

**Issue:** June 2023

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**AGM - Kilkenny Supporters Club (Dublin Branch).**

Main Points of AGM 2022 held on 5 April 2023 in the Academy Plaza Hotel:

Chairman's Report

Niall Butler, Chairman, welcomed members and opened the AGM with a moments silence and condolences to family and friends of deceased members and well wishes to those who are recovering from poor health. The attendance of PJ Kenny, Chairperson, and Barry Hickey, Treasurer, Kilkenny GAA County Board was acknowledged.

Niall reflected on a successful year for Kilkenny GAA. The senior hurlers completed three titles in a row in Leinster before losing narrowly to Limerick in the All-Ireland Final. The camogie team were All-Ireland champions again.

The Under-20 hurlers also won All-Ireland honours, as did the footballers in the Junior Championship. Ballyhale Shamrocks bounced back from the disappointment of 2022 to regain the All-Ireland title, their ninth. Niall extended a warm welcome to all new members and expressed his gratitude to the Committee for their work during the year, with particular thanks to Dermot Hearne whose work on the Newsletter is vital and hugely appreciated by members. Niall finished by recognising the accomplishments of Brian Cody, expressing an appreciation for the partnership over his tenure and an appreciation that Brian readily supported club events.

Financial Report

Seamus O'Neill, Treasurer, reported on a busy year. The Club supported all Kilkenny teams who played in Dublin, at a cost of over €20,000. The senior hurlers and camogie teams holiday funds were supported and new communication equipment was purchased for the use of the management team on matchdays. The Golf Classic, our principal fundraiser, was again successful. Looking forward, Seamus noted that increasing costs will prove challenging and the Club is planning to develop new sources of finance. Funds on hand at the end of the financial year were in excess of €12,500. However, the carryover amount is distorted by savings during COVID and it has been agreed that reserves will fund championship round robin away expenses in addition to Dublin based expenses for 2023.

Membership

Jim Dunne and John Mooney, Membership Secretaries, reported on a solid year. Membership is stable and online membership continues to grow. All members are encouraged to promote the club to potential new members.

Elections

The 2023 Committee, including Officers, are: Chairman: Niall Butler; Vice-Chairman: Kevin Houlihan; Secretary: Michael Dowling; Treasurer: Seamus O'Neill; PRO: Dermot Hearne; Membership Secretaries: Jim Dunne and John Mooney. Committee: Kay Cannon, Lar Carroll, Jane Lynam-Treanor, John Nolan, Jim Staunton, Eamonn Purcell and Sean Maher.

### Guest Speakers

PJ Kenny, Kilkenny County Board Chairperson, thanked the Club and members for their support in 2022. PJ recognised the outstanding contribution of Brian Cody who had retired as Manager of the Senior hurlers after 24 seasons.

Brian's record of achievement and promotion of hurling throughout the country will never be equalled.

PJ thanked Jimmy Walsh, Conor Denieffe and Paul Fitzgerald who had retired from the County Executive in line with the five-year rule. Barry Hickey continues as Treasurer, Jim Fennelly is Vice-Chairperson, Seamus Reade Secretary and Mary Morgan PRO.

The management teams for 2023 are under the leadership of Derek Lyng (Senior hurling), Mark Dowling (Under 20s), Niall Bergin (Minor), Brian Dowling (Camogie) and Christy Walsh (Football).

Barry Hickey, County Board Treasurer, gave an update on the finances. As with every voluntary organization, increasing costs are a challenge. The costs of preparing teams for All-Ireland Finals is considerable and the reduction of the interval between to semi-final and final gives rise to additional difficulties.

The County Board is continually upgrading pitches and facilities in the county and demand for pitches has accelerated in recent years with the growth of games in all codes.

Barry thanked the Dublin Club for its continuing support.

### **Leinster GAA Senior Hurling Championship 2023**

The Leinster Championship 2023 was played on a Round Robin basis with Kilkenny having three home games and two away games – the home/away ratio shall rotate every other year so next year Kilkenny will have 3 away and two home matches.

