

KILKENNY

1961 ALL IRELAND MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

REMEMBERED



**SOUVENIR BOOKLET
RECALLING KILKENNY'S SUCCESSFUL
ALL IRELAND MINOR HURLING CAMPAIGN OF 1961
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEAM'S RECEPTION
BY COISTE CO CHILL CHAINNIGH
AT THE 2010 COUNTY SH FINAL.**

KILKENNY COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINAL, NOWLAN PARK, 24th OCTOBER 2010

Luach €2

Fáilte Ón gCathaoirleach

Twenty one years ago Kilkenny County Board decided to honour teams from the past on county final day who had brought honour and glory to club and county. This year it is our great pleasure to welcome the surviving members of the Kilkenny minor team that won the minor hurling All Ireland title in 1961 for the second time in a row – a feat only previously achieved once previously in 1935/1936.

This was Kilkenny's sixth title win and second in ten years. It also heralded the second of three All Ireland minor victories in a row over arch rivals Tipperary, having lost to the same opposition in 1959. To win the 1961 title Kilkenny had to overcome Wexford and Dublin in Leinster before facing Tipperary, who were playing in their eight final in ten years. Details of these games plus the other matches are included in this programme. There are sixteen surviving members of the winning panel and we are delighted to welcome those who have been able to travel here to-day. Patsy Foley, Sean O'Brien, Tom Barry, Johnny Murphy, Denis Kinsella, Pierce Freyney, Paddy Dempsey and Pierce Brett joined an elite group of Kilkenny players from 1935/36 – Tom Delaney, Jim Langton, Eamonn Tallent, Jack Mulcahy and Seanie O'Brien – by winning their second Minor All Ireland medal.

Three members of this group, Pat Henderson, Tom Walsh and Patsy Foley, gave sterling service to the county senior team, with whom they won All-Ireland medals.

The members, as well as being our guests at to-day's final, will also be guests of the Springhill Court Hotel at a dinner after the game and will also be presented with a memento of the occasion. I hope that this reunion of the former team mates will be a very happy occasion, as many of them may not have met each other since they retired from hurling.

I would also ask that we remember the other members of the team who have gone to their eternal reward: Denis Kinsella, Richie Walsh, Sean O'Brien and Tom Barry.

To the members who are with us here to-day I say congratulations and well done, I hope you enjoy to-day's game and I wish you all many more years of health and happiness.

Pól Cinsealach Cathaoirleach.

Appreciation.

The chairman and members of the County Board would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the Springhill Court Hotel for their generous sponsorship of this event.

Front Cover Photograph

From left: Jim McGrath, Michael "Chew" Leahy, Joe Dunphy, Jim Comerford, Seamus Dunphy, Nickey Forristal, Phil Cullen, Billy Watson, Paddy Dempsey, Richie Walsh, Pierce Brett, Maurice Aylward.

Photo Independent Newspapers

LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Played on Sunday 18th June 1961 in Croke Park.

The following is the report of the game from the files of "The Kilkenny People"

BRILLIANT RECOVERY BY MINORS

Kilkenny 6-10 Wexford 1-12

A power –packed final 20 minutes of score-upon-score gave Kilkenny a decisive victory of 13 points over Wexford in the curtain raiser to the senior game in Croke Park.

Wexford had recovered from two early goals and led throughout the first half, turning over two points ahead. But when Pierce Freaney slammed in two goals in the ninth and tenth minutes, Kilkenny could not be stopped, and Wexford failed to raise a flag in the second half.

Although Kilkenny were trailing for half of the total playing time, the margin was rarely more than two points and, bearing in mind that Wexford had the advantage of a fairly strong wind throughout the first half, Kilkenny supporters were at no stage fearing defeat.

The game was exciting and entertaining in the first half and for the first 10 minutes of the second half, during which a barrage of Kilkenny attacking failed to produce a score.

