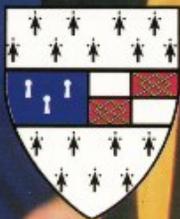
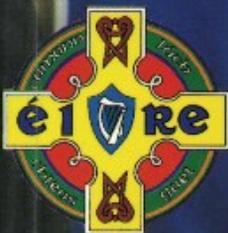
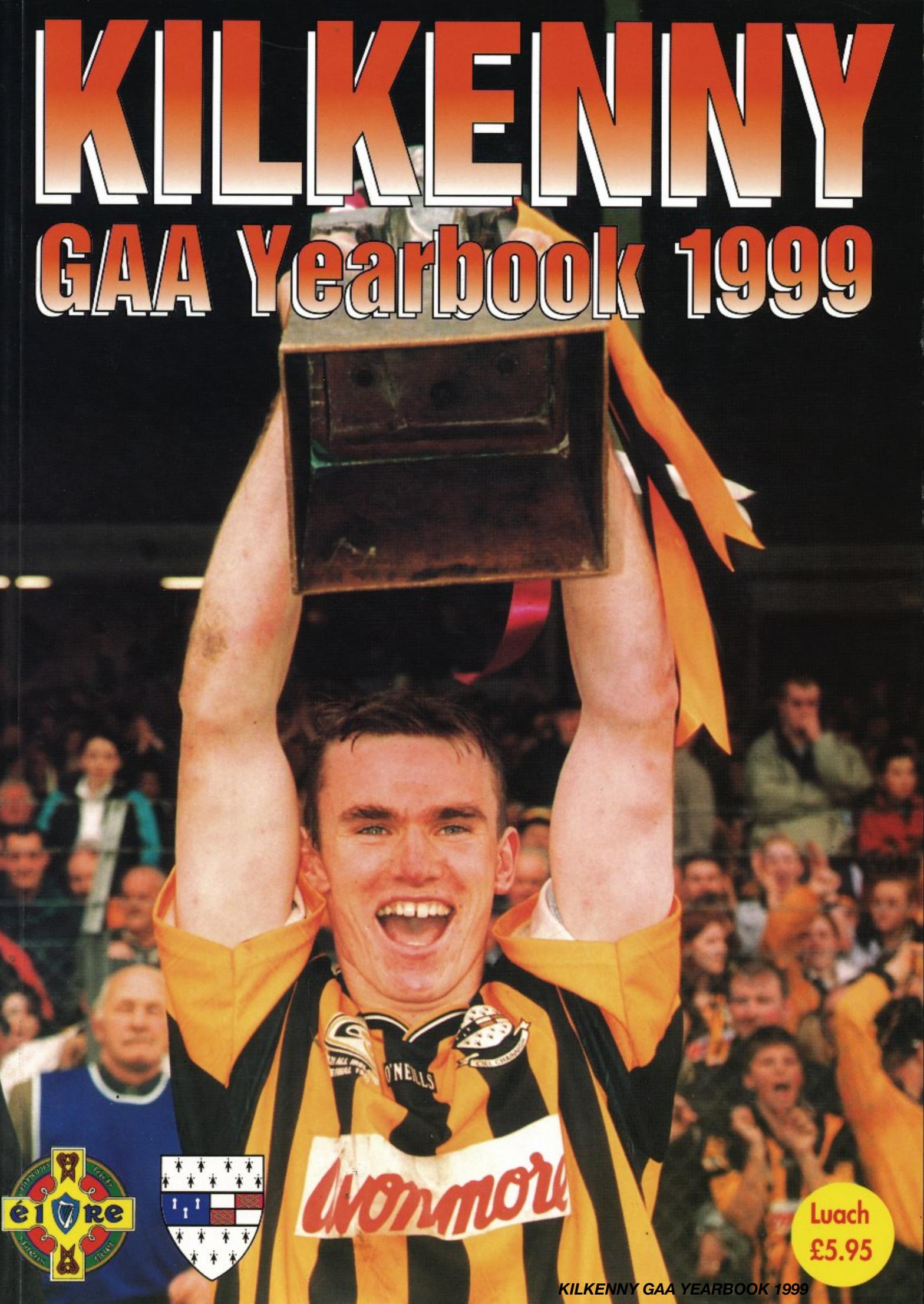


KILKENNY

GAA Yearbook 1999



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Kilkenny GAA Yearbook 1999

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| <i>Editorial.</i> | 3 | <i>WIT Report</i> | 109 |
| <i>Foreword</i> | 5 | <i>Inter County IH</i> | 111 |
| <i>Pa Dillon</i> | 6 | <i>Club Call 1</i> | 114 |
| <i>Inter Co Under 21</i> | 9 | <i>Peter Barry</i> | 119 |
| <i>U 14 Hurling Report</i> | 14 | <i>Kildalton College</i> | 125 |
| <i>Ann Downey</i> | 17 | <i>Club Camogie 3</i> | 127 |
| <i>U 14 Football Report</i> | 19 | <i>GAA Museum</i> | 135 |
| <i>Co. SH Hurling/League</i> | 23 | <i>Masters</i> | 135 |
| <i>It Gives me no Pleasure</i> | 29 | <i>kilkennygaa.ie</i> | 136 |
| <i>Colleges Hurling</i> | 31 | <i>Club Call 2</i> | 143 |
| <i>Jack Lynch</i> | 35 | <i>Coaching Corner</i> | 145 |
| <i>Co Minor Football</i> | 37 | <i>Club Call 3</i> | 150 |
| <i>Inter Co Under Age</i> | 39 | <i>Inter Co Football</i> | 157 |
| <i>Tommy Barrett</i> | 43 | <i>U !6 Hurling Report</i> | 159 |
| <i>Enda McEvoy Co SH</i> | 45 | <i>Essays</i> | 163 |
| <i>Handball</i> | 51 | <i>Club Call 4</i> | 164 |
| <i>Cumann na mBunscoileanna</i> | 55 | <i>Jimmy Phelan</i> | 170 |
| <i>Camogie</i> | 65 | <i>Club Call 5</i> | 172 |
| <i>County JH</i> | 67 | <i>The Rocks</i> | 178 |
| <i>Dunmore & GAA</i> | 71 | <i>Club Call 6</i> | 180 |
| <i>County IH</i> | 73 | <i>Fan Larkin</i> | 184 |
| <i>Vocational Schools</i> | 81 | <i>Club Call 7</i> | 188 |
| <i>Club Camogie 1</i> | 85 | <i>Keepers of the Faith</i> | 194 |
| <i>Inter County MH</i> | 89 | <i>Club Call 8</i> | 196 |
| <i>That Was the Year</i> | 92 | <i>Supporters' Club</i> | 201 |
| <i>MH Report</i> | 95 | <i>Obituaries</i> | 20 |
| <i>Club Camogie</i> | 104 | <i>Results</i> | 207 |

KILKENNY G.A.A. YEAR- BOOK 1999

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PUBLISHED BY:

Kilkenny County Board GAA
Nowlan Park
Kilkenny.

PRINTED BY:

Kilkenny People Printing Ltd.,
Purcellsinch,
Kilkenny.
(056) 63366

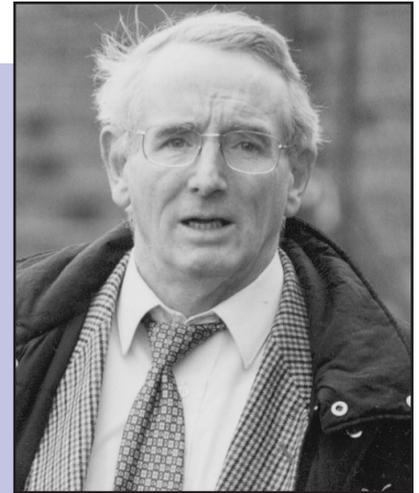
FRONT COVER:

Noel Hickey is presented with the
Dr. Morris Trophy after Kilkenny
defeated Galway in the under-21
All Ireland Final in Tullamore.
Photo - Sportsfile.

Poster:

Action study of Brian McEvoy.
Photo Sportsfile.

Editorial



Once again, Kilkenny hurlers kept their supporters "on the roads" for the entire hurling season - if there is such a scenario. The Senior lads went down by the most meagre of deficits against Cork in an All-Ireland Final that produced no goals, and very little else, that is if you are a Kilkenny supporter. We congratulate Cork on their win, but we promise them that we will be chasing them to "the wire" come the new millennium.

Pride of place this year in the Honours List must go to our gallant under-21 team, who swept all before them to take the Archbishop Morris Trophy, after as gutsy a display, as one has seen from any Kilkenny team in a long while. Again, our Masters team, with the elegant Ger Fennelly at the helm, won their All-Ireland. Both our Minor and Intermediate hurlers failed at the penultimate hurdle; nevertheless they gave good value for money. One of the greatest sporting memories that I will have from this year will be the last second goal by Sinéad Millea to deprive Cork of their fourth successive All-Ireland Camogie Final appearance. Pity that the Final "got away".

I would like to thank all the people who helped us to produce this Yearbook. To the Club PRO's, the amateur and professional contributors, and to the "snippet lads", I wish to say thank you all. To our professional journalists, Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune), Cliona Foley (Irish Independent), Mick Dunne (Gaelic World), Diarmuid O'Flynn (Examiner), and John Knox (Kilkenny People), I thank you for your efforts.

This Yearbook would not reach such excellence without the contribution of our photographic experts. Particular gratitude is extended to Tom Brett, his son, Tomás, Ray McManus, and Tommy O'Neill. Thanks too, to all the club "snappers" for their efforts.

A very special word of thanks to the Yearbook Committee who have, again, performed such trojan work to have this book available for our supporters.

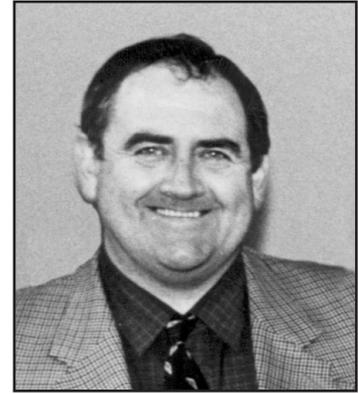
Thanks, also to all our generous advertisers, whose generosity and support makes the publication of this book possible. Your support is sought whenever possible.

Again the professionalism of the "Kilkenny People Printing" organisation has been nothing short of absolute, and we are indebted to them.

Finally, for any errors that may be within the covers of this book, I apologise in advance. I hope that our Yearbook gives you as much pleasure in reading as it has given the Committee in compiling. Nollaig shona dhibh go léir.

BARRIE HENRIQUES.
EDITOR

Foreword



Tá sé tráthúil, agus an Nollaig ag teacht, féachaint siar ar eachtraí na bliana atá thart .

Cuidíonn an irisleabhar go mór linn é seo a dhéanamh agus molaim gach éinne a bhí páirteach ann.

Such has been the level of activity and excitement and, yes, disappointment, that we all have experienced during the year, that it scarcely seems possible that we have arrived at the time to welcome yet another year book publication.

The stories and pictures of all that activity are wonderfully presented in this book and it will serve as an ideal historical record of all major games played involving Kilkenny clubs and county teams during the final year of the Millenium.

All four Leinster Hurling titles were retained and a tantalizing one point denied us victory on All-Ireland Senior Final day. Just one week later, however, our spirits were lifted when our gallant U-21 team captured the 9th All-Ireland crown in that grade whilst our Masters team made it a double celebration on the same day when they completed their own three-in-a-row of All-Ireland victories. Our Minors made it ten out of ten in Leinster while our Intermediate team won Leinster; but again, All Ireland Honours eluded them.

Sincere thanks is due to all our players and to our team managers and selectors who worked so hard to bring success to our county. Great credit is also due to our wonderful supporters who turned out in great numbers and gave our teams tremendous support whether in victory or defeat.

Kilkenny County Board is again grateful to our Sponsors - Glanbia PLC, St. Canice's Credit Union, Vale Oil, JJ Kavanagh and Sons, Barlo Nissan, Iverk Produce, Hennessey Sports, Michael Lyng Motors, Iarnód Éireann and Duggan Steel while the contribution of Kilkenny Supporters' Club at all levels is very much appreciated.

On the club scene, our Senior County Final was televised live for the first time ever and, in an outstanding game, Glenmore defeated last year's champions, Graigue Ballycallan. John Lockes of Callan regained their senior status when they captured the Intermediate crown, defeating a gallant Mullinavat team. After many disappointing visits to Nowlan Park,

Carrickshock once again experienced the joy of victory in winning the Junior title, overcoming a very young Emeralds team.

Dunamaggin retained

the U-21 A title, scoring an exciting second half victory over great rivals, James Stephens, while Tullaroan collected their first ever Roinn A Minor championship defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks.

Unfortunately, the story regarding Gaelic Football is not so heartening and after struggling yet again in the National Football League, the decision to withdraw from that competition was eventually taken. It behoves us all now to commit ourselves to restoring the game to a respectable level.

Kilkenny Handball Board celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. The highlight of the year was Michael "Ducksie" Walsh's great victory in the All Ireland Senior Singles Final. Ducksie announced his retirement from Singles competition immediately after the final, thus bringing to an end a remarkable career which has seen him win fourteen of the last fifteen All Ireland Single titles.

As we rapidly approach the end of the twentieth century, it is appropriate to look back and pay tribute to all who have worked so hard in a voluntary capacity to make Kilkenny the hurling stronghold that it is - the generations of people, who have worked in our clubs, our primary and second level schools and at Board Na nÓg, Divisional Board and County Board levels. My wish for the future is that this effort will not only be equalled but in fact, surpassed.

Many thanks to editor Barry Henriques, chairman Pat Henderson and their Committee on yet another outstanding year book publication which I know will find its way into the homes of many Kilkenny people both here and around the world.

Eamon O Coinn
Cathaoirleach
Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.

Kilkenny GAA Yearbook Committee greatly appreciates the generous support of our Advertisers, without whose faithful sponsorship, this publication would never see the light of day.

Pa Dillon - Hurling Colossus

Fergal Purcell

Many believe that a sporting life can be crystallised in one moment, that a particular incident or image becomes embedded in the memory and it serves to encapsulate that life. This is an over simplification of course, but very often just such a moment can help explain the essence of the person involved.

In 1967 Pa Dillon was faced with a nightmare scenario. Kilkenny were three points up on Tipperary in an All Ireland final against a team they hadn't beaten in the championship since 1922. Tipperary's Jimmy Doyle was bearing down on goal and saw his team-mate Devaney inside the defence alone and unmarked, with Pa Dillon seemingly stranded. Doyle flicked the ball over Pa's head, or so he believed. The Freshford man straining every sinew of his imposing frame brought the ball down and cleared it. Kilkenny scored next and went on to secure an historic victory. That incident alone may not define Pa Dillon as a player but it certainly was a pivotal moment in an illustrious career.

Such incidents are results of years of hurling toil. Beginnings less auspicious are no less important. Pa Dillon's first tangible success on the hurling field came when the Freshford U/14 team, of which he was a member, won the B county final of 1951 and the U/14 county final the following year. Local schoolteacher Tom Waldron was the catalyst to much of Freshford's underage success. He is credited with initiating an organised structural approach to training and success soon followed. In fact, having been victorious in the 1954 U/16 county final, Freshford went on to contest three minor finals in succession, beginning in 1954. Pa Dillon played in all three finals, winning one in 1955.

Hurling is essentially a parish game, it is born out of the locality and becomes ingrained in those who play it. Pa Dillon recounts his own hurling initiation,

"After school we would hurl on the green for an hour or more and then tip on home and hurl again later if we could once the jobs were done"

Transport to and from the games was via the local creamery lorry, driven by Sean Buckley's father, Michael and the money for a set of jersey's had to be raised through a raffle which proved a huge success. As Pa himself points out, such interest and encouragement was bound to yield results and, of course, it did.

Pa's success at club level didn't go unnoticed. He played on the Kilkenny minor side that won a Leinster title in 1955 and were beaten All Ireland finalists in 1956. It is no coincidence that Freshford's rise to prominence around this time, though not solely due to any one individual, coincided with Pa's emergence as a dominant force.

The Junior Championship was not easily won at this time in Kilkenny. The hurling was tough and uncompromising as the

competing teams vied for Senior status. Following a Northern Junior Final between Threecastles and Freshford in 1959, a significant figure was to come on the scene. Local priest Fr. Holohan did what so many clergymen of this era managed to do and acted as a unifying force. In bringing Threecastles and Freshford together, he was to create a pool of talent whose successes were almost instant. Freshford won the 1959 Junior Championship, played in 1960. Pa himself takes up the story.

"For us to win the Junior Championship was almost unthinkable. Success was new to us but we liked how it felt. The win was a tribute to the entire parish and not just the team. We received unbelievable encouragement."

The countless nights training under the watchful eye of Jimmy Bergin, who even had the team training indoors in the local CYMS hall in inclement weather, continued to yield rich rewards. In 1961, Pa led Freshford to their first Senior County title, a shock to all except the men from

St. Lactain's. The parish was riding the crest of a wave and went on to win the title again in 1963.

All this time, Pa's progress was being monitored. His performances at full back were becoming a talking point following the Junior victory in 1959 and the county call was not long coming. Pa's first senior outing in a Kilkenny jersey was against Waterford in 1960 in a tournament game, the winners being afforded a trip to play in Wembley. The Deise men were reigning All Ireland champions and boasted such greats as Guinan, Cheasty and Martin Og Morrissey, but Pa's debut was a victorious one, nevertheless.

However, it took the big Freshford man a while to gain a permanent foothold on the county team. The 'Link' Walsh was a regular full back and 'Cha' Whelan of Thomastown held the position in the 1963 final. By 1964, Pa Dillon had taken over the position and he made it his own right up until All Ireland success in 1972, aside from a brief sojourn in the full forward line in 1966.

Pa was to become part of some great Kilkenny teams and guarded his area with a keenness and guile that few could counter.

"The full forward would try to get the goalie on the way in and, if he didn't, he'd get him on the way out. I was there to stop that."

The era in which he played was one where the goalkeeper was fair game as Pa himself says,

"The full forward would try to get the goalie on the way in and, if he didn't, he'd get him on the way out. I was there to stop that."

But Pa Dillon's physique was more than a mere buttress. His height afforded him a great advantage and his ability to catch a



Action from 1967 All Ireland Final:- Pa Dillon waits as Mackey McKenna and Pat Henderson tussle for the ball.
Photo Tom Brett

ball was unrivalled.

Exactly how or why he ended up in the full forward line in 1966 is a slight mystery. It was perceived that Kilkenny were somewhat lacking in power in that position. His first time to play full forward was for a Leinster selection against Wexford and he scored three goals. Pa himself likes to qualify this by saying,

"I headed one in, walked in another and I think one hit off me as it crossed the line."

Following defeat by Cork in the 1966 final, Pa shipped more than his fair share of blame. It is said that it took some encouragement from Paddy Grace to get him to take the field for the second leg of the league final in Nowlan Park in the same year.

By the spring of 1967, Pa had been restored to his more natural full back berth when Kilkenny played Tipperary in a hot-tempered league game. Pa got his marching orders along with 'Babs' Keating that day and, as a result, missed the Railway Cup final. This rankled badly with him as the Railway Cup was something he valued dearly. In fact, probably his greatest display came in a Railway Cup final against Munster when his catching and interceptions were peerless.

The photographs of this era show a tight and often combative Kilkenny full back line whose reputation often did as much to 'psyche out' opponents, although it served also to belie a depth of skill. 'Babs' Keating quotes one of his team-mates, on being told to move into the full forward line as saying, "No way! - they're in there, sharpening their blades." Ted Carroll and Jim Treacy, amongst others, flanked Pa Dillon at various stages throughout his career and the return opposing forwards gained was never more than frugal. Pa is quick to pay tribute to these men,

"We had a great understanding. We played for each other and we were all familiar with each other's style of play and that is invaluable, especially towards the end of a close game."

Tom Ryall had this to say about the Freshford man:

"In his era Pa was the perfect full back, he had great hands, excellent ground strokes and he completely dominated his area. Forwards respected him and many dreaded marking him."

Newspaper reports of the day more than affirm this perspective, as do the players he marked. When asked for his opinion on Pa, former Cork dual star Ray Cummins answered as follows:

"Pa was extremely hard to mark, tough and tight you really earned your scores. Because of my lack of physique at the time, I tended to roam out the field. I didn't fancy rising the dust around the square with him. It was pointless anyway, it rarely yielded anything, and Pa generally came out on top in those situations. I have great respect for Pa Dillon, hard and tight on the pitch and a gentleman off it."

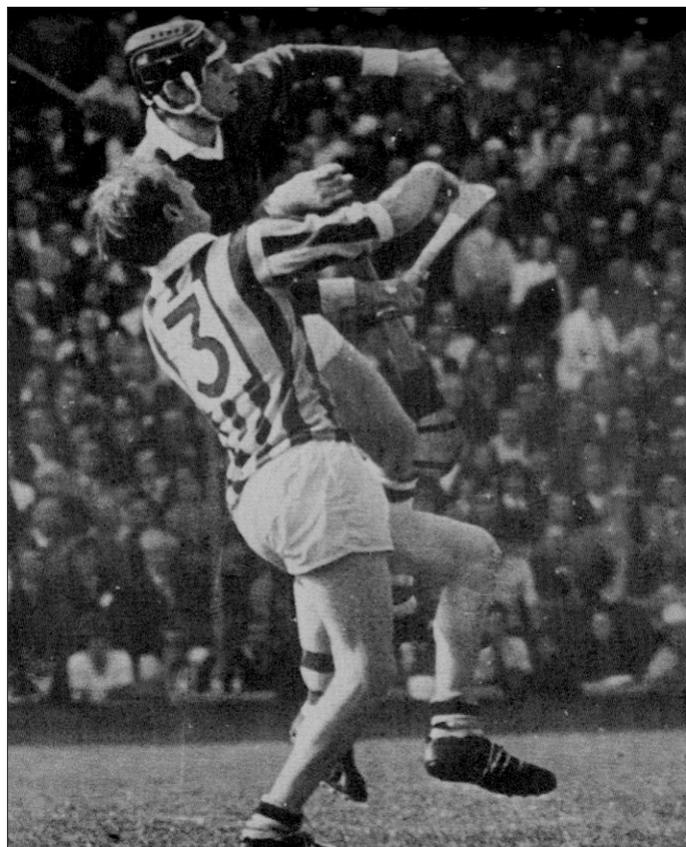
Admiration for Pa was not confined to players at the time either. A pre-cursor to the All-stars as we know them now, was an annual best team selection picked by the journalists and ex-players, under the auspices of the 'Gaelic Weekly' magazine. The prizegiving ceremony was held on the eve of the Railway Cup final and Pa Dillon was honoured on two occasions, in 1964 and 1967. While such awards are not all-important, they confirm today the esteem in which those who knew the game held Pa Dillon.

When asked if he has any regrets, Pa Dillon answers simply, "Yes, I had to stop hurling." Such a sentiment says so much

"In the county hospital, the nurse asked me my age and, even though I lied, she nearly dropped. 'Time to go,' I thought."

about Pa's love for the game. He retired from intercounty hurling on a high note after the 1972 All-Ireland victory over Cork, a day of days for Kilkenny hurling. With seventeen minutes left, the rebels led Kilkenny by seven points, but a titanic final quarter saw the Cats win by seven points. It was a fitting note for Pa to exit on.

For a number of years after, Pa continued to hurl for St. Lachtains. He relates how his club days came to an end.



A Close Encounter between Pa Dillon and Ray Cummins in the 1972 All Ireland Final

"I stopped hurling altogether after a Special Junior game. A high ball came in and I thought I was 22 again, so up, I went and got a ferocious belt in the forehead. I asked the full forward had he done it he denied it. I then asked the other forwards, they denied it as well. I even asked my own backs, then I realised I must have hit myself. In the county hospital the nurse asked me my age and, even though I lied, she nearly dropped. 'Time to go,' I thought."

For a man so dedicated to the cause, his involvement naturally continued. He has served as Chairman of the Freshford club

"I must have done something right."

and was a selector last year. A man like Pa just doesn't suddenly stop loving the game. It is his life's blood. When asked about the state of the game today, Pa has some interesting comments to make.

"In a way it's a faster game, and players are generally fitter than they were, but if, or how, that has improved hurling as a game, I am not quite sure. The pitch is still the same size."

He believes that players should be compensated monetarily for their involvement at county level, but that a fine balance between preserving the games purity and not leaving players out of pocket should be maintained. Pa contends also that camogie players don't quite get the treatment their male counterparts receive and that this should be addressed. His daughter, Gillian has played for Kilkenny for a number of years, so he is speaking with some authority on the subject. These, of course, are opinions of a man who cares wholeheartedly about the game. Pa pays tribute to the people who encouraged him throughout his career and gives particular mention to his wife Teresa.

Pa relates an anecdote that conveys much about the himself in the context of the game of hurling.

"I was ploughing a field one evening when I saw Gillian wandering up the road after school with her hurley. She ran up and begged me to puck around with her. So I did: - across a ploughed field. She couldn't wait. I must have done something right."

How true.

Victory born in friendship and hard work

By John
Knox,
Kilkenny
People

IT WAS an uninviting, lazy sort of Sunday morning when the easy option would have been to stay in bed. Not exactly the type of morning when you expect visions. Then again, when do you expect visions?

But it happened. A shining light switched on, and lit up the path ahead. The date was April 25. The venue was Thurles.

"That was the day I saw something. I don't know what it was exactly, but it was something which told me for sure the team could go a long way", insisted Richard Power months later.

Nothing out of the ordinary in Thurles. Just another humdrum challenge for Kilkenny as under-21 hurling team manager, Richard Power and fellow selectors, John Marnell (Dicksboro) and Martin Kennedy (St. Lachtain's (Freshford) laboured through the task of sorting out players for the squad.

This was the squad that later in September bridged a five year gap and won Kilkenny their fifth All-Ireland under-21 hurling championship by beating Galway in the final.

If Kilkenny were up with the lark that morning, they were well ahead of the under-21 posse everywhere else. All-Ireland finals are won over 60 or 70 minutes. Teams are built over months.

This year Kilkenny were the best prepared team in the country.

Worth every penny

"I don't know what you cost us, but you were worth every penny of it", joked Kilkenny Co. Board chairman, Ned Quinn in reference to the heavy work the players and officials had done when he offered his congratulations in the dressing-room after Galway were sank.

On April 25 the Kilkenny bandwagon pulled into Thurles for an 11 am match with Tipperary. Twenty minute before the arranged starting time all the visitors were there. Not one member of the home side had arrived.

"That morning told me a lot", Richard Power assured. "The lads were interested, very interested. Their attitude was great.

"They were not afraid of hard work, and they all got on well together. Driving home that day I knew we had a squad that could go places".

Power, Marnell, Kennedy and advisor/friend/confidante Eamon Hennessy, brother of former All-Star Joe who was an integral part of the backroom team, brought their charges up and down the country playing challenge matches.



KILKENNY- ALL IRELAND UNDER-21 CHAMPIONS 1999

Front : Jamie Power. Michael Gordon. Alan Geoghegan. Michael Kavanagh. Noel Hickey (Capt). Eddie Brennan. Adrian Walpole.
Back: Sean Dowling. John O'Neill. Henry Shefflin. John Paul Corcoran. Aidan Cummins. Jimmy Coogan. Kevin Power. Richie Mullally.

Photo: T.O'Neill.

They often had to push counties to get teams together, because a few hadn't even thought about organising their under-21 side. One county which enjoyed a good run in the championship was unable to answer a Kilkenny call for challenges on two separate occasions because they had nothing organised.

Mobilise troops

Power began to mobilise his troops as early as last February. The first trial was held on the first Sunday in February. Every club was contacted and asked to be honest in putting forward their best players. In all, 78 players were given a trial.

"We left no stone unturned in the effort to get the team together and properly organised, and to bring back the All-Ireland to Kilkenny", Richard Power explained.

The drudgery of challenges against Wexford, Clare (twice), Tipperary, Laois and Waterford on cold Spring days paid off in Tullamore on Sunday, September 19. The scoreline at the end of a gripping final read: Kilkenny 1-13 (16 pts), Galway 0-14.

"That was what it was all about", smiled Richard Power. "It was close at half-time. The players knew they had put in the work, and if it came to gutting it out at the finish, they had the fitness and stamina to last. That was exactly how it went".

It was some final. It was the week after the seniors had crashed in the All-Ireland against Cork. Black and amber pride was on the line.

The Kilkenny fans in the 8,000 were more enthusiastic than I had ever seen them before, and their passion play from the stand and banks helped drag the players over the winning line.



Henry Shefflin shows his strength for Kilkenny.
Photo Sportsfile.

Galway were really threatening during the opening 20 minutes, and they weren't a bit flattered when they led by 0-5 to 0-1. When Eddie Brennan pilfered a goal for the Cats in the 28th minute, he helped his side into a shock 1-5 to 0-7 lead.

The losers recovered, and they deservedly went in ahead at the break (0-9 to 1-5).

Physically strong

In the 35th. minute a point from a free by Henry Shefflin put Kilkenny back in front (1-8 to 0-10). Physically strong Galway won back the lead heading into the last quarter, and they really took the challenge to the opposition.

Boy, did Kilkenny rise to that challenge. Michael Gordon, probably the smallest man on the field, was a central figure in the storming of the barricades. He drove his towering opponent to distraction before he pinched the equaliser (0-14 to 1-11).

Subsequent points from Henry Shefflin, and an absolute beauty from a 35 yards sideline cut by J.P. Corcoran made Kilkenny the golden boys that day.

It was a wonderful team performance. Individuals, including impeccable captain, Noel Hickey, who took a lot of the sting out of the Galway attack by out-playing senior star,



Galway man, Joe McDonagh, Uachtarán CLG and Noel Hickey, Kilkenny Captain with the All Ireland Trophy.
Photo Tom O'Neill



Airborne sandwich! Aidan Cummins in aerial combat with two Galway forwards in the All-Ireland Final

Photo: Sportsfile

The Glory Trail

June 23 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 2-14 Dublin 1-9

Kilkenny scorers – Henry Shefflin (2-5); Michael Gordon (0-3); Edward Brennan (0-2); John O'Neill (0-2); Paul Buggy, John Hoyne (0-1).

July 17 at Portlaois, Leinster final

Kilkenny 1-17 Offaly 1-6

Kilkenny scorers – Henry Shefflin (1-4); Edward Brennan (0-4); Michael Gordon (0-2); Aidan Cummins (0-2); John Hoyne (0-2); Tom Drennan, Kevin Power, Alan Geoghegan (0-1 each).

August 28 at Drogheda, All-Ireland semi-final

Kilkenny 6-27 Antrim 0-10

Kilkenny scorers – Henry Shefflin (1-7); Kevin Power (0-7); Edward Brennan (2-1); Paul Buggy (1-2); Podge Delaney (1-1); J.P. Corcoran (0-3); Cathal Dunne (1-0); Michael Gordon (0-2); Jimmy Coogan (0-2); John O'Neill, Richard Mullally (0-1 each).

September 19 at Tullamore, All-Ireland final

Kilkenny 1-13 Galway 0-14

Kilkenny scorers – Henry Shefflin (0-8); Edward Brennan (1-0); Michael Gordon (0-2); John O'Neill, J. P. Corcoran, K. Power (0-1 each).

The Roll of Honour

Cork (11) – 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1997, 1998.

Tipperary (8) – 1964, 1967, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1989, 1995.

Kilkenny (7) – 1974, 1975, 1977, 1984, 1990, 1994, 1999.

Galway (7) – 1972, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1991, 1993, 1996.

Limerick (1) – 1987.

Waterford (1) – 1992.

Wexford (1) – 1965.

Eugene Cloonan, Gordon, Shefflin, Aidan Cummins, Sean Dowling, John O'Neill, Eddie Brennan until injured and Richard Mullally were nothing short of wonderful.

The real merit of the victory can only be appreciated when it is remembered that Kilkenny played without Leinster final star, John Hoyne, his brother Micheál, Joe Young (all three Graigue-Ballycallan) and John Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) who were unavailable because of injury. All had been involved with the team the previous year.

"With the four of them in contention you would be fancying your chances", Richard Power admitted. "Without them it was tough, but the players came through.

Vitally important

"Winning at under-21 level is vitally important. These players have come through as winners, and that can make a difference in the long run".

Example...Cork in this year's senior final. They had 19 players from their All-Ireland winning under-21 teams of 1997 and '98 involved.

The voyage through Leinster was so-so. Dublin were easy pickings in the first round, as were Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final. In between, Offaly proved a tough nut to crack in the provincial final, even if the 1-17 to 1-6 scoreline might suggest otherwise.

The Noresiders led at half-time, but Offaly came up on their shoulder when wind assisted after the turn. A brilliant 10 minutes blast from John Hoyne, during which he made 1-4 for colleagues, broke the midlanders. Tops that evening too were Michael Kavanagh, Adrian Walpole and goalie, Jamie Power.

It was a championship that was ultimately won in Tullamore. But tips to Tipp. and places like that helped shape the future.

Kilkenny (all-Ireland final team) – Jamie Power, Adrian Walpole, Noel Hickey, capt (Dunnamaggin), Michael Kavanagh, Aidan Cummins, Sean Dowling, Richard Mullally, John O'Neill, J.P. Corcoran, Michael Gordon, Jimmy Coogan, Kevin Power, Alan Geoghegan, Henry Shefflin Edward Brennan. Subs – John Barron, Podge Delaney (used); Niall McCormack, Derek Lyng, John Hoyne, John Barron, Pat Tennyson, Paul Buggy, Dick Carroll, Tom Drennan, Bob Aylward, Cathal Dunne, Thomas Coogan, Martin Comerford, Noel Hickey (St. Lachtain's).



Kilkenny Senior, Michael Kavanagh played a key role in the U 21 campaign.

Photo Sportsfile

Bord na nÓg Report

By Tom Ryall

UNDER 14 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Seven teams took part in the Duggan Steel Under 14 hurling Roinn A championship. The teams were - James Stephens, Carrickshock, Dicksboro, Shamrocks, Tullaroan, O'Loughlin Gaels and Graigue Ballycallan. After each team had played six games, the semi-final pairings were - James Stephens v Dicksboro and Carrickshock v Shamrocks. The Village boys had five points to spare over their city neighbours, Dicksboro, with the scores reading 3-7 to 1-8, while Carrickshock created a surprise by beating the reigning champions, Shamrocks, by three points 1-7 to 1-4.

Carrickshock, who had won the Roinn B competition in the previous two years and the Roinn C in 1996, were contesting their first ever Roinn A final. For three quarters of the game the outsiders were very much in contention and it was goals by Jamie Quane in the 43rd and 47th minutes which put the game out of their reach. It was a low-scoring first half with the James Stephens side leading by 1-1 to 0-2, thanks to a goal from Maurice Nolan. The winners began to exert more pressure in the second period during which the standard of hurling improved with some exceptional performances from players on both sides. The final score read James Stephens 3-5 Carrickshock 0-5.

Conor O'Grady kept a safe goal for the winners. He got most protection from captain Donnacha Cody, son of Kilkenny senior hurling manager Brian, Pat Butler, Damien Kelly until injured (he came back to good effect in the last quarter), and James Hickey who cleared a lot of ball. Eoin Everard had a wonderful second half with a very high work rate. Jamie Quane emerged as the star of the attack with David McCormack having a great second half. Mark Shortall did well when he moved to wing back on the retreat of Damien Kelly. Maurice Nolan was always a threat. Matthew Ruth showed some nice touches when he came on.

Carrickshock had the best player on view in John Tennyson who played his heart out in the cause of victory. Patrick Duggan kept his side in the game with two wonderful saves. Dinny Murphy and John Dalton also did well in defence. James Moran and Thomas Brophy more than held their own in the first half. Richard Power was their best forward getting most

support from the hard grafting Seanie Gibbons and the girl with great skill on the team, Jacki Frisby.

Scorers—James Stephens; Jamie

Quane (2-0), Maurice Nolan (1-2), David McCormack (0-2), Julian O'Dwyer (0-1).

Carrickshock; Richard Power (0-5).

James Stephens; Conor O'Grady,



James Stephens U-14 Roinn A Hurling County Champions 1999

Back: Jamie Quane, James Hickey, David McCormack, Kevin O'Neill, Joel Hurley, Kieran Brennan, Julian O'Dwyer, Patrick Noonan, Brian Ryan, Gregory McCusker, Patrick Butler.

Front: Damien Kelly, Ross Hennessy, Killian Everard, David Ring, Mark Shortall, Conor O'Grady, Donnacha Cody, Eamonn Sheehy, Eoin Everard, Mathew Ruth, Padraig Neary.

Photo Tom Brett



Mooncoin U-14 Roinn B Hurling Champions 1999

Back: Thomas O'Hanlon (Capt), Ger Purcell, Kieran O'Brien, Paul Norris, Noel Delahunty, Michael Jones, Paul O'Neill, John Kenny, Stephen Murphy, Frank Law.

Front: Keith Kirwin, Chris Hearne, Pat Kinsella, Derek Phelan, Alan Walsh, Liam Henneby, Sean Wall, Ray Wall, Kevin Walsh.

David Ring, Donnacha Cody, James Hickey, Damien Kelly, Pat Butler, Kevin O'Neill, Eoin Everard, Tomas Keogh, Mark Shortall, David McCormack, Jamie Quane, Maurice Nolan, Eamon Sheehy, Julian O'Dwyer. *Sub—Matthew Ruth.*

Carrickshock; Patrick Duggan, Dinny Murphy, John Dalton, Niall Tennyson, Richie Brennan, John Tennyson, James Farrell, James Moran, Thomas Brophy, Pdraig Barron, Richard Power, Gary Foley, Jacki Frisby, Seanie Gibbons, Johnny Butler. *Sub—Rebecca Phelan.*

ROINN B

The Roinn B Duggan Steel under 14 Hurling final was an all-Southern affair between Mooncoin and Piltown. The league section was divided into two groups with seven teams competing in the North - St Patricks (Ballyragget), Clara, St Martins, Erins Own, St Lachtains, Emeralds and Fenians. The South group consisted of five teams - Mooncoin, Piltown, John Lockes, Mullinavat and Thomastown. Four teams came through from each section to set up quarter finals. The results were Clara w. o. Mullinavat scr, Mooncoin 7-9 St Patricks (Ballyragget) 4-7, Piltown 4-7 Erins Own 2-3, St Martins 3-11 Thomastown 2-3.

reduced the lead to a goal. The sides were all square when Paul Kirby goaled for Piltown.

Despite the great start by Mooncoin, it was Piltown who led at the break when they had a further point from Richard McCarthy to leave them ahead 1-5 to 2-1.

Things looked bad for the Mooncoin boys when Paul Kirby shot two goals for Piltown within five minutes of resuming. Piltown had turned a seven point deficit into a seven point lead. Thomas O'Hanlon started the Mooncoin rally when he goaled from a twenty metre free. The excitement was intense as Keith Kirwan blasted in another goal for the green and whites. Paul Kirby had another point for Piltown to leave them ahead 3-6 to 4-1. Keith Kirwan and Ray Wall levelled the game with minor scores. Richard McCarthy and Noel Delahunty exchanged points to leave the sides on level terms with five minutes remaining. Mooncoin had a goal disallowed but undaunted they swept back for the winning points by Michael Jones and substitute Frank Law.

Scorers - Mooncoin; Keith Kirwan (3-1), Tom O'Hanlon (1-1), Ray Wall, Michael Jones, Frank Law, Noel Delahunty (0-1).

Brendan McCarthy, Kevin Kelly, Patrick McNamara, Kieran Galvin, Nicholas Kenny, James Norris, Paul Kirby, Richard McCarthy.

A sequel to this game was an objection by Piltown to one of the Mooncoin players. The objection was ruled out by Bord nÓg on the grounds that it was not lodged within the prescribed time. Previously, seven days were allowed but the new experimental rules, which are on trial until the Congress 2000, only allow three days. At the time of writing this report, Piltown are calling upon Bord na nÓg to institute an investigation and this will be discussed at the next Bord na nÓg meeting.

Conahy Shamrocks brought off a great double in the Under 14 hurling Roinn C winning both the championship and league. Having also won Roinn C in football, this was a wonderful year for the Conahy side winning all their games in both hurling and football. The nearest they came to defeat was when Barrow Rangers drew with them in the league semi-final. There were three sections in the league. Group 1 contained Rower Inistioge, Windgap, Kilmacow, Glenmore, Tullogher Rosbercon and Slieverue. Group 2 also consisted of six teams Barrow Rangers, Graignamanagh, Dunamaggin, Young Irelands, Blacks and Whites and Bennettsbridge. The six teams in Group 3 were Danesfort, Cloneen, Lisdowney, Dicksboro 2, James Stephens 2 and Conahy Shamrocks.

Two teams came out of each group and the teams qualifying were Conahy Shamrocks, James Stephens (II), Barrow Rangers, Bennettsbridge, Rower Inistioge and Tullogher Rosbercon. The play offs saw Tullogher Rosbercon beat James Stephens (II), 3-9 to 2-0 and Conahy Shamrocks beat Bennettsbridge 4-8 to 4-2. In the semi-finals, Conahy Shamrocks and Barrow Rangers played a draw 1-7 each. The replay saw the Conahy side come out on top 1-9 to 1-4. Rower Inistioge beat their neighbours Tullogher Rosbercon 2-3 to 0-2.

Getting a wonderful start in the final, Conahy Shamrocks ran out easy winners 3-18 to 1-4. Alan Healy was their top scorer and star performer. Others who played well were Thomas Nolan, Patrick Nolan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Tom O'Shea and Paul Downey. Rower Inistioge had good performers in Liam Tierney a fine goalkeeper, Sean Cummins, Seamus Holohan, Eoin Kavanagh and Toby Kavanagh.

Conahy Shamrocks; Michael Bergin, Sinead Corrigan, Thomas Nolan, Peter Dollard, Brian Healy, Patrick Nolan, John Muldowney, Martin Fitzpatrick, Tom O'Shea, Jimmy Champion, Alan Healy, Shane Walsh, Daniel O'Neill, Paul Downey, Cathal Hester. Subs—John Wallace (used), Gordan Bates, Damien



Conahy U-14 Roinn C County Champions 1999

Back: Peter Harding, Stephen Buggy, Gordan Bates, Paul Downey, Alan Healy, Sinead Corrigan, Cathal Hester, Thomas Nolan, Patrick Nolan, Tom O'Shea, Peter Dollard, Daniel O'Neill, Graham Cuddihy.

Front: Damien Webster, Michael Lawlor, Ian Kavanagh, David Healy, Jimmy Champion, Michael Bergin, Shane Walsh, Brian Healy, John Muldowney, Martin Fitzpatrick, John Wallace. *Photo Tom Brett*

The semi-finals were hard fought affairs with Mooncoin beating St Martins 3-6 to 3-5, and Piltown having three points to spare against Clara 1-9 to 1-6.

The final drew a large attendance to Mullinavat when after a game of swaying fortunes Mooncoin came out on top 4-6 to 3-7. Mooncoin got away to a dream start scoring 2-1 in the opening twelve minutes. Thomas O'Hanlon opened the scoring with a point to which Keith Kirwan added two goals. Piltown opened their account with a Paul Kirby point from a free. Further points from James Norris, Nicky Kenny and Brendan McCarthy

Piltown:- Paul Kirby (3-2), Richard McCarthy (0-2), Nicky Kenny (0-1), Richard McCarthy (0-1), James Norris (0-1).

Mooncoin; Patrick Kinsella, Paul O'Neill, Paul Norris, Ger Purcell, Kieran O'Brien, Tom O'Hanlon, Liam Henneberry, Noel Delahunty, Ray Wall, Derek Phelan, Michael Jones, Alan Walsh, Sean Wall, Keith Kirwan, Stephen Murphy. *Sub- Frank Law*

Piltown; David Knox, Kieran Norris, Paul Maher, John Brophy, Shane Kinsella, Eamon Kenny, Peter Kelly,



Rower Inistioge U-14 Hurling Roinn C Championship Finalists Photo Tom Brett

Back: Seamus Corcoran, Liam Lyng, Damien Flood, Toby Kavanagh, Noel Treacy, Conor Lyng, Pat Tierney, Sean Cummins, John Grace, Bernard Flaherty, John Walsh, Eamonn Cassin.
Front: Kieran Joyce, John James Kenny, Walter Kavanagh, Jim Killen, Tom Freaney, Liam Tierney, Seamus Holohan, Kevin Corcoran, Pdraig Tierney, Paul Nolan, Rory Galavan, J.J. Fitzpatrick, Billy Cuddihy.

Webster, Michael Lawler, Peter Harding, Graham Cuddihy, Gavin Nolan, Stephen Buggy.

Rower Inistioge; Liam Tierney, Kevin Corcoran, Sean Cummins, Damien Flood, Seamus Holohan, Noel Treacy, Pdraig Tierney, Eoin Kavanagh, Toby Kavanagh, Tom Freaney, Liam Lyng, J. J. Kenny, Pdraig Tierney, Conor Lyng, Jim Killian.
Subs: John Grace, John Walsh, Bernard Flaherty.

The same eighteen teams that contested the Roinn C Under 14 league also took part in the championship. Ten took part in the Northern section and eight in the Southern group. Two preliminary games took place in the North with Blacks and Whites beating Young Irelands and Conahy Shamrocks knocking out Dicksboro (II). The Northern quarter finals resulted as follows, Danesfort 3-9 Cloneen 1-7, Conahy Shamrocks 6-9 Lisdowney 2-0, Barrow Rangers 6-8 Bennettsbridge 1-2, Black and Whites 5-11 James Stephens (II) 3-4.

In the semi-finals Conahy Shamrocks beat Danesfort while Barrow Rangers 5-5 had a win over Blacks and Whites 1-4. It was another terrific game between Conahy Shamrocks and Barrow Rangers in the Northern final with Conahy again coming out on top 2-8 to 1-7. The Southern quarter final results were Windgap beat Kilmacow, Slieverue 1-3 Graignamanagh 1-2, Rower Inistioge beat Glenmore, Tullogher Rosbercon 5-13 Dunamaggin 1-3. In the semi-finals, Windgap beat Slieverue while Rower Inistioge beat Tullogher Rosbercon. The Southern final was a one-sided contest as

Rower Inistioge beat Windgap 8-8 to 1-7. This set up a repeat of the league final between Conahy Shamrocks and the Rower Inistioge. This game produced a far better contest than in the league. It was an Alan Healy goal that made all the difference as Conahy Shamrocks ran out winners 1-11 to 0-4. The Conahy Shamrocks team showed one change



James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, 1999 Féile na nGael Skills winner and a member of Ballyhale's 1998 winning team. Photo Tom Brett

from

their league win with John Wallace starting in place of Daniel O'Neill. Their best players were Michael Bergin, Thomas Nolan, John Muldowney, midfielders Martin Fitzpatrick and Tom O'Shea, Alan Healy, Cathal Hester and Jimmy Campion. Rower Inistioge showed two changes in personnel from their league team with Paul Nolan and Billy Cuddihy coming on for Tom Freaney and Jim Killian. There was also a number of positional changes. Their best players were Liam Tierney, Pdraig Tierney, Noel Treacy, Damien Flood, Seamus Holohan

and Toby Kavanagh. Subs in the championship final were John Walsh, Tom Freaney and J. J. Fitzpatrick.

Féile na nGael attracted an entry of nineteen teams. Three preliminary rounds reduced the teams to sixteen. These were divided into four groups of four with each team playing three matches in each group on the same evening. One team qualified from each group and those making the semi-finals were James Stephens, Shamrocks, Clara and Carrickshock. In the semi-finals Shamrocks beat Carrickshock and James Stephens had five points to spare over Clara 2-7 to 1-5. The final ended all square - 0-6 each. The replay produced a great game with James Stephens running out winners 4-5 to 2-5. The winners led by 1-2 to 0-4 at the interval, the goal coming from Mark Shortall. Goals early in the second half from Eamon Sheehy and Maurice Nolan gave the impetus to the city side and despite two goals from James Fitzpatrick, a Joe Hurley goal gave the Village a two goal winning margin.

Scorers—James Stephens; Eamon Sheehy (1-2), Maurice Nolan (1-2), Mark Shortall (1-0), Joe Hurley (1-0), Julian O'Dwyer (0-1).

Shamrocks—James Fitzpatrick (2-4), Mark Aylward (0-1).

James Stephens:- Conor O'Grady, David Ring, Donnacha Cody, James Hickey, Damien Kelly, Pat Butler, Kevin O'Neill, Jamie Quane, Tomas Keogh, Joe Hurley, David McCormack, Mark Shortall, Eamon Sheehy, Julian O'Dwyer, Maurice Nolan.

Shamrocks:- T. J. Reid, Donal Dempsey, James Connolly, Tomas Cullen, Michael Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Barry Nolan, Conor Walsh, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Richard Holden, James Fitzpatrick, Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Michael Carroll, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Mark

Aylward.

James Stephens failed to qualify for the closing stages of the National Féile na nGael when they lost out in one game in their group. Their loss was to Glen Rovers (Cork) by one point. Kilkenny had consolation when James Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks) took first place in the skills competition. It was Kilkenny's first win in this competition since Pat Ryan (Young Irelands) took back to back titles in 1975 and 1976. James Fitzpatrick had a wonderful battle with James Dunne (Galmoy) to win the local competition. It went to a number of tie breakers before the Shamrocks' boy triumphed.

DOWNEY ALL THE YEARS

Enda McEvoy - Sunday Tribune

In the course of 25 years playing camogie at the highest level, Ann Downey inevitably encountered hundreds of new faces. Colleagues, opponents, managers, trainers, supporters, officials. But it wasn't until well into her final season that she met Bobby Jackman from Windgap.

What Ann thought of Bobby, who took over midway through 1999 as coach to the Kilkenny senior camogie team, is not our concern here. (For the record, she was impressed.) What Bobby, who up to then "had never met her, only read about her", thought of Ann, is, however. Within a couple of training sessions the secret of both her success and her longevity was clear to him.

"What came across most was her fierce determination. Fierce determination. That's what I'll always remember about her. It amazed me, to be honest, because Ann was injured at the time and you could tell it was killing her not to be out there. The fortnight before the All Ireland final she made a huge effort in training and was disappointed not to be on the team. Her legs weren't quite what they were, understandably. It was only then it struck me that she'd been around for a quarter of a century.

"With her level of fitness, you could see why. In training she was well able to keep up with everybody. Her will to win amazed me. Though we didn't win the All Ireland, it wasn't for lack of effort on Ann's part. She wanted to win as much as anybody else did. Maybe even more so."

Sad to bow out with a defeat. But, as Ann Downey concedes, if somebody had told her at the beginning of her career that she would end it with twelve All Ireland senior medals to her credit, what else could she have been but grateful? "I had a wonderful innings. Losing to Tipperary didn't change that."

Losing to Tipperary – Ann came on as a sub at the start of the second half – didn't change the fact either that at her peak she was a colossus of the age, a one-woman power station in the middle of the field for clubs (St Paul's and Lisdowney) and county. Hunger, energy, forcefulness, the fierce determination that wowed Bobby Jackman: Ann Downey had it by the bucket-

ful.

As had her sister Angela. The twin Downeys from Ballyragget were both blessed with attitude, instinct and hurling intelligence. But one of them was blessed with more besides, with genius in her wrists and dynamite in her camán. It wasn't Ann.

The messiah was her sister. At a pretty early stage she copped on to that small fact. Copped on that it was Angela and not she who was the chosen one, Angela and not she who belonged to the Kilkenny stylistic brotherhood of Meagher and Langton and Keher. The old, apocryphal-sounding story that follows has been related often before. No apologies for telling it once more.

The girls were just beginning to make a name for themselves on the camogie fields of the county, with Angela making rather the bigger name of the two, when a customer in their dad's butcher's shop pointed at Ann one day and enquired, "Is she the good one or the bad one?"

Shem Downey loyally replied that both of them were good and Ann, though possibly not the customer, departed mollified. "After that, I suppose, reality eventually dawned. Angela was the good one, I wasn't quite so good. But I can't say I had a problem with it. If we were losing in a match, people wouldn't be looking to me – I wouldn't be looking to me – to win it. They'd be looking to Angela."

Times and fashions change. Against Cork at Parnell Park last August it was Ann Downey to whom Kilkenny looked to save the All Ireland semi-final. The mistake Cork made, she insists, was to believe that she might. "Too busy thinking I was Angela and was going to do something. No chance. No way would I turn a match."

She was thrown in with ten minutes left and her county losing touch. "Keep an eye on her," she heard Tom Nott, the Cork coach, shout to his charges. For five minutes they needn't have bothered. Kilkenny were wobbling horribly, the champions four points ahead and raining in flurries of potential knockout blows. For five minutes all Ann could do was watch as a line of black and amber jerseys beat out ball after ball and a line of white and red

jerseys beat them back in again.

TURNED THE GAME

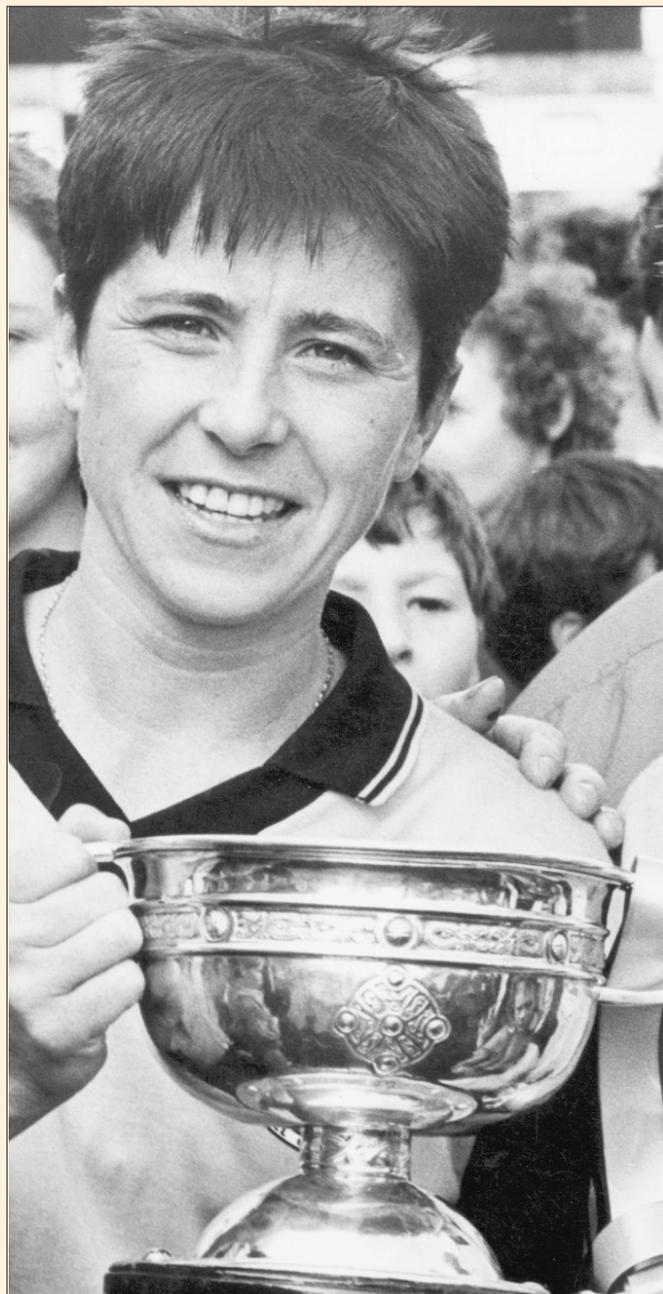
Then at last she got a sniff. A clearance came towards her, whizzed through her legs, beat Eithne Duggan behind her, was picked up by Martina Maher and despatched to the Cork net by



Ann Downey in full flight in 1999 All Ireland Final
Photo Sportsfile

Margaret Comerford. Into injury time and a point separating the sides, Ann finally managed to touch the sliotar. She transferred it to Gillian Dillon and roared at her to run. Gillian ran and won a free that Sinead Millea sent to the Cork net with practically the last puck of the game.

One Ann Downey touch, two Kilkenny goals and the county



Ann Downey with the O'Duffy Cup
Photo Tom Brett

into their first All Ireland final in five years. And Ballyragget's second-finest didn't turn matches..?

The odd part of it, Angela Downey-Browne points out, "is that people didn't realise that Ann was a far more talented all-round sportsperson than myself. She's played international squash with Ireland, interprovincial hockey for the South East. And on the camogie field she was always much more involved than I was. I'd have my own patches of action but she'd be going for the full hour, all around the centre of the field."

Her father Shem, an All Ireland medallist with Kilkenny in 1947 and the hero of the 1950 National League final, was the other constant in Ann's career. When they were younger, Shem Downey wouldn't allow his daughters to swim during the summer; in his eyes you were committed to one sport and one sport only. "The skill we had, we got from him," Ann acknowledges.

"And there's still no fear of him. In the county final this year I was blocked down twice. 'Drop shot,' I could hear him in the stand."

The past 25 years have been enormously rewarding for her, albeit seriously draining on the pocket. "But you don't count the cost when you're doing something you enjoy." She captained Kilkenny to two All Ireland triumphs ("the county's biggest strength for years was that we had good young players coming in to replace the older ones"), was a member of the GAA touring party to the Toronto Skydome in 1991 and nominates Cork's Sandy Fitzgibbon as her toughest opponent ("she was so fast, it was impossible to keep up with her"). All in all, not bad going for the woman with the apparent misfortune to be born the sister of the Greatest Camogie Player Ever.

The game's profile, or lack thereof, remains her favourite hobby horse. "The All Ireland ladies' football semi-finals were live on TV this year. Why weren't the camogie semi-finals? We need more publicity, we need better publicity, we need a person at the top with experience in the marketing area. And I know I've said this a million times before, but why not have a camogie match as curtainraiser to a big hurling game? That would make people realise how good the standard is. As it is, camogie is losing the PR war."

The week before Kilkenny's Croke Park date with Tipperary, Ann Downey told a friend that were she given a choice the following weekend of winning a million pounds on the Lottery or winning an All Ireland medal, she wouldn't hesitate for a moment. "An All Ireland medal, of course."

Well, what else would you have expected this woman to say?

ANN DOWNEY – FACTFILE

- Played in 16 All Ireland senior camogie finals.
Won 12, Drew 2, Lost 2.

- 1974: Beat Cork (replay)
- 1976: Beat Dublin
- 1977: Beat Wexford
- 1981: Beat Cork (replay)
- 1985: Beat Dublin
- 1986: Beat Dublin
- 1987: Beat Cork
- 1988: Beat Cork
- 1989: Beat Cork
- 1990: Beat Wexford
- 1991: Beat Cork
- 1994: Beat Wexford
- 1995: Lost to Cork
- 1999: Lost to Tipperary

- Winner of 9 National League medals.

- Winner of 10 Gael Linn medals.

- Winner of 7 All Ireland club championships (6 with St Paul's, one with Lisdowney).

- B & I Player of the Year 1986, 1989.

- Smithwick's Kilkenny Sports Star of the Year 1986, 1997 and 1988 (for squash).

- Jury's Sports Star of the Week in September 1990 and 1991.

- National Irish Bank Player of the Year 1991, 1994.

- Hotel Kilkenny award winner 1988 (squash) and 1989 (camogie).

- Five international squash caps with Ireland.

- White Cup interprovincial hockey medal winner with the South East.

Bord na nÓg Report

By Tom Ryall

U 14 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



An extra competition was run at this grade in 1999 with the introduction of a Roinn C championship. This proved a great success, with Conahy Shamrocks becoming the first winners. Roinn A was again run on a league basis. The teams taking part were Dicksboro, Carrickshock, James Stephens, Piltown, O'Loughlin Gaels and Shamrocks.

The first four teams listed reached the semi-final stage. Dicksboro had a facile win over their city neighbours James Stephens 6-12 to 0-1, while Carrickshock had a one point win over Piltown, 1-7 to 1-6. The final was a great advertisement for Juvenile football in the county as both teams set about playing an open and skilful game. Dicksboro fashioned their victory on a brilliant half back line of Darren Tyrrell, Philip Hogan and Danny Fanning. After a great first half, the sides were locked together, Dicksboro 0-6 Carrickshock 1-3. The Carrickshock goal was scored by Tommy Brophy. During the third quarter, both added just one point each to their interval total. Dicksboro edged ahead with a point by Alan McIntyre. The turning point of the game was a lucky goal for the City side scored by John Walsh. Dicksboro wrapped up victory with the best score of the game. Mark O'Hara made a wonderful run upfield to give the ball to Eddie Clifford who sent a cracking shot to the net.

Darren Tyrrell was the best player on view. Others to do well for the winners were Mark O'Hara, Philip Hogan, Danny Fanning, Andy Hogan, Alan McIntyre, Eddie O'Donoghue and John

O'Shea, who led the side by example. The losers had good performers in Richard Power, Patrick Duggan, Tommy Brophy, Sean Gibbons and John

Tennyson.

Dicksboro:- Darren Bourke, James Roberts, Andy Hogan, Christy Tyrrell,



DICKSBORO - UNDER 14 ROINN A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS.

Back: Peter Duklow (trainer), Phil Hogan (selector), Damien Fanning, Alan McIntyre, John Walsh, Darran Tyrrell, Christopher Purcell, Tom Manning, Kevin Ryan (selector), James Grace.

Front: Eddie O'Donoghue, Phil Hogan, James Roberts, Eddie Clifford, John O'Shea (captain), Darran Burke, Mark O'Hara, Andy Hogan, Brian Staunton. *Photo: Tom Brett.*



CARRICKSHOCK - UNDER 14 ROINN A COUNTY FINALISTS.

Back: James Moran, Ger Power, James Farrell, Ricky Brennan, Patrick Duggan, John Tennyson, Colm Mullally, Sean Gibbons, Tommy Brophy, Gary Foley, Richard Power, John Dalton.

Front: Rebecca Phelan, Jackie Frisby, Darren O'Dwyer, John Sheehan, John Butler, Niall Tennyson, Kieran Holden, Thomas O'Leary, Paucic Barron, Denis Murphy, John Power, Patrick Walsh. *Photo: Tom Brett.*

Philip Hogan, Darren Tyrrell, Danny Fanning, Mark O'Hara, Thomas Manning, John O'Shea, Alan McIntyre, Eddie Clifford, John Walsh, Eddie O'Donoghue, Brian Staunton. Subs—James Grace, Chris Lanigan.

Carrickshock:- Patrick Duggan, John Butler, John Dalton, Dinny Murphy, Ricky Brennan, Colin Mullally, John Sheehan, Richard Power, John Tennyson, James Moran, Garry Foley, Tommy Brophy,

Padraig Barron, Sean Gibbons, Kieran Holden. Subs—Rebecca Phelan, Niall Tennyson.

Referee: John Manogue (Thomastown)

Roinn B.

Eleven teams took part in the Roinn B grade, seven in the North and four in the South.

The Northern results were:- 1st

Round—Railyard 3-7 Graigue Ballycallan 0-2, St Patricks (Ballyragget) w.o. St Lachtains scr, Erins Own 3-7 Clara 3-4, Muckalee a bye. Semi Finals:- Railyard 2-8 St Patricks (Ballyragget) 1-10, Muckalee 5-7 Erins Own 4-7.

Northern Final:- Muckalee 3-5 Railyard 2-8 (Unfinished), Muckalee 1-13 Railyard 2-3. Southern Semi Finals:- Thomastown 2-5 Mooncoin 1-3, Mullinavat 6-6 Graignamanagh 1-3. In the Southern Final, Thomastown beat Mullinavat.

Muckalee took their first ever title at this level when they overcame Thomastown in the final on a score of 3-7 to 0-3. The game, played in Bennettsbridge saw the North Kilkenny side lead at the interval 1-2 to 0-1. The winners' goal came from Michael Darcy. Thomastown started well in the secon half but missed some great chances of scores. Gradually, the Muckalee side took control of the game and a Shane Comerford goal put the game out of reach of the hard-trying Thomastown team. The closing stages could be called the "Eoin McGrath Show" as he proceeded to score a further 1-5 for a thirteen points winning margin. In addition to McGrath, the victorious side had good performances from David Shore, a reliable goalie, Kieran Byrne, Shane Cadigan, the midfield pairing of Eamon Buggy and Ronan Maher, Shane Comerford and Mick Morrissey. Dermot Lanigan was the losers' best player. He got most support from James Savage, Shane Hoyne, Jamie Tennyson, Richard O'Hara, James Weymss, Marty Lawrence and Dean Waugh.



Muckalee Under 14 Roinn B Football Champions 1999

Back: Eoin Bolger, Con Hogan, Diarmuid Brennan, Aidan Murphy, Colm Brennan, Eamonn Buggy, Kieran Byrne, Michael Darcy, Brian Mulhall, Shane Cadigan, Brian Malone, Patrick O'Flynn, Niall Gibbons, Mark Nolan.
Front: James Kelly, David Shore, Michael Morrissey, Eoin McGrath, Ronan Maher, Patrick Brennan, James Maher, Michael Keane, Shane Comerford, John Maher, Joseph Maher, John Mulhall. *Photo : Tom Brett.*



THOMASTOWN UNDER 14 ROINN B FOOTBALL COUNTY FINALISTS

Back: Richard Ryan, Jamie Cassin, Sean Mahony, Alan Hoyne (manager), Stuart Tennyson, Michael Ryan (selector), Jamie Wemyss, Shane Hoyne, Neil Shanahan, Seamus Kelly (captain), Martin Farrell (coach), Richard O'Hara, John Furlong, Eoin Hayes, Liam Mahony.
Front: Jamie Whitty, Cathal Dempsey, Sean Doyle, John Joe Farrell, Dwayne Tennyson, James Savage, Peter O'Hanrahan, Marty Lawrence, Dean Waugh, Diarmaid Alyward, Thomas Daly, Ross Kelly, Jamie Tennyson.
Missing: from photo: Stephen Cullen. *Photo: Tom Brett.*

Scorers: Muckalee:- Eoin McGrath (1-7), Shane Comerford (1-0), Michael Darcy (1-0). **Thomastown:-** Dean Waugh (0-2), Eoin Hayes (0-1).

Muckalee:- David Shore, Mick Keane, Kieran Byrne, Colm Brennan, James Maher, Shane Cadigan, Paddy Brennan, Ronan Maher, Eamon Buggy,

Thomastown started well in the secon half but missed some great chances of scores. Gradually, the Muckalee side took control of the game and a Shane Comerford goal put the game out of reach of the hard-trying Thomastown team. The closing stages could be called the "Eoin McGrath Show" as he proceeded to score a further 1-5 for a thirteen points winning margin. In addition to McGrath, the victorious side had good performances from David Shore, a reliable goalie, Kieran Byrne, Shane Cadigan, the midfield pairing of Eamon Buggy and Ronan Maher, Shane Comerford and Mick Morrissey. Dermot Lanigan was the losers' best player. He got most support from James Savage, Shane Hoyne, Jamie Tennyson, Richard O'Hara, James Weymss, Marty Lawrence and Dean Waugh.

Shane Comerford, Aidan Murphy, Diarmuid Brennan, Mick Morrissey, Michael Darcy, Eoin McGrath. Subs—Con Hogan, Patrick O'Flynn, Brian Malone. Muckalee had to line out without one of their best players, Brian Mulhall.

Thomastown:- James Savage, Stuart Tennyson, Shane Hoyne, Sean O'Mahoney, Jamie Tennyson, James Weymss, Richard O'Hara, John Furlong, Niall Shanahan, Seamus Kelly, Dermot Lanigan, Dean Waugh, Marty Lawrence,

Eoin Hayes, Garry Ryan. Subs—Stevie Cullen, Dermot Aylward.

Referee: Paul Devlin.

Roinn C.

Sixteen teams entered the new Roinn C competition, evenly divided between North and South. Three of the Southern teams,,Kilmoganny, John Lockes and Glenmore, ,gave walkovers to Windgap, Slieverue and Kilmacow, respectively. In the other quarter final, Rower Inistioge

beat Tullogher Rosbercon 4-10 to 1-3. Southern Semi Finals:-Windgap 5-12 Slieverue 1-2, Rower Inistioge w. o. Kilmacow scr. Southern Fina:- Rower Inistioge 5-4 Windgap 0-3. Northern 1st Round:- Blacks and Whites 4-7 Emeralds 3-3, Barrow Rangers w. o. Lisdowney scr, Conahy Shamrocks 6-8 Bennettsbridge 0-2. Conahy Shamrocks followed up with victories over Danesfort and Young Irelands while Blacks and Whites beat neighbours Barrow Rangers 4-5 to 2-7 in a great game. Northern Final:- Conahy Shamrocks beat Blacks and Whites.

Conahy Shamrocks got a great start in the final, scoring two early goals. Rower Inistioge battled their way back into the game and, midway through the second half, had taken the lead by two points. Conahy Shamrocks took the title with late goals from Alan Healy and substitute Gavin Nolan for a 4-1 to 2-2 victory. Best for the winners were Thomas Nolan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Thomas O'Shea, Jimmy Champion and Alan Healy, despite carrying an injury. The losers' best players were Liam Tierney, Liam Lyng, Toby Kavanagh, Pádraig Tierney, Seamus Holohan and Bernard Flaherty who came on as a sub.

Conahy Shamrock:-

Brian Healy, John Muldowney, Thomas Nolan, Peter Dollard, Shane Walsh, Martin Fitzpatrick, Daniel O'Neill, Thomas O'Shea, Patrick Nolan, Michael Bergin, Jimmy Champion, Peter Harding, Alan Healy, Paul Downey, John Wallace. Subs:- Gavin Nolan, Ian Kavanagh, Michael Lawler, Gordon Bates, Sinéad Corrigan, Cathal Hester.

Rower Inistioge:- Liam Tierney, Damien Flood, Liam Lyng, Kevin Corcoran, Toby Kavanagh, Sean Cummins, John Kenny, Noel Treacy, Pádraig Tierney, Eoghan Kavanagh, Pat Tierney, Billy Cuddihy, Seamus Holohan, Conor Lyng, Pádraig Grace. Subs—Bernard Flaherty, Paul Nolan, Kieran Joyce.



Conahy U-14 Roinn C Football Champions 1999

Back: Ciaran Muldowney (Coach), Sínead Corrigan, Gordan Bates, Jimmy Champion, Tom O Shea, Cathal Hester, Peter Dollard, Daniel O'Neill, Tomas Nolan, Paul Downey, Martin Fitzpatrick, Alan Healy, Michael Bergin, John Walsh (Coach)
Front: Ian Kavagnagh, Michael Lawlor, Gavin Nolan, Patrick Nolan, Brian Healy, John Wallace, John Muldowney, Peter Harding, Shane Walsh
(Photo: Tom Brett)



Rower Inistioge Roinn C U-14 Football Finalists 1999

Back: Toby Kavanagh, Kieran Joyce, Tom Freaney, Damien Flood, Noel Treacy, Pádraig Tierney, Eamonn Cassin, Kevin Corcoran, Seamus Corcoran, Pat Tierney, Conor Lyng, David Morrissey, Bernard Flaherty, John James Kenny.
Front: Michael Malone, J.J.Fitzpatrick, Owen Kavanagh, Paraic Grace, Paul Nolan, Stephen O'Connor, Liam Lyng, Seamus Holohan, Liam Tierney, John Grace, George Phelan, Billy Cuddihy, Niall Doran, Sean Cummins.
Photo Tom Brett

GLENMORE'S DECADE!

*Kilkenny Senior
Hurling
Championship*

*By John Knox
Kilkenny People*



GLENMORE - ST.CANICES CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1999.

Back Row L/R: Richie Mullally. Paddy Mullally. Michael Aylward. Fergal Freaney. Paul Fitzgerald. Jimmy Walsh. Ray Heffernan. P.J.O'Connor

Front Row L/R: Willie O'Connor. Seamie Dollard. John Phelan. Frank Kirwan. Michael Murphy. Denis Mullally. Eddie O'Connor.

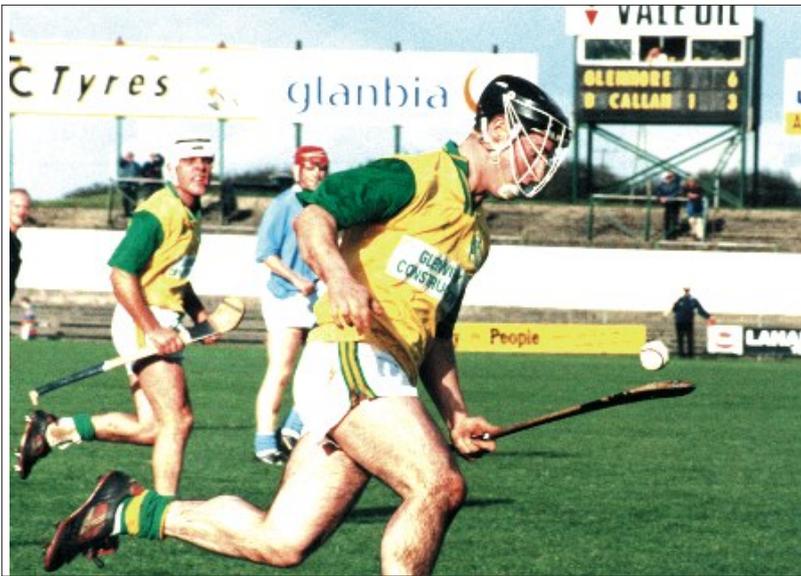
Photo Tom O'Neill



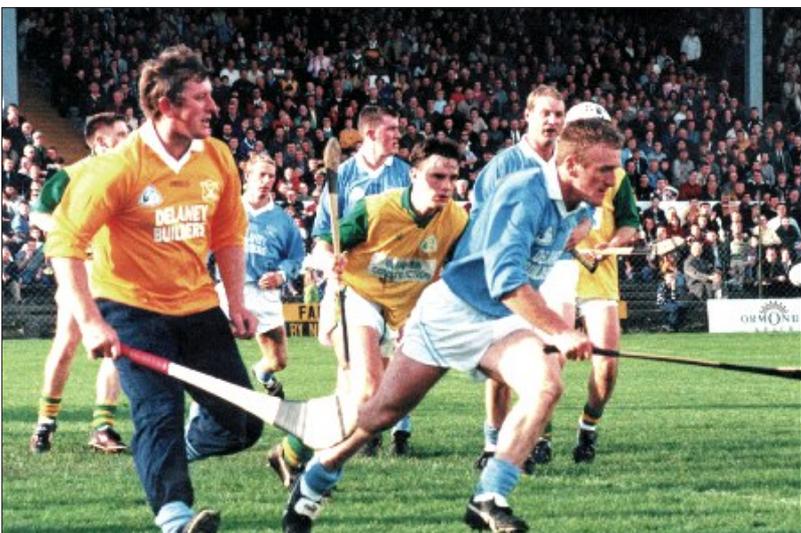
Graig Ballycallan Senior Championship Finalists 1999.

Back: Tomás Comerford, Johnny Butler, Paddy Dwyer, James Ryall, Johnny Ronan, Tomás McCluskey, Eddie Dwyer, Paul Hoyne.

Front: Damien Cleere, Denis Byrne, Pdraig McCluskey, Adrian Ronan, James Young, Alan Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne. *Photo Tom O'Neill*



Fergal Freyney (Glenmore) takes the ball out of defence. Photo Tom Brett



Watched by his goalie, Johnny Ronan, Johnny Butler cleans his lines for Graigue Ballycallan. Photo Tom Brett.



Glenmore Goalie, Frank Kirwan, makes a clearance as Eddie O'Connor struggles with Pádraig McCluskey. Photo Tom Brett

THE pride of the South, Glenmore scored at the double when they captured the Kilkenny senior hurling championship this season.

On top of a splendidly executed fifth championship success, Glenmore had every reason to lay claim to the title of 'Team of the Decade'.

The Aylward Cup was on something of a merry-go-round during the 'nineties, when it made single visits to such places as Shamrocks (1991), Dicksboro (1993), Tullaroan (1994), Young Irelands (1996), Dunnamaggin (1997) and Graigue-Ballycallan (1998).

The three other years, 1990, 1992 and 1995 the most coveted prize in club sport in Kilkenny ended up in Glenmore. So, along with their initial win in 1987, and this season's great capture, the Southerners have taken an excellent five titles in 12 years.

Some going for a parish whose tradition would be steeped firmly in the bigger ball game. Come to think of it, didn't Glenmore win the senior football championship in 1998?

"This team might not be finished winning yet", teased that great warrior, Eddie O'Connor, who at 35-years of age still had enough zip to run the legs off a couple of younger opponents in the county final against defending champions, Graigue-Ballycallan.

Set sights

"We set our sights on the final from a long way out, and our focus was brilliant", added the Kilkenny All-Ireland winning captain of 1993. "If we can keep the passion and the pride that was with us this year, who knows what might happen".

Who knows, is right! The Southerners won without former Kilkenny star, Michael 'Tich' Phelan striking a ball in anger all season. Michael damaged the cruciate ligament in a knee last season, and tore it completely during pre-season work.

He has had surgery to rectify the problem, and he has given a commitment to the club that he will be around to help defend the cup in the year 2000.

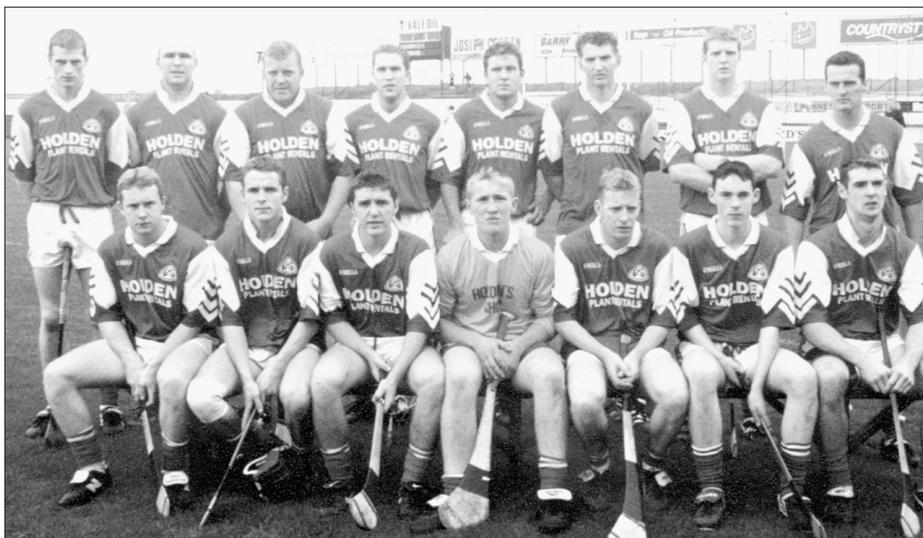
On top of that, gifted striker, Ray Heffernan had an on-going battle with injury and sickness all season, and he found it hard to regain condition. His one full game was in the county final. He paid his way there, and scored three valuable points.

How much better Glenmore might be with Phelan and Heffernan adding physical presence and strength to the attack is hard to know. One thing for sure, they wouldn't weaken the side.

"To achieve such a win without a great hurler like Michael Phelan adds even more to our success", insisted Glenmore coach, Tom Casey. "If the players can be as disciplined and as committed as they were this time, anything is possible next season."

Defence strong

"Our defence is strong and experienced, but our attack is a bit light and generally inexperienced", Mr.



Ballyhale Shamrocks Senior Championship semi finalists '99

Back: Bob Aylward, Padraig farrell, John Shefflin, Conor Harrington, Séamus Ryan, Seán Fennelly, Henry Shefflin, Noel O'Keefe.

Front: Willie Coogan, Seán O'Keefe, Paul Shefflin, Michael Drennan, Tommy Shefflin, Patrick Reid, Aidan Cumming.

Photo Tom O'Neill



Denis Mullally and Willie O'Connor with the Tom Walsh Cup. *Photo Tom Brett*



John Phelan on one of his fine runs for Glenmore encouraged by Richie Mullally *Photo Tom Brett*

Casey added. "With the experience of a county final win behind them now, the young lads can only get better".

In fairness to Glenmore, they didn't put all their eggs in the one basket and spare themselves exclusively for the championship. They also contested the League final, but lost against Young Irelands (Gowran), for whom Charlie Carter and D.J. Carey were in blinding form.

Glenmore's senior hurling commitments in the League and Championship ran to 10 games. Their strong record read – won 8 games; lost 2; drew 0.

In the League they were beaten by 1-14 (17 pts) to 0-16 by Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in the second round, and then they fell to 'Irelands in the decider. The only blemishes on the season's chart.

"We weren't too upset after the defeat in the League final", Tom Casey conceded. "We played well generally, but we conceded 3-16, which was way too much. At the same time we scored 19 times (1-18) which was some going against the form team at that time.

"We knew for sure that evening we weren't too far off the mark", he added with conviction.

No worries

Getting to the League final meant Glenmore hadn't to play a first round championship match, and they were also free of relegation worries. They drew struggling Tularoan in the quarter-finals.

To be honest, this wasn't a contest at all. The Northerners had little to offer, and were it not for the heroics of former Kilkenny star, Liam Simpson in defence, they would have been beaten out of sight. As it was, they were hammered to the tune of 11 points by a team that strolled through the closing quarter.

The semi-final was a much more testing affair against a team Glenmore haven't the best record in the world against, Shamrocks (Ballyhale). A big start and big finish scuttled Shamrocks, who got into the last four following a dogged win over Erin's Own.

In one of their first attacks the eventual champions scored a goal through Denis Mullally. They kept their noses in front all the way, but Shamrocks, who had finished strongly in their two previous matches, looked threatening when they cut the deficit to 0-12 to 2-10 with eight minutes left.

Glenmore held their nerve. A 54th minute goal from John Phelan steadied the

ship, and a late goal from Michael Murphy torpedoed Shamrocks. This success set-up a showdown against Graigue-Ballycallan, who bettered Young Irelands in the other semi-final.

No sizzler

The final was a crisp, open game, without ever being a sizzler. Eddie O'Connor was tremendous on the edge of the Glenmore square, and in front of him his brother, Willie had the proverbial stormer. Paddy and Richard Mullally and Seamie Dollard were very good too, and youngster John Phelan dragged and pulled at the Graigue defence until he tore it asunder.

Graigue enjoyed the fillip of an early goal from Adrian Ronan. Slowly but surely they were reeled in. A magnificent point from Ray Heffernan from a 90 yards free on the stroke of half-time gave the champions to be a 0-8 to 1-4 lead at half-way.

Graigue lost it when they could muster no more than one point during the next 20 minutes play. They looked ready for the chop when they fell a daunting 1-5 to 1-13 behind with 11 min-

Three Steps To Heaven

Senior hurling championship quarter-final

Glenmore 1-14 Tullaroan 0-9

Glenmore scorers – P.J. O'Connor (2-0); Denis Mullally (0-6, one free); Paul Fitzgerald (0-3); Michael Phelan, Richard Mullally (0-2 each); Michael Murphy (0-1).

Senior hurling championship semi-final

Glenmore 4-11 Shamrocks (Ballyhale) 0-12

Glenmore scorers – Denis Mullally (1-5, four points frees); Michael Murphy, John Phelan, Richard Mullally (1-0 each); Paul Fitzgerald (0-3); Paddy Mullally (0-2, one free); Shay Vereker (0-1).

Senior hurling championship final, October 24

Glenmore 1-14 Graigue-Ballycallan 2-8

Glenmore scorers – John Phelan (0-4); Michael Murphy (1-1); Ray Heffernan (0-3, two frees); Seamis Dollard (0-3); Denis Mullally (0-2, frees); Richard Mullally (0-1).

utes remaining.

A few points from new free taker, Denis Byrne – he took over from the off form Damien Cleere – lifted spirits, and then a goal from Eddie O'Dwyer within a matter of minutes threw the match wide open again (1-13 to 2-7).

A final that only moments earlier was firmly in their grasp, suddenly needed winning again, and Glenmore had to stir themselves. The close finish meant few in the 10,000 crowd left early.

The losers pulled the arrears back to a pair of points with time virtually up. Fittingly, Glenmore's best player, John Phelan conjured up one last piece of magic, and a late point from him earned his side a 1-14 to 2-8 victory.

Glenmore danced a prolonged jig on the field afterwards.

"We were entitled to", Eddie O'Connor felt. "We were the champions, and the team of the decade as well".

Glenmore – Frank Kirwan, Fergal Freyne, Eddie O'Connor, Michael Aylward, Paddy Mullally, Willie O'Connor, Jimmy Walsh, Seamie Dollard, Richard Mullally, Paul Fitzgerald, P.J. O'Connor, Ray Heffernan, Michael Murphy, John Phelan, Denis Mullally (capt). Subs – Michael Phelan, Shay Vereker, Liam Vereker (used); Niall Mackey, Richard Aylward, Mark Mullally, Eoin Grennan, Noel Doherty, Mark Phelan, Fintal Walsh.

Selectors – Tom Casey (manager), Martin Cass, Michael Deady.

