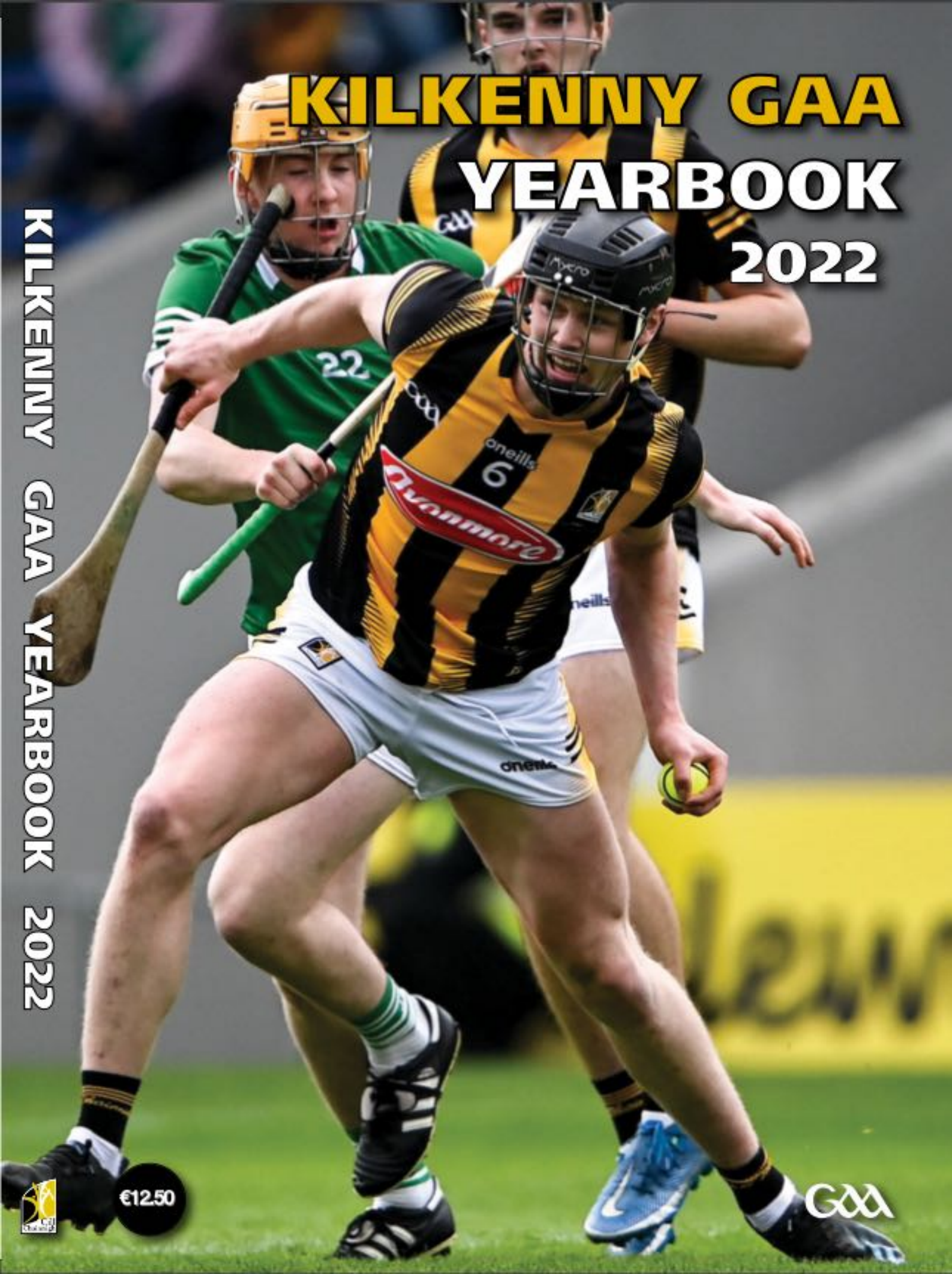


# KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2022

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2022



€12.50



GAA

# KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2022

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## Réamfhocal



As I write this cúpla focal ag cur fáilte romhaibh, our winter visiting fieldfare thrushes have bookended a very good year for Kilkenny GAA. It was built on the foundations laid down, before last year's edition, had hit the book shelves as the "end of season trials" at all levels rejuvenated both clubs and county.

With the inter-county season leading the way, the first fruits appeared when a team of debutants set the tone for the year ahead as they won the first round of the Walsh Cup in John Locke Park. By mid-July Cill Chainnigh were third time Leinster Senior Hurling Champions and amazingly competitive All Ireland Finalists. They were also the U20 Hurling Champions after a dream like campaign and the All-Ireland Junior Football Champions in Croke Park. In addition the ladies added an All-Ireland Camogie Senior title as our handballers amassed many more.

At Club level, with international travel restrictions still in place, there was a further another increase in playing numbers, competitions and games across all grades. With the return of the All-Ireland club competitions Mooncoin captured the junior title. By seasons end and, with the return of crowds, the main titles i gCill Chainnigh saw Shamrocks consistency rewarded with a historic five in a row, Danesfort return to Senior and Blacks and Whites to intermediate. They were joined by Mullinavat and Erin's Own footballers, Muckalee LGFA, Thomastown and James Stephens in camogie in qualifying for Leinster Club competitions, as all other clubs championship ambitions were set to restart.

On the ground, ambitious club plans and developments rolled on, as committees rolled up their sleeves volunteering, planning and fundraising for additional facilities for their players and communities. The easing pandemic saw a full return of the Primary, Post Primary, Third Level and Handball competitions, the creation of a county ETB side for small Post Primary Schools and the great on-going work of the Coaching and Development team.

Elsewhere the Age Grades solution proves tricky in a complex democratic organisation with the split season, duty of care and the imbalance of members in rural and urban clubs, whilst the new Games Promotion Officers employed by Clubs proved to be a huge success. The new U19 squad delivered at U20 level as the imminent appointment of the Coaching Project Performance Manager and the erection of a Gym in the MWH Centre is eagerly awaited.

Change is part of life for managers and committees, as we all wonder where we were in 1998 when Brian Cody took over the bainisteoir's role. Twenty four years on, and now top of the roll of honour, we thank him for his immense contribution to Kilkenny and Hurling. We wish our new management teams, Derek Lyng, Mark Dowling, Niall Bergin and Christy Walsh well, as we look forward to the challenges for volunteers, online ticketing, the Loughmacask development plans and a floodlit all-weather facility in St. Kieran's College. The new homecoming format and the weekend match programs were excellent. However Drug Awareness and the RESPECT initiative are many-faceted challenges for EVERYONE AT ALL LEVELS with the latter also online.

Once again I extend a míle buíochas to all who support Kilkenny GAA in so many ways, including our County sponsors Glanbia - Tirlán PLC, our partners, competition sponsors, supporters and supporter's clubs, civic authorities and advertisers. With communications being instant the great coverage from The Kilkenny People and Observer, KCLR, CRKC, Club PROs, the County social media is most welcome. In ever changing media times, RTE and BBC need refreshing as TG4 coverage excels, and disappointingly culture continues to be our missing link.

As this golden jubilee publication records the year's GAA activities our handball clubs join the LGFA ones and our early successes at All Ireland Senior level, as Rounder's strives to launch in Gowran, ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le gach éinne involved, particularly Pat Henderson, Barrie Henriques and an cruthaitheoir Gerry O'Neill.

In my final Fáilte after a great and privileged GAA journey, I extend míle buíochas to all encountered, wish you the very best, as the work continues, agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an leabhar seo.

*Seamus Breathnach (Jimmy Walsh)  
Cathairleach, Coiste Chontae Chill Chainnigh.*



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## KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2022

### PRODUCTION TEAM:

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22 May 2022; Pádraic Moylan of Kilkenny in action against Patrick Reale of Limerick during the oneills.com GAA Hurling All-Ireland U20 Championship Final match between Kilkenny and Limerick at FBD Semple Stadium in Thurles. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

### POSTER :

Katie Nolan  
Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile

## EDITORIAL



Some thirty-two Yearbooks ago, the then Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board, Paddy Buggy - who had just completed his stewardship as Uachtaran CLCG in 1989, asked a future Uachtaran - although he was not to know at the time - Nickey Brennan, to address the situation of a comprehensive vibrant PR team for the County Board. The competent young Conahy buck, gathered a team whom he felt would help him out in his ambitions.

Well I remember the young Brennan coming up with an idea of the County Board publishing their own yearly account of the activities of the County. The Kilkenny GAA annual - the brainchild of the legendary Peter Houlihan and his acolyte, John Knox - had been producing a GAA Christmas mag, which had been abandoned around the end of the 80s. Brennan saw a void that needed filling, which was a veritable solution for the first steps of satisfying the new Chairman of the Board. "We needed an in-house publication that would proclaim the GAA ethos to the four corners of our County, and ultimately our hurling Nation" said the bould Nickey to me as he gathered a willing, competent team of operatives.

Words of a similar substance were offered to people like Tom Doheny (NT), the late Ted Carroll (Co. Secretary), Barry Hickey (Dev Officer), John Knox (NT), the Legendary Tom Ryall, Tom Waldron (NT), Tommy Murphy (Danesfort). A 140-page Yearbook, packed to the waterline with facts, figures, photographs, profiles, every level of competition with pictures thrown in at Intercounty and Club levels, Football, Camogie, Handball, Club Developments, plus Archival re-productions, and we had our Yearbook.

It sold like ice cubes at the Equator. Well I remember a meeting of our Group with the late Paddy Buggy, and somebody had the temerity to pose the question, "What happens Chairman if we declare a loss", to which the redoubtable Chairman replied, "We won't, and even if we do, the County Board will supplement it".

As Assistant Editor to Nickey in charge of sales, advertising, and collecting the returns, I was insistent that my tenure would be for the duration of the first and only edition. As the twelve months neared completion, Nickey vamoosed to being Uachtaran CLCG. I ended up as Editor, while marvellous people came on Board. With people like Gerry O'Neill, Tommy Lanigan, Pat Henderson, Ned Quinn, Brendan O'Sullivan and John Knox NT, the Yearbook has evolved to a must have, Award-winning annual record of GAA activity through our County. It has set a very high bar of GAA knowledge, and presentation.

It has generated much-needed revenues for the Development of our games - at under-age levels in particular.

None of this would be possible without the financial support of our Advertisers who have been exceptionally loyal over a very long number of years. I urge you please to make them your first port of call.

As I said at the outcome, some thirty-two Yearbooks ago ----- a lot of water has flowed down the Nore in the interim. Whilst a big number of names have changed or gone to a better place, the narrative remains the same.

Many thanks for your support.  
Go néirí linn le misneach agus le chéile

*Barrie Henriques*  
(Editor).



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# All-Irelands are Always Special!

Photos: Willie Dempsey and Sportsfile

Under-20 Hurling Championship 2022 by Conor Brennan

All-Irelands are always special, no matter the code or the grade. But in the context of recent developments in hurling, both in Kilkenny and amongst its rival counties, has there been a more important victory than that of the Kilkenny Under-20 side in 2022? A first All-Ireland at that particular age group in fourteen years (previously under-21, but the time gap maintains), a victory over a well-fancied Limerick side, eager to add to success at senior level to cement their future further, and winning after losing three finals since their last All-Ireland success certainly makes that case. Allied to this, the lack of a minor All-Ireland title since 2014 (with three final losses at this level also since then), or indeed any All-Ireland in any grade since 2015, suggested a semi-famine of notable underage success between the two grades in the last decade. Now one feels a sense of optimism that this success will hopefully give confidence in ensuring a steady continuity of players who are capable of making their individual presence felt at senior level in years to come.

Derek Lyng and his charges began their campaign in the oneills.com Leinster Championship on April 20th when they hosted Offaly in the quarter-final in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkenny led by 2-9 to 0-9 at the half way mark thanks to two goals from Harry Shine and Billy Drennan respectively. Kilkenny enjoyed a real purple patch at the start of the second half by scoring five points without reply to open up an eleven point lead. Offaly did show some honest endeavour throughout the half, but could never reduce the margin to any great extent. Substitute Jack Doyle scored Kilkenny's third goal with two minutes remaining, and though Luke Nolan did score a late consolation goal for Offaly, Kilkenny still had plenty in reserve, eventually winning by 3-21 to 1-16.

Galway provided the considerable opposition in the semi-final in O'Connor Park, Tullamore, on May 2nd. Having defeated Kilkenny at this stage in the previous two years, the Tribesmen were surely confident of securing a trio of victories. It looked positive for them as they led by 0-7 to 0-3 after the opening quarter, and though Billy Drennan was unerringly accurate from placed balls for Kilkenny, Galway still maintained their lead at the half way mark thanks to some very efficient forward play, winning by 0-11 to 0-8. Full-forward Liam Collins was a particular influence on the game for Galway at this time, and he could have been more so had he converted one of two penalties that he saw superbly saved by Kilkenny custodian Aidan Tallis early in the second half.

This gave Kilkenny great confidence, and soon enough, they managed to



Padraig Moylan, Kilkenny Captain.

take the lead, despite losing Harry Shine to a hamstring injury. Galway responded in fine style, and once again Liam Collins led the way with points from frees and play to retake the initiative and seemingly, the win. But a late Billy Drennan free meant that the scores were tied at 0-19 apiece when the final whistle blew, and extra time beckoned. It looked like Galway's day once again as they scored 1-5 in the opening half of extra time to Kilkenny's 0-4, with the goal coming from substitute Reuben Devitt.

Yet Kilkenny showed the resilience that underlined their entire campaign when Gearoid Dunne managed to finish the ball to the Galway net to level the game in the final minutes. And when all expected the spectre of penalties to decide the issue, centre-back Joe Fitzpatrick hit the target from distance to snatch a 1-28 to 1-27 victory. It was to prove a recurring theme in the subsequent two games.

The Cats made a very promising start to the Leinster Final clash with Wexford in Netwatch Dr. Cullen Park on May 9th, opening up a 0-7 to 0-1 lead in the opening twenty minutes. But they did not trouble the scoreboard further for

the remainder of the half, while Wexford scored three consecutive points, through Cian Byrne (2) and Cian Molloy, to leave the margin at three points at the break (0-7 to 0-4). Though Wexford decreased the lead to two with the first score of the second half, Kilkenny once again enjoyed a scoring burst in response, this time 1-2 in total. The goal came from a well finished effort from substitute Jack Doyle, after good work from midfielder Denis Walsh, to open up a 1-9 to 0-5 lead.

But the subsequent minutes were dominated by the Model County, as they scored five points without reply to reduce the deficit to two points, with three pointed frees from Cian Byrne, along with points from Jack Redmond and Richie Lawlor. Billy Drennan was able to keep Kilkenny's scoring ongoing from frees, but they only managed one further point from play from Paddy Langton. It was a nervy finish for Kilkenny, as Wexford laid siege on their goal in order to snatch something from the game. They came mightily close with the final significant play of the game, but Jack Redmond's effort went narrowly wide. When the final whistle blew, Kilkenny just about held a single point lead, winning by 1-13 to 0-15, as every Kilkenny supporter blew a huge collective sigh of relief. It meant a first Leinster title since 2019, and a place in the All-Ireland final against Munster champions Limerick.





**KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND U20 CHAMPIONS 2022**

**Back:** Pádraig O Grady, Lar Murphy, Billy Reid, Seán Purcell, Cillian Doyle, Adam Croke, Máirín Gannon, Pádraig Lannon, James Walsh, Pierce Blandfield, Aidan Tallis, Timmy Clifford, Ted Dunne, Niall Rowe, Niall Holland, Bill Walton, Seán O Dwyer, William Halpin, Bill Hughes, Colman O Sullivan, James Carroll, Danny Glennon & Mark Donnelly.

**Front:** Adam O Connor, Harry Shine, Billy Drennan, Joe Fitzpatrick, Eoin O'Brien, Denis Walsh, Andy Hickey, Pádraic Moylan (capt.), Alan Rafter, Peter McDonald, Patrick Langton, Ian Byrne, Gearóid Dunne, Jack Doyle, Darragh O'Keefe & Alan Dunphy.

Photo by Piaras O Midheacht/Sportsfile



**Derek Lyng, Kilkenny Manager**



**Ned Quinn congratulates Peter Barry, Kilkenny Selector**

The opening half of the All-Ireland final on May 22nd in Semple Stadium was typically tentative with both teams showing caution throughout. What was hugely positive for Kilkenny was the form of Billy Drennan, who was quick to find his scoring range. Timmy Clifford was also proving influential at centre-forward, while Peter McDonald, picked to start at wing forward, was coping well as an auxiliary defender in the Kilkenny back line. Kilkenny led by 0-10 to 0-9 at the break, though it was not without some controversy. A long distance effort at a point by Paddy Langton was deemed to have gone over the bar despite Limerick goalkeeper Conor Hanley Clarke bringing the ball down from over the crossbar. In a game of a multiple of vital inches, this was, and proved to be, a significant moment.

Goal chances were minimal at best throughout, and Kilkenny had the best of them early in the second half when Ian Byrne's shot was initially saved by Conor Hanley Clarke and the rebound scrambled away by the Limerick backs. Limerick's progress to the final had been marked by the physical strength they displayed throughout the field, but Kilkenny gamely matched them in those stakes, and indeed arguably outpaced the Treaty side in stamina during the second half. Billy Drennan produced a fine performance with five points from play, and eight points overall, with Sean Purcell, Pdraig Moylan and Joe Fitzpatrick leading a fine defensive effort by the Cats.

When Timmy Clifford scored his third point to leave Kilkenny ahead by 0-19 to 0-17, it forced Limerick to throw all they could at the Kilkenny rearguard. Their scorer-in-chief, Aidan O'Connor, did score a free, his tenth point in all, to leave the minimum between the teams as injury time approached. However, they could not muster the additional score they needed, as Kilkenny held on for a memorable win. If it is the catalyst for bigger and better days in the future of Kilkenny hurling, it may well become more than just memorable.



**Gearoid Dunne winning a high ball.**

**The Kilkenny panel in full for the All-Ireland Final was: Aidan Tallis (Lisdowney), Niall Rowe (Dicksboro), Sean Purcell (Windgap), Pdraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Joe Fitzpatrick (Dunnamaggin), Pdraig Moylan (Dicksboro-Captain), Paddy Langton (Young Irelands), Killian Doyle (Emeralds), Andy Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Denis Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Timmy Clifford (Dicksboro), Peter McDonald (Thomastown), Billy Drennan (Galmoy), Gearoid Dunne (Tullaroan), Ian Byrne (Glenmore), Alan Rafter (St. Lachtain's), Billy Reid (Glenmore), Eoghan O'Brien (Rower-Inistioge), Martin Gannon (Mooncoin), Jack Doyle (Windgap), Ted Dunne (Graignamanagh), James Walsh (Kilmacow), Pierce Blanchfield (Graignamanagh), Adam Croke (Mooncoin).**

**The Kilkenny management team in full was: Derek Lyng (Emeralds - Manager), Peter Barry (James Stephens - Selector), Michael Rice (Carrickshock - Selector), Peter O'Donovan (Erin's Own - Selector), John Murphy (Clara - S & C).**

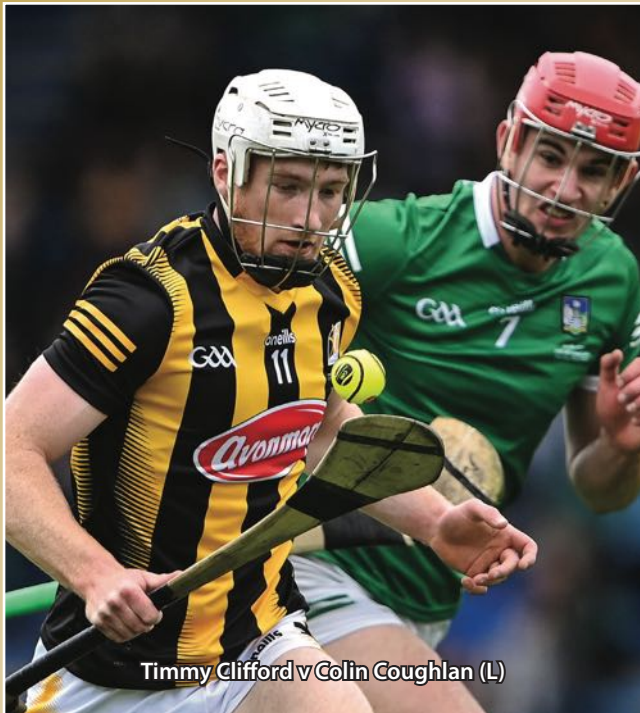
**O'NEILLS.COM LEINSTER UNDER-20 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

	QUARTER-FINAL (20/4/2022)		
Kilkenny	3-21	Offaly	1-16
	SEMI-FINAL (2/5/2022)		
Kilkenny	1-28	Galway	1-27 (AET)
	FINAL (9/5/2022)		
Kilkenny	1-13	Wexford	0-15

**O'NEILLS.COM ALL-IRELAND UNDER-20 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

	FINAL (22/5/2022)		
Kilkenny	0-19	Limerick	0-18

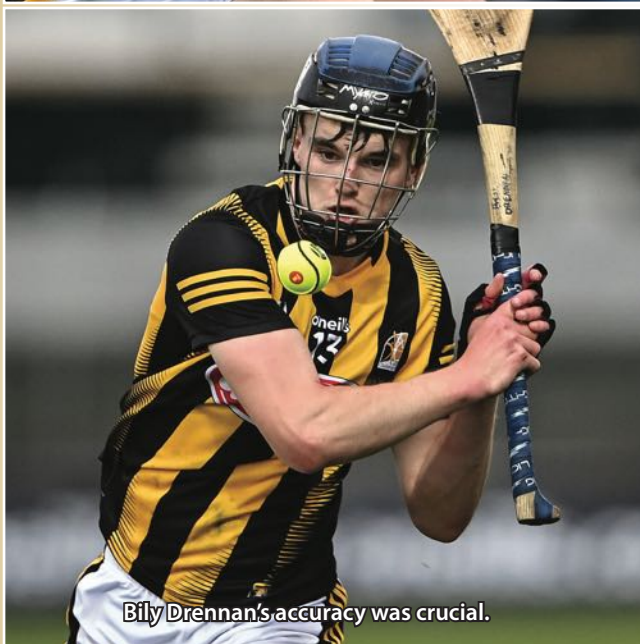




Timmy Clifford v Colin Coughlan (L)



Joe Fitzpatrick versus Cian Scully (L).



Billy Drennan's accuracy was crucial.



Chris Thomas (L) v Andy Hickey and Pádraig Moylan



Aidan Tallis, Kilkenny Goalkeeper saved two penalties against Glway.

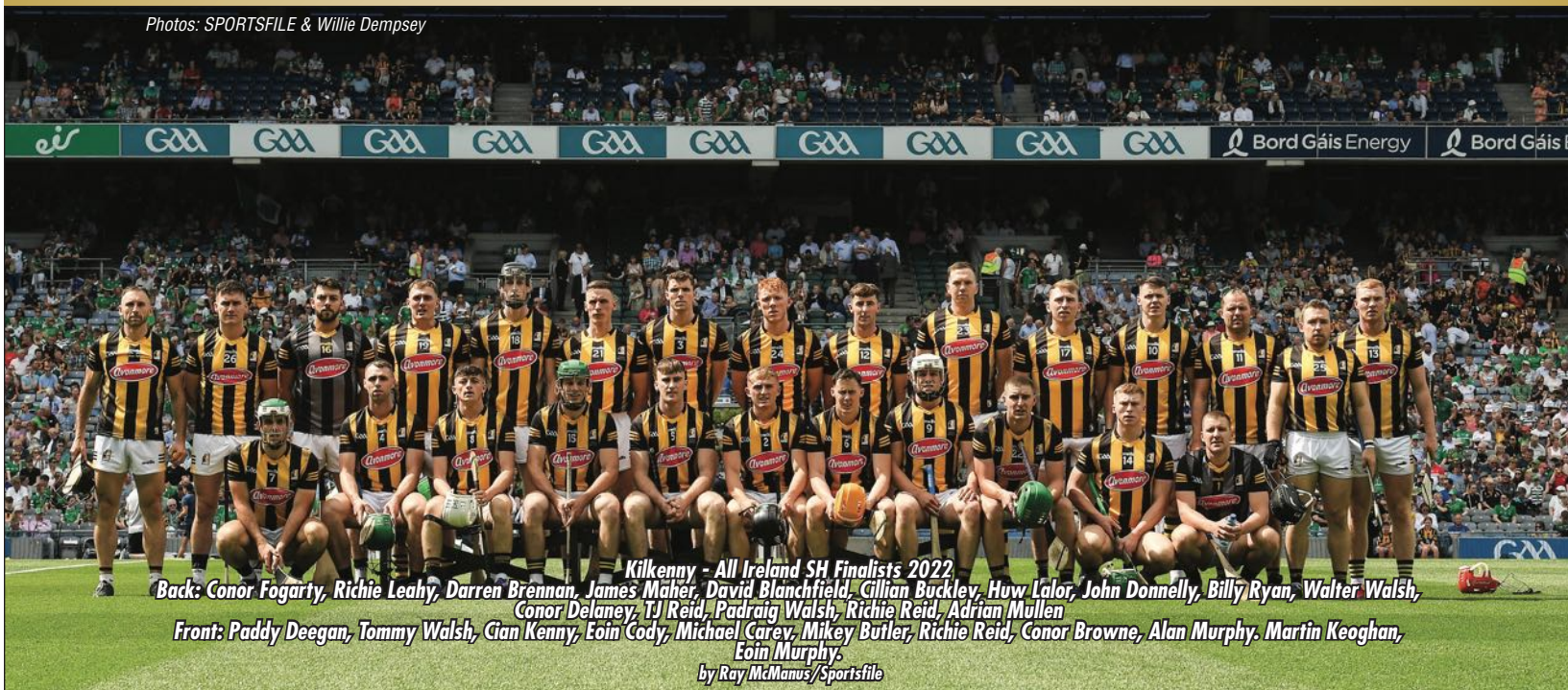


Ian Byrne in action in the Final

# Disappointed *but Immensely Proud*

Inter County SH Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: SPORTSFILE & Willie Dempsey



**Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Finalists 2022**  
 Back: Conor Fogarty, Richie Leahy, Darren Brennan, James Maher, David Blanchfield, Cillian Buckley, Huw Lalor, John Donnelly, Billy Ryan, Walter Walsh, Conor Delaney, TJ Reid, Padraig Walsh, Richie Reid, Adrian Mullen  
 Front: Paddy Deegan, Tommy Walsh, Cian Kenny, Eoin Cody, Michael Carey, Mikey Butler, Richie Reid, Conor Browne, Alan Murphy, Martin Keoghan, Eoin Murphy.  
 by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

## All Ireland Senior Hurling Final 17 July 2022

**Limerick 1-31 Kilkenny 2-26**

In advance of the final it was commonly accepted if anybody could stop Limerick's charge for a 3-in-a-row of senior titles and four in five years, it would be Kilkenny. This Limerick team had been superb champions, rugged at the back, powerful all over, with a forward line stacked with genuine stars.

In truth there were few believers among local followers. Yet, when we look at the history of the past few years it was Kilkenny who troubled Limerick more than most. The major concern was about Kilkenny's scoring rate and consistency.

Brian Cody somehow managed to coax a supernal performance out of a decent Kilkenny team, almost good enough to dethrone one of the mightiest teams ever to have played the game. Leaving Croke Park on that mid-Summer evening, supporters were naturally disappointed but immensely proud of a performance far beyond their hopes or expectations.

The purists and neutrals called it the finest All Ireland hurling final ever played and who could disagree? We were privileged to be witnesses to it all.

Kilkenny threw everything at Limerick, scoring enough to win most games but unhinged by a few remarkable forward performances by Limerick. Kilkenny elected to play a fixed defence but Limerick's manic movement and switching positions unhinged the Cats too often in the first half. Led by the outstanding Gearoid Hegarty, supported by Kyle Hayes and Aaron Gillane, Limerick piled on scores with ease, while Kilkenny forwards were never afforded such freedom. TJ Reid may have played his finest game in orchestrating scores for his colleagues and perfect free-taking as they fought for what little space Limerick allowed them.

A 4th minute goal from Hegarty gave Limerick a tonic start, but TJs frees

and great Kilkenny accuracy from general play kept them in touch. By half time Limerick led by 1-17 to 0-16 and Kilkenny were very much in contention.

The introduction of Walter Walsh added impetus to the forwards and his pass was finished by Billy Ryan for Kilkenny's first goal. Mossie Keoghan added another in the 47th minute and it was game-on. They levelled shortly after and Kilkenny had a half chance of a goal. When it was not converted Limerick kicked on. They outscored Kilkenny 0-5 to 0-3 in a dramatic finale. Hegarty and Hayes led the charge to the finish for a deserved win.

Amazingly for Kilkenny fifteen players, including subs, scored. There was no shame in defeat, instead pride and a renewed faith in this group of players.

**Kilkenny:** Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh (0-1), Michael Carey (0-1), Richie Reid (0-1), Paddy Deegan (0-2), Cian Kenny, Conor Browne, Adrian Mullen (0-3), Padraig Walsh (0-2), Billy Ryan (1-0), TJ Reid (0-9,9f), Martin Keoghan (1-1), Eoin Cody (0-1).

**Subs:** Conor Fogarty for Conor Browne (temp - 17-25), Walter Walsh (0-1) for Cian Kenny (ht), John Donnelly(0-1) for Padraig Walsh (47), David Blanchfield (0-1) for Conor Browne (54), Richie Hogan (0-1) for Eoin Cody (59), Alan Murphy (0-1) for Paddy Deegan (72), Subs not used: Darren Brennan, Conor Delaney, James Maher, Cillian Buckley, Richie Leahy.

**Limerick:** Nickie Quaid, Sean Finn, Mike Casey, Barry Nash, Diarmuid Byrnes (0-5,4f), Declan Hannon (0-1), Dan Morrissey (0-1), William O'Donoghue, Darragh O'Donovan; Gearoid Hegarty (1-5), Kyle Hayes (0-4), Tom Morrissey (0-4), Aaron Gillane (0-7,4f), Seamus Flanagan (0-2), Graeme Mulcahy.

**Subs:** Peter Casey for Graeme Mulcahy (49), David Reidy for Darragh O'Donovan (52), Conor Boylan (0-1) for Seamus Flanagan (60), Cathal O'Neill (0-1) for Tom Morrissey (64).



**Captain Richie Reid raises the Bob O'Keefe Cup**  
 (Willie Dempsey)

## All Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final Croke Park 3 July 2022

**Kilkenny 2-26 Clare 0-20**

Kilkenny had faltered at the semi-final stage in each of the past two years and they were underdogs going into this game, thanks to Clare's fine form in Munster and a stirring victory over Wexford.

But Kilkenny were not to be denied. As Clare tried to shoot points from every angle and failed, Kilkenny with unerring accuracy opened a huge gap between the sides. At half time they led by 0-17 to 0-6.



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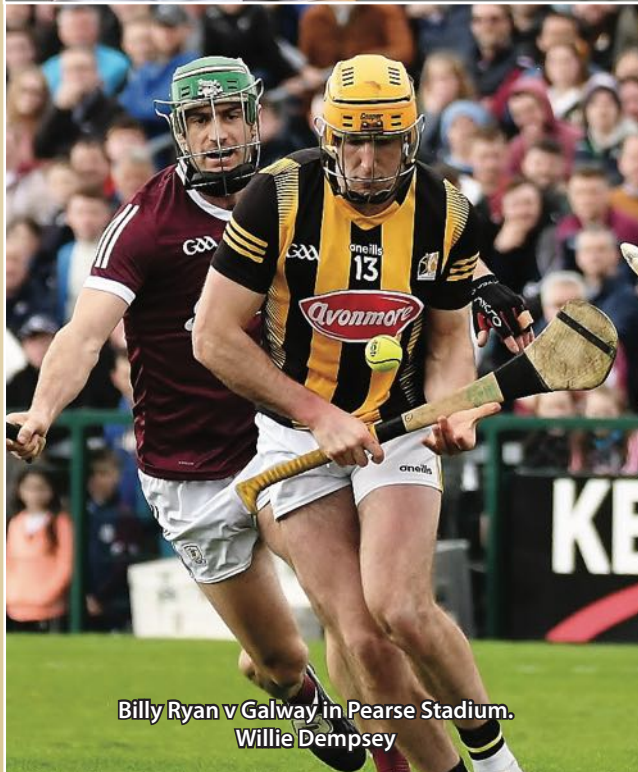
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Cian Kenny and Hugh Lawlor go highest against Galway and Clare, respectively.  
Willie Dempsey



Billy Ryan v Galway in Pearse Stadium.  
Willie Dempsey

Martin Keaghan celebrates Kilkenny's second goal in the All Ireland Final  
Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile



Disconsolate Kilkenny faces after the final whistle Seb Daly/Sportsfile



The contest was essentially over by that midway mark. Kilkenny's position was unassailable after half time when the second green flag was raised by Cian Kenny. Clare got no closer than a 10 point deficit despite an improvement in the second half.

TJ Reid amassed 0-10 in a man-of-the-match showing, Adrian Mullen sparked with 0-5 and Eoin Cody posted a tally of 0-3. Clare's tally of 23 wides tells its own story, though it must have alarmed Kilkenny management that the opposition could have so many opportunities to score.

Shane O'Donnell, Diarmuid Ryan and Fitzgerald tried to ignite their scoring charge, while David McInerney was outstanding at the back in the second half. But a comeback was never going to materialise against a tough tackling Kilkenny defence.

Richie Reid, Huw Lawlor and Paddy Deegan anchored the defence, along with the impressive Mikey Butler, while TJ Reid popped over a couple of stylish points from play in the closing stages.

Were Kilkenny that good or had Clare frozen with nerves? It certainly did not make for good preparation going on to meet the formidable Limerick.

**Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Michael Carey, Richie Reid, Paddy Deegan, Cian Kenny (1-2), Conor Browne (0-1), TJ Reid (0-10,7f), Pdraig Walsh (0-2), Billy Ryan (0-2), Adrian Mullen (0-5), Martin Keoghan (1-0), Eoin Cody (0-3).**

**Subs: Walter Walsh(0-1) for Keoghan (h-t), John Donnelly (Thomastown) for Walsh (49), Richie Leahy for Browne (61), Alan Murphy for Ryan (66), David Blanchfield for Carey (72)**

**Clare: Eibhear Quilligan, Rory Hayes, Conor Cleary, Paul Flanagan, Diarmuid Ryan, David McInerney, Páidí Fitzpatrick, Cathal Malone, Ryan Taylor, Shane O'Donnell, David Fitzgerald, Tony Kelly, David Reidy, Ian Galvin, Peter Duggan.**

**Subs: Aron Shanagher for Galvin (26), Mark Rodgers (for Reidy h-t), Cian Nolan for Fitzpatrick (h-t), Shane Meehan for Duggan (51), Shane Golden for Taylor (65)**

**Referee: Fergal Horgan.**

## Leinster Final Saturday 4 June 2022, Croke Park

### Kilkenny 0-22 Galway 0-17

Kilkenny retained the Leinster title, their 74th, in very impressive fashion by overcoming a dogged and dour Galway side in a tough encounter on a Saturday evening in June. The game was given added spice by virtue of the respective managers, Brian Cody and Henry Shefflin. It followed a sulphurous encounter in the league a few weeks earlier that was exacerbated by a relentless media focus.

Galway elected to defend against a strong breeze didn't work well for them as Kilkenny forward shot points from afar. However the Galway full back line came to grips with an increasingly struggling attack and the Westerners forced their way back into the game. Conor Whelan led their attack with drive and power and Kilkenny were fortunate to be ahead by 0-11 to 0-9 at the interval. Eventually Huw Lawlor got to grips with him and with the Kilkenny defence improving every minute, Galway scores dried up. At the other end TJ was his usual accurate self, ably assisted by Adrian Mullen and late sub. Pdraig Walsh.

On an evening when goals were unlikely, Kilkenny had good reason to thank a wonderful defence in which Mikey Butler shone brightest, followed by Huw Lawlor and Paddy Deegan. Their second half performance was a master-class in foul-free defending and closing space. Galway forwards became increasingly disheartened and their shooting went astray.

**Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Huw Lawlor, Mikey Butler, Mikey Carey, Richie Reid, Paddy Deegan (0-2), Cian Kenny, Conor Fogarty, Billy Ryan (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-4), Richie Leahy (0-1), Eoin Cody, TJ Reid (0-12, 11f, 1'65), Martin Keoghan (0-1). Subs: Walter Walsh for Ryan (27-29, temp), Conor Delaney for Butler (29 – h-t, temp), Conor Browne for Kenny (h-t), Walter Walsh for Leahy (45), Pádraig Walsh (0-1) for Ryan (53), John Donnelly for Keoghan (60).**

**Galway: Éanna Murphy, Darren Morrissey, Daithí Burke, Jack Grealish, Pádraic Mannion (0-1), Gearóid McInerney, Fintan Burke (0-1), Tom Monaghan, Johnny Coen, Cianán Fahy (0-2), Conor Cooney (1-9,7f, 1s), Joseph Cooney, Cathal Mannion, Conor Whelan (0-4), Brian Concannon. Subs: Jason Flynn for Monaghan (h-t), Ronan Glennon for Fahy (54), David Burke for Coen (60), Gavin Lee for Concannon (70).**

**Referee: James Owens**

**The Leinster Championship this year was one of the poorest of the past two decades. No team showed any signs of competence, never mind potential greatness. The presence of weak teams from Laois and Westmeath did not improve matters, though Westmeath showed flashes of quality, notably in drawing with Wexford and effectively ending the latter's provincial challenge.**

## 16-04-2022 TEG Cusack Park, Mullingar

### Kilkenny 5-23 Westmeath 1-19

Kilkenny are rarely in good form in the early rounds of the championship and this was well illustrated by a scrappy win over a game Westmeath side in Cusack Park. It was the Lakelanders first time in the championship and they certainly didn't show much respect for their much vaunted rivals.

The led by four points after 25 minutes thanks mainly to the superb Killian Doyle who shot points from frees and play from every angle. A Kilkenny goal by Michael Carey and some excellent points by Alan Murphy and Pdraig Walsh edged Kilkenny a goal ahead at the interval.

Despite the introduction of TJ Reid at half-time, Westmeath continued to give as good as they got until disaster struck them with the sending off of Cormac Doyle on a second yellow card. A combination of numerical advantage and superior fitness enabled Kilkenny to forge ahead. TJ, Walter Walsh and Billy Ryan added goals to enable Kilkenny run out the easiest of winners. Westmeath lost no face in the game and proved their mettle when earning a great draw with Wexford a few weeks later. For them, Tommy Doyle, Jack Galvin, Daragh Egerton and Killian Doyle were outstanding, while Kilkenny performed efficiently in most departments.

**Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Michael Carey, Paddy Deegan, David Blanchfield, Cian Kenny (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-2), Walter Walsh (1-2), Pdraig Walsh (0-4), Eoin Cody (0-1), Billy Ryan (1-1), M Keoghan, Alan Murphy (0-7,6f).**

**Subs: John Donnelly for Keoghan (34), TJ Reid (1-4, 3f) for Kenny (h-t), James Maher (1-1) for Murphy (46), Conor Browne for Blanchfield (59), Shane Walsh for Ryan (66).**

**Westmeath: Conor Bracken, Darragh Egerton (0-1), Conor Shaw, Jack Galvin, Aaron Craig, Tommy Doyle, Kevin Regan, Cormac Boyle, Robbie Greville, Joey Boyle (0-2), Derek McNicholas, Davy Glennon (1-1), Niall O'Brien (0-1), Niall Mitchell, Killian Doyle (0-14, 11f)**

**Subs: Eoin Keyes for O'Brien (49), Ciaran Doyle for McNicholas (54), Tommy Gallagher for Craig (61), Owen McCabe (1-0) for Boyle (69), Alan Cox for Regan (69).**

**Referee: R McGann.**

## 23-04-2022 UPMC Nowlan Park

### Kilkenny 2-34, Laois 1-14

Kilkenny topped the Leinster Hurling Championship round-robin table after they destroyed a tame Laois side at Nowlan Park. If Laois thought they were improving after a good outing against Dublin, they were rudely disabused of such notions as Kilkenny beat them at will, winning every position on the field.

It is ludicrous to attempt to beat Kilkenny using a sweeper nowadays and the Cats simply shot points from every angle. From the throw-in it was clear this was a mismatch of giant proportions and Laois showed none of the battling qualities of the previous year. The game was no more than a light training session for Kilkenny as they were far too physical and speedy for a hapless opposition. In the 30th minute, with Kilkenny seven points ahead, Eoin Cody collected a Paddy Deegan clearance and hammered the ball home to end the game as any sort of a contest.

Paddy Purcell managed a late consolation goal for Laois but substitute Tom Phelan replied with a fine goal. This game did nothing for either county except give Kilkenny a +39 points difference. The difficult games were to come.

**Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Paddy Deegan Mikey Carey, Conor Browne, James Maher (0-2), Adrian Mullen (0-6), Walter Walsh (0-4), Pdraig Walsh (0-4), John Donnelly (0-2), Billy Ryan, TJ Reid (0-10, 7f), Eoin Cody (1-5). Subs: Shane Walsh for Ryan (h-t), Tom Phelan (1-1) for Donnelly 46, Richie Reid for Deegan (49), Conor Delaney for Lawlor (56), Darragh Corcoran for Tommy Walsh (62).**

**Laois: Enda Rowland, Sean Downey, Ciaran McEvoy (0-1), Donnchadh Hartnett; Fiachra C Fennell; Jack Kelly, Liam O'Connell, Ryan Mullaney (0-1) Paddy Purcell (1-2, 1f), Aidan Corby (0-1) Cha**

Dwyer (-3), Mark Dowling, Jordan Walsh, James Keyes (0-1), PJ Scully (0-4f). Subs: Ciaran Byrne (0-1) for Walsh (44), Eric Killeen for Corby (50), Brandon McGinley for Dowling (57), John Maher for Scully (69), Padraic Dunne for O'Connell (69).

Referee: Liam Gordon.

### 01-05-2022 Pearse Stadium

#### Galway 1-24 Kilkenny 3-17

Pearse Stadium has seen lots of drama and this encounter must rate as one of the best. It was the first managerial contest between Brian Cody and Henry Shefflin and the game was all the better for it.

From the start the players tore into one another and Kilkenny enjoyed the early exchanges with goals from Eoin Cody and Billy Ryan. Gradually Galway took a hold of proceedings and enjoyed a superb second quarter where they outscored Kilkenny 1-8 to 0-3. Tom Monaghan and Joseph Cooney dominated this quarter and Galway's overall industry gave them a six point lead at the interval.

To compound Kilkenny's problems, TJ Reid was injured and didn't appear for the second half. Assisted by a fresh breeze Kilkenny ground their way back, led by the excellent Eoin Cody and Alan Murphy's free-taking helped enormously. Padraig Mannion eventually shackled Cody and Galway were three points to the good entering the final moments.

In a welter of excitement, substitute John Donnelly snatched a goal in the third minute of injury time to level the game.

Controversy followed when referee Colm Lyons harshly penalised Paddy Deegan and Joseph Cooney struck a fine free to win the game for Galway.

**Galway:** Éanna Murphy, Jack Grealish, Daithí Burke, Darren Morrissey, Padraig Mannion (0-1), Gearóid McInerney, Fintan Burke (0-2s), David Burke (-1), Johnny Coen (1-0), Joseph Cooney (0-4), Conor Cooney (0-6, 5f), Tom Monaghan (0-4), Brian Concannon (0-3), Cianan Fahy (0-1), Cathal Mannion (0-2). **Subs:** Conor Whelan for Fahy (45), Gavin Lee for Grealish (52), TJ Brennan for Coen (72).

**Kilkenny:** Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Michael Carey (0-1), Paddy Deegan, Conor Browne, James Maher, Adrian Mullen (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-3), Padraig Walsh (0-2), Cillian Buckley, Billy Ryan (1-0), TJ Reid (0-2f), Eoin Cody (1-2). **Subs:** Alan Murphy (0-5,4f) for Maher (31), Tom Phelan for Reid (h-t), David Blanchfield for Browne (43), John Donnelly (1-0) for Buckley (55), Martin Keoghan for Ryan (66).

Referee: Colm Lyons

### 14-05-2022 Parnell Park

#### Kilkenny 3-25, Dublin 0-17

This was a fixture that Kilkenny needed after their somewhat chastening experience in Galway. Dublin were having a mediocre year though they had a somewhat surprising win over Wexford. Parnell Park has been a tough venue for Kilkenny teams on occasions but this was ultimately a very easy day.

There were four changes to the Kilkenny team from the previous week and it was clear that places were available as management experimented yet again to find the best fifteen. The first half was a tough affair. Both sides went man-on-man and exchanging some hefty challenges. Both sides were shooting points from all angles. The first goal came from Martin Keoghan who beat three defenders with some fancy footwork.

This gave Kilkenny a three point interval lead and they slowly extended it in the third quarter. Keoghan's second goal in the 47th minute gave Kilkenny a big lead and they forged on from there. TJ added a third goal and the points flowed. Eamonn Dillon got a goal back for Dublin but by then it didn't matter as Kilkenny fired over a succession of points.

It left both Kilkenny and Dublin with an opportunity to reach the Leinster final if they produced the goods the following week. Kilkenny supporters were not so sure.

**Kilkenny:** Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Conor Delaney, Tommy Walsh, Michael Carey, Richie Reid, Paddy Deegan, Alan Murphy (0-3), Adrian Mullen (0-5), Walter Walsh, TJ Reid (1-7,5f), Padraig Walsh, Cian Kenny (0-4), Martin Keoghan (2-1), Eoin Cody (0-2).

**Subs:** John Donnelly (0-1) for Walter Walsh (h-t), Billy Ryan (0-1) for Padraig Walsh (48), Conor Fogarty for Alan Murphy (59), Cillian Buckley (0-1) for Adrian Mullen (66), David Blanchfield for Mikey Butler (68).

**Dublin:** Seán Brennan, James Madden, Eoghan O'Donnell, Cian O'Callaghan, Donnacha Ryan, Paddy Smyth, Daire Gray (0-2), Conor Burke (0-2), Chris Crummey (-1), Danny Sutcliffe, Rian McBride (0-1), Dónal Burke (0-9,7f), Fergal Whitely (0-1), Ronan Hayes, Aidan Mellett.

**Subs:** Mark Schutte (0-1) for Aidan Mellett (33), Eamon Dillon (0-1) for Ronan Hayes (55), Andrew Dunphy for Daire Gray (59), John Bellew for Eoghan O'Donnell (63), Davy Keogh for Rian McBride (66).

Referee: Thomas Walsh.

### 21-05-2022 UPMC Nowlan Park

#### Wexford 1—22, Kilkenny 1-18

The final stages of the Leinster championship were fraught for several teams. Dublin had to defeat Galway in Pearse Stadium while Wexford and Kilkenny both needed wins in Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny reserved their worst performance for this Wexford visit. An attendance of 13,565 saw Wexford gain a clear victory over an increasingly sluggish Kilkenny side. The Cats had started brightly with a Martin Keoghan goal and led by five points within ten minutes. From there to the end Wexford dominated and their slick inter-passing and hard running caused endless problems for Kilkenny.

An Oisín Foley goal gave Wexford a three point interval lead, which would have been more had not Eoin Murphy been in brilliant form. Lee Chin dominated the game both in general play and outstanding free-taking.

As Galway pulled clear in Salthill, it became clear that it was not a game that Kilkenny needed to win. It didn't change the fact that Wexford needed the win, however, and that perhaps was the difference. Wexford's subs. improved their team while Kilkenny adjustments made little difference to the lethargic performance.

Supporters left this game seriously wondering what kind of a mish-mash side Kilkenny has going into a Leinster final. Admittedly the results meant that Kilkenny could lose and qualify for the final.

**Kilkenny:** Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Conor Delaney, Tommy Walsh, Michael Carey (0-2), Richie Reid, Paddy Deegan, Alan Murphy, Adrian Mullen (0-2), Walter Walsh (-1), TJ Reid (0-10,9f), Tom Phelan, Cian Kenny, Eoin Cody, Martin Keoghan (1-1)

**Subs:** Billy Ryan (0-1) for Phelan (45), James Maher for Alan Murphy (54), Padraig Walsh (0-1) for Kenny (68), John Donnelly for Keoghan (70).

**Wexford:** Mark Fanning, Simon Donohue (0-2), Liam Ryan (0-1), Conor Devitt, Paudie Foley, Matthew O'Hanlon, Damien Reck, Diarmuid O'Keefe (0-2), Liam Óg McGovern (0-1), Lee Chin (0-9,7f), Jack O'Connor (0-1), Kevin Foley, Oisín Foley (1-0), Rory O'Connor (0-2), Conor McDonald (0-1).

**Subs:** Connal Flood (0-1) for Conor Devitt (42), Mikie Dwyer (0-1) for Jack O'Connor (55), Cathal Dunbar (0-1) for Kevin Foley (57), Charlie McGuckin for Oisín Foley (62).

Referee: Fergal Horgan.

### Allianz National hurling League 2022

Kilkenny and Galway were joint holders of the title from 2021. The upper levels of the League have been altered yet again and the quality of the competition has been further eroded. While it was once (and officially still is, our second most important competition, few counties are placing significant effort in winning it. That is not to say the competition produces good games, merely that the Provincial round robin is now the main competition in town.

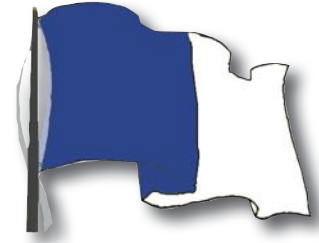
The new club and county split season has impacted negatively on the League, with no county happy to risk injury to crucial players while approaching late April and May.

**6-3-2022, Nowlan Park. Kilkenny 2-15, Antrim 3-9.**

Antrim were very lively opponents for the first round of the Allianz NHL and an experimental Kilkenny side had lots of difficulty with them before superior fitness told as they eked out a three point win thanks to two Martin Keoghan goals.



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**13-2-2022 Semple Stadium. Tipperary 1-19, Kilkenny 1-18**

These two always conjure up a treat and after a very poor first half, Kilkenny thundered into the game. They closed a large deficit shortly after half time and both sides exchanged points all the way to an exciting finish. Jason Forde's free-taking made the difference in the end as Tipperary narrowly earned a deserved win.

**27-02-2022 Nowlan Park. Kilkenny 2-28, Laois 0-17**

Whatever chance Cheddar Plunkett's Laois side had in this game was predicated on converting all of their scoring opportunities. When they spurned several very good goal and point chances early in the game, Kilkenny took over and won comprehensively. Wing forward Tom Phelan contributed two goals. The game illustrated the lowly importance of the league to all bar the strugglers.

**5-3-2022 Parnell Park Kilkenny 2-23, Dublin 0-16**

Dublin had won their first three games and the Walsh Cup and were expected to seriously challenge Kilkenny. However Kilkenny produced their best performance of the season so far and comprehensively blew Dublin away from the early stages. It did not get much better for Dublin for the rest of the season. This time Pdraig and Walter Walsh led the forward charge with Keoghan contributing handsomely again.

**20-3-2022 Nowlan Park Kilkenny 2-21, Waterford 0-21**

Kilkenny's winning run continued when defeating a Waterford side who promised much but delivered little enough in Nowlan Park. They were already through to the semi-final and Kilkenny made sure of their place as they outclassed Waterford in most departments.

Pdraig Walsh dominated a centre-forward and Billy Ryan was particularly lively. Meanwhile the defence was taking shape with young Mikey Butler proving a real find at corner back.

**Allianz NHL Semi-Final**

**26-3-2022 Pairc Úi Chaoimh, Cork 1-27, Kilkenny 2-20**

Played under lights before over 16,000 raucous supporters, Cork managed to rise above a poor first half and qualify for their first NHL final in seven years. Kilkenny had a very promising first half but faded in a pacy Cork onslaught as the game progressed. Nevertheless they should be reasonably satisfied with the outcome of the Allianz NLH.

Again Pdraig revelled at centre forward as Kilkenny led by 2-12 to 0-14 at the interval, Martin Keoghan supplying both goals. Cork didn't equalize until the 63rd minute but by then all the momentum was on their side as they forged ahead to an impressive win.



*17 July 2022; Walter Walsh of Kilkenny in action against Mike Casey, left, and Barry Nash of Limerick during the Final.  
Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile*



*17 July 2022; Both teams parade behind The Artane Band before the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final match between Kilkenny and Limerick at Croke Park in Dublin. Photo by Harry Murphy/Sportsfile*



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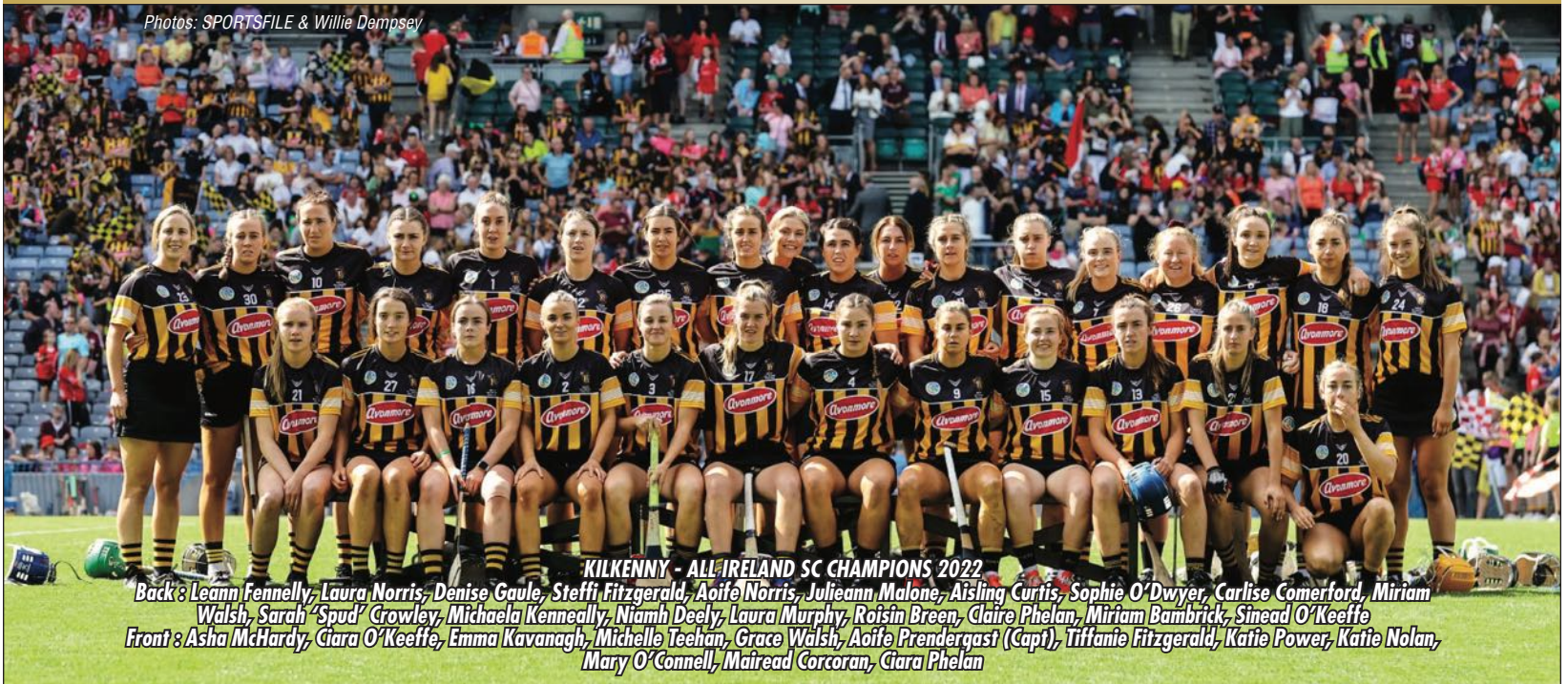
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# CHAMPIONS FOR THE 15TH TIME!

## Unbeaten All Year

Camogie Report by Aoife Lanigan

Photos: SPORTSFILE & Willie Dempsey



**KILKENNY - ALL-IRELAND SC CHAMPIONS 2022**

*Back: Leann Fennelly, Laura Norris, Denise Gaule, Steffi Fitzgerald, Aoife Norris, Julieann Malone, Aisling Curtis, Sophie O'Dwyer, Carlise Comerford, Miriam Walsh, Sarah "Spud" Crowley, Michaela Kenneally, Niamh Deely, Laura Murphy, Roisin Breen, Claire Phelan, Miriam Bambrick, Sinead O'Keefe  
Front: Asha McHardy, Ciara O'Keefe, Emma Kavanagh, Michelle Teehan, Grace Walsh, Aoife Prendergast (Capt), Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Katie Power, Katie Nolan, Mary O'Connell, Mairead Corcoran, Ciara Phelan*

### SENIOR

#### League

The first league match, Kilkenny played Limerick in John Locke Park, Callan winning 1-18 to 1-10 with Katie Nolan chipping in with 1-8 (5f). Second game, Kilkenny played Clare in Cusack Park, Ennis. Kilkenny came out on the right side of a one-point win, 1-8 to 0-10. The third match was Kilkenny against their old rivals Cork played in Pairc Ui Chaoimh in Inclement weather. It ended 1-8 apiece. This wasn't enough for Kilkenny to qualify for the League Final due to scoring difference. Unfortunately, that day, Kelly Ann Doyle did her cruciate ligament for the third time

#### Leinster

Leinster Championship was back after a two year break due to Covid

First match – Quarter Final – Kilkenny played Wexford in Enniscorthy, it was a low scoring affair in the first half, but Kilkenny came good in the second half, winning 0-13 to 0-4. Kilkenny played Offaly in the Semi-Final in St Brendan's Park, Birr and they had a comprehensive win 4-14 to 1-12. Miriam Walsh (2), Denise Gaule and Katie Nolan with the goals

The Final against Dublin was part of a double header with Laois v Galway Hurling Leinster Championship match in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise. Kilkenny had an emphatic win 5-11 to 0-12, goals coming from Miriam Walsh (2), Aoife Doyle (2) & Katie Power and including a fantastic point from Sarah Crowley who took a shoulder from a Dublin defender which left her on the ground and while Dublin defenders came to challenge her for the ball, she still struck the ball over the bar while on her knees. Kilkenny were Leinster Champions for the 24th time

#### All Ireland Series

In the first match of the Glen Dimplex Senior All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny travelled to Liatroim Fontenoy's (550km round trip) to play Down. Kilkenny led 1-11 to 0-8 at the interval. Down got a goal within the first minute of the second half but Kilkenny lead was back out to 1-16 to 1-8 by the third quarter. The final score was Kilkenny 1-23 to Down 1-10. A good start to the Senior Campaign



*Captain Aoife Prendergast raises the O'Duffy Cup*

Second match they faced Limerick in UPMC Nowlan Park. They led 1-11 to 0-1 at half time, Limerick's only point coming from Caoimhe Costello. Just before half time, Aoife Doyle went over on her knee and she was in trouble. Unfortunately, she had done her cruciate ligament and now joined her sister Kelly Ann out injured. Kilkenny ran out comfortable winners 1-21 to 0-6

For the third match, Kilkenny had to travel to Dunloy GAA, Antrim. They stayed over for the long trip. Kilkenny led 1-7 to 1-5 at the break. Unfortunately, they were down to 14 players after 41 minutes, but they dug deep and ran out winners 1-15 to 1-9

Fourth match was a home game against Offaly in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkenny led 1-13 to 1-1 at the interval. Kilkenny continued their scoring rout in the second half, winning 3-17 to 2-7

The final match of the group was away to Galway in Kenny Park, Athenry. The winner of the match would top the group and progress straight to the All-Ireland Semi Final. Kilkenny led 1-3 to 0-2 after 10 minutes, goal scored by Miriam Walsh, but Galway went on a scoring

spree, scoring 1-7 without reply. Michelle Kenneally and Julieann Malone slotted over points for Kilkenny just as the first half edged towards the break, leaving the score Kilkenny 1-5 to Galway 1-9 at the change of ends

By the 39th minute, Kilkenny were back to within a point of Galway, when they were awarded a 45m free near the sideline, Denise Gaule took the free quick to an unmarked Miriam Walsh and she blasted it to the back of the net passed Sarah Healy. Kilkenny took the lead with points from Denise Gaule & Katie Nolan. Sabina Rabitte equalised for Galway but points from Denise Gaule & Mary O'Connell had Kilkenny two points up heading towards full time. Galway equalised again with points from Ailish O'Reilly & Aoife Donohue. Miriam Walsh looked like she had hit the winner for Kilkenny when she slotted over a point but Galway substitute Aine Keane equalised on the stroke of full-time leaving the score Kilkenny 2-14 to Galway 1-17. The draw was not enough for Kilkenny to top the group and they had to go through the quarter-finals

Kilkenny met Dublin in the quarter-final in Semple Stadium, Thurles.



Kilkenny Manager, Brian Dowling



Miriam Walsh breaking through



Sophie Dwyer of Kilkenny celebrates after scoring her side's goal.



Katie Power eyes the ball.



Davy.....



Mary O'Connell in possession.



Dublin started well and a goal from Niamh Gannon had them four clear, but Kilkenny effortlessly clocked up 1-10 without reply, with Denise Gaule scoring 1-5 including a penalty after Miriam Walsh was fouled. Kilkenny led 1-16 to 1-5 at half time. Miriam Walsh got a goal in the 40th minute and Kilkenny ran out winners 2-24 to 1-11

This set up another meeting with Galway in the Semi Final in Croke Park. Galway may have edged out Kilkenny to top spot in the group stages, but the Cats deservedly knocked out the All-Ireland holders following a four-point win.

Goalkeeper Aoife Norris was the star of the show for the Cats, pulling off a string of excellent saves including a penalty stop from opposite number Sarah Healy

Kilkenny were the brighter side in the first half, but they still trailed by two points at the break 0-6 to 0-8. Aoife Norris was again alert early in the second half, preventing Sabina Rabitte from netting like she had in their group game and that would prove crucial

In the 36th minute, Laura Murphy unleashed a bullet to the Galway net to put Kilkenny ahead 1-7 to 0-9. Galway got back on level terms 1-9 to 0-12, but it was Kilkenny who reeled off the final four points to seal a date in the All-Ireland Final with Cork

Kilkenny started the brightest in the All-Ireland Final, hitting the first six points without reply through Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Katie Nolan, Miriam Walsh (2) & Denise Gaule (2). It took Cork 20 minutes to register their first score, which was a goal by Fiona Keating, after she burst through the Kilkenny defence and hit a low shot passed Aoife Norris in goal. By half time, the scores were level Kilkenny 0-7 to Cork 1-4. Scores were tit-for-tat for most of the second half, until the 44th minute when a point from Hannah Looney and a pointed free from Amy O'Connor put Cork two points up. Shortly after Denise Gaule missed a free, but from the puck out, she made sure that she was going to win the sliotar back, which she duly did. She played the sliotar into the corner on the Cusack Stand side to Katie Nolan, she played it across to Julieann Malone who took a shot towards goal, Niamh Deely latched onto it and her shot was deflected up in the air towards the Cork goal. The Cork goalie, Amy Lee was off her line and was back tracking into the goal to stop the sliotar, all she could do was bat it back out onto the ground and the first to react was Kilkenny substitute Sophie O'Dwyer who doubled on it first time into the back of the net. This put the Cats back in front, 1-12 to 1-11. Katrina Mackey equalised for Cork two minutes later. The final minutes of the match were very tense, which team had it in them to shoot the winning score. In the 62nd minute, Kilkenny were awarded a free after Miriam Walsh had been fouled. You wondered who would take the free. Denise Gaule stood there, 45m out from goal, she made no mistake and put Kilkenny a point up, but there was still one final chance for Cork as Aisling Thompson advanced to about 55m out and shot off her left. Her effort after 65 minutes on a sweltering day was just tugged marginally however and though it had the distance, dropped wide

The Referee blew the whistle after Aoife Norris puck out and Kilkenny came out on the right side of a one-point victory 1-13 to 1-12. Kilkenny were All Ireland Senior Champions for the 15th time and were unbeaten all season

**Aoife Norris, Michelle Teehan, Grace Walsh, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Niamh Deely, Claire Phelan, Laura Murphy, Steffi Fitzgerald, Katie Power, Denise Gaule, Michaela Kenneally, Julieann Malone, Mary O'Connell, Miriam Walsh, Katie Nolan**

**Subs – Emma Kavanagh, Aoife Prendergast (Capt), Miriam Bambrick, Sophie O'Dwyer, Ciara Phelan, Asha McHardy, Sarah 'Spud' Crowley, Leann Fennelly, Sinead O'Keefe, Aisling Curtis, Roisin Breen, Ciara O'Keefe, Laura Norris, Carlise Comerford, Mairead Corcoran, Aoife Doyle, Kelly Ann Doyle, Niamh Phelan, Emma Manogue, Danielle Quigley**

## INTERMEDIATE

### League

The first League match, Kilkenny played Tipperary in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford winning 3-8 to 1-7. Second game, Kilkenny played Waterford (which is their Senior team) in WIT Arena, losing 0-8 to 1-16. The third match was against Westmeath in Cusack Park, Mullingar, they won 3-7 to 0-8. They qualified for the League Quarter Finals against a strong Wexford team (which is also their Senior team) in Glynn Barntown GAA, but lost out 1-5 to 1-13

## Leinster

Leinster Championship was back after a two year break due to Covid

Quarter Final – Kilkenny played Laois in Camross, losing out 0-7 to 0-9

## All Ireland Series

In the first match of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Kildare in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkenny led 0-9 to 0-6 at half time, By the 47th minute, the Cats led by 1-15 to 0-9, goal scored by Ciara O'Keefe. The final score was Kilkenny 1-22 to Kildare 0-11

Second match, they played Cork in Pairc Ui Rinn, losing 1-5 to 0-13

Third game in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford was against Derry. They led 2-6 to 0-3 at half time aided with a strong breeze. One goal coming directly from a sideline from Laura Hegarty and the other goal from Ciara O'Keefe. For the second half, Derry took the game to Kilkenny and the northerners outscored them 1-5 to 0-1. Aine Phelan scoring their only point of the 2nd half from a free, nearing the full time whistle. The final score was Kilkenny 2-7 to 1-8

Fourth game was against Wexford in Buffers Alley GAA. They lost out on a scoreline 3-7 to 3-13

The final group game was against Meath in Rathmoylean GAA, losing 0-11 to 3-13. Kilkenny came fourth in their group and did not qualify for the quarter finals

**Sinead Farrell, Jane Cass, Roisin Phelan, Aideen O'Connor, Niamh Phelan, Ciara Murphy, Niamh Leahy, Jenny Leahy, Aisling Curtis, Ciara O'Keefe, Hannah Scott, Laura Hegarty, Shauna Treacy (Capt), Niamh Sweeney, Emma Manogue, Caoimhe Moran, Sinead O'Keefe, Aoife Cantwell, Therese Donnelly, Tara Ronan, Aine Phelan, Afton Grace, Mairead Corcoran, Carlise Comerford, Danielle Quigley, Ellie O'Neill, Emma Bergin, Aisling Prendergast, Chloe Dooley, Hannah Larkin, Claire Nolan, Hannah Dunphy, Rachel Brennan**

## MINOR

First game of the Tesco Minor All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Waterford in Thomastown, winning 0-13 to 0-5

Second game was against Claire in Ennis, winning 0-15 to 0-10

This set up a semi-final against Galway in Edenderry. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be their day and Galway won 0-14 to 2-3

## Leinster

Minor was split into A & B

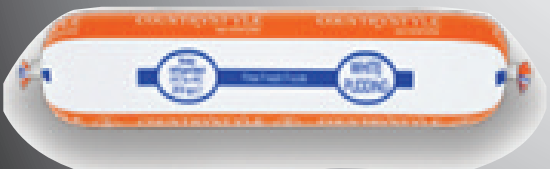
### Minor A

Semi Final against Offaly, winning 2-12 to 1-6

Final against Dublin in Palmerstown, Dicksboro GAA played in fantastic sunny conditions. Aine Rohan opened the scoring for Kilkenny, slotting over a lovely point. Leonie Power equalised for Dublin shortly after. Rachel Brennan scored a goal for Kilkenny after 9 minutes and she quickly followed it with a point. Ava Brett then hit a brace of points in quick succession. Emma Shortall scored a well worked goal after being played in by Ava Brett. Amy Clifford got a point from a free to leave the score 2-5 to 0-1 by the 17th minute. Helen Reynolds chipped in with a score for Dublin, but Claire Doheny and Emma Mulhall slotted over points for Kilkenny. Hannah Gibbs scored a point for Dublin before Sinead Daly hit a rasper of a shot to the back of the Kilkenny net. Leonie Power pointed again for Dublin. In the 29th minute, Dublin went for goal again, but Ali Kennedy brought off a wonderful save to deny them. Points from Claire Doheny and Emma Manogue left Kilkenny 2-9 to Dublin 1-4 in front at the interval. Early in the second half, Kilkenny added to their lead with points from Emma Shortall, Claire Doheny and Ava Brett. Kilkenny pressed on and Emma Shortall scored her second goal after she received a perfect pass from Aine Rohan. Amy Clifford and Ellen Gunner added two further points to leave the Kittens leading 3-14 to 1-4



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by the 50th minute. Sinead Daly converted two points for Dublin. Ellen Gunner scored the last point for Kilkenny. Just before the final whistle Emma Shortall jarred her knee and went off injured. Unfortunately, she had done her cruciate ligament

Final score Kilkenny 3-15 Dublin 1-6

### Minor B

Quarter Final against Westmeath, winning emphatically 12-5 to 2-9. Semi Final against Meath, winning 9-6 to 2-13.

Final against Laois in UPMC Nowlan Park, part of double header with Leinster Hurling Championship Kilkenny v Laois

Susie & Grainne Delaney scored the first two points for Laois. Rachel Dowling scored Kilkenny's first score, a point from paly in the 9th minute. This was quickly followed up by Kilkenny's first goal. Eabha Carroll received a ball out the field, she gave a delightful ball into Caoimhe Keher Murtagh and she drilled a low shot past Ciara Hanrahan in the Laois goal. Rachel Dowling added another point from a free. Clíodhna Murphy pounced a breaking ball and slotted the ball into the Laois net. Dowling added two frees shortly afterwards. By the 20th minute, Kilkenny led 2-4 to 0-2. Laois hadn't scored for 19th minutes, but Susie Delaney scored a great point for them. Further points from Rachel Dowling (2) and Clíodhna Murphy saw Kilkenny go in 2-7 to 0-3 at the break

Susie Delaney got Laois off to a good start in the second half with a pointed free inside the first minute but Kilkenny responded with Rachel Dowling pointing from two placed balls to leave the home side 2-9 to 0-4 after 45 minutes. Laois playing with the wind at their backs, hit a purple patch and hit five unanswered points. Laois tried for a goal late on, but some great defending from Niamh McCormack and goalie Libby Begley make a double save to deny Laois. Rachel Dowling scored the last point of the match leaving the final score 2-10 to 0-9. Kilkenny were crowned Leinster Minor B Champions for the very first time

Ali Kennedy, Nathania Jackson, Rachel Whelan, Katie Byrne, Laoise Nolan, Ellen Gunner, Sophia Kerr, Rachel Brennan, Emma Manogue, Claire Doheny, Amy Clifford, Aine Rohan, Emma Shortall, Emma Mulhall, Ava Brett, Ruth Phelan, Moya O'Brien, Rose Kelly, Amy Cody, Lauren East, Sarah Hudson, Lauren Ronan, Rachel Leahy, Ciara Brennan, Lucy Kavanagh, Ava Shefflin, Amy Brennan, Lorna O'Shea, Libby Begley, Tara McGuire, Caoimhe Carroll, Chloe Brennan, Alanna Cody, Niamh McCormack, Lucy Walsh, Eabha Carroll, Laura Phelan, Riona Crowley, Rachel Dowling, Clíodhna Murphy, Tara McGrath, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Chloe Delaney, Eva Sumner, Emma Corr, Becky Peters, Lucy O'Sullivan

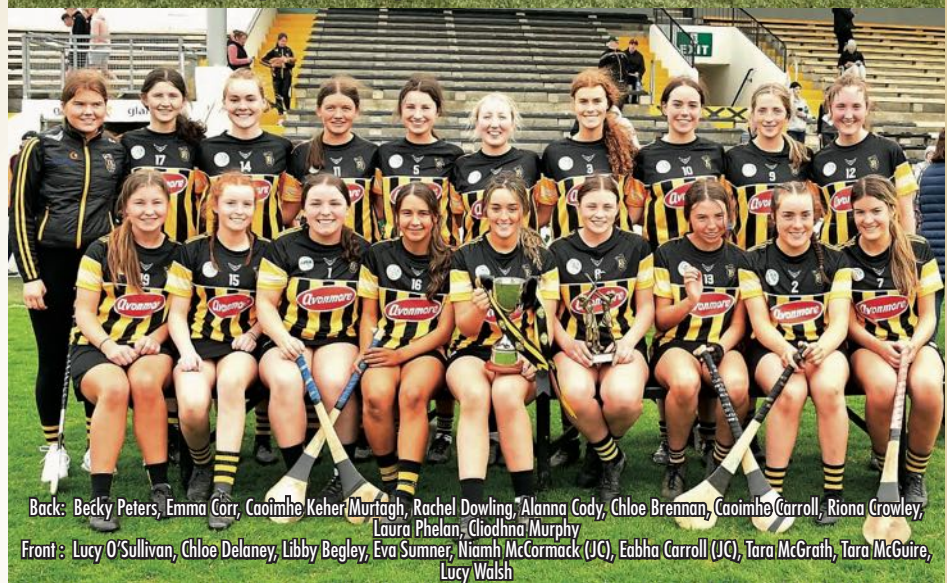
### U16

#### Leinster

A – First match was Kilkenny against Dublin, with Kilkenny winning comfortably



**Minor A Leinster Winning Team**  
 Back: Elaine Houlihan (Physio), Sophia Kerr, Ciara Brennan, Lucy Kavanagh, Ruth Phelan, Aine Rohan, Rachel Whelan, Rachel Leahy, Katie Byrne, Emma Mulhall, Sarah Hudson, Rachel Brennan, Amy Cody, Ava Brett, Mary Murphy (Selector), Damien Donohoe (Coach)  
 Front: Emma Manogue, Laoise Nolan, Ali Kennedy, Nathania Jackson, Ellen Gunner, Claire Doheny, Amy Clifford (Capt), Lauren East, Rose Kelly, Lauren Ronan, Moya O'Brien, Emma Shortall, Sinead Melaniff (Stats)



**U16 Leinster Champions**  
 Back: Becky Peters, Emma Corr, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Rachel Dowling, Alanna Cody, Chloe Brennan, Caoimhe Carroll, Riona Crowley, Laura Phelan, Clíodhna Murphy  
 Front: Lucy O'Sullivan, Chloe Delaney, Libby Begley, Eva Sumner, Niamh McCormack (JC), Eabha Carroll (JC), Tara McGrath, Tara McGuire, Lucy Walsh

4-14 to 2-3. Second game, Kilkenny played Wexford, winning 3-11 to 1-7. Third game, Kilkenny played Offaly, winning 1-13 to 0-3

The Final was against Dublin and they had a second win over Dublin, 6-5 to 1-8

### U16A Leinster Champions

B – First match, Kilkenny played Carlow, losing out 1-11 to 3-12. Second game, Kilkenny played Kildare, losing 0-6 to 1-6. They played the Shield Final against Wexford B and they won 5-10 to 2-10

### U16B Shield Leinster Champions

#### All Ireland Championship

First match was against Cork in John Locke Park, Callan. Kilkenny scored the first point through Katie Brennan, but by the 20th minute, Cork led 2-3 to 0-3. Tara Roche got a goal for Kilkenny nearing the interval, to leave the score at the break 1-5 to 2-7. Cork got a third goal in the 34th minute and continued to pile on the pressure on the Kilkenny goal. Julie Lennon did get a goal Kilkenny in the 53rd minute, but Cork got the final point from a 45m free though Amy Sheppard to leave the score Kilkenny 2-6 Cork 3-15 at full time

The second game was against Galway in Ballinasloe. Kilkenny got the better start

and led 0-4 to 0-1 after the first quarter and led 0-8 to 0-5 at the interval. Kilkenny got a goal in the 45th minute and led 1-11 to 0-6 but Galway came back into the game in the final quarter, scoring 2-2 to Kilkenny's 0-1. Kilkenny held out to win by a point, 1-12 to 2-8

Galway, Cork and Kilkenny ended up on 3 pts in the group but didn't qualify due to scoring difference

**Rachel Moloney, Caoimhe Hickey, Una Duggan (JC), Jessica Cuddy (JC), Angela Carroll, Aoife Kavanagh, Emily Smith, Anna Doheny, Orlaith Kirwan, Julie Lennon, Katie Brennan, Muireann Gannon, Aisling Browne, Ciara Dunne, Tara Roche, Jenny Saunders, Sophie Meagher, Grace Glennon, Aoife Shealy, Aine White, Clíodhna Walsh, Rachel Phelan, Ciara O'Shea, Molly Conroy, Shona Ruane, Lucy Boyd**

**Ambar Laherty, Ava O'Grady, Louise Hearne, Eimear Phelan, Emma Phelan, Emma Kelly, Laura Doherty, Aoibhe Ryan, Kayla Farrell, Roisin McElwee, Laura Challoner, Zoe Foley, Aisling O'Loughlin, Aoife Gamble, Ellen Murphy, Sophie Chapman, Ava Lilly O'Neill, Aoife O'Shea, Clodagh O'Neill, Emma Clancy, Ava Dermody, Joanne Comerford, Maeve Bookle, Caoimhe Phelan, Jayne Farrell, Aine Aylward, Isabelle Egan, Sinead Carroll, Kate O'Neill, Ciara Gleeson, Seana Davis, Ava Dunphy.**

# Dowling's determination helps Cats deliver new chapter

Trevor Spillane *Kilkenny People*



"You have to believe, there's no point in being out there if you don't believe. I know the character that's in these girls. We've been saying all year that we're going to get a bit of luck somewhere along the way - we just have to be there to take it" Good fortune is one thing - it's another being in the position to take it when it arrives. It's only when you read between the lines that the message from Kilkenny senior camogie manager

Brian Dowling in the aftermath of their 2022 All-Ireland success shines through. There's more to those words than meets the eye. It reflects the team's ethic - belief and hard work will lead to reward. Both of those qualities have been on show in abundance in the recent surge of the Kilkenny camogie team's fortunes, and Dowling has been there to drive them on. Since coming into the fold as a selector under former manager Ann Downey the O'Loughlin Gaels man has impressed while creating a side that has won two of the last three O'Duffy Cups. It is a team which has lost several key players yet, with the influx of youth and positional changes, has been reinvigorated. That's the mark of quality.

## LEARNED TRADE

However, Dowling has never been one to blow his own trumpet. A relative unknown in camogie circles when he became part of Downey's backroom team, he moved quietly behind the scenes and learned his trade behind one of the greatest to ever play the game.

And while the 2019 season didn't go Kilkenny's way - having romped through the championship they fell at the final hurdle, going down to Galway - the seeds were sown; when the players regrouped for the new campaign, Dowling was ready to lead the charge.

There had been something of a 'hard luck story' about the Kilkenny team; not quite always the bridesmaid - their great win over Cork in the 2016 final saw to that - but in the three following finals they were runners-up, a case of close, but not close enough. Either way, the 2020 campaign saw the Cats draw a line in the sand and say 'no more'. It's easy to look back and say everything fell into place quite nicely, but Dowling and his backroom team have worked hard on and off the pitch to make it happen, to keep the team driving forward. Small things like having food for players after training as well as before and after matches, access to gyms and the full backing of the County Board might sound like small beans, but for a sport which was looked upon as being a poor relation to hurling it's a huge step in the right direction. With a manager doing his utmost to have his team prepared as professionally as possible, the efforts have been reciprocated by the onfield performances.

Of course, the 2020 season had other issues to deal with as the country was in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic. Playing in an empty Croke Park on a dark December night, the All-Ireland final was without any of the glitz and excitement that the big day brings.

## NEVER LOST FOCUS

Yet the Cats never lost their focus. Having witnessed the pain in the dressing-room following the 2019 loss, Dowling had his team prepared for all eventualities when they roared out of the tunnel to take on Galway. Not even leaking a first half goal to Galway could knock their self-belief that the Cup would be theirs. With the likes of Aoife Norris and Michelle Teehan soldiering on in the Kilkenny defence the Cats turned the game their way, helped in no small part by Denise Gaule's penalty. The emotion that poured out of the players - and the selectors - showed what the win meant to Kilkenny. As Dowling said afterwards, it was as if the dark cloud that had been hanging over the players for the past few years had finally lifted.

That feel-good factor continued into the 2021 campaign, but didn't last as long - defeat to Cork in the semi-final saw Kilkenny relinquish their title. Dowling praised a group of players who had delivered so much to Kilkenny camogie over the years, but the signs were already there that the county was on the cusp of a new era.

"When you win something it's important to build structures and to have a good relationship the whole way up through county teams," he said in the aftermath of that loss. "We are anxious to bring in young players, give them a taste of the senior game."

His words were quick to become reality, as a new-look Kilkenny prepared for the challenge of the 2022 season without the experience of Dormer, Tobin and Meighan Farrell. Throw in injuries to Kelly-Ann and Aoife Doyle and the Cats looked to be up against. But write them off at your peril!

Like another Brian! Dowling was not one to shy away from a challenge. He relished it; this was an opportunity to show just how much talent was in the black and amber brigade. Using those young players Kilkenny went unbeaten in the league, missing out on a place in the final through scoring difference. They then blazed a trail in the championship group stages, missing a straight shot to the semi-finals - on scoring difference. An extra step on the journey? No matter. After dismantling Dublin in

the quarter-finals Galway were sent packing in the semi-finals thanks to inspirational goalkeeper Aoife Norris (who could forget that penalty save?) and a performance where Kilkenny's relentless pace and power came to the fore. Not bad for a side with plenty of youth, eh?



## CHARACTER

"One thing I'll never do is question the girls' character," said Dowling. "That semi-final was our 12th competitive game of the year. We haven't lost yet, so the character is there - that's for sure."

That same steely determination and competitive spirit was there in abundance in the final against old foes Cork. And what a performance, as Kilkenny regained the O'Duffy Cup with Sophie O'Dwyer's late goal and a free from the ice-cool Denise Gaule sealing a 1-13 to 1-12 win in front of more than 24,000 people in Croke Park.

Having that crowd there, their people, was special. It meant the world to Dowling.

"We wanted to win this for our family and friends," he said. "They didn't get to celebrate with us in 2020 - it was our mission to win an All-Ireland in front of Kilkenny people."

That they certainly did. Kilkenny celebrated in style, carrying on the party in front of a huge crowd in the city streets that Monday evening. It was a fairy tale ending to a year where injuries and retirements could have derailed the Cats before they even got going. Inspired by an inspirational manager, Kilkenny were back in the promised land. Lucky? Not a bit....

# THAT WAS THE YEAR.....

## that made a pleasant change

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

And so, for the first time in quite a while, there are All Ireland triumphs to be celebrated here. This will make for a refreshing change both for the reader and for the writer. Let's face it, being obliged on an annual basis to bemoan the dubious quality of the deliveries from the Kilkenny backs to the Kilkenny forwards is almost as much fun as being obliged on an annual basis to read about the dubious quality of etc etc.

It was a striking haul too, varied and eclectic. All Ireland under-20 hurling champions, All Ireland camogie champions and - last but by no means least, especially for Paul Murphy - All Ireland junior football champions. Nor let us forget Mooncoin, All Ireland junior club hurling winners. A mention too for Ballyhale Shamrocks, who after living dangerously en route looked to have yet another national crown in safekeeping - and in the golden jubilee of their foundation too - only to be foiled by the last puck of the game.

Feeling happy for Ballygunner, kings of Ireland at last, didn't preclude feeling empathy for their victims. But Ballyhale didn't stay licking their wounds for too long and when October came around they marked the aforementioned jubilee with a record-breaking fifth Kilkenny title in a row - and did so as they liked. They remain an extraordinary club, a state of affairs underlined by the identity of their 2022 management set-up: Pat Hoban from Mullinavat, Jimmy Meagher from Freshford and Dicksboro's Niall Lacey. It is as though, despite half a century of success that came from nothing, they appreciate that they don't in fact know everything and are more than happy to listen to outsiders with different ideas. Thus is the pot kept constantly a-bubble.

As for the county's shop-window team, they made it to Croke Park on the big day and contributed richly to a cracking decider, one of the very best All Ireland showpieces. The winners were the better team with the better players playing the better hurling; Kilkenny - well, one hates to use the word 'gallant', it's such an awful GAA platitude, but in the face of almost overwhelming odds they died with their boots on when most other teams in their position would have been beaten out the gate. The manner of the defeat - the substance, the grit, the calculated rage - added to Brian Cody's reputation. In the almost interminable list of his greatest days this will figure waaaay down the line but it will figure nonetheless. Nobody but he could have coaxed the performance that transpired.

Losing to Limerick, in particular to John Kiely's Limerick, constituted the most painless McCarthy Cup reverse in Kilkenny history. It is not stretching it to hold that the men in stripes gained more admirers in defeat than in many a victory of the past. Thus, and for the first time

in many years, the county finished the season on an upbeat note. Many previous All Ireland defeats produced regrets, recriminations or might have beens; not this one, simply because, in everything bar in terms of the bottom line, the losers couldn't have done any better against Limerick than they did. It is no bad backdrop against which Derek Lyng takes over. There will be not be a post-All Ireland hangover in 2023.



A small caveat. Kilkenny got most things right on July 17th, their fitness and conditioning included, for which much praise must go to Mickey Comerford. The one thing they really needed to go right was for Limerick to have an off-day with their shooting and drive 16 or 17 wides. It didn't happen, the holders being too good and too grooved for that. Yet let us not kid ourselves either. Had the match been played again a week later there's every chance Kiely's charges would have won it by eight or nine points. The gap between the sides is that large. Kilkenny will not be starting next season on the front row of the grid. Nobody should be under any illusions about that - and, to be fair, nobody seems to be.

### A MORE CONSIDERED APPROACH

The reason for the improvement over the closing six weeks of the season was not hard to locate. Improved coaching.

Kilkenny were dismal against Wexford at Nowlan Park in the closing round of the qualifiers. Lumpen, narrow-visioned, barely even one-dimensional. They were better against Galway in the Leinster final and much better against Clare in the All Ireland semi-final, the paucity of the losers' challenge notwithstanding. The four-week gap between the latter two games had clearly been spent in productive manner in Nowlan Park, the edition that saw off Clare being one that had visibly been coached. It was a long time since one could have made that remark about a Kilkenny senior team.

Modern hurling proved to be the calling card of the victorious under-20s. They combined the best of Cody's Kilkenny - unbreakable spirit - with the best of contemporary thinking. They moved the ball out from the back to the middle third with care and patience. They moved the ball from the middle third to the front with care and patience. That they might have fallen at the second fence rendered ultimate triumph all the sweeter. On



Limerick strength - Somewhere in this ruck is Kilkenny's Michael Carey. Photo: Willie Dempsey





a never-ending evening in Tullamore they kept shipping punches from Galway and kept returning them. On three occasions it appeared as though they were dead. They continually declined to be buried.

The fact they won three of their four matches by a point suggests good fortune but, equally, good fortune that was earned. And when push came to shove in the closing stages of the All Ireland final they shaded matters because their first touch was slightly – only slightly, yet visibly – better than Limerick’s. The sight of Michael Rice and Peter Barry as members of Lyng’s inner sanctum, meanwhile, was heartening.

The transfer of power in late July took place quickly, cleanly and seamlessly. The timing was right for everyone. For Cody to depart, for Lyng to succeed him. It was to the former’s credit that he did not stay around to rage against the dying of the light, thereby making it all about himself, and in departing in 2022 he left the county in a healthier place than he would have had he departed in 2021. So much has by now been said about Brian Cody that further compliments scarcely exist, not that his list of successes is not tribute enough in itself. But it is the safest of safe predictions that his stature and reputation will be even greater in 2032, 2042 and 2052 than they are in 2022.

Having been critical of the County Board executive here a year ago it is only fair to compliment them a much improved 12 months. Granted, All Ireland triumphs by their nature have a habit of covering blemishes, but All Ireland triumphs do not magic themselves into being. They are birthed by good structures and the right people in the right places. Besides, even if the under-20 success rendered it an Occam’s Razor of a decision, the County Board executive got it right when it came to replacing Cody. Lyng was the obvious candidate and they went for the obvious candidate. No sideshows, no bells and whistles.

#### A RAPIDLY EVOLVING GAME

Right, let’s tangent. Leo O’Connor, the Limerick man who last summer guided Offaly to a first Leinster minor title in 22 years and an agonising defeat in the All Ireland final at Nowlan Park, was interviewed in early September. Some quotes as follows.

“O’Connor feels that the dynamic of hurling has changed again in the past two years and acknowledges the importance of staying at the epicentre of the game’s evolution. ‘Just the pace of it, the dynamics of it, these young guys coming through need pace and buckets of it. It’s off the shoulder running, it’s any amount of running and it’s a huge workrate. Those are the necessary requirements for these guys to come through. Hurling is a different game now. It’s about getting through the tackle, foraging for breaking ball and bringing that hunger which is needed to even get you to the ball.

“You must still have all the natural basic skills, the picking, striking and the first touch, but strength and conditioning has gone to a different

level again, as we can all see. You could spot it in that All Ireland minor final. The workrate of both teams was off the scale for a minor game. It was like an under-20 match. But you could see it the whole way through the championship. all the counties have stepped up because of the academies. They all looked at what Limerick have done and said, we need to do this.”

There is little to be added to O’Connor’s observations. This is where hurling is at now.

The need for Kilkenny to rethink their entire outlook on the game has been evident for a long time. (One statistic that passed unremarked after the showdown with Limerick was that the county have now lost the last three All Ireland finals they’ve appeared in, something that didn’t happen in the entire 20th century.) It is for this reason if no other that the appointment of Lyng comes at the right juncture.

What followed may prove to be a far-reaching development: the creation of the position of performance lead/manager to oversee the county’s under-age structures and expedite the pathway to the senior team from below. The successful candidate will be tasked with overseeing the areas of strategic design and implementation, coaching/coach development and player development.

It is a leap forward and a big leap forward and it came about as a direct result of the establishment in 2021 by county secretary Conor Denieffe of a committee chaired by Mick Dempsey and featuring, among others, Brian Hogan and Paul Murphy. Now one might argue, with some legitimacy, that the position, or something like it, should have been established years ago and that Kilkenny were being reactive rather than proactive – that, in other words, they were coming from behind the curve. No matter; better late etc.

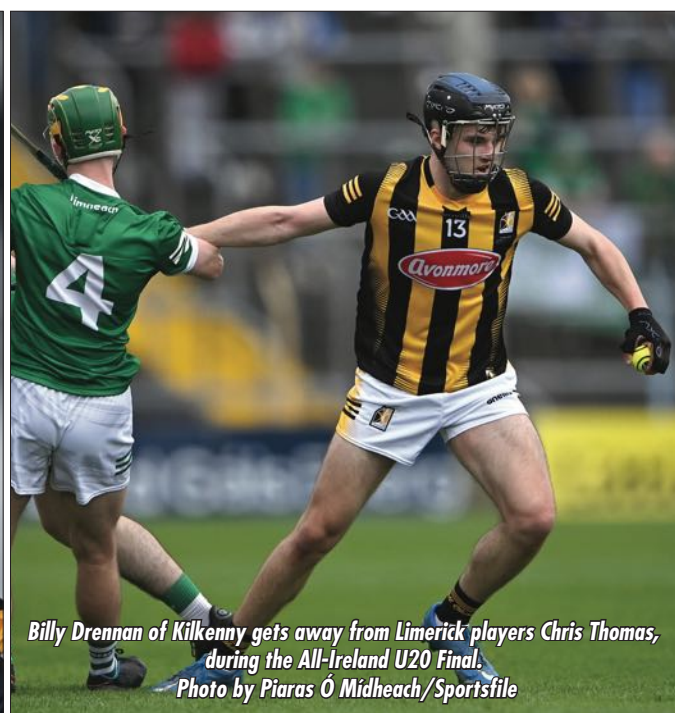
#### GIRLS JUST WANNA WIN CUPS

Now let’s hear it for the girls. Why this was the case I’ve no idea but the All Ireland camogie final gripped the county in a way no other camogie final ever had before. Was it the drama? Was it the setting, in front of a noisy Croke Park attendance on a sunny summer Sunday afternoon as opposed to behind closed doors on a frigid winter Saturday night? Was it because, like the under-20s a few weeks earlier, Brian Dowling’s cailíní simply refused to take no for an answer? Was it because they’d played enterprising hurling but twice looked to have blown it before somehow managing to unblow it in the shadow of the winning post? Was it all of these factors?

No apologies for singling out three of the heroines. Grace Walsh, for saving a certain goal in the first half, injuring her shoulder in the process yet still – how very Walsh-y - having the grit to come out with the ball that led to the winning point. Denise Gaule, for popping up under the Cusack Stand to turn over possession for the decisive goal moments after missing a handy free. And Miriam Walsh, a husky attacking outlet of



*Miriam Walsh of Kilkenny in action against Libby Coppinger of Cork during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.  
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile*



*Billy Drennan of Kilkenny gets away from Limerick players Chris Thomas, during the All-Ireland U20 Final.  
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile*



the precisely the kind the Kilkenny hurlers could do with and a constant scoring threat on top of it.

Any review of the year that is passing is to some extent a preview of the year to come. What can be expected on Noreside in 2023?

Not the return of the MacCarthy Cup, not unless Limerick fall under the proverbial bus. Nobody can be in the slightest doubt there and that's okay. Kilkenny may play a better brand of hurling next year than they did in 2022 without reaching the All Ireland final; that would be okay too. They're one of the chasing pack, much of a muchness with the teams around them, capable of beating anyone bar Limerick on a given day and capable of losing to anyone plus Limerick on a given day.