#### **Final Table**

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	SF	SA	Diff	Pts	Qualification
1	 Galway	5	3	2	0	175	116	+59	8	Both counties advanced to Leinster Final which was won by Kilkenny 4-21 to 2-26
2	 Kilkenny	5	3	1	1	163	120	+43	7	
3	 Dublin	5	2	2	1	125	117	+8	6	Dublin advanced to the All-Ireland preliminary quarter-finals where they defeated Carlow 0-21 to 2-25 and next face Clare in the quarter final.
4	 Wexford	5	2	0	3	137	141	-4	4	
5	 Antrim	5	1	1	3	141	167	-26	3	
6	 Westmeath (R)	5	1	0	4	93	173	-80	2	Relegation to Joe McDonagh Cup

### **Leinster GAA Hurling Senior Championship - Final**

The Leinster Senior Hurling Final had an attendance of 24,483 in Croke Park to witness the ebb and flow of what turned out to be a close and exciting encounter, particularly at the dramatic

closing stages. In the end, Kilkenny defeated Galway by just one point on a score-line of 4-21 to 2-26 on the back of a last gasp goal by super sub Cillian Buckley.



Having won this competition for the 75th time, Kilkenny now have achieved four Leinster titles in a row and deservedly booked their berth in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship. For the six members of the panel who were involved in the Ballyhale Shamrocks victory over Dunloy in the All Ireland Senior Club final the Leinster win bags them a second 2023 medal.

Kilkenny's Semi Final will be in Croke Park on Sunday July 9th. Ticket application details will be circulated to members in advance.

## Results

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

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

## Membership Drive 2023

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

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

Revolut –

The membership rate for 2023 remains €25. Online renewal is once again possible via the

Following

link:

[https://member.clubforce.com/memberships\\_cart\\_m.asp?LL\\_ID=175&intMF\\_ID=10071#Anchor](https://member.clubforce.com/memberships_cart_m.asp?LL_ID=175&intMF_ID=10071#Anchor)

We can also facilitate members that wish to pay their membership directly to the club via Revolut to our Treasurer Seamus O Neill (087 2234789) - please include your name in the message.

## Bereavements

Sincere condolences to the families and friends of all those, in any way associated with our club, who passed away recently. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

## Hurlers Co-op Draw 2023



Pictured above at the Launch of the 2023 Hurlers Co-op Draw in UPMC Nowlan Park: Barry Hickey (Treasurer), Mary Morgan (PRO), PJ Kenny (Chairman), Gerri Hickey (Draw Coordinator), Seamus Reade (Secretary), Brian Cody.

As the draw enters its 41st year, special guest, Brian Cody, addressed the meeting about the value of the draw to our clubs and county over the past 40 years.

Supporters Club members who won prizes in the 2022 draws were Luke & Jodie Nolan, Anne Tierney, Regina Dunne and John & Mary Nolan.

The club sold in excess of **200 tickets** for this year's draw and 2023 got off to a great start with **James Cody from the Supporters Club winning 4<sup>th</sup> prize in Draw No 1.** Congratulations to James.

### Club Golf Classic 2023



Our annual golf classic took place at Killeen Golf Club on Friday 19th May 2023. Twenty one teams contributed making this a successful and enjoyable day's golf for all participants. The organising committee would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all who participated and supported the event. We wish to thank those who sponsored teams and those who sponsored holes.

Killeen Golf Club richly deserve our gratitude for the pristine condition of the course and their help and cooperation, all of which contributed greatly to the success of the event.

We would also like to congratulate the winners detailed below as follows:

**1st Prize:** Niall Butler's team comprising Keith Taite, Donal McGovern, Patrick McCormack and Niall Butler with 96 points

**2nd Prize:** Eddie Nolan's team comprising Paul Hanly, Ian Munnely, Eoin Redmond and Nicky Walsh with 93 points

**3rd Prize:** Poitin Still team comprising David Mooney, Willie Buckley, Wayne Kelly and Stephen Gamble with 90 points {48 on back nine}

**4th Prize:** Jim Staunton's team comprising Pat Norton, Joe O'Neill, John O'Rourke and John Grant with 90 points [46 on back nine]

**Longest Drive:** Donal McGovern

**Nearest the Pin:** Paddy Brady

Teams participating on the day were as follows:

Seamus O'Neill The Poitin Stil Michael Kinsella Pat Gannon Michael Dillon Declan Butler  
Pat Power Kilkenny Co. Board Jim Staunton Willie Grant Security Central Cathal Jackson  
John Nolan Jim Dunne Michael Murray Seanie Maher Academy Hotel Eddie Nolan  
Mick Butler Niall Butler John Mooney Luke Bird.