Graigue-Ballycallan – Johnny Ronan, Johnny Butler, Paddy O'Dwyer, Paul Hoyne, Tomás McCluskey, Tomás Comerford, Alan Hoyne, Eddie O'Dwyer, James Young, Denis Byrne, Dermot Hoyne, James Ryall, Adrian Ronan, Damien Cleere, Pdraig McCluskey. Subs – Micheál Hoyne, Thomas Dermody, Gearóid Cleere (used); Paul Dermody, Mark O'Brien, Sean Millea, Joseph Brennan, Gerard Ronan, Philip Butler (Kilmanagh), Jimmy Lynch.

Selectors – Jim Neary (manager), John Caldbeck, Tom Hogan.

Referee – John Direen (O'Loughlin-Gaels).

IN THE end justice was done, and the best team won. An unequivocal case.

Hail, half hearted though it may be in some quarters, Young Ireland (Gowran), the Kilkenny senior hurling league champions. They were the only side to put an



Denis Hamilton (St Canice's Credit Union) presents the "Man of the Match Award" to Seamie Dollard of Glenmore. Photo Tom Brett

'Irelands C&C is a real tonic

**SENIOR HURLING
LEAGUE
BY JOHN KNOX
KILKENY PEOPLE**

unbeaten run together in the longest competition in the county.

A team could win the championship by playing a minimum of three games, as Glenmore did this season. But the minimum engagements in the league would be seven, which is four hours' more treacherous hurling engagements that have to be negotiated.

Yet, the league is not accorded status anywhere near that of the knock-out competition. The champions are not lauded as they might be. A conundrum that. A sporting logic that is peculiar to the G.A.A.

be getting weaker, rather than stronger. Time will tell us more.

This season there was a decent spring in 'Irelands step. It never looked as strong as when they won the championship in 1996, but they were still game enough to drag themselves through a few tight and nettlesome testing situations.

They beat the 1998 double champions, Graigue-Ballycallan on the way to the title. They beat the eventual championship winners, Glenmore too. James Stephens, improving Shamrocks (Ballyhale), O'Loughlin-Gaels, Clara and Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in the semi-final were all put to the sword as well.



Young Irelands Gowran, Senior Hurling Championship semi finalists, '99.

Front: David Carter, D.J. Carey, Jack Carey, Ciarán Phelan, Martin Carey, Martin Carter, Charlie Carter, Oliver Carter.

Back: Dick Carroll, Tom Carroll, Stephen Byrne, Tommy Harding, James McDermott, Patrick Treacy, Alan O'Neill, Pat Kennedy, Ciarán Carroll, Pat Drea, Eoin Farrell, Patrick Farrell, Gary Farrell, Daragh Phelan, Dick Carroll, Tom Drennan, David O'Neill, Cathal Fitzgerald, Pat Lennon, Pat O'Neill. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

A twisted G.A.A. situation, where, if you like, the more you do, the less is thought of you.

'Irelands have been league kings twice in recent years, which is a fair reflection of the quality of their current players, and the commitment of their people to the cause.

Happy events

They won one championship as well. Most of the same players shared in all three happy events. There is a body of opinion that would suggest 'Irelands should have harvested a greater crop during those good time, and registered at least one more Aylward Cup win.

Probably! However, the way the hurling die fell this year after the league finished would suggest 'Irelands could experience difficulty in the extreme dragging additional silverware taking performances out of the existing crop of players.

A good number of the cast have been treading the boards for a long time. There are a lot of miles in the legs. The limbs may

Scalps

A fair collection of scalps there, you have to admit.

Of course, with score takers like All-Star, Charlie Carter and hurling virtuoso, D.J. Carey in the ranks, 'Irelands always have to have a chance. Alone, as Carter was in the win over O'Loughlin's when he scored six points (one free), but especially in tandem they add a lot more force to the kick the team can generate.

For example, in the first match against Graigue they scored 0-14 between them (eight for Carter). They followed that by bagging 1-6 against James Stephens, then 0-7 against Shamrocks and six points in the win over Clara.

If those takes don't impress, then what about the combined tally of 1-13 in the final against Glenmore? 'Irelands won a high scoring and open match by 3-16 to 1-18.

Carter was in deadly finishing form that evening in Nowlan Park. Carey took on a more creative role, which is nothing

unusual. On top of his personal scoring contribution, he 'made' two goals, one for Carter the other for his brother, Jack, and three additional points.

So between them they were involved in the creation or scoring of 3-16 of 'Irelands tally. Some going! A C&C that is a real tonic.

Won the hard way

Gowran won that final the hard way. Glenmore had five point on the 'board, three via Paul Fitzgerald, who was shooting as good a William Tell, before a flag was raised at the other end.

There was a quick about turn in the fortunes of the sides, and at half-time 'Irelands had the arrears back to 1-8 to 1-9. Carter drilled home the goal following a Carey defence splitting pass.

Within a minute of the restart the teams were together. On three separate occasions afterwards they were level also, the last time in the 54th minute at 2-14 to 1-17.

In a tight finish, an injury-time goal from Jack Carey condemned Glenmore to a defeat that was worse than was deserved.

Still, it was fair reward for the season long work, and unbeaten run, put in by the 'Irelands two main characters, along with Eoghan Farrell, James McDermott, Jack Carey, Martin Carey and Tommy Drennan.

The third round match against Shamrocks on May 15 was an auspicious occasion for former All-Star, Pat O'Neill. He refloated his career following an operation which had left him without hurling since the All-Ireland final the previous September.

He lined out at wing-back, and celebrated his return by shooting three points, one from a free and two 65s'.

Young Irelands (in the final) – M. Carey, C. Carroll, P. Farrell, D. Phelan, E. Farrell, P. O'Neill, B. Farrell, J. McDermott, O. Carter, T. Drennan, J. Carey, D. O'Neill, D.J. Carey, C. Carter, A. O'Neill. Sub – C. Phelan.

Glenmore – N. Mackey, F. Freyne, E. O'Connor, M. Aylward, P. Mullally, W. O'Connor, J. Walsh, R. Mullally, S. Dollard, P. Fitzgerald, P.J. O'Connor, D. Mullally, S. Vereker, M. Murphy, J. Phelan. Subs – M. Phelan, R. Hefferman.

Referee – P. Hayes (Graigue-Ballycallan).



David O'Neill (Young Irelands) ponders how to get around Johnny Butler (Graigue Ballycallan)
Photo Tom Brett



Fenians Johnstown, Senior Championship quarter-finalists
Back: Stephen Grehan, James Carroll, Brian Ryan, Billy Purcell, Paul Quinlan, J.J. Delaney, Michael Phelan, Declan Garrett.
Front: Liam McEvoy, Kevin Power, P.J. Ryan, Paul Phelan, P.J. Delaney, Gerry Quinlan, Podge Delaney.
Phott: Tom O'Neill

It Gives me no Pleasure...

DIARMUID O'FLYNN - Examiner



Referee Pat O'Connor (Limerick) throws in the ball at the start of the 1999 All Ireland Final.
Photo Sportsfile

I get very little pleasure in saying this, but I told ye so. On a balmy, colourful evening in Nowlan Park, less than two weeks before the All-Ireland final, I told ye so. It was the media evening for the Kilkenny hurlers, and Radio Kilkenny were broadcasting live, from the park. The stands, both sides, were packed, and very evident were the thousands of excited young kids in the famous black-and-amber stripes. The music was blasting out over the ground, the craic was good, carnival atmosphere, and confidence was high. Too high.

Ye should have known, yereselves. History has shown that, when Kilkenny and Cork meet in the All-Ireland final, neither side can ever be too confident. Even in my own memory, and God knows I'm only a gorsoon, there was 1966, when Cork had no chance, but won; 72, when Kilkenny were only going to make up the numbers, and won; 82, when Kilkenny had no hope at all, but twisted the knife in our hearts. Other examples too, all too painful for a Corkman to remember.

During a lull in proceedings that evening, and stuck for someone to interview, Pat Treacy turned to me. Asked for my opinion on the upcoming final. And I told ye. Warned ye, even. Cork were going to win.

I say I get very little pleasure in saying this now, and that's true. But I do get some. In one of my own definitions of sports journalism, I believe that if you can be totally dispassionate and

unbiased, you're in the wrong business. In sport, you need an interest. I have an abiding love of hurling purely as a sport, but that love and passion is deepened, when applied to my home club, Ballyhea, and my county, Cork. This was an All-Ireland that was badly needed in Cork, and the fact that it came against all the odds, and against a county as respected in Cork as Kilkenny, made it all the more satisfying. Thus, the pleasure.

My reasoning for believing Cork would win this year's All-Ireland was the same then as it is now. In the good old straight knock-out championship days, it wasn't possible for teams to meet any common opponent. Once beaten, not seen again that year, in the championship. Uniquely, however, this year, because of this terrible back-door system, each team in the All-Ireland final had met two common opponents. Both Kilkenny and Cork (note how Kilkenny gets first mention, every time) had met and defeated the All-Ireland champions of the past two years, Clare and Offaly respectively. Speaking to the fans that night in Nowlan Park, and again during the following week, when I spent several days in the county for 'The Examiner', that simple fact just didn't seem to register.

Oh, all were only too aware of their own side's impressive wins over Offaly, in the Leinster final, and over Clare, in the All-Ireland semi-final. But Cork's equally impressive wins over the same two opponents were almost dismissed. Clare, went the Kilkenny wisdom, weren't at full blast in the Munster final, with the option of the back-door making them comfortable with defeat. Additionally, it was said, if it hadn't been for Ollie



Henry Shefflin watches as DJ Carey almost kicks a goal past Cork Goalie, Donal Óg Cusack in the 1999 All Ireland Final.
Photo Sportsfile

Baker's injury, he was going to beat Cork on his own. Against Offaly, in the All-Ireland semi-final, it wasn't till the final minutes that Cork managed to put the game away, whereas Kilkenny had pulverised the same opponents in the Leinster final. But in making those very simple assessments, Kilkenny hurling fans were dazzled, and understandably so, by the exploits of their high-powered team.

Hindsight is twenty/twenty, perfect vision, but that evening in Nowlan Park, I pointed out the following. Whether in the Munster final or any other championship stage, Clare did not want to lose to Cork, and went very public on that fact. The two teams went at it hammer and tongs, and on the day, Cork won. Decisively. A mere four points in the end, you say – anyone who was at the game, knew there was more between the sides than that. Nineteen wides for Cork, against nine for Clare; just fourteen points conceded. Cork had Clare in a vice grip, total control, for almost the whole game. In any outing, certain players have their moments, and Ollie Baker had his, before his injury. We can all speculate, but my opinion is that he didn't have the necessary fitness to sustain that effort for the remainder of the game, and even if he had, the Cork mentors would have moved. Moot point, anyway. On the day, Cork were by far the superior side.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, there is very little doubt anywhere that Offaly played their best game of the year, possibly their best game in a number of years. They seriously questioned every aspect of this young Cork side, going ahead at a vital stage of the game, a six points to one run with just ten minutes remaining. But Cork answered those questions, and in some style. Five points to end the game, just as they had done against highly-rated Waterford in their opening championship match, as they had done against Clare in that Munster final. No-one seemed to notice.

Everybody, and not just their own fans, seemed to be talking about the Kilkenny forwards, like they had blown everyone out of the water. They hadn't, and in that Radio Kilkenny interview

with Pat Treacy, I pointed out that they had scored only fourteen points against Clare, that one of their two goals came from a very uncharacteristic error by Frank Lohan, and that the other was one of those out-of-the-blue efforts from DJ, one of a kind not easily repeated. I stated that Cork had an even better defence than Clare, that I couldn't see Kilkenny scoring more than they had in that semi-final, and that the Cork forwards would score just that little bit more. And as it transpired, well, need I say more?

Notice that I keep talking about the Kilkenny fans here, their overconfidence. That's because I noticed no such cockiness among either the players or their mentors. Quite the opposite, in fact. Even as the whole country was tipping them for the win, they were growing increasingly uneasy. They knew. Five Dublin-based experts, one by one, on RTE television, all for Kilkenny (The Examiner, the only daily voice of rural Ireland, doesn't get invited into this cosy cartel), almost every newspaper expert in the business. But Brian Cody knew. DJ Carey knew. All those highly-praised (and rightly so, let me add) Kilkenny forwards knew – this was a serious Cork team, and a very serious Cork defence.

The revisionists, those fans who, before the game, couldn't see Carey and company held, were disparaging of that same sextet afterwards. DJ, they said, couldn't produce on the big day. Charlie, they said, was all flash, no flesh. Rubbish. They made mistakes, as any unit will, but on the day, DJ and company played as well as any forward line could have played. They just met the best defensive unit in the country, playing at its best, that was all. In that situation, the defence always wins. Always.

Kilkenny should look back on 1999 with pride. They made the League semi-final, won Leinster, came within a couple of points of winning the All-Ireland. Look back with pride. Look forward with optimism. But, never be too certain, especially against Cork!

You have been warned, again.

COLLEGES REPORT

Pat Murphy

St Kieran's

St. Kierans started their season well with three good wins in the senior league over C.B.S. Kilkenny, Birr C.S., and Portlaoise CBS. This set them up for the championship proper in February and a six point win over Good Council set them on their way to the Leinster semi-final against St. Peters (Wexford). This match

they narrowly won, by three points, despite being reduced to fourteen men for the last twenty minutes. In the Leinster Final they were pitched against a well trained and disciplined combined Dublin Colleges side. Playing against the elements in the first-half, Kierans managed to notch up a 2-4 to 0-4 interval lead. A whirlwind start to the second-half saw St. Kierans score five points without reply in the first six minutes.



Although the Dubs tried hard, from here on in St. Kierans looked in control and eventually ran out 3-13 to 1-11 winners. St. Kierans: J. Power, M. Phelan, M. Og Kennedy, B. Griffith, T. Murphy, D. Walsh, P. O'Brien, H. Gannon, J. Coogan, E. Kelly, G. Whelan, J. Moran, B. Carroll, D. Dowling, P. Reid. Subs: S. Hennessy, N. Skehan. St Kierans brushed aside the challenge of the Ulster Colleges team in the semi-final with style. Being six points up after five minutes and 2-11 to 0-4 ahead at half-time, the result was never in doubt and 'Kierans eventually won by 3-19 to 0-6. In the end however all their good work and good form throughout the year ended in heartbreak. In an almost bizarre All-Ireland Final at Croke Park St

St. Kierans College - Leinster Senior A Colleges Hurling Champions 1999

Back: Gary Whelan, Peter O'Neill, Brendan Griffith, Stephen Dunne, Michael Luttrell, Brian Hogan, Jamie Power, Martin Og Kennedy, Paddy O'Brien, David Cashin, Damien Walsh.

Middle: Liam Heffernan, James Moran, Ken Coogan, Tim Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, John Coogan, Mark Phelan, Michael Drennan, David Dowling, Patrick Reid.

Front: Adrian Finnan, Eoin Kelly, Brian Carroll, James O'Keeffe, Hugh Gannon, Patrick Bowden, Nigel Skehan, Shane Hennessy, Darragh Connery, Pat Murphy.

Photo Tom Brett



Kilkenny CBS - Rice Cup Winners 1999

Back: Niall Sheehan (Selector), Philip Hogan, Andy Hogan, P.J. Pollard, Brian Mulhall, Michael Murphy, Eddie O'Donoghue, Peter Dowling, Paul O'Brien, Tom Keane (Trainer).

Middle: Paul Nolan, Kevin O'Neill, Bill Beckett, Mark Tyrrell, Eamonn Buggy, Austin Murphy, Denis Tobin, Emmett Costigan, Mark Fitzpatrick.

Front: David Ring, Conor Bolger, Richie Devane, David McCormack (Capt.), Conor O'Grady, Eoin Guinan, Mark Drennan, Mark O'Hara.

Kierans led their old rivals St Flannan's (Ennis) for almost 59 minutes but ended up being beaten by five points. After 8 minutes Kierans found themselves 1-3 to 0-0 ahead. However 'Flannan's clawed their way back to within a point of St Kierans by half-time. 1-2 from Eoin Kelly early in the second-half gave them a six point advantage which they held onto until twelve minutes from time. In the 48th minute St Flannan's' Tony Carmody goaled to bring them back into contention. Two further points for St Flannan's and an Andrew Quinn goal one minute from the end of normal time gave them a lead which they never relinquished. Best for St Kierans on the day were, E. Kelly, B.



Good Counsel - All Ireland Collages Football Champions 1999

Back: Thomas Ely, Niall Murphy, John Finn, Mark Harton, Edward Galavan, Brendan Kehoe, Kevin Stafford, Shane Cullen, Stephen Collins, Lorcan Deely, Ciarán Hyland, Michael Phelan (Glenmore).

Middle: Fr John Henebry OSA (Principal), Keith Madigan (Mullinavat), Eric Bradley, Philip Doyle, Philip Gleeson, David Kehoe, Albert Kehoe, David Bradley, Conor Conway (Mullinavat), Gary Conway, Robert Magregor

Front: Jim Bennett, Daniel Hayden, John Colfer, Aidan O Brian (Trainer), Walter Delaney, Barry Byrne (Capt), Kevin Kehoe (Trainer), Paul Casey, Patrick Cooney, Tommy Young.



Castlecomer Community School - Leinster U-14 Roinn B Colleges Champions

Back: Pat Murphy, Seamus O'Connor, Eddie Doran, Paddy Nolan, Tom Joe Comerford, Sean Meagher, Shane Coonan(Captain), Peter O'Donovan, Alan Healy, Thomas Nolan, David Stone, Shane Dowling, Thomas Campion, Sean Allen, Tomás Nolan, Eamonn Costello.

Front: David O'Gorman, Michael Dunne, Damien Fogarty, Shane Cadigan, David Shore, Karl O'Donnell, Ronan Walsh, Eoin McGrath, Paddy Shortall, James Staunton, Kieran Byrne, Dermot Wallace.

Carroll, D. Walsh, P. O'Brien, M. Phelan, D. Dowling, B. Griffith, & T. Murphy.

ST. KIERANS: J. Power, M. Phelan, M.Og Kennedy, B. Griffith, T. Murphy, D. Walsh, P. O'Brien, H. Gannon, J.Coogan, E.Kelly, J.Moran, G.Whelan, B.Carroll, D.Dowling, P.Reid. Subs; J.O'Keefe, S.Hennessy.

St. Kieran's Complete Two Trebles with Leinster Juvenile Success

As well as completing a clean sweep of Leinster hurling titles for the school at Senior, Junior and Juvenile level for 1999, the Juveniles also finished off a three in a row of successes at this age group. Earlier victories were recorded over Good Counsel, St. Peter's, St.Brendan's Birr, Coláiste Éamainn Rís, Coláiste Éanna (Dublin), Kilkenny CBS twice, including the semi-final, and Enniscorthy CBS

twice, including the final. This juvenile final was the closest Kieran's had come to defeat all season. Enniscorthy CBS put in a storming first half and were good value for their half time lead of 1-4 to 1-2. In the second half, the winners benefitted greatly from use of the stiff breeze. Nevertheless, it took a superb goal scored by James (Cha) Fitzpatrick in the final minutes of the game to make sure of victory for St. Kieran's College on a scoreline of St. Kieran's 3-12, Enniscorthy CBS 3-7.

The full panel was: J. Connolly, D. Healy, J. Fitzpatrick, E. Reid, M.Aylward (Ballyhale Shamrocks); M. Bergin, S. Prendergast, D. Prendergast, J.Murphy, L. Ryan (Clara); D. Cody, P. Butler, J. Quane (James Stephens); J.Tennyson, R. Power (Carrickshock); S. Maher, P. Kennedy, E. Brennan (Tullaroan) E. O'Gorman (Emeralds); D.Bergin

(Ballacolla); J. Walsh (Ballinakill); B. Moloney(Blacks and Whites); P. Wall (Bennettsbridge); D. O'Neill (Barrow Rangers);C. Gilligan (Piltown) P. Walsh (Danesfort); D. Murphy (Graigue-Ballycallan); J. Bryan (Dicksboro); P.Atkinson (Bunclody); G. Hickey (Galmoy).

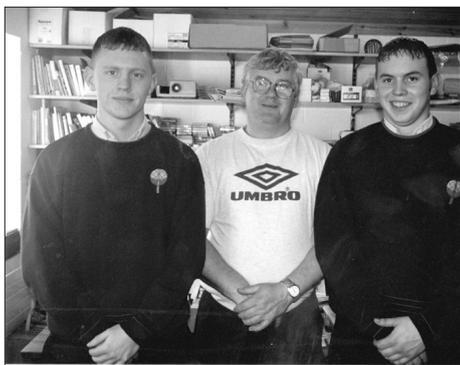
CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

U-14 & U-16

Not having won a Leinster hurling title at any grade since 1988, the young hurlers of Castlecomer Community School certainly made amends in 1999 by winning two titles, at U-14 and U-16 levels respectively, in 1999. Starting with the U14's; and they started the season well with good preliminary round wins over Gorey and Enniscorthy, Ballyfin in the South Leinster Semi-Final and Gorey again in the South Leinster Final. In the Leinster Semi Final they overcame Dublin champions St Declan's by nineteen points. This team just seemed to get better as the year went on and in a one sided Leinster Final they steamrolled to a 9-29 to 0-0 victory over North Leinster champions Mullingar C.B.S., to become U-14 Roinn B Leinster champions. The U-16's then took up where the U-14's left off. Starting well with good preliminary round wins over Gorey, Bunclody, and Ballinakill, they went on to beat old rivals Gorey by four points in a hard fought South Leinster final. The Leinster Semi Final proved to be the match of the season. Here 'Comer took on a very good St Rynagh's (Offaly) team. With both teams playing hurling and scoring scores that many a senior team would be proud of Castlecomer C.S. eventually managed to edge out their opponents by four points. The Leinster Final was a tough, physical encounter against Dublin champions St. Davids (Artane). Playing with the wind in the first half 'Comer went in ten points ahead at the break and some good scores early in the second half put their opponents out of sight, even though the metropolitans tried hard to come back. Castlecomer C.S. eventually became Leinster U-16 B champions on a 6-7 to 0-5 scoreline. It has been over a year now since a Castlecomer C.S. team has been beaten in a competitive match. And, with the seniors winning the first three matches of the 1999/2000 season, it is hoped that this trend will continue into the new year.

HANDBALL:

Once again the Handballers of Castlecomer Community School were to the fore when winning Leinster All Ireland titles. In all the school won 9 Leinster titles, 1 All Ireland and 1 All Ireland runners up medal.



Leinster and All Ireland Champions – William Love, Ned Lawlor (Trainer) and Andrew Hosey.



Leinster Juvenile "A" Champion – Tom Joe Comerford and Ned Lawlor (Trainer)



Graham Lawlor Juvenile "B" Leinster Champion



**Colaiste Eamainn Rís Callan
Leinster Junior "A" Shield Champions 1999**

Front: Niall Freaney, S. Cody, Brian Doheny, S. Hawe, Brendan Hoyne (capt.), M. Cody, S. Murphy, G. O'Dea.
Middle: N. Maher, D. Hogan, C. Brien, R. Butler, S. Lonergan, J. Fennelly, Seamie Corrigan, J. Maher, B. Cahill.

Back: M. Munnally, M. Dowling, William Hartley, B. Cahill, D. Power, M. Dunphy, B. Murphy.

Photo: John Stapleton.



Castlecomer Community School South Leinster and U-16 Roinn B Colleges Champions 1999

Back: Pat Murphy, Seamus O'Connor, Pa O'Dwyer, Colin Dunne, Michael Farrell, Damien Maher, Shane Coonan, J.J. O'Sullivan, Peter O'Donovan, Sean Allen, Thomas Nolan, Kevin Maher, Tomás Nolan, Shane Dowling, Patrick Byrne, Pat Nolan.
Front: Sean Maher, Thomas Campion, Conor Kinsella, Robert Shore, Shane Cadigan, Alan Healy (capt), Paddy Nolan, David Shore, Fergal Lawlor, James Doone, Paul Mullally.

60 x 30 Leinster Champions

Juvenile "B" Single – Paul Byrne beat Carnew (Wicklow) 15-5 15-7.

Juvenile "B" Singles – Colin Philips beat FCJ Bunclody 21-12 21-10.

Juvenile "B" Doubles – Sean Dowd and Sean Keane beat FCJ Bunclody 21-12 and 21-14.

Juvenile "A" Singles – Tom Joe Comerford beat St. Peters Wexford 15-2 and 15-3.

Senior "A" Doubles – William Love and Andrew Hosey beat St. Peters in Leinster Final (21-10, 21-10) and Omagh CBS in All Ireland Semi-Final and were beaten by Ballaghadereen (Roscommon) in All Ireland Final 21-19, 19-21, 21-20.

40 x 20 Leinster Champions

Junior "B" Doubles – Sean Dowd and Jim Dowd beat Kells (Meath) 21-9, 21-15.

Senior "B" Singles – Sean (Duckie) Maher beat Kells (Meath) 21-20, 21-10.

Juvenile "A" Singles – Sean Maher beat Good Counsel (Wexford) 15-5 and 15-6.

Senior "A" Doubles Leinster Champions – William Love and Andrew Hosey beat Carnew 21-10, 21-3 and All Ireland Semi Final beat Omagh CBS 21-3, 21-10, 21-11.

All Ireland winners – William Love and Andrew Hosey beat Ballaghadereen in Final 21-14 and 21-6.

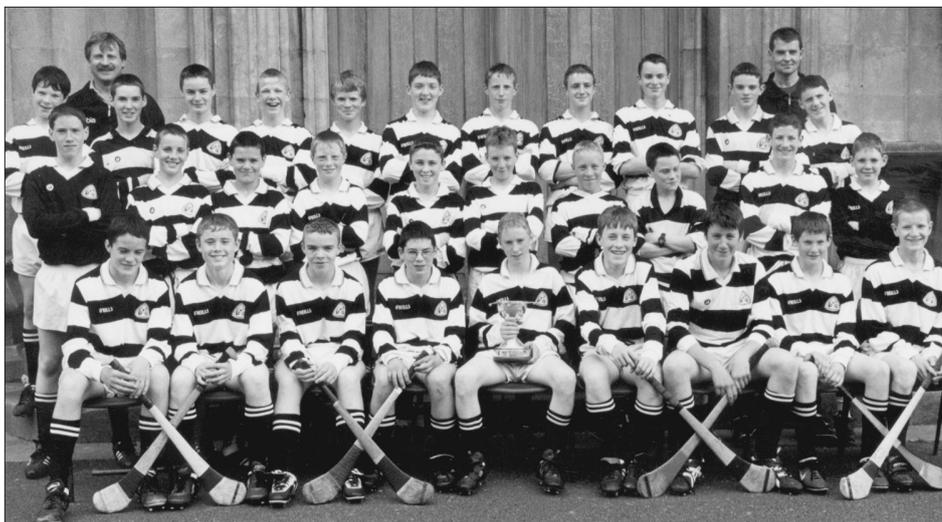
Coláiste Eamainn Rís

In the Leinster Colleges Senior Championship the school failed to reach the Leinster Final, despite creditable victories over St. Peters College of Wexford, and the Combined Dublin Colleges. However the Junior team had a great win in their Shield competition over Kilkenny CBS.

Brilliant Past Pupils

As usual, the contribution made by former and present students of the school to Kilkenny teams was enormous. Denis Byrne captained the Kilkenny Senior team in the All-Ireland Final against Cork, while Canice Hickey captained the Minor team in their run to the All-Ireland semi-final. His brother, Noel led the troops in their glorious march to All-Ireland honours against Galway in the under-21 Championship. "Rís man" Noel, would have been proud that former classmates, John O'Neill, John Paul Corcoran and Niall McCormack were also members of that same team.

Other former pupils who figured on



St. Kierans College Leinster Juvenile A Hurling Champions 1999

Back: Patrick Butler, John Quane (Trainer), Paul Kennedy, Cormac Gilligan, Jason Bryan, Jamie Quane, John Walsh, John Tennyson, Stephen Maher, Eamonn O'Gorman, Dara Murphy, Tom Hogan (Trainer), Eoin Reid,
Middle: James Connolly, Eamonn Brennan, Phillip Walsh, Mark Aylward, Peter Atkinson, Shane Prendergast, Patrick Wall, Liam Ryan, Barry Moloney, Michael Bergin.
Front: Darren O'Neill, Damien Bergin, George Hickey, David Healy, James Fitzpatrick, John Murphy, David Prendergast, Donnacha Cody, Richard Power. *Photo: Tom Brett Jr.*

Kilkenny winning teams during the year were, John Power, Tom Hickey (Senior), Keith Doheny and David Herity (Minor).

Club stalwarts

The school salutes the achievement of the Tullaroan Minor team who captured the Kilkenny Roinn "A" minor title. Michael Maher led the team with conviction, while his schoolmates, Richard Butler, Sean Glennon, and Nicholas Maher contributed hugely to an historic victory.

Come on the Lockes!

The school also salutes the achievement of John Lockes winning the Kilkenny Intermediate Championship, every member of which is a past pupil. The team trainer was Brother Damien Brennan, who has had terrific success with Colaiste Eamainn Rís over the years.

Brian Manogue and Niall Doran won All-Ireland Handball titles, while many more pupils collected Leinster awards.

RICE CUP CHAMPIONS 1999

KILKENNY C.B.S. 5-14 ARD SCOIL RÍS (LIMERICK) 2- 7

Kilkenny C.B.S. captured the Rice Cup at Semple Stadium, Thurles when they defeated a highly fancied Ard Scoil Rís from the north side of Limerick city in a high class final. Ard Scoil Rís had already chalked up victories over Charleville, Doon, Sexton Street, Limerick, Ennis, and Tipperary.

Lismore C.B.S. were their victims in the quarter final. They defeated Thurles C.B.S. by 4-11 to 1-5 in the semi final. Kilkenny C.B.S. beat Callan C.B.S. High School, Clonmel and Nenagh C.B.S. in the semi-final after a titanic struggle.

The final was a high class game. The exchanges were closer than the scoreline suggests. Only one point separated the teams at half-time. Kilkenny C.B.S. took the game to their opponents from the start. Despite playing against a stiff breeze, they led by 1-3 to 0-1 after 15 minutes.

Bill Beckett opened the scoring with a point from a free, and then a beautiful one from play. Following a great move involving David McCormack and Eoin Guinan, Philip Hogan netted. This was followed by another fine point from David McCormack. Ard Scoil Rís responded immediately with a point from play.

Kilkenny C.B.S. were in control. They would have been further ahead were it not for some brilliant goalkeeping by Donal

Og Murray in the opponents goal.

The game took a dramatic turn when Kilkenny C.B.S. conceded a soft goal from a long range free. This was followed by a goal from play from Limerick's most dangerous forward, Peter Russell.

Ard Scoil Rís were now in control, and they added two points from play. The Kilkenny boys rallied before half-time.

Eoin Guinan scored the first of three brilliant goals. After rounding his man, he left the goalkeeper with no chance, with a clinical finish to the corner of the net. Mark O' Hara added a fine point to leave the score at the interval: Kilkenny C.B.S. 2-4, Ard Scoil Rís 2-3.

On the resumption, Kilkenny, with the breeze in their backs took the game to their opponents. They scored two fine points by Bill Beckett and Eoin Guinan. Ard Scoil Rís replied with a point from a free.

They were applying tremendous pressure and had a goal disallowed for a square infringement. This took the sting out of their challenge. Heads began to drop. Eoin Guinan scored his second goal and the James's street boys took control.

During the closing 15 minutes the C.B.S. scored 2-8 with hurling of the highest quality. Philip Hogan scored his second goal, and Eoin Guinan completed his hat-trick of goals. Tremendous.

Points were added by Mark O' Hara (3), Eddie O' Donoghue, David McCormack, Eoin Guinan, Richie Devane and Philip Hogan. This was a tremendous display by Kilkenny C.B.S. with 5 goals and 13 points of their total coming from play.

The backs also played tremendous hurling, with Mark Drennan out-standing at centre back and Darren Tyrrell good at full-back. Austin Murphy, Paul O' Brien, Eamon Buggy and Peter Dowling ensured that the forwards had a plentiful supply of ball.

P.J. Bollard worked tirelessly at midfield. His striking and distribution were top class. Conor O'Grady didn't put a foot wrong in goal.

There were jubilant scenes after the game as David McCormack was presented with the Rice Cup. He followed in the footsteps of his father, John who captained Callan C.B.S. to victory in 1968.

Scorers for Kilkenny C.B.S. - Eoin Guinan (3-2), Philip Hogan (2-1), Bill Beckett (0-3. one free); Mark O' Hara (0-4), David McCormack (0-2), Eddie O'Donoghue, Richie Devane (0-1 each).

Kilkenny C.B.S. - Conor O'Grady (James Stephens); Peter Dowling (O' Loughlin's); Darren Tyrrell (Dicksboro); Eamonn Buggy (St. Martin's); Austin Murphy (Clara); Mark Drennan (Clara); Paul O'Brien (O' Loughlin-Gaels); P.J. Pollard (Graigue-Ballycallan); Mark O' Hara (Dicksboro); Bill Beckett (St. Lactain's); David McCormack, Capt. (James Stephens); Eddie O' Donoghue (Dicksboro); David Ring (James Stephens); Eoin Guinan (St. Lactain's); Philip Hogan (Dicksboro).

Subs - Richie Devane (Graigue-Ballycallan); Micheal Murphy (Graig-Ballycallan); Mark Fitzpatrick (Graigue-Ballycallan); Conor Bolger (Bennettsbridge); Paul Nolan (Rower Inistioge); Brian Mulhall (St. Martin's); Kevin O' Neill (James Stephens); Denis Tobin (Clara); Andy Hogan (Dicksboro); Emmett Costigan (St. Lactain's).

Jack Lynch - One of our Own

Paddy Buggy



Jack Lynch leads out Cork in the 1939 All Ireland Final versus Kilkenny
Kilkenny Captain, Jimmy Walsh leads Jimmy Kelly, Jimmy O'Connell, Paddy Larkin, Terry Leahy, Jimmy Phelan, and Paddy Phelan, while Jack Lynch leads Alan Lotty, Billy Murphy, Jim Young, and Sean Barrett. Photo Cork Examiner Library

The recent death of Jack Lynch brought to an end the life of a great statesman, a sportsman, and a gentleman. Jack Lynch was the most popular Irish Politician since the foundation of the State.

He demonstrated that it was unnecessary to assume airs or graces to be successful. He never lost the common touch.

Often it is said on the death of a celebrity, "Ni bheidh a leitheid ann aris". How true it is in Jack's case. - we shall not see his likes again. Jack Lynch was always one of our own, people from all walks of life were at ease in his company.

Born in the shadow of the famed Shandon bells, Jack loved Cork and its people, and they loved him. How often in company he gave his rendering of "De Banks." He was one of their own.

If you were associated with the GAA, you shared a special bond with Jack Lynch. I saw him receive two spontaneous tributes from GAA people, that were touching and memorable. As Taoiseach, he addressed the dignitaries, and players at an All-Star function in the Burlington Hotel, and he was given an emotional standing ovation, that lasted for quite some minutes. However, the greatest tribute that I have ever seen paid to any sporting individual, was paid to Jack Lynch at the Centenary All-Ireland Finals in Thurles in 1984. Famous All-Ireland winning captains were introduced to the crowd, and when Jack Lynch, Cork captain of 1939, walked onto the pitch, the "plain folk" of Ireland - all 64,000 of them - showed that they hadn't forgotten their former Politician, Taoiseach, and sporting hero. The moving demonstration of 64,000 standing in unison to greet and cheer the quietly-spoken, pipe-smoking Corkman who had won the hearts of a nation was the most remarkable display of public respect and affection that I have ever seen. be forgotten.

Thousands gathered in Dublin and Cork to pay their last respects, not to a former Taoiseach, but to one of our own, the Cork man who had a kindly word for everyone.

Jack never changed from the warm youth who grew up in Cork and on social occasions, his drink remained a "Paddy" or a pint. The story is told that on one occasion Jack was given a "Paddy", and he was asked if would he like a drop of water through the whiskey. answered "You don't light a good fire and put it out with water".

Jack was an outstanding hurler and footballer and had a most remarkable career winning six All-Ireland medals in a row 1941 - 1946, five hurling and one football, against Cavan in 1945 - a record unlikely ever to be equalled. He was a strong, forceful hurler, well able to look after himself. As they say nowadays, Jack Lynch had a great "engine". On one occasion he played three games - football with his Dublin Club, Civil Service, and hurling and football with Munster in the Railway Cups in Croke Park - all on the same day.

Jack had a great love for the game of hurling and, with his wife, Maureen, followed Cork teams and visited Croke Park into the nineties.. As he has said on one occasion, "I have always unashamedly claimed that hurling is the best field game in the world. I think that hurling typifies the Irish Character and tradition more than anything else, with the exception of our language. It has a combination of skill, courage, speed of thought and action. It calls for a spirit of give and take more than most games. It's main implement is a stick, skilfully hewn and fashioned from the ash tree, which grows so abundantly in our own land. Can anything be more racy of the soil - the game itself, the camán, and the men who play it."



Jack Lynch with Noel Skehan at the 1984 Centenary All Ireland in Thurles with Eddie Keher in the background. Photo Cork Examiner Library

It is a widely held notion that Kilkenny deprived Jack Lynch - and Cork-- of winning two more All-Irelands. He captained Cork in the 1939 "Thunder and Lightning" Final, won by Kilkenny with a last minute point from Carrickshock's Jimmy Kelly. Again he was deprived in 1947 by a single point, when Terry Leahy got the winner, in a final that I would describe as the greatest hurling final that I have seen. He had a special grá for Kilkenny hurlers, and Kilkenny hurling. He is on record as stating that Sart's Paddy Phelan was the greatest defender that he had ever played upon. His trickery knew no limits. Jack Lynch's hurling records are worth recording. With the North Mon (his alma mater) he won Harty Cup medals in 1935, and again in '36. He won Interprovincial medals with Munster in the same years. He was a Glen Rovers man all his life, even well after his playing days were over. He never allowed his membership card to lapse. What other sporting club can boast of a Taoiseach as a life-long member ?

He won a record eight Cork Senior Hurling titles in a row with the "Glen" from 1934 until 1941. He won thirteen such titles in all. His medal collection is currently on display in the GAA Museum in Croke Park, for all to gaze at in wonderment.

Jack Lynch will be remembered politically as a man of peace, who gave a life of service to the Irish Nation. In sport he will be remembered as the ' Laoch' of the playing fields, whether it is the fields of his native Cork, or the many arenas in Munster, Leinster, Connaught or Ulster. As long as there is democracy,

and young men to play the sliothar with the ash camán for the tingle of excitement it brings to fingers, and hearts, Jack Lynch, one of our own, will be fondly remembered. May the green sod of Cork rest lightly oe'r him.

In his political career, Jack Lynch first entered the Dail in 1948. He served as Parliamentary Secretary from 1951 until 1954. He was Minister for the Gaeltacht in 1957, Minister for Education from 1957 until 1959, Minister for Industry and Commerce from 1959 until 1966, and Minister for Finance from 1965 until 1966. He was elected Taoiseach on November 10th, 1966.

On the playing fields he won ;

- 2 Harty Cups,
- 2 Colleges Interprovincials,
- 5 All-Ireland Senior Hurling medals,
- 1 All-Ireland Senior Football medal,
- 3 National Hurling League medals,
- 6 Railway Cup medals,
- 13 Cork Senior Hurling Championships,
- 7 Munster Senior Hurling Medals,
- 1 Munster Senior Football medal
- etc. etc. etc.

MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Minor Football championship was again completed before the close-down for the examinations. This has now become the norm for these championships and has proved to be the best time to run

Roinn A

First Round

**Emeralds 2-7 Mullinavat 0-7,
James Stephens 4-11
Dicksboro 1-1, Erin's Own 4-12
O'Loughlin Gaels 1-12, Graigue
Ballycallan a bye.**

Semi Finals:

**James Stephens 2-6 Emeralds 1-6:
Erin's Own 3-18 Graigue Ballycallan 5-2.**

County Final:

Erin's Own 1-8 James Stephens 2-3.



Castlecomer - Roinn A County Minor Football Champions 1999

Back: Lar Dunne, Brian O'Neill, William Brophy, Eamonn Brennan, Adrian Brennan, Seanie Phelan, Danny Byrne, Trevor Condell, Edward Brennan, Stephen Dwyer, Jason Carroll, David Renwick, Donal McInerney, Michael Boland.

Front: Sean Dwyer, Colin Dunne, Anthony Owens, Jonathan Kenny, Hugh Kelly, Finbar Kelly, Adam Holden (Capt), Niall Murtagh, Gordon Byrne, Adrian Hennessy.
Photo Tom Brett

them. Seven teams competed in Roinn A.

The results were:-

The Erin's Own side were bridging a fifty year gap in bringing the honours to Castlecomer. A team called Spike Rangers had won the minor football in 1948 and 1949. Erin's Own deserved their victory as they came from six points down in the second half for a wonderful triumph.

James Stephens had first use of the breeze but the winners defence were conceding little. The City boys got a boost in the 10th minute when a speculative kick from Niall Tyrrell ended in the net. This score helped the Village boys into an interval lead of 1-2 to 0-3. The fat was really in the fire for Erin's Own early in the second half when Ken Lynch goaled for



JAMES STEPHENS - MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN A COUNTY FINALISTS.

Back: Maurice harkin, Tom Mullhall, Derick Buckley, Jackie tyrell, Richie Hayes, Brendan Doyle, Niall Grogan.

Front: Eamonn Mernagh, Pat Grogan, Brendan O'Brien, Derek Brennan, Alan Dunne, Peter O'Neill, Michael Eardly, Eoin McCormack, Joseph Mernagh.
Photo: Tom Brett.

Roinn B

North

Preliminary Round:-

**St Lachtains beat Clara,
Bennettsbridge beat Barrow Rangers,
Railyard 2-7 St Patricks (Ballyragget) 2-1.**

First Round:-

**Muckalee 0-8 St Lachtains 2-2,
Muckalee 3-5 St Lachtains 3-3 (Replay),
Conahy Shamrocks 0-9 Lisdowney 0-7,
Bennettsbridge 5-12 Young Irelands 0-2,
Railyard 0-20 Danesfort 0-2.**

Semi Finals:-

**Conahy Shamrocks 1-6 Muckalee 0-4,
Bennettsbridge 4-5 Railyard 0-5.**

Northern Final:-

Bennettsbridge 1-7 Conahy Shamrocks 0-3.

South

First Round:-

**Piltown Beat Slieverue,
Shamrocks 1-9 Rower Inistioge 3-3,
Shamrocks 1-10 Rower Inistioge 1-6 (Replay),
Graignamanagh w.o. Windgap scr,
John Lockes beat Kilmacow,
Glenmore beat Kilmoganny,
Tullagher Rosbercon 2-6 Thomastown 1-3.**

Second Round:-

**Shamrocks 1-12 Piltown 2-6,
Graignamanagh 2-13 John Lockes 1-3,
Tullagher Rosbercon 2-12 Glenmore 2-4,
Carrickshock 1-6 Mooncoin 0-4.**

Semi Finals:-

**Shamrocks Beat Graignamanagh,
Tullagher Rosbercon 2-6 Carrickshock 1-4.**

Southern Final:-

Shamrocks 2-6 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-4.

County Final

Bennettsbridge 2-4 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-6

the Green and Reds. Another point by Maurice Harkin left six points between the sides. It was at this stage that the Comer



BENNETTSBRIDGE - MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN B COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Back: Pat Hickey (manager), Barry O'Shea, Owen O'Neill, Karl Cullen, Brian Lannon, Gary Hayes, Alan Simpson, John Lennon, Enda Cleere, Aidan Doran, Mark Dobbyn, Jonathan Cleere, John Kenny (selector).
Front: John Hayes, Ross Dowling, Garret Hickey, Mark Hayes, James Wallace, Johnny Meighan, Joe Bolger, Robbie Ryan, Paul Kenny, David Treacy. *Photo: Tom Brett.*

side showed their true worth. Adam Holden began to dominate matters at midfield. Gordon Byrne started their rally with a point from a "45". Two further points followed from Jason Carroll and Adam Holden. Dominating matters at this stage the North Kilkenny boys levelled the scores in the 44th minute with a goal from Stephen O'Dwyer. The Comer boys were now on top and, with James Stephens unable to regain the initiative, Erin's Own added two further points from Adam Holden to clinch a great victory.

Finbarr Kelly, except for one lapse, did well in goal. David Renwick gave an outstanding display of fielding in defence. He got most support from Trevor Condell and Seanie Phelan. Stars of this sector were Jonathan Kenny and Gordon Byrne. Adam Holden was the star of the game at midfield. His partner, Adrian Brennan, was also to the fore. Best in attack for the winners were Donal McInerney, Anthony Owens and Niall Murtagh. Derek Brennan could not be faulted in the losers' goal. Jackie Tyrrell, Niall Grogan and Peter O'Neill did most work in defence. Maurice Harkin was the Village side's best player. Brendan O'Brien, Niall Tyrrell and Eoin McCormack were best in attack.

Scorers: *Erin's Own:-* Adam Holden (0-5), Stephen O'Dwyer (1-0), Gordon Byrne (0-1), Donal McInerney (0-1), Jason Carroll (0-1).

James Stephens:- Maurice Harkin (0-3),

Niall Tyrrell (1-0), Ken Lynch (1-0).

Erin's Own: Finbarr Kelly, Hugh Kelly, Trevor Condell, David Renwick, Jonathan Kenny, Seanie Phelan, Gordon Byrne, Adrian Brennan, Adam Holden, Denny Byrne, Eddie Brennan, Stephen O'Dwyer, Donal McInerney, Niall Murtagh, Anthony Owens. *Subs:-* Jason Carroll, Colin Dunne.

James Stephens: Derek Brennan, Niall Grogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Eardley, Joe Mernagh, Peter O'Neill, Brendan Doyle, Maurice Harkin, Richard Hayes, Niall Tyrrell, Ken Lynch, Pat Grogan, Brendan O'Brien, Eoin McCormack, Alan Dunne. *Sub:-* Derek Buckley.

*Referee—*Shem Gibbons (Young Irelands).

Roinn B.

Twenty five teams contested the Roinn B championship, eleven in the North and fourteen in the South.

The final, played in Nowlan Park, produced a controversial finish as Bennettsbridge took the honours for the first time. The controversy arose over the winning goal in injury time which gave Bennettsbridge victory on a score of 2-4 to 1-6 for Shamrocks. A speculative kick from Ross Dowling ended in the net as backs and forwards contested the ball. Shamrocks claimed the forwards were in the square. After consultation with his umpires the referee allowed the goal.

Shamrocks had only themselves to blame as they dominated the game for long periods and had numerous chances to clinch the game. During the course of the game, they were awarded three penalties but only scored from one. The winners hung in when the game was going against them. They never let Shamrocks get further than three points ahead, so they were always within one score of their opponents.

Enda Cleere turned in a man of the match performance in the winners' goal. As well as saving two penalties, he denied Michael O'Keeffe with a fine save in the first half. The 'Bridge full back line of Eoin O'Neill, John Lennon and Jonathan Meighan must also be given a large share of the credit as they stood up to a constant barrage. Brian Lannon did most work at midfield ably assisted by winning goal scorer Ross Dowling. Robbie Ryan, Barry O'Shea and Gary Hayes did best in attack. Michael Drennan was best of the losers' defence getting good support from Keith Murphy and Patrick Reid. Keith Nolan and Willie Coogan had the edge at midfield. Michael O'Keeffe was best of the forwards. Others to do well were David Hoyne and Larry Aylward.

Scorers:

Bennettsbridge: Brian Lennon (1-3), Ross Dowling (1-0), Barry O'Shea (0-1).

Shamrocks: Larry Aylward (1-3), Michael O'Keeffe (0-2), Keith Nolan (0-1).

Bennettsbridge: Enda Cleere, Eoin O'Neill, John Lennon, Jonathan Meighan, Mark Dobbyn, Jonathan Cleere, Karl Cullen, Brian Lannon, Ross Dowling, Barry O'Shea, Gary Hayes, Robbie Ryan, Mark Hayes, Aidan Doran, Gary Hickey. *Subs:-* James Wallace, Alan Simpson.

Shamrocks: John Kennedy, Anthony Walsh, Eamonn Frisby, Michael Drennan, Pdraig Holden, Keith Murphy, Patrick Reid, Willie Coogan, Keith Nolan, Larry Aylward, Brendan Costelloe, John Dermody, Robbie Aylward, David Hoyne, Michael O'Keeffe. *Subs:-*Liam Walsh, D. J. Molloy.

Referee: Willie Kearney (Kilmoganny).

Under Age Tournaments

Richie Stone

Tony Forristal Memorial Tournament

Despite fielding a strong team, Kilkenny failed once again to make any real impression in the Tony Forristal inter-county under-14 hurling tournament in Waterford. The Noresiders were grouped with Cork and Galway. The group winners went through to the semi-final.

In their opening game, Kilkenny faced Galway. This was a cracker. A well taken goal by Shane Dowling, after good work by James "Cha" Fitzpatrick midway through the opening half, put the Noresiders into a lead they held at the break. At the interval Kilkenny led by 1-4 to 2-0.

Both goals for Galway came from their best forward, Aengus Callinan. Callinan played a major part in Galway's third goal early in the second half. He got possession out on the left wing before putting the ball across the face of the goal, where Niall Callinan gave Kilkenny 'keeper, Richie Power, no chance.

Back in the game

That goal put Galway four points clear, 3-3 to 1-5. 'Cha' Fitzpatrick brought Kilkenny back into the game when he goaled, Aengus Callinan added another point for Galway. The 'Cats hit back with points from Alan Healy and James Dunne to level the game. In the final minute Aengus Callinan pointed a free to give Galway a narrow victory.

In their clash with Cork, a goal from Shane Dowling after 13 minutes set-up Kilkenny for a half-time lead of 1-2 to 0-3. However, within five minutes of the restart, Cork took the lead with points from Diarmuid Dorris (2) and James Moylan, Alan Healy equalised after 10 minutes to set-up a thrilling last quarter.

A goal from Barry Sheehan gave Cork a three point lead inside the closing five minutes. Kilkenny responded with a goal from Brien Doheny to leave it all square with a minute remaining. Then up popped the impressive Alan Healy to knock over the winning point.

Finished strongly

In the closing game in the group, Galway finished strongly to defeat Cork. This result meant Kilkenny were eliminated, Galway went through to the semi-finals.

Despite missing the semi-finals, this was one of Kilkenny's better displays in recent years in this important tournament. They were involved in two very competitive games against strong opposition, and were unlucky to lose.

The Galway defeat ultimately cost them a place in the semi-finals. Nevertheless, Kilkenny had good performances in David Prendergast, Richie Power, James Dunne, Shane Dowling, Alan Healy and James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick.

Kilkenny's scorers: James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick (1-6); Shane Dowling (2-0); Alan Healy (0-3); Brian Doheny (1-0)

Panel : Richie Power (Carrickshock); Donncha Cody (James Stephens); John Tennyson (Carrickshock); Michael Fennelly

(Shamrocks); Shane Cadigan (St. Martins); David Prendergast (Clara); Tom O'Hanlon (Mooncoin); Darren O'Neill (Barrow Rangers); David McCormack (James Stephens); James Dunne (Galmoy); Alan Healy (Conahy); Brian Doheny (John Lockes); Mark Drennan (Clara); Shane Dowling (St. Patricks); James Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks); James Connolly (Shamrocks); George Hickey (Galmoy); P.J. Pollard (Graigue-Ballycallan); Paul Maher (Piltown); Eddie Donoghue (Dicksboro); Austin Murphy (Clara); Eoin Guinan (St.Lachtain's); Jamie Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks); Mark O'Hara (Dicksboro).

Nenagh Co-Op Tournament

The Kilkenny U-16 hurlers bowed out of the 1999 Nenagh Co-Op Tournament without as much as a whimper when they lost both of their opening games against Galway and Laois.

In their opening game against a very good Galway side, they were comprehensively beaten 1-21 to 2-09. Galway, brilliantly led by their county minor star Ger Farragher, were always in control. At the end of the first quarter, the Tribesmen, assisted by the breeze, led 0-05 to 0-03. They upped their play considerably in the second quarter and scored 1-10 without reply to effectively end the game as a contest. Kilkenny improved in the early part of the second half, but Galway kept their noses in front. A late Kilkenny goal from a penalty by Kevin Cleere only served to put a more respectable look on the scoreboard.

Defeat by Galway meant Kilkenny went into the shield competition. Here they took on a Laois team that had been well beaten by Clare. From an early stage the omens were not good for the Kilkenny side. A goal from Laois corner forward James Walsh after 15 minutes set Laois up for a 1-06 to 0-05 lead.

Kilkenny fought back and goals from Conor Phelan and Sean O'Neill mid-way through the second half seemed to set the Noresiders up for victory. However, Laois had other ideas. A goal in the 49th. Minute from a free by Peter Gray brought them right back into the game. Kilkenny were still 4 points to the good with 8 minutes remaining, but Laois finished strongly with goals from Peter Gray and Tom Drennan and a James Walsh point to win 2 points and send Kilkenny home empty handed.

On a disappointing day for Kilkenny, Sean O'Neill, Kevin Cleere, David Herrity, Tommy Walsh, Peter Cleere, Brian Dowling and Michael Walsh all tried hard for Kilkenny.

Kilkenny Panel: D. Herrity (Dunamaggin), T. Walsh (Tullaroan), M. Hartley (John Lockes), N. Doherty (Galmoy), B. Doyle (Jas. Stephens), K. Cleere (Graigue/Ballycallan), M. Rice (Carrickshock), P. Cleere (Black & Whites), M. Phelan (Galmoy), B. Dowling (O'Loughlin's), G. Prendergast (Clara), S. Hennessy (Tullaroan), B. Hoyne (Carrickshock), C. Phelan (Clara), S. O'Neill (Dunamaggin), J. Maher (St. Lachtain's), P. Kenny (Piltown), P. Aylward (Shamrocks), E. Campion (Tullaroan), R. Gaule (Tullogher/Rosbercon), P.J. Delaney (Fenians), P. Cullinane (Graigue/Ballycallan), E. Kavanagh (Emeralds).

LISDOWNNEY SEVENS 1999

Eamonn Dunne

"I am full of admiration for the teachers, coaches and managers of under-age teams," said County Board Chairman, Ned Quinn, at the conclusion of this year's Lisdownney Coca-Cola Sevens. "They mind, nurse, drive and generally look after the young players' needs, often with no glory attached." He welcomed all the teams and said that this was now regarded as one of the premier under-age competitions in the country.

This is now the 18th year of a competition begun in 1982 to fill a void in the hurling calendar. The main organisers then were Larry Hamilton (Secretary), Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.) and Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola) and the same trio have been at the helm ever since.

This year 28 teams from 7 counties entered the competition, i.e. Ballyhale, Emeralds, Dicksboro A and B, St. Patrick's, Graigue/Ballycallan, Cloneen, Tullaroan Blacks and Whites, O'Loughlins, Galmoy, Lisdownney A and B, St. Martins, Clara, James Stephens, St. Lachtains, Mooncoin (Kilkenny), Gortnahoe, Moycarkey (Tipperary), Portlaoise, Kilcotton, Ballacolla, Camross (Laois), Celbridge (Kildare), Mount Sion (Waterford), Meelick/Eyre court (Galway) and St. Rynaghs (Offaly).

For the first time ever the games had to be called off, not once but twice, due to weather conditions, but at the third attempt the field was reduced to 2 groups of 8, to contest the quarter finals of the Sweeney Cup and Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield, respectively.

In the final of the Sweeney Cup, Ballyhale had to overcome a stern challenge from James Stephens to take the coveted trophy for the 4th time in all. This was also a personal triumph for teacher, Joe Dunphy, who regards the competition as one of his favourites.

The Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield went to Ballacolla after a very close encounter with St. Martins. The Best Player Award went to Eamonn Walsh of Ballyhale.

A very important aspect of the competition is the promotion of hurling in the Parish. This year, 6 teams of boys and girls from the three schools took part, led by their captains Eoin Sherman, James Lennon, Patrick O'Shea, Matthew Thornton, Sean Stapleton and Gary Glendon. In a final that improved even as the weather got worse, Gary Glendon's team edged out narrow winners over a gallant Eoin Sherman's team.

At the presentation ceremony all the winners and runners-up received Coca-Cola trophies. They join a long list of former participants who have since donned the Kilkenny jersey with distinction, including present-day seniors, Denis Byrne, Canice Brennan, Henry Shefflin, Michael Kavanagh, John Costelloe, James McGarry, David Buggy, P.J. Delaney, etc.



Best Player Award

(L.to R.): Larry Hamilton (Secretary), Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.), Ned Quinn (Co. Chairman), Eamonn Walsh (Ballyhale), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Barry Hickey (Development Officer).



Parish Sevens Winners

(L.to R.): E. Dunne (P.R.O.), A.Fitzpatrick, P.Eyre, S.O'Hara, G. Glendon (capt.), P.Murphy, S.Nolan (98 capt.), N.Dowling, L.Dowling, P. Sweeney, D.Eyre, R. Hickey, E. Nolan (Coca-Cola)



Ballyhale - Lisdownney 7's Winners 1999

Back: Joe Dunphy NT, Ned Quinn, James Connolly (Capt), Michael Fitzpatrick, Mark Aylward, Tomás Cullen.
Front: Eamonn Walsh, Donal Dempsey, Colm Fennelly, Donncha Fitzpatrick, TJ Reid, JJ O'Farrell

37 Years at the Helm

A Profile of Tommy Barrett, Tipperary County Secretary.

By Jim Fogarty

Tommy was born in Killenaule to a mother from Ballingarry. He recalls his mother driving to Callan in a pony and trap, for shopping. His father was from Crohane, near Ballingarry. Both his parents were involved in the fight for freedom. His father was 'on the run' in 1920, and his mother was in Cumann na mBan.

Tommy's uncle Willy played for Tipp in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday. On returning from the match, Tommy's father, also Tommy, was stopped by the Auxiliaries. Tommy Senior was wearing a watch belonging to Tommy Pollard, his father-in-law, and used this as false identification, thus probably saving his life, by disguising his link to the Tipp team and supporters, who were wrongly blamed by the British authorities for the shootings in Dublin that weekend, prior to Bloody Sunday.

The Barrett family left Killenaule in the early Thirties, Tommy Senior, having taken up duty with the Sugar Factory. They went to live in Holycross, where young Tommy first learned to hurl on the lovely Green there. The Barretts, of whom there were nine in family, moved to Thurles in 1950.

Young Tommy joined the famed Sarsfields Club in that year, and in 1951, he was elected secretary of the football section of the club. In 1952 he was elected secretary of Thurles Sarsfields. Tommy won seven senior county titles, as a player with the club. Among many matches, he particularly recalls a Churches' Tournament Final, played in Dublin on a Friday evening in May 1956, before a crowd of 19,000. Sarsfields defeated St. Vincent's by 8-8 to 3-8. This was Jimmy Doyle's first introduction to senior hurling, when he came on as a sub for Tommy Ryan, "the flyer". The game was refereed by Christy Ring and he blew the whistle on three occasions, the throw-in, half-time, and the finish!

Tommy was elected County Board Secretary in March 1963, and is thus in his thirty-seventh year of stewardship. He has many fond memories of Kilkenny players and officials. He learned much from Paddy Grace and Nicky Purcell. He had many great duels on the playing field with such as Ted Carroll, Martin Coogan, Tom Walsh, "Link" Walsh, Dan Kennedy, Sean Clohosey and Mark Marnell. Tommy states that when he meets his friends from Kilkenny, the talk is not about Kilkenny-Tipp, but about hurling in general. His advice is that "friendships are everlasting. Don't ever turn your back on the fellow you played on; he can be your greatest friend. Kilkenny people are great people for the game, great friends after the match, and I hope to keep up such friendships for a long time".

If Tipp were not to win the All-Ireland, Tommy would like to see either Kilkenny or Cork victorious. The traditional counties make the game and keep the game going. There is of course great rivalry between Tipp and Kilkenny, but there is also a great unity of purpose, in his view. Tommy has great respect for the work of Nicky Brennan and Tom Ryall for hurling, particularly at national level.



Tommy remembers a "dressing" he got from Bill Walsh during the first half of a tournament game between Kilkenny and Tipp in New Eltham in London, and was delighted to meet Bill again at the recent funeral of Jack Lynch. He has especially fond memories of clashes with Bennettsbridge, and recalls the Galways, the aforementioned Dan Kennedy and that "prince of half-backs" Johnny McGovern. Tommy refers to Eddie Keher's recent visit to see his old "enemy" John Doyle, who hasn't been well. Such, in his view, is the true spirit of hurling.

Tommy was reluctant to mention his achievements during his thirty seven years as Tipp County Secretary, but gentle persuasion eventually elicited the following; The founding of Féile na Gael in 1971, the development of Semple Stadium and his input into the National Hurling Development Committee, of which he is still a member.

Féile na Gael was the brainchild of Seamus O'Riain, Eamonn de Stafort and Tommy Barrett. The motivation behind it was to have a G.A.A. Festival to outdo all other festivals. Ireland in the 1970's was a great place for festivals, as citizens of Kilkenny know. Thirty one counties were welcomed to the "Homes of Tipperary". It is still going strong and has been held in many different locations, with tremendous success.

The development of Semple Stadium is obvious to all. Tommy particularly mentions the work of Michael Maher and Michael Lowry. The great work was funded by a double-your money scheme and by the famous or infamous "Trips to Tipp". With reference to these concerts, Tommy can understand the local opposition, and states that in normal circumstances he too would be a "hardliner". However, investors in the development

had to be paid back, and the debt is now cleared.

The National Hurling Development Committee originated from a small committee, set up under the Presidency of Peter Quinn. This original committee was chaired by Tommy. The other members were Joe McDonagh, Nicky Brennan, and a representative of the Ulster Council. This small committee visited every county within its allocated span of six months. It tried to establish why hurling was weak in the majority of counties - was it lack of money, hurleys, or personnel? Their work led to the establishment of the larger committee, mentioned above, which is now under the chairmanship of Frank Burke of Galway. Tommy jocosely refers to the fact that he himself was once Joe McDonagh's boss!

Tommy was more forthcoming in describing his disappointments. The "Famine" period in Tipp hurling is an obvious choice. Yet, Tipp have won 20 All-Irelands at all grades, 7 National Leagues, and a number of Oireachtas titles, during his term in office. He attributes Tipp's relative lack of success at senior level to the poor standard of club hurling. He laments the demise of hurling in the urban areas, such as Thurles - where the once proud Sarsfields have not won a senior title in 25 years - Roscrea, Carrick, Clonmel and Tipp town. He believes that there are too many senior clubs, and refers to the number of inter-

county players, who have come from intermediate clubs, such as Noel Sheehy, Michael Ryan, Nicky English, a.k.a., God, and Pat Fox.

Tommy says that the fun has gone out of G.A.A. administration to some extent. There is now too much protocol and politics with a small "p". He took over the office of County Secretary in a dignified manner and would hope to leave in the same fashion.

So! That's Tommy Barrett for you! A player of great distinction, both at club and county level, an administrator of the highest calibre, who handled the staging of the Centenary All-Ireland in Thurles with great ability and panache, a gentleman to this part-time scribe. Ask the Wall brothers from Carrick, both former Tipp players, who got terrace tickets from Tommy for the Munster Final in Killarney in 1987. Terrace tickets they asked for, terrace tickets they got, they stood for six hours and sent Tommy a card 3 days later, to say it was the greatest day of their lives.

There is an inscription on the 1798 Monument in Liberty Square in his beloved Durlas Eile, which when adapted from the plural to the singular, aptly sums up Tommy's career to date;

*"He kindled here a living blaze
That nothing shall withstand".*

ORUŠAÍ

Seosamh Ó Donnchadha (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Cumadh an dán cáiliuil sin "Cill Cais" blianta fada Ó shoin. Dá mbeadh rud eigin de'n tsort a chumadh sa lá atá inniu ann, b'fhéidir gur mar seo a rachadh sé –

"Cad a dhéanfimid feasta gan drugaí,
Tá ré na lemsips ar lár,
Nil trácht ar phanadol nó aspirin,
Is ní chluinfear a leithéid go brách."

Shíl mé nach gcuirfeadh aon rud a thiocfadh amach ionadh orm as seo amach. Ach tá sé deacair a chreidiunt go bhfuil ár n-imreoirí óga a líonann na coffers – iománaithe agus peileadóirí araon – le cur faoi scrudú. An amhlaidh a cheapann na "h-udaráis" ins na harda – pé hiad – go bhfuil usáid drugaí go forleathan inár gcluichi náisiúnta. Agus má's e sin a cheapann siad anois, céard a cheapann siad faoi na "greats" a bhí ann thar na blianta a bhain clú agus cáil amach do na cluichi Gaelach I ngach cúinne de'n domhan.

N'fheadar mé an le cabhair drugaí a bhuaigh Corcaigh, Ciarrai, Cill Chainnigh, Tiobraid Arann agus condaetha eile nach iad a gcluichi Ceannais na hÉireann uile. An mbainfeadh a mboinn de Dhonall Ó Caoimh, Christóir Ó Rinn (beannacht Dé leo) Sheán Ó Dúill, Nollaig Ó Sceachain, Phroinsias Ó Cuimín agus eile, má's féidir a chruthu tar eis na blianta go raibh substaint eigin – lemsip, buidéal leighis, taibléad ar chomhairle dochtúra, nó a leithéad acu roimh cluiche mór éigin. An mbeidh cead ag imreoirí an lae inniu leigheasanna a ghlacadh má bhíonn slaghdán, fliú nó tinneas cinn ag cur as doibh? Céard faoi "painkillers" nó instealladh mar a bhíodh ar fáil?

Freagra. Níl a fhios againn. Mar go dtí seo níor tháinig aon rud chugainn ach an scéal go mbeidh triallacha ann do dhruigai. Agus mar is gnáth, níor tháinig aon treoracha nó liostaí de shubstaint nach bhfuil ceadaithe. An capall roimh an trucail –

ach cé'n fath nach gcuireann sé sin aon ionadh orm.

Smaointe Fánacha – N'fheadar mé anois an gcuirfeadh bac ar rudaí mar toitiní, todóga agus deochanna go mór mhór ins na boscaí i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Ní cheadaítear beoir, cannaí agus deochanna eile a thabhairt isteach leat agus aontaim le sin, ach cén fath go mbíonn a leithéid ar fáil do dhaoine áirithe – no a amadain just do dhaoine áirithe istigh.

N'fheadar mé an mbeidh aon baint ag LSD leis an scéal. Ah nó. Tá deireadh beagnach fiú le ré na bpunt agus is é an Euro a bheidh I réim sar I bhfad. Ní chuireann aon chuid de seo "ecstasy" orm.

Ach éist! Droch smaoinneamh. An raibh an rud seo faoi dhruigai ag teacht le blianta fada. An é seo an chúis go raibh garda aitiúil faoi leith, le caipín bog, le feiscint gar do Pháirc Ó Nualláin le blianta fada anois? Ah nó! Ní Chreidim é sin. Cá bhfuil ár dtrial don mhílaois nua?

Pass.

Scoláireachtaí De Choláraithe 1999

I mbliana, chuir C.L.C.G. Cille Chainnigh seisear scoláire ar chúrsa Samhraidh chuig Cholaiste Geal na Rinne ins na Déise. D'imigh Séamus Ó Murchu agus Pol Ó Cochlain (Muileann a' Bhata), Prionsias Ó Reannachain (Baile Sheáin) Liam Toibin (Baile Sheáin), Belita Ní Fhionnlaigh (Baile Héil) agus Yvonne Ní Bhraonain (Cill Chainnigh) chuig Chosta Del Sol, Phort Lairge agus on méid a chonaic mé agus a chuala mé bhain siad taitneamh agus tairbhe as. Deirtear liom nach raibh aon trácht faoi dhruigai san áit aoibhinn seo ach amháin gur bhain oide eigin usáid as an tearma "le hais".

Go mba fada buan gach éinne a raibh baint acu leis an dea obair seo idir Coisdí, Muinteoirí, Tuismitheoirí agus leanaí.

CLOSE, BUT STILL NO CIGAR...

Enda McEvoy, Sunday Tribune

Straws in the wind. In retrospect, even a fortnight before the 1999 Guinness All Ireland final they were there to be detected by those who cared to try.

Straws such as the man from the Examiner revealing at the Cork press night that in three visits to Kilkenny since the All Ireland semi-final against Clare he hadn't met a single person who didn't think their team would fail to beat Jimmy Barry-Murphy's troops. Ned Quinn in Langton's two evenings later raising a laugh by pleading – only half-jokingly – with the assembled media heads to "kindly make Cork favourites". Paul Kinsella remarking sotto voce on the same occasion that the best thing that could happen to Kilkenny in the remaining ten days was an injury scare in the camp to help concentrate the minds of the public locally – the selfsame public of whom for so many members the solitary doubt surrounding the concluding hurling showpiece of the century appeared to involve the Noresiders' prospective margin of victory.

If only (here's some more retrospection) Kilkenny could have stopped the 1990s on the evening of September 5th 1993, an hour or two after Eddie O'Connor had lifted the McCarthy Cup. For that was as good as the decade would get for them.

The bottom line that remains is not an edifying one. Kilkenny have lost two All Ireland finals in a row, have lost three in the 1990s. Granted, they've won two in the '90s, which sounds – and is – respectable. But they've also won two in the

16 seasons, which sounds – and is – a good deal less than respectable. Yes, you read that correctly. Two in the last sixteen seasons.

And yet, and yet. Kilkenny lost the 1999 All Ireland final not because they can't win McCarthy Cups any more, not because they were a mediocre team, not because their fans were complacent. They lost it because one or two small things ran against them on the day that on another day would have run with them. Nothing more complicated than that. Nothing less.

On another day Brian McEvoy's attempts at points would have sailed inside the uprights, not outside. On another day DJ Carey would have chipped in with a goal at the right moment. Most critically of all, on another day Charlie Carter's shot would have whizzed 18 inches lower – and then Kilkenny would have been six points ahead and motoring. Game over.

A cliché, of course, but in hurling it really is "all on the day". As it was on September 12th 1999. As, equally, it had been a month earlier, when – and many Noreside inhabitants have conveniently forgotten this - Clare's shooting in the first half of the semi-final was as wayward as Kilkenny's would be next time out. The swings and roundabouts work for you on some occasions, work against you on others. Last September they worked against the Cats.

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

The natural temptation with this second successive All



KILKENNY SH TEAM - 1999 ALL IRELAND FINALISTS

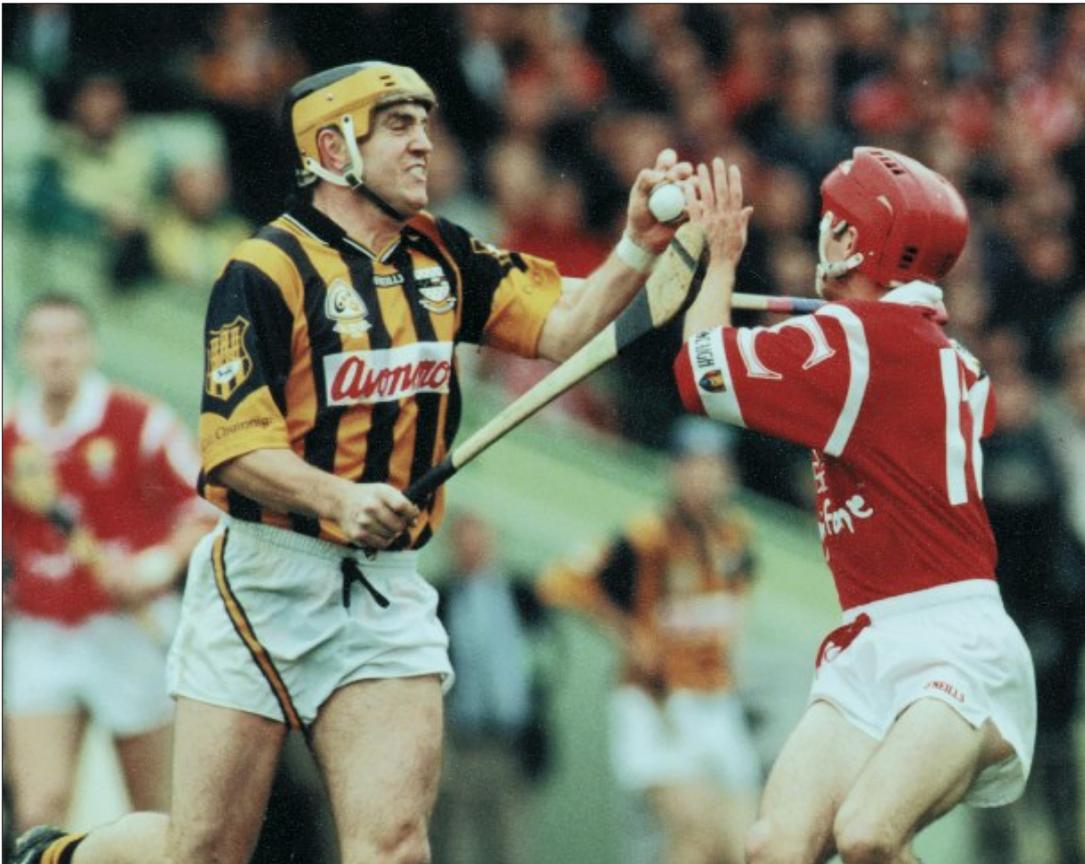
Back Row: Philly Iarkin, Brian McEvoy, Henry Shefflin, John Power, Andy Comerford, Canice Brennan, Peter Barry, Pat O'Neill.
Front Row: Willie O'Connor, Michael Kavanagh, James McGarry, Denis Byrne, Denis Byrne, Ken O'Shea, Charlie Carter.

Photo - Sportsfile

Ireland defeat is to try and mine a considerable quantity of meaning and metaphor regarding the state of Kilkenny hurling from it. It is a temptation that should be firmly resisted. Why not look instead on the good that Denis Byrne and his colleagues did against Cork?

For the truth is that if Kilkenny didn't play particularly well

in the 1999 Guinness All Ireland final, neither did they play all that poorly. They didn't concede a goal. They confined their opponents to 0-13. They ruled midfield for most of the proceedings. With 15 minutes left they were in a position of absolute authority, leading by four points. Imagine



Canice Brennan steals the ball from Seanie McGrath in the 1999 All Ireland Final.
Photo - Sportsfile.

for a moment the scorn that would have been heaped on Cork by their supporters had the underdogs lost. "Only scored 13 points...hurled out of it at midfield...didn't even force the Kilkenny goalie into making a save...Feckin' terrible, boy!"

Paradoxically, for Kilkenny that was the most disturbing part of the entire equation. All the props were in place for victory. Yet victory didn't materialise.

Unlike in 1998, when they'd lurched through a shambolic league campaign, scraped past Laois, required two close-range frees from DJ to win the Leinster final, then saw off Waterford in the All Ireland semi-final despite scoring the almost laughable total of 1-11, Kilkenny had hurled well all season. From early in the league campaign it was evident they were shaping better than they had been for years. They had a low-profile manager who, far from seeking to impose his personality on his panel, viewed his job as that of a facilitator who would encourage the players at his disposal to express themselves. He had two shrewd selectors to help him. There was nobody off the team who should have been on it, nobody on it who should have been off. The new players blooded (McGarry, Shefflin) were signal successes, ditto the older hands switched to new positions (Byrne, Barry, to a lesser extent the ever-game Canice Brennan).

The upshot was a promising league run, an annihilation of Laois, a whipping of Kilkenny's supposed bogey team Offaly and a hard-fought but thoroughly deserved win against a slightly stale but nonetheless still formidable Clare. Along the way the Cats did some truly glorious hurling, rattling in goals at a rate of knots. Their path to the final was infinitely more satisfy-

ing in 1999 than in '98. Full credit to the management and players for that.

COUNTING CHICKENS...

But there was one more fence to jump: a date with a bunch of kids from Cork. And that was where swathes of Black

and Amber supporters exhibited what can only be described as a commonsense bypass. They assumed that a young Cork team couldn't win at the first time of asking (had they forgotten 1966?), would simply be happy to be there – and, sure, don't Kilkenny always beat Cork anyway? (As if, on the law of averages, it wasn't about time for Cork to be beating Kilkenny.) While the faithful knew that Kilkenny were hungry after the previous year's reverse against Offaly, they

never bothered to consider that Cork might be equally hungry. More foolishly still, they took it for granted that because Kilkenny had lost in 1998 they were automatically entitled to win in 1999.

Nowhere in the Treorai Oifigiuil is there a paragraph ordaining that Kilkenny are forbidden to lose two All Irelands in a row. Cork, remember, lost back-to-back All Irelands in 1982-83; Tipperary did it in 1967-68; Kilkenny themselves had done so in both the 1930s and the 1940s. So why the ridiculous notion that history couldn't possibly repeat itself, that losing successive All Irelands was exclusively for some poor hapless bunch like Mayo?

A number of other small issues arising from the final merit a few words. For instance, the common conceit that losing to Cork was "a tragedy". A tragedy? Nonsense. It was a horribly disappointing defeat, but a tragedy it wasn't. What happened to PJ Delaney in Thurles a week later – now that was nearly a tragedy. Let no reader ever be tempted to employ that truly offensive phrase "like a death in the family" when speaking about a defeat on a sporting field in future.

Kilkenny will find it hard to come back from a second defeat in a row? They will. But they'll come back okay. And at least Kilkenny have been getting to Croke Park in September. Ever wonder how Laois, with their one day out each year, keep coming back?

Kilkenny still don't score enough points? An old hobby horse of this column's and one that shouldn't be flogged to death, given that the county's pointscore tallies have improved. But the reason the Cats were tipped to beat Cork

was their firepower. Their goal power, that is, not their point power. "We reckoned we'd win if we stopped Kilkenny scoring goals," Tom Cashman, one of the winners' selectors, commented afterwards. "We were pretty sure we'd score more points than they would." There's a message there.

and Walsh was that as long as Kilkenny were in the lead in the second half, they couldn't chance making a substitution and thereby risk upsetting the balance of the game. And who of the lads on the bench could have been relied on to come in and be a matchwinner anyway?

"OVERPLAYING THE SLIOTAR"

Another interesting point was raised by Justin McCarthy in his Examiner column in the aftermath of the final. Kilkenny prefer to take the sliotar in the hand more than Cork and Offaly do, Justin noted, yet defeat by those opponents in successive All Ireland finals suggested that Kilkenny's style had been sussed, he added. In other words, have Kilkenny teams become too fond of handling the ball – and consequently of possibly running up blind alleys - and too unfamiliar with the notion of letting fly first-time and allowing the sliotar to do the work?

It was a theory that looked especially noteworthy

during the second quarter of the All Ireland under-21 decider at Tullamore. During that period Kilkenny were simply unable to get the ball past the Galway half-back line. Richie Power, the coach, subsequently owned to mystification why. There's a straightforward answer to that one: the midfielders and half-forwards were so obsessed with trying to catch the sliotar and carry it, and so unwilling to move it by pulling first-time, that the full-forward line were starved of possession. How ironic, then, that the score which turned the match, Eddie Brennan's goal, arose from a solo run by John O'Neill. Yet what if Ger Harrington, the referee, had spotted that O'Neill had caught the ball three times, called back the play and awarded a free out instead? On such small things do All Irelands swing. Small things that went against Kilkenny in Croke Park and went with them in Tullamore.

Finally, where to from here for Brian Cody and his charges? Into a new year full of new challenges, that's where. For Denis Byrne, magnificent in the All Ireland final, the task is to produce performances of a similar magnitude on a regular basis. John Power should turn a deaf ear to anyone who tells him he's too old; bar the opening 20 minutes against Brian Corcoran he had a splendid summer. Some extra pace in the team wouldn't go amiss, especially at the back; one writer concluded that speed – to wit, the Cork rearguard's alacrity at closing down the Kilkenny forwards – was the overriding lesson of the 1999 All Ireland final, and he wasn't wrong. There is some tweaking to be done along the spine of the defence, and a fresh pair of legs required in attack. Challenges, yes, but not insurmountable ones.

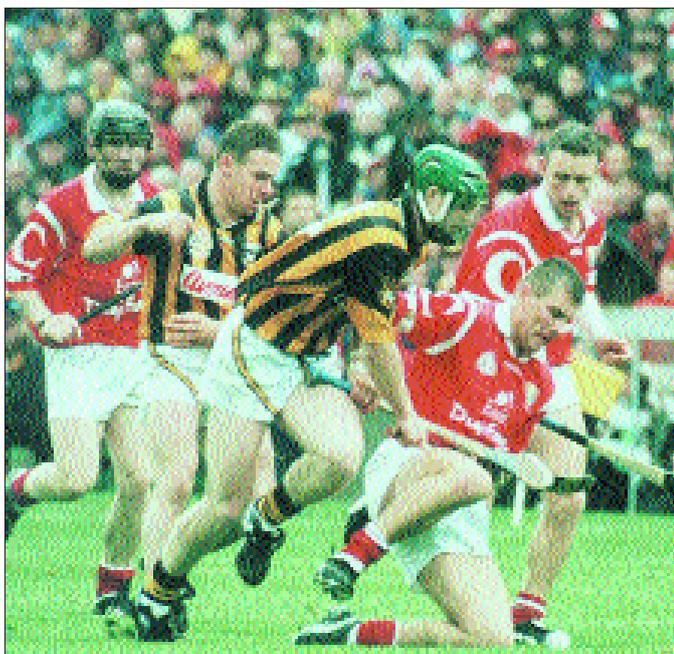
1999 was a glorious chance missed by Kilkenny. They're good enough and young enough to earn themselves a fresh chance in 2000. And to take it.

** Enda McEvoy is hurling correspondent of the Sunday Tribune. Emails to endamac@indigo.ie.*



Watched by Charlie Carter, John Power breaks away from with Brian Corcoran in hot pursuit.
Photo Tom Brett

Kilkenny don't finish matches in the manner of yesteryear? Very true. The Black and Amber used to be famous for their flying finishes. Used to be. Last September marked the second All Ireland in succession when they finished like a tortoise – and lost the All Ireland because they finished thus. What's the problem? Is it that Kilkenny are hitting the front too early? Is it a coincidence that against both Offaly and Cork they led at



Henry Shefflin and Charlie Carter bear down on Cork full-back Diarmuid O'Sullivan in 1999 All Ireland Final. Fergal Ryan and Wayne Sherlock look on.
Photo Tom Brett

half-time? It's easier to pick off an opponent by coming from behind in the final furlong than it is to dictate the pace from pillar to post. What made it harder for Messrs Cody, Henderson

Handball Report

By Con Moore

PRO Kilkenny Handball Board

DUCKSIE RETURNS!



1999 was another great handball year for the black and amber with Michael Ducksie Walsh back to his very best form, reclaiming the Softball All Ireland Final for the 14th. time, beating Walter O'Connor with a magnificent display. Ducksie showed great form early in the season by beating Tony Healy of Cork and Dominic Lynch of Kerry to win the Munster Open. Ducksie and Eugene Downey reached the doubles All Ireland Final but lost narrowly to the powerful Meath pairing, Tom Sheridan and Walter O'Connor.

Elsewhere, our Juveniles and Adult Players were distinguishing themselves, winning 24 Leinster Titles and 11 All Ireland Titles. One of the features of the year was Kilkenny's dominance of Juvenile events, which should augur well for the future of Kilkenny handball.

In 60 x 30, Sean Maher won the Under 15 All Ireland Championship, beating D. Casey of Kerry in the final. C.J. Delaney and Sean O'Shea beat Noel McHugh and Tom Connaughton of Galway in the Under 16 Doubles All Ireland final.

Tomas Hughes won Leinster Under 14 Singles but lost the All Ireland Final to Damien Martin of Roscommon. Ann Marie Hawe had a unique victory in the Leinster Under 12 Girls' Championship.