Inculcating good habits of the sort demonstrated against Galway and Clare takes time, which meant it was no surprise when the Leinster champions reverted to type as the temperature in the kitchen rose to uncomfortable heights on All Ireland day. "Quick, let's get it into TJ and Walter and see what they can do!" Which was grand but only, inevitably, up to a point. The long ball worked for 15 minutes after Walter Walsh was introduced, upon which it didn't. Limerick are too big and too strong to be cleaned out overhead.

As an aside, and talking of the treble champions, Kyle Hayes is almost as comfortable in the half-forward line as he is in the half-back line. Declan Hannon, the centre-back, started out as a half-forward. Barry Nash used to be a wing-forward but has been repurposed as a corner-back and a highly effective one. There may be a lesson here for Derek Lyng and his management team as to the need to look at established players through new eyes, positionally speaking.

What with the emergence of Eoin Cody and Adrian Mullen as intercounty forwards of substance and the annexation of a first All Ireland under-20/21 title in the grade in 14 years, it is not pushing it to hold that the county's under-age supply line has finally returned to working fettle. And Lyng, unlike poor Colm Bonnar, will be allowed see out his term of office, come what may in Year One.

For half a decade, in so many ways and for so many reasons, Kilkenny have appeared stuck in neutral. Perhaps 2022 will mark the moment the line on the graph began to rise again. And though life will continue without Brian Cody, which will doubtless feel strange for a while, in another sense it will continue with him. Because, like the poor, Cody and his achievements and his legacy will always be with us.



*Richie Reid of Kilkenny in action against David Fitzgerald of Clare during the All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final.  
Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile*



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# 5!

# UNSTOPPABLE SHAMROCKS!

County SH Championship Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE



**Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH Champions 2022**

**Back: (No-19) Stephen Barron, Liam Barron, Kevin Mullen, Conor Phelan, Joey Cuddihy.**

**Middle: Andrew Moran, Cian Cullen, Killian Corcoran, Larry Cody, Patrick Hearne, Colin Fennelly, Adrian Mullen, Patrick Mullen, Darragh Corcoran, Eoin Kenneally, Sean Reade,**

**Front: Edmund Fitzpatrick, Ger Fennelly, Eoin Reid, Dara Mason, Christy Cody, Brian Cody, Darren Mullen, Eoin Cody, Ronan Corcoran, Richie Reid, Brian Butler, Dean Mason, Even Shefflin, Mark O'Gorman.**

They've done it in the shortest imaginable time, catching up on Tullaroan's twenty titles in a mere 44 years. Scarcely anywhere in Ireland has there been such a concentrated collection of county senior titles in less than half a century. That it happened in this lofty and ultra-competitive hotbed of hurling makes Ballyhale Shamrocks achievement all the more remarkable.

Since the nineties we have been asking which incarnation of Shamrocks is the greatest. These boys have answered in most convincing fashion. Their haul of five-in-a-row senior titles, never before achieved even by mighty Mooncoin, Carrickshock, Bennettsbridge or Tullaroan, is truly special.

They have stood on the shoulders of club giants, in the eighties, myriad Fennellys, Mason, Holohan, Dalton and others. Following a blip in the nineties, the noughties produced Shefflins, more Fennellys, Cha, Cummins, Aylwards and Reids and their first four-in-a-row. The next decade cemented their utter domination with varying combinations of those.

This generation are uncanny stickmen, superb game managers, big-boned and tough as needs be. They are not the speediest of men, with few exceptions, but they illustrate the supremacy of remarkable control over the ball and the power and nous to do the right thing at all times. They have leaders everywhere, none more so than the peerless Colin Fennelly, TJ, Richie Reid and Joey Holden. The only blip came in the 2022 All Ireland club final when Ballygunner caught them at the death, the only way that truly great teams can be de-throned.

We are now in the era where it doesn't really matter what the opposition throw at them (with respect to all of their managers), they seem able to recalibrate on the field and dictate how the game should be played. When the pundits talk about how hurling has changed or developed they should look closely at the Shamrocks modus operandi. Move the ball quickly, six forwards in perpetual and purposeful motion, heads up hurling and boundless skills in every position. When did anybody last see a gawky Shamrocks senior hurler? I can't recall. The game is ultimately

played on their terms despite the best efforts of very decent opposition, and, make no mistake, we have had some very good club teams here in Kilkenny in the past few decades.

In the year of 2022 when the parish was beset by tragedy and the premature passing of many club stalwarts they drove on as a true community and their captain Ronan Corcoran's words at the end of the county final reflected their tightness and mutual respect.

If last year's county final between Shamrocks and O'Loughlins gave us a game for the ages, this year's final as a contest will not live long in the memory of many, other than the participating clubs. James Stephens had a tortuous journey to the big day and had shown indifferent form through the league. They eventually shook off their torpor and performed admirably against strong Bennettsbridge and Dicksboro sides, both of whom had fancied their chances of reaching a county final.

The Village however remained a team that played in bursts of excellence and despite having three county panellists and a few elder statesmen on board showed considerable inexperience at times. Such lapses were going to be ruthlessly punished by Shamrocks. And so it happened.

The Village tore into their opponents trying and succeeding to reduce space and time. They succeeded during the first quarter and an Eoin Guilfoyle goal put them three ahead. But in their eagerness to keep the pace high they squandered several easy opportunities. As the game settled into the second quarter we were treated to an object lesson in point shooting the Shamrocks way as they hit seven unanswered scores from a succession of players and angles. Through all that time the Village defence performed heroically in the face of quality delivery and strong running.

Four points separated them at the interval and it was clear James Stephens needed a boost. It seemed to arrive with the dismissal of Paddy Mullen for a wild



**Shamrocks Ballyhale captain Ronan Corcoran lifts the Tom Walsh Cup Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile**

pull. But then the Shamrocks showed the effectiveness of their game management. Onlookers would be forgiven for thinking Shamrocks had the extra man as Richie Reid controlled the game from centre back. Evan Shefflin, Adrian Mullen, Reid and the outstanding Darragh Corcoran sprayed passes to the attackers and the southerners forged away. TJ was at his imperious best and surprised nobody by picking up the man-of-the-match award.

A Village goal from the hardworking Conor Browne restored hope of a last ten minute revival but when they hit a Shamrocks post from a good chance a minute later, it was curtains for the game City side. The final seven point margin could have been greater such was Shamrocks dominance of the closing stages.

**Shamrocks:** Dean Mason, Brian Butler, Joey Holden, Darren Mullen, Evan Shefflin (0-1), Richie Reid (0-1), Darragh Corcoran (02), Ronan Corcoran (0-2), Paddy Mullen; Adrian Mullen (0-1), TJ Reid (0-6, 3f, 1 65), Eoin Cody (1-2), Eoin Kenneally, Colin Fennelly (0-3), Joey Cuddihy (1-2). Subs: Niall Shortall (0-1) for Kenneally (46), Killian Corcoran for Cuddihy (61).

**James Stephens:** Gavin Costigan, Luke Murphy, Diarmuid Cody, Shane Donoghue, Niall Delaney, Cian Kenny (0-1), Niall Mullins, William Spencer (0-1), Conor Browne (1-1) Andy Parsons (0-1), Niall Brassil (0-5, 3f), Matthew Ruth, Tadhg O'Dwyer (0-2), Eoin Guilfoyle (1-0), Luke Scanlon. Subs: Ross Whelan for Ruth (48), David Hennessy for Parsons (54), Ethan Butler for Scanlon (57).

Referee: Conor Everard (Graigue-Ballycallan).

Tullaroan, appropriately enough, gave the Shamrocks lots of food for thought in a stirring semi-final. The Sash men stayed with Shamrocks until the last few minutes when eventually Shamrocks superior power brought them a four point advantage. They gave the champions the sternest test since the 2021 county final and that says much about them.

From the start of the League, Tullaroan showed their considerable mettle. Always better than the sum of their parts they had a very fine League campaign. They began brightly with a win over Erins Own, drew with Clara before inexplicably losing to Mullinavat. They recovered quickly to defeat Lisdowney before despatching Shamrocks in the final game. They defeated Bennettsbridge easily to win the League title. They had to show considerable resilience to overcome Erins Own in the championship quarter final but showed how good they were to grind out a result.

Back in senior ranks for the past two years they have made very steady progress and are now talked about as potential champions.

The other semi-final was an all-city affair. There was little to choose between the sides for most of the game. Dicksboro had to field without



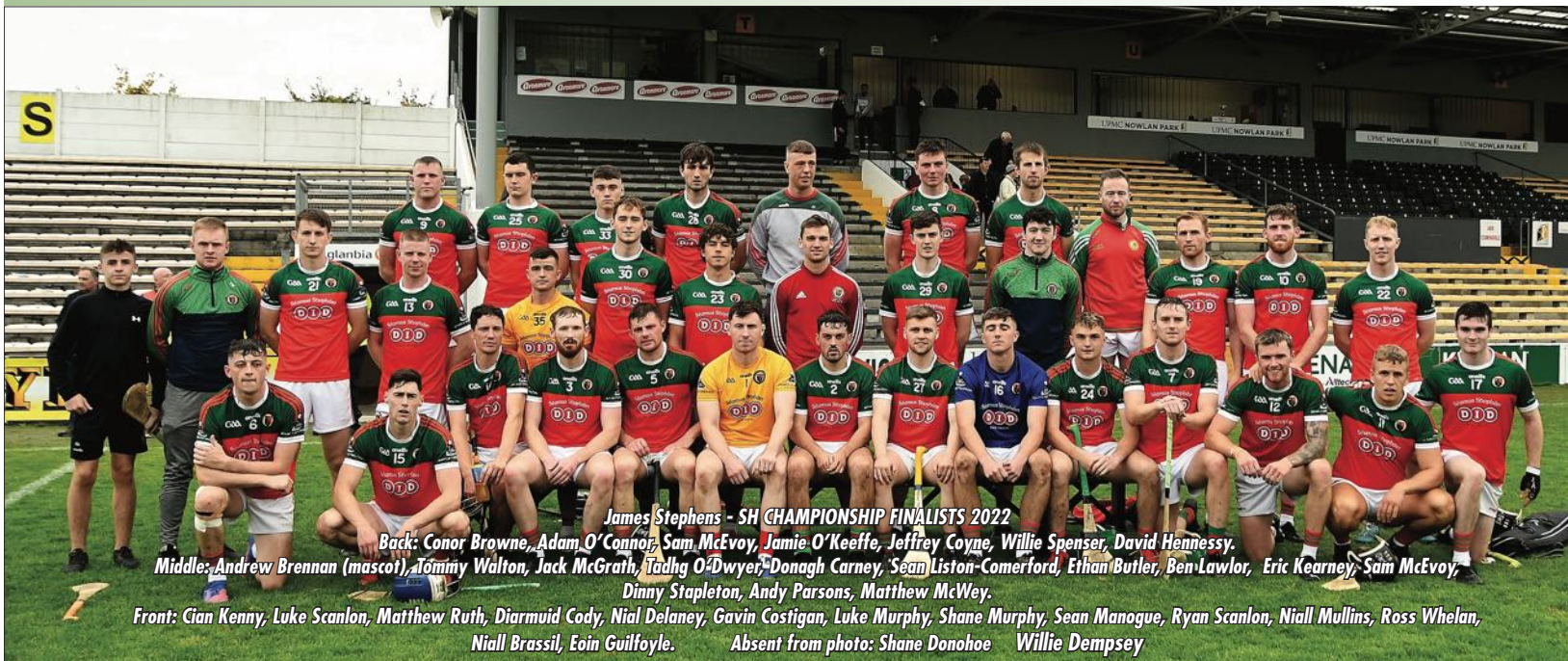
*TJ celebrates the final whistle.  
Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile*



*Winning Manager Pat Hoban.  
Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile*

Cillian Buckley, a sore loss. Their forwards had chances to punish the Village but huffed and puffed while in possession against a steadily improving James Stephens defence. When the game was in the melting pot, James Stephens forged ahead and showed greater hunger for battle. James Stephens themselves had a dreadful league. Their second round win against a dismal Graigue-Ballycallan was one the poorest senior game played this year.

It was their only win of the league, shipping heavy losses to Bennettsbridge and Dicksboro while coming close to O'Loughlins. This left James Stephens with a first round/relegation game against Lisdowney. The team was re-modelled with Cian Kenny going to centre back and they suddenly had a better shape. A quarter-final win over Bennettsbridge boosted their



**James Stephens - SH CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2022**  
 Back: Conor Browne, Adam O'Connor, Sam McEvoy, Jamie O'Keeffe, Jeffrey Coyne, Willie Spenser, David Hennessy.  
 Middle: Andrew Brennan (mascot), Tommy Walton, Jack McGrath, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Donagh Carney, Sean Liston-Comerford, Ethan Butler, Ben Lawlor, Eric Kearney, Sam McEvoy,  
 Dinny Stapleton, Andy Parsons, Matthew McWey.  
 Front: Cian Kenny, Luke Scanlon, Matthew Ruth, Diarmuid Cody, Nial Delaney, Gavin Costigan, Luke Murphy, Sean Manogue, Ryan Scanlon, Niall Mullins, Ross Whelan,  
 Niall Brassil, Eoin Guilfoyle. Absent from photo: Shane Donohoe Willie Dempsey

confidence greatly and the season was saved over four weeks. Strength up front seems to be the most problematic issue for 'Stephens who have lots of good but lightweight hurlers.

Bennettsbridge impressed most observers throughout the League. They possessed lots of scope for improvement from last year. They won their early matches in impressive style, defeating the City clubs and then falling into their old habits of losing concentration and conceding frees. By the time they met the Village in the quarter-final they were in poor form and when one removed Nicky Cleere's contribution from placed balls, their scoring return was low.

Dicksboro continue to have a large number of players to call on. They reached the semi-final thanks to a solid league, second in their group and losing narrowly to Clara in the Shield final. Admittedly League/Shield final results don't impress anybody. Their quarter-final massacre of Mullinavat perhaps gave them a false sense of their worth, but, in fairness, they showed potential. They have lots of big men but their best fifteen often remains a mystery. Their subs. put up a great performance at Junior level, yet they don't have strength in depth on their senior panel. They will be contenders for many years, thanks to a superb decade of underage success.

Clara made it to the quarter-final the easier way, having shown decent form through the league and winning the Shield. Nevertheless it was clear they rely too much on the veterans and when they met Shamrocks in the quarter-final they were decimated. They may well be condemned to remain in the middle tier of senior hurling for a while.

Mullinavat were the enigma of the season. Lisdowney and a second string Shamrocks hammered them in the first two rounds. From there they improved and somehow defeated O'Loughlins in the first round. The City men will never know how they lost that one. The 'Vat men were totally unprepared in terms of fitness, looking quite unfit in terms of stamina or pace for senior hurling. A series of awful wides in the latter stages cost O'Loughlins dearly as Mullinavat hung on for a surprise win. It did them no good as Dicksboro annihilated them in a totally forgettable quarter-final.

In a strange year for O'Loughlins, they promised much with Paddy Deegan, Huw Lawlor and Mikey Butler anchoring their defence. But scoring has always been a problem for this group, their early season fitness camouflaging their lack of craft in front of goal. It was a huge come-down from a very good 2021. They have very good young players but their club coaching must look towards producing forwards as they win games more so than tight defences.

Erins Own, too, have their troubles up front. Their quarter-final joust with Tullaroan was one of the best contests of a mediocre enough championship. Ciaran Wallace, Conor Delaney and evergreen Conor Fogarty were in splendid form but the back-up cast in attack failed to impress yet again, their cause not helped by the absent Michael Murphy. A poor start to the League dented their confidence and they did well to recover for the championship.

Relegation was fought between Lisdowney and Graigue-Ballycallan. After a very bright series of performances last year, Lisdowney won only

### ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

<b>1st ROUND</b>			
Mullinavat	3-9	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-14
James Stephens	1-24	Lisdowney	2-14
Erins Own	1-20	Graigue B'Callan	0-11
Shamrocks Ballyhale	3-26	Glenmore	0-20
<b>QUARTER-FINALS</b>			
Tullaroan	0-18	Erins Own	0-15
James Stephens	1-20	Bennettsbridge	1-15
Dicksboro	3-19	Mullinavat	1-11
Shamrocks Ballyhale	1-27	Clara	0-15
<b>SEMI-FINALS</b>			
James Stephens	2-18	Dicksboro	1-18
Shamrocks Ballyhale	1-24	Tullaroan	1-20
<b>RELEGATION FINAL</b>			
Graigue B'Callan	0-21	Lisdowney	1-14
<b>COUNTY FINAL</b>			
Shamrocks Ballyhale	1-21	James Stephens	2-11

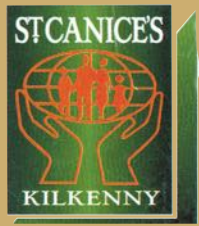
one match this year, against Mullinavat in the first round of the League. They had too many injuries and as the year progressed, their confidence waned. They could have beaten the Village in the championship first round but didn't. Worse, they had a man sent off in the first half of the relegation final. No team survives that blow in such a game. It is a hard road back to senior ranks but they have a young panel and should be hopeful.

Graig were lucky to find Lisdowney in some disarray because all year they looked like the most likely team for the drop. This would have been a disaster for such a young team, but the players must realise they are trying to survive in a callous system that has no tolerance for a bad run of results. They must begin next year with a different mind-set.

Looking back on the first year of the club/county split season it could fairly be said the county players left it all in Croke Park. Shamrocks had the good sense to give a few weeks break to their county players and they returned fresher than any others. We have heard tales of managers ringing players on the Monday after a losing All Ireland final and requiring them back to club training on the following night. Oh dear, will they ever learn that recovery is more important than training? Otherwise the experiment seemed to work for the most part. Wouldn't it be great for the club players to have a meaningful league competition from April to August?



**Tullaroan - SH League Champions 2022**  
 Back: Gearoid Dunne, Bobby Cummins, Bill Walton, Joe Norton, Diarmuid Doherty, Kevin Maher, Martin Walsh  
 Middle: Bill Cuddihy, Bill Gaffney, David Fitzgerald, Liam Teehan, Paul Mulligan, Adam Tallis, Tommy Walsh, Joe Coughlan, Eamon Holland, Niall Holland, Pdraig O'Mahoney, Sean Leahy, Shane Cuddihy  
 Front: Stephen Dowling, Martin Keaghan, Paul Buggy, John Walton, Dylan Simpson, Josh Moore, Tomás Dunne, Jack Keaghan, Shane Walsh, Ger Luby, Pdraig Walsh, Tommy Walton, Jim Moore, Tommy Walsh



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Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE





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Danesfort Captain, Des Dunne Danesfort Cpt Receives the Intermediate Trophy From Michael Lyng Sponsor also Jimmy Walsh County Board Chairman.

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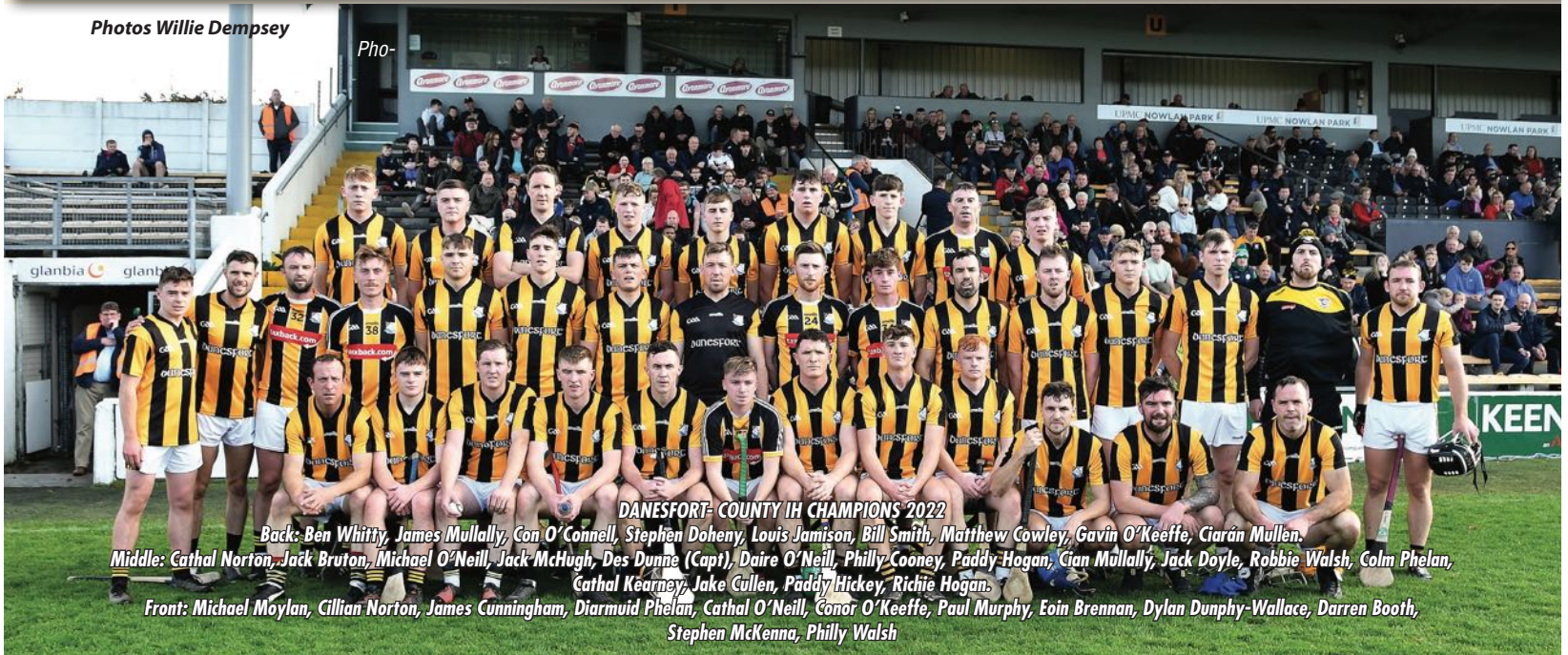


# 66 SCORES in 80 Minutes!

*“Memorable” understates the Drama.*

County IH Championship Report by Conor Brennan

Photos Willie Dempsey



**DANESFORT COUNTY IH CHAMPIONS 2022**

*Back: Ben Whitty, James Mullally, Con O'Connell, Stephen Doheny, Louis Jamison, Bill Smith, Matthew Cowley, Gavin O'Keeffe, Ciarán Mullen.*

*Middle: Cathal Norton, Jack Bruton, Michael O'Neill, Jack McHugh, Des Dunne (Capt), Daire O'Neill, Philly Cooney, Paddy Hogan, Cian Mullally, Jack Doyle, Robbie Walsh, Colm Phelan, Cathal Kearney, Jake Cullen, Paddy Hickey, Richie Hogan.*

*Front: Michael Moylan, Cillian Norton, James Cunningham, Diarmuid Phelan, Cathal O'Neill, Conor O'Keeffe, Paul Murphy, Eoin Brennan, Dylan Dunphy-Wallace, Darren Booth, Stephen McKenna, Philly Walsh*

## Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2022

When one sees within a final score of a game, a total of 66 scores in eighty minutes of hurling, it would likely suggest a memorable game. But for those who were fortunate enough to witness the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Final for 2022, they could argue that “memorable” understates the drama that prevailed throughout between Danesfort and Thomastown. The latter could feel more than entitled to take the honours, having come so close over the last number of years, in more than heart-breaking circumstances on more than one occasion. But, it was Danesfort who proved the more capable in coping with the frenetic nature of the required extra-time to secure the title. As they showed en route to the final, having the ability to dominate when most required was the key to their success, and they will return to senior grade after a gap of three years.

This year's league once again played out in a similar vein to previous years, with Thomastown showing the best early form to take the honours, defeating Danesfort by 2-20 to 1-18, while Rower-Inistioge were the shield winners with a comprehensive victory over Carrickshock (1-21 to 2-10).

A major shock lit up the opening round of the championship when St. Martin's, who had been winless throughout the league, managed to produce a significant performance to defeat a lacklustre St. Lachtain's in Canon Kearns Park. John Mulhall was at his mercurial best for the winners, scoring a first half goal and was well supported by Brian Coady and Justin Manning throughout. The scores were level heading into the final minutes, thanks to some good scores from the likes of Cathal O'Leary, Paddy Killeen and Noel McGree for the Freshford men, but St. Martin's scored the last four points of the game to eventually win out by 1-17 to 1-13 and condemn St. Lachtain's to the relegation final.

In the other first round game with relegation in play, Conahy Shamrocks got the better of a typically tough Fenians side in Lisdowney. An early goal from Darragh Tobin set the Johnstown men into the lead, but Conahy's Darren Cuddihy found the net late in the first half to level the scores at 1-6 apiece at the break. The second half saw Conahy dominate in the main, and the game was essentially decided with seven minutes to play when Tom Phelan fielded a Edmond Delaney line ball to finish to the Fenians net. With James Bergin also proving accurate from frees, Conahy were ultimately deserving winners by 2-15 to 1-11.

Those who attended the first round game between Mooncoin and Young Irelands in Inistioge certainly got their collective monies worth, as both teams served up a high scoring thriller. Mooncoin, however, were deservedly the winners, though they did allow the Gowran men to

reduce the gap to a goal with two quickfire goals just before injury time. An early goal from Sean Carey gave Young Irelands a great start, but Mooncoin soon responded in kind through Sean Gannon and by the eighth minute had a second goal through Ciaran Quilty. When Adam Croke scored their third goal just before half-time, along with a fourth from Paul Henebery, the Mooncoin men were well on their way to victory. Substitute Paul Holden did manage to help to reduce the gap for the Gowran men, but with Ciaran Quilty in particular flying form for Mooncoin (scoring 2-5 in all), there was little more Young Irelands could manage to fight back. The two late Gowran goals from Paul Holden, his second, and Tommy Phelan, did manage to provide a nervous finish for both teams. Indeed, Young Irelands dropped in a late free to snatch an equalising goal, but it was cleared by the Mooncoin defence, leaving the score 5-20 to 4-20 in their favour.

Dunnamaggin were also too strong for O'Loughlin Gaels in their first round game in Danesfort. Darren Fitzpatrick proved to be the key player for the winners, particularly in the opening half, as he accounted for 2-2 of the side's first half total. As a result, Dunnamaggin led by 2-10 to 0-10 at the interval, but in the second half, neither side hit similar heights in the scoring department. Gary Kelly did manage to find the net early in the half for the city side, but they only added one further point to their tally from there on. Ray Cody scored a goal

from long distance for Dunnamaggin to increase their now unassailable lead, and they eventually advanced on a 3-16 to 1-11 score line.

Their victory qualified the Dunnamaggin men for a quarter-final derby clash with Carrickshock in Piltown. Carrickshock notably scored six goals on their way to a big victory over their neighbours in their most recent meeting in the league, but it proved to be a more even affair on this occasion. The key score of the opening half came following good work from Carrickshock's Kevin Farrell, who laid on a pass to Eoghan O'Neill and he finished well to the Dunnamaggin net. This ensured that they led by 1-10 to 0-8 at the half way mark. They increased this lead to eight points early in the second half, and when Dunnamaggin looked like they were through to score a vital goal, their goalkeeper Dan Blanchfield reacted smartly to save from Dunnamaggin's Peter Kenneally. Later when Eoghan O'Neill scored both his and his side's second goal, it essentially finished the game as a contest. Michael Cody did score a goal from a 21 yard free in the dying minutes of the game for Dunnamaggin, but it was merely cosmetic as Carrickshock deservedly advanced by 2-15 to 1-10.

Two more Southern teams, namely Rower-Inistioge and Mooncoin, were also paired together at the quarter-final stage in Ballyhale. The Rower led by 1-9 to 1-5 at the half-time break, thanks mainly to an Eoin O'Brien goal, though Mooncoin were staying in touch due to a Paul Henebery goal in response. Richie



*Danesfort Captain, Des Dunne lifts the Hanrahan Cup.*

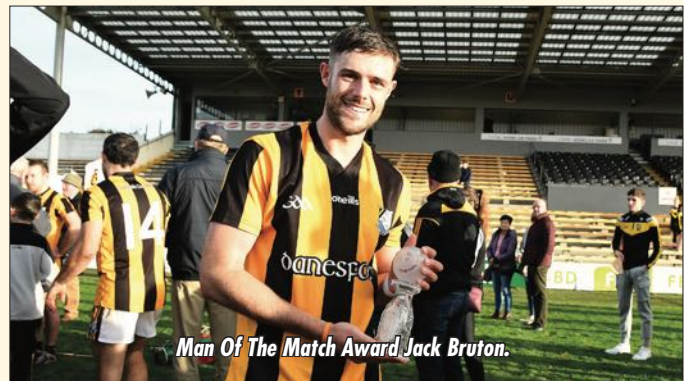


*Richie Hogan takes a fine catch over Peter Mc Donald*

Leahy was highly influential for the Rower throughout, scoring eleven points (eight frees), and could have scored more had his radar been more attuned. The returning Darragh Joyce, his brother Kieran, and Joe and Pat Lyng also laid the foundations for the Rower's eventual victory. Mooncoin, though they never gave up, could not reduce the deficit throughout the second half, and the Rower were ultimately comfortable winners by 1-17 to 1-11.

Thomastown had a very easy passage to the semi-finals with a comfortable victory over St. Martin's in Gowran. They led by 0-13 to 0-7 at the half way mark and increased that lead in impressive fashion, with the Donnelly contingent, Robbie, Stephen and John contributing majorly to the scoring total. When Thomastown's Jonjo Farrell scored the only goal of the game midway through the second half, it was game over. Thomastown eventually won out by 1-30 to 0-16 against a St. Martin's side who were no doubt happy to still retain their intermediate status after their winless league campaign.

Conahy Shamrocks faced Danesfort in the final quarter-final in St. John's Park. It was a reasonably even first half as both sides swapped scores throughout, but with Danesfort marginally holding a 0-12 to 0-10 advantage when the half-time whistle blew. They looked



*Man Of The Match Award Jack Bruton.*



*Peter Connellan Tries to control the ball under pressure from Robbie Walsh.*

like they were setting a run towards victory as they increased that lead to five (0-17 to 0-12) at the final quarter approached. As with many an occasion in the past, Richie Hogan was the key to this for Danesfort, scoring points in fine style, eventually hitting a total of eleven, with seven from placed balls. But Conahy were soon inspired, scoring five points on the bounce with three from Edmond Delaney, and a point apiece from James Bergin and Donal Brennan, to level the scores at 0-17 apiece. The response from Danesfort truly underlined their champion credentials. Substitute Jake Cullen managed to finish to the Conahy net with his very first touch to retake the lead, and this inspired five consecutive points from Richie Hogan (3), Eoin Brennan and Cullen himself to ensure a 1-22 to 0-17 victory. It was a harsh result in the end for Conahy, but there was no denying that it was a deserved one for Danesfort.

The Rower-Inistioge found themselves paired with Danesfort in the opening semi-final in UPMC Nowlan Park. The wet weather on the day made high quality hurling more than difficult, and



**THOMASTOWN - COUNTY IH FINALISTS & LEAGUE WINNERS 2022**

*Back: Brian Murphy, David Prendergast, Luke McNena, Aaron Kehoe, Paul Barron, Jack Holden, Sean O'Keeffe, Diarmuid Galway, Ned Kirwan, Darragh McGarry.  
Middle: Conor Holden, Pauric Kirwan, Jack Cullen, Gary Lehane, Peter McDonald, Adrian Burke, Cian Moore, Dylan Waugh, Jonjo Farrell, Stephen Donnelly, Brian Staunton,  
Luke Connellan, Peter Connellan*

*Front: Brian O'Hanrahan, Liam Treacy, Johnny Barron, Zach Bay Hammond, Robbie Donnelly, Colin Corrway, Eddie Donnelly, John Donnelly, Eddie Corrway, Des Walsh, Thomas O'Hanrahan.*

the opening half saw the majority of scores resulting from placed balls. Richie Hogan was on target with six pointed frees for Danesfort, while Richie Leahy scored three for the Rower, along with two good points from play from midfielder Tom Doyle, to leave Danesfort 0-8 to 0-5 in the lead at the break. The key score of the game came midway through the second half, when Jake Cullen once again repeated the trick he performed in the quarter-final to finish to the Rower net. Danesfort were comfortable in dealing with whatever threat the Rower men presented, with Daire O'Neill, Paul Murphy and Des Dunne, amongst others, producing fine performances. Try as the likes of Darragh Joyce, Tom Doyle and Joe Lyng did, they could not bring the Rower sufficiently back into the game, as Danesfort comfortably advanced to the county final by 1-15 to 0-12.

As underdogs in the second semi-final, Carrickshock came into their game with Thomastown with the opportunity to test the mettle of the championship favourites. The scores were level at 0-7 apiece at the half way mark, with both sides' free takers, Robbie Donnelly (Thomastown) and Eoghan O'Neill (Carrickshock) the major scorers. Both sides had goal chances in the opening half, but good defending in each case prevented the concession of a goal. As the weather conditions improved for the second half, so did the quality of the hurling on show. Eoghan O'Neill struck the opening goal for Carrickshock ten minutes into the second half to open up a three point lead. But disaster then struck for them when Jack Holden pounced on a defensive error to bundle the ball to the net for Thomastown. It gave them real motivation at this stage, and Carrickshock began to wilt. John Donnelly also contributed some vital scores, while Peter McDonald and Richard O'Hara impressed in particular in the Thomastown defence. They finished with the final two points of the game to see themselves into the final on a 1-14 to 1-10 score line.

Meanwhile, in the battle to avoid relegation, St. Lachtain's and Fenians faced off with more than just local pride at stake in their play-off in Ballyragget. It was clear as the game progressed that the collective experience of the Johnstown men in fighting off the threat of relegation in previous years was once again standing them in good stead. They led 0-4 to 0-1 early on, but credit to the Freshford men who fought back to leave the scores 0-8 to 0-7 in Fenians' favour at the break. It could have been different for St. Lachtain's had a Liam Hickey goal from a penalty not been disallowed for striking the ball past the 21 yard line. The early stages of the second half were once again dominated by Fenians, who raced into a 0-14 to 0-8 lead. St. Lachtain's did fight back to reduce the gap to three points, but when Conor Tobin finished well to the St. Lachtain's net with ten minutes to play, it appeared to kill off what was left of the Freshford challenge. In the end, Fenians were deserving winners, and having been beaten county finalists last year, St. Lachtain's are now facing into hurling at junior level in 2023.

As mentioned previously, the county final between Danesfort and Thomastown was dramatic to say the least. But, it certainly didn't appear that way in the opening half, as both sides traded scores without too much fuss or excitement. The only goal from the half came from Jack Holden for Thomastown, but Danesfort were finding the range superbly with a plethora of well taken points to lead by 0-13 to 1-8 at the break. Points from Richie Hogan, Philly Cooney and Colm Phelan were particular highlights at that time. The second half was full of highlights. Thomastown fought back well to level the scores before the midway point of the

half when Robbie Donnelly goaled from a penalty. Danesfort rallied superbly to this setback, and scored four points without reply. It looked like this would lead them to victory, but in injury time, Jack Holden scored his second goal for Thomastown to level the scores once again. A James Mullaly point looked to have snatched victory back for Danesfort, but Stephen Donnelly equalised with the last puck of the game to send the game to extra time.

Remarkably for the third game in a row, Jake Cullen made his mark coming off the bench with a third goal in three games to start extra-time. This gave Danesfort great momentum for the remainder of extra-time. Richie Hogan was also producing one of his best performances for club or county, scoring 0-12 in all, with six from play. Des Dunne and Paul Murphy were strong in defence, while Jack Bruton was full of running in attack, and deservedly secured the man of the match award. Although Jonjo Farrell scored a fourth Thomastown goal in the final minutes to reduce the deficit to two points, there wasn't enough time to score further, and Danesfort held on for a deserved win. For a club celebrating it's 100 year anniversary, it was a ideal way to mark the occasion!

### MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

#### FIRST ROUND

Dunnamaggin	3-16	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-11
Conahy Shamrocks	2-15	Fenians	1-11
Mooncoin	5-20	Young Irelands	4-20
St. Martin's	1-17	St. Lachtain's	1-13

#### QUARTER-FINALS

Thomastown	1-30	St. Martin's	0-16
Carrickshock	2-15	Dunnamaggin	1-10
Danesfort	1-22	Conahy Shamrocks	0-17
Rower-Inistioge	1-17	Mooncoin	1-11

#### SEMI-FINALS

Danesfort	1-15	Rower-Inistioge	0-12
Thomastown	1-14	Carrickshock	1-10

#### FINAL

Danesfort	1-36	Thomastown	4-25 (AET)
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#### RELEGATION FINAL

Fenians	1-16	St. Lachtain's	0-12
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Captain Paul Murphy (right) And vice Captain Joe Kelly raise the County Junior Trophy with Sponsor Pau; Kavanagh and Cathaoirleach, Jimmy Walsh  
(Photo: Willie Dempsey)

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# SKEOUGH TAKE THE HONOURS

Junior Championship Report by Mary Morgan PRO



Photos: Willie Dempsey

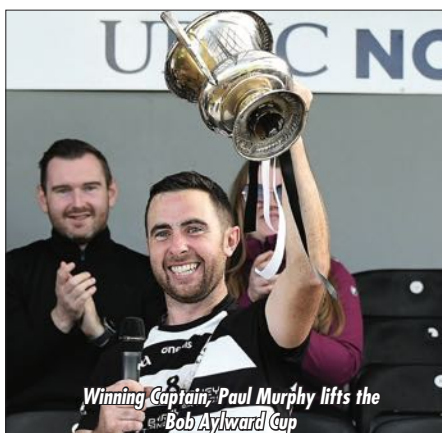
## BLACKS & WHITES - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 2022

Back: Jack Kelly, Ian Foley, Michael 'Imoe' Moloney, Aaron Foley, Sam Byrne, Dara Moran, Martin Kelly, Niall Kennedy, Paddy Nolan, James Kennedy.  
 Middle: Pat Nolan, Kate Kelly, Tadhg Farrell, Pierce Ryan, Ben Savage, Michael 'Crow' Moloney, Emmet Foley, Pádraig Joyce, Jason Byrne, Louis Brennan, Josh Barcoe, Jamie Ryan, John Byrne, Matty Flynn O'Connor, Rory Treacy.  
 Front: Oscar Murphy, Howard Buggy, Ryan Murphy, Seanán Doyle, Keelin O'Grady, Jamie Byrne, Eddie Murphy, Paul Murphy (Captain), Killian Phelan, John 'Nipper' Lennon, Tommy Joyce, Patrick Cushen, Daire Murphy, Eddie Scally Jnr.  
 -Kneeling in front: Eddie Doyle (Club Secretary), Kathleen Whitehead, Joe Kelly (Vice Captain), Aidan O'Dowd

## JUNIOR

Sunday the 23rd October 2022 will be long remembered in Skeoughvosteen as the day their small country club took top honours in the JJ Kavanagh & Sons County Premier Junior Hurling Championship Final. The winners secured their fourth Junior title, having last won it some 13 years prior while opponents Windgap came up short as they were seeking to bridge a 36 year gap and claim their third Junior title. As Robert Cribbin of the Kilkenny People observed "Blacks and Whites shook off their underdog tag to battle to a hard earned success over a well fancied Windgap team".

Despite Blacks and Whites overcoming Windgap 0-24 to 3-12 in the JJ Kavanagh and Sons All County Junior Hurling Paddy Cahill Final back in July, Windgap were tipped to win – particularly having beaten early favourites (and JJ Kavanagh and Sons Premier Junior Hurling League Section A Final winners), Tullougher Rosbercon at quarterfinal stage, and Dicksboro, (JJ Kavanagh and Sons Premier Junior Hurling Championship Section B Final winners), in the semi-final. However, it was Blacks & Whites who lay down the early marker with Jamie Byrne, directly from the throw-in, taking only 12 seconds to put over the first point of the afternoon. Both sides looked nervous but Windgap were the slower of the two to settle the nerves and find their rhythm but a lineball from Niall Walsh to James Power in the fifth minute put them on the scoreboard, which was followed by a point from Adam O'Shea. Ryan Murphy was outstanding for Blacks & Whites and he put over his first of an impressive nine points (three from play) from a placed ball approximately 70m out. Jack Doyle followed suit with a converted free minutes later. Jamie Byrne, Sam Byrne and Ryan Murphy kept the scoreboard ticking over with assists from John "Nipper" Lennon, a workhorse all afternoon, who fed ball after ball into the forward line. A goal opportunity presented itself for Windgap in the 23rd minute, which could have possibly changed the course of the game, but Jack Doyle's strike scimmed the crossbar for a point. Points from Emmet Landy and Jack Doyle in injury time brought the southerners to within two points but another 70m free from Ryan Murphy was flicked into the back of the



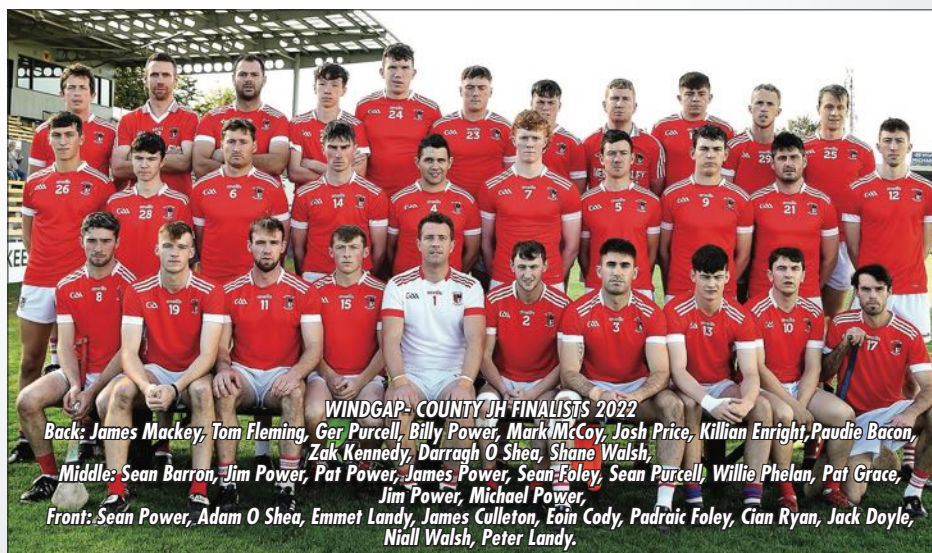
Winning Captain Paul Murphy lifts the Bob Aylward Cup

net by Emmet Foley which put his side ahead 1-10 to 0-8 at half time.

Windgap needed a strong performance in the second half but, as in the first half, it took time for them to settle. Three wides in the opening minutes didn't help matters but in the 36th minute, captain Emmet Landy pointed from a placed ball and this seemed to settle them as they went on to outscore Blacks and Whites 0-8 to 0-3 over the next 15 minutes,

starting with an Adam O'Shea point. Ryan Murphy pointed again for his side and Edward Murphy's first touch after entering the field of play was sent over the bar. During this 15 minute period, Windgap made a few changes and when James Power ran at the Blacks and Whites defence, the points followed. Emmet Landy brought his side to within three points in the 48th minute and reduced the margin to two when he converted a placed ball moments later. A long ball in from Sean Foley came off the posts but Emmet Landy couldn't get a clean strike on the rebound and the danger was cleared by Aidan O'Dowd. Jack Doyle's point in the 53rd minute drew the sides level.

It was going down to the wire but the Blacks and Whites defence held firm and put an end to Windgap's purple patch as they were held scoreless for the remainder of the game. Blacks and Whites captain, Paul Murphy, tapped one over in the 54th minute. A goal opportunity for Ryan Murphy was superbly blocked by Eoin Cody as he came off his line to send it out for a 65 and Ryan closed out the game with points from the 65 and a converted free well into injury time. Michael "Crow" Moloney was superb as he led the Blacks and Whites defence and was deserving of his 'Man of the Match' award from Community Radio,



## WINDGAP: COUNTY JH FINALISTS 2022

Back: James Mackey, Tom Fleming, Ger Purcell, Billy Power, Mark McCoy, Josh Price, Killian Enright, Paudie Bacon, Zak Kennedy, Darragh O Shea, Shane Walsh.  
 Middle: Sean Barron, Jim Power, Pat Power, James Power, Sean Foley, Sean Purcell, Willie Phelan, Pat Grace, Jim Power, Michael Power.  
 Front: Sean Power, Adam O Shea, Emmet Landy, James Culleton, Eoin Cody, Pádraic Foley, Cian Ryan, Jack Doyle, Niall Walsh, Peter Landy.

Kilkenny City. FT Blacks and Whites 1-17, Windgap 0-17.

**Blacks and Whites:** Keelin O'Grady, Joe Kelly (vice capt), Michael "Crow" Maloney, Tommy Joyce, Ian Foley, Aidan O'Dowd, Niall Kennedy, Paul Murphy (capt) (0-1), Martin Kelly, Emmet Foley (1-0), John "Nipper" Lennon, Jamie Byrne (0-4), Sam Byrne (0-1), Ryan Murphy (0-9, 0-5f, 0-1 '65), Seanan Doyle (0-1). **Subs:** Edward Murphy (0-1) for Emmet Foley, Daire Murphy for Ian Foley, Michael "Moe" Moloney for John "Nipper" Lennon, Jason Byrne for Sam Byrne.

**Windgap:** Eoin Cody, Padhraic Foley, Cian Ryan (vice capt), Sean Foley, Willie Phelan, Pat Power, Sean Purcell, Sean Power, Pat Grace, Niall Walsh (0-1), Emmet Landy (capt) (0-6, 0-4f, 0-1 '65), Adam O'Shea (0-2), Jack Doyle (0-4, 0-1f), James Power (0-3), James Culleton (0-1). **Subs:** Josh Price for Willie Phelan, Darragh O'Shea for Pat Power, Zak Kennedy for James Culleton, Michael Power for Pat Grace.

**Referee:** Eoin Hayes (Thomastown)

The pathway to the final threw up some interesting match-ups, with none more exciting than the semi-finals, which featured as a triple-header in UPMC Nowlan Park, along with the senior semi-final pairing of Shamrocks Ballyhale and Tullaroan. The Section A first round kicked off on the weekend of the 17th/18th September. Kilmacow had a comprehensive win over Barrow Rangers in Pairc na Ratha on a scoreline of 3-20 to 0-11; St Patrick's overcame Galmoy in Urlingford (0-18 to 0-13); and Slieverue edged out Cloneen by two points, 0-14 to 1-9 in St John's Park. The second round took place a week later with four teams progressing to the quarterfinals. Windgap overcame St Patrick's 1-18 to 0-18 in Tom Ryall Park; Graignamanagh had a comfortable win over Kilmacow in Pairc na Ratha, 2-19 to 1-14; John Lockes beat Slieverue by the slimmest of margins, 1-15 to 2-11 in Piltown; and Blacks and Whites saw off the Emeralds (winners of the 2022 JJ Kavanagh and Sons All County Junior Hurling League Kevin Fennelly Cup) challenge in Jenkinstown, 1-16 to 0-16.

League finalists, Tullogher Rosbercon and Piltown had automatically advanced to the quarterfinals, which took place the weekend of the 1st/2nd October. Bennettsbridge was host to two thrilling quarterfinals on the Saturday and the Sunday. Following their victory over Piltown in the League Final, Tullogher Rosbercon would have been considered one of favourites but their quarterfinal encounter against Windgap on the Saturday afternoon put an end to their championship hopes as Windgap beat 14-man Tullogher 2-14 to 0-12. On the Sunday morning, Piltown needed extra time to overcome Graignamanagh by a single point, 0-19 to 0-18 – a different outcome from when the sides met earlier in the year in the JJ Kavanagh and Sons All County Junior Hurling League Final – Graignamanagh took the honours that day, winning 2-10 to 1-12. In the third quarterfinal, Blacks and Whites met John Lockes in Danesfort and advanced to the semi-finals on a scoreline of 0-17 to 1-11. It was an all city affair in the Section B final as Dicksboro overcame James Stephens in St John's Park, 2-18 to 3-11, to advance to the semi-finals.

The semi-final pairings were Dicksboro vs Windgap and Blacks and Whites vs Piltown. The teams had a week to ready themselves and they served up two dramatic, nail-biting matches. In the first semi-final, Windgap dominated for much of the game but saw their eight point lead disappear in the last 10 minutes and a free converted by Dicksboro's Davy Ryan deep into injury time sent the sides to extra time. Dicksboro looked to have the edge but a penalty awarded to Windgap in injury time was netted by Emmet Landy to level the sides, Dicksboro 2-21 to Windgap's 1-24. The extra time whistle blew and it would be a penalty shootout that would determine who advanced to the county final. Windgap held their nerve and advanced to the County Final winning 4-2 on penalties. The second semi-final also had its fair share of drama. Piltown led for the majority of the game, with the sides drawing level on a couple of occasions, and looked to have booked their place in the final. With five minutes to go, they had a comfortable lead but a resurgent Blacks and Whites wiped out Piltown's six point lead with goals from Jamie Byrne and Aaron Foley and a Jamie Byrne point in the 66th minute secured his side's place in the final. A Blacks and Whites/Windgap final was not what many would have predicted at the start of the season!

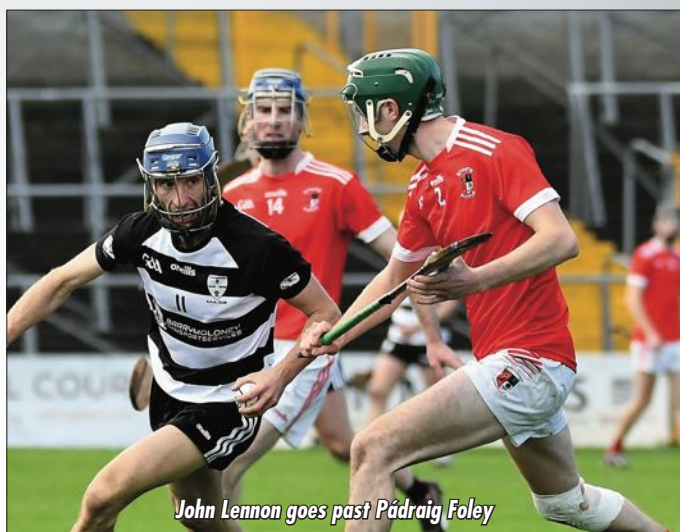
There was no Junior relegation in 2022 and as Blacks and Whites advance to Intermediate grade, St Lachtain's and Thomastown will join the Junior ranks from Intermediate and Junior A.

## JUNIOR BOARD 2022

The Junior Board had another busy season, taking charge of running the Junior A to F, u-19 and u-21 competitions.

### Junior A to F

Following a hiatus due to Covid, we welcomed Carlow teams



John Lennon goes past Pádraig Foley



Sean Purcell and Martin Kelly clash



Michael Maloney receives man of the match award from Jack Kavanagh

back to compete in the 2022 Junior A to F Leagues. The number of teams affiliated and competing this year rose to 66, an increase of seven from 2021 and 18 from 2020. Small rural clubs such as Lisdowney entered their first ever fourth adult hurling team and Mooncoin fielded five adult hurling teams. The Junior A to F competitions were all-encompassing and all-inclusive with team compositions ranging from 18-year olds just up from minor grade to players aged 40+ coming to the end of their hurling career and they served up some of the most entertaining, not to mention skilful, games of the summer.

The Junior A to F season kicked off in April and ran right through to early July with a two-week gap before championship began. The six League finals featured nine clubs, with St Lachtain's, St Martin's and Piltown competing in two finals apiece. The six County Finals comprised 10 clubs, this time it was Conahy Shamrocks and Mooncoin who competed in two finals apiece.

### JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior A League Final –

Thomastown and Young Irelands met in Bennettsbridge



**THOMASTOWN - COUNTY JH "A" LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2022**  
 Back : Naoise Dempsey, Johnny Barron, Shane Maher, Gary Lehane, Brian O Hanrahan, Jack Holden, Sean O'Keefe, Dylan Caulfield (capt) Conor Holden, Richard O'Hara, Liam Treacy, Jack Cullen, Peter Connellan, Craig Butler, Rory Connellan  
 Front: Alex Cass, Aaron Kehoe, Ciarán Sutton, Jamie Lanigan, Eddie Corrway, Paul Barron, Luke Connellan, Colin Corrway, David Prendergast



**ST MARTINS - JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS 2022**  
 Back row: Kieran Kelly, Matthew Shortall, Tadgh Gill, Ciarán Nolan, Adrian Farrell, Damien Tynan, Darragh Coughlan, James Carrigan, James Callanan, Jamie Morrissey, Ross Dowling, Josh Dempsey, Shane O'Neill, Adam Comerford, Joe Reid, Harry Kealy, Cathal Keegan, Conor Dooley, Noel Darcy, Martin Dowling  
 Front row: Robert Shore captain, Jason Shore, Darragh Quinlan, Ollie Walsh, Conor Mulhall, Ciarán Fitzpatrick, Oisín Kelly, Donal Coughlan, Bill Dowling, Colm Kealy, Niall Shore, John Mulhall, Daniel Comerford, Jack Farrell, John Maher, James Dowling.



**ST LACHTAIN'S - JH "B" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2021**  
 Back: Amy Lennon, Patrick Killeen, Tommy Kennedy, Paul White, Jack Whitty, Cormac Rafter, Michael Walsh, Jerry Bergin, Shay Burke, Patrick Maher, John Bowden, Darragh Quinn, Lachtain Kennedy, Cathal Power, Jack Hickey, Declan Killeen, Cian Dawson, Cathal O'Leary, JJ Donnelly  
 Front: James Burke Alan Rafter, Cathal Hickey, Matthew Durnan Ben Dermody Philip Campion, Conor Donnelly, Padraig Donnelly Cian Leahy, Mark Donnelly, Jordan Burke Joe Dermody, Jonathan Doheny.



**EMERALDS - JUNIOR CHURLING LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2022**  
 Back: Brendan Cleere, Darragh Queally, Kieren Cleere, Niall O Gorman, Ciarán Phelan, Ollie Kenny, Johnny Doyle, Eddie Ryan, Middle: Fergal Tobin (selector), Brian Campion, JJ McLaughlin, Alex Burke, Sean Power, Kieren Norton, Kacper Woloczko, Adam Barnaville, Gavin Moriarty, Killian Doyle, Pa Doheny, Shane Pollard (trainer), Front: Ramie Moriarty (selector), Luke Phelan, Calvin Ryan, Brian Webster, Tony Farrell (vice-captain), Francis Coghessy (captain), Jack Kavanagh, Enda Kelly, Tomás Cussen.





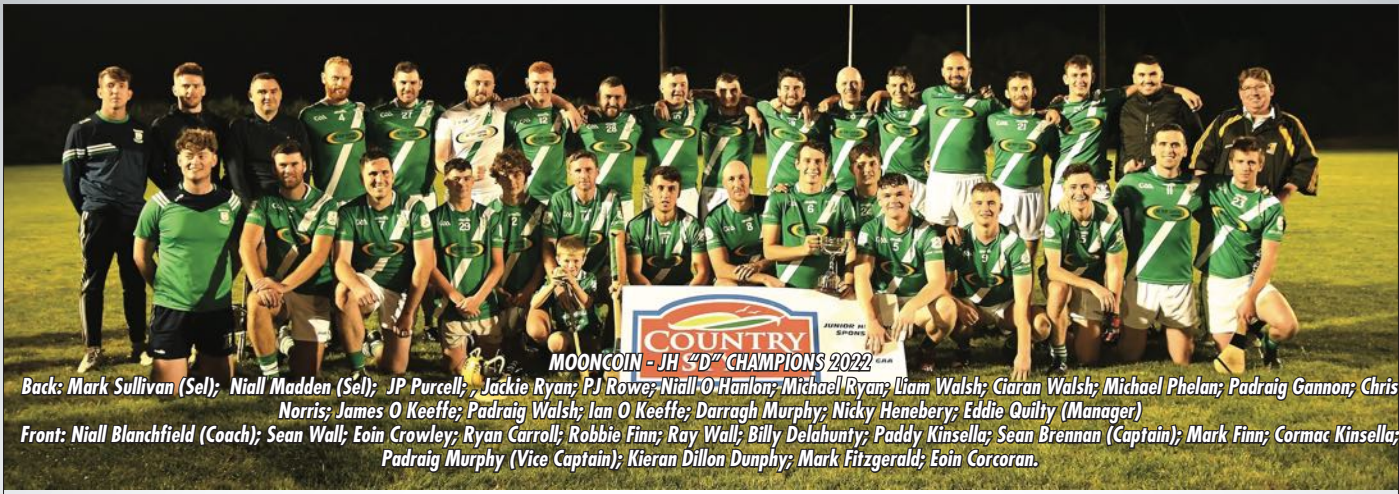
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**MOONCOIN - JH & D' CHAMPIONS 2022**  
 Back: Mark Sullivan (Sel); Niall Madden (Sel); JP Purcell; Jackie Ryan; PJ Rowe; Niall O'Hanlon; Michael Ryan; Liam Walsh; Cian Walsh; Michael Phelan; Padraig Gannon; Chris Norris; James O Keffe; Padraig Walsh; Ian O Keffe; Darragh Murphy; Nicky Henebery; Eddie Quilty (Manager)  
 Front: Niall Blanchfield (Coach); Sean Wall; Eoin Crowley; Ryan Carroll; Robbie Finn; Ray Wall; Billy Delahunty; Paddy Kinsella; Sean Brennan (Captain); Mark Finn; Cormac Kinsella; Padraig Murphy (Vice Captain); Kieran Dillon Dunphy; Mark Fitzgerald; Eoin Corcoran.



**PILTOWN - WINNERS OF JUNIOR F LEAGUE 2022**  
 Back: Eddie Brennan, Darragh Dowd, David Burchill, Vinny Long, Shane Kinsella, Paul Kirby (capt), Luke Falconer, Pa Connolly, James Kirby, David Kinsella, Francis O'Brien  
 Front: Shane Doody, Gavin Flynn, Andrew Norris, Philly Kenny, Kieran Kinsella, Arifoms Sergejs, Aidan Ryan, Neil Moriarty, Emmet Flynn, Jamie Norris.



**CONAHY SHAMROCKS JUNIOR F LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2022**  
 Back: Declan Buggy, Brian Rossiter, Adam Dempsey, Robert Ring, John Muldowney, Martin Fitzpatrick, David Kennedy, Paul Buggy, Andy O'Keeffe, Padraig Conway, Darragh Hennessy, Oisín Cahill, Kieran Breñnan, Eoin Byrne.  
 Front: Padraic Nolan, Conor Brennan, Damien Cuddihy, Kevin Conry, Harry O'Mahony, Jack Joyce, Conor Watters, Paddy Mullan, Jack Kelly, Billy Mulhall, Brooklyn Synott, Justin Brophy (Capt.), Michael Bergin, Tom Nolan.



**GRAIGNAMANAGH - ALL COUNTY LEAGUE WINNERS 2022**  
 Back: Jim O'Donnell, Jack Ryan, Oran Canning, Ted Dunne, James Meaney, Michael Bolger, Sean Walsh, Thomas O'Donnell, Shane Kearney, Terry Dreehan, Fintan Cahill, Abhainn Flood, Joseph O'Neill, Paul Kielthy, Sean Holden, James Hickey - Manager, Sean O'Neill, Brendan Foley-selector, Hughie Flood-selector.  
 Middle: Jack Dunne, Dylan Cahill, Ian & Sam Kavanagh, Cian Murphy, Charlie Murphy, Niall Hayden, Pierce Blanchfield, Joe Dowling (Captain), Adam Kennedy, Seamus Kavanagh, Richard Foley, Seamus Kelly (Trainer), Jim O'Driscoll - Selector,  
 Front: Conor Foley, Tommy Dowling, James Keating, Bill Flynn, Robyn Dunne..

on the 26th June. Thomastown led from the outset. While Young Irelands managed to narrow the gap to two points in the 40th minute, a Jack Holden goal in the 52nd minute effectively sealed Thomastown's victory, as they closed ranks and dominated defensively for the remainder of the game. Thomastown 1-20, Young Irelands 1-12.

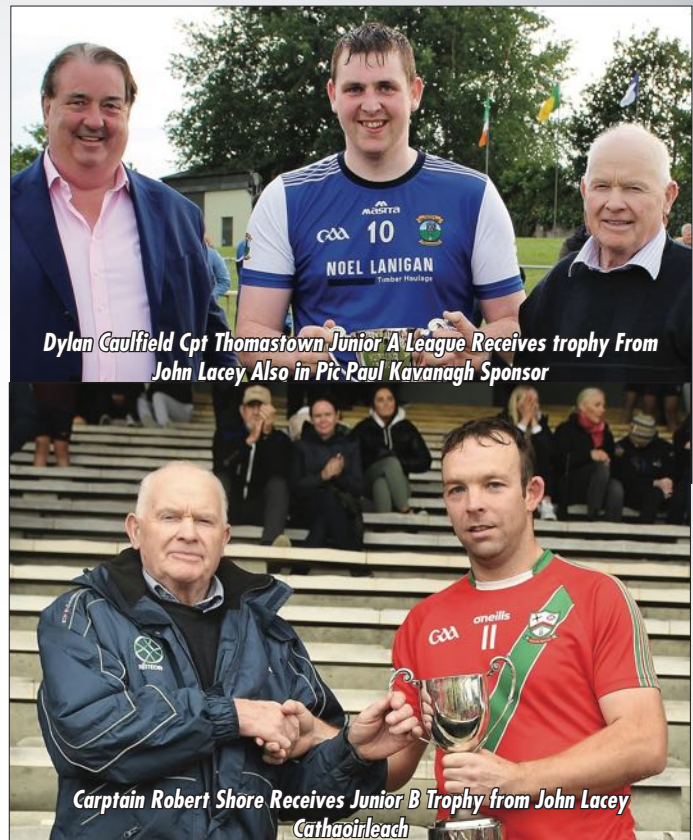
**JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior B League Final –**

St Lachtain's and St Martin's clashed in the 'B' final in Ballyragget on the 5th July with the game ending somewhat controversially. The scoreboard at full time had it a draw but the ref had St Lachtain's on top by a point. Freshford's Patrick Killeen helped his side to victory with a personal tally of 2-5, his two quick fire goals in the first half coming in the space of 180 seconds. St Lachtain's 2-12, St Martin's 1-14.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior B County Final –**

St Martin's and Conahy Shamrocks battled it out in UPMC Nowlan Park on the 11th September in very wet conditions, following heavy overnight rain. St Martin's led from the start with a Josh Dempsey goal in the fifth minute. Despite the determined efforts of the Conahy men, a 43rd minute goal from substitute Jamie Morrissey gave the St Martin's outfit a comfortable lead. The introduction of the various St Martin's substitutes had an impact as they increased the gap to seven points to take the win. St Martin's 2-15, Conahy Shamrocks 1-11.

**Iverk Produce Junior C League Final –** Graigue Ballycallan's grounds in Kilmanagh played host to the 'C' League Final between Emeralds and Piltown on the 3rd July. Emeralds took control right from the start and never gave their opponents a



*Dylan Caulfield Cpt Thomastown Junior A League Receives trophy From John Lacey Also in Pic Paul Kavanagh Sponsor*

*Captain Robert Shore Receives Junior B Trophy from John Lacey Cathaoirleach*



*Sean Brennan Receives the Junior D Trophy From John Lacey Chairman Junior Board*



*John lacey Presents Philip Campion Cpt St Lactain 's with the Junior B League trophy also In Pic Paul Kavanagh sponsor.*



*Junior Board Sec Pat Dunphy Presents Paul Kirby Piltown with the Junior E Trophy*



*Graiguenamanagh Cpt Joe Dowling receives trophy From PJ Kenny Vice Chairman Also in Pic JJ Kavanagh Sponsor Junior All County League*



*Justin Brophy Cpt conahy Shamrocks Receives Junior F League Trophy From John Lacey Junior Chairman Also Paul Kavanagh Sponsor*



*Joint Cpts Francis Clohosey and Anthony Farrell Receive The Junior C League Trophy From Pat Dunphy and Paul Kavanagh, Sponsor.*

chance to get into the game. Their work rate over the course of the 60 minutes was impressive and even while holding a substantial lead, kept the pressure on to close out the game with a comprehensive victory, aided by Alex Burke's hat trick. Emeralds 4-18, Piltown 0-12.

**Iverk Produce Junior C County Final** – in a repeat of the League Final, Emeralds and Piltown met again, this time in UPMC Nowlan Park on the 10th September. Emerald's Darragh Queally, impressive in the League Final, was again instrumental in his side's victory. Only three points separated the sides at the halfway mark, a much different story from the League Final when the gap was nine points. The Urlingford men didn't have as comprehensive a win this time round as the sides were more evenly matched. A Kevin Brophy goal in the 45th minute reduced the gap to a point but Emeralds pulled away after this, and a goal from substitute Alex Burke with three minutes to go secured his side the win. Emeralds had won the league and championship double! Emeralds 1-18, Piltown 1-11.

**Country Style Foods Junior D League Final** – extra time was needed in Ballyraggett on the 12th July when nothing could separate St Martin's and Lisdowney. With five minutes remaining, St Martin's captain, Damien Tynan gave his side hope when he levelled the game with a goal. The sides finished normal time at 1-12 apiece. Lisdowney were first out of the blocks in extra time and looked to pull away but St Martin's dug deep and held on for the victory by the slimmest of margins. St Martin's 2-18, Lisdowney 2-17.

**Country Style Foods Junior D County Final** – MW Hire Centre Dunmore, under lights, was the venue for the 'D' Co Final on the 2nd September. In a high-scoring thriller in front of a huge crowd, it was anyone's game until Mooncoin pulled ahead in the last 10 minutes. With four goals alone in the first half, the sides were level at the break at 2-10 apiece. However, it was to be Mooncoin's night and a Padraig Murphy goal in the 59th minute left Lisdowney scrambling to recover but they couldn't break the Mooncoin defence. Mooncoin 3-21, Lisdowney 2-18.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior E League Final** – in yet another final where the winning margin was a single point, Piltown edged out Dunnamaggin in Carrigeen on the 5th July. Both teams had been promoted to Junior E and this set the scene for a repeat of the 2021 Junior F Co Final, where Dunnamaggin had prevailed. Dunnamaggin looked to repeat that victory as they led 2-8 to 0-8 at half time. However Piltown made a number of changes and the introduction of substitute Shane Kinsella turned things around as he racked up 2-2 to help his side to victory. Piltown 2-16, Dunnamaggin 2-15.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior E County Final** – Mooncoin welcomed Graigue Ballycallan to their home grounds for the 'E' Co Final. With names such as Eddie Brennan and James Ryall on the teamsheet, their experience meant Graigue Ballycallan would be serious contenders. James Ryall rolled back the years as he and Jason Dermody, with eight points to his name, helped their side come out on top in an exciting game and at the final whistle, they celebrated like it was their first victory. Graigue Ballycallan 0-14, Mooncoin 1-7.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior F League Final** – Conahy Shamrocks and St Lachtain's met in Ballyraggett on the 26th June to contest the 'F' final. In a high-scoring encounter, with the sides registering 41 scores between them, Conahy came out on top. St Lachtain's took an early lead but at the full time whistle, the sides were level, 4-11 to St Lachtain's 2-17 to and extra time beckoned. As they say "goals win games" and Conahy's five goals stood to them at the end of extra time. Conahy Shamrocks 5-14, St Lachtain's 2-20.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior F County Final** – Conahy Shamrocks faced Mullinavat under lights on the 9th September at the MW Hire Centre Dunmore. It was a tough and tight game with little between the sides. Mullinavat led by 2-3 to 1-5 at the break but Conahy fought back well. A Pauric Nolan goal in the 46th minute levelled the sides and once Conahy took the lead minutes later, they held it to the end. Conahy had won the league and championship double! Conahy Shamrocks 2-12, Mullinavat 2-7.

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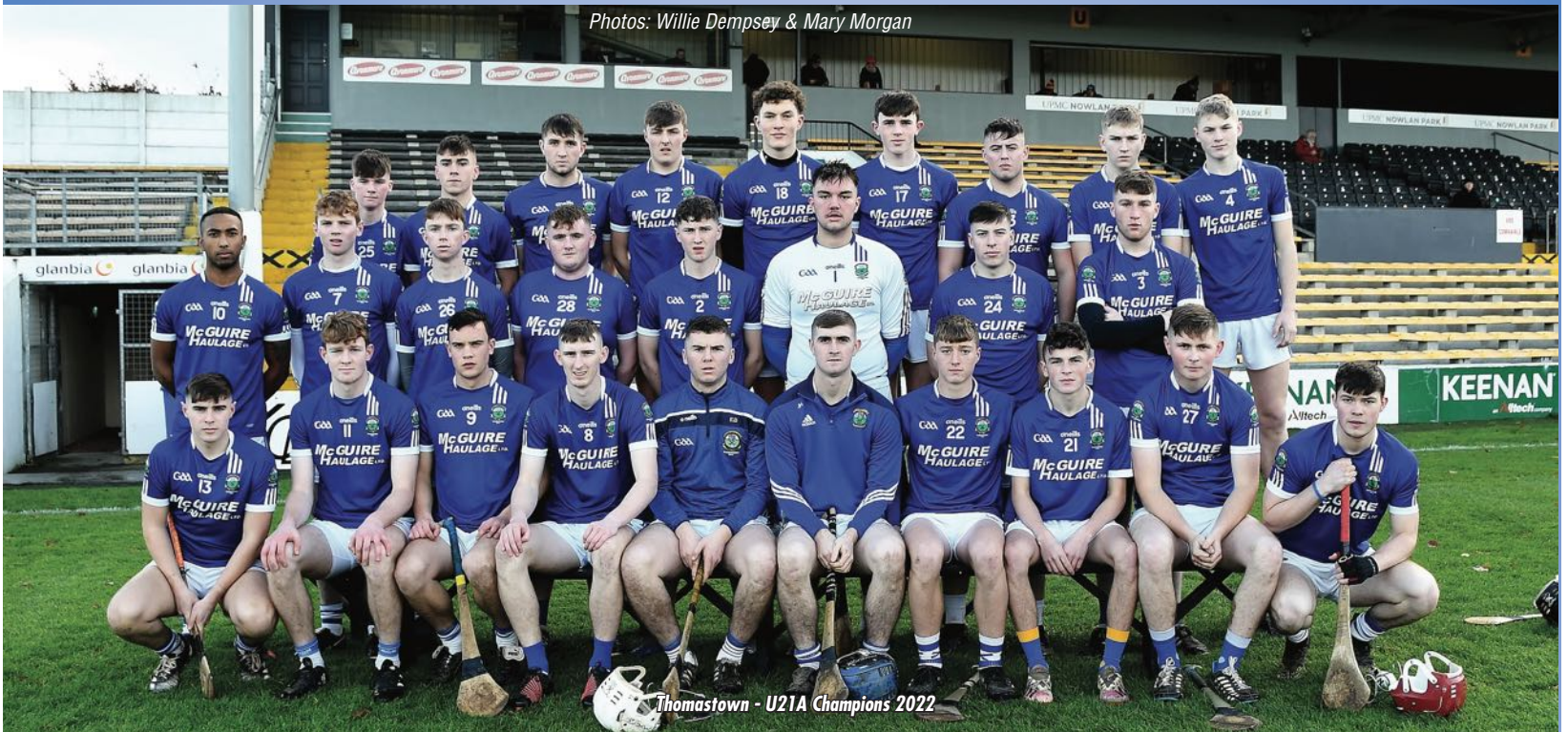
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# THOMASTOWN Reach the Promised Land!

U21 Report by Mary Morgan PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey & Mary Morgan





**Emeralds U21 E Champions 2022**

**JUNIOR BOARD 2022**

The JJ Kavanagh & Sons U-21 Hurling Championship got off to a slightly earlier than usual start this year. A total of 37 teams competed in the straight knockout competition, and the season closed out with five County Finals. As we go to print, only one County Final remains to be played.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons U-21A County Final** – in what could be classed as one of the best games of the season, Thomastown and Mooncoin contested the “A” final in UPMC Nowlan Park on the 20th November. With 11 goals between the two sides, Thomastown eventually did enough in extra time to take the honours and win their first ever U-21A Hurling Championship title. Ahead by 4-4 to 1-7 at half-time, Mooncoin looked to be well in control but Thomastown upped the work rate and they powered ahead and took the lead in the 45th minute. The sides traded scores in the last 15 minutes but two injury time points from Thomastown sent the game to extra time, one of those points coming from Peter McDonald who had a personal tally of 1-7 for the day. Thomastown dominated in extra time and some superb play from Zach Bay Hammond set up a number of the Thomastown scores as they created history for their southern club. Thomastown 5-18, Mooncoin 6-12.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons U-21B County Final** – Palmerstown was the venue for the clash between Graigue Ballycallan and Lisdowney on the 13th November. In an exciting encounter that went down to the wire, Graigue Ballycallan came out on top by the slimmest of margins. Lisdowney were three up as half-time approached but an Aaron McEvoy goal in injury time meant it was all square going into the second half. The sides were evenly matched in the second half and neither side could pull away but a point from Graigue Ballycallan substitute Ryan Corcoran in the 62nd minute gave his side the victory. Graigue Ballycallan 1-12, Lisdowney 0-14.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons U-21C County Final** – as of printing, the U-21C County Final encounter between Mullinavat and Kilmacow is scheduled for the 3rd December.

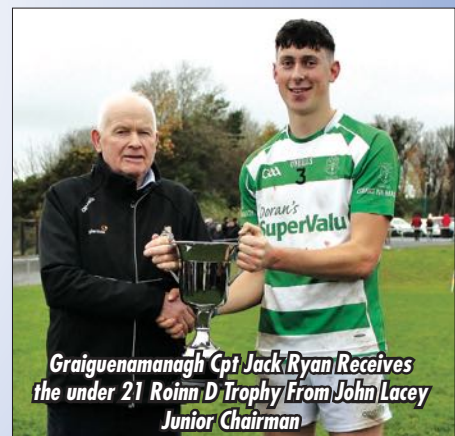
**JJ Kavanagh & Sons U-21D County Final** – Conahy Shamrocks and Graignamanagh battled it out in the “D” final in MW Hire Centre Dunmore on the 26th November. Graignamanagh proved too strong for the Conahy Shamrocks men as they led right from the start and kept their opponents to two points in the first half. Captain Jack Ryan directed operations



**Eddie Donnelly Cpt Thomastown Receives the Under 21 A Trophy From Jack Kavanagh Sponsor**



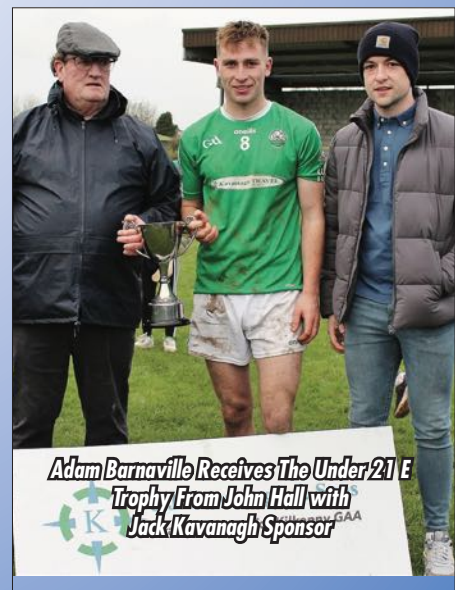
**Stephen Keoghan Cpt Graigue Ballycallan receives Under 21 trophy From John Lacey Junior Chairman**



**Graignemanagh Cpt Jack Ryan Receives the under 21 Roinn D Trophy From John Lacey Junior Chairman**

from the back, closing down any number of Conahy attacks and he was instrumental in setting up some of his side's scores as he fed ball after ball into his forwards, with the help of Sean Hamilton at midfield. An impressive 3-6 in the second half secured a comprehensive win for the Graig men. Graignamanagh 3-15, Conahy Shamrocks 0-8.

**JJ Kavanagh & Sons U-21E County Final** –Blacks & Whites and Emeralds met in Pairc Lachtain on the 19th November for the “E” final. With conditions heavy underfoot as would be expected at this time of year, it took Emeralds ten minutes to register their first score and 26 minutes to level the game. However, they went into the break with a two-point advantage and, playing with the wind in the second half, they upped the intensity and never relinquished their lead. Daragh Queally led the charge with a tally of 0-10 of his side's 0-16 points to claim a hard-earned victory. Emeralds 0-16, Blacks & Whites 0-10.



**Adam Barnaville Receives The Under 21 E Trophy From John Hall with Jack Kavanagh Sponsor**



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# 36 TEAMS competed!

U19 Report by Mary Morgan PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Dicksboro - U19 Roinn A League & Championship Winners 2022

## JUNIOR BOARD 2022

The Junior Board welcomed Revise.ie as their new u-19 sponsor for the 2022 season and the Revise.ie u-19 Hurling League kicked off with a bang at the end of June, following completion of the Leaving Certificate exams. A total of 36 teams competed, with no less than 13 games scheduled on the first night of the competition. This culminated in league and shield finals some six weeks later, followed by championship. The competition in recent years began later in the season and the opportunity to play earlier in the summer, in good weather conditions, was welcomed by many.

**Revise.ie U-19A League Final** – a convincing first half showing by Dicksboro against Galmoy/Windgap in the League Final in Danesfort on the 28th July was enough to secure victory for the city men. Goals from Cillian Hackett and James Carroll gave Dicksboro the advantage as they went into the break with a 10-point lead. Galmoy/Windgap introduced a number of players in the second half and put in a strong effort but the 10-point difference was always going to prove difficult to overcome as the Dicksboro substitutes also had an impact on the outcome. Dicksboro 2-20, Galmoy/Windgap 0-16.

**Revise.ie U-19A Shield Final** – James Stephens and Thomastown clashed in the Shield Final in Larchfield on the 11th August. The fixture also doubled-up as the sides' championship quarterfinal. Thomastown set the tone with a goal from Cian Farrell in the first 30 seconds and his second just at the halftime whistle which gave his side a five point advantage at the break. However, the Village men outscored their opponents 2-5 to 0-3 in the third quarter, 1-3 of those scores coming from Stephen Manogue. They kept the pressure on and managed to stay on top to claim the victory and advance to the championship semi-finals. James Stephens 3-18, Thomastown 3-14.

**Revise.ie U-19A County Final** – Dicksboro claimed back to back titles in UPMC Nowlan Park on the 6th November, overcoming neighbours, James Stephens, in an exciting encounter. The Village men took an early lead and led for most of the first half. It was only in the 29th minute that Dicksboro took the lead and, in a three-minute period to the



Graigue Ballycallan - U19 Roinn B Championship Winners 2022



St. Martin's - U19 Roinn C League & Championship Winners 2022

half-time whistle, managed to give themselves a comfortable five point margin, aided by a goal from Cillian Hackett. A number of changes by James Stephens had an impact in the second half and by the 41st minute, only a point separated the sides. A goal from Timmy Clifford, however, pushed his side on and they never looked back as they went on to claim victory and the League and Championship double. Dicksboro 2-16, James Stephens 1-13.

**Revise.ie U-19B League Final** – Bennettsbridge and Young Irelands met in the 'B' final in Clara on the

28th July. Bennettsbridge goalkeeper, Jack Forristal, pulled off a number of saves for his side in the first half. However, the Young Irelands' men kept the pressure on and Gowran's Conor Fitzpatrick scored the game's only goal, giving them a three point advantage at the break. They pushed on in the second half, extending their lead to six points as Padraig Naddy and Jimmy Lennon closed it out with two points apiece. Young Irelands 1-20, Bennettsbridge 0-17.

**Revise.ie U-19B Shield Final** – As the saying goes, "goals win games" and an impressive five goals





**Barrow Rangers - U19 Roinn D Champions 2022.**

from Lisdowney saw them claim victory over Glenmore in St John's Park on the 1st August. While the eventual winners only led by a point at half time, 2-4 to 0-9, the Lisdowney work rate all over the field stood to them as they pulled away in the second half. Two goals and an assist from Eibhan McEvoy, along with two goals from Seamus Murphy and a goal and an assist from James Comerford, helped their side run out comfortable winners in the end. Lisdowney 5-11, Glenmore 1-11.

**Revise.ie U-19B County Final** – Thomastown was the venue for the clash between Graigue Ballycallan and Glenmore on the 19th November. Despite conditions being soft underfoot and a biting cold wind, both sides threw up an enjoyable encounter with Graigue Ballycallan prevailing to claim their second piece of silverware in as many weeks, having won the U-21B County Final the week before. Glenmore dominated the first half, with their opponents only scoring two points. However, in the second half, Jeff Neary controlled operations from midfield and guided his Graigue Ballycallan side to victory in a great team effort with some fine scores from Ryan Corcoran and substitute Ben Young. Graigue Ballycallan 0-12, Glenmore 0-7.

**Revise.ie U-19C League Final** – St Martin's travelled to Graignamanagh to take on the home side on the 1st August. St Martin's led by four at half time, 1-5 to 0-4. They increased that lead to six with minutes to go but Graignamanagh's Ted Dunne gave his side hope with a goal in the 63rd minute and a last ditch effort by the Graig men to send the game to extra time looked promising but the ball skimmed just over the crossbar. A number of saves from St Martin's Niall Shore were instrumental in helping his side to victory, along with captain Oisín Kelly, whose tally was 0-7 on the day. St Martin's 1-12, Graignamanagh 1-10.

**Revise.ie U-19C Shield Final** – Conahy Shamrocks travelled to Tullaroan on the 11th August for the Shield Final which also doubled up as their championship quarterfinal encounter, with a spot in the semi-final up for grabs. Tullaroan proved too strong for Conahy and ran out convincing winners in the end after a close opening period where only a point separated the two teams. The game was in the balance up to about the 45th minute when Tullaroan started to pull away, putting over great scores from all over the field, capped off with a great goal from Gearoid Dunne. Tullaroan 1-24, Conahy Shamrocks 2-5.

**Revise.ie U-19C County Final** – the League & Shield winners met in UPMC Nowlan Park on the 16th



**Clara - U19 Roinn E Championship Winners 2022**



**Young Irelands - U19 Roinn B League Champions 2022**



**Emeralds - U19 Roinn D League Champions 2022**

October, ahead of the Senior County Final. There was nothing between the sides in the first half. St Martin's were the more consistent, putting over scores at every opportunity but a 1-2 blitz from Tullaroan in the space of 80 seconds kept them within two at the half time break. The St Martin's

men upped the intensity in the second half and created more scoring opportunities which they duly converted. Captain Oisín Kelly, top scorer on the day, lifted the Cup, his second of the season as his side had won the League and Championship double. St Martin's 2-14, Tullaroan 1-11.

**Revise.ie U-19D League Final** – all roads led to Tom Ryall Park for the “D” final encounter between Emeralds and John Lockes on the 1st August. Leading by five points with less than five minutes to go, John Lockes looked home and dry but, in an exciting finish, Emeralds fought back and the game went to extra time. The John Lockes men had given it their all in normal time and Emeralds pushed on and racked up an impressive 1-9 to 0-3 in extra time, aided by a personal tally of 2-4 from Alex Burke over the course of the 80 minutes. Emeralds 4-22, John Lockes 1-22.

**Revise.ie U-19D Shield Final** – Cloneen made the journey to Paulstown to take on Barrow Rangers on the 4th August. While the visitors stayed in sight of the home team in the first half, Barrow Rangers pulled away in the second half to record a comprehensive win. It was a very “stop and start” affair, with the majority of the scores coming from placed balls but goals from Dylan Hunston and Charlie Mullins in the last 12 minutes put and end to any comeback mounted by Cloneen. Barrow Rangers 2-18, Cloneen 0-11.

**Revise.ie U-19D County Final** – Jenkinstown was the venue for the Emeralds/ Barrow Rangers pairing on the 15th October. The sides were very evenly matched in the first half with neither side going ahead by more than two points. A number of goal chances by Emeralds were denied by goalkeeper Jack Doyle and only a point separated the sides at half time with the Paulstown men ahead – 0-8 to 0-7. The only goal of the game came in the 33rd minute from Conor Dermody of Barrow Rangers and they never looked back, powering on to victory and claiming their second piece of silverware of the season. Barrow Rangers 1-14, Emeralds 0-14.

**Revise.ie U-19E County Final** –Ballyragget was the venue for the “E” County Final on the 22nd October. With each side dominating at different stages, it was difficult to predict the eventual winner and, with only a minute to the full-time whistle, only a point separated the sides. Clara led by two points at the halfway mark and, led by captain Conor Cody, they never relinquished their lead in the second half, despite the efforts of the Fenian men. Five points from play from Harry Boyle and four from substitute Rory Glynn contributed to the Clara victory. Clara 0-20, Fenians 1-15.

**WINNING CAPTAINS WITH CARL LYNCH (REVISE.IE) & JOHN LACEY, JUNIOR BOARD CHAIRMAN**

	
<b>Roinn B - Jack Butler</b>	<b>Roinn C - Oisín Kelly</b>
	
<b>Roinn D - Joe Healy</b>	<b>Roinn E - Conor Cody</b>
	
<b>Roinn B League Cathal Darcy</b>	<b>Roinn D League Killian Doyle</b>

TIME	LEAVING CERTIFICATE		JUNIOR CERTIFICATE
	IRISH	CHEMISTRY	ENGLISH
9:00 AM - 10:10 AM	IRISH	CHEMISTRY	ENGLISH
10:25 AM - 11:35 AM	ENGLISH	PHYSICS	IRISH
11:50AM - 1:00PM	MATHS A (Algebra)	HOME ECONOMICS	SCIENCE
1:00-2:00PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:00PM - 3:10PM	BIOLOGY		GEOGRAPHY
3:25PM - 4:35PM	GEOGRAPHY	FRENCH	MATHS
4:50PM - 6:00PM	MATHS B (Trigonometry)	MATHS ORDINARY	

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# ROINN A THRILLER!

U17 Bord na nÓg Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dennysey



Dicksboro - Roinn A U17 Championship Winners 2022

## Minor A

There was a renewed sense of energy towards the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor A Hurling Championship as all twelve teams went to post with aspirations of landing the title. Last year's finalists Tullogher-Rosbercon exited in the first round where they fell to an excellent display from Graigue-Ballycallan by six points. In Gowran the home side fell to Clara. James Stephens had a little too much for Danesfort whilst Piltown and O'Loughlins played out a cracker down south that saw the Gaels come out on top with late goals.

In the quarter finals Ballycallan showed great form when swatting aside O'Loughlins whilst Erins Own were on fire to eventually get the better of Clara in a 42 score clash. Dicksboro pulled away in the dying embers of their clash with Dunnamaggin whilst James Stephens again were too strong for Bennettsbridge.

The semi finals proved to be high class affairs. James Stephens and Erins Own was a game for the ages before a large crowd in Muckalee with the Brown Mountain overlooking. Erins Own led by five but James Stephens with Noah Minogue on fire got the decision. In John Locke Park it was a similar story with Graigue-Ballycallan getting out in front but Michael Stynes' reallocation to the half forward line was a shrewd placing that helped the Palmerstown boys to UPMC Nowlan Park.

## Minor A Final

### Dicksboro 3-7 James Stephens 1-12

Sport can be a cruel mistress. These sides played out an epic where neither side deserved to lose but ultimately a 64th minute point from Billy Fitzpatrick gave Dicksboro a stunning one point victory over James Stephens in a thrilling Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor Hurling Championship Final on a fine Saturday afternoon.

The battling Boro success was their fourth minor title on the trot but unlike the previous three victories, this was somewhat against the grain after the Village started as favourites.

Dicksboro were superb all the way through with Fitzpatrick, Ross Doyle and captain Killian Dollard all netting crucial goals.

Despite all that though James Stephens still led until the opening minutes of the second half and the 'Boro got goals at crucial junctures.



Killian Dollard, Dicksboro Captain with trophy

Stephen Manogue was the Village's main threat in attack as he scored 1-4 and his goal in the 47th minute looked like it would turn the momentum back in their favour.

Backed by a stiff enough breeze though, the 'Boro finished in style and while James Stephens can have qualms about a late disallowed goal from Ed Lauhoff, they were left disappointed when Fitzpatrick knocked over a stunning winner on the sideline.

The 'Boro full forward had only just missed a scoreable free when he appeared to cramp up when hitting the sliotar, but the youngster showed huge character to knock over a much more difficult attempt a couple of minutes later.

James Stephens flew out of the blocks with the opening four points as Stephen Manogue, Ed McDermott and Sean Casey all found their range.

Ed Lauhoff also had a shot saved in the first attack of the game so when Dicksboro got off the mark in the 8th minute, it was certainly needed.

Michael Stynes got that opening point for the 'Boro and he soon doubled his tally on the back of a Stephen Manogue free for the Village.

James Stephens continued to make the running though and when McDermott and Jacob Breslin both pointed they led 0-7 to 0-2.

Dicksboro then got the game's opening goal in the 15th minute when Killian Dollard brilliantly batted a shot past Daniel Power.

The goal got the 'Boro back within two points but with Manogue, Bill and Ed McDermott all splitting the posts, the Village led 0-10 to 1-3 at the break.

The four point margin moved out to five at the start of the second half when Sean Bergin took advantage of a loose pass in the 'Boro defence.

A Fitzpatrick free from distance kept the 'Boro in the fight and their belief only grew stronger when Ross Doyle flicked a dangerous Fitzpatrick sideline cut to the net.

Fitzpatrick and Brian Moore then combined for quickfire points to edge the 'Boro in front (2-6 to 0-11).

James Stephens had squandered a number of goal scoring opportunities by this point but the net finally rattled when Lauhoff and Ed McDermott linked up before Manogue found the top corner.

The 'Boro didn't lie down though as Fitzpatrick took to the stage with a 55th minute goal.

Extra-time looked a possibility when Andy Murphy equalised but Fitzpatrick had other ideas when hitting the late match winning score.

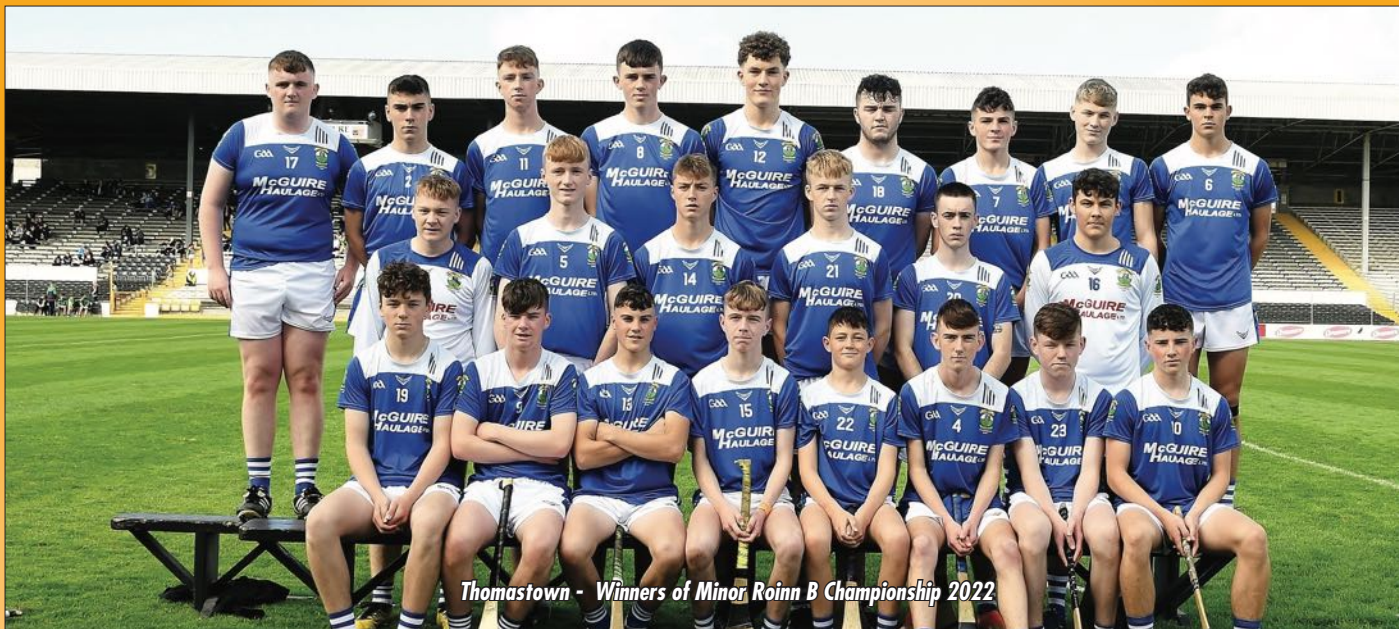
**Dicksboro:** Tom O'Neill, Nathan Pollard, Max Doyle, Christy Treacy-Murphy, Louis Raggett, Evan Murphy, David Fitzpatrick; Tom McPhillips, Brian Moore, Killian Dollard (1-0), Ross Doyle (1-0), Michael Stynes (0-3), James Brennan-Smith, Billy Fitzpatrick (1-4, 3f), Donnchadh Hennessy.

**Subs:** Patrick Lacey for Brennan-Smith (37), Bill O'Shea for Pollard, (50), Mark Cleere for Dollard, (57).

**James Stephens:** Daniel Power, Noah Manogue, Stephen Power-Kellet, Billy Wall-Young, Joe Greene, Sean Deely, Oisín Bateman, Sean Bergin (0-1), Bill McDermott (0-1), Ed Lauhoff, Stephen Manogue, (1-4, 2f, 1/65), Ed McDermott (0-3), Daniel Ring, Jacob Breslin (0-1), Sean Casey (0-1).

**Subs:** James Bergin for Deely, (36), Andy Murphy (0-1) for Ring (46), Ruairi Harrison for Greene, (52), Bill Whelan for Breslin, 59 mins; Alan Larkin for Casey 61).

**Referee:** John Kennedy (Shamrocks)



## Minor B

This is always such a hard championship to predict. Many had eyes on St. Martins from a long way out but St Patricks', Rower-Inistioge and Thomastown were among a posse of ten that had eyes on the prize.

Down south in round 1 there was an absolute belter of a game where it took extra time to separate Graignamagh and Rower-Inistioge. One could not but feel sorry for the losing side. There was also wins for St Patricks, Glenmore, Thomastown and Mullinavat.

The quarter final saw the quality of fare rise when Rower-Inistioge, Glenmore, Thomastown and St. Martin's secured the last four berths.

In the first semi-final it was all one way traffic as Thomastown had thirteen points to spare over Glenmore but at MVV Hire Dunmore it was a different story in the other semi-final.

