doubt the top team in the country. That said, the heartening aspect of Kilkenny's season was that they showed greater consistency throughout and with a good number of the panel available again for next year's campaign, they will be hopeful of learning from their experiences of this year and using them to the fullest benefit. The fact that they competed to such an extent with a talented team like Galway speaks volumes for their preparation and work ethic and the roles played by the management team of Richie Mulrooney, Brendan O'Sullivan, Tom O'Hanlon and Brian Ryan.

As with any minor team of any era, the speculation as to their collective ability could not really begin until they played their first competitive match. In the case of the particular Kilkenny team, they faced a potentially tricky opening to their Leinster championship campaign against Offaly in Nowlan Park. It was fair to say that while it was a promising start from Kilkenny, they were fortunate to be gifted with three soft goals in the second half and thus killed off the Offaly challenge. However, the most heartening aspect of the performance was the home side's determination in the opening half, despite playing against a gale force breeze. Their intelligent play and excellent shooting meant that they lead by 0-11 to 0-7 at the break. But their advantage was nearly taken from them when an early second half goal for Offaly meant there was only a two point difference between the teams.

But this really stung Kilkenny into life, and indeed proved to be Offaly's final score of the game. Ger Aylward pounced for a goal after a defensive mistake while three goals were scored

in quick succession in the final minutes by Cathal Kenny, James Cassin and Walter Walsh to give Kilkenny a somewhat flattering victory on a 4-18 to 1-8 score line.

A rare journey to Cusack Park, Mullingar to take on Westmeath lay next on the horizon for Kilkenny following the June exams. The previous time that both sides crossed swords in the championship, ten years ago this year, saw the underdogs from Westmeath almost produce a major surprise. But on this occasion, it was very much plain sailing for Kilkenny on a fine sunny evening. Westmeath did almost get an ideal start, however, when Kilkenny goalkeeper John Power was forced into a dramatic save after just 20 seconds. Kilkenny did eventually manage to settle into the game and were rewarded when Ger Aylward was again on hand to finish a loose ball to the net. They held that goal advantage right up to the half time break to lead 1-5 to 0-5.

The second half saw Kilkenny really put Westmeath to the sword as they scored 1-9 without reply by the 20th minute of the half. The goal was again soft, as a Sean Kehoe delivery deceived the Westmeath goalkeeper to end up in the net. In the end, it proved a facile victory as Kilkenny cantered to victory (2-19 to 0-6).

A Leinster final pairing with Wexford, again a repeat of last year, seemed to keen observers to have the potential of a tricky obstacle for Kilkenny. The fact that Kilkenny enjoyed a surprisingly easy win over their rivals twelve months meant that Wexford had plenty of motivation for making amends this time around. It looked like they had the ability to do just that in an excellent opening half as they managed to compete well with the reigning champions. But Kilkenny scored the crucial first goal of the game through regular goal-getter Ger Aylward to gain the early advantage. Sean Kehoe was also proving a real handful for the Wexford defence, and was extremely accurate from play as well as from placed balls. These two main factors meant that Kilkenny held a five point lead at the half time interval, 1-10 to 0-8.

As with the Westmeath game, Kilkenny produced their best hurling in the second half, as the defence performed resolutely to restrict Wexford to three points from frees throughout the whole half. Meanwhile at the other end of the field, the



Inter Co MH Action 2009



attack continued to add points to their tally, led once again by Sean Kehoe, and well supported by Walter Walsh, Canice Maher and Ollie Walsh. Kehoe finished the scoring with his eleventh point of the game, six from frees, as Kilkenny finished victorious on a 1-19 to 0-11 score line.

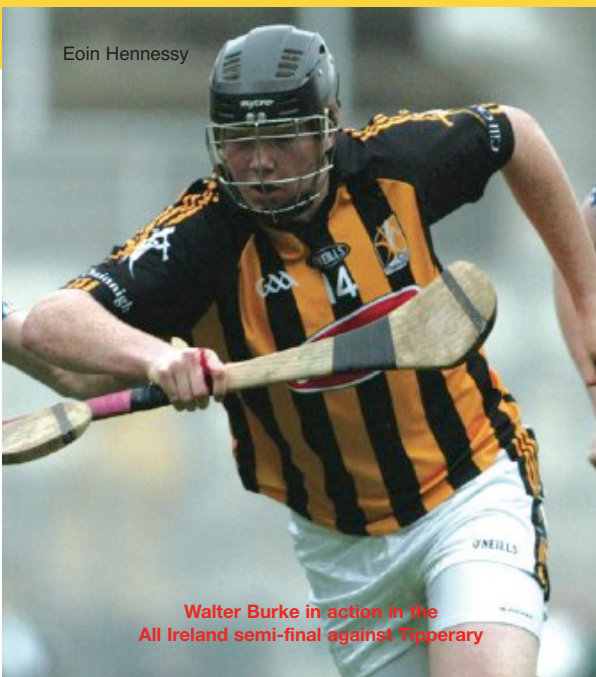
A further repeat of last year was next on the agenda for Kilkenny, an All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary. It produced a game of great skill and speed, and could be arguably considered one of the games of the minor championship. For Kilkenny, it was a memorable encounter, mainly due to the fantastic start they enjoyed, at one stage leading 0-10 to 0-2 during the first half,

and maintaining a lead of six points at half-time (0-15 to 1-6). But it could easily have been also a game that would have drifted away from Kilkenny, as Tipperary fought their way back superbly into the game, particularly in the second half.

Such a turnabout surely tested even the strongest of Kilkenny hearts, as the Premier men managed to even level the game halfway through the second half (0-18 to 2-12). The key score for Kilkenny came straightaway, however, as Walter Walsh burst through the Tipperary defence to finish emphatically to the net. It was a score that seemed to reinvigorate Kilkenny, though Tipperary still continued to threaten

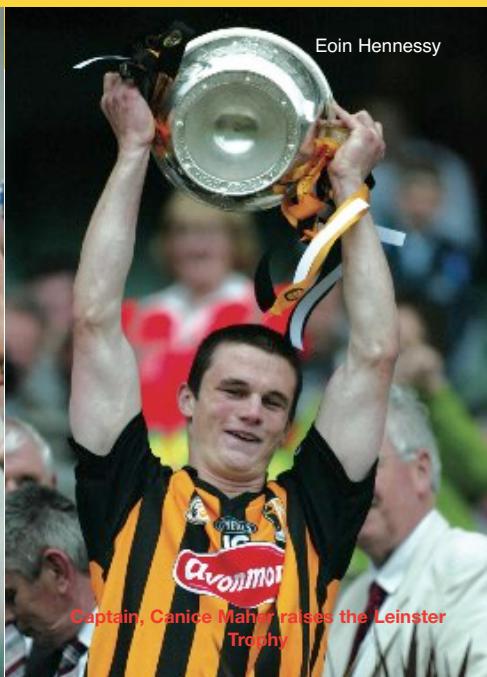
but substitute Martin Gaffney, who played an important role when introduced in the second half, scored what was the insurance score to push Kilkenny towards another final, though it was a little too close for comfort (1-21 to 2-15).

The Kilkenny panel and management team knew coming into the final that better consistency would be needed in order to meet a determined Galway challenge. Allied to that would be the importance of a good start to the game. Unfortunately for Kilkenny, the key moments of the hour all went in favour of their opponents. Galway had the tonic of an early goal and although Martin Gaffney replied later with a



Eoin Hennessy

Walter Burke in action in the All Ireland semi-final against Tipperary



Eoin Hennessy

Captain, Canice Maher raises the Leinster Trophy



John McIlwaine

A disconsolate Danny Kenny after the All Ireland defeat by Galway.



Goalmouth action from the All Ireland semi-final against Tipperary

John McIlwaine

great goal following good work by his Dicksboro club mate Cillian Buckley, Galway regained their advantage right on the stroke of half-time with another goal to lead 2-9 to 1-5 at the interval.

But huge credit must go once again to Kilkenny, who showed tremendous determination to cut the deficit to a single point. They scored 1-4 without reply, the goal coming from captain Canice Maher, and the Kilkenny defence upped their performance. But they could not manage to improve on this, despite a number of opportunities to do so. Galway sensed their chance to capitalise, and as Kilkenny visibly tired in the energy sapping conditions, managed to work scoring chances that they had little trouble in putting over the bar and secure victory, making amends for last year (2-15 to 2-11). It can be guaranteed that the Kilkenny minor panel for 2010 will be aiming to do likewise and regain the Irish Press Cup from the Westerners.

The full Kilkenny panel for the championship was:

John Power (Carrickshock), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat), Willie Phelan (Dunnamaggin), Joe Lyng (Rower/Inistioge), Luke Harney (Kilmacow), Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers), James Gannon, Cathal Kenny (Barrow Rangers), Ollie Walsh (Dicksboro), Geoff Brennan (St. Patricks), Sean Kehoe (Young Irelands), Cillian Buckley (Dicksboro), Ger Aylward (Glenmore), Walter Walsh (Tullagher/Rosbercon), Canice Maher (St. Martins - Captain), Liam Lacey (St. Patricks), Sean Phelan (Lisdowney), Pdraig Gahan (Mullinavat), Danny Kenny (Dicksboro), Martin Gaffney (Dicksboro), James Cassin (Rower/Inistioge), Cathal English (Barrow Rangers), Paul Holden (Young Irelands), Danny Dermody (Fenians), Jason Corcoran (John Lockes), Brian Kennedy (St. Lachtains), Adam Murphy (Piltown), Seamus Kearns (Mooncoin). Team Management: Richie Mulrooney (Team Manager), Brian Ryan (Trainer), Brendan O'Sullivan, Tom O'Hanlon (Selectors).

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Compare & Contrast.....

Diarmuid O'Flynn (Cork Examiner) compares Kilkenny's four-in-row with that of Cork's in the 1940's

One thing we're never short of in the GAA is debate, and a couple of questions exercising quite a few GAA-heads in recent times are 1) does Henry Shefflin now rank with the greats, perhaps rank even as THE great, and 2) is this current Kilkenny team the finest hurling team of all time? There is no absolute answer, of course, one person's opinion as valid as another's (unless of course you're Enda McEvoy or Barry Henríquez, in which case your opinion is more valid than most). On one subject, however, there can be no argument – the recent four-in-a-row completed by Kilkenny is the greatest achievement, ever, by any hurling county in the GAA.

Because it's such a rare achievement in hurling, only one team stands comparison, and that's the Cork four-in-a-row team of the 1940's. Five titles in six years, as was achieved by Tipperary in 1895, 96, 98, 99, 1900, four titles in five years, as was achieved by Cork in 1890, 92, 93, 94, by Kilkenny in 1909, 11, 12, 13, by Tipperary in 1961, 62, 64, 65, are all impressive in their own right, most especially the Tipp near-miss in the early 60's, with all the others being achieved at a time when the GAA was still getting itself together, not nearly as organised nor as competitive as it is today. But four-in-a-row stands on its own. Let's look, then, at the respective achievements of Cork in the 1940's, Kilkenny in the 2000's.



Henry – the greatest of them all?

According to the Cork GAA 1886-1986 centenary book, the Cork run began in 1941 with a comprehensive Munster semi-final win over Mick Mackey-powered Limerick, the reigning All-Ireland champions, 8-10 to 3-2. Tipperary weren't allowed travel to compete in the Munster final, however, because of a foot-and-mouth outbreak in the county, so Cork were nominated to represent Munster in the All-Ireland championship. Only one game in that series also, against Dublin, Kilkenny not taking part in Leinster because of the same foot-and-mouth outbreak, and Cork won in a canter, 5-11 to 0-6. The delayed Munster final took place in October and Tipperary won, 5-4 to 2-5, so, right from the start, the Cork four-in-a-row is flawed. Two games to win the All-Ireland title? No Tipperary or Kilkenny? Then beaten afterwards in the Munster final? Major question-mark over the quality of that title.

In 1942 it was the same route through Munster for Cork, Limerick first – a closer encounter this time, only two points in it at the end – then Tipperary again. A trouncing too, for Tipp, 4-15 to 4-1, but does that mean Cork would have done the same thing in 1941? No, it does not. Galway were next up, in the All-Ireland semi-final, well beaten, before Dublin were dispensed with in the final, 2-14 to 3-7. From those results, then, looked like a powerful Cork team that year, but a vintage championship it was not.

1943, and another easy title for Cork, just three games; Kerry

first up in Munster, well beaten, tested by Waterford in the Munster final but won by two points, straight into another All-Ireland final where Antrim, having shocked Kilkenny in Corrig Park in Belfast, were annihilated, 5-16 to 0-4.

1944, year four of the four-in-a-row, and the pressure is beginning to tell. In Munster, Cork had a six-point win over Tipp in the semi-final, but were taken to a replay by Limerick, won with a late Christy Ring goal, courtesy of a little interference with keeper Malone's hurley by Cork's Joe Kelly. In the All-Ireland semi-final, played in Ennis, Cork scraped past Galway, 1-10 to 3-3 (my father, Donal 'Dan' O'Flynn, played in that game, but with Galway, and claimed all his life that he hit a shot which was in the air when the final whistle sounded, landed on top of the Cork net – didn't have a lot of good words to say about the referee in that one, a Munsterman apparently, from Clare). On to Croke Park then, and yet another meeting with Dublin, their third in the four-year run, and yet another easy win, 2-13 to 1-2.

Add it all up, and during their four-in-a-row Cork played a total of 15 games, including the delayed Munster final of 41, won 13, lost one, drew one. They played Limerick four times, winning three and drawing one; Tipperary thrice, winning two and losing one; Dublin thrice, winning all three; Galway twice, winning both; Kerry, Waterford and Antrim once each, winning all three. Kilkenny? Never met. It's important to note here, this was all during the war years (or The Emergency as we so quaintly dubbed it in neutral Ireland) and there were bigger priorities than All-Ireland titles, in every county.

Anyway, that's the Cork run. Now, let's go to the Kilkenny four-in-a-row.

2006: Westmeath, Wexford (Leinster final), Galway, Clare, then reigning All-Ireland champions Cork, going for three-in-a-row, in the All-Ireland final.

2007: Offaly, Wexford (Leinster final), Galway, Wexford, then Limerick in the All-Ireland final.

2008: Offaly, Wexford (Leinster final), Cork, then Waterford in the All-Ireland final.

2009: Galway, Dublin (Leinster final), Waterford, and in the All-Ireland final, Tipperary.

That's a total of 18 games played, 18 games won, the breakdown as follows: Wexford, four meetings, two in Leinster, two in All-Ireland series; Galway, three meetings, one in Leinster, two in All-Ireland series; Offaly, two meetings in Leinster; Cork, two meetings in All-Ireland series; Waterford, two meetings in All-Ireland series; Dublin and Westmeath, one meeting each in Leinster; Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, one meeting each, in the All-Ireland series.

Now, I ask you – compare and contrast. When Cork won their four-in-a-row there was no backdoor yet they still managed to lose one game; in Kilkenny's four years, with the backdoor, they were unbeaten. And that backdoor is a major factor. Most observers now agree, this system favours the stronger counties, gives them a chance to iron out their weaknesses after a defeat and regroup, brings them back into the reckoning. Yet still Kilkenny never lost, and better again, never even looked like they might. A few close-enough calls, but in every game, by the final whistle there was never any doubt about the result, never any last-minute angst for Kilkenny supporters. Cork came closest, the All-Ireland final of 2006, but given how they were being dominated it was a minor miracle, and testimony to their spirit, that the Rebels managed to make it a one-score game. They were given reasonable tests this year by Galway and Dublin in Leinster, but in previous years they had smashed their way

through their home province; in the All-Ireland series then, they had wins over Munster opposition on seven occasions, beating all five of the strong Munster counties in the process, four in All-Ireland finals.

By a long way, then, this four-in-a-row is the greatest single achievement (if such it can be labelled) in inter-county hurling history, out on its own. As for the other arguments, whether Henry is now indeed the greatest, whether this team is the finest, well, if seven All-Ireland titles already in this decade isn't evidence enough, there's still plenty of time for those particular arguments to be decided. This team isn't done yet, you see, not by a long chalk. And by the time they are, those two arguments could well be decided. Unless, of course, a certain someone from Tullaroan continues to rack up the honours...

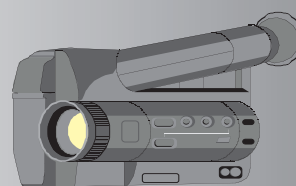
(Diarmuid O'Flynn is GAA Correspondent with the Irish Examiner)

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CALLAN MAN DAN WAS KILKENNYS YOUNGEST WINNING ALL-IRELAND CAPTAIN

By Liam Burke



Dan Stapleton who hailed from the townland of Tullamaine near Callan is Kilkennys youngest-ever All-Ireland Senior hurling winning captain. Dan who was born on May 14th 1886 was just 21 years and 47 days old when he captained Kilkenny to their second Senior hurling All-Ireland victory in a replayed 1905 final that was played in Dungarvan on June 30th 1907.

Cork actually won the first All-Ireland final of 1905, but Kilkenny objected on the grounds that the Cork goalkeeper Dan McCarthy was illegal because he was a reservist with the British Army. A Central Council meeting was held to deal with the said objection, and Cork counter objected claiming that Matt Gargan had played with Waterford in the Munster Championship. It seems that Matt admitted the charge, and following a lengthy discussion a replay was ordered.

The first game had been played in Tipperary Town but the replay was switched to Dan Fahers field in Dungarvan with a large crowd of 10,000 in attendance. This 1905 is also remembered as Kilkennys first All-Ireland victory in the famed black and amber jerseys.

Dan Stapleton who was a member of the famous Erins Own Club in Kilkenny City usually played on the half back line. He also figured on the victorious All-Ireland winning teams of 1904 and 1907. He also played with the Railway Shield team and refereed quite a number of hurling games including the Kilkenny County Senior hurling final of 1907. A chemist by profession Dan practiced in High Street in Kilkenny for a while before moving to Dublin shortly after the All-Ireland final of 1907. In Dublin, he worked as a forensic scientist for most of his life, and became a very prominent member of the Kilkennymens Association for many years.

Billy Fitzpatrick, Fenians 1975.

Billy Fitzpatrick of The Fenians Club in Johnstown has the honour of being Kilkennys second youngest Senior All-Ireland winning captain. Billy was born on April 6th 1954 and was 21 years and 154 days old when he led Kilkenny to their wonderful All-Ireland victory over Galway in 1975.

Few teams would have troubled Kilkenny on that first Sunday in September 1975 as they gave a magnificent performance. Even though the Fenians Clubman did not figure among the scorers, he still contributed handsomely to a wonderful attacking unit.

In 1975, it was reckoned among hurling followers in Kilkenny that Billy Fitzpatrick was one of our youngest All-Ireland winning captains,



as he had produced a masterful display while helping Kilkenny to a wonderful minor All-Ireland win in 1972 just three years previously. He actually scored 3-4 on that particular day, in a devastating victory over Cork which ensured the elusive double.

Billy Fitzpatrick arrived a few years after the rise to fame of the Fenians club holds County Senior Championship medals won in 1973, 1974, and 1977, also played on the Kilkenny All-Ireland victorious teams of 1974, 1979, 1982 and 1983. He

has also won numerous Leinster Senior medals as well as an All-Ireland under 21 medal won in 1974, and a Leinster Club Championship medal.

I still remember the 1983 All Ireland final as "Fitzs final" when he scored a massive 10 points.

Jimmy Walsh, Carrickshock. 1932.

Jimmy Walsh who was born just South of Ballyhale played most of his hurling with the famous Carrickshock club. He has the distinction of being Kilkennys third youngest All-Ireland winning captain.

Jimmy was born on February 4th 1911 and was 21 years and 222 days old when he captained Kilkenny to a great victory over Clare in 1932. The final was played on September 14th of that particular year. Jimmy arrived on the hurling scene with the emergence of the Carrickshock juniors when they won the County Final in 1928. He won his first county Senior hurling Championship medal with Carrickshock in 1931. The following year he captained Kilkenny. He also played on three other All-Ireland winning teams in 1933, 1935 and 1939 when he was again the captain. Jimmy who usually played on the half back line or in the middle of the field had a fine game in that "Thunder and Lightning" final of 1939.

The Carrickshock clubman also won County Senior Championship medals with Carrickshock in 1931, and 1938 as well as the famous four-in-a-row 1940 to 1943. Jimmy Walsh played his last hurling game for his club when he came on as a substitute in the 1946 County Senior final against Thomastown.



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Camogie Reports

Blacks & Whites



Club Officers 2009

Chairperson	Brid Moloney.
Vice-Chair	Orla Dalton.
Secretary	Breda O'Dowd.
Treasurer	Carolyn O'Dowd

Blacks & Whites Camogie club entered teams from U12, U14, U16, U18, U21 and Junior this year.

Underage

At underage the U-12 team reached the final and were beaten by Clara. At U-14 grade they reached the semi-final of the Shield and were beaten by Callan. Our U-12 & U-14 teams this year were looked after by Rosanna Doyle and Donal O'Brien who did great work this year. In the U-16 championship we played Paulstown in the quarter final, unfortunately due to an error in the final result given, we saw the match awarded to Paulstown. In the U18 championship, which is still ongoing we are at the quarter final stage and will play Mooncoin on 31st October. The U-21 championship has not as yet commenced, but will start in November.

Junior

In the Junior Championship we went a step further this year and reached the semi-final to be beaten by Dicksboro who went on to win out the Championship. We had some success in the Junior All County League final when we beat Glenmore in that competition.

All Ireland 7 A Side

This year for the first time we entered a team in the All Ireland Camogie 7-A side competition in September which was run by Kilmacud Crokes. Although we didn't have our strongest team travelling on the day, we did take part and had an enjoyable day. We played three matches, lost one, drew one and won one.

Bereavements

During the year a number of people involved with the Club had bereavements and our sympathies go to the following : Dunne Family, Brandon Park, Murphy Family, Courtnaboughila, Moloney Family, Coolyhune, Carroll Family, Boherkyle and O'Brien Family, Courtnaboughila. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad.

Fund Raising

We had two fundraising events organised by the Junior team this year. One was the sale of tickets prior to the All Ireland Hurling final of the time of the first goal. The second was the Bag Packing which we do each Christmas in Dunnes Stores.

Thanks

Our thanks go to the Blacks & Whites GAA Club for the use of the field and facilities at all times. Also to our trainer Denis Carroll for his great work this year and anyone else who helped with the teams. To our supporters and parents thank you for your support through out the year.



Blacks & Whites - Junior All County League Winners

Back: Aoife Farrell, Aoife Carroll, Elizabeth Barcoe, Claire Kirwan, Brid Kelly, Melissa Dunne, Caroline O'Brien, Emma Carroll, Brid Doran, Maeve Dalton.

Front: Sinead Kelly, Emily Murphy, Kelly-Anne Whelan, Lorraine Murphy, Anne-Marie Lennon, Emma Ryan, Anne-Marie Moloney, Carolyn O'Dowd.



All Ireland Camogie 7 A Side

Back: Kelly-Ann Whelan, Emily Murphy, Brid Kelly, Anne-Marie Lennon, Aine Doran, Emma Carroll, Catriona Murphy.
Front: Carolyn O'Dowd, Eleanor Brennan and Melissa Dunne.



Blacks & Whites - Kilkeny Junior Champions 1933, defeating James Stephens by 3-1 to 0-0

Back: Jim Moylan, trainer, Bramblestown; Muriel Hennessy, Paulstown; Biddy Hayden, Moonteenmore; Katty Barcoe, Coolatogher; Nell Kelly, Curraghlane Upper; May Gorey, Sheepstown; Mary Molone, Annalack Upper; Allie Corcoran, Bramblestown; Jim Murphy.

Front: Aggie Kennedy, Sheepstown; Babs Moylan, Bramblestown; Statia Malone, Annalack Upper; Biddy Doherty, Tinnahinch; Breda Kelly, Curraghlane; "Toss" Ryan, Killeen; Nan Barcoe, Coolatogher. Photo: Ned Moran

Carrickshock Camogie Reports

Carrickshock



Club Officers 2009

Chairman	William Power
Vice-Chairperson	Paula Kenneally
Secretary	Linda Power
PRO	Lisa Millea
Treasurer	Anita Dalton

2009 was not a year the club had much if any success on the playing field but they did manage to field teams at under-age (U8, U10, U12), U14, Minor and Junior levels. The under-age scene in the Club was helped greatly this year when the club held a "Fun Day" in early April to promote Camogie in the parish. This day was a great success and was enjoyed by all and there was a large attendance on the day. The high-light of the under-age scene this year had to be the involvement of the U-10's in the mini-seven's at half-time in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Final game between Kilkenny and Galway on the 15th August. It was great to see the "Shock" ladies grace Nowlan Park again even if it be at such a young age but hopefully it will be start of good years to come for these young girls! The Year was rounded off with a trip to the Dome in Carlow for the juvenile players which was enjoyed by all.

Inter County Players/ Colleges / Schools

Congratulations to Mairead Power who was yet again a member of the victorious Kilkenny Minor 4-in-a-row All-Ireland winning team and who along with Katie Farrell was also a member of the St. Brigid's College All-Ireland "A" winning team. Congratulations to Stacy Power on winning an Ashbourne Cup medal with WIT and commiserations to Jenny Dunne, Sarah Healy, Christine Power, Denise Kenneally and Tara Gaule who were part of the Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale team who reached the Leinster "B" College's Final but were defeated on the day.



Carrickshock U-10 Camogie Team 2009

Back: Margaret Irish, Tia Farrell, Hannah O'Connor, Kia Dwyer, Samira Fitzpatrick, Orla Grace, Grace Aylward.

Front: Edwina Aylward, Kerri-Ann Power, Caitlin Roche, Danielle Cahill, Sinead Crowley, Shauna O'Dwyer.

Football

The football club had a quiet year but managed to field a team for 2009.

Handball

Well done to Marie Walsh and her sister Karen whom both had a very successful year on the handball front in 2009. Marie won an All-Ireland medal in the U-16 60 X 30 Singles Competition and Karen had success also in the U-12 40 X 20 Leinster Doubles Competition.

New Jerseys

The Club acquired a new set of jersey's this year for the Junior panel thanks to the kind generosity and sponsorship of John Mc Donald of The Field Bar.

Bereavements

The club wishes to extend sincere sympathy to all those who suffered bereavements throughout the year. To the Power Family, Condonstown, Gorey Family, Sheepstown, Treacy Family, Clara and anyone who had been associated with the club and has been omitted. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

Thank You

A sincere thanks to all who helped in anyway in 2009 with regard to organisation, coaching and training, transport to matches, fund-raising etc. – Go raibh mile maith agaibh!



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Camogie Reports

Clara



A Busy Year

The U10 team participated in the County U10 Blitz and played in Emeralds, O'Loughlins, Tullaroan with the final taking place in Clara. The girls competed very well in all of the games. The school camogie team reached the final of the INTO Mini Sevens and were unlucky to lose out on the day. The U12 team won the county final in a keenly fought match against Blacks and Whites on a scoreline 5-4 to 2-2. Our U14 team competed in Roinn A and were beaten by Dicksboro in the semi-final. The U16 competition is still on going and we are due to play Mullinavat in the final. The minor team won the 2008 B Final, competed in Roinn A and were beaten the quarter final by Thomastown. The U21 Championship is still ongoing. The Intermediate team were beaten by St. Anne's in the semi-final of the League also reached the semi-final of the All County League and were defeated by James Stephens. Clara got revenge on James Stephens as the girls beat them in the quarter final and unfortunately were beaten by The Rower-Inistioge in the Championship semi-final.

Congratulations

Dianamh Phelan, Deirdre Carrigan, Tamsin English and Siobhan O'Carroll who participated in the Kilkenny Development Squad. Ciara Byrne, Mary O'Connell, Claire Nolan, Aishling Nolan - Kilkenny U14 Leinster Champions. Aisling Curtis, Isabel Robinson and Leasa Byrne - members of the U16 Kilkenny Team. Niamh Byrne - U18 Kilkenny All Ireland Champions, Roisin Byrne and Niamh Byrne - Kilkenny Intermediate Team.

Generous Sponsors

Furthermore the club would like to sincerely thank our most generous sponsors; The Bodhrán Bar, Halifax and Michéal Nolan Kitchen's and to all who contributed to our fundraising activities. We would also like to thank all coaches and selectors for their hard work and look forward to their continued support in 2010.

Clara U18 Camogie 2008 "B" Champions

Back: Aishling Curtis, Margaret Rafter, Brid Murphy, Leasa Byrne, Roisin Byrne, Olive Langton, Catherine Nolan, Niamh Byrne, Isabel Robinson, Keira Barcoe.

Front: Catherine Murphy, Aishling Nolan, Ciara Byrne, Mary O'Connell, Ruth Bergin, Claire Murphy, Aoife Murphy, Fiona Nolan, Claire Nolan, Orla Quinlan.



Clara U10 Camogie Team 2009

Back: Leah Carroll, Shauna Treacy, Evie O'Brien, Stacy O'Carroll, Madeline Brennan, Margaret O'Connell, Aishling McGarry, Rachel Murphy, Maria Shortall, Rebecca Nolan, Caithlin Farrell, Niamh Mulrooney
Front: Olivia Casey, Michelle Bergin, Kelly Brennan, Ruth Cassin, Caithlin Campion, Muireann Twomey, Aoife Heeran, Aoife Treacy, Isabelle Bergin and Lucy Power.



Clara U12 County Champions 2009

Back: Sarah Molloy, Aishling Delaney, Áine McDonald, Ciara Treacy, Jane Maher, Roisin Kealy, Doireann Harding, Niamh Treacy, Siobhan Curtis, Lisa Kehoe (c), Blaithe Breen.
Front: Rachel Murphy, Michelle Bergin, Olivia Casey, Caithlin Farrell, Maria Shortall, Aoife Glynn, Mary O'Connell, Sarah Bergin, Niamh Mulrooney.



Camogie Reports

Conahy Shamrocks



Newly formed Conahy Camogie Club enjoyed a wonderful year, participating Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 levels. 44 girls aged between 6 to 12 yrs were registered.

Our Under 8 team played a number of challenges with neighbouring clubs and great enjoyment was had by all. Our Under 10 team had a very successful year, winning the Northern Blitz run by the County Board. They went undefeated in nine games over the summer. In the final they played Clara, putting in a wonderful display to win by a goal. This was a great feat in our first year. Well done to all the girls.

Our Under 12 team was in a very tough group but qualified for the quarter final stage with victories over Castlecomer and Callan. They faced James Stephens in the quarter final. Stephens had beaten Conahy in the earlier rounds but the Conahy girls put in a huge effort in training and pulled off a famous victory over their city rivals and advanced to the semi-finals. They faced well established St Bridgets in the semi-final. Conahy were within striking distance of the final for long periods of the game. Their opponents, who had many girls up to the age, pulled away in the dying moments to reach the final.

All in all it was a great year for the Under 12's.

The club would like to thank the following mentors for their time and work with the girls, Rebecca McEntee, Ria Molyneux, Miriam Mulhall, Peter Ring, Liam Murphy, Pat Morrissey, Mary Mullen, Ellen Phelan, Mariga Nolan, Paddy Delaney, and to Nuala Curran and Eileen Mulhall for looking after the Schools Camoige team.

Conahy Camogie U-10 Panel 2009

Back row ; Ciara Birch, Evelyn Phelan, Aoife Birch, Claire Maher, Pamela Byrne, Aishling Maher, Emma Cahill, Siobhan Mullen, Megan Cuddihy.
Front row ; Marie Claire Gamble, Lisa Coogan, Emma Mollenaux, Roisin Nolan, Alice Byrne, Hannah Murphy, Danielle Morrissey, Chloe Leahy.



Conahy Camogie U-12 Panel 2009

Back row ; Lauren Quinn, Aisling Byrne, Sarah Molloy, Niamh Delaney, Claire McEntee, Amy Morrissey, Ciara Curran, Aoife Nolan, Roisin Phelan, Caoimhe Bergin, Ornagh Dunne.
Front row ; Claire Maher, Evelyn Phelan, Marie Claire Gamble, Aoife Birch, Danielle Morrissey, Aishling Maher, Rachel Birch, Ciara Birch, Hannah Murphy, Emma Cahill, Siobhan Mullen, Pamela Byrne.



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Camogie Reports

Dicksboro



A Great Year!

It's been another big year for the Club, winning our first 'A' championship and also winning the Junior 'A' county final to return to the intermediate grade. There is a very good underage structure in place and it can be seen by the amount of girls that have turned up twice a week to enjoy their training sessions and matches. At U6/8/10 level Dicksboro have enjoyed plenty of challenge matches and blitzes, travelling to Piltown and Danesfort. The U-12 panel was big enough this year to enter 2 teams into the competition. The teams played in two separate groups. One team made it to the semi final and the other team made it to the final but were beaten by Freshford 3-05 to 2-03. Great commitment was shown by these teams throughout the year. Our U-14 team reached the Roinn A final where they came up against a strong Thomastown side but none the less never gave up losing 4-07 to 3-05.

Under Sixteen Success

The U-16 team reached the Roinn A final against Gowran and brought history to the club by being the first winners of a Roinn A title for our club 4-07 to 3-05. It was a cracking game with Gowran playing some great camogie and showing fantastic skill. Our girls rallied in the second half showing some great determination and plenty of skill of their own to win by five points. Many thanks to all our supporters who turned up to witness a great result and the very first 'A' success.

Showing great courage our U-18 girls bowed out of the Roinn A title at semi final stage. The U-21 Roinn A competition is ongoing. Our Junior 'A' girls had their first title win this



Dicksboro U-16 Camogie Champions

Back: Lauren Martin, Rebecca Knox, Jenny Hayes, Niamh O'Connor, Claire Nolan, Louise Kenny, Rachel Lynch, Muireann Brennan, Sarah Hennessy, Laura Cody, Rachel Doyle, Sonia Buggy, Laura Lacey.
Front: Lucy Sherwin, Niamh Tynan, Alex Horan, Rachel Bawle, Orla Hanrick, Nicola Tynan, Kirsty Maher, Eva Maher, Ciara Tyrrell.

year in the league final by beating Danesfort 4-09 to 1-06 and then they made it to the Junior 'A' final. They beat Glenmore 3-07 to 2-06 in the Championship Final in Thomastown and are now promoted to the Intermediate competition for 2010. The girls trained hard all year and it showed in their gutsy and skilful performance. Congratulations to the girls and the management team on a supreme job. Again the supporters were fantastic and we wish to thank them all.

County Representatives

Congratulations to all our players who represented their county throughout the year. We had players in the successful U-14, U-16 and

U-18 county panels as well as the intermediate panel. Congratulations also to those girls who are part of the Coillte Development squad. We would like also to congratulate Pat Kelly for steering the county U-14s to another great success this year. Many thanks to all our valued trainers and to everyone who helped us throughout the year.

Development

Our club have enjoyed Lá Na gClub, an outing to the Camogie All Ireland where three bus load went to Croke Park. We have helped fund-raise for the camogie county board and also for 'King of the Castle'.

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Camogie Reports

Glenmore



Junior

2009 was a productive year for Junior Team. The year commenced by running in St. Joseph's athletic club thanks to them for the use of their facilities, and indoor strength/fitness training with Marie Griffin who is thanked for all her great work.

The league campaign was not our best for a few years. This brought us into 1st Round of the championship beating Gowran, then beating Danesfort in the semi-final, and meeting Dicksboro in the county final. All the hard work, effort & commitment throughout the year was shown on this day but unfortunately we were beaten by four points. We topped our group in the All County League, and met Blacks & White's in the final, but unfortunately were beaten on the day. Great efforts made by all throughout the year saw us go through to the final of 2 of the 3 competitions up for grabs, here's to 2010 and going a step further and winning.



Glenmore Camogie U-12 County Champions 2009

U-16

Fielding a young team, the girls worked hard and did well in their Roinn to get through to the semi-final but were beaten by Johnstown.

U-14

The U14 team had been entered into a new 12-a-side league this year, did very well, got through to the semi-final but were beaten by St. Brigids.

Acknowledgements

Congratulations to Ruth Jones and Claire Aylward on winning All-Ireland and Leinster medals with Kilkenny minors. Ruth also made the Kilkenny Intermediate panel this year. Thanks to all who supported us throughout the year, especially our sponsors Mernagh Transport. Thanks to David Beirne at McInerneys and John Malone for their generous sponsorship. We must also give great credit to our kit woman Mary Long. Thanks to our trainer Neddie Aylward, selector Josephine Dowling, physio Martina Nathan for their hard work and commitment. Thanks to Glenmore GAA for their continued support. We wish to extend sympathy to those who suffered any loss throughout the year.



Glenmore - County Junior Camogie finalists
Missing from photo: Elaine Malone

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Camogie Reports

Graignamanagh



The club was formed in November 2008.

Chairperson: Marian O'Neill
Asst Chair: Catherine O'Shea
Secretary: Ann Byrne
Treasurer: Noeleen Neville

Early Days

In January we started fundraising by doing bag-packing and we also got some generous donations. A sincere thank you to everyone for their generosity and also to the parents and children who helped.

We then proceeded to look for players and gathered enough girls to make an U10 and U12 team. We also have some U8 and U6 players. From there, we set up the registration, membership and insurance of the club.

Much to our delight, we got a number of volunteers to train the girls: they were Kelly-Ann Whelan, Ger O'Reilly, John Meaney, Joe Fox, Tom Walsh, Johnny Prendergast and Orla Prendergast.



Happy Days!

A group of enthusiastic camogie players and fans in Graignamanagh

Games

Training started in May with a fun-day, and from there on everything fell into place. All the girls showed great interest and enthusiasm.

We had training for an hour twice a week. We organised the U12 girls to play in the St. Canice's Credit Union Championship, so that they would gain experience at a competitive level. We also organised challenge matches for them with neighbouring clubs.

The U10 team got their chance by playing in a blitz over the summer, playing matches against Thomastown, The Rower/Inistioge, James Stephens, Danesfort and Shamrocks.

We organised another fun-day in our GAA pitch near the end of August. We had a 7 aside blitz at all age levels within the club, races and activities for the girls and we also organised a raffle. We had plenty of food and drinks for everyone, including families and friends.

Highlight of the Year

The highlight of the year was when the U12 girls were invited to play in the Gala All Ireland Mini-Games competition during the interval of the Junior Final on September 13th in Croke Park. This was very exciting for the girls. They did their best on the day, but alas were defeated by a very strong and skilful Cork team.

They were not disappointed and enjoyed the whole atmosphere of the day. They stayed and watched the senior girls play and also the U21 hurlers.

At the moment we have seventy members. We are very happy with the progress of the girls during the summer and we hope that they go from strength to strength.

Thanks for the Help

We would also like to thank Jenny Duffy and Catherine Neary for giving us ideas about starting the club. Also the local hurlers and their trainers for their co-operation in sharing the pitch with us at some of the training sessions. Thanks also to Mary O'Donnell and Hughie Flood.

We would like to express our heart-felt gratitude to all of our trainers who have kindly given their time and energy.

Ger O'Reilly has recently started doing training with some classes in the local Primary School during school hours. Consequently we hope to have more members next year.

We always welcome more parents to become involved in the club and give us ideas on how we can improve.



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CENTRA

Camogie Reports

James Stephens



Officers 2009

Chair	Ann Mulholland
Vice Chair	Marie Neary
Secretary	Helena O'Rourke
Treasurer	Orla Neary
Children's Officer	Niamh Bulter
Players Rep.	Aoife Gorey

U-14 Success

Our success story this year was our U-14 team. They are a young team, but under the management of Paul Whelan, Martin Murray, Liz Lawlor and Nigel Pratt, went all the way to the Roinn C County Final and beating Young Irelands in the replay, became County Champions of 2009. The panel worked hard together all year and had great leadership in Captain Aoife Butler. Some of the girls also made the Kilkenny Coillte squads and the U-15 KK development squad. Well done to Aoife Bulter, Chelsea Power, Nicole Lawlor and Leanne Dowling. Thank you to everyone who was involved with the team, to all the players, managers and parents who supported the team at every game and every fundraiser throughout the year.

Quality Coaching

Our U-10's had an enjoyable year, training every week and taking part in the U-10 club blitz throughout the summer. We are building up our numbers thanks to the enthusiasm and encouragement of parents and our local schools, St John of God, Gaeilscoil Osrai and Kilkenny School Project. Thank you to all our coaches/parents who helped out throughout the year, Ann Mulholland, Tara Mulholland, Sonia Moran, Mary McGrath, Ellie Lacey and Amy Mulholland. Our U-12's have been training hard all year and numbers are good. We started the league well with some good wins but later met



James Stephens U-14 Camogie Roinn B Champions

Back: Aisling McGrath, Chloe Hughes, Latoya Power, Aoife Butler, Chelsea Power, Catherine Doyle, Nicole Lawlor, Niamh Ayres, Ciara O'Dwyer, Ciara McGrath, Jackie Rainey, Leanne Glennon, Fionnula Walton.
Front: Lucy Teehan, Orla Conlon, Aoife Brassil, Aisling Begley, Becky Leahy, Sarah O'Brien, Rachel Tyrrell, Megan Lacey, Ciara McCormack, Chloe Power.

Absent from photo: Sophie O'Dwyer, Amy Devlin, Josie Carthy.

stronger opposition. We will continue to work and improve next year. Thank you to Ailish Cantwell and Kieran Howley for all their hard work this year.

The U-16's were a very young side this year and have great potential to do well in the next season, thanks to Mark Tyrell and Paul Whelan for their work this year.

Intermediate News

Our Intermediate team had mixed success this year. The team went out of the League at an early stage, however, with some great wins along the way, they reached the final of the All County League and lost to a strong Lisdowney side. Meeting the same team in the first round of the championship was going to be difficult but the team showed great spirit and beat Lisdowney. Meeting Clara in the quarter final,

the team were unable to show the same form and unfortunately bowed out of the championship. We will build on the dedication of the players for next season and will hope for more success. Thanks to Manager John McCormack and Catherine Neary for their hard work this year.

Our club was well represented by Aoife Neary on the Kilkenny All Ireland team this year and Aoife did the club proud and we hope that next year will be a more successful one for her and the Kilkenny team.

The club had great fun hosting 80 girls from Faughs camogie club [Dublin] early this year, and played blitzes for all age groups on the day. We will hope to continue this kind of event in the coming year and revive the indoor camogie games for our juvenile girls in the early part of next year.

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Camogie Reports

Kilmacow



In 2009, our third year since foundation, the membership has grown to 65 players and 16 committee members, including 10 trainers. It was an exciting year with all teams participating in the championship. Because of the large amount of U12 players we were able to enter two teams to the championship.

La na gClub

A good day was had, where the camogie players lined out with the Hurlers to parade around the pitch after a pipe band. It was a wonderful spectacle on a sunny day and was followed by camogie games and skills competitions.

This is how our teams fared.

Under 10 girls have been involved in the Piltown U10 Blitz throughout the Summer, they eventually reached the final, played in Slieverue on 12th September, where they were narrowly beaten by an excellent Glenmore team.

The under 12 team 1 were beaten in extra time of their Semi-Final The under 12 team 2 were beaten in their divisional Final.

The under 14 girls got to the shield Final but were beaten on the night. They had great wins over Slieverue and Castlecomer.

The under 16 team had a thrilling win over Glenmore in the first round of the championship, but were narrowly beaten in the quarter final. During the year Tea and biscuits were layed on for visiting teams who had a long drive to the club.

The first annual awards night was held at the community hall on the 17th October and there was a huge crowd present for a most successful night, tea and refreshments were provided by the parents and a large selection of pictures from the past year were on display. Medals were presented to all the juvenile players by Michelle Quilty from the Senior Camogie team. Thanks was expressed to the players, trainers, committee, friends, par-



U14 Team: Shannon Walsh, Grainne Dolan, Megan Butler Sinead Doody, Kate Irish, Beibhinn O'Neill, Niamh Kelly, Niamh O'Connor, Clare Purcell, Sarah Molloy, Caoimhe O'Dwyer, Ciara Kelly, Amy Williams, Leanne Purcell, Danielle Dempsey, Anne Hayden, Ciara Doody, Tara Lacey. Not shown in picture Orla Walsh.
Trainers: Mickey Lannon Angela O'Dwyer



U10 Team: Kathleen Croke, Fiona Cullinane, Roisin Cleary, Eve Lacey, Erin Ryan, Cliona Murphy, Sinead McEvoy, Ruth Crowe, Sallyanne Williams, Hannah Lacey, Aine Phelan, Annemarie Moloney, Grace Blanchfield, Molly Murray. Trainers: Geraldine Williams, John Cullinane, & Fiona Croke

ents and sponsors for all their help in the past year. A booklet was given out on the night which had details of the year's activity.

Chairman: Toby Vereker

Secretary: Marcella Sweeney

Treasurer: Helen Cullinane

PRO: Geraldine Williams

Vice Treasurer: Olivia Twomey

Vice Secretary: Martina Harney

Vice Chairman: Tom Deegan



U16 Team: Karen Costello, Aoife Dennehy, Sarah Molloy, Rachel Cashin, Ciara Vereker, Ciara Kennedy, Clare Purcell, Caoimhe O'Dwyer, Amy Williams, Leanne Purcell, Claudia Langford, Megan Butler, Shannon Walsh, Tara Lacey, Kate Irish, Niamh O'Connor, Ciara Kelly, Kate Hennessy, Niamh Kelly.
Not shown in picture Sinead Doody, Grainne Dolan, Ciara Cullinane, Laura O'Shea
Trainers: Toby Vereker & Kay Kelly



U12 Team 2: Hannah Daniels, Shauna Cummins, Danielle Dempsey, Eimer Dolan, Mairead Maguire, Fiona Doyle, Caoimhe Lowe, Emma Corcoran, Lauren Tobin, Lucy Hennessy, Sallyanne Williams, Fiona Cullinane, Roisin Dennehy, Molly Harney, Becky Dowling, Alanna Dowling, Cliona Murphy, Sinead McEvoy, Roisin Cleary, Eve Lacey, Amy Ahearne, Sheonagh Croke. Trainers: Mike Dolan, Gerry Drohan



U12 Team 1: Nollaig Drohan, Anne Marie O'Neill, Mairead Maguire, Ciara Doody B, Clare McEvoy, Niamh Kelly, Ann-Marie Kearney, Anne Hayden, Orlaith Deegan, Eimer Dolan, Lauren Tobin, Aishling Walsh, Danielle Dempsey, Tara Lacey, Alanna Dowling.
Not shown in picture Avril Williams, Jessica Walsh, Niamh Condon.
Trainers: Bill Cummins, Bernadette Deegan

Camogie Reports

Lisdowney



Mixed Fortunes

To date Lisdowney Camogie Club has had a mixed bag of luck in the 2009 season. The year commenced in February with the deferred 2008 inor county semi-final ending in defeat to Clara. This was followed by three rounds of the intermediate league/championship March/April resulting with defeats to the Rower and Clara and victory over Piltown.

All County League

In the interim the team took part in the All County Intermediate League where victories were gained at the hands of Clara, St Anne's and Tullogher leading to a semi-final clash against Piltown with Lisdowney emerging winners in a close contest. Opponents for the final were James Stephens with Lisdowney emerging convincing winners.

Championship

But what a difference a week can make as James Stephens extracted revenge knocking us out in the first round of the

Championship by two points, leaving us in a relegation play-off. This game was against Tullogher with Lisdowney were victorious ensuring intermediate status for 2010.

Praise must go to all the girls for their commitment to training throughout a long year and their mentors Brian McCarthy and Damien Walshe.

Under Age

Although no competitions were won at this level the girls are of a very young age and have shown a huge level of improvement in their skills from 2008. This is down to the hard work being put in by Eithne Downey, Karen Cahill, Kay Grace and Anna Whelan and the commitment of these young girls to their training.

County Representatives

The Club was represented by Claire Phelan, Kate Holland, Tracey Brennan and Aoife Murphy at U16 level, congratulations to them on winning

Leinster medals, they were beaten by Galway in the All Ireland semi final.

Eimear Mulhall, Noreen Murphy, Claire Phelan, Kate Holland and Aoife Murphy were on the victorious Kilkenny minor team who beat Clare in the All Ireland Final.

Good Luck to Minors

Our minor team has reached the Roinn B county final against St Brigid's, Ballycallan with victories over Gowran and Piltown along the way. Following on from this final will be the commencement of the U21 championship where our first round opponents will be the Rower-Inistioge.

Thanks for the Support

In conclusion we would like to thank all the people who have given their time and support so willingly to the running of our Club both on and off the field of play and to our loyal band of supporters.



Lisdowney - All County Intermediate League Champions 2009

Back: Anna Whelan, Jeanette Boran, Emma Brophy, Meave Gannon, Sarah Staunton, Eavan Delaney, Kate Holland, Siobhan Holland, Kelly Ann Quinn, Mary Brennan, Michelle Holland, Lisa Hickey, Sandra Gleeson.

Front: Damien Walshe, Noreen Murphy, Eimear Mulhall, Jackie Mansfield, Ruth Brennan, Katie Delaney, Tracy Brennan, Julie Mackey (Capt.), Kathleen Dowling, Claire Phelan, Aoife Murphy, Linda Sweeney, Grace Murphy, Jimmy Skehan. Mascot: Kiera Walshe.

Absent from Photo: Louise Hogan, Yvonne McCarthy, Brian McCarthy.

Camogie Reports

Mooncoin



Club Officers 2009

Chairperson	Mai Murphy
Secretary	Ann Gahan
	Collette Doyle
Treasurer	Valerie Phelan
PRO	Margaret Grace
	Laura Wall

Underage

This year, the club entered teams at primary schools, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 levels. At every age group, huge work went into the teams from managers, players and parents alike. The highlights of the year included our U14's reaching the semi final, where they were unfortunately beaten, and our U16's great run in their competition.

Junior B

2009 marked great success for the club at Junior level. The team had many exciting and competitive games in both the All-County League, in which they reached the semi final, and the Junior B league. The combined dedication of all the team members and manager, Ollie Dunphy, resulted in the team reaching the county final after a cracking semi-final against O'Loughlins. Despite the best efforts of all, the team was



Mooncoin - Junior Camogie Finalists 2009

Back: Ollie Dunphy (Manager), Kay Quinn, Samantha Foran, Jean O' Hanlon, Siobhan Delahunty, Paula Phelan, Sarah Crowley, Geena Henebery, Emma Henebery, Hannah Ryan, Shauna Walsh, Siobhan Brennan, Ellen Crowley, Mai Murphy, Eithne Connolly, Eveleen Rowe
Front: Kim Kelly, Laura Wall, Deirdre Connolly, Eleanor Walsh, Aisling Walsh, Margaret Grace, Sarah Kearns, Eva Aylward.

defeated by a strong Tullaroan side in the final. The team made great progress and will return in 2010 with their eyes set on going one step further.

County Players

The club was represented at County level

by Deirdre Walsh at U14, and Sarah Crowley at U16.

Thanks

The club would like to thank all their supporters and sponsors who have been such a help throughout the year.

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Camogie Reports

O'Loughlin Gaels



Club Officers 2009

Chairman	Jim Kavanagh
Treasurer	Eileen Cleere
Vice-Chairman	Gerry Buckley
Registrar	John Claffey
Secretary	Pat Stapleton
PRO:	TJ Bryan

2009 was a relatively good year for the club who were competitive in all grades this year fielding teams at U-12, 14, 16, 18, 21 and junior level. We had a very successful league campaign at junior level reaching the final for the first time, unfortunately Tullaroan beat us on the day. The following weekend we exited the championship at the semi-final stage losing to Mooncoin by a point after conceding a last minute goal. This was a particularly tough defeat for the girls as due to illness and work commitments we had to field without several regulars on the day. As going to press the U-21 and U-18 competitions have not yet finished. Our U-16 girls lost out at the quarter final stage of the championship, while our u-14 and U-12 teams both lost out at the semi-final stage of the championship.

Blitzes

Our U-6s and U-8s saw great numbers involved during the year and have shown steady improvement as the year went on, the U-10s had a good year and competed well in all the blitzes in which they participated. The younger girls also took part in the clubs summer camps and street leagues along with the clubs Lá na gClub day which proved to be a great success. Well done to the organizing committees of the above events.

Inter County Players

At inter-county level Tara Conry and Kate



O'Loughlin Gaels - Junior Camogie team 2009

Back: Shem McEvoy, Jean Delaney, Aoife Wadding, Pamela Dwyer, Rebecca Cleere, Sarah Morrissey, Kate Nolan, Ann Marie Kelly, Jane Meagher Flynn, Aisling Butler, Laura Butler, Richie Delaney, Jim Kavanagh.

Middle: Gerry Buckley, Lizzie Kavanagh, Amy Bryan, Karen Cleere, Samantha Mnugi, Sarah Burke, Marina Tyrell, Ena Kearns, Eimear Rogers, Aoife Nolan.

Front: Sarah Twomey, Sarah Buckley, Celine Eardly, Mags Shortall, Annie Dunne, Tara Conry, Stephanie Buckley, Aoife Claffey.

Walsh were part of the U-14 Coillte development squad for 2009 and got to play in Croke park on the October Bank Holiday. Amy Bryan was a member of the Kilkenny U-14 county camogie team who won the leinster final for 2009.

helped out in any way throughout the year in the running of the club, especially MacDonagh Junction and anyone who helped out with Coaching, fundraising and transport for the year. The camogie club would also like to thank O'Loughlin Gaels GAA club for the use of their pitches and facilities and for all their other help and support during the year.

Generous Support

Many thanks to all those who supported or



O'Loughlin Gaels U-14 Camogie Team 2009

Back: Pat Stapleton, Jessie Murphy, Niamh Phelan, Fiona Whitley, Eimear Daly, Amy Bryan, Tara Conry, Sarah McGeeney, Becky Doyle, Katelyn Leahy, Sarah Buckley.

Front: Catherine Bergin, Sophie Stapleton, Laura Greene, Laura Murphy, Bronagh Cleere, Lizzie Twomey, Chloe Tyrell, Caoimhe Treacy, Saoirse Claffey, Grainne Walsh.



Club Officers

Chairman	Jim Malone
Vice Chair	Catherine McCarthy
Secretary	Kate Foley
Treasurer	Eileen Dunne
PRO	Sheila Norris
Children's Officer	Miriam Reid

Great Success in 2009

2009 has been another great year for Piltown with success dominated by the Under-14 team, as well as superb inter-county performances by Katie Power and Karen Duggan.

Intermediate

Piltown achieved safety in their debut year in Intermediate at an early stage. They reached the semi-final of the league but were beaten by Paulstown. In the ACL, defeat was by Lisdowney. Despite a brave performance in the Championship, Piltown were beaten in the quarter-final by the Rower Instioge. The U21's have reached the quarter final to date.

Minor and U16

The minor team reached the Roinn B semi-final against Lisdowney. They put up a spirited performance to lose by only five points. The Under-16's punched well above their weight before losing to Clara in an exciting Roinn C semi-final by 5-7 to 6-7.

U14

It was a magnificent year for the U14 team. They started by winning the County Community Games against St. Brigid's. St. Lachtain's beat them in the county final of Féile Na nGael. Then they took the club's first U14 county championship since 2002. The adventure continued in the Community Games. The Leinster campaign resulted in victories over Glynn-Barntown, Myshall, Shinrone before an exciting Leinster final win over Lucan Sarsfields by 1-6 to 2-2. It was then on to the National Finals in Athlone. Despite defeat to Bullaun/New Inn (Galway), the girls recovered their composure to beat Sheelin (Cavan) by 7-6 to 0-0 to secure the coveted bronze medals.

U12 and U10

Piltown Primary school team reached the Roinn A final for the first time and were just

Piltown U14 team - Roinn B Champions

Back: Tom Holden (Mentor), Andrew McCarthy (Mentor), Rebecca Kelly, April Kelly, Chloe Holden, Sinead McCarthy, Kate-Lynn Phelan, Ellen Commins, Siobhan Dermody, Alice Talbot, Antonia Power, Edel Long, Niamh Dermody (Capt), Miriam Reid (Mentor), Gay Doyle (Mentor)
Front: Nicola Phelan, Sinead Walsh, Ciara Phelan, Jean Power, Lisa McCarthy, Sarah Murphy, Chloe Blackmore, Kelly Ann Doyle, Debbie Phelan, Lorraine Long, Sorcha Phelan, Jennifer Norris, Shauna Coady.



beaten by St. Canice's 2-3 to 3-3. The U12 team reached their Group final but went down to Glenmore.

The club hosted its inaugural U12 tournament and Piltown won the Ann Dwan Memorial Trophy under lights when they beat Thomastown 2-2 to 0-1 in the final. The numbers playing at U10 and below have grown incredibly this year.

County Scene

Katie Power's performances earned her an All-Star nomination and a place on the Sunday Game 'Team of the Year'.

Karen Duggan won All-Ireland and Leinster medals at minor level while Edel Long and Niamh Dermody won U14 Leinster medals. Laura Norris and Nicole Culleton claimed U16 Leinster medals.

Antonia Power, Lorraine Long, Jennifer Norris, Sinead McCarthy and Sorcha Phelan were part of the Coillte U14 development squads.



Chriessie Dwan Presents Piltown U12 Captain Chloe Holden with the Ann Dwan Memorial Cup.



Piltown U12 team - Winners of the Ann Dwan Memorial Cup.

Back: Fiona Long, Nicola Phelan, April Kelly, Kelly Ann Dunne, Chloe Holden (Capt), Chloe Blackmore, Sinead Walsh, Aoife Norris, Rebecca Kelly.

Front: Sarah Jane Brophy, Sophie Holden, Lisa McCarthy, Aoife Doyle, Stacy O'Brien, Alana Gallagher, Shauna Coady, Emily McCarthy.

Camogie Reports

St Brigid's



Club Officers 2009

Chairperson	Anne Boland
Vice - Chair	Billy Neary
	Galacia Ryall
Secretary	Josie Ronan
Asst Sec	Ann M Ryall
Treasurer	Bernie Ryall
PRO:	Hilary Murphy

Primary School

Great work continues in the school promoting the game. Rewards for such dedication has shown this year with our school team being beaten by one point in the County final. Great credit to all the girls and their very dedicated trainer Helen Murphy.

Secondary Schools

The club had no less than ten girls on Loreto panels winning 7 a side medals, Leinster medals and Junior All Ireland medals, Ashling Dunphy, Nicola Butler, Amy O Connor, Laura Hennessy, Sarah Dunphy, Orla Ryan, Stacy Nugent, Marie Doheny. On St Brigid's Callan Emma Boland collected an All Ireland Senior medal.

Juvenile Camogie

Juvenile Camogie Club had a very busy and successful year in 2009. The U6s blossomed under the care and guidance of their dedicated trainers. Under keen and watchful eyes of their trainers the U8s have made significant progress. They played numerous challenge games and took part in the Danesfort U8 tournament. Under strong leadership the U10s enjoyed a very successful year and were unbeaten throughout the season. They finished top of their group in the U10s Summer blitz and won a very competitive tournament in Danesfort for the third consecutive year.