Kilkenny win Team of Ten

| 60x30 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1999 | | 40x20 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1999 | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| U10.S. | Ciarán. Brennan (Mothel) | U10S | Conor Bergin (O'Loughlin's) |
| U11.S. | Patrick Nolan (Mothel) | U10D. | Ciarán Brennan/John Kelly (Mothel) |
| U11.D. | Steven Conway/John Holohan (Kells) | U11(A)S | Richard Hogan (Kilfane) |
| U12.S. | Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) | U11D | Patrick Nolan/John Mulhall (Mothel) |
| U12.D. | Richard Hogan/Richard O'Hara (Kilfane) | U11(B)S | Conor Lonergan (Windgap) |
| U13.S. | Brendan Mulhall (Mothel) | U12.S. | Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) |
| U13.D. | Mark Nolan/ Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel) | U12D | OwenCoady/Ann Marie Hawe (Windgap) |
| U14.S. | Thomas Hughes (Clogh) | U13.S. | Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel) |
| U15.S. | Sean Maher (Clogh) | U13.D. | Maurice Nolan/Pat Kelly (O'Loughlin's) |
| U15.D. | PhilipLonergan/Seamie Hawe (Windgap) | U14.S. | Thomas Hughes (Clogh) |
| U16.S. | C.J. Delaney (Kells) | U14.D. | Paul Byrne/Steve Mahon (Clogh) |
| U16.D. | Sean O'Shea/ Colin Phillips (Clogh) | U15.S. | Thomas Campion (Clogh) |
| U17.S. | Andrew Lawlor (Clogh) | U15.D. | T.J. Comerford/Sean Maher (Clogh) |
| U17.D. | Francis Whearty/TomPower (Mothel) | U16.S. | C.J. Delaney (Kells) |
| Minor Singles | T J Comerford (Clogh) | U16.D. | Seamie Hawe/Brendan Barry (Windgap) |
| Minor Doubles | Sean Maher/Tomas Campion | U17.S. | Eamon Hawe (Windgap) |
| Minor .League. | B. Manogue (Kells) | U17.D. | Niall Doran/Tomas Power (Windgap) |
| Novice Singles | C. Pratt (St. John's) | Minor Singles. | E. Hawe (Windgap) |
| Novice Doubles: | C. Pratt/P. O'Carroll (St. John's) | Minor Doubles. | E. Hawe/N. Doran (Windgap) |
| Junior Singles | B. Manogue (Kells) | Minor League. | W. Love (Clogh) |
| Junior Doubles | B. Manogue/M. Dalton (Kells) | Novice Singles. | F. Manogue (Kells) |
| Senior Singles | P. O'Keeffe (Mullinavat) | Novice Doubles. | M. Kiely/W. Barron (Kells) |
| Senior Dbles : | P. O'Keeffe/E. Law (Mullinavat) | Junior Singles. | P. Smith (O'Loughlin's) |
| Masters (A) | P. Gardiner (Goresbridge) | Junior Doubles. | P.J. Egan/P. Walsh (Windgap) |
| Masters Dbles | C. Moore/E. Leahy(O'Loughlin's) | Senior. | E. Burke (St. John's) |
| Masters (B) | J. Anthony (Mullinavat) | Senior Doubles. | P. O'Keeffe/E. Law (Mullinavat) |
| Masters (C) | M. Dalton (Kells) | Masters (A). | P. Gardiner (Goresbridge) |
| 75th Tournament | Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's) | Masters Doubles. | S. Reade/M. Reade (Talbot's Inch) |
| Team of 6 | St Johns- W Pratt, E Burke, C Dunne, P O'Carroll, C Pratt, B O'Hanlon | Masters (B). | S. Martin (Kells) |
| | | Masters (C)Dbles. | N. Lawlor/P. Shore (Clogh) |
| | | Masters (C). | N. Lawlor (Clogh) |

Our Team of Ten Juveniles powered their way through Leinster and in this, the 75th year of the Irish Handball Council, won the inaugural 40 x 20 celebratory All Ireland Final in Belfast. The team consisted of Ann Marie Hawe, Patrick Nolan, Diarmuid Brennan, Brian Mulhall, Tomas Hughes, Paul Byrne, Sean Maher, T.J. Comerford, Sean O'Shea and C.J. Delaney. The same team won the 60 x 30 Leinster Final but lost to a very strong Kerry Team in the All Ireland Final.

Under 12/13 Team of Six

The Kilkenny team, comprising Patrick Nolan, Brian Mulhall, Maurice Nolan, Eoin Cody, Diarmuid Brennan and Brendan Burke beat Wexford, Tyrone and Kerry to win the All Ireland Title in 40 x 20.

Kilkenny Juveniles were also dominant in the 40 x 20 Championships. T.J. Comerford and Tomas Campion won the Under 15 Doubles All Ireland Title, beating A Lynch and E. Torpey of Clare in the final. Eamon Hawe and Niall Doran beat V. Birmingham and S. Finnegan of Roscommon on the Under 17 Doubles All Ireland final while Sean Maher won Leinster but lost the All Ireland Semi-Final to Fintan Gamble of Antrim in Under 15 Singles.

Leinster Under 12 and 13 Victories

Ann Marie Hawe was again the best Under 12 Girl in Leinster, Patrick Nolan won the Under 12 Singles while Maurice Nolan and Mark Nolan won the Under 13 Doubles Leinster Finals.

Adults Impress

In 40 x 20, Eddie Leahy won Diamond Masters Singles All Ireland, beating Mick Lally of Galway in the Final. Eddie combined with Pat O'Keeffe to win the Doubles against Mick Lally and Mick Murray of Galway. This dynamic duo beat Mick Naughton and John Kelly of Roscommon in winning the Softball Diamond Masters Doubles All Ireland title also.

D.J. Carey and Ducksie Walsh won the 40 x 20 Leinster Senior Doubles Championship but were surprisingly overcome in Belfast in the All Ireland semi-final by Paddy Crothers and John McGarry of Antrim. Ducksie won the Leinster Senior Singles and after beating Ciaran Curran of Tyrone, fell to an in-form Tony Healy of Cork in the All Ireland Final at Cappagh.

Frank Minogue and Bernie Mahon beat Wicklow in the Leinster Emerald Masters (B) Final but were unlucky to lose

to Mick Nolan and Frank Daly of Roscommon in the All Ireland Final. The same fate awaited Sean Curran and Johnny O'Mara in Diamond Masters (B) Doubles for, after defeating Wexford in the Leinster Final, they were pipped by Martin Coyne and John Malone of Mayo in the All Ireland Final.

In the Softball Championships, Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reade beat Pat Masterson and Paddy Hope of Offaly in the Leinster Golden Masters Final and were beaten by Sean Doyle and Paddy Mullins of Tipperary in the All Ireland Final. In Silver Masters (B) Singles, Pat Savage beat Pat Gardiner in an all-Kilkenny final but went down to Seamus Hussey of Tyrone in the All Ireland Semi-Final. Con Moore and Pat Gardiner beat another pair, Pat Savage and Jimmy Neary to clinch the Leinster Silver Masters (B) title but were bad travellers, losing to Peter O'Brien and John McCullagh of Tyrone in the All Ireland Semi-Final.

Eddie Burke beat Noel Murphy of Offaly in the Junior Singles Leinster Final but had no answer to Niall Kerr of Tyrone in the All Ireland Semi-Final.

Hardball Champions

Eddie Burke and Eamon Law teamed up in Junior Hardball Doubles and went all the way, beating the Kerr brothers of Tyrone in the All Ireland Final.

Kilkenny Celebrate the past 75 Years

Kilkenny Handball Board organised a function to celebrate the great players and officials of the past and there was a great gathering of Handballers. Special Presentations were made by Ducksie Walsh to Joe Delaney (Talbot's Inch), Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's), Nicky Mulhall (Mothel), Jimmy Caulfield (Kilfane),

Seamus Martin (Kells), Peadar Hughes (Clogh), Willie Buggy (Goresbridge) and Sean Curran (St. Johns) with Jasper Dunne (Talbot's Inch) being awarded the "Hall of Fame".

Officials who were honoured with a presentation from Tomás O Briain were John Moore (Talbot's Inch), Liam Murphy (Kilfane), Con Moore (O'Loughlin's), Chris Shirley (Kells), Tom Comerford (Clogh), Tom Ryan (Mothel), Tom O'Neill (Goresbridge) and Michael Dunne (St. Johns) while Eamon Hanrahan (Kilfane) won the Officials "Hall of Fame".

Eddie Leahy won the Kilkenny 75th. Anniversary Special Tournament which was a wonderful achievement by an Emerald Masters star considering that 64 players competed in this competition.

Kilkenny Unlimited

Success at any level has to be planned and organised. The people behind the scenes in Kilkenny Handball are as follows:-

- Chairman – Seamus Reade
- Secretary – Liam Mahon
- Vice Chairman – Jimmy Holden
- PRO – Con Moore
- Rep. to GAA – Gerry Murphy
- Development Officer – Billy Love
- Youth Officer – Nicky Hawe.

Juvenile Board:

- Chairman:- Jim Dalton,
- Secretary:- Johnny Brennan,
- Selectors:- Eileen McCarthy, Breda Burke, Ned Hawe, Billy Love and Gerry Murphy.

Passion For a Game.



Paul Smith

Paul Smith is an Englishman who first saw hurling on Channel 4 just over ten years ago. He was fascinated by what he saw and decided that he must see this wonderful game for himself to believe it. He first went to Ruislip on the 16th June 1995 where he met up with Jerry Daly a former Secretary of the London County Board. He now travels 40 to 50 miles twice a month to see the games live, both hurling and football, at both club and county level. The following is his story.

I will never forget my first visit to Ruislip GAA grounds situated in West End Rd. Middlesex, West London. I didn't have a clue where it

was. The adventure began that day. When I got there, I thought, "What am I doing here?"

I plucked up the courage and knocked on the door. To my amazement, there he was. I am talking about the one man who, on his own, introduced me to Gaelic Games. His name was Jerry Daly, a warm-hearted man from Kerry. He began to send me the London fixtures each week. He is a special friend of mine and sends me a birthday card while I send him a Christmas card. I remember my first live game of hurling. It was London and Kerry in the National Hurling League, with London winning 2-14 to 3-9. The game was played on April 27th 1995. Now I have gone full circle and, this year alone, I have seen Cork, Kerry and Galway in football. This is happening to a man who never saw the games until ten years ago on Channel 4. The strangest thing is I have no Irish blood (that I know of) and no Irish family. I have been called unique by some people. The Irish followers in London think it is terrific. I feel so good about that. Now that I know more about the games I say that they are of the people, played by the people. The feeling I get from watching it is also unique. It is a feeling of warmth, togetherness, hope, passion and anticipation of what is going on and what is going to happen. Always expect the unexpected in GAA games. Who can predict a game before it starts? Not me.

Another man who helped me get started in the Gaelic adventure of mine was Mick Hurley (R.I.P). I always remember him saying to me "Get involved and tell the people!" In 1996, I watched Wexford and Limerick in the All Ireland hurling final, a fine game. One problem - the game was on telly at 12 midnight on Sunday night. I have to be up at 6 a.m. in the morning to go to work. I wrote to them saying that it was not helping viewing figures with times like this. The reply came back saying that it was down to timing and planning, with Italian football taking precedence and having the upper hand. Money speaks. If I had to choose between the two games, then I much prefer hurling. Just to see the players come out on the pitch with their hurleys - you know a lot will happen. Who is going to win or lose you have to wait and find out. My love of Kilkenny and hurling comes from a love of watching a game played by heroes who deserve all the recognition they can possibly receive. Remember, these lads do not get a penny. That is the other reason I'm so passionate about it. What other sports give people so much back without the players getting payment? These times, I'm biased against other sports because I'm in love with the game of the hero. I have never yet been to Croke Park for a final but one day I will get there, somehow. The other factor concerning GAA is people. It brings them together, players and supporters. They all have one thing in common, sport and a love of the game. Other sports take note, in my case it makes it easier to make friends.

The idea for this story was put to me by Tom Ryall PRO of the Kilkenny Co. Board when I called him after he had sent me a souvenir programme. I said to him, "Tom, are you serious about this?" - "Why not?", he said. OK, I will give it a go", I replied.

Ruislip creates its own atmosphere not exactly Croke Park or anywhere filled to the rafters, but 3,000 crammed in on June 6th 1999 for the Bank of Ireland Connacht senior football championship had a lovely atmosphere on the day. With the exception of county games, and semi-finals and finals of the local championships, the attendance is sometimes painfully small. Too small to represent the GAA in a city the size of London. The GAA has to compete with so many other attractions at week ends. Last week, my favourite team, Sean Treacy's lost the county senior hurling final to St Gabriel's. It was a great game. Now that I have told my story about the passion and love I have for all things GAA, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in Kilkenny and county a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year. Thanks for the opportunity to tell a few others (my kind of people) why and how I feel for two of the world's most fantastic games - Hurling and Gaelic Football.

DUCKSY - THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL?

By MICK DUNNE

Mirror, mirror on the wall who is the fairest of them all?
Or, indeed, the greatest handballer of them all?
Might it be...

H Paddy Perry, with eight consecutive All-Ireland singles and Dublin championship medals at hurling and football as well as handball?

H John Joe Gilmartin, who amassed 24 senior championships in singles and doubles at softball and hardball?

H John Ryan, who dominated the Fifties or Paddy Downey from the same era?

H Joey Maher, the champion from the Sixties, who won titles at home and in Canada including the '67 World singles?

H Pat Kirby, with 15 All-Irelands on the big and small courts and the only one to win World championships in three different decades?

H Or Dick Lyng, also from the Seventies, with titles at singles and doubles and a world champion to boot?

In this pantheon of illustrious handballers there has to be recognition for Michael "Duxie" Walsh, whose remarkable record demands inclusion in the hall of fame of his sport's most celebrated. But because we weren't fortunate enough to witness the on-court exploits of the champions in the period 1930-'60 you won't find this contribution to your year-book brave enough to take the place of "the mirror on the wall" and name the greatest of them all. Anyway, we've always been advised by the old, old cliché that "comparisons are odious," so the question remains unanswered here.

However, there can be no qualms about naming the most successful player of all time. Indubitably it is Duxie Walsh. He stands apart from all others. Not only here, but in the United States and Canada, the other major handball playing nations, he has surpassed everything achieved by great players of the past and no one of the modern era comes near emulating his astonishing collection of national championships. Throughout his glittering career, records have been shattered one after the other and such astonishing new ones established that they are virtually certain never to be equalled.

Moreover, some of the records he smashed had stood the test of time so formidably that it appeared they would never be endangered, let alone bettered. Paddy Perry, the great Roscommon player, won eight consecutive All-Ireland 60x30 softball singles championships in 1930-'37. That record endured for an amazing 56 years with many other champions succeeding him but none coming near his achievement, so it appeared the eight-in-a-row was secure. Then along came Duxie Walsh, winning his first singles in 1985 at 19 years of age and creating a new record with his ninth in 1993. Unless future handball pro-

duces a champion capable of miraculous feats, Duxie put himself out of reach of all others by capturing the 13th in succession in 1997 and last September added a 14th for a 15-year period.

One of Walsh's predecessors on the roster of celebrated Kilkenny players was John Joe Gilmartin and, when he completed an accumulation of 24 All-Ireland senior titles—singles and doubles, softball and hardball—in 1947, it must have then seemed inconceivable that such a collection would ever be equalled, not to mention improved upon. Oh, no? Not until 1994, that is. On July 16 that year, in a final brought forward from the traditional September date because the World Championships were coming to Ireland, Duxie's 60x30 singles triumph brought him his 25th senior medal. The following year, on September 16, another record tumbled when Duxie and his long-time 60x30 partner, Eugene Downey, won their eighth doubles championship, going one better than the great Kerry pair, Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien, whose seven in 1955-'56, 1960-'64 was the previous best achievement.

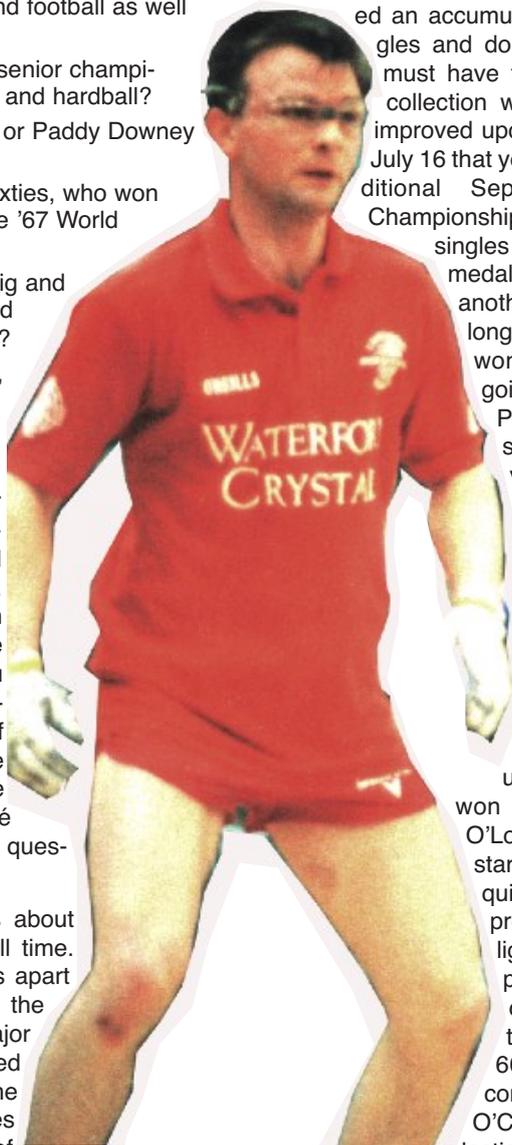
It hasn't been only in the big court; he also holds a record, and equals another one, for the 40x20s. When these were inaugurated in '75, Pat Kirby of Clare proceeded to win six singles in succession and, with his brother Mick, five doubles, before he re-emigrated to America. However, on April 18 last year, Duxie set a new singles record with his seventh triumph and a week later, he and D.J.Carey won a record-equalling fifth title on the O'Loughlins club's splendid new court. By the start of the summer of '99, Duxie had relinquished all four of the titles he held a year previously—a serious arm injury in the twilight of a career that had been almost completely free of injury worries didn't help his chances of retention—but on the eve of the 1999 Hurling Final, he regained the 60x30 singles with an overwhelmingly comprehensive defeat of champion Walter O'Connor; so he has now increased his collection of senior All-Ireland championships to

a massive 36. Here are the details:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 60x30 singles | 14 |
| 60x30 doubles | 10 |
| 40x20 singles | 7 |
| 40x20 doubles | 5 |

It will take more than miracles to top that lot!

A search through the available records of championships in America and Canada, the other leading handball countries, reveals that no one comes anywhere close to Walsh's enormous collection of national titles, not even the celebrated Naty Alvarado Senior, who all of us would include among the greatest



handballers we've seen. The magnificent Mexican who lives in California holds the USHA record for 11 singles championships between 1977 and '90, he also secured four doubles titles and, at three-wall, a very prestigious code of the sport in the US, he has four singles and six doubles. That total of 25 national championships falls 11 short of Duxie Walsh's collection, but, of course, Naty had an extraordinary string of wins in the five or six professional tournaments the USHA runs each year. In Canada, Danny Bell from Quebec, a welcome visitor to Croke Park more than once, won his tenth singles championship in 1998; he also has three Canadian doubles and, in 1989, he partnered an American Charlie Kalil to win the USHA doubles in Chicago, which brought the Canadian's tally to 14. And it should be pointed out that although Duxie hasn't won the world singles he has beaten both of these great players at World Championships.

Occasionally, you might hear it said that the quality of opposition in some of Duxie's campaigns was unbalanced and somewhat feeble. But the Kilkenny player can't be blamed for the fact that the 60x30 in latter times hasn't attracted entries of 30-40 participants as in the Seventies when the format was changed to open competition in a breakaway from the provincial winners' system. Walsh has beaten any and every opponent who chal-

lenged him. What more can any champion do in any era? Furthermore, it could be argued that his phenomenal dominance of the big courts actually reduced entries by frightening away some whose dedication to training and practice fell appreciably short of his.

One of the most admirable aspects of his career—even as a less than disciplined youth and now as a mature husband and parent as well as successful businessman—has been a near-obsessive devotion to championship preparation. It was his intense training schedule and his amazing programme of four or five games each week, undertaken after a heavy day's work in his Bennettsbridge workshops last summer, that enabled him to accomplish his heart's desire by regaining his favourite championship, the 60x30 singles, in September.

The dethronement by Walter O'Connor a year earlier not only postponed a contemplated retirement, but immediately ignited a flame of utter resolve that found fulfilment, after a punishing training regime, with the 21-8, 21-10 victory on September 11th.

It's been a long, long career from the first All-Ireland triumph on August 31, 1985, and, through most of it, Duxie has had admirable support from his parents Vera and John and people like Tommy O'Brien—even when he was a sometimes unruly teenager—but most especially from his wife Sheena (née McDonnell) who has had such a strong influence on his career, both in sport and business. All of which indisputably aided him in becoming the most spectacularly successful handballer of all time—anywhere!



Ducksie Walsh and his old friend and mentor, Tommy O'Brien, celebrate after Ducksie's record 14th Singles title. After the game, Ducksie presented Tommy with his medal.
Photo; Tom Brett

St Lachtain's - 1999 Senior Camogie County Champions



St. Lachtain's 1999 Kilkenny Senior Camogie Champions

Back: April Purcell, Tom Ryan (Trainer), Marie O'Connor, Esther Kennedy, Mary Ellen Butler, Margaret Kavanagh, Margaret Hickey, Cora Dowling, Gillian Dillon – Maher, Sinéad Kavanagh, Breda Dowling.
Front: Fiona Dowling, Sinéad Connery, Helen McGrath, Fiona Connery, Paula Dowling, Emma Fitzpatrick, Imelda Kennedy (Capt) Mairead Costello, Martina Maher, Sinéad Costello, Mary Carmel Ryan, Cathriona Cormack, Aoife Fitzpatrick.

TIP TOP TULLOGHER!



Tullogher-Rosbercon - Hennessy Fuels' League Roinn B and Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe Champions 1999.

Back: D. Grennan, D. Ryan, S. Ryan, P. Hartley, A. McCarthy, R. Dollard, P. Grennan, J. Ryan, K.A. Cotterell, M. Ryan.

Front: E. Forristal, G. Hill, L. Barron, P. Ryan, M. Gaule, J. Ryan, S. Roche, R. Phelan, E. Cullinane, E. Conway, S. Kirwan.

A quarter of a century, and more!

Every year as we review the hurling season of the Schools' Board Games, we marvel at the skill and talent to be seen on the playing fields of Kilkenny from such a young age. Probably the greatest success that the Cumann na mBunscoileanna games achieve each year is the simple fact that they are played, in every parish, with the vast majority of schools participating and competing. That they run so smoothly and that by the last week of June, ten teams compete to the high standards we now accept as the norm, is a tribute to the work of the board and its members - the mentors and teachers who put in the time and effort to nurture the game of hurling. However, those mentors and teachers would in turn, point to the efficient way in which the board runs. Undoubtedly, all agree that the efficiency is due in the

main, to the efforts of the two officers, who have between them, given over half a century of time to Kilkenny schools' G.A.A. In 1973, Paul Kinsella and John Knox took on the roles of secretary and treasurer of the Schools' Board respectively. At this year's A.G.M., the Board made a presentation to them, to mark 26 years of service each.

That both John and Paul have given so long to the board is testament to the enthusiasm both have for schools' games and to the excellent job both men do, year in year out. Paul's great organisational skills are evident in the top class booklet produced each year detailing games for the year in eighteen different competitions. When time for the playoffs comes, dates, times, fields and referees all come under Paul's remit. Added to this, Paul organises and co-ordinates hurls and helmets for all schools who want them - a huge task in itself. All the while, John keeps the accurate accounts that go with the hurls, helmets, medals and the now compulsory insurance that a modern organisation such as the school board needs. The efforts of Paul and John help to make the task of participating in

schools' competitions a hugely enjoyable one and all at the Schools' Board appreciate these efforts. It may have taken 26, instead of 25 years to say, but to Paul and John - Thank You.

Tullogher's Triumphs.

Meanwhile, back on the playing fields, the games progressed as ever, full of excitement, skill and enjoyment. Each year, one team seems to stand out and this year was no exception as Tullogher-Rosbercon's exploits caught the eye of all who saw them play. The boys and girls of the southern parish played a super brand of hurling as they conquered all before them this year. In doing so, they captured two titles, the Hennessy Fuels' Roinn B Title and the Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldráithe Cup. The second of these two titles is remarkable, for prior to this season, no team from outside Roinn A had captured the Corn de Bhaldráithe, a competition which includes every team outside of Kilkenny City. On the way to the final, Tullogher-Rosbercon saw off top teams like Kilmanagh and Tullaroan, past winners of the Corn, as well as Freshford, two times Roinn A finalists, while in the final itself they defeated Ballyhale, who were appearing in their fourth Corn de Bhaldráithe on the trot!! This title was



Ballyhale - Educational Supplies' League Roinn A Champions and Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie Finalists 1999.

Back: Martin Healy, Liam Muldoon, Eoin Long, Philip Long, Declan Long, Pdraig Butler, Eoin Knox, Killian Holden, Enda Fitzpatrick, David Hession, Jason O'Brien, Thomas Hession, Keeva Fennelly, Siobhan Kenneally.
Front: Martin Cass, Anthony Wemyss, John Joe O'Farrell, Ger Fennelly, Donal Dempsey, James Walsh, Richard O'Brien, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Walsh, T.J. Reid, Colin Fennelly, Kieran Grace, Jason Keogh, Orla Ryan.
Photo Tom Brett

won the hard way as the only non-Roinn A team Tullogher-Rosbercon met was Gowran, who had the misfortune to draw them in the first round.

The Tullogher-Rosbercon success story began last autumn when they captured the football Country Cup for 1998 and, from there on, it was success all the way, cutting a scythe through Roinn B and topping the season off with the tremendous victory in the Corn de Bhaldrathie. To put that win in perspective, just days later, Ballyhale recaptured the Roinn A title themselves, but even they would acknowledge the fact that 1999 belonged to the black and amber of Tullogher-Rosbercon. It would be remiss of me not to mention the performance of Mooncoin, who lost out to Tullogher-Rosbercon in the Roinn B Final. Despite the overwhelming favouritism that Tullogher-Rosbercon enjoyed going into the final, Mooncoin made their southern counterparts fight hard for the first part of their double.

Ballyhale back again

As we just noted, the loss of the Corn de Bhaldrathie was a disappointment for Ballyhale, but they kept their great run of success going when they recaptured the Educational Supplies' Roinn A title they held in 1996 and 1997. Finishing second to Freshford in the league group, these seedings came through as the top two teams in the league met in the final. And what finals, they turned out to be, for it took a replay to settle this affair. Both games were played in weather more suited to ducks, but both sides provided great displays. In both games, Ballyhale got off

to flying starts and, while Freshford brought the young Shamrocks back to parity the first time, Ballyhale made no mistake the second day, holding out for a great win. One would have to feel sorry for Freshford who were losing finalists for the second year running but they must be applauded for the great skill and entertainment they have provided over those two seasons. What of Ballyhale? Well, three Roinn A titles in four years, added to their fourth Corn de Bhaldrathie appearance in a row, the record speaks for itself.

New format gives lots of games.

A new development for this year's schools games saw the merging of the Roinn C and Roinn D leagues into one. This format saw Roinn C/D divided into two groups, south and north, with up to nine teams in each group. The regional split kept travelling to a minimum while the large groupings gave plenty of games. Added to this, the format then developed into two championships after the league stages were completed. Teams who finished in positions one to four for each group qualified for the Roinn C quarter finals while the teams finishing in fifth to eighth positions qualified for the quarter finals of Roinn D. The format had a trial basis this season and will be discussed at next year's board to see if this format will continue.

One effect that the format had was that teams from Roinn D could actually find themselves in the Roinn C playoffs and vice versa. So it came to pass, as Conahy, who would have contested Roinn D in the old format, not only made the Roinn C playoffs, but actually went all the

way to the final. The Conahy boys were delighted to have qualified for Roinn C, but once there, they gave it their all and came within a whisker of capturing the title. After a relatively quiet start to their campaign, Goresbridge - Paulstown improved steadily throughout the year and a late league flourish saw them into the Roinn C playoffs. Like Conahy, they went from strength to strength in the knockouts and having played in Nowlan Park the previous three years, their experience on the final night proved most valuable as they added the Roinn C title to the Roinn D title they won last season. In the Roinn C decider, both teams were winners, the Barrow Rangers boys who captured a great win and the Conahy lads who showed their mettle all year.

Strangely enough, the destination of the Tedcastle Oils' Roinn D title was nearly altered due to the new format also. With one game left in the league, Bennettsbridge were in prime position to match Conahy's feat and qualify for Roinn C while playing out of Roinn D. However, the last series of results saw Callan C.B.S. and Windgap catch Bennettsbridge for the fourth spot and in the ensuing draw, it was Callan who clinched their place in Roinn C playoffs while Bennettsbridge and Windgap had to play in the Roinn D quarters. Bennettsbridge made the most of their lot and qualified for the final against Clogh-Moneenroe who had themselves pressed hard for a Roinn C spot. When all came to a conclusion, the Bennettsbridge boys had too much strength all round the field for the Cloneen lads and ran out strong winners. Maybe if the draw had fallen the other way, who knows, Bennettsbridge might have pressed claim to the C title!

INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens.

Each year, just as the games begin, teams take part in the INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens, a competition which is always fiercely competitive within County Kilkenny. We have all seen the boys and girls giving the half time displays across the field at either end of Croke Park. To get to that stage, Kilkenny children have to win their county competition and then shine at regional level where the competition for medals ends and a chance to shine in Croker becomes less of a dream.

Freshford made up in some part for the disappointment of losing the Roinn A title by capturing the Hurling and Camogie



Freshford Educational Supplies Roinn A League Finalists.

Back: Eileen Fitzpatrick, Danielle Minogue, Keith Hughes, Frank Mullan, Nicholas Maher, Thomas Gibbons, Noel McGree, Gerard O'Reilly, Eoin Buggy, Michael Fitzpatrick, Brendan Dalton, Enda Rafter.
Front: Paul Mullan, John Fitzpatrick, Donal O'Sullivan, Vincent O'Donnell, James Bergin, Andrew Hughes, Michael Walsh, Barry Hughes, Matthew Theloke, Michael Farrell.
Photo: Tom Brett.

into the game. Eamonn Walsh, who was hurling all before him, drove a free all the way to the Freshford net on 14 minutes. The St. Lachtain boys and girls were shaken but not done. They finally got on to the score sheet when Ger O'Reilly, now on the forty, pointed. Chances at either end came and went and after a helter skelter first half, Ballyhale were in the ascendency, leading by 1-3 to Freshford's

Sevens titles, and by sending five representatives to Dublin. Camogie girls and members of the hurling team, Danielle Minogue and Eileen Fitzpatrick got calls for the camogie games, Danielle on All-Ireland Final Day and Eileen on All-Ireland Semi-Final Day. For the hurling games, Noel McGree was honoured on All-Ireland Final Day with Gerard O'Reilly and goalie, Matthew Theloke playing on semi-final day. Needless to say, all played in the black and amber of Kilkenny.

The football titles went south. The girls' football title returned to Piltown after a short absence and two girls played in the Croke Park games. Avril Hickey pulled on the Meath colours on All-Ireland Final Day while Cathy Grant wore the red and white of Cork at their semi-final clash with Mayo. In boys' football, Tullogher-Rosbercon added yet another title in an outstanding year as they collected their first ever sevens crown. Stylish hurling midfielder and fine footballer, Pat Hartley, got the call up to play in Cork's colours at the semi-final clash with Mayo. Well done to all.

This year also saw a revival in the mini-sevens handball, with a great county competition back in February. The winners in these grades who went on to regional finals were Under 11 Girls Singles: Claire Love (Clogh). Under 13 Girls Singles: Anne Marie Hawe (Windgap). Under 11 Boys Singles: Patrick Nolan (Muckalee). Under 11 Boys Doubles: Conor Bergin & Mark Bergin (CBS Kilkenny). Under 13 Boys Singles: Patrick Hogan (Bennettsbridge). Under 13 Boys Doubles: Maurice Nolan & Damien Kelly (St. Patrick's).

At the regional day, the Under 11 boys had great success with Patrick Nolan in

the singles and the Bergin cousins, Mark and Conor, in the doubles winning their way to the final day in Croke Park to represent Leinster. Again, well done to all.

Sponsors:

Each year, the work of the board is aided by generous sponsorship and we would like to say thanks to those who support our schools' games. Church and General are the national sponsors of Cumann na mBunscoil. Here in Kilkenny we thank Educational Supplies' - Roinn A Hurling, Hennessy Fuels - Roinn B Hurling, Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) - Roinn C Hurling, Tedcastle Oils - Roinn D and Corn de Bhaldrathie Hurling, Kilkenny Association (Dublin) - Roinn A Football, Toymaster, High St. - Roinn B Football, INTO - Mini-Sevens.

Educational Supplies' League Final (Roinn A)

Thrilling Final ends in draw.

Freshford 3-4 Ballyhale 3-4

It finished all square at the end of fifty minutes fabulous hurling and nobody could deny that both teams deserve another tilt at this title. On a wet night not suitable for hurling, Ballyhale and Freshford played a thrilling game of hurling and after being level four times in the second half, neither side deserved to lose and so it was. These two teams will have to come together again in Nowlan Park to resolve the destination of the Roinn A title for 1999.

It seemed early on if the title was heading back south to Ballyhale as the young boys from the Shamrocks opened extremely brightly. They were ahead in a minute and moving the ball smartly along the ground, they never let Freshford settle

0-1.

Freshford had the help of the breeze in the second half and knew that early scores would be vital to get back in the game. So it was to be and when the elusive Donal O'Sullivan scored his first goal, the game was very much back on. Freshford kept up the pressure and the sides were level with a quarter of an hour remaining. To the finish, the drama never stopped. Ballyhale raised their game again and forced Freshford on the defensive. After a titanic struggle in front of the Freshford goal, the ball was forced home with Kieran Grace seeming to get the final touch. Freshford responded in three minutes when Donal O'Sullivan again slipped his marker and netted. Another pointed free from Ger O'Reilly saw Freshford lead, but after a powerful run from Eamonn Walsh, T.J. Reid scored a pointed free for Ballyhale to tie things up again. The game was still being played at a breakneck pace, and Donal O'Sullivan must have thought he'd won it for Freshford, when he again slipped his marker and netted for the third time. However, Eamonn Walsh, from centre back took it upon himself to rescue the game for Ballyhale and with injury time approaching ran forty yards before drilling the ball low to the net. Injury time produced nervous moments for both sides. However, the game ended as it started, with the sides level, undoubtedly a fair result for the thirty plus hurlers who gave their all.

For the young Shamrocks, Ger Fennelly was strong in goal. Eamonn Walsh led the defence superbly from centre back and was well helped by the youthful Colin Fennelly and Orla Ryan on the wings. Behind them, Donal Dempsey, Anthony Wemyss, Jason Keogh and

Siobhan Kenneally all did their part in a solid defence. T.J. Reid performed well at midfield and received good support from Kieran Grace. Donncha Fitzpatrick was quick on the ball and always a danger while John Joe O'Farrell and Richard O'Brien both played their parts. The inside forward line of Martin Healy, Martin Cass, James Walsh and later on Keeva Fennelly all kept the Freshford backline busy.

For Freshford, Vincent O'Donnell kept a good goal with Michael Fitzpatrick and his two corner backs Barry Hughes and Brendan Dalton giving him great cover. Danielle Minogue was a star at centre back while Thomas Gibbons met every challenge strongly. Keith Hughes completed a formidable trio. Eoin Buggy Hurlled well throughout and Nicholas Maher made a difference when he came to midfield. Up front, Ger O'Reilly proved a handful and had a great battle with Eamonn Walsh in the second half. Eileen Fitzpatrick and Michael Farrell hurled hard on the wings. Donal O'Sullivan proved himself as a goalgetter while Noel McGree at full forward was always dangerous and John Fitzpatrick did his bit also.

Freshford: V. O'Donnell, B. Hughes, M. Fitzpatrick, B. Dalton, T. Gibbons, D. Minogue, K. Hughes, N. McGree, E. Buggy, E. Fitzpatrick, N. Maher, M. Farrell, D. O'Sullivan, G. O'Reilly, J. Fitzpatrick, A. Hughes, M. Theloke, M. Walsh, P. Mullan, E. Rafter, F. Mullan, J. Bergin.

Ballyhale: G. Fennelly, A. Wemyss, D. Dempsey, J. Keogh, C. Fennelly, E. Walsh, O. Ryan, K. Grace, T.J. Reid, R. O'Brien, D. Fitzpatrick, J.J. O'Farrell, M. Healy, M. Cass, J. Walsh, K. Fennelly, S. Kenneally, E. Knox, P. Long, L. Muldoon, J. O'Brien, E. Fitzpatrick, P. Butler, K. Holden, D. Hession, D. Long, T. Hession, E. Long.

Educational Supplies' League Final (Roinn A) Replay

Ballyhale take the honours.

Ballyhale 2-8 Freshford 2-3

After a second absorbing clash between these two fine teams, it was Ballyhale who proved best and claimed their third Educational Supplies' Roinn A title in four years. On another wet night which did not lend itself to hurling, both Ballyhale and Freshford again showed great skill and determination as they overcame the elements to provide top class fare. Freshford made a late late bid for glory, but the Shamrocks' boys and girls had pulled into too strong a position in this replay and were not to be caught a sec-

ond time. This was hard on the team from Scoil Lachtain as they finished runners-up for the second year running, but they can be proud of their achievements and efforts both years. For Ballyhale, who had the disappointment of losing the Corn de Bhaldraithe three nights previously, they finished their year in style and proved themselves true champions as they lifted

breakneck speed of the first period. Freshford continued where the left off and Eoin Buggy had an early chance for goal but Ger Fennelly again proved up to the task and saved well. The game swung from end to end and chances came at both ends. Donncha Fitzpatrick extended the Ballyhale lead. Freshford replied when Nicholas Maher pointed well off his



Mooncoin - Hennessey Fuels Roinn B Finalists 1999
Back: Shane Dowley, Joseph McCarthy, Patrick Kinsella, Stephen O'Brien, Liam Henebery, Frank Law, Shane Walsh, John Kenny.
Middle: Graham Horgan, Stephen Murphy, Alan Walsh, Sean Wall, Damien Jacob, Christophet O'Hanlon, Jamie Cody, James O'Brien, Joseph O'Hanlon.
Front: Darren Treacy, Christopher Hearne, Noel Delehunty, Thomas Hennebery, Kevin Law, Michael O'Hanlon, Thomas Kearns, Michael Grace, Martin Murphy.
Photo Tom Brett

themselves to probably their best performance all year.

As in the drawn game, Ballyhale got off to the better start again. All could have been different when Ger O'Reilly fired in a great shot early in the game but Ger Fennelly began a great night in the Ballyhale goal with a super stop. Ballyhale then took command of the game, limiting the Freshford forwards to little enough chances. T.J. Reid got them off the mark with a well taken point coming forward from midfield. The same player added another four scores in the first fifteen minutes as he hit a real vein of shooting form. In between, Donncha Fitzpatrick, operating at full forward, fired a goal from twenty yards to really put a dent in Freshford's hopes. The clock showed nearly seventeen minutes when Freshford's first score arrived from a free puck. This spurred Freshford into life and they began to get attacking opportunities. However, the Ballyhale defence proved tough to break down and the Shamrocks' boys looked dangerous on the break. Twice Freshford had chances in front of goal, but as the half time whistle sounded, Ballyhale held the strong advantage leading by 1-6 to 0-1.

The second half continued at the same

left side. However, the middle period of the half saw Ballyhale begin to dominate again driven on by their captain and centre back, Eamonn Walsh. Only some great defence kept them out but finally the game was more or less sealed when Donncha Fitzpatrick drove a dangerous ball across the square, Siobhan Kenneally broke the ball and Richard O'Brien drove a low ground shot to the net.

To Freshford's credit, they refused to lie down and in the remaining minutes they piled on the pressure to try rescue the game. In the final minutes they breached the Ballyhale defence twice for goals. However, time was against them and Ballyhale held out for a well merited win.

For Ballyhale, all players proved part of a great team. Ger Fennelly made some excellent saves in goal and kept a cool head under pressure. Donal Dempsey, James Walsh and Anthony Wemyss were a solid wall in the full backline, which kept many attacks out. Eamonn Walsh was again a star in the centre of defence and Colin Fennelly and Orla Ryan were outstanding on the wings. T.J. Reid had a super night in midfield and scored excellent points. He was well supported by

John Joe O'Farrell. In the reshaped attack, Richard O'Brien played well on the wing and took his scores with aplomb. Martin Cass and Jason Keogh kept the supply of ball going into to a full forward line where Donncha Fitzpatrick was proving a right handful. Martin Healy, Kieran Grace, Keeva Fennelly and Siobhan Kenneally all provided good support at different times.

For a gallant Freshford side, there were many heroes too. Vincent O'Donnell was sound in the goal. Michael Fitzpatrick again proved a strong full back with good help from Barry Hughes and Brendan Dalton. Danielle Minogue at centre back had another excellent game and Thomas Gibbons and Keith Hughes fought for every ball. Captain Noel McGree gave his all at midfield and led his troops bravely. He was well supported by Nicholas Maher. Eoin Buggy led the attack well from the forty and Ger O'Reilly always looked dangerous in all positions. Eileen Fitzpatrick, Donal O'Sullivan, John Fitzpatrick, Michael Walsh and Matthew Theloke all hurled hard for the Freshford cause.

Ballyhale: G. Fennelly, J. Walsh, D. Dempsey, A. Wemyss, C. Fennelly, E. Walsh, O. Ryan, J.J. O'Farrell, T.J. Reid (0-5), R. O'Brien (1-1), M. Cass, J. Keogh, M. Healy, D. Fitzpatrick (1-2), K. Grace, K. Fennelly, S. Kenneally, E. Knox, P. Long, L. Muldoon, J. O'Brien, E. Fitzpatrick, P. Butler, K. Holden, D. Hession, D. Long, T. Hession, E. Long.

Freshford: V. O'Donnell, B. Hughes, M. Fitzpatrick, B. Dalton, T. Gibbons, D. Minogue, K. Hughes, N. Maher (0-1), N. McGree (0-1), E. Fitzpatrick, E. Buggy (1-0), M. Walsh, D. O'Sullivan, G. O'Reilly, J. Fitzpatrick, M. Theloke (0-1), A. Hughes, M. Farrell, P. Mullan, E. Rafter, F. Mullan, J. Bergin.

Referee: Podge Butler

Hennessy Fuels' League (Roinn B)

Tullogher-Rosbercon Triumph in Style

**Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-10
Mooncoin 2-3**

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." The old adage was certainly true in the case of Tullogher-Rosbercon at Nowlan Park last Thursday week, for twelve months after their unsuccessful appearance against Coon-Muckalee, they returned to capture the Hennessy Fuels' - Sponsored Roinn B title, and the Hennessy Cup, at the expense of Mooncoin. The game was played in ideal conditions watched by a large enthusiastic crowd.

Mooncoin got off to a rip-roaring start

with a fine goal from midfielder, Noel Delahunty, after 55 seconds. Tullogher-Rosbercon replied within a minute with a point from their very impressive captain, Pat Hartley, from a free. In the fourth minute, Shane Roche pointed for Tullogher-Rosbercon, following a great cross by Marie Ryan. Shortly afterwards, Alan Walsh pointed a free for Mooncoin.

the ball in the Mooncoin net but the goal was disallowed for a square infringement. Patrick Kinsella kept Mooncoin in touch with a point from a free. However, Pat Hartley replied with a point for Tullogher-Rosbercon almost immediately. Shortly afterwards, Pádraig Ryan set off on a great solo-run and hit the Mooncoin post with a powerful drive. Full-forward, Shane



Goresbridge-Paulstown - Paddy O'Connell League Roinn C Champions 1999.
 Back: Mark Morrissey, Niall Heffernan, Damien Brennan, George Gahan, David Walsh, Billy Murphy, Tom Brophy, Aidan Brennan, Peter Cleere, Edward O'Mahony.
 Middle: Patrick Purcell, Thomas Brennan, Gerard Walsh, Ian Holden, John Kearney, Kevin McDonald, Sean Holohan, David Bambrick, Paddy Barcoe, Edward Lillis, Emmet Mullins.
 Front: Aidan O'Neill, Eoghan Barcoe, Martin Bambrick, James Kevin Collins-Hughes, John Healy, Gary Power, Patrick Drennan, Jason Holden, James Doran, Stephen Brennan, Kevin Hennessy.
 Photo Tom Brett

The exchanges were now full-blooded with end to end wholehearted play. In the twelfth minute, Pat Hartley knifed through the Mooncoin defence on a wonderful solo-run and passed to James Ryan, who pointed for Tullogher-Rosbercon. Pat Hartley levelled proceedings shortly afterwards with a point from a 65. At this stage, Tullogher-Rosbercon exerted a lot of pressure on Mooncoin. Captain, Pat Hartley, set off on another solo-run and put his team in front for the first time with a fine point. Almost immediately, Tullogher-Rosbercon corner forward, Pádraig Ryan increased the lead with two nice points from play. In the 21st minute, Pat Hartley goaled from a free about 20 metres out, at a slight angle. *Half-time score: Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-7 Mooncoin 1-1.*

Mooncoin began the second half in a whirlwind fashion and after five minutes, Patrick Kinsella pointed from a 65. Mooncoin exerted great pressure on Tullogher-Rosbercon in the early stages of the second half but unfortunately for them, the scores just did not come. In the thirteenth minute, Pat Hartley was fouled and he pointed the resultant free for Tullogher-Rosbercon. Three minutes later, substitute, Edmund Cullinane had

Ryan pounced to slam the rebound to the net. Brave Mooncoin were not finished yet, and centre back, Sean Wall, who had moved into the forward line, scored a great rallying goal, following lots of pressure. However, it was man of the match, Pat Hartley who completed the scoring with a great point for Tullogher-Rosbercon.

Best for Tullogher-Rosbercon were Aaron McCarthy, Kelly-Ann Cotterell and Gary Hill in the backline. Pat Hartley starred at midfield and Marie Ryan, Shane Roche and Edmund Cullinane were best in the forward line. For Mooncoin, Thomas Hennebry had a fine game in goal. Christopher O'Hanlon and Sean Wall played well in defence. Both midfielders, Patrick Kinsella and Noel Delahunty had fine games while Alan Walsh and substitute, Michael Grace, did best up front.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: M. Gaule, A. McCarthy, L. Barron, D. Grennan, K.A. Cotterell, G. Hill, J. Ryan, R. Dollard, P. Hartley (1-6), M. Ryan, J. Ryan (0-1), S. Roche (0-1), S. Kirwan, S. Ryan (1-0), P. Ryan (0-2). Subs: E. Cullinane, N. Conway, D. Ryan, R. Phelan, E. Forristal, P. Grennan.



Conahy Shamrocks - Paddy O'Connell League Roinn C Finalists 1999.

Back: David Healy, John Wallace (Captain), Andrew O'Keefe, Martin Dunne, Brian Healy, Thomas O'Shea, Peter Harding, Gavin Nolan, Carol Gunner, Laura Conway, Bridget Bergin, John Muldowney.
 Middle: Sean Delaney, Darren Rafter, Patrick Cass, David Baldwin, Ciaran Walsh, Eamonn Maher, Fiona Muldowney, Eimear Harding, Micheal Lawlor.
 Front: Donal Brennan, James Murphy, Rebecca McEntee, Kieran Mooney, Joseph Delaney, Joseph Cass, Ian Kavanagh, Pdraig Harding, Paddy Mullan, Danika Dunne, Colin Murphy. [Absent from Photo - Marie Dollard] Photo Tom Brett



Bennettsbridge - Tedcastle Oils' League Roinn D Champions 1999. Photo Tom Brett

Back: N. Cleere, N. Power, P. Mitchell, A. Hayde, P. Hogan, M. McGrath, B. Power, D. Kinsella, B. Barcoe, E. Fitzgerald, L. Warren, P. O'Neill.
 Front: J.J. Warren, D. Hayes, T. Jordan, B. Nolan, R. Hogan, M. O'Neill, D. Donovan, G. Daly, B. Brady, A. McCarthy, L. Dowling.

Mooncoin: T. Hennebry, C. O'Hanlon, S. Murphy, L. Hennebry, J. Cody, S. Wall (1-0), M. O'Hanlon, P. Kinsella (0-2), N. Delahunty (1-0), C. Hearne, A. Walsh (0-1), F. Law, D. Treacy, K. Law, D. Jacob. Subs: M. Grace, J. O'Hanlon, J. Kenny, M. Murphy, S. O'Brien, T. Kearns, S. Dowling, J. O'Brien, S. Walsh.

Paddy O'Connell League Final (Roinn C)

Goresbridge-Paulstown are Champs

Goresbridge-Paulstown 2-4 Conahy 1-4

In a very competitive and exciting Primary Schools' Roinn C Final for the Paddy O'Connell League Title, Goresbridge-Paulstown had a narrow and thrilling victory over a fine Conahy side who were unlucky not to share the spoils.

The impressive Michael Lawlor opened the scoring with a fine point for Conahy. Goresbridge-Paulstown, with Billy Murphy in fine form at midfield, gradually got going and they got off the mark with a smashing goal from full forward, Aidan Brennan. Their lead was extended shortly afterwards with a point from Billy Murphy.

Conahy stormed back into the game and, after a couple of near misses, the exciting Gavin Nolan tied up the game with a lovely goal. Despite a serious knee injury, Nolan was dangerous every time the ball came his way and it was he who put Conahy a point ahead a couple of minutes later.

It was now Goresbridge-Paulstown's turn to pile on the pressure but they found

Ian Kavanagh in great form in the Conahy goal. However, their efforts were rewarded with two Billy Murphy points from frees and a Michael Cowman point from 30 yards out. This left the half time score: Goresbridge-Paulstown 1-4 Conahy 1-2.

The second half was tremendous, with every player on the field fighting for the ball as if his or her life depended on it. The winners got off to a great start with a goal from Ian Holden and amazingly, this turned out to be their last score. Conahy, undeterred by this set-back, worked tirelessly to claw back the five point disadvantage while Goresbridge-Paulstown defended their lead with great determination.

With Brian Healy driving his side forward, Conahy were rewarded with points from Gavin Nolan and John Wallace, who had moved up to centre forward in a bid to rescue the game. Excitement was now fever pitch as the losers tried to score the all important goal but the six Goresbridge-Paulstown defenders and goalkeeper Sean Holohan were in no mood to relinquish their lead and they held on for a narrow victory to add the Roinn C Championship to last year's Roinn D title. What a great two years for the winners. Conahy can be extremely proud of their hurling displays, right throughout the year and they gave a great account of themselves in the final.

For Goresbridge-Paulstown, Sean Holohan was ever dependable. Thomas Brennan, George Gahan and Kevin McDonald were staunch defenders. The very impressive David Walsh received great support from John Kearney and Tom Brophy. Billy Murphy starred in midfield ably assisted by Paddy Barcoe. Damien Brennan, Michael Cowman and Ian Holden were a productive half-forward line, while Gerard Walsh, Aidan Brennan and David Bambrick complete a fine Goresbridge-Paulstown side.

For Conahy, Ian Kavanagh was inspirational in goal. Colin Murphy and Joseph Delaney were fine corner backs with full back Brian Healy one of the best players on view. The delightful Kieran Mooney, team captain, John Wallace, and Martin Dunne launched many attacks for their side. Thomas O'Shea and Peter Harding were very good at midfield and had a great tussle with their two opponents. The lively Michael Lawlor, with John Muldowney who gave his all in pursuit of victory, and Carol Gunnar could have done no more. Kieran Walsh and Joseph Cass gave great support to the very talented Gavin Nolan.

Goresbridge-Paulstown: S. Holohan, T. Brennan, G. Gahan, K. McDonald, J.



Clough-Moneenroe, Tedcastle Oils Roinn D. Finalists 1999

Back: Timothy Wilson, Amy Geoghegan, Kelly Roche, Marion Ryan, Kevin Phillips, Graham Lawlor, Noel Phelan, Enda Gannon, Gavin O' Dowd, Laurence Brennan, Ian Brennan, Noel Roche, Brian Clancy, Thomas Nolan, Diarmuid O' Shea, Edward Lawlor.
Front: Marie Therese O' Neill, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Damien Purcell, Pdraig O' Dowd, John Patrick Maguire, David O' Neill, Eoghan McDonald, Philip Morrissey, Henry Phelan, O'isin Kavanagh, Joseph O' Dowd, Dean Wilson, Shane Delaney, Michael Delaney, Christopher Clancy.
Photo Tom Brett

Kearney, D. Walsh, T. Brophy, B. Murphy (0-3), P. Barcoe, D. Brennan, M. Cowman (0-1), I. Holden (1-0), G. Walsh, A. Brennan (1-0), D. Bambrick, P. Purcell, E. Lillis, M. Morrissey, P. Cleere, E. O'Mahony, N. Heffernan, A. Attride.

Conahy: *I. Kavanagh, C. Murphy, B. Healy, J. Delaney, K. Mooney, J. Wallace (0-1), M. Dunne, T. O'Shea, P. Harding, M. Lawlor (0-1), J. Muldowney, C. Gunnar, K. Walsh, G. Nolan (1-2), J. Cass, P. Cass, E. Maher, D. Baldwin, D. Rafter, A. O'Keefe, B. Bergin, D. Healy, F. Muldowney, L. Conway, S. Delaney, E. Harding, J. Murphy.*

**Tedcastle Oils' League Final
(Roinn D)**

Bennettsbridge Boys Best!

Bennettsbridge 3-16 Clough-Moneenroe 2-0

Appearances in the schools' finals for Bennettsbridge and Clough-Moneenroe have been rare in recent times and so huge crowds from both parishes turned out to cheer on their young heroes, boys and girls. Both teams had fought long campaigns to get to the final in this the experimental year of Roinn C/D combined. Bennettsbridge were hotly favoured going into this game but it took almost quarter of an hour before they settled down to any kind of rhythm in their game.

From the throw in, Clough-Moneenroe set the pace and appeared to be the more confident. After two minutes they had a near miss to draw first blood but their sustained pressure soon paid off when midfielder Pdraig Dowd got possession from

a well taken side line cut and drilled to the net, giving Damien Kinsella in the Bennettsbridge goal no chance. This was the dream start and elsewhere on the field, Clough-Moneenroe were firing on all cylinders also as full back Gavin Dowd was winning everything in his duel with star full forward Richard Hogan. Indeed, the final outcome of this tussle was to be a telling factor in Bennettsbridge's fine win with Hogan eventually bagging a total of 1-7.

Bennettsbridge forced two 65's after the first quarter and Patrick Hogan gave his side their first score from the second attempt. Richard Hogan, at full forward, continued to work hard to get into the game and he was reward with a point having caught a great ball. In the run up to half time, Bennettsbridge began to exert great pressure and a point from Paul Mitchell in the seventeenth minute levelled the game. Then a poor clearance from Clough's defence found Blaine Barcoe unmarked. He took his opportunity with style and finished the ball to the net to leave the halftime score at 1-3 to 1-0.

On the resumption of play, Bennettsbridge showed huge determination and they began a passage of play which saw them score at will and with dazzling style. Richard Hogan came alive at full forward and in the space of fifteen minutes he added 1-3 to his team's total. Blaine Barcoe continued with a huge work rate and having started the onslaught with his fine first half goal, he added a further 1-2 to his total. Graham Lawlor tried hard for Clough-Moneenroe to keep them in the game as did Pdraig Dowd and Noel Roche. Enda Gannon was also playing

his part at centre back but his effectiveness must have been thwarted having to return to the goalline to take each puck out. Clough-Moneenroe introduced substitute, Oisin Kavanagh, and almost immediately he caught the 'Bridge keeper off guard and added a goal to his side's total. With seven minutes remaining and a scoreline of 3-12 to 2-0 in favour of Bennettsbridge, it would take a miracle to overtake them.

In addition to those already mentioned, Bennettsbridge can be proud of full back, Edward Fitzgerald, captain, Brian Power at centre back, and Paul Mitchell. Up front, Nicky Cleere, Thomas Jordan and Patrick O'Neill

turned in fine performances.

Clough-Moneenroe will have learned a lot from this game and may well return very soon to have another cut at the title.

Bennettsbridge: *D. Kinsella, L. Warren, E. Fitzgerald (0-1), M. McGrath, A. Hayde, B. Power, N. Power, P. Mitchell (0-1), P. Hogan (0-2), B. Barcoe (2-2), N. Cleere (0-2), T. Jordan, P. O'Neill (0-1), R. Hogan (1-7), B. Nolan. Subs: D. Donovan, D. Hayes, J.J. Warren, M. O'Neill, B. Brady, L. O'Mahony, A. McCarthy, G. Daly, L. Dowling.*

Clough-Moneenroe: *E. McDonald, H. Phelan, G. Dowd, J.P. Maguire, N. Roche, E. Gannon, I. Brennan, P. Dowd (1-0), B. Clancy, G. Lawlor, K. Phillips, D. O'Shea, P. Fitzpatrick, N. Phelan, S. Delaney. Subs: C. Clancy, J. Dowd, O. Kavanagh (1-0), D. Wilson, K. Roche, M. Delaney, P. Morrissey, D. Purcell, A. Geoghegan, D. O'Neill, M.T. O'Neill, M. Ryan.*

**Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie
Final**

Tullagher-Rosbercon make History

Tullagher-Rosbercon 4-7 Ballyhale 2-4

Newly crowned Roinn B Champions, Tullagher-Rosbercon capped a glorious year for themselves by overcoming famed Ballyhale in the Primary Schools' Country Cup Hurling Final in Nowlan park last Monday week. Both teams approached this final with formidable reputations and they fulfilled expectations in providing a fast, exciting, eagerly fought and skilful exhibition of hurling. No one could doubt the merit of Tullagher-Rosbercon's tri-

umph. They hurled with confidence, assurance, power and flair. Ballyhale, too, contributed handsomely to this fine hurling spectacle. Their hurling craft and gritty determination was very much in evidence and their magnificent second half rally provided us with an exhilarating finish to this game.

From the throw-in, the hurling was fast and furious and both defences were subjected to intense pressure. Tullogher-Rosbercon got off to a flying start when corner forward Edmund Cullinane fielded a cross from the left wing and crashed the ball to the net in the third minute of the game. Ballyhale centre back, Eamonn Walsh replied with a pointed free from 45 metres out. Tullogher-Rosbercon's stylish, strong wing forward, Shane Roche gave warning of the key role he would play in this game when he scored a beautiful point from the left wing. Tullogher-Rosbercon now began to assert their superiority in the exchanges. Their magnificent captain and midfielder, Pat Hartley, underlined their dominance when he grabbed a high ball and after a short solo run, drove a sizzling shot to the net. Corner forward, Pádraig Ryan's point in the 21st. minute gave Tullogher-Rosbercon a commanding lead of eight points.

there was much to savour in terms of hurling skills and wholehearted endeavour on both sides. The dash, flair and deft touches of Tullogher-Rosbercon's Joseph Ryan and Shane Roche were matched by the skill and unyielding determination of Ballyhale's Eamonn Walsh and T.J. Reid. A well-taken goal on the stroke of half time left the score at the interval: Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-3 Ballyhale 0-1

Ballyhale had a daunting task as they faced the second half. However, the general expectation that Ballyhale would stage a determined rally was fully justified by the turn of events. Wing forward, John Joe O'Farrell of Ballyhale registered an early point after neat combination work among the Ballyhale forwards. Tullogher-Rosbercon's wing forward, Maria Ryan, who was having a tremendous duel with Ballyhale's Orla Ryan, notched up a lovely point after a solo run from the right wing. A tremendous save from goalie, Ger Fennelly (B), was followed by renewed efforts by the Ballyhale team but Tullogher-Rosbercon were defiant in their resistance. With less than 10 minutes remaining, Ballyhale's centre back Eamonn Walsh staged a great solo run into the heart of the Tullogher-Rosbercon defence and secured a twenty metre free. His excellently struck shot would have done justice to more senior marksmen. A few minutes later, the same player proved that the first goal was no fluke when registering an identical score, this time from 25 metres out.

With just five points between the teams and as many minutes left in the game, a titanic finish was very much in prospect. However, Tullogher-Rosbercon, showing their tremendous power and determination, responded decisively. Tullogher-Rosbercon turned defence into attack and corner forward,

Pádraig Ryan connected beautifully on a low cross, leaving the Ballyhale keeper no chance. The Ballyhale onslaught had been checked and Tullogher-Rosbercon captain, Pat Hartley concluded the scoring with a pointed free. *Final Score: Tullogher-Rosbercon 4-7 Ballyhale 2-4*

1999 has been a memorable year for Tullogher-Rosbercon in Primary Schools' hurling. This Country Cup victory, the first ever by any team from outside of Roinn A, will be among their cherished memories of the year. All members of the team contributed handsomely and wholeheartedly to the success. The defence backed by a sound goalie were solid and tenacious. Centre Back Gary Hill and wing-back Joseph Ryan led their backs with determination, style and skill. Team captain and midfielder, Pat Hartley worked heroically throughout the hour. His natural hurling talent was matched by his power and magnificent work rate. He was afforded excellent support from his midfield partner, Richard Dollard. The forwards showed a great appetite for the ball and their main sharpshooters, Shane Roche and Pádraig Ryan benefited greatly from the work rate of all forwards.

Ballyhale will naturally be disappointed in defeat but they can be proud of their gallant and courageous team, who displayed a great array of hurling skills. Faced with a formidable Tullogher-Rosbercon forward line, the Ballyhale defence battled heroically to the final whistle. Ger Fennelly proved to be a sound and confident goalkeeper. Centre back Eamonn Walsh was a commanding figure in defence and when he moved upfield in the second half, he played a key role in his team's comeback. Donal Dempsey and Jason Keogh were also inspirational in defence. T. J. Reid at midfield showed himself to be a player of exceptional talent and was tireless in his efforts. The forwards faced a particularly strong and stubborn defence. All of them struggled courageously against the odds but Donncha Fitzpatrick and Martin Cass were the most effective in their efforts.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: M. Gaule, A. McCarthy, L. Barron, D. Grennan, K.A. Cotterell, G. Hill, J. Ryan, R. Dollard, P. Hartley (1-3), M. Ryan (0-1), J. Ryan, S. Roche (1-1), E. Cullinane (1-0), S. Ryan, P. Ryan (1-2). Subs: S. Kirwan, N. Conway, D. Ryan, R. Phelan, E. Forristal, P. Grennan.

Ballyhale: G. Fennelly, A. Wemyss, D. Dempsey, J. Keogh, C. Fennelly, E. Walsh (2-1), O. Ryan, J. Walsh, T.J. Reid (0-2), R. O'Brien, D. Fitzpatrick, J.J. O'Farrell(0-1), M. Healy, M. Cass, K. Fennelly. Subs: S. Kenneally, K. Grace, E. Knox, P. Long, L. Muldoon, J. O'Brien, E. Fitzpatrick, P. Butler, K. Holden, D. Hession, D. Long, T. Hession, E. Long.

Referee: Briain O'Flynn

| Scoreboard 1999. | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A). | | | |
| Ballyhale 3-4 Freshford 3-4. | | | |
| Ballyhale 2-8 Freshford 2-3. Replay | | | |
| Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B). | | | |
| Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-10 Mooncoin 2-3. | | | |
| Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) Hurling League (Roinn C). | | | |
| Goresbridge-Paulstown 2-4 Conahy 1-4. | | | |
| Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D) | | | |
| Bennettsbridge 3-16 Clogh-Moneenroe 2-0. | | | |
| Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie. | | | |
| Tullogher-Rosbercon 4-7 Ballyhale 2-4. | | | |
| Garda Siochana City Class Leagues | | | |
| Second Class: | CBS Kilkenny | bt. | St. Patrick's |
| Third Class: | St. Patrick's | bt. | CBS Kilkenny |
| Fourth Class: | St. Patrick's | bt. | CBS Kilkenny |
| Fifth Class: | Gaelscoil Osraí | bt. | St. Canice's |
| Sixth Class: | St. Patrick's A | bt. | St. Patrick's B |
| INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens | | | |
| Hurling: | Freshford. | | |
| Football: | Tullogher-Rosbercon. | | |
| Camogie: | Freshford. | | |
| Girls' Football: | Piltown. | | |
| Girls' Handball: | Under 11 Singles: | Claire Love, Clogh | |
| | Under 13 Singles: | Ann Marie Hawe, Windgap | |
| Boys' Handball: | Under 11 Singles: | Patrick Nolan, Muckalee | |
| | Under 11 Doubles: | Conor Bergin | |
| | | Mark Bergin, CBS Kilkenny | |
| | Under 13 Singles: | Patrick Hogan, Bennettsbridge | |
| | Under 13 Doubles: | Maurice Nolan | |
| | | Damien Kelly, St. Patrick's | |

Worthy of the Millennium!

Cliona Foley - Irish Independent.

When we're used to seeing the stars of camogie's firmament belting full tilt into each other on All Ireland final day, there was something surreal about walking into Dublin's pretty Parnell Park on a sunny Saturday in early August.

It was only the All Ireland semi-finals and yet here were Kilkenny and reigning champions Cork, those marvellous modern day rivals, squaring up to each other

It promised much but the extraordinary climax which followed outdid all expectations.

As the minutes ticked away, Cork led by four points and looked home and dry.

Then there was a flurry in their goalmouth and Margaret Comerford claimed a crucial goal to keep the Cats' hopes alive.

Kilkenny 'keeper Miriam Holland pulled off a phenomenal point-blank save from Linda Mellerick minutes later and there was eventually just a point between them when Sinéad Millea stepped up to take a 65m free which would level it. But incredibly, and there's probably Cork players still having nightmares about it, her lofted shot floated over all the heads in the crowded goalmouth and into the net!

The scoreline read - Kilkenny 2-12; Cork 1-13 - the final whistle sounded and the Cats went crazy. Tracey Millea did her own version of Riverdance while the Cork players stood shocked and still, literally dumbfounded at having their pocket picked in such an outrageous manner.

No one had expected this..

Cork were reigning two in-a-row champions and had looked

magnificent during the league racking up cricket scores, including 9-19 in the final against Tipperary.

Kilkenny, it was said, were in the process of rebuilding.

Former county minor manager Bobby Jackman had only taken them over after Tipp had knocked them out of the league and yet they'd pulled off a massive coup over their greatest rivals.

The only worry was - had they produced it all just for Cork? Had Kilkenny just played their All Ireland?

Anyone who stayed on to watch the second semi-final had reason to worry.

Tipperary, who'd come so close to making the breakthrough last season, reached their first final since 1984, beating Down by a whopping 6-22 to 1-3.

Deirdre Hughes scored 4-3 at full-forward, most of it laid on by the galloping solos of her Toomevara teammate Noelle Kennedy. Tipp's danger women were obvious.

So camogie's big day in Croke on September 5 1999 was historic for many reasons. The first 15-aside game, the first live on television and a new-look pairing, with Kilkenny back for the first time since '95 and aiming to do a double with their men.

Their only worry was



Kilkenny Senior Camogie Panel 1999:

Back row: Sinéad Costelloe, Bobby Jackman (Coach), Martina Maher, Brigid Barnaville, Kathleen Atkins, Margaret Comerford, Miriam Holland, Ann Downey, Michael Fennelly (Trainer), Catherine Dunne, Sarah O'Gorman, Maura Costelloe (Selector).

Front row: Tracey Millea, Margaret Hickey, Laura Sweeney, Mairead Costelloe, Linda Crennan, Jillian Maher (Captain), Brigid Mullaly, Sinead Millea, Sandra Gleeson, Bronagh Neary.

Photo Tom Brett



Action from 1999 All Ireland Camogie Final - Kilkenny's **Lizzie Lyng** is chased by Tipp's **Ciara Gaynor**.

Photo Sportsfile

the hamstring injury which had seriously hampered the training of pivotal forward Bridget Mullaly.

Kilkenny hearts were high, though.

No one but Cork had every beaten them in a senior final and the sight of their 1974 team (including Ann Downey, incredibly chasing her 13th medal 25 years after her first!) being honoured with the first jubilee award on the pitch beforehand, lifted them even higher.

And what a game transpired, illuminated by skill and sunshine, a match truly worthy of taking camogie into the new Millennium!

Kilkenny pulled positional changes from the throw-in.

Mullaly, with her thigh heavily strapped, moved to the right wing, with Sandra Gleeson moving back to midfield and Sinead Millea moving to centre-forward to take on Ciara Gaynor.

Mullaly and particularly Millea (0-7) certainly played heroic parts, keeping the side in touch when Tipperary, through Kennedy and Hughes, threatened to overrun them at the start of the second quarter.

But then came Kilkenny's big break when Sinéad sent in a low 14m free, the Tipp defence fumbled it and young Lizzie Lyng pounced to goal, a crucial score which kept them a point clear (1-5 to 0-7) at the break.

A marvellous point by Martina Maher three minutes after the restart put them two clear and they held that margin while the crowd greeted the arrival of Ann Downey off the bench after 41 minutes, a sight to terrify most defenders!

Things really looked to be turning their way when Tipp's Eimear McDonnell then had a rocket of a shot off the crossbar and even when Hughes equalised it from an impossible angle after 45 minutes, they were still hanging in there, especially because Noelle Kennedy's usually impeccable freetaking was beginning to crack in the nervewracking atmosphere.

Little things went wrong then. Millea was called back for a free on a blistering run, a frustrating rule which camogie still applies instead of using the 'advantage' rule.

Mairead Costelloe took a bad knock and there was a long break to treat her in midfield when Tipp seemed to get their second wind.

Their midfielders Angela McDermott and Emily Hayden played out of their skin, their half-backs of Maedbh Stokes, Ciara Gaynor (the RTE Player of the match) and Sinéad Nealon were



Aftermath - Kilkenny's Margaret Hickey, Tracey Millea, Teresa Dillon and Catherine Dunne wonder how it slipped away.
Photo Tom Brett

superb and for this reporter right corner-back Suzanne Kelly was the 'Woman of the Match'.

As the minute handed Tipped moved up a gear and yet, two missed frees by Hughes left the sides still level with two minutes of proper time remaining and it was going to

take something very special to separate them.

It arrived in the person of Tipp super-sub Caitriona Hennessy who lists mountain-climbing among her hobbies and showed why in Tipp's hour of need!

She took over the freetaking and after Miriam Holland had pulled off a brilliant save off her deflected free, she coolly popped over the ensuing '45.

Margaret Comerford earned a 25m free off the next Kilkenny attack which Millea slotted to level it again, 1-8 to 0-11 and the tension was almost unbearable as we moved into injury-time.

Two minutes later, Hennessy put Deirdre Hughes through and the defence correctly fouled her but again, the Tipp teenager held her nerve, popping over the 20m free to win it 0-12 to 1-8.

So we had new, first-time champions for a new century.'

Having lost seven finals, few begrudged Tipp their success. It is surely great for the game and also hugely encouraging to see famous hurlers like -Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnar getting involved in their backroom.

Like Jackman, their 5-a-side expertise was vital and their profile certainly helped bring much needed media attention.

But, have no fear. This Kilkenny team, which includes so much class and young talent, were ultimately beaten by a whisker and will definitely be back!

Kilkenny - M Holland; T Millea, M Hickey, U Murphy; S Costelloe, J Maher (Capt), M Costelloe; K Long, S Gleeson, B Mullaly, S Millea (0-7), Comerford, M Maher (0-1), L Lynch (1-0) Subs:- A Downey for M Downey (42 mins).

Tipperary - J Delaney; S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden; M Stokes (Capt), C Gaynor, S Nealon, F Hayden, R Mc Dermott;; N Kennedy (0-6 all frees), T Brophy, H Kiely; E McDonnell (0-1), D Hughes (0-3), N Harkin. Subs:- P Fogarty for Kiely (35 mins), C Hennessy (0-2) for Harkin (39 mins).

Referee - R Derham (Dublin).

The Junior Scene

By Richie Stone

While the senior and intermediate clubs were still in winter hibernation, the All-County Junior League sponsored by Hennessy Sports got under way in march. Two months and 83 games later Graigue Ballycallan and James Stephens emerged from the pack to reach the final. James Stephens played ten games to reach the final while Graigue Ballycallan played eight games on their way to the final. In their respective semi-finals Graigue Ballycallan had a good 6 point win over Emeralds 3-10 to 1-10, while James Stephens beat Lisdowney beat Lisdowney by one point in a replay 1-14 to 1-13 to 1-13.

In the final, played at Nowlan Park, Graigue Ballycallan dominated the opening half. By the interval, they led by 0-8 to 1-1, despite having missed several good chances. James Stephens made a number of changes for the second half. These changes brought about a big improvement. Two goals in the space of three minutes brought the city side right back into the game. It was at this stage that Man of the Match, Dermot Hoyne came to the fore. His catches and clearances were inspirational. He also scored a great long-range point as Ballycallan held on for a narrow victory.

Along with Hoyne, others to do well for the winners were Mark O'Brien, Padraig McCluskey, Phillip Butler and Edward Brennan.

For James Stephens, goalie Derek Brennan had a fine game. In defence, Michael Fogarty, John Scott and Fran Whelan did well. Tommy Fogarty, Paddy O'Brien, Shane Egan and Gary Whelan were others to impress.

Graigue Ballycallan: Kevin Cleere, Mark O'Brien, Pádraig McCluskey, Pat Comerford, Anthony Drohan, Dermot Hoyne, Phillip Butler (C), Ger Ronan, James Ryall, Edward Brennan, Joe Brennan, Gearóid Cleere, Tom McGrath, Sean Millea, Tommy Manogue. Sub: Philip Butler (K).

James Stephens: Derek Brennan, Niall Grogan, Fran Whelan, Dermot Herlihy, Vinnie O'Brien, John Scott, Michael Fogarty, Tommy Fogarty, Podge Butler, Shane Egan, Niall Lahart, Paddy O'Brien, Feargal Cantwell, Gary Whelan, Eoin McCormack. Sub: Paddy Crotty.

With the Hennessy Sports All-County League title safely tucked away, Graigue Ballycallan were quickly installed as favourites for the Barlo Nissan Northern Championship. This view was re-enforced when the league champions began their campaign with a win over Young Irelands (Gowran). Other first round winners were Emeralds (Urlingford) who beat their old rivals Danesfort. Lisdowney avenged their league semi-final defeat when they beat James Stephens. Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) edged out Erin's Own (Castlecomer), St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) saw off the challenge of Dicksboro and Galmoy scraped over Fenians. Cloneen and Conahy



Carrickshock - Kilkenny County Junior Hurling Champions 1999

Back: Michael O'Dwyer (Sel), Tommy Murphy, John Raggett, Eamonn Phelan, Pat Dwyer, Pádraig Rohan, Pat Cantwell, Martin Rohan, Patrick Farrell.
Front: Domo Connolly (Trainer), Adrian Hudson, John Power, Michael Walsh, Jamie Power, PJ Cuddihy, Pat Tennyson, Brian Hudson, John Lawlor (Sel).

Photo Tom Brett

Shamrocks had byes into the quarter finals.

In the quarter finals, Graigue Ballycallan ended Cloneen's hopes. Galmoy put in a storming finish to beat St. Patricks. Lisdowney had a good win over Barrow Rangers, while Emeralds advertised their intentions when



Emeralds - JJ Kavanagh Junior Championship Finalists 1999
 Back: C Hennessy, N Minogue, A Cleere, M Doyle, D Guilfoyle, K Rafter, D Lyng, D Moriarty, R Motiarty, S Tobin, K Hughes, Ad. Cleere, N Cahill.
 Front: B Cahill, C Cleere, E Kavanagh, G Joyce, I Tobin, J Ryan, B Joyce, A Fogarty, T Manton, T Champion, S Minogue, A Guilfoyle, S Ahearne, S Roche.

they beat a Conahy Shamrocks side that were fancied to make a quick return to the intermediate grade.

Semi-final day saw a very impressive Emeralds sweep aside a disappointing Lisdowney 1-14 to 0-7, while Galmoy struggled to overcome a Graigue Ballycallan side hit by injuries and defections to their senior squad.

In the Northern Final, a very good second half performance saw Galmoy wipe out a seven point half-time deficit to force a draw. Galmoy 1-12 Emeralds 0-15.

In the replay, Emeralds again led the way in the opening half. At the break, they had gone into a 0-7 to 0-4 lead. This time, there was to be no recovery from Galmoy. In a sizzling second half performance, Emeralds added a further ten points to just three for Galmoy, to run out winners by 0-17 to 0-7.

Down South, the Iverk Produce sponsored championship is run on a league basis. Last year's county finalists, Carrickshock, let their intentions be known early when they beat Glenmore in the opening round. They followed up with victories over Slieverue, Kilmacow and Windgap to qualify for the final without losing a game. Kilmacow and Windgap finished second and third respectively and therefore played off for the other final place.

Windgap came out on top in that game to set up a final date with Carrickshock and a chance of revenge for their earlier defeat at the hands of the 'Shock men.

Once again, there was little in it. Entering the final minutes, Carrickshock led by four points. As the game went into injury time, Pat Walsh, who had been switched from full back to full forward, rifled home a goal for Windgap to leave just the minimum in it. From the puck out, the ball broke off a Windgap defender for a sideline ball. Paddy Farrell sent the resultant line ball straight over the bar to secure victory for Carrickshock after a fine game.

Emeralds were most people's fancy to take the county title. However, from an early stage, it was clear there would be little in it. At half time, the Southern champions led 0-8 to 0-3. Brendan Joyce reduced the arrears with a point five minutes into the new half.

Then, in the 36th minute, John Power, who had been switched from defence, cracked home a goal for Carrickshock to put

them 1-6 to 0-4 ahead.

That was to be Carrickshock's last score. Emeralds now upped their game again. Alas, their finishing let them down.

Points from Ray Moriarty (two frees) and two from play by substitute David Guilfoyle left just a point in it. A last ditch attack by Emeralds ended when Pat Tennyson, who had a fine game when switched to centre back, caught and cleared his lines. That was the last action of the game as the Southerners held on for the narrowest of victories.

Carrickshock's best on the day were Tommy Murphy, Pat O'Dwyer, Pat Tennyson, Michael Walsh, Paddy Farrell, Brian Hudson and Adrian Hudson. But really, this was a great team performance. For an Emeralds side that had eighteen wides, Brendan and Ger Joyce, Derek Lyng, Sean Tobin, Aidan Fogarty and Niall Cahill battled hard to the end.

Scorers: Carrickshock:- Pat Farrell (0-3) all frees, John Power (1-0), P.J. Cuddihy, Pat Tennyson and Pat Cantwell (0-1) each. **Emeralds:-** Ray Moriarty (0-3) all frees, Brendan Joyce (0-2) 1 free, David Guilfoyle (0-2), Aidan Fogarty (0-1).

Carrickshock: Jamie Power, Tommy Murphy, Pat O'Dwyer, Pdraig Rohan (C), Michael Walsh, John Power, John Raggett, Adrian Hudson, Pat Tennyson, P.J. Cuddihy, Martin Rohan, Pat Farrell, Eamonn Phelan, John O'Gorman, Brian Hudson. **Subs:** Christy O'Dwyer, William Duggan.

Emeralds: Joe Ryan, Ken Hughes, Niall Cahill, Ian Tobin, Derek Lyng, Brendan Joyce (Capt.), Ger Joyce, Austin Cleere, Ray Moriarty, Sean Tobin, Michael Doyle, Aidan Fogarty, Kieran Rafter, Adrian Cleere, Tom Manton. **Sub:** David Guilfoyle.

DUNMORE AND THE GAA- A LONG TRADITION - A PROUD BOAST

Conor Denieffe

While the Dunmore McHale's club in Galway is the more renowned, particularly for the exploits of the Donnellan brothers with the Galway senior football team, Dunmore (the Kilkenny version, that is), has the proud boast of being one of the first areas in Kilkenny to be involved in the G.A.A. and to be represented by a GAA team. A report in the Kilkenny Journal of March 27th 1886 details a return game between Dunmore and Garryricken, which was played in Killamery (equidistant between Callan and Mullinahone). This game was a football one, not surprisingly, as the big ball game was by far the more popular one in Kilkenny G.A.A. circles from the formation of the association to the turn of the century. Over 4,000 spectators were reported to have attended this game. Playing against the wind, the Dunmore side was 1-2 to nil behind at the interval, and on the call of time they still trailed by 1-2 to 0-2. The visitors from Dunmore were entertained to luncheon following the game. Sadly, for posterity's sake, no names were given of team members.

Dunmore are recorded as playing in further tournament games in 1897, the first in February being played in Ballyragget. Here they met with Abbeyleix and won by 9 points to 1-3. The only players listed in this football game on the Dunmore side were Stapleton and Fitzpatrick. In May, 1897, the Dunmore men were again in action, this time in the Threecastles' tournament where they lost narrowly to Ballycallan by 3 points to 2. A team list is given for this football game - T. Bergin, (Capt), M. Dowling (goal), J. Comerford, M. Leahy, P. Hennessy, T. Bergin, G. Stapleton, D. Tierney, D. Fitzpatrick, K. Brennan, G. McEvoy, M. Berry, J. Kennedy, T. Kennedy, J. Dowling. Surprisingly, considering how active the area was in these years, Dunmore did not enter the first Kilkenny county championships held in 1897 or any championship until 1919 when the club took part in the north junior football championship. In this competition, they lost in the first round to Blanchfieldspark (Gowran) in a game that was described as rough with a good deal of what a local paper's report called "go-for-the-man-play". In fact the reporter went on to state that for much of the game the ball was a secondary consideration. No teams were listed but the final score was 3-2 to nil.

A DUNMORE HURLING CLUB

In 1929 a hurling club was organised in Dunmore. This club was represented at the Northern Board convention of that year by John Butler. In junior hurling, Dunmore beat St. Rioch's (city) by 4-2 to 1-0 on June 23rd. In the next round Dunmore met parish rivals O'Loughlin's on August 17th in Nowlan Park and the two sides played a draw. In the replay on September 30th again in Nowlan Park Dunmore won by 2-1 to 1-2 having been behind by 1-1 to 1-0 at half time. The report attributed the low score to the excellence of

backs and goalmen but did not list teams. Clomantagh defeated Dunmore in the third round by 7-1 to 5-2

The following year (1930), James Burke represented Dunmore at convention and he saw his side draw Urlingford in their first round hurling game. Dunmore also entered a football side in the 1930 junior championship and this team played Muckalee in Nowlan Park on May 4th. It proved a one sided game, which Dunmore won by 4-2 to nil. Those listed as playing well for the winners were the Burke brothers, McEvoy, Delaney, Hennebry, and Cantwell while Mick Whelan in goal was never tested. In the second round of this championship, Dunmore defeated Oveg in Castlecomer on August 10th. An Oveg objection that James Burke had been listed as Joseph Burke on the team sheet was overruled by the Northern Board subsequently. Dunmore were beaten in their third round game by Eska.

In their junior hurling championship of the same year (1930), Dunmore also had an extended run defeating Urlingford in their first game in Freshford on June 8th. The second round saw a repeat of the previous year's clash with O'Loughlin's and once more the county side emerged victorious, by 5-2 to 2-4 on this occasion. Dunmore's fast and accurate forwards registered four goals in the first ten minutes and this disheartened their opponents. Listed as being outstanding for the winners were Hennebry, Talbot, Kealy, Burke and Doyle. The third round saw Dunmore involved in some controversy when the club objected to the Danesfort team, which had beaten them 3-5 to 1-1. A replay was ordered and while Dunmore led by 3-1 to 0-1 at half time, Danesfort took complete control in the second half and finished easy winners. This game was played in February 1931 and the Dunmore team was J. Butler, (Capt), D. Hogan, J. Dowling, W. Burke, M. Tynan, T. Talbot, P. Walsh, D. McEvoy, T. Cleary, J. Hennessy, S. Dullard, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Walsh, M. Kealy and J. Burke.

BILLY BURKE

The most famous and successful hurler produced by Dunmore from this era would have to be Billy Burke. Born in 1912, the night the Titanic sank, he played junior hurling with Dunmore in the late 1920's and early 1930's. He was a member of the Kilkenny minor team, which lost to Tipperary in the 1930 All-Ireland final. In 1931, at the behest of the famous Lory Meagher, he transferred to Tullaroan. His only senior All-Ireland medal came in 1939 when he starred at centre-back in the "Thunder and Lightning" All-Ireland victory over Cork on the day World War 2 started. He also played in Kilkenny's 1936



All Ireland defeat when he came on as a substitute and in the 1937 defeat by Tipperary. In 1940, he excelled on none other than Mick Mackey in the All-Ireland final. Limerick switched Mackey to midfield in the second half, one of many switches they made which helped them turn the game around and win. Billy's fifth and last All-Ireland appearance came in 1945, once more in the centre-back position against Tipperary.



Dunmore 1969

Back: Liam Butler, Dick Guilfoyle, Paddy Butler, Joe Bergin, Seamus Callanan, Jim Kealy, Tom Gregg, Tommy O'Brien.

Front: Pat Kealy, Paddy Burke, Pat Callanan, Sean Casey, Tom Ryan, Liam Burke.

Martin Brennan and Tom McBride also stood in this photo, but they were unfortunately missed on the left by the photographer.

Dunmore's best players on a disappointing day were Pat Hennessy and J. McGuinness. Dunmore also entered a junior football team in the 1940 junior championship but lost to Muckalee in Corbettstown on April 21st.

It was to be 1946 before a Dunmore team competed in a Kilkenny junior championship again but the years from then to 1950 were not successful ones for the club, with the team failing to make it past the first round in any year.

