

KILKENNY

GAA YEARBOOK



£5.95
€7.55

2001



KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2001

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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2001

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PUBLISHED BY:

Kilkenny County Board GAA
Nowlan Park
Kilkenny.

PRINTED BY:

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

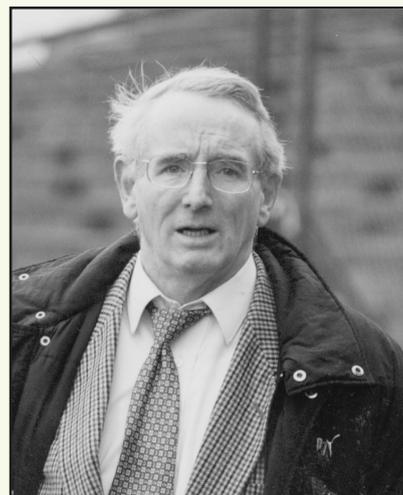
FRONT COVER:

Peter Barry in action against Alan Kearns of Galway in the All Ireland Semi-final. (Sportsfile)

Poster:

Kilkenny Club Jerseys

EDITORIAL



It was the best of years and the worst of years. The month of September will never be forgotten by any of us who witnessed the horror of Tuesday September 11th in New York and Washington. September, the month we all anticipate with relish but not this time round. It's very possible that many reading our Yearbook would have known people involved, in that dreadful disaster.

It was a marvellous year for all GAA followers. It was a remarkable year for Tipperary, and let's congratulate them on their achievements. They won their titles in style against the odds. They won their camogie three-in-a row title. They even won the Greyhound Derby.

It was a great year for us in Kilkenny too, and whilst we may not have too much, if any silverware on the "dresser", we still had memorable days on the road, drinking the drink, and talking the talk.

It started early for us, thanks to Jim Neary and his Graig Ballycallan dragoons. They had us in Croke Park in the Spring of the year. It needed extra time to prevent a glorious night back in Kilmanagh. But they did us proud. Not too much joy either on the Colleges scene although the Callan schools - St. Brigids and Coláiste Eamon Rís contested All-Ireland finals, the girls of St Brigids winning theirs. Of course that other Kilkenny sporting icon - what would we ever do without him? - Duxie Walsh lit up our lives once more, and had us talking again about his marvellous achievement.

Our Arraghmore Co-op team vindicated the work being done by the Development personnel. A new departure is this for Kilkenny, but surely one to cherish. Our Minor team eventually went out to one of the finest Cork teams we have seen, and we will see more of them in future. The Intermediate team suffered a surprised defeat in their first round game against Laois. The under-21 team walked into a wall of Wexford fury down in the brilliantly refurbished Wexford Park, on an evening not to be forgotten by Wexford supporters. Our senior team, after the euphoria of last year, had us in buoyant mood. After marauding through the Leinster championship, Liam McCarthy glory beckoned. Tipp beat Wexford, and were waiting for us. Did we forget about Galway? Perhaps we did. On the day, we didn't seem to hit the ground running, as they say in racing parlance. Make no mistake about it, we will see many if not most of this Kilkenny team win All-Ireland medals again.

It was a dreadfully sad year for the GAA in Kilkenny, with the deaths of so many great Gaels among whom Tom Ryall and Tommy O'Neill had a deep involvement in the production of this publication.

I would like to express my gratitude to the many people who made the publication of this book possible. My thanks to the Club PRO's, the amateur "scribblers" and the professionals, John Knox (Kilkenny People), Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune), and Mick Dunne (RTE).

The contribution of our photographers, amateur and professional, was enormous. I thank Ray Mc Manus and his staff at Sportsfile, John McIlwaine, Dylan Vaughan, Tom Brett, Eoin Hennessy, Charlie Maher and the late Tommy O'Neill.

I thank our hard-working Committee, our Chairman Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill, Tommy Lanigan, Ned Buggy, Jimmy Walsh, Richie Stone, John Knox, Martin Fogarty, Dermot Dunphy and Tommy O'Brien. I thank the Chairman of the County Board, Ned Quinn, and all his committees for their continued support and encouragement.

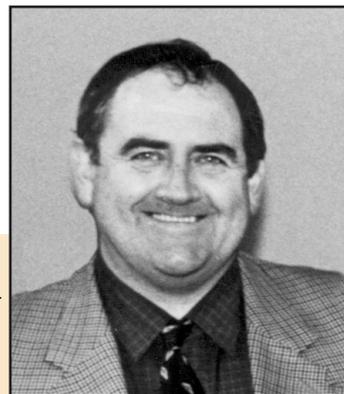
I hope we have produced a book that will give you many hours of entertainment, and reading enjoyment. I entreat you to support as many of our advertisers as you can, because their support has been invaluable in the production of our book.

Allow me, on behalf of our entire Committee to wish you the compliments of the Season, and hope that we will again meet through the medium of our Yearbook next year, le cúnamh Dé.

Barrie Henriques

Editor

Foreword



Bliain eile thart, agus bliainiris eile á fáiltiú agam. Scéalta agus eachtraí na bliana 2001 - buíochas do lucht a n-insint agus a gcur le chéile.

It is again my privilege and pleasure to welcome the publication of our Annual Yearbook, which records the story of another year of GAA activity in our County. Early in the year we were left wondering if our season would ever commence following the arrival of the dreaded Foot and Mouth Disease in the country. Miraculously it was contained and then eradicated by an extraordinary show of solidarity by the Irish people and our games eventually got underway. Great credit is due to our County Games Administration Committee that, despite the loss of two months activity, almost all competitions were completed on time.

Our Senior County Hurlers again treated us to many enjoyable moments in both League and Championship. They retained their Leinster title for the fourth time in succession but unfortunately couldn't retain their All-Ireland title. We all very much appreciate the efforts of our players and team management and the pleasure they have given us in recent years and with time off now to recharge the batteries and a new format being put forward for the hurling championship next year, we look forward with great anticipation to another successful tilt at All-Ireland honours.

Our Minor hurlers regained the provincial title with a terrific display in the Leinster Final. However, the much sought after All-Ireland success eluded them when somewhat unluckily defeated in the dying moments of their semi-final.

After putting themselves in a very strong position at half time in their Leinster Final, our U21 team were unable to capitalise in the second half and so suffered Provincial final defeat for the second year in a row.

Kilkenny Handballers again scored many impressive victories. Highlight of the year was the success of the irrepressible Michael "Duxie" Walsh who won his 16th All-Ireland Senior Singles title. Congratulations to Brian Manogue on his success in the All-Ireland U-21 final.

Kilkenny camogie too enjoyed many successes both at school and at inter county level team. The Senior team who reached the All-Ireland final showed that the material is there in what is essentially a very young team, to mount a serious challenge for top honours in the years ahead.

Kilkenny Co. Board again wishes to acknowledge the continuing contribution of our sponsors Glanbia Plc, St. Canices Credit Union, Vale Oil, JJ Kavanagh and sons, Bus Eireann, Barlo Nissan, Iverk Produce, Henessy Sports, Michael Lyng Motors, Iarnród Eireann and Duggan Steel.

It was a year of firsts in our Local Championship with pride of place going to city side O'Loughlin Gaels who realised their lifetime ambition

by capturing their first ever Senior Hurling title. In the Final itself they produced a tremendous display particularly in the second half to dethrone champions Graigue-Ballycallan. In the Intermediate Championship Final, between Mullinavat and Clara, power-packed opening half by the Southerners the second day set them on the road to ultimate success and a return to Senior ranks. The Emeralds from Urlingford captured their first ever Junior Hurling championship when in one of the most exciting finals of recent years they overcame a gallant Windgap team. Famous Tullaroan won their first U-21 title by defeating Carrickshock after a replay while Carrickshock themselves made history by defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks to record their first ever Minor A success. In Football, Muckalee regained Senior honours with Piltown and Mooncoin successful in the Intermediate and Junior finals respectively.

No county could have reached Kilkenny's stature in Hurling without the collective commitment and selfless dedication of very many people at all levels but particularly at club and underage level. This year we added a further dimension to the operation of our county underage teams with the introduction of a new style development squad system designed to ensure that young players in every club are offered the best possible opportunity to represent our County. I am delighted with the response of so many former players who are giving of their time coaching these young players on a totally voluntary basis and I record my gratitude to each of them. While accepting that one swallow never made a summer, the fact that we enjoyed our first success in nine years in the Nenagh Co-op U16 competition is most encouraging, but perhaps even more significant is the fact that 16 clubs were represented on the victorious panel. With the support of every club in the County I believe that this investment of time and energy in the youth of our County will prove most rewarding.

One of the great achievements of our Yearbook Committee is the fact that each year they give such tremendous prominence to the day-to-day activities of our clubs along with recording the notable successes by teams from the county who captured National headlines. In this way, each publication serves as a vital statistical record for future generations and is greatly appreciated by Kilkenny people at home and abroad. I extend my sincere thanks to Chairman, Pat Henderson, Editor, Barry Henriques, Gerry O'Neill and all contributors for not only maintaining but surpassing the high standards that they have set for themselves.

Finally I extend sincere thanks to all who contributed to the promotion of Gaelic games in Kilkenny throughout the year and to all who supported our county teams.

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. We earnestly urge our readers to support them at every possible opportunity.

“One of the All-time Great Wing Backs”

A profile of Seamie Cleere

by MICK DUNNE

Cautastically the morning newspaper reported: "An icy wind that swept down the pitch yesterday chilled spectators to the bone and nothing they saw in the National Hurling League game between Kilkenny and Antrim helped lessen their discomfort." Not the most auspicious circumstances for a senior inter-county debut! Yet it was in such conditions that a 19-year-old got his introduction to the Kilkenny team, hundreds of miles from his native Bennettsbridge under the shadow of a bleak Antrim mountain on a frigid November Sunday.

It was November 8, 1959, at the far northern ground of Loughgiel Shamrocks and after a thoroughly one-sided match Kilkenny, beaten in an All-Ireland final replay two months previously, went home with a 20-point victory (6-5 to 0-3). "All I can remember about it," admits Seamus Cleere, "was that it was a bitterly cold day with sleet and rain and we were entertained in an old schoolhouse afterwards. But I must have established my place that day at right half-back."

Indeed. Soon he would develop into one of hurling's all-time great wing backs so highly-regarded that, four decades later, he would be one of the four nominees for right half-back on the national Hurling Team of the Millennium. After a distinguished career he wound-up with two All-Ireland medals as Kilkenny's right half-back (1963 and '67) and another as a 1969 sub, National League medals in 1962 and '66 and three successes on the Leinster Railway Cup team (1964, '65 and '67) from a six-year stay during which the inter-provincial championship were still of sufficient consequence to attract 20-30,000 crowds on St. Patrick's Day. And in 1963, the year he captained the county to their All-Ireland triumph over neighbours Waterford, he was chosen as the Caltex (now Texaco) Hurler of the Year.

He comments: "For the ten short years I was in the game at the highest level I'm delighted with my achievements and delighted with the honour they brought to Bennettsbridge. I have lots of memories: having the honour of captaining the county team, winning the All-Ireland medals, which was great for the club and the parish, being Hurler of the Year and I felt very honoured and proud with the Millennium nomination coming 40 years later."

Being a stronghold of hurling such as Bennettsbridge Seamus could hardly have escaped the sport, but there was no school team to play on. He says: "We hadn't the numbers to have a team in my time and my first recollection is playing for the under-16. I played with those for a couple of years and then played with the minors." The call-up to the county minor panel came in 1958, but despite getting a Leinster medal his only



Seamie Cleere receives the McCarthy Cup from President DeValera in 1967

appearance was in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway. In goal! "I was on the panel," he recalls, "and I played in goal for the last quarter of an hour." However, it was a Galway victory despite a contribution of 2-1 from a youngster named Eddie Keher. The following year Seamus was promoted to the Bennettsbridge senior team, would win his first county championship when the club beat Erin's Own, Castlecomer, in the final and the same year he played junior, as a forward, but Kilkenny were beaten by Wexford in the replayed provincial semi-final.

Kilkenny's championship campaign of '59 ended with defeat by Waterford in the replay of the All-Ireland final, but they got some small consolation when they won the Oireachtas Cup in October. Then into the National League and the third match of the new campaign was that November trip to Antrim where Seamus made his debut. "They were short a few including Paddy Buggy, the right half-back. So Paddy Grace sent out word with the players to collect whoever they could to go to the north." By this stage he was doing well as the regular centre half-back for his club and it was inevitable that the Bennettsbridge contingent would bring him along. The following March Paddy Buggy announced his retirement and the No.5 jersey became Cleere's permanently - with a noticeable, but temporary, exception when he was moved to right half-forward for the 1964 All-Ireland final against Tipperary in which he was the first scorer with a tenth second point.

However, it was playing at wing back that gave him "the most enjoyment." Inevitably in Kilkenny the ambition was to earn a place on the county team but he declares: "To represent the club here for starters that was the hope. It was a big honour when I did represent the club because it was very, very hard to make our club senior team. We were very strong in the Fifties and the Sixties. There were Dan Kennedy and the Galways, Mickey Kelly and Johnny McGovern in the Fifties, later on then Paddy Moran, Martin and Jim Treacy, Pat Lawlor, Noel Skehan and John Kinsella. We had celebrations last year to celebrate 20 glorious years from 1952 to '71. In the space of 20 years we appeared in 16 senior county finals and won 11 of them. McGovern has won all of the 11 senior medals and he was a great help to me when I came on the team in the early years with his advice, both on and off the field."

Sadly now Bennettsbridge have declined as a force in the county and operate at intermediate level since 1981. Seamus says: "We have a few leagues to our credit in recent years but nothing of any note. The population hasn't grown, that's our biggest problem for the last dozen years. We have had no base, we can't develop because the numbers were so low in the school, the male numbers. So we actually had to join with Danesfort, our neighbouring parish, over the last four years to make up a minor team, but Danesfort went it on their own this year. But there is hope. We've had some new houses in recent times and new families have been coming in to live in the Bridge in the last couple of years. They have children going to the school, so we can look forward to a fairly good youth team in about three or four years time. We will be strong again in numbers in the near future, in the very near future."

A serious knee injury eventually forced Seamus to retire from the sport. "I got injured in a tournament against Comer. At the time I was hobbling around and by the end of '68 I gave it up with Kilkenny. I went to a few quacks around the country, but couldn't establish that it was a cruciate ligament in the knee. I didn't establish that until I broke it two years later playing full-back for the Bridge and had to have an operation. It was when the surgeon opened up the knee that he discovered the cruciate was gone. At that particular time I suppose medical knowledge or technology wouldn't have been as good as it is today. Afterwards I was playing centre half for the Bridge and hadn't to do much twisting or turning or anything like that, but it was a big step up to come back for the county which I did in '69. I was a sub for the Leinster final and played left half-back against London in the All-Ireland semi-final, but in hindsight I know that was wrong. London weren't great and I hadn't much running to do, but Mick Lanigan gave me a try-out before the All-Ireland final and the knee wouldn't stand up to it, so I was a sub for the All-Ireland."

There was a time when Seamus didn't confine his sporting activities to hurling and, in fact, at football played for three clubs. "It was never very serious," he confesses, but I must have been fairly handy as I was approached by the St. John's team in the city to kick minor with them. Fan Larkin was involved with the Johns at the time they came looking for me. I won a county minor medal with them and senior medals in '63 and '64 with Clan na Gael. Clan was practically a city team as well. The famous Donie Murphy [Kerry corner back in the '53 All-Ireland final] was in the agricultural business in Kilkenny at the time and he trained us. He was one of the founders of Clan na Gael. They were established for about eight or ten years, I think, but they broke up sometime after that. I have a junior football medal with Bennettsbridge for 1969, but there wasn't any significance to my football."

One of the cliché questions we journalists inevitably pose when talking to former great players concerns changes in their sport. Has it changed for the better? Seamus Cleere declares unhesitatingly: "It has, it's a better game, today's game is bet-



Seamie Cleere in action representing Leinster in the Railway Cup.

ter. I think it's faster, more skilful and it's a better game to watch. The introduction of the rule protecting the goalmen and the other rules they brought in in recent times improved the game." Better game to watch, but what about playing? "I would love to be playing it now," Seamus says. But at 61 years of age this Royal Liver Insurance employee devotes any time he has for sport to playing golf - and he has done so successfully at Kilkenny Golf Club where he was once a 9-handicapper but has now gone out to 11. Over the years has won three captains' prizes.

Also cherished among his trophies from sport is a cup won at Gaelic Park, New York, in 1964 when Kilkenny beat Tipperary on a field day for the Cardinal Cushing Fund. As captain he brought home the trophy, which had been presented by the sponsors, Rupert Breweries. Some years later when he asked Kilkenny's celebrated coach, Father Tommy Maher, what he should do with the cup and the answer he got was: "When they come looking for it, give it to them." Cleere reveals: "They never came for it."

Seamus and his wife, the former Joan O'Neill from nearby Thomastown, have reared five children two of whom figured at hurling. Tony, the eldest, won a Leinster under-14 medal with Kilkenny, and played for a year with the University of Limerick, but involvement in studies soon diverted him from the sport and Jonathan, the youngest, is now playing intermediate with Bennettsbridge. A third, Brendan, plays soccer with the local East End team. The others, Raymond lives in Dublin and Catriona in Germany.

A consummation as O'Loughlin's join the ranks of the giants

**County Senior Hurling
Championship by John Knox,
Kilkenny People**

THE naked enthusiasm at the end of the triumphant march opened up a window through which we could all peer into the soul.

For the victory was more than a victory, more than the making of history. It was a consummation, the fitting of the last piece in the jigsaw for a club that has seen everything else, done virtually everything else.

"It was the one big piece we were missing, the one thing that left us apart from the major clubs, the big winners", explained O'Loughlin/Gaels chairman, John Skehan, when he attempted to paint the picture.

Winning their first St. Canice's Credit Union senior hurling championship was wonderful in itself for O'Loughlin/Gaels. For any club it would be a mighty achievement in one of the hurling strongholds of the nation.

Ah, but in O'Loughlin's case it completed the circle. They won the premier GAA club of the year award for Ireland in 1980. They won Kilkenny hurling titles at intermediate (2), junior (2), under-21 (2) and at virtually every under-age level,

and they own more real estate than just about any outfit in the country.

Big! On or off the field, GAA clubs don't come much bigger than O'Loughlin/Gaels! Yet, the club's name didn't appear on the distinguished list of winners of the top title in sport in Kilkenny.

Put right

Now that has been put to right. Hence, the wild scenes of excitement when defending Kilkenny champions, and reigning Leinster kings, Graigue-Ballycallan were put the sword in the county final.

"What winning the senior hurling title meant, and the prestige that goes with it, didn't really dawn on us for weeks", Mr. Skehan admitted. "We chased it hard, and the excitement when we won was great. But the feel good factor about what we had done got better the further we moved away from the final".

Team skipper and current Kilkenny captain, Andy Comerford knows a thing or two about winning. He has won senior and minor All-Irelands, and All-Star honours too.

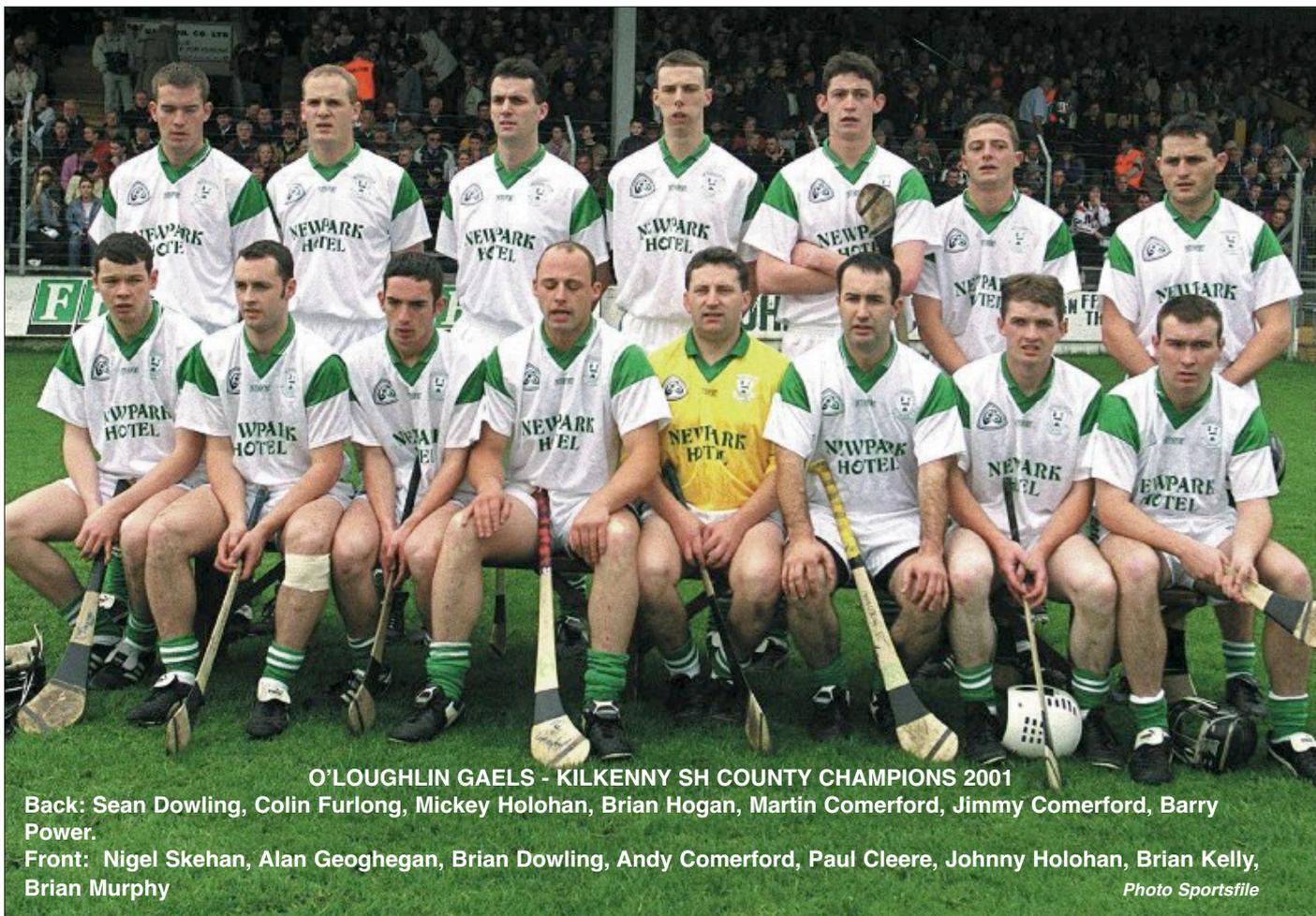
Yet, after O'Loughlin's win, he was moved to suggest: "Winning with your own club people is very, very special. It compares easily with winning an All-Ireland".

The O'Loughlin/Gaels club was founded in 1969. They have slipped up and down through the grades during the past decade – they were a junior club in 1995 – and it was only over the past 24 months that they found themselves with a team genuinely capable of striking out for the summit. Sure, they had good teams in the past. But none were as balanced, as top heavy with individual talent, or as driven as this year's outfit.

Suffered

You see, the current O'Loughlin's crew suffered, and was inspired by pain. They lived the old ideology that 'you must lose one to win one'. Losing the county final to Graigue-Ballycallan in 2001 made the team this season.

"You never forget the pain of defeat", assured selector, Michael Nolan, who pulled the team strings along with former Offaly star, Aidan Fogarty and Seanie Tyrrell. "We weren't going to fail in a sec-



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - KILKENNY SH COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Sean Dowling, Colin Furlong, Mickey Holohan, Brian Hogan, Martin Comerford, Jimmy Comerford, Barry Power.

Front: Nigel Skehan, Alan Geoghegan, Brian Dowling, Andy Comerford, Paul Cleere, Johnny Holohan, Brian Kelly, Brian Murphy

Photo Sportsfile



Captain, **Andy Comerford** on a high.
Photo Tom Brett

Nigel a real banker for the champs

A SWEET striking 20-year-old was O'Loughlin/Gaels scoring banker during the four match senior hurling championship run. Bank official, Nigel Skehan was the top scorer with an impressive 1-31 to his credit. Twenty five points came via frees.

The St. John's Park crew shot a very healthy 3-63 during the campaign, while conceding 4-39. Young Skehan's strike rate was very, very good seeing that he claimed nearly half the total number of points. His best tally was the 1-9 he scored in the final against Graigue-Ballycallan.

Skehan, whose father John is the club chairman, scored in all four rounds, as did county panelist, Alan Geoghegan. However, the scoring honours were well spread. In all, nine players figured among the scoring.

Defender Sean Dowling, Jimmy Comerford, Martin Comerford, Brian Kelly and Brian Dowling all scored in three of the matches.

The scorers were – Nigel Skehan (1-31, 25 points frees); Martin Comerford (1-5); Alan Geoghegan (0-7, one free); Brian Kelly (1-3); Sean Dowling (0-5, two 65s, one free); Jimmy Comerford (0-4); Brian Dowling (0-4, one free); Andy Comerford (0-2); Colin Furlong (0-2).

The road to the top

September 1 in Callan, quarter-final
O'Loughlin/Gaels 0-18 Dunnamaggin 2-12 (18 pts)

HT 0-10 to 1-7 (D)

Scorers – N. Skehan (0-10, eight frees); B. Dowling (0-2, one free); S. Dowling (0-2, one 65); A. Geoghegan, C. Furlong, M. Comerford, J. Comerford (0-1 each).

September 8 in Callan, quarter-final replay
O'Loughlin/Gaels 2-16 Dunnamaggin 1-10

HT 1-9 to 0-6(D)

Scorers – M. Comerford (1-3); N. Skehan (0-6, frees); B. Kelly (1-1); A. Geoghegan (0-2); A. Comerford, C. Furlong, B. Dowling (0-1 each); S. Dowling (0-1, free).

September 30 in Nowlan Park, semi-final

O'Loughlin/Gaels 0-12 Glenmore 0-11

HT 0-5 to 0-8(G)

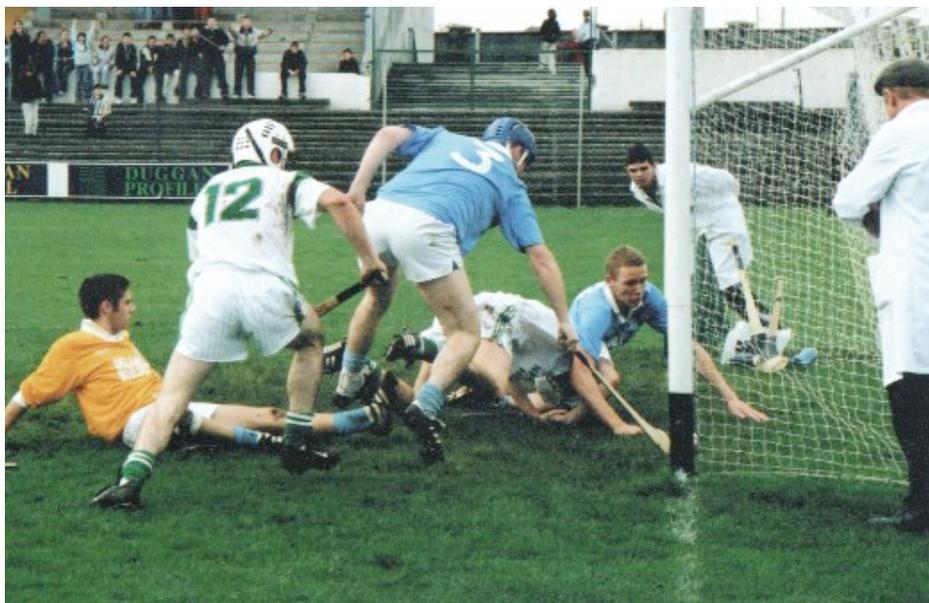
Scorers – N. Skehan (0-6, four frees); A. Geoghegan (0-2); S. Dowling (0-2, one 65); J. Comerford, B. Kelly (0-1 each).

October 14 in Nowlan Park, county final

O'Loughlin/Gaels 1-17 Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6

HT 0-7 to 1-2 (G. B.)

Scorers – N. Skehan (1-9, seven points frees); J. Comerford (0-2); A. Geoghegan (0-2, one free); A. Comerford, B. Kelly, M. Comerford, B. Dowling (0-1 each).



Nigel Skehan (on the ground) scores O'Loughlin's goal watched by **Paul Dermody, Brian Kelly, Paddy O'Dwyer and James Ryall.**

Photo Tom Brett

ond final, and in successive years and against the same opposition".

And so O'Loughlin/Gaels arrived for the county final at Nowlan Park on Sunday, October 14 in mean, mean mood. By the time they left with the Walsh Cup, they left fair devastation behind them.

Graigue, who went within an ace of winning the All-Ireland club title the previous march and were hot favourites to retain the crown, were well beaten, by 1-17 to 1-6. Not only, that were held scoreless from play.

Hard to believe, especially from a team that boasted county men like All-Star, Denis Byrne, John Hoyne, Eddie Brennan and Micheál Hoyne in attack, not to mentor former county hero, Adrian Ronan.

There was little sorted during the opening half, at the end of which Graigue trailed by 1-2 to 0-7. Their goal was a steal, a cheeky effort from a 21 yards free by Adrian Ronan.

The gloves came off during the third quarter. O'Loughlin's looked meaner than ever did in their lives, as man stood up to man, as the battle for supremacy reached white hot intensity.

Within a minute of the restart young Nigel Skehan, a prolific scorer all through the campaign, posted a point from a free. A Graigue point from an Adrian Ronan free followed, as did a penalty save.

Escape

O'Loughlin's made the best of that escape. Minor scores from Brian Dowling



Sean Dowling, Barry Power and Paul Cleere watch Adrian Ronan's 21 yard free hit the net.
Photo Tom Brett

and Skehan took the difference out to 0-10 to 1-3. A mighty scores from a 50 yards sideline cut by Alan Geoghegan mirrored O'Loughlin's soaring confidence and belief. They had hold of the game by now. They needed to kill it. They did in the 48th minute when Nigel Skehan, apparently off his rear end, scrambled the ball into the net. With the difference at 1-14 to 1-15, there was no way back for Graigue. O'Loughlin's performance in the final was the best ever by the senior team, one would suggest.



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN - COUNTY SH FINALISTS 2001

Back: Johnny Butler, Tomás Comerford, James Ryall, Eddie O'Dwyer (Capt), Micheál Hoyne, John Hoyne, Paddy O'Dwyer, Dermot Hoyne, Alan Hoyne.

Front: James Young, Damien Cleere, Adrian Ronan, Paul Dermody, Denis Byrne, Eddie Brennan, Tomás Dermody.

Photo Tom Brett

If that sentence seems dead pan and lacking in enthusiasm, then that's a pity, because there is no other accurate way to describe the winners showing. On wouldn't even dare to single out indi-

viduals. The defence held the opposition scoreless from play. What can you add to that? Sure, Andy Comerford, who had an operation to put right a gilmore groin problem early in the season, Nigel Skehan, Martin

Comerford and Brian Kelly has massive games. But they only rose with the rising tide of the team performance.

The champions entered the final on the back of an average showing against experienced Glenmore in a low scoring semi-final. They didn't suggest then that they had 17 points, or anything like it, in them for the big day.

When O'Loughlin's look back on the year and think about the big performances, the county final will top the lot. But the bright Saturday evening in Callan they beat Dunnamaggin by 2-16 to 1-10 in the quarter-final replay will receive honourable mention too.

Potential

That was the first evening one saw them as potential champions. The Southerners had earned a draw the first day with an injury-time goal from county man, Noel Hickey, who moved from full-back to full-forward to rescue his side.

O'Loughlin's wiped them out in the re-match. Three points divided the teams at the break (1-9 to 0-6). A 38th minute goal from Martin Comerford, who grew into a potential county star during the season, took the city side 2-9 to 0-8 clear. They literally ran away from the opposition after that.

However, when O'Loughlin's form dipped against Glenmore subsequently, and Graigue-Ballycallan's improved over all previous showings, you had to win. No more! In the county final O'Loughlin/Gaels turned us all into believers with their serious passion and skilful play.

The county final teams:

O'Loughlin/Gaels – Paul Cleere, Barry Power, Michael Holohan, Brian Murphy, Johnny Holohan, Brian Hogan, Sean Dowling, Andy Comerford (capt), Alan Geoghegan, Nigel Skehan, Colin Furlong, Brian Kelly, Jimmy Comerford, Martin Comerford, Brian Dowling. Sub used – Donal O'Dwyer; Peter Dowling, Niall Bergtin, James O'Keefe, Stephen Hogan, Joe Daly, Seamus Cummins, Ollie O'Connor, Mark Phelan, Bryan Skehan, Tony Doyle, Kevin Cleerre, Tommy Lahart, Ian Dowling.

Graigue-Ballycallan – Paul Dermody, Johnny Butler, Paddy O'Dwyer, James Ryall, Damien Cleere, Tomás Comerford, Alan Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne, Eddie O'Dwyer (capt), Denis Byrne, John Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, Adrian Ronan, Micheál Hoyne, Tomás Dermody. Sub used – James Young, Gearoid Cleere; Johnny Ronan Pdraig McCluskey,



Aerial duel between **Brian Kelly** (O'LG's) and **Damien Cleere** (GBC)
Photo Tom Brett

Accidental winners, but happy ones all the same

County Senior Hurling League
by John Knox, Kilkenny People

Ciaran Hoyne, Tommy Manogue, Robert Byrne, Kevin Cleere, Aidan Brett, Ger. Ronan, Philip Butler, Patrick Dalton, Brian Dalton, Pat Comerford, Brendan Hoyne, Jim Maher, Shane Murphy, Niall Millea, Joseph Brennan.
Referee – John Guinan (Lisdowney).

THE specified aim at the outset, and the bonus earned at the finish weren't one and the same, but Glenmore were more than happy to celebrate anyway. Winning the Credit Union senior hurling league doesn't fall into the category of 'must do projects' with any player or club in Kilkenny. The competition slots unobtrusively into the tapestry of sporting life, and the attitude is more or less 'if it happens, well and good, if it doesn't, so what'. There was more than an element of that relaxed and easy going

approach when Glenmore became the sixth club to win the league title this sea-

son. In common with most clubs, Glenmore started out with the aim of making the semi-finals. The reason? Secure against relegation. They wanted to secure themselves against relegation, which is the not insignificant prize for going that far in the competition. After that Glenmore were happy to take

rest, Glenmore wanted that, if they could get it.

"The idea was that we would use the league first and foremost to avoid the threat of relegation", admitted former county great, Willie O'Connor, the one man above all else who can make the hurling temperature soar within the

Glenmore team. Fair enough, but when Glenmore found themselves in the last four, they were suddenly overcome by the desire to succeed. O'Connor caught the mood succinctly: "Any game worth toying out for, is worth winning". And so, lured by the scent of a possible winners medal, Glenmore became serious after

negotiating the preliminary rounds and making the semi-finals.



GLENMORE - ST CANICR'S CREDIT UNION SH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2001
Back: Richie Mullally, Michael Aylward, Fergal Freyne, Paddy Mullally, Frank Kirwan, Shay Vereker, Jimmy Walsh, Paul Fitzgerald, PJ O'Connor.
Front: Willie O'Connor, Seamie Dollard, Michael Murphy, Michael Phelan, Denis Mullally, Eddie O'Connor.



ERIN'S OWN SH TEAM - ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION LEAGUE FINALISTS 2001
Back: Martin Owens, Paul Mullins, Colin Dunne, Sean Meally, Eoin Rothwell, Michael Owens, Brian Young, Edward Brennan, Danny Byrne, John Feehan, Victor Smyth, Eamon Holland.
Middle: Martin Fogarty, Liam Shore, Damien Mullins, Joe Meagher, Gordon Byrne, David Buggy, Miche-I Coogan, Patsy Brophy, Pat Shore, Tom Brophy, Shay Kennedy.
Front: Donall Dunne, Anthony Owens, Ken Brennan, Cormac Young, Adam Holden, Martin Holohan, Liam Shore.

Seven steps to hurling heaven

GLENMORE played seven games during the Credit Union senior hurling league. They won five, and lost two.

On the credit side, they scored 3-96 (105 pts), while they conceded 6-71 (89 pts), which wasn't a massive scoring difference.

Free taker, Denis Mullally was Glenmore's top scorer. He shot a very healthy 1-49, with 31 points coming from frees.

Denis Mullally scored in all seven games. His best tally was the 1-9 he claimed in the victory over Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in the fourth round, the match in which the Southerners wrapped-up a place in the semi-finals.

County champions, O'Loughlin/Gaels and Young Irelands (Gowran) beat the eventual league winners during the preliminary round series of matches.

The Glenmore sharp-shooters – Denis Mullally (1-49); Paddy Mullally (0-10); Seamus Dollard (1-4); Richard Mullally, Paul Fitzgerald, Michael Phelan (0-6 each); Michael 'Tich' Phelan (1-2); John Phelan (0-5); P.J. O'Connor, Shay Vereker (0-3 each); Willie O'Connor, Mark Phelan (0-1 each).

Round 1, Thomastown, May 5

O'Loughlin/Gaels 1-13 Glenmore 0-13

HT 1-9 (O'L); 0-5

Glenmore scorers – D. Mullally (0-9, seven frees);

R. Mullally (0-2); P. Fitzgerald, M. Phelan (0-1 each).

Round 2, Thomastown, Mary 13

Glenmore 0-10 James Stephens 0-5

HT 0-5; 0-3

Glenmore scorers – D. Mullally (0-6, frees); P. Fitzgerald (0-3); M. Phelan (0-1).

Round 3, Ballyhale, June 17

Glenmore 0-16 Dicksboro 1-8

HT 0-6 (G); 0-4

Glenmore scorers – D. Mullally (0-10, eight frees); Michael Phelan (0-2); Mark Phelan, W. O'Connor, S. Vereker, P. Fitzgerald (0-1 each).

Round 4, Mullinavat, June 24

Glenmore 1-8 Shamrocks 1-12

HT 1-9 (G); 0-6

Glenmore scorers – D. Mullally (1-9, six points frees, one penalty); P. Mullally (0-4, two frees); S. Dollard (0-2); P.J. O'Connor, P. Fitzgerald, J. Phelan (0-1 each).

Round 5, Ballyhale, July 15

Young Irelands 1-15 (18 pts) Glenmore 2-11 (17)

HT 2-4 (G); 0-9

Glenmore scorers – D. Mullally (0-5, frees); S. Dollard (1-1); M. 'Tich' Phelan (1-1); P.J. O'Connor (0-2); R. Mullally, M. Phelan (0-1 each).

Semi-final, Ballyhale, July 24

Glenmore 0-16 Tullaroan 2-8

HT 1-4 (T); 0-6

Glenmore scorers – P. Mullally (0-5, one free); D. Mullally (0-4); S. Vereker, J. Phelan (0-2 each); R. Mullally, S. Dollard, M. Phelan, Ballyveria (0-1 each).

Final, Nowlan Park, July 29

Glenmore 0-12 Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 0-10

HT 0-6(G); 0-3

Scorers: Glenmore – D. Mullally (0-6, five frees); R. Mullally, J. Phelan (0-2 each); P. Mullally, M. 'Tich' Phelan (0-1 each). Erin's Own – M. Coogan (0-4); J. Feehan (0-3); D. Buggy (0-1, free); M. Owens (0-1); B. Young (0-1, free).

Delighted

"I was delighted we won the league", O'Connor insisted. "Every honour is an honour, and it has to be won. You are not handed them. "We played a lot of hurling during the season, and a league winners medal at the end of it wasn't bad, although we didn't set out to try and win it". Indeed, when one reminded O'Connor that it was third time lucky in

the league final, he was a bit surprised. He didn't even remember they had lost the deciders of 1998 and '99 against Graigue-Ballycallan and Young Irelands (Gowran) respectively. The Kilkenny attitude to the league in a nutshell! Do you think if a club lost two championship finals they would forget them? No way! Glenmore eased rather than blasted into action in the league. They lost their opening game against eventual championship kings, O'Loughlin/Gaels. A smashing nine minute spell during the second period which netted O'Loughlin's 1-4 was crucial in the city side's 1-13 to 0-13 win.

Strung together

Stung by that reverse, the Southerners strung together wins over James Stephens – the teams were missing 10 regulars between them – Dicksboro and Shamrock (Ballyhale) to secure a semi-final place.

The happenings in the latter game told a lot about Glenmore's season in general. Perhaps greater things could have awaited them had Lady Luck glanced in their direction. Their top scorer against Shamrocks, and all but one match during the league, was Denis Mullally. He shot a terrific 1-9 (1-18 to 1-12). By the time the championship came round, he was out injured. He was missed, and badly.

Remember, Glenmore were beaten by a mere point by O'Loughlin/Gaels in the championship semi-finals. Would Denis Mullally have been good for that single score? A thought to occupy minds during the long Winter. Anyway, that win over Shamrocks took the importance out of the result of the fifth round league tie against Young Irelands, because the Southerners were already booked for a semi slot against Tullaroan.

Decisive intervention

Here the experienced hands came to the fore against a lively side who didn't want to surrender the title. Paddy Mullally turned in a tour de force at midfield. Mullally even made the last decisive intervention. His last minute point halted



Davy Buggy had an outstanding year for Erin's Own

Photo Sportfile



Frank Kirwan had another solid year for Glenmore

Tullaroan's strong late drive, after they had bagged 1-2 during a torrid four minute spell. Willie and Eddie O'Connor, the ever dependables, were great too. The final against Erin's Own (Castlecomer) was a low scoring, close marking affair. In a nerve testing finish, it took a smart save by Glenmore goalie, Frank Kirwan from a dipping shot from Brian Young to keep the 'Comer men at

bay (0-12 to 0-10). The O'Connors' were great again. So too was Glenmore's most improved young player of the season, Mark Phelan, along with Fergal Freyne, Paddy and Richard Mullally and Denis Mullally, who signed off in the league with six points.

Consolation prize

"It wasn't a bad consolation prize to end up with", Willie O'Connor offered. "We may not have started out to win the league, but we were happy we did. Winning won't do our young players any harm in the long run".

How true! Just ask Tullaroan.

Three years ago they had a team in transition, and they struggled badly in the senior division.

Last year they used the league, and made a serious effort to win it. The win bolstered confidence. This season they were able to muscle around with the best. It's called progress. Winning the league accelerated it for Tullaroan. Others should take note.

League final teams

Glenmore – Frank Kirwan, Fergal Freyne, Eddie O'Connor, Michael Aylward, Mark Phelan, Willie O'Connor,

PLAYERS WHO PLAYED IN THE 2001 SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Tullaroan;

Eamonn Holland, Michael Maher, Liam Simpson, P Campion, Tom Walsh, Ken Coogan, Bill Hennessey, John Breen, Jimmy Coogan, Barry Teehan, Chris Maher, Ned Sweeney, Liam Keogh, Tom Fitzgerald, P Doheny, Shane Hennessey, Derek Gaffney, Richie Holland, Michael Walsh.

O'Loughlin Gaels;

Paul Cleere, Barry Power, Michael Holohan, Brian Murphy, John Holohan, Brian Hogan, Sean Dowling, Andy Comerford, Alan Geoghegan, Nigel Skehan, Colin Furlong, Brian Kelly, Jimmy Comerford, Martin Comerford, Brian Dowling, Niall Bergin, James O'Keefe, Donal O'Dwyer.

Erin's Own;

Tom Brophy, Damien Mullins, Sean Meally, Cormac Young, Liam Shore, Patsy Brophy, Pat Shore, Joe Meagher, Michael Owens, Michael Coogan, Eoin Rothwell, Gordon Byrne, Danny Byrne, David Buggy, Brian Young, John Feehan, Ken Brennan, E J Brennan.

Glenmore;

Frank Kirwan, Fergal Freyne, Eddie O'Connor, Jimmy Walsh, Mark Phelan, Willie O'Connor, Richard Mullally, Michael "Titch" Phelan, Paddy Mullally, Paul Fitzgerald, P J O'Connor, Seamie Dollard, Shay Vereker, John Phelan, Ray Heffernan, Michael Phelan, Michael Aylward, Fintan Walsh, Michael Murphy, Willie Fitzgerald, Denis Mullally.

Dunnamaggin;

Alan McCormack, Tom Hickey, Noel Hickey, Brian Mackey, Paul Cahill, Eamonn Kennedy, Noel Lahart, Denis Lahart, Brian O'Shea, Ken Moore, Canice Hickey, Michael O'Neill, Sean Ryan, Ken O'Shea, Ramie Cahill, Niall McCormack, Colin Herity, David Herity, Liam Heffernan, Matt O'Shea, Andrew Hickey, Sean O'Neill.

James Stephens;

Derek Brennan, Diarmuid Herlihy, John Morgan, Dermot Grogan, Martin Phelan, Phillip Larkin, Shane Doyle, Jackie Tyrrell, Ken Grogan, Brian McEvoy, Peter Barry, Gerry Whelan, Joey Murray, Thomas Dowd, Paddy O'Brien, Barry Smith, Eoin McCormack, Liam O'Connor, Shane Egan.

Graigue Ballycallan;

Paul Dermody, Johnny Butler, Paddy O'Dwyer, James Ryall, Damien Cleere, Tomas Comerford, Ciaran Hoyne, James Young, Eddie O'Dwyer, Georoid Cleere, Denis Byrne, Tomas Dermody, Adrian Ronan, Micheal Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, John Hoyne, Alan Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne.

Young Irelands;

Martin Carey, Ciaran Carroll, Ciaran Phelan, Cathal Fitzgerald, Eoghan Farrell, Tom Drennan, Pat Farrell, Stephen Byrne, Oliver Carter, Charlie Carter, Pat O'Neill, James Fitzgerald, James McDermott, D J Carey, Jack Carey, Dick Carroll, David O'Neill.

Ballyhale Shamrocks;

Brendan Mason, Paul Shefflin, Pauric Farrell, Thomas Coogan, Bob Aylward, Dermot Ryan, Aiden Cummins, Willie Coogan, Tommy Shefflin, Patrick Reid, David Hoyne, Leonard Farrell, Noel O'Keefe, Henry Shefflin, M P Drennan, Michael Dermody, John Drennan, Brendan Costello, Eoin Reid, Ger Holden, Sean O'Keefe.

Fenians;

P J Ryan, Jason Ryan, Paul Phelan, Liam McEvoy, J J Delaney, Ger Henderson, J Phelan, Jamie Garrett, Brian Power, Paul Quinlan, Brian Ryan, Stephen Grehan, Owen Behan, Kevin Power, Jody Delaney, Lar Ryan, P J Delaney.

John Lockes;

Paul Morrissey, K Doheny, M Roche, K Fitzpatrick, A O'Sullivan, J O'Neill, M Cahill, J P Corcoran, D Cahill, J Gormly, J Power, M Dunne, A Power, D Lynch, R Jackman, D Nolan, D O'Sullivan.

Dicksboro;

C Breathnach, O Breathnach, Ger Henderson, Jimmy Bergin, T Maher, David Carroll, D Carroll, N Lacey, Darren O'Connor, Derek O'Gorman, Dan O'Neill, David Beirne, Conor O'Loughlin, John O'Gorman, Sam Morrissey, Alan Barry, Brendan Dalton, Brian Barry, Shane Prendergast.

Jimmy Walsh, Richard Mullally, Paddy Mullally, Denis Mullally, John Phelan, Seamus Dollard, Michael Phelan, Michael 'Tich' Phelan, Shay Vereker. Subs - Michael Murphy, P.J. O'Connor (used); Niall Mackey, John Phelan, Paul Fitzgerald, Liam Vereker, Fintan Walsh, Richard Aylward, Willie Fitzgerald, Ray Heffernan, John Fitzgerald, Noel Doherty, Patrick Murphy.

Erin's Own – Tom Brophy, Damien

Mullins, Patsy Brophy, Cormac Young, Liam Shore, Michael Owens, Eoin Rothwell, Joe Meagher, Gordon Byrne, Michael Coogan, John Feehan, Eddie Brennan, Danny Brennan, David Buggy, Brian Young. Subs – Sean Meally (used); Martin Owens, Victor Smyth, Adrian Holden, Donal Dunne, Colin Dunne, Paul Mullins, Pat Shore, Anthony Owens, Shay Kennedy, John Buggy, Martin Holohan, John Delaney, Denis Brennan.

St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2001

1st Round

Graigue Ballycallan 3-7 Young Irelands 1-12

GB scorers: A Ronan 1-3, M Hoyne 1-0, E Brennan 1-0, J Young 0-2, G Cleere 0-1, D Cleere 0-1

YI scorers: P O'Neill 0-4, D J Carey 1-1, C Carter 0-3, S Byrne 0-2, E Farrell 0-1, J Carey 0-1

Dunnamaggin 2-8 James Stephens 1-7

Dun Scorers: R Cahill 0-6, K O'Shea 1-1, K Moore, 1-0, M O'Neill 0-1, N McCormack 0-1

J S scorers: B McEvoy 0-6, T O'Dowd 1-0, P Barry 0-1, E McCormack 0-1

Dicksboro 1-16 John Lockes 1-7

Boro scorers: D O'Neill 0-9, J O Gorman 1-1, D Beirne 0-2, S Morrissey 0-2, D O Gorman 0-1, C O Loughlin 0-1

J L scorers: R Jackman 0-4, A Power 1-0, J Power 0-2, J O'Neill 0-2, J Gormley 0-1

Shamrocks 0-15 Fenians 0-11

Shamrocks scorers: H Shefflin 0-12, B Aylward 0-1, P Reid 0-1, D Hoyne 0-1

Fenians scorers: O Behan 0-4, L Ryan 0-3, J Garrett 0-1, S Graham 0-1, P Quinlan 0-1, J Delaney 0-1

2nd Round

Graigue Ballycallan 1-12 Tullaroan 1-8

G B scorers: J Hoyne 1-3, A Ronan 0-3, D Cleere 0-

3, E Brennan 0-1, D Byrne 0-1, T Dermody 0-1
Tullaroan scorers: J Coogan 0-5, L Keogh 1-2, B Teehan 0-1

Erin's Own 2-18 Shamrocks 3-11

E O scorers: D Buggy 1-8, M Coogan 1-2, D Byrne 0-3, G Byrne 0-2, B Young 0-2, M Owens 0-1

Shamrocks scorers: E Reid 1-1, T Shefflin 1-1, H Shefflin 0-4, P Shefflin 1-0, P Reid 0-3, B Aylward 0-1, L Farrell 0-1

O Loughlin Gaels 0-18 Dunnamaggin 2-12

O L G scorers: N Skehan 0-10, B Dowling 0-2, S Dowling 0-2, A Geoghegan 0-1, C Furlong 0-1, M Comerford 0-1, J Comerford 0-1

Dunn Scorers: C Herity 0-8, N McCormack 1-0, N Lahart 1-0, E Kennedy 0-1, M O'Neill 0-1, K O'Shea 0-1, R Cahill 0-1

Replay

O Loughlin Gaels 2-16 Dunnamaggin 1-10

O L G scorers: M Comerford 1-3, N Skehan 0-6, B Kelly 1-1, A Geoghegan 0-2, A Comerford 0-1, C Furlong 0-1, B Dowling 0-1, S Dowling 0-1

Dunn Scorers: R Cahill 0-5, S Ryan 1-1, K, Moore 0-2, B O'Shea 0-2

Glenmore 0-12 Dicksboro 1-9

Glenmore scorers: R Heffernan 0-5, S Vereker 0-2, J Phelan 0-2, M Phelan 0-1, P Fitzgerald 0-1, P Mullally 0-1

Dicksboro scorers: D O'Neill 1-4, D Carroll 0-1, C

O'Loughlin 0-1, J O Gorman 0-1, B Dalton 0-1, A Barry 0-1

Replay

Glenmore 1-16 Dicksboro 4-6

Glenmore scorers: R Heffernan 0-12, P Fitzgerald 1-1, P J O Connor 0-2, S Vereker 0-1

Dicksboro scorers: B Dalton 2-1, D Beirne 1-0, A Barry 1-0, D O'Neill 0-3, D O Gorman 0-1, S Morrissey 0-1

Semi-finals

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-12 Glenmore 0-11

O L G scorers: N Skehan 0-6, A Geoghegan 0-2, S Dowling 0-2, J Comerford 0-1, B Kelly 0-1

Glen Scorers: P Mullally 0-5, S Dollard 0-2, R Heffernan 0-2, P Fitzgerald 0-1, R Mullally 0-1

Graigue Ballycallan 3-10 Erin's Own 2-8

G B scorers: A Ronan 0-6, M Hoyne 1-1, E Brennan 1-0, J Ryall 1-0, D Cleere 0-1, J Hoyne 0-1, D Byrne 0-1

E O scorers: D Buggy 1-6, E Rothwell 1-0, M Coogan 0-1, B Young 0-1

County Final

O Loughlin Gaels 1-17 Graigue Ballycallan 1-6

O L G scorers: N Skehan 1-9, J Comerford 0-2, A Geoghegan 0-2, A Comerford 0-1, M Comerford 0-1, B Dowling 0-1, B Kelly 0-1

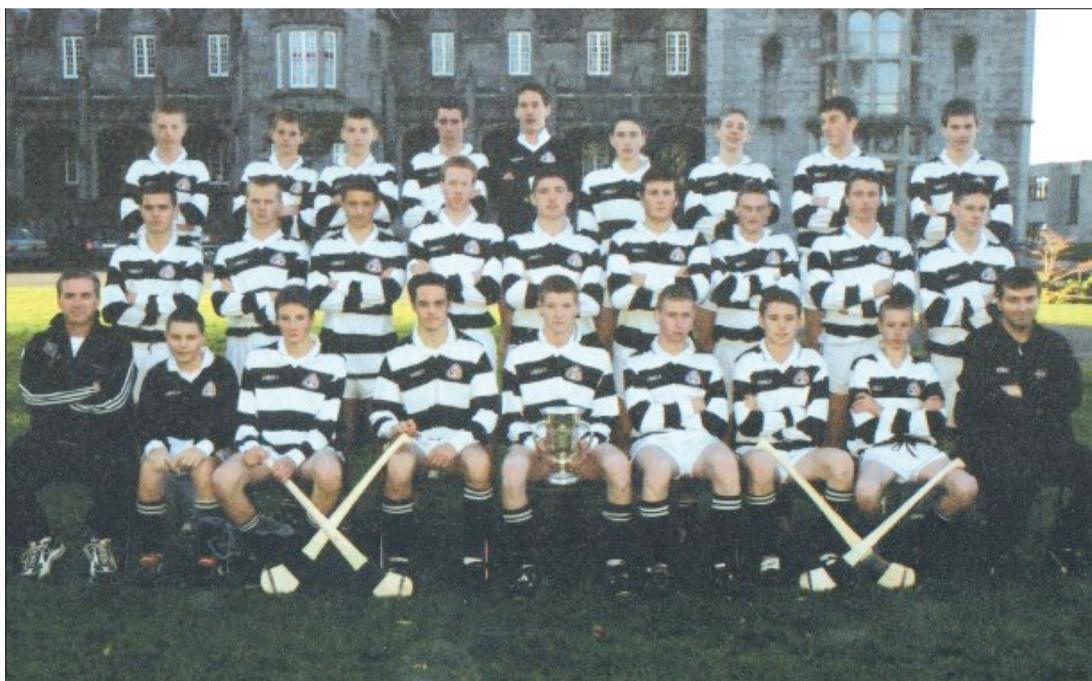
G B scorers: A Ronan 1-5, D Cleere 0-1

COLLEGES HURLING

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE.

Senior Hurling.

The year started well with the seniors collecting the Leinster League Trophy with a number of good victories. We had a number of wins in challenge matches in preparation for the championship. A good win in the quarter-finals against St Peters was followed by a six-week break due to the Foot and Mouth crisis. In the semi-finals, St Kieran's were beaten by a strong Dublin Colleges team after extra time. A disappointing end to a year that had promised so much. There were many stars including Captain, Ken Coogan, Tommy Walsh, Jackie Tyrell, Michael Rice, Brian Dowling, Shane Hennessy and Seaghan O'Neill.



ST KIERAN'S LEINSTER JUNIOR A COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Mark Aylward, Pádraig Teacy, Pat Hogan, Niall McEvoy, James Connolly, Willie Norton, Michael Bergin, Niall Prendergast, Donncha Cody.

Middle: Philp Walsh, Jamie Quane, Pat Duggan, James Hickey, John Walsh, David Prendergast, Maurice Nolan, Edward Fitzgerald, Adrian Harkin.

Front: N Connolly (Trainer), Michael Neary, Shane Prendergast, Darren O'Neill, Richie Power, Aidan Ryan, Damien Bergin, Donncha Fitzpatrick, Philip Walsh.

Juvenile Hurling.

Due to the Foot and Mouth crisis, the Juvenile competition was run on a knock-out basis. We'd a small, young team and were beaten by Good Counsel, New Ross to make an early exit from the competition. The four first round losers played in a Plate tournament. We played a very strong Laois team in Portlaoise in the semi-final and just edged them out by a point. We overcame

Castlecomer CS in the final in Nowlan Park to finish on a high.

Panel: M Neary; E O'Shea; E Fitzgerald; N Tennyson; D Dowling; N Prendergast; S Campion; L Muldoon; J Whelan; D Fitzpatrick; Mark Walsh; D Dempsey; R

Hogan; P Hogan; P Hogan; Martin Walsh; J Dowling; N Cleere ; P Neary; TJ Reid; JP Murphy; S Dowling; M O'Donovan; A Walsh; M Culleton; L Ryan; R Walsh; P Barcoe; P Kennedy; J J Farrell; J Lawlor; L Brennan; P Grogan; M Thornton.



ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE CALLAN - ALL IRELAND B COLLEGES CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: M Power (Mentor), N Aylward, T Mackey, A Kenneally, A Cunningham, B Raftice, P O'Neill, A Walsh, T Walsh, M Brennan, L Murphy, N O'Driscoll(Trainer).
Front: T Muldowney, E Downey, C Muldowney, T Maher, A Neary, J Woodcock, J Frisby, G Brennan, B Neary, R Carey, P Heffernan, A Treacy (Capt).



CASTLECOMER C.S. U-16 LEINSTER 'C' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2001.

Back: Shane Coonan, Alan Healy, Peter Donovan, Sean Allen, Ger Moran, Kieran Byrne, Mick Dowling, David Stone, Ronan Maher, Aidan Whelan, Paddy Nolan, Eoin Mc Grath.

Front: Daniel Walsh, Ronan Walsh, Damien Fogarty, Thomas Nolan, Tomas Nolan, Gavin Nolan, Billy Brennan, Paul Short, Shane Cadigan, David Shore



SCOIL IOGNÁID RÍS LEINSTER SENIOR B CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Pat O'Toole (Grangemockler), Niall Rohan (Carrickshock), Richard Butler (Tullaroan), Brian McCarthy (Grangemockler), Thomas Lonergan (Windgap), Brendan Barry (Windgap), Brendan Cahill (Tullaroan).

Middle: Brian Doheny (John Lockes), Michael Munnely (Grangemockler), Niall Freaney (John Lockes), James Mullins (Danesfort), Barry Cahill (John Lockes), Brian Cahill (John Lockes), Seamus Hawe (Windgap), Shane Murphy (Graig Ballycallan), Declan Brett (Graig Ballycallan), Billy Murphy (Danesfort).

Front : Conor O'Brien (Mullinahone), Brendan Hoyne (Carrickshock), Joey Maher (Mullinahone), David Herity (Dunnamaggin), Dermot Hogan (Graig Ballycallan), Pat Robinson (Graig Ballycallan), Mark Dowling (Dunnamaggin).

Junior Hurling.

Pride of place for this year must go to our Junior Hurling team who captured the Leinster Junior Colleges Championship for the first time since '99. At the start of the year St Kieran's beat Birr C.S. and lost to St Peter's of Wexford They easily brushed aside the challenge of Dublin to set up a clash with rivals Kilkenny C.B.S. This match was a hard fought affair in Nowlan Park with St Kieran's just edging 0-14 to 0-06 winners with a late flurry of points. This set up an encounter with St Peter's in the Leinster Final.

St Kieran's 3-08 St Peter's 1-07

After ten minutes of this game, St Kieran's

looked dead and buried but to their credit they came back in rain-soaked New Ross. Peter's had a brilliant start with a point from a free and added one from play. In the 8th minute, James Connolly pulled off a good save to deny Peter's. St Kieran's were down six points in the space of two minutes when Peter's goaled through a free taken forty metres out and it somehow sailed into the back of the net. Peter's won the resulting puck out and pointed. St Kieran's finally got their first score when Darren O'Neill put over a free about fifty meters out. O'Neill put over another free to leave four between the teams. Peter's responded with a well taken free to increase their lead. St Kieran's then went on a scoring spree with Darren O'Neill

and Richie Power scoring points, with an opportunist's goal being taken by Darren Bergin. Maurice Nolan scored a point leaving it; St Kieran's 1-05, St Peter's 1-04 St Kieran's ripped into Peter's from the start of the 2nd half. A goal from Damien Bergin was followed by a similar score from Richie Power who also added three further points to put St Kieran's ten points ahead. For the last fifteen minutes, St Kieran's had to defend, with Donncha Cody, Philip Walsh, David Prendergast and Darren O'Neill coming to the fore. Peter's only got three points, thanks mainly to the keeping of James Connolly who denied St Peter's time and again. Richie Power then accepted the cup on behalf of the team. James Connolly was

excellent throughout and was ably assisted by Donncha Cody, William Norton, David Prendergast, Darren O'Neill, Maurice Nolan and Richie Power.

Panel; James Connolly; William Norton; Donncha Cody; Shane Prendergast; Philip Walsh; David Prendergast; John Walsh; Darren O'Neill; Neill Prendergast; Maurice Nolan; Patrick Butler; Niall McEvoy; Richie Power; Damien Bergin; Michael Bergin; Jamie Quane; Mark Aylward; Aidan Ryan; Adrian Harkin; Patrick Hogan; Donncha Fitzpatrick; Eddie Fitzgerald; Pádraig Treacy; James Hickey; Patrick Duggan; Michael Neary.

Handball

Maurice Nolan and Damien Kelly won the 40x20 Leinster Championship. Niall McEvoy won the 40x20 Leinster Singles Championship. Patrick and Richie Hogan won 60x30 Leinster. They are currently going for All Ireland honours.

Congrats

Congratulations to Eoin Kelly and Donncha Fahy, former students who were members of the successful Tipperary All-Ireland winning team.

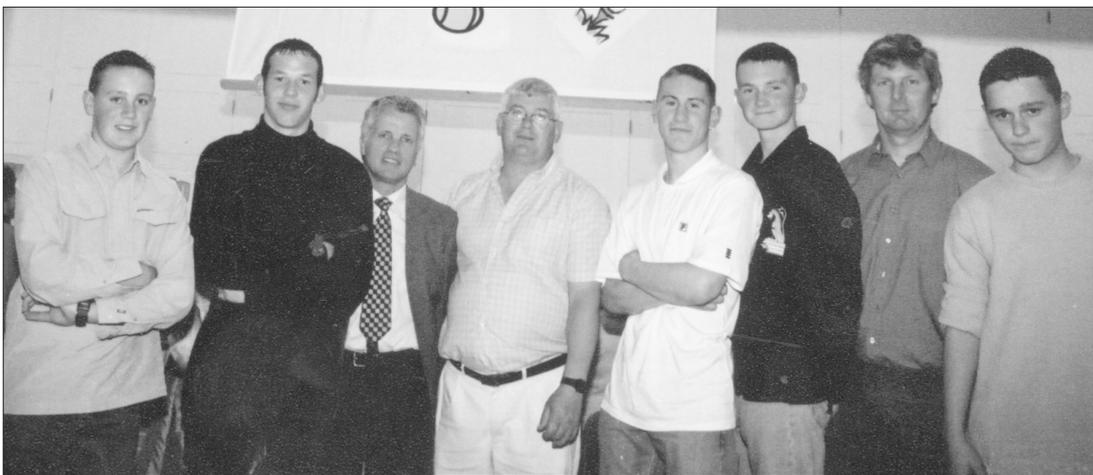
By Patrick O Flynn (Transition Year Student)

Castlecomer Community School

The year 2001 proved to be a real mixed bag for Gaelic Games in Castlecomer Community School. The schools senior hurlers got off to a bright start by beating St Declan's (Cabra) and Coláiste Éanna to qualify for the school's second Leinster B Colleges final in a row. However, things didn't go well for them on the day and they ended up being beaten by two points by Callan C.B.S.

Later on in the year, the school U-14 team (competing in the A division) went out of a curtailed, foot and mouth-ridden championship in April. St Peter's (Wexford) beat them by five points and subsequently went on to win the competition. In September/October the school's U-16 team also competed in the A division. It took Good Council (New Ross) a replay to knock the 'Comer boys out of the championship proper, but Castlecomer eventually did the next best thing by beating Birr CS in a thrilling Shield final.

On the football front, however, things were somewhat brighter with Castlecomer Community School bringing back two Leinster Football championships to the county. Surely an unprecedented achievement in the annals of Kilkenny Colleges football. The first such title was brought by the schools U-16 team who captured the



HANDBALLERS IN CASTLECOMER C.S.
Graham Lawler, Thomas Campion, Mick Dowling, Ned Lawler, Paul Byrne, Sean Maher, Billy Love and Thomas Hughes

Leinster C title. In the South Leinster final, it took 180 minutes of football for them to overcome De La Salle Wicklow by two points. After defeating Malahide Community School in the Leinster semi', they overcame old rivals, Oldcastle Community School, to win the final by one point. The success of the school's U-16's was then matched by their U-14's who went on to win the Leinster C championship beating Bagenalstown, Carnew (Wexford) and Old Bawn Community School (Tallagh), on the way to a final in which they eventually beat Dunshaughlin Community School (Meath). Perhaps these two Leinster championship victories might go some way towards dispelling the myth of the lack of Gaelic Football talent in Kilkenny!

HANDBALL

The school also had a good year in Handball. In the Leinster 60x30 'A' championships Sean Maher and Thomas Hughes captured the Senior and Junior titles. In section 'B' Graham Lawlor took the 60x30 title. In 40x20 'A' Thomas Campion and Sean Maher won the Senior title while Paul Byrne and Thomas Hughes took the Junior. In 40x20 doubles Thomas Campion and Sean Maher were beaten by Ulster in the All-Ireland final, while the junior pairing of Paul Byrne and Thomas Hughes also lost to Ulster in the final.

And finally, a word of congratulation to past pupil, Damien Maher, who was awarded a sports to DCU in November.

ST BRIGIDS COLLEGE CAMOGIE.

At the risk of contradiction, it appears that St. Brigid's College from Callan were the only team from Kilkenny to win an All-Ireland title during 2001- a fact worth boasting about. That All-Ireland Colleges camogie title didn't come too easily, it took a huge amount of effort, and hard work by players and mentors alike. Even the Leinster Final had to be abandoned after twenty minutes, because of the heavy snow - I kid you not - falling in



Shane, David and Neal Prendergast, members of St Kieran's Junior Leinster Championship winning team.

Urlingford at the time. The replay, two days later, was a cracking encounter between two very evenly matched teams. The opposing St Fergal's from Rathdowney presented a huge task to the Callan girls. They even led by a single point as full time beckoned, but they didn't budget for the traditional Callan fighting spirit, and a last second goal by Laureena Murphy, got the "Brigids" home on the line. The Callan College had started their campaign with a very impressive win over Mercy Convent from Goldenbridge, before easily accounting for Mercy College, Mullingar in Portarlinton, in the Leinster semi-final. Beating St Fergals in the "Leinster", by 2-8 to 2-6, the scorers for Callan were Laureena Murphy 2-0, Aoife Neary 0-6 and Bronagh Neary 0-2. With home advantage in the All-Ireland semi-final, the Callan girls facilitated opponents, St Louis College from Ballymena, by playing the game in the U.C.D. grounds, because of the foot and mouth restrictions at the time. Callan opened up an early lead of three goals within the space of ten minutes. The second half was a real transformation, as the Ballymena girls threw caution to the wind, and hammered in three unanswered goals of their own, which presented some problem for the Kilkenny College. However, with players like Aoife Neary, Laureena Murphy, Julianne Woodcock, Eleanor Downey and Bronagh Neary on board, you will always have a great chance of pulling a game out of the fire. This they did in great style, which cleared the way to an All-Ireland Final against Mercy College,



CASTLECOMER C.S. U-14 'C' LEINSTER FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Richie Lynch, Daniel Walsh, Michael Stapleton, Robbie Lynch, Ger Moran, Kevin Lawlor, Kevin Phillips, James Maher, Gavin O'Dowd, Brian Healy, Gavin Nolan, Pdraig Callinan, Damien Purcell.

Front: Brendan Lyons, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Barry Dunne, Mick Dowling, John Maguire, Mark Murphy, Noel Roche, Tomás and Micheál Morrissey.

Woodford in County Galway. A fine enthusiastic crowd followed the Callan girls to Borrisoleigh for the final.

St. Brigid's played like a team that were totally focussed on winning the title. Ailish Kenneally was marvellous in goal. The defensive sextet of Roisin Carey, Terri Mackey, Terri Maher, Gráinne Brennan, Therese Muldowney was superbly led by the dashing, tough-tackling captain, Aoife Treacy. The "player of the match", Jaqui Frisby was superb, as were Phena Heffernan, Bronagh Neary, Laureena Murphy, Caitriona Muldowney, Julianne Woodcock, Eleanor Downey, and Aoife Neary. St. Brigid's won a titanic game by 2-5 to Woodford's 1-4.

Foot and Mouth prevents Double.

The Junior team fought their way to the All-Ireland semi-final, but because of the epidemic, the girls suggested that they would play the game in a neutral venue around the Dublin area. However the powers that be decided, that, as the Callan girls refused to travel to their opponent's ground in Armagh - who could blame them?-, they awarded the game to the Armagh outfit. So by doing the right thing, and taking the rightful moral ground, the Callan girls were punished. Strange, to say the very least. One can only applaud the stance taken by the Callan girls, all of whom live near or on farmland. Junior Panel: M Luttrell, A Woodcock, L Cahill, L Pollard, G Brennan, P Heffernan, A Cunningham, J Woodcock, J Frisby, T Muldowney, M maloney, A Neary(Capt), M Barry, L Fennelly, L Hartley, MC Murphy, S Bolger, B Phelan, J Power, F Phelan, A Meagher, D Coonan.

COLÁISTE ÉAMON RÍS

Coláiste Éamon Rís from Callan, had a relatively successful season in so far as they won their Leinster Final, and were rather unfortunate to lose out in the All-Ireland final against from Woodford in Galway. But back to the beginning. They looked anything but impressive during the early stages of their campaign, but Br Damien Brennan and Mr Tom Walsh really got "stuck into" their team, and after an inordinate amount of hard work, they honed them into a very respectable outfit indeed.

Their campaign started prior to Christmas, with a seven point win over Colláiste Eoin (Dublin), a one point victory over St. Declans (Cabra) and an easy win over Trim CBS.

The real business started after Christmas. They played Patrician College, Ballyfin, in Danesfort on a day, when even the snipes were walking around with overcoats, such was the cold. Playing with the hill and the aid of the biting wind, the Callan lads experienced much difficulty in addressing the strong Laois challenge. A fortuitous goal in the 28th minute by Callan's Brian McCarthy, gave the Callan lads a huge lift going into their dressing room at half time, leading by 1-10 to 0-3. In truth, the score was not a true reflection of the game thus far. In the second half, however, the Callan College asserted themselves,

and went on to win by 2-14 to 1-10. In the Leinster semi-final in Nowlan Park, a jersey clash didn't stop Coláiste Rís from beating a very game Portlaoise CBS by 3-11 to 1-8, having led at half time by 1-5 to 1-4, thanks in the main to three sterling saves by their goalkeeper, Brian Cahill. A Mark Dowling goal in the 47th minute sealed victory for the Callan lads, who were on their way to the Leinster final against Castlecomer Community School in Nowlan Park, and what a sizzler that game proved to be.

The Comer college had a five point start on the Callan lads, having availed of the wind during the first half. It looked for a while that the Community College would not be stopped in their quest for Leinster honours. Callan had their first score in the 14th minute - a solitary point. By half time though, they were only a single point adrift- 0-9 to 1-5. The Callan goal was a brilliantly engineered effort, finished by Michael Rohan, but fashioned by Brian Doheny and Conor O'Brien. A brilliant Kieran Kelly goal in the 40th minute had the Comer lads ahead by two points. By the 54th minute, Callan were level, after some marvellous hurling by Michael Rohan, and Brendan Barry. Two late points by Brendan Hoyne nailed down victory for the Callan lads, although they had to withstand a ferocious Castlecomer onslaught in search of the winning score inside the last two minutes.

Coláiste Eamonn Rís had to fight tooth and nail to overcome the very strong challenge of Charleville CBS, in the All-Ireland semi-final in Clonmel on April 19th. They won by a single point- 1-11 to 0-13. The stars of this show were David Herity at centrefield, and James Mullins who had a storming game on the half back line.

Callan played Mercy College, Woodford, County Galway in the All-Ireland final in Swords - could you believe that?. The Kilkenny representatives shot into an early lead, thanks to a great goal by Conor O'Brien, and some immaculate points by young Brian Doheny. That early ascendancy was to prove somewhat of a false dawn as far as the Callan lads were concerned. The Galwegians took the game by the scruff of the neck midway through the first half, and slowly hauled in the Callan effort, with the result that only a single point separated the sides at the break. The Woodford lads surged at the Callan challenge very early in the new half and were rewarded with a goal after three minutes had elapsed. They slammed a few good points within a further eight minutes, and suddenly Callan were facing a tough uphill battle. They were eight points in arrears midway through the second half. They tried exceptionally hard to counteract the tough Galway challenge, and just when it appeared that they might just succeed, with a Conor O'Brien goal and points by Brian Doheny and Brian McCarthy, they were hit with a sucker-punch of a goal that pretty well stymied their challenge. The Woodford College ran out winners by 4-12 to Callan's 2-10.

BUILDING FOR A BRIGHTER CAMOGIE FUTURE

By Enda McEvoy
Sunday Tribune

Much as Kilkenny camogie folk might wish to draw a veil over the outcome of the 2001 All Ireland senior decider at Croke Park on September 16th, justice demands that a full and frank account of the occasion be given for two reasons. The first is to pay due tribute to a splendid Tipperary team, who were absolutely superb. The second is to make the important point that although Kilkenny suffered a heavy

defeat on the day, there was plenty in the way of consolation to be taken from the disappointment, not least the extreme youth of the beaten finalists, half of them teenagers, who were making their big-day debut. Only time will tell, but this may well prove to be the dark hour before a new dawn for camogie in the county.

The main details of the game itself are quickly told. Tipperary - the white-hot favourites were seeking their third O'Duffy Cup in a row - looked dangerous from the off and Claire Grogan altered any images of a possible upset when goaling after nine minutes. Deirdre Hughes found the Noresiders' net two minutes later, handpassing the sliotar in from Ciara Gaynor's long delivery. Tipp nine points ahead (2-4 to 0-1) after only 12 minutes: this was already taking on the proportions of a rout.

Credit to them, Kilkenny steadied up considerably during the second quarter and closed the gap via points by Sinéad Millea and Brigid Mullally. Had the half-time whistle sounded there and then, they might have been able to appear for the resumption with new fire in their bellies. Unfortunately, however, disaster struck deep in injury time when Emer McDonnell bagged Tipperary's third goal. There and then the final expired as a contest.

Eleven points ahead at the break, 3-6 to 0-4, the holders understandably took their foot off the pedal somewhat in the second half. Yet, despite the fact that Sinéad Millea found the net from a close-range free late on to provide a

small drop of consolation, the challengers were still miles off the admittedly scorching pace set by their opponents. The final score told its own story: Tipperary 4-13 Kilkenny 1-6.

But fair is fair. It would be both wrong and foolish to be even in the slightest bit critical of the Cats. They were young. They were inexperienced. Some of them never got to grips with the occasion. But you have to lose before you can win, as the saying goes, and losing to the reigning champions, one of the finest camogie teams of the past 20 years, was no shame. Let's face it, in the form Tipperary were in, there's not a side in the land that wouldn't have caught a hiding from them. Ciara Gaynor, Una O'Dwyer, the six-gun full-forward line of McDonnell, Hughes and Grogan (the trio accounted for 4-6 between them) - there's many an inter-county hurling team these ladies would give a run to.

Before Kilkenny can return to the winners' podium, considerable work will have to be carried out. Fortunately a start has been made. Plans are in the pipeline to institute under-age camogie development squads in the county along similar lines to the under-age hurling squads. Former stars such as Bridie McGarry and the Downey twins will be helping out. All hands are needed on deck if the Black and Amber are to flourish again, long-time local and national administrator Mary Fennelly argues.

"We have great natural resources here in Kilkenny and we must use them fully. Lots of former All Ireland medallists



KILKENNY SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM - ALL IRELAND FINALISTS 2001

Back: Lisa Dunne, Marina Downey, Brigid Mullally, Cathriona Ryan, Kelly Long, Imelda Kennedy, Esther Kennedy, Lizzie Long.

Front: Catherine Doherty, Aoife Neary, Marie Maher, Mairead Costelloe, Martina Maher, Sinéad Costelloe, Edel Maher, Sinéad Millea.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



ST LACHTAIN'S SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM - COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Fiona Connerly, Mairéad Lawlor, Martina Maher, Cora Dowling, Marie Maher, Imelda Kennedy, Sinéad Costelloe, April Purcell, Paula Dowling, Danielle Minogue, Margaret Kavanagh, Sinéad Corrigan.