### Rower Inistioge 3-14 2-16 St Martins

This was not a game for the faint of heart as it ebbed and flowed to such an extent that it seemed near certain that penalties would be needed but somehow Rower-Inistioge held on for a famous victory to secure a berth in the final.

Rower-Inistioge got off to a brilliant start with Eoghan Lyng getting 1-3 in the opening exchanges pouncing on an error in the St Martins defence which saw the Kilkenny minor rattling the net.

They continued that strong form to half-time when the southerners had a 2-7 to 0-7 lead.

Again the Rower started the second half the better side but great work from Keane (2), Colin Hayes and Jack Dooley reduced the deficit. Sean Hunt's goal levelled the game that now entered extra-time.

Martins began the extra time like a train with a Michael Keane goal. However the Rower proved the stronger team and got through by a narrow margin.

### Thomastown 4-17 Rower Inistioge 1-10

Thomastown were in devastating form as they dispatched the Rower-Inistioge challenge in a very one sided Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor B Championship final in Nowlan Park.

Thomastown's scores came from all angles while the Rower depended largely on the impact of Kilkenny minor star Eoghan Lyng who contributed 1-8 of his side's losing tally.

Thomastown had the title wrapped up within the opening 10 minutes after Conor Monks and Cian Farrell netted early goals and Rower-Inistioge were chasing shadows for the rest of the game as a result and their semi-final extra-time win over St Martins seemed to take a toll on them as they failed to score from play in the opening half.

Thomastown led 2-12 to 0-3 at the break and with Farrell and Cian Doherty scoring two further goals for the winners, they eased clear on the scoreboard.

Eoghan Lyng scored a late consolation for the Rower but it proved to be nothing more than that as Thomastown won by 16 points in the end.

Thomastown had a dream start to the game and within five minutes, they were 1-2 to 0-0 ahead.

Conor Monks 4th minute goal coming either side of a brace of points from Colm Treacy.

Eoghan Lyng then got Rower-Inistioge off the mark with a pair of quickfire frees before Treacy extended his tally with another point from play.

Thomastown's second goal arrived a couple of minutes later when Cian Farrell netted on the back of Eanna O'Keefe having a shot rebound off the post.

Ciaran Coone added on two further points for Donal Farrell's men as they led 2-5 to 0-2.

That margin of lead only grew larger in the following minutes as Treacy, Farrell and Monks all knocked over points.

Lyng stalled the Thomastown momentum with his and Rower-Inistioge's third point of the half in the 23rd minute but by that stage Thomastown led by 12, 2-9 to 0-3.

Treacy and Farrell continued their tour de force up front while another point from midfielder Rory Connellan left the winners 2-12 to 0-3 ahead at the half-time whistle.

To have any chance of getting back into the game, Rower-Inistioge needed a bright start to the second period and the opposite happened when Cian Doherty found the net directly from the throw-in for Thomastown. They continued to dominate and led by 4-13 to 1-7 by the three quarter point.

Treacy and Farrell were the star turns on the day for Thomastown as they scored 2-11 between them while Conor Monks, Cian Doherty and Ciaran Coone also put in big displays for the winners.



Thomastown: Evan Wilson, Matthew Cullen, Oisín O'Reilly, Jimmy Maher, Conor Barcoe, Tyler Nolan, Ciaran Coone (0-3), Rory Connellan (0-1), Eanna O'Keefe (0-1f), Conor Monks (1-1), Cormac Moore, Alex Cass, Colm Treacy, (0-7, 2f), Cian Farrell (2-4, 2f), Cian Doherty (1-0).

Subs: Alex Begley for Coone (43), Cathal O'Driscoll for Moore (57), Dara Lee for Doherty (57), Oisín Farrell for Treacy (60).

Rower-Inistioge: Cian Murphy; Mattie Hennessy, Darragh Murphy, John Joe Lawless; Cathal Lamgton, Donal Og O'Brien, Eoin Murphy; Ewan Gilsean, Jack Roche; Eoghan Lyng (1-8, 7f, 1/65), Joe Mulholland, Callum McGrath; PJ Mackey (0-2), Adam Clifford, Tom O'Callaghan.

Subs- Conor Downey for McGrath (37), John Delaney for Murphy (60), Dylan Alfred for PJ Mackey (60).

Referee- Brian Fox

## Minor C

In the four first round games there was goals aplenty as 31 were scored. There were wins for Tullaroan, St Lachtain's, Young Irelands and Ballyhale Shamrocks. In the first quarter-final Conahy Shamrocks had too much for Black and Whites/Cloneen whilst late goals saw Ballyhale Shamrocks lose out to St Lachtain's. Emeralds got one over their neighbours Tullaroan and Dicksboro defeated Slieverue in a very low scoring affair. The semi-finals saw one sided affairs with Emeralds and St. Lachtain's coming through.

### Emeralds 0-13 St Lachtains 1-11

There were stars in the sky and stars on the pitch as we were treated to a high quality Minor Roinn C County Final under lights in MVV Hire Dunmore.

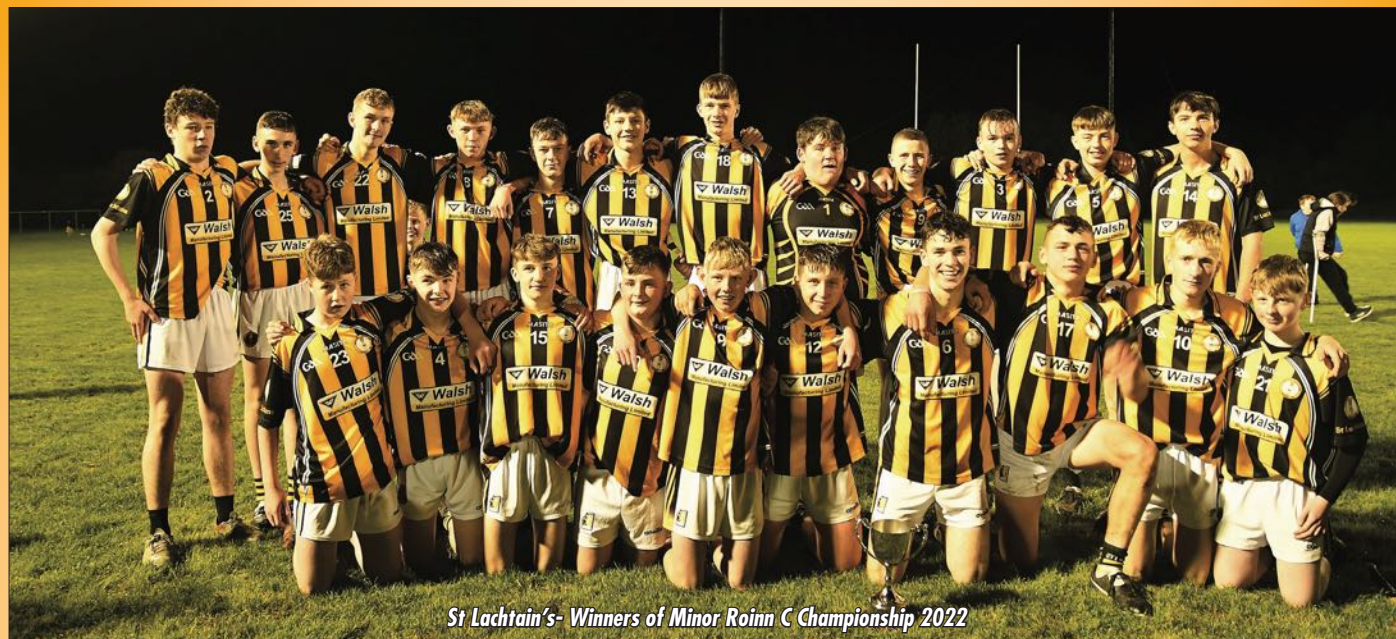
There was little to divide the sides in an exciting first half, Emeralds finding their scoring chances a little easier but a goal from Conor Dalton kept the

champions in contention.

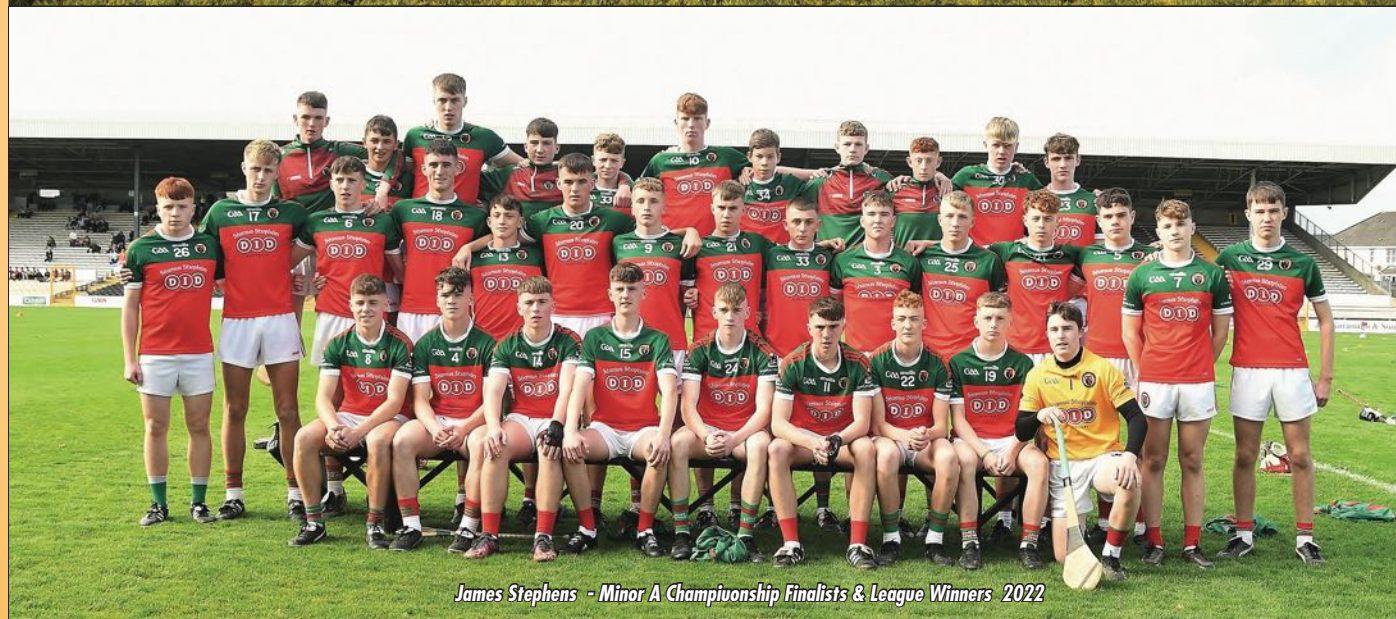
The second half didn't yield many scores but what a battle it was. Ten minutes had passed before we had a score, a brilliant one from St Lachtain's man Cathal Hickey followed by another from Jimmy Cleere. All was very tight at this stage with the Emeralds maybe edging it ever so slightly on the field with their half back line of Conor Kavanagh, Michael Ahern and in particular Craig Barnoville doing very well. The sides battled gamely but with scores level, the game moved to extra-time.

They continued to trade scores through extra-time and it looked as the result might have to be decided by penalties. In a welter of excitement Michael Ahern, now at full forward, was foiled after his superb shot was brilliantly saved by Michael Murphy in the St. Lachtain's goal. He needed a second touch to poke the ball to safety and enable the Freshford boys claim the title. Joy and the title for St. Lachtain's.

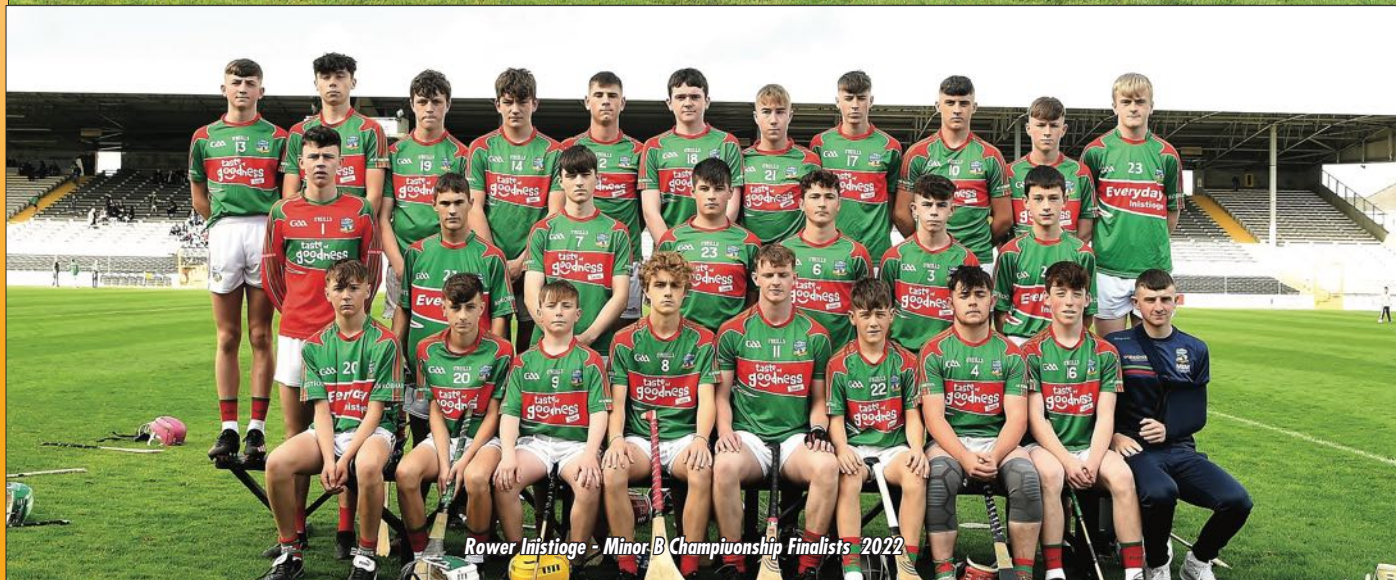
Ref: Richie Holland (Tullaroan)



St Lachtain's - Winners of Minor Roinn C Championship 2022



James Stephens - Minor A Championship Finalists & League Winners 2022



Rower Inistioge - Minor B Championship Finalists 2022



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# DICKSBORO finish strong

U15 Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Dicksboro - U15 Roinn A Champions 2022



Thomastown - U15 Roinn B C League and Championship Winners 2022. Captain Conor Barcoe.

The Duggan Steel Roinn A Championship saw fifteen teams go to post, yes fifteen. The new grading saw many tight games. Round 1 saw 7 first round games. Recent U-13 Roinn B Champions St Patricks had a fine win over Carrickshock whilst late goals saw Dunnamaggin get the better of Clara. In John Locke Park Mooncoin had too much class for the home side whilst Dicksboro got the better of O'Loughlin Gaels in the All city derby. Erins Own defeated Danesfort whilst James Stephens finished strongly against Young Irelands to defeat the Gowran men.

They followed this up with a strong win over a game St Martins side, whilst Dunnamaggin turned on the style against Piltown in the last four clash. There was again a strong showing from Mooncoin in their win over St Patricks whilst a game of truly epic proportions saw Dicksboro eventually defeat Erins Own. The Palmerstown outfit had an equally tough game against Mooncoin in the semi final before coming out on top where they were joined in the final by James Stephens.

U-15 Roinn A Final  
Dicksboro 1:12 V 0:10 James Stephens

Dicksboro opened the scoring with a well taken free from Patrick Lacey but Larry Phelan quickly levelled as he got on the end of a long range free from James Bergin to make it a point each after only a couple of mins. Again it was Patrick Lacey who put the Champions in front when he pointed from a slight angle on the 21 from a free after James Stephens man James Kelly was adjudged to have

fouled Boro full forward Anthony Clifford. It was Conor McEvoy who levelled this time for James Stephens from a free. James Bergin had started very well at centreback for James Stephens and was in dominating form. His early form was spoiling attack after attack for Dicksboro. Although James Stephens had the majority of the ball early on they never made use of the extra possession and it was in fact Dicksboro who were a little more economical with fewer chances and when Thomas Treacy goalied in typical corner forward style to make the score 1:02 v 0:02, in favour of the winners, James Stephens must have been wondering how they were behind in this game. After the goal it was again James Stephens who had the majority of the ball, Conor McEvoy pointing a free he had won himself was a good response for James Stephens, McEvoy and Ben Henderson were having a right battle in the early stages. The big goal chance that James Stephens needed and probably deserved fell to Zac Scanlon but he met his match when Ciaran Power pulled off a cracking save to keep the Boro boys in the game. For all the ball James Stephens had they just couldn't get the scoreboard moving and their only other scores in the first half came from two McEvoy frees and a Bill McDermott point which was the result of a quickly taken free. On the other hand Patrick Lacey, now moved from centre forward to wing forward, got a point from play as too did Anthony Clifford. Dicksboro got the last score of the half when corner forward Eoin Moore was fouled and Patrick Lacey put the resulting free over to leave the half time score 1:05 v 0:06. The Early goal in the opening half kept Dicksboro in

the game until they got going. James Stephens with the majority of the ball failing to put it on the scoreboard.

The second half started brightly with a Zac Scanlon point straight from the throw in for James Stephens but Patrick Lacey answered in style, Lacey playing well and a lot more involved since he moved to wing forward for Dicksboro. Both teams had a number of chances of scores from play and frees but the radar seemed to be off in what was now a blistering final with not an inch given anywhere on the field. After some more great work from Zac Scanlon he is awarded another free and this time Conor McEvoy points to put the minimum between the teams. Dicksboro respond well and a point scored by Patrick Lacey could so well have been a goal when his shot blazed just over the crossbar and then he followed this up with another pointed free to make the goal in the first half the difference between the teams. Darragh Power at full forward for James Stephens then scores a point where he showed great strength to hold off opponent Luke Kerwick while striking the ball. James Stephens still throwing everthing at the Dicksboro fullback line get another goal chance when Zac Scanlon finds Bill McDermott and his shot is again saved by Ciaran Power in the Boro goal and the scramble afterwards results in a free out. Dicksboro fullback line under great pressure now but coping ok. Again James Stephens point from a free, this time the Dicksboro back overcarrying but mainly due to the pressure he was under from the Village attack. From here on in it was all Dicksboro and scoring 4 unanswered they pulled away in style. Anthony Clifford, Patrick



**Emeralds - U15 Roinn C Champions 2022. Captain Daniel Mooney.**

Lacey, Luke Browne and Eoin Moore all on the scoresheet at the end in what was a very good hard fought final where the goal in the first half kept a slow starting Dicksboro in the game.

### U-15 Roinn B

The underage set up of the year – Thomastown completed the U-15 & Minor double, a feat last achieved by St Martins in 2000. It takes some effort to achieve this and the men from town will be delighted to be rightfully restored to Roinn A, however this underage championship took many twists and turns. There was great first round wins for emerging town teams Graignamanagh, Barrow Rangers whilst Thomastown and Glenmore joined them in the hat after respective first round wins. Tullogher Rosbercon & Graig had a humdinger of a quarter final before the men in Black & Amber won. Lisdowney put it up to Glenmore who eventually won whilst Graigue Ballycallan and Thomastown completed the last four.

The last four saw Thomastown eke out a one point win over Tullogher 2-9 to 2-8 whilst Graigue Ballycallan had 2-13 to 1-13 win over Glenmore to set up the final all the neutrals wanted to see.

Thomastown 6:12 v 3:10 Graigue Ballycallan

In a replay of the League Final where we were entertained from start to finish this was no different.

The start was blistering with scores a plenty but the big difference was that after 15 mins Thomastown had 2 goals to go with their 3 points but Graigue Ballycallan did not register a goal to add to their opening 3 points, Cillian McElwee and Oisín Farrell on target for the Thomastown goals. Frank McCluskey added a point from a free for GBC but again Thomastown added another goal from Cillian McElwee in a dream start for them and this was quickly followed by a point from Ben Nevin when he received a smartly taken free by Ciaran Coone. GBC did get the bit of luck needed when Eoghan Cahill finished to the back of the net when Tony Butlers shot came back off the crossbar. Roman Connolly then added a point for Thomastown just before GBC had another goal chance but this time the radar was off and the chance went wide from 10 yards and what did Thomastown go and do at the other end only find the net again, this time from captain Conor Barcoe after a great run from 40 yards out. GBC got the last score off the half with a free from Cormac Neary to bring the score to 1:05 v 4:05. The scoreline alone tells the story at the break, Thomastown in devastating form in front of goal.

Graigue Ballycallan started the second half very well with two early points from Cormac Neary and Ben McEvoy and a couple of half time positional changes were working quickly but a lapse in concentration from the GBC defence left Conor Barcoe alone 20 yards from goal and when he received the ball there was no doubt but it was a goal and the great early work from GBC was undone. Ciaran Coone and Cormac Neary traded pointed frees and you felt GBC needed a goal now to make a real fight of the game but from a 65' Ciaran McElwee got his hurl to the ball on the edge of the square and with an outrages flick he put the ball in the back of the GBC goal again for Thomastown. Cormac Neary again on the attack points for GBC and Cian Doherty replies for Thomastown. This game now way closer than the score suggests and Graigue Ballycallan having a right good go at Thomastown who are defending well under pressure. Roman Connolly makes a great run for Thomastown right through the GBC defence and taps the ball over the bar for a classy point and again GBC respond with a point from a 65 after they threaten the Thomastown yet again. Then the hard work pays off again for GBC when this time the attack on the Thomastown goal yields a 21 yerd

free, up steps Cormac Neary and he blasts the ball to the back of the net to bring it to a 5 point game and maybe just maybe there is light at the end of the tunnel. Once more Graigue Ballycallan are on the attack and get another free, this time Eoghan Cahill gets the quick ball and heads for goal only to meet star defender Ciaran Coone who blocks the attempt at goal and the ball is cleared a short distance to safety. Thomastown now under big pressure get a break as they are awarded a free out and from their own 65' and up steps Ciaran Coone to put it over the bar from the huge distance to the loud cheers of the Thomastown crowd. From the puckout Thomastown are on the attack again and a clever ball in finds Oisín Farrell in the corner who put it over the bar to add to his impressive tally for the day. GBC, now intent on goals, have two more goal chances saved and time is running out on them. Thomastown add two more points to their tally, Cillian McElwee and Cian Doherty before Graigue Ballycallan have another goal chance saved and John Walsh says time is up.

In what was a fantastic game, Thomastown's ability to get goals at the right time proved the big difference. Graigue Ballycallan added greatly to this contest and should take great pride in the display they gave.

### Roinn C

The big shark in this competition from the start was the hugely improving Emeralds outfit who had a round 1 win over Fenians and similarly for Kilmacow & Bennetsbridge. The quarter finals saw Mullinavat & Blacks & Whites play out a humdinger of an affair with the Vat men on top. There was also wins for Emeralds, Conahy Shamrocks and Dicksboro B. In the semi finals late goals saw Conahy get the better of their southern opponents Mullinavat whilst Emeralds had too much class for a depleted Dicksboro B.

Conahy Shamrocks 2:06 v 2:16 Emeralds

A very strong Emeralds side putting up a big score to win this U15 County Final.

When Daniel Mooney scored the second goal for Conahy to make it 0:06 v 2:02 Conahy must have been delighted with the start they got against the wind in MW Hire Dunmore, John Kennedy was giving an awesome display at centre back for them and all the ducks were in a row. Emeralds on the other hand were tipping over the points and going about their business quietly but very efficiently with Callum Lawlor the main source for scores. Half time had arrived and the score was 0:09 v 2:02 with John Kennedy giving the display of the first half and keeping Conahy in the game.

Conahy started the second half very well and an early goal chance was scuppered when Jack Rhatigan saw his chance saved by Richard Costello in the Emeralds goal. Emeralds again pointed just before a big moment in the game when corner forward Cian Hickey found the net for the champions to make it 1:10 v 2:02 in favour of the Emeralds. Conahy now needed a response but unluckily for them it didn't come and the Champions went on to get 3 more unanswered points and a lucky goal from Dylan Ivors to make a comeback look very unlikely, 2 Callum Lawlor frees and a point from Captain Oisín Quinlan. Great credit to Conahy Shamrocks who continued to battle hard for the remainder of the game and they added some great great scores, 2 pointed frees from Jack Rhatigan, one from Daniel Mooney and a very stylish point from sub Rory Sheerman when he pointed over his shoulder from 30 yards out. But the day belonged to Emeralds and further points from centre forward Callum Lawlor, Darragh Hickey and Dylan Ivors saw them run out deserving winners in fantastic style.



Danesfort - U15 13 a-side Champions. Captain Alan Cunniffe



Young Irelands - U15 13 a-side League Champions. Captain Donnacha Convery



Donncha Hennessy, Dicksboro Captain, receives the Duggan Steel U15 "A" Trophy from Willie Dempsey, Cathaoirleach, Bord na nOg.

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# FÉILE NA nGAEL 2022



*James Stephens - Paddy Grace Trophy Winners 2022, Captain James Kelly.*



*Thomastown - Winners Féile na nGael Div 2 Winners 2022, Captain Conor Barcoe.*



*Mullinavat - Winners Féile na nGael Div 3 Winners 2022, Captain Louis Madigan.*



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# DOUBLES ALL ROUND!

U13 Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos Willie Dempsey



James Stephens - Roinn A U13 League and Championship Winners 2022

## Roinn A

There was a renewed sense of enthusiasm towards the restructured Roinn A Championship. Straight from the word go the old order seemed to be thrown out with John Lockes defeating underage kingpins Dicksboro 2-8 to 1-6. In the other round 1 game in the all south derby saw a nine goal thriller which Piltown won 6-13 to 3-11 v Rower-Inistioige.

The quarter finals saw a one-sided win for James Stephens over Danesfort whilst it took all of O'Loughlin Gaels time to get over Ballyhale Shamrocks. Barrow Rangers were on fire in their win over Piltown where they held the men clad in Black and Yellow scoreless. The last quarter-final saw the Callan outfit get the better of Young Irelands by 2-5 to 0-5.

An epic semi-final saw John Lockes just get the better of Barrow Rangers 0-10 to 1-5 whilst O'Loughlin Gaels went down fighting to James Stephens 3-9 to 2-9.

*Power's early Goal Proves vital!*

### DUGGAN STEEL U13 ROINN A COUNTY FINAL

James Stephens 5-9 John Lockes 4-7

Strong favourites James Stephens got the start that John Lockes were dreaming of when they raced to a 1-3 v 0-1 lead in the opening minutes of this County Final after a Ruairi Power goal gave the Village boys a great start. John Lockes did get going and matched James Stephens all over the field, including the scoreboard, for the remainder of the opening half.

After the James Stephens goal points were exchanged through Eoghan Cassin for John Lockes and Jack Mulcahy for James Stephens. After this Brion Walsh added a point for the winners as he pounced on a loose side-line ball taken by a Callan defender and pointed from 45 yds. John Lockes kept on battling and with Glen O'Sullivan playing at full forward they needed to feed him with more ball as he was causing all sorts of problems with his skill and physicality around the square. John Lockes added two more points from frees from Liam Corcoran before half-time with James Stephens adding a free of their own through Ruairi Power to bring the halftime score to 1-7 v 0-4 with James Stephens aided by the elements.

James Stephens opened the scoring in the



Mullinavat - Roinn B U13 League and Championship Winners 2022



Clara - Roinn C U13 League and Championship Winners 2022

second half with a point from a very tight angle from Ruairi Power but then John Lockes got what they and the game needed when they found the net in a goal mouth scramble through Sean Morrissey to leave them trailing by four points. From the puckout the Callan boys find themselves on the attack again which gains them a 45' which is scored by Liam Corcoran and now a 3 point game with just one puck of a ball in it. James Stephens now start the goal feast with two of their own from Jayden Maher and Paul Millea and they were a little unlucky

not to add a third straight away when an Eoin McDermott chance went over the bar. John Lockes added another point through a free from Sean Morrissey but all seemed over as James Stephens added a goal from raiding midfielder Brion Walsh and another through sub Ethan Hogan Eyre, 5-9 v 1-7 now and James Stephens in dreamland. What happened next is testament to the effort and hard work put in by John Lockes all through the game as they scored three goals in the last five minutes to put real pressure on the champions. They were

unlucky not to add a fourth as a pull in front of goal just went wide, the goals coming from Sean Corcoran and two from Sean Morrissey frees. This ended a brilliant contest in MW Hire Dunmore where both teams gave an excellent account of themselves with James Stephens doing enough to be crowned champions.

### Roinn B

Fifteen teams went to post in the Duggan Steel U-13 Roinn B Championship and as usual there was swings and turns until the long fancied Mullinavat came out on top. An epic happened in the very first game of the very first round when Galmoy/Windgap made home advantage pay with a 6-11 to 5-11 win over Erins Own whilst Mooncoin and Carrickshock were equally gung-ho with the men in the yellow sash hanging on for a 4-7 to 2-5 win. There was also wins for Graigue-Ballycallan, St. Martin's, Thomastown and Dunnamaggin. Mullinavat also had a big win over Kilmacow before a similar victory over St. Martin's in the quarter finals which also saw wins for Dunnamaggin, Carrickshock and Graigue-Ballycallan.

The semi-finals saw nineteen goals being scored but ultimately Carrickshock and Mullinavat progressed to a much anticipated final.

#### DUGGAN STEEL U13 ROINN B COUNTY FINAL

Mullinavat 1-18 Carrickshock 1-12

In what was a repeat of the league final earlier in the year we were treated to another cracker.

Mullinavat playing with a slight breeze in the first half surely would have been concerned to go in at half-time just four points up and no goal scored, especially when goals were a huge part of the successes throughout the year.

This was a very good final with both sides well able to take their scores and with fifteen minutes played we had the score 0-4 to 0-7 in the favour of the champions. Next to pounce was the hard working Edward Bolger with a monster score on the run from distance quickly followed by a free from Cian Kelly. Carrickshock needed something at this stage to stay in the game, up stood Jack Donnelly to point a free and a real boost came when Donie Cahill pulled off a fine save to get the Carrickshock team bouncing as Harry Stone blew for half-time.

Half-time came with Mullinavat deserving their four point lead.

Carrickshock got off to a blistering start in the second half with Sam Mansfield and Jack Donnelly pointing to bring the deficit back to two points. Mullinavat got the next two points with Conor Conway and Adam Fitzpatrick contributing but the signs were coming that with the wind at their backs that Carrickshock were causing some trouble to the Mullinavat defence. Carrickshock's first chance came when a high ball in hit the crossbar and caused pandemonium in the Mullinavat square but Mullinavat eventually got it cleared and out for a 65' which Jack Donnelly pointed. Mullinavat got the next point from a Cian Kelly free which they badly needed as Carrickshock were having their purple patch. Both sides gave it their all now with Cian Franks and Sam Mansfield, both looking dangerous, being closely tracked by Patrick Aylward and Leo Aylward in the Mullinavat defence. The bit of luck Carrickshock needed and to be fair probably deserved came when a looping shot from 25 yards just dropped in under the crossbar to bring them within a point, Cian Franks the scorer. Mullinavat answered in style and probably won the game in the next five minutes with three unanswered points, a free from Cian Kelly, Edward Bolger and Cian Kelly from play, to stem the tide and slow down the Carrickshock advance. Next score was to Carrickshock when the influential Jack Donnelly caught his own puckout and pointed. Mullinavat again responded brilliantly with two classy points from full forward Adam Fitzpatrick to put five between the teams. Points from Liam O'Grady and Jack Donnelly narrowed the gap again. Adam Fitzpatrick scores a Mullinavat goal to put six points between the teams. It was a top quality game and huge credit must go to both sides.



John Lockes - Roinn B U13 13-a-side Champions 2022



Dicksboro - Winners U13 A Football Champions 2022



Kilmacow - Winners U13 B Football Champions 2022



Railyard - Winners U13 C Football Champions 2022

### Roinn C

Round 1 saw a big win for Cloneen over Lisdowney, whilst Blacks & Whites were very impressive victors over Bennettsbridge. There was also wins for Clara, Graigenamanagh and Emeralds. The quarter-final saw a humdinger of a game between St Lachtain's and Cloneen with the Freshford outfits late goals doing the trick. Clara had too much for Graigenamanagh whilst Blacks & Whites and Emeralds came through their tests.

The semi final saw a classic between Blacks & Whites and Clara with the men in maroon just about gaining a merited win whilst a late goal saw St Lachtain's come out ahead of Emeralds.

#### DUGGAN STEEL U13 ROINN C COUNTY FINAL

Clara 1-13 St. Lachtain's 0-14

A very strong first half performance from St. Lachtain's put them in the

driving seat at half time but early favourites Clara produced the goods at the end.

A great start to the game from St. Lachtain's and a great start from Charlie Kavanagh who registered some early scores to give his team to a 0-4 v 0-1 lead. Aaron Carrigan added a second for Clara just before Patrick O'Connor pointed for St. Lachtain's when he had a great chance of a goal. The Clara boys added another through a pointed free from team captain Pdraig Meaney to leave two between the teams but it was mostly St. Lachtain's on the attack at this point with Jamie Kavanagh at corner forward full of running and looking dangerous. Clara added another free through Meaney and while St. Lachtain's added four more points through Charlie Kavanagh (two), Cian Dalton and James Flynn to

lead by five at halftime 0-9 to 0-4.

Clara started the second half with a point from Michael Meaney and a goal from Ciaran Gibbons after some great work from Pdraig Meaney. Clara then on the attack are awarded a free and it is pointed by Meaney. Both side continued to trade scores in this highly entertaining final and then Clara moved four ahead. St. Lachtain.s Charlie Kavanagh continued to lead the charge for his side from general play and scores all through the second half but with Pdraig Meaney winning the majority of ball coming his way and in return setting up a number of attacks for Clara they just got over the line in the end with the winning scores coming from Dara Leamy and Aaron Leamy.

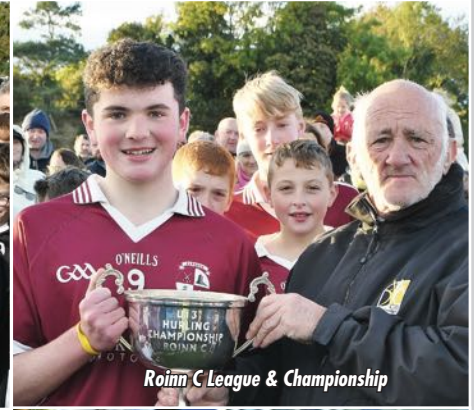
## CAPTAINS



*Roinn A Championship*



*Roinn B Championship*



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# JOHNNY McGOVERN RIP - A GREAT KILKENNY STALWART

By Liam Burke

On February 24th last, Kilkenny hurling followers were saddened to hear of the passing of the kind-hearted Johnny McGovern of Bennettsbridge, a great hurling stalwart and one of the last surviving members of the All-Ireland winning team of 1957. Born on March 7th 1932, he was almost 90 years old. Johnny enjoyed a very successful hurling career beginning when he was a member of the losing Kilkenny side against Tipperary in the Minor final of 1949. The tables were turned the following year when the same two teams met again in the minor final, and Kilkenny who were reckoned to have little chance of winning enjoyed a great victory. John Maher of Freshford and Jim (Link) Walsh of Dunamaggin, (a substitute on that Minor team), later joined Johnny on the Kilkenny Senior All-Ireland winning team of 1957. When I called down to Johnny at his home in Bennettsbridge a number of years ago, he said that Paddy Johnson and Donal Gorey "were very good in the middle of the field." in that minor final.



## GREAT SKILL

Because of his great hurling skill, Johnny McGovern soon became part of the emerging Bennettsbridge club team who won the County Junior final of 1951, and the County Senior final the following year. At that time, Bennettsbridge had been county senior champions just once before, in 1890, and the 1952 victory started a great run for the club as they emerged as senior county champions eleven times over the next 20 years. And the unassuming Johnny played a big part in all those famous victories. He also stated that he might never have won all those medals but for the great players that he had around him. And while he did not like mentioning individuals, he thought that Sam Carroll was a great hurler, and "even though he had retired at the time, he was still good enough to play instead of me in 1971. Sam has 10 county medals", said Johnny

## THREE GREATS

Johnny McGovern was forever grateful to "three people who instilled in me a great love of hurling from an early age." He was quick to say that Dan Kennedy, who was playing with Thomastown at the time and who captained Kilkenny to a great All-Ireland win in 1947, "was a great hurling man and he gave me great help when I was very young". He also praised his local schoolteacher Edward Lyng, a native of the Rower, and of course Fr. Pat Nugent, "who was great when he was over the team." He emphasised that the above three "were the main reason for the wonderful Bennettsbridge success during those years." In contrast to Johnny's immediate success with Bennettsbridge, his first four years with Kilkenny proved to be difficult. They failed to win the Leinster final of 1952 against Wexford, and while they did come out of Leinster the following year Kilkenny then, rather unexpectedly, went down to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, when Johnny McGovern starred as Captain. Kilkenny were winning well, but two soft goals brought Galway back into the semi-final, and they eventually won by a single point. Kilkenny had a few easy chances to draw the game but failed, and when Jimmy Heffernan did eventually score a point, the referee said that he had blown the final whistle beforehand.

## NOT FAR AWAY

Kilkenny were very poor against Wexford in the Leinster final of 1954, when the Noresiders lost by 5-11 to 0-7 points. They fared better against Wexford in 1955, but they still lost, following a few soft goals by the Slaneysiders. Johnny McGovern and the rest of the Kilkenny team must have been

wondering when they were going to beat Wexford, as they failed again in the Leinster final of 1956. That game was decided when a 21 yard free by Kilkenny's Bill Walsh was deflected over the bar with time up. However, Johnny did say during our meeting a few years ago that "we were not too far away as Wexford won the All-Irelands in 1955 and 1956."

## FIRST SENIOR

Johnny McGovern won his first senior All-Ireland medal in 1957, when Kilkenny defeated Waterford on a scoreline of 4-10 to 3-12. He added that "Mick Kenny of Callan with 2-5 had a great game. He was a wonderful hurler and we would not have won without him. I would say too that Willie O'Connor was one of the best hurlers that I ever saw. He gave an exhibition during the official opening of the Bennettsbridge pitch in 1989." Johnny also praised Jimmy Doyle, Liam Devaney, and Donie Nealon of Tipperary all fine hurlers. "

Kilkenny retained the Leinster title in 1958 when they beat Wexford again, but they failed to win the All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary on a scoreline of 1-13 to 1-8. On a very wet day, Tipperary, who went on to win the All-Ireland against Galway were slightly stronger. Mick Kenny the Kilkenny Captain was surprisingly not selected, and he nominated Denis Heaslip to lead the Noresiders on that particular day.

## NOT TO BE

Johnny was hoping to win his second medal in 1959, but it was not to be, and Kilkenny might not have won the Leinster final earlier but for Johnny McGovern. They were losing by two points against Dublin with only seconds remaining, when Johnny took a great sideline cut which came to Sean Clohosey, and he scored a spectacular goal with a wonderful overhead stroke.

Kilkenny came up against another great Waterford team in the 1959 final which was reckoned by John D Hickey of the "Irish Independent" as the best final that he had ever seen. Kilkenny played very well, and might have won but for a late goal by Waterford following a deflection, which ensured a draw. Johnny McGovern was forced to retire in the first half following a dislocated shoulder. Tommy O'Connell who scored three goals, and Ollie Walsh were the real Kilkenny stars. The replay never lived up to expectations with Waterford winning a rather tame final. Kilkenny were forced to line out without Mick Brophy who had tonsillitis, while Johnny McGovern was forced to retire early because of his injured shoulder.

## CENTRE FORWARD.

Johnny had to wait until 1963 to win his second Senior All-Ireland medal and Waterford were once again the vanquished. He had a different role that year as he lined out at centre half forward, and he did what every centre half forward should do, he kept the ball moving into the inside line of attack.

Johnny was very proud of the fact that he served as a selector for eleven seasons from 1967 to 1978 with the exception of 1970. During that particular time Kilkenny won five senior All-Ireland finals 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974, and 1975.

It is not often mentioned that Johnny McGovern captained Leinster to a Railway Cup victory in 1954, which was a great achievement, as the province had not won the trophy since 1941, mainly because of Christy Ring who won a total of eighteen Railway Cup medals.

So Johnny McGovern, during a very successful hurling career, won 11 County Senior Hurling Championship medals, one junior Championship medal, two Senior All-Ireland and two National League medals, an All-Ireland Minor medal and Railway Cup medals.

# FR TOMMY MURPHY

## A Life of Achievement

By Dermot Kavanagh

A frequent question at GAA Table Quizzes around the county some time ago was "Name the former Kilkenny hurler who played in four All-Ireland finals, winning two, but never played a National League game" It was a sort of trivia question but there was nothing trivial about the subject matter of the question.

Fr Tom Murphy's life was one of achievement in practically every discipline he pursued. Curiously these achievements were attained without any outward appearance of following a master plan. He just kept getting involved in various pursuits, adding more milestones to his already impressive CV as he went along.

Fr Tom's early education, at The Rower NS and New Ross CBS, prepared him well for the roles he was destined to play for the rest of his life. He was ordained to the priesthood at St Kieran's College, Kilkenny on the 11th June 1967 beginning his first parish ministry on Thomastown later that September.

Fr Tom had become an All-Ireland senior medalist in September 1963. Dr Birch, then Bishop of Ossory wisely decided that a high profile sportsman was an ideal choice to promote youth development affairs in the diocese. Thus Fr Tom was dispatched to Scotland to pursue such a course at Edinburgh University. On his return, Fr Tom was assigned as curate to the city parish of St John's.

In addition to his priestly duties, both public and private, Fr Tom was directly involved in two movements in the parish the benefits of which are inestimable and are visible today. He and a committee of like-minded men formed a new parish GAA club, O'Loughlin Gaels. Readers will be well acquainted with the successes of the club on the field of play, the production of a line of All Ireland winners at all grades (including two winning senior captains), the development of wonderful club facilities which double up as parish facilities when the need arises The club now has national recognition.

However, in this observer's view forming a new GAA club in the city was only part of Fr Tom's objective. He also had in mind the need to create something tangible for the people of the parish, especially the youth. His aim was to give the youth a sense of place, an identity which they would be very proud to wear, in addition to engaging in various sporting disciplines, beneficial to both mind and body.

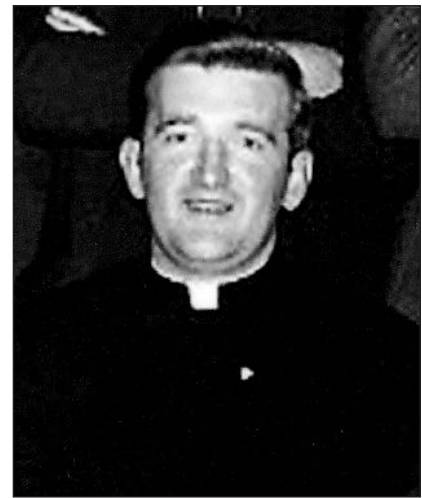
It was with the same objective and more, that Fr Tom, together with his friends, Eddie Keher and Eamonn Doyle established The No Name Club in the city. This club was formed to help to counter the alcohol dependency that was the scourge of the youth. That the project was then and continues to be a success is an understatement as is the fact that there are 36 clubs extant around the country promoting youth non alcohol related activities.

Fr Tom's next clerical appointment was to Callan in August 1985. He later was appointed as Parish Priest to Slieverue in July 1991. In what was to prove his final move, Fr Tom was transferred to Ballyragget in June 2002..On 23rd April 2007 Fr Tom was appointed to the Chapter (Canon)

while on May 2nd 2014 he was appointed Pastor Emeritus of Ballyragget. He retired from active ministry on April 1st 2020.

Fr Tom's passion for all things Irish is well written with that of the GAA taking pride of place. His initial success was in winning an U14 championship with the local school in 1955. In 1960 Fr Tom played a central role in Kilkenny's All Ireland minor win, scoring freely in every game.

While limited to summer hurling only, due to his clerical studies, Fr Tom earned selection on the Kilkenny senior team for the 1963 championship and, as already noted, he was an All Ireland winner by the year's end..



He scored crucial goals in every game, his tally of 2-1 in the final being very impressive. In 1964 and 1966, Fr Tom endured the other side of sport with two All Ireland defeats. However he brought an end to his inter-county career in 1969 with a second All Ireland title win. That win was especially pleasing as he shared it with his brother Billy and two of his The Rower-inistioge clubmates, Eddie Keher and Pat Kavanagh.

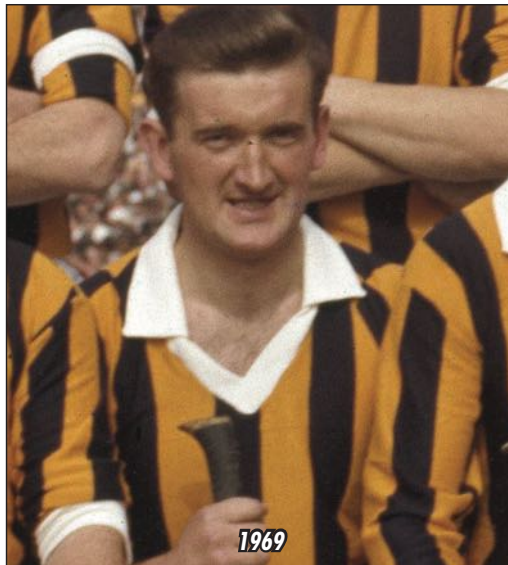
Fr Tom was never happier than when wearing the red and green of his club, Rower-Inistioge. He played crucial parts in all the club's successes of the 1960s, i.e. junior hurling (1963), junior football (1967), senior hurling (1968). That latter win he shared with his brothers Fintan, Billy and Gee. Fr Tom rounded off a successful club career with back-to-back special junior hurling titles in 1977 and 1978. In addition, Tom trained St Kieran's, Kilkenny minors and U21 to All-Ireland titles.

Fr Tom's public life is well documented. What can not be so documented is his private pastoral work in house and hospital calls visiting the sick and the old, his behind-the-scenes roles in charitable causes, youth affairs, and all such activities which were dear to his heart.

Sadly, ill health in recent years limited Fr Tom's ability to contribute to the various causes to which he had devoted his life. He died peacefully on the 14th November.

When renowned Kerry footballer, Tomás O'Sé was asked to quantify his sporting career, he replied "I kept going as hard as I could for as long as I could achieving as much as I could". He could have been describing Fr Tom's life".

Solas na bhflaitheas air.



## Jim Freeman RIP



Jim Freeman was elected as Secretary at the first Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club meeting in the Newpark Hotel in 1992. The meeting was arranged in conjunction with Nicky Brennan Chairman Kilkenny Co Board. A number of interested people were invited in order to set up the Official Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club. A committee was elected and the official GAA Supporter's Club Constitution was adopted on the night. The following year Jim was joined by John Mackey as Chairman and Eamonn Hennessy as joint treasurer. Jim kept the house in order and managed the day to day operation of the membership and finances in conjunction with Eamonn Hennessy and other members of the committee. Jim had a very good way with people and he was very well respected in the area.

At that time Jim lived in Glendine Heights in Kilkenny and was Manager of Mercantile Credit Bank-Woodchester Bank in Patrick St in Kilkenny. Subsequently Woodchester closed their Branch in Kilkenny and Jim worked from the Waterford Branch covering all the garages in the South East including Kilkenny and Carlow. He was very successful in his role and built up a large customer base in the South East. This was a great help in his role as secretary of the Supporters Club. He knew a lot of business people in Kilkenny and he could encourage them to support the Kilkenny Hurling team by becoming members of the supporter's club.

Jim moved back to live in Ferrybank on the Kilkenny side of the county boundary, soon after that. He would get very annoyed when people quoted his address as Ferrybank Waterford when it should be Ferrybank Co Kilkenny via Waterford!! During Paddy Buggy's reign as President of the GAA Jim became his official driver. They travelled all over to the country together and Jim had the second best seat in the stand especially in Croke Park. He enjoyed this role very much. He loved all sports including hurling, camogie, golf, rugby, soccer and even cricket.

During his time as secretary of the Supporters Club, Kilkenny won 13 All Ireland Senior titles and were runners up in a number of other finals. When the senior team qualify for the All-Ireland Final substantial funds has to be raised in a short period of time for a team holiday. Plans were put in place by the County Board in conjunction with Jim, Chairman John Mackey, Dr Sean Dunne Kildare and Eddie Nolan Dublin Branch. Jim and the Committee played their part in ensuring that Kilkenny Co Board always had sufficient funding to cover the costs of the Team Holiday. He made sure that grants were distributed to Clubs and schools who reached All-Ireland finals any year and these contributions were greatly appreciated by the clubs and schools involved.

When Jim was going through his illness It was great consolation to him that a number of the Kilkenny Senior Hurlers, past and present made contact with him on a regular basis by text and by phone. He had great respect for them and he would defend every one of them to the last. Large crowds took part in the 'guard of honour' and he would have been very pleased if he could have seen the number of players, past and present, in the group.

Jim will be very difficult to replace in the Supporters Club and his contribution to Kilkenny GAA during his life time will never be forgotten by us all. We must regroup again now and continue the good work which he started almost 30 years ago. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mary, Suzanne and Kevin. Also to Jim's daughter-in-law Sarah and grandchildren. His sister Margaret and his brothers Fran, Brian and Martin.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

Barry Hickey

## Mick Lawler RIP

Former Kilkenny, Coon and Conahy Shamrocks hurler Mick Lawler passed to his eternal reward on Tuesday 8th November 2022.



Mick was born on the 16th October 1942, the son of Thomas and Mary Lawler. He was the youngest of ten children and lived at Coon West. Wherever Mick went he was immensely proud of his native Coon. Neddie Coogan remained a close friend and he particularly admired Nixie Comerford, an All-Ireland half-hundred thrower.

Hurling was part of Mick's life from an early stage and he played alongside his four brothers. It was a proud day for the Coon club when they won the 1967 Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship with Mick's playing a prominent role in that success over Knocktopher, winning 5-11 to 1-2.

Mick married Margaret Scully from Kinnity in Offaly in 1970 and he then moved to Wicklow to work with his brother-in-law John Butler in the Avoca Mines. The move to Wicklow saw Mick transfer to Carnew Emmetts and he often described the hurling in his adopted county as 'tough'. Mick also played with the Wicklow senior hurling team for a period and is well remember in the Garden County for many outstanding performances. Although living in Wicklow, Mick's grá for his native Coon saw him play club championship hurling in both Wicklow and Kilkenny one year. That caused Mick to be suspended for a period as it contravened GAA rules.

The highlight of Mick's playing career was the 1969 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final in which Kilkenny played Cork. Kilkenny won 2-15 to 2-9. Mick played at midfield alongside the legendary Frank Cummins. The Kilkenny team that day was - Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Pa Dillon, Jim Treacy, Willie Murphy, Pat Henderson, Martin Coogan, Mick Lalor, Frank Cummins, Claus Dunne, Pat Delaney, Eddie Keher (Capt.), Joe Millea, Martin 'Goggy' Brennan, Tommy Murphy. Subs: Pat Kavanagh, Paddy Moran, Sean Buckley, Noel Skehan, Seamus Cleere, Jim Lynch. Mick scored a point and had a hand in both Kilkenny goals. The first was scored by Martin Brennan from a Mick Lawler line ball. He was a superb striker of the line ball all through his playing career. In winning that All-Ireland medal Mick became the first hurler from Coon to win a Celtic Cross with Kilkenny. He also won two Leinster Senior Hurling Championship medals.

Mick's nephew Dinny McCormack captained the Kilkenny minor team on that All-Ireland Final day in 1969 losing to Cork 2-15 to 3-6. Mick was immensely proud that Dinny and his brother Tom would go on to emulate him and win All-Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny.

All-Ireland success would come to two of Mick's children some years later. His daughter, Mairead, played senior camogie with Freshford achieving All-Ireland success with the club along with a number of colleagues from Conahy Parish. Micheál, Mick's youngest son, won an All-Ireland Junior Club medal with Conahy Shamrocks in 2008. The achievements of Mairead and Micheál brought immense pride to their parents Mick and Margaret and the other family members.

In the early 1980's Mick and Margaret built a new house in Jenkinstown, across from the Polo Grounds, the home of Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club. By that stage Mick was involved in the oil distribution business.

It was during the 1980's that Mick transferred to Conahy Shamrocks. He was instrumental in Conahy Shamrocks winning the 1984 Junior B Hurling Championship defeating Carrickshock in the County Final 2-10 to 1-7. Mick's exploits with the team that year saw him selected as the Conahy Shamrocks Player of the Year. This was an incredible achievement at the age of 42.

Over the past decade and a half Mick enjoyed nothing more than socialising with close friends Jimmy Tierney, Toddy Lacey, Nicky Brennan, the late Joe Butler and recently departed Tom Downey in the Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club House on Saturday evenings. Many a game was discussed and teams picked in the corner of the Club House.

Mick established 'Lawler Oil Distributors' in the 90's after he left his job with Three Rivers Oil. He was hugely popular with his many customers and is well-remembered for his courtesy and loyalty to them all. Mick's son Damien now operates that business. Sadly Mick's wife Margaret died on the 24th January 2011, and her death was a huge loss to Mick and his Family.

Mick continued to maintain an interest in the GAA locally and nationally and he also had a big interest in vintage cars and tractors.

Mick will be greatly missed by his many friends in Coon, Conahy and further afield and especially by his family.

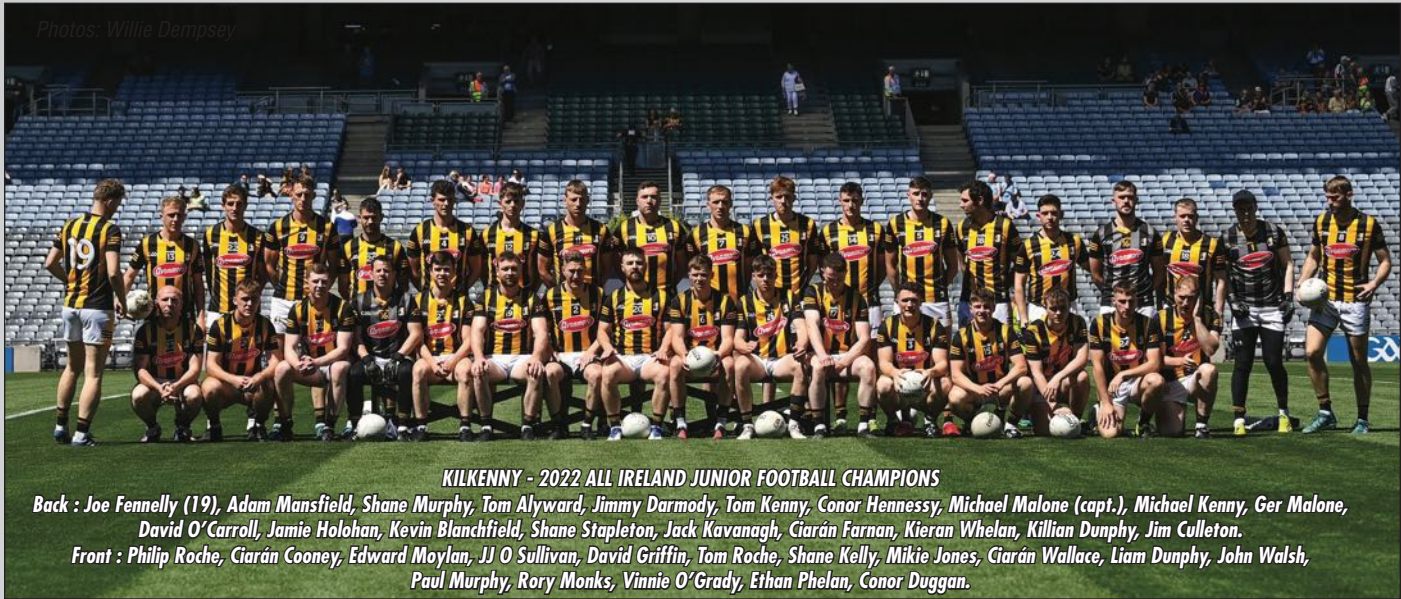
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Nicky Brennan

# MEMORABLE WEEKEND AS FOOTBALLING CATS LAND ALL-IRELAND SPOILS

Football Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



**KILKENNY - 2022 ALL IRELAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS**

**Back :** Joe Fennelly (19), Adam Mansfield, Shane Murphy, Tom Alyward, Jimmy Darmody, Tom Kenny, Conor Hennessy, Michael Malone (capt.), Michael Kenny, Ger Malone, David O'Carroll, Jamie Holohan, Kevin Blanchfield, Shane Stapleton, Jack Kavanagh, Ciarán Farnan, Kieran Whelan, Killian Dunphy, Jim Culleton.  
**Front :** Philip Roche, Ciarán Cooney, Edward Moylan, JJ O Sullivan, David Griffin, Tom Roche, Shane Kelly, Mikie Jones, Ciarán Wallace, Liam Dunphy, John Walsh, Paul Murphy, Rory Monks, Vinnie O'Grady, Ethan Phelan, Conor Duggan.

WHAT a weekend to remember for the Kilkeny Footballers as they won the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship following victories over London and New York in a memorable weekend.

Christy Walsh's men defeated London in the Semi-Final in Abbotstown on Friday night 8th July, before brushing aside New York on a wonderful day in Croke Park.

That final win against New York was played to a full capacity ahead of the Kerry and Dublin All-Ireland Senior Semi-Final match which made it an extra special occasion.

The match against London saw Kilkeny win 3-11 to 2-9, with Mick Kenny and Mick Malone leading as they accounted for 3-7 of their side's total.

Malone finished with 2-3 while Kenny notched 1-4, helping to propel the Cats through to a novel final date with New York at GAA headquarters.

Kilkeny made a bright start and points from Jamie Holohan, Mick Malone and Rory Monks gave them a 0-3 to 0-0 lead after 10 minutes. London, though, settled down and responded and past the midway point of the first-half, they led 0-4 to 0-3.

London continued to lead as they were 0-7 to 0-5 heading into the final few minutes of the first-half, but Kilkeny finished the half brightly as points from Mick Kenny and Conor Hennessy brought them level at 0-7 each at the interval.

The third quarter proved to be highly significant as Kilkeny applied the brakes to devastating effect.

They scored 1-4 without reply to lead by double scores (1-11 to 0-7) with Mick Malone grabbing the Kilkeny goal.

However, London to their credit, displayed fighting spirit in abundance and quickfire goals from Shay Rafter in the 49th and 51st minutes respectively gave them a 2-9 to 1-11 lead.

London, though, failed to score for the remainder of the game and Kilkeny hit back with a brace of goals themselves to book their place in the final.

The double act of Mick Kenny and Mick Malone



**Kilkeny Captain Mick Malone lifts the cup**



**Kilkeny Manager Christy Walsh celebrates with Paul Murphy after their side's victory.**

came up trumps with a goal apiece and Kilkeny were on their way to Croke Park to play New York who defeated Warwickshire 1-8 to 0-6.

**Scorers for Kilkeny:** Mick Malone 2-3, Mick Kenny 1-4 (0-2f), Jamie Holohan 0-1, Rory Monks 0-1, Conor Hennessy 0-1, Shane Stapleton 0-1.

**Scorers for London:** Shay Rafter 2-3 (0-2f), Conor Spinks 0-5 (0-3f), Thomas Waters 0-1.

**Kilkeny:** Killian Dunphy (Mullinavat); Shane Kelly (Mullinavat), Paul Murphy (Danesfort), Joe Fennelly (Mullinavat); Kevin Blanchfield (Graigenamanagh), Ciarán Wallace (Erin's Own), Tom Kenny (Dicksboro); Jim Culleton (Mullinavat), Tom Alyward (Mullinavat); Conor Hennessy (Tullagher Rosbercon), Mick Malone (Mullinavat); Mick Kenny (Lisdowney); Adam Mansfield (Mullinavat), Jamie Holohan (Erin's Own), Rory Monks (Thomastown).

**Subs:** Shane Stapleton (Dicksboro); for Holohan h/t, John Walsh (Mullinavat) for Kenny (37-42 blood), Shane Murphy (Glenmore) for Kelly 39, Walsh for Monks 46, Ethan Phelan (Glenmore) for Mansfield 57, James Dermody (Fenians) for Malone 61.

The All-Ireland Final less than 48 hours later was played as curtain raiser to the Kerry and Dublin All-Ireland Final Senior Football Semi-Final clash, on what was one of the hottest days of the year during the middle of a scorching heatwave.

Christy Walsh's men made a flying start and after just 8 minutes they led 0-5 to 0-0 with scores that included Mick Kenny pointing twice from frees, while Jamie Holohan was also on target from play.

New York began to settle down and they restricted Kilkeny to 1-1 for the remainder of the half as Kilkeny led 1-6 to 0-4 at half-time.

The goal came late in the first-half, as Adam Mansfield with a sublime delivery found Jamie Holohan in space who displayed great composure with an expertly taken finish.

That goal gave Kilkeny a 7 point cushion (1-6 to 0-2), but New York rallied either side of half-time with four points in succession to narrow the gap to just three points. 1-6 to 0-6.

Kilkenny replied with points from Kevin Blanchfield and Jamie Holohan (1-8 to 0-6), but New York replied with a superb goal from Brian Coughlan in the 40th minute and just two points separated them - 1-8 to 1-6.

However, Kilkenny displayed great character in digging deep and points from Mick Kenny, Shane Kelly and Ethan Phelan pushed the Kilkenny lead out to five points (1-11 to 1-6), but through frees from the boot of Shay McElligott, New York were still in touch and just three points down heading towards injury-time - 1-12 to 1-9.

Kilkenny, though, had the final say and they finished spectacularly as injury-time goals from Mick Kenny and John Walsh put the seal on a famous victory.

A day to remember especially for Four-Times All-Ireland Senior Hurling winner Paul Murphy who achieved a unique distinction of having won All-Ireland Medals with Kilkenny in both Hurling and Football.

However, it wasn't the first-time that a Kilkenny Inter-County Team has won a Football All-Ireland as the Kilkenny Ladies successfully won the Junior All-Ireland back in 2007, with a number of girls involved having also won Camogie All-Irelands across various grades.

A wonderful and amazing day and weekend to savour that will never be forgotten by those involved in this unforgettable triumph.

#### Teams and Scorers

**Kilkenny:** Mick Kenny (1-4, 0-4f), Jamie Holohan (1-2), John Walsh (1-0), Jim Culleton (0-2), Conor Hennessy, Shane Kelly, Kevin Blanchfield and Ethan Phelan (0-1 each)

**New York:** Brian Coughlan (1-1, 0-1f), Shay McElligott (0-4, 0-4f), Conor Mathers, Mike Brosnan (0-2 each)

**Kilkenny:** Killian Dunphy (Mullinavat); Shane Kelly (Mullinavat), Paul Murphy (Danesfort), Tom Kenny (Dicksboro); Kevin Blanchfield (Graigueanamanagh), Ciaran Wallace (Erins Own), Ger Malone (Mullinavat); Jim Culleton (Mullinavat), Tom Aylward (Mullinavat); Mick Kenny (Lisdowney), Mick Malone (Mullinavat), Conor Hennessy (Tullogher Rosbercon); Adam Mansfield (Mullinavat), Jamie Holohan (Erins Own), Rory Monks (Thomastown).

**Subs:** Ethan Phelan (Glenmore) for Monks h-t, John Walsh (Mullinavat) for Mansfield h-t, Shane Murphy (Glenmore) for Hennessy 44 mins, Shane Stapleton (Dicksboro) for Malone 51 mins, Joe Fennelly (Mullinavat) for Kelly 61 mins.

**New York:** Brendan Cole; Páidí Mathers, Conor Hogan, Peter Cronin; Dylan Curran, Jamie Boyle, Mike Boyle; Tiernan Mathers, Conor Rafferty; Kevin Loane, Mike Brosnan, Conor Mathers; Shay McElligott, Brian Coughlan, Danny Corridan.

**Subs:** Caolan Mathers for Rafferty h-t, Emmet Loughran for Loane 40 mins, Dylan Rooney for Cronin 51 mins, Ryan O'Neill for Hogan 55 mins, James Breen for Corridan 55 mins.

**Referee:** Barry Tiernan (Dublin)

## 2021 FINALS

### MONKS STRIKES LATE AS THOMASTOWN LAND SENIOR SPOILS TO DENY MULLINAVATS 5-IN-A-ROW



Due to the late start of competitions in another COVID affected year, the County Football Finals were not played till very late in the year.

Thomastown and Mullinavat contested the Senior decider, with Mullinavat attempting to win 5-in-a-row having achieved the 4-in-a-row earlier in the Summer.

Thomastown won the Intermediate Final also earlier in the Summer against Glenmore and would have gone into the Senior Final as Underdogs, as their Southern Neighbours dominated the Championship for the previous four years.

However, Thomastown tore up the script with a late Rory Monks goal giving them victory.

The Championship began in the first weekend in November (2021) and Mullinavat began the defence of their title as they easily brushed aside Danesfort 5-19 to 1-6, while in other first round games, Railyard defeated near neighbours Muckalee 1-13 to 0-8, Dicksboro eased to a 3-18 to 1-4 win against Kilmoganny, while in a low-scoring contest Clara shaded

James Stephens 1-4 to 1-3.

In the Quarter-Finals, Mullinavat won a 9 goal contest, 5-13 to 4-6 against their Southern neighbours Tullogher-Rosbercon. Thomastown began their Senior campaign with a 5-8 to 1-11 win against Railyard, while in the other two Quarter-Finals played, Dicksboro eased to a 2-13 to 0-2 win against Conahy Shamrocks, and Clara won 1-8 to 1-2 against Mooncoin.

The Semi-Final pairings were Thomastown against Dicksboro and Mullinavat against Clara.

Mullinavat easily won 2-14 to 0-4 against Clara, while Thomastown emerged victorious 5-8 to 2-13 against Dicksboro.

The final itself saw Thomastown lead 1-5 to 0-5 at the interval, the goal coming from Stephen Donnelly in the 9th minute.

Mullinavat started the second-Half brightly and they were awarded a penalty in the 40th minute, but Oisín Knox's effort was superbly saved by Thomastown goalkeeper Patrick Khan.



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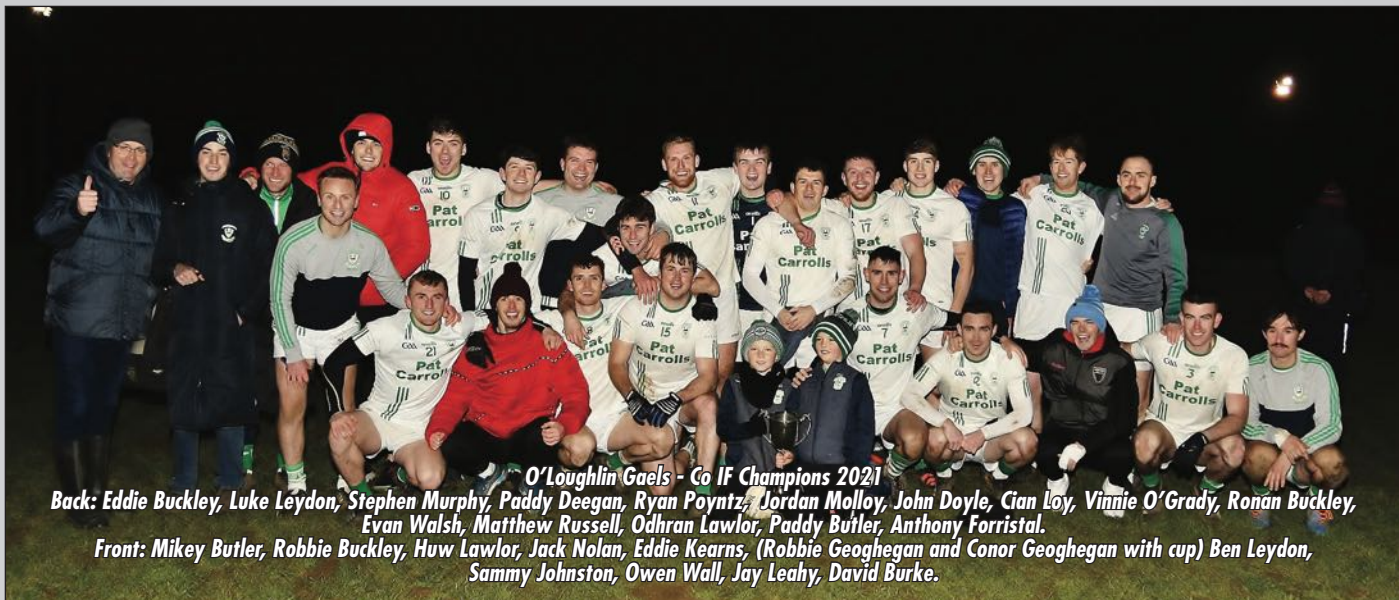
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**O'Loughlin Gaels - Co IF Champions 2021**  
*Back: Eddie Buckley, Luke Leydon, Stephen Murphy, Paddy Deegan, Ryan Poyntz, Jordan Molloy, John Doyle, Cian Loy, Vinnie O'Grady, Ronan Buckley, Evan Walsh, Matthew Russell, Odhran Lawlor, Paddy Butler, Anthony Forristal.*  
*Front: Mikey Butler, Robbie Buckley, Huw Lawlor, Jack Nolan, Eddie Kearns, (Robbie Geoghegan and Conor Geoghegan with cup) Ben Leydon, Sammy Johnston, Owen Wall, Jay Leahy, David Burke.*



**CARRICKSHOCK - JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2021**  
*Back: Gary Comerford, Padraig Lennan, Jamie Barron, James O'Shea, Brian Donovan, Aaron Roche, Dan Blanchfield, Aaron O'Neill, Jake O'Dwyer, Luke Hudson, Eoghan O'Neill, Jamie Power, John Power, Damien Walsh*  
*Front: John Cahill Darragh Brennan, John Power, Niall Tennyson, Eddie Dunphy, Michael Murphy, Shane Fennelly, Sean Grace, Kevin Farrell, Michael Rohan.*

However, shortly afterwards, Mullinavat made amends and a brilliantly drilled goal from Padraic Gahan brought them level - 1-5 each.

Defences dominated throughout the second-half and only three scores accrued, with two of those scores goals.

With time running out, a draw looked most likely (1-5 each), but Thomastown conjured up a late attacking move that proved decisive, as Rory Monks raced through on goal before positioning his shot perfectly as he unleashed a powerful shot to the net - 2-5 to 1-5.

Thomas O'Hanrahan added a point for good measure moments later to ensure victory as new Champions were confirmed.

**SCORERS:** Thomastown - Rory Monks (1-1), Stephen Donnelly (1-0), Davy Prendergast (0-3, 0-1 free), Thomas O'Hanrahan (0-2).

Mullinavat - Padraic Gahan (1-1); Oisín Knox (0-2); James Culleton, Michael Malone (0-1 each).

Thomastown travelled to Ashbourne in Meath a week later for their Leinster Intermediate Championship clash against Trim, but despite their best efforts, they lost out 1-14 to 1-4.

**O'LOUGHLINS LAND INTERMEDIATE SPOILS**

The Intermediate Final saw goals from Team Captain Eddie Kearns, Anthony Forristal and Huw Lawlor help O'Loughlin Gaels to a 3-7 to 1-7 win over Glenmore.

The Championship began on the first weekend of November 2021 with two First Round games that went to the wire.

Graigue-Ballycallan won out 3-7 to 3-4 against Lisdowney, while Blacks and Whites prevailed by a solitary point, 2-6 to 3-2 against Erin's Own of Castlecomer.

The Semi-Final games were well contested with Glenmore winning 1-12 to 1-9 against Graigue-Ballycallan, while O'Loughlin Gaels were 3-12 to 3-6 winners over Blacks and Whites.

O'Loughlin Gaels went on and won the County Final, and they represented Kilkenny in the Leinster Junior Football Championship where they began their campaign with a 1-10 to 0-10 win against Clongeen of Wexford after extra-time.

The teams finished level at 1-5 to 0-8 each at the end of normal time, with the goal coming from Cian Loy in the 42nd minute. The Gaels a grip of the match in extra-time where they outscored their Wexford opponents 0-5 to 0-2.

Unfortunately, their was no such joy in the Leinster Semi-Final as they were well beaten 3-16 to 0-6 by Clonbollogue of Offaly in a match played in very poor visibility conditions.

**CARRICKSHOCKS GOAL BLITZ LANDS JUNIOR HONOURS**

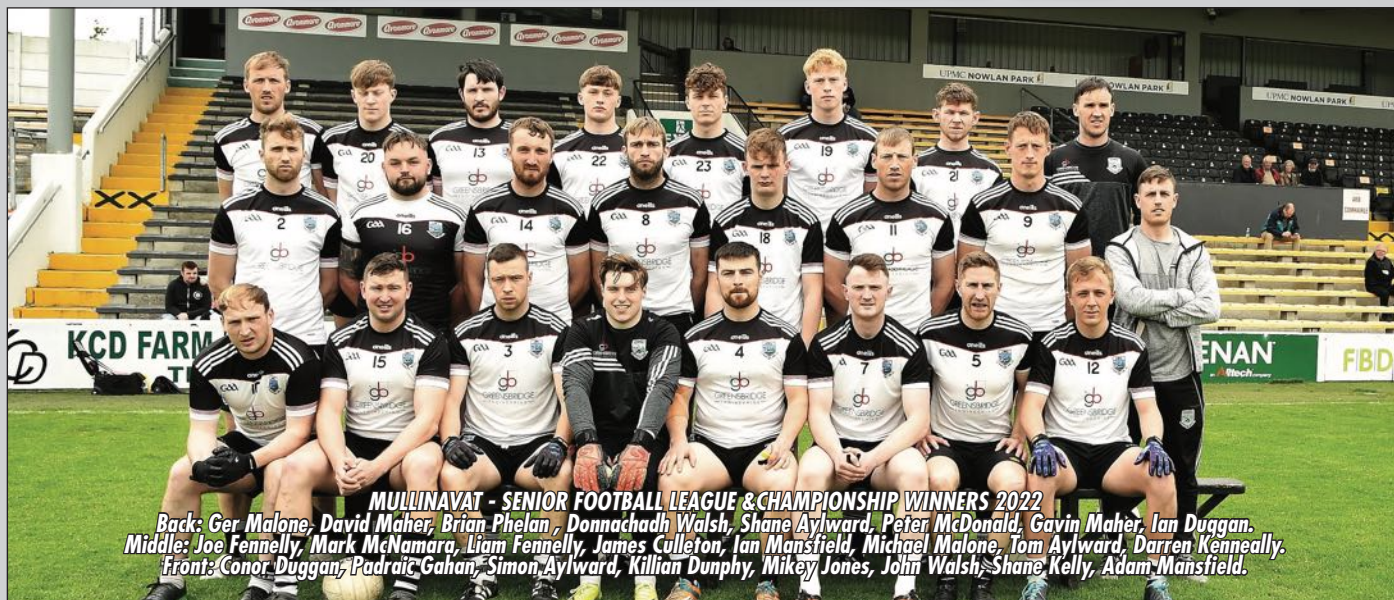
The Junior Final was a South Kilkenny Derby with Carrickshocks goingscoring power proving too strong for their neighbours Windgap, as they won 4-4 to 0-8 having led 2-2 to 0-4 at half-time, with both teams scoring the exact same total in both halves.

Both Teams progressed to the Final having safely negotiated their Semi-Final matches.

Windgap won 1-10 to 0-5 against Emeralds, while Carrickshock brushed 10 goals past Riallyard in a 10-11 to 2-4 victory.

# 2022 FINALS

## VAT MEN REGAIN SENIOR SPOILS



**MULLINAVAT - SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2022**  
 Back: Ger Malone, David Maher, Brian Phelan, Donnachadh Walsh, Shane Aylward, Peter McDonald, Gavin Maher, Ian Duggan.  
 Middle: Joe Fennelly, Mark McNamara, Liam Fennelly, James Culleton, Ian Mansfield, Michael Malone, Tom Aylward, Darren Kenneally.  
 Front: Conor Duggan, Pádraic Gahan, Simon Aylward, Killian Dunphy, Mikey Jones, John Walsh, Shane Kelly, Adam Mansfield.

### SENIOR

Mullinavat regained the Senior title after defeating Thomastown 1-12 to 0-8 in the County Final as they completed the League/Championship double. Mullinavat defeated Dicksboro 1-7 to 1-1 in the League Final which also doubled up as a Championship Semi-Final, while in the Quarter-Final they eased to a 2-15 to 1-10 win against Danesfort.

After the Group Sections of the League were completed, the Championship commenced the first weekend in April with five first round matches played. James Stephens and Mooncoin played out a 0-15 to 1-12 draw, but the Suirsiders progressed to the quarter-final based on their superior scoring difference. Danesfort defeated Conahy Shamrocks 0-12 to 0-6, O'Loughlin Gaels prevailed by a solitary point 4-5 to 3-7 against Clara, Tullagher-Rosbercon eased to a 1-13 to 0-5 win against Kilmoganny, while last years Champions Thomastown won 1-9 to 1-8 against Railyard.

In the Quarter-Finals, Dicksboro won 2-8 to 1-7 against city neighbours O'Loughlin Gaels, Mullinavat as mentioned prevailed against Danesfort, Muckalee won 4-9 to 2-9 against Moondoin while Thomastown were victorious 2-9 to 0-9 against Tullagher-Rosbercon.

Thomastown then qualified for a County Final showdown with Mullinavat following a 1-15 to 2-11 win against Muckalee in a titanic thriller.

In the County Final itself, Thomastown made the brighter start, and they led 0-3 to 0-1 after 10 minutes with Richard O'Hara kicking over a superb long range point, while Rory Monks was on target from both play and a free. Mullinavat responded with points from goalkeeper Killian Dunphy

via a long distance free, Pádraic Gahan and Michael Malone bringing them level (0-4 each), before beginning to accelerate. Further points from another long distance free by Killian Dunphy, Mikey Jones and Michael Malone pushed them 0-7 to 0-4 ahead at the interval.

Mullinavat maintained their three point lead by the 40th minute (0-9 to 0-6) as Tom Aylward and Adam Mansfield added further points, while during that period Killian Dunphy pulled off a superb save from Daithi Barron. Adam Mansfield added another point to stretch the advantage (0-10 to 0-6), before Brian Phelan finished off a superb move as they put themselves firmly on the way to victory (1-10 to 0-6). Mullinavat maintained that seven point advantage afterwards as they regained the Senior Championship. Teams

Mullinavat- Killian Dunphy (0-2); Joe Fennelly, Simon Aylward, Mikey Jones (0-1); Shane Kelly, Ger Malone, John Walsh; Jim Culleton, Tom Aylward (0-1); Conor Duggan (0-1), Michael Malone (0-3), Adam Mansfield (0-2); Brian Phelan (1-1), Liam Fennelly, Pádraic Gahan (0-1).

Subs- Sean Fitzpatrick for Pádraic Gahan, Peter McDonald for Ger Malone.

Thomastown- Paddy Khan; Ned Kirwan, Richard O'Hara (0-1), Cianan Sutton; David Griffin, Brian Staunton (0-1), Eddie Donnelly; John Jo Farrell (0-1), Peter Connellan (0-1); Luke Connellan (0-1), Diarmuid Galway, Brian O'Halloran; Danny Monks (0-1), Daithi Barron, Rory Monks (0-2).

Subs- Danny Prendergast, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Robbie Donnelly and Jack Cullen.



**ERIN'S OWN - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2022**  
 Back: Sean Buggy, Chris Korff, Jimmy Comerford, Conor McMahon, James Brennan, James Kenny, Shane Coogan, John Kenny, Dáire O'Rourke, Tommy Coogan, Kevin Holland, Dan Coogan, Dermot Wallace, Sean McDermot, Martin Boran, Robert Moran, Ashley Kerr, Martin Walsh, Colm Meagher, Keith Normoyle.  
 Front: Conor Normoyle, Niall McMahon, Jamie Holohan, John Dowd, Larry Carroll, Eoin Brennan, Ciarán Brennan, Steven Daly, Ciarán Wallace, Dáire Brennan, Jack Buggy, Declan Dunne, Michael Murphy



## INTERMEDIATE

In the Quarter-Finals, Blacks and Whites overcame Rower-Inistioge 1-9 to 0-5, Carrickshock won 2-6 to 0-4 against Piltown, Glenmore won 3-11 to 1-9 against Graigue-Ballycallan, while Erin's Own Castlecomer won an eight goal thriller against Lisdowney 4-10 to 4-5.

In the Semi-Finals, Erins Own won 3-7 to 0-9 against Carrickshock while Glenmore won 4-7 to 1-9 against Blacks and Whites.

The County Final between Erins Own and Glenmore was played in early April with Erins Own winning 2-6 to 0-6 for their 1st Intermediate in 24 years - last won in 1998 -.

In a low scoring final, both teams only scored a point each in the opening quarter with Jamie Holohan and Ethan Phelan (free) exchanging points.

The scoring rates remained at a premium and amazingly the teams were 0-1 each after 26 minutes, before Erin's Own got their first goal.

Jamie Holohan's glorious delivery found Stephen Daly and he rounded the Glenmore goalkeeper to slot the ball into an empty net. 1-1 to 0-1. Glenmore responded immediately and points in quick succession from an Ethan Phelan free, Niall Dunne and Liam Hennessey restored parity (1-1 to 0-4), before Erins Own had the final say of the first-half with Jamie Holohan pointing a close range free to give them a 1-2 to 0-4 lead at the interval.

Holohan was a star performer and his 1-2 in the third quarter effectively sealed victory with the goal coming in the 44th

minute. 2-4 to 0-4.

The Erin's Own men maintained that six point lead throughout the final quarter, with Robert Moran and Jamie Holohan (free) adding further points, while Glenmore's tally was added to with points from Shane Murphy and Mark Phelan.

**Erin's Own - Jamie Holohan (1-5, 0-3 frees); Stephen Daly (1-0); Robert Moran (0-1).**

**Glenmore - Ethan Phelan (0-2, frees); Shane Murphy, Liam Hennessey, Niall Dunne, Mark Phelan (0-1 each).**

**Erin's Own - Daire Brennan; Chris Korff, John Dowd, James Brennan; Declan Dunne, Niall McMahon, Eoin Brennan; Larry Carroll, Ciaran Wallace; Ashley Kerr, Jamie Holohan, Martin Boran; Stephen Daly, Robert Moran, Jack Buggy.**

**Subs: Sean Buggy for Declan Dunne, Ciaran Brennan for Jack Buggy.**

**Glenmore - PJ Roche; Tomas Dunne, Brian Donoghue, Shane Doherty; Darragh Hartley, Philly Roche, Sean Duggan; Shane Murphy, Richard Hennessey; Niall Dunne, Liam Hennessey, David Burke; Thomas Mullally, Ethan Phelan, Robert Fitzgerald.**

**Subs: Stephen Cody for Shane Doherty, Sean Phelan for Philly Roche, Mark Phelan for David Burke.**

**Referee - Julian O'Dwyer**

## JUNIOR

In the Quarter-Finals, Graignamanagh easily won 5-10 to 1-7 against Muckalee. Their neighbours Barrow Rangers coasted to a 6-19 win against Kilmacow, Windgap easily strolled to a 2-10 to 1-3 win against Emeralds while Railyard narrowly overcame Fenians by 0-9 to 0-7.

In the Semi-Finals, Barrow Rangers won by the narrowest of margins, 1-9 to 1-8 against Railyard, while Graignamanagh cruised to a 4-12 to 1-8 win against Windgap.

The Final between neighbours Barrow Rangers and Graignamanagh saw the Goresbridge/Paulstown Club prevail by the narrowest of margins 2-5 to 2-4.

In a very low scoring first-half, a Michael Bolger goal gave Graignamanagh a 1-1 to 0-1 lead at half-time.

After Graignamanagh added a point to stretch the advantage early in the Second-Half, Barrow Rangers replied with four unanswered points including three in succession from Jason Holden (2 frees) in a six minute spell between the 43rd and 49th minutes to bring them level - 1-2 to 0-5.

The game was decided in a 60 second spell in the final 10 minutes, with goals from Keith Flavin and Eugene Kealy to put Rangers in control (2-5 to 1-2). Graignamanagh replied with 1-2 to narrow the gap, but unfortunately for them they couldn't manufacture an equaliser as Barrow Rangers held on.

There was consolation for the Graigue men in the League decider as they defeated Fenians 2-9 to 2-1.





**MULLINAVAT MEMBERS OF THE KILKENNY ALL IRELAND WINNING TEAM CELEBRATE AFTER THE GAME IN THE CUSACK STAND DRESSING ROOM.**  
 Back Row: Tom Aylward, Ger Malone, Joe Fennelly, James Culleton, Michael Malone, Conor Duggan, John Walsh.  
 Front Row: Ian Duggan, Mikey Jones, Shane Kelly, Adam Mansfield, Killian Dunphy.



**1 August 2022; Kilian Phelan of Kilkenny after winning the M. Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Poc Fada Finals at Cooley Mountains in Louth. Photo by Harry Murphy/Sportsfile**

## Two from Jamesie

### FAREWELL TO BRIAN

*In Ninety Eight, you took the reins, when our spirits they were down  
 Since Ninety Three, we failed to win All Ireland's hurling crown  
 But then, tradition upped its head, a great resurgence came  
 New Black and Amber stalwarts emerged in our great game*

*For hurling was their life-blood to bosom lads whose father's  
 Had climbed the road to glory in those golden days of yore  
 When clashing ash made music to the sweet song of the sliotar  
 Through the villages and valleys, of Kilkenny by the Nore*

*Eleven titles was the number Brian managed in his time  
 And saw his captains down the years, the Hogan steps to climb  
 His name is etched in history and spoken in folklore  
 As the greatest hurling manager - Brian Cody - Banisteoir*

### ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL 2022

*The pundits could not call it, they said it would be tight  
 With the "CATS" in black and amber and Cork in red and white  
 A free was called Kilkenny's way-a tackle off the ball  
 And up to take that vital free comes our hero, Denise Gaule*

*She bends, she lifts, she strikes, her aim is straight and true  
 She's scored a splendid victory for the Class of Twenty-Two  
 Croke Park is now a bedlam, as Kilkenny fans did roar  
 For those in Black and Amber famous now for evermore*

*Now, there's the summer over and it is Kilkenny's crown  
 Their teamwork was the factor that brought the rebels down  
 So, here's to you Brian Dowling, and your cagey backroom crew  
 You made them Ireland's champions - the Class of Twenty Two*

*Jamesie Murphy, Glensensaw, Tullagher*

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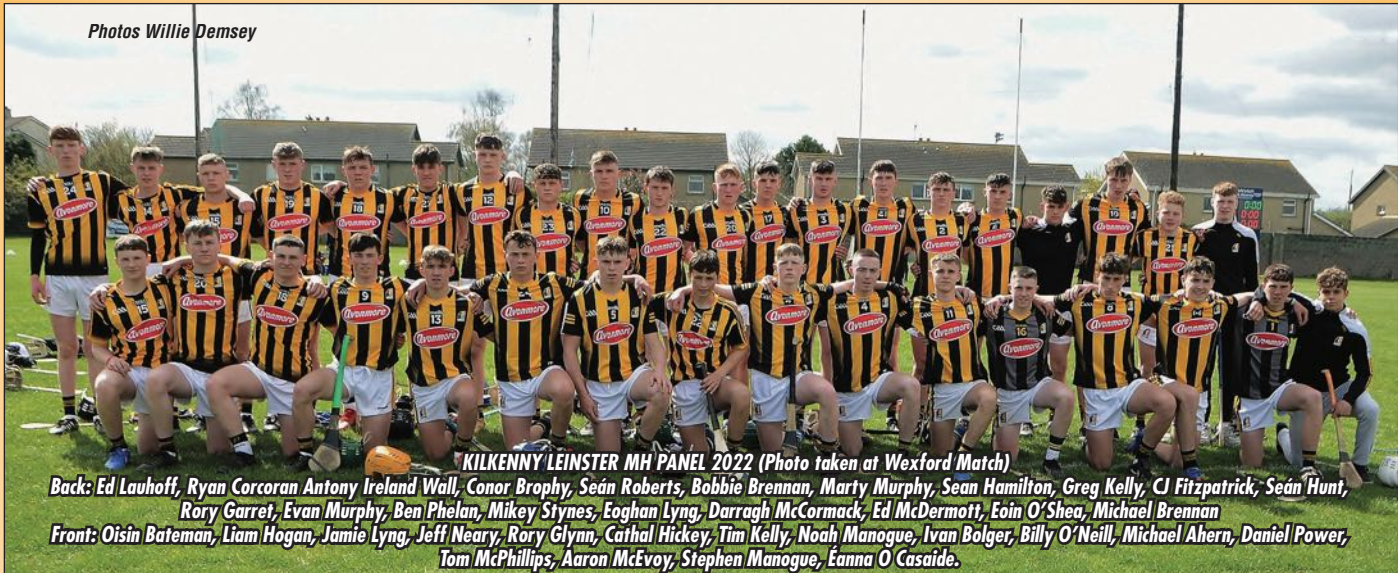
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# MINORS STOPPED BY LAOIS

Inter County Minor Hurling Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos Willie Demsey



**KILKENNY LEINSTER MH PANEL 2022 (Photo taken at Wexford Match)**  
 Back: Ed Lauhoff, Ryan Corcoran, Antony Ireland Wall, Conor Brophy, Seán Roberts, Bobbie Brennan, Marty Murphy, Sean Hamilton, Greg Kelly, CJ Fitzpatrick, Seán Hunt, Rory Garret, Evan Murphy, Ben Phelan, Mikey Stynes, Eoghan Lyng, Darragh McCormack, Ed McDermott, Eoin O'Shea, Michael Brennan  
 Front: Oisín Bateman, Liam Hogan, Jamie Lyng, Jeff Neary, Rory Glynn, Cathal Hickey, Tim Kelly, Noah Manogue, Ivan Bolger, Billy O'Neill, Michael Ahern, Daniel Power, Tom McPhillips, Aaron McEvoy, Stephen Manogue, Éanna O'Casáide.

The Kilkenny Minors began the year looking to build on the solid years where challenging at the top table of All Ireland honours was within reach. Trials began in the winter months in preparation for trying to retain the Leinster Championship. An added complication to matters was the delayed Leinster Junior Colleges which was for some reason delayed until late spring, which was out of kilter with other years. However, a number of challenge matches against Cork and Tipperary among others had them in good shape for the first round-robin game against Wexford in Belfield.

This was always going to be a searching test as Wexford had the advantage of playing Dublin the previous week and duly blasted their way into a 2-3 to 0-1 lead, with Kilkenny's point only coming from Aaron McEvoy. A goal from Rory Glynn was followed by a point from the superb Mikey Stynes. Then Anthony Ireland Wall's goal was the catalyst after some fine work by Eoghan Lyng. McEvoy tagged on a point soon after. Wall Ireland and Sean Murphy swapped scores on the approach to half time to leave it all square 2-7 a piece. Two points off the bench from Ed McDermott set the tone with points from Glynn and Wall Ireland and Kilkenny were unlucky not to be further ahead having missed a couple of goal chances. Lyng added points from three placed balls and further scores from Jeff Neary and Tom McPhillips sent the young kittens onto victory 2-17 to 2-12.

Up next was Dublin in UPMC Nowlan Pk. Early points from Neary and McEvoy seemed to have the home side in good fettle. These were responded to by points from Ollie Gaffney & Tomas Moore. A superb Kilkenny goal followed from Ireland Wall when he doubled on a ball after

a clearance from a stout Dublin defence. David Purcell instantly responded with a goal of his own moments later to rock the large Kilkenny attendance. Sam Lewis fired over a minor soon after. The Dubs landed their second goal when Conor Newton pounced on a mistake in the Kilkenny back line to send the green flag waving.

Kilkenny started the second half with some momentum with two McEvoy frees followed by a Marty Murphy point. Gaffney (2) and Moran kept the men in sky blue out in the lead. McPhillips & Neary swapped points with Gaffney and Brennan. A late Lyng goal was vital in injury time as it insured Kilkenny qualified directly for the Leinster Semi Final but on the day Dublin won out 3-14 to 2-16.

Kilkenny had a month to wait for the Leinster Semi final against Laois which probably contributed to the slow start in Portlaoise in a game they really never got to the pitch of. By the end of the first quarter, Laois held a 0-4 to 0-3 lead where there was only one score from play as ill-discipline was on display from both sides. Ben Deegan's accuracy from frees was ensuring Kilkenny were being punished. Points from McPhillips and Glynn saw the Cats eventually pull level but heading towards the half-time whistle, Jer Quinlan helped himself to 1-1 though Ireland Wall grabbed one back to leave Kilkenny trailing 1-6 to 0-6.

Quinlan, Deegan and Cormac Byrne all tagged on points to stretch the lead out to six. It took until six minutes to go for Niall Bergin's charges to cut the deficit with Eoghan Lyng and Mikey Stynes landing inspirational points. Further points from Lyng and Ivan Bolger had it back to one point



Ciarán Donovan (Dublin) Challenged by Greg Kelly

but Deegan responded with two quick fire points. In the dying embers of the game Lyng did try to blast home a free but alas to no avail which saw Laois through to the Leinster Final and more importantly to the All Ireland series. For Kilkenny it was the end of their three-in-a-row ambitions.