No Dunmore teams took part in the junior hurling or football championships throughout the 1950's or 1960's until 1969.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 1931-1934

The 1931 championship saw Dunmore again reach the third round defeating Foulkstown in their first game on March 29th and Beggar Inn in their second on May 24th by 4-4 to 2-0. In the third round game O'Loughlin's avenged their defeats in the two previous championships defeating Dunmore by 1-4 to 0-1. In 1932, the Dunmore side made first round exits, in hurling to Clontubrid and in football to Dicksboro, while 1933 brought no better luck when St. Rioch's in football in Nowlan Park on April 9th and St. Colman's in hurling in Nowlan Park on March 26th proved too strong for Dunmore. In 1934, Dunmore defeated Kilmanagh in a first round junior hurling clash but then lost to Bennettsbridge in the second round. The footballers lost out to Confederation in their first round game in May 1934. No Dunmore team took part in any championship from 1935 to 1939 but a large number of transfers were recorded to Dunmore in 1939 and a Dunmore team took part in the junior hurling championship the same year defeating Ballykeefe in their first game on 16th April in Nowlan Park before losing to Ballyfoyle in the next round played in Nowlan Park again on the 18th June.

AN EXTENDED CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPAIGN 1940

Hurling in Dunmore and the club itself must have been in a very healthy state in 1940 when two junior teams were entered. The second team lost out to Gowran at Clara by 5-1 to 1-0 on May 6th. The first team beat Conahy on April 14th at Nowlan Park on Ascension Thursday 1940, despite being short four of their regular side. Leading at half time by 2-1 to 1-1, they had to cope with a strong Conahy rally in the second half before emerging victorious by 4-3 to 2-1. The team was J. Brennan, P. Walsh, P. Hennessy, P. Cantwell, P. Murphy, M. Kealy (Capt), J. Brady, M. Gibbons, D. Murphy, T. Guilfoyle, P. Molloy, J. Dunne, T. Jordan, J. McGuinness, and S. Brennan. In the second round, Dunmore caused an upset when they beat Freshford who were many people's favourites having won the previous year's northern championship. However, Dunmore's good run finished when they lost to eventual county champions, Threecastles on June 24th in Nowlan Park by 8-6 to 1-3.

DUNMORE'S LAST CHAMPIONSHIP 1969

A team from Dunmore was entered in the 1969 junior hurling championship. The inspiration behind the team came from a number of locals, many of who had played under-age hurling with successful St. John's and Na Piarasigh teams in the 1960's. Liam Burke, Jim Rice, Martin Brennan and Tommy Gregg were very involved with this club. In their first round game they were beaten by Danesfort in St. John's Park on May 4th. The team played in jerseys borrowed from James Stephens

The players trained in a field owned by Nicholas Rice of Kirwan's Inch in Dunmore. The panel of players was Sean Casey, Mick Burke, Tom Gregg, Paddy Burke, Liam Butler, Pat Callanan, Dick Guilfoyle, Joe Bergin, Jim Kealy, Pat Healy, Liam Burke, Tommy O'Brien, Seamus Callanan, Tom Ryan, Martin Brennan, Mick Rowe, Paddy Butler, Tom McBride and Eamonn Guilfoyle. One player from this team, Paddy Burke, was a member of the Kilkenny minor panel but lost his place after the Leinster final due to a hand injury.

DUNMORE VS. JOHNSWELL

Johnswell also fielded a junior team in 1969 and it was probably inevitable that a challenge would be played to see which was best. Rev. Bro. Michael, who was a teacher in St. John's De La Salle at the time, was prevailed upon to referee this game, against his own better judgement. Not surprisingly, the game ended prematurely and a number of players on both sides were injured. Bro. Michael was shocked, not so much by the quality of the hurling but by the heavy pulling and unparliamentary language employed. However, no residue of bad feeling followed the game and, within a year, players from both sides lined out together for the new parish team, O'Loughlin's.

The above article is taken from the recently published book "The Continent Abú – A history of the G.A.A. in St. John's Parish, Kilkenny", by Conor Denieffe.

LOCKES PASS THE INTER TEST WITH FLYING COLOURS

Nicky Brennan

The punters sometimes get it wrong. Dunamaggin's surprise relegation from the senior grade in Kilkenny last year down to the Intermediate grade was expected to be short-lived. As events unfolded in 1999, the former senior champions will have at least one more year in the Intermediate grade while their great rivals and neighbours, John Lockes, can afford a broad smile as they look down from the lofty perches of the senior grade.

The Callan side's success in 1999 could not be called a major surprise. The punters would have placed fairly short odds on the Lockes to regain former glories. Throughout the year the side displayed a fighting tenacity and an abundance of skill and commitment to suggest greener pastures were around the corner. The quiet and effective coaching and leadership of Brother Damien Brennan was beginning to have a positive influence on the full squad. Championship success was hard earned, and it took a top class performance to wrestle the title from a gallant Mullinavat side.

The early rounds of the league saw some indifferent hurling. Standards varied as all Intermediate sides fought to secure enough points to make the quarter-finals. As teams entered the closing stages it was St. Lachtain's (Freshford), John Lockes, Dunamaggin and Tullogher Rosbercon who managed to stay just ahead of the chasing pack.

Championship Begins.

When we talk about pressure in the club scene there is really only one area; the first round of the championship, particularly in the senior and intermediate grade where losing the game immediately puts the team into a relegation dogfight. And so as the Intermediate championship began, eight teams put their status on the line. Avoiding the dreaded relegation battle created as much pressure in the minds of the players as attempt-



Declan Roche played a Captain's part for John lockes.
Photo Tom O'Neill

ing to make it to the quarter-finals.

Local rivalry was to the fore as Mullinavat and Piltown met in their first round tie. In a league game in late June,



JOHN LOCKES -- VALE OIL INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS 1999.

Front: Kevin Fitzpatrick. Michael Dunne. Andy Power. Robert Jackman. John Paul Corcoran. Declan Roche (Capt). Adrian O'Sullivan. P.J. Cody. Michael Roche. Keith Doherty. Donal Maher.

Middle: Br. Damien Brennan (Trainer). Mick Wall (Sel). Sean Hogan. David Cahill. John O'Neill.

John Power. Jim Lynch. Paul Morrissey. Liam Egan. David Lynch. Bosco Bryan (Sel).

Back: Denis Nolan. Jack Lynch. Mick Lynch. Nigel Donovan. Mick Denny. David Henriques. Denis O'Sullivan. Conleth Nolan. Ramie Power. Stuart Donovan. Joey Gormley.

Photo: John Stapleton.

just one point separated the sides, 0-12 to 0-11. Piltown ended up losing this championship tie to their neighbours on a score of 1-9 to 1-8, but worse was to come as the relegation battle unfolded.

Former kingpins of Kilkenny hurling, Mooncoin, came face to face with the Rower Instioge in their first round tie. Mooncoin running out impressive winners on a score of 2-11 to 1-6.

A big crowd turned up to see the meeting of Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh.. This game was a major disappointment with Graiguenamanagh running out

Dunamaggin net by Michael Murphy to secure a famous victory. A sweet win it was, and well deserved, if only for the supreme effort alone. Dunamaggin may well have underestimated their opponents, but one suspects the minds will be more sharply focused for next year's championship.

Graiguenamanagh and Tullogher Rosbercon had to withstand heavy underfoot conditions and a swirling wind as they battled in Thomastown for a semi-final spot. Graiguenamanagh led by 0-9 to 0-4 at the interval, and the lead hardly looked sufficient given the strength of the elements. Tullogher reduced the deficit immediately after



MULLINAVAT - VALE OIL INTERMEDIATE FINALISTS 1999

Front: Joe Walsh. Liam Murphy. Paul Aylward. Keith Madigan. P.J. Aylward. Walter Bourke. Mick Dunphy.
Back: Seamus Holden. Pat Hoban. Maurice Murphy. Michael Murphy. Tony Duggan. Ray Carroll. Ken Butler. Pat Butler. Photo Tom O'Neill

easy winners 1-16 to 0-6.

Last year's Junior champions, Blacks & Whites, just lost out on an historic first championship victory in the Intermediate grade when Bennettsbridge had a single point to spare at the end of an absorbing contest. The final score of 1-11 to 1-10 was heartbreak for the Skeough side.

Quarter-Finals.

One of the major games in the quarter-finals was the meeting of Mullinavat and Dunamaggin. The latter were clear favourites but this only inspired the Rod Iron men to give one of their best displays for some time. Dunamaggin trailed for most of the game but looked to have snatched victory when Sean Ryan pointed in the 57th minute. However, Mullinavat responded immediately and a brilliant opportunist goal from Michael Dunphy gave his side a deserved victory on a score of 2-9 to 0-13. The winners had first use of the wind and a Ray Carroll goal after 12 minutes saw Mullinavat deservedly lead at the interval by 1-7 to 0-5. Although Mullinavat opened the scoring in the new half with a Michael Dunphy point, Dunamaggin slowly began to take a firm grip on the game and Sean Ryan's late point looked to have secured victory. One final effort from Mullinavat saw a Pat Butler delivery flicked to the

the break when John Murphy pointed. Moments later the winners were awarded a penalty and managed just a point. This should have been enough to boost Tullogher, but instead it was the Graig men who rose their game. They added a goal and point without reply, the major score coming from Cathal Dunne. A well taken goal from John Barron in the 40th minute brought Tullogher back into the game, but this was followed by a Michael Dunne point for Graiguenamanagh. The introduction of the Morrissey brothers, Ivan and Michael, gave added strength to the winners and they held out at the finish for a merited five point victory on a score of 1-17 to 2-9.

A good start was to prove crucial as St. Lachtains (Freshford) edged out Bennettsbridge by three points in their quarter-final encounter. The Freshford side enjoyed the advantage of a strong breeze in the opening half and led at the interval by 0-11 to 0-2. The 'Bridge moved James McGarry to the attack in the second half and he ended up scoring the only goal of the game when he connected with a long delivery. The winners had to be content with a single score in the second half courtesy of Ollie O'Connor. The final score was 0-12 to 1-6 in favour of St. Lachtains.

The most impressive performance of the quarter-finals came from the eventual champions John Lockes, who swamped Mooncoin on a score of 4-13 to 0-10. The turn-

ing point of this hard fought encounter came just before the interval when John Lockes scored two goals courtesy of Andy Power and David Lynch. These scores proved devastating for Mooncoin and they never recovered. Injuries forced the Lockes to line out with their Kilkenny Under 21 midfield star, John O'Neill, in goal but the side's effectiveness around the middle of the field was not unduly affected. Kilkenny senior star, John Power, gave an impressive display and his overall work rate was an important factor in the Callan side's success.

Semi-Finals.

The first semi-final saw impressive Mullinavat take on St. Lachtains (Freshford). For long stages the game was less than exciting with little to cheer the Nowlan Park attendance. St. Lachtains struggled all afternoon to raise their game but managed to get within one point of their opponents in the 51st minute when Ollie O'Connor pointed. This score was to prove a false dawn as the winners were rampant in the closing seven minutes, scoring 2-2 without reply. Goals from Mossy Murphy for Mullinavat, and Damien Anderson from St. Lachtains brightened up an otherwise dull first half. St. Lachtains put in a brave effort in the second half, but Mullinavat produced their best hurling when most needed. The late goals from Willie Carroll and Ray Carroll may well have given the side a somewhat flattering victory, but there was no denying the Rod Iron men their right to contest the Intermediate County Final.

It took a point one minute into injury time from John O'Neill to bring John Lockes level with Graiguenamanagh in a thrilling semi-final. The 'Lockes pulled off a real houdini act as they trailed at one stage in the game by nine points. Graiguenamanagh looked unbeatable in the opening half as the side produced some smashing hurling. However, they lost their way in the second half and were later to rue a number of missed scoring opportunities. The foundation for Graiguenamanagh's progress in the opening half was centred around the half forward line of Cathal and Michael Dunne and Ger Walsh, who gave their opponents a torrid time. After fifteen minutes Graig led their Callan opponents by 2-5 to 0-2 and looked in invincible form, the goals coming from a powerful ground stroke by Cathal Dunne and a Ger Dowling penalty. John Power played a crucial role in the Lockes recovery with his committed play which forced his opponents into fouls, three of which were pointed. Graiguenamanagh looked well in control of the game up to the 40th minute when they lead by 2-10 to 0-10, but remarkably they failed to score for the next twenty minutes. John Lockes, on the other hand, slowly came more into the game and without resorting to any panic measures the team shot a succession of points with a massive 75 yard effort from Liam Egan levelling the scores at 0-16 to 2-10. The sides traded points in the final minutes to bring an exciting and absorbing contest to a conclusion.

With Nowlan Park unavailable the following weekend due to the Senior Hurling County Final, Thomastown pro-

vided the setting for the replay. As in the first game, Graiguenamanagh made an impressive start with an early goal from Michael Dunne after a goal mouth scramble. The Graig men added two points to which Robert Jackman replied with a minor score for the Lockes who opted to play against the breeze in the opening half.



TWO HICKEYS-DIFFERENT CLUBS. Jim Hickey (Dunnamaggin) keeps his eye on the ball, as Freshford's Pa Hickey is intent on grabbing the same ball in the Vale Oil Intermediate League Final. Awaiting developments are Mick Kavanagh (Freshford) and Kenny O'Shea (Dunnamaggin). *Photo: T.O'Neill.*

Graiguenamanagh continued to put over minor scores, but good work from the John Lockes attack saw the team edge closer as the countdown to the half time break arrived. Despite the best efforts of the Graig side John Lockes pulled level by the break with points from Liam Egan and Andy Power. Graiguenamanagh's luck was out in the early stages of the new half when a Ger Dowling penalty was brilliantly saved by Declan Roche, and their misery was further compounded when Ger Walsh's resultant sixty five metre shot was hit wide. Scores were exchanged as the clock ticked away and the playing of extra time looked a distinct possibility. With a minute remaining the teams were level, but a Robert Jackman point from a free and another minor score from Andy Power put the game beyond the reach of a gallant Graig side. After one hundred and twenty minutes of all-action hurling it was a cruel exit from the championship, but overall the Callan side had that little bit of extra strength in crucial areas of the field.

Final.

A difficult drizzle and a harsh breeze greeted the players from John Lockes and Mullinavat as they emerged from the Nowlan Park tunnel to contest the 1999 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Championship Final. Both teams fully merited their place in the final and one wondered how the extra game, so close to the final, might affect the Callan side. Defences ruled the day and both sets of attackers found it hard to escape the tackles of their tenacious markers. Mullinavat were first on the scoreboard when a good pass from Maurice Murphy set up Michael Dunphy for a point. The Lockes were on level terms almost immediately when a poor puck out from P.J. Aylward was punished with a point from P.J. Cody. Mullinavat took up the initiative in the opening half and scored a crucial goal when a defensive slip saw Ray

Carroll side step the advancing Callan goalie Paul Morrissey to score a fine goal. A Liam Egan point following a pass from John Power brought the Lockes back into the game, but they still trailed the Rod Iron men by four points at the interval. Mullinavat were grateful to P.J. Aylward for a brilliant save in the opening half when a blistering effort from P.J. Cody was deflected over the bar. Nerves seemed to get the better of both sides in the new half when they shot a succession of wides. John Lockes were particularly guilty in this area and could well have rued the loss of a number of good scoring opportunities at the end of the game. Fourteen minutes into the new half the sides were level. Further points for the Lockes from David Lynch and John Power saw the Callan men take the lead for the first time. It was a lead they would not relinquish. Mullinavat tried valiantly to get back into the game but were thwarted by brave goalie, Paul Morrissey, who deflected over the end line. Morrissey again came to his side's rescue when the resultant sixty-five metre free headed towards the goal. Despite the intense pressure from the Mullinavat attack in the closing moments of the game, the John Lockes defence held firm and they had the final score of the game when Robert Jackman pointed a free. The final whistle sounded to scenes of jubilation from the Lockes and their supporters. The Inter exam was passed with flying colours.

For the record the scores and teams from the 1999 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Final were:

SCORERS.

John Lockes: D. Lynch (0-4), R. Jackman, P.J. Coady, J. Power (0-2 each), L. Egan, D. Roche, J.P. Corcoran, D. Maher, A. Power (0-1 each)

Mullinavat: M. Dunphy (0-6, 0-4 frees, 0-1 65), Ray Carroll (1-0), Maurice Murphy (0-2), Michael Murphy (0-1).

John Lockes: P. Morrissey, K. Doheny, J. Lynch, L. Egan (Michael Roche, 56 mins), A. O'Sullivan, D. Roche, J. O'Neill, J.P. Corcoran, D. Maher (M. Dunne, 49 mins), D. Cahill, J. Power, P.J. Coady, R. Jackman, D. Lynch, A. Power.

Mullinavat: P.J. Aylward, J. Walsh, K. Butler, T. Duggan, W. Burke, P. Butler, L. Murphy, M. Dunphy, P. Aylward, Michael Murphy, P. Hoban, K. Madigan, W. Carroll (S. Holden, 47 mins), Maurice Murphy, R. Carroll.

Relegation Battle.

The real drama of every championship campaign tends to operate more forcibly in the relegation series of games than in the actual championship play-offs. The dreaded thought of relegation to the lower grade can often inhibit

teams from performing when the chips are down. This year's Intermediate relegation was no different. After an agonising defeat by one point in their first round tie, last year's Junior champions, the Blacks & Whites, were not going to be denied another year in the higher grade. Clashes between the Skeough side and Piltown have always been close but the new kids on the block were most impressive in recording a 1-16 to 0-9 victory.

Two goals in the opening eighteen minutes from Tom O'Keeffe provided the inspiration for Thomastown as they overcame the challenge of the Rower Inistioge to run out 2-13 to 0-14 winners. After conceding those two goals the losers were always chasing the game.

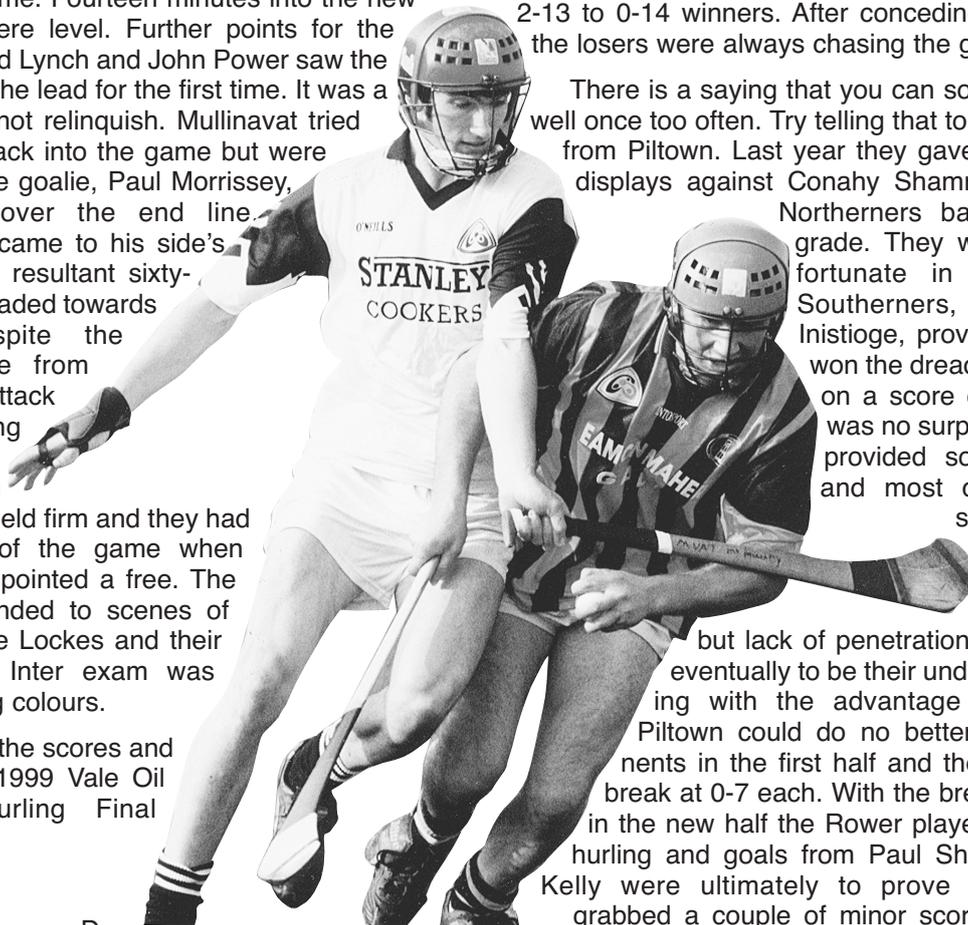
There is a saying that you can sometimes go to the well once too often. Try telling that to the gallant hurlers from Piltown. Last year they gave one of their best displays against Conahy Shamrocks to send the Northerners back to the Junior grade. They were not to be so fortunate in 1999 as fellow Southerners, the Rower Inistioge, proved too strong and won the dreaded relegation final on a score of 2-15 to 1-10. It was no surprise that this "final" provided some of the finest and most committed hurling seen all year.

Piltown opened with the advantage of the wind, but lack of penetration in the attack was eventually to be their undoing. Despite playing with the advantage of the elements Piltown could do no better than their opponents in the first half and the sides ended the break at 0-7 each. With the breeze in their backs in the new half the Rower played some fine open hurling and goals from Paul Sheehan and Richie Kelly were ultimately to prove decisive. Piltown grabbed a couple of minor scores but they could never match the enthusiasm and determination of their opponents on the day. The journey back to the Junior grade is painful and heartbreaking. Piltown are a young side and one suspects that their absence from the Intermediate grade will be short-lived.

Graig First Winners of Aylward Cup.

Graigenamanagh became the first winners of the newly inaugurated Intermediate Hurling League and in the process captured the Bob Aylward Cup when they overcame the challenge of Dunamaggin on a score of 2-10 to 0-8. It was the Graig side's first adult title since 1985. Clubs were expected to field without their inter-county players for this competition and so in this regard Dunamaggin were missing the services of a number of key players.

Cathal Dunne proved the star of the show with a blistering 2-4 to his credit. Despite the absence of a number of key players this league final saw a most disappointing display from Dunamaggin, the senior champions of 1997. The side played second fiddle to their opponents throughout the opening half and could not argue with the interval lead of 0-8 to 0-3 in favour of Graigenamanagh.



Mossy Murphy (Mullinavat) and Pat Hickey (Freshford) in the Intermediate Semi-final. Photo Tom O'Neill

Neither team will be happy with their shooting which was very wayward at times. By the end of the third quarter a total of 21 wides were totted up by the sides. Dunamaggin made a bold bid to rescue the game when they shot four points from Denis Lahart, Sean Ryan, Paul Cahill and Paul Kearney but a good reply from Ger Walsh brought a halt to their momentum. The winners continued to hurl with authority in the closing quarter and there was no denying their league final success which was well merited

SCORERS.

Graigueenamanagh: C. Dunne (2-4); G. Walsh (0-4, three frees, one 65); M. Dunne, W. Blanchfield (0-1 each).

Dunamaggin: S. Ryan (0-2); R. Cahill (0-2, frees); P. Cahill (0-1, free); D. Lahart, B. Moore, P. Kearney (0-1 each).

Graigueenamanagh: K. O'Shea, J. O'Driscoll, M. Bolger, B. Corbett, J. Brett, H. Roberts, I. Morrissey, W. Blanchfield, J. Bolger, G. Walsh, M. Morrissey, J. Prendergast, A. Foley, M. Dunne, C. Dunne. Subs – H. Flood, L. Blanchfield.

Dunamaggin: N. McCormack, J. Hickey, N. Hickey, B. Mackey, N. Lahart, P. Cahill, C. Herity, M. O'Neill, D. Lahart, K. Moore, S. Ryan, B. Moore, R. Cahill, P. Kearney, B. O'Shea. Subs – A. Hickey, L. Heffernan, R. O'Neill.

Dunamaggin Capture Vale Oil League in Tight Finish.

Two late points plus a bit of injury-time luck saw Dunamaggin overcome the challenge of St. Lachtains in the Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League and claim the Pat Tierney Cup in a keenly contested final. Seven times throughout the hour the scores were level but in the 54th minute Dunamaggin made the decisive move. Two pointed frees from Paul Kearney edged Dunamaggin ahead but a late onslaught from St. Lachtains almost brought a goal. A close in free from Ollie O'Connor was saved on the line by the winners defence and when the ball broke to Damien Anderson his well struck shot whistled by the post much to the relief of the Dunamaggin players.

St. Lachtains opened impressively with points from Ger Behan (2) and Noel Maher. Dunamaggin were quickly on the scoreboard with a Sean Ryan point and a good goal from Jim Hickey. Another point from Ramie Cahill edged the winners ahead after ten minutes 1-2 to 0-3. Ollie O'Connor blasted a penalty to the net after fifteen minutes to which Paul Kearney replied with a minor score left the teams level. Another Freshford goal from Damien Anderson was followed by a brace of Dunamaggin points to leave the winners ahead 1-7 to 2-3 at the interval.

Scores were evenly divided during much of the new half until the final double strike from Paul Kearney in the closing minutes. Dunamaggin's performance was a major improvement on their Intermediate League Final display against Graigueenamanagh. They lined out without inter-county star Eamonn Kennedy but the effort, commitment and determination from his fellow players was enough to bring the title to Dunamaggin.

SCORERS.

Dunamaggin: P. Kearney (0-9, eight points frees); J. Hickey (1-0); S. Ryan (0-2); R. Cahill (0-2, one free); C. Herity (0-1); P. Cahill 0-1, free).

St. Lachtains: O. O'Connor (1-4, goal penalty, three points frees); D. Anderson (1-0); G. Behan, N. O'Connor, N. Maher & J. Kavanagh (0-1 each).

Dunamaggin: N. McCormack, A. Hickey, N. Hickey, T. Hickey, D. Lahart. P. Cahill, N. Lahart, C. Herity, M. O'Neill, R. Cahill, S. Ryan, K. Moore, K. O'Shea, J. Hickey, P. Kearney.

St. Lachtains: J. Ryan, D. Martin, P. Hickey, S. Hickey, P. Costelloe, N. Hickey, M. Kavanagh, N. Phelan, J. Costelloe, N. O'Connor, D. Anderson, G. Behan. J. Kavanagh, N. Maher, O. O'Connor. (Subs – G. Dalton for N. Phelan; J. Kennedy for J. Kavanagh).

Intermediate Hurling Results 1999.

VALE OIL CHAMPIONSHIP (Hanrahan Cup).

ROUND 1.

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Mullinavat | 1-9 | Piltown | 1-8 |
| Mooncoin | 2-11 | Rower Inistioge | 1-6 |
| Graigueenamanagh | 1-16 | Thomastown | 0-6 |
| Bennettsbridge | 1-11 | Blacks & Whites | 1-10 |

QUARTER-FINALS

| | | | |
|------------------|------|----------------|------|
| John Lockes | 4-13 | Mooncoin | 0-10 |
| St. Lachtains | 0-12 | Bennettsbridge | 1-6 |
| Graigueenamanagh | 1-17 | Tull-Rosbercon | 2-9 |
| Mullinavat | 2-9 | Dunamaggin | 0-13 |

SEMI-FINALS

| | | | |
|-------------|------|---------------|------|
| Mullinavat | 3-11 | St. Lachtains | 1-8 |
| John Lockes | 0-17 | G'namanagh | 0-17 |
| John Lockes | 1-12 | G'namanagh | 1-10 |

(Replay)

COUNTY FINAL

| | | | |
|-------------|------|------------|-----|
| John Lockes | 0-15 | Mullinavat | 1-9 |
|-------------|------|------------|-----|

VALE OIL LEAGUE (Pat Tierney Cup).

SEMI-FINALS.

| | | | |
|---------------|------|---------------------|------|
| St. Lachtains | 6-6 | John Lockes | 2-17 |
| Dunamaggin | 1-13 | Tullogher Rosbercon | 1-11 |

COUNTY FINAL

| | | | |
|------------|------|---------------|------|
| Dunamaggin | 1-15 | St. Lachtains | 2-10 |
|------------|------|---------------|------|

ALL COUNTY LEAGUE (Bob Aylward Cup).

SEMI-FINALS

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-------------|------|
| Graigueenamanagh | 3-6 | John Lockes | 0-12 |
| Dunamaggin | 0-19 | Mullinavat | 1-12 |

COUNTY FINAL

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------|-----|
| Graigueenamanagh | 2-10 | Dunamaggin | 0-8 |
|------------------|------|------------|-----|

RELEGATION PLAY-OFF.

SEMI-FINALS

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Thomastown | 2-13 | Rower Inistioge | 0-14 |
| Blacks & Whites | 1-16 | Piltown | 0-9 |

COUNTY FINAL

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|---------|------|
| Rower Inistioge | 2-15 | Piltown | 1-10 |
|-----------------|------|---------|------|

Vocational Schools Report

John Cahill

COLÁISTE MHUIRE, JOHNSTOWN SENIOR HURLING

After last year's defeat in the final of this competition, Johnstown played host to Enniscorthy in what they hoped would be the first stepping stone on their road to victory. This was a changed team from the one that played in last year's final and the new additions were out to impress and prove their worth to Coach, Martin Gleeson. Although they were aided by the elements in the first half, Coláiste Mhuire got off to a shaky start. Kevin Power, that reliable patient force, was as ever a key figure in accumulating a first half lead. It was a lead they held onto throughout and which was added to by Noel Dowling, who showed good positional sense and a true hurling instinct to score two goals, which were followed by an outstanding individual goal by Kevin Power. Although Enniscorthy started a spirited comeback, the finishing blow to them was a Jonathan Doheny goal. Johnstown finished with a score of 4-10 to 1-8

On the crest of a wave following their demolition job on Enniscorthy, Johnstown turned in another stunning show and showed no mercy to a bemused Borris. While Borris were being consoled, Johnstown were thinking about their next opponents.

Those opponents were none other than Ballyhale, the team responsible for Johnstown's defeat in the final last year. Johnstown opened strongly and, courtesy of Ramie Moriarty and Kevin Power, had clocked up a three point lead after 11 minutes. Ballyhale held out well but the Johnstown pressure soon told its tale and Johnstown built up an impressive lead thanks to two second half points from John O'Loughlin, followed by a Noel Dowling point.

After a goal from Kevin Power, Johnstown never looked back and finished strongly with points from Kevin Power and John Bergin. The performance was strong on a team level, but, on an individual level, outstanding were Ger Henderson and J. J. Delaney.

In the final match, Johnstown against Kilcormac, Johnstown began slowly and failed to capitalise on early chances. However, they soon found their momentum and went in at the break leading by a point, thanks to Ramie Moriarty. Throughout the rest of the game, the Johnstown defense including Ger Power, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Emmett Kavanagh held firm despite increasing pressure from the physical Kilcormac forwards. The turning point in the game was a foul on Pádraig Bergin in the penalty area. Kevin Power stepped up to score the goal and from then on it was all a formality. Pádraig Bergin and Kevin Power were most



Colaiste Mhuire Leinster - Senior Champions and All Ireland Finalists 1999

Back: Dermot Power, Ger Power, Ger Henderson, Paul Quinlan, John O'Loughlin, James Meagher.
Middle: Donnacha Gray, Robbie Dowling, Noel Dowling, William Cahill, J.J. Delaney, Sean Minogue.
Front: John Bergin, Emmett Kavanagh, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ramie Moriarty, Kevin Power, Pádraig Bergin, Anthony O'Hara.



Colaiste Mhuire VEC County U-14 Girls Football Champions 1999

Back: Caroline Delaney, Aishling Tallis, Ann Marie Doheny, Mae Barnville, Amanda O'Shea, Tracy Tobin, Patricia Orr, Joanne Holohan, June Fogarty.
Front: Sarah Bergin, Mary Margaret Marrum, Siobhain Tobin, Lisa Dowling, Selina Power, Shona Power, Tara Warren, Eileen Hughes, Triona Meagher, Julie Mackey. *Trainer: Dermot Maher.*

influential for Johnstown and their performances helped Johnstown to a Leinster final place for the third year in succession.

After an excellent victory in the Leinster Senior Hurling Vocational School final against Banagher, the scene was set for a very entertaining All-Ireland Final between Johnstown, who received a bye to the final, and Athenry, who had a very impressive win over Killenaule in their semi-final.

The final, which was played in

Cloughjordan, will go down as one of the best finals to be played at this level in recent years with a second half which would not be out of place in Semple Stadium or Croke Park. In the end, it was the Galway boys who were victorious by the narrowest of margins but the Colaiste Mhuire team can be extremely proud of their magnificent performance.

On behalf of the team and management, we would sincerely like to thank all the staff and pupils of the school for their support throughout, all those who kindly sponsored

the team during the year - Bernard Kavanagh & Sons, Pierce Kavanagh, Kilkenny Supporters Club, Gleeson Steelworks, The Fenians Hurling; Club; Hennessy Feeds and Looby Bros. for their sponsorship of the live broadcast on Kilkenny Radio. Finally, thanks to all who travelled in large numbers to shout on our team, your support and efforts were

Under 14 Hurling

Our under 14 hurlers set out with great enthusiasm and not a little skill to capture the VEC sponsored inaugural 13 a side competition for Kilkenny VEC schools in October. Great commitment to training and intense competition for places from a 26 man panel

not to take from a great team performance even without Joe Joe Phelan who was unavoidably detained in Johnstown!

The second match against Ballyhale was held in Johnstown and was equally eventful. Starting without key players Philip O'Loughlin and Martin Henderson, Coláiste Mhuire gave it everything in the opening period. David Brennan was in terrific form in front of goal and quickly had a hat-trick of goals. He must have created something of a record when he was taken off just before half-time with no less than eight goals notched up. Not satisfied with this, he re-entered the play with five minutes remaining and hit the net twice more. What a performance! However, he was not alone. Others to shine in a comprehensive victory were Martin Purcell in goal, Kevin Dalton and Joe Joe Phelan in the full back line. Séamus Nolan and Pa Tobin half backs. Jim Dunne and Frank Murphy combined well at centrefield while up front Jamie Dollard, Mark Kavanagh and Colin Grant kept a continuous supply of the ball to star full forward on the day, David Brennan of St. Lactains.

On Thursday, 10th December, the team took on Kilkenny City V.S. to see who topped the Northern group. Without David Brennan and Philip O'Loughlin, it turned out to be a stiffer task than expected against a very determined and direct city outfit who raced into an early lead. However, once they got into their stride in the second half there was no stopping Jim Dunne and company who maintained their unbeaten run and qualified for the final stages of this competition. Johnstown then went on to meet Ballyhale in the final and ran out victorious.

Team: Martin Purcell, Kevin Dalton, Joe Joe Phelan, Séamus Nolan, Martin Henderson, Pa Tobin, James Dunne, Philip O'Loughlin, Mark Kavanagh, Frank Murphy, Jamie Dollard, Colin Grant, David Brennan.
Subs:- P. P. Maher, B. Kavanagh, Paul Quinlan, Daniel Looby, Trevor Walsh, Keith Quinn, Liam Cummins, Sam Gibbons, Michael Dunne.

The U14 hurlers were just piped for a place in the South Leinster Colleges "B" Final when they were narrowly beaten by Gorey C.S. in Carlow recently

The Team: M. Purcell, K. Quinn, K. Dalton, Joe Joe Phelan, S. Nolan, M. Henderson, P. Tobin, P. O'Loughlin (Capt.), J. Dunne, M. Kavanagh, F. Murphy, D. Looby, C. Grant, D. Brennan, Ml. Dunne, *Sub:* JP. Grehan for M. Dunne.

Under 14 Girls' Football

In the inaugural competition, our under 14 girls football team had a hard earned win. In a competitive match, Thomastown took the early initiative when a long-range shot went straight into the goal. Johnstown responded with a great 15 minute spell when they scored three great goals through Tara Warren, Mary Margaret Marum and Selina Power. Thomastown, with the aid of the breeze in the second half, fought valiantly but some outstanding defending by all of the



Ballyhale - Leinster Vocational Schools' Junior Camoige Roinn A Champions 1999

Back: Ellen Grant, Linda Power, Maria Connolly, Geraldine Fennelly, Assumpta O'Farrell, Paula Kenneally, Carol Hughes, Keira Kinahan.

Middle: Katie Murphy, Elaine Aylward, Carol Hughes, Ciara Fennelly (Capt.) Patricia Duggan, Aislinn Walsh, Jenna Kenneally.

Front: Josephine Murray, Lisa Millea, Niamh Cottrell, Jemma Walsh, Christabel Walsh, Denise Duggan, Catherine Duggan.

very much appreciated.

Team:- Paul Quinlan, Ger Power, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Emmett Kavanagh, J. J. Delaney, Ger Henderson, Anthony O'Hara, Kevin Power, John Bergin, Séan Minogue, Raymond Moriarty (Capt.), Willie Cahill, Pádraig Bergin, John O'Loughlin, Jonathan Doheny. **Subs:-** James Meagher, Robbie Dowling, James Muldowney, James Whelan, Dermot Power, Donnacha Gray.

meant that their first match against Thomastown was eagerly awaited by all. New faces in first year together with "old hands" from last year's successful squad combined to take the match to Thomastown in the first half. However, with a greater percentage of the play, to their credit, they were, nevertheless, making heavy weather of the job in the first half, until super-sub David Brennan was introduced. David notched up no less than four goals and a point and Thomastown were duly dispatched. This is



Leinster Post-Primary Schools' Senior Camoige Roinn A Championship Finalists 1999

Back: M. Connors, V. Sutton, C. Fennelly, G. Fennelly, C. Fennelly, N. Hughes, P. Kennelly, I. Connolly, H. Aylward, P. Duggan.

Front: A. Fitzpatrick, K. Kinahan, C. Hughes, G. Fennelly, A. O'Farrell, J. Kenneally, C. Duggan, D. Duggan.



Colaiste Mhuire Colleges 1st Year Blitz Champions 1999

Back: June Fogarty, Mary Wall, Siobhain Tobin, Ann Marie Doheny, Sarah Bergin, Caroline Delaney, Aisling Tallis, Triona Meagher.

Front: Naomi Fox, Mary Margaret Marrum, Lisa Dowling, Jakie Walsh, Selina Power, Shona Power, Julie Mackey, Eileen Hughes, Tara Warren.



Colaiste Mhuire VEC County U-14 Hurling Champions 1999

Back: Frank Murphy, David Brennan, Keith Quinlan, Martin Henderson, Sam Gibbons, Peter Paul Maher, Mark Kavanagh.

Front: Garry Glendon, Brian Kavanagh, Martyn Purcell, James Lennon, Phillip O'Loughlin, Michael Dunne, Barry O'Hara, Daniel Looby, Liam Cummins.

backs especially Aisling Tallis, and Lisa Dowling kept Thomastown at bay. However, with two minutes to go, Thomastown had reduced the lead to just one point and a great save by Caroline Delaney was just enough to see Johnstown home in their first venture into girls' football.

In their second match Johnstown recorded an impressive victory over Ballyhale and, in a very one sided game Coláiste Mhuire easily accounted for Scoil Pobal Osraí.

This means that the girls went into the final in the New Year, representing Coláiste Mhuire for an historic first time in ladies football, the girls maintained their 100% unbeaten record when they overcame a game Ballyhale in a very exciting and entertaining county final at breezy Bennettsbridge.

Playing with the aid of a strong breeze, Johnstown dominated the early exchanges but had only two points to show for it. Wit

time running out in the first half, Tara Warren scored a great goal, followed by a wonderful point from Selina Power to leave the scores 1-3 to 0-0 at half time.

Ballyhale started the second half like greyhounds out of traps, scoring 2-1 in the first 10 minutes, without reply. However, Johnstown eventually got their act together and with Amanda O'Shea, Aisling Tallis and Lisa Dowling in the Johnstown backline, cutting out wave after wave of Ballyhale attacks, confidence returned.

Tara Warren and the Power sisters, Selina and Shona at midfield began to dominate. Eventually Siobhain Tobin got a goal which gave Johnstown the break through they wanted. This was quickly followed by another from Eileen Hughes to a tremendous team victory.

Team:- Caroline Delaney, Lisa Dowling, Julie Mackey, Amanda O'Shea, Priscilla Gleeson, Aisling Tallis, Shona Power, Selina

Power, Eileen Hughes, Mary Margaret Marum, Tara Warren, Catriona Meagher, Joanne Holohan *Subs:-* Ciara Smyth, Sara Bergin, Patricia Orr, Annemarie Doheny, Siobhain Tobin.

Historic Win for Camogie Team

Colaiste Mhuire 2-6 St. Brigids Callan 2-3

The first year girls of Colaiste Mhuire recorded their first victory in the 1st year Colleges camogie Blitz when they defeated Callan and Presentation Convent, Kilkenny, to qualify for the semi-final. Castlecomer Community School fell victim to Johnstown in the semi-final and Coláiste Mhuire again clashed with St. Brigids Callan in the final. Colaiste Mhuire took a decisive lead in the first half with goals from Tara Warren and Triona Meagher. Callan fought gallantly in the second half and a goal from their star player Jackie Frisby left just two points between the teams. Johnstown rallied with a brilliant point from Selina Power and held on to win. Johnstown's outstanding players were Selina Power, Shona Power, Tara Warren, Triona Meagher, Julie Mackey and Eileen Hughes.

The Johnstown team was Lisa Dowling, Aisling Tallis, Julie Mackey, Siobhain Tobin, Jackie Walsh, Selina Power (0-3), Eileen Hughes, Shona Power, Mary Margaret Marum, Tara Warren (1-1), Triona Meagher (1-2), June Fogarty, *Subs:* Annemarie Doheny, Sarah Bergin, Mary Wall, Naomi Fox.

Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale, has continued its commitment to Gaelic games in the past year. Teams represented the school in football and hurling at under 14, 16 and 18. In Camogie we had senior, junior and minor teams competing in their respective competitions.

Ballyhale Vocational School

The senior hurling team reached the Leinster Vocational Schools semi-final. The senior camogie team reached the Leinster Post-primary schools Roinn A championship final. The junior team won the Leinster Vocational Schools Title.

A team of doubles handballers were beaten All-Ireland finalists, in both the Vocational and the Colleges competitions. The girl's Gaelic Football teams have yet to make a breakthrough.

The following students represented the school on County teams in 1999

Kilkenny County Minor Hurling: Kenneth Moore, Sean o' Keefe, William Coogan,.

Kilkenny County Minor Football: William Coogan, Stephen Lonergan, Eric Lonergan.

Kilkenny Senior Camogie: Grace Fennelly.

Kilkenny Under 16 Camogie: Carol Hughes, Kiera Kinahan, Assumpta O' Farrell,

Kilkenny Minor Camogie: Ciara Fennelly, Kiera Kinahan, Grace Fennelly, Catriona Fennelly

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Blacks & Whites

A Good Year

An enjoyable year was had by all involved in camogie in Skeoughvosteen. The club competed at u-14 level, reaching the semi-finals of the Roinn B championship.

First Time Out

Our u-16 girls tasted championship competition for the first time this year and did well. They rounded off the year with a trip to the All Ireland camogie final. We are grateful to O'Dowd Insurances, our sponsors, for a new set of jerseys.

Many Hands...

The club wishes to thank the hurling club for the use of their pitch and complex, team trainer John O'Grady, our selectors, parents for providing transport and supporters for their encouragement during 1999.



Blacks & Whites Camogie u-14 team

Back: Mary Claire Murphy, Kristeen Joyce, Majella Kelly, Michelle Kelly, Tara Kelly, Maeve Dalton, Michelle Moloney, Jane Maher.
Front: Colette Cleere, Mairead Morgan, Lisa Hayden, Aimee Murphy, Brid Doran, Jennifer Lennon, Aine Doyle.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Clara

Thanks

News that John and Phil Dowling were retiring from Clara Camogie club came as a great blow to our parish. John and Phil were the backbone of camogie in Clara for over twelve years. They were totally dedicated to training and organising matches not only for county championships but for Feile, Schools and Community Games. We wish to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

True Grit

With true Clara grit and determination a new committee was formed and Anthony Prendergast and Mary Walsh took over training the girls at the start of the championship season. The teams improved with every match and the u-14s were delighted to reach the semi-final of the championship. Unfortunately the team was defeated by Carrickshock. The girls quickly put their disappointment behind them and many of them joined their u-16 colleagues who went all the way to the u-16 Roinn C final where they again met Carrickshock. This time the outcome was different with Clara



Clara - u-16 Roinn C County Champions 1999

Back: Caroline Hoyne, Angela Cody, Mairead Barcoe, Elaine Nolan, Laoighseach Quigley, Marilyn Nolan, Fiona Phelan, Pauline Mullins, Patrice Mullins, Aoife Quigley, Rosemary Meany, Elaine Costigan.
Front: Edel Mullins, Margaret Nolan, Clare McDonald, Gemma Dowling, Aisling McDonald, Deirdre Shortall, Carol Doyle, Orla Healy, Emer Cashin, Ciara O'Loughlin.

winning by 4-3 to 3-4.

Tournament medals

At a tournament in James Stephens GAA Club the u-12s put in a commendable performance ending up in the medals.

The u-16s won a tournament in O'Loughlin/Gaels and were presented

with a shield.

Overall, it has been a very successful year for the newly reformed club and everyone is looking forward to even greater achievements in the near future.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Dicksboro

County Players

This year the club had two players on county teams, Kay Gaffney who was a member of the minor team which won the Leinster title. Susan Kennedy was a member of the u-14 side which was unfortunately defeated in the Leinster final. Well done to both on their achievements.

u-14

Our u-14 team won a number of matches and played extremely well and can feel very proud of themselves, con-

sidering the fact that the majority of them will be underage for the next three years. We have great hopes for this team over the next few years.

The u-16s also made very good progress and were very unfortunate not to reach the county semi-final due to circumstances outside their control.

Intermediate Team

The club's intermediate team in particular, felt the effects of the change to 15 a side, but broadly speaking, the change

was welcomed by the players. The team played well but lady luck deserted them on occasions. The club was unlucky to lose players this year through injury and emigration. However it must be said that younger players gained valuable experience. We are optimistic of gaining new players for next year.

Thanks

We wish to thank each of our players for their efforts and commitment during the year and also to the parents, trainers and all the helpers for their support.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



James Stephens

Officers

Chairman: Jimmy O'Brien
Secretary: Anne Power
Treasurer: Joan Cody

1999 marked a major milestone in the development and progress of the club. By winning two underage championships we achieved a level of success of which 5 years ago we could only have dreamed.

Our minor team took the honours by defeating a gallant Emeralds side in the Roinn B final played in Freshford with a final scoreline of

1-5 to 1-2. Having lost in a replay at the same stage last year this was a great and welcome result for all concerned. Selectors Anne Power, Kieran Howley and Jimmy O'Brien.

u-14 Success

Our u-14's must take pride of place for the magnificent, never say die, performance in defeating Freshford in the Roinn A final played in Jenkinstown by 3-4 to 3-2. The win was

noteworthy for a number of reasons. It was our first year ever to compete in Roinn A at any level. In winning, we defeated the kingpins of underage camogie in recent years.

Having lost heavily to the same opposition in the Feile final it was a great achievement to reverse that result. Great praise is due to the entire panel and selectors Aodhan O'Ruairc, Helena McCormack and Helen O'Rourke.

Juniors

Our Junior team, while not qualifying for the knock out stages, had their best year to date winning 4 of their 6 league games. Hopefully the efforts of all concerned will get results they deserve in the not too distant future.

At time of writing our u-18's are facing Danesfort in the quarter final of the Roinn B championship.

Juvenile Coaching

Our Juvenile coaching which is run every Saturday from March to

October and every Monday and Wednesday for June and July caters for an average of 60 girls between the ages of 5 and 12. Our u-10 and u-12 teams competed in a number of competitions and acquitted themselves well. Gretta Kelly and her crew must take great credit here. The schools in the parish are also doing great work in promoting camogie and are assisted by our own Geraldine Hayes. To the teachers we say 'thank you'.

Moving Indoors

As winter is now upon us we are moving to indoor camogie for the first time and are looking forward to the experience.

Our wish for the coming year is to consolidate the success achieved to date and perhaps make a breakthrough in the junior championship.

To all who helped us in any way, we say thank you and hope that after the winter break we will return with renewed enthusiasm.

James Stephens u-14 Roinn A County Champions 1999

Back: Carina Shortall, Francis Wallace, Ann Marie Gannon, Karen Fitzpatrick, Grainne O'Brien, Marie Kelly, Caroline Walsh, Ciara Morris, Maria Meehan, Jessica O'Mahony, Sarah Anne Martin.
Middle: Sinead Walsh, Lee Ann O'Shea, Natalie Walsh, Muireann Byrne, Orla Ní Ruairc, Aveen Keogh. **Front:** Niamh Butler, Aoife Neary, Emer Skehan, Elaine O'Neill, Orla Lawlor, Yvonne Leahy, Julie Ann Reade, Lisa Monahan, Sharon Rafter. **Missing from photo:** Aoife Brennan.



CAMOGIE CLUBS



Mullinavat

Club Officers

Chairman: John Joe Aylward
Secretary: Deirdre Aylward
Treasurer: Majella Sutton
Trainer: Mick Carroll
u-14 Trainer: Andy Aylward.

Played with Kilkenny

The following players represented Mullinavat on county teams this year:

Senior: Kathleen Atkins
Junior: Kathleen Atkins, Nora Sutton, Ann-Maria Rafter
u-18: Angela Kenneally.

Competition

We had a great win in the

schools final when we defeated Urlingford in a hectic match.

Our u-14 team reached the semi-final only to be defeated by Freshford. The u-16s found the going tough in the A division. The u-21s reached the county final, forced a draw on the first day but were forced to give best in the replay.

Intermediate Success So Near

In their first outing the intermediates were beaten by Thomastown but then had a great string of victories over

Young Irelands, Dicksboro and Tullogher. This gave us the chance to meet Thomastown again and this time it was desperately close but they just got home by 2-2 to 1-3.

The gallant runners-up were: Joanne Quinn, Paula Madigan, Ellen O'Neill, Ada Kenneally, Noran Sutton, Ann-Maria Raftice, Elaine Aylward, Elaine Aylward, Anna Woods, Kathleen Atkins, Catherine Butler, Seirdre Aylward, Brigid Raftice, Angela Kenneally, Louise Foskin.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



O'Loughlin Gaels

First Tournament

Our u-10 girls travelled to Windgap to play their first tournament and performed very well to win the competition. In September they were again victorious when they won the B final in Thomastown defeating James Stephens and they finished by winning our own B blitz.

u-12 Action

The school team from St. John's had a great season and reached the semi-finals of Roinn D. The club team reached the B finals of the Thomastown and Windgap Blitzes.

The number of members at

these age groups has grown steadily in recent times and we look forward to many new members in the coming season.

u-14 Action

The u-14 team played all their games but while not reaching a semi-final, they did the club proud as they are a very young side.

The u-16s was the team in which we had great hopes but while playing well in some games we seemed to be missing players due to holidays at times of crucial matches.

Best Wishes

Many thanks to all our play

ers for their commitment. We wish all the old and new members every success in 2000.



Full Time!

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Rower-Inistioge

Junior Finalists

Though the change to fifteen a side has put some pressure on the availability of players, within the Rower-Inistioge club 1999 has been an outstanding year. Competing in Junior ranks for only our second year, we again reached the county final only to lose narrowly. After a thrilling contest St. Annes captured the title by a three point margin. Having gone so close at our second attempt was very disappointing but the future is bright.

The entire Junior panel is underage for the u-21 grade.

Represented Kilkenny

All Ireland camogie final day was a proud one for our fledgling club which supplied three players to the panel. Well done to Ann Walsh and Lizzie Lyng who won Leinster medals with the Kilkenny u-16 team. Deirde Brennan also played for Kilkenny Juniors. Lizzie Lyng was 'player of the series' in the Junior inter-provincial finals and won a £1,000 sponsored prize for our club.

More Help

A worrying trend has developed in many clubs where it is very difficult to get people to look after underage teams. We hope to rectify this next year and secure the future of camogie in our parish. The u-16s had no luck in their games this year, likewise the u-14s. Our school team put up a very good show before losing narrowly to St. Johns. The club wishes to thank sincerely the many sponsors during the year: Ml. Lyng Motors, Fintan Murphy, John Kelly, Builder, Timmy Kelly,



Rower-Inistioge - Junior County Finalists 1999

Back: Kathleen Cahill, Elaine McCarthy, Sian Murphy, Siobhan White, Miriam Lyster (capt.), Briona Langton, Deirdre Brennan, Anne Walshe, Michelle Cahill, Gillian Dunphy, Benny Holohan (coach).

Front: Becky Dempsey, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Geraldine Holohan, Linda O'Neill, Aine Holohan, Sharon Murray, Michelle Cahill, Jane Kavanagh, Clodagh Cummins, Sandra Corcoran.



Kilkenny Senior Camogie Panellists 1999

Eimear Lyng, Siobhan White, Lizzie Lyng.

The Long Man, Johnny Dempsey, Furse Hanley, The Ship, Mannions Country Pub, SuperValu, Gaignamanagh, Jim Mooney, Marty & Maureen Butler, Bank of Ireland, Thomastown, O'Donnells SuperValu, Kilbride Coaches, Liam Reddy's, O'Keeffes, Tierney & O'Neill.

Club Officers

Chairman: Sean O hUiginn
 BVice-Chair: Mary Lyng
 Secretary: Benny Holohan
 Treasurer: Mary Cotterell
 Committee: Carmel Cahill, Rita Brennan, Maurice McCarthy, Deirdre Brennan.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Shamrocks

Juvenile Competition

We had a great run of success with our younger players when we brought home the spoils from the u-10 Thomastown tournament and the u-12s won the James Stephens tournament.

Our u-14s were unlucky to be defeated in the championship semi-final by eventual winners James Stephens.

County Champions

The highlight of the year was the championship victory of our u-16 team. This was our second success in this grade and we defeated Mullinavat, St. Brigids, and then St. Lachtains in the final.

Adult Matches

Our Juniors reached the county semi-final but had to give best to a very good St. Annes side. The seniors struggled with injuries and exams for much of the year but managed to retain their senior status.

County Success

u-16: Emily Dermody (capt.), Ciara Kinahan, Carol Higgins, Assumpta Farrell.

Selector: John Kenneally.

u-18: Ciara Kinahan, Ciara Fennelly, Emily Dermody, Grace and Caitriona Fennelly.

Selector: John Kenneally.

Senior: Grace Fennelly and Eleanor Walsh.

Selector: Michael Fennelly.



Shamrocks - County u-16 Camogie Champions 1999

Back: Keeva Fennelly, Siobhan Dermody, Breda Walsh, Emily Dermody, Assumpta O'Farrell, Geraldine Fennelly, Krystle Fennelly, Maria Connolly, Aisling Walsh, Cathleen Cummins, Margaret Malone.

Front: Siobhán Kenneally, Jennie Kenneally, Ciara Kinahan, Paula Kenneally, Carol Hughes, Deborah Walsh, Lisa Ryan, Jenny Walsh, Gemma Walsh, Niamh Kelly.



Shamrocks u-12 Thomastown Tournament Winners 1999

Back: Belita Fennelly, Leona Kinahan, Lorna Fennelly, Siobhán Kenneally, Orla Ryan, Sarah Power, Anita Butler.

Front: Catherine Anne Malone, Aisling Costello, Aisling O'Dwyer, Deirdre O'Brien, Roisin Fennelly, Keeva Fennelly.

Shamrocks u-10 Camogie 1999

Back: Breena Fennelly, Sarah Phelan, Mary Power, Breena Duggan, Helen Dermody, Jenny Kent, Noreen Malone, Clodagh Doyle.

Front: Marie Kelly, Michelle Dempsey, Marie Holden, Roseanne Connolly, Emma Nolan, Catherine Power.



CAMOGIE CLUBS



St. Anne's

Club Officers

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Chairman; | Seán Warren |
| Vice-chair: | Mary Phelan |
| Secretary: | Ashling Delaney |
| Treasurer: | Triona Delaney |
| Trainer: | Mick Glendon |
| P.R.O.: | Triona Delaney |
| First Aid: | Mary Phelan |

A Great Year

1999 was a hugely successful year for St. Anne's Camogie Club. Early in the year, the u-14s did the club proud by winning the Camogie County Final in style, beating Carrickshock by 5-4 to 2-0. The u-21s were awaiting their County Final replay against Mullinavat at time of print and the Juniors won their County final and are looking forward to Intermediate level for 2000.

Trainer

The club was delighted to welcome Mr. Mick Glendon from Johnstown who joined the club as Team Trainer. Mick who has a great hurling background came into the club and with the help of chairman, Seán Warren really got to know all the girls and did trojan work with them all year, in all kinds of weather.

County Players

We would like to congratulate all our girls who represented their county this year; Catherine Doherty at Junior Level, Edel Maher at u-16 level and Claire Delaney with University of Limerick.

Junior County Final

What a final this proved to be! Early in the game, the Saints were very unlucky to lose one of their midfielders, Eilish Doyle, through injury. Despite conceding a penalty which was brilliant

ly saved, the score at half-time was Rower/Inistioge 1 – 3, St. Anne's 0 – 3. The St. Anne's girls really fought hard in the second half and came out victorious on a score line of 3 - 7 to 3 - 4. We now look forward to joining intermediate Level in the new Millennium.

u-14 County Title for Saints

A great start saw St. Anne's scoring 3-1 in the first 10 minutes put the club well on the road to an outstanding success and ended all Carrickshocks dreams by a margin of 5-4 to 2-0, to give the Saints the u-14 County title. Selectors: Triona Delaney, Sean Warren, Gerry Maher, Ashling Delaney and Mary Phelan.

u-21 Roinn B County Final

In the Under 21 Roinn B camogie County final, St. Anne's played Mullinavat in a very even-ly matched game.

It was a terrible day, weather-wise, with gale force winds blowing. Both teams found it very difficult to score and when the final whistle blew, the game ended level on a scoreline of St. Anne's 0-6, Mullinavat 0-6.

St. Annes Do the Double

The replay was a thrilling match, St. Anne's playing with the wind in the first half and the score at half-time was St. Anne's 0-7, Mullinavat 0-2. At the full time whistle St. Anne's had won their third county final of the year on a score line of 1-9 to 0-4.

Thanks to our Sponsors

The club would like to thank all our supporters, players, committee, trainers. A special word of thanks has to go to our wonderful local sponsors, who are too many to mention but without whom, the club could not have achieved their wonderful success.



St. Annes (Johnstown / Galmoy) County Junior Camogie Champions 1999

Back: Mick Glendon (trainer), Tara Corrigan, Sinead Delaney, Annette Egan, Claire Phelan, Fiona Delaney, Aisling Delaney, Orla Phelan, Sean Warren, Claire Delaney, Alvara Duggan, Aine Henderson, Therese Glendon, Antoinette Russell, Mgt. Maher, Mary Phelan. **Front:** Deirdre Doyle, Laura Walsh, Ann Marie Phelan, Mary Ryan, Jean Ann Phelan, Lorraine McCarthy, Mary Russell, Laura Murphy, Catherine Doherty, Edel Maher, Triona Delaney. **Missing from photo:** Eilish Doyle, capt.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



St. Brigid's B'Callan

Third U21 Title

The highlight of the year was the retaining of the u-21 county title. It was the third time for the club to win this championship. The game produced a high standard of camogie. St Lachtains got a wonderful start with two goals, but two similar scores by Lizzie Teehan put St. Brigid's ahead. St. Lachtains got on top around the midfield area in the last quarter but the winners defence rose to magnificent heights as they weathered everything the Freshford girls threw at them. Bronagh Neary had a wonderful game in goal.

Outstanding Performances

Bernie Ryall was the outstanding defender. Ursula Walton played a captains part at the heart of the defence. Deirdre Treacy and Mary Purcell were also very prominent. Pauline Comerford was dominant at midfield and her freetaking was superb. Lizzie Teehan took the scoring honours in attack with support from Laura Sweeney, Ann Marie Young and Ann Marie Ryall.

The team was Bronagh Neary, Deirdre Treacy, Sarah Butler, Mary Purcell, Carmel Breen, Ursula Walton, Bernie Ryall, Pauline Comerford (0-7), Terri Maher, Lizzie Teehan (2-0), Una Hennessy, Ann Marie Young (0-1), Laura Sweeney, Ann Marie Ryall, Aoife Neary. Subs: Martina Comerford, Laurena Murphy.

Seniors Disappoint

The senior team had a disappointing year. They lost out to Lisdowney after a poor performance 1-7 to 0-5. Lisdowney led at the interval 1-2 to 0-4. Sinead Millea got all five points from frees. The team was Bronagh Neary, Orla Ryall, Tracy Millea, Ashling Byrne, Katie Dunphy, Deirdre Malone, Bernie Ryall, Pauline Comerford, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Laura Sweeney, Ursula Walton, Ann Marie Ryall, Margaret Comerford, Sinead Millea, Ann Marie Young Sub—Aoife Neary.

The seniors best displays were in the Pan Celtic Games in Tralee. They beat Drom and Inch

(Tipperary), Mullagh (Galway) and drew with Glen Rovers (Cork) but Bishopstown (Cork) beat them by 2-8 to 1-2 in the semi-final. The juniors came close to qualifying for the closing stages of that championship losing to St. Lachtains by one point in the decisive game.

Primary Schools Team

The Primary Schools team under Martin O'Halloran and Caroline Campion had no success in the championship. They took part in the Dermot Comerford memorial tournament recently in Dunhill which was a seven a side game and brought home the medals. The panel was Carolyn Day, Claire Wall, Amy Hennessy, Jennifer Egan, Therese Muldowney, Kay Ryall, Rose Ann Lynch, Grace Dunphy, Stephanie Ryan, Sinead O'Connor, Bernadette Doheny, Elaine Murphy.

No Luck

The u-14's were also out of luck. The minor team (u-16's) also made no progress in the championship. The u-18's have still to play their championship in which they will be hoping to retain their title.

Achievements

Tracy Millea, Sinead Millea and Margaret Comerford played on the Kilkenny team which lost the All Ireland final to Tipperary. Bronagh Neary, Laura Sweeney and Pauline Comerford were also on the panel.

Sinead Millea was on the Rest of Ireland team which beat Tipperary in a new representative game on the camogie calendar.

Ashling Byrne and Ursula Walton won Ashbourne cup medals with Waterford IT.

Ursula Walton is the captain of the Waterford IT team for the present year.

Bronagh Neary won a Leinster minor camogie medal with Kilkenny.

Pauline Comerford was awarded the Kilkenny GAA scholarship to Waterford IT.

Laura Sweeney captained the Kilkenny u-18 team which lost the Leinster final to Offaly. Bronagh Neary and Pauline Comerford were also on the team.

Alison Pollard won a Leinster Colleges junior camogie medal with Loreto in Kilkenny.

Deirdre O'Sullivan won the "Miss Kilkenny" beauty contest and competed in the "Miss Ireland" contest.



St. Brigid's players, representing Kilkenny are presented with the winners medals at the Dermot Comerford Memorial Match.

Back: Caroline Campion, Kay Ryall, Sinead O'Connor, Grace Dunphy, Therese Muldowney, Dunhill rep., Claire Wall, Carolyn Day, Martin O'Halloran. **Front:** Stephanie Ryan, Amy Hennessy, Rose Ann Lynch, Elaine Murphy, Bernadette Doheny, Jennifer Egan.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



St. Lachtains

A Very Successful Year

1999 was another successful year for St.Lachtains Camogie Club. Having brought home two County titles and one Leinster title so far with two championships still to be completed.

Feile na Gael

Our u-14 Feile na Gael team defeated Windgap, Mullinavat and Clara to reach the final against James Stephens. This game was played in Jenkinstown and turned out to be a well contested game with the first half being particularly close but in the second half the Freshford girls began to pull away. In the dying minutes James Stephens began to mount a come back but eventually St.Lachtains held out to become eventual winners on a score of St. Lachtains 6-2, James Stephens 1-1.

County Final Revenge

In the u-14 Championship, Freshford defeated Mullinavat, James Stephens, Ballyhale Shamrocks and Mullinavat to reach another meeting against James Stephens in Jenkinstown. In the last few minutes James Stephens scored a goal and despite numerous attempts Freshford could not catch up leaving the final score James Stephens 3-4, Freshford 3-2.

All Ireland Feile

Freshfords hosts for Feile na Gael club was Duffry Rovers. In the first game we played the host club. Freshford were hoping for a good start but it was not meant to be, losing on a score line of St.Lachtains 1-2 to Duffry Rovers 2-2. The Freshford girls next faced the Harps of Durrow. In the second half Harps stamped their authority on the game which left the final score at Harps 2-0, St.Lachtains 1-0. Freshford then beat St.lbars but this result was not enough and we bowed out of the competition.

u-16 Report

The u-16 team played all their preliminary games and qualified to the County Final against Shamrocks. Taking full advantage of the first half wind, Shamrocks managed to get a good score up. Unfortunately for St.Lachtains it was a case of too much and too little time and in the end Ballyhale Shamrocks came out on top by two points in the end.

Junior Championship

This year after a lapse of a few years the club entered a Junior team in the Junior championship. The team after the league section of the competition managed to qualified for

the semi-final in which they were pitted against Rower-Inistioge. The Rower proved too strong for the Freshford girls winning in a replay.

County Players

u-14: Ciara Brennan, Danielle Minogue, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Catherine Kavanagh, Catherina Meagher, Sinead Corrigan (capt).
u-16: Fiona Dowling, Mairead Lawlor, Catherina Cormack, Marie O'Connor, Sinead Connery, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Sinead Corrigan, Nicola Minogue, Catherine Kavanagh, Dannielle Minogue, Eileen Fitzpatrick.
u-18: Mairead Costelloe, Cora Dowling, Mairead Lawlor, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Catherina Cormack, Fiona Dowling.
Junior: Mairead Costelloe, Mary Ellen Butler, Martina Maher.
Senior: Sinead Costelloe, Mairead Costelloe, Mary Ellen Butler, Margaret Hickey, Martina Maher, Gillian Dillon Maher (capt).
Selector County Team: Maura Costello.

Thanks to Many

A vote of thanks must be expressed to all those who transported players to matches and all the trainers and selectors of different teams during the year.

Freshford - Primary Schools Camogie Roinn A 1999

Back: C. Kavanagh, C. Campion, K. Farrell, M. Phelan, M. Anderson, M. Bowden, E. Grace, R. Kennedy.
Middle: Mr. T. Doheny, N. Dawson, C. Neary, D. Rafter, E. Behan, M. McGrath, A. Dalton.
Front: D. Butler, M. Maher, N. Kennedy, D. Minogue, E. Fitzpatrick, M. Dalton, A. Dalton.



CAMOGIE CLUBS



Thomastown

The Wait is Over!

After a lapse of nine years, the Intermediate Championship was annexed after a thrilling Final against Mullinavat in Ballyhale. The team, trained by Tom O'Keeffe and John Moore, finally won, having been pipped at the post for the last two years. In a storming second half, with two goals by Aoife Kelly, they sealed a marvellous victory. Final score Thomastown 2-2 Mullinavat 1-3

A Busy Season

The Club took part in the Kilmacud Crokes "Sevens" for the first time. The Primary School, under the tuition of Sr. De Lourdes and Brid O'Shea, were beaten by Gaelscoil Osraí in the County Final. Our very young u-14 and u-16 sides competed with distinction and marvellous enthusiasm in their championships and the omens are promising that silverware is not too far away. We also competed at under-18 and

under-21 level.

Helen Farrell and Michelle Corrway continue to do great work with the three juvenile teams, having upwards of forty girls at training during the Summer.

The club is grateful for all the sponsorship that The club is grateful for all the sponsorship that they have received, particularly to Johnny O'Brien, their main sponsor.



Thomastown - Intermediate County Champions 1999

Back: John Moore (Selector), Jennifer Treacy, Andrea Brennan, Fiona Lambert, Trish O'Keeffe, Patricia Dempsey, Aisling Holden, Liz Dempsey, Ann Donnelly, Bridget Morrissey, Catriona Treacy, Deirdre O'Keeffe, Brid O'Shea, Tom O'Keeffe (Trainer).
Front: Michelle Corrway, Rynagh Bookle, Olive Lannon, Ruth O'Connor, Helen Farrell (Capt), Aoife Kelly, Caroline Malone, Mairead Whitty, Margaret Power.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Tullagher-Rosbercon

A Wonderful Year

In a magnificent year, when our u-21 and Intermediate teams reached their County semi-finals, we glory in the achievements of our very young u-14 County Champions. Our club was instrumental in fielding teams at schools level, and at u-16 level.

Kilkenny Panels

We were proud to have representatives on Kilkenny County teams at u-14, u-16, minor, and senior levels, and all acquitted themselves admirably.

Congrats to Una

Congratulations to Una Murphy, who kept up the great Tullagher-Rosbercon tradition, playing a significant part in Kilkenny beating Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final, and performing so well in the Final.



Tullagher-Rosbercon u-14 County Champions 1999

Back: Karen Hanrahan, Maria Phelan, Margaret Walsh, Irene Woods, Linda Heffernan, Bernadette Phelan, Elaine Mullally, Cathy Walsh, Laura Aylward, Helen Murphy, Helen Cody, Joanne Cotterell, Sarah Wallace, Elizabeth Heffernan, Alisa Aylward, Florence Lanigan (Trainer). **Front:** Margaret Ryan (hidden), Maria Conway, Aoife Dooley, Kelly-Ann Cotterell, Ann-Marie Ryan, Siobhan Murphy, Noreen Murphy, Roisin Walsh, Patricia Gaule.

CAMOGIE CLUBS



Young Irelands

On the Field

Young Irelands camogie club fielded teams at every grade this year. Our school team reached the schools quarter finals for the first time and were unlucky to be beaten by Danesfort who went on to win the county final. Thanks to Billy O'Carroll for looking after these girls.

Our u-14 team did us proud by reaching the semi-finals and after a nailbiting game were beaten by a Windgap goal in the dying moments of the game. These girls put in great work and improved immensely over the season.

u-14 team: Jenna O'Neill, Aoife Murphy, Caitriona O'Neill, Kelly Lennon, Mary Evelyn Drennan,

Niamh Hennessy, Ber Nolan, Olivia Middleton, Maeve Byrne, Catherine O'Carroll, Sharon Nolan, Ann Marie Nolan, Sheila Kelly, Claire Brennan, Ria Loughlin, Aoife Connolly, Nessa Farrell, Aideen Keogh, Cara O'Neill.

Our u-16 team did not enjoy the same luck but had an enjoyable year nonetheless.

Our u-21 panel beat James Stephens and drew with Tullogher first time out but were beaten in the replay despite a great effort when depleted by injury.

Intermediate team

The Intermediate team qualified for the semi-finals again this year where they gave the eventual county cham



Jubilee Celebration

Pictured at the Croke Park reception for the All Ireland Jubilee team were Peggy Muldowney, Beatrice Treacy and Mary Canavan.

pions Thomastown a great fight. It was only in the last five minutes of the game that Thomastown ran out winners. A great display by the Gowran girls and one that augurs well for the future.

Thanks to Tom Hunt, Joan Treacy and Andy Kennedy for all their work with the panel.

Intermediate panel: Yvonne Hennessy, Teresa Aylward, Maggie Dreeling, Elaine Murphy, Julie Ann O'Carroll, Tricia Kennedy, Deirdre Hennessy, Gillian Meany, Hazel O'Neill, Suzanne Kennedy, Aine Power, Kathryn Byrne, Ber Fitzgerald, Ellen Horgan, Siobhan

Cotterell, Cora Drennan, Mary McEvoy, Aisling Kelly, Elaine Kelly, Siobhan Power, Una Roche, Maria Fenlon.

Silver Jubilee!

Earlier in the year the club honoured Mary Canavan (nee Kennedy) and Peggy Muldowney (nee Carey) on the occasion of the silver jubilee of their and Kilkenny's first All Ireland title in 1974. Beatrice Treacy was a selector on that team. All three were subsequently honoured at a reception in Croke Park prior to this year's All Ireland camogie final. Well done.

Factory League

Since the late Noel Doyle formed a factory league hurling team within his Company, Suir Engineering in 1986, the rise and rise of the team has been exceptionally impressive.

In their first year of competition, they were beaten by Bards of Galway in the Junior All-Ireland Final. They won their first Waterford County Final in 1996, and their first All-Ireland Final in 1997, beating former conquerors at Junior level, Bards in the Final. It needed two games to decide that Final, but in a close finish down in the Castlegar grounds outside Galway City, Suir Engineering collected their first Senior Final.

Sadly, Noel Doyle had succumbed to a terminal illness some twelve months beforehand. Suir again made a forceful attempt at winning the title in 1998. The Garda Club were their opponents in the Final, and on a bleak, damp day, they collected their second title on the run at the Garda complex in Lucan. The Suir stars were Paul Cahill, Philly Larkin, Tom Murphy and Anton Lannon. They have qualified for their third Final in a row, and who is to say that they cannot become one of the great Factory League teams, rivalling Avonmore and Bards. Laced with Kilkenny, Waterford, and Tipperary players, they could set records not easily surpassed.



Eddie Crowley, Pauline Doyle and Tom Murphy with the Waterford, Munster and All-Ireland Factory League Cups.

KILKENNY MINORS - NOT FAR OFF THE PACE

Jerry Drennan

At the beginning of 1999 not many Kilkenny hurling followers expected much from the current crop of minor hurlers. Much of the hype in Leinster hurling circles surrounded the prospects of the Wexford minor squad of breaking Kilkenny's ten year dominance in Leinster. With both Kilkenny and Wexford separately seeded to the semi-finals, the four remaining contenders Dublin, Offaly, Laois and Westmeath played a round robin series of games for the first time. The result of this new conception was a mild surprise as Laois and Westmeath emerged to face Wexford and Kilkenny respectively.

Westmeath, via the Leinster Council, put in a request for home venue and the Kilkenny management team agreed to travel to Mullingar on June 26TH. Kilkenny's only previous insight into the Westmeath squad was when North Kilkenny minors beat Westmeath on a scoreline of 4-5 to 0-5 on April 3rd in the semi-final of the Leinster minor League. North Kilkenny went on to defeat Offaly in the league final in Nowlan Park on the same day.

On a very wet and windy June evening Kilkenny minors got the fright of their lives in escaping with a two point victory margin - Kilkenny 1-7 Westmeath 1-5. This was an evening when literally anything could have happened and when Westmeath substitute Kieran Brennan goaled with two minutes of injury time played, the Kilkenny followers could hardly wait for the final whistle.

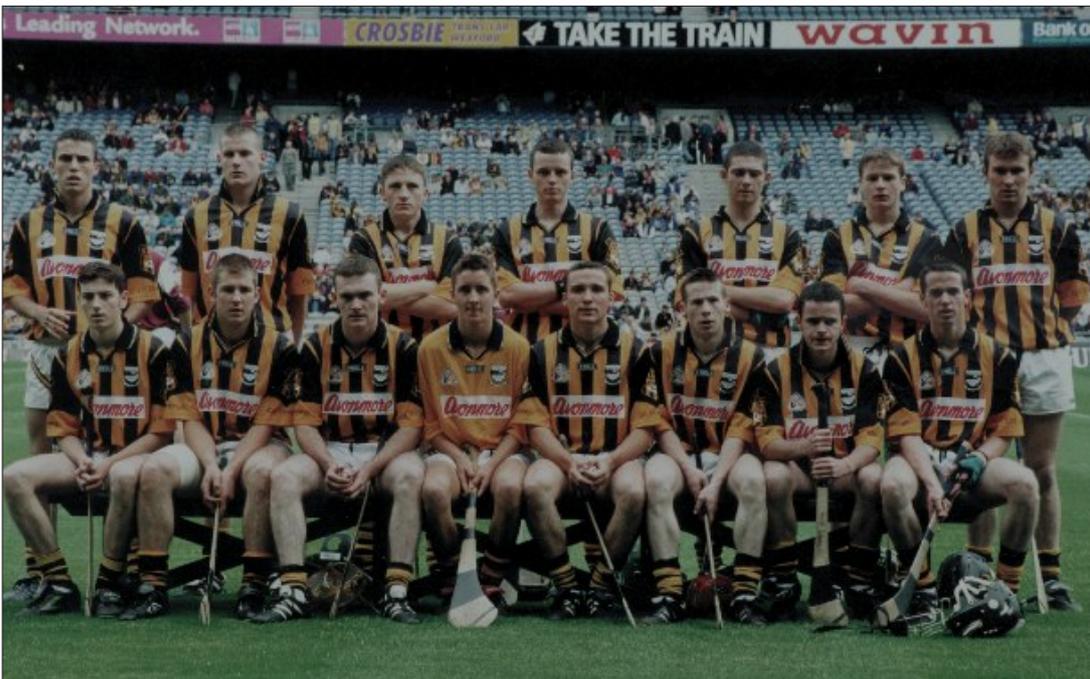
All credit to Westmeath, a team which had been moulded together for four years and which later went on to win the All-Ireland B minor championship.

For Kilkenny on this occasion, impressive performances were scarce but on a night for hard grafting, Canice Hickey, Jackie Tyrrell, Brian Murphy, J J Delaney, Eoin McCormack and Eddie Walsh were to the fore.

This win qualified Kilkenny for the Leinster final against a fancied Wexford side that had impressively disposed of Laois in the other semi-final. With Liam Griffin at the helm for the second successive year the Slaneysiders were confident of annexing a first Leinster title since 1985.

At half time in this game, one would not have thought much of Kilkenny's chances as Wexford, having had the aid of the breeze, led on a scoreline of 0-10 to 0-3 and could have been further in front. Kilkenny had made one change from the Westmeath game bringing, Patrick Reid into the half forward line with Erin's Own's Gordon Byrne switching to the centre forward position. In fairness to Kilkenny's forwards they had to live off scraps during this opening half. Indeed, ten minutes into the second moiety

the difference was still seven points - (0-12 to 0-5). Substitutes David Dowling and Gerry Byrne were introduced, both weighing in with a point each and with similar efforts from Michael Phelan (two frees), Tim Murphy and Kieran Rafter, Kilkenny clawed their way back to parity. Leon O



Kilkenny Minor Hurling team 1999

Back: Tim Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Phelan, Gerry Byrne, Derek Brennan, JJ Delaney, Brian Murphy.

Front: Eddie Walsh, Kieran Rafter, Canice Hickey, David Herity, Chris O'Neill, Gordon Byrne, Keith Doheny, David Dowling.

Photo Tom Brett

Connell then took on the Kilkenny defence to shoot an excellent lead point on the 60th minute. But over one and a half minutes into injury time Kilkenny were awarded a fortunate free to the left of the Canal End goal. Glenmore's Michael Phelan showed remarkable coolness as he struck over the equaliser - Kilkenny 0-13 Wexford 0-13. Yet another escape for the minors!

For the replay in Dr. Cullen Park on the following Friday evening, the Kilkenny selectors certainly rang the changes, introducing no less than three newcomers to the team, Keith Doheny at right corner back, Gerry Byrne at midfield and Derek Brennan (Thomastown) at left half forward. These alterations were vindicated with all three playing a large part in a very impressive all round performance.

A very low scoring first half left little between the sides but it was in the opening moments of the second half that Kilkenny

won this game, with Michael Phelan knocking home a good goal when a Kieran Rafter effort was saved. Phelan followed up with a point and Rafter struck an excellent goal midway through the half to put Kilkenny ten points clear. With Derek Brennan scoring some very impressive points on the right wing, Kilkenny looked like annihilating the opposition but Wexford did manage a final spurt inspired by a Leon O Connell pointed line ball from all of fifty yards. Kilkenny won their tenth successive Leinster minor title on a scoreline of 2-13 to 1-11.

While all of this was happening in Leinster, an impressive Tipperary side had staged a Munster final comeback to defeat Clare who, courtesy of the back door system, were entitled to a second chance against Galway in the All-Ireland quarter final on July 25th.

Their second chance however, came to nought as Galway hit five goals in the first half to qualify with ease for the semi-final against Kilkenny.

Having been beaten by Galway in a challenge in May, Kilkenny were under no illusions going into this game. Still searching for the perfect formula in attack, introduced David Dowling (Lisdowney) to start his first game since the All-Ireland Colleges final in May, where he was full forward on the St. Kieran's side who were surprised by a late winning onslaught from St. Flannans of Ennis.

Knowing that it would be vital to prevent this strong Galway outfit from going into an early lead, Kilkenny approached the semi-final in the knowledge that only a vast improvement on their Leinster campaign would suffice. Alas, it was the highly rated Tribesmen who took early control and holding the upper-hand in most sectors of the field, raced into a 1-12 to 0-4 half-time lead, their goal coming from Cathal Coen who was lining out for his third successive year on the county minor team.

For the second half, Kilkenny first introduced Eoin McCormack and, after 45 minutes, Emeralds man, Aidan Fogarty, and both went on to play a major part in an exciting comeback. McCormack was grounded in the 31st minute for a penalty which Gordon Byrne crashed to the net. Galway responded to Kilkenny's effort with sporadic points and, with ten minutes remaining, seemed to have withstood the Kilkenny revival. Then Timmy Murphy (Danesfort) sent a high lobbing ball into the Galway goalmouth where Kieran Rafter pulled in the air sending the sliotar to the net. Almost from the puckout, Gerry Byrne sent a fifty yard drive in behind the Galway defence where an inrushing Rafter shrugged off a hard challenge to one-hand his second goal of the game. Kilkenny were now on top as Fogarty struck over a sweet point to leave just one point between the sides.

Galway, however, had switched speed merchant Damien

Hayes to act as a third midfielder and he supplied some vital deliveries to the Galway attack as time moved on. Ritchie Murray, who had scored four Galway points up to this, now availed of two of these deliveries to strike another pair while a final point from Kevin Brady gave the westerners a three point victory. Further proof of the quality of this team was seen on All-Ireland final day when Galway, the underdogs, beat a highly talented Tipperary team to take the All-Ireland in some style.

This Galway victory perhaps shows that Kilkenny weren't that far off the pace and, with half of the panel still underage next year, there is hope for the future. In one way, it was a year of team-building but certainly the time has come for Kilkenny to raise the Irish Press cup again. Maybe in 2000!

The minor panel was as follows:- *Canice Hickey (Dunamaggin) captain, David Herity (Dunamaggin), Keith Doheny (John Lockes), Jackie Tyrell (James Stephens), Brian Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Tim Murphy (Danesfort), J J Delaney (Fenians), Chris O'Neill (Graignamanagh), Gerry Byrne (Clara), Michael Phelan (Glenmore), Gordon Byrne (Erin's Own), Derek Brennan (Thomastown), David Dowling (Lisdowney), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), Derek Brennan (James Stephens), Niall*



Kilkenny's Gordon Byrne tries to get past Wexford Captain, Darren Stamp. Photo Sportsfile

Grogan (James Stephens), Eoin McCormack (James Stephens) Brian Barry (Dicksboro), Patrick Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks) Patrick Bowden (Lisdowney), Aidan Fogarty (Emeralds), Ger Joyce (Emeralds), Ger Henderson (Fenians) and Willie Coogan (Ballyhale Shamrocks).

The minor management team was:- *Jimmy Dunne (Dunamaggin) Trainer, Mick Tierney (Rower Inistioge), Liam Kenneally (Mullinavat), Tim Grogan (James Stephens), Jerry*

Drennan (Galmoy) and Joe Pyke (Chairman Bord na nÓg).

For the record, the North Kilkenny minor panel which won the Leinster League was as follows:- *Derek Brennan (James Stephens), Niall Grogan (James Stephens), Brian Murphy (O Loughlin Gaels), Denis Kelly (Conahy Shamrocks), Brian Barry (Dicksboro), Ger Henderson (Fenians), David Quinn (James Stephens), Aidan Brett (Graigie Ballycallan), Kevin Cleere (Graigie Ballycallan), Kieran Delaney (St. Patricks Ballyragget), Kieran Rafter (Emeralds), Gerry Byrne (Clara), Ger Beehan (St. Lachtains), Eoin McCormack (James Stephens) Paul Doheny (Tullaroan), Peter Dowling (O Loughlin Gaels), Darren Carroll (O Loughlin Gaels), J J Delaney (Fenians), Philip Maher (Galmoy), Niall Millea (Graigie Ballycallan), Niall Bergin (O Loughlin Gaels), John Bergin (Lisdowney), Tom Kinsella (St. Martins), Ger Joyce (Emeralds), Gordon Byrne (Erins Own), Brian Lannon (Bennettsbridge) and Joe Ryan (Emeralds).*

The North Selectors were:- *Tim Grogan (James Stephens), Jerry Drennan (Galmoy), Paddy Bergin (Lisdowney), Michael Kelly (Conahy Shamrocks) and Larry Brennan (Cloneen).*

THAT WAS THE YEAR...

Enda McEvoy, *Sunday Tribune*

"So tonight I'm gonna party like it's Nineteen Ninety-Nine," sang Prince many moons ago. Partied? Not if he'd had my 1999, he wouldn't have. It went something like this."