Promising Future

Our U12s took part in the St Canice's Credit Union U12 Competition. On route to the final the girls drew one game and won all their other games comprehensively giving wonderful displays of skill, commitment and heart. While they lost out to a very strong Muckalee in the final they did themselves and their trainers proud. The future looks bright and promising for our juvenile camogie club.

Competitive Action

Senior team bowed out of championship at quarter final stages. U14s reached the 12 a side County final. The U16s gave a good account of themselves. U18s in County final as we go to press. U21s Championship starting in November. Andrea and Laurena Murphy won County Final football medals with the Railyard.

County Representatives

A number of players featured on County teams during the year. Theresa Muldowney and Ashling Dunphy were on senior Kilkenny team that reached All - Ireland final. Nicola Butler, Ashling Dunphy Sarah Dunne won Leinster and All Ireland minor medals. Antoinette Power was on U14 Kilkenny Coilte development squad. Kay Ryall also collected medal with WIT.

Great Help from Many

Thanks must go to the following people who helped out voluntarily with the training of teams throughout the year: Michael Hoyne, John Comerford, Bronagh Neary, Pauline Comerford, Bernie Ryall, Josie Ronan, Mick Wall, Ann M Ryall, Mary Ronan, Helen Murphy, Denis Nolan, Carmel Everard, Carmel Brennan, Michelle O'Regan: Also our First Aid people, Miriam Pollard, Anne Boland, Nora Hogan, Mary Keoghan, Ann Ging, Paul Muldowney and Galicia Ryall.

Thanks to all

Thanks to our sponsors - The Field, Kilkenny, also Pat Comerford, Comerfords Garage, Ballycallan, Kevin Maher, Ballycallan and John Comerford Electrical, Kilmanagh. We wish to thank Graigue/Ballycallan GAA Club for use of pitches and dressing rooms. Dicksboro Club



All Ireland Winning Minor Medallists

Sarah Dunne, Ashling Dunphy, Nicola Butler

were also very accommodating in giving us use of their premises for our Whist Drives, as were all the ladies who cooked and helped out. Finally we would like to thank all our players and trainers for their hard work and dedication throughout the season.



St. Brigid's U10 - Winners of the Summer Blitz

Back: Caitlin O'Keeffe, Margaret Delaney, Laoise Prendiville, Lisa Hogan, Sinead Flynn, Niamh O'Connor, Eadaoin Murphy.

Front: Eimear Keoghan, Claire Quigley, Leah Lanigan, Susie Maher, Shauna Muldowney, Claire Kelly, Tara Walsh, Sarah Ging.



St. Brigid's U12 Panel - Runners-Up in County Final

Back: Anna Robinson, Christine Caldbeck, Amy O'Brien, Lisa Hogan, Ann Doheny, Charlotte McCluskey, Emma Wall, Aisling Kelly, Hannah Quigley.

Middle: Rebecca O'Neill, Siun Corcoran, Sarah Ging, Niamh O'Connor, Margaret Delaney, Caoimhe Murphy, Ciara Murphy.

Front: Therese Purcell, Celine O'Dwyer, Eimear Keoghan, Aimee Muldowney, Katie Cahill, Eadaoin Murphy, Kayleigh Nolan.

Camogie Reports

Thomastown



Thomastown Camogie Club has enjoyed another great season. Our hardworking trainers and committee have kept the club running soundly for another year through fundraising and generous donations from our sponsors without whom we could not survive, and, of course, Thomastown GAA Club that kindly allows us to use the facilities in Grennan. A huge thank-you to all of the above and also to everyone who gave a helping hand during the year.

This year our senior girls had great success winning the All county senior camogie league and reached the semi-final of the championship. They are true competitors and exceptional sportswomen. We are very proud of them and none more so than the trainers Helen Farrell and Michelle Walsh.

Our U18 team are in the minor A final on the 25th Oct and we wish them the very best and we will all be there to cheer them on.

Our U16 gave a great account of themselves during the year, we're very proud of the work they put in and are positive that things will only improve for them next year as are their trainers Martin Farrell and Chloe Corway.

Our U14 team won their Roinn "A" County Final, a huge achievement, and all due to the hard work and effort put in in training. A massive well done to the team and their proud trainer Frank Donnelly.

Our U12 team got to their divisional final but were unfortunately beaten by Paulstown. A massive effort was made by the girls and trainers Breda O'Shea and Aisling Holden. Although it didn't work out for them this year we have every faith in them and it bodes well for the future of Thomastown Camogie when our young teams are doing so well.

Our U10, U8 and U6 teams also did amazingly well in their respective blitzes, friendly matches etc. We are very proud of their endeavours this year. A huge thank you to their trainers, Helen Farrell and Michelle Walsh (U10), and Chloe Corway & Sara Walsh U8 & U6.

Another highlight of the year was the trip we took with the U10 and U8 teams to see the All Ireland Senior Camogie final which had our own Kate McDonald on the panel, and the All Ireland U21 final in Croke Park, Dublin. Unfortunately it wasn't to be Kilkenny's day in either match but the girls enjoyed themselves immensely.



U10 Thomastown Camogie Team 2009



Roinn A U14 County Final winners with trainer Frank Donnelly



The Salmon Pool's Martin Walsh presenting the new strip to our Senior Girls & Chairman Mr Pat Manning

Camogie Reports

Tullaroan



Chairperson: Anna Marie Young
Secretary: Sarah Butler
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Butler

Junior B

This was Tullaroan's second year in Junior Camogie. They enjoyed great success winning both League and Championship. They defeated O'Loughlin Gaels in the League Final in a tough and competitive game, which saw Tullaroan finish 5 points ahead. In the County Final Tullaroan played Mooncoin in Thomastown. It was a hard fought game and the Tullaroan finished 3-12 to 0-6. This was a great achievement for the new club.

U16 & U18

Tullaroan underage teams have been on the verge of success for the past few years. This year they made a breakthrough winning the U16 Roinn D County Final against Johnstown in Palmerstown in a riveting final which saw Tullaroan finish 2 points ahead. The U18 camogie team are through to the semi final of the Roinn D championship. Tullaroan were represented by Grace Walsh on the U18 All Ireland winning county team. Niamh Dowling, Grace Walsh and Noelle Maher who represented Tullaroan with Kilkenny, were narrowly beaten by Tipperary in the All Ireland U16 semi final. Miriam Walsh achieved an U14 Leinster title with Kilkenny. Congratulations and well done to all.

Juvenile

This year Mary Ryall set up the juvenile camogie club in Tullaroan. There was great interest among the young girls of Tullaroan. Much support was given by many of the parents and young people in the parish. The competed very well in many mini blitz throughout the summer. This shows a very promising future for Tullaroan camogie.

Thanks

Many thanks to Matty Butler, Junior trainer, Breda Maher & Declan Dowling, U16 & U18 trainers and Mary Ryall, Juvenile trainer for all their hard work in helping the club to great successes.

Many thanks also to all the Sponsors who supported us throughout the year. Looking for to even more success 2010.



Tullaroan U16 Camogie Team

Back: Breda Maher (trainer), Anna Walpole, Maria Cuddihy, Alice Butler, Áine Butler, Aiden Kenny, Miriam Walshe, Niamh Joyce, Ailbhe Gaffney, Kayleigh O'Brien, Sarah Walpole, Declan Dowling, Clodagh Kenny, Rachel Dowling.

Front: Ella Moore, Eva Walpole, Lisheen Kenny, Niamh Dowling, Noelle Maher, Grace Walshe, Shauna Moore, Evelyn Walshe, Máirín Hennessy.



Tullaroan Junior Camogie Team

Back: Ailbhe Gaffney, Máirín O'Shea, Mary Glennon, Alice Butler, Aileen Kenny, Sarah Butler, Leandra Pollard, Noreen Delaney, Clodagh Young, Patricia Mullally, Ann Marie Young, Mary Ellen Butler, Rachel Dowling, Gemma Doyle.

Front: Mattie Butler (trainer), Elaine Maher, Olivia Maher, Niamh Joyce, Claire Walshe, Sineád Quigley, Grace Walshe, Niamh Dowling, Noelle Maher, Lorraine Maher, Clodagh Kenny, Miriam Walshe.

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Camogie Reports

Windgap



A Busy Year on the Field

The U-8 panel competed in a number of blitzes around the county, under the management of Susan Dunne and Siobhan O'Gorman. The U-10 team, under the new management of former hurling stars, Walter Purcell and Aidan Power, also competed in a number of blitzes. At U-12, the girls were looked after by Kathleen Purcell and lost in the group semi final. The U-14s went down to St Lachtains in the replay of a disputed and very controversial game, losing out on a semi final place. The U-16A team, lost out to Dicksboro in a closely contested semi final. The U-14s and 16s were managed by Joan O'Gorman, Judith Phelan, Eamon Murphy and John Bergin was also involved at U-14. At U-18A, we lost to Thomastown in the final, under the leadership of Matt Doran, Dinny Gaule and Pat Walsh.

The U-21s are at semi final stage following an impressive win over Dicksboro on the day Denise Gaule was crowned O Neills Young Camogie Player of the year 2009. For the first time in the history of the club, we fielded two adult teams in 2009, junior and senior. The juniors, under the management of Pat Moore and Dinny Gaule, competed at Junior B. A senior level, we defeated St Brigid's and Ballyhale, but then went down to St. Lachtains. In an exciting League semi final, we were beaten by Mullinavat by a single point after extra time. In the Senior Championship, we beat the Shamrocks in the quarter final and went down to Freshford after a tremendous effort, in the semi final. At Senior All County League, we were beaten by Thomastown in the final. The Senior girls were looked after by Matt, Dinny, and Pat and assisted by John Walker.

County Representatives

The Club was well represented on all Kilkenny teams, from U-14 to senior. Ciara McDonald, Gemma Long and Eimear Moylan were part of the Coillte squad, Catherine Foley, Micheala Kenneally and Amanda Power were part of the Leinster winning U-14 team. Laura Walker captained the Kilkenny u16s and together with Laura Moore and Niamh Phelan. Following a dramatic win over favourites St. Martins, in the 2008, Roinn A U-18 final, played on December 21st, the club earned the honour of nominating the Kilkenny captain. Alison Walsh, captained the county U-18s to win the All Ireland and Leinster final for the fourth year in a row. Denise Gaule was awarded the player of the match. Nicky Moore was also part of the panel. Denise and Ann Marie Phelan played their part on the Senior Final.

Schools & Colleges

We were well represented on school and college teams during the year. UCD, UCC, Trinity and UL and at secondary level Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir, Scoil Aireagal, Ballyhale and St. Brigid's Callan. St Brigid's, captained by Denise Gaule, won the Senior A final for the second year in a row. Ann Marie Phelan played shinty with her University in Aberdeen.

Awards Night

A very successful Awards Night was held at the Kildford Hotel. TJ Reid and Tommy Walsh presented U-16A, 18A, Intermediate League and Championship medals. Martin Quilty presented the Kilkenny Camogie Board Club of the Year 2008 Award. Also on the night, Mairead Lutteral and Ailish Langton were welcomed to the club. Following the success of the County U-18 team, a large crowd gathered at the Windgap GAA Grounds, to welcome home the victorious team and their management squad, led by Brendan Williams and Ted Browne.

Wonderful Support

Ann Foley organised a hugely successful bag pack where no excuses were tolerated! Without the excellent back room support the

club could not survive, also much thanks and appreciation is extended to the parents, especially from Dunnamaggin and surrounding parishes, who drive girls all over the county throughout the year. Sincere thanks to Pius Phelan for his continuing sponsorship and to John McDonald, The Field, who sponsored a set of jerseys this year. Thank you to Windgap GAA Club for the provision of their excellent facilities.

Condolences

The entire club was heartbroken to learn of the untimely death of U-8 player, Zarah Whelan and her mother Sharon and her younger sister Nadia at Christmas. Sincere sympathy is extended to Zarah's Grandad and long serving team medic, Christy and his wife Nancy and their family.



Windgap trio in Kilkennys All Ireland Minor Camogie success.

Denise Gaule (O'Neills Young Player of the Year) with her Player of the match award, Team captain Alison Walsh with the Sighe Nic an Ultaigh Cup, and Nicky Moore. The occasion saw the first Windgap person ever to captain a county side to All Ireland victory.



Under eights make debut in Kilmanagh.

Back: Emily Culleton, Gillian Costelloe, Leah Murray, Emer Dunphy, Jessica Enright, Niamh Walsh, Front: Aoibheann Holden, Ciara Byrne, Orlaith O'Shea, Aine Mulcahy, Heather O'Brien, Jasmine Largete, Clodhna O'Shea, Jade O'Gorman.

Camogie Reports

Young Irelands



2009 saw the club reach a Roinn "A" County final for the first time at any level when the under 16s qualified for this years decider. Despite a fantastic effort by the girls on the day the elusive title was not to be theirs as they went down to a Dicksboro team who finished the stronger.

The under 14 team also reached the Roinn C final and faced James Stephens on what must have been one of the hottest days of the year. Both teams gave of their absolute best to play in the heat and on the day a draw was probably a fair enough result. However in the replay the James Stephens girls finished the stronger. This panel also enjoyed a great day out to the All Ireland Camogie Final when the first travelled to Na Fianna to play a game. Then following refreshments it was on to Croke Park for the big games.

Our Junior team got off to a great start in the league and were unlucky not to qualify for an automatic championship semi final spot. Instead they were drawn against Glenmore in the first round. Victory went to Glenmore and so the year came to a disappointing end for the team. The under 18s were defeated by St Brigid's, Ballycallan Roinn B Semi Final.

The under 10 panel participated in the very successful under 10 blitzes organised during the summer. With healthy numbers of girls at under 10 and under 8 there is much to look forward to in the coming years.

Well done to those who represented the club at county level ñ Sarah Ann Quinlan and Emma Comerford won Leinster medals with the Under 16 All Ireland panel while Emma was also a member of the Under 18 panel who won the All Ireland final. Lizzie Byrne and Nessa Farrell were part of the county Intermediate panel.

The club celebrated Lá na gClub with the hurling club in August. A great day was had by all, with all the young players from under 11 down, participating in games organised by their coaches. They received souvenir medals of the occasion afterwards.

Thanks to the coaches and mentors who worked with all our teams this year and to all who supported our fundraising ventures. Thanks also to all who provided sponsorship and those who contributed in any way.

Congratulations to Hazel O'Neill on the birth of her baby boy and to Maggie Comerford on the birth of her baby girl.



Young Irelands U16 Roinn A Finalists 2009

Back: Bernie Fitzgerald (Selector), Andy Comerford (Selector), Eibhlín Fogarty, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Kelly Treacy, Elaine Rudkins, Ann Drea, Mairead Fogarty, Kay Drea, Orlaith Byrne, Fionnuala Quinlan, James Hickey (Trainer)
Front: Miriam Holden, Ciara Byrne, Paula Farrell, Emma Comerford, Sinead Twomey, Anne Marie Byrne, Sharon Quinlan, Sinead Naddy.
Missing from photo: Alan Roche (Selector)



Young Irelands Under 14 Finalists 2009

Back: Ann Marie Byrne, Sinead Twomey, Estelle Geoghan, Eibhlín Fogarty (Captain), Miriam Holden, Fionnuala Quinlan, Ciara Byrne, Michelle Kehoe, Louise Walsh, Linda Delaney.
Front: Daragh Browne, Ava Comerford, Bonnie Comerford, Niamh Walsh, Sharon Quinlan, Sinead Naddy, Roisin Bollard, Seoige Denieffe, Katie Quinlan, Aoife Naddy.
Missing from the picture were Fiona Coogan, Rebecca Devitor and Emer Ryan.



Young Irelands Camogie Under 10 2009

Back: Megan Ryan, Nicole Carter, Steffi Fitzgerald, Rachel Dreeeling, Rebecca Nevin, Meaghan Darcy, Hannah Brennan, Laura Nevin, Roisin Byrne, Kate Drennan.
Front: Ellen O'Donnell, Heidi Sheridan, Leanne Byrne, Melicia Rabat, Aine Smyth, Chloe Kealy, Muireann Kavanagh. *Missing from Photo: Grace O'Donnell, Leah Brennan*

ALL IN ALL, AN EXCELLENT YEAR

COUNTY CAMOGIE REPORT

Photos Eoin Hennessy



Kilkenny – All Ireland SC Finalists 2009

Back: Laura Kavanagh, Aine Fahy, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Emma Staunton, Julie Ann Woodcock, Ann Marie Phelan, Elaine Aylward, Denise Gaule, Catriona Ryan, Marie O'Connor, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Edwina Keane, Aisling Ryan

Middle: Paul Murphy, John Loneragan, Marina Downey, Siobhan Murphy, Leanne Fennelly, Claire Aylward, Amy Butler, Aoife Neary, Edel Maher, Colette Dormer, Deirdre Delaney, Aisling Dunphy, Ann Dalton (Captain), Therese Muldowney, James Meagher, Ann Downey, Noel Ryan.

Front: Keeva Fennelly, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Katie Power, Jacqui Frisby, Michelle Quilty, Catherine Doherty, Kelly Ann Cotterall, Kate McDonald

COUNTY SCENE 2009

2009 was a good year for Senior Camogie in Kilkenny. For the first time since 2001 Kilkenny contested the Senior All Ireland Final but unfortunately on the day, Cork proved to be the stronger team when they overcame a youthful Kilkenny squad on a scoreline of 0-15 to 0-7. Despite a searching examination in the opening 30 minutes during which Kilkenny's Ann Dalton and Aoife Neary were to the fore, Cork gradually got on top and led by three points at the break. The Cork goalkeeper, Aoife Murray was proving to be a major obstacle and saved Cork on a number of occasions. Kilkenny just could not get the scores that mattered and a goal would have surely helped them in their quest to win the O'Duffy Cup. On the day Cork's experience helped them to get crucial scores at the critical time and they kept Kilkenny at bay. Great credit is due to the Kilkenny players - they fought to the end and the experience will surely stand them in good stead for 2010.

Earlier in the year in the league campaign it looked like it might be a difficult year for Kilkenny when they struggled and were well beaten by Tipperary in the league play off. However, as the year progressed, Kilkenny steadily improved and this was helped by the fact that they defeated Tipperary in their opening championship match. This was a tight affair and when Michelle Quilty scored Kilkenny's goal in the 34th minute it set Kilkenny on their way. Jacqui Frisby was outstanding in defence, as was captain Anne Dalton in the middle of the field, while forwards Michelle Quilty and Aoife Neary were both responsible for the majority of Kilkenny's scores on the day with Neary returning nine points

and Quilty registering 1-3. This was followed by a victory over Dublin and in their final match, it was Cork who came out on top in a dogged match played in atrocious weather conditions. And so it was that Kilkenny qualified in second place in their group and qualified for the knock-out stages of the championship. In the semi-final, played in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny were drawn against a highly fancied Galway side and the result went right to the wire with substitute Marie O'Connor sending the ball to the Galway net to put Kilkenny ahead in extra time by a point. Katie Power tacked on the insurance point to send Kilkenny into the final on a score line of 1-13 to 1-11.

KILKENNY INTERCOUNTY CAMOGIE RESULTS 2009	
ALL IRELAND SC C'SHIP	Kilkenny 1-14 Tipperary 1-11
	Kilkenny 0-7 Cork 2-5
	Kilkenny 2-14 Dublin 0-4
ALL IRELAND SC C'SHIP SEMI FINAL	Kilkenny 1-13 Galway 1-11
ALL IRELAND SC C'SHIP FINAL	Kilkenny 0-7 Cork 0-15
ALL IRELAND IC C'SHIP	Kilkenny 0-5 Tipperary 2-19
	Kilkenny 1-2 Cork 5-12
ALL IRELAND MC C'SHIP	Kilkenny 5-10 vs. Clare 3-8
LEINSTER SC FINAL	Kilkenny vs. Wexford (TBA)
LEINSTER MC FINAL	Kilkenny 4-11 Dublin 3-7
LEINSTER U16C FINAL	Kilkenny 3-9 Wexford 3-7
LEINSTER U14C FINAL	Kilkenny 3-14 Dublin 3-0
LEINSTER SC CLUB FINAL	Outlart/Ballagh 3-14 St.Lachtains 1-6
CELTIC FESTIVAL 2009	Kilkenny U14 Squad 4-9 Clara U16 3-7

All in all 2009 has been an excellent year for senior camogie in Kilkenny. The team has made strong progress this year and the players will have learned from their All Ireland experience, and will build on this in the years to come. Ann Downey, Paul Murphy and John Loneragan are a first-rate management team. Their continuous encouragement of players to strive for excellence in standards has shown that All-Ireland success is achievable.

The Intermediate Camogie team also deserves credit as many of the players involved this year were playing in their first league and championship matches at this level, as last year's winning team cannot compete in this grade. Paddy Hughes has done excellent work with the team and hopes are high for 2010.

Kilkenny received 11 All Star nominations, which reflects the success of our senior players in 2009 and is the largest number of nominations which the county has ever received. There are nominations in all but four positions, including team captain Ann Dalton and her midfield partner Collette Dormer. There were five nominations in defence: Leanne Fennelly, Catherine Doherty, Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward and Lizzie Lyng. Goalkeeper



The Kilkenny minor camogie team who defeated Clare in the All-Ireland final to complete the four in-a-row

Back: Claire Aylward, Stacey Quirke, Ruth Jones, Noreen Murphy, Aoife Murphy, Aisling O'Grady, Grace Walsh, Emma Comerford, Kate Holland, Eimear Mullhall, Davina Tobin, Edel Frisby, Louise Dunne.

Middle: Brendan Williams (Manager), Martin Quilty (Vice-Chairman), Vincent Shiel (Selector), Catriona Brennan, Mags Fennelly, Nicola Moore, Maeve Mansfield, Sarah Dunne, Sinead Maher, Aisling Dunphy, Caoimhe Sheil, Niamh Kelly, Emma Staunton, IV Aired Power, Niamh Byrne, Paul Quigley (Trainer), Pierce Dargan (Selector).

Front: Ted Browne (Manager), Pearl McDonald (County Secretary), John Quilty (Selector), Claire Phelan, A'Le Curran, Denise Gaule, Anna Farrell, Alison Walsh (Captain), Nicola Butler, Karen Duggan, Shelly Farrell, Kate McDonald, Marie Dargan (Selector).

Eoin Hennessy

Catherine Doherty received a well deserved nomination as did Katie Power, Edwina Keane and Aoife Neary in the forwards.

MINOR REPORT

The structure of the minor championship was changed in 2009 and this meant that Kilkenny played only 2 matches to reach the All Ireland Final. In their opening match, they defeated Dublin and in the semi-final they defeated Tipperary and earned the right to play Clare in the final.

The final was Kilkenny's best performance of the season with the bulk of the damage being done in the opening half and the half-time scoreboard showing them ahead by 5-5 to 1-4. The Kilkenny goals came from Denise Gaule (2), Claire Phelan (2) and Shelly Farrell. The second half was a much tighter affair with Clare outscoring Kilkenny but the damage had been done and Kilkenny just did enough to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

This was Kilkenny's fourth final appearance and their second meeting with Clare in a final. Kilkenny have yet to taste defeat in this competition and a five goal spree in the opening half provided the platform for Kilkenny to retain their All Ireland crown and achieve an incredible four-in-a-row All Ireland minor camogie titles when they defeated Clare. The final score was Kilkenny 5-10 to Clare's 3-8.

This squad of players went on to retain their Leinster title when they defeated Dublin on a score-line of 4-11 to 3-7. Great credit must go to the players and the team management of Brendan Williams and Ted Browne who once again this year applied their expertise with a strong group of players.

UNDER 16 REPORT

In the U16A All Ireland Championship Kilkenny narrowly lost out to the eventual winners Galway and thus relinquished their All Ireland crown. However, during the season Kilkenny had good away victories over Limerick and Derry and the players should not be down hearted as they tried hard but came up short against a strong Galway team.

The u16 panel should not be disheartened because there are many reasons for optimism. They retained their u16A Leinster Title in sunny Slieverue during August, following a hard fought victory over Wexford. They were pushed all the way but the players responded well and showed that they were not going to give up their Leinster crown without a fight and they won out on a final score of Kilkenny 3-9 to Wexford 3-7.

UNDER 14 REPORT

Kilkenny's Under 14 camogie team had a very successful year when they retained their Leinster Under 14 title for the seventh consecutive year with 3-14 to 3-0 win over their great rivals Dublin on July

5th. They also competed in various blitzes around the country. They became the first Kilkenny Under 14 team to win the prestigious James Hurley tournament in Mallow, when they overcame a strong Tipperary in the final by the narrowest of margins (0-8 to 1-4) in a thrilling final.

They also won the inaugural Waterford camogie inter-county tournament when they overcame a class Cork team by 4-3 to 2-4 in a cracking final with both teams giving everything to secure a victory. They also were runners up in the Orla McDonough Tournament in Tipperary when, on they way to the final, they overcame strong opposition in Limerick, Galway and Cork with good wins. Against Tipperary they just ran out of steam in the second-half and Tipperary ran out worthy winners in the final. The Kilkenny Under 14 panel were well represented from clubs all over the county and no one team dominated the panel with 19 clubs having players on the panel.

Under the guidance of Paddy Kelly (Dicksboro), T.J Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Tony Byrne (Clara), Ann Donnelly (Thomastown) and Niamh Kelly (Dicksboro), the Kilkenny Under 14 camogie team of 2009 were great ambassadors for Kilkenny camogie and in every event they participated in they highlighted the skill and teamwork which are the trademark of Kilkenny camogie at present. The clubs and schools in Kilkenny are also to be commended for the groundwork and training which often goes unnoticed but was a major factor in the success that this Kilkenny Under 14 camogie team accumulated throughout the 2009 season. The Kilkenny Under 14 camogie players of 2009 will surely supply the future under-age and senior teams of the future as there is a conveyor of talent at this grade which bodes well for the Kilkenny camogie scene.

COILLTE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U14 AND KILKENNY U15 DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The Coillte Development Squads Initiative of 2009 included Kilkenny among the nominees to take part. These development squads ensure that players receive specific coaching sessions in June/July and attended a number of Saturday blitzes which are organised in preparation for October 26th when they have the opportunity to play in Croke Park. The under 14 squad was drawn from players who have not yet managed to break into the underage intercounty teams and it is hoped that the additional training which they received will assist them in reaching their full potential.

During the year they attended two blitzes in Cork and Thomastown. The Cork blitz was a good learning experience for the players with Tipperary, Cork and Limerick proving to be too strong on the day. However the players showed great determination and fought hard in all their matches. The second blitz was more successful and was held in Thomastown GAA grounds on the same day as the camogie All Ireland semi-finals. Teams from Armagh, Kildare, Wicklow and Kilkenny participated. On the day Kilkenny won all their matches



Eoin Hennessy

St Lachtain's - County Senior Camogie Champions 2009

Back: Mairead Costelloe, Sinead Connery, Ann Dalton, Aine Connery, Deirdre Delaney, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Claire Dermody, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Jillian Dillon Maher, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Kae Maher, Yvonne McGrath, Maureen Walsh, Damien Cleere, Sheila Dowling.

Front: Sinead Cash, Esther Costelloe, Imelda Kennedy, Aine Curran, Lorraine Cass, Mariga Nolan, Fiona Dowling (Capt), Marie O Connor, Mairead Lawlor, Paula Murphy, Emma Maher, Aine Phelan, Maura Costelloe.



Dicksboro - County Junior 'A' Camogie Champions 2009.

Back: Tom O'Donoghue, Phil Hogan, Claire Nolan, Helen Byrne, Cathy Bergin, Siobhán Healy, Eimear Skehan, Andrea Ryan, Aoife Walsh, Eimear Walsh, Sorcha Fennelly, Hilda Butler, Sonia Buggy, Sinead Maher, Annemarie Hogan, Orla Hanrick, Niamh O'Connor, Noelle Corrigan, Aisling O'Grady, Emer Tynan, Jim Kerwick.

Front: Nicola Tynan-Doyle, Emer Kelly, Sarah Bawle, Briona Hamilton, Jenny Dillon, Mairead Dowling, Niamh Kelly, Áine Maher, Niamh O'Donoghue, Sarah Kennedy, Geraldine Kelly, Lisa Hanrick. Mascot: Rory O'Connor.



Eoin Hennessy

Tullaroan - Junior "B" Champions 2009

Back: Mary Ellen Butler, Clodagh Young, Mary Hoyne, Mary Glennon, Gemma Doyle, Sarah Butler, Noreen Delaney, Leandra Pollard, Aileen Kenny, Niamh Joyce, Alibhe Gaffney, Elaine Maher, Alice Butler, Rachel Dowling, Matthew Butler (manager)

Front: Anna-Marie Young, Olivia Maher, Grace Walsh, Niamh Dowling, Lorraine Maher, Claire Walshe, Sinead Quigley, Noelle Maher, Miriam Walsh, Patricia Mullally, Clodagh Kenny.



Kilkenny – U14 Leinster Leinster Champions 2009

Back: Paddy Kelly (Coach), Rachel Buckley, Niamh Dermody, Aisling Webster, Siobhan Corcoran, Rachel Lynch, Julie-Ann Malone, Ciara Holden, Miriam Walsh, Lydia Fitzpatrick (Capt) Amy Bryan, Tony Byrne (Selector), Christine Lyng, Niamh Leahy, Ciara Byrne, Mandy Power, Clodagh Power, Mary O Connell, Clare Nolan, Anna Buggy, Ann Donnelly (Selector), TJ Bryan (Selector)

Front: Catherine Foley, Edel Long, Kate Doheny, Jessie Ryan, Deirdre Walsh, Rebecca Haberlin, Michaela Kenneally, Aine Gannon-Lyng, Lauren Barcoe, Megan Coogan, Noelle Murphy, Aisling Nolan, Meghan Farrelly, Emily O Dwyer, Niamh Donnelly. Missing From Photo: Mentor/First-Aid Niamh Kelly

and then travelled into Nowlan Park to see the Gala All Ireland senior semi finals and to participate in the GAA 125 celebrations at half time.

Particular thanks must go to Noelle O'Driscoll, Bridget Barnaville and Carolyn O'Dowd who led the coaching sessions and co-ordinated the team on match days.

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD UNDER 15 LEINSTER BLITZ

Kilkenny camogie entered two under 15 development teams in a blitz organised by the Leinster Council. Kilkenny's first team played four matches on the day. In the first match they played Laois and secured a fine victory over a spirited Laois team. In their next match they played Carlow and this match was very competitive. Kilkenny had a lot of work to do to run out winners 3-7 to 1-2. In the third match, they played their great rivals Dublin and overwhelmed them by a score line of 5-2 to 0-4 points. In the first team's fourth match they played a Meath team and this was a great battle and Meath finally edged out the Kilkenny girls by a single point by a score-line 2-1 to 1-3. The Kilkenny Development Squad members can be happy on the day with their performance and credit to them as they only had 17 on the panel and played four games of 25 minutes duration. It reflects the fitness levels of Kilkenny teams that they managed to compete strongly in all 4 games.

Kilkenny's second team started with a match against Laois and ran out comfortable winners. In their second match, they lost to Dublin on a score-line of 3-9 to 2-1 but there were some creditable performances by the Kilkenny girls in this game. In the third match, they played Kildare and had to battle hard to gain a victory with the final score reading 2-6 to 1-1 with Kilkenny only pulling away in the last five minutes. In Kilkenny's final match they faced Wicklow and ran out winners with their forwards in sparkling form and the score would have been greater but for the top-class display of the Wicklow goalkeeper.

On the day Kilkenny's management team were very happy with the display of both teams and the future looks very bright for under-age camogie scene in Kilkenny for the present.

CLUB SCENE 2009

ST. CANICE'S SENIOR CAMOGIE COUNTY FINAL

ST. LACHTAINS 3-16 MULLINAVAT 2-7

St. Lachtain's retained their senior title with a comprehensive victory over challengers Mullinavat on a sunny September afternoon in Kilmanagh. This championship final was a repeat of the league final, contested earlier in the season. Unfortunately for Mullinavat the outcome was the same, with St. Lachtain's coming out on top.

St. Lachtain's had many good performances on the day but it was Imelda Kennedy who caught the eye and rolled back the years, giving a player of the match performance. Despite their best efforts and

some excellent runs, Mullinavat just could not compete with the Freshford girls on the day but there is no doubt that their time will come.

St Lachtais: Sinéad Cash, Mariga Nolan, Gillian Dillon-Maher, Fiona Dowling, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Mairead Costello, Áine Connery, Ester Costello, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Delaney, Imelda Kennedy, Mairead Lawlor, Marie O'Connor, Ann Dalton, Sinead Connery, Paula Murphy, Claire Dermody, Áine Curran, Lorraine Cass, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Emma Maher, Yvonne McGrath, Kate Maher, Marie Meagher, Áine Phelan.

Mullinavat: Bríd Aylward, Sinéad Phelan, Sinéad Aylward, Joanne Quinn, Paula Butler, Elaine Aylward, Claire Aylward, Amy Butler, Miriam Frisby, Leanne Fennelly, Anna Kavanagh-Woods, Julie Ann Malone, Michelle Quilty, Ciara Holden, Áine Kinsella, Valerie Law, Alison Duggan, Sarah Grennan, June Grennan, Tara Power, Marie Murphy, Joanne Brennan, Marion Grennan.

ST CANICE'S INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE C'SHIP FINAL ROWER INISTIOGE 3-3 – ST. ANNES 1-9 (DRAW)

The 2009 county final ended in a draw with both teams living to fight another day. The day of the final was a wet and windy day and as the cliché goes this was a game of two halves. The Rower took full advantage of the strong wind which they had at their backs and let at half time by 3-3 to 0-3. In the second half the tables turned and St. Annes assisted by a gale fought back and scored an early goal which was critical to bringing them back into the game.

The St. Annes mentors were on tender hooks in the closing minutes as it looked as if it would be the Rower's day and that the equalising point would not be scored. Given the weather conditions, both team performed heroically on the day and a draw was the fairest result. The replay is scheduled for the 7th November and it should be a tight affair with whoever lifts the trophy winning the additional prize of competing in the senior championship in 2010.

ST. CANICE'S JUNIOR "A" CAMOGIE COUNTY FINAL DICKSBORO 3-7 GLENMORE 2-6

The Junior A County Final was played on a perfect pitch in Thomastown. This was a very competitive final and the sides were level four times during the game. The decisive moments in this game came in the twenty-first minute of the second half when Orla Hanrick scored two goals for the 'Boro' in a minute. These two goals left Dicksboro ahead by 3-7 to 2-3. To their great credit Glenmore never game up and points followed from Ruth Jones and Helen Murphy (2). Despite Glenmore's resilience Dicksboro ran out winners on the day on a scoreline of 3-7 to 2-6.

DICKSBORO: Sarah Bawle, Aine Maher, Lisa Hanrick, Geraldine Kelly, SORCHA Fennelly, Niamh Kelly, Eimear Walsh, Sinead Maher, Brenda Hamilton, Niamh O'Donoghue, Noelle Corrigan, Aisling O'Grady, Orla Hanrick, Jenny Dillon, Ann-Marie Hogan. Subs. Cathy Bergin, Sonia Buggy, Hilda Butler, Helen Byrne, Mairead Dowling, Siobhan Healy, Emer



Kilkenny Under 14 Coillte Development Squad: Back Row (L to R): Shonagh Ahern (Emeralds), Briona Norton (Emeralds), Edel Cleere (B & W's), Sharon Doherty (B & W's), Eimear Moylan (Windgap), Tara Conroy (O'Loughlin's), Jennifer Norris (Piltown), Ciara McDonald (Windgap), Gemma Long (Windgap), Kate Walsh (O'Loughlin's), Nicole Lawlor (James Stephens), Antonia Power (Piltown), Megan Cody (Emeralds), Aoife Butler (James Stephens) and Marie Woodcock (Danesfort). Front Row (L to R): Antionette Power (St.Brigid's), Shannon Foley (B & W's), Deirdre Carrigan (Clara), Sinead McCarthy (Piltown), Lorraine Long (Piltown), Miriam Holden (Young Irelands), Fionnula Quinlan (Young Irelands) SORCHA Phelan (Piltown), Ciara Tyrell (Dicksboro), Laura Lacey (Dicksboro), and Siobhan O'Carroll (Clara) and Chelsea Power (James Stephens). Absent: Dainaimh Phelan (Clara), Tasmin English (Clara), Aoife Brennan (Danesfort) and Leanne Glennon (James Stephens).

Kelly, Sarah Kennedy, Ciara Murphy, Claire Nolan, Niamh O'Connor, Aoife Walsh, Darra Walsh, Niamh Browne, Eimear Skehan, Emer Tynan. GLENMORE: Linda Long, Kate Mooney, Laura Aylward, Ann-Marie Roche, Claire Aylward, Marie Theresa Doherty, Michelle Murphy, Bridget Mullally, Catherine Walsh, Ruth Jones, Annette Cody, Grace Phelan, Aisling Irish, Helen Murphy, Karen Jones. Subs: Mairead O'Donovan, Elaine Malone, Breda Comerford, Emma O'Keeffe, Nora Lee Phelan, Louise Boyle.

ST. CANICE'S JUNIOR "B" CAMOGIE COUNTY FINAL TULLAROAN 3-12 – MOONCOIN 0-6

The Junior B Final pitted Tullaroan against Mooncoin. Tullaroan proved to be too strong for Mooncoin and led at the break by 1-6 to 0-2. Despite this scoreline, Mooncoin had enough of the play but just could not convert possession into scores. At the commencement of the second half, Mooncoin's Laura Wall scored two points to draw them closer but the revival was short lived and the main architect of Tullaroan's victory was Anna Marie Young who scored 1-2 in the space of three minutes to ensure that they had a reasonably comfortable victory on a final score of Tullaroan 3-12 to Mooncoin 0-6.

Tullaroan became the first winners of the Junior B Championship title and completed the League and Championship double. 2010 will see them promoted to the Junior A ranks.

TULLAROAN: Noreen Delaney, Grace Walsh, Mary Ellen Butler, Elaine Maher, Claire Walsh, Sarah Butler, Rachel Dowling, Noelle Maher, Niamh Dowling, Miriam Walsh, Sinead Quigley, Olivia Maher, Leandra Pollard, Anna-Marie Young, Lorraine Maher, Subs. Patricia Mullally, Mary Glennon, Clodagh Young, Gemma Doyle, Alice Butler, Aideen Kenny, Niamh Joyce, Alibhne Gaffney, Clodagh Kenny, Mary Hoyne.

MOONCOIN: Ellen Crowley, Sarah Crowley, Hannah Ryan, Aishling Walsh, Sarah Kearns, Kay Quinn, Paula Phelan, Deirdre Connolly, Gina Hennebry, Siobhain Delahunty, Emma Hennebry, Margaret Grace, Laura Wall, Eleanor Walsh, Kim Kelly, Subs. Eithne Connolly, Siobhan Brennan, Shauna Walsh, Gina O'Hanlon, Samantha Foran, Evelyne Rowe.

COILLTE DEV. SQUADS DAY OUT IN CROKE PARK

While thousands descended on Dublin city on Bank holiday Monday 26th October to participate in the Dublin City Marathon, camogie players from around the country made their way to the 'Theatre of Dreams' that is Croke Park to participate in what may be a once in a life time opportunity to play on the hallowed turf. In total eight counties participated, Kilkenny were joined by Limerick, Cork, Donegal, Wicklow, Mayo and Kildare. Prior to this day, each of the eight counties ran a six week development squad programme for a squad of 30 under 14 players in their respective counties. Teams arrived early on Monday. The Kilkenny squad departed Kieran's College at 7.45am. On arrival in Croke Park the squads started their day with an address from Joan O'Flynn, President of

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael. Mary O'Connor, Director of Camogie development followed and she spoke to the players and parents present, emphasising to all that the day in Croke Park should be cherished and it was not about winning but participating and most of all about having fun. All squads then paraded onto the field in lines behind a lone piper whose sole aim was to recreate the excitement that players feel on All-Ireland Day parading behind the band onto Croke Park.

Many parents took the advantage of the bank holiday to come see their daughters play and this crowd created a wonderful atmosphere of excitement as the girls paraded onto the field. All players then proudly faced the flag and stood to attention for the National Anthem. The day then for each county consisted of a combination of playing two games each of Croke Park (full length), a Museum Tour, Indoor Wall Ball Session and talks from inter county players; focusing on "how to reach your potential and the effects of nutrition on playing performance". The girls literally had the run of Croke Park for the day.

The referees for the day were youngsters Caitriona O'Connor, Tipperary and Niamh Cagney, Limerick. Both ladies completed Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael Green Card Course organised for second level students who were interested in taking up refereeing.

The day came to a conclusion with each of the girls receiving a certificate presented to them in the Hogan Stand by the president of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Joan O'Flynn with the assistance of the Coillte representative Tom Byrne, whose sponsorship is greatly appreciated for this programme. Each team in their turns got to walk up the steps in Hogan stand to receive their certificates. The Kilkenny squad were second to walk up the steps and this was one of the highlights of the day for the girls. Each team also received hurleys, sliotars, cones and hoodies for their squads participation in the programme by sponsors Coillte.

All the girls then got on their buses to make the trip home and although many had very long journeys ahead of them. It didn't seem so daunting when they realised how lucky they were to be chosen to play on this very special day for Camogie in Croke Park. Kilkenny stopped off in McDonald's for a well deserved treat, and sang their way home. It may be in later years when each player realises how lucky they were. Hopefully many of them will aspire to gracing the sod again in their future playing careers.

Apart from their trip to Croke Park the Kilkenny Under 14 Development Squad also participated in a blitzes organised by Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, one in Cork in July and one in Thomastown on the morning of the camogie semi finals. They were also part of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael celebrations to commemorate the 125 years celebrations of the G.A.A.'s on the pitch at half time of the camogie semi finals in August.

Development Squad Coaches for Kilkenny were Carolyn O'Dowd (Blacks & Whites), Noelle O'Driscoll (Lisdowney), Catherine Neary (James Stephens), Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney).

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Handball report by Martin Lalor PRO



While 2009 has been a tremendous success for Kilkenny GAA, the County's Handballers can also look back on a very satisfying year. Along with success in the All Ireland championships, Kilkenny players enjoyed victories on the International front, winning titles at the USHA Nationals in June and the World Championships in October.

All Irelands

During 2009, local players were in contention for honours in grades ranging from Minor all the way up to the Diamond Masters grade. In the Intermediate grade, Kilkenny captured three of the All Ireland crowns on offer in 2009. In the 40 x 20 Doubles competition, Timmy and Michael Clifford (St.Canices) were in top form from the start, culminating in a resounding 21-15, 21-5 win over Tyrone in the All Ireland final. Kilkenny won the 60 x 30 Doubles title when Nicholas Anthony and Joe Walsh (Mullinavat) defeated all before them, easily accounting for Mayo in the decider, 21-7, 21-7. The 60 x 30 Intermediate Singles crown went to the Kells club when Brian Manogue claimed victory in September when defeating Galway's Ollie Cassidy in the final. Earlier in the year, Brian contested the 40 x 20 Singles final, losing to the impressive Owen McKenna (Antrim) in two games. Kilkenny had a number of multiple winners in the overage grades, with Johnny Brennan (Mothel), Michael Ducksie Walsh (Talbots Inch) and Billy Bourke (O'Loughlins) each picking up three titles during the year. In the Golden Masters A age group, Johnny Brennan renewed rivalry with Kevin Geraghty (Mayo) on four occasions during



Michael and Timmy Clifford
40 x 20 All Ireland Intermediate Champions



Joe Walsh and Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) who won the 2009 All Ireland 60 x 30 Intermediate Doubles title.

the year, with the Mothel man winning three of the contests. Johnny won both the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Singles titles, each match in two sets, and then teamed up with Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins) for the 40 x 20 Doubles victory, this time in two close games, 21-17, 21-20.

At Masters A level, Ducksie Walsh retained three of the four All Ireland titles on offer in 2009. A comfortable winner in his 60 x 30 finals, where partnered by Pat Maher (Clogh), he saw off Tipperary challenges, while in his 40 x 20 Singles decider against Paddy Crothers (Antrim), he had a close first game, 21-19, before winning the second comfortably, 21-7.

At Silver Masters A level, Kilkenny produced all four winners of the titles. Pride of place in this grade goes to Billy Bourke (O'Loughlins) as he won both Singles crowns, receiving a walkover from Galway in the 40 x 20 decider and defeating Roscommon's Anthony O'Donnell in two sets in the 60 x 30 final. Billy had teamed up with his club mate, and cousin, Billy Walsh in the 40 x 20 championship, but as in the Singles final, Galway failed to fulfil the fixture. Kilkenny completed the clean sweep in this grade when Eugene Downey and Martin Lalor accounted for Roscommon, again, in the 60 x 30 Doubles decider, also in two game 21-8, 21-8.

Kilkenny also produced the winners of the 40 x 20 Diamond Masters A Doubles championship where Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reade (Talbots Inch) defeated Roscommon in the final, 21-9, 21-16. Another winner from the Talbots Inch club was Jimmy Neary, who picked up a winners medal in the 40 x 20 Emerald Masters B grade.

For the Clogh club, 2009 will prove a memorable year, with players picking up All Ireland victories in various grades. In the 60 x 30 championships, the club produced the winners of the Ladies and Gents Junior Doubles titles. In the Ladies decider, Marie Therese O'Neill and Claire Love produced a fine performance to defeat Roscommon, 21-16, 21-3, while brothers Daniel and William Love had a third set victory, again over Roscommon, 21-15, 15-21, 21-10.

Kilkenny also had a number of provincial winners during 2009. In the 40 x 20 championships, the Kilkenny's Minor Doubles pair of Keith Bourke and Patrick Funchion (O'Loughlins /Kells) reached the decider where they lost to Mayo, while in Junior B Doubles, David Clifford and John Morrissey (St.Canices / O'Loughlins) were defeated at the All Ireland semi final stage by Cork, 21-16, 21-15. David also had the misfortune to lose to Cork at the same stage of the Junior B Singles championship, and in 40 x 20 Ladies Junior Doubles, Clogh's Claire Love and Marie Therese O'Neill ended their season when losing to Clare at the penultimate stage. In Emerald Masters B

Singles, Jimmy Neary lost to Mayo opposition at the semi final stage. Later in the year, Kilkenny's Ciaran Neary and Jerry Rowe (T/Inch/ O'Loughlins) put up a good performance in U21 Doubles against Limerick in the 60 x 30 All Ireland semi final, and in Diamond Masters A Doubles, Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reade went down to Tipperary in two sets.

Worlds

In October, the World Handball championships were held in Portland, Oregon, USA. The travelling Kilkenny contingent consisted of players from the O'Loughlins, Talbots Inch, St.Canices and Mullinavat clubs, with Ducksie Walsh and Ciaran Neary bringing home World titles. Ducksie, as expected, was in scintillating form when retaining his Masters Singles and



Johnny Brennan (Mothel) and Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins), who collected four All Ireland titles in 2009. Johnny won the 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 Singles titles, and was partnered by Joe in the 40 x 20 Doubles success.



Father and son, Billy and Keith Bourke (O'Loughlins), both All Ireland champions during 2009. Keith was a Minor Handball Doubles winner, while Billy collected three titles in the Silver Masters A grade. Keith and Billy also picked up titles at the USHA Nationals in June, where they won the Boys 17 and under, and Veteran Masters crowns, respectively.

Doubles crowns during the action packed week, with only one player reached double figures in any set in the Singles championship. In the final he defeated American Jay Balkanbush, 21-6, 21-2, and in the Doubles decider, he teamed up with Egin Jensen (Dublin) to see off the challenge of Danny Armijo and Ryan Grossanbacher, 21-8, 21-7.



Windgap – U12/13 Team of 6 winners.

Back: Sean Walsh, Sean Morrissey, John Walsh, Emmet Landy, Brian Mahon, Brendan Hosey
Front: Padraig Cooney, Conor Dwyer, Sean Carey, Killian Dunphy



U12/13 Team of 6 winners.

Back: Sean Walsh, Sean Morrissey, John Walsh, Emmet Landy, Brian Mahon, Brendan Hosey
Front: Padraig Cooney, Conor Dwyer, Sean Carey, Killian Dunphy



Talbotts Inch All Ireland Winners, USHA Nationals and World Champions

Seamus Reade and Paddy Reilly (40 X 20 Diamond Masters A Doubles), Martin Lalor and Eugene Downey (60 X 30 Silver Masters A Doubles), Ducksie Walsh (40 X 20 Masters A Singles, 60 X 30 Masters A Singles and Doubles, USHA Singles and Doubles, World Singles and Doubles), Dylan Walsh (USHA 15 and Under) and Ciáran Neary (World C Doubles)

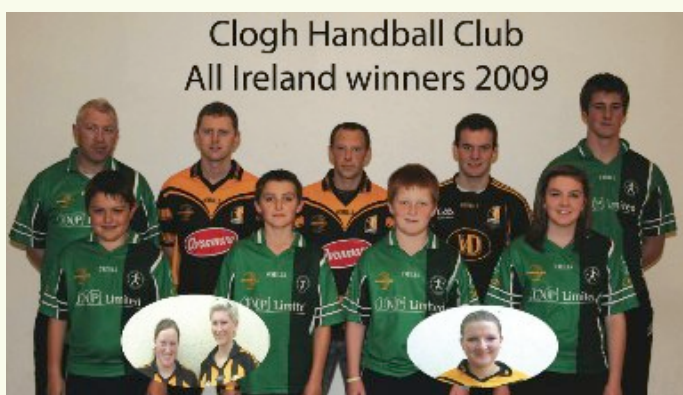
Over the last few years, Ciáran Neary has made great strides in handball. During the World Championships, Ciáran teamed up with American, Michael O'Brien to win the Mens C Doubles crown.

The Kilkenny /USA partnership played five matches to reach the final where they took on the Munster duo, Paul Hedderman and J.P.O'Connor. The first game went to the wire, 21-20, with Neary and O'Brien seizing the initiative. This first set result disheartened the opposition as Ciáran and Michael strolled to a 21-3 victory in the second game, and so recorded a memorable win for the Talbotts Inch player

Elsewhere the local players put in some top class performances in various grades. In the Mens B Big Ball final, Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) came off second best to American, Peter Tran, a good result considering it was his first time to play this type of handball. Nicholas lost his Mens A Singles contest to Darragh Daly (Tyrone), and then teamed with his brother Ger in the Big Ball Doubles section, where they exited the competition early on, while Ger reached the last 16 of the Mens C Singles grade.

In Masters B, Canice Quigley (St.Canices) succumbed to injury in his first round tie, and in the Golden Masters Doubles, Joe Hennessy and partner, Kevin Geraghty (Mayo), lost at the quarter- final stage. In Golden Masters B, Con Moore (O'Loughlins) made an early exit, but then had the rest of the week to concentrate on his role as World Handball secretary.

Having won the Doubles competition, Ciáran Neary also reached the semi finals of the C Singles grade, losing to Paul Hedderman (Limerick). The Mens Diamond Masters Doubles grade had two Kilkenny players in action during the week. Seamus Reade and Pat Lacy (Wexford) reached the quarter final stage, while Jimmy Neary was a first round loser when playing with Gary Blake (USA). Both players contested the Singles competition, with both bowing out at the last 16 stage.



Clogh Handball Club All Ireland winners 2009
Back: Pat Maher (Masters Dbls), William and Daniel Love (Jun Dbls), Eoghan Hennessy (Minor Hardball Dbls), Padraig Maher (U17 Dbls),
Front: Marc Purcell (Feile Skills winner), Brian Mahon and Padraig Cooney (u12/13 team of 6), Ciara Mahon (GU16 Dbls)
 Inset: Marie T O'Neill and Claire Love (Ladies Jun Dbls), Mary Phelan (GU16 Dbls)



Kells Handball Club Winners 2009.

Back: Peter Funchion USHA Nationals Mens C Singles Winner, Brian Manogue, Intermediate Singles 60 x 30 All Ireland Winner, Alan Funchion, Féile Skills Div 4 40 x 20 winner.
Front: Cait Broderick, Féile Skills Div 3 40 x 20 winner and Marie Walsh GU16 Singles 60 x 30 All Ireland winner 2009.

US Nationals

The USA Nationals took place at Fountain Valley, California in June, where a Kilkenny party of six travelled to compete in one of the most prestigious events on the Handball calendar. The long journey proved worthwhile as all five players, accompanied by County Handball secretary Betty Funchion, were successful in winning Nationals title, three in adult grades and two at juvenile level. First time entrant, Peter Funchion (Kells) will look back on the week with tremendous satisfaction as he won the Mens C crown and contested the final of the Boys 17 and under grade. The young Kells player was in top form in the early rounds of the Mens C competi-

tion and was a comfortable winner of all his matches on his way to the final. Here, his opponent was Californian, Marco Coromac, and Peter came out on top in two close games, 21-18, 21-14.

In the Boys 17 and under grade, two Kilkenny players, Keith Burke (O'Loughlins) and Peter Funchion (Kells) made it through face each other in the decider. On his way to the final, Keith knocked out one of the favourites, Brent Bidegain, in the semi finals, 21-1, 21-10 while in his semi final match, Peter had a comfortable 21-2, 21-6 victory over American ,Arturo Lopez. The decider was a ding dong affair, with the players sharing the first two games, 21-15 each. In the deciding set, Keith proved the stronger and took his first Nationals crown when winning 11-7.

The Boys 15 and under competition had Dylan Walsh (Talbots Inch) seeded number 1 and he justified that top billing by taking the title. Dylan eased through the early rounds and was well prepared for the final where he played Loren Collado from California. The first set went to the bigger American, 21-17 with Dylan forcing a tie break situation when winning the second 21-19. There was no doubt who was on top in the deciding set as the Talbots Inch player was a convincing 11-0 winner.

At adult level, Ducksie Walsh (Talbots Inch) and Billy Burke (O'Loughlins) were winners of the Masters and Veteran Masters crowns, respectively. Ducksie, completed three in a row Nationals titles, when defeating Mike McDonald, again, 21-9, 21-13 and in the Veteran Masters (45+), Billy had a hard fought 21-15, 21-17 win over Texan, Todd Evans. Ducksie collected the sixth title for Kilkenny when he teamed up with Egin Jensen (Dublin) to retain the Masters Doubles championship when beating John Robles and Manny Resendez, 21-7, 21-18.

Juveniles

At Juvenile level, Kilkenny players captured six National titles during the year, two in 40 x 20, three in 60 x 30 and one team event. In the Girls U16 grade, Mary Phelan (Clogh) was an All Ireland champion in both the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 championships. Partnered by Clare Grace (Windgap) in the 40 x 20 final, they easily accounted for Cavan and in the bigger 60 x 30 court, Mary teamed up with fellow club mate, Ciára Mahon to take the honours. Clogh also featured in the Boys U17 40 x 20 final where Pauric Maher and Graham Clifford (St.Canices) defeated Mayo in two sets. All Ireland honours were also claimed in Girls U15 Singles, Rachel Hogan (Kilfane) defeating Armagh in the decider, and also in Girls U16 Singles where Maria Walsh (Kells) claimed victory at the expense of Kerry.

Kilkenny also took All Ireland honours in the 60 x 30 Boys U12/13 when defeating Tipperary in the final. The team was; Emmet Landy (Windgap), Conor O'Dwyer (St.Canices), John Walsh (Mullinavat), Pauraig Cooney (Clogh), Brian Mahon (Clogh) and Sean Carey (Goresbridge), with trainers; Brendan Hosey (Clogh) and Sean Walsh (Mullinavat).

In the Feile na Gael competitions, Goresbridge produced two winners, in 40 x 20 Boys Division 5 and Girls Division 3, while Windgap took the honours in Boys Division 3.

There was also success in the skills competitions, Alan Funchion (Kells) winner in 40 x 20 Division 4, Mark Purcell (Clogh) in 40 x 20 Division 5, Cait Broderick (Kells) in 40 x 20 Division 3 and Jason Shore (Mothel) in 60 x 30 Division 2.

Snippets

- Kilkenny supplied two winners in Irish Nationals in April, both in the Masters grade. As expected, Ducksie Walsh took the honours in the Masters A final when defeating Tom Sheridan (Meath), 21-13, 21-18, and in the Masters B competition, Canice Quigley had a hard fought 21-20, 2105 win over fellow Kilkenny player, Ollie Falsey (O'Loughlins).

- In the Minor Hardball Doubles championships, the Clogh /O'Loughlins combination of Eoghan Hennessy and Keith Bourke claimed the All Ireland title by overcoming Stephen Cooney and Ian McLoughlin (Mayo), winning in two games.

- Windgap hosted a very successful One Wall tournament earlier in the year, using their newly-built hurling wall



Goresbridge Girls team 40 x 20 Division 3 Féile Champions
Lauren Barcoe, Martina Kinsella, Katie Sheehan, Catherine Foley and Aoife Sheehan.



Goresbridge Boys - Féile 40 x 20 Division 5 Champions
JJ English, Conor English, Sean Carey, SeanDoyle and Michael Doyle.



Juvenile Player for 2009, Rachel Hogan (Kilfane) pictured with Ducksie Walsh and coach Eddie English

- During the year, Kilkenny lost a great friend of Handball when Johnny O'Mara (Mullinavat) passed away. During his time with the club, Johnny served as chairman, along with collecting numerous awards in the court. These included winning titles at County and Provincial level and an All Ireland Golden Masters A Doubles crown in 1985, which he won with his long time playing partner, Pat O'Keeffe. A pleasant and likeable character, Johnny was a National champion in both cycling and rowing in his younger days.

- In second level colleges, Eoghan Hennessy (Castlecomer Community School) contested the Intermediate Singles final, Ciára Mahon and Demi Donovan (Loreto Convent) were defeated in the Junior Doubles decider, while Patrick and Peter Funchion (Callan CBS) lost their Senior Doubles semi final against Cork.

- At the Golden Gloves competitions, Ciáran and Jimmy Neary contested the Mens C and Masters B finals, and Mary Phelan (Clogh) was beaten in the Girls U15 decider.

- In the 3rd Level Colleges championships, Nicholas Anthony won the Mens A competition and was, along with Patrick Funchion and Ger McGrath, part of the winning WIT team.

What Became of the Likely Lads?

Do Good Minors make Good Seniors?

By Mark Townsend

"You never know with minors do you?" It's a cliché to say it, but clichés only become so, because invariably they are laced with truth. Some underage prodigies rise like a phoenix, more make a gradual ascent. Others burn brightly before fading just as fast, only appearing years later in "Where are they now?" columns.

You never know with minors, but in Kilkenny, you can usually assume that the side the county will produce will be better than most. Over the last two decades we have won 18 of the Leinster titles on offer, and though our record of All Ireland success is second over that time to Galway, we have more than compensated by our return at senior level.