**Daniel Power (James Stephens), Rory Garrett (Fenians), Bobbie Brennan (Young Irelands), Evan Murphy (Dicksboro), Billy O'Neill (Graigue Ballycallan), Eoghan Lyng (Rower Inistioge), Ivan Bolger (Graiguenamanagh), Tom McPhillips (capt) (Dicksboro), Greg Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Aaron McEvoy (Graigue Ballycallan), Jeff Neary (Graigue Ballycallan), Edward McDermott (James Stephens), Rory Glynn (Clara), Marty Murphy (Tullagher Rosbercon), Anthony Ireland Wall (Danesfort), Stephen Manogue (James Stephens), Timmy Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Mikey Stynes (Dicksboro), Sean Roberts (Graigue Ballycallan), Micheál Ahern (Emeralds), Ben Phelan (Young Irelands), Sean Hunt (St. Martin's), CJ Fitzpatrick (Mullinavat), Michael Brennan (Erin's Own), Darragh McCormack (Fenians), Cathal Hickey (St. Lachtain's), Sean Hamilton (Graiguenamanagh), Liam Hogan (Mooncoin), Jamie Lyng (Tullagher Rosbercon), Ryan Corcoran (Graigue Ballycallan), Oisín Bateman (James Stephens), Conor Brophy (Erin's Own), Edward Lauhoff (James Stephens), Noah Manogue (James Stephens), Eoin O'Shea (Windgap), Éanna O'Caseide (Danesfort)**

**Management Team: Niall Bergin, Davy Buggy, Jimmy Coogan, Paddy Hogan, Willie O'Dwyer. S&C Coach: James Kelly. Physio: Theresa McGinn. Doctor: Conall MacConmara Goalkeeping coach: Stephen Murphy. Logistics: Joe Pyke. Kit Man: Angelo Cullen. Maor Camán: Mark Bergin, Stephen Murphy. Statistics: Sarah Burke.**



*Ciaran Flynn (Laois) and Rory Glynn Clash.*



*Aerial Contest from the Wexford game.*

THE FINAL CHAPTER was in accord with everything that had gone before.....there was skill and spirit in abundance, fire and fury too, utter defiance and work, work, work.

And the roaring Cats came within a whisker of scratching the odds and beating white hot favourites, Limerick, in the All-Ireland senior hurling final that strayed far from the expected script.

Defending champions Limerick were the 5/4 bet to bag their fourth MacCarthy Cup title in five years, and their first three-in-a-row. There were times when Kilkenny were rank outsiders, available at odds of 6-1.

Yet, coming down the closing straight in Croke Park on July 17, the long serving Richie Hogan plundered a point that left the teams level. The old house was rocking. Seven gruelling minutes later hard-pressed Limerick docked in safety, 1-31 (34) to 2-26 (32) winners.

A match for the ages, they said. One of the best. Stirring stuff. The sustained, pulsating action reawakened the old argument that hurling was perhaps the best field game in the world.

Although Kilkenny folk didn't know it at the time, the game marked the end of the line for their peerless manager of 24 years, Brian Cody. The Cats went through the usual after match rituals and were given a warm and enthusiastic reception by appreciative fans on their homecoming the following evening in UPMC Nowlan Park.

That was it. Cody had a quiet word with County Board officials, Jimmy Walsh (chairman) and Conor Denieffe (secretary) as he stepped off the stage in the 'Park. A meeting was set up for the following day. The James Stephens man then revealed he was standing down as manager. He had been the boss since 1999.

There would be no drawn out goodbye, no media event, no interviews to announce what was one of the biggest sports stories of the year. A statement from the County Board announced the news; thanking Brian Cody for his incredible service, and described him as the "greatest manager in the history of hurling".

The 68-year-old looked after the personal details, including informing the players of his decision via a WhatsApp message.

Typical. Cody had always let the players do the talking through their heroic actions on the field. The gut busting Croke Park effort days earlier said it all for him.

All-Star TJ Reid, who soldiered for 16 seasons under Cody, captured the mood perfectly on learning the news when he said: "He has left Kilkenny hurling in a great place."

He surely has. The season of his arrival in 1999, Cork won their 28th All-Ireland title. In the Roll of Honour, Kilkenny followed on 25 titles with Tipperary just behind on 24.

During Cody's stewardship, the records were redrawn totally, and the top end now reads - Kilkenny 36; Cork 30; Tipperary 28.

Cody's last stand ended as his first season began, with defeat in the All-Ireland final, but boy, were there golden times in between?

In all he helped Kilkenny amass an incredible 46 titles during his reign; capped by 11 All-Ireland successes. There were 10 National League wins too, and six League/Championship doubles.

No other manager chalked up such incredible numbers, and the GAA is now 138 years in existence!

For those of a mature age - although the new generation must have loved it too - it was near fairytale stuff in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 when the All-Ireland four in-a-row was achieved. And it was nearly five, but Tipperary halted the bid on All-Ireland day in 2010.

One of the striking things about the Cody story is that he didn't take over the job from his cousin, Kevin Fennelly, with a blinding background in management with his beloved club, James Stephens. He admitted

himself that had been ordinary enough, but when it came to inter-county management, it was as if he were born to it.

He set out on the road with Kilkenny with Ger Henderson (Fenians) and Johnny Walsh (Ballyhale Shamrocks) as co-selectors, and Mick O'Flynn (Dicksboro) as team trainer. From Day 1 the driving mantra for the players was 'work rate'. From that poured other valuable elements like spirit, commitment, confidence, loyalty et al.

The work rate was not just for the self satisfaction of the individual, but was woven into the plan for the overall good of the team. That simple but yet tough demand underlined Brian Cody's philosophy from the beginning in 1999 to Croke Park last July.

As he once told me: "What's the use in tagging out for a game if you don't want to win it?"

There was no compromise on the rules of engagement in the Kilkenny camp. One remembers working on an All-Ireland final preview in the early days and asking for permission to bring forms to training in the 'Park so the players could fill them in for the pen-pictures for the Kilkenny People newspaper.

The session was timed to begin at 7pm. Okay, I will hit there around 6.30pm, one suggested. "You will be late", came the jovial response. On arrival at around 5.30pm we were greeted by a strong bunch of early starters. Business was completed well before the start of training.

Cody was one of the first people there. That was typical.

"He has an unreal commitment to hurling, it was a near 24/7 thing," explained one who shared the trenches with him. "He didn't just arrive, he knew exactly what he wanted from every session. He wanted everything done right and everyone doing their job.

"Much was made of the tough, hard hurling at training, but Brian always kept things interesting."

And challenging. Different combinations of players were regularly paired off against each other in the training games in a deliberate effort to drive lads on and to "see what certain individuals were made of, and to keep them edgy".

Example. Remember the time DJ Carey retired from the inter-county scene before, months later, having a change of heart? In training Carey was regularly pitted against Michael Kavanagh (St Lachtain's), a notorious tight marker. Carey had to sweat, but he was brought back up to speed in double quick time.

An interesting little story played out in the background during the 1999 season too. John Power (John Lockes) had been overlooked by the selectors the previous year. Cody and his mentors brought Power back. Power would train but was given no guarantee of game time during the League. Then "we will see", was more or less the commitment given.

Power was cut loose in the championship and played on the losing All-Ireland final team against Cork. The John Lockes man roared on to add All-Ireland winning medals to his collection in 2000 and 2002.

There were other gems of stories, like the turning of Peter Barry into a tigerish defender, most especially at centre-back. Prior to Cody's arrival, Barry had been used further up the field by different selectors..

Why pick him in defence, we wondered?

"Because he played all his hurling in defence at schools level," the boss informed.

Training ground form was what became famous during Cody's reign. Those who survived the heat of Nowlan Park were ready for anything, and they got the jerseys. Possibly the most famous example of the 'reward system' was the springing of Walter Walsh at full-forward for the replay of the 2012 All-Ireland final against Galway.

Kilkenny won (3-22 to 3-11).The Tullogher-Rosbercon man ran riot. He scored 1-3. Walter Walsh carried off the man of the match award. What can you say?





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In terms of financial demands on the County Board, Brian Cody represented a bargain basement acquisition who produced golden returns. The GAA line is that in general managers in Gaelic games are not getting money, big or otherwise, for their services but stories learned on the road would suggest the reality is very different.

Cody, the best of them all, did it for the love of the game. He was born with the Corinthian Spirit. Anything else would have been alien to his beliefs and standards. He did the job because he wanted to, and he did it as a fiercely committed volunteer.

Standard expenses, yes. Corporate work, yes. But if he could help a cause, a club, a project in the local community he did.

One will always remember the first interview after his appointment, which followed the All-Ireland final defeat of 1998 against Offaly. The mood was bleak enough in the county after a run of five years without a visit from our friend Liam.

Still Cody insisted Kilkenny could be contenders every year. His belief was absolute. Subsequent successes showed it wasn't idle talk.

He always surrounded himself with the best of people. Noel Skehan joined the backroom team as a selector after Henderson departed at the end of 1999. Martin Fogarty and Michael Dempsey were part of the next brigade, the latter when the trainer's job morphed into a strength and conditioning role. Dempsey turned out to be something of a groundbreaker in hurling, introducing different methods of building up the strength and physique of players.

Derek Lyng, James McGarry, Martin Comerford, DJ Carey and Conor Phelan completed a trusted crew of selectors that served during his era. This crew was always tight, and Kilkenny probably always had the smallest backroom of any country.

Cody went for everything in terms of honours. And things never stood still. An All-Ireland winning team in any one season was exactly that, a one season team, he always insisted.



Deirdre R   
Leaving the field after the 2022 All-Ireland Final  
Photo by Harry Murphy/Sportsfile

All-Ireland final involvement or past achievements offered no guarantees.

By necessity, cold decisions on selection were determined by current training ground form. Erosion followed virtually every winning effort.

Cody's first All-Ireland success was recorded in 2000. By the time of the county's 2015 victory, a whole new generation had arrived. All members of the 2000 side were gone.

It is fair to say, Kilkenny changed hurling during the reign of the James Stephens man. They took intensity, movement and possibility physicality to another level. Remember the time when a lot of the media shouted about 'Kilkenny playing on the edge'?

To be honest, colleagues who used the phrases could never explain to me what it meant. Sure, Kilkenny hit hard, and probably more often because of their intensity, but Cody's teams were all about emptying the tank, leaving everything on the field. No one could argue but they played hurling of the highest quality.

Between 2002 and 2014 Kilkenny won eight National Hurling League titles. That was at a time when some counties looked down a bit on the League, not wanting to push things too hard before the championship.

The Kilkenny attitude, pushed by the boss, was to win it if you can. Kilkenny ran up six League/Championship doubles during that period. The high players got from learning how to win, win, win greatly outstripped any negatives.

An aside here was that the County Board gained hugely too - which is the GAA in general in the county - because the League was where big money could be made. Boosting the coffers of the 'Board wasn't the intention, but...

When Kilkenny won the League in 2018, for example, the net returns from the pool were a cool €258,126. The 'Board had a nest egg that hovered around the €1-million mark at one stage. A debt free Nowlan Park, the purchase of the Dunmore Complex and other developments were part of the spin-off from an era that was without equal.

Brian Cody was, and continues to be, ultra passionate about Kilkenny hurling. He made a quiet exit off the inter-county stage, but his amazing achievements will forever scream through the corridors of sporting history in Ireland.

## 46 PIECES OF SILVER

Cody left rich legacy of 46 pieces of silver

Brian Cody was manager of the Kilkenny senior hurling team for 24 years. In only two of those years, 2004 and 2019, the county failed to win a senior title of some kind.

The James Stephens man had an unprecedented strike rate in terms of winning. His record reads:

- 1999 - All-Ireland finalists; Leinster champions
- 2000 - All-Ireland champions; Leinster champions
- 2001 - Leinster champions
- 2002 - All-Ireland champions; NHL champions; Leinster champions
- 2003 - All-Ireland champions; NHL champions; Leinster champions
- 2004 - All-Ireland finalists
- 2005 - NHL champions; Leinster champions; Walsh Cup winners
- 2006 - All-Ireland champions; NHL champions; Leinster champions; Walsh Cup winners
- 2007 - All-Ireland champions; Leinster champions; Walsh Cup winners
- 2008 - All-Ireland champions; Leinster champions
- 2009 - All-Ireland champions; NHL champions; Leinster champions; Walsh Cup winners
- 2010 - All-Ireland finalists; Leinster champions
- 2011 - All-Ireland champions; Leinster champions
- 2012 - All-Ireland champions; NHL champions; Leinster finalists; Walsh Cup winners
- 2013 - NHL champions.

- 2014 - All-Ireland champions; NHL champions; Leinster champions; Walsh Cup winners
- 2015 - All-Ireland champions; Leinster champions
- 2016 - All-Ireland finalists; Leinster champions
- 2017 - Walsh Cup winner
- 2018 - NHL champions; Leinster finalists
- 2019 - All-Ireland finalists; Leinster finalists
- 2020 - Leinster champions
- 2021 - Leinster champions; NHL champions (shared with Galway).
- 2022 - All-Ireland finalists; Leinster champions

The Cody legacy in numbers - 11 All-Ireland titles; 10 NHL titles; 18 Leinster titles; 7 Walsh Cups.  
Total - 46 titles.

Competitive games played with Brian Cody as manager - 337 games; won 240; lost 80; drew 17.  
Championship - played 115; won 85; lost 22; drew 8.  
Philips Sports Manager of the Year in 2003.

During his playing career with Kilkenny which stretched from 1973 to 1986, Brian Cody won four senior All-Irelands in 1974, 1975, 1982 and 1983. He also won two National Leagues and he was an All-Star on two occasions. He was also an All-Ireland winner at minor (captain in 1972) and under-21 level (1974 and 1975). With his club James Stephens he won three senior championships, two All-Ireland (1976 and 1982) and two Leinster club championships.



# A MANAGER'S VIEW

John Knox discusses Brian Cody with Antony Daly

Anthony Daly, the Clare All-Ireland winning captain of 1995 and 1997, faced Kilkenny manager, Brian Cody, more often than most during his time as boss in both Clare and Dublin. Cody, he insisted, was 'The Master', a legend who brought a consistency to the Cats game that was never seen before.

He is 'The Master', the greatest ever. I don't think there will ever be anyone like Brian Cody again in terms of longevity and with a comparable success rate. Maybe if Jim Gavin or someone like that decided to keep going they might have a chance of passing him, but I can't see that happening.

I was involved as an inter-county manager for nine years, six with Dublin and three with Clare. It takes up your life. There is only so much you can take. Maybe being a primary school teacher helped and gave Brian more time, but being a manager leaves very little time for other interests.

That is what I found. I would have had a great interest in greyhounds, but all that went out the window. All your time went into managing the team.

For Brian, because of the success he enjoyed with Kilkenny, it must have been all consuming. He didn't win with just one team. He built five or six teams. That was the amazing thing for me, that he was able to do so much rebuilding, which a lot of people didn't notice.

He might have been accused of being a bit old fashioned; set in his ways and that he didn't want to adapt to new ways, but look, the results are there. I nearly beat his team in 2004 playing Alan Markham as a sweeper, but he was ready within a week for that new challenge and he had an answer.

Even in the season gone by Clare had been so impressive in the way they played in the championship. Then Cody's plan dismantled their game in the All-Ireland semi-final. After that Limerick were dominant in the All-Ireland final, but Kilkenny were still there right at the death. That was typical of Cody teams; always there, always trying, never giving up.

He had a great way of managing people. Players might not have thought he was Mother Teresa or that, but they all respected him.

Even to keep his own motivation going for so many years was something. You have to come in fresh to training every evening. If you are lacking, the whole thing will lag. Obviously Brian has such a love and grá for the whole thing that he was able to keep driving on and on.

Over the years I would have formed great friendships with the likes of Jackie (Tyrrell), Eddie (Brennan) and others and they would still talk about the legendary Friday night meetings when the Kilkenny team was being announced. The boys will tell you they still get a tingling down their spine when they think about those nights.

Ger Loughnane (the Clare manager) used to famously bring us into the goalmouth at the town end in Cusack Park on the Friday night as well to announce our teams, and the atmosphere was always electric. Those things you never forget.

I had great clashes as a manager against Brian Cody, but his teams won nearly all of them. When Dublin beat them in Portlaoise in the 2013 Leinster championship, the excitement level was off the charts. But then when we looked ahead we had to face Galway. My God! How were we going to raise the players again?



2 April 2011; Dublin manager Anthony Daly and Kilkenny manager Brian Cody in discussion on the sideline near the end of the game. Allianz Hurling League Division 1 Round 6; Dublin v Kilkenny, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Daire Brennan / SPORTSFILE

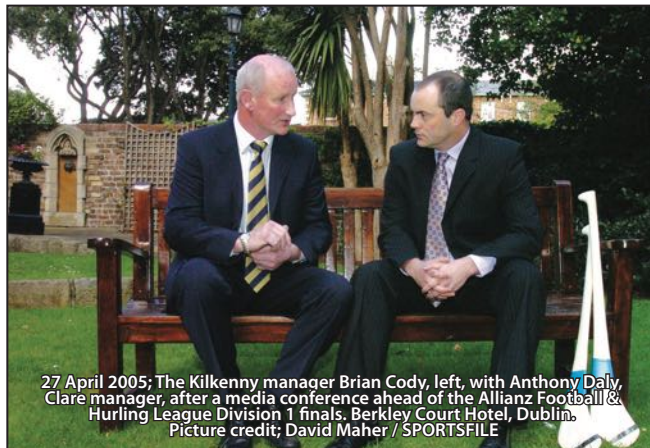
When Cody came into our dressing-room to offer his congratulations after that game he all but delivered our Leinster final speech to the players. He grabbed the attention of the room once he opened his mouth. He spoke about the importance of keeping the Bob O'Keeffe Cup in Leinster. He had at least half my job done for the final before he left the dressing-room.

The players had gone ape after the win, but when Cody stepped inside the door the place went silent, and I mean silent. Look, we had been waiting for something like this for years, and Brian didn't disappoint.

What was the most amazing thing after that was I had to go down to the Kilkenny dressing room and say hard luck to the players. The only time previously I got to do that was after the National League final (2011). The Kilkenny players looked broken to me that evening. Heads were down. Boots were thrown around the room. There were so many lads with ice packs on after taking knocks. Things didn't look good.

Going back to our dressing room I remember saying to my assistant, Richie Stakelum, that "I think they are gone". Gone? They bounced back immediately and beat Tipp. I didn't go to the game because I didn't want any distractions before facing Galway, but what I saw on the TV knocked me for six. I sent a text to Stakelum immediately saying "they are some bunch of men".

They ran out of road after that with injuries and whatever, but my gosh, to come back to win from the bad place they were in in Portlaoise was amazing.



27 April 2005; The Kilkenny manager Brian Cody, left, with Anthony Daly, Clare manager, after a media conference ahead of the Allianz Football & Hurling League Division 1 finals. Berkley Court Hotel, Dublin. Picture credit: David Maher / SPORTSFILE

You either win or learn in this game, and Cody always did one or the other. That is why he had such an outstanding record in replays. He was never afraid to ask himself after a defeat - what went wrong; what is the solution here; where do we need to go? That was his trademark.

Players who want to play at senior inter-county level have to be something different. You could always see that with Kilkenny. They were all in, all the time. The manager brought his standard to the group - it was 100% all the time.

Kilkenny's consistently high level of performance during Cody's 24 years, in the League as well as the Championship, staggered the rest of us looking in from the outside.

How was it done? The manager had to be central to that. Kilkenny always performed.

The All-Ireland four in-a-row, and nearly a five in-a-row, underlined that point.

You always knew you would never, never get an easy minute against a Cody team. On one occasion Brian and I were having it hot and heavy on the sideline and I think I said to him that "sure my mother would manage that team". He simply hit back: "we would have beaten your team too".

That was it in the heat of the moment on the sideline, but we always laughed about things afterwards. I have the utmost respect for Brian, always.

Losing was never a thing in the Kilkenny psyche, not with Brian Cody as manager. He left some legacy. It was an honour to go into battle against him, to try and out-wit him. He is a legend as a hurling man.



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# A PLAYER'S VIEW

## John Knox discusses Brian Cody with Eddie Brennan

Graigue-Ballycallan attacker, Eddie Brennan, played with the Kilkenny senior team for 12 years. He was part of 'Generation Cody', and he won eight senior All-Irelands under the one man who managed him at that level. He felt privileged to have arrived on the scene when he did. As far as he was concerned, Brian Cody had it all.

It was a bit of a surprise I suppose when Brian stepped down, but why should it be? No one had any right to expect anything more from him. His reign was supreme.

There were other times when people thought he might go but, on reflection, I think that 2011 was the big bounce back time. The All-Ireland win then put the whole five in-a-row thing to bed.

Kilkenny came back after losing the bid for five in 2010 and won two All-Irelands (2011 and '12). Many felt then that this was the time Brian might move on. Of course, two three in-a-row possibilities arose subsequently (in the seasons 2013 and 2016) and it was hard to walk away from that.

So his reign simply drove on. He had a matchless appetite for the job, and once he made his mind up at the start of any season that he was going to drive on then Kilkenny knew the job was in good hands. He worked through possibly three generations of players in Kilkenny and various different styles of play, and he maintained the winning touch throughout.

He has presided over an incredible era in Kilkenny hurling. I do a lot of reading on motivation and things like that looking for nuggets that might help you in sport. Brian had it all. He has amazing qualities that not only allowed him to endure, but to be a winner all the way.

Few people survive anymore at the high pressure level in sport that Brian did for so long. There are exceptional people in the GAA like Mick O'Dwyer, Sean Boylan and Brian Cody, who all stayed the course. To do 24 years is incredible.

I consider myself lucky to have arrived during his generation as manager. As a young lad I lived through a bit of a famine during the latter part of the eighties before the arrival of the great team in 1992 and '93. People on that team inspired us growing up, particularly DJ (Carey).

To get in on the scene at the latter end of the nineties, the end of 1999 and 2000 turned out to be an incredible 18 months for me. We went from winning an under-21 All-Ireland to the first taste of senior inter-county hurling and being part of an All-Ireland winning team.

What did Brian Cody see in all of us arriving then? He identified a group of like minded and driven people and he shaped them into a bunch who were very together. That was a word he always went to - together. He created a spirit amongst us, and got us to buy into his ideas.

Anyone who wasn't as fully driven as the others, he drilled that out of you. He got us to appreciate that there was a narrow window of opportunity and we should get as much out of it as we can.

There was always huge competition in the squad. Brian loved that. He loved lads scrapping for the jerseys.

The end result was he formed a group that was fiercely, fiercely competitive. With that mindset we were ready to take on anything.

You are shaped by your environment, and we as Kilkenny players were shaped by the environment Brian created with the squad. It is hard to describe exactly how he created the winning environment. He put a picture in front of us of what was achievable.

He had been there as a player, and a very good one at that. My view is that Brian Cody was an incredible player at minor and under-21 level, but maybe he didn't have the longevity at senior level he might have because of injuries. I think he drove us from that point of view; put that image there that things won't last forever for any player.

His view was don't ever be satisfied with the achievements in any one year. When you get to the next one you go again. He didn't point or push us in a certain direction, he dangled options in front of you and presented them in a manner that inspired.



21 August 2005; Kilkenny manager Brian Cody speaks to Eddie Brennan during the second half of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Semi-Final, Kilkenny v Galway. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

Some top people in sport say that the growth is in the stretch. When you are pushed out of your comfort zone it means you will go harder. That was the way with Brian. I suppose the analogy is that he put you into a pit and you had to fight your corner. If you fought for your corner he would reward you. It was that simple.

The training ground was the ultimate with him. I would even argue that the preparations and battles we had in Nowlan Park prepared us for anything. Brian always told us that we had experienced everything in Nowlan Park that we would face in any big match.

We were ready for everything that came at you in a championship match and we were able to adapt and survive, and ultimately thrive.

Brian was utterly consistent, and everyone in the squad was valued. Around 2004 he felt he needed to be more ruthless because some players, maybe myself included, needed to be a bit more focussed. He did this for the good of the group. In 2006 he brought in a bunch of new guys and he made it known that if they delivered and did the business he would persist with them.

That shook up some of the guys like myself whose appetite might have waned a bit. We soon found out we didn't like it that we might be pushed to the side. That dynamic probably made the team from 2006 onwards.

Brian was absolutely loyal to the players. Now and again there were tough comments thrown at

Kilkenny, but Brian always protected the group. He always looked out for you. You knew he had your back.

In that regard he reminded me a lot of Alex Ferguson. While we were pushed and tested competitively within the group, you knew he was always concerned about and loyal to the players.

Oh I was told off a few times by him, and he was right. No one could carry on in a way that might impact negatively on the wider group. I was whipped off at half-time against Clare in Croke Park in 2004. I wasn't tuned in and I was cleaned out.

While the chat was going on in the dressing room during half-time I was taking off my boots and he spoiled it. He asked me what I was doing. What he saw was a player wallowing in self pity. He was dead right. He asked "what if you are going to be put back on?" When I look back now I see exactly where he was coming from.

He was concerned about the impact my actions might have on the thinking within the group. I still had a responsibility to the group, and I needed to show support for it even if it was a bad day for me. He was 100% right. Instantly he saw the possibility of the bigger impact on the other 35 or so people in the room. No one could be seen to be giving up.

He often said at meetings that people would be disappointed about teams picked, and they would have disappointing days on the field. He insisted you didn't bring that disappointment to the group. You parked it, and threw your weight behind the group.

No one exemplified that more than Martin Comerford for the All-Ireland final in 2009. He got the bad news on the Friday before the game that he would not be playing. He was disappointed, sure, but he came on and made a huge impact in the match. He didn't sulk. He took what happened on Friday and by Sunday he was ready to help the team.

Those were the sort of characteristics that Brian Cody placed huge value on. He made some contribution. There are unique people in the GAA in terms of management. Without doubt Brian Cody is among the very best of them.

We lived through so much during his time as manager it was hard to take it all in, but when we reflect on things we will see we lived through the best of times.

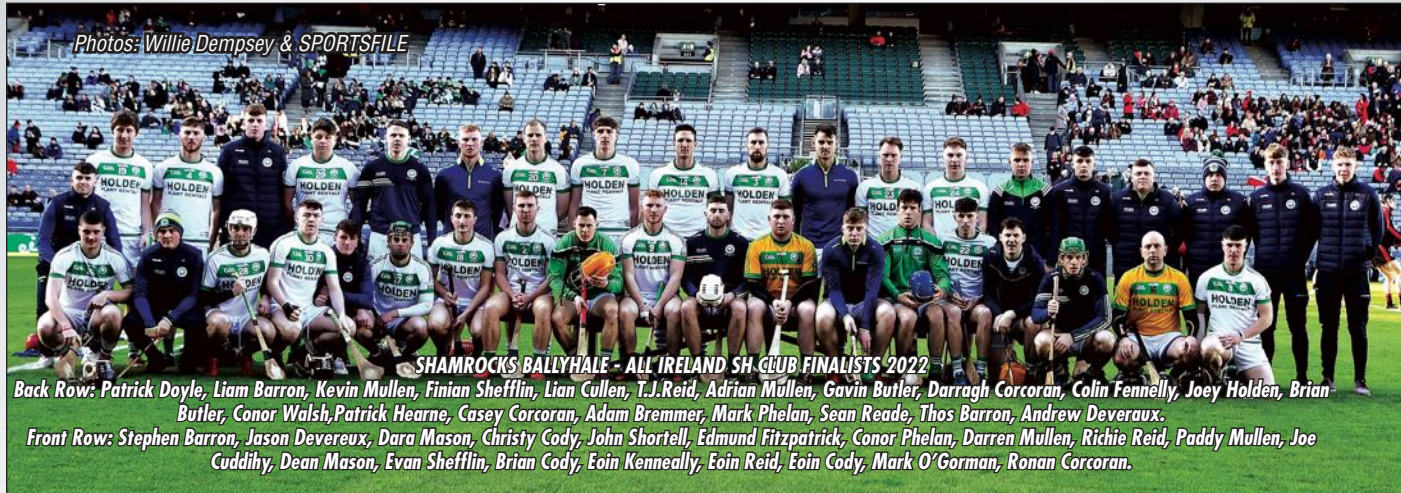
Behind it all, Brian was the ultimate competitor who competed to the very end as seen in the defiance shown by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final against Limerick.



1 March 2020; Laois manager Eddie Brennan with Kilkenny manager Brian Cody following the Allianz Hurling League Division 1 Group B Round 5 match between Laois and Kilkenny at UPMC Nowlan Park in Kilkenny. Photo by Michael P Ryan/Sportsfile

# Shamrocks miss out in Dramatic Finale

All Ireland Senior Club campaign by Tommy Lanigan



## AIB LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB HURLING SEMI-FINAL

### BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS 3-24, ST. RYNAGHS 2-18 (AET)

If ever Shamrocks rode their luck it was the Leinster semi-final against a fine St. Rynaghs side. The Offaly men more than matched Shamrocks throughout normal time in this outstanding Leinster semi-final.

Shamrocks started well and were thankful to have built a good lead in the opening quarter. Rynaghs fought back and closed matters to three points by the interval.

The dismissal of Joey Cuddihy close to half-time was a serious blow and Shamrocks struggled to contain a powerful surge midway through the second half from Rynaghs. They were three points ahead with seconds remaining. Then Eoin Cody somehow managed to squeeze in a goal to force a dramatic equalizer.

With a full complement in extra time, Shamrocks made no mistake and outscored the Offaly men 0-11 to 0-2 to ensure a comfortable win.

**Ballyhale Shamrocks:** D Mason, K Mullen, J Holden, B Butler, E Shefflin (0-2), R Reid, D Corcoran, R Corcoran (0-2), E Kenneally (0-1), B Cody (0-3), TJ Reid (0-6,4f), E Cody (2-3) A Mullen (0-5), C Fennelly (1-0), J

**Cuddihy. Subs:** P Mullen for Kenneally (50), D Mullen for Butler (52), E Reid (0-1) for Cuddihy (restored to 15 for ET), Kenneally for Fennelly inj (73), C Phelan for Shefflin inj (80 +1)

**St. Rynaghs:** C Clancy, C Hernon, P Camon, S Wynne, M Maloney, B Conneely, D Shortt, A Treacy (0-3), J O'Connor, P Quirke (0-4), S Lyons, G Conneely, S Quirke (0-1), S Dolan, L O'Connor (1-8,6f). **Subs:** R Hughes (1-2) for Camon inj (4), A Kenny for G Conneely (41), C Flannery for S Quirke (62), S Quirke for Flannery (70 ET), Flannery for S Quirke and N Wynne for Kenny (both 79), B Rigney for Lyons (86).

Referee – C Mooney (Dublin).

## AIB LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB HURLING FINAL

### BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS 6-23, CLOUGH-BALLACOLLA 0-14

First time Leinster club finalists Clough-Ballacolla were lambs to the slaughter as Ballyhale Shamrocks unleashed all their considerable power and craft to provide their supporters with one of their most complete performances in many years. Clough had a good, eager and strong team but were no match for a rampant Shamrocks for whom TJ Reid, Colin Fennelly and Eoin Cody were in imperious form.

The game was decided in the second quarter when Ballyhale shot 2-6 to 0-4 in reply and led by 3-11 to 0-10 at the interval. After their fright in the semi-final, it was clear that Shamrocks were going to be careful and the Clough tactic of playing an extra defender brought waves of Shamrocks pressure from the start. The scores flowed as they used the broad stretches of Croke Park to unhinge a decent opposition and make them look ordinary indeed.

**Scorers for Ballyhale Shamrocks:** Colin Fennelly 2-1, Eoin Cody 1-6 (0-3f), TJ Reid 0-6 (0-6f), Brian Cody and Eoin Reid 1-1 each, Adrian Mullen 1-0, Ronan Corcoran 0-4, Darragh Corcoran, Eoin Kenneally, Liam Barron and Paddy Mullen 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Clough-Ballacolla:** Aidan Corby 0-4, Willie Dunphy and Stephen Maher (0-3f) 0-3 each, Brian Corby, Lee Cleere, Jordan Walshe and Cillian Dunne 0-1 each.

**Ballyhale Shamrocks:** Dean Mason, Darren Mullen, Joey Holden, Kevin Mullen, Evan Shefflin, Richie Reid, Darragh Corcoran (0-1), Paddy Mullen (0-1), Ronan Corcoran (0-4), Eoin Cody (1-6, 3f), Brian Cody (1-1), Adrian Mullen (1-0), Colin Fennelly (2-1), TJ Reid (0-6f), Eoin Kenneally (0-1). **Subs:** Conor Phelan for Shefflin (42), Conor Walsh for Mullen (46), Eoin Reid (1-1) for TJ Reid (46), Brian Butler for Kevin Mullen (52), Liam Barron (0-1) for Kenneally (54)

**Clough-Ballacolla:** Cathal Dunne, Eoin Doyle, Darren Maher, Diarmaid Conway, Brian Corby (0-1), Michael McEvoy, Lee Cleere (0-1), Willie Hyland, Aidan Corby (0-4), Mark Hennessy, Willie Dunphy (0-3f), Stephen Maher (0-3f), Jordan Walshe (0-1), Stephen Bergin. **Subs:** Ronan Broderick for Maher (35), Cillian Dunne (0-1) for Hyland (42), John Dwyer for Bergin (46), Tom Delaney for McEvoy (47), Sean Corby for Hennessy (53).

## AIB ALL IRELAND SENIOR CLUB HURLING SEMI-FINAL

### BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS 2-15, ST. THOMAS'S 0-20

It took the genius of TJ Reid to pull Shamrocks through this game. Having scored 1-5 during the game and played like a demon, he was fouled somewhat needlessly to the right of the Thomas's goal. It was the fourth minute of extra



time and the angle suggested he was unlikely to score.

Somehow he rocketed the resultant free through a host of players to give Ballyhale a passage to yet another All Ireland final. Did they deserve the win? They got more scores, but the Galwaymen were the better side throughout an energy sapping encounter, filled with passion, robust defending, superb score taking by both sides. It was odd to see Shamrocks struggle, albeit against terrific opponents who knew how to master the Kilkenny side until the grandmaster struck at the finale.

Shamrocks were headed for almost all of the game as Thomas's contested every move and scored a succession of points. But goals win matches as they found out to their utter devastation.

**Ballyhale Shamrocks:** Dean Mason, Darren Mullen, Joey Holden, Kevin Mullen, Evan Shefflin, Richie Reid, Darragh Corcoran, Paddy Mullen, Conor Phelan, Brian Cody, TJ Reid (2-5, 1-3f, 1-0 pen), Adrian Mullen (0-1), Joe Cuddihy (0-3), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Eoin Cody (0-4). Subs: Eoin Kenneally for Phelan (inj) (29), Brian Butler for Kevin Mullen (inj) (42), Conor Walsh for Darren Mullen (55), Eoin Reid for Kenneally (58)

**St Thomas's:** Gerald Kelly, Cian Mahony, Fintan Burke, David Sherry, John Headd, David Burke, Cathal Burke, Evan Duggan, Bernard Burke (0-2), James Regan (0-1), Conor Cooney (0-11, 0-10f), Eanna Burke (0-4), Oisín Flannery, Darragh Burke (0-1), Bernard Farrell (0-1).

Subs: V Manso for Farrell (45), Mark Caulfield for Duggan (58)



TJ Reid scores his amazing goal against St Thomas's



Adrian Mullen shoots at goal during the semi-final.

## ALL IRELAND SENIOR CLUB HURLING FINAL

### BALLYGUNNER 2-19, BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS 1-19

Eventually their luck ran out. Having weathered storms against St. Rynaghs and St. Thomas's, Ballyhale were given a dose of their own medicine as Ballygunner captured their first All-Ireland Senior Club title in the most dramatic fashion.

Harry Ruddle went on as a late sub. for the Waterford side. Deep in injury time, as he pushed a ball ahead about fifty metres from the Shamrocks goal there didn't seem to be especial danger. However, as he advanced, no Shamrocks player came to confront him and Harry shot low and hard to the net from twenty metres. Ballygunner led for the second time in the game and thus captured a famous and well deserved Tommy Moore Cup.

The game had been a very good one between two superb club teams. Shamrocks were forced to line out without an injured Ronan Corcoran and never got to grips with midfield. Ballygunner matched Shamrocks in most sectors through the first half though Shamrocks found scores marginally easier and led by 0-10 to 0-7 at the interval.

An Eoin Reid goal in 43 minutes seemed to set Ballyhale for victory but the 'Gunners kept in touch with a succession of quality points. Nevertheless Ballyhale looked fair for victory until the intervention of Ruddle, who was fearless in pursuit of a winner.

**Ballygunner:** Stephen O'Keeffe, Ian Kenny, Barry Coughlan, Shane O'Sullivan, Tadhg Foley, Philip Mahony, Ronan Power, Conor Sheahan, Mikey Mahony (0-3), Peter Hogan, Pauric Mahony (0-7f), Kevin Mahony (0-2), Mikey Mahony, Dessie Hutchinson (1-3), Billy O'Keeffe (0-2). Subs: Cormac Power for Billy O'Keeffe (47), Harry Ruddle (1-0) for Conor Sheahan (53)

**Ballyhale Shamrocks:** Dean Mason, Darren Mullen, Joey Holden, Brian Butler, Evan Shefflin (0-2), Richie Reid, Darragh Corcoran (0-1), Conor Walsh, Patrick Mullen (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-2), TJ Reid (0-8, 4f, 1 '65), Joseph Cuddihy (0-1), Brian Cody (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Eoin Cody (0-1). Subs: Kevin Mullen for Richie Reid (temp - 11-14), Eoin Reid (1-0) for Conor Walsh (ht), Kevin Mullen for Brian Butler (33), Conor Phelan for Patrick Mullen (temp - 47-48).

# Magnificent Mooncoin soar to Glory

Robert Cribbin / KILKENNY PEOPLE

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE



**MOONCOIN - 2022 ALL IRELAND JUNIOR HURLING CLUB CHAMPIONS**

**Back Row:** Ciarán Quilty James Delahunty Billy Delahunty Cormac Fleming Stephen Wall Oisín Hennebry Sean O'Dwyer Cormac Daly Sean Walsh Martin O'Neill John Fitzgerald Kevin Crowley Danny Purcell Patrick Walsh Paul Hennebry Mairtín Gannon Seamus Kearns Paraic Murphy Shane Walsh Ethan Ryan.  
**Front Row:** James Aylward Adam Croke Aidan Doyle Alan Walsh Sean Brennan Lee Treacy Ryan Carroll Donnacha Hogan Killian Hogan Eoin Purcell Conor Brophy Mark Kearns Sean Gannon Ryan Croke Stephen Crowley James Delahunty Niall Madden.

Mooncoin are the All-Ireland Junior hurling champions after they edged past Ballygiblin of Cork in a cracking final in Croke Park on Saturday evening.

Mooncoin now become the 10th club from Kilkenny to win at the grade since it's inception and the minimum margin success will taste very sweet after they were on the wrong end of a similar result when losing out to Mayfield in 2017.

The victory caps a wonderful season for the South Kilkenny club and to win an All-Ireland title under the lights of Croke Park is the icing on the cake after a magical few months.

The game ebbed and flowed from one way to the next and although Ballygiblin were the better side in the opening half, Mooncoin came back in style in the second half with a devastating third quarter proving crucial in getting over the line.

Ballygiblin threw Mark Keane up to full forward for the final few minutes and they gradually reeled the Kilkenny side in but Mooncoin weren't going to let this opportunity slip by and after Martin O'Neill converted a sideline cut from over 70 metres out, you knew it was going to be their day.

O'Neill's brilliance edged Mooncoin two clear in stoppage time and it was enough to hold off their opponents who themselves enjoyed a breakout season.

While the headlines will go to O'Neill after scoring four points, the likes of Killian Hogan, Adam Croke, Patrick Walsh and John Fitzgerald were all brilliant in attack for the All Ireland champions.

The defence also stood tall in times of great adversity as they succeeded in shutting down Ballygiblin in the second half.

Mooncoin made a brilliant start to the



**Mooncoin captain Niall Madden lifts the cup**

game as they sailed into a 0-6 to 0-2 after only 10 minutes of play with Patrick Walsh, Martin O'Neill, John Fitzgerald and Kevin Crowley all on target for the Kilkenny side.

The Ballygiblin midfield pairing of Darragh Flynn and Ryan Donegan got their sole efforts in that period but when Joseph O'Sullivan converted a pair of frees and Michael Walsh also scored from play, the margin was down to a solitary point (0-6 to 0-5).

Walsh responded with a free for Mooncoin before Adam Croke knocked over the first of his two near impossible points right on the endline but Ballygiblin then finished the half the stronger. Points from Flynn, Sean O'Sullivan and Colin English levelled matters by the 27th minute and they ended up leading at the break with further points from the two O'Sullivans leaving Ballygiblin 0-10 to 0-9 ahead.

Mooncoin emerged for the second half as a completely different team altogether and they dominated the opening stages of the second half.

During that spell Killian Hogan got three points from play and although Dean Barry netted for Ballygiblin in the 37th minute when he latched onto a long delivery from Mark Keane, Mooncoin still had a response and they were leading 0-18 to 1-12 as the game entered the final few minutes. Keane was then pushed into full forward for the Cork side in the final few minutes and he succeeded in causing Mooncoin defensive issues that resulted in Joseph O'Sullivan knocking over a series of frees. Ballygiblin got the margin back to a point as a result but crucially O'Sullivan missed a free to level up matters in the 56th minute. That was a missed opportunity that would come back to haunt Ballygiblin as they could never get level with Mooncoin afterwards.

After Walsh and O'Sullivan swapped frees, Adam Croke then knocked over what looked to be the winner as Mooncoin crept two points clear.

Ballygiblin weren't going away quietly though and another O'Sullivan free, his eighth of the game, left a solitary point between them.

## PATH TO THE FINAL

27 November 2021 Quarter-final Johnstown Park	Mooncoin 3-23 St Oliver Plunkett's 1-14 (Westmeath)
11 December 2021 Semi-final St Patricks Park	Mooncoin 5-16 Tara Rocks 2-19 (aet) (Wexford)
27 November 2021 Leinster final UPMC Nowlan Park	Mooncoin 4-13 Shamrocks 0-15 (Offaly)
Sunday 23 January 2022 All Ireland Semi-Final LIT Gaelic Grounds, Limerick	Mooncoin 2-26 Salthill-Knocknacarra 0-12 (Galway)
Saturday 5 February 2022 All Ireland Final Páirc an Chrócaigh	Mooncoin 1-18 Ballygiblin 0-22 (Cork)



*Mooncoin fans in Croke Park*



*Martin O'Neill's wonderful sideline point secured the match for Mooncoin.*



*Ciarán Quilty of Mooncoin in action against Barry Coffey of Ballygiblin.*

It was at this stage that Martin O'Neill decided to outshine the likes of Joe Canning and Austin Gleeson as he blasted a sideline cut between the posts and if ever there was a score worthy of winning an All-Ireland title, that was certainly it and boy did the youngster enjoy it as he leapt away in delight.

The game still wasn't over though and Ballygiblin threw everything at Mooncoin as they tried to force an equaliser but the Kilkenny side stood tall to hold out for a famous victory.

**TEAMS AND SCORERS**

**Mooncoin:** Patrick Walsh (0-6, 0-4f), John Fitzgerald (0-5, 0-1 65), Martin O'Neill (0-4, 0-1f), Killian Hogan (0-3), Adam Croke (0-2), Kevin Crowley and Ciaran Quilty (0-1 each) (01 each)

**Ballygiblin:** Joseph O'Sullivan (0-9, 0-8f, 0-1 65), Darragh Flynn (0-4), Dean Barry (1-0), Sean O'Sullivan (0-2), Colin English, Michael Walsh and Ryan Donegan (0-1 each)

**Mooncoin-** Eoin Purcell; Aidan Doyle, Cormac Daly, Mark Kearns; Martin O'Neill, Paul Henebery, Jim Delahunty; Mairtin Gannon, Sean Gannon; Ciaran Quilty, John Fitzgerald, Kevin Crowley; Adam Croke, Patrick Walsh, Killian Hogan. Subs: Sean O'Dwyer for Crowley 40 mins.

**Ballygiblin-** Christopher Noonan; Brian O'Gorman, Fionn Herlihy, James Mullins; Barry Coffey, Mark Keane, Michael Lewis; Ryan Donegan, Darragh Flynn; Joseph O'Sullivan, Colin English, Michael Walsh; Kieran Duggan, Sean O'Sullivan, Dean Barry. Subs: Dillon Sheehan for Duggan 47 mins, Aidan Donegan for Barry 56 mins.

**Referee-** Brian Keon (Galway)



*Mooncoin manager Willie Coogan studies the match programme before the game.*

# Kilkenny Handballers Make Up For Lost Time

Handball Report by Martin Lawlor PRO



Following the uncertainty that existed in sport over the previous two years, Irish Handball entered 2022 with some concern about the welfare of the game. As a sport, Handball had suffered more than most, mainly due to the small confined areas within courts. This resulted in Handball being slow to

get back to its pre-pandemic days.

However, once handball was up and running, there was no holding back, and during the course of the year, the sport has almost returned to its former levels.

In Kilkenny, business returned to normal, with the county continuing to be successful at Provincial and National level, with our juveniles, once again, setting the standard.

## 4 Wall

First up in the early months of the year were the 4 Wall Championships, including the Irish Nationals. In the All Ireland series, the county were successful in winning three titles. There was victory for Aoife Holden (Kilfane) as she claimed the Ladies Junior Singles title when defeating Mayo in two sets, 21-18, 21-7. In the Men's Emerald Masters B Singles grade, Richie Falsey (Windgap) won his first All Ireland title with a hard fought 13-21, 21-5, 11-8 win over Monaghan. Also successful at the finals weekend was Johnny Brennan (Mothel) as he overcame the challenge of Mayo, 21-16, 17-21, 11-9 to claim the Ruby Masters Singles title.

In the elite Minor Doubles championships, Kilkenny pairings were victorious in both the Men's and Ladies finals. There was a tremendous victory for Amy Brennan (Clogh) and Nathania Jackson (Windgap) in the Ladies decider as they overcame the challenge of Tyrone 16-21, 21-7, 11-7. The Kilfane duo, Kyle Jordan and Conor Holden were comfortable winners of the Men's grade as they defeated Sligo, 21-4, 21-4.

Elsewhere, the Ladies pairing of Aoife Holden (Kilfane) and Noelle Dowling (Mothel) were the sole winners in the All Ireland Doubles championship as they captured the Junior crown with a thrilling win over Tyrone, 17-21, 21-19, 11-10.

In the Juvenile championships, Kilkenny were to the forefront when winning eight All Ireland titles. The county was dominant in the girl's championships, as they won five of the eight titles on offer. In the U15 grade, Katie Jordan (Kilfane) won her final against Clare in two games, 15-11, 15-11, and in the Doubles final in the same age group, Mia O'Connell (Kells) and Jenny Saunders (Windgap) defeated Galway, 15-3, 15-3. There was success in the Girls U16 Doubles when Holly Byrne and Katie Brennan (Clogh) comfortably beat Clare, 21-4, 21-3. To complete a great day for the girls, Emer Barron (Windgap) had a hard fought tie break win in the U17 final against Sligo, 20-21, 21-8, 11-4, and in the U17 Doubles decider, Amy Coady (Glenmore) and Aishling Cooney (Clogh) beat Galway 21-3, 21-11.

There was further success in the Boys finals with Andrew Brennan (Talbots Inch) and Mattie Murphy (Kells) winning the U14 Doubles title by defeating Clare, 9-15, 15-13, 15-9. In the U16 grade, Conor Doyle (Windgap) captured the Singles crown when beating Cork, 21-11, 21-8, and in the Doubles decider, Kells duo, John Hayes and Cathal Buckley also overcame Cork opposition, 21-4, 21-11. There was disappointment in the Boys U15 Singles final as Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) lost to a strong Tipperary opponent, 15-11, 6-15, 15-6.

The Irish 4Wall Nationals were also played this year after being put on hold due to the pandemic, with a strong representation from Kilkenny travelling to Ulster for the weekend event. There was success for Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) in the Boys 17 and under grade as he gained some revenge for his Minor final defeat by beating Cormac Finn (Sligo), 15-3, 15-5. In the Boys 15 and under, Noah Manogue (O'Loughlins) was runner up to Wexford.

## Softball

As was the case in the four wall Juvenile championships, Kilkenny were very much the dominant county in the All Ireland Juvenile championships when winning six of the titles on offer. In Boys U14 Doubles, Talbots Inch duo, Rian Dowling and



**Emerald Masters B and Ruby Masters Champions, Richie Falsey and Johnny Brennan**



**Boys U16/17 Team winners**



**Girls 4Wall U17 Doubles champions with coaches Sean Kennedy and Brendan Hosey**

**Ladies Junior Softball Doubles Roisin O'Keefe and Deirdre Purcell**



**SMBD champions, Willie Murphy and John Morrissey**

**Boys U16 Softball Singles Winner with runner up from Roscommon**



**Minor Doubles champions, Kyle Jordan and Conor Holden**

**Girls U17 champion**



**BOYS U12/13 champions**

**Boys U17 winner**



Dan Carroll were in top form when winning their final against Tipperary, 15-7, 15-14. Another Talbots Inch player, Anthony Clifford, was victorious in the U15 Singles decider against Galway, and won in two games, 15-11, 15-0. In Boys U16 Singles, Noah Manogue (O'Loughlins) defeated Roscommon, 21-9, 21-11 to secure the title, and in the Boys U17 grade, Kilkenny won both titles. In the Singles final, Michael Brennan (Clogh) defeated Tipperary, 21-7, 21-12, and in the Doubles decider, Kells pair, John Hayes and Cathal Buckley overcame Cork, 21-4, 21-12. There was more success for the Kells/Windgap pairing of Mia O'Connell and Jenny Saunders as they defeated Tipperary, 15-4, 15-13 in the U15 Doubles final, thus completing a great year having won the 4 Wall title in the same grade earlier in the year.

On the adult front, the county had to be content with four All Ireland titles. At Senior level, Talbots Inch duo, Ciaran Neary and Michael Clifford came narrowly short of dethroning the All Ireland champions, Meath, when they lost a titanic battle at the quarter final stage, 14-21, 21-15, 11-9. There was also a tie breaker defeat for Aoife Holden (Kilfane) and Ciara Mahon (Clogh) in the Ladies Senior Doubles semi-final as they lost to Kildare, 18-2, 21-12, 11-2.

In the Minor grade there was mixed emotions for Kyle Jordan (Kilfane). In the Singles final he was narrowly defeated by Sligo in the tie breaker, while, in the Doubles, Kyle and fellow clubman, Conor Holden were declared champions when Sligo had to concede a walkover in the decider.

There was All Ireland success for Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilfane) and Deirdre Purcell (Windgap) in the Ladies Junior Doubles championship as they defeated Limerick opposition, 21-17, 21-19. In the Mens Silver Masters B grade, Willie Murphy (Kilfane) had a great year when winning both All Ireland titles on offer. In his Singles final against Galway, Willie was a comfortable 21-7, 21-5 winner, and in the Doubles final, Willie and John Morrissey (O'Loughlins) blitzed Galway in two sets, 21-4, 21-0 to secure victory.

**Nationals** - The Softball Irish Nationals was a successful event for Kilkenny pairs, winning the Boys U17 and U15 titles, while the Girls U13 winners were a Kilkenny /Kerry combination. In Boys U17, Kyle Jordan and Eanna O'Keeffe (Kilfane) were the winners, Noah Manogue (O'Loughlins) and Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) were victors, and in Girls U13, Shauna Hates (Kells) teamed with a Kerry player to win out the event.

Defeat was the order of the day in Boys U17 (Niall Drennan (Galmoy)/Conor Doyle (Windgap), Boys U13, Conor Deegan/Rian Dowling (Talbots Inch), Girls U17, Nathania Jackson/Emer Barron (Windgap) and in Girls U5, Katie Jordan (Kilfane) and Holly Byrne (Clogh). In the Mens 40+B grade, Willie Murphy and John Morrissey were runners up to Wexford.

**Feile Na Gael** - For the first time in three years, the Feile Na Gael events returned to the courts. The Talbots Inch teams were dominant in both codes as they won Division 1 titles in the 4 Wall and Softball events. In the 4Wall tournaments held in June, Talbots Inch were victorious in the final against a strong Abbeyknockmoy, Galway side. Kells were winners in the Boys Division 7 grade, with a second Talbots Inch team taking runners-up in Division 4

Following the success in the 4 Wall event, Talbots Inch claimed the honours in the Division 1 Softball event when defeating Tyrone opposition in the decider. Kilfane girls claimed runners up spot in the Division 1 grade, and Kells boys came second in the Division 2 competition.

The Talbots Inch winning teams were; Anthony Clifford, Rian Dowling, Andrew Brennan, James Kenny and Dan Carroll.

**Teams** - In the All Ireland Softball Junior championships, the Kilfane team of Conor Holden, Kyle Jordan, Dylan Caulfield, Willie Holden and Willie Murphy were crowned champions. In the Boys 4 Wall U16/17 championship the Kilkenny team of Eanna O'Keeffe (Kilfane), Ronan O'Brien and Evan Doyle (Windgap), Michael Stynes (Talbots Inch), Rory Glynn and Luke Hanrahan (O'Loughlins) were victorious in the All Ireland final against Cork.

The Boys U12/13 team were also victorious in the 4Wall championships as they edged out Tyrone in the semi-final, and then were comfortable winners over Galway in the final. The winning squad was; Jake O'Neill, Mattie Corr, Steve Hoyne, Conor Manogue, Darragh McCormack and Lorcan Mahony (all Kells), Jack Egan and Shane Doyle (both Windgap).

**WallBall Nationals** - The Wallball Nationals, held in Roscommon, were a successful weekend for Kilkenny girls as they won the three juvenile titles on offer that weekend. In Girls 13 and under, Niamh Drennan (Galmoy) was the winner, Katie Jordan (Kilfane) won the Girls 15 and under grade, and Emer Barron (Windgap) was victorious in Girls 17 and under. In Boys 17 and under, Kyle Jordan was runner up to Armagh.



All Ireland Junior team champions, Kilfane



Boys 4 Wall U16 winner



Boys U15 Winner with runner up from Galway



Boys U14 Softball Doubles champions



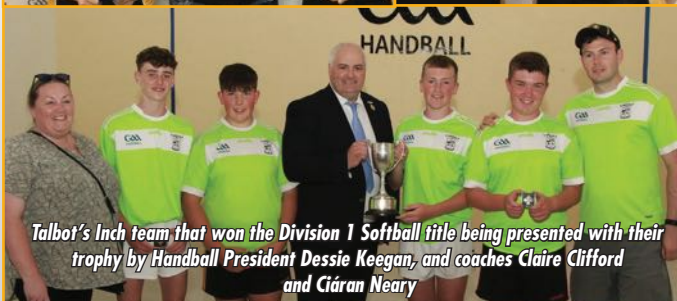
Boys U16 and U17 Doubles champions



Girls U16 4wall Doubles champions with coach Billy Love



Ladies Minor Doubles, Amy Brennan and Nathania Jackson



Talbot's Inch team that won the Division 1 Softball title being presented with their trophy by Handball President Dessie Keegan, and coaches Claire Clifford and Ciaran Neary



Talbots Inch Division 1 4Wall champions



Girls U15 Doubles



Ladies 4Wall Junior Doubles winners Aoife Holden and Noelle Dowling



Girls U15 Winner with runner up from Clare

# Around the Handball Clubs

## Clogh

Clogh Handball Club has had great success with Juveniles over the past 30 years. Then along came Covid 19 and our club along with all other handball clubs were brought to a full stop with all activities ceasing. It had a huge impact on our club. No one playing for the whole of 2020. A little freedom in 2021 but lockdown hit again halting what little bit of freedom we had. When the pandemic finally eased we went in search of new players. And out of the blue we found boys and girls willing to give handball a go. With players from 5 to 17 starting to play hopes were on the up. Our strong players reached and won several Leinster finals All Ireland semi finals and All Ireland titles. Our beginners entered county championships and did the club proud. We didn't take any titles but participating was our first aim the rest might or might not come. Having young players back hitting balls in the courts was great to see. Our young players train twice a week and we encourage parents to bring them down once or twice a week as well. They are all enjoying handball and willing to play out game time they are already on the way to success.

## Glenmore

Our girls handball tournament finally reached a conclusion on Tuesday night in Glenmore when Kilfane took on the hosts. These two teams had met in round one with the spoils being shared in a 3-3 draw, so it was a fitting finale to a very competitive tournament to have these two sets of girls slug it out for every ace like Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano going toe to toe. With the spoils shared at 2-2 following the U14 and U16 matches we entered the U17 match with a single ace advantage to the visitors.



Boys 4 Wall U16 winner



Boys 4 Wall U16 winner

Glenmore took the first game 21-10 meaning they needed to get to 12 to secure the win. Kilfane served at 20-11 as tensions reached a climax, however the final game ended 21-12 which meant the final ended a 3-3 draw with Glenmore taking away the winners prize by a single ace - 86 to 85. Big thanks to Sean Kennedy for sponsoring and well done to all clubs and girls that participated and made the tournament a success.

## Kells:



## Kilfane:

Kilfane Handball has been staying very progressive in these testing times since Covid 19 hit us all in early 2020. While our court playing time was relatively limited we in kilfane kept on planning for better times ahead which hopefully we are now seeing light at the end of the tunnel. During lockdown we got our brand new state of the art 40x20 court completed. Also we decided to construct a new one wall (wall ball) court as out door handball was our only option to keep



juveniles and adults playing while the indoor courts were closed. We now have the 3 size courts 60x30, 40x20 and wall ball on the one site. We also had great success on the courts at County, Provincial and All Ireland level in 2022 which is covered in the Kilkenny Gaa Handball report.



## Mothel

Mothel Handball Club once again tasted plenty of success in 2022. To kick off their year, Johnny Brennan took home the 40x20 Emerald Masters A Singles All Ireland title. To add further success to the 40x20 season, Noelle Dowling, partnered by Aoife Holden (Kilfane), brought back the 40x20 Ladies Junior Doubles All-Ireland title. Mothel carried the same form into the 60x30 season. After winning the Over 35B Singles Leinster final, Diarmuid Brennan reached the All-Ireland final, bringing home the silver medal. Also bringing home another Leinster title was Johnny Brennan, partnered by Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlin Gaels) when they won the Ruby Masters A Leinster Doubles title. Paul Dowling, alongside Eamonn Purcell (Windgap), reached the Emerald Masters A Leinster final before being pipped by Meath. All-in-all, Mothel once again had a successful year on the courts and wish to continue their successes for the 2023 season.



## O'Loughlins



## Talbot's inch



## Windgap:

It was a welcome return to normal handball calendar year for the members of Windgap Handball Club. The alley was a hive of activity all through out the season as you see from the picture our members Emer Barron, Conor Doyle, Nathania Jackson, Richie Falsey and Jenny Saunders were rewarded for their hard training with All Ireland success. I'd like to thank my fellow officers and volunteer members who helped out in any way albeit training Juveniles or maintaining the alley, all much appreciated. We did also host Feile na Gael which was great for our members to participate in, while results didn't go our way it was great day of handball. Thanks to all who helped out.



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# A VERY PRODUCTIVE SEASON

Development  
Squads Report  
by Brian Ryan



Listening to the Word....

The Kilkenny GAA Development Squads during the 2022 had a very productive season under the Chairmanship of Giarán Muldowney (Conahy Shamrocks). The Development Squads are designed to compliment the activities that players are involved in with their Club and Post Primary Schools.

Action started in January, with each Squad at U14 /U15 and U16 (who also competed in the U17 Inter-county Celtic Challenge), participating in a mix of Strength and Conditioning sessions, "on the field" coaching sessions, 5 National Game Blitz days, playing several challenge games, all culminating in the End of Season Tournaments at the end of August.

Player development is the key piece of the Development Squad systems, while ensuring each team is as competitive as possible. Exposing players to the type of games that players will be experience at Inter-county level is another key facet of the Squads within the County. We are very conscious of the late developer and therefore the door is always open to any player not selected initially.

The Squads competed quite well, with our U14 Tony Forristal panel, reaching the Final, our Sonny Walsh team being defeated in their semi-final.

At U15 Our "A" Squad were defeated their semi-final, with our U15 "B" reaching their Final.

Our U16s made the Semi-Final of the Celtic Challenge (An intercountry U17 competition) and reached the semi-final of their U16 competition.

As the Yearbook goes to print, over 160 Club Players have been involved in 6 Coaching sessions, throughout October/November, and will compete in trials to help select a group to start the U14 Development Squads of 2023. Our U14s (x52 players and next years U15s) have commenced Strength and Conditioning sessions, in the dedicated Development Squad gym in St. Kierans College, with a view to being joined by U15/U16 players who do not make the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Panel for the start of the 2023 season.

A big thanks to all involved from our dedicated cohort of coaches/mentors, clubs/schools who provide their excellent facilities, Joe Pyke, our countrywide renowned logistics manager, the parents/guardians who drive their children all over the county and most importantly the players who have represented their clubs/schools/families so well when wearing the famous Black and Amber. Roll on the 2023 season.

Here is an overview of the 2022 seasons activities:

- Management Teams in place January 2022, comprising of 22 volunteer mentors.
- Initially 3 x U14 Squads, 2 X U15 Squads and 2 x U16 Squads operating.
- U14s Panel of 48 Players - 31 contact sessions/ games January 22nd to August 27th.
- U15s Panel of 55 Players - 25 contact sessions/games February 21st to August 27th.
  - U16s Panel of 45 Players (including County Minors once eliminated from Leinster campaign) – 25 sessions/games February 5th to August 27th. (U16s entered the U17 Celtic Challenge).
- Tickets for Leinster Senior Hurling Final distributed to Coaches and Clubs who provide their facilities /Gear for Coaches/Injuries taken care of by J. Pyke.
- Kilkenny GAA Gear for Players and Mentors distributed as provided by Kilkenny GAA.
- Strength and Conditioning /Athletic Development Sessions for U16s/U15s in St. Kieran's College gym. (6-8 sessions) under the direction of Seán Kelly (Performance GDA)
- Introduction to Athletic Development pitch based sessions U14s. (Injury Prevention/Warm Up).
- Coach Education opportunity with Leinster GAA.
- 126 club players represented Kilkenny on the Development Squad Finals Day August 27th 2022.
  - Linked with James Stephens GAA/Danesfort GAA/Erins Own GAA/ Fenians GAA/ Clara GAA/St. Patricks GAA/Thomastown GAA /Piltown GAA/Kilmacow GAA and St. Kieran's College who kindly assisted the programme by providing the use of their facilities.
- U13 Regional Club Sessions x 6 took place after U13 Local Championship completed, with a view to having players selected for U14 2023 Development Squads to commence January 2023.
- U14/15/16s to enter a Strength and Conditioning Programme by end of October 2022.
- U15/U16 Players had access to Team Builder strength and conditioning software for individual and group session programs throughout the season.



U14 V Galway

23.04.2022



U16 v Cork Action



**DEVELOPMENT SQUAD MENTORS  
2022**

**U13 "Cat" Academy**

- Ciaran Prendergast (Clara)
- Donal O'Brien (Piltown)
- Tom Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks)
- Ciaran Breen (Barrow Rangers)
- Philp Champion (St. Lachtains)
- Paddy Farrell (Carrickshock)
- Ciarán Muldowney (Conahy Shamrocks)
- Philip Heafey (Graigueballycallan)
- Dessie Walsh (Thomastown)
- Liam Lacy (St. Patricks)
- Paul Ronan (Graigueballycallan)

**U14 Tony Forristal/Sonny Walsh**

- Ciarán Muldowney (Conahy Shamrocks)
- Liam Lacy (St. Patricks )
- Ciaran Neary (Dicksboro)
- David Buggy (Erins Own)
- Donal O'Brien (Piltown)
- Philip Heafy (Graigueballycallan)
- Dave Williams (Kilmacow)
- Paul Ronan (Graigueballycallan)

**U15**

- Seán Kelly (St. Martins)
- Pat Hoban (Mullinavat)
- Simon Walton (Dicksboro)
- Mark Bergin (O'Loughlin/Gaels)
- Jim Norris (Piltown)
- James Gittens (Dicksboro)
- Pat Nolan (Blacks/Whites)

**U16**

- Liam Dowling (St. Martins)
- PJ Ryan (Fenians)
- Padraig Keegan (St. Martins)
- Seamus Norris (Piltown)
- John O'Grady (Blacks/Whites)

# Colleges Round-Up

2nd Level Report by Pat Henderson



Coláiste Eamonn Ris won Senior Hurling C Leinster title



TEAM BRINGING THE CUP BACK TO OUR FORMER PRINCIPAL BR DAMIEN BRENNAN GRAVESIDE ON THE EVENING THAT WE WON



St Kieran's Handball - Cathal Buckley and John Hayes



St Kieran's Handball - Conor Doyle



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Horse Racing), Richie Power (GAA), Ciaran Neary (GAA/Handball).  
Seated L/R: Pat TYReacy (Head of Sport), Aoife Lanigan (Camogie), Eamonn Butler (All Sport), Nickey Brennan (GAA), Joe Hennessy (GAA)  
Inset: Ber Scott (Racing/Soccer), Ciaran Muldowney (GAA Development)

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*SKC 2nd Year Hurling Team*



*SKC Junior A Hurling Team Leinster League and Championship winners*



*Junior 'B' Football - South Leinster Winners and Leinster Finalists*

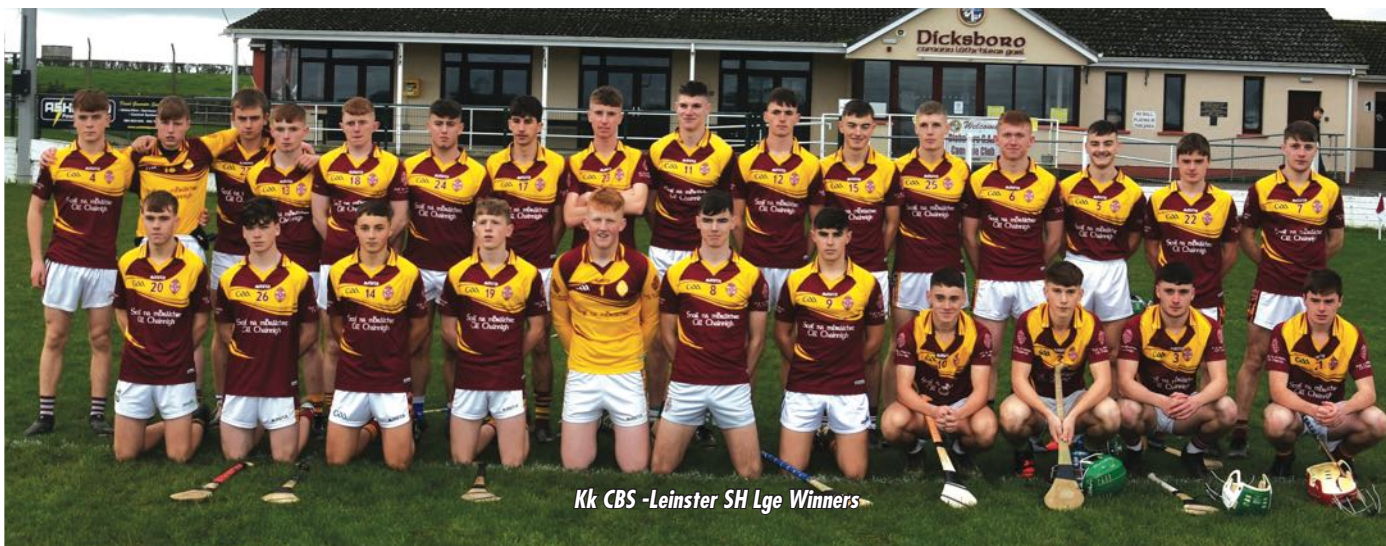




*SKC Senior Team - All Ireland Finalists*



*Kilkenny CBS team who won the Larry Doyle cup for first year Hurling defeating St Peters Wexford in the final.  
Cup presented by Ann Doyle*



*Kk CBS -Leinster SH Lge Winners*



*Duiske - 2nd Year Hurling C Runners up*



*Scoil Aireagail - 2nd Year Hurling C Winners*



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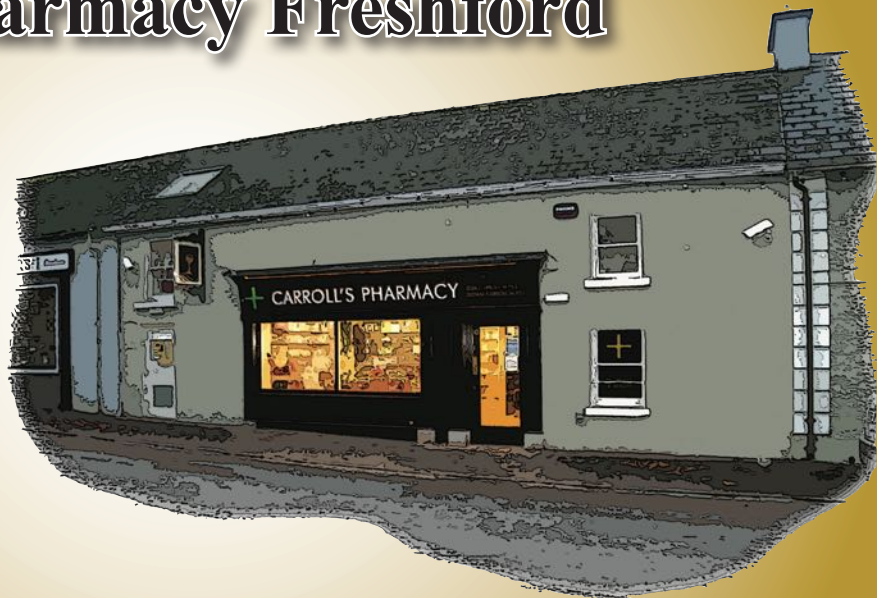
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# Kilkenny's youngest All Ireland winning captain was from Callan

Liam Burke



Dan Stapleton

**DAN STAPLETON**, who was born in Tullamaine in the parish of Callan on May 14th 1886, is Kilkenny's youngest Senior Hurling All Ireland winning captain. Dan captained Kilkenny in the 1905 final replay when he was just 21 years and 47 days old. This All Ireland final was played on June 30th. 1907.

Cork had won the 1905 final on a high score line of 5-10 to 3-13 the first day. It was played in Tipperary town, but Kilkenny objected on the grounds that Dan McCarthy the Cork goalkeeper was illegal, as he was a reservist in the British army. At a Central Council meeting which was held to deal with the objection, Cork raised a counter objection to Matt Gargan

who they said had played with Waterford in the Munster Championship. This was admitted, so eventually a replay of the All Ireland was agreed.

Kilkenny proved to be a far more determined outfit in the replay, and eventually went on to win their first All Ireland in the famed black and amber jerseys. The first day the Kilkenny players all wore different jerseys while the Cork team lined out in all blue. Cork led by 2-6 to 2-2 at the interval, but Kilkenny, with Jimmy Kelly "the scoring machine", ran riot in the second half. It was reckoned that Kelly scored 5-2 in total, which equalled the 3-11 scored by Eddie Keher in the All Ireland final of 1971. The final score was Kilkenny 7-7 to 2-9 for Cork, who only scored three points in the second half.

Dan Stapleton also figured at midfield on the Kilkenny All-Ireland winning team of 1904 and 1907, but he was only one of three Kilkenny players who captained Kilkenny to All-Ireland victories before their 22nd birthdays. The other two were Billy Fitzpatrick of The Fenians of Johnstown and Jimmy Walsh of Ballyhale.

Dan Stapleton an ex-pupil of Callan CBS, who later played his club hurling with the famous Erin's Own in Kilkenny, was a chemist by profession. He ran a business in High Street, where Michael O'Mahony MPSI now has his chemist shop. Dan who moved to Dublin shortly after the 1907 final, also won three Leinster medals with Kilkenny, and he also featured prominently on the Kilkenny team that won the Railway Shield outright following three victories. He also won a senior county championship medal in the 1905 final when Erin's Own defeated Tullaroan by 5-6 to 2-8. Dan was also a noted footballer and figured with Kilkenny on many occasions.

While in Dublin Dan was deeply involved with the Kilkennymen's association for many years, and held the position of President for a number of terms. He also became an active member of the Irish Republican Army during the war of Independence, and while experimenting with chemicals he produced many explosives and hand made bombs which were used by him and his associates at that time.

Following the Anglo-Irish treaty, Dan joined the National Army, and eventually held the rank of Commandant for ten years. He then joined the Garda Siochana in 1932, and was in charge of the Technical Branch where he adopted many of the modern methods of crime research at the time. He also became the Official State Ballistics Expert, and figured in many murder trials. Dan retired with the rank of Superintendent in 1957.

Dan Stapleton, Kilkenny's youngest Senior Hurling All-Ireland winning captain, lived in Skerries Co Dublin where he died on September 21st 1968 aged 82.

## BILLY FITZPATRICK 1975

Billy Fitzpatrick, The Fenians in Johnstown, has the honour of being Kilkenny's second youngest All-Ireland winning captain. He was born on April 6th 1954, and was 21 years and 154 days old when he captained Kilkenny to a great victory over Galway in 1975 to take their 20th title. This was the first 70 minute All-Ireland final.

Few teams would have troubled Kilkenny on that first Sunday in September in 1975, as they gave a wonderful display, and even though Billy did not score, he still contributed to a great attacking unit. In 1972, when Kilkenny recorded a great double victory, Billy Fitzpatrick produced a masterful display in the Minor final when he scored 3-4 to help the black and amber youngsters to a devastating victory over Cork. Following his Primary education in Johnstown, Billy later attended St. Kieran's college. Having developed his hurling skills

even further, he first tasted success when he helped St Kieran's to win the All Ireland Colleges final of 1971. He was named the captain of the team the following year when the famed Kilkenny College lost to Farnferris of Cork in the final.

The Fenians clubman who arrived a few years after the rise to fame of the Johnstown club, holds senior county Championship medals won in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1977. Billy also played on the Kilkenny All-Ireland winning teams of 1974, 1979, 1982 and 1983, as well as winning an Under 21 medal and a Leinster Club Championship medal in 1974. Billy Fitzpatrick also won two All-Stars in 1982 and 1983 when he gave a wonderful display in the latter final to score ten points as Kilkenny defeated Cork. Following thirteen years playing senior hurling with Kilkenny, Billy retired following a National League game against Galway in 1976. Billy Fitzpatrick Kilkenny's second youngest All-Ireland winning captain enjoyed wonderful success at all levels with his beloved county.



Billy Fitzpatrick

## JIMMY WALSH BALLYHALE 1932, 1939

Jimmy Walsh, who was born in the townland of Kilcready south of Ballyhale, has the distinction of being the third youngest Kilkenny senior hurling All-Ireland winning captain. Jimmy was born on February 4th 1911 and was 21 years and 222 days old when he captained Kilkenny to victory over Clare in 1932. That final was played on September 14th of that year.

This was a low scoring final with Kilkenny just winning by a goal on a score line of 3-3 to 2-3. Martin White, Matty Power, and Lory Meagher were the Kilkenny goal scorers, with Lory scoring his goal from a sideline cut. Clare might have drawn the game but Podge Byrne (an uncle of Ned in James Green in Kilkenny City) managed to upset Tull Considine the famous Clare full forward as he was just about to score a goal near the end of the game.

Jimmy Walsh also captained Kilkenny to another victory over Cork in 1939.

He emerged on the hurling scene at just 17 years old, when he helped Carrickshock to a Junior championship victory in 1927. They defeated Wellbrook a team from the parish of Freshford in the final. Carrickshock then progressed well, and defeated Urlingford in the Senior County final of 1931, when Jimmy collected his first senior championship medal. However he had to wait until 1938 to win his next county final with Carrickshock, and then he was part of the great team that won a famous four county finals in a row - 1940 to 1943. Jimmy played his last game for his club in the county final of 1946 when he came on as a substitute with Thomastown emerging victorious.

During a very successful hurling career, Jimmy Walsh was also a member of three more Kilkenny All-Ireland winning teams in 1933, 1935, and 1939, when he was again the captain. In that famous 1939 final which was known as the "thunder and lightning final" Kilkenny had a great win over Cork, and Jimmy who normally played in the middle of the field or half forward had a fine game.

The Ballyhale native was also a member of the Leinster team that won the Railway Cup in 1933 and 1936. He holds just one National League medal won in 1933, when Kilkenny as All-Ireland champions defeated Limerick in Nowlan Park. Of course they then went on to defeat Limerick in the All-Ireland final of the same year.

Yes Jimmy Walsh an Kilkenny All-Ireland winning captain on two occasions and the third youngest ever enjoyed a great hurling career.



Jimmy Walsh

# Back to the Fields!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report  
by Dermot Dunphy PRO  
Photos - Willie Dempsey



March 11th 2020 was scheduled as the first round of the schools' competitions for that year when Covid 19 was a developing story. Two games were completed on that very wet Wednesday. The following day schools went into the first Covid lockdown and little did we know that we would see no further schools' matches for two full years. The hurling and football seasons of 2020 and 2021 were never played as Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta took a very careful approach regarding the playing of school matches. In fairness, with schools implementing strict Covid policies, regularly keeping classes well separated, it would be impossible to allow games be played. While clubs were able to run their competitions in different circumstances, the school fields saw no action!

## ALLIANZ CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA SCOREBOARD 2019

Mick Crotty Roinn A:	St. Canice's	3-12	Gaelscoil Osraí	2-9
TOP Oil Roinn B:	Danesfort	4-9	Ballyhale	3-10
Mick Crotty Roinn C:	Mullinavat	3-14	Goresbridge-Paulstown	3-11
TOP Oil Roinn D:	Windgap	6-9	Tullaroan	2-10
Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe	Coon-Muckalee	2-13	Clara	0-7
Allianz Tommy O'Brien Cup	Mullinavat	6-14	Goresbridge-Paulstown	5-2
Mick Crotty Under 11 Roinn A:	Piltown	8-4	Gaelscoil Osraí	0-4
Allianz Under 11 Roinn B:	Coon-Muckalee	6-5	St Patrick's de la Salle	5-5
Allianz Under 11 Roinn C:	Tullaroan	4-9	Freshford	5-4
INTO Mini-Sevens				
Hurling:	Mullinavat			
Camogie:	Tullagher-Rosbercon			
Boys' Football & Girls' Football -	Representatives drawn by lottery			

Therefore, when the news came in early spring that Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta had lifted the moratorium on games, there was much celebration in the schools of Ireland and here in Kilkenny, we were no different. Meetings were held, draws were made and we were ready to go in March, two years on! It only seemed appropriate to launch the return of our games. County stars and primary teachers, Paddy Deegan and Padraig Walsh made the familiar trip to Nowlan Park to launch the season and pupils and teachers from Clara, Danesfort, Kilkenny CBS, Scoil McAuley Rice Callan, St John's, St Patrick's de la Salle and Tullagher-Rosbercon joined them for a great day of fun. The excitement was palpable and children couldn't wait to get started!

### UNDER 13

And start we did. 735 days later!! Through the spring and early summer three league competitions and two cup competitions saw all the hurling primary school teams in action. One quirk of the reset was that only two teams opted for Roinn A and with no Under 11 competitions to judge with, it was agreed to allow the two Roinn A teams play as part of the Roinn B league before moving to the Roinn A championship. Three rounds of league before the Corn de Bhaldraithe and Tommy O'Brien Cups held their first rounds. By mid-May, the picture was clearing up and the quarter-final stages were

reached in leagues and cups.

From there to the finish, competition was very high. The Mick Crotty Roinn A was a straight battle between St. Canice's and Gaelscoil Osraí. League form from the Roinn B league suggested that the Grange's Road side would be favourites and so it turned out to be. Gaelscoil Osraí did not make it any way easy and in a very competitive game, the St Canice's boys pulled out the victory, after a barnstorming second half left them six points clear on a score line of St Canice's 3-12 Gaelscoil Osraí 2-9.

TOP Oil Roinn B promised to be a cracker. The three groups in the league had been very competitive and the playoff games had all been very close affairs,

with extra time and replays needed in some cases, but eventually it was Ballyhale and Danesfort that made it to UPMC Nowlan Park. In a brilliant game that ebbed to and fro these teams served up a classic. Ballyhale held a narrow two-point lead at the break but it was the young Danesfort boys that got their noses in front early in the second half. They held out to the end and when the final whistle blew, they were still two points to the good on a full-time score of Danesfort 4-9 Ballyhale 3-10. Having won two Tommy O'Brien cups before the intervention of Covid, Danesfort opted to move up to Roinn B from Roinn C and this decision was vindicated as they took home the Paddy Hennessy Cup. It was also the perfect finish for the principal of Churchill NS and Schools' Board Secretary, Jim Fennelly. Jim retired on October 1st so his young school hurlers gave this proud Danesfort man a perfect farewell present by capturing Roinn B glory – a fitting finale!

Mick Crotty Roinn C was definitely a tale of two teams. The two outstanding teams in the division were Goresbridge-Paulstown and Mullinavat. This was further emphasised by the fact that the same two teams won through their cup competition, the Allianz Tommy O'Brien Cup, and fought out two finals over a matter of ten days.

The first encounter was in Roinn C for the Georgie Leahy Cup.

Mullinavat were many people's favourites coming into the final but they were rocked to their core by a Goresbridge-Paulstown side who took the game to them and were five points clear at the half-time break. Mullinavat came right back at them to level matters with ten minutes left and from there to the finish it was nip and tuck as the Mullinavat boys came out on top by a puck of the ball, Mullinavat 3-14 Goresbridge-Paulstown 3-11

These two teams came together ten days later in UPMC Nowlan Park to do it all again for the Tommy O'Brien Cup (Roinn C and Roinn D). This time, it was Mullinavat who started like the wind this time, scoring 2-6 without reply in the first 8 minutes. The young Barrow Ranger boys did not throw the towel in and showing their grit and no little skill, they fought to the finish. However, the gap was too much to bridge and when the final whistle sounded, Mullinavat had completed their double on a scoreline of 6-14 to 5-2. A magnificent achievement for the boys from the south. In fact, their seven a side team had also captured the INTO Mini Sevens as well so a great treble had been achieved. As for Goresbridge-Paulstown, in another given year, no doubt they would have bagged some silverware with such a fine team, but it was their misfortune to run into such incredible opponents that were Mullinavat.

The final League title was the 11-a-side TOP Oil Roinn D league for schools with smaller numbers. Again, though the league was competitive, there were two stand out teams in Tullaroan and Windgap, and they duly reached the final, the first to be played in the summer. An excellent final ensued between two well drilled and skilful teams. The old adage that goals win games was so true as Windgap bagged five in the first half to open a nine-point lead which Tullaroan were never to recover from. Like many of the finals this year, a hugely entertaining and high scoring encounter saw the young boys from Windgap get the job done on a final scoreline of Windgap 6-9 Tullaroan 2-10.

The last of the Under 13 finals was the Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe or Country Cup for Roinn A and Roinn B teams, or this year just Roinn B as no country teams played in Roinn A. As already noted, Roinn B was a very competitive division and this was a very competitive championship. The range of competition was emphasised by the fact that two completely different teams reached the final than contested the Roinn B decider. The beauty of the Corn de Bhaldraithe is that the draw once made follows through to the end and this often causes upsets and early exits as is the nature of any cup competition. By the end of June, two teams were left standing, Coon-Muckalee and Clara. Coon-Muckalee had a great league and lost narrowly at the semi-final stage, after a replay, to eventual champions Danesfort. Clara had, by their standards, an indifferent league, but the boys from St Colman's are always good to bring their best game when needed and found themselves heading back to UPMC Nowlan Park in June. On the night, it was





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Coon-Muckalee who prevailed. The young St Martin's boys played a powerful game and their defence proved ultra-tight also. Holding Clara goalless is never easy but they did, it was Coon-Muckalee's day on a scoreline of Coon-Muckalee 2-13 Clara 0-7.

### UNDER 11

The Under 11 competitions are played in smaller groups over three divisions. The smaller groups allow for quick league stages which allows for a later start in late April, meaning fewer wet days for the younger boys! For the first time, the city schools entered the Under 11 competitions which added a new dimension and made for a very full Roinn A competition. As the Under 11 are also a vital component in sorting out Under 13 gradings, the addition of the city schools would give an even clearer picture for the years ahead.

Starting with the Allianz Roinn B, four groups of four played through over 3 weeks leaving 8 teams heading for quarter finals. By the time they had been whittled down to two, Coon-Muckalee and St Patrick's de la Salle were left to fight it out. A clash of colours meant that the teams had to be inventive in their jerseys, although both sides asked to be photographed in their proper colours! After that, we were served up a super game that went one way and then the other all the way to the end. After 40 minutes of whirlwind hurling, a single goal separated the teams with Coon-Muckalee winning the day on a scoreline of 6-5 to De la Salle's 5-5. Jubilation and despair were evident in equal measure as these two young teams gave their all!

In the Allianz Roinn C two groups lead directly to semi-finals. Two teams had stood ahead of the others through the league and so it came to be as neighbours Freshford and Tullaroan both won their semi-finals well to make the decider. Big scores and exciting games were the order of the summer and this game was yet another in the 'Cracker' category. A game that ebbed both ways, freshford held a two-goal half-time lead after a brilliant start. However, for the young St lachtain's boys it was not to be as a storming second period saw Tullaroan power through to win the day on a 4-9 to 5-4 scoreline! In an interesting twist, to show how the Under 11 games give a good indicator going forward, in this autumn's football, who will contest the Roinn C final? Yes, you guessed, these two neighbours again!

And that just left the Mick Crotty Roinn A final. Why leave this one until last? Well due to unforeseen circumstances the two finalists, Gaelscoil Osraí and Piltown were unable to play their final in June so it was agreed to push the final back to September and so we had the novel event of a hurling final at the start of a school year. On a beautiful September evening, the teams finally faced off. Having the city teams play in the Under 11 competition, there was a feeling that they would dominate and while the buachaillí from Loch Buí made it to the final, it was the young boys from the deep south Piltown who won they day. A competitive first half saw



Goresbridge Paulstown - Roinn C & O'Brien Cup Finalists 2022



Windgap - Roinn D Champions 2022



Tullaroan - Roinn D Finalists 2022



Coon Muckalee - Country Cup Champions 2022



them take an early lead as they fired goals where the Gaelscoil were dealing in points. Eventually, they pulled away and won very comfortably, although even the staunchest of Piltown supporters would agree that the final score of 8-4 to 0-4 was a little harsh on the young Gaelscoil boys.

And so in September, the hurling season drew to a close but the Football season had just started. By the Christmas holidays we will have more champions crowned, this time in the big ball code. Gaelic Football or hurling, it is great to be back!

**INTO CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL**

**MINI SEVENS**

The INTO Cumann na mBunscol Mini Sevens returned again also, with the possibility of playing in Croke Park at half-time of the All-Ireland Finals or Semi-Finals also on offer. Hurling and Camogie competitions were played but as we had no football season last autumn and with time constraints in late spring, a draw was the only way to select children to go forward for the trips to Croke Park. Marvellous Mullinavat conquered all in the hurling competition while it was Tullogher who were terrific in Football! All in all, seven Kilkenny children turned out in Croke Park, four of them lucky enough to wear their own county colours. The full list of lucky children is:

**Hurling:**

*Patrick Aylward Mullinavat - Kilkenny vs Limerick, All-Ireland Final*

*Conor Roche Danesfort  
Kilkenny vs Clare, All-Ireland Semi-Final*

**Camogie:**

*Rachel Murphy - Tullogher-Rosbercon - Kilkenny vs Limerick, All-Ireland Final*

*Colleen Byrne Kilmanagh - Kilkenny vs Clare, All-Ireland Semi-Final*

*Boys' Football: Oisín Treacy, St Canice's Kerry vs Galway, All-Ireland Final*

*Ethan Hogan Eyre, KSP - Galway vs Derry, All-Ireland Semi-Final*

**Girls' Football:**

*Sian Bolger Coon-Muckalee - Galway vs Derry, All-Ireland Semi-Final.*

**PRIMARY GAMES:**

During the Leinster Championship, Kilkenny Schools' Board fielded teams for the half-time Primary Games. Overall, 40 plus children got to don Black and Amber as we competed against Galway, Dublin Wexford and Galway again (Leinster Final). Salthill, Parnell Park, UPMC Nowlan Park and Croke Park were the venues as every school team in the county had one of their players represent their county. A great initiative that hopefully we will expand next year!

**SPONSORS:**

A huge thank you to our sponsors, Allianz (National Sponsor), TOP Oil Kilkenny and Mick Crotty (our longest sponsor!) Also a huge thank you to Kilkenny County Board for the use of UPMC Nowlan Park for all our games!



Piltown - Roinn A Under 11 Champion 2022



Coon Muckalee - Roinn B Under 11 Champion 2022



St Patrick's - Roinn B Under 11 Finalists 2022



Tullaroan - Roinn C Under 11 Champions 2022



Freshford - Roinn C Under 11 Finalists 2022



March 10 2022 - Launch of Allianz Cumann na mBunscoilanna Season



Playing in Croke Park: Oisín Treacy, St Canice's, Sian Bolger Coon-Muckalee, Shay Queally, Urlingford, Daire O'Brien (Piltown).



Roinn A



CAPTAINS

Roinn B



Roinn C Presentation by Mrs Rita Leahy



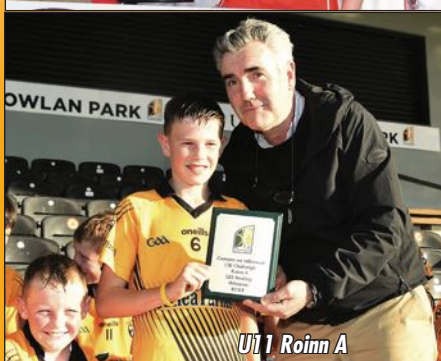
Roinn D



Corn de Bhaldraithe



Tommy O'Brien Cup



U11 Roinn A



U11 Roinn B



U11 Roinn C



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# 40 YEARS OF THE HURLERS' CO-OP

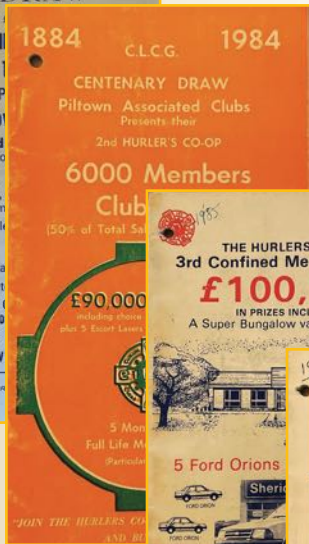


By Mary Morgan



Minister Simon Coveney and John Paul Phelan, TD, with members of Piltown GAA Club and Piltown Camogie Club.

1983: Kilkenny won their 23rd All-Ireland Hurling Championship title, Eamon Coghlan won the 5,000m final at the World Athletic Championships, Glenroe hit our television screens, the first mobile phones were introduced to the public by the Motorola Company and, closer to home, the Piltown GAA Development



PJ Kenny (Co Board Vice Chairman), Seamus Reade (Co Board Event Controller), Jimmy Walsh (Co Board Chairman), Simon Coveney (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Minister for Defence), Gerri Hickey (Hurlers Co-Op Draw Administrator), John Paul Phelan (TD Carlow-Kilkenny), Barry Hickey (Co Board Treasurer).

740 tickets in that first year, receiving £18,500 for their club, in addition to bonuses for being the top seller.

The draw continued to grow and went from strength to strength. In 1991 (following a decision by the Kilkenny County Board at the end of 1990 to undertake a major fund-raising venture to carry out essential maintenance work at Nowlan Park), the County Board, having looked at various fund-raising options, joined forces with the Piltown Hurlers Co-Op and the rest, as they say, is history! To this day (and with a few tweaks over the years!), the premise of the draw remains the same, with five monthly draws each year and a minimum of 50% of all ticket monies being returned to the selling clubs.

The success of the draw is credited to all the participating clubs and supporters, the County Board and the various sponsors, and the results are visible in clubs all around the county and beyond. Clubs from Kilkenny, Laois,

Waterford, Tipperary, Carlow, Wexford and further afield have participated in the draw down through the years and it plays an important role in each club's yearly fundraising programme. With over 9,000 tickets now being sold annually, the proceeds of the draw have enabled clubs to cover day running costs and their grounds by putting stable financial position, when applying for and GAA grants.

Committee launched the Hurlers Co-Op Club Draw with a prize fund of £75,000. This was the brainchild of John O'Shea (RIP), Sean Gorey (RIP), Jim O'Keeffe (RIP), Billy Norris and Ned Power. Tickets for this draw cost £50 – a not insignificant sum for the early 1980's when the country was in deep economic crisis. The main purpose of the draw was to provide finance for Piltown GAA Club for the erection of a sports complex which, to this day, stands proudly on the club's grounds. In 1983, the prizes included five Fiat Uno 45's (taxed and insured), cash prizes and a Star Prize of a "Super Bungalow or £22,500". The Star Prize winners in 1983 were Mr and Mrs William Mackey of Mooncoin. Erin's Own GAA Club sold

their day-to-day to develop them in a particularly government

A special mention must go to the Draw Administrator, Gerri Hickey, who has efficiently and diligently administered the draw from the beginning and to Piltown's Billy Norris, who has sold in excess of 7,000 tickets over the course of the 40 years. Here's to the next 40 years!



Ned Power (Piltown), Paddy Butler (St Lachtain's), Jim Kearns (Shamrocks Ballyhale), Billy Norris (Piltown), who have been there from the start, supporting the draw over the past 40 years

# KILKENNY SUPPORTERS CLUB Lá na gCapall 2022

Gowran Park, Saturday November 26th 2022

Photos: Willie Dempsey



YOU  
MUST  
BE  
HERE



EVERYONE ELSE IS!

# 1922 - A YEAR OF TURMOIL

Dermot Kavanagh

To understand the political situation of Ireland in 1922, it is necessary to look back at events from mid-1921 onwards. On July 11th 1921, the Anglo Irish Truce came into effect bringing to an end the bitter War of Independence which had crippled Ireland since it began in January in 1919. Following months of delicate negotiations, the Anglo Irish Treaty was signed on December 6th, 1921.

Any lingering hopes that the signing of The Treaty would see the end of conflict in Ireland would soon be dashed. The country became divided into pro- and anti-treaty forces with near disastrous consequences for the country.

Tensions mounted between both sides as respective attitudes hardened. Eventually, action was taken when on the 14th of April 1922, when the anti-Treaty forces, under Rory O'Connor, took over the the Four Courts. Civil War was imminent. By the 28th of June it had begun.