Once Kilkenny settled into their scoring stride, however, the game became very one-sided and Kilkenny beat their opponents as they pleased.

Apart from the wind advantage, a vital factor in

the changing trend of the game was a Wexford switch which was ironically entirely to Kilkenny's advantage. B. Kearney Wexford's ace centre half forward, who had been waltzing through the Kilkenny defence for the first 30 minutes, was brought back to centre field at the interval in an effort to hold Wexford's lead. But John Murphy, who was only getting into his stride then, proved his complete master and from then on, with Tom Barry also clicking into top gear, mid-field mastery was entirely Kilkenny's.

As for performances, the Kilkenny players as a whole took a considerable time to settle down. The defence was at sixes and sevens repeatedly during Wexford's first half wave of attacking, giving away an inordinate amount of frees, the centrefield pair were playing second fiddle for a considerable time, and even the forwards, apart from their two early goals, took a fair share of time before impressing as they had done in earlier performances. However, when once the recovery got under way, Tom Barry was on top of his old form at midfield, his fine physique, lengthy striking and power to hold the a ball when in possession proving far too much for any opponent who got near him. John Murphy, as already mentioned, recovered from his early hesitancy and tuned in a strong performance.

In attack Pierce Freaney, who also had taken time to find his feet, rattled in two splendid goals in the 9th and 10th minute of the second half and from then, on could not be dispossessed once the ball was on his stick. Maurice Aylward, a late choice for the injured John Delaney, proved a very successful full forward notching 1-2. Willie Watson of Johnstown, who moved to half forward in a switch with Tom Walsh, was also an excellent forward. Tom Walsh also had a splendid game while Richie Walsh and Joe Dunphy both proved dangerous when opportunity offered.

The defence, which proved a sound one when recovering from early nerves, was best served by Nick Forristal, Phil Cullen, and Pat Henderson. Goalkeeper Patsy Foley brought off his quota of fine saves, while S. Hanrahan, J. McGrath and S. O'Brien had their moments.

Scorers for the winners: T. Barry 1-5, P. Freaney 2-2, M. Aylward 1-2, R. Walsh 1-0, W. Watson 1-0, T. Walsh 0-1.

Scorers for the losers: B. Kearney 1-7, E. Doyle 0-1, M. Jordan 0-1, M. Rossiter 0-1, D. Rowe 0-1, T. Dunne 0-1.

Kilkenny: P. Foley, P. Cullen, N. Forristal, J. McGrath, S. O'Brien, P. Henderson, S. Hanrahan, T. Barry, J. Murphy, T. Walsh, R. Walsh, P. Freaney, J. Dunphy, M. Aylward, W. Watson.

Wexford: S. O'Leary, P. Croke, D. Quigley, S. Roche, L. Rigley, C. Martin, M. Jordan, O. Cullen, M. Byrne, E. Doyle, B. Kearney, T. Dunne, D. Rowe, M. Rossiter, P. O'Connor.

EXCURSIONS TO DUBLIN

On Sunday, 3rd September, in connection with All-Ireland Hurling Finals at Croke Park: Senior, Tipperary v. Dublin; Minor, Tipperary v. Kilkenny, special trains will operate. Timetables and 2nd Class Day Return Fares will be as follows:—

FROM WATERFORD

Dep.	a.m.	s	d	Dep.	a.m.	s	d
Waterford	7.00	20	0	Kilkenny	8.02	16	6
Kilmacow	7.10	20	0	Ballyragget	8.21	14	3
Mullinavat	7.17	20	0	Attanagh	8.28	13	3
Ballyhale	7.32	18	9	Abbeyleix	8.38	12	3
Thomastown	7.41	18	3	Portlaoise	8.56	10	6
Bennettsbridge	7.51	17	6	Kingsbridge arr.	10.00	—	—

Return train from Kingsbridge at 8.30 p.m.