Front: Catriona McCormack, Fiona Dowling, Eimear Connerly, Marie O'Connor, Helen Burke, Mairéad Costelloe, Esther Kennedy, Sinéad Connerly, Gillian Dillon-Maher, Aoife Fitzpatrick.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

who have a wealth of experience to pass on. That's why we've asked them to come on board, and the response has been terrific."

The current under-18 team, Mary adds, "looks promising" and is certainly one for the future. "Many of the players got a taste of the big-time with the county seniors this year, which will do them no harm. I don't think it's being unduly optimistic to suggest that an All Ireland isn't far away for Kilkenny. Tipperary are out on their own at the moment. Ourselves, Cork and Galway are in the next group. But that will change.

"These things are cyclical. Remember, Tipperary weren't in the running until the last few years."

Precisely. Every journey begins with a single step. Kilkenny's long walk back to the camogie summit is under way.

The Kilkenny team that contested the 2001 All Ireland final was:

Catherine Ryan (Tullagher); Marie Maher (St Lachtain's), Sinead Costelloe (St Lachtain's), Mairead Costelloe (St Lachtain's, captain); Esther Kennedy (St Lachtain's), Kelly Long (Lisdowney), Edel Maher (St Anne's); Brigid Mullally (Glenmore), Lizzie Lyng (Rower-Inistioge); Sinead Millea (St Brigid's), Martina Maher (St Lachtain's), Imelda Kennedy (St Lachtain's); Catherine Doherty (St Anne's), Aoife Neary (James Stephens), Marina Downey (Lisdowney). Subs: M Lawlor for M Maher, F Dowling for Long, J Dillon-Maher for E Maher.



Eimear Connerly, Captain, St Lachtain's receives the County Senior camogie trophy from Chairman, **Brendan Williams**. *Photo Eoin Hennessy*

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It's fifty years since Kilkenny won their third All-Ireland Junior Hurling title, and the occasion was commendably, and suitably commemorated in Nowlan Park on County final day. There were still ten members of the panel present as the Chairman of the County Board, Ned Quinn greeted them in front of a very appreciative crowd.

Kilkenny beat Carlow by 6-7 to 0-3 in their first round match in Thomastown, and easily downed the Wicklow effort in the next round, winning by 6-5 to 1-1. The feature of this game was the magnificent contribution of Kevin Fennelly, who slammed home 5-1 of his sides total. He was ably assisted by Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny's star minor of twelve months previously. Another star on the day was Johnston's minor colleague, Johnny McGovern at left half back. Match reports say that Dick Rockett from Slieverue had a great game in the goal, while the full back line of Jack Lynch, Paddy Ryan and Johnny Hockey were unbeatable. Kilkenny had a far from convincing win over Meath in the Leinster semi-final, winning by 7-9 to 5-6. The outstanding player on the field was the young Johnny McGovern at half back. The Leinster Final against Dublin was a tight affair, with the outstanding Paul Fitzgerald making a match-winning contribution from the centre back position. At half time, Dublin led by a single point- 2-4 to Kilkenny's 2-3. The Noresiders goals came from a Tom Ryan rasper in the 14th minute, and a Paddy Johnston 21 yard free in the 21st minute. This Leinster Final was as good a Junior final as Croke had ever seen. Kilkenny next faced Tipperary in the All-Ireland home semi-final

in Carrick-on-Suir, the venue where Kilkenny had won their first Senior Final almost 50 years previously.

Kilkenny were masters of the Tipp men during a first half of exceptional hurling skill. John Sutton and Paddy Henneberry lorded matters at mid-field, and with Paul Fitzgerald again dominating at centre back, and Tom

Walsh, Jack Lynch, Johnny Hockey and Willie Bolger making life extremely difficult for the Tipp forwards, Kilkenny found themselves in a very commanding situation at half time, leading by 2-4 to 1-2. However, a spirited Tipperary onslaught early in the second half, saw them reduce the Kilkenny lead to a single goal. The most important score of this half fell to John Barron in the 16th minute, when he netted Kilkenny's third goal. Despite the severe pummelling the Kilkenny defence were subjected to in a storming last ten minutes, they held out for a famous victory. Paddy Stapleton was the most consistent of the Kilkenny forwards, with Tom Ryan, Barron, and Rick Burke getting through an amount of hard work. On September 9th, in Nenagh, Kilkenny faced Galway in the All-Ireland Final (Home). In horrid conditions, Galway tore into a 3-1 to 0-1 lead by the 15th minute. At half time, Kilkenny were still in arrears by 3-1 to 0-3, and looked finished. But the re-sighting of Paddy Stapleton at mid-field, and Paddy Henneberry onto the half

forward line for the start of the second half were major contributions to the eventual Kilkenny win - their only National title that year. Stapleton and John Sutton served up a power-packed thirty minutes of hurling that wrested the midfield supremacy away from a rampant Galway side. Sutton fired

Kilkenny's Junior title of 1951

Barrie Henriques



Kilkenny All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions 1951

Back: Joe Grace, Paul Fitzgerald, Jack Lynch, Dick Rockett, Rick Burke, John Barron, Jimmy Doherty, Tom Walsh, Billy Bolger, Nicky Healy, Johnny Ryan, Donal Gorey, John Sutton.

Front: Syd Bluett, Mick Gardiner, Paddy Stapleton, Johnny Hokey (caps), Paddy Johnson, Paddy Hennerby, Johnny McGovern, Tom Ryan, and John Heffernan.



GOLDEN JUBILIARIS OF THE 1951 KILKENNY JUNIOR TEAM HONOURED AT THE COUNTY FINALS

Seated; Tom Walsh, Dick Rockett, Jack Lynch, Ned Quinn (County Chairman), Paulie Fitzgerald, John Heffernan, Tom Ryan.

Behind: Brian Brennan (Sponsor, Springhill Court Hotel), Donal Gorey, Rick Bourke, Paddy Stapleton, Paddy Ryan.

Photo Tom Brett

home an early goal, John Barron shot a point, and Dick Rockett made two tremendous saves from Galway forwards, all inside the first ten minutes of the new half. McGovern and Tom Walsh were superb on the half back line, and slowly Kilkenny chiselled away at the Galway lead. A long delivery by McGovern was flashed to the net by Barron, and suddenly there was but a point between the sides. A goal by Walsh, late in the game, followed by another goal from a McGovern sideline cut, had Kilkenny in front by five points. Galway stormed back with a Paddy Manton goal, and now Kilkenny were hanging onto a two point lead. But points by Barron, Johnston and Tom Ryan saw the black and amber emerge victorious by six points. The final score read Kilkenny 4-9, Galway 4-3.

Kilkenny defeated London in the All-Ireland Final in Nowlan Park by 3-9 to 3-5. It was played on Sunday October 14th, 1951. Kilkenny established a very impressive lead by half time, when, assisted by the strong breeze, they led by 2-3 to London's 0-3. London were very poor in that first half, but they were a different team in the second, and they very nearly stole the game with a power-packed exhibition of hurling. The Kilkenny goals in the first half were scored by John Barron and

Tom Ryan. A goal by London sub, Tommy McDonagh in the 50th minute had the exiles in front for the first time. But a shot by Mickie Gardiner from out on the sideline restored the Kilkenny lead. Further points by Paddy Stapleton and Paddy Johnston inside the last two frantic minutes had the home team in front, as referee, J Lawton, from Waterford blew the final whistle.

The Kilkenny panel for the final was: R Rockett, J Lynch, S Hockey, W Bolger, T Walsh, P Fitzgerald, J McGovern, J Sutton, P Stapleton, P Johnston, P Henneberry, M Gardiner, T Ryan, R Burke, J Barron, J Doherty, N Haley, D Gorey, J Heffernan.

On County Final day in Nowlan Park were: Dick Rockett (Slieverue), Jack Lynch (John Lockes), Tom Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Paul Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Paddy Stapleton (John Lockes), Tom Ryan (Dunnamaggin), Rick Burke (John Lockes), Donal Gorey (Knocktopher) John Heffernan (Glenmore) and Paddy Ryan (Clara). Johnny McGovern was unable to attend on the day.

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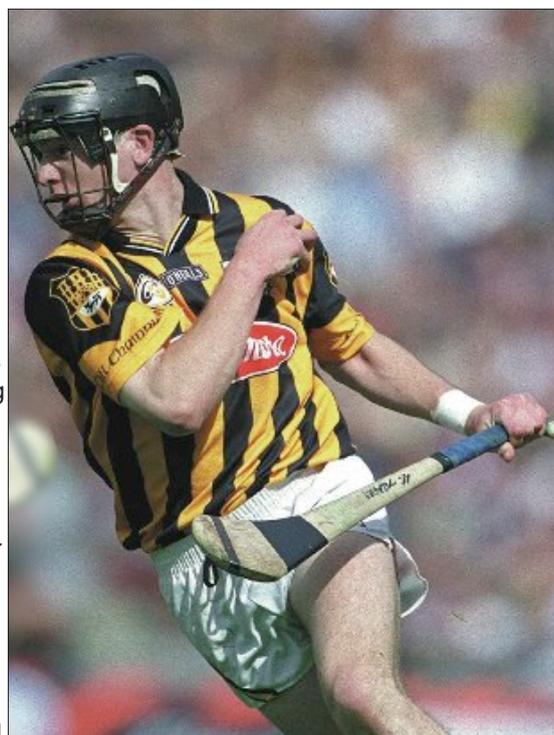
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Galway spoil the party!

Kilkenny's 2001 SH
Campaign
By Barrie Henriques

Kilkenny returned from a memorable trip to Thailand in February, and headed into the first round of the Allianz National League, starting in Nowlan Park against Laois. In truth, it was just a little better than a training spin for the cats, as they totally demoralised an inept Laois outfit by 3-16 to 0-11. Kilkenny had eight of their All-Ireland starting lineout on view. Kilkenny's scorers were, Henry Shefflin 1-5, Tom Drennan 2-1, Jimmy Coogan 0-4, John Hoyne, DJ Carey 0-2 each, JP Corcoran and Steven Grehan 0-1 each. The game was all but over by half time, where Kilkenny were in front by 14 points. Kilkenny's next outing was against Waterford in Walsh Park on the third Sunday in February. Kilkenny led by 2-7

to 0-3 at half time. The game was well contested with some terrific bouts of individual play, particularly a magnificent goal by DJ Carey which had the large crowd in stunned admiration. It was on to Cork, and Páirc Uí Chaoimh seven days later. Steven Grehan and Henry Shefflin were the men here, as Kilkenny went down to the Leesiders by the slenderest of margins, 1-10 to 0-12. Enter the foot and mouth preventative measures, with a halt being applied to all games. Action resumed on the second Sunday in April, against Tipperary in Nowlan Park. Some of the Kilkenny big guns started to re-appear, notably John Power and Charlie Carter. Two late - very late indeed - points by Henry Shefflin and Aidan Cummins insured that Kilkenny drew with the visitors, thus enabling both sides to stay on track for the semi-finals. The final score read, Tipperary 0-15, Kilkenny 1-12. Henry Shefflin was the real Kilkenny star in this game. Kilkenny's last trip was to Ballinaskryne in Derry, where a winning margin of 1-13 didn't flatter the visitors. Kilkenny qualified for the semi-finals with a clever 0-19 to 0-16 win over Wexford in Nowlan Park, which was a personal triumph for Jimmy Coogan who shot 10 of Kilkenny's points, eight from placed balls. The train came off the tracks against Clare in the semi-final in Thurles, a week later. Kilkenny lost by 2-21 to 3-8, but nobody seemed to care. The minds



JJ Delaney had a promising start with Kilkenny seniors this year.
Photo Sportsfile

and eyes were firmly focussed on the first round of the Championship against Offaly, just 5 weeks away. Dreaded Offaly posed the first threat to Kilkenny's aspirations of holding onto their All-Ireland crown. A bout of shadow boxing, and a little tomfoolery by the Offaly mentors in the initial stages of the game didn't impress, or distract anybody, not the Kilkenny players at any rate. Kilkenny led at the break by 2-11 to Offaly's 0-5. Henry Shefflin's first goal in the 34th minute, in which Canice



KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING TEAM - LEINSTER CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Philip Larkin, Andy Comerford, Sean Dowling, Noel Hickey, Henry Shefflin, John Hoyne, Canice Brennan, Eamon Kennedy.
Front: Michael Kavanagh, DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, Denis Byrne (Capt), James McGarry, JJ Delaney, Brian McEvoy.

Photo John McIlwaine

Brennan, Charlie Carter, and Eddie Brennan figured prominently, was utter perfection, in its execution. Eddie Brennan got the second goal in the 37th minute, and the Offaly support was starting to exit Croke Park. A third goal by John Hoyne late in the second half was academic in the overall context, but it afforded Kilkenny the chance of going on to the Leinster Final against Wexford, winning by 3-21 to 0-18. For Offaly, a disastrous early exit from the main stage.

Kilkenny collected their 58th Leinster Championship by demoralising Wexford, despite the non-availability of the injured John Power, having a player sidelined, and very few of the players, with the exception of Michael Kavanagh and Philly Larkin, approaching anything like their "Offaly" form. The "scribbling gurus" opined that it would take Wexford hurling a long day to recover from the mauling of 2-19 to 0-12. How wrong they were subsequently.

It was back to local championship fare for the customary weeks prior to All-Ireland training-camp time. Wexford - the same written off, buried, never to be seen Wexford - came storming back into the big picture script. In their first game against Tipperary, they nearly pulled off a famous victory. A drawn match had the protagonists going to Croke Park on Saturday, August 18th to try once more. In God-awful conditions, and on a deplorable surface, 14-man Wexford capitulated against a rampant Tipperary.

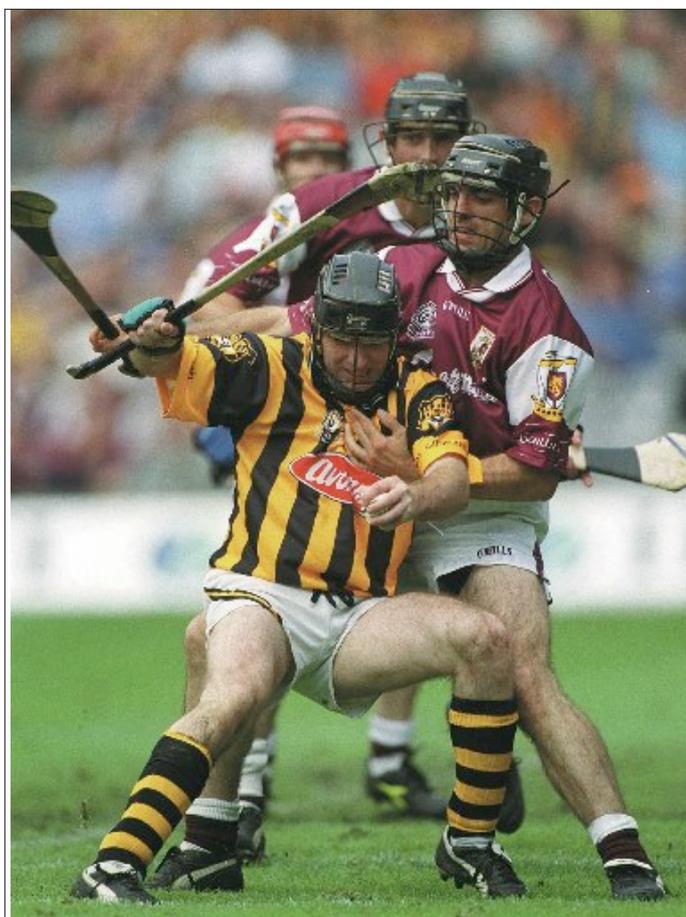
Twenty-four hours later, the All-Ireland champions faced Galway for the right to face Tipp in the All-Ireland final. From a Kilkenny perspective, the prospect of winning the All-Ireland was overshadowed by the probability of "taking" Tipp in a final. John Knox the Kilkenny People columnist, probably summed up the game with "Galway chased and harried with near fanaticism. In the end their hunger for work, and their slavish commitment to a tight game plan of closing down the opposition, helped them turn an 8-point defeat of last season into a thrilling five point win this time".

Knox was right. The word that stands out is "HUNGER".

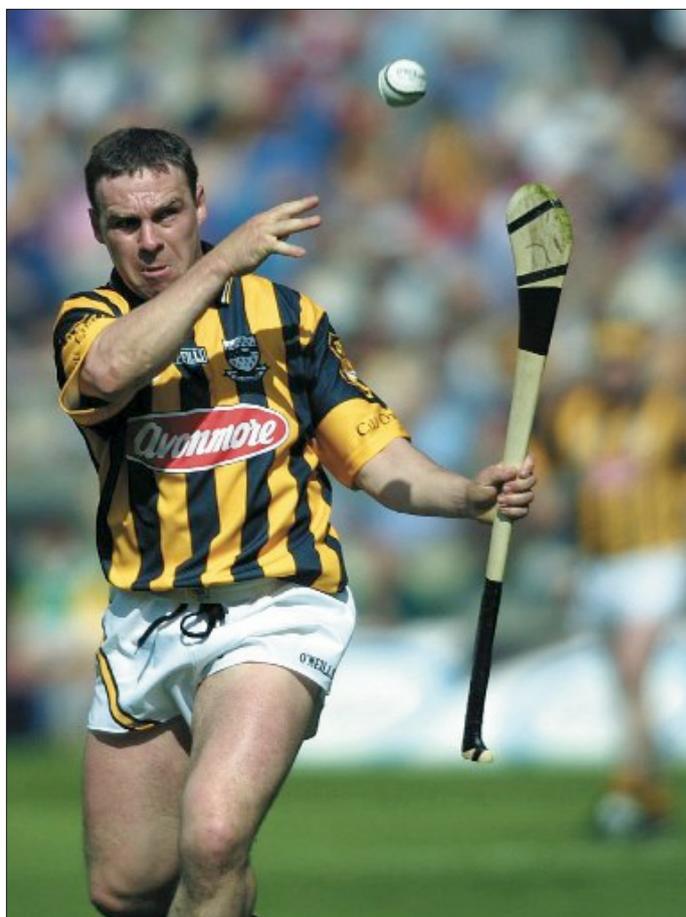
Galway 2-15 Kilkenny 1-13.
Ah sure there is always next year!



Above - **Michael Kavanagh** ponders on the defeat by Galway, while a dejected **Peter Barry** (below) is consoled by **Mick O'Flynn**. Photos John McIlwaine



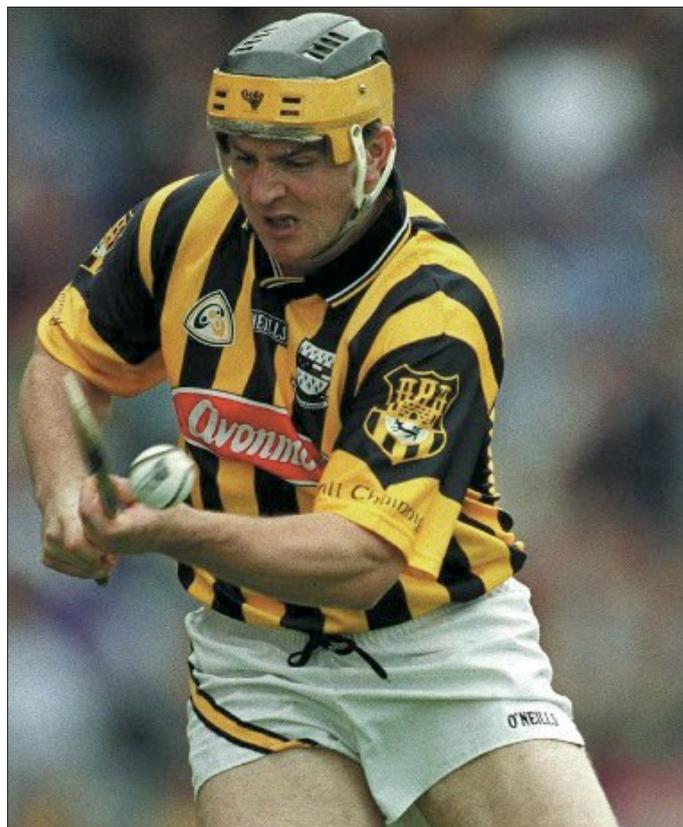
DJ Carey, here tightly marked by **Michael Healy** and the Galway defence, never got the space he needed in the semi-final. Photo Sportsfile



Charlie Carter, Kilkenny's only All Star for 2001 lays on a pass. Photo John McIlwaine

2001 - That Was The Year That Was Tipperary's

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)



Canice Brennan - might have made a difference in the semi-final.
Photo John McIlwaine

.....And the year in which the Black and Amber lost possession of a cherished and agonisingly hard-won item of silverware, the McCarthy Cup. A disappointment, naturally. A disaster? Not in the slightest. Losing to Offaly in September 2000 would have been a disaster ^ no, make that a catastrophe. Losing to Galway in August 2001 was painful, nothing more. Nobody died, and 2002 will bring a new championship. Anyway, here's how the season gone by went for your correspondent.

January: "Finally found a place they could never reach/Sipping singha beer on Pattaya Beach" The All Ireland hurling champions and hangers-on travel to Thailand for a fortnight of sun, sea, sand and great memories. Among them, the warmth and politeness of the natives; the Graigue-Ballycallan lads dyeing their hair a fetching shade of blue; Barrie Henriques's rendition of Brennan on the Moor in the back of a scut truck one evening; the shack (literally) of a pub the visitors hung out in opposite their hotel in Pattaya and Fintan Murphy's nightly exhibition of his superhuman powers of stamina there; Bill Sullivan, the life and soul of the party; Nicksie Dowling; Ned Doyle for being Ned Doyle; and the almost incredibly good behaviour of the twentysomething-strong group of young twentysomething men.

True, there might have been a glass broken by accident one night. But only one glass, and only one night. Touching down in damp and dreary Dublin, the non-players in the party are unanimous. "Bloody hell, these lads better win the All Ireland again this year. Otherwise what are we going to do next January?"

February: Recover from Thailand. Receive the all-clear from the doctor. Phew, the relief! (In case Mrs Breda McEvoy is reading: Mam, that was a joke!)



John Hoyne, Brian McEvoy, Charlie Carter, DJ Carey and Henry Shefflin in the Leinster Final pre-match parade. Photo John McIlwaine.

March: The Foot and Mouth crisis. No matches. Nothing to talk about. Nothing to write about. Supporters and harrassed GAA writers everywhere contemplate suicide.

April: Crisis over. Matches on again. Life expectancy suddenly looking up. Hurrah. After an understrength Kilkenny disposal of Wexford with a fair degree of comfort in the league at Nowlan Park, the theory begins to do the rounds that the All Ireland champions have the capability of fielding a second XV

almost as strong as their first team. Clare expose this as the nonsense it is in the National League semi-final at Semple Stadium, winning in a hack.

May: Counting down to the championship.

June: What genius fixes the championship dates? On the same afternoon that Wexford huff and puff their way past Laois and Kilkenny demolish Offaly, Limerick and Waterford play out a thriller at Pairc ui

Chaoimh. Bad enough that the provincial semi-finals clash. Much worse, and downright infuriating, that there is no hurling for another three Sundays. Another argument in favour of the motion "That this house recommends that hurling secede from the Gaelic Athletic Association and go it alone"

July: Tipperary take their first Munster title since 1993. Kilkenny breeze past Wexford seven days later, but the latter

reinvent themselves to floor Limerick in the All Ireland quarter-final at the end of the month. Wexford's Lazarus act doesn't alter the fact that the Leinster championship has, yet again, been a fiasco. Leinster hurling me arse, as the shirt doesn't say.

August: After ten minutes of the second All Ireland semi-final it's clear that Kilkenny are, like Bart Simpson, in deep deep trouble. Four points down, a tight game, a bog of a pitch ^ this is not a day to be trying to haul back a deficit, even at such an early stage. The favourites' plight worsens when Galway are reduced to 14 men, as Gregory Kennedy's departure cramps space still further. Kevin Broderick looks sharper than he has for four years. Eugene Cloonan, though he misses almost as much as he scores, rifles a string of big scores. In the end the only surprise is that Noel Lane's men don't win by more. Veterans of the trip to Thailand are desolate: what will they do next January? "A week in the Rising Sun in Mullinavat," is Ned Doyle's cheery prescription.

Back in Kilkenny that night the atmosphere is uncharacteristically mellow. No managerial lynch mobs, no civic tribunals of enquiry. There are one or two small questions to be asked and answered (why, on a day made for heavy digging, was Canice Brennan not brought at half-time? Why was DJ, starved of possession inside, not switched out the field in the second half, as had occurred against Wexford?), and as the week goes on a number of lurid rumours begin to do the rounds, but overall the public on Noreside accept the reverse phlegmatically and fall over one another to assert that, given the enjoyment they'd provided over the past four seasons, the players owed them nothing. This, remember, was the county's fifth All Ireland semi-final in succession. While the hunger remained, the legs - and the edge - were gone. And yeah, Kilkenny are still not producing point-scoring wing-forwards.

September: Tipperary's day, Tipperary's year. In truth it had always looked that way, right from early in the season. The law of averages suggested as much, moreover, for ten years was too long for Tipp to go without All Ireland silverware considering that they'd never been very far off the pace at any stage in the period. It was a thoroughly deserved victory for a team whose greatest virtue was that they did the simple things, and did them well, from pillar to post in 2001. Good to see the likes of Brendan Cummins and Thomas Dunne achieving their heart's desire at last. (Memo to certain Kilkenny players: Messrs Cummins and Dunne appeared to speak to every newspaper who wanted to speak to them during the year. Didn't seem to affect their performances, did it?)

October: Glory for O'Loughlins, and richly merited it is too. Recalling their lowly status in the mid-1990s, when they spent one season in the purgatory of the junior grade, no team in Kilkenny has travelled farther, or with more purpose, in such a short space of time. Incidentally, whatever Brian Cody's men do or don't accomplish in 2002, it's unlikely to be for want of an inspirational captain. Andy Comerford already gives the impression of being born to the job.

Right, time for this column's awards for 2001. Glasses of mineral water in Mick Dempsey's of John Street for the winners.

Match: Limerick v Cork, Pairc Uí Chaoimh, May 27th. Next best: Wexford v Limerick, Croke Park, July 29th. Next best after that: Carrickshock v Shamrocks in the Kilkenny minor championship final.

Worst match: Anything from the Leinster SHC.

Occasion of the year: The Leinster under-21 final, with the home crowd in the splendid new Wexford Park willing the locals on to victory.

Player of the year: Mark O'Leary (Tipperary). This choice might surprise some folk, but any player who can average three points from the half-forward line per outing in summer is an extremely valuable commodity indeed ^ and for good measure O'Leary weighed in with 2-1 in the All Ireland final. Next best: Mark Foley (Limerick).

Young player of the year: Doc O'Connor (Wexford). Next best: Eoin Kelly (Tipperary).

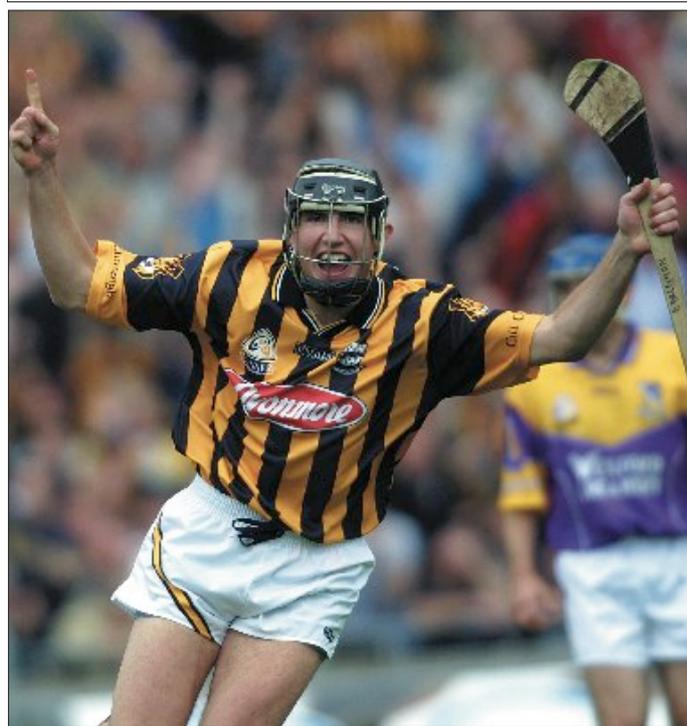
Kilkenny player of the year: Diplomatic three-way tie between Michael Kavanagh, Philip Larkin and Charlie Carter.

Team of the year: Damien Fitzhenry (Wexford), Philip Maher (Tipperary), Darragh Ryan (Wexford), Ollie Canning (Galway); Eamon Corcoran (Tipperary), David Kennedy (Tipperary), Mark Foley (Limerick); Thomas Dunne (Tipperary), Eddie Enright (Tipperary); Mark O'Leary (Tipperary), Jamesie O'Connor (Clare), Kevin Broderick (Galway); Charlie Carter (Kilkenny), Declan Ryan (Tipperary), Eugene Cloonan (Galway).

Goodbye of the year: Byeeeee!



Henry Shefflin, again Kilkenny's top scorer in 2001
Photo John McLlwaime



Eddie Brennan celebrates a goal in the Leinster final
Phot John McLlwaime

KILKENNY'S WONDERFUL VICTORY

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS FOR TWELFTH TIME

Terrific Finish To Memorable Game

Winning Point Scored in Torrential Rain

Kilkenny, 2-7. Cork, 3-3

By AN LIATHROID

A glorious last minute point scored by Jimmy Kelly of Carrickshock gave Kilkenny the All Ireland hurling crown of 1939. The deafening roar of joyful applause that lifted to the heavens from thousands of Kilkenny throats at Croke Park outdid the thunder that rattled threateningly across the sky and proclaimed to all of the world that was listening that the county of black-and-amber had made history. It was a magnificent victory. Its twelfth All-Ireland title had been gained, Tipperary's record equalled.

Under a solid wall of water from a cloudburst Kilkenny and Cork supporters stuck it out grimly through the last pulsating minutes of the greatest final ever played. They wanted to go but could not. Those thirty gallant lads fighting the battle of their lives down below held them as if hypnotised. They could not tear themselves away while the game hung in the balance even though their shirts were stuck to their backs and miniature streams cascaded from the legs of their trousers.

Cork as well as Kilkenny men joined in the wild cheering that heralded the sounding of the final whistle. It was a unanimous tribute from Irishmen to fellow Irishmen who had given a classic exhibition of the greatest game on earth under most appalling conditions.

That last quarter will never be forgotten by those who saw it. Sobbing with the intensity of the excitement which gripped them, men stood on tiptoe, eyes wide, lips parted, fists clenched as the ball flew from goalmouth to goalmouth and Cork drew level. The climax was reached as the point of Jimmy Kelly's, scarcely seen in the downpour, sailed over the bar. It was one of the greatest winning scores ever recorded in any game under any code. Thunder, lightning, rain were forgotten. Hats, caps, umbrellas, anything went up in the air. The game was Kilkenny's. Cork had bowed to defeat after a fight of which any team might be proud. The Rebel County, like the Marble County, has reason to be proud of its hurlers.

Under A.R.P. darkness Kilkenny to a man, a woman and a child turned out on Monday night to welcome home the conquerors. Not organised, it was the most spontaneous and enthusiastic 'welcome hour' ever accorded a Kilkenny team. The streets were packed, bonfires blazed and the swaying crowds cheered themselves hoarse. It was a wonderful tribute to wonderful hurlers.

A Wonderful Game

Sitting on the side-line and scattered through the crowds on the stands were many old All-Ireland hurlers from many counties. Among the spectators were lovers of the game who have seen every big match since the early days. They all have memories of titanic struggles, of games lost and won on the final whistle, of famous figures, of fighting men and furious finishes but none of them ever sat or stood through a greater game than Sunday's final. The conditions under which it was played would alone have made it unique. The fact that it reached a climax in a thunderstorm and was decided in a cloudburst places those who took part in it among the greatest to have trod the Gaelic sod. With an electric start it was under way and to the interval the hurling sparkled as the Noresiders beat speed with greater speed and added their traditional skill to run up a good lead. Excitement was intense, Kilkenny supporters were overjoyed, those from Cork rather subdued. Munster dash had met Kilkenny dash; Kilkenny dash had won so far, and against wind and sun. The interval came and went and they were at it again. Kilkenny, winning all the way, saw the glittering crown before their eyes. But Cork were far from defeat. The rain came. Using their weight the Corkmen dashed through to draw level. Theirs was a wonderful effort. But Kilkenny had tasted of victory and were not to be denied. A wonderful point in a whirlwind finish ended a game that will light with brilliance the annals of the G.A.A.

That Point

It came from nowhere. Few knew who had scored it. From the Cusack stand we vainly tried to stare through the wall of water that fell from the heavens. We could not see the ball.

We had not seen it except for an occasional flashing glimpse, for the last fifteen minutes. Ter Leahy's hurley swept round in an arc. The white flag was raised and the crowd went mad. We thought it was he who had scored, but other members of the team and officials told us afterwards that it was Jimmy Kelly who had nipped in to drop shot the greasy leather over the bar for Kilkenny's glorious victory.

The Men

A tribute to the men - the thirty men - who battled magnificently through that thrilling hour. But such rousing tributes have already been paid that one in print is but cold. The spontaneous outburst that woke deafening echoes in Drumcondra was the greatest that could be paid them. It was the acclamation of gallant men by men. And again, for the Kilkenny team at any rate, the reception given them by their fellow county men was a tribute that could not be overdone. The warm admiration of all the classes of the community for the gallant fifteen who had carried the colours to victory was reflected on the faces that were lit up by the ruddy glow of the bonfires. They deserved it all. For sixty hectic minutes they upheld the honour of their native county with grim determination and spectacular fashion. They spent themselves fully in a final effort for victory and they did not spend themselves in vain. From Jimmy O'Connell in goal to Sean O'Brien, full-forward, they put all they knew into the struggle. Backs, centre-field men and forwards played better than they had played in any of the preliminary rounds. Their own supporters had faith in them when all Ireland favoured Cork and that faith was amply justified.

They Come

In the early hours of Sunday morning thousands of Kilkenny people went to early Mass and caught one or other of the special trains. Hundreds more left by road and there was a constant procession of cars from the Marble City in the direction of Dublin which increased in density as it was joined by other travelling along the way. The trains and road vehicles disgorged their passengers on to streets, which were being washed by a steady downpour, but the faint rumbling of thunder gave hope of a break. With water spattering about their heels and dripping from their coats and hats the thousands of enthusiasts joined the trek to Croke Park. Those who had made the journey the evening before arrived at the gates a little drier, perhaps, but not a bit more enthusiastic. It would take more than rain to damp the ardour of the crowd. The red-and-white and black-and-amber favours were very much in evidence on coat lapels. A Corkman who arrived early said that about 14,000 people had left Cork in the morning. Most of them seemed to reach the Park early, they could be seen drinking tea out of flasks and munching sandwiches. There was a fairly good crowd in at the start of the minor match and all through it they continued to pour past the barriers in a steady stream.

Other Finals Recalled

The game itself was strangely reminiscent of 1931. There was the same speed and skill that characterised those three memorable games, fewer personalities, perhaps, but better teamwork all round. In defeating Cork, Kilkenny joined Tipperary in the lead in All Ireland hurling honours, leaving Cork runners-up with eleven finals to their credit. Kilkenny and Cork have now contested nine finals and Kilkenny have won five - four of them by a single point.

The Line-Out

As anticipated, the Kilkenny team lined out as in the second half of the Leinster Final. James Phelan filled the left full-forward berth and Gargan moved out in room of Brannigan at left-half. The remainder of the team was as it fielded in the Leinster Final and at Roscrea. Gargan sustained a broken thumb just on half-time and was replaced by R. Brannigan (Dicksboro).

Here is the team as it played:-

J O'Connell (Dicksboro), P Grace (J Stephens), P Larkin (J Stephens), P Blanchfield (Tullaroan), R Hinks (Carrickshock, W Burke (Tullaroan), P Phelan (Tullaroan), J Kelly (Carrickshock), J Walsh (Capt) (Carrickshock), J Langton (Eire Og), T Leahy (Young Irelands, Dublin), J Gargan (Tullaroan), J Mulcahy (Eire Og), S O'Brien (Eire Og), J Phelan (Tullaroan).

Subs: R. Brannigan (Dicksboro), R. Aylward (Carrickshock), P. O'Donovan (Dicksboro), P. Shortall (James Stephens), P. Boyle (Eire Og), D. Keane (Dicksboro), J. Malone (Carrickshock).

The game was refereed by Mr. J. Flaherty - Tullamore.

Generally speaking all the Kilkenny players struck their best form, a fact which reflects to the credit of their manager, Mr. Dan O'Connell and their trainers, Messrs. M. Dalton and M. Oakes.

Some Records

On Sunday, Jimmy Walsh, captained his second victorious All Ireland team, the first occasion on which he gained that distinction being in 1932 against Clare. With Paddy Larkin and Paddy Phelan, he has helped to win four All Ireland championships for Kilkenny. Jimmy O'Connell, who replaced Jim Dermody when he was injured in the 1933 final against Limerick, has helped to win three titles for the county and this is Blanchfield's second success, his first being against Limerick in 1935. Terry Leahy now has the distinction of holding All Ireland medals in the three grades, minor and senior with Kilkenny, and junior with Dublin. Ten of the side have won their first All Ireland senior championship but Grace, Hinks, Mulcahy, Langton, O'Brien and Brannigan figured on successful minor combinations.

Croke Park

The arrangements at Croke Park were excellent. The erection of the Cusack stand added considerably to the covered accommodation and, from the top part, a great view of the whole pitch can be had. Were it not for the war and the weather the attendance would in all probability have touched record figures.

Points of Play

Cork had the breeze in their favour but Kilkenny were quicker away and from a centre by Paddy Phelan, J. Phelan eluded his man to flash a ground ball to the net. Kilkenny

came back again and O'Brien had a point, but Cork replied smartly when Lynch sent over from the right wing. Thornhill cleared for Cork but Langton flashed over a grand point. Walsh sent Kilkenny attacking and O'Brien gathered and shot for goal but Buttimer saved his net brilliantly. Paddy Larkin defended strongly and Cork were side. Brennan gathered from Lynch but was deprived of possession by Grace when well placed. A strong Cork attack reached the last line and O'Sullivan eluded Larkin to shake the net.

Kilkenny Pull Away

The Cork forwards were unable to make much impression on the opposing defence and many of their efforts went wide. Walsh and Kelly kept their attackers well supplied. Langton received from a cut-in by Hinks and made no mistake in shooting a great point. Leahy tried a break through but Young cleared. A free to Kilkenny was taken by Langton who added a point, O'Connell saved well and cleared in his old style from a strong Cork attack. Cork and Kilkenny had wides in turn and Walsh missed narrowly when shooting for a point. Grace was prominent in the Kilkenny defence when Cork launched a hot attack from a '70'. The Kilkenny forwards went away in a grand movement, but a centre by Mulcahy went too far and wide at the corner flag.

Half Time Lead

The Cork backs were severely tested in a series of Kilkenny raids. A free relieved pressure but Kilkenny were soon again peppering their posts. Dineen was wide for Cork and the puck-out reached the half-forwards. A cut-in by Hinks reached Leahy and from him to Langton and then Mulcahy. The latter sent a high ball across the square. O'Brien jumped to it and with an overhead, back-hand flick of his hurley landed it in the net. It was a grand score, Buttimer saved well from O'Brien and Gargan retired with a broken thumb being replaced by Brannigan. Cork were wide just on half-time when the scores were:

KILKENNY 2 - 4 (10); CORK 1-1 (4)

Second Half

W. Burke went down injured immediately on resumption but he resumed. Kilkenny pressed and Langton was wide. P. Phelan was seen to advantage and the Kilkenny forwards moved in to force two '70's in rapid succession, which were taken by Paddy Phelan, but without result. The hurling around midfield was fast and furious and there was an angry scuffle. From a free by P. Phelan, Kilkenny attacked and Ter Leahy scored a grand point with a drop-shot. Cork had a free by Barrett but the forwards were well held. In a lightning raid Cork had a surprise goal by Dineen from Lynch which put new heart into them. Kilkenny, however, were away to attack again, but a free relieved. Walsh put Kilkenny attacking again and Buttimer brought off a brilliant save from O'Brien.

Came The Rain

A big black cloud, which the crowd had under anxious observation from some time, seemed to split as a flash of lightening forked across it. Thunder rumbled heavily and rain descended in torrents. There was a rush from the sideline and exposed vantage points for shelter while the game continued with increased vigour. O'Sullivan had a point for Cork. The wind swung round a point and those in the lower seats on the Cusack stand, including the Press representatives, were forced to vacate them in a hurry. The game lost nothing in the storm. It was played with even greater speed but hurleys flew as well as the ball. Excitement mounted to fever pitch and the cheering became one prolonged roar. A point by J. Phelan and J. Kelly again gave Kilkenny the lead of 4 points.

Level Scoring

Kilkenny backs were on their mettle against fierce Cork attacks. The Corkmen seemed to revel in the conditions now obtaining and pressed with all their might for the scores that would put them on level terms. The Kilkenny lead was again reduced to 3 points when Lynch pointed from a free by Murphy. Play around the Kilkenny posts became fierce but the Kilkenny defence was rock-like. Jimmy O'Connell danced around in the square clearing with great accuracy. The climax of the game was reached when Campbell took a free at midfield and the ball slipped down through a cluster of backs and forwards into the Kilkenny net. The scoring was level at: Kilkenny 2-6 (12); Cork 3-3 (12).

The End

The crowd were wild with excitement and the rain, still falling in a torrent, failed to drive people from the field. Only a few minutes remained. Anything could happen. Kilkenny went away in a fierce wild finish and the forwards dashed to the Cork posts. A '70' resulted and, as Paddy Phelan stooped to lift the ball, a hush descended on the arena. The heavy leather soared into the air but fell far short of the post. Kilkenny hearts sank into Kilkenny boots. Then, from nowhere dashed a figure with hurley sweeping round and the Kilkenny forwards jumped into the air. The white flat went up. It was a point, scored by Jimmy Kelly. The Kilkenny crowd went mad with excitement. Out came the ball and Kilkenny were on it again at midfield. The referee looked at his watch. The whistle sounded and brought a memorable final to an end.

The scoreboard read:-
KILKENNY - 2-7 (13); CORK - 3-3 (12).

The Cork Team

The Cork team was as follows:- J. Buttimer (goal), A. Lotty, B. Thornhill, W. Murphy, J. Young, J. Quirke, W. Campbell, J. Barrett, O. Buckley, W. Tabb, R. Dineen, J.

Lynch (Capt.), M. Brennan, T. O'Sullivan, R. Ryng.

Afterwards

As the game ended there was a rush of Kilkenny supporters through the rain on to the pitch. Players were carried shoulder high to the dressing rooms. The rain eased as the crowd poured out through the gates to the flooded streets. Outside a car sank to the lamps in water. In another street, a fire engine was pumping water from flooded houses. The crowd descended on the city and scattered. Hoarse cheers here and there told the uninterested Dubliner that something had happened. Wildly waving scraps of black-and-amber told him that Kilkenny had won its twelfth All Ireland.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES:

The official figures for Croke Park on Sunday are:-

ATTENDANCE	39,302
RECEIPTS	£3,678 8s 0d.



KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING TEAM WINNERS OF OUR 12TH ALL IRELAND TITLE

Back Row: Peter Blanchfield, Paddy Phelan, Paddy Grace, Paddy Larkin, Terry Leahy, Jimmy Walsh (Capt), Billy Burke, Jimmy Kelly.
Middle Row: Mick Dalton, Jimmy O'Connell, Jack Gargan, Sean O'Brien, Jimmy Phelan, Bobbie Hinks, Mick Oakes.
Front Row: Matty Power, Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy.

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Peter Blanchfield leads out the Kilkenny team in the 1945 All Ireland SH final against Tipperary. Behind are Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Dan Kennedy, Jimmy Heffernan, Paddy Grace, Billy Burke, John Meagher, Jimmy Walsh, Seanie O'Brien, Fr Tommy Maher, Tom Murphy, Mickey Kelly, Jack Gargan. Does anybody know the mascot?



A great crowd photo from the 1953 All Ireland SH semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway. Included are Tom Waldron, Tom Walsh (Min for Agriculture and former Chairman, Co Board), Mrs Walsh, Matty Power, Paddy Conway (Parliament Street) and Billy O'Sullivan (John Street). Readers will, no doubt, identify many others.

DUXIE - LEGEND!

By John Knox, Kilkenny People

THE high achiever whose exciting exploits prompted the debate in the first place won't fan the flames of the argument, nor will he offer much encouragement to those who would like to discuss the matter.

Yet, one thought the question was a reasonable one, worth asking, no matter what the response. At least as reasonable and worthy as when a respected journalist once asked Kerry manager, Páidí Ó Sé did he have thoughts in English or Irish.

Okay, one probed, where do you see yourself in the annals of the game?

We were sitting in his 3-Series BMW outside the O'Loughlin/Gaels complex. For once, the words didn't flow. The head arched. The response imparted by the body language shouted shock.

A sort of 'Crikey, where did this come from', without uttering the words. But surely he must have anticipated the question being asked at some time?

"What people want to make of it all is their business", was the most meaty part of the response. "I don't mind. How it all shapes up in history doesn't bother me. I just looked at things as games to be won, and I liked winning them".

Legend

Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh on Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh, the handball legend. A long pause.

A stocktake shows he has won 16 senior singles and 10 doubles All-Ireland titles in the 60 x 30 alley. In the smaller 40 x 20 alley he won seven singles and five doubles title. A whopping 38 All-Ireland medals in all.

He is the only person ever to have won under-15, 17, 19 and 23 World titles. The World senior eluded him, despite appearing in two finals and a semi-final.

"It would be nice to be regarded as one of the best", he added, reluctantly. "What order people class players in doesn't bother me".

Michael Walsh, hereafter to be known as Ducksie, his accepted surname in sport, has long since been regarded among the greats.

The dream match for handball purists would probably be a softball clash between another legend, Pat Kirby and Ducksie. Two deadly players in an alley together at their prime. Wow! The wonders that prompts.

Ducksie against John Joe Gilmartin, who won 24 senior titles, would be another blockbuster.

Was Ali the best? Was George Best? Was Sean Kelly? Kilkenny people can, and do, proudly ask, is Ducksie?

This year, at the age of 35, he won his 16th senior single title in seventeen consecutive appearances.

He loved it. Ducksie bounced back after losing the opening game 21-2 to win 21-19, 21-14 against Eoin Kennedy. The Dubliner was thirteen years his junior.

Stronger

"Eoin is a good player, but the longer the match went on, the more it suited me", Ducksie explained. "I was getting stronger. For me to lose, I would have to be well beaten.

"In the cloe games, my experience had to be an advantage", he added.

There was disappointment to follow, however. Ducksie and his long time partner, Eugene Downey failed, for the second year running, in the senior double all-Ireland final. Ten times, a record, the pair have been All-Ireland champi-

ons.

"This could be the end of our partnership", Ducksie revealed. "I am 35. Eugene is over 40. It would be hard to come back after losing the two finals".

Still, he didn't close the door. If Eugene wants to carry on, then Ducksie will be his delighted partner. If not, Ducksie will team up with someone else.

Retiring? He tried to before. He found out quickly that he couldn't walk away from the game. He won't walk now either.

The last time he thought about going was in 1999. That was the year he thanked his great friend, and mentor, Tommy O'Brien for all his help and encouragement over a long number of years. Mr. O'Brien was asked to accept the medal at the presentation. It was his to keep.

"I wanted to win that final badly", Ducksie recalled. "I wanted to win it for Tommy. I had been thinking of retiring for a few years, and how I could thank Tommy for his help. Letting him receive, and keep the medal was the way I did it".

Easy going

These times he satisfies himself with three or four easy going games against friends. Come next Spring the pace will be stepped up. Ducksie will be ready for the defence of a title that well knows its way to Kilkenny.

"I still have the will, the eagerness for the game", he assured. "It is not all about honours, medals, although I value very one of them. I just like winning, putting myself up against a good opponent in an alley.

"I was going to go. I had enough of it a few years ago. I am glad now that I didn't".

At that time, the burden of expectations was all but suffocating. These times, because he is older and people don't expect him to be winning, winning, winning, handball life is more enjoyable.

"The same pressure is not there now because of my age. I am enjoying the game more. I train as hard. The feeling is that if I lose, I lose.

"I can't complain. The game has been good to me. I have been lucky".

Regrets? There have been a few.

"I am sorry that I didn't win a senior singles World championship", the self employed cabin maker admitted. "It won't happen now. My age would be against me".

Ducksie, who learned the game in the open alley at the Waterbarracks, and later at Talbot's Inch, won his first All-Ireland as partner with Joe Walsh of Mullinavat in the under-12 doubles championship.

Some combination

They were some combination. They won under-12, 14 and 16 doubles championships together, plus three at minor level.

The trail was upwards all the way from there for one Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh. It was never easy. Getting to, and then staying at the top meant sacrifices had to be made. Training, endless hours of long, lonely car trips to get quality challenge matches filled his life.

And you now what, he would do it all again.

"The game has been great to me", he conceded. "I enjoyed every minute of it. I would love to be starting all over again".

His dream! A nightmare for those who yearn to be king of the alley!

Poor Start but Kilkenny Finish Strongly

By Martin Lalor PRO Kilkenny Handball Board



After a poor start to the Handball year Kilkenny players turned things around in the second half by winning six 60 x 30 All Irelands. On the juvenile front it was up to the Clogh players to lead the way as they won two titles while our U12/13 team brought home the 40x 20 crown.

40 X 20

As usual, when the 40 x 20 season commences, there are high hopes that Kilkenny can get among the honours, but this year there was very little success. The only Leinster title won by a local player was in U21 Singles where Brian Manogue (Kells) was the winner. This win set up a semi-final meeting with Roscommon which was put off until the end of the year due to the Foot and Mouth crisis. Brian had a comfortable win over his Connaught opponent but in the final he found Patrick Finnegan too hot to handle, going down in two games.

In the juvenile championships, Kilkenny reached two All Ireland finals with mixed fortunes. Ann Marie Hawe (Windgap) qualified for the U14 Singles decider where she played Antrim. A close first game went to the Northerner 15-14 and this seemed to take its toll on the young South Kilkenny player as she was beaten 15-8 in the second.

In the Boys' U17 Championship, Sean Maher (Clogh) advanced to the All Ireland final where Cavan opposition stood between him and victory. A slow start by the Clogh lad saw him lose the first game 21-8. However, this seemed to be the spur he needed as he levelled the match by winning the second 21-6, and then in the tie breaker he easily won 11-2 to bring home a badly needed All Ireland title.

60 x 30

Senior

After the poor showing in the 40 x 20 championships things could only get better in the bigger 60 x 30 court.

In Senior Singles, Duxie Walsh once again proved the master as he saw off all opposition to retain the All Ireland crown. He started his campaign with easy provincial wins over Wexford and Meath, and then took the honours in the Leinster final by beating Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) 2-1. This win automatically qualified him for the All Ireland final where he once again came up against Kennedy who was given a second chance courtesy of the "Back door" system.

The new kid on the block, was hoping to dethrone the veteran champion and what a final it turned out to be. The young

Dubliner started at a ferocious pace and put on a brilliant display in the first game which he won 21-2.

To many in the packed gallery, the veteran Duxie looked to be in trouble but, as on many occasions before, Duxie is at his most dangerous when his back is to the wall.

The second game was a close affair with neither player gaining the upper hand. Scores were level a number of times and the game was in the balance right up to the finish. It was the Kilkenny star who got the required aces to level the match at one game all, winning 21-19, with all to play for in the decider. As it turned out, Duxie controlled this deciding set and never looked in danger of losing. He dominated all aspects of the play and ran out a 21-14 winner.

This latest victory gave him his 16th Senior Singles title in seventeen years. He has contested every final since 1985, the only blemish on his record was when he lost in 1998, and it also gave him his 38th Senior title overall - surely a record that will never be beaten.

Duxie and Eugene Downey were once again finalists in the Doubles championship and here they played Meath's Tom Sheridan and Walter O'Connor. These two pairs had met in the Leinster decider with the honours going to the Royal pair by two sets to nil. Despite the best efforts of the record-winning Kilkenny pair Sheridan and O'Connor won 21-19, 21-11 thus confirming their superiority, and regaining a title they last held in 1999.

Junior

In the Junior grade there was double joy for Kilkenny as they won both All Ireland titles.

In the Singles competition, Eddie Burke (O'Loughlin's) played some great handball to add the Junior title to his ever-growing list of achievements. Having won the Leinster crown, he disposed of Roscommon in the semi-final and then travelled to Kerry to beat the home player, Brendan O'Brien, 21-16, 21-10 in the final.

In the Doubles championship, Eddie teamed up with Martin Lalor (T/Inch) for the first time this year. Winning the provincial earned them a semi-final tie with Mayo. This they won 2-0 and so qualified to meet Kerry in the decider which resulted in a 21-13, 21-8 victory for the Kilkenny duo.

U21

As in Junior, Kilkenny reached both All Ireland finals in this



Seamus Reade and Paddy Reilly, Golden Masters Champions 2001



Eddie Burke and Martin Lalor, Leinster Junior 60 x 30 Doubles Champions



Brian Manogue All Ireland U21 Singles Champion 2001

grade but with mixed luck. In the Singles competition Brian Manogue (Kells) reached the decider courtesy of a semi-final victory over Galway. In this final he again came up against Patrick Finnegan (Cavan) who had beaten him on the two previous occasions that they had met. This time however, it was the turn of the young Kells player to gain some revenge for his defeats and he did so in style. Playing outstanding handball, Brian completely dominated from start to finish, never giving his opponent a chance, and won 21-9, 21-7.

He also reached the Doubles final where he was partnered by Andrew Hosey (Clogh) but this ended in disappointment as they were well beaten by Cavan 21-14, 21-7.

Golden Masters

In the Golden Masters championships, Kilkenny can look back on a very successful year as they captured both All Irelands on offer.

Paddy Reilly (O'Loughlin's) and Seamus Reade (T/Inch) reached the final of the Golden Master A competition two years ago but lost to Tipperary. This year, they again reached the decider and came up against their victors on that occasion. The first game was won handily, 21-6, by the Munster champions and they seemed assured of victory as they led 18-3 in the second. But, as has happened to many handballers before them, they lost concentration allowing the Kilkenny pair to claw their way back to win 21-19.

The third set saw Reilly and Reade well ahead at first - 11-3, and then trailing 18-15 but, not ones to give up easily they somehow managed to get their game together enough to snatch a victory on a 21-19 scoreline.

In the B championship Pat Savage and Jimmy Neary (T/Inch) had a very successful year as they won the Doubles crown. Having cruised through Leinster, they easily saw off the challenge of Sligo in the semi-final, thus setting up a final meeting with Donegal. A tight first set saw the initiative swing Kilkenny's way as they won 21-17 and looked to be cruising. They had a big lead in the second but allowed Donegal back to level the tie. However the

COUNTY CHAMPIONS 40 X 20

SINGLES

U10(A)	Tina O'Brien (Goresbridge)
U10(B)	Rebecca Mulholland (O'Loughlins)
U10(A)	Luke Greene (St Johns)
U10(B)	Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge)
U11(A)	Mark O'Dwyer (Kells)
U11(B)	Daniel O'Grady (St Johns)
U12	Mark Bergin (O'Loughlins)
U13	Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat)
U14	Patrick Hogan (Kilfane)
U15	Diarmuid Brennan (Motheil)
U16	Thomas Hughes (Clogh)
U17	Sean Maher (Clogh)

DOUBLES

	Andrew O'Dwyer/David Delahunty (Kells)
	Aidin Martin/Niall Smith (Kells)
	Dean Wilson/Shane Delaney (Clogh)
	Niall Mulally/Eamonn Foley (Kells)
	Steven Shortt/Kirk Greene (St Johns)
	Brendan Burke/Steven Conway (Kells)
	Ricky Nolan/Mark Nolan (Motheil)
	Maurice Nolan/Damien Kelly (O'Loughlins)
	David Brennan/Joe Nolan (Motheil)

Minor	Sean Maher (Clogh)	Sean Maher/Thomas Campion (Clogh)
Novice	Philly O'Carroll (St Johns)	Paul Bergin/John Morressey (O'Loughlins)
Junior	Canice Pratt (St Johns)	Michael O'Neill/Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlins)
Senior	P O'Keeffe OR M Lalor	Eddie Burke/Seamus Kavanagh (O'Loughlins)
Masters (A)	Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins)	Seamus Reade/Mick Reade (Talbots Inch)
Masters (B)	Joe Anthony (Mullinavat)	Joe Anthony/Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat)
Masters (C)	Joe Hennessey (O'Loughlins)	Joe Hennessey/John Direen (O'Loughlins)
Minor League	C J Delaney (Kells)	
Novice League	Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlins)	
Junior League	Michael O'Neill (O'Loughlins)	
Inter League	Brian Manogue (Kells)	
Senior League	Eddie Burke (O'Loughlins)	
Masters A Lge	Johnny Brennan (Motheil)	
Masters B Lge	Jimmy Neary (Talbots Inch)	
Masters C Lge	Matt Donnelly (Goresbridge)	

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

U12 Singles	Maire T O'Neill (Clogh)
U13 Doubles	Clare Love(Clogh)/Sinead Butler (Kells)
U14 Singles	Ann Maire Hawe (Windgap)
U17 Singles	Sean Maher (Clogh)
U21 Singles	Brian Manogue (Kells)
U12/13 Team 6	
Richard Hogan (Kilfane), Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat), Patrick Nolan (Motheil), Mark Bergin (O'Loughlins)	
Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch), Niall Mulally, Eamonn Foley (Kells), Steven Conway (Kells)	
U14/15 Team 6	
Patrick Hogan (Kilfane), Brendan Burke (Kells), Owen Cody (Windgap), Diarmuid Brennan	
Ricky Nolan, Mark Nolan (Motheil) Steven Conway (Kells)	

COUNTY CHAMPIONS 60 X 30

U10 (A)	Patrick Funchion (Kells)	Eoin Hennessey/Padraig Maher (Clogh)
U10 (B)	Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge)	Michael O'Brien/Damien Barcoe (Goresbridge)
U11 (A)	Eddie English (Goresbridge)	Niall Smith/Aidin Martin (Kells)
U11 (B)	Dean Wilson (Clogh)	Dean Wilson/Shane Delaney (Clogh)
U12.	Eamonn Foley (Kells)	Mark O'Dwyer/Niall Mulally (Kells)
U13.	Stephen Conway (Kells)	Steven Shortt/Kirk Green (St Johns)
U14.	Patrick Hogan (Kilfane)	Patrick Nolan/Thomas Power (Motheil)
U15.	Richard Hogan (Kilfane)	Brian Mulhall/Mark Nolan (Motheil)
U16.	Thomas Hughes (Clogh)	Paul Byrne/Kevin Phillips (Clogh)
U17.	David Brennan (Motheil)	Joe Nolan/Diarmuid Brennan (Motheil)
Minor	Sean Maher (Clogh)	
Novice	Ray Ryan (Kilfane)	Novice Brendan Burke/Anthony Martin (Kells)
Junior	Philly O'Carroll (St Johns)	Junior Sean Maher/Andrew Hosey (Clogh)
Senior	Pearce O'Keeffe (Mullinavat)	Senior Johnny Brennan/Shem Kelly (Motheil)
Masters (A)		Ms (A) Pat Savage/Jimmy Neary (Talbots Inch)
Masters (B)	Jimmy Holden (Kilfane)	Ms (B) Sean Curran/Billy Hanlon (St Johns)
Masters (C)	Matt Donnelly (Goresbridge)	Ms (C) Sean Curran (St J)/Johnny O'Mara (M/vat)
Minor League	Thomas Hughes (Clogh)	
Novice League	Diarmuid Burke (Kells)	
Junior League	Chris Dunne (St Johns)	
Inter League	John Curran (Goresbridge)	
Senior League	Pearce O'Keeffe (Mullinavat)	
Masters (A) League		
Masters (B) League	Michael Dalton (Kells)	
Masters (C) League	Sean Curran (St Johns)	

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

U12 Singles	Maire T O'Neill (Clogh)
U13 Singles	Sarah Butler (Kells)
U16 Doubles	Thomas Hughes/Paul Byrne (Clogh)
U17 Singles	Mary Murphy (Goresbridge)
U21 Singles	Brian Manogue (Kells)
U21 Doubles	Brian Manogue (Kells)/Andrew Hosey (Clogh)
Junior Singles	Eddie Burke (O'Loughlins)
Junior Doubles	Eddie Burke (O'Loughlins)/Martin Lalor (Talbots Inch)
Senior Singles	Michael Walsh (Talbots Inch)
Golden Masters (A) Doubles	Seamus Reade (Talbots Inch)/Paddy O'Reilly (O'Loughlins)
Golden Masters (B) Singles	Pat Savage (Talbots Inch)
Golden Masters (B) Doubles	Jimmy Neary/Pat Savage (Talbots Inch)
Emerald Masters (A) Doubles	Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlins)/Anthony Greene (Talbots Inch)
Diamond Masters (B) Singles	Johnny O'Mara (Mullinavat)
Diamond Masters (B) Doubles	Johnny O'Mara (Mullinavat)/Jim Caulfield (Kilfane)
U14/15 Team 6	Patrick Hogan (Kilfane), Brendan Burke, Gavin O'Keeffe (Kells)
	Diarmuid Brennan, Mark Nolan, Ricky Nolan (Motheil)

Talbots Inch - A Glorious History



Jim Neary and Pat Savage,
60 x 30 Masters "A" County Champions.



Paul Byrne, Sean Maher and Thomas Hughes,

Talbot's Inch pair were determined not to blow their chance of success and in the decider they made no mistakes as they led from the start and in the end won 21-11 to clinch victory.

This win gave Savage some consolation for his Singles defeat to Donegal when he went down 21-10, 21-7.

In Diamond Masters B, Johnny O'Mara (M/Vat) added to his ever-growing medal collection by winning both Singles and Doubles Leinster crowns. Alas, that was as far as he got as he lost his All Ireland semi-finals to Connaught opposition. In the Doubles, he was partnered by Jim Caulfield (Kilfane). Kilkenny also produced the winners of the Emerald Masters A Doubles in Anthony Greene (T/Inch) and Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlin's) but they were denied a final when they were beaten by Mayo.

JUVENILE

On the Juvenile front, Kilkenny captured four Leinster titles but, as in the smaller court, it was up to Clogh to bring home the lone All Ireland title.

In Girls U12 and U13 Singles, Leinster success was enjoyed by Marie T O'Neill and Sarah Butler. Both these championships are played only to provincial finals. In Girls U17 Singles, Mary Murphy (Goresbridge) won Leinster honours but unfortunately had to concede a walkover in her All Ireland semi-final.

Thomas Hughes and Paul Byrne, both Clogh, beat all before them in the Leinster U16 Doubles grade and reached the All Ireland decider after a comprehensive 21-5, 21-5, win over Roscommon.

In the final, they played Clare and what an exhibition they put on! They powered their way to a 21-1, 21-2 victory, both playing superbly.

TEAMS

Local teams at under age level enjoyed

When Duxie Walsh won this year's Softball Singles, his personal tally of Senior titles reached a whopping thirty eight. A record unlikely to be ever beaten, but wasn't that said about JJ Gilmartin when he retired with twenty four titles?

What is guaranteed is that if either of these records is ever beaten it will be by some player with a special talent, and what are the chances that he won't be a club mate of theirs?

One thing that these two famous handballers have in common is that they both came from the famed Talbot's Inch club, and, along with this combined tally of sixty two crowns, this famous handball nursery has also contributed another forty one Senior titles to make an amazing total of one hundred and three All Ireland Senior wins. Not all these titles were won by players actually playing with the club at the time of success, but these players learned their handball skills within the walls of the famous court on previous occasions when they were members.

Built in 1928 by a local land owner, Lady Desart, the "Inch" was soon producing All Ireland champions. Dan Brennan and Jim Lucas captured Hardball and Softball titles in 1929, with the latter achieving more success in 1932 and 1934.

Tom Cherry partnered Lucas in 1934 when they won the Senior Hardball Doubles crown, and he was successful again in 1938 in the same competition.

In 1935 a young Kilkenny player made the breakthrough to the Senior ranks when he won the Junior Hardball championship and in the following year he added the Senior title to his achievements. John Joe Gilmartin was this player's name and for the next eleven years he was the dominant force in Handball in Ireland.

During that time he won a phenomenal twenty four Senior medals in Singles and Doubles in both Softball and Hardball codes. What was interesting about his Hardball Doubles career was that he seldom played with the same player two years running. An example - between 1937 and 1941 he won the All Ireland each year but with a different partner on each occasion. In 1937 Alfie Cullen was his partner, Tommy Cherry in 1938, Tommy Jordan in 1939, Paddy Dalton in 1940 and Jasper Dunne in 1941. The reason for this, it seems, is that Gilmartin was an automatic choice when it came to selecting players and the rest had to play off to see who his partner would be. His tally of All Ireland titles would probably be higher only for injury and the interruption caused by the Second World War which restricted the Softball championships.

Two players won three in a row with Gilmartin, Jasper Dunne recorded three Softball Doubles in 1939/40/41 while Paddy Dalton achieved three Hardball Doubles in 1945/46/47.

After this very golden era, Talbots Inch had to wait until 1954 when Christy Delaney brought home the Softball Doubles and then in 1961 he partnered his brother, Joe, to the Hardball crown. Joe went on to win a Softball Singles medal in 1962 and rounded off his Senior career with a Softball Doubles title in 1965.

Since the founding of the "Inch", the Seventies remains the only decade when they won no Senior All Ireland title.

After the Softball Doubles win in 1965, there was a fifteen year gap until Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold brought home the same crown in 1980. The following year, 1981, saw Reilly win the Softball Singles for Kilkenny for the first time since 1962, and, in Senior Doubles, Anthony Greene won his one and only title.

The following year, 1982, Ollie Harold, more renowned for his doubles exploits, kept the Singles championship in Kilkenny.

After a wait of almost forty years, Kilkenny regained the Senior Hardball Singles crown in 1986 when Billy Bourke, then a member of Talbots Inch, won his first Senior crown.

In 1983 a new kid on the block arrived on the scene and reached Senior status by winning the Junior Doubles All Ireland, partnered by Eugene Downey. His name was Michael "Duxie" Walsh and since then he has dominated Handball, winning a remarkable thirty eight Senior crowns - sixteen Softball Singles, ten Softball Doubles, seven 40 X 20 Singles and five 40 x 20 Doubles.

His has contested every Singles final since 1985, the only blemish when he lost in 1998. His first Doubles title was won in 1985 and between then and 1997 himself and Eugene Downey won a record ten crowns. (Eugene plays his club Handball in Dublin but of all the players who may have been 'Inch men over the years he would be one of the truest as he grew up within a stone's throw of the alley)

Duxie won his first 40 x 20 Singles in 1985 and his seventh and final in 1998 and in between captured five 40 x 20 Doubles crowns. His first two Doubles wins in 1986 and 1989 were with Michael Reade.

So, overall, one could say that Talbot's Inch's history makes interesting reading and it is definitely the place for producing All Ireland winners. Who knows what will happen in the future but if the 'Inch continues to produce players half as good as those above, then its list of Senior medals is sure to grow.



U14/15 Team of 6 Leinster Champions 2001

Back: Patrick Hogan, Mark Nolan, Ricky Nolan, Diarmaid Brennan, Eoin Cody.
Front: Brendan Burke, Gavin O'Keeffe, Stephen Conway.



U12/13 Team of 6 Leinster Champions 2001

Back: Patrick Nolan, Nicholas Anthony, Mark Bergin, Ciarán Neary.
Front: Richard Hogan, Niall Mullally, Eamon Foley.

tremendous success winning both U12/13 and U14/15 All Irelands in the 40 x 20 court while in the 60 x 30 competition the U14/15 team had reached the semi-final stage. The U12/13 team which beat a strong Tyrone team in the final was:- Richard Hogan (Kilfane), Niall Mullally (Kells), Eamon Foley (Kells), Patrick Nolan (Mothel), Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat), Mark Bergin (O'Loughlin's) and Ciarán Neary (Talbot's Inch). This was the third consecutive success in the competition for Kilkenny.

The U14/15 team who overcame Clare in their decider was made up of:- Patrick Hogan (Kilfane), Mark Nolan (Mothel), Ricky Nolan (Mothel), Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel), Eoin Cody (Windgap), Brendan Burke (Kells), Gavin O'Keeffe (Kells), and Stephen Conway (Kells).

Even though All Irelands were hard to come by at Juvenile level, hopes are high for next year when a lot of these players will be the right age for their age groups.

SNIPPETS

- o Clogh Handball club has almost completed the construction of their new 40 x 20 court, which should be ready for action in 2002.
- o For the second year running O'Loughlins hosted the Allireland 40 x 20 Senior Singles final. A packed gallery saw Tony Healy (Cork) make it three in a row when he defeated Kenneth Kane (Carlow) in two sets.
- o Mary Murphy and Ciara Mullins (G/Bridge) reached the All Ireland final of the 60 x 30 Girls Colleges championships, while in the 40 x 20 Mary reached the provincial decider in Singles.
- o Paul Byrne and Thomas Hughes, representing Castlecomer Community school, won the All Ireland Colleges Intermediate title and in the Junior Doubles championship Richard and Patrick Hogan were successful for St.Kierans College.

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Tom Ryall: 1933- 2000.



By Barrie Henriques.

It is a rare phenomenon indeed for an individual to transcend his status from mere mortal to legend in his own lifetime. But Tom Ryall did, without ever contemplating an ambition to do so. But that was Tom Ryall. A man of simple needs, simple ambition, simple argument. He was devoted to two things in his entire life - his family and the GAA, and talking to Beenie, his wife of thirty two years, she would state that the priority list was a little different to the last statement. But that was Tom too. If, as Beenie would say, he put GAA affairs first in the natural order of things, he most certainly put the needs of Tom Ryall very much on row ZZ of the new Cusack Stand. He was the personification of everything that was honest, decent, and ideologically correct about the GAA. He was most people's personal encyclopaedia on matters GAA, even before he wrote his mammoth History of Kilkenny GAA, completed for the Centenary Year of the GAA in 1984.

He got his first love of the games from his schoolmaster, Mr Davy Maher, in Kilmanagh National School. It was at Kilmanagh that Tom struck up a life-long friendship with Nicholas Teehan, Francie McCluskey (RIP) and Johnny (Red) Marnell. As young boys, their heroes were GAA players, and particularly players wearing their beloved black and amber. Coming from Kilkenny, the commonly held perception that football would not figure too highly in the pecking order of sporting knowledge, was given the lie in the person of Tom Ryall. His knowledge, embracing all facets of GAA lore, fact, and statistic was immense. I have known him to furnish the result of a County Junior football final in some Ulster County, the venue, the half time score, probably the referee, and the climatic conditions prevailing.

He was in awe, as a young man, of the great players of his youth. His local hero, Bill Cahill, was an icon of the game, playing, as he did for Kilkenny in the 1947 All-Ireland final, living near Tom, and playing for Tom's club, Graigue. Tom couldn't wait to play for Graigue. As Johnny (Red) Marnell, a neighbour of Tom's up in Kilbrahan, told me, "We would cycle down to Slipton, before the big lads would arrive to train. We would pucker around before they arrived, and then we would be in position behind the goals to pucker back the ball, whenever it came out to us, and if any of the "big lads" called us by our first name, we would be on air for the rest of the week".

Tom was all things to all men in the Parish, and further. "We joined the Legion of Mary together", said Johnny. "We joined the dramatic society together. Whenever there was a requirement for fund-raising in the Parish, Tom led the way. He had marvellous leadership qualities. You could not refuse to

do anything for him. He eventually managed the finances of the Parish, and as with all his work with Avonmore, and earlier with Cormack's bakery in Coalbrook, Tom's integrity shone out, with never a discrepancy", said "Red" Johnny. I asked Johnny to earmark a single development that would have given Tom unbridled joy and happiness. "Two things I suppose", said Johnny. "Winning the County junior title, which opened up the floodgates for our club, and getting to the senior ranks so quickly afterwards". "That's only one example", I rebuked my informant. "The other thing that gave him a great sense of achievement was getting Jim Neary to become a teacher in Kilmanagh", he remarked. The entire county will see the implication of that statement.

I met with the Kilmanagh múinteóir. Jim Neary will give second to nobody in his unbridled admiration of Tom Ryall. It took him a non-stop thirty minutes to tell me. If I were to synthesise the Neary eulogy into a sentence, Jim Neary would have said, "I will never know another human being so humble, so committed, so involved, so unassuming, so proud of his own, and so concerned just for others. He wanted to see the little lad's name in sixth class in print just as he gloried in every word, award, and photograph of Denis Byrne, Graigue Ballycallan's first All-Star. I remember when he was up in Dublin in Hospital, and he sent for me. When I got there, he just said to me, 'you'll have to cut down the panel, because they won't let that number into the dugout for the All-Ireland.' So you see, he was always thinking of his own place, his own people, his own club," said Jim.

In his youth too, Tom befriended Nicholas Teehan from Slipton. They went to St Kierans College together. Nickey's father was provider of the hurling field that served the Parish - and continues to do so for years.

Tom always acknowledged the part played in his GAA education by the Teehan family, particularly by Nickey's father. His only medal was a county junior football medal won by Graigue who beat Lamogue in 1960.

Scheduled to go to the 1956 All-Ireland football final (Galway V Cork) with the Teehan's, a family bereavement forced the Teehans to pull out of the arrangement, which left Tom without transport. But Nickey's mother, a sister of the legendary Dr. Pierce Grace, who won three hurling medals with

Kilkenny and two football medals with Dublin, asked him to take Tom to the match. Tom never tired of talking about the occasion where a legend in his own time took him to the game.

Nickey said that in his opinion Tom's greatest personal sporting memory was scoring the goal that knocked the great Bennettsbridge out of the senior championship in 1957. He was a fearless player. Playing with Graigue at the start of the sixties, against Ballyraggett in the northern final, a colleague in Avonmore laid a bet that Tom Ryall wouldn't get a goal off the Ballyraggett corner back. Tom got a goal- the Graigue lads collected. "Did you know", said Nickey, that Tom's mother was a Miss Fahy before she married, but the more interesting fact about that was, that she was a niece of Dr.Harty". You live and learn.

As a husband and a father to Beenie, Catherine, Mary, Orla and Ann-Marie, his absence will be sorely felt. I asked Beenie recently how Tom collected, and filed all the written GAA knowledge, and how it impinged on family life. "There was stuff everywhere", said Beenie. "Twas in cabinets, presses, on beds, under the beds, on tables". "Did you ever get vexed", I asked. "Only when it came to dinner time, and the dinner plates had to compete for room on the table with letters, papers, and fixture lists", she answered. "Was the telephone ever silent", I asked. With a glint in her eye she answered, "Only when it was out of order". But she wouldn't have it any other way. She knew what she was getting into when first she met Tom. " I didn't think it would be so bad, but sure at the end of the day, we were happy to see him happy, and isn't that all that matters in the end", she injected.

If Tom had done no more in his lifetime than act, as he did, for almost twenty years as Secretary of Bord na nÓg, scrupulously threading his way through forests of fixtures, he would have done more than most GAA men. If his sole contribution had been his service on the County Board and Central Council, his efforts would have set him apart. His commitment to his

club, his parish, his community, his workplace and especially to his family were similarly of a magnitude beyond most mortals.

But, when we consider his monumental service as an archivist for the association, the enormous body of historical and statistical material he painstakingly assembled through a lifetime of meticulous research and compilation, we can only marvel at how much a man can achieve in one short lifetime. His "*Kilkenny A GAA History 1884-1984*" has, from its publication become the standard reference on all GAA matter in our county. Hundreds of publications, programmes, periodicals and their contributors - not least this Yearbook - have, and will continue to be, indebted to Tom Ryall's records, scrapbooks and his astonishingly detailed notebooks. It is a little known fact that, in his final year, Tom, at the behest of the Leinster Council produced the excellent "*1900-2000 Comhairle Laighean - Céad Bliain de Chluichí Gaelacha*", a most comprehensive millennium history of Gaelic Games in Leinster. Needless to say, Tom, though in failing health, and working to an extremely difficult timescale, brought to this book all his characteristic fastidious attention to detail and his unwavering enthusiasm. It is a most excellent reference book and the pity is that it received so little publicity or circulation. It should be in every bookshop.

Tom Ryall's prodigious archival legacy to the GAA can not be quantified. It is simply priceless.

They came from near and far to pay homage to one of the great charismatics of the GAA, one of its great icons from a small country parish. There were Presidents past, present and future. There were friends, and more friends, because I don't think Tom Ryall had a single enemy.

His likes will never pass this way again.

Solas na bhflaitheas air.



GRAIGUE SENIOR HURLING TEAM 1957

Back: Joe Cleere, James Fennelly, Nicholas Teehan, Simon Cleere, PJ Claffey, Mick Walsh, Mick Coonan, Nicholas Purcell, Ned Walton.

Front: Tom Walton, Billy Daly (Capt), Paddy Burke, Patsy, Abby Holmes, Billy Ronan, Dick Cleere, Tom Ryall.

*"They called him "Lynx-eyed" and "Fearless"
They spoke of his brilliant catching,
His long striking, his devastating side-step,
To us he was Ollie – Prince of Goalkeepers
The greatest of them all"*

These are the words I penned when the Ollie Walsh Memorial Committee asked me to sum up Ollie, the man, as I remembered him. Naturally I was very pleased when the committee found fit to have this "picture" of Ollie written in stone and unveiled with the other plaque recalling his achievements on the field of play together with the wonderful bronze statue of Thomastown's greatest son.

