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Leinster GAA Senior Hurling Championship 2022

This year sees the 135th staging of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship with the Final scheduled for Croke Park on July 17th. Kilkenny senior hurlers have got off to a good start in Leinster, topping the table after 2 Rounds with 4 points on the board following wins over Westmeath and Laois.

The Cats will travel to Galway on Sunday, May 1st, for the eagerly awaited Round 3 clash with Henry's Tribesmen.

The 3 outstanding rounds in the Leinster SH Championship are as follows:

Round 3	Galway	v	Kilkenny	01.05.2022	2.00pm	Pearse Stadium Galway
Round 4	Dublin	v	Kilkenny	14.05.2022	7.00pm	Parnell Park
Round 5	Kilkenny	v	Wexford	21.05.2022	6.00pm	UPMC Nowlan Park
Final				4.6.2022	7.00pm	Croke Park

Leinster Championship Social Event - Kilkenny GAA Supporters club (Dublin)

Venue:- The Club House Hotel Kilkenny

Date:- 21st May 2022.

The club are inviting members, family and friends to a Leinster championship social event planned for Club House Hotel on the afternoon of the Kilkenny Vs Wexford championship match. The event will take place from 14:30 to 17:00, offering all the opportunity to meet up and relax in advance of the Round 5 game later that evening in Nowlan Park.

The event will provide an opportunity for those in attendance to enjoy a pre-match meal, with a choice of main courses, followed by tea / coffee and a guest speaker before departing for the game.

Free car parking will be available for those in attendance at the rear of the hotel.

Cost will be €175 for a table of 10 or individual bookings can be made for €20 per person.

Please contact Kay Cannon (087 2183592) / Kevin Houlihan (087 7663738) or RSVP to kilkennyfan@gmail.com to make your reservation.

Bereavements

Condolences to the Comerford family on the passing of Tim (father of ex county hurlers Andy and Martin) and to the families and friends of all those who passed away recently. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Membership Drive 2022

The Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club (Dublin Branch) has been in operation for over 25 years. The club exists primarily to generate funding to support the Kilkenny county teams and provide a social dimension to its members.

As a committee, we are extremely grateful to all our loyal members for their continued support and thanks to those who have already renewed their membership.

The membership rate for 2022 remains €25. Online renewal is once again possible via the following link:

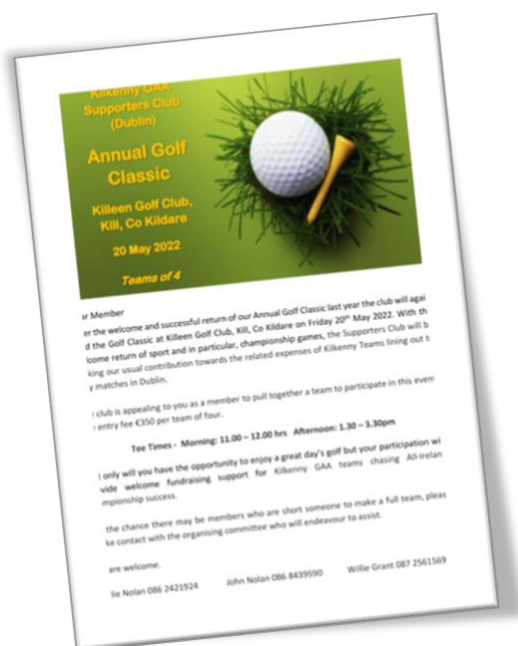
https://member.clubforce.com/memberships_cart_m.asp?LL_ID=175&intMF_ID=10071#Anchor

Results

For all County and Club Fixtures lists & Results visit the Kilkenny GAA Website

<https://kilkennygaa.ie/fixtures-results/>

Club Golf Outing



After the welcome and successful return of our Annual Golf Classic last year, the club will once again hold the Golf Classic at Killeen Golf Club, Kill, Co Kildare on Friday 20th May.

Not only will you have the opportunity to enjoy a great day's golf but your participation will provide welcome fundraising support for Kilkenny GAA teams chasing All-Ireland championship success.

Entry Fee €350 per team of four

Tee Times: 11.00am – 2.30pm

Contact

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Hurlers Co-op Draw 2022

The Hurlers Co-op Members Draw was recently launched by Leinster GAA Chairperson Pat Teehan. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of what has been an exceptionally successful draw.

The Hurlers Co-op draw has generated significant sums of money for clubs and county facilities over the past 40 years. The Supporters Club will soon be getting our allocation of tickets to sell and the Committee are asking members to support the draw.

Tickets are priced at €50 for 5 draws and entrants are in to win prizes up to and including cars. This year there is a total prize fund of €125,000.

Camogie News



Congratulations the Kilkenny senior and intermediate camogie teams after they each picked up four All-Stars in the Senior and Soaring Stars categories.

The Soaring Stars awards saw Kilkenny's strength in defence recognised. Roisin Phelan won the full-back award, while Niamh Leahy was named at left corner-back. The half-back line had two more Kilkenny players, with Sarah Crowley at right half-back and Leanne Fennelly selected at centre-back.