FROM GOWRAN

Dep.	a.m.	s	d	Dep.	a.m.	s	d
Gowran	7.40	15	6	Athy	8.33	9	0
Mulne Bheag	7.52	13	6	Kildangan	8.46	7	6
Milford	8.04	12	3	Kildare	9.00	6	6
Carlow	8.12	11	3	Kingsbridge arr.	9.45	—	—
Magney	8.23	10	6				

Return train from Kingsbridge at 9.15 p.m.

Cheap Day Excursion tickets will also be issued for travel to, from and between all stations served.

It's good to travel — by

C.I.E.

LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Played on Sunday 30th July 1961 in Croke Park.

The following is the report of the game from the files of "The Kilkenny People"

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS WITH EASE BUT.... MINOR HURLERS MUST DO BETTER

Kilkenny 4-12 Dublin 1-12

Kilkenny minor hurlers retained the Leinster title with ease at Croke Park on Sunday, but in doing so, they looked only a shadow of the team which beat Wexford in the semi-final, and for more than half of the game, certainly did not hurl like prospective All-Ireland champions.

The score, though faithfully indicating that Kilkenny ran riot with Dublin in the last 20 minutes, does not show that the teams were remarkably even in the first half. Indeed, were it not for the fact that Dublin were without their regular goalkeeper – through injury – the teams might well have been level at the interval. As it was, Kilkenny led by three goals (3-5 to 0-5) but those three goals would never have been let through by Kilkenny's Patsy Foley.

Scorers for the winners: P. Freaney 0-9, M. Aylward 2-1, J. Dunphy 1-0, B. Watson 1-0, T. Walsh 0-1, J. Murphy 0-1.

Scorers for the losers: T. McEntaggart 0-2, D. Hogan 0-2, K. Crookes 0-1, A. O' Sullivan 0-1, L. Casey 0-1.

Kilkenny: P. Foley, P. Cullen, N. Forristal, J. McGrath, S. O'Brien, P. Henderson, S. Hanrahan, T. Barry, J. Murphy, T. Walsh, R. Walsh, P. Freaney, J. Dunphy, J. Delaney, W. Watson.

Dublin: S. Shaughnessy, D. Gahan, M. Carroll, P. Reynolds, M. Craig, L. Byrne, M. Bolton, L. Casey, T. McEntaggart, D. Hogan, A. O'Sullivan, S. Holmes, M. Fitzgerald, A. Whelan, K. Crookes.
Subs: A. Daly, C. Boyle,

Referee: B. Smith (Meath).

County Board Officers 1961

Chairman: Nicholas Purcell (Graigie)

Secretary: Paddy Grace (Dicksboro)

Trustees: T.J. Bergin (Johnstown), Liam Moore (Kilkenny)

Central Council: Bob Aylward (Knockmoylan)

Leinster Council: Paddy Grace (Dicksboro) Bob Aylward (Knockmoylan)

Registrar: Liam Moore (Kilkenny)



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND MH CHAMPIONS 1961

Back: Patsy Foley, Nicky Forristal, John Murphy, Pat Henderson, Seamus Haarahana, Pierce Freeney, Tom Barry, Sean O'Brien.

Front: John Delaney, Tom Walsh, Maurice Aylward, Jim McGrath, Joe Dunphy (Capt.), Phil Cullen, Denis Kinsella.

Subs Inset: Paddy Dempsey, Pierce Brett, Mick Tennyson, Dick Walsh, Billy Watson.

ALL IRELAND MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Played on Sunday 3rd September 1961 in Croke Park.

The following is the report of the game from the files of "The Kilkenny People"

MINORS BRILLIANT AND SUPREME SIXTH TITLE FOR KILKENNY AFTER MEMORABLE HOUR

Kilkenny 3-13 Tipperary 0-15

Kilkenny won their sixth All-Ireland minor hurling championship when they beat Tipperary at Croke Park on Sunday in one of the greatest finals ever to preface a senior decider.