January: Nothing happens, as usual.

February: To the Garda College, Templemore, at the end of the month for the Bus Eireann-sponsored Fitzgibbon Cup finals weekend. It is wet. It is cold. It is windy. It is muddy. It is typical Fitzgibbon Cup weather. Waterford IT, with Henry Shefflin booming over points from the half-forward line, crush the Gardai, for whom Graigue-Ballycallan's strong-running Eddie Brennan impresses, in the first semi-final. In the second game UCC, the holders of the trophy, scrape past UCD. Given the prevailing underfoot conditions ("heavy" rather than "soft" would be the official state of the going in horseracing terms) Piltown's Michael Gordon is unable to make much of an impression for the losers. "Wait till you see him on a dry surface with a hopping ball," UCD's head bottlewasher Jim Ryan announces. The WIT powers-that-be, meanwhile, suggest that Shefflin might be even better out the field at wing-forward, where he can pick off his points, than inside on the edge of the square. Michael Gordon and Henry Shefflin: we will see and hear more of both young men before the year is out. Thanks in no small part to a stirring midfield performance from Alan Geoghegan of O'Loughlins, WIT are crowned champions on the Sunday following a hugely entertaining, highscoring defeat of UCC.

March: The National League is up and running and Kilkenny are sucking diesel. A good win against Laois, a whirlwind second-half display to overhaul Tipperary, a dismissal of Wexford that was easier than the scoreline suggested. In each of these games the Cats impose their will on the opposition and seek to make things happen. Henry Shefflin, who is able to use the ball as well as hold it up, is making an immense difference up front. Elsewhere DJ Carey looks a new man, Peter Barry is bedding

in nicely at wing-back and Denis Byrne enjoys a fine hour in the middle of the field against Wexford. Suddenly Brian Cody, a man of whom few people had much to say one way or another when he took the job, is top of the pops with the fans – the more so because he seems happy to let his players do the talking for him. At the moment they're talking nineteen to the dozen.

April: St Kieran's are hanging on by a point entering injury time in the All Ireland colleges' decider against St Flannan's at Croke Park. Incredibly, they end up losing by five. Given that four of their forwards are from outside the county, one can hardly class it a black day for Kilkenny, but it's a stinging defeat nonetheless, as well as a clear signal that the Kilkenny minors are unlikely to uproot many trees come summer. The first bad day of the year at Croke Park, it will not be the last. Congrats, though, to Keith Madigan of Mullinavat and Michael Phelan from Glenmore, winners with Good Counsel colleges' in the football final.

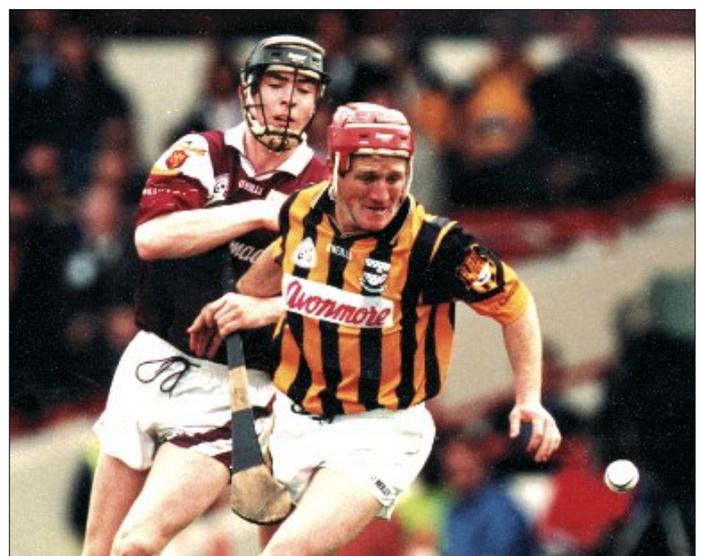
May: Puzzlingly for a team that has hurled so vibrantly up to now, Kilkenny bow out of the NHL after an insipid semi-final display versus Galway at the Gaelic Grounds. But so what? From their point of view, it could have been worse: they could have won the match and reached the final...Most of the conversation afterwards centres on the paltry Kilkenny crowd in attendance. One wonders how many of the loyal fans who refused to travel on the grounds that Limerick was "too far away" (so NHL semi-final double bills should be fixed solely to suit Kilkenny supporters, and to hell with Tipperary, Clare and Galway, the other competing counties?) will be screaming blue murder about All Ireland tickets come September.

June: Clare and Cork make progress in Munster, Offaly and Kilkenny do likewise in Leinster. Laois's flop against the Black and Amber means that it's ten years since they've won a championship match. There has to be a better way.

July: Provincial triumphs for both means the prospect of the classic All Ireland final pairing, Cork versus Kilkenny, hardens. Elsewhere Dublin travel with quiet optimism to Nowlan Park for the Leinster under-21 semi-final but are undone by the bril-



Kilkenny players on Fitzgibbon Cup Winning team 1999
Back: Michael Kavanagh, Henry Shefflin, Michael Lyng, Paul Shefflin.
Front: Alan McCormack, Alan Ahearne, Podge Delaney, Alan Geoghegan.



Johnny Butler beats Eugene Cloonan to the ball in the National League versus Galway. Photo Sportsfile

liance of Henry Shefflin. Michael Gordon, hurler of the year in UCD, also has a fine game. The aforementioned Jim Ryan materialises after the final whistle. "Told you Gordon would be a different kettle of fish on good ground, didn't I," he says. Nevertheless, the match is a tepid affair. Kilkenny will come out of Leinster alright, but you wouldn't be overly keen on their chances further down the line.

August: It will be a Cork/Kilkenny showdown. Kilkenny fulfil their half of the bargain by beating Clare. In the pub that night, someone casually remarks that "that's the hard part done". Eh? So Kilkenny (25 All Ireland titles), having disposed of Clare (three All Irelands), will now proceed to roll over Cork (27 All Irelands)?

September: The first Sunday of the month brings a jaunt on the Kilkenny team bus to the All Ireland camogie final. Great weekend with the ladies (it eventually winds down in Caislean sometime on the Tuesday night), shame about the result. One is tempted to muse nervously about whether a disturbing omen has been set, as Kilkenny stay in the Red Cow Hotel – the same place the men are due to stay seven days later - and

either. Think of the string of provincial underage titles Kilkenny have won with sides full of neat little ballplayers who subsequently sank without trace. To claim an All Ireland with a bunch of - for the most part - honest decent triers thus had a sweet irony about it. "A really important win, because none of these guys had won All Ireland medals underage before," Nickey Brennan pointed out next day. "Now they'll have the confidence that comes from having one." Exactly.

October: Your corr. sits in the Ard Comhairle soft seats in Croke Park for the first time ever, in the Hogan Stand for the last time ever. The occasion is the All Ireland ladies' football finals, and Mary McEvoy (ex Loreto convent Kilkenny and Dicksboro camogie club) is keeping goal for New York in the junior showdown. Tyrone, a senior outfit in all but name, beat them convincingly, but no matter; for the New York girls, who include four US-born players in their starting line-up, winning their semi-final and actually getting to play in an All Ireland final in the holy of holies constitutes a lifetime highlight. Themselves and Tyrone are the last teams to use the old Hogan Stand dressing rooms, to boot.



Kilkenny Under 21's celebrate after their All Ireland victory in Tullamore.

Photo Sportsfile

Toddling up Clonliffe Road afterwards, your humble obedient reflects sadly on the fact that he's just after seeing yet another team – his fourth - bite the dust in an All Ireland final at Croke Park in 1999. First St Kieran's, then the Kilkenny camogie team, then the Kilkenny senior hurlers, now the New York ladies. Bad luck? A ghastly sequence of coincidences? A simple lesson of life? A smorgasbord of all of them, probably. But that's sport. That's Gaelic games. Nobody said it would be easy. And definitely nobody said there had to be a happy ending.

To conclude, this corner's annual awards. Hurler of the year: Fergal Ryan (Cork) for his consistency. Ne'er a foot wrong all summer.

Kilkenny hurler of the year: Andy Comerford.

Young hurler of the year: Henry Shefflin.

lose the All Ireland final by a point. Surely not. Lightning will scarcely strike twice...

September, second Sunday: Er...

September, third Sunday: To Tullamore for the All Ireland under-21 final. In the micro, a huge match for Richie Power's boys; in the macro, a huge match for Kilkenny as a hurling county. Five years have passed since the Black and Amber won an All Ireland of any description. In the interim the senior team have lost two finals, the under-21s one and the minors two, including, infamously, the 1995 decider (in which they managed 1-2 in the space of 60 minutes, in case you'd forgotten). So much for the value of those ten Leinster minor titles in a row, eh?

In a nutshell, Kilkenny had fallen out of the habit of winning All Irelands. Tullamore last September was where they fell back into it.

That they were lucky was inarguable. Particularly lucky that Tipperary, potentially the best team in the competition, were the ones who ended up suffering most from the Munster Council's inability to run off their championship properly, and had to face Galway in the All Ireland semi-final four days after getting out of an Ennis bearpit alive and just came up short. Certainly Kilkenny's date with Galway was no classic, the conditions made sure of that, but few from Noreside were complaining. In the circumstances, victory was everything.

And if people weren't running around afterwards hymning this as a team of all the talents, there was little wrong with that

Match: Cork v Offaly, Croke Park, August 8th.

Individual performance: Brian Whelahan in above game.

Goal: DJ Carey v Clare, Croke Park, August 15th.

Point: Ben O'Connor, Cork v Offaly.

Pity He Stayed So Quiet: Ger Loughnane.

Team: Davy Fitzgerald (Clare); Fergal Ryan (Cork), Diarmuid O'Sullivan (Cork), Frank Lohan (Clare); Brian Whelahan (Offaly), Brian Corcoran (Cork), Peter Barry (Kilkenny); Andy Comerford (Kilkenny), Thomas Dunne (Tipperary); DJ Carey (Kilkenny), John Troy (Offaly), Brian McEvoy (Kilkenny); Seanie McGrath (Cork), Niall Gilligan (Clare), Joe Deane (Cork).

To conclude conclude, this corner's annual reference – where would we be without it? – to O'Loughlins. It's an upbeat reference. They're young, they're promising, they got furthest of the city clubs in the 1999 Kilkenny county championship. Could they do the previously unthinkable and actually win the championship within the next few years? Maybe, maybe not – but no question that O'Loughlins are travelling in the right direction. Can't ask for more than that.

Bord na nÓg Report

By Tom Ryall

MINOR HURLING

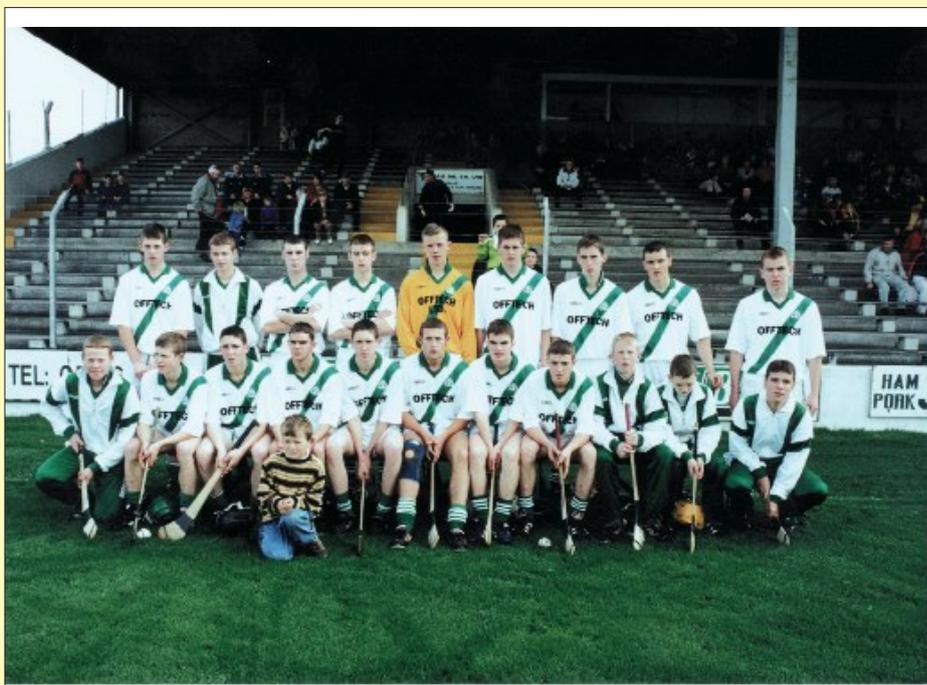


A new name was added to the Roll of Honour in the Iarnród Éireann minor hurling championship Roinn A when Tullaroan swept to victory. It was a combination side of Bennettsbridge and Danesfort who took the Roinn B honours. Tullaroan's victory was all the more remarkable as they had been promoted from Roinn B without winning that grade. Last year, Mullinavat had beaten them in the Roinn B championship final. The situation was similar to 1997 when Shamrocks were also promoted to Roinn A without winning Roinn B and also won the Roinn A competition in that year.

Tullaroan were drawn against the favourites, O'Loughlin Gaels in the first round. The city side had just won the Division 1 league title and were all out to complete the double. The game, played in Kilmanagh, produced a great contest with Tullaroan coming out on top by 3-10 to 1-14. Controversy abounded after the game with the losers claiming that one of the Tullaroan goals had gone over the bar before it was crashed into the net. This would have left the sides level but the referee, having consulted with the umpires, allowed the goal to stand. On the same evening in Freshford, Emeralds came good in the closing stages to beat Graigue Ballycallan 3-13 to 0-8. These results set up Northern semi-final pairings of James Stephens v Emeralds and Tullaroan v Dicksboro. James Stephens had an easy win over an Emeralds side who had to field without their county player, Kieran Rafter. The winning margin was sixteen points 3-18 to 1-8.

There was almost a sensation in the other game with the little fancied Dicksboro side losing out to the eventual champions by two points 1-16 to 2-11. The Northern final saw Tullaroan lead from start to finish as they beat James Stephens, the reigning Northern champions of the previous two years, on a score 0-11 to 0-6.

Five teams contested the Southern championship. Shamrocks started



Tullaroan Minor Hurling Roinn A Champions 1999

Front Row: - Nicky Maher, Tommy Walsh, Paul Doheny, Ned Sweeney, Eddie Campion, Michael Maher, Michael Connolly, Steven Maher, Steven Looby, Chris Breen, Brendan Cahill.

Back Row: - Ken Coogan, David Cleere, Martin Og Kennedy, Richie Cleere, Richie Butler, Michael Walsh, Pdraig Kennedy, Shane Hennessy, Sean Glennon.

Photo: Tom Brett



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - MINOR HURLING ROINN A COUNTY FINALISTS.

Back: Keith Murphy, Robert Alyward, John Dermody, David Hoyne, Patrick Reid, Larry Alyward, Brendan Costelloe.

Front: Anthony Walsh, Pádraig Holden, Richard Fitzpatrick, Michael Paul Drennan, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Keith Nolan, Michael Dermody, William Coogan.

Photo Tom Brett

their campaign with a 2-10 to 1-7 win over Graignamanagh. In the Southern semi finals, Shamrocks easily beat Rower Inistioge while the 1998 Roinn B champions, Mullinavat, knocked out the reigning county champions Dunamaggin 3-14 to 3-7. Mullinavat had high hopes of making it a repeat of the Roinn B final of the previous year when they took on Shamrocks in the Southern final. It was not to be, however, as the concession of two soft goals in the early stages gave Shamrocks the impetus to run out winners 3-11 to 1-7.

The county final was a repeat of the Under 16 final of two years ago which the Shamrocks won by one point. Tullaroan fielded one the youngest teams ever to contest a minor county hurling final. Eleven of the starting side will be eligible for next year while eight of the side have two more years in the minor grade. In addition, the substitute used - Nicholas Maher - also has two further years in the grade. It was an even first half with the sides level at the interval 0-6 each. Tullaroan took over completely in the second period with Shane Hennessy, now moved to midfield, dominating the game. Shamrocks failed to score in the second half. Twelve minutes into the second period, the game was put out of the Southern champions reach when good work by Stephen Maher was finished to the net by Richie Cleere to put Tullaroan ahead 1-8 to 0-6. Tullaroan added a further eight points for a convincing victory 1-16 to 0-6.

In addition to Shane Hennessy, the winners had outstanding performances from the diminutive Tommy Walsh, Martin Óg Kennedy, Ken Coogan, a towering centre back, Michael Walsh in the second half, Richie Cleere who was scorer-in-chief, Ned Sweeney and the flying Paul Doheny. Shamrocks' best players were Keith Murphy, Anthony Walsh, Willie Coogan, Patrick Reid, Robbie Aylward and David Hoyne.

Scorers:- Tullaroan; Richie Cleere (1-3), Shane Hennessy (0-4), Paul Doheny (0-3), Ken Coogan (0-2), Stephen Maher, Michael Connolly, Michael Walsh and Ned Sweeney (0-1 each).

Shamrocks; David Hoyne (0-3), Patrick Reid, John Dermody and Anthony Walsh (0-1).

Tullaroan:- Richard Butler, Edmond Campion, Martin Óg Kennedy,

Tommy Walsh, Michael Connolly, Ken Coogan, Podge Kennedy, Sean Glennon, Michael Walsh, Ned Sweeney, Shane Hennessy, Paul Doheny, Stephen Maher, Michael Maher, Richie Cleere.

Subs:- Nicholas Maher.

Shamrocks:- Michael Paul Drennan, Keith Nolan, Keith Murphy, Michael Dermody, Larry Aylward, Anthony Walsh, Dick Fitzpatrick, Willie Coogan, Brendan Costelloe, Padraic Holden, Robbie Aylward, Patrick Reid, John Dermody, David Hoyne, Eamon Fitzpatrick. **Subs:-** Liam Walsh, Ger Holden.

Referee:- Pat Dunphy (Carrigeen).

Roinn B

The Roinn B Iarnród Éireann minor hurling championship in both the North and South was very competitive. In the North, Lisdowney beat St Martins in a preliminary round - 1-14 to 0-8. The North quarter finals saw Clara beat Erins Own 4-14 to 2-8. Conahy Shamrocks had one point to spare over neighbours St Lachtains 1-8 to 0-10, Bennettsbridge-Danesfort overcame Fenians, 2-15 to 1-12 while Lisdowney easily beat Young Irelands. Clara had a hard-earned victory against Conahy



Bennettsbridge/Danesfort - Iarnród Éireann Roinn B Minor Hurling Champions
Back: Johnny Cleere, Tony Woodcock, Tim Murphy (Capt), Maurice Barden, Enda Cleere, Garry Hayes, Brian Lannon, Karl Cullen, John Lannon, Ciarán Waish, Ray Pembroke, Philip O'Shea, Shem Hurley, Thomas Ryan,
Front: Eoin O'Neill, Ross Dowling, Willie Walsh, Nigel O'Hara, James Mullins, Brian Manogue, Mark Dobbyn, Mark O'Neill, Johnny Meehan, Peter Mulhall, Mark Hayes, Alan Simpson, *Photo Tom Brett*



Carrickshock - Roinn B Minor County Finalists :
Back: Eric Lonergan, Garry Comerford, Anthony Holland, Brian Tennyson, Leo O'Gorman, Liam Barron, John Murphy, Niall Rohan, William King, Pat Dalton, John Tennyson, Ger Murphy, Richard Frisby
Front: Jim Rohan, Paul Barron, Stephen Lonergan, Brendan Hoyne, Pat Cleary, Michael Rice, Michael Rohan, Shane Power, Richard Power, Matthew Hanrahan, George Frisby. *Photo: Tom Brett.*

Shamrocks 2-13 to 2-8. The second semi-final was a cliff-hanger with Bennettsbridge-Danesfort getting a late goal to equalise with Lisdowney. On the second day, the combination side came out on top 2-11 to 2-7. Clara were hit by injuries for the Northern final and went down to the Bennettsbridge-Danesfort side on a score of 0-14 to 1-5

The Southern quarter finals saw Piltown edge out Thomastown, 1-15

to 3-8 while Carrickshock easily came through against John Lockes. In the semi finals, Piltown again had a one point victory this time against neighbours Mooncoin, 0-10 to 1-6. Carrickshock had an easy day against Division 2 League champions Tullagher Rosbercon 1-16 to 0-6. The Southern final was a great contest with Carrickshock just getting the better of Piltown 3-9 to 2-9.

The county final was a cliff-hanger

with an injury time goal from Ross Dowling giving the honours to Bennettsbridge- Danesfort over Carrickshock 3-7 to 3-5. Ironically, the winning goal was scored by Ross Dowling who also scored the winning goal in the Roinn B minor football final - also in injury time. This game produced a good standard of hurling in difficult conditions. The winners started brightly with points from Brian Lannon and Ross Dowling. The losers took the lead with a 15th minute goal from one of their best players Michael Rice. Goals from Jonathan Meighan and Ross Dowling put the winners ahead at the interval - 2-3 to 1-1. In the opening ten minutes of the second half, the combination side increased their lead to 2-6 to 1-2. Carrickshock then began a great fight back. Niall Rohan pointed a "65" and Michael Rice goaled to leave three points between the sides - 2-6 to 2-3. The winners increased their lead with a Brian Lannon point from a free. A goal by Pat Cleary, followed by a point from Paul Barron, had the sides all square. The Ted Carroll memorial trophy looked to be on the way to Carrickshock when Michael Rice pointed them ahead with normal time up. Then, in stepped Ross Dowling to score the clinching goal.

While Ross Dowling was the hero of the hour, the winners had fine performances from Enda Cleere, a sound goalkeeper, John Lennon, Brian Lannon, Tim Murphy, Jonathan Cleere and Garry Hayes. Fifteen year old Michael Rice was the outstanding player for Carrickshock. John Murphy stood out in defence He got most support in defence from Paul Barron and Pat Dalton. Niall Rohan, Brian Tennyson and Pat Cleary also did well.

Scorers:- Bennettsbridge; Ross Dowling (2-1), Jonathan Meighan (1-0), Brian Lannon (0-3), Tim Murphy, Nigel O'Hara and Garry Hayes (0-1 each).

Carrickshock; Michael Rice (2-2), Pat Cleary (1-0), Paul Barron, Shane Power and Niall Rohan (0-1 each).

Bennettsbridge-Danesfort:- Enda Cleere, Karl Cullen, John Lennon, Ciaran Walsh, Mark Hayes, Jonathan Cleere, James Mullins, Brian Lannon, Tim Murphy, Nigel O'Hara, Tony Woodcock, Ross Dowling, Brian Manogue, Garry Hayes, Jonathan Meighan. Sub:- Thomas Ryan.

Carrickshock:- Richard Power,



O'Loughlin Gaels Minor Hurling League A Finalists

Back: Denis O'Brien, Mark Colgan, Sean Cleere, Ian Dowling, Michael Dowling, Jason Pierce, Niall Bergin, Brian Hogan, Brian Dowling, Seamus Cummins, Seamus Dreen, Brian Murphy, Darron Carroll, Darragh Murphy.

Front: Paul Kavanagh, Sean Walkin, Martin Hanlon, Alan O'Brien, Ger O'Brien, James O'Keefe, Peter Dowling, Tommy Lahart, Neill Hoyne, Donal Madden, Liam Hennessy. *Photo Tom Brett*



James Stephens U-14 Hurling County Champions Roinn A

Back: Jamie Quane, James Hickey, David McCormack, Kevin O'Neill, Joel Hurley, Kieran Brennan, Julian O'Dwyer, Patrick Noonan, Brian Ryan, Gregory McCusker, Patrick Butler.

Front: Damien Kelly, Ross Hennessy, Killian Everard, David Ring, Mark Shortall, Conor O'Grady, Donnacha Cody, Eamonn Sheehy, Eoin Everard, Mathew Ruth, Padraig Neary. *Photo Tom Brett*

Paul Barron, Pat Dalton, Matthew Hanrahan, William King, John Murphy, Liam Barron, Stephen Lonergan, Brian Tennyson, Shane Power, Niall Rohan, Michael Rohan Michael Rice, Pat Cleary, Brendan Hoyne. Subs:- Eric Lonergan, George Frisby.

Referee:- Pat Hayes (Graigue Ballycallan).

Minor Hurling Leagues.

O'Loughlin Gaels, one of the favourites to win the Iarnrod Eireann minor hurling championship, did succeed in taking the Division 1 League title. O'Loughlin Gaels, Emeralds, James Stephens and Tullaroan reached the semi-finals. O'Loughlin Gaels beat Emeralds 3-7 to 1-3 and James Stephens beat Tullaroan 1-8 to 0-10. O'Loughlin Gaels won the title when they beat James Stephens in the final, played in Clara 1-10 to 0-8. The Village boys started better and had early points from Niall Tyrrell and Conor O'Grady to which Seamus Dureen replied with a point for the eventual winners. After Shane Parsons had another point for James Stephens, O'Loughlin Gaels were awarded a penalty. Peter Dowling came out of goal to take it but the ball went over the bar. The vital scores came just on the interval when James O'Keeffe goaled for the St Johns based side and followed up with a point to leave his side ahead at the interval 1-3 to 0-4. Both teams made changes for the second period. Brian Dowling came to the half forward line from which position he shot four points. Eoin McCormack moved to midfield for James Stephens where he came more into the game. Gary Whelan and Michael Morris narrowed the gap with points. O'Loughlins finished well and points from Brian Dowling (2), Brian Murphy and James O'Keeffe gave them a five point winning margin.

O'Loughlin Gaels laid the foundation of victory on the soundness of their full back line of Ger O'Brien, Brian Hogan and Ian Dowling, while Peter Dowling kept a clean sheet in goal. Others to do well were Brian Murphy, Alan O'Brien, Darren Carroll, Brian Dowling and Tommy Lahart. Best for James Stephens were Derek Brennan, Peter O'Neill, Gary Whelan, Eoin McCormack and Niall Tyrrell.

O'Loughlin Gaels:- Peter Dowling, Ger O'Brien, Brian Hogan, Ian Dowling, Michael Dowling, Brian



Tulloghger Div.2. Minor Hurling League Winners 1999
Back: Richard Gaule, Owen Mullally, Martin Malone, Mark O'Brien, Donal Phelan, Martin Woods, Michael Grennan, Alan Malone, Edward Conway, Richard Ryan, Kieran Barron, Ger Mullally,
Front: Phillip Boyle, Moling Cottrell, Joseph McCarthy, Andrew Mullally, Simon Kennedy, John Mullally, John Grennan, Richard Murphy, Stephan Cottrell.
Photo Tom Brett



Lisdowney Minor Hurling Div. 2 League Runners Up
Back: Paul Mullally, John Carey, Michael Bergin, Padraig Bergin, David Dowling, David Hogan, Anthony O'Hara, John Bergin, Eoin Maher, Pat Bowden, James Fogarty, Declan Tallis, Padraig Doheny.
Front: Kevin Maher, Niall O'Hara, P.J. Dowling, Paddy Bowden, Ronan Costello, Richard Kenny, Noel Dowling, John Murphy, Frank Murphy, Declan O'Shea, John William Bowden.
Photo Tom Brett

Murphy, Seamus Cummins, Alan O'Brien, Darren Carroll, Niall Bergin, James O'Keeffe, Seamus Dureen, Brian Dowling, Tommy Lahart, Niall Hoyne.

James Stephens:- Derek Brennan, Niall Grogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Eardley, Pat Grogan, Peter O'Neill, Joe Mernagh, Richard Hayes, Barry O'Neill, Conor O'Grady, Gary Whelan, Niall Tyrrell, Eoin McCormack, Brian Tyrrell, Shane Parsons. **Subs:-** Michael Morris, Jonathan Savage.

Division 2

The Division 2 Minor Hurling League Final between Tulloghger Rosbercon and Lisdowney was a repeat of the Under 16 Roinn B championship final of 1997 which Lisdowney won by a point. On this occasion Tulloghger Rosbercon got their revenge when coming out on top 1-11 to 1-8. The Semi finals saw Tulloghger Rosbercon get the better of Dicksboro 1-10 to 1-4 while Lisdowney had two points to spare over Graignamanagh 2-10 to 2-8.

Favoured by the strong breeze in the first half, the Tulloghger Rosbercon side built up an interval lead of 1-5 to



CLARA MINOR HURLERS. Div 3 League Champions 1999

Front L/R: Gerry Byrne. Derek Knox. Denis Tobin. Jack O'Keeffe. Dermot Nolan. Fergus Knox. Mark Shortall. Austin Murphy. Patrick Foley.

Back L/R: John Nolan. John Brennan. Michael Barcoe. Declan Meaney. Conor Phelan. Peter Roche. Martin Prendergast. Fintan Treacy. John Phelan. Ger Prendergast. Tom Brennan. Tom Dowling. *Photo: Tom Brett.*



St Martin's - Roinn Minor League Div 3 Finalists

Back: Tom Kinsella, Larry Comerford, Tom Morrissey, Kieran Kelly, Pat Quirke, Stephen Murphy, Tom Nolan, Brendan Maher, Shem Kelly, John Buggy, Conor Kinsella.

Front: Donal Keane, Niall Moran, Shane Coonan, Damien Maher, Brian Cadigan, Michael Mulhall, Donal Kelly, Robert Shore, Michael Walsh, Tom Nolan. *Photo Tom Brett*

0-1 despite missing many chances. It was a different story in the second period. Lisdowney broke down the field straight from the throw in only to see David Dowling's fierce drive go inches wide. Dowling was not to be denied and their was just a goal between the sides when he raised the green flag 1-7 to 1-4. Tullogher Rosbercon needed a boost at this stage and it was supplied by Simon

Kennedy who shot a wonderful point. Scorer in chief Eddie Conway weighed in with another. The game was back in the melting pot when John Carey and Patrick Bowden had points for Lisdowney. As the excitement increased, Eddie Conway and David Dowling exchanged points before Eddie Conway had the last score of the game.

Richard Murphy did well in the

winners' goal. Kieran Barron, Richard Gaule and Michael Grennan were best in defence. Martin Woods and Richard Ryan more than held their own at midfield. Star of the attack was Eddie Conway. He got most support from Simon Kennedy, Owen Mullally and Moling Cottrell. Patrick Bowden was the losers' best player. He got most support from David Dowling, Ronan Costelloe, Eoin Maher, Pat Bowden, John Bergin, Michael Bergin, David Hogan and Patrick Dowling.

Scorers:- Tullogher Rosbercon; Eddie Conway (0-8), Mark O'Brien (1-0), Owen Mullally, Richard Ryan and Simon Kennedy (0-1 each).

Lisdowney:- David Dowling (1-3), Patrick Bowden (0-3), David Hogan and John Carey (0-1 each).

Tullogher Rosbercon: Richard Murphy, Alan Malone, Kieran Barron, Richard Gaule, John Grennan, Michael Grennan, Donal Phelan, Richard Ryan, Martin Woods, Owen Mullally, Simon Kennedy, Eddie Conway, Mark O'Brien, Stephen Cottrell, Moling Cottrell. *Sub:-* Ger Mullally.

Lisdowney: Ronan Costelloe, Eoin Maher, John Murphy, Pat Bowden, John Carey, John Bergin, Anthony O'Hara, Pdraig Bergin, Michael Bergin, David Hogan, Patrick Bowden, David Dowling, Patrick Dowling, Noel Dowling, Richard Kenny. *Subs:-* Declan Tallis, John William Bowden.

Division 3

Clara took the Division 3 Minor Hurling league when in a hard fought game they beat their neighbours St Martins 2-15 to 2-10. The semi final pairings were Clara v Carrickshock and St Martins v Erins Own. Both were well contested games with Clara beating Carrickshock 1-7 to 0-8 while St Martins just got the better of the Comer boys

2-7 to 1-7. Clara raced into an early lead in the final and built up an interval lead of 1 -10 to 0 -5. The Clara goal was scored by Peter Roche with the points coming from Conor Phelan, Ger Prendergast and Gerry Byrne. An early second half goal by Larry Comerford brought St Martins right back into contention. Mark Shortall got a point back for Clara but their lead was further reduced when Larry Comerford and Tom Kinsella pointed for the losers. The destination of the

honours was clinched when Martin Prendergast shot for goal. Stephen Murphy stopped his shot but the inrushing Dermot Nolan finished the ball to the net. St Martins did not give up easily and they had a goal from Brian Cadigan.

Clara had great performances from Michael Barcoe, John Phelan, Fintan Treacy, Declan Meany, Gerry Byrne, Martin Prendergast, Conor Phelan, Ger Prendergast and Fergus Knox. Best for the losers were Stephen Murphy, Brendan Maher, Shem Kelly,

Tom Morrissey, Michael Mulhall, Larry Comerford, Tom Kinsella and Donal Kelly.

Scorers:- Clara; Gerry Byrne (0-9), Peter Roche (1-0), Dermot Nolan (1-0), Conor Phelan (0-2), Ger Prendergast (0-2), Mark Shortall (0-1), Fergus Knox (0-1).

St Martins; Brian Cadigan (1-1), Larry Comerford (1-1), Tom Kinsella (0-3), Donal Kelly (0-2), Tom Morrissey (0-2), Shem Kelly (0-1).

Clara:- Michael Barcoe, Tommy

Dowling, John Phelan, John Brennan, Declan Meany, Fintan Treacy, Tom Brennan, Fergus Knox, Gerry Byrne, Mark Shortall, Conor Phelan, Ger Prendergast, Peter Roche, Martin Prendergast, Dermot Nolan.

St Martins:- Stephen Murphy, Pat Quirke, Brendan Maher, Niall Moran, Michael Mulhall, Shem Kelly, Damien Maher, Tom Nolan, Larry Comerford, Shane Coonan, Tom Morrissey, Brian Cadigan, Tom Kinsella, Kieran Kelly, Donal Kelly. Subs:- John Buggy, Michael Walsh, Conor Kinsella, Robert Shore, Donal Keane, Tom Nolan.

Division 4

Windgap captured the Division 4 League title when they beat a fancied St Patricks (Ballyragget) in the final 2-11 to 3-4. Windgap, St Patricks, Cloneen, Kilmacow, Glenmore and Galmoy reached the concluding stages of the competition. In the quarter finals, Windgap beat Cloneen 1-12 to 1-10 while St Patricks got the better of Glenmore

3-12 to 0-6. The semi finals saw Windgap again have a two point victory when beating Galmoy 4-7 to 4-5 with St Patricks knocking out Kilmacow 1-14 to 2-6.

The final proved a cracking game played in ideal conditions. Windgap started in whirlwind fashion and had three points on the board inside ninety seconds. Windgap continued in this vein and following a Kieran Delaney point for the North Kilkenny side they had four further points from Leo Power, Trevor Jackman and Niall Doran (2) to lead by six points. The Ballyragget boys were back in contention when they had a goal from John Cahill. An exchange of goals by Padraig Power (Windgap) and James Phelan (St Patricks) saw the south side lead by 1-9 to 2-3 at the interval.

The start of the second half saw both sides adding a point to their scoreline. St Patricks levelled the scores in the 40th minute when Niall Kenny goaled. The following fifteen minutes were scoreless as both sides fought for the vital score. Windgap edged ahead with a point before disaster struck the losers when a speculative shot from Windgap's Eamon Hawe deceived everyone and ended in the net. The losers launched a couple of late attacks but the winners' defence held firm and the south team secured a great victory. Windgap had outstanding players in P.J.Hawe,



Windgap - Minor League Champions Div 4

Back: David Power, Eamon Hawe, Padrig Power, Aidan Power, Aidan Phelan, Niall Doran, Eoghan Guinan, Thomas Enright, Micheal Landy, Brendan Barry.

Front: Seamus Power (Trainer), Richie Landy, Leo Power, Seamus Landy, Robert Jackman, P.J. Hawe, Thomas Lonergan, Eugene Kenny, Seamus Hawe, Niall Lanigan. (Missing from photo: Paul Purcell)
Photo: Tom Brett.



St Patrick's Ballyragget - Roinn C Championship Winners and Div 4 League Finalists

Back: Kevin Holohan. Gerry Glendon. Jimmy Lacey. Kevin O'Hara. Shane Lacey. Kieran Delaney (Capt). Maurice Walsh. Joe Peke. David Kenny. Niall Staunton. John Mc.Donald. James Phelan. Billy Bradley. Gerry Walsh. Vincent Wallace.

Front: Liam Gleeson. Kevin Malone. Enda Holohan. Shane Phelan. Conor Delaney. J.J.Sullivan. Niall Kenny. Johnny Cahill. Brendan Stone.
Photo Tom Brett

Aidan Power, Aidan Phelan, Niall Doran, Pádraig Power, Leo Power and Eamon Hawe. Enda Holohan, Benny Stone, Billy Bradley, Kieran Delaney, Niall Kenny and Kevin O'Hara did best for the losers.

Scorers:- Windgap; Niall Doran (0-5), Eamon Hawe (1-1), Pádraig Power (1-0), Leo Power (0-2), Seamus Landy (0-1), Eoghan Guinan (0-1), Trevor Jackman (0-1).

St Patricks; Kieran Delaney (0-3), John Cahill (1-0), James Phelan (1-0), Niall Kenny (1-0), J. Lacey (0-1).

Windgap:- P. J. Hawe, Thomas Enright, Aidan Power, Eugene Kenny, Aidan Phelan, Brendan Barry, Thomas Lonergan, Niall Doran, David Power, Eoghan Guinan, Pádraig Power, Eamon Hawe, Seamus Landy, Trevor Jackman, Leo Power. Sub:- Seamus Hawe.

St Patricks:- Gerry Glendon, Enda Holohan, Joe Lacey, Vincent Wallace, Benny Stone, David Kenny, Kevin O'Hara, Kevin Holohan, Billy Bradley, Kevin Malone, Kieran Delaney, Niall Kenny, Jimmy Lacey, James Phelan, John Cahill. Sub:- Shane Dowling.

This year Bord na nÓg ran losers' group competitions in the minor leagues for teams who did not make it to the competition proper. The honours in Division 1 went to Shamrocks who played a draw with Graigue Ballycallan 1-10 to 2-7 but won the replay 3-12 to 2-9.

There was also a draw in the Division 2 final. Bennettsbridge-Danesfort and Rower Inistioge finished level 2-11 to 3-8. It was still all square in the replay at the end of normal time Bennettsbridge-Danesfort 1-8 Rower Inistioge 1-8. An extra half hour was played with the combination coming out on top 1-15 to 1-12. St Lachtains captured the Division 3 final with an easy win against Mooncoin 2-13 to 1-5. The Division 4 final was the third losers' group final to finish level - Conahy Shamrocks 2-5 Slieverue 3-2. Conahy Shamrocks won the replay 2-10 to 2-2. The idea of a losers' group was put forward by Ned Quinn, Chairman of the Co. Board and proved to be a great innovation.

The Roinn C championship saw St Patricks (Ballyragget) and Kilmacow reach the final. Nine teams took part in all, four in the South and five in the North. Kilmacow started their campaign with a 4-8 to 2-8 victory over Glenmore. Slieverue created a surprise by defeating the Division 4 league champions Windgap 3-6 to 2-7. Kilmacow took the South title by virtue of a 2-12 to 2-4 win over Slieverue. St Patricks (Ballyragget) made their debut with a 2-16 to 1-6 win against Cloneen. They followed this up with a big win against a very young Blacks and Whites. Galmoy qualified for the Northern final by beating Barrow Rangers. A Martin Phelan point from a sixty yards free gave Galmoy a second chance in the Northern final against St Patricks (Ballyragget) on a scoreline of 1-12 to 2-9. It was the Ballyragget boys who came out on top in the replay when their ability to get goals proved decisive. The final score was St Patricks 3-6 Galmoy 0-11.



KILMACOW - MINOR HURLING ROINN "C" FINALISTS

Front: Derek Walsh, Eoin Aylward, John Daniels, Mark McDonald, Tom Caulfield, Damien Walsh, Eoin Dalton, Shane Power, Sean Flynn, Christy Flynn,

Back: Paddy O'Keeffe, Ian Power, Liam Gahan, Shane Gaule, David Ryan, Derek Ryan, Edmond Mullally, John Egan, Martin Tynan, Colm Grant, David Kelly, Colm Phelan, William O'Toole, Richard O'Neill, Joseph Kearns, Nicky Barron

Photo: Tom Brett,

St Patrick's had a double score victory over Kilmacow in the final. It was their third title at this level. The game played, in favourable conditions, produced a good standard. St Patrick's got a good start with three points in the opening eight minutes from Kieran Delaney. Kilmacow with points from Paddy O'Keeffe and two from Derek Ryan levelled the scores at 0-3 each after 18 minutes. Benny Stone set St Patrick's on the road to victory when he goaled and a point from Kieran Delaney had them ahead 1-4 to 0-3 at the interval. Kieran Delaney had a goal within two minutes of resuming for the Ballyragget boys and after that it was an uphill battle for the Southern side. Kilmacow battled to the end and were rewarded with a late goal from Nicky Barron. The final score was St Patricks 2-8 Kilmacow 1-4.

Best for St Patrick's were Maurice Walsh, David Kenny, Kevin O'Hara, Kevin Holohan, Kieran Delaney an inspiring captain, Benny Stone and James Phelan. Most prominent for Kilmacow were Tomas Caulfield, Murty Tynan, Derek Walsh, Paddy O'Keeffe, and Derek Ryan.

Scorers: St Patricks; Kieran Delaney (1-6), Benny Stone (1-0), Kevin Malone (0-1), James Phelan (0-1).

Kilmacow; Nicky Barron (1-0), Derek Ryan (0-2), Paddy O'Keeffe (0-1), Murty Tynan (0-1).

St Patricks: Shane Dowling, Enda Holohan, Maurice Walsh, John Cahill, J. J. O'Sullivan, David Kenny, Kevin O'Hara, Kevin Holohan, Billy Bradley, Niall Kenny, Kieran Delaney, Niall Staunton, Benny Stone, James Phelan, Kevin Malone. *Subs:* Jimmy Lacey, Conor Delaney, Gerry Glendon.

Kilmacow: Richard O'Neill, Martin McDonald, John Egan, William O'Toole, Tomas Caulfield, Sean Flynn, Derek Walsh, Murty Tynan, Ian Power, Paddy O'Keeffe, Shane Gaule, John Daniels, Nicky Barron, Ned Mullally, Derek Ryan. *Subs:* David Ryan, David Kelly, Christopher Flynn.

Referee: Oisín Breathnach (Dicksboro).

Ashbourne & Fitzgibbon Historic Double by WIT

Phil Fanning



WIT Waterford Ashbourne Cup Champions 1999

Back: M. Walsh, J. O'Connor, A. Drohan, C. Scallan, M.E. Butler, U. Walton, T. Bergin. B. Mulally, K. Kelly, M. Butler, A. Sheehy, P. Phelan .

Front: C. Fitzgerald, U. O'Rourke, K. Atkins, A. Byrne, K. Long, J. Power, C. Moran, B. Davern, S. Nealon, E. Cleary, E. Murphy

When Waterford R.T.C., as the college was then known, became the first non university to win the historic Fitzgibbon Cup in 1992, it was written at the time that a tradition had been established and standards set for future Waterford R.T.C. teams. Now, seven years on, as we enter the new millennium, the Waterford I.T. G.A.A. club has not only maintained that tradition but has continued to set new standards of achievement on the field of play. At the same time W.I.T. has become a role model for all College G.A.A. clubs in terms of administration by demonstrating what can be achieved through organisation, planning, dedication and hard work.

The year of 1999 saw Waterford I.T scale new heights with the winning of the Fitzgibbon Cup for the third time in Templemore and most significantly, the winning of the Camogies Ashbourne Cup for the first time. In both cases victory was particularly sweet, as the college teams had suffered defeat in the finals of both competitions in the previous year to the same opposition, U.C.C.

The winning of the Ashbourne Cup was very special in as much as it demonstrated the tremendous spirit and resilience of team and management in putting the 1998 one point defeat by U.C.C. behind them and going on to achieve a magnificent Cup and League double a year

later.

It was a proud moment for second year nursing student Brigid Mulally of Glenmore to step up and accept the Ashbourne Cup as team captain following that brilliant final win by 1 – 6 to 0 – 4 over U.C.C. Indeed what a year for the Mullally's of Glenmore with Denis later captaining his club to the Kilkenny senior hurling title.

Besides Brigid, three other members and of the successful W.I.T. team, Kelly Long, Kathleen Athkins and Mary Ellen Butler were members of the Kilkenny team that went down narrowly to Tipperary in this years All – Ireland Camogie Final. Also on that

day Brigid Mulally's direct opponent was Tipperary's Sinead Nealon, her W.I.T. colleague and predecessor as W.I. T. Camogie Captain.

The driving force behind this success came from the management team of Colm Bonnor of Tipperary fame, and Sheila Donohue, herself a former Ashbourne winner with U.C.D.



WIT Waterford Fitzgibbon Cup Champions 1999

Back: Henry Sheflin(Kilkenny),Eric Flynn(Clare), Andy Moloney(Tipperary)capt, Alan Geoghan(Kilkenny), Kevin O'Brien(Tipperary),Dave Bennett(Waterford), Eamonn Corcoran(Tipperary), Shane McClaren(Galway), Front: Alan Kelleher(Cork), Declan Brown(Tipperary), Brian Forde(Clare), Michael Kavanagh(Kilkenny), Neil Ronan(Cork), Colm Cassidy(Offaly).

This years Fitzgibbon Cup was amazing in the number of players who took part from all colleges who were later to figure prominently with their counties in the championships. Waterford route to the final saw opposition that included Niall Gilligan (Clare), Wayne Sherlock, Donal Og Cusak, John Browne, Johnny Sheehan and Denis Murphy (Cork), Eugene O'Neill and Liam Sheedy (Tipperary), Ollie Baker (Clare) and Niall Maloney (Kilkenny).

The W.I.T. team itself was very strong and experienced. Apart from Henry Shefflin, Michael Kavanagh and Neil Ronan, three of the younger played, who took part in the Senior All – Ireland Final, almost every other player represented his county in some grade.

Eamon Corcoran lined out for Tipperary in the Munster championships, as did Dave Bennett for Waterford while Declan Browne, goalkeeper Kevin O'Brien and Andy Maloney played for Tipperary in the National League. Colm Cassidy played senior and U – 21 for Offaly before heading for the North American League in the summer while Alan Geoghogan (Kilkenny), Shane Mc Claren (Galway) and Brian Forde (Clare) all figured prominently in the U – 21 championships.

With such a line up it was going to take a very strong and exceptional team to beat W.I.T. in the Fitzgibbon Cup. Cork I. T. came closest in a thrilling game in Carrigeen when fitness and character won through for Waterford and after that quarter final win there was no stopping them as the Garda College and U.C.C. fell in Templemore.

Throughout the nineties W.I.T. has made an enormous contribution to hurling in the South East with numerous players coming through to represent their counties at all levels.

The successful team of 1992 was trained by Colm Bonnor and captained by Paraic Fanning. It included Noel Dalton and

Michael Hubbard of Waterford who starred in Waterford's first ever U – 21 All Ireland success over Offaly in two epic games at Nowlan Park later that year. Also on board from Kilkenny were Johnny Houlihan (O'Loughlins), Denis Mulally (Glenmore), Dave O'Byrne (Dicksbora), p. J. Delaney (Fenians), Sean Ryan (Dunamaggin) and Andy Comerford (O'Loughlins). Tipperary involvement included Brian O'Meara and Brian Flannery later of Waterford.

In 1995 the successful Waterford team included three members of the 1992 team – P.J. Delaney, Michael Hubbard and Paul Lee of Shannon Wolf Tones. Colm Bonnor, who trained the 1992 side, returned to college that year to captain the team, reversing roles with Paraic Fanning whom now trained the side. Other prominent present day inter county players included Fergal Mc Cormack (Cork), Tommy Dunne (Tipperary), Peter Barry (Kilkenny), James and Ollie Moran (Limerick).

As can be seen from the above lists there has been a steady influx of hurling talent into W.I.T. from the surrounding counties and every player will concede that the Fitzgibbon experience and the comradeship involved impacts greatly on ones future as a hurler and a person.

This coming year the W.I.T. G.A.A. club will go into the millennium as defending Ashbourne and Fitzgibbon champions. Some players will have moved on to their chosen careers, some will be out to make a two in a row and others will come in looking to make their mark in camogie and hurling as well as Gaelic football and ladies football. That is the order of things.

Eventually all will go their separate ways but the friendships and memories will endure as will the G.A.A. tradition of W.I.T. they helped forge.



Master Fennellys
The four Fennelly brothers Mick, Sean, Kevin and Ger, with the All Ireland Masters trophy,
Photo Tom O'Neill

KILKENNY JUST FALL SHORT OF WINNING EFFORT

All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship:

Richard Holden

Kilkenny had yet another good run in the Intermediate Championship but, alas, for the second year running, ended up second best. Still, it was a good campaign with the victories over Offaly and Cork being the highlights of their march to the Final.

Kilkenny opened their campaign with what seemed a tricky assignment away to Offaly. The Faithful County had a number of former inter-county stars on show with the likes of Roy Mannion, Daithi Regan and Declan Pilkington included in their side. The Cats hit the ground running and opened up a seven point lead midway through the first-half, thanks to a well-taken goal by Sam Morrissey. Offaly hit back with four unanswered points to trail by only two when just on the stroke of half-time, captain Robert Shorthall turned his marker and whipped a fierce shot past goalkeeper Eoin Kennedy to put the champions firmly in the driving seat. That proved the game's turning point and Kilkenny went on to record an impressive six points win.

In the semi-final, Noel Skehan's charges cruised to a ten point win over a lacklustre Dublin side. The signs looked ominous for the Metropolitans when they trailed by 1-6 to 1-4 at the break despite having played with the wind. They tacked on



Kilkenny captain, **Robert Shortall**, meets his Galway counterpart, **Noel Larkin**, watched by referee, **Sean McMahon** (Clare). *Photo Tom O'Neill*



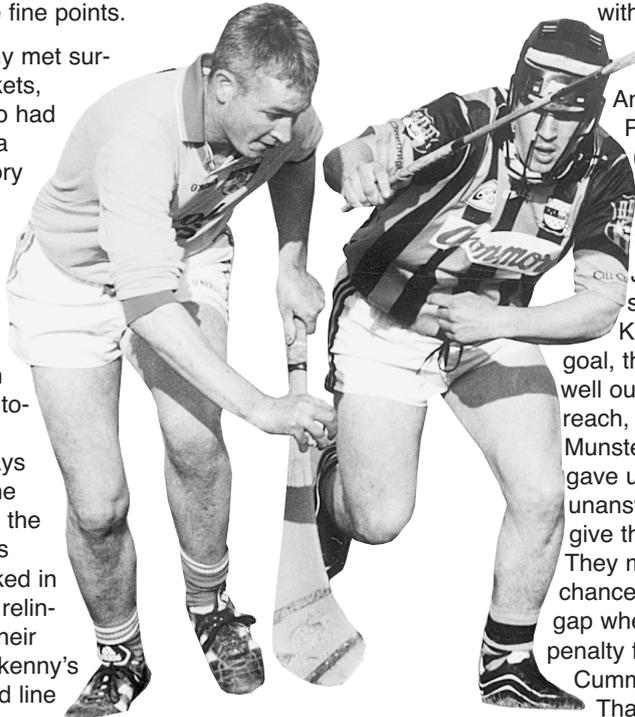
Kilkenny Intermediate Hurling Team 1999.

Back: Ollie O'Connor, Jarleth Bolger, Dermot Maher, Brendan Joyce, Derek Lyng, Anthony Prendergast, Billy O'Keefe, Patrick Farrell.

Front: Robert Shortall, Jack Carey, Mark Tyler, Martin Bookle, Séamus Moran, Seán Kealy, Ed Drea. *Photo Tom O'Neill*

just two more scores in the second-half to Kilkenny's ten with Dermot Maher and Ollie O'Connor leading the way with some fine points.

Kilkenny met surprise packets, Laois, who had recorded a good victory over Wexford, in the Leinster Final. Despite playing on home territory, Laois were always chasing the game and the Noresiders never looked in danger of relinquishing their crown. Kilkenny's full-forward line of Robert



Kilkenny captain, **Robert Shortall** tackles Offaly goalkeeper, **Eoin Kennedy**, in the Leinster Intermediate semi-final in Birr.
Photo: T.O'Neill.

Shorthall, Anthony Prendergast and Ollie O'Connor did all the damage - bagging

County by three points 4-11 to 2-14. By the half-way stage, Kilkenny had opened up what seemed an unassailable lead with goals by Jarlath Bolger and Anthony Prendergast (two) giving them a 3-6 to 0-5 advantage. When Gowran's Jack Carey struck for Kilkenny's fourth goal, the game looked well out of Cork's reach, but still the Munster side never gave up and shot four unanswered points to give themselves hope. They missed a great chance of bridging the gap when a well-struck penalty from Ger Cummins was saved. That gave Kilkenny

some breathing space and they ensured their place in the Final when wing-forward Paddy Farrell shot over a smashing point.



Kilkenny's **Sammy Morrissey** runs at the Dublin defence in the first round of the Leinster Intermediate Hurling Championship in Nowlan Park.
Photo: T.O'Neill.

2-11 of the side's total of 2-15. At the interval, Kilkenny led by six points, the goal coming courtesy of Clara's Anthony Prendergast who fielded a good ball and then blasted to the net. Midway through the second-half, Ollie O'Connor goaled to put the seal on a good win.

The Cats faced a seven week gap before All-Ireland semi-final with Cork but this did not hinder them in the slightest as they produced their best performance of the campaign to beat the Rebel

In the All-Ireland Final, Kilkenny met a fired-up Galway side, boasting a number of Under-21's who had tasted defeat in the All-Ireland Final a week earlier and were hell-bent on revenge. The crucial score of the match came midway through the second-half when a speculative shot from midfield went all the way to the back of the Kilkenny net. Having fought their way back into contention, this was a killer blow for the Cats and in the end Galway ran out comfortable winners.

The Intermediate team often throws up some promising seniors of the future; Michael Walsh, Bill Hennessy and Liam Simpson all graduated from Kilkenny's All-Ireland junior winning team of 1990 to win senior All-Irelands in '92 and '93 while from last year's team, Henry Shefflin made it to this year's senior side and proved a real find. Perhaps, Dermot Maher and Ollie O'Connor, from this year's team, might be a worth a try when the National League resumes in February.

Panel: Mark Tyler (Mooncoin); Sean Kealy (Blacks and Whites), Ed Drea (Barrow Rangers), Brendan Joyce (Emeralds), Dermot Maher (Barrow Rangers), Seamus Moran (Bennettsbridge), Martin Bookle (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Henry Roberts (Graignamanagh), Alan Aherne (Windgap), Derek Lyng (Emeralds); Brian Phelan (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Billy O'Keefe (Thomastown); Jack Carey (Young Irelands), Jarlath Bolger (Graignamanagh), Patrick Farrell (Carrickshock), Sam Morrissey (Dicksboro), Ollie O'Connor (St. Lachtains), Robert Shorthall (Clara-capt.), Anthony Prendergast (Clara); Joe Ryan (St. Lachtains), Austin Cleere (Emeralds), John Byrne (Blacks and Whites), Brian Farrell (Piltown) and Paul Long (Kilmacow).

Management Team: Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge); Toddy Lacey (Conahy Shamrocks), Bob Shorthall (Clara), Eddie Crowley (Mooncoin) and Michael O'Dowd (Blacks and Whites).

| Where and How it happened ... | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| June 26 - Birr | | |
| Kilkenny | 2-14 | Offaly 0-14 |
| Scorers: R. Shorthall (1-2); O. O'Connor (0-5, 2f); S. Morrissey (1-1); J. Bolger (0-2), B. O'Keefe (0-2, 1 '65); J. Carey, P. Farrell (0-1 each). | | |
| July 3 - Nowlan Park | | |
| Kilkenny | 1-16 | Dublin 1-6 |
| O. O'Connor (1-6, 4f); B. O'Keefe (0-3, 1 '65); D. Maher, B. Phelan, J. Carey, J. Bolger, A. Prendergast, S. Morrissey and A. Cleere (0-1 each). | | |
| July 17 - Portlaoise | | |
| Kilkenny | 2-15 | Laois 0-9 |
| O. O'Connor (1-7, 5f); A. Prendergast (1-2); R. Shorthall, P. Farrell (0-2 each); B. O'Keefe and J. Carey (0-1 each). | | |
| September 4 - Dungarvan | | |
| Kilkenny | 4-11 | Cork 2-14 |
| A. Prendergast (2-1); O. O'Connor (0-6, 4f); J. Bolger (1-1); J. Carey (1-0); P. Farrell (0-2); B. O'Keefe (0-1). | | |
| September 25 - Birr | | |
| Kilkenny | 2-10 | Galway 3-13 |
| A. Prendergast (2-0); O. O'Connor (0-5); P. Farrell (0-2); J. Carey, B. O'Keefe and A. Cleere (0-1 each). | | |

CLUB CALL



Ballyhale Shamrocks

U-14 Hurling

Our u-14s won the mini-feile defeating a very good Birr team in the final in June. But things went downhill from there. They were beaten in the Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament by James Stephens and by Carrickshock in the Championship final.

The u-16s were also defeated by Carrickshock in the semi-final.

Minors

Shamrocks minor hurlers were defeated by Tullaroan in the County final and unfortunately our seniors were also defeated in the semi-final by eventual champions Glenmore. Bennettsbridge

defeated the minor footballers.

County Players

On the county u-14 team were four Shamrocks players; James Connolly, James (Cha) Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly and Jamie Fitzpatrick.

Reunion

It is hoped to have a reunion of the first Junior, Intermediate, Senior and All Ireland Club championship winners of the Shamrocks in the Newpark Hotel early in the new year. The years of these successes were 1973, '74, '78 and 1981. It is sure to be a memorable occasion.



Henry Shefflin, nominated 'Young Hurler of the Year' 1999. photo: Sportsfile

CLUB CALL



Barrow Rangers



Paulstown - u-13 Roinn D Camogie Champions 1999

Back: Leonie Staunton, Clare Whitely, Aoife Murphy, Lisa Brennan, Caitriona Bambrick, Claire Brennan, Aisling Kealy, Sarah Brophy, Lee Ann Corcoran, Sara Brennan. **Front:** Orla Kealy, Denise Walsh, Alison Staunton, Tracey Kealy, Julia Purcell, Aoife Drennan, Rita Coady, Colette Dormer, Mary Brennan, Siobhan Murphy. **Mascots:** Emma Staunton, Laura Bambrick. Missing from photo: Ruth Attridge.



Barrow Rangers u-14 hurling 1999

Back: Andrew Healy, Jimmy Staunton (selector) Tomás Quinn, Joe Kealy, Tommy Kelly (selector) Darren O'Neill, Seamus Brennan, Ollie O'Neill (trainer), Billy Murphy, Mark Lillis, Ricky Murphy, Richard Kelly, Sean Holohan.

Front: Aidan O'Neill, John Kearney, Ian Holden, Colm Purcell, Joe Hughes, Aidan Brennan, David Walsh, Raymond Healy, Derek Whelan, Kevin McDonald, Niall Heffernan.

On the Playing Fields

Once again a disappointing year in the adult grades. The Juniors made a tame exit losing to Lisdowney in a replay. The Special Juniors reached the League final where they lost narrowly to Lisdowney.

Underage Games

Quite a glimmer of hope appears at underage level. The u-14s were unlucky to meet an excellent Conahy team in the Northern final

while they reached the league semi-final.

Success did come their way in the Feile where they recorded wins over O'Loughlins, St. Rynaghs and St. Martins in a very exciting final.

The u-21s produced a top class performance in beating Blacks and Whites to reach the final of the Roinn C championship, which has yet to be played.

The u-16s put up a brave battle before los-

ing to eventual champions Galmoy in the Northern final.

Schools

Pride of place must go to Paulstown Goresbridge who won the Roinn C Championship, to record their fourth consecutive county final victory, a great achievement for a small parish. Billy Murphy and Aidan Brennan were members of all four teams.

The great work being done on the schols continues to bring its reward. Congratulations and thanks to the helpful and enthusiastic teachers.

The Paulstown NS camogie team brought a first title to the parish too, with a good win over Danesfort in the county final. We also participated in the Camaint competition for the first time.

Camogie

A new camogie club was set up during the year containing over 40 members. A number of coaching sessions were held with Georgie Leahy, as well as challenge games and we look forward to competing in the championship in 2000.

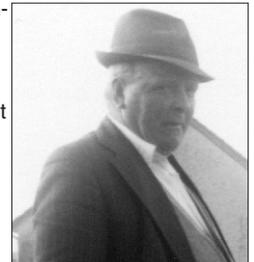
In Black and Amber

Diarmuid Maher was a member of the Kilkenny senior panel and both Diarmuid and Ed Drea played on the Intermediate team. Darren O'Neill was a member of the Tony Forristal panel.

The March of Time

The familiar sight of Mick Nolan on the sideline or in the village waiting for a lift to a match is no more since he was called to his reward recently. Mick was at every game irrespective of grade or importance. To his wife Mary Ellen, daughters Patricia, Alice

and Geraldine we extend our sympathies. We would also like to remember players, supporters and friends who suffered bereavements during the year.



Mick Nolan RIP

CLUB CALL



Blacks & Whites

History

Blacks & Whites made club history again this year with the winning of the u-16 Roinn B County Championship in November when they beat Piltown in the final. This year also was the first year for Blacks & Whites at Intermediate level and in the championship they lost by one point, but had a good win over Piltown to secure Intermediate status for next year.

In Intermediate football we won our group to qualify for the league final where we lost to Mullinavat by one point. This also qualified them for the semi-final of the championship which has not yet been played.

This year again we contested the St. Judes' All Ireland Sevens and reached the semi-final but were narrowly beaten. The competition was a great experience for the players.

Juveniles Did Well

The u-14 hurlers won their section in Leinster Feile and won the Naomh Bríd Tournament in Leighlinbridge. They had a good run in the League and Championship and got to the semi-final stages. In football they reached the Northern final. We also had a team in the Camaint Competition this year and defeated Thomastown, Gowran and Bennettsbridge.

Club Development

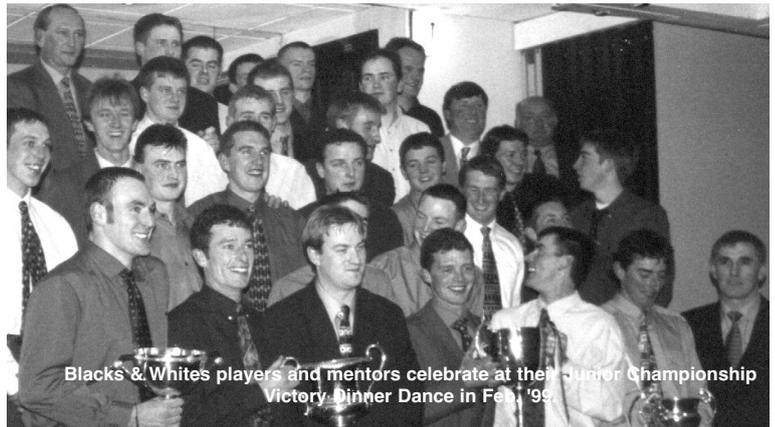
Improvements to club grounds this year included a scoreboard, and the clubhouse was painted and decorated. Seating was also provided on the pitch sideline.

County Players in 1999

U-16 Hurling - Peter Cleere.

U-14 Football - Jason Carroll.

John Byrne and Sean Kealy won Leinster medals with the Kilkenny Intermediate team and Michael O'Dowd was a selector with the same team.



Blacks & Whites players and mentors celebrate at their Junior Championship Victory Dinner Dance in Feb. '99.



Blacks & Whites Camaint 1999

Back: C. O'Grady, J. Lennon, P. Murphy (capt.), J. Savage, F. Ryan, R. Kirwan, D. O'Dowd, D. Joyce, E. Ryan, J. Foley, M. Moloney.

Middle: A. Kelly, C. Cleere, M. Whelan, AM. Lennon, M. Savage, R. Barcoe, M. Barcoe.

Front: K. Doherty, J. Lennon, J. Kennedy, A. O'Dowd.

CLUB CALL



CARRIGEEN

A Busy Year

The club had a very busy year beginning with the annual Raffle which again proved to be a great success. Thanks to all who supported us in our 25th year.

Our annual social was held in the Royal Oak, Rathkieran and again turned out to be a great success.

Hurling Matters

Training commenced in March under Michael Brophy. Michael has done much good work with the current squad and we can look forward to a bright future thanks to their efforts.

After a long, tough year we finally bowed out of the championship at the semi-final stage of the Southern B competition, losing to Carrick shock after a tremendous game.

Talent Competition

The off field highlight was the second Carrigeen GAA Club Talent Competition. This event run primarily as a fund raiser has turned out to be a major success.

Congratulations to the winner, Tipperary girl, Linda Treacy and over 50s winner John Stuart, Piltown.

Thanks to sponsors WF Installations, Ardera, Mooncoin and to Helen and Mark,



Linda Treacy (centre), winner of our talent competition receiving her prizes from Richie Quinn, Chairman, Helen Doyle, Marie Foran and MC, Pilot Conway.



Carrigeen Special Junior Hurlers 1999

Back: Gerry Moran, Seamus Jacob, Richard Roche, Geoffrey Dobbyn, Jim Quinn, Neville Synnott, Brian Murphy, James Power, John Fripps, Wally Morahan, Shane Walsh, Jimmy Carroll.

Front: Pat Dunphy, Tom Walsh, Mark Quinn, Wesley Synnott, Michael Murphy, Ivan Tobin, John Hearne, Paddy Moran, Eddie Moran.

Royal Oak, Waterford Crystal for their exquisite crystal trophy, Jody and Michael Murphy and many other sponsors.

Special thanks must go to Pat Kearns, an outstanding organiser, to MC, Pilot Conway, judges, Michael Loneran, John O'Shea WLR, Paddy Madigan Waterford, Dick Quinn, Radio Kilkenny, Munster Express, News and Star and all our other helpers.

Finally we thank our local community for their excellent support in the 'Play for the Park' Lotto. Thanks too to our Board delegates, referees and umpires and all who helped our club.

A happy and prosperous Millennium to you all.

CLUB CALL



Carrickshock

It was a very succesful year on the playing fields as the club contested seven county finals and our players performed with much success at intercounty level.

Adult Hurling

Definitely the highlight of the year was the winning of the clubs fourth junior hurling title and first since 1979. Having failed to qualify in the league, the players made a tremendous effort in the championship which culminated in a great win over Emeralds by one point. Congratulations to trainer Domo Connolly and his selectors.

The Special Juniors lost some key players early in the campaign but with half of the minor team on board they managed to qualify for the Southern final where they lost to John Lockes.

Underage Competition

Without doubt the defeat of our minor team in the Roinn B county final was the biggest disappointment of the year. For the second year running they were beaten by a late goal scored in injury time. They were brilliant against Danesfort/Bennettsbridge and didn't deserve to lose. They reached the semi-finals of the league.

The u-16s qualified for the Roinn A finals in league and championship but lost both to an exceptionally strong

Tullaroan side. Nevertheless, they are a fine side and their day will come. They have qualified for the football final.

The u-14s were beaten by James Stephens in the Roinn A hurling final and they also lost the football final to Dicksboro. They reached the semi-final of Feile na Gael.

Schools

The schools had a quiet year due mainly to lack of numbers but this was to be expected after a very successful run for the past eight years. Congratulations to Richie Power (trainer), Pat Tennyson and Jamie Power on their great success in the u-21 All Ireland final and to Pat Farrell for winning a Leinster Intermediate medal.

Another highlight was the presentation to the 1951 Carrickshock team which won the clubs last senior title. Twelve surviving members were feted at a banquet in Springhill Hotel and were later introduced to the crowd at the county senior final.

Congratulations

Well done to all who wore the Black and Amber during the year: Intermediate - Pat Farrell, u-21 - Jamie Power and Pat Tennyson,

U6 - Michael Rice, Brendan Hoyne,

U14 - John Tennyson, Richard Power, Masters - Richie Power.

Sympathies

The club extends symapthy to all who suffered bereavement in the parish in the past year, especially the following former club activists.

James Sheehan, Stonecarthy, offered a playing field to the hurling club and later camogie club before our own grounds were purchased and developed. He played with Knocktopher and his sons played in recent years with Carrickshock.

Ned Power won a Junior championship with Hugginstown in 1941 and later played senior hurling with St. Brendans. He won a junior All Ireland with Kilkenny in 1946.

Dixie Long, Stoneyford was treasurer and a committee member in the early years of the present colub. His sons played withe the club and Paschal refereed the 1984 Centenary All Ireland final. Leo Raggett was a committee member with the St. Brendans club for many years.

Thanks

Finally we wish to thank all those who sponsored the club during the year and all those who continue to support the parish / GAA lotto.



The Veterans of '51 - Carrickshock 1951 County SH Champions, guests of County Board at 1999 SH Final
Peter McBride, Tom Fleming, Tom Walsh, Jimmy Heffernan, Jimmy Murphy, Luke Donnelly, John Cassin, Tom Ryan, Paddy Fleming,
Dick O'Neill, Geoff Nolan. Photo Tom O'Neill

CLUB CALL



Clara

Juvenile Report

Clara-Muckalee u-9s won their fifth consecutive community games u-9 football final defeating Urlingford and Inistioge. Clara's nine representatives were: Brian O'Shea, Stephen Quinlan, Thomas Armitage, Christopher Cody, Kevin Nolan, Tom Ryan, Declan Rafter, Nicky Langton, David Hope.

Jim Comerford Tournament

Clara retained this fine tournament title when defeating St. Martins in the final. The Jim Comerford Trophy and medals were presented to captain Thomas Armitage by Mrs. Ann Comerford, wife of the late Jim Comerford.

Most of this panel also participated in the Camaint competition and enjoyed the excitement of Nowlan Park on finals day.

U12

Clara participated in the Dicksboro u-12 tournament defeating Graig-Ballycallan, Tullaroan and O'Loughlins, but unfortunately the latter gained revenge in the semi-final when Clara lost narrowly. Panel: David Langton, Elaine Nolan, Michael McDonald, Sean O'Shea, Tom Langton, Lester Ryan, Eoin O'Shea, Neal Prendergast, Jody Creane, Keith Hogan, Laoiseagh Quigley, James Nolan, Liam Ryan, Martin Meany, John Prendergast, Daniel Hope, Conor Phelan, Brian O'Shea, Declan Rafter, Tom Armitage, Stephen Quinlan, Kevin Nolan, Tom Ryan, Niall Costigan.

U14

Clara moved up to Roinn B this year and reached the semi-finals of Feile defeating John Lockes, Piltown, O'Loughlins and Mooncoin. However James Stephens proved too strong and despite a great performance Clara lost narrowly.

Unfortunately, Piltown whom we had beaten in the Feile reversed the result in the championship semi-final and defeated us by 1-9 to 1-6. Well done to this panel who had a

great hurling year: Shane Prendergast, Sean Murphy, John Murphy, Neal Prendergast, Eon O'Shea, Liam Ryan, Niall Costigan, David Prendergast, Ciaran Kirwan, Michael Bergin, Austin Murphy, James Nolan, Michael McDonald, Mark Drennan, Lester Ryan, Denis Tobin, Fintan Brennan.

U16

In the u-16 league Clara topped their division with three good wins. The quarter-final was against Blacks and Whites and Clara were just pipped on the line by the eventual champions in a tremendous high scoring tussle.

Close neighbours St. Martins accounted for us in the second round of the championship. Panel: John Brennan, Derek Knox, John Phelan, Denis Tobin, Liam Ryan, David Prendergast, Mark Drennan, Dermot Nolan, Kieran Tobin, Michael Bergin, Jack O'Keeffe, Ger Prendergast, Austin Murphy, John Murphy, Patrick Foley, Conor Phelan and Shane Prendergast.

Minor

Clara played in Div. 3 and won all their pool matches. We had a hard earned win over Carrickshock in the semi-final and recorded our second consecutive minor league title with a great win over St. Martins in the final.

We had high hopes for the championship and defeated Erins Own and Conahy Shamrocks in the early rounds. However we were weakened by injuries by the time we met Danesfort-Bennettsbridge in the Northern Final and in the end had to succumb to a fine opposition who became worthy county champions.

Panel: Michael Barcoe, Dermot Nolan, John Brennan, Fintan Treacy, Tommy Dowling, Declan Meany, Tom Brennan, David Prendergast, Fergus Knox, Ger Prendergast, Peter Roche, Martin Prendergast, Mark Shortall, Jack O'Keeffe, Gerry Byrne, Derek Knox, Kieran Tobin, John Phelan, Conor Phelan, John Murphy, Austin Murphy, Patrick Foley, John Brennan, John Nolan, John Freyne.



Clara u-10 Winners of the Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament

Back: John Prendergast, Brian O'Shea, James Nolan, Philip Ryan, Liam Ryan, Declan Rafter, Nicky Creane, Tom Langton, Nicky Langton.

Middle: Conor Prendergast, James Dowling, Brian Prendergast, Thomas Byrne, Stephen Quinlan, David Langton, Christopher Cody, David Hope.

Front: Patrick Galvin, Conor Phelan, Thomas Armitage (Capt.) Kevin Nolan, Matthew Byrne, Tom Ryan, Gary Armitage.

CLUB CALL



Cloneen / Railyard

Third Stage

The fabulous new playing pitch saw action for the first time in April when St. Patricks, Ballyragget provided the opposition in the ACHL.

During the summer, Cloneen played host to Raheny and Bray for the Feile Laighin and all expressed pleasure at their reception.

Railyard Football club, also played a few games on the new ground.

New Developments

The development committee have announced that construction will be under way in the spring.

Problems with securing the river running alongside the pitch had to be addressed at a cost of over £30,000. The river was enclosed in two 4ft diameter ducts, 150 metres long. These were covered with soil and provided an additional fifteen feet of valuable surface.

Money, Money...

An application for lottery funds produced a negative response which meant the club's development budget had to be revised thus causing a six month delay on the project.

The estimated cost is £180,000, most of which is being raised locally, where support for the project has been excellent.

The new building which will be built around a steel frame will include two large dressing rooms, a referees room, a large functions room and kitchen, showers, toilets, a 60x20 handball alley and 2,000 sq. ft of room space in the attic. The building will also have external toilets and will be fully accessible to wheelchairs.

A Young Club

Cloneen was founded in 1984, in a Parish with very little hurling tradition, they have made great strides and have a very good under age structure.

The arrival of Fr. Denis Purcell has had a very positive impact as he has involved himself deeply with the juveniles and is the club Schools Liaison Officer.

Another young product of the

club's underage system, Thomas Coogan was a member of the Kilkenny u-21 All Ireland squad.

Parish Plan

Clogh and Moneenroe are now almost unrecognisable from their depressed state in the 60s. This is due in part to a 5 year plan, launched in 1995 and having spent £3.8 million on social improvements. A new 5 year plan was announced recently and Cloneen's club development has its place in the ongoing Parish Policy.

Club Officers

The people at the helm are President (Life): Tom Brennan (Roe), President: Fr. Denis Purcell C.C. Vice president: Fr. Jerry Joyce P.P. Chairman: Donal Brennan, Vice Chair: John Cahill, Secretary & County Board Rep.: Charlie Mc Carthy, Treasurer: Tim Wilson, Assistant Treas: Pat Lawlor, Registrar: Tommy Reilly.

Committee: Larry Lyng, Pauric Purcell, Larry Brennan, Martin Joe Meally, Tom Brennan (Cloney), Tim Wilson, Sean Purcell, Bill Walsh, Bill Coogan, Henry O'Neill, Shane Coogan, John Coogan, Sheamus Hennessy.

Railyard Football Club

Club Developments

The Railyard football club has a strong line of football starting schools level. The club is financed mainly by a weekly lotto and we participate annually in the Hurlers Co-op Draw. The Development Committee is considering measures to improve the grounds at present either by verti-draining or draining and level-long.

On the Field

This years u-13s were undefeated in fifteen matches right to their county final win over Clara. The u-14s reached the final only to lose to Muckalee. They won the Kelly Cup. The u-16s have been together for six years now since representing kilkenny in the Community Games at u-10 and played some excellent football to reach the county final against Thomastown.

The minors reached the Northern final but lost to Bennettsbridge. The u-21s play Mullinavat in the county final. Our Juniors and Seniors are at county semi-final stage where they play Erins Own and Glenmore.



Railyard - U13 County Champions 1999

Back: B. Holohan, P. Dowd (trainer), B. Brennan, M. Fitzgerald, DMcGuire, T. Brennan, G. Dowd, P. Brennan, M. Mooney, MI. Delaney (trainer), A. Brennan, A. Whelan, K. Philips, D. O'Neill, D. Brennan, Ned Lawlor (trainer), K. Roche.

Front: M. Delaney, P. Dowd, J. Dowd, P. Morrissey, J. Morrissey, S. Allen (capt.), C. Roche, D. Shea, PJ McGuire, P. Fitzpatrick, M. Dowd, N. Roche, S. Mahon.

CLUB CALL



Conahy Shamrocks

Much Sadness

The past year was a memorable one for Conahy Shamrocks underage teams but regrettably it will mainly be remembered for the sad passing of many people in the parish who had a close association with the club. The all-conquering u-14 side endured a tough year.

Pat Healy and Pat O'Shea were first cousins and neighbours. Both died suddenly and within weeks of each other, thus shattering two outstandingly committed GAA families.

Christine Muldowney bore her illness with great dignity, yet her death was so sad for her dedicated family.

Although John Jackman had no direct connection with any club team his influence throughout the area was legendary. When the Conahy club staged a fund raising mayoral election some years ago John played an active role and proudly wore the mayoral robe on many occasions. The death of these four people cast a huge shadow over the club during the year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nana-macha.

Back to Junior

After sampling the heights of both the Senior and Intermediate grade, it was back to Junior ranks for Conahy in 1999. Performances were indifferent in the all-county league with the team scraping through to the knock-out stages. A dreadful display against the Emeralds put paid to the team's chance of further progress.

The Emeralds also provided the opposition in the championship. Getting past the first round has been a big problem for the club in recent years and the trend continued this year. However, the team played very well in the game against Emeralds and could well have snatched at least a draw on the night. The team's efforts were laudable and it was no surprise

that the Emeralds made it through to the county final.

Bad Luck

The Intermediate footballers bowed out at the quarter-final stages following a replay against O'Loughlin Gaels. Canice Brennan missed the game due to a shoulder injury and his absence was the difference between victory and defeat.

Special Junior

The Special Junior hurlers had a modest league campaign but were emphatically defeated by Three-castles in the championship after earlier accounting for a fancied St. Martins side. Erins Own had three points to spare over Conahy in the u-21 hurling championship.

Minor Hurling

The Minor hurlers operated in Roinn B this year and had some good outings in the league but failed to reach the concluding stages. However, in a special competition for teams not involved in the latter stages Conahy scored a good win over Slieverue after a replay. The side scored a late goal to clinch a first round victory over St. Lachtains and made a highly fancied Clara side work hard in the second round before eventually losing narrowly. The u-16 hurlers consisted of a very young side and found the going difficult losing in both the league and championship.

Heroic u-14s

Pride of place goes to the u-14 hurlers and footballers who won all before them during the year. Hard work and dedication paid off and the side won most of their games in utterly convincing fashion. The team had a couple of fine contests with Barrow Rangers while the Rower Inistioge found Conahy too

hot to handle in both the league

and championship finals plus the football final. At the time of writing the side have to play the final of a new league involving teams from Kilkenny and Carlow. The club hosted Fergal Óg hurling team from Bray in the Leinster Feile na nGael competition. Conahy were impressive winners of their group against a Dublin team.

Schools Games

The Conahy School's team competed in the Roinn C/D league and put in a number of scintillating performances to reach the Roinn C final. The semi-final against Clara was the highlight of the year when a huge display from the Conahy defence saved the day.

The County Final against Paulstown/Goresbridge was a major disappointment with the side losing by a very narrow margin. An injury to Gavin Nolan, which curtailed his game plus the absence of two key forwards, was ultimately to prove too big a handicap for Conahy.

The football side operated in Roinn B but despite losing all three games the team played brilliantly and could easily have qualified for the semi-finals with a little luck.

Conahy again competed in the Jim Comerford u-10 tournament against Clara, Erins Own and St. Martins with Clara emerging the winners once again. The Camaint side had an enjoyable year and played excellently in the finals in Nowlan Park.

County Players

Conahy players enjoyed mixed luck with Kilkenny during the year. Canice Brennan (Senior Hurling), Paul Buggy (u-21 Hurling) and Eoin Murphy (Intermediate Hurling) represented the club with distinction, while Toddy Lacey was a selector with the Kilkenny Intermediate side.



Officers 1999

Presidents: Mons J. Carey,
Mons. M. Campion, Jimmy Byrne,
Paddy Nolan.

Chairman: Dick Mahony
Vice-Chair: John Joe Kenny
Secretary: Finbar Kelly
Asst. Sec.: Pat Hayes
Treasurer: Tommy Murphy
Asst. Treas: Maurice Woodcock
PRO: John Joe Kenny
North Board: Tom Mahony
Co. Board: Pat O'Neill

Jimmy Cahill RIP

The loss of groundsman Jimmy Cahill who died in December 1998 was sorely felt by all members. Jimmy was a dedicated clubman who made sure all was in good condition for all training sessions and his cheerful disposition added enjoyment for all.

Junior Hurling

Selectors: Dick Mahony, Finbar Kelly, Sean Kiely, Timmy Murphy.

The Junior hurlers had once again to face a very strong Emeralds side in the first round of the championship and though we put up a great performance, the Northern side proved too strong. Pride of place goes to the Special Juniors who won the Special Junior League Div. 2 after two exciting games against Graigue-Ballycallan. Selectors Con Barry, Pat Hayes and Pat Forristal worked very well with this group.

Minors Major Success

The amalgamation of the minors with Bennettsbridge proved a huge success this season winning the Roinn B county championship. Trainer Ger

Woodcock got great co-operation from both clubs.

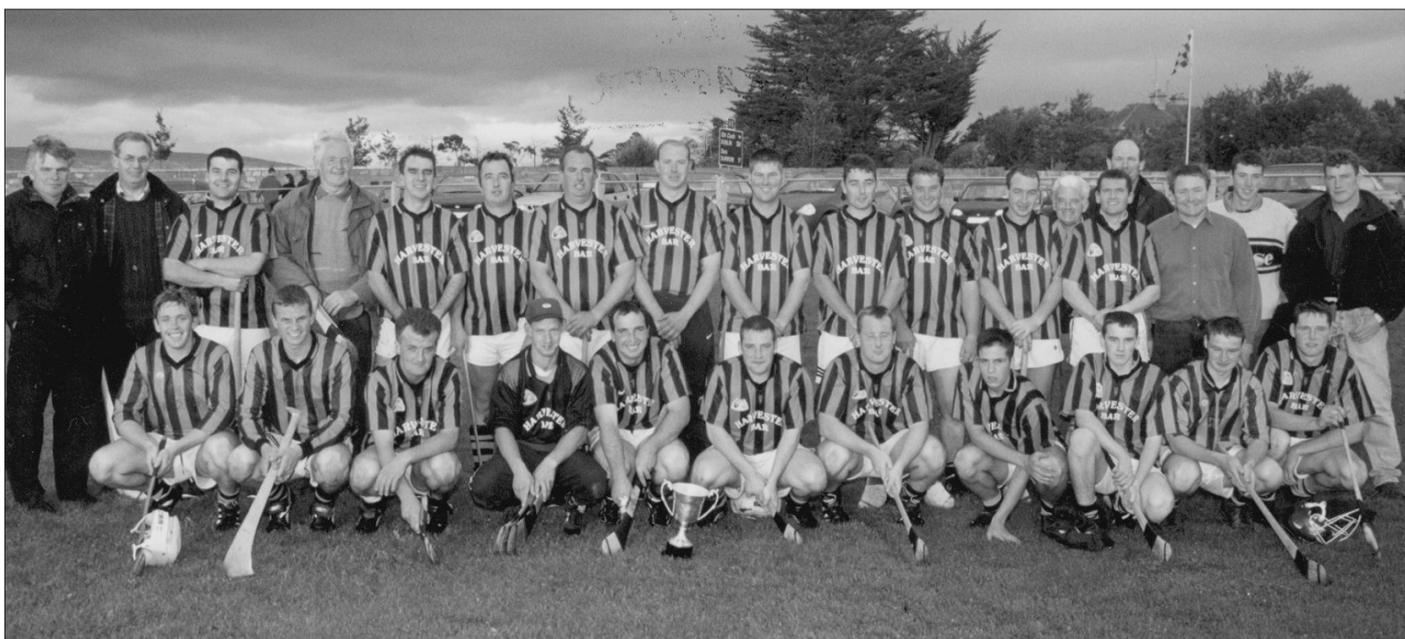
Congratulations

Well done to Jim McGrath and his Field Committee who had our facilities in superb condition for some very important games during the season.