Civil Wars are usually marked by atrocities, attacks, counter attacks and reprisal by both sides. The Irish Civil War was no different. Legacies of misdeeds by both sides against people, property, towns and, villages have lingered to this day. Mention of the events at Ballyseedy, Countess Bridge, Clashmealcon Caves and others still invokes bitter memories of mans inhumanity to man almost four generations on. That more summary executions were carried out in the Civil War than in the War of Independence illustrates the level of bitterness then prevailing

Meanwhile The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) had continued to develop and expand after some turbulent years following its formation in 1884. Issues such as "The American Invasion" of 1889 (an event which almost bankrupted the GAA), the Parnell Split (the fallout from which the GAA took almost a decade to recover), internal disputes relating to the management of athletics, the bans on members of the military and police forces from competing at athletic meetings and/or playing either of the national games and myriad other causes, were severe distractions

By the beginning of the 1900s, however, the progress of the GAA was evident. The financial situation was improving with strong procedures in place to manage them. County Boards began to purchase land for development as county grounds (Cork on 1904, and Tipperary in 1910, being the most notable). In December 1913 nine acres plus was purchased by the GAA in Jones Road, Dublin for the purposes of having a permanent home for the playing of its games and also as its administrative centre. Croke Park was up and running. Important rule changes were adopted such as the reduction of teams to 15-aside and the adoption of, and the registration of, distinctive team jerseys.

Championships at both club and county were for the first time, beginning to be completed in the correct calendar year

The workings of the GAA were clearly affected by the events of both the 1916 Rising and The War of Independence. Thus, by the beginning of 1922, matters were still in a state of flux. Counties were affected in different ways, the state of health of each county being largely dictated by the level of political and military unrest in that county.

In Kilkenny, for the third year in succession the senior hurling championship was cancelled. The junior championship, however, was played out but the fact that the county final was not played until October 1923 and the replay in March 1924, illustrates the level of upheaval present.

Curiously the senior football championship was played. That Glenmore received a walkover in the final comes as no surprise nor does the fact that the junior game between Barrow Rangers (Tullagher) and Muckalee United was not played until October 1923. The wonder is given the country's state of affairs that the championship was actually completed at all.

At intercounty level most of the championship games that were played took place in the autumn of 1922 Kilkennys senior hurlers, having defeated Laois in the semi-final, overcame Dublin in the provincial final, a game played at Croke Park on November 19th. That win was warmly welcomed as Dublin had defeated Kilkenny in the five previous championship encounters.

The Kilkenny juniors were defeated in the provincial final by Offaly, a game played as a curtain-raiser to the senior final.

The Kilkenny senior footballers (then a serious force in the game), having defeated both Laois and Meath on route, lost to Dublin in the Leinster final, played at Croke Park on November 5th.

As an indication of the difficulties encountered in completing championships nationwide, it is worth noting that the only senior hurling game played in Munster in 1922 was the 1921 final, played at Thurles on May 25th. To deal with the worsening situation the Munster Council, at a meeting on November 1922, decided to postpone all championships until 1923, at the earliest.

The 1922 All-Ireland semi-final between Tipperary and Galway was not played until August 26th 1923 with the final between Tipperary and Kilkenny taking place a few weeks late, on September 9th. On the football field the 1922 All-Ireland semi-finals. took place in July and September 1923, with the final (Dublin v Galway) being played on October 7th 1923

Yes 1922 was a year of turmoil for both the fledging country and its foremost sporting body. That both entities not only survived but prospered is a tribute to all who played their respective parts against the odds.



*Sept 9th 1921 - Michael Collins addresses Kilkenny players before the 1921 Leinster Final which Dublin won by 4-4 to 1-5. The All Ireland Final would not be played until March 1923, by which time, Collins and his great friend, Harry Boland (extreme right), would both be dead, killed on opposite sides of the Civil War.*



# CLG Dúnfeart Comóradh Céad Bliain 1922 – 2022

By Derek Dooley

Danesfort GAA club was founded in 1922. In a time when political division was rife, the club founders put their differences aside and united in the name of hurling. A team was assembled and a set of black and amber jerseys were presented to the club by the Moylan family of Rathclough. Thus began the club's one hundred year journey.

## Club Founders 1922



From left: John Dowling First Chairman, Joe Wall First Secretary, Tim Hennessy First Vice-Chairman & Treasurer, Martin Murphy, Eddie Murphy, John J. Moylan, Mick O'Gorman.

## Celebrating the Centenary

In the winter of 2019, a Comóradh Céad Bliain Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Derek Dooley whose task it was to begin envisioning how the club would celebrate its centenary and commemorate its founders and the people who have been part of its 100-year journey. Initial meetings focused on pooling ideas of events and activities. After much thought and discussion, it was decided to run a yearlong programme of events which would creatively engage club members and the wider community of the parish of Danesfort.

The seeds were sown. Then Covid hit. A global pandemic whose only certainty was uncertainty, drew a grey cloud over any plans for celebrating a centenary. However, this did not deter the visionary group of people who kept hoping and kept planning. As society slowly emerged from the most dangerous phases of the pandemic the Danesfort Centenary Committee re-engaged their plans with renewed hope and vigor.

## January: Centenary Launch

Unveiling of a sign depicting our club founders and a flag raising ceremony by our club member Lt. Paul Murphy and 3 other members of the Oglai na h-Eireann from our club and community. Flags were blessed by Parish Priest Fr. Mark Condon.



Chairman Jim Tierney Launches Comóradh

## February:

Danesfort Centenary Radio Play: The First Puck : In conjunction with local Radio Station CRKC

A radio play on how our club was founded in 1922 amidst the political divisions of the Irish Civil War. A cast of 14 actors, ranging in age from 13 to 82, from the club and community performed the piece. Writer John Morton, Director Janice de Broithe, Producer Orlaith Treacy, Casting Breda O'Neill and Derek Dooley.

Actors young and old record The First Puck at CRKC 88.7 FM Studio



Rehearsals in Danesfort Community Centre under director Janice de Broithe

**April:** Spliced by Timmy Creed: Mental Health and the GAA Player:

As part of First Fortnight mental health initiative held in Watergate Theatre Kilkenny. This aimed at addressing player welfare and mental health. Over 100 club members and players saw this enthralling one-man show.



R to L; Derek Dooley, Timmy Creed, Paul Murphy & Orlaith Treacy

## May: Centenary Diversity and Inclusion Project:

Danesfort became the first GAA club in Kilkenny to launch a Diversity and Inclusion Programme in conjunction with Kilkenny Sport Partnership. This program is aimed at inviting children in two our club grounds who may ordinarily think the GAA isn't for them. We want these children to feel welcome and to come play with us on our new Astro pitch. These children and their parents now meet each Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 to play casual games meet friends, make new friends and have fun.

There has been amazing enthusiasm and positivity from both children and their parents



Children's Night

and something that we will hope will go from strength to strength in our club.

## June: Social Inclusion

During June the Pride Flag was flown on the grounds to show respect and inclusion to LGBT+ members.



Inclusion

## July

### 1. Centenary Concert

Over 700 people packed Ballykeeffe Amphitheatre for an Óiche Cultúr where the story of the club was told in a fantastic mix of narration, traditional Irish music, song, dance and comedy. Feature guest was Sibeal Ní Chasaide who performed five songs from her new album.



Jack McHugh composer sings "I Support Danesfort"

2. Clubs Dance Project: Funded by the Arts Council, local professional artist Cindy Cummings and Arts Curator Orlaith Treacy, in a unique project choreographed each team in the club to do a dance set to a piece of music. This dance converges warm up movements with dance movements.



Sibeal Ni Chasaide Performs in the Centenary Concert

Film makers Annette & Dave Barnaville working with some young and not so young players.



The Jersey Washers comic scene with Breda O'Neill and Catherine Cunniffe

## December:

### 1. December 2nd

Mass of Thanksgiving:

This will be celebrated in The Church of the Holy Cross Cuffesgrange where, with the whole community, we will give thanks for the gifts and talents in our parish and for the successes during the year.

### 2. December 26th

Mixed 7-aside Gaelic Football Blitz

Here we remember the former GAA clubs in our parish, Kells, Sevenhouses, Burnchurch, Ballymack, Cuffesgrange, Young Emmetts, Glen Rovers and Danesfort.

Players will play in jerseys which were the original colors of these clubs.



Film makers Annette & Dave Barnaville working with some young and not so young players.

## January 6th 2023

Official Closing of the Centenary Year: Centenary Dinner Dance  
A look back on all the events of a super Centenary Year in Langton House Hotel along with the presentation of this years Intermediate County Final medals to our players.

### Club Anthem I Support Danesfort By Jack McHugh

The Callan, the Kells and the Waterford roads  
All lead to fine places, or so I've been told.  
But whenever I try them my journey stops short,  
When I get to the parish of Dashing Danesfort.

~ Chorus ~

So it's up with the amber and up with the black,  
For the crest on your chest, not the number on your back.  
No matter the score on the post-match report,  
I support Danesfort, my boys, I support Danesfort.

Danesfort is a big place from Church Hill to Croan,  
But there are castles around to show you where you're going,  
There's a big one in Burnchurch and in Danesfort a small,  
And the pitch is like a fortress, the way we fight for the ball.

~ Chorus ~

So if you're low and you're lonely and your hurt can't be healed,  
Get up to the walking track or the wall ball in the field.  
'Cause if you're 9 or you're 90, there's a pal there for you,  
Since the black met the amber in 1922



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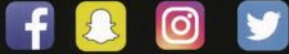
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## The "Biggest Fife and Drum Band in Europe",

- said the Mullinavat Gateman.



*Fado fado*, many towns in rural Ireland prided themselves in the fact that the town could present a band of varying musical tones, to celebrate and proclaim some event in their own place or elsewhere where a musical presentation was required. Many towns "rocked" to the skirl of bagpipes. Many would say that most bagpipes should be played with a sharp knife. Brass Bands headed up celebrations in the more affluent locations. And then we had the "poor man's" orchestra of fife and drum bands. The fife and drum bands were least expensive to tog out. Some could even make their own fifes with hollowed ash, and sure the drums came in every size and tone. Some were made of goat skin with an ash rim, while others used a dried pig skin for their creations.

Notwithstanding, my story concerns my Club, John Lockes GAA Callan, a match between my club and famed Mooncoin, on a Sunday in a neutral venue -Mullinavat- in the Summer of 1957. A huge crowd was expected by the host venue, and they were not disappointed. It was said that the entire population of the Barony of South Kilkenny scrunched into the Mullinavat venue. Story has it that the road from Callan to Mullinavat was a slow- motion crawl for the entire journey of 12 miles - no kilometres that time. With very little motorised transportation available, the Raleigh, Rudge and Brooks were wheel to wheel over the twelve miles. There were plenty of girl's bikes too on the road. Many a gallant suitor used the occasion to start a relationship that concluded in front of the High Altar of his local Parish Church with the offer of carriage on the back carrier or the bar of a good bike. It wasn't the most sophisticated form of gallantry, but as the man said, "any kind of an ass will do in a soft bog as long as the turf gets to the hearth".

Most bikes of the time were kitted out with a tool bag that carried a wrench, and a spanner for fear of punctures. They also carried a pump - very important - riveted between two lugs placed on the frame of the bike.

All pumps were the same colour-black.

Forgive me for using the abbreviated bicycle as nobody I knew ever called it anything but a bike.

Anyway, back to my story.

The team travelled on Tom Nolan's charabanc (bus) - famed in song and story and forever known as Nowlan's Bus. Also, on the bus with the team was the Callan fife and drum band.

Some quarter of a mile from the ground, the band alighted and formed up in three rows of eight fife players plus a triangle player, two kettle-drum players and Danny Shea, the big drum player.

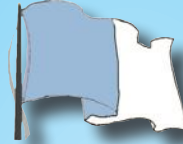
When "the gate" was apportioned between the Callan, Mullinavat and Mooncoin officials, the figures bore no comparison to the bonanza expected by all parties, given that the venue was "jammers". Accusations of all form of nefarious practices were fired in every which way. Everybody accused everybody else. All the gate men were questioned. No obvious credible explanation was proffered until one of the gate men piped up "sure half the crowd got in for nothing with the Callan band. We were wasting our time trying to distinguish between fifes and bicycle pumps. Some lads got a box in the mouth when they tried to stop a lad with a pump to his mouth. Jazus it surely was the biggest fife and drum band in Europe", said he.

The story went the length and breadth of the County. It gained traction in the telling and much more when the telling was imbued with more than enough *uisce beatha*.

By Barrie Henriques

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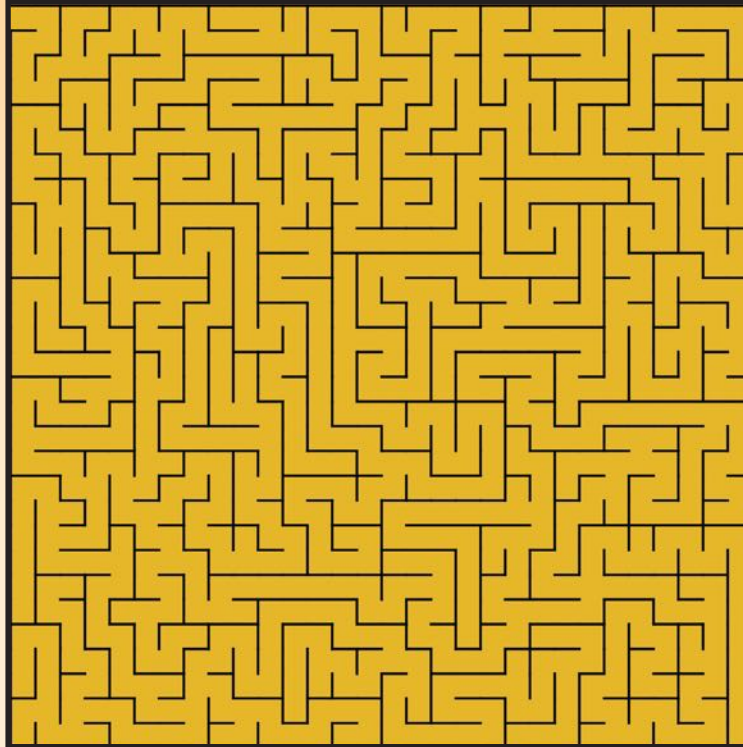
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# PUZZLE PAGES



## HELP TOM FIND THE MCCARTHY CUP



## ANAGRAMS

1. TRAWL WHALES (KK Hurler)
2. MAINLAND RULE (KK Hurler)
3. ANGOLA LINEAR (Limerick Hurler)
4. EL NICHE (Wexford Hurler)
5. TONGA HARP (Cork Hurler)
6. BE TRUE MILKY (KK Hurler)
7. TITANS CLASH (KK Club)
8. CANON HOWLER (Galway Hurler)
9. LONGER MATCH (Tipp Hurler)
10. GADGET PRUNE (Clare Hurler)

## MATCH THE PITCH WITH THE CREST

1. PÁIRC NA RATHA
2. LARCHFIELD
3. CANON KEARNS PARK
4. ASPER PARK
5. PÁIRC UÍ COMARTÚIN
6. THE POLO GROUNDS
7. TOM WALSH PARK
8. GRENNAN
9. PALMERSTOWN
10. DR TIERNEY PARK

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>

## RECOGNISE THE PLAYERS?



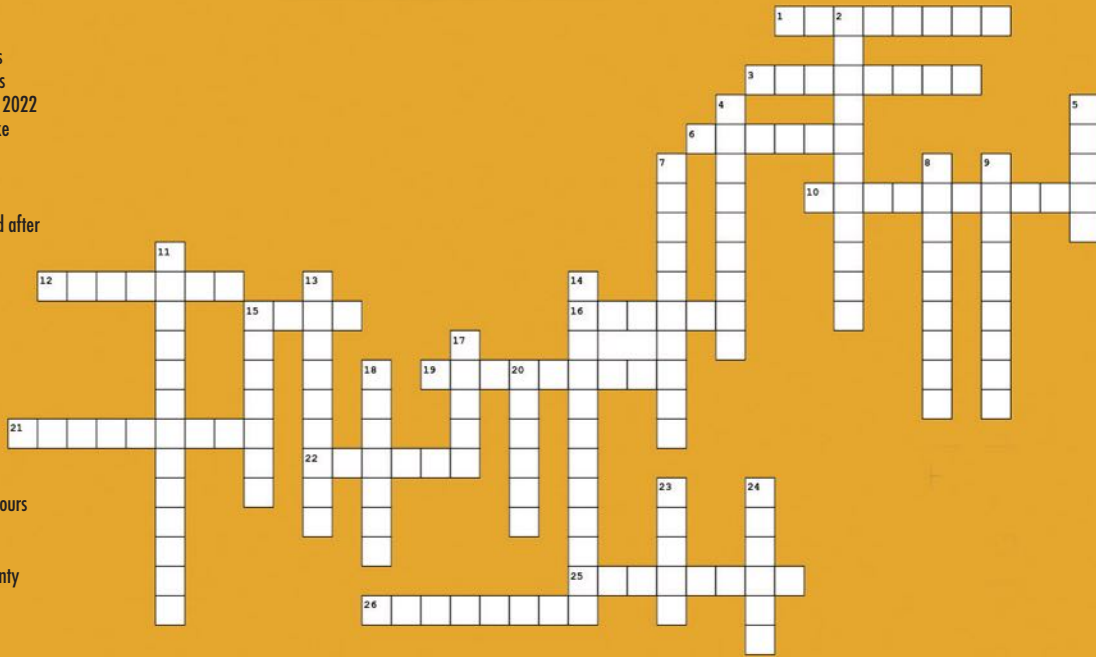
# CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1. National Hurling League Champions 2022
- 3. All Ireland U20H Champions 2022
- 6. City which holds Pearse Stadium
- 10. County SF Champions
- 12. Other name of James Stephens
- 15. County with the most GAA clubs
- 16. Surname of Kilkenny full back 2022
- 19. County with maroon colours like Galway
- 21. New Kilkenny SH Manager
- 22. The Faithful County
- 25. G/Ballycallan's grounds named after him
- 26. Eoin Murphy's club

**DOWN**

- 2. Young Hurler of the Year
- 4. County Intermediate Champions
- 5. Only other County with Cork Colours
- 7. Clare SH Manager
- 8. County MH Champions 2022
- 9. Davy Fitz's new Managerial County
- 11. Footballer of the Year
- 13. Parish of St Lachtain's
- 14. Erin's Own Colours
- 15. Sport of Denise Gaule and Grace Walsh
- 17. Ulster SF Champions 2022
- 18. The model County
- 20. has his own Gym at Cillin Hill
- 23. The Banner County



# FIND YOUR CLUB!

S	B	J	A	Z	N	A	U	D	F	H	U	D	F	A	L	C	O	L	D	S	G	Q	U	B	P	T	D	E	Y
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- BALLYHALE
- BARROWRANGERS
- BENNETTSBRIDGE
- BLACKSANDWHITES
- CARRICKSHOCK
- CARRIGEEN
- CLARA
- CLONEEN
- CONAHY
- DANESFORT
- DICKSBORO
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- OLOUGHLINGAELS
- PILTOWN
- RAILYARD
- ROWERINISTIOGE
- SLIEVERUE
- STMARTINS
- STLACHTAINS
- STPATRICKS
- THOMASTOWN
- THREecastLES
- TULLAROAN
- TULLOGHERROSBERCON
- WINDGAP
- YOUNGIRELANDS



# AROUND THE CLUBS



## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

The U13 panel, looked after by Pat Corbett, Patrick Cummins (Manager), Richie Grant and Séamus Ryan, lost their quarter final with O'Loughlin Gaels, 3-15 to 2-7.

U13HC A Theodore Drennan, Jim Connolly, Brion Ryan, Jamie Murphy, Niall Coffey, Luke Cummins, Max Corbett, Conor Holohan, Con O'Neill, Ruarc Shefflin, Donnchadh Grant, Henry Shefflin, Reece Drennan, James Ryan captain 2-7 (0-5f), Seán Rooney. Subs: Jayden Fitzpatrick for Reece Drennan (48m), Simon Kolodziej, Eric Murphy. A 13 a side team, looked after by Jim Cullen (Manager), Willie Dempsey and Martin

Dunphy, was entered for the first time. Having won their first round with Mooncoin, 4-10 to 2-3, they lost a quarter final with Young Irelands, 2-10 to 2-7.

The U15 panel, looked after by Mark Aylward (Manager), David Hoynes and Eoin Reid, lost their quarter final to Graigue-Ballycallan, 2-10 to 2-9.

U15HC B Tiernan Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, Killian Ryan, Brion Ryan, David Kolodziej, Jake Mullen 0-1, Cian Walsh, Con O'Neill, Rian Shefflin 0-2, Charlie Lennon, Michael Barron 0-1 (f), Cathal Coogan, James Ryan 1-5 (0-4f), Aidan Grummell captain 1-0, Conor Holohan. Subs: Theodore Drennan, Donnchadh Grant for Charlie Lennon (ht), Seán O'Mahony for Brion Ryan (inj, 55m), Max Corbett, Luke Cummins, Rory McMahon, Henry Shefflin, Jamie Murphy (ill), Seán Óg O'Farrell (inj), Seán Rooney (inj).

The Minor panel, looked after John Drennan (Manager) and Eoin Knox, won their first round with O'Loughlin Gaels B, 11-11 to 2-9, but lost a quarter final with St Lachtain's, 2-25 to 2-12.

MHC C Tiernan Shefflin, Killian Ryan, Thomas Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Michael Lyons, Seán Shefflin, David Kolodziej, Jack Holden, Michael Kenneally, Michael Barron 1-0, Tom Cleere captain 0-5 (3f), Brian Wilson, Rian Shefflin, John Fitzpatrick 0-7 (4f), Jake Mullen 1-0.

Subs: Cathal Coogan for Brian Wilson (36m), Aidan Grummell for Jack Holden (41m), Cian Walsh for Jake Mullen (inj, 55m), Charlie Lennon, Seán O'Mahony.

The Junior panel, looked after by David Hoynes, Niall Mason, Seán Reid (Manager) and John Kennedy, won their first round with Clara, 1-19 to 0-15, but lost a quarter final with Dicksboro, 5-22 to 0-9.

JHC Mark Aylward, Patrick Hearne, Cian Cullen, Conor Doyle, Conor Phelan, Gavin Butler captain, Larry Cody, Edmond Fitzpatrick 0-1, Dara Mason, Conor Walsh 0-3, Ger Fennelly, Christopher Coady, Finnian Shefflin, Eoin Reid 0-1, Mark Gorman 0-4 (3f).

Subs: John Shortall for Conor Doyle (inj, 13m), Bob Aylward for Conor Phelan (inj, ht), Eoin Knox for Finnian Shefflin (ht), Enda Fitzpatrick for Mark Gorman (bs: 32-5m), Enda Fitzpatrick for John Shortall (43m), Tomás Barron, Michael Cullen, Seán Reade, Adam Brenner (inj), Liam Barron (tied), Stephen Barron (tied), Killian Corcoran (tied), Andrew Devereux (away), Jason Devereux (inj), Andrew Moran (inj), Niall Shortall (tied).

The Junior C panel, looked after by Willie Dempsey, Pádraig Holden, Patrick O'Sullivan (Manager) and Eoin Reid, saw first round loss to Graiguenamanagh, 5-21 to 2-28, became second round loss to Blacks and Whites, 1-22 to 0-18.

JHC C Eoin Knox, Larry Cody, James Connolly, Michael Cullen, Killian Corcoran 0-1, Ger Fennelly captain, Bob Aylward, Mark Aylward 0-1 (f), Conor Doyle, Finnian Shefflin 0-1, David Hoynes 0-1, Mark Gorman 0-12 (10f, 1 sl), Kevin Fennelly 0-1, Niall Shortall 0-1, Andrew Devereux.

Subs: John Shortall for Andrew Devereux (42m), Jason Devereux for David Hoynes (46m), Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Enda Fitzpatrick, Seán Reade, Tomás Barron (inj), Adam Brenner (inj), Andrew Moran (away). No U19 team got fielded, due to lack of numbers. The U21 B panel, looked after by John Drennan (Manager), Pádraig Holden and David Walsh, awaited Piltown in a quarter final.



## BARROW RANGERS



Barrow Rangers Development Update.

2022 saw the completion of Phase 1 of the new access road and carpark adjacent to the site for the proposed new Barrow Rangers Development. This new road and carpark were completed on time and within budget in May of this year and provides much needed parking for the many matches and training sessions.

Construction of the new full size GAA pitch and training pitch commenced in August this year which saw all of the earth works, perimeter and lateral drainage completed by the end of September. The remaining works are scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2023. It is also proposed to commence construction of the Ball Walls in the summer of 2023. Significant planting and fencing was also completed by the Club over the Spring of 2022.

On the playing field our Junior hurlers struggled to find any consistency and carried their poor form into the Championship which saw them eliminated in the Preliminary Round. Our Under 13's proved that they were well capable of playing at the top tier and lost nothing in defeat in the Roinn A semi final. The Under 15's got to the Quarter final in Roinn B. The Club wasn't to go trophyless though. On a Thursday evening under the lights in Dunmore our Minors won the Roinn B Shield, this was preceded the previous Saturday by the Under 19's winning the Roinn D Championship. Our Friday evening training sessions for girls and boys Junior Infants to Under 11 once again had big numbers. The Club would like to thank all coaches at every age group and the Committee that oversees the running of the Club. Barrow Rangers is lucky that we have a separate Field Committee that looks after the fund raising for our new development.



Barrow Rangers Pitch Development

## BENNETTSBRIDGE



Our senior team began the year brightly recording wins over Dicksboro, O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens, Glenmore and Graigue Ballycallan in the league. We then played Tullaroan in the league final but lost out in our first defeat of the year. With the championship quarter final being played a week later, we didn't recover from that defeat and lost out to James Stephens by five points. Our junior B team made it to the semi final of the championship but we conceded a late goal to Conahy Shamrocks to lose out by 3 points. Once again we fielded a third adult team in the junior E championship and although not coming close to silverware, we introduced some young hurlers to adult hurling for the first time. Thanks to all the players and mentors for their efforts during the year.

Juvenile Hurling: Our minors played in the A championship this year and had trouble fielding a settled team due to injuries to key players at different times. They were competitive in most games but lost out to a fine James Stephens team in the quarter final. Our under 15 teams had a great first round win in Slieverue but lost out to Conahy in the next round. Our under 13 team had a good league campaign and won the championship shield with a great win over Glenmore in the final. The under 11 team had a great year, playing lot of games. They won the St Mullins tournament and lost out to Lisdowney in the under 11 league final in a great game. Our under 10 team reached the semifinals of the Alyward tournament in Ballyhale while the under 9 team won the third place playoff in the Thomas O Shea tournament in Dunammaggin. We also hosted our own Mickey Kelly tournament which was a great success again this year. Our under 7 hurlers showed great promise this year, playing neighbouring teams and learning the ropes really well. Thanks to all who helped out in Bord na nÓg this year.

Other Club news: We were delighted to welcome Bennettsbridge Limestone as our new club sponsor this year who also very generously sponsored a new electronic score board which is a great addition to the club. New fundraising events this year included a very successful tractor run in January and a hurling tournament in the summer named after the great Johnny McGovern. We also ran a golf classic and held our Split the Pot competition during the year along with the annual field day. New kerbing was completed this year and all the seating around the pitch was replaced. The club also joined the healthy club programme this year.

Condolences: We offer our deepest condolences to all members and friends who lost loved ones during the year. We particularly remember Johnny McGovern, Peter Dooley, Jim Hynes, Tom Lineen, Richard Walsh and Eamonn Hanrahan this year all who made significant contributions to our club over the years. May they rest in peace.



Bennettsbridge U9's



## BLACKS & WHITES

Sunday 23rd October 2022 will long be remembered as one of the great days in the near 100-year history of the Blacks and Whites. Wearing the underdog tag all year, the team quietly built momentum and a never say die spirit which carried the team to the ultimate prize with a great victory against Windgap in the County Junior Final of 2022. Blacks and Whites settled into the game much quicker than their opponents and dominated the majority of the opening half, with Ryan Murphy and Jamie Byrne in fine scoring form. They opened up a five-point lead (0-10 to 0-5) with 20 minutes on the clock. Windgap stayed in touch with efforts from Jack Doyle, Adam O'Shea, and James Power to reduce the deficit to only two points with half time approaching. Then came a key moment in this match which guaranteed momentum would sit with the Skeough men at half time. Ryan Murphy floated a long range free into the square which Emmett Foley, now operating at full forward, doubled into the into the net for a great score.

Blacks and Whites turned to play into the city end for the second half and were battling hard to stay in the lead. They had huge work rate all over the pitch and were keen to meet every Windgap man with pressure. Ryan Murphy extended their lead with pointed free, putting the winners six points ahead (1-11 to 0-8).

Windgap were appearing in their first final since 2001 so they were never going to go away easily and when they hit a purple patch, scoring five points on the bounce between the 46th and 52nd minutes to draw level, the match was well and truly in the melting pot.

Windgap appeared to have all the momentum at that stage but when joint captain Paul Murphy immediately responded with a point to put Blacks and Whites back in front it was clear the Skeough men were determined to face this challenge down, as they had done against Piltown in the semi-final when they looked dead and buried. Windgap would not find another score in this match as the Blacks and Whites fought for every ball with every ounce they had. Ace free taker Ryan Murphy, who would finish with a total of nine points, scored two more late efforts to put the seal on the victory. A day for the ages for this small but proud club from Skeoughvosteen, who will now look forward with confidence to the AIB GAA Club Championship and a spot in the Kilkenny Intermediate grade next year.

Scorers:

Blacks and Whites- Ryan Murphy (0-9, five frees and one 65), Jamie Byrne (0-4), Emmet Foley (1-0), Sam Byrne, Seanán Doyle, Paul Murphy, Eddie Murphy (0-1 each)

Windgap- Emmet Landy (0-5, three frees and one 65), Jack Doyle (0-5, one free), James Power (0-3), Adam O'Shea (0-2), James Culleton, Niall Walsh (0-1 each)

Team: Keelan O'Grady, Joe Kelly, Michael 'Crow' Moloney, Tommy Joyce, Ian Foley, Aidan O'Dowd, Niall Kennedy, Paul Murphy, Martin Kelly, Emmett Foley, John Lennon, Jamie Byrne, Sam Byrne, Ryan Murphy, Seanan Doyle Subs: Eddie Murphy for Emmett Foley, Daire Murphy for Ian Foley, Michael 'Mo' Maloney for John 'Nipper' Lennon, Jason Byrne for Sam Byrne.



Michael Maloney receives Man of the Match award from Jack Kavanagh



Sean Doyle grabs sliothar in the face of Sean Foley



## CARRICKSHOCK

Carrickshock were crowned U21 Roinn D county champions last December in Danesfort after beating St.Patrick's 2-17 to 1-04.

Carrickshock Intermediates built upon their progress from last year. Under the stewardship of Richie Power, Emmet Dunphy, Edward Power & Michael Rohan, the team had a positive league campaign with some comprehensive victories under the belt. Building on last year's championship the team managed

to reach the semi-final stage this year where they lost out to Thomastown on a score of 1-14 to 1-10. Another case of what might have been.

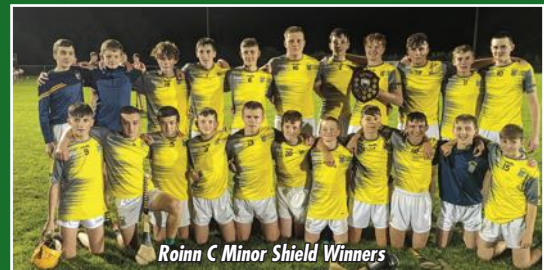
The minor panel spearheaded by Neil Conway & Richie Power Snr. finished 3rd place in their group in Roinn C. The highlight of their year was still to come though as they beat Gowran in the shield final in Dunmore on the 23rd of September by 1-15 to 1-08. A fitting end to the year for captain Joseph Aylward and his teammates.

A special mention to Carrickshock's Padraig Lennon who won an U20 All Ireland with Kilkenny this year and had his teammate Michael Rice on the management team. Well done Padraig & Michael.

The Carrickshock U15 panel had Padraig Rohan, Jimmy Sheehan, Anthony Aylward & John Tennyson on the sidelines. They battled hard in Roinn A and faced the best of the best in their grade. A blitz in Kilmarnagh hosted by Graigue Ballycallan saw some excellent hurling and Carrickshock provided the competition with difficult opposition. A special thanks to David Franks who trained the U15s and minor panels all year with both sets of management.

The U13s topped their league group in Roinn B with 8 wins out of 8. They marginally lost out to an excellent Mullinavat team in both the league and championship finals. A super group of players managed by Neil O'Grady, John Raggett & John O'Gorman. They brought a crowd everywhere they played this season and were one of the standout teams in Kilkenny in this age category.

The U7s, U9s & U11s improved yet again this year with some fantastic blitz appearances and the U11s reaching the cup final in the Slieverue league. Thanks to Edward Power, John Hoyne, Darragh Beagan, Padraig Crowley, Paul O'Brien, Anthony Sweeney, Pat Fennelly, Richie Frisby, Padraig O'Dowd and Bill Hoyne for their hard work at underage levels.



Roinn C Minor Shield Winners



U13 Panel

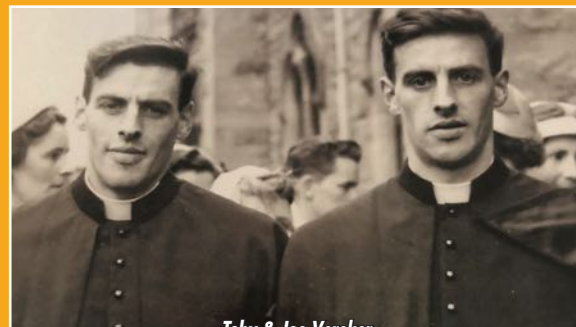


## CARRIGEEN

As Carrigeen GAA took to the field for its 68th year in existence it was not to be a fruitful year results wise, but the men from Asper Park & the Glens of Carrigeen gave it their all for the black & amber of Kilkenny's smallest club plying their trade in Junior D this year. The club's brilliant facilities at our beloved Asper Park hosted the keenly contested Junior F semi-final with local rivals Mullinavat edging out Kilmacow. Asper Park was also the venue for the Junior E county final where a large crowd witnessed a late Piltown surge to edge out a gallant Dunnamaggin side, a big thanks to the club stewards on the night for controlling traffic exiting the grounds safely on the night, our under utilised facilities will hopefully see more action in 2023. Thanks must be directed to Rex Quinn once more for his tireless effort in fundraising for the club, it is just titanic the work he puts in & is hugely appreciated in

the club, a word of gratitude must also go out to our Groundsman John Quinn along with his member Edward Burns for bringing Asper Park surface back to its former glory of past years, it's a pleasure to play on, Down memory lane now briefly, Not too many clubs can boast of having had two hurlers of the highest calibre of Toby & Joe Vereker, the tales of wizardry from the twins at Dunkitt & around the country of the performances of these two iconic legends, it's a shame the modern generation missed out on witnessing these two hurling stars in action, so here

we acknowledge the twins with an attached photo to honour their service to the black & amber of Asper Park. Another stalwart of our club & deserves recognition for his outstanding commitment as the referee representing our club 33 years now were he officiated numerous county finals including being on the National panel is Pat Dunphy, so well done Pat on an illustrious refereeing career to date. Congratulations to 3 of our club members recently married, Liam Roche (salmon) & Kathy, also to Gary & Michelle & Wayne & Megan who ere married last december, the club would like to extend its deepest sympathies to former hurler Hilary on the loss of Ena Delahunty this past year also to the Moran family were Paddy Eddie & Gerry al hurled at the club & the loss of their father Tony Moran, we also commiserate with Willie Roche on the loss of his sister Peg Power, To Rex on the loss of his first cousin Michael Haley & finally to our selector Paddy Walsh on the loss of his brother in law Liam Durney, Dia Dhaoibh,



Toby & Joe Vereker



## CLONEEN

Following on from our hurling nursery success last year, 2022 Cloneen welcomed our new GPO in conjunction with Leinster GAA Nathan Culleton to the club where he is working in both schools in the parish along with TY students from our club from Castlecomer Community School and in the club with our juveniles and because of this sees an increase of players across the younger age-groups resulting in larger numbers attending training on a bi-weekly basis.

The club ran a very successful Summer Camp with the help of Nathan Culleton and his great group of coaches. He provided our coaches from Cloneen Dara, Malachy & Aisling with training and a practical session of fundamental movements and fun games to bring with them to the camp. There was three days of fun filled games and activities and special visits from Rackard Cody with the many cups won by Kilkenny along with Kilkenny U20 hurlers Padraig Maylan and Peter McDonald, Kilkenny Senior Hurlers Conor Delaney, Conor Browne, Paddy Deegan and Adrian Mullan and Kilkenny Junior Footballers Ciaran Cooney and Manager JJ Grace where all the children were delighted to get autographs ask a few questions and get their photos taken with the players and cups and to finish the camp each child was presented with a Certificate of Excellence by Adrian Mullan

The Juveniles from u5 to u13 were treated to a morning in Nowlan Park where they got to tour the dressing rooms, gym and meeting rooms and each age group got to run out onto Nowlan Park where they had a training session with their coaches. Nathan organised Kilkenny Hurlers Mossy Keogh and Eoin Cody who signed autographs, stood for photos and presented each child with a medal to remember the day

The older juveniles had mixed results during the year. The U19 team were defeated by Barrow Rangers in the Shield final. The u17 team joined with Blacks & Whites and our U15s joined with Fenians. The u13 team had a reasonable year and were very competitive throughout the league and progressed to the quarter final of the championship.

Our GPO Nathan held a Youth coaching Camp for our U13 & U15 players which included hurling coaching sessions and S&C introductory work. He also organised a goal keeping workshop with Darren Brennan for all our goalies in the club and he held a very successful coaches session on fun games, fundamental movements and basic hurling skills and has many more coaching courses organised for the coming weeks. Junior team did extremely well against Slieverue in Prem round of championship only losing out by two points with the game there for the taking. Great progress is been made at Adult level. Junior C team were unfortunate to be defeated in the championship semi final. Great effort was put in by all our Juvenile and Adult players with the great training from all our mentors.



Cloneen juveniles with Adrian Mullen



## CLARA

Our Senior hurlers won the Leinster League, then League Championship saw a win against Ballyhale, a draw versus Tullaroan, a win against Erins Own, a loss against Mullinavat and win against Lisdowney. These results saw our seniors qualify for the Shield Final against Dicksboro after finishing second in the league due to score difference with Tullaroan. The Shield Final was a competitive game with both teams attacking well. Thankfully we came out on top to bring home the Shield to Clara. The Championship Quarter final draw saw us come up against Ballyhale and unfortunately we fell short.

Our Juniors had some very hard games with good wins against Mooncoin and Dicksboro. Our Junior D's struggled in the League but rallied in the Championship qualifying for the County Semi-final but losing to Mooncoin.

Senior Footballers had wins against Thomastown and Danesfort in the league losing to Muckalee in the last round. The Championship didn't go our way losing to O'Loughlin Gaels by a late goal.

U19's won the County Final after a great Semi-Final win against John Lockes - game that ended in a draw but we won in extra time. The final against the Fenians was a very close affair but we came out on top by 0-20 to 1-15.

The U17's football was very competitive with wins against St. Patricks and Galmoy/Windgap, then we played Tullagher Rosbercon in the Semi-Final but ran out of energy losing the game by a point. League saw wins against Bennettsbridge, Naas, Dunnamaggin, Piltown, Danesfort, Dicksboro, O'Loughlins and drawing with Ballycallan. The Championship 1st round was against Gowran and after losing to them in the league both the players and management were well up for the it, winning the game well in the end. The Quarter-Final game didn't go as planned losing to Erins Own.

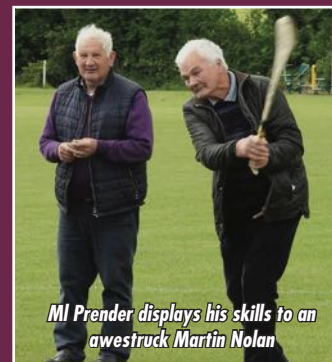
U15's had a strong league form finishing 3rd, with wins against St Patricks, Maynooth, John Lockes, James Stephens Green and Dunnamaggin, the championship saw them paired with Dunnamaggin but after a strong first half, lost out to a strong Dunnamaggin response.

The Feile team had good wins against John Lockes and Dicksboro in the group stages but lost to Dunnamaggin in the Semi-Final.

U13's got to the Football Quarter-Final beating Rower Inistioge but eventually losing to Piltown. The Hurling League saw wins against Rower Inistioge, Bennettsbridge, Conahy Shamrocks, Naomh Moling, Slieverue, Lisdowney, Setanta Ceatharlach, Ballinkillen and Emeralds in the League Final. The momentum continued in the Championship with the team getting to County final winning games against Glenmore, Graigueanamanagh and a very competitive Blacks and whites. They played St Lachtain's in the Final in what was a game of 2 halves, thankfully our boys coming out on top.

Underage players had another great year, lots of talented young stars in the making. The Go Games Blitzes were great with teams at U11, U9 and U7 taking part. The nursery program still going strong with lots of u5 players putting on the Clara Jersey for the first time.

Well done to all our players who represented the club for Kilkenny at all ages and Congratulations to our All Ireland Puc Fada senior champion Killian Phelan.



MI Prender displays his skills to an awestruck Martin Nolan



## CONAHY SHAMROCKS

Adult Hurling & Football: It was a busy year of activity for the three adult teams in the club. Pride of place goes to the Junior F team who won a JJ Kavanagh & Sons league and championship double this year, winning against St. Lachtain's and Mullinavat in the respective finals. The junior B hurlers also qualified for their

JJ Kavanagh & Sons championship final, but were unfortunately defeated by St. Martin's in the final played in horrible weather conditions in Nowlan Park. The intermediate side managed to qualify for the Michael Lyng Motors championship quarter-final, but were defeated by eventual championship winners Danesfort. The club was also proudly represented by Tom Phelan and James Bergin on the Kilkenny senior hurling panel. In football, the senior footballers are due to play a relegation play-off at the time of writing.

Bórd na nÓg: The under-15 hurlers provided the main highlight of the year when they qualified for the Duggan Steel Roinn C final. However, they lost out to Emeralds in that final in the MW Hire Centre, Dummore. Honourable mention also goes to the under-17 hurlers, who qualified for the Kilkenny Honda Centre Roinn C semi-final. This was a very young team, but had some very good performances throughout the year. The club was also proudly represented by Jack Rhatigan on the Kilkenny Under-14 squad who qualified for the final of the Tony Forristal Under-14 Inter-county tournament in Waterford.

All-Ireland Presentation: After multiple postponements due to Covid-19, the 2020 All-Ireland Junior Club winning team received their medal at a Dinner Dance celebration in May of this year. Special guest Martin Fogarty presented the medals to the team, and the under-19 county title winning team, also from 2020, received medals on the night.

Summer Camp & Under-age blitzes: After a three year absence due, the club's annual "Hurling Stars" Summer Camp was held in August. It proved to be a great success, with fun and enjoyment had by all. Many thanks to all the coaches who helped out throughout the week of the camp.

The club also held our annual under-age blitzes during September. The Kevin Bergin Memorial Blitz brought under-9 teams from Park/Rathensiska-Timahoe, Fenians and St. Patrick's to Jenkinstown, while the Jim Comerford Memorial Blitz saw under-11 teams from Barrow Rangers and Galmoy take part. Many thanks to all the club coaches who assisted with the smooth running of these blitzes.



Club Winners Celebration



Summer Camp



## DICKSBORO

Summer Camp 2022: The curtain came down for this year on the Dicksboro GAA & Camogie Club Summer Camp with the completion of Week 2 of what were two very successful weeks of the Camp enjoyed by a large number of children. Fun and games were enjoyed by the children with time for rest and sustenance under the watchful eye of Niamh, Caoimhe, Philly, Catherine and Eddie with lots of help from team leaders. Thanks to all those who helped make the week such a success. We are already looking ahead to next year's event.

Dicksboro Golf Classic 2022: Huge thank you to our great hosts in Kilkenny Golf Club for their brilliant hospitality and for the golf course, which was in splendid condition and in full summer bloom in July 2022. We hosted a very successful Golf Classic.

Kilkenny Under 20s and Senior Camogie Homecoming: This summer, on a beautiful evening, Palmerstown held a homecoming to celebrate with our own captain Aoife, Asha, Ciara, Niamh & all the Kilkenny team. We also welcomed the successful U 20 leinster and all Ireland team & management on a great evenings celebrations.

Denis Philpott U11 Tournament: The hugely successful Denis Philpott Tournament took place in Palmerstown in the middle of September. Teams from Kilkenny, Wexford and Kildare – Dicksboro, James Stephens, O'Loughlin Gaels, Naas, Danesfort, Mooncoin, Glynn-Barntown, Lisdowney, St. Martin's, Young Irelands, Tullaroan – will be taking part. Our lads took the spoils winning the final. Well done to all involved.

Father and Son: Father & Son on the field of play in the Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship on either side. Paddy Bowden & Cillian Hackett both lead the forward line for Lisdowney & Dicksboro respectively today in Freshford. And Daddy scored more!!!



Summer Camp



Father & Son



## DANESFORT

See Danesfort report in separate centenary article.



## DUNNAMAGGIN

Another busy year for Dunnamaggin GAA all round. Planning was granted for our new Gym & ball wall with work hoping to commence shortly. The Club also completed the purchase of some additional land to have space for the ball wall and additional parking. All of which is made possible with the support of our members through the Development lotto syndicate and support of other fundraising activities.

On the playing field early success was tasted when Joe Fitzpatrick, Andy Hickey and Denis Walsh all played a vital part in Kilkenny winning the All Ireland U20 title. It was super to have such representation at Inter County Level. Our intermediates were drawn in a tough group for the League/Championship but managed to achieve safety only to be drawn against neighbours Carrickshock in the Championship Quarter Final with our neighbours proving too strong on the day. Carrickshock were our opponents when our Junior A's won through to their Championship Semi Final and in an absolute cracking game Carrickshock got the win. The Junior E's continue to impress having won the Junior F championship last year and this year they reached their league semifinal and were beaten by Graig BallyCallan in the Championship Quarter Final. Our Minor took the step up to Roinn A and were competitive during the league, they drew eventual winner Dicksboro in the Championship quarter final with the city side too strong on the day despite a super effort from our lads. The U15's also stepped up to Roinn A and in the early season in the Feile competition won their way through to the final where they met city side James Stephens who were the better team on the day. James Stephens were also the opponents when the boys won their way through to the Championship semifinal but again they were too strong but super achievement to be able to be competitive at Roinn A and get to a championship semi. Our U13's put in some great performances in the league and won their way through to the Championship semi where they were beaten by eventual winners Mullinavat. Our younger juvenile teams continue to develop, and we fielded teams in all age groups with great numbers. It was great to see the Aghervillar Community Games team re-established with the boys winning all the way through to the Leinster final where they were beaten by the Offaly Champions. Some additional work on Football was very popular and culminated in the club hosting an U7 Football blitz in September for the first time ever. We would also like to remember also at this time those who are no longer with us and extend our sympathies to their families and friends. May they rest in Peace.



Dunnamaggin U7 Panel



## EMERALDS

This year our club marked it's 50th Anniversary and 2022 has been a year of great progress and development both on and off the field to mark the occasion.

At underage – our U6, U7, U9 and U11 all competed in the GoGames, and numerous blitz's around the county with player numbers up across all teams. Our U9s also got the chance to play in Nolan Park while also winning their GoGame Blitz! Well done to all mentors involved!

For our U13, U15 and Minor teams we saw one of our most successful years with our teams all having very strong league campaigns including our U13s making the league final – unfortunately a very strong Clara team came away with the win on the day. Our U15 and Minor teams both ended a 9 year drought of County Final appearances at underage level. Our Minor team took on Freshford in the County Final under lights but missed out by a single point after the game went to extra time. Our U15s went one step further – beating Conahy to take home the crown – our first since 2013 beating Conahy by 10 points after a top class second half display. Well done to all involved and what a way to mark 50 years! In Football – our Minors and U15s also had a great year with our Minors making the county final and U15s winning the Kilkenny Feile and representing the County in Wexford at the Division 3 championship.

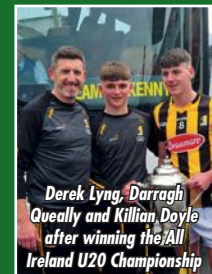
At adult level – our U19's were unlucky in the championship after a strong league campaign that saw them take home silverware. They were beaten by 4 points by Barrow Rangers in the final.

Our Junior C's had an all conquering year as they came away with both the league and Championship trophies – beating Piltown in both deciders. This championship win is the first adult title since 2007. Well done to all involved!!

At Junior – after losing a number of players to post Covid travel like many clubs, we saw a number of new and younger players step up to the fore. Our League campaign saw many new players blooded and the future is certainly bright. Our championship campaign was ended by eventual champions Blacks and Whites. The very best of luck to all players next year.

On the County scene – we are very proud of our club members Derek Lyng, Killian Doyle and Darragh Queally and their victorious U20 All Ireland campaign. An incredible moment for the whole county. The very best of luck to Derek Lyng on taking over from Brian Cody in the coming season with Kilkenny. One of the biggest moments in the clubs history. At minor level we were represented by Micheal Ahern – well done to him on all his hard work. On the victorious Kilkenny Football team we were represented by Jack Kavanagh.

Our club development committee has been working endlessly and huge works have been completed including our new walkway, second pitch facility and wall ball area. Thank you to all who have supported and donated to these works as the club works to make the next 50 years successful!



Derek Lyng, Darragh Queally and Killian Doyle after winning the All Ireland U20 Championship



## ERIN'S OWN

As we head into wintery dark evenings, the month of April is distant memory for many. However for Erin's Own it proved to be the highlight of the year. For it was on Sunday 10th April in a windswept Clara in front of a relatively meager but vociferous crowd that Erin's Own's regained their senior football status in Kilkenny. This came about thanks to a two goal win over Glenmore.

En-route to the final Erin's Own defeated Lisdowney and Carrickshock amassing a 7-17 across both matches. Mentors and players were in no doubt of the attacking threat posed by Glenmore who racked you 7-18 in their two games en-route to the final. However, the Erin's Own defence put in their best display to date restricting the men from the south to just six points. Goals from Jamie Holohan and Stephen Daly in the second half paved the way for victory. As a result of their good showing in the club campaign, Jamie Holohan and Ciarán Wallace went on win a Junior All Ireland title with Kilkenny in Croke Park.

### Senior Hurling

With a new senior hurling manager at the helm confidence and morale amongst the players was high following the successful football campaign. In the League Championship, a win over Lisdowney in round two was sandwiched between heavy defeats to Tullaroan and Clara. A glorious opportunity to score a rare win over a depleted Ballyhale Shamrocks team was coughed up in Nowlan Park which was followed by defeat to Mullinavat. However, an emphatic win over Graig-Ballycallan in Freshford restored belief and earned a crack at newly crowned league champions Tullaroan in a quarter final. In an exciting game where the players gave arguably their best performance of the season they came up just short on a scoreline of 18 points to 15 points.

The Junior and Junior E teams bowed out in the championship quarter final and first round stages. At underage the minors had a good league campaign and put in an excellent performance in the semi final but narrowly lost out to James Stephens. The U15's reached the league final but fell to Dicksboro in the championship quarter final after extra time. Despite scoring 5-11 the U13's lost out to Galmoy/Windgap by a goal in the first round. Many pupils across the schools in the parish enjoyed lots of training with the clubs new Games Promotion Officer Cora Delaney. A highlight of the underage season was the clubs own summer camp in August which was enjoyed by over 100 juvenile members.

Off the field Erin's Own enjoyed success with Fantasy Cheltenham, the Kilkenny Outdoor Music Festival headlined by The Stunning and a golf classic. The Erin's Own Lotto gave out in excess of €20,000 in winnings. A big thanks goes to our many club sponsors in particular The Avalon House Hotel. Sadly during the year we said farewell to a number of long s



Jamie Holohan and Ciarán Wallace after winning the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship with Kilkenny



## FENIANS

The club would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, supporters, club officers, club coaches, club selectors, and the support staff at all levels within the club for their excellent ongoing work this year. We would also like to thank our main sponsors Ray McCarthy Electrical and MW Hire Services for their continued support.

Fundraising: The Fenians Drive-in Bingo continued in the hurling field this year with the club welcoming cars to the field raising much needed funds for the club. This fundraiser could not happen without the Trojan work of Marguerite Dermody and her helpers.

A big thank you also to Billy Fitzpatrick and helpers for the continued success of the Fenians Golf Classic on the August bank holiday weekend with many teams and sponsors involved.

Intermediates: At intermediate level we battled well at the start of the league and great effort was put in by all, both on and off the field but, while results didn't turn out as we may have hoped you couldn't fault the effort of all involved. Despite a huge effort in the league matches, unfortunately results did not go our way. The championship 1st round, despite a hard-working performance against Conahy Shamrocks ended in defeat and putting us into the dreaded Relegation Final. In this game we took on neighbours St. Lachtain's and while they had our number in previous meetings, the team was determined to come out on top. A strong start and a never-say-die attitude saw us hold out for victory and assuring our Intermediate status for the coming year on a scoreline of 1-16 to 0-12. Many thanks must go to manager Kevin Galvin, trainer Owen Casey and their management team for their tireless effort throughout the year.

Juniors: Fenians Junior B's having won Junior C last year looked forward to the season at a higher grade. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a tough year with many players missing through injury and travel. In spite of these setbacks the players tried hard in every game and gave all they could. The championship saw a valiant effort against Glenmore and Danesfort but unfortunately the success of the previous year could not be replicated. Many thanks must go to Ger Henderson, Neil Tynan and JP Grehan for their work with the juniors over the year.

Under 19: Despite being made-up of mostly our U17 panel the team didn't let this be a disadvantage and started the championship well with a victory over Blacks & Whites on a scoreline of 7-18 to 2-10. As we write the team are preparing for the County Final this weekend where we take on Clara. Best of luck to those involved and a thank you to JP Grehan, Kieran Grehan and Eddie Hughes plus Gerry Drennan for his help with the team.

Juvenile: With many of our minor panel taking part in the Intermediate training sessions they brought this experience to the fore when competing in the U-17 campaign. With some excellent future prospects in their ranks they fought hard in all games putting in some great performances and remaining competitive throughout. Thanks to manager Fintan Garrett, and selectors Sean O'Gorman, Tommy Henderson and David O'Leary.

Our U-15s, had a solid year fighting hard in all games throughout the campaign. Despite being constrained with numbers the panel did not let this stand in their way and gave their all in every game making it to the Shield Final where they unfortunately lost out to Slieverue. Thanks to Paul Phelan, Mick Phelan and Tom Walsh for their work with the team.

Great work continues with younger age groups in the club with the field full of kids at each training session. There was great excitement for the primary school children with the addition of Nathan Culleton as our Games Promotion Officer increasing the opportunities for the juveniles to hone their skills and practice the game. A special thanks to Paul Phelan, Fintan Garrett, Oliver Sharkey for their work in the Juvenile section of the club and all the coaches and mentors who helped out throughout the year including John Hogan, JJ Donovan, Finbarr Donovan, Shane Neary and Tony Cleary.



## GALMOY

2022 proved to be a very busy year once again, both on and off the field. While all the usual teams made their preparations for their respective competitions, the hardworking Club committee were working from New Year's Day onwards raising funds, to both run the club and to carry out some worthwhile development. With that in mind, the usual Parish Auction was held outdoors on Sunday February 13th and proved a tremendous success. On to the weekend of June 17th and 18th, when Rathdowney Golf Club hosted the second ever Galmoy GAA Golf Classic. We are indebted to all the local supporters who came out, on what was a beautiful weekend, to show their golf skills in the beautiful surrounds of a smashing venue. It was then decided to construct and upgrade Ball Wall facilities behind the existing stand at our parish pitch. And so on August 15th, the usual crew of volunteers began the work to provide a facility which will be of enormous benefit to Galmoy National School as well as to all the local GAA and Camogie teams. At the time of writing, plans are underway for a further fundraiser on November 5th featuring local musicians Sweet Freedom.

On the field of play, huge effort was put in by our adult players under the guidance of P J Delaney, Cathal Delahunty and Michael Brennan. Training began early and no stone was left unturned throughout the season. It was a great honour to be invited to play in the Mick "Maggie" Walsh Tournament in Ballinakill on June 30th and Galmoy duly obliged by winning the final where they overcame the local Ballinakill side in the final. Alas, our Junior Championship journey came undone against a determined St Patrick's Ballyragget outfit in Urlingford on September 17th. Our Junior C team also battled well throughout the year before going down by just a single point against Slieverue on August 21st. Our underage amalgamation with Windgap, which began in 2006, continued into another year with a huge effort being put in to provide competitive action throughout the summer for our Juvenile players. Our U-21s reached the Roinn B County Final played on December 23rd but were pipped by Kilmacow. Without this amalgamation, our adult club would really be struggling at this stage. Our U-11s were delighted to get the opportunity to play in Nowlan Park September 23rd when they played Cloneen in their Go Games finale. In early summer the club was very proud to see local player Billy Drennan win an U-20 All Ireland medal with Kilkenny on Sunday May 22nd, in their one point defeat of Limerick at Semple Stadium. Having scored freely throughout the campaign, Billy struck an amazing 17 points in Kilkenny's defeat of Galway on May 2nd, as well as winning the TG4 Man of the Match on two occasions. It was great to see both the Leinster and All Ireland Trophies being brought to our local Galmoy National School on June 17th. Off the field, our Juvenile Quiz Team brought County Honours to Galmoy when they won the Kilkenny



Billy in Galmoy NS with U-20 Trophies June 2022



Galmoy U-11s in Nowlan Pk on 23-9-22



## GLENMORE

2022 saw Glenmore return to Senior rank for the first time since 2005. In the League a great win over the Village was followed by a disappointing performance against Dicksboro. A gritty victory over Graigue Ballycallan left us in a good position. Narrow defeats followed to Bennetsbridge & O'Loughlins. Finishing 4th in the group we drew the Shamrocks in 1st round. After a very bright start

our challenge eventually fell away to the eventual Champions. Overall a solid year with some good signs for the future.

Our Junior B's won 3 out of 5 league games. We had a good win over Tullagher in the Championship but lost out narrowly to St Martins in the County Semi Final

Our Junior E's won 2 out of 4 games – We bowed out to Piltown after extra time in the championship The Minors had a solid league, finishing 3rd - winning 5 out of 8 games. In the championship they beat The Fenians & Mullinavat & lost to eventual champions Thomastown in the B semi final

The u15s also had a solid year, finishing 3rd in the league, winning 5 & drawing 2 out of ten matches. They Beat Village B & Lisdowney in the championship. They eventually bowed out to Graigue Ballycallan in a pulsating B Semi Final.

The u13's had a very young squad but competed well, finishing 3rd in their league section, winning 6 & drawing 1 game out of 9 league matches. We lost in the Championship to Clara, the eventual Champions. We then turned our attention to the C Shield, beating Slieverue & losing to Bennetsbridge in a great final under lights in Dunmore.

The Under 11s had great success in the Eamon O'Donovan tournament & our under 10s tasted victory in the Ballyhale & Mount Sion Tournaments

At the time of writing our under 19s are in the B County final after championship wins over The Rower & Piltown.

Congratulations to all our club players who represented Kilkenny with distinction.



Glenmore U11 Eamon O'Donovan cup winners



## GRAIGNAMANAGH

2022 started off very well for the Club with news that we received Sports Capital Grant Funding of nearly €150,000. This will enable us to commence work on a new two storey development project for additional dressing rooms and a full gym area and meeting rooms.

On the playing front we started the year where our Junior Football Team won the League and fell just short in the Championship with a final loss to Barrow Rangers. Our hurlers had a strong All County League campaign where we topped our Group and following further wins against St. Patrick's and Tullagher Rosbercon we qualified for the Final to face familiar rivals Piltown. On a lovely afternoon we got the upper hand on Piltown by a score of 2.10 to 1.12 but we would meet later in the year yet again. Things were going well leading up to the League Championship and despite an early set back in Piltown, a draw against St Patrick's and wins against Kilmacow and Slieverue guaranteed us to finish second in our Group The opening round of the Championship led us to renew acquaintances with Group opponents Kilmacow who were buoyant after a big opening round win. Our boys hurled well on the day and were deserving winners in Glenmore by 2.19 to 1.14. All systems were go for the 1/4 Final where we were drawn to face Piltown. Our 3rd meeting of the year was always going to be a close affair and it surely was. We were level at full time and after extra time we eventually came up short by 0-19 to 0-18 which was heart-breaking. Players and Management gave their all and a huge thanks to all and with a young team, there will be better days to come soon. Our Junior C team enjoyed a solid league campaign and a memorable win in Ballyhale in extra time a high point. With our team depleted with a number injuries our Championship campaign came to an end away to Threecastles but our lads gave their all and valuable experience was had which will be hugely beneficial and again a huge thanks to management. The U19's bowed out of the Championship with a narrow defeat in the Semi final to Tullaroan. On the Juvenile side of things we were so close to big wins in the Minor and U15 Grade. We have great numbers and great work being put in from Nursery right up along the age groups. We were proudly represented by both Pierce Blanchfield and Ted Dunne who were part of the U20 All Ireland Winning Team. Both Ivan Bolger and Sean Hamilton made the Kilkenny Minor Team. Sean O Grady proudly represented the county at U15 level. So make no mistake the future in Graig is bright. Finally the last day in July was a special day for the Club, we welcomed Glenmore and James Stephens for the 1st Senior Club game hosted in Dr.Tierney Park. Here's to a successful 2023 for the Club.



U9's at end of year presentations.



## GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN

In the early 1990's led by Pat Brennan GBC purchased our new grounds in Kilmanagh. Construction of two dressing rooms and two playing pitches began and on the 25th of May 1997 our new grounds were officially opened. In 2002 our club grounds were dedicated to our late great clubman Tom Ryall. In the intervening years our hard-working committee added to our facilities with the construction of two more dressing rooms and a car park.

In 2017 a public meeting was held to discuss our priorities for the enhancing of our facilities and in June of 2018 we launched our ambitious plans for Vision 2020. Namely this was the erection of six ball stopping nets and the purchase of a new mower. A new roof and full refurbishment of our existing clubhouse was required. We also committed to the construction of a new two storey building to incorporate a gym and social area, and an 800 meter floodlit walkway to benefit the whole community. Covid 19 robbed us of the opportunity to finish our developments in 2020. However when it was safe again work recommenced and the finishing line was in sight. On the 1st of March this year local builder Dom Delaney handed over the keys to our development committee and all of our dreams had become a reality.

To fund this €450,000 development plan our finance committee set about raising the funds required to make our dreams become a reality. The success of the "Sticks" over the years meant that we had surplus of funds in our accounts that helped us fund the initial phase of our developments. A very memorable LipSync was held and its enormous success spurred us on even further. In cooperation with our County Board Officers and our local public representatives proposals were prepared for Croke Park, The Sports Capital programme and Kilkenny County Council for grant aid. The €135,000 that was allocated to us would not have been possible without their hard work and we are eternally grateful to them. To fund the shortfall in our funding our dedicated Lotto Committee aided by new members relaunched our local lotto last year with great success and we are well on our way to clearing our debts.

On the 27th of May twenty five years and two days after our official opening in 1997 we were honoured to have Cllr Fedelis Doherty Chairperson of Kilkenny County Council open our walkway. Jimmy Walsh Chairman of Kilkenny County board who has been a tireless worker for the promotion of Gaelic Games in Kilkenny performed the opening of our new two storey building. The current committee did not undertake these projects for anybody, we did it because of everybody. We did it because of the past generations who worked to develop Gaelic games in the parish and because of the large number of present players and the future generations who wish to pursue their playing ambitions and develop as human beings.

From the generosity of the Teehan family for the use of "The Lawn" in Shipton, to the moment Joe Millea, Gerry Tynan and the volunteers moved into Kilmanagh to develop our fields our purpose has always been the provision of the finest playing surfaces in the country. The foundations of that aspirations were laid in the 90's and the tender loving care lavished on them since by Jack, Johnny and Gussy Ronan is there for all to admire and we are eternally grateful to them. With our enhanced facilities we are even more proud to call Tom Ryall Park our home and we look forward to the years ahead.





## JAMES STEPHENS

### Club Development

After a long break, club development on Pairc Seamuis Stiophán has restarted. The whole project is expected to be completed in late Spring 2023. The new development consists of a wall-ball and artificial surface area. Inside there is a large reception/dining area to cater for teams and officials. New toilets that will be available to the public will be accessible from the external playing areas.



Wall-ball and artificial surface area

### 40 Years Celebration

On 22 October the club honoured the All Ireland senior club champions of 1982. They were the second team from the club to win the Tommy Moore Cup after the breakthrough side of 1976.

Their journey started with victory over old rivals Fenians in the county final by 2-10 to 0-6.

Their Leinster journey included victories over Brownstown (Westmeath) and a game Portlaoise side. The Leinster final was a cracker as they scraped home against a very good Faythe Harriers side by 0-13 to 1-9. Sylvie Linnane's Gort awaited them in the All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park and James Stephens eked out a solid win by 1-13 to 1-8.

In the All Ireland final they defeated Mount Sion in impressive fashion by 3-13 to 3-8. They were trained by the late Sean George Leahy and captained by Jimmy O'Brien.

A wonderful night was had in the club as the participants re-told tales of former times.

### James Stephens Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions 1981

Back: Michael Moore, Billy Walton (RIP), Andy Egan (RIP), Dinny McCormack, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Brian Cody, Phil Fan Larkin.

Front: Martin Hennessy, Joe Hennessy, Philly Brennan, John McCormack, Jimmy O'Brien, Paddy Neary, Ned Kelly.



## JOHN LOCKES

Another busy year for John Lockes GAA Club from adult to juvenile level.

**JUNIOR** – The Junior team were given a bye in the first round of the Championship, followed by a one point victory against Slieverue which saw them through to a Quarter Final against Blacks and Whites with victory going to Blacks and Whites.

**JUNIOR C** - Our Junior C had a slow start to the League but made a very good progression to Championship.

An away win against Windgap put them through to the Quarter Final against Slieverue at home with the Lockes boys taking the win. The Semi Final was played under lights in Dunmore with the Emeralds coming out on top.

**U19E** – After the first few league games the young men were brought up a Roinn to Roinn D and beat Kilmacow in the Semi Final of the League. Next up they played Emeralds in a game that went to extra time with our boys eventually losing out. Then they beat Cloneen in the E Quarter Final of the Championship which set them up for a Semi Final against Clara and after extra time Clara came out on top with a 4 point win.

**Minors** - lost only one match in the League. The first round of Championship brought them up against a very strong St Martins outfit and they were runners up in the Roinn B Shield Final against Barrow Rangers.

**U15s** - fielded two teams - one group in Roinn A and another in the U15C 13 a side. The U15A team completed their year with a fantastic win over Young Irelands in the Shield Final. The 13 a side group faced Danesfort in the Championship Final and Danesfort won the game.

**U13s** fielded two teams U13A and a 13 a side group. The U13s 13 a side had a very good win over Danesfort in the League Final and a fantastic win over Young Irelands in the Championship Final. The U13A finished strongly in the League and reached the Championship Final but just couldn't get past a very strong James Stephens.

**U11s** enjoyed taking part in several tournaments with success in the Ballyhale tournament winning the Aylward Cup followed shortly afterwards by winning the Tullaroan Underage Tournament. At the time of writing these young lads are finalists in the Danesfort Floodlit League.

**U9s** had a great success in the Bennettsbridge tournament winning the A Shield Final.

**U6 - U9s** enjoyed regular matches and blitzes including Go Games and a blitz in Mooncoin.

All age groups have shown great commitment and ambition this year and huge credit must be given to all mentors and trainers in the club. The support from parents and the local community has been fantastic and is greatly appreciated by everyone in the club. We look forward to another great year in 2023.



John Lockes U15 2022



## KILMACOW

Saturday May 28th 2022 was a memorable and very proud day for everyone involved with Kilmacow GAA.

It saw the official opening of our fantastic new and second pitch.

The culmination of four years work which included the COVID lockdowns we now have two top class pitches which we believe will steadfast the future of the club and no doubt will bring endless enjoyment more success to the club.

Great credit is due to the executive committee, club members and supporters club syndicate members who together made this project possible and even more testament to everyone involved the project is now fully paid for.

We are also delighted that Phase two has been launched with an exciting plan to construct an AstroTurf and Ball Wall in the near future.

The club was honoured to have Mary Phelan and family, wife of the late Jim Phelan cut the ribbon to officially open the pitch after a flag and banner parade with our Juveniles. Honorary members were also present for the occasion.

The month of May was also a proud month for the club for the club with James Walsh winning an All Ireland medal with the Kilkenny U20 team defeating Limerick in Thurles. Huge congratulations to James and the Walsh family on a fantastic achievement.

On the field of play our teams continued to make great progress at all ages which began in April and are still involved in competition at the latter end of the year.

This year also saw the club field three adult teams.

It's only fitting to thank our players, coaches and parents for their dedication and commitment to the club again this year.

Thanks also to everyone who continue to give their time and help to the club as we look forward to 2023.



Pitch Opening

## LISDOWNEY



Kilkenny Football: Lisdowney was strongly represented both on and off the field with the Kilkenny victorious footballers with Michael Kenny, Liam Dunphy and David O'Carroll representing the club on the field, while the team was kept fit and healthy by our local Physiotherapist Theresa Dunphy and First Aider Lloyd McGree. Congratulations to the Kilkenny Footballers on a great win and great to see the club represented heavily in Croke Park on the day.

Kilkenny Development Squads: The development squads once again proved to be strongly represented by Lisdowney with three players; Cillian Dunphy, Robert McEvoy and Paddy Murphy who represented Lisdowney in the U14-development squad team which played in the Tony

Forristal All-Ireland Championships. We look forward to 2023 with anticipation as their careers progress.

U-20 All-Ireland: Congratulations to both Aidan Tallis and Alan Dunphy who represented Kilkenny in the All-Ireland U20 Final against Limerick in May, while Aidan stopped the Treaties advances in the dying minutes to salvage a one-point victory on the day. The club is immensely proud of what they both have achieved at such a young age which holds a bright prospect for the future.

Junior F Team: The summer of 2022 saw the introduction of our fourth adult team to which showed a wonderful blend of youth and experience. This is a huge achievement for a country club, to be able to fill four adult teams consisting of over eighty players. There championship run was cut short by Mullinavat, however the displays in the league were nothing less than iconic with some performances reeling in the years. We look forward to seeing these iconic displays again in 2023.

Junior D Team: Our Junior D team contested the J.J Kavanagh & Sons league and championship final with both agonising losses in extra time to St. Martins in the league final on a score line of 2-18 to 2-17. The team dusted themselves down and reached the championship final where they faced a talented Mooncoin side, who won out on the night in Dunmore on a score line of 3-20 to 2-18.

Fitzgibbon Cup: Huge congratulations to Niall Brennan on winning the Fitzgibbon Cup with UL back in February. Niall was a key forward in their success and the club is very proud of his achievement.

Underage: Our U11's were victorious in Nowlan Park defeating Blacks & Whites in the Go-Games during the summer.

Kilmacud 7's: Our Senior were victorious in the Kilmacud Seven's which took place a day before the All-Ireland Hurling final. Lisdowney were victorious defeating O'Toole's from Dublin on a scoreline of 5-12 to 4-14.



Lisdowney Junior F Team



Aidan Tallis and Alan Dunphy who represented Kilkenny in the All-Ireland U20 Final

## MOONCOIN



Saturday, 5th February 2022, will go down as one of the greatest in the club's long history. On that day, the men of Mooncoin won the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship for the very first time, in the most dramatic of circumstances. On a scoreline of 0-22 to 1-18, Mooncoin were one-point winners against Ballygiblin of Cork, played on the sacred turf of Croke Park. That historic day will never be forgotten in the parish. A huge crowd from home and abroad witnessed Mooncoin captain, Niall Madden, raising the cup on the steps of the Hogan Stand. A parade through Mooncoin village followed later that night and crowds gathered to greet their heroes in the GAA Complex. Celebrations ensued for many days, schools were visited, and

social media celebrity Buff Egan even made an appearance! Into that mix came Martin O'Neill's dramatic side-line cut point which went 'viral' online. It all meant the name of 'Mooncoin GAA' was mentioned far and wide, on what was a very special week for the club.

To mark the club's All Ireland victory - and many other achievements in recent years - a dinner dance was held in Hotel Kilkenny March, which was enjoyed by one and all.

In April, the club took part in the Walk for Vicky/Climb for Charlie fundraising initiative. Over €1000 was raised for Pieta House and the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association. In May, three local clubmen were on the Kilkenny U20 panel which won the All-Ireland Final. It was a proud day for Martin Gannon, Seán O'Dwyer and Adam Croke. In June, 'The Rose Run' returned after an enforced break due to Covid. In addition, our first 'Camán Hurling Summer Camp' was held in August, which was also a great success.

There was much to celebrate in the summer when medals were presented in the Complex for an array of club victories. The All Ireland, Leinster and County Junior Championship medals were handed out, along with the Junior A County Championship; in addition, the 2019 Intermediate Football Championship and League medals were given out. and of course the Camogie Junior Championship medals for 2021. Mooncoin had five adult male teams playing in different grades. All accounted for themselves most impressively. The Mooncoin Intermediate team did well in their first year at the grade, just missing out in the quarter-finals. The year was capped off by our Junior D team who won the Country Style Foods Junior D Championship final in Dunmore after a thrilling encounter.



Mooncoin at Headquarters!

## MUCKALEE GFC



The Junior footballers were competitive in their games while the Seniors reached the Semi-Finals in League and Championship.

Well done to the St. Martins minor footballers on their victory in the A championship and to the u13 lads who competed so well in the Carlow Leagues, Also to the ladies on doing

the Senior double.

Bereavements Tom Daly who sadly passed away in the last year was on the 1968 winning team and Chairman for many years. Thanks to Jim Bolger for his support and to all who helped during the year



Minor Football Champions



Tom Daly RIP



Memory Lane



U13 Footballers



## MULLINAVAT



Our Senior footballers were once again the stars of the show for the adult club in 2022. We regained our county title, a sixth in all, and fifth since 2017, an incredible run of success. Then onwards to Croke Park where Kilkenny won the All Ireland Junior title with our 12 apostles, 11 of the panel and one selector, all from our club. That July day in Croke Park when Kerry played Dublin in SFC, was also an extremely proud day for the Mullinavat parish.

### Senior Hurling

The 2022 Senior hurling league/championship season ended after a very entertaining Summer, where, after early losses to Lisdowney and Shamrocks, we recorded victories versus Tullaroan, Clara, Erin's Own and O'Loughlin Gaels. All Kilkenny Senior clubs start with the initial priority of remaining one of the 12 elite clubs, we line out Senior in 2023 for a record ninth year in a row.

Well done to Adrian, John, Joe, Michael and all the squad for their efforts all season.

Nursery u6 & u7: The club catered for 40 children each Saturday morning. The youngsters were introduced to the game by mentors Mark O'Brien, Damien Reid, Brian Kenneally, Willie Coogan, Richard Delahunty, Shane Frisby, Eoin Maher, Michelle Hannon and Sinead Grace-Mansfield. Certificates of achievement were given to all children at the climax of the year.

U9: A trip to Croke Park, along with tournament wins in Tullogher and Glenmore were amongst the highlights for this group. Mentors were Dinny Butler, Alex Walsh, John Dunphy and Breda Maddock.

U11: Tournament and challenge games were played all year by this group, which was small in numbers. Their mentors were Willie Kelly, Sean Hogan and Joseph Kearns. Some of the group got to an u12 shield final versus Piltown in Gowran.

U13: This group were dominant at both Schools (St Beacan's) and club level. Five competitive wins this year. Most of the achievements are dealt with elsewhere in the yearbook, but a club league and championship double at under 13, mini sevens, country cup and schools championship was incredible. Pat Rohan, Aylward and Willie Kelly were the mentors here. Brooklyn Restaurant sponsored us. Take a bow guys.

U15: Under the guidance of Brian Conway, Seamus O'Donovan, Stephen O'Shea and Damien Aylward, the lads qualified for Feile division three in Mallow, and got to a county semi final, which we lost to Black and Whites. Several sponsors to thank here, Speedy Hire, Suir Engineering, Councillor Eamon Aylward and KA Groundwork's included.

U17: The minors were coached by Derek Dungan, Pat Davis, Jamie Power and Jeanette Fitzpatrick. We were a little short in numbers at this age group, but the lads were competitive in all games and skill levels improved all season.

Off the pitch we have several projects ongoing. A major revamp of our second pitch, a walkway around both pitches, improved entrances including an attractive artwork by the street art group, and further monitor improvements to dressing rooms.

Thanks to all who continue to assist the club in our endeavours to provide the best facilities we possibly can to the parish community.



11 of our 12-JFC apostles, missing Shane Kelly.



## O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club is located at Hebron Road, Kilkenny City since 1969 (R95 RX63) serving the parish of St. John's - Dunmore, Johnswell and the eastern environs of Kilkenny city. This year planning permission was granted for floodlighting which is due to be installed during next year. Further plans to enhance the facilities at St. John's Park will ensure a sustained future for young players at O'Loughlin Gaels and indeed by association our friends in St. John's Parish Schools. With the help of businesses in the local community we can continue to develop our players to compete at the highest levels. We thank our main sponsors Pat Carroll's Ballybought Street and McCarthy's Eurospar, Newpark Shopping Centre for their continued support. We congratulate our young teams who had varying degrees of successes and disappointments throughout the year but have been instilled with a love of our Gaelic games through good coaching and some solid mentoring. In 2023 we continue to field 4 adult teams - Senior, Intermediate, Junior A and Junior E. We aim to build on our development strategy by continuing to improve our facilities at St. John's Park with plans for additional dressing rooms, a new wall ball and Astro turf as well as refurbishments of our social rooms. We thank all our patrons for their support throughout the year and look forward to a successful 2023

Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh siad.



Billy Sullivan Tournament Winners - O'Loughlin Gaels



Juvenile Chairman Brian Fox presents the Billy Sullivan Cup to captain of our u11 winning team

## PILTOWN



Our grounds were a hive of activity from early Spring as teams prepared for the 2022 season. We fielded teams from u-5 to Junior E. The younger teams enjoyed their training sessions and took part in lots of challenges and blitzes. Our u-13's and u-15's fielded two teams, one each in Roinn A and our u-17's also competed in Roinn A. While Roinn A is certainly challenging, our lads were competitive and our u-17's reached the Minor A Championship Shield Final.

Our u-13's in particular had a good year, winning the U-13B Football Championship and the Lisdowney Sevens Shield Final. Congratulations also to our u-12's who won the Young Irelands Shield Hurling Tournament and to our three parish schools on winning the Cumann na mBunscol u-11A Hurling Championship.

Our u-19's bowed out of championship at quarterfinal stage. Our Juniors were beaten by Tullogher Rosbercon in the League Final and bowed out of championship at semi-final stage. Our Junior C's reached both the League and Championship Finals but were beaten by a strong Emeralds team on both occasions. Finally our Junior E's won the League in a nail-biting encounter against Dunnamaggin but couldn't overcome Graigue Ballycallan in the championship semi-final.

Our u-15 Jim Reid tournament returned after a 2+ year absence. Eight teams, from Kilkenny, Tipperary and Waterford, participated in the highly competitive tournament. Congratulations to Danesfort who beat the home side in the final.

Our annual Bill Costello Summer Camp was a huge success and a highlight of the summer for our younger members, thanks to James Norris and his team of coaches from our juvenile & camogie clubs.

We joined forces with Piltown Camogie & Piltown LGFA Clubs to launch our All Star 15 fundraiser to fundraise for our three clubs. It has been a huge success and, in addition to covering the day-to-day running costs of our clubs, we were delighted to be in a position to bring on board Paudie Bradley as GPO in our three parish schools.

The late, great John T Power, who hailed from Piltown, won 4 All-Ireland medals between 1907 and 1913. Three of those medals and a testimonial scroll went up for auction in 2015 and were purchased by the late John O'Shea who donated them to our club. John Power's nephew presented his Leinster medal to the club following John's death in 1981. Our Club Secretary, Shane Kinsella and former chairman, Eddie Blackmore, recently travelled to Croke Park to hand over the medals and testimonial scroll on loan from Piltown GAA and they will be on display in the Croke Park Museum in early 2023.

A special mention and thank you to all our supporters, coaches, volunteers and sponsors.

We remember those who were laid to rest over the past 12 months and we extend our condolences to their families: Robert Keane (Chairman 1963-1965), Fr John Condon (Vice President), Tom Walsh, George Culleton, Mary Reid, Dan Foley, John Cummins, Mikey Aylward, Jimmy Bowe, Ann Maher.



Bill Costello Summer Camp with special guest, Rackard Cody



Shane Kinsella & Eddie Blackmore with Adam Staunton, Croke Park Museum.



## ROWER INISTIOGE

### DEVELOPMENT PLANS 2022

Rower Inistioge GAA Club will shortly start construction on a state of the art all weather sports facility which includes a 65m x 28.5m Astro turf pitch, with a 5m high hurling wall and floodlit.

The Club secured Sports Capital grant funding of €85,000 with the balance of funding coming from the proceeds of Lip Sync and Buy a Square fundraisers. We are extremely grateful for the financial support we receive within the parish.

We also have plans to re-develop the buildings adjacent to Cois Abhann providing a valuable resource to the Club & Community MOTHERS AND OTHERS & MEN'S SOCIAL HURLING

40 is the new 20 and to that end, the Club is delighted to have a Mothers and Others group within the parish. In recent times, a number of our more mature male members have been dusting off the helmets and buying copious amounts of deep heat to participate in the newly formed social hurling.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Richie Leahy on winning a Leinster Senior Hurling medal with Kilkenny. Congratulations also go to Eoghan Lyng, Ruaidhri Delaney, Joe Mulholland and Eoin O'Brien who won Leinster Senior Colleges Hurling medals with Good Counsel this year.

### MIXED FORTUNES ON THE PITCH

Our Intermediates finished second in their league group and went on to beat Carrickshock in the Shield Final. They beat Mooncoin in the Quarter-Final before a disappointing loss to Danesfort in the County Semi-Final. Our Juniors had a creditable performance in the League winning 3 games against Clara, Dicksboro and Erin's Own. Unfortunately, Erin's Own turned the tables in the Championship winning out 0-20 to 0-16. The Junior D's performed well throughout the year. They finished second in their league group. They beat James Stephens and Dicksboro in the Championship before losing out to Lisdowney in an exciting County Semi-Final, 4-15 to 2-18. Our Minors had a slow start to the year in the league but built momentum coming into the championship. They beat Graignamanagh after extra time in the 1st round of the championship before beating St. Patrick's in the Quarter-Final. The highlight of their season was an extra time win in the Semi-Final against St. Martin's. Unfortunately, Thomastown ran out comfortable winners in the Roinn B County Final but overall it was an encouraging year. Our U15's struggled in the league and the season looked to be ending in disappointment when Thomastown beat them in the 1st round of the championship. To their credit, they regrouped and beat James Stephens in the Shield Semi-Final before going on to beat St. Lachtains in the Shield Final, 1-18 to 0-9.

The U13's faced a tough task when they were placed in Roinn A. They battled gamely all year and got some reward when beating Naas in the league. Piltown won a competitive championship game before Dicksboro beat them in a Shield Final. We are delighted to have good numbers hurling for our U7's, U9's and U11's. With an easing in Covid restrictions they were able to participate in numerous blitzes and tournaments. The U10's performed brilliantly in the Aylward Cup, reaching the final.



Minor "B" County Finalists

## SLIEVERUE



2022 was another busy season for the club at juvenile level with approximately 200 boys and girls registered from age 4 upwards, and over 30 coaches across the various age grades.

Hurling: Our younger groups played in several blitzes and acquitted themselves very well against teams from Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford & Tipperary.

At under 9 level we participated in Go Games along with various blitzes and had an impressive win against Windgap on finals day of the Glenmore tournament.

The under 11s also took part in Go Games and various tournaments with the highlight being Go Games finals day when we had a great victory over Thomastown in Nowlan Park.

There was a mixed bag of results for the under 13 team, but good work is being done with this group which will put down a solid base for the years ahead.

The under 15 team landed some silverware when they put in an excellent performance to beat Fenians in the shield final at the MW Hire Training Centre Dunmore. Congratulations to all involved.

We fielded a standalone under 17 team this season having been amalgamated with Blacks & Whites for the last number of years.

This was an important milestone, and we hope to go from strength to strength at this age group in the coming years.

The under 21 team are currently training for the upcoming championship and we wish the team and mentors well.

Elsewhere we ran our own parish league for the 2nd year in a row. Over 60 boys and girls took part culminating with finals day in front of a large crowd and refreshments afterwards which made it a great occasion.

The Eamonn O'Donovan tournament returned after a 2 year Covid enforced absence with 8 teams from Kilkenny, Waterford and Carlow taking part. As always, it was a great event which helps keep Eamonn's memory alive in the club.

The club ran a bus to both the Kilkenny Clare all Ireland hurling semi-final and the Kilkenny Cork all Ireland camogie final. This was a first trip to Croke Park for many of our younger members and was made all the more memorable by Kilkenny coming out on top on both occasions.

Congratulations to William Halpin who was a member of the Kilkenny U20 squad who landed Leinster and all Ireland honours this year. Well done also to Callum Moore and Jack Knox who were part of the Kilkenny Schools team in the Top Oil Leinster Post Primary Intercounty competition.

We have recently started some juvenile Gaelic football coaching which is proving to be very enjoyable for all involved.

We would like to thank all coaches, players, sponsors, committee members and officers for their commitment throughout the season. Huge work is being done across all juvenile age groups and we look forward to further progress being made in 2023.



Slieverue U11's in Nowlan Park



## ST LACHTAIN'S

### Intermediates.

Not the year anyone in the club envisaged or hoped for after last years county final appearance but sadly for the club our main team has been relegated after a tough year. The year started with a defeat to O'Loughlin's in the opening round by 4 points. Fortunes turned in our second game where our team found ourselves unlucky to not take victory against Rower Inistioge ending up with a draw on the day. Mooncoin were next and our team fell short to a very sharp Mooncoin team in Callan. Neighbours Fenians was our sole victory of the year in the fourth round with defeat to Danesfort rounding off our league campaign. Championship action seen us against St Martins in the relegation semi final and we came out on the wrong side of the result by 4 points. Neighbours Fenians were the opponents in the relegation final and this was not our day as we fell to defeat and relegation the result back to the

junior ranks.

### Junior B

Highlight of the junior b season went to our adult teams went to our Junior B team beating St Martins in a very close game throughout on a score line of 2.12 to 1.14. This put our team in good stead for the championship and a strong start seen our men beat Bennettsbridge on penalties in the first round. Sadly for our team revenge was on the cards from St Martins for the league final and our men lost our narrowly at the ¼ final stage. Big thanks to all players and mentors for their commitment throughout the year.

### Junior F

A very strong start to the league seen our junior f team win all 5 games in the league and going to a league final where on this occasion we lost out to neighbours Conahy Shamrocks in a very high scoring game. In championship action our lads had a good win in the first round vs Windgap but fell to defeat in a cruel manner vs Dicksboro on penalties in the 2nd round. Big thanks to all players and mentors for their commitment throughout the year.

### Minor

Highlight of the club year came courtesy of our minor hurlers as they took championship victory in a fantastic final in Dunmore vs Emeralds. A tight game throughout which led to extra time being played on a chilly night seen our young team come out victors on a score line of 1.11 to 0.13 with the honour of receiving the cup on behalf of his time given to captain Jerry Bergin. This was a super way to round off the year for this team after a long year full of tireless work from all players and management involved.



Team Mentors: Ollie O'Connor, James Burke, Jason Bowden, Patrick Donnelly, Eoin Dalton.

## ST MARTIN'S



2022 has been all about getting back to normal post covid restrictions. Our Intermediate team never really got going as they would have liked to and exited the championship at the quarter final stage to a strong Thomastown team. Our Junior B team had a great year culminating in winning the championship when facing near neighbours Conahy in the final in Nowlan park – we look forward to competing in Junior A next year. Our Junior D team won the league in an exciting final against Lisdowney but fell to the same opposition in the championship. Our U19 hurlers won the Rionn C league and championship with a great win over Tullaroan in Nowlan park on county final day.

At Bord na nOg level our minor team has a very good year in winning the Rionn B Hurling league and Rionn A Football championship. Our U15 footballers won the 2021 Rionn B championship that was played late in 2021. Our U13 B team had great win to capture the Rionn C 13 a side Shield title. All our underage teams continued to show good development and were all very competitive in their respective leagues and championships. Our U13 footballers played the in the Carlow football league for the first time which provided football games during the summer for the lads.

Well done to Coon Muckalee schools on winning the U13 Country Cup and U11 B schools championship.

The club ran its first ever Golf Classic fundraiser in late August and the event was a great success. Thanks to the organising committee who put in a huge effort to make this happen, to all our sponsors, Castlecomer Golf Club and to those who played on the day. The club also ran a Ukrainian fundraiser appeal earlier in the year.

Our summer camp again took place in 2022 organised again by John Mull. This was again a great success and enjoyed by all the youngsters who participated. Thanks to John and his team of helpers who ran the camp and to anyone who assisted in any way.

Well done to our own Pado who managed Palatine to win the Carlow Senior Football Championship.

Thanks to all our Players, Managers, Mentors, Officers, Field volunteers, Sponsors, Members and Supporters for their efforts throughout the year. Condolences to all families in the community who have lost loved ones during the year.



Cpt Robert Shore receives Junior B Cup from Northern Chairman John Lacey

ST. PATRICK'S G.A.A.



## ST PATRICK'S

A huge emphasis was placed this year on the development of all age groups. Our U7s U9s and U11s all played several matches and tournaments throughout the year and worked really hard on building their skills while also enjoying the game of hurling. They all made fantastic progress and with some incredibly talented players coming through the ranks over the next couple of years, we are excited to see what further growth they will make in the years ahead.

Our U13s worked extremely hard this season, despite minimum numbers, managed to uphold all their league and championship fixtures, performed so well, and made huge strides in development and skills. Competing at Roinn C level they progressed well and learnt a lot through their enthusiasm and teamwork. Superb team with massive potential.

Our U15s stepped up to Roinn A this year after their successful U13 Roinn B victory last year. A huge task and they were very aware of the challenge that lay ahead for them this season. Finishing 6th in the league and losing out to Mooncoin in the quarter final of the championship, this season was a major learning curve for this team. The skills, experience and development gained this year were invaluable in strengthening this team going forward.

Our U17s also stepped up a rank to Roinn B this year. Winning 5 of their 8 league games, put them 3rd on the table at the end of the league campaign. They were unlucky to lose out to Inistioge in the quarter final stage of the championship. We have no doubt the experience gained this season will stand to them going forward next year. As some of the players move out of the Bord na nOg section of the club we wish them well in their adult playing careers.

The highlight of the year was the hosting of our annual M&A coaches/Phelan/Stone tournament. Returning after a two-year covid absence, it was the 22nd anniversary of hosting this U11s tournament. Over the years it has grown both in size and popularity. This year the 3 competitions comprised of 26 teams coming from 14 counties covering three provinces. A tremendous success and some lovely feedback was received afterwards from the visiting teams.

We finished off the year with our own street league for boys and girls between 2nd and 6th class. Always a fun way to end the season and we finish off with a medal presentation, this year Huw Lawlor was on hand to do the honours.

Our Under 19s played Emeralds in the Hurling D Championship. They were beaten with a final score of 3-12 to 1-20. Emerald's finished with two points to get a narrow victory. Despite St. Patrick's having a very young team, they displayed a good performance and spirits remained high. Management of the Under 19 team: James Gannon, Geoff Morrissey, Conor Delaney.

The Junior Squads continue to make great progress in this transitional period within the club. We had lots of young talent making their junior championship debut which can only bode well for the future. We look forward to the challenges ahead for 2023. Management of Junior Teams: Gerry Byrne, John Byrne, Tom Phelan, Shane Phelan.

Find us at: [stpatsballynog.com](https://www.stpatsballynog.com) and [stpatsballynog](https://www.stpatsballynog.com) on Instagram and Facebook



St. Patrick's M&A Coaches Phelan/Stone team



Our U7s team

## THOMASTOWN



All can agree, we have had another exciting and busy year in Thomastown GAA in both underage and adult codes. Thomastown GAA fields many underage teams from under 6's to Minor level and this year was no different. Grennan was busy all summer long with training and matches. Our minor team had a fantastic year, they were fortunate enough to have a brilliant league and championship campaign and made it all the way to UPMC Nowlan Park to play in the Minor B County Final. After seeing off the Rower Inistioge, they were crowned deserving champions and will play minor A hurling next year like many of their clubmen did before them. It has to be said that this team and their mentors have put in a tremendous effort and the pride that they have in their jersey is admirable. Another underage team who have been the talk of the town are our under 15 team. These boys have been training hard all the way up along throughout the years, they slogged it out in miserable conditions against Tullagher-Rosbercon in a county semi – final, coming out with a 1 point victory and

a place in a county final.

At adult level, yet again both the Junior A's and the Intermediates have sent our pulses racing in their usual style. The Junior A's are always a hardworking and honest team. They are both motivated and driven to get our second team to Junior level. Playing strong opponents throughout they league they finished top of their group and battled against Gowran to win the league final. Having met Gowran again in a ferocious semi-final, they qualified for a county final. Unfortunately due to various reasons they Junior A county final has not been played. After the heartbreak of losing out in the County Semi Final last year against Glenmore, our Intermediates are back contesting a county title. Under the guidance of the familiar faces of Noel Doherty and Seán Kelly they had a busy league campaign. Playing Dunnamaggin, Carrickshock, Gowran and St. Martins, they finished on the top of the table with 3 wins and a defeat. The League Final was played in Callan against a strong Danesfort team, as ever the boys were extremely determined to get the win. With various players making their comebacks from injuries throughout the summer, we got over the line defeating Danesfort. Making this our 4th league title in 4 years. With this achievement, the lads knuckled down heading into the championship. Beating St. Martins in the Quarter Final, it was straight to UPMC Nowlan Park for a Semi- Final against near rivals Carrickshock. In horrendous conditions, both teams fought to the bitter end in what can only be described a marvellous, nail-biting battle. Thomastown gained a 4 point lead towards the end ensuring they booked their place in the 2022 County Final.



Thomastown Junior A team awaiting County Final



## THREecastLES

This year, our Junior C team had a great start in the Iverk Produce Junior C League with an away win against Windgap. This was a huge boost to the players and management considering the loss of key players over the last few seasons. Despite some narrow defeats, overall, the quality of the team performance remained strong. This gave the team hope for a promising championship campaign.