What a wonderful occasion it was on that early August evening when thousands gathered in Mill Street for the unveiling of this excellent memorial to Ollie. The crowds who thronged into one of Thomastown's oldest streets bore testimony to the esteem in which this man was held. Many many schoolmates, team-mates both at club and county level, friends, neighbours and people from all walks of life, all ends of the country gathered for the occasion. Collectively we would all comfortably fit under the heading "Ollie Walsh Fan Club".

There to honour the memory of Ollie we also had Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Mr Sean McCague, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean, Mr Seamus Aldridge and Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh, Mr Ned Quinn. Bishop of Ossory, Most Rev Laurence Forristal and Parish Priest, Msgr Paul Fitzgerald were also among the invited guests.

Pride of place, of course, went to Ollie's family – his wife Olive with her sons Michael, Billy and Ollie and daughter Ann together with his brother Joe and sister Ann (McConnell). Ollie's other sister, Frances, who was ill in England was unable to attend and best wishes were sent to her on the occasion. Ten of Ollie's grand-children as well as the extended Walsh and Murphy families were also welcomed.

The organising Committee gave me the honour of acting as M.C. for the evening. It was indeed a great privilege to remember and recount our younger days in the Mill St area. Many people have spoken to me since about the occasion and I have said to them with real sincerity that it was easy to recall our great friend Ollie and how he enriched all of our lives.

It gave me enormous pleasure to take my audience down a memorable memory lane.

I remembered Peadar Laffin our teacher, the Creamery gates,

the mill lorries, the handball alley on the Quay, Grennan, Mill Street, the families, the people, the characters. I remembered Ollie the child hurler, the boy wonder, the youthful hurling star, the legend. Ollie the Thomastown clubman, Ollie the Kilkenny star, Ollie the trainer, coach, the handballer, the footballer, the golfer, the cricketer, the soccer player.

I made the statement that "Ollie Walsh, more than anybody put Thomastown on the map", would not be contradicted on the night or ever.

Thomastown's Most Famous Son Remembered

Joe Dunphy

Ollie's great pal and club and county team-mate Tom Walsh also spoke. He recalled Ollie's inter-county days and of the great regard Ollie's peers had for him. Other speakers were Bishop Laurence Forristal who is also a native of Thomastown, Mr Ned Quinn, chairman of Kilkenny County Board and Mr Sean McCague, President of the GAA. Mr Tadhg Feeny spoke on behalf of the memorial Committee as did Mr Ben Walsh on behalf of Thomastown GAA Club.

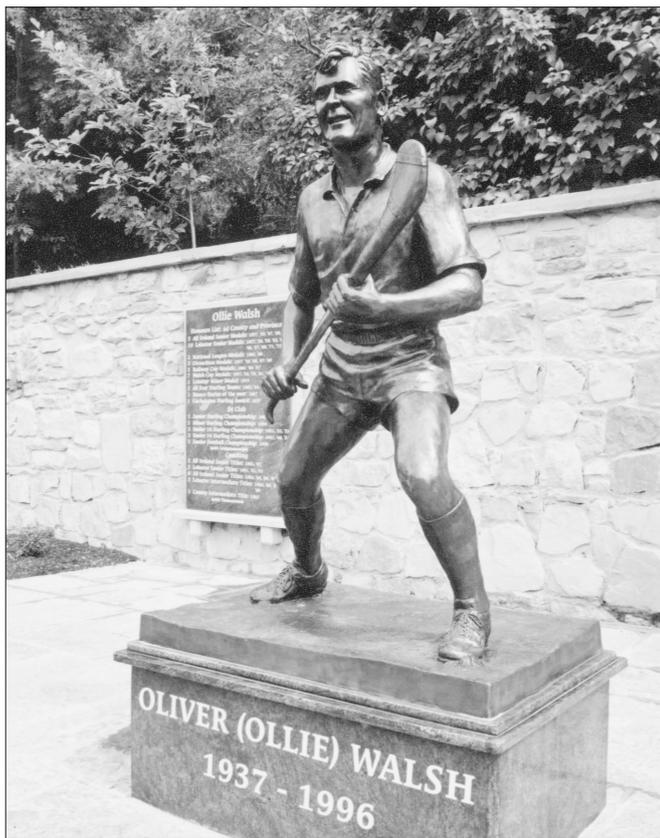
Ollie's son Michael who like his famous father was an All Ireland winning county goalkeeper, replied on behalf of the family. Music for the occasion was supplied by the Graignamanagh

Brass band and Ben Walsh brought proceedings to a close when he led the huge crowd in a rousing rendition of "The Rose of Mooncoin".

The Ollie Walsh Memorial Committee comprised of Tadhg Feeny, Ted Hoyne, Alan Hoyne, Seamus Reade, Christy Doyle, Tom Treacy, Paddy Dempsey and John Brennan. Much credit must go to Seamus Reade for his stage management of the opening and sincere thanks also to the members of the Gardai and Civil Defence.

Molloys of Callan were responsible for the Marble slabs and pedestal holding the statue. Local artisans, brothers Pat and Michael Barron of Jerpoint made a marvellous job of the stonework on the site. The magnificent bronze sculpture was designed and crafted by

Jerry McKenna of San Antonio, Texas. Mr McKenna and his wife Gail were among the guests for the occasion and received a great ovation. But perhaps the greatest tribute to Mr McKenna's work can be seen in the numbers of people who now stop in Mill Street to view this beautiful memorial. It is indeed a great credit to him and to the far-sighted hard-working people who brought it to fruition. Mar focal scoir, it can surely be said that Thomastown's most famous son has returned home and Ollie continues to stop them in Mill Street!



The magnificent bronze statue of Ollie Walsh by Jerry McKenna in Mill Street Thomastown *Photo Tom Brett*

Mullinavat Answer all the Questions!

By Conor Brennan

As with the 2000 Championship, many hurling experts would have considered that this championship would again be an open affair, with a large number of teams having the potential to seize the honours. Finalists from last year, St. Martin's would certainly offer a stiff challenge, while the respective abilities of teams such as St. Lachtain's, Clara (relegated from senior grade), Mooncoin, Mullinavat and Carrickshock could not be ignored.

In the end, it was the Southern side Mullinavat who answered all the questions put before them and made the well-earned return to the senior grade. They displayed enormous composure and surety after being brought to a replay by Clara in the County Final, and with a select mix of youth and experience should encourage the Intermediate champions in the coming 12 months.

The League section of the championship proved this year to be a true reflection of teams and their form for the championship. After the five initial round

games, the semi-finalists proved to be the same that contested the semi-finals of the championship. They were St. Lachtain's, Clara, Mullinavat and Mooncoin. St. Lachtain's and Mullinavat won through to the final. Mullinavat were unable to make it an eventual double as the Freshford men claimed victory on a 1-14 to 1-11 scoreline.

The race for the championship began on Sunday, July 29th with the first round games. St. Martin's, who showed flashes of good form in the league, showed their intent to atone for

last year's final defeat to Dunnamaggin by accounting for Graignamanagh, albeit by one point (2-10 to 0-15), in St. John's Park. Second half goals from Dermot Lawlor and John Dooley and a brilliant last minute save from Stephen Murphy secured a narrow victory against an unfortunate Graignamanagh side.

Despite being five points behind at half-time, Bennettsbridge crawled their way back into contention and secured a 2-11 to 1-10 win over the Rower-Inistioge in Thomastown. Unerring accuracy from Richard Moran and



Mullinavat - COUNTY IH CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Mossy Murphy(Capt), Andrew McGovern, John Dunphy, Kenny Butler, Michael Murphy, Seamus Holden, Joe Walsh, Pat Butler.
Front: Walter Bourke, Jimmy Rohan, Paul Aylward, Liam Murphy, Willie O'Dwyer, JP Dungan, Mark Dunphy. *Photo Charlie Maher*



CLARA - COUNTY IH FINALISTS 2001

Back: Eugene Byrne(Sel), Paschal Connolly(Sel), Dan McDonald, Gerry Byrne, Fintan Treacy, John Fitzgerald, Brian Phelan, Brendan Barcoe, JJ Ward, Rory Moore(Capt), TJ Fitzgerald, Ger Prendergast, Michael Barcoe, John Brennan, John Phelan, Tom Brennan.
Front: Pádraig Brennan, Patrick Fitzgerald, Anthony Prendergast, Dermot Nolan, Eamon Phelan, Robert Shortall, Michael Fitzgerald, Richard Nolan, Conor Phelan, Joe Casey, Mark Shortall, Kevin Ryan, Peter Roche. *Photo: Eoin Hennessy.*

two goals from John Lennon gave the 'Bridge the victory that their second-half performance merited. The major surprise of the first round was the two point victory of James Stephens over the Blacks and Whites in Gowran. A goal from a free from Brendan Doyle was the major difference between the sides and this secured the city side's status for another year. A club who were on the verge of a highly successful year, Carrickshock, began the intermediate campaign with a victory over Thomastown in Ballyhale. Despite only four points of a difference in the end, it was a convincing win over a side who under-performed this season.

The quarter-final stages signalled the introduction of the big guns to the championship, namely the league semi-finalists, Mullinavat, Mooncoin, St. Lachtain's and Clara. Indeed, each of the matches went true to form with each of the major teams above secured passage to the championship semi-finals. Mullinavat eased past Bennettsbridge with 8 points to spare in Thomastown. An inspired scoring performance from Michael Dunphy and Seamus Holden, who between them accounted for 1-14 of their side's total of 1-19, to which the 'Bridge men had no answer. Mooncoin needed a second opportunity to dismiss Carrickshock after a truly absorbing first encounter in Mullinavat. Carrickshock were grateful of two late points from Paul Kearney to force a replay, but both sides had missed opportunities from frees in injury time to snatch victory. In the replay a week later, it was clear that Mooncoin learned more than their southern rivals from their previous encounter and were deserved winners. The league champions, St. Lachtain's, faced the immense task of overcoming St. Martin's in St. John's Park. Both sides were equally keen for victory – the Freshford men hoping to avenge last's year defeat to the same opposition and the Muckalee men seeking to go one step further this year. After a typically intense battle that saw a nail-biting finish, it was St. Lachtain's who progressed to the semi-finals. However, the winners made life difficult for themselves by almost surrendering a seven point lead midway through the second half, but St. Martin's were unable to muster enough scores by the end, and St. Lachtain's had two points to spare, 0-15 to 1-10.

The greater experience was the vital factor in the final quarter-final as Clara were too strong for James Stephens in Bennettsbridge. Despite the comfortable winning margin in the end (4-8 to 0-9), Clara had to work hard over the initial stages of the match but, as the score-line suggests, it was goals that proved the telling difference. Two in each half left the city side facing an uphill struggle from then on and Clara showed their intent to claim another intermediate crown.

The semi-final draw pitted Mullinavat against Mooncoin and St. Lachtain's against Clara. The matches were in Nowlan Park on September 15th. The first match was an extremely tight and tense affair between the great southern rivals. What set the teams apart was the expert free-taking of Michael Dunphy and a last gasp point from Michael Murphy for



MOONCOIN - COUNTY IH SEMI-FINALISTS 2001

Back: Billy Quinn, Michael Purcell, Trevor Dunphy, Eoin Hennebry, Eddie Mackey, Barry Purcell, Tom Murphy.
Front: Liam Sutton, Ciarán Dunphy, Noel Phelan, Mark Tyler, Ger Kirwan, Pat Hogan, Eamon Mackey, Diarmaid Mackey.
Photo Eoin Hennessy

Mullinavat. Despite Mooncoin's good start and having a number of opportunities to secure a strong footing in the game, they could not stretch Mullinavat sufficiently. Indeed, on occasion, they had to be grateful to goalkeeper Mark Tyler for a number of crucial saves. Heading to the finish, it looked like that a draw would be the most likely outcome. However, Mullinavat seized a last-minute opportunity to snatch victory. Following good work by Michael Dunphy and Willie O'Dwyer, Michael Murphy shot an excellent point under pressure to grab the spoils at the death and sent his team toward the county final for the second time in three years.

The second semi-final proved to be an

Phelan's earlier effort to level the sides at half-time. Thus the trend continued through the second period as both sides continued to negate each other. All the action occurred in the last 10 minutes, when Noel Maher scored a goal but was called back for an earlier infringement. Clara tried desperately for an equaliser in the final five minutes and had a number of opportunities. It looked like time was running out, but Rory Moore won a free and courageously stepped out and coolly slotted over the ball and secured a replay.

The replay on the following Saturday looked in the early stages as if the two teams would continue in the same vein as before and swapped points as regular intervals. Freshford



ST LACHTAIN'S - COUNTY IH SEMI-FINALISTS 2001 *Photo Eoin Hennessy*

Back: Damien Anderson, John Costelloe, Paul Costelloe, Jamie Kennedy, Michael Hickey, Niall O'Connor, Niall Phelan.
Front: Joe Dermody, Pa Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Ollie O'Connor, Sean Hickey, James Kavanagh, Ger Dalton.

equally tight encounter with two teams who have a similar healthy rivalry, St. Lachtain's and Clara. Each side matched each other score for score throughout in the second half, yet it was Clara who had the brighter start to the first half. However, one cannot deny the quality of the St. Lachtain's side and after settling, they found their scoring touch and a goal from Damien Anderson cancelled out Conor

fought back late in the first half to trail by only one point at the break, 0-8 to 0-7, despite Neil O'Connor missing a great chance to score a goal. However, the third quarter proved to be the deciding period of the game when Clara knocked two goals past Joe Dermody through Conor Phelan and Robert Shortall to destroy St. Lachtain's confidence and thus secure victory. The Freshford men tried to turn the tide, in



Mullinavat Captain, **Mossy Murphy** visits the celebrated **Monsignor Tommy Maher** with the Intermediate Cup

particular through the heroics of Michael Kavanagh, but Clara now were secure with their lead and were able to find an extra gear and a fine point from Brian Phelan secured a 2-15 to 0-16 victory.

Considering the large amount of replays that were in the Intermediate Championship, there was a certain inevitability that this year's final would end in a draw. And given the fare that Clara and Mullinavat produced and the atrocious conditions that the teams were forced to play in, each side deserved another opportunity to play to their full potential. The Nowlan Park sod had already taken a battering in the junior final prior to this match, and this was evident right from the off as both teams struggled to move the ball with any pace. Clara had a one point lead at the break, 1-4 to 1-3. John Fitzgerald scrambled the ball to the net early on for Clara while Willie O'Dwyer found the net for Mullinavat midway through the half. The

second half proved to be a frustrating yet tense experience for all as only three points were registered throughout the whole half. But, it was not without incident with frequent goal-mouth scrambles and near misses. In the end, both teams were applauded off the field, due reward for their efforts.

The initial desire of both teams for the replay must have been for far more suitable conditions and fortunately, that was the case. In these circumstances, a good start was always going to be vital and on the day, it was Mullinavat who settled the better and managed to muster 1-2 in the opening five minutes. The goal came from a move instigated by Michael Dunphy, Willie O'Dwyer and Maurice Murphy and was finished to the net by Michael Murphy. It was a bad blow for Clara, who found the now confident Southerners hard to cope with. This was made significantly worse midway through the half when a long ball deceived the Clara defence and was chased down by Maurice Murphy and flicked to the net. Despite this further setback, Clara battled back in typical fashion with two points, yet before the interval Mullinavat had rectified that situation and held for themselves a seemingly comfortable 2-6 to 0-3 lead at the break. It was now a situation whereby Clara had to throw literally everything into attack. The second half started slowly for them and they still had a nine point deficit to contain midway through the half. But suddenly, just as Mullinavat saw victory in clear view, Clara found a potential opening. It arose from a Gerry Byrne free that the substitute blasted to the back of the net. This was followed by a pointed free from the same player and another blot from the blue, a goal from Robert Shortall.

From nowhere, life was breathed into this game. Rather than build on this pressure, Clara were again forced onto the back foot by two vital points for Mullinavat. From there until the finish, each team had to endure varied degrees of rearguard action and also some vital missed opportunities that, in Clara's case, could have meant so much if converted. Yet, it was Mullinavat who had the precious lead all through and could not be caught and so held on for a 2-10 to 2-7 win, and a place in next year's senior championship.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2001

1st Round

St. Martin's 2-10 Graignamanagh 0-15
Bennettsbridge 2-11 Rower-Inistioge 1-10
James Stephens 1-9 Blacks & Whites 0-10
Carrickshock 0-14 Thomastown 0-10

Quarter-Finals

Mullinavat 1-19 Bennettsbridge 1-11
Mooncoin 2-10 Carrickshock 0-16
St. Lachtain's 0-15 St. Martin's 1-10
Clara 4-8 James Stephens 0-9

Semi-Finals

Mullinavat 1-11 Mooncoin 0-13
Clara 1-11 St. Lachtain's 1-11
Replay:
Clara 2-15 St. Lachtain's 0-16

Final

Mullinavat 1-5 Clara 1-5
Replay:
Mullinavat 2-10 Clara 2-7



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Larnród Éireann Minor County Final Presentation.
From left: **Joe Pyke** (Chairman, Bord na nÓg), **Paul Barron** (Captain, Carrickshock) and **Larry Dineen** (Larnród Éireann - Competition Sponsors) Photo Tom Brett

VERSATILE JOE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG HURLERS

Richard Holden

For Joe Walsh, playing with his club means everything and his love for hurling really shines through in this interview. "Everyone pulls together, there's a great camaraderie."

The Mullinavat man's best memories come from winning with the club and he gives particular mention to winning a Minor 'B' county medal in 1981, "It was the first decent thing in hurling that I won." "In fact, 1981 was probably my best year's hurling. I really enjoyed playing in the half-back line that year with Dan Power and Sean Murray - we had a great partnership together." Joe also won an Under-21 county medal that year.

There were scenes of great jubilation in the parish in 1984 when Mullinavat won the Junior Hurling Championship, their first adult title in over forty years. "The whole parish went crazy, bonfires were lit, there was great excitement." The junior team that year were trained by Monsignor Tommy Maher, who Joe thinks has been one of the best trainers he's ever come across, "He made hurling such a simple game, and revolutionised the way it was played."

In 1989, the club won its first Intermediate title beating a star-studded Young Irelands outfit in the final. Then, this year, after a series of near misses over the last couple of years, the 'Vat won the Intermediate Championship for a second time beating Clara in the Final, after a replay. "A lot of the players really matured this year. When we were last in the final two years ago against John Lockes, we had a lot of young players in the team and they were lacking a bit of experience. They really came of age this

year. When you get there often enough, you get to hate losing and don't want to have that feeling again the following year. I hate losing and wouldn't even feel like having a drink after losing a game." I asked Joe, what were the club's ambitions for next year. "We want to be competitive in the senior ranks and try and avoid relegation at all costs."

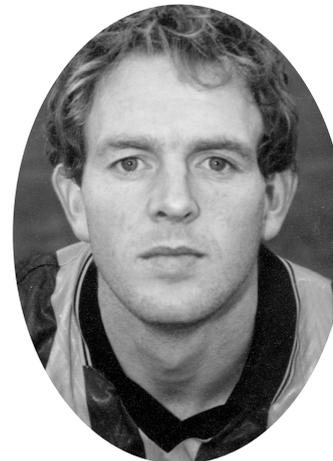
Interestingly, Joe has played most of his club hurling out the field, only reverting to the full-back line in the last four or five years. I asked him what he felt was his best position, "I definitely prefer playing in the backs. I had a bad experience playing at full-forward for the Kilkenny Under-21's in an All-Ireland Final against Tipperary when I missed a goal chance in the last minute - we lost by a point! After that, I've always preferred to play in the backs."

Despite winning a Junior All-Ireland in 1988 at centre-forward, Joe was only ever considered for a place in the full-back line when playing with the county senior team from 1992 to 1996, and he had no qualms about that. He made his debut for the seniors in '92 when he came on in the second-half to mark Tony O'Sullivan of Cork in a match to mark the pitch opening of the new field in Ballyhale, and went on to win two All-Irelands and one National League.

I asked Joe what were the main reasons behind Kilkenny's success in '92-'93. "In '92, Kilkenny hadn't won an All-Ireland in nine years and there was a fierce hunger in the team. In '93, we had much the same team and I suppose the momentum carried us through. Wexford gave us our biggest fright that year - they should have won the first day." In that Leinster Final, Kilkenny came from four points down in the last few minutes to earn a draw before going on to win the replay by seven points.

Joe played a prominent role in the '93 victory, playing in all the games up to the Final. "Making my senior championship debut against Offaly that year was my most memorable county experience." He admitted that not being brought on at any stage during the All-Ireland final ranked. "Not getting a run in the final having played in all the games up to the final was disappointing."

I asked the popular Mullinavat man for his views on Kilkenny's ultimately disappointing championship run this year. "Nobody expected them to be beaten by Galway, they got off to a bad start - it just didn't happen for them on the day." I then asked him, did he think Kilkenny were good enough to come back and regain the All-Ireland title next year. "Yes, they have plenty of good hurlers and I



Joe Walsh

don't think this particular bunch of players will be satisfied with winning just the one All-Ireland. I think Andy Comerford will make a great captain - he's a real leader. I heard that, before the County Final this year, he went around to each player's house and told them what would be required from each of them to win the title. It's a great help to have leaders in the dressing-room. I remember Liam Fennelly, Richie Power and Christy Heffernan played a huge part in our All-Ireland win of '92, both on and off the field.

I asked Joe, what he felt about the new Championship system for next year. "I think it's an improvement on the last system anyway. Why was it just teams who got to their Provincial Final getting a second chance? Hurling needs more games and good players need to be seen on television regularly during the summer. I still think though, that it will suit the stronger teams. I feel the League should play some role in the Championship, as, at the moment, it doesn't really have any relevance."

How long more does Joe see himself donning the black and white of Mullinavat? "I love the game and will keep playing for a few more years, anyway. Thankfully, I've been lucky enough with injuries during my career, apart from the cruciate ligament injury I picked up last year which was mainly caused by wear and tear."

Joe is a lover of all sports, particularly horse-racing and golf and has also won four handball All-Irelands with the legendary "Ducksie" Walsh. However, hurling is his abiding passion. It was a pleasure to interview such an enthusiast for our national game and if ever the GAA needed to market our games, it is now with all the competition from rugby and soccer. They could do a lot worse than enlist the help of people like Joe Walsh, DJ and Jamesie O'Connor to promote the real beautiful game.

Night of the Rebounds!

Leinster Intermediate Hurling Championship

Kilkenny were going for their fifth Leinster Intermediate title on the trot when they faced Laois in Portlaoise's O'Moore Park on Wednesday July 4th. Kilkenny lined out with a near new team from that beaten by Galway the year before in the All-Ireland semi-final in Birr. Only Joe Dermody, Ger Walsh, and John Barron remained. Lady Luck as no friend of Paddy Neary and his charges, as she completely ignored them on at least two occasions, when goal-bound chances were obstructed by the woodwork, and even the re-bounds were clattered into side netting. On another night, in a different arena, the scenario would probably have been more conciliatory from that demon of a lady.

To the O'Moore men's credit, they never gave up the chase, and even though Kilkenny had the assistance of players of senior inter-county experience like Ken O'Shea, Aidan Lawlor, Joe Dermody and Tom Hickey, nevertheless the Laois men showed great courage, commitment and a huge willingness to work for each other.

Early points by Joe Conroy, Tony Doran, Enda Meagher, and Jack O'Shea had the wind-assisted Laois men in front early on. A defensive slip-up, which allowed a long delivery from Vinny Palmer to end up in the Kilkenny net, rattled Kilkenny. They were on the point of pulling out their hair, when a goal-bound shot by Tullogher's John Barron thundered back off Kevin Galvin's goal, and the rebound was hammered into the side netting by Ken O'Shea, when on another occasion it would have been nestling in the corner of the net.

At half time, Laois led by 1-6 to 0-6, but Kilkenny were to have the assistance of the freshening breeze in the second half. But it was the O'Moore men who re-started in a livelier mode. Enda

Meagher pointed, and after Joe Dermody had made a cracking stop from a Vinny Palmer shot, the in-rushing Dessie Conroy fired home the rebound with a vengeance.

The Kilkenny lads redoubled their efforts. Ollie O'Connor was sprung from the bench. He signalled his arrival with two good points.

Ramie Cahill fired over a couple of more points, but try as they could, the Kilkenny forwards could not pierce a very resolute Laois back division for the

all-important goal. Players like goalkeeper, Galvin, and defenders, Brennan, Cuddy, Lowry, Doran, Mahon and McEvoy were very resolute and forceful, and with sharpshooters of the calibre of Enda Meagher, Vinny Palmer, and Dessie Conroy on board, it was always going to be a difficult task for Kilkenny to come away from O'Moore Park with a win. As it was, Kilkenny very nearly shared the spoils. Kenny O'Shea had the winning of the game in the dying seconds, but his goalbound shot was brilliantly halted by Galvin, who could have stopped the proverbial hayseed on the night. As the draw beckoned, Dessie Conroy had a last ditch long-range effort at a winning point, and as it sailed over Joe Dermody's crossbar, the euphoria was palpable for all Laois supporters.

Laois: Kevin Galvin, Liam Brennan, Pakie Cuddy, Brendan Lowry, Tony Doran, Lar Mahon, John McEvoy, Frank Cullinane, Enda Meagher, Kenneth Cuddy, Jack O'Shea, Dessie Conroy, Vinny Palmer, Barry McKelvey, Joe Conroy. *Sub:* Michael Dunphy,

Kilkenny: Joe Dermody, Ken Hughes, Tom Hickey, Niall Lahart, Paul Cahill, John Costelloe, Eamon Mackey, Aidan Lawlor, Michael Purcell, Ramie Cahill, Pat Tennyson, Ger Walsh, Cathal Dunne, Ken O'Shea, John Barron. *Subs:* Mossy Murphy, Ollie O'Connor.



Ken O'Shea almost pulled the game out of the fire.

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STARS OF THE PAST

Hurling stars of the forties and fifties at the Kilkenny GAA All Stars Winners' reception.

Paddy Buggy, Mick Walsh, Ned Fenton, Mick Kelly (Captain), Jim Hogan, Bill Cahill (RIP Aug 2001 - see Obituaries), Mick Brophy, Tom Walsh, Jimmy Murphy.



MAKING THE DRAW

Denis Hamilton (St Canice's Credit Union) picks the teams for the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship 2001 with Ned Quinn (Cathaoirleach) and Pat Dunphy (Rúnaí)

Photos Tom Brett

CLARA ON TOP OF HURLING WORLD!

Cumann na
mBunscoileanna
Report
By Dermot Dunphy



CLARA - CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA ROINN A AND CORN DE BHALDRAITHE CHAMPIONS

Back: Thomas Armitage, Brian O'Shea, Michael McDonald, Declan Rafter, David Hope, Thomas Byrne, John Prendergast.

Middle: Liam Frayne, Mr. R. Mulrooney Paddy Foley, David Langton, Michael Meany, Kevin Bolger, Keith Hogan, Martin Meany, James Nolan (Capt. Roinn A), Mike O'Riordan, Stephen Quinlan, Mr. J. Bolger, Tom Langton.

Seated: Conor Phelan, Patrick Galvin, James Dowling, Liam Ryan, Seán O' Shea (Capt. Corn de Bhaldráithe), Kevin Nolan, Brian Prendergast, Tom Ryan.

Every so often, from some corner of Cumann na mBunscoileanna's dominion, an exceptional team comes along, to dominate the schools' hurling year. 1999 - Tullogher-Rosbercon, 1996-97 Ballyhale, 1995 - Tullaroan, CBS or St Patrick's at regular intervals. This year, only one name was on everyone's lips from season's start - Clara.

Roinn C champions last year, Clara also won the INTO Mini-Sevens in 2000 and it was well known in school board circles that the boys from St. Colman's School would be strong again this year. Their first action of note was not on the field of play but at the board when they applied to play in Roinn A of the hurling league and this application was accepted. Clara meant business and were willing to go all out for the Roinn A Trophy and be top dogs in Kilkenny Schools' Hurling. The rest is history. The decision to go to Roinn A was well vindicated, Clara captured that trophy with aplomb. They also retained their Into-GAA Mini-Sevens title and for good measure added the Corn de Bhaldráithe to their bulging trophy cabinet. Only once were they tested fully over fifty minutes, when Roinn B Champions Castlecomer pushed them all the way in the second round of the Corn de Bhaldráithe. Many teams held them for forty minutes only to see a maroon train overrun in the final ten. The treble

was completed and this Clara side placed themselves in the Schools' Hall of Fame. One of the great teams. This, however, cannot be seen as the full story. Facts and figures do not tell the full tale of a team that hurled with style, panache and true class. From goalie to the subs' bench, this team was skilful and adept in the use of the camán. They had their stars, but what made this team special was the foot soldiers, who hurled with the same enthusiasm and no mean ability in making it possible for the stars to shine. They were, in school terms, the complete team and their two crushing wins on finals' week emphasized this. Pity poor CBS and Urlingford. It is a great achievement to qualify for a schools' final but both of these gallant teams met the same fate. They both battled hard in their respective finals, made Clara work hard for every score they got and in the end saw their hopes crushed in the final quarter as the team of 2001 claimed their place in Schools' Board lore. Well done to the Emeralds' boys and the boys of Scoil Iognaid Ris on reaching the finals of the Corn de Bhaldráithe and Roinn A leagues respectively. Congratulations to the team of 2001 - Classy Clara.

Return to victory!

'You have to win one to lose one!' An old GAA adage explaining how teams will come back after losing out at the final

hurdle to win through the next year. This can be tricky at schools' level as the team to come back sometimes has moved on to secondary level. However, over the years this old adage has been proved at schools' level and again this year, we had the perfect example, when Castlecomer returned to Nowlan Park to make up for the disappointment of 2000 and capture the 2001 Roinn B Hennessy Fuels' Title

Last year, there was no doubting Comer's disappointment when Piltown took the honours. This year, they showed that they had learned to handle the big occasion perfectly. The victory over a resurgent Thomastown showed great quality hurling and coolness under pressure. Racing into a big lead, Comer played classy hurling all over the field. Thomastown stormed back into the game in the second half with a steely resolve but then the experience of last year told as Comer steadied the ship to pull away again for a merited win in a great, great game. For Thomastown, they can hope to learn from this year past and look forward to 2002. For Castlecomer, a lesson learnt and a job well done.

Finishing in Style.

Anyone who has ever had any part to play with the famed Lisdowney Sevens will know how well organised it is and how committed a committee is involved.



CASTLECOMER - ROINN B CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Paul Healy, Raymond Dowd, Jimmy Byrne, Thomas O' Neill, Michael Murphy, Wayne Kavanagh, Peadar Boran.

Middle: Joseph Murphy, Eric Kavanagh, Pierce Dargan, Mark O' Neill, Brian Dillon, James Mullins, Conor Fogarty, Anthony Kavanagh, John Brennan, John Deevy.

Front: Cathal Murphy, James Tynan, Marie Dargan, Aidan Moran, Eddie Dwyer, Oisín Byrne, Gerry Callinan, Gavin Carroll, Kevin Salter.



LISDOWNEY - ROINN C WINNERS 2001

Back: Daniel Lyons, Shane Clyne, Peter Bergin, Alan Ruth, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Eddie Hickey, Eamonn Dunne.

Front: Martin Phelan, Patrick Burns, Sean Phelan, Aaron Fogarty, Ciarán Mackey (Capt.), Damien Clyne, Robert Buckley, Brian Bergin.



JOHNSTOWN - ROINN D CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: J. Curran (Principal and Coach), Damien Delaney, Séan O'Gorman, Séan Warren, Kevin Reid, Darragh Tobin, John Henderson, James Henderson, Maria Hughes, **Bowe**, Dan Hughes (Trainer)

Middle: Rory Phelan, David Ryan, Edward Hughes, John Whyte, Eoin Shiels, Eoin Phelan, Roisin Brennan.

Front: Breffni Vaser, Ciarán Behan, Diarmuid Broderick, James Quinlan, John Sweeney, Daniel Dermody, Martin Dermody.

Those involved also have a major input into the Lisdowney School side, none more so than Principal of gathabawn NS, Eamonn Dunne. Along with his fellow mentors, Eamonn had been a stalwart of Lisdowney Schools and this year, he retired from school life. For someone so involved in schools hurling, he couldn't have asked for a better retirement present as Lisdowney captured the Tedcastle Oils' Roinn C title for 2001. Neighbours and rivals Conahy provided the final test of a tough campaign. In a hard fought and close final, it was Lisdowney who just emerged winners. That the game was close was no surprise. These two teams and Ballyragget had fought a ding dong battle in the Roinn C/D northern group. Hard luck to Conahy who were competing in their second Roinn C final since the introduction of Roinn C/D three seasons ago. It's a great credit to the young Shamrocks who will surely collect this title soon. However, no one will deny that for a teacher retiring after a great commitment to schools' hurling, such a victory is sweet indeed.

Flying Fenians!

While many of the teams playing in the Finals this year were making return visits to Nowlan Park, the Roinn D Champions, Johnstown were making their first appearance for a while and captured their first title since 1983. The young Fenians were very unlucky to miss out on the Roinn C playoffs, just losing out to Gowran. In the end, Lady luck shone on them as they moved to the final of Roinn D where Dunnamaggin, last year's Roinn C finalists waited. The southerners put up a battling display but it was Johnstown who deservedly triumphed. A great club with a rich history, the Fenians future is well secure. As for Dunnamaggin, their schools' run of the eighties is coming to full blossom right now. There seems to be more of the same for them in the future.

INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens.

The Into/GAA mini sevens always produce exciting games and often as not a pointer for the year ahead when they are played just after Easter. This year proved no different as Clara completed a mighty treble, winning their second Hurling title. Keith Hogan, Liam Ryan and James Nolan represented their school in Croke Park in the G.A.A. / I.N.T.O. Mini Skills exhibition games. Keith, a brother of Kilkenny U-21 centre back Brian and a grand-nephew of Tom and "Link" Walsh, played on All-Ireland Semi-Final day. Liam, a son of Johnny Ryan who gives so much of his time to coaching the youngsters in Clara, also appeared on semi-final day. James is a son of another Clara stalwart, Gerry Nolan, and he played on All-Ireland Final day. In football, Thomastown showed that



KILKENNY CBS - EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES LEAGUE ROINN A FINALISTS 2001

BACK: Mark Bergin, Niall Kiely, Shane Maher, Christopher Lambert, Darren Leahy, Mark Kelly, Darren Kelly, Adrian Stapleton

FRONT: Stephen Lynch, Ger O'Donoghue, Philip Dunne, Conor Bergin, Stephen Murphy, John Traynor, Christopher Traynor-Boyle..



THOMASTOWN - ROINN B FINALISTS 2001

Back: D Brannigan, J Hynes, JJ Farrell (Captain), D Wafer, P Caulfield, P Khan, T Brennan, R Hughes, S Cody, R Dimond.

Middle: M Stapleton, E Reade, A Aylward, J Hanrahan, P Conway, I Egan, C Moran, J Forristal, G Morrissey
Back: J Griffin, P Barron, W Delehunty, J O'Connor, J Mullally, D Burke, J Walsh, T Moore, D Prendergast, S Donoghoe.



CONAHY - ROINN C FINALISTS 2001

Front: Mariga Nolan, Conor Whelan, Barry Watters, Philip Murphy, James Delaney, Gearóid Whelan, Paddy Mullan, Pádraig Delaney, Lisa Nolan, James Murphy.

2nd Row: Rachell Cody, Sean Delaney, Noreen O'Keeffe, Fiona Muldowney, Eimear Harding, Pádraig Hally, Michael Egan, Donal Brennan, Pádraig Harding.

3rd Row: Noelle Corrigan, Marie Dollard, Gary Kavanagh, David Maher, Kieran Mooney, Telio Maher, David Baldwin, Joseph Delaney, Colin Murphy.

4th Row: Jim Murphy, Patrick Cass, Andrew O'Keeffe, David Healy, Joseph Cass (Capt.), Brian Meagher, Darren Rafter, Nickey Brennan.

their successes of the past year could be brought to the seven a side pitch also and the Country cup football Champions also represented Kilkenny at the Regional Football Sevens. The Thomastown side was well represented at Croke Park. Ross Dimond and Cian Moran played at the semi-final day between Kerry and Meath while John Joe Farrell had the honour of gracing Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day itself. The girls' titles both went to Mullinavat, where the ladies of St. Beacon's saw off all comers to capture both Camogie and ladies' Football titles. Bi-location was the order of the day for the regional games as the camogie players headed for Laois and the girls' footballers for Wicklow. Lucinda Gahan and Christine Murphy impressed at camogie as they played at the All-Ireland semi-final day against Galway, while Regina Madigan wore the Galway colours when she played at their football semi-final day meeting with Derry.

The handball went from strength to strength and with beginner groups there was a huge increase in participation with over 100 children playing. From the regional finals three Kilkenny players winning to the National fun day in Croke Park's famous alley. Patrick Nolan of Muckalee won the Under 13 boys' singles and brothers Patrick and Peter Funchion of Callan CBS won the Under 11 boys' doubles. Patrick Nolan is no stranger to this success and the Funchion brothers will surely get another chance, especially Peter, qualifying for Croke Park at the ripe old age of eight. Well done to all who played in Croker!

Bowing out.

We mentioned that Lisdowney's win in June marked a great end for Eamonn Dunne of Gathabawn NS, who stepped down in October. Eamonn was not the only teacher involved with school games to retire this year.

Frank Madigan of Tullogher-Rosbercon also called it a day. Frank, a Clareman, guided Tullogher-Rosbercon to much success in latter years and served as Chairman of the board only three years ago.

Tommy Hayes in Inistioge steps down after over 40 years service in education. Tommy was very involved in schools' hurling with the Rower-Inistioge and also served as Board Chairman on a number of occasions. For a while, Tommy received help in Inistioge from Pat Kearney, who then moved onto Paulstown as principal, where Pat gave time with Goresbridge-Paulstown. Pat, also, has decided to take a back seat from from the classroom. To all, we say thank you for your great contributions to schools' hurling in Kilkenny and wish all well in what we hope are long and happy retirements.



Dunnamaggin Roinn D Runners-up 2001

Back: Nicky Mc Carthy, Jim Power, Darren Coffey, William Hughes, Shane Kelly, Ann-Marie Phelan, Elaine O Shea, Aine Delaney, Mandy Egan, Katie Kirwan, Aisling Mc Cormack, Lynne Power.

Middle: J.J. Dunphy, Connor Coffey, Eoghan Wallace, Patrick Kenneally, James Kelly, Luke Fahy, Richard Carney, Brendan Martin, Michael Hoynes.

Front: Clodagh Phelan, Alison Deleahunty, Caroline Mc Carthy, Fiona Delaney, James Kehoe, Mark Cleary.



Urlingford - Corn de Bhaldrathie Finalists 2001

Back: Gary Peters, Stephen Phelan, James Kavanagh, Ian Grant, Jason Moore, Joseph Clohosey, Edward Hayde, Mark Phelan.

Row 2: John Norton, Shane Neary, Noel Cleere, Conor Costello, Richard Hetherington, Albert Tobin, Joseph Doheny, Shay Butler, Dermot Dunphy (Coach).

Row 3: James Leahy, Richard Breen, Shane Norton, Padraig Phelan, Stephen Walsh, Tom Holohan, Peadar McGeehan, T.J. Moriarty.

Front: Nicholas Walsh, P.J. Nolan, Damien Fitzgerald, Brian Campion, Dylan Holmes, Daniel O'Dwyer.

New Cup:

This year, the Educational Supplies' Roinn A competition had a new trophy, the "Joe Dunphy Cup", as the prize for the eventual winners. The Dunphy family of Thomastown presented a cup to honour their father Joe Dunphy, who retired from teaching last year. Joe had served for many years with the board and is still Oifigeach na Gaeilge with the County Board. Joe presented the cup to James Nolan of Clara on the occasion of its first presentation.

Sponsors:

Each year, the work of the board is aided by the generous sponsorship received and we would like to say thanks to those

who help out schools' games. Church and General/Allianz are the national sponsors of Cumann na mBunscol. Here in Kilkenny we thank

Educational Supplies - Roinn A Hurling,

Hennessy Fuels - Roinn B Hurling,

Tedcastle Oils - Roinn C Hurling, Roinn D Hurling and Corn de Bhaldrathie (H),

Kilkenny Association (Dublin) - Roinn A Football,

Toymaster, High St. - Roinn B Football,

INTO - Mini-Sevens.

Educational Supplies' Roinn A Final

Clara on top of hurling World

Clara 4-13 CBS Kilkenny 1-5

Fortune smiles on the brave and in the hurling world, never was there such truth attached to the old saying as in this year's Primary School's Championship when a very plucky and skilful Clara team won the Roinn A Joe Dunphy Cup. This game was wrapped in history and intrigue. The cup was donated by long serving Cumann na mBunscoileanna official, Joe Dunphy. Add to this a Clara team who won Roinn C last year and made the bold decision to go for the big one and play their hurling in Roinn A this year.

Clara elected to play against the stiff breeze and it took only one minute before they registered their first score through James Nolan. The same player then added a lovely point from play to increase the winners' advantage. However two fine long range points from Adrian Stapleton and Mark Bergin levelled the match. Almost immediately Clara's dynamic full forward Liam Ryan broke through the C.B.S. defence. His smashing drive was brilliantly saved by Stephen Lynch but the intruding Stephen Quinlan finished to the net. Further points from Tom Langton, James Nolan (2) and Stephen Quinlan underlined Clara's superiority at this stage. However gradually the C.B.S. came to grips with their opponents' teamwork and their efforts produced two additional points from Mark Bergin and Niall Kiely. A wonderful long range point from Stephen Quinlan, who was having the game of his life, stretched the winners' lead leaving the half time score 1 ñ 7 to 0 ñ 5 in favour of Clara.

The second half resumed with Clara upping the pace. In a blistering 15 minutes, four points from James Nolan, a smashing goal from Liam Ryan after a wonderful pass from his captain and a beautiful point from Brian O' Shea left the large crowd in no doubt as to the destination of the Primary Schools' premier competition. The C.B.S. boys fought gallantly but further scores from a Tom Ryan overhead struck goal and two more James Nolan points did not reflect the efforts of the city boys. Nolan brought his tally to an incredible 1 ñ 9 with a well taken goal. C.B.S. were awarded a penalty in the dying minutes and Mark Bergin duly hammered the sliotar to the net.

The final whistle was greeted with great joy by the Clara boys who had rounded off a fantastic year in tremendous style. Goalkeeper Kevin Nolan was rock solid as he had been all season. David Langton was a colossus at full back ably supported by two very skilful corner backs, Declan Rafter and Se-n O' Shea. The half back line of the stylish Keith Hogan, the no nonsense Michael



Mullinavat - Into Mini Sevens Camogie Champions 2001

Back: Emma Fitzpatrick, Sarah Maddock, Lucinda Gahan, Christine Murphy, Rebecca Reade

Front: Cliodhna Foskin, Ellen Waters, Grainne Brennan, Kelly McCabe.
(Paula Butler in hospital for regional finals and absent from photo)
Selected for Croke Park - Lucinda Gahan and Christine Murphy



CLARA - G.A.A. / I.N.T.O. MINI SEVENS CHAMPIONS 2001

Standing: Brian O'Shea, Mr. J. Bolger, James Nolan, Keith Hogan, John Prendergast, Mr. R. Mulrooney, Michael McDonald.

Seated: Liam Ryan, Tom Ryan, David Langton, Tom Langton (Capt.), Sean O'Shea.



Mullinavat - INTO Mini Sevens Girls' Football Champions 2001

Back: Alison Duggan, Regina Madigan, Grainne Dalton, Lucinda Gahan, Paula Butler, Tara Curtis,

Front Row: Susan Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Cunningham, Sarah Maddock, Avril Delahunty, Christine Murphy, Sinead Phelan
Selected for Croke Park Regina Madigan.



Thomastown - I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens Football Champions 2001.

Back: Iain Egan, Paucic Comerford, Terry Brennan, Cian Moran.

Front: Thomas Moore, Ross Dimond, John Joe Farrell, Patrick Khan.
(Inset - Jamie Phelan, Paul Hoynes)

McDonald and the sweet striking John Prendergast were tremendous throughout. The engine of the team were the two midfielders Tom Langton and Tom Ryan with one braver than the other. Two unsung heroes Brian O'Shea and Stephen Quinlan delivered performances to be remembered while captain James Nolan led by example. His display was truly outstanding. The dazzling skills of the fearless Liam Ryan were a major factor in his side's success. Patrick Galvin, Mike O'Riordan and substitutes Martin Meany, Thomas Byrne and Conor Phelan all played substantial parts in their team's victory. The efforts of the C.B.S. boys should not be forgotten particularly their contribution to a tremendous first half of determined, skilful and courageous hurling. Stephen Lynch could not be faulted in goal. Christopher Boyle and Christopher Lambert gave great assistance to the tight marking Shane Maher. The losers best player was Mark Bergin when moved to centre back. Wing backs Gerard O'Donoghue and Darren Kelly gave everything in pursuit of victory. Midfielders Mark Kelly and Adrian Stapleton had a great tussle with their direct opponents. Conor Bergin, Niall Kiely and Philip Dunne tried valiantly against a very strong half back line. John Traynor, Darren Leahy and Stephen Murphy also had their moments. On presenting the cup to James Nolan, Mr. Joe Dunphy informed the young Clara captain that 50 years ago the great Ollie Walsh had received the Roinn A Cup as captain of

Thomastown school.

Clara: Kevin Nolan, Declan Rafter, David Langton, Sean O'Shea, Keith Hogan, Michael McDonald, John Prendergast, Tom Langton (0-1), Tom Ryan (1-0), Stephen Quinlan (1-2), Liam Ryan (1-0), Brian O'Shea (0-1), Patrick Galvin, James Nolan (Capt) (1-9), Michael O'Riordan, Martin Meany, Conor Phelan, Thomas Byrne, James Dowling, Paddy Foley, Michael Meaney, Liam Frayne, Brian Prendergast, David Hope, Matthew Byrne, Kevin Bolger, Thomas Armitage.

CBS: Stephen Lynch, Christopher Traynor-Boyle, Christopher Lambert, Shane Maher, Gerard O'Donoghue, Niall Kiely (0-2), Darren Kelly, Adrian Stapleton, Mark Kelly, Conor Bergin, Mark Bergin (1-3), Philip Dumme, John Traynor, Darren Leahy, Stephen Murphy, Gary Meany, Keith Kirwan, David Carter, Brian Dargan, Cillian Murphy, Brian Duffy, Patrick Rowe, Paul Barrett, Michael McDonald, Kevin Manning, Daniel Kenny, Oisín Walsh, Laurence Burke, Eoin Burke, Martin Gaffney.

Tedcastle Oils Corn de Bhaldrathe Country Cup Final

Clara 4-15 Urlingford 1-6

Clara justified their favourites tag when gaining a well merited victory over Urlingford in a fast, exciting exhibition of skilful hurling in the 2001 Corn De Bhaldraithe/Country Cup Final. Both teams must be given great credit for serving up a whole-hearted display of all that is best in hurling. While Clara were most deserving winners, Urlingford contributed hugely to the enjoyment of the occasion with display of gritty determination and an abundance of hurling skills.

The game opened at a frantic pace and it was obvious from the outset that both teams were highly talented and motivated. The teams traded early scores before corner forward Michael O'Riordan (C) latched on to a sideline and sent a great ground shot to the net. Full forward, Stephen Neary completed a fine Urlingford movement with a well-taken point from 25m out. Clara, however, stoutly resisted Urlingford's efforts to take command of the game and Liam Ryan made a daring solo run through the heart of the Urlingford defence and fired a rasping shot to the roof of the net. Three more points to Clara followed by an Urlingford point by Shane Neary saw the scores at the break read: Clara 2-6 Urlingford 0-4

Clara took the initiative early in the second half and, despite some sterling work from Noel Cleere and Gary Peters in the Urlingford defence, Clara maintained the pressure. Urlingford were given a new lease of life in the 8th min. when wing forward Shane Norton goaled after some good work by full forward Stephen Neary. The outcome of the contest had remained in doubt up to this point as the teams swapped points but entering the last quarter of the game, the stylish and confident Clara side stamped their authority on the game. Three quick points for Clara were followed by a goal from Martin Meaney. In the last few minutes of the game, James Nolan (C) added two further points and concluded his own wonderful performance with a well taken goal.

What can one say of this Clara team ? "Tá siad molta agus mé im' thost". Their performances on the field of play through the year were ample testament to their qualities. In skill, determination and teamwork they were majestic in this final and indeed throughout the year. They played with a discipline and organisation that reflects well on themselves and their mentors. Particularly prominent in defence was corner back and captain Seán O'Shea, who led by example, giving a sterling performance. Centre back, Michael Mc Donald hurled with style and determination and was ably assisted by Keith Hogan. The mid-field pairing of Tom Langton and Tom Ryan worked heroically to great effect and ensured a good supply of ball to the forwards. James Nolan at centre forward gave a memorable performance and finished with a marvellous personal tally of 1-12. His array of hurling skills and unwilting energy won the admiration of all spectators. Full forward, Liam Ryan also proved to be an excellent stickman and is surely another exciting prospect for the future.

Even in defeat, Urlingford emerged from this final with an enhanced reputation. This well drilled side showed great tenacity and courage in the face of adversity, while at the same time embellishing the occasion with some elegant stickwork. Particularly impressive were goalkeeper, Jason Moore and the stout hearted, talented full-back, Noel Cleere. Gary Peters at corner back was soundness personified. Ian Grant got through an amount of work at midfield, while wing forward Richard Breen was tireless in his efforts. Full forward, Stephen Neary worked hard and caused some anxious moments in the Clara defence.

Clara: Kevin Nolan, Declan Rafter, David Langton, Seán O'Shea (Capt.), Keith Hogan (0-1), Michael Mc Donald, John Prendergast, Tom Langton, Tom Ryan, Stephen Quinlan, James Nolan (1-12), Brian O'Shea, Patrick Galvin, Liam Ryan



Clara N.S. Representatives in Croke Park

Keith Hogan, Liam Ryan and James Nolan represented their school in Croke Park in the G.A.A. / I.N.T.O. Mini Skills exhibition games. Keith, a brother of Kilkenny U-21 centre back Brian and a grand-nephew of Tom and "Link" Walsh, played on All-Ireland Semi-Final day. Liam, a son of Johnny Ryan who gives so much of his time to coaching the youngsters in Clara, also appeared on semi-final day. James is a son of another Clara stalwart Gerry Nolan and he played on All-Ireland Final day.



New Cup

This year the Roinn A competition was played for the new Joe Dunphy Cup, presented by the Dunphy Family, Thomastown. At its first presentation are Pat Duggan (Chairman, Cumann na mBunscoileanna), Joe Dunphy, James Nolan (Clara Captain), Richard Mulrooney (Principal Clara NS), John Bolger (Clara NS)

(1-2), Michael O'Riordan (1-0).

Subs: Martin Meaney (1-0), Conor Phelan, Thomas Byrne, James Dowling, Paddy Foley, Michael Meaney, Liam Freyne, Brian Prendergast, David Hope, Matthew Byrne, Kevin Bolger, Thomas Armitage.

Urlingford: Jason Moore, Edward Hayde, Noel Cleere, Gary Peters, John Norton, Conor Costello, Pádraig Phelan, Shane Neary (0-4), Ian Grant, Shane Norton (1-0), Joseph Doheny (Capt.), Richard Breen, Joseph Clohosey, Stephen Neary (0-2), Shay Butler. Bernard Power, Peadar Mc Geehan, Albert Tobin, Tom Holohan, Jason Scully, James Kavanagh, Brian Campion, Steven Phelan, T.J. Moriarty, Richard Hetherington, Stephen Walsh, Damien Fitzgerald, James Leahy, P.J. Nolan, Daniel O'Dwyer, Dylan Holmes, Mark Phelan, Nicholas Walsh.

Referee : John Minogue.

Hennessy Fuels Roinn B Final

Castlecomer 6-8 Thomastown 5-4

Castlecomer captured the Hennessy Fuels Roinn B title in an pulsating and exciting game. The Comer boys withstood a great second half rally from a gallant Thomastown side and a goal in injury time sealed victory. After the disappointment of falling at the final stage last season, there was unbridled joy at the final whistle, while for Thomastown, there was bitter disappointment after a gargantuan second half effort came up just short in their quest for glory.

The boys from Ladywell NS found themselves fourteen points adrift early in the second half, and where many teams would have conceded defeat, Thomastown did not, and brought the deficit down to a puck of the ball with minutes remaining, before a late Comer rally finally decided the destination of the Hennessy Cup. Both sides deserve full credit for their efforts and skills as they enlightened a lovely summer evening with a hugely entertaining game.

The first quarter was very even and both sides struck for early goals. The game ebbed and flowed before Conor Fogarty struck the first of eight points for Castlecomer from placed balls on eight minutes. John Joe Farrell replied with a pointed free for Thomastown after the 'Town boys had upped the tempo with direct ground hurling.

From the fourteenth minute of the half, the game swung in Castlecomer's favour. Patrick Khan pulled off a great save in the Thomastown goal but Eric Kavanagh pounced on the rebound for a goal. Michael Murphy got his second goal following a scramble in the Thomastown goalmouth. Comer were dominant around the middle and Conor Fogarty pointed any frees conceded. In between, Thomastown got a glimmer of hope when Richard Hughes goaled on twenty one minutes, but Edward Dwyer finished a sweeping Comer move for another goal. At the break, the boys of Castlecomer and Firoda Schools were nine points clear, leading 4-4 to Thomastowns 2-1.

Within six minutes of the restart, it looked all over bar the presentation. Thomastown had use of the wind but when Eric Kavanagh struck for his second goal for Comer the Erin's Own lads were fourteen points clear. John Joe Farrell had a great effort turned over over the bar for a Thomastown point and this marked the beginning of the Thomastown recovery. Thomastown now took the initiative and two quick scores saw them back in the game. Andrew Aylward added a goal when a long delivery went all the way to the net and with four minutes left, Ross Dimond pounced on a loose ball and fired to the net. The difference was now a goal, a single stroke of the ball. The next few minutes were hectic with full blooded efforts on both sides. Conor Fogarty's eighth point from a '65 gave some breathing space and Castlecomer went forward again. With the game in injury time, Edward Dwyer took matters into his own hands and with a strong run blasted the ball to the Thomastown net to end any hopes for the southern boys and seal a win for Castlecomer.

For the victorious Comer boys, their middle diamond was outstanding with Donal Fenlon, Conor Fogarty, Edward Dwyer and Jimmy Byrne always in the thick of things. Anthony Kavanagh dealt well with most assaults on his goal while the full back line all gave a good account of themselves. The wing backs, John Brennan and James Mullins both played a lot of ball while Peadar Boran had a good game at wing forward. Michael Murphy took his scores well before retreating to goal, and Eric Kavanagh showed himself to have a good eye for the net with well-taken goals.

Thomastown showed great spirit and courage in their fightback. Andrew Aylward gave his all in whatever position he was asked to play. Patrick Khan played well in goal and made a big difference when brought out field. In the backline, Pauric Caulfield, Cian Moran and Darragh Wafer all tried hard while Ian Egan gave his all at midfield. John Joe Farrell contributed some nice scores and Ross Dimond gave everthing in the full forward line. Jonathan Hynes played well when taking over goalkeeping duties in the second half.

Castlecomer: Anthony Kavanagh, Paul Healy, Wayne Kavanagh, Pierce Dargan, John Brennan, Donal Fenlon,

SCOREBOARD 2001.

Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A).

Clara 4-13 CBS Kilkenny 1-5

Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B).

Castlecomer 6-8 Thomastown 5-4

Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) Hurling League (Roinn C).

Lisdowney 1-7 Conahy 1-3.

Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D).

Johnstown 4-4 Dunnamaggin 1-2

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie.

Clara 4-15 Urlingford 1-6

GARDA SIOCHANA CITY CLASS LEAGUES

Second Class:	St. Patrick's beat St Canice's
Third Class:	St. Canice's beat St. Patrick's
Fourth Class:	St. Canice's beat Gaelscoil Osrai
Fifth Class:	St. Canice's beat St. Patrick's
Sixth Class:	St. Patrick's beat KK CBS

INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens

Hurling:	Clara.
Football:	Thomastown.
Camogie:	Mullinavat.
Girls' Football:	Mullinavat.
Girls' Handball:	
<i>Under 11 (S):</i>	Hannah O'Keeffe (Kells)
<i>Under 11 (D):</i>	Sheila Purcell/Claire Comerford (Windgap)
<i>Under 13 (S):</i>	Gráinne Hackett (Callan)
<i>Beginners:</i>	Lydia Phelan (Stoneyford)
<i>Under 13 (D):</i>	MaireTherese O'Neill/Claire Love (Clogh)
<i>Beginners:</i>	Eilis Cantwell/Deirdre Haughney (Muckalee)
Boys' Handball:	
<i>Under 11 (S):</i>	Mark O'Dwyer (Stoneyford)
<i>Beginners:</i>	Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge)
<i>Under 11 (D):</i>	Patrick Funchion/Peter Funchion (Callan CBS)
<i>Beginners:</i>	Michael Cass/Damien Barcoe(Goresbridge)
<i>Under 13 (S):</i>	Patrick Nolan (Muckalee)
<i>Beginners:</i>	Mark Kelly (Kilkenny CBS)
<i>Under 13 (D):</i>	Eamonn Foley/Niall Mullally (Stoneyford)
<i>Beginners:</i>	Liam O'Sullivan/Keith Phelan (St. Johns)

James Mullins, Conor Fogarty (0-8), Edward Dwyer (2-0), Peadar Boran, Jimmy Byrne, Thomas O'Neill, Eric Kavanagh (2-0), Michael Murphy (2-0), Aidan Moran, Raymond Dowd, Liam Bergin, Joseph Murphy, Gerry Callinan, Marie Dargan, James Tyan, Brian Dillon, John Deevy, Caoman Dunne, Mark O'Neill, Oisín Byrne, Cathal Murphy, Gavin Carroll, Michael Mansfield, James Sherwood, Kevin Salter.

Thomastown: Patrick Khan, Pauric Caulfield, Peter Conway, Thomas Moore, James O'Hanrahan, Darragh Wafer (0-1), Cian Moran, Iain Egan, Richard Hughes (1-0), Andrew Aylward (3-1), John Joe Farrell (0-2), Stephen Cody, Terry Brennan, Ross Dimond (1-0), Eoghan Reade, James Mullally, Jonathan Hynes, John Griffin, Stephen Donoghie, Jack O'Connor, David

Prendergast, Paul Barron, Jamie Walsh, Darren Burke, David Brannigan, James Forristal, Gavin Morrissey, Mark Stapleton, William Delahunty.

Tedcastle Oils 13 Roinn C Final

Lovely Lisdowney!

Lisdowney 1-7 Conahy 1-3

"What a match!" was Cumann na mBunscoil Chairman, Pat Duggan's summing up as he presented the Tedcastles Oils Roinn C trophy to Lisdowney captain, Ciarán Mackey. Lisdowney had survived a titanic struggle in overcoming a gallant Conahy team by 1-7 to 1-3 in Nowlan Park. The game had all the hallmarks of a draw but in the last few minutes Lisdowney pulled out all the stops to storm to victory. An opportunistic goal by corner forward, Alan Ruth gave Lisdowney the vital lead and, in the dying moments, a point from a 65 by centre back, Shane Clyne secured the victory.

The first half was a welter of excitement with both sets of backs in excellent form. The Lisdowney forwards forced the Conahy backs into some errors, from which they converted three frees, two points from Shane Clyne and one from Ciarán Mackey. The Lisdowney captain added a point from play. Meanwhile Conahy scored three points, two points from frees by Kieran Mooney and a point from play by David Maher to give Lisdowney a slender one point lead at half-time.

The second half continued with the same, almost unbearable excitement and trojan efforts from players on both sides. Ciarán Mackey stretched the lead with a lovely point from a ground ball and when Shane Clyne pointed his third free, Lisdowney were looking good. But Conahy came fighting back and mounted enormous pressure. They were rewarded with a goal, even though it came from the boot of a Lisdowney back, following an unfortunate stumble. Now the teams were level and both sets of supporters in the stand could barely stand the tension as they roared their heroes onwards. Full time was looming but a few stoppages for injuries would mean extra time. It was then that Alan Ruth (goal) and Shane Clyne (point) secured a famous Lisdowney victory.

There were stalwarts on both sides. Andrew O'Keefe in the goal, Joseph Delaney, Kieran Mooney and Maria Dollard were the pick of a very competent back line for Conahy. Noelle Corrigan and David Maher were in control at centre field for much of the game, while captain Joseph Cass and David Baldwin were best of a busy but subdued forward line.

Aaron Fogarty had his best game of the season in the Lisdowney goal with a number of important saves to his credit, especially in the first half. Shane Clyne was "man of the match" at centre back, not alone clearing his lines time and time again but converting all four long distance frees. Around him Patrick Burns and Martin Phelan were also very competent while the three younger backs, Brian Bergin, Damien Clyne and Robert Buckley grew in stature and dedication as the game progressed. The "own goal" was the only score they conceded in the second half.

Peter Bergin and Vincent Fitzpatrick found the going tough for long periods but they came to the fore when it mattered in the second half..

Up front the forward line was capably led by captain and centre forward, Ciarán Mackey.

Raymond Fitzpatrick was constantly causing problems on the

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right wing with his usual dashing runs. Sean Phelan, Daniel Lyons and Eddie Hickey were always in the thick of things as were subs, Owen Warren and Niall Mackey. Corner forward, Alan Ruth was the hero of the hour with his saving goal at the critical moment.

Lisdowney: A. Fogarty, B. Bergin, M. Phelan, D. Clyne, P. Burns, S. Clyne (0-4), R. Buckley, V. Fitzpatrick, P. Bergin, R. Fitzpatrick, C. Mackey (capt.) (0-3), S. Phelan, D. Lyons, E. Hickey, A. Ruth (1-0), N. Mackey, O. Warren, K. Rowe, L. Carroll, J. Delaney, R. Hickey, S. Murphy, S. Healy, J. Healy, M. Lennon, S. Ruth, K. Delaney, C. Glendon, J. Burns.

Conahy: A. O'Keefe, D. Healy, J. Delaney, C. Murphy, D. Rafter, K. Mooney, M. Dollard, N. Corrigan, D. Maher, D. Baldwin, J. Cass (Capt.), G. Kavanagh, T. Maher, P. Cass, B. Meagher, J. Murphy, P. Harding, S. Delaney, P. Mullins, L. Harding, N. O'Keefe, D. Brennan, C. Whelan, J. Delaney, G. Whelan, J. Mullins, T. Mullins, M. Nolan, R. McEntee, P. Healy.

Footnote: After the trophy presentation the Lisdowney panel, through captain Ciarán Mackey and former Lisdowney principal Larry Hamilton, made a special presentation to teacher Eamonn Dunne to mark his retirement after 38 years coaching under-age teams in the parish. What a way to go!

Tedcastle Oils Roinn D

Johnstown Joy

Johnstown 4-3 Dunnamaggin 1-2

Johnstown captured the Tedcastle Oils' Roinn D hurling title, their first schools' title in eighteen years, when they defeated Dunnamaggin, who were appearing in their second consecutive decider. This was an entertaining game with the final margin of victory not reflecting Dunnamaggin's great efforts. The first score came after five minutes when Eoin Shiel caught a good free from Sean Warren to blast the ball to the net and

Johnstown into a lead they would never lose. Diarmuid Broderick added an immediate point for Johnstown before they went further ahead with a fortunate goal. The game swung very much in Johnstown's favour and Diarmuid Broderick landed his second point. Dunnamaggin tried hard but opportunities were lost and they found themselves twelve points adrift after John Henderson pointed a 65 and Eoin Shiel added a second goal. However, just before the break they got a great boost. Brebhan Martin caught a delivery from Nicky McCarthy and blasted to the net. A minute later Nicky McCarthy pointed a free and at the break there was a glimmer of hope for Dunnamaggin as they trailed by 8 points.

Within a minute of the second half, Dunnamaggin pointed through Nicky McCarthy and a revival looked on the cards. However, the half, spoiled by bad weather, only produced one more score, when Damien Delaney goaled for Johnstown. Defences dominated to the end and the slippery conditions led to chances missed at both ends.

Johnstown merited their victory. John Henderson was a tower of strength and his mighty clearances were a feature of the game. Darragh Tobin and Sean Warren met great resistance from J.J. Dunphy and Nicky McCarthy in a super midfield battle. Diarmuid Broderick was a delight to watch and Eoin Shiel took great goals for Johnstown. For Dunnamaggin Elaine O'Shea and Anne Marie Phelan both excelled.

Johnstown: John Whyte, Eoin Phelan, John Henderson (0-1), James Henderson, Edward Hughes, Kevin Reid, Ciaran Beehan, Darragh Tobin, Sean Warran, Diarmuid Broderick (0-2), James Quinlan, John Sweeney, Sean O'Gorman, Eoin Shiels (3-0), Damien Delaney (1-0), Daniel Dermody, Rory Phelan, David Ryan, Maria Hughes, Roisin Brennan, Jim O'Grady, Thomas Bowe.

Dunnamaggin: William Hughes, Eoghan Wallace, Jim Power, Aine Delaney, James Kehoe, Elaine O'Shea, Darren Coffey, Nicky McCarthy (0-2) J.J. Dunphy, Patrick Kenneally, Anne Marie Phelan, Luke Fahy, James Kelly, Brendan Martin (1-0), Shane Kelly, Katie Kirwan, Michael Hoyne, Conor Coffey, Matthew Moylan, Mandy Egan, Aisling McCarmack, Lyn Power, Richard Kearney, Caroline McCarthy, Fiona Delaney, Marc Cleary, Alison Delahunty.

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LIAM AYLWARD, T.D.

Greetings to all my Supporters

Good Luck, Kilkenny in 2002



Emeralds make the Breakthrough!

Junior Report
by
Richie Stone
&
Jimmy Walsh



EMERALDS - COUNTY JUNIOR CHAMPIONS & ALL COUNTY LEAGUE WINNERS 2001

Back: Ray Moriarty, Aidan Fogarty, Alan Guilfoyle, Derek Lyng, Michael Doyle, Niall Cahill, Brendan Cahill, Austin Cleere.
Front: Emmett Kavanagh, Ger Joyce, Philip O'Dwyer, Colin Grant, Brendan Joyce, Ken Hughes, Sean Tobin.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



WINDGAP JUNIOR HURLING SOUTHERN CHAMPIONS & CAHILL CUP CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Pat Foley, PJ Barrow, William Walsh, Vincent Meehan, Brendan Barry, Tom Egan, Jimmy Walsh, Edmond Meehan, Enda Hawe, Trevor Jackman, Pat Walsh.

Middle: James Murray, Matthew Enright, Niall Doran, Aidan Mackey, Pat Power, Dermot O Shea, Niall Kenny, Gerry Meehan, PJ Egan.
Front: PJ Hawe, Colin Comerford, Paul McKenna, Anthony Meehan, Niall Phelan, Pádraig Power, Eoghan Guinan, Leo Power.

For the first time, clubs taking part in the Barlo-Nissan Northern junior hurling championship were given a chance to make amends for any slip up in the opening round thanks to the introduction of the back door system. A lively debate at a Northern Board meeting ended with delegates giving the board the go-ahead for a new system that gave one of the first round losers a second chance. When the draws were made, Emeralds (Urlingford) were installed favourites for the title. They had been paired with Dicksboro, and, on the previous years form, few would have bet against the Urlingford side. Other fancied sides were Conahy Shamrocks, Galmoy and Danesfort, while St Patrick's (Ballyragget) were being mentioned as the dark horses of the competition. The first major shock came on the very first day when a resolute Dicksboro condemned Emeralds to the losers' group with a thrilling one point victory 2-11 to 1-13. That result ensured there would be keen competition to stay out of the losers' group as it was felt that the Urlingford side were still the side to avoid despite that first round loss. Other surprises were to follow. Lisdowney beat Danesfort 1-12 to 1-10, while St Patricks were first held to a draw before being beaten in the replay by a strong Fenians side on a 2-14 to 1-14 scoreline. In the other games played, Graigue/Ballycallan beat Barrow Rangers 2-7 to 1-6. Conahy Shamrocks saw off the challenge of Cloneen while Galmoy just got the better of Erin's Own 3-12 to 4-8. Those results ensured that the losers' group would be just as interesting as the winners' section with some of the so called "big guns" left to battle it out for just one place in the semi finals. The first round of the winners' section saw Dicksboro continue their good form with a seven point victory over Graigue/Ballycallan. Conahy Shamrocks easily beat Clara and followed that up with a 3-8 to 2-10 win over Lisdowney to qualify for the semi finals while Galmoy completely outclassed a Fenians side that had lost several of its panel to their senior squad.

In the losers' group, Danesfort were well beaten by a very focussed St Patrick's while Emeralds had little trouble overcoming Cloneen. Barrow Rangers ended Erin's Own ambitions after a replay with an eight point win 3-7 to 0-8 to set up a deciding game with Emeralds, the pre-championship favourites, who had seen off a very disappointing St Patrick's 1-15 to 0-8. With Galmoy, Conahy Shamrocks and Dicksboro safely through to the semi-finals from the winners' group, this left Barrow Rangers and Emeralds to fight it out for the one remaining spot. The Urlingford men made no mistake winning on a 1-19 to 1-4 scoreline.

In the semi-finals, Emeralds got sweet revenge for their earlier defeat by Dicksboro, finishing strongly to win 1-15 to 2-5. The other semi-final was not so clear-cut. Galmoy needing a second bite of the cherry before recording a four point victory over Conahy Shamrocks, 2-12 to 2-8, and so set up a repeat of the 1999 final which Emeralds won after a replay.

In the Northern final, Galmoy got off to the better start going into a 0-5 to 0-2 lead after only eleven minutes. Alas for them, they lost their way at this stage and failed to score for the remainder of the half. By



PILTOWN SOUTHERN FINALISTS AND ALL COUNTY LEAGUE RUNNERS UP
Back: Liam Kenny, Richie Fitzpatrick, Dessie O Dea, John Malone, James Farrell, Michael Brennan, Andrew Norris, Michael O'Shea, James Connolly, Brian Farrell,
Middle: Johnny Falconer, Kevin Maher, Philip Kenny, Connor O'Shea, Jim Power, Tony Falconer, Pa Connolly, Richie Connolly, Andrew McCarthy,
Front: Ronan Costelloe, David Kirby, Brendan Doyle, Michael Galvin, Vincent Long, Tom Anthony.



GALMOY - NORTHERN JUNIOR FINALISTS 2001
Back: Noel Doherty, Paul Delaney, Philip Maher, Cathal Doherty, David Delaney, Brian Lonergan, Liam Drennan and Michael Brennan.
Front: Alan Gray, Niall Doherty, Phil Brennan (Captain), Martin Phelan, Brian Doherty, Shane Doherty & Jerry Drennan.



NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING SELECTION WINNERS JIM FARRELL MEMORIAL CUP 2001
Back: John Lyng (manager), Neil Drea, Brian Doherty, Michael Brennan, Lar MAhony, Ciaran Muldowney, Michael Doyle, Kieran Rafter, Dermot Maher, Sean Doherty (assistant manager and coach)
Front: Stephen Dorman, Noel Doherty, Niall Grogan, Alan Grey, Brendan Joyce, Shane Doherty, Ken Hughes, Ger Joyce.

this time, the Urlingford men had slipped into a 0-11 to 0-5 lead and looked on their way to an easy victory. The second half saw the Galmoy side show a big improvement. However, Emeralds kept their noses in front. By the three quarter stage, they were still six points clear. Galmoy were matching their more fancied opponents in every facet of the game at this stage except on the scoreboard. Then, with just three minutes remaining, they got the break their perseverance deserved when Alan Gray goaled to leave just two points in it. It was at this stage that Emeralds showed their class. Two points in as many minutes by the unerring Aidan Fogarty sealed a good victory for them and a crack at surprise Southern champions, Windgap in the county final

County final day turned out to be one of the wettest days of the year but, for once, the junior clubs had the better of conditions at headquarters. The junior final preceded the intermediate final so ground conditions were better for the junior game. Emeralds started at a whirlwind pace notching up 2-3 without reply in the opening ten minutes. Michael Doyle, Aidan Fogarty and, in particular, Austin Cleere were finding gaps in the Windgap defence. It took Windgap almost 13 minutes to register their first score, a point from a free by Pat Power after Pat Walsh had been fouled. The aforementioned Power and Ray Moriarty traded points before Windgap got their goal in the 21st minute. James Murray delivered a long drive onto the Emeralds 20 metre line where the wily Pat Walsh somehow deceived everyone before scooping the ball into the net.

A few minutes later, Jimmy Walsh kept Windgap in the game when he saved a kicked effort from Austin Cleere. A goal at this stage would have been a severe blow to the Southerners' cause. Walsh's save ensured that his side were still very much in contention at the break. At that stage, it was 2-4 to 1-2 in favour of the Northern champions. However, within a minute of the re-start, Emeralds made up for that miss when Alan Guilfoyle cracked home a great goal from just outside the 20 metre line after good work from Austin Cleere and Emmett Kavanagh. Windgap responded quickly with a point from a Pat Power free. The Southern champions upped their game after that but found scores difficult to come by. The scoring in the final quarter was pretty much even but the Urlingford men always maintained a five or six point advantage. Try as they might, Windgap could not get the goal they needed. A penalty by Niall Doran in the 43rd minute skidded over the bar and that just about summed up Windgap's day. No one could fault them for effort. They battled gamely throughout but this was Emerald's day. After a number of disappointments in the last few years, few could begrudge them their moment of glory. In an overall fine team performance, Ger Joyce, Austin Cleere, Michael Doyle, Aidan Fogarty and Emmett Kavanagh were very good while Derek Lyng also showed some fine touches. For Windgap, Gerry Meehan, Tom Egan, Aidan Mackey, PJ Barron, and Pat Walsh all stood out.

Scorers

Emeralds:- Austin Cleere 1-3, Emmett Kavanagh 1-2, Aidan Fogarty 0-3 (Two frees), Alan Guilfoyle 1-0, Ray Moriarty 0-2, Sean Tobin 0-1.



SOUTHERN SELECTION - JIM FARRELL CUP RUNNERS-UP 2001

Back: Ned Walsh (Piltown) Selector, Pat Walsh Windgap, (Selector/Player) Michael Sweeney (Kilmacow), James Connolly, (Piltown), Pa Connolly (Piltown) Paddy O Keeffe, (Kilmacow), P.J.Egan (Windgap) James Farrell (Piltown) P.J.Barron (Windgap), Tommy Falconer (Piltown). Brian Fleming (Kilmacow), Ted Rockett Selector, (Slieverue)
Front: Paul McKenna Windgap, James Power (Carrigeen) Declan Gahan (Kilmacow) Paul Long (Kilmacow) Brian Farrell (Piltown). Paul Knox (Slieverue) John Drennan, (Slieverue) Jamie Carroll (Carrigeen) Ted Haberlain (Kilmacow) Selector



John Cahill Presents the Paddy Cahill Cup to **Dermot O'Shea**, Windgap captain. **Ned Moran**, Chairman, Northern Board in centre.



TULLAROAN - JUNIOR A COUNTY & LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: David Cleere, Stephen Maher, Richard Cleere, Eamon Vampion, Adrian O'Dea, Joe Norton, Michael Walsh, Podge Kennedy, Nicholas Maher, Michael Walsh, Simon Walton.
Front: Sean Glennon, Michael Connolly, James Walton, Donnie Hogan, Jimmy Cleere (Capt), Derek Davis, Donal Doheny, Chris Breen, Richard Butler.
Photo Eoin Hennessy



ST LACHTAIN'S COUNTY JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Tervor Walsh, Eoin Morrissey, Paul Dowling, Tommy Kennedy, Pat Morrissey, Richard Dalton, John Connolly, Kevin Dalton, John Do Anderson, James Burke, Noel Walsh, William Walsh.
 Front: John Paul Kavangh, Tony Hughes, Davy Martin, Jonathan Doheny, Eoin Guinan, Richard Costelloe (Capt), James Maher, Noel Dalton,



SLIEVERUE - FENNELLY CUP SEMI-FINALISTS 2001

Back: Liam Knox Selector, Sean Doherty, Eamon Dowling, David Barrett, Martin Corcoran, Jamie Walsh, J Doherty, Michael Walsh, Liam Knox, Ted Rockett, Noel Wall, Sonny Walsh, Robert Drennan, Pat Walsh Selector
 Front: Eoin Phelan, Richard Walsh, Paul Knox, John Drennan, Brian Kirwan, Michael Forrestal, Niall Knox, Terry Brophy, Alan Atkins, David Walsh, Noel Murphy

Windgap:- Pat Power 0-6 (Five frees), Niall Doran 0-3 (One free one penalty), Pat Walsh 1-0, James Murray 0-1, Paul Mc Kenna 0-1.

