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The committee continues to hope that members and their families and friends are keeping well. The vaccination rollout brings hope of an end to these worrying and uncertain times.

Kilkenny Supporters Club Dublin Branch AGM:

The Club AGM was held on March 11th via Zoom and was very well attended. Members of the Co Board along with a representative from the Kilkenny Branch of the Supporters Club were also at the meeting.

Financial Report

A year end surplus was reported, supported by a generous donation from a member and the fact that the Club did not have to bear the costs of county teams playing in Dublin as group meals were not permitted.

Contributions were made to the costs of the Ballyhale Shamrocks, Tullaroan and Conahy Shamrocks teams in playing their All-Ireland finals in January and the Kilkenny Senior camogie team for their All-Ireland Final in December.

The Club has had discussions with Barry Hickey, Kilkenny County Board Treasurer, regarding how the money on hand can best be spent in 2021 when games resume.

Secretary's Report

Physical meetings in 2020 were limited but virtual meetings were held where possible. Informal meetings and contact were maintained through the efforts of the Chairman.

Membership

Paid up membership was satisfactory in a difficult year and discussions were held with County Board and the Kilkenny Branch of the Supporters Club to develop mutual initiatives to grow the membership. That initiative continues into 2021.

Chairman's Report

Niall Butler recognised the playing achievements on the field, including Camogie, Senior hurling Leinster and All Ireland club victories. Retiring players and panel members were thanked for their many years and efforts.

Niall emphasised the purpose of the Supporters' club fundraising for the teams and games, while also acknowledging the need to maintain a focus on the social dimension of the club and thanked all members for their ongoing contributions.

Niall recognised Dermot Hearne, Club PRO, and his efforts to evolve our communication channels and expressed gratitude to the committee. Ned Quinn was recognised for his ongoing commitment to Kilkenny GAA and congratulated on his appointment as GAA trustee.

Finally, Niall spoke of plans to continue improving communication channels, examine wider membership packages and social events upon return to championship post COVID 19.

Elections

The 2021 Committee, including Officers, are as listed to the left of the cover page of this Newsletter.

Guest Speakers

Jimmy Walsh, County Board Chairman, reported on a unique year. Reaching the All-Ireland semi-final was a solid achievement for the senior team. The minors have yet to complete the championship.

The camogie team's win in the All-Ireland Final after several disappointments was a great victory for a talented and dedicated group of players. Winning the three club All-Irelands was a fantastic feat for the county.

Jimmy paid tribute to all the players and officials who ensured that games and championships were completed safely in the most challenging circumstances.

Barry Hickey, County Board Treasurer, was pleased that the County Board finances remained stable in the difficult year. All the major sponsors renewed their support and the additional expenditure necessitated by enhanced health and safety measures were met. Kilkenny is in sound shape financially.

He thanked the Dublin Club for their continued support.

Jim Freeman, Kilkenny Supporters Club branch chairman briefed on their activities during the year and looked forward to new initiatives in 2021

A moment of silence was observed for deceased members and families who passed away during the year.

The AGM thankfully did not fall victim to any technological failures but however it is appreciated that not all attendees may have had the opportunity to contribute for some reason or other. It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged at some stage later in the year after the vaccination rollout to provide members with an opportunity to catch up and chat over a cup of tea.

2021 Master Fixtures Calendar

The inter-county season will run from the weekend of May 8th/9th with the start of the Allianz Hurling League, to the weekend of August 28/29 when the All-Ireland Football Final will be played.

The Provincial Football and Hurling championships will commence on the weekend of June 26/27.

The County and Provincial Club Championships will be played in the months of September, October, November, and December with the All-Ireland Club Finals scheduled for February 2022.

Club championships can begin once the county has been eliminated from the championship.

The entire inter-county fixtures programme will now be run off in a 20-week period (rather than the 27 weeks in the original programme announced in December) Provisions guarantee a minimum of 5 games for each Senior County Football and Hurling team (all bar 3 counties guaranteed 6 games in Hurling)

2021 Allianz Hurling League

Divisions 1 and 2 of the Allianz Hurling League will run from the weekend of May 8 to the weekend of June 12/13.

There will be no Division 1 Hurling League quarterfinals, semi-finals, or Final played



There will either be joint winners for 2021, or if the teams that win Division 1A and Division 1B meet in the Championship, this will double as a League Final.