Given the county's senior success then, it seems obvious that underage development would go hand in hand with it. But this is not necessarily the case. Indeed, of the side that started this year's senior Final, only three Carrickshock men (Michael Rice, John Tennyson and Richie Power) have the honour of an All-Ireland minor medal in their cabinet. In contrast four prominent members of the current panel (Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan, Brian Hogan and Derek Lyng) never hurled at under-18 level for Kilkenny. So, the question must be asked, where do all the good minors go?

The Good

As regards great Kilkenny underage teams, the minor side of 1993 appeared to have it all. With a strong squad and the managerial experience of Jim Neary and Fan Larkin, all indicators pointed towards a successful campaign. They came through a challenging Leinster championship, hammered Antrim in the semi-final before defeating a fancied Galway side in a sparkling All-Ireland final.

The defence, anchored by Captain Shane Doyle and ably supported by the likes of Tom Hickey and Vinny O'Brien was a solid, uncompromising outfit. Up front, the strength, and undoubted skill, of David Buggy was complemented with the natural scoring ability of Damien Cleere and Ollie O'Connor, arguably the jewel in what was a highly impressive crown.

As the respective All-Ireland winning minor and senior teams stood on the precipice that evening, few would have envisaged the barren future that awaited them. For the seniors, an arduous seven year famine was in store. But for the minors, what lay ahead was perhaps even more ominous. They were not to know it at the time, but for a majority of the side, their career may already have peaked.

Whatever happened to the Kilkenny minor team of 1993, arguably one of the finest this county ever produced? Sure, they had successful

club careers afterwards, with Vinny O'Brien winning an All Ireland title with James Stephens. Damien Cleere and Tom Hickey also enjoyed county championship success, and the latter had the honour of captaining Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of 1998.

David Buggy and Ollie O'Connor have remained stalwarts at club level for years, and regularly featured on Kilkenny junior and intermediate teams over the course of their careers. And yet for such a seemingly talented crop, it seems amazing that not one player of that team has since registered an All-Ireland senior medal for Kilkenny.

In trying to outline the reasons for this state of affairs, team selector Jim Neary said that contrary to perception at the time, the side was a "good team" rather than a collection of brilliantly individual players. And for a player to succeed at senior inter county "they'd nearly have to be an individual hurler".

In pinpointing specific players from the side Jim noted that Damien Cleere was, though a fine forward, "an outstanding back and if he'd tried to make it as a back he would have made it to the top". Others like the captain Shane Doyle were "exemplary young fellows, but a few of them went onto college and moved further afield and missed out at vital times".

He didn't feel their relative lack of success was due to a lack of hunger; "The likes of David Buggy, he may not have shone for the county, but he won the intermediate title single handed for 'Comer last year, so his hunger didn't go, he was just short that little extra step for the county."

Speaking in general terms about underage success, Jim makes the point that often the weight of expectation can be too great for minor stars who are thrown in at the deep end too soon and then discarded when they are not instantly able to swim. "That's the great thing about Brian Cody, if you shove them in it can destroy them. He gives young lads a bit of hurling here and a bit there. That's right management, bringing them on at the right time. No underage hurler will be destroyed under him."

The Bad

In 1995 a young, un-fancied side from the county made it to the All-Ireland final where they faced a star studded Cork outfit, the names of whom (Sean Óg Ó hAilpín, Donal Óg Cusack, Joe Deane) we would become well acquainted with over the years. The result was not pretty. Over the course of an arduous hour, Kilkenny were embarrassed by a physically stronger and more skilful Cork. At the final whistle the princely sum of 1-2 had been registered, 1-1 of which was garnered in the last five minutes. The future, in relative terms, looked bleak.



Kilkenny - All Ireland MH Champions 1993

Back: Liam Smith, Vinnie O'Brien, Brian Lonergan, Eamon Mackey, Kevin Grogan, Sean Kealy, John Ayres, Brendan Bolger.
Front: Damien Cleere, Tom Hickey, David Buggy, Ollie Blanchfield, Shane Doyle (Capt), Ollie O'Connor, Brendan Dalton. (Tom Brett)



Kilkenny - Leinster MH Champions 1995

Back: Mark Dunphy, David Carroll, Andrew Hickey, Shane Lanigan, Eoin Beehan, Richie Mullally, Ger Kirwan..
Front: James Maher, PJ Cody, PJ Ryan, Paul Hoyne (Capt), Ramie Cahill, Sean Millea, Sean Dowling, Micheál Hoyne. (Tom Brett)

Given the scope of defeat, it would have been expected that most, if not all of the side would disappear off the radar, never to be heard from again. But through persistence and dogged determination this proved not to be the case. Michael Kavanagh, a county minor that year at only 16, always seemed a shoe-in for senior status. But others were less obvious candidates.

Richie Mullally, a midfielder at minor, blossomed into a highly talented right half-back in 2002. A valuable panel member during his senior tenure, he perhaps would have been even more prominent were it not for an unfortunate ankle injury that stunted his development in 2003. When this did occur, it was perhaps only fitting that his teammate from 1995, Sean Dowling, would step into the breach and replace him.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of all was P.J. Ryan. Unappreciated outside the county, and possibly even within it, until this year, he produced an incredible performance in the All-Ireland final, more than compensating for his initial, unhappy experience 14 years earlier. In total, both on the field of play and as sub, the Kilkenny minor team so humiliated in the All-Ireland final of 1995, have a grand total of 21 All Ireland senior medals between them. What does that say, about good minor teams making good seniors?

In discussing why that team produced so many All-Ireland winners (5, including Michael Hoyne's medal as a sub in 2000), Michael Kavanagh makes the point that the team weren't as bad as they appeared on All-Ireland final day, but were made look so by an

exceptionally good Cork side. He also makes the salient point that whatever one does at underage level is just a foundation for success, and in no way a guarantee. "I think it's up to the individual themselves how much more of it he wants and how bad he wants to wear the Kilkenny jersey again in future. You give them the taste of it at minor, and if he wants it bad enough, if he applies himself, then bigger days are ahead."

The Kilkenny team of 1995 may seem like an aberration but this is not entirely the case. For further support of the argument that average minor teams don't necessarily make average seniors one only has to look to the side of 2000. Beaten by Offaly in the Leinster semi-final that year, it was the first time in a decade Kilkenny had suffered defeat at that level in the province. Yet of that unheralded fifteen, Tommy Walsh, J. J. Delaney, Aidan Fogarty and Jackie Tyrrell have all progressed, and brilliantly so, to the senior ranks.

For those young men on this year's Kilkenny minor team, they would do well to acknowledge that the road to success is paved with stones of failures. By their very nature, it is to be expected all would wish for senior success. There are many of them who could succeed and, by law of averages, two or three of them should do. But if anyone has the temerity to guarantee to you that any single one of the team will "make it", you would be best advised to ignore them. Because if history has thought us anything, it is that you never know with minors, do you?

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Compulsory Hurling Helmets

By Mark Townsend

We've come a long way. When hurling helmets were first introduced to the public some forty years ago they were viewed with skepticism, a fad that would never catch on like the plastic hurl craze of the early 80's. Not since the days of the peaked hats of the early part of the century had anyone seen a hurler with any sort of cranial protection on the field, and few believed it would change. Hurling helmets were viewed as a cheap imitation of their American Football counterparts, both un-macho and deeply un-stylish.

The battered Cooper helmets of Johnstown men Pat Delaney and Pat Henderson were embryonic versions of what was to come in the early 70's, but throughout the 80's and 90's, it was still more common to see players without facial protection

than with. Indeed at the start of the 00's, Kilkenny won an All-Ireland with only six of their team wearing helmets, and not all of those were complete with faceguards. However over the course of the decade, usage has changed from being a minority pursuit to the accepted norm, to the point where of the 36 participants in this year's All-Ireland final, 33 wore helmets. How times have changed.



Ray Cummins (Cork)
First player to wear a helmet in Croke Park
(1969 All Ireland SH Final)

The announcement by the GAA that from the start of next year, all hurlers will have to wear helmets on the field of play, has been met with much approval. But while it is uncommon in Kilkenny, there is still a sizable amount of inter-county hurlers who have never worn a helmet. Waterford's Ken McGrath and Dan Shanahan (who unsurprisingly, are both noticeably lacking in teeth due to their stance) and Cork's Sean Óg Ó hAilpín, are some of the most recognizable players in the game; partly due to their skills, but most significantly due to their refusal to wear facial protection. How will they adjust to the new ruling?

By the sounds of it, some of them won't. Cork's former full-back Diarmuid O'Sullivan has already announced his intention to retire from all hurling activity from next year onwards on the grounds that "At the age of thirty years of age a man should be able to make up his own mind whether or not he should have to wear a helmet". It's a sentiment that has caused anxiety around clubs all over the country.

As a county, Kilkenny has suffered as much as anyone from a lack of helmet usage. Most famously a serious eye injury was suffered by one of our players in the 1967 All-Ireland final (although the option of a helmet wasn't available to the player at the time). There have been other incidents of players suffering eye injuries in club games. Michael Kavanagh, the only outfield player in this year's All-Ireland final not to wear a helmet (helmet wearing is still a novelty among goalkeepers) has been mildly annoyed by the new ruling. He points to a recent Sunday Independent poll that shows there is still a majority of



Michael Kavanagh

hurlers opposed to the ruling, in particular in relation to goalkeepers and also mentions a worry he has regarding senior players.

"I think players should have been consulted more, for older players it's going to be a big issue. For any player who hasn't worn a helmet for so long and to then try and wear a helmet it's going to be difficult. For a lot of club players as well it might actually keep them away from the game"

In his first All-Ireland final in 1998 Michael actually wore a helmet, but since then he has been most commonly seen without it. Over the years he has been quite fortunate not to have suffered any serious facial injuries and this has most probably influenced his stance on the ruling. "After years of not wearing it, I would prefer to play without it. I enjoy the freedom of it not being on your head, especially in the summer in the heat of battle, you have it in your mind that you feel better without it"

Nevertheless, unlike O Sullivan he is willing to make the sacrifice necessary to continue playing the game "I suppose in years to come we'll probably be glad of it. I dabbled with it wearing it at club level here and there over the years so hopefully I can get back used to wearing it again. I'll be glad if I can finish playing the game if I can keep injury free any keep any facial injuries to a minimum".

Dr Stephen Beatty is an eye surgeon in the Whitfield Clinic in Waterford and one of the key men behind the implementation of the new rule. He was aware of the dangers of eye injuries in hurling and as a consequence, helped pen a report on injuries suffered by hurlers during the 1994-2000 period.



Diarmaid O'Sullivan

Understandably he is delighted by the implementation of compulsory helmets and can only see the benefits of its introduction; "When the rule was first brought in at minor level there was two main fears. One was that the ruling would send out the message that hurling was a dangerous game. The second was that the face-guard would hinder player's vision and reduce the quality of their play. On both counts this has proven to be false. Because of increased helmet wearing, hurling has actually become a much safer game, and parents

are more inclined to let their children play it. As for deterioration in quality, the vast majority of top players wear faceguards nowadays, so how is that affecting quality?"

He goes on to add that the number of injuries suffered by players has decreased dramatically since the introduction of the compulsory helmet rule at underage level. "Before the rule was brought in we had seen 300 people come into our surgery over six years with injuries because of hurling, and six of those resulted in the loss of sight in an eye. But since the ruling has been brought in at minor and under 21 the risk of injury has been reduced by ninety five per cent and the risk of serious injury has been completely eliminated".

And as for Diarmuid O Sullivan's assertion that he was quitting the game because of the ruling, Dr Beatty all but dismisses this as nonsense; "I doubt that was the only reason that he decided to retire. There would be a period of adjustment for older players alright, but it's a test of commitment. If they really want to play, they will".

Despite the protestations of some, it seems the introduction of compulsory helmets will be a good thing. So many hurlers over the years have suffered seri-

ous facial injuries that could easily been prevented with better protection. Many, such as Kilkenny's Adrian Ronan and Philly Larkin, have lost teeth in games, and they were two of the luckier ones. For those who've played without a helmet for years of course it will be an inconvenience at first but their personal safety is more important than their pride. In time, they may indeed be thankful of what the rule has done for them.



Martin Whire celebrates his 100th birthday in the company of Brian Cody, Tommy Walsh and Liam McCarthy.

Blacks & Whites win Second Junior Title in Eight Years

2009 County Junior Hurling Report by Jimmy Walsh



Eoin Hennessy

Blacks and Whites - County Junior hurling champions 2009.

Back: Jimmy Lennon, Michael Doyle, Brian Cleere, Barry Moloney, Damian O'Dowd, John Lennon, Thomas Phelan, Anthony Barcoe, Niall Foley, Tommy Farrell, Declan Fitzpatrick.

Middle: Michael Moloney, James Doyle, Peter Cleere, Padraig Joyce, Michael Doyle, Aidan O'Dowd, James Doran, Joss Murphy, Charlie Ryan, Paul Murphy, Sean Kealy (Captain), Niall Kennedy, Pat Hayden.

Front: Aaron Foley, Michael Ryan, Tom Moloney, Paul Whelan, John Lawlor, John Murphy, Jason Foley, James Brennan, Denis Brennan, Michael Moloney.

For Junior hurling followers, the year ahead had a very open appearance after Lisdowney and Bennettsbridge had made huge steps in the North in the previous year and John Lockes now back from the Intermediate Grade were adding their experience to the line up in the South. In other quarters vastly experienced sides such as Galmoy, Piltown and Blacks and Whites were favoured if they could improve their consistency, whilst St. Patrick's, Windgap, Kilmacow, a youthful Barrow Rangers and an O'Loughlins Junior side were all capable of taking out a more favoured side in the final stages. In the Championship still run on a league basis at Divisional level there was plenty of time to build a team through the various competitions. The main aim on the agenda was to be fit and ready for the crucial run in from August to the county final in October. With only one team to succeed in the Junior race it was the seasoned campaigners of Blacks and Whites that succeeded in having the timing and form right on the button.

Junior League title for Galmoy

In the league championship stages down South, Piltown and Kilmacow showed all the early form in qualifying for the League final as early analysis saw Slieverue making great strides. In the North Galmoy and Bennettsbridge headed their respective groups with league points to spare as Barrow Rangers and St. Martins showed fine form. At the silverware end in the Divisions, the Iverk men won by 4-15 against Kilmacow's 1-15 as Galmoy defeated the Bridge by six points 1-16 to 1-10. In the county final Galmoy had a comfortable 2-17 to 0-11 victory over a Piltown side appearing in their second successive final after going down to the Boro after a replay the previous year.

Junior Championship Time

With the league sorted and all teams starting at different rungs on the championship ladder the serious business of winning county honours and participation in next years intermediate grade was all to play for. On the field the games commenced on the seventh of August in Bennettsbridge when Clara beat Dicksboro in the Northern champi-

onship. In the ties that followed a strong James Stephens side created the first surprise as they ousted Barrow Rangers before taking Bennettsbridge to a second game in the quarter finals. Elsewhere the 2008 county finalists Lisdowney overcame League champions Galmoy before going down to the Blacks & Whites who ran up their second big championship score in their semi-final. In the other side of the draw Bennettsbridge were again hard pressed for victory by a City side when they defeated O Loughlins 2-14 to 2-13 to qualify for the final for a second year in a row.

In the final for the Jim Rafter Cup in Freshford, Blacks and Whites continued to pile on big scores as three Tommy Farrell goals made their 3-11 just enough to defeat Bennettsbridge whose significant 2-13 that included a last minute Nicky Cleere goal just barley failed to get them through in another tight game.

In the Southern championship the games returned results to more traditional form with John Lockes and Windgap winning through to meet Piltown and Kilmacow respectively in the semi-finals. Having already qualified for two league county finals Piltown looked a good bet to beat the Callan men, however this was not to be as John Lockes ran out comfortable winners 2-12 to Piltown's 1-8. In the other semi in Mooncoin, Kilmacow's victory over Windgap was not as comprehensive as the final scoreline of 2-14 to 1-10 might suggest

In the final played before a fine crowd in Piltown John Lockes improving form was good enough to see them crowned champions. Not having it all their own way they slowly hauled in a Kilmacow side who had got off to a flying start and led 1-2 to 0-1 after just six minutes. On the day they eventually went on to win by 0-16 to 1-10 in a tight finish.

In the County final after a twenty two year absence spent at higher level that had included two terms in Senior John Lockes had their eyes set on an instant return to the Intermediate Grade. It was no different in the Blacks and Whites camp as the side relegated in 2004 had also strong aspirations of their rightful place in the higher



Eoin Hennessy

JohnLockes - County Junior Hurling Finalists 2009

Back: Gavin Nolan, Matthew Houlihan, Dan McCormack, James Power, Eoin Fahy, Alan Bergin, Liam Kennedy, Michael Gordon

Middle: Derek Holden (Sel), Pat Purcell (Sel), Brian McCann, Michael Hartley, Barry Cahill, Robbie Jackman, Ger Shelly, Paddy Kennedy, Sean Bryan, Richie Kennedy (Trainer), John O'Neill (capt), Bobby Jackman (Manager).

Front: Jason Corcoran, P.J.Cody, John Paul Corcoran, Brendan Grace, Paul Morrissey, Simon Burke, Brian Doherty, Bill McCormack, Declan Roche, Shane Bergin, Adrian O'Sullivan, Tommy O'Sullivan (Sel)

Mascots: Shay Jackman, Tomas Roche, Adam O'Sullivan

grade. With both sides short their top player for differing reasons it was felt the Skough men's greater ability to get goals may swing it. On the day in Nowlan Park the title went to the east of the county as the Callan side created many chances and got both of the games goals only to see the Skoughvasteen sides all round abilities give them victory. On the day sharp shooter Niall Kennedy picked off eleven points as his side led 0-7 to 0-4 at the break. The new half saw John Lockes, Simon Burke find the net to leave only a point between the sides. As the Blacks and Whites moved up a gear his second goal came far too late to effect the 0-17 to 2-6 final scoreline as Sean Kealy went to collect the Cup for his proud club and community.

Rangers take 3rd All County Junior League Title back to Carlow

In the JJ Kavanagh All County Junior League twenty three teams entered the competition that started in the second week in April. After fifty five games, the quarter finals saw John Lockes go down to Mount

Leinster Rangers at the second time of asking as Blacks & Whites, Piltown and Galmoy had handy wins over Lisdowney, Kilmacow and St. Patrick's respectively. In the semis the fare was closer as Piltown defeated Blacks and Whites by 0-13 to 0-11 and Mount Leinster Rangers had a single point victory over Galmoy 2-18 to 3-14. After Piltown led by two points early on in the final played in Nowlan Park the Carlow men backboned by members of the Counties Christy Ring side led 1-6 to 0-4 at the break. After fine play in the second half they went on to defeat Piltown 1-16 to 0-11 to take their third title in the grade. Along with taking them to the head of the roll of honour where Conahy Shamrocks, Galmoy and Blacks & Whites are all tied at two wins apiece it was a major building block on their way to their third Carlow senior hurling title win later in the year.

Paddy Cahill Cup in Abeyance

With the final still to be played the holders Windgap went out to Erin's Own of Castlecomer in the first round before the Northern



Eoin Hennessy

St Lachtain's - JH "A" Champions 2009

Back: Paul Dermody, David Fitzpatrick, John Delaney, Jonathan Doherty, Brendan Dalton, Ger O'Reilly, Lachtain Kennedy, John Paul Kavanagh, Steven Farrell.

Middle: Martin Power, Jim Marnell, Pat Anderson, Paul Costelloe, Jim Costelloe, John Dooley, Derek Deegan, Davy Brennan, Michael Cormack, Noel Hickey, Michael Farrell, John Costelloe, Richard Costelloe, Johnny Fitzpatrick.

Front: Ger Dalton, Michael Hickey, Paul Mullan, Séamus Hayes, Ollie O'Connor, Paul Guinan, Thomas Delaney, Mark Kavanagh, Barry Hughes, Tomás Flynn, Brian Kennedy, Emma Fitzpatrick, Claire Dermody.



Eoin Hennessy

Galmoy - Northern Junior Hurling League Champions 2009

Back: Tom Russell (Selector), Joe Dollard, John Phelan, Stephen Delaney, Pierce Harte, Michael Harte, David Delaney, Eamonn Corcoran, Brendan Phelan, Nigel Stanley, Paul Delaney, Thomas Phelan, Michael Brennan, Billy Harte (selector), Paddy Moore (Manager), Joe Doyle (Waterboy), Hannah Drennan (First Aid).
Front: Jack Delaney (Mascot), Leo Doherty, Eoin Glendon, Gavin Doherty, Brian Doherty, Martin Phelan (Captain), Stephen Maher, Noel Doherty, Liam Drennan, Niall Doherty, Donica Gray, Phil Russell, Thomas Corcoran.
 Kneeling in front: Conor Drennan, Dylan Gray and Billy Drennan (mascots).

side added a one point win over Dicksboro to qualify for a final meeting with O'Loughlin Gaels who recorded a fine 4-18 to 1-19 win over Barrow Rangers.

Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup Final on Hold

Featuring two Carlow senior sides Naomh Brid and St. Mullins and second teams from Kilkenny Senior and Intermediate Clubs, Bennettsbridge were the sole Junior club involved. With the holders Dicksboro now participating in the Cahill Cup the Bridge recorded wins over Naomh Bríd and St. Mullins to qualify for the final as St. Martins overcame Clara in the opposite half of the draw.

St. Lachtains go Junior with "A" Championship Win

Played on a league basis for the first time in the South eight teams in two groups faced each other in a round robin competition. This competitive format saw the league leaders Carrickshock and the Rower Inistioge qualify direct for the semi finals. At the other end Thomastown took two games to defeat John Lockes in the preliminary round where they were joined by Ballyhale Shamrocks. After the noresiders recorded another tight win over Piltown they joined Mullinavat in the semis. Having come the long route Mullinavat surprised the much fancied Rower Inistioge in the semi final as a battling Thomastown side were just two points shy of Carrickshock in a high scoring game that ended 2-15 to 2-12 in the second one. In a Walsh Mountains derby final Carrickshocks 1-6 to 0-5 half time lead was enough to see the early season outsiders create a major surprise to take the title by 1-9 to 0-10.

In the Northern division St. Lachtains took the title at the second attempt having gone down to Clara the previous year. In the final



Eoin Hennessy

Mt Leinster rangers - All County JH League Champions 2009

Back: Denis Roche, Seamus Kelly, Michael Ralph, Shane Murray, David Phelan, Gary Doyle, Paul Cody, Thomas Murphy, Edward Cody.
Middle: Andrew Hickey, Denis Murphy, David Grennan, Richard Cody, Derek Byrne, Edward Byrne, Padraig Nolan, Brian Nolan, Colm Byrne.
Front: John Cody, Willie Hickey, Karol Lawlor, Sean Michael Murphy, James Hickey, Frank Foley, Richard Kelly, Hugh Patrick Byrne, Gary Kelly.

their low scoreline of 0-10 was sufficient to defeat the Fenians tally of 0-8 after both sides recorded five point wins over Tullaroan and Emeralds respectively

In the JJ Kavanagh and Sons county final in Nowlan Park St. Lachtains opened a six point lead early in both halves through Ollie O'Connor and Paul Guinan. In two strong rallies Carrickshock brought the lead back to three points on both occasions before victory went to the more experienced St. Lachtains side by 0-15 to 0-10

Young Irelands take first Junior A League Title

Ten teams including Carlow senior sides Erin's Own (Bagnelstown) and Balinkillen contested for Southern and County title Holders Ballyhale Shamrocks crown. After twenty games both Carlow sides faced the holders and the ever strong Rower Inistioge

in the semi finals. As the results panned out the eventual Carlow Senior Hurling finalists and surprise packets Erin's Own qualified to meet the Rower Inistioge where the Kilkenny sides greater ability to score goals had them three points ahead at the end.

Up north another dolmen county side Carlow Town made great progress in the league stages before thirty games saw Young Irelands account for the Fenians and Tullaroan defeat neighbours Graigue Ballycallan in the semi-finals. In the Final a strong showing Young Irelands defeated a Tullaroan side seeking to appear in two successive county finals in the grade by 3-13 to 2-10.

In the county final in Thomastown a Paul Keogh scoring show at corner forward saw Young Irelands win the County league title for the first time by recording a 3-9 score to the Rower Inistioge's 1-10



Co JH Action 2009





Eoin Hennessy

St Martin's - JH "B" Champions 2009

Back: Niall Clancy, Keith Davitt, David Breen, Thomas Dowling, John Haughney, Philip Agar, Paddy Lawler, Damien Tynan, Dave Dooley, Cathal Healy, Don Callanan, Mike Keane.

Middle: Tom Agar (Sel), Damien Maher, Bryan Byrne, Mick Morrissey, Aidan Lawler, Conor Kinsella, Tom Morrissey, Paucic Keegan, David Shore, Philip Shore.

Front: Paucic Haughney, Brian Malone, Stephan Murphy, Mark Murphy, Dermot Lawler captain, Geoff Doyle, Aidan Murphy, Fionn Lawler, Patsy Murphy (Sel), Nicky Purcell, Richard Nolan (Sel), Paddy Kehoe, Katie Purcell, Eve Lawler.



Eoin Hennessy

Carrickshock - Junior "B" Champions 2009

Back: Paul Barron, Gerard Murphy, Larry O Shea, Jim Rice, David Kenneally, Eric Lonergan, John Power (Stoneyford), Richie Frisby, Darragh Fahy, Ciarán Roche, John Power (Lismatigue)

Middle: Gary Comerford, Jim O Shea, Emmet Dunphy, Damien Walsh, Patrick Farrell, Eamon Foley, John Cahill, Gerry Mulcahy.

Front: Mary Carroll (first aid), Nicky Murphy, Seamus Millea, Chris Price, Paddy Mulcahy, Edward Power, William Hoyne, Páraic Barron, John Sheehan, James Dalton, Jim Rohan.

St Martins move up a grade with Junior B Championship win

Down South after John Lockes and Thomas-town had moved along with the champions Piltown to the "A" division to keep the balance of teams even, eight teams took part in the Country Style league. They included the third teams from Mooncoin, Rower, Carrickshock and Mullinavat who all made the quarter finals with Graiguenamagh spoiling the alignment for the semi finals when Mooncoin went down to the Rower Inis-

tioge who then went on through the semi finals to join neighbours Graiguenamagh in the final. Played in Ballyhale the Rower Inistioge qualified for the county final following a 1-8 to 0-8 victory.

Up North a real knockout competition with eighteen teams saw Lisdowney who started in one of the preliminary rounds progress to the semi-finals where they went down to St. Martins after a replay. In the other side of the draw Erin's Own overcame O'Loughlin Gaels by 1-15 to 1-12. In the final St. Mar-

tins had a nice 1-16 to 1-11 victory over Erin's Own

In a unique county Final that saw the third teams from both clubs meet St. Martins showed a major improvement on their progress graph when they went on to win by 1-15 to the Rower Inistioge 0-12. Having won the league title in the grade the previous year the win gives the club teams in the Senior, Junior and Junior A grades in 2010 .

Carrickshock take JH B League Title

In one of the busiest competitions in the county eighteen teams in two groups played seven league games apiece to decide the league placings in the Northern section. In the quarter finals Erin's Own, St. Martins, Blacks & Whites and St Patrick's came out on top with Blacks and Whites and St. Martins going on to qualify for the final after easy wins. Despite Blacks and Whites fine scoring returns in the knockout stages they had to give best to the more experienced St. Martins side who went on to retain their northern title

In the southern division the league saw Carrickshock defeat Mullinavat by 1-7 to 0-9 as Tullougher Rosbercon beat Graigueanagh 2-7 to 1-9 in close semi-finals. In the final Carrickshock went on top in the goal scoring stakes to defeat Tullougher Rosbercon 4-12 to 1-13.

In the county final Carrickshock carried on their winning ways when they recorded a hard earned 0-13 St. Martins 0-12 as the sides were level twice in the dying minutes and St. Martins were still attacking at the final whistle.

Galmoy take the Joe Walsh Cup up North

A total of sixteen teams across the county entered the Joe Walsh Cup for Junior "B" Hurling teams. Presented in honour of the long serving Southern Board secretary, the early rounds saw all of his old clubs exit as Carrigeen were the only one standing at the quarter final stages. After their elimination by fellow Junior side Threecastles the winners went down to a free scoring O'Loughlin Gaels side in one semi as Galmoy overcame Clara in the other. In the Final that produced a high scoring thriller in Freshford



Eoin Hennessy

Bennettsbridge - Northern JH Finalists 2009

Back: Michael Ryan, Johnny Cleere, David Kealy, Aidan Cleere, Robert Lennon, Gavin Hickey.

Middle: Gary Hayes, Garrett Hickey, John Lennon, Patrick O'Neill, Brian Lannon, Enda Cleere, Nicky Cleere, Tim Dooley, James McGarry.

Front: Edward Murphy, Wayne Dowling, James Dowling, Hugh O'Neill, Daragh Wafer, Seamus Moran, John Drea.



Eoin Hennessy

Young Irelands - JH "A" League Champions 2009

Back: Donal Twomey, Darragh Phelan, Cathal Fitzgerald (Trainer) Pat Drennan, Sharon Handrick, Pat Lennon, Tom Drennan, Gary Farrell, J J Lennon, Colin Dreeing, Paul Holden, Alan Drennan, Peter Carroll, Sean Kehoe, Niall Walsh

Front: Ciaran Phelan with Tommy, Ben, Cian & Eoghan Phelan, Steffi, Tiffanie & Charlie Fitzgerald, Jayne & Emma Farrell, Alan Roche, Willie Bolger (Capt), Eoin Walsh, Patrick Lennon, Paul Kehoe, Ger Corcoran, John Morris.



Piltown - All-County League Finalists 2009:

Back: Andrew Norris, Martin Power, Joey O' Shea, Matthew Kenny, Nigel Brennan, Mark Culleton, Brendan Norris, Ciaran Foley, Niall Kinsella, Jamie Phelan.
Middle: Paul Kirby, Nicky Kenny, Pa Connolly, Peter McCarthy, Tommie O' Gorman, Kevin Brophy, Seamus Norris, James Norris (Rathmore), Richie Brophy, Shane Kinsella.
Front: Robbie Culleton, Peter Kelly, Adam Murphy, Philly Kenny, John Brophy, Michael Brennan, Michael Burchill, Daniel Norris, Joey Blackmore, James Norris (Kildalton).



Erin's Own Junior hurling team who defeated Windgap in the Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup.

Back: Eoin Rothwell, Mark Rothwell, Cillian Brennan, Donal Fenlon, Michael Bollard, Donal Meally, James Mullins, Tarla Dunne.

Front: Liam Shore, Peadar Boran, Larry Carroll, Joe Meagher, Stephen O'Dwyer, Damien Mullins, Eoin Meally.

the northern side took the title for the first time on a 3-14 to 2-15 scoreline.

Looking both ways

As the year ended in unseasonably wet conditions the seasons roll of honor at junior level has seen many changes even with two with competitions to be concluded. With titles well scattered Galmoy's County Junior League and Joe Walsh Cup was the only dual success at junior club level as all trophies changed hands

In the interim time before the next ball is pucked much debate will ensue in club and county board committee rooms as the amount of games being provided for players and the grading structures will that will end up in place when the draws take place early

in the new year

For the Junior grades flag bearers the Blacks and Whites the season continues as they follow the Leinster Junior Club championship route. The season presents them a new opportunity as the competition ended at Provincial level in 2003 when the Skough side last one the county. Their success now allows them an opportunity to follow a national trail to a possible All Ireland final appearance in Croke park.

For the other victors in all grades the new year offers opportunities to test their mettle and progress in higher grades whilst for the vanquished it gives another chance for to Live the dream and finish the plans with silverware or a championship win in 2010.

JJ Kavanagh Northern Junior Hurling championship

Preliminary Round

Clara 1-14	Dicksboro 0-11
1st Round	
O'Loughlin Gaels 1-18	Clara 1-6
James Stephens 1-13	Bar. Rangers 1-11
Lisdowney 1-24	Cloneen 0-12
St. Patrick's 6-26	Erins Own 0-5

2nd Round

Blacks and Whites 0-21	St Patrick's 2-11
O'Loughlin Gaels 0-15	St Martin's 1-7
Lisdowney 1-14	Galmoy 2-9
Bennettsbridge 3-8	Jas Stephens 1-14
Bennettsbridge 1-23	Jas Stephens 1-17

Semi-finals

Bennettsbridge 2-14	O'Loughlin G's 2-13
Blacks and Whites 4-10	Lisdowney 0-11

Final

Blacks and Whites 3-11	Bennettsbridge 2-13
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Iverk Produce Southern Junior Hurling Championship

Preliminary Round

Dunnamaginn 2-13	Mooncoin 0-10
1st Round	
Windgap 1-10	Slieverue 0-7
John Lockes 1-16	Dunnamaginn 1-7
Semi-finals	
John Lockes 2-12	Piltown 1-8
Kilmacow 2-14	Windgap 1-10

Final

John Lockes 0-16	Kilmacow 1-10
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JJ Kavanagh County Junior Hurling Championship final

B & W's 0-17	John Lockes 2-6
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C LUB REPORTS



New Management

A new management team of James McGarry, Michael Fennelly and Brendan Mason took charge of the senior team. The club reins were taken over by Sean O'Sullivan and Michael Kenneally.

All Is Well!!

Club Captain Eamonn Walsh got his tenure got off to a winning start with victory in the Aylward Cup. Some very good League performances earned the team a place in the League Final, which was then not played, and we were awarded our fifth title in a row. The championship followed – a good game against Graigue-Ballycallan, a great semi-final against O'Loughlin Gael's and a very tough battle against James Stephens in the County Final before victory – and a four in a row – was ours. The Leinster campaign has now begun.

County Stars Shine

Michael Fennelly came on as a sub in the All-Ireland and was able to claim the Liam McCarthy himself at the end. He was joined by Henry Shefflin and James Cha Fitzpatrick as well as Eoin and TJ Reid. Michael's brother Colin was on the U-21 panel who won Leinster medals as was cousin Ger Fennelly.

A special word for Henry Shefflin, who collected his ninth All-Star award, the TG4 player of the last 25 years and Irish Independent's Player of the last 125 years, just recognition of Henry as the 'complete player'.

Celebrations

Ballyhale Shamrocks took part in the GAA's wider celebration of the 125. A display in the National School of medals, photos and memorabilia was followed by a procession to the Hurling field where the 125 flag was unveiled by Club President John Fitzpatrick, joined by parish Priest Fr. Peter Kehoe and Club Chairman Sean Reid. Elaine Fitzpatrick sang the National anthem. This was followed by fun and games in both Hurling and Camogie as well as a BBQ and shop.

Valued Sponsors

A lot was organised during the year to fundraise and our supporters have once again been very generous. None more so than the club's main sponsor M & A Coaches and the Dowling family. Many others contributed both big and small to the club's progress and we are very grateful to them all.

Family Matters

2009 has also been a big year for Family. Several current players got married during the year, other Club members have been busy securing the future of the club and 2009 will be remembered as a 'baby boom' year for both Hurling and Camogie, with varying degrees of expectation on some very young shoulders! As always some families suffered loss and we remember them also at Christmas. Many thanks to all those who helped the Club in any way – big or small, out in public or behind the scenes – you know who you are.



Lá na gClub

Club President: John Fitzpatrick, Parish Priest Fr. Peter Kehoe O.Carm, Denis Heaslip.



Model Players

Henry Shefflin, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Bob Aylward, TJ Reid, Michael Fennelly show off our new sponsors jerseys.



The next generation of stars!
Celebrating Lá na gClub 2009

C CLUB REPORTS

Barrow Rangers



Officers 2009

Chairman:
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:
Asst. Secretary:
Treasurer:
Asst. Treasurer:
PRO:
Asst PRO:

Adult

Pat Drea
Dermot Maher
Bob Shortall
Peter Breen
Philip Maher
Murt Medlar
Michael Shortall
Peter Breen

Juvenile

William Hanlon
James Flavin
Christy Kenny
Michael Shortall

Adult Grades

The club picked up only 3 points from a possible 10 in the All County League and failed to qualify for knockout stages. They thus qualified for Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup. After beating Dunnamaggin they lost out to O'Loughlin Gaels after extra time.

In the JJ Kavanagh League we beat Clara and St Patrick's, Ballyragget. A two point loss to Clonkeen meant we had to beat arch rivals Blacks and Whites by eleven points. Giving their best performance of the year, they failed narrowly to overhaul the Skeough men, winning by 9 points. In the championship they came up short against a James Stephen's side laden with senior players, losing by two points. The Junior B team reached the quarter final of the League where they were beaten by St Martin's. They went out at the first stage of the Championship.

Underage

After a difficult early time in the U-14 A grade a victory over Clara and draws with Graig-Ballycallan and Thomastown got them through to the knockout stages of the Shield, where they qualified to meet John Lockes in the final. They have qualified for the final of the Championship Shield following comprehensive victories over Clara, Bennettsbridge and Ballyhale Shamrocks. They were also Shield winners in Threecastles and Cup winners in Naomh Bríd Tournaments

The U-16 side never lived up to expectations, winning only one game in League & Championship. The minor team put up some



Barrow Rangers - County Junior Hurling Champions 1988

Back: Philip Maher, Jim Hennessy, David Holmes, Paddy Murphy, Michael Doyle, Ger Lawlor, Charlie Purcell, Tom Brennan.

Front: Gerry Purcell, Michael Whitely, Martin Hanlon (Capt), Joe English, Pat Purcell, Syl Hennessy, Mickey Staunton.

very good performances. They qualified for the League semi final where they were narrowly beaten. In the championship they beat O'Loughlin Gaels to qualify for the semi-final but were beaten by a very strong 'Boro team.

Juvenile

During the season the U8's were brought to Croke Park and played a game on the hallowed turf. The U-9's won their group in the Roanmore (Waterford) blitz. The U-10's retained the cup in Graignamanagh and also won the Stephen Byrne Shield in Paulstown. The U-11's were victorious in the Na Fianna (Dublin) Tournament. The U-12's won the Mary Loneragan Shield in Paulstown. The U-13's were beaten by a last minute goal in the Shield final at the Lisdowney 7's.

Lá na gclub was held in conjunction with the Annual Parish Aeríochtín June. All players taking part received a commemorative GAA 125 Medal. In September the Club held their Annual U-10 and U-12 blitzes with eight teams taking part in both competitions. The club also hosted an U-14 Tournament.

In June the club entertained six teams from U-8 up from Naomh Mearnóg club in Dublin. The Friday evening coaching sessions for boys and girls from Junior Infants to U-12's were again attended by large numbers.

In the Black and Amber

Richard Doyle and Cathal Kenny, were proud members of the Kilkenny Minor Leinster winning and All Ireland runner up team. Cathal English was also a sub on this team. Ciaran Breen was a member of the Tony Forrester U14 Squad, while Ciaran Doyle was a member of the U-15 Squad.

March of Time

Sympathy is also extended to players, officials and members that suffered bereavement during the year. Ar dheis lamh Dé go raibh siad.

Thanks

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our many sponsors. Thanks also to club members, parents and others who fundraise and organize numerous events and to all that helped with and managed the many teams.



Above is the Barrow Rangers Under Eight team that took part in the Roanmore Charity Hurling Blitz, On right the Under Nines.

C CLUB REPORTS₁

Bennettsbridge



Club Officers 2009

Chairman	Eamon Hanrahan
Vice Chairman	John Byrne
Secretary	Dick O'Neill
Treasurer	PJ Cullen
Co Board Rep	Martin Treacy
PRO	Ian Morrissey

Club Development

A major development in the club was completed this year with the erection of flood lights. This was a major project to undertake and complete. These lights will be of great benefit to all teams in the club. Also the goal mouths have been re-sodded and should be ready to go for next year.

On the playing field: Junior

The Junior team certainly had a successful year with a solid league performance. This set up a good start to the championship, which started with a nervous match against James Stephens which went to a replay. Next was O'Loughlins in Nowlan Park which Bennettsbridge were victorious. Then it was the Northern Final against the Blacks and Whites. This was always going to be tough, which it was, Bennettsbridge were unlucky in the lead up to this match as they lost some key players due to injury. Bennettsbridge played their hearts out, only to lose by the minimum margin. Full credit must go to manager Jimmy Lennon on all the work in looking after the team.

Under 21

The Under 21 team scored a great victory in the Roinn "C" U21 county final, beating Kilmacow by 1-14 to 1-13 in a thrilling final in Thomastown.



Renewing Old Acquaintances

Former Bennettsbridge players from the glory days of 1552 - 1971 meet to celebrate during 2009

Thanks

the club would like to thank everybody; players, selectors, committee members and FAS worker who helped in the successful running of the team. A special word of thanks to groundsman Kevin Davies and his crew. Also thanks to our many sponsors and our main sponsor P.J. Cullen Centra.

Bord na nOg Officers 2009

Chairman	Paul Brennan
Vice Chairman	John Nolan
Secretary	Mary Blanchfield
Treasurer	Dick O'Neill
Co Board Reps	John Byrne Mary Blanchfield Lorraine Holohan
PRO	
Registrar	Paula Nolan

The Under Age group has had a phenomenal year which bodes well for the future of hurling in Bennettsbridge. The season started off well with a win in the Roinn B Schools Final over Erins Owen. This was followed up by the Under 16s who won out the League had a fantastic run in the Roinn B Championship coming up against Graig Ballycallan in the County Final. It took what was described as exhibition under age hurling over two games to separate the two and unfortunately Bennettsbridge lost out by the narrowest margin. The Minors also excelled this year winning the Roinn C County Final against O'Loughlins and resulting in the clubs first Championship win in 20 years.

The under age teams that participated in games this year were U-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and Minor with over 120 juveniles involved.



Bennettsbridge Under 21 Hurling team who defeated Kilmacow in the Roinn 'C' Final

Back: Jason Cleere, Paul Hughes, Kevin Blanchfield, Aidan Byrne, Kevin Brennan.

Middle: Jimmy Wafer, Robert Lannon, Hugh O'Neill, Cormac Wafer, Willie Murphy, Michael Power, Enda Morrissey, Larry Cleere (Manager)

Front: Tommy Lannon, Sean Morrissey, Dylan Walsh, Liam Blanchfield, Micheal Shiel, Aidan Cleere (Capt) Eoin O'Connor, Paul O'Neill, Shane Nolan, Ian Morrissey.

C CLUB REPORTS

Blacks & Whites



Club Officers 2008

President:	Sean O'Grady
Chairman:	Ned Moran
Vice Chair:	Dr Michael Helly
	Mick Lennon
Secretary:	Joe Lawlor
Asst. Sec:	Niall Kennedy
Treasurer:	Nancy Moloney
Registrar:	Mick Lennon
PRO:	James Doran
Youth Officer:	Michael Moloney

Adult Hurling

A Fantastic year for the Cub saw the Junior Hurlers claim the Junior Hurling Title for the third time in its history having won the championship previously in 1998 and 2002. Having to do it the hard way, the lads beat Ballyragget, Lisdowney and Bennetsbridge to win the northern championship all of which were fancied to halt Blacks and Whites progress in the championship. Callan provided the opposition for the county final and were also fancied by many to take the honours. However after a year that saw the passing of Philly Murphy and the sudden serious illness of Eleanor Brennan, the team and club were never as united and focused on the job in hand and the result was never in question.

Sean Kealy, a proud skeough man and captain on the day following Peter Cleeres harsh suspension raised the Bob Alyward cup after a terrific team performance which left a winning margin of five points and also raised the spirits of the community of Skeoughvosteen. The lads are currently preparing for the Leinster Championship and a home venue for a Leinster Final beckons if results go their way. The ultimate goal is to emulate previous Kilkenny junior Champions and hopefully bring back the all Ireland title from Croke Park on all Ireland final day next march. With a well balanced young side we look forward with optimism to the intermediate championship in 2010 where hopefully this success can be built upon.

Adult Football

A good year also on the football field saw the intermediate footballers win the Intermediate League defeating Conahy Shamrocks after a brilliant league campaign. Hopes were high for a Championship and league double and after defeating Danesfort in the championship semi final in August, Kilmaganny provided the opposition for the final. Due to both clubs and county teams hurling commitments, the final was postponed until hurling commitments were fulfilled. Unfortunately for the footballers this fell on the Saturday after the Hurling win and with such short preparation time a victory was too much of an ask and Kilmaganny emerged deserving winners on the day.

Juvenile Inter-County Hurling Blitz – Tom Walsh Park 8th Aug '09

On Saturday the 08th August the club played host to an inter club blitz. Under 6, Under 8 &

Under 10 teams from Blacks & Whites GAA club together with teams from Galway (Ceapach an Gharrai), Tipperary (Ballingarry) and Dublin (Na Fianna) all participated in what was a hugely successful and enjoyable event. Each team played 3 matches under the 'Go-Game' rules with the emphasis on participating and developing skills to the fore.

Following the games a presentation of medals to almost 170 children took place. The medals were presented by Club President Mr. Seanie O'Grady and afterwards everyone enjoyed the great food and snacks that were provided in the club-house.

It is hoped that this or a similar type Blitz would become an annual event within the club

Juvenile Review

A simple lack of numbers in both clubs saw the retention from 2008 of Blacks and Whites and neighbouring Graignamanagh as Ógra Graignamanagh/Blacks and Whites at U-14, U-16 and minor level. Championship success was achieved when the U-16 team comprehensively beat the Fenians of Johnstown in the championship semi-final and carried that form into the final where they overcame a combined Galmoy/Windgap side to claim the title.

At U-14 level, the team competed well and put in some good performances over the year but unfortunately lost out to Glenmore in the championship quarter final. The minor team was extremely unlucky not to reach the championship final after losing to O Loughlin Gaels after a replay in the semi and similarly in the league where they fell to Piltown at the same stage. However there was some great encouraging individual and team performances during the year which gives some sense of hope and satisfaction for the future. Great credit and well done to all who put in the time and effort to train and coach the lads from both clubs.



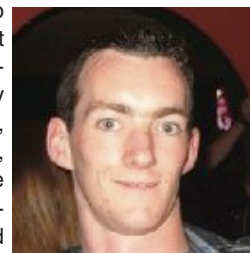
Jubilant!

Blacks & Whites players celebrate at the final whistle of the Junior Hurling County Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Although not strictly attached to the juvenile umbrella of the club, our U-21 side which was fancied to do well lost out by the minimum in their championship semi final against Kilmacow. The weather on the day was not conducive to good hurling and on another day could easily have won. Again there were some excellent performances throughout the team which was solely a Blacks and Whites outfit and this can only auger well for the future.

Philly Murphy – RIP

The club wishes to extend its heartfelt sympathy and support to the Murphy family Seamus, Mary, Lynn, Elaine, Shane and Aimee and indeed extended family and friends on the passing of Philly earlier this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé.



C CLUB REPORTS

Carrickshock



Club Development

The club continues to develop the facilities and 2009 saw the exterior walls at the hall in Hugginstown plastered with the aid of lottery funds. The field at Stoneyford continues to be an invaluable resource and was well utilised by all ages over the year.

Lá na gClub generated great excitement the club was a hive of activity with photography displays, skills master classes by our county players, BBQ and a bord na Og parade where the stars of the future were presented to all.

The club undertook defib and basic life support training which was well attended.

On the field activities

2009 was a mixed bag, though the senior team failed to progress, the junior A team reached the final to be beaten by St Lactains, the Junior B team had a successful league beating Tullogher in the south and capturing the final against St Martin's.

The club was well represented at county level with Richie Power, John Tennyson, John Dalton and Michael Rice having massive years for Kilkenny. Special congrats to Michael on securing his first all star award a testament to his hard work and dedication over recent years.

Bord na nOg

The Bord na Og committee had a very busy year with club activities, teams played in all competitions over the year with pride of place going to the u14 hurling team who reached the county final but were defeated by Galmoy. John Power was our ambassador at county level playing in goal for the minor team. An amalgamated community games team called



Reeling in the Years - Carrickshock, Kilkenny Junior Champions 1979

Back: Jimmy Phelan, Mikey Phelan, Michael Dunphy, Georgie Power, Pat Duggan, Joe Brennan, Noel Maher, Richie Power, Dixie Burke, PJ Rohan, James Ireland, Tommy Foran, Trainer (RIP).

Front: Declan Roche (Mascot), John Poole, Maurice Power, Tom Walsh, John Power, Ber McCarthy, Patsy Brennan, Martin Raggett, Brendan Raggett, Michael Dwyer, William Power.

Aghaviller managed by local man Tommy Murphy won the all Ireland community games hurling title for Kilkenny, local boys on the team were Michael Murphy, Conor Hoban, Dan Blanchefield and Rory Lodge.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to founding member of Sydney Shamrocks GAA club Nicky Murphy and Donna McElDowney who were married in Ballycastle, Co Antrim recently.

Recession Busting

In our current economic climate great credit and thanks to our fund raising committees who run the annual golf classic, Cheltenham challenge, dog night and the weekly lotto draw, their dedication to the club is to be appreciated by all. Thanks also to our main sponsor Doyle Concrete.

Bereavements

The club wishes to extend sincere sympathies to all who were bereaved over the year, especially the Power family, Condonstown on the passing of Statia, the Nolan family, Newmarket on the passing of Geoff, and Trish Power on the passing of her mother Moira Treacy, Clara.



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C CLUB REPORTS

Carrigeen



Adult Hurling

Carrigeen GAA had a busy year on the playing field competing in the Junior B league and championship and also the Joe Walsh Cup. The club played 9 games in the southern league and championships. The games took place on a weekly basis during the height of the summer. Even though no trophies were won the club were competitive and contested strongly in every game they played in. The team manager Kevin Kennedy had the team playing to their full potential and beyond and many teams got a hard match from what was an injury stricken under strength Carrigeen team during the year. Kevin Kennedy took over team management this year from Noel Maher of Carrickshock and gave excellent commitment to the team and club throughout the year. The club would like to thank the players, manager and selectors for their commitment during the year.

Energetic Committee

The club committee were very busy during the year, starting with the U-12 (Eddie Quinn Cup) & U-14 (Johnny Walsh Cup) hurling tournaments ably run by Hilary Óg Delahunty. A lot of work went into the running of these tournaments, organising fixtures, referees and thus enabling both competitions to run smoothly. Well done to all the teams who participated and their mentors.

New Developments

The club has started a major development with the construction of a new building, that will cater for indoor sport, meetings and new dressing rooms. The entrance to the ground will also be changed from its current location to the opposite side of the ground adjacent to the new development. Many thanks to the Delahunty family in their generosity towards making the new entrance possible.

Thanks

The club would like to thank the various members who are involved with the various boards within the county, Pat Dalton County Board delegate, Pat Dunphy Southern Board secretary, Claus Dunphy Southern Board delegate. The club would also like the members who helped out at games in Nowlan Park during the year and also all the members who assisted with games hosted by the club especially the southern junior hurling championship.

County Final Referee

Congratulations to Pat Dunphy and two of his umpires from the club, Rex Quinn and Clause Dunphy that officiated at this year's senior hurling county final.

Thanks Rex!

The club would like to take this opportunity to wish Rex Quinn who retired last year having spent over 30 years as chairman of the club the best of luck. Rex has been working away but still keeps in touch and lends a hand in club affairs.



Launch of The O'Dwyer Cup Senior Hurling tournament 1979.
Denis Haley, Paddy Haley, Jim Ramsbottom, Pat Dunphy, Clause Dunphy, Noel Kelly, Willie O'Dwyer (RIP), Mikey Asper (RIP), Rex Quinn, John Kelly, Dick Kelly



Asper Park looking at its best 2009



Carrigeen Team and Management - Joe Walsh Cup 2006
Front: Conor Fripps, Kevin Murphy, Brian Murphy, Seanie Tyler, Pat Phelan, Wally Morohan, Stephen Blackmore, Seamus Jacob, Tom Dunphy, Hillary Delahunty
Middle: Nicky Dunphy, John Fripps, Pa Walsh, Jamie Carroll, Stephen Jacob, Shane Walsh, Ivan Tobin, Patrick Dalton, Michael Murphy, David Walsh, Neville Sinnott, Rex Quinn.
Back: Ray Murray, Geoffry Dobbin, Pat Dunphy, James Power, Michael Jacob, Kevin Kennedy, John Hearne, Liam Roche, Fintan Dermody, Vinnie Power, Eoin Gallagher, Seamus Dunphy, Tommy Walsh, Noel Maher, Pat Dalton.



Adult Competitions

In 2009 the Clara Senior team were knocked out at the quarter final stage by Erin's Own and were beaten in the Shield Final by O'Loughlins. The Junior team maintained their junior status. The Junior B's reached the Quarter final. The U-21's championship has yet to get underway. The U-18's were defeated in the Roinn "A" Quarter final by Barrow Rangers.

Great Underage Hurling Developments

The U-16's competed in Roinn A and were travelled to the All-Ireland tournament in Carlow reaching the Semi-Final. The U-14's were beaten in the Quarter finals of the Shield and the Championship. The U-12 team enjoyed many games and tournaments the highlight being the Anthony Prendergast Memorial Tournament held in Clara. The U-10's won the Dicksboro Shield final, got to the Final of the Village Tournament. The U-8's won their three matches in the Roanmore Ground Hurling Tournament and also got to the final of the Gorey tournament for the second year in a row. In the schools competition Clara took the Roinn A title for the fifth time this decade making them the top country school along with Ballyhale. They also got to the final of the INTO Mini-Sevens competition.

Fundraising

We are grateful for the support from all the community in particular the team sponsors – Carrigan Bros Plant Hire and Clara Cars. The club ran a Golf Classic in May and a canter in association with the North Kilkenny Hunt both of which were followed by functions in Connolly's of Dunbell.



A Fitting Memorial

Pat McDonald, Fergus, Dolores and Shane Knox and Bob Shortall (former Club Secretary) at the Plaque unveiled in memory of the late John Knox who made and presented the pedestrian gate to the Club.

Another important fundraiser was stewarding at the National Ploughing Championships and special thanks to members who gave up their time over the three days of ploughing. Development is ongoing in Clara with the erection of three nets and floodlighting the training pitch area. Thanks to JJ Ward who kindly sponsored the poles.

Well Done to All!

Paul Cody, Harry Jordan, Rory O'Keefe, Matt Kenny and Jake Scanlon who took part in the James Stephens Skills Competition. Bill Carrigan who was on the Kilkenny U-14 Panel. Christopher Bolger, Donal Murphy, Eamonn Treacy and Adam Jordan were members of the Kilkenny U-15 Panel. Ciaran Prendergast, Conor O'Shea, Shane Cassin, Jack Langton and John Murphy were members of the Kilkenny U-16 Panel. Ciaran Prendergast, Christopher Bolger and Noel Kehoe who won a Colleges Junior Leinster Medal with St. Kieran's College. David Langton, Lester Ryan, Liam Ryan, James Nolan & Keith Hogan were members of the U-21 Kilkenny Panel.

Lá na gClub

Lá na gClub was celebrated in a very special way with raising of the flags, the unveiling of a plaque in memory of John Knox and games for under age teams along with a Puc Fada Competition for 1986 County Champions.

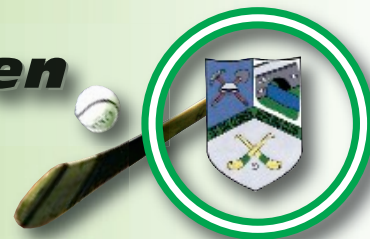


Clara - County Senior Hurling Champions 1986

Back: Tom Ryan, Tom Lennon, Stephen Whearty, Brian Barcoe, Paddy Prendergast, Gerry Nolan, Anthony Prendergast (RIP), Liam Ryan
Front: Lester Ryan, Harry Ryan, Tom O'Shea, Johnny Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Eugene Byrne, Pat Campion.

CLUB REPORTS

Cloneen



Cloneen Hurling Club celebrated it's 25th Anniversary of it's formation with a most enjoyable dinner dance in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on Halloween night which co-incided with the 125th birthday of the GAA. When Cloneen was formed in 1984 a team was entered in Special Junior B hurling and looked to have a struggle on hand to be comfortable at that level. The new committee had the foresight to put proper structures in place in order to guarantee the continuation of the club and then organised a local parish tournament to seek out possible team members to represent the club. This proved to be quite a success and a year later Cloneen went all the way to the B final in which they defeated John Lockes 1-8 to 1-4 in Nowlan Park. The Northern board were delighted with the large following that Cloneen brought to their games and increasing their revenue. The trend continued in 1988 when the club won through in the north and went on to meet Glenmore in the A county Final in Callan. The match ended in a draw and Cloneen went on to a comfortable victory in the replay in Nowlan Park. The following year, Cloneen reached the Northern Final of the junior championship but lost to St. Lachtains. The club then lost a number of influential players to emigration and have struggled to reach the promising levels of the late eighties. The members of those two teams were honoured at the recent dinner dance when they were presented with mementoes by county star Derek Lyng. Other speakers at the dinner were county board chairman Paul Kinsella and northern board chairman Paul Kavanagh. Also honoured were founder secretary Charlie McCarthy who recently retired after 24 years and treasurer Tim Wilson (Nineteen years) The Cloneen Club now boasts one of the finest facilities in the county with a fine playing pitch and first class clubhouse and handball alley.

The 2009 playing season ended for Cloneen when their under 21 team lost the county semi



Cloneen U-10 Team

Back: Michael Doyle, Liam Barcoe, Aidan Barry, Tristan Mayo, Cathal Barry, Kyle Dunne, Thomas Brennan, Tom Buggy

Front: Conor Rowe, David Langton, Diarmuid Rowe, Jack Bolster, Oisin Ryan, Ciaran Cooney, Daniel Barcoe, Shane Dunne.

final to Bennettsbridge. The only successes recorded were the minor C league and the under 10's won the shield in the Conahy tournament.

The club continued to promote hurling with the underage section where the numbers at training have been very good. Teams are now competing at under 8 and upwards under the guidance of the joint juvenile committee which also looks after football affairs on behalf of the Railyard club.

Due to the continuous rain during the summer months, the annual junior tournament to commemorate the memory of founder chairman Tom Brennan (Roe) could not take place so holders St. Patricks (Ballyragget) remain in place for another year. It's difficult to believe that the parish of Clogh/Moneenroe was the only one not to have a hurling club in county

Kilkenny for a hundred years of the GAA. Occasional attempts had been made in the past but always failed the test of sustainability. Probably due to it's geographic proximity to counties Laois, Carlow and Kildare, it was gaelic football that gained a foothold and following previous efforts of Cloneen, Moneenroe and Clogh football teams, Railyard GFC was formed in 1943 and became a household name not only in Kilkenny but in many football counties.

Chairman Donal Brennan remains in charge and is also vice chairman of the northern board. He is now flanked at the Cloneen top table by secretary Josephine Cooney and Treasurer John Paul O'Neill. The club recently honoured John Paul on his achievements at the World Transplant Games in Australia where he won two silver medals in Squash and Swimming.