The first round of the championship was a home fixture against a highly fancied Emerald's squad. It was a fine evening where there was a great display of team work. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be, as Threecastles were narrowly defeated by Emeralds by two points.

This led to another home fixture in the qualifiers, this time against Graignamanagh. Again, this was another great display of hard-work, except this time Threecastles prevailed and were the worthy winners of the fixture.

Next up was the quarter final, an away game against Cloneen. Try as they may, Threecastles could never get ahead and get on top of Cloneen, who ran out deserving winners. We wish to thanks all the players and management for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We may be a small club, but the effort put into training and matches would compare to the bigger clubs in the county.

Aside from hurling, our biggest event for the year is the running of our Plough Thru the City tractor run, with the proceeds going to support Down Syndrome Kilkenny. This event is growing year on year and with thanks to Kilkenny County Council, An Garda Síochána and Yulefest, we are aiming to make it even bigger and better again this year. Huge crowds turned out last year, not just in the city centre, but all along the route to witness the spectacular display of decorated tractors, trucks and vintage vehicles. We are currently in the process of organising this years Plough Thru the City and hope to have even bigger crowds out to support us and Down Syndrome Ireland. We would like to thank all those who assist us in organising this event and those who volunteer to ensure the success and safety of the day. This is a huge event locally which would not be the success it is without the support we get from the local community. It goes to show what a small community can achieve.



## TULLAROAN

2022 will be looked back on as a successful and very satisfactory year for the Tullaroan senior hurling team.

In the senior league, we finished on 7 points after 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat after our 5 matches. We beat Erin's Own, Lisdowney and Ballyhale Shamrocks, we drew with Clara and lost to Mullinavat. The outcome that was that we topped group A on 7 pts and that left us in a league final vs. Bennettsbridge. Tullaroan won that league final by 1-24 to 0-13.

In the Championship Quarter final we played Erin's Own and Tullaroan won by 3 points on a score of 0-18 to 0-15.

In the semi-final Tullaroan played Ballyhale Shamrocks. After another good performance Tullaroan came up just short and lost out on a score of 1-24 to 1-20.

The Junior A team had 4 league matches in 2022 winning one match, drawing one and losing two. We beat St. Patrick's Ballyragget, drew with Dunnamaggin and were beaten by Graigue Ballycallan and Dicksboro. In the first round of the junior A championship, Tullaroan had a great win over Dunnamaggin on a score of 0-16 to 0-15. We played Thomastown in the quarter final on the 22nd August. Thomastown won this match by 3 points, 4-11 to 3-17.

For the first time the club entered a third adult team this year and they performed well in Junior F. In the league we played 5 matches, winning 3 and losing 2. We beat Young Irelands, The Rower-Inistioge and the Blacks and Whites while we lost to St. Lachtain's and Conahy. In the championship we beat the Blacks' and Whites in the first round but lost out to Kilmacow by 1 point in the quarter final. At u-19 Level, Tullaroan competed in Roinn C. In the league we played 3 matches, winning 1 match vs. Danesfort whilst losing 2 matches, vs. Graignamanagh and Conahy. As a result of league performances, we played Conahy in the league Shield final. Tullaroan had a great win that evening on a score of 1-24 to 2-5. That league shield final also served as the championship quarter final. The victory meant that we played Graignamanagh in the semi-final and we won by a goal, 1-16 to 0-16. The county final was played on the 16th October vs. St. Martin's and it served as the curtain raiser to the senior county final. On the day St. Martin's were the better team and won by 2-14 to 1-11. Congratulations to all involved in representing Kilkenny during 2022.



Tullaroan in Croke Park - Go-Games 2022

- Padraig Walsh, Martin Keoghán, Tommy Walsh and Shane Walsh who were on the Kilkenny senior team and panel during 2022.
- Gearoid Dunne, Bill Walton and Niall Holland were on the All-Ireland winning Kilkenny u-20 panel.
- On the Camogie front, congratulations are due to Grace Walsh and Miriam Walsh for playing leading roles in Kilkenny's All-Ireland senior camogie championship success.
- Congratulations to all those and all those that were part of Kilkenny underage teams and squads.



## TULLOGHER ROSBERCON

Juvenile Section : We were delighted to once again field teams at all age grades this year. Some of the highlights included the U11's trip to Croke Park, a great day out that will hopefully inspire the next generation. The U7's and U9's were kept busy with a host of blitzes and tournaments. We were delighted to get upwards of 35 boys participating between the U5, U6 and U7 age grades, with great participation, skill development and fun had by all twice in a week in our club grounds. The U15's had a great championship campaign, ending in a semi-final loss by a single point on a miserable day in Dunmore.

Our minor hurlers competed in Roinn A of the league again this year and acquitted themselves very well, while the minor footballers went all the way in the Roinn B championship and captured the title!

Adult Teams : Another busy year for us on the pitch saw a host of All-Ireland medals arrive into the club! Well done to Danny Glennon, Lar Murphy and Colman O'Sullivan, all of whom were involved in the successful U20 Kilkenny hurling team, and to Conor Hennessy, who was with the Kilkenny Junior footballers. Meanwhile Wally added another Leinster Senior hurling medal to an already impressive collection. Well done to all the lads!

Our third team was delighted to get promoted to Junior E, and we learned lots in a more competitive grade. Lots of young players got valuable game time this year which will surely stand to them in the future.

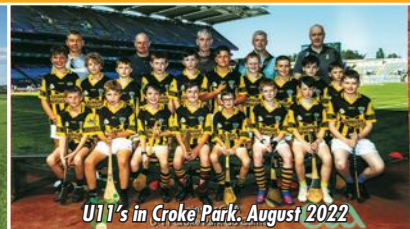
The Junior B team had a great mix of experienced players as well as a smattering of lads who were minor last year. We improved throughout the year, gaining cohesiveness and gelling as a team more and more in every game.

The Junior team had a great start to the year, winning the Leinster League Shield in July and then going on to add the County League to the haul! Unfortunately we came unstuck in the Championship against a strong Windgap side, lots of lessons learned from the year and a great foundation to build on.

Pitch Development : We were also delighted that this year we made significant progress on developing our new, and badly needed, all-weather second pitch. We got a great run of good weather to get the job finished, and the ground has now been silted and upwards of 8km of drainage pipe has been laid. We're hopeful the pitch will be playable next year, and the club owes a huge debt of gratitude to all the club officers who worked tirelessly fundraising and ensuring all the background work was completed punctually. Thanks to all involved, exciting times ahead!



New Second Pitch



U11's in Croke Park. August 2022



## WINDGAP

2022 was a year to remember for Windgap GAA club. For the first time Windgap put forward three adult teams into Kilkenny hurling competitions. In their first year on the road Windgap's junior F side finished on top of the league table with 4 wins from 5 and also made it to the championship quarter-finals. Unfortunately, in both the championship and league final they came up against eventual winners Conahy Shamrocks and progressed no further.

Windgap's Junior C team had a very strong league campaign also winning 4 out of 5 fixtures. They topped their group and entered the league final where a strong Piltown side came out on top. The Cs then recorded a loss against Callan in the first round of the championship and were knocked out by Cloneen in the back-door competition.

The performance of the Junior team, captained by Emmet Landy, outshone all else as Windgap reached the county final for the first time since 2001, beating Ballyragget, Tullagher Rosbercon and Dicksboro on their way to a final meeting with Blacks and Whites. Early form was good too, with Windgap making the Paddy Cahill Cup final and finishing second on the league table recording 5 wins from 6 games. Another memorable occasion was the aforementioned Emmet Landy making his senior intercounty debut for Kilkenny in the Walsh Cup against Laois. Cheered on by a large Windgap contingent, Landy was vital to the team on a clear day in Callan, scoring 1-2 in the 1-27 to 24 point win.

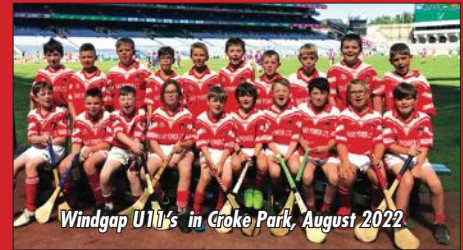
Representing the county at u20 were Windgap's Seán Purcell and Jack Doyle alongside their Galmoy counterpart Billy Drennan. The Kilkenny u20s defied the odds on numerous occasions and got their hands on Leinster and All-Ireland medals meeting Offaly, Galway, Wexford and Limerick respectively and coming out the better of three one-point wins.

Staying at underage level – Galmoy/Windgap had an action-packed year. The minor team finished with 5 wins from 8 in the Roinn B league and reached the quarter-finals of the championship, losing out to St Martin's. The u15 side were narrowly defeated 3-9 to 4-5 by Graignamanagh in the first round of the championship while the u13 side overcame Erin's Own to be eventually knocked out by Carrickshock.

For Windgap's younger teams too, there were plenty of highlights. The U11's got to play in both Nowlan Park and Croke Park as part of the Go Games. Windgap's teams also participated in a number of underage blitzes such as the Lisdowney Sevens, The Thomas O'Shea Dunamaggin blitz, the Glenmore tournament and the Phil Murphy blitz in Skeough.

Aside from the competitive game, work continued at Windgap GAA club where local volunteers came together to lay tarmac at the Hurling Wall, erect additional floodlighting and side-line fencing, and lend a hand wherever it was needed.

Thanks to all club coaches, officials, players, and supporters for with their continued help in what was a year to remember in Windgap GAA.



Windgap U11's in Croke Park, August 2022



## YOUNG IRELANDS

**INTERMEDIATE:** The Intermediates had a positive League campaign winning three out of their five matches, but The Championship saw them come up short against Mooncoin in the First Round having trailed by 12 points (5-18 to 2-15) to the All-Ireland Junior Champions with just 5 minutes remaining.

**JUNIOR:** It was very good year for the two Junior Teams.

The Junior A Team reached the League Final & Championship Semi-Final before losing out to a Thomastown on both occasions.

The Junior F Team were unfortunate to lose out on a place in the League Final on scoring difference, while they lost out to Dicksboro in the Championship Quarter-Final after winning against Mooncoin in the First Round.

**U-19:** The U-19s defeated near neighbours Bennettsbridge 1-20 to 0-17 in the Roinn B League Final, but unfortunately they suffered disappointment in the Championship as they lost out to Rower-Inistioge.

**MINOR:** The Minor As reached the League Final as they won 9 out of their 11 matches, but they lost to James Stephens.

They were beaten by Clara in the First Round of the Championship.

However, they gained compensation in the Shield Competition after winning 2-18 to 0-9 against Piltown.

**U-15:** The U-15s had a very successful year winning plenty of silverware.

They won the County Football Feile, before winning the Regional Feile Competition while The U-15 B Team won both the League & Shield Final after receiving a walkover in The Final.

**U-13:** The U-13 A Team lost to John Lockes Callan in the Championship Quarter-Final, while the B Team were beaten also by John Lockes in the Shield Final.

**INTER-COUNTY:** Congratulations to Paddy Langton who was part of the Kilkenny Team that won their first U-20 All-Ireland since 2008, while Michael Carey played every game in the League & Championship for the Kilkenny Seniors that lost out to Three-in-a-row Limerick in a Classic All-Ireland Final.

Huge Congratulations to Steffi & Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Ciara O'Keeffe & Selector Pat O'Neill as Kilkenny regained the O'Duffy Cup with victory over Cork in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

**CLUB NEWS:** After the Covid affected years of 2020 & 2021, Young Irelands got back on track with a host of activities throughout the year.

The Young Irelands GAA & Camogie Clubs staged their Dog Night in Kilkenny Greyhound Track in May on a Beautiful Summers Evening.

In early July, The Kilkenny Country Music Festival returned with Mike Denver headlining a stellar line-up featuring Trudi Lalor, Jimmy & Claudia Buckley, Robert Mizzel & Cliona Hagan, while the annual Golf Classic took place in Gowran Park in late June.

One of the great highlights in 2022 was the Inaugural Young Irelands Rounders Tournament organized by The Young Irelands Healthy Club Committee.

The Tournament which was a superb success saw 16 Teams competing from different Townlands throughout the parish.

The Final was won by The Steeples against Scart & was part of A Healthy Club Family Fun Day where there were plenty of activities for all the Family.



Young Irelands Minor Captain



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# Club Season Review

## SENIOR

Last years Champions, Dicksboro played St Jude's (Dublin) in the Leinster Semi Final, winning 0-10 to 0-8. They faced reigning All Ireland Champions Oulart the Ballagh (Wexford) in the Leinster Final. After a slow start, Dicksboro came out all guns blazing in the second half, with goals from Orla Hanrick, Aobha O'Gorman and Amy Clifford scoring a fantastic 30m free into the top corner of the net while Kirsty Maher also took off some fantastic saves. Unfortunately, they lost 3-5 to 1-13

Summer League – Dicksboro defeated St Brigid's 1-12 to 1-10 in the final

County Quarter Finals – Thomastown defeated Young Irelands 2-14 to 2-7, Clara defeated Windgap 3-14 to 1-6, Dicksboro defeated Barrow Rangers 0-18 to 0-4, Piltown defeated St Martins 3-13 to 1-3

Semi Finals – Reigning Champions Dicksboro faced Piltown, a repeat of last years final, Dicksboro advanced to the County Final with a 0-21 to 0-10 win

In the other semi-final, Clara faced Thomastown, with Thomastown winning 2-13 to 1-12

Michael Lyng Motors Hyundai Senior County Final

The County Final saw reigning Champions Dicksboro against Thomastown. Orla Hanrick scored the first point of the match for Dicksboro, then Eva Hynes slotted over 4 points for Thomastown (3f) before Aoife Prendergast stopped the rot for the Boro with a point, but Thomastown weren't kept quiet for long. Anna Farrell fielded along puck out from Kate McDonald, found her sister Eimear and the latter ran at speed towards the Boro goal and she hit an unstoppable shot passed Kirsty Maher to leave the score 1-4 to 0-2 after 17 minutes. Thomastown tagged on another three points heading towards the break, through Niamh Donnelly, Anna Farrell & Sarah Barcoe, before Amy Clifford and Aoife Prendergast pointed for Dicksboro to leave the interval score Thomastown 1-7 Dicksboro 0-4

On the resumption of the new half, the Boro seemed to have a pep in their step that they didn't have in the first 30 minutes. They scored points through Aoife Prendergast and Amy Clifford and a great goal from Aobha O'Gorman to narrow the gap to the minimum. Thomastown were awarded a free near the stand on the 45m line, Eva Hynes stood over the free. Anna Farrell connected with it to send it pass Kirsty Maher in the goal. This put Thomastown four ahead again, but the Boro girls didn't bow their heads, they scored the next four points to equalise (Orla Hanrick (3f) and Asha McHardy)

In the 58th minute, Thomastown cleared the sliotar upfield, found Eva Hynes and she slotted over what was the



winning point. Heartbreak for the Boro. Thomastown regaining the title they won in 2020 on a 2-8 to 1-10 scoreline

Victory for Thomastown sets up a Leinster Semi-final against St Vincent's (Dublin) on 12th November 2022 in Dublin

## INTERMEDIATE

Last years Champions, Barrow Rangers played Camross (Laois) in the Leinster Quarter Final winning 0-11 to 1-7 after extra time. They faced reigning All Ireland Champions St Rynagh's (Offaly) in the Leinster Semi Final, unfortunately narrowly losing out, 3-4 to 1-12

Summer League – Emeralds/St Anne's defeated Mooncoin 0-13 to 1-9

County Quarter Finals – James Stephens defeated Danesfort 4-12 to 1-8, Mooncoin defeated Ballyhale 3-8 to 0-6, Rower Inistioge defeated Emeralds/St Anne's 6-12 to 0-11, Mullinavat defeated St Lactain's 1-15 to 3-8

Semi Finals – 2021 Runners Up James Stephens v 2021 Junior Champions, Mooncoin, with James Stephens winning 1-11 to 1-8

In the other semi-final, Rower Inistioge

faced Mullinavat, with Rower Inistioge winning 1-10 to 1-7

## Shaws Department Store Intermediate County Final

The County Final saw James Stephens against Rower Inistioge, 12 months after defeat to Barrow Rangers, James Stephens were back in the final but this time they made sure they would leave with the silverware

Rower Inistioge played with the strong breeze in the first half and led 0-6 to 0-4. The Village came out in the second half a completely different team and blitz the Rower, scoring 8 points and keeping the Rower scoreless for the whole second half. Final Score was James Stephens 0-12 to Rower Inistioge 0-6

James Stephens played Raharney (Westmeath) in the Leinster Intermediate Club Championship on a wet and windy day in Pairc Sheamus Stiofain, Kells Road. After 16 minutes, Raharney led 0-3 to 0-1. Five minutes later, Caoimhe Moran blasted the ball to the back of the Raharney net to put James Stephens ahead, a lead that they never relinquished. The Village added another three points heading to half time through Sophie O'Dwyer, Ciara Delaney and Rachel Leahy to lead 1-4 to

0-3 at the break

The Village continued their scoring spree in the second half, scoring six points without reply, through Rachel Leahy, Sophie O'Dwyer (3f), Caoimhe Moran and Niamh Deely. They took their foot off the medal for a few minutes and Raharney got in for a goal and a point. The Village scored the final three points, Emma Manogue (2) and Sophie O'Dwyer to leave the final score James Stephens 1-13 Raharney 1-4. Victory for James Stephens sets up a Leinster Semi-final against St Brigid's (Laois) on 19th November 2022 at a home venue

## JUNIOR

**Summer League** – Carrickshock defeated Piltown 2-11 to 0-13

Kilkenny Rivercourt Hotel Junior C County Final – St Brigid's defeated Young Irelands 4-13 to 4-5

Kilkenny Rivercourt Hotel Junior B County Final – not played at time of going to print

County Junior Quarter Finals – Carrickshock defeated Tullagher 2-8 to 1-3, Piltown defeated Thomastown 0-12 to 2-4, Bennettsbridge/John Lockes defeated Blacks & Whites 3-17 to 1-1, Graiguenamanagh defeated Naomh Brid/Erins Own

Semi Finals – Carrickshock defeated Piltown 1-13 to 0-14. Bennettsbridge/John Lockes defeated Graiguenamanagh 4-17 to 0-9

### **Kilkenny Rivercourt Hotel Junior County Final**

Carrickshock and Bennettsbridge/John Lockes in the Final. Bennettsbridge/John Lockes got off to perfect start with a goal in the first minute and led 1-5 to 0-3 at the break after playing with a strong breeze

By the 48th minute, the game was level 1-6 apiece. A Carrickshock player was injured nearing full time and the 4th Official called 7 minutes injury time. Lucy O'Sullivan scored a goal for Bennettsbridge/John Lockes to put them two points ahead in the 32nd minute. As play moved passed the 7 minutes of additional time allocated, Carrickshock went on one last attack and Aine Rohan fired home a cracker to the top corner of the net as the clock registered 38 & a half minutes of play, leaving the score Carrickshock 2-8 to Bennettsbridge/John Lockes 2-7 at the full-time whistle

## U22

U22 Not played at time of going to print

## MINOR

**Gaeltec Minor D Summer League** – Barrow Rangers defeated Kilmacow/Slieverue 3-12 to 3-11

**Gaeltec Minor A Summer League** – Tullaroan/St Anne's defeated St Brigid's 5-10 to 4-7

**Gaeltec Minor D County Final** – Lisdowney defeated Barrow Rangers 3-5 to 2-4

**Gaeltec Minor D Shield Final** – not played at time of going to print

to print

**Gaeltec Minor C County Final** – Emeralds defeated Rower Inistioge 5-10 to 1-2

**Gaeltec Minor C Shield Final** – not played at time of going to print

**Gaeltec Minor B County Final** – not played at time of going to print

**Gaeltec Minor B Shield Final** – not played at time of going to print

**Gaeltec Minor A County Final** – not played at time of going to print

## U16

**Gaeltec U16 D Summer League** – Barrow Rangers defeated Kilmacow/Slieverue 6-6 to 1-3

**Gaeltec U16 B Summer League** – Mooncoin defeated Glenmore 6-9 to 3-15

**Gaeltec U16 D County Final** – Carrickshock defeated Barrow Rangers 4-5 to 0-5

**Gaeltec U16 D Shield Final** – Kilmacow/Slieverue defeated Bennettsbridge 3-6 to 2-6

**Gaeltec U16 E County Final** – Erins Own/Naomh Brid defeated Emeralds 1-7 to 1-5

**Gaeltec U16 C County Final** – O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Ballyhale 1-5 to 0-7

**Gaeltec U16 C Shield Final** – Rower Inistioge defeated Young Irelands 2-9 to 2-2

**Gaeltec U16 B County Final** – not played at time of going to print

**Gaeltec U16 B Shield Final** – not played at time of going to print

**Gaeltec U16 A County Final** – Tullaroan/St Anne's defeated Dicksboro 4-15 to 2-6

**Gaeltec U16 A Shield Final** – not played at time of going to print

## U14

**Gaeltec U14 E Summer League** – Graiguenamanagh defeated Dicksboro White 6-3 to 2-4

**Gaeltec U14 D Summer League** – Rower Inistioge defeated Tullagher 5-8 to 2-5

**Gaeltec U14 C Summer League** – Carrickshock defeated Young Irelands 5-8 to 0-7

**Gaeltec U14 B Summer League** – Tullaroan defeated St Lachtain's 1-20 to 4-2

**Gaeltec U14 A Summer League** – Dicksboro defeated Mooncoin 5-9 to 2-9

**Gaeltec U14 F County Final** – Erins Own/Naomh Brid defeated Clara 4-2 to 2-4

**Gaeltec U14 F Shield Final** – Conahy defeated Lisdowney 8-6 to 2-0

**Gaeltec U14 E County Final** – Mullinavat defeated Barrow Rangers 2-5 to 1-6

**Gaeltec U14 E Shield Final** – Graiguenamanagh defeated Blacks & Whites 5-2 to 2-3

**Gaeltec U14 D County Final** – Ballyhale defeated Bennettsbridge 4-4 to 3-4

**Gaeltec U14 D Shield Final** – Tullagher defeated Windgap 6-3 to 1-4

**Gaeltec U14 C County Final** – Danesfort defeated Rower Inistioge 4-11 to 1-6

**Gaeltec U14 C Shield Final** – Glenmore defeated St Anne's 6-8 to 4-5

**Gaeltec U14 B County Final** – St Brigid's defeated Carrickshock 2-11 to 2-4

**Gaeltec U14 B Shield Final** – O'Loughlin Gaels defeated James Stephens 4-7 to 3-7

**Gaeltec U14 A County Final** – Dicksboro defeated John Lockes 8-11 to 2-2

**Gaeltec U14 A Shield Final** – not played at time of going to print

## U12

**Bega Group Final**. Erins Own White played Young Irelands and Erin's Own were winners

**Bega Group Shield Final**. James Stephens Red played Barrow Rangers White and James Stephens Red were winners

**Cyra Group Final**. John Lockes played Piltown and John Lockes were winners

**Cyra Group Shield Final**. Rower Inistioge played Young Irelands and Rower Inistioge were winners

**Dymphna Group Final**. Mooncoin played Ballyhale and Mooncoin were winners

**Dymphna Group Shield Final**. Mullinavat played Conahy and Mullinavat were winners

**Faber Group Final**. St Anne's played Bennettsbridge and St Anne's were winners

**Faber Group Shield Final**. James Stephens played O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens were winners

**Gobnat Group Final**. Emeralds played St Martin's and Emeralds were winners

**Gobnat Group Shield Final**. Tullagher played St Brigid's and Tullagher were winners

**Osmanna Group Final**. Erins Own played Lisdowney and Erins Own were winners

**Osmanna Group Shield Final**. Graiguenamanagh were to meet Kilmacow, not played at time of going to print

## Féile

**John West Division 1 Final (U15)** – Windgap defeated Danesfort 3-6 to 1-11

**John West Division 2 Final (U15)** – Ballyhale defeated Thomastown 4-5 to 0-4

**John West Division 3 Final (U15)** – St Martin's defeated Carrickshock 5-5 to 0-4

Noelle Murphy, Lisdowney came 2nd in the National Poc Fada competition on the Cooley Mountains

## KK U-15 DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

### 2022 REPORT

Nearly 120 players put themselves forward at U-15 level for participation in the U-15 Squads development programme for 2022. The year commenced in mid-March with four trial weekends after which an Amber squad

and a Black squad consisting of sixty (60) players started phase one of the development programme.

Phase one consisted of weekly training sessions for both squads each weekend intermixed with challenge games against neighbouring counties. After starting off with tough games in early April against Tipperary in Killenaule both squads progressed to good wins over Laois, Kildare and Waterford. In May both squads took part in Blitz hosted by Munster Camogie Association in Ahane, Co. Limerick and by Meath Camogie Association in Kildalkey, Co. Meath.

Following a break for the state examination period both squads returned at the end of June for the eleven-week phase two programme. As per Camogie Association rules both squads were reduced to now twenty-four (24) players. After great games against Cork Transition year U-16 teams both squads successfully competed in a Laois Blitz held in Portlaoise and a second Munster organised blitz held in Waterford. Both squads had tough games against Tipperary, Waterford and Cork in what was very inclement weather. Coming near the business end of the programme both teams competed in the Leinster Camogie provincial Blitz again held in Portlaoise, where the Div 1 & 2 titles were won by both squads. The year ended with a final National Blitz held in Clara, Co. Kilkenny



KK U-15 Amber Squad 2022



KK U-15 Black Squad 2022

(Black squad) and Clogheen, Co. Tipp (Amber squad). The Black squad were unlucky to lose out in the National Div 2 shield final against Kildare while the Amber squad played superbly to win the National

Div 1 shield final against Tipperary. In total twenty-five (25) clubs were represented on both squads and a big thank you to all players, mentors, management involved with the U-15 programme this year.

**ADULT CAMOGIE RESULTS 2021**

COUNTY SC FINAL	Thomastown 2-8 Dicksboro 1-10	JUNIOR B FINAL	Not played at time of going to print.
COUNTY SUMMER LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 1-12 St Brigid's 1-10	JUNIOR C FINAL	St Brigid's 4-13 Young Irelands 4-5
COUNTY IC FINAL	James Stephens 0-12 Rower Inistioge 0-6	COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE FINAL	Carrickshock 2-11 Piltown 0-13
COUNTY SUMMER LEAGUE FINAL	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-10 Rower Inistioge 0-7	U21 CAMOGIE	Not played at time of going to print.
JUNIOR FINAL	Carrickshock 2-8 Bennettsbridge/John Lockes 2-7		



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# Cumann na mBunscol



**Ballyragget - Roinn E primary school shield winners**



**Piltown - Roinn A primary school shield winners**



**Clara - Roinn B Primary School shield winners**



**Rower Inistioge - Roinn B primary schools winners**



**Glenmore - Roinn C Primary School shield winners**



**St Annes - Roinn D Primary School winners**



**CraigSkeogh Winners of Roinn D Shield Final**



**St Johns Roinn E primary school winners**



**St Canices A - Roinn A Primary School winners**



**Tullogher - Roinn C Primary School winners**

## KCLR96FM CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL

- Roinn E Shield Final – Ballyragget defeated Slieverue 3-1 to 2-0
- Roinn E Final – St John's defeated St Canice's 5-14 to 0-0
- Roinn D Shield Final – Graigue Skeough defeated Bennettsbridge, winning by a point after extra time
- Roinn D Final – St Anne's defeated Conahy 6-5 to 0-2
- Roinn C Shield Final – Glenmore defeated Ballyhale 2-4 to 1-3
- Roinn C Final – Tullogher defeated Urlingford 6-6 to 2-2
- Roinn B Shield Final – Clara defeated Windgap 4-2 to 2-0
- Roinn B Final – Rower Inistioge defeated Gowran 3-15 to 3-3
- Roinn A Shield Final - Piltown defeated Gaelscoil 1 5-9 to 5-4
- Roinn A Final – St Canice's defeated Bunscoil McAuley Rice 4-4 to 1-7

# AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS



## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



*U12 Team Runners Up in the Dymphna Group League Championship. Thanks to our team sponsors Kavanagh Engineering, Floodhall Ltd. and Séamus Ryan Carpentry.*



*Gaeltec U14 'D' Championship Winners.*



*Gaeltec U16 'C' Championship. Thanks to team sponsors Certia Ireland.*



*We remember a dear friend of Ballyhale Shamrocks Camogie Club, Angela O'Sullivan Ireland. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam*



## BARROW RANGERS

2022 has been another exciting year for Barrow Rangers Camogie Club. We would like to say a special thank you to all the committee members who keep the club running, we would also like to thank each and every person who helped training and coaching the girls throughout the year, especially parents and the intermediate girls who gave up their time to help our with the younger teams. Another big mention to all the girls who represented Barrow Rangers at county level.

The senior girls done well in their first year ever playing at this grade in the history of the club. They put up some great performances to conahy, st martins, young irelands and tullaroan in the championship stages but unfortunately fell short in the quarter final against Dicksboro.

The minor girls had a great year winning the all county summer league against kilmacow in Roinn D. They had great success in the championship reaching the county final but Lisdowney proved to be better team on the day.

The under 16 girls had a spectacular year winning the county league final in july. They had a great league campaign which travelled into the championship where they got to the county final. Unfortunately they fell short on the day but they had a spectacular year and we are all so proud of them.

The u14 and 12 teams all reached their respective county finals this year also. We were lucky enough to be able to enter 2 under 12 teams and all were great performers. All unfortunately did not win the titles but they can be so proud of their performance and effort throughout the whole year.

Under 6-10

These girls all trained every Wednesday night rain hail or snow. Their enthusiasm effort and commitment does not go unnoticed in the club. They all took part in blitz, hosted blitz and competed extremely well all year. To show a token of appreciation for these, the committee and trainers organised an ice cream van to treat them for their last training. This definitely went down a treat. The future for the club is shining bright with so much success and commitment during the year!!



*Barrow Rangers girls with Senior All Ireland Champions in Nowlan Park*



*Barrow Rangers Minors*



## CARRICKSHOCK



*Carrickshock Under 8's 2022*



*Carrickshock Minor Team 2022*



*Carrickshock Under 10's 2022*



*Carrickshock Under 12's 2022*



**CLARA CAMOGIE CLUB**



**Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.**  
 Thanks to all our coaches, parents, committee members and especially our players for your support & commitment to Clara Camogie club - together we can do great things!



**CONAHY SHAMROCKS**



Conahy U6 U8



Conahy U12



Conahy U14



Conahy U16

**DANESFORT**



Danesfort U10s



Danesfort U14 captain receiving cup



Danesfort U12 team at mini games in UPMC Nowlan Park



Danesfort Minor Team



## EMERALDS



Minor C County Champions who defeated Inistioge in the final



U10 winners of the Nicky Walsh Memorial Tournament



U12 Gaeltec County champions who defeated St. Martin's in the final



## ERIN'S OWN



Erin's Own U8's



Our girls were delighted to welcome The O'Duffy Cup to Ballycomey along with players Miriam Walsh, Aoife Breen & Mary O'Connell



U12 County Champions Bega Group and U12 County Champions Osmanna Group.



U6 'Come try Camogie'



## GLENMORE

U6s got great experience and game time playing challenge games this year. They'll continue to train indoors to our Astro. U8 have built on the foundations of last year with each player improving immensely. As a team the girls played many challenge matches over the summer, competed in several blitz days, being very successful in winning lots of games whilst learning every day. Work is now being done indoors in our Astro area.

U10s had another successful year learning new skills. The girls went from strength to strength learning how to tackle, block and pass. They grew in confidence, enthusiasm and their determination was clear to see during the blitzes. They came out on top in so many games which was a major boost of confidence. Great attendance bodes well for next year.

U12 team had low numbers this year but this gave a few of our U10s the chance to help out and get extra game time. They played Mullinavat, Mooncoin Ballyhale where all the games were very enjoyable & competitive. They played their hearts out and lost out in a closely fought shield semi final after a very enjoyable year. They continue to enjoy training and also have a bonding day to look forward to before their 2022 season ends.

U14s competed in Roinn B during the league, with mixed results they played Tullaroan, Danesfort, St Lachtains, Thomastown, Piltown, and St Brigids upping their performance each day. In the first round of the C championship the U14s beat St Annes, in the Qtr Final they were beaten after an epic battle with Thomastown losing out 3-5 to 2-5. Focus shifted, this placed them in the Semi Final of the Shield against Gowran, after a super display of camogie the girls came away with a great win, setting them up for a Shield final against St Annes. The Shield final was played in front of a great crowd in Callan CBS, a very tough physical battle ensued. St Annes seemed to pull away and each time the Glenmore girls came back fighting and went on to win, Glenmore 6-8 to St Annes 4-5, great celebrations.

U16 girls had a great year both on and off the pitch. If you want to see determination, passion, fight, team play, team spirit, resilience, grit, guile, guts, tenacity and no little skill come watch this fantastic group of girls. This group were League Final runners up and have the U16 Championship final still to play, so best wishes to all involved.

Minor - What turned out to be a very challenging year overall our team showed great resilience and manner in their performances throughout 2022. The league campaign started out with defeats to Carrickshock and Thomastown before a great win over Mooncoin followed by a defeat to Muckalee. Onto the championship which unfortunately lead to some heavy defeats for our girls against Danesfort, Carrickshock and Windgap but the spirit, dedication and joyfulness from all the girls never left right through the year. This left us with a Shield semi final to play which turned out to be the game of the year for us against Thomastown with some wonderful camogie from both clubs, but in the end Thomastown were to prevail and thus that ended the Minor year for 2022. Intermediate

Our very young intermediate team were involved in a very competitive league/championship competition this year. They are learning all the time and with some talented hurlers coming up through the ranks we as a club need to work hard, retain players and look to the future. We held and won our 2nd Lily May O Dwyer Memorial in 2022, another beautiful day of remembrance. Feile Unfortunately results on the day didn't go our way, lots of experience gained and we came away with a great win in our final game of the day. Community Games Thanks to GTR who fielded a team again this year unfortunately we were beaten by Dicksboro who went on to represent Kilkenny.

Well done to all the girls who represented Kilkenny during the year, U14 Sinead Jones Kadhla Croke Keelin Byrne Ela Sheehan Aisleann Mullally, U15 Eabha Mullally, U16 Olive Donnelly Emma Kelly Laura Doherty Minor Amy Cody. Lots of titles won by them all, well done. The club extends deepest sympathies to those who we have lost during the year. See you all in 2023.

## GRAIGNAMANAGH



Graignamanagh U12 Panel for Gaelic Shield Final



Graignamanagh Junior Panel 2022



Graignamanagh U14 Management 2022



Graignamanagh U16 Panel 2022



## JAMES STEPHENS

It was a great year for our Intermediate ladies in winning the County Championship and creating history by being the first team to enter the Senior ranks and represent the club in the Leinster Championship. After the disappointment of losing last years final the girls put massive effort in all year and with the return of all the county girls in mid-August hit the ground running with good wins against Mullinavat, Emeralds/St Annes and Lisdowney in the league to a claim a quarter final berth. After overcoming Danesfort at home a tough semi-final awaited against Mooncoin in which the girls came through with a 2pt victory.

The final lived up to expectations and a first half tenacious defence against a determined Rower-Inistioge attack while playing with the aid of a strong breeze laid the foundation for this historic 0-12 to 0-06 victory. Inspired by a "player of the match" performance from full back Emma Gaffney together with her fellow defenders they kept a tight rein on the Rower-Inistioge forwards holding them to a 0-06 to 0-04 lead at the break was crucial to the final ground-breaking result. On the turnover and with wind advantage the James Stephens girls exerted huge pressure and quick points from Niamh Deely and Sophie O'Dwyer opened the door for the girls to power to victory.

There were great numbers attending underage training all year and great to see the nursery section continuing to grow. Our U12s had entered two teams in the league with each winning the shield section under our U14s were narrowly beaten in the shield final.  
(See Club Competition reports for photo of Intermediate team.)



## JOHN LOCKES



U8 panel



Minor panel



U12 panel



U10 panel



U14 panel



Junior John Lockes / Bennettebridge panel



U6 panel



## KILMACOW



Kilmacow U14 Team  
Another great year for this group who reached a County Semi Final.



Kilmacow U12 Team  
The U12 girls had a fantastic season ending up winning their league final.



Kilmacow/Shieverue U16 Team  
The U16's has a fantastic year and topped it off by winning their Shield Final



Kilmacow/Shieverue U18 Team  
Our U18 team who reached a League Final this year.

## MULLINAVAT



U12 Shield final winners 2022



SHAW'S  
Our Intermediate team for 2022



U14 Gaeltec Roinn E. County final winners 2022



Julianne Malone and Leann Fennelly following their All-Ireland win with Kilkenny in Croke Park

## MOONCOIN

MOIN CHOINN CLG



2022 started off well for our camogie club. Our U6s, U8s and U10s team displayed huge enthusiasm and skill throughout the year, competing at many blitzes and making all their parents and club members very proud. The U12 girls advanced into the final of the Dymphna Group beating Ballyhale in the final. A fantastic achievement for the girls and their managers. Next up is our U14 team who were unfortunate to lose against Dicksboro in the League Final. The U16 team kicked off their year well by winning the League Final against Glenmore. U18 girls hurled well throughout the year with a lot of them moving up to the intermediate and junior C panel. The Junior C's fared well throughout the year and made it as far as the semi final stage. It being our first year playing at Intermediate level the determination to match the standards set within this grade was high from the word go. Our girls trained hard throughout the year and proved they were worthy county final winners of 2021. They advanced into the league final where sadly they were beaten by a strong Emeralds/ St. Annes team. However, their spirits weren't down for long as they were now facing into championship season. The girls won their way to the semi-final, where they were marginally beaten by James Stephens. All in all it has been a great year for our intermediate players and as quoted by people of the community, 'something to look forward to'. They have raised the hopes and aspirations of all our juvenile camogie players. Mooncoin camogie club would like to wish all club supporters a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year and may 2023 be every bit as successful.



U12 Dymphna Group Winners



SHAW'S  
Mooncoin Intermediates 2022

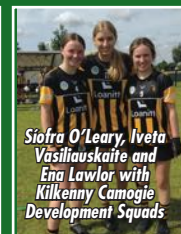
## O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



O'Loughlin Gaels Camogie club resides at St. John's Park, Hebron Road (R95 RX63) and boasts over 340 members. It caters for teams from u6 to adult with fixed juvenile training scheduled on Saturdays at 10:30am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm. The Camogie Club strives for excellence. With numbers increasing annually we provide a range of teams to cater for all players and welcome new members to help us build a stronger community. Our adult team will play Intermediate in 2023 and we invite all adult players to get involved and develop a regular second team for all to enjoy. Our 2021 initiative to introduce Mamogie - a social keep fit program for mothers and their friends using camogie as a base - has continued to be popular amongst our members. This year saw a first social game between O'Loughlin Gaels and Lismore Camogie from Waterford at St. John's Park. Next year we hope to see more clubs come forward and interact in this social initiative. At youth level our u12s and u14s competed in shield finals while our u16s fulfilled their promise with a County Final date in November. Our u22s started the year with a County Final success carried over from 2021 bringing silverware to St. John's Park. We congratulate all our players who represented the club at County Level. In recent years a growing number of club players are finding success in Black and Amber jerseys through youth development squads in Kilkenny camogie and is testimony to the great work being carried out by our coaches at St. John's Park. In particular we wish to congratulate Danielle Quigley and Laura Murphy on their success with the Kilkenny Camogie All-Ireland winning team, earning Laura a well deserved All-Star nomination for 2022. On Saturday mornings/ Wednesday evenings our juvenile teams continued to hone their skills with the help of a strong team of mentors and older players and enjoy Go games and challenge games throughout the Summer months. O'Loughlin Gaels wish to thank the continued support of our club sponsors MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre for all their help and support throughout the year.



O'Loughlin Gaels Camogie u16s - County Final 2022



Siofra O'Leary, Iveta Vasiliauskaitė and Ena Lawlor with Kilkenny Camogie Development Squads

## ST MARTIN'S





## ROWER INISTIOGE



This season was proof that our Camogie Club continues to grow from strength to strength. With a new group of enthusiastic under 6's signing up, training commenced back in March for them, along with our under 8's and 10's. Pitches were full every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning of young and eager camogie players. Many games and blitzes were played and while at these ages games are non-competitive, it was clear to see that the future of the club is in safe hands.

Our Under 12s enjoyed a strong League and Championship campaign, having enough players to enter 2 teams. Both teams reached County Semi Finals and our Red Team reached the Shield final! The highlight for our under 12 panel came when they travelled to Croke Park in August to participate in Tesco's "Caman to Croker" where they played teams from Galway, Westmeath and Wexford. They won all 3 games and had a fantastic day playing in Croke Park!

Our under 14's had a very successful season also when they won the Roinn D League final meaning they entered the Championship in Roinn C. Remarkably, in their first season in Roinn C, they reached the County Final where they lost out to a very strong Danesfort Team. We know they'll be back for more next year!

The Under 16's displayed fantastic skills during their Championship where unfortunately, they were narrowly defeated by O'Loughlins. But this group of players didn't succumb to defeat and made it to the Shield final against Gowran. (Still to be played).

Along with our under 14 County Finalists, our Minor and Intermediate Teams also enjoyed an exciting Championship campaign and reached county finals.

Our Minor panel put on a great display with grit and determination on a wet and windy Sunday morning in the semi-final to beat a skillful Ballyhale team. This led to them facing the Emeralds in the final, which would prove to be a more challenging game, where the girls lost out, things not going their way on the day.

Our Intermediate Team thrived this year under new management and won out the Shaws Department Stores Intermediate League beating Danesfort in a thrilling competition. They continued to grow, both in skill and in numbers, and hooked, blocked and scored their way through the Championship. They beat Mullinavat in a tough semi-final to reach the final where they met James Stephens. Despite leading by 2 points at half time, they lost out in the most challenging battle they had encountered this season.

Several players brought additional pride to the club by representing us at Inter-County level on under 14, 16 and minor panels. Emma Kavanagh topped it off when she won another Senior All-Ireland Camogie medal with Kilkenny in a nail-biting final against Cork in Croke Park. We filled a bus of supporters who proudly cheered Emma and all the girls on.

The Rower Inistioge Camogie Club is delighted to report on a hugely successful season. Getting younger children to join and to commit to a full season, reaching 3 County finals and 2 Shield finals doesn't happen without massive effort on many fronts. It is important to acknowledge the dedication of the players, parents, managers, coaches, selectors and all within the camogie community. The volume of supporters was noticed and hugely appreciated by our players and hopefully this will continue to grow in an even more exciting season to come in 2023!



Rower Inistioge Intermediate team

## SLIEVERUE



Slieverue 2022 camogie season got off to a flying start with great numbers in all ages from u.6 to u.14. All the girls showed great commitment all year and a big thank you to both them and the parents for their support.

Our u.6 and u.8 girls had a fantastic year. Many girls made their camogie debut this year and what a great year it has been for all the players, also getting to see some of our lovely county! For the returning players there was great improvements all round with lots of wins recorded in the challenge matches and blitz's.

The u.10 girls had some tough battles and some great wins in their blitzes throughout the year, they played plenty competitive challenge matches over the year and their hard work is really paying off. Great season all around for the under 10 girls.

Our u.12 team had a rocky start to the year but bounced back after a tremendous effort at training every week. We played plenty challenge matches in preparation for the league. In which we were very unlucky and narrowly missed out on a number of wins by as little as a point, some even went to extra time. We were beaten by a strong Mooncoin team in the shield which ended our year in October. The girls had a great year and fought hard in every match with improvements all round.

2022 was the first year we entered an u.14 team into the competition. We had a big turnout that grew all year. The girls made a huge effort at training and the skills improved from week to week. We were unfortunate not to progress in the league, but it's been an excellent start to our u.14 campaign for what we hope is for years to come.

Our girls did numerous camps throughout the year and including one led by the victorious Kilkenny camogie team. We were also very lucky to get a special visit by the O'Duffy cup when it arrived in Slieverue with Leann Fennelly from Mullinavat and Tommy Shefflin. The future of Slieverue Camogie is certainly very bright and we look forward to seeing everyone back for the 2023 season.



U14's with O'Duffy Cup



Slieverue U6's 2022



## ST ANNE'S

Early in the year our schoolgirls team won their County Final which was a huge achievement and made history for our team not having won the title in many years. The girls stood out on the day in Nowlan Park and gave our opposition really no chance to get ahead of us. It is hopefully a memory those girls will never forget.

Our youngest U6/U8 girls did us proud in all their blitzes over the summer. These girls will be our future stars.

Our U12 girls dominated and got through to a League Final against a tough Bennettsbridge side which they narrowly missed out on.

Our U14 girls were unfortunate to not overcome Glenmore in their shield Final but were tremendous throughout the season. Our U16 team while joined with Tullaroan showed outstanding performances winning the Roinn A Championship for the second year in a row.

Our Minor team is currently in Quarter Final stages of the League and are looking very strong.

Our Intermediate team joined with Emeralds dominated their Roinn A League early in the year winning their League Final against a tough Mooncoin side to come out on top by one point with a score line of 0-13 to 1-09.

Our club is going from strength to strength, we have some players currently playing with Kilkenny County teams and the future for St Anne's Camogie looks very bright.

2022 was definitely a good year and we hope there is plenty more to come.



## ST BRIGID'S

2022 is proving to be yet another very successful year for St Brigid's Camogie club.

Our U14 girls were successful in winning the Roinn B championship.

The Junior C team won out the championship after narrowly been beaten in extra time in last years final.

Our Senior ladies were narrowly beaten in the league final.

Yet to come will be our Minor A team currently waiting to play James Stephens in the semifinal while our U16 girls will play Glenmore in the Roinn B Final .

All our juveniles from U6 to U12 competed very successfully in many challenge and go games over the summer months.

To honour our late club founder and Kilkenny county board chairman Mr Billy Malone R.I.P. St Brigid's camogie club along with Billy's family have donated a cup in his honour for the winners of the Intermediate championship from 2023 onwards.

Special thanks must go to all our sponsors and trainers in 2022 for their generous support and dedication to our girls .



## ST LACHTAIN'S

2022 was a very exciting season for St. Lachtain's Camogie Club. Our club entered an Intermediate team for the first time, reaching the Quarter Final stage and producing a fantastic performance, coming within one point of victory. The club is so proud of all of our Intermediate players and management on their commitment, effort and progress this season. The St. Lachtain's club and community have really enjoyed supporting our team in

2022 and look forward to the exciting journey that lies ahead in seasons to come.

Our Minor team reached the semi finals and our u22 team are currently training hard for their upcoming championship.

St. Lachtain's u16s are in the Roinn B shield final this season, training hard while waiting for a fixture date to play.

Our u14s reached the Roinn B league final and Championship Shield semi final this year, while our U12s reached the shield semi final this season, and played in Semple stadium during half time of the All Ireland Senior camogie quarter final when Kilkenny played Dublin.

Our under 10's season was very busy with 10 challenge matches, 5 Blitz's and finishing with the Nicky Walsh Tournament - playing 26 games in total.

Our u8s played in multiple Go-Games blitzes throughout the season - with a fantastic panel of 24 players.

The u6 squad were busy in the pitch all summer long, with all of our juvenile players enjoying themselves, working hard on their skills and improving brilliantly.

The Peggy Dowling Tournament finished off the season for our U13's.

St. Lachtain's camogie club would like to thank all of our players, their families, our club sponsors and supporters. Finally a huge thanks goes out to all our club coaches and committee members who work tirelessly on behalf of the young women in our community.



## THOMASTOWN





## TULLOGHER ROSBERCON



U8 Team taken @ Mullinavat Blitz



U10 Team taken @ our home Blitz



U12 Winners of Shield in Gobna? Group



U14 Group D Shield Winners

## WINDGAP



Senior Team



Camogie/Hurling Summercamp



Feile U15 Division 1 Winners



Michaela Kenneally & Denise Gaule Senior Camogie All Ireland Champions  
Nathania Jackson & Ali Kennedy U18 A Leinster final Champions

## YOUNG IRELANDS



Steffi Fitzgerald, Tiffanie Fitzgerald & Ciara O'Keeffe savour All Ireland success with Kilkenny



The club entered a 2nd adult team again in 2022 making it to the Junior C Final, with some great performances along the way.



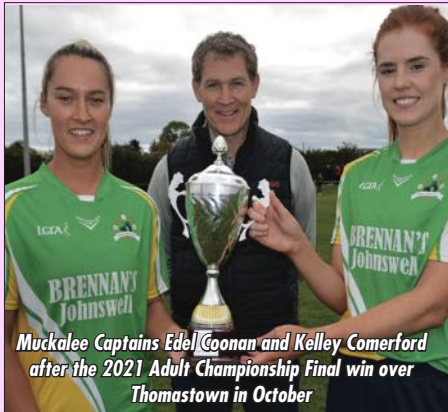
Another great year for our U12 girls with two teams entered. The U11 group reached their group final with the U12 group getting to the shield fin



Our U14 girls on League final day.

# Hard Work Paying Off

## CLUB NEWS



**Muckalee Captains Edel Coonan and Kelley Comerford after the 2021 Adult Championship Final win over Thomastown in October**

At the start of the year there was some unfinished 2021 business to be taken care of before the 2022 season could be contemplated. In February we had the 2021 U16 League Final played in a windy James Park, in which Kilkenny City prevailed over a spirited Dunnamaggin side. As always our clubs busied themselves this year with many activities outside the county board fixtures. Railyard Ladies Football Club were the chosen Kilkenny club to take part in the Lidl One Good Club initiative, in association with the LGFA and Jigsaw. Some of the wonderful activities undertaken by Railyard LGFC included zumba classes for the whole community, study support football sessions for their leaving cert players and their social media pages were awash with well wishes from many famous Irish faces. Railyard were rewarded for all their hard work by being named nationally as the winners of the Most Innovative Initiative category in the Lidl One Good Club awards. They were awarded a plaque and 2,500 at a presentation in Croke Park.

Many clubs also busied themselves once again shopping in Lidl, our national LGFA sponsor, to build up points with many Kilkenny clubs receiving sets of jerseys and cash rewards. This year saw many clubs adding even more fun into their club sessions with some super activities. There was a Darkness into Light training session in John Lockes, Railyard held their renowned Football Summer Camp, Clara once again held a Football skills camp and Kilkenny City had a training session in Nowlan Park. John Lockes and Railyard both had a fantastic day out at the Junior All-Ireland club 7s in St. Sylvesters, Dublin. We can see this being a date in the diary for these clubs and some more going forward.

### Adult

The 2022 Adult competition saw 7 clubs participate, namely Railyard, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown, John Lockes, Clara, Kilkenny City and Muckalee. The St. Canice's Credit Union Ladies County Adult Final was contested between Muckalee and Railyard on October 2nd in Danesfort. The atmosphere was superb at the match and spirits were high on both sides as the finalists paraded onto the pitch with their proud club mascots minutes before throw in. The large crowd really added to the occasion and they were treated to some fantastic passages of football. Railyard fought hard and their effort and heart could not be faulted. However, it was to be Muckalee's day and the strong side came away outright winners on a score line of 2:14 to 0:4 making it 2 in a row for the Muckalee women. This meant they were now to represent Kilkenny in the Leinster Junior club championship. In the preliminary round they faced Laois champs Sarsfields. This was to be a great win for Muckalee with the final score of 5-10 to 2-5. The squad then travelled to Longford to take on Grattan LGFC in the Leinster Junior Club Quarter Final. This was to be yet again another successful outing for this talented side who defeated Grattan 3-11 to 0-9. At the time of print the girls are heading with high hopes to the Leinster semi-final facing St. Joseph's of Westmeath. Dunnamaggin and John Lockes await the Adult Shield final.

### Minor

The 2022 Minor Ladies Football competitions saw teams compete from 7 clubs namely Tullagher - Rosbercon, Kilkenny City, Dunnamaggin, Railyard, Muckalee, Piltown and John Lockes. Dunnamaggin and Kilkenny City topped the table and will play in the League final in due time. The Shield final will be contested by Railyard and Tullagher. The minor championship is in the early stages of being played at the minute.



**Muckalee County Champions 2022**



**Railyard County Finalists 2022**



**County Finalists and mascots parade onto pitch**



**Muckalee mascots**



**Railyard mascots**

### U16s

2022 saw 9 clubs partake in the U16 League Championship, namely John Lockes, Clara, Railyard, Tullagher-Rosbercon, Dunnamaggin, Kilkenny City, Muckalee, Piltown and Thomastown. The Roinn B League final had Muckalee compete against Dunnamaggin. It was a great game of football that saw Dunnamaggin well up at halftime. However,

Muckalee stepped zit up a gear in the second half producing some fine scores but enough had been done in the first half by Dunnamaggin to secure the win.

The Roinn A Championship final was contested in Danesfort, with Dunnamaggin facing John Lockes. The intensity of the game was high from start to finish with the Callan side never backing down until the final

whistle. *Dunnamaggin* took their goal scoring opportunities well and that was to be the big difference between the sides. Final score *Dunnamaggin* 7:6 *John Lockes* 2:8.

There was sheer delight at the final whistle when *Railyard* U16s were crowned *Roinn B* Cup Champions following their defeat of a very good *Clara* side on October 23rd in *Erins Own*.

The *Railyard* girls missed many chances in the first half but kicked it up a gear in the second half and finished strong on a score line of 3-7 to 1-7.

*Piltown* saw off *Tullagher's* efforts in the *Roinn B* Shield final. This was a brilliant game between two equally matched teams. *Piltown* only had a point to spare in their league encounter. This time both teams equally shared 12 scores, but the goals were all important for *Piltown* taking the win on a scoreline of 4:2 to 2:4.

### U14s

Teams from all ten clubs in the county took part in this year's *St. Canice's Credit Union* U14 League Championship with *Kilkenny City* fielded two squads who both ended up in the *Roinn A* league final July 29th. *John Lockes* are the 2022 *St. Canice's Credit Union* *Roinn B* League champs after a win against *Thomastown* on July 23rd. The *Roinn C* League Final was contested between *Dunnamaggin* and *Clara* in September with *Dunnamaggin* claiming the title.

The championship saw *John Lockes* take on *Kilkenny City 1* in the *A* final in atrocious weather conditions that saw the *City* side prevail to hold onto the title for the second year running. On the same day *Dunnamaggin* were victorious in the *Roinn B* Championship final against *Tullagher*. Weather conditions were less than ideal but that didn't prevent the teams putting on a super display of football. It was a great game and up to ten minutes into the second half only 2 points separated the sides. However, after this once *Dunnamaggin* secured 2 quick goals they never looked back.

*Piltown* and *Erins Own* travelled to *James Park* to play in the *Roinn C* County Final on October 16th. This was a game that the plaudits go to both teams for beating the elements and getting the game played. It was miserable but it was great at the same time. *Piltown* started with the strong wind but struggled to make good use of it. They were seven points up at the break, but it was questionable if it would be enough. With an increased work rate in the second half the girls showed great determination to make sure of the win.

The U14 Championship A Shield Final, *Kilkenny City* V *Thomastown*, was a tough game in even tougher conditions. It was to be *Thomastown's* day as they claimed the title with a deserved win.

*Muckalee* and *Clara* went head to head in the U14 B Shield final. Both teams worked very hard and chances were missed and taken on both ends. *Muckalee* were worthy opponents but it was to be *Clara's* super performance that ensured victory on a final scoreline of 4:3 to 2:4.

### U12s

Again in 2022 we had many clubs field two teams each in the U12 competition, namely *Clara*, *Piltown*, *Erins Own* and *Kilkenny City*. This brought our tally of teams up to 14. The U12 Festival of Football Finale day had to be cancelled due to inclement weather but the teams managed to play each other for one last time to finish off the league. Thanks to the County Board and Fixtures Committee for all the work gone into making sure this age group and all others had a well run season. Thanks also to *St. Canice's Credit Union* for their invaluable contribution this season to supporting Ladies Football in *Kilkenny*. The U12 roll of honour 2022 is as follows...U12 *Roinn A* Champs – *Kilkenny City*, *Roinn B* – *Thomastown*, *Roinn C* – *Muckalee*, *Roinn D* – *Erins Own*, *Roinn E* - *Piltown*, *Roinn F* – *Railyard*.

### U10-Nursery

It was fantastic in 2022 to see a return to the U10 go game blitzes. Many clubs hosted these fun blitzes that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. There was major excitement for the *John Lockes* and *Erins Own* U10 girls that were selected to play in the National U10s blitz in *Croke Park* on the 15th of August. A huge day out for both clubs.

More clubs than ever are now catering for U8s, so much so that a schedule of blitzes for this age group was organised for the first time in ladies football in *Kilkenny*. The clubs that took part are *Thomastown*, *Dunnamaggin*, *Piltown*, *Tullagher*, *Erins Own*, *Railyard* and *Clara*. Great skills and competitive spirit were shown by all players with all parents respective of the *Go-Games* ethos. Encouragement was the main focus of the many supporters which



**Dunnamaggin U16s Roinn A Championship winners and A League Shield Winners**



**Piltown U16s Championship B Shield winners**



**Kilkenny City U14 Captains with Roinn A Championship Cup**



**Kilkenny City U14 Roinn A Cup Champions**



**Dunnamaggin U14 Roinn B Cup Champions**



**Piltown U14 Roinn C Cup Champions**



**Thomastown U14 A Shield Champions**



**Clara U14 Captain after B Shield Victory**



U8 Blitz hosted by Piltown

## COUNTY NEWS

### COUNTY SQUADS NEWS

Early season county squad trials in January saw over 200 teenage girls in Kilkenny showed up to be considered for the U14, U16 and Minor panels. In an age where keeping teenage girls in sport has never been more emphasized it's fantastic to know one of our national sports is key in keeping a significant cohort of this age group active in a county that is often only recognized for its small ball prowess. Ladies Gaelic in Kilkenny may be perceived as the underdog sport in the county but it is in fact the number one sport of choice for many teenage girls. Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny has seen significant strides in recent years and membership numbers steadily increase each year and this has translated to more and more girls eager to represent their county in the sport.

### U14 COUNTY SQUAD – LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

It was fantastic to have the full Leinster U14 League Championship back in 2022 and the Kilkenny squad were ready. Our U14 County Management were highly impressed with the skill level of all the girls they saw in the trials. They were so impressed they picked two panels, the Hoops and the Stripes, to partake in county sessions.

The comprehensive U14 County Management Team comprised of Manager Séamus Knox (Dunnamaggin), Sarah McCarthy (Dunnamaggin), Paul McGuire (Railyard), Catherine Moore (Piltown), Ann Marie Ryan (J. Lockes) Alan Condon (KKCity), Emer Tynan (KKCity) John Dunphy (KKCity) and Cath Trevit Kruger (Clara)

The League Championship began with 3 blitz days. The first of these days took place February 26th in O Hanrahans/Netwatch Cullen Park in Carlow. Our U14 county squad (the Hoops) faced Wexford, Laois and Meath winning one out of the three encounters.

They were out again at Leinster Blitz day 2 on March 5th when they faced Dublin, Wicklow and Westmeath. The Black and Amber stars lined out on a crisp morning in Kinnegad to represent their county. They wore those colours with pride and represented the passionate ethos and hard work ethic of those colours throughout the day. They faced a formidable football opponent in their first match against Dublin. The Kilkenny girls never backed down from the tough challenge and pushed the Dublin girls to be at their best to claim the win. Wicklow was up next and started off strong and had the lead at half time. However, in the second half, the Kilkenny girls force came to full power and they drove through the Wicklow opposition to clinch a well worked team victory.

The final game was against another football stalwart in Westmeath and match victory went to the opposition.

The U14 Leinster Championship Blitz Day 3 was March 12th when the squad took on Offaly, Kildare, Longford, Louth and Carlow. The squad had a great day out with the first two games being a great success winning both matches against Carlow (3:02 v 0:3) and Offaly (5:4 to 0:6) Unfortunately both of the next matches against Kildare and Longford were not as successful. The eager squad then went on to end the day on a very positive note with another win in their fifth game against Louth (3:03 to 0:2.)

After the results of all the blitz days were calculated our U14s found themselves in a Division 4 Leinster Final V Laois on March 26th in Ballylinan GAA. The Kilkenny U14s put on an amazing display to come away Division 4 Leinster Champions. With only 5 minutes to the final whistle, only 1 point separated Kilkenny and Laois in the U14 Division 4 Leinster Championship Final. The final score line of 2:7 to 1:4 betrays how excruciatingly close this cracker of a match was for most of the game.

The U14 Championship series stage one took place in Portlaoise on April 16th followed by an All-Ireland Quarter Final against Tyrone April 22nd. It wasn't to be Kilkenny's day and Tyrone came out on top with a score of 5:9 to Kilkenny's 4:7. However, Kilkenny Football is improving every

time these girls train or play matches making for a very bright future for the development and success of the sport in the marble city colours

### U16 COUNTY SQUAD

Conor Gorey continued as U16 Manager this season joined by Regina Moran, Martin Patterson and John Gorey. The 2022 Leinster U16 Championship kick started for our Kilkenny squad in Tinryland March 5th against Carlow in the opening round of the competition. It was an enthralling match in a cold Tinryland for the U16 C Round 1 clash. With 11 goals in total between them, 2 sin bins for Carlow and all square with minutes to go this was a match that had the spectators forgetting about the baltic conditions and transfixed on every play right up to the last kick of the ball. The Kilkenny side were up by 7 points with 15 minutes to go and then faced an onslaught of attacks from Carlow that results in a quick 2 goals and a point making it a level game. Thankfully the Kilkenny squad managed to keep their composure for the final crucial minutes and score 2 points to seal the victory.

Round 2 saw our U16s take on Offaly March 19th in James Stephens GAA. This match ended in defeat leaving it all to play for in round 3 April 9th against a strong undefeated Wicklow side. The squad did themselves and Kilkenny very proud in their extremely hard work ethic and spirit. There was little between the 2 sides at half time on a score line of 1:5 to 1:1 to Wicklow. However the second half saw Wicklow take control and put away some fine scores to run out winners giving them 3 wins from 3 in their championship campaign and with only one win for Kilkenny it was the end of the road for our U16s.



U14 County Captain presented with the Division 4 League Cup



U16 2022 County Manager Conor Gorey



U14 Leinster Winning Squad



U16 County squad

## MINOR COUNTY SQUAD

The 2022 Kilkenny Minor squad was managed by Brendan Healy along with Head Coach Ann Marie Gibbons. Brendan is a well known figure in Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football and this isn't his first time being involved with a Kilkenny Minor squad having being part of the 2019 and 2020 Minor management team. Brendan, who is also the current county treasurer, has a huge interest in development of ladies football in Kilkenny. Ann Marie Gibbons is Kilkenny LGFA's current Coaching Development Officer and moved back to Kilkenny in 2021 after living in Donegal for 14 years. Ann Marie's background in coaching Ladies Gaelic Football has seen her coach at both club and county level in Donegal. Her taking on the position of Head Coach for the 2022 Kilkenny minor panel is putting herself out there as a positive role model for the girls and women of Ladies Football in Kilkenny.

The first outing the minor panel enjoyed together was an away challenge game V Limerick. The girls also enjoyed some team building activities and had an overall great experience in the impressive UL sports arena. Our Minor Squad had their first Leinster League Championship outing on March 27th against Carlow in Tinnyland. A very solid first performance by the girls who led at half time 2:3 to 0:4. However a strong second half for Carlow saw them run out winners on a score line of 2:16 to 2:8. The girls can be very proud of their work rate and skill shown on the day which was to a very high standard.

Round 2 was in Crethyard on May 6th against a strong Wicklow panel. Unfortunately our minors were defeated at this outing. With last minute injuries to key players it was a mammoth task at hand but the squad took it on. First half was tough but the second half saw a great lift in the team with a hugely spirited performance to keep the Wicklow side at bay



County Minor Squad 2022

The Kilkenny minors had their last league match of the season against Offaly on the 21st May in Muckalee. They faced into an Offaly side who had come off the back of a hard-fought win against Carlow. Offaly got off to the ideal start and built up a momentum in the game that Kilkenny took time to settle into. After the break, with a serious mountain to climb, Kilkenny fought back into the game but it was Offaly who took the strong win.

### STRONG SUPPORT

A very big thank you to Clunetech Financial Services for their super support this season to our minor squad. It's great to see companies

backing teenage girls in sport.

Also it was amazing to see one of our minor captains Ciara Mullally on billboards around the City this summer. Playing ladies football in Kilkenny can be an uphill battle at times but serious support like this from Lidl Ireland and Clunetech certainly helps to level the playing field.

A huge thank you also to St. Canice's Credit Union and Intosport on their continued support of Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny in 2021. St. Canice's have been so generous to the sport for many years and we can't stress enough how important their relationship is to the success of Ladies Football in Kilkenny. We may in some respects be view

## LADIES FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Kilkenny's three-year plan came into fruition this year and started to be implemented across the county by the clubs. The plan is a roadmap which will hopefully lead to increased participation in the sport, greater connection between clubs and the County Board and the provision of competitive county teams. The plan has a few different sections. It involves team development, coaching development and finance and fixtures, communications strategies and participation rates. On its review, at the last county board meeting, it was noted that year one has seen progress in all areas targeted by the plan.

One major achievement in development this year was the rolling out of the Player Development Programme for all U13 players in the county. Coaches from a variety of clubs received training from Croke Park to ably implement the initiative in the county. It was spearheaded by our Player Development Officer Kevin Cunningham and Coaching Development Officer Ann-Marie Gibbons. In July all 2009 born girls, regardless of level of ability, were invited to partake in football sessions with players from every club in the county. The sessions were fun, inclusive and social and on August 6th they enjoyed a Leinster Festival of Football day in Portlaoise GAA Club as part of the National PDP programme. The girls faced teams from Meath, Laois and Kildare in the just for fun blitz. We had two teams on the day who did themselves and their county proud. Both squads ended the day on a high with two superb performances. After the success of the initiative it is envisaged that it will be rolled out again in 2023 in the county for U13, U15 and U17 players. Thank you to all the coaches who gave their time to this wonderful initiative.

In regards increasing participation rates, after a two year hiatus due to covid, the girls school league kicked off again this September. 29 Kilkenny schools are taking part in the competition which will culminate with a finals day in November. Thank you to all the teachers giving their time to coach, referee games and bring the girls to matches. All your hard work is appreciated. Thanks also to the Kilkenny County board school football coordinators, Regina Moran and Brendan Healy, for organising the well loved competition.

Another area of progress in recent years is that of communications within the county. This is evident from the huge increase in social media platforms that our clubs are now using, in comparison to just 2 years ago, to promote themselves and communicate with the wider community. Our County PRO Eléna Byrne was announced, earlier in the year, as the 2021 National LGFA PRO of the year. This is the first time Kilkenny have been recognised in these prestigious awards that commenced in 2015 and it's a testament to the great work that is going on in the county by the whole Kilkenny ladies Gaelic community.



Player Development Programme Group 1



Player Development Programme Group 2



Coaches from Kilkenny who took part in the Leinster LGFA First Player Development Programme Coaching Day.



LGFA Awards evening in Croke Park in February

## KILKENNY LGFA FÉILE 2021



John Lockes LGFC Féile Cup Winners



Dunnamaggin Féile Shield Winners



Clara Féile Plate Winners



John Lockes Captains being presented cup by County Minor Captain

Callan are county Féile Cup champions after an undefeated run at the county Féile competition in James Stephens GAA in May. Their successful day culminated in a fast paced, high skilled battle against Kilkenny City for the Kilkenny Féile Cup title. The match was enthralling from start to finish. Both sides challenged each other to be at their best with John Lockes rising to the challenge and claiming the title.

The Shield final was eagerly contested by Dunnamaggin and Railyard. Both sides had their fair share of possession but it was Dunnamaggin who capitalised on their scoring opportunities to be crowned Shield Champions.

The Plate Final was a brilliant match between Clara and Thomastown. A super match to watch with both sides contesting well. It was to be Clara's day in the end as they fought hard to secure the win. The Féile winning teams were presented their silverware this week by minor captains Amy Lawless and Ciara Mullally. Super role models for our younger players.

Clara and Dunnamaggin can now look forward to the Regional Féile in

June and John Lockes the National Féile in July

The Regional Finals were held in Portlaoise GAA and Kilkenny was very ably represented by both clubs. Dunnamaggin reached and won the Division 2 Plate Final. They got off to a winning start in their first match against Naomh Eoin of Carlow on a 2:2 to 0:4 scoreline. Thomas Davis of Dublin and St. Joseph's of Westmeath were the next back to back rounds for the girls and these two sides were strong and overcame them. The girls then had a well needed break and came out in flying form for their next round match against Vallemount of Wicklow. A win in this match would secure a place in the Plate Final and the girls were up for it. They worked hard and secured the victory. The Plate final saw the squad face Réalta na Mara of Westmeath and again the girls were firing on all cylinders. They supported each other and displayed some fantastic passages of play to win on a scoreline of 6:4 to 2:5.

Clara Ladies Gaelic Football Club reached the Division 3 Cup Final and lost out to a strong Fingallians side from Dublin. They had a good win

in the first game against Glen Emmett's from Louth scoring 4-10. Then a hard fought win in the second against Cill Oige of Westmeath after being behind at half time, great response to win out 6-8 to 3-3. In their third game they lost out to a strong Fingallians team from Swords by 1-7 to 1-1. After finishing second in the group, they played the top team from the other group, Mostrim from Longford in the cup semi final. Clara were behind early, but they slowly got into their stride and linked up brilliantly in the second half to complete an amazing comeback and won 6-3 to 3-7 to qualify for the final. They met Finalgiants of Swords again in the final, but they were too strong for the Clara girls and clinched the win.

On July 2nd spirits were high leaving Callan as the Féile squad headed off to represent Kilkenny in the National John West Féile competition. The U15s had the preparation done and they played their heart out in every match. A great day had out by all involved and if a team were to win it for spirit and all round great fun they certainly would have had it in the bag. A super experience to play at such a high level, well done.

## GAELIC4MOTHERS&OTHERS



Thomastown Gaelic4Mothers&Others



Dunnamaggin Gaelic4Mothers&Others



Tullogher-Rosbercon Gaelic4Mothers&Others



Great Pink Blitz in Thomastown

The Gaelic4Mothers&Others is an innovative way to introduce women to playing ladies gaelic football in a fun, non-competitive, social environment. It provides an opportunity for women to exercise in a fun way while meeting other women in the area. The initiative has proved very popular here in Kilkenny and the year 2022 has been an action packed year for this group in Kilkenny. Erins Own had a pre-football season trip to Madrid! As always great fun, craic, great memories with a fabulous bunch of ladies was had.

Two new Gaelic4Mothers&Others groups kicked off this year, namely Muckalee and Slieverue while four new groups, namely the Rower Inistioge, Freshford, Glenmore and Tullogher-Rosbercon, got going last year. Established clubs Pitown, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown and Tullaroan

continued to cater for their Mothers&Others squads all this season and all teams enjoyed fun challenge games with each other. This September saw the much anticipated return of the National Blitz in Portmarnock and 3 lucky Kilkenny squads enjoyed the day out along with thousands of Mothers&Others players from across the nation.

A Kilkenny Great Pink Mothers&Others Blitz took place in October. Eight clubs took part in the non competitive event which saw host club Thomastown LGFC welcome Glenmore, The Rower Inistioge, Tullaroan, Tullogher-Rosbercon, Dunnamaggin, Freshford and Pitown. The fun tone for the day was set straight away as all squads took part in a whole group zumba dance warm up to some belting tunes ably led by Gabi. With The Great Pink Run back in Kilkenny that weekend all teams were

encouraged to wear pink and bring a donation for Breast Cancer Ireland. Una Dillon, GPR Ambassador, was there to accept the whopping €1,200. Una spoke so well to the women before the blitz and praised all for coming together as one team to battle cancer. The blitz went off really well with all the women enjoying lots of fun football and a lovely spread put on by the host team.

Well done to all teams who took part and especially to hosts Thomastown Mothers&Others for all their organisation.

If you'd like further information just check out our Gaelic4Mothers&Others section on our website [kilkennyladiesgaelic.ie](http://kilkennyladiesgaelic.ie) or our Twitter, Facebook or Instagram pages.

# AROUND THE CLUBS



## CLARA LGFC

Clara LGFC grew to 135 players, 6 teams, 19 coaches/officers and 9 Kilkenny County players, from the Clara, Gowran & Paulstown area, over a successful 2022 season. U8's made great progress, evident in their hugely successful monthly blitzes and U10's excelled in their challenge matches and summer blitzes ending in the Clara blitz. U12's had a great year and incredible number, fielding 2 teams, playing 12 matches and additional U11 games. U12's strong friendships forged, keep growing in the primary schools' competition, at times as rivals. U14's worked hard on their skills, confidence and match strategy, reaching the 3rd place league finals in a terrific season, which culminated in winning the Championship B Shield. U16's won 5 of 6 matches, ending this remarkable year by reaching the Championship B Cup final. These great girls, together for 5 years, have grown in friendship as much as a team. Clara's U15 Féile campaign was brilliant, winning Kilkenny Division 3 and going on to reaching the Leinster Féile Division 3 Cup Final, which is exceptional! The dedication, determination, skills improvement, fun and friendships across the club in 2022, bodes well for an exciting future of football in Clara! See Clara webpage / Facebook / Instagram for more information.



Clara U12 Squad



Clara U14 Roinn B Shield Winners 2022



## DUNNAMAGGIN LGFC

Dunnamaggin LGFC continued in 2022 to boast the title of Kilkenny's largest ladies football club and we are proud of the retention of players that keep coming back to the club every year. This is down to the inclusivity of our sessions, the focus on development and the dedication of our super volunteers who give up their time all year round to support the girls of the club. Dunnamaggin had a very successful 2022 season, participating in competitions at all age levels from U12 right up to adult. Our U12s were Roinn C finalists, our U14s claimed the Roinn B championship title along with winning the Roinn C league and our U16s are Roinn A champions after a win against John Lockes. Our Minor squad await the Roinn A league final with Kilkenny City and their championship campaign is just kicking off. Our adult squad await the Adult Shield final against John Lockes. The club also caters for a non-competitive fun Mothers&Others squad, U10, U8 and U6 groups. Our U10s and U8s participated in many fun blitzes this season and our U6s enjoyed teddy bear picnics and dress up sessions. Our fantastic U15 group won the county shield Féile title and progressed to the John West Regional finals day where they won the Division 2 Plate. Check out our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page for more information. Well done to all our squads and management teams making the club and parish very proud this season.



Dunnamaggin Regional Féile Division 2 plate winners



## ERIN'S OWN LGFC

2022 was another very positive year for Erin's Own with a further increase in numbers at our U10s, U8s and U6s. These teams showed great commitment to training and improved as the year progressed. They played some really exciting local derbies and took part in GO games blitzes. The highlight for the U10s was a trip to Croke Park to participate in a National Go Games Day. The girls really enjoyed the day and hopefully they will all get to play there again in the future. We had large numbers this year at U12s and were in a position to field two very competitive teams. Both teams played some great football and came out on top in some very tough league matches. Unfortunately both teams went down to very strong Piltown teams on finals day but the girls played with great heart and determination right up to the final whistle. Our U14s continued their good progress this year with some very competitive games in the league and ultimately qualifying for the Roinn C final thanks to a super performance against our near neighbours Railyard. However Piltown were again victorious in the final played in monsoon like conditions in James Park. However, it is a testament to this young team that they battled to the end and should be very proud of their season. We also submitted a team in the U15 Féile. After some great performances the team just came up short in some tough matches but it hopefully gives the girls a good starting point for next year's U16s team. Looking forward to 2023 we hope to see a continued increase in playing numbers on our juvenile teams and will field teams from u6s up to U16s.



Erin's Own U10's Croke Park



Erin's Own U14 2022 Squad



## JOHN LOCKES LGFC

We have had a great 2022 in John Lockes LGFA with many new members and new coaches. Our membership is at its highest ever and increasing annually. We started the year hopeful to have our players enjoy their football and to try and get as many matches for all panels. From U8s up to Adult we spent a lot of time on the road and also enjoyed welcoming many teams from Kilkenny and further afield to John Locke Park. Our U12, U14 and U16 teams all competed in Roinn A Championship finals. Our Féile panel allowed us to become only the 3rd club in the county to have won the County Féile Cup and they went onto the National Féile in Dublin competing in Div 1 and later to great success in the All-Ireland 7's competition. A great year for all our footballers and looking forward to 2023.



John Lockes U16 Roinn A Championship Finalists 2022



## MUCKALEE LGFC

Muckalee LGFA is going from strength to strength. We now have over 130 members and trainers. We had teams in every age group this year. From having no adult team three years ago, we built on last year's adult team success and won the Junior Adult County Championship 2 years in a row. It is the second time Muckalee LGFA will feature in a Leinster Junior Championship and at this stage of the competition the ladies are amazingly through to a Leinster semi-final! Our u12s were crowned Roinn C county champions this season when they beat Dunnamaggin.



Muckalee U12 Roinn C County Champions

## PILTOWN LGFC

It has been a challenging year post Covid. Despite having plenty of registered players, most teams were struggling as so many were not around. However, despite this, teams were fielded from Under-8 to Minor and G4M+O. Trophies were won at Under-12, Under-14C Championship and Under-16B Shield, but all enjoyed the sport. It was the first time the club won U14 and U16 titles in the same year. Thanks to some new sponsors for jerseys, Dunmore Adventure Centre and Hi-Line Energy. And to a returning sponsor, Hicksons Centra. Many thanks to all our voluntary coaches for the huge time and quality coaching they put in. New players are always welcome in Piltown.



Piltown Under-10 - Dunmore Adventure Centre



Piltown U12 Black and Amber Teams



## RAILYARD LGFC

2022 saw Railyard LGFC be selected as Kilkenny's representative in the LIDL One Good Club Program. This was a fantastic 10 week program for our club and community where we concentrated activities around the Jigsaw 5 a day for mental health; Be Active, Take Notice, Give, Keep Learning & Connect. Participation and support amongst the community was excellent. We were delighted to travel to Croke Park on Ladies All Ireland Finals day to accept our plaque. There was much delight when we were awarded €2500 prize money for the most innovative initiative award.

Huge improvements were seen across our U8, U10 and U12 teams. There was great participation in the organised blitz's for the U8s and U10s. Our U12s enjoyed some tournaments and a structured league and were crowned champions in their league final. We fielded a very young U14 team this year whose football developed and improved with every game. Our U16 and Minor teams are a hardworking and talented pool of footballers with our U16s crowned Roinn B Champions this year and our Minor girls due to contest finals in late October/November. Our Adult Ladies team continued to develop this year and proved to be a very committed group of players who for the first time since our ladies club reformed contested the Adult Championship Final. Huge thanks to our committee, coaches, players, parents and local community for another successful year.

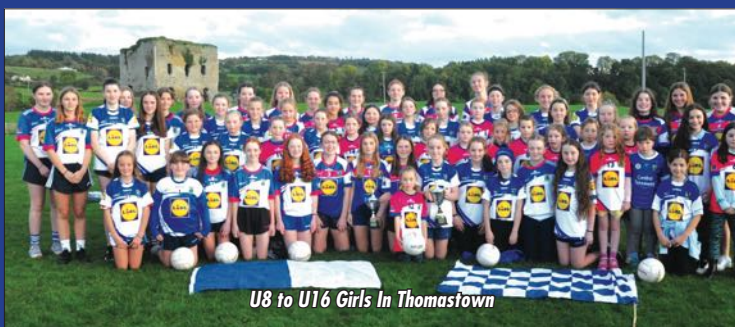


Railyard U16s Squad 2022



## THOMASTOWN LGFC

Thomastown re-established its LGFA committee whose main objective for 2022 was to field a team in every age group. Eleven new coaches were trained and we now have seven teams formed. Funds were raised through local sponsorship, raffles and cake sales. For the first time in its history Thomastown LGFA has an under 8's team. Under 10's had a panel of 17 and the highlight was a blitz in Kildare. Under 12's had a panel of 19 winning 6 out of 7 matches and finishing the season winning the Roinn B Final. Under 14's had a panel of 25 with success in the championship winning the Roinn A Shield Final and getting to the league final. Our U16 team and senior team played games in the championship. Our Gaelic4Mothers&others which was established in 2011 continues to grow and has now 25 members with multicultural backgrounds and some participating in gaelic football for the first time. This year we hosted a gaelic4mothers blitz in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland which saw 8 teams from around Kilkenny take part. Overall Gaelic has had a great year and enjoyed resurgence in Thomastown with success on and off the pitch. All teams showed great spirit, learned and improved their skills. It was great to see players of all levels enjoying the sport and being part of a team



U8 to U16 Girls In Thomastown



## TULLOGHER ROSBERCON LGFC

We have had a busy, eventful and exciting year in Tullogher-Rosbercon LGFA. We significantly increased our registered membership of girls joining to play football. We thank all our trainers and club officers for all their time, dedication and diligence that they put into our growing club. Our training evenings and Saturday mornings were tremendous hives of healthy and social activity for our dedicated, enthusiastic young players! We thank the parents also for all their time bringing the girls to their trainings and matches and for their great support for our teams and our club generally. We thank all our loyal sponsors this season also.

Our Under 6 girls started their Gaelic football careers and showed terrific enthusiasm and effort throughout the season. Our Under 8 panel were delighted to play in all the blitzes arranged by the county and the involved clubs this year, and they were fantastic in these blitzes, really making people take notice of our club and the very promising young players coming through. Likewise our U10 panel, who took part in all their football blitzes with very commendable effort and enthusiasm, acquitted themselves really admirably.

Our U12s were also excellent and after 6 league matches and facing some of the very strong clubs in the county, they finished second in their group. They played a thrilling B league final v Thomastown and after a stirring comeback from the Tullogher-Rosbercon girls from being well down at half time, they were unlucky to draw level and then lose by a single point to an accomplished Thomastown team. Our U14 panel played some tremendous football, doing so well to reach the Roinn B Championship final. In terrible weather conditions, both teams battled superbly and despite some excellent play and scores by us, we were defeated by a very strong Dunnamaggin team.

Our U16s competed tremendously in their matches and as I write this, they are due to play the Roinn B Shield Final vs Piltown this weekend and we wish them good luck in that final! Both our U16s and our Minors had some excellent performances and also came up against some very strong teams in the open draw system, but in victory or defeat they battled to the end. We wish our Minors good luck in their upcoming championship tie versus Dunnamaggin and in their B League Final against Railyard! Very well done to our players Lily Ryan who captained Kilkenny to win the Leinster U14 LGFA Division 3 Championship Title against Laois and to Caoimhe Connolly and Aoibheann Ryan who were part of this panel. We also salute the six Tullogher-Rosbercon girls who played Leinster Minor LGFA Championship matches for Kilkenny this year: Ciara Mullally who captained the team, Annie and Mollie Ryan, Orla Murphy, Anna Phelan and Eva Prendergast!

We hope for another very exciting and rewarding year for our club in 2023!



Tullogher-Rosbercon U16 Panel 2022



# RETURN OF THE 1972 ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS

*This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the All Ireland SH Champions of 1972.  
The event was kindly sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel .*



*Photo: Willie Dempsey*

## **1972 VETERANS IN NOWLAN PARK OCTOBER 23rd 2022**

*Back: Jimmy Walsh (Cathaoirleach, CLG), Billy Murphy, Senan Cooke, Mossie Murphy, Eddie Keher, Mick Crotty, Kieran Purcell, John Kinsella, Nicky Orr, Mick Lanigan (Trainer), Andrew Phelan (Springhill Hotel)  
Front: Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson, Fan Larkin, Noel Skehan (capt), Jim Treacy, Pat Lawlor, Eamonn Morrissey.  
Deceased members of Panel: Ollie Walsh, Pa Dillon, Liam O'Brien, Pat Delaney. RIP*



## **All Ireland Champions 1972**

*Back: Ned Byrne, Mick Crotty, Pa Dillon, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Kieran Purcell.  
Front: Pat Lawlor, Jim Treacy, Chunky O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Pat Delaney, John Kinsella, Eamon Morrissey.  
Missing from photo: Fan Larkin.*

1957

# TINGLING EXCITEMENT ALL THE WAY AS WATERFORD GO DOWN BY A POINT

Kilkenny - - - - 4-10 (22) Waterford - - - - 3-7 (27)

LIKE THE GUST OF WIND THAT SUDDENLY SPRINGS UP AS A STORM GATHERS NEW STRENGTH AND CATCHES ONE'S BREATH, THE HURLING TEMPEST WE SAW AT CROKE PARK YESTERDAY HAS LEFT ME GROPING FOR WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT ALL. TO BEGIN WITH ONE MUST RECORD THAT KILKENNY WON THEIR FOURTEENTH ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING TITLE BY DEFEATING WATERFORD BY 4-10 TO 3.12. NEVER WAS I MORE DISTRESSED BY A HURLING GAME THAN I WAS BY THIS EPIC. NOW THAT THE FRENZY WITHIN ME HAS DIED DOWN, I STILL FEEL A THRILLING GLOW OF SATISFACTION THAT I WAS PRIVILEGED TO SEE IT. WHILE A FEW DAYS HENCE WHEN I AM MORE COMPOSED, I MAY THINK DIFFERENTLY, I NOW WITHOUT RESERVE ASSERT THAT MY PREDOMINANT FEELING IS ONE OF REGRET THAT IT WAS NOT A DRAW.

By **JOHN D HICKEY**

Many great finals I have seen. Many more I was not lucky enough to see—I was born too late as far as my hurling desires are concerned—but never. I feel, can there have been a more pulsating all-Ireland final than we saw yesterday, Greybeard hurling purists may claim that the standard of performance was not classical. I concede it was. not, but I am utterly intolerant of those who would seek to belittle it on that account.

It was a match that one dreams about and then awakes feeling cheated that it was all a myth. What a pity that two sides cannot win!

### WATERFORD DOWNCAST

When I visited the Waterford dressing-room at the end of this hour of frenzied and ponderous effort they were all downcast. Still tingling to every puck of that mighty

was a neutral, still overjoyed by it all. Now as I look back I can understand the dejection, of the losers.

They no doubt, felt that they had lost a match that they could have won and that they should have drawn.

Some of the hurling was right out of the top drawer. All of it was hard and fearless. One could even say that it was ruthless, but it is to the credit of two great sides that despite the intense dedication to purpose of every man. there was not one malicious stroke, or even gesture in the entire hour.

### FILM STAR "EXTRA"

As the teams paraded the pitch many were astounded to see that there were sixteen men in black-and-amber Jerseys. The "extra man" was film star John Gregson. who was being "shot" for the film "Rooney," and indeed there were times in the match itself when it seemed that the new champions had sixteen men on the field.

Their forwards were experts at finding

freedom and failed to profit by their isolation, was to my mind the one feature of the contest that caused some to judge the hurling as being not what it was in the past. But trouble as I saw it was that frequently the Kilkenny forwards had too much time on their hands and in their endeavours to make assurance doubly sure they unwillingly surrendered the advantage they had gained. When Waterford led by 3-10 to 2-7 after sixteen minutes of the second half I thought they could not be overhauled, but I had not reckoned on the dauntless spirit of the Kilkenny men who looked adversity in the face and mocked it as they surged back in waves of attacks.

### LOOKED SAFE LEAD . . .

Then in the seventeenth minute, when Billy Dwyer had a golden Kilkenny goal, the fat, one considered, was really in the fire. A point from a Grimes-free—how competent' a free-taker' the Waterford captain was until apparently unnerved by a chance to level



Back Row: Syd Bluett (Trainer), Jim "Link" Walsh, Dick Rockett, John Sutton, Mick Brophy, Sean Clohosey, Mick Kenny, Ollie Walsh, Bob Aylward (Chairman, Co. Board).  
Front Row: Johnny McGovern, Billy O'Dwyer, Paddy Buggy, Denis Heaslip, Micky Kelly (Capt.), Mick Walsh, Tom Walsh, John Maher.

left the Decies County hanging on by a goal, a slender lead. Another Grimes point from a free in the 21st minute left his team four points in front again. This time it seemed beyond all doubt that the Munster champions would hold out.

A goal by Mick Kenny from a long range puck that hopped on the ground and went to the net for a score that I thought Dickie Roche should have prevented left the champions only a point behind with eight minutes remaining.

Waterford were now surely being buffeted by the Kilkenny storm but they made imperative demands on their stamina and their hurling hearts and like many another I felt we were bound to have an encore, another day.

But then, slap into the picture came an up then inconspicuous Sean Clohosey and he sent the ball sailing over the bar in the 25th minute for the equaliser.

Two minutes later. Mickey Kelly left a true captain's imprint on the game when, from about fifty yards out. he sent the winning point straight and true between the posts.

Waterford were not done with, however, and they mounted a magnificent assault that almost brought a score before the ball was shot wide and into the spectators at the canal end. Some onlooker, maybe he had his fill of excitement, did not return the ball. There was a delay of at least half a minute before a new ball was thrown in.

#### NO "LOST" TIME ALLOWED

But by my timing of the half hour referee Stephen Gleeson was remiss inasmuch as he did not allow "lost" time for the "lost" ball. He whistled the end of the glorious encounter with a Waterford man in possession in the Kilkenny half of the field.

Up to that stage I thought the Limerick official, had a very good second half but in the opening moiety I considered that his anxiety

to punish offences—perhaps to implant the Idea that he would stand no nonsense—caused him to whistle prematurely on a few occasions.

in the first half when Kilkenny, despite many exasperating misses, swept into a 1-6 to 0-3 lead at the end of 21 minutes, it appeared that Waterford might be well beaten, but they rallied most courageously and led by 1-5 to 1-5 at the interval.

Where all contributed so much to a joyous hour it may seem ungenerous to single out any man in the winning side for special mention.

However, I feel that three miraculous saves by goalkeeper Ollie Walsh in the first half demand that he be accorded particular mention. Three times within a second in the eighteenth minute he brought off saves from point-blank range—twice when off balance. At other times, too, he proved in no uncertain manner that he is a great hurler as well as a goalkeeper of astonishing ability as he advanced from his goal to beat opponents and get in lengthy clearances.

John Maher, in the left corner of the defence, was another man to earn a new rating in my catalogue of great hurlers. and if his last-line colleagues, the brothers Tom and Jim Walsh were not as accomplished in their work, they were little less effective.

#### LION-HEARTED McGOVERN

In the half-back line I was most taken by the work of the lion-hearted, daring Johnny McGovern, who, time and again, averted the peril that seemed about to encompass his side. Paddy Buggy, on the other wing, also turned in a majestic display, and if centre-half Mickey Walsh was often foxed by Tom Cheasty his zeal was admirable.

Thanks mainly to an inspired display by John Sutton, the victors "owned" the ball at midfield in the first half. Mick Brophy may

not have been as industrious, but every one of his pucks was a telling blow.

in an effort to break the Leinster men's dominance in that area Waterford switched Johnny and Mickey O'Connor, but the move was not very profitable.

On the turn-over the losers made the switch they should have made five minutes after the throw-in. They brought Seamus Power to that vital territory and instantly the Kilkenny midfielders seemed to dissolve.

Sean Clohosey, who entered the fray with a suspect leg quite patently was always fearful of a charge. Yet he redeemed himself with his levelling point. But far and away the best of a sector that at times played bamboozling hurling was Mick Kenny. His efforts were brilliantly supported by Denis Heaslip, Mickey Kelly and Billy Dwyer, but Dick Rockett found one too good for him in John Barron. Dickie Roche, in the losers' goal never inspired any confidence although splendidly covered by a valiant full-back line of Tom Cunningham. Austin Flynn and Barron. Mickey O'Connor and Martin Og Morrissey, for his second half, deserve most warm commendation.

Power, when he went to mid-field, was the star of that department, and Phil Grimes's accuracy off placed balls was quite exceptional until the occasion when most depended on him.

In the losers forward line Donal Whelan, John Kiely and Tom Cheasty earned most of the plaudits. Whelan's second goal was as magnificent a score as I have ever seen and it surprised me that Waterford did not play him more. The other three Waterford attackers—Mick Flannelly Larry Guinan and Frank Walsh may not have achieved much but they could not be faulted—they tried all they knew.



Actor John Gregson (Rooney) in the parade with Kilkenny

# Score By Score To The Great Climax

By DONAL CARROLL



Kilkenny captain Mickey Kelly flourishes the All-Ireland Hurling Cup after he had received it from Seamus MacFerran, President of the G.A.A.

DEAD on the appointed hour, referee Stephen Gleeson set the game in motion and it was Waterford., led by their captaln, Phil Grimes, who attacked first on the right but when Mick Flannelly sent the ball into the centre, Kilkenny centre back, Mick Walsh, relieved pressure with a mighty clearance.

But the Decies men were not to be denied and John Klely sent over the opening point after 50 seconds. Kilkenny fought back but over-eager forwards were off the target and it was Waterford who scored again when Grimes sent a free for a foul on Donal Whelan sailing over the bar.

Waterford provided the first real thrill when a "rasper" from Whelan had Ollie Walsh beaten, but fortunately for Kilkenny the ball struck the upright and spun away to be eventually cleared by John Maher. Six minutes had elapsed when Kilkenny opened their account.-Kenny, from a free, pointing from forty yards. The Leinster' champions came again and John Barron superbly stopped a hard shot from Denis Heaslip before Dick Rockett, in sending wide, recorded Kilkenny's sixth such indiscretion in less than eight minutes.

From the puck out, however, the Noresiders took their first positive step to victory. Kenny sent the return into the square and Rockett flicked the ball past Dickie Roche for a goal and the lead.

Heaslip and Kenny (2) added further points for Kilkenny and at the other end Ollie Walsh earned loud applause for a smart save from Kiely. Next came a "70" to Waterford which Grimes sent all the way for a point and three minutes later, when a long clearance from Mick Walsh dropped loosely in front of the Waterford goal, Clohosey pulled on the ball to send it over the bar for another Kilkenny point.

In the 23nd minute Waterford started their great fight back which was to turn a deficit into a lead before half-tlme. Kiely, who was ever anxious to "work"\* for the ball, had his reward when reducing the arrears with a well-taken point.

Two mlnutes later, Grimes pointed from a free and then came a rather controversial decision by referee Gleeson. A Johnny O'Connor-lofted ball was dropping in the Kilkenny square and in the melee which followed Larry Guinan scooped the ball to the net. Having consulted the umpires, the official awarded a 21- yards free to Waterford and Grimes ballooned the net with his fast- rising shot. From the puck-out, Martin Og Morrissey sent to Tom Cheasty who placed Whelan lor another Waterford point and the lead just on the call of the half hour.