2021 All-Stars Team	2022 Soaring Stars Team
Goalkeeper: Sarah Healy (Galway)	Goalkeeper: Catriona Graham (Antrim)
Corner-Back: Shauna Healy (Galway)	Corner-Back: Chloe Drain (Antrim)
Full-Back: Sarah Dervan (Galway)	Full-Back: Roisin Phelan (Kilkenny)
Corner-Back: Davina Tobin (Kilkenny)	Corner-Back: Niamh Leahy (Kilkenny)
Half-Back: Megan Farrell (Kilkenny)	Half-Back: Sarah Crowley (Kilkenny)
Centre-Back: Laura Treacy (Cork)	Centre-Back: Leanne Fennelly (Kilkenny)
Half-Back: Laura Hayes (Cork)	Half-Back: Aideen Brennan (Wexford)
Midfield: Niamh Kilkenny (Galway)	Midfield: Chloe Cashe (Wexford)
Midfield: Hannah Looney (Cork)	Midfield: Nicole O' Neill (Antrim)
Half-Forward: Aoife Donohoe (Galway)	Half-Forward: Maeve Kelly (Antrim)
Centre-Forward: Katie Nolan (Kilkenny)	Centre-Half Forward: Ciara Banville (Wexford)
Half-Forward: Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)	Half-Forward: Ava Lynskey (Galway)
Corner-Forward: Siobhan McGrath (Galway)	Corner-Forward: Roisin McCormack (Antrim)
Full-Forward: Orlaith McGrath (Galway)	Full-Forward: Ciara Donnelly (Armagh)
Corner-Forward: Ailish O' Reilly (Galway).	Corner-Forward: Catrine Dobbin (Antrim)

Smart Sliotar

The GAA has launched a smart sliotar which will be used in this year's Under-20 hurling championship with a further review planned after the U20 All-Ireland hurling final.

The smart sliotar is the result of a special Work Group established by Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy and chaired by Ned Quinn, former chairman of the Kilkenny Co Board. The project aims to ensure that sliotars meet the specification as set out in the GAA Official Guide and that approved sliotar manufacturers and suppliers adhere to ethical production and supply chain practices. A key aim was also to ensure that sliotars perform on a consistent basis. Specifications for the sliotar as approved at GAA Congress are as follows:



Diameter - not including the rim (rib) - shall be between 69mm and 72mm.

Mass shall be between 110 and 116 grams.

Rim height shall be between 1.8mm and 2.6mm.

Rim width shall be between 3.6 mm and 5.4mm.

The thickness of the leather (chrome or synthetic) cover shall be between 1.8mm and 2.7mm and laminated with a coating greater than 0.15mm.

A chip, which is embedded in each smart sliotar, can be read by a special app on a mobile phone to allow it to be verified as being an approved match ball.

Hurl makers and Ash

The shortage of ash was recently raised in the Dáil where it was reported that 80% of ash planks used for the manufacture of hurls over the last 10 years have been imported. This is mainly because Irish ash trees have been affected by ash dieback since it was first detected here in October 2012 on plants imported from continental Europe. Another significant issue impacting on supply of ash is the high number of challenges (and appeals) to the granting of tree felling licences.



Ash has historically proven by far to be the most suitable wood for the manufacture of hurls due to its natural strength, flexibility, lightness and shock absorption qualities.

When a tree base is about 30 years old it is mature enough to be used for making hurls.

Canning Hurleys in Portumna, Co Galway closed on the last day of March after 12 years of operation due to supply chain problems and due to an unstoppable disease affecting the availability of ash wood. Ash dieback disease is caused by a fungal pathogen and threatens to eventually kill off up to 90% of Irish ash trees. The effects of the disease has been described as being akin to the potato plague where you just open up a tree and it's completely rotten inside.

Getting a reliable stock of ash has therefore been an issue for hurl-makers due not only to the disease but with problems exacerbated by global uncertainty, competition for supply and rising shipping costs. Approximately 80% of the planks for hurls are currently imported from the UK, Croatia, Slovakia, Denmark and Sweden. A significant proportion of the supply was also being imported from Ukraine by a number of hurl makers involved in mass production. That supply has now been disrupted due to the war. Despite the large number of ash trees suitable for hurl making across Europe, ash dieback disease may be found wherever ash trees grow which affects supply.



Ash dieback seen above in the cutaway section of a tree trunk

All European Union states have now stopped planting ash trees, except for research reasons with the Department of Agriculture and Teagasc now working to identify resistant ash plants for future breeding programmes. The GAA have also invested in research looking at the possibility of producing hybrid hurls, featuring ash and materials such as fibreglass.

It may not be too long before it's a luxury to get an ash hurl with prices predicted to rise sharply by the summertime. Some manufacturers are using different materials for making hurls such as bamboo and plastic. The advice seems to be to mind and look after whatever hurls you have.

Images from the Archives – Some souvenir match programmes from the past



Above Left

This is the earliest known All Ireland programme for what was the first final played on a 15 a side basis. The match programme cover for the 1913 All-Ireland Hurling Final indicates Jones's Road as the venue. A Kilkenny side, represented by Mooncoin, beat a Tipperary side, represented by Toomevara, by 2-4 to 1-2 for their 7th championship title and first 3 in a row.

Above

Match programme cover for the 1939 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Kilkenny won the match beating Cork by 2-07 to 3-03 for their 12th championship title. Famously known as the 'Thunder and Lightning Final' the game was played amid a torrential storm and on the day World War II was declared.

Left

Match programme cover for the 1982 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Kilkenny, captained by Brian Cody, won by beating favourites Cork, 3-18 to 1-13 for their 22nd championship title.