Eoin Hennessy

Cloneen Junior hurling team from 1987 and 1988 who were honoured at the Cloneen Hurling Club Dinner Dance in the Seven Oaks Hotel.

Back: Dom Kennedy, John Delaney, Ollie Kieran, John Bolger, Brendan Smyth, Michael Delaney, Tom Comerford, John Cahill, Thomas Brennan, Joe Coogan, Martin Joe Meally, Timmy Wilson.

Front: Paddy Phelan, Tommy Brennan, Johnny Lawler, Jimmy Brennan (Duck), Johnny Lawler (Boneyarrow), Ted Cahill, Tom Brennan (Cloney), Don Lawler, Charlie McCarthy.

C CLUB REPORTS

Conahy Shamrocks



Polo Grounds Development

Following on from the success of the clubhouse development in the Polo Grounds in Jenkinstown, Conahy GAA has continued rapid progress in modernising its facilities with the development of a new playing field.

The work, which began in June of this year, involves the levelling of the present full-size pitch along with the inclusion of proper drainage works. Safe and secure fencing is also being installed around the pitch area as well as a tarmacadam walkway around the perimeter of the pitch with suitable lighting.

It is hoped that this walkway will prove to be a useful community amenity for people to use for walking or running at any time of year.

Provision for the possible inclusion of pitch floodlights in the coming years will also be installed. Progress to date on the project has been going well and it is hoped that the pitch will be available for use for all teams once again towards the early part of next season. The club are extremely grateful to the McEvoy family, Ardalo, for their generosity in providing land for a temporary pitch that the club has been using throughout the majority of this year.

Lá na gClub

The success of the Lá na gClub initiative throughout the country was fully replicated in Conahy with an extremely enjoyable day's events in the Polo Grounds. The under-age teams played a number of exhibition matches to commence proceedings, followed by a memorable tussle between present day players and stalwarts of the past, which produced some great entertainment.

The evening was rounded off with a celebration in the GAA Clubhouse and a presentation to Nickey Brennan, to mark the conclusion of his term as G.A.A President.

LOTTO

The GAA Club Lotto has been progressing extremely well throughout the year. The club are lucky to have a large number of promoters working throughout the parish to ensure that ticket sales are consistently at a high level.



Conahy Shamrocks U- 8 hurlers in Croke Park

Back: Harry O'Mahony, Ciarán Rice, Darren Cuddihy, Tommy Blanche, Shane O'Loughlin, Megan Cuddihy.

Front: John Paul Gamble, Robbie Dooley, Alice Byrne, Sean O'Dornan.

Sincere thanks to all those who assist with weekly lotto sales and all those near and far who purchase tickets weekly. The draw takes place each Monday night at 9.30 pm. in the Clubhouse.

Bord na nÓG

It was a busy year at under-age with the annual Kevin Bergin U-10 tournament and Jim Comerford U-12 tournament once again being major highlights. Conahy were indeed fortunate to win the latter tournament themselves, following victory over Dicksboro in the final.

The highlight of the year for the U-8 hurlers was a trip to Croke Park. A number of the players also got the opportunity to play a game on the sacred surface, which was a great thrill.

The under-age activity for this year recently finished on a high with the annual U-8 and 11 street leagues. Thanks to all under-age coaches for their great work throughout the year.



Conahy Shamrocks team who took part in the James Stephens / DID Electrical Skills Challenge

Back: Edmond Delaney, Pat Byrne.

Front: Darren Cuddihy, Eoin Cahill, Darragh Dooley.



BHL



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Intermediate

The Intermediates reached the League final, where unfortunately they lost out heavily to Rower-Inistiogue. A week later they were knocked out of the Championship by Mooncoin. It was a disappointing end to the season by Danesfort, which had promised so much after they had topped their group in the League. Their form never seemed to recover after the break for the intercounty All-Ireland semi-final and final.

After the defeat to Mooncoin, manager Adrian Ronan and selectors Tom O'Neill (Rath), Noel Morrissey and Anthony Dunne stepped down. The Club would like to extend its gratitude to Adrian and the rest of the backroom team who led Danesfort to arguably the greatest period of success in its history, winning the county, Leinster and All-Ireland junior titles and reaching the Intermediate county final last year. We'd like to wish all of them the best of luck for the future.

Junior B

The Junior B team had a reasonable League campaign and qualified for the Quarter Finals only to be beaten by Blacks and Whites. In the championship they defeated Dicksboro after a replay in the first round, but were then beaten by Lisdowney in the Northern Semi-Final. The selectors were Fergus Doyle, John Ireland and James Stapleton.

Football

The Intermediate footballers were beaten by Blacks and Whites by one point in the Championship semi-final.

U-21 Hurling

The U-21 team, minus county player Paul Murphy on army duty in Chad, lost to O'Loughlin Gaels in the first round of the Championship following a replay.

Juvenile

The minors had a disappointing year. They didn't qualify from the League and lost the Shield

semi-final to Tullaroan. In the Championship they lost in the first round to Emeralds.

The U-16s also had a poor year, failing to qualify from the League and losing to Mullinavat in the first round of the Championship.

The U-14s had more success, getting to the League semi-final before being beaten by Mooncoin. They reached the County Final but were beaten by Glenmore.

The U-12s reached the final of the "Callan Alive" tournament B section and also competed very well in numerous other tournaments.

The U-11s reached the Camaint Final in Nowlan Park and final of the Ballyragget tournament.

U-10s and down competed well in numerous tournaments, playing over fifty matches during the year.

Camogie Action

The Junior team lost the League Final to Dicksboro and the Championship semi-final to Glenmore.

Underage Camogie

The U16s lost the Championship semi-final to Freshford after a very good League campaign.

The U14s lost in the Championship semi-final to Muckalee.

The U12s won the Championship final against Kilmacow by 3-6 to 1-0 in Thomastown.

Great Enthusiasm

The U6s, 8s and 10s had great numbers and competed very well in numerous tournaments during the year, which we hope to continue to build on.

The U-16s lost the Championship semi-final to Freshford after a very good League campaign. The under 14s lost in the Championship semi-final to Muckalee. The U-12s won the Championship final against Kilmacow by 3-6 to 1-0 in Thomastown. The U-6s, 8s and 10s had great numbers and competed very well in numerous tournaments during the year, which we hope to continue to build on.



Richie Strikes Again!
Richie Hogan shoots a superb point in the National Hurling League final in Thurles.

Special Mention

The club wishes to congratulate two of its players for successfully representing Kilkenny at various levels this year.

County Stars

Richie Hogan won a League and All Ireland senior medal as part of Kilkenny's historic 4-in-a-row winning panel. Richie scored 1-10 in the League Final win against Tipperary, winning "Man of the Match" in the process, and scored two vital points from play in the All-Ireland Final win, again against Tipperary.

Richie and Paul Murphy had less luck as part of the Kilkenny U-21 team that lost to Clare in the All-Ireland Final.

Remembrances

The club was saddened by the passing of Mick Brophy during the year. Mick was part of the All-Ireland winning Kilkenny team of 1957 and was the last Danesfort clubman to win a senior All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny prior to Richie Hogan.

The club wishes to extend its sympathies to Mick's family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



The Danesfort U12 Camogie team that defeated Kilmacow 3-6 to 1-0 in this year's County Final.

Back: Sarah Lewis, Vicki Lennon, Jennifer O'Neill, Megan Walsh, Sarah Kent (captain), Carole Manning, Aoife Walsh, Grainne Aspel, Rosetta Tynan, Rachel Wall, Rachel Hughes.

Front: Ciara Delaney, Claire Farrell, Hannah Scott, Caoimhe Murphy, Rachel Fitzpatrick, Sorcha Daly, Rachel Ryan, Ruth Kent, Grace Byrne, Emma Condon, Alice Byrne, Aoife Farrell.



CLUB OFFICERS

Chairman: Martin Gaffney
 Vice-Chairman: Jim Murphy
 Secretary: Donal Carroll
 Treasurer: Seamus Rochford
 Games Chairman: Simon Walton
 Grounds Chairman: Joe Phelan
 Development Chairman: Enda Malone
 Children's Welfare Officer: Edmund Nolan
 Irish Officer: David Carroll
 Registrar: Declan Gough
 P.R.O.: Tom Beirne
 Co. Board Rep: Shem Tynan
 Juvenile Officers:
 Juvenile Chairman: Eddie Holohan
 Juvenile Vice-Chairman: Sam Dunlop
 Juvenile Secretary: Liam Scott
 Bord na nÓg Reps: Tommy Bawle, Frank Morrissey.

JUVENILE YEAR

The great exploits of our U14's together with our minors are covered elsewhere in this book. Their year was topped-off with a presentation of medals night in the Dicksboro clubhouse on Friday, November 20 with special guest, Joe Canning of Galway.

The Dicksboro Under-10s, coached by Edmund Nolan, Niall Sheehan, Pat Moylan, Mike Hennessey and John Clarke, kicked-off the year by playing a mini indoor hurling league in St. Patrick's on the Kells Road. Returning outdoor to Palmerstown in April, the Under-10s trained most Saturdays and during the summertime on Wednesday evenings (Gaelic football).

Dicksboro hosted their own Under-10 tournament on the 4th September with sixteen teams taking part as part of the 'King of the Castle' fund-raising campaign. Numerous tournaments were participated in, with all thirty four panellists getting as much hurling and gaelic football as possible.

The year concluded on October 17th with a very enjoyable trip to Naas GAA Club, Croke Park Stadium and Museum tour. Thanks to all Under-10s and parents for what proved to be a very busy 2009. Here's to 2010! All the other age groups in the juvenile section of the club had a busy year with League, Championship and various tournaments action.

LÁ NA gCLUB

Another highlight of the year was the Family Fun Sports Day held in Palmerstown in May as part of 'La na gClub' to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the GAA. In excess of 700 people turned out from under-6 to adult to pensioner to enjoy a multitude of activities including sack races, spud and spoon races, three-legged races, mixed gaelic football matches, target shooting, tug-of-war, face painting, barbecue and numerous other events – all played out in warm sunshine.

DEVELOPMENT

Off the playing fields, the Development Committee undertook ground works on the clubhouse side of the complex where the bank was levelled, fencing installed, walkway laid and behind-goal netting also installed.

LOTTO

Dicksboro Club wish to express thanks to all those who support our weekly lotto either through selling or buying tickets.

CELEBRATION NIGHT

The club hosted a centenary celebration night on May 23rd when ex-chairmen of the club were honoured as were members of the 'Boro 1950 County Senior Hurling winning team.

'KING OF THE CASTLE'

Dicksboro club took part in the 'King of the Castle' fund-raising campaign throughout September and October in conjunction with O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens.

The 'Boro candidate was Michael Devane of the Nore Bar. Michael and his committee organised a total of 30 fun events throughout the



Photo Michael Brophy

Former Chairmen of Dicksboro honoured at Club Ceremony

Back: Jimmy McGarry, Billy Burke, Richie Mulrooney, Tommy Martin (on behalf of Tommy Snr), Martin Gaffney, Shem Tynan, Martin Morrissey, Eddie O'Donoghue.

Front: Bob Doherty, Mick Devane, Jack DeLoughry, Andy Heffernan, Eugene Begley, Tom Rafter. (Inset Sean Breathnach)



Children's Tug o' War at Dicksboro Lá na gClub

campaign and raised a total in excess of 59,000 euro. The funds raised will be divided between club funds and a number of charities as nominated by the club.

Michael and Dicksboro's charities for the campaign were:

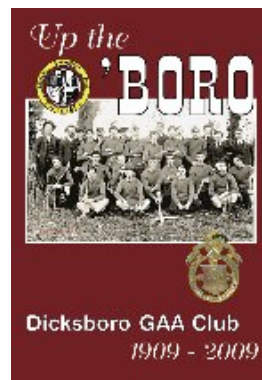
(1) The Ger Devane Memorial Fund, (2) St. Canice's Homes for the Elderly (Troy's Court), (3) St. Mary's Day Care Centre (Haughney Green), (4) The O'Neill Centre (Ennabreena Ireland); (5) The School of the Holy Spirit.

BOOK LAUNCH

The history of the Club – "Up the 'Boro" – Dicksboro GAA Club 1909-2009 – was officially launched on Friday, November 27th in the Ormonde Hotel by Nicky Brennan, former President of the GAA with MC Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh.

Research for this book has been continuing for many years – firstly by Ned Buggy who had collected many match reports, newspaper cuttings and photographs and then continued by Noel Deevy, who spent many, many hours in locating photographs, captions and match reports.

The book, which covers the history of Dicksboro over the last 100 years, consists of 320 pages in full colour with numerous photographs, was compiled, edited and produced by Gerry O'Neill.



SYMPATHY

The club would like to offer their sympathy to all members and supporters of Dicksboro who suffered bereavements during the past year.

C CLUB REPORTS

Dunamaggin



Chairman
Secretary
PRO:
Treasurer
Juvenile Chair
Juvenile Sec:
Juvenile Treas:
Juvenile PRO:

Seamus Knox
Eugene O'Donovan
David Herity
Niall McCormack
Johnno Reid
Joan Kennelly
John O'Dwyer
Fr. Flavin

Social Events

2009 proved to be one of the most successful years of the decade for the club both on and off the field. The 2009 year started with the annual social night held in Dunphy's Bar in Kilmoganny. The Monsignor O'Neill Player of the Year Trophy went to William Hughes, while club chairman Seamus Knox won the Clubman of the Year for his great efforts and help with the club during 2008. Following this night, club players and members decided to give the club dressing rooms a well deserved make over and had the place back to its best since Thomas O'Shea presided over it. During the year a Profile Committee was founded to help increase the communities involvement within the Dunnamaggin club. Huge credit must be given to one and all involved for the huge success of the Dunnamaggin Fun Day held in May. Crowds of players young and old and members old and new came to show off their skills or lack of skills at the different games on display. The tremendous work of the committee has also been also apparent in the organisation of the clubs first Dinner Dance to be held in years. Congrats to all involved.

Senior and Junior

On the pitch the senior hurlers captured their first piece of silverware in ten years with the success in the Leinster League tournament. Their campaign started back in March and saw them fight off the challenges of Rathnure, St. Martins, Mount Leinster Rangers along the way before defeating Ferns of Wexford in the final down in Enniscorthy. Although the game itself wasn't the most memorable the bus journey from Wexford to the Rower and onto Kells proved to be the stuff of legend. Some players singing and dancing were so good they even overshadowed their performances during the game itself.

On the local scene it proved to be another frustrating year. Although playing at a much improved level on some of the previous years and only missing out on a place in the shield

final Dunnamaggin were left to rue wasted opportunities during the championship when going down to against O Lochlans failing to build on the excellent opening win against Gowran.

The junior team once again remained competitive throughout the entire league and championship campaign defeating many first team clubs along the way. Unfortunately the good year came undone when they went down to eventual finalists John Locks.

Thanks for the Effort

A huge thanks must be given once again to both managers Christy Walsh and Tom Hickey with Tom McCormack, Willie Kearney, Andrew O'Neill, Adrian Moran Paddy O'Neill as selectors, and also to Pat Langton, Noel McDonald, Paddy Reade, our physios Aoibhlin Gallagher, Kari Byrne and Fr. Flavin and all those who assisted with the senior and Junior teams throughout the year.

Football Success

On the football front Kilmoganny rose to the top in the Intermediate Championship with an excellent come back against Blacks and Whites to clinch the title. It was just rewards to the great effort put in by all throughout the year and especially to the management of Christy Walsh, Andrew O'Neill and Tom McCormack. This success added to the triumph of the U-21s in their win earlier in the year against Thomastown. Once again credit to the team mentors Niall McCormack, Andrew O'Neill and Malachy Hogan.

Underage

The Thomas O'Shea U-9 blitz was held in the club and featured teams from Dunnamaggin, Windgap, Carrickshock and Mullinavat. Mullinavat won the decider against the home-side winning a smashing final by two points. Congrats to Conor Lawlor, Darragh Keane, Luke Fitzpatrick and Brian Farrell on winning the Community Games U-10 and a half All Ireland with Aghavillar. The U-6's U-8' and U-10's had a very successful year and participated well in many competitions. The U-8's beat James Stephens, O'Loughlins and Tramore in the Roanmore tournament while the U-10's won the shield final in the Dicksboro tournament.

The highlight of the U-14, 16 and minor year



Paul Kirwan, Dunamaggin Captain receives U14 League trophy from Joe Pyke, Chairman, Bord na nÓg.

was the great league win the U-14's enjoyed over their fierce rivals throughout the year Galmoy. After going down to them in the championship semi, Dunnamaggin got some consolation with an emphatic win in the league final. Congrats to team mentors James Rossiter, Pat Long, Joan Kennelly and Martin Coffee and also to all the other managers and selectors at the various levels. A huge thanks to all who contributed to the cabaret in October in which much needed money was raised for the juvenile club.

Acknowledgements

The club would like to thank all who supported them during the year in particular our main sponsors Springwell Developments. Special thanks must go to the supporters who travelled the length and breadth of the county to support the different teams. The Golf Classic was once again a huge success. Huge thanks once again must go to Michael Murphy and for his great work. Thanks also to those who supported the Parish Lotto to which contributes enormously to the running of the club, to Frankie Pendergast on his sponsorship of the footballers. Congratulations to those who represented the club on the intercounty scene throughout the year at hurling, camogie and football level. They did the club proud.

Condolences

Our condolences to any member of the club who suffered a bereavement during the year especially remembering Mary Reade, Pat Moore, Paddy Brett and Jimmy Whelan.



Lá na gClub, Dunamaggin in May 2009



Emeralds GAA 2009

2009 was a challenging year for our club. The intermediate team commenced with defeats by Mooncoin, and Dicksboro. At this stage team manager Paddy Moore stepped down and was replaced by Brendan Joyce and Liam Fennelly. The team rallied in the next rounds defeating Thomastown and Glenmore. In the final league game the team did well in the first half against Danesfort but lost out in the final ten minutes. In the championship we had a good win over Graignamanagh, but lost out in the quarter final to St Lachtains in a well contested game. St Lachtains went on to win the Co Final.

The Junior A's and the under twenty one's lost out in the first rounds to Fenians and Young Irelands respectively.

Club Development

Club reseeded the lower end of our pitch in the autumn. It is hoped to develop this area into a juvenile practice area.

Fund Raising

The Golf Classic was a big success again this year. The club also organised a very successful Barbecue, Table Quiz and sold a large number of Kilkenny Co Board Tickets.

Juvenile Matters

A major development skills programme was put in place earlier this year to promote the skills of Hurling within the younger age group. A lot of children, who had not previously participated in the game, took part in this 6-8 weeks programme in our local Parish Hall. It was hugely successful and finished with a party for all on the last night. Thanks to David Moriarty and Dermot Dunphy who organised this.

Our Under-Age teams had mixed fortunes this year. The U8s and U10s played in several tournaments and blitzes. While the U12s played in a tournament in Dicksboro. The U14s were a very young team this year, due to huge success the U14s of last year, and many of that team now overage, this meant that this years' team had to play at a grade which exceeded their age. They had little success on the playing field but no doubt they got good experience from the games and this will stand to them for the coming year.

Well Done to U16s

Our U16 hurlers participated in the Roinn A League and Championship for the first time in many years. They had great success in the League finishing second in their group, with wins over James Stephens, Ballyraggett, Dicksboro and Freshford only narrowly losing out to Clara in the Semi-Final. In the League Semi-Final we met Thomastown where we had a 3 point win, qualifying them for a place in the League Final against Kilmacow in Nolan Park. They won this game comfortably. This was a first Roinn A League win for us.

In the Championship our first game was a game against James Stephens which resulted in a draw and in the replay we won by four points. In the Semi-Final we played Thomastown and were unlucky to lose by three points, thus ending our championship dreams for another year.

The U16s travelled to St. Johns', Belfast this Saturday to participate in a tournament and to re-new old friendships and acquaintances. They also participated in a tournament in Kilmacud Crokes, Dublin, last Monday and won the Shield.

Minors Did Well

The Minors have high hopes this year and are currently in the League Quarter Final against Gowran. In the championship the Minors had wins over Danefort, Graigue Ballycallan, losing out in the Semi-Final to our neighbours the Fenians in a very well contested local derby. The Minor Footballers have also qualified for the County-Final against Conahy-Shamrocks which is to be played shortly.

Club Development

Off the field the Bord na nÒg had its annual three day Bag-Packing Fund Raiser for the Club in Supervalu, Loughboy, Kilkenny, which brought in much needed funds to the club. The Club also organised a Medal Presentation Night in the Parish Hall last March where some received 8 medal. Great credit must go to all those who helped organised this night and especially to David Moriarty who provided all the hot food.

Congratulations

Congratulations must also go to all players who represented the Club at County Level - Hurlers and Footballers. U15s Conor Martin, Eoin Moriarty and James Kenny. U16s Jamie Ryan and Anthony Farrell and U17s Damien Fitzgerald and Brian Campion.

A big debt of gratitude goes to all the Coaches, Mentors and Parents who have helped out with all the under-age teams through-out the year because without their continued dedication the parish would be a lesser place and we look forward to working again with you and having your continued support in 2010, where hopefully, we can bring more success and silverware to our Club.



Stars of the Past honoured in 1995

Back: Jack Gorman 1951 and 52, Kieran Bergin 51 and 52, Christopher Large 1947 to 1952,

Front: Paddy Holohan 1947, Joe Gorman 51, 52 and Nicholas Healy 51, 52,

Paddy Holohan and Chris Large won County Junior Medals in 1947. The others featured on losing county final teams in 51 and 52.

CLUB REPORTS

Erin's Own



A Memorable Year

2010 will see the club celebrate its 125th anniversary and 2009 saw a welcome return to top-flight hurling for Erin's Own following two seasons in the Intermediate grade. The year culminated in a Senior County Semi-Final slot where a James Stephens team emerged victorious before succumbing to Ballyhale in the final. The Byrne Cup was claimed by our Senior hurling team and the aim is to continue building on the blend of youth and experience for the forthcoming year.

Junior B Hurling

A successful league and championship campaign by the Junior B hurling team ended at the semi-final and Northern Finals respectively. This team has improved immensely over the past number of years and were unlucky to lose out to a useful St. Martins team in the Northern Final.

Great Work at Underage

Special mention must go to all underage teams and the tireless work by Bord Na Nog. Erin's Own U-9s ended their season on a high, winning the Kilmacud Crokes tournament in Dublin in October. The boys defeated James Stephens, Whitehall Colmcille's and the hosts on their way to the Final. Saint Eanna's Gorey provided the opposition in the final.

Well Done to the Fogarty's

The club would also like to congratulate Martin Fogarty (selector) on his part in guiding the Kilkenny seniors to an historic four in a row and Damien Fogarty on collecting his second All Ireland medal. Conor Fogarty was also on the U-21 side that were edged out by Clare in the all Ireland final.

Castlecomer Gaelic for Mothers

One of the most successful initiatives by the Ladies Gaelic Football Association in 2009 saw clubs throughout the country run Gaelic For Mothers sessions as a six week programme which brought together mothers, aunts and older sisters some of whom had played in the past, and some who had never picked up a football before! The initiative offers a social aspect to the game with mothers playing gaelic in a fun, non-competitive environment while enjoying exercise and meeting other mothers in the area. Over 800 ladies of varying ages and ability have registered around the country and forty five clubs took part in the Gaelic for Mothers blitz in Dublin.

Having made enquiries with the neighbouring ladies football club in Railyard, Kay Brennan was despatched to Croke Park on a fact finding mission, and returned laden with info on the programme.

Huge Response

Over 70 mothers assembled at the Prince grounds in 'Comer in August. Josephine



Erin's Own Kilmacud U9 Tournament Winners



Castlecomer Gaelic for Mothers participants just before competitive action!

Holland was appointed Secretary and Co-ordinator and the ladies were put through their paces by Elaine Maher. Six weeks training and some great fun was had by all with the aim being to take part in the first ever Ladies Football Gaelic for Mothers tournament in St. Sylvesters GAA club in Portmarnock.

Such was the enthusiasm among the 'Comer ladies that the club despatched three teams to the tournament and are currently one of the biggest groups set up nationwide! The bus journey was kindly sponsored by the Castlecomer GAA club and the ladies headed off with instructions to do the 'Comer jersey proud (and no doubt to return the jerseys washed and ironed!!!)

Memorable Occasion

The ladies had an excellent time at the tournament meeting and playing against mothers from all over the country. Each team had four games with one of the 'Comer teams having to play five games. (Obviously this was the fittest team of the three!!). Results have been a closely guarded secret but two of the 'Comer teams won two out of their four games on the day.

A weary but very happy bunch made the journey home and the aches and pains could only be cured by a night of celebration in Dillon's in 'Comer.

Worthwhile Initiative

The north of the county is well served by ladies football with clubs in Railyard, Muckalee and Freshford playing in the county senior and junior championships and 'talks are ongoing' to sign up some of the 'Comer mothers to play with some of the local clubs, with many of the mothers well up to the standard. 'Comer are the only club in Kilkenny involved in Gaelic for Mothers but this will surely change as other towns and parishes hear how successful the programme has been.

Next Year Beckons

To round off a very successful Gaelic for Mothers initiative the club assembled recently for a hugely enjoyable end of season night out courtesy of The Vaults. Having received invites to visit other clubs around the country the men of 'Comer should get their domestic skills up to scratch as the Castlecomer Gaelic for Mothers tour will no doubt be back on the road in 2010.

C CLUB REPORTS

Fenians



Club Development

As always great work is being carried out at all levels within the club and this work is being rewarded with the appearance of the minors in this year's Minor B final.

This year also saw the official naming of our sports field, the 'Jim Maher Memorial Park' in memory of Jim Maher who was one of the committee members who helped establish the fine facilities we enjoy today. This day coincided with Lá na gClub the 125th anniversary of the founding of the GAA.

The club would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, supporters, mentors and the support staff at all levels within the club for their excellent work this year. We would also like to thank our main sponsor MW Hire Services for their continued support.

Lá na gClub

On the 10th of May 2009, Lá na gClub was celebrated in great style by the Fenians, with guest appearance by former GAA President Mr Nicky Brennan. This saw members of the 1968 panel, from the Junior County Final, commemorated. It was an ideal opportunity for members of the community to come together and celebrate with those who laid the foundations of the most successful era in the club's history. A family fun day out was enjoyed by all and the young Fenians entertained us with a great display in the buddy blitz. The appearance of the silverware collected by the county senior hurlers also proved a big hit on such a special occasion. A big thank you to all who helped organise such a great day.

Senior

At senior level, under the guidance of Micko Flynn and his selectors Ger Henderson,

Michael Ryan and Joe Ryan there were decent Byrne Cup and league campaigns. Unfortunately the seniors lost in the first round of the championship following a replay to Erin's Own. Once again the management team must be commended for their outstanding work throughout the year, while operating with a small pool of players. Hopefully the year ahead will build on the excellent work carried out this year and indeed over the past few years.

Junior

The junior team had a good run in the league beating St Lachtain's, James Stephens and Erin's Own of Carlow before falling to Young Irelands at the quarter final stage. This good league run extended to the championship where they beat Emeralds in the Northern semi-final only to be undone by St. Lachtain's in the final in severe weather conditions. Well done to all involved, over the course of the year. Manager, Jimmy Brennan.

U-21 Hurling

The U-21 year is only in it's infancy but the future looks bright with some good under age talent, many of whom are members of the minor B panel that reached this years county final. Best of luck to all involved.

Manager: James Carroll.

Minors

Following a slow league campaign, the minors had an excellent run in the championship beating some good teams such as Carrickshock and Emeralds on the route to the minor B County final. As the curtain-raiser to the senior county final, the Minor B final v Lisdowney was much anticipated and it didn't disappoint with a tight, hard fought contest

ending in a draw. The replay likewise was a tough, hard fought game which ended in victory the Fenians on a score line of 2-15 to 1-13. Huge credit must go to all involved in the preparation of the minors this year and the future looks bright for many of these players.

Manager: Paul Phelan

U-16 and U-14

The U16 league campaign is on-going with the team booking their place in the league semi-final against Graiguenamanagh, the same team that ended their championship campaign earlier in the season.

The U-14 league campaign ended early, while in the championship Muckalee were the team that ended the campaign. The U-14 run in the shield meanwhile was very successful but ended gallantly to Young Irelands at the semi-final stage, losing by three points on the day.

All Ireland Glory

Once again congratulations to Brian Cody and his all conquering four-in-a-row team on a historic achievement. Three members of the panel hail from the Fenians, JJ Delaney and PJ Delaney and the All-Ireland 'Man of the Match', goalkeeper PJ Ryan. This is a special team and we are privileged to experience such riches, best of luck to the lads in the year ahead, and long may the success continue.

Obituaries

On a sad note, the club lost some loyal supporters and members throughout the year and the club would like to offer their sympathy and prayers to all those members and supporters of the Fenians who died this year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh said.



Lá na gClub in Johnstown captured by Eoin Hennessy

C CLUB REPORTS

Galmoy



CLUB OFFICERS 2009

Presidents: Fr. Tom Coyle, Willie Drennan, John Harte, Kieran Drennan.

Chairman: Brian Doherty

Vice-Chairman: Nicky Maddock

Secretary: Liam Drennan

Asst-Secretary: Jerry Fogarty

Treasurer: Paul Delaney

Asst-Treasurer: Martin Phelan

P.R.O.: Jerry Drennan

Team Achievements

Despite failing to win the Junior Championship, the club Junior team did win the Junior County League title with a convincing win over Piltown on August 23rd. This team also won the Northern Junior League title when beating Bennettsbridge as well as winning the Senior Hurling Tournament in Durrow Co Laois. The Junior B team won the Joe Walsh Cup. At minor level the Galmoy/Windgap minor team won the Roinn C League Shield final. Our Galmoy U-14 team had a great year, culminating in victory in the Roinn D Championship while they also reached the final of the League.

Féile Skills Winner.

The Galmoy club was very proud when Jason Stanley won the Kilkenny Féile Skills competition and went on to represent Kilkenny at the All-Ireland Féile competition in Laois/Offaly where he finished a very creditable third.

New Jerseys

The new second strip jerseys which are black with blue trim proved very popular with over 140 jerseys purchased for casual wear by club members during the year.

Camogie

We congratulate our sister club St Annes, who regained senior status with victory in the Intermediate Championship final after a replay. Galmoy GAA club were very proud to have two players on the Kilkenny Senior Camogie panel in this year's All Ireland Final. Catherine Doherty played at full back and also lined out for Leinster as well as being nominated for the Camogie All Stars Team. Edel Maher was also a member of the senior panel. At U-14 level Siobhán Corcoran was a member of the Kilkenny team which won the Leinster final.

Development Squads

The following players participated in the various Kilkenny Development squads during the year. Under 15 Michael Vaughan, Under 14 Frank Phelan, Eoghan Vaughan and Jason Stanley.

Both Frank Phelan and Jason Stanley were members of the Kilkenny U-14 squad in the Tony Forristal tournament.

Congratulations

Brendan Phelan (Bawn) won the award for Senior Hurler of the year in Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown 2008/09

The following players won South Leinster Juvenile B medals with Coláiste Mhuire, Frank Phelan, Jason Stanley, Eoghan Vaughan, Cian Hynes, Darren Grace, Darragh Morrissey, Ciaran Murphy and Lloyd Bassett in 2008/09.

While in the current school year, the following players won Leinster Junior B medals with Coláiste Mhuire, Frank Phelan, Thomas Phelan (Castletown), Eoghan Vaughan, Micheál Phelan and Jason Stanley.

Well done also to Joe Dollard who played with the Kilkenny U-21 football team.

Bereavements

The club wishes to express sincerest sympathy to the relatives of M J Ryan who passed away on February 15th. Michael John's passing was a source of sorrow to the area and he will be fondly remembered. See Obituary elsewhere.

The club also sympathises with the families of Tom Maher, Bawn, Peg Bergin Levalley, Mrs Mary Phelan, Bawn and Johnny Doyle Rathpatrick. *Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.*



Jason Stanley (Galmoy) receives the Féile na nGael Skills plaque from Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nOg). (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Galmoy U10 team 2009

Back: Jack Delaney, Ryan Murphy, Conor Drennan, Evan Morrissey, Cathal Phelan, Sean Phelan, Conor Grace, Conor Kelly.

Front: Maeve Duggan, Mary Ellen Phelan, Brandon Phelan, Oisín Phelan, Billy Drennan, Odhrán Maloney, Patrick Doyle, Niamh Phelan.



Liam McCarthy comes to Galmoy NS

J J Delaney and PJ Delaney visiting Galmoy NS with the McCarthy Cup.



Senior Football Champions

With the success of the Glenmore footballers in capturing the county senior championship title this year, our club has the proud distinction of holding the record for senior football titles won. This victory over Muckalee was very important for the club as it will give us the confidence to progress and it has given just reward to all the effort put in by all concerned. Great praise must be given to all players and mentors.

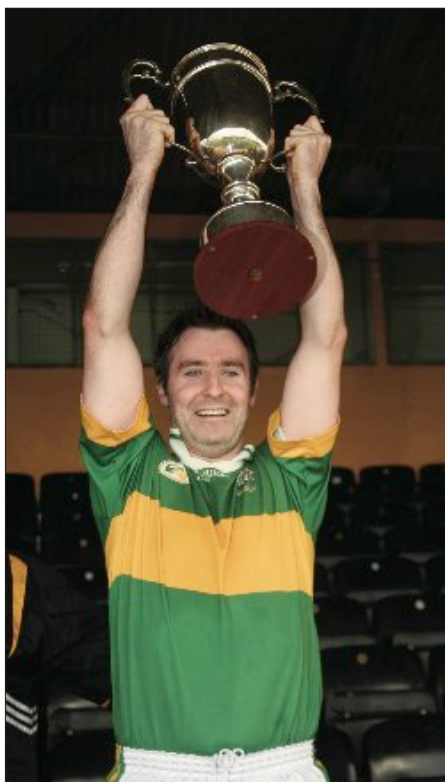
We had two teams involved at adult level in hurling this year. The junior B team battled gamely in their various competitions but because of the inadequate number of players available it was always going to be a difficult task. The Intermediate panel began their league campaign with an unlucky loss but over the next number of games showed exactly what they are capable of with excellent wins in very competitive matches. Alas, they did not qualify for the league finals and were pitted against Conahy Shamrocks in the 1st round of the championship. After an initial draw, we were beaten in the replay and thus we must start again next year. Gratitude to all players and mentors involved with both teams.

Inter County Players

At underage level we had Ger Aylward, Haggard, Ballyfacey and Colm Foran, Aylwardstown, involved with Good Counsel College, New Ross in the All - Ireland Colleges competition where they reached the final only to be beaten in a closely contested game against Thurles CBS. Ger Aylward subsequently played with Kilkenny minors where he won a Leinster minor medal but lost out on an All - Ireland medal when beaten by Galway.

Camogie

The Camogie club is progressing significantly with both adult and juvenile levels showing great prospects. Again, like our hurling counterparts, everyone participating at various levels in the club must be accorded significant gratitude.



Fergal Freyne, captain, Glenmore, lifts the Senior Football cup in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Huge Plans for Development

The club is, at present, in the process of purchasing new club grounds. This proposed development will consist of two full size GAA fields, dressing rooms, lighted pedestrian/running path, meeting/exercise rooms, hurling wall, handball/squash & basketball courts, parking area etc. It will be partly funded by the sale of our existing site. It is a huge undertaking but club members and parishioners have shown their support for this project by their gen-

erosity to date. When completed, people of Glenmore parish and their environs will have excellent facilities available.

We would request that any person, be they parishioner or former parishioner who wishes to donate money towards this major project would contact any committee member of Glenmore GAA Club.

Juvenile Matters

The Glenmore juvenile GAA club enjoyed a great year with plenty of matches and some good results. The U-13 hurling team won the Waterford League competition and the under-14 hurling team won the Kilkenny Roinn B championship with a win over Danesfort. This great work and success just doesn't happen and thanks is extended to all the trainers and mentors of all the age groups from U-6 upwards who give so much of their time and energies.

This dedication doesn't go unnoticed. Thanks to the parents who encourage their young people to play our national sports of hurling and football and thanks also to the club committee for their commitment for the betterment of the players. Indoor training is going well for the underage boys who are having great sport playing sport - which is what it's all about at the end of the day.

Juvenile Committee 2009

Chairperson	Ray Byrne
Vice-Chair	Michael Burke
Secretary	John O' Connor
Asst. Sec.	Bridget Murphy
Treasurer	Bridget Hennessy
Asst. Treas.	Michael Doherty
PRO	Pat Phelan
Assistant PRO	Fidelis Doherty
Social Committee	Elma Aylward
	Bernard Walsh
Cttee. Members	Peter Whelan, Michael Phelan, P.J.Griffin, Willie Fitzgerald and Paddy Murphy



Glenmore U-13 - Winners Waterford League 2009

Back: John O'Connor (S), John Gahan, Michael Holden, Maurice Fitzgerald, Mark O'Connor, Darren Walsh, Eric Walsh, Willie Treacy, Shane Murphy, Paddy Murphy (S), Alan Murphy, Cian O'Connor, Brian Ennett, Seamus Boyle (S), Conor Dolan.

Front: Eoin Heffernan, Michael Burke, PJ Hartley, Liam Hennessy, Stephen Cody, Nial Dunne, Dean Croke, Michael Boyle.

C CLUB REPORTS

Graignamanagh



Club Officers 2009

Presidents	Anna Dunne, Jackie Ryan, John Bolger, Todd Whelan
Chairperson	Robbie Carroll
Secretary	Hughie Flood
Asst. Sec.	Paul Ryan
Treasurer	Breda O'Shea
PRO	Mary O'Donnell
Co Board Rep	Tim McDonald
Committee	Valerie Ryan, Mick Cashin, Pat Doyle, Lillian Bolger

We wish to thank Doran's SuperValu our main sponsors

Under Age

Teams competed well at all age groups from u6 up in local tournaments and blitz. Some of the U8 panel were lucky enough to play in a blitz in Croke Park and had a wonderful day out. The U10's finished up the year as runners up in the Cup in our own club tournament. The U12's were beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners Tullogher in the Tullogher Tournament. The U14's were beaten by Glenmore in the quarterfinal of the championship and Glenmore went on to win it out. The U16 hurlers had a great year winning the Roinn C Championship and still have to play the League Semi-Final. The Minor Hurlers were unlucky to be beaten in the Semi-Final of the Championship after extra time. There is great work being done at all under age levels in the Club and we can only hope to reap the benefits in the coming years.

School Hurling

The school team reached the county final in the Roinn C Championship where Tullaroan beat them. They were also beaten in the semi-final of the County Cup by the eventual winners Thomastown. Two players from the school team were part of the Kilkenny Cumann Na mbunscoil team. Well done to Sean Cahill and Martin Kelly.

Adult Action: A disappointing year at adult level saw the Intermediate hurlers survive after a Relegation Final in the Intermediate Championship beating Thomastown in a replay. The Junior B hurlers reached the Southern B Final only to be narrowly beaten by the Rower Instioge. The U-21 hurlers still have to play in the Roinn B Championship.

County Players

Graignamanagh Club had representatives on the Kilkenny Intermediate and U-14 teams. Congratulations to Ray Coady, James Cahill and Cathal Dunne who won Leinster Medals and were beaten by Cork in the All Ireland Final. Congratulations also the Adam Kennedy who was part of the Kilkenny U-14 team that played in the Tony Forristal tournament. Off the field of play, well done to Chris O'Neill who completed his ninth marathon and finished 53rd in the Dublin City Marathon this year. Best wishes to Hugh Ryan who retired as County Board Rep after many years of service to the Club.

Jim Forrestall RIP

The club wishes to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Jim Forrestall. Jim was born in Ballyconway Thomastown. He played hurling with Thomastown Rangers. He emigrated to England and worked as a teacher. He retired to Graignamanagh in 1994 and took an active part in the Graignamanagh GAA Club. He was especially involved in the decorating of the new clubhouse. Jim was an ardent follower of the GAA all his life.

The Club also extends sincere sympathy to all families who suffered bereavements over the year.



Club Chairman Robbie Carroll (right) makes a presentation to **Hugh Ryan** on his retirement after many years of service to the club.



Stars in Croke Park

Graignamanagh U-8 football team who had their day in the sun!

Back: Ben Savage, Sophie Phelan, Pierce Blanchfield, Dylan Cahill, Jason Byrne, Michael O'Neill.
Front: Oran Canning, David Doherty, Liam Carroll, Sean Lanigan.



Graignamanagh - U-21 Roinn C Champions 2008

Back: Pat Doyle, Kyle Naddy, Stuart Kinsella, John Morgan, Ian Kavanagh, James O'Neill Kevin Cushen, Dane Mangan, Shane Haugh
Front: Jim O'Donnell, CJ Browne, Nathan Sbila, Ray Coady, Sean O'Brien, Nicholas O'Donnell, Padraig Whelan. Missing from photograph- Kevin Canning, Michael Cushen.



A Great Year for U-16 Team

Pride of place must go to the U16 hurlers this year. After two great games with Bennetsbridge our boys won the Roinn B Co Final, winning the re-play 2-15 to 1-15 in Nowlan Park. The first game was held in Larchfield after an hour's hurling we led by two points in injury time when Bennettsbridge scored what seemed to be the winning goal, but our lads did not give up. From the puck out the ball found its way to full forward and captain John Dunphy, now operating at centre forward, and with the last puck of the game he scored the equalizing point. Well done to the mentors involved – John Hoyne, Johnny Ronan, Phillip Cody, Conor Everard and Maurice Ronan.

Good Progress at Juvenile

The U14 and minor teams lost out by a single score in their respective Championship matches, the U8, 10 and 12 squads have progressed very well and the future looks promising. Well done to all the mentors and parents.

Senior Championship

The club trainer this year was Dinny Cahill from Cloughjordan Co Tipperary. Dinny has been with Portumna and the Antrim Co team and many other club teams. Dinny and his two selectors Milo Hennessy and Dave O'Neill had a good league campaign, two draws and one win however four points left us in the relegation zone drawn against Tullaroan in the first round of the championship, and what a result that was. Deep into injury time we were two points down when we won a 65. Michael Hoyne sent in the ball



Graigue-Ballycallan U-10 Tournament Winners in Ballyhale

Back: Adam O'Brien, James Everard, Billy Brennan, Ciaran Hogan, Jesse Roberts, Cillian Egan, Peter Murphy, Luke O'Brien, Conor Flynn.

Front: Tom Dunphy, David Maher, Alan Wall, Tommy Ronan, Gerard Doheny, Lee Ronan, Aaron Brennan, Sean Ryan.

and James Ryall flicked the ball to the net. What a way to win, memories of Jimmy Kenny 1987. The Shamrocks were too strong for us in the quarter final though we did score 2-15 against them – more than any other team did this year.

Well Done to Eddie and James

On the county scene Eddie Brennan played a major role with Kilkenny's historic four in a row senior hurling All-Ireland success. Eddie scored three points in the All-Ireland final against Tipperary, collecting his seventh All-Ireland medal; Eddie also won his fifth National League medal last May. James

Ryall had a great league campaign but got injured in the run up to the All-Ireland semi-final. He won his sixth All-Ireland medal and fourth league medal. Good luck to them both and the rest of the county panel in their quest for a fifth All-Ireland in a row in 2010.

Club Developments

During the year the club received a National Lottery Grant of 60,000 euros towards the development of tennis and basketball courts on the club grounds and contractor Richard Murphy Thomastown did a fantastic job on this project.

Graigue-Ballycallan County Junior Hurling Champions 1985

Back: James Hogan, Jim Maher, Tom Teehan, Michael Kenny, Lory Comerford, Matty Dunne, Johnny Ronan, Michael Murphy, Kevin Hennessy Billy Ronan (RIP) Jerry Hennessy, Nicholas Hoyne, Pat Egan.

Front: Nicholas Butler, Joe Brennan, Pat Hayes, John Caldbeck, John Ryan, Milo Hennessy, Kevin Butler, Tomás McCloskey, Martin Burke, Pat Dunphy.

Two boys at front: Denis Byrne, Joe Young.





Meet the President

As part of the 125 year celebrations of the GAA a number of officials and players from each county was invited by President Mary McAleese to visit Aras an Uachtarán. Our club President and his wife May were honoured to be part of the Kilkenny delegation.

Development

Our big new grounds project is going ahead as planned. In November we were given planning permission with conditions for the new development on the Kells Road. Eventually this centre will have four pitches, an all-weather pitch, a stand, large club house, changing rooms, car parks and a walking path around the premises. Larchfield will remain 'home'.

King of the Castle

September and October were exceptionally busy times in the club as we participated in a novel series of fundraising activities in conjunction with St. Patrick's Parish. Over €180,000 was collected between the three city clubs. Much to our delight our man Michael Costello was crowned 'King of the Castle' on 31 October in front of a huge crowd at Cillin Hill. We must thank all personnel from both the club and St. Patrick's Parish who worked so hard to raise over €61200.

Presentations

A special night was held in the club to thank Sena Tyrrell for his contribution to the club. Sean was Co Board Delegate and held many other officerships for 37 years and his family are involved in all three city clubs.

We also made a well deserved presentation to Paul Kinsella and Matt Ruth who recently retired from the teaching staff in St. Patrick's BNS. Both Paul and Matt have contributed hugely to the development of so many hurlers and GAA fans in their time as teachers in our parish.

Tournaments

Well done to our juvenile section who successfully ran a series of tournaments for all age groups throughout the year.

Skills Competition

DID Electrical came on board to generously sponsor a highly successful and original hurling skills competition. Clubs from eight counties participated with Ballyboden eventual winners. Thanks must go to the hardworking juvenile committee and the sponsors for this great competition.

New Club Sponsors

For the first time ever, after much debate, James Stephens GAA Club agreed to accept jersey sponsorship. The adult teams are sponsored by Richard Guilfoyle, The Playwright, High St. The juvenile teams are sponsored by Hotel Kilkenny. We thank them both for their support. Many other local businesses and families offer sponsorship for individual initiatives, tournaments and events during the year. We thank them most sincerely for their generosity.



The President meets the President!

Martin McAleese, President Mary McAleese, Mrs. May Tyrrell and Sean Tyrrell, President James Stephens meet at Aras an Uachtarán in June 2009.



Wise Men All - A Decade of Hurling

DJ Carey, Brian Carty, Liam Griffin, George O'Connor, Tomás Mulcahy and Cyril Farrell were panel members at Hotel Kilkenny for James Stephens / St. Patrick's Parish memorable fundraiser for 'King of the Castle'.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Grainne Lahart launching the Michael and Mary Lanigan under 13 hurling tournament in James Stephens with Bill Lahart, James Lahart, Val Malone (P.R.O.), James Stephens, Mark Tyrrell (Juvenile Officer, James Stephens), Brian Busher and Dylan Drennan.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

C CLUB REPORTS

John Lockes



Almost a Great Year

2009 will go down as a good year for John Lockes, but it could very nearly have gone down as a great one. Both the Junior and Minor teams were beaten in County Finals, the Juniors on the first year back in the grade since 1987, and the minors back in an "A" championship final for the first time since the successful 1984 team. That both sides came up just short is disappointing in the short term, but certainly augurs well for the future.

Junior Action

The Junior team, managed by Bobby Jackman, had a serious injection of young talent, with six minors on the panel. They got off to an inauspicious start in the championship when losing heavily to Mooncoin in their first game, before going on to win three of their remaining five games and qualifying for the quarter final stages in third spot. Local rivals Dunamaggon awaited them, but a tour de force from Paddy Kennedy who scored seven points from play, saw them safely through to a South Semi Final against Piltown. In their best performance of the year, the Lockes easily qualified for the South Final thanks to goals from veteran Declan Roche, and substitute Dan McCormack. The South Final against Kilmacow was a great occasion, with the Southern Board hosting an excellent event before a large attendance in Piltown. On the pitch, the Lockes were the better team, but struggled to put away a dogged Kilmacow challenge, before a Simon Burke brace of points made the game safe for the Callan men. The County Final, covered elsewhere in the book, proved a day to forget for the Lockes, as they struggled to get going and ultimately went down to a more focused



Paul Brophy (Iverk Produce) with Robert Jackman, John O'Neill, Dan Kenny, Chairman Southern Board

Blacks and Whites team. Still, a combination of the age profile of the team, plus the introduction of the younger players, and the form of some of the more experienced campaigners such as JP Corcoran, Adrian O'Sullivan and Robert Jackman, augurs well for the future.

Great Minor Displays

The Minor team probably provided the club with the most memorable days of 2009. The excitement really started with a drawn quarter final against St. Patricks, which went to a replay despite the match being awarded to Callan due to the refusal of the Ballyragget club to play extra time in the first game. The Lockes made no mistake in the replay however, and a superb 2nd half performance brushed aside the St. Patricks challenge. A good win over Mullinavat in the semi final, in

which young midfielder Eoin McGrath was outstanding, saw the Lockes qualify for their first minor A Final in 25 years. Despite a dogged performance in the final, the young Callan team were narrowly defeated by an older and physically larger Dicksboro team. The Lockes will find consolation in that only 4 of the team are overage in 2010, and despite the defeat in the final, great credit certainly goes to all involved. The U-16 team also fell just short in their bid for county honours, being beaten in a semi final replay by local rivals Graigue-Ballycallan. The U-14's are still contesting the Roinn B shield at the time of going to print. An exciting Under 12 team won a couple of tournaments during the year, with some exciting talent emerging in this age group in particular. All in all a reasonably satisfying year, with the promise of better things to come in 2010.

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A Very Busy Year

The year started off on a high with the visit of the Sam Maguire Cup from Tyrone and Liam McCarthy Cup to the three schools where the locals were presented medals for reaching the primary schools football final.

Saturday morning training continue to be a success with the club entering various tournaments. Two highlights were hosting St Vincent's of Dublin and the running of our own tournament with the some of the U12s and U14s taking up the jobs of refereeing and coaching leaving the parents to put their feet up. County star Brian Hogan presented the medals.

The club ran another successful Ted and Lar Carroll U-17 tournament with Lisdowney beating Emeralds in the final and Ballyragget beating Freshford in the shield.

Lisdowney Club Website

We have a club Website up and running, look up www.kilkennygaa.ie and click into club links and click under Lisdowney.

Achievements

Martin Phelan won Leinster Intermediate and U21 medals while Eddie Hickey joined him on the intermediate, while his brother Sean Phelan won a Leinster Minor medal. Rory Hickey, Owen Warren, Michael Lennon, Aaron Fogarty, Conor Stapleton, Jamie and Ciarain Bergin won Leinster Colleges Vocational Medals with Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown.

125 year anniversary

Lisdowney GAA club celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of the GAA like all the GAA clubs around the country.

It was mighty crack. Loads of past, present and future members turned up to enjoy the sunshine and activities.

There was no big expensive splash, just good old fashioned fun. All the children, big and small, took part in races – not your average twice round the pitch job, but an assortment of challenges such as the golf ball and dessert spoon race, the 3 legged race, sack, piggy back, and wheel barrow races, obstacle course, long puck, target practice and an assortment of ball and balance skills.

There was a very popular kiddy corner for the little people and a trip down memory lane for our more mature visitors. Many people contributed photographs and newspaper articles while children from our three schools wrote essays and did a fantastic art display and then the real competition blasted off.

The current hurlers challenged the "Mature adults" to a game of rounders; you'll never guess who won!!!!

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped in the club lotto, Bag-packing and running of the Golf Classic and the looking after teams pitch and facilities through out the year.



Lisdowney Parish School's football squad with the Liam McCarthy and Sam Maguire Cups

Back: Serge Walsh, John Brennan, Dean McCann, Eoin Walsh, Michelle Hickey, James Murphy, Peter O'Sullivan, Morgan Grace Cashin, David Fitzpatrick. **Second:** Kevin O'Sullivan, Brian Kavanagh, James Phelan, Daragh Mackey, Luke Woodward, Stephen Delaney, Liam Dunphy, Niall Brennan, Ian Buckley. **Seated:** David O'Carroll, Eimear Walsh, Emma McEvoy, Brendan McKenna (Tyrone), Jack Dunphy, Cuthbert Donnelly (Tyrone), Aoibheann Murphy, Ben Tallis, Aoife O'Carroll. **Kneeling:** Luke Randall, Laurence Campion, Claire O'Carroll, William Kenny



Lá na gClub

The Obstacle Course - they're hardly yet ready for combat!!!



Rounders competition in Lá na gClub

John Campion shows the younger folk how it's done!!



La Na gClub – 10th May 2009

The 125th Anniversary of the Association was celebrated in Mooncoin where the GAA Club proudly marched through the village, led by a piper, to 11.00 mass. Following this a series of games took place in the GAA Complex. The matches involved the juvenile teams which were coached and mentored for the day by the senior Mooncoin players. We would like to thank all who helped this successful celebration.

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy

On March 12th 2009, Mooncoin GAA formally launched their Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy. With the assistance of the local HSE Substance Misuse Team, a presentation was delivered to all the coaches/trainers for the Club. This is an important development in the club. The aim of the policy is to promote a preventative approach where the welfare of young people in the club is paramount.

GAA Complex Development

This has been a massive year for the Club undertaking a major revamp of the existing sports complex to include a substantial extension. The new building includes 4 dressing rooms, office, shop, medical room, saunas and an extension to the sports hall. This facility is now set up for indoor hurling training, badminton and basketball. Upstairs has a meeting room, function room and newly fitted out gymnasium. Outside a hurling wall is incorporated into the gable end of the complex running onto a flood lit training pitch. The finished complex nicely complements two sand drained pitches with floodlights and newly constructed covered stand. There is a half mile stone walkway around the pitches for the local community and visitors to use. This walkway has been a great success. The club and local community can be proud of our GAA complex. It is a credit to all involved in its development.

Team News

Well done to our senior football team on getting to the semi final of the championship, our Intermediate and U-21 Hurling teams for a good championship run and our U-14 hurling team who were successful in reaching the league final. The club would like to express its sincere thanks to all the mentors and players for the dedication and commitment to the club in 2009

Tradition Lives On!

Mooncoin GAA is a proud club with a great tradition. Today it is vibrant, progressive and inclusive club that is at the heart of the local community.



Mooncoin Lá na gClub

The Parade which was well supported by the community passes through Mooncoin village



Mooncoin GAA Complex after a Major Revamp



Mooncoin U-14 Hurling Team 2009

Back: A Holden, P. Walsh, N. Brophy, P. Henebry, K. Dowley, P. Doherty, J. Power.
Middle: N. Flynn, K. Dunphy, A. Brennan, S. Purcell, T. Wall, S. Blanchfield, T. Reddy.
Front: E. Doyle, S. Walsh, P. Walsh, E. Purcell, J. Fitzgerald, K. Crowley, I. O'Keeffe, C. O'Shea, C. Fleming, E. Brennan, R. Power.

C CLUB REPORTS

Muckalee FC



Chairman: Larry Maher
Vice- Chairman: Nicky Morrissey
Secretary: Paddy Morrissey
Ass. Secretary : Patrick O'Flynn
Treasurer: Patsy Murphy

On the Field

This past year was a big improvement on last year on the playing field with our senior footballers contesting both the senior league final and the championship final. The year began last February with a league win away to Glenmore. Another win against Carrickshock at home followed. Our next assignment was an away game against O'Loughlins and a share of the points was the result. This was followed by a hard earned win against Erin's Own on home soil. As a result our seniors qualified for the league final against Railyard. This turned out to be a highly entertaining game played in atrocious conditions. At the end of normal time the score was 1-9 to 1-9. In extra time Railyard proved to have the edge and ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-10.

As a result of qualifying for the league final our seniors were straight into the championship quarter final where they easily overcame James Stephens. The semi-final was not quiet as easy and after a terrific struggle they eventually beat Mullinavat by 1-9 to 0-9. Opponents in the final turned out to be Glenmore. Having beaten them back in February in the league, hopes were high of a repeat but sadly it was not to be and Glenmore emerged victors on a scoreline of 2-7 to 0-10 points, two goals either side of the break proving to be costly.

Our junior team again made their exit at the quarter final stage with Ballyragget triumphing by 2-7 to 0-7.

Our last hope of collecting silverware now rests with our U21's who have yet to kick a ball as we go to press.

Development

Development of our facilities continued this year with the erection of a ball wall at the bottom end of the field, resurfacing and enlargement of the car park and the construction of a walking track all around the perimeter of the pitch.

Mick Morrissey, Joe Maher and Aidan Murphy of Muckalee in action against Railyard and Glenmore in the League and Championship finals respectively.

Eoin Hennessy





125 Anniversary Celebrations

2009 will always be remembered for the 125th anniversary of the G.A.A. While it was not a vintage year for our club in terms of winning championships, it was a successful year in many ways. Lá na gClub was a great success. The fine weather certainly added to the occasion as the hurling field was full of boys and girls showing off their skills. There was plenty to entertain the older generation also, as the photographic exhibition was very popular and brought back many memories.

Busy Underage

At club level 2009 was a busy year and a great deal of work was done with all our underage teams. Our U-8's and 10's showed great enthusiasm and took part in blitzes and tournaments throughout the year. Our U-13 panel once again travelled to Birmingham to take part in the Féile Peil International competition. This squad had a great run, reaching the A semi-final. The same squad reached the final of the Sweeney Cup in the Lisdowney Sevens. Our minor team performed very well in Roinn A hurling, reaching the championship semi-final, losing narrowly to John Lockes. They have reached the A football final and Shield Hurling final.

Adult Competitions

At adult level there was little to cheer about with the best performances coming from our Junior A and B teams, which reached the Southern Finals of their competitions. There were noteworthy performances at county level. Ian Duggan, Joe Fennelly and Darren Kenneally were part of the Good Counsel panel which contested the All Ireland Colleges A final. Ian and Pdraig Gahan won Leinster minor medals with Kilkenny. Willie O'Dwyer won his sixth Leinster and fifth All Ireland Senior medals. Pat Hoban managed the Kilkenny Intermediate team to the All Ireland final with Walter Burke prominent in the Kilkenny defence. Joe Walsh and Nicholas Anthony's victory in the All Ireland handball doubles was also a notable achievement.

Stars of the future: Mullinavat Under 8 & 10 teams 2009

Back: Sean Brennan, Eoin Dungan, James Brennan, Sean Fitzpatrick, Martin Davis, Jack Whelton, Stephen Law, Jack Byrne Doyle, Seanie Haberlin, Rory Howley, Shane Gaule.
Middle: Matthew Fitzpatrick, Richard Malone, Oisín Knox, Shane Whelan, Jake Morrissey, Pdraic Delahunty, Cian Mooney, Bill Dempsey, Paul Hennessy, Eoin Maher, Gavin Maher, Ian Mansfield, Michael Walsh.
Front: Declan Duggan, Fiachra Knox, Tadhg Knox, Cathal McEvoy, David Maher, Tomás O' Malley, Pdraig Dempsey, Robin Davis, Tom Ryan, Cian Dungan, Geoff Power, Patrick Freyne, Luke Byrne Doyle.