Emeralds: Colin Grant, Ken Hughes, (Capt) Niall Cahill, Brendan Cahill, Phil O'Dwyer, Ger Joyce, Derek Lyng, Alan Guilfoyle, Aidan Fogarty, Michael Doyle, Sean Tobin, Ray Moriarty, Austin Cleere, Emmett Kavanagh, Sub: Joe Ryan

Windgap: Jimmy Walsh, Brendan Barry, Dermot O'Shea, PJ Barron, Aidan Mackey, Niall Kenny, Tom Egan, Gerry Meehan, PJ Egan, Paul Mc Kenna, James Murray, Matthew Enright, Niall Doran, Pat Walsh, Pat Power.
 Referee Paddy Neary (James Stephens)

IVERK SOUTHERN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Great interest preceded this year's junior championship with six teams lining up at the post for an enticing league programme. The return of a double bill semi final date was the prize for league success as hurling experts pondered the final outcome. Prediction's saw County Finalists Piltown tipped to go all the way after strong pressure from Tullougher Rosbercon who were just back from the Intermediate grade. Kilmacow All County



MT LEINSTER RANGERS - FENNELLY CUP FINALISTS 2001

Back: Patrick Kealy, Edward Coady, Gary Doyle, Michael Kealy, Andrew Hickey, Ger McKeever, Christy Kealy, Philip Brooks, Sean Michael Murphy, James Hickey, John Byrne.
 Front: Jimmy McEvoy TO Doyle, Killian Griffith, John Coleman, John Coady, Willie Hickey, Frank Foley, Karl Lawlor.

league semi finalists early form looked good enough to ensure a semi final place with surprise packet the newly promoted, young skilful Dunnamaggin side and neighbours Windgap likely to battle for the fourth place ahead of Slieverue.

That was the script the action that followed saw Dunnamaggin defeat Piltown in the first round then Tullougher as surprise followed surprise. Four rounds later five teams were still in the running for the semi-final places. To ensure fairness in

last round the games had to go on simultaneously with Windgap defeating Tullougher by a point in a thriller with a last minute Pat Walsh goal after coming from eleven behind at one stage. In Carrigeen Piltown inflicted Kilmacow's first defeat to gain a play off with Tullougher for the last semi final spot. On judgement day Piltown qualified when they shaded it by two points thanks to a Tom Anthony kicked goal which reversed the league result in Mullinavat.

The semi finals were contested in searing heat in Mullinavat and resulted in two high scoring thrillers. Windgap looked home and dry having dominated the early stages and leading 2-12 to 0-8 early in the second half. The tenacity of the Dunnamaggin side was rewarded as their never say die attitude had the lead down to a point with nine minutes to go. The final minutes were tense and exciting as Windgaps defence led by goalkeeper Jimmy Walsh held out. With all the play in Windgaps half the forwards broke away for three points to Dunnamaggin's two to give them a 2-15 to 1-16 win.

The second game was played at a different level of wide open hurling with Kilmacow looking the part after their second goal gave them a five-point lead early in the second half. However Piltown rallied and led by Liam Kenny and Michael Brennan recovered to take the day

The stage was now set on All Ireland football Sunday Piltown and Windgap returned to Hugginstown for a repeat of the 2000 final. Piltown's return to form following their All County League Final appearance and their 1-18 to 0-6 lead between the sides at one stage in the league game saw them start comfortable favourites. The game played in splendid conditions before a huge crowd took on a life of its own. Beaten finalists five times in seven years Windgap stormed into the game and powered by Niall Doran Aidan Mackey, Gerry Meehan Dremot O Shea and James Murray led by 0-10 to 0-2 at the break. In control throughout the second period Windgap with an extra man had to survive a number of goalmouth scares before a Pat Walsh goal. sealed the surprise 1-12 to 0-3 win.

In John Knox words in the paper on Wednesday " If anyone ever doubted the worth of the divisional championships they should have witnessed Windgap's unbridled celebrations. Grown men and women cried." as a parish celebrated the end of a famine when Dermot O Shea collected the clubs third Southern title

HENNESSY SPORTS ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE

Twenty-three teams including reigning champions Emeralds went into the draw for the seventh Hennessey Sports All County Junior Hurling League. The competition was run in three groups with all games being played at home or away venues.

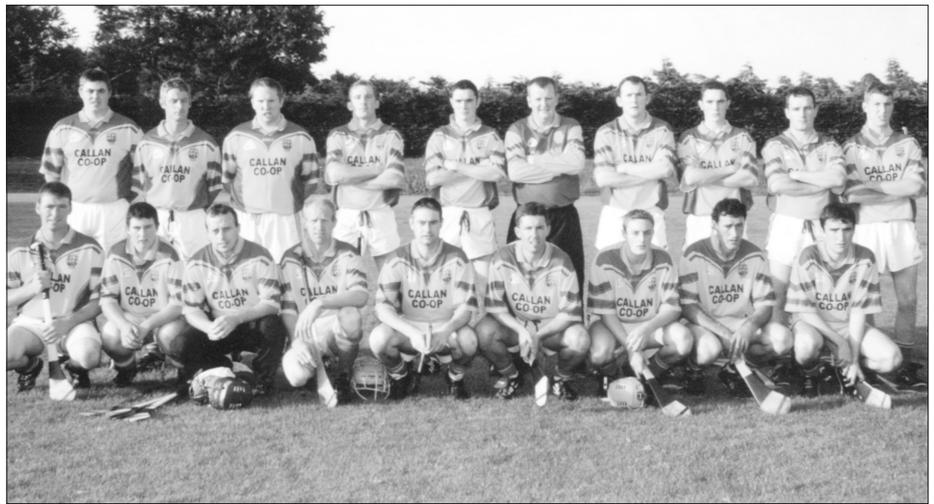
After seven rounds the Fenian's, last years finalists Danesfort, and fancied sides Tullougher Rosbercon and Conahy Shamrocks exited at the quarter finals

stages. In the semi finals between neighbouring sides Piltown defeated Kilmacow with the Emeralds overcoming Galmoy in close games.

The final itself saw the Emeralds put titles back to back when they defeated Piltown 0-16 to 1-10 in the Park. Following a splendid first half display when they led 0-



BALLINKILLEN FENNELLY CUP SEMI-FINALISTS/CARLOW SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2001
Back: Peter Ryan, Noel Walsh, Noel Cummins, Olan Corcoran, Derek Murphy, Paddy Brennan, Paul Williams, David Wall, Patrick Murphy, John Joe Barrett, Leonard Cummins, Michael Minchen, Martin Farrell, Paddy Foley, Ger Foley, Paul Maher, Tommy Cox.
Front: David Murphy, Sean Minchen, Aoibhinn Hickey, John Hickey, PJ Dowling, Thomas Walsh, Craig Wall, Andrew Gaul, Tony Meaney (Capt.) Jamie Wall, Patrick Minchen, Pat O Grady, Patrick Walsh, Micheal Doyle, Patrick Nolan.



JOHN LOCKES JUNIOR A FINALISTS 2001
Back: Seamus Corrigan, John Tobin, David Henriques, John Power (Coolagh) Barry Cahill, Denis O Sullivan, Conleth Nolan, Brian Cahill, Nigel Donovan, Padraig Murphy
Front: John Lynch, Ian Burke, Stuart Donovan, John Bergin, Tommy o Sullivan, Sean Hogan, Raymond Power, Jim Lynch (Captain) Michael Hartley.



MULLINAVAT SOUTHERN JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS
Back: Richard Raftice, Oliver Aylward, Pat Holden, Owen Maher, Andrew McGovern, Thomas Frisby, Ger. Anthony, AlanWall (Capt.) Dinny Butler, Seamus Farrell, Thomas Holden, Joe Kelly.
Front: Brendan Conway, Connor Conway, John Geary, Declan Duggan, Shane Frisby, Michael Duggan, Kieran Aylward, Alan Madigan, Brian Keneally.



KILMACOW SOUTHERN JUNIOR B LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Back: Ned Gahan, Lowry O Hanlon, Eugene Keneally, John Egan, Martin Moloney, Ian Power, Trevor Sutton, Greg Power, John Phelan, Connor Walsh, Damien Rafter, Paul Dwyer, Noel Dunphy.
Front: Willie O Toole, John Walsh, Shane Power, Ian Walsh, Dermot Haberlain, James O Neill, Damien Grant, Nicky Barron, Jimmy Walsh, Sean Flynn, Pat Gaulle.

12 to 1-4 at the break before Piltown rallied well and got to within a point of them with five minutes to go. On the day Ken Hughes Derek Lyng, Ger. Joyce, Alan Guilfoyle Micheal Doyle and Aidan Fogarty starred for the Emeralds with James Connolly, Michael Brennan, Brian Farrell, Conor O Shea James Farrell, and Jim Power offering a wholesome challenge for Piltown.

After eighty-three games the league table placing used for participation in the Cahill and Fennelly Cup competitions. A highlight of the competition has been the ongoing participation and progress of Carlow clubs Naomh Brid, Ballinkillen Mount Leinster Rangers and Erins Own (Bagnelstown). In a major breakthrough for two of the clubs Ballinkillen won their first Carlow Senior final in twenty eight years when they defeated Mount Leinster Rangers who were appearing in their first. The match was played in Dr. Cullen Park on the 23rd. of September.

CAHILL CUP

Owing to the fixtures pile up the competition reverted to a knockout system. The early rounds saw last years finalists Kilmacow and Galmoy provide a 2-15 to 4-8 thriller that set the tone for the competition as the holders Kilmacow just edged home.

As the competition progressed Windgap travelled to Kilmanagh for a semi-final appearance in with the home side. In another thrilling tie the visitors who were led at the break rallied to lead by the three-quarter stage. After they suffered a two-goal blitz, late in the second half the game appeared beyond reach until last minute points by Pat Walsh, Niall Doran and P.J.Hawe inspired the side to fashion a 2-15 to 2-13 win.

In the second semi final holders Kilmacow fell to St Patrick's Ballyragget in Palmerstown in a cracking semi final. Level at the break and still tied at 2-10 after fifty-three minutes, an enforced change on the St. Patrick's side turned the game. When Centre back Brian Tom Phelan retired injured, Brian Tim Phelan moved from number eleven to replace him. The introduction of Bob Lyttle at Centre forward brought instant results when he latched onto a pass and rifled to the net, An additional point from a penalty

secured a 3-11 to 2-10 win.

Having fallen foul of ongoing fixtures the final was played in Danesfort in early November and the result saw the title go South for the second year. Fresh from their under twenty-one final appearance the previous weekend St. Patrick's started positively and were unlucky to concede two goals against the run of play. Three quick points restored their confidence and the game was all to play for until Windgap pulled away in the final ten minutes.

FENNELLY CUP

In a unique final pairing Carlow side Mount Leinster Rangers faced Lisdowney in St. Johns Park. After a see saw game that the Rangers led for most of Lisdowney finished best in the last ten minutes to secure victory.

The semi finals saw Lisdowney overcome eventual Carlow champions Ballinkillen 4-10 to 4-7 after the Carlow side ended the game with a rush of scores in Nowlan Park. In Thomastown Southern side Slieverue had to give way to Mount Leinster Rangers on a 1-14 to 2-9 scoreline in a tight game.

JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

Newly promoted from the junior B division John Lockes continued their winning ways when they surpassed their A counterparts and defeated League holders and championship favourites Mooncoin in the final in Piltown. After a slow start John Lockes led by a point the break before Mooncoin took over and led until a Nigel O Donovan point levelled five minutes from time. After Michael Hartley gave his side a 1-9 to 2-5 lead they had to endure severe pressure to hold on for victory.

In the Northern Final a young skilful Tulluroan side defeated Threecastles 3-21 to 2-7 in the curtain raiser to the Northern Junior Final

In the County Junior A final Tulluroan joined the elite of clubs when their second squad joined the junior ranks when they defeated John Lockes in Bennetsbridge. In the game John Lockes opened best and were ahead 2-8 to 1-10 thanks to the efforts of Michael Hartley early in the second half. When Tulluroan got into their second wind they ran out 3-17 to 2-8 win-

ners. Northern stars on the day were Jimmy Walton, Eddie Campion, Adrian O Dea, Richard and David Cleere and Podge Kennedy with John Power (Coolagh,) Kevin Coffey, David Henriques and John Bergin being Callans best.

JUNIOR A LEAGUE

Times past were remembered when old rivals Northern Champions Tulluroan who had defeated O'Loughlins in the Northern final proved too strong for their Southern rivals Mooncoin who had overcome the Rower Inistioge in a well contested county final in Ballyhale. A feature of the years competitions saw the Tulluroan side play sixteen competitive games in the season.

JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP

A Saint Lachtains late late show saw them overturn a six point deficit with five minutes to go to run out 3-8 to 2-7 winners over a strong well fancied Mullinavat side in the Junior B county final in Bennetsbridge. Two goals by Jonathon Doheny in the final minutes turned joy sorrow and back for the opposing team's supporters as the Freshford side captured their first title at junior B level. Great play by Ger. Anthony, Connor Conway, Alan Wall, Eoin Maher, Willie Carroll, Alan Madigan and Dinny Butler for Mullinavat early on was piped on the line by the efforts of Davy Martin, Noel Walsh, James Burke, John Connolly, James Meagher, Thomas Kennedy and Jonathan Doheny.

In the Iverk championship Mullinavat benefiting from the regrading cut off point anomalie had an easy win over holders Kilmacow, Windgap and Carrickshock on their way to the final. In the Northern final St. Lachtains Freshford defeated James Stephens in Jenkinstown.

JUNIOR B LEAGUE

Clara defeated the Emeralds in Freshford in the Northern final and then reigning Southern title holders Kilmacow who had allready accounted for Tullougher Rosbercon in the County final.

JIM FARRELL INTERDIVISIONAL MEMORIAL CUP

In a new high profile initiative the junior representative game was scheduled to go

ahead of the Tipperary Allianz League tie. It eventually preceded the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship tie between Dublin Vs Laois on 20th. June. In the game the Northern alliance regained the Trophy with a solid victory. Played after six rounds of the League and entering exam times the Southern side were struck with injury problems in their smaller club base. Well ahead at half time thanks to the efforts Alan Grey Kieran Rafter Dermot Meagher, Noel and Brian Doherty and Ciaran Muldowney of the Northern selection had to give ground to a Southern revival led by Brian Farrell now at centre back James Farrell, James Connolly the introduction of team selector Pat Walsh and the outstanding efforts of Paddy O Keeffe in goal.

On the day both panels were presented with socks and were treated to a meal in Langtons compliments of the County Board

THE YEAR THAT WAS

The year started with the overwhelming decision of the Northern and Southern Boards to retain the five divisional championships at Junior and under twenty-one level. After that decision hurling resumed in earnest as clubs set out on in search of success.

The new Millennium brought sweeping changes especially to the victory roll of honour in the Southern division where only Kilmacow's Junior B-side managed to retain their title as six reigning Southern Champions and championship favourites fell in abundance.

The year saw increased co-operation between the Boards with five all county competitions played for. Highlights of the year saw a higher profile given to the games by the Year Book committee and a greater recognition for the junior interdivisional competition which was played in the Park for the first time.



St Pat's Ballyragget - Paddy Cahill Cup Finalists 2001
Back: Paudie Mulhall (Selector) Brian Phelan(Tom) Shane Phelan, Adrian Stone, Kieran Delaney, Robert Lytle, Mark Swan, Damien Walshe, Shane Dowling, Adrian Walshe, Brendan Dooley, Jody Phelan, Shem Kelly, John Staunton, John Kennedy, Richie Stone (Selector)
Front: Dennis Cody Michael Whelan, Stephen Roberts, Tom Carroll, Joe Dowling, Brian Phelan (Brook) Joe Lacey, Enda Holohan, Liam Gleeson, Niall Staunton.



MOONCOIN SOUTHERN JUNIOR A LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
Back: Michael Comerford, Michael Kinsella, Patrick Doyle, Vinny Power, Martin Murphy, Eamon Delahunty, Willie Fleming, Dick Mackey, Stephen Phelan, Allen Hennebery, Benny Mackey, Laurence Dunphy, Domo Connolly.
Front: Eamon Mackey, Bernard Keane, Eoin Doyle, John Grant, Ollie Dunphy, Jim Dunphy, Jamie Dunphy, Kevin Dunphy (Captain) David O'Brien, Billy Ryan, Andy Phelan, David Coady, John Ryan, Johnny Phelan.



THREECASTLES - NORTHERN JUNIOR A FINALISTS 2001
Back: Eamon Hennessy, Willie Watson, Paul Dalton (Capt), Brendan Walton, Gay Rafter, Robbie Webster, Jamie McCormack, Dick Dalton, Richard Teehan, Vincent Bolger, Jim Lyng.
Front: Martin Campion, Dick Teehan, Denis Butler, Shane Lyng, Gerry Rafter, PJ Trait, Adrian Webster, Cormac Ryan, Tom Lennon, John Trait, Mascot - Peter Dalton.
Photo Eoin Hennessy

'Shocks Fulfill a Prophecy!

Minor Hurling - Bord na nÓg Report



CARRICKSHOCK- ROINN A MINOR LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2001

Back: Garry Foley, Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, Damien Raggett, Anthony Holland, James Farrell, Paddy Mulcahy, John Murphy, Richie Power, Michael Rice, Patrick Duggan, Colm Mullally, Tom Brophy.

Front: Dinny Murphy, Paddy McNamara, Pauric Barron, John Tennyson, Richie Frisby, Brendan Hoyne, Paul Barron, James Moran, David Millea, Michael Rohan, Seanie Gibbons.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

The Iarnród Éireann Roinn A Minor hurling championship produced some of the very best hurling seen in any level of competition this year. Four teams less than last year competed for the Mick Joyce Cup. Gone were Graignamanagh, and Dunnamaggin. Gone too were Mullinavat and Danesfort/Bennettsbridge. But St Martin's and Blacks & Whites were in the top flight-the Skeaghvosteen men for the first time in their history.

Not since the halcyon days of the early forties has famed Carrickshock extracted such exciting rewards from the playing pitches of Kilkenny. This past year was a truly remarkable one for this club from the hamlets of Hugginstown, Newmarket and Stoneyford. They brought a huge groundswell of support with them. The Ballyhale youngsters too, did likewise. Carrickshock carried the favourites tag, having already beaten their opponents in the League Final. Their team was copiously peopled with players who had won the County Roinn A under-16 title. Shamrocks had been here before, and

won as well. It was Carrickshock's first such assignment.

In one of the best games of the year, the excitement was fever-pitch all through, with the result in doubt right to the wire. The Shamrocks opened smartly with two unanswered points from James "Cha" Fitzpatrick and Keith Nolan. The Shock posted early notice that they were not in Nowlan Park for the "excursion", and within six minutes of Nolan's point, they had taken the lead with a superb Damien Raggett goal. James Farrell nearly had a second one bagged for the Shock within a minute of Raggett's effort, but the ball whizzed wide. Richie Power was leading the Shock charge, and slotted over two good points by the 25th minute. Just as the half hour beckoned, James Moran slammed in a goal and a point for Carrickshock within a minute, with just three minutes left on the clock to the interval. The Shamrocks, stunned but resilient as always, replied with an Alan Knox goal to leave the half time score, Carrickshock 2-3 Shamrocks 1-3. After the break, the hugely impressive Richie Power kick-started the Carrickshock momentum with an early point. James Fitzpatrick negated that

with a point for his Shamrocks. Micheál Rice fired over a long range effort for Carrickshock soon after, and so it continued. The snipers on both sides were matching each other, point for point. The defences were vice-like on both sides. Forwards had to run oppressive gauntlets in their quest for goals which didn't materialise. Three unanswered points by Eoin Reid had but a single point between the sides midway through the gripping second half. As full time approached, Carrickshock were three points to the fore, and looking good things to make history. However, Eoin Reid stifled the roars of encouragement in the throats of the Carrickshock support with two marvellous points inside the last couple of minutes. A puck of a ball between the sides as referee, PJ O'Connor, eyed his watch. But cometh the hour, cometh the man, and Michael Rice certainly earned his keep for quite some time to come when he drilled over two terrific, match-winning points which precipitated a few marvellous days and nights of mardi-gras, a la Carrickshock. In a titanic struggle, every one of the Carrick stalwarts impressed. Brendan Hoyne as a makeshift goalkeeper was



BALLYHALE - ROINN A MINOR LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2001 *Photo Eoin Hennessy*

Standing: Michael Walsh, Shane Kelly, Michael O'Carroll, James Connolly, Michael Dermody, Robbie Aylward, Keith Nolan, Alan Knox, Pauric Holden, David Healy, Derek Fitzpatrick, Richard Holohan.

Front: Jason Nolan, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Eoin Reid, Michael Fennelly, Ger Holden, James"Cha" Fitzpatrick, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Edward Walsh, Barry Nolan.

Fitzpatrick, Michael Dermody, Jason Nolan, Eoin Reid, Robert Aylward, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Alan Knox, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, James Fitzpatrick, Subs: Shane Kelly, Barry Nolan, Edward Walsh, Richard Houlihan, Michael Carroll, Eamon Walsh

ROINN B

Erin's Own, St Lachtain's, Fenians, Bennettsbridge, Clara, Galmoy, St Patricks (Ballyraggett), and Conahy Shamrocks contested the North Roinn B Championship. Fancied Erin's Own had a 3-15 to 3-4 win over St Lachtain's in their first round. Clara, another fancied team, easily took care of Galmoy, while St Patricks beat Conahy by 3-14 to 1-11.

Bennettsbridge got a walk over in their game. The semi-finals were one sided to say the least, with Erin's Own beating Bennettsbridge by 3-22 to 0-2, and Clara inflicting another big defeat on St Patricks by 3-14 to 1-8. The North Final was keenly fought, and extremely close at the finish. Clara won by 1-14 to Erin's own 2-7. Conor Phelan, with 10 points was the chief architect of the very fine Clara win. Colin Dunne and Adrian Hennessy were the goal scorers for Erin's Own.

Down in the South, the Rower Inistioge were hoping to win the south title, thus giving them a chance of competing for



CLARA- ROINN B MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP & DIV 2 LEAGUE 2001

Back: Sean Murphy, Dermot Nolan, Patrick Foley, David Prendergast, Conor Phelan, Jack O'Keefe, Austin Murphy, John Phelan, Derek Knox, Ciarán Tobin, Denis Tobin.

Front: Niall Costigan, Liam Ryan, John Murphy, Michael Bergin, Ger Prendergast(Capt), Shane Prendergast, Ciaran Kirwan, Neil Prendergast, MarkDrennan, John Brennan, Brian Nolan. *Photo Eoin Hennessy*

great. The full back line of Ricky Brennan, John Murphy and David Milea were very commanding. Again John Tennyson was unbeatable at centre back, and his wingmen Richard Frisby and captain, Paul Barron, were strongly supportive. Michael Rohan and Paddy Mulcahy just about won the mid-field battle against Michael Dermody and Jason Nolan, whilst every one of the forwards contributed enormously to this historic victory. The Shamrocks, for whom this was a third defeat in a row, had magnificent players in Michael Fennelly, Pauric Holden, Jason Nolan, Eoin Reid, Robert

Aylward, Alan Knox, and the Fitzpatricks. **Carrickshock:** Brendan Hoyne, Ricky Brennan, John Murphy, David Millea, Richard Frisby, John Tennyson, Paul Barron(Capt), Micheál Rohan, Paddy Mulcahy, Anthony Holland, Michael Rice, Damien Raggett, James Moran, Richie Power, James Farrell, Subs: John Dalton, Seanie Gibbons, Colm Mullally, Tom Brophy, Pauric Barron, Paddy McNamara, Garry Foley, Denis Murphy, Patrick Duggan. **Ballyhale Shamrocks :** James Connolly, Michael Fennelly, Pauric Holden, David Healy, Keith Nolan, Ger Holden, Derek

the County title. But they still had to navigate their way through the very competitive waters of the South Championship. Piltown (0-17) beat Windgap (0-7) in a preliminary round. It took Mullinavat two attempts to overcome a very stubborn Tullogher Rosbercon. They drew the first game, a very good, high-scoring game, 4-7 to 1-16. Mullinavat won the replay very narrowly by 2-6 to 2-4. The Rower Inistioge won their opening game very impressively by 4-14 to Dunnamaggin's 2-9. Piltown had a point to spare against Thomastown, winning by 1-14 to 4-4. Mooncoin on the other hand had 2-2 to



BARROW RANGERS - ROINN C MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2001 Photo Dylan Vaughan

Back: Martin Brennan, John Connolly, Robert Collins Hughes, Ciarán Cooke, Damien Keyes, Michael Fitzpatrick, Stephen Brophy, Danny Kearney, Joe Kealy, Seamus Brennan, Billy Murphy, Ricky Murphy.
Front: Raymond Healy, William Hennessy, Aidan Brennan, Tom Kavanagh, David Kelly, Ian Holden, Derek Whelan, Shane McEvoy, Mark Lillis, Joe Hughes, Richard Kelly. (Inset - Darren O'Neill)



ERIN'S OWN - IARNROD EIREANN MINOR LEAGUE DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Mike Bollard, Lar Dunne, Peter O'Donovan, Anthony Owens, Colin Dunne, Sean Dwyer, Michael Boland, David Stone, Damien Fogarty, David O'Gorman, Brian Coady.
Front: Ger Coady, Cormac Kelly, Dermot Wallace, Martin Boran, Adrian Hennessy, Paddy Shortall, Michael Dunne, Alan Treacy, Jason McGuire. Photo Martin Fogarty.



FENIANS - IARNROD EIREANN MINOR LEAGUE DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Billy Dermody (Selector), Cathal Ryan, John Paul Grehan, Martin Henderson, Philip Loughlin, PJ Delaney (Capt.), James Phelan, Kevin Shiels, Paul O'Donovan, Declan Duggan, Frank Renehan, Brendan Gleeson, Tom Dollard (Selector).
Front: Tom Barry, Patrick O'Gorman, John Broderick, Daniel Looby, Frank Murphy, Martin Purcell, Timmy Purcell, Ciarán Ryan, Stephen McCarthy, Eoin O'Meara, Patrick Loughlin (Selector). Photo Eoin Hennessy

spare when they ditched John Lockes out of the competition by 3-11 to 1-9. The Rower sent Mullinavat packing in their semi-final encounter, winning by 1-18 to 2-5, while Mooncoin and Piltown fought out a tremendous game in the other semi-final, which Mooncoin barely won by 2-10 to 1-11. In the South Final, the Rower Inistioge experienced little difficulty in accounting for the challenge of Mooncoin, winning by 3-17 to Piltown's 3-4.

Mooncoin:

Michael Jones, Derek Phelan, Liam Kinsella, Paul Norris, Anton Lennon, Thomas O'Hanlon (0-2), Bill Quinn, Noel Delahunty, Keith Kirwan, David O'Brien (2-2), Robert Walsh, Joe Kearns, Dick Howley, Nicholas Delahunty, Ger Sutton (1-0). **Subs:** Patrick Dalton (R Walsh), Richard Hogan (P Norris), Patrick Kinsella (G Sutton), Paul O'Neill (Bill Quinn).

Clara collected their third under-age County title when they defeated the Rower Inistioge by 1-11 to 0-8. The first half was a little uninspirational, with the Rower lads leading at half time by 0-6 to 0-4. The deciding score arrived via a timely connection by Austin Murphy on a ball delivered to the Rower goal area by team mate Kieran Tobin midway through the second half. This was a second Roinn B Championship win for Clara, having last won it in 1989.

Clara: Shane Prendergast, Derek Knox, David Prendergast, Liam Ryan, Dermot Nolan, John Phelan, John Murphy, Conor Phelan, Kieran Tobin, Austin Murphy, Ger Prendergast, Patrick Foley, Michael Bergin, Mark Drennan, Jack O'Keeffe, **Subs:** Néal Prendergast, Ciaran Kirwan, Sean Murphy, Brian Nolan, Niall Costigan, Shane Murphy.

Rower Inistioge: David Dunphy, Patrick Clifford, Luke Treacy, Sean Cummins, Michael Morrissey, James Roche, Pauric Lyng, Michael McCarthy, Shane Knox, Daniel Cotterell, Michael O'Dwyer, Pat Tierney, Michael Tierney, Ed Kavanagh, Michael White.

Subs: JJ Kenny, Philip Moylan, Michael Corcoran, Martin Galavan, Gerry Grace, Toby Kavanagh, Noel Treacy, Liam Tierney, Seamus Houlihan, John George Butler, Patrick Digby.

ROINN C :

Glenmore, Kilmacow, Barrow Rangers, Gaignamanagh, Slieverue, Danesfort, Young Irelands, Cloneen, and Lisdowney all lined up to contest the Roinn C Championship. Glenmore (0-15) had a single point to spare over Kilmacow in a preliminary round. Unfortunately for them, when going down to eventual winners, Barrow Rangers on a score of 4-9 to 1-5. Gaignamanagh beat Slieverue, and Danesfor (3-12) had three points to spare in their game against Young

Irelands (4-6). In a very low scoring game, Cloneen beat Lisdowney by 0-7 to 0-5.

Barrow Rangers experienced no difficulty whatever in overcoming Graignamanagh by 3-12 to 1-5, and Cloneen came good at the finish to scrape over high flying Danesfort by 2-8 to 2-7. The unexpected final between Cloneen and Barrow Rangers was a keen as mustard contest, with the ultimate result in doubt for most of the sixty minutes. Cloneen were very dominant in the first half, and four points by Ronan Walsh (2), Tom Comerford and Seán Allen had them leading at half time by four points to two for the Rangers, whose points were scored by Darren O'Neill. Cloneen continued as they finished in the first half, and a Ronan Walsh point had them further in front. With Danny Kearney firing over three points for the Paulstown lads from midfield, Darren O'Neill and Robert Collins-Hughes helping with points of their own making, the Rangers were starting a charge towards the Cloneen goal. A long range free by O'Neill ended up in the

Brennan, Jim Dowd, Niall Mooney, Sean Dowd, Sean Maher, Kevin Phillips, Paul Donnolly, Colin Phillips, Ronan Walsh, TJ Comerford, Thomas Campion, Pauric O'Dowd, Sean Allen, Cathal O'Dowd.

Subs: Michael Farrell, Eamonn Keating, Graham Lawlor.

DIVISION 1 LEAGUE:

The Division 1 League was divided into two groups of five teams, with two teams from each group qualifying for the cross-over semi-finals. In Group A, Ballyhale Shamrocks had an all the way winning run to the semi-final with wins over Carrickshock (1-12 to 1-1), O'Loughlins (2-19 to 0-9) and Blacks & Whites (4-10 to 4-9). Carrickshock were subsequently to reverse that decision later in no uncertain terms. Carrickshock's only reversal in the group was the hiccup against Shamrocks, but they quarried out a great win over O'Loughlins (2-15 to 2-10), and their draw with the Blacks & Whites (3-7 to 4-4) was sufficient to guarantee them a place in the semi-finals with the

ning by 1-8 to 1-5. A brilliant goal by Michael Rice towards the end of the first half, set up Carrickshock to win the Minor league final on a score of Carrickshock 2-13 Shamrocks 1-7. The Shamrocks would be hoping to go one better in the Championship later.

DIVISION 2 LEAGUE:

Again there were two groups in Division 2 of the League. In Group A, Clara, Bennettsbridge, Graig/Ballycallan, and Tullogher Rosbercon did battle for the two semi-final places, while Rower Inistioge, Piltown, St Martin's and Mullinavat competed in Group B. Clara (2-11) beat Bennettsbridge (1-6) in their first round game. Scoring 2-12 they barely got over a committed Graig/Ballycallan, who scored 2-7 in their second game. They had a tough encounter against Tullogher in their last group game, but eventually won by 0-12 to 0-10. Graig/Ballycallan (2-6) had a single point to spare over Tullogher (0-11), but the match of the group was that between Graig and Bennettsbridge, in which Graig scored a very impressive 1-16, and Bennettsbridge walloped home a terrific 2-13 to share the points. That draw enabled Graig/Ballycallan to join Clara in the semi-finals.

The Rower Inistioge came out on top with a very convincing 2-13 to 1-8 win over Graig/Ballycallan, but Clara had a far more difficult task in curbing a very determined Piltown outfit, winning by a single point - 1-13 to 1-12.

The quality of the games were generally good to excellent, and the League Final was no less admirable, and exciting. After a titanic game, Clara came late to earn a draw. The score at the finish read, Rower Inistioge 2-7 Clara 1-10.

The replay took place on Sunday November 18th. and again, the fare was exciting, close, and hard-fought. The Rower led at half time by 1-5 to Clara's 0-4. The Rower goal was fired home by Dan Cottrell in the 14th minute. Clara came out after half time with a renewed vigour, that saw them cut into the Rower lead with increasing regularity. A goal from full forward, Michael Bergin in the 54th minute had the sides level, but a further point for the Rower left them in front as the game went into injury time. However, a long delivery by Austin Murphy in the 62nd minute was let slip into the Rower net, and the Clara euphoria knew no bounds. They held out to complete the double.

DIVISION 3 LEAGUE:

Again there were two groups in Division 3 of the League, which resulted in an inordinate number of games being programmed. In truth, and to the credit of clubs and mentors, most of the games were played, with the exception of a small number. The records will show that



ST LACHTAIN'S - IARNROD EIREANN MINOR LEAGUE DIVISION 3 RUNNERS UP.

Back: M Nolan, D Hughes, R Dowling, T Hughes, J Meagher, D Brennan, K Dalton, B Beckett, J Marnell, G Reilly, T Walsh, J Mullen.

Front: N McGree, K Hughes, JJ Phelan, M Kavanagh, J Dooley, J Costelloe, T Delaney, C Waldron, G Doheny, D Ryall.

Photo Martin Fogarty.

Cloneen net, and this score seemed to knock the stuffing out of the Cloneen lads. Seán Maher scored a late goal for Cloneen, but in injury time, Billy Murphy with a goal, and Mark Lillis with a point sealed the victory for the Paulstown lads.

Barrow Rangers: Ian Holden, Joe Kealy, Steven Brophy, Joe Hughes, Seamus Brennan, Damien Keyes, Michael Fitzpatrick, Mark Lillis, Danny Kearney, Shane McEvoy, Robert Collins-Hughes, David Kelly, Aidan Brennan, Darren O'Neill, Tom Kavanagh, Subs: Ciarán Cooke, Joseph Connolly, Derek Whelan, Martin Brennan, Billy Murphy, Ricky Murphy.

Cloneen: Steven Mahon, Daniel

Shamrocks.

Tullaroan, James Stephens, Dicksboro, and Emeralds competed in group B. Surprisingly Dicksboro went down by 1-10 to 1-7 against James Stephens, and did not continue the campaign for some unknown reason. Both Tullaroan and Emeralds got walk-overs from the Boro, so the group result was always going to come down to both Tullaroan and James Stephens accounting for Emeralds. In the game between those two, Tullaroan (1-9) drew with James Stephens (2-6). For the umpteenth time during the season, Carrickshock beat James Stephens by 2-10 to 1-9 in their semi-final, while Shamrocks scraped over Tullaroan, win-



LISDOWNEY ROINN D LEAGUE FINALISTS 2001

Back: Tony O'Hara, Paddy Bergin, Niall Campion, Michael Dunne, Keith Quinn, Seamus Nolan, Declan Tallis, Anthony O'Hara, Niall O'Hara, Frank Murphy, Eoin Shearman, Declan O'Shea, Michael Campion.
Front: Tim Shearman, Noel Dowling, Pádraig Doheny, Joe Bergin, Liam Bergin, Paddy O'Shea, Ronan Quinn, James Lennon, Paul Mullally, Eoin Delehunty, PJ Kenny.

over sixty games were played in this Division before the winners were known. The eventual winners were Erin's Own, who defeated St Lachtain's in a hugely exciting final. Operating out of Group A, Erin's Own will reflect on great wins over Galmoy (3-5 to 0-8), Dunnamaggin (4-10 to 1-7), Conahy Shamrocks (4-9 to 1-6), which when coupled with a walk-over from Windgap, negated the effects of a first game loss by a point to Thomastown. By the same token, Thomastown played three games, beat Erin's Own, and Conahy Shamrocks, before going down by a goal to Galmoy (1-11 to 2-5). Even though they were in the semi-final stage of the competition, it didn't help their cause when they were awarded two walk overs by Windgap and Dunnamaggin. Mooncoin and St Lachtain's operated out of Group B. Mooncoin defeated St Patrick's Ballyraggett (0-14 to 2-6), Graignamanagh (4-9 to 1-9), and St Lachtain's (3-10 to 1-6). John Lockes from Callan stopped them in their tracks with a 2-12 to 0-9 defeat, but the walk over received from Slieverue was sufficient to get them to the semi-finals. St Lachtain's, like Thomastown in Group A were forced to take maximum points from two unplayed games, which did not help either. They had wins over St Patrick's and John Lockes, which qualified them with Mooncoin for the semi-finals. Erin's Own had little problems in defeating Mooncoin (3-15 to 1-5), but St Lachtain's had far more difficulty in overcoming the stiff challenge of Thomastown, eventually winning by 1-12 to 0-9. The final was thrill-a-minute stuff in Ballyraggett. St Lachtain's had a terrific start with a goal by Robbie Dowling inside two minutes. Comer's Anthony Owens replied within six minutes with a

like score. That's the way the game evolved. The teams were level at half time- Erin's Own 1-7 St Lachtain's 2-4. They were still level as injury time was being played, but a superb point by Comer's Damien Fogarty in injury time snatched the game away from the Freshford lads, with Erin's Own winning 2-13 to St Lachtain's 4-6.

DIVISION 4 LEAGUE:

Some eight teams took part in the two group Division 4 League. Lisdowney and Fenians qualified from Group A while Glenmore and Barrow Rangers qualified from Group B. Fenians defeated Kilmacow (1-12 to 1-3) and Danesfort (0-15 to 0-2). The important game was their match against Lisdowney, which was drawn at 1-7 apiece. It was not the last time that these two would end all square. Lisdowney also defeated Danesfort (2-13 to 0-12), but were defeated by Kilmacow (3-5 to 1-6). The draw against Fenians was sufficient to guarantee their passage to the semi-finals.

In Group B Cloneen and Young Irelands turned out to be the whipping boys of the group. Barrow Rangers beat Young Irelands by 2-12 to 1-7, and Cloneen by 4-7 to 2-7. Glenmore also beat Young Irelands by 0-11 to 1-5, and got a walk over from Cloneen. The game between the Rangers and Glenmore was purely academic, but for the record, Glenmore won by 0-9 to 0-7.

In one of the semi-finals, Lisdowney beat Glenmore by 2-9 to 1-7, but the Fenians and Barrow Rangers drew their first game on a score of 3-6 to 2-9. In the replay, the sides were still level at 1-11 each. However in the second replay, the Fenians just got up on the line to shade it by a single

point - Fenians 1-6 Barrow Rangers 1-5. It took two efforts to decide the destination of the divisional honours. In a rip-roaring first game, neither side were prepared to yield an inch of ground. However it took a last minute '65 by PJ Delaney to send the game into a replay. Both sides will claim that victory should have been theirs, but the general consensus was that the draw was the fairer of all results. Philip O'Loughlin, Cathal Ryan and John Broderick were terrific forwards for the Johnstown lads. The Lisdowney goal scorers were Paul Mullally, Frank

Murphy and Derek Tallis. At half time, the Fenians were in front by 1-5 to 1-3. The final score read, Fenians 2-10 Lisdowney 3-7.

The replay was a far different story with the Fenians outclassing the game Lisdowney lads from the start. Playing with the strong breeze in the first half, the Fenians led at half time by 3-5 to Lisdowney's 1-2. A spirited second half by Lisdowney foundered on the rocklike Fenians defence in which County minor PJ Delaney was superb. Martin Henderson, JP Grehan and Ciaran Ryan were also very committed in defence. Philip O'Loughlin was brilliant at centre forward, and he got great assistance from Brendan Gleeson and Daniel Looby. Lisdowney had terrific performers in Anthony O'Hara, James Nolan, Noel Dowling, Paddy O'Shea and Frank Murphy. The final score read, Fenians 4-6 Lisdowney 2-5.

Fenians: Martin Purcell, Declan Duggan, Martin Henderson, Paddy O'Gorman, John Paul Grehan, PJ Delaney, Ciaran Ryan, John Broderick, Cathal Ryan, Brendan Gleeson, Philip O' Loughlin, Owen O'Meara, Paul Shiels, Daniel Looby, Frank Murphy,

Subs: Timmy Purcell, Declan Brennan, Tom Barry, Patrick Donovan, Frank Renehan, Stephen McCarthy.
Lisdowney: James Lennon, Liam Bergin, Seamus Nolan, Pádraig Doheny, Keith Quinn, Anthony O'Hara, Owen Delahunty, Noel Dowling, Niall O'Hara, Paddy O'Shea, Frank Murphy, Declan Tallis, Declan O'Shea, Paul Mullally, Owen Sherman,
Subs: Ronan Quinn, Michael Dunne, Barry O'Hara, Joe Bergin, Niall Campion

Kilkenny Supporters' Club

The Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club was founded in early 1990. The aim of the club is to give support financially or otherwise to all codes under the G.A.A. Banner i.e. Hurling, Football, Camogie and Handball at all levels.

Over the last 11 – 12 years we have raised a substantial amount of money which goes back to support our teams in their quest for glory for the Black & Amber. Our main source of income comes from membership fees, golf classics, poker classics, race nights, raffles etc.

We give a yearly grant to the County Coaching Schemes, which enables our County Coaches, Brian Ryan and Georgie Leahy to visit schools around the county and coach pupils in hurling and football and set up coaching courses in all parts of the county. We also give a yearly grant for equipment to the secondary schools board.

All teams whether representing club or county that reach a national final are given support in the preparation of their panels. All we ask is that managers of such teams make a request to the supporters club in writing and the request will be considered at our monthly meeting which is held on the first Tuesday of each month. All teams that have represented the county from Féile Na Gael up to the Senior Hurling Inter-County, Handball, Camogie, Football have received support from the Supporters Club.

We have two very successful sub-branches outside the county, one in Kildare (Curragh) and one in Dublin. The Kildare branch is very successful under the leadership of Dr. Sean Dunne and Paddy Slattery. The Dublin branch is going from strength to strength under the capable hands of Chairman, Eddie Nolan and Frank Holohan, who represents the Dublin Branch at our monthly meeting. The Dublin branch meet on the first Monday night of every month. Both clubs are always looking for new members and find it very helpful in forming new friends under the Black & Amber both in Kildare and Dublin.

The County Supporters' club would like to take this opportunity to thank both Kildare and Dublin for their financial and moral support over the years and hope both branches continue to grow.

The Supporters' club have their finances audited every year by the County Board Auditors and at our A.G.M. a detailed account of our finances is available. We would like to encourage our members to attend one A.G.M. There will be a notice for our A.G.M. in the local papers and on local radio.

We would like to thank the Chairman of the County Board, Ned Quinn, and Secretary, Pat Dunphy, for their continued support and



Pictured are two of MI Lyng Motors team, **Nicky Cashin** and **Shem Lawlor** receiving first prize at Kilkenny Supporters' Club Golf Classic in Callan, **Jim Freeman** (Sec KSC), **Pat Dunphy**, **Ned Quinn**, **Frank Morrissey** (C'man KSC). *Photo MI Brophy*



KK Supporters' Club Presentation to **Michael Duxie Walsh** on his reaching All Ireland SS Final - **John Mackey** (KSC), **Duxie Walsh**, **Frank Morrissey** (C'man KSC) *Photo MI Brophy*

encouragement over the years. Also a big thank you to Radio Kilkenny and Pat Treacy and his sports team for the support they have given us over the years.

Finally, a big thank you to all who supported the Supporters Club and our members and to ask anybody who thinks that they can help us in our quest to come and join us in helping to keep the Black & Amber at the top.

CHAIRMAN: Frank Morrissey (056) 62848

SEC: Jim Freeman(051) 851039

PRO John Murphy (087) 2171934

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BUILDING FOR KILKENNY'S FUTURE

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

Serious hurling man that he is, Jim Fitzgerald from Gowran doubtless has the match programme squirrelled safely away in a cupboard at home in Ballyquirke. Any other readers who attended the drawn 1996 Munster hurling final between Limerick and Tipperary at the Gaelic Grounds may have hung on to the programme as well. Five years on, it's worth another look.

There it is on page 52, the acorn whence an oak has sprung. A notice from the Limerick GAA supporters' club announcing the launch of a "wide-ranging programme including youth development", specifically the development of players between the ages of 13 and 16 by way of weekly coaching sessions at UL under the guidance of luminaries such as Pat and Noel Hartigan, Pat Fleury, Shane Fitzgibbon and Phil Bennis. Among the aims of the initiative were the provision of an overall plan for hurling within Limerick, the supplying of skilful players to clubs and the winning of All Ireland titles within the next five years from under-14 level up to minor.

Being pedantic about it, the scheme fell down in the last-named department; Limerick haven't actually brought home national silverware in any of those grades in the seasons since 1996. Being practical about it, the scheme succeeded wildly, given that the Shannonsiders captured the All Ireland under-21 title in millennium year and retained it in 2001. And even one All Ireland under-21 crown contains substantially greater long-term significance than any number of baubles in the lower age brackets.

"Remember," as the mission statement of 1996 advised, "under-age hurling is the base. If that is not right, then all sectors up to senior cannot succeed. Winners are workers, losers make excuses. The start has been made. With patience and dedication, rewards will come."

At the time, few counties were in more acute need of an action plan for youth. Limerick hadn't - still haven't - won an All Ireland minor title since 1984. Much worse, they weren't merely losing games in the mid-1990s; they were, the then county Bord na nOg secretary John Landers recalls, "being absolutely destroyed" at under-14 and under-16 level. A particularly ignominious beating at the hands of the Galway under-16s in Ballinasloe was the critical spur. "We had to at least give ourselves a fair chance of competing. That was the important thing. That's what we hadn't been doing."

Limerick's youth development programme began in October 1996 and comprised 90-minute skills-based coaching sessions on Friday nights through to March. Two primary ground rules were laid down at the start: no parents would be involved and the coaches were to be paid £25 a session. "Money wasn't really the issue, but we took a strategic decision to put the scheme on a professional footing by paying the coaches," the plan's coordinator Brother Philip Ryan explains. "Goodwill was no longer an option. If you need a job done today, you have to pay for it. And the money [in the region of £12,000 to £15,000 per annum] turned out to be very well spent."

Two promising youngsters Brother Ryan remembers from the early days are Mark Keane and Maurice O'Brien, stars of Limerick's victorious 2001 under-21 side. All but one member of that panel were alumni of the five-year programme, the late-developing Mark O'Riordan from Croom being the odd man out. Another visible spinoff from the scheme, according to Landers, has been the increase in the confidence levels of the youngsters. "When you're knocking at the door, winning tight games is terribly difficult. But once you're used to success, you're not afraid of close finishes any more." This is no empty rhetoric: on the

way to retaining their All Ireland under-21 crown, Limerick won no fewer than three of their four outings by a single point.

Where Limerick have gone, Kilkenny have finally got around to following. Ned Quinn is a brisk, enterprising and efficient county chairman of a type distressingly rare in the GAA (attribute it to his business background), yet time may well indicate his vision in initiating the under-age development squad concept on Noreside as the Mooncoin man's lasting legacy to his county. Seeing that the task of bridging the gap between provincial success and All Ireland success in the grade had proved beyond Kilkenny's capabilities since 1993, those ten consecutive Leinster minor titles during the 1990s were clearly worth more in theory than they were in practice, a veneer that masked a lack of substance beneath. Other counties in addition to Limerick were ploughing time and money into under-age development. In short, Ned Quinn smelled the coffee. Kilkenny could simply not afford to stand still.

"We can't expect success to just happen," Brendan O'Sullivan, chairman of under-age hurling development in the county, points out. "Not any more. These days young hurlers have to practise the skills that came naturally to them before. They don't go to the field like they used

to. Everything has to be organised. That means we have to work as hard as any other county - or even harder because we're a smaller county than most and have a smaller number of players."

Kilkenny's under-age plan differs from the Limerick blueprint in that All Ireland success is not the be-all and end-all. Instead the primary objective is the provision of talented young hurlers who will return to and strengthen their clubs, which is why the numbers - 100 or more boys in each of the four age groups from

under-14 to under-17 - are hefty. Kilkenny have opted for quantity rather than quality. But quality should be a byproduct of the scheme nonetheless.

"This is not about creating an elite group," Brendan O'Sullivan stresses. "We want guys who will make the best clubmen, and guys who don't give everything for their clubs won't be selected. If they go on to reach intercounty standard, that's a bonus. It's all about long-term development, about getting to know the players over a number of years. So by the time they get to minor and under-21 level, the county teams' managers will know all about them."

The first fruits of the scheme were pleasing. The under-14 crop of 2001 did well in the Tony Forristal tournament in Waterford, losing out by two points to the eventual winners Tipperary. The under-16s excelled, bringing Nenagh Co-op honours to Kilkenny for the first time ever. A direct result of the introduction of under-age squads or merely a happy coincidence, Brendan?

"Maybe a bit of both, and it's important not to get too worked up about winning tournaments in such young age groups. But you'd have to say that more work went into Kilkenny's preparations this season, as a consequence of the existence of the squads, than was the case in the past. The support from the parents has been the most gratifying part of it. And then we're terribly lucky with our coaches. The calibre of people we have coaching has made a ferocious difference." Incidentally, more coaches will be required in 2002 because of the size of the squads. They needn't expect £25 an hour, mind you. Job satisfaction and a thank-you is about the extent of it.

For Liam Fennelly, who teamed up with Paddy Prendergast to manage Kilkenny's successful Nenagh Co-op side, Galway stand as the "supreme example" of a county that recognises the importance of youth development. Such development, he adds, can never begin too early. "Honing the skills at under-12, under-14 - that's where it has to be done. You can't do it when you're 16. And the amount of hurling that players do at home is really the most important thing. We tried to hammer that home to the lads during the summer. That there was little point in them practising the skills during sessions with the county if they weren't practising them at home as well."

Such are the realities of under-age hurling in the 21st century. Kilkenny are recognising them at last.



Kilkenny Supporters Club presentation to Tony Forristal U14 squad and Nenagh Co-op U16 squad.
Eamon Hennessy (KSC), Paddy Prendergast, Richie Power (Capt), Joe Pyke (C'man Bord na nOg)
Photo MI Brophy

Under-age Tournaments

Richie Stone

Tony Forristal Tournament

Kilkenny's poor run in the Tony Forristal tournament continued in 2001 when they failed once again to make any impression in a tournament that has proved elusive to the Noresiders since they won the first ever competition twenty years ago. This time preparations were first class but despite this they were beaten by both Clare and Tipperary.

The panel was Michael Neary (James Stephens), J.J. Reid (Shamrocks), Darragh Tynan (Dicksboro), Michael Tyrell (Dicksboro), Liam Heneberry (Mooncoin).

Mark Culleton (Piltown), Ciarán Joyce (Rower/Inistioge), Eoin O'Shea (Clara), Neil Prendergast (Clara), Shane Campion (James Stephens), Gavin Dowd (Cloneen), Brian Healy (Conahy), Donncha Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks), Niall Morrissey (Dicksboro), David Broderick (Dicksboro), Craig Cahill (Dicksboro), Sean Wall (Mooncoin), Martin Walsh (Tullaroan), Patrick Hogan (Danesfort), Richard Hogan (Danesfort), Kevin Lawler (Cloneen), Vincent O'Donnell (St Lachtain's), Matt Ruth (James Stephens), Jamie Tennyson (Thomastown).

Mentors: Trainer-Joe Wall (Mooncoin), Selectors: Jim Lyng (Threecastles), Billy Walton (James Stephens), James Norris (Piltown).

Arrabawn Co-op Tournament

Kilkenny captured the Arrabawn Co-op (formerly the Nenagh Co-op), tournament for the second time when they defeated Clare in the final played in Nenagh. In the first round played in Borrisoleigh they got the better of a brave but outclassed Laois side 4-15 to 0-5 in a game that they dominated from start to fin-

ish. Next on the list was Limerick, a county that traditionally puts a big effort into winning this tournament. However the Munster men found the Cats too hot to handle and the Noresiders held on for a narrow but deserved victory on a 1-10 to 0-7 scoreline. That win put Kilkenny in to the semi final against favourites Galway. In one of the best under age games seen for a long time, Kilkenny had two points to spare over the tribesmen who fought hard to the finish. The final scoreline read Kilkenny 3-9 Galway 1-13.

In the final Kilkenny came up against Clare, another county that puts a major effort into winning under age tournaments. The Clare side contained a number of very strong players and things did not look too promising. However, after an even enough first half, the Kilkenny boys took over and ran out comfortable enough winners 1-17 to 0-9.

Panel: Patrick Nolan (Conahy), Peter O'Donovan (Erin's Own), Richie Power (Carrickshock), Shane Dowling (St Patrick's), Mark O'Hara (Dicksboro), Darren O'Neill (Barrow Rangers), David McCormack (James Stephens), Eoin McGrath (St Martins), Martin Fitzpatrick (Conahy), Bill Beckett (St Lachtain's), John Tennyson (Carrickshock), Peter Dowling (O'Loughlin Gaels), Patrick Butler (James Stephens), John Murphy (Clara), John Dalton (Rower/Inistioge), Donncha Cody (James Stephens), Ray Wall (Mooncoin), Alan Healy (Conahy Shamrocks), Shane Cadogan (St Martin's), Austin Murphy (Clara), Brian Doheny (Tullaroan), Colin Grant (Emeralds), Ray Cummins (Mullinavat), David Prendergast (Clara), Michael Fennelly (Shamrocks), James Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks), Damien Fogarty (Erin's Own).

Mentors - Paddy Prendergast (Clara) (Trainer), Sean Brennan (James Stephens) and Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks).



KILKENNY ARRABAWN CO-OP WINNERS 2001

Back: Patrick Nolan, Peter O' Donovon, Richie Power, Shane Dowling, Mark O' Hara, Darren O' Neill, David McCormack, Eoin Mc Grath, Martin Fitzpatrick, Bill Beckett, John Tennyson, Peter Dowling, Patrick Butler, John Murphy, John Dalton
Front: Donnchadh Coady, Ray Wall, Alan Healy, Shane Cadigan, Austin Murphy, Brian Doheny, Colin Grant, Sean Cummins, David Prendergast, Michael Fennelly, James Fitzpatrick, Damien Fogarty.

Under 21 County Championships

By Barrie Henriques & Michael Shortall

A SYMPHONY OF SKILL!



TULLAROAN - ROINN A U21 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Gerry Doheny (Selector), Richard Cleere, Stephen Maher, Nicholas Maher, John Coogan, Eamon Campion, Richard Butler, Patrick Campion, Michael Walsh, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy, Jimmy Cleere, Derek Davis, Liam Keoghan (Trainer).
Front: Podge Kennedy, Michael Maher, Michael Connolly, Paul Doheny, Chris Maher (Capt), Richard Holland, Tom Fitzgerald, Tommy Walsh, Ned Sweeney, Sean Glennon, David Cleere, Ogie Kennedy, Shane Walsh (Mascot), Jimmy Maher (Selector)
Photo Eoin Hennessy

ROINN A CHAMPIONSHIP

As usual the under-21 hurling Championship across the board produced a fantastic symphony of the finest skills of the game by the finest role model youth of the land. Shrewd pundits looked for the eventual Roinn A winner to come from the trio of James Stephens - last year's winners, O'Loughlins, and Tullaroan. The Village had

fourteen of their team still eligible for this year's campaign. They were going to take some stopping. But there were a couple of surprises- not least of which was the emergence of Carrickshock and Mullinavat down south. Both of those came through to contest the South Final in a magnificent game in Ballyhale, but more about that later. In the northern section of the Roinn A Championship, seven teams went to post,

with O'Loughlin Gaels getting the bye to the semi-finals. Graigue Ballycallan faced the Fenians in their game in Ballyraggett. The Johnstown lads had to field without injured stars, PJ Delaney and Kevin Power. The Fenians failed to register a score from play, and therein lies the reason why they didn't win. Graigue fared a little better in that department, but only a little. At half time, Graigue led by the odd point in five. They



ROWER INISTIOGE - ROINN B U21 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: James Roche, Luke Treacy, Gerry Grace, Shane Dunphy, P.J.Wilmot, Neil Lyng, David Murphy, Sean Cummins, Padraig Lyng, Peter Baron, Philip Moylan, Diarmuid Kavanagh, Shane Knox, Michael Dwyer, Nicky Morrissey, Ed Kavanagh, Michael Tierney, John Joe Digby and Pat Digby.
Front: Patrick Clifford, Danny Cotteral, David Dunphy, Michael White, Michael McCarthy, Michael Grace, Paul Sheehan (Capt) Paul Flood, Brian Murphy, John George Butler, Toby Kavanagh, Pat Tierney and John James Kenny.

eventually won by 0-8 to 0-6 in a very uninspirational game.

Only two points separated the reigning Champions, James Stephens from challengers, Emeralds in their game in Feshford. The papers said that the Village showed great heart in winning this one. They had fourteen of last year's winning panel on view. Emeralds had all of the previous year's winning minor team playing. Emeralds led at half time by 0-10 to 1-2, aided by the breeze. They still held the five point lead after 42 minutes. But a Joe Murray goal in the 42nd minute kick-started the James Stephens revival, and slowly they overhauled the Urlingford lads. A late Kieran Rafter goal for the Emeralds could not wrest the initiative from James Stephens, who went on to win by 3-10 to 1-14.

Tullaroan posted early notice that they were a force to be reckoned with, when they demolished the Dicksboro challenge by 4-15 to 1-7. The semi-finals were enthralling encounters, that had the big travelling support in raptures of ecstasy and delight. James Stephens barely scraped over the challenge of Graigue Ballycallan, winning by 0-11 to 0-10. They can thank the ability of players like Joe Murray and Eoin McCormack for getting them to the final. If Graig V James Stephens was close, the other semi between Tullaroan and fancied O'Loughlins was even closer. It ended all square, with Tullaroan scoring 2-7 and O'Loughlins rather fortunate to get up in line in injury time, scoring 1-10. The replay took place in Freshford on the evening of the Intermediate semi-finals. Tullaroan made no mistakes at the second time of asking, as they put in a power-packed hour of hurling which was too truculent for the city lads to counteract. Tullaroan, with the Coogans, Tommy Walsh, Mikie Walsh, Tom Fitzgerald, and Pat and Eddie Campion in super form, led from the start, were in front at half time, and stayed there until the finish, winning by 2-12 to 0-9. The reigning champions awaited in the Northern Final.

In a super Northern Final, Tullaroan looked for a long time that they were going to win without coming off the bridle. They were hurling with marvellous confidence, and great understanding. The game was tough, but it was a scenario that the Tullaroan were very familiar. A goal by Ned Sweeney in the 11th minute, following a long delivery into the James Stephens goalmouth by Shane Hennessy, separated the teams at half time- Tullaroan 1-6 James Stephens 0-6. The Tullaroan forwards, particularly Ned Sweeney- what a fabulous hurler he is- and Óg Kennedy were causing all sorts of problems for the much vaunted Village back division. With six minutes remaining, Tullaroan were in front by 1-10 to 0-7. An Eoin Larkin goal set the game up for a grandstand finish, with the Village chasing for a winning goal, and the Tullaroan side manning the battlements to great effect. Tullaroan were champions, winning by 1-12 to 2-7, and how they celebrated.

James Stephens: Derek Brennan, Brendan Doyle, John Morgan, Jackie Tyrrell, Joe Murphy, Richie Hayes, Mark Hoban, Shane Egan, Hugh Gannon, Paddy O'Brien, Garry Whelan, Eoin Larkin, Niall Tyrrell, Eoin McCormack, Joe Murray.

Subs: Kieran Byrne, Brian Tyrrell, Conor O'Grady, Michael Morris, Simon Creane, Donnacha Cody, Paddy Hogan, Joe Mernagh, Eoin Dunphy, Liam Meehan, James Murphy.

The excitement was no less enthralling down south where Carrickshock, Shamrocks, Mullinavat, Graignamanagh, Kilmacow and Dunnamaggin faced up to each other in search of the south title, and the "admission" to the much coveted County Final place. Shamrocks had three goals to spare over Graignamanagh in their first round game, winning by 2-12 to 0-9. Mullinavat- we were to see a lot of Mullinavat later in the season- comfortably addressed the Kilmacow challenge, winning their first round game in July by 2-14 to 1-8. Cut to post All-Ireland times. Mullinavat had a mighty victory over the Shamrocks, winning by 2-12 to 2-7. The highly fancied Dunnamaggin took on youthful Carrickshock in the other semi-final.



DICKSBORO - ROINN C U21 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Martin Morrissey (C'man), Paul O'Flynn, Noel Rafter, Brian Gallagher, Declan O'Donoghue, Darren Tyrrell, Jason Bryan, William Sainsbury, Shane McGarry, John Marnell, Davy Ryan, John O'Shea, Brian Barry, Alan McIntyre, Mick Byrne.
Front: Tom O'Donoghue, JJ Brennan, Paddy Phelan, David O'Mahony, Michael Byrne (Capt), Edward O'Donoghue, Mark O'Hara, Patrick Grace, Larry Dowling, Conor O'Higgins, Niamh O'Donoghue. *Missing: Brendan McIntyre, Peter Brennan.*

Photo Eoin Hennessy

Playing with the breeze in the first half, Carrickshock led by a tenuous 0-6 to 0-4. It scarcely seemed enough against a team loaded with inter-county talent, including Noel Hickey, the senior full back. However with five minutes remaining, the 'Shock led by 0-11 to 0-7, and looked, convincingly, like winners. However a goal and a point by Mark Dowling inside the last four minutes levelled matters, and sent the game onto a replay. Having won the County Minor title, Carrickshock faced up to Dunnamaggin in the under-21 replay seven days later. A tough assignment. In probably the best game of the year, these neighbours were level at 6 points apiece after 30 minutes, 13 points each after 60 minutes, and 16 points each after 75 minutes. It was the introduction of Damien Raggett in extra time, who belted home Carrickshock's first goal after 80 minutes, that finally unhinged the Dunnamaggin challenge. Minor captain, Paul Barron, kicked the second goal for the 'Shock two minutes later, and the game was over for Dunnamaggin from then. They tried so hard, but the Carrickshock lads were not about to be caught for the second time.

The South final drew a huge crowd to Ballyhale for the game between the 'Shock and the 'Vat men from further down the road. Carrickshock made the running from the bell. They opened a creditable lead before the 20th minute was passed, due in the main to some superb point scoring from the youthful Richie Power. However Mullinavat put in a storming finish to the first half to reduce the lead to a very manageable two points- Carrickshock 0-7 Mullinavat 0-5. Just a single point separated the sides for most of the second half, but a Michael Rice point half way through the half, was probably the pivotal score for Carrickshock. It arrested the Mullinavat super charge. A Jamie Power goal slammed into the hearts of the 'Vat men like a dagger. The final score of Carrickshock 1-12 Mullinavat 0-9 was somewhat flattering to the winners, whilst not reflective of the marvellous contribution to a terrific game by the losers.

Mullinavat: PJ Aylward, G Anthony, JP Dungan, S Farrell, K Aylward, W Bourke, E Maher, M Knox, D Butler, M Duggan, A McGovern, D Conway, W O'Dwyer, M Murphy, C Conway. **Subs:** T Frisby, T Duggan.

The County Final was thrill-a-minute stuff, with some marvellous scores, great individual contributions, and a nail-biting finish. Carrickshock, the underdogs, started in blistering form, and really took the game to their northern opponents. They struck a purple patch midway through the first half, which saw them comfortably lead by four points at one stage. That lead in a game where score getting was certainly going to be a very difficult assignment, such was the quality of the blocking, hooking, and marking sewed seeds of doubt in a strangely subdued Tullaroan. However, just before half time, with Carrickshock leading by three points, a superb move

involving Tommy Walsh, Shane Hennessy, Óg Kennedy, and Ned Sweeney, saw the last named - no better man in such a situation - feed an inch-perfect pass to his corner forward colleague, Tom Fitzgerald, whose rising shot to the roof of the net left Carrickshock's brilliant goalkeeper, Brendan Hoyne just an admiring spectator. The second half was a facsimile of the first, except that it was Tullaroan who hit the purple patch as the last fifteen minutes approached. They led by two points at the 61st minute; increased it to three with a Tom Fitzgerald free in the 62nd minute, and Carrickshock looked to have bowed to the inevitable. But one final hurrah from the men from famed Carrickshock led to an amazing goal, that will long be remembered down Hugginstown way, when the dust has settled, and the exploits of 2001 are discussed. Pat Dalton delivered a ball to John Tennyson, who passed to Jamie Power. Jamie delivered a superb pass to Michael Rice, and his angled pass arrived into the hands of the youngster, who had earlier won under-16 and County minor medals, Richie Power.

Cometh the moment, cometh the man, or in this case, a youngster, but a very special youngster. He ghosted by two Tullaroan backs, and delivered the perfect pass to substitute, Damien Raggett. Raggett still had to go for broke. He did; the net bulged, and the exhalation of relief emanating from Carrickshock supporters, and most neutrals, told it's own story. We were to have a repeat, and most, if not all would have said that justice was done on this occasion. The replay, was even better. On a damp Nowlan Park surface, both sides produced a symphony of silken skills that enraptured the fine crowd. However a moment of undisciplined indiscretion resulted in a Carrickshock player being sidelined, and this alone was instrumental in increasing the probability of a Tullaroan victory. So it turned out to be. From staying upsides with their more fancied opponents during the first eight minutes, 14-man Carrickshock were forced to play support role to the stormtrooping Tullaroan. The Tullaroan goal, which precipitated the dismissal, was scored by Michael Walsh. Tullaroan, always the better team, led at half time by 1-8 to Carrickshocks 0-5. They increased the lead by two points early in the second moiety. But just as we thought that a rout was in prospect, the redoubtable Carrickshock lads, through the efforts of Jamie Power, narrowed the gap to a manageable six

points by the 38th minute. However a much improved Shane Hennessy scored Tullaroan's second goal two minutes later, and the younger Carrickshock were facing a huge mountain. They never flinched, but Tullaroan utilised the extra man to the optimum. They certainly deserved to win, of that there can be no doubt. Hurling is still alive in Tullaroan - was it ever in danger? The prospects look exceptionally promising. They don't look to bad down Hugginstown way either.

Tullaroan: Richie Holland, Eddie Campion, Paddy Campion, Jimmy Cleere, Tommy

scoreline. James Stephens entered a second team in the competition, but were unfortunate to collide with the highly fancied St Martins in their first outing, and were defeated by 4-15 to 1-8.

The second round pitched St Lactains against Clara, a "meaty dish" indeed. For long passages in this game, Clara looked the better team, particularly after the resumption, when they shot an unanswered 1-7. With seven minutes remaining, they led by five points, and looked like winning. However positional switches by Freshford saw two goals from Robbie Dowling and Gerry Doheny, plus a Dowling point seal a famous victory for the Saints. St Lactains went on to the semi-final winning by 4-6 to 1-13. Galmoey nearly caught a lack-lustre St Martins outfit, and were unlucky not to have at least procured a second chance. They went down by a single point - St Martins 1-12 Galmoey 3-5. First time entrants, St Patricks Ballyraggett were also fortunate to defeat Blacks & Whites by 0-17 to 3-5, while Erins Own were too strong for a dedicated Lisdowney, winning by 2-13 to 1-12.

In heavy, foggy conditions, in Johns Park, St Martins and St Lactains faced up to each other in one semi-final, while St Patricks faced Erins Own in the other. Early points by Shane and Kieran Kelly and Michael Mulhall had the Muckalee lads well in front by the 12th minute. However the Freshford lads rallied, and when Gerry Doheny crashed home a spectacular goal midway through the first half, the sides were level. They were still level at the half time break-0-9 to 1-6. With 12 minutes remaining, St Martins were in front by eight points. St Lactains were forced to go for goals, but the resolute St Martins defence stood unperturbed, and denied them any clear-cut chance. The final score read, St Martins 1-14 St Lactains 1-9. St Patricks had a very difficult task in containing, and eventually defeating a good Erins Own in their semi-final in Jenkinstown. This was a marvellous game, that had everything that is good in the game of hurling. The evenly matched sides were separated at the break by a single point- St Patricks 1-7 Erins Own 1-6. A Brian "Brookie" Phelan goal at the re-start unerved the 'Comer lads, but they recovered, and were well in the game as the last seven minutes beckoned. Ballyraggett were in front by five points, and looking at an easy victory, but Eddie Brennan crashed home a marvellous goal for Erins Own in the 57th minute, which left two points



CARRICKSHOCK - ROINN A U21 SOUTHERN CHAMPIONS 2001 Photo Martin Fogarty
Back: Brian Tennyson, William King, John Murphy, Brendan Hoyne, Patrick Dalton, Richie Power, John Dalton, Steven Loneragan.
Front: Michael Rice, Michael Rohan, Paul Barron, Jamie Power, Pat Cleary, Liam Barron, John Tennyson.

Walsh, Ken Coogan, Michael Connolly, Chris Maher(Capt), Michael Walsh, Shane Hennessy, John Coogan, Paul Doheny, Ned Sweeney, Martin Óg Kennedy, Tom Fitzgerald.

Subs: Podge Kennedy, Richie Butler, Richie Cleere, Nickey Maher, Derek Davis, Stephen Maher, David Cleere, Michael Maher, Sean Glennon.

Carrickshock: Brendan Hoyne, Paul Barron, John Murphy, John Dalton, William King, Pat Dalton, Liam Barron, Jamie Power(Capt), John Tennyson, Brian Tennyson, Michael Rice, Niall Rohan, Stephen Loneragan, Pat Clery, Richie Power.

Subs: Michael Rohan, Mattie Hanrahan, Richie Frisby, Patrick Mulcahy, Damien Raggett, Jim Rice, Anthony Holland, Richie Power, Shane Power, David Millea.

ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP

In the first round of the Northern Championship, the Blacks & Whites had five points to spare over Bennettsbridge, winning by 2-11 to 1-9. High-flying Clara had no such problem accounting for Conahy Shamrocks in their first round game, winning by an emphatic 2-12 to 0-9. St Lactains from Freshford were a mite fortunate to beat Young Irelands who gave a very good account of themselves, altho' they were on the wrong side of a 2-7 to 1-6

between the sides. That was the final effort for a rampaging Erins Own, who went down by 2-12 to 2-10.

The final was a highly charged affair with victory eventually going Muckalee's way. St Patricks can blame nobody for the defeat but themselves, as they missed numerous scoring opportunities, whereas the winners availed of most of the chances that came their way, from a lot less possession. At half time St Patricks led by 1-5 to 0-6 - it should have been much more. The sides were level on a number of occasions during the frantic second half. Even when St Martins led in injury time by a Tom Morrissey point, St Patricks still had two chances to level or even win the game, but spurned both. St Martins 2-9 St Patricks 0-13.

St Patricks: N Kenny, E Holohan, B Dooley, J Lacey, K Malone, M Walshe, S Roberts, D Kenny, K Delaney, S Dowling, E Delaney, N Staunton, J Lacey, B Phelan, E McEvoy.
Subs: C Delaney, D Crosby.

In the Southern half of the championship, eight teams went in search of the ultimate spoils. Tullagher Rosbercon had little difficulty in ousting a mediocre Thomastown outfit by 4-13 to 0-11. The Rower Inistioge had an easy passage in their first round game against Mooncoin, winning by 3-20 to Mooncoin's 0-13. The remaining two games were far tighter contests with John Lockes beating Glenmore, and Windgap taking care of Piltown. The Lockes v Glenmore game was an exciting affair with the result in doubt to the final whistle. These two mediocre teams presented an exciting hour's hurling, with the Callan lads taking a slim early lead, and holding on to the finish. Neighbours Windgap and Piltown fought out another exciting battle, with Windgap winning, eventually, by 1-13 to 2-7. Piltown led at half time by 1-5 to 0-3, thanks in the main to the accuracy of Brendan Doyle. They should have been more ahead, but they wasted numerous scoring chances. Windgap came storming through in the second half, and with James Murray drilling home 1-4 from full forward, and Niall Doran shooting four points, Windgap were never going to be caught on the run-in.

In the semi-finals, the Rower Inistioge powered their way to the final with a convincing win over John Lockes - Rower Inistioge 2-12 John Lockes 2-5. The Tullagher Rosbercon lads had an easier engagement on their way to the final with a 2-15 to 1-6 win over Windgap.

In the South Final, the Rower laid a strong foundation towards winning the title early in the game. Two first half goals from Cottrell and White, allied to six excellent points had the eventual winners in front by 2-6 to 0-5



ST MARTIN'S - ROINN B COUNTY FINALISTS 2001

Back: Kieran Brendan Maher, Stephen Murphy, Damien Maher, Shane Coogan, Michael Mulhall, Martin Dowling, Don Callanan.
Front: Pat Quirke, Conor Kinsella, Shane Cadigan, Thomas Kinsella, Brian Cadigan, Tom Morrissey, Niall Moran.
Photo Charlie Maher

by half time. a spirited Tullagher gave chase in the storming second half, scoring 2-2. But the Rower lads fired over five valuable second half points to earn the right of lining out in a County Final .

Tullagher Rosbercon: Richard Murphy, Kieran Barron, Richard Gaule, Joseph McCarthy, John Cottrell, Donal Phelan, Martin Malone, Andrew Murphy, Richard Ryan, Amby Malone, Michael Grennan, Canice Grennan, Michael Murphy, Martin Woods, John Murphy.

Subs: Martin Roche, John Drennan, Ger Mullally, Mark O'Brien, Eddie Conway, Dermot Heffernan, James Grennan, Jim Prendergast, John Hartley.

The County Final between St.Martins and the Rower Inistioge provided much speculation, and a surprising final scoreline. St.Martins came out with fire in their bellies, and floored the South Champions with an opening, unanswered 1-3 salvo, to which the Rower lads didn't have the slightest inclination to offset. The goal came from a very dubious penalty awarded against the Rower defence, which St Martins goalkeeper, gladly despatched to the back of the net. Paul Sheehan opened the Rower account with a pointed free after 11 minutes. Neutrals hoped it was not going to be the last Rower score. They were not disappointed. Sheehan added six more points, Shane Dunphy gave him a hand with one of his own, and with St Martins only mustering a couple of more points to add to their opening onslaught, the Rower Inistioge retired at the break, upsided with the Muckalee lads- 1-5 to 0-8. St Martins were to score two more points by the 57th minute, while a rampant Rower Inistioge hammed home 2-4 in the same period. Two goal Dan Cottrell was the scoring hero for the Rower, but he had marvelous lieutenants in David Murphy in goal, James Roche at full back, PJ Wilmot outstanding at centre back, Neil Lyng at centre fields, with

Paul Sheehan, and forwards, Michael White, Shane Dunphy, Michael Grace, and Michael McCarthy. The Rower Inistioge, putting a super cap on a rewarding season, winning very easily by 3-14 to 2-7.

It was fitting that Chairman of the County Board, Ned Quinn, asked Michael Lyng, the sponsor of the Competition, to present the cup to his clubman, Paul Sheehan after the game. Nice touch.

Rower Inistioge: David Murphy, Sean Cummins, James Roche, Luke Treacy, Peter Barron, PJ Wilmot, Paul Flood, Paul Sheehan(Capt), Brian Murphy, Michael Grace, Shane Dunphy, Michael Grace, Dan Cottrell, Neil Lyng, Michael McCarthy.

Subs: David Dunphy, Patrick Clifford, Shane Knox, Diarmuid Kavanagh, Nicholas Morrissey, Michael Tierney, Pat Tierney, Pdraig Lyng, John Kenny, Gerry Grace, JJ Digby, Ed Kavanagh, JJ Butler, Ned Treacy, Toby Kavanagh, Seamus Holohan, Michael Corcoran, Kieran Joyce, Liam Lyng, Pat Digby.

St.Martins: Stephen Murphy, Pat Quirke, Brendan Maher, Shane Cadogan, Niall Moran, Damien Maher, Conor Kinsella, Ciaran Kelly, Martin Dowling(Capt), Don Callaghan, Michael Mulhall, Thomas Kinsella, Shane Coogan, Tom Morrissey, Brian Cadogan,

Subs: Robert Shore, Eoin McGrath, Michael Walsh, Declan Holohan, John Buggy, Edward Hogan, Tom Nolan.

Ref: Pat Hayes.

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

Five teams took part in the Michael Lyng Motors U-21 hurling championship - Danesfort, Slieverue, Cloneen, Dicksboro II and Barrow Rangers. The championship was played on a Round -Robin basis. In Round 1, Cloneen had to withstand a late Barrow Rangers surge to emerge victorious on a score of Cloneen 3-9 to Barrow Rangers 3-6. Slieverue were always in control against Danesfort winning 2-13 to 3-5.

Round 2 saw Barrow Rangers beat Dicksboro with a controversial goal in the last minute, 2-9 to 2-8 while Danesfort had a goal to spare over Cloneen 2-11 to 1-11. The third round produced two very close games with Cloneen beating Slieverue by 1-1 to 1-10 and Danesfort playing a draw with Dicksboro, 2-4 to 1-7. Round 4 produced victories for Slieverue over Barrow Rangers, 3-9 to 2-5 and Cloneen over Dicksboro, 3-6 to 1-9. This left it all to play for in the final round with all teams in contention. Barrow Rangers clinched a place in the knockout stages with a hard earned 2-8 to 2-6 victory over Danesfort. Dicksboro gave themselves a lifeline with a comprehensive 4-14 to 1-6 win over Slieverue. Cloneen, Barrow Rangers and Slieverue qualified for the semi-finals with the winners of Dicksboro and Danesfort to join them. Dicksboro qualified on a 3-7 to 2-5 scoreline.

The semi-finals, played on 20th October, paired Barrow Rangers against Slieverue and Dicksboro against Cloneen. Rangers looked in serious trouble at half time as they were being outplayed in most sectors by a highly committed Slieverue side. However, Darren O'Neill turned in the proverbial blind-

er in the second half, scoring eight points as Rangers emerged victorious on a scoreline of 2-14 to 1-8. In the other semi-final, Dicksboro had an impressive win over table-toppers Cloneen. The introduction of substitute, Edward O'Donoghue, just before half-time made a big difference as he goaled immediately to set the city side up for victory by 4-8 to 0-7.

