

Remembering **KILKENNY**
ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1974/1975



Luach
€3

Souvenir Booklet recalling Kilkenny 1974/75 All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship victories, on the occasion of the teams' reception by Coiste Co Chill Chainnigh, at the 2024 County SH Final. Nowlan Park, October 27th, 2024



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FÁILTE

Tá athas an domhain orm, ar son Cumann Luthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh, to welcome in conjunction with the Lyrath Estate Hotel, the Fenians side who were the 3-in-a-row Senior Hurling Champions from 1972 to 1974 to today's St Canice's Credit Union Senior County Final in UPMC Nowlan Park.



Fenians GAA Club was founded in 1968 with the coming together of the two clubs in the Johnstown Parish, St Kieran's and St Finbarr's. There was instant success with the Fenians winning the 1968 Junior Final by defeating Glenmore. Their success at Senior was staggering. The Fenians competed in six Senior County finals in a row. Of those six finals, three were against Bennettsbridge and three against James Stephens. Their maiden Senior final in 1969 ended in a loss to James Stephens but, in 1970, they turned the tables on their rivals James Stephens, and secured their first Senior title. In 1971 they would lose to that great Bennettsbridge side. However, over the next three years, the Fenians proved victorious and joined Mooncoin, Carrickshock and, much later, Shamrocks Ballyhale, as one of only four clubs to achieve a 3-in-a-row.

The first final in 1972 saw the Fenians reverse the 1971 loss against Bennettsbridge. On Sunday 19th October 1972 on a wet and windy day, the Fenians, inspired by County players Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney were triumphant on a scoreline of 3-10 to 1-6.

In 1973, the Fenians defeated James Stephens in an enthralling Final. The Fenians looked to be in trouble at half time, trailing by 4-6 to 2-2 but showed the customary Fenians fighting spirit to overcome their rivals by 7-8 to 5-10 in the end.

The Fenians completed the 3-in-a-row in 1974, overcoming Bennettsbridge in atrocious weather conditions by 0-10 to 0-6. Between 1977 and 1981, the Fenians would compete in three more finals, winning the 1977 final against the Rower Inistioge.

The 1974 team would later create history by becoming the first Kilkenny club to win a Leinster Senior Hurling Club Final by beating St Rynagh's of Offaly by 2-6 to 1-6 in the final but unfortunately, they lost the All-Ireland Club Final to Cork powerhouse St Finbarr's by 3-8 to 1-6.

It was no coincidence that the golden period with Fenians GAA club was also mirrored at County level with Fenians players playing prominent roles in the County's success between the years 1969 and 1975.

I extend Mile Buiochas to the Lyrath Estate Hotel and their Manager, Emma Jane Eaton, for honouring the Jubilee team who will be guests of honour with their partners at a celebration dinner and will be provided with a special memento of the occasion. Thanks also to Gerry O'Neill and Mary Morgan for their work in researching and producing this souvenir booklet.

The 3-in-a-row was an outstanding achievement for a small rural club and, to this day, the club has maintained that great fighting spirit and contributed so much to Kilkenny Hurling both on and off the field.



'Lyrath Estate are delighted to sponsor the presentation to today's special guests the Fenians Senior Hurling Teams of 1972, 1973 and 1974. who won the County Senior Hurling Title three years in a row over 50 years ago. The teams, along with the officers of Kilkenny GAA County Board, will be honoured at a special Dinner later this evening as guests of Lyrath Estate. This final is always a highlight on our calendar, and as a proud GAA woman myself I love getting to be a part of the big day and share in the celebrations! Best of luck to the entire group and hope their reunion will be a memorable



KILKENNY - 1974 ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS

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.



MAGNIFICENT HENDERSON

KEHER THE BANKER!

KILKENNY TAKE CROWN BACK

KILKENNY 3-19, LIMERICK 1-1

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 Noremen 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 three of them were superlative efforts that franked the claims of his admirers that the Banker from the Rower Inistiogue 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 him, 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 work-horse, 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 Noreside line-out.

Certainly those who feared that Pat Henderson was fading from his own 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



Padraig Puirseal

Reports . . .

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, 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.

But it was nip and tuck through

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 en-tirely 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).