Mullinavat U-14 team 2009

Back: Nathan Malone, Mark Ryan, William Delahunty, Liam Walsh, Conor Frisby, Max Freyne, Liam Fennelly, Mikey Jones, Brian Phelan, Daniel Coughlan.
Front: Killian Dunphy, Thomas Delahunty, Adam Mansfield, Jack Brown, Damien Aylward, Jake O'Neill, Kevin Howley, Ryan Bland, Michael Curran, Daniel Walsh, Conor Duggan.



Down Memory Lane - Mullinavat Junior Hurling Team c.1960

Back: Tom Sutton, Paddy Hendrick, Larry O'Shea, Ned Delahunty, Jimmy Reddy, Tommy Reddy, Matty Woods, John Campion, Jim Conway.
Front: Philip Frisby, Ollie Aldridge, Paddy Hoban, Philly O'Neill, Seamus Sutton, Jack Frisby, Seamus Foskin, Johnny Walsh (Official).



C LUB REPORTS

O'Loughlin Gaels



Lá na gClub

A unique event, organised by John Collins, helped commemorate 125 years of the GAA in our club. Starting with the oldest member Mr. Andy O Driscoll, each member was asked to hit a sliothar a certain distance.

When each member had done so, the total distance the ball was hit was equivalent to the distance of St. Johns Park to Hayes Hotel in Thurles!. Each member from U-5s up then signed their name on a commemorative plaque, which sits proudly in our clubhouse.

Lisdowney 7s Victory

Helped by a powerhouse team effort, a sevens selection romped home with the Lisdowney 7s tournament. Captain Danny Bolger was also named player of the tournament.

Callan U-12 Tournament

Our under 12 team won the prestigious Callan tournament. This is a highly regarded tournament and underlines the excellent coaching being carried out with this team under the management of senior player Niall Bergin.

Minor B team in County Final

The minor b team are due to play the Roinn "C" county final as we go to press. Hopefully as you read this we will have the silverware locked away!

Senior Team League – Shield Champions

The Barry Power trained O'Loughlin Gaels senior team qualified for the knockout stages of the league having only dropped one point (a draw with Shamrocks). They were drawn against Clara in the League Shield Final. Martin Comerford collected the silverware on behalf of his team mates.

Cycle To Croke Park

As part of the KING OF THE CASTLE fundraiser between ourselves, Dicksboro and James Stephens, eleven hardy men braved the elements and cycled to Croke Park for the All Ireland Senior Hurling Final on High Nelly bicycles wearing vintage clothes and hobnail boots complete with old caps. This venture was also to coincide with the GAA's 125th birthday, as well as raising money for charity.

€180,000 Raised Through 'King of the Castle'

The club wishes to thank all those who helped in the very successful King of the Castle campaign. A total of €180,000 was raised by the three clubs and their candidates committees. Winning by just €800 from our great candidate, Pat Shortis, our good friend, Michael Costello from James Stephens was crowned 'King of The Castle' on 31 October 2009 in front of 900 people in Cillin Hill. Michael Devane (Dicksboro) was only a couple of hundred euro behind, with each candidate raising approximately €60,000 each. Well done to all concerned.



Celebration Day in St. John's Park as O'Loughlin. Gaels members, families and supporters gather to enjoy a most enjoyable day in GAA history.



Liam Leydon and oldest club member, Andy O'Driscoll, signing the La na gClub register in St. John's Park.



The Traditional Way to travel to Croke Park!!

Fr. Richard Scriven, Anthony Bergin, Paddy Leydon, John Joe Cullen, Liam Leydon, Jimmy Comerford, Dinny Tyrell, Pat Shortis, Joe Nolan, Rick Leydon, Andy Comerford, Alan O Meara, Pat Kenny, manager of the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel in Dublin where the cyclists stayed in Dublin.

CLUB REPORTS

Piltown



Officers

Chairman Philip Walsh
Secretary Bill Costello
Treasurer Stephen O'Brien

Hurling

Piltown special junior hurlers started the year off in great style when they won the Leinster title by beating Enniscorthy Shamrocks by 4-18 to 0-5 in Urlingford to claim the club's second ever Leinster title. Unfortunately, Athenry beat them in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The junior hurling team reached three finals in 2009. They had success in the South league when they beat Kilmacow. However, they suffered defeat in the County League final to Galmoy in Bennetsbridge and in the All-County League Final to Mount Leinster Rangers in Nowlan Park.

Piltown also suffered defeat to eventual champions John Lockes in the South junior semi-final. Peter McCarthy was a member of the Kilkenny Under-21 panel that won the Leinster Final and were beaten in the All Ireland final.

La na gClub

In May the club celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the GAA with a piper led parade through the grounds, followed by juvenile hurling and Camogie games and a puc fada competition for men and ladies. This was very popular especially with past players. An art competition was run in the local primary schools and the results were displayed and announced on what was a great day.

Juvenile Section Officers

Chairman Martin Gannon
Secretary Helen Kinsella
Treasurer Cepta Brennan
PRO Seamus Norris

Piltown minor hurlers were narrowly defeated in the Roinn C League final by Cloneen. The U14 team reached the semi-final of the Roinn B Shield. The U-13 hurlers won the inaugural Tom Cheasty Plate run by Ballyduff Lower defeating Ballyduff Upper in the final. They reached the semi-final of the Waterford League to be beaten by Glenmore. The U11 hurlers gave some excellent performances in the Waterford League to reach the semi-finals and also in the Camáint. The U10 hurlers won their third consecutive Mullinahone tournament

when they defeated Fermoy amidst great excitement. They followed this up with an unbeaten run in the South East Blitz held at the Mount Sion grounds in Waterford.

Adam Murphy won a Leinster medal with the Kilkenny minor team. David Kinsella and

Michael O'Dwyer were on the Kilkenny U-14 team that competed in the Sonny Walsh tournament in Waterford. Seamus Norris was a selector on that team while Jim Norris was a selector for the Kilkenny U-14 team that competed in the Tony Forristal tournament.



Piltown Under-10 team 3-in-a-row Winners of the Mullinahone Tournament

Back: Scott Bourke, Adam Grace, Evan O'Hara, Sean Power, Darragh Walsh, Conor Whittle, John Kenny (Capt), Declan Duggan, Oisín Coffey, John Hartery, James Phelan.
Front: Oran Brophy, Conor O'Shea, Jamie Gowings, Cian Kinsella, Eoin Fitzgerald, Alex Byrne, Robert Tobin, Eoin McTiernan, Jason Knox.



Piltown U-13 Tom Cheasty Plate Winners in Ballyduff Lower

Back: Michael Dineen, Robert Kent, Aran Gallagher, Shane Walsh, Peter Tobin, Martin Kirby (Capt), Shane O'Dwyer, Aidan Nugent, Conor Friend, Francis O'Brien
Front: Tom Kenny, Jamie Norris, Ronan Ryan, Thomas Murray, Ian Long, Richard Brophy, Liam Fortune.

Piltown Junior B team Leinster Champions 2009

Back: Brendan Norris, Shane McCarthy, Kieran Norris, Brian Farrell, Liam Culleton, Michael O'Dwyer, Niall Kinsella, Paul Kirby, Tommy O'Gorman, James Farrell, James Connolly, Brendan McCarthy.

Front: Robbie Culleton, Peter McCarthy, Nigel Brennan, Daniel Norris, Adam Murphy, Conor O'Shea (Capt), Michael Brennan, Fran Duggan, Joey O'Shea, David Kirby.



C CLUB REPORTS

Rower Inistioge



Club Officers

President	Michael Roche.
Chairman	Jack Lyng
Vice Chairman	Michael Lyng
Secretary	Paschal Walsh
Treasurer	Richard Tierney
PRO	John Dunphy
Bord na nOg Chair	Michael Byrne
Sec. Bord Na nOg	Breda English.

Bord na nOg

Pride of place in 2009 must go to the Schools and U-14 Hurling Teams who reached Roinn A finals in their respective grades. The Schools team was victorious in the Country Cup final when overcoming Thomastown in a close contest, but lost out to Clara in the League Final after a tremendous game played in Nowlan Park. At U-14 level the Club qualified for the Roinn A final after victories over St Lachtains and James Stephens. In the County final Dicksboro-the Feile Champions proved too strong for the local team and ran out convincing winners.

Among the highlights of the year for all the Teams from U-6 to U-13 was the Luke Roche Memorial Tournament, the U-8 Team playing in Croke Park, the Roanmore Tournament for U-8's and U-9's., the U-10's good run in the Caulfield's League, victory in the Thomastown Tournament for the U-12 team and the U-13 Team getting to the semi final stages of the Lisdowney sevens.

The U-16 Team reached the semi finals of the Roinn C Championship where they lost out narrowly to Galmoy/Windgap. At minor level we reached the semi final of the league losing out to the 'Boro while in the quarter-final of the championship the 'Boro also provided the opposition. The two sides ended all square after extra time with the City side advancing to the semi final with victory in the replay.

Adult Level

At adult level out three teams were to the fore in their respective competitions during 2009. The Junior B Team defeated Graig in the Southern B final before losing out to St Martins in the County Final while the Junior A Team won the Southern League A final but also lost in the County Final to Young Irelands. The Intermediate also enjoyed success in the Intermediate League defeating Danesfort in the League Final. However, in the Intermediate championship our hopes of success were dashed by Dicksboro at the semi final stage.

Club Development

The construction of the GAA Community Centre in Inistioge has progressed very well during 09 and will be ready for use in early 2010. The centre when complete will have changing rooms and showers, function room, sports hall for juveniles and a GYM. Plans for the leevelling and extension of the GAA grounds in the Rower are at final tender stage and this development work will also be completed during 2010.



Rower-Inistioge U-8 Team who played in Croke Park in July 2009

Back; Sean Bolger, Mike Chapman Denis Kilbride, Jack Ryan, Jamie Holden.

Front; Cathal O'Neill, Ciaran Keher Murtagh, Edward Prendergast, Jack Gilsean, Darragh Bolger.

Other Panel Members; Adam Barns, Eoghan Bolger, Brian Carroll, Tom Cullen, Niall Ashe Doyle, Fiacre Farrell, John Grace, Joshua Kennedy, Tiarnan Morrissey, Daniel Mulholland, Eoin Prendergast, Evan Reardon, Jason Tierney and Oisín Wolfe.



Minister of Arts, Sports and Tourism, **Mr. Martin Cullen**

dropped in to view progress on the construction of the GAA Community Centre in Inistioge. Minister Cullen was met by representatives of the GAA Club, Inistioge Community Council, Inistioge Vintage Club, Tierney and O'Neill Building Contractors, and local political representatives.

Finance & Fundraising

The club's main fundraisers during the Year were the door to door collection for Club development work, the Annual Golf Classic, Bord na nOg Christmas draw, Hurlers Co-op draw, and the All Ireland week-end draw. Many thanks to all who organised and contributed to these successful fund raisers.

Inter-County

Congratulations to all the players who represented the Club at Inter-county level in 2009 and on the many colleges teams. Congratulations to Sean Cummins and Michael Grace who won National League and All Ireland Medals as members of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling panel in '09.

Sympathies

The Rower-Inistioge GAA Club would like to use this opportunity to extend our sympathies to the families and friends of fellow club members who were deceased during the year.

Thanks

The Club wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to all of the many people who assist with the running of the Club during the year. A special word of thanks to all of the many people who sponsor many of the fund raising activities and all members who give their time on a voluntary basis to promote Gaelic games within our parish.



Early Activity

2009 club activities started on January 13th with the holding of a club registration night, this gave club members the opportunity to renew their membership and to meet club officers. The Juvenile Club AGM quickly followed on the 22nd of the month and officers and trainers were appointed for the coming year. The first juvenile action of the year took place on 24 January, when the U14's took part in the Carrigeen Tournament. A bag pack was organized in March and proved to be a fantastic success. The club-training programme got into full swing by 24th March when all adult and juvenile teams had returned to training.

Junior Hurling

The Junior team started the first of their competitions in April and subsequent results throughout the year showed that some progress had been made throughout the season, with wins over Bennetsbridge, Mooncoin, John Lockes (County Finalists) and a drawn game against Windgap. There were also two narrow defeats against Piltown and Kilmacow.

U12s Do Well

Hurling activity really increased pace during May with both Slieverue/Ringville National Schools reaching the League Semi-Final under the auspices of Mr Quinn. On 2nd May the U12 team reached the Thomastown Tournament Shield Final and came away with a great win against Ballingarry of Tipperary.

Development Plan Launched

On the 17th of the month the club launched its Development Plan in the Parish Rooms, club officials outlined that the plan was to be implemented in three phases, phase 1 was to commence immediately with the adult and juvenile fields being drained and nets being erected. The club also took the opportunity on this occasion to present medals to our under 10,11 and 12 teams.

Well Done Stephen!

A well-deserved club presentation was also made to Stephen Dolan for his performance in the County Feile Skills competition; the club would like to thank Mr. Ned Quinn for taking time out to participate at the launch and perform the medal presentations.

Minor & U21

The Minor team started their League campaign in April reaching the League semi-final against Clooneen eventually loosing in extra time by two points, it was a case of déjà vu some weeks later when both teams meet once again in the County Quarter-finals and this game also went to extra time and the exact result being repeated once again. At the time of going to press the U 21 team recorded a win againstTullogher/Rosbecon.

Playing Far and Wide

During the year many of the clubs juvenile teams travelled to Croke Park to support County teams and availed of the opportunity to play local opposition. On their way to the Leinster Final the U11's and 13's played Southall Columcilles, and on 2 July the U8's played in Croke Park. The Camogie club were also very active during the year holding an U10 tournament in Slieverue and running a bus to the All Ireland Camogie Final to support Michelle Quilty and the rest of the Kilkenny girls.

Busy to the End

In August the U11's were narrowly beaten in the Waterford City League Final but the next day they found themselves playing in the "GO" games final in Nowlan Park. During September the U10's and 12's took part in two different Dicksboro Tournaments, both teams competed extremely well with the Under 12's going one step further and winning the competition.

Eamonn O'Donovan Tournament

One of the principal events in the clubs juvenile calendar is the holding of the Eamonn O'Donovan U10 Tournament that honours the memory of our past juvenile Chairman. The tournament took place this year on 3rd October with eight teams taking part and it was a fantastic occasion, just as Eamonn would have wanted.



Slieverue U-10 camogie players and supporters cheer on Kilkenny in Nowlan Park

Back: Charlene Roux, Sara Moran, Siobhan Molloy, Hannah Irish, Shannon Doyle, Katie Bohill, Heather Doyle, Ellie-Mae Kelly, Amy Redmond, Roisin Fleming.

Front: Emily Fleming, Katie Freyne-Atkins, Ciara Atkins, Shannon Crowe, Molly Plunkett, Orla Phelan, Niamh O'Brien, Ellen Freyne, Aoife Slattery.



Slieverue U8s Trip to Croke Park

Back: Seamus Murtagh, Jack Myler, Josh Walsh, Aoife Slattery, Reece Murphy, Luke Heffernan, Dylan Cody, William Halpin, James Murtagh, Billy Halpin.

Front: Sean Freyne, Cormac Doyle, Paul O'Donovan, Joel Walsh, Jake Hogan.



Slieverue - U12 Dicksboro Tournament Winners

Back: Peter Murphy, Ethan Walsh, Colm Fleming, David Corrigan, Michael Egan, Luke O'Donovan, Luke Atkins, John Mulcair.

Front: Cillian Power, Steven Roche, Aaron O'Brien, Ben Alcock, Joe O'Brien, Sean Moore (Capt), Jack Frisby, Eamonn Phelan, Gavin Morrissey, James Dodd, David Irish.



Junior Football

After some good early results in the league St. Lachtains beat Young Irelands in the quarter final. It took two games plus extra time to overcome Tullogher in the semi-final before beating St. Patricks Ballyragget in the co. final. This victory set the scene for what was to be a very successful year for the club. Team management: Kevin McCarthy, Martin Power, Pat Anderson and Richard Costello.

Junior A

After an indifferent league, they had a bye in the first round of the championship, they beat Tullaroan in the next round and beat Fenians in the northern final to qualify for the final against Carrickshock.

They beat Carrickshock on a score of 0-16 to 0-10. Team management: Richard Costello, Jim Marnell and Pat Anderson.

Junior B

Following an indifferent league campaign they beat local rivals Threecastles in the first round of the championship before losing to Erins Own in the next round. Team management included Davy Martin and Pat Doyle.

Intermediate league

Winning three games, drawing one and losing one set up a shield final versus Dicksboro with a good 0-22 to 2-11 win.

Intermediate championship

In the quarter final they just got over the line to beat neighbours and keen rivals Emeralds in Ballyragget.

They beat Mooncoin in the semi-final 2-11 to 1-7 thus setting up a repeat of the shield final versus Dicksboro.

Level at half time 1-7 to 0-10 they were pushed all the way by a gallant Dicksboro side before winning 0-16 to 1-11.

Team management:

Gordon Ryan, Mick McCarthy and Davy Martin.

Intercounty teams

It was with great pride that we watched Kilkenny beat Tipperary in this years All-Ireland final and to see Michael Kavanagh win his seventh all-Ireland. We wish him many more years hurling.

James Meagher was trainer of the Kilkenny U21 team which lost to Clare.

Co. senior final day

Co senior final day saw surviving members of the winning '61 and '63 teams honoured at half time when they were introduced to the crowd. After the match they were treated to a meal in Springhill Court Hotel.

Bord na nOg

Highlight of the year had to be the U-14 team which qualified for the league final losing to a Dicksboro side which the previous weekend had won the all-Ireland feile. They were beaten by the Rower-Inistoge in the semi final. While no silverware was won they competed very well in Roinn "A".

The U-16s played in Roinn "A" of the league and moved back to Roinn "B" for the championship. They were beaten by Bennetsbridge in the semi-final of the championship.

Minor team

In the league they qualified for the shield final versus Fenians which has yet to be played. In the championship they were beaten by Young Irelands on a score 2-12 to 3-7.

For this game they were missing Brian Kennedy and Gary Corcoran but they were in the game up to the very end.

Many teams were fielded down to U8 level. Many thanks to all the mentors who helped with these teams. It was great to see so many young people in the field during the Summer evenings.

Intercounty

Well done to the various people who played with county teams during the year. Brian Kennedy was a member of the All-Ireland minor panel. Philip Campion was a member of the U-16 panel for the Arrabawn Cup.

James Maher and Jack Boland were on the U-14 panel for the Tony Forristal tournament. This team was managed by Jim Lyng.



John Costello climbs highest in the County Intermediate Final. Ref. Domo Connolly looks on.



Stars from the Past

Members of County Senior final winning teams of 1961 & 1963, Jack Shea and Mick Maher



1984-85 History made

1984 was to be a year that the club will always remember not only because it was centenary year but it was the year we won our first county final. The opposition on that day was the Shamrocks. Following on from that they continued to do well in the club championship and reached the final where they took on Castlegar of Galway. A draw the first day saw them head to Thurles for the replay where they completed the double by winning the Club All Ireland final.

Some might say 2009 was not a good year but our Junior B won their first ever county Final by beating Rower-Inistioge. Both our seniors and juniors reached the quarter-finals of the championship.

Bord na nÓg

Pride of place for '09 must go to our under 14 who won the county roinn c league and championship. They also won the Declan Byrne tournament. Our Minors reached the semi-finals losing out to Lisdowney. The under 16 were beaten in the first round. The u12 travelled to Lucan Sarsfields during the summer and had a good day out. The u6 u8 and u10 started training early in the year indoors and moved outdoors when the weather improved. Great numbers are involved and all have shown good improvement during the year. Our under 10 finished the year well by winning the Fr. Delaney tournament.

Lá na gClub

Our La Na Club day was a great success with boys and girls of all ages enjoying themselves at different activities. Well done to everyone.

Web Site

This year saw the setting up of our new site <http://www.stmartinsgaa.ie> www.stmartinsgaa.ie Here you will find all the latest news and results so be sure to log on.



**County and All Ireland Club Champions
1984-85 Centenary Year**

Back: Jimmy Maher, Martin Morrissey, Richard Teehan, Eamon Morrissey, Tony Morrissey, Joe Kelly, Tom Kinsella.

Middle: Jim Moran, John Moran, Richard Moloney, Mikie Maher, Patsy Moran, Jack Morrissey, Anthony Maher, John Morrissey, Tom Moran.

Front: Eamon Breen, Nicky Morrissey, JJ Dowling, Tom Walsh, Bobby Shore, Johnny Brennan, Pat Lawlor, Danny Coonan, Jimmy Kinsella, Jimmy Kelly, Pat Comerford.

Missing from photo - Sean O'Neill, Pierce Coonan

Development

During the year we have seen Coon pitch drained and other work carried out. In Muckalee we had a wall ball and running track completed.

Thanks

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all those who supported and sponsored us during the year in our race night, Bag Packing, Church gate Collection, Members draw and our teams sponsors. Thanks also are extended to many people who devote their time in a voluntary capacity at all levels of the club.

Sympathies

The club would like to take this opportunity to extend our condolences to the families and friends of fellow club members who were deceased during the year.



Patrick Darcy accepting the Fr. Delaney cup.



Training at the new ball wall.

C CLUB REPORTS

St Patrick's



Lots of Activity

No trophies but plenty of progress, particularly with all teams playing and learning in Roinn A. Bord na nÓg continue to do great work with the youth of our parish and to witness up to 100 young people in the field on a Summers evening is a sight to behold. Again the Phelan Stone tournament was a great success this year. All Star goalie PJ Ryan presented the trophies after the finals of our street league which was very entertaining and well done to all who organized and helped both those events.

Wonderful Service

Nicky Brennan, the then president of the GAA, was the guest of honour at our dinner dance on April 3rd where he made a special presentation to John & Marion Lacey, John having completed 41 years of dedicated service as Club Secretary. Well done and thanks John!

Celebrations

On May 10th St. Patricks organized a sports day to commemorate the GAA 125 year celebrations. The day started with Mass for deceased members then a parade to the hurling field for Sports day, wall ball activities, long puck etc. A well-attended enjoyable day was had by all. Great to welcome back members of the teams of 1955, 1970 and 1978.

County Men

Well done to Liam Lacey, James Gannon and Geoff Brennan who were on the Kilkenny Minor panel and to Joe Brennan who was on the Kilkenny U-21 panel. We also had members who participated with the Kilkenny Squads Teams, U-14 - Fabian Jacob, David Kelly, Sean Gleeson, U-15 - Billy Butler, Owen Bergin, Brendan Neary, Conor Bolger. U-16 - Kevin Kelly, U-17 - Michael Brennan.

Football Finalists

The junior footballers reached the county final of 2009 but lost to St. Lachtains 0-13 to 4-7. Well done to all concerned.



Three Members of the St Patricks 1955 Junior Team enjoying the 125 year celebrations. Marty Butler, Tom Bergin and Paddy Fogarty



Silverware in St. Ciarans Boys School

Liam Lacey, Geoff Brennan and James Gannon of the Kilkenny Minor Panel. Pat O'Neill, School Principal, Joe Brennan, Kilkenny U-21 panel.



Presentation to John & Marion Lacey

Fr. Tom Murphy PP, John Lacey, Nickey Brennan, Philip Kenny Club Chairman, Marion Lacey and Paul Kinsella.

C CLUB REPORTS

Thomastown



Mixed Fortunes

The year ended in disappointment when the intermediate side was relegated to the Junior ranks after a very tense replayed final with Graignamanagh. It was unfortunate that they found themselves in this position as they had the opportunity in several league games to gain the necessary points to be clear of the relegation zone. However, a number of young players were blooded during the year and maybe a term at Junior may allow the space and momentum to bring on these younger players. As we go to press the U-21 side has qualified for the South Semi-Final and maybe this side can give the club a much needed boost as we look forward to 2010.

More Developments

The building project is now almost complete and the Club now boasts one of the finest facilities in the county. Two new dressing rooms, each with their own shower block and toilets, are now fully operational and much admired by our own players and many visiting clubs. Upstairs we have a new meeting room and office. Public toilets have been extended and upgraded and now also incorporate a disabled unit. A new machinery shed has also been built. Additional floodlighting was "Switched On" by James Mc Garry. Johnjo Farrell and Dessie Walsh who represented the club at county level in 2009.

U-16 Roinn A County Champions

Our U-16 team had an outstanding year, winning the Roinn A championship, the clubs first since 1981. In the league section we went through unbeaten and winning two of those games in the last few minutes showed us these lads had character and a real will to win. We got beaten in the league semi final by the Emeralds in as hard an U-16 match as you could see and made a brilliant comeback in the second half but were pipped on the line. In the championship we defeated Clara and Emeralds with top quality displays. Our county final against Kilmacow was a hard fought game but when the final whistle blew we had won by eleven points John Brennan took over as manager at start of the year and brought in Billy O'Keeffe as selector, they worked brilliantly together and got their rewards for a job well done. Also working in the background were PJ Whelan and Tom Donnelly and both were of great assistance to the team.

U-6's & U-8's

A good season was had by the U-6's and U-8's with plenty of wins under their belt. Many thanks to the parents, the children and all those who helped over the summer months in making it such a successful and enjoyable season.

U-10

The U-10s had a very successful year with large numbers continuing to enjoy our games. This group continued to impress with inspired performances at tournaments around the county, with the years highlight being the Ballyhale tournament where



Thomastown - Winners of the U-10 Ballyhale Blitz



Thomastown - U-14 Football League Champions

Back: Martin Farrell (manager), Paucic Lennon, Peter Prendergast, Dylan Murphy (hidden), Cian O Meara, Shane Corr, Seamus Mason (selector). **Middle:** Eamon O'Donnell, Aaron Somers, James Burke, Adrian Burke, John Murphy, Jamie Lanigan, Joe Pyke (Bord na nOg chairman), Liam Tennyson, Robbie Donnelly, Shane Butler, Mark Costigan, Mick Walsh (selector).

Front: Peter Blanchfield, Colin Conway, Danny Monkes, Andy Walsh, Johnny Barron, Bobby Joe Walsh, John Donnelly, Melvin Benny, Dylan Caulfield.

Thomastown came out on top of a 16 team blitz defeating Ballygunner. The improvement in all the players skills and application ensures that for this squad the dream can live on.

U12

The U-12 Thomastown tournament was held on May bank holiday weekend and there was a great turn out. We travelled to several more during the summer months and ended on a winning note in Ballingarry bringing home the cup. Thanks to all who helped during the season.

U14

The U-14 team was a very young group this year but still brought home the clubs first silverware of the year, winning the football league title, beating Mullinavat in the final. The lads went on to reach the championship final also, losing to Barrow Rangers. In hurling the lads competed in Roinn A in the league putting in some very good performances, and they also reached the final of the

Paulstown tournament. The championship ended in the first round when they were beaten by Danesfort.

Minor

The minor team had a very good year, qualifying for the clubs first Roinn A hurling final for 21 years. In the league the lads qualified for a semi-final. After winning a great semi-final against Barrow Rangers, the lads lost out by 2 points to Dicksboro. In the championship we beat James Stephens but were beaten by Mullinavat in the quarter final. The team also qualified for the football final, and won the Mullen Shield in the James Stephens hurling Tournament. A massive effort was put in by everyone involved this year, and this should be a stepping stone to more success.

County Squads

The club was represented on the county U-14 and U-16 teams this year by Adrian Burke and Thomas "Tucker" O Hanrahan respectively.

C CLUB REPORTS

Threecastles



Twenty Five Years

Back in 1984 a group of determined people got together and decided to re-form the old Threecastles Club that joined with Freshford in the 1960's. At first they met with resistance and decided to carry on regardless, so much so that when they could not join the junior set up properly, they decided to enter a team in the local factory league, under the guise of Threecastles Farm's and Services. This determination coupled with some aggressive canvassing eventually wore the powers that be down and Threecastles was once again hurling. This year we celebrate twenty five years re-formed with the culmination of a dinner dance in Cillin Hill and to mark the significance of twenty five years back in business, there was a presentation to all who have held the office of Chairman since 1984. A great night was had by all in Cillin Hill.

Field Day and Hurling Tournament

Again we held a very successful field day in Threecastles. This year the weather was very kind as a lovely day weather wise was enjoyed by all. There were the usual events for all the children, Tug o' War, Crossbar Challenge, Long Puck etc. It was great to see so many people young and old enjoying themselves. Thanks to all who organised and worked on the day, thanks for making it a great success. We also ran an U-14 tournament which started out with eight teams and eventually got down to Erins Own beating St. Lachtains in the final. Barrow Rangers beat Young Irelands in the Shield.



Chairpersons of Threecastles since 1984

Back: Nicky Grace, Gay Rafter, Michael Doheny, Shem O'Donnell, Jim Mullan
Front: Mary Mullan, Johnny Butler, Nickey Brennan, Eamonn Hennessy, Annette Murphy (Donegan)

Missing from Photo – Denis Butler.

Fundraising

We ran a race night in the Rock Bar after Christmas which was a great success. With the membership and co-op tickets this is usually enough to run the club.

Field of Play

We played nine league matches in total and bowed out to a much fitter and younger Freshford side in the Championship.

Thanks to all who helped with the team during the year.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all who got married during the year.

Condolences

We wish to offer our condolences to anyone who suffered a bereavement during the year.

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Club Officers 2009

President	Dick Walsh (church)
Chairman	Dick Walsh
Secretary	Donnie Hogan
Treasurer	Edward Holland
Juv Chairman	Derek Holmes
Juv Secretary	Elizabeth Maher
Juv Treasurer	Catherine Holmes

Senior Action

Our senior team had a difficult campaign in 2009. This was partly due to injuries and emigration. After losing all our league games we were narrowly beaten by Graigue Ballycallan in the relegation semi final in Nowlan park. This left us in the relegation final against Young Irelands of Gowran which we won after a replay following a very exciting draw in Callan. The club was delighted to be invited to participate in the Kilmacud Crokes sevens tournament the weekend of the Senior All Ireland final in Dublin. The club played against teams from Tipperary, Cork and Wexford and although were not successful in qualifying for the later stages enjoyed the experience immensely. The invitation to participate came about due to Martin Whites connection with both clubs in this historic year for him.

Our Special Junior team were defeated by Young Ireland in the North League final and by St Lachtains in the championship.

County Stars

Tommy Walsh won League, Leinster and All Ireland medals with the Kilkenny Senior team. This was his 6th All Ireland win and 7th All Star in a row. He was also named on the GPA's team of the year. Tommy also received the great honour of being named the senior hurler of the year, this was an award he truly deserved. Martin and Padraic Walsh were members of the U21 and minor panels which qualified for the All Ireland finals. Martin won a Leinster medal with the U21 panel.

Club News

The club held its annual golf classic in Rathdowney in July and once again this proved to be a great social outing as well as a vital fundraiser. During the summer work was completed on our clubhouse development. This is a fine building with a small covered sit down area facing out on to the playing field.

La na club took place on August 15th. The day began with the GAA 125 year flag being raised. It was a fun filled day for all especially the younger members who played games from U6 to minor. There were also bouncy castles and a number of novelty races and games for young and old. All the young members that competed on the day were presented with medals from Tommy Walsh. This event was a great success and was well attended.

Century Celebration

During the course of the year Martin White celebrated his 100th birthday. He won many honours for club and county and is the oldest surviving all Ireland medal holder. His birthday celebrations were featured on 'The Road to Croker' on which he was presented with an honorary All Ireland medal by Tommy Walsh, Brian Cody and other county board officials. The club was also honoured this year to have



Tullaroan U8 Team 2009

Back: David Fitzgerald, Tommy Walton, Tomas Dunne, Joe Coughlan, Sam Coughlan, Jack Keogh
Front: Brendan Walsh, Richard Walsh, Richard Cash, Gearoid Dunne, Niall Holland, Eamon Óg Holland, Bill Walton, Laoise Holland



Tullaroan U-12 team Winners of Callan Tournament and James Stephens Tournament

Back: Tom Gaffney (mentor) Adam Talis, Aidan Cleere, Kevin Maher, Dylan Simpson, Bobby Cummins, Joey Walsh, Sean Buggy, Bill Gaffney, Niall Buggy, John Dooley, Sam Grace, John Walton, Simon Walton (mentor).
Front: Mairin Hennessy, Ella Moore, Liam Teehan, Shane Joyce, Martin Keogh, Tommy Walsh, Sean Cuddihy.

the 4th division league named after one of its great former hurlers Lory Meagher. The final for the inaugural season took place in July in Croke park and Tyrone were the winners in an exciting contest against Donegal. The final and presentation was attended by members of Lorys family.

Sympathies

The club would like to extend its sympathy to the families of the Very Rev Canon Anthony Kelly, Declan O'Neill, Patrick Cummins, Ned Young, Eleanor Doheny, Hannah O'Neill, Mai Walsh, Tommy Ronan & Helen Walsh.

Bord na nOg

There was plenty of activity in the juvenile scene in 2009. Pride of place in 2009 must go to the U-13 school team who created history by winning their hurling and football competitions. This was a magnificent achievement by the players and the school principal and manager

of the team Breda Holmes.

The under eights took part in the 'Camaint' competition and also the Dicksboro tournament and the Graigue-Ballycallan tournament.

The U-10's also took part in the 'Camaint' competition and had a very enjoyable day out with the U-12's in Naas. This was followed by a trip to the National Aquatic centre.

The U-12's participated in the 'Go Games' competition and were also successful in the Callan tournament and the James Stephens tournament.

Our U-14 team reached the country semi-final of the championship but were beaten by a stronger Tullogher Rosbercon side. They also took part in the county cup and the Graigue-Ballycallan tournament.

The minor team bowed out of the championship following a defeat to St Martins, this was our first year in this grade with a young team.



Intermediates

Tullogher Rosbercon started the year as Leinster Junior champions and faced an All Ireland semi final against Galway champions, Skehana. The Intermediates won this game played in south Limerick on a very cold and damp day and our attention turned to the All Ireland club final where Dripsey from Cork were our opponents. The entire parish got behind the team and the club as no effort was spared in preparing for the club's first All Ireland challenge. While a few of our team had played in Croke Park before, it was a new experience for many but sadly we lost to a very good Dripsey team.

The club had little time to relax as the intermediate league loomed into view. The club was happy to have the same management team in place for this campaign and while tiredness could have been a factor, our hurlers prepared well for their first match against Mullinavat. Although losing by three points, there was enough evidence on the night to show that Tullogher Rosbercon would compete at intermediate level. Through ups and downs over the summer, we faced and beat Thomastown to secure our status and we drew with Dicksboro only to be beaten in the replay at the quarter final stage.

Coupled with a solid run in the Junior B league and championship, where we reached the league final and quarter final respectively, 2009 was not a bad year for our adult hurlers who also reached the semi final of the Junior football championship.

Juvenile hurling and football

The young U-14 footballers got the year off to a good start by completing the double in league and championship in Roinn C. Their success was followed a few months later when the U-10 hurlers won the Division 2 of the Caulfield league New Ross district narrowest of margins by St. Martins but they showed that there was potential there. The under 14's beat Young Irelands in the quarter final of the championship and overcame Tullaroan in the semi final but they faced a very strong St. Martins team in the championship final where they lost. Credit to the young players as they gave all they could over the year.

The Young Ones Do Well!

Meanwhile, the U-8 hurlers competed very well in the Southern blitz in Thomastown and repeated that effort by doing well in the Rower Inistioge blitz. In between they played games against local teams and enjoyed their year's hurling and training. Our U-10's also played in blitzes and in the Camaint where they did well. Our U-6's played a couple of games and had a great morning in early April in Brownstown when James "Cha" Fitzpatrick came to present medals for the u6 indoor blitz. Naturally, Liam McCarthy was in attendance as were the Junior County and Leinster club cups with Pat Hartley also giving generously of his time.

Our minors reached the league shield semi final and lost out the quarter final stage in the championship. Our U-16's also displayed good



Tullogher - Rosbercon - U11 Team at Camaint Finals in Nowlan Park

Back: Thomas O'Connor, Mark Forristal, Jack Kennedy, Aidan O'Neill, Frank Murphy, Shane Lyng, Dylan Morrissey, Mark McGrath, Liam Furness.

Front: David Walsh, Kyle Bookle, Pdraig Walsh, Richard Alyward, Niall O'Beirne, Thomas Johns, Conor Brett



Tullogher - Rosbercon U-8 Team at Luke Roche Memorial Blitz in Inistioge

Back: Brian Walsh, Niall O'Shea, Dylan Ronan, Simon Kennedy, Jack Mullaly, Terry Lalor, Pat Doyle, Anthony O'Connor

Front: Coleman O'sullivan, Ronain Moore, Luke Walsh, Ben Kennedy, Ciall O'Connor, Darragh McDonald, Thomas Handrick, Harry Flynn.

effort in what was a young team. The juvenile hurling year ended with our U-12's winning the Richie Young tournament when they defeated a very good Slieverue side.

New Clubhouse and Hurling Wall

After a lot of good work by the clubs Development Committee, planning permission was granted for our new clubhouse and hurling wall. Construction has started and it is hoped that all will be ready by late March of next year.

The club would to thank all who helped in getting this project off the ground and in particular the generosity of the local parish in their response to our request for support through our parish collection.

County Players

The club was represented by Walter Walsh at minor and John Cottrell at Intermediate when they played for Kilkenny, winning Leinster championships.

Sympathy

The club extends its sympathy to the family and friends who lost loved ones during the year. The club would like to thank our sponsors for their support over the year and particular thanks to the Supporters Club.

Sympathies

The club extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Pat O'Neill, Paul Young, Michael Whitty, Josephine Green, Mary Cummins, Brigid O'Neill and Mattie Flynn.

C CLUB REPORTS

Windgap



2009 was a significant year for the club in terms of the grounds development as a dedicated team of volunteers spent countless nights and weekends working that culminated in the opening of the new hurling wall by GAA president Nicky Brennan. Development Officer Paudie Butler held the first training session at the wall and gave an insight into it's benefits.

On the field of play it was a mixed year, with the juvenile teams faring better than the adults overall.

The juniors just missed out on qualification for the All County League quarter finals, and then went down to Erin's Own in the Cahill Cup. Two draws and a vital win set up a quarter final championship clash versus Slieverue. A six point victory left Kilmacow as semi final opponents in a game that was in the balance right to the end before Kilmacow pulled away to win.

The Junior "A"s drew Ballyhale Shamrocks, and, short a number of key players, put up a great fight before going down.

The footballers recorded some good wins to qualify for a county semi final but injuries and exam commitments meant the game had to be conceded to St Patrick's.

At under age it was a much improved year with a number of final appearances. Great work continues to be done by the trainers, mentors and parents, despite the constant battle against falling numbers.

The primary school hurling team lost to Conahy Shamrocks in their county final.

The U-14s qualified for the league and championship football finals but went down to Ballyhale on both occasions, while the hurlers went down to Carrickshock

Once again the club joined forces with Galmoy from U-16, to U-21 level, and it proved very successful.

The U-16 hurlers reached both league and championship finals. In the championship they were beaten by a strong Ógra Graigueanamanagh/Blacks and Whites. The League final has yet to be played.

The minor hurlers won the shield section of their league, beating O Loughlins in the final. Unfortunately the roles were reversed at championship time. The U21 hurlers went down narrowly to Thomastown.

County representatives during the year included Cian Ryan, Niall Walsh, Darragh O'Shea, Emmet Landy, Aidan Mackey, James Mackey and David Power. Paddy Walsh was again a selector on the county u-21 team narrowly beaten in the All-Ireland final.

The handballers had a successful year with National, county, Leinster and Schools titles won. They included the Clubs first Féile titles and Scór awards. This year saw extensive

work on the alley and the club host Kilkenny's first One-Wall county Championships since the 1940s.

The golf classic saw a change of venue, with Callan Golf Club hosting the event. Thanks to all involved in the organization.

In November GAA President Christy Cooney visited the Club as part of his "Eisteacht" programme. Accompanied by PRO Alan Milton he attended training at the Alley, Hall and Wall

and met a wide selection of the club members.

The club would like to express its sympathies to the families of Tommy Murphy, and Georgie Hennessy who passed away during the year, and Sharon, Nadia and Zsara Whelan who died tragically last Christmas. Ar dheis de go raibh siad.

For all the latest visit windgap.kilkenny.gaa.ie



Hurling Wall Opening: Windgap Hurlers and Camogie Players and their Galmoy/Windgap counterparts line up for a Hurling Wall demonstration under the watchful eye of Paudie Butler on opening day.



Two Presidents

GAA President Nicky Brennan officially opens the Hurling Wall, GAA President Christy Cooney meets some juvenile Handballers (L to R) Emmet Landy, Darren Walsh, Darragh O'Shea) on his "Eisteacht Visit to the Club.



Windgap Under 14 Hurling and Football County Finalists

Back: Peter Hennessy, Adam O'Gorman, Lucas Dwan, Darragh O'Shea, Brendan Power, Daniel Cashin, Paraic Walsh, William Phelan, Patrick Phelan,
Front: Conor Fennelly, James Culleton, David Doyle, Emmet Landy, Niall Walsh, Robert White, Patrick Grace, David Skeehan, Mitchell Murray

C CLUB REPORTS

Young Irelands



The Lá na gClub celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the GAA was held in August. The occasion was marked with the celebration, for the first time in the club history, of mass in the pitch with Canon Pat Dalton being the celebrant. Symbols of the club were presented at the start of mass including the first minutes book of the club, a copy of the history of the club published in 2002, sliotar, football & club jerseys. Representatives of different generations of club members took part in the liturgy through readings, presentation of symbols and gifts and the singing of the children's choir. Following the mass refreshments were enjoyed by the large crowd in attendance while the boys and girls from under 11 to under 6 participated in games under the direction of their coaches. Afterwards they were presented with a souvenir medal of the occasion. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all and tribute is due to the organising committee and to all those who helped them to make the event such a success whether it was in the setting up of the field, participating in the mass, providing the refreshments, facilitating the games or tidying up afterwards.

This year was one of mixed fortunes for the club. Despite some good progress in the early stages of the year, the senior team failed in their bid to avoid relegation and will hope to have better fortune in the intermediate grade next year. However the winning of the Special Junior A League title was a highlight and one which can be built on. A young under 14

team captured the Roinn C shield final with a fine win over Kilmacow. This is encouraging for the coming year at that level. The future augurs well for the club with the large number of under 11 boys and girls attending coaching. The club is indebted to those who give of their time to work with all teams and to all our supporters.

At county level the club was represented by Michael Walsh on the Under 21 panel, by Sean Kehoe & Paul Holden on the Minor Panel, Paul Holden & John Morris on the U17 panel and Niall Walsh on the Minor Football panel.

The club could not function without support for our financial ventures. The Hurlers Co-Op Draw was a great success this year and three club supporters were lucky enough to win three of the monthly first prizes. The Golf Classic was also successful while the weekly club lotto continues to be well supported. We are very grateful to all those who support these events and to our sponsors.

The club congratulates any members who got engaged or married during the year and those who had new arrivals to their families.

Our sympathies go to those who suffered bereavements.



Gowran U12 Team 1978

Back: John Knox, Michael Matthews, Robert Byrne, P J Dreeling, Pat Rudkins, John Drea, Matt O'Neill, Martin Matthews, Charlie Farrell, Michael O'Neill, Tony Byrne, Patrick Mackey, Kevin Brennan, Liam Carroll, John O'Mahony, Joseph Lennon, Dick O'Neill, Cathal Fitzgerald
Front: Sean Breen, Michael Rudkins, Toss Farrell, Michael Fitzgerald, Tommy Lenon, John Donohue, Noel Brennan, Noel Breen, Neil McDonagh, Joseph Dunphy, Martin Hickey.
Kneeling: Pakie Lennon, Thomas Dowling



The Under 6 group with their coaches at the Lá na gClub celebrations

Conahy's All Ireland!

"The memories will last forever for all Conahy men and women..."

All-Ireland Junior Club Championship 2008

Photos Eoin Hennessy

Eoin Murphy, captain, lifts the cup after Conahy Shamrocks defeated Moyle Rovers in the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Club Final in Croke Park.

Some twenty months on, and the memories of an unforgettable night in Croke Park still remain fresh in the mind of every Conahy person, young and old. Every superlative that one could muster to describe the feelings experienced by those directly involved or those watching in the stands would, it is fair to say, not do the occasion justice. As with Galmoy and Danesfort before them, great champions themselves it must be said, Conahy Shamrocks could now lay claim to an All-Ireland title. For those who had soldiered long and hard throughout seemingly continuous barren years, it was an honour that could scarcely have been contemplated.

It is often said that victories are often won before a ball is thrown in. It can definitely be argued that in the case of Conahy, that development off the field contributed immensely to the commencement of achieving what at times looked like the impossible dream. The autumn of 2006 saw the beginning of the construction of a clubhouse in the GAA grounds in Jenkinstown, locally known as the Polo Grounds.

It was a project that club officials saw a vital need to undertake, as the lack of any social outlet for people in the area was seen as having a real negative impact on life in the community.

Local support for the project was both huge and instant, and with the clubhouse's opening at Christmas 2006, came a new wave of optimism and hope for Conahy Shamrocks. The big effect of the increasingly positive mood was soon felt where it mattered most - on the field of play - and community pride was, and still continues, to be felt at every social or sporting occasion involving the GAA in Conahy.

Following the long-awaited capturing of the junior county title, the adventure of a lifetime, not just for the panel of players, but for all the supporters who travelled in great numbers, began in earnest. A trip to Arklow was the first step into the unknown, to take on Arklow Rock Parnells in the opening round of the Leinster club championship. Yes, there

CONAHY SHAMROCKS ALL IRELAND JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2008



Back: Ian Kavanagh, Damien Webster, Michael Bergin, Gary Kavanagh, Peter Harding, Conor Brennan, Pauric Conway, Brian Healy, David Healy, Eoin Byrne, Eoin Murphy, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Colm Healy, John Wallace, Ciarán Muldowney, Peter Dollard, Tomás Lawless, Pauric Harding, Paddy Mullen.

Front: Canice Brennan, Finian Brennan, Alan Healy, Tom O'Shea, Seamus Óg Brennan, Michael Lawlor, Denis Kelly, Declan Buggy, Kieran Mooney, Paul Buggy, Tom Nolan, Gavin Nolan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Andy O'Keeffe, Pauric Nolan, Darragh Connery.

Photo by Joe Nolan. 09/02/2008

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2009

was a little apprehension about what lay ahead, but also an unreal excitement among young and old who travelled to County Wicklow on that November afternoon. The team, along with the management team of Paul Byrne, Eamonn Delaney, Diarmuid Healy and Martin Fitzpatrick, were keen on continuing a successful run into the Leinster campaign. With an easy victory over the Arklow men (4-24 to 0-8), came the increased belief that anything was now possible. It was an instinct that continued to increase in positivity with another victory, this time against Dublin representatives Raheny in the Leinster semi-final (1-10 to 0-4), played in extremely wintry conditions in St. Vincent's GAA Club grounds in Marino. What appeared to be the biggest challenge of all, however, lay just around the corner.

As December approached, a Leinster final beckoned. The opposition, Castlepollard from Westmeath, were county senior champions in the recent past but due to disciplinary reasons, found themselves campaigning at a lower level in Westmeath. It was sure to be the ultimate test of Conahy's credentials in a game played in Clonkill GAA Grounds in Westmeath. Heavy winds and driving rain greeted the teams on arrival but Conahy made a dream start that could scarcely have been believed. Three goals in the opening quarter from Alan Healy, Declan Buggy and Kieran Mooney stunned the large home attendance and thrilled the equally large group of Conahy supporters. The Conahy defence was performing equally well, led in no small way by Paul Buggy at full-back and Denis Kelly at centre-back. Castlepollard found it hard to force their way back into the game while Conahy, clearly buoyed by their opening salvo, powered on and were deserved winners by 3-10 to 1-4. Another leg of the journey had been passed, and with flying colours. It was then back to the new clubhouse to celebrate – and back to where it all began.

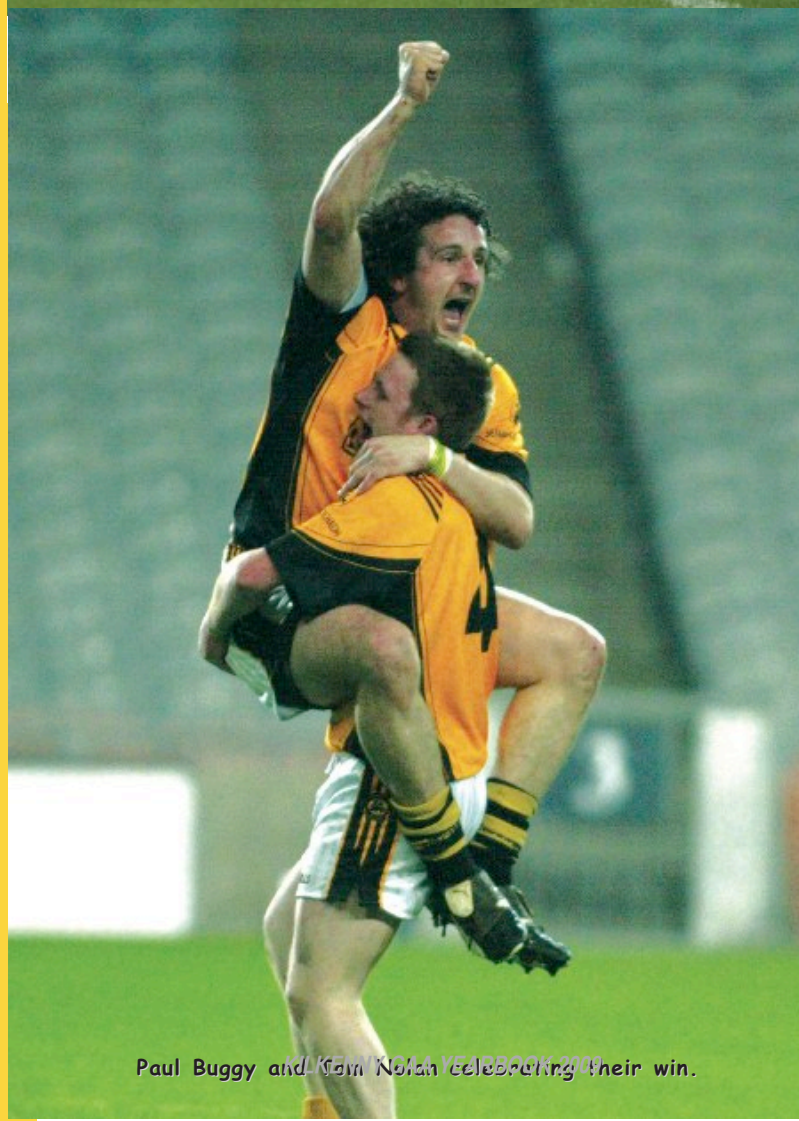
The start of 2008 was like no other as preparations began for an All-Ireland semi-final against Armoy from Antrim. The co-operation with the Conahy players by clubs throughout the county in providing their facilities was extremely heartening and deeply appreciated, in particular St. Patrick's (Ballyragget), and Piltown, who did so on more than one occasion.

A long trip followed to the fine playing facilities in Darver, County Louth which played host to the All-Ireland semi-final. A typically tough and uncompromising Antrim side gave as good as they got, but Conahy slowly came to terms with the ferocity of the challenge in front of them. Scores soon followed, and with the defence showing strongly once again, Conahy made the second half their own and won through on a 4-15 to 1-10 score line. Croke Park beckoned on Saturday, February 9th. Expectation was now exceeding hope.

The final chapter of the script was about to be written in a glorious setting – the first ever All-Ireland hurling final to be played under lights in Croke Park. Moyle Rovers, a proud and experienced Tipperary team, were ready to upset the Conahy dream. It looked like they had the potential to do just that when Declan Browne, more famed for his football exploits but a fine hurler also, blasted a penalty to the net. But Conahy's response showed the form of true champions, with man of the match Padraic Nolan, along with his brother Gavin, Alan Healy and Michéal Lawlor, all contributing fine scores to keep them in the lead. Though Declan Browne led a Moyle Rovers fight back in the second half, once again Conahy were able to respond in truly heroic style. Victory was sought, and it was achieved (0-19 to 1-9). Eoin Murphy, team captain, received the trophy from Nickey Brennan, GAA President and fellow Conahy man. A better conclusion could not have been written.



Diarmuid Healy giving instructions from the line during the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Club Final in Croke Park.



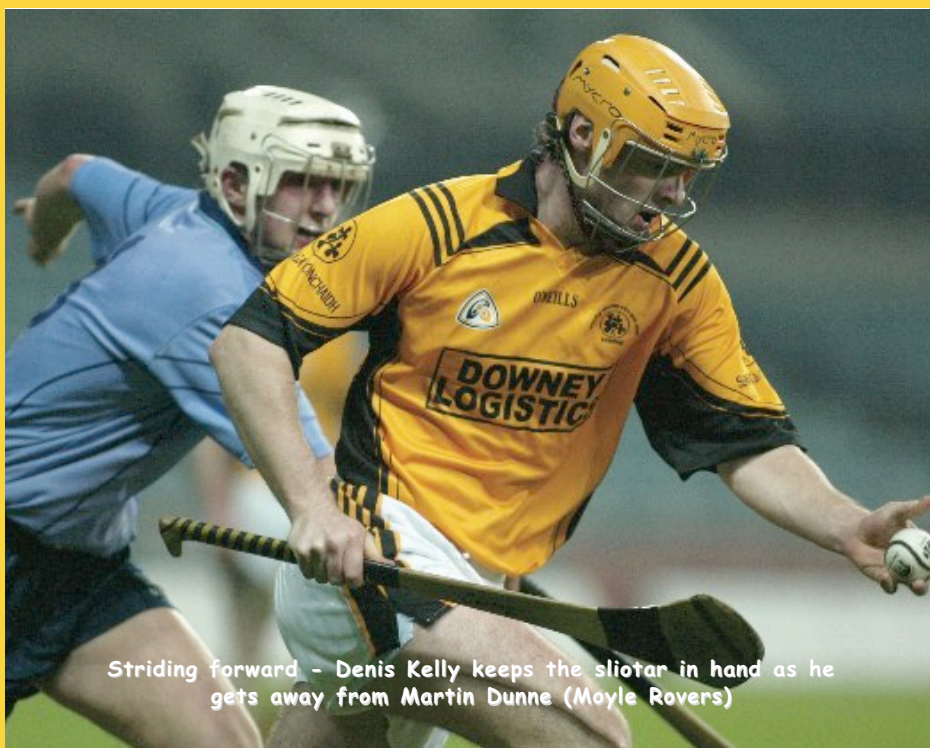
Paul Buggy and Cam Nolan celebrating their win.

The memories will last forever for all Conahy men and women, both young and old. It is a story that will never grow old in its telling.

For the record, the full panel of players was:

Eoin Murphy (Captain), Seamus Óg Brennan, Paul Buggy, Thomas Nolan, David Healy, Denis Kelly, Brian Healy, John Wallace, Martin Fitzpatrick, Kieran Mooney, Declan Buggy, Padraic Nolan, Michéal Lawlor, Alan Healy, Gavin Nolan, Andy O'Keeffe, Canice Brennan, Colm Healy, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Conor Brennan, Damien Webster, Tomás Lawless, Peter Harding, Michael Bergin, Ciaran Muldowney, Peter Dollard, Ian Kavanagh, Tom O'Shea, Gary Kavanagh, Paddy Mullan, Padraig Harding, Fionán Brennan, Padraic Conway, Daire Connery, Eoin Byrne.

NB. This article should have appeared in the 2008 Yearbook but was inadvertently omitted. (B Henriques, Editor)



Striding forward - Denis Kelly keeps the sliotar in hand as he gets away from Martin Dunne (Moyle Rovers)

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CLARA COMPLETE A GREAT DECADE!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report
by Tom Duggan PRO

Photos Eoin Hennessy1



Clara NS – Roinn 'A' Schools Hurling Champions 2009.

Back: Richard Mulrooney (coach), Pierce Cody, Patrick Lehane, Padraig Staunton, Evan Tully, Ben Langton, Andrew Bergin, James Foley-Walsh.

Middle: Paddy Ryan, Aaron Casey, Shane Campion, Michael Healy, Niko Doyle Kelly, Caine Curran, Ben Leydon.

Front: Joe Connolly, David Jordan, Cormac O'Driscoll, Kevin Galvin, Jason Barcoe, Jason Byrne (captain), Garry Kehoe, Luke Scanlon, Brian Nolan, Jake Scanlon.

Clara took their fifth Roinn "A" title of the 2000's when they beat Rower Inistioge in th 2009 final. Coupled with six Country Cup titles (2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008), this constitutes a decade of success unparalleled in U13 hurling.

Educational Supplies Roinn A Final Clara 1-6 Rower/Inistioge 0-7

Clara and Rower/Inistioge had met on two occasions previously this year and the score was one all. Clara had come out on top in the league while Rower/Inistioge had been victorious in the Corn De Bháldraithe semi final. Victory in this final went to Clara after a wonderful game of high quality hurling. Clara got off the mark with a point in the fifth minute from a free by Ben Leydon.

Rower/Inistioge replied quickly with a pointed free from Kevin Murphy. Clara edged in front again with a point from Ben Leydon. Clara were applying strong pressure now and they scored what turned out to be the decisive score in the eighteenth minute when Brian Nolan pulled first time on the sliotar and buried it into the net. Rower/Inistioge went on the attack and their pressure earned them a '65 which was converted by David Kelly. Half time score Clara 1-2 Rower/Inistioge 0-2.

Everything was set up for a great second half and that was exactly how it turned out. Right from the restart both sides tore into the action and we were treated to a fantastic display of skilful intense hurling. Goalkeepers Jack Walsh and Jason Barcoe were called into action and were performing admirably. Rower/Inistioge scored first when Dylan Kehoe scored an excellent point from a difficult angle under extreme pressure in the fifth minute. Rower/Inistioge were applying maximum pressure now and this earned them a free when a Clara defender was pressurised into overcarrying. The resultant free was converted by Kevin Murphy. A minute later and

the sides drew level thanks to a point from play by David Kelly. The fat was in the fire now and Clara responded with a point from a free from Ben Leydon. Luke Scanlon then scored a super point from play for Clara and Ben Leydon added another point midway through the half when he converted a '65. Rower/Inistioge threw everything in their power to get back on terms and when Kevin Murphy was fouled he converted the free to reduce the deficit to two points. Back came Clara again and their pressure earned them a '65 which was converted by Ben Leydon. It was do or die now for Rower/Inistioge and they put the Clara defence under extreme pressure but could not find a way through. An injury time free from Pat Lyng went over the bar but the title was destined for Clara. We had been treated to a wonderful game of hurling and both sides deserve great credit for providing such a spectacle.