Two points in arrears with eight minutes to go, Kilkenny set about gaining their seven point victory in the best traditions of Noreside hurling. They came from behind to score a goal and five points, which electrified the crowd of 67,866.

These scores pinpointed the root cause of Kilkenny's victory – with little enough between the sides in other departments, we had the forwards capable of getting scores under close attention.

Of the premier county's 15 points, only five came directly from play, and the full total was scored by two players.

The ground and overhead stick-work, ball control and combination play of both sides throughout the hour belied the view that the standard of hurling is on the decline. The performance of the players by far outshone the standard of the senior game which followed.

Though Kilkenny fully deserved their vic-

tory and Tipperary's forward line was, on the whole a poor unit, the game was remarkably close for fully three-quarters of the hour.

At no stage during those 45 minutes was either side very far ahead. Two points at any stage was a decisive margin by which to lead, and both ends of the field saw such activity, alternately, that the interest of the crowd never waned. At many stages, indeed it seemed that Kilkenny would not be able to swing the issue at all, but it was this element of uncertainty and closeness which made the game the wonderfully entertaining exhibition which it was.

Fast Start.

Kilkenny started at a bewildering pace and led by 1-3 to 0-1 after four minutes. At the end of the quarter this lead had been reduced to two points and after 20 minutes, Tipperary drew level, but further points by Kilkenny left them winning by 1-5 to 0-7 at half time.

In the early stages of the second half Tipperary, for the first time, got the defence truly rattled and, for a brief spell, the Kilkenny defence panicked to extremes, pulling down the half forwards

and on one occasion actually indulging in jersey pulling in an attempt to guard their lines at all costs. Though the crowd showed vocal disapproval of these tactics, they came not from blackguardism of any kind, but from nervousness and tension on the part of the defence. This brief spell was not indicative of the display of the defence throughout the hour, however, for on all other occasions they were cool and steady in the extreme.

Walsh's Great Goal.

At the opening of the final quarter, as Tipperary led by two points and seemed to have the game well in hand, came the turning point – a magnificent goal by Tom Walsh.

Tom Barry who was hurling very strongly at this stage in an effort to push Kilkenny ahead, sent the ball into the goalmouth. The Tipperary goalkeeper saved, but Walsh's fair-headed figure was seen to dash in in a do-or-die effort, take the ball from the goalie's stick and slam it to the net. This goal brought on a Kilkenny resurgence, which was badly needed at this stage. It put Kilkenny ahead by one point and, although Tipperary temporarily regained the lead with three further points, the bogey was laid and in the last eight minutes the Kilkenny attack left no doubt as to their supremacy.

Into this comparatively brief spell they packed a welter of brilliantly executed scores which dashed Tipperary's hopes of regaining the title which they lost last year. As already mentioned, it was the forward division which really made the difference between defeat and victory. And in the attack the outstanding figures were two blond-headed ball artists on opposite sides of the half forward line, Pierce Freaney and Tom Walsh. Each of them

accounted for 1-4 of the Kilkenny total and each played in similar style, body swerving round their opponents and getting carefully into position before hazarding a stroke.

Outstanding player in the full forward line was Mooncoin's Joe Dunphy who, although held scoreless, nevertheless did a fine hour's hurling and helped in gaining the last vital goal. Maurice Aylward, who scored a well taken goal, and John Delaney who was active on the left wing, also hurled hard throughout the game. Denis Kinsella, finding Tipperary's Noel Lane quite a handful, nevertheless had his moments and contributed to the attractive display of the forward division as a whole.

Centrefield Play

At centre field the issue was wide open, neither side gaining control for any considerable length of time. The better of Kilkenny's was Tom Barry. The rangy Callan Boy took time to get into his stride and was not at his best until the second half. Throughout this period, however, he strove might and main to rally his colleagues and played a crucial role in the gaining of the decisive success. John Murphy did not reproduce earlier good form, but was a hard worker against Tipperary's Conor O'Dwyer, the man mainly responsible for keeping his forwards in the game.