Facts And Figures

KILKENNY					
	Gls.	Pts.	70's	Wides	Frees
First Half	3	7	1	9	13
Second Half	0	12	1	9	8
TOTAL	3	19	2	18	21
LIMERICK					
	Gls.	Pts.	70's	Wides	Frees
First Half	1	9	1	7	11
Second Half	0	4	3	10	12
TOTAL	1	13	4	17	23

● 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.

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.

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); Ml 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) Captaln, 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. Fitzmaurici (Killeady) for McKenna.

Referee – J. Moloney (Tipperary).

KILKENNY

"PADDY GRACE (Co- Secretary)—It was got a great game to watch, but Noel Skehan, Pat Henderson end 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."

What They Said

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."



Captain Nicky Orr raises the McCarthy Cup



LIMERICK 1973 ALL-IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS

**Richie Bennis, Liam O'Donoghue, Jim O'Brien, Pat Hartigan, Joe McKenna, Eamonn Cregan, Willie Moore, Ned Rea
Front: Seán Foley, Mossy Dowling, Bernie Hartigan, Eamonn Grimes, Phil Bennis, Frankie Nolan, and Séamus Horgan.**

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

Enda McEvoy

"Oh, lovely fielding by Brian Cody! What a wonderful young hurler he is! And here comes Michael Crotty...And this is Eddie Keher...And that's a goal!"

(Micheál O'Hehir, September 7th 1975)

The recent passing of Mick Crotty triggered a multitude of tributes, all of them richly merited. It also prompted the following thought. The 1970s were, as we know, a golden era for Kilkenny, the like of it unseen since the '30s. (One All Ireland triumph in the '40s, remember. One in the '50s.) At the outset of the decade, however, a haul of four MacCarthy Cups in the space of eight years was no inevitability. What ensued did so largely because men like the James Stephens stalwart made it happen.

Crotty wasn't a superstar and he didn't try to be. Instead he was one of the men who allowed the superstars do their stuff. Those guys matter too; the spoons that stir the tea. If he didn't do a huge amount of scoring, that didn't matter because it wasn't his job. He won the ball and passed it to lads – Eddie Keher, Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney - who did score. Just for the record, he hit 0-5 against Galway that day in 1975 on top of the assist for Keher.

A chap called Pat O'Connor may have captured it best with his words on RIP.ie. Reminiscing about his 1970s childhood he wrote: "Keher, Delaney and Purcell were on everyone's lips as the star men but Mick Crotty was the bee's knees as far as this young boy was concerned. His bravery, strength and unselfishness set him apart and he remains one of my great Kilkenny hurling heroes all these years later." Perfect.

A Cork championship winner with UCC in 1969, perhaps the

most treasured component of Crotty's medal haul arrived in 1976 when James Stephens



floored Blackrock in the All Ireland club final. They were the first club from Leinster, never mind from Noreside, to lift the trophy. "Five points down after three minutes in the spills of rain in Thurles. I didn't think we had a hope in hell."

Onto the more important stuff. Mick Crotty the human being. Evelyn, who he married on July 30th 1975 smack in the middle of the championship (those were the days), was his greatest match. Paddy, Kathryn, Michael, Olivia and James couldn't have wished for a better dad. Do a word cloud of those recent tributes and "gentleman" would lead the field. No surprise.

Mick was kind, droll, low-key, self-effacing and great company. Definitely self-effacing; check out his take on his equalising point in the 1972 Leinster final: "The reason I put it over the bar was that I didn't get a chance to look." Or what about Seamus Horgan's match-turning save from his palmed effort in the 1973 All Ireland decider? "Limerick deserved it on the day. But years later you could be in the pub and at half-past ten you'd have lads telling you that you were great. By ten to 12 they're saying, 'Do you remember that ball against Limerick..?' They always wait for an hour before they bring that one up."

The bee's knees in every way.