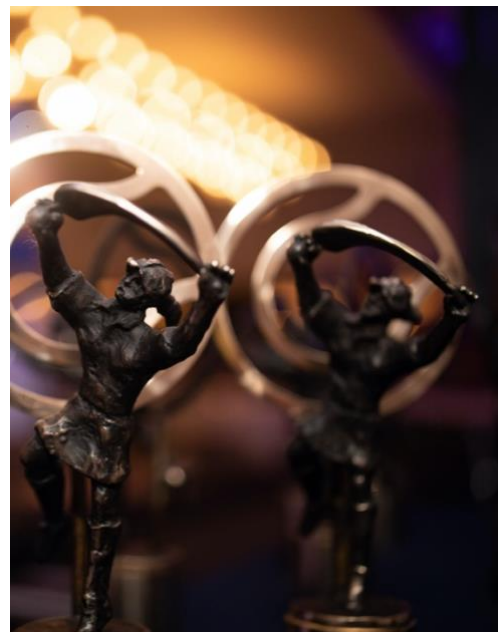
## Camogie News

Congratulations to the Kilkenny ladies, who deservedly captured 8 places on the 2022 PwC Camogie All-Star selection. Congratulations also to Miriam Walsh who collected the PwC GPA Camogie Senior Player of the Year and to team manager Brian Dowling, who was named as PwC Camogie Manager of the Year for the second time having guided Kilkenny to All-Ireland victory in 2020 and 2022.

### 2022 PwC Camogie All-Star Winners



1. **Aoife Norris (Kilkenny)**
2. Libby Coppinger (Cork)
3. **Grace Walsh (Kilkenny)**
4. Shauna Healy (Galway)
5. **Laura Murphy (Kilkenny)**
6. **Claire Phelan (Kilkenny)**
7. Saoirse McCarthy (Cork)
8. Ashling Thompson (Cork)
9. Lorraine Bray (Waterford)
10. **Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)**
11. Beth Carton (Waterford)
12. **Julianne Malone (Kilkenny)**
13. **Katie Nolan (Kilkenny)**
14. **Miriam Walsh (Kilkenny)**
15. Katriona Mackey (Cork)



Senior All-Ireland Senior champions Kilkenny will have been left disappointed after they let slip a 10 point lead to draw with Wexford at UPMC Nowlan Park in their opening Group 2 Senior Glen Dimplex championship clash. They will next face Dublin and Tipperary in their remaining Group 2 fixtures.

### Group 2 Fixtures 2023

Date	Throw-in	Team 1	Score	Score	Team 2	Venue	Referee
10/06/2023	5:00 pm	Tipperary	2.19	1.06	Dublin	The Ragg	Liz Dempsey
10/06/2023	6:00 pm	<b>Kilkenny</b>	1.17	3.11	Wexford	UPMC Nowlan Park	Andy Larkin
24/06/2023	4:00 pm	Wexford	--	--	Tipperary	Bellefield	John Dermody
24/06/2023	2:00 pm	Dublin	--	--	<b>Kilkenny</b>	Parnell Park	Eamon Cassidy
01/07/2023	6:00 pm	<b>Kilkenny</b>	--	--	Tipperary	UPMC Nowlan Park	Ray Kelly
01/07/2023	6:00 pm	Dublin	--	--	Wexford		John Dermody



## The GAA Referee

The referee, four umpires and two linemen are entrusted with the responsibility for the control of GAA games, with a Side-line (4<sup>th</sup>) Official appointed for all Inter-County Senior games. Whilst the other officials work to support the referee in the course of their respective roles and in accordance with GAA Rules, the weight of responsibility for a fixture lays firmly on the shoulders of the referee.



Under GAA rules, the role of the Referee is to: *“Apply the rules in order to create conditions for our Games to be played well. The rules spell out the conditions for our Games to be played well; the proper application of the rules creates these conditions.”*

The GAA Referee Handbook sets out the 4 Principles of Refereeing as Fitness, Knowledge of the Rules, Respect and Communication and Consistency.

Over the course of a game, the referee, who is generally older, will be required to cover more ground than individual players. Players are constantly striving to be the stronger, faster, better and fitter, thereby, the referee also needs to be fit. On top of keeping up with high intensity play for the full course of a game, which may include extra-time, the referee has to be at the right place to make quality and correct split second decisions whilst maintaining concentration for the full duration of the game.