Scorers: Clara: Ben Leydon (0-5, 0-2 frees, 0-2 '65's) Brian Nolan (1-0), Luke Scanlon (0-1).

Rower/Inistioge: Kevin Murphy (0-3 frees), David Kelly (0-2, 0-1 '65), Dylan Kehoe (0-1), Pat Lyng (0-1 free).

Clara: Jason Barcoe, Cormac O'Driscoll, David Jordan, Gary Kehoe, Jake Scanlon, Shane Campion, Paddy Ryan, Luke Scanlon, Joe Connolly, Ben Leydon, Jason Byrne (Capt.), Kevin Galvin, Aaron Casey, Brian Nolan, Michael Healy. Subs: Ben Langton, Patrick Lehane, Craine Curran, Padraig Staunton, Andrew Bergin, Evan Tully, Pierce Cody, James Walsh, Niko Doyle Kelly.

Rower/Inistioge: Jack Walsh, David Miskella, Darragh Joyce, Jim Murphy, Thomas Allen, Pat Lyng, Dean Hamilton, Richard Leahy, Áine Gannon, Sam Watkin (Capt.), David Kelly, Shane Ryan, Jim Ryan, Dylan Kehoe, Kevin Murphy. Subs: Michael Barcoe, Luke Grace, Dylan Farrell, David Muldoon.

Referee: Paschal Connolly.



Rower Inistioge – Country Cup Champions and Roinn “A” Finalists 2009

Back: James Tennyson, Michael Barcoe, David Muldoon, Dylan Farrell, Noel Leahy, Robbie Walsh, Aidan Miskella.

Middle: Peter Lyster, Áine Gannon, David Kelly, Darragh Joyce, Dean Hamilton, David Miskella, Dylan Kehoe.

Front: Jack Walsh, Kevin Murphy, Richard Leahy, Samuel Watkin, James Ryan, James Murphy, Shane Ryan, Thomas Allen, Patrick Lyng.

CORN DE BHALDRAITHE FINAL R/Inistioge 1-13 Thomastown 1-6

The Corn De Bhaldratthe finalists were Roinn A finalists Rower/Inistioge and Roinn B side Thomastown. In the end the honours went to Rower/Inistioge who completed a hurling/football country cup double while it was second time unlucky for Thomastown who have been beaten finalists on each occasion. Rower/Inistioge were quickly on the scoreboard and had four points to their credit by the twelfth minute. Three points coming from David Kelly and one fine effort from Kevin Murphy. Richard Leahy, Sam Watkin and David Kelly added three more before Thomastown registered their first score. Thomastown were trying hard to get on the scoreboard and in the twentieth minute they looked likely to score a goal when a piledriver from Peter Blanchfield looked goalbound only for Inistioge goalie Jack Walsh made a brilliant save to deny them. Sam Watkin added an excellent point for Rower/Inistioge before Robbie Donnelly got Thomastown off the mark with a good point from an acute angle in the twentysecond minute. David Kelly had the final score of the half with a point from a '65. At half time Rower/Inistioge had a commanding lead 0-9 to 0-1.

Thomastown came out strongly in the second half and John Donnelly pointed

in the third minute. John then added a goal three minutes later when he pulled first time and buried the ball in the net. Danny Monks added a point for Thomastown straight from the puckout and now the deficit was down to three points. Rower/Inistioge's response was swift however and Shane Ryan, Sam Watkin and Dylan Kehoe added points to stretch their lead to six again. The killer blow came for Thomastown eight minutes from the end when Kevin Murphy was quickest to react to a breaking ball and buried the ball in the net.

Still Thomastown refused to throw in the towel and James Burke fired over an excellent point. Kevin Murphy replied with a point for Rower/Inistioge. Thomastown kept coming forward looking for scores and John Donnelly's free went barely over the bar. Time had run out for the brave Thomastown boys and there was no denying the winners. The cup was destined for Rower/Inistioge.

Dylan Caulfield had an excellent game in the Thomastown goal. John Murphy and Brian Staunton hurled well in defence. James Burke and Craig Butler worked hard in midfield while up front Aaron Kehoe, John Donnelly and Danny and Rory monks also hurled well.

Rower/Inistioge had excellent performers in Jack Walsh in goal, Pat Lyng in

defence, Richard Leahy at midfield, while up front Sam Watkin, David Kelly and Kevin Murphy stood out in attack. Scorers: Rower/Inistioge: David Kelly (0-5, 0-3 '65's). Kevin Murphy (1-2), Sam Watkin (0-3), Richard Leahy, Shane Ryan, & Dylan Kehoe (0-1 each). Thomastown: John Donnelly (1-2), James Burke (0-2), Robbie Donnelly (0-1 free), Peter Blanchfield (0-1)

Rower/Inistioge: Jack Walsh, David Miskella, Darragh Joyce, Jim Murphy, Thomas Allen, Pat Lyng, Dean Hamilton, Richard Leahy, Áine Gannon, Sam Watkin (Capt.), David Kelly, Shane Ryan, Jim Ryan, Dylan Kehoe, Kevin Murphy. Subs: Michael Barcoe, Luke Grace, Dylan Farrell, David Muldoon.

Thomastown: Dylan Caulfield, Brian Staunton, John Murphy, Edward O Keefe, Paul Burke-Kelly, John Donnelly, Johnny Barron, James Burke, Craig Butler, Aaron Kehoe, Pater Blanchfield, Danny Monks, Robbie Donnelly, Melvin Benny, Rory Monks. Subs: Cathal O'Neill, Colin Conway, Aidan Power, Frankie Carroll, Eamonn Forristal, Sean Roche, Thomas Delahunty, Oisín Kirwan, Kevin Konopka, James Staunton, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Eoin Kelly, Callum Taylor, Luke Givens, Ivan Waugh.

Referee: Paschal Connolly.

ROINN "B" FINAL Bennettsbridge 0-5 Castlecomer 0-4

Bennettsbridge captured the Hennessy Fuels Roinn B final by the narrowest of margins after an epic tussle with Castlecomer. While the scoreline might lead you to think that this was a dull encounter, the opposite was the case. This was a magnificent game of hurling, full of passion, terrific defending, and the issue in doubt right to the end. While there was no doubt that Bennettsbridge were worthy winners, you would have to feel sorry for Castlecomer as they were runners up in this final last year also by the minimum margin. Bennettsbridge were first to score with a point from Eoin Power after two minutes. Castlecomer went on the attack and when Shane Byrne was fouled Niall McMahon pointed the free. Castlecomer took the lead in the twelfth minute with a point from a '65 by Niall McMahon. Castlecomer were putting Bennettsbridge under severe pressure at this stage and 'Bridge keeper Joe Murphy made a great save in the thirteenth minute. Bennettsbridge levelled matters within three minutes with a pointed free from Kevin Brennan. Again Castlecomer took the game to the opposition and went ahead just before half time with a point from Patrick Brophy following a good handpass from John Callinan. Half time score: Castlecomer 0-3 Bennettsbridge 0-2. Bennettsbridge went on the attack from the restart and levelled with a point from Eoin Power in the third minute. They went ahead in the seventh minute with a pointed free from Kevin Brennan. Two minutes later they stretched their lead with a fabulous point from Luke Dowling. Castlecomer now went on the offensive and Bennettsbridge were forced to defend for their lives. The lead was



Bennettsbridge N.S. – Roinn 'B' Schools Hurling Champions 2009
Back: Peter Duggan, David Blanchfield, Rory Cleere, Leo McCarthy, Dean Malone, Mackenzie Davin, Shane Duggan, David Waugh, Luke Kelly, Nathan Cullen.
Middle: Bill Whelan, Bill O' Neill, Maurice Walsh, James Drea, Kevin Brennan, Hugh Corkery, Ronan O'Connor.
Front: Vincent Shiel, Luke Dowling, Liam Blanchfield, Eoin Power, Joseph Murphy, Seán Morrissey, Brian O' Neill, Shane Byrne.

reduced to one point when Conor Delaney pointed a free in the twelfth minute. For the remainder of the game Castlecomer laid siege to the Bennettsbridge goal but the Bennettsbridge defence stood firm and what a display of brave defending they produced. The 'Bridge lads put their bodies on the line and somehow managed to prevent Castlecomer from getting that precious equaliser. Full marks to both sides for a splendid game.

Scorers: Bennettsbridge: Eoin Power (0-2), Kevin Brennan (0-2, Frees), Luke Dowling (0-1)

Castlecomer: Niall McMahon (0-2, 0-1 free, 0-1 '65), Patrick Brophy (0-1), Conor Delaney (0-1 free).

Bennettsbridge: Joe Murphy, Peter Duggan, Bill O'Neill, Brian O'Neill, Hugh Corkery, Liam Blanchfield, Bill Whelan, Sean Morrissey, Luke

Dowling, Shane Byrne, Eoin Power, Kevin Brennan, Ronan O'Connor, James Drea, Maurice Walsh.
Subs: David Blanchfield, Rory Cleere, Nathan Cullen, Mackenzie Davin, Shane Duggan, Shane Hanley, Dean Malone, Leo McCarthy, David Waugh.

Castlecomer: Conor Dwyer, David Holohan, Donal Carroll, Griffin Carroll, Ian Holohan, Conor Delaney, Shane Feehan, Niall McMahon, Jamie Holohan, Sean Buggy, John Callinan, Paul Ring, Daniel Byrne, Patrick Brophy, Paul Turnstead.

Subs: James Rothwell, Joseph Phelan, Eoin O'Rourke, Eoin Brennan, Brian Meally, Andrew Mansfield, Ross Connolly, Stephen Dowd, Thomas Dwyer.
Referee: Ciaran Muldowney.



Castlecomer – Roinn "B" Finalists 2009

Back: Joe Meagher, Conor Dwyer, Paul Tunstead, Daniel Byrne, David Holohan Paul Ring, Conor Delaney, Niall McMahon, Paddy Brophy, Jamie Holohan, Donal Carroll, John Kelly, Searlaid Doyle

Front: Aaron Fitzpatrick, Ross Connolly, Griffin Carroll, Ian Holohan, John Callinan, Sean Buggy, Eoin O'Rourke, James Rothwell, Shane Feehan, Joseph Phelan. Missing for final: Stephen Dowd, Jimmy Comerford, Eoin Brennan, Thomas Dwyer.

Tedcastle Oils Roinn "C" Final Tullaroan 4-12 Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen 2-7

The Tedcastle Oils Roinn "C" decider saw two previously unbeaten teams go head to head. Tullaroan had won the northern section of the league, and Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen had won the south without either side losing a game. In the end the title went to the northern champions and there was no doubting the merit of their victory. They led from start to finish and hard though the Graig lads tried, they could never quite get on terms. Tullaroan set about their task from the throw in with points from Bill Cuddihy and John Walton giving them an early lead. Graig goalie Patrick Nolan made a great save to deny Tullaroan but he had no chance when Bill Cuddihy soloed through and buried the sliotar in the sixth minute. Graignamanagh got off the mark with a point from a free by Sean Cahill but Tullaroan hit back with two points. A quickly taken free gave Bill Cuddihy a point scoring opportunity and he made no mistake and John Walton pointed from a free in the thirteenth minute. Graignamanagh dug deep and Jamie Dunne scored a great point to rally his side. Tullaroan hit back quickly with four points; two frees from John Walton and two from play from Jason O' Riordan. Just before half time Graignamanagh were handed a lifeline when Jamie Byrne's shot went all the way to the net. Tullaroan led by 1-8 to 1-2 at half time.

Graig/Skeoughvosteen came out in determined fashion in the second half and after great work by Jamie Byrne Sean Cahill finished the sliotar to the net. The gap was now down to a single score and it was all to play for. John Walton steadied the ship for Tullaroan with an excellent point from a free. Graig responded and Jamie Byrne took on the Tullaroan defence and scored an excellent point. Another quickly taken free saw the unmarked Jason O' Riordan slot over another point for Tullaroan. The southerners response was swift with a point from a '65 by Sean Cahill. John Walton again demonstrated his free taking prowess with a fine effort for Tullaroan. Within a minute Jamie Byrne scored another excellent point for Graignamanagh. Tullaroan went on the attack immediately and a goal from Martin Keoghan saw them stretch their lead. Within a minute Graignamanagh replied with a pointed free from Sean Cahill. Then came the turning point. A two goal salvo from Bill Gaffney shot Tullaroan into a commanding lead and they never looked back. Graignamanagh never stopped trying and Jamie Byrne scored another fine point but Tullaroan had the final score when John Walton pointed just before the end. Tullaroan were worthy champions and



Tullaroan N.S. – Roinn 'C' Schools Hurling Champions 2009

Back: Kevin Maher, Eva Walpole, Máirín Hennessy, Aidan Cleere, John Dooley, Patrick Grace, Joey Walsh.
Middle: Dylan Simpson, Evelyn Walsh, Anna Walpole, Liam Teehan, Bill Cuddihy, Tommy Walsh, Sean Buggy, John Walton, Ms. Breda Holmes (Trainer).
Front: Robert O'Flynn, Martin Keoghan, Bob Cuddihy, Shane Joyce, Diarmuid Doheny, Jack Keoghan, Niall Buggy, Jason O'Riordan, Bill Gaffney.

had an excellent centre back in Jack Keoghan. Liam Teehan and Jason O' Riordan hurled well at midfield while up front they had excellent players in John Walton and Bill Cuddihy.

Graig/Skeoughvosteen had an excellent goalie in Patrick Nolan. Edward Murphy was outstanding at full back. Martin Kelly and Jordan Brett worked tirelessly at midfield. Sean Cahill, Jamie Dunne and the excellent Jamie Byrne hurled well in attack.

Scorers: Tullaroan: John Walton (0-7, 0-6 frees), Bill Gaffney (2-0), Bill Cuddihy (1-1), Jason O' Riordan (0-3), Martin Keoghan (1-0), Jack Keoghan (0-1).
Graig/Skeoughvosteen: Jamie Byrne (1-3), Sean Cahill (1-3, 0-2 frees, 0-1 '65), Jamie Dunne (0-1)

Tullaroan: Shane Joyce, Niall Buggy, Diarmuid Doheny (Capt.), Dylan Simpson, Tommy Walsh, Jack Keoghan, Bob Cuddihy, Liam Teehan, Jason O' Riordan, John Walton, Bill Cuddihy, Sean Buggy, Martin Keoghan, Robert O'Flynn, Bill Gaffney. Subs: Patrick Grace, Aidan Cleere, John Dooley, Kevin Maher, Joey Walsh, Anna Walpole, Martin Hennessy, Eva Walpole, Evelyn Walsh.

Graigmanagh/Skeoughvosteen: Patrick Nolan, Keith Culleton, Edward Murphy, Neal Jordan, Patrick Cushen, Sean Dowling, Terry Dreelan, Martin Kelly, Jordan Brett, Jamie Dunne, Sean Cahill, Stewart Maher, Eoghan Doyle, Jamie Byrne, Niall Hayden.



Tomas O'Dowd (Chairman, Cumann na mBunscoil) presents Jim Neary and Brendan O'Sullivan with mementoes of long years of service, forty and forty two respectively.

Tedcastle Oils Roinn D Final: Conahy 6-7 Windgap 1-4

Conahy, runners up in 2008, went one better in 2009, with a thoroughly merited victory in the Tedcastle Oils Roinn D final. They got a dream start when full forward Sean Brennan finished to the net in the first minute. James Bergin added a second goal in the third minute and Conahy were in the driving seat from then on. Windgap were finding it hard to withstand the Conahy attack and James Bergin pointed to put his side seven points clear. Emmet Landy lifted his side with a super point in the sixth minute and Niall Walsh added another point after a brave run through the Conahy defence. James Bergin added two points for Conahy before Sean Brennan scored his second goal in the thirteenth minute. Conahy were playing some great hurling at this stage and centre back Edmund Delaney pointed a '65 into the wind to stretch the lead. Niall Walsh was doing his utmost to haul his side back into the game and added a point from a free in the twentyfourth minute. As the half time whistle sounded, Conahy had a commanding lead: 3-4 to 0-3.



Conahy – Roinn 'D' Champions 2009

Back: Eamonn Delaney, Niamh Delaney, Paudie Brennan, Paucic Walsh, Adam Dempsey, Oliver Feehan, Kieran Delaney, Pat Byrne, Edmond Delaney, Niall Coogan, Daniel O Shea, Donal Cass, Pat Gunner, Niall Walsh, Martin Byrne.

Front: Lisa Coogan, Conor Watters, Bill Murphy, James Bergin, John Byrne, Seán Brennan (Captain) Laurence Feehan, Paucic Gunner, Roisin Phelan, Brendan Nolan, Justin Brophy.

Windgap were not about to throw in the towel and Niall Walsh pointed within 30 seconds of the restart. Conahy replied with a point from a '65 from Edmund Delaney. Windgap were trying everything in their power to get back on terms and they were rewarded for their efforts when a long ball from Emmet Landy was finished to the net by Niall Walsh. That was as close as they were to get and a two goal salvo from Conahy's Daniel O'Shea in the fifteenth minute saw them take a commanding lead. Windgap could find no more and Conahy added a further 1-2 to run out deserving winners. Conahy played a very attractive brand of hurling and showed great teamwork. They had excellent players in goalie John Byrne, Niall Coogan and Edmund Delaney in defence,, midfielders Oliver Feehan and Paucic Walsh, and up front James Bergin and Sean Brennan were always to the fore. Windgap put up an excellent show and although they were defeated, they can be proud of their performance. Every player battled as hard as they could and goalie James Culleton had an excellent game. David Doyle was a tenacious defender. Darragh O Shea played a stormer at centre back. Emmett Landy got through an amount of work in midfield and Niall Walsh was outstanding in attack.

Scorers: Conahy: Sean Brennan (2-1), James Bergin (1-3), Daniel O Shea (2-0), Edmund Delaney (0-2), Oliver Feehan (1-1).

Windgap: Niall Walsh (1-3), Emmett Landy (0-1).

Conahy: John Byrne, Adam Dempsey, Niall Coogan, Paucic Gunner, Donal Cass, Edmund Delaney, Kieron Delaney, Oliver Feehan, Paucic Walsh, James Bergin, Pat Byrne, Niamh Delaney, Conor Watters, Sean Brennan (Capt.), Daniel O'Shea. Subs: Roisin Phelan, Justin Brophy, Bill Murphy, Brendan Nolan, Niall Walsh, Laurence Feehan.

Windgap: James Culleton, Pat Grace, Conor Fennelly, David Doyle, Deirdre Purcell, Darragh O'Shea (Capt.), Caoimhe O'Shea, Emmett Landy, Robert White, Lucas Dwan, David Skehan, Becky Lomax, Shane Cullen, Niall Walsh, Mitchel Murray.

Subs: Áine Dunne, Rachel Phelan, Aidan Culleton, Luke Ward, Mark Grace, Darragh Byrne, Philip Dwan, Christopher McDonald.

Referee: Paschal Connolly.

Garda Siochána Class Leagues 2009

2nd Class St Patrick's bt St John's

3rd Class St Canice's bt Gaelscoil

4th Class St Patrick's bt Kilkenny CBS

5th Class St Canice's bt St Patrick's

6th Class St Canice's bt Kilkenny CBS



Windgap – Roinn "D" Finalists 2009

Back: Pat Walsh (Trainer), Becky Lomax, Deirdre Purcell, Robert White, Lucas Dwan, David Skehan, Emmett Landy, Niall Walsh, Darragh O'Shea, Gerard Doyle (Trainer), Conor Fennelly.

Front : Darragh Byrne, Caoimhe O'Shea, Áine Dunne, Luke Ward, Mark Grace, Sharie Cullen, James Culleton, Pat Grace, Philip Dwan, Aidan Culleton, Mitchell Murray David Doyle.

CÚL Camps 2009



Clara





Piltown





Piltown





Freshford





Thomastown





St John's





Jason Stanley (Galmoy) receives the Feile na nGael Skills plaque from Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nOg), also pictured are back, J.P. Treacy, Ger Dunne, James Maher, Bill Carrigan, Niall Mullins, Adrian Farrell, Vinny Teehan, Mark Morris, William Allen, Patrick Mullen, Patrick Foran, Conor Purcell, Shane Kiernan. Front: William Phelan, David Kisella, Vincent Wallace, Michael Power, Adrian Burke, Paddy Cahill, John Walsh, David Kelly, Stephen Dolan, Ryan O'Hanlon, Cormac Fleming and Tom Phelan. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Pupils from primary school around Kilkenny at a training day in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Untold Talent in the County

Ladies' Football Report by Noelle Curran PRO



Kilkenny Intermediate Team 2009

Michael Forde

Back: Orla McCormack, Niamh spratt, Laurena Murphy; Lucinda Gahan; April Purcell; Michelle Dowd; Jamie O Sullivan; Breena Fennelly; Lisa Carey; Lydia Phelan; Marie Ryan; Aine sheehy; Martina Maher.

Front: Marie Dargan, Sally Teehan; Andrea Murphy; Helen Murphy; Niamh Whelan; Miriam O Keffe; Emma nolan; Jenny Reddy; Emer Roantree; Claire Kelly; Angela Kenneally; Grainne Daly.

In 2009, Kilkenny ladies footballers bade farewell to former county goalkeeper and chairperson of the past four years, Kerry Murphy who returned home to California in January. Kerry was a huge influence in ladies football throughout the county particularly in underage development. Kerry and Mikey were given a fine send off by club colleagues in Railyard and Glenmore and by Kerry's county team mates and friends.

Owen Kenny of Tullogher took the chairperson's seat and on the field his charges were crowned junior champions after just two years in action. Railyard remain dominant by keeping up the four in a row trend in Kilkenny, claiming the senior title once again.

The action got under way in February with the county side playing their second year at intermediate level. In February's opening round of the Bord Gais Energy National League, the girls made light work of a long trip to Derry. Grainne Daly and Marie Ryan grabbed two goals apiece to earn the Cats a 6-3 to 0-8 win. However, the remainder of the league campaign took a downturn with the loss of a number of influential players to injury. Kilkenny suffered a surprise 2-9 to 1-6 defeat to Wicklow at Jenkinstown and a 4-9 to 2-7 defeat to Antrim at Nowlan Park. That precious win in Derry however earned the girls a quarter final spot but the cats were unlucky to be drawn against a strong Roscommon outfit and suffered a heavy defeat at Jenkinstown. Kilkenny's quarter final performance was well and truly hampered by three bad injuries on the day and the resulting loss of influential full back Sara McCarthy had a major bearing on Kilkenny's season.

In the semi final of the TG4 Leinster championship the Cats met neighbours Wexford. On another day the Cats would have been hot favourites to reach the provincial final for the second year in a row, but with McCarthy and inspirational captain Catriona Corr sidelined for the year, Wexford took full advantage in a 1-12 to 1-5 win at Taghmon.

With some new faces in the panel, Paul Whelan, Richie Windle and Pat Murphy were determined to get the best out of their side in the TG4 All Ireland series and maintain Kilkenny's intermediate status. The opening game of the series was away to

Longford who had just claimed the Leinster crown. Despite being well beaten in Longford the new players to the panel were settling well. In Round 2, the Cats welcomed Roscommon to Larchfield with some trepidation having suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the Rossies in the National League quarter final. However it was a determined side that took the field against the recently crowned Division 3 champions and Kilkenny's best performance of the year saw Marie Dargan and Jenny Reddy score 1-3 and 2-0 respectively. Despite colossal performances at the back by Angela Kenneally and Niamh Whelan, Roscommon grabbed a 1-10 to 3-4 draw with the last kick of the game. Former all Ireland senior champions Waterford made the short journey to Mullinavat in August and the Cats made their trophy laden neighbours fight all the way with just a point between the sides midway through the second half. Kilkenny lost their rhythm when an injury to Emma Nolan saw the game held up for several minutes and Waterford gained the upper hand scoring seven unanswered points in the final quarter to win 0-17 to 1-7. Kilkenny settled for retaining intermediate status for 2010 while Wexford who failed to earn a point in the series were relegated to junior. Despite a dip in league form, the Cats will take heart from their championship performances against Roscommon and Waterford and will be back in action with plenty to build upon in the 2010 National league starting in February.

The intermediate panel was:
Aine Sheehy (Thomastown), Sara McCarthy (Carrickshock) Andrea Murphy (Railyard), Sally Teehan (Thomastown), Niamh Whelan (Thomastown), Catriona Corr (Railyard), Angela Kenneally (Mullinavat), Lydia Phelan (Carrickshock), Helen Murphy (Mullinavat), Lucinda Gahan (Mullinavat), Linda Cotterell (Tullogher), Jenny Reddy (Thomastown), April Purcell (Railyard), Miriam O'Keffe (Railyard), Marie Dargan (Railyard), Laurena Murphy (Railyard), Marie Ryan (Tullogher), Niamh Spratt (Railyard), Grainne Daly (Railyard),

Martina Maher (Muckalee), Emer Kelly (Railyard), Michelle Dowd (Railyard), Emer Roantree (Callan), Sara Butler (Carrickshock), Jamie O'Sullivan (Freshford), Breena Fennelly (Thomastown), Katy Foley (Thomastown), Lisa Carey (Thomastown), Emma Nolan (Carrickshock), Claire Kelly (Mullinavat), Sarah Hennessy (Tullogher), Orla McCormack (James Stephens), Elaine Mullally (Tullogher), Noreen O'Keffe (Railyard), Siobhan Magner (James Stephens)

JUST REWARD FOR KILKENNY CAPTAIN

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association this year provided an added reward to inter county players with the announcement of a team of the league for each division. Kilkenny and Railyard captain Caitriona Corr was honoured by being selected at mid-field on the Division 3 team after some outstanding displays in the black and amber. This new initiative from the Ladies Football Association and Bord Gais Energy recognised players who excelled during the league across all three divisions. 45 players from 22 different counties were selected as the best performers from Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Each player was presented with a specially commissioned kit by former Cork hurler Ger Cunningham of Bord Gais Energy at a gala ceremony in Croke Park. The players were



Catriona Corr, honoured at Bord gais Awards with Ger Cunningham Bord Gais Energy, and Marty Morrissey RTE



Railyard - County Senior Champions and Leinster Club Finalists 2008.

Back: Nora Daly, Martin Buggy(Trainer), Maeve Mansfield, Lorna Houlihan, Noreen O'Keeffe, Emma Baldwin, Helen Quirke, April Purcell, Aisling Corrigan, Emer Kelly, Laurena Murphy, Michelle Dowd, Noelle Curran, Sara Roche, Breda Roche, Nicole O'Neill, Amy Geoghan, Colette Hunt, Aisling Murphy, Andrea Murphy.
Front: Sinead Brennan, Alice Farrell, Brigid Murphy, Noreen Kelliher, Aoife Dunne, Mairead Corrigan, Marie Dargan, Grainne Daly(capt), Jo Roche, Miriam O'Keeffe, Sara Buggy, Laura Delaney, Shauna Whearty.



Tullogher Junior Football Champions 2009

Back: Marie Ryan, Vivienne Forristel, Caroline Hefferenan, Susan Culnahan, Fiona Hartley, Katie Quigley, Sinead O'Shea,
Middle: Siobhan Murphy, Elaine Mullally, Carmel Morrissey, Elaine O'Connor, Siobhan Dollard, Evelyn Walsh, Margaret Walsh, Catriona Ryan
Front: Stephanie Kenny, Hazel Foley, Lynda Cotterell, Bridgette Croke, Lorna McGrath, Lisa Ryan, Sarah Ryan.

selected by opposition team managers who voted for a team of fifteen players whose performances stood out during the league and Kilkenny captain Caitriona Corr richly deserved her award.

UNDERAGE

An enthusiastic county panel of thirty under 14's assembled in 2009 under the guidance of PJ Whelan and Barry Hayes. Kilkenny's

under 14's have always performed well claiming noteworthy scalps since entering the Leinster championship four years ago. The girls made a great start to the year against neighbours Carlow under lights in Leighlinbridge in March. Sinead Whelan, Siobhan Corcoran, Mary O'Connell and Niamh Nolan led a goal fest which saw the kittens defeat their neighbours 7-12 to 1-1. A week later a confident Westmeath visited

Urlingford but two Siobhan Corcoran goals saw the Cats claim win number two by 2-4 to 1-0. Louth proved too strong at Monasterboice in April with two goals in injury time to win 3-5 to 0-2, and despite just four points between the sides at halftime when Longford visited Larchfield, the visitors ran out 2-10 to 1-6 winners. Kilkenny's opening wins had secured a semi final spot but the girls were drawn away to table toppers Longford. Four points again separated the sides at half time but Longford showed determination to reach the final for the second year in a row scoring three goals in quick succession to bring Kilkenny's campaign to an end. Many of the side are eligible in 2010 and will be back in training in the New Year.

LEINSTER U14 BLITZ

The under 14 girls took part in the provincial blitz in Carlow in May. The girls were pipped by Wexford in the Division 3 final last year but went a step further this year claiming the Division 3 title with ease. A big win over Carlow put Kilkenny into the final against Kildare and the Cats finished well ahead at the whistle. The side was backboned by Thomastown's Feile team as well as players from Galmoy, Clara and the city, who took part in this year's primary schools championship from which has emerged some exciting talent for the future.

The Under 14 panel was:
Ailish O'Neill (Railyard), Ellis Lawlor (Railyard), Jessie Carroll



Eoin Hennessy

Kilkenny U14 Football Team 2009

Back: Anna Walpole, Niamh Sweeney, Emer Doheny, Gillian Kavanagh, Sinead McCarthy, Danielle Kenny, Jennifer Norris, Sara Lanigan, Claire Nolan, Joanne O'Hanrahan, Ailish Butler, Niamh Bolger, Alice Carey, Ailish O'Neill, Sara Roche, Miriam Holden.
Front: Charlotte Barton, Sarah O'Brien, Jenny Clifford, Jenna Sherwin, Niamh Nolan, Sara Whelan, Mary O'Connell, Ciara Farrell, Sinead Whelan, Siobhan Corcoran, Maeve O'Connor, Kirsty Maher.



James Stephens Junior League Champions 2009

Back: Eileen O'Brien (Secretary), Eoin Hennessy (Manager), Marie Cuddihy, Emily Ann Gilligan, Samantha Kearney, Karen Pierce, Elaine O'Neill, Vicky Cahill, Nessa Farrell, Niamh Butler, Laura Hanlon, Ciara Kelly, Cliona Fennelly, Emily Ryan, John Gorey (Selector).

Front: Sarah Phelan, Aoife Gorey, Lisa Foley, Sharon Rafter (Captain), Siobhan Magner, Karen Costigan, Sarah Morris, Lisa Fallon. *Photo: Eoin Hennessy*



Thomastown Féile na nGael Div 4 Winners 2009

Back: Barry Hayes, Anna Walpole, Miriam Holden, Mary O'Connell, Joanne O'Hanrahan, Claire Nolan, Niamh Bolger, Alice Cary, Nelle Henderson, Emily O'Dwyer, Nessa Griffin, Ailish Butler, Niamh Quigley, Megan Farrell, Niamh Donnelly, Orla Butler, P.J. Whelan

Front: Jessie Carroll, Aine Gannon, Emer Corr, Aoife Farrell, Emer Donnelly, Aine Butler, Sarah Walsh, Sinead Whelan, Niamh O'Shea, Ciara Farrell, Maeve O'Connor, Emer Fitzpatrick.

(Thomastown), Mary Corcoran (Galmoy), Niamh Nolan (Blacks & Whites), Niamh Sweeney (Galmoy), Sara Roche (Railyard), Sarah Whelan (Galmoy), Siobhan Corcoran (Galmoy), Ailish Butler (Thomastown), Alice Carey (Thomastown), Clodagh Power (Freshford), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro), Joanne O'Hanrahan (Thomastown), Maeve O'Connor (Thomastown), Nelle Henderson (Thomastown), Sinead Whelan (Thomastown), Niamh Bolger (Thomastown), Sinead McCarthy (Piltown), Anna Walpole (Thomastown), Gillian Kavanagh (Dicksboro), Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Becky Leahy (James Stephens), Charlotte Barton (Galmoy), Ciara Farrell (Thomastown), Orla Butler (Thomastown), Mary O'Connell (Clara), Sarah Lanigan (Freshford), Aisling Foley (Mullinahone), Catherine Murphy (Clara), Claire Nolan (Clara), Danielle Kenny (Dicksboro), Emer Doheny (Dicksboro), Jennifer Norris (Piltown), Jenna Sherwin (Dicksboro), Miriam Holden (Gowran), Sara O'Brien (James Stephens).

Unfortunately Kilkenny were unable to field at under 16 level and struggled to do so at minor level. The trend of young girls drifting

away from sport between the ages of 16 and 18 rang true when the minor team was called to arms. The panel only assembled a short time before the Leinster minor 'c' semi final thus were not prepared for the visit of Offaly in May despite the talent on show and a panel of 35 on the day. However the same team took on neighbours Carlow in the minor shield final and Carlow got revenge for the many drubbings dished out by Kilkenny at underage level in recent years. In a thrilling game at Tinryland Carlow defeated the Cats on a remarkable 9-3 to 6-0 score-line. Thirty girls toggled out for the semi final and shield final who could surely have earned Leinster honours had the same number trained together leading up to the championship.

DIVISION 4 FEILE CHAMPIONS

Pride of place in underage circles goes to a fine Thomastown under 14 girls team who have been knocking on the door of major success in recent years. Thomastown's performance at the national Feile competition in 2008 made many sit up and take notice but the girls went a step further in 2009 in Kildare when they trounced all opposition to claim the Division 4 title. Under the guidance of PJ Whelan and Barry Hayes, Thomastown accounted for local sides Carbury and Kilcock 6-3 to 0-0 and 10-5 to 0-2 respectively and defeated St Brides of Louth 2-4 to 0-2. In the semi final they came

through a tough battle against New York to win 2-5 to 1-0. The final saw huge support travel from Thomastown and the girls easily claimed the title by beating St Josephs of Leitrim 5-3 to 0-0. Ladies football president Pat Quill presented the trophy to Thomastown captain Maeve O'Connor and praised the girls on their fine display which saw them concede just one goal in five games!

UNDER 14 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Over the past 3 years, an excellent primary schools competition has been run to encourage young girls to play football and three clubs in particular have tapped into this talent, to run an Under 14 Championship this year. Great work in promoting Ladies Football took place in Black and Whites, Freshford and Thomastown over the summer months and it is a credit to parents and mentors in each club for nurturing this talent and giving girls the opportunity to train, increase their skill levels and enjoy the game. The draw pitted Black and Whites against Thomastown in the semi final. Thomastown, fresh from their successful exploits at Feile Peil na n-Og were favourites and made their way to the final but not before the Black and Whites girls showed they are very much an emerging team. In the final played at St Kierans, Freshford started well and put it up to the Thomastown girls, however as the game wore on Thomastown's

experience of competing at Feile over the past 3 years told and despite a very game Freshford outfit, Thomastown were crowned under 14 champions. Freshford and Black and Whites then met in a Shield Final. The first half was a very tight affair with nothing between the teams. Freshford's physical advantage paid off in the second half and goals from Clodagh Power and Mary Pat O'Sullivan saw the northerners claim the Under 14 Shield. Both clubs fielded very young teams and nearly all players are eligible for under 14 next year. The future of this competition will be so much brighter if more clubs become involved, and pick up on the conveyor belt of talent being unearthed by the Primary Schools competition.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

The primary schools championship is in its fourth year and once again twenty schools took part in four divisions displaying a high standard of football skills. In the Northern 'A' final Gowran beat St. Canices in a thrilling game on a 3-8 to 4-2 scoreline, Rebecca Kennedy was named Player of the Match. The Southern 'A' final went to a replay between former champions Thomastown and Piltown. The Piltown girls had their homework done for the replay and claimed the title with ease, Ellen Commins was named player of the match.

In the B final first time entrants Kilmanagh defeated Ballyragget 6-5 to 4-4. Ann Doheny's display for Kilmanagh earned her the Player of the Match accolade. Skeoughvosteen National School have been one of the stalwarts of primary schools football in recent years and got their just reward when they claimed the 'C' title by defeating neighbours Goresbridge 3-7 to 2-2. This win was no doubt aided by the work being done at underage level in Skeough. Muireann Murphy was a worthy Player of the Match. Credit goes to the teachers who have put in a huge effort in many schools and hopefully will continue to do so as the young girls of Kilkenny are proving their ability at gaelic football.

CLUB SCENE

The club scene continues to thrive with the junior and senior championships becoming tighter affairs. Both competitions provided many close games with the winners in both championships having to work hard to claim the honours.

In this year's junior league Tullogher, Muckalee and James Stephens were to the fore early on. Thomastown and Railyard gave their B teams an opportunity to gain valuable experience at junior level while Callan and Blacks and Whites struggled early in the year but will be back in action in 2010.

The junior league final brought table toppers James Stephens and Tullogher together on a typical July day in Bennetsbridge...cold and vey wet! Nevertheless the teams served up a thriller with the result in doubt right to the end. James Stephens' workrate paid off and they claimed the junior league title 2-4 to 1-3 with Niamh Butler named Player of the Match.

The same pairing met in the junior championship final in September but not before both had to come through tough semi finals. Tullogher had to work hard to shrug off a young but determined Railyard B team 4-11 to 2-7 and James Stephens pipped Muckalee by just a point. In the final played at Thomastown Tullogher and The Village



Piltown NS - Southern Roinn "A" Schools Champions 2009

Back: JEmma Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Kelly, Eleanor Cunningham, Eva Flanagan, Ellie Cooney, Ellen Commins, Ciara Phelan, Chloe Blackmore, Claire Power, Leanne O'Hara, Mrs Drohan, Mr Kenny.

Front: Annmarie Scahill, Chelsea Power, Sarah Murphy, Aisling Carroll, Lisa McCarthy, Sarah, McTernan, Chantelle Jordan, Stephanie Falconie, Robyn Oakey, Sasha Brady, April Kelly.



Gowran NS - Northern Roinn "A" Schools Champions 2009

Back: Claire Hoare (Teacher) Charlotte Kehoe, Claire Farrell, Maria Kane, Linda Delaney, Louise Walsh, Katie Walsh, Katie Quinlan, Rebecca Nevin.

Middle: Sharon Quinlan, Kate Drennan, Sinead Naddy, Sally Anne Quarrell, Lauren Nolan, Roisin Bollard, Michelle Kehoe, Nichole Carter.

Front: Christine O'Donnell, Ava Comerford, Rebecca Kennedy, Emer Ryan, Bonnie Comerford, (Captain) Ciara Nevin, Grace O'Donnell, Niamh Walsh, Aoife Naddy.



Kilmanagh NS - Roinn "B" Schools Champions 2009

Back: Laureena Murphy (Manager), Si'n Corcoran, Anna Robinson, Orla Cahill, Shannon Nugent, Rebecca Robinson, Seana Carroll, Jessie Dunne.

Middle: Kate Hennessy, Hannah Quigley, Aisling Kelly, Margaret Caldbeck, RÙisin O' Sullivan, Grace Quigley, Emma Wall.

Front: Charlotte McCluskey, Ciara Murphy, Lena Butler (captain), Caoimhe Murphy, Eimear Keoghan, Ann Doheny.

could not be separated despite a haul of 2-4 from Tullogher's Elaine Mullaly. The game finished level 2-6 to 1-9 and the replay did not disappoint with Mullaly scoring a vital penalty midway through the second half to give Tullogher the edge. While Linda Cotterell was a colossus for Tullogher, Niamh Butler, Vicky Cahill and Aoife Gorey starred for the Village but the southerners physical superiority won the day and Tullogher were crowned 2009 junior champions on a 2-8 to 2-6 scoreline. Marie Ryan was a deserving Player of the match. Tullogher lost out to St. Margarets of Dublin in the opening round of the VHI Leinster club championship but made their illustrious opponents struggle at Mullinavat for a 3-14 to 4-6 win.

SENIOR LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP

Five teams took part in the senior competitions in 2009. Last year's junior champions Freshford had little difficulty in adjusting to the upper grade alongside the more experienced Railyard, Mullinavat, Thomastown and Carrickshock. Railyard and Thomastown eased into the league final and despite a late Thomastown fightback Railyard claimed the senior league for the third time 2-12 to 2-1. The hardworking Breda Roche was named Player of the Match. In the championship Railyard was seeking a fourth title in a row and expected a tough battle fielding without midfield power houses Kelly Roche and Catriona Corr. While Mullinavat and Carrickshock struggled to retain their form of old, Thomastown and Freshford made the champions fight all the way. Freshford were on the verge of causing a major upset in the semi final when a Cora Dowling led side were within a point of Railyard with just five minutes left. The experience of the Railyard girls and a Marie Dargan classic in the closing minutes saw the champions emerge relieved on a 4-6 to 3-4 scoreline.

Thomastown accounted for Mullinavat 1-8 to 0-1 in the second semi final to set up a final meeting with Railyard for the third year in a row. While last year's encounter was a one sided affair with Railyard winning by a big margin, Thomastown have slowly but surely been turning the screw and took the fight to Railyard in Clara at the end of August. A Mairead Corrigan goal saw Railyard defend a 1-3 to 0-1 lead at the break and with both sets of backs performing heroics the teams scored just two points apiece in the second half. Thomastown had stars in Niamh Whelan, Aine Lannon, Jenny Reddy and the ever reliable Aine Sheehy in goal but Railyard called on the experience of Andrea Murphy, April Purcell and Breda Roche to keep that step ahead. Coupled with the guile of Marie Dargan up front the Mooneenroe based side kept up the four in a row trend in Kilkenny and claimed the senior title once again by 1-5 to 0-3. Thomastown defender Katie O Hara was awarded the Player of the Match accolade. Having been contenders for the Leinster club title in recent years, Railyard had to make do with a first round exit this year when they were well beaten by Ballyna of Kildare 2-15 to 1-7.

Railyard are one of the favourites each year in the All Ireland club 7 a side tournament having claimed the title there in 2006 and the girls made their annual trip in September on the eve of the ladies All Ireland finals. Marie Dargan and Edwina Keane destroyed defences at will and the Kilkenny side topped their group after four tough games beating Abbeyside(Waterford) 4-10 to 2-6,



Skeough NS - Roinn "C" Schools Champions 2009

Back: April Purcell, Aisling Cullen, Adela Linton, Ellie Barcoe, Denise Carroll, Orla Cleere, Aoife Drennan, Niamh Nolan, Mary McDonald, Nadine O'Brien, Enya Foley.

Middle: Tara Treacy, Katie Heffernan, Aoife Cleere, Aine Ryan, Rebecca Doyle, Muireann Murphy, Sinéad Maher, Cieragh Tarpey, Megan O'Grady, Mary Lennon.

Front: Erin Barcoe, Louise Murphy, Grace McDonald, Aoife Moore, Siobhain O'Brien.



Freshford - U14 Shield Champions

Back: Jacinta Power (Trainer), Aisling O'Brien, Eleri Theloke, Megan Foley, Sarah Lanigan, Mary Pat O'Sullivan, Clodagh Power, Mary Hennessy, Daniel Kenny, Emer Doheny, Claire Healy, Laura Dawson, Alan Franey (Coach).

Middle: Rachel Hickey, Tara Hickey, Daniel Phelan, Claire Fogarty, Ayla Condon, Lauren Frane, Zoe Crosby, Siobhan Colclough.

Front: Roisin Colclough, Olga Cantwell, Grace Kelly Landers, Lauren Tobin, Donna Walsh, Sophie Gordon, Megan Coogan (Capt), Roisin Gogarty, Caoilfhionn Costigan.

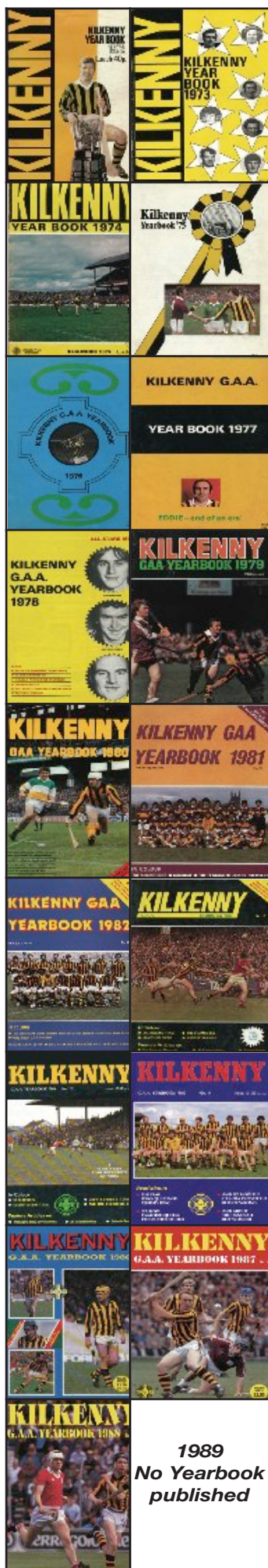
Arklow Geraldines 6-9 to 3-4, Athea (Limerick) 5-1 to 1-5 and Clann Eireann (Tyronne) 6-5 to 5-5. Railyard were beaten in the semi final 3-10 to 3-3 by a fine Brian Boru's side from Tipperary who went on to win the final by a big margin.

GAELIC FOR MOTHERS

One of the most successful initiatives by the Ladies Gaelic Football Association saw clubs throughout the country run Gaelic For Mothers sessions as a six week programme which brought together mothers, aunts and older sisters some of whom had played in the past, and some who had never picked up a football before! The initiative offers a social aspect to the game with mothers playing Gaelic football in a fun, non-competitive environment while enjoying exercise and meeting other mothers in the area. Many clubs train at the same time as their younger players so the mothers avail of that time instead of just dropping their daughters off and leaving. Over 800 ladies of varying ages and ability have registered around the country and forty five clubs took part in the Gaelic for Mothers blitz in Portmarnock in October. When Kay Brennan in Castlecomer

read about the programme she thought it might be a bit of 'fun' in the 'Comer area. Little did she know that over 60 ladies would register and Castlecomer would field four teams at the Gaelic For Mothers blitz! Kilkenny is just one of several counties who have availed of the programme and while Castlecomer are the only club up and running yet it is hoped that in 2010 several more clubs will join in the fun.

Overall ladies football in Kilkenny continues to prosper but there is an abundance of talent at underage level which is being ignored. This is due mainly to the lack of volunteers and mentors to help young girls train and play. Parents and adults should make every effort to lend a hand at local level in whatever small way possible. The young girls of Kilkenny have shown an uncanny ability at ladies football and clubs are encouraged to tap into that source by bringing girls together at local level so that our underage structure can develop. Most importantly the girls can get enjoyment from a sport at which there is untold talent in our county.



Kilkenny People Yearbooks
1972-1988

Fiche Bhlian ag Fás!

This Year marks the twentieth publication of the Kilkenny GAA Yearbook by the County Board.

Barrie Henriques recalls the early days of the venture and its progression through the years.

When the Kilkenny County Board expressed a wish at a Board meeting in 1990 that it should publish its own Yearbook, the Chairman of the day, Paddy Buggy, asked Nickey Brennan to take on the task. He enrolled some lieutenants as Tom Ryall, John Knox N.T. Tommy Murphy and others.

It was virgin territory for Brennan and the rest of our team. The Kilkenny People, or more precisely, Peter Houlihan originally, and John Knox subsequently, had published a GAA Yearbook from 1972 to 1988. It was the discontinuation of this publication that prompted the County Board to undertake its own publication.

Once committed, we found the exercise both daunting and intense. We became very familiar with KP soldiers like Tom Beirne, Sean Kerwick, and Sean Dooley. We are talking here about the pre-CD, Wi-fi, Digital, Twitter, Facebook era. We crucified the Beirne team with bits of paper, longhand reports of events written by a host of different scribblers, which was a nightmare for all concerned. We tormented the soul out of people like Breda Ryan, Martin Brett and others in Purcellsinch, now alas closed.

We sold nearly 2000 books in the first year. At the time, it was agreed by the Board that if necessary, the book would be subsidised. To date, this recourse has never proved necessary. My remit, among other tasks ordained by Nickey, was to get as much advertising as possible, to offset costs. The book cost £3 (Punts). The advertising realised something like £4000, and with the sales, we realised a small profit. Excluding the cover, the 1990 book contained 132 pages. At the time, there was no colour content, except for the cover, and a small number of colour inset pages which were processed in Dublin for the Kilkenny People.

We brought on iconic people like Gerry O'Neill (1991), Brendan O'Sullivan (Chairman, 1993), Pat Henderson (1998), who succeeded Brendan, and is still our Chairman, Tommy Lanigan, Dermot Dunphy, Richie Stone, Jimmy Walsh, and Ned Buggy, and others who made contributions. Young Conor Brennan, and Conor Dennieffe have joined the ranks too.

The technically-minded might be interested in how our involvement in the publication evolved with the advances in home-computing. Initially our technical input was zero; only the printers had the hardware/software to lay out the book. Black and white photographs were processed in a dark room in Purcell's Inch (by Pat Stapleton) and converted to bromides for printing. Colour photos, as we saw, had to go to Dublin for separation. By degrees, however, we acquired our own expertise. The advent of word-processors enabled us to set about eliminating hand-written submissions and by 1994, we were submitting raw text to the printers on disk. By 1997, we had acquired the skill to create our own finished layout, although, scanners being in their infancy, we left prepared boxes in the layouts into which the "People" scanned the pictures. This was a cumbersome process as it involved code-numbering each box to match the appropriate photographs, and specifying whether they were to be coloured or black and white, depending on where they fell in the book. In those days, the yearbook travelled to Purcell's Inch on up to twenty floppy disks.



Yearbook Committee 1993

Back: Gerry O'Neill, Tommy Lanigan, Richie Stone, Barrie Henriques (Editor), Tommy O'Brien, Michael Shortall, John Cahill, John Knox.

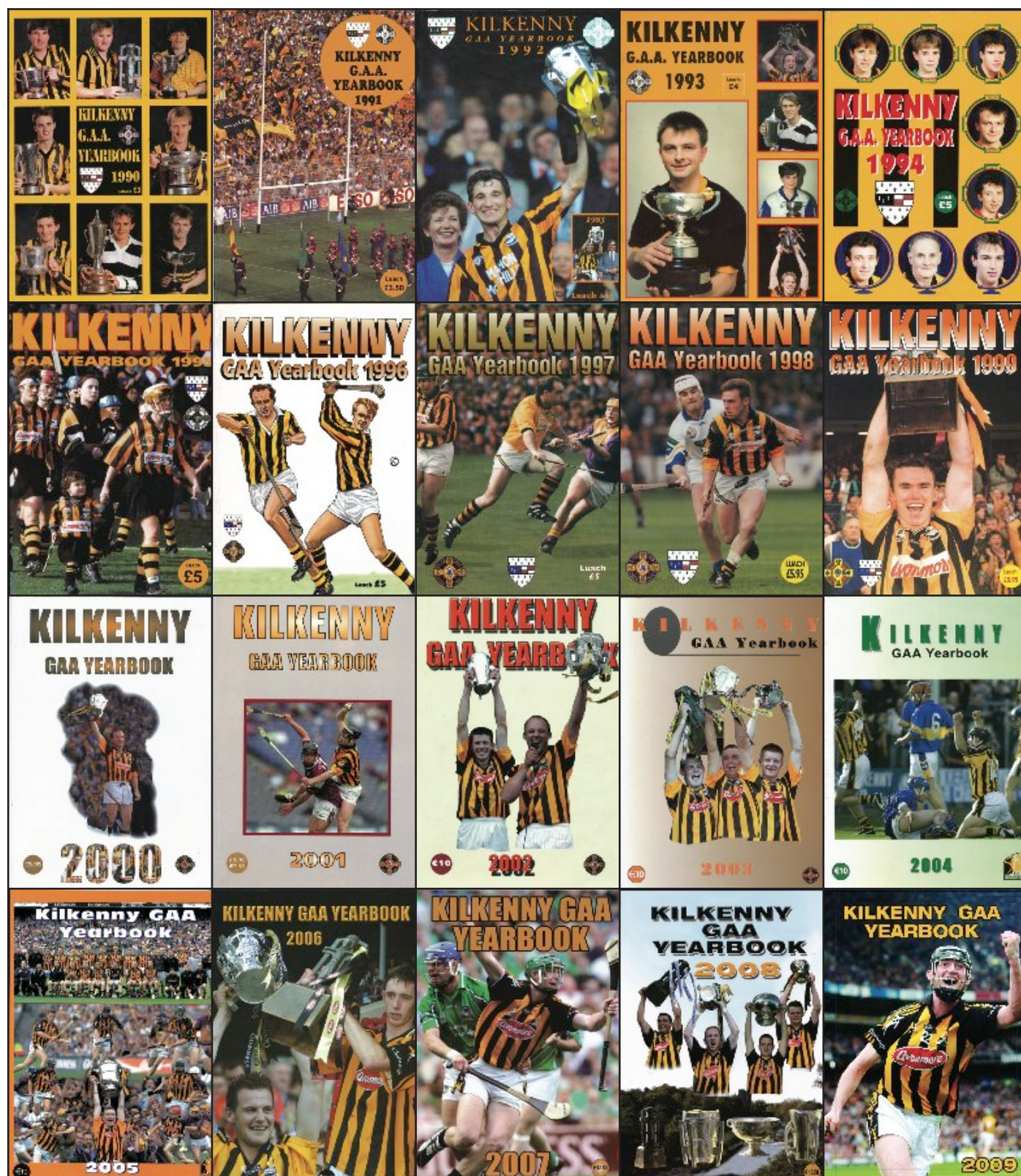
Front: Joe Dunphy, Ann Downey, Brendan O'Sullivan (Chairman, Nicky Brennan Co Board Chairman), Ted Carroll (Co Board Sec.), Tom Ryall (Co Board PRO). Photo Tom Brett

1999 saw us acquire our own scanner. This was the first year that the entire book (apart from cover and poster) left Gerry O'Neill's house in its finished state. Colour processing costs had meanwhile been dropping steadily and in 2003 we went full-colour. This eliminated a lot of headaches, as prior to that, articles (and even ads) had to be differently prepared depending on their position in the book. By the 2000's, we were processing cover and poster ourselves and since 2005, the yearbook leaves us in PDF form all on one disk. Our biggest book was in 1994 when we printed 260 pages. Generally we aim for a 208-page publication, and we have tried to keep the costs down. We have featured players on pull-out wall posters, which have been very well received. Our first poster (DJ Carey) appeared in the 1996 issue.

Our advertising supporters have remained staunchly loyal from day one. It is doubtful if we could have reached the excellence we have done without their help. Over the years, sales of our Yearbook, which is distributed World wide to places as far away as Korea, Philippines, Australia, Argentina, USA, and of course UK, have remained steadfastly solid. The first one was a steal at £3. This one is no less a steal at €12.50. It is the envy of most Counties having won McNamee Awards twice.

As Editor I am immensely proud of what has been achieved by so many. The flame of courage ignited by the early volunteers has only been gilded by those that followed.

From little acorns, great oaks grow.



COLLEGES REPORT

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

St Kieran's captured the Leinster Juvenile Championship of 2009. Their path to the final was :

St. Kieran's 2-18, Dublin Colleges North 2-8

St. Kieran's 7-11, Laois Colleges 0-4.

St. Kieran's 3-5, Castlecomer CS 0-4.

Semi-Final

St. Kieran's 4-17, Good Counsel 2-8.

Leinster Final

St Kieran's 2-8, Dublin South 1-9

This was a great game that had everything from start to finish. Dublin were just about on top from the start but Kieran's never let them get too far ahead and matched the Dublin side point for point. James Maher and Diarmuid Cody had their hands full in mid-field but their battling for possession was a key factor in keeping St.Kieran's interests alive. Stephen Farrell was brought back to mid-field to match the extra man that Dublin were playing in mid-field. Eoin Gough dominated at centre half back while excellent defensive performances were put in by Thomas Talbot, Ricci Drennan and James Tyrrell. St. Kieran's were down by four points at half time. A frantic second half followed with Dublin opening the scoring. However, St. Kieran's dug deep and managed some scores from Cody, Bolger, Farrell, High Lane and Cormac Connolly which kept the Kilkenny school in contention. In the second half Sean O'Callaghan, Luke Tennyson and William Dooley were introduced to the fray. Diarmuid Cody switched to centre half back and managed to clear a ball up to Chris Bolger who turned and buried it low in the Dublin net. The finale came in injury time when St. Kieran's, a point behind Dublin, were given a free near the 65. Diarmuid Cody stepped up to take it, dropped the ball into the square. The ball fell to William Dooley, the Tullaroan man, who pulled hard and drove the ball past the Dublin keeper giving the Kieran's lads the lead for the first time in the game. The ref-



Leinster Juvenile Hurling Champions 2009

Back Row: Diarmuid Hickey, Thomas Talbot, Ricci Drennan, Seán O'Callaghan, Hugh Lane.

Fourth Row: David Walsh, William Dooley, Stephen Farrell, Chris Bolger, Jack Cotter.

Third Row: Conor Murphy, Mark Butler, Luke Tennyson, Ciarán Breen, Michael O'Neill, William Allen, James Tyrrell, James Maher.

Second Row: Mr. Ken Maher (Trainer), Ger Dunne, Vincent Teehan, Shane Parsons, Brendan Cullen, Harry Wallace, Eoin Shortall, Ally Rafter, Mr. Liam Smith (Trainer).

Front Row: James Deasy, Shane Walsh, Diarmuid Cody (Captain), Eoin Gough (Vice-Captain), Tom Phelan, Patrick Hickey. *Absent from photo: Cormac Connolly*

eree blew the whistle for full time and it was all over and St. Kieran's had won another Juvenile Leinster Hurling Title with literally the last puck of the game.

St. Kieran's U-16 Hurling

St. Kieran's successfully defended the Leinster Schools Junior Hurling A title, trained by Mr O'Keeffe and Mr McCormack.

Group Games

St Kieran's 3-17, St Peter's 1-7

St Kieran's 6-21, Banagher College 1-6

Semi-Final - Bye

Leinster Final

St Kieran's 5-12, Kilkenny CBS 2-3

The big day arrived on the 19th October. The Leinster Final was to be played against

old rivals CBS Kilkenny in Nowlan Park. From the start, St. Kieran's got on top and won the individual battles. They went in at half time with a 2-4 to 0-2 lead. The game restarted and a mistake in the St. Kieran's defense allowed CBS a goal and gave them a ray of hope. But St. Kieran's battled hard and finished the game the much better team. The final score was St. Kieran's College 5-12 Kilkenny CBS 2-3. Thomas O'Hanrahan put in a fine showing, scoring 2-5 from play to add to his top class performances all season. St. Kieran's had other star performers throughout the campaign in Cormac Wafer, Emmett Byrne, Aidan Cleere, Robert Lennon, Enda Morrissey, Michael Drennan and Michael Donnelly. The team was led by inspirational captain Tim Brennan. *(Daniel O'Neill/Eoin Corcoran)*



St Kieran's - Leinster U16 Champions 2009

Back: Mr. McCormack (Trainer), Robert Lennon, Billy Leydon, Cillian Treacy, Jack Cotter, Aidan Cleere, Jack McGrath, Cormac Wafer, Mark Butler, Eoin Gough, Michael Donnelly, Paul O'Neill, Daniel O'Neill, Tim Brennan, Luke Tennyson, Noel Kehoe, Michael Drennan, Mr. O'Keeffe (Trainer).