Congratulations to Tim Murphy who delivered a brilliant performance in the All Ireland minor semi-final for Kilkenny. He won a Leinster Colleges medal with St. Kieran's College but failed to capture All Ireland gold.

Our best wishes go to popular secretary Finbar Kelly who married Miriam Kennedy from Tullaroan.

Thanks to Mrs. Kiely who looks after all the jerseys and makes sure that all teams representing



Danesfort Special Junior B League Winners 1999

Back: S. Kiely, P. Forristal, T. Walsh, D. Mahony, S. Sinnott, F. Kelly, P. Knox, D. Dooley, D. Walsh, J. O'Neill, D. Walsh, E. Bardon, J. J. Kenny, P. Fennelly, C. Barry, P. Hayes, T. Woodcock, J. J. Drennan.

Front: P. Dillon, P. Forristal, P. Cahill, B. Donohue, J. Stapleton (Capt.), P. Kenny, V. Walsh, P. Murphy, J. Mullins, C. Walsh, L. Mahony.

CLUB CALL



Dicksboro

Enclosed Environs

The youngest members of Dicksboro Club took to the life indoors last winter, as the u-8's and u-9's headed to St. Patrick's on the Kells Road each Saturday evening, all last winter and last spring. They had plenty of coaching with the indoor sticks and sliotars and ran two successful mini-leagues at the fine indoor hall.

Thanks go to the staff of St. Patrick's for making the facility available to the club, and also to Tommy Bawle and his willing bunch of helpers who organised the chaos into meaningful hurling. Come Easter-time, this very large group headed back to the more natural surface of grass, but thoroughly enjoyed the indoor life too!!

More Youthful Activity.

A further step or two up in the club, the u-12's, were mighty active this past year also. They enjoyed an early success when they won the u-12 tournament run by John Lockes,

beating city neighbours, O'Loughlin Gaels in the final.

During the summer, the club then organised another u-12 league tournament for the Denis Molloy Cup, a very successful tournament with eight teams involved. At the final stages, the host club, O'Loughlin Gaels, Clara and St. Martin's came together for the semi-finals and final, with O'Loughlins gaining revenge for their earlier loss to the 'Boro by winning the inaugural Denis Molloy Cup by three points in a super final.

Well done to all involved with a special mention for Patsy Griffin and Liam Maher who put a huge effort in to make the whole league successful. Thanks also to the sponsors who provided for the league, Denis Molloy Sand and Gravel, Barry Pender Motors, Tom O'Donoghue Hurleys and Flower Power.

Developing Palmerstown

The club Development Committee is again to be commended for its ef-

forts in making Palmerstown the fine venue it is for hurling and football.

This year saw a widening of the club carpark with a new wall built, and the area allotted for parking cars more than doubled. Their efforts were rewarded with the first senior league game at the venue when Glenmore and Erin's Own played back in May. Well done to all who have contributed to making Palmerstown what it is today.

Thanks to Liam

After two years at the helm in the 'Boro, Liam Fennelly has called it a day as manager of the Club Senior team. Both years, Liam and his co-selectors, Martin Morrissey and Jimmy Grace brought silverware to the club in the shape of the Byrne Cup. All at Dicksboro wish to thank Liam for his work over the past two seasons and wish him well in the future.

Dicksboro u-12 hurling team 1999

Back: Robbie Tyrrell, Niall Morrissey, Liam Lenehan, Brian O'Shea, Dean Brennan, Shane Maher, Liam Ryan, Lorcan Brennan, Richard Ryan, David Broderick, Derek Deegan, Drew Phelan, Darren Leahy, Eoin McCormack, Joe Ryan, Adrian Stapleton.

Front: Darragh Tynan, Robert Murphy, David Ryan, Michael Rafter, Craig Cahill, Cillian Starr, Michael Tyrrell, Emmet Hughes, Danny Webster.

Missing from photo: Ronan Quinn.



Dicksboro u-13 Diarmuid Shortall Tournament winners

Back: Ger Brennan, Stephen Ramsbottom, Christy Purcell, Colm Hogan, Tim McSherry, Niall Morrissey.

Middle: Tim Shea, Michael Tyrrell, Patrick Griffin, Paddy Grace, Richard Byrne, David Broderick, Alan Maher.

Front: Chris Jennings, Joe McAuliffe, Brian Staunton, James Roberts, Eddie O'Donoghue (capt), Matthew Gannon, Paul Ryan, Brian O'Donoghue.



CLUB CALL



Dunnamaggin



Keeping it in the Family!

Canice, Anne, Tom and Noel Hickey admire the Leinster minor, U21 and senior trophies.

What's Another Year?

Dunnamaggin's bid for a return to the senior grade for the new millennium disappointingly ended at the hands of a spirited Mullinavat at the quarter-final stage. However on the county side and off the pitch 1999 was a reasonably satisfying year for the club.

Social Developments

The year kicked off with a very successful dinner dance in Eamonn Langtons with over two hundred people attending. Charlie Carter presented the spoils of 1998.

On the last weekend of January, a party of twenty-six people from the club enjoyed a sociable weekend away in the Blarney Park Hotel, Co. Cork. Those who travelled gallantly represented the club winning both drinking and singing competitions in and out of the bath! Thomas O Shea, Gerry Carroll and Andrew O'Neill tied for the 'entertainer of the weekend' award.

Club Developments

Further development work was completed at the clubgrounds in 1999. A railing was erected around the pitch, the carpark was tarmacaded, dugouts constructed and a scoreboard was erected. All will be ready in earnest for the official open-

ing in the May – June period 2000.

In August the club held a highly successful cabaret in aid of the Hennessy – Cleere Children Trust Fund in O'Dwyers of Dunnamaggin. Thanks to the people who supported the event and the mercurial auctioneering skills of Ned Kirwan on the night a sum of in excess of £1100 was raised. Go raibh maith agaibh go leir.

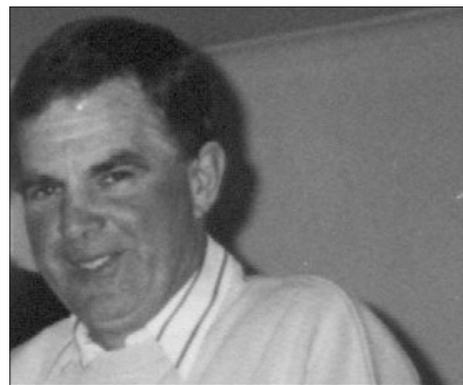
Three Leinster Trophies

In the space of two weeks during the summer three Leinster trophies came to the parish and indeed to the Hickey household of Danganmore. Canice who captained the Kilkenny minor team, Noel, who captained the U-21 team and Tom with the senior team were honoured at a small function in Dunnamaggin. As time was to tell only one of the brothers brought home All-Ireland glory.

Obituary

On the 3rd of February, one of the gentlemen of this world, John O Shea passed on to his eternal reward. Though not a hurler himself John had a keen interest in the GAA. Nothing gave him more pleasure than the rise of Dunnamaggin hurling in recent years, he never missed a game. In leaner times he was secre-

tary and treasurer of the club. In recent years his energies were directed towards the developments of the new hurling field. His gifts of communication and gentle persuasion were especially valuable when it came to fundraising for this venture. The many other gifts and the personal contacts that he had made near and



John O'Shea RIP

far were of enormous benefit to the development committee of which he was a member until his departure from this world. The huge crowds who flocked to his funeral bore ample testament to the huge contribution John made to this sporting and rural community. 'Ni bheidh a leitheid ann arís'.

CLUB CALL



Emeralds

Gallant Juniors

In 1999 Emeralds proved once again to be a force to be reckoned with. Our Junior team reached the All County Junior League semi-final going out to Graigue-Ballycallan. In the championship we had a good run, beating Danesfort in the first round. In the second round we beat a much fancied Conahy Shamrocks in our best team effort of the year. In the North semi-final we had a comfortable win over Lisdowney.

The Northern Final saw us pitched against local rivals Galmoy. We were ahead by seven points at half-time but were fortunate to draw after a determined onslaught by Galmoy in the second half. In the replay Emeralds produced some fine hurling to beat Galmoy convincingly.

County Final

A week later, on a wet and windy day our players, giving everything they had, failed by the narrowest of margins to beat Carrickshock and claim the title.

Although disappointed, this is a young team and we will learn from our efforts and start again in the New Year.

Other Adult Teams

We had a good run in the special juniors. Many of the players would have been without a game but for this grade and all were on the junior panel.

The u-21's had a good win over Tullaroan in the first round of the championship and lost to Fenians in the second.

Juvenile Hurling and Football

Our Minor footballers reached the Northern Final going out to James Stephens. The hurlers lost to O'Loughlin Gaels in the League semi-final. In the champi-

onship Emeralds beat Graigue-Ballycallan in the first round going out to our old rivals James Stephens in the second.

Our u-16's were deserving League Champions (Roinn B) in this year's league but went out tamely enough to the Blacks and Whites in the championship.

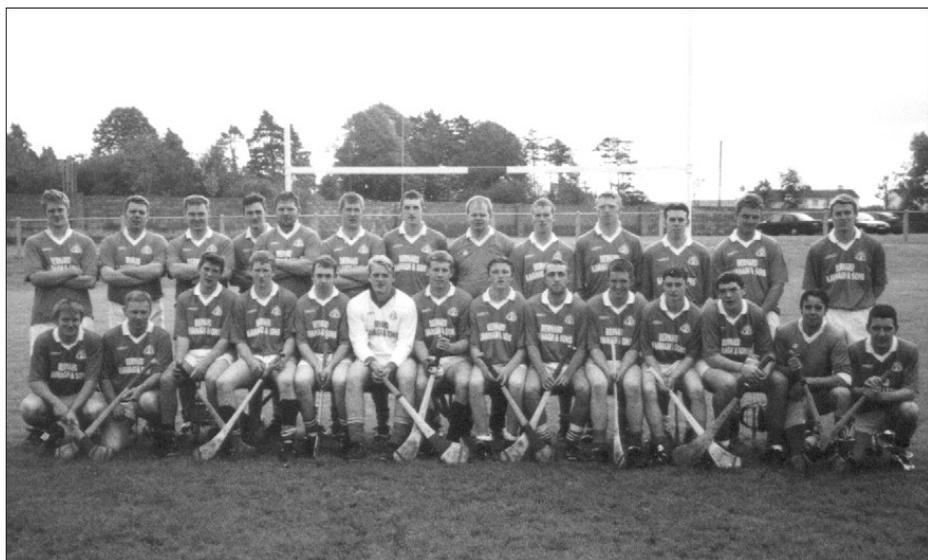
Under 14 Team

Our u-14 team had a hard year with no wins. The feeling within the club is that they are in the wrong grade and with a change, their fortunes might also change. Nicholas Walsh, Richie Breen and Eddie Holohan trained our up and coming young hurlers at u-11 level. They played well in Camáint, winning their section.

County Players

Congratulations to our players who made the following county teams:

Intermediate: Brendan Joyce, Derek Lyng, Austin Cleere.



Emeralds - County Junior Hurling Finalists 1999

Back: Cathal Hennessy, Niall Minogue, Austin Cleere, Michael Doyle, Kieran Rafter, Derek Lyng, David Moriarty, Ray Moriarty, Sean Tobin, Ken Hughes, Adrian Cleere, Niall Cahill.

Front: Brendan Cahill, Cyril Cleere, Emmet Kavanagh, Ger Joyce, Ian Tobin, Joe Ryan, Brendan Joyce (capt.), Aidan Fogarty, Thomas Manton, Tom Campion, Sean Minogue, Alan Guilfoyle, Shane Aherne, Stephen Roche.

Missing from photo: Kieran Joyce, Philip O'Dwyer, Jamie Kennedy.

CLUB CALL



Erin's Own

First Minor Football Victory

Gaelic Football continues to prosper in Castlecomer and this year we won our first ever Roinn A Minor football title, defeating the Village by 1-8 to 2-3. All football teams in the parish did very well and the u-13's, u-21's, Juniors and seniors are still in their respective championships, the u-13's having reached the final.

All hurling teams enjoyed a good year also with pride of place going to the u-21s who at time of going to press are in the Final.

Street Leagues

The overwhelming success under-age hurling this year was due to the re-introduction of the u-14 street league. Close to 100 boys and girls got regular matches in the months of September through to November. Chatsworth St. won the cup and Kilkenny st. won the shield. In 1999 the league has been revamped to a parish league with games being played on Sundays. The team captains are Dermot Wallace, Paddy Shortall, Damien Fogarty, and Peter O' Donovan.

Adult Hurling

The special juniors were knocked out in the second round of the championship by Freshford. The juniors played fifteen games but were cruelly beaten by a last minute goal in the first round of the championship by Barrow Rangers. The Senior team under the guidance of Donal Dunne, Tommy Brennan and Martin Fitzpatrick (trainer) had a great run qualifying for the quarter finals directly from the league. However, a goal by Shamrocks knocked the team out of the championship by a point and thus passed the forty second consecutive attempt to annex the first senior title for Erin's Own.

Denis Owens RIP

The passing away of Denis Owens, father of hurlers Michael, Martin and Anthony in May this year was a very sad occasion. Denis was himself an accomplished hurler in

the late forties and fifties and gave a lifetime of unwavering support to Erin's Own.

Johnny Smith RIP

The club also lost Johnny Smith early this year. Johnny was father of first aid man, Sean and was a terrific supporter of the club, rarely missing a game.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nanamacha.

Developments

The Club is currently undertaking a major development project at it's grounds in Ballycomey and will be

looking for all available support.

Best Wishes

Our best wishes go to club members Shay Kennedy, Martin Owens and Donal Dunne on their forthcoming trip down under to Australia. Best wishes also to Shay Bollard, Tony Boland, Noreen Boland, Patricia Owens and Mary Teehan who are also going.

They will be able to keep in touch with the club, as all exiles are by logging on to the Club Internet site which can be viewed at <http://www.iol.ie/~mfogarty>



Erins Own Camaint 1999

Trainers: David Dunne, Fergal O' Neill, Richard Mullins

Back: John O'Gorman, David Boland, Wayne Kavanagh, Jimmy Byrne, Michael Murphy, Michael Moran, Liam Bergin, Donal Fenlon, Liam Carroll, Paul Healy.

Centre: Liam O'Gorman, Aidan Moran, Eric Kavanagh, Anthony Kavanagh, Raymond Dowd, Peadar Boran, Pierce Dargan, Mark O'Neill, Joseph Murphy, Michael Mansfield,

Front: John Brennan, Cathal Murphy, Conor Fogarty, James Mullins, Brian Dillon, Gerry Callinan, Eddie Dwyer.



John Kelly presents the Street League Shield to **Dermot Wallace** captain of Kilkenny St.



Eugene Murphy present the Street League Cup to **Damien Fogarty** captain of Chatsworth St. team.

CLUB CALL



Fenians

Officers

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| President: | Paschal Tynan |
| Chairman: | Michael Ryan |
| Vice-Chair: | Larry Nolan |
| Secretary: | John Maher |
| Asst. Sec.: | Dan Costigan |
| Treasurer: | Paschal Tynan |
| Asst. Treas: | Brían Ryan |
| PRO: | Billy Fitzpatrick |
| Co. Board.: | Pat Henderson |
| North Board: | Neill Tynan |
| Bórd na nÓg: | William Costigan |
| Groundsman: | Oliver Beehan |

Official Opening

16th May 1999 was a proud day for all Fenians when the Official Opening of the "Sportsfield" took place, with a match between two of the teams of the nineties, Kilkenny and Clare. This event took place following months of strategic planning, with the entire community rowing in to help.

To coincide with this "Official Opening" a committee compiled a history of all GAA activities in the parish. An excellent booklet was produced under the guidance of Fr. Fearghus Farrell, entitled "Fenian Lore – The story of the GAA in the parish of Johnstown". A few copies are still available from committee members.

The Fenians have over the years, given many fine displays on the hurling field, but the way this event was organised will rank as one of the most memorable occasions.

Community spirit took the place of team spirit and the entire parish deserves great credit for the way the event was organised.

On the Field

The league campaign resulted in only one worthwhile result, a draw against Castlecomer, but in every other match the margin of defeat was kept to the bare minimum. A competitiveness that stood the team in good stead culminated in a fine display to overcome old rivals James Stephens by 2-13 to 1-17 in a fiercely competitive contest.

The entire parish was then preparing for and looking forward to a clash against Graigue/Ballycallan, who defeated the Fenians in the previous

year's championship final. Unfortunately events outside of the playing field had everybody concentrating on more pressing matters and Graigue/Ballycallan deservedly took the spoils.

The Juniors

In the "derby" match against Galmoy in the championship, the team put in a tremendous effort but the Galmoy men rallied and come out on top. The Junior team also assisted greatly in the preparation and "blooding" of a few of the players who will feature strongly on the senior team next season.

The U21's

At the time of going to print, they gave us the finest display of the year when defeating Emeralds in the Northern semi-final, comprehensive winners by 0-13 to 0-5.

Minors & U16

In the minor championship Danesfort/ Bennettsbridge beat us, but only after a far better display from the Fenian players than was produced in the league. The u-16's lost to Galmoy in the championship.

County Players 1999

Senior: PJ Delaney, Stephen Gre-

han, PJ Ryan.

U-21: Kevin Power, Padraig Delaney.

Minor: JJ Delaney, Ger Henderson.

u-16: PJ Delaney.

Juvenile Affairs

The u-14 Fenian/Galmoy team had league/championship wins over Emeralds and St. Lachtains. The mini-feile saw some great displays and after some good wins lost the final to Kilmacud/Crokes.

The Schools team reached the semi-finals for the first time in years. All involved with the u-11s were proud of their first victory in Nowlan Park over Shamrocks. Well done to all juveniles in the club and many thanks to all who helped in any way.

Bereavements

The club wishes to extend its sympathy to members of the Delaney family on the death of Jody Delaney, a man strongly involved in aspects of the GAA throughout his very active life. Ellen Purcell, mother of Billy, passed away during the year, as did Patrick Ryan, Grangefertagh, father of Joe, John and PJ, all great contributors to the Fenians club. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Fenians Camaint 1999

Back: Damien Delaney, Stephen Delaney, Joe O'Grady, Kieran Grehan, Kevin Reid, Timmy Purcell, Stephen Maher, Eoin Sheil, Darragh Tobin, Séan Warren.

Middle: Eoin Phelan, Diarmuid Broderick, Edward Hughes, Aishling Maher, John Henderson.

Front: Maria Hughes, Daniel Dermody, Breffnie Vaser, Conor Tobin, John Whyte, Séan O'Gorman, Niamh Tobin.

The Will to Win - A Profile of Peter Barry

Tommy Lanigan

"My thinking is instinctively like a forward, not really as a back. When looking at games I always want to see the forward gain advantage, particularly from the referee."

Peter Barry believes it makes hurling a much better spectacle. Nothing surprising there. But when prompted to talk about the style of hurling he likes best, he says he would "like to see more first time hurling, especially more doubling in the air like in the old days. I loved the shinty for that (he represented Ireland in Shinty against Scotland last year). It is a marvellous game and spectacle...I'd like to have been a shinty player if..."

What's this?? Coming from a man who has built a formidable reputation as a high fielder, whose damaged fingers bear ample witness to the hazards involved in reaching for a ball in a forest of hurleys?? A man whose hurling style seems to lean towards fetching and carrying?

Speed and Spectacle

But reflecting on our chat of the previous two hours it makes sense. For Peter Barry, the greatness of hurling as a game lies in its speed and spectacle. He had earlier mentioned comparing Croke Park experiences with Sean Cullinane the Waterford full back. Both of them dwelt at length on the irony of risk. In the cauldron of Croke Park, where the risk is greatest and the margin for error least, "the adrenalin makes you take more chances there than anywhere else. I wouldn't dream of taking similar chances in many other games. It's the speed, you see, and if you want to win you must take chances."

The Risk-takers

Part of this willingness to take risks is bound up in trust in ones comrades. When Peter states that one of the greatest things about playing in the Black & Amber is that there are so many outstanding players who are there to support you, he notes that risk taking becomes a less daunting prospect.

Indeed much of his conversation refers to the skills of his county colleagues and a certain deprecation of his own attributes as a hurler. Above all he speaks of himself as a team player

and like good team players tends to be self effacing, regarding himself as a hewer of wood and drawer of water.

Team Player

The team player concept extends far beyond the field of play in his world. He comes from a family of six children, Marie, Suzanne, Sandra, Alan and Colin. One of his biggest grins was captured in Carlow when photographed between his brothers and clutching the Leinster u-21 trophy as captain in 1995. Mother Ann, like so many mothers, spent much of her time hauling them by the carload from match to match, washing soggy gear, administering comfort in defeat and savouring the moments of victory.

Peter admires the pervasive family atmosphere which is the cornerstone of the GAA, ones own fanatical family, the families who make up the core of the clubs, the family atmosphere of big games and of course, the great hurling families.

His first hurling was played in his native Kilmoganny and with Dunnamaggin school team. Role models were the goalscorers, Liam Fennelly and Christy Heffernan. Like all youngsters growing up in town, he played many sports and was a more than useful youths soccer player and schools gaelic footballer. But hurling dominated his thoughts, filled with ambition to play for Kilkenny but never believing his day might come.



Schooldays

St. Kierans College was a major influence. He was a first year when Pat O'Neill, DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, Canice Brennan and Adrian Ronan were powering the schools junior and senior teams. "It was drilled into you to win....as if you were bred to be unbeatable when wearing the Kieran's jersey." His haul of Colleges championships is impressive, one All Ireland senior Colleges title, two Leinster titles, two junior and two juvenile hurling championships. He played a Leinster football final too. His All Ireland final defeat came at the hands of St. Flannan's Ennis, led by Stephen McNamara and Fergal Hegarty

and featuring a young O. Baker as last sub. His winners medal in 1992, playing at corner forward, was won at the expense of St. Colman's, Fermoy whose star centre back was Fergal McCormack.

A similar hatful of county medals with a James Stephens side which included Philip Larkin and Brian McEvoy, two u-16 hurling and football, two minor in both codes and two u-21 in the space of four years. A Kilkenny minor panellist in 1992 but he never featured in any game. He was not surprised because he believed he was not good enough and felt fortunate to be on the panel.

Skill Development

He claims that he didn't work hard enough on his skills in his teenage years. But he has made up for it since that time. In this regard he has great praise for Brendan O'Sullivan, former county u-21 coach, whose excellent skill based training sessions were ideally suited for the twenty year old's requirements. His u-21 county breakthrough came in 1994 when he played at centre forward on the All Ireland winning side. Interestingly he was one of the players not mentioned as a potential county senior hurler in the 1994 Kilkenny GAA Yearbook. But those who knew him knew differently.

Breakthrough

By then he had established himself with the James Stephens senior team, almost all of whom had come through the juvenile ranks at the same time. The two wonderfully entertaining county finals of 1996 against Young Irelands ended ultimately in a shattering losing experience but they catapulted several players, Peter among them, onto the county stage.

His first inter county game had taken place earlier against Waterford in Walsh Park. He scored three points from wing forward in a thrilling seven minute spell, played the next game against Galway but did not receive an invitation to train after Christmas.

But his self belief as a hurler was growing, nurtured by then James Stephens senior coach, Brian Cody. Helped by the good run of James Stephens seniors, he played a whole series of Walsh Cup and league games through the Winter of '96 and made his championship debut on 22 June '97 against Dublin in Croke Park. The date and occasion are burned into his mind. The game was stopped due to the late arrival of a huge crowd and thousands had to be allowed onto the sidelines before accommodating them later in the Hogan Stand.

Another incident that day. During the second half he looked up and saw Nickey Brennan bawling and gesturing in his direction. "Oh well" thinks Peter, "I'm off. I suppose I wasn't going that well." "Get back on the field and go to centre forward," roared Nickey when Peter neared the sideline. He had, in fact, been signalling to his brother Canice who had been standing



Peter Barry - always a Team Player

behind Peter. "I got a new lease of life after that scare and finished the game quite well, though I got plenty of slugging afterwards."

Worst Moments

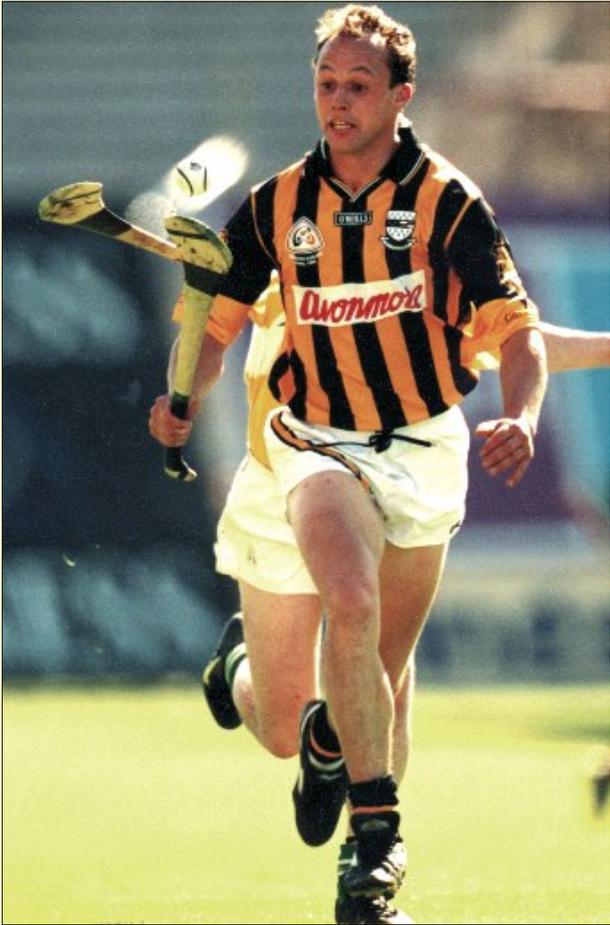
His career since then has been well documented. Midfield in '98, a broken toe against Laois, a Leinster medal and finally heartache against Offaly. The switch to wing back this year, a succession of outstanding performances, a ruptured medial ligament which caused him to miss the Leinster final ending with more misery, this time against Cork. "I found myself standing in exactly the same place in Croke Park when the final whistle blew in both finals. I cannot describe the losing feeling, after so much passion, after so much hard work. You don't want to meet anyone and the worst feeling in the world is when you see the faces of the fans, especially at the homecoming. Even when you ask about it a few months later, the awful moments return."

Injuries have been frequent and sometimes serious. In addition to broken toe, knee ligament damage and several badly broken fingers, he needed plastic surgery to repair a depressed cheekbone fracture sustained in '97.

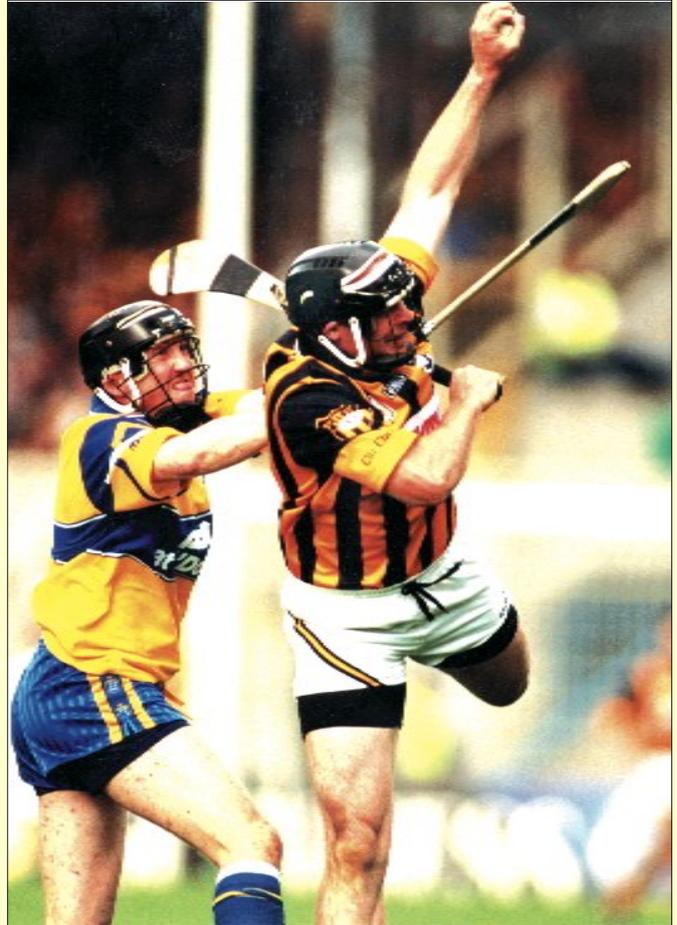
Career

Hurling has brought him much. He mentions so many friends he has made through contacts in the game, not only in Kilkenny but in most of the hurling counties from his days at WIT. There he did Business Studies, emerging with a BBS and a Fitzgibbon Cup medal. College life was a mixture of hurling and academia. Since then he has managed to complete his final accountancy examinations and juggle his work and hurling commitments. Accountancy was always his aim, an interest nurtured by former teacher Niall Connolly. Now he works as a management accountant at ABB Transformers, an arm of a huge international conglomerate who make electrical components, "everything from transformer to wire". There too, he is part of a team and enjoys the work and camaraderie.

He wouldn't have it any other way.



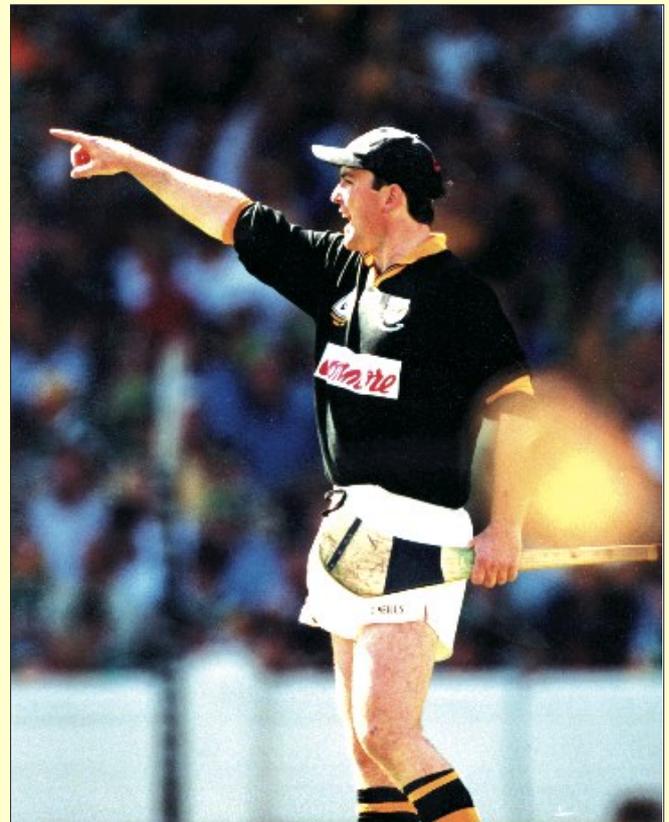
Andy Comerford in full flight



Pat O'Neill beats Clare's Conor Clancy to a high ball.



Eamon Kennedy strikes.



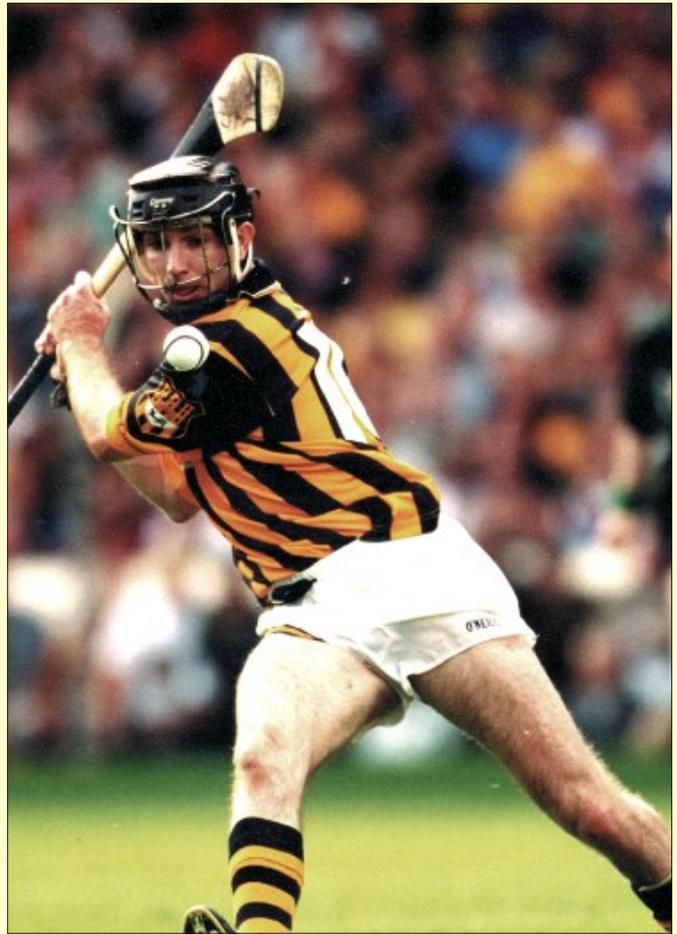
"Watch No 13!" James McGarry Shouts to his backs

KILKENNY STARS IN ACTION DURING 1999

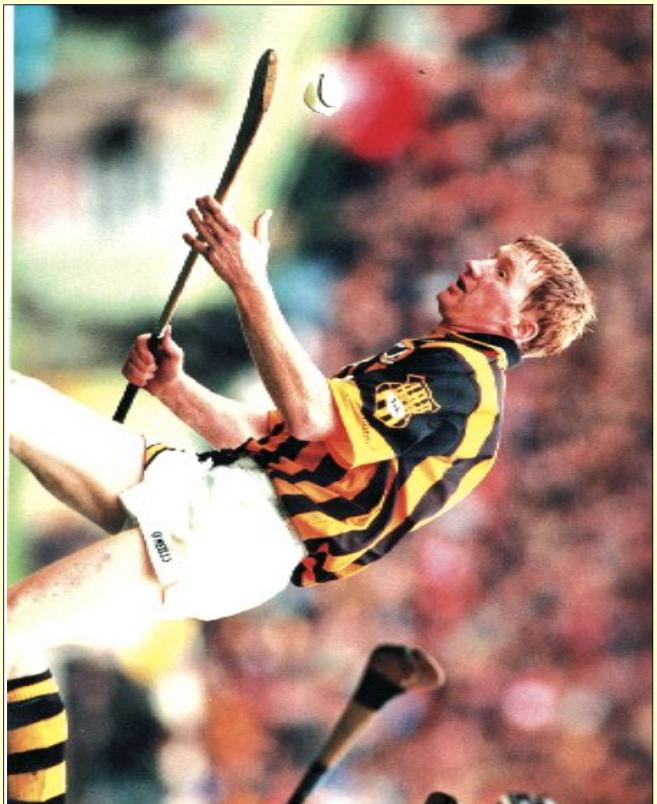
Photos Sportsfile



President McAleese stays cool and grabs the lid of the Leinster Cup as Denis Byrne holds it high. *Photo Tom O'Neill*



DJ concentrates on his shot *Photo Sportsfile*



Eyes on the ball - PJ Delaney and John Power show concentration on the sliotar. *Photos Sportsfile*

CONCENTRATION!

All Ireland Glory at Kildalton College

By Pat Moylan



KILDALTON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE – FARM RELIEF SERVICES - ALL IRELAND HURLING AGRIC. COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 1999.

Back : Pat Moylan (trainer), John Scully, John Flavin, James Robin, Tom Fitzgerald, Richard Nolan, T.J. Carroll, David Harrison, Padraig Curran, Richard Teehan, John Lynch, Pat O Farrell, Nicky Kehoe,

Front: Brian Hackett, Walter Burke, Mark Redmond- (Captain), Donal O'Reilly, Michael Nolan, Adrian Hackett, John Bergin, Noel Hickey, Charles Brennan, Niall O'Connell.

Missing from photograph:- Niall McCarthy & Nigel Whyte. *Selectors:- Sean Hayes, Austin Lee, Paul Moylan, Michael Doran*

Kildalton Agricultural and Horticultural College, Piltown brought the first All-Ireland crown of '99 to Kilkenny when they captured their eighth All Hurling title in June. Seven agricultural colleges participated in this year's hurling championship, kindly sponsored by the National Farm Relief Services. The standard of hurling in this competition is quite high as many of the colleges contain various county under-age hurlers. Past Kilkenny hurlers of the college include Christy Heffernan, Paddy Prendergast, Sean Fennelly and Charlie Carter.

Kildalton, who last won the title in 1993, opened their account with a win over Salesian College, Pallaskenry (Co. Limerick) in the semi-final on a score-line of 1-18 to 2-10. By the nature of the draw, Kildalton had advanced to this stage of the competition untried. The game, played in good conditions in New Inn, Co. Tipperary, really tested the Kilkenny side as

Pallaskenry sought desperately to reverse the semi-final defeat of 1998 against the same opposition. A feature of the game was the extraordinary scoring exploits of Pallaskenry's John O'Brien, sub goalkeeper on the Clare senior side of '99. He bagged a remarkable 2-8 from placed balls, punishing every indiscretion by Kildalton. However, Kildalton's strength in depth and better balance pulled them through in the end. Kildalton scorers: Tom Fitzgerald (1-6) – FRS 'man of the match'; John Flavin (0-4), Noel Hickey (0-4); Niall O Connell (0-2) and John Bergin (0-2).

On to the final, where Kildalton faced Mountbellew Agricultural College (Galway) who had beaten a fancied Rockwell College (Tipperary) in the semi-final on a scoreline of 3-10 to 1-11. After a pulsating final, where ordinary time was followed by extra time and injury time, Kildalton eventually pulled away from their western opponents to land the All-Ireland crown. The game, played in excellent conditions on a

well-manicured Éire Óg (Nenagh) pitch was a full-blooded affair with both teams consisting of various county minor players. Only in extra-time did Kildalton exert their superior scoring power. Indeed, in direct opposition in the final were Graigue Ballycallan's – James Ryall (Mountbellew) and Dunnamaggin's Noel Hickey (Kildalton), past pupils of Callan CBS and members of the Kilkenny minor team of 1998. Kildalton's team also included Cork minor hurler and footballer John Flavin along with Laois 's John Bergin.

Kildalton got off to a flier in the final registering 1-2 after 10 minutes, the goal coming from the above mentioned John Flavin. In fact, James Ryall (G. Ballycallan) was moved in order to curtail the free scoring Cork man. The game settled down and Mountbellew threw down their challenge, being mainly rewarded with points by an impressive Jerry Quinn from placed balls. At the break, Kildalton remained to the good on a 1-6 to 0-6 scoreline. The second half proved to be a more balanced affair with Kildalton and Mountbellew trading pointed scores throughout, the game still being in the balance. With time almost up and Kildalton three points to the good, disaster struck as a long delivery from the Mountbellew midfield was fumbled by the Kildalton defence with Stephen Quinn sending the net bulging to the uncontrollable delight of the western college supporters. The final whistle sounded to an eerie silence as both teams pondered their fate. A quick check of the notebook confirmed parity at 1-11 each. On to extra time.....

Kildalton mentors, Pat Moylan, Niall McCarthy and Nigel Whyte, rallied their troops and Kildalton went on to register 1-8 without reply in this new game. Kildalton's superior fitness and strength in depth of the panel came to the fore. Mountbellew fought to the end but luck was not to be with them, a missed penalty sealing their fate – final score Kildalton 2-19 Mountbellew 1-11. Scenes of jubilation followed as Kildalton celebrated their first All-Ireland win since 1993.

For Kildalton, Donal O Reilly was sound in the goal, while the full back line of Walter Burke (Mullinavat), John Scully and Michael Nolan proved to be the backbone for victory. An all-Kilkenny half back-line of Charles Brennan

(Galmoy), Richard Nolan (Clara) and Richard Teehan (Threecastles) hurled assuredly throughout. At midfield, John Bergin and captain Mark Redmond battled hard and bravely. The half-forward line of Pádraig Curran, Noel Hickey (Dunnamaggin) and Niall O' Connell passed the test against a strong Mountbellew halfback line. Inside forwards James Roben, John Flavin and Tom Fitzgerald (Tullaroan) proved to be Mountbellew's biggest tormentors. All four subs used:- Nicholas Kehoe, Michael Doran, an inspirational Brian Hackett and David Harrison (Graigue Ballycallan) played their part in securing the title.

Kildalton panel & scorers (in final): Donal O Reilly (Cork), Walter Burke (Kilkenny), John Scully (Galway), Michael Nolan (Wexford), Charles Brennan (Kilkenny), Richard Nolan (Kilkenny), Richard Teehan (Kilkenny), John Bergin (Laois), Mark Redmond (Wexford), Pádraig Curran (Wexford), Noel Hickey (Kilkenny 0-3), Niall O Connell (Cork), James Roben (Wexford), John Flavin (Cork 1-3), Tom Fitzgerald (Kilkenny 1-10), Nicholas Kehoe (Wexford 0-1), Michael Doran (Carlow), Brian Hackett (Tipperary 0-2), David Harrison (Kilkenny), Sean Hayes (Cork), Pat Farrell (Wexford), John Lynch (Cork), TJ Carroll (Laois), Adrain O Donnell (Waterford), Paul Moylan (Kilkenny), Austin Lee (Kilkenny).

Kildalton Roll of Honour (8) – '76, '78, '80, '86, '89, '91, '93, '99.

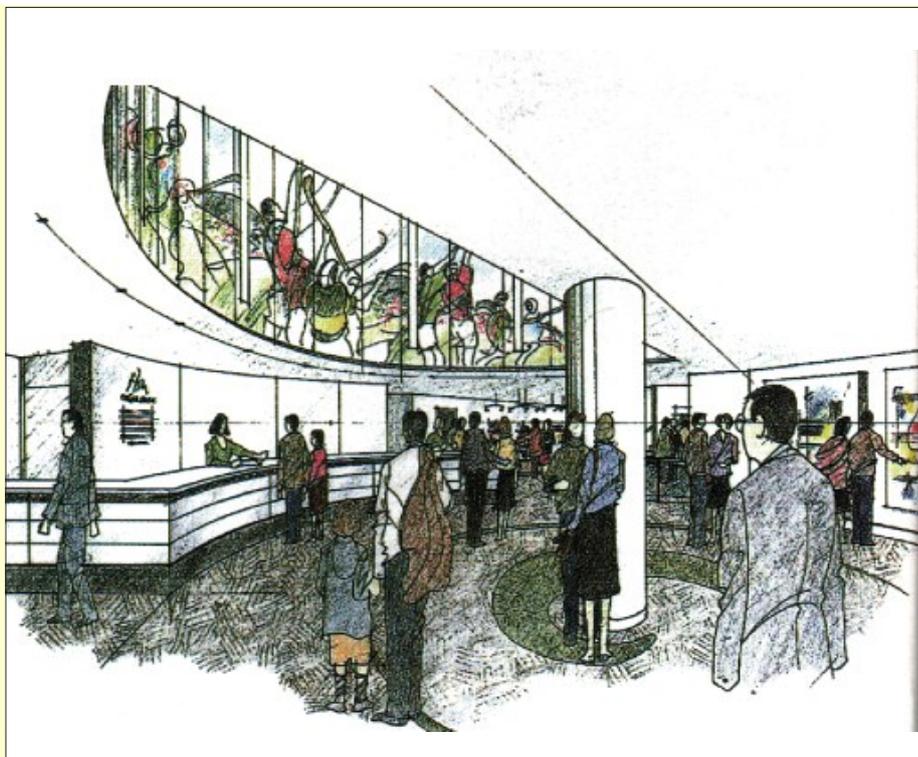
Further sporting glory was brought to Kildalton College later on in the year when college lecturer, Meadhbh Stokes captained the Tipperary senior camogie team to their first All-Ireland win, beating Kilkenny. Meadhbh, hailing from Kilsheelan proudly displayed the O Duffy Cup to all in Kildalton. To round off a fine sporting year two past pupils of Kildalton, Cork's Timmy McCarthy and Kilkenny's Charlie Carter contested the senior All-Ireland Title – Timmy McCarthy receiving the 'man of the match' from some observers. To cap it all, Noel Hickey captured his second All-Ireland medal of the year, captaining Kilkenny in their U-21 win. Kildalton is proud of all its sporting achievements and players.

The Croke Park Museum

*A Visit to the GAA's
impressive new
Treasure-house.
By Mary O'Neill*

The GAA museum in Croke Park offers a myriad of memorabilia for followers of Gaelic games, young and old alike. Here it is possible to view the medals and trophies of Jack Lynch, re-live the atmosphere of the thunder and lightning final, and brush up on Irish history. The open plan of the museum is conducive to wandering, and before you know it you will have spent at least an hour going from post to post, seeing stars from the distant and not too distant past, and listening to familiar voices telling tales of more militant times in Ireland.

The museum was officially opened in September 1998, although the idea had been around for years. Many places in the country had their own collections of GAA artefacts and it seemed appropriate to establish a museum where everything could be housed under the one roof. Obviously, a huge amount of research and forward planning took place in the creation of the museum. The setting up was not without difficulties, as Donnacha O'Dulaing, one of the people involved explained. "Deciding on subject matter was probably one of the hardest things, picking what should go in and what should be left out. Eventually, certain



themes were picked, a chronological order was chosen and it was just a matter of sticking to that."

Two teams of architects were involved in its design; Robin Wade and Partners from England, and Orna Hanley and Partners from Dublin. Wade had previously worked on other museums worldwide, including the Manchester United one in Old Trafford. The layout is highly modernised. Comprising two storeys, downstairs deals primarily with the history of Gaelic games and the evolution of games in Europe in general. Footage of past matches, interactive games and a documentary on the club scene can be found upstairs.

History, particularly Irish history, plays a big role in the museum. In the 19th century in Europe, sports were being codified for the first time. People played sport, not only for recreation but also as a means of expressing national identity and fervour. The GAA was a political outlet for nationalists, and this is clearly outlined on the first floor. There is a little theatre area, where a documentary on Bloody Sunday is shown. Donnacha O'Dulaing explained why such an emphasis is placed on early 20th century politics. "The GAA was one of the major parts of nationalism. That is, I suppose,



Ancient tomb depicting hurl & slíotar



Early Camogie Outfit



Eddie Keher's 1963 All Star Jersey

one of the reasons why the country is indebted to it. At the turn of the century the other sporting organisations in Ireland were pretty much part of the establishment. Athletics was confined to the upper classes. Artisans, tradesmen and the lower classes weren't allowed



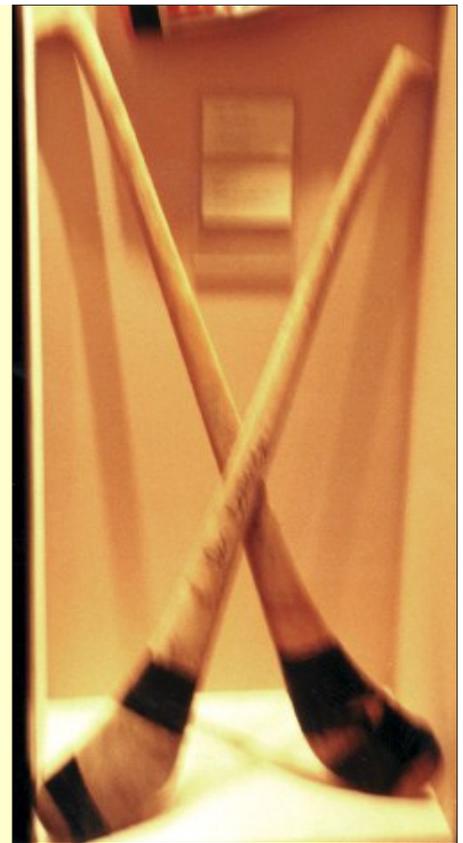
Merchandise on Sale

together under the banner of the GAA". Also upstairs is an interactive section, for the healthier visitor. This involves games in which simple reactionary skills are tested. These are especially aimed at the many school children that visit the museum. Computer terminals line the walls in the far corner, which enables people to watch football and hurling All Irelands from as far back as the sixties. There are also computer screens randomly placed throughout the museum, in which clips from different matches are constantly being shown.

The museum makes for an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. All the sections are self-explanatory and therefore people can view the artefacts at their leisure without being tied down to a guided tour. There is bound to be something to interest anyone who drops by, irrespective of whether or not they have an interest in GAA. In fact, it attracts a surprisingly diverse crowd. Although most of the visitors are school children (eleven thousand visited in the month of June alone), the museum receives its fair share of foreign groups as well.

"Americans, French, Italians and Germans come to visit, especially during the summer. What I love about that is their reaction; it's just amazing. A lot of them would never have seen a hurl and slotar before, but when they come here they are totally taken with the sport", O'Dulaing said. He went on to explain that the kids are more interested in the interactive games, but that the organisers are keen to familiarise them with the whole social and political aspect of the GAA as well.

Croke Park Museum cost in the region of three and three and a half million pounds to build. One million of this

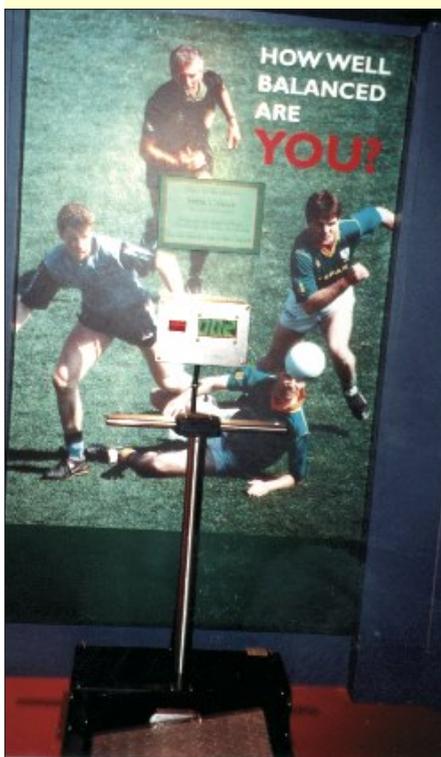


Angela Downey's Hurles

came from EU structural funds as part of the Regional Development Programme, but the GAA itself provided the rest of the costs. Donnacha O'Dulaing explained that the GAA see this as giving a little back to the supporters. It is thought that it will be three years before the museum reaches its target amount of 70, 000 visitors, in which time on-line booking should be available.

On the same premises is a gift shop, where all kinds of GAA merchandise are on sale. These include county crest key-rings, jerseys and t-shirts, and even cufflinks bearing the new GAA emblem. There is also a selection of books; some on the subject of GAA and others which are just of Irish interest in general. For example, Irish poetry anthologies and photographic guides to Ireland are also available. To this end, the museum is a definite tourist attraction. And, when you are finished viewing the various sections of the museum, you can relax and have a cup of coffee in the adjoining cafeteria.

The museum is open on from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and from 12noon to 5pm Sundays. It is closed on Mondays during the winter months. A visit costs £3 for adults, £2 for students and £1. 50 for children. There is also a family rate of £6. It is well worth the small fee. As Donnacha O'Dulaing explains, "It's the first time I've ever seen kids dragging their parents back at the weekend, having been in a museum. What better reaction can you get than that?"



Interactive Games

take part. It offered, at the time, an outlet for the ordinary people of the country to play sport".

There is also a large emphasis placed on the club scene. O'Dulaing believes that it is here that the whole strength of the GAA today lies. Upstairs is a documentary called "Woven Tapestry" in which the story of the club is relayed. "These clubs are the hub of the community. The same goes for city clubs as well, in that they are a social centre. Other elements like music, dance and the Irish language are also being held

Three in a Row for Masters

Paddy Butler

When Kilkenny over 40's won their 2nd All-Ireland Hurling title in a row last year, I think it was Joe Hennessy who quipped after the meal, "Hey Boys how about going for the 3 in-a-row next year" It would be fair to say that Joe was only expressing the feeling of all the panel. The cup did the usual rounds to a few venues and it's amazing how much these age-old warriors still enjoy their success.

1999 arrived and the draws for the current year were being drawn up. While Kilkenny were enjoying great success in the competition there was also a downside. Some teams felt they had not a hope of matching Kilkenny's enthusiasm and commitment and so opted out. Great efforts to bring on board other teams like Cork, Offaly etc. failed and so the competition commenced with just six teams. Kilkenny were drawn with Tipperary and Clare in one group.

Kilkenny's first defence of their title was away to old rivals Tipperary in the Ragg in early August. New boys on the block this year included Sean Fennelly, Domo Connolly, Lester Ryan, Eugene Byrne, Michael Long and Pat Glendon. Early exchanges were fairly close as Kilkenny led midway through the half 1-7 to 1-6. Tipperary made a great fight back to get within three points at the finish. Kilkenny's next outing was at home to Clare but, unfortunately, Clare opted out of the competition. This set Kilkenny up for a semi-final clash with Laois.

While ten points separated the sides at the finish, things were not as easy as the margin would suggest. It was only in the closing 10 minutes that Kilkenny eventually shook off their opponents having got an early scare when Laois shot two early goals by Frank Keenan and PJ Cuddy. This victory put Kilkenny through to the final and another clash with Tipperary, which was fixed for Tullamore as a curtain-raiser to the Kilkenny/Galway under 21 All-Ireland final.

Early comers to Tullamore were certainly treated to some vintage hurling. If crowd involvement was anything to go by, the players on both sides hit the right note. They had the spectators engrossed, particularly during an exciting finish. Early

exchanges were fairly close with both sides registering two points in the opening five minutes. Tipperary had slightly the better of matters for a while afterwards and midway through the went into a lead of 1-4 to 0-2, when Timmy Floyd goaled following good work by John Sheehy. In the 20th minute, Kieran Brennan won back the lead when he worked his way through for a goal. This lead was short-lived as the free scoring Seamus Burke rifled home a great goal. This helped Tipperary to an interval lead of 2-6 to 1-6.

Tipperary stayed ahead until midway through the new half when Danny Coonan set up Kevin Fennelly to shoot the equalizer 2-8 to 1-11. Within a minute, Kilkenny were in front- Sean Fennelly crossed for Lester Ryan to smash a great shot to the net. Not to be outdone, Tipperary responded fairly fast when John Hassett lashed an unstoppable shot to the winners' net. Twice, subsequently, the scores were level and the large attendance were enjoying every minute of this titanic struggle. Dick Walsh pointed in the 53rd minute to put Kilkenny on the road to victory. A brace of points by Kevin Fennelly followed by similar scores by Domo Connolly and Ger Fennelly rounded off the scoring to give Kilkenny a deserved victory.

Whatever the future holds for this competition, Kilkenny have enjoyed great success. Let's hope new teams will be encouraged to take part and guarantee its continuation.

Kilkenny's full panel: Bobby Shore, Paddy Neary, Michael Fennelly, Jimmy Lennon, Joe Hennessy, Johnny Ryan, Eamonn Whearty, Ger Fennelly (Capt.), Sean Fennelly, Dick Walsh, Domo Connolly, Danny Coonan, Kieran Brennan, Kevin Fennelly, Lester Ryan, Richie Power, Michael Long, Michael Walsh, Eugene Byrne, Pat Glendon, Greg Power, Jimmy Ruth, John Joe Cullen, Malachy Hogan, Tommy Brennan, Murty Kennedy, John Cahill.

Selectors: Eddie Keher (Manager), Eamonn Hennessy, Paddy Butler, Lotty Harte, Dick McNamara,

First Aid: Liam Flynn.



ALL-IRELAND MASTERS HURLING CHAMPIONS 1999.

Back: Eugene Byrne, Michael Long, Tommy Brennan, Pat Glendon, Lester Ryan, Domo Connolly, Murty Kennedy, Malachy Hogan, Kieran Brennan, Greg Power, Sean Fennelly, Michael Fennelly.

Front: Jimmy Ruth, Mickie Walsh, Jimmy Lannon, Bobby Shore, Eamon Whearty, Danny Coonan, Paddy Neary, Ger Fennelly, Johnny Ryan, Kevin Fennelly, Joe Hennessy, Dick Walsh.

Photo : Tom Brett.

The Official Kilkenny GAA web-site

The Official Kilkenny GAA Web-site is up and running since June of this year and during that time more than six thousand people have looked in on it. Have you?

What is a Web Site? A web site is like a book or a magazine except that it is electronic and is viewed on a computer. It can contain articles, stories, pictures, messages etc. The more professional ones (not necessarily better) can contain short video clips and sound or music clips. A site is made up of one or many "pages" and the viewer can move from page to page via simple menus. The viewer can usually write in comments to various web pages, which are shown on what is known as a "Guestbook", and he or she can send letters (email) to the people that look after the site.

How do you view these web sites? You need a computer that is linked up to the "Internet." The internet is, simply, computers all over the world that are linked together, (networked) i.e. can communicate with each other. This is done via the phone line. Your computer is connected to the phone line and with a little programme and a small amount of practice you can view millions of web sites throughout the world. The internet is the worlds largest library so when you have access to it, even though you are living on the other side of the world, you can keep up to date with your local County GAA or Club (if they have a website)

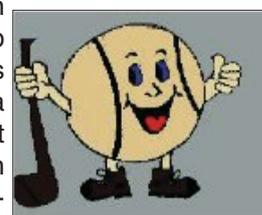
What is on the Kilkenny GAA web site? Currently there are approximately seventy pages and over 100 pictures on the site. The first page is an index or main menu page and from there you ramble off on a spider's web to view the various pages. This is known as "surfing the web". The main pages currently on the site are: Harry's Home, School & Club Profiles, Summer Camps, Fixtures & Results, Notice Board, Coaches Corner, Developments, Meet the Coaches, Cumann na mBunscoileanna, A Blast of the Past, NowlanPark, All The All-stars, The "Black and Amber" Origin, G.A.A Officers 1999, Roll of Honour, Where's Where in Kilkenny, All Adult G.A.A Fixtures for 1999, Past Articles.

How often are the Fixtures & Results updated? This page is updated at least once a week but more often sev-

eral times during the week, especially during the busy season.

Are there match reports? Yes, though not as many as we would like. The reports are usually on the "Notice Board" page along with items of general interest. We hope as time goes by to get more "Reporters" throughout the County to supply reports.

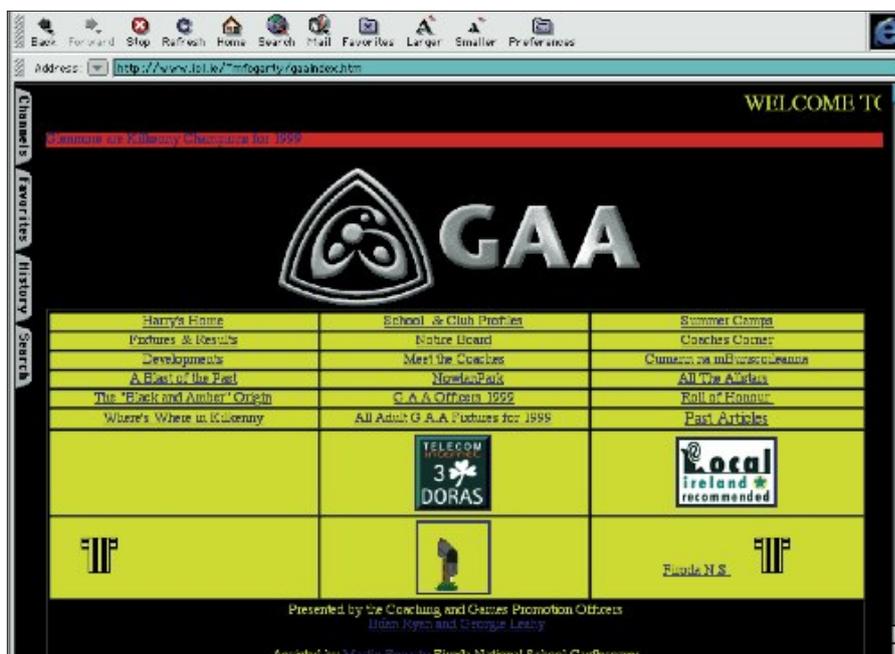
When and how was the site established? The site has been in existence for a couple of years under the name " The Un-Official Kilkenny GAA site. The pupils of Firoda National School Castlecomer, their teacher Martin Fogarty and County Coach Brian Ryan set it up. Since it has got up and running several schools throughout the County, Cumann na mBunscoileanna PRO, Dermot Dunphy and County Coach Georgie Leahy have been contributing to it. Last May, Croke Park launched the Official GAA site. To get the "Official Stamp" and be listed on the main site, County Sites had to meet pre-determined standards and of course be put forward by the relevant County Boards as being their "Official Site" The Kilkenny site was among the first five in the country to gain Official Status. It has since received awards from



Telecom and Local Ireland for its high standard.

Who is Harry? Harry is a little "cartoon hurler" and we have dedicated a section of the site to him (or her, we're not sure) The girls from Loreto Secondary school, Kilkenny with their teacher Ms. Fiona McGrath won a "spin a web" competi-

tion a few years ago with a number of pages on the GAA. They "constructed" Harry and featured him on the pages. When the un-official Kilkenny GAA site was being launched, the content was pretty small and the Loreto girls kindly allowed their pages to be published on the site. That gave the site a great lift-off and we are very grateful to them.



Are Clubs or Schools involved in the Web Site?

Yes, a big effort is being made to get every Club and school in the County onto the web site. Many are featured already and this is due mostly to Primary schools throughout the County who write up profiles for their school and club. If a viewer looks at the page "School and Club Profiles" he or she will see a listing of all the parishes in the County and from there one can visit the club and schools in the parish. If you have an interest in submitting information for your School or Club you should get in touch with Brian Ryan 056-31224 or Martin Fogarty 056-41131- editors or email coachkk@indigo.ie or mfogarty@iol.ie This could be a nice project for a School/Club liaison officer as every school in the county now has a computer linked to the internet. Maybe people that are not already involved in Clubs might have an interest in this area. If that is you, then get in touch with your local Club Secretary and they will surely be delighted with your offer of help.

Who is the Kilkenny GAA web site for? Well, it is for anybody that wants to look at it. People from all over the country and indeed the world have made contact by putting messages on the "Guestbook" A web site is a great service to offer exiles and the feedback from Kilkenny people who have left the County or Country has been tremendous. It keeps them in touch with what is happening at home. That is one of the reasons we are so anxious to develop the Club and Schools section. In less than an hour following this year's County Finals, we had the

results and short reports gone to the four corners of the earth.

How can Clubs/Schools prepare material for the site? Simply type out the material on a computer in ordinary text, save it on a disc and send it to the web editors. If you are fairly handy on a computer give the editors a ring and they will tell you what else you can do to make transferring it easier on them. If you have photographs, they can be scanned and put up also.

What is the address of the site? The simplest way to access the Kilkenny GAA website is to enter kilkenny.gaa.ie People who use the internet will know what that means. If you have friends/relatives abroad and you wish to give them the address over the phone, you tell them - kilkeny dot gaa dot ie (all small letters and no spaces.)

Can a Business advertise on the site? At the time of going to press, the answer is no. However, there have been several enquiries and it is likely that a limited amount of advertising space will be offered in the near future. We are anxious to get the content and quality of the site firmly established before moving into this area. If you have a possible interest in placing an advertisement then contact the editors and you will be kept in touch with any developments in this area.

Martin Fogarty.

Where does all the money go?

We are living in a time when P. R. is most important to ensure that we present the proper image of our association. It is vital that we get the right message out to our members of all the excellent work that is going on at Club, County, Provincial and National level. Night after night our valuable club mentors give their time and energy to promote our games from under 8 to senior level. I feel at times that a lot of this work can be taken for granted in our parishes and towns. My view would be that when we as club officers/mentors look for support to develop our clubs we have every reason to expect full support from our local community. We have no reason to feel that we are going with our cap in hand looking for financial assistance. The time and work invested to train and develop our young people by a high number of club officials and members over the years justifies our actions. So my advice to clubs is, do not underestimate the importance that is placed by the families of our communities to the good work on an ongoing basis carried out by our clubs. I think also the same applies at county level. We must change our views at county level. We must change the attitude of Club v. County as I feel this is not helpful to the progression of our association. Our County Boards are put in place by our clubs and are entrusted to carry out their duties on behalf of the clubs for the good of the county. We must work together for the overall good of our games.

I was honoured last February to be elected the first P. R. O. of the Leinster Council. The Council down through the years have supported various projects and I feel that it is important to be aware of the good work that is funded from the revenue we receive from our games. Here is a brief summary of some interesting statistics.

In 1998 the Council invested £785,876 in Games Development, which is roughly broken down as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| •County Coaching Officers | £315,000 |
| •Coaching & Development Projects | £193,000 |
| •School Projects | £61,000 |
| •Promotional Material | £3,000 |
| •Media Promotion of games | £10,000 |

•Development Offices & Coaching Director £187,000

I am sure you will agree the above is a substance amount of money and requires a high amount of administration. The Council also grant aid to Club and County grounds to the tune of £694,000 in 1998 roughly broken down as follows:

- * 12 counties receive £3,000 each as a special grant - £36,000
- * Grants for County Grounds
£415,000 (Nowlan Park - (£25,000))
- * Grants to Club Grounds
£243,000 (Kilkenny Clubs - (£7,500))

It is important that we develop our grounds at Club and County level. The support Leinster Council gives this area is of tremendous importance to our units.

County Boards are also supported and the total investment in 1998 was £170,000, which was broken down as follows:

- Counties Administration Grants £65,000
- Counties Office Equipment Grants (Computers, Printers etc..) £50,000
- Handball, Sponsorship and special projects etc... £50,000

The Council also made a donation of £30,000 to the Omagh Disaster Fund and contributed £162,000 to the very important Players Injury Scheme

So when you hear the comment, "where does all the money go?" I hope you will remember some of the above.

Sheamus Howlin
PRO Leinster Council.

ROINN A UNDER 21 FINALISTS 1999



DUNNAMAGGIN - Michael Lyng Motors under-21 Roinn "A" County Champions.

Back: Leonard O'Shea, Andrew O'Neill(Capt), Brian O'Shea, Noel Hickey, Kenneth Moore, Brendan Moore, Mark Heffernan, John Hickey, Brendan Delahunty, Kevin Walsh, Niall McCormack.

Front: Frankie Hughes, Gavin O'Donovan, Sean O'Neill, Colin Herity, Canice Hickey, J.P.O'Neill, David Herity, Liam Heffernan, Donal O'Shea, Niall Brett, Tony O'Brien.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill.



JAMES STEPHENS-RUNNERS UP:

Back: Conor O'Grady, Jackie Tyrrell, Tomás O'Dowd, Niall Tyrrell, Shane Egan, Garry Whelan, Joe Murray, Hugh Gannon, Richie Hayes, David Tyrrell, Noel Larkin.

Front: Paddy Hogan, Niall Grogan, Diarmuid Herlihy, Eoin McCormack, Derrick Brennan, Michael Fogarty, Paddy O'Brien, Ian Morrissey, Joe Murphy, John Morgan.

Photo: Tommy O'Neill.



The Pain of Defeat
Willie O'Connor, Michael Kavanagh, Niall Moloney, Ger Henderson and Brian Cody show their disappointment in the aftermath of All Ireland Final 1999.
Photos Sportsfile/Tom Brett



Conor Clancy and Canice Brennan in contention in the All Ireland Semi-final in Croke Park.

Photo Sportsfile



Referee Pat O'Connor calls Henry Shefflin and Diarmuid O'Sullivan to book in the All Ireland SH Final.

Photo Tom Brett



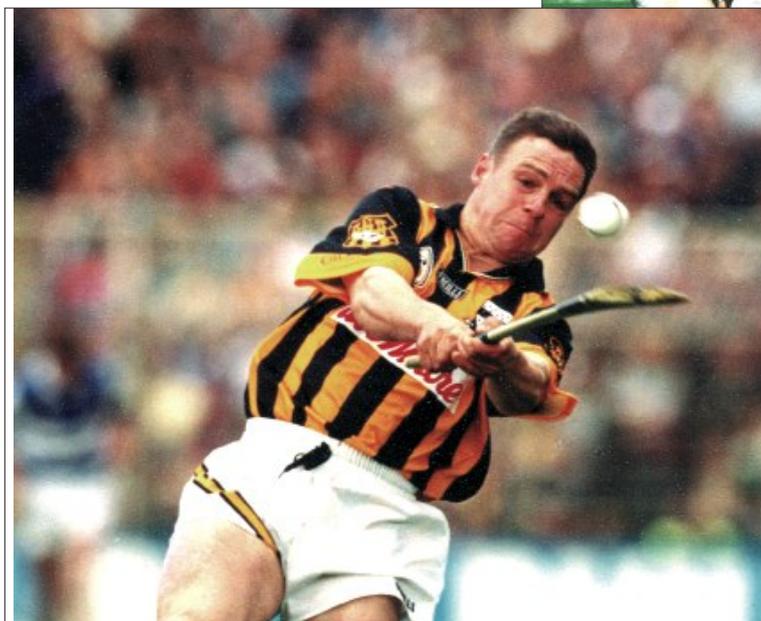
Where's the ball? Andy Comerford, Peter Barry, Anthony Daly and Alan Markham want to know.

Photo Tom Brett



Charlie Carter shoots from the hip!

Photo Tom Brett



Brian & Georgie's Coaching Corner

Yearbook Special



Hi all,

Hope that you are enjoying your Christmas holidays. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, teachers, club mentors and especially those whom we coach, the children, for your assistance during 1999. Your co-operation makes the effort all worthwhile. Why not take a break from "on the field" activities and try a few of The Corner puzzles and wordsearch. Looking forward to meeting you all in the New Year,

Regards,

Brían Ryan and Georgie Leahy.



"Kilkenny G.A.A Coaching Booklet"

The Coaching and Games Promotion Officers in conjunction with the Kilkenny Development Committee and the Kilkenny Primary Schools board have joined forces to bring you this coaching booklet production. Contact Brian Ryan (056) 31744 or Georgie Leahy for further details.

Summer camps

Over 900 children attended the G.A.A Summer camps throughout 1999. A real success story of the 90's. All involved deserve great credit, especially the many county hurlers, who gave of their free time to visit the camps and sign autographs and answer all the questions. Thanks all.

Are you Here?



Did you Know ?

That the G.A.A. was formed in 1884 and the Camogie Association was formed in 1893.



Match the Clubs with their Colours

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Graigue/Ballycallan | Red and White |
| Tullaroan | Red and Green |
| James Stephens | Maroon and White |
| Mooncoin | Yellow and Blue |
| St. Lachtains | White and green |
| Dicksboro | White with a green sash |
| John Lockes | Green with a white sash |
| Windgap | Blue and White |
| O'Loughlin/Gaels | White and Blue Hoops |
| Erin's Own | Black and Amber |
| Lisdowney | Sky Blue and White |

Indoor Hurling

This year also saw the first indoor hurling competition being organised in conjunction with Cumann na mBuncoileann, where 12 clubs were selected to play in a one-day blitz in three venues throughout the county. This is really an event that could catch the imagination of the youngsters. It is vital that coaches only use this game at certain times of the year.

Transition Year Coaches Presentation Day in Croke Park

On Wednesday, 3/11/99 over 750 Transition year students from all over Leinster received their Coaching Certificates at a presentation ceremony in Croke park. All students also received a "Leinster Council G.A.A" kit bag and were taken on a guided tour of "Croker", including the dressing room area and the museum. A day that will live long in the memory of the students and long term we hop that some of these students, wherever they settle down, will use their coaching experience to develop Gaelic games in the country.

The following schools from Kilkenny were represented :

| School | T.Y Co-ordinator |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Goresbridge Convent | Mrs. Catherine Kavanagh |
| | 7 students Completed Logbooks |
| Ballyhale V.S | Mrs. Power |
| | 2 students completed logbooks |
| Casltecomer C.S | Mrs. Delia O'Donoghue |
| | 3 Students completed logbooks |
| Presentation Secondary | Mrs. Kathleen Brennan |
| | 7 students completed their logbooks |
| Colásite Mhuire, Johnstown | Mr. Michael Killeen |
| | 1 Student completed logbook |
| Kilkenny C.B.S | Mrs. Anne Ahern |
| | 18 Students completed their logbooks |

The Coaching and Games Promotion Officers, who organised and tutored on the courses would like to thank all students who completed their logbooks and T.Y Co-Ordinators, who assisted in the completion of the courses.

School/Club Liaison Officers meeting 10/11/99

Twenty five club Officials attended a meeting in Nowlan Park, organised by The Coaching and Games Development Officers, with the idea being to develop the role for a School/Club Liaison Officer for each club in the county. The main aim of this Officer being that he/she would ensure that any assistance that the local club can give the schools be made available to them. This position, we feel, will become a vital "cog" in the G.A.A wheel in the coming years. It is vital that we now put in place structures to assist our local primary schools in the development work, which is undertaken annually throughout the county. We cannot expect teachers to be solely responsible for developing our future players without any assistance from the local G.A.A club. The Kilkenny County Board Development Chairman, Barry Hickey, also addressed the meeting giving a detailed account of Development work being undertaken in the county and also outlining the grants given to various bodies for the development of Gaelic Games.

We do appreciate the effort taken by all those who turned up on the night, and hope that they found the meeting to be of benefit.

WORDSEARCH

Find below the names of club hurlers and referees involved in Kilkenny GAA. the names can go from right to left, left to right, horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

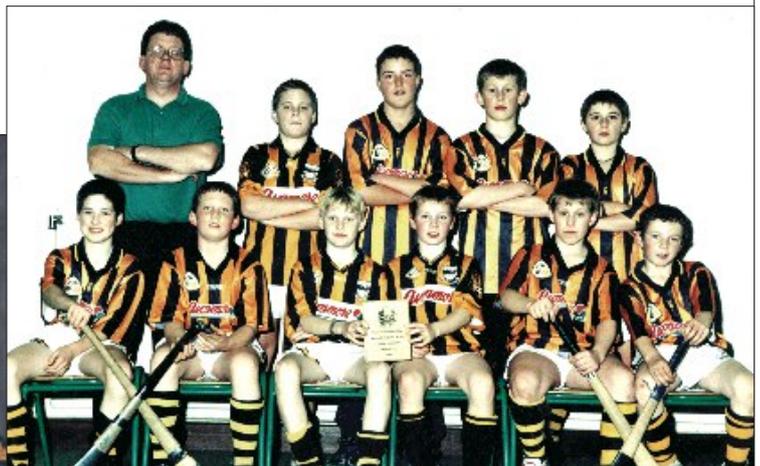
Hurlers: Adrian Ronan, Joe Ryan, Billy O'Keeffe, Liam Keoghan, Dan O'Neill, James Carroll, DJ Carey, Jim Lynch, Eddie O'Connor, Denis Mullally, Tom Murphy, Kevin Ryan.
Referees: Paddy Neary, John Guinan, Pat Hayes.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | L | A | L | L | U | M | S | I | N | N | E | D | U | I | O |
| J | B | R | J | A | M | E | S | C | A | R | R | O | L | L | R |
| O | I | A | T | P | O | R | S | Y | E | R | A | C | J | D | E |
| I | S | T | O | E | D | K | T | Y | E | R | A | C | J | P | D |
| P | T | O | M | E | E | A | E | P | O | J | I | I | E | A | D |
| I | A | B | M | E | R | R | D | V | A | H | O | Z | Q | T | I |
| B | I | S | U | E | O | R | U | T | I | H | P | J | D | H | E |
| J | O | E | R | Y | A | N | R | S | C | N | N | A | I | A | O |
| I | R | T | P | A | L | R | Q | P | V | O | R | T | C | Y | C |
| M | U | V | H | R | Y | A | R | M | B | S | H | Y | K | E | O |
| L | J | O | Y | M | H | A | N | I | K | A | O | J | A | S | N |
| Y | F | P | E | F | E | E | K | O | Y | L | L | I | B | N | N |
| N | I | M | O | R | Q | O | V | O | I | N | A | N | Q | A | O |
| C | P | I | A | D | R | I | A | N | R | O | N | A | N | Y | R |
| H | L | L | E | I | N | O | N | A | D | O | Z | Y | Z | E | Y |
| N | J | O | E | N | A | H | G | O | E | K | M | A | I | L | N |
| T | R | J | O | H | N | G | U | I | N | A | N | H | P | O | Z |
| I | P | Y | R | A | E | N | Y | D | D | A | P | T | E | T | Y |

GAA/INTO MINI SEVENS 1999



Tullogher-Rosbercon - INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens Boys' Football Champions 1999.
Back: E. Cullinane, R. Dollard, P. Hartley, J. Ryan, S. Ryan.
Front: D. Ryan, M. Gaule, E. Conway, L. Barron.



Scoil Lachtain GAA/INTO Mini Sevens Hurling
Back: Mr T Doheny, K Hughes, G O'Reilly, M Theloke.
Front: N Maher, D O'Sullivan, N McGree, V O'Donnell, B Dalton, B Hughes



Scoil Lachtain GAA/INTO Mini Sevens Camogie
Back: Mr T Doheny, C Neary, M Phelan, E Beehan, M Anderson.
Front: M Maher, N Kennedy, D Minogue, E Fitzpatrick, M Dalton, A Dalton.



Piltown - INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens Girls' Football Champions 1999.
Back: Emma Halley, Roseanne Norris, Cathy Grant, Lorraine Walsh, Avril Hickey, Sarak Oakey.
Front: Niamh McSweeney, Laura Power, Emily-Ann Gilligan, Deirdre Grant, Karen Murphy.

U-15 Area Development Squads

This year saw the first introduction to Kilkenny of Development squads for our underage hurlers. The attitude and commitment of the players who participated was first class. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Coaches - Bobby Jackman, Martin Gordon, Gerry Drennan, Kieran Brennan and their assistants for the professional way they applied themselves over the six weeks duration of the sessions. The Development Committee, under the chairmanship of Barry Hickey, will sit down with the coaches involved to see where improvements can be made in the future.



Under 15 Dev Squads in Palmerstown.

Kieran Brennan coach of the development squads, Brian Cody senior hurling team manager, Canice Brennan senior hurler, Barry Hickey Development Officer and members of the development squad in Palmerstown for the city catchment area.

Under 15 Dev. Squads in Ballyraggett.

John Mackey from the Kilkenny G.A.A. supporters club presenting special 'T-Shirts' to Gerry Drennan coach. Also included are Michael Kavanagh Senior Hurling player, Brian Ryan county board coach, Barry Hickey Development Officer and members of the development squad from the north of the county.



Under 15 South Kilkenny Area Development Squad in Thomastown. Martin Gordon Coach, Tom Delahunty vice chairman Bord na nOg, Michael Gordon assistant coach, Barry Hickey Development Officer, Denis Byrne captain Kilkenny senior hurling team with members of the south Kilkenny Development squad.



Camáint U-11 Ground Striking Competition

In total there are 40 teams representing 36 clubs participating in this year's camáint finals. This competition has to be one of the most popular competitions organised by Kilkenny GAA, where parents have the opportunity of watching their own children representing their club in Nolan Park for the first time. Each player receives a medal and the entire panel of 20 get their chance to play, with the Coaches involved giving all players a game, and on occasion giving up the chance of victory. The emphasis here, is get away from a "win at all cost" attitude at such an early age. All clubs must be commended on seeing the value of "involvement" for all.

KILKENNY FOOTBALL – WHERE TO NOW?

Peter Dukelow

In early Oct the Officers of Kilkenny County Board decided to withdraw the County Football Team from the 1999/2000 National Football League. This decision was not reached lightly and in my view was the only decision that could be taken at the particular time.

Therefore after years of neglect it is little wonder that we now find ourselves in the present situation. The proverb "MOL AN OIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SIAD" does *NOT* apply to the promotion of football in Kilkenny.

Kilkenny is the premier hurling county in Ireland and hurling will always be *THE* game in Kilkenny and long may this be the



KILKENNY SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM VERSUS KERRY N.F.L. IN FEBRUARY 1999.

Back Row: Liam Kenny, John Lonergan, Niall Morrissey, Eddie Roche, Jim Murphy, J.P. Corcoran, Colm Conaile.

Front Row: Michael Gordon, Eddie Mulrooney, Philip Roche, Paddy Mullally, Michael Dunne, Richie Mullally, Paul Buggy.

Photo : Tom Brett.

However the question has to be asked why have we reached a situation where Kilkenny are the county in the country not fielding a team in the National Football League. There are a myriad of results, however, in my view the demise of Kilkenny Football can be attributed to three main areas.

While Cumann na Bunscoile have an exceptionally well organised format in place which provides an excellent competition thereafter starting at Bord na Óg level and permeating right through all grades inclusive of Senior Level there exists a weak ill defined structure for the playing and promotion of Gaelic Football. In order to promote any sport the basic requirements are a competition which offers a definite start and finish date and most importantly offers the competitors a series of games not a knock out competition which means one game per year for the vast majority of teams taking part.

case. However, as someone who has been involved at all levels and grades at Club and at Inter County level for a long number of years it is fair to say I have witnessed a huge increase in hurling compet

itions coupled with a corresponding decrease in football competitions within Kilkenny. Nobody expects football to compete with hurling in Kilkenny, however, I cannot understand why some club officials feel that they have the right to deny young players the opportunity to play what is after all the main game within the G.A.A. and yet actively encourage other sporting codes.

While the areas outlined above indicate where the County Board and some Clubs in Kilkenny have been remiss in the promotion of football it is important to add that the National League over the last two seasons has not been of any benefit to

this County. Kilkenny have had to play Galway, Mayo, Louth, Kerry and Roscommon in games where scoring averages were used to determine quarter final placings in the N.F.L. In other words teams played Kilkenny with the intention of beating them as much as possible in an effort to improve their own position in the League. This idea came from Croke Park and in my view was the straw that broke the camels back when the question of future participation in the N.F.L. was discussed.

However, despite this gloomy portrayal it is possible if a planned structure is put in place for Kilkenny to be back and competing (which is far different from participating in the National Football League within five years.

To achieve this goal the following areas, if developed and nurtured, can lay the foundation whereby Kilkenny can compete at Inter County level.

Bord na nÓg to put in place competitions as soon as possible which give teams the opportunity to play more than one game in the year, this has been done to a limited degree at U14 level already.

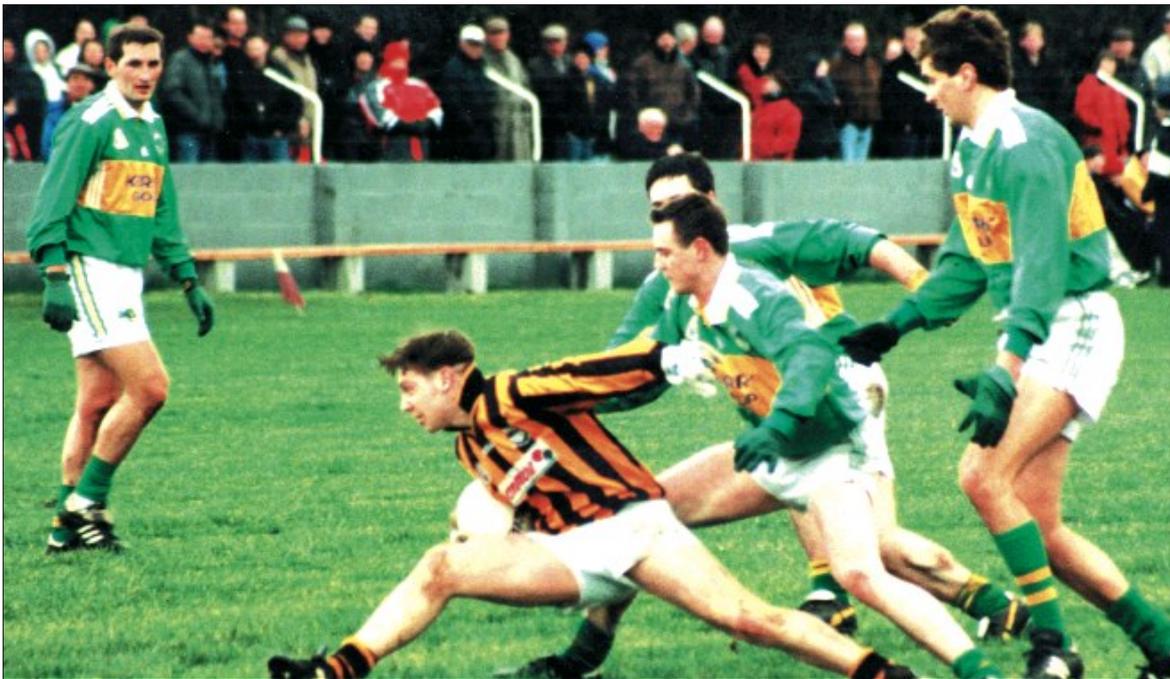
Football counties such as Mayo and Roscommon have hurling coaches. While Kilkenny has two very fine coaches they have enough on their plate promoting hurling. A clear need exists for a football coach who can work in tandem with the Development Committee at County Board Level.