That doesn't happen without commitment and preparation. The GAA has a range of training and information programmes and resources in place to promote and assess referee performance. These mandatory programmes are devised to dovetail high levels of fitness with decision making based on the encyclopaedic knowledge of the rules as appropriate to the role and level. Rule books are distributed each year from County Boards and are also available on-line. Attendance at In-Service Seminars and other meetings is essential for continued development and in order to improve consistency of rule application.

Being a good communicator and being respectful towards players and other are important qualities for a referee. In practice, showing respect and communicating their decisions in a clear and concise fashion will help the referee to keep control and avoid players becoming unnecessarily confused and frustrated.

Whilst a referee will be expected to know the Rules, it's of utmost importance that they are clear in applying them as consistently as possible. A lack of consistency in the application of rules is an area that frustrates players, members of team management, officials and supporters and may lead to problems in maintaining control of a game.

So what does the Referee actually do? The answer will vary with regards to the standard and level of the fixture. Under age fixtures will obviously be less demanding than games at a higher or top level. Focusing on referees at the top level of the GAA, here, the roles and responsibilities of the referee will typically start before match time and even matchday. First and foremost the referee will have to be a member of a club and suitably qualified/approved by county (or HQ) administrators for the role. Prior to every fixture, there's the duty of the referee to have a team of umpires appointed/in place. Umpires may be family members, club colleagues or friends. It's in

their powers of the referee, as we sometime witness, to over-rule the decision of an umpire (or linesman). Not always an easy feat considering that the umpire could be the person driving, on the referee's journey home!.

Preparation is key, the GAA Referee Handbook provides an insight where it lists the following regime of checks and steps to be followed by a referee.

### Before the game

- Check your kit. Have a checklist:
- Jersey, Shorts, Socks, Boots
- Whistle, Pencils, Stop-watch, Coin, Match Insert
- Referee's Wallet incl. Yellow and Red Cards
- Arrive at the ground at least one hour before throw-in, taking into account possible traffic problems. Check that the pitch is playable and properly marked.
- Brief Umpires and Linesmen regarding their duties, powers and responsibilities.
- Arrive on the pitch together, fifteen minutes before the starting time of the game.
- Record the time that each team takes the field.
- Receive duplicate lists of players, sign them in Irish and give one copy to the opposing captains.
- Toss a coin for choice of ends. Ensure you are warmed-up and focused come throw-in.
- Start the game at the appointed time.
- Be courteous and respectful to all players and officials.

### During the game

- Referee the game in accordance with the Playing Rules.
- Record the score, taking care that each score is attributed to the correct team.
- Manage time correctly, ensuring that the watch is stopped for incidental/deliberate delays.
- Remain alert, even during a break in play. Consult with other match officials when necessary.
- Demonstrate decisions clearly and confidently.
- Be courteous and respectful to all players and officials.

### After the game

- Complete a light cool-down to help avoid stiffness and injury.
- Be courteous and respectful to all players and officials.
- Complete and return the Referee's Report to the Committee-in-charge within 24 hours.
- Clarify the report as may be required by the Committee-in-charge.
- Do not make any comment on disciplinary issues or follow-on Committee decisions.

But even when the job is being done, or is done, it's never really done with. The infamous hurler on the ditch, the excitable parent or sibling, the keyboard warrior or the scribe with a sharp pen are generally at the ready to voice their criticism. This may merit some justification at times but in reality, no official goes onto a pitch wanting to make a mistake. Social media and modern day punditry has added a layer to the scrutiny, particularly at the top level. Coupled with technology, this enables the analysis and dissection through replays of split second decisions, made in the cut and thrust of high intensity action, by experts from the comfort of a stand or studio.

The Referee's Handbook Regime obliges a referee to 'Be courteous and respectful to all players and officials' Before, During and After the Game. Sadly, this is not always reciprocated. During and maybe after a fixture, players, team management and spectators can be vocal and at times, let their displeasure be known loudly, following refereeing decisions. Sadly, displeasure with decisions has on too many occasions, resulted in a physical assault on the referee, doing what could be fairly described as a tough enough job in the first instance. In addition to referees suffering the cocktail

of verbal and physical abuse, family members have increasingly been subjected to threats and ridicule also. A survey in 2021 by the School of Psychology from University of Ulster showed that 94.29 per cent of 438 GAA referees surveyed experienced verbal abuse, with 23.06 per cent reporting physical abuse. The survey and an interview with one of the authors, Noel Brick, is on the GAA website, to access, [click here](#).