The Kilkenny's defence, except for that brief period after the restart, was solidness itself from goalkeeper Patsy Foley out. The Clara player always had the issue in hand and rarely made a mistake. His job was made relatively easy by the brilliance of the full-back line of Jim McGrath, Nick Forristal, and Phil Cullen. These three not only held their opposite numbers scoreless but made light of their challenge.

In the outer defence Johnstown's Pat Henderson produced peak form, tackling tenaciously and never missing the chance of a long clearance to set the attack in motion. The fact that he limited to three points the output of Tipperary's Michael Keating is in itself an indication of his worth, for Keating shared with Billy Ryan the plaudit of Tipperary's outstanding forward.

A Hard Task.

To Goresbridge's Sean O'Brien fell the task of marking the outstanding Tipp. forward Billy Ryan, and although the half-forwards stole the honours, O'Brien gave no mean display and put his heart into every tackle. On the opposite flank Seamus Hanrahan gave his share of support.

Principle cause of Tipperary's downfall was their lack of a forward of the calibre of Walsh or Freaney. Ryan and Keating worked like trojans but they needed more

support. Best of the midfielders was Conor O'Dwyer, while in defence Liam White, Dan Ryan, and Noel Lane were best.

Scorers for the winners: P. Freaney 1-4, T. Walsh 1-4, T. Barry 0-3, M. Aylward 1-0, J. Delaney 0-1, D. Kinsella 0-1

Scorers for the losers: W. Ryan 0-10, M. Keating 0-3, L. Nolan 0-1, T. Ryan 0-1.

Kilkenny: P. Foley, J. McGrath, N. Forristal, P. Cullen, S. O'Brien, P. Henderson, S. Hanrahan, T. Barry, J. Murphy, T. Walsh, D. Kinsella, P. Freaney, J. Dunphy, M. Aylward, J. Delaney. Subs. P. Dempsey, P. Brett, M. Tennyson, R. Walsh, B. Watson.

Tipperary: P. Sullivan, S. Dillon, L. White, L. Eakins, D. Ryan, N. Lane, P. Dwyer, C. Dwyer, M. Roche, W. Nolan, M. Keating, W. Ryan, N. Hogan, T. Ryan, T. Brennan.

MINOR HURLING SELECTORS 1961

*Jimmy McGarry (St Kieran's, Johnstown), Jim Comerford (Clogga),
Jimmy Brophy (Piltown), Seamus Dunphy (Glenmore).
Trainer Fr Tommy Maher.*

COUNTY FINAL RESULTS 1961

<i>Senior Hurling Final</i>	<i>St. Lachtain's</i>	<i>4-5</i>	<i>Near South Selection</i>	<i>0-12</i>
<i>Junior Hurling Final</i>	<i>Mooncoin</i>	<i>4-11</i>	<i>Coon</i>	<i>2-2</i>
<i>Special Junior Hurling Final</i>	<i>Bennettsbridge</i>	<i>3-8</i>	<i>Tullogher</i>	<i>3-6</i>
<i>Minor Hurling Final</i>	<i>Mooncoin</i>	<i>6-8</i>	<i>St. Colman's</i>	<i>6-3</i>
<i>Under 16 Hurling Final</i>	<i>Mooncoin</i>	<i>5-5</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>1-2</i>
<i>Senior Football Final</i>	<i>Railyard</i>	<i>1-7</i>	<i>Graigue</i>	<i>0-2</i>
<i>Junior Football Final</i>	<i>Barrowmount</i>	<i>1-8</i>	<i>Bigwood</i>	<i>1-3</i>
<i>Minor Football Final</i>	<i>Lamogue</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>Railyard</i>	<i>0-3</i>



THE HOMECOMING

As reported by the "Kilkenny People".

Big Welcome For Minor Champions

Bonfires blazed, exploding fog signals rent the air, bands played and thousands milled in the darkened streets when Kilkenny minor hurling team, All-Ireland minor champions for the second year in succession, arrived home on Monday night.