Kilkenny Seniors NHL Fixtures 2021

Sat 8 May	Dublin v Kilkenny,	Parnell Park	15.30
Sun 16 May	Kilkenny v Antrim	Nowlan Park	13.30
Sun 23 May	Kilkenny v Wexford	Nowlan Park,	14.00
Sat 5 Jun	Kilkenny v Laois,	Nowlan Park	13.45
Sat 12 Jun	Clare v Kilkenny	Cusack Park	15.00

The Division 1 Hurling League Relegation Play-off will be played as curtain raiser to Senior Hurling Semi Final in August.

2021 Liam MacCarthy Cup

Competing counties

Munster (5): Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary, Clare, Cork.

Leinster (6): Kilkenny, Galway, Wexford, Dublin, Laois, Antrim.

Leinster - A provincial knock-out championship with back-door qualifiers.

Hurling: 2020 Leinster SHC finalists Kilkenny and Galway have semi-final byes and cannot meet until the decider. Dublin will take on Joe McDonagh Cup winners Antrim in Quarter Final A, while Wexford will play Laois in Quarter Final B. Kilkenny await the winner of Wexford V Laois, while the Galway will face the winner of Dublin and Antrim in the Leinster Championship semi-final.



The quarter-final losers go into a preliminary round qualifier, which also doubles up as a relegation play-off (to the Joe McDonagh Cup in 2022).

Bereavements:

The Committee wish to extend our sincere sympathies and condolences on behalf of club members to the families and friends of:

Kieran (Kierney) Brennan (member and former officer board member),
John Butler (ex. club member, late of Rathfarnham and Graiguenamanagh) and
others who passed away recently. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Membership:

Its renewal time for club membership and the committee has decided to keep the membership fee at €25 for 2021. We would encourage members if possible to renew on line. via the following link...

https://member.clubforce.com/memberships_addcart_m.asp#Anchor

Alternatively, please forward payment to your member on the committee (address on letterhead) or any committee member .

If you are an e-mail or mobile user, please contact Jim Dunne at (085) 1120428 with your details to be included in events, team news and current information from KilkennyFan@gmail.com.

Photos from the Archives:

Team photo is from 1930s The older man middle front row is Dr Douglas Hyde, our first president.



The woman in the above photo is Nancy Walsh, sister of Jim "The Builder" Walsh, and wife of Matty Power, who is standing beside her.

As a follow on to Q&A's in previous Issues, this time it's a 'Meet the Committee Member' Q&A with Mr Michael Dowling.

What part of the county do you hail from?

I hail from the wonderful village of Freshford in the North West part of the County which has a wonderful sense of community with its Central Square, Millennium Park and Loop Walk.

Did you play sports at school or with a local club?

I played at School level but not beyond that. I was quite content to enjoy Sport at a limited and Amateur level.

Any honours or notable sporting achievements?

I don't have any notable sporting achievements. At Secondary School level, I represented my school and won a couple of County Medals in Athletics, I did represent my School at that level in Gaelic Football.

Are you working on retired?

I'm still working but am winding down a little bit!

Give us three words that describe you?

Loyal, Spiritual, and Honest.

Do you have a particular hobby or pastime?

I love walking and taking in Nature especially at Spring and Autumn time. The Cherry Blossoms at this time of year are so lovely to see. I also like reading and watching all kinds of sport on TV, although the thrill of attending Hurling matches at all levels is very hard to beat.

What are your main interests?

I love to watch historical documentaries and Sport on TV. I also enjoy walking and reading.

Name your Favourite:

Person? Impossible to say. Everybody is unique and brings their own quality to the mix.

Dinner? There has to be meat! I do like a nice steak or beef but I will eat most things.

Song? I'm a big 1960's fan so anything by the Beatles is fine, I also like the sound of The Carpenters although our wedding song was "Love is all around." by Wet Wet Wet. Also love to listen to the Johnny Barry Show on KCLR which promotes more local country music.

Holiday? I'm a great fan of keeping it in the country. Staying at home in Kilkenny is very important to me but I love visiting my sister and her family in Wexford. Previously, my favourite places are still Westport and Killarney.

Name your Favourite sporting:

Occasion? The All Ireland win in 2009 over Tipp when we scored two late goals with Henry Shefflin's penalty and Martin Comerford's goal was magical. On a local note, I loved Michael Kavanagh's (from a parochial perspective!) part in that.

Venue? Nowlan Park, there is always something magical and homely in that venue and it always brings nostalgic memories for me. Always meet some wonderful people there.

Memory? Any victory over Tipp is a great one, the 2002 semi- final springs to mind. We hadn't the best of times and lacked a bit of spark. DJ Carey came back from retirement, got a bit of attention from the Tipp backs, but gave a sublime display culminating with a sublime pass for the deciding goal by Jimmy Coogan.