The County Board should give serious consideration to flood lighting, a full sized pitch within the county to facilitate coaching and the playing of a Winter League for various age groups over the Winter months. This pitch may belong to a club or whatever, however, in my view with a proper flood lighting system a huge lot of positive progress can be made.

The County U21 team has to be given a lot of attention and active encouragement because these players are the main con-

duit for getting Kilkenny back in the League within the next five years. Consideration must be given to resurrect the South East U21 League or enter the Hastings Cup.

As I write this article the Football Development Committee have revealed their blueprint for the future. These proposals ask



Kilkenny's Eddie Roche in action against Kerry. Maurice Fitzgerald (kerry) is on right of picture. Photo Tom Brett



Dual Players

At half time in the National Football League game between Kilkenny and Kerry in Ballyraggett last February Paddy Mc.Evoy (Donaghmore), Brian Mulhall (Finan), Brian Joseph (High St.) and Liam Lacey (Ballymartin) get in some extra hurling practice. Photo Tom Brett

even more questions of Kilkenny and in my view make it even more difficult to put a plan in place that will allow us out of our present difficult situation, but if the will is there to change, then things will happen.

In conclusion, I have to say I believe that if young lads are given the chance to play football they will play it with the same enthusiasm as they play hurling and this love for Gaelic games should and must be built on.

Bord na nÓg Report

By Tom Ryall

UNDER 16 HURLING



Tullaroan were the team of the year in the Duggan Steel Under 16 hurling, bringing off the double of league and championship. It was their first time to win in the Roinn A grade. A bright future looks in store for the club as nine of this Under 16 side played on their minor winning side. Their opponents in both finals were Carrickshock who are also making a name for themselves at youth level. It was also their first year to reach a county final in Roinn A at Under 16 level. They also reached the county final of the Under 14 Roinn A, so they too have a bright future in store.

The first surprise in the championship was when Dicksboro beat James Stephens 2-12 to 3-7. Tullaroan, however, easily disposed of Dicksboro in the next round 5-10 to 1-8. O'Loughlin Gaels, who beat Graigue Ballycallan 3-10 to 2-7, were overrun in the Northern final by Tullaroan 6-17 to 1-9. Only two teams competed in Roinn A in the south - Carrickshock and Shamrocks. Shamrocks were favourites for this game but it was the underdogs who came out on top 1-8 to 1-3. It must be a cause of concern for hurling in the county that only seven teams played in the Roinn A competition at Under 16 level. I think this manifested itself in the Nenagh Co-Op tournament where Kilkenny were comprehensively defeated by Galway and then failed to beat Laois in the losers' group. Players who look to be stars in Roinn B and Roinn C are given a rude awakening when they step up to inter-county level.

The Tullaroan - Carrickshock game produced a good contest with a James Fennelly goal, approaching the interval, giving the North Kilkenny side a lead of 1-8 to 1-3 at the break. The Carrickshock goal was scored by Brendan Hoyne. It

was still all to play for at the end of the third quarter with the scores reading Tullaroan 1-11 Carrickshock 1-5. It took a great save by Richard Butler in the Tullaroan goal to deny the losers a major score. The destination of the title was a foregone

conclusion shortly afterwards when Michael Mullally goaled for Tullaroan who followed up with a string of points from Shane Hennessy, Stephen Maher, Nicholas Maher and Michael Walsh. Brendan Hoyne got his and Carrickshock's second goal



Tullaroan U-16 Roinn A League and Championship Winners 1999

Back: Shane Hennessy, Eddie Campion, Damien Delaney, Michael Walsh, Richard Butler, James Fennelly, Stephen Breen, Richard Walsh, Nicky Maher, Podge Kennedy, Chris Breen.

Front: Stephen Maher, Shaun Gannon, Tommy Walsh, Eamonn Brennan, Gerry O'Dea, Alan Connolly, Paul Kinsella, Mark Walshe, Robert Moore, Michael Mullally.

Photo Tom Brett



Carrickshock U-16 Roinn A League and Championship Finalists 1999

Back: Richard Frisby, Sean Gibbons, John Tennyson, Damain Ragget, Michael Rice, John Murphy, Leo O'Gorman, Anthony Holland, Michael Rohan, Richie Power, O Murphy, Brendan Hoyne, John Maher,

Front: Jim Rohan, James Moran, Ricky Brennan, Paul Barron, Rory Gibbons, Tommy Brophy, John Dalton, Denis Murphy, Pdraig Duggan, James Dalton, David Millea, Patrick Mullcahy.

Photo Tom Brett

to leave the final score 2-17 to 2-5. Tullaroan had outstanding displays from Richard Butler, Tommy Walsh, Padraig Kennedy, Eddie Campion, Michael Walsh, Sean Glennon, Shane Hennessy, Stephen Maher and Nicholas Maher. Best for Carrickshock were Richard Power, John Tennyson, John Dalton, John Murphy, Paul Barron, Michael Rice, Anthony Holland, Brendan Hoyne and Damien Raggett.

Scorers-Tullaroan; Shane Hennessy (0-8), Stephen Maher (0-4), Nicholas Maher

(0-3), James Fennelly (1-1), Michael Mullally (1-0), Michael Walsh (0-1).

Carrickshock- Brendan Hoyne (2-1), Michael Rice (0-2), Damien Raggett (0-1), John Dalton (0-1).

Tullaroan:- Richard Butler, Gerry O'Dea, Tommy Walsh, Richard Walsh, Padraig Kennedy, Eddie Campion, Chris Breen, Michael Walsh, Sean Glennon, Nicholas Maher, Shane Hennessy, Stephen Maher, Alan Connolly, James Fennelly, Eamon Brennan. *Subs-* Michael Mullally, Stephen Breen.

Carrickshock:- Richard Power, Diarmuid Murphy, John Tennyson, Leo O'Gorman, John Dalton, John Murphy, Richard Frisby, Paul Barron, Michael Rohan, Paul Mulcahy, Michael Rice, Anthony Holland, James Moran, Brendan Hoyne, Damien Raggett. *Subs-* James Dalton, Rory Gibbons, Ricky Brennan.

ROINN A LEAGUE

Seven teams also competed in the Roinn A league. Tullaroan, Carrickshock and Graigue Ballycallan were in one group with Tullaroan and Carrickshock qualifying for the semi-finals. Shamrocks, O'Loughlin Gaels, Dicksboro and James Stephens comprised the second group. Shamrocks and O'Loughlin Gaels qualified for the semi-finals, the pairings being Shamrocks v Carrickshock and O'Loughlin Gaels v Tullaroan. These pairings were repeated later in the Southern and Northern championship finals. Carrickshock beat Shamrocks 4-10 to 1-8, while Tullaroan outclassed O'Loughlin Gaels 6-21 to 1-6.

Tullaroan and Carrickshock fielded the same teams which played in the championship. Playing with the breeze in the first half, the Southerners led at the interval 0-6 to 0-5. Tullaroan gradually pulled ahead in the second period to run out winners 1-15 to 1-9.

ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP

Blacks and Whites, who won the Under 14 Roinn C championship, two years ago followed up with a great victory in the Duggan Steel Roinn B Under 16 hurling championship for the first time. Remarkably, they will be competing in the minor hurling Roinn A championship in

2001. Eight teams took part in the Northern group and the first round results were:-

Clara 4-16 St Lachtains 4-4, St Martins 3-9 Bennettsbridge 3-8, Blacks and Whites 5-8 Lisdowney 3-3, Emeralds 5-10 St Pat's (Ballyragget) 2-9.

The northern semi-finals saw St Martins beat Clara 2-13 to 1-11 while Blacks and Whites had a resounding win over league champions, Emeralds 5-15 to 3-4. Blacks and Whites qualified for the final by overcoming St Martins.

Eight teams also competed in the southern championship and the first



Galmoy - Roinn C U16 Championship & League Winners 1999
Back: Eoin Phelan, James Hickey, Martin Phelan, Phil Doyle(capt), James Dunne, Eamonn Butler, Niall Doherty, Jonathan Smith, Kenneth Walsh, Joe Lalor, Donica Grey.
Front: Seamus Dillon, Padraig Grey, Thomas Dillon, Georgie Hickey, David Lee, Peter Paul Maher, Thomas Ryan, Brian Kavanagh, Michael Harte, David Murphy, John Phelan, Dominic Smith, Liam Phelan.



Windgap U-16
Back: Seamus Hawe, Richard Grace, Bryan Lanigan, Philip Lonergan, Richard Landy, David Power, Brendan Barry, Thomas Lonergan, Aidan Phelan, Neil Lanigan, Leo Power, Jonathon Duggan.
Front: Brian Hennessy, Thomas Cronin, Niall Phelan, Ronan Molloy, Sean Hennessy, Thomas Fleming, Niall Fennelly, James Mackey, Shem Power.

round results were:-

John Lockes 5-11 Thomastown 5-3,
Tull/Rosbercon 3-21 Dunamaggin 1-8,
Mullinavat 1-8 Rower Inistioge 0-10

Piltown beat Graignamanagh.

The southern semi-finals resulted in Tullogher Rosbercon coming out on top against John Lockes 4-14 to 1-6 with the second semi final a real humdinger - Piltown 4-9 Mullinavat 3-10. The southern final was also a well-contested game with Piltown prevailing against Tullogher Rosbercon 4-6 to 0-12.

Blacks and Whites took the honours in the final, holding out with 1-10 to 1-7 for Piltown. Blacks and Whites started well with two points but a Shane Fitzpatrick goal had Piltown in the lead. Then followed an exchange of points. A Barry Moloney goal following a free by Niall Kennedy gave the Skeough boys back the lead.

Further points before the interval by James Brennan and Barry Moloney left Blacks and Whites leading 1-5 to 1-2. In an exciting second half, with the marking tight by both teams, each side scored five points. Shane O'Sullivan was the winners' hero during this period keeping a good supply of ball to his forwards. Philip Kenny weighed in with three points from frees in the second half for Piltown. In addition to O'Sullivan, the winners had good players in Shane Murphy, Niall Kennedy, Peter Cleere, James Brennan, Sean Barcoe, Tom Moloney and Barry Moloney. The losers' best were Gary Byrne, John Norris, Philip Kenny and their man of the match, David Prendergast.

Blacks and Whites:- Jason Carroll, Bryan Moloney, Shane Murphy, Liam Kelly, Barry Dalton, Edward Kelly, Michael Doyle, James

Brennan, Shane O'Sullivan, Jimmy Whelan, Peter Cleere, Niall Kennedy, Sean Barcoe, Barry Moloney, Tom Moloney.

Piltown:- David Knox, Paul Maher, Gary Byrne, John Norris, Andrew McCarthy, Michael Galvin, David Prendergast, David Reid, Brendan Doyle, Richard Brophy, John O'Shea, Philip Kenny, Shane Fitzpatrick, Richie Power, Evan Walsh.

ROINN B LEAGUE

Sixteen teams took part in the

scores from Tommy Neary, Sean Minogue, Alan Guilfoyle and Brendan Guilfoyle. Ciarán Greene got the losers' second point before the interval. Tullogher Rosbercon tried hard in the second half but could not pass goalkeeper Colin Grant who gave a man of the match performance in the winners goal. Emeralds also had good displays from Joseph Webster, Emmet Kavanagh, Sean Minogue, Alan and Brendan Guilfoyle and Tommy Neary. The losers' best performers were Andrew Murphy, Richard Gaule, Martin Roche, Moling Cottrell, a n d Ciaran



Roinn A Captains, Sean Glennon (Tullaroan) and Paul Barron (Carrickshock) with Referee John Dreen and Joe Pyke (Bord na nÓg) before the final in Bennettsbridge. Photo Tom Brett

Under 16 hurling league. They were divided into four groups of four teams with two teams from each group qualifying for the quarter finals. The teams to get through were Emeralds, Blacks and Whites, Clara, Bennettsbridge, Piltown, Tullogher Rosbercon, Thomastown and Dunamaggin. The quarter final results were Piltown 3-15 Dunamaggin 3-7, Tullogher Rosbercon 1-7 Thomastown 0-7, Blacks and Whites 3-12 Clara 1-14, Emeralds 3-9 Bennettsbridge 2-4. In the semi-finals, Tullogher Rosbercon beat Blacks and Whites while Emeralds ousted Piltown 2-12 to 2-8.

The final proved a one-sided affair with Emeralds running out easy winners 3-11 to 0-3. The winners were 1-2 up before Moling Cottrell opened the scoring for Tullogher Rosbercon. Emeralds pulled further ahead with

Greene.

Scorers- Emeralds; Brendan Guilfoyle (1-4), Tommy Neary (1-2), Sean Minogue (1-0), Alan Guilfoyle (0-2), Eamon O'Gorman (0-2), John Joyce (0-1).

Tullogher Rosbercon; Moling Cottrell (0-1), Ciaran Greene (0-1), Richard Gaule (0-1).

Emeralds:- Colin Grant, Brian Doyle, Joseph Webster, James Doheny, Fergal Tobin, Emmet Kavanagh, Thomas Kennedy, Sean Minogue, Tommy Neary, Jamie Dollard, Alan Guilfoyle, Eamon O'Gorman, Pa Tobin, Brendan Guilfoyle, John Joyce. The other panel members were Declan Guilfoyle, Gerard Phelan, William Norton, Ciaran Bergin.

Tull/Rosbercon:- Martin Roche, Jonathan Lanigan, Andrew Murphy,

James Grennan, John Cottrell, Richard Gaule, John Hartley, Joseph McCarthy, Thomas Mullally, Francis McEnery, Moling Cottrell, James Doolan, Pat Hartley, John Murphy, Ciarán Greene. *Sub:-* Liam Barron.

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

It was a wonderful year for Galmoy who brought off the double in the Duggan Steel Under 16 Roinn C winning the league and championship. Fourteen teams took part in the championship, nine in the North and five in the South. In a preliminary round in the North, Barrow Rangers got a walkover from Conahy Shamrocks. The quarter finals threw up the following results:- Cloneen got a walkover from James Stephens who did not have a second team, Galmoy 1-13 Erin's Own 1-2, Fenians beat Young Irelands, Barrow Rangers beat Danesfort. The clash of neighbours Galmoy and Fenians in the semi-final resulted in a win for the former, 3-16 to 2-3. Barrow Rangers had six points to spare over Cloneen - 3-12 to 3-6. In the Northern final, Galmoy beat Barrow Rangers in a goalless game, 0-14 to 0-8. Mooncoin and Windgap played a draw in a preliminary game in the South. Windgap had five points to spare in the replay - 3-6 to 2-4. The semi-finals saw Windgap beat Glenmore 1-3 to 0-5 with Kilmacow having a goal to spare against Slieverue 3-4 to 2-4. Windgap qualified for the county final with a three goal advantage over Kilmacow, 3-6 to 0-6.

Windgap had first use of the strong breeze and were in a poor position at the interval when they trailed in a low-scoring first half, 0-2 to 0-1. There was no score for nineteen minutes until Donncha Gray opened the Galmoy account with a point. Changes in the Windgap team which saw Leo Power move from goal into the forwards and Thomas Lonergan from full back to midfield made a big improvement in the side and the latter levelled the scoring with a point. James Dunne edged Galmoy one point ahead at the break. Martin Phelan (Galmoy) opened the scoring in the second period and, with the breeze behind them, they added minor scores from Jonathan Smith, Niall Doherty, Martin Phelan and

Georgie Hickey. David Power replied with a point for Windgap. At the end of the third quarter, the game was back in the melting pot when Niall Lanigan goaled for Windgap to leave two points between the sides. Galmoy were back in the driving seat when Jonathan Smith goaled with a great shot from thirty metres. David Power again pointed for Windgap but the winners finished in a flourish and had minor scores from James Dunne (2) and Martin Phelan to finish seven points ahead 1-10 to 1-3. The winners had outstanding players in Jonathan Smith, Martin Phelan, Niall Doherty, Phil Doyle, Eoin Phelan, James Dunne, Kenneth Walsh, Seamus Dillon, James Hickey and Georgie Hickey. Windgap's best players were Thomas Lonergan, Niall Fennelly, Richie Grace, Brendan Barry and Philip Lonergan.

Scorers- Galmoy; Jonathan Smith (1-1), Martin Phelan (0-3), James Dunne (0-3), Niall Doherty, Georgie Hickey and Donica Gray (0-1 each).

Windgap; Niall Lanigan (1-0), David Power (0-2), Thomas Lonergan (0-1).

Galmoy:- Peter Paul Maher, Kenneth Walsh, Phil Doyle, Thomas Dillon, Seamus Dillon, Niall Doherty, Eoin Phelan, Martin Phelan, James Hickey, James Dunne, Jonathan Smith, Donica Gray, Georgie Hickey, Eamon Butler, David Lee. *Subs-* Padraig Gray (used), David Murphy, Brian Kavanagh, Michael Harte, John Phelan, Thomas Ryan, Stephen Maher, Joe Lalor, Liam Phelan.

Windgap:- Leo Power, Brian Hennessy, Thomas Lonergan, Niall Fennelly, Seamus Hawe, Brendan Barry, Richie Grace, Philip Lonergan, Aidan Phelan, Richie Landy, Niall Lanigan, Jonathan Duggan, James Mackey, David Power, Brian Lanigan. *Subs-* Ronan Molloy, Niall Phelan, Thomas Fleming, Sean Hennessy, Thomas Cronin.

ROINN C LEAGUE

Fourteen teams took part in the league. There were two groups with five teams and one with four teams. Three teams came out of each five-team group and two from the group with four teams. The teams qualifying for the quarter finals were

Galmoy, Erin's Own, Fenians, Barrow Rangers, Cloneen, Mooncoin, Glenmore and Windgap. The results of the quarter finals were Galmoy 2-10 Windgap 0-2, Mooncoin beat Fenians, Erin's Own beat Cloneen, Glenmore 1-7 Barrow Rangers 0-8. In the semi-finals there were victories for Galmoy over Glenmore and for Erin's Own over Mooncoin.

The final between Galmoy and Erin's Own was a very exciting contest with the result in doubt right up to the end. A Martin Phelan goal helped Galmoy into an interval lead 1-3 to 0-4. The game ebbed and flowed in the second half until three minutes from time when an Anthony Owens goal for Erin's Own levelled the scores. Amidst great excitement, Martin Phelan had a point for Galmoy. Donica Gray clinched victory with a goal in the last minute. The final score was Galmoy 2-6 Erin's Own 1-5. Galmoy's best players were Peter Paul Maher, Phil Doyle, Niall Doherty, James Hickey, James Dunne and Martin Phelan. The losers' most prominent players were Anthony Owens, Colin Dunne, Lar Dunne, Karl Brennan and Damien Fogarty.

Scorers- Galmoy; Martin Phelan (1-3), Donica Gray (1-1), James Dunne (0-2).

Erin's Own; Anthony Owens (1-2), Gary Kavanagh, Damien Fogarty and Karl Brennan (0-1 each).

Galmoy:- Peter Paul Maher, Kenneth Walsh, Phil Doyle, Thomas Dillon, Seamus Dillon, Niall Doherty, Eoin Phelan, Martin Phelan, James Hickey, Georgie Hickey, Jonathan Smith, James Dunne, David Murphy, Eamon Murphy, Brian Kavanagh. *Subs-* Donica Gray, Padraig Gray.

Erin's Own:- Adrian Hennessy, Paddy Byrne, Colin Dunne, Cormac Kelly, Michael Boland, Lar Dunne, Brian Cody, Karl Brennan, Sean Dwyer, John Quinn, David Stone, Gary Kavanagh, Damien Fogarty, Anthony Owens, Jason Carroll. *Subs-* Michael Farrell, Dermot Wallace.

A Day in the Life of a Hurley

We asked some students to write an essay for us. Two of the best are printed below.

The note from the teacher, a man who has been known to put pen to paper on occasion to support the Kilkenny cause, says "It's bad enough having Cork beat us - but to have a Tipperary lad win an essay competition about hurling takes the biscuit entirely."

A Day in the Life of a Hurley

by Donal Cody, Poulacapple, Mullinahone.
6th Class - Mr. Moloney,
St. Patricks Boys School, Kilkenny

Here I go again, stuck into the kit-bag, hauled onto the field and thrown into the dugout where I wait patiently for one of my mates to break his arm so that I can make my debut. But no, it never happens. What? A spare? Quickly? Me? He's pointing, he's looking... he's actually lifts me out. Yes! This is it!! Let's have a look now. Who owns that pair of hands that have gripped me so tightly? It can't be! It is!! It's Eoin Kelly and he's swinging me round and hopping my poor head (my bas, that is) off the ground. But who cares? I'm out in the middle of Croke Park on All Ireland day 2000 and I'm Eoin Kelly's arm extension and I feel great.

The ball is pucked out by Damien Young. I'm being lowered towards the ground, and the sliotar and I'm letting that sliotar roll along my head. Now Eoin is running and that ball is still sitting there. I flick the ball up and I'm being swung round and I make contact with the ball and ...yes, yes, I've scored a goal!

And we're off again. Lots of banging and clashing and ..ouch! it really does hurt when a few of us collide. I must say, all this movement up and down does make me a bit queasy.

Oh what's this? It's one of those Clare hurleys coming towards me, Yes, it's Brian Lohan's. Up I go, clash! That's his arm gone (the hurley, that is). Yes it is broken and I can't help but smile.

The ball bounces and I flick it over Brian Lohan's head and hit it hard at Davy Fitz. He dives but the ball goes past him and into the back of the net and Tipperary are ahead by two points in the first All Ireland of the new millenium.

I feel we must be approaching the full time whistle. I've had a great time but I must admit I'm a bit chipped here and there and I'm sure I've a crack in my middle and I'd say I'm beyond repair...another major clash and I'm gone. Play has slowed down a bit so I'm having a bit of a rest.

Yes, there it goes, that full time whistle and Tipperary are the first All Ireland Champions of the new millenium.

Ouch! Don't throw me in the air again. I've just landed with a thud and there are thousands of feet walking all over me. Eoin, help!! don't leave me here, I don't deserve this. Pick me

up...ah that's better, I'm back in the hands of the rightful owner.

What's this?? He's writing on me. But of course, he's autographing me and I'm being handed to a young fan called Donal and he's taking me home.

Back to square one, into a kit-bag, thrown into the back of a car, bumpy ride home, hauled out and put standing in the corner. Ah well, that's life and I guess I've had a wonderful day, even if I never get to hit another hurley or sliotar - sure they'd never have won without me.

I reckon Lár na Páirce in Thurles should be my last resting place but we'll just have to wait and see what happens tomorrow.

A Day in the Life of a Hurley

Colm Sheenan
(6th class Mr. Cody)
St. Patricks Boys School, Kilkenny

My name is Colm Sheenan or as I like to be called a hurley.

My life began as a small twig with my friends in a forest. There I grew into a fine ash tree always looking forward to the day when I would be made into a hurley for a famous hurler. Finally that day came.

Men marched into the forest trampling the flowers and plants with saws and axes. Next thing I know I am on a bench in a saw mill with little bits being chopped off me and the craftsman moulding me into a hurley.

Today I make a journey to a very famous sportsground, Croke Park in the bag of a very famous man DJ Carey. Yes!!! I am DJ Carey's hurley. What an honour to be part of this great man's life!

As I am lifted out of this bag I see the great Brian Cody and many other All Stars around me. I see the brilliant Leinster champions Kilkenny and I hear the roar of the crowd who have come to see their heroes.

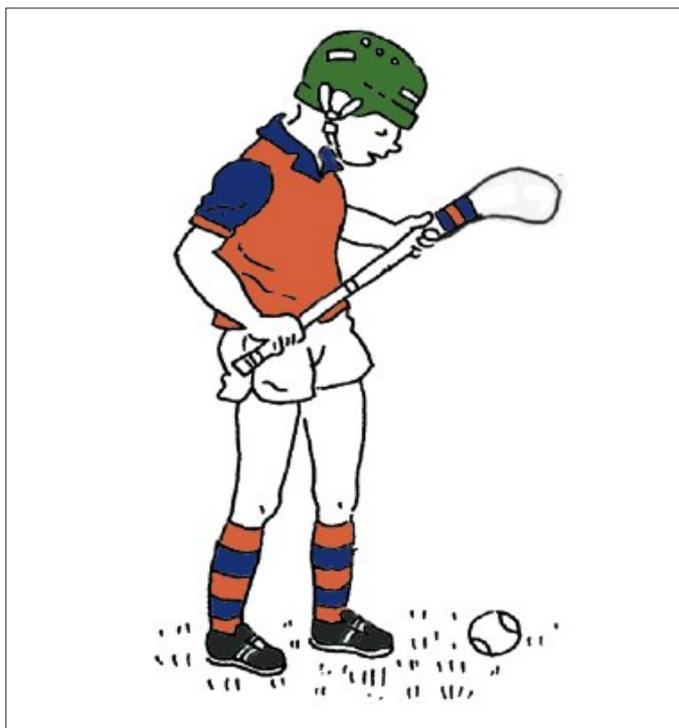
I feel great pride as DJ picks me up and carries me into the All Ireland final of 1999. I know there is pain ahead but I feel safe with DJ's hands wrapped around me. Puck after puck from my boss failed to produce a

score and I feel sad that DJ did not get any score with me today. On the bright side I am still in one piece.

On the long sad journey home without Liam McCarthy I hear the players weep about their loss, but the hurleys are bragging about how many scores were achieved with them.

Back in Kilkenny I hope to go training soon again and help DJ and the Kilkenny men win the All Ireland title in the year 2000, that is if I am still in one piece.

(Colm, we hope that reference to Mr. Cody will guarantee you full marks in your next exam. You deserve it! The Editor.)



CLUB CALL



Galmoy

An Eventful Year

1999 was an eventful year on the playing fields with our U-16 team being the most successful side winning the U-16 Roinn C League and championship double for the first time since 1981. This was an excellent achievement and just reward for a hard season of training under the guidance of Brian Doherty and his co-selectors Gerry Maher and Peter Ryan. This same squad formed the bulk of the Minor Team which reached the Northern Final Roinn C forcing St. Patrick's Ballyragget to a replay and only going down after putting up a tremendous battle.

Junior Hurling

Our Junior team also put in a committed year and reached the Northern Junior Championship Final where together with The Emeralds they served up two wonderful exhibitions of hurling watched by large crowds on both days. Unfortunately victory was not to be.

Hurlers Co-op Draw

In the Hurlers Co-Op Draw Galmoy GAA club had one big winner when Doctor Margaret Lynch scooped £8,500 in the July draw. Local Primary school principal Mrs. Therese Finnegan also won £100 in August. The club also joined the weekly 'Play for the Park' Lotto and has won many prizes thus far.

Medal Winners

Galmoy players who shone in other fields included Charles Brennan who won an All-Ireland Agricultural Colleges medal with Kildalton Agricultural College. Pat Glendon won an All-Ireland medal with the Kilkenny Masters side and Paul Delaney won a Dublin U-21 championship medal with U.C.D.

James Dunne came second in the U-14 Kilkenny Feile skills competition as well as being part of the Kilkenny U-14 Tony Forristal panel along with Georgie Hickey, who himself, won a Leinster Juvenile medal with St. Kieran's College. Brian Kavanagh won a Kilkenny V.E.C. medal with Coláiste Mhuire while Donnacha Gray was part of the Coláiste Mhuire senior hurling panel who won the Leinster Vocational Schools championship.

Phil Doyle, Martin Phelan, Niall Doherty, Seamus Dillon and Phil Russell were all part of the St. Fergal's College Rathdowney side who won the Leinster Junior Vocational schools championship. Niall and Martin later played on the Kilkenny U-16 Nenagh Co-Op side. Philip Maher won a Leinster League medal with North Kilkenny Minors.

Selectors

Lottie Harte, Jerry Drennan and Brian Doherty all served as selectors on Kilkenny Teams during 1999.

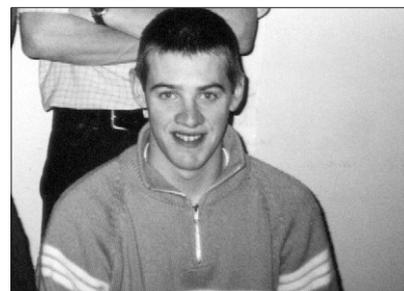
Well Done!

Congratulations to St. Anne's Camogie Club, who had a great year winning their u-14 County Final during the summer and then gaining Intermediate status when they beat the Rower-Inistioge in the County Junior Final. Their u-21's also did themselves justice reaching the county final against Mullinavat, which was a draw the first day and went to a replay.

Sympathies

Finally the club lost some great gaels during the past twelve months and will only be the poorer for these losses. Sincerest sympathy goes to the families of Jody Delaney, Dan Daly, young Joe Cullinane, Bidy Brophy and Paddy Duggan.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam-nacha.



Charles Brennan won an All Ireland Agricultural Colleges medal with Kildalton Agricultural College in 1999.



Club Secretary Jerry Drennan presents a cheque for £8,500 to Dr. Margaret Lynch, winner in the Hurlers Co-op Draw. Also in picture are Peter Ryan, seller and Gerry Maher, Club Treasurer.



Paul Delaney won a Dublin U21 championship with UCD.

CLUB CALL



Glenmore

Club of the Decade

Since the 1998 yearbook publication we have won the 1998 football championship and the 1999 senior hurling title. Unfortunately we lost at the hands of Birr in the AIB Leinster club championship in November. With four senior hurling titles, two Leinster and one All Ireland club title, we are undoubtedly the hurling club of the decade in Kilkenny.

Finance

Our finance committee had a very successful year with the Hurlers Co-op Draw and 'Play for

the Park' Lotto, organised by Wat Cody. In addition we had a record breaking 'dog night' at Kilcohan Park.

Development

The Field Committee were very active keeping the pitch in pristine condition and are presently putting up wire netting in Glenmore school to protect the roof.

Medal Winners

Congratulations to Richard Mullally on winning an All Ireland u-21 hurling medal and also to Michael Phelan who won an All Ireland Colleges Senior Football A medal with Good Counsel,

NewRoss. Well done too to Willie O'Connor and Paddy Mullally who won Leinster senior hurling medal. Willie also gained his third All Star award and captained Leinster to a Railway Cup win

Obituaries

Since the last publication three former players died. These were the brothers Mick and Tommy Phelan who won senior football championship medals in the forties and fifties. We also lost Paddy Doherty, formerly of Davidstown and uncle of the Heffernans. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

CLUB CALL



Graigie Ballycallan

Mixed Fortunes

It was a mixed year for the club. The highlights were the winning of the Hennessy Sports All County Junior hurling league (see full report elsewhere) and the senior football league. This was the first ever victory in football at senior level. They have now qualified for the county senior football final in which they play Glenmore or Railyard. The only previous appearance in a senior football final was in 1961 when they lost to Railyard.

League Final Win

The league final was against the reigning county champions Glenmore. Graigie Ballycallan led by 0-8 to 0-5 at the interval. With time almost up Glenmore led by 1-9 to 0-10. Then James Ryall rose highest to a long centre from James Young to box the ball to the net. Patrick Dalton clinched victory with a point for a 1-11 to 1-9 victory. The scorers were Damien Cleere (0-5), Thomas Dermody (0-2), Patrick Dalton (0-2), James Ryall (1-0), John Teehan (0-1), Johnny Ronan (0-1). The team was Paul Dermody (Ballyline), Tomas McCluskey, Paddy Dwyer (Capt), Paul Hoyne, Joe Brennan, Alan Hoyne, James Ryall, James Young, Damien Cleere, Patrick Dalton, Thomas Dermody, Gearoid Cleere, Sean Millea, John Teehan, Johnny Ronan. Subs not used Philip Butler (Corstown), John Dermody, Samuel Ryall.

Injuries Woe

Injuries proved costly for the club. John Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Edward Brennan and Joe Young were all missing for the closing stages of the senior championship. It was a great achieve-



**Denis Byrne, Kilkenny SH Captain
1999**

ment to have reached the senior county final without the services of this quartet. This also had a knock on effect for the junior team as they lost three players who had to be promoted to the senior team to fill the places of those injured.

John Hoyne, Joe Young and Jimmy Lynch (drawn game) also missed out on the Under 21 when they lost in a replay to James Stephens by one point.

Many Achievements

Denis Byrne captained Kilkenny in the All Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Edward Brennan and John Hoyne won All Ireland u-21 Hurling Medals.

Denis Byrne, Johnny Butler and John Hoyne won All Ireland Senior Runners Up medals and Leinster Senior Hurling medals.

Denis Byrne played with Leinster in the Interprovincial Semi Final and has also

been nominated for an All Star award.

David Harrison won an Agricultural Colleges All Ireland Hurling medal with Kildalton.

James Ryall won All Ireland Agricultural Colleges Football championship and league medals with Mountbellew. He also helped them to win the shield competition in hurling.

Patrick Dalton and Shane Murphy won International minor football shield medals with Kilkenny.

Darragh Murphy won a Leinster Juvenile Colleges hurling medal with St Kierans.

P. J. Pollard played with the Kilkenny u-14 team and won a Rice Cup medal with Kilkenny CBS. Also Rice Cup winners were Michéal Murphy, Richie Devane and Mark Fitzpatrick, Kevin Cleere, Aidan Brett and Niall Millea won Leinster minor hurling league medals with North Kilkenny.

Tom Ryall was tour manager with the Eircell All Stars in Boston.

Deceased Players

Sympathy is extended to the relatives of the following who died during the year Sean Gorey county minor medalist in 1949, Jackie Nolan goalkeeper on the 1948 county minor winning team, Sam Ryall who played in the senior semi final in 1955 against Mooncoin and hurled with the juniors until the early sixties and Ray Bourke who also played in the 1960's. May they Rest in Peace.

CLUB CALL



Graignamanagh

Management

After a lively AGM a motion was passed to change the club's management structures. A seven member executive was elected.

In addition to Club Chairman Joseph Haire and Secretary Billy Hoare, each elected executive member was given responsibility for a clearly defined area of the club's activities: Finance - Mary Blanchfield, Property and Provisions - Hugh Ryan, juveniles and schools - Jim Coady, Youth and Colleges - Paddy Corbett, Adult Teams - Johnny Prendergast.

A Good Start is....

The year began well on a number of fronts. Matt Doyle continued as sponsor to the adult teams. Brian Case of the Anchor Hotel sponsored juvenile teams. Michael Walsh again took charge of the Intermediate team together with additional duties as club coach.

Many thanks to the teachers and BOM of the Boys NS who gave admirable assistance to the club in welcoming Michael to the school every Friday for two forty five minute sessions, with all classes from 2nd to 6th.

Ground Development

Early executive meetings established the year's priority developments for the club grounds. A central heating system was soon installed in the dressing rooms. The first priority was to erect high perimeter netting behind the goal at the town end to give reasonable protection from sliotars to adjoining property and traffic.

After many headaches this project was completed before the season got into full swing and was handsomely grant aided by the Leinster Council. New goal posts and goal nets were put in place before the next major assignment, the erection of a barrier for safety and comfort of spectators along the perimeter of the playing surface.

Other projects currently at an advanced planning stage are:

- i) improvement to the entrance to our pitch and dressing room surrounds,
- ii) erection of a scoreboard,
- iii) in co-operation with Highview Athletic, erection of a high netting divide between the two pitches.

In the near future too, serious consideration will be given to major drainage works on our pitch with associated funding and playing implications.

Finance, Fundraising and Social Developments

Socially the year began brightly with some well supported pub quizzes. The social gatherings every club wants are those following county championship final victories. While there was no such evening this year, players, mentors and supporters did have cause to celebrate on two occasions when the Junior A and Intermediate 'home and away' leagues were won.

Disappointingly on the fundraising front, the club did not come up with any innovative fund raiser capable of financing major development work. Instead the traditional finance sources capable merely of financing day-to-day running costs were again relied on. These included sponsors, membership, Hurlers Co-op Draw, Play for the Park Lotto, 5 week draw,, church gate collections and gate receipts. A major Christmas draw is planned for year end.

On the Pitch - Juveniles

Our u-11 Camaint team took part in all their matches at four venues around the county including finals day in Nowlan Park. At u-13 level our combined Skeoughvosteen/Graignamanagh schools team exited at the second round in the hurling championship after an earlier victory over Mooneenroe. In the u-14 hurling league we secured one victory over Dunnamaggin from our five games. By the time the Championship arrived much improvement in this young team was evident. They lost to Slieverue by a single point after a spirited display. Our u-14 footballers were eliminated at an early stage by Mullinavat.

The u-14 season did not end with championship defeat. Much needed practice and no little success was gained in the Barrow Valley league. After four victories we played Gowran in the final at Walsh Park losing by 2-5 to 1-3. Again there was clear improvement and with many of the team underage for the next two years there is considerable optimism.

Other events of note at juvenile level was the joint hosting with Thomastown of a sector of Feile Laighean. A team from Westmeath was accommodated locally. The Summer Camps were a great success with a full bus of enthusiastic hurlers leaving the town each day by coach for Thomastown. Our traditional Leinster Final trip was an enjoyable day out and incorporated a morning u-14 challenge against famed St. Vincents.

Youths

Hopes were high for a successful year with our talented minor squad but it wasn't to be. A disappointing league semi-final defeat to Lisdowney was followed by a first round championship defeat by eventual finalists Shamrocks. Our u-16 hurlers also exited at the first hurdle. In the u-21 championship a first round victory over Mooncoin was followed by a hard earned win over Kilmacow and led to a Southern final meeting with Dunnamaggin.

Junior and Intermediate

Our Junior A team secured the club's first ever trophy at this grade when winning their league. Their only defeat came on home soil to Shamrocks but was avenged in the League final victory. Our championship campaign ended in dreadful conditions for hurling in the Southern final against Shamrocks.

A league defeat on 27th June proved the turning point in our season. The team remained unbeaten for nine games until exiting the championship after a replay against John Lockes. It included a fine victory over Dunnamaggin in the 'home and away' league.

The hard work of team manager Michael Walsh and his selectors Bob Grace and Philip Cahill could, with a little luck, have brought us an elusive championship title. No doubt the progress they have made this year can be built on in the future.

Intercounty Players

Jarlath Bolger and Henry Roberts were on the Kilkenny Intermediate panel which won the Leinster championship. Niall Coady was on the Kilkenny u-15 squad which won the inaugural Intercounty League. Ger and PJ Brett and Chris O'Neill were members of the Kilkenny Vocational Schools panel which lost to Galway in the All Ireland semi-final. Eddie Walsh won his second Leinster minor medal, joined on the panel by Chris O'Neill, still underage for next year. Cathal Dunne assisted the county u-21 team notching a goal in the All Ireland semi-final defeat of Antrim.

Get Well!

Two of our players, John Carroll and Ken Walsh sustained serious injuries this year. John's injury, a particularly nasty facial and skull fracture occurred when he was making a bold bid to regain his place for the championship semi-final. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

CLUB CALL



James Stephens

Management

To comply with Croke Park recommendations, our AGM was held prior to Christmas before a good sized attendance. Club Chairman Liam Tyrrell, completing his fourteenth year in office urged the club's senior mentors to continue their determined drive for senior honours, last won in 1981.

Treasurer Tom Keane's financial statement confirmed the high cost of running a successful club, with hurleys and sliotars alone costing £9,100.

Minor Tournament

The prestigious Paddy Mullen Minor hurling tournament has now become a vital part of many club's preparations for their own county championship ambitions. This year's tournament with eight teams from six counties participating, was one of the most entertaining and competitive in its nine year history. Winners, Mount Sion later captured their own county title as did Coolderry and Thrules Sarsfields.

Minors

The club minors made a promising start to the year winning through to the league final but lost narrowly to O'Loughlins. They also suffered the same fate in the Paddy Mullen final in June. In the championship they registered a good win over Emeralds but lost to eventual champions Tullaroan.

Juvenile Hurling

The underage coaching and tournament committee continued their invaluable work developing and promoting the game, on an almost year round basis to ensure the future well being of the club.

The annual Seamus Fry and Andy Egan Memorial tournaments were run off with their usual efficiency, with the young participants eagerly tussling for possession, pulling feverishly on the sliotar and striving with opponents for a winning 'clash of the ash', as though the glory of an All Ireland gold cross was at stake.

County

Congratulations to club stalwart, Brian Cody, who together with fellow selectors Ger Henderson and Johnny Walsh led the Kilkenny seniors to the All Ireland final against Cork, winning many admirers along the way with their exciting brand of hurling.

Unfortunately it was not to be, nevertheless, congratulations are in order for our three county representatives, Philip Larkin, Brian McEvoy and Peter Barry all of whom performed with distinction, doing themselves and the club proud.

Hail the Masters

Clubmen Joe Hennessy and Paddy Neary extended their already illustrious hurling careers for another year, at least, as members of the victorious Kilkenny over 40's fifteen which won the All Ireland against Tipperary in a nailbiting finish to an exciting hours hurling.

More Hurling Success

Our u-14s won the Paddy Grace Tournament and the county championship title but had to give best to

Glen Rovers in Feile na Gael.

The u-21s have lit up the end of the season with some stirring victories, bringing us our eleventh Northern title with great wins over O'Loughlins, Graigue-Ballycallan and Fenians to set up a county final date against great rivals Dunnamaggin.

Social Committee

The new Social Committee under Eugene O'Brien and Mrs. Phyllis O'Rourke organised a very enjoyable Summer outing for over fifty members to Courtown, Co. Wexford and finished the days revelries with music from the sixties in our club-rooms. Chairman, Eugene O'Brien presented the club with a cheque for £600 to help with the development of Gaelic Games within the parish.

Club Development

The club is at the early stages of drafting plans for the development of a small seated stand, public toilets, first aid facilities and car parking for the benefit of players and supporters of the games. This will bring the club facilities up to modern standards as we enter the new millenium.



Participants and Mentors in the Seamus Fry (3rd & 4th Classes) Memorial Tournament

Back: Michael Slattery, Mark Greene, Shane Brennan, Paddy Fry, Conor Maher, Shane Doyle, Killian Murphy, Sean Brennan, Sean O'Keeffe.

Front: Eddie O'Shaughnessy, Patrick O'Keeffe, Sean Ryan, Robbie Doyle, James Meehan, Danny Power, Eoin McKeon, David Butler, Kelvin Skehan.

photo: Tom Brett.

CLUB CALL



John Lockes

Fundraising

In November 1998 things looked bleak for the club off the field, no money in the 'coffers' and our dressing rooms and John Locke Park needing a facelift. We made over £4,000 with a Christmas Draw. In August the club ran a golf classic at Callan GC and this added more funds for the development of John Locke Park.

Sleeves Rolled Up

The first job done was the exterior of the dressing were painted. Inside the dressing boasts all new shower areas with new spring loaded showering system. The area was re-tiled and is now on a par with any facility in the county.

The goal posts have been replaced with modern steel fixtures made by local man Willie Bergin. New pull back netting was erected at the country end goal to replace the old structure that has served its purpose for the last 16 years.

The dug outs were painted during the season and the entire interior of the dressing rooms.

Conquering Heroes

The intermediate team also had an excellent league campaign reaching the semi-final of the league for the first time. But the best was left till

last, a comprehensive win over Mooncoin in the championship quarter-final, two hard battles with Graignamanagh and victory over Mullinavat in the county final gained our second intermediate title of the nineties and regain our rightful place in the senior grade.

Special Juniors Almost there

The Special Junior B team were worthy winners over Carrickshock in the southern final but lost to O'Loughlin Gaels in dramatic fashion in the county final. The u-21s were unfortunate to lose to Mullinavat in the south semi-final.

Juvenile Hurling

It wasn't a memorable year at u-16 and minor level when both teams went out in the early stages of the league and championship.

1999 was a busy year in the under age section of the club. The primary school team once again qualified for the county quarter finals in Roinn C where the eventually gave way to a physically stronger Clara side. The juvenile team of the year must be the u-11 camaint team. They played twelve matches winning eleven and drawing one.

Colm Nolan Tournament

This was the second successful

staging of the u-12 and u-9 tournament. Twelve teams at u-12 and four at u-9 with Dicksboro and Kilmanagh winning respectively. Star of the tournament was Dicksboro hurler Davy Ryan whose dad is EJ Ryan, our club treasurer.

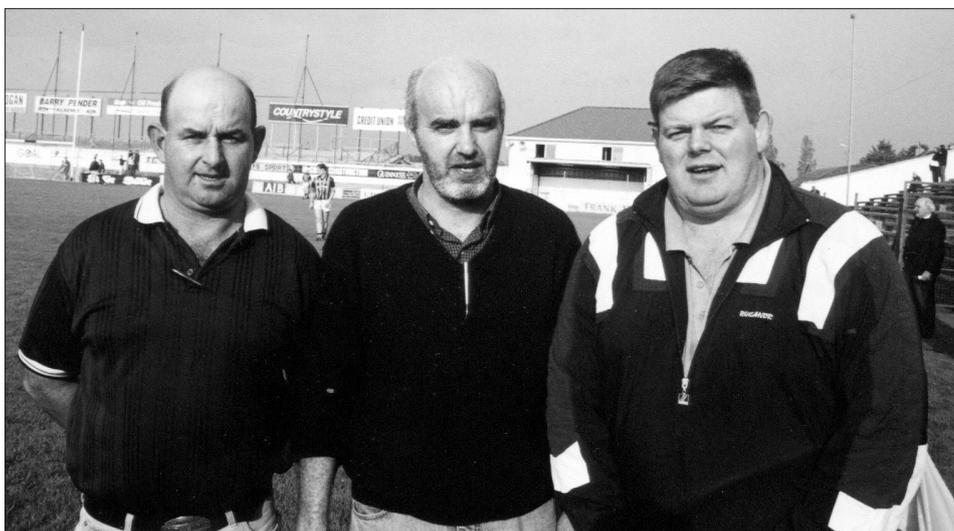
This year will see indoor hurling at juvenile level to enable all players remain active during the winter months and prove ideal preparation for the campaigns of 2000.

Jackie Nolan RIP

During the year, Callan lost one of it's great supporters and benefactors, Jackie Nolan. A hurling man at heart, but more than that, Jackie was your quintessential John Lockes man. Like his father before him, who started the Nolan Omnibus Company, Jackie carried supporters and teams all over the land. He took great pride in the exploits of all John Lockes players.

No mean hurler himself, he was a member of the first St. Kierans College team that won the All-Ireland Colleges title in 1948. On the same team with Jackie were Kieran Crotty, Lar Dunphy, Dick O'Neill and Harry Ryan. The same team beat St. Josephs (Marino) in the Leinster Final, and a member of the St. Josephs team was the great Kevin Heffernan.

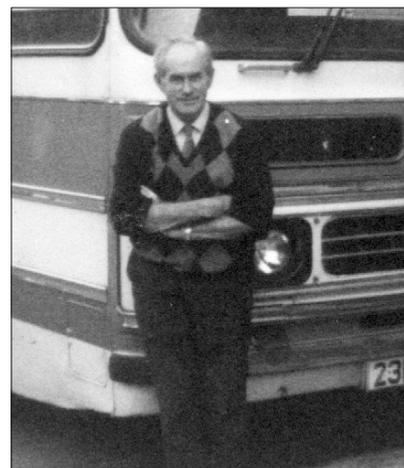
Jackie will be missed by all who knew him, and by the many sporting groups whom he helped.



Three Wise Men!

John Lockes Selectors, Mick Wall, Bro. Damien Brennan, Bosco Bryan.

photo: Tommy O'Neill



Jackie Nolan RIP

CLUB CALL



Lisdowney

A Year of Replays

1999 was a good year for Lisdowney Hurling club. Pride of place must go to our Special Junior Hurling team who won the Div. III League beating Barrow Rangers. Our minors reached the Div. II League final, losing to Tullogher-Rosbercon. In the championship they were beaten by the eventual winners Danesfort-Bennettsbridge after a repaly in the Northern semi-final.

The Juniors had their best run in recent years. They were pipped by James Stephens in a replay of the league semi-final. In the championship, the Emeralds came out winners on the second day in the Northern semi-final. It was a year for replays for Lisdowney, as the U-21 team were beaten by neighbours St. Patrick's, Ballyragget in the Northern semi-final replay.

Juvenile Hurling

Both the u-14 and u-16 teams put in a good year. The Camaint and Primary school teams also did well this year playing some good games.

County Players

Pat Bowden and David Dowling won Leinster medals with Kilkenny minors and St. Kieran's College.

John Bergin won a Leinster medal with the North Kilkenny minor team. Anthony O'Hara and Noel Dowling represented Lisdowney on the North Kilkenny u-16 hurling team. The Johnstown Vocational School hurling team included Kevin Fitzpatrick, John and Padraig Bergin, Anthony O'Hara, Noel Dowling and Liam Grogan.

Sad Losses

During the year we lost both Johnny and



**The Junior Hurling Selectors
Shay Downey, Pat Hoban (trainer), Michael Campion.**

Michael Ivory. Both were strongly involved with Lisdowney GAA Club since it was founded in 1939. Johnny was Secretary of the Northern Board from 1947-1984. The sympathies of the club is extended to their family.

CLUB CALL



Mooncoin

Juvenile Notes

Chairman: Paddy Crowley
Secretary: Josephine Wall
Treasurer: Eamon Delahunty.

u-14 B was our success story of the year-defeating Piltown in the county final by 4-6 to 3-7. Medals were presented to the team by senior star Henry Shefflin at a function in the club complex. This team was also very successful in the Leinster Feile.

The u-13s lost the semi-final of the Waterford City League and the semi-final of the football league. Selectors for both teams were George O'Neill, Joe Wall and Tom O'Hanlon.

The Primary school team was beaten in the final by Tullogher -Rosbercon and in the semi-final of the Country Cup by Shamrocks. Pat Duggan and Eamon Holden took charge of this team.

The u-12s won the Sean Tyler Tournament for the third time defeating Kilmacow in the final. They also reached the semi-final of the WCL losing to Roanmore.

Our u-11s won the WCL against Passage East. Two teams hugely enjoyed the Camaint and Paddy Crowley, Joe Wall, Tom O'Hanlon and Tom Kearns managed these sides.

Tiny Tots

Our u-8 and u-10 parish league was a huge success for the one hundred boys and girls who participated. It was played on a round robin system and much work was put in by organisers Seamus Crowley, Eugene Fitzgerald, James Grace, Tom Kearns, Marion Flynn, Jackie Murphy, Margartet Crowley, Breda Delahunty, Josephine Wall, Tom O'Hanlon.

We were defeated in the u-16 league semi-final by Galmoy and later by Windgap in a replay of the championship. Selectors: Joe Dunphy, Tommy Delahunty, Paddy Bowe.

Played with Kilkenny

Thomas O'Hanlon was on the Kilkenny Tony Forristal panel and Thomas O'Hanlon, Ray Wall, Michael Jones, and Keith Kirwan played



Mooncoin U11 hurlers 1999 - WCL Winners

Back: Richie Doyle, Brian Meade, Michael O'Hanlon, Thomas Hennebray, Thomas Kearns, Michael Grace, Colm Walsh, Jamie Cody, Shane Walsh, Robert Flynn, Eric Walsh, Nicholas Hennebray, Mark Fitzgerald, PJ Roe, Padraig Doody.
Front: Eoin Gallagher, Donnacha Hassett, Eoin Crowley, Kevin Law, Liam Walsh, Ian Dunphy, Daniel Purcell, Cormac Daly, Liam Daly, Seamus Dunphy.

u-14 football with Kilkenny. David O'Brien, Nicholas Delahunty, Anton Lennon, Gerard Sutton and Shay Nolan played with the South u-16 hurling squad and David O'Brien, Bill Quinn and Michael Murphy were on the South u-16 football panel.

Congratulations

Club history was made at the County Convention in Dec. '98 when Ned Quinn became the first Mooncoin Chairman of the County Board. This is a great honour for Ned, his family and Mooncoin Club.

Well done too, to Domo Connolly on winning an All Ireland Masters medal and Mark Tyler, who won a Leinster Intermediate medal.

Development

New goalposts were erected in the Suir Crescent pitch and wire was erected at the rear of the goals. Our main pitch was sanded and spiked.

On the Pitch

Disappointment of the season was the defeat of our Intermediate hurlers by John Lockes. Our Junior A and B sides took part in the league and championships with very little success. Our u-21s lost in the first round to Graignamanagh and to Piltown in the

minor championship. We lost all games in Intermediate and Junior football and lost to Carrickshock in minor football.

Social

Due to family bereavements our 1998 social was postponed to Feb. 1999. Presentations were made to Club persons of the Year: 1997 - Eugene Dunphy, '98 - Paddy Crowley and Players of the Year '97 - Domo Connolly, '98 - Tom Murphy.

Ned Quinn was presented with Waterford Glass and a presentation was also made to James Delahunty for his outstanding contribution to the juvenile club.

Obituaries

The deaths took place of former players Eamonn Kelly, Wattie Hogan and Dick Dunphy. Dick played in goal for Kilkenny in 1956 and Wattie also wore the Black and Amber. We were saddened, too, by the deaths of Margaret Hogan, Nire, formerly Margaret Cody, Killinaspic. Margaret played camogie for the club and also Kilkenny. May they rest in peace. The club extends sympathies to all families who suffered bereavements during the year.

CLUB CALL



Muckalee

A Great Year

While there were no adult competitions won by the club it was a successful year for some of our juvenile teams. The u-14s created their own bit of history by becoming the first team from the parish to win the Roinn B county title. The primary schols football team contested the finals of both the Country Cup and the Toymaster League but were very unfortunate to lose them.

In the senior championship old adversaries Railyard beat Muckalee in the quarter-final. Despite a spirited performance, luck was not on their side and a missed penalty was the difference in the end. In Special Junior it was Railyard who spoiled our chances.

The minor team was beaten in the Northern semi-final by Conahy, having earlier beating Freshford after a replay.

The u-16 team made it to the Northern final but lost to a stronger Railyard team in the final by 3-8 to 0-4.

First Ever Title

Pride of place must go to the U14



Members of Muckalee Football Club who won Leinster Colleges u-14 Roinn C medals with Castlecomer Community School: Shane Cadogan, Eddie Doran, Thomas Nolan, Shane Coonan, Kieran Byrne, Eoin McGrath, David Shore.

team who beat Thomastown convincingly to bring the first ever u-14 football title to the parish. The team was: D. Shore, M. Keane, K. Byrne, C. Brennan, J. Maher, S. Cadogan, P. Brennan, R. Maher, E. Buggy, S. Comerford, A. Murphy, D. Brennan, M. Morrissey, M. Darcy, E. McGrath. Subs: C. Hogan, P. O'Flynn, B. Malone, E. Bolger, J. Mulhall, J. Maher, J. Walsh, J. Maher, M. Nolan, J. Kelly, C. Mahony, J. Dowling.

Selectors: A. Maher, R. Nolan, J. McGrath, P. Cadogan, T. Shore, P. Murphy.

The Future

The U13 team had a great run to the final of the Winter League but lost to Piltown. If these young footballers stay at it they will surely bring titles to the club and the future of football in Muckalee seems to be in safe hands.

Kilkenny Supporters Club - Dublin Branch

Since its foundation two years ago Dublin Branch of Supporters club has become well established and is now on a firm footing in the capital. Membership has increased from approximately 90 members in 1998 to 132 members in 1999. With the increase in membership activities have increased and some very enjoyable fundraising events organised, which enabled us to contribute in a very practical way to the expenses of Kilkenny Co. Board, in addition to sponsoring minor and under 21 Hurlers of the year and also camogie player of the year in 1999. We would like to hear from other Kilkenny people in Dublin and would welcome this support.

Some of the events we ran during the year were not just fund raising events but were also great social occasions and resulted in Kilkenny people in Dublin coming together and renewing old friendships and also making new friends. People who hadn't met since they were pupils in various schools met again after many years, and of course the common bond amongst us all was the hurling and the fortunes of the various teams.

We would like to congratulate all our teams during 1999 for the enjoyment given and of course the Senior Hurling Team on reaching the All-Ireland Final and the under 21 team in winning the All-Ireland. It means so much when you are living away from Kilkenny. We would like also to congratulate 'Furi' on his achievements and to the Camogie Team who also contested the All-Ireland and were narrowly beaten. Our thanks to all teams management and Co. Board.

If you are resident or working in Dublin we would like to hear from you. We are meeting in Leeson Lounge, Leeson Street (Paddy Morrisseys). You can contact any of the following;

CHAIRPERSON: SEAMUS MERNAGH 01 -2850779
SECRETARY: JOHN KNOX 01-6689716
TREASURER: JIM BUTLER 01-8324409
PRO: CATHERINE POWER 01-6174843
COMMITTEE: SILE FARRELL (087-2901459), FRANK KANE, FRANK FOLEY, PADDY MORRISSEY, MICHAEL GANNON, EAMONN PURCELL.
PRESIDENT: NANCY POWER (HONORARY PRESIDENT)

CLUB CALL



Mullinavat

Coaching Developments

1999 was a most successful year for the club as all units trained and competed with great spirit and enthusiasm. Once again our u-11 hurlers enjoyed a successful year under coaches Michael Duggan and John Haberlin. The enthusiasm of this group of young hurlers was a joy to behold as they trained every Saturday morning.

Our primary school team, under the guidance of local teacher Tom O'Brien has made steady progress in the past year. They enjoyed an unbeaten run through the South only to be unluckily beaten in the quarter final by the eventual winners Goresbridge/Paulstown. Hopes are high that this group of players will reap the rewards of their hard work this year.

Welcome!

The club was delighted to welcome Fr. Liam Barron to the parish and he made an immediate impact on the coaching scene when he and Michael Carroll began coaching the u-16 and minor teams. The club is very lucky to have all these dedicated people giving freely of their time to coach the juvenile hurlers of the parish. Nár laige Dia sibh!

On the Playing Field

Pride of place this year goes to the Intermediate team who gave their supporters a great year by reaching the final for the first time in ten years. Little was expected from this team at the start of the year but they improved with championship victories over Piltown, Dunnamaggin and St. Lachtain's.

On the day they had to give best to a stronger and more seasoned John Lockes team but the manner in which they did so gave hope for the future.

Beidh Lá Eile!

This was an honourable defeat



Mullinavat - Roinn A Southern Minor Finalists 1999
Back: Seamus Farrell, Michael Duggan, Dinny Butler, Damien Aylward, Conor Conway, Keith Madigan, John Rohan, Michael Walsh.
Front: William O'Dwyer, Tomás Frisby, Walter Burke, Shane Frisby, Ciaran Aylward, Damien Conway, Kevin Aylward.



Mullinavat - Junior B League Champions 1999
Back: PJ Aylward, Jimmy Duggan, Tony Duggan, Liam Aylward, Alan Wall, Conor Conway, Ollie Aylward (capt.), Maurice Holden, Mossie Murphy.
Front: Eoin Maher, Jack Duggan, Andrew McGovern, Martin Knox, John Paul Duggan, Declan Duggan, Willie Carroll, Kevin Aylward, Michael Duggan.

and these young players showed plenty of character. They will bank this experience and store it away for the coming years.

It was nice to see so many supporters, family and friends at the post match dinner at the Springhill Hotel. We win together and we lose together. Beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach !

The Special Junior team won the league with a good win over John Lockes while the Intermediate Footballers also collected some silverware when they defeated

Blacks & Whites in the league final. **Under 21**

Our u-21 hurlers bounced back quickly from the Intermediate final defeat with a hard earned victory over John Lockes to set up another Southern Final showdown with old rivals Shamrocks. All in all 1999 was a good year for the club. Much progress was made on the playing fields. We can approach the millennium with hope and confidence.



Good Hurling

1999 proved a good year for hurling in our club, with our Special Juniors bringing home a county title with a dramatic last minute win over John Lockes.

We also reached the quarter finals of the senior championship. We overcame city rivals Dicksboro in the first round after a replay, but Young Irelands halted our gallop despite a good performance by our men. Our footballers reached the quarter finals of the Intermediate championship.

Inter County Success

On the county scene Andy Comerford had a great year in the Black & Amber. Sean Dowling, Alan Geoghegan and Martin Comerford all featured on the county u-21 panel which performed so well to capture an All Ireland title.

Mol an Oige

The Sunday morning hurling leagues continue to be great successes with well over 130 boys partaking each week from u-8 to u-12 years. All teams had their own club leagues as well as games against other clubs including Camaint, the John Lockes tournament etc.

The u-12s were very successful winning the Dicksboro tournament over six teams. We defeated the host club in an excellent final.

The u-13s won the Shield section of the Diarmuid Shortall Tournament, defeating Harps while Dicksboro won the Cup, defeating North Kildare.

The Juvenile Committee would

like to thank the many helpers on the Sunday morning coaching sessions.

Bord na nÓg

The u-14s had some disappointing results but some good wins too. Daniel O'Sullivan won 'player of the year' award.

The u-16s had great victories over rivals James Stephens and Dicksboro, but lost to Tullaroan in the League semi-final and championship. Brian Dowling won 'player of the year' award in this age group and he also played with Kilkenny u-16s.

The minors won the Roinn A league title with a great win over James Stephens in the final but fell at the first hurdle against Tullaroan in the championship in a cracking match.

Winners

Brian Murphy won a second Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny, while Mark Phelan, James O'Keeffe and Brian Hogan won Leinster Colleges medals with St. Kieran's College.

Handball

28 February was a momentous day in the history of the club with the opening of the state of the art 40 x 20 handball alley. The opening ceremony was performed by Con Moore, President of the Handball Council of Ireland.

Exhibition games were played by Ducksie Walsh and DJ Carey and by juveniles from O'Loughlins club, Emer Skehan, Cora Bergin, Mark Bergin, Danny and Laura Loughnane, Maurice Nolan and Colin and David Sheenan.



Darren Hayes, Captain of the O'Loughlin Gaels U-12 hurling team with the Denis Molloy Cup, surrounded by admirers.



Kevin Morrissey, O'Loughlin Gaels, receiving the 'Man of the Match' award in the Molloy Tournament from Dicksboro Juvenile Chariman, **John Cahill**.

CLUB CALL



Piltown

Juveniles

The past year was very busy and successful. The u-13s footballers won the inaugural county league.

Our u-14 footballers lost to Carrickshock whilst our hurlers lost narrowly to Mooncoin in a tremendous Roinn B county final.

Our minor hurlers lost the South final narrowly to Carrickshock. This squad put in a great effort together with the u-16s. Jim Power and his troops are to be congratulated on their hard work.

In schools games the footballers and hurlers acquitted themselves well without reaching their full potential. In the INTO mini-sevens football the girls were victorious and Cathy Grant & Avril Hickey represented the county on All-Ireland semi-final and final days in Croke Park.

Participation in the Waterford City Leagues proved very successful with the u-10s & u-12s winning their competitions. The u-13s were defeated by a strong Roanmore side in the Div. 1 final. Jim & Sean Norris deserve great credit for the work with this team and the u-14s. Our u-11 hurlers acquitted themselves very well in the 'Camaint'.

The committee would like to thank the players, trainers, selectors and parents who helped to make this an enjoyable year on our playing fields.

Intermediates

After three years back in the intermediate grade, unfortunately, it's back to the drawing-board in the junior ranks for the new millennium. With some promising juveniles coming along, much needed depth can be added to face a challenge they are well capable of handling.

Football

Fielding depleted sides the senior team had two draws and one defeat before going out to Kilmogany in the first round. They

now face a relegation final to decide their status for the coming year.

Intercounty

Congratulations to Brian Farrell on winning a Leinster Intermediate medal, to Michael Gordon who won Leinster & All-Ireland u-21 championship medals with match-winning performances, and to Michael Long who won a n All Ireland Masters' medal with Kilkenny.

Club Development

Major refurbishments have been carried out and the new-look comfortable surroundings are very attractive giving the social members a very pleasant place for card games, dancing and a quiet drink.

Construction of wire-netting behind the goals in the back field has begun. The FAS workers have done an excellent job maintaining the pitches which were in immaculate order for many important championship games this year.

u-17 Tournament

This important competition has been continued and the final will be between Piltown and Kilmacow.

It has been very beneficial in terms of providing games and developing the following year's minor squad.

Camogie

A determined effort is being made to get things moving again with special emphasis on the schoolchildren who will be catered on Sunday mornings.

Income

The Hurlers Co-Op Draw was again well supported by the club members and supporters and with the "Play For The Park" lotto it gave the much needed finances. The social members, through the card games, gave substantial financial assistance.

Obituaries

James Maher, a young Piltown hurler, lost his life in a car accident.

Sam Tobin, former Piltown hurler died after a short illness. Jerry O'Donoghue, former principal of Tobernabrone & Piltown national schools died. He pioneered schools hurling in the parish.

For a tribute to Sean Gorey, see the obituary page.



Piltown - Winners of the 13-a-side Roinn A Football League 1998/99
Back: Nicholas Kenny, Richie McCarthy, Maurice O'Donoghue, Paddy McNamara, Eamonn Kenny, Michael Dineen, Kevin Kelly, Brendan McCarthy. **Front:** Paul Maher (capt.), Michael Galvin, Paul Kirby, Shane Kinsella, Peter Kelly.

CLUB CALL



Rower-Inistioge

A Lean Year

1999 proved to be a lean year for the adult teams. The hurlers performances were baffling, especially when one considers the solid achievements of the underage teams in the past decade. Like many rural clubs, Rower Inistioge has endured its share of player wastage. If the Intermediates had displayed, earlier in the year, the same spirit shown in the relegation final they would have avoided much unnecessary pressure.

A Hive of Activity

Off the fields the club is a hive of activity and this year saw major improvements of our picturesque Inistioge pitch. The drainage work has been completed as has boundary fencing under the supervision of dedicated committee man Davy O'Dwyer. Thanks to the efforts of men like Davy, Richard Tierney, Billy Kennedy, Michéal Roche and others, the club now possesses one of the finest pitches in the county.

Bord na nOg

At underage level the club had a very successful year. The u-13s reached the semi-finals for the fourth consecutive year, and they won the football title. The outstanding team of the year was our u-14s who contested three county finals thought they lost all to an excellent Conahy side.

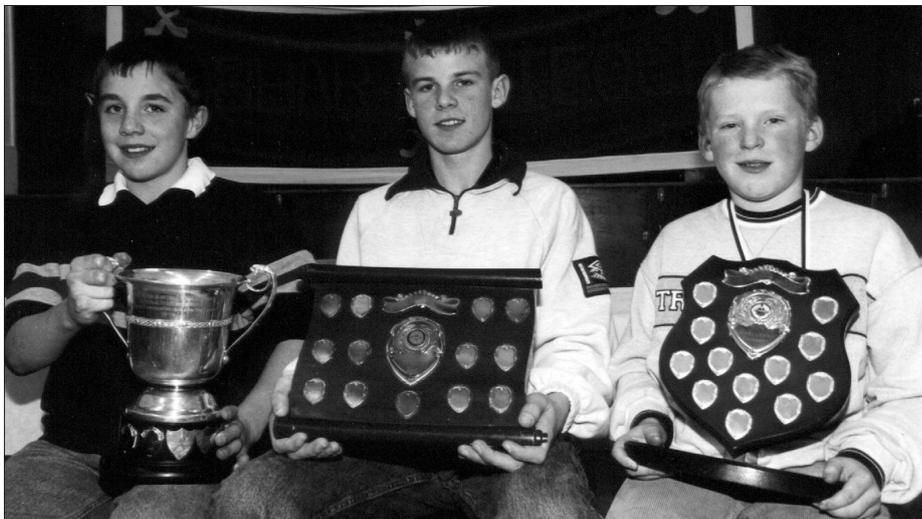
The crossbar denied our u-16 hurlers from progressing, losing by a single point to Mullinavat. In the 13-16 age group we seem to possess a good number of talented young players, who hopefully



**Rower-Inistioge u-13 Cumann na mBunscoileanna
Roinn B '98 (played in 1999)**

Back: Pdraig Grace, Eugene Murphy, Billy Cuddihy, Paddy Lanigan, Liam Lyng, Pat Tierney, Kieran Joyce, Seamus Corcoran, David Morrissey, James Holohan, Michael Cassin, Owen Kavanagh, Benny Holohan (trainer).

Front: Niall Doran, Brian Malone, Stephen O'Connor, Wally Kavanagh, Tadhg Leahy, David Lyng, Jim Killian, John James Kenny (capt.) Jamie Mackey, Paddy Lyng, George Phelan, Michael Malone.



Rower Inistioge - Winning Captains

John James Kenny, u-13 Schools football, **Pdraig Lyng**, u-14 hurling league, **Seamus Holohan**, u-12 Power Shield.

will go on to greater success.

The minor team was disappointing this year, but many of them are eligible in 2000.

Juvenile Club Workers

Many thanks to juvenile club workers like Pat Corcoran, Benny Holohan, Paddy Grace, Jim Mooney, Michael Doyle and

Martin Barron who have worked so hard to assist these youngsters to success.

The u-11 hurlers and footballers have been kept busy under the guidance of mentors Peter Nolan, Dany Meaney, James Cassin and Ger Mackey, thus ensuring a healthy future for our club into the new millennium.

CLUB CALL



Slieverue

Plenty of Hurling

Hurling activity has been lively and at times hectic during the past season. Apart from the winning of our own tournament by the junior team, no other trophies came our way. However there was sustained interest by almost all teams and one may well conclude that hurling is alive and well in the parish. We fielded teams from u-8 to adult level and had two u-10 teams in the Waterford City ground hurling tournament.



Slieverue Camaint 1999

Back: Martin O'Donovan, Aine Cody, Jessica Hayden, Paul Doherty, Anne Marie Roche, Sean Loughman, Sean Roche, Richard Roche.

Front: Craig Doyle, Enda Loughman, Eamon O'Donovan, Ricky Hogan, Michelle Quilty, Jamie Murphy, Mark Walsh, William Walsh.

Best Wishes

Mr Pat Ryan NT decided to take a year out and went to Australia in September. His absence leaves a void in the club and means that the other members will need to work harder to keep up communications with pupils in the local school. We wish Pat well in his year out.



Slieverue u-13 Roinn C Football Champions 1999

Back: Michael Hoyne, John Maher, Conor Grant, Rachel Walsh, Bill Stuart, Stephen Doherty, Andrew Hogan, Sean Roche, Sean Loughman, Eoin O'Brien.

Front: Enda Loughman, Aine Cody, Kelly Delahunty, Maria Cody, Phil Doherty, William Walsh, Jason Colclough, Glen Colclough.

Manager: John Loughman.

Finance

The club continues to lead the field in the county as regards sales for the 'Play for the Park' lotto. We are pleased with this but also pleased with the tens of thousands of pounds accruing to club funds. Congratulations and thanks to our loyal sellers.

We also did well in sales of Hurlers Co-op tickets. Again we profited and thanks to the sellers. Financially we are doing well and a county championship in any grade would be a most welcome addition for 2000!



Slieverue Minor Hurling team 1999

Back: Niall Knox, Mark Haberlin, David Barrett, Alan Atkins, Robert Drennan, Fergal Doherty, Jamie Walsh, Paul Hogan, Eoin Phelan.

Front: Brian Delahunty, Robert Roche, Kieran Grant, Brendan Coady, Joseph Coady, Paddy O'Keefe, Anthony O'Keefe, Aidan Hogan, Paul Atkins.

CLUB CALL



St Lachtain's

On the Field

It was a great year of so near yet so far. A defeat in the Intermediate league final by Dunnamaggin gave a ray of hope for better things to come.

However defeat by Mullinavat in the semi-final brought the year to a sudden end.

The school team suffered defeat in the Roinn A final for the second consecutive year. However a win in the G.A.A / I.N.T.O. mini-sevens was a most memorable achievement. The minor team defeated Mooncoin in the Shield Division 3 final.

Club Officers 1999

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Chairman: | Donall Heaphy |
| Vice-Chair: | Patrick Hickey |
| Secretary : | Declan Killeen |
| Treasurer: | Paddy Butler |
| P.R.O.: | Tom Doheny |
| Co. Board: | Eamonn Kelly |
| North. Board: | Jim Dalton |
| Bord na nOg: | Paddy Flynn |

Congratulations

Congratulations to Murty Kennedy selector and Michael Kavanagh for their great efforts in winning the U-21 All-Ireland. Paddy Butler again proved to be masterful helping steer the Kilkenny Masters to another All-Ireland victory.

Pairc Lachtain

The field committee again did an excellent job in helping to stage many matches at Pairc Lachtain. The Northern Final again returned to Freshford after an absence of a number of years. Great praise is due to the Community Employment workers for always having the pitch in top condition.

Club Leagues

The u-11 club league The Corn de Bhaldrathe played in early September provided many exciting games with Barry Hughes' team emerging as winners.

The u-13 League, The Kinnane Cup and McGree Shield provided many exciting games with victories going to N. McGree

in the Kinnane Cup and E. Guinan in the McGree Shield.



Brian Waldron presents Barry Hughes with the Corn De Bhaldrathe.

Into the Dream

*Into the dream
we walked
hurriedly,
deep in the aura
of unfamiliar places,
strange regenerated faces,
the hawkers' loud grating lilt,
the teasing smell of sandwiches
and the push, shove and stumble
of a Sunday's rehearsed rush
against the certitude of triumphalism
carried in raucous tribal whoops.
The dice of chance
tossed a saga
upon the alternating sea of sound
and threw up
on the evening shore
victors and faded dreams.
Our hearts,
entranced,
are forever rooted
where the dream begins
drawing our hurried feet.*

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SOMETIMES

Sometimes you're the flag snapping in the wind
sometimes you're the queue impatient at the turnstile
sometimes you're the man foot-tapping in the faithful
sometimes you're frozen on the bank

Sometimes you're the team bursting from the tunnel
sometimes you're the adrenalin surging through the crowd
sometimes you're the baton bringing on the music
sometimes you're the music

Sometimes you're the ranter on the line: bullying, exhorting,
panicking
sometimes you're the hurl: blocking, hooking, suinging, striking
sometimes you're the whistle's shrill blast
sometimes you're the grazed knuckles

Sometimes you're the sliotar: cut, lifted, walloped, sweetly struck.
sometimes you're sailing between the posts,
sometimes you're dribbling over the sideline
sometimes you're the unstoppable shot

Sometimes you're in the corner picking off the points
sometimes you're the full back letting nothing past
sometimes you're the clash of hurls
sometimes you're the winning score

Sometimes you're the hat flung in the air
sometimes you're the ref surrounded by the guards
sometimes you're the shoulders holding high the hero
sometimes you're the hero

Sometimes you're the stadium littered with defeat
sometimes you're the crowd shuffling from the Park

Sometimes ... sometimes ... always ...

Michael Massey

CLUB CALL



St Martin's

1999 proved to be a disappointing year for St. Martins with the club losing its senior status. This meant that there would be no senior hurling team in the parish for the first time since 1974. The seniors did however, reach the semi-final of the new St. Canices League and the special junior team were finalists in the Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling League. Our U21's was beaten by Erin's Own in the first round after a great game. Bobby Shore and Danny Coonan won All-Ireland medals with the Kilkenny masters' team, while Niall Moloney won a Leinster medal with Kilkenny Seniors.

On the administration front, the club was honoured last December with the appointment of Paul Kinsella as Vice Chairman of the County Board.

Juvenile Focus:

The club played games at U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U14, U16 and Minor levels and 1999 will have to go down as a year where juvenile



Coon Muckalee U13 Footballers League & Country Cup Semi-finalists 1999
Back: Mark Coughlan, Noel Darcy, Eoin Stapelton, Padraig Haughney, Michael Stapleton, John Maher, Gary Brennan, Patrick Nolan, Daragh Callanan, John Mulhall.
Front: James Dowling, Conor Kelly, Tomas Brenn, Fionn Lawler, Tomás Morrissey, Mark Murphy, Ciaran Brennan, Eddie Kelly, Micheál Morrissey, Colin McGrath, Joseph Maher.

U12 Tournament and had fine wins over Graigue Ballycallan, Tullaroan and Clara, before being beaten by Dicksboro in the Semi-final. Our U13's took part in the Lisdowney seven's, but were beaten in the Shield Final.

Coon Muckalee school hurling team performed very creditably in their first year in

Roinn A, finally bowing out to Kilmagh at the knock-out stages.

Our U14 team took part in the Leinster Féile na Gael and had good wins over O'Tooles and Clara to win our group, but were beaten by Barrow Rangers in the final after a great game. In the championship, the team played some great hurling and were beaten by two points by Mooncoin in the semi-final. Mooncoin went on to win the final.

The U16 team also gave a good account of themselves and were beaten by a fine Blacks & White outfit in the Northern Final.

Our Minors also did us proud and had some good wins during the year.

After having a fine win over Erin's Own in the Semi Final, the team went down to Clara in the League Final. In the championship we beat Bennetsbridge in the first round, but were beaten by Lisdowney in the Northern semi-final. The club would like to thank everyone who helped at under age level during the year and appeal to more parents to become involved for



Muckalee NS Football Class League Winners 1999
Back: Micheál Morrissey, Joseph Maher (Capt), Conor Kelly, Hannah Maher.
Front: Nicola Henessy, Patrick Dowling, Cornelius O Flynn.



Muckalee NS Football Class League Finalists 1999
Back: Eilish Cantwell, Patrick Nolan (Cpt), Tomás Morrissey, Tomas Breen.
Front: Michael Nolan, Tomas Coonan, Cathal Healy.

interest in the game was tremendous.

The under 10's beat Castlecomer in the Semi Final of the Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament, but this young team was beaten by a very good Clara side in the final.

The under 11's had a great year winning their group in Camaint ground Hurling finals beating Kilmacow, Lisdowney, and Carrickshock in Nowlan Park.

Once again, the U12 travelled to Dublin for the mini-Féile, where our hosts were St. Vincent's. After a great day's hurling, the team beat St. Vincent's, Rathdowney and had a fine win over O'Tooles in the final. The U12's also took part in the Dicksboro



Coon Muckalee U11 Camaint Team
Back: John McGrath, Geoff Breenan, Eddie Kelly, Conor Kelly, John Mulhall, Tomás Morrissey, Patsy Murphy.
Middle: Oliver Walsh, Noel Darcy, Patrick Nolan, Darren Holohan, Micheál Morrissey, Fionn Lawler.
Front: Canice Maher, Patrick Dowling, Ciaran Brennan, Mark Murphy, Colin McGrath, Daragh Callanan, James Dowling, Thomas Breen.

next year.

Shane Cadigan represented the club at U14 level with Kilkenny while Johnny Buggy was an U16 selector with Kilkenny.

At U14 level, Shane Coonan, Thomas Nolan, Eoghan McGrath, Shane Cadigan, David Shore, Eddie Doran and Ciarán Brennan and at U16 level, Damien Maher, Robert Shore, Conor Kinsella, Shane Coonan, Shane Cadigan and David Shore – all won Leinster hurling medals with Castlecomer Community School.

The Juvenile Section of the club also brought the under-age players to Croke Park for all of Kilkenny's Championship games.

CLUB CALL



St Patricks

Tommy Phelan RIP

The news filtered through as we left Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day. Tommy Phelan had passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family during half time in the All-Ireland Final. The news, although not unexpected, stunned the Ballyragget contingent in Dublin for the game. Suddenly Kilkenny's galling defeat at the hands of Cork was put very much into perspective.

Tommy Phelan distinguished himself both as a player and administrator with St. Patrick's. One of the stars of the club's only win in the Junior Championship in 1978, when he was their leading scorer, he went on to win Intermediate honours in 1979.

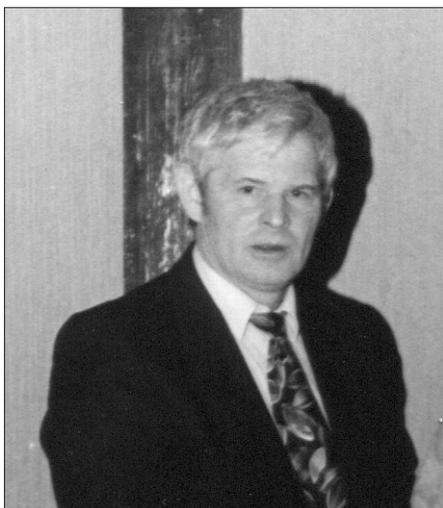
For most of the nineties he was the club's very efficient chairman. He got involved in every aspect of club activity and was never afraid to "put his shoulder to the wheel" when the occasion demanded. It was perhaps ironic that a great hurling man went to his eternal reward on the greatest hurling day of the year.

He will be a huge loss to his beloved St. Patrick's, but to his wife Ann, and his sons Brian and James, his loss is immeasurable. Ar Dheis Dei Go Raibh A Anam.

Sympathies also go to the families of two club stalwarts who passed away this year, Tom Butler, Grove Tce. and Jack Holohan, Ballyuskil.

Adult Hurling

Another disappointing year on the adult



Tommy Phelan RIP

front for our club. The junior hurlers had an indifferent league campaign. In the championship they beat Dicksboro in the opening round before losing to Galmoy in their second outing.

The special juniors failed to make any real impact in either league or championship.

A thundering great effort was put in by the u-21s but our great run came to an end at the hands of neighbours Erins Own.

Under Age

The minor hurlers had a very successful year, reaching the league final where they lost out to Windgap. In the championship final they Kilmacow.

The u-16's failed to make any impact in either league or championship. The u-14 hurlers reached the championship quarter final where they lost to eventual winners Mooncoin.

County Players

Brian Phelan (Finnan) was a member of the Kilkenny intermediate team. Kieran Delaney played with the north minors in the Leinster league.

Shane Dowling played with the Kilkenny U-14 team in the Tony Forristal tournament and also won the county final of the "Poc Fada".

Football

The u-14 footballers once again stole the show with some stirring performances Feile Peil Na nÓg in Clare. They beat Sixmilebridge, Cratloe and Yorkshire to reach the semi final where they lost narrowly to Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Patrick Cahill finished second in the skills competition in conjunction with Feile.

Kerry footballers drew a huge crowd to Ballyragget for their league fixture with Kilkenny. Roscommon and London also attracted good crowds when they played here in March.

CLUB CALL



Thomastown

Ollie Walsh Memorial

Fundraising for the Ollie Walsh Memorial continued during the year with two major projects organised by the fund committee.

The Ollie Walsh Annual Golf Classic at Mount Juliet was again supported locally and nationally bearing witness to the esteem in which Ollie was held in the hurling community. Tim O'Mahony and Mt. Juliet are thanked for making their facilities available for this project once again. The Fund Committee are hoping to finalise details for next years classic in the coming weeks.

The Fund Committee also organised a senior hurling challenge in Grennan between Kilkenny and Cork which attracted a huge crowd in anticipation of the coming championship. Most of the players involved that night subsequently played in the All Ireland final.

A bronze sculpture of Ollie is expected to be unveiled in April 2000 at Mill St. Thomastown, the place of his birth. A bronze plaque will also detail the many honours he won during his legendary career.

The Fund Committee consists of Tadhg Feeney, Ted Hoyne, Seamus Reade, Alan Hoyne, Paddy Dempsey, Willie O'Keeffe and Tom Treacy.

Juvenile GAA

In a bid to boost the profile of underage



Thomastown u-14 hurling team 1999

Back: Richard Ryan, Shane Hoyne, Stewart Tennyson, Sean Mahony, Jamie Wemyss, John Furlong, Dermot Lanigan, Liam Mahony, Stephen Cullen, James Savage, Niall Shanahan, Jamie Cassin, Sean Doyle, Eoin Hayes, Cathal Dempsey.

Front: Thomas Harrison-Daly, Thomas Kavanagh, Dwayne Tennyson, Jamie Tennyson, Peter O'Hanrahan, Seamus Kelly, John Joe Farrell, Ross Kelly, Dean Craig, Jamie Whitty, Richard O'Hara.

GAA in the parish it was decided to form a separate Juvenile GAA committee with Tom Treacy as Chairman. This is a return to the methods of the 1980s which provided great success and interest at underage level in Thomastown. The Juvenile Committee organised bus trips for the underage teams to all the Kilkenny senior hurling matches during the year.

Hurling Camp

A successful hurling camp supervised by

Georgie Leahy was held in Grennan in early July. There was an attendance of over 120 children from Thomastown and surrounding parishes.

Local Lotto

Much of the day to day funding of the club continues to be met by funds from the local Lotto which is organised and split equally with the Community Council and Thomastown FC.

CLUB CALL



Threecastles

Busy Social Scene

Threecastles GAA Club is the smallest in Kilkenny if not the country. So it is no mean boast that our social scene is perhaps one of the more active in the county. Earlier in the year we had our Dinner Dance in Hotel Kilkenny which was attended by 120 people. Local band The Supernoodles provided the entertainment.

Weekend Away

Every year our club organizes a weekend away on the October Bank Holiday. This year the trip took us to Cork on Jazz Festival Weekend. The Sliver Springs Hotel was our base for the weekend. The comfort, facilities and entertainment made the trip all the more enjoyable. This year the trip was an outstanding success as there were 56 people who traveled with us, not bad for a small club.