Fresh from their victory over Tipperary at Croke Park on Sunday, the team, accompanied by officials, were given a heroes' welcome when they arrived in the city by train.

Met at the railway station by two bands, they were escorted through the streets on flag-decked lorries to the court house where they received a civic reception from the Mayor and members of the corporation.

The scene on the floodlit terrace was a colourful one, black and amber bunting waving above the red robed mayor and councillors as the densely packed crowd cheered from the broad expanse of Parliament Street.

To a resounding roar, team captain Joe Dunphy Of Mooncoin waved the magnificent trophy aloft and each player was cheered to the echo as he was introduced by the Mayor Ald. John Holohan.

Extending a welcome to the team the Mayor said that they had added another link to the glorious chain of hurling championships won by Kilkenny. The county held an honoured place among the hurling counties of Ireland. Our team in all grades, in defeat or in victory had earned the plaudits of hurling enthusiasts all over the country for their skill, and admiration for their sportsman-like behaviour.

"We have had great teams," he went on, "Kilkenny players have been reckoned among the great players of every era. We can say without fear of contradiction that this brilliant minor team of ours can rank with the greatest. Their display yesterday has been justifiably described as brilliant and was a sheer delight to the large crowd who had the pleasure of enjoying it."

The Mayor concluded by congratulating the team's trainer Rev. Fr. Tommy Maher, the chairman and secretary of the County Board and all others who had contributed to the team's success. He also congratulated Tipperary minors who had helped to make the final such a memorable one.

Other speakers were the chairman of the Kilkenny County Board Nicky Purcell, Secretary Paddy Grace, team captain Joe Dunphy, and John Kerry O'Donnell former president of the New York GAA.

Following the reception the team and officials were entertained to a supper in the Metropole Hotel.

Many tributes were paid to the Callan Brass Band who at short notice made the trip to the city to meet the team. With St. John's Boys Band, they played stirring airs.

Transport for the team was supplied by Smithwicks Brewery who supplied their advertising galleon and a lorry for the parade through the city.

JOE DUNPHY REMEMBERS

The following is an extract from an article which appeared in the Kilkenny People in which Barry Henriques interviewed Joe Dunphy about his time with the Kilkenny minor hurling team.

Joe remembered with an inner fondness the celebrations after major wins. For instance, after winning the All-Ireland minor title in 1961, whilst there was some excitement around the county, it was not too apparent. But as he approached his home in Luffany, the Irish Press Cup in hand, a huge bonfire was burning in old Luffany.

Joe also remembered Richard Croke, the Mooncoin taxi driver who would collect him at 5.30pm on training nights and then pick up Richie Walsh and Denis Kinsella in Mooncoin and then head to Glenmore where Nicky Forristal was loaded up, together with selector Seamus Dunphy, and then travel on to either Thomastown or Nowlan Park and “most nights we wouldn’t be back in Mooncoin until well after midnight.”

When asked by Barrie if they were regally looked after when training ceased, the following was his replay. “To be honest”, said Joe, “We got a tomato sliced in two, two slices of cooked ham and glasses of milk in the Central Hotel. When training in Thomastown we would get tea and slices of brack and butter in O’Keeffes. Brack at that time was a rare commodity, so we thought it was great.” O’Keeffe’s, according to Joe was christened by



Kilkenny Captain, Joe Dunphy, with his Mooncoin colleagues, Richie Walsh (left) and Denis Kinsella (right)

the wise guys as the place where you got “tay and currny bread.”

Joe recalls with fondness the selectors, Jim Comerford (Clogga), Jimmy Brophy (Piltown), Seamus Dunphy (Glenmore), and trainer Fr Tommy Maher.

Joe went on to captain the successful Kilkenny minor team again in 1962 and holds the unique record of being the only person to have captained his county team to win successive All-Ireland minor titles.



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