The final in Nowlan Park on 27 October failed to reproduce the standard of hurling served up in the earlier rounds. Four pointed frees were all the sides had to show for the first half, three to the Boro and a solitary point to Rangers. Darren O'Neill kept Rangers in touch early in the second half before the all-important goal came to the city side in the 42nd minute. Corner-forward, Paul O'Flynn, whipped a ground ball to the net after the Rangers goalie advanced off his line but failed to make contact with the ball.. The Boro never looked back subsequently and super-sub, Edward O'Donoghue, made victory secure in the 57th minute with his sides second goal to leave the final scores at 2-8 to 0-3.

For the Boro, William Sainsbury, Brian Barry, Brian Gallagher, Darren Tyrrell, Mark O'Hara, Paul O'Flynn and Edward

O'Donoghue impressed, while for Barrow Rangers, Robert Collins Hughes, David O'Neill, Gerry Walsh, Danny Kearney, Darren O'Neill, Pat Morrissey and Aidan Brennan looked the part.

Dicksboro: Pat Phelan, Conor O'Higgins, William Sainsbury, Laurence Dowling, Shane McGarry, Brian Barry, Brian Gallagher, Darren Tyrrell, JJ Brennan, Noel Rafter, David O'Mahony, Mark O'Hara (0-1), Paul O'Flynn (1-2), John Marnell, Michael Byrne, Eddie O'Donoghue (1-0), Declan O'Donoghue, Alan McIntyre, Brendan McIntyre, Jason Bryan, David Ryan, Patrick Grace, John O'Shea, Peter Brennan.

Barrow Rangers: Shane McEvoy, Stephen Brophy, Robert Collins-Hughes, Eddie Gavin, Gerry Walsh, David O'Neill, Joe Hughes, Danny Kearney, Seamus Brennan, Darren O'Neill (0-3), Michael Fitzpatrick, Liam Walsh, Denis Kealy, Patrick Dormer, Martin Kealy, Pat Morrissey, Aidan Brennan, Ricky Murphy, Derek Whelan, Joe Kealy, Brian Phelan, Peter Brophy, David Staunton, Derek McEvoy, Ian Holden, Martin Brennan, Brian Healy, David Kelly, Andrew Healy.



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Drastic Action on the Cúpla Focal!

Joe Dunphy (Irish Officer)

After a number of years of writing the "Píosa as Gaelige" as Irish Officer of the Kilkenny County GAA Board, I have decided to take drastic action! Believe it or not I have decided to write the "Píosa as Gaeilge" - as Béarla. Why? I'll tell you why! Because it is obvious that nobody, well practically nobody, was interested in reading or attempting to read anything that was written through the medium of Irish. Oh yes - it's very true.

You see, in 1999, I wrote a fairly controversial article and invited comment - favourable or otherwise. I heard nothing, not a word. So last year I deliberately wrote no article. No one obviously noticed. I got no complaint, no reprimand. Why? Obviously, no one reads it anyway!

So I decided on "An rud is annamh is iontach" - "What's seldom is wonderful" for those who have no Cúpla Focal. I'd write the Irish article in English, and for a simple reason. I want to make a point!

You see some years ago, The GAA (there's no point in calling it Cumann Luthchleas Gael) decided that each club should have an Oifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Officer) as should each County Board (Coiste Contae) also. For the history books, there have been only two Irish Officers of the Kilkenny County Board to date - the late Tomás de Bhaldraithe (Tom Waldron) and myself. So why, you may ask, did the GAA decide to have Irish Officers? It was, I believe, because the GAA has a policy of promoting the Irish Language.

Sadly, the policy is not very successful. I say sadly, because I see our organization that sticks out its chest and proclaims to the world that it is promoting Gaelic games. Gaelic? What does that mean. It means Irish - promoting Irish Games, the native Irish games - hurling, Gaelic Football and Handball. But how will anybody know that we are Irish or that our games are Irish? When we play them we shout our encouragements or our insults in English. Irish as a language rarely appears at Irish games!

When I was in America earlier this year, I hailed a cab in Washington. We piled in and immediately were recognised by our driver - "Ah, mon you are English - yes?" We hastened to tell him "No mon!" - we were not, we were Irish! We could not be affronted. After all we were speaking (of necessity) the Queen's English. So our friend asked me a very fair question - "How would I know you were Irish?" The only answer to that was "Only if I spoke the Irish language." In fairness, we could not expect an American taxi driver to recognise an Irish accent, be it Cork, Kerry, Dublin or Donegal from a Cockney or Welsh accent. In all possibility the Welshman would be speaking Welsh anyway and of course, a Frenchman, Spaniard or whoever will be speaking his native language. But here, we, members of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, reject even the "Cúpla Focal".

Don't get me wrong. While I admit to a great love for the Irish language and would in all honesty prefer to converse in Irish than in English, I would never shove it down anyone's throat. I would never support fanatics. I do, however, honestly and genuinely believe that if we are Irish and proud of it (and why shouldn't we be), we should at least have a "Cúpla Focal". Fanatics who force their views on anything will never succeed. If we have enough people happy to have the "Cúpla Focal" and proud to use it, our language will live and be recognised as Irish through those "Cúpla Focal".

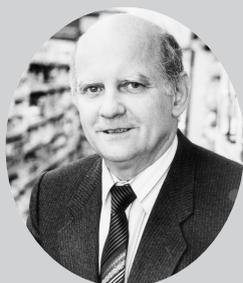
Look at the present situation. All National and County Official notepaper is headed in Irish. All speeches begin with "A Chairde Gaeil" That's about it! In Croke Park and indeed in Nowlan Park, we have to be led in Amhrán na bhFiann. When this happens, less and less people sing the National Anthem. How lovely it was to hear the swell of the lines of Amhrán na bhFiann from the gathered throngs as they were led only by the Artane Boys' Band. I suggested recently that I would announce the notices in Nowlan Park as Gaeilge as well as the English version and was asked, "Would it be of any use? Would they understand you?" Would children ever say Mama or Dada if they never heard them? We are members of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

Was it Pádraig Pearse who said "Ní tír gan teanga" - without a language there is no nation. I would say "Beidh tír le Cúpla Focal" - a few words will make a nation. And don't tell me that you and you and yes, you have not got a Cúpla Focal. If you haven't - well, do you remember the cab driver in Washington? Before I left his cab he could say Conas atá tú? As I left we wished other "Slán".

So to you, "Slán" and by the way "Go raibh maith agat" for reading this article!

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Kilkenny Senior Football Championship 2001

By Dick Mullins



Muckalee - County Senior Football Champions 2001

Back: Dermot Lawlor, Shane Coonan, Larry Brennan, Dermot Comerford, John Dooley, Caleb Daly, Niall Moloney, Stephen Murphy, Ger Doyle, Pádraig Keegan, Mikie Maher, Seamus Byrne, Dan Brennan, Paul Maher.

Front: Aidan Lawlor, Eoin Maher, Paul Brennan, Richard Nolan, Tom Morrissey, John Maher, Liam Dowling, Alan Murphy, Donncha Quinlan, Robert Shore, Nickey Purcell, Tomás Kinsella, John Coonan, Conor Kinsella.

Photo Martin Fogarty

Muckalee won the Kilkenny Senior Football Championship in Nowlan Park on Thursday 2nd August following a replay with arch-rivals Erin's Own Castlecomer. This brought to a conclusion an excellent and exciting competition.

The action commenced in March with a two-division league section and, even though there were some delays due to the foot and mouth restrictions, the programme went ahead with some very competitive fixtures. There were many high-scoring encounters which proved that there is a plentiful supply of scoring forwards in the county with tallies of 2-10, 1-11, 2-12, regularly being notched up in the games.

Group-toppers Railyard and James Stephens qualified for the league final and automatic championship semi-final places, with all other teams playing their way through the knock out stages. The league final was played in Ballyragget with James Stephens taking the title. Muckalee and Erin's Own were making real progress in the championship as they knocked out Mullinavat and Kilmoganny, respectively, to qualify for the semi-finals. The semi-final draw threw up an eagerly awaited local derby clash between Erin's Own and the Railyard with James Stephens taking on Muckalee.

Both semi's produced thrillers with Muckalee surprising the Village to qualify for the final with a little to spare while the biggest crowd for many a day turned up in Ballyragget for the 'Comer v Railyard clash. This turned out to be an excellent match with fortunes swaying from end to end and competition stakes high but sporting. The result hinged on two Erin's Own



Niall Moloney (Muckalee) and Damien Mullins (Erin's Own) compete for the ball in the County Football Final.

Photo Dylan Vaughan



Erin's Own - County Senior Football Finalists 2001

Back: Michael Owens, Martin Owens, Eoin Rothwell, David Dunne, Shay Kennedy, Paul Mullins, Pat Shore, David Buggy, Derek Lynck, Mark Rothwell,

Front: Eddie Brennan, Adam Holden, Gordon Byrne, Seanie Phelan, John Delaney, Liam Shore, Micheál Coogan, Joe Meagher, Donal Dunne, Tom Brophy, Niall Murtagh.

Photo Martin Fogarty

goals, the first one coming five minutes before half time and the second in the 50th minute which saw them through to the final.

The final, another local derby of the North clubs, Muckalee and Erin's Own, produced what many believed to be the best final for years. The large crowd in attendance were well entertained throughout and to add to the excitement the game ended all square. The first half was evenly contested. Muckalee struck a purple patch early in the second half and led by the in-form John Dooley opened up a five point lead and looked like winners. Erin's Own regrouped and staged a comeback with Neil Murtagh scoring the equalizing goal in injury time to leave the full time score Erin's Own 1-10 Muckalee 2-7.

Few, if any, can understand why the fixtures committee staged the replay for a Thursday evening with major interest in the event and no apparent reason why it could not be staged on a Saturday or Sunday evening when gate receipts could have been doubled. Erin's Own made the early running and led by 0-5 to 0-2 after twenty minutes, but a good Muckalee comeback scoring four points on the trot sent them to the dressing room one point ahead. The 10th minute of the second half saw the youthful Shane Coonan score a great goal which finished a great move that was started on the Muckalee full back line. That score put Muckalee on their way to their 6th title as they held out for a 1-11 to 0-9 win despite the best



Fran Whelan and Shane Doyle (James Stephens) close in on **Matt O'Shea** (Kilmoganny) in the Senior Football Championship *Photo Dylan Vaughan*

efforts of a gallant Erin's Own team who were appearing in their first final. It proved a dream championship for Muckalee who finished strongly to take the title in a blaze of glory after a sluggish start in the league section. Great credit is due to their team

who raised their performance with each outing, while the arrival of Michael Dempsey as coach provided the necessary expertise which had a major uplifting effect on the entire team in the closing stages.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE

By Tony Dalton



PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE FINALS

The Primary Schools Camogie finals took place in Nowlan Park on Sat June 17th. Some close finals and a number of outstanding individual displays matched the brilliant weather. As always we are indebted to the work done at this level by teachers and club mentors. It is here that the players of the future have their skills developed and nurtured so as to be built on in years to come.

ROINN A FINAL

Urlingford 6-6 Kilmanagh 4-5

This final brought together two excellent teams and the match proved to be a thriller. Kilmanagh had a dream start when Kay Ryall pointed and this was quickly followed by a Kelly-Ann Brennan goal. Another Kilmanagh point had them five points up and the game was only minutes old. Urlingford were taking time to settle and needed a score. The goal duly came but this was quickly followed by another Kay Ryall point. Urlingford replied with a point and it was then that their captain, Laura Kavanagh began to hurl. She burst upfield and scored a great goal for Urlingford. Kay Ryall, in terrific form for Kilmanagh, replied with a point. Urlingford were not finished yet and Laura Kavanagh finished the half with two more terrific goals before the referee blew for half-time.

Urlingford 4-1 Kilmanagh 1-4

Urlingford took up where they had left off before the interval and a point was soon followed by a Siobhan Fahey goal. Kilmanagh needed a bit of luck and it came when the ball dribbled over the line for a goal. A point from a free brought them right back into the



URLINGFORD - PRIMARY SCHOOLS ROINN A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Mary Rooney (Coach), Ciara O'Flaherty, Siobhán Fahey, Laura Kavanagh (Captain), Marian Clohosey, Elizabeth Hennessy, Margaret Norton, Niamh Bergin, Brid Leahy, Collette Grant, Henry O'Grady (Coach).
Middle: Aisling Fitzgerald, Marianne Murphy, Claire Bowden, Elaije Tobin, Michelle Neary, Shauna Pollard, Aoife Walsh, Helen Power, Jacla Burke, Eilish Brennan, Dermot Dunphy (Principal).
Front: Orla Gleeson, Sarah Kavanagh, Eileen Fitzgerald, Marie Power, Anne Doyle, Marietta Doheny, Danielle Campion, Eimear Bowden, Brid Breen. (Missing - Amy Moore, Stephanie Webster, Tracey Neary).



CLARA - PRIMARY SCHOOLS ROINN B CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Laura Galvin, Jessica Gleeson, Maria Murphy, Orla Quinlan, Claire Evans, Róisín Byrne, Ruth Bergin.
Middle: Aisling Quigley, Mr R Mulrooney, Alicia Langton, Bráinne Byrne, Caitríona O'Dwyer, Patricia Carrigan, Eilish O'Loughlin, Naomi Hope, Mr J Bolger (Coach), Catherine Nolan.
Front: Claire Murphy, Maeve Quigley, Margaret Rafter, Emma Nolan (Capt), Laura Kehoe, Elaine Evans, Catherine Murphy, Sarah Heffernan.



Paulstown - Roinn C Champions 2001

Back: Miss Margaret Brennan (Teacher), Lee Ann Corcoran, Rita Coady, Aoife Drennan, Siobhán Murphy, Fiona Brennan, Julia Purcell, Aoife Donoghue, Claire Fitzpatrick, Collette Dormer, Mrs Mary Holden (Teacher).
Middle: Rosanne Brennan, Sarah Doran, Michelle Brennan, Orla Kealy, Sinéad Whitely, Nicola Heffernan, Mary Buggy, Lisa Whelan, Alison Staunton.
Front: Cliodhna Whitely, Laura Hennessy, Emma Flavin, Laura Bambrick, Emma Staunton, Kerrie Stapleton.



Coon/Muckalee - Primary Schools Roinn D Champions 2001

Back: Sinead Quirke, Sheelagh Teehan, Michelle Comerford, Sarah Shore, Claire Coonan (Captain), Fiona Ring, Marie Butler, Claire Haughney, Marie Stapleton, Michelle Mulhall, Orlaith Butler.
Front: Eimear Fitzpatrick, Joanne Kelly, Michelle O'Keefe, Ann Marie Walsh, Deidre Haughney, Edwina Keane, Rosemary Maher, Hannah Maher, Caitriona Brennan, Leanne Taylor, Caitriona Teehan.



Kilmanagh - Roinn A U-13 Camogie County Finalists

Back: Lisa Dunne, Sarah Hennessy, Orlaith Dunphy, Susan Murphy, Kay Ryall, Muireann Mulcahy, Kelly-Ann Brennan, Elaine Murphy, Vivienne Ryan, Laura Butler, Kathy Robinson, Rachel Dunphy, Aoife Twomey.
Front: Elizabeth Dunphy, Shauna McAliskey, Sharon Gleeson, Johanna Brennan, Aoife Gleeson, Orla Dunphy, Ciara Ryan, Stephenie Power, Laura Ronan.



CARRICKSHOCK PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE ROINN B FINALISTS 2001

Back: Mary-Rose Mulcahy, Lydia Phelan, Aoife Fennelly, Stacey Power, Sinead Gibbons, Emma Duggan, Leanne Fennelly, Dawn Holden, Rhona Murphy, Sarah Brophy, Amy Price, Linda Comerford.
Front: Finola Byrne, Christine O'Dwyer, Evelyn Murphy, Katie O'Farrell, Lisa Raggett, Laura Molyneux, Tara Gaule.

game. Urlingford replied with two points from thirties. A speculative shot from outfield ended up in the Kilmanagh net but they did not give up and hit right back for a goal themselves. Laura Kavanagh replied with a point for Urlingford. Kilmanagh still did not give up and a goal from a thirty had them fighting right to the finish. Ciara O'Flaherty had the last score of the day when she pointed for Urlingford and this brought to an end a terrific contest which had the large attendance on their feet throughout.

Laura Kavanagh was outstanding for Urlingford and Siobhan Fahey had a terrific game in the forwards. Kay Ryall led all the way for Kilmanagh and Elaine Murphy was excellent in defence.

Urlingford: E. Hennessy, M. Clohosey, S. Webster, C. Grant, A. Doyle, L. Kavanagh, T. Neary, A. Moore, S. Fahey, D. Champion, C.O'Flaherty, M. Power. *Subs:* E. Fitzgerald, M. Doheny, O. Gleeson.

Kilmanagh: O.Dunphy, A. Twomey, L. Butler, S. Murphy, E. Murphy, S. Hennessy, K. Ryall, S. Power, K.A. Brennan, L. Dunne, L. Ronan, V. Ryan. *Subs:* S. McAliskey, A. Gleeson, S. Gleeson, R. Dunphy, C. Ryan, E. Dunphy, O. Dunphy, K. Robinson, J. Brennan, M. Mulrooney.

ROINN B FINAL

Clara 3-1 Carrickshock 1-0

Carrickshock got off to a great start in this Roinn B Final. Evelyn Murphy had the ball in the Clara net and this had the effect of settling them early in the game. It took Clara time to get into the swing of things but Alicia Langton put them on level terms with a fine goal. There was little between the sides for the remainder of the first half, but coming up to half-time, Grainne Byrne had another goal for Clara and this gave them an important advantage going in for the break.

Clara 2-0 Carrickshock 1-0

Clara began the second half in determined mood and Naomi Hope broke through for a goal. The Carrickshock backs were under a lot of pressure but coped very well. They repulsed many of the Clara attacks and the only other score they conceded was a point scored by Clara's Caitriona O'Dwyer. The Clara team was physically stronger and this had a bearing on the final outcome.

Caitriona O'Dwyer was excellent for Clara and Carrickshock found it very

difficult to get past her. Alicia Langton led the forward division and scored an important goal into the bargain. Mary Rose Mulcahy was excellent in defence for Carrickshock while Lydia Phelan was the springboard for most of their attacks. Stacey Power was terrific on the wing.

Clara: C. Nolan, L. Galvin, R. Bergin, C. O'Dwyer, A. Quigley, E. Nolan, G. Byrne, E. O'Loughlin, A. Langton, N. Hope, R. Byrne, R. Bergin.

Carrickshock: A. Fennelly, L. Fennelly, C. O'Dwyer, M.R. Mulcahy, F Duggan, D. Holden, L. Phelan, K. Farrell, L. Molyneaux, S. Power, L. Raggett, E. Murphy.

ROINN C FINAL

Paulstown 4-3 St.John of God 1-3

It was a day for dream starts and Paulstown were no exception. Michelle Brennan goaled for them in the very early stages and this was followed by a terrific score, a point by Collette Dormer. St. John of God put these setbacks behind them and attacked the Paulstown goal. Goalie, Lee Ann Corcoran denied them with a great save. It was captain, Orla McCormack, who got St. John of God's first score, a point from a thirty. Paulstown hit back with a point from Aoife Drennan and this was one of the scores of the game. Colette Dormer got the final score of the half when she landed a point from a thirty.

Paulstown 1-3 St.John of God 0-1

Paulstown had a great start to the second half when they found the St. John of God net. The Kilkenny city girls now began to fight back and Orla McCormack got through for a

fine goal. Paulstown hit back with goals from Aoife Drennan and Michelle Brennan. St. John of God never gave up and finished the game very strongly with two further points one of which was a fine effort from dependable captain, Orla McCormack.

Colette Dormer was excellent for Paulstown. Aoife Drennan led the attack very well and Lee Ann Corcoran had a great game between the posts. Tara O'Halloran was a good defender for St. John of God, and Orla McCormack played a captain's part by leading all the way.

Paulstown: L.A. Corcoran, R. Coady, N. Heffeman, R. Brennan, J. Purcell, M Buggy, C Dormer, A. Staunton, F. Brennan, S Murphy, M. Brennan, A. Drennan. *Subs:* O. Kealy.

St. John of God: C. Somers, S. O'Brien, S. Magner, T. O'Halloran, R. Nyham, S. Kearney, L. Brennan, C. Campion, O. McCormack, D. Gaule, E. Ryan, N. Fogarty. *Subs:* L. Owens, M. Walsh, L. Gaule, C. Griffin, L. Claffey, D. Murphy, A. Kelly, D. Murphy, D. O'Neill.

ROINN D FINAL

Muckalee 6-3 Piltown 2-2

This final produced fine fare and was very eagerly contested by two good teams. Claire Coonan got Muckalee off to a good start when she pointed a free. She followed this up with a converted thirty. Piltown were coming into the game more and more but were rocked by a Muckalee goal which came as a result of a free. Piltown upped their game again and finished the half strongly. Elaine Kenny scored two fine points to keep

them in contention.

Muckalee 1-2 Piltown 0-2

Muckalee again started very strongly and Marie Butler found the net. This was followed up by another Claire Coonan goal. Piltown came back very strongly and Katie Power goaled for them. Marie Butler got another goal for Muckalee and it looked all over for Piltown. They did not throw in the towel however and Elaine Kenny put them right back in it with a fine goal. It was now time for Muckalee to up their game and this they did with two more goals to give them a comfortable lead. The final score of the match was a point for Muckalee by Hannah Maher.

Claire Coonan was an inspirational figure for Muckalee. Marie Butler was excellent in the forwards and Hannah Maher gave her every assistance. Sarah Shore was a tower of strength in defence. Elaine Kenny was terrific for Piltown and led by example all the way. Katie Power did very well on goal and was moved outfield to bolster the Piltown attack for the second half.

Muckalee: F. Ring, D. Haughney, S. Shore, C. Haughney, M. Comerford, R.Maher, C. Coonan, A.M. Walsh, H. Maher, M. Butler, E. Keane, S. Teehan.

Subs: M. O'Keeffe, L. Taylor, M. Stapleton, M. Mulhall, C. Brennan, S. Quirke, E. Fitzpatrick.

Piltown: K. Power, K. McCarthy, A. White, E. Kenny, F. Malone, K. Duggan, G.Byrne, M. Long, L. Long, A. Flynn, N. Foley, M. Foley. *Subs:* M. Drennan, A. O'Brien, N. Grace, K. Power.

LEINSTER SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2002

Preliminary Rounds

Carlow v Meath = Team A

Wicklow v Laois = Team B

Kildare v Westmeath = Team C

Quarter-finals

Team A v Team B

Winners A/B v Team C = Team D

Semi-finals

Kilkenny v Offaly

Wexford v Team D



Le gach dea-mhéin ó
Chomhairle Laignin
C.L.G.

Micheál Ó Dubhshláine
Runaí

" A Great Experience and a Great Result"

All Ireland Féile Peil na nÓg 2001 By Dick Mullins

Tipperary hosted the 2001 Féile Peil na nÓg in early July and Co. Under 14 champions Erin's Own Castlecomer represented Kilkenny in Division 5.

The 'Comer squad were based in Newport which is on the Limerick / Clare border. Competition commenced on Friday afternoon with Erin's Own taking on the host club Newport. The visitors "hit the ground running" rattling in two early goals and went on to win the game on a score line of 4-6 to 1-2. Next stop was Thurles for the Féile parade which was a great spectacle with a massive turn out of boys and girls from every corner of Ireland and even a few overseas teams.

On Saturday morning Erin's Own were in action at 9.30 a.m. when they scored an impressive 3-13 followed by a 4 -10 score line as they beat Ballinahinch (Tipperary) and Myshall (Carlow) respectively thus topping their group with a full six points and earning a semi-final place.

Golden was the venue for the Semi-final on Saturday evening with Tubber / Ballycumber of Offaly presenting the opposition. This was a real test of character for the Kilkenny boys. They came from behind to level the scores at half-time but turned up the heat in the second half and with goals from James Mullins and Daniel Walsh ran out winners on a score of 5-6 to 4-3.

An early start Sunday morning saw the team heading for the final at Semple Stadium in Thurles where the opponents were the Laois Champions "The Heath". Coach Adam Holden had the players in tip top shape as they hit the

hallowed turf of this great arena. Erin's Own carried the game to the Laois boys and were 1-2 to 0-2 ahead at half time. The 'Comer lads totally dominated the second half adding 1-3 to their tally while they held their opponents scoreless. They were convincing and deserving champions on a score line of 2-5 to 0-2 and on their way to this All-Ireland Title they notched up a total of 18 goals and 40 points.

It was a proud captain Daniel Walsh who received the winners trophy from GAA president Mr. Seán MacThaidhg who also presented each team member with their All-Ireland medal.

The Castlecomer travelling party were deeply indebted to their hosts Newport for the great hospitality and support afforded to them over the three days. Erin's own are also most appreciative of the recognition given to this marvellous achievement by the officers of Kilkenny Co. Board who turned up in great numbers at the celebration party held in Castlecomer.

Team: Daniel Walsh (capt.) Mark Delaney, John Meally, Liam Oates, Wayne Kavanagh, Shane Walsh, John O'Gorman, James Hurley, Robbie Lynch, Raymond Dowd, Richie Lynch, Keith Renwick, Michael Moran, Jimmy Byrne, James Mullins Leon Brennan, Barry Dunne, Peadar Boran, Conor Fogarty, Eddie Kelly, Eric Kavanagh.

Mentors: Dick Mullins, Peter Boran, Dan Maher, Coach Adam Holden



ERIN'S OWN FÉILE PEIL NA NÓG WINNERS DIV 5 2001

Back: A. Holden, D. Mullins, S. Walsh, K. Renwick, J. Byrne, B. Dunne, M. Moran, R. Lynch, L. Oates, J. Hurley, R. Lynch, J. Mullins, P. Boran, D. Maher.

Front: E. Kelly, C. Fogarty, J.O'Gorman, P. Boran, J. Meally, D. Walsh, M. Delaney, W. Kavanagh, R. Dowd, L. Brennan, E. Kavanagh

KILKENNY

In the Lion's Den

Leinster U21 Campaign

Barrie Henriques

A cold analysis of Kilkenny's chances of success in the 2001 Under 21 campaign would surely have had them do better than be grist to the Wexford hurling mill, in the Leinster Championship. After all, we are talking about the best under-21 hurlers that this County could present - and make no mistake about it, Richie Power and his mentors left not a pebble unturned in the search for the best available talent. All but five of the starting line out against Laois in Carlow were very entrenched senior club hurlers with very fashionable, named clubs.

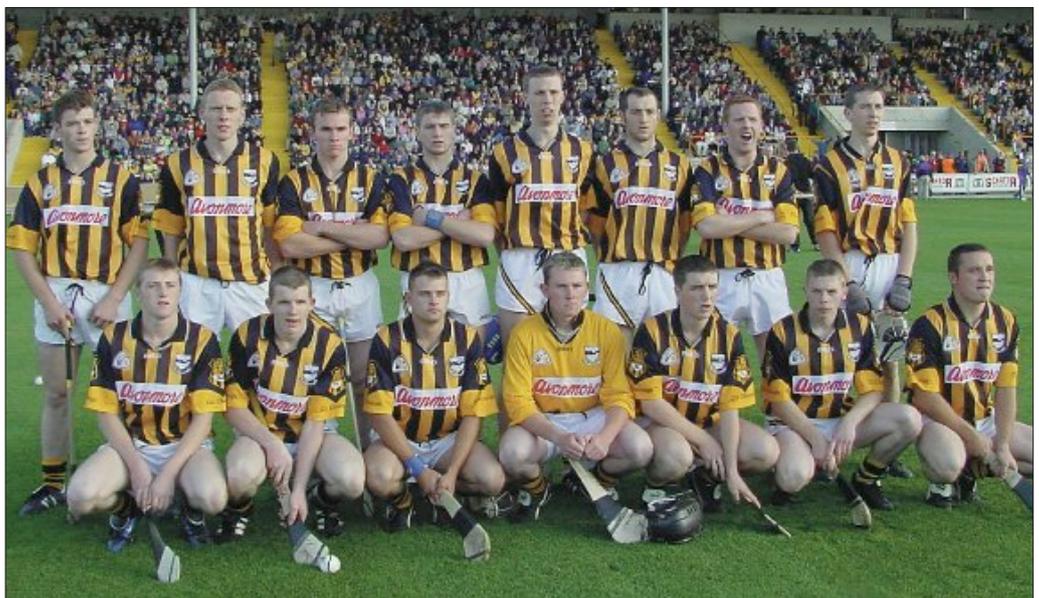
However, cold analysis avails one little when confronted with the hot furnace of competition, as we were to discover in Wexford Park on July 11th. This is not to say that Wexford didn't deserve to win their Leinster crown. No sir! Let it be stated categorically that nobody deserved to collect Leinster medals in the magnificently refurbished Wexford Park more than the Wexford lads on that historic night, but more about that anon.

Kilkenny started their campaign against Laois in Dr.Cullen Park on Wednesday evening, June 20th. We wallowed in awe, and glowed in anticipation of great things to come, as our lads set about demolishing a lack-lustre Laois fifteen. There was only one team out on the park for the first quarter hour. Kilkenny were the pre-match favourites, and it looked as if an almighty whitewash of Laois hurling was on the cards.

Kilkenny had early points from Paul Sheehan and Colin Herity to settle them. Eddie Walsh forced Kevin Galvin in the Laois goal to make a superb save shortly after the second Kilkenny point. Galvin was not so lucky a few moments later as he could only watch and moan as a Brian "Brookie" Phelan shot zoomed into his net. More points by Sheehan, Kevin Power, and Aidan Fogarty had the Kilkenny score reading - 1-6, and "zilch" behind the Laois name on the scoreboard. And this was all inside the first 14 minutes. A rout was in prospect.

Laois got their first score in the 15th minute, thanks to a Brian McCormack point. Sheehan had Kilkenny leading by 1-8 to 0-1 by the 18th minute. In the ensuing 12 minutes, Kilkenny were to score but a single goal by Kevin Power. Laois were to

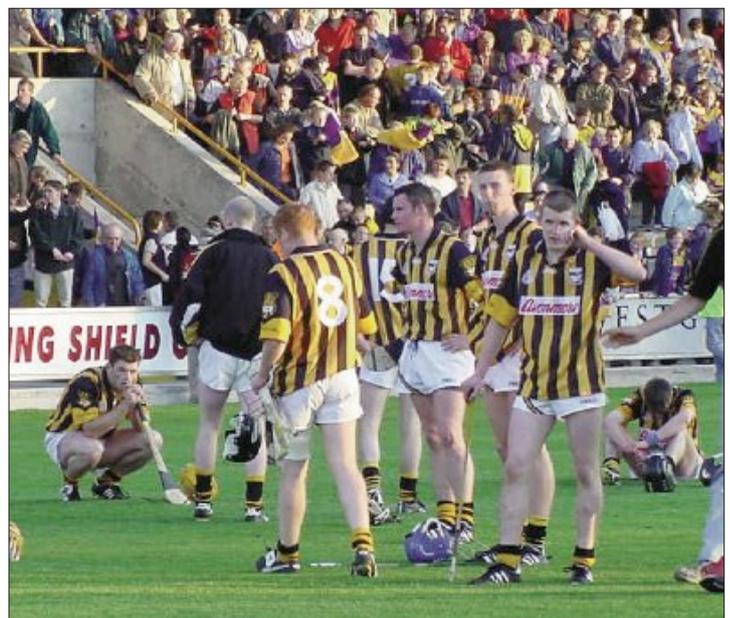
score another seven points before the half time break. No longer was it to be a stroll in the June evening sun. Laois came storming out in the second half, threw caution to the wind, and performed with a ferocity that totally unhinged the Kilkenny lads. But for the strength and commitment of players like Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, and James Ryall, Laois could have caused a huge upset. They eventually were overpowered, outthought, and out of the championship by a Kilkenny outfit that certainly got a severe jolt of realism. They would have done well to remember it. And so we went down to Wexford Park - what a magnificent monument to the foresight, and ambitions of the Wexford Gaels - on the Wednesday after the Leinster senior Final. We should have expected something very special. We got it. Pity we didn't have the men to respond in like. This was Vinegar Hill, Boolavogue, Spancil Hill, Bunker Hill, Boot Hill and any other hill you wish to nominate. This was Wexford at their all-fired marauding best. Not too many great hurlers, but boys oh boys did they know how to win. Kilkenny were crushed under the power and glory of the Wexford grinding machine. Given that the Kilkenny goal was a freakish givaway, Kilkenny only managed to score a paltry three points from play in a full sixty



KILKENNY LEINSTER U21 FINALISTS 2001

Photo Martin Fogarty

Back: Brian Phelan, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, Brian Hogan, Eddie Walsh, Kevin Power, Colin Herity.
Front: Aidan Fogarty, Chris Maher, Paul Sheehan, Derek Brennan, Paul Shefflin, Brian "Brookie" Phelan, Chris O'Neill.



"Where did we go wrong?"

Kilkenny U21 players ponder on their defeat in Wexford Park.
Photo Martin Fogarty

minutes of hurling. One shudders to think what the eventual outcome would have been had the Kilkenny backs not stuck so bravely to their task. I'm talking about Derek Brennan in goal, JJ Delaney, Noel Hickey and Paul Shefflin on the full back line, and Chris O'Neill, Brian Hogan and James Ryall on the half back line. I realise that it was a tough call going into the lion's den, particularly after the mauling the Kilkenny cats had inflicted on the Wexford senior team, but Daniel managed to come out of the lions den with his life and reputation intact. Alas, too many of the Kilkenny players failed to emulate Daniel on the night.

For the record, Wexford could only manage to be level with Kilkenny at half time - the score then was Wexford 0-5 Kilkenny 1-2, and Kilkenny were turning round with the strong wind at their backs. It was Wexford however that laid down the markers early in the second half and went on to take the title. They deserved to win. Let there be no doubt about that. The final score after sixty minutes read, Wexford 0-10 Kilkenny 1-5.

Kilkenny Panel:

Derek Brennan (James Stephens), JJ Delaney (Fenians), Noel Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Paul Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Chris O'Neill (Graignamanagh), Brian Hogan (O'Loughlins), James Ryall (Graig Ballycallan), Kevin Power (Fenians), Colin Herity (Dunnamaggin), Aidan Fogarty (Emeralds), Chris Maher (Tullaroan), Paul Sheehan (Rower Inistioge), Brian "Brookie" Phelan (St Patricks), Brian Phelan (Clara), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh),

Subs: Cillian Breathneach (Dicksboro), Ken Moore (Dunnamaggin), Jamie Power (Carrickshock), Paddy O'Brien (James Stephens), Alan Barry (Dicksboro), Gordon Byrne (Erins Own), Brian Murphy (O'Loughlins), Jackie Tyrrell (James Stephens), John Coogan (Tullaroan), Joe Murray (James Stephens), Niall Rohan (Carrickshock), Niall Phelan (St Lactains).

Selectors: Richie Power (Carrickshock), Murty Kennedy (St Lactains), John Marnell (Dicksboro).

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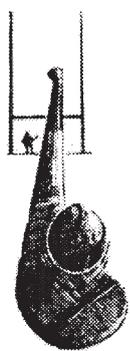
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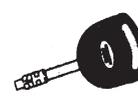


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Camogie News



Blacks & Whites

A Busy Year

This year the club had teams from U-18, U-16, U-14 and U-12 age group entered in Competitions and two teams U-16 and U-12 qualified for semi-final stage and both were beaten in the semi-finals.

County Panellists

Three members of our club were on the U-14 Kilkenny County Panel, Bríd Doran, Michelle Moloney and Emma Ryan who won the Leinster Final title this year. Our club trainer John O'Grady was also a selector on this team.

Summer Coaching

Two of our U-18 team Carolyn O'Dowd and Aimee Murphy did great work with the U-12 girls this year and both helped greatly in the coaching of the Juveniles during the Summer months. Carolyn also completed a Juvenile Coaching Course this year.

The Club wishes to thank the hurling club for the use of the pitch and complex and also John O'Grady (trainer) for all his time and help with the girls.



Blacks & Whites U-12 Camogie team

Back: L. Kirwan, C. O'Dowd (Trainer), S. Whearty, A. Doran, U. Dalton, E. Brennan, AM Lennon, E. Carroll, A. Kelly, R. Joyce, C. O'Brien, C. Cleere, A. Murphy (Trainer), K. O'Neill.

Front: E. Barcoe, B. Kelly, M. Barcoe, C. Kirwan, E. Barcoe, L. O'Brien, L. Murphy, E. Murphy, C. O'Shaughnessy.

Danesfort Camogie Club

Excellent Performances

Danesfort Camogie club did not secure any titles on the club scene but many Danesfort girls excelled with club and county throughout the year.

Famous Five

St. Brigids College Callan won the All Ireland Colleges B title and were assisted by five Danesfort girls - Aoife Treacy who captained the team, Roisin Carey, Grainne Brennan, Julianne Woodcock and Aileen Cunningham. The latter three won Leinster Junior camogie medals also but were denied an opportunity of a tilt at the All Ireland series due to the foot and mouth outbreak.

Julianne and Grainne won U-16 medals with Kilkenny only to lose to Cork in the All Ireland final. Aoife Treacy went on to collect a Leinster U-18 medal with Kilkenny.



Danesfort's Famous Five

Aileen Cunningham, Grainne Brennan, Aoife Treacy, Roisin Carey and Julianne Woodcock.



Camogie News



Glenmore

Senior Club Officers 2001

Chairperson:- Bridget Murphy
Secretary :- Joan Handrick
Treasurer:- Bridget Mullally
PRO :- Margaret Helen O'Connor

Juvenile Club Officers 2001

Chairperson :- Eileen Aylward
Secretary :- Eileen O'Keeffe
Treasurer:- Ann Jones

The year 2001 for the Glenmore Club was a year of building for the future in all grades, with the introduction of many new players to our Intermediate Team and the start of our under age teams.

Intermediate Team

Our Intermediate team reached the quarter final stage of the championship where they were narrowly beating by the Rower-Inistoge. However it was an unlucky year for the team as we lost a lot of our team from last year through retirements, injuries, etc. It was nevertheless encouraging to see so many of our younger players come onto the team and do so well. Many thanks must go to our trainers Bridget Murphy and Maureen Mullally for all the time and effort they put in with the team.

U-16 Team

The U-16 team competed very well in all their matches and although they did not make the playoff's they can take heart in the fact that most of their team are again eligible for next years U-16 team.

Juvenile Section

For the first time in the club's history we fielded teams at under age level. A U-14 team, U12 team, U-10 team and primary school team. The players seemed to really enjoy the games and the training sessions and as the year progressed the number coming to the pitch increased all the time, which is a good sign for the future of the club.

Our U-10 team had a very good year and received runner up medals in the B final of the County U-10 Blitz held in the O'Loughlin's pitches in Kilkenny.

Congratulations

The club would like to congratulate Bridget Mullally who was a member of the Kilkenny Senior Team who reached the All-Ireland Final and although Kilkenny were defeated in the final, Bridget played very well.

Club Sponsors

The club is deeply indebted to our main team sponsor, Sheehan's Garage who has supported us now for a number of years. Also we would like to thank the other business and individuals who sponsored and supported us through out the year.



Glenmore U-10 Camogie Players 2001

Back: Laura Sullivan, Nora Lee Phelan, Orla Doyle, Eleanor Kirwan, Emma O'Keeffe, Ruth Jones, Claire Aylward.

Front: Amy O'Donoghue, Sally Anne Power, Aoife Oates, Sara Treacy, Louise Boyle, Nicola Power, Ashling Irish. *Missing: Debbie Russell*

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Camogie News



O'Loughlins

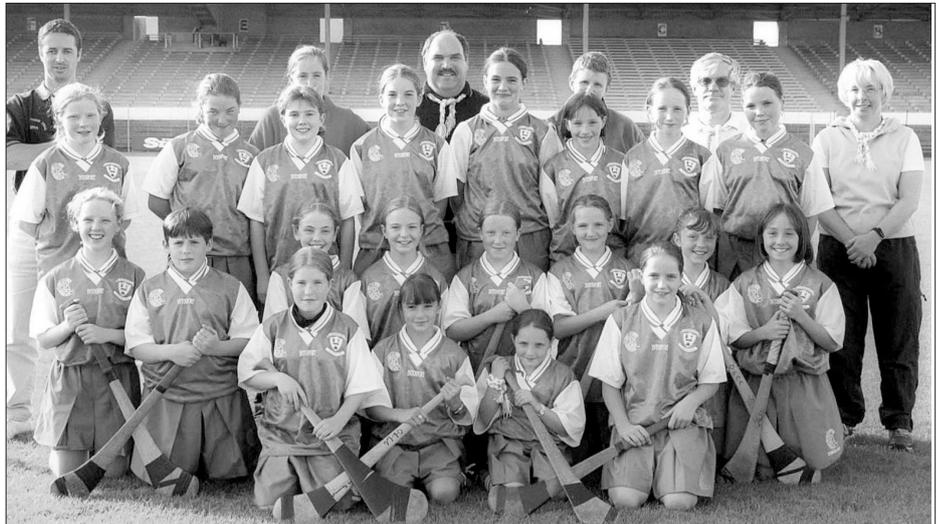
Officers:

Chairman: Gerry Buckley
 Vice-Chairman: Pat Stapleton
 Treasurer: Mary Buckley
 Secretary: Ann Murphy
 PRO: Liam Dunne

O'Loughlin's Camogie club is now in its tenth year. We are a progressive young club with a membership of 65 girls. From small beginnings in 1991 fielding one team, we have advanced to taking part in six different competitions this year. On the field of play, 2001 was a good year with our U14 & U18 teams finishing midtable and our U16 team making the county semi-finals.

The U12 team surprised many with their conquests throughout the summer to reach the Roinn A final for the first time in the clubs history. Unfortunately, they fell at the last hurdle to Mullinavat by one point. However, this is a very talented and skilful young team and a County final win will be their's in the near future.

The club is represented at county level by Liam Dunne as treasurer of the County



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS U12 CAMOGIE TEAM - U12 ROINN A FINALISTS 2001
Back: Michael Barcoe, Sarah Morrisey, Sharon Dwyer, Sarah Manogue, Karen Pierse, Eimear Rodgers, Liam Dunne, Denise Parsons, Denise Gaule, Penny Kavanagh, Aisling Butler, Jim Kavanagh, Lorraine Gaule, Ita Dunne.
Middle: Laura O'Neill, Kelly McGuinness, Claire Williams, Alsa Barry, Marina Tyrell, Zoe Cahill, Frances O'Sullivan, Sarah Burke.
Front: Elizabeth Kavavagh, Laura Fogarty, Mary Deegan (Mascot), Niamh Deegan.

Board and who, as trainer of the U14 County team, led Kilkenny to our first U14 Leinster title in three years.

Jean Delaney, Eimear Rodgers and Lisa Dunne represented the club on the field of play in this championship.

Gowran Camogie Club



GOWRAN UNDER 9 CAMOGIE TEAM
Back: Aisling Byrne, Elaine Holden, Sarah Delehaunty, Emma Comerford, Katie Dunne, Laura Fennelly, Aisling Carey, Anne Drea, Kay Drea.
Front: Orla Byrne, Miriam Holden, Paula Farrell, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Fionnuala Quinlan, Kay Drea, Elaine Rudkins, Evelyn Fogarty.



UNDER 8 TEAM WHO PLAYED IN THE COUNTY BOARD BLITZ IN JULY
Back: Anne Drea, Emma Comerford, Aisling Byrne, Sarah Anne Quinlan, Kay Drea.
Front: Angela Langton, Elaine Rudkins, Orla Byrne, Fionnuala Quinlan, Paula Farrell.



Camogie News



Mullinavat

Officers 2001

Chairperson: John Joe Aylward
Secretary: Deidre Aylward
Treasurer: Anna Kavanagh

U-12 Success

Pride of place in the camogie club this year must go to the U-12 team for their outstanding victory in the county final. This team emerged from a preliminary group of over twenty-five teams with only one defeat all year suffered at the hands of Piltown. The county final saw them pitted against O'Loughlin Gaels and in a great game the Mullinavat girls secured the title by the narrowest of margins. Credit must also go to the team coaches Michael Law and Mary Aylward who worked hard with the girls all the year. **Pane:** Emma Fitzpatrick, Emma Duggan, Grainne Dalton, Tara Curtis, Regina Madigan, Sinead Phelan, Lucinda Gahan, Susan Fitzpatrick, Paula Butler, Elizabeth Cunningham, Leanne Fennelly, Allison Duggan, Avril Delahunty, Daniel Phelan, Rebecca Reade, Ellen Watters, Dawn Holden, Sarah Grennan, Elaine Fitzpatrick, Lisa Knox, Sonia Aylward, Zoe Delahunty, Laura Walsh, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Laura Walsh, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Rachel Holden, Kerri Doolin, Kate McGarry, Sarah Culleton.

U-14

The U-14s did very well to achieve a place in the semi-finals where they were narrowly beaten by Ballyhale Shamrocks.

U-16

The U-16 team showed sheer guts and determination in reaching their county

final by defeating James Stephens, Shamrocks and Clara in the league and Clara again in the semi-final. In the county final the girls had to give best to Freshford but not without a gutsy performance.

Senior

The senior team started the year with the aim of reaching the county semi final. St. Brigids Ballycallan was the first game of the season and although victory was not achieved some valuable experience was gained. The team then travelled to Lisdowney knowing that a victory here would put them in a good position for the semi-finals. However on the evening they went under by a single point. This

brought on possibly the most regularly awaited game of the year with local rivals Ballyhale Shamrocks. Some class-hurling by the Mullinavat girls saw them cruise to a comfortable victory. Though the girls gave a strong performance against Freshford in the semi-final, it was not enough to overthrow the eventual champions.

U-18/21

As we go to press our U-18 squad await their county final having recorded victories over St. Brigids Ballycallan and Ballyhale Shamrocks. Finally the club would like to congratulate those players who were involved with county panels during the year.



MULLINAVAT U-12 CAMOGIE 2001

Back: Avril Delahunty, Mick Law (Trainer), Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Alison Duggan, Grainne Dalton, Regina Madigan, Lucinda Gahan

Paula Butler, Emma Fitzpatrick, Tara Curtis, Mary Aylward (Trainer), Danielle Phelan.

Middle: Rebecca Reid, Susan Fitzpatrick, Sinead Phelan, Lisa Knox, Leanne Fennelly, Emma Duggan, Elizabeth Cunningham, Laura Walsh.

Front: Zoe Delahunty, Kerry Doolin, Sarah Grennan, Sonia Aylward, Elaine Fitzpatrick, Dawn Holden, Ellen Waters.

The Vat Bar & Lounge

*Going to or from the game, call into the bar where all Gaels meet.
Well done, Mullinavat, and good luck in Senior grade next year*

From Michael Shefflin and Staff in The Vat

Tel: 051 - 898107





Camogie News



Paulstown / Goresbridge

Officers 2001

Chairman: Jim Flavin
 Secretary: Ailish Delaney
 Asst. Sec: Margaret Brennan
 Treasurer: Breda Purcell
 Trainers: Jim Flavin and Ann Mullins

Schools

Great work continues to be done in our schools in camogie and hurling. A sincere word of thanks to the teachers for their continued enthusiasm. The hurling side is in transition at present. The schools camogie team, coached by Mary Holden won the Roinn C county final with an excellent victory over St. John of God, Kilkenny.

U-12

The U-12 side had great wins over Blacks and Whites, Gowran, St. Martins and Danesfort to reach the semi-finals but were beaten by Mullinavat.

U-14

The U-14 team reached the county final following wins over Danesfort, Gowran, Lisdowney, Ballyraggett, O'Loughlins and

Thomastown. However they were beaten by Dicksboro in a closely contested final.

U-16

The U-16 side which comprised mainly

of U-14 players did not have much success this year but can look forward to better times over the next few years.



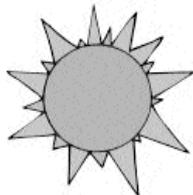
Paulstown / Goresbridge U-14 Camogie County Finalists 2001

Back: Emma Staunton, Aoife Drennan, Sarah Brennan, Aoife Murphy, Clare Whitely, Rita Coady, Leonie Staunton, Lee-Ann Corcoran, Sara Brophy, Mary Brennan, Emma Flavin.

Front: Lisa Brennan, Siobhan Murphy, Sinead Whitely, Orla Kealy, Alison Staunton, Julie Purcell, Mary Buggy, Rosanne Brennan, Colette Dormer, Michelle Brennan.

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Good Luck to Kilkenny in 2002



Camogie News



St Anne's

Camogie Club Officials 2001

- Chairman:** Sean Warren
Vice Chairperson: Mary Phelan
Secretary: Ann Ryan
Treasurer: Margaret Norton
P.R.O.: Margaret Maher
Trainer: Michael Glendon
Selectors: Michael Glendon, Jack Phelan, and Sean Warren.

St. Anne's Camogie Club had a very busy year in 2001. The club entered teams in all grades from U-10 up to Intermediate. In the U-10 blitz in O'Loughlins we won the B section in our group and their skill and enthusiasm argues well for the future.

Our U-12 team had good wins over Lisdowney and Ballyragget but just missed out on a place in the semi-final. Our U-14 team found the going a bit difficult but had a great win over Clara in their last match.

Johnstown and Crosspatrick entered a primary schools team for the first time and did very well and did their schools proud.

The disappointment of losing the U-16

final in 2000 drove the U-16 girls to success in 2001. In the league selection we beat St. Martin's, Blacks and Whites, Emeralds, Tullogher and St. Brigid's to reach the semi-final against Carrickshock.

This was a very good game with St. Anne's building up a very good lead with the help of a very strong wind and running out winners 4-12 to 1-2. The final, a local derby with the Emeralds, proved to be a very good hard sporting game with the honours going to St. Anne's 3-14 to 1-3

The U-18 team went down to a very strong Freshford team. The U-21 are in the A semi-final. The Intermediate girls put in a very big effort to try and reach the senior grade. The team had a great run in the league coming in on top with a place in the semi-final with Dicksboro, St. Anne's winning 2-14 to 1-2. In the final we had to give way to a very good Tullogher team 4-5 to 3-3.

The club would like to congratulate Edel Maher for winning U-16 and U-18 Leinster medals and also for reaching an All-Ireland final with Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team, and Catherine Doherty, who also reached an All-Ireland Senior

final with Kilkenny. Also, congratulations to Tara Warren for winning an U-16 Leinster medal.

The club would also like to congratulate Edel Maher on winning the Gael Linn Young Player of the Year award and Tara Warren on winning Senior Player of the Year in ColEaiste Mhuire, Johnstown.

The Camogie Club is deeply indebted to all our sponsors who contributed so generously to our Co. Finals and we take this opportunity to thank them sincerely.

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ST ANNE'S U 16 COUNTY CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2001.

Front: Siobhan Henderson, Marian Ryan, Linda Grey, Stephanie Hickey, Helen Phelan, Edel Maher, Clare Phelan, Mairead Henderson, Orla Hughes.

Back: Aine Norton, Mary Margaret Campion, Michael Glendon (Trainer) Lorraine Burke, Jean Ann Phelan, Tara Warren, Ann Marie Phelan, Eamer Power, Mary Lonergan (Capt.) Michelle Garrett, Ashling Tobin, Brenda McEvoy.



Camogie News



St Martin's Camogie Club

Officers:

Chairperson: Lillian Holohan
 Secretary: Cathy Gibbons
 Treasurer: Breda Roche
 Trainer: Mikey Maher
 Assistant Trainers: Tom Kinsella, Bobby Shore

Junior Team

Training for this year's Camogie season began on the 1st March, bringing girls from five neighbouring parishes together. The girls trained one night a week until the end of March when things began to hot up and went to three nights.

The girls' first match was against Clara on May 7th in Coon and St Martin's won 2-2 to 1-0. Two challenge matches were played against Rathdowney and Gowran before the next round of the championship which was against the Emeralds on their home ground on July 11th where, in a very tough & exciting match, the girls came out on top with the score 4-5 to Emeralds 1-8 with some very good scores from Mona Kehoe & Joan Maher.

One week later, and St Martin's next opponents were St Brigid's of Ballycallan. On all previous occasions, St Martin's failed to win a match against Ballycallan but on the 18th of July, in a very one-sided match, St. Martin's were finally victorious with a score line of 9-2 to St

Brigid's 0-2. St Martin's now topped their group and were drawn against James Stephen's in the semi-final. The semi-final was played in O'Loughlins on Sunday 26th August. This was the girls' second semi-final outing in two years and they went out with great determination and with lessons learned from their previous experience. In a very close and hard fought encounter, St Martin's gave an excellent performance and won 3-5 to 1-7. St. Martin's were now in their first county final since forming in 1998. The final was played against Carrickshock in Nowlan Park on the 2nd of September. In a very keenly contested final, St Martin's won on a score line of 3-3 to 1-4. Scorers for St Martin's: Grainne Daly 2-1, Mary Love 1-1, Noelle Curran 0-1. Congratulations to all the team members who played exceptionally well all year and looking forward to the Intermediate Championship in 2002.

Special Thanks to Mikey, Bobby & Tom for all their time & effort during the year and to all our sponsors & supporters.



Breda Roche (St Martin's captain) receives the County Junior Camogie trophy from **Brendan Williams**, Chairman, Camogie Board

Junior Panel:

Clodagh Kinsella, Teresa Shore, Geraldine Roche, Marie Purcell, Georgina Kelly, Noelle Curran, Breda Roche, Cathy Gibbons, Martina Maher, Colette Coogan, Grainne Daly, Mary Love, Martina O'Neill, Joan Maher, Mona Kehoe, Miriam O'Keefe, Niamh Maher, Kelly Roche, Eimear Maher, Ruth Dwyer, Sharon Shore, Liz Shore, Grace McCormack & Jo Roche.



ST MARTIN'S - CO JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Joan Maher, Marie Purcell, Mary Love, Breda Roche, Clodagh Kinsella, Martina O'Neill, Noelle Curran, Kathy Gibbons, Grace McCormack, Kelly Roche, Ruth Dwyer, Liz Shore.

Front: Grainne Daly, Geraldine Roche, Collette Coogan, Tereas Shore, Georgina Kelly, Miriam O'Keefe, Martina Maher, Mona Kehoe, Eimear Maher.
Michelle Maher & Sarah Roche (mascots)



Camogie News



Thomastown Camogie Club

Once again 2001 was a good year for Camogie in Thomastown. Even if there were no trophies won, a number of our teams reached the knock-out stages of their respective championships. 2001 also saw camogie being played once again at Grennan College which shows that camogie is alive and well in Thomastown.

Our intermediate team started training at the end of February and our first three sessions were held without a trainer. We then brought Paul Dempsey on board and the club is very grateful to him for all his hard-work and dedication throughout the season. Thanks also to Gerry Doyle who came on board to help Paul out during the season. The team missed out on the knockout stages of the championship but well done to all the players for their continued commitment and dedication. Once again this year, we took part in the Kilmacud Crokes Seven a side competition. A good day was had by all.

Congratulations to Grennan College Senior Camogie Team on reaching the Leinster Final this year. Unfortunately, the girls were beaten on the day by a stronger Castlecomer side. It is great to see camogie once again being played in the school because for a

number of years the girls had been of deprived the chance to play camogie. Well done to all involved and long may the commitment to camogie last in the school.

Well done also to the primary school who competed in the primary school's competition. Great work is being done in the primary school by Bríd O' Shea and Patricia Moran.

U-16

Our U-16's reached the county semi final in which they were narrowly beaten by onepoint by Lisdowney.

U-14

Our u14's also reached the county semi final but were beaten by Paulstown. On the night the girls had to play without seven regulars due to holidays and injuries. Well done to all involved.

U-12

This year saw the first U-12 Championship run by the County Board. Our U-12's reached the championship t/4 final but were beaten by the eventual winners Mullinavat. Well done to all the girls for their great effort. Many thanks also to Helen Farrell and Michelle Conway who continue to do great work with our U-10's and U-12's. Keep up the good work!

Congratulations to all the players who represented the club at county level.

The camogie club wishes to thank to the GAA Club for the use of pitches for training and for matches and for the use of floodlights during the winter months. The pitches were always in immaculate condition for training and matches.

Due to the Foot and Mouth our dinner, dance which was fixed for last March, had to be cancelled and the Aintree Grand National was also cancelled which left the club with no fund raising activities for the year. Hopefully we will be able to hold a dinner dance in early March and have our annual Aintree Grand National Draw. A very special thank you to Johnny O' Brien, the club's main sponsor for his generosity, without whose financial support the club could not function. Hurls and sliotars don't come cheap!

Congratulations to Liz Dempsey on refereeing both the Senior and Intermediate Camogie County finals this year. Not an easy task by any means!

To all our supporters the club says a big thank you!

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Camogie News



Windgap

Under 16

Windgap Camogie Club had a successful year at different levels. The Under 16 side remained unbeaten until they met a very strong Lisdowney side in the Roinn C County final at Palmerstown. They put up a good fight but went down on the day. Polo shirts were presented to the under 16 team by the club on the eve of County Final, as a moment of a successful year and the side were treated to a meal sponsored by Bobby Jackman, the trainer of Windgap's junior hurling team.

Under 18

The Under 18 squad reached the Roinn B County semi final where they were beaten by a very experienced Emeralds

side.

Under 10

At under 10 level many challenges and blitzes were played with great enthusiasm and excitement. Players as young as 5 and 6 years old togged out in red and navy to fly the flag for their club. The Under 10 team travelled to Mooncoin to participate in a blitz in which they emerged winners in group B. Deirdre Finn helped with the schools team through coaching and training.

Under 14

The Under 14 team played in Roinn B for the first time at which level games were won and lost, they played with great commitment and enthusiasm.

At schools level and at Under 14 level the hurling team comprised of many skillful girls holding their positions to the amazement of many of their opponents. Many of the girls togged out in red and white to hurl at different levels.

Thanks for the Help

On August weekend, a great time was had by all who participated in our fund raising event in Dunnes Stores where money was made and the craic was good.

The club would like to thank Matt Doran, Pat Moore, Maria Comerford and John Ryan continue to train at all levels their efforts have seen player numbers rising within the club.



WINDGAP UNDER SIXTEEN COUNTY FINALISTS 2001

Back: Brid Landy, Rosie O' Donovan, Lisa McCornac, Aoife Ryan, Leza Cahill, Phena Heffernan, Lorraine Moore, Marie Foley, Anita Meagher, Brigid Cahill, Lorraine Hartery, Maria Barry.

Front: Eimear Fitzpatrick, Aimee Doran, Sarah McCarthy, Aileen Kennedy, Elizabeth Moore, Lisa Phelan, Ann-Marie Phelan, Elaine O'Shea, Monica Purcell, Katie Burke.

Well Done, O'Loughlins!

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“Position Vacant”

The passing of Kieran Meally

Martin Fogarty

Celebrities, sporting heroes, legends and the like do not generally surround us for too long. If we know one, meet them from time to time or even brush against them on occasion, our life is all the better for that experience. A shrewd managing director will move the best and most capable employees from department to department in an effort to spread their influence. A Bishop might keep a good Priest on the move, give several Parishes the benefit of his works. A team manager with one real good player has a dilemma. He wants to play him in the backs but he needs him in the forwards. He has to stand in goals for the penalties and take all the frees. When the pressure is on he moves him all over the place. He wonders how the team will survive if this player is injured or retires. Then it happens, career over. He's finished. Can he be replaced, not this one!

Kieran Meally passed away earlier this year and since his passing a “position vacant” notice will have been posted in many, many places. The positions will never be filled. Kieran was an exceptional person, very humble and very kind. He was great crack and was sure to bring life to any function he attended. Above all he was a great Christian. He didn't preach Christianity, he lived it. He always wore a great big smile and of course a shirt and tie, no matter what the weather. There was no better man either, to let fly with a good lecture and a few home truths if the occasion demanded.

To understand the man that Kieran was you probably had to come from Castlecomer, Clogh or Moneenroe and you had to have an interest in G.A.A. From that base you had a reasonable chance of seeing first hand many of the good deeds that Kieran performed. He knew thousands of people throughout Ireland and afar and he probably did a “turn” for each and every one of them.

If you knew Kieran, you were better for it. Everyone wanted a piece of him and he spread himself around like the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Everybody's problem was Kieran's problem. He was always ready to lend a hand. Everything would be dropped if there was a crisis, big or small. He always put himself last, even his own family would be neglected if somebody else was in trouble. Of course, neglected is absolutely the wrong word to use but you get the picture. Kieran's family were never neglected. They meant more to him than anything else in the world and were always provided for to the very best of his ability. He loved each and every one of them dearly and equally. His wife Joan, daughters Ann Marie, Kay and Siobhán and his son Sean. They had however, to share him with the rest of us. A man like Kieran is only on loan to this world and everybody needs him. The Lord told the Apostles to “leave everything and come

follow me” He must have told Kieran Meally something similar.

Kieran was taken away from us all too soon but he left a legacy of goodness behind him that will be remembered for a long time. He has gone to St. Peter's gates where he will be delighted to team up with old friends and family. He will particularly like to meet his old pal Tom Shalloe with whom he had so many great times. Many people can see Kieran at the gates of heaven, standing outside, trying to get others in. He has a ticket himself but he will probably give it away to some stranger with no ticket and hope that “Shalloe” will let him through a side gate.

This of course is a parallel to what has been part and parcel of every hurling All-Ireland for probably the past forty years. It is as good a place as any to start when attempting to paint a small picture of Kieran's many involvements. Club and County rivalries were forgotten each year as “The Bun” (as Kieran was lovingly known) sorted out everybody. He held court outside the little shop at the back of the Hogan Stand and from there tickets were wheeled and dealt. The arrival of his friends from the North, Pat Quinn & Co. with a “pocketful” regularly gave the Bun legendary status. Of course, eaten pie is soon forgotten with Kieran regularly being out of pocket for the tickets. He often joked “you were a great lad on a Sunday and the same boys would meet you on the street in ‘Comer on Monday and look the other way”.

Kieran was born in 1938. He won three Minor Co. Football medals with his beloved Railyard. That was followed by a massive 14 Senior Football medals. His brother Michael won 12 and Martin won 15 so between them they could have opened a sports shop. Kieran won a Junior Hurling Championship with Erin's Own in the famous '58 team. He played Junior Hurling with Kilkenny in '59 and twenty years later in 1979 as manager of Erin's Own, his lifetime dream of bringing a Senior hurling title to Castlecomer was shattered, as victory was snatched from his team with the last puck of the ball. In 1982 Kieran was a selector on the Kilkenny Team that won the All-Ireland and League double.



Following in the footsteps of his father, Kieran was Chairman of the Kilkenny Football Board from 1989-'94. He served as Vice Chairman from 1981-'85 and again in 1988. He was Chairman of Railyard Football Club for many years and he was one of the main driving forces behind the building of the splendid Club house which serves the community so well. The official opening of the building was one of his proudest days. While fully involved in Railyard football club Kieran was equally involved in Erin's Own hurling club. From 1978 on he was regularly at the helm of the senior team and contested several county semi-finals during that time. It is ironic that his last role in the club was as chairman of the development committee and he was the instigator of the current project – the building of a Club House at the Clubs new grounds in Ballycomey. The club have since decided to name the club house "Áras Ó Meallaigh" in honour of Kieran. It was Kieran's wish that the ground itself be called "Canon Kearns Park" in honour of his great friend "Canon John Kearns" another great hurling & 'Comer man.

Outside of G.A.A. Kieran led a hectic life. Each involvement carried it's own stories and adventures. It would be easy to fill a book with all his exploits. During his early years he spent many a summer in the F.C.A. and had great stories to recall. He was an outstanding supporter of Rehab and went on six fundraising walks for the organization. Among the places he walked were Australia, Thailand, The Holy Land and the U.S.A. All in all he probably personally raised in the region of £18,000 for Rehab and he is sorely missed by all his friends in there. Kieran was a renowned singer. He was a member of the Castlecomer Male Voice Choir and enjoyed their many outings especially their trips to Wales. Himself and his great friend, the late Joe O' Neill often formed a two man choir at Sunday Mass in Moneenroe and that choir did not lack for sound.

Kieran started work at the age of fourteen in Massford Co-

op stores close to his home. He later worked as a rates and revenue collector with Kilkenny County Council. This work brought him into close contact with many social problems and it was often that Kieran put his own job on the line when fighting the case of the under privileged during hard times. He was a member of IMPACT Union for 28 years and held the position of Chairman of the Kilkenny branch.

A great man to say a few words, sing a song, tell a joke, sort out a situation or give a bit of advice Kieran was straight and honest to the bone. He never shied away from the truth or what was right and would always speak up if he saw an injustice. In G.A.A. circles he often clashed with the powers that be for speaking his mind (he was seldom wrong). He could not accept it when people in authority were weak and often criticised them for hiding behind rule books and being afraid to make decisions that the knew were correct. Rules were only guidelines he maintained, the committee were there to see that justice was done. If a committee could not bend or over rule the rule then that committee had no function, there was no need even for a hearing –no point He was very concerned at the way the G.A.A. and Croke Park in particular are getting further and further away from the grass roots. "Decisions are being made by people who have no idea about what is happening at the coal-face while if a club wants to get a rule changed they would need a least a "Barrister" on their committee if not a "Judge"" Kieran maintained.

It will soon be Kieran's first anniversary and the pain of his departure has not eased for his family, the people of Moneenroe, Clogh and Castlecomer. Maybe that is a good thing as it means he is not forgotten. As they say in sport "There is no gain without pain" In this case "there is still pain – so there must have been great gain".

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Good Luck to all our Kilkenny teams in 2002

Brian & Georgie's



COACHING CORNER



It's that time of year again when we get a chance to take a look at some of the work which has taken place in Kilkenny during the past 12 months. 2001 saw the Development Squads take off in full flight with 25 coaches giving of their time to foster and further the careers of promising club hurlers, An inter club U-15 Eleven a side was introduced. An U-12 Hurling Tournament took place during the summer. These are just a few of the developments which took place during 2001. Read below to find out more on the goings on in Kilkenny GAA circles. Also enjoy our Family Quiz and the Wordsearch which might keep you occupied after your big Christmass dinner !!!!

Enjoy the break and we look forward to working with you all again in 2002.

BRIAN & GEORGIE'S WORD SEARCH

Hidden here are the names of the 39 Kilkenny clubs listed below. Can you find them?

Then, can you find the three non-Kilkenny clubs hidden among them?

- BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS
- TULLOGHER ROSBERCON
- CONAHY SHAMROCKS
- O'LOUGHLIN GAELS
- BALLYRAGGETT
- BARROW RANGERS
- JAMES STEPHENS
- BENNETTSBRIDGE
- ROWER INISTIOGE
- BLACKS AND WHITES
- GRAIGNAMANAGH
- YOUNG IRELANDS
- CARRICKSHOCK
- CARRIGEEN
- CLARA
- CLONEEN
- DANESFORT
- DICKSBORO
- DUNNAMAGGIN
- EMERALDS
- ERIN'S OWN
- FENIANS
- GALMOY
- GLENMORE
- GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN
- JOHN LOCKES
- KILMACOW
- LISDOWNEY
- MOONCOIN
- MUCKALEE
- MULLINAVAT
- PILTOWN
- RAILYARD
- SLIEVERUE
- ST LACHTAIN'S
- ST MARTIN'S
- THREecastLES
- TULLAROAN
- WINDGAP
- YOUNG IRELANDS

S	H	P	S	B	S	E	T	I	H	W	D	N	A	S	K	C	A	L	B	U	N	R	O
E	B	A	D	E	N	T	Z	K	C	O	H	S	K	C	I	R	R	A	C	H	E	C	M
K	O	G	L	N	I	G	G	A	M	A	N	N	U	D	E	R	U	N	H	T	A	R	N
C	C	D	A	S	K	C	O	R	M	A	H	S	E	L	A	H	Y	L	L	A	B	A	S
O	X	N	R	O	E	E	R	E	S	E	L	T	S	A	C	E	E	R	H	T	S	R	D
L	P	I	E	N	W	O	T	L	I	P	S	N	E	H	P	E	T	S	S	E	M	A	J
N	N	W	M	T	U	N	E	G	O	I	T	S	I	N	I	R	E	W	O	R	W	L	N
H	T	O	E	P	S	R	E	N	N	U	G	Y	L	L	A	B	B	X	I	X	M	C	E
O	R	E	C	S	N	I	A	T	H	C	A	L	T	S	N	A	I	N	E	F	E	J	E
J	O	R	S	R	S	K	C	O	R	M	A	H	S	Y	H	A	N	O	C	G	G	B	N
U	F	O	M	M	E	I	D	N	A	O	R	A	L	L	U	T	H	R	H	U	D	K	O
K	S	M	F	R	Z	B	E	U	R	E	V	E	I	L	S	G	K	A	G	W	I	O	L
M	E	N	F	L	A	M	S	W	R	S	N	I	T	R	A	M	T	S	A	C	R	R	C
U	N	E	I	P	V	L	W	O	C	A	M	L	I	K	B	P	L	Z	N	Y	B	O	N
Q	A	L	H	Q	U	F	D	U	R	D	R	A	Y	L	I	A	R	Y	A	E	S	B	I
W	D	G	K	N	W	O	S	N	I	R	E	E	E	L	A	K	C	U	M	N	T	S	O
N	A	L	L	A	C	Y	L	L	A	B	E	U	G	I	A	R	G	T	A	W	T	K	C
T	T	E	G	G	A	R	Y	L	L	A	B	H	Z	S	Q	G	S	T	N	O	E	C	N
N	X	N	E	E	G	I	R	R	A	C	R	X	G	E	U	G	V	H	G	D	N	I	O
J	X	H	P	Y	I	S	R	E	G	N	A	R	W	O	R	R	A	B	I	S	N	D	O
S	L	E	A	G	N	I	L	H	G	U	O	L	O	I	L	I	E	D	A	I	E	K	M
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C	Y	O	M	L	A	G	M	A	T	A	V	A	N	I	L	L	U	M	G	I	H	S	Z
N	F	D	S	D	N	A	L	E	R	I	G	N	U	O	Y	X	F	T	N	K	K	I	D

Send the names of the three outsider clubs to Barrie Henriques, Callan, Co Kilkenny. First three out of the hat win a gearbag!
Closing date - 31st Jan 2002.



FAMILY QUIZ RULES

Divide the family /group into club/county teams
Each question is worth one point with the sixth question in each round worth three points or a goal. Question six is therefore a bit more difficult .
Enjoy and best of luck
Brian and Georgie

Round One

- Q1. How many steps can a hurler take with the ball in his/her hand?
- Q2. Who won this year's all Ireland football final?
- Q3. How many people can stand in goal for a penalty in hurling?
- Q4. Which team won this year's camogie senior county final?
- Q5. What does C.L.G. stand for?
- Q6. In what year was the G.A.A. founded ?

Round Two

- Q1. Who were this year's Ulster Senior football champions?
- Q2. Who won this year's Ladies football All-Ireland Final ?
- Q3. Which Credit Union sponsors the local Senior hurling championship?
- Q4. Where would you find Dr. Cullen Park?
- Q5. What club does Denis Byrne play for?
- Q6. What county is known as the Lilly Whites?

Round Three

- Q1. How many players on a camogie team?
- Q2. Who will next year's Kilkenny Senior Hurling captain be?
- Q3. If you were wearing no. 15 where would you be playing?
- Q4. Name the president of the G.A.A.
- Q5. What are the county colours of Sligo?
- Q6. Who is the manager of this year's Irish Compromise Rules Team?

Round Four

- Q1. Which club won the Junior Hurling Championship for the first time this year?
- Q2. Who managed the Kilkenny Intermediate team for 2001 ?
- Q3. Who played in goal in this year's All-Ireland camogie final for Kilkenny ?
- Q4. Name the Galway player who wore the number Seven for the Senior Footballers as they won the Sam Maguire ?
- Q5. Where was this year's All-Ireland U-21 Hurling final played ?
- Q6. Who captained the Irish Compromise Rules team in Australia this year ?

Round Five

- Q1. The Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board is ?
- Q2. Where would you find Dr. Hyde Park ?
- Q3. The county colours of Fermanagh are ?
- Q4. The club colours of Windgap are ?
- Q5. In what year did Kilkenny last win the U-21 All-Ireland Hurling Title ?
- Q6. In what year was Nowlan park Officially opened ?

Can you match these players with their Club Jerseys?



Declan Roche

Joe Casey

Ciarán Phelan

Pat Walsh

John Breen

Paul Phelan

Colin Herity

Ger Joyce

Can you match these players with their County Jerseys?



Hank Traynor

Darragh Ryan

John Crowley

James Nallon

Alan Browne

Joe Rabbitte

John Carroll

Dessie Farrell

COACHING NEWS

"Leinster U-15 Hurling Blitz"

On a Saturday in September in several venues throughout Kilkenny, a "Leinster U-15 Hurling Blitz" took place. The advent of the "Development" Squad system has reaped benefits for several players this year. For the first year Kilkenny entered 4 teams, with each squad having their own mentors in charge. The "Development" system ensured that around 80 families from Kilkenny had youngsters involved in this event. It has opened the door for many more youngsters to wear the Kilkenny jersey. Maximum participation for players has surely been one of the benefits of this system. Organisers, mentors, referees deserve great credit for operating the Blitz, ensuring each team played 4 games over the day, with every player participating at some stage. Competition for places in future years should lead to headaches for somebody along the way !!!

Gormanston 2001 "Leinster School of Hurling"

On Saturday 11th August, a fine day of coaching activity took place for 21 hurlers from every county in Leinster took. Apart from expert coaching for the youngsters, the participants got a chance to meet and chat to county stars such as Peter Barry, Séan Óg O'Hailpin and Andy Comerford. The day was designed to assist counties with their own Development Squads programmes which have been set up in each county over the past few years. A panel of 24 participated from Kilkenny with their own mentors.

Secondary Schools Coaching

Initially the Coaches coached the first year groups in Secondary schools. This was basically a continuation of the primary schools work. Sessions were too long and interest was not as forthcoming as in primary schools. Over the past 4 years Second Level Coaching courses are offered to the schools. The aim being to encourage students to coach in their own local club to complete a coaching logbook and then receive the "Foundation Coaching Certificate". The success of such courses depends on the individuals involved. Last year for the first year logbook completion was made compulsory. The courses also offer, the not so talented, a chance to become involved in Gaelic games.

U-11" Camaint" Ground Striking Competition

The U-11 Camaint competition has been on going for the past 6 years. The number of teams has grown from 34 to 42 in the past three years. Develops good wrist work and gives children to play in the 'Park. Creates good will amongst parents who might not normally be seen in Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny GAA Website

Produced on line to give a bigger profile to all local GAA activities, especially for people from Kilkenny who are living abroad.

[Log on at http://kilkenny.gaa.ie](http://kilkenny.gaa.ie)

BRIAN & GEORGIE'S PICTURE GALLERY



Kilkenny /Leinster GAA Playstation Summer camps County Star visit
 Pictured above is Dicksboro Chariman Martin Morrissey making a presentation to Glen Ryan Kildare Football star, on the occasion of his visit to Dicksboro GAA Summer camp.



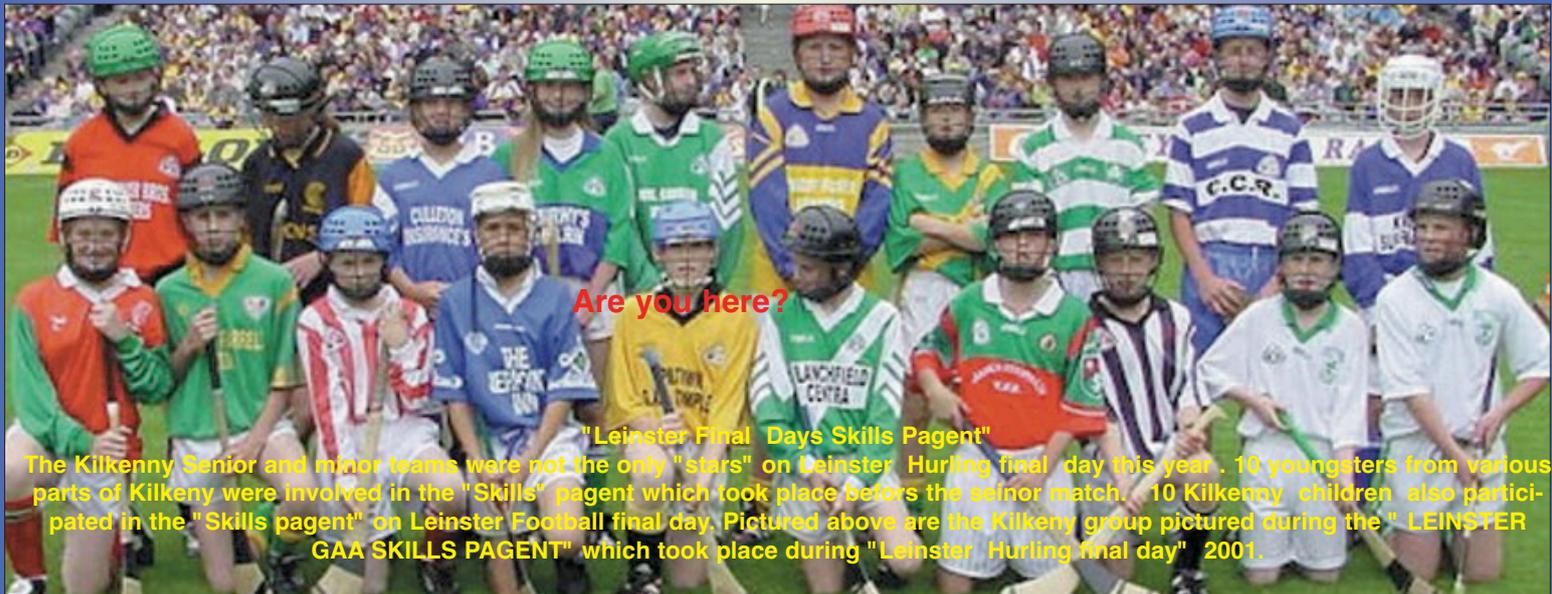
Cormac Connolly shows Jason Sherlock a thing or two about fist-passing when Jason visited the Dicksboro Summer camp.