KILKENNY



Noel Skehan



Fan Larkin



Nicky Orr (C)



Jim Treacy



Pat Lawlor



Pat Henderson



Tom McCormack



Liam O'Brien



Frank Cummins



Mick Crotty



Pat Delaney



Billy Fitzpatrick



Mick Brennan



Kieran Purcell



Eddie Keher



FIR IONAIÐ

16 PJ Ryan

17 Brian Cody

18 Nicky Brennan

19 Gene Murphy

20 Billy Harte

21 Seamus Delaney

Management Team:

Mnsgr Tommy Maher

Paul Skehan (Fenians)

Sean Leahy (James

Stephens)

John McGovern

(Bennettsbridge)

Dick Dunphy (Mooncoin)

Mick O'Neill

(Cathaoirleach)

Mick Lanigan (Trainer)



FIR IONAI D

- 16 Paddy Kelly
- 17 Jim O'Donnell
- 18 Phil Bennis
- 19 Willie Conway
- 20 Paudie Fitzmaurice
- 21 Mike Lundun

MANAGEMENT:
Manager - Mickey Cregan

LIMERICK



Seamus Horgan



Willie Moore



Pat Hartigan



Jim O'Brien



Tom Ryan



Eamon Cregan



Sean Foley (C)



Bernie Hartigan



Eamon Grimes



Joe McKenna



Richie Bennis



Matt Ruth



Liam O'Donoghue



Ned Rea



Frankie Nolan

Uninspired Galway flounder in most sections

PER SHOWY KILKENNY SIDE

By John D. Hickey

Kilkenny 2-22
Galway 1-19

THE all-Ireland senior hurling championship final which title holders Kilkenny caused to a 2-22 to 1-19 triumph over Galway at Croke Park yesterday was for me—as I am sure it is for all neutrals—a sandwich both unimpressive and uninspired. One says sandwich because the almost eerie pre-match atmosphere was more becalmed than the day; most of the 70 minutes a stark portrait of the inevitability of the outcome and the aftermath scene uncharacteristically serene.

Such was the staid quality of the enclosure before the battle was joined that it was hard to imagine that this was all-Ireland day. Kilkenny was the first to come out, took the field to applause as fast as if their followers no longer looked glamour in their emergence.

The cheer which greeted Galway, was ringing by comparison, but it was very many decibels below what one anticipated from a county which had won a part of all-Ireland hurling day since 1938.

The immediate post-match scene almost startled me so this was the Kilkenny inaction of the pitch. As I looked down even when the gathering had reached its greatest during the presentation of the cup it seemed so small that I wondered if supporters of the victors were sorry that it had been so easy.

Galway never given a chance to make the fantastic start that had astonished them in the all-Ireland semifinal against Cork, had the encouragement of being only one ahead, between the sixteenth and seventeenth minutes and long before the end they were as limp as the overblown champions of hurling men, the knowledge as well as the learning, I expected Kilkenny to receive their first defeat since 1922-23. I had foolishly hoped Galway would be more defiant and adventurous.

Dubious blessing
There is no doubt whatever in one's mind that their faintest wish would be to have been more resolute but instead they were a dubious blessing in the super-charged atmosphere of all-Ireland final. Kilkenny's winning margin was as unimpressive as Galway was the most inflexible of which was astonishingly easy and the partnership of Kilkenny and the many ills which afflicted the losers.

No matter who may affirm that Kilkenny were all out the time I will never accept such a proclamation about a match the first thirty-five minutes of which was astonishingly uncoordinated as to cause me almost to yell it to improve on the recommendation.

There was an uplift in the standard on the restart but unfortunately for Galway, their supporters and the unaccompanied in the attendance, the winners failed to find unimpressed in Kilkenny throwing down the net.

Kilkenny, after having elected to play against the breeze which blew from the East, took and lost the Trolan start on his first attempt all through the game, led by 0-9 to 1-3 at the interval.

At that stage the bottom had fallen out of the match, which later did restore hopes of at least a resting finish, if not quite the faintest hope of a Galway win.

Five minutes into the second half the score stood Kilkenny 1-17; Galway 1-4 and one feared that the winners early 1-3 in that spell might be the end of a rout.

It was some a Galway strategy which brought 1-1 in the space of two minutes and which eventually still remains the challenge to the winners. The score stood 1-12 to 2-5. Subsequently more than a few of the bottom side, notably Joe McDonagh and John O'Connell, seemed to find the necessary key in their hurling. The first after the encouragement of the crowd was that of Joe McDonagh, who scored in the 42nd minute. The score stood 1-13 to 2-5. The final score was Kilkenny 2-22, Galway 1-19.



Kilkenny's Kieran Parnell marks for the ball in determined fashion as Galway's Joe Clarke challenges, supported by Pat Lally during the all-Ireland hurling final at Croke Park yesterday.