Fines against clubs and the docking of points sends a message, involvement of An Garda Síochána and the criminal justice system send another. Attacks and threats have been a cause for concern for some time now and have been discussed at the highest level in the GAA and at Government level. Discussions have taken place with Sport Ireland to examine what actions can be taken to drive a culture change and tackle abuse aimed at referees in particular. The Minister for Sport recently stated that it is “incumbent on sporting organisations to ensure incidents are dealt with strongly and appropriately and that a safe environment is provided for referees, officials and players”.

So why do Referees do the job? ... staying involved in GAA when a playing career has ended, a love for the game, taking the opportunity to give back....a chance perhaps to referee a tournament, a county final or maybe an All-Ireland Final in front of a bumper crowd in Croke Park... who knows! One thing for sure, every referee at every level and every GAA panel is owed a debt of gratitude, and our appreciation, for taking on the role.

Hopefully this glimpse at the ‘Referee’ through this article, based around information from the GAA Referee Handbook, will serve to shed some light on the level of responsibility, commitment and dedication shouldered by those among us who dedicate their time and efforts to ‘*Apply the rules in order to create conditions for our Games to be played well*’.

To access the Referee Handbook on the GAA website [click here](#)

### **Give Respect – Get Respect**

The Give Respect – Get Respect initiative is an awareness campaign that seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner and where **Players, Coaches, Spectators** and **Referees** Give Respect – Get Respect from each other.

The **RESPECT** campaign applies at all levels and amongst all players regardless of age, sex, competition or ability. The key participants in the Give Respect – Get Respect campaign are not just the Players themselves but Coaches, Clubs, Parents, Referees and Supporters.

The GAA Give Respect – Get Respect initiative promotes the rights, dignity and worth of each person regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

To access the GAA referees resource page on the Kilkenny GAA website [click here](#)





## Membership Survey

**Aim:** To plan what we do in line with what our members need/want.

**Objective:** to gauge satisfaction in what we do and to discover new ideas and opportunities for the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club to meet member's needs.



Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club (Dublin Branch) greatly appreciate the continued support of the membership towards the development and preparedness of Kilkenny's hurling and camogie teams. This support has enabled the club to direct contributions toward training funds, Dublin based hotel / meal expenses and club All Ireland campaigns. Equally, we look to provide members with timely team updates, novel communications and scheduling various social events.

Building upon the great legacy of the Brian Cody era and emergence from COVID, the club reached out to our members to garner feedback and to establish if there are aspects about the club which we do well, anything we could do better and just as important, something we are not doing.

The committee wish to thank those who responded and provided us with a wide range of answers and ideas as to how we can further strengthen our club offerings and ambitions.

## Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of GAA in Scotland

A Chairde Gael



This message is one of special thanks to the many counties, supporters, and friends for their support throughout this very special 125th Anniversary year for Scotland GAA. Our County PRO has prepared a great tribute to the GAA in the past and we look forward to continuing to work constructively with you as our Twinning partner as we look to a bright future based on our constantly evolving infrastructure.

The first recorded GAA Club in Scotland was established in Glasgow's East End in 1897, and we have sought to celebrate this 125 year milestone throughout 2022. During 2022 we have reflected with pride on all the great things that the GAA has brought to Scotland over these 125 years. In our 125 year history we are aware of the great debt of gratitude we owe to all of those who have contributed to Scotland GAA and Irish culture.

People from every County in Ireland without exception, and those beyond, have played their part as we have benefited from players, coaches, mentors, visiting teams, sponsors, volunteer helpers and University students. We want to acknowledge and build on these wonderful contributions and sacrifices over generations.

We have begun to prepare an illustrated history of Scotland GAA and will include an inventory of players who played GAA in Scotland so we will follow up with every County in Ireland and indeed the Clubs in due course, so would deeply appreciate if you could share this message and attachment with your Clubs.

In the meantime, our pledge to you is that we will continue to provide a home from home for everyone who comes to Scotland in pursuit of their work, career or education – they will find our GAA family to be welcoming, warm and hospitable and their contribution will be embraced and warmly appreciated.