Pictured above are a group enjoying the Leinster GAA Playstation Summer Camps in Callart. This picture was taken during "Black and Amber Day" when our good friend "Liam" dropped in to say hello.



Kilkenny Mini 7's team in Croke Park on Leinster Semi-final day.



Are you here?

"Leinster Final Days Skills Pagent"

The Kilkenny Senior and minor teams were not the only "stars" on Leinster Hurling final day this year . 10 youngsters from various parts of Kilkenny were involved in the "Skills" pagent which took place before the seior match. 10 Kilkenny children also participated in the "Skills pagent" on Leinster Football final day. Pictured above are the Kilkenny group pictured during the "LEINSTER GAA SKILLS PAGENT" which took place during "Leinster Hurling final day" 2001.



A Feature of our "Coaches Corners" during the year was a selection of our "Team of the Week" and "Player of the week" . One such school group which was selected as "Team of the Week" was the boys of third and fourth class Freshford N.S.



J.J. Delaney, present County star, a former participant on the camps, presents a sliotar to Diarmuid Broderick at the Urlingford camp.

A Group of eager students at Jenkinstown Summer Camp listen to the Master, DJ Carey.



I'm afraid Georgie really went wild with his torture machine this year. Can you name this year's three victims?



3. Emmet Kavanagh, Kilkenny Minor captain was on one of the camps a few short years ago, and here he visits Urlingford with the minor cup called to Urlingford. Also included is PJ Delaney, the Kilkenny Minor, who coached on this year's camps, with his brother Joe.



Pictured during a recent Gaelic/ladies football session in Muckalee NS were Mrs. Kelly's 3rd and 4th class.

ANAGRAMS

Who are these Inter-County Players?

- Carry My Torch - Wexford Hurler
- Tiger Lovers - Meath Footballer
- Inland Chameleon - Galway Footballer
- Newborn Toy - Waterford Hurler
- Mayonnaise Mush - Kerry Footballer
- Cheeky Lion - Kilkenny Hurler
- Snorting Eel - Meath Footballer
- Rude Lampoon - Tipp Hurler
- Abbey Linger - Limerick Hurler
- Nightmare Aces - Cork Hurler
- Barmy Novice - Kilkenny Hurler
- Trainers Boon - Dublin Footballer
- Oily Medal - Clare Hurler
- Yelling Rain - Laois Hurler



Young Reporters of the Year, Damien Aylward and David Aylward (Ballytacey NS) receive their GAA Kit bags and Sports vouchers from Brian and Georgie.



Mind games, regrets and hopes – Captain Andy lays it on the line

By John Knox,
Kilkenny People

KILKENNY hurling captain, Andy Comerford probably never saw himself as a minimalist. Now he hopes life is about to change.

One week he is an ordinary player on the county team. Next he finds himself the captain.

In the view of the believers, Comerford has the touch, the makings of a good leader, one who can draw nothing but good, and who can inspire all around him.

"I don't see it like that at all", insists the strong running, hard tackling O'Loughlin/Gaels midfielder when the suggestion is put to him.

"It is a great honour. It carries its responsibilities. I will give it my very best shot.

"Being captain is hopefully going to be about giving one speech in July, and another, please God, in September. After that it is a question of everyone, myself included, getting the fitness and head right so that we can perform to our maximum potential".

He probably didn't mean it, nor could he help it, but the July and September speeches bit reflects the mood of the county faithful.

Win everything

The optimists reckon their hurlers are capable of winning everything all the time. The realists know that isn't possible, yet, they are never without hope. The pessimists, or pretenders, are a harder breed to find. They mislead. Deep down they have serious hopes too, but they would have you believe otherwise.

Kilkenny! Hurling! Our game! Twenty-six senior All-Ireland victories has given us anything but a low opinion of ourselves, and our place in the life of the GAA.

We have been reared on a rich diet of success, to believe that no matter how our team shapes-up in the National League or afterwards, it could still grow into champions in the championship. The legacy of 26 successes.

Andy Comerford, All-Star last season, winner of All-Ireland medals at minor (1990) and senior (2000) level, and a senior 'B' title at centre-back with Herefordshire, knows the standard that must be attained.

"I am looking forward to everything that is in front of us, hard work and all", assures the self employed block-layer. "If we look back on last year, and the years I have been involved, I think we haven't put enough on the mantelpiece that our good hurling deserved. Definitely!

"The team we have now, and have had for a few years hasn't cashed-in enough. And now being realistic, for a couple of players, the coming season could be the last chance to win the All-Ireland again.

"We have to go hell for leather at it. We have to make up for the finals we were beaten in. We know what it is like, and what it takes to win. We have to get back playing as we were in 2000".

Collapse

Losing two All-Irelands, winning one, then bowing out in the All-Ireland semi-final this season after a hollow performance against Galway wasn't justice in the eyes of the players.

The August collapse against the Tribes men, after sweeping with the grace of a prancing gazelle through Leinster, was "an awful blow", according to the skipper.

"I still don't know

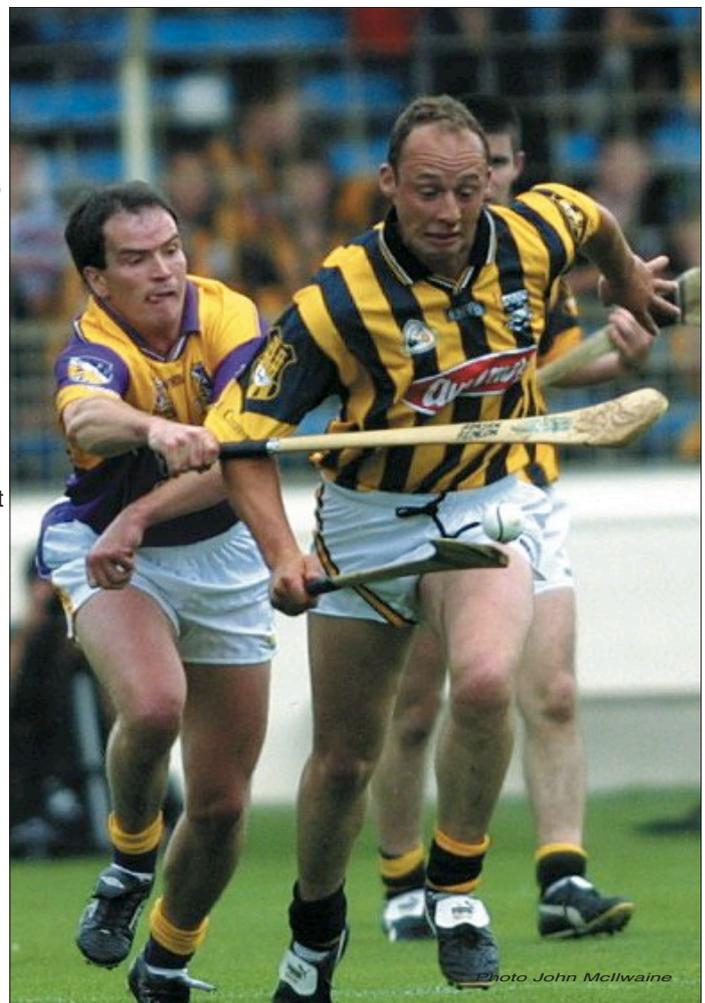


what happened", he freely admits.

He wonders aloud. Were the minds right? Did the hype in the media, the confidence of fans get to the players? Did, did, did....

"It is very difficult for GAA players to get away for all the talk, all the hype", Andy explains as he tries to take us into the exposed world of the present day Gaelic stars. "We are working side-by-side with people, meeting them in the street, and they all want to talk about the game, the game. They are well intentioned.

"But we can't hide. We are amateurs. We have to go out and earn a living. A professional sports person can go and hide, lock himself away from outside



influences. It is nearly impossible for us to do that”.

Comerford is at pains to point out he is not a cribber. He paints the picture of life. The picture of you, me, our next door neighbour, the man or woman up or down the road who wants to talk nothing but shop in high season.

“You might think you have yourself right, mentally and physically”, the 29-year-old continues to enlighten. “At the end of the day, there is always that thing that is saying ‘maybe, maybe people are right and we are going to win’. That can leave you vulnerable.

Pressure

“Then when the pressure comes on during a match you can’t react. A small thing stands between having everything exactly right, and being nearly right for the championship. That small thing could rob you of an All-Ireland”.

After chasing for six seasons, Comerford finds himself with one senior All-Ireland, and a somewhat comforting four Leinster senior championships. Throw-in an Oireachtas medal, and an All-Star award, and the take is more than respectable.

Not really! Not by his, or Kilkenny standards. And not by the standards set by a talented bunch who felt the bitter pain of defeat at the last hurdle in 1998 and ’98.

In his time he has seen the demands on players for training not only rise, but jump. In the past, Tuesdays and Thursdays were for training. Now there could be five sessions a week.

All teams are at it. The attitude appears to be that you can bury limitations beneath a level of super fitness.

“Everyone has to be super fit”, the Kilkenny skipper insists. “Now the outcome in some game boils down to a mistake, a bit of luck or someone playing out of their skins. No county is able to dominate anymore”.

The trend doesn’t exactly appeal to him. He goes with the flow, because he know you would drown otherwise. Yet he

feels that the heavy emphasis on training is cutting careers short.

The physical nature of Comerford’s work has left him stronger than most, and able for the hard grind, in training and matches. The Kilkenny management understand, and shape his training around the highs and lows of his work.

Lead from front

This season Andy Comerford knows he must lead from the front, and all the time. The players are back training, and they have discussed in an open forum the coming season.

“We know exactly what we have to do if we want to be successful”, Andy declares. “The management and players have one aim, to win the All-Ireland. It is going to be very difficult.

“There will be times when the team will look tired, but that will be because of the heavy training. We have a great chance if we get everything right, minds and all.

“From the moment the players came back together, the mood was great. They were delighted to be back together as a group. I like that. No one was stale. Everyone was keen. After four years performing at the highest level, no one was fed up”.

The coming together was like therapy in a way. The collective view was that Kilkenny under-performed against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final of 2001.



Photo John McIlwaine

Apart, when back with their clubs, the players could do nothing. Once together, the mood to atone swamped the group.

“We know what we failed to do”, Andy assures. When pushed, he refused to be specific.

“We have to redeem ourselves”, he answers instead. “That is the way we are thinking. We have to make up for the performance against Galway. We have given so many great performances over the last four years, that weak one couldn’t be the swan-song for this bunch.

“We can’t leave the big stage now. We would have too many regrets”. Spoken like a true leader!



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Good Luck next year.*

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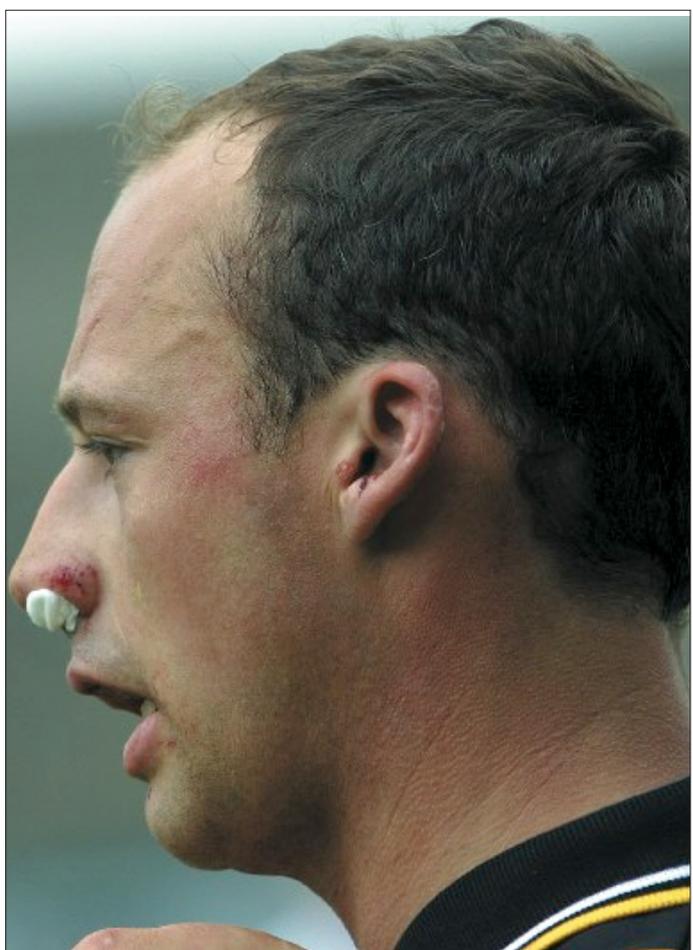
DJ Carey goes high for a ball in front of the Galway goal.
Photo John Mcllwaine



DJ goes very low for a ball at the feet of Kevin Kinahan in the Offaly match.
Photo John Mcllwaine



Adrian Fenlon (Wexford) faces a queue of Kilkeny players, led by **Andy Comerford** for this high ball. *Photo John Mcllwaine*



Nose job! **Andy Comerford** has some running repairs in the Leinster Final
Photo John Mcllwaine



As an altercation breaks out between DJ Carey and Brian Whelahan, John Power, fearing unruly behaviour, moves in from the left.
Photo John McLwaine

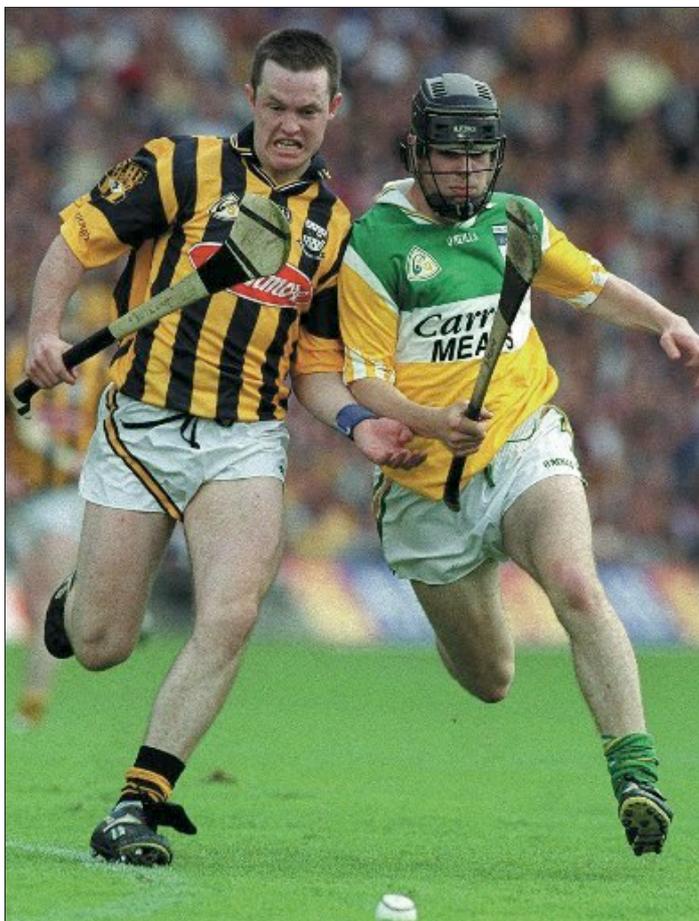


Luckily John arrives in time to help the referee restore order!
Photo John McLwaine



Kilkenny Minors, led by Captain Emmett Kavanagh, parade around Croke Park with the Leinster Cup.

Photo John Mclwaine



Michael Kavanagh (Kilkenny) in a race for possession with Brendan Murphy (Offaly)

Photo Sportsfile



Kilkenny goalie, James McGarry, gets down to low ball as the long arm and hurl of Rory Hanniffy (Offaly) moves in from the left.

Photo John Mclwaine



Charlie Carter and **Simon Whelahan** greet each other affectionately in the Leinster semi-final.
Photo John Mclwaine

Referee, **Michael Wadding** takes a different view!
Photo John Mclwaine



Supported by **John Hoyne**, **John Power** breaks past Galway's **Brian Higgins** in the All Ireland semi-final.
Photo Sportfile

NEWPARK SARSFIELDS

***A brief history of the St John's parish club which won the County Junior title 30 years ago,
by Conor Denieffe, author of "The Continent Abú"***

In 1954, perceiving a vacuum in the GAA in St. John's parish, Tommy Long and Jimmy Morrissey formed the Newpark Sarsfields club. Tommy's affinity for Patrick Sarsfield (he organised a junior football team called Patrick Sarsfields in 1955) explains half of the name. The "Newpark" referred to was of course the townland and housing estate of the same name which at the time straddled both St. John's and St. Canice's parishes. The colours chosen were yellow with green cuffs and collars. In 1963 the clubs jerseys were changed to the green, white and gold of Offaly but by 1971 when the county junior title was won the team had reverted to the original saffron and green. While people like Tommy Brennan, who acted as secretary of the club for many years, and Joe Maher did a great deal of work for the club the driving force throughout its existence was Tommy Long. In the seventeen years of Newpark Sarsfields span Tommy was ever present at training, meetings, functions etc. Terry Walsh trained the clubs junior side in the 1950's and Paddy Johnstown was chief mentor the year the county title was captured but Tommy Long was ever present.

First Success

It took Newpark Sarsfields junior hurling team a number of years to make its mark and it made first or second round championship exits from 1954 to 1958. However the players celebrated their first tournament win on August 19th 1957 when they won the Desart Cup at Desart defeating Graigue Ballycallan in the final by 6-5 to 2-2. A very strong gale played havoc with the game. On one occasion Eddie Byrne, the Newpark goalie pucked out the ball, only to see it travel less than 25 yards before the wind almost swept it back over the bar. Rev. S. Collier, CC, St. John's presented the cup to Newpark Sarsfields captain Sean Connick, after the game. The team in 1957 was E. Byrne, W. Byrne, M. Bergin, S. Connick, D. Mulcahy, T. Parker, M. Cantwell, B. Buckley, P. Walston, S. Maher, T. O'Connell, E. Nolan, T. Ward, P. Fitzpatrick, S. Fitzpatrick. Substitutes were S. Gaffney, T. Reid, and S. Malone.

A St. John's team took part in the 1959-1960 Kilkenny senior championship and Newpark Sarsfields threw in their lot with this effort to field a parish team. Indeed a feature of the Newpark club during the 1950's was its close involvement with the training and organising of St. John's juvenile teams. The St. John's parish team met with no success and by 1963 the Newpark Sarsfields club had made a return. A good championship run, in which they defeated Danesfort, James Stephens and Graigue brought Sarsfields to the city area final against Young Irelands (Gowran) on September 21st 1964. It proved an exciting game with the lead changing hands on numerous occasions before the Gowran side just edged out the city team, 4-8 to 3-8, on the call of full time. Young Irelands continued on to win the county final. The Newpark team was K. Foley, T. Delaney, W. Nolan, M. Connors, M. Byrne, M. Hogan, G. Cantwell, T. Hickey, E. Hehir, B. Buckley, A. Heffernan, T. Brennan, S. Fitzpatrick, L. Hehir, and S. Tracey.

Northern Finalists

Newpark Sarsfields reached the north junior final in 1969. They did so by defeating Eire Óg, Barrow Rangers (Paulstown- Goresbridge) and Foulkstown by 5-11 to 3-2 on October 26th in the city group final. In the north final Sarsfields faced a youthful Fenians (Johnstown) team, which included Nicky Orr, Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney. At half-time the city team led by a single point 2-5 to 2-4. The early stages of the second half were very evenly contested but a goal at the three-quarter stage saw Johnstown lead by 3-6 to 2-6. With ten minutes remaining the referee, the late Tom Ryall, sent off two players, one from each team. He was surrounded by players and spectators. Unable to restart the game the referee had no option but to abandon the final. It was a pity the final was not completed for Newpark Sarsfields had played well throughout the fifty minutes and were still pressing when play was halted. The half-back line of Mick Byrne, Dick McGrath and Billy Nolan was their most effective line on the field. Noel O'Sullivan was doing well at midfield while Bosco Buckley, Tom Hickey and Liam O'Brien were always threatening in attack. The replay proved a disappointment for the city side. The Fenians dominated the first-half and led by 2-5 to 0-1 at the interval. Newpark were reduced to fourteen men before half-time. Despite the numerical disadvantage they conceded only two further points after the break, but could only manage a goal and a point themselves, thus losing by 2-7 to 1-2. Sarsfields representatives in this final were J. Kerwick, B. Corcoran, M. O'Connor, O. Nolan, M. Byrne, R. McGrath, B. Nolan, B. Buckley, N. O'Sullivan, T. Brennan, T. Hickey, L. O'Brien, N. Nolan, J. Byrne and S. Fitzpatrick.

Senior hurling championship 1969

Despite losing the 1968 north junior final, to the Fenians, Newpark Sarsfields still took part in the following year's senior hurling championship. Having made a case to the County Board they were allowed to join the elite ranks of Kilkenny hurling for the 1969 competition. It was not to be a happy experience, as they were heavily defeated by St. Senan's (Kilmacow) in a first round game. Ironically the draw for the loser's group, which followed this defeat brought Newpark Sarsfields and the Fenians into opposition once more. The north Kilkenny border side won by 5-18 to 4-6 on October 25th. Thankfully the game had none of the fireworks of the previous year's clash. The first half was entertaining and fairly even but Newpark's defence collapsed early in the second half. Scorers for the city side were L. O'Brien 3-5 (3-2 frees), T. Brennan 0-1, and E. Doyle 1-0. The team was - D. Dalton, B. Corcoran, M. O'Connor, A. Bolger, M. Byrne, R. McGrath, J. Brophy, T. Phelan, S. Lanigan, E. Doyle, B. Buckley, L. O'Brien, T. Brennan, S. Fitzpatrick and P. Buckley. Sub S. McGarry. Junior and Under -21 teams were also entered in the 1969 championships but neither progressed through the first round.

County Junior Champions 1971

While two Newpark Sarsfields junior teams were entered in the 1970 hurling championship, neither met with any success. However, the following year, 1971 was to prove the greatest in the Newpark Sarsfields club's existence. The first round saw a city and parish derby between Newpark Sarsfields and O'Loughlin's. The Newpark side won by 3-11 to 5-3 thanks to a late Tom Brennan goal. The second round game saw another all city clash against Dicksboro end in a 1-7 a side draw. The game finished six minutes from time in a brawl involving players and spectators. Happily the replay of this game on September 12th was an excellent encounter. At half-time Sarsfields seemed to have the game in hand when they led by 1-6 to 0-3. Two Dicksboro goals, to level, set the game alight. Twice more the Newpark side led and each time Dicksboro leveled, before a late Rodney McCormack point proved the winner. The north semi-final saw Newpark Sarsfields defeat St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) by 2-12 to 4-3.

The northern final saw Newpark Sarsfields meet the team they had defeated in the first round, O'Loughlin's who had come back into the championship through the losers group. The result of the final was no different to their first meeting with Sarsfields taking the north title at the third time of asking on a 5-7 to 3-9 scoreline. A good opening quarter set them on their way to this victory when they led by 2-4 to 0-3. O'Loughlin's had reduced the lead to two points at the interval (2-5 to 1-6) but two Noel O'Sullivan goals, both from 21 yard frees, gave Newpark a cushion for the second half. O'Loughlin's fought back to come within one goal of Newpark Sarsfields, but they could not come any closer and Sarsfields held out for a deserved win.

To Travel or Not to Travel

Because of a motion passed at county convention the previous year, a final involving a city team was not to be played in Nowlan Park as this was considered to be home advantage for city based clubs! The 1971 county junior final between Graiguenamanagh and Newpark Sarsfields was fixed for Thomastown. A major question then arose as to whether the city club might refuse to travel, as Graiguen-

Ballycallan had done the previous year. However a big majority of Newpark's players were in favour of travelling to Thomastown and their decision was vindicated when they captured the county title by 1-11 to Graiguenamanagh's 2-3. There was a huge build up of enthusiasm prior to the game, the first county junior final for both teams. The 'gate' of £550 was a record for a junior final at the time. Following a low scoring first half, in which they played with the breeze, Newpark Sarsfields led by 0-5 to 0-3 at the interval. A Ned Nolan goal, early in the second half, set the city side on its way and with Rodney McCormack and Paddy Buckley dominating midfield they went on to record a convincing five-point victory. Graiguenamanagh were left to rue their many misses from frees and 70's throughout the game. Noel O'Sullivan of Newpark was the best forward on view, scoring six points, five from frees. Other scorers were N. Nolan 1-0, S. Fitzpatrick 0-2, T. Brennan and B. Buckley and P. Buckley 0-1 each. The team which won the county title was S. Kirwan, B. Corcoran, W. Nolan, R. Grace, M. Byrne, M. Burke, M. Power, R. McCormack, P. Buckley, N. O'Sullivan, B. Buckley, T. Brennan, E. Nolan, J. Byrne, S. Fitzpatrick, Sub. D. McGrath.

Following on this success in 1971, Newpark Sarsfields played in the senior championship in 1972 but lost to Mooncoin in Thomastown in the first round. An amalgamation with Foulkstown occurred around this time also. Newpark Sarsfields last campaign was in junior hurling in 1973, when they lost to The Emeralds (Urlingford).

The junior campaign of 1973 marked the demise of the Newpark Sarsfields club. Its achievement in winning the junior title in 1971 should not be undervalued. There was no intermediate championship at the time and the standard of junior hurling was quite high. A big draw back for the club was the absence of a permanent home. Among the pitches used were the side pitch at Nowlan Park (where the new stand is now), the Fair Green, the CBS primary school field, St. John's Park and the Waterbarracks. One of the clubs most notable hurlers was Liam O'Brien who subsequently went on to win many honours with Kilkenny.



Newpark Sarsfields Late 1960s

Back: Tim Hickey, Mick Nolan (non-playing captain), Jim Byrne, Mick Bourke, Ned Nolan, Rodney McCormack, Martin Hayes, Bosco Buckley, Tom Weadick, Johnny Byrne, Davy Dalton, Dick McGrath.

Front: Sammy Kirwan, Paddy Buckley, Harry Beale, Brendan Corcoran, Sean Fitzpatrick, Mick Power, Tom Brennan, Richie Grace, Noel O'Sullivan, Kevin Byrne, Mick Byrne, Billy Nolan.

LANGTON WAS THE STYLIST SUPREME

by Dan McEvoy

Ironically for one of Kilkenny's greatest hurlers ever, the Jim Langton story began in Tipperary, a few miles from Thurles. It began, as such stories invariably do, with his mother.

In the early years of the 20th century Mary Long regularly travelled by pony and trap from the family homestead in Dovea, near the Ragg, to visit her brother Larry, who owned what is now Lenehans' pub in Barrack Street. On more than one of these visits she met Jim Langton of Lavistown, a regular customer in the pub. The couple subsequently married and were blessed with a family of seven - a daughter, Madge, and six sons, among them Jim.

As the family grew up in Lavistown they spent the long summer evenings playing backs and forwards in the field beside the railway crossing. Madge was the goalkeeper. Ned, Tommy and Jack were the backs. Jimmy, Larry and Mick were the forwards. Ned as full-back was not in the habit of taking prisoners, which prompted Jim to develop his body swerve in avoiding his sibling's tackles.

"It was probably the same all over the country, but as a young lad I looked forward every day to getting together for the hurling in the evening," Jim recalled in an Irish Independent interview in 1986.

"It was the day of the crossroads hurling or if you were lucky a local pitch, and it would be like that all summer long. If you had any skill in you it would be brought out on those occasions. It did not matter if you were big or small, young or old, everyone mixed it. Those are cherished memories." Incidentally, Madge inherited the Longs' family farm in Dovea and married Bernard Costello. They had a family of 12, all of whom are living in Tipperary. The Langtons used to spend their summer holidays there and a great bond developed with their Tipperary cousins.

After primary school in Dunbell the Langton boys attended Kilkenny CBS secondary school. It was here that Jim's hurling skills matured under the tutelage of Brothers McNamara and Kealy, and here that he came into contact with Mick Loughman.

Loughman, an influential figure in the history of Kilkenny hurling, was the prime mover in the Éire Óg minor hurling club. Formed in 1931 as Young Irelands, they changed their name two years later. Their colours were green and white. Mick Loughman was, in modern parlance, a scout, always on the look-out for young hurling talent, collecting promising players for Éire Óg and winning titles to boot. He ruled with an iron fist, so much so that on the Saturday night before a match it was his habit to call to the players' houses in order to make sure his charges were in bed by 9pm. If they

weren't, there was no place for the offender on the team next day. Such no-nonsense methods were strikingly effective, at least if the success enjoyed by his charges on the field of play were anything to go by; Éire Óg took the Kilkenny junior title in 1937, the intermediate equivalent the following year and went on to win five county senior championship crowns, with Jim Langton a constant in their success.

But back for a moment to Kilkenny CBS. Though the school didn't have a winning tradition, that all changed in Langton's time there. Having claimed a Leinster junior colleges' title in 1930, the James's Street establishment repeated the feat in 1934 and '35. Thus the way was paved for the CBS's provincial colleges' senior triumph of 1936 - their first, and a signal achievement - and for Kilkenny's All Ireland minor double of 1935-36, a feat backboned by the presence of a CBS contingent that included Jack Mulcahy, Bobby Brannigan, Eamon Tallent and Seanie O'Brien as well as Langton. No fewer than eight members of the same generation helped Kilkenny to McCarthy Cup glory in the Thunder and Lightning final of 1939. Jim Langton, who had made his senior debut for Kilkenny in unusual circumstances the previous year (having played in the Leinster junior final in Croke Park earlier in the afternoon, he was called into the senior panel as an 11th hour substitute and came on midway during the second half of the provincial decider as the Noresiders fell to Dublin, the eventual All Ireland champions), was 19 years old.

From then onwards he was to assume the mantle of Lory Meagher. Langton became the most talked-about Kilkenny player of his generation and one of the most famous hurlers in the land, being described as "fleet of foot, neat of movement, strong of wrist and sure of eye". At county training sessions the late Paddy Johnston, the star of Kilkenny's 1950 All Ireland minor victory who died earlier this year, vied with many other youngsters to puck the ball back to the great man on the old training pitch which is now the site of the new stand in Nowlan Park.

A fine Gaelic footballer who won county medals with St John's and Sarsfields as well as a competent basketball player - during the Foot and Mouth epidemic of 1941 he even tried his hand at soccer in order to keep fit, as he admitted a decade later in a Sunday Press interview in which he called for the dropping of the Ban - Langton was immortalised on the hurling Team of the Century in 1984. Ever modest, he correctly attributed much of his success to the hardworking presence alongside him of Jack Mulcahy, his old



Old comrades
Jim Langton with his old friend and team-mate
Jack Mulcahy

schoolmate in the CBS and colleague in the moccasin boot factory in Wolfe Tone Street, the big employer in the city at the time. "Jack made it easy for every forward with him," Jim pointed out. "He took all the knocks but because of his splendid team spirit he rarely tried to go it alone and was always ready to sacrifice possession to the player in the best position to score."

Jim's sudden death at Easter 1987 brought a fulsome tribute from the late Peter Holohan, the former GAA correspondent of the Kilkenny People. "There is no doubt he was one of the great stylists - if not the greatest," Peter declared. "Not only was his skill clinically perfect, but he brought a new dimension to the game - a body swerve which was equally effective."

"He introduced many innovations. He was the first I saw lifting the ball by pressing it between his boot and the hurley. He had an uncanny sense of judgement and he was one of the most accurate strikers of his day. Jim Langton, more than any player of his own or any generation, exemplified hurling as it should be played. His interpretation of the game may not always have been the most popular. He did not want to have part in the physical-force aspect of the game. He had the brains and the ability to avoid the rough and tumble. His mind concentrated all the time on the ball. He rarely if ever injured an opponent. He himself took his share of hard knocks, some accidental, some not, but sportsman that he was, he took them all in his stride.

"Even though the focus of considerable media attention in his day, he was completely unaffected by it. He was unassuming to the point of being demure about his achievements."

Jim Langton. An artist and a gentleman.

HURLING IN CLOVER!

The story of the Clover Meats Hurling Team by Phil Fanning

It was inevitable that, turning into a new century, people would think back to the memorable events of their lifetime in the old. 'Nostalgia' is defined in the dictionary as 'a longing for what was but can never be again' and as such applies to a wide spectrum of events in ones lifetime. In terms of sport, and hurling in particular, people such as I who grew up in the fifties and were in their prime in the sixties will remember that period as something of a golden age of hurling. In the south east the emergence of Wexford and Waterford as forces during the fifties brought the traditional rivalry with Kilkenny to its peak at Leinster and All Ireland levels and this followed through into the clubs of all three counties. It was the era of the 'suitlengths' tournaments and the proximity of so many strong clubs in the area saw venues in South Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford hosting games that for quality hurling and fanatical parochial fervour could be described as the All Ireland Club championships of their day.

In Kilkenny the great Bennetsbridge team of the fifties ruled the roost with the Carrolls, Cleeres, Galweys, Johnny McGovern and Mickey Kelly all household names.

Meanwhile, in Wexford, the Rathnure of the Rackards, the Cods and Jim English vied with the St. Aidans of Nick O' Donnell, Padge Kehoe, Tom Dixon and the Morrisseys, Ted and Jim, for supremacy. In Waterford Mount Sion were the kings with a star studded side that included Philly Grimes, Seamus Power, Frankie Walsh, Larry Guinan, Martin Og Morrissey and Mick Flanelly.

Whenever such teams met in tournaments crowds would flock in their thousands and many a rural church or school owed its roof to the drawing power of such teams.

It was not a time of county leagues, U-21 competitions or A, B or C grades. There was minor, junior and senior championships in each county and the clubs themselves saw to it that there was no shortage of games.

Against such a backdrop the Factory Leagues came into being in the early fifties with competitions for the big employers most notably the sugar factories, breweries and meat factories. In Cork they had their own competitions with a big city population and big companies such as Fords, Dunlops and Gouldings.

The Waterford Factory League came into being around 1951/52 at official level after groups had begun playing challenge games against each other. The competition immediately took hold and the novelty of seeing players from the same clubs in serious opposition to each other drew in the crowds. It was serious stuff indeed, so much so that when the league was at its most popular one prominent city club attempted to ban its players from playing because of the overzealous nature of the on field clashes involving club-mates.

It was a competition that brought together deadly rivals at club and county levels in a common cause. Nowhere was that more evident than in the Clover Meats team, playing out of Christendom in Ferrybank, that always included a good mix of club and county hurlers from Kilkenny and Waterford. Clover, in fact, became the most successful factory team of that era, winning a number of Waterford, Munster, Leinster and All Ireland titles.

The Clover club was founded in 1952 and, in its first year, reached the final of a very strong Waterford competition. The final, against the Builders, drew a huge crowd to Walsh Park, or The Sportsfield as it was then known, and a look at the Clover lineout explains why they were such strong favourites going into the game. Included in the side were the Heffernan brothers, Jimmy of 1947 All Ireland fame and Carrickshock, Paddy of Glenmore and Mickey, who at that time was playing for Mount Sion and Waterford. Also in the side were Josie Murphy (Erin's Own), Dixey Treacy (Ferrybank), Billy Cooley (De La Salle), Mick Fitzgerald



Clover Meats First Factory League Winning Team 1953

Back: Dixey Treacy (Ferrybank), Jimmy Heffernan (Carrickshock), Paddy Doyle (Mt Sion & Slieverue), Ned Fitzpatrick (Carrickshock), Booby Phelan & Son presented cup, Jim O'Meara (Mt Sion), Sean Williams (Kilmacow), Michael Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Seamus Murphy (Erin's Own). Front: Peter Bolger (Ferrybank), Billy Cooley (De La Salle), Josie Murphy (Erin's Own), Paddy Heffernan (Glenmore) (Capt), Paddy Hoban (Kilmacow), Thady !Connors (Mt Sion), Teddy Norris (Ferrybank), Mick Heffernan (Mt Sion).

{Glenmore} and Sean Williams and Paddy ' Mackey ' Hoban of Kilmacow.

On the day the Builders upset the odds to win a great game thanks to the brilliant hurling of All Ireland medallist Eddie Carew of Waterford {later to play with Clover}, Wexford midfielder Seamus Hearne and a young fellow named Philly Grimes.

The cup that eluded Clover that day was presented by the Phelan family who for many years ran the well known Norris' Corner on the Slievekeale/Barrack St. corner, then the nearest pub to The Sportsfield. In the years that followed that cup was to spend more time across the Suir in Clover than anywhere else.

The following year Clover went on to contest the Munster final in Thurles against a star studded Sugar Factory side that included such stars of the day as Tipperarys' Tommy Doyle , Mickey Byrne, Sean Kenny, Timmy Ryan and Tommy Barrett.

The Clover club went from strength to strength and in 1955 they won the Waterford League defeating Public Authorities in the final. Included in a very strong team were Kilkenny midfielder John Sutton, Waterfords Martin Og Morrissey, Tom Nolan of Mooncoin, Joe Galwey of Bennetsbridge and Eddie O' Dwyer of Slieverue.

The Public Authorities fielded a very strong team drawn from teachers , gardai, post office and local government workers. Their big stars were Paddy Buggy, who was working in the Kilkenny Co. Council office in Newrath, and Waterfords Seamus Power who was to score the equalising goal against Kilkenny in the 1959 All Ireland final.

Throughout the fifties Clover dominated Factory League hurling in Waterford and Munster before moving into the

Leinster championship. There the success story continued as they went on to win the All Ireland Cup which was in fact donated by the board of Clover Meats at a cost of what was then a massive £49. Clover were the first holders of the trophy and the same cup is still played for to this day.

The Clover team of that time was brimful of intercounty and prominent club players from all over South Kilkenny and Waterford during what was a great period for hurling in the region. John Sutton and Slieverues Mickey Walsh played against Clover colleagues Martin Og Morrissey and John Barron in the All Ireland finals of '57 and '59. Kevin O' Connor and Eddie Carew of Waterfords All Ireland winning side of '48 were also involved.

Mickey 'Browley' Walsh went on to play with Mount Sion and won six Waterford championship medals to add to the Kilkenny medal won with Slieverue in 1954 as well as a Munster championship medal with Waterford in '63 when he came on as a sub against Kilkenny in the All Ireland Final. Michael Murphy was another former Slieverue and Kilkenny player who went on to play with Erins Own and Waterford. Other intercounty players included Eddie O' Dwyer - Slieverue and Kilkenny, Seamus Murphy - Erins Own and Waterford, Tom Nolan - Mooncoin and Kilkenny, Paddy ' Mackey ' Hoban - Kilmacow and Kilkenny, who was one of the longest serving players in a Clover jersey.

There were many club players from Waterford and Kilkenny who played with Clover in those early days of the fifties and who in less formidable times would have made county teams. Many were household names in their own clubs and parishes. Players such as Sean Williams, Sean Fleming, Sean Costolloe and Paddy Sutton of Kilmacow, Billy Cooley and Paddy Keane of De La Salle, Joe Galwey of



Clover Meats - Factory League Chgampions 1955

Back: Paddy Hoban (Kilmacow), Martin Óg Morrissey (Mt Sion), Michael Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Sean Fleming (Kilmacow), Seamus Murphy (Erin's Own), Tom Nolan (Mooncoin), John Sutton (Glenmore), Kevin Williams (Mentor).

Front: Sean Williams (Kilmacow) Capt, Joe galway (Bennettsbridge), Eddie O'Dwyer (Slieverue), Tom Grant (Ferrybank), Martin Buggy (Slieverue), Paddy Keane (De La Salle).



CLOVER MEATS TEAM AT NEW ELTHAM, LONDON AUGUST, 1957

Back: P Keane, Kevin O'Connor (Erin's Own), Pat Kennedy (Tullogher), Marlin bg Morrissey (Mount Sion), Sean Fleming (Kilmacow), Neddy O'Dwyer (Slieverue), K Williams, Mickey Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Josie Murphy, Sean Curran (Ballygunner), Paddy Sutton, Seamus Murphy (Erin's Own), Joe Walsh.
 Front: A N Other, John Barron (De La Salle), Sean Williams (Kilmacow), Paddy Hoban (Kilmacow), Liam O'Connell (Erin's Own), Mickey Sheridan (Gael bg), Joe Galwey (Bennettsbridge). Result - Clover Meats 6-2, London Irish (All Ireland Junior Champions) 3-5

Bennettsbridge, Sean Curran of Ballygunner, Mickey Sheridan of Gael Og and Liam O' Connell of Erins Own whose father was trainer to a number of Kilkenny All Ireland winning teams.

There was a great atmosphere of comradeship and loyalty in Clover Meats at that time and the hurling club was very much the focal point of social activity. In 1957 Clover became the first Factory team to fly to London for a hurling game when they beat All Ireland Junior champions London in New Eltham on august Bank Holiday Monday by 6 - 2 to 3 - 5.

The all male party of 69 travelled at a cost of £4 per person subsidised by the Clover Board and the Social Club. John Sutton and Mickey Walsh were unable to travel as they were assisting Kilkenny in the Leinster final against Wexford on that Sunday. The entire party listened to the broadcast of the game in the Galtymore Pub in Kilburn where a house radio was suspended from the ceiling to get the best possible reception.

It was a memorable trip in every sense and it is a fact that on arriving back home early on Tuesday morning the workers went directly to their jobs before going home such was the spirit of loyalty in Clover in those days. The trip was repeated with great success in 1959 with a full turnout including inter county players.

In the sixties many players moved on but others came to take their places and the Clover G. A. A. success story continued into the seventies. Notable players on successful teams in that period included P. J. and Jimmy Ryan of Carrick Davins and Tipperary, Percy Flynn - Erins Own and Waterford, Ned Connolly - Mooncoin and Kilkenny and Tommy Hearne - Ballygunner and Waterford and later to play with Windgap.

In 1984, the centenary year of the G. A. A., Clover Meats Personnel Manager Sean Williams of Kilmacow, who was a founder member of the Clover club and was involved as a player and official throughout the clubs life, decided to mark the occasion with a special event. All employees of Clover

who won All Ireland senior medals down through the years were invited to a special function in Clover to receive a special presentation to mark their achievements. The then President of the G. A. A. Paddy Buggy, whose father Bill and brother Martin both worked in Clover, was guest of honour.

The oldest player to attend was Martin White of Tullaroan who won three All Irelands in the thirties with Kilkenny and was then over ninety years of age. There was a delightful reunion between Bobby Hincks of Slieverue and Paddy Mc Mahon of Limerick who marked each other in the 1940 All Ireland but had never met since that day. The full list of players in attendance was as follows - Bobby Hincks - Kilkenny 1939, Eddie Carew - Waterford 1948, Christy Heffernan - Kilkenny 1982/83/92/93, John Sutton Kilkenny - 1957, Kevin O' Connor - Waterford 1948, Martin Og Morrissey - Waterford 1959, John Barron - Waterford 1959, Mickey Walsh - Kilkenny 1957, Ned Buggy - Wexford 1968, Jimmy Heffernan - Kilkenny 1947, Paddy McMahon - Limerick 1940, Mick Flanelly - Waterford 1959, Martin White - Kilkenny 1932/35, Josie Murphy - Waterford 1948.

Clover Meats no longer exists. Like most of the great workplaces of the period referred to, it has passed on. The hurling tradition that Clover forged however lives on in the hearts and minds of the men who made it. Men like Sean Williams who supplied the information and the pictures that made up this little journey down memory lane.

Clover was part of what was a great hurling era. Those were the halcyon days of the fifties and sixties when, between the great inter county championship games, rural Ireland was alive with the throngs of hurling folk spending bright, balmy summer evenings at the tournaments and fetes in places such as Slieverue, Dunamaggin, Kilmacow, Mullinavat, Mooncoin, Piltown and, probably the biggest of them all, Dunhill. The same players who battled it out at such venues were colleagues on factory and county teams days later.

The Clover story is but one of that time. There are many more out there just waiting to be told.

KILKENNY SUPPORTERS IN THE CAPITAL

Kilkenny people, no matter where they are based throughout the world, retain a keen interest in Gaelic Games particularly in hurling and camogie, and Kilkenny based 'Cats' are no different. Down through the years, Kilkenny men have left their impact as members of Dublin G.A.A. Clubs and many have graced the hurling fields of Dublin with distinction. Men like Martin White, Sean Clohessy, Bill Walsh, Billy Dwyer and Sean Buckley to name but a few have made major contributions to Dublin hurling.

Like all Kilkenny people in Dublin, however, their first love is the welfare of hurling and other Gaelic Games in their native county. It is not surprising therefore that the Dublin Branch of the Kilkenny Supporters Club goes from strength to strength each year. In 2001, despite our relative lack of success in the various All-Ireland Championships, the Dublin Branch had a very successful year. Membership increased significantly and the various fund raising and social nights held proved very successful.

Pride of place in this context was our Annual Golf Classic which attracted a record entry of 37 teams to Westmanstown Golf Course on Friday 1st of June. A feature of the day was the large contingent of former inter-county hurlers who participated. They included Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Michael Walsh, Eamon Morrissey, James 'Shiner' Brennan, Billy Harte, Tom McCormack and Ned Coogan. Also participating was County Board Chairman Ned Quinn, while County Board Secretary Pat Dunphy escorted the Leinster and All-Ireland Cups to the event. Next year's Classic has been arranged for the same venue on Friday 31st May 2002.

Other successful events held during the year included a Race Night at the Millmount House and a Social Night at the Academy Hotel. As a new venture, a bus trip to the Kilkenny County Final on the 14th of October was organised and proved to be a most enjoyable day for all involved. It is hoped that such outings will become a regular feature in our list of activities in the future.

We would like to record our appreciation of the help and co-operation we have had during the year from our colleagues in the Kilkenny Branch of the Supporters' Club and also to Pat Dunphy and Ned Quinn and others in the County Board for their support and encouragement during the year. A special thanks also to all those who supported both financially and otherwise our Golf Classic and Race Night events. Our sincere thanks is also due to the management and staff of the Academy Hotel, Cathal Brugha St, for providing us with a room for our Committee meetings and other facilities throughout the year.

We believe that the primary objective of our Club is to contribute to the well being of Gaelic Games in Kilkenny. In addition we also believe as a Dublin based Association we should have a social dimension to our club and use it as a vehicle of social contact for Kilkenny people living in Dublin. We are aware that our membership is just a small fraction of the number of Kilkenny people living in Dublin. We would therefore appeal to all Kilkenny supporters resident in the Capital to join our Club and help us achieve our aims. Those wishing to join should contact our Membership Secretary Redmond Cody at Dublin 2981384 or 087 6472366 or email cody@rte.ie.

BLACK AND AMBER GLORY - BALLADS AND POEMS ABOUT KILKENNY GAA

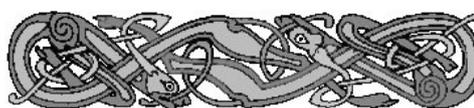
'Twas a dreary Winters night and the television programmes were absolutely brutal. I betook myself to reading about the great GAA games of bygone days. The books and newspaper cuttings were as Maxwell Smart used say 'very interesting' indeed. All the All Ireland successes of Kilkenny hurlers from the inception of the Association right up to the present day made for compulsory study of the ways in which they were won or lost. The sterling battles between the clubs were there in naked print with an odd ballad or poem thrown in.

Then suddenly came a brain wave. The games are chronicled in minute detail by many authors, but no one has thought of putting the poems and ballads between covers. So now, I asked myself 'will I do it?' The big question was where to start. I had a fair number of ballads myself and they were to form the basis of the collection. Then a phone call to Pat Treacy on Radio Kilkenny and an appeal was launched on the airwaves. The response was to say the least fantastic, with ballads and poems about county, club, camogie, handball and stars of the past arriving almost on a daily basis. Some even came from exiled friends in England who also saw the appeal in the Kilkenny People. A series of visits to the County Library in John's Quay was beneficial as the County Librarian Jim Fogarty, a renowned Gael, and his staff were more than helpful in the quest for material.

Now at last the book is almost ready and every All Ireland that was won by the Black and Amber has a ballad or poem commemorating the historic occasion. Practically all the clubs of County Kilkenny have a song or two about them and, as the President of the GAA, Sean McCague says in his foreword, 'a void has been filled.'

Our long lost music and songs of the Gael have been rescued from the dim and distant past and put between covers for our generation and the ones to come to read and enjoy. I am delighted to be the one who has collected and compiled our great ballad and poetry records on the GAA since 1884.

It has been a labour of love and a feeling that at the end of the day it was well worth the effort. That dream on a dirty Winter's night has been well and truly fulfilled.



Jamesie Murphy



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS 1973

Back: Jimmy Walsh, Martin Joyce, Tom O Shea, Sam Dunlop, Kevin Robinson, John Knox, Michael Hogan, Martin Orr, Joe Ryan, Tom Cahill.
 Front: Willie Doheny, Jimmy Lennon, Michael Moore, Murty Kennedy, Eamon Lawlor, Tony Murphy, John Cahill, Paudie Lannon, John Henderson.
(missing Billy Cleere)



DUNNAMAGGIN - ALL COUNTY SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: B Mackey, M Dowling, M O'Shea, John Hickey, Niall Lahart, Andrew Hickey, Paul Cahill, Canice Hickey, Denis Lahart, Brian O'Shea, A O'Neill, Jim Hickey.
 Front: G O'Donovan, P Reid (First Aid), Tom Hickey, Mick O'Neill, Alan McCormack, Ken O'Shea, Ramie Cahill, Liam Heffernan, Sean Ryan, M Heffernan.

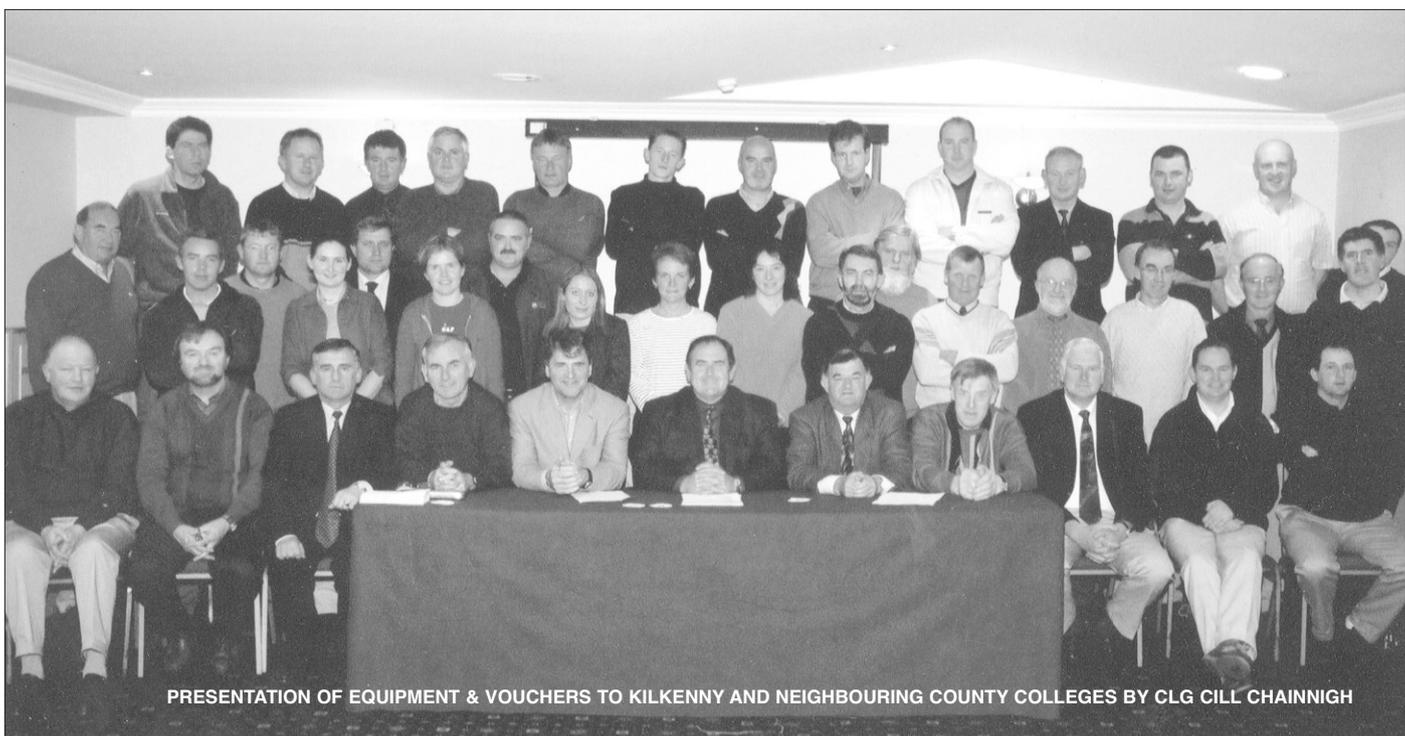


KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD 2001



**NORTHERN BOARD CLG
CILL CHAINNIGH 2001**

Back: Simon Walton (Tullaroan), Gay Rafter (Threecastles), Dick Mahony (Danesfort), Pat Joyce (Emeralds), Pat Cahill (Conahy), Bob Shortall (Barrow Rangers).
Middle: Paddy Delaney (Conahy), Donal Brennan (Cloneen), Sean Murphy (Threecastles), John Cahill (Dicksboro), Philip Brennan (Galmoy), Mick Moore (Jas Stephens)
Front: P.J Kenny (Lisdowney), Paul Kavanagh (Sponsor, JJ Kavanagh & Sons), Ned Buggy Secretary, Ned Moran (Chairman), Martin Treacy (Bennettsbridge), Sean Tyrrell (James Stephens)



PRESENTATION OF EQUIPMENT & VOUCHERS TO KILKENNY AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTY COLLEGES BY CLG CILL CHAINNIGH

Photos Tom Brett

JOE HENNESSY - THE MEDALS AND THE MEMORIES

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

Enthusiasm isn't his middle name, but it might as well be. Joseph Patrick Hennessy has seen something on the RTE News earlier in the evening about Dublin hurling's blueprint for change and he's bubbling with chat about what a great idea it is, how the sport needs Dublin to be strong, how travelling up to Croke Park for the Leinster semi-finals has been such a dead loss in recent seasons. Then there's the handball. He loved the game when he was a young lad but gave it up when he made the Kilkenny minor team. The last couple of years, though, he's been seduced by its siren song once more and is "tipping away at it", playing a bit with someone called Duxie Walsh two nights a week over in O'Loughlins. It's competitive (Duxie gives him a certain number of aces up), it keeps him trim and once a fortnight the two of them team up to travel to New Ross and play a local pair. While having fun is the primary motivation, "taking a few bob off the Wexford lads" is occasionally part of the package too, a part he doesn't particularly find an encumbrance.

Hennessy's competitive instincts wouldn't allow him anything of the sort. Forty-four years of age and still full of the joys of life. Still full of bounce and cheer and optimism. Still a winner. Just as Joe Hennessy - three times an All Ireland senior hurling medallist, five times an All Star in three different positions and chosen at right-half back on Kilkenny's Team of the Century - always was. One of the most popular and most skilful Kilkenny hurlers of his generation or any other, he spanned two eras. Eddie Keher and Pat Henderson were reaching the end of their days as he was materialising. DJ Carey was coming in the front door as he was departing. In between was medal after medal, memory upon memory and hearteningly few regrets. Okay, there were one or two regrets, but only one or two. One match that continues to scald him is the 1977 Leinster club final. James Stephens were defending their provincial and All Ireland club titles. Camross beat them by a point in Carlow. Bah! Bah! again where the 1987 All Ireland final against Galway is concerned. "My last opportunity to win an All Ireland medal, as it turned out. We missed a few chances that day. It was one that got away, and it could have been hauled in. But other days you're lucky, you sneak victories that you shouldn't and you say nothing about it. They usually balance out."

In truth, the pain of losing to Camross was no more than a mild ache after the pride and pleasure Hennessy and his team-mates had experienced 11 months earlier in flooring Blackrock in the 1976 All Ireland decider at Semple Stadium. On an afternoon of howling wind and rain, James Stephens' status as underdogs was quickly franked as Blackrock, already twice winners of the competition and numbering such notables as Frank Cummins, Dermot McCurtain, John Horgan and Ray Cummins in their ranks, hit a breeze-assisted 2-1 without reply in the opening minutes.

Then, as Tom Ryall put it in *Kilkenny: The GAA Story 1884-1984*, a tactical rearrangement stemmed the tide. "Sean 'Georgie' Leahy made a vital switch at this stage. He brought Joe Hennessy from right-half forward to right-half back. Hennessy proceeded to play the proverbial blinder. The Village men had cut the gap to five points by the interval, dominated the second half with the elements at their back, hit the front with a goal from a Liam O'Brien penalty ("anyone else would have taken the safe option and done the obvious thing by putting the ball over the bar, but that wasn't Chunky," Hennessy declares) nine minutes from time and had six points to spare at the final whistle, 2-10 to 2-4. Hennessy, who remembers the scoreline like it were yesterday, finds it difficult to recall a sweeter hour on a hurling field.

"A fantastic win against a great team. Much of it was down to Georgie and the late Bill Cody, Brian's father, and the work they'd put into hurling for years beforehand. If a young lad in the Village was able to swing a hurl, they practically demanded that he go hurling. The pair of them laid the foundations for us winning two All Ireland club titles. We had a number of inter-county players on the team in 1976, but our real strength was that we also had plenty of very good club players - Niall Morrissey, Mick Taylor. Mick Leahy, who scored a goal in every game leading up to the All Ireland final that year and in the final itself. Paddy Neary, who hadn't played for Kilkenny yet. There was a tremendous bond there. I remember that after the All Ireland, the entire panel

went out on consecutive Sundays ^ first to Rathvilly in Carlow, then to Knocktopher ^ to knock ash trees for hurls to do us for the next couple of years. It showed the loyalty everyone had to each other"

Joe Hennessy never needed anyone to demand that he go hurling. His introduction to the sport came courtesy of his late father Paddy, a hurling fanatic who used to run the seven-a-side games in the Waterbarrack. "Sunday mornings. Large crowds. Good hurling, with the odd oul' boxing match fired in. That was how it started for me." The Hennessys moved from Dean Street to William Street when Joe was 11, at which point the Fair Green became the centre of his world. He captained Kilkenny CBS to county under-12 success in 1968, lined out under-14 and under-16 for St Mary's and won a Leinster junior colleges' title with the CBS, defeating St Peter's of Wexford in the final in New Ross, before joining James Stephens at the age of 17. Roses all the way from then on.

Looking back on it, he reckons he couldn't have done his hurling at a more auspicious time, and not only because club and county were both on a high. An inter-county player's existence was far less intense than it is today, he points out, the three league games before Christmas helping to alleviate some of the burden. It might well have



One good turn.... Joe Hennessy helps Harry Ryan with his helmet.....



Deserves another.... Olive Walsh helps Joe with his tie at the Kilkenny Hurling team of the Century dinner. Photo Tom Brett

been more enjoyable too, he muses, recalling the craic that was had travelling to league matches with the late PJ O'Neill at the wheel and Fan Larkin, Mick Crotty and Paddy Neary as fellow passengers, or the challenge posed by the atmosphere in Tulla, where Clare were impregnable in the National League for donkey's years ("we drew there one year and it was as good as a win"). Also, at a time when the world was a far bigger place and consumer spending was a phrase that had yet to enter the Irish vernacular, the wide-eyed wonder of the All Star trips can't be overlooked. Seeing New York, Chicago, San Francisco, LA. Bonding with the footballers, men like Joe Cassells, Jack O'Shea and Mike Sheehy. Even the queasy episode of the Atlantic crossing on the plane whose hydraulics packed in prior to landing in JFK - the pilot had to circle forages burning off fuel before belly flopping on a runway ominously lined with fire engines ^ can be related with a grin now.

Toughest opponents? Many, primarily the late Pat Carroll of Offaly. "From start to finish he was a bundle of energy. Great heart. Never gave up, and he had the feet to carry him around. You'd have to be concentrating for the whole match." Martin Quigley of Wexford. John

Fenton of Cork ("pure class"). Clare's Johnny Callinan ("very much in the mould of Jamesie O'Connor, and very unlucky not to win an All Ireland medal").

Biggest influences? His father Paddy. The aforementioned Messrs Leahy and Cody. Tommy O'Brien in the CBS primary school. More obliquely, Paddy Moran of Bennettsbridge, whose hurling the young Hennessy admired on the grounds that "he always seemed to be in the right place at the right time". Not forgetting Fr Tommy Maher, whose path he too briefly crossed. "Occasionally Fr Maher would come and join in in a line when we were hitting the ball on the ground during training in Nowlan Park. And he'd hit it 60 yards, so easily. Terrific wrist-work. But hitting the ball long distances wasn't what he was big into. Fr Maher always said it was the guy who gave the pass to the man who made the clearance was the guy he looked out for. Because it was a team game. And you'd remember that in matches, with the club as well as with the county. Fr Maher was 20 years ahead of himself"

Behind every great man is a great woman. Behind Joe Hennessy was, and is, his wife Breda, a niece of Georgie Leahy's. Born into the family she was born into, hurling formed part of her DNA. Just as well for her sake, hubby - they have four children: Mary, Claire, Mark and James - opines. "Breda was always interested, but it wouldn't have made any difference if she hadn't been. There was no choice. It was either into the car and off to the match or be left behind!" For such was where the Hennessy priorities lay. "There was work and there was family. And there was hurling. It shortens the week. You talk about last Sunday's match, you talk about next Sunday's match. Who's injured, who'll replace him, who might show up well, who'll win. "It's just part of your life"

Joe Hennessy ^ the honours

All Ireland senior hurling championship: 3 (1979, 1982-83)
 All Ireland under-21 hurling championship: 2 (1975, 1977)
 All Ireland minor hurling championship: 1 (1973)
 All Ireland club hurling championship: 2 (1976, 1982)
 All Ireland over-40 hurling championship: 3
 National Hurling League: 4 (1976, 1982-83, 1986)
 Kilkenny senior hurling championship: 3 (1975-76, 1981)
 Kilkenny senior football championship: 4 (1976, 1988, 1991, 1993)
 Railway Cup hurling: 1 (1979)
 All Stars: 5 (1978-79, 1983-84, 1987)



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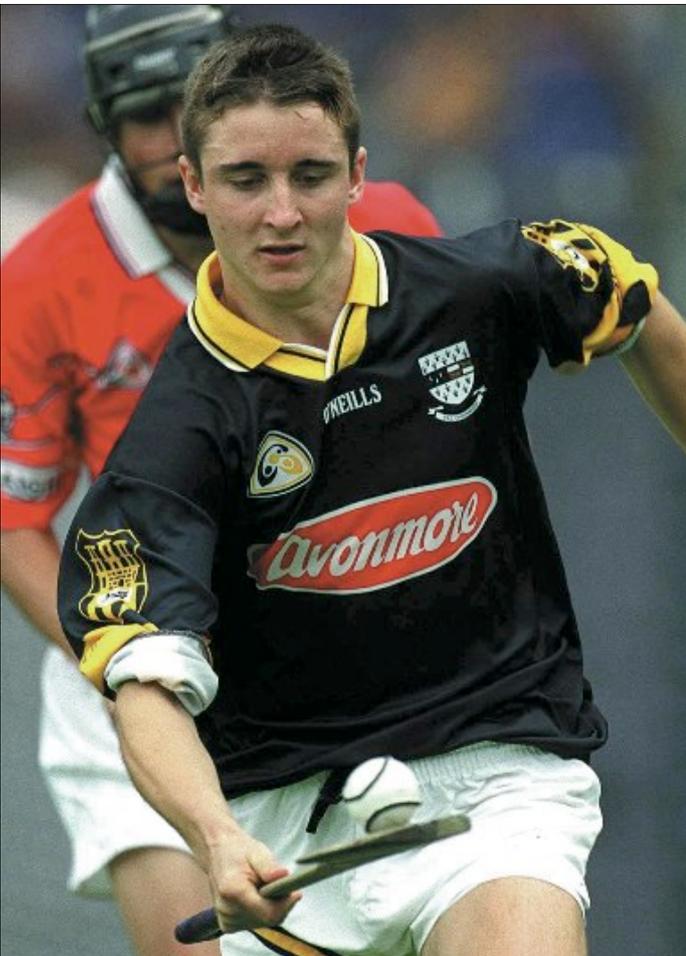
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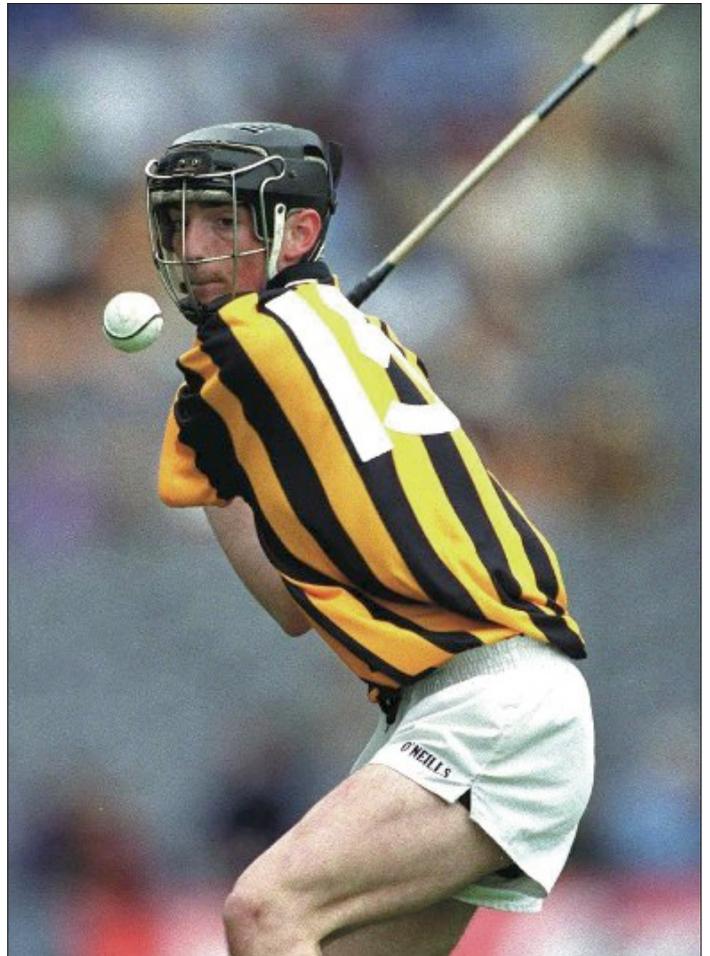
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Kilkenny Minor, Robbie Dowling, gets in his handpass, despite the tackle of John Gardiner (Cork) *Picture Sportsfile*



Kilkenny Minor Goalie, David Herity, takes the ball out of danger. *Picture Sportsfile*



Brian Dowling, Kilkenny Minor, gets his stroke in. *Picture Sportsfile*



PENALTY!

Noel Hickey, James McGarry and Phillip Larkin face up to Eugene Cloonan's penalty in the 2001 All Ireland semi-final. The ball went over the bar.

Photo John McIlwaine

UNDER 14 HURLING & FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bord na nÓg Report



DICKSBORO: UNDER-14 ROINN A COUNTY CHAMPIONS.

Photo: Martin Fogarty.

Back: Peter Brady, Barry Donovan, Brian O'Shea, Philip Dunne, Lorcan Brennan, Peter Fitzpatrick, David Broderick, Richard Ryan, Dean Brennan, Michael Rafter, David Ryan, Darren Leahy,

Middle: Colm Brady, Derek Deegan, Michael Tyrrell, Killian Starr, Niall Morrissey (Capt), Shane Maher, Darragh Tynan, Craig Cahill, Anthony Lawlor, Philip Hayden.

Front: Liam Ryan, Drew Phelan, Diarmuid Molloy, Liam Lenihan, Daniel Webster, Peter Higgins, Robbie Tyrrell.

The under-14 Championship across the board was a roller-coaster of highs and lows. If you were a supporter of Dicksboro for instance, you would have been euphoric as they hammered their way to the Final, winning it for the first time since 1992, and beating their arch rivals, James Stephens in the Final. If you supported Clara, you too would have been thrilled with your team, as they came storming home to win the Roinn B Championship, after a long campaign, and a very difficult final against the gallant men from Piltown.

ROINN A

The Roinn A Championship welcomed Tullogher-Rosbercon into its ranks, for the first time in that club's History, and they were joined from the South by Mooncoin, who having vacated their position on the Roinn A rostrum for a few years, were back to make an enthralling seven-team Championship, which produced excitement all the way to the final game. The other teams involved were, O'Loughlin Gaels, Ballyhale Shamrocks,

Graig-Ballycallan, James Stephens and Dicksboro. Played on a League basis, this division ran simultaneously with the Féile na nGael tournament.

Mooncoin had a fine win over city side, O'Loughlins, winning by 2-12 to 3-2 in their opening game. It helped the Mooncoin cause that they had home advantage for the game. We heard of great hurling by players who were destined to grace this fine Championship with their skills later on. Tom Hennebery and James Grace from Mooncoin were two such players. Mooncoin were to progress much further. Within the first week of June, more brilliant games came steaming off the production line.

Dicksboro proved far too good for their city rivals, James Stephens when they beat them on their own patch in Larchfield. They were to meet later on. It was sweet revenge for the Boro lads, as they had been dumped out of the Féile competition by the Village, and that stung. The score in Larchfield was Dicksboro 2-8 James Stephens 1-3. Graig-Ballycallan travelled down to Ballyhale, and returned home with an emphatic win (5-3 to 0-5). O'Loughlins

made amends for their poor showing in their opener against Mooncoin, when they had a huge win (5-16 to 3-4) over Tullogher-Rosbercon in St John's Park. Dicksboro made it four points from two wins, when they took care of O'Loughlins on a score of 2-8 to 0-10. This was a terrific game with the result in doubt right to the final whistle. James Stephens swamped the unfortunate Shamrocks with a 9-17 to 0-3 scoreline. But the best game of the second round was that between Mooncoin and Graig-Ballycallan, played in Mooncoin. There was not the width of a hayseed between these two as the final whistle approached. Graig-Ballycallan seemed at one stage to have victory sewn up, but the hardy battlers from Mooncoin had a different script. They caught, and passed the Ballycallan lads to collect their second brace of points. By beating Shamrocks in their next game, Dicksboro made sure of qualifying for the semi-finals, but also insured that the Ballyhale lads were to take no further part in the Championship. Graig-Ballycallan had a narrow victory over Tullogher-Rosbercon, and the Boro also accounted for the

same opposition, as the finishing post loomed. Wins for James Stephens over O'Loughlins (2-11 to 1-5), and Mooncoin over Tullogher (4-10 to 3-5), Mooncoin (4-6) over Shamrocks (2-6), Dicksboro (9-13) over Graig-Ballycallan (2-4) helped to clarify the semi-final pairings. Dicksboro were to face Graig-Ballycallan and James Stephens were to go head to head with surprise packet, Mooncoin.

A rampant Dicksboro had little difficulty in despatching a luckless Graig-Ballycallan, who certainly didn't deserve to be beaten so comprehensively (6-15 to 1-4), but it was very clear on the night that this Boro outfit were a "serious" proposition for any opponent. It didn't surprise that their opponents in the final were James Stephens, who beat Mooncoin in the other semi-final, not as easily as the final score of 3-11 to 0-3 would suggest. The City side had far too many "big guns" available to them, while Mooncoin were heavily dependant on players of the calibre of Sean Wall, Shane Walsh, Tom Hennebery, and little Frank Law. James Stephens owe a huge debt of gratitude to players of the calibre of Matthew Ruth, Paul Grogan, Michael Neary, Patrick Neary, David Walton, and Garry Breen for getting them to yet another County Final. And what a final that turned out to be.

'Twas the Sunday of the All-Ireland semi-final between Wexford and Tipperary, but more important affairs for the



CLARA - UNDER-14 ROINN B COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Photo: Martin Fogarty.

Back: Jody Creane, Michael McDonald, Martin Meany, Eoin O'Shea (Capt), James Brennan, Keith Hogan, Neal Prendergast, Niall Costigan.

Middle: Kevin Nolan, Brian O'Shea, Thomas Armitage, Liam Ryan, David Langton, James Nolan, Lester Ryan, Declan Rafter, Tom Langton.

Front: Conor Phelan, John Prendergast, Sean O'Shea, Tom Ryan, Philip Ryan, Stephen Quinlan.



Danesfort - UNDER-14 ROINN C COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2001

Photo: Martin Fogarty.

Back: Jody Creane, Michael McDonald, Martin Meany, Eoin O'Shea (Capt), James Brennan, Keith Hogan, Neal Prendergast, Niall Costigan.

Middle: Kevin Nolan, Brian O'Shea, Thomas Armitage, Liam Ryan, David Langton, James Nolan, Lester Ryan, Declan Rafter, Tom Langton.

Front: Conor Phelan, John Prendergast, Sean O'Shea, Tom Ryan, Philip Ryan, Stephen Quinlan.

JAMES STEPHENS KILKENNY FEILE CHAMPIONS 2001

BACK: John Brennan, Keith Morris, James Hennessy Shane O'Neill Paul Grogan, David Byrne, David Doyle, Shane Campion John Comerford, Damian Phelan, Killian Everard, Garry Breen, Adrian Walshe.

MIDDLE: Stephen Hoyne, Conor O'Brien, Shane Brennan, Paddy Neary, Mathew Ruth, Micheál Neary, Niall Lanigan, David Walton, Glen Campion.

FRONT: Niall McQuillan, Alan Tyrrell, Conor McQuillan.



hurlers of James Stephens and Dicksboro were scheduled for Nowlan Park at 7.0pm. Clara faced Piltown in the Roinn B Final, while the Boro were attempting to win the Roinn A title for the first time since 1994. They were also hell bent on preventing the Village from putting three titles back to back. There was an enormous crowd in Nowlan Park for the two Finals, and they were not disappointed with the fare provided by all teams.

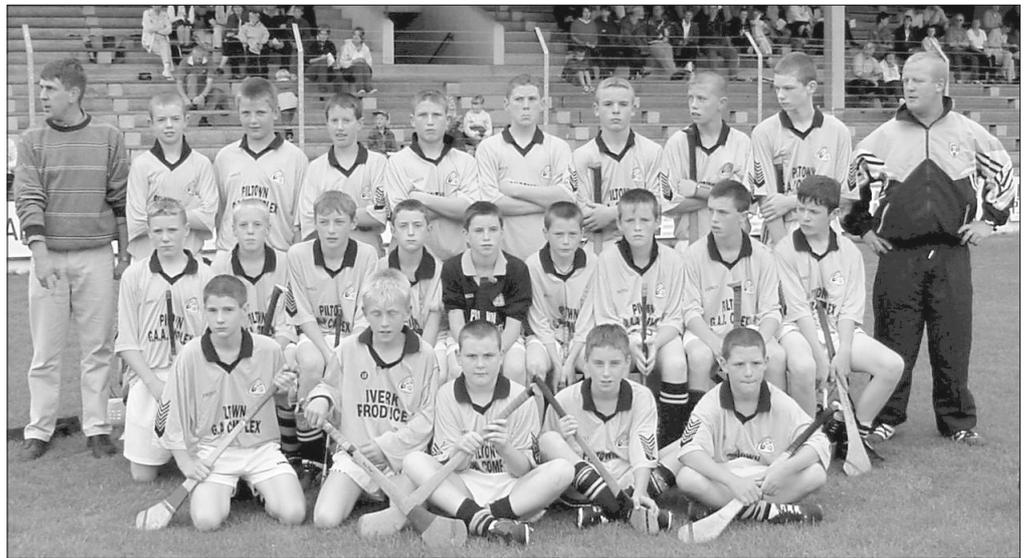
Dicksboro were a revelation. From the minute David Broderick fired over their opening point to the 59th minute when Craig Cahill fired over their last score, there was no denying who the masters of Kilkenny under-14 hurling for 2001 were. From the dominant Michael Tyrrell at centre back making life exceptionally difficult for all the Village forwards, to the lethal Niall Morrissey, who led his team from left half forward like a real good captain should, the Boro did not have one semblance of a weak link in their side. They led at half time by 1-7 to 0-3, and appeared to be coasting. James Stephens put in a spirited second half effort, but they could not break down the highly focussed Boro side, who won by 1-14 to 1-7. The Boro goal was scored in the first half by their captain, Niall Morrissey, while the goal for James Stephens was driven home by Michael Neary, within 10 minutes of the finish. The Boro had great performers in Michael Tyrrell, Dean Brennan, David Ryan, Killian Starr, Craig Cahill, Niall Morrissey, Peter Higgins and Liam Lenihan. James Stephens had terrific competitors in Michael Neary, Matthew Ruth, David Byrne, John Comerford, David Walton, Paul Grogan, and Patrick Neary.

Dicksboro: Shane Maher, Michael Rafter, Darragh Tynan, Lorcan Brennan, David Ryan, Michael Tyrrell, Anthony Lawlor, Killian Starr, Dean Brennan, Craig Cahill, David Broderick, Niall Morrissey, Liam Lenihan, Philip Hayden, Peter Higgins.