FIGURES OF THE GAME

	FIRST HALF				SECOND HALF				TOTALS			
	GA	PK	FT	GOALS	GA	PK	FT	GOALS	GA	PK	FT	GOALS
KILKENNY	1	3	6	9	2	13	6	10	3	16	12	19
GALWAY	1	3	6	9	2	13	6	10	3	16	12	19

The attendance—6,211—was the highest since 1972 when 6,137 saw Kilkenny defeat Cork. Last year's Kilkenny/Limerick decider was watched by 6,071 and 38,000 attended the 1975 final between Limerick and Kilkenny.

Stephens man was he had little to spare over his clubman Fin Larkin, who rendered Galway's danger forward Patrick Fahy almost inconspicuous at it he were at home in Caranmore.

This may not be a new force by 5 feet 11 inches Larkin who, in seemingly identical data, tells us the extent of his stature—and in the evening's about it can see many an argument between James Stephens club members as to whether he or O'Brien led the deepest imprint on the game.

Indeed, the "Willage," which names the James Stephens club is most commonly known as Kilkenny; has good reason to be proud of what was for Kilkenny a day of honour—it brought their first double since 1912-13.

"Willage" Brian Cody, Mick O'Connell and Tom McCormack also contributed handsomely and joyously to the triumph. O'Brien, who was the victor in the first quarter was one of

whose inter-changing with Mick Brennan was almost as frequent as the "musical chairs" that Pat Delaney and Kieran Parnell played had a match the memory of which he will surely always recall with justifiable swelling chest.

But great as that quarter was, this was by no means a five-star triumph. It was fundamentally a team victory as Galway's inequally assured goalkeeper Noel Skehan to see marksmen Eddie Keher at top of the left, there was not a suspicion of weakness in the side.

Pat Lawlor, Pat Henderson, Mickey Orr, Mick Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Pat Delaney and Kieran Parnell will also for many a day be receiving the well earned plaudits of their countrymen.

Team of stars
Kilkenny were, in essence, a team of stars although they never had any reason to feel gravely perturbed by the outcome. Indeed, Galway were well down a grain of comfort from the judgment that there is not now in the same team that can "mix" with the black and amber jerseyed battalion, as unified as if they were a club combination.

It was a surprise for many, myself as much as any man, that Michael Conneely can wash his hands entirely clean of the defeat, and few in the eyes of supporters of the defeated side can be granted that disposition.

The New Inn man did many fine things and a save he brought off from a cannonball delivery by Mick Brennan in the first quarter was one of which

Pre-match teeth extractions no bother for O'Brien

By TOM O'RiORDAN

AT 20 A.M. yesterday morning, just 13 hours before he was due to take the field at Croke Park in the all-Ireland hurling final against Galway, Liam O'Brien was the cause of some concern for the Kilkenny camp.

The great-headed midfielder was at that time receiving doctor's treatment at his home to stop bleeding after the extraction of two painful teeth earlier on Saturday evening.

But not alone did the 26-year-old James Stephens clubman overcome this setback, but proceeded to give a magnificent display. "I ran myself into the ground" was Liam's immediate comment on his side's one-sided success. In fact Liam's nickname, "Chawky," appears to be a little off of place yesterday and indeed "Zatopok O'Brien" would be more fitting on the occasion as he ran a "marathon" throughout the field.

'Expected more'
While Kilkenny will no doubt celebrate for several days their first victory in successive years since 1935, there were expressions of disappointment about Galway's challenge in the end. In O'Brien's words: "We always seemed to be comfortable and quieting during the first half and when we were five points clear, I could not see Galway smug; yes, I was expecting more from Galway."

It was made abundantly clear during the course of the team's dressing-room celebrations that Kilkenny will be back for the historic next year and Eddie Keher, who along with goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, collected their sixth All-Ireland medal yesterday, has absolutely no doubts about



O'BRIEN ... STAR ROLE

retiring: "I'll be out again next season," said a delighted Keher afterwards "but I also expect Galway will be back for it, and I hope to be one of them to win it first year at the top."