Front: Ciaran Prendergast, Stephen Farrell, David Burke, Emmett Byrne, Chris Bolger, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Ciarán Breen, Patrick Hickey, Michael O'Neill, James Deasy, Donagh Carney, Enda Morrissey. *Absent from photo: Cormac Connolly*

CASTLECOMER CS

The senior hurlers of Castlecomer Community School had a year of mixed fortunes this year in the colleges senior hurling championship. In relative terms it was a good year in that they reached the school's second ever Leinster Senior A final and reached the last four in the country for only the second time in the school's history as well. However both of those achievements, while they may have been some consolation in times past, didn't do much to cheer an extremely dedicated and ambitious group of players.

Leinster Championship Round 1

Comer CS Bt Cistercian College, Roscrea

Round 2

Comer CS Bt Kilkenny CBS

Semi-Final

Comer CS Bt Dublin South

Final

Good Counsel Bt Comer CS

All Ireland Quarter Final

Comer CS Bt Shannon CS

All Ireland Semi-Final

Thurles CBS Bt Comer CS

Their season was ended by hot-favorites, and eventual All-Ireland champions Thurles CBS. On a very windy day in Nolan Park, Castlecomer led at half time. But were blitzed in the first 15 minutes of the second half. Although they regained their composure after this and fought bravely to get back into the game, the damage had already been done, Thurles defended their lead well, repelled wave after wave of Castlecomer attacks and ran out nine points winners. Although they fell at this hurdle no-one could doubt the bravery and commitment of this group of players who did their school proud.

The U-14's did not enjoy as much success in their competition, being beaten by St Kierans, Dublin North and Good Council in the group stages of their championship. They enjoyed a little more luck in the shield however beating St Peter's in the semi-final and losing narrowly to Birr in the final. They improved much during the season and hopefully their upward tangent will continue.

While the school's U-16 hurlers pick up the title of the school's unluckiest team of the decade. They lost their opening two championship matches each by a single point to Enniscorthy CBS and Collaiste Eoin, who only went ahead by 11st minute goals. In the shield competition they had good wins against Good Council College and St Peters, only to lose the final to Birr, who only went ahead with two minutes to go, and won by two points!

COLÁISTE MUIRE JOHNSTOWN

The senior hurlers started out with high aspirations of emulating the enormous feat of the previous year campaign by winning the All Ireland. This was never going to be an easy task as ten of that team were no longer part of the Johnstown set up and men like Nigel Stanley, Eamon Corcoran, Jimmy Delaney, Joe Dollard and Vincent Fitzpatrick were never going to be easily replaced.

Leinster Championship Group Matches

Col Mhuire bt St Feargal's Rathdowney

St Rynagh's Banagher bt Col Mhuire

Semi-Final

Col Mhuire bt Sc Aireagail, Ballyhale

Final

Col Mhuire bt St Rynagh's Banagher

All Ireland Semi-Final

St Bridget's Loughrea bt Col Mhuire

Johnstown renewed their rivalry with St Bridgits of Loughrea in the All Ireland Semi final. The roles were reversed in this game with Johnstown leading throughout the game nullifying the much vaunted loughrea full forward line with Brendan Phelan outstanding at full back. The game seemed to be theirs for the taking when Loughrea were reduced to 14 men. However victory was denied when a long range delivery from Loughreas Joe Cooney was deflected to the net on the stroke of full time to give Bridgets a one point victory. This was a cruel stroke of fate on a very dedicated bunch of players.

Junior Hurling

The Junior hurling team reached the semi-finals of both the Colleges and Vocational competitions. This was an exceptionally young team with the majority of the panel underage for next year. They lost to Bunclody in the Colleges S/F by a single point despite dominating for long periods. In the Vocational Competition they beat Rathdowney in the first round by 2-12 to 1-8. They met Borris V.S. in the S/F and were beaten by 6 points by a much more physical side in atrocious conditions. Tom Phelan, Jamie Ryan, Conor Martin, Brian Murphy and Lachtain Kennedy were outstanding throughout the year

Juvenile Hurling

Leinster League Group Matches

Col Mhuire bt St Feargal's Rathdowney

Col Mhuire bt Heywood CS

Semi-Final

Col Mhuire bt Wicklow Schools

Final

Col Mhuire bt St Feargal's Rathdowney

The Johnstown team was too strong for the Rathdowney hurlers and ran out comfortable winners, retaining the title which they won in 2008.

During the year the U14 hurlers took part in a blitz in Kilkenny, beating St Kieran's in the final by the narrowest of margins.

Thomas Moriarty was a great leader of this team and was assisted in defence in no small way by Eoin Lyons in goal and by backs Richard Saunders, Rory Doyle, Martin Phelan, Jason Stanley and Michael Drennan, who had an outstanding year. In midfield Kevin Sweeney and Kieran Skehan performed very well, getting some very important scores. In the forwards we had great players in Frank Phelan, Shane Donnelly, Eoghan Vaughan, Brian Webster, Darragh Morrissey and Shane Moriarty. The subs and extended panel of players were a vital part of the team during the year. Two players who picked up injuries towards the end of the year, Eoin Wilson and John Muldowney were very important players in the under-14 panel.



Castlecomer CS SH Team 2009

Back: Thomas Breen, Gary Delaney, Mark O'Neill, Michael Carroll, Padraig Keating, Martin Hawley, Brian Cahill, Eoin Meally, Canice Maher, Gary Kavanagh, Eddie Brophy, Conor Whelan, James Morrissey, Stephen Staunton, Gavin Mansfield, Luke Maher.

Front: Ruairi Kinsella, Robert Healy, Padraig Maher, James Murphy, Stephen Ruth, Stephen Daly, Jerry Callinan, Cathal Murphy, Mikey Dwyer, Liam Lacey, Declan Dunne, Charles Dwyer, Padraig Harding, Aengus Daly, Aidan Moran.



Colmhuire U14 Under 14 Winners

Back: Frank Phelan, Michael Drennan, Kieran Skehan, Darragh Morrissey, Jason Stanley, Shane Moriarty, Brian Webster, Thomas Moriarty, Martin Phelan, Rory Doyle, Shane Donnelly, Kevin Sweeney, Enda Walsh, John Bergin.

Front: Darren Grace, James Sweeney, Thomas Walsh, Eoghan Vaughan, Edward Connery, Eoin Lyons, Mark Webster, Cian Hynes, Enda Fitzpatrick, Richard Saunders, Ciarán Murphy, Brian Brennan, Tadhg Fitzpatrick, Lloyd Bassett, Evan Hughes, Peter Walsh.

KILKENNY CBS

The Rice cup competition of 2009 got under way on May 8th in a wind swept Dungarvan. Kilkenny CBS were grouped with Middleton CBS, Youghal CS as well as the much fancied Dungarvan CBS. Fine performances on the day from Dara Houlihan, Matthew Mcwey, James Lenihan, Paul Delahanty and JP Treacy meant that Kilkenny CBS topped their group and so advanced straight through to the quarter final stage.

Quarter Final

Kilkenny CBS bt Doon CBS

Semi-Final

Kilkenny CBS bt Scoil Rís Clonmel

Final

Dungarvan CBS 3-9, Kilkenny CBS 2-6

All roads led to Clonmel on May 20th as

Kilkenny CBS took on Dungarvan CBS in the Rice cup final. It really was a wonderful game of hurling in which scores were very hard to come by due to some excellent defending from both sides. Hard earned points from Paddy Cahill, Niall Mullins, Gary Kelly as well as goal and a point from Kevin Kenny saw the Kilkenny lads take a two point lead at half time. Dungarvan CBS would have the wind in their backs in the second half and in truth; they used this to their advantage. They launched attack after attack but could not break down a gallant CBS defence in which Evan Cody and Huw Lawlor were magnificent. With ten minutes left on the clock it looked like the Rice cup would be heading back to James Street once again. However a good Kilkenny CBS move broke down and a huge Dungarvan clearance ended up in the back of the Kilkenny net after some neat passing from their for-

wards. From the puck out, Dungarvan won possession and when Kilkenny were beginning to think that the worst was over, the ball was in their net again. Kilkenny left nothing on the field as they tried to claw their way back however, it proved to be a bridge too far as Dungarvan ran out winners on a score line of 3-9 to 2-6. Best on the day were Vinny Wallace, Eoin McGovern, Kevin Kenny and Danny Bolger. All in all, each panel member can be proud of their efforts all year as every one brought something to the party when called on. (Ian Boland)

DUISKE COLLEGE

The 2008/2009 season was a very successful one for the young hurlers, gaelic footballers and ladies footballers of Duiske College in Graignamanagh. The school competed in the Leinster Championship in all three



Kilkenny CBS - Rice Cup Finalists 2009

Back: Alan Healy (selector), Vinny Wallace, Matthew Mcwey, Jason Carroll, Ben Lyng, Michael Power, Robbie Fitzpatrick, JP Treacy, Evans Wallace, Niall Sheehan (Selector)

Middle: Niall Tyrrell (selector), Daniel O Sullivan, Gary Kelly (Capt), Paddy Cahill, James Lenihan, Criomthán Bergin, Sean Moran, Niall Mullins, Kevin Kenny, Paul Delahanty, Huw Lawlor, Ivan Doherty (selector)

Front: Frankie Nolan, Paddy Deegan, Jack Boland, Daragh Houlihan, Daragh Walsh, Brian Fitzpatrick, Danny Bolger, Evan Cody, Eoin McGovern, Paul O Flynn (Trainer)

codes, with a number of notable successes. Pride of place would have to go to our Senior and Juvenile Hurling teams. In Senior Hurling we were amalgamated with Grennan College in Thomastown and together we won the Leinster Vocational Schools B Championship. The team further progressed to the All Ireland Final in the competition, where we were beaten by Hazelwood College from Limerick. In Juvenile Hurling we competed on our own and won the South Leinster Juvenile D Hurling Competition. Gaelic games is not only played by the boys of Duiske College but also by the girls. The school entered a Ladies Football team into the Leinster Championship for the first time in 2009 and in 2010 we will be entering our first camogie team.

ABBEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Abbey CC defended their Juvenile C crown in 2009 when they defeated Scoil Aireagal, Ballyhale in a well contested game played in Thomastown. With representatives from 5 clubs, Ballygunner, Ferrybank, Glenmore, Kilmacow, Slieverue, the Abbey Community College men proved too strong for the Ballyhale 15 and ended their campaign unbeaten.

This year was a new venture for the Abbey CC Junior hurling team who played at Colleges B level for the first time. A successful campaign which included fine victories over Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown and Gorey CS led the Abbey men to the South Leinster final, a rematch against Colaiste Mhuire. Played at a wet Nowlan Park, the Johnstown men mastered the slippery conditions and won the day. The experience will stand the team in good stead as they prepare to take on Borris VS in Leinster Vocational Schools "A" championship in January next.

Abbey CC Senior hurlers had a very successful introduction to Leinster Colleges "B" hurling this year and a fine victory over St. MacDaras CC put them through to a floodlit semi final played in Carlow IT against Colaiste Eanna. A fine contest ended with an unlucky 2 point defeat for Abbey CC.



Grennan College Senior Camogie Team - Leinster Champions and All Ireland Finalists 2009
Back: Ann Marie Malone, Rachel O'Carroll, Sinead Stapleton, Nicole Corway, Niamh Bolger, Nicola Dunphy, Kiara Barcoe, Grace Clarke, Aine Lannon, Leanne Walsh, Katie Walsh, Alison Murphy, Tom Ryan (Manager)
Front: Niamh Donnelly, Jane Cullen, Chloe Gantley, Kelly Hamilton, Annette Reddy, Meighan Farrell, Shauna Carroll, Jessie Carroll, Niamh Quigley



Duiske Juvenile team - South Leinster Roinn D Champions
Back: Pat Murphy (Principal) Peter Dowling (Mentor), Jack Conran, Dylan Conran, James Doyle, Ciaran Manning, James Meaney, Stephen Browne, James McCabe, Kevin Cheasty (Mentor).
Front: Ryan O'Halloran, Liam Hearne, Ryan Douglas, Shane Kavanagh, Adam Kennedy (capt), Brandon Fenlon, Daniel Fitzgerald.



Abbey Community College - South Leinster "C" Juvenile Hurling Champions
Back: Eoin McCormack (Trainer), Kevin Keoghan, Jamie Diggins, Aaron Cullinane, Ian Ahearne, Mark Russell, Stephen Quinn, Shay Dempsey (Capt), Dylan Cooke, Ian Williams, Ryan O'Hanlon, Patrick Heffernan, Ryan McKenna.
Front: Cormac Kenny, Ryan Gallacher, Jeff Lawless, Eoin Kenny, Joe Irish, Stephen Dolan, Liam Duggan, Robbie Carew, Philip Roche,



Loreto Kilkenny - All-Ireland Colleges' Junior A Camogie Champions 2009

Back: Gerry Bolger (Manager), Fionnuala Quinlan (Young Irelands), Stacey Nugent (Graigue-Ballycallan), Sarah Hennessy (Dicksboro), Ciara Byrne (Clara), Roisin O'Neill (Danesfort), Clodagh Power (Freshford), Tara Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Anna Buggy (Freshford), Marie Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Brendan Williams (Manager).

Front: Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Dervla Gannon (Lisdowney), Sarah-Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands), Emma Comerford (Young Irelands), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan) {Captain}, Aisling Curtis (Clara), Tracy Brennan (Lisdowney), Kate Holland (Lisdowney), Noelle Maher (Tullaroan), Katie Doheny (Freshford).

Middle: Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney), Sonia Buggy (Dicksboro), Eva Maher (Dicksboro), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro), Isabel Robinson (Clara), Niamh O'Connor (Dicksboro), Orla Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Sarah Dunphy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Amy Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Maureen Walsh (Freshford).



Loreto Kilkenny - All-Ireland Colleges' 7-a-side Roinn A Camogie Champions 2009 - 4 in a row winners

Back: Gerry Bolger (Manager), Sarah-Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Brendan Williams (Manager).

Front: Sonia Buggy (Dicksboro), Kate Holland (Lisdowney), Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney) {Captain}, Noelle Maher (Tullaroan), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro).

LORETO CONVENT KILKENNY

The Loreto Junior Camogie team won the Junior A All Ireland Colleges title for the second time ever in March 2009. They beat Coláiste Bhríde Enniscorthy in the Leinster final, Charleville in the all Ireland semi-final and St Patrick's (Maghera) in their All Ireland final. Grace Walsh captained the winning side, also winning her second All Ireland title in this grade.

The Loreto seven-a-side Camogie team won the All Ireland title for the fourth time in a row in October. They beat Callan in the Leinster final and St Patrick's (Maghera), St Killian's (New Land), in the All Ireland series and Blackwater Community School (Lismore) in the final. Claire Phelan was a member of all four winning teams. Aoife Murphy and Noelle Maher won their third medals while Kate Holland, Orla Hanrick and Lydia Fitzpatrick won their second.

Grennan/Duiske Senior Vocational Roinn "B" Finalists.

Back: Derek Dooley (mentor), Eoin Bolger, Lee Kinsella, Luke Blanchfield, James Coakley, Eoin Manning, Jack Glendon, Darren Walsh, Kevin Barcoe, Sean O'Brien, Robert Waugh, JJ. Lennon, Robert Skehan, Darren Burke, Colin Clarke, David Mullally, Kevin Stapleton, Kevin Cheasty (mentor).

Front: Gary Mason, Gary Geoghegan, Gary Lehane, Kieran Cummins, Sam Wemyss, Robert Doyle, Bernard Hennessy, Dane Mangan, Seamus Kavanagh,

Barry Whelan, James Doyle, Dylan Waugh, Donal Dunne (mentor), Vincent Joyce.



St Brigid's Retain All Ireland Senior Trophy



St Brigid's Callan - 2009 Senior A Camogie All Ireland Winners

Back: Ellis Kennedy, Emma Boland, Aine Manning, Lisa Carey, Claire Bambrick, Joanne Cody, Jennifer Cunningham, Edel Frisby, Laura Dunne
Middle: Jodi Henderson, Laura Woodcock, Niamh Phelan, Rachel Dowling, Mairead Power, Katie O' Farrell, Eleanor Lacey, Doireann Mackey, Sarah Mockler, Rachel Hogan, Louise Dunne
Front: Ciara Holden, Anna Farrell, Kate McDonald, Denise Gaule (Captain), Alison Walsh (Vice-Captain), Laura Walker, Shelly Farrell, Niamh Dowling

It's a real test of any team putting back-to-back titles together, but St Brigid's Senior Camogie team provided all the answers when the hard questions were asked on March 13th last. Under the management of Noelle O Driscoll and Principal Pat Power, the St Brigid's girls travelled to Drom & Inch and following a tremendous battle with the highly rated Portumna Community School team., retained the Corn Sceilge.

St Brigid's campaign began back in October when the girls defeated Castlecomer Community School, Loreto Wexford and Borris Vocational school. This set the scene for a Leinster Final pairing with the talented Loreto Kilkenny team which had won a Junior All-Ireland in 2007. Despite dreadful underfoot conditions, the Callan girls emerged victorious with a 3-6 to 2-2 scoreline.

Christ The King school in Cork were the opponents in the All-Ireland Semi Final, and St Brigid's had to pull out all the stops to draw that game. However, even a journey to Mahon in Cork City didn't deter the Callan girls and no chances were taken this time round with a well deserved victory coming our way. 6-6 to 2-6.

And so the scene was set for the All-Ireland Final against Portumna Community School. St Brigid's trailed by two points at half time but a powerful second half performance saw them turn the tables on the Galway girls. Laura Walker was outstanding throughout the game. Her quick reflexes were tested time and time again. Her full back line of Aine Manning, Lion hearted Alison Walsh and Danesfort star Laura Dunne kept the Portumna forwards at bay. The half back line of Edel Frisby (who missed last year's campaign due to a cruciate ligament injury) Mairead Power who was inspirational throughout the campaign and hard working Lisa Carey were a robust defence against the attacking Portumna side.

At centre field Jennifer Cunningham and Anna Farrell were a formidable pair. Anna worked tirelessly and covered a huge amount of ground helping out the defence as well as delivering long range balls to the forwards. Jennifer played her best game of the season and troubled the opponents time and time again. Our captain Denise Gaule certainly broke the westerners heart with her great athleticism and accuracy. Her yield of 1-9 was hugely significant. Louise Dunne, Ciara Holden and Niamh Phelan did trojan work to keep the ball in the Callan forward line. Niamh Dowling's work rate was brilliant and she was rewarded with a great point. Shelly Farrell tormented the Portumna defence and caused them no end of problems. She was at the end of a move that resulted in a penalty and scored a gem of a point herself.

The biggest cheer of the day came with the introduction of Kate McDonald. Kate also suffered a cruciate injury but in spite of this serious set back, she never missed a training session and no girl deserves a medal more. With the full time whistle sounding, the St Brigid's loyal supporters stormed the pitch and amidst great cheers



Mr. Noel Kelly, Irish Pride (Sponsors) presenting tops to Denise Gaule, Captain of St. Brigid's victorious Camogie Team. Also present are Ms. Noelle O'Driscoll, Edel Frisby, Kate McDonald, Alison Walsh, Katie O'Farrell, Doireann Mackey, Louise Dunne and Mr. Pat Power (Principal)

and jubilation, proud captain Denise Gaule received the trophy.

A team is no good without a strong panel and the Callan subs played their own part in this fantastic victory. Leaving Certs Doireann Mackey and Katie O Farrell, Fifth Years Sarah Mockler, Joanne Cody, Laura Woodcock, Eleanor Lacey, Claire Bambrick and Jodi Henderson, Transition Years Emma Boland and Eibhlís Kennedy and Junior Cert Rachel Hogan all contributed greatly to the win. Rachael Dowling who played the first few league games was unfortunate to be hit with a virus which prevented her from playing but never kept her away from the trainings.

All in all it was a tremendous season for the girls. This magnificent team conceded 8-32, yet scored an incredible 21-78, which is surely testament to their unswerving dedication and focus. Training began back in September and continued on during both term time and holiday time in all types of weather.

Another huge bonus for the team was the fantastic support it received from families, staff and students alike. Whether it was braving the elements in Killmanagh, or travelling to Cork for the All-Ireland Semi Final along with cheering on the girls in Drom & Inch, the support and encouragement was incredible and certainly aided the girls in their campaign. This surely augers well for the future! CALLAN ABU!!

It was with great delight that St Brigid's Senior Camogie Team received THE HOTEL KILKENNY/KILKENNY PEOPLE SPORTS STAR OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH. Captain Denise Gaule, Vice Captain Alison Walsh, along with Coach Ms. Noelle O Driscoll and Deputy Principal Ms. Carmel Broderick attended a presentation luncheon where Mr. Michael Griffin made the presentation to the school. This was a tremendous honour for both the team and the school.



Good Counsel - Leinster Colleges SH Champions 2009

Back: Conor Joyce (Rower Inistioge), Robert Grace (Rower Inistioge), Billy Conran (Rathnure), David Crowdle (Geraldine O'Hanrahans), Sean Lyster (Rower Inistioge), Syl Barron (Rathnure), Sean O'Gorman (Taghmon-Camross), Luke Kavanagh (Rathnure), Bernard Furlong (Cushinstown), Jamie O'Connell (Rathnure).

Middle: Shane Bradley (Adamstown), Colin Kelly (Rathnure), Ger Aylward (Glenmore), Matthew Cody (Cushinstown), Joe Lyng (Rower Inistioge), Matthew O'Hanlon (St James's), Walter Walsh (Tullagher/Rosbercon), Alan Nolan (Taghmon Camross), Nicky Doyle (Bannow Ballymitty), Michael O'Hanlon (Horeswood), Michael Curtis (Adamstown), Jack Guiney (Rathnure), Dan Neville (Bannow Ballymitty).

Front: Garrett Foley (Fethard), Fraeme Cullen (Gusserane), Declan Murphy (Horeswood), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat), Michael Furlong (Adamstown), James Breen (Adamstown), Kevin Kehoe (St Mullins), Lorcan French (Adamstown), James Cassin (Rower Inistioge), Matt Crowdle (Geraldine O'Hanrahans), Liam O'Hara (Fethard), Colm Foran (Glenmore).

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Dicksboro Make up for Last Year!

Bord na nÓg Minor Report by Conor Denieffe PRO Kilkenny County Board



Eoin Hennessy

Dicksboro - County MH League & Championship winners 2009

Back: Rory Glynn, Ruairi Morrissey, Mason Clifford, Daniel Farrell, Colm Manning, Matthew Nolan, James Gittens, Ben O'Mahony, Peter Turley.
Middle: Philly Byrne, J. J. Hickey, Stephen Glynn, Ciarán Gough, Mikey Hayes, Kevin Nolan, David Glynn, Conor Maharaj, Martin Gaffney, Caimin Browne.
Front: Darragh Buggy, Jamie Lynch, Cian Tynan, Evan Guilfoyle, Jessie Watters, Ollie Walsh, Gary Gaule, Cillian Buckley, Danny Kenny, Eamonn Campion, Shane Clohessy.

Kilkenny Citreón Centre Minor Hurling Championship Roinn A

City club Dicksboro made up for losing last year's Kilkenny Citreón Centre minor hurling championship final when capturing both the Roinn A championship and league titles for 2009. Twelve teams took part in the Roinn A championship but the final was not played until November as replays, objections and bad weather all conspired to delay the conclusion of this championship. The first round games saw victories for Barrow Rangers, Thomastown, St. Patrick's and John Lockes respectively at the expense of O' Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens, Erins Own and Mooncoin. The first contested issue arose over the Barrow Rangers versus O' Loughlin Gaels game as the former were first removed and then reinstated to the competition before surviving an O' Loughlin's appeal to a controversial refereeing decision at the end of their game. At the quarterfinal stage two of the games finished level, Dicksboro and the Rower Inistioge and John Lockes and St. Patrick's. Another contested decision arose here, as while Dicksboro and the Rower Inistioge finished all square after extra time, extra time was not played in the St. Patrick's versus John Lockes game. However following an appeal from the Ballyragget club against the awarding of the game to the Callan side on this issue a replay was ordered. When the smoke cleared four sides were left standing, John Lockes and Dicksboro who both won their replayed quarterfinals along with Mullinavat who accounted for Thomastown and Barrow Rangers who defeated Clara. In an all-southern semi-final John Lockes beat Mullinavat by 0-12 to 0-8 while in an all-northern affair Dicksboro accounted for Barrow Rangers winning by 1-17 to 0-10. The county minor Roinn A final was postponed at the first time of asking due to inclement weather but eventually on November 8th Dicksboro emerged victorious over a gallant John Lockes side who threw everything bar the proverbial kitchen sink at the winners. The game was in the melting pot until five minutes before the long whistle but the city side finished

strongly and two points from Martin Gaffney and one from Cillian Buckley ensured a 2-9 to 2-6 victory. Star player for the winners was the aforementioned Martin Gaffney who registered 2-7 of his sides winning tally.

Teams and scorers were

Dicksboro Philip Byrne, Mikey Hayes, David Glynn, Conor Maharaj, Rory Glynn, Danny Kenny, Gary Gaule, Ollie Walsh, Cillian Buckley 0-1, Evan Guilfoyle, Kevin Nolan, Jessie Waters, Eamon Campion, Martin Gaffney 2-7, (2-6 frees), Cian Tynan 0-1, Subs. Stephen Glynn and Darragh Buggy.

John Lockes Sean Byran, Jack McDowell, James Power, Tony Delaney, Alan Bergin, Jason Corcoran 0-1 (free), Ryan O'Dwyer, Owen McGrath 0-1 (free), Matthew Holohan, Graham Bergin 1-1, Shane Bergin 0-1, Lee Delaney, Dan McCormack 0-1, Cathal Byrne 0-1, D.J. Bergin 1-0

Referee John Guinan (St. Lactain's)

In the Kilkenny Honda Centre Hurling League competition in Roinn A the twelve teams formed two groups from which Dicksboro, Barrow Rangers, Thomastown and the Rower Inistioge qualified for the semi-finals. Dicksboro defeated the Rower Inistioge 3-14 to 1-6 in the first semi-final while Thomastown narrowly accounted for Barrow Rangers 2-13 to 1-15 in the second semi-final. The 'Boro had the minimum to spare over Thomastown in the final winning a very exciting game by 2-19 to 3-15.

Kilkenny Citreón Centre Minor Hurling Championship Roinn B

In all fifteen teams went to post in this competition. The first round saw St. Martin's, Fenians, Emeralds, Young Irelands, Lisdowney, Graig Ballycallan and Tullaroan advance at the expense of Dunnamaggin, Conahy Shamrocks, Danesfort, St. Lactain's, Kilmacow, Glenmore and Dicksboro B respectively. On to the quarterfinals where Carrickshock, who



Donal Foley

John Lockes - County MH League & Championship Finalists 2009

Back: Jason Foran, Ricky Buckley, JJ. Corrigan, Ruairi Kennedy, Davy Phelan, Erik Keogh, Liam Byrne, Eoin Kennedy, Jamie Bergin, Niall Maher.

Middle: Jack McDowell, Lee Delaney, Graham Bergin, Ryan O'Dwyer, Eoin McGrath, DJ. Bergin, Matthew Houlihan, Matthew Bergin, Garry Lyons, Emmett Nolan.

Front: Cathal Byrne, James Power, Alan Bergin, Sean Bryan, Tony Delaney, Shane Bergin, Jason Corcoran, Dan McCormack, Damien Roche.

SUPPORTING KILKENNY GAA



Cathal O'Neill (Kilkenny Citroen Centre) presents team equipment manager, Denis (Rackard) Cody, with the keys to the new Citroen Dispatch for the Kilkenny Senior hurling team kit. Also pictured are Niall O'Neill, Charlie O'Neill, Michael Rice, Ned Quinn (Secretary, Co. Board), Derek Lyng and Barry Hickey (Treasurer, Co. Board). (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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had received a bye to this stage of the competition were beaten by Fenians. St. Martin's eliminated Tullaroan from the competition; Emeralds had a narrow win over Graig Ballycallan and Lisdowney ended Young Ireland's interest in the championships. The semi-finals were an all-northern teams affair as Lisdowney had a 2-13 to St. Martins 0-15 win and Fenians defeated Emeralds 1-10 to 0-10. Because of the delays in the Roinn A Championship it was Lisdowney and Fenians who provided the curtain raiser on county final day in Nowlan Park and the two sides played out an exciting draw finishing Lisdowney 2-10 to Fenians 1-13 in front of a large crowd. The replay, played with the Roinn A final as a double header in Nowlan Park on 8th November was an equally absorbing contest but the Fenians, thanks mainly to two goals from Enda Purcell and David Ryan, scored in the first five minutes of the second half, finished victorious on a tally of 3-12 to Lisdowney's 1-13.

Teams and scorers were
Fenians John Sweeney, Michael Drennan, William Brennan, Martin Dermody, Eddie Curran, Conor Tobin 0-3 (0-2 frees, 0-1 65'), *Tom Bowe, Donal Wilson, Ciaran Behan* 0-4 (0-2 frees), *Breffni Purcell* 0-2, *Rory Phelan* 0-1, *Christopher Leahy* 0-1, *Enda Purcell* 2-0, *Danny Dermody* 0-1, *David Ryan* 1-0. *Sub. Kevin Murphy.*
Lisdowney Laurence O' Carroll 0-1, *Ciarrán Bergin, Michael Lennon, Andrew Hickey, Niall Kenny, Sean Phelan, George Healy, Aaron Fogarty* 0-4 (0-1 free 0-1 65'), *Jamie Bergin, Shane Brophy, Pat O'Carroll* 1-1, *Simon Randall* 0-1, *Edward Kenny* 0-4, *Conor Stapleton, Kevin Sweeney* 0-2 (0-1 free).
Referee Richard Dowling (Kilmacow)

At the time of writing the Kilkenny Honda Centre Roinn B Hurling League is not complete. The shield final will feature St. Lactain's and Fenians while the Harps have qualified for the League final and will play either Young Irelands or Lisdowney who have yet to meet in the second semi-final.

Kilkenny Citreon Centre Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C

Ten teams took part in the Roinn C Minor Hurling Championship. In a first round game Ógra Graigue/Blacks & Whites defeated Ballyhale Shamrocks. At the quarter final stage O' Loughlin Gaels B, Bennetsbridge, Cloneen and Ógra Graig/Blacks & Whites accounted for Galmoy/Windgap, Piltown, Slieverue and Tullogher Rosbercon respectively. Bennetsbridge had a victory by the narrowest margin possible over Cloneen in the semi-final surviving by 2-11 to 2-10 to set up a final meeting with O' Loughlin Gaels B who beat Ógra Graig/Blacks & Whites by 2-16 to 2-11. In an entertaining and closely fought County Final it was Bennetsbridge who recovered from a shaky start to



Fenians - County MH "B" Championship Winners 2009

Back: Kevin Murphy, Colin Dowling, Chris Hughes, Brandon Webster, David Walsh, Niall Walsh.
Middle: Martin Dermody, Christopher Leahy, Rory Phelan, Ciaran Beehan, Conor Tobin (Capt.), Breffni Purcell, Donal Wilson, Tom Bowe, David Ryan.
Front: Daniel Dermody, Eddie Curran, Willie Brennan, John Sweeney, Enda Purcell, Michael Drennan, Jack Cullinane.



Lisdowney - County MH "B" Championship Finalists 2009

Back: Michael Kenny, Eoin Lyons, Simon Randen, Jamie Bergin, Shane Ruth, Pat O'Carroll.
Middle: Shane Brophy, George Healy, Andrew Hickey, Aaron Fogarty, Niall Kenny, Ciaran Bergin, Kieran Skehan.
Front: Conor Stapleton, Michael Lennon, Sean Phelan, Ciaran O'Carroll, Edward Kenny, Kevin Sweeney, Laurence O'Carroll.

make the most of wind advantage in the second half and emerge victorious at the end of the hour on a score of 2-11 to 1-8

Teams and scorers were
Bennetsbridge Tom Kiely, Jonathan Neville, Robert Lennon 0-1 (free), *Jack McCarron, Cormac Wafer, Paul O' Neill, David Kealy, Aidan Cleere* 0-5 (0-2 frees, 0-1 65'), *Gary Geoghegan* 0-1, *Eoghan O' Connor, Gavin Hickey* 1-0, *Christopher Fitzpatrick* 0-1, *Enda Morrissey, Hugh O' Neill* 0-1, *Eamon Ó Connor* 1-2. *Subs William Murphy, Alan Byrne, O' Loughlin Gaels Brian Cantwell, Daryl*

Butler, Mark Croughan, Luke Kavanagh, Seán Brennan, Killian Phelan, Pádraig Meaney, David Burke 0-2, *Sean Weymss* 0-1 (free), *Kevin McGarry* 0-1, *Daniel Lenehan* 0-1, *Cathal O' Leary* 1-0m (Sideline), *Gavin Mahoney, Jamie Glennon* 0-1, *Billy Leydon* 0-1 (65'). *Subs Alan Grincell* 0-1, *Seán Brennan, James Burke.*
Referee John Walsh (Rower Inistioge)

In the Kilkenny Honda Centre Hurling League Roinn C final Cloneen defeated Piltown on a 2-12 to 1-14 score line while O' Loughlin Gaels B were beaten in the Shield Final by Galmoy Windgap.



Eoin Hennessy

Bennettsbridge - County MH Roinn "C" Champions 2009

Back: John Byrne (Selector), Gary Geoghegan, Jonathan Neville, Willie Murphy, Aidan Cleere, Alan Byrne, Eamon O'Connor, Cormac Wafer, Gavin Hickey, David Kealy, Robert Lennon, Jamie Monaghan, Shane Brennan, John Brennan (Manager).

Front: Christy Walsh (Trainer), Chris Fitzpatrick, Eoghan O'Connor, Hugh O'Neill, Paul O'Neill, Tom Kiely (capt.), Enda Morrissey, Jack Mulcarron, Shane Egan.

Cloneen - Minor Hurling League Roinn 'C' Champions 2009

Back: Aran Coogan, Pdraig Delaney, Shane Kerins, Mark Maguire, Darrell Sheehan, Gearoid O'Neill, M.J. Feehan.

Middle: Liam O'Neill, Michael Feehan, Colm Egan, Aengus Daly, Gavin Mansfield, Branaoin Buggy, Dean Shortall, Kevin Delaney, Anthony O'Neill, Sean O'Neill, Michael Delaney.

Front: Paul Kelly, Shane Purcell, Brian Cahill, Pdraig Maher, Cormac McDonald (Captain), David Wilson, Ciaran Brennan.



Eoin Hennessy

Galmoy/Windgap - Minor C Shield Champions 2009

Back: Jack Phelan (Selector), John Ryan (Trainer), Frank Phelan, Kieran Purcell, Kieran Power, Patrick Moore, Jimmy Walsh (Trainer), Eamon Corcoran (Trainer).

Middle: Thomas Phelan (Bawn), Stephen Purcell, Cian Ryan, Sean Foley, Ian Murphy, Thomas Phelan (Castletown), Wesley Smith, Edward Cunningham.

Front: Micheál Phelan, Adrian Landy, Peter Landy, Patrick Foley, Thomas Corcoran, Jason Stanley, Shane Walsh.



Eoin Hennessy

St Lachtain's 1961/1963 Remembered

On County Final day, 2009, the County Board invited the survivors of the St Lachtain's 1961 & 1963 teams which won the County Finals of those years, beating the Near South (4-5 to 0-12) and Tullogher (1-7 to 0-3), respectively, to Nowlan Park as special guests at the Senior and Minor finals and afterwards to a reception sponsored by Springhill Court Hotel.



St. Lachtain's Senior Hurling Champions from 1961 and 1963 who were honoured at the County Final in Nowlan Park

Back: Tommy Butler, Michael Maher, Michael Teehan, Seamus Cahill, Sean Rafferty, John Teehan, Martin Dalton, Dinny Butler, Kevin Dalton, Jimmy Dooley, Dick Keoghan, Jimmy Cullinane.

Front: Paddy Leacy, Jack Cahill, Paul Kinsella (Cathaoirleach CLG), Pa Dillon, Seamus O'Carroll (Springhill Court Hotel), John Delaney, Sean O'Shea.



St Lachtain's County SH Champions 1961

Back: Jim Bergin (Trainer), Pa Dillon, Din Maher, Kevin Dalton, Mick Killeen, Billy Dalton, Sean Rafferty, John Teehan, Dick Keoghan, Seamus Cahill, Sean O'Shea, Jim Ryan, Jack Delaney, Alfie Hickey.

Front: Michael Teehan, Johnny Butler, Denis Butler, Wally Cody, Martin Dalton, Jack Cahill, John Manogue, Jimmy Dooley, Jimmy Cullinane, Tommy Butler.



St Lachtain's County SH Champions 1963

Back: Pa Dillon, Tommy Butler, Sean Rafferty, John Teehan, John Manogue, Kevin Dalton, Larry Carroll, Jack Cahill, Sean O'Shea, Michael Maher, Jim Farrell, Jimmy Cullinane, Alfie Hickey.

Front: Jim Ryan, Denis Butler, Paddy Leacy, Jimmy Dooley, Michael Burke, John Delaney, Sean Buckley, Martin Dalton, Johnny Butler.

THAT WAS THE DECADE THAT WAS

by Enda McEvoy (*Sunday Tribune*)

He's a gentleman of uncertain age (fresh-looking, mind), long domiciled in Kilkenny city but originally from the south of the county, not far from the Tipperary border. We'll call him Dan, largely because that's his name. Dan is a regular in the New Stand in Nowlan Park. He's also a regular at Kilkenny games and over the course of the past two decades has been good enough to chauffeur me to many a championship fixture. He was present at Croke Park on 6 September last to witness the culmination of the most glorious decade in the county's history. Naturally he was present there too on the day it might be said that the decade began, on 12 September 1999. Brian Cody's first All Ireland final as manager. Cork 0-13 Kilkenny 0-12.

Remember the heartbreak? Remember the horror? Remember the rain? I'll tell you what I remember: Dan's words when I got back to the car afterwards near Fairview. "What a friggin' disaster, Enda." Quite. (For me more than most Kilkenny folk, as it happened. That April, having seen how smoothly Kilkenny were moving and what a stylistic turnaround Cody had effected within six months of taking over, I'd stuck £200 – 200 punts, for younger readers – on them to win the All Ireland at odds of 6/1. It's one of many reflections on the Cody regnum that the concept of Kilkenny entering the championship at 6/1 these days is as remote as a Martian invasion. No, sorry. Far more remote.)

What follows isn't a review of the decade. It couldn't be. There's way too much ground to cover, far too many threads to unwind. But a couple of points ought to be made.

First off, the manager's flexibility. It's not a word usually associated with Brian Cody, yet it's immensely relevant nonetheless. Look: if Cody were the stern, unbending patriarch of caricature he couldn't possibly have learned and changed as he went along. He wouldn't have been able to, he wouldn't have wanted to and Kilkenny would still be stuck in their Route One rut of 2003-04, the defenders lamping the sliotar a mile up into their air and leaving the forwards to take it from there. They'd be the Rolling Stones of the GAA world, growing old inelegantly, cranking out the same hackneyed chords. Start me up? Turn them off.

But Cody isn't that kind of man. Well, he may have been at one stage, but he evolved. He evolved and he brought his team – teams, rather – with him. Among his greatest strengths in his 11 years in the job have been his powers of analysis and his willingness to throw the pieces up in the air in order to create new shapes. No defeat was ever dismissed as "one of those things". Every setback had a root cause which was subsequently isolated, identified and extirpated. Losing to Galway in the 2001 All Ireland semi-final showed him that hunger and high standards can never be taken for granted,

that eternal vigilance had to become the price of success and that every game was a war which had to be entered on a war footing. Losing to Galway in the 2005 All Ireland semi-final demonstrated to him the importance of making space his friend, although one suspects that Martin Fogarty and Mick Dempsey weren't slow to reinforce the message; Kilkenny were beaten that day not because they failed to score enough but because they leaked – from midfield backwards – like a particularly leaky sieve, with Galway creating overlaps and carving them open almost at will as the game went on. The losers were punished not for playing badly but for being unable to protect their space. Making Tommy Walsh a pillar of the defence the following spring was the first critical decision that would lead to the four-in-a-row, recasting Cha Fitzpatrick as a defensive midfielder (a seventh defender, to all intents and purposes) the second. As referred to in his autobiography, Cody wasn't happy with something yours truly wrote on these pages at the end of 2005, yet elsewhere he concedes that Kilkenny were "on their knees" at that precise moment in time. His willingness to embrace change was the eureka moment that raised them from that low and heralded the onset of all manner of new wonders.

Another of his strengths is the awareness – nay, the insistence – that time is fleeting. If Cody is ever looking for future employment he might consider moonlighting as a restaurant critic. No sooner is one match/dinner finished than it's history. Over and done with. Tomorrow's fish-and-chip wrapping. Not to be dwelled on. Next game, next challenge, next restaurant, next review, next trophy.

An item that cannot pass unsaid concerns Kilkenny's unsung heroes. From a cast of thousands I'll give you three. James McGarry, Derek Lyng, Noel Richardson. McGarry conceded three goals in six All Ireland finals; yes, he had a good defence in front of him, but one of the reasons the defence in front of him was good was that McGarry organised it so efficiently. Lyng, who was playing junior with his club when originally called up to the county panel, was the 25/1 outsider that Cody stuck a fiver on each way and saw romp in. Lyng was smart, ambitious, happy to do the heavy lifting in midfield and blessed with the engine and the accuracy to land a staggering 0-34 from play in his 35 championship outings. Finally, Richardson. Kilkenny have contested 18 championship fixtures on his watch as trainer and won them all. Time and again the former international athlete has had them primed and ready to hurl for their lives. On the days when it was clear they wouldn't have to hurl for their lives – this year's Leinster final with Dublin, for instance – the petrol was rationed with sufficient care and accuracy to get them through. And in the one game of the 18 where they came up against a team that were no less fit and hungry, the 2009 All Ireland final, there was still enough in the tank to enable them to win going away.



James McGarry



Derek Lyng



Noel Richardson

So the 2000s went on and most years Dan made the journey to Croke Park in September and most years came home happy. Not as happy as he might have been, however. This, you'll recall, was a man who grew up near the border with Tipperary. He was too young in 1937 but he remembered 1945 and he was there in 1950 and there again in 1964 and '71 and '91. Nice as it was to win All Irelands against Cork and Limerick and Waterford, here was a man who wasn't quite sated. "If I live to see us beat Tipp in a final," he was heard to declare more than once, "I'll die happy."

6 September 2009. Of all the All Irelands won by Kilkenny in modern times, this was the most important. Not necessarily the sweetest – 2006 versus Cork probably takes the palm in that regard – and not necessarily the one that marked a decisive turn in the road, a la 2000, or a signpost to a land of milk and honey (2006 again). But 2009 was a crucial victory simply because the consequences of failure were so enormous. Losing to Tipperary wouldn't have constituted merely a defeat, it would have constituted Armageddon. The three-in-a-row would have been rendered an irrelevance; the near-perfect performance against Waterford 12 months earlier would have been dismissed as a walk in the park against opponents who'd failed to turn up;

Kilkenny's most successful ever team would have been beaten by younger Tipperary opponents, in a rerun of Killarney in 1937; the county's inauspicious All Ireland record versus the Blue and Gold would have continued; and for the next 50 years, at the very least, residents of the western fringes of Kilkenny (and not only from the western fringes either) would have been getting it in the neck from their neighbours across the border. "The sight of the jersey!" "Tipp for the men!" Etc etc.

A fate worse than a fate worse than death was thus avoided, but only barely. Tipp were magnificent on the day and would have made splendid winners. As it was they were glorious, and deeply unlucky, losers. The penalty. The free against Padraic Maher just before half-time and the non-free against Jackie Tyrrell early on. The push on Paul Curran. Eoin Kelly slipping in the act of pulling the trigger when facing PJ Ryan. Conor O'Mahony slipping in the run-up to the penalty. All the might-have-beens.

Great champions deserve great opponents, as Ali had with Frazier

and Arkle had with Mill House. After two seasons of smiting sundry opponents with great righteousness and furious vengeance, Kilkenny were finally faced by a team as determined as they were and scarcely less talented. The upshot was the best All Ireland final of modern times – and by extension the best All Ireland final ever. Fabulous as the hallowed showdown of 1947 may have been, it couldn't have come within an ass's roar of this one for pace, intensity, grinding physicality and the precision deployment of the skills under the fiercest of pressure. Tipp hurled above themselves; Kilkenny hurled slightly below themselves – or, more to the point, weren't allowed hurl above themselves. Mark the losers out of 10 and there was only one who merited less than a seven. Mark the winners out 10 and if there were only two who merited more than an eight there was only one who merited less than a seven. This was a race run on its merits from pillar to post in record time.

"If you'd said to me beforehand that we'd have that many lads playing well and we still wouldn't win, I'd have been surprised," Eamon O'Shea, the Tipperary coach, remarked later. Indeed; imagine hitting 23 scores in an All Ireland final and losing. Clare and Wexford managed 14 apiece when triumphant in 1995 and '96 respectively; Kilkenny hit 15 when winning in 2003. Six years later they performed indifferently on the big day, they were hurled up a stick for 25 minutes of the second half, yet they scored 2-22 (in tune with their average output) and they had 11 different scorers, all of them from play, a record for an All Ireland final. You can say that Tipp didn't deserve to lose and you'd be dead right. But you can't say that Kilkenny didn't deserve to win.

By the by, there's one facet of Kilkenny's game in recent times that has passed largely unremarked: their accuracy under pressure. Staring down the barrel of a gun against Galway in Tullamore in the Leinster semi-final they reeled off 10 points in succession, interspersed with barely a wide. Staring down the barrel of a gun in the closing quarter against Tipperary, with a wide by the champions constituting the equivalent of a point for the challengers, Henry Shefflin and TJ Reid and Michael Fennelly all landed must-score efforts from out the field. In the closing 62 minutes of the game, in fact, the winners hit only three wides, two of them from Eoin Larkin at a time when the match was won. That's a total of seven wides in the last two All Ireland finals. Accurate when they could afford to be wasteful and accurate when they couldn't.



The Save! PJ Ryan blocks Seamus Callanan's pile-driver in the All Ireland Final.

John McIlwaine

Victory, like expensive make-up, has a neat habit of obscuring small blemishes. It may sound carping to say that the Kilkenny management, for the first time in ages, didn't totally cover themselves in glory on 6 September, but bear with us. (C'mon, you don't want this article to be a paean from start to finish, do you?) The decision to start Shefflin on the edge of the square was dubious, given that he was never going to wreak the same kind of havoc against Padraic Maher that he'd incinerated the smaller and lighter Aidan Kearney with in the semi-final, and was compounded by its inevitable corollary: by playing straight-lines hurling the holders spurned variety in attack and left their corner-forwards underemployed. It's inarguable that Martin Comerford, who set up a goal and two points as well as scoring the winning goal, should have been introduced six or seven minutes beforehand; in the same way an old horseracing maxim advises that the jockey on a good horse should maximise his mount's superior pace by asserting it from the start, a team with greater strength in depth – as everyone acknowledged beforehand about the defending champions vis a vis Tipp, and as the subs would prove by scoring 1-2 between them - should make use of it by getting their subs on smartly. Might Kilkenny have won by seven or eight points, regardless of how blatantly unreflective of the pattern of the game such an outcome would have been, had they been more proactive earlier? That's idle speculation now. All's well that ends well. The bottom line is the only line.

Back in the early part of the decade, internet chatrooms were clogged with contributors from Munster counties asserting that Kilkenny had an unfair advantage in terms of winning All Irelands because they "had it easy" in Leinster. Said contributors have been required to find new hobbyhorses in the interim, for not only have Kilkenny beaten all five Munster counties in All Ireland finals during the noughties, their average winning margin against the seven outfits they met from the province along the road to four in a row amounted to 8.57 points. (Strip the 2008 All Ireland final out of it and the figure is 6.16 points.) On Cody's watch, moreover, the Black and Amber's championship record against Tipp has been, if not quite transformed, then at any rate heavily revised. Three meetings, three victories, the third of them the sweetest of all. Or as Dan said to me when we met up afterwards that evening: "The four-in-a-row meant nothing to me. Beating Tipp was what it was about."

Which brings us back to where we started. It lashed rain on 12 September 1999. It hasn't rained much since, has it?

PS Sometime in mid-October I rang Dan's house, looking for one of his offspring. The man himself answered the phone and, unprompted, announced that he'd been feeling ten years younger since the All Ireland final. Odd; I reckoned he might have said 20.

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



Kilkenny County Board Management Committee 2009

Back: Eddie Blackmore (Health & Safety), John Healy (Central Council), Ned Buggy (Fixtures), Pat Henderson, Jimmy Walsh (Leinster Council), Seamus Reade, John Comerford, Val Malone.

Front: Conor Denieffe (PRO), Ned Quinn (Secretary), Paul Kinsella (Chairman), Barry Hickey (Treasurer), Pat Dunphy (Vice Chairman) *Eoin Hennessy*

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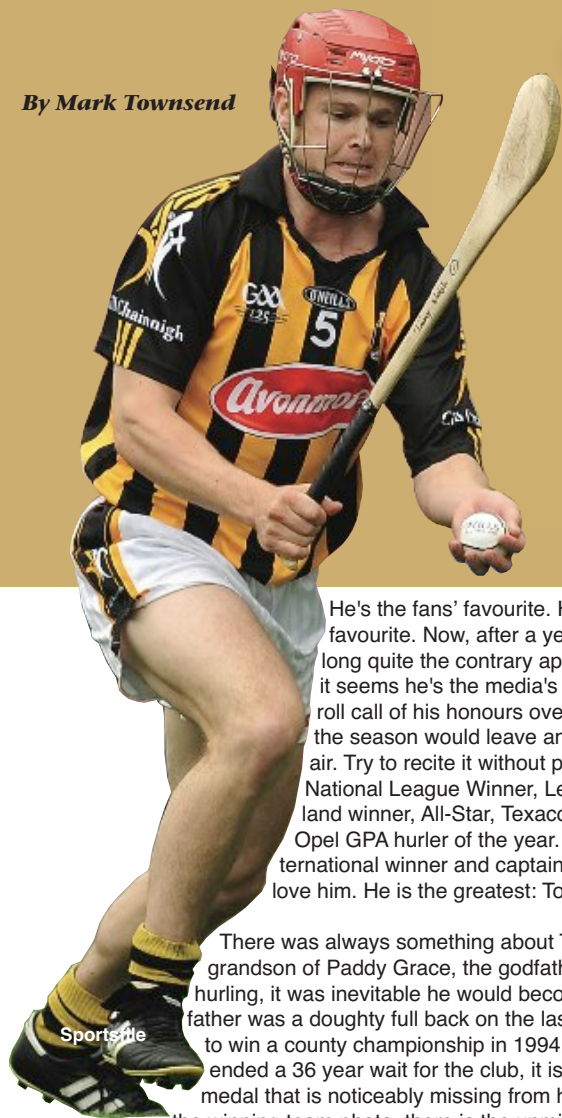
email: hennessyconcrete@eircom.net



By Mark Townsend

Tommy Walsh - the People's Champion!

***A tribute to Tommy Walsh: Texaco, Opel GPA and
Vodafone GAA Hurler of the year.***



He's the fans' favourite. He's the players' favourite. Now, after a year in which for so long quite the contrary appeared the case, it seems he's the media's favourite too. A roll call of his honours over the course of the season would leave anyone gasping for air. Try to recite it without pausing for breath. National League Winner, Leinster and All-Ireland winner, All-Star, Texaco, Vodafone and Opel GPA hurler of the year. Hurling/Shinty International winner and captain. I love him. You love him. He is the greatest: Tommy Walsh.

There was always something about Tommy. Born a grandson of Paddy Grace, the godfather of Kilkenny hurling, it was inevitable he would become a hurler. His father was a doughty full back on the last Tullaroan team to win a county championship in 1994. A victory that ended a 36 year wait for the club, it is still the one medal that is noticeably missing from his collection. In the winning team photo, there is the unmistakable presence of an 11 year old blond haired chap kneeling in front. Hurl at the ready, waiting for his chance. Primed. Tommy. Michael played the game. His son helped convert it into an art form.

From his first days hurling it was obvious this was a boy of unique ability. Even though he was part of a magnificent group of hurlers in Tullaroan, one that had the distinction of winning three consecutive schools titles (Roinn C, Roinn B and Roinn A) in the early nineties, his talent still stood out as something special. Left side, right side, hooking, blocking, he had all the skills. But it wasn't just that.

One of the things that struck Ned Kennedy most, a teacher in the national school of Tullaroan in his formative years, was his competitive nature. In 1994 the side was set to go through the whole year unbeaten in all competitions when Ned, conscious of the fact that "it wouldn't do our boys any harm to experience a defeat", decided to blow for "an imaginary foul" in one of their final challenge matches against Tullogher. That one point turnover resulted in the loss of the cherished unbeaten record, a result which still niggles Tommy to this day. As Ned said in conversation "He's mentioned it to me the last few times I've seen him. I don't think he's forgiven me for it yet"

Another thing that Ned marvelled at was the way the then right corner back always listened to his advice "I remember showing a video of a Kilkenny championship match to the boys as a coaching aid once. One of the clips was a magnificent long range handpass by DJ Carey into the Kilkenny full forward line that resulted in a goal. The following week we were playing St John's school and we were winning well. The ball was in our defence and I remember thinking 'where's the little scamp?', he wasn't to be seen. It was cleared out to midfield then and there he was. He got the ball, went on a bit of a solo run and gave an exact copy of the handpass into Shane Hennessy who scored a goal."

Mention of Shane Hennessy inevitably brings one onto the subject of the Feile. When Tullaroan won the All-Ireland A title in 1997 they had two outstanding leaders on the pitch. One was Hennessy; a giant of a youth who even at the age of fourteen was scoring points from 90 yards in the final against Sarsfields of Cork. The other, of course, was Tommy.

In terms of size he was perhaps the polar opposite of Hennessy. In terms of skill though, he was his, and everyone else's, superior. The late, great Ned Power of Waterford made reference to it in his column in the Dungarvan leader later that week saying "we'll be paying good money to see him play one day". Lining up at full back beside the customary big, awkward full-forward, Power remembered feeling awfully sorry "for the Tullaroan number three". It did not take him long to realise however, that his pity was misplaced.

The big man/little man scenario was one that was repeated year on year. Even in 2000 when playing in an All-Ireland colleges final for St Kierans, Adrian Finnan remembers unsuspecting St Flannans mentors throwing every one of their full forward line onto the young left corner back in an attempt to detect a weakness. Unsurprisingly, they never did. In the end their manager conceded defeat in the Kieran's dressing room later, adding ruefully "When the young lad playing left corner back grows up he'll be a great hurler".



***Tommy makes one of his typical bursts from defence in the
All Ireland semi-final against Waterford.***

The lack of height always seemed to be an issue, and yet he never let it be. Instead he developed a few "tricks of the trade", and a way of timing his jumps when catching the ball that would put most six footers to shame. Adrian Finnan recalls countless big lads going in on top of Tommy over the years and "they'd end up pulling on him because they realised they were getting nowhere". Years later the scenario hasn't changed.



Tullaroan - All Ireland Feile na nGael Champions 1997

Photo: Michael O'Hehir

Behind: Team Officials, Michael Walsh, Bobby Sweeney, Ned Kennedy.

Centre: Stephen Maher, Niall Ronan, Sean Glennon, Padraig Kennedy, Shane Hennessy (Capt), Richard Butler, James Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Eddie Campion, John Joe Mullally, Michael Ryan, Eamon Brennan.

Front: Paul Kinsella, Damien Delaney, Gerard O'Dea, Tommy Walsh, Nicholas Maher, Alan Connolly, Martin Brennan, Richard Walsh, Chris Breen, Robert Moore, Michael Mullally, Michael Maher.

When he left St Kierans after a fine Leaving cert which included an A1 in honours Maths, his next port of call was UCC. There, his displays in the Fitzgibbon Cup are still spoken about to this day. Very few Kilkenny players are called up to the senior panel in their first year out of minor. But in 2002, his outstanding club performances insisted he be brought into the squad for the latter stages of the championship. He started to make his first appearances the following spring in the National League. When playing, it seemed the hurling public in Nowlan Park, who are always encouraging of young hurlers, seemed to be egging him on even that little bit more than his colleagues. It was obvious in their eyes he was the chosen one. And he didn't disappoint.

That first year was a whirlwind of excitement. A first league medal recorded in a spring, a debut Leinster in the summer. The goal in the semi-final against Tipperary and his euphoric celebration afterwards. Three points in the All-Ireland final and another goal that might have been. By the end of the year an All-Ireland medal was pocketed as well as an All-Star at midfield. So far, so easy. It never is, of course. But he made it look so.

By his fourth year, four All-Star awards had been received in, what must be some kind of record, four different lines of the field. It had never occurred to his previous mentors that he could be used as a forward, although some have sagely remarked since "with that level of skill he could play anywhere". Since then a relative stability has been reached, each one over the past three seasons has been recorded at right half back. Seven years on the Kilkenny team, he has won an All-Star in each season. He is now level with Mikey Sheehy and Noel Skehan with only Pat Spillane, DJ and Henry still to surpass.

With all the roses and petals that have been laid at his feet in his time playing, it was predictable one day there would be a backlash of sorts. Initially it was that, despite all his fine hurling, he was too "loose" a player to make it as a back. In a hark back to his early days at Kieran's it was felt his desire to hurl had hindered his ability to defend. Fingers were pointed at his performances in the 2004 season, particularly in the All-Ireland semi-final against Waterford when Paul Flynn managed to siphon four points from play against him. It was a minor flaw in his game, but one he worked at to be rendered almost unnoticeable. Nobody got more than a point from play against him in this year's championship. In the final, he so negated his immediate opponent John O'Brien that he was substituted after 50 minutes.

In recent times, more scurrilous and lurid allegations have been made against him. Attention was drawn to a hurl thrown in the league final against Tipperary, and two offences in the first round match against Galway this year that could have resulted in a sending off. By now,

some of the more diplomatic commentators were referring to his play as "on the edge". Other commentators or "supporters", were more bluntly labelling him as dirty.