Subs: Peter Brady, Barry Donovan, Brian O'Shea, Philip Dunne, Peter Fitzpatrick, Richard Ryan, Darren Leahy, Colm Brady, Derek Deegan, Liam Ryan, Drew Phelan, Diarmuid Molloy, Daniel Webster, Robbie Tyrrell.

James Stephens: Michael Neary, Glen Champion, Paul Grogan, David Walton, David Doyle, John Comerford, Damien Byrne, Shane Champion, Adrian Walsh, Shane O'Neill, Matthew Ruth, Damien Phelan, Sean Brennan, Patrick Neary, Niall Lanigan,

Subs: K. Morris, Keith Everard, J.



PILTOWN: ROINN B U14 FINALISTS 2001

Back: Michael Birchall, Robert Blackmore, Fran Duggan, Mark Culleton, Seamus Norris, Declan Long, Nigel Brennan, Ger Brennan.

Middle: Paul McNamara, James Norris, Tommy O' Gorman, Christopher Falconer, David O' Shea, Shane McCarthy, Kevin Brophy, John Duggan, Martin Gordan.

Front: Matthew Kenny, Liam White, Conor Scahill, Niall Kelly, Robert Blackmore.

Photo: Martin Fogarty.



KILMACOW: UNDER-14 ROINN C COUNTY FINALISTS.

Back: Sean McGrath, Sean Ivory, Conor Gahan, Gerry Harney, Liam Kerins, Brian King, Paul Laffin, Tony Barnes, Richard Kearns, David Duggan, Pádraig Brick, Owen Doody.

Front: Paul Skehan, Fergus Walsh, John Kirby, Michael Heffernan, Tony Maguire, PJ Ivory, Richard McNamara, Conor Dowling, Sean Deegan, Adrian Crowe.

Photo: Dylan Vaughan.

Brennan.

**PADDY GRACE TOURNAMENT
(FÉILE NA NGAEL)**

The Paddy Grace Tournament (Féile na nGael) got under way in the middle of May, and some sixteen teams took part. The teams were divided into groups of four, with the group winners being decided after a series of three games each. From the outset, it was abundantly clear that the eventual contenders for the title would include James Stephens who were unbeatable, Dicksboro, St. Martin's, O'Loughlins, and Graig-Ballycallan. In fact, the final six teams included that quintet, plus Mooncoin. Dicksboro, Mooncoin and St. Martin's were bracketed together in one semi-final group, whilst James Stephens, O'Loughlins and Graig-Ballycallan were locked together

in group 2.

Dicksboro stormed through to the final by virtue of two hard-earned, excellent wins over Mooncoin (2-1 to 0-3), and St. Martins (3-7 to 0-1), and their city rivals, James Stephens reached the Final with two wins over O'Loughlins (2-9 to 0-2) and Graig-Ballycallan (3-8 to 0-2). In a terrific Tournament Final, James Stephens played to their considerable potential, and ran out rather easy winners on a score of 5-8 to 2-5. They had a blistering opening ten minutes in which they nailed the Boro with a two goals and two points in quick succession. James Stephens led at half time by 3-5 to which the Boro could only muster two points in reply. The same duo were to meet again in the County Final, but the result was scheduled to be far different. James Stephens went on to represent Kilkenny in the Féile Final in Cork.

Based in Bandon, they were coupled with the local side, Sarsfields (Glanmire), and famed Athenry. They easily accounted for both Cork teams, and came from seven points down to take care of Athenry by five points at the finish. In the semi-final, they were unlucky to come up against Oulart-the-Ballagh who were trained by Martin Storey, and captained by Martin's son, Anthony. After a battle royal, the Kilkenny champions had to give second best to the men from Wexford, going down by 3-4 to 0-5. They acquitted themselves well, and were a credit to their Club and County.

ROINN B

It was excitement all the way in the Roinn B Championship, with some titanic battles between near neighbours in particular. The North was divided into two groups, with Tullaroan, Fenians/Galmoy, St.Patrick's Ballyraggett, St.Lachtains, and Erin's Own in Group one, while Emeralds, Clara, St.Martin's and Bennettsbridge made up Group Two. It was all "one big happy family" down in the South, as Piltown, Thomastown, Carrickshock, Mullinavat, John Lockes, and Rower-Inistioge "locked horns" with each other in one group. Two goals separated

neighbours, Mullinavat and Carrickshock in their first game, while up North, St. Lachtain's, Tullaroan and Clara had facile wins over Ballyraggett, Fenians/Galmoy and Emeralds respectively. In the second round games, there were draws between Tullaroan and St. Lachtain's, and St.Martin's and Clara, while there were only four points between Piltown and Rower-Inistioge. Erin's Own had a fine win over St. Lachtain's next time up, while St.Martin's took care of the Emeralds' challenge. By the quarter-final stages of the League/Championship, Tullaroan and Erin's Own had qualified from their Group, while Clara and St Martin's came through from Group Two. Down South, Thomastown came flying through with maximum points, and they were followed by Mullinavat, Piltown and Rower-Inistioge. After a nerve-biting sixty minutes of hurling, St.Martin's just edged out Mullinavat by 3-8 to 3-4. It was closer between Piltown and Tullaroan, with the former winning by 2-11 to 3-6. It was still closer

between Rower-Inistioge and Erin's Own, who reached an inconclusive result, and had to do it all over again, when only a single point separated them after an absorbing game, in which the Comer men came out on top. In the fourth game, Clara (3-7) proved a little too good for Thomastown (2-4). The much fancied Piltown went into their semi-final against St.Martin's, and won by 1-11 to 3-3.

Much fancied Clara got away to a brilliant start against Erin's Own in their semi-final, and held on at the finish to get themselves into the final. They won by 5-4 to 3-6.

The final brought out the supporters of both sides to Nowlan park. This was Piltown's third final in a row, and they were determined to make it a winning one. However they didn't bargain for a Herculean display of solid hurling from

placed balls, settled the Clara lads who ran out winners by seven points, a winning margin that probably flattered them.

Clara : D Langton, D Rafter, N Costigan, S O'Shea, B O'Shea, N Prendergast, M McDonald, Lester Ryan, T Langton, J Brennan, E O'Shea, K Hogan, J Nolan, J Creane, Liam Ryan.

Subs: S Quinlan, T Ryan.

Piltown : D O'Shea, N Kelly, S Norris, K Brophy, M Birchell, M Culleton, N Brennan, P McNamara, T O'Gorman, J Duggan, J Norris, G Brennan, M Gordon, D Long, S McCarthy, **Sub** : M Kenny.

ROINN C

Eight teams went to post for the Championship, which started immediately after the League Final. Kilmacow had a terrific win over Slieverue down in

Carrigeen, winning the South Final by 3-6 to 2-2. A feature of the game was the goalkeeping of both goalies, Andy Hogan from Slieverue, and Fergus Walsh, a small guy, with a big heart from Kilmacow. Danesfort beat Young Irelands by 5-16 to 0-5, and also took care of Conahy Shamrocks, after a titanic game, by 4-9 to 4.2. Lisdowney showed frightening early form by annihilating the second



DUNAMAGGIN - UNDER-14 ROINN C HURLING LEAGUE FINALISTS *Photo: Eoin Hennessy.*
Front: Nigel Hawe, Darren Coffey, Oliver Weekes, Tommy Maher, Garry Coyne, James Ryan, Sean Murphy, J.J. Dunphy.
Back: Elaine O'Shea, Ann-Maire Phelan, William Hughes, Patrick Phelan, Nickie Mc Carthy, Darren Fitzpatrick, Jason Noonan, Aidan O'Donovan, Christopher Carey, Gavan O'Keeffe, Stephen Conway, Daniel Reid.

the Clara centre-back, Niall Prendergast, who, besides giving a capital display from the central defensive area of the Clara backline, found time to score five invaluable points which helped enormously to win the trophy for the "Maroons". This was a magnificent game all through. Some might even say that it was a better game than the Roinn A Final afterwards. The sides were level at half time at 1-4 apiece. Clara started the second half in ferocious fashion. They had two goals scored before you could say "Clara". Liam Ryan got the first after 33 minutes, and it was followed shortly afterwards by another Clara goal, this time scored by Eoin O'Shea, whose speculative lob from under the old stand, deceived Piltown goalkeeper, to end up in the back of his net. Proud Piltown recovered from this double shock. They stormed back, and, by the 53rd minute, only two points separated the sides following a superb Piltown goal by Shane McCarthy. Clara looked to be in trouble, but the steadying influence of Prendergast, allied to his accuracy from

string O'Loughlin Gaels. With Barrow Rangers knocking out Lisdowney in the North semi-final, they were then beaten in the North final by Danesfort, after a marvellous game, (3-8 to 3-4). Again, the Hogan brothers were influential in the Danesfort effort. It was sweet revenge for the Danesfort lads as they had been on the receiving end against the same opposition in the under-16 Championship. Midway through the second half, Barrow Rangers looked "good things", as they led by a Ger Walsh goal and an Eoin Stapleton point, but the Danesfort lads put in a storming last eight minutes, and were rewarded with two terrific goals by Ciarán Treacy and Richard Hogan, and a pointed free by Hogan to secure an historic win for Danesfort. Both sides had stars all over the park. For Danesfort, nobody played better than the two Hogans, Patrick and Richard, Robbie Walsh, Paul Murphy, Michael Cunningham, and Ciarán Treacy. Barrow Rangers had terrific battlers in Tom Brophy, Niall Heffernan, David Walsh,

Ian Holden, Aoife Drennan, and Eoin Stapleton.

Danesfort created history by winning their first under-14 hurling title ever, at the expense of a game Kilmacow. Playing against the breeze in the first half, Kilmacow rattled the Danesfort lads with a Liam Kearns goal, and two points by Sean McGrath and Conor Gahan, before Danesfort got off the mark. Once Richard Hogan's free went over the Kilmacow crossbar in the 6th minute, Danesfort settled down well, and they hammered home 2-5 in an eight-minute spell from the 6th to the 14th minute; the goals coming compliments of Ricky Cunningham and Ciarán Treacy. With Robbie Walsh dominating at midfield, Danesfort exerted tremendous pressure on the Kilmacow defence. Two further goals by Richard and Patrick Hogan, and points by Richard Hogan and Paul Murphy had the Danesfort lads well in front at the break by 4-9 to 1-4.

Kilmacow did make a huge effort in the second half when favoured by the breeze. Liam Kearns fired home 1-1, and even though they had a third goal late in the game, it was always going to be a hill too far for them to climb.

Danesfort: Paddy Daly, Ricky Cunningham, Michael Cunningham, Derek Brennan, Johnny Corr, Patrick Hogan, John Brennan, Philip Muldowney, Robbie Walsh, Paul Murphy, Richard Hogan, Oisín Daly, Sean Leahy, Ciarán Treacy, James Cunningham.
Subs: Sarah Drennan, Richard Troy, Pádraig Corcoran.

Kilmacow: F Walsh, P Skehan, P Laffan, T Barron, P O'Brien, S Ivory, B McNamara, J McGrath, L Kearns, R Kearns, C Gahan, J Carey, E Doody, D Duggan, T Maguire.

The League started during the last week in May, and Danesfort showed commendable skill and dedication from game one, when they defeated Windgap by 6-9 to 4-3. Blacks & Whites took care of near-neighbours, Graignamanagh, on a score of 3-6 to 2-2. Dunnamaggin (4-7) beat Cloneen (2-5), Slieverue (7-2) defeated Glenmore (1-1), Lisdowney (3-9) beat the O'Loughlins second string (2-6), and Barrow Rangers (3-4) beat Young Irelands (1-3).

In the next round, Danesfort (3-4) confirmed their early form with a good win over Blacks & Whites (1-5); Lisdowney also maintaining their momentum, collected their second brace of points, beating Young Irelands by 8-7 to 3-3. Dicksboro (2) made amends for their first round loss to Glenmore by winning easily against Cloneen, 7-3 to no score.

The League semi-finals saw Danesfort (1-12) defeat Slieverue (1-3), and Dunnamaggin (5-3) beat Lisdowney (2-5). The final in John Locke Park in Callan was practically over at half time, with



**ERIN'S OWN - U14 FOOTBALL ROINN A CHAMPIONS 2001
& WINNERS OF ALL IRELAND FÉILE PEIL Na nÓg DIV.5**

Back: Shane Walsh, Jimmy Byrne, Michael Moran, Liam Oates, Daniel Walsh, Robbie Lynch, Barry Dunne, James Hurley, Donal Fenlon, Richie Lynch, Alan Phelan
Front: Eric Kavanagh, Mark Delaney, Conor Fogarty, James Mullins, Peadar Boran, Michael Murphy, John Meally, Leon Brennan, Wayne Kavanagh, Keith Renwick.

Danesfort leading by 4-2 to no score. The Hogan brothers, Patrick and Richard fired home three of the goals, while Pádraig Corcoran collected the fourth. The game was a personal triumph for Richard Hogan who scored half of his side's total. Dunnamaggin came storming back into the game after half time, but their best efforts were not enough to break down a very resolute Danesfort outfit, who deservedly completed the double.

Danesfort: D Maher, P Daly, M Cunningham, R Cunningham, J Corr, P Hogan, J Brennan, R Walsh, B Muldowney, P Murphy, R Hogan, O Daly, P Corcoran, C Treacy, J Cunningham.

Subs: S Drennan, R Troy.

Dunnamaggin: D Reid, O Weeks, C Carey, D Coffey, T Noonan, P Phelan, JJ Dunphy, D Fitzpatrick, G O'Keeffe, L Coyne, N McCarthy, T Maher, S Murphy, A Donovan, J Ryan.

Subs: W Hughes, N Hawe, S Conway.

UNDER 14 FOOTBALL.

ROINN A.

Eight teams lined up to contest the Roinn A Championship; Dicksboro, Erin's Own, O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens, Thomastown, Mooncoin, Shamrocks and Mullinavat. The eventual winners, Erin's Own, had a good win over Dicksboro, but, in fairness, the result of the game did not reflect the real story. The final score, Erin's Own 6-8 Dicksboro 4-9, tells of a high-scoring encounter, with plenty of great scores, and much excitement. The other finalists, Thomastown, had a very clear-cut opening win over Mooncoin, while big wins for Mullinavat and James Stephens against Mooncoin and O'Loughlins respectively, gave ample warning to others that they would both be a force in the competition. Erin's Own continued in the same mode

for the second round, beating O'Loughlins quite easily. Thomastown, too, made it four points from two games with a nice win against Mullinavat, while Mooncoin took care of Shamrocks quite easily. The final round was practically decided off the field rather than on. Mullinavat topped Mooncoin by a single point, and, to qualify, they needed the Shamrocks to beat Thomastown.

Thomastown were delighted to get a walk-over, and so qualified for the final, as did Erin's Own who came through the League section with full points, having also received a walk-over from James Stephens.

Erin's Own, Castlecomer survived a late rally from Thomastown to retain the county U14 Roinn A crown in Nowlan Park. Played in ideal conditions, this final produced a highly competitive game. Erin's Own looked likely winners leading by 2-6 to 1-3 with five minutes remaining. Thomastown staged a late rally scoring two points followed by an excellent goal to close the gap to a minimum. However, Erin's Own held out to take the title in a dramatic fashion, winning by 2-6 to 2-5.

Erin's Own: Michael Murphy, Raymond Dowd, Robbie Lynch, Wayne Kavanagh, Donal Fenlon, Alan Phelan, John Meally, Richie Lynch, Daniel Walsh, Keith Renwick, Michael Moran, James Hurley, Mark Delaney, Leon Brennan, Barry Dunne, Jimmy Byrne, Peadar Boran, Shane Walsh, James Mullins, Conor Fogarty, Liam Oates, John O'Gorman, Eddie Kelly, Eric Kavanagh.

Thomastown: Noel Hearne, Peter Birch, Richard Moore, Dwane Tennyson, Ian Egan, Richard O'Hara, Tom Kavanagh, Jamie Tennyson, Alan Byrne, Marty Lawrence, Peter O'Hanrahan, John Joe Farrell, Diarmuid Aylward, Eamonn Mahoney, Mark Delahunty.

Subs: Andrew Aylward, Patrick Kahn, Ross Diamond, Steven Cody, Eoin Ramsbottom, John McDonald.

ROINN B.

The Roinn B Championship/League was no less exciting than the Roinn A competition. Some great football was played before the County Final was reached by St.Martin's and Clara. In the opening round, it would have pleased St.Martins to have given a comprehensive beating to their near neighbours, Railyard, on a score of 3-10 to 0-1. In a very exciting first round game, Clara had little to spare against a luckless Conahy Shamrocks, losing eventually by 4-7 to 2-9. Tullogher also had little (2 points) to spare over Rower-Inistioge in their opener, but Graignamanagh had no such problem with their opening game against Piltown, winning quite emphatically. Conahy fell for a second time in round 2 against a flying St.Martin's, while Clara also picked up maximum points with a fine win against Railyard. The Rower-Inistioge terminated any further interest in the competition by beating Piltown 2-12 to 4-1.

St.Martin's sailed into the Final with their third win on the trot against Clara. With Tullogher and the Rower winning, and building their points tally to four, just like Clara, it was down to the mathematicians to decide who would get into the final against St.Martin's.

The calculations deemed that Clara made the final spot. And so the final, a humdinger, was played on Monday, May 7th in Nowlan Park.

St.Martin's were going for their third Championship on the trot, but a sturdy Clara were to make life extremely difficult for them. At half time the Champions led by a mere two points - 07 to 1-2.

The Clara goalkeeper made two marvellous saves in the early part of the game to keep his side well in the competition. A terrific goal by James Nolan before half time also helped matters. St.Martin's laid down the early markers in the second half with a number of marvellous points, but again Clara came back with a great Niall Prendergast goal. Points from Nolan and Liam Ryan had the sides level as the final whistle approached. The excitement was fever pitch. Kevin McPhillips rammed home a great goal for St.Martin's. The "Saints" shunned two good goal chances, but even a late John Prendergast goal could not rescue the Clara lads. Muckalee really deserved their win. The Final score read, St.Martins 1-12, Clara 3-4.

St. Martins had great players in Mark Murphy in goal, Pádraig Haughney, James Dowling, Kevin McPhillips, John Maher, Michael Morrissey, and Conor Kelly.

For Clara, Martin Meaney, James Brennan, Keith Hogan, Niall Prendergast, Liam Ryan, Lester Ryan



ST MARTIN'S - U14 FOOTBALL ROINN B CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Pádraig Callanan, Noel Darcy, John Maher, Pádraig Haughney, Colin McGrath, John Mulhall, Kevin McPhillips, Mark Murphy, Paul Coogan.

Middle: Gary Brennan, Michael Stapleton, Jamie O'Brien, Patrick Nolan, Ciarán Brennan, James Dowling, Darragh Callanan, Joe Maher, Michael Morrissey, Fionn Lawlor.

Front: Darren Holohan, Tomás Morrissey, Conor Kelly, Thomas Breen, Roderick Hogan, Oliver Walsh, Stephen Coogan, Micheál Morrissey.

and James Nolan were best.

St Martins: Mark Murphy, Paul Coogan, Pádraig Haughney, Roderick Hogan, Michael Stapleton, James Dowling, Fionn Lawlor, Joseph Maher, Patrick Nolan, John Mulhall, Kevin McPhillips, Michael Morrissey (Capt), Conor Kelly, John Maher, Colin McGrath.

Subs: Darragh Callanan, Jamie O'Brien, Oliver Walsh, Micheál Morrissey, Tomás Morrissey, Pádraig Callanan, Garry Brennan, Noel Darcy, Ciarán Brennan, Tomas Breen, Steven Coogan, Darren Holohan.

Clara : Martin Meaney, James Brennan, Michael McDonald, Sean O'Shea, Brian O'Shea, Eoin O'Shea, Keith Hogan, Tom Langton, Jody Creane, Lester Ryan, Neil Prendergast, James Nolan, David Langton, John Prendergast, Liam Ryan.
Subs: Steven Quinlan, Declan Rafter, Tom Ryan, Conor Phelan, Tom Armitage, Philip Ryan, Kevin Nolan.

ROINN C

The all-County League/Championship involved St.Patrick's Ballyraggett, Bennettsbridge, Kilmacow, Carrickshock, John Lockes, Blacks & Whites, Young Irelands and Barrow Rangers.

John Lockes (4-12) had a good opening win over Blacks & Whites (3-5). Carrickshock(3-2) went down to Kilmacow (3-4) in their opening game, but would do much better later in the competition.

The lads from Ballyraggett (3-5) had a nice win over Bennettsbridge (2-1), while Young Irelands and neighbours, Barrow Rangers, fought out a well-contested draw; Barrow Rangers 1-8, Young Irelands 3-2. Callan's John Lockes maintained their winning ways with a marvellous win over Kilmacow, winning by five

points in the second round. Young Irelands got into winning ways with a fine 5-6 to nil score against Bennettsbridge. Barrow Rangers too got off to a winning start with a good 4-7 to 1-1 win over St.Patrick's of Ballyraggett.

High flying John Lockes got a huge surprise from Carrickshock, when they went down to the lads from Hugginstown by an impressive 3-6 to 1-2. They were scheduled to avenge that defeat later. The 'Shock continued winning with a fine 4-11 to 1-3 win over Blacks & Whites in their next game, and continued the good work with a rather easy win over Young Irelands in their very next outing. It took the mathematicians to separate the final two teams for the final, and it fell to John Lockes and Carrickshock to provide the final pairing.

The Callan lads recorded their first juvenile football title in ten years by defeating the 'Shock by 6-4 to 2-1. The stars for John Lockes were Alan Costigan and Robbie Wall who accounted for 4-3 of Callan's total between them. At half time, John Lockes led by 3-1 to Carrickshock's 0-1.

John Lockes: Owen Wall, Chris Walsh, Keith O'Dwyer, Mark Nolan, Thomas Melia, Mark McDowell, Paul Roche, Alan Costigan, Eoghan Fahey, Dwayne Hanrahan, Robbie Wall, Brendan Burke, Bill McCormack, Ger Shelly, Brendan Grace,

Subs: Liam Kennedy, Robbie O'Brien, Brian McCann, Kenny Doheny, Conor Freaney, Mark Laffin, AJ Webster, Simon Burke.

Carrickshock: Conor Farrell, David Kenneally, John Butler, Christopher Price, David Raggett, John Kirkbride, Paul Ryan, John Sheehan, John Phelan, David Brennan, Niall Tennyson, John Power, Darren Dwyer, Paddy Carr, William Hoyne, Richard Dowling, Patrick Walsh, Daniel Murray, Mark Dwyer, Liam

Walsh, Brian Dunne, Andrew Power, David Moore, Luke Gaule, John Power.

Roinn D.

Danesfort, Graig Ballycallan, Lisdowney, Emeralds, Glenmore, Slieverue, Windgap and Kilmoganny were the teams competing for the Roinn D Title. Danesfort, who had a brilliant year subsequently, opened their account with a surprising 3-9 to 0-3 win over Graig-Ballycallan. Kilmoganny easily accounted for Windgap, while Slieverue gave a walk over to neighbours, Glenmore. Danesfort made it two wins from two starts by beating Lisdowney, 1-7 to 1-1. Slieverue scratched from the competition by the second round, thus giving Windgap two

easy points. Lisdowney and Emeralds followed the Slieverue direction, and the Emeralds defection gave Danesfort maximum points from three games. Danesfort beat Windgap, and Graig-Ballycallan beat Kilmoganny. They were to face each other in the County Final in their next game.

After a fairly hectic game, the Danesfort lads were to win by 3-5 to Graig-Ballycallan's 1-3, but more importantly, this win for Danesfort - their first ever at this level - was to prove the launch pad for a marvellous season later that saw them win the Roinn C hurling double.

Danesfort: Pádraig Corcoran, Pádraig Daly, Michael Cunningham, Ricky

Cunningham, John Brennan, Patrick Hogan, Derek Brennan, Johnny Corr, Bill Muldowney, Oisín Daly, Paul Murphy, James Cunningham, Donal Maher, Richard Hogan, Robbie Walsh.
Subs: Ciarán Treacy, Richard Troy, Peter Ryan.

Graig-Ballycallan: Nicholas Harrison, Gearóid Murphy, Robert Dunphy, Brian Hennessy, Adrian Burke, Johnny Dunne, Mark Butler, Owen Heafy, James Smith, Pádraig Murphy, Patrick Kennedy, Robert Murphy, Justin Dermody, JP Murphy, Garry Brennan, Ciarán Neary, Paul Harrison, Ian Hennessy, John Cleere, Noel Dermody, Shane Dunphy.

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Best wishes and Good Luck to all the Kilkenny Teams in 2002



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Jim freeman
Mobile 087 - 2551507



Local representative

Liam O'Connor
Mobile 086 - 2564703
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Lisdowney Sevens 2001

"This is a unique competition," said Co. Chairman, **Ned Quinn** at the conclusion of the 20th year of the **Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens**. "It caters for players not alone from most clubs in Kilkenny but from other counties as well, spread over three provinces. It is an example of how hurling can be promoted in an efficient manner for younger players".

This was certainly the year of the black and amber at the Sevens. **Danesfort** created a major shock by powering their way through the main competition, the **Sweeney Cup**, while Camross overcame their fellow-Laois team, **Borris-in-Ossory** to take the **Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield**. The Co. Chairman was fulsome in his praise of Jim Fennelly and his colleagues in Danesfort who had organised regular and structured training sessions for the young players of the parish. They had to produce outstanding hurling to defeat James Stephens in extra time in the semi-final and then continued in the same vein against Mullinavat in an all-Kilkenny final. It takes scores to win any match and Danesfort were blessed with a score-getter of the calibre of **Richard Hogan** - the Best Player Award winner who played an outstanding part, no matter who was pitted against him.



Sweeney Cup Winners Danesfort

Back Row - Lar Carroll (Treasurer), Conor Brennan N.T., P.J. Kenny (Chairman), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Ned Quinn (Co.Chairman), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.).
Team (L. to R.) - Ciarán Treacy, Michael Cunningham, John Brennan, Robert Walsh, Paul Murphy, Óisín Daly, Derek Brennan, James Cunningham, Pádraig Daly.
Kneeling - Richard Hogan (Captain and Best Player Award winner)

In a few short years many of this year's participants will don the jersey of their county as many of the players of the past 20 years have done. Of this year's Kilkenny senior team Henry Sheflin, Aidan Cummins, Brian McEvoy, Philip Larkin, Peter Barry, Michael Kavanagh, Denis Byrne, John Hoyne, Mícheál Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, Johnny Butler, Canice Brennan, James McGarry, Stephen Grehan and J.J. Delaney have played the Sevens as did Tommy Dunne, Paul Kelly and Owen Kelly of victorious Tipperary.

One of the highlights each year is the **Parish Sevens** - none moreso than this year as the Under 13 team had earlier won the Roinn C Co. Final. The boys and girls of Gathabawn, Clontubrid and Lisdowney schools competed with vigour and enthusiasm, cheered on by equally enthusiastic parents. This year, 6 teams of 11 players each, led by their captains David Buckley, Ciarán Mackey, Peter Bergin, Shane Clyne, Paul Murphy and Brian Campion played a round-robin series. In the final **Peter Bergin's** team produced a storming second half to overcome the challenge of **Ciarán Mackey's** team.



Lisdowney Parish Sevens Winners - Peter Bergin's Team

(L.to R.) - Conor Brennan (Referee), Shane Healy, Luke Hudner, Sean Phelan, Jamie Burns, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Robert Fitzpatrick, Peter Bergin (capt.), David O'Reilly, Laurence O'Carroll, Shane O'Sullivan, Jamie Bergin, Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.), Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.)

Chairman, **P.J. Kenny** thanked the three main organisers **Larry Hamilton (Sec.)**, **Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola)** and **Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.)** who have been involved since 1982. He also thanked all the Club officers and members, the Ladies Committee and referees **Podge Butler** and **Óisín Breathnach**. He welcomed new teacher, **Conor Brennan** and made a presentation to Eamonn Dunne to mark his retirement.

Larry Hamilton thanked all the sponsors, **Sweeney Brothers**, **Kilkenny Supporters Club** and **Coca-Cola** who sponsored trophies for the winners and runners-up in all three competitions, as well as the Best Player Award. He also thanked **Ned Quinn** (Co. Chairman), **Richie Stone** (Sec. Bórd na nÓg), all the other guests who attended, the **Kilkenny People** and **Radio Kilkenny**



Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens Organisers 2001

P.J. Kenny (Chairman), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Eamonn Dunne (P.R.O.), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.), Ned Quinn (Co. Chairman).



Kilkenny GAA All Stars

1963 - 1982



Seamus Cleere
1963, 64, 66, 67



Eddie Keher
1963, 64, 66, 67, 71, 72,
73, 74, 75



Ollie Walsh
1963, 64, 67



Pat Henderson
1964, 66, 67, 73, 74



Da Dillon
1964, 67



Daddy Moran
1964, 67



Tom Walsh
1964, 67



Pat Carroll
1965



Martin Coogan
1966, 71



Jim Treacy
1967, 71, 72



Frank Cummins
1971, 72, 82, 83



Noel Skehan
1972, 73, 74, 75, 76, 82, 83



Pat Lawlor
1972



Pat Delaney
1972, 73



Phil (Fan) Larkin
1973, 74, 76, 78



Liam O'Brien
1973, 74, 75, 79



Kieran Durcell
1973, 74, 75



Mick Crotty
1974



Mick Brennan
1975, 76, 79



Brian Cody
1975, 82



Joe Hennessy
1978, 79, 83, 84, 97



Ger Henderson
1978, 79, 82, 83, 87



Billy Fitzpatrick
1982, 83



Richie Power
1982, 86



Daddy Deendergast
1982

Note: From 1963 to 1967, the All Stars were sponsored by the now defunct "Gaelic Weekly". In 1971, they were officially formalised and have since then been sponsored by PJ Carroll & Co from 1971-1978, by Bank of Ireland from 1979-1994, by Powerscreen in 1995/1996, and by Eircell since 1997.



Kilkenny GAA All Stars

1982 - 2001



Christy Heffernan
1982



Liam Fennelly
1983, 85, 87, 92



Dick O'Hara
1983



Ger Fennelly
1983



John Henderson
1983



Kieran Brennan
1984



Samon Morrissey
1990



DJ Carey
1991, 92, 93, 94, 95,
97, 99, 2000



Michael Walsh
1991, 92



Willie O'Connor
1992, 97, 98, 2000



Michael Phelan
1992



Pat Dwyer
1992



John Power
1992, 93



Liam Simpson
1992, 93



Eddie O'Connor
1993



Pat O'Neill
1993



Liam Keoghan
1997



Charlie Carter
1998, 2000, 2001



Brian McEvoy
1999



Peter Barry
1999, 2000



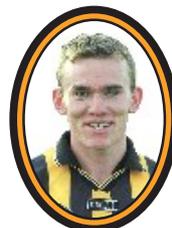
Andy Comerford
1999, 2000



Denis Byrne
2000



Henry Shefflin
2000



Noel Hickey
2000



Samon Kennedy
2000

Note: From 1963 to 1967, the All Stars were sponsored by the now defunct "Gaelic Weekly". In 1971, they were officially formalised and have since then been sponsored by PJ Carroll & Co from 1971-1978, by Bank of Ireland from 1979-1994, by Powerscreen in 1995/1996, and by Eircell since 1997.

A photograph of the Kilkenny All Ireland winning side of 1935 shows Paddy Larkin leaning on his hurley, cap tipped back, a look of quiet determination etched on his features. It was the third of his four All Ireland successes. No match report of the time fails to mention Paddy as having had less than a major impact on proceedings. The same words were to appear in subsequent reports over half a century later in regard to both Fan and Philly. In fact in none of the four photographs taken of Paddy during that glorious era betray anything less than a grim focus. Little did he know those victories were only the beginning of what was to become a unique hurling dynasty. His son Fan would go on to emulate his father, winning four titles himself during another Kilkenny purple patch in the sixties and seventies. The year 2000 had a natural symmetry and it was fitting that the torch was passed to Philly, who in playing on the victorious Kilkenny side of that year, completed a sacred hurling trinity and moved the family tradition into the next century. It was a testament to that most enigmatic of factors, tradition. Never before achieved in hurling, the Donnellans of Dunmore in Galway, had only just completed the football equivalent in 1998.

The determination on Paddy's face in those brown and grainy pictures was a quality he bestowed on his son and, indeed, his grandson. Philly was only two years old when his grandfather passed on, but there was no shortage of stories about the great man as his exploits were well documented.

But there are no guarantees - talent and hurling breeding alone will not suffice. Application, desire, timing and luck are required in no less quantity. It never comes easy and, when Philly was part of two losing Kilkenny sides in the finals of 98 and 99, he could have been forgiven for doubting if it would ever happen.

However, when Philly first pulled on the Black and Amber as a thirteen year old to take part in the Tony Forristel tournament in Waterford, I doubt it caused him to itch. The journey had begun. Philly was born and brought up in the heartland of James Stephens country, in the shadows of the Village clubhouse. Ball games and particularly hurling were a way of life from early on. The skills were honed unknowingly through long hours of practice, with a multitude of local kids playing and dreaming of future stardom.

"We played ball all the time, a bit of soccer in the afternoons and then hurling until dark and even after that. All the brothers and every kid around played."

Philly was lucky to be part of a club with a strong underage scene. The village were never far from finals and Philly stood out from early on. Playing

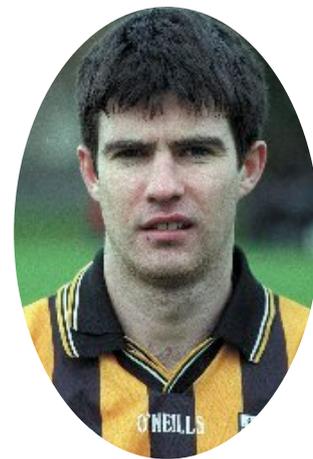
Philly - Carrier of the Larkin torch

By Fergal Purcell

on a U/12 St. Patricks De La Salle side in 1985 that included Brian McEvoy, he won his first county title, defeating a Kilmanagh Primary school side that contained such luminaries as Denis Byrne and Damien Cleere. A man who would become a life-long mentor was coach of that team, one Brian Coady.

Philly stood out from early on. Not too many senior hurlers had passed through St. Patricks in recent years but Philly was always a cut above.

The next real watershed was Philly's elevation to the County Minor panel in 1990. It was a year of concentrated success as that other bastion of hurling of which Philly was a part, St. Kierans, completed a three in a row of All Ireland College titles defeating St. Flannan's in



Mitchelstown in the decider. This was a team of real stars.

Playing with Philly that day were PJ Delaney, Canice Brennan and Andy Comerford among others. Similar esteemed company accompanied him onto the county minor panel of the same year. Following a draw in Croke Park, Kilkenny went on to defeat Cork in the replay in Thurles. So the first prestigious county honour of Philly's career had been won, and the seemingly inevitable journey towards emulating his father and grandfather continued. But no rite of passage comes about without some low points on the way. The following year Philly was again part of the minor scene and was selected at right half back in a semi-final that did not go to script. Towards the end of the game, with Kilkenny three points up, Philly found himself entangled with no less a man than Geoffrey McGonagle. Following the ensuing trading of niceties Philly was sent to the line and later reported for striking with the hurley. This resulted in a months suspension which saw him miss the defeat of Tipperary in the final. That hurts to this day.

"Whatever happened that day, I didn't

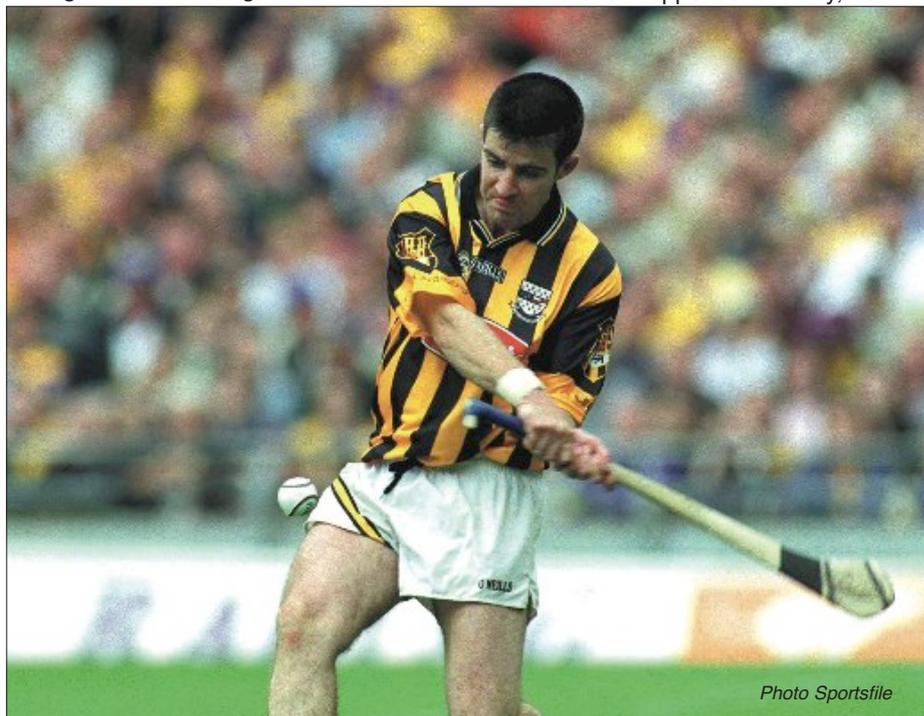


Photo Sportsfile

strike him with the hurl. It was a terrible blow for a young fella. I was fine on the train on the way up, but once the lads togged out it really hit me. Even though I played throughout that year I couldn't be credited with the All Ireland win."

However, following that disappointment the move up to the U/21 scene came the following year and the beginning of a three year stint on that team began. The 1993 team reached the All Ireland final, losing to a strong Galway side after a replay. Revenge however was to come the following year.

"I actually played the semi-final in '94 with a cracked jaw. We were pucking around in training and Sammy Morrissey, my future brother in law, accidentally stuck me in the face with the ball. It was sorted before the final but there was a bit of a melee after the parade in the final against Galway and I got a belt in the mouth. That really riled me up, maybe too much, it took me a while to settle.

When he did, he went on to play on of his best games for the U/21s.

Following a sterling performance for the Village in a defeat by Graigue/Ballycallan in the 1995 championship, came the fateful call to the senior panel for the league of the same year. On a dirty wet day in Nowlan Park, Philly lined out in the half back line alongside fellow city men, Mark Dowling and Dan O'Neill. When asked about his transition to the senior ranks he says,

"I found the change difficult at first. At underage or club level the tendency is to sweep across the half back line, you don't get away with that at senior level. Your marker will score if given the space, that takes some getting used to."

Ollie Walsh's 92/93 winning team was on the wane and Philly was joined on the panel by Andy Comerford and Peter Barry around that time. and Brian Coady never had doubts about Philly's senior credentials,

"He is an excellent hurler, very strong under the high ball, a great striker of the ball and very much a team player, sometimes his man might get a score but very often he is attempting to cover across the line, sacrificing himself if you like."

Philly is very philosophical about the expectations of being a third generation All Ireland winner which were surfacing around that time.

"When I was younger it wasn't a problem, you just played away. Once I got onto the senior team I began to hear talk of it. Not at home though. Dad has been a great influence on me - he might give you a hard time about what your man scored but he never put pressure on you. The third generation thing wasn't something we dwelled on. I heard the talk, though."

As stated already, success never comes easily, and the intensity of training for the hurling championship had risen. The bar having been raised by Clare in 1995. Philly and his inter-county compatriots were to suffer consecutive disappointments in 1998 and 1999. In 1998, the first back door final saw



Photo Sportsfile

Kilkenny and a controversy-ridden Offaly side reach the final. The events of that day are well documented, suffice to say a determined Kilkenny side again reached the following year's final, anxious to right the perceived wrong of the previous year. It remains a mystery to many Kilkenny men as to what went wrong in the last fifteen minutes of that day.

"That was a terrible day. I never read the papers or watch the TV but there was serious hype prior to the game. The supporters were honest but I can honestly say the players

weren't. I remember my father saying that there's no such thing as a bad Cork hurler. That was in my head leaving for Dublin that day. One thing though, if we had won that day, it would have meant that my grandfather, my father and myself would have won All Irelands in the corner back position."

There was rarely as determined a team as the Kilkenny side that embarked on the championship of 2000. It turned out to be an interesting year for Philly, culminating in the Holy Grail of the third generation All Ireland medal. There were a few bumps on the way.

"There is no doubt I was lucky to still be on the team for the final. Against Offaly, Brendan Murphy got away from me a couple of times and scored. But I played much better in the second half - not many noticed that though. Against Galway, Alan Kerins got four points off me, again the second half went better though. But I kept going, training hard, I knew I wasn't hurling anyway near my potential. By the time the final came, I was looking forward to marking Brendan Murphy."

About that year, Manager Brian Cody says the following,

"Philly had difficult periods during that year. His attitude remained excellent in training, though, and he was realistic about his own performances and didn't let it get to him. Myself and the selectors had every faith in him. Philly is a man for the big day, the hype doesn't get to him and he went on to have his best ever game in the final."

It was an extremely proud day for the Larkins - the torch had well and truly passed. Philly was sure to be smiling down from the great Hurling pitch on high. Philly had reached hurling Nirvana.

So what of the future? In these days of intense preparation and time commitments it is difficult to see Philly going on to win four All Ireland medals like his father and grandfather, although the look in that photograph comes to mind, Paddy Larkin - 1935, knowing that same determination has been passed on, you know, it wouldn't surprise me if he did.



Club Focus

Blacks & Whites

Bord na nOg

The club made a piece of history in 2001. The minor hurling team participated in Roinn A for the first time since the club was founded. In the league we lost to O'Loughlins and Ballyhale Shamrocks by a single point.

The club then drew with eventual county champions Carrickshock but lost to Emeralds in the semi-final of the League. In the championship we were unlucky to be drawn against an in-form Carrickshock side.

Intermediate hurling

The intermediate hurling team had a very unlucky season, losing to Carrickshock, St. Lachtains and Clara by one point in each game, though the team had good wins over Graiguenamanagh and Rower-Inistioge.

We lost to James Stephens in the first round of the championship. Thomastown provided the opposition in the relegation final. The team put up a very good performance in the first half but

Thomastown rallied as the match progressed and ran out eventual winners.

Summer Camp

The club ran a very successful Summer camp co-ordinated by Caitlin Brennan assisted by Peter Cleere and James Doran. This camp ran every Saturday morning during the Summer Holidays.

Bereavements

Sympathy is extended to the O'Grady family on the death of Judy O'Grady. Her

husband, Sean, served as Vice Chairman of the club from 1971 - 73. Her grandson, Shane O'Sullivan was a member of the Kilkenny minor hurling panel in 2001. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.

County Players

U-18: Shane O'Sullivan

U-16: Niall Kennedy

U-15: Tom Moloney



Happy Campers

A group of young hurling and camogie enthusiasts pictured at our Summer Camp



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Club Focus

Barrow Rangers

Officers 2001

Chairman: Mick Medlar
Vice-Chair: Jimmy Staunton
Secretary: Bob Shortall
Asst. Sec: Paul Kelly
Treas: Philip Maher
Asst. Treas: JJ Staunton and Tommy Dowling
PRO: Michael Shortall

Underage

The great work carried out in local schools over the past five or six years finally paid off and brought much needed silverware to the parish in 2001. What marvellous entertainment the young boys and girls gave us! The U-16 hurlers competed the Roinn C League and championship double beating an excellent Danesfort side in both finals. The minor hurlers beat a physically stronger Cloneen side to take the Roinn C Championship. They were unlucky in the league losing to Fenians by a single point after two replays. The U-21 side qualified for the county final where they were beaten by Dicksboro. The U-14 side gave some marvellous displays before going under to a very good Danesfort side in the semi-final. The club brought a number of underage teams to the Roanmore blitz. The U-8s won their section. A team took part in the Camaint ground hurling competition.

Best Wishes

Sincere good wishes to Pat Kearney who retired during the year. He was always to the forefront in promoting our games in the schools.

Adult Grades

The Junior hurlers were comprehensively beaten by Emeralds in the losers group final having lost to Graig-Ballycallan and defeated Erins Own. They missed the ACHL playoffs on scoring average. The Special Juniors made little impression in either championship or league. The Junior Footballers qualified for the Northern final for the second successive year but were well beaten by Fenians.

Development

Major developments are continuing in Pairc an Pobal, the parish sportsfield. The GAA have exclusive use of the hurling pitch section of the ground. A major

building project is at an advanced stage, consisting Dressing Rooms, Boxing Ring, Showers and indoor arena.

Thanks

A special word of thanks to all coaches: Paul Hudson, Jimmy Morrissey, Ollie O'Neill, Joe English, Stephen Dormer, Ken McEvoy, Dermot Maher, JJ Staunton, Christy Kenny and Peter Breen. Thanks too to all who sponsored the club in any way during 2001. It was an expensive year for the club and all help given, financial and otherwise is

greatly appreciated. A special word of thanks to parents who provided transport.

March of Time

Sympathy is extended to the Byrne family, Lower Grange, Staunton family, Coolacutta and Whitely family, Kellymount on their recent bereavements. We remember players supporters and friends who suffered bereavements during the year.
Ar dheis lamh Dé go raibh siad.



Barrow Rangers U-14 Hurling 2001

Back: Colette Dormer, Rita Coady, Aoife Brennan, Damien Brennan, Eoin Stapleton, Kevin McDonald, Ian Holden, Kevin O'Neill, Tom Brophy, Niall Heffernan, David Walsh, Mark Morrissey.

Front: Aidan O'Neill, John Kealy, James Kevin Collins-Hughes, Edward Lillis, Patrick Purcell, Ger Walsh, Tony Morrissey, John Kearney, Thomas Buggy, Jason Holden.



Barrow Rangers U-8, Winners Roanmore Blitz

Back: Ciaran Breen, Michael Whitely, Thomas Brennan, Paul Connolly, Michael O'Brien, Edward Prendergast, Kevin Brennan.

Front: John Brennan, Michael Lonergan, Thomas Wall, Daniel O'Neill, Eoin Kavanagh.



Club Focus

Carrickshock

Club Officers

Chairman:	PJ Rohan
Vice Chair:	Pat Duggan
Secretary:	Pat Power
Ass. Sec:	Padraig Crowley
Treasurer:	Deirdre Brennan
P.R.O.:	Mary Carroll
Registrar:	Jamie Power
Co Board Rep:	Dixie Burke
S. Board Rep:	Jimmy Sheehan
C'man Bord na nÓg:	John Barron
Sec Bord na nÓg:	Maurice Power
Treas Bord na nÓg:	Stephen Rice

Bord na nÓg

Since the formation of the Bord na nÓg club in March 1997, the club has enjoyed great success. This year, however, has surpassed all expectations. A Roinn A league and championship double at both U16 and minor level has made 2001 a year to remember.

Scenes of great celebration were witnessed throughout the parish from Stoneyford all the way to the street of Hugginstown where young and old feted the team on a night that had bonfires and fireworks light the sky.

Three of our U16 team played major roles in Kilkenny Nenagh Co-op success during the summer - John Tennyson, Richard Power and John Dalton.

The U-14 team competed well in the league and championship and the school team won their league section.

County Players in 2001

Inter H:	Pat Tennyson
U 21 H:	Jamie Power, Niall Rohan.
Minor:	Michael Rice, John Murphy, Brendan Hoyne, Richard Power.
U-16:	John Dalton, Richard Power, John Tennyson.

Adult Games

Last year finished on a high with our success in the U-21 Roinn B championship after three marathon games against Clara in all weather conditions. The intermediate team started brightly in the league but failed to qualify for the knock-out stages. They beat Thomastown in the first round but lost out to Mooncoin in the quarter final after a replay. Mullinavat narrowly beat the special jun-

ior team in the first round of the championship.

Our U-21 team beat Dunnamaggin in the first round after two great games and beat Mullinavat in the south final. The county final against Tullaroan needed a repaly too but we were unable to add more silverware to our collection this year.

Congratulations to all our teams who provided tremendous entertainment and achieved heights not seen by the club in its recent history.

Fund Raising

The local Lotto, the golf classic and the Piltown Co-op draw are our three main fund-raising events. Many thanks to all who organize the aforementioned events, especially the weekly lotto. The lotto is ready for the Euro and we look forward to the ongoing support of our generous patrons. A special word of thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity throughout the year.

Social

Our annual dinner dance in association with the camogie club took place last February. It was very well attended and plans are already under way for 2002. This is a wonderful opportunity to admire the silverware accumulated over the year and an appropriate occasion to honour the efforts of our club members.

The club extends congratulations to treasurer, Deirdre Brennan on her engagement to Pádraig Rohan and wishes them luck in their future life together.

Carrickshock Down Under

Carrickshock continues to be well represented down under, Nicky Murphy, Lismatigue, who, with wife Natasha, made a welcome visit home this year, continues to promote hurling in Sydney via the Sydney Shamrocks. He has been joined this year by clubman, Larry O'Shea. You can keep up to date with the Shamrocks exploits on the web at www.sydneyshamrocks.org

Obituary

The club would also like to take the opportunity to extend condolences to the Murphy family, Newmarket, on the pass-

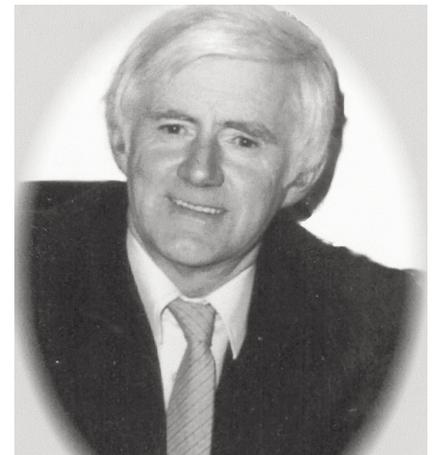
ing of Brendan during the year. Brendan had lifelong connections with the club firstly with his brothers and with his own family who played with the club at both underage and adult levels. He was an avid follower of the game and a great supporter of all club activities.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

The club would also like to extend sympathy, to the Raggett family, Stoneyford, and to any other family in the parish who suffered bereavements during the year.



Willie Brennan, captain of the Moonrue county winning minor team of 1940, with Paul Barron 2001 winning captain outside Moonrue NS.



Brendan Murphy RIP



Club Focus

Carrigeen

The club had an active year both on and off the field. Many games were played in League, Championship, Tournaments and challenge games. After a successful number of games we bowed out of the Championship to Thomastown in August. The club fielded a Junior B hurling team, U21 Football and 11-a-side Football. The committee had a busy year also, with fundraising being a constant necessity in order to keep the club financially sound. A race night was held in Waterford Greyhound Stadium. This turned out to be a great success and an enjoyable social occasion also. Many thanks to all the sponsors of this event and all who helped with the venture. The annual talent contest was replaced by a variety show competition, thanks to the generosity of local TV and Communications specialist Willie Foran of WF Installations, Ardera, Mooncoin. Willie has supported the club over the past number of years with excellent sponsorship and the past year was no exception as he delivered the sponsor-

ship to allow us run the variety show competition which was a tremendous success.

Thanks also to our other sponsors, The Royal Oak, Rathkieran,

Mooncoin, for their support and help and also Waterford Crystal for their valuable trophy.

The club would like to urge our members and supporters to support our sponsors. Great credit is due to two people in particular who put huge work into the Variety Show Contest, namely, Chairman Rd Quinn, and local organiser, Pat Kearns. Our annual Christmas raffle is also



CARRIGEEN CLUBHOUSE

another major fund raising event that has helped the club significantly over the years. This raffle is approaching 30 years in existence. Sellers visit most of the pubs in Kilkenny and Waterford and receive great support around the county. Many thanks to the sellers and buyers. On a sad note we reflect on the passing away of Fr Toby Vereker, Moonveen, former player. We offer our condolences to his family. May he rest in Peace.



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Club Focus

Cloneen

Cloneen delegates were among the prime movers to introduce a first round losers group to the Northern Junior championship and while their allies in the move, Emeralds, benefitted immensely from the decision, Cloneen suffered severely at the Urlingford club's hands. The young northern club made great strides to re-organise at juvenile level. Led by Ned Lawler, a few new faces appeared to give a hand with the youngsters.

An appeal went out also for some help from medically qualified people, and again there were some willing volunteers - in particular Catherine Delaney, Mary Lyng and Mary O'Neill.

At this point, it might be appropriate to mention Mary O'Neill's son, John Paul, who travelled all the way to Japan last summer to represent Ireland in the World Transplant Games. John Paul was a member of the Cloneen minor team when he suffered renal failure and subsequently underwent a kidney transplant. There was a great turnout for the visit of County Coach, Brian Ryan in September when 63 young boys and girls under 12 turned out. As a reward for the interest shown by the youngsters all year, they were treated to two trips to Croke Park for Kilkenny's Leinster Championship matches against Offaly and Wexford. They were also treated to a trip to Galway and Salthill.

The under 21 side was the last club side in championship action as they headed the league section to reach the semi-final. They travelled to Jenkinstown to take on Dicksboro, whom they had beaten by 3 points a few weeks earlier, but on this occasion they never got going and were beaten by 7 points.

Work on the new clubhouse and handball court is well advanced at this point in time and it is planned to have an official opening, featuring the Kilkenny senior team, in the early summer.

The final push to completion involves considerable cost and, as always, fund raising is an important factor.

As part of the drive to raise finance, the finance committee have organised a Parish Lord Mayor election with two prominent club officials vying hammer and tongs for victory.

Club Chairman, Donal Brennan is backed by a very forceful group, with

strong female input, who are determined to put their man into the chain of the exalted office.

In his 9th year as club chairman, he has been the driving force behind the club's powerful development effort, and can take much credit for the fact that last summer Cloneen entered 8 teams in county competition, from under 10 up to junior.

The Moneenroe side of the parish is represented by club assistant treasurer, Pat 'Bilko' Lawler, whose motto is "get a lift with Forklift Bilko". He is a renowned club fundraiser and has promised that if elected he will make the Monday after the All Ireland a bank holiday each year. He too is heading a strong and varied group of election campaigners.

Both groups have arranged many fund raising and fun events, culminating in a Parish night out in the Newpark Hotel on St. Patrick's Day when the new Lord Mayor will be chained.

We end on a solemn note remembering that in February, the Club lost its founder chairman, Tom Brennan (Roe) who died suddenly. A father figure, Tom saw his two main sporting wishes come true when, firstly in 1984, he chaired the inaugural meeting of the hurling club, and then in 1998, he saw Cloneen get a home of its own. The local club has decided to honour his memory with an



Cloneen's senior supporter, Willie Mahon (father of Eddie, referee and former Minor & U21 All Ireland winner) meets Willie O'Connor and the McCarthy Cup.

annual tournament for the Tom Brennan (Roe) perpetual cup. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

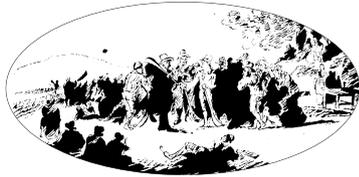
It was another successful year for the local handball club with 3 All Ireland underage titles won by Sean Maher, Thomas Hughes and Paul Byrne.

The girls, too, have been making their mark, with Clare Love and Mary Therese O'Neill hitting the top spots in their respective competitions.

The handballers, just like their hurling pals, are looking forward to the opening of the new building in Cois na hAbhann when they will gain hugely from having their own new 40' x 20' playing court.



Kilkenny hurlers, Canice Brennan, Sean Meally and DJ Carey visit Clogh school with the McCarthy cup. The hurley, made by local man, Larry Brennan, is an exact replica of one used in the 1923 All Ireland Final.



Club Focus

Conahy Shamrocks

Polo Grounds

Conahy Shamrocks continue to develop their grounds in Jenkinstown with the painting of the dressing rooms and the squash court as well as the outer entrance. Further development will begin shortly with the refurbishment of the main meeting room in the squash court and this will be of great benefit to all G.A.A. club members.

Finance

The club introduced their £100 Fundraising Venture in January. This package included club membership for the year, a Piltown Co-op ticket and a weekly County Board Lotto Ticket. The success of this venture surpassed all expectations and will be repeated in the coming year. Due to the Foot & Mouth scare, the club had to cancel the Greyhound Night and the Golf Classic both of which were planned for the early part of the year. Fortunately, the Race Night and Poker Classic which were held towards the end of the year proved very successful and more than made up for the cancelled events.

Conahy Shamrocks continues to benefit from the generous financial sponsorship of Kilkenny based business NN Ball & Roller who are located at Purcellsinch. The club are hopeful that this relationship will continue in the year ahead.

Juvenile Matters

The club's Bórd na nÓg committee con-

tinued to work tirelessly throughout this year running many fund-raising events. The last quarter of the year saw the running of the very successful Parish Hurling Leagues at U-11 and U-14. During the summer the club organised another successful U-12 tournament involving Conahy Shamrocks, Lisdowney, Danesfort and the eventual winners Erin's Own (Castlecomer).

Good Performances

On the field of play the club may not

have won any trophies but all teams performed well and in many cases were in contention for honours up to the closing stages of the Divisional competitions.

Kevin Bergin RIP

Tragedy hit the club during the summer with the tragic death of sixteen-year-old Kevin Bergin in an accident. Kevin was a prominent member of a number of the club's underage teams while his brother David and father John are also deeply involved with the club.



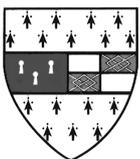
**Conahy Shamrocks - Cumann na mBunscoileanna
Roinn "C" Football Champions**

Front: Teilo Maher, Conor Whelan, Gary Kavanagh, Joseph Cass, Patrick Cass, Andrew O'Keeffe, Joseph Delaney (Capt.), David Healy; Pdraig Harding, James Murphy, James Delaney, Donal Brennan, Paddy Mullan.

Middle: Eimear Harding, Fiona Muldowney, Pauric Hally; Sean Delaney; Kieran Mooney, David Maher, Micheál Lawler; Darren Rafter; David Baldwin, Colin Murphy, Brian Meagher, Noelle Corrigan, Noreen O'Keeffe.

Back: Team Officials - Nickey Brennan & Jim Murphy.

KILKENNY CORPORATION and COUNTY COUNCIL



*Best Wishes to our men and ladies
in Black and Amber in 2002*



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL
KILKENNY
Tel: 056-21196

KILKENNY CORPORATION
CITY HALL
KILKENNY
Tel: 056-21076



Club Focus

Danesfort

Officers

Chairman: Dick Mahony
Secretary: Maurice Woodcock
Treasurer: Tommy Murphy

On the Field

The highlight of the Junior hurling year was a super performance against Piltown in the quarter final of the All County Junior League attended by a large crowd in Ballyhale. The locals showed a lot of promise and hopes were high for a winning season. However injuries and emigration deprived them of some key players and they were unable to reach the same heights again and bowed out of the losers group to a more determined Lisdowney side in the first round.

The Junior footballers who reached the county final in 2000 never regained that form and went out in the second round. The running of hurling and football at the same time is not helpful to a small club. The Special junior hurlers had a very disappointing season. This grade had been very successful in recent seasons, but

this year things got off to a poor start and never recovered.

Pitch Development

Pitch development is ongoing and, this year, sideline seats have been provided and with further developments in the pipeline it is fast becoming a favourite venue for many clubs.

Underage Achievements

It was an eventful and successful year at underage level from schools to minor. All Danesfort underage teams at least contested the semi-finals of every competition played in our divisions. Our parish schools teams qualified for the Roinn D hurling semi-finals but lost to Dunnamaggin while they reached the Roinn C football final only to lose to Slieverue.

U-14 Success

What a year for our U-14 team! In hurling they won the Roinn C League and Championship, defeating Dunnamaggin and Kilmacogg respectively. The U-13s

had a tremendous success by winning the Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens, beating James Stephens in the semi-final and Mullinavat in the final.

U-16s So Close

We reached three county finals but did not bring home any silverware. We reached the league and Championship finals only to lose to a stong Barrow Rangers side and lost the Roinn A football final to James Stephens. The team won the Mick Hoban Tournament, beating Graigue-Ballycallan in the final.

Minor

Our minors reached the championship semi-final in hurling but lost to Cloneen and drew with Glenmore in the football semi-final.

Colleges Players

Philip Walsh helped St. Kierans College to win the Leinster Junior Hurling A title while Pdraig Treacy and Patrick Hogan were both on the panel.

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Club Focus

Dicksboro

Juvenile News

This year brought our first Juvenile Hurling Championship for ten years. The U-14 hurlers played fantastic hurling throughout the year and claimed the Roinn A title with a powerful display against James Stephens. Great celebrations followed and Kevin Ryan informed us all that our last victory in 1991 was also Tipp's last Senior All-Ireland. He confidently forecasted another double for 2001- how right he was! Throughout our juvenile section the huge commitment from coaches and parents and the active participation of all our players continues to strengthen the club for future years. Our U-8 / U-9 teams were very successful in the tournament held by Roanmore in Co. Waterford. The U-10 squad played



Liam Byrne presents the Declan Byrne trophy to Darragh Tynan (Captain, Dicksboro).
Photo Eoin Hennessy

a series of games with our city neighbours O'Loughlins and James Stephens. While the three clubs are great rivals on the pitch, it is wonderful to see the effort that is being put into juvenile Gaelic games in the city. All concerned should take a bow. Our U11 players provided two teams for the Camáint leagues. At U12 level, our own Denis Molloy Tournament was a great hit with the eight teams taking part. As always, it was very efficiently organized. On Finals Day, James Stephens defeated Mooncoin in the 3rd/4th place match, while Dicksboro gave a very good account of themselves before losing out to Clara in the Cup Final. In the U12 Mini

Blitz organized by the Co. Board, Dicksboro lost out narrowly in the final, also to Clara. Our U14 team added the Declan Byrne Memorial Tournament to their county title, defeating our hosts Graigue/Ballycallan in the final. Our U16 team were unlucky to lose out to eventual champions, Carrickshock, in the first round of the championship. Our minors also fell at the first hurdle to Graigue/Ballycallan. However, many of these young players were to enjoy great success later in the year with our U21 Roinn C squad. One of our U16 players Mark O'Hara was on the Kilkenny team which won the Nenagh Co-op Tournament.

As we go to print our under age footballers are involved in various competitions.

Adult Games

The Senior hurlers took most of the league to get last year's disappointment out of their system. However, by the time the championship came around they were training and playing with purpose and intent. A very strong showing against John Lockes gave us all great hope for our quarter final with Glenmore, whom we had defeated at the same stage last year. After two thrilling matches just one point separated the teams. Unfortunately on this occasion it was the men from the Glen who prevailed. The players and selectors were very disappointed as everyone felt it was a match we let slip away. So near and yet so far! However come the spring and it will be all systems go again.

The Junior team gave two fantastic displays to defeat Emeralds and Graigue/Ballycallan in the championship. Surprisingly we were drawn to play Emeralds (who came through the losers section) again in the Northern semi-final. The loss of a number of our top players to the senior team left us with an uphill struggle against the eventual champions. Despite the result, it had been a very enjoyable campaign for the panel of players and selectors. At Junior B level we bowed out to St. Patrick's, Ballyragget.

When we were beaten in the first round of the U21 Roinn A championship by Tullaroan, it was decided to enter the newly formed Roinn C championship. This competition was invaluable to us as

it gave our very young panel (13 will be minor again next year) extra games, having lost out so early in the U16 and minor campaigns. The lads did themselves proud by winning the title against Barrow Rangers. Enormous credit must also go to the selectors for working tirelessly to field a second U21 team. Despite the best efforts of players and management, our senior footballers were not as successful as they would have liked.

Development

The dug out on the second pitch has reached completion and our development committee continue to plan for the future. The playing of one of the Railway Cup semi-finals in Palmerstown earlier this year brought great praise for our grounds committee who can be justly proud of the great work they do.

Lotto

The weekly lotto continues to be the club's major fund raiser and many thanks is extended to all who buy and sell tickets and a special word of thanks to ladies and gentlemen who run the draw every Thursday night.

Social:

The club held a very enjoyable Dinner Dance in Hotel Kilkenny earlier in the year and Co. Board Chairman Mr Ned Quinn presented last year's victorious teams with their hurling and football league medals.

Conclusion

It has been another very busy year in all areas of the club, on and off the field but without doubt the most important event of the year was the winning of the U14 Hurling Championship. Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí. Thanks to everyone who worked on behalf of Dicksboro in 2001.

Club Officers 2001:

Chairman:	Martin Morrissey
Vice Chairman:	Tommy Bawle
Secretary:	Richard Mulrooney
Treasurer:	Seamus Rochford
Juvenile Chairman:	Kevin Ryan
P.R.O.	David Carroll
Development:	Billy Wise
Registrar:	Martin Hanrick
Games:	Shem Tynan



Club Focus

Dunnamaggin

2001 - "a quiet year"

The year 2001 will go down in the club's history as a quiet year with all teams out of contention, for the major championships by mid-October. The main highlights of the year were the winning of the All-County Senior Hurling League, Eamonn Kennedy and Noel Hickey's historic All-Star Awards in January, David Herity and Sean O'Neill's exploits with the county minors and the foundation of U-8 and U-10 hurling teams in the parish. The year 2001 will also go down as the first year that Dunnamaggin competed at both Junior and Senior hurling grades.

Annual Dinner Dance

The year kicked off with the Annual Dinner Dance in Langtons Hotel of John Street where special guest Tom 'Blondy' Walsh presented the medals. Awards went to Denis Lahart (Club Hurler of the Year), Malachy Hogan (Clubman of the Year) and specially commissioned portraits, by local artist Andrew Small, to the clubs 1st All Stars: Eamonn Kennedy and Noel Hickey. Guests of honour included Mossy and Ellen Walsh from Faughs GAA Club in Dublin with whom the club has forged strong links.

Pitch Developments

During the year necessary drainage works were carried out on the lower half of the pitch supervised by Aidan Farrell & Co. The playing surface is currently in excellent condition and the surrounding shrubbery, trees etc., closely watched by Oliver Herity, are maturing nicely. In September, a portion of the grounds were cultivated and laid down with grass seed - this area is to be developed as a juvenile pitch in the near future. Credit must go to John Walsh and Paddy Moore for their green-keeping duties and to Thomas O'Shea for the upkeep of the dressing rooms. Hopefully the grounds will attract more games in the coming year.

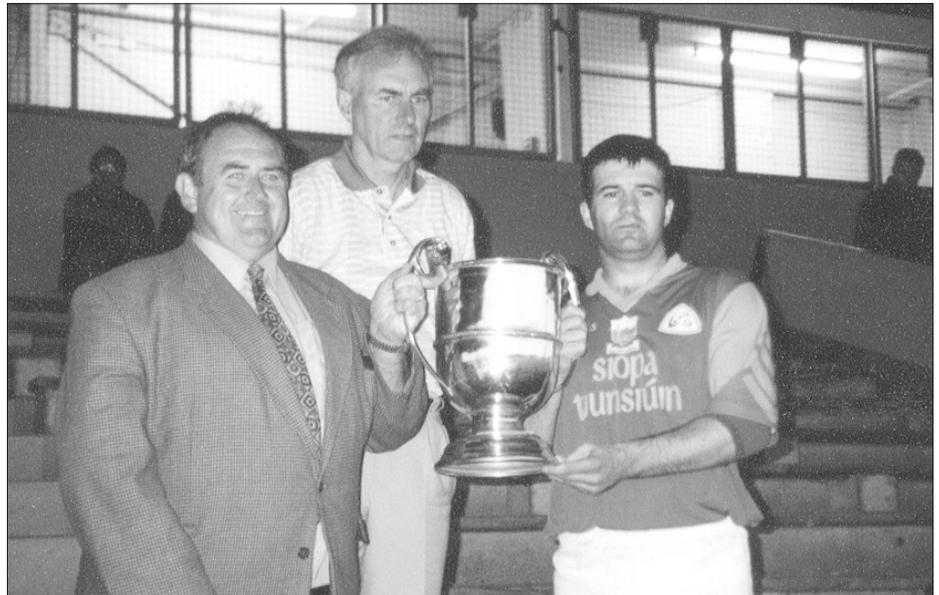
Juvenile Developments

During the year U-8 and U-10 hurling teams were founded in the parish. Due to the trojan efforts of Mary Moylan and



DUNNAMAGGIN U-10 HURLERS 2001

Back: Niall Moore, Kieran Bergin, Pat Kenneally, Shane Kelly, Michael Hoyne, Shane Farrell, Eoin Wallace, Matthew Moylan, Owen Brennan, Niamh O'Donovan, Tanya O'Carroll
Front: Joanne Cody, John Kirwan, David Coyne, Craig O'Dwyer, William Phelan, Conor Coffey, Eddie Blake, Robbie Power, Andrew Dwyer, Karen Delaney. (Managers: Mary Moylan and Mary O'Dwyer).



'All County Senior Hurling League Champions'

Kenneth O'Shea accepts the cup from County Chairman, **Ned Quinn** under the watchful eyes of **John Knox**, St. Canices Credit Union (sponsors).

Mary O'Dwyer, money was raised through various ventures, including a successful cabaret in October. The teams have been fully kitted out with new jerseys, togs & socks. Skills hurling training for the year ahead will be led by Ramie Cahill Snr. It's at times like this that Dunnamaggin must look after and

develop our national games at juvenile level. Any help, be it financial or otherwise, would greatly be appreciated - "from small acorns do oak trees grow"

Go mbeimid le chéile ag an am seo arís an bhliain seo chugainn.



Club Focus

Emeralds

Major Achievement

Emeralds surpassed last year's fantastic achievement of capturing the Minor A Title when the junior team captured the clubs first Junior Championship after thirty years of effort. This achievement is due entirely to the dedication of the players and their desire to progress to play hurling at the highest level.

Officers Elected for 2001

President: Canon Dunphy
Chairman: Paul Kavanagh
Vice Chairman: Brendan Joyce
Secretary: Bridget Hennessy
Asst Sec.: Michael Doyle
Treasurer: Michael Troy
Asst. Treas.: Richard Hayes
PRO: JJ Kavanagh
Committee: Paddy Ryan, Matty O'Gorman, Dan Norton, John Holohan, John Minogue, Sean Minogue, Tommy Kavanagh, Michael Burke, Alan Guilfoyle, Derek Lyng, Sinead Curran, Paddy Joyce.
Co Board Delegate: John Minogue
Northern Board Delegate: Pat Joyce

Social Events

The club held its Annual Dance in Langtons in April and was attended by over 200 club members and the County Board Executive together with Willie O'Connor and the McCarthy Cup. Former Chairman Tom Phelan received the award of "club person of the year". The club is indebted to all the generous sponsors during the year and in particular Bernard Kavanagh & Sons who have been the main sponsors for the past three years and to many others that are too numerous to mention.

Grounds Development

The sports field has undergone significant development during the year:

1. The erection of top quality flood light-

- ing which was funded by the National Lottery at the cost of £ 25,000.
2. The members built dugouts and Richard Hayes sponsored all materials.
3. Nets were erected behind both goals.
4. The sports field got a fabulous stone plaque erected at the entrance, which was sponsored by John Minogue.
5. There has been extensive drainage work done on the field.

There was a new ladies committee of Chairperson, Helen Phelan, Vice-Chair, Maureen Norton, Secretary, Rosie Nolan and Treasurer, Margaret Doyle planned the conversion of a garage attached to the dressing rooms into a well-equipped catering area. Work has been completed on this project and now the club has one of the best catering facilities in the county. The funding needed to complete this ambitious project was raised when the committee organised a 10k walk and got generous sponsorship from many people who did work on voluntary basis such as William Campion (electrical) Pat McEvoy (kitchen) Campion Insurance (window) Emerald Tiles (tiling) and many others.

Club of the Year Award

The Clubs greatest off field achievement was winning Lenister Club of the year, which was recognition for the Clubs progress in all areas of GAA activity. The award was presented to Club Chairman Paul Kavanagh at a function in Croke Park. Emmet Kavanagh was chosen to lead to Kilkenny in the Minor Championship and he did not disappoint when he led Kilkenny to victory and become the first Urlingford person to bring home a provincial crown to the parish.

County Players

Senior: Derek Lyng

Intermediate: Ken Hughes
U-21: Aiden Fogarty
Minor: Emmet Kavanagh
U-16: Colin Grant

U-11

This was one of the more successful age-groups in the underage club. The committed managers (Gerry Kavanagh and Nicholas Walsh) players and parents contributed to on enjoyable years hurling. This year started off with a Street League with 36 players taking part, which was excellently contested by all teams involved. The year finished on a high after a hugely successful camaint campaign, when they shared the spoils in Nowlan Park in September. In the first year of the tournament our U-12's put up an excellent showing. Their first two outings ended up in defeat to Freshford and Johnstown respectively. However, they recovered well to finish the year on a high by defeating Galmoy in the shield final.

Handball

Handball recommenced this year after many years of inactivity. Urlingford has a great tradition in this marvelous game and when Dan Norton took it upon himself to organise coaching the county board responded enthusiastically and two coaches attended our alley for eight weeks, which was much appreciated by the large enthusiastic groups who attended these sessions.

Sympathies

The club wishes to extend its sympathy to families of members who passed away during the year: Jim Tobin, John Norton, Paddy Fox, and Allie Fitzpatrick. May they rest in peace.

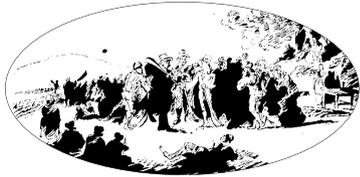


EMERALDS 1972 TEAM - FIRST EMERALDS TEAM TO REACH A JUNIOR COUNTY FINAL

Back: Kevin Phelan, Mick 'Speed' Burke, Eddie Holohan, Kevin Neary, Paddy Moriarty, Jim Tobin R.I.P., Sean Norton, Michael 'Stoney' Burke R.I.P., Dick Cleere, Johnny Doyle, Peadar Tobin, Paddy Joyce, Tom Holohan, Martin Glendon.

Front: Martin Fitzpatrick, Derry Noonan, George Hughes, Joe Hennessy, Henry O'Grady, Pat Hughes, Martin Power, Frank Cleere, Joe Cohosey, Matty Gorman.

This photo was actually taken in 1984 when Emeralds met their 1972 victors, Graignamagh, in a Centenary Year rematch. This time Emeralds won!



Club Focus

Erin's Own

2001 will have to be looked upon as being a very successful year for Erin's Own. On the field every age group worked hard and all enjoyed relative success. The Senior Hurlers had a great run, reaching the League Final where they narrowly lost out to Glenmore. They reached the Championship semi-final where they lost to Graigue Ballycallan by 5 points on a miserable day where the team did not play to potential. If the panel work as hard next year, who knows they might land that elusive title. Incidentally Erin's Own were the only team to beat the new champions O'Loughlins this year, that was in a very well contested league semi-final.

The Senior footballers reached the final and were most unfortunate to lose out in a replay to neighbours Muckallee. Key players David Buggy and Sean Meally were injured for that game and this loss had a major bearing on the outcome. The Junior hurlers lost out to Galmoy by a single point in the championship and again following a replay to Paulstown in the losers group. The footballers reached the northern semi-final. The U-21 hurlers beat Lisdowney in the first round but had a disappointing performance in the second round when losing to neighbours Ballyragget. However, early in the year the U21 footballers brought home some silverware when winning the 1999 championship following a great performance against Kilmoganny.

At Minor level there was great hope for a win and this came in a pulsating League Final where a gutsy 'Comer team held their nerve to snatch victory over St. Lachtains in the dying seconds of the game. Things did not go so well in the championship and despite playing below par they ran eventual champions Clara to four points in the northern final. The U-16's were a vastly improved team this year but had to give way to a very strong Conahy side in the League Final. Likewise in the championship they went out again to eventual winners Clara. If this group stays together and works they will have success as each year they are making steady progress. Clara were certainly the magpie team this year for Erin's Own as the U-14 hurlers lost out to the eventual champions by just 4 points. However, there was some consolation for this group of players as they won the



ÁRAS Ó MEALLAIGH - NEW CLUB ROOMS AT "CANON KEARNS PARK"

Coillte football competition and also retained the Roinn A football title. They then went on to represent Kilkenny and win their group in the Féile Peil na nÓg competition played in Tipperary in early July. Pride of place for the year must go to the brave Primary schools Hurling team who after suffering bitter defeat in last years final came out with all guns blazing and captured what appears to be the first championship title at this level for the club.

Sean Meally represented the club on the Kilkenny Senior hurling panel, Gordon Byrne was on the U-21 panel,



"REAPING THE REWARDS"

Alice and Mick Kennedy Skehana, Castlecomer with the Roinn B schools cup which was brought to them by the pupils of Firoda School following Castlecomers historic victory. Alice and Mick donated a "Pitch" to Firoda school about ten years ago and the benefits of a larger playing area are now showing dividends.

while Liam Shore had a few runs with the Intermediate side. Peter O' Donovan and Damien Fogarty were both wing backs on the Kilkenny U-16 team that won the prestigious Nenagh Co-op tournament for the first time in many years.

Congratulations to Senior goalie Tom Brophy and his bride Sandra who were wed in September.

Development:

Off the field 2001 has been a great year for the club as the building of the new Clubrooms at Ballycomey has progressed. At the time of writing the roof is going on and who knows but 2002 might see an historic official opening. The grounds will named "Canon Kearns Park" in honour of the late Parish Priest of Castlecomer while the Club Rooms will be called "Áras Ó Meallaigh" in honour of the late Kieran Meally.