Kilkenny used the psychological approach to this game. "Liam O'Brien was saying how easy it would be and we had to work against any complacency seeping through to the players and the fans," explained team trainer, Mick Langan. But Mick's "easy" remark was not meant to be taken as he was responding to their task and added: "Their attack was outstanding and we will always produce results—if you have the talent and the will."

G.A.A. RESULTS

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS
Senior Hurling Final
Kilkenny 2-22 Galway 1-19
Minor Hurling Final
Derry 1-6 Sligo 0-4
All-Ireland Challenge
KILKENNY 2-22 GALWAY 1-19

'The perfect team'
Both Michael O'Neill, the County Chairman, and Father Tommy Maher, coach to the Noviders, expected something more from Galway. However, Father Maher said it would have taken a super team to topple Kilkenny yesterday. "This was the perfect team. It was a question of producing their top form and they would win," said Father Maher.

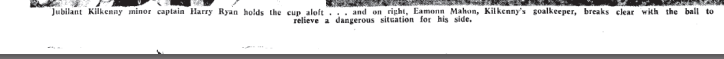
Mick Croft had probably his best game ever in a Kilkenny jersey but may have made such an impact on the game but for the suggestion by Liam Brennan that they switch positions on the right flank of the attack. When Croft moved into the back he faced all kinds of havoc but Mick's spirit didn't falter. "The ball ran kindly for me."

Of the cross to Eddie Keher in the second half for that well worked goal, Mick said: "I spotted Eddie unmarked and just flicked across the backs; it was just like the move last year when Billy Fitzpatrick set up a goal for Mick Brennan."

"Kilkenny are a fantastic team," said a delighted Noel Skehan, who collected three of his six medals in an unbroken run. "I was glad to see 'Chawky' back for the 'strick," added the man from Benbrogagh while Frank Cummins, who earned his fifth medal yesterday, said he was never worried: "We had the upphand all through."

Very disappointed

Of course, Galway were bitterly disappointed. Hardly a whisper was heard in their dressing-room as they flaked out and just flicked across the backs; it was just like the move last year when Billy Fitzpatrick set up a goal for Mick Brennan.



Jubilant Kilkenny minor captain Harry Ryan holds the cup aloft, and on right, Eamonn Mahon, Kilkenny's goalkeeper, breaks clear with the ball to relieve a dangerous situation for his side.



KILKENNY - 1975 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS.

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.



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.

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

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 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

Figures Of The Game

FIRST HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	0	9	8	13	1
Galway	1	3	6	9	0

SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	2	13	6	10	0
Galway	1	7	5	8	0

SECOND HALF

	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's
Kilkenny	2	22	14	23	1
Galway	2	10	11	17	0

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

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 we 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 hulling.

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 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.

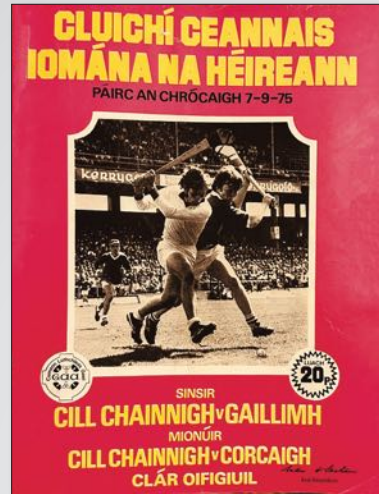


Captain Billy Fitzpatrick raises the McCarthy Cup

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



Scores by the clock

FIRST HALF

- 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.
- Half Time: Kilkenny 0-9, Galway 1-3.

SECOND HALF

- 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.



The Galway team who defeated Tipperary in the 1975 National Hurling League Final

Back: Iggv Clarke, PJ Quaker, Frank Burke, Michael Conneely, Niall McInerney, Joe Clarke and Joe McDonagh.
Front: Sean Murphy, Padraic Fahy, Gerry Coone, John Connolly, capt., Paddy Lally, Sean Silke, Marty Barrett, and P. J. Molloy.