Waterford improved their position after three minutes of the second half when Kiely placed Whelan whose shot beat Ollie Walsh all the

way tor a capital goal. Grimes, from, a 50-yards free, increased their advantage with a point, but Kilkenny, fully alive to the danger, struck back a minute later when Rockett chased a ball to the back-line and, though harrassed by two Waterford defenders, flicked the ball back to Billy Dwyer, who gave Roche no chance.

Two minutes later, Mickey Kelly reduced the arrears with a further point, but from the puck-out the ball travelled via Grimes and Kiely to Whelan and the left corner man, hitting on the half-volley, again left Ollie Walsh helpless.

Frank Walsh added a further point for Waterford, but Kilkenny were far from a beaten side, and Kenny sent a free from 70 yards over the bar to prove it.

Willie Walsh came on for John Sutton, and Whelan and Cheasty added Waterford points in the 15th and 16th minutes to stretch their lead to two goals. The challenge was there and Kilkenny rose to it magnificently.

Johnny McGovern lobbed the ball upfield. Clohosey flicked it on to Dwyer, and the full-forward set Noreside hearts alight with a fast grounder past Roche in the 17th minute.

Grimes (2) and Kenny exchanged points from frees before Kenny, in the 22nd minute put the Leinster champions on the threshold of victory. From a typical Ollie Walsh clearance, the ball travelled via Clohosey and Kelly to the centre forward, who from about 30 yards, crashed the ball to the net to leave but a point.-between the teams.

## THE EQUALISER

Excitement, seldom below fever-pltch throughout the hour, was now really intense and it was Sean Clohosey who dramatically jinked his way past Tom Cunningham and Morrissey and lofted the ball over the bar for the equaliser with minutes left for play.

Both sides strained every sinew for the deciding score and it came two minutes later. Kilkenny Captain Mickey Kelly, fastened on to a long clearance by John Maher and from an acute angle on the left wing the Bennettsbridge farmer reaped a rich harvest with a beautifully judged shot which Dickie Roche got his stick to but could not, prevent from dropping over the bar.

**Kilkenny-** O. Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Walsh, J. Maher, P. Buggy, M. Walsh. J. McGovern, M. Brophy, J. Sutton, D. Heaslip, M. Kenny, M.Kelly, R. Rockett, B. Dwyer, S. Clohosey. Sub.—W. Walsh for Sutton.

**Waterford**—R. Roche: T. Cunningham, A. Flynn, J. Barron, M. O'Connor, M. Og Morrissey, S. Power, J. O'Connor, P. Grimes, M. Fiannelly, T. Cheasty, L. Guinan, F. Walsh, J. Klely, D. Whelan.

**Referee**—S. Gleeson (Limerlck).

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Frees	70's	Wdes
Kilkenny	1	5	10	0	9
Waterford	1	6	8	2	3

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Frees	70's	Wdes
Kilkenny	3	5	6	1	1
Waterford	2	6	7	1	4

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Frees	70's	Wdes
Kilkenny	4	10	16	1	10
Waterford	3	12	15	3	7

**Attendance**----70,594  
**Receipts** ----£8,428 - 14s.  
 The attendance at yesterday's game-played in overcast conditions with a cool wind blowing from Railway to Canal goals--was £70,594. The receipts were 8,428 -14s.

1963

# KILKENNY WERE GLORIOUS

## But Waterford Lost Little Honour in Memorable Final

By MICK DUNNE

KILKENNY 4-17 WATERFORD 6-8

HERE was the grandeur that ennobles this most ancient game of ours. An hour of bewildering, breath-taking hurling, played at a staggering pace, super-charged with high drama and nerve-wracking tension and radiant with the most splendid and spectacular scores. This was the All-Ireland final of 1963 — the highest scoring final yet — and in a contest of such magnificence there could be no real loser. Merely was it a case of superb Kilkenny carving for themselves a greater slice of the glory than gallant Waterford.

*There may have been greater games of hurling. But this final contained so much of the splendour and skill, suspense and manliness that makes hurling such an exalted game, that 73,123 frenzied spectators were held enthralled for every second of the hour and left limp with excitement at the end.*

Certainly this hour satisfied me, for even as a neutral I could still indulge in the satiating enjoyment of the struggle. But for the partisan thousands this must have been an hour of high elation, disconcerting anxiety, supreme joy and deflating tragedy. Truly, this 1963 hurling final had everything.

But, most of all, this game had magnificent Kilkenny participating in it and like true exponents of supreme hurling style they adroitly displayed all their skills in earning for their county its 15th All-Ireland triumph.

And because their opponents were Waterford, their across-the-river neighbours and friendly rivals, this was another close-scoring, spine-tingling final such as we have come to expect from these two counties.

It was a great triumph for youthful Kilkenny and set the seal on the county's team-building that began less than a year ago and has proved so effective that they once again hold the Liam McCarthy Cup after a six-year lapse.

In Waterford's disappointment at seeing the supreme prize in hurling slip away from them, how galling it must have been

to reflect on the fact that they could, in one hour, beat great goalkeeper Ollie Walsh for six goals and still LOSE. On another occasion that surely would have been more than sufficient to win the title.

Yet, so effective was Walsh on other occasions and so packed with hurling power was the rest of the Kilkenny team, that the Leinster champions could afford to concede these goals and still carry off the championship.

### HURLING POWER

This was indeed a team of hurling power . . . surging, storming power unleashed - with lightning swiftness and lethal force. Waterford with all their vast experience, dedicated resistance, and stubborn spirit, just had not the effective answer.

From the very first minute when Ollie Walsh charged outfield to repel a Waterford raid with a spectacular save and long clearance, right to the last minute when they hit back decisively each time Waterford narrowed the gap, this young Kilkenny side displayed an unexpected confidence and ease in their play.



Back Row: Billy Dwyer, Tom Walsh, Eddie Keher, Cha Whelan, Tom Murphy, Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Alfie Hickey, Tim Kelly, Noel Skehan, Pa Dillon, Ollie Walsh.  
Front Row: Fan Larkin, Oliver Gough, Denis Heaslip, Paddy Moran, Martin Treacy, Sean Clohosey, Seamus Cleere (Capt.), Johnny McGovern, Willie Murphy, Sean Buckley, Tony Kelly, Jim Treacy.

And by none was this boldness and trust in their own ability better demonstrated than the youngest members of the side—diminutive but reliable Phil Larkin, dashing devastating Tom Walsh, and cool, quick-thinking Tommy Murphy.

But all were heroes, for this was a Kilkenny combination working effectively and smoothly together and with each man playing a splendid part.

Right through, Kilkenny were well-served. Although Ollie Walsh was beaten six times, he was at his greatest when needed most. For in the last threatening minutes at the height of Waterford's most intensive efforts to save the game, he twice thwarted the Munster champions.

The full-back line of Phil Larkin, "Cha" . Phelan and Martin Treacy gave the Waterford full-forwards little scope, even though Whelan in his efforts to curb John Barron conceded frees. True, Barron and wing men, Phil Grimes and Seamus Power, had only a limited supply of the ball, but so particularly well did Larkin perform that Grimes was never the danger he can be. Power, however, did enough to suggest that with more of the ball he could have been a greater threat.

In the half line Seamus Cleere was an inspiring captain, vigilant and calculating and mobile enough to cut off threatening attacks. In addition he shot two splendid long-range points. Unspectacularly, but oh so effectively, did Ted Carroll police the menacing Tom Cheasty. The result was that there was never any question of the Waterford man leaving his stamp on this game as he has so often done in the past.

Waterford were always in trouble at midfield. Kilkenny's Sean Clohosey had his best game in a long while and was well assisted by Paddy Moran. Between them, they got through such an amount of work that hard though Mick Dempsey tried, Kilkenny's control in this sector was never broken, not even after Waterford moved out Mick Flannelly from right half-forward and brought in John Meaney for Joe Condon.

Slightly-built Flannelly played himself to near exhaustion both in attack and at midfield. He accounted for two of his side's goals, and sparked off several attacks, but his efforts lacked adequate support.

#### BRIGHTEST STARS

The brightest Kilkenny stars were in their scintillating attack. Eddie Keher had the distinction—and it must be unique—of scoring a personal total of 14 points—10 from frees—in an All Ireland final. Shot from all angles and with deceptive ease, some of his scores were among the most delightful seen in Croke Park for many years of championship hurling.

Young Tom Walsh, the 19-year-old whirlwind in the right corner, has had some days of glory in Croke Park as a minor forward, but whatever else he may achieve in the many years of stardom that surely lie ahead of him in the black and amber jersey, this brilliant debut in an All-Ireland senior final will be one of his most cherished memories.

All his actions were deliberate, but carried out with bewildering speed, his anticipation was almost uncanny and in addition to scoring two of his side's goals he "made" a third with a deadly accurate cross from the right corner for Tom Murphy to finish to the net just on the stroke of half-time. He was such a constant threat that early in the second half, Waterford took Jim Byrne out of the game and sent in former Kilkenny All-Ireland medallist Mickey Walsh.

Tom Murphy was also a dangerman in the left corner and he accounted for Kilkenny's other two goals. He was nimble and alert, and rarely curbed, despite being harried by Tom Cunningham.

### Figures Of The Game

#### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Frees	70's	Wdes
Kilkenny	3	6	9	0	5
Waterford	1	5	5	1	4

#### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Frees	70's	Wdes
Kilkenny	1	11	6	0	4
Waterford	5	3	12	1	4

#### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Frees	70's	Wdes
Kilkenny	4	17	15	0	9
Waterford	6	8	17	2	8



Seamie Cleere leads out Ollie Walsh, Sean Clohosey, Paddy Moran, Martin Treacy, Martin Coogan, Billy Dwyer, Ted Carroll, Tommy Walsh, John McGovern, Denis Heaslip, Fan Larkin.



*Captain Seamie Cleere lifts the McCarthy Cup, watched by Princess Grace of Monaco among many other dignitaries*



*Eddie Keher scores one of his fourteen points in the final. Tommy Walsh and Denis Heaslip await the outcome. Paddy Grace is waving a hurl behind the goal as a target.*

## HOW THE SCORES CAME

EDDIE KEHER drew first blood for Kilkenny with a point from a free in the fourth minute but seconds later Phil Grimes equalised.

Keher had another point but Joe Condon put the teams level from a 65 yards free. Seamus Power goaled for Waterford when Mick Dempsey's shot came back off an upright and Grimes added a point in the 11th minute.

Frankie Walsh hit a Waterford point to which Keher replied from a free and, following a centre by Johnny McGovern, Tom Walsh cut the ball to the net.

A minute later Tom Murphy hit in an easy low ball which hit the upright and went into the net for a soft goal. Keher put Kilkenny three points ahead and added another from a free in the 21st minute.

Dempsey had a Waterford point from a pass by Flannelly, but Keher replied with a similar score from a free. Seconds before the interval, Tom Walsh hit in a long ball from the wing and Tom Murphy flicked it to the net to leave Kilkenny leading by 3-6 to 1-5 at the interval.

The second half was only one minute old when Keher pointed a free and seconds later Tom Walsh had a goal from 35 yards. Waterford hit back for a goal H - Seamus Power and a minoi later Flannelly had another.

A point by Seamus Cleere left Kilkenny six points ahead and two points by Keher extended the lead further. Grimes hit back with two Waterford points, but again Cleere replied with a point from midfield.

Frankie Walsh palmed over a Waterford point to which Keher replied. Flannelly then had a Waterford goal but again Keher had a point and when Grimes goaled in the 22nd minute Keher had yet another point.

Points by Murphy and Keher were answered by a Seamus Power goal but Keher had the last score, a point from a free in the last seconds.

1967

# All Ireland Hoodoo shattered in exciting Final TIPP NO MATCH FOR KILKENNY

## Teehan Brilliance was Vital Factor

JOHN D HICKEY

KILKENNY 3-8 TIPPERARY 2-7

**THE WEIGHT** of their hurling years inexorably caught up with Tipperary at Croke Park yesterday in the All-Ireland senior championship final, in which Kilkenny's superiority was greatly minimised in their four-point margin - 3-8 to 2-7 - before an attendance of 64,241.

It was, indeed, a celebrated occasion for Kilkenny, who in the process of winning a game more noteworthy for intensity of endeavour than it was for spectacular fare, shattered to smithereens the "hoodoo" that had for so long encompassed them in all-Ireland deciders against Tipperary.

Not since the 1922 final had the winners beaten yesterday's rivals in a final, and it will greatly add to the joy of the celebrations which must follow the great triumph, that not even the most grudging of Tipperary men could cavil at the result. The four points which separated the sides at the call of time sufficed for the day and Kilkenny men will doubtless see something significant in the result - one point for each of Kilkenny's defeats by Tipperary in the 1937, '45, '50 and '64 finals.

In screaming, scarlet lettering, the writing was on the wall at the Railway end for the losers at the interval, at which they led by only 2-6 to 1-3, after having played with a wind, the strength of which demanded the comfort of at least a ten to twelve points' lead at half-time. Kilkenny, particularly in the second period, moved with an elegance that

betokened an unshakeable belief in themselves, whereas Tipperary, never at any stage of the hour felt the confidence that would have enabled them to match of their opponents.

In the last quarter the winners luxuriated in their position, and the unity of their effectiveness was in sharp contrast to the endeavours of Tipperary who at times were confused even when the ball was their "prisoner".

### Escaped

Looking back on it all in the loneliness that Croke Park becomes when the tumult and the shouting ends, my wonder grows that Tipperary escaped so lightly. But their cup of sorrow would be fuller and the lost treasure - John Doyle's ninth medal - more difficult to live without had not Kilkenny lost Eddie Keher near the close of the third quarter and Tom Walsh in the closing minutes.

It was after Keher's departure with a wrist injury that the game began to cascade as Keher likes it to torrent and over-spin the 'whole pitch. Brilliantly though Len Gaynor resisted all through, Keher, it is

only fair to assume, would have been at the helm in the last quarter.

Tipperary, to their credit, battled with admirable tenacity. Their hearts were as big in any of their victories over the years, but intent is a poor substitute for action on the hurling field.

Will, resolution, even frenzy, are in essence negative attributes when a side reaches the stage when some men's legs have become reluctant.

Within ten minutes of the restart, the six points lead which Tipperary sweated about rather than enjoyed at the break had been demolished and, from that stage onwards, a Kilkenny victory was as inevitable as night follows day.

The measure of Kilkenny's second-half mastery is demonstrated in the fact that the opposition's only score in the period - a point - did not come until 30 seconds from the end at which time not even a hurling miracle could have redeemed the Munster county.

While club, blood and far more remote and watery relationships may cause



Back Row: Ted Carroll, Pat Henderson, Claus Dunne, Eddie Keher, John Teehan, Pa Dillon, Jim Lynch, Ollie Walsh.  
Front Row: Martin Coogan, Martin Brennan, Seamus Cleere, Jim Treacy (Capt.), Jim Bennett, Paddy Moran, Tom Walsh.



Kilkenny men to nominate any of the fifteen for stellar rating, John Teehan gets my vote as the man who did most to fashion the triumph. His part in the victory may not have had the gloss of some of Ollie Walsh's spectacular saves; the ruthless but ever-legitimate fury of Pat Henderson's hurling; the grandeur of Pa Dillon's power; or the consistency of Tom Walsh's directness; but the St. Lachtain's man neutralised Mick Roche!

### Reasonable

In' doing so, he carried out Kilkenny's design ideally; got in some telling blows for his side and who can measure how he disillusioned Tipperary men who had such high hopes of Roche.

Except for a brief spell in the first half, to which Roche made a start that must have warmed the cockles of the hearts of Tipperary men, Teehan and Paddy Moran- were midfield masters. With time running out, the losers brought in PJ Ryan for Theo English, but it is doubtful if at that time the family of the four Ryan hurling brothers could have salvaged Tipperary.

### Moderate

In speed and implementation of decision, the losers were out-distanced in the closing stages, but it speaks volumes for the defence - in the anxious days of waiting regarded as the suspect sector of the team - that Kilkenny's score was kept do down to reasonable proportions.

One is uncertain whether Walsh should

be esteemed more for his saves or the manner in which he hurled defiance at the opposition as he came through their lines to clear.

Henderson, in turn, outclassed John Flanagan, Michael Keating and Liam Devaney and in my order of merit, Ted Carroll, although unobtrusive, comes next

### Little scope

Claus Dunne got very little scope from Mick Burns and the inside line of Kilkenny forwards so harassed their rivals that they were glad to scramble the ball away rather than seek to get in lengthy clearances.

Gaynor and Burns were the only Tipperary players to enhance their reputations. Roche came into the game when time was running out and Nealon was the only forward in the losers' ranks ever to hold out even little hope that Kilkenny's defensive rampart would be broken down.

This in all the circumstances was a defiantly glorious win for Kilkenny and it adds to the flavour of the triumph that it was, conclusively clear-cut, a win about which there can be no "its" or "buts" or "onlys" from any source, even the gambler reported to have staked £22,500 on Tipperary to win £2,000.

Tailpiece-Referee Mick Hayes (Clare), officiating in his second all-Ireland senior final, performed his duties in a manner that should earn him further similar honours.

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	1	3	4	7	0
Tipperary	2	6	5	9	1

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	2	5	5	3	0
Tipperary	0	1	4	6	1

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	3	8	9	10	0
Tipperary	2	7	9	15	2

in the winners' defence. He was utterly dependable and Kilkenny followers must have been at ease every time Tipperary went up the left.

Jim Treacy, Seamus Cleere and Martin Coogan, even though Donis Nealon got two goals, also contributed generously to the triumph.

In the attack, Tom Walsh was the most deeply penetrative thorn in Tipperary's side, in subordinating his customary approach, puck and solo run, to first time tactics, he often nonplussed the opposition and prevented Tony Wall getting in the lengthy clearances on which the losers' forward division feasted for many years.

Kilkenny - 0. Walsh; T. Carroll, P. Dillon, J. Treacy (capt.); S. Cleere, P. Henderson, M. Coogan; P. Moran, J. Teehan; E. Keher, T. Walsh, C. Dunne; J. Bennett, J. Lynch, M. Brennan.

Subs.: R. Blanchfield for Keher; P. Carroll for T. Walsh; J. Kinsella for Bennett.

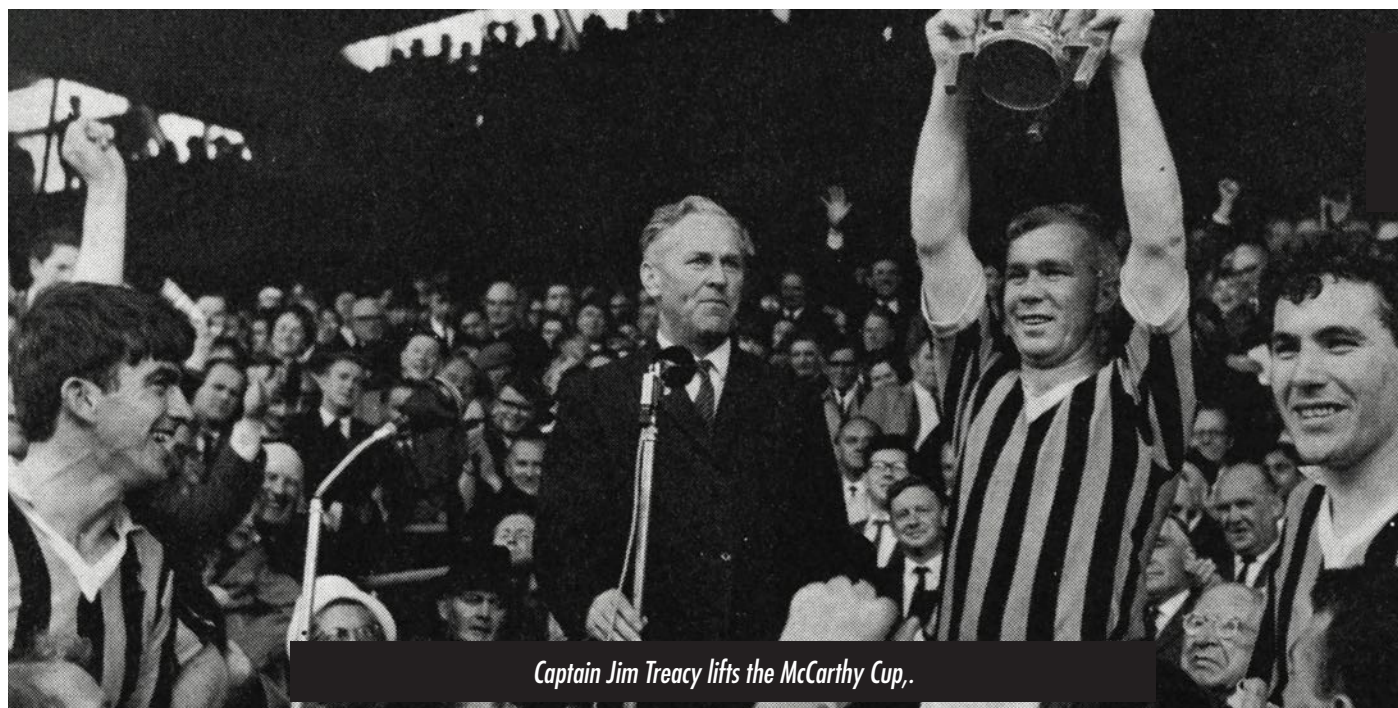
Tipperary - J. O'Donoghue; John Doyle, K. Carey, N. O'Gorman; M. Burns, A. Wall, L. Gaynor; T. English, M. Roche (capt.); D. Nealon, J. Flanagan, L. Devaney; Jimmy Doyle, M. Keating, S. McLoughlin.

Subs.: L. Kiely for McLoughlin; M. Lonergan for Burns; P. J. Ryan for English.

Referee - M. Hayes (Clare).



Seamie Cleere, Pa Dillon and Pat Hendrtson hold out the Tipperary forwards while Ollie Walsh saves in the dying minutes.



Eddie Keher  
Tommy  
Paddy Gra

Captain Jim Treacy lifts the McCarthy Cup.



Martin "Goggy" Brennan finds himself alone in the Lions' Den.

### SERIOUS EYE INJURY TO TOM WALSH

KILKENNY celebrations of their great victory were considerably damped last evening when it was learned that an injury received by Tom Walsh in the game may cause the loss of an eye.

Co. Board chairman, Nicky Purcell told me that the damage was so serious that preparations were being made to perform an operation this morning to remove the eye.

No one watching Ollie Walsh perform so brilliantly in goal could believe that on arrival in Dublin yesterday he was rushed to hospital to have seven stitches inserted in an arm.

On the rail journey from Killkenny, he accidentally put his arm through the glass in the compartment of the carriage in which he was travelling, and at one stage it seemed that he would be unable to play. Typically, he made light of the damage and insisted on playing with what happy results his, county men will for long celebrate.

### SCORES BY THE CLOCK



TIME	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
FIRST HALF			
5 min	Kilkenny	Goal	Paddy Moran
6 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Eddie Keher
8 min.	Tipperary	Point	Mick Roche
11min.	Tipperary	Point	Mick Roche
13 min.	Tipperary	Point	Jimmy Doyle (F)
14 min.	Tipperary	Goal	Donie Nealon
16 min.	Tipperary	Goal	Donie Nealon
18 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Eddie Keher
21 min.	Tipperary	Point	Jimmy Doyle (F)
25 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Tom Walsh (F)
26 min.	Tipperary	Point	Jimmy Doyle (F)
28 min.	Tipperary	Point	Jimmy Doyle (F)
HALF TIME SCORE: KILKENNY 1-3 TIPPERARY 2-6			
SECOND HALF			
4 min.	Kilkenny	Goal	Martin Brennan
5 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Tom Walsh (F)
9 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Eddie Keher
10min.	Kilkenny	Point	Claus Dunne
12 min.	Kilkenny	Goal	Tom Walsh
18 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Claus Dunne (F)
27 min.	Kilkenny	Point	Dick Blanchfield
29 min.	Tipperary	Point	Jimmy Doyle (F)
FULL TIME SCORE: KILKENNY 3-8 TIPPERARY 2-7			

1969

Second-half transformation at Croke Park

# CORK CRUMBLE AS KILKENNY CLICK

## Brennan's Goal a Morale Booster

KILKENNY 2-15 CORK 2-9

**WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!** From looking an all-over beaten team in the first half, at the end of which they were lucky to be only a goal in arrears, gallant outsiders, Kilkenny, surged spectacularly into a super second half at a well-packed Croke Park yesterday. And in rousing, rip-roaring fashion, the nifty Noresiders chalked up a thoroughly deserved 17th Senior All-Ireland hurling title on the strength of a 2-15 to 2-9 scoreline, while depriving a bewitched, bothered and bewildered Cork combination of a coming-of-age 21st.

What then was the super-charged victory formula? Said Father Tommy Maher, coach to successive Kilkenny teams since 1957: "We told them to let them have it. We have been preparing this team to play tough, fair hurling — to get that ball moving — and they went out and did it in style,"

The good Father, himself a former Noreside county star, remarked that this was a big Kilkenny team and well able to take care of themselves in the "tiger tackling" which operated through the hour. "We gave our half-backs a real try out on Monday evening and we knew after that they would be hard to beat," he added. They did exactly as we told them, and every man played his part in forging a really great victory.

And a great victory it was for Cork were a goal up within two minutes when Charlie McCarthy picked up along the wing, made ground fast, cut in along the back-line and had the ball in the net almost before Kilkenny had awakened to the danger.

### DONAL CARROLL

Said Jim Treacy, who turned in the proverbial blinder in the second half: "I'm afraid we relaxed a bit because it seemed to us that the full-forward fouled Pa Dillon and we were expecting a free out.

Said Ted Carroll, who had, probably, his best game ever in the black-and amber singlet: "We thought it would be a free out, but the one time I was worried was when they got their second. I honestly don't know how they got it."

It came, actually, in the 18th minute when Pa Dillon failed to clear and passed the ball rather loosely. Cork's Pat Hegarty was in like a flash and cracked a low fast grounder to the net.

### IN TROUBLE

At that stage, Kilkenny were in dire straits, despite the fact that the Leesiders vaunted mid field was tending to splutter rather than sparkle against the strong, forceful hurling of Mick Lawler—a late replacement for 'flu victim, Paddy Moran, and Cobh-based Garda, Frank Cummins.

But Kilkenny got an unexpected bonus when, after emergency-choice, Lawler, had pointed from long-range in the 27th minute, the Coon clubman superbly steered a line ball to the Cork square just 30 seconds short of half-time.

Said Kilkenny's full-forward Martin Brennan: "The ball dropped down and one of the Cork players - it could have been Paddy Barry - blocked it down. Pat Delaney was running in fast, but he overran the ball, and all I had to do was hit it into the net".

It was a score right out of the blue, but a blessing to Kilkenny, for it enabled them to turn over a mere goal - 2-6 to 1-6 - in



Back Row: Pa Dillon, Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Willie Murphy, Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson, Ollie Walsh.  
Front Row: Joe Millea, Martin Brennan, Jim Treacy, Tom Murphy, Eddie Keher (Capt), Claus Dunne, Pat Delaney, Mick Lalor.

arrears, rather than an intimidating six points.

Kilkenny were on terms in 10 minutes, and having come behind, they eased in front for the first time with a Pat Kavanagh — who had replaced an off-form Claus Dunne — point in the 48th minute.

ALL PLAYED PART

Father Maher spoke of Cork's "spread out" approach in the first half and said: "We told the lads to watch the puck-out and to crowd under it to prevent their moves from developing.

BAD FOUL

And while they had hurled well through the third quarter, it was not until Pat Delaney—who was in the "wars" a couple of times— was felled rather viciously — necessitating a stretcher, and, subsequently, eight stitches in his forehead — that Kilkenny really took this game by the scruff of the neck.

Paddy Moran came in for Delaney and took up residence at left half-forward. The move enabled Eddie Keher to move to centre forward, where he blossomed out as the great player we all know him to be.

It was then, indeed, that the full extent

of the loss of Cork's regular pivot, Justin McCarthy, was realised and it underlined that in this game, McCarthy - who watched the game from the sideline — was a bigger loss to Cork than was Paddy Moran to Kilkenny.

Suddenly, the Kilkenny half back line, merely adequate before despite a magnificent display by Martin Coogan, became well nigh unbeatable. And, in the

Cork had put it up to us and we knew that we would have to make a really determined effort. I thought Martin Coogan and Willie Murphy had their greatest games ever."

EXPERIENCED

Cork were. naturally disappointed. Said popular selector Pat O'Leary: 'In the second half. Kilkenny really turned it on - playing beautiful hurling. Their half-backs were out of this world, but, while we are disappointed, we didn't lose grace.

"It's a hard thing to win an All-Ireland and ours is a young team who have served us magnificently' during the year, winning the National League and getting to an All Ireland final. In an atmosphere such as one encountered in an All-Ireland final, experience is a great thing and Kilkenny had an edge in that respect.

last 17 minutes, Cork could manage only a point from a free by Charlie McCarthy against a succession of scores from a rampant Noreside outfit, including a "beauty" of a point from Moran himself.

Said Pat Henderson, who produced a positive "stormer" in that time: "The goal just before half-time was a real tonic, but

Said Gerald McCarthy, who, with Tony Maher and, in the first half, Ray Cummins and Charlie McCarthy, donned the hero's mantle for Cork: "In the second half, we let Kilkenny dictate the type of game best suited to themselves, and instead of swinging the ball from wing to wing, as we did in the first half, our centre field and

### Figures of the game

		First half				
		Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	Seventies
KILKENNY		1	6	4	12	1
CORK		2	6	2	7	0
		Second half				
		Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	Seventies
KILKENNY		1	9	5	8	2
CORK		0	3	6	6	2
		TOTALS				
		Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	Seventies
KILKENNY		2	15	9	20	3
CORK		2	9	8	13	2



Ted Carroll in action against Charlie McCarthy (Cork)



half-forwards were bunching. It was very disheartening to see this happen. Then. I think a bit of panic set in and there were too many changes on our side."

Referee Sean O'Connor (Limerick) did a good job in his first major assignment, and one can only assume that he didn't see the incident which led to the unfortunate withdrawal of Kilkenny's Delaney. It was of course, a fairly isolated incident in a game in which, as Father Maher said, the tackling was "tiger." but an incident which merits the strongest condemnation, nonetheless.

Scorers: Kilkenny—E. Keher (0-8), M. Brennan (1-1). J. Millea (1-1), M. Coogan (0-3—two from 70s and one from a long-range free), M. Lawler. P. Kavanagh and P. Moran (0-1 each);

Cork— C. McCarthy (1-6). P. Hegarty (1-1). G. McCarthy and E. O'Brien (0-1 each).

KILKENNY—O. Walsh; T. Carroll. P. Dillon, J. Treacy; W. Murphy, P. Henderson, M. Coogan; F. Cummins, M. Lawler; C. Dunne, P. Delaney, E. Keher. (capt.); J. Millea, M. Brennan T. Murphy. Subs.—P. Kavanagh for Dunne. P. Moran for Delaney, S. Buckley for T. Murphy.

CORK—P. Barry; A. Maher, T. O'Donoghue, D. Murphy (capt.); D. Clifford, W. Walsh, G. McCarthy; D. Coughlan, R. Touhy; T. Ryan, C. Cullinane, P. Hegarty; C. McCarthy, R. Cummins, E. O'Brien. Subs. T. O'Halloran for O'Brien, J. Murphy for Touhy, S. Looney for Ryan.

REFEREE: S. O'Connor (Limerick).

## HOW THE SCORES CAME

### CORK'S DREAM START

By Gerry McCarthy

Cork won the toss and defended the Canal Goal. They had a dream start when Charlie McCarthy got possession in the Hill 16 corner, weaved his way through the defence and goaled in the second minute.

Eddie Keher (free) opened Kilkenny's tally with a point in the 4th minute. Pat Hegarty had a Cork point (8 minutes) and 3 minutes later Martin Coogan pointed a Kilkenny 70'. Charlie McCarthy and Keher exchanged points from frees before Gerald McCarthy's point from a free (16 minutes.)

Eddie Keher (free) kept Kilkenny in touch with a point before Cork's second goal came in the 18th minute. A Kilkenny defender fumbled a clearance and the ball broke to Pat Hegarty. His first time ground shot appeared to be covered by

Ollie Walsh but Eddie O'Brien distracted the goalkeeper and the ball went to the net.

Keher (19 minutes) and Eddie O'Brien (22), exchanged points. Charlie McCarthy, with a marvellous point from the right-hand touchline, made it 2-5 to 0-5 in Cork's favour and added another point from a free in the 26th minute.

and in the 40th minute Eddie Keher (free) made it 2-7 each. This free was awarded for a late foul on Pat Delaney, who was injured and retired. Paddy Moran came on at left half-forward and Eddie Keher switched to the centre.

Charlie McCarthy (free), restored Cork's lead with a point after 43 minutes but Martin Coogan, from a '70', tied the scores almost immediately. John O'Halloran and Charlie Cullinane swapped positions in the Cork attack before Kilkenny took the lead for the first time when Pat Kavanagh pointed from 55 yards in the 47th minute. Martin Brennan increased this with a point from play and as the game entered its closing ten minutes Cork brought Seamus Looney into attack for Tom Ryan.

Charlie McCarthy (free) Martin Coogan (free), and Paddy Moran made it 2-12 to 2-9 In the 54th minute. Eddie Keher (free) in the 55th and from play in the 56th minute put Kilkenny in an unassailable position. Cork switched Donal Clifford to attack and brought Seamus Looney



Captain Eddie Keher receives the McCarthy Cup from Uachtarán Seamus Ó Riain

back but the winners had the last score when Eddie Keher pointed a free to leave the full-time score: Kilkenny 2-15, Cork 2-9.

At this stage Pat Kavanagh replaced Claus Dunne in the Kilkenny attack. Mick Lalor reduced the arrears with a point. Paddy Barry got his hand to a long sideline cut from Mick Lalor but allowed the ball to fall from his grasp and Martin Brennan tapped it home from close range. Half Time: Cork 2-6 Kilkenny 1-6,

Cork resumed with John O'Halloran in the attack instead of Eddie O'Brien and within 30 seconds Charlie McCarthy put them four points ahead from a free. Martin Brennan hit the woodwork with a high shot after 35 minutes and almost immediately Joe Millea finished Pat Delaney's centre for a goal to reduce Kilkenny's arrears to the minimum.

Joe Murphy came on at mid-field for Cork

### CROWD LESS THAN 1966

The attendance at Croke Park yesterday was 68,844, which is 3,383 higher than the figure for last year's Wexford v Tipperary final. It is also larger than the 1967 figure but 1,405 less than the attendance at the 1966 Cork-Kilkenny final.

1972

# KILKENNY ARE KINGS!

## Fantastic Rally Foils Corkmen

KILKENNY 3-24 CORK 5-11

**MAGNIFICENT KILKENNY!** Once again glorying in the label of outsiders, these superb hurlers in black and amber upset the odds, the confident Corkmen, and the predictions of almost all the experts to come storming back in the last quarter of this thrill-packed All-Ireland final at Croke Park yesterday and turn what had looked like seemingly inevitable defeat into glorious victory.

But in doing so they and their beaten rivals also achieved a badly-needed victory for hurling itself. Those 80 minutes of swaying fortunes provided what every lover of the game had hoped it would, proof positive that no ball-game can stir the blood of an Irishman like hurling at its best.

After a promising, but far from scintillating first half, this confrontation flared into spells of second-half brilliance that revived all the oft-told glories of past Cork-Kilkenny clashes, roused the enthralled spectators to a fever of excitement, and left even the most hardened press-box scribes limp with tension when the battle for supremacy was really joined mid-way through the second half to emphasise that, as long as teams like Kilkenny and Cork can give us the hurling they gave us yesterday, the game can never die while grass grows and water runs in Ireland.

### EARLY LEAD

The excitement began early with Cork missing a goal by inches in the opening second, and the sprightly Kilkennymen,

### PADRAIG PURSEAL REPORTS ON THE SENIOR GAME



though facing the strong sun and the Canal Goal, snatching an early lead. But the first time Cork got moving there was a chilling sight for Kilkenny followers as tall Ray Cummins whipped round Pa Dillon to goal.

Through the rest of the first quarter, both teams seemed to be testing the other out, and there was nothing at all between the sides as play swung from end to end with alternate scoring that saw them level three times. Then, as we moved towards the half-hour mark, Cork began to pull away despite some almost miraculous goalkeeping by Kilkenny captain Noel Skehan.

Mick Malone's long-range centre landed between Ray Cummins and Dillon, and the ball broke to the net past Skehan for what seemed then likely to prove a vital

score/

Yet Kilkenny did not wilt. Though Eddie Keher was policed out of the scoring business by Tony Maher, and had to be content with a couple of minor markers from placed balls, the Noremene kept fighting back and must have gone to their dressing-room reasonably content to find themselves trailing by only two points, 2-8 to 0-12.

### FORTUNATE

Kilkenny nowadays pride themselves on being a second-half team, and two points is no margin in such a hurling game. Yet it was obvious that, for all their twelve scores, this black and amber attack was showing little or no penetration close-in.

But Kilkenny seem to be fortunate nowadays in possessing hurling strategists on the sideline as well as hurling skill on the field. Big Eddie Byrne, who, hard though he tried, had manifestly in that first half, lacked the mobility seriously to trouble the Cork defence, did not reappear after the interval. Instead Kieran Purcell was now at top of the right and Mossy



Back Row: Ned Byrne, Mick Crotty, Pa Dillon, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Kieran Purcell  
Front Row: Pat Lalor, Jim Treacy, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan (Capt.), Pat Delaney, John Kinsella, Eamon Morrissey.  
(Missing from picture - Phil Larkin)

Murphy from Mullinavat manned the full-forward position.

Cork again should have goaled in the opening seconds, but Skehan brought off a seemingly impossible save from Malone, and now the thrills really began.

#### FALTERING

Kilkenny points saw the sides level for the fourth time. Again Skehan foiled Cork, but he raced out to dear and before he could get back Malone had shot past Dillon for a well-worked Cork goal.

The Noremen now badly needed a boost to their faltering hopes and it seemed to have come when Keher's high lob came out of the sun and went off Paddy Barry's grasping hand to the Cork net. But the mighty roar from the Kilkenny fans was silenced almost in their throats. From the puck-out, Charlie McCarthy placed Ray Cummins who sent the huge Cork following into ecstasies with a great goal. Half a minute later, Skehan made his only blunder of the game, when he failed to lift after coming out to clear, and though Pa Dillon and Martin Coogan, who had just come on for the injured Fan Larkin, both saved in turn on the Kilkenny line, young Seanie O'Leary nipped in to score Cork's second goal inside a minute and the Leesiders seemed on the high-road to victory.

#### Master Move

Indeed- when Con Roche added a long-range point to put the red jerseys eight points ahead with the game almost at the three-quarter mark, Cork seemed all but

certain to step up to join Tipperary at the head of the All-Ireland honours list. But then these shrewd Kilkenny mentors made their master-move. They switched Keher out to his old post of left-half forward. The veteran from the Rower Instiogue proved he was enjoying his new-found freedom with a couple of typical snipe-like runs, but his rallying contribution came from a placed ball.

a foul on Murphy. Keher stepped up and cracked the sliothar through the Cork "stone-wall" to the net and from that moment on Kilkenny never looked back.

Suddenly the black and amber jerseys seemed to be every- where. Two points brought the margin down within striking distance. Then Frank Cummins, amazingly subdued until now, broke away from midfield. On and on he went through a Cork defence that raced away from him to cover off Keher and Delaney who were running into position "off the ball". But the Cork-based Garda kept on going, and then blasted home a shot that Paddy Barry never saw until he picked it out of the net.

Scores were level for the fifth time with 15 minutes left for play!

#### CRUEL LUCK

It was now that Kilkenny scaled the heights, proving once more that they are the men for the closing stages of an 80 minute game. With Henderson, Coogan and Treacy driving every Cork attack back with raking clearances, and with Keher and Delaney now tearing the Leeside defence to shreds, these rampant Nore- . sides took over complete control. Point after point after point went sailing over the crossbar.

1

They had cruel luck when Crotty, then at full-forward, had the ball in the net again, only to be awarded a free instead which Keher pointed, but with veteran Paddy Moran now on, and lending - a hand at midfield, they, never again relented in

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	0	12	6	12	0
Cork	2	8	4	8	3

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	3	12	7	9	0
Cork	3	3	8	4	2

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	3	24	13	21	0
Cork	5	11	12	12	5

With, just 22 minutes left for play, Kilkenny were awarded a 21-yard free for



*Jim Treacy had a tremendous game in the Kilkenny defence.*

their ceaseless late onslaught and were manifest winners five minutes before referee Spain blew the final whistle.

In looking back on this game many reasons will be advanced why Kilkenny won, and many heroes will vie for top honour, but my first award goes to a man who was not on that field at all - fitness-coach Mick Lanigan. The former athletics star has conclusively proved in every game this season that he has mastered the secret of preparing a team for the 80-minute game, for in every match Kilkenny have won, they have been at their best in the last 20 minutes.

Thinking back over the closing stages yesterday I am left wondering whether it really was that Cork wilted in the heat, after all they were the younger side, or whether they were swept out of it by the sheer hurling power of Kilkenny's last-quarter display.

So great was the contribution of so many Kilkennymen to the victory that it seems almost unfair to single out individuals for special mention. Yet who can forget the brilliance of Liam O'Brien at midfield where, playing in his first senior final, he showed all the coolness of a veteran with his long range points both from frees and from play, and where he outmatched in turn both Justin and Gerald McCarthy.

Little behind him was Pat Henderson who recaptured once again all the brilliant form he last revealed against the Cork men in the 1969 final. His long clearances again destroyed Cork hopes in the closing stages, but he got plenty of assistance from his flankers. Pal Lawlor and Eamonn Morrissey.

Skehan had half a dozen all-but unbelievable saves in goal, all of them at crucial moments, no man afield was going better than the white-headed Jim Treacy in the second half, while, if Pa Dillon seemed in danger of getting the run-around early on from Ray Cummins, the durable Freshford man gave nothing at all away in the closing stages.

Martin Coogan was also a tremendous

defensive asset when he came on, though Fan Larkin had been doing well until he damaged a knee.

#### COMPENSATED

Frank Cummins seemed out of it at midfield for long spells, but that goal of his compensated for a lot of earlier looseness.

Up front, Keher, when he came out, made all the difference and especially to Pat Delaney, who then really shook off the shackles which Seamus Looney had imposed on him early on.

Keher did not quite reach his tally of 2-11 when on the losing side against Tipperary in last year's final, but his score of 2-9 yesterday was his highest total for a winning Kilkenny side. Kieran Purcell all through, Mick Crotty and John Kinsella in patches, also did well in a Kilkenny attack that really came into its own in the closing stages.

As for Cork, it seemed for a long time that their fast and clever forwards would swing the game in their favour as they had been expected to do, but they were hurled out of it when Kilkenny really came at them in that last 20 minutes.

Captain Norberg's departure may have unsettled the half-back line, even though the Blackrock man, while on, had been obviously affected by that suspect knee. Tony Maher, Pat McDonnell and Brian Murphy had a great first half, but lost their steadiness when the real heat came on.

Likewise, the half-back line played extremely well for two-thirds of the game, but then cracked badly despite the bright moments of Con Roche and Seamus Looney. Denis Coughlan played a world of hurling at midfield without any consistent assistance, but while Ray Cummins and Mick Malone look their scores well, the whole Cork attack seemed to be thrown out of gear once Martin Coogan came in, and they failed to raise a flag through the last 25 minutes of this sensational game.

Finally, a word of heartfelt thanks to both teams for putting hurling back on its pinnacle, for giving us the greatest final since 1947 (yesterday's match may have been even greater, except in the closeness of the finish, to that classic 25 years ago which Kilkenny won by a point) and for doing so without a single significant unsporting incident from either side, despite a little first-half testiness.

HURLING, THIS MORNING, IS MORE DEEPLY THAN EVER IN DEBT TO THE MEN OF CORK AND KILKENNY.

*Scorers: Kilkenny — E. Keher 2-9 L. O'Brien 0-5, F. Cummins 1-0, P. Delaney 0-3, M. Crotty 0-2, K. Purcell 0-2, P. Henderson 0-1, J. Kinsella 0-1, M. Murphy 0-1. Cork — R. Cummin 2-3, M. Malone 2-1, S. O'Leary 1-1, C. McCarthy 0-4, C. Roche 0-2.*

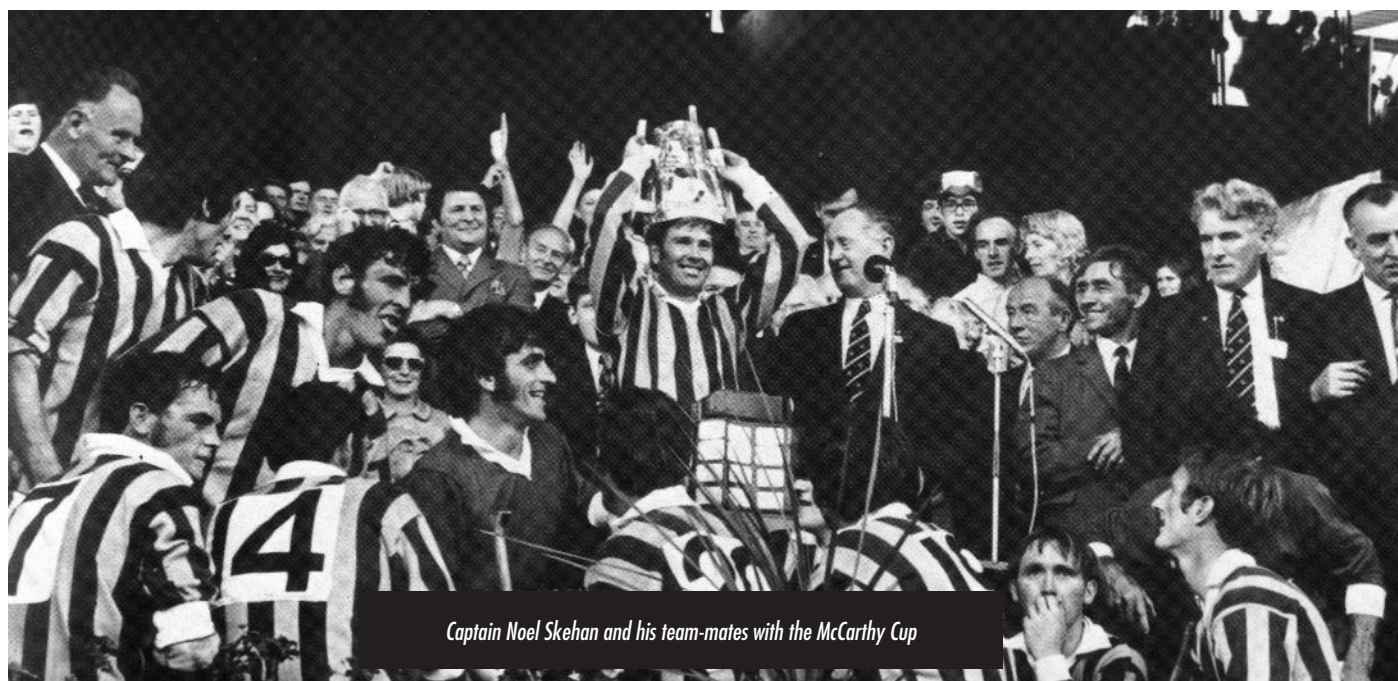
*KILKENNY—N. Skehan (Capt): P. Larkin, P. Dillon, J. Treacy: P. Lawlor, P. Henderson, E. Morrissey, P. Moran, F. Cummins, M. Crotty, P. Delaney, J. Kinsella, E. Byrne, K. Purcell, E. Keher.*

*Subs. — M. Murphy for Byrne at half-time, M. Lawlor for Larkin 49 mins, P. Moran for Kinsella 74 mins.*

*Cork—P. Barry, A. Maher, P. McDonnell, B. Murphy: F. Nurberg; (Capt), S. Looney, C. Roche, J. McCarthy, D. Coughlan, G. McCarthy, M. Malone, P. Hegarty, C. McCarthy, R. Cummins, S. O'Leary. Subs — T. O'Brien for Norberg 36 mins ». D. Collins for Hegarty - 70 mins.*

*Referee: M. Spain, Offaly.*

The attendance at Croke Park yesterday, 66,137 is almost 5,000 more than the 61,313 spectators who attended last year's final between Kilkenny and Tipperary and is the highest since Kilkenny and Cork last met in 1969 when 68,249 passed through the turnstiles.



*Captain Noel Skehan and his team-mates with the McCarthy Cup*



1974

# MAGNIFICENT HENDERSON KEHER THE BANKER!

## KILKENNY TAKE CROWN BACK

KILKENNY 3-19, LIMERICK 1-13

KILKENNY, sharper, surer, fitter, faster in the vital stages, and far more evidently imbued with a burning desire for victory, swept to their 19th All-Ireland senior hurling title with unexpected ease at Crake Park yesterday when they finished, deservedly, a massive 12 points in front of holders Limerick, who disappointed their huge following by fading steadily from the scene when the Noremens really came at them in the second half.

The winners, desperately anxious to prove that they were a different proposition now that their great stars, Eddie Keher, Kieran Purcell and Jim Treacy, who were unable to line out twelve months ago, were all back in action, only gave their supporters any real cause to worry in the early minutes. They opened in very uncertain fashion, were soon five points in arrears, and seemed to be getting the run-around from a confident well-together Limerick side that was spread-eagling the opposition with crisp, effective ground hurling.

But, as a sharp shower began to fall, Limerick began to lose that early cohesion, Kilkenny began to march on the Canal goal, and the Leinster champions, gathering power and confidence with every passing minute, went storming on to their greatest All-Ireland triumph since they crushed Cork by 13 points away back in 1907 in the replay of the 1905 final at Dan Fraher's Field in Dungarvan.

And those who argue Kilkenny might not have been beaten last year had Keher been fit, have facts now to back up their arguments. The sprightly veteran, who had played so prominent a part in helping his county to four previous All Ireland victories, was again in sparkling form yesterday, recording the remarkable total of a goal and eleven points. And if only five of those points came from play, at least



### Pdraig Purseal Reports . . .

three of them were superlative efforts that franked the claims of his admirers that the Banker from the Rower Inistogue is possibly the greatest forward who has ever graced the black and amber.

As for the other two, the white-haired Treacy looked in trouble early on, but when the rain slowed down the play to his, he was as dependable as ever, and

one can recall no score off his wing in the second half.

### BROKE THE HEARTS

Kieran Purcell, who came on in the second half last year in a vain but gallant effort to save the day, showed the difference yesterday between Purcell fit and Purcell unfit, for he was again the willing workhorse, and though he shot some wild wides, was one of the mainsprings of this power-packed Kilkenny forward line.

But even the men who came back were, perhaps, a trifle overshadowed yesterday by the magnificent displays of other players in this Noerside line-out.

Certainly those who feared that Pat Henderson was fading from his own



Back Row: Mick Brennan, Tom McCormack, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Phil Larkin, Pat Delaney.  
Front Row: Pat Lalor, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Nicky Orr (Capt), Jim Treacy, Kieran Purcell.

peak of greatness at centrehack, got good reason to think again. The tall, spare man from Johnstown dominated the centre of the defence, even more absolutely than he did when he broke the hearts of the Cork attack in the second half of the final of 1969. There were times when he seemed to be a one-man stone wall forty yards in front of the Kilkenny goal, and not alone did he halt attack after attack but his raking clearances carried danger as they dropped far away in 'hostile' territory

In addition, he rifled a "70" into the wind for a sailing point to restore the lead to his county at a vital stage in the first half.

Next in line in the Kilkenny hierarchy must come goalkeeper Noel Skehan, who, if he had not a particularly busy afternoon, still brought off at least four seemingly miraculous saves, one late in the first half from a Richie Bennis 'penalty', and three in a hectic period not too long after the interval, when Limerick were battling desperately to get back into the game.

But then, to their supporters, all these Kilkenny men were heroes, and rightly so. Yet, those same Kilkenny followers were stricken silent in the opening minutes as Limerick briefly threatened to run riot. Indeed, the champions could not have had a more encouraging start.

From the throw-in, Eamonn Grimes secured possession and

drove the sliothar up to the flying Frankie Nolan who sent it sailing over the bar for the opening point within eight seconds, which must surely be a record for an 'All Ireland final.

When five more Limerick points quickly followed to leave the Shannonsiders leading by 0-6 to 0-1 after only seven minutes of play, Croke Park seemed to be festooned with green and white flags, but, from the puck-out following that sixth Limerick point, Kilkenny suddenly took fire.

Young Willie Fitzpatrick broke across field and placed Mick Brennan who showed his football prowess and surprised the defence by kicking the ball to the net from nearly 25 yards when his hurley was hooked.

The cheers that greeted that score had not long subsided when Pat Dedaney was fouled close in, and Keher, the picture of concentration, cracked the subsequent "three-man penalty" like a bullet to the net for the lead.

FREAK GOAL

Richie Bennis promptly levelled from a free, but a Henderson '70' edged Kilkenny in front again, and after another Kilkenny three-man penalty had been saved by Pat Hartigan, Liam O'Donoghue raced through the opposing defence to give Limerick their only goal of the day when his palmed effort was partially saved, and dropped inches over the Kilkenny goal-line! That was in the 21st minute, but if fortune favoured Limerick then, she suddenly turned fickle. Rain had been falling heavily for some minutes, and, when Pat Delaney tried a shot from some 35 yards out,

<b>Facts And Figures</b>						
<b>KILKENNY</b>						
		Gls.	Pts.	70's	Wides	Frees
First Half	...	3	7	1	9	13
Second Half	...	0	12	1	9	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>LIMERICK</b>						
		Gls.	Pts.	70's	Wides	Frees
First Half	...	1	9	1	7	11
Second Half	...	0	4	3	10	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>

● The attendance yesterday was 62,071, an increase of more than 4,000 on the crowd at last year's final between the same two counties.



Noel Skehan watches Joe McKenna's shot go wide with Pat Henderson, Matt Ruth, Pat Lalor and Fan Larkin in close attendance.

the 'ball skated along the ground to flash through the legs, first of Pat Hartigan and then of goalkeeper Seamus Horgan, to give Kilkenny a freak goal, and gave them back a lead they were never again to lose.

Slowly, even into the breeze, Kilkenny moved away, point by point, until they stood a goal clear with only three minutes to go to the halftime whistle. Then Limerick had a clear chance of equalising when Rea was fouled in possession and they were awarded a penalty in their turn. But Richie Bennis, if he shot hard, shot too low. Skehan saved superbly, Henderson scooped the leather away, and, in a quick breakaway, Keher pointed a free to leave Kilkenny leading 3-7 to 1-9 at the interval, with the wind advantage to come.



*Captain Nicky Orr raises the McCarthy Cup*

But it was nip and tuck through the early stages of the second half, as the rain ceased and the sun began to struggle out. Limerick tried a variety of forward switches, of which the only briefly effective one was the moving of Joe McKenna to the "40" where for some minutes, he seemed to be curbing Henderson.

#### SCORE DISALLOWED

But, though Limerick were much more often on the offensive at this stage, Skehan was now unbeatable, the wing halves Pat Lalor, despite his mid-week 'flu, and Tom McCormack, showing his true worth in his very first senior game, were now in firm command of the flanks and, indeed, Limerick were able to manage only a single point between the ninth minute of the second half and the final whistle.

Through the mild-period of the second half, though, Limerick did most of the pressing, and Kilkenny did all the scoring! True, just at the start of the last quarter, Limerick had the ball in the Kilkenny for the second time, but the umpires ruled that scorer Matt Ruth, had been "in" before the ball and the score was disallowed.

And that, to all intents and purposes, was the end of Limerick's endeavour. From there to the end, the fleet-footed "Chunky" O'Brien seemed to have midfield entirely to himself, and had Kilkenny and, particularly the so-industrious Mick Crotty, taken their chances in the closing stages, when he, too, was running rampant, the big winning margin must have been considerably greater.

So the last whistle found Kilkenny clear-cut winners of a game that, while it had its bright moments, particularly in the first half, lost competitive interest steadily in the second. The standard of hurling was

often no more than moderate, though, for much of the game, a greasy sod and slippery ball could excuse much missing and messing.

Limerick died more quietly than anyone could have anticipated. Pat Hartigan, showing little effects of that shoulder injury, and determined Eamon Cregan were their most consistent units. Eamonn Grimes, Eamonn Rea, Sean Foley and Joe McKenna had some flashes of their best form, but the forwards were almost entirely subdued in the second half, and they failed to last the pace they had set so magnificently in the opening half.

*Scorers: Kilkenny—E. Keher (1-11, 1-6 from frees), M. Brennan (1-2). P. Delaney (1-0), K. Purcell (0-2). P. Henderson, W. Fitzpatrick, M. Crotty, L. O'Brien (0-1 each).*

*Limerick—R. Bennis (0-5 all from frees). L. O'Donoghue (1-0), E. Rea (0-3), J. McKenna (0-2), M. Ruth, E. Grimes, E. Nolan (0-1 each).*

*KILKENNY—N. Skehan (Bennettsbridge); Fan Larkin (James Stephens), N. Orr (Johnstown) captain, J. Treacy (Bennettsbridge); P. Lalor (Bennettsbridge), P. Henderson (Johnstown) T. McCormack (James Stephens); F. Cummins (Blackrock), L. O'Brien (James Stephens); M. Crotty (James Stephens), Pat Delaney (Johnstown), W. Fitzpatrick (Johnstown); M. Brennan (Castlecomer), K. Purcell (Windgap), E. Keher (The Rower-Inistiogue).*

*LIMERICK—S. Horgan (Tournafulla); W. Moore (Doon), P. Hartigan (South Liberties), J. O'Brien (Bruree), T. Ryan (Ballybrown), E. Cregan (Claghban), J. Foley (Patrickswell) Captain, B. Hartigan (Old Christians), E. Grimes (South Liberties); J. McKenna (South Liberties),*

*R. Bennis (Patrickswell), M. Ruth (Old Christians); L. O'Donoghue (Mungret), E. Rea (Faughs), F. Nolan (Patrickswell). Subs: P. Kelly (Kilmallock) for B. Hartigan, P. Bennis (Patrickswell) for Ryan. P. Fitzmaurice (Killeady) for McKenna.*

*Referee—J. Moloney (Tipperary).*

## WHAT THEY SAID

### KILKENNY

**"PADDY GRACE (Co- Secretary)**—It was got a great game to watch, but Noel Skehan, Pat Henderson and Liam "Chunky" O'Brien more than helped us to our 19th All-Ireland success. We were far too good for them all through the field."

**MICK LANIGAN (trainer)** —"Jim Treacy's determination in training before we reached the final inspired the rest of the boys to one of our greatest displays. Yesterday we were determined to avenge last year's result and we certainly did."

**FAN LARKIN** — "No doubt about it, the better team won. We may have been a little slow to settle, but once we took their measure, I knew we were going to win. I wasn't worried at any stage despite that whirlwind Limerick opening. I knew once we settled down we would beat them."

**TOM McCORMACK**—"What a thrill to win a senior All Ireland medal in my first game."

### LIMERICK

**NED REA** — "We had no answer to them on that display. They were first class, but they must admit they got the breaks, and took them too. I don't know what went wrong with us. We started well but then we faded. Some might call us unlucky."

**PAT HARTIGAN**—"The better team won, but my shoulder stood up to the test right through. In the early stages, I took a couple of knocks, and knew I was going to be O.K. I thought if we had stayed with them after half time, we might have had a chance, but this is not the end of the world. We will be back."

**DICK STOKES (selector)** — "It is just a game of hurling. It is not the end of the world. There is always another year, and don't get the impression that we are gone. We are not. We will be back as you will see in the next twelve months."

1975

# OUR 20TH TITLE!

## Kilkenny's Skill Overwhelms Galway

KILKENNY 2-22, GALWAY 2-10

**SUCCESS** breeds success, and maturity comes with age. One could not pick a more appropriate line to summarise the difference between victorious Kilkenny and defeated Galway after Sunday's indifferent senior hurling final at packed Croke Park. The craft of the 'old brigade' scored over enthusiasm arid inexperience.

But to the 64,000 that made the pilgrimage to 'Headquarters', the final that had all the ingredients of an epic fell far short of expectations. Galway crumbled under the might of great champions. Kilkenny once again added to the pages of hurling history.

The Connacht men travelled to Dublin with so much to recommend them as a hurling force - the West was awake. What they had achieved during the year had given a new dimension to the game in the county, and even the country.

To have a new face in a hurling All Ireland was like the violets in Spring, but the bloom vanished prematurely. The pairing brought into conflict the two top teams in Ireland - the League champions and the All-Ireland kingpins. But it turned out to be a case of a boy on a man's errand. Galway had the misfortune to clash with Kilkenny at their peak.

### BEGAN TO CRUMBLE

Seldom will an All-Ireland be won at such an early stage. Because from the time Frank Bourke blazed that Galway goal in the 18th minute, the losers began to crumble. Their next score was to follow 22 minutes later by which time the winners had risen nine flags. All-Irelands are not won on statistics like that. The dash and

zest the Westerners promised after their exciting win over Cork was gone. Their speed that was to be a decisive factor in the game was also missing - at least it had no bearing on the outcome.

Kilkenny, on the other extreme, had upgraded performances all round. The forwards, who were expected to be the stars of the side, did not shine as brightly as anticipated but the men at the back, were as solid as the proverbial rock. They were the corner-stone on which, the 20th. All-Ireland success was fashioned, and the hat-trick of doubles completed. The others were in 1904/05 and 1932/33. The one three-in-a-row was in 1911, 1912 and 1913.

While the game disappointed, the showing of the champions was, without doubt, dazzling. Their composure and confidence was unbelievable. Kilkenny, with cunning use of the hand-pass and clever off the-ball running, made Galway look like novices - something that they are not.

Had Galway won they would have completed a fantastic double of League and Championship in the one year. Just a few months ago they interrupted the Noresiders' dreams' of such a capture. Perhaps justice was done on Sunday in the fact that the McCarthy Cup returned to the Noreside.

### SEASONED CAMPAIGNERS

But this Noreside team, with an average age of a little over 27, lives on success. From five-in-a-row in Leinster they bridged the 42-year gap to complete the third double. They are seasoned campaigners with a wealth of final experience.

Galway are in sharp contrast. Their team must surely have their best days ahead. They will benefit from the experience gained on Sunday and must become a serious force to be reckoned with.

It is probably true to say that the Galway approach to the final was wrong. In



Back Row: Brian Cody, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Pat Delaney, Phil Larkin.  
Front Row: Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Billy Fitzpatrick (Capt), Mick Brennan, Pat Lalor, Kieran Purcell, Nicky Orr.

assessing Kilkenny's strength on their National League semi-final performance they made a grave miscalculation.

The Noresiders have never been noted for their exploits in the League and teams other than Galway have in the past measured them inaccurately on this basis. The Westerners, too, particularly their supporters, paid more attention to the victory over the Leesiders than they should have. And it could well have been that they had reached their peak in that game. Over-confidence could have contributed to Sunday's failure.

Though the game lacked character there was much in it to delight the flag-waving crowd. The scene was set for what looked to be a gripping contest - conditions were ideal. And for the opening quarter, it looked as if pre-match forecasts of a battle royal were to materialise.

#### STRANGLEHOLD

The excitement which marked the first 15 minutes quickly dissipated as Kilkenny, playing with a coolness and confidence in the best black and amber tradition, set about fixing their grip on the game. By half-time they were to have a firm stranglehold on the contest.

The Galway goal, that came in the 18th minute and put them ahead for the only time in the game, was taken to be the

prelude to another Connacht avalanche, as happened against the Rebel countymen. Kilkenny remained unruffled only to be cut the arrears, but proceeded to establish an interval lead of three points: 0-9 to 1-3.

Although the losers failed to score until five minutes into the second half, a break of 22 minutes, the excitement and the keenness of exchanges were maintained. It was apparent, however, particularly in discerning observers, that even at this

stage, Galway had shot their bolt.

They were led then by 1-11 to 1-4 and though some of their players continued to show the eagerness of spirit which characterised their hurling in the early stages, they fighting an uphill battle.

The havoc was wrought mainly at midfield where Liam O'Brien, man of the match, and Frank Cummins exercised overwhelming control. This was backed up by a Noreside defence as sharp as a razor, and which rose to greater heights than it has done for some time.

The alertness of Phil Larkin and untiring work of Pat Lalor on the right flank sealed off the approaches very effectively. On the other side, Brian Cody and clubmate, Tom McCormack, were on top of their work. Cody gave a masterful display of cool, defensive hugging.

Manning the middle were Johnstown players Nicky Orr (full-back) and Pat Henderson (centre-back). They too, contributed magnificently. It was an all round solid performance.

#### DISTINCTION.

While it is true to say that all the Kilkenny forwards had a hand in the victory, some were more illustrious than others. It was overall an exhibition of teamwork and

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
<b>Kilkenny</b>	0	9	8	13	1
<b>Galway</b>	1	3	6	9	0

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
<b>Kilkenny</b>	2	13	6	10	0
<b>Galway</b>	1	7	5	8	0

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
<b>Kilkenny</b>	2	22	14	23	1
<b>Galway</b>	2	10	11	17	0



Liam "Chunky" O'Brien on one of his trade mark solo runs

co-ordination. All can claim that they played their part with distinction.

There were particularly brilliant performances by Mick Crotty and Eddie Keher. Crotty was a revelation when he switched with Mick Brennan and from the corner-forward spot he notched all his five points.

Eddie Keher was quiet in the early stages but blossomed as the game progressed and finished top scorer of the day with 2-7. Mick Brennan was also a very active worker and helped in the making of many scores.

Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney and Billy Fitzpatrick may not have contributed their usual tally to the champions' total, but they tried earnestly, and taxed the endeavours of the Galway defenders.

Another man who left a big imprint on the game was Bennettsbridge's Noel Skehan. He made some brilliant saves and his confident handling of dangerous situations was inspiring to his defenders.

#### MATCH THE BEST

But Galway had men to match the best. Certainly, goalkeeper Michael Conneely could not be faulted. One particular save of his from a Mick Brennan 'rasper' brought the crowd to its feet. There were other instances when he proved himself to be a goalkeeper of class.

Niall McInerney had an effective game although didn't reach the heights attained in the last meeting of the sides. Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke also stood out in a tight-marking defence.

At midfield the partnership of John Connolly and Sean Murphy never worked with the fluency it did against Cork. Connolly,

by the call of time was well over-worked and, despite several switches, his plight was alleviated little.

Up front P.J. Molloy was the most industrious player. Gerry Coone was dangerous from the mark, and the breaking ball always meant danger where P.J. Qualter was present.

The defeat was Galway's first since they were surprisingly beaten by Offaly in the League in Ballinasloe during the winter. The county represented Connacht in the Railway Cup and was defeated by Leinster, so Kilkenny scored a victory over a full provincial side.

*Scorers: Kilkenny — E. Keher (2-7, 1-6 from frees); L. O'Brien (0-5, 0-2 from frees); M; Crotty (0-5); M. Brennan (0-2); F. Cummins, P. Delaney, P. Henderson (0-1 each).*

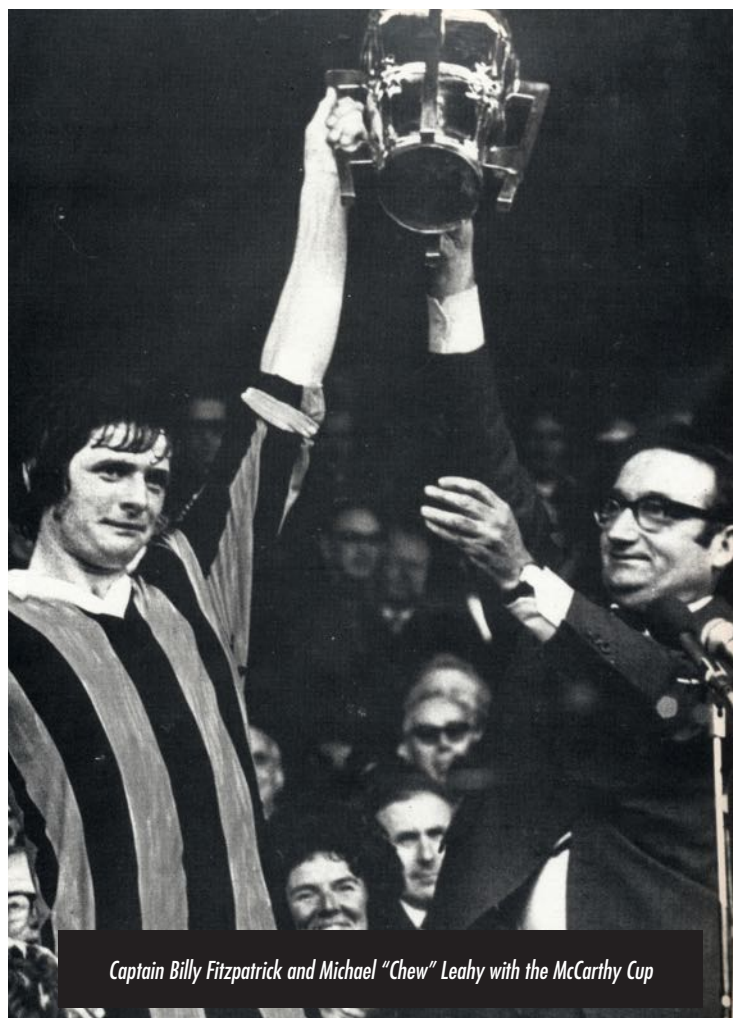
*Galway: G. Coone (0-6, 0-5 from frees); F. Burke (1-0); P.J. Qualter (1-0); P.J. Molloy (0-3), J. Connolly (0-1).*

*Kilkenny: N. Skehan, P. Larkin, N. Orr, B. Cody, P. Lalor, P. Henderson, T. McCormack, L. O'Brien, F. Cummins, M. Crotty, P. Delaney, B. Fitzpatrick (capt), M. Brennan, K. Purcell and E. Keher.*

*Galway: M. Conneely, N. McInerney, J. Clarke, P. Lally. J. McDonagh, S. Silke, I. Clarke, J. Connolly (Capt.), S. Murphy, G. Coone, F. Burke, P. J. Molloy, M. Barrett, P. J. Qualter, P. Fahy.*

*Referee: Sean O'Connor (Limerick).*

Attendance: 63,711



*Captain Billy Fitzpatrick and Michael "Chew" Leahy with the McCarthy Cup*

<b>Scores by the clock</b>	
<b>FIRST HALF</b>	
4 min.	Kilkenny point, Liam O'Brien from a free.
5 min.	Galway point, Gerry Coone from a free.
5½ min.	Kilkenny point, Liam O'Brien.
6 min.	Galway point, P. J. Molloy.
15 min.	Kilkenny point, Pat Henderson from a 70.
16 min.	Galway point, Gerry Coone from a free.
18 min.	Galway goal, Frank Burke.
21 min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Brennan.
23 min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Crotty.
24 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher from a free.
25 min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Crotty.
32 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher.
33 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher from a free.
<i>Half Time: Kilkenny 0-9, Galway 1-3.</i>	
<b>SECOND HALF</b>	
2 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher from a free.
3½ min.	Kilkenny goal, Eddie Keher.
4 min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Crotty.
5 min.	Galway point, Gerry Coone from a free.
5½ min.	Kilkenny point, Pat Delaney.
6½ min.	Galway goal, P. J. Qualter.
9 min.	Galway point, John Connolly.
9½ min.	Kilkenny point, Liam O'Brien.
11 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher from a penalty.
12½ min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Brennan.
14 min.	Galway point, Gerry Coone from a free.
15 min.	Kilkenny goal, Eddie Keher from a penalty.
16 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher from a free.
19 min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Crotty.
21 min.	Kilkenny point, Frank Cummins.
25 min.	Kilkenny point, Liam O'Brien.
25½ min.	Kilkenny point, Liam O'Brien from a free.
26 min.	Galway point, Gerry Coone from a free.
27½ min.	Galway point, P. J. Molloy.
31 min.	Kilkenny point, Mick Crotty.
32 min.	Galway point, Gerry Coone.
33 min.	Kilkenny point, Eddie Keher from a free.

1979

# KILKENNY'S 21st!

## Tribesmen must Rue Squandered Chances

KILKENNY 2-12, GALWAY 1-8

DONAL CARROLL

**KILKENNY took their chances; Galway did not — may seem an oversimplification to some, but that is how most will remember the 1979 McCarthy Cup decider, which drew a disappointing 53,535 attendance to Croke Park yesterday. The eight-point victory gave the Noresiders their 21st All-Ireland S.H.C. title while, once again, nudging the Tribesmen into the "gallant losers" class.**

Yet, the BIG talking point after a game which suffered much from tension and a heavy pre-match drizzle which carried on for the best part of 20-minutes, was this: Would Galway have won had Big John Connolly displayed his usual artistry with a 63rd minute penalty?

Certainly, the award came at a vital stage, and at a time when Kilkenny were only a pair of points — 1-10 to 1-8 — to the good. Yet, it should not be forgotten that Galway failed to score from the 48th minute, and that while their goal then had put them into a two-point lead, the advantage had lasted no more than a mere four minutes.

In the ensuing 11 minutes to the penalty award — against Paddy Prendergast for a foul on Noel Lane — the Tribesmen had again fallen behind, and were decidedly having the "worst of it" after a bright beginning to the half. In any case, while big John's shot carried plenty of power,

it was stopped low by Noel Skehan and clearly smartly by Phil ("Fan") Larkin.

### GRIM DECIDER

Yet, overall the '79 final will be remembered as a grim, rather than a great, decider. The rain had made foothold difficult, and this, allied to the tensions, led to much mis-hitting, stray passing and a good deal of generally untidy play. In this setting, the crowding tactics of Galway so successfully employed against Cork, failed dismally against the more alert and crafty Kilkennymen.

It was a day, too, when the winners got the breaks, and even they will agree that their goals in the 31st and 66th minutes were really gifts from the gods.

That said, it could, and would, be argued that Mick Brennan must have goaled in the 28th minute, when he was blatantly fouled by goalkeeper Seamus Shinnors and, though given the advantage, failed to reap the benefit because he was fouled again and then strangely penalised by Tipperary referee, George Ryan.

It could be said, therefore, that justice was merely done three-minutes later when Liam O'Brien steered a 70' superbly into the Galway goal area. Then, as sinews strained and sticks swung in a desperate bid to make contact, the ball skidded

off the grass and flew off goalkeeper Shinnors' shoulder into the net.

That broke a deadlock which first occurred in the 3rd minute and was repeated in the 6th, 16th and 27th minutes. Yet, such stalemate might never have arisen but for the wayward shooting of the Tribesmen, who ended the half with ELEVEN in-glorious wides to their discredit, as against five to Kilkenny.

Kilkenny had won the toss end, true to fashion, elected to play against the wind and rain. Three factors combined, however, to deny the Westerners the lead they must have expected to have and, indeed, should have enjoyed.

### MIDFIELD MIGHT

One was the midfield might of the Leinster champions which, though reasonably contained to that stage, was accomplished only by forcing a largely defensive role on John Connolly. Another factor was the power and majesty of Ger Henderson and Nicky Brennan. Yet even such magnificence could not excuse the sloppy shooting of the Con-nachtmen although at times, to be sure, they were under severe pressure

Galway's spendthrift shooting continued into the second half, but the introduction of Sylvie Linnane and Finbar Gantley's



Back Row: Brian Cody, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Pat Delaney, Phil Larkin.  
Front Row: Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Billy Fitzpatrick (Capt), Mick Brennan, Pat Lalor, Kieran Purcell, Nicky Orr.

assumption of the close-in free-taking chore sparked a marked improvement. Indeed, a glorious on-the-volley point by Steve Mahon — all the way from mid-field — and Gantley's greater accuracy, had the sides level again by the 45th minute, as the sun shone brilliantly.

Kilkenny eased ahead with a fine point from O'Brien within 90 seconds and the same span of time had barely elapsed when the Croke Dark cheers must have been heard in Connemara. This was when Noel Lane secured on his left, eased past Prendergast and though again confronted by Kilkennymen, fired a great shot well wide of Noel Skehan to the net.

O'Brien missed a difficult free from the right but quickly made amends when Iggy Clarke lost possession in attempting to clear and the James Stephens player, showing how wrong it was to remove him from the scene of activity last season, collected to coolly narrow the gap. And within two minutes, Kilkenny were level; Mick Brennan this time doing the honours.

This was the time when Kilkenny's ancient craft was being to stand them well. It was reflected in their greater economy, their superb positioning, notably that of Joe Hennessy, and the manner in which defenders, the Henderson brothers. Ger and John, Phil Larkin and Nicky Brennan kept "heading" their rivals out towards the touch-line.

#### HEROIC FEATS

Galway were now being pinned largely

in their own defensive area, where Sean Silke, in particular, Iggy Clarke, Joe McDonagh, Conor Hayes, Andy Fenton and John Connolly, were performing heroic feats. The sole "Link" man. at that stage, was Steve Mahon but the ever-improving Kilkenny defenders were now clearly on top of their game.

Kevin Fennelly came in for a hopelessly handicapped — but gallant — Mick Crotty and continued to add further fire to the Noresiders' power, while Joe Hennessy "reading" the situation in masterly

fashion, also entered the score-sheet.

Then came the penalty, the save, the substitution of Dick O'Hara for Prendergast and, it appeared, further growth in the winners' strength and effectiveness. Yet, even the Noresiders must have been surprised when Mick Brennan shot goalwards, only for the wind to "carry" the ball and, apparently, "fox" the unfortunate Shinnors. As it carried, the ball dipped. and the Galway keeper, attempting to back-pedal was knocked off balance by backing into the right upright, and he could only watch helplessly as the ball entered his net.

Now there was no holding the Kilkennymen, and even when Mick Brennan's shot was blocked down, it was snatched up by O'Brien to wrap up the scoring and boost his own tally to a marvellous one goal, seven points. What a comeback for the 29-year-old ("Chunky" — who retired from inter-county competition after last year's decider.

#### MAN OF THE MATCH

Man of the match for Kilkenny was surely Ger Henderson, who came from a sick bed — he had a temperature of over one hundred on Friday — to play the proverbial "stormer". Little behind — was the vastly improved Nicky Brennan, while Joe Hennessy, Liam O'Brien, Frank Cummins, Phil Larkin, John Henderson and Mick Brennan, lent superb support.

Hero for Galway was, in my opinion, Sean Silke, while Iggy Clarke, Joe McDonagh — in the second half — Conor Hayes, Andy

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
<b>Kilkenny</b>	1	4	5	9	2
<b>Galway</b>	0	5	11	9	0

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
<b>Kilkenny</b>	1	8	4	9	0
<b>Galway</b>	1	3	5	7	0

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
<b>Kilkenny</b>	2	12	9	18	2
<b>Galway</b>	1	8	16	16	0



Watched by Ger Henderson and Fan Larkin, Noel Skehan saves penalty from John Connolly (extreme left).





Fenton, Steve Mahon and Joe Connolly tried all they knew to bridge, that 56-year-old senior championship gap.

*Scorers, Kilkenny: L. O'Brien (1-7, goal from "70" 4 from frees), M. Brennan (1-1), M. Crotty, B. Fitzpatrick, J. Hennessy and K. Fennelly (0-1 each).*

*Galway, N. Lane (1-0). P.J. Molloy (0-3, 2 from frees), F. Gantley (0-2, both from frees), Joe Connolly (0-2) and S. Mahon (0-1).*

*KILKENNY — N. Skehan; P. Larkin, P. Prendergast. J. Henderson; R. Reid. G. Henderson. N. Brennan; J. Hennessy. F. Cummins: G. Fennelly (capt.). B. Fitzpatrick, L. O'Brien: M. Brennan. M.*

*Crotty, M. Ruth.*

*Subs — K. Fennelly (for Crotty), 51 mins. D. O'Hara (for Prendergast) 66 mins.*

*GALWAY — S. Shinnors; N. McInerney. C. Hayes, A. Fenton; J. McDonagh (capt.), S. Silke, I. Clarke; John Connolly, S. Mahon; B. Forde. F. Burke. Joe Connolly; P.J. Molloy, N. Lane, F. Gantley.*

*Subs. — S. Linnane (for Forde). 39 mins. M. Whelan (for Burke) 66 mins.*

*REFEREE — G. Ryan (Tipperary).*



*Joey Hennessy is lifted aloft after the game.*



*Ger Fennelly makes his victory speech after being presented with the McCarthy Cup by Uachtarán Paddy McFlynn.*



1982

# JUST A STROLL

## for Rampant Kilkenny

KILKENNY 3-18, CORK 1-13

ONE vital moment of sheer brilliance by Kilkenny goalkeeper Noel Skehan completely altered the trend of this incredible All-Ireland senior hurling final at Croke Park yesterday and helped the Leinster champions to take, their 22nd title in this grade and their first since 1979.

Eighteen minutes of an extremely exciting first half had passed and outsiders Kilkenny were 0-4. to 0-3 in front when, once again, the Cork attack bore down towards the Railway goal. Out on the right wing Cork corner forward Seanie O'Leary gained possession and raced menacingly towards Skehan. But the Kilkennyman anticipated the danger, moved off his line and was in a perfect position to block down O'Leary's shot and clear away the ball to safety.

Who knows what might have happened had Cork scored from this first real chance? It will always be debatable but from there to the finish, they were torn asunder by a superbly marshalled and totally dedicated Kilkenny side which won just as easily as the final scoreline suggests.

From there on there were moments when they made Cork look like novices and there were times when the magic of their hurling brought gasps of appreciation from the attendance of 59,550. Because of their brilliance Cork badly needed scores in the early stages of the second half. but they failed to get them and. as a result, the final result was patently obvious long before the finish.

Overall, it was not the classic we expected but there, was an abundance of great hurling and plenty of elegant skills. Also, despite the margin which separated the sides, there was a lot of excitement.

Apart from midfield the marking was always very tight but whenever Kilkenny's attack got away, they took their scores. In

### BY PEADAR O'BRIEN

contrast, on the few occasions when Cork created chances, they ran into an in-form Noel Skehan. who had one of his greatest games in the Kilkenny jersey.

Skehan, who won his eighth All-Ireland senior hurling medal and thus joined the late Christy Ring from Cork and John Doyle from Tipperary in the record lists, was almost unbeatable in the second half. On five occasions in the last 35 minutes he saved superbly.

### MAN OF MATCH

He stood between Cork and a possible fightback when the going was really tough in the second half. He was my 'Man of the Match', but he was followed closely by full forward Christy Heffernan.

It might sound contradictory but I would not have been surprised if Heffernan had been taken off after 15 minutes such was

the dominance of Cork full-back Martin O'Doherty. Wisely he was left on and he not only won the battle against O'Doherty but shattered the hurling image of the great Corkman who was left floundering on far too many occasions.

Twice in the space of 60 seconds—between the 32nd and 33rd minutes— he left the Corkman reeling and, on both occasions, he scored. Admittedly there may have been a touch of fortune about his first goal which he seemed to deflect to the net as he tried to catch the ball.

### NO LUCK

There was however, no luck attached to his second when he took a fine pass from midfielder Joe Hennessy, rounded O'Doherty and handpassed to the net. Thereafter, he had O'Doherty struggling almost unbelievably as the Corkman seemed to lose his composure and confidence.

Skehan's first half save after which Kilkenny really began to play, and Heffernan's two goals, helped the new



Back Row: Richie Power, Christy Heffernan, Dick O'Hara, Frank Cummins, Liam Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson.  
Front Row: Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Noel Skehan, Brian Cody (Capt), Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Nickey Brennan.

champions to an almost unbelievable 2-11 to 0-7 interval lead. We waited patiently for the Cork comeback and for a repeat of the Munster final form which made them clear favourites before yesterday's game but we waited in vain. They did try and created a few chances but, all the time, Skehan stood between them and victory.

#### MIRACLE

He was beaten once – 15 minutes from the finish – when Eamonn O'Donoghue, the Cork corner forward, hustled his way through and handpassed to the net. At that stage Kilkenny were 3-15 to 1-10 in front and only a miracle could have saved Cork then.

All through, Kilkenny worked tremendously hard, they played for each other and their much criticised forward line was in superb form. They were also helped immeasurably by the individual performances of Skehan, Heffernan and the powerful Frank Cummins at midfield. Cummins had a great 70 minutes although he was closely watched by Tim Crowley, but there was far too much Cork looseness around this area and it was an unmarked Cummins who sent in the shot which was deflected to the net by Heffernan for his side's first goal.

#### OBVIOUS

There are other obvious reasons for Cork's defeat. Their half-forward line was beaten out of sight and when they tried to rectify the situation, their moves failed. Jimmy Barry-Murphy was well held by the powerful Nicky Breman. Left half-

back Paddy Prendergast rarely gave young Tony O'Sullivan a chance, and the result was that Pat Horgan was left to battle alone against Ger Henderson and he got very few chances from the great centre half-back. That was problem area number one. Problem area number two occurred in their half-back line which was always harried, hassled and under pressure. John Crowley tried hard against Ger Fennelly but, repeatedly, the 'Kilkennyman' got away from him. Indeed, Fennelly had a magnificent game and contributed one goal and a point to his side's total.

FIGURES OF THE GAME					
KILKENNY					
	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	70s
First Half	2	11	3		0
Second Half	1	7	2		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>0</b>
CORK					
	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	70s
First Half	0	7	6	5	1
Second Half	1	6	13	8	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>

Problem area number three became apparent when Cork brought on Bertie Og Murphy to midfield after half-time. Earlier they had moved Tom Cashman to wing half-back in an effort to steady the defence and had switched John Buckley to midfield. These moves did not work and Murphy did little to redress the situation when introduced.

They tried O'Donoghue at centre half-forward and Pat Horgan at right-half in the second period, but on reflection these were merely the distress signals of a badly listing ship. Nothing went right for them. They played as well as they were let and they were a badly beaten side at the finish. Even they will be the first to admit this fact this morning.

#### STROLLED

Cork held the lead on just two occasions. Ray Cummins scored from the throw-in but Billy Fitzpatrick equalised two minutes later. Tim Crowley put them 0-3 to 0-2 in front in the 11th minute but Fitzpatrick again equalised 60 seconds later. However, from there on, Kilkenny strolled to one of their most decisive All-Ireland victories over the Corkmen.

When Skehan brought off that brilliant save in the first half, it was the signal for a host of soul-destroying Kilkenny long-range points, as they, eased into a 0-10 to 0-4 lead. These scores, which were the first indications of their brilliance, came mostly from play and all from around the 50 yards mark. They were enough to upset the composure of any side. Heffernan's goals were scored at just the right time as Cork trooped dejectedly to the dressing-room at the interval. They didn't know what had hit them and it had all happened so quickly that very few realised that 10 points separated the sides at half time.

#### INEVITABILITY

It was not an insurmountable lead but



Christy Heffernan rounds Martin Doherty and heads for Ger Cunningham's goal.

## FIRST HALF

1m—Cork point. Ray Cummins  
 2—Kilkenny point. Billy Fitzpatrick  
 7—Kilkenny point. Liam Fennelly  
 8—Cork point. Tony O'Sullivan (free)  
 11—Cork point. Tim Crowley  
 13—Kilkenny point. Billy Fitzpatrick (free)  
 18—Kilkenny point. Kieran Brennan  
 19—Kilkenny point. Christy Heffernan  
 21—Cork point. Ray Cummins  
 22—Kilkenny point. Billy Fitzpatrick (free)  
 24—Kilkenny point. Christy Heffernan.  
 25—Kilkenny point. Richie Power  
 24—Kilkenny point. Joe Hennessy  
 27—Kilkenny point. Liam Fennelly  
 21—Cork point. Pat Horgan (70)  
 29—Cork point. Pat Horgan (free)  
 32—Kilkenny goal. Christy Heffernan  
 33—Kilkenny goal. Christy Heffernan  
 34—Cork point. Pat Horgan (free)  
 35—Kilkenny point. Billy Fitzpatrick (free)

## HALF TIME

Kilkenny 2-11. Cork 0-7

## SECOND HALF

35—Kilkenny point; Christy Heffernan  
 36—Cork point Pat Horgan (free)  
 39—Kilkenny point. Christy Heffernan  
 40—Kilkenny point. Richie Power  
 42—Cork point. Tony O'Sullivan  
 44—Kilkenny goal. Ger Fennelly  
 49—Cork point. Tim Crowley.  
 52—Kilkenny point. Billy Fitzpatrick  
 54—Cork goal. Eamonn O'Donoghue  
 55—Kilkenny point. Richie Power  
 58—Kilkenny point. Richie Power  
 64—Cork point, Pat Horgan (free)  
 62—Cork point. Ray Cummins  
 65—Cork point. Torn Cashman

## FULL TIME

Kilkenny 3-18. Cork 1-13

Cork probably feel the same emotions this morning as Waterford did on the day after that Munster final as they were completely outclassed. Indeed, were it not for the heroic performances of Tom Cashman at wing half and of John Blake at left full, their defence might have been completely overrun.

Tim Crowley worked hard at midfield but their much-vaunted attack was rarely given any room. O'Leary and O'Donoghue in the corner were, well marked by O'Hara and John Henderson. Consequently Cummins was forced to work on his own and he was well watched by Cody.

**SCORERS:** Kilkenny — C. Heffernan (2-2), B. Fitzpatrick (0-6), R. Power (0-4), G. Fennelly (1-1), K. Brennan. L. Fennelly (0-2), J. Hennessy (0-1).  
 Cork — P. Horgan (0-5). R. Cummins (0-3), E. O'Donoghue (1-0), T. O'Sullivan. T. Crowley, (0-2) each. T. Cashman (0-1).

**KILKENNY—N. Skehan:** J. Henderson. B. Cody, D. O'Hara; N. Brennan, G. Henderson, P. Prendergast; J. Hennessy, F. Cummins; R. Power. G. Fennelly, K. Brennan; B. Fitzpatrick, C. Heffernan, L. Fennelly.

**Cork—G. Cunningham;** B. Murphy, M. O'Doherty, J. Blake; J. Buckley, J. Crowley, D. MacCurtain; T. Cashman, T. Crowley; T. O'Sullivan, P. Horgan, J. Barry-Murphy, S. O'Leary, R. Cummins, E. O'Donoghue. Subs. B. Og Murphy for Buckley, K. Hennessy for O'Sullivan, F. Collins for MacCurtain.

**Referee — N. O'Donoghue (Dublin).**

when the rearranged Cork forward line failed to make an impression, slowly the inevitability of the whole afternoon began to dawn on the vast crowd. Indeed, in the second half they took to Skehan, cheering his every save and clearance and, finally carrying him shoulder high from the pitch.

There were no failures on this Kilkenny team. Brian Cody had a masterly game on Cummins who admittedly, received

very little help. John Henderson and Dick O'Hara were eminently sound and the half back line was tremendous. Midfielders Cummins and Joe Hennessy got on top in the last fifty minutes and in the attack — all of whom scored — it is difficult to pick out a weak link because every player worked for the other and in Heffernan they had the finisher supreme. It may sound unfair if I single out. Ger Fennelly. Richie Power and Fitzpatrick as perhaps being just a little more noticeable than the others.



Captain Brian Cody with the McCarthy Cup



Aerial Battle with K Hennessy, G Henderson and F Cummins.

1983

# TITLE NO. 23

## Mighty Cork Effort Repulsed

KILKENNY 2-14, CORK 2-12

JOHN KNOX

**KILKENNY are teak-tough champions! That, among other things, was what Kilkenny proved when they successfully fought off a deadly keen challenge from Cork and retained the All-Ireland senior hurling championship in an absorbing final at Croke Park on Sunday. For the second successive year (the Leesiders provided) the opposition in the decider. For that reason they mounted a greater than ordinary assault and Kilkenny needed all their vast experience and courage, and a fair amount of before they completed the magnificent double double of National League and Championship successive years.**

**A howling gale blowing down the field from the Canal End proved a real spoilsport on an otherwise bright afternoon. But from the first to the last effort-filled minute the exchanges were hard and relentless and not a man left the field without having every bone in his body shaken, in some cases more than once.**

This will not be remembered among the great All Ireland finals. Two excellently drilled sides were locked in a physical but sporting battle, but while they were hardy opponents for each other, both had on added 'enemy' in the wind.

The elements played havoc and made the ball do strange tricks at times, so it was one constant struggle particularly for backs facing the wind. In this regard, both played heroically, Cork in the first half after winning the toss and conceding to use of the elements, and Kilkenny in the second, when they absorbed pressure of proportions never before experienced.

### TIGHT REARGUARD ACTION

That relentless Leeside pressure saw a once handy 10 point second-half Kilkenny lead whittled down to two. As the champions, battled, battled, looking for that 23rd title - now only behind leaders, Cork, they had to rely on a tight rearguard action to dock in safety because, up front, they got no scoring return for next 18 minutes of energy-sapping hurling.

Even with the elements against them the challengers made scoring progress extremely difficult for the Noresiders The winners' interval had of 1-10 to 0-7 looked slim enough, and to less than sufficient to carry them through on such a day. Their hopes were boosted 17 seconds into the new half when wing forward Richard Power tapped home a goal. Later the devastating Billy Fitzpatrick increased the lead to 10 points.

But Cork, inspired by the magnificent Tom Cashman at centre back, came storming back and in the end might have caught the champions. As it was, Kilkenny hung on but many a heart missed a beat when

a well-struck shot from Kevin Hennessy zoomed low across the winners goal near the finish and went wide.

Both camps had their homework done well. Every move and switch was carefully worked out. And both were quick into action. Before the ball was even thrown in, captain and goal-grabber extraordinary, Liam Fennelly was moved nearer the Cork posts when he and Harry Ryan switched.

### MASTER STROKE

Minutes later Cork had re-sited John Crowley, Dermot MacCurtain and Tom Cashman in defence, with the changing of Cashman to the pivotal position a master stroke. Were it not for the lightly-built Blackrock man, Kilkenny would surely have gained greater scoring returns. Tom Cashman, ably backed up by MacCurtain, Brian Murphy and Pat Horgan, defended with a dogged determination that suggested anything like the drubbing of last year was totally out of the question.