Le buiochas agus le meas, Peadar O Maolmona, Cathaoirleach, CLG Na hAlban

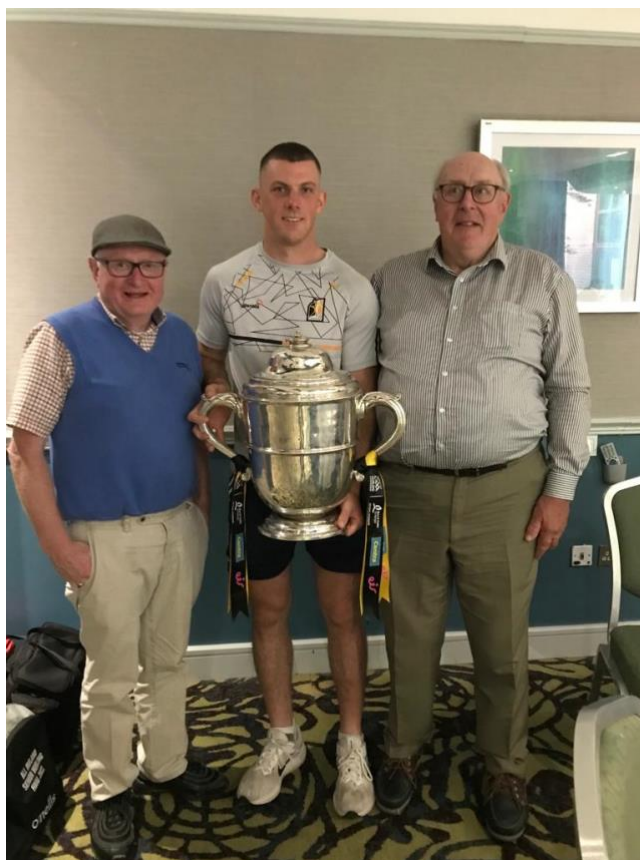
(Peter Mossey, Chairperson, Scotland County Board)

### Test your knowledge with this month's GAA Quiz!



- Q1.** Who is the last man to referee both the senior hurling and football All Ireland finals in the same year?
- Q2.** Who Captained Wexford when they won their last national Hurling league title?
- Q3.** Give the year, the finalist, and the scores, from the only occasion that a senior hurling all Ireland, final was won without the winners scoring a point?
- Q4.** Who was the first man to win All Ireland hurling medals at two different grades in the one year?
- Q5.** What Tipperary hurler of the 40s was known as "the rubber man"?
- Q6.** Name the two former GAA presidents who refereed all Ireland senior Hurling finals?
- Q7.** Who was the man who played for Leinster in the Railway Cup hurling and football games on the same day in 1950?
- Q8.** In what year, and at what Congress venue, was the Ban removed?
- Q9.** Who captained the Leinster team that defeated Munster in the 1941 Railway Cup hurling final?
- Q10.** Can you remember the Galway full forward line from the 1975, All Ireland Senior Hurling final against Kilkenny?
- Q11.** Can you remember to Kilkenny full forward line from the 1964 All Ireland senior hurling final against Tipperary?

## Images for the Archives



Club President Eddie Nolan and Joint Membership Secretary John Mooney flank Kilkenny Captain Eoin Cody with the Bob O’Keeffe Trophy after the Leinster Final victory over Galway.



TJ obliging each and all of the great many autograph hunters following the Antrim game in Corrigan Park.

**GAA Quiz - Answers**

**A1:** Jimmy Hatton of Wicklow. The year was 1966.

**A2:** John Quigley (Rathnure) in 1973.

**A3:** In 1910 Wexford 7-0 Limerick 6-2

**A4:** Ned Wade with Tipperary at minor and junior levels in 1930.

**A5:** Tommy Doyle

**A6:** J.J. Stuart (1943) and Con Murphy (1948 and 1950).

**A7:** Wexford's Nicky Rackard

**A8:** in 1971 and at Queens University, Belfast

**A9:** Bob Hinks of Kilkenny

**A10:** Marty Barrett, P.J. Qualter and Pádraig Fahy.

**A11:** Tom Walsh, Tom Forristal and Fr. Tom Murphy.

END OF NEWSLETTER