It seemed a pretty spurious remark, that this slightly built 5'9 half-back was a supposed hard man of the game. Sure he played hard, he had to, hurling is a hard physical game. But a couple of indiscretions do not a dirty player make. It wasn't Tommy who instigated the row with Seamus Prendergast at the start of last year's All Ireland final. When Benny Dunne lashed out at him with the hurl in the All-Ireland final he didn't lie on the floor, seeking to get the player off. On the contrary, he was up on his feet within moments to resume the game.

That's why his most recent accolades have seemed a vindication of sorts. As if members of the GAA and the media realised the criticism of him had reached a disproportionate level and that it was time his superb hurling, not his supposed rough play, was acknowledged. When he won the Vodafone hurler of the year award he was only in the Citywest a few hours before returning home to play in the relegation final against Young Irelands the next day. And of course, he won and played well that day too.

In the aftermath of this year's All-Ireland victory his manager, basking in the success of four in a row, and comfortable in speaking his mind to the media, felt the need to defend his star player from the unwarranted criticism he had been subjected to over the past year.

"Here is a guy who has been vilified all year. This has really annoyed me and brings no credit to those who are trying to depict Tommy as something he's not. There's nothing wrong with hurling as played by Tommy Walsh. In fact, he epitomises the very best of what it's about. So, instead of experimenting with new rules which detract from the game, we should be holding the likes of Tommy up as a role model on how to play the game."

Those were the words of Brian Cody. The man himself Tommy labelled "The greatest". But in order to become this, Cody needed great players on the pitch to mirror his dedication off it. Players like Henry Shefflin, Eddie Brennan, Noel Hickey and Michael Kavanagh since 2000. Players like J.J. Delaney, Derek Lyng and Martin Comerford since 2002, who have shown a resilience and a hunger to win year after year.

The men who have won all those All-Irelands. The men who have risen above the criticism to assert themselves as the greatest hurling team of all time. The men who helped create "a spirit that can never be broken". A spirit epitomised, perhaps most of all, by Tommy Walsh.



One of the Best Competitions Ever

Bord Na nÓg Under 16 Report by Martin Quilty (Secretary)



Thomastown - Roinn "A" U16 Championship Winners 2009

Back. Mark Walsh, Robert O'Hanrahan, Michael Donnelly, Andrew Kehoe, Darragh McGarry, Kevin Butler, Barry Whelan, Liam O' Keeffe, Brian Bradshaw, Luke Blanchfield, Gary Lehane.

Front. Eoin Manning, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Kieran Treacy[capt], Neil O'Meara, Gary Mason, Adrian Burke, Andrew Walsh, Eddie Corrway.

Championship Roinn A

The year 2009 witnessed one of the best ever Under 16 competitions in Kilkenny at Roinn A. Thomastown, Kilmacow, Dicksboro and Emeralds had victories over Clara, St Patricks, James Stephens and O'Loughlin Gaels respectively in the quarter finals of the competition. Thomastown met Emeralds in the first semi-final while Dicksboro played Kilmacow in the opposite half of the draw. Both games were of excellent quality and great entertainment. After winning the League final Emeralds were favourites for the championship. However, Thomastown had other ideas and after an epic game in John Locke's Park in Callan, the southern team won by three points to reach the County Final. In the other semi-final Kilmacow played Dicksboro but the two teams could not be separated on their first meeting as the game went to extra time and still ended in a draw. In the replay Kilmacow turned in a classy performance and defeated Dicksboro thus qualifying to play Thomastown in the final. It was the first time since 1999 that there was no city team in the Under 16 Roinn A county final.

The final was played in Ballyhale. Kilmacow were not helped in the final when they lost two very good backs to injuries early in the first half and the Kilmacow forwards squandered some excellent opportunities in front of goal. When the Kilmacow backs conceded a penalty, which was converted for a goal it set Thomastown on their way to a well deserved victory to claim the honours for 2009. Final score Thomastown 3-13 Kilmacow 0-11

Championship Roinn B

Again like the Roinn A championship this was an absolute tremendous competition and with all teams evenly matched. It could have been anybody's trophy. Fourteen teams took part and in the first round in which Barrow Rangers, Erins Own, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Mullinavat, Graigue Ballycallan and Bennettsbridge had wins over Mooncoin, Piltown, Conahy Shamrocks, Danesfort, St Martins and Glenmore. In the quarterfinals John Lockes, Bennettsbridge, St Lachtains and Graigue Ballycallan had wins over Ballyhale, Erins Own, Barrow Rangers and Mullinavat. The semi-final draw saw Bennettsbridge meet St Lachtains which proved a high scoring match

with the 'Bridge boys coming out on top in the end by six points, final score Bennettsbridge 1-21 St Lachtains 2-12. In the second semi-final Graigue Ballycallan played John Lockes. As in the Roinn A semi final these teams could not be separated on the first occasion after the Ballycallan boys got an equalising point late in injury time to bring the game level after extra time which meant a replay. Again the replay was a close match but Ballycallan having learned from their mistakes in the first game went on to win the match by four points. The final score was Graigue Ballycallan 1-13, John Lockes 1-9.

The County Final can only be described as the best game of underage hurling played in Kilkenny this year. The final was played in front of an enormous crowd in Larchfield. Having had a tough battle in the semi Graigue Ballycallan boys probably had more pressure on them going into the final. It was an epic contest with both teams going all out for the win; the skill level was great, it was entertaining hurling and the large crowd enjoyed every minute of the game. After the final whistle it was all square so a replay was needed to find the victors. The replay was played in the Nowlan Park and both sets of players were delighted to be able to get the chance to play there. Again a large crowd was present to see what was hoped to be another enthralling contest and they were not disappointed. After fifty-nine minutes of hurling it looked like this would go to extra-time which the crowd would have enjoyed but the Ballycallan boys held their nerve to get a goal with virtually the last puck of the game to claim victory. Final score Graigue Ballycallan 2-15 Bennettsbridge 1-1.

Championship Roinn C

This was an exciting competition with fourteen teams taking part. They battled it out through the first round and quarter finals to leave Galmoy/Windgap playing Rower Inistioge and Fenians playing Ógra Graigue/Blacks & Whites. Having twopairs of combination teams involved was of great interest to people keeping an eye on this competition to see how other teams would fair against them. Galmoy/Windgap had been joined the year before but it was a new combination to have the Skeoughvosteen and Graignamanagh



Eoin Hennessy

Emeralds - Roinn "A" U16 League Winners 2009

Back: Ciaran Bergin, Niall O'Gorman, Daire Gleeson, Shane Fitzgerald, Thomas Moriarty, Joseph Kavanagh, Shane Moriarty, Brian Webster, Michael Fitzgerald, Matthew Kavanagh.

Middle: Jimmy Tobin, Alan Guilfoyle, Brian Troy, Paul Bowden, Anthony Farrell, James Tobin, James Kenny, Vincent Webster, David O'Gorman, Ray Moriarty, Keith Grant, David Moriarty.

Front: Eoin Moriarty, Cathal Walsh, Nicholas Walsh, Jamie Ryan, Darragh Doyle, Shane Pollard, Conor Martin, Shane Quinlan.



Eoin Hennessy

Graigue Ballycallan - Roinn "B" U16 Championship Winners 2009

Back: Diarmuid Walsh, James Gleeson, Eoin Corcoran, Eoin Robinson, Ger Teehan, Padraig Tynan, William O'Connor, P.J. Trant, Darragh Egan, Conor Cleere, Jamie Hogan, John Doheny.

Front: Daniel Cahill, Conor Murphy, Peter Boland, Philip Doheny, Sean Tynan, John Dunphy (Capt) Tommy Egan, Shane Butler, Vincent Teehan, Geoffrey Maher.

teams joined. Both teams were hoping to do well and reach the county final but the Rower Inistioge and Fenians stood in their way. In the first semi-final game Galmoy/Windgap had a very tough battle with Rower Inistioge and they just persevered in the end with a four-point victory. In the other semi-final the Ógra Graigue/Blacks & Whites boys dispatched Fenians with a comprehensive twenty point victory. So the two joint teams had to battle it out for the county title.

The game was played in Nowlan Park in front of a very large crowd, as it was part of a double header that day. The game was the

curtain raiser to the Roinn B replay and this game didn't spoil the afternoon, as it was a game again of high skill from both sides. The men from the Barrow valley were just that bit hungrier and at the final whistle they had claimed victory. Final score Ógra Graigue/Blacks & Whites 4-6 Galmoy/Windgap 1-5.

Under 16 League Finals

Roinn A Twelve teams took part in this competition with the teams divided into two groups of 6. Each team played one another and it was run on a league basis. Thomastown, Emeralds, Kilmacow and James

Stephens contested the semi-finals. Emeralds had just one goal to spare over Thomastown while Kilmacow had a four-point victory over James Stephens. That meant there would be an unusual pairing in the final with Emeralds playing Kilmacow. Having asked to go into Roinn A this year Kilmacow was hoping for a good season and what better way to start it off if they could beat the Emeralds in the final played in Nowlan Park. However this was not the case as Emeralds won on a final score Emeralds 3-10 Kilmacow 1-6. It was good experience for Kilmacow and would set them up nicely for the championship later on in the year.



Bennettsbridge - Roinn "B" U16 League Winners 2009

Back: Jimmy Wafer, Eoin Power, Robert Lennon, Jason Cleere, Hugh O'Neill, Patrick Hughes, Cormac Wafer, Kevin Blanchfield, William Murphy, Aidan Byrne, Michael Power, Kevin Brennan, Enda Morrissey, Larry Cleere.
Front: Tommy Lannon, Sean Morrissey, Dylan Walsh, Liam Blanchfield, Michael Shiel, Aidan Cleere, Eoghan O'Connor, Paul O'Neill, Shane Nolan, Ian Morrissey.



Ógra Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites - Roinn "C" U16 League Winners 2009

Back: Nicholas Russell, Michael Coady, Stephen Browne, Bernard Hennessy, Brandon Fenlon, Ryan O'Halloran, Ciaran Manning, James McCabe, Lee Kinsella, Thomas O'Donnell, Eoin Bolger, James Meany, Peter Kavanagh.
Front: Adam Kennedy, Jack Conran, Jim Ryan, James Doyle, Robert Doyle, Seamus Kavanagh, Patrick Dowling, Ciaran O'Brien, Adam Canning, Liam Hearne, Jim Coady.

Roinn B As in the Roinn A league 12 teams took part in the B competition with the teams again divided into two groups of 6, with each team playing the others. Bennettsbridge qualified to play Mullinavat in the semi-final and again as they did in the championship the northern team racked up an impressive points total defeating Mullinavat by a score of, Bennettsbridge 0-20 Mullinavat 2-4. In the other semi-final Erin's

Own played John Lockes. It was a very high scoring game with the 'Comer lads coming out on top, score Erin's Own 4-15 John Lockes 2-13. Bennettsbridge would play Erin's Own in Nowlan Park for the chance to be crowned league champions. In a very enjoyable and high scoring game it the 'Bridge lads who came out on top with final score Bennettsbridge 1-14 Erin's Own 2-9 Roinn C Thirteen teams made up this league

being divided up into two groups. Before we went to print Galmoy/Windgap had defeated Dunnamaggin by 1-11 to 0-10. In the other side there was a two-way tie between James Stephens B and Fenians with the winners to play Ógra Graigue/Blacks & Whites. The play-off game between Fenians and the Village was played with Fenians winning but the semi final has yet to be played.

Tommy O'Connell

By Jim Fogarty



Tommy O'Connell was Kilkenny's top scorer with 3-0 in the drawn All Ireland senior hurling final of 1959. He finished as 3rd highest scorer nationally in that year in games encompassing inter-county league and championship. He played in four successive Kilkenny county senior finals with the Fenians from 1969 to 1972, winning 2 county senior medals in 1970 and 1972. Among his cohorts on those Fenians teams were P.J. Ryan, father of the man-of-match in this years All-Ireland final, Shem Delaney, father of current star J.J., Nickey Orr, Pat Henderson, Pat Delaney and Johnny Moriarty from Gortnahoe.

How did Tommy, who was born in London, develop his interest in and love for Gaelic Games? When his family moved to Crosspatrick, Tommy recalls being brought on his father's bicycle to matches in Thurles. His earliest hurling memories are of watching in awestruck wonder the skills of the "Rubber Man" Tommy Doyle. He is a great admirer of Jim Langton of Kilkenny, whom he first saw in action against Laois in Portlaoise in 1948, a championship game, which Kilkenny lost. Tommy first participated in hurling during tea-breaks when working on the bog. Boys of all ages from 6 to 60 pucked the sliotar through foots of turf and over bogholes.

On commencing in Johnstown Tech, Tommy hurled with the school in the St. Kieran's League. They had many great battles with Freshford, who included among their ranks, Pa Dillon and Sean Buckley, and also with neighbouring Laois teams. On moving to Kilkenny City Tech., Tommy played u-16 and minor hurling with Kilkenny. In the 1957 All-Ireland minor hurling championship, Tommy scored 3-3 in one game, but was not selected for the first fifteen in the All-Ireland final. The minor final of that year was against Tipp, and Tommy

recalls that all the chat in the build-up was about Jimmy Doyle's quest for his 3rd All-Ireland minor medal. Tipp won by 4-7 to 3-7 and indeed the two Doyle brothers, Jimmy and Paddy starred. Tommy came on as a sub for Andy Comerford, the uncle of Andy of the current era, the All-Ireland senior winning captain of 2002. When Tommy was introduced as a sub, he marked Michael Murphy, later the captain of the Tipp senior All-Ireland champions in 1964.

Tommy hurled senior with the Eire Og club in Kilkenny city from 1958 to 1968, but without success. He made his senior inter-county debut with Kilkenny in 1958 in a league match against Dublin in O'Toole Park in 1958. In 1959, Tommy really made his mark at inter-county level in both league and championship. In that year's championship he scored 3-3 against Laois, 1-2 against Dublin in the Leinster Final, and then top-scored with 3-0 against Waterford, in the drawn All-Ireland final which ended Waterford 1-17 Kilkenny 5-5. His marker in the draw and replay was Joe Harney.

The Kilkenny People preview of the drawn game stated that "Tommy O'Connell's task against Joe Harney, who distinguished himself against Cork, is not easy and that the Eire Og man will earn his scores". Mick Dunne in his Irish Press match report on the day after the drawn final referred to Kilkenny's great rally with valuable points and amazing goals and wrote "those goals came from the youngest player afield - 19 year old Tommy O'Connell - who managed 3 goals against Joe Harney, a back who hadn't been beaten for a goal by the great Christy Ring himself in the Munster final".

Waterford won the replay by 3-12 to 1-10. The Waterford backs had learnt well from the drawn game and Tommy and the other Kilkenny forwards were crowded out. Let's not forget that Tommy at 19 weighed only 9-7. I have heard Kilkenny supporters say that Tommy was "roughed out of it". The man himself will not accept that and describes the Waterford team as "hard but fair". In fact he has great admiration for that



Kilkenny SH Team which drew with Waterford in the 1959 All Ireland Final

Back: John Maher, Timmy Kelly, Ollie Walsh, Mickey Kelly, Mick Brophy, Tom Walsh, John Sutton, Liam Cleere, Paddy Kelly, Jim "Link" Walsh.
Front: Diick Carroll, Paddy Buggy, Johnny McGovern, Mick Walsh, Sean Clohosey, Mick Fleming, Denis Heaslip, Tommy O'Connell, Martin Treacy.

Waterford team incorporating such brilliant hurlers as Seamus Power, Philly Grimes, Frankie Walsh, Tom Cheasty, Larry Guinan, etc. He believes that the Waterford team of that era deserved to win more All-Irelands.

In or about that time Tommy recalls travelling to a League Game in Loughiel, Co. Antrim by train. On their return journey as they approached the Border from the Northern side, the train was stopped and boarded by "B Specials" who proceeded to search and interrogate the Kilkenny team. A member of said team, Jim Hennessy of Tullaroan, was taken off the train and detained. This led to the intervention of the Minister for External Affairs on the following day. He procured Jim's release. Hennessy made light of his experience and later told his colleagues that he had been treated royally (no pun intended). Seemingly he was mistaken for a man with the same surname, who was active in the I.R.A. Tommy always roomed with Ollie Walsh. One can only guess at the pranks they participated in.

Tommy played on the Kilkenny team in 1960, but they were beaten in the Leinster final by the Wexford team who went on to win the All-Ireland. He wasn't picked for Kilkenny in 1961 or 1962, perhaps due to Eire Ogs poor form, although he

was a sub on the winning NHL side of 1961-62, as indeed he was in 1965-66. He played on Jim English of Wexford in the Leinster championship of 1963 but shortly afterwards he was struck down with appendicitis. He did receive a Leinster medal that year. He also won a Leinster championship medal in 1966, having replaced Tom Walsh in the semi-final against Offaly and scoring a goal.

Tommy's favourite Kilkenny players include Jim Langton and of the current era J.J. Delaney. Outside of Kilkenny, players he admires include Tommy and Jimmy Doyle. TC as he is affectionately known has made friends throughout the whole of the island and is extremely popular. One is always assured of a good humoured reception when you meet Tommy with the twinkling eyes and hearty laugh.. His power of recall is amazing and he is extremely generous with people who come to chat with him. His thoughtfulness and respect for others is obvious. Hurling in Tommy's era was a cause for friendship. Nowadays he is known to play a good game of golf and he particularly enjoys meeting former and current hurling acquaintances. Tommy, may you continue for many more years to "drive it straight down the middle".

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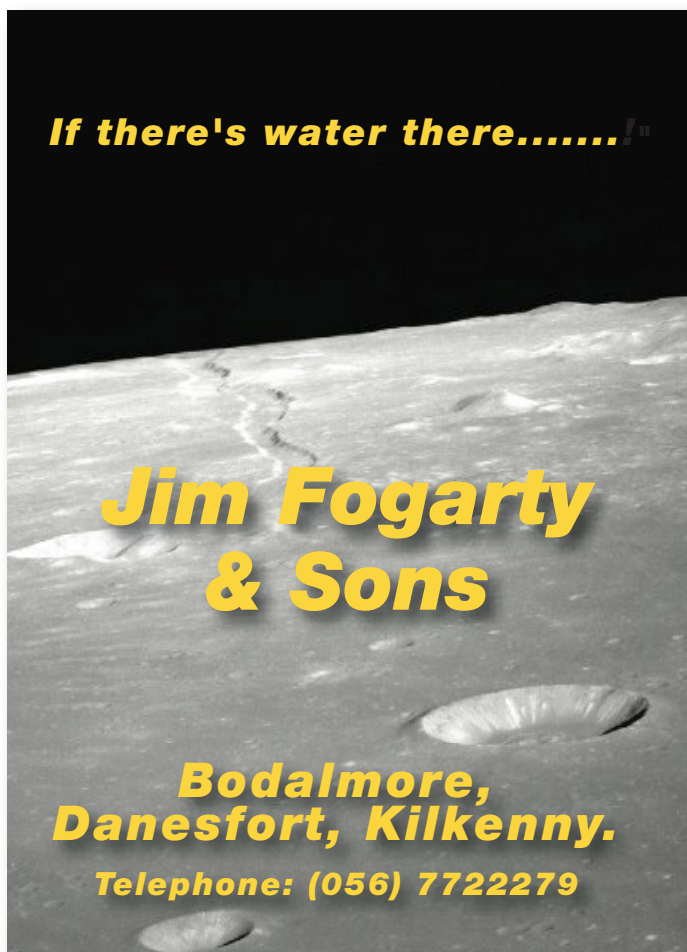


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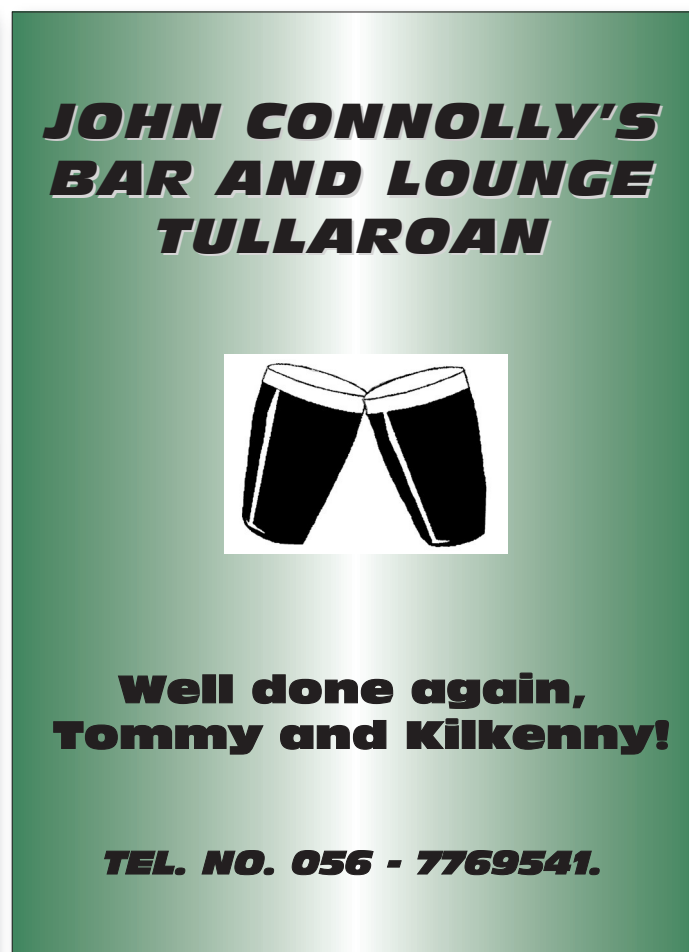


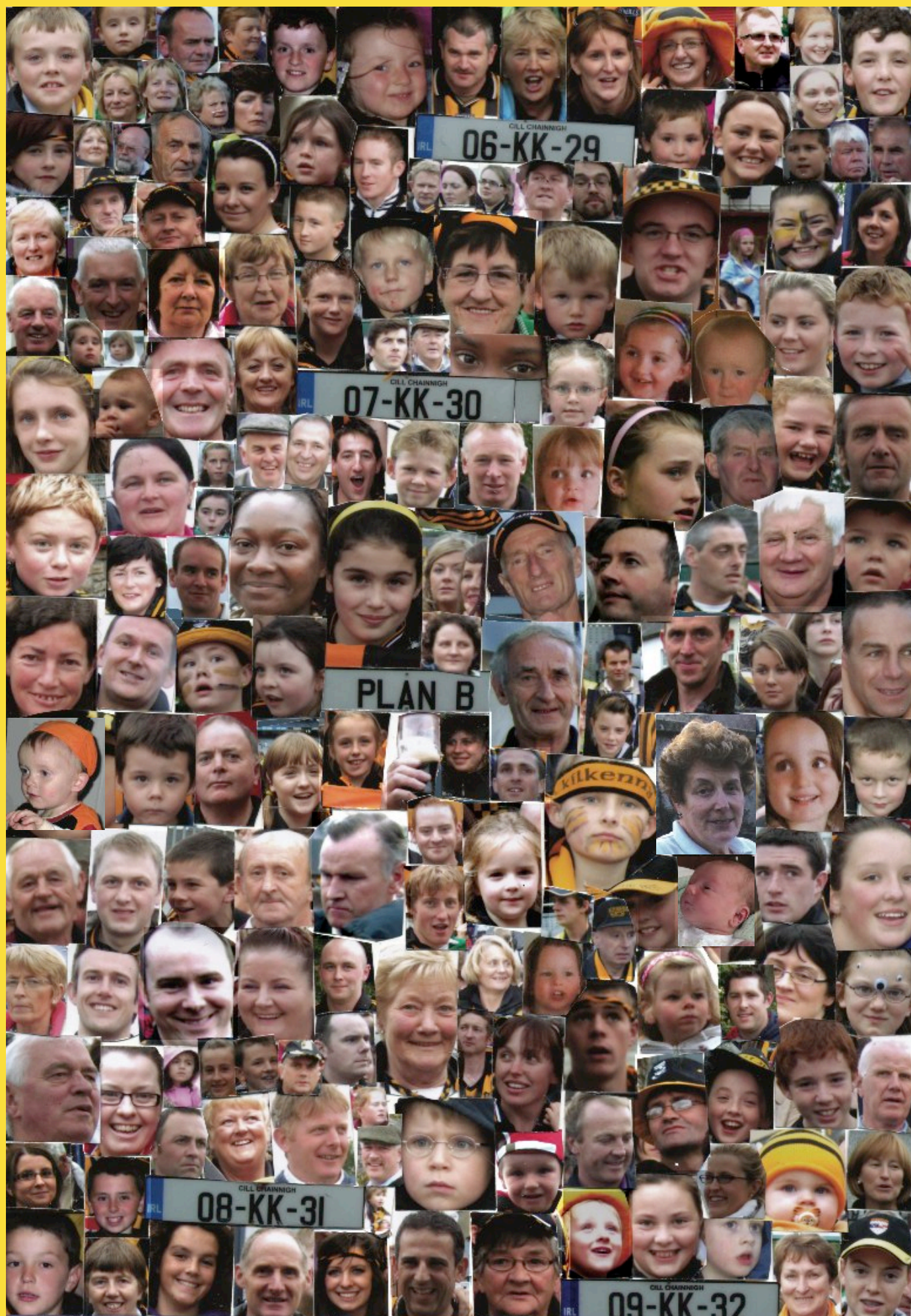
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FOOTBALL REPORT

Photos Eoin Hennessy

by Tom O'Reilly, Football Board Secretary



Glenmore - County Senior Football Champions 2009

Back: David Beirne, Michael Phelan, Richie Fitzgerald, Darren Aylward, David Jones, Emmet Vereker, David O'Flynn, David Boyle, Jimmy Walsh (Manager), Stephen Hartley (Selector).

Middle: P. J. Griffin (Trainer), Ray Byrne (Selector), Ken Cotterell, Mark Phelan, Michael Cody, Anthony Phelan, David Garvey, Eoin Murphy, Richie Mullally, Kate Phelan, John Phelan, Emily Phelan.

Front: James Murphy, Sean Kirwan, Paul Phelan, Fergal Freyne (Captain), Ger Aylward, Ciarán Foran, John Cody, Fran Griffin, David Aylward, John Dollard.

On the National Football League front, this year was not as good as the previous year for Kilkenny. We had no win this year. This was not due to a lack of commitment on the part of the panel of players, team management or selectors. Ten of our panel from the previous year stepped down for one reason or another. We suffered some very heavy defeats in some of our games. The panel of players still stood shoulder to shoulder and went out each day they played to do the best they could. They maintained their dignity and pride in wearing the black and amber jersey match after match. Probably Kilkenny's best display was against London in Ruislip. This game was there for the taking but injuries to a few crucial Kilkenny players during the game cost the Noresiders dearly and London emerged with a narrow victory. The subsequent game on returning home against Carlow a few days later in Freshford was another game

Kilkenny might have won.

In the Leinster Junior Football championship we came up against Wicklow in Aughrim. This was a very close and exciting match the whole way through with the Garden County men pipped us by three points at the finish. Great credit is due to the backroom team for their commitment – Team manager Tom Brennan, Trainer Joe Brennan, Selectors Tom Dowling, Michael Brennan and Dick Mullins, Dr. Mary O' Gorman, Grace Mc Cormack and Adrian Brennan.

On the county under 21 scene there was no joy on the playing front for our footballers either as they suffered a heavy defeat on home soil to Westmeath. This was a pity as a strong commitment had been put in by the panel of players, some of whom played a dual role at senior and under 21 with the county.



Railyard - Senior Football League Champions 2009

Back: P. Purcell (S), J Coogan, Pat MacNally (M), S.Allen, L.Lyng, G.Campion, A.Houlihan, K.Philips, M.McGuire, G.Lawlor, M.Delaney, J.Roche, D O'Neill, P. Roche, N. Mooney, P.P. Roche, O. Roche, D.Hennessy.

Front: S. Brennan, C. McDonald, P. Roche, P. Roche, C. Roche, Ian Booth, N. Roche, E. Roche, J. Dowd. Harry Roche (Mascot).



Blacks and Whites - Intermediate Football League Champions 2009

Back: Damien O'Dowd, Pat Hayden, Josephy Murphy, Liam Dowling, Paul Murphy, Niall Kennedy, Jason Foley, Aidan O'Dowd, Peter Chap Cleere, Denis Brennan, Jimmy Whelan, Niall Sly, Brian Cleere, John Whelan.

Front: James Brennan, John Lawlor, Michael Moloney, Paul Whelan, Tom Maloney (Captain), John Murphy, Michael Moloney, Sean Kelay.

Missing were James Doran and Mick Doyle.



Mullinavat - Roinn "A" Minor Football Champions 2009

Back: Daniel Davis, Michael Kent, Brian Power, Ian Duggan, James Culleton (Capt.), Joseph Fennelly, Thomas Aylward, Darren Kenneally, Darren Waters, Mossy Jones.

Front: Mark Mansfield, Ger Malone, Ciarán Boyle, Mark McDonald, Simon Aylward, Andrew Delahunty, Padraig Gahan, James Dalton, Robert Malone, Pat Mulhearn.

At local level our senior league winners Railyard defeated Muckalee on a scoreline of 1-16 to 1-12. In the senior football county final Glenmore defeated Muckalee 2-10 to 0-10. The Intermediate League final saw Blacks & Whites register the narrowest of wins 1-11 to Conahy Shamrocks 1-10. In the Intermediate county championship final an impressive Kilmoganny saw off the challenge of the Blacks & Whites by 1-17 to 2-2. The junior county final was a thrilling match played in Ballycomey, Castlecomer and it saw St. Lactain's defeat St. Patrick's of Ballyragget on a scoreline of 4-7 to 0-12. The under B county final served up another cliff-hanger as the lead changed hands on a number of occasions throughout the game before Kilmoganny finally managed to shake off Thomastown to win by 1-10 to 1-09. The under 21 A championship was not played at the time of writing. In minor football Mullinavat won the A championship defeating Thomastown by 3-12 to 2-6. In the minor football B competition Kilmoganny wait for the winners of Barrow Rangers or the Railyard in the final while Conahy Shamrocks and the Emeralds will contest the Roinn C final. Our thanks go to JJ Kavanagh & Sons for sponsoring our senior and intermediate football championships and the Kilkenny Citreon Centre for sponsoring the minor football competitions.



Tom Keogh (Kilkenny) beats the challenge of Daniel Beck (Leitrim) during the NFL clash in Frehsford. Photo: Eoin Hennessy

Lisdowney Sevens 2009

Teams from Clare, Tipperary, Kildare, Laois and Kilkenny took part in the 28th annual Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens over the last three Saturdays of August. As usual, 32 teams competed for the coveted Sweeney Cup and Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield. This is now a well-established fixture on the under-age calendar and most Kilkenny players have shown early promise on the Lisdowney pitch. All 4-in-a-row captains, namely, Jackie Tyrell, Henry Sheflin, James Cha' Fitzpatrick and Michael Fennelly have all starred on Cup winning teams, while Henry and Cha' also won Best Player Awards.

This year it was the turn of O'Loughlin Gaels to capture the Sweeney Cup and ran up a score of 4-13 to 0-6 win over Mullinavat. Indeed, Mullinavat were a formidable team and were unlucky to meet an O'Loughlin Gaels team in such fine scoring form. Contributing handsomely to their high scoring rate was their captain Danny Bolger, who won the Coca-Cola Best Player Award.

In earlier rounds O'Loughlin Gaels had victories over Young Irelands, Lisdowney and Rower-Inistioge, while Mullinavat had successes over Graigue-Ballycallan, Dicksboro, James Stephens and Clara.

A last minute goal gave Ballyhale a very narrow 2-8 to 2-7 win over Barrow Rangers in the final of the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield.

Ballyhale overcame St. Martins, Tullaroan and Graigue-Ballycallan on the way to the final while Camross, Danesfort and Naas fell prey to Barrow Rangers. Both winning teams and runners-up teams received special Coca-Cola trophies.

Club Chairman, John Delaney and Sevens Secretary, Larry Hamilton thanked the teams and their mentors, the Ladies Committee, led by Secretary, Josie Bergin and Treasurer, Statia Kenny, referees Podge Butler, Sean Brennan and Eamonn Mansfield, and club members PJ Kenny and Tom O'Carroll and their team of helpers. John Delaney also had a special word of thanks for the trio of Eamonn Nolan, Eamonn Dunne and Larry Hamilton who have organised the tournament for the past 28 years, and most importantly sponsors Sweeney Brothers, Kilkenny Supporters Club and Coca-Cola, represented by their Area Manager, Catherine Nolan.

Denis Tyrrell (O'Loughlin Gaels), on behalf of the visiting teams, thanked Lisdowney for organising another very successful tournament.

(Parish Sevens has not been played at this time.)



O'Loughlin Gaels – Sweeney Cup Winners 2009

Back: Pat Cantwell, Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Denis Tyrell, Paul Cleere, Eddie Burke, Catherine Nolan

(Area Manager Coca-Cola), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.)

Middle: Robbie Buckley, Brian Buckley, Paddy Mullally, Ben Leydon, Eoin McGovern.

Front: Daniel O'Connor, Ross Butler, Danny Bolger (capt), Gary Bryan, Huw Lawlor.



Ballyhale – Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield Winners 2009

Back: Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Richard Butler, Tommy Corcoran, Catherine Nolan

(Area Manager Coca-Cola), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.)

Middle: Conor Phelan, Eugene Aylward, Tom O'Keeffe, Luke Donnelly.

Front: Joe Cuddihy, Patrick Doyle, Ronan Corcoran (Capt), Patrick Malone, Conor Reid.



Best player Award
John Delaney (Chairman),
Danny Bolger (O'Loughlin Gaels).



Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield
Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola),
Ronan Corcoran (Ballyhale)

Five Camogie All Star Awards for Kilkenny



**Kilkenny players, from left, Jacquie Frisby, Anne Dalton, Katie Power, Aoife Neary and Elaine Aylward with their Camogie All-Star awards and Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association.
2009 Camogie All-Stars Awards.
Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE**



**Denise Gaul, Kilkenny, is presented with her O'Neills Young Player of the Year award by Paul Brady, three times World Handball Champion, and Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association, and Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs.
2009 Camogie All-Stars Awards.
Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE**

Six All Star Awards for Kilkenny



Kilkenny GAA Hurling All-Star Award Winners

From left: Tommy Walsh, PJ Ryan, Henry Shefflin, Michael Rice, Eoin Larkin and Jackie Tyrrell.
Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

Vodafone Hurling All Stars for 2009

Goalkeeper

1. PJ Ryan (Kilkenny)

Full-Backs:

2. Ollie Canning (Galway)
3. Pdraig Maher (Tipperary)
4. Jackie Tyrrell (Kilkenny)

Half-Backs:

5. Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny)
6. Michael 'Brick' Walsh (Waterford)
7. Conor O'Mahony (Tipperary)

Midfield:

8. Michael Rice (Kilkenny)
9. Alan McCrabbe (Dublin)

Half-Forwards:

10. Lar Corbett (Tipperary)
11. Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)
12. Eoin Larkin (Kilkenny)

Full-Forwards:

13. Noel McGrath (Tipperary)
14. Joe Canning (Galway)
15. John Mullane (Waterford)



Tommy Walsh

Vodafone All-Star Hurler of the Year
Texaco Hurler of the Year
GPA Hurler of the Year
Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

GPA Hurling Team of the Year 2009

Goalkeeper

1. PJ Ryan (Kilkenny)

Full-Backs:

2. Ollie Canning (Galway)
3. JJ Delaney (Kilkenny)
4. Jackie Tyrrell (Kilkenny)

Half-Backs:

5. Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny)
6. Conor O'Mahony (Tipperary)
7. Pdraig Maher (Tipperary)

Midfield:

8. Shane McGrath (Tipperary)
9. Michael Rice (Kilkenny)

Half-Forwards:

10. Eddie Brennan (Kilkenny)
11. Seamus Callanan (Tipperary)
12. Eoin Larkin (Kilkenny)

Full-Forwards:

13. John Mullane (Waterford)
14. Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)
15. Lar Corbett (Tipperary)



Winners of Gaelic Games awards at the 2009 Smithwicks Kilkenny Sports Stars Awards in Langton's Hotel
 From left; Tom Brett (Chairman), Eddie Keher (MC), Joe Delaney (Tommy O'Brien Hall of Fame Award), Dick Walsh (Hurling for Tommy Walsh), Mayor Malcolm Noonan (President), Michael Ducksie Walsh (Handball), Jacqui Frisby (Camogie) and Mick Crotty (Achievement for Brian Cody).
Photo Thomas Brett



Former Kilkenny hurler Eddie Keher, who won the Hall of Fame award at the Texaco Sportstars of the Year Awards for 2009.:
 Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

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Obituaries



Joe Cleere

Joe Cleere R.I.P.

There was deep regret in GAA circles in Kilkenny and in particular in O'Loughlin Gaels and Graigue Ballycallan when the news of the death of Joe Cleere became known on the 3rd of October last.

For the last 24yrs of his life Joe had been dogged by ill health but his one saving grace, through all his tough times, was that he was cared for in his own home, outstandingly, by his loving wife, Eileen.

Joe won a minor title with his beloved Graigue in 1949, the same year that Graigue won the senior title and to this day they are the only club to win the minor and senior in the one year. In the mid fifties Joe lined out for Kilkenny in a Walsh Cup game against Dublin in Nowlan Park. Starting at corner back he marked no less a man than the great Kevin Heffernan and held him scoreless for the hour.

Joe was a psychiatric nurse by profession but in his spare time he held the position of groundsman in Nowlan Park along with his late friend Jimmy Bergin and under the watchful eye of his great friend Paddy Grace.

Joe was an O'Loughlin Gaels stalwart from the time of the club's foundation in the late 60's and took great pride in following his sons through all grades over a thirty year period. One of his proudest moments came in 2001 when O'Loughlins won their first senior title with two of his sons on the panel. I am sure also that Joe would not be happy without mentioning his only daughter, Helen, whom he doted on throughout his life.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joe's wife, Eileen ; sons - Michael, Benny, Paul, Anthony and Kevin; daughter Helen; brothers Dick, Simon, Francis and Anthony; sisters Josie and Anne and extended family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Peggy Brennan

Peggy Brennan 1932-2009

The sudden death of Mrs. Peggy Brennan, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny on January 25th came as a major shock to all in the parish of Conahy. As the mother of a family steeped in the GAA, she was known to all in the GAA as a wonderful mother of nine children in all, five boys and four girls.

An extremely large crowd descended on Jenkinstown Church for the funeral and in doing so, to pay respects to a dedicated mother and grandmother. Mrs. Brennan was proud of all her children's many achievements both on and off the sporting field, and this was reflected in those who came to pay tribute to her, among whom included many representatives of the GAA throughout Ireland, led by Christy Cooney, then Uachtarán-Tofa of the GAA and Paraic Duffy, GAA Director General, and representatives of the Irish Defence Forces, led by Lt. General Dermot Earley.

She saw all her children compete to a high standard on the sporting field, in particular her sons Nickey, Kieran and Canice who all won All-Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny. It was an especially proud moment for her and the family when Nickey succeeded in being elected GAA President in 2005.

All who were visitors to the Brennan farm and household in Suttonsraheen were guaranteed a fine welcome and treated with extreme courtesy, as many will testify to this day. This was manifested by the many people who visited the house and were always welcomed by Mrs. Brennan and her late husband Kieran.

Mrs. Brennan was survived by her sons Nickey, Kieran, Paudie, Gearóid and Canice, her daughters Kathleen, Brigid, Bernadette and Marion, her brothers and sisters and her many grandchildren.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.



MJ Ryan

MJ Ryan (1961-2009)

On Sunday February 15th 2009, hurling Gaels everywhere were saddened to learn of the death of one Michael John Ryan. Affectionately known as M J, he left a major imprint wherever he travelled and his passing has left us all with a huge void. Gone is the smiling joker who wanted nothing more than to enjoy life, have the banter and talk hurling. You see, he was a real life rogue with a glint in his eye but one who will always be characterised by his on-field sheer determination and skill.

Born in December 1961, into a family of eleven children, M J first learned the craft of hurling in Galmoy N.S. Co Kilkenny. As a nine year old he won his first medal with the Galmoy U-12 team. His greatest moment with his own club came in 1982 when he literally powered Galmoy to their only Kilkenny U-21 B Title. He lined out for the Kilkenny U-21 team for three seasons in succession and played in the U-21 All-Ireland final of 1981. All the while, M J was cutting his teeth in the coaching game, when along with current Kilkenny U-21 selector Pat McCormack and Peter Maguire, they coached Galmoy U-16 and minor sides to six Kilkenny county titles in two years, in a golden era for the club.

As a result of his blossoming career, Pat Henderson promoted M J to the Kilkenny senior panel where he made many appearances in the number eleven shirt. In 1985, M J, who had been training as an electrician, moved to Dublin in search of employment. He first played with the St Oliver Plunketts Club before a chance meeting with former Limerick star, Eamonn Rea, resulted in M J signing up for Faughs. It was a meeting which benefitted Faughs handsomely, when after a 13 year drought they won two Dublin senior titles in succession. Along with fellow Kilkenny men Jim Lyng and Richie Reid, M J's contribution to these successes saw him immediately summoned to wear the sky blue of Dublin and ironically, his championship baptism was against Kilkenny. He was a first choice with such Dublin greats as Lar Foley and Jimmy Boggan. He became a diligent and distinguished centre half forward.

In 1990 he played on a Dublin team which reached the Leinster final for the first time in many years, only to lose out to Offaly.

The following year it was M J, who scored the insurance point in Dublin's 0-17 to 1-11 semi final victory over Offaly to again reach the final, this time against his native Kilkenny. With the final balanced on a knife edge, M J's bullet-like shot thundered back off the upright and Kilkenny escaped to victory. Unfortunately, a knee injury in 1992 brought down the curtain on a memorable inter county career but M J went on to line out for Faughs for many years right up to playing in goal for Faughs Juniors, at the age of 46, last December 2008, a couple of months before his untimely death. M J's contribution to hurling in the capital city has equalled that of his playing career, as he coached many Dublin club sides, such as Lucan Sarsfields, Thomas Davis, Faughs, and the Dublin SouthWest Regional side.

To this writer, M J was a hero in true G.A.A. style. His smile was infectious. His genuineness commendable. He always spoke with passion and pride about whatever side he was involved with. Most of all, he never forgot his native Galmoy and would instinctively make contact after a game to see how the boys were doing. M J was a friend to all who knew him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.
JD.



Nicholas Walsh

Nicholas Walsh R.I.P.

Last Spring all in our Parish were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Nicholas Walsh in Woodsgift. Nicholas was first and foremost a family man devoted to his wife Bernadette and his children Stephen, Nicholas, Katie and Eliza.

In his younger days Nicholas played on all the school and club teams in the parish. In the early 1980's the club lost many valuable players through emigration. However the local club rallied to give hope and enjoyment in tough times. The club entered a second adult team in 1983. Very few in the club gave this team a chance. However it gradually won game after game. This team defeated Conahy Shamrocks in the Northern Final by five points. In late October they won their first County Junior B Final in Callan by overcoming a gallant Mooncoin team with a margin of seven points to spare. Nicholas was inspirational behind the scenes in putting this squad together. He also played a key role playing in the forwards during all this campaign. Nicholas was very involved on Committees in the early 1990's that built the present clubhouse and enlarged the present hurling pitch. In 1996 Nicholas trained our Minor team to win the Roinn B Hurling Championship. Derek Lyng was a key player on this team.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé



Mick Brophy

Mick Brophy

A 1957 Kilkenny hurling hero, Michael (Mick) Brophy of Danesfort, will be best remembered as one of the great Kilkenny hurling warriors of his time, that won Kilkenny's 14th All Ireland title, defeating Waterford in a thrilling Final in Croke Park. Since 1904, when Kilkenny won their first All Ireland title, they had never gone more than a decade without an All Ireland victory, and as their previous win was in the thriller against Cork in 1947, 1957 was the last year of the subsequent ten where Kilkenny had to win if tradition was to be maintained. Winning in 1957 insured that the team would be feted, honoured and especially respected by one and all. He won a County minor Championship with Eoghan Ruadh of Callan in 1950. Kilkenny won their fourth All Ireland hurling final in a row in 1950, beating Dublin in the first round of the Leinster Championship. They struggled however to overcome Offaly in the Leinster Final, while they beat Antrim in the All Ireland semi-final. They went in as rank outsiders against Tipperary. However they were excellently prepared by the Kilmanagh schoolteacher, Davy Maher, and they went on to record a magnificent victory against Kilkenny's greatest rivals, winning by a goal. Central to that outstanding victory was the performance of Mick Brophy, who hurling up a storm as a half forward, managed to get himself, thankfully, on the scoreboard in a hard-fought battle. In addition to Mick, three other members of the team, John Maher, Jim (Link) Walsh, and Johnny McGovern were to play prominent parts in Kilkenny senior teams, and in particular in the winning of the '57 Final later. In 1956, Mick Brophy established a permanent place for himself on the Kilkenny senior team when giving a majestic performance against Leinster Champions, Wexford, in the Leinster Final. A record crowd of over 52,000 was in attendance on the day. With John Sutton, Mick Brophy fashioned a complete differently styled centrefield partnership over the ensuing four-year period. They were hugely important in that area, when Kilkenny beat the Decies in the '57 Final. In addition to winning his All Ireland medal, Mick also won two Oireachtas medals, three Leinster senior championship medals, and he also played in the Railway Cup for his Province. For his club, Danesfort, Mick Brophy played many great games, and he was unfortunate not to have won a county Junior Championship, as they were defeated in the Northern Finals of '60, '61, and '63 by Lisdowney, Coon, and Galmoy respectively. The last named winning after a torrid replay. Mick had a huge interest in hurling, an

interest that stood the test of time. One of his great pleasures was in watching the affairs of his beloved 'Fort in recent years, as they won the County Junior title, and added a Leinster and All Ireland titles to the haul.

A devoted family man, his great hobby outside of hurling was in gardening. He will be sadly missed by a wide range of people, but particularly by his wife, Kathleen, his son Niall, his daughters, Aileen, Siobhan, Angela, and Michelle, his sisters, Maisie (Condon), Alice (Lally Leahy), and Leisha (Tobin), and his only brother still living, Tom. A wide range of friends, neighbours, and colleagues will miss the quiet man who wore the number 8 with great distinction, bringing tremendous honour and glory to his own place.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Mary Mulcahy

Mary Mulcahy.

Mary Mulcahy passed to her Eternal Reward on Thursday November 5th in Ardkeen Hospital in Waterford. Mary was the wife of one of Kilkenny's greatest hurling warriors, Jack who was so instrumental in the winning of All Ireland titles against Cork in 1939, and again in 1947 against the same opposition.

Mary was a Ballyraggett woman whose love for the game of hurling never wavered. To her last moments she had a tremendous grá for the game and she gloried in the achievements of the black and amber. The win this year against Tipperary would have afforded her particular pleasure.

She was the mother of a sports-mad family, where she thrilled to the performances of her three sons, Pat, Joe and John, all of whom won All Ireland medals with their native County.

After Requiem Mass on Saturday 7th, Mary was laid beside her beloved hurling husband in St.Kierans Cemetery, where a huge crowd was in attendance.

Mary will be missed by a wide range of friends, and neighbours, but particularly by her three sons, Pat (Wexford), Joe (Kilkenny) and John (Ballyraggett). Her daughter, Mary Jennings, her brother, Mick Lawless (Ballyraggett), her sisters, Eileen Cleere (Kilkenny), whose husband Joe passed away recently, and Josie Keane (Coventry) will all miss her. Her many grandchildren, some of whom have continued the family traditions of excellence on a broader sporting canvass will miss their Grandmother, a tremendous lady, a loyal friend, and a gentle Christian.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.

Kilkenny GAA Results 2009

SENIOR HURLING		Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Southern Final	To Be Played
County SH Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-14 James Stephen's 1-11	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Southern Final	To Be Played
SH League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks w.o. James Stephen's scr.	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Northern Final	To Be Played
SH Shield Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-19 Clara 1-14	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Southern Final	To Be Played
Byrne Cup Final	Erin's Own 1-12 St Martin's 1-9	MINOR HURLING	
SH Relegation Final	Tullaroan 1-16 Young Irelands 2-13 Tullaroan 0-19 Young Irelands 0-13	Roinn "A" MH Championship Final	Dicksboro 2-9 John Lockes 2-6
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" MH Championship Final	Fenians 1-13 Lisdowney 2-10 Fenians 3-10 Lisdowney 1-11
County IH Championship Final	St Lachtain's 0-16 Dicksboro 1-11	Roinn "C" MH Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 2-11 O'Loughlin Gaels B 1-8
IH League Final	Rower Inistioge 1-24 Danesfort 0-11	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Dicksboro 2-19 Thomastown 3-15
IH Shield Final	St Lachtain's 0-22 Dicksboro 1-14	Roinn "B" MH League Final	To Be Played
Aylward Cup Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-16, Dunamaggin 0-14	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Cloneen 2-12 Piltown 1-14
IH Relegation Final	G'namanagh 1-11 Thomastown 1-1 G'namanagh 1-15 Thomastown 1-6	UNDER 16 HURLING	
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "A" U16H Championship Final	Thomastown 3-13 Kilmacow 0-11
County JH Championship Final	Blacks & Whites 0-17 John Lockes 2-6	Roinn "B" U16H Championship Final	G/Ballycallan 2-12 B'bridge 1-15 G/Ballycallan 2-15 B'bridge 1-15
Northern JH Championship Final	Blacks & Whites 3-11 Bennettsbridge 2-13	Roinn "C" U16H Championship Final	Ogra Graig/Blacks & Whites 4-6 Galmoy/Windgap 1-5,
Southern JH Championship Final	John Lockes 0-16 Kilmacow 1-10	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	Emeralds 3-10 Kilmacow 1-6
All County JH League	Mt Leinster Rangers 1-16, Piltown 0-11	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	Bennettsbridge 1-14 Erin's Own 2-9
County JH League Final	Galmoy 2-17 Piltown 0-11	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	To Be Played
County JH A Final	St Lachtain's 0-15 Carrickshock 0-10	UNDER 14 HURLING	
County JH B Final	St Martin's 1-15 Rower Inistioge 0-12	Roinn "A" U14H Championship Final	Dicksboro 3-16 Rower Inistioge 1-6
County JH A League Final	Young Irelands 3-9 Rower Inistioge 1-10	Roinn "B" U14H Championship Final	Glenmore 0-10 Danesfort 0-4,
County JH B League Final	Carrickshock 0-13 St. Martin's 0-12	Roinn "C" U14H Championship Final	St Martin's 1-9 Tullogher Rosbercon 0-7
Joe Walsh Memorial Cup JBH	Galmoy 3-14 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-15	Roinn "D" U14H Championship Final	Galmoy 3-8 Carrickshock 2-7,
Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup JH	To Be Played	Paddy Grace Féile na nGael Final	Dicksboro 2-16 St Lachtain's 2-6
Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup JH	To Be Played	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	Dicksboro 2-16 St Lachtains 2-6
Northern JH League Final	Galmoy 1-16 Bennettsbridge 1-10	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	Lisdowney 6-3, Mooncoin 4-6
Southern JH League Final	Piltown 4-15 Kilmacow 1-15	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	St Martin's 1-6, Tullogher/Rosbercon 0-8
Northern Junior A Hurling Championship	St Lachtain's 0-10, Fenians 0-8	Roinn "D" U14H League Final	Dunnamaggin 4-11 Galmoy 3-2
Southern Junior A Hurling Championship	Carrickshock 1-9, Mullinavat 0-10	PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
Northern Junior A Hurling League	Tullaroan 2-19, G/Ballycallan 1-12	Roinn "A" U13H Championship Final	Clara 1-6, Rower/Inistioge 0-7
Southern Junior A Hurling League	R/Inistioge 4-8, Erin's Own (B'town) 1-14	Roinn "B" U13H Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 0-5 Castlecomer 0-4
Northern Junior B Hurling Championship	St. Martins 1-16, Erins Own 1-11	Roinn "C" U13H Championship Final	Tullaroan 4-12 Graignamanagh 2-7
Southern Junior B Hurling Championship	Rower/Inistioge 1-8 G'namanagh 0-8	Roinn "D" U13H Championship Final	Conahy 6-7, Windgap 1-4
Northern Junior B Hurling League	St. Martin's 2-14, B & W's 0-10	Corn de Bhaldrathe	Rower Inistioge 1-13 Thomastown 1-6.
Southern Junior B Hurling League	Carrickshock 4-12 T/Rosbercon 1-13		
UNDER 21 HURLING		SENIOR FOOTBALL	
Roinn "A" U21H Championship Final	To Be Played	County SF Championship Final	Glenmore 2-7 Muckalee 0-10
Roinn "B" U21H Championship Final	To Be Played	SF League Final	Railyard 1-16 Muckalee 1-12
Roinn "C" U21H Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 1-14 Kilmacow 1-13	SF Relegation Final	To Be Played

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE	
County IF Championship Final	Kilmoganny 1-17 Blacks & Whites 2-2	Intermediate Championship Final	St Annes 1-9 Rower Inistioge 3-3 St Annes 2-4 Rower Inistioge 1-6
County IF League Final	Blacks & Whites 1-11 Conahy Shamrocks 1-10	Intermediate League Final	Paulstown 4-16 St. Anne's 1-7
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		Intermediate All County League Final	Lisdowney 6-11 James Stephens 1-11
County JF Championship Final	St Lachtains 4-7, St Patrick's 0-12	Intermediate Relegation Final	Lisdowney 2-16 Tullagher 1-8
U21 FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
County U21F Championship Final	To Be Played	Junior "A" Championship Final	Dicksboro 3-7 Glenmore 2-6
MINOR FOOTBALL		Junior "B" Championship Final	Tullaroan 3-12 Mooncoin 0-6
Roinn "A" MF Championship Final (2008)	Mullinavat 3-12 Thomastown 2-6	Junior "A" County League Final	Dicksboro 4-8 Danesfort 1-6
Roinn "B" MF Championship Final (2008)	To Be Played	Junior "B" County League Final	Tullaroan 1-6 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-5
Roinn "C" MF Championship Final (2008)	To Be Played	MINOR CAMOGIE	
U16 FOOTBALL		Minor "A" Final	To Be Played
Roinn "A" U16F League/Championship Final	To Be Played	Minor "B" Final	To Be Played
Roinn "B" U16F League/Championship Final	To Be Played	Minor "C" Final	To Be Played
Roinn "C" U16F League/Championship Final	To Be Played	Minor "D" Final	To Be Played
Roinn "D" U16F League/Championship Final	To Be Played	UNDER 16 CAMOGIE	
U14 FOOTBALL		U16 "A" Final	Dicksboro 4-7 Young Irelands 3-5
Roinn "A" U14F Championship Final	James Stephens 3-4 Dicksboro 2-4	U16 "B" Final	Rower Inistioge 2-7 St. Lachtain's 4-0
Roinn "B" U14F Championship Final	Barrow Rangers 5-14 Thomastown 4-9	U16 "C" Final	Clara 5-6 Mullinavat 1-7
Roinn "C" U14F Championship Final	Tullagher Rosbercon 4-8 Lisdowney 2-3	U16 "D" Final	Tullaroan 0-13 St. Anne's 3-2
Roinn "D" U14F Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 5-2 Windgap 4-3	UNDER 14 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" U14F League Final	James Stephens 5-5 Dicksboro 1-2	U14 "A" Final	Thomastown 4-7 Dicksboro 3-5
Roinn "B" U14F League Final	Thomastown 2-9 Mullinavat 2-5	U14 "B" Final	Piltown 6-14 St Martin's 1-0
Roinn "C" U14F League Final	Tullagher Rosbercon 2-8 Lisdowney 2-4	U14 "C" Final	Jas Stephens 2-15 Y Irelands 4-9 Jas Stephens 4-3 Y Irelands 1-4
Roinn "D" U14F League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-6 Windgap 2-3	U14 "D" Final	Emeralds 4-6 St Anne's 1-2
PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		Féile na nGael Final	St Lachtain's 5-1 Piltown 1-0
Roinn "A" U13F Championship Final	St. Canice's 4-8 Kilkenny CBS 0-6	U14 "D" Shield Final <small>(Only shield final played in 2009)</small>	John Lockes 5-5 Kilmacow 2-1
Roinn "B" U13F Championship Final	To Be Played	U14 12-Aside League	Naomh Bríd 5-3 St Brigid's 2-0
Corn na Tuaithe	Sc McCauley Rice bt Ballyhale	UNDER 12 CAMOGIE	
		Group 1 Final	St. Lachtain's 3-5 Dicksboro 2-3
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Group 2 Final	Glenmore 5-1 Piltown 3-4
Senior Championship Final	St Lachtain's 3-16 Mullinavat 2-7	Group 3 Final	Paulstown 4-2 Thomastown 2-1
Senior League Final	St. Lachtain's 2-19 Mullinavat 1-4	Group 4 Final	Clare 5-4 Blacks & Whites 2-2
Senior All County League Final	Thomastown 5-7 Windgap 3-8,	Group 5 Final	St Martin's 5-2 St Brigid's 2-3
Senior Relegation Final	St Martin's 3-9 Emeralds 2-5	Group 6 Final	Danesfort 4-4 Kilmacow 1-0
For Primary Schools Camogie Results see Schools Camogie Article			

2006

KILDARE - ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2006

Back Row: Brian O'Connell, Anthony Manning, Anthony Manning, Michael Ryan, Diarmuid O'Connell, Willie O'Connell
 Third Row: David Mulvaney, John Mc Carthy, Tommy Sheehy, Michael O'Donoghue, David Lenehan, Brian O'Connell, Michael O'Connell
 Second Row: John O'Connell, Peter Sheehy, David Lenehan, Michael O'Donoghue, Michael O'Connell, Willie O'Connell, David Lenehan
 Front Row: John O'Connell, Peter Sheehy, David Lenehan, Michael O'Donoghue, Michael O'Connell, Willie O'Connell, David Lenehan

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MEMBERS - ALL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS 2008

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

2009

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2009

Back Row: John O'Leary, John Connolly, John O'Driscoll, Conor Whelan, James Walsh, Noel Whelan, J. O'Sullivan
 Third Row: John O'Leary, John Connolly, John O'Driscoll, Conor Whelan, James Walsh, Noel Whelan, J. O'Sullivan
 Second Row: John O'Leary, John Connolly, John O'Driscoll, Conor Whelan, James Walsh, Noel Whelan, J. O'Sullivan
 Front Row: John O'Leary, John Connolly, John O'Driscoll, Conor Whelan, James Walsh, Noel Whelan, J. O'Sullivan

ELIZABETH - ALL ISLAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2006
 Back Row: John Bird, Sean Coleman, Eoin McElroy, Cathal McKee, James Webb, Noel McKee, & Michael
 Mid Row: Mike O'Sullivan, John Parnell, Thomas Fennell, Michael O'Shea, TONY, Michael Kavanagh, Mike Ryan
 Front Row: (Clockwise) David Ryan, John Coleman, Michael O'Shea, & Ryan, David Smith, David Long, Eoin Larkin, & Michael O'Shea

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