Sporting personality of all time? If pushed, I'd go for DJ as he injected so much excitement when he got the sliotar at pace. He had so much flair and dash that there was a definite buzz when he came into play.

Who is your favourite hurler of all time?

Tommy Walsh for his flair and dash but also a mention for DJ Carey whose scores always had a sense of style and glamour.

What's your earliest All Ireland related memory?

My earliest memory is from the 1972 All-Ireland Final when Kilkenny came back from an Eight-point deficit to victory including the blood stained image of Eddie Keher and a rare and great goal from the legendary Frank Cummins.

From what era would your favourite team be drawn from?

The 2000 era was magical with all the flair from JJ Delaney, Tommy Walsh, Jackie Tyrell, Derek Lyng, Cha, The Powers, King Henry, Fast Eddie and all the others I've omitted. Proud of everyone who represents the County at every level and any sport

Is there something you wish you were better at?

There are so many things, but I wish I was a better Communicator.

What is one job you would never do?

I am not good with my hands, so I'll never be a good Builder.

Tell us something you are proud of?

I'm proud of my Association with the Supporters Club. I've built a lot of friendships which have helped me during the years.

What is the most memorable place you have visited?

I love travelling in Ireland, so my most memorable places are the on the West Coast of Ireland. I love Mayo and the area around Westport and Croagh Patrick. Also love the atmosphere around Killarney.

If you could meet any person, past or present, which one would it be?

Hard to say but I do love History and would love to meet Michael Collins and Eamon De Valera.

If you could change something in the world, what would it be?

Just a simple wish that we can be kinder to each other and ourselves.

Name something that's on your bucket list?

I'd love to go to a Champions League or Premier League match at Anfield.



Michael (right front) sitting proudly along with a shiny Liam McCarthy centre stage!

Test your knowledge with our GAA Quiz!

Q1. In 1984, a Graigue Ballycallan author composed 'Kilkenny The GAA Story 1884 -1984'; name the author?

Q2. Match the GAA club with its local grounds

- a. Canon Kearns Park
- b. Jim Maher Memorial Park
- c. Hayden Park
- d. Tom Walsh Park

- 1 Fenians
- 2 Blacks and Whites
- 3 Erin's Own
- 4 Dunnamaggin

Q3. In 1982, Kilkenny scored 7-31 to 0-13 in the Leinster semi-final; who was their opposition?

Q4. Which Kilkenny player won Hurler of the Year award in 2003?

Q5. All-Star trivia?

- a. How many All Stars did Henry Shefflin win in the noughties?

b. In how many positions did Tommy Walsh win All Stars during the noughties?

Q6. In what year was Brian Cody appointment Kilkenny senior hurling manager?

Q7. Ireland soccer international Kevin Moran won how many All Ireland titles with Dublin?

Q8. Hurling general:

14 counties have reached the final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship since it began, way back in 1887. Kilkenny - with 36 victories in 62 final appearances - are the most successful side but 12 other counties can also lay claim to All-Ireland glory. Only one county has reached the final but not won the Liam McCarthy in its entire history. Can you name it?

Q9. As of 2021 Cork have been runner up in 18 senior All-Ireland hurling finals. How many of those finals have they lost to Kilkenny

Q10. Which Kilkenny GAA club won its first and only senior hurling county title and went on to win the All Ireland senior hurling club championship?

Q11. Who is the last in this sequence? Cody, Dwyer, Hickey, Delaney, XXX?

Q12. What is the connection? 1985, Liam Fennelly; 1986, Richie Power; 1990 Eamon Morrissey; 1994, DJ Carey; 1995, DJ Carey; 2001, Charlie Carter; 2018, Eoin Murphy; 2020, TJ Reid

Q13. Who was the Kilkenny Camogie captain in 2020?

Q14. In what years did Kilkenny win the Leinster Senior Football Championship?

Q15. In what year did Kilkenny last win the All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship?

Answers on next page.

Answers:

- 1 Tom Ryall
- 2 Canon Kearns Park Erin's Own
Jim Maher Memorial Park Fenians
Hayden Park Dunnamaggin
Tom Walsh Park Blacks And Whites
- 3 Westmeath
- 4 JJ Delaney
- 5 a) Nine
b) Five
- 6 1998
- 7 Two
- 8 Antrim
- 9 Thirteen
- 10 St Martins (1984)
- 11 Holden
- 12 The winners of Kilkenny's only All Star in those years
- 13 Lucinda Gahan
- 14 1900; 1911
- 15 2010