KILKENNY



Noel Skehan



Fan Larkin



Nicky Orr



Brian Cody



Pat Lawlor



Pat Henderson



Tom McCormack



Frank Cummins



Liam O'Brien



Mick Crotty



Pat Delaney



Billy Fitzpatrick (C)



Mick Brennan



Kieran Purcell



Eddie Keher



FIR IONAIÐ

16 PJRyan
17 Ger Fennelly
18 Ger Henderson
19 Matt Ruth
20 Nicky Brennan
21 Jim Treacy

Management Team:
Management Team:
Mnsgr Tommy Maher
Paul Skehan (Fenians)
Sean Leahy (James
Stephens)
John McGovern
(Bennettsbridge)
Dick Dunphy (Mooncoin)
Mick O'Neill
(Cathaoirleach)
Mick Lanigan (Trainer)



FIR IONAIID

- 16. M Hanniffy
- 17. MI Connolly
- 18. Ted Murphy
- 19. Joe Grealish
- 20. P Ryan
- 21. Vinnie Mullins
- 22. Tom Murphy
- 23. L Bohan
- 24. J Faul

MANAGEMENT:
 Manager - Inky Faherty

GALWAY



Michael Conneely



Niall McInerney



Joe Clarke



Paddy Lally



Joe McDonagh



Sean Silke



Iggy Clarke



John Connolly (C)



Sean Murphy



Gerry Coone



Frank Burke



PJ Molloy



Marty Barrett



PJ Qualter



Pádraig Fahy

carrollsGAAallstars

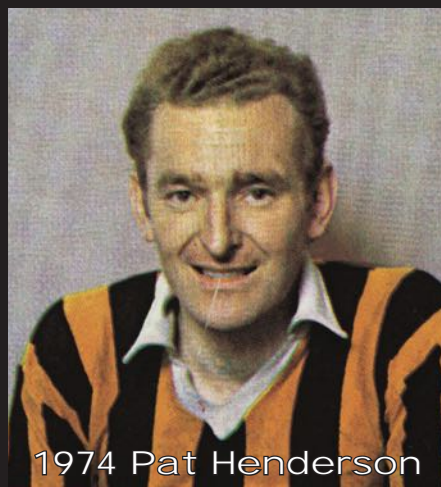
1974

Player	Team	Appearances
Noel Skehan	Kilkenny	3
Phil 'Fan' Larkin	Kilkenny	2
Pat Hartigan	Limerick	4
John Horgan	Cork	1
Ger Loughnane	Clare	1
Pat Henderson	Kilkenny	2
Con Roche	Cork	2
Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien	Kilkenny	2
John Galvin	Waterford	1
Joe McKenna	Limerick	1
Martin Quigley	Wexford	2
Mick Crotty	Kilkenny	1
John Quigley	Wexford	1
Kieran Purcell	Kilkenny	2
Eddie Keher	Kilkenny	4

1975

Player	Team	Appearances
Noel Skehan	Kilkenny	4
Niall McInerney	Galway	1
Pat Hartigan	Limerick	5
Brian Cody	Kilkenny	1
Tadhg O'Connor	Tipperary	1
Seán Silke	Galway	1
Iggy Clarke	Galway	1
Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien	Kilkenny	3
Gerald McCarthy	Cork	1
Martin Quigley	Wexford	3
Joe McKenna	Limerick	2
Éamonn Grimes	Limerick	2
Mick Brennan	Kilkenny	1
Kieran Purcell	Kilkenny	3
Eddie Keher	Kilkenny	5

Texaco Hurler of the Year Awards



1974 Pat Henderson



1975 Liam O'Brien



ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONSHIP 1974

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP		MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIP	
June 9 Portlaoise First Round	Offaly 2-11 Dublin 1-6	May 19 Walsh Park First Round	Waterford 4-9 Cork 3-8
June 16 Nowlan Park Semi-Final	Wexford 1-18 Laois 1-5	June 30 Thurles Semi-final	Limerick 3-12 Waterford 3-11
June 30 Croke Park Semi-Final	Kilkenny 4-14 Offaly 2-6	July 7 Limerick Semi-final	Clare 1-8 Tipperary 1-7
July 21 Croke Park Final	Kilkenny 6-13 Wexford 2-24	July 28 Thurles Final	Limerick 6-14 Clare 3-9
LEINSTER CHAMPIONS - KILKENNY		MUNSTER CHAMPIONS - LIMERICK	
ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP			
July 7 Preliminary Round Athlone		Galway 3-19 Kildare 4-10	
July 21 Quarter-Final Athlone		Galway 3-13 London 0-6	
August 4 Semi-Final Croke Park		Kilkenny 2-32 Galway 3-17	
SEPTEMBER 1 FINAL CROKE PARK		KILKENNY 3-19 LIMERICK 1-13	

ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONSHIP 1975

(All championship games were reduced from eighty to seventy minutes.)