Drug Awareness

On a more serious note, our club likes to think it can play a role in the education and awareness of the community to the dangers of drugs, alcohol and other crime that can grip a small community. We organised a drug awareness night in the local hall. Garda Eamon Doyle was the guest speaker accompanied by Sergeant Jim Lyng one of our own hurlers. Also we organised a well attended community alert meeting in the local hall.

Fund Raising

Even our fundraising takes on a social significance as we run two table quizzes every year in the local pubs. These nights are so eagerly attended that they are usually a sell out and prove to be a hugely enjoyable affair for the whole community young and old. We also run our own little lotto based on the bonus number, which supports the club financially for the year.

Obituaries

Michael Nolan, (Leugh), Julia Lennon, Jim Bolger.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the

family and friends of the above who sadly were lost the community during the year. May they rest in peace.

On the Field

On the field it was one of our better years reaching the Northern Final but still had nothing to show for our eight months work and training. It was heartening to hear the players on the panel promising to make amends next year. Losing this final hurt deeply, and with no disrespect of Clara, winning would have done a lot more for us than for them.



Threecastles - Runners-up, Northern Special Junior Final 1999

Back: Vincent Bolger, Dick Teehan, Jim Lyng, Eamonn Hennessy, Tom Lennon, Frank Keoghlan, Fintan Gleeson, Paul Dalton, Brendan Walton, Gay Rafter, Dick Dalton.

Front: Denis Butler, PJ Trait, Richie Teehan, Robbie Webster (capt), Martin Campion, Cormac Ryan, Ger Campion, Adrian Webster, Damien Lennon, Gerry Rafter.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Derek Lyng (Emeralds), who was a member of the Kilkenny Intermediate and Under 21 teams in 1999, is a first cousin of Sunderland's Michael Reddy.

Ger Fennelly captained Kilkenny in All Ireland victories at three different levels. At under 21, Kilkenny defeated Waterford (Tom Casey, Glenmore trainer was a member of the Waterford team) in the final. He captained the Senior team against Galway in '79 when Kilkenny won their 21st Senior title, and he was captain when Kilkenny defeated Tipperary in the 1999 Masters' Championship.

CLUB CALL



Tullaroan

Officers

President: Chris Walsh
Chairman: Gerry Doheny
Vice-Chair: John Teehan
Secretary: Simon Walton
Treasurer: Dick Walsh
PRO: Chris Walsh

The start of one of the most successful years ever for underage hurling in the club began when we won our first ever u-21 B title, defeating a fine Shamrocks team.

A week later our minors won the 1998 Roinn B League against Mullinavat. This meant that all our underage teams would compete in Roinn A for 1999.

The seniors, after a poor league campaign, defeated Clara in the first round of the championship but lost to Glenmore in the quarter-final. The Special Juniors won the North A League but lost to Clara in the championship. The u-21s lost to Emeralds.

Pride of place this year must go to our u-16s and minors. The u-16s completed a club first Roinn A League and Championship double, beating Carrickshock in both finals. The minors followed this with another historic first championship Roinn A victory, a superb win over Shamrocks in the County final. Both sides may be justifiably proud of their achievements and if they show the same commitment in the coming years more honours could be theirs in the near future.

Both the u-13 and u-14 teams were very young this year. Without much success they, nevertheless, gave a good account of themselves under the guidance of School Principal Ned

Kennedy. The u-11s really enjoyed the Camaint competition. Declan Dowling has looked after this age group since the competition began.

Funding

Club funding this year came from the 'Play for the Park' Lotto and the Hurlers Co-op Draw. These provided much needed cash flow for the club, where running costs have increased dramatically. The club also thanks the many sponsors for their generous help during the year.

County Players

Congratulations to Jimmy Coogan on winning Leinster and All-Ireland medals at u-21 level. Michael Walsh and Dick Walsh captured Masters All Ireland medals. Tommy Walsh, Eddie Campion, Michael Walsh and Shane Hennessy all played on the Kilkenny u-16 hurling team.

Obituaries

The sympathies of the club and its members are extended to the families of Breda Keogh and Jimmy Pollard.



Minor Hurling Captain Michael Maher with his proud sister, Trish.

Photo: Tom Brett



Tullaroan U11 Camaint Panel

Back: Shane Connolly, Sam Holmes, Dan Coogan, Tony Moore, Paul Glennon, Martin Walsh, David Walsh, Mark Kinsella, Ian Doheny, Stephen Dowling, Michael Brennan, Luke Gleeson, Mark Simpson.
Front: John Maher, Joe Maher, Josh Moore, Robbie Dillon, Tom Hogan, Chris Walsh, Tomy Hall, Joe Cleere, Pierce Doheny, Kevin Hoyne.

CLUB CALL



Tullagher-Rosbercon

Development

The levelling of the playing field was completed during the Summer. Pat Ryan, Ballycurran was the contractor who did such excellent work on it. Some juvenile players and committee members helped with picking stones and putting the final touches to the landscaping. We intend to erect new netting behind the goals, new flood lighting and railings around the pitch. Redevelopment work is funded by the club's involvement in 'Play for the Park' Lotto.

Social Events

All Star hurler Willie O'Connor was guest at a medal presentation in the Parish hall to the u-16 hurlers who won league and championship medals.

Club Funding

Club funding came from a Christmas raffle, a joint Golf Classic with St. Joseph's Athletic Club held in New Ross Golf club and the Hurlers Co-op Draw.

Playing with Kilkenny

Congratulations to John Barron who won an All Ireland u-21 hurling medal. Martin Bookle won Leinster Intermediate honours. Richard Gaule and Moling Cotterell were on the u-16 Nenagh Co-op panel. Richard Gaule featured on both the County u-16 and minor football teams while John and Pat Hartley were on the u-14 County football panel.

Pat Hartley played in Croke Park in the INTO Mini Sevens football at the All Ireland Senior Football semi-final, Cork v. Mayo.

On the Field of Play

Our Intermediate hurlers reached the Vale Oil League semi-finals for the first time. We were defeated in the quarter final of the championship.

The minor hurlers won the Roinn 'B' League final while the u-16 hurlers reached their league final. The u-14 hurlers reached the Roinn 'C' semi-final.

Cumann na mBunscoileanna

Our u-13 schools team created a bit of history when they won three county finals. They won the Cumann na mBunscoileanna B county titles in

hurling and football and the Country Cup. The team comprised of players from the three schools in the parish; Listerlin, Rosbercon and Shambough. We have now won school titles in Roinn B, C and D in the 'nineties. Two families have the distinction of having sons playing in all of the final successes; John, Richard and Michael Gaule, Slievecorragh and John, Kieran and Liam Barron, Brownsford. The u-11 team participated in the Camaint Competition while the u-14 hurlers enjoyed the Leinster feile which was held in June.

Obituaries

Lar Murphy, Ballyfoyle, who won county titles with the club in hurling and football and also represented Kilkenny in football in the 1950's.

Danny Croke, Brownsford played hurling and football with the club and also represented Kilkenny in football.

John Malone, Hoods Grove died at the age of 95 and he had won a junior football championship with the club in 1935.

Biddy O'Brien, Tinneranny, was wife of the late Mickey O'Brien. Biddy was chairperson of the first camogie club founded in Tullagher in 1944.



Tullagher Rosbercon - Corn na Tuaithe Football Champions 1998

Back: D. Conway, D. Grennan, M. Ryan, P. Ryan, P. Hartley, J. Ryan, R. Dollard, J. O'Neill, R. Phelan, D. Ryan, E. Cullinane, E. Forristal.
Front: J. Malone, S. Roche, A. McCarthy, M. Ryan, K.A. Cotterell, G. Hill, J. Ryan, L. Barron, M. Gaule, S. Ryan, E. Conway, P. Grennan, P. Malone.



Tullagher Rosbercon Camaint 1999

Back: Patrick Mullally, Keith Purcell, Mark Foley, Gary Heffernan, David Bird, Edward Forristal, Damien Ryan, Philip Walsh, Mark Purcell, Gavin Murphy. **Front:** Thomas Roche, Luke Hennessy, Walter Walsh, John Woods, Colin Mernagh, Shane Delaney, David Mullally, John Nolan, James Mullally.

CLUB CALL



Windgap

Minor Glory

Highlight on the field for Windgap Hurling Club came when on a glorious Summers evening, our outstanding Minor hurlers defeated Ballyragget to claim the Div. 4 League Title. All players showed exceptional dedication and deserve much credit for this win. Hopefully this team will continue in their efforts and bring back the glory days of the u-21s in 1994. Slieverue ended their championship hopes.

Junior Hurling

Long serving club man Pat Walsh took over as player-coach. A good run at championship level ended in the Southern Final with a narrow defeat by Carrickshock.

In Junior B, Callan ended our aspirations in a tight league contest while Tullogher Rosbercon defeated us in the championship.

Third Level Jobs Scheme

Over the Summer months, James Murray and Enda Hawe coached the Camáint team and this culminated in a great day out in Nowlan Park.

Fund Raising

The Lotto continues to provide the club with much needed support financially and in addition to cards, Co-Op draw and membership receipts they are all well supported.

Pitch Redevelopment

A fantastic score board designed and built by popular local Paddy Barron was erected in the field in July. On the facade is a decorative design of hurleys and balls which form the first letter of Windgap. To keep supporters informed the teams names were made 'as Gaeilge' by Lawrence Doyle. In addition to this 150 tonnes of drainage sand were put out onto the pitch and 'verti drains' were dug.

Football

At u-21 level a good victory was recorded over Kilmacow to qualify for the Southern Final where a Mullinavat side showed strength and experience to record a deserved victory.

Achievements

The only Windgap man with permission to step onto Croke Park on All Ireland Day was Kieran Purcell when he was feted as a member of the Jubilee Team of 25 years ago.

Enda Hawe picked up the award for 'Handballer of the Year' in U.C.D.

Coaching

Several club coaches, future coaches and mentors attended highly informative coaching sessions hosted by George Leahy at various venues during the year.

Bobby Jackman coached the

county Senior camogie team to the All Ireland final.

John Ryan and Simon Brophy took charge of the u-10 hurlers during the winter months in the hall.

Windgap competed with Coolderry and St. Sylvesters of Malahide in a Mini-Féile competition in Mullinavat.

Handball

Pride of place in the club went to Ann Marie Hawe when she became the first girl in the county to win 2 All Ireland medals. Her brother Eamonn partnered by Niall Doran were u-17 All Ireland winners. Eoin Cody, Philip Lonergan, Seamus Hawe and Ann Marie Hawe won Team of 10 All Ireland medals. Pat Walsh and PJ Egan captured the county Junior title and, in doing so became the first Senior players in the club.

u-16 Hurling

Our U-16 hurlers had a good run this year, which saw them reach the quarter-final of the league and finish up as Southern champions.

Bereavements

A great sadness befell the whole parish to hear of the untimely deaths of Mary Phelan and Mollie Walsh, two of Windgaps staunchest supporters. Mary in her lifetime represented Tullahought at camógie, while Mollie did the same for Jerpoint, Thomastown.



Paddy Barron, pictured on Windgap's fine new scoreboard.



Windgap's first Senior handballers, Pat Walsh and PJ Hawe.

CLUB CALL



Young Irelands

Senior Panel

Captain: Ciaran Phelan,
Trainer/Coach: Michael Hayes,
Selectors: Philip Twomey, Tom Hunt.

Well done to the team on winning the Senior League where we beat Glenmore. No match was lost until the semi-final of the championship when Lady Luck dealt us a cruel blow. Thanks to this team for the entertainment during the season and while it's back to the drawing board for 2000 we look forward to the challenge.

Junior Panel

Captain: John Middleton, Selectors: Cathal Fitzgerald, John Kennedy and Brian Treacy.

This panel tried very hard in league and championship but with very little success. With a bit more commitment and effort victory would not be far away.

Underage

Our u-14 team contested League and championship and their mentors are very pleased with their progress. The panel hosted Na Fianna, Dublin in the Leinster Feile and had some consolation at the end of the year when they defeated Graignamanagh in the final of the Carlow-Kilkenny League.

The u-16 team had little success in league and championship.

A lack of numbers at minor level is a problem. To help counteract this, County Youth Officer, Johnny Comerford organised an inter club 7-a-side tournament involving five local clubs which proved to be a great success.

Our u-21 team was beaten by Lisdowney in the first round after a replay. Hard luck to all concerned.

Juvenile Coaching

This year many of our senior players took over these panels to nurture our younger players - a step in the right direction. Our club was very encouraged with this initiative and we thank Eoghan Farrell, DJ

Carey and Michael Kehoe and selectors for their hard work and dedication. Coaching sessions for young boys and girls had great attendances. Several games were played against Clara, Dicksboro and Castlecomer. The group also travelled to Ardclough, Kildare for a tournament and took part in the Camaint competition.

Developments

This year we completed the railing off of our new car park, erected nets behind both goals and refurbished drains to improve the drainage system. Much work went into this but a lot still remains to be completed. Substantial finance is required for this work and a special thanks must go to our finance Committee chaired by Brendan Kehoe.

Thanks to DJ Carey, Paddy Johnston and Matty Byrne for organising a successful Golf Classic. Participating in this we had Micheal O Muircheartaigh, and inter county stars David Fitzgerald and Michael Cleary.

Thanks to Paul Hennessy and Cathal Fitzgerald for organising a very successful fundraising night at Kilkenny Greyhound Track. Both events contributed hugely to our finances.

Pitch Opening

We hope to officially open our pitch in May 2000, pending a date from the County Board. All are looking forward to this event. Hopefully past and present members will come together for the occasion. With this in mind we ask anyone with photos and memorabilia to make it available in order to produce a memorable programme.

Reflections on the Nineties

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Intermediate Hurling | '92 |
| Senior Hurling | '96 |
| Senior League | '97/'99 |
| All Ireland 7's | '95 |
| Special Junior | '97 |
| Special Junior League | '97 |
| u-14 Roinn B | '92 |
| u-16 Football | '95 |

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Minor Football | '95 |
| u-21 Football | '97 |
| Junior Football | '98 |

We have contested a significant number of county semi-finals and finals at various grades. Well done to all concerned.

Inter County

On the senior panel we were represented by DJ and Martin Carey, Charlie Carter, Pat O'Neill and Ciaran Phelan. Jack Carey was our representative on the Intermediate panel. Dick Carroll and Thomas Drennan won Allireland u-21 medals. Kevin Fennelly won an All Ireland medal with the Masters.

Before the All Ireland final a special night out was held for the children to give them a flavour of the excitement of the occasion.

Special thanks to all our committees who worked so hard, the trainers and selectors at all grades, and the teachers for their untiring work.

Thanks to Sponsors

We must especially thank our main sponsor Campus Oil and many other sponsors during the year.

We must also thank Canon Philip Madigan who, despite being wheelchair bound has never missed a game and Fr. Pat Dalton who gave us access to the parish newsletter each week.

Obituaries

Our sympathies go to the Moylan family, Dungarvan on the death of Dick Moylan. Dick was a member of the 1964 Junior Championship winning team.

We extend our sincere sympathies to all our parishioners who suffered bereavements during the year.

Congratulations

Congrats to Junior captain John Middleton and Maeve Barcoe, to Martin Carey and Diane O'Driscoll who were married during the year and to Patrick Farrell and Joan Delahunty on their engagement.

THE DAY THEY CYCLED TO JENKINSTOWN

Dan McEvoy

There have been few episodes in the history of the GAA in Kilkenny quite like the controversy which surrounded the 1945 northern junior hurling final. Lisdowney, one of the teams involved, are still with us. Unfortunately St Rioch's, the other team, are not.

Younger readers may wonder exactly who St Rioch's were and where they hailed from. Popularly known as the Rocksies, they catered for players from the Fair Green, Walkin Street and Gaol Road area of the city. They were county minor champions in 1930, and the following year players like John Shortall, John Dwyer and Bill Ayres went on to participate in Kilkenny's first All Ireland minor triumph – despite being over-age!

Though St Rioch's were northern junior champions in

1935, defeating Bonnettstown in a replay, it was ten years later in 1945 that the club really caught the imagination of the city. Castle Rovers from Gowran, who included in their ranks Nick O'Donnell, Diamond Hayden and the future Monsignor Tommy Maher, were the early hotpots in the northern junior grade that season, but they were beaten by Graigue after three games. Graigue thus became the "talking team" and were due to meet St Rioch's in Thomastown. The Rocksies' official colours were green with a yellow sash, but as Pat Shortis recalls,

many of the jerseys were plain green due to the abundance of Leinster jerseys around the county at the time. (Dublin and Kilkenny supplied most of the Leinster players in those days.)

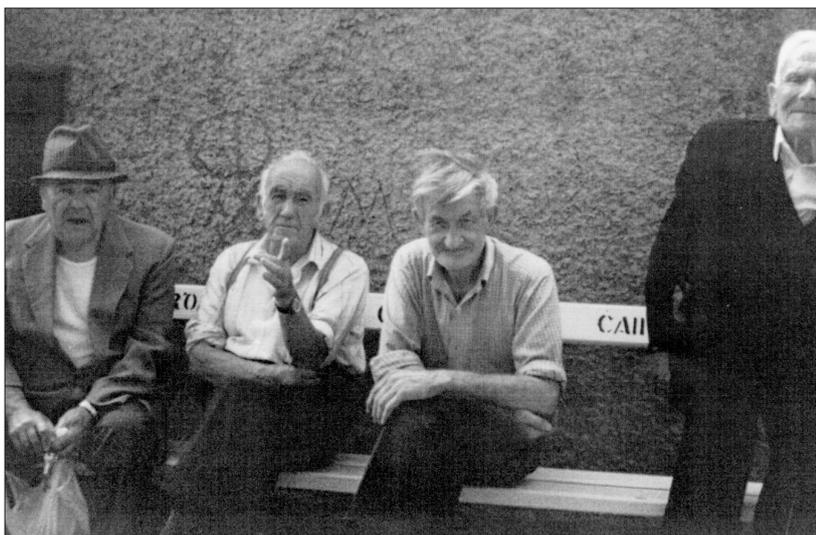
The venue was not to the liking of the city team's camp, so much so that Billy Culleton, one of the Rocksies officials, approached Bill Phelan of Graigue and proposed that if they agreed to play the match in Nowlan Park, Graigue could have the gate money. Graigue duly assented. A bad move: St Rioch's rang rings around them to advance to the northern final and a date with Lisdowney.

As the big match approached, the St Rioch's panel trained diligently on dark evenings in the Fair Green with the aid of light from Billy Culleton's lorry. The light was necessary in more ways than one, as it prevented the players running into the sheep pens which were a fixture in the Fair Green at the time. After training the players repaired to the nearby band room - situated on the site of what is now the Kilkenny cineplex and belonging to a local fife and drum band, also called St Rioch's - for massages from Frank Cummins and Syd Bluett. To further tune up for the northern final, the Rocksies played a challenge match on the lawn of Kilkenny Castle against the men from the 5th Field Signals of the Irish Army, who occupied the castle from 1942 to 1946. This match was arranged by Sean Murray from Walkin Street, who was in the army at the time.

For local hurling folk, still depressed after Kilkenny's defeat by Tipperary in the All Ireland final a month previously, the meeting of St Rioch's and Lisdowney assumed a new interest. Petrol was still rationed under Emergency regulations and no cars could be driven to sports fixtures. As a result, most of the spectators cycled to Jenkinstown. The

Dohertys of Friary Street travelled in a pony and trap which Denis Doherty borrowed from the Bourkes of Seville Lodge, while Pat Shortiss and other members of the team also went in a pony and trap, this one driven by Terence Devlin.

As soon as the game was started by referee Mick Clohosey of Threecastles it became clear that the exchanges were not for the fainthearted. Complicating the matter was the absence of any railing around the pitch. The spectators encroached to



"Meeting at the Bandroom"
Tom "Bonny" Dwyer, Willie Culleton, Jack Egan and Paddy "Cusack" Butler.

such an extent that the players were unable to take sideline cuts. Lisdowney led by 0-3 to 0-2 at half-time, but St Rioch's restarted with a flourish and the sides were level at 1-3 apiece ten minutes into the second half. Then came controversy.

The city outfit scored a second goal. Mick Loughman, one of the most interesting and significant figures in the annals of Kilkenny hurling and a legend in the memory of regulars at the old Stallards cinema in Patrick Street, where he worked as an usher, raised the green flag. Suddenly all hell broke loose. Loughman held his ground and received a wallop in the face for his troubles. Order was eventually restored, only for the sliotar to go missing. At last the match was restarted. It ended when the referee blew the final whistle with two minutes left to play.

There was a postscript, naturally. The Northern Board met at the Town Hall in Kilkenny, the referee's report was considered and the chairman, Martin Egan, awarded the match – and by extension the Northern Junior championship - to St Rioch's. Mick Loughman asked the secretary to read the rule regarding a square ball. Mick Kelly, the Lisdowney delegate, interjected that Loughman had no right to attend the meeting as he represented an illegal team. (True. A number of his proteges, including PJ Sweeney, Tommy Dowling, Ned and Jim Doheny and Jim Wall had lined out – illegally, of course - for Harps of Durrow in the Laois county minor final earlier in the year.) Kelly and his fellow Lisdowneyman, Johnny Ivory, also claimed that the referee's report had been dictated by "a person interested in St Rioch's". Were the Rockses willing to agree to a replay? No, their delegate Tom Brett said. The fuss ended there and then: the powers-that-be had no option but to confirm the award of the match to the city club.

Defeat subsequently proved to be St Rioch's lot in the county final on a scoreline of 4-5 to 5-0 against Thomastown. At a late stage in that final, Pat Shortis, realising the game was slipping away, pucked the sliotar out over the stand in an effort to delay the inevitable (a second sliotar was a rarity in those days). Martin Egan, however, recovered the ball and the game continued. Among those on the losing side were Mick Devane, Tom Ruth and Mick Berry, all of whom had played for St Mary's in the county minor final, the curtainraiser at Nowlan Park that day. It was the last hurrah for St Rioch's. Shortly afterwards, like a meteor in the sky, they disappeared, leaving behind a trail of memories.

Johnny Butler, a patient in St Columba's, recalls that when Thomastown, the Rioch's victors, went on to beat Carrickshock in the Senior county final the following year, the late Fr Drea PP of Thomastown,

speaking at a medal presentation, stated "We rocked the Rioch's and we shocked the 'Shocks!"

An idea of the impression made by the match in Jenkinstown can be inferred from the fact that "Spalpeen", a Lisdowney partisan, celebrated it in verse. "Spalpeen" was, in fact, the late Johnny Ivory of Lisdowney. Thanks to Nick Kenny for supplying the poem half a century later.

Lisdowney and St Rioch's were matched
For the junior hurling crown
On the fourteenth of October
And the venue Jenkinstown.

With the harvest and the hay in rick
Through months of heavy toil
We thought we'd have a holiday
And so I said to Doyle,

"Go tackle up the pony
And we'll go and see the game
And see if these young city lads
Are as good as what they claim.

"I have read it in the papers
That they have left no stone unturned
And their running for the final
Had the Fair Green almost churned."

In spite of all the rationing
They had olive oil galore
And their trainers and their rubbers
Said their hands were nearly sore.

So sure were they of victory
Like kids a-building sand
They made a song set to the air
Of McNamara's Band.

I knew myself the local lads
Were working day and night
And couldn't think of hurling
While there was a glimpse of light.

Yet every one of them I knew
And I was satisfied
Before they'd yield to any of them
They'd be trouble multiplied.

Doyle hitched the pony
To a stump inside the gate
And when I saw the crowd was there
I thought that we were late.

But no, the teams were just lined up
And then the backs went back
There was a cheer all round the field
And ash on ash did crack.

Our lads it was soon plain to see
Were pressing for a score
And then the white flag sailed on high
As we loudly called for more.

All through the game they kept it up
And never once did slack
The forwards or the centre-field
The goalie or full-back.

And when the ref called off the match
Our lads were not to blame
In win or loss or even draw
They take it just the same.

Doyle grinned and looked at me
And said, "Begor it is great weather"
The only thing against the day
Was the shortage of sewn leather.

"Spalpeen"

Jimmy "Raleighs" to All-Ireland Glory

Barrie Henriques

While the storm troopers of the Wermacht were scything through Poland, and the gathering clouds enwrapping Europe in "war to end all wars", Jimmy Phelan, a Ballyragget man domiciled in Carlow, was pedalling his trusty Raleigh bicycle the 52-mile round trip journey to and from Nowlan Park in preparation for the 1939 All Ireland Hurling final against age-old traditionalists Cork. Whilst the orchestra often changes, the story line seldom does— sixty years down the road, it would seem that we have been caught up in some time-warp mechanism.



Jimmy Phelan

Jimmy Phelan? – you may ask. Living in Carlow? – Cycling to training? I too, had the same questions, and many more, when I visited Jimmy in his home in Larkfield in the company of Kilkenny's GAA Historian, Tom Ryall. His lovely wife Cissy, and his daughter Una lavished Fáilte and hospitality fit for a king. The visit was a timely one. Our minds and heads were recovering from the All Ireland defeat by Cork some eleven days previously. The win by our glorious under-21's some two days earlier in Tullamore had helped put some spring back in our heavy step. Shaking the hand of the man who "shovelled" two goals and a point between the posts in Croke Park on September 3rd 1939, against Cork, was uplifting. Jimmy Phelan – he's the lad on the second row of the "team snap" between Seanie O'Brien and Bobby Hinks – third from the right kneeling between the seated Jim Langton and Jack Mulcahy – has been on God's Earth for more than eight decades. In fact he has been around for twenty four months more than the eight decades.

He first saw the light of day in Ballyragget. His first encounter with a hurley followed hard on his first steps, but his first memory of a competitive hurling game was with the school in Ballyragget. "Jim Regan, a marvellous Cork hurling star of the early thirties took a terrific interest in us young lads, when none of the other teachers was interested," he continued.

The mention of Ballyragget, Jimmy's own place, brought memories flooding back, and just the hint of a moist eye. His earliest memory of a minor match played by a Ballyragget team nearly asphyxiated Historian Ryall, such was the theme of the tale. " I remember that our lads had "Spooley" Butler at full back, and his brother "the Hawk" at right full back. On the same team were three of "Spooley's " sons, and at some stage during the game, one of sons roared, "Hey Dad! pass the friggin ball!". There were other stories too re-told about the same "Spooley" and sports days in Ballyouskill. Apparently the deeds of our hero were not always "kosher".

Yet another story concerned the same "Spooley" when playing at full back on the Senior team. Ballyragget were to play St. Fiacre's in Nowlan Park at 3 o'clock on a Sunday. There was a Men's Confraternity on in Ballyragget at the time. The local Curate warned that anyone going to the match instead of performing his Christian duty would hear the Confraternity bell ringing in his ears for days. "Spooley" was playing at full back, and a lad by the name of Cleere was in the goal. The game wasn't on too long, when the Fiacre's had three or four goals scored. "Spooley" turned round to the unfortunate Cleere, and enquired as to why he was letting in all the goals. "Jazes" said the custodian, "I have a pain in me head listening to nothing but bells ringing". You'll have a pain in yer a... with the boot I'll give ya if ya let in any more goals," roared "Spooley".

Circumstances dictated that Jimmy went to live with an Aunt in Waterford when he was just 13 years of age. He went to famed Mount Sion. There he met Br.O'Connor – the man generally credited with forming and making Mount Sion the school, and club that it eventually became. With Mount Sion, the young Jimmy Phelan won a few Waterford Minor Hurling Championships, for which there were no trophies - the Waterford County Board were not too affluent at the time. He played Minor Hurling with the Decies for five years, and, on one occasion in a Munster Final in Thurles against Tipperary, he was sited at full back. His immediate opponent was Tony Brennan, later to win All-Ireland Senior medals with Tipperary in '49, '50 and '51. "He was a huge man even as a Minor," reflected Jimmy. "On that occasion I was hardly up to his hip".

Jimmy spoke of great players of his era. He told of the great John Keane's first encounter with Mount Sion. He spoke of life-long friendships with the icons of the game in his time. Names like Jack Lynch – with whom he still communicated, although in failing health, Christy Ring, Mick Mackey, and the best hurler he has ever seen, Paddy Phelan. "Phelan was a man who had unbelievable skill, and a magnificent brain. He would never use his weight to gain advantage. He never shouldered a fellow, but relied on his skill to win most ball," he eulogised.

Having played with the Munster Colleges in the Interprovincial Competition, in which he faced future team mates in Jackie Mulcahy and Jimmy Langton, who were playing for the Leinster Colleges, Jimmy won Minor, Junior and Senior Championships - still no medals - with Mount Sion. They beat Erin's Own in the 1936 decider. He was a member of the Waterford team beaten by Westmeath in the All-Ireland Junior Final of 1946.

Jimmy returned to Kilkenny in 1936, and threw in his lot with Tullaroan. The first match he played with the famed northern-

ers was against Dicksboro. He ran headlong into players like Jimmy O'Connell, Peter O'Reilly, and Podge Byrne "who didn't give me a smell of the ball".

Why Tullaroan?. "Well I knew Bill Bourke and Paddy Phelan well, and that directed me", he stated. He spoke glowingly of Tullaroan players of that time. He remembered, with obvious fondness, his departed friends like Dick Teehan, and "Lum" Kennedy. He spoke with great reverence of Martin White, still hale and hearty as he approaches his ninth decade.

Jimmy then got a position with the Irish Sugar Company in Carlow in 1937, which necessitated taking up residence in the town. He was brought on to the Kilkenny Senior panel in 1939. This was pre collective training days. You did your own train-

ingly the trainer, Danny O'Connell broke into the room to find me sound asleep. I never saw such a relieved man in my life."

Since 1939, stories abound about the thunder and lightning, the thunder being likened to the bombardment of Iwo Jima, and the lightning so bad that you could light a woodbine from it. "I didn't notice either the thunder or the lightning," said the two-goal hero. "T'was the rain that caused the big problems. It was coming down in stair-roads. All the lines were washed away," he continued.

Jimmy too nailed down the truth pertaining to the scorer of the winning point. "I have no doubt in my mind that Jimmy Kelly got the point. A free from Paddy Phelan dropped about seven or eight yards from the Cork goal. Jimmy Kelly, God Rest him,

raced over, got the ball, and drove it over the bar at the Railway End. No doubt at all about it," said he.

The war in Europe spared nobody, not even hurlers playing the grand game. It curtailed Jimmy Phelan and his colleagues, particularly in terms of travel. Kilkenny were beaten by Limerick in the 1940 All-Ireland Final- "Our preparation was a disaster", said Jimmy. With Billy Burke and Paddy Phelan, Jimmy joined Éire Óg after Tullaroan were relegated to Junior ranks in 1940.

Jimmy won his only Oireachtas medal against Cork in Croke

Park in 1940 - a memorable occasion. Playing his first game for Cork that day, was the legendary Christy Ring.

Now working and domiciled in Carlow, and with "war shortages" making travel impossible, Jimmy threw his knowledgeable hand in with Carlow hurling. He trained and managed them to All Ireland Junior ('61) and Intermediate ('61) successes. He was instrumental in establishing the Factory League Hurling Competition. He coached, and trained hurlers in the county- "You'd give them a hand out if you could".

His great players list, outside of Kilkenny, would number Jack Lynch, "Gah" and "Balty" Aherne (Cork), John Keane (Waterford), Martin Kennedy (Tipperary) and Paddy Dunlea (Cork). However, when pressed, his two "best of all" were Kilkenny's Paddy Phelan and "Locky" Byrne. "Any regrets?" I asked as we prepared to bid adieu. "None really," said he, "Except that I haven't a medal in the world to show me grandchildren."

A few years ago, some low-life invaded the quiet domain of Jimmy Phelan and his wife Cissy. Every medal - All-Irelands, Oireachtas, Munster Colleges, Munster and All-Ireland Junior, Leinster Senior, and many more were robbed, never to be seen again.

A sad ending to an illustrious story, as told by one of the grandest gentlemen still in hurling.



Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Champions 1939 - Kilkenny 2-7, Cork 3-3

Back: Peter Blanchfield, Paddy Phelan, Paddy Grace, Paddy Larkin, Terry Leahy, Jimmy Walsh (Capt.), Billy Burke, Jimmy Kelly.
Middle: Mick Dalton (Trainer), Jimmy O'Connell, Jack Gargan, Seanie O'Brien, Jimmy Phelan, Bobby Hinks, Mick Oakes (Trainer).
Front: ?, Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy.

ing, wherever, and whenever you could. For Jimmy Phelan, coming to Carlow as a hurler was a bit of a culture shock. At times he would have to give a young lad a "few coppers" to throw back the sliothar to him whenever he went training in Carlow. "You see, I couldn't get anyone to hit a ball back to me," he said. He would cycle to Kilkenny from Carlow on Saturdays, a couple of weeks before the Championship started, and cycle back that night or maybe the following morning.

He made his Senior Championship debut against Dublin in the 1939 Leinster Final, coming on as a sub at corner forward at the half time break, replacing Jack Gargan. He wasn't picked for the semi-final against Galway, but he was certainly in the starting line-up for the final against Cork. He has a very deep-rooted respect for Cork, its hurling, and its hurlers. His immediate opponent in the Final was the famed "Long-Puck" Willie Murphy. Jimmy scored 2-1 off "Long-Puck" and it would certainly rank as the great highlight of his career. Kilkenny travelled to Dublin by train on the evening before the match. They were billeted in Barry's Hotel - a noted Kilkenny House. The morning of the game, there was drama of the most disconcerting vintage. Jimmy Phelan was missing, an hour before the game. Where was he? Had anyone seen him? Was he sick somewhere?

Over to the man himself:- "I went to early Mass, and when I came back to the Hotel, I had my breakfast, and then decided to go back to bed for more rest. I slept like a baby, and even-

Larkin was like a 'David' with a camán

John Knox, Kilkenny People

IT WAS vintage Larkin! With him, you always have to be prepared for the unexpected. A genuine and true David among hurling Goliaths, he had cornered a share of the market when it came to the art of performing the unexpected.

Many a hurling giant was rendered ineffective when caught up in the intricate web he weaved with magical stick work and sharp mind game. A skilful hurler. One whose brain moved faster than opponents legs. And he could deliver a stinging verbal blast too.

"Larkin was an enigma", former Kilkenny trainer, Mons. Tommy Maher once told me. "Because of his size, he should never have been a defender. But he was a brilliant one".

Philip 'Fan' Larkin, a 5' 4.5" hurling 'giant', forfeited a sling-shot for a camán. The effect was the same. He could still knocked opponents dead, metaphorically speaking. And he still has that ability to knock people for six.

The interview was rolling merrily along when one threw in a usual enough question in the hope of getting a strong finising line. If you had the chance all over again, would you change anything, one queried?

Outcast

For a man who won five senior All-Irelands, captained a National League winning side, won two club All-Irelands, who was an inter-county outcast for seven years and who was a selector at virtually all levels with club and county, it was a wide open field.

How did Larkin respond?

"I'd have played tennis", he said as casually as you like.

"Really", I mumbled, and gasped for breath. Not remotely the sort of answer one expected.

"Yes. I think it is the greatest game in the world. To be able to put a ball away from an opponent in such a small space is unbelievable. It's a fantastic talent".

"I'm not coddling", he assured as he saw the look of disbelief on my face. "Watching Sampras, Agassi, Becker and those hitting the ball so hard and so accurately fills me with admiration. I would have played tennis".

The son of the great Paddy Larkin, senior All-Ireland medal winner of 1932, 1933 and 1939 forsaking the stick for a racket. A joke, surely.

"No", he added again. "I would have played tennis".

Only last September, Fan's son Philip failed for the second time in as many years to become the third generation of the Larkins' to help the black and amber to a McCarthy Cup success.

"I would hope that some day he does it, not just for the family, but for himself", Fan insisted. "He got close twice. He might do it, but then again, he might not. You need luck".

To get back to THAT question, one altered the thrust, and centred it on hurling.

Time a healer

"Maybe I would change the fact that I was dropped for seven years", he half laughed. It was a short laugh, an unconvincing one.

Time has been a healer of sorts. He has learned to cope with the rejection endured between late 1964 and 1971. But he hasn't forgotten.

Philip 'Fan' Larkin played at No. 2 on the All-Ireland winning side of 1963. Opponents Waterford were the favourites. They were the League champions, and they has seen off Tipperary



Phil "Fan" Larkin

in Munster.

In a throbbing final which set a new record for the combined score in a 60 minutes decider – 4-17 to 6-8 – the James Stephens man did well, eventhough pitted against the great Philly Grimes.

A cold sweat ran down Larkin's back when Grimes put the first two balls that came his way over the bar.

"After that I got my bearings and I held my own",

the non-smoker, and virtually non-drinker remembered. "The man in front of me, Ted Carroll was brilliant, and that helped. I would reckon that was Ted's greatest hour".

A day to remember. Larkin's first of five senior All-Ireland victories. The pain wasn't too far away, however. Twelve months later, he experienced the other side of All-Ireland day.

Favourites Kilkenny crashed. Not only was it against the old enemy Tipperary, but it was by the biggest margin since Killarney in 1937 as well. The score was 5-13 to 2-8.

The Noresiders were well in the hunt up to half-time, when they trailed by a mere 0-6 to 1-8. An injury to Martin Coogan threw the whole effort out of kilter.

Banished

Heads rolled afterwards. Larkin was one of those banished. For seven years he was a forgotten man. During his exile he sat in the stands and watched with mixed emotions as Kilkenny won McCarthy in 1967 and 1969.

The words were few, and well chosen, when he spoke about this obviously painful subject. He conceded he was the cause of one, maybe two, but only maybe, of the goals.

You were banished for a few years then, one reminded?

"Yes", was the initial response.

"Seven", was the next word.

One recalled an old story that Larkin was so disgusted after that final that he threw his boots away.

"Be God I didn't", he assured. "What would I throw them away for. It wasn't easy get them at that time".

How did you feel, anyway?

"How could you feel", was the question in response to the question. "At that time you didn't get a note to say you were dropped. It wasn't like now. You weren't picked, and you read it off the 'paper'".

At a different time in the interview, when he recalled injuries he had received – these included what he classed a "record" of failing to finish minor (1959) and senior (1971 and '72) all-Ireland finals, a broken leg and a bad knee injury – one wondered did he feel there was a jinx on his career.

"There was no jinx", came the quick fire response.

"Maybe there was a jinx when I was left off for seven years", he laughed....dryly.

He was left on the outside eventhough his form at club level was as good as ever. There were times when he thought the inter-county scene was over.

When his beloved James Stephens won the Kilkenny senior hurling championship for the first time in 1969 – the final was played in April 1970 – Larkin was brought back into the fold. 'Stephens had no one on the panel at that time.

"Doctors differ, patience die", was his response to a



Fan Larkin, Pat Moylan, Pat Henderson, John Fenton and Seanie O'Leary - League semi-final 1975.

query about the recall. "I was older and wiser this time. Experience can make a big difference. I was back where I wanted to be".

The small man lived and triumphed against the biggest and best afterwards. He got 10 more years out of it. He was a zippy 38-year-old when he played in his last senior final in 1979 against Galway.

The young lad at full-back beside him was Paddy Prendergast. He was a mere 18.

Lucky

"I was one of the lucky ones who managed to go out a winner", he reminded.

Larkin marked Finbarr Gantley in that '79 final. The Galway man was no midget. Larkin handled him, just like he handled 'giants' like Ray Cummins (Cork), Tony Doran (Wexford), Joe McKenna (Limerick) and a couple of more on different days.

What was the secret of the small back versus the big forward?

"You had to study their game and watch the way they played", Phil explained. "It was important to keep the ball out of their hand. You had a chance if you could do that."

"Most of the lads who played on them wanted the ball. I didn't care who got the ball, once they didn't. The lads playing in front and behind me knew the way I was going to be playing, and they were always ready for the breaking ball".

Larkin was a wonderful reader of the game, and he had sprinter like speed breaking to the ball.

"That was the way I trained", he insisted. "I did loads of 30 yard sprints. You never had to run any further than that. Sure where would you be going beyond that distance? The full length of the field? Hardly!"

Although never a lazy trainer, he was not a disciple of the heavy physical work today's generation must endure. He never saw the need. He would keep the concentration on perfecting the skills of the game.

And the camán, yes, the camán. He always had five or six of them at the ready. His batch were smaller than the rest, and were tailor made by the late Mick Neary. One year he brought six sticks to a final at Croke Park.

"I was one who needed to have the feel of the stick right", Phil revealed. "The only man I know who you could throw him the handle of a hatchet and he would get on with it was Chunkey (Liam O'Brien). He was remarkable in that regard".

Larkin still has all the sticks he used in All-Irelands. He has the jerseys too, somewhere. Likewise the medals. They are somewhere too.

"For some reason, my father's medals mean more to me", he insisted. "Winning was the thing. The medals are nice, but winning was the thing".

Bit the dust

Five times he bit the dust in all-Ireland finals, in 1964, '71, 1973, '78 and 1959 (minor). He never got the hurt. For that reason, he always made a point of visiting the Kilkenny dressing-room after defeats in finals. On days of victories, he leaves the way clear for others.

Although he started his adult hurling career with Eire Og – he played for St. Patrick's school – Fan Larkin could never be described as anything other than a true blue 'Village man'.



Pa Dillon, Noel O'Dwyer and Fan - 1971 All Ireland Final.

He won four senior hurling championships, and two All-Ireland club titles, with the Larchfield outfit.

"The two all-Ireland club titles were highlight for me", he insisted. "When we won in 1976 (he was captain) we were the first team outside Cork to do so".

George Leahy was the sole selector with the team. He had a wealth of talent from which to choose. The team of that time dripped class.

You had Denis and Tom McCormack, Brian Cody, Joe Hennessy, Paddy Neary, Liam O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Niall Morrissey, Jimmy O'Brien, Mick Moore, Tom McCormack, Mick Leahy, Mick Taylor, John McCormack, Ger. Tyrrell.

"We had a star studded team, and Blackrock had one too", Larkin recalled. Big names on the other side included Horgan, Moylan, two Cummins', Cashman, McCurtin, Norberg.



Kilkenny - All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 1974

Back: Mick Brennan, Tom McCormack, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Fan Larkin.
 Front: Pa Lawlor, Liam (Chunky) O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Nicky Orr (Capt.), Jim Treacy, Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney

Photo Tom Brett

On the home front, teams he loved playing against were Fenians (Johnstown), Bennettsbridge and Shamrocks when they arrived on the scene in the 'seventies.

On the county scene he didn't care. But what about Tipperary, one wondered, were they tougher, more rugged than the rest? He made his inter-county debut against the Premier County as a fresh faced 22-year-old in a National League match in Thurles in 1962.

"They weren't as hard to play against as people

suggested", Larkin opined. "At the time I came along they had fierce skilful men on the team. People say John Doyle was this or that, for instance.

"He was as skilful a hurler as ever played. His record proves it. He started in '49 at left full-back. He player there up to '56. He went out to wing-back for five or six years before moving back in.

"You don't do that without having something to offer. He could handle the 'manly' stuff. Tony Wall, Donie Nealon, Jimmy Doyle and Mick Roche were fabulous hurlers too. Roche was as good a hurler as ever played".

True Gael

Philip Larkin slots easily into that category well meaning people call "true Gael". Gaelic games have always been like a religion to him.

He gave his all for club and county, at both hurling and football.

He acted as selector with club and county. He has trained teams at club and county level – he was the Kilkenny senior team trainer in 1981 – and he did a bit of refereeing in his time. These times you might see him wearing a white coat, acting as umpire for his friend, Paddy Neary.

Nowlan Park, Croke Park, Ballyragget, Thurles or wherever the sliothar is flying, you could see Larkin there. The game is in his blood you see.

PS - Philip 'Fan' Larkin has a cousin with an identical name. In order to avoid confusion, his middle name of Francis was abbreviated to Fan. Hence Fan Larkin, James Stephens, Kilkenny and Leinster hurling star.

THE 'FAN' FILE

DURING a distinguished career, Phil 'Fan' Larkin won over 40 major honours. They included:

Leinster SHC (9) – 1963, 1964, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979.

Railway Cup (6) – 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1979 (when he was captain).

All-Ireland SHC (5) – 1963, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979.

Kilkenny SHC (4) – 1969, 1975, 1971, 1981.

All-Star awards (4) – 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978.

Kilkenny SFC (3) – 1963, 1964 (with Clann-na-nGael), 1976 as captain with The Village.

All-Ireland club SHC (2) – 1976 (as captain), 1981.

Kilkenny JFC (1) – 1962 (with Clann-na-nGael).

Kilkenny MHC (1) – 1956.

He also won six Walsh Cup medals, and a couple of Oireachtas tournament honours.



All Army Hurling and Football Champions 1999 Third Infantry Battalion based at Stephens Barracks Kilkenny
Back: Pte. P. Falsey, Cpl. N. Dunphy, Pte. T. Hennessy, Pte. M. Cooper, Cpl. M. Hanrahan, Pte. B. Brennan, Lt. D. O'Shaughnessy, Cpl. L. Fitzhenry, Cpt. F. Purcell.
Middle: Pte. J. Malone (Physio), Pte. P. Gahan, Cpt. J. Griffin, Cpt. G. Deely, Pte. D. Byrne, Cpl. P. Cowan, Cp. D Robinson, Pte. A. Tierney, Pte. J. Phelan, Pte. J. Comerford, CS. S. Grady (Hurling Trainer).
Front: Father Marnell(Chaplin), Cpl. K. Murphy, Pte. P. O'Leary, Comdt. M. O'Brien (Second In Command), Pte. Stephen Grehan (Captain), Lieut. Col. R. McEvoy (Commanding Officer), Cpt. C. Brennan, Pte. G. Foley, Sgt. Major J. Sheridan.

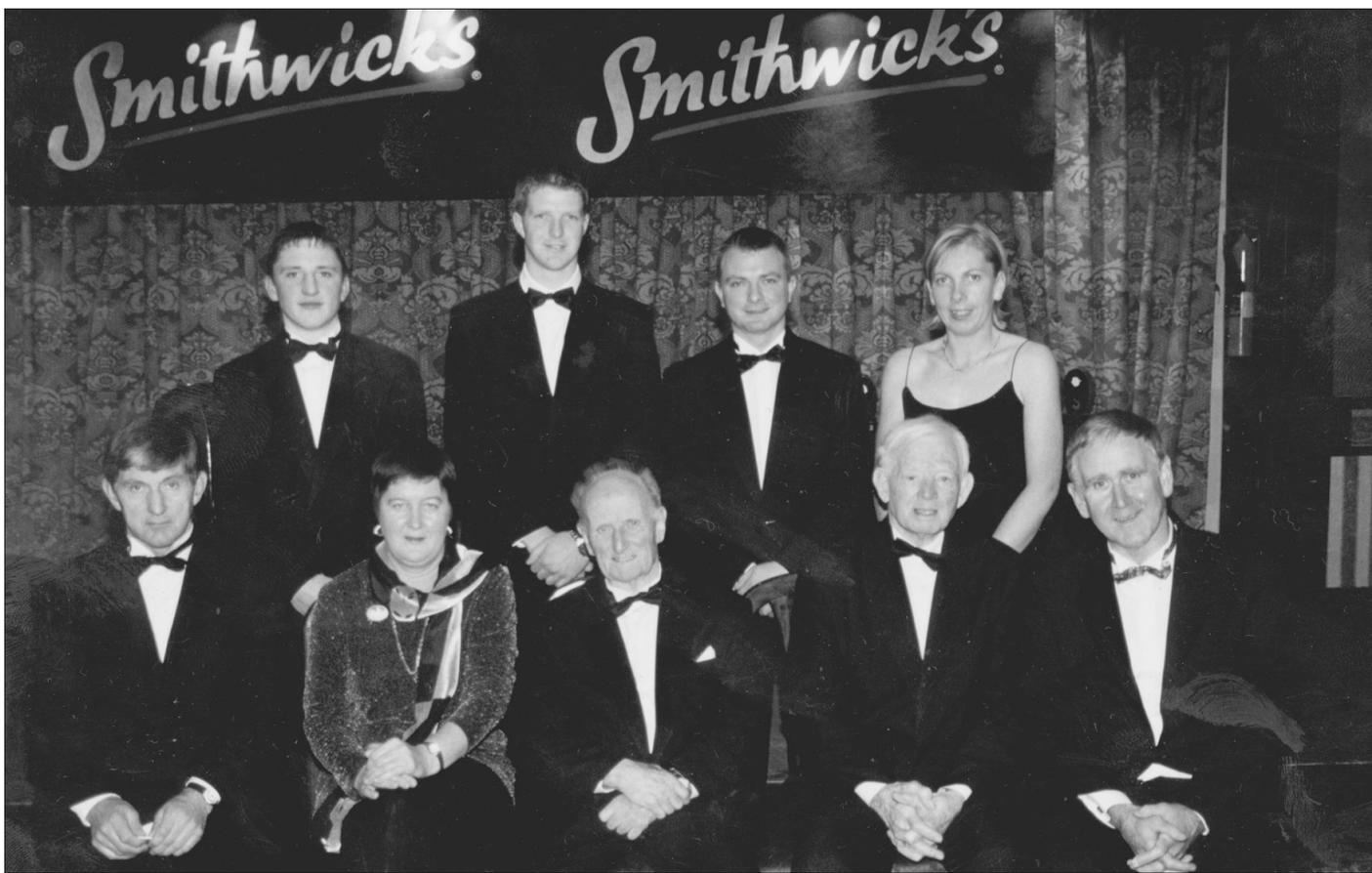
Photo Tom Brett



Players and Officials at the Jubilee Dinner for the 1974 Kilkenny Senior Camogie team that won the first Senior Camogie Title for Kilkenny,

Front: Bernadette Fitzgerald, John Fennelly (Chairman), Ursula Grace-Mulcahy, Teresa O'Neill, Helena O'Neill-McCormack, Teasie Brennan, Shem Downey (Selector), Ann Carroll,
Back: Angela Downey-Browne, Liz Neary, Ann Downey, Peggy Carey-Muldowney, Mary Kennedy-Kavanagh, Mary Conway-McCorry, Bridie Martin-McGarry, Pierce Malone (Manager), Anne Bowden-Mahoney, Marie Kavanagh-Fitzpatrick, Beatrice Treacy (Sec), Carmel Doyle-Savage, Mary Fennelly,

Photo: Tom Brett,



KILKENNY SMITHWICKS ALL-STARS 1999,

Front: Liam Campion (Committee), Liz Neary (Hall of Fame), Jimmy Phelan (Honours Award), Dinny Keane (Honours Award), Jim Craddock (Smithwicks),

Back: Michael Phelan (Gaelic Football), Henry Shefflin (Hurling), Ducksie Walsh (Handball), Miriam Holland (Camogie)

Photo : Tom Brett



Five new cups were presented to the Northern Board during the year. The Curran family of Urlingford presented a cup in the memory of the late Ned Curran, former chairman of the Northern Board (1968–1984), which will be presented to the winners of the U21 A Championship. The Ivory family of Lisdowney presented a cup in memory of the late Johnny Ivory, former secretary of the Northern Board (1947–1984), which will be presented to the winners of the Junior B Hurling Championship. The O'Neill family of Danesfort presented a cup in memory of the late Paddy O'Neill, a member of the Northern Board for many years, which will be presented to the winners of the U21 B Hurling Championship. J.J. Kavanagh & Sons presented cups for the winners of the division 2 and 3 leagues.

Back: Micheal Ivory, Mary Ivory, Eleanor Ivory, Martin Treacy, Jimmy Ivory, Lar Carroll, Johnny Murphy, John Cahill, Jim Rice, Keiran Costelloe, Adrian Curran, Matty Gorman, John Mackey, Tom Phelan.

Front: Pat O'Neill, Ned Moran, Peg Ivory, Susan Curran, Ned Buggy, Paul Kavanagh.

Photo Tom Brett

Keepers of the Faith Survive Troubled Times

The AGM of Knocknavanna Gaels

Eugene McGee (Longford Leader)

Larry McGann is a worried man. Larry has been the Honorary Secretary of the Knocknavanna Gaels club since 1956 and one would think that the club AGM would hold few fears for him at this stage. But as Larry awaits the 1998 AGM he gets cold shivers down his back when he remembers that it was only the casting vote of the Chairman, Fr JJ Maloney PP, which kept Larry in his position at the last AGM.

As Larry keeps telling his wife Christina, who has been washing the Knocknavanna jerseys for over 40 years, there is a mood of change sweeping through the club in the past few years. Larry blames a lot of this on the free education .

"Before Donagh O'Malley, we never had any trouble in this club. The lads were happy to just play football and leave the big decisions to myself and a couple of the other officers. Now they are coming home from these universities and regional colleges with their heads filled with all kinds of mad ideas," says Larry.

"A few years ago a young fella with rings in his ears and a pony tail got up at a meeting and proposed that no club officer should serve longer than five years. I blame it on them weirdos they meet when they go to these colleges.

"Another lad even went so far as to propose a young lassie in her twenties, with jeans that must have been sprayed onto her, for my job of Honorary Secretary. Thank God the members of the Knocknavanna GAA club stood true to the proud and noble traditions of Cumann Luthcleas Gael by re-electing myself that year. I never was as proud to be a GAA man as that day."

But Larry still worries as the latest AGM approaches, alerted no doubt by attempts by the players to have the starting time changed from the traditional one of 2.30 on Sunday afternoon to 7.30. Larry has held the AGM at 2.30 for 20 years and, as a life-long pioneer, he has little time for the complaints that the local pub, The Eagle Bar & Lounge, has been known to serve drinks somewhat beyond the 2.00 pm closing time.

So at 2.30 sharp, Larry is seated beside Fr Maloney PP at a small table beneath the blackboard in Knocknavanna national school ready to start the 1998 AGM. The attendance at that stage is small. Half a dozen young boys and a few of the survivors from the last Knocknavanna Gaels team to win a county championship—the junior title in 1949 on which Larry McGann was a staunch, no-frills, full-back. THIS co-operative gathering gives Larry the chance to read out his secretary's report at his leisure, secure in the knowledge that he will have got through most of it before any troublemakers arrive. Larry pulls no punches in explaining why the club failed to get by the first round of the junior championship for the ninth time in 10 years.

"Three or four of our younger players turned their backs on the games of the Gael that day to play another code with a team from the neighbouring town, leaving our already meagre playing resources stretched to the limit. In fact, we would not have had fifteen players at all if Jimmy Buckley and his 16-year-old son Clive did not sportingly agree to uphold the honour of the parish by turning out at short notice," wrote Larry.

"There should be no place in this great club for people who will not give their total allegiance to Cumann Luthcleas Gael. I wrote in my report back in 1970, after the GAA had got rid of the Ban, that the decision would bring nothing but trouble and I have been proven right."

By this stage it is after 3.0 and many of the players are drifting in from The Eagle Bar. A couple of them had questions arising from Larry's report. One asked why he had not implemented the decision of the previous AGM that an outside team manager would be got for 1998. But Larry was ready for that one.

"We spoke to several people from outside the parish" said Larry, "but none of them was very interested and a couple were looking for £100 a night to train the team. Now lads, ye all know the GAA is an amateur organisation and was built up on the voluntary efforts of many great people. This club could never agree to PAY a man to train the team because it is totally against the rules of our Association."

"But sure isn't every other club in the county paying their manager?" said Jimmy Burke, a long-time thorn in Larry's side. "And what about the county team manager? Not alone is he getting paid big money but he has the use of a brand new car from Maher's garage as well."

"We have no proof of that sort of carry-on," says Larry. "And anyway we couldn't afford to pay a manager since over half the players in this club don't even pay their annual membership fee."



Next comes the position of Honorary Secretary. Larry McGann is proposed by Tommy Murphy, who was a great goalkeeper on that 1949 winning team and whose sister was married to a brother of Larry's. Larry immediately demurs saying that he has been Honorary Secretary long enough and it's time to give somebody else a chance. But, as expected, Fr Maloney appeals to Larry 'for the good of the parish' to stand for one more year. Larry reluctantly agrees.

The troublemakers candidate is Jacinta Davidson who, Larry realises in horror, is the 'partner' of the current midfielder Johnny Prior. They have two children and are not even married. What is Knocknavanna coming to?

By this stage the attendance has swelled to around 50, split into two sections. In the front few rows are the old-timers and Larry McGann supporters while back at the bottom of the room are the current players and their friends. The voting is tied at 24 all. The chairman gives his casting vote to the outgoing Larry because of 'his exemplary service over a long number of years'.

There is a fractious debate then about the poor performances of the team with several proposals being made from the players. The Eagle Bar & Lounge is anxious to sponsor the jerseys says one player, but Larry has prompted Fr Maloney to reply that this might damage the image of the club. "What image?" replies yer man.

Some players want the club to provide a meal after training sessions and to look again at getting a big-name manager. Another lad proposes that Knocknavanna organise a trip to London at Easter 'to give a boost to team spirit' before the championship. Yet another wants Larry to pay for the players to be put on the Nutron diet.

The pressure was beginning to get to Larry a bit with all these fancy proposals but relief was at hand. As the clock moved towards 4.00 pm, the players began to drift out of the room in twos and threes. "Thank God for Sky television," Larry muttered to himself. With Manchester United on the box at 4.15, the chairman had little trouble wrapping up the AGM with the words 'Go mbeirimis beo ag an am seo arís.'

At last Larry McGann can relax. Knocknavanna Gaels is in safe hands for another year but he must talk to a couple of his 1949 colleagues to see if one of them would take on the job as manager of the present team. "You need somebody who knows what it is to win championships to run a team like ours."

Elections, for so long a sinecure as far as Larry was concerned but now a minefield, come next. Things are not looking good when even the chairman Fr Maloney P.P is challenged for the position by Paddy McGrath who is doing some fancy degree course in DCU in Dublin. But the 'power of the cloth' still carries clout in the parish of Knocknavanna and Fr Maloney survives.

KILKENNY GAA SUPPORTERS' CLUB

Eddie Keher

From small and modest beginnings at the start of this decade, the Kilkenny GAA Supporters' Club has become a significant and essential part of GAA activities in the county. There is no question about it now, but Kilkenny could not have matched other counties for colour and excitement on big match days only for the work put in by the Supporters' Club in the early years of this decade. Our strategy was to generate pride amongst the young fans in the black and amber, and to encourage them to follow and support their teams. We collaborated with Radio Kilkenny and the local Media in the campaign, and we now have one of the largest band of followers per head of population in the country.

But that is the glamour side of our activities. Our major aim is to ensure that our games continue to be well looked after and remain strong at juvenile and under-Age level. With our limited resources, we could only try to judge where Supporters' Club funds would have the biggest impact, and we decided that the Schools Coaching Scheme and the Schools Hurling Subsidy Scheme were central to the Development of our hurlers of the future. We have donated £4,500 to these worthwhile Schemes each year since 1992. This year we have also donated £1,500 to the new Under-15 Development Squad project, which has great potential.

We believe that all Kilkenny teams representing our county in competition should be kitted out and presented in a manner of which we all would all be proud. With that in mind, we have spent this year £2,560 on our Intermediate and Under-21 teams, Masters £400, Camogie £500, Football £1,500. Under-14, Under-16, Feile and Schools Teams representing the county received £1,500 in all. This year, the 1974/75 Kilkenny senior teams were honoured in Croke Park on All Ireland day, and it was decided to donate £1,500 for blazers, which we jointly sponsored with Eamonn Langton.

We also believe that hurling in Kilkenny at Club and Under-Age level will continue to flourish as long as our senior team is successful and provides the heroes for our youth to look up to and try to emulate. We have a long proud history with 25 All-Ireland titles, and our senior team has to be the main focus of our activities, if we are to continue our run of success into the next century. We must match what other counties are doing for their senior teams, and we make no apology for the fact that most of our funds are channelled towards our senior hurlers.

We donated £10,000 to the 1998 Holiday Fund (which will be appearing in this year's accounts), and we have also subscribed £10,000 to this year's Holiday Fund together with £3000 for equipment and incidental expenses in 1999.

Where does our money come from? Our biggest source of income now is from Membership, from which £10,000 was raised. More and more people are joining our club, but we also know that there are many more hurling fans out there who want to help hurling and want to be associated with the further development of our beloved game, but have not had



Support for Camogie team '99 from Kilkenny & Dublin Branches of Kilkenny GAA Supporters' Club

J. Freeman (KK), J Murphy (KK), Marina Downey, Sile Farrell (Dub), Gillian Dillon (Capt.), J Kerwin (KK), Seamus Mernagh Dub), Mags Hickey.

Photo Tom Brett



GAA Supporters' Club Members' Free Draw

Jim Kearns (Comm), Hugh Ryan (2nd Prize), Seamus & Jennifer Moran (1st Prize), Sean Dunne (Kildare Branch), John Murphy (Comm).

Photo Tom Brett

the opportunity to become members. It only costs £10 a year, and membership is available through any of the committee.

Our annual Golf Classic raised £5,000 and the Greyhound night £3,000. Sean Dunne's London Marathon run raised £1,000, as did the Showband Show with Brendan Bowyer. Langton's Disco generated £2,000

Supporters' Club shop sales of merchandise contributed £10,000 to our coffers.

A detailed statement of our finances will be Audited and published with the County Board Accounts at the Annual Convention.

We thank you for your generous support in the past and we look forward to your continued support in the future. Congratulations to all our teams who gave us so much pleasure and pride in 1999. We look forward with confidence to year 2000 and beyond and we know that no effort will be spared by our teams, mentors, County Board and, indeed, our loyal supporters, to bring a senior All-Ireland title to Kilkenny early in the new Millennium.

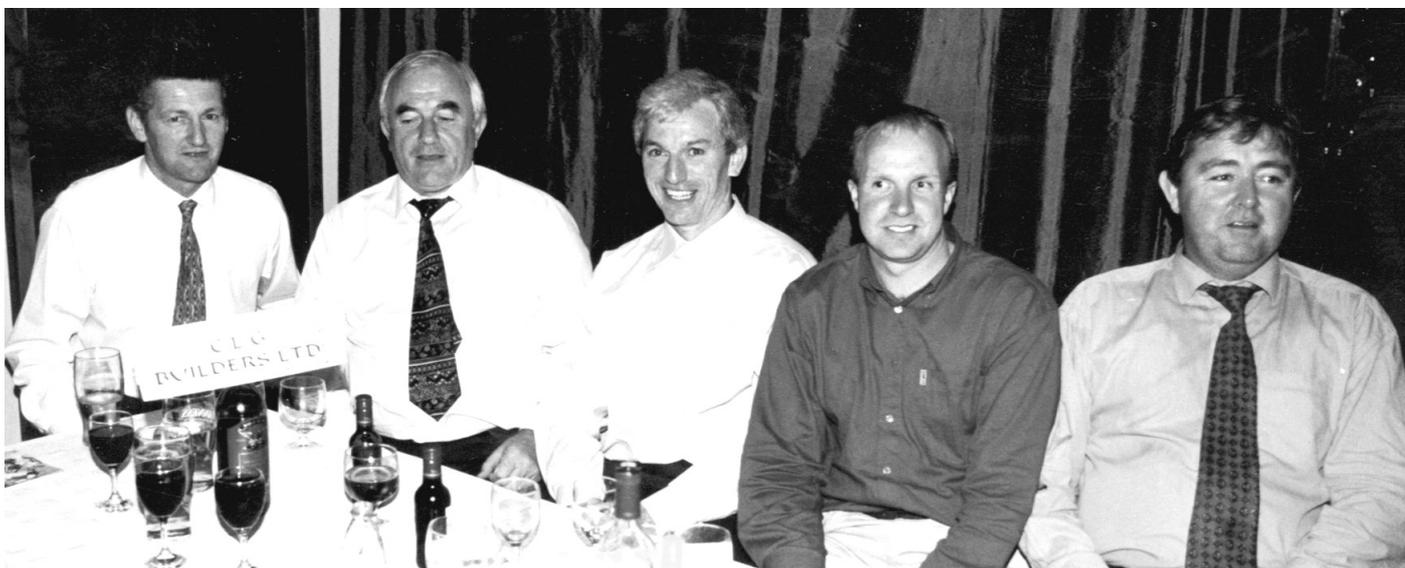


PRESENTATION OF EQUIPMENT AND GRANTS TO SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN KILKENNY, CARLOW, LAOIS, TIPPERARY AND WEXFORD BY THE KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD
Front: Tommy Lanigan, Barry Hickey (Development Officer), Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nOg), Pat Dunphy (Sec Kilkenny County Board), Ian Coulter (St Canices C.U.), Denis Hamilton (St.Canices C.U.), Ned Quinn (Chairman, Kilkenny County Board), Michael Hayes (Vale Oil), Noelle O'Driscoll, Margaret Power, Tommy Murphy (Leinster Council), Dick Dunphy (Treasurer, Kilkenny County Board)
Middle: Mick O'Flynn, John Healy (Leinster Council), Terence Fahy, Sean Breathnach, Jim Ryan, Brendan Williams, Tom Walsh, John Sheehy, Murt Tierney, Adrian Finan, Denis Philpott, John Comerford, Jimmy Walsh (Kilkenny County Board), Mike Kelly,
Back: Paul O'Donoghue, Pat Dowling, Pat Murphy, John Casey, John Kennedy, Stephen O'Keeffe, Hugh Byrne, Br Damien Brennan, John O'Malley, Eoin Garvey, Tom Dunlop, Paul Kinsella (Vice Chairman, Kilkenny GAA), Kevin Langton. *Photo Tom Brett,*



Kilkenny County Board 1999

Photo Tom Brett



All-Ireland Corporate Fund Raising Dinner in Langton House. C.L.G. Builders Limited:
 Fergal Geoghegan, Peter Connors, Pat Brennan, Martin Farrell, Ray Hennessy. *Photo Tom Brett*

Obituaries

Ned Curran



Ned Curran who died on the last day of April this year was chairman of the Northern Board from 1964 to 1983. The retired army captain and latter day welfare officer was one of the best known and respected officials of his day.

He replaced Martin Egan from Threecastles as chairman in 1964, and from then until he stood down in 1983 he oversaw the board's business without fear or favour. In an ironic twist of fate, his son Liam succeeded Frankie Egan, a nephew of Martin Egan, as secretary of Swords G.A.A. club in 1998.

Together with Rody Kilbride, Martin Doyle and many others, Ned Curran played a big part in the acquisition and development of the current Emeralds G.A.A. grounds.

He was a Kilkenny minor selector in the early '60's.

His other major interest was greyhounds, and at one time he owned two of the best known stud dogs in the country, "Printer's Prince" and "Printer's Present". However it is as a G.A.A. official "The Captain" as he was known to most of his friends, will be best remembered.

To his wife and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Johnny Ivory

Johnny Ivory who served as Northern Board secretary from 1947 to 1984 died earlier this year at an advanced age.

One of the great characters of his era, Johnny's first involvement with hurling was with his native Ballyconra. He played with them until the formation of the Lisdowney club in 1939. He became secretary of the Northern Board in 1947, and served with distinction until his retirement almost forty years later.

A farmer and beet agent for the Irish Sugar Company, Johnny could easily have made a living as a journalist. He had an expert grasp of shorthand and was an expert storyteller. He had an interest in politics and was well versed in worldly matters. In his early days as secretary, Johnny cycled to Northern Board meetings in places like Ballyragget,

Freshford and 'Comer.

When Ned Curran became chairman, both men travelled together in the chairman's car. Stories of Johnny's sharp wit and storytelling ability are legion.

Mention a Northern Board meeting even to this day and almost inevitably the name of Johnny Ivory crops up. The fact that he held the post as Northern Secretary for such a long period is testament to the man's endurance and great love of Gaelic games.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Sean Gorey (1933 - 99)



In March, news of Sean's death came as a great shock to his family and friends, followed a few short months later by the sudden death of his wife Pearl. His daughter Sinead died four years before them. In Sean's passing the community lost an entrepreneur in terms of GAA development.

Born near Campile, Co. Wexford, his family moved to Piltown at the age of nine. He played in a minor county final against Graigue-Ballycallan in 1948. He served as club player, selector, secretary and committee member at various times for fifty years.

He was involved in the reforming of the Piltown GAA Club in 1953, the establishment of the GAA Sportsfield & dressings 1961-1966, and its further development in the early eighties. He was instrumental in the building of the Sports Complex & Bar Facilities.

The famous Piltown Carnivals and hurling tournaments were his creation and later he was to the fore setting up the enduring Piltown Co-Op Draw.

A supervisor with Waterford Glass until 1975, when he had to retire due to ill health, he played a major role in organising the All-Ireland factory leagues.

Kilkenny hurling teams and membership of the Kilkenny Supporters Club were sources of pride and joy. Sincere condolences are extended to his daughters, Jacqueline and Therese and their families.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhilis!

Mick Neary (1923 - 99)



Shortly before we went to press, the GAA community was saddened to hear of the death of one of the best known figures in hurling. Mick was known not only throughout Ireland but his craftsmanship was to be appreciated in many far flung parts of the globe. For many of our emigrant sons carried a dozen or more 'Neary' hurleys to replenish stocks in Boston, Chicago or Sydney when returning after a visit home to Ireland.

Mick Neary was a tremendous craftsman, an artist in ash, who had an outstanding talent not only to shape a hurley to a players specifications but never to forget that particular balance and feel.

Visiting Mick for a hurley was never merely a commercial transaction. All the current happenings in the Gaelic world were discussed, events and hurlers of bygone years recalled, as he delved his tremendous memory for detail to remind one of a long forgotten wielder of the ash. He knew them all, saw all the best players in action since the 'thirties. His last connection with this yearbook came when he identified every player, both Cork and Kilkenny, in a rare photograph of the parade before the 1939 All Ireland senior final.

Indeed he hurled with and against many of the best from his time as a county minor with Kilkenny in 1939 when he won a Leinster medal. He graduated to the senior side in 1943 and won a Leinster medal but unfortunately lost to Antrim in the All Ireland semi-final. He was a towering half back, usually holding the centre and won three county senior titles with the famed Eire Óg side, 1944, '45 and '47.

His direct involvement in later years was with James Stephens when he was a committee member for many years. The above photo was from the official photograph of the victorious All Ireland winning club side of 1982, on which team, one of his sons, Paddy featured so prominently.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

KILKENNY G.A.A. RESULTS 1999

Credit Union Senior Hurling Final

Glenmore1 - 14
Graigue-Ballycallan.....2 - 8

Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Final

John Lockes.....0 - 15
Graignamanagh.....1 - 9

Junior Hurling County Final

Carrickshock.....1 - 6
Emeralds.....0 - 8

Special Junior Hurling Roinn A Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....2 - 6
Clara.....2 - 6

Special Junior Hurling Roinn B Final

O'Loughlin Gaels.....1 - 12
John Lockes.....1 - 11

Michael Lyng Motors U - 21 Hurling Roinn A County Final

Dunnamaggin.....2 - 7
James Stephens.....2 - 6

Michael Lyng Motors U - 21 Hurling Roinn B County Final

Mullinavat v. Erins Own

Michael Lyng Motors U - 21 Hurling Roinn C County Final

Barrow Rangers v. Galmoy

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A County Final

Tullaroan.....1 - 16
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....0 - 6

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B County Final

Bennettsbridge/Danesfort.....3 - 7
Carrickshock.....3 - 5

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C County Final

St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....2 - 8
Kilmacow.....1 - 4

Credit Union Senior Hurling League Final

Young Irelands.....3 - 16
Glenmore1 - 18

Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final

Dunnamaggin.....1 - 15
St. Lachtains.....2 - 10

Byrne Cup Hurling Final (Open Draw)

Dicksboro.....4 - 6
Graigue-Ballycallan.....1 - 7

Intermediate Hurling League (Aylward Cup)

Graignamanagh.....2 - 10
Dunnamaggin.....0 - 8

Hennessy Sports All County Junior Hurling League Final

Graigue-Ballycallan.....2 - 12
James Stephens.....3 - 6

Barlo Nissan Northern Junior Hurling Final

Emeralds.....1 - 12
Galmoy.....0 - 15
Emeralds.....0 - 17 Replay
Galmoy.....0 - 7

Iverk Produce South Junior Hurling Final

Carrickshock.....1 - 14
Windgap.....1 - 12

Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn A South Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....3 - 11
Graignamanagh.....2 - 9

Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn A North Final

Clara.....2 - 9
Threecastles.....2 - 7

Barlo Nissan Special Junior Hurling Roinn B North Final

O'Loughlin Gaels.....2 - 13
St. Lachtains.....2 - 7

Iverk Produce Special Junior Hurling Roinn B South Final

John Lockes.....3 - 11
Carrickshock.....3 - 2

Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Roinn A Final

Graignamanagh.....2 - 12
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....3 - 8

Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Roinn B Final

Mullinavat.....3 - 14
John Lockes.....2 - 6

Barlo Nissan Junior Hurling League Div. 1 Final

Tullaroan.....6 - 13
St. Martins.....1 - 8

JJ Kavanagh Junior Hurling League Div. II Final

Danesfort.....1 - 12
Graigue-Ballycallan.....0 - 15
Danesfort.....1 - 10 Replay
Graigue-Ballycallan.....1 - 9

JJ Kavanagh Junior Hurling League Div. III Final

Lisdowney.....2 - 5
Barrow Rangers.....0 - 10

Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....1 - 10
Graigue-Ballycallan.....0 - 11

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn A North Final

James Stephens.....3 - 11
Fenians.....1 - 10

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn A South Final

Dunnamaggin.....0 - 9
Graignamanagh.....0 - 7

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn B North Final

Erins Own.....1 - 16
St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....3 - 8

Michael Lyng Motors Hurling Roinn B South Final

Mullinavat.....3 - 8
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....0 - 10

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A North Final

Tullaroan.....0 - 11
James Stephens.....0 - 6

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn A South Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....3 - 11
Mullinavat.....1 - 7

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B North Final

Bennettsbridge/ Danesfort.....0 - 14
Clara.....1 - 5

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn B South Final

Carrickshock.....3 - 9
Piltown.....2 - 9

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C North Final

St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....2 - 9
Galmoy.....1 - 12
St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....3 - 6 Replay
Galmoy.....0 - 11

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling Roinn C South Final

Kilmacow.....2 - 12
Slieverue.....2 - 4

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Final - John Tobin Memorial Cup

O'Loughlin Gaels.....1 - 10
James Stephens.....0 - 8

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....1 - 11
Lisdowney.....1 - 8

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Final

Clara.....2 - 15
St. Martins.....2 - 10

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. IV Final

Windgap.....2 - 11
St. Patricks, Ballyragget.....3 - 4

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Losers Final

Ballyhale Shamrocks.....1 - 10
Graigue-Ballycallan.....2 - 7
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....3 - 12 Replay
Graigue-Ballycallan.....2 - 9

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Losers Final

Bennettsbridge/Danesfort.....2 - 11
Rower-Inistioge.....3 - 8
Bennettsbridge/Danesfort.....2 - 11 AET
Rower-Inistioge.....3 - 8

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. III Losers Final

St. Lachtains.....2 - 13
Mooncoin.....1 - 5

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. IV Losers Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....2 - 5
Slieverue.....3 - 2
Conahy Shamrocks.....2 - 10 Replay
Slieverue.....2 - 2

Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling Roinn A County Final

Tullaroan.....2 - 17
Carrickshock.....2 - 5

Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling Roinn B County Final

Blacks & Whites1 - 10
Piltown.....1 - 7

Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling Roinn C County Final

Galmoy.....1 - 10
Windgap.....1 - 3

Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling League Roinn A Final

Tullaroan.....1 - 15
Carrickshock.....1 - 9

Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling League Roinn B Final

Emeralds.....3 - 11
Tullagher-Rosbercon.....0 - 3

Duggan Steel U-16 Hurling League Roinn C Final

Galmoy.....2 - 6
Erins Own.....1 - 5

Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Roinn A County Final

James Stephens.....3 - 5
Carrickshock.....0 - 5

Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Roinn B County Final

Mooncoin.....4 - 6
Piltown.....3 - 7

Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Roinn C County Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....1 - 11
Rower-Inistioge.....0 - 4

Under-14 Hurling Féile na nGael (Paddy Grace Memorial)

James Stephens.....0 - 6
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....0 - 6
James Stephens.....4 - 5 Replay
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....2 - 5

Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling League Roinn C Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....3 - 18
Rower-Inistioge.....1 - 4

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn A County Final (Educational Supplies League)

Ballyhale.....3 - 4
Freshford.....3 - 4
Ballyhale.....2 - 8 Replay
Freshford.....2 - 3

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn B County Final (Hennessy Fuels League)

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....2 - 10
Mooncoin.....2 - 3

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn C County Final (Paddy O'Connell Dublin League)

Paulstown-Goresbridge.....2 - 4
Conahy.....1 - 4

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Hurling Roinn D County Final (Tedcastles Oil)

Bennettsbridge.....3 - 16
Clogh-Mooneenroe.....2 - 0

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Hurling Final (Tedcastles Oil)**Corn Na Bhaldrathe**

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....4 - 7
Ballyhale.....2 - 4

Football

Senior County Football Final

Railyard v. Graigue-Ballycallan

Intermediate County Football Final

Not Finished

Junior County Football Final

Not Finished

Senior Football League Final

Graigue-Ballycallan.....1 - 11
Glenmore.....1 - 9

Intermediate Football League Final

Mullinavat.....3 - 5
Blacks & Whites.....1 - 10

U - 21 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

U - 21 Football Roinn B Final

Not Finished

Northern Junior Football Final

Not Finished

Southern Junior Football Final

Not Finished

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn A County Final

Erins Own.....1 - 8
James Stephens.....2 - 3

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B Final

Bennettsbridge.....2 - 4
Shamrocks.....1 - 6

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B North Final

Bennettsbridge.....1 - 7
Conahy Shamrocks.....0 - 3

Iarnród Éireann Minor Football Roinn B South Final

Shamrocks.....2 - 6
Tullagher-Rosbercon.....0 - 4

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn B Final

Railyard.....3 - 12
Thomastown.....2 - 6

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn C Final

Not Finished

Duggan Steel U-14 Football Roinn A Final

Dicksboro.....2 - 9
Carrickshock.....1 - 5

Duggan Steel U-14 Football Roinn B Final

Muckalee.....3 - 7
Thomastown.....1 - 3

Duggan Steel U-14 Football Roinn C Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....4 - 1
Rower-Inistioge.....2 - 2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn A Football Final - Bertie O'Callaghan Cup (Kilkenny Association, Dublin)

Not Finished

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn B Football Final (Toymaster League)

Castlecomer.....4 - 6
Graignamanagh.....2 - 2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn C Football Final (Tedcastles Oil)

Slieverue.....1 - 1
Danesfort.....0 - 1

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Football Final

Thomastown.....1 - 6
Mullinavat.....0 - 3

Northern U-21 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

Southern U-21 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

Northern U-21 Football Roinn B Final

Not Finished

Southern U-21 Football Roinn B Final

Not Finished

Correction to 1998 Results**County Junior Hurling Final**

Blacks & Whites.....2 - 11
Carrickshock.....0 - 10

Outstanding Result 1997**Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div 1 (John Tobin Memorial Cup)**

James Stephens.....1 - 12
Emeralds.....1 - 6

Outstanding Results 1998

Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling A County Final

Dunnamaggin.....2 - 9
Graigue-Ballycallan.....1 - 8

Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling B County Final

Tullaroan.....1 - 7
Shamrocks.....1 - 5

Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling A North Final

Graigue-Ballycallan.....1 - 9
James Stephens.....0 - 2

Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling A South Final

Dunnamaggin.....3 - 9
Graignamanagh.....2 - 3

Barlo Nissan U-21 Hurling B North Final

Tullaroan.....3 - 8
Emeralds.....3 - 5

Iverk Produce U-21 Hurling B South Final

Shamrocks.....0 - 13
Mullinavat.....1 - 10
Shamrocks.....1 - 11 Replay
Mullinavat.....0 - 6

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. I Final

James Stephens.....3 - 6
Emeralds.....0 - 5

Iarnród Éireann Minor Hurling League Div. II Final

Tullaroan.....1 - 9
Mullinavat.....0 - 7

Football

Senior Football County Final (Replay)

Glenmore.....w o
James Stephens.....s c r

Under 21 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

Under 21 Football Roinn B Final

Mullinavat v. Railyard

Northern Under 21 Football Roinn A Final

Not Finished

Southern Under 21 Roinn A Football Final

Not Finished

Northern U-21 Football Final Roinn B

Railyard.....0 - 9
Conahy Shamrocks.....0 - 3

Southern U-21 Roinn B Football Final

Mullinavat.....3 - 6
Mooncoin.....0 - 8

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn A Final (Replay)

James Stephens.....1 - 9
Emeralds.....3 - 1

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn B Final

Carrickshock.....2 - 7
St. Lachtains.....3 - 4
Carrickshock.....1 - 9
St. Lachtains.....2 - 5

Duggan Steel U-16 Football Roinn C Final

Bennettsbridge.....2 - 8
Mooncoin.....2 - 4

Special U-14 Football Final

Dicksboro.....10 - 12
O'Loughlin Gaels.....2 - 1

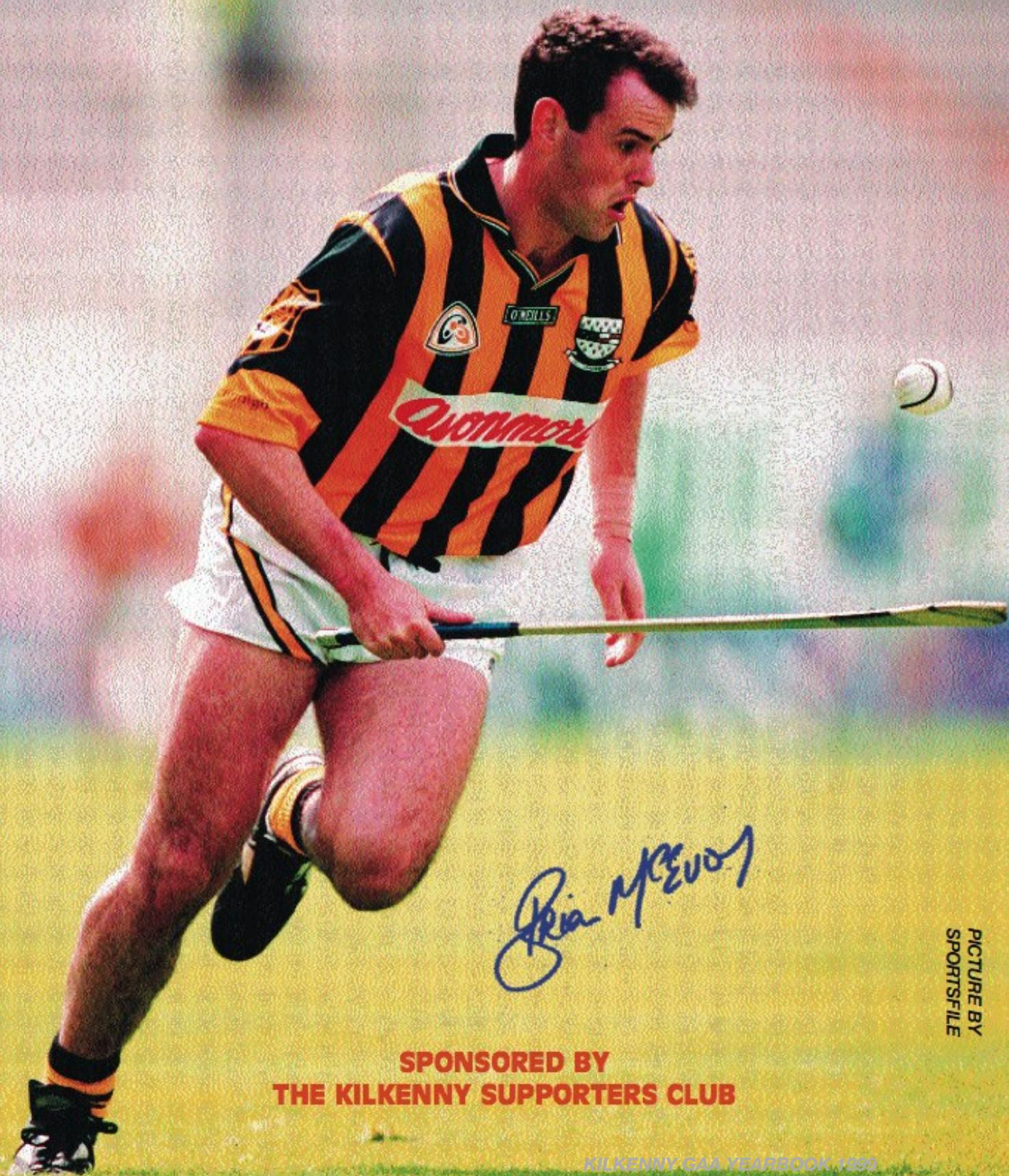
Cumann na mBunscoileanna B Football Final (Toymaster League)

Rower-Inistioge.....3 - 7
Coon-Muckalee.....2 - 7

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup Football Final

Tullagher-Rosbercon.....3 - 2
Coon-Muckalee.....1 - 3

NO GAME MATCHES HURLING!



PICTURE BY
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