It was Ger Henderson, who added to his already fine reputation with an inspiring



Back Row: Dick O'Hara, Paddy Prendergast, Richie Power, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Frank Cummins, Brian Cody, John Henderson.  
Front Row: Joe Hennessy, Harry Ryan, Noel Skehan, Liam Fennelly (Capt), Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Ger Henderson.

performance, who opened the scoring with a '65' in the third minute. Bertie Óg Murphy answered that before man-of-the-match award winner Billy Fitzpatrick tore the right flank of the Cork defence to shreds as the champions attacked the Railway end.

In a sizzling three minute spell the Fenians' (Johnstown) sharpshooter shot the champions 0-4 to 0-1 with scores from play that made one wonder had he a guiding mechanism in-built in his camán. But he had an even better one to come in the second half.

Already the 'no draw back' tone of the match was set. Fitzpatrick continued to be the troublemaker for the champions and it was he who laid on a point for Harry Ryan to extend the lead to 0-5 to 0-1 after just 12 minutes. Further back, Frank Cummins and Ger Henderson, and as the match wore on they were joined by Joe Hennessy, were putting in efforts that were above and beyond the call of duty.

#### SPLIT DEFENCE

Cork stood up to the pressure well and got back up the field for Eamon O'Donoghue and Bertie Óg Murphy to grab points. After that they answered nearly all the Kilkenny scores up until the break and the big divider at the interval was Liam Fennelly's 27th minute goal.

At that time the scores stood at 0-9 to 0-6. Driving midfielder Frank Cummins split the Cork defence wide open with a determined burst and he was aided by Harry Ryan before the team captain

flashed the ball into the net from close range.

Even at that, the challengers didn't falter and Bertie Óg Murphy pulled back a point. They were lucky minutes later when Ger Fennelly made a good run goalwards to make an opening for Christy Heffernan. The Glenmore man's palmed effort was excellently turned out for a '65' by guardian Ger Cunningham. That free ball shot was pointed by Ger Henderson to leave the champions six points clear (1-10 to 0-7) at the half-way mark.

Kilkenny might have had another goal in that half, but in one instance Christy Heffernan was just a split second slow reacting to a Billy Fitzpatrick set up opportunity, and then they had a goal disallowed for a square infringement. But it was fine Cork defensive play that led to their advantage not being greater.

The Noresiders must have been a bit worried during (he interval. Then they got the lift they needed seconds into the second half. Harry Ryan and Ger Fennelly were involved in a build-up that ended with Richard Power flicking the ball into the net. Shortly afterwards Fitzpatrick pointed a free from an awkward angle and suddenly the challengers were 10 points down.

#### BLAZED TRAIL

To their eternal credit they blazed back. Tomás Mulcahy and Bertie Óg Murphy (2) had points in reply to one from Billy Fitzpatrick. Then the Fenians' man landed a gem from the Cusack Stand side that must rank among the best of his career. It pushed Kilkenny 2-13 to 1-9 clear with 14 minutes of the half gone.

A minute later, Noel Skehan, who picked up a record 9th All-Ireland winners' medal, pulled off a great save from an equally good shot by Kevin Hennessy. In the ensuing play Christy Heffernan

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	F	Wides	65's
Kilkenny	1	10	5	3	3
Cork	0	7	8	5	1

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	F	Wides	65's
Kilkenny	1	4	7	1	0
Cork	2	5	8	8	4

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	F	Wides	65's
Kilkenny	2	14	12	4	3
Cork	2	12	16	13	5



Kilkenny's Billy Fitzpatrick in action against John Crowley of Cork.

gained possession. The Glenmore giant blazed a trail towards goal, but was downed on the '21'. The free was converted by Billy Fitzpatrick (2-14 to 0-9) but it turned out to be the champions' last. And there were still 18 minutes left.

During that time Cork pinned the holders down and rained ball after ball into the Kilkenny half. On the winners' puck-outs Frank Cummins did wonderful work and tried to get the attack firing on all cylinders. He was stoutly supported by Henderson and Hennessy. But the Blackrock man was powerful and out-hurled three different opponents sent against him.

#### IN CHECK

The Cork progress was slow, too, and at one time in a bid to bring a very quiet Jimmy Barry Murphy more into play they moved him to centre-forward. His stay there was brief. When the winners' defence closed the game down the St. Finbarr's man could gain little or no clean possession and was kept well in check.

Points were landed by John Buckley, another sterling performer in the last quarter, and Bertie Óg Murphy, before substitute Sean O'Leary finished a '65 from Pat Horgan to the Kilkenny net (2-14 to 2-11). All of a sudden the game was very much alive again. And there were five minutes left.

Two minutes from the end the strong finishing John Buckley cut the arrears back to a brace of points. It was nerve-wracking, but Kilkenny hung on to complete the first hurling double-double since Tipperary did it in 1964 and 1965.

This was a mighty effort by Cork. Cashman was the hero of heroes, but not far behind were Dermot MacCurtain, Brian Murphy, Pat Horgan and John Buckley.

*The scorers Kilkenny - B. Fitzpatrick (0-10, four frees), L. Fennelly, R. Power (1-0 each), G. Henderson (0-2, two '65s'), C. Heffernan, H. Ryan (0-1 each).*

*Cork - B. Óg Murphy (0-5, four frees), T. Mulcahy, S. O'Leary (1-0 each), J. Buckley (0-3), K. Hennessy (0-2), E. O'Donoghue, F. Collins (0-1 each).*

#### The teams

*Kilkenny - N. Skehan, J. Henderson, B. Cody, D. O'Hara, J. Hennessy, G. Henderson, P. Prendergast, F. Cummins, G. Fennelly, R. Power, K. Brennan, L. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick, C. Heffernan, H. Ryan.*

*Sub.: P. Lannon for Power, 67th minute.*

*Cork - G. Cunningham, B. Murphy, D. O'Grady, D. MacCurtain, P. Horgan, J. Crowley, T. Cashman, J. Buckley, J. Fenton, B. Óg Murphy, K. Hennessy, T. Crowley, T. Mulcahy, J. Barry-Murphy, E. O'Donoghue.*

*Subs: F. Collins for Fenton 53rd min.; T. O'Sullivan for Mulcahy 61st min.; S. O'Leary for B. Óg Murphy 63rd min.*

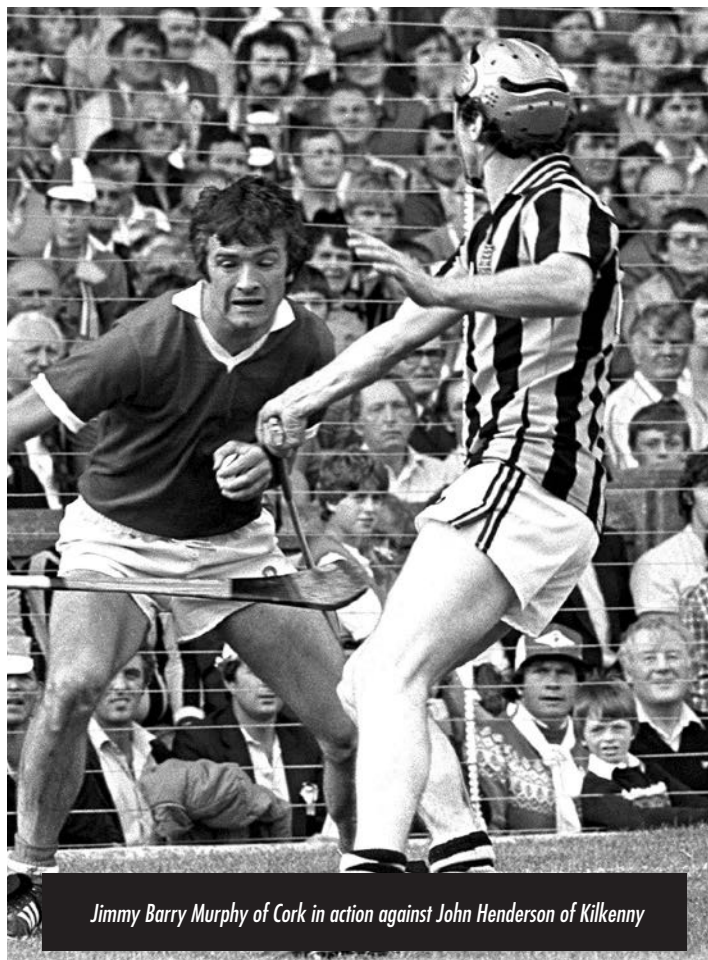
*Referee - N. Duggan (Limerick).*

#### ATTENDANCE DOWN ON LAST YEAR

The attendance yesterday, 58,381, was even lower than last year's (59,550), and it is only the fifth time since 1944 that it has fallen below the 60,000 mark. For the record, the only other time that Cork lost in successive finals was in 1904/1905, and Kilkenny were the winners in both years. It is also the first time since 1909/1913 (when Kilkenny won four finals and Wexford one) that a Munster team has failed to win the McCarthy Cup over a five year period.



*Captain Liam Fennelly raises the McCarthy Cup*



*Jimmy Barry Murphy of Cork in action against John Henderson of Kilkenny*

1992

# LIAM COMES HOME AFTER NINE YEAR SOJOURN

KILKENNY 3-10, CORK 1-12

JOHN KNOX

THE WOEFUL drought that was threatening to stretch to record proportions was brought to a glorious end in the soft rain that descended on Croke Park on Sunday! Who's to know, but the skies could have been shedding tears of joy on an emotion-filled afternoon when Kilkenny reacquainted themselves with their dear friend, "Liam."

*Nine years have passed since the McCarthy Cup was last back on the Noreside. Nine long, unfulfilled years. The waiting was frustrating, even painful, but the homecoming was sweeter than Homer's nectar.*

*Kilkenny set themselves lofty targets heading to Croke Park to face mighty Cork in an all-Ireland senior hurling final that captured the imagination of the nation. There was intent to bridge the gap and make up for two all-Ireland defeats in between.*

*On the day, the Cats' were purrfectly turned, and when stirred into raging action, ripped the opposition to shreds. The winning of the 24th title was glorious.*

*It was a day when the defence and forwards shared equally in the honours. During the opening half the defence was particularly capable, and stood up to the best the opposition could throw at them without giving much ground. Their good work set the title up for the taking. That at a time*

*when only one forward, D.J. Carey, had scored. Afterwards, the forwards turned in their party piece. And what a riveting act captain Liam Fennelly and his troupe had to entertain the faithful. Their cheeky efforts complemented perfectly the earlier good work of the rearguard, and snatched "Liam" back to a resting place by the Nore.*

**BASK IN SPOTLIGHT**

*For a week at least, perhaps even a month, the unhealthy slate of the national finances, unemployment, beef tribunals and such like will take a back seat as Kilkenny folk bask in the spotlight of the huriers' glittering show.*

*For glittering it was. Brave too. Hard as well. And there was still room for fluent and spectacular skill to shine through. This was great stuff. Over 64,500 were thrilled from start to finish.*

*Cork were as dangerous as earlier form against Tipperary and Limerick had suggested they could be on a good day. They were given first use of the strong wind blowing from the Canal End, but due to a combination of bad shooting - eight wides in*

*this half - and close, tenacious hounding by the winners' defence, they brought a mere 0-7 to 1-2 lead into the second half.*

*Four minutes after the change John Power knifed through the Leaside defence and booted a goal which gave Kilkenny the lead, (2-7 to 0-7), they never subsequently lost. But courageous Cork didn't merely die, they had to be put away.*

*Twice the difference swelled to five points (2-7 to 0-8 and then 3-7 to 0-11) and once to six in Kilkenny's favour, and there was a possibility Cork would cave in. They didn't. Five minutes off the end they blew the game wide open again when cutting back the arrears to three points.*

*The Leinster champions needed one more bit of magic. They received it from reserve Adrian Ronan, who landed a magical point from the right touchline to make the game 'safe'.*

*On a day that was spoiled by wind and rain, the hurling was surprisingly good, although the losers were more prone to mistakes than their opponents. Twice during the second half their players brought trouble on themselves, and twice*



Back Row: Michael Phelan, Pat Dwyer, Liam Simpson, John Power, Eamon Morrissey, Pat O'Neill.  
Front Row: Eddie O'Connor, Willie O'Connor, DJ Carey, Michael Walsh, Liam McCarthy, Liam Fennelly, Bill Hennessy, Jamesie Brennan, Liam Walsh.



they were punished by Kilkenny points. Two errors that alone made up half the difference at the finish.

#### KEPT MISSING

The Leesiders were unable to punish with the same ruthlessness. After D.J. Carey and Sean McCarthy swapped first minute points, the losers made the elements pay and enjoyed the lion's share of possession. However, they kept missing the posts as they sought to put space between themselves and the opposition.

With 19-year-old Brian Corcoran turning in a blinding performance, the Munster champions promised more than they delivered. Corcoran had a fourth minute point from a "65" and then the roving Tony O'Sullivan shot a beauty from the Hogan Stand side to leave them 0-3 to 0-1 in front with less than ten minutes gone.

Already Cork's poor shooting was beginning to show, and O'Sullivan and Corcoran missed from free shots. While the latter continued to dazzle in open play, his shooting from frees was off. Still, his good work and that of Par Buckley and Sean McCarthy at midfield, saw a good supply of ball being pushed forward. The winners lost the midfield battle in this half.

Too often for the losers' good, the Kilkenny defence, in which Pat Dwyer was outstanding, beat the ball back up the field. That left the Leesiders short on the scoreboard. They just couldn't get a break, and when they did in the 16th minute, they couldn't take advantage.

A long free by Corcoran looked to be going wide to the left of the Railway End goal when Kevin Hennessy, at this stage playing at top of the left, touched the ball back across the square. The sliothar trickled across 'keeper Michael Walsh's line before he touched it away for Liam Simpson to eventually sweep it to safety at the expense of a '65'. That was missed. Cork's fourth wide.

Tomas Mulcahy had a minor score to boost morale somewhat, but within seconds the smooth-moving D.J. Carey posted a reply (0-4 to 0-2). After Teddy

McCarthy had another score for the losers, Cork blew their big chance to profit from the advantage of the elements.

Corcoran was wide with two '65s'. Within seconds Tony O'Sullivan missed a scorable free from 55 yards. To compound their troubles, they conceded a penalty, rather needlessly, it must be added. In a rare Kilkenny raid James Brennan got a run at the Cork goal, but was grounded nearing the big square. An untidy mess ensued, and Brennan was fouled a second time, on this occasion, it appeared, just inside the line. Referee Dickie Murphy awarded a penalty, which D.J. Carey drilled low into the net off a defender's stick. After all Cork's back-breaking earlier work, they found themselves level at 0-5 to 1-2 four minutes off the rest.

Before the break Kevin Hennessy was put clear of the Kilkenny defence by Ger Fitzgerald, but he hadn't the pace to make for goal and settled for a booted point. Sean McCarthy landed a free, to leave the score at 0-7 to 1-2, which didn't look good for Cork.

The second period was only three minutes old when Christy Heffernan was thrown into the fray in place of James Brennan. The Glenmore giant was in action quickly, and when he contested a high delivery by Pat O'Neill with Denis Mulcahy, the ball broke to John Power. The John Lockes lad spotted a gap between two defenders on the "14" and made for it. He got through and booted to the net past helpless guardian Ger Cunningham. Kilkenny were in front (2-7 to 0-7).

## Figures Of The Game

### FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	F	Wides	65's
Kilkenny	1	2	8	2	1
Cork	0	7	6	8	4

### SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	F	Wides	65's
Kilkenny	2	8	6	6	0
Cork	1	5	8	2	1

### SECOND ALF

	Gls	Pts	F	Wides	65's
Kilkenny	3	10	14	8	1
Cork	1	12	14	10	5



John Power in a tussle with Denis Walsh (Cork).



Pat O'Neill gave a Man of the Match display.



The winners' hurling was so energetic and purposeful at this stage that Cork were forced to retreat and simply hang on. D.J. Carey pointed a free to send the Black and Amber flying. A foul on Tomas Mulcahy earned Cork a point through Sean McCarthy. The Kilkenny puck-out was won by Carey and he finished a delightful short run with a point. Liam Fennelly then took advantage of a mix-up between two Cork players and sent the white flag flying again. Christy Heffernan benefited from some tenacious Fennelly play and added another score, to leave Cork in trouble and trailing by 0-8 to 2-6.

#### ROUT ON

Things got even worse for the Munster champions when another mix-up between two players gifted Liam McCarthy a point. During the following ten minutes or so, Kilkenny lost their way when a possible rout looked on.

The Leesiders put a determined fight-back together. Points fell to Cathal Casey and Tony O'Sullivan (2). They missed a fourth when the latter put wide after Tomas Mulcahy sprinted through the heart of the winners' defence as centre-back Pat O'Neill lay on the ground receiving attention for a head wound. Still, Cork were back in the match, and now they looked threatening.

Then up popped the match-clincher from the semi-final - Liam McCarthy. A tiring Michael Phelan, who by now was operating in a new role at full-forward, fired in a shot which fell kindly for McCarthy. The Piltown man missed an attempted catch, pulled first time and swept a tremendous ground shot to the net (3-7 to 0-11).

A rush of quick scores followed from Phelan, Teddy McCarthy and Phelan again, so that entering the closing six minutes Kilkenny looked safe when 3-9 to 0-12 clear. Not so. Lively Cork reserve Ger Manley threw the game wide open again when he beat two defenders before booting to the net.

The pressure was back on the Leinster champions and they responded with the heart that has characterised their play all season. The ball was worked to Adrian Ronan about 35 yards out on the right sideline. While falling he got in his stroke and sent perhaps the best effort of the day sailing over the bar.

Cork were gone after that, although in fairness they did make one late drive to get a goal. Mark Foley got in a good shot but the winners' keeper, Michael Walsh, read it all the way and took the ball confidently into his midriff. The outcome was in safe hands. The "McCarthy" was on the way to Kilkenny.

It was a brave effort by Cork and, no doubt, they will have many a long discussion about missed first half chances. The greater hunger of the winners had a big bearing on the outcome. But the fact Cork didn't do it wasn't the fault of Brian Corcoran, Cathal Casey, both at wing-back and midfield, Sean McCarthy, Denis Mulcahy or Sean O'Gorman.

**The scorers Kilkenny - D.J. Carey (1-4, goal penalty, point free), Liam McCarthy (1-1), John Power (1-0), Michael Phelan (0-2), Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan, Adrian Ronan (0-1 each)**

**Cork - Sean McCarthy (0-3, two frees), Tony O'Sullivan (0-3, one free), Ger Manley (1-0), Teddy McCarthy (0-2), Tomas Mulcahy, Kevin Hennessy, Cathal Casey (0-1 each), Brian Corcoran (0-1, "65").**

#### The teams

**Kilkenny - M. Walsh, E O'Connor. P. Dwyer, L. Simpson, L Walsh. P. O'Neill. W. O'Connor. M. Phelan, B. Hennessy, L. McCarthy, J. Power, DJ Carey. E. Morrissey, L. Fennelly (capt), J. Brennan.**

**Subs. - C. Heffernan for Brennan (38th minute), A Ronan for Mornssey (62nd minute).**

**Cork - G. Cunningham, B. Corcoran, D. Mulcahy, S O'Gorman. C. Casey, J. Cashman, D Walsh. P. Buckley. S. McCarthy, T. McCarthy, T. Mulcahy, T. O'Sullivan, G. Fitzgerald (capt), K. Hennessy, J. Fitzgibbon.**

**Subs: P Hartnett for Walsh (47th minute); G. Manley for Fitzgerald (inj, 50th minute), M. Foley for Buckley (63 minute).**

**Referee D. Murphy (Wexford).**



DJ Carey scores a penalty goal.



Captain Liam Fennelly lifts the new McCarthy Cup, becoming the only captain to lift the old and new trophies.

1993

# CATS PLAY THE GAME OF THEIR LIVES

KILKENNY 2-17, GALWAY 1-15

Report: Jim O'Sullivan

**AT the end, when it mattered most, Kilkenny played in the true style of champions. Yet, Ollie Walsh's team might not have been celebrating a second successive All-Ireland hurling title in Croke Park yesterday but for a bit of good fortune in the closing minutes. Courageous Galway, making a marvellous recovery after something of a disastrous start, were - only a point behind when a Joe Cooney handpass went over the sideline. From the resultant attack, precocious P.J. Delaney goaled and the game was as good as over.**

It climaxed a superb second-half contest which proved to be a much greater test of the teams than what had preceded it. On the one hand, it was a tribute to the character and resilience of Kilkenny that they could win by a margin of five points when it seemed that their challenge was in imminent danger of collapsing. Conversely it was an indictment of poor Galway finishing at the precise stage in the game when they were poised for a takeover. Nevertheless, they could take pride in their achievement.

## OUTSTANDING

Essentially, it was a victory for the game of hurling, with the second-half matching the best that has been seen at this level over the last decade. It featured some, outstanding individual performances, and arguably none better than that from 10-stone Galway wing-back, Pádraic Kelly. One of the main inspirations behind their rally, he was paid the ultimate tribute when Kilkenny played no fewer than six players on him over the 70 minutes.

Measured against their form after half-time, - when they played powerful, controlled hurling from the back - Galway were disorganised and dispirited at the start and hopelessly inadequate in a variety of positions. Kilkenny exposed their full-back line, principally through the clever play of P.J. Delaney and Adrian Ronan and at the other end, Pat O'Neill's total dominance at centre-back highlighted a glaring lack of penetration in the Galway Attack.

One of Galway's better players was midfielder Pat Malone, who scored three points in the first-half. The irony was he was almost ruled out before the game because of a hamstring problem. In contrast, Michael Coleman, from whom so much was expected, clearly hadn't recovered from his shoulder injury. And, in the overall analysis, that was a bitter blow to the team.

Kilkenny led 1-3 to 0-3 after ten minutes, which was a great position to be in considering that they were playing into the very strong wind. The goal came only a few minutes after P.J. Delaney

hit a good shot wide across the goalmouth. And, when the ball did end up in the net, through Ronan, it was after 'keeper Richard Burke had deflected a shot from Delaney.

## EARLY STAGE

Even at that early stage, it was clear that Galway were in trouble. Sean Treacy was all at sea in trying to cope with Delaney and the two men in the corner were jittery. Kelly, too, was slow to settle against Liam McCarthy, who looked very strong on the ball. Surprisingly, D.J. Carey wasn't prominent, but that was because he saw little of the ball. And, in his case, that pattern was to be maintained for much of the game.

When Galway looked to Joe Rabbitte for leadership he, too, was found wanting and a later move to the centre wasn't to benefit either him or the team. Pat O'Neill maintained his control, with the combination of his big physique and powerful play and behind him, Pat O'Dwyer proved his fitness in the early



Back Row: Michael Phelan, Pat Dwyer, Liam Simpson, John Power, Eamon Morrissey, Pat O'Neill.  
Front Row: Eddie O'Connor, Willie O'Connor, DJ Carey, Michael Walsh, Liam McCarthy, Liam Fennelly, Bill Hennessy, Jamesie Brennan, Liam Walsh.

tussles. It meant that, but for the resistance of team captain Michael McGrath, about the only player capable of winning possession regularly when he settled, Galway had no forward who looked like scoring.

Gerry McInerney, who played solidly throughout at centre-back, prevented a certain Kilkenny goal in the 15th minute, when he forced D.J. Carey to shoot into the side-netting. But, it was to be another ten minutes — during which time Murty, Killilea was warned and both Paul Cooney and Tom Helebert were booked, for dangerous play — before the Galway backs really came to grips with the task confronting them. That was best exemplified in the way Treacy began to win ball and clear confidently. It prompted a slight improvement in attack, with Liam Burke goaling in the 23rd minute — when Walsh stopped his shot, but, couldn't prevent it from going over the line. Three minutes later, Galway won a penalty when Coleman was put through by Joe Cooney — who had also come much more into the game. Coleman took the shot himself, but hit it weakly, and far too low.

Kilkenny were in the immensely satisfying position, for them, of achieving a 15-man effort.

Clearly, there wasn't a weak link in the side, even if some players were contributing more than others. However, they had difficulty in finishing at times, a fact illustrated by the accumulation of nine wides by the break, three more than Galway. That, with a 1-8 to 1-5

advantage, showed how much they were on top for the half.

Possibly because they couldn't wait to redeem themselves, Galway were back on the field much earlier than Kilkenny and this time, they gave as good as they got over the opening ten minutes. At the end of this period, the second of two successive scores from Rabbitte had them only a single point in arrears. That was real progress.

Coleman was now at centre-forward, where he achieved more in a negative sense by tying up O'Neill — who was largely anonymous until the last quarter. More positively, Rabbitte thundered

It was Rabbitte who brought Galway level in the 51st minute, but, frustratingly for them, they saw Michael Walsh bring off a good save from a kicked Burke effort a minute earlier. By now, substitute Justin Campbell was proving very effective on the right wing and at the back, the improvement achieved in the entire full-back line was quite remarkable. All the time Rabbitte promised a goal, but, he never really had a clear chance and this was partly a tribute to the way O'Dwyer limited him. In this way, the full-back played a role which was unspectacular, but, in the final analysis, vitally important. So too, were the twin roles played by Liam Simpson, and especially team captain Eddie O'Connor.

Kilkenny moved their forwards around in an effort to break the deadlock, putting Power, Carey, Delaney, Morrissey and eventually substitute Jamesie Brennan on Kelly in an effort to curb him. Again, Galway were out of luck when Burke had an even better chance of a goal, but, hit a weak shot which Walsh easily stopped, but, from the resultant seventy, Cooney put the ball over the bar to put them in front.

Kilkenny's reply was swift, with two excellent points from McCarthy and Power, before Rabbitte hit another levelling score. The game was now entering its most critical period and Rabbitte, surprisingly brought out to midfield, had the misfortune to over-carry the ball and present D.J. Carey with the

FIGURES OF THE GAME					
	Gs'	Ps'	Fs'	Ws'	65'
Kilkenny . . . . .	1	8	4	9	0
Galway . . . . .	1	6	6	6	1
Second Half					
	Gs'	Ps'	Fs'	Ws'	65'
Kilkenny . . . . .	1	9	5	6	0
Galway . . . . .	0	9	6	7	1
Totals:					
	Gs	Ps	Fs	Ws	65'
Kilkenny . . . . .	2	17	9	15	0
Galway . . . . .	1	15	12	13	2

into the game, Liam Burke and Brendan Keogh began to win ball on the right flank and Cooney was very involved at midfield. Then Kelly started to hurl and his brilliance helped to raise the standard of the whole team.



PJ Delaney scores the goal that finished Galway.



opportunity to put Kilkenny back in front.

But, back came Galway, with a Kelly point before Carey, again striking the ball perfectly, pointed another free. Galway, frustrated by the failure of Brendan Keogh to get a better return from some very good scoring chances, missed the chance of drawing level when Cooney drove a free wide. But, worse was to follow. In possession, near midfield, he attempted a pass to Coleman and the ball went over the sideline.

From the resultant attack, Adrian Ronan made the opening and Delaney put the ball in the net. There were still three minutes to go, but, once in front, Kilkenny were never going to be caught.

Terence Murray's proved to be far more consistent than the performances of the two teams. He made few mistakes and generally showed authority and skill in applying the rules.

Scorers for Kilkenny: P.J. Delaney 1-4; A. Ronan 1-2, D.J. Carey 0-4 (0-3 frees); L. McCarthy 0-3; E. Morrissey 0-2; B. Hennessy and J. Power 0-1 each.

Galway: J. Rabbitte 0-4; J. Cooney 0-4 (0-3 frees, 0-1 seventy); L. Burke 1-0; P. Malone 0-3; P. Kelly 0-2 (0-1 free); M. McGrath 0-2.

KILKENNY: M. Walsh; E. O'Connor, (capt.), P. O'Dwyer, L. Simpson; L. Keoghan, P. O'Neill, W. O'Connor; B. Hennessy, M. Phelan; L. McCarthy, J. Power, D.J. Carey; E. Morrissey, P.J. Delaney, A. Ronan.

Subs: J. Brennan for Morrissey (63rd minute); T. Murphy for Phelan (68th); C. Heffernan for Delaney (70th).

GALWAY: R. Burke; P. Cooney, S. Treacy, M. Killilea; T. Helebert, G. McInerney, P. Kelly; M. Coleman, P. Malone; B. Keogh, J. McGrath, J. Cooney; M. McGrath (capt.), J. Rabbitte, L. Burke. Subs: J. Campbell for J. McGrath (injured, 48th minute); P. Finnerty for Keogh (67th).

Referee: T. Murray (Limerick).



Pat Dwyer keeps things tight around the square.



Captain Eddie O'Connor lifts the McCarthy Cup.



2000

# GOAL-HUNGRY KILKENNY PLAY CAT AND MOUSE WITH OFFALY

MARTIN BREHENY

KILKENNY 5-15, OFFALY 1-14

**THE clouds have lifted and Kilkenny can see the sun again. After two tortured years of finding the final barrier a shade too high for them, they soared to stratospheric levels in Croke Park yesterday and plucked their 26th Guinness All-Ireland title with the utmost ease.**

*Offaly's reputation as hurling's great survivors, who thrive in refusing to take 'no' for an answer, made absolutely no impact on a Kilkenny team which were obsessed by an unstoppable determination to avoid slipping into the history books as the first side to lose three consecutive All-Ireland finals.*

*That driving momentum underpinned their entire approach ever since they reached the final but they had an awful lot more going for them than that. Their full-forward line of Charlie Carter, DJ Carey and Henry Sheffiin were devastating as they teased and tormented the Offaly defence into submission; Andy Comerford controlled most of the important action at midfield while their half-backs, Philip Larkin, Eamonn Kennedy and Peter Barry rose splendidly to the occasion.*

**MEMORABLE EXHIBITION**

*Charlie Carter (1-3), DJ Carey (2-4) and Henry Sheffiin (1-3) gave a truly memorable exhibition of deadly finishing on a day when Kilkenny scored two points more than their combined total in the last two All-Ireland finals. Ultimately, it was the finishing instincts of this deadly trio which flattened Offaly's resistance into oblivion.*

*Carey had a quiet time in each of the last two finals but it was all so very different yesterday as he set about delivering the sort of performance his talents warranted and his fans expected. He did it with supreme style in a Man of the Match performance which show-cased his wonderful array of skills. His goal after just six minutes set the agenda for the entire day as he capitalised on a mistake by Niall Claffey and sprinted through before whipping the ball to the Offaly net. There were still 64 minutes to go but the significance of that goal was pretty clear to everybody in the 61,493 crowd.*

*Offaly, who had been hammered by Kilkenny in each of the last two Leinster finals, needed a confidence injection early but instead they were snowed under by a Kilkenny avalanche.*

*Carey was credited with finishing Kilkenny's second goal too in the ninth minute, although there was some confusion as to whether or not Sheffiin's shot had crossed the goal line before DJ got his touch.*

*While there may have been some doubt as to the actual scorer, there was no mistaking the fact that it put Kilkenny eight points clear. Even at that early*

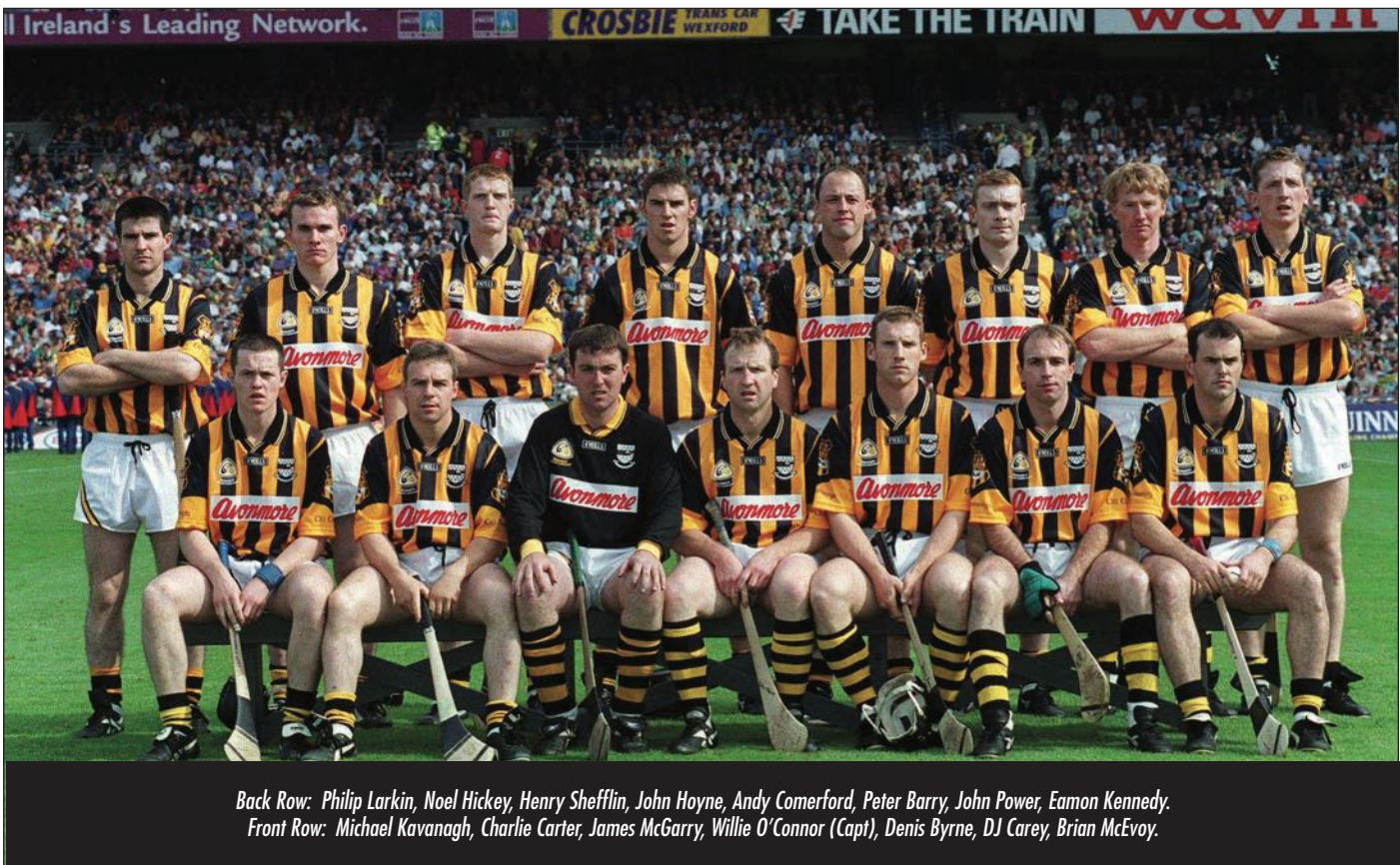
*stage, it was apparent that Offaly would require divine Intervention to have any hope of surviving.*

**POWER AND POISE**

*The power, poise and pace of Kilkenny's game mesmerised Offaly, and, while they rallied in the second quarter, they were using so much fuel that it was inevitable they would run dry long before the end.*

*They cut the lead to five points in the 29th minute but a quick surge of pace by Kilkenny yielded 1-2 (Carter got the goal in the 32nd minute) before half-time. It was heart-breaking for Offaly. They had worked extremely hard to give themselves a slim outside chance but suddenly they were looking back up the steep mountain again.*

*Offaly's case looked beyond redemption when they trailed by 3-5 to 0-7 at half-time and their decision to relocate Brian Whelahan to right full-forward for the second half was a recognition of their hapless status. A similar move two years ago yielded rich dividends, but Kilkenny were a different proposition defensively this time and while Whelahan tried his best, the openings were very limited.*



Back Row: Philip Larkin, Noel Hickey, Henry Sheffiin, John Hoyne, Andy Comerford, Peter Barry, John Power, Eamonn Kennedy.  
Front Row: Michael Kavanagh, Charlie Carter, James McGarry, Willie O'Connor (Capt), Denis Byrne, DJ Carey, Brian McEvoy.

Hard work and sheer pride helped Offaly to cut the lead to eight points (3-10 to 0-11) after 45 minutes, but they badly needed a goal if they were to have any chance of launching a meaningful revival. Instead it was Kilkenny who got in for a goal, knocked in by Shefflin after a long drive by Canice Brennan led to an outbreak of panic in the Offaly defence.

Denis Byrne pointed in the 54th minute to put Kilkenny four goals clear and on their way to the easiest All-Ireland final win, since Tipperary demolished Antrim in 1989. The exit gates opened for business shortly afterwards as fans began to drift away, convinced that the destination of the the McCarthy Cup was no longer an issue.

They were right. The challenge now facing Offaly was whether or not they could avoid being totally humiliated, It was grim scenario for a side who had performed with such wonderful swagger when beating Cork in the semi-final five weeks Earlier.

In fairness to Offaly, they launched a mini-recovery, and Johnny Pilkington's 59th minute goal was followed by two points to cut the lead to eight points. Respectability beckoned but it disappeared pretty quickly. Just as they had done in the first half, Kilkenny finished with a flourish. Sub. Eddie Brennan, who would have got a starting job in any other full-forward line whipped home Kilkenny's fifth goal in injury time and, predictably, the rout was completed by Carey and Carter, who added two finishing points. -

There was a palpable sense of relief in the Kilkenny dressing-room after as it would have been disastrous had they lost another final. Given the pressurised circumstances, they might have been expected to be tense and

edgy in the opening quarter but instead they were at total ease with themselves and their game as they swept to their first All-Ireland title since 1993.

Offaly went into yesterday's game hoping that they could repeat the form they showed against Cork but they were not allowed to impose themselves as they did in the semi-final. They wore Cork down physically but that was never going to happen against a strong Kilkenny defence whose defiance was was perhaps; best typified by Kennedy.

**ANSWERED CRITICS**

Kennedy has had his critics, not least in Kilkenny, but he gave them an unqualified answer yesterday. Strong and powerful under the high ball, he also brought a sound work ethic to. other chores and with Peter Barry and Phil Larkin playing well on either ride of him, Offaly found the routes to goal consistently blocked.

It was very frustrating for Offaly, They could, never quite change the tempo of the game to their pace and once they started conceding goals they were always chasing a lost cause.

Manager Pat Fleury conceded afterwards that Kilkenny's greater hunger was hugely significant. That was indeed the case.

Offaly played like a side with very high mileage on the clock and despite their record for battling performances, their confidence levels had been seriously depleted by their last two thrashings by Kilkenny. Publicly they didn't acknowledge it but the psychological edge rested very much with Kilkenny going into the game.

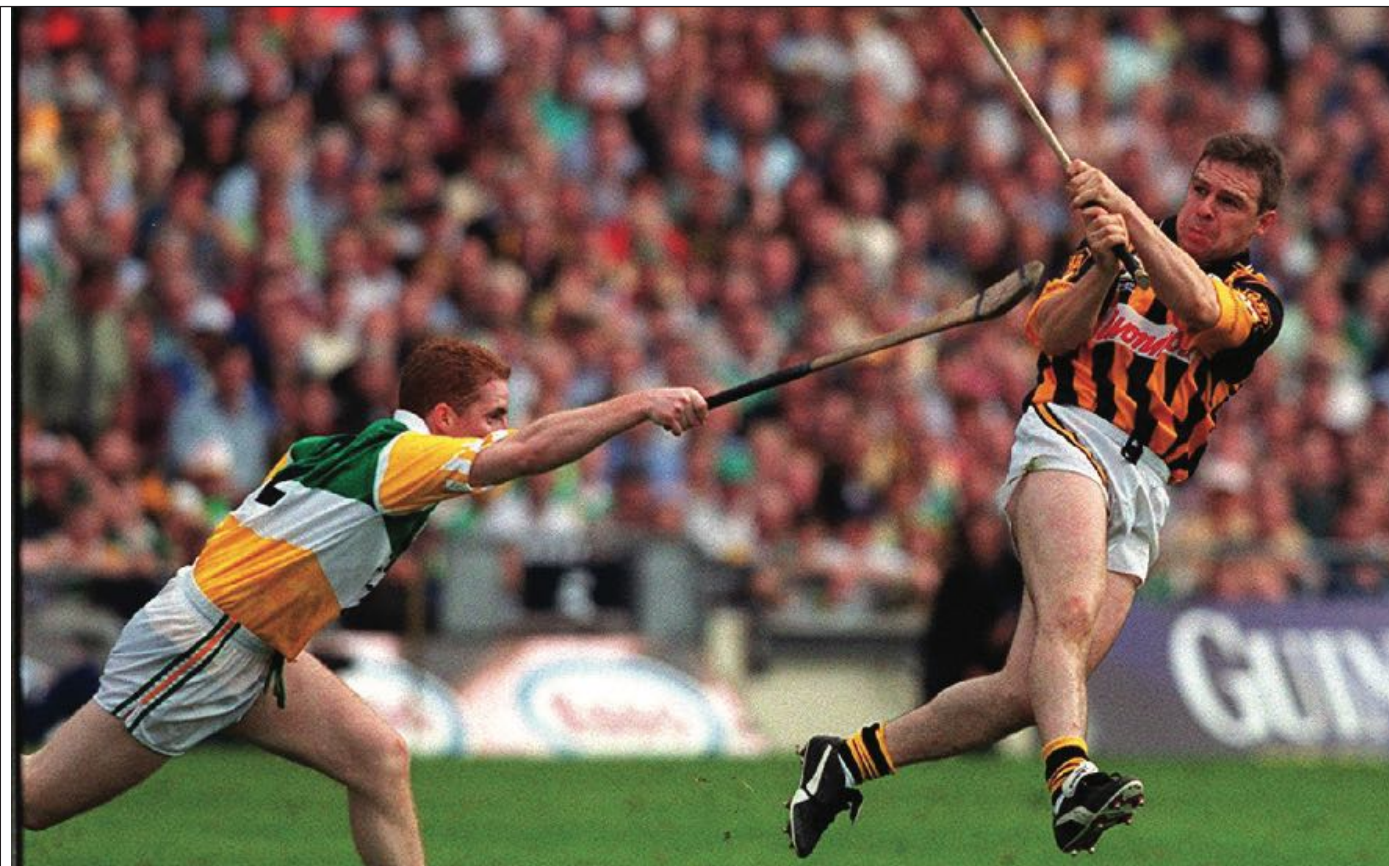
The fact that Offaly went for broke by switching Whelahan to attack for the second half underlined the nature of the difficulties they encountered. It wasn't that they didn't need him in defence but clearly they felt it would take something special to unhinge the Kilkenny defence.

That didn't work either, so really there were no escape routes for Offaly. Kilkenny were operating at a much higher level and, on yesterday's performance, are going, be a very serious force for several seasons to come.

KILKENNY			
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	3	2	5
Points	8	7	15
Wides	3	7	10
Frees For	5	7	12
Frees Against	6	8	14
GSs	0	0	0
Yellow Cards	1	2	3

OFFALY			
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	0	1	1
Points	7	7	14
Wides	7	2	9
Frees For	6	8	14
Frees Against	5	7	12
GSs	1	0	1
Yellow Cards	0	2	2



Charlie Carter scores against Simon Whelehan.



They scored 12-71 in four championship games this year winning by margins of 15, 11, eight and 13 points respectively. Critics may argue that the standard of the opposition wasn't very good and while there can be no denying that it was not a vintage year for hurling, Kilkenny did everything that was required of them with style and certainty.

That was more than enough: to bring them another All-Ireland triumph, one which was very badly needed after the disappointment of the last two years. It was their third consecutive championship win over Offaly with the margin of victory increasing all the time from 10 (1999 Leinster final), to 11 (this year's Leinster final), to 13 points yesterday.

The bitter memories of the '98 and '99 will count for nothing when Willie O'Connor brings the McCarthy Cup back home tonight.

Truly, after this one-sided affair, not even most gifted carpenter can fully repair hurling's back door Kilkenny smashed it - hopefully for good - yesterday.

**MAN OF THE MATCH: DJ Carey**

**SCORERS** Kilkenny: DJ Carey 2-4; H Shefflin 2-3, 0-2f). C Carter 1-3. D Byrne 0-4, E Brenna 1-0, A Comerford 0-1.

**Offaly:** Johnny Dooley 0-8 (6f, 1 '5). J Pilkington 1-1, B Whelahan, G Hanniffy, B Murphy, J Dooley, P Mulhare 0-1 each.

**Kilkenny:** J McGarry; M Kavanagh, N Hickey, W O'Connor (Capt), P Larkin, E Kennedy, P Barry, A Comerford, B McEvoy; J Hoynes, J Power, D Byrne, C Carter, DJ Carey, H Shefflin.

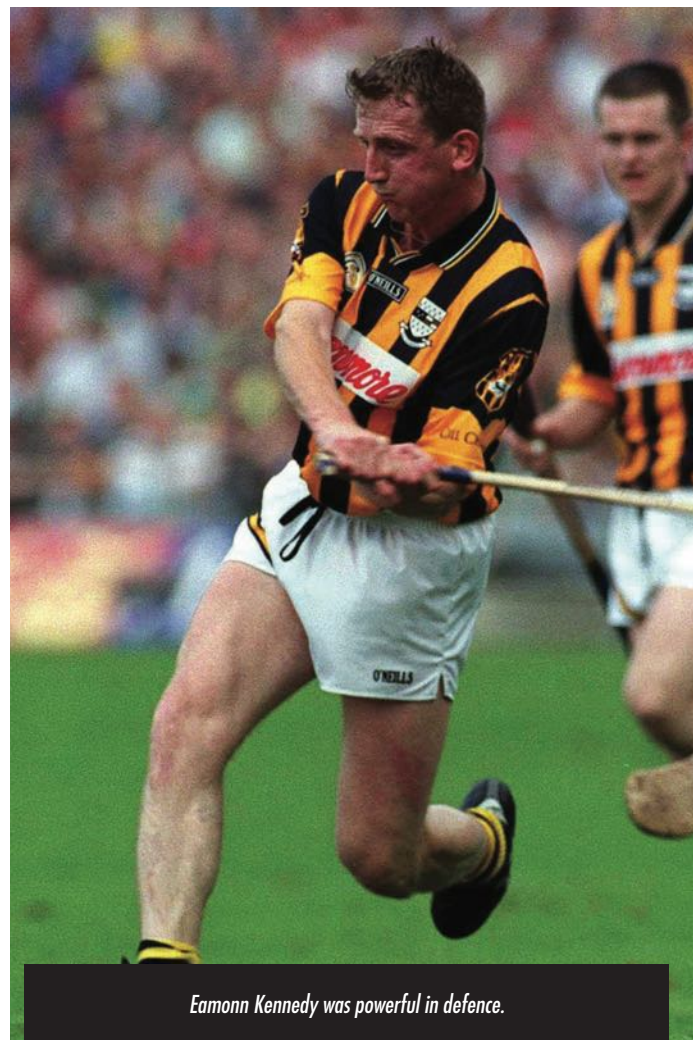
**Subs:** C Brennan for McEvoy 27m, E Brennan for C Brennan 66m.

**Offaly:** S Byrne, S Whelahan, M Kinahan, N Claffey, B Whelahan, J Errity, K Martin, Johnny Dooley (Capt), G Oakley, J Pilkington, G Hanniffy, B Murphy, M Duignan, J Ryan, Joe Dooley.

**Subs:** D Franks for Claffey 44m, J Troy for Ryan 47m, P Mulhare for Murphy 51m.

**Referee:** W Barrett (Tipperary)

**Attendance** 61,493.



Eamonn Kennedy was powerful in defence.



Man of the Match - DJ Carey.



Captain Willie O'Connor lifts the new McCarthy Cup.



# Mikey Butler – What a Year !

by Conor Denieffe



**Mikey Butler, All Star & Young Hurler of the Year 2022**

The year 2022 has certainly proved to be a momentous one for Mikey Butler. From a start at corner back, in an experimental Kilkenny side's opening game of the year, against Laois in the Walsh Cup in John Locke Park, Callan in January, he quickly became an ever present in Brian Cody's team retaining his place as he

displaying all of the determination, grit and work ethic which are among his hallmarks on the field of play, Mikey, with assistance from Dr. Tadhg Crowley, Physiotherapist Kevin Curran and Strength and Conditioning Coach Mickey Comerford, made a return from his injury in time to play the 2021 senior championship with his club. His performances in that competition up to and including the County Final saw a deserved call up to the Kilkenny panel in 2022.

Interestingly, for a city-based player, Mikey has always had a love of farming, something he attributes to his Tullaroan heritage on the Mullally side of the family. On leaving school farming was his career choice and he attended Kildalton Agricultural College and also Waterford IT where he played Fitzgibbon hurling. He now works as a farm manager and will often do some work on the morning of a game, something he finds relaxing as he prepares for a match. It certainly seems to work for him as his performances throughout the year attest.

Kilkenny supporters everywhere experienced great pride to see their four players awarded 2022 All Stars and in addition to his All Star then see Mikey honoured as Young Player of the Year. It is a fantastic start to his intercounty career but we have no doubt it is only the beginning for the talented 22-year-old.

marked and negated a succession of top-class opponents in Kilkenny's League and Championship campaigns, winning Leinster and reaching the All-Ireland final. His consistent high class displays throughout the year earned him a coveted All-Star in addition to selection as the Young Player of the Year at the awards ceremony in the National Convention Centre at the end of October.

Interestingly, Mikey's early years were spent in Tullaroan, home to his Mam Suzie's Mullally family, and he first began hurling there before the family moved to the city where his Dad Michael's family, the Butlers, are long established residents. Encouragement from local butcher Richie Kearns, when shopping for meat with his Gran Teresa, saw the young Mikey join O'Loughlin Gaels. Playing his part during a very successful spell at underage level for the St. John's Park based club, he collected two County Under 14 titles, Under 16, Minor, Under 19 and Under 21 medals. Indeed, he would nominate the Under 21 championship victory in 2019 against Shamrocks Ballyhale as the most memorable of this career to date. At club level Mikey, notes the influence of Richie Kearns, Mick and Maurice Nolan, Brian Dowling and Paul Phelan on his development as a player. School for Mikey was Tullaroan NS initially and then CBS Primary followed by CBS Secondary where he played at all Colleges levels. At second level, Mikey notes the work of coaches Seamus Dwyer and Niall Tyrrell in particular with his CBS secondary school teams. His favourite players growing up were, maybe not surprisingly, fellow O'Loughlin Gaels and Kilkenny players Martin Comerford and Brian Hogan.

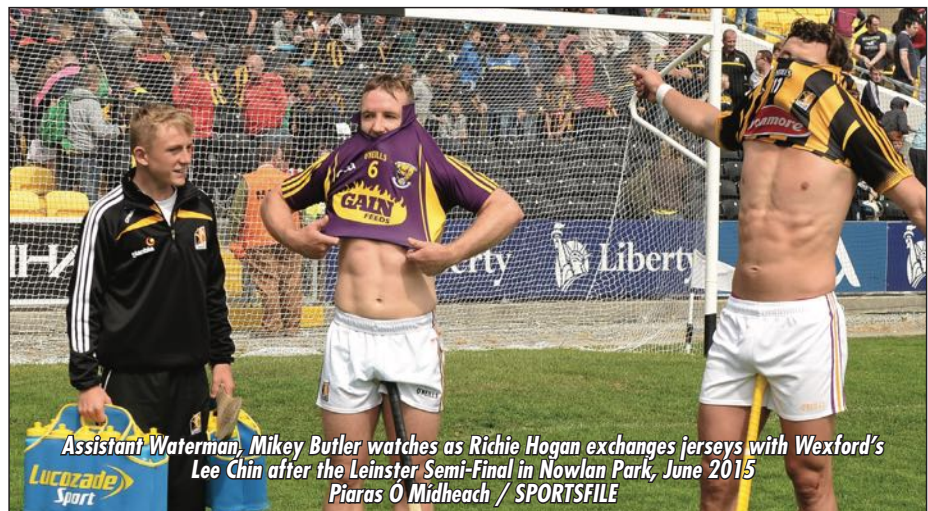
As a youngster Mikey only had one sporting interest, hurling. His Mam, Suzie, tells a story of how at a young age he was around the Fair Green in Kilkenny close to his home one evening when adult soccer training was taking place and he was kicking back footballs when he was asked if he would like to join. His reply was instant that he was going to hurl for Kilkenny and had no interest in any other sport.

Around 2014 a teenage Mikey, who was a regular at Kilkenny training sessions did a few odd jobs for kitman Rackard Cody and progressed into being an assistant for the summer. It must have been a dream job for a fourteen-year-old with legends such as Henry Shefflin, JJ Delaney and Tommy Walsh in the dressing room and we gather he might have acquired a couple of intercounty jerseys along the way!

Mikey has worn the Black and Amber jersey at all levels beginning with an Under 14 Tony Forristal victory and including a Leinster minor win in 2017 and a Leinster Under 20 victory in 2019. Having had the honour of being nominated by his club as County Under 20 captain for 2020 disaster struck when a cruciate knee injury sustained in a local championship game in September 2020 meant he played no part in that year's Covid-delayed intercounty Under 20 competition. It was a bitter disappointment but



**17 July 2022; Mikey Butler in action against Graeme Mulcahy of Limerick during the All-Ireland Final. Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile**



**Assistant Waterman, Mikey Butler watches as Richie Hogan exchanges jerseys with Wexford's Lee Chin after the Leinster Semi-Final in Nowlan Park, June 2015  
Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE**

# CONFESSIONS OF AN ALL-STAR SELECTOR

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

If you reckoned that the 2022 All Stars hurling XV was a terrible affair, really poorly chosen, the reason was obvious. Yours truly was no longer a selector after 25 years on the committee.

Alternatively...

If you reckoned that the 2022 All Stars hurling XV was a fine effort, well judged and truly representative of the season, the reason was obvious. Yours truly was no longer a selector after 25 years on the committee.

Whichever you fancy. Pay your money and make your choice.

No, they didn't get rid of me. Having been a selector since 1997 I simply decided that a quarter of a century was enough. I had my day and it was great, but the time had come for new blood with, possibly, a different outlook. Hurling evolves. The All Star selection committee should evolve with it.

For instance, in an era of sweepers and seventh defenders and two-man full-forward lines, should the team continue to be chosen in traditional 6-2-6 formation? Should not the selectors be allowed settle on, say, a fourth half-back if they felt the patterns of the season called for them to do so? The rules say we can't, although the situation may not always be thus, given the manner in which the tactical and strategic boundaries of the sport continue to be pushed. Happily I won't have to worry about it one way or t'other.

Some readers may be curious about how the selection process operates. A brief primer as follows.

There have been 16 selectors for the past number of years, all of them media folk – the All Stars began in 1971 as a journalistic concept and has remained that way – from the national newspapers, RTE, TG4 and so forth. Two gatherings take place when the championship is done and dusted, the first of them the nominations meeting where we decide on the 45 nominees (three goalkeepers, 18 defenders, six midfielders, 18 forwards). This invariably lasts longer than the second meeting on the logical basis that there are more berths to be filled; there's also the matter of which players will be nominated where, even if this is more of an issue in gaelic football than in hurling given its greater fluidity. And coming up with the last few players – numbers 40 to 45, say – is invariably a struggle and an inexact science.

The second gathering takes place on the Wednesday prior to All Stars night when we select the team itself, having submitted our respective XV's to the media department in Croke Park a few days beforehand. These are collated and handed out at the beginning of Wednesday's conclave, thus expediting the proceedings. With the returns in front of us in black and white there is no need for debate on some positions. If Sean Finn has, say, 14 of the 16 votes, or 15, or even the full 16, that's that. On we go to the next position.

Selectors have occasionally complained that filing our teams in advance makes for an antiseptic meeting and militates against debate. It's an interesting point. Certainly some years the meeting was over in jig time. That, I'd suggest, isn't necessarily a bad thing. Meetings should not be talking shops with people spouting tangential nonsense.

Find fault with the All Star selectors as you wish but one thing is for sure: we do not undertake the job lightly. In 2021 the debate over the goalkeeping position went on for a full 40 minutes. There wasn't the skin of a cigarette paper between two positively brilliant candidates in Eoin Murphy and Nickey Quaid and the arguments back and forth were not just knowledgeable and granular, at times they veered into the realm of the existential.

Did Quaid have an advantage over Murphy because he was playing in a far superior team?

Did Quaid make Limerick look better with his clever puckouts or did Limerick make Quaid look better because (a) he had fewer saves to make than other goalies and (b) because their wealth of big strong ballwinners out the field made it easier for him to pinpoint his receivers, hence the clever puckouts?

As a result, were we in danger of overlooking Murphy's shot-stopping excellence, or at any rate understating it, because his puckout game wasn't as sophisticated as Quaid's?

And if it wasn't, was this not the fault of the Kilkenny players out the field, and the team's prescribed Route One approach, rather than any failing on Murphy's part? And so on ad infinitum.

In the end it went to a vote. A short head separated the pair. Was Quaid unlucky? Clearly. Was he robbed? No. A player can have a fine year and still lose out to another player who's also had a fine year. Not every candidate of substance can make it every year – and when they don't it isn't "a disgrace" or some flagrant indictment of the selectors. It's really as simple and basic as that.

I've long maintained that if the selection committee get 12 of the players right, with no complaints from the public, they've done their job. The merits and demerits of the other three winners will always be in the eye of the beholder. And if you believe that So and So shouldn't have made the team fair enough, but you must say who should have replaced him and why.



Brian Whelehan



John Mullane



Joe Canning



Eoin Larkin



Asserting blithely that Kilkenny or Limerick or the National League winners or whoever "should have got more All Stars" does not constitute a valid argument.

It ought to go without saying that the selectors' powers of observation and insight are no better than those of the ordinary fan. Here's another hobbyhorse of

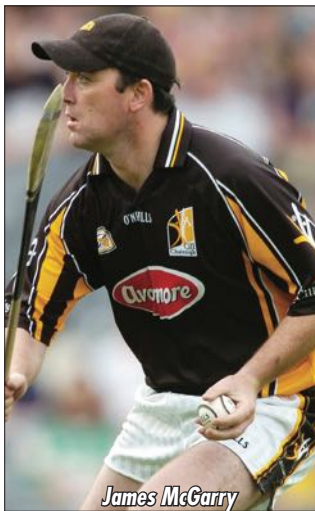
mine: 16 random hurling or football followers attending the same matches would come up with as good if not better a team than we do. No question about it. The wisdom of crowds and all that. That said, the notion that the players would magically pick an infinitely superior XV to the journalists – a bizarre proposition that a few people were fond of peddling – was exploded when the players did get to pick their own XV.

#### MORE SCOPE TO SHINE

The job of an All Stars selector is easier now than it was 30 years ago. The enlarged and extended season has seen to that. The more games there are, the more opportunities a player has to impress and the smoother the path for the cream to rise to the top. In retrospect the selectors in the era prior to the introduction of the back door had it harder than was appreciated at the time. How were you supposed to pick the best of the bunch where many of the bunch had played only one or two championship matches?

The Brian Whelahan debacle, when the Hurler of the Year was omitted from the All Star team in 1994, came before my time. Phew. One of the selectors explained to me long afterwards what had transpired. It was almost unfathomably byzantine stuff, largely due to the fact that – he said – the selection committee had kept growing. As the years went by new people were added and nobody ever seemed to be dropped, and as the years went by a divide grew between the remaining original committee members from 1971, who believed that a player should only be chosen in the position for which he'd been nominated, and many of the newer members, who were much more relaxed about moving players around – from one corner to the other or whatever.

Whelahan received more than enough votes to be selected but they were split between right-half back and left-half back. The upshot was that Davy Clarke and Kevin Martin made the cut in the respective positions



James McGarry



Eoin Murphy



Nicky Quaid

and nobody on the steering committee had the cop-on to cry halt. The scheme was brought into instant disrepute (how could it not have been?) and took a few years to recover.

As the process of picking an All Stars team is necessarily subjective – an inexact science, remember – there were, inevitably, a few lapses during my time. One year it came down to a toss-up between John Mullane and Joe Canning.

Canning's reputation from the under-age ranks had preceded him and we fell for it, giving him both the All Star and the Young Hurler of the Year gong. The latter would have been sufficient; Mullane had done slightly more that summer. You will hardly be astonished to learn that we made it up to Mullane by giving him an All Star the following year, when his form was slightly below the heights of the previous season. Swings and roundabouts.

Another year Eoin Larkin lost out because he was deemed not to have scored enough, too many of the selectors – not me! – overlooking the fact that that summer Larkin hadn't been trying to score. Instead he was creating, assisting, string-pulling. Playing a more nuanced and sophisticated game and giving the sliotar out to someone who'd do the scoring for him. And yes, we should have got James McGarry in some year or other. He continually fell through the cracks for no reason other than being underworked. It's easier for a goalkeeper to stand out on a mediocre team than on a good one.

It was a quick 25 years and it was fun. Back in the high days of the Vodafone sponsorship, when the Celtic Tiger was roaring and money was visibly no object, I used to be put up in the Westbury Hotel off Grafton Street prior to meetings. I wouldn't mind someone putting me up in the Westbury now. Freebies were generous and plentiful. I received lots of kitbags, most of which I gave away. Lots of gear, ditto. A small black wheelee case with my initials on it, which now has a bockety wheel. A rather fetching grey gilet which I still wear. And before it moved from Citywest to the Convention Centre and got lost in that vast cavern, the big night itself was invariably enjoyable and occasionally enlivened by a faceoff at the bar between some random well oiled player and a hapless journalist who'd incurred his wrath during the previous 12 months.

Just out of curiosity, what did you make of the 2022 All Star hurling team then..?

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# KILKENNY'S ALL STARS 2022



Kilkenny's 2022 Camogie All Stars

From left - Michael & Frankie Walsh (Grace Walsh), Laura Murphy, Julieann Malone, Aoife Norris, Katie Nolan, Denise Gaule, Miriam Walsh (also Senior Player of the Year), Claire Phelan, with their awards at the PwC All Stars Awards 2022 at Croke Park, Dublin

## 2022 ALL-STARS CAMOGIE TEAM

(Number of awards included after each player)

1. Aoife Norris (Kilkenny – first All-Star)
2. Libby Coppinger (Cork – first All-Star),
3. Grace Walsh (Kilkenny – 3rd All-Star),
4. Shauna Healy (Galway - 4th All-Star)
5. Laura Murphy (Kilkenny – first All-Star),
6. Claire Phelan (Kilkenny – third All-Star),
7. Saoirse McCarthy (Cork – first All-Star, 2018 Soaring Star)
8. Ashling Thompson (Cork – third All-Star),
9. Lorraine Bray (Waterford – second All-Star, 2015 Soaring Star)
10. Denise Gaule (Kilkenny – sixth All-Star),
11. Beth Carton (Waterford – third All-Star),
12. Julianne Malone (Kilkenny – second All-Star)
13. Katie Nolan (Kilkenny – second All-Star),
14. Miriam Walsh (Kilkenny – third All-Star),
15. Katriona Mackey (Cork – sixth All-Star).

PwC Senior Player of the Year - Miriam Walsh, Kilkenny  
PwC Manager of the Year - Brian Dowling, Kilkenny



Kilkenny All Star Hurlers 2022, from left, Huw Lawlor, Mikey Butler (also Young Hurler of the Year), Adrian Mullen and TJ Reid with their awards at the PwC All-Stars Awards 2022 at the Convention Centre in Dublin. Photo by Sam Barnes/Sportfile

# in iochlann dé



**Denis Walsh**

2022 saw the passing to his eternal reward of one of Kilkenny's greatest supporters Denis (Densey) Walsh from 9 Mellows park Callan. Densey Walsh attended his first All Ireland final in 1949 as a confirmation gift for the meeting of Tipperary and Laois and a lifelong love of hurling was born. He never missed an All Ireland in which Kilkenny were involved from that year on and could give the score of any of the victories with little prompting. He was well known around the county for his singing voice and in the course of his life he won 39 competitions in different venues. Densey travelled all over the country following the black and amber in Winter and Summer and besides following the fortunes of the local John Locks team he was also an avid fan of the Ballyhale Shamrocks. Denis passed away in May of this year and will be missed by all who knew him.



**Eamonn Hanrahan**

Eamonn from Castlegarden, Thomastown passed away on October 3rd this year at the age of 79. Eamonn was well known in handball and Gaa circles throughout Kilkenny and beyond. Born within a short distance of Kilkenny Handball Alley he played from an early age winning several McAlmout cup medals during his playing days. He was also involved in the running of the club and served as secretary and chairman during the seventies and eighties and was heavily involved in the roofing of the alley in 1974. He was president of the club at the time of his passing. He was also vice chairman of Kilkenny handball board from 1977 to 1982 and was chairman from 1983 to 1990 and was well regarded for his work. As a member of Bennettsbridge Gaa club Eamonn first became involved coaching underage teams and later chaired the Bord na Nog committee of the club. From there he became chairman of the adult club serving many years over two different terms and was still a valued club member until he died. Under his stewardship the club installed the floodlights in the Gaa grounds which have proved invaluable ever since. Eamonn was a great character and his presence will be missed around the club. He worked as a farmer all his life and had a great love and knowledge of gardening. Eamonn was predeceased by his wife Bridie in 2013, he is survived by his sons Tom, Martin and Eoin, his brother Dick, grand children and extended family. We offer our deepest sympathies to them all. May Eamonn rest in peace.



**Paddy Barron**

Paddy Barron Rossenany Windgap passed away on 24th of November 2021 aged eighty-four. Formerly of Sheepstown Knocktopher he played with Carrickshock and won many hurling tournaments with them up to 1965. He moved to Rossenaney later that year and followed all of the local Camogie and Hurling teams and was vice president of Windgap GAA Club at the time of his death. A farmer and gifted craftsman he built the three legged scoreboard in Windgap in 1999. Made from scrap metal, complete with safety features, flag poles and shelter for the operator it still operates in his memory. There was seldom a match played where he wasn't present and he loved nothing more than going to them and meeting with Paddy and John Joe Egan. He loved greeting people young of all ages with his handshake and warm smile and a game of cards. The esteem he was held in was very evident with the turnout and the great guard of honor he received on the way to the Church. Paddy is survived by his wife Peggy, family members Mary, John, Claire, Monica and PJ his grandchildren and a wide circle of family and friends



**Tom Downey**

The death took place on Monday 26th September 2022 of Tom Downey of Foulksrath, Jenkinstown. Tom was a former Chairman of Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club and President of the club at the time of his passing. He played underage hurling with Conahy and when he moved to Dublin, played initially with Moondearg, and later with Faughs with whom he won a Dublin senior hurling championship title. Tom was a loyal player and member of the Faughs GAA Club for many years and among his colleagues at the club were the former Limerick player Ned Rea, former Offaly player Paddy Spellman, former Kilkenny players Sean Buckley and Billy Dwyer and Tommy Moore from Ballyragget whose name adorns the All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Cup.

Tom Downey served at many levels with Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club and was a coach with both underage and adult teams over the years. He was a trojan worker in the club and contributed greatly to the development of the club and its facilities over recent decades. He was especially delighted to see Conahy Shamrocks win their first All-Ireland junior club hurling title in 2008, with his own company, Downey Logistics sponsoring the team. Tom also got tremendous satisfaction from seeing his grandson Karl captaining Conahy Shamrocks to win the 2019 Kilkenny Under 19 Hurling Championship. Mr. Downey is survived by his loving wife June (Cobbe) sons Declan,

Padraig, Paul, grandchildren Karl and Daisy, daughters-in-law Anne, Trish and Sally, brothers Eamonn, Michael, John, sisters Rita, Breda, Lizzie and Rose, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Tom will be greatly missed by his family and all involved with Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club.



**Richie Walsh**

The sudden passing of Richard (Richie) Walsh of Killee Bennettsbridge at the age of 67 on June 17th this year came as a huge shock to the whole community. Richie was a popular figure around the village of Bennettsbridge and was a regular follower of the local hurling and soccer teams. Originally from Outrath Richie began his hurling career with the James Stephens club winning under 16 and minor championships with the Village in the early seventies. He continued to hurl with the Village at adult level and won the centenary cup completion with club in 1984. Richie also hurled with Danesfort in the late eighties and ended his career hurling with Bennettsbridge into the ninties. He also hurled with the Kilkenny masters team and won two All Ireland titles in 1995 and 1997. His son Richard also lined out for the Bridge winning a Northern junior medal in 2005. Richie was also a talented soccer player, playing for East End, Fort Rangers, Callan, Southend and Glen Rovers. After his own playing career finished Richie was a selector on Bridge underage teams and also on junior teams for a number of years, he also worked as a medic for the club. A large guard of honour from Bennettsbridge, Danesfort and James Stephens met Richie's funeral while a minutes silence was observed in his honour before the final of the Johnny McGovern tournament between Bennettsbridge and Thurles Sarsfields. Sincere condolences to Richie's wife Ann, daughters Michelle and Ann Marie, son Richard, mother Lily, brother, sisters and extended family. May Richie rest in peace.



**Eamon Meehan**

Eamon Meehan Tullahought and formerly of Cussane was one of four hurling Meehan brothers with Patsy at corner back, Seamus full forward and Thomas at wing back who helped Windgap to their first Junior Hurling title in 1970. Eamon lined out at centre or full forward and scored 1-2 in the Southern Final. Eamon played Intermediate Hurling for Kilkenny in 1971 alongside club mates Paddy Jackman and Joe O'Shea and with

Kieran Purcell playing in the Senior final; it was the club's golden eras. Eamon returned from his honeymoon in Killarney to play in the Senior quarter final against the Fenians in Nowlan Park in 1972 as the team went out to the eventual county champions for the second year in a row. Aged seventy six Eamon who was also a noted handballer in the Slate-quarries commenced work in the creamery in Windgap and later joined Avonmore. He is survived by his wife Breda, sons Pat, Vincent and Gerry, daughter Noelle, son and daughter in laws grandchildren and a wide circle of relations and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



**Angela Ireland O'Sullivan**

Born on April 24, 1974, Angela Ireland was a proud native of Ballyda townland and a proud supporter of her home club, Danesfort. This parish's climb to Senior between 2006 and 2011 brought her immense joy and satisfaction. Recent Intermediate victory, especially during the club's centenary year, would have been further delight. Back in 2011, the enjoyment was heightened by another factor. By that stage, Angela had been living in Ballyhale for quite a few years. Now she could look forward to Senior clashes between Ballyhale Shamrocks and Danesfort, occasions she later relished (and no one ever doubted where her loyalties still lay). With camogie, the dynamic proved different. Angela transferred and hurled with Ballyhale Shamrocks between 1994 and 1996, winning a Junior Final against Mooncoin in that first season. Injuries came against her but she was still very much part of the panel beaten by Tullaroan in 1995's Intermediate Final. But the injury factor, after 1996, unfortunately ended her career on the field. Angela reconnected with her adopted camogie club in the late 2000s, both on the administration side and as a mentor. She served in various positions and as 2011's Chairperson. She became a selector with various juvenile and adult teams, including with the Intermediate panel that beat Piltown in 2013's County Final. This side later got beaten by Lismore in that season's replayed Club All Ireland Final. Not winning the drawn game remained by far her biggest camogie disappointment. Angela continued serving on our committee until illness struck in 2017. Before that sad moment, she was ever present in Páirc na Seamróg, putting out flags, arranging jerseys in numerical order (having washed and dried them herself), cutting up oranges for the players' halftime boost or simply having a quiet word with someone she felt needed encouragement. Angela always knew what to do and when to do it. She was more than a team mentor. She was a friend and a loyal companion to every player, whatever their age. Angela Ireland O'Sullivan died on August 28. Her passing left a void in so many ways. She will be much missed for the longest time. Ballyhale Shamrocks Camogie Club offers enduring gratitude for Angela's input and deepest sympathies to her husband, Seán O'Sullivan, and their daughter, Kelly.



**Paul Shefflin**

March 4, 2022 went down as a truly awful day for the parish of Ballyhale, for Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club, for so many people across so many contexts. No need for embellishment where Paul Shefflin is concerned. This man simply was universally popular and respected and enjoyed. Inside or outside Ballyhale, the verdict returned the same. Paul eased any company he joined. He was, in the phrase, an out and out gentleman. Paul Shefflin attended St Kieran's College after St Patrick's NS in Ballyhale. He hurled with St Kieran's and captained the Kilkenny Minors in 1998's All Ireland Final loss to Cork. Then he progressed to the county's U21 side. Study at WIT left him part of 2000's Fitzgibbon Cup-winning panel alongside older brother Henry. Paul Shefflin proved a highly accomplished hurler with Ballyhale Shamrocks. Having landed a Minor A title in 1997, he won six Senior titles (2006-09, 2012, 2014) and three Club All Irelands (2007, 2010, 2015). The 2014 season counted as a particularly satisfying one, with Paul enlivened by a switch from right corner back to right half back. The previous season had been difficult. But he ended up, during the seven game campaign that led to victory over Kilmallock in 2015's All Ireland Final, that side's most consistent performer. His marking job on Clara's Liam Ryan in 2014's Senior Final was crucial and perfectly done. And Paul kept going. The same man hurled on until 2019, finishing up at Junior C, an especially popular figure with young players starting off. He was the soul of encouragement. Warm friendships were formed during those seasons with players getting on for 20 years younger than him, which is the mark of a remarkable man. Paul had just got started with coaching juvenile hurling, juvenile camogie and juvenile soccer in his home place. He had so much more to give on those fronts and would have done so, without demur, for many years. Paul Shefflin passed away, long before his time. He would have been 42 on June 30. First and foremost, the tragic loss fell to Aoife Shefflin, Paul's wife, and their four children, Beibhinn, Odhran, Keelan and Ronan. Then to Henry Sr and Mai, Paul's parents, and his six brothers and sisters.



**Patrick Holden**

Both the club and the parish felt, and will always feel, bereft. Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club, same as the entire parish, felt deeply saddened by Patrick Holden's death. He passed away, after a bravely borne illness, on September 24 just before his club's quarter final with Clara. The panel and management were deeply grateful for that game's postponement (and by the many messages of sympathy from clubs, including Clara, all around the county).

Born on May 17, 1949, a native of Knockmoylan, this young man became part of an upsurge in the parish's hurling fortunes. Patrick started on all three of the Ballyhale Minor teams that reached the County Final in 1965, 1966 and 1967. James Stephens were the opposition on all three occasions. The middle final was lost but the other two were won. He spoke of his frustration about hurling at midfield for Ballyhale in an U21 game against Knocktopher in the late 1960s. His marker? A neighbour in Knockmoylan. Patrick Holden counted not just as a fine hurler but likewise as a perceptive and shrewd man. He knew this situation meant the parish was far from maximizing its potential and became in early 1972 a founder member of Shamrocks GAA Club, an amalgamation of Ballyhale and Knocktopher.

This initiative set in train his fierce dedication to a club he loved wisely and well over five decades. To see its golden jubilee arrive in 2022 meant an immense amount to him, as had watching Joey Holden, his son, captain Kilkenny to glory in 2015. The young Patrick Holden developed into a serious operator as the Shamrocks developed. A key member of the panels that won Junior (1973) and Intermediate (1974), he started at centre forward for 1978's inaugural Senior title. Same for 1981's inaugural Club All Ireland title. He had played in the same position for Kilkenny's 1973 Intermediate All Ireland victory. A versatile hurler, Patrick was a capable centre back and lined out there when Tullaroan defeated the Shamrocks' second team by a mere point in 1983's Junior Final. Nominated by his club, he acted as a selector for Kilkenny's Senior panel in 1985. The first flush of success happened between 1978 and 1991, when nine Senior titles got harvested. The tenth one did not arrive until 2006. By that time, Patrick Holden had become Chairman of Ballyhale Shamrocks, reflecting his high standing in club and parish. He was universally respected as a fair and decent administrator, a modest man of the utmost integrity. Patrick watched further club successes unfold with quiet pride. That young man's vision in 1972 came true beyond his wildest and wisest dreams. Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club offers deepest sympathy to Stasia, Katrina, Seán, Pádraig, Joey and Liam, and to the wider Holden family.



**Paddy Egan**

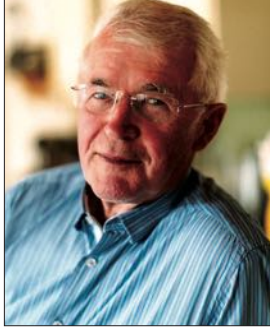
The 3rd of April 2022 saw the passing of one of Windgap GAA's oldest members (Paddy Egan) at the age of 91. Paddy was born in 1931 and grew up in Butlerswood with his three brothers (John Joe, Mick and Jim) and sister Mary before moving to Tullahought in 1967. He and his wife Mary had four children (Kathleen, Tom, Teresa and Patricia) and his life largely revolved around farming, GAA, politics, and the Tidy Towns. He played football with Cotterstown prior to playing hurling with Windgap when the club was formed in 1954. He held a number of roles in the club was Vice President and selector when the club won the South Junior title in 2001. A regular at all intercountry games and club games for many years, he departed in April after a short illness and is missed as well as fondly remembered by all in his extended family and community which meant everything to him.

Ni bheidh a leitheid arís ann.



**Jim Hickey**

Jim Hickey Kildrummy played at number eight for Windgap when they won their first County Junior Hurling Championship in 1970 and was a selector when they won their second and last one in 1986, when his son Brian lined out at corner forward. A farmer by profession, Jim was a renowned stockman and judge of cattle, an attribute that extended across both horses and greyhounds. Jim will be sadly missed by his wife Imelda, son Brian, daughter-in-law Brigid, grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters Kathleen and Margaret and, brother Bob, nieces, nephews, other relatives and his many neighbours and friends. Jim was interred on the Wednesday before Windgaps fourth Junior County Final appearance in Nowlan Park when a Minutes Silence in front of five thousand people was observed in his memory.



**Philip Walsh**

In an era when it was unusual for a Junior hurler from a rural Club to make a Kilkenny team, Phil Walsh bucked the trend. A fast wristy hurler with an eye for goal Phil made both Junior and Senior Kilkenny teams. His finest hour in the Black and Amber was in the Wembley tournament of 1960 when he scored 3-02 in Kilkenny's win over Waterford. A week later he twice found the net in Kilkenny's win over Westmeath in the Leinster Championship. He also lined out with Clara under the three Parish rule to win the St. Canices perpetual challenge cup seven-a-side tournament.

Playing at right half forward for his Club Paulstown as it was then, Barrow Rangers now he always led the battle against the opposition. When his playing days were over he served as Chairman and selector with the Club. Away from the playing field Phil was an avid follower of horse racing and made the Listowel Festival an annual visit along with trips to Killarney races, Cheltenham and Aintree.



**Hugh Ryan**

Graignamanagh GAA Club said goodbye to one of its long serving stalwarts Hugh Ryan, who passed away recently after a long illness. Hugh served the Club in all capacities and played many roles within it. Hugh done his hurling in the 60's & 70's including Intermediate with

Kilkenny and was also on the senior panel participating in the Walsh Cup for Kilkenny. Hugh served as treasurer from 84-86 which was a golden period for the Club winning the Intermediate Championship in 1985. He was a selector for the Intermediate team in 96 & 97 when they reached two County finals losing to O'Loughlins in 96 & The Shamrocks in 97.

Down through the years Hugh was a selector on many adult and Juvenile teams. He represented the Club as County Board rep for a long number of years and will be remembered as the chief steward on the old players entrance at the now Ollie Walsh stand.

Hugh was instrumental in the development of facilities in Dr. Tierney Park, including the Club House & Dressing Rooms and the new playing surface which was laid in 2003.

To his wife Margaret, his daughter Carol & sons Dermot & Brendan and extended family we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

Ar Dheis De Go Raibh A Anam.



**Johnny Hennessy**

The death occurred on the 21st of September 2022 of Johnny Hennessy Clohastia, Graignamagh. Growing up within a mile or so of the ball alley in nearby Ullard resulted in handball being his main Gaelic sport which he excelled at in no small measure. Playing either singles or doubles paired with local legends including Tim Ryan, Paddy Irwin, Liam Ryan, Jackie Ryan, Jackie Malone and Pat O'Keefe from Mullinavat Johnny won numerous county finals in the 70's and 80's culminating in an All-Ireland Masters doubles in 1987.

Johnny farmed extensively and operated a very successful agri-contracting business up to recent times.

Johnny will be sorely missed by his wife Kitty, daughter Majella, sons Sean, Padraig, Arthur, his grandchildren extended family, neighbours and friends.



**Bobby Aylward**

One of the most moving sights in recent Ballyhale Shamrocks history occurred on June 18, 2022.

The occasion? A guard of honour as Bobby Aylward's coffin passed into All Saints Church, Newchapel. This man was Ballyhale Shamrocks Chairman when he died on July 14, following a long and bravely borne illness. Bobby will always count as one of the club's great servants. This truth escaped no one, then or since. Among that guard of honour were the eight local hurlers who had been part of the Kilkenny panel defeated by Limerick in the previous day's All Ireland Senior Final. They wanted to be nowhere else, same as so many other people, without and without the GAA, within and without the parish.

Bobby Aylward was born on April 1, 1955. He forever enjoyed being a Knockmoylan man, a Ballyhale man, a Shamrocks man. Merely 17 when the club got founded in 1972, this youth was part of the generation that took three U21 A titles in a row between 1972 and 1974. This upsurge seeded later success between 1978 and 1991, when nine Senior Finals and three Club Irelands were harvested. Bobby was on the 1978 panel that landed an inaugural win. His personal arc looped

round when he acted as a selector for 1989's Senior triumph against Glenmore and 1990's subsequent Club All Ireland triumph against Ballybrown.

During his playing career, Bobby usually hurled at full back, uncompromising but fair. He occupied this position when the Shamrocks won 1982's Junior A Final, defeating James Stephens in a replay by 16 points. Then Bobby captained 1983's remarkable Junior campaign, which culminated in one point County Final defeat by Tullaroan. That season, the initial flush of Shamrocks talent probably reached its zenith. All the while, Bobby Aylward farmed his homeplace in the heart of Knockmoylan and became actively involved in politics. Having sat on Kilkenny County Council between 1992 and 2007, he was thrice elected a TD for Carlow Kilkenny (2007, 2015, 2016). His outgoing gregarious nature stayed an asset in every context.

So busy a life did not prevent this man becoming Chairman of his club during the early to mid 1990s. This period proved a crucial one, a time when the Shamrocks found a permanent home in Páirc na Seamróg. Bobby provided calm and shrewd leadership.

Coincidentally or not, he returned as Chairman in 2021, a time of further development at Páirc na Seamróg. Illness did not affect his ability to offer wise counsel, warm encouragement. Bobby Aylward passed on while still immersed in all that he loved most outside of his family. Everyone offers, club and parish alike, deepest sympathies to Helena, Tríona, Bob and Mark, and to the wider Aylward family.



**Fintan Murphy**

Tony Doran, Dan and Martin Quigley, Kieran Purcell, Tom Moran, Mick Crotty, Ned Byrne, Pat Delaney Billy Watson, Mick McCarthy and Jim Bennett. Take your pick? That was the level of direct opposition which Fintan faced on a regular basis as he manned the full-back position for The Rower -Inistioge in the white heat of championship and tournament hurling during his almost twenty year adult career. Life was certainly never dull on the fringe of Fintan's square.

From the moment Fintan won an U14 championship title in 1958 from the full-back position his card was well marked. From then on the No 3 hurling jersey was his whatever the grade. Similarly with his football exploits

Fintan's initial championship success came in 1963 when the club won the junior title and earned automatic to senior hurling for the first time. Next up was the 1967 junior football championship win following a titanic struggle with Barrowmount, where to even blink was a sign of weakness.

Great days for Fintan and the club on the hurling field were not far away. They came to fruition in April 1969 with a two point win over famed Bennettsbridge in the delayed 1968 county final. What a triumph that was for Fintan as he shared the historic win with his three brothers, Tom, Billy and Gee.

In 1983 Fintan signed off on an outstanding club career with a special junior championship win

A lover of most sports Fintan whiled away some dreary winter months at cross-country running. As his hurling career was coming to a close Fintan dabbled at rugby operating manfully in the scrum with various New Ross Rugby Club teams.

Fintan inherited a love of the theatre from his late father, Jim. His own performances with the local prize winning drama society in various J B Keane productions are well remembered. In later years he and his wife, Anna, rarely missed a night at the New Ross Theatre Festival.

Fintan was Chairman of the club (1980-1984) and in 1988 he was appointed a selector for the Kilkenny senior team.

All the above Fintan achieved while raising a family of five together with running both a successful public house and farm in The Rower. He contributed in every imaginable way to every local community enterprise. Last July Fintan and his children, Margaret Mary, Jim, Cathriona, Brid and Aine suffered the ultimate heavy blow on the untimely death following a short illness of Anna. Fintan bore that burden and that of his own subsequent failing health with typical bravery and stoicism but as events would ordain only for a few months until his own time was called.

Go dtuga Dia leaba i measc na naomh duit, a Fintan.



# RESULTS 2022



SENIOR HURLING		U21 HURLING 2022	
COUNTY SH C'SHIP FINAL	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-21 James Stephens 2-11	U21 ROINN A FINAL	Thomastown 5-18 Mooncoin 5-12
SH LEAGUE FINAL	Tullaroan 1-24 Bennettsbridge	U21 ROINN B FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 1-12 Lisdowney 0-14
SH SHIELD FINAL	Clara 2-18 Dicksboro 1-19	U21 ROINN C FINAL	Kilmacow v Mullinavat
DIVISION 1 LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 0-23 Mullinavat 0-10	U21 ROINN D FINAL	Graignamanagh 3-15 Conahy Shamrocks 0-9
SH RELEGATION FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 0-21 Lisdowney 1-14	U21 ROINN E FINAL	Emeralds 0-16 Blacks & Whites 0-10
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		U19 HURLING	
COUNTY IH C'SHIP FINAL	Danesfort 1-36 <i>(aet)</i> Thomastown 4-25	U19 ROINN A FINAL	Dicksboro 2-16 James Stephens 1-13
IH LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 2-20 Danesfort 1-18	U19 ROINN B FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 0-12 Glenmore 0-7
IH SHIELD FINAL	Rower Inistioge 1-21 Carrickshock 2-10	U19 ROINN C FINAL	St Martin's 2-14 Tullaroan 1-11
DIVISION 2 LEAGUE FINAL	Rower Inistioge 0-20 Lisdowney 2-11	U19 ROINN D FINAL	Barrow Rangers 1-14 Emeralds 0-14
DIVISION 3 LEAGUE FINAL	Dunnamaggin 2-18 <i>Won on penalties</i> Young Irelands 1-21	U19 ROINN E FINAL	Clara 0-20 Fenians 1-15
IH RELEGATION FINAL	Fenians 1-16 St Lachtain's 0-12	U19 ROINN A LGE FINAL	Dicksboro 2-20 Galmoy/Windgap 0-16
JUNIOR HURLING		U19 ROINN B LGE FINAL	Young Irelands 1-20 Bennettsbridge 0-17
COUNTY JH C'SHIP FINAL	Blacks & Whites 1-17 Windgap 0-17	U19 ROINN C LGE FINAL	St Martin's 1-12 Graignamanagh 1-10
JH C'SHIP SECTION B FINAL	Dicksboro 0-24 James Stephens 1-18	U19 ROINN D LGE FINAL	Emeralds 4-22 John Lockes 1-22
JH C'SHIP SECTION B LGE FINAL	James Stephens 0-22 Lisdowney 1-17	U19 ROINN E LGE FINAL	<i>Combined with Roinn D</i>
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE FINAL	Graignamanagh 2-10 Piltown 1-12	MINOR (U17) HURLING	
JH 'A' C'SHIP FINAL	Thomastown w/o Carrickshock conc.	MINOR "A" C'SHIP FINAL	Dicksboro 3-7 James Stephens 1-12
JH 'B' C'SHIP FINAL	St Martin's 2-15 Conahy Shamrocks 1-11	MINOR "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Thomastown 4-17 Rower Inistioge 1-10
JH 'C' C'SHIP FINAL	Emeralds 1-18 Piltown 1-11	MINOR "C" C'SHIP FINAL	St Lachtain's 1-11 Emeralds 0-13
JH 'D' C'SHIP FINAL	Mooncoin 3-20 Lisdowney 2-18	MINOR "A" LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 5-14 Young Irelands 1-3
JH 'E' C'SHIP FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 0-14 Mooncoin 1-7	MINOR "B" LEAGUE FINAL	St Martin's 3-13 Thomastown 0-15
JH 'F' C'SHIP FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 2-12 Mullinavat 2-7	MINOR "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Burren Rangers 5-10 Tullaroan 4-7
JH 'A' LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 1-20 Young Irelands 1-13	U15 HURLING	
JH 'B' LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 2-12 St Martin's 1-14	U15 "A" C'SHIP FINAL	Dicksboro 1-12 James Stephens 0-10
JH 'C' LEAGUE FINAL	Emeralds 4-18 Piltown 0-12	U15 "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Thomastown 6-12 Graigue Ballycallan 3-10
JH 'D' LEAGUE FINAL	St Martin's 2-18 Lisdowney 2-17	U15 "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Emeralds 2-16 Conahy Shamrocks 2-6
JH 'E' LEAGUE FINAL	Piltown 2-16 Dunnamaggin 2-15	U15 "A" LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 3-23 Erin's Own 2-14
JH 'F' LEAGUE FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 5-14 St Lachtain's 2-20	U15 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 7-12 Graigue Ballycallan 2-17
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE (Fennelly Cup)	Emeralds 5-18 James Stephens 1-18	U15 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Mt Leinster Rangers 4-12 Bagenalstown Galeis 3-4
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE (Cahill Cup)	Blacks & Whites 0-24 Windgap 3-12	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 1 (PADDY GRACE CUP) FINAL	James Stephens 2-10 Dunnamaggin 0-3
U21 HURLING 2021		FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 2 FINAL	Thomastown 3-6 Glenmore 1-7
U21 ROINN A FINAL	Dicksboro 1-24 Shamrocks Ballyhale 2-12	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 3 FINAL	Mullinavat 3-8 Kilmacow 1-5
U21 ROINN B FINAL	Erin's Own 4-11 Lisdowney 2-8	U15 13-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIP	Danesfort 2-13 John Lockes 1-6
U21 ROINN C FINAL	Kilmacow 2-14 Galmoy Windgap 2-12	U13 HURLING	
U21 ROINN D FINAL	Carrickshock 2-17 St Patrick's 0-4	U13 "A" C'SHIP FINAL	James Stephens 5-9 John Lockes 4-7
U21 ROINN E FINAL	Emeralds 0-16 Tullaroan 2-8	U13 "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Mullinavat 1-18 Carrickshock 1-12
		U13 "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Clara 1-13 St Lachtain's 0-14



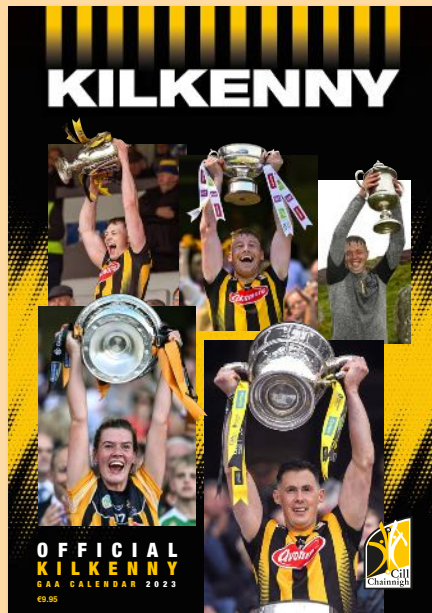
U13 HURLING CONTD		U13 FOOTBALL CONTD	
U13 13/ASIDE C'SHIP FINAL	John Lockes 5-9 Young Irelands 0-3	U13F "A" LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 5-10 John Lockes 3-4
U13 "A" LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 2-13 Dicksboro 2-9	U13 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Not Completed
U13 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Mullinavat 5-10 Carrickshock 3-9	U13 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Not Completed
U13 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Clara 7-13 Emeralds 2-6	<b>FOOTBALL</b>	
U13 13/ASIDE LEAGUE FINAL	John Lockes 5-5 Dicksboro 1-4	SF C'SHIP FINAL	Mullinavat 1-12 Thomastown 0-8
<b>U13 FOOTBALL</b>		IF C'SHIP FINAL	Erin's Own 2-6 Glenmore 0-6
U13F "A" FINAL	Dicksboro 5-6 O'Loughlin Gaels 3-5	JF C'SHIP FINAL	Barrow Rangers 2-5 Graignamanagh 2-4
U13F "B" FINAL	Glenmore 5-7 Galmoy/Windgap 6-2	SF LEAGUE FINAL	Mullinavat 1-7 Dicksboro 1-1
U13F "C" FINAL	Tullaroan 2-9 St Lachtain's 0-8	IF LEAGUE FINAL	Not Completed
		JF LEAGUE FINAL	Graignamanagh 2-9 Fenians 2-1

The Official Kilkenny GAA Calendar is now on sale throughout the county in all usual outlets. It costs €9.95 and would make a wonderful gift or Christmas present for someone you know.

Also a reminder that the 2023 GAA Championship will shortly commence, now is the perfect time to join or indeed rejoin our Kilkenny supporters club. The supporters club provide a valuable income stream for our teams throughout the year and your support is needed this year more than any other.

You can join online or by contacting any committee member. Membership costs €20.

## THE OFFICIAL KILKENNY GAA CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE



### KILKENNY GAA SUPPORTERS CLUBS

#### KILKENNY BRANCH

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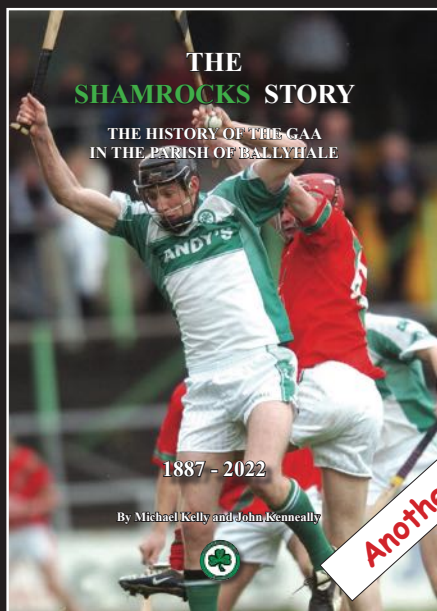
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## SHAMROCK'S 50TH!

To celebrate the story of Ballyhale GAA since the 1880's, and on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Shamrocks Club, *The Shamrocks Story* records the history of the parish in a 416 page record of the exploits of Knockmoylan, Knocktopher and Ballyhale over 140 years.

A great read for all Ballyhale people and Gaels everywhere.

**Only €20.**



Another job for Santy!