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP		MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIP	
June 1 Athy First Round	Dublin 6-7 Laois 1-3	June 8 Walsh Park First Round	Cork 4-15 Waterford 0-6
June 22 Portlaoise First Round	Offaly 6-6 Kildare 4-12	June 29 Gaelic Gds Semi-final	Cork 3-14 Clare 1-9
June 30 Wexford Semi-Final	Kilkenny 3-16 Dublin 1-7	July 6 Semple St. Semi-final	Limerick 2-16 Tipperary 3-13
July 7 Nowlan Park First Round Replay	Offaly 1-14 Kildare 0-11	July 20 Gaelic Gds Semi-final Replay	Limerick 0-17 Tipperary 1-10
July 13 Croke Park Semi-Final	Wexford 1-29 Offaly 1-18	July 27 Gaelic Gds Final	Cork 3-14 Limerick 0-12
August 3 Croke Park Final	Kilkenny 2-20 Wexford 2-14		
LEINSTER CHAMPIONS - KILKENNY		MUNSTER CHAMPIONS - CORK	
ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP			
July 6 Quarter-Final Athlone		Galway 6-14 Westmeath 1-8	
August 17 Semi-Final Croke Park		Galway 4-15 Cork 2-19	
SEPTEMBER 7 FINAL CROKE PARK		KILKENNY 2-22 GALWAY 2-10	







KILKENNY 1974/75



ar bhealach na Fírinne

Members of the 1974/75 Kilkenny Teams who have gone to their eternal eard.



*Liam Chunky O'Brien
RIP 2021*



*Pat Delaney
RIP 2013*



*Mick Crotty
RIP 2024*

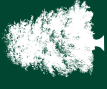
Solas na bhFlaitheas ar anamnacha na Marbh



TEAMS PREVIOUSLY HONOURED ON COUNTY FINAL DAY

- 1989 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1939**
- 1990 Carrickshock Senior Hurling Team 1940**
- 1991 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1947**
- 1992 Éire Óg Senior Hurling Teams 1939 & 1947**
- 1993 James Stephens Senior Hurling Teams 1935 & 1937**
- 1994 Thomastown Senior Hurling Team 1946**
- 1995 Tullaroan Senior Hurling Team 1948**
- 1996 Kilkenney Junior Hurling Team 1946**
- 1997 Graigue Senior Hurling Team 1949**
- 1998 Dicksboro Senior Hurling Team 1950**
- 1999 Carrickshock Senior Hurling Team 1951**
- 2000 Kilkenney Minor Hurling Team 1950**
- 2001 Kilkenney Junior Hurling Team 1951**
- 2002 Bennettsbridge Senior Hurling Teams 1952, 53, 55, 56, 59.**
- 2003 Kilkenney Junior Hurling Team 1956**
- 2004 Slieverue Senior Hurling Team 1954**
- 2005 John Lockes Senior Hurling Team 1955**
- 2006 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1957**
- 2007 Tullaroan Senior Hurling Team 1958**
- 2008 Kilkenney Minor Hurling Team 1960**
- 2009 St. Lachtain's Senior Hurling Teams 1961 & 1963**
- 2010 Kilkenney Minor Hurling Team 1961**
- 2011 Bennettsbridge Senior Hurling Teams 1960, 62, 64, 66, 67**
- 2012 Kilkenney All-Ireland Minor Team 1962**
- 2013 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1963**
- 2014 Mooncoin Senior Hurling Team 1965**
- 2015 Rower Inistioge Senior Hurling Team 1968**
- 2016 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1967**
- 2017 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1969**
- 2018 James Stephens Senior Hurling Team 1969**
- 2019 Fenians Senior Hurling Team 1970**
- 2020 No Jubilee due to Covid**
- 2021 Bennettsbridge Senior Hurling Team 1971**
- 2022 Kilkenney Senior Hurling Team 1972**
- 2023 Fenians Senior Hurling Team 1972,73,74**

Appreciation. The Chairman and members of the Kilkenney GAA County Board would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Leyrath Estate for their generous sponsorship of this event.



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