Bereavements:

Kieran Meally:

While the year past was very successful on and off the field it started out very sadly with the untimely death of one of the greatest GAA men in the country - Kieran Meally. (*Kieran's obituary occurs elsewhere in this book.*)

Tommy O' Neill:

Another great Erin's Own man, Tommy O' Neill was taken to his eternal reward midway through the year. (*See obituaries*)

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Club Focus

Fenians

We mentioned last year that all the hard work being put in, on the field by players and coaches alike would eventually pay off. Well this year, the fruits of some of that labour was to be seen. The school team won their championship for the first time in 18 years, the Minor team won the league, the Junior footballers contested a county final for the first time since the seventies, and the Senior hurlers contested the Byrne cup final, their first senior final since 1998. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed in any way, in assistance with the running of the club during 2001. Special thanks to Dolores Tynan who keeps the Fenian players, at all levels well kitted out in the "brilliant" white jerseys.

Field Developments

The Johnstown Sports Field is one of the best maintained pitches in the county, as often noted when visitors come to the field. A testament to the foresight by the Club Officers, who invested in the field maintenance, and the great work carried out by Laddy Ryan.

Senior

Once again, The Fenians found themselves struggling to hold on to their Senior status, but dug deep to produce one of their best performances to retain their Senior status by defeating John Lockes in the relegation final. Heart can be taken from some good displays, v Tullaroan and Graigue/Ballycallan in the league/championship, and winning through to the final of the "Byrne Cup". Indeed each league/championship game was well contested and with a bit of luck they could have finished in a much healthier placing on the table.

Junior Hurling

The Junior team played some exciting matches in the League and produced two great displays in the championship to defeat St. Patrick's after a replay. Again though, many of our Senior players are getting vital experience of playing "adult" hurling for the first time and are being "blooded" for the Senior team. *Manager:* N.Tynan

Junior Football

A new adventure for most, saw football in the parish for the first time in a few years. This team went on to win the Northern final after defeating Danesfort, Lisdowney, Ballyragget and Erin's Own, in a cliffhanger (with 15). Alas, the County final was a bridge too far with a far more experienced Mooncoin winning the county final. At the time of printing the club has entered the 11a-side competition during November, so hopefully progress can be made there also.

Managers/Selectors: T.Kirwan, E Grehan, S Grehan and D.Hughes.

U-21'S

A team with so much potential made a quick exit from the championship at the hands of Graigue/Ballycallan. The loss of our two county players PJ Delaney and Kevin Power, proved a crippling blow and we were defeated by one point in a closely-contested game. If these hurlers are to produce their best at Senior level, in the future, a longer stay in the



Juvenile Fenians player, Jack Cullinane, celebrates a score against Galmoy.

U-21 championship would be desirable and hopefully this can be achieved this coming year.

Minor:

The minors brought home the silverware for the first time since 1995 in this age group, after defeating Lisdowney after a replay in the League final. On the way to the final they defeated Windgap, Danesfort and after a remarkable third replay, Barrow Rangers. Players to watch for the future are PJ Delaney, John Broderick, Philip O'Loughlin, Daniel Looby, Ciaran Ryan and Eoin O'Meara. Great credit must go to Managers, B Dermody, Tom Dollard and selector P O'Loughlin who stuck with this team all year.

U-16

This year we joined with Galmoy at this age group and, with a very young team, competed well in the league only to lose to eventual champions, Conahy Shamrocks. We were defeated in the championship, and, down nine points at half time, put in a great second half display to be beaten by just two points against St. Martin's.

Players to note: J Broderick, G Hickey, J Dunne, D Looby and M Purcell.

NB: More support at this age level would be of great assistance to the players and mentors alike during the year. (Thanks, Tommy Hanrahan !!!)

Parish Hurling League

The second "Parish Hurling League" was as successful as last year's. Many senior players were on hand to offer

encouragement and support for the future Fenians. Daniel Looby proved himself a worthy "Player of the Tournament".

Organisers: B.Dermody, T Dollard, M Phelan, B Ryan. Ref E Ryan.

Already two past players from last year's league, have gone on to play Senior Hurling for the club. Who knows whose turn it will be next year?

County Players:

The following players represented The Fenians G.A.A club on various Kilkenny county teams with pride during 2001

Senior Hurling: S Grehan and JJ Delaney

U21 Hurling: KPower, JJ Delaney

Minor Hurling: PJ Delaney

Junior Football : PJ Ryan

Obituaries

The club lost some very valued members and supporters during the year, including Sadie Tobin, a life long supporter, Mick Ryan, a dedicated supporter, and Seamus Dermody affectionately known as the "Sheriff", who served in the role as an "unbiased" Fenian linesman on many occasions

. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.*

Juveniles

The Fenians Juvenile GAA Club had a very busy year, taking part in all competitions. The highlight of the year for the Primary Schools team was winning the Roinn D Schools Final in Nowlan Park in June. Captained by Edward Hughes, this was a great team performance with lots of stars including John Henderson, Sean Warren, Eoin Phelan, Eoin Shiel and Darrah Tobin who decided to play in the final instead of going on a foreign holiday with his family. (great team spirit). The Camaint Team played well during the year and in the finals in Nowlan Park. The under 10s and 12s had great wins over Fingallians GAA Club of Dublin who travelled to play us in July. Fingallians were coached by Michael Connolly formerly of Dunbell Co Kilkenny. The U12's travelled in October to Ballinteer to take part in the "Paddy Lawlor Hurling Tournament" played in Marley Park in very wet conditions. Though beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners, Ferns of Wexford, they beat St. Paul's of Belfast and Bray of Wicklow in the earlier rounds. The U14's tried hard in the League and Championship. Earlier in the year they played Mountrath at home and away and played Borris in Ossory at home. Declan Brennan and Tom Barry took part in the County U14 development squad in Palmerstown. Congratulations to all Juveniles who took part in games during the year. The Juvenile Club would like to thank all parents who helped in any way during the year. *Coaches:* John Curran, Peter Norton, Richard Curran and Dan Hughes.



Club Focus

Galmoy

AUCTION

On Sunday January 28th 2001 Galmoy G.A.A. club held a monster auction in the parish hall. This major fund raising venture proved to be a great success an enjoyable social outing for both parishioners and visitors from farther afield. The village square was lined up with trailers of timber which had been cut and chopped by some dedicated club members during the preceding weeks. Local farmers also contributed many bales of hay, straw and silage, while inside the hall were numerous other products both new and home-made. The whole occasion raised in excess of 4,500 and it is the intention of the current committee to repeat the venture on Sunday January 27th 2002.

HURLING ACTION

On the hurling field our Junior hurlers once again progressed to the Northern Junior final where they went under to eventual county champions The Emeralds by four points. The team put in a huge effort this year travelling outside the county for many challenge games while the training sessions were extremely well attended throughout the season.

Our Special Junior team made great progress this year winning both the first and second round games of their championship before giving better to a very young and fit James Stephens side. Nevertheless it was a good year and great credit is due to the mentors.

Our football team also competed very well throughout their league campaign and much enjoyment was



GALMOY UNDER 12 PANEL WHICH COMPETED IN THE NEW U12 TOURNAMENT

Back: Hughie Lee, Eoin Glendon, Thomas Corcoran, Brendan Phelan (Capt), Aisling Maher, April Smith, Jessica Barton.
Front: David Fogarty, Thomas Phelan, CJ Cullinane, Thomas Phelan, Sarah Molloy, Niamh Glendon, John Sweeney.

Photo David Hughes

had by players and followers alike.

Our U—21 hurlers were most unfortunate when they lost their championship first round game by one point to St. Martins who went on to win the Northern final. Our minor team fielded short some regulars and succumbed to a strong Clara team.

WELL DONE

During the year the club was very proud to have two players win Leinster minor medals with the Kilkenny minor team, namely, Martin Phelan and Niall Doherty. This was a tremendous honour.

Martin and Niall along with Phil Doyle were also members of the St. Fergal's College Rathdowney team which won the Leinster Vocational schools senior hurling title.

Georgie Hickey also won an U—15 Leinster Blitz medal with Kilkenny.

THANKS

The club would like to thank Philip and Edel Maher for coaching the U—12 hurling team during the year.

CAMOGIE

Galmoy G.A.A. wish to congratulate St. Anne's camogie club on the excellent progress made during the season and it was a great honour to see two Galmoy girls Catherine Doherty and Edel Maher line out for Kilkenny in the senior camogie All—Ireland. Edel was also selected on the Leinster camogie panel in the Gael Linn Tournament.

SYMPATHIES

The club would like to sympathise with the families of the following people who passed away during the past year, Mick Ryan, Mick Bergin, Pake Bergin, John Loughman and Paddy Walsh.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a n-anam-nacha.



Club Focus

Glenmore

Success on the Field

Glenmore had another successful year on the playing fields, winning the senior league final when they defeated Erin's Own Castlecomer in the final and been piped by eventual winners O'Loughlins in the County semi-final. All our other adult teams competed with distinction without any luck. Our underage teams well organised by Tom Mullally and Eddie Aylward had a very busy year and played in very various competitions with much success. Two former players were honoured on County Final day Paul Fitzgeralds and John Heffernan who were members of the successful 1951 Kilkenny junior hurling team.

Finance

Our finance committee had another successful year, with the hurlers co-op draw and "Play for the Park Lotto" being very successful as was the Dog Night in Kilcohan Park and a number of cabarets in the Glen Bar. Our main club sponsor Murphy Motors also has to be thanked.

Development

The big news was the decision to build new dressing rooms. Following an application the Department of Tourism and Sport gave us a grant of £50,000 from National Lottery funds. We would like to thank the local politicians who helped us in the matter. It is hoped to start on the development early in the New Year.

Obituaries

Since the last yearbook, Philly Murphy died suddenly only three months after the death of his wife Kitty. Philly was on our committee for many years. He looked after and repaired hurleys and also collected on the gate at the games. Richie Doherty, Milltown also died after a brief illness. He was a very good corner back and played in the 1960 senior hurl-

ing final. Henry Doolan from Shanbogh died in New York where he lived for many years. He played for Glenmore in the late forties and was a very stylish player. Finally, Billy Cahill a senior all Ireland winner in 1947. We worked in Glenmore for many years and although he did not play for Glenmore, he managed our senior team in the late fifties.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Glenmore - County Senior Hurling Finalists 1960

Back: Dick Dowling, Jack Furlong (Trainer), John McDonald, Billy Fitzgerald, Seamus Mullally, Martin Cass, Paul Fitzgerald, Richie Mullally, Willie Forristal.

Middle: Seamus Dunphy, Mick Fitzgerald, Jack Barry, Mike Phelan, Dick Doherty, Seamus Freyne, Martin Cody, John Sutton RIP, John Dowling.

Front: Pat O'Connor, Nicky Forristal, John O'Shea, Fr. Dunphy PP RIP, Pat Dowling, Nicky Hanrahan, John Vereker, Mickey Barron.

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Club Focus

Graignamanagh

Jack Dunne R.I.P.

The sad passing of Jack Dunne severed a link with the club stretching back to its foundation in 1953. Popularly and affectionately known as “Daddy Man”, or the “Da Man”, he was always the first name on every body’s lips whenever hurling in Graignamanagh was mentioned. When a group of people decided to break away from the Brandon Rovers and form a new club in Graig, it was the “Da Man” who cycled to Thomastown with a pocketful of signed transfer forms for Seamus McKenna, the then Hon. Secretary of the Southern Board, and so the St. Vincents Club came into being.

Jack was one of the shining lights of the new club and was a member of the victorious Kilkenny Junior team which won All Ireland honours in 1956. Although in the Autumn of a distinguished career, he was a member of the Graignamanagh team which made the big breakthrough in 1972, when the club formerly known as St. Vincents won their only Junior Hurling title

When his playing career was over, he dedicated his time to training and coaching and he coached the Graig Intermediate team which won their second Intermediate title in 1980, when they overcame a Dick O’Hara and Paudie

Lannon led Thomastown side in an exciting final. He also trained Ballymurphy to a couple of Carlow final appearances and Marshalstown in Wexford.

He also served as a selector with the Kilkenny Under 21 side during his long career. He will be fondly remembered for his easy going manner, and strongly held convictions on how the game should be played and, at times, he could be controversial. One of his greatest strengths was his ability to argue his corner, without descending to the depths of insult or personal abuse. Throughout the county everybody has their own favourite story about the “Da Man”, who was a larger than life character, both on and off the field. Being an above average forward in his prime, it would come as no surprise that he chose Christy Ring, Jimmy Langton, Tim Flood and Eddie Keher as the greatest he ever saw.

The passing of Gaels like Jack, leaves a



Under fourteen hurler **Ray Cody** who won the County Féile na nGael skills title before going on to the national finals in Cork where he finished in fourth position receives his trophy from **Joe Pyke**, Chairman, Bord na nÓg.

void in every club, but thanks to their ability with a camán they leave behind a rich legacy which brings its rewards throughout every parish where hurling is played
Go ndéana Dea Trócaire ar a Anam Dúlis

Tom “Bishop” Whelan

The Tom “Bishop” Whelan Memorial Under 21 Hurling Tournament honours one of Graignamanagh’s most popular and well known hurlers of recent times. Tom, who died so suddenly at such an early age, dedicated his life to hurling. First with his native Parish, Graignamanagh, then with St. Gabriel’s, London and finally back with his beloved Graig where he brought the curtain down on an illustrious career that saw him captain Graig to County Intermediate glory as well as Under 21 Leinster and All-Ireland Intermediate honours.

He never gave less than 100% and was an inspiration to his team mates, urging them on when things weren’t going right and leading from the front with timely interceptions and lengthy clearances from his favourite corner back position. Wherever he went, his value as a staunch defender and true friend were highly valued as epitomised by the number of St Gabriels team mates who travelled from London for his funeral.

The success of the Under 21 tournament is a fitting tribute to an inspirational player, whose death leaves a void in our club and community.



GRAIGUENAMANAGH PARISH SCHOOLS FOOTBALL TEAM - COUNTRY CUP FINALISTS 2000.

Back: Shane Bolger, Eddie Doran, Dean Broaders, Frank Ryan, Pdraig Whelan, Rick Canning, Jim O’Donnell, Conor Sheehy, Sean Ryan, Kevin Cushen, Kevin Kelly, Michael Maloney.
Front: Kevin Canning, Francis Duggan, Paul Murphy, Adam Fitzgerald, Shane Foley, C.J. Browne, Nicholas O’Donnell, Gary Grace, Aaron Duggan, Pdraig Joyce.



Club Focus

Graigue-Ballycallan

Club Officers

Patrons: Frs. Phelan, McGree & Buckley.
Chairman: Michael Dermody.
Vice Chairman: Kieran Hoyne.
Secretaries: Michael Doran & Pat Hayes.
Treasurer: Dave O'Neill.
PRO: Ann-Marie Ryall.
Asst. PRO: Milo Hennessy.
Co. Board Delegate: Michael Dermody.

AIB Club Championship

Graigue-Ballycallan was put on the map in the last year as a result of our senior hurlers success in the AIB Club Championship. Despite been beaten by St. Marys, of Athenry after extra time on a scoreline of 3-24 to 2-19 in the All-Ireland final it was an enormous achievement for a rural parish with a small population. The site of the sky blue and white in Croke Park last Easter Monday was a wonderful feeling that nobody will ever forget. On our way to the final we beat Trim by 5-15 to 0-8, Castletown by 2-12 to 0-7 and in the Leinster final we beat UCD by 0-14 to 1-8. We had an exciting tussle with Sixmilebridge in the All-Ireland semi-final which went to a replay.

Senior Finalists

We had a poor performance in this years Credit Union Senior hurling league. The only match we won was against John Lockes and drew with the Fenians. Things improved greatly in the championship. We reached the county final but unfortunately we lost out to O'Loughlin Gaels. On the way to the final we had wins over Young Irelands, Tullaroan and in the semi-final Eirns Own.
Panel : Paul Dermody, Johnny Butler, Paddy O'Dwyer, James Ryall, Damien Cleere, Tomás Comerford, Alan Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne, Eddie O'Dwyer, Denis Byrne, John Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, Adrian Ronan, Micheál Hoyne, Thomas Dermody, Johnny Ronan, Pdraig McCluskey, Gearóid Cleere, Tommy Minogue, Robert Byrne, Kevin Cleere, Aidan Brett, Ger Ronan, Philip Butler, Patrick Dalton, Brian Dalton, Pat Comerford, Brendan Hayes, Jim Maher, Shane Murphy, Ciarán Hoyne, James Young, Niall Millea, Joe Brennan.

Junior Campaign

The junior hurlers had a win over Barrow Rangers but were beaten in the 2nd round of the Barlo Nissan hurling cham-

pionship by Dicksboro. The U-21's were narrowly beaten by James Stephens in the Northern semi-final (0-11 to 0-10). This was an exciting contest where the winners snatched the winning point in injury time.

Minor Hurling

The minors bowed out of the championship at the county semi-final stage losing to Shamrocks. Graigue-Ballycallan lead at the interval by just a single point. But in the 2nd half Shamrocks were aided by a strong wind and they emerged winners by 1-17 to 0-7.

Under 16

Like the U-21's the U-16 were beaten in the Northern semi-final by St. Lachtains. There was only a point between the sides at the half-time whistle but in the second-half St. Lachtains upped their game to win on a scoreline of 3-12 to 2-7. The U-14s failed to claim a place in the county final when they were beaten by a very strong Dicksboro side. Graigue-Ballycallan stayed with the town side for 27 minutes of the first half but 3 goals in 3 minutes before half time wrapped up the game for Dicksboro.

Primary Schools Hurling

The U-13's were beaten by Kilkenny CBS in the quarter final. This was a very exciting game with some excellent hurling. Some great saves by the CBS goalie denied Kilmanagh a place in the semi-final.
The U-12s won their group in the county board summer tournament beating Tullaroan in the final by 3-4 to 2-2. They also won the Geoffrey Croke Memorial tournament.
James Ryan, Darragh Marnell, David Kennedy, Martin Doheny, Niall Cleere, Justin Dermody, Dermot Heafy, Conor Hogan, David O'Dea, Darragh Twomey, John Robinson, David Cleere, Liam Doyle, William Harrison, John Dunphy.

Mol an Oige

The U-11s did very well in the Camaint having wins over Barrow Rangers, James Stephens, Bennettsbridge and Clara. They only lost to Danesfort and O'Loughlin Gaels and they drew with Young Irelands and Dicksboro.
Panel: James Power, David O'Dea, David Kennedy, David Cleere, Niall

Cleere, Justin Dermody, Dermot Heafey, Conor Hogan, Stephen Kenna, Darragh Twomey, Darragh Marnell, Martin Doheny, John Robinson, Liam Doyle, William Harrison, John Dunphy, Steven Butler.

County players 2001

Senior: Denis Byrne, John Hoyne, Edward Brennan, Michéal Hoyne, Johnny Butler.
U-21: James Ryall.
Minor: Kevin Cleere.
U-12: John Cleere.

Bereavements

During the year the club lost some great gael; Tom Ryall, Sean Keane, Paddy Fennelly, Tommy Fennelly and Bill Cahill. The club extends its sincere sympathy to the families of the bereaved.

Sean Keane RIP

As last year's yearbook was going to press we were stunned with the news of Sean Keane's tragic death. Sean graced the hurling grounds of the county with no. 7 on his back wearing the Graigue-Ballycallan jersey with great pride and dignity. In his short life he brought joy to those whom he met and thoroughly enjoyed the craic and camaraderie associated with our games.

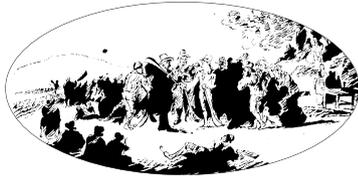
Paddy Fennelly RIP

Born on 15 March 1912, Paddy passed away in August. Paddy had a deep involvement in parish activities for many decades. He was a caring man who had a sense of peace and calm that flowed around his house and community.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a Anamnacha.



Paddy Fennelly 1912 - 2001



Club Focus

James Stephens

On the Field

It was always going to be difficult to follow the successful year 2000, when the Club gained four County Titles. The year started brightly with Football league and County Féile Na nGael title victories, but despite appearing in U-14 and U-16 county finals, the club failed to add to our tally on the competitive front. The Intermediate team held their own in their first year after promotion, while the U-21s were disappointed not to add to last year's county title. Our Féile team captained by Matthew Ruth represented Kilkenny in the national finals in Cork, reaching the Semi Final, where we lost to the eventual winners, Oulart-The-Ballagh.

New Cathaoirleach

During 2001 Liam Tyrell stepped down after 15 years in the chair to be succeeded by Jimmy O'Brien, All Ireland Club winning captain and outgoing Chairman of the Camogie club. During Liam's tenure as Club Chairman the club developed our premises in Larchfield and acquired new grounds at Nuncio Road in addition to setting new standards in Juvenile and under age hurling, including record breaking feats in county and All-Ireland Féile na nGael.

Underage Coaching

On the under-age front, coaching sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays and matches on Sunday mornings continue to attract over a hundred boys ranging from age 7 upwards. In addition to coaching sessions and practice games, teams compete in the Andy Egan Cup and the Seamus Fry Cup. David Walton's team were winners of the Andy Egan Tournament in 2001, while Peter Lydon's team won the Seamus Fry Tournament.

Club teams competed in local tournaments including the Denis Molloy tournament (winning the Shield Final), while our U-12 team, captained by Shane Brennan, emerged victorious in the Faythe Harriers tournament in Wexford Town.

Club Tournaments

The club once again organised the Paddy Mullen Memorial Minor Tournament won by Glen Rovers of Cork and the Michael Phelan Memorial U-

16 Tournament won by Clara. For the first time this year the club organised the Lanigan Memorial Tournament at U-14, with Moycarkey-Borris emerging as the inaugural winners. These tournaments attract top under age teams from both Leinster and Munster.

New Stand and Developments

An application to the National lottery to develop facilities at Larchfield was extremely successful, and our plans to develop a stand, referees room, first aid post and other facilities are going through the planning process.

Hopefully 2002 will see a start to the further development of our Larchfield grounds.

Bereavements

During 2001 James Stephens GAA Club lost our president Bill Cody RIP. Bill was one of the leading light of the James Stephens Club and will be missed by all. In addition to Bill, the club felt the loss of Billy Ayres Senior, member of the 1935 James Stephens team, father of Joe and grandfather of Billy, both former Village hurlers.

Ar dheis Dé go rabhadar.



James Stephens U-12 - Winners Faythe Harriers Tournament

A happy crowd celebrate victory in the Faythe Harriers club tournament. Shane Brennan captains the side.



Andy Egan Tournament Winners 2001

Back: Donal Champion, Robbie Doyle, Adam Byrne, Conor Doyle, Conor Maher, David Walton, Sean Ryan, Billy Walton.

Front: Shane Farrelly, Killian Murphy, Stephen Renehan, Conor Barry, Keith Ryan, Stephen O'Keeffe, Caiman Brennan.



Club Focus

John Lockes

A Great Start

When the club looks back on the year 2001 it will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. We started the year on a high note in January when our Special Junior team had a marvellous victory over James Stephens in the Special Junior 'B' county final. This was this teams third final in four years losing out to Conahy Shamrocks in 1998 and to O'Loughlin Gaels in 2000.

Michael O'Leary RIP

The star of the game in January was Michael O'Leary who had been so inspirational all throughout the championship campaign. In April our world was turned up side down when Michael tragically died on trip to Prague with his many friends in the Macra club.

The euphoria of that win and the happy smiling face of Michael will live with us for many a long day.

Senior Hurling

The senior team started the year full of hope and with new trainer Declan Connolly's experience we were hoping to consolidate our position in the senior grade after our rather shaky start in 2000.

But unfortunately it was the same old story and yet again we had too many near misses. The only victory we recorded was against The Fenians, Johnstown. Little did we know that the same opposition were to have a major say in which grade we would compete in next year. Our outing against Dicksboro in the first round of the championship was nothing short of disastrous.

Relegation Playoff

We again found ourselves in a relegation play off and we again faced The Fenians in the do or die tussle. Although the Lockes made a great effort to stay in the senior grade, it was not to be and we dropped back into Intermediate grade after only two years in the top flight. Players and officials will question their efforts of the past year but at the end of the day it is only a game. A game we would love to have Michael O'Leary still playing in the John Lockes colours.

Special Junior A

Again it was the Special Juniors were the team to give us some cheer as they made the transition from the 'B' grade to the 'A' grade. Their league campaign was not too memorable but they certainly burst to life when the championship started and became the surprise packet in the South championship. They took on the hot favourites Mooncoin in the South final and came away with the spoils. They were now one step away from junior grade but they were pitted against a very good Tullaroan in the county final and after looking very promising early on finally succumbed to the Tullaroan men. This very young Special junior team have yet again given the club some hope for the future and special praise goes to Trainer and club Chairman Michael Lynch for his superb efforts.

Underage Concerns

At under age level in the club at present things are at a very low ebb with all our teams making early exits from their respective leagues and championships. Trainer Brendan Power and his selectors made every effort to have teams well prepared but there is a major problem both in our own parish and in many parishes across the county. Callan numbers are falling in the schools. The schools used to be the main influence in developing hurling but not any more. If the game is to have a future in the parish the responsibility falls back on the club and also on the GAA. Let us hope we can turn this around.

U-14 Success

At juvenile level it was not all doom and gloom as we did bring home a county title. This honour fell to our U-14 football team when they had a terrific 6-04 to 2-01 victory over near neighbours Carrickshock. The team had made great improvements throughout their championship and really hit the high note on final day. Yet again Bosco Bryan and Jimmy Corcoran were responsible for preparing this team with excellent support from Brigid Burke CBS and Trish Leahy. Captain of the

side was Alan Costigan and the panel consisted: Owen Wall, Chris Walsh, Keith O'Dwyer, Mark Nolan, Thomas Melia, Mark McDowell, Paul Roche, Eoghan Fahey, Dwayne Hanrahan, Robbie Wall, Brendan Bourke, Bill McCormack, Ger Shelly, Brendan Grace, Liam Kennedy, Robbie O'Brien, Brian McCann, Kenny Doheny, Conor Freaney, Mark Laffan, AJ Webster, Simon Burke, Enda Ronan. Brendan Grace represented the CBS primary school during half time of the Leinster final at Croke Park.

Juvenile Tournament

The annual juvenile tournament in the August bank holiday weekend again proved to be the highlight of the year and for the first time in its five year history a double was recorded by the all conquering city side O'Loughlin Gaels. Their U-12s retained the Colm Nolan Cup when they defeated a gallant Graigue-Ballycallan team in the final, while the U-9 team defeated the John Lockes in the final to take home the Eamon Teehan Cup. The U-12 'B' decider final was won for the first time by the Carrickshock club after a battle royal with tournament debutants Conahy Shamrocks. Once again great credit is due to the members of the club for their work in the staging of what has become a permanent fixture in the juvenile hurling calendar in County Kilkenny.

Primary Schools

Early in the year the primary school were defeated in the Roinn 'C' football final after a replay by a single point by Conahy while they exited their championship at the quarter final stage to eventual winners Lisdowney. The U-14 team failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the hurling championship but there was a notable improvement on previous years.

The U-10 team retained their title at the Coolagh pattern and were defeated finalist in the Mullinahone tournament while the U-11 camaint team did the club proud on final day in Nowlan Park. The big hope for 2002 is that we may capture an under age hurling title for the club.

Aidan Fogarty- What you see is what you get.

By John Knox NT

With Aidan Fogarty, what you see is what you get. A stylish, clean cut, well organised, self-assured individual. Those who remember him as a stylish wing back for Offaly during the eighties will endorse the picture. The holder of two All Ireland medals in 81 and 83, two All Star awards in '82 and '89, six Leinster medals, a Leinster U21 medal, two Offaly U21 and four minor hurling championships, eight senior titles and a club All Ireland final appearance with St. Rynaghs in 83 is slow to mention the honours he has gained but his story mirrors the success of Offaly during the eighties.

The Offaly years

The second of five boys has fond memories of his early years. 'Banagher is the home town. St Rynaghs the home club from my early days to my last days it was St Rynaghs. We were a hurling family and my father who hurled with Killeigh, was always an influence as was Bro Denis in Presentation College Birr.' As with all players, the club was the focal point. 'Our club, St. Rynaghs, was only formed in 1959 and six years later we were beaten in the 1964 final, won in 1965 and we then won ten titles out of twelve appearances.'

Offaly's first breakthrough was achieved in 1978 when they won the Leinster U21. 'We played Laois in the final, which was unusual. Laois had beaten Kilkenny and Offaly had beaten Wexford so it was a unique pairing. It was the first hint of maybe Offaly starting to make a breakthrough.'

His inter county career began in the League 76-77 and finished in '92 when he lined out at centre back for the injured Roy Mannion. Dermot Healy came in '79 and the Offaly breakthrough came soon afterwards with the famous Leinster title victory in 1980.

'I think there were less than ten thousand people in Croke Park that day and most of them I'd say were Kilkenny people but if you talk to Offaly people now everyone was there.'

An All Ireland appearance soon followed. 'I suppose from our point of view it was unbelievable because we had come along quite quickly. 1980 was our first Leinster Final victory and then just the following year to win the All Ireland. It all happened very quickly.' 'Galway had won it the previous year and were hot favorites and thought they couldn't be beaten which was maybe their undoing. We had a bad first half that day and only that Pat Carroll scored a goal it would have been a very one-sided score line at half time. We just kept plugging away. That was one thing Dermot Healy said, you just keep it going, keep on hurling. and it happened that we just put a few scores together and we got the Johnny Flaherty goal at the right time.' The hero that day was Pat Delaney, for whom he has the highest regard. 'Paddy Delaney was a great long range free taker, very accurate and in my time in hurling I have never seen anyone to be as consistent.'

Was it a goal?

1982 was a heartbreak year with the still controversial Kilkenny goal a turning point. Ever the sportsman, he is very fair in his summary. 'I can remember the high ball coming down from Dick O'Hara, and Damien Martin was shepherding the ball out wide and I think Kieran Brennan and myself turned back out the field and then I heard the roar behind me. Well my reading of it is, if the flag goes up it counts whether its right or wrong.'

The Centenary All Ireland was another episode filled with mixed emotions. 'It was a little bit unreal, I suppose, playing it in Thurles. Croke Park to a Leinster team is a home venue, but



Aidan Fogarty with his O'Loughlin Gaels Management Team, Mick Nolan and Seanie Tyrrell

Thurles to us - it's a little bit alien, In hindsight we weren't as well tuned in maybe. There was a lot of talk. The long delay before the game for the oration and the fact that a lot of papers had tipped us that year as well didn't help. On the day we had a few chances early in the game and we didn't take them. Cork were just the better team as things worked out. It was a very disappointing day.' Of his opponents of that era, Kieran Brennan whom he first played against in colleges hurling, he puts down as his most difficult opponent.

O'Loughlin's

In 1984 Aidan began work in Kilkenny and came to live here in 1988. Soon after his retirement, he became involved in O'Loughlin's. 'I started with Brian Murphy and Johnny Sheridan an with the under 14s.' He has fond memories of winning an U14 hurling and football championship over Graigue -Ballycallan.

He continued with the U14s until four years ago when Mick Nolan asked him to come on board with the seniors. 'I must say this year I got immense satisfaction out of it being involved with Mick Nolan and Seanie Tyrrell. We prefer to call ourselves a management team. There was great camaraderie there. We were ambitious and everyone shared that ambition, so it meant that everyone worked well together. We were all the time reaching a bit higher, and achieving the next goal beating teams that always used to beat us.'

The 2000 final slipped away when, during the second half, they had several bad wides and Graigue tagged on the points to win. This year the emergence of the likes of Brian Hogan gave them an extra option at the back while the whole team was to win a Kilkenny Championship and we have achieved that. Next year we have to go back and try and equal that, but once you satisfy one ambition you have to go on and look for something else. Likewise with the Leinster Club Championship, next year we want to go further.'

He has always admired the Kilkenny Club scene. 'We used to come down to the Kilkenny county Final because that was where the best club hurling was to be seen' The change in format in Kilkenny this year he views as an improvement. 'Up to this year, everything hinged on the first round match - I always thought that was a little bit unfair - whereas this year in the League you had five chances to get it right. With the tiered system, there was reward for doing well in the League. Naturally failing to Birr was a disappointment particularly giving away what he considered two poor goal efforts and failing to make their second half period of dominance pay on the score board.

Aidan Fogarty has been an integral part of the success of his Club side St. Rynagh's and the rise of Offaly hurling in the 80s. He now looks set to achieve a similar record as part of the management team with O'Loughlin Gaels.

**KILKENNY CBS U13 F
ROINN A CHAMPIONS
2000**

Back: Joe White, Jack Poyntz, Mark Kelly, Kelvin McCormack, David Morris, Niall Kiely, Shane Maher, Cormac Lynch, Conor Bergin, Mr Donal McCarthy (Trainer).

Middle: John Traynor, Gary Meany, Philip Dunne, Brian Dargan, Fergal Walsh, Stephen Lynch, Darren Kelly, Stephen Quirke, Peter Tierney.

Front: Clive Dunlop, Gerard O'Donoghue, Craig Ruth, Mark Bergin, Patrick Rowe, Adrian Stapleton, James O'Brien, Bernard O'Mara.

Photo Tom Brett



**COON/MUCKALEE U13 F
COUNTRY CUP
CHAMPIONS 2001
& ROINN A FINALISTS**

Back: Darren Holohan, Colin McGrath, Ollie Walsh (Capt), Ciarán Brennan, Conor Kelly, Roderick Hogan, Geoff Brennan, Ger Walsh, Mark Haughney.

Middle: Ger Norris, Andrew Ring, Theo McPhillips, Stephen Shore, Jamie O'Brien, Sean Ryan, Canice Maher, Michael Nolan.

Front: Thomas Breen, Patrick Dowling, Cornelius O'Flynn, Geoff Doyle, John Hughney, Tomás Coonan, Cathal Healy, Jamie Ryan.

**GRAIGUENAMANAGH
U13 F ROINN B
CHAMPIONS 2001
& COUNTRY CUP
FINALISTS**

Back: Nicholas O'Donnell, Daniel O'Brien, Kevin Canning, Kevin Cushen, Stuart Kinsella, David Dunne, Jason Foley, Keith Doherty, Michael Maloney, Jimmy Lennon, Padraig Whelan, Jas Foley.

Front: Jas Kennedy, Michael Barcoe, Dane Mangan, John Morgan, Adam Fitzgerald, Liam Bolger, Wayne O'Neill, Shane Haugh, Gary Grace, C.J. Browne.



Hurrah! for Carrickshock!

Under 16 - Bord na nÓg Report



CARRICKSHOCK - ROINN A U16 LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2001

Back: John Sheehan, Tom Brophy, James Farrell, Patrick Duggan, John Tennyson, Richie Power, John Dalton, Ricky Brennan, James Moran, Seanie Gibbons, Colm Mullally, Gerry Foley, Pat Carr.

Front: Colm Grey, Kieran Holden, Ger Power, John Kirkbride, Dinny Murphy, Tom O'Leary, Darren O'Dwyer, John Power, John Butler, Paddy McNamara, Niall Tennyson, John Phelan, Eoin Smith.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

ROINN A CHAMPIONSHIP

Only five teams lined up for the Duggan Steel Roinn A championship. James Stephens - always installed near the favourites mark for the championship every year, pulled a real "corker" in Ballyhale Shamrocks for their opening game, while the reigning champions, Carrickshock wondered could they make Hugginstown history by winning this championship for the second time in succession. Before they could allow themselves the luxury of thinking in those terms, they had the "small" matter of the Dicksboro challenge to address in the first round. The Boro were cock-a-hoop after their younger lads had beaten James Stephens in the Roinn A under-14 final. The quintet of competing teams was completed by Mooncoin, who, with not little ambitions of their own were waiting in the wings.

The first draw from the hat pitched the finalists of twelve months previously, Carrickshock and Dicksboro into a "winner take all" contest. In an exceptionally good game, where the outcome was in doubt to the final whistle, the defending champions, Carrickshock won by three

points. Richie Power was a huge player for the 'Shock, scoring 1-5 of his side's total. The Boro lads never gave up trying all through. They opened their scoring after eight minutes, with a spectacular Derek Duggan goal. The sides were level on four occasions, which was indicative of the quality of game we had. They were level at the half way stage, but points from Power inside the last ten minutes were instrumental in keeping the champs in front by three points, a margin that the Boro lads were not able to overcome.

The final score read, Carrickshock 1-6 Dicksboro 1-3.

James Stephens opened their championship account with a very tidy, impressive win over the great rivals from down south, Ballyhale Shamrocks, in the other first round game. The city side lead at half time by 0-10 to 0-2, and were looking all-over winners at that stage. But they didn't bargain for the resilience of the Shamrocks lads, who were inspired by a Cha Fitzpatrick goal early in the new half. Even though the Village won by 1-15 to Shamrocks' 1-8, the score was not a true reflection of the game. James Stephens were grateful that David McCormack was in excellent shooting form, as he belted over nine points- seven from frees. He was well

assisted by Jamie Quane who shot 1-2, Adrian Harkin who scored 0-2, and Matthew Ruth who recorded two more points. As already stated, Cha Fitzpatrick was the real star of the Shamrocks outfit scoring 1-4. Their other scorers were Donncha Fitzpatrick 0-2, Michael Carroll and Mark Aylward who scored a point apiece. TJ Reid in the Shamrocks goal also contributed enormously towards stemming the James Stephens goal rush with some terrific saves.

The way was now clear for the semi-final stages of the competition. "Wils card" Mooncoin came into the championship at this stage. Surprisingly we had one all-city semi', where James Stephens faced O'Loughlins, and one all-rural semi', with Carrickshock and Mooncoin facing up to each other.

The city derby was a real humdinger from the start. Pride played a huge part in this game. Neither side was disposed towards any form of benevolence. Every ball was contested as if life itself depended upon the outcome. Again for James Stephens, David McCormack displayed his talents to their fullest, and he needed to, as O'Loughlins had their shooting star also in Maurice Nolan. McCormack registered 0-8 (0-5 frees) of his sides total, while Nolan fired over five very valuable

points for the green and whites. At half time the sides were inseparable- 1-4 to 0-7. The O'Loughlin goal was brilliantly scored by Conor Phelan midway through the first half. The other Village scorers were Matthew Ruth 0-3, and Eamonn Sheehy 0-2. Besides Phelan and Nolan, the other O'Loughlins scorers were Niall McEvoy, and Paul O'Brien who scored 2 points each, while Peter Dowling scored the other point. With James Stephens scoring 0-13 and O'Loughlins scoring 1-10, the lads had to do it all over again. The replay was a real "downer". People expected much or more of the same as the first game, but alas it didn't turn out as expected. At half time, James Stephens led by a whopping 2-11 to O'Loughlins 0-2, and the game as a spectacle, was a non-event from there to the finish.

The other semi-final between Carrickshock and Mooncoin was a much more interesting contest. At half time, Carrickshock led by 1-4 to Mooncoin's 0-3. The goal was scored by James Moran after 20 minutes had elapsed. Richie Power was brought on as a second half substitute for Carrickshock, and this move was probably the big reason why the 'Shock eventually overpowered the gallant Mooncoin. Not for the first time was Carrickshock centre back, John Tennyson, the outstanding hurler on the field. He got tremendous assistance from Power, Moran, Tommy Brophy, John Butler and Pádraig Barron. Mooncoin presented a dogged determination that had the Carrickshock players and mentors more than worried. They would have considered themselves a mite unfortunate not to have won the game. They probably gifted the first half goal to the 'Shock, and with a little better concentration, they could have had a better points tally on the scoreboard at the finish. They had sterling performers in Thomas O'Hanlon, Keith Kirwan, Ray Wall and Sean Wall.

And so to the final. The question on everybody's lips - could Carrickshock put two titles back to back ? They assembled in Nowlan Park on Monday, August 20th. Carrickshock had upset the natural order the previous year, winning their first under-16 Roinn A title, knocking big names like James Stephens and Dicksboro off their perch. They were not about to do it a second time. Or were they?

The "Irish Examiner" reported that "the game could have gone either way, but it ended all square. It would have been a pity if it was otherwise, as defending champions, Carrickshock and challengers, James Stephens fought out the most thrilling of draws in search of the Duggan Steel under-16 Roinn A County title in sunny Nowlan Park". The traditional ingredients of a fine hurling match were in evidence in a showdown that may not be rivalled this year.



CLARA - U16 ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2001

Back : Shane Prendergast, Niall Costigan, Michael Bergin, Jody Creane, John Murphy, Mark Drennan, David Prendergast, Neal Prendergast, Denis Tobin, Eoin O' Shea, Brian Nolan.

Front : Michael McDonald, Sean O' Shea, Sean Murphy, Keith Hogan, Ciaran Kirwan, Lester Ryan, Austin Murphy, Liam Ryan, James Brennan, James Nolan.

Photo Martin Fogarty



CONAHY SHAMROCKS - U-16 ROINN B LEAGUE WINNERS & CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2001

Back : Paul Downey, Michael Bergin, Tomas Nolan, Peter Dollard, Tomas O'Shea, Jimmy Campion, Gavin Nolan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Cathal Hestor, Patrick Nolan.

Middle : Damien Webster, Peter Harding, Eoin Buggy, Cormac Dawson, John Muldowney, Brian Healy, Alan Healy, Shane Walsh.

Front : John Wallace, David Healy.

Photo Martin Fogarty



BARROW RANGERS - U16 ROINN C LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2001

Back : Andrew Healy, David Walsh, Eoin Stapleton, Derek Whelan, Darren O'Neill, Ricky Murphy, Richard Kelly, Billy Murphy, Tomás Quinn, Joseph Kealy, Mark Lillis, Aidan Brennan, Niall Heffernan.

Front : Thomas Brophy, Ian Holden, William Hennessy, Kevin McDonald, Raymond Healy, Joseph Hughes, Mark Morrissey, Seamus Brennan (Capt), seated with cup.

Photo Dylan Vaughan

James Stephens got off to a flying start, when alert full-forward, Alan O'Brien, slammed home an opportunist goal from their first attack. David McCormack added another in the 14th minute, having thrown in a few points for good measure before that. His side led by 2-4 to Carrickshock's single point by the 15th minute. The champions' crown was on the "Kildare side". The city side had the assistance of the brisk breeze in the first half, which helped them to a 2-5 to 0-4 half time lead.

The 'Shock came storming forward early in the new half. Richie Power had the net bulging with a rocket of a free after 35 minutes. Eleven minutes later Pádraig Barron drilled home another goal, leaving but three points between the sides. Carrickshock continued to charge, and Messrs. James Hickey, Donnacha Cody, Kevin O'Neill and Julien Dwyer stood solidly against the tide. While Carrickshock never headed the Village lads, they did however catch them up in the final moments with three smashing points by Richie Power, Tom Brophy, and Seán Gibbons. It finished at 2-9 apiece. We looked forward with great anticipation to the replay.

Rarely are replays memorable. This one was an exception for the first half at least. At half time, Carrickshock led by 1-5 to James Stephens 0-4. The game was finely balanced. However two goals shortly after the resumption by Tommy Brophy and Pádraig Barron unhinged the Village lads, and the 'Shock stormed towards the winning post from there to the finish. The result was cast in stone with another two goals by Seanie Gibbons and James Farrell inside the last seven minutes.

This was a terrific achievement by the Carrickshock lads for whom every member played a sterling role. They were superb in many facets of the game, but particularly in their ability to emerge as victors when presented with the opportunity. Like the sportsmen that they are, James Stephens graciously granted a postponement of one week to the Carrickshock lads, because their centre-back, John Tennyson - remember the name- received an injury with the Kilkenny team in their winning of the Nenagh Co-Op Tournament.

Carrickshock: Denis Murphy, Ricky

Brennan, John Dalton, Niall Tennyson, John Sheehan, John Tennyson, James Farrell, Tommy Brophy, Colm Mullally, Sean Gibbons, Richard Power, Garry Foley, Pádraig Barron, Patrick Duggan, James Moran. *Subs:* Paddy McNamara, John Butler, Ger Power, Thomas O'Leary, John Kirkbride, John Phelan, Darren O'Dwyer, Owen Smith, Paddy Carr, John Power, Colm Grey.

James Stephens : Julian Dwyer, David Ring, James Hickey, Tomás Keogh, Damien Kelly, Donnacha Cody, Kevin O'Neill, Adrian Harkin, Eamonn Sheehy, Jonathan Barry, David McCormack, Matthew Ruth, Alan O'Brien, Patrick Butler, Jamie Quane. *Subs:* Sean Tyrrell, Patrick Noonan, John Comerford, Tomás

11) made it four points from two games with a tidy win over O'Loughlins (1-6). James Stephens had a 5-12 to 3-5 win over city rivals, Dicksboro, and Carrickshock too, had a nice win over Shamrocks, winning by 1-12 to 1-6. Wins by O'Loughlins and Mooncoin in their last Group games, plus a Carrickshock win had the three of them contesting the semi-finals, and even though James Stephens were beaten by Ballyhale, they still semis' by virtue of two good previous wins.

The finalists emerged as Carrickshock and James Stephens, and after an exciting game, the Carrickshock lads were winners by 2-6 to 0-5. It was not the last time that these two sides were to meet in



JAMES STEPHENS - ROINN A U16 LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2001 Photo Eoin Hennessy
Back: John Comerford, Alan O'Brien, Conor Noonan, Ross Hennessy, Paddy Butler, Adrian Harkin, Paddy Noonan, Tommy Hoyne, David McCormack, James Hickey, David Ring, Eamon Sheehy, Donnacha Cody, Shane Champion, James Whelan.
Front: Adrian Walsh, Kieran Brennan, Ciarán Dunphy, Steven Barham, Julian O'Dwyer, Tomás Keogh, Matthew Ruth, Damien Kelly, Conor O'Grady, Jamie Quane, Michael Neary.

Hoyne, Conor O'Grady, Michael Neary, Shane Champion, Adrian Walsh, Conor Noonan, Ciarán Dunphy, Kieran Brennan, Ross Hennessy, James Whelan, Steven Bardham.

ROINN A LEAGUE:

The Duggan Steel Roinn A League was augmented by two teams - Tullaroan and St Martins - who were subsequently destined to compete in the championship in Roinn B. The other teams competing were, Carrickshock, James Stephens, Dicksboro, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Mooncoin and O'Loughlin Gaels. City side O'Loughlins had a good opening round against Mooncoin, winning by 4-5 to 0-7, but the Mooncoin lads were to improve. St Martins and Tullaroan fought out a very evenly contested first round game, with victory going to the former on a score of 2-7 to 2-4. In Group 2, James Stephens (2-14) took care of Ballyhale Shamrocks (1-11), and Carrickshock (1-10) beat Dicksboro (1-5). Tullaroan came badly unstuck in their next game, when going down by 7-12 to 1-2 against Mooncoin in Group 1, but St Martins (0-

deadly combat. Goals from Colm Mullally and Richard Power in the first half set the seal of victory on the game as far as Carrickshock were concerned. They led at the break by 2-5 to James Stephens 0-2. The Carrickshock defence were very difficult to pierce during the second half, which made life extremely difficult for the hard-trying Village forwards .

Carrickshock: Denis Murphy, Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, Niall Tennyson, John Sheehan, John Tennyson, James Farrell, Tommy Brophy, Colm Mullally, Sean Gibbons, Richard Power, Garry Foley, Pádraig Barron, Patrick Duggan, James Moran. *Subs:* Paddy McNamara, John Butler, Ger Power, Thomas O'Leary, John Kirkbride, John Phelan, Darren O'Dwyer, Owen Smith, Paddy Carr, John Power, Colm Grey.

James Stephens: Conor O'Grady, David Ryan, Donnacha Cody, James Hickey, Damien Kelly, Patrick Butler, Tomás Keogh, Adrian Harkin, David McCormack, Shane Champion, Jamie Quane, Tommy Hoyne, Julian O'Dwyer, Eamonn Sheehy, Matthew Ruth. *Subs:*

Pat Noonan, Alan O'Brien, James Whelan, Steven Bardham, Ross Hennessy, Kieran Brennan, Michael Neary, John Comerford, Adrian Walsh, Conor Noonan, Kieran Dunphy.

ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP

The Roinn B championship was no less interesting, entertaining, and keenly fought than it's Roinn A companion. Seventeen teams endeavoured to come out on top of this competition. The Rower Inistioge (4-12) stifled any further interest that Thomastown (2-1) harboured, in the only preliminary round of the championship.

In Round 1, Graig/Ballycallan (3-11) barely scraped over St Patrick's Ballyraggett (3-9), whilst it took two offerings by their near neighbours, St Lachtain's of Freshford to overcome the stout challenge of the Blacks & Whites from Skeaghvosteen. In the drawn game, it was 3-7 apiece, and in the replay it was nearly, but not quite as close, with the Freshford lads coming with a late run to win by 3-8 to 2-9. The Rower Inistioge (1-13) had nine points to spare over Mullinavat (1-4), and Clara (2-13) beat Erins Own (2-5). Last year's double winners, St Martins (3-12) had a rather easy victory over Bennettsbridge (2-4); Conahy Shamrocks opened their account with a 2-14 to 1-2 win over Tullogher Rosbercon. Piltown beat Tullaroan. In the quarter-finals, St Lachtain's (3-12) beat

Graig/Ballycallan (2-7) after a terrific game, in which the final result was in doubt right to the final whistle. St Martins were subjected to enormous pressure before accounting for Fenians/Galmoy, winning in the end by 0-14 to 1-9. Clara (1-10) beat Rower Inistioge (0-7), and Conahy Shamrocks were still on course after taking care of the Piltown challenge.

The best of the semi-final games was that between Clara and St Lachtain's. Strange how these two clubs were to figure against each other at semi-final stages of other competitions. This was a keenly contested game, with the end result in doubt for a long time. Eventually the Clara lads, well led by the Prendergasts, Niall, David, and Shane, Liam Ryan, Michael Bergin, Mark Drennan, and Austin Murphy just about

earned their place in the County final. Their opponents turned out to be the lads from Conahy Shamrocks. They had had a much easier trip than Clara, defeating St Martins by 4-7 to 0-10. Again Alan Healy was the star of the show for Conahy. He fired home two marvellous first half goals, to rock the "Saints". The game was stitched up when Martin Fitzpatrick scored a late goal to earn the right for Conahy to face Clara in the final.

The final in Nowlan Park was a thriller. Conahy opened very well, and Alan Healy - who else? - drove over two terrific points and followed it up with a terrific goal shortly afterwards. The Clara lads re-grouped and slowly pulled themselves back into the game. Their defence, particularly Shane and Niall Prendergast tightened up, and wing forward, Austin Murphy started to motor. As the referee blew the half-time whistle, Clara were only four points in arrears when, at one stage, the deficit looked as if it would be

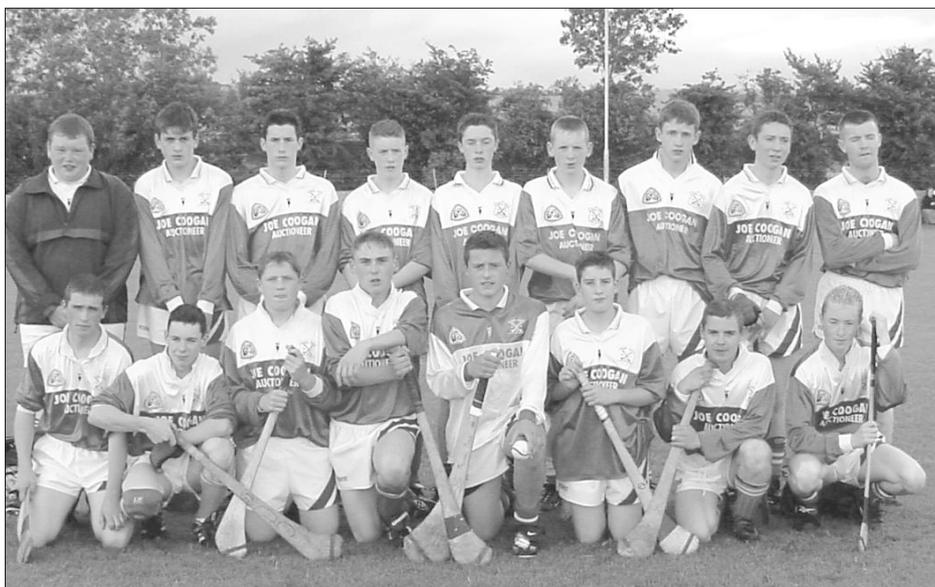
Bennettsbridge to try again.

The replay was again thrill-a-minute stuff, with Conahy setting the early pace, and leading at half time by 2-1 to 0-2. The Conahy goals were scored by Gavin Nolan and the slight John Wallace. Two factors contributed hugely to the Clara win. The ability of their backs to cope, and practically nullify the Conahy dangerman, Alan Healy, and the expertise of their centre-forward, Austin Murphy when it came down to putting the ball between the posts. Clara were to score ten second half points, and Murphy was to score eight of them. It was a marvellous game, played in a terrific spirit, with not an ounce of rancour. A fitting end to a great championship, with the final laurels deservedly resting with Clara.

Clara: Lester Ryan, Niall Costigan, David Prendergast, Denis Tobin, Niall Prendergast, John Murphy, Liam Ryan, Shane Prendergast, Kieran Kirwan, Mark Drennan, Austin Murphy, Eoin O'Shea, James Nolan, Sean Murphy, Michael

Bergin. **Subs:** Jody Creane, Brian Nolan, Michael McDonald, Sean O'Shea, Keith Hogan, James Brennan. **Conahy :** John Muldowney, Brian Healy, Tom Nolan, Peter Dollard, Cathal Hester, Pat Nolan, Eoin Buggy, Gavin Nolan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Damien Webster, Tom O'Shea, Michael Bergin, John Wallace, Alan Healy, Shane Walsh.

Subs : Paul Downey, James Campion, Ian



ERIN'S OWN - U16 ROINN B LEAGUE FINALISTS 2001

Back Brian Nolan, James Kelly, David O'Gorman, Thomas Dwyer, Donal Meally, Damien Fogarty, Alan Treacy, Michael Dunne, Peter O'Donovan. **Front :** Paddy Shortall, Ger Coady, Barry Dunne, Christopher Brennan, Michael Moran, Martin Boran, Ronan Dowling, Jason McGuire.

more. In the second half, Clara were a new team. They took the game to Conahy, and totally dominated the early exchanges. Centre-forward Michael McDonald thundered through the middle of the Conahy defence in the 39th minute and hammered in a magnificent goal. Clara then indulged in a certain amount of squandermania, which was to cost them dearly ultimately. They shot six wides, when points seemed to be there for the taking. Conahy re-asserted themselves, and Healy shot them into a four point lead, with less than seven minutes remaining. But Clara, in typical Clara fashion, refused to go under. A dramatic goal from full-forward Michael Bergin and a free from Austin Murphy had both sides staring at a replay. So it ended, and it was back a week later to

Kavanagh, Cormac Dawson, Peter Harding.

ROINN B LEAGUE:

Three groups of five teams contested the Roinn B League competition. St Martin's and Tullaroan competed in Roinn A (League only). The ultimate winners, Conahy Shamrocks, started their campaign in Group 3, while the defeated finalist, Erins Own, started life in Group 1. Semi-finalists, St Lachtain's and Tullogher Rosbercon, started in Group 2. Conahy Shamrocks careered through their group, winning all of their matches. In one game, young Alan Healy fired home an unprecedented 4-14 from a total 4-17 against Fenians/Galmoy in a fourth round game. Finalists Erin's Own had an uninterrupted run through their group, starting with successive wins over

Clara (2-8 to 0-8) and St Patrick's, Ballyraggett (3-12 to 0-9). With two great wins over Piltown and Mullinavat, they completed their Group campaign with maximum points.

St Lachtain's and Tullogher were not to know that they would figure in the semi-finals, when they met in the first round game of their group. In a tightly fought game, victory was St Lachtain's by virtue of a 4-5 to 2-7 scoreline. Tullogher went down again in the second round to Bennettsbridge, but Freshford made it four points from two games with a nice win over Blacks & Whites (7-7 to 0-5). Tullogher were to win their remaining games, thus qualifying them for the semi-finals, and the flying St Lachtain's came storming through as well.

Conahy and Tullogher fought out a nail-biting game in Ballyhale

before victory was eventually Conahy's, on a score of 1-15 to 0-5. The game was very even, and at the break there were only a couple of points between the sides. The Conahy lads pulled away in the second half, thanks in the main to the accuracy of their sharpshooter, Alan Healy. St Lachtain's bit the dust against Erins Own, defeated by 3-15 to 3-4. The stronger Conahy won their League final on merit, if for no other reason than they had better hurlers than Castlecomer, and of course they had the unerring Healy. The final score was Conahy Shamrocks 1-17 Erins Own 1-6

The teams that competed in Roinn B were, St Patrick's, Mullinavat, Erin's Own, Clara, Piltown, St Lachtain's, Tullogher-Rosbercon, John Lockes, Blacks & Whites, Bennettsbridge, Graig/Ballycallan, Rower-Inistioge, Conahy Shamrocks, Thomastown, Fenians/Galmoy.

Conahy Shamrocks: Ian Kavanagh, John Wallace, Cormac Dawson, Gavin Nolan, Michael Bergin, Brian Healy, John Muldowney, Owen Buggy, Shane Walsh, Peter Harding, Thomas Nolan, James Campion, Martin Fitzpatrick, Tomás O'Shea, Paul Downey, Peter Dollard, Patrick Nolan, Cathal Hester, Alan Healy.

Erins Own: Brian Nolan, James Kelly, David O'Gorman, Tomás Dwyer, Donal Meally, Damien Fogarty, Alan Treacy,

Michael Dunne, Peter Donovan, Paddy Shortall, Ger Cody, Barry Dunne, Christopher Brennan, Michael Moran, Martin Boran, Ronan Dowling, Jason Maguire.

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP.

This championship, involving twelve teams, had a preliminary round of matches to provide a quarter-final scenario. Barrow Rangers (7-14) beat Dunnamaggin (1-3). Glenmore (8-18)

League final, Barrow Rangers were going for the double. They got a sudden shock when Danesfort's Martin Dunphy had the ball in their net after a couple of minutes. Danesfort had two points added to the score before the Paulstown lads had a score on the board. While Paulstown didn't register their first score until the 14th minute, they didn't waste too much time in catching up with the Danesfort lads. At half time the sides were level at 0-6 for Barrow Rangers,

and 1-3 for Danesfort. A Ricky Murphy goal early in the new half had Danesfort wobbling, but Richard Hogan left the minimum between the sides in the 43rd minute, when he kicked home a great goal. A line ball to Paulstown saw Ricky



DANESFORT U16 ROINN C LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2001

Back: Paul Pembroke, Philip Walsh, Jonathan Grace, Michael Saunders, Martin McMahon, Liam Forristall, Páraic Treacy, Richard Devanne, Robbie Murphy, Jonathan Ryan, Jason Barden, Patrick Hogan, Michael Moylan.

Front: Shane O'hara, Donal Maher, Johnny Corr, Bill Muldowney, Robbie Walsh, Michael Cunningham, John Brennan, Jason Cody, Richard Hogan, Dwane Martin, Martin Dunphy.

Photo: Dylan Vaughan

were far too good for Lisdowney (1-4), while Windgap (6-12) too, were far ahead of Slieverue (2-3).

In the quarter-finals, Glenmore barely accounted for Windgap, winning by a single point - Glenmore 2-12, Windgap 2-11. But there was no such differential between Barrow Rangers and Cloneen. The former won by 6-12 to 1-0. Graignamanagh just about took care of the Young Irelands challenge, winning by 2-7 to 3-1, but Danesfort had few problems accounting for Emeralds, where the score read, Danesfort 4-10 Emeralds 2-8.

Barrow Rangers faced Glenmore in their semi-final. An early goal by William Hennessy settled the Rangers, but the Glenmore lads fought back, and after fifteen minutes, they were only three points adrift. A Darren O'Neill goal for Paulstown just before half time saw the teams retire at the break, with the boys in blue leading by 2-4 to 1-2. It was nip and tuck all the way through the second half, with the sharper Paulstown availing of most of the chances that came their way. Darren O'Neill was particularly impressive, and his goal in the 45th minute sealed the victory for Barrow Rangers.

Danesfort had a far easier passage to the final, beating Graignamanagh by a very impressive 3-9 to 1-3. Having already defeated Danesfort in the

Murphy's shot go all the way to the net in the 47th minute. Murphy added a point, and now Danesfort were five points adrift of their opponents. But again Richard Hogan drilled home a spectacular goal with ten minutes remaining. The last ten minutes were frantic, absorbing entertainment. Try as they could, the Danesfort lads just couldn't break down a very stubborn Barrow Rangers defence. Rangers deserved to win, but much more will be heard of this very young, brave Danesfort team in the near future.

Barrow Rangers: Ian Holden, Richard Connolly, Joe Kealy, David Walsh, Richard Kelly, Seamus Brennan, Joe Hughes, Mark Lillis, Derek Whelan, Billy Murphy, Darren O'Neill, Aidan Brennan, Tomás Quinn, Andrew Healy, Raymond Healy. **Subs:** William Hennessy, Kevin McDonald, Niall Heffernan, Tomas Brophy, Mark Morrissey, Eoin Stapleton, Ricky Murphy.

Danesfort: Jason Cody, Martin McMahon, Liam Forristall, Robert Murphy, Michael Moylan, Richard Devane, Pádraig Treacy, Paul Pembroke, Martin Dunphy, Jonathan Grace, Philip Walsh, Patrick Hogan, Jason Barden, Shane O'Hara, Richard Hogan. **Subs:** Dwane Martin, Robert Walsh, Michael Saunders, Michael Cunningham, John Brennan, Donal Maher, Jonathan Ryan, John Corr, Bill Muldowney.

ROINN C LEAGUE :

Barrow Rangers, Emeralds, Danesfort, Young Irelands, Lisdowney, and Cloneen contested Group 1, and Windgap, Kilmacow, Slieverue, Graignamanagh, Dunnamaggin, and Glenmore were in Group 2 of the Roinn C League competition. In round 1, Danesfort (1-9) beat Young Irelands (1-3), Lisdowney (3-9) drew with Cloneen (4-6), while Barrow Rangers (4-9) beat Emeralds (2-2).

There were wins for Windgap, Graignamanagh and Dunnamaggin in Group 2 of their first round games. Danesfort and Barrow Rangers continued to win in their second round as did Graignamanagh and Windgap in Group 2. A shock for Barrow Rangers in the third round when they were defeated by Danesfort - 2-14 to 2-7. They were to exert full revenge later for that defeat. In Group 2, wins for Graignamanagh (v Dunnamaggin) and Windgap (6-10) versus Slieverue (1-6) continued to build up

the "points for" total. Undefeated Danesfort easily qualified for the semi-finals. Barrow Rangers qualified also, suffering only that single defeat by Danesfort in the 3rd Round. Graignamanagh came through from Group 2 undefeated, but it took the mathematicians a little while to work out that Windgap also qualified on scoring differences. Danesfort beat Windgap and Barrow Rangers took care of Graignamanagh to set up a re-match between Danesfort and Barrow Rangers. In a cracking game of hurling, Barrow Rangers eventually won by a single score; Barrow Rangers 4-11 Danesfort 3-11. The quality of five of the goals scored was superb. Both sides looked as if victory was theirs, but the scene changed regularly, with the stronger Paulstown lads, well led by Darren O'Neill, eventually getting up on the line to snatch a marvellous win.

Barrow Rangers: Ian Holden, Richard Connolly, Joe Kealy, David Walsh, Richard Kelly, Seamus Brennan, Joe Hughes, Mark Lillis, Derek Whelan, Billy Murphy, Darren O'Neill, Aidan Brennan, Tomás Quinn, Andrew Healy, Raymond Healy. *Subs:* William Hennessy, Kevin McDonald, Niall Heffernan, Tomas Brophy, Mark Morrissey, Eoin Stapleton, Ricky Murphy.

Danesfort: Jason Cody, Martin McMahan, Liam Forristall, Robert Murphy, Michael Moylan, Richard Devane, Pádraig Treacy, Paul Pembroke, Martin Dunphy, Jonathan Grace, Philip Walsh, Patrick Hogan, Jason Barden, Shane O'Hara, Richard Hogan. *Subs:* Dwane Martin, Robert Walsh, Michael Saunders, Michael Cunningham, John Brennan, Donal Maher, Jonathan Ryan, John Corr, Bill Muldowney.

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Waterford

Waterford Institute of Technology GAA Club

Football – Hurling – Camogie – Handball



Waterford

In 1982 WIT GAA Club possessed just one team, today it has over 20 teams participating in all codes, Hurling, Gaelic Football, Ladies Football and Camogie. In those intervening years since its foundation it has become the largest and most successful club in Third Level Gaelic games. A credit indeed to those who continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes but indeed also to those who have graced the playing fields. The likes of Ray Heffernan, Denis Mullally, P.J Delaney, Andy Comerford, Peter Barry, Eamon Kennedy, Michael Kavanagh, Paddy Mullally J.J Delaney, Henry Shefflin, Bridget Mullally, Ursula Walton, Pauline Comerford and Kelly Long are now well known graduates and present students of Waterford Institute of Technology who have assisted in the growth and success of this club.

The club has always striven to provide as many games for as many students as possible – so involving the maximum number. This policy has been so successful that teams from WIT have won a total of 59 titles to date, including six Division 1 Senior Hurling leagues, six Division 1 Freshers Hurling leagues, four Fitzgibbon Trophies, three Purcell Cups, two Ashbourne Cups, four Division 1 Camogie leagues and numerous men's and ladies' football titles. In fact, since its foundation, the club has won at least one major title every year.

This club has over 800 members and this figure is continuing to grow. The club has always been one of the forerunners in Gaelic games in the third level sector. In 1987 it was the first club to employ a development officer. Now there are over 80 full time coaches/development officers employed in the country. The club intends to continue its proud tradition and to remain one of the country's leading GAA clubs in the third level sector.

Waterford Institute of Technology's GAA Club greatly appreciates the contribution made by both present and past members from Kilkenny in making the club one of the most successful in Third Level Gaelic Games.



ASHBOURNE CUP CHAMPIONS 2001

Back: Bngid Grennan, Julie Delaney, Anna-Marie Young, Ursula Walton, Jackie O'Connor, Bngid Mullally, Deirdre Delaney Mairead Hanrick, Liz Murphy, Eve Talbot, Angela Sheeby, Ursula Jacob.

Front: Sharon Moylan, Lizzie Lynch, Ann-Maie O'Regan, Ciara Moran, Joanne Hayes, Kate Kelly (Captain), Karen Nugent, Evelyn Quigley, Kanna Sommers, Loma Donegan, Mary Walsh.



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1967
Ollie Walsh



1969
Ted Carroll



1972
Eddie Keher



1974
Pat Henderson



1975
Liam O'Brien



1979
Ger Henderson



1982
Noel Skehan



1983
Frank Cummins



1993, 2000
DJ Carey

Produced by Kilkenny Yearbook Committee



Club Focus

Kilmacow

The Future is Bright

Our under age teams must take pride of place in the club this year, with the U-14 hurling team stealing the limelight. These young guns beat Slieverue in a cracking South final only to go down to an excellent Danesfort team in the county final. They also reached the final of the Clover Tournament in Ferrybank, losing to Ballyhale Shamrocks. Our U-15s competed in the Waterford City League, as did our U-12 team. The U-11's competed in the Kilkenny Ground Hurling and Waterford City League. The U-10s played in the Waterford Ground Hurling and City League. The U-9's won a Ground Hurling Blitz in Waterford beating St. Aiden's of Wexford in the final. The U-8s won a Ground Hurling Blitz also in Waterford, beating Ballygunner in the decider. All teams also competed well at football, in school and club competitions. Well done to all concerned, as this work, from players, mentors and parents is solid foundation which to build upon.

Adults

The special juniors retained their Southern League title, loosing to Clara in the County League Final. We also retained a highly competitive and efficiently run Carrigeen Tournament Title. We went down in the Southern Final again this year but with so many young hurlers steadily progressing, it is now bringing all Special Junior competitions to high competitive standard and great to be involved in.

The Juniors were beaten in the semi-final of the All County League and although finishing on top of the Southern League/Championship table, we lost to Piltown in the first round of the knockout stages. Our U-21s competed very well in football and hurling as did our minor and U-16 teams.

Log On

When not surf your way South and log on at our web site www.kilmacow.com and our email address is kilmacow-gaa@eircom.net.

Summer Camp and Coaching

Fantastic weather, fabulous turnout and some great fun was had where children from other clubs and parishes mixed and learned new skills from each other as

well as Noel Dunphy and his team, on the second annual week-long camp. Thanks to Willie O'Connor who presented medals and certificates to all who participated. Coaching is now underway and taking place in the Marion Hall in Dunkitt throughout the winter months, where there are great turnouts to-date.

Social Affairs

A great nights dinner and dance, was held in the Rising Sun, Mullinavat, to get the year going. A number of golf outings

were had during the year, which turned out to be great craic. Plans are already underway for our foreign trip next year, and if its anything like our recent trip to Grá na Gael Club, in Harrow, North London – it should be something special.

Fundraising

As it is vital for any club to survive, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all fundraisers and sponsors, as we get only a few opportunities to do so, much appreciated.



Kilmacow U-10 Team 2001

Back: Leanne Ivory, Michael Dennehy, Joey Byrne, Ricky Stacey, Daniel Malone, Jamie O'Neill, David Dollard, Andrew Delahunty,

Front: John Byrne, John Vereker, Conor Croke, Sean Dunphy, Donal Sheehan, Emmet Blanchfield, Declan Dowling, Luke Harney.



Kilmacow U-14 Team 2001

Back: Tommy Flynn, Michael Heffernan, Paul Sheehan, Brian King, Sean McGrath, Paul Laffan, Sean Ivory, Owen Doody, Padraig Brick, Tommy Barron, David Duggan, Conor Gahan, Tommy McGuire, Owen Irish, Christopher Hughes.

Front: Paul Laffan, Liam Kearns, Fergus Walsh, John Kirby, Gerry Harney, James Fennelly, Shane Deegan, Richie Kearns, Conor Dowling, Adrian Crowe, Richard McNamara.



Club Focus

Lisdowney

Club Officers

Chairperson: PJ Kenny
Vice Chair: Paul Tallis
Secretary: Lar McEvoy
Asst Sec: Catherine McEvoy
Treasurer: Lar Carroll
PRO: Maire Kenny

Club Development

Work got underway in mid-May on developments in the Community Centre. The work will hopefully be completed early in the new year. Developments will include upgrading the existing facilities and the addition of a second dressing room. The work is well under way and with some good planning did not interrupt any of the usual activities including the Coca-Cola Sevens.

All the work is being carried out on a voluntary basis and the club is really appreciative of the time and effort all the volunteers have put in and for the sponsorship that has been received from local business for same.

Meelick Tournament

Three teams headed off to Galway in October where the U-11's, U-13's and U-15's took on Meelick Eyrecourt in a local tournament. The club had mixed fortunes on the field. About 55 young hurlers travelled with everyone getting to play. Meelick Eyrecourt visit Lisdowney every year for the Coca-Cola Sevens and they extended an invitation to Lisdowney to take part in their tournament.

The U-10 football team retained their county final title in the Community Games. Lisdowney then represented Kilkenny in Wexford where they were beaten by a combined team representing

Bree. The U-13s Hurlers also had a good run in the Community Games. The Primary School hurling team were beaten in the semi-final of the Country Cup by a last minute goal. But all was not lost, the same team went on to win the Roinn C County Final beating Conahy in the final.

The U-14's had one of their best years for quite a while. They put in some great displays, narrowly beaten in the Championship and League Semi Finals. The Minors qualified for the league final only to be beaten after a replay by the Fenians.

The special juniors were unfortunate to miss out on the league semi-final. The junior team beat Mt Leinster Ranger to claim the Fennelly Cup.

The club is trying to promote handball among the Juveniles. Coaching lessons are in progress and it is hoped to start a league in the near future. Lisdowney was chosen as a venue for the County

Development Squads with U-15 and U-16 training sessions taking place in Lisdowney.

Catherine Dunne RIP

Lisdowney GAA Club bid a sad farewell to one of its club members and friends, Catherine Dunne on 25th October 2001. Catherine had been involved with the club for many years.

In that time she gave generously of her time as club medic for all grades. She had a deep love for the game particularly for her native Co. Waterford and Lisdowney. She was always available to the club and also assisted with the camogie teams at various stages. Her kindness and support will be sadly missed by all those who knew her. The club wishes to extend deepest sympathy to her husband Mick, sons Pat and Michael and to her extended family and large circle of friends.



Lisdowney U-12 Hurling team 2001

Back: Robert Buckley, Daniel Lyons, Martin Phelan, Rory Hickey, Aaron Fogarty, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Stephen Murphy, Eddie Hickey, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Eoin Warren, David O'Reilly, Niall Mackey.

Front: Sean Phelan, Damien Cline, Brian Bergin, Jamie Burns, Keith Rowe, Stephen Ruth, Laurence Carroll, James Delaney, Kieran Delaney, Cormac Glendon, Michael Lennon, Nicholas Marum, Niall Kenny.

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Club Focus

Mullinavat

Club Developments

Much work was done on the pitch and club grounds this year. In March the pitch was sanded and spiked and this was very successful and improved the playing surface considerably. New floodlights were erected and the dressing rooms and boundary walls were painted. The club is extremely grateful to all those who supported the various appeals for funds, in particular, the wonderful response to the appeal for funds for the county final. The people of Mullinavat were magnificent and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

Football

We competed in the senior ranks for the first time this year and our young side found the going tough during the league. A great quarter-final win over Dicksboro saw us pitted against Muckalee but after a closely fought match we were beaten.

Our U-21 footballers began the year brightly with a win in the Roinn A championship (2000). They came from behind to pip O'Loughlins in an exciting final in January.

Juvenile Matters

At juvenile level the club had a quiet year. The best performance in this sector came from the U-13 team which reached the final of the Lisdowney Coco-Cola Sevens. Although beaten by an excellent Danesfort side, this team has great potential. Congratulations to Willie O'Dwyer on winning a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny.

The special junior team had a great year and was most unlucky in the county final against St. Lachtain's. Leading for most of the match, they were just edged out in the closing minutes. Pride of place on the playing field goes to our Intermediate team for a thrilling victory over Clara in the final.

The welcome given to the team on its return to the village that night and the response of the schoolchildren the next day was something special. This victory has given the whole parish a tremendous lift and we look forward to competing in the senior ranks next year. This is an exciting challenge for every member of the panel and one, which will require everyone's dedication and commitment.

Intermediate Champions meet Mgr. Maher

Team members visit Mgr. Tommy Maher, the man who put Mullinavat on the road to victory in 1984 when he trained the team to Junior success. Two players in that game, Joe Walsh and John Dunphy also played in the 2001 final.



Mullinavat Southern Junior B Champions 2001

Back: Paddy Frisby (selector), Dinny Butler, Richie Kenneally, Ger Anthony, Brendan Conway, Andrew McGovern, Michael Duggan, Eoin Maher, Tommy Holden, Declan Duggan, Seamus Farrell, Richie Raftice, Mossy Murphy (selector), Tom Duggan (trainer).

Front: Tomás Frisby, Pat Holden, Ciarán Aylward, Alan Wall (capt.), Shane Frisby, John Geary, Alan Madigan, Conor Conway, Ollie Aylward, Joe Kelly.



Mullinavat Under-21 Roinn A Football Champions 2000

Back: Richie Raftice, Keith Madigan (R.I.P.), Tony Duggan, Conor Conway, Eoin Maher, Michael Murphy, Michael Duggan, Shane Frisby, Dinny Butler, Martin Knox, Pat Butler (capt.).

Front: Tomás Frisby, John Paul Dungan, Andrew McGovern, Walter Burke, Michael Walsh, Damien Conway, Seamus Farrell, Brian Kenneally.



Club Focus

Mooncoin

On the Playing Fields

Pride of place this year goes to the Junior Football team who won the county final. The U-21's and minors are still in contention. Our intermediate hurlers reached the semi-finals of league and-championship, only to lose to St. Lachtains and Mullinavat respectively. The Junior A team lost to John Lockes in the South final and Tullaroan in the League final. The U-21 hurlers lost to Rower Inistioge in the first round and the minors went down to the same side.

Congratulations

Well done to Tom O'Hanlon who was appointed Coaching Officer to the County Board. Joe Wall was manager of the County U-14 team, Joe Dunphy a county Minor selector and Domo Connolly was a selector and player on the Masters team. Michael Prucell, Eddie Mackey, Ciaran Dunphy and Diarmuid Mackey were on the County Intermediate panel. Domo Connolly and Eddie Crowley worked as referees this year.

Development

The local Golf society ran a very successful Classic for us in Carrick-on-Suir in July. The club also ran a twenty week Silver Circle and Play for the Park lotto. The car-parking area in front of the Pavilion complex has been completed.

Obituaries

During the year past players Richie Phelan, Michael Fox and Wattie McDonald died. Richie and Michael played for the club in the forties. Wattie played at all levels with the club, winning County Junior hurling title in 1962 and Senior in 1965. Wattie also played for the county team. May they rest in peace. The club extends sympathes to all who suffered bereavements during the year.

Juvenile Notes

Chairman: Paddy Crowley
 Secretary : Josephine Wall
 Treasurer: Seamus Crowley
 U-9 - Three teams took part in the Roanmore Blitz. The A team reached the final but were narrowly beaten. Two teams participated in the Butlerstown camogie tournament and both contested the final!

This year saw the introduction of a girls ground hurling tournament in which eight

neighbouring teams participated.
 U-10 - We had two teams in the Watford City League. A mixed parish league was played between sixty boys and girls.
 U-11 - This team was successful in the Clover and Ballyragget tournaments and reached the semi-finals of the Waterford City League.
 U-12 - De La Salle beat us in the final of the City League and we reached the semi-final of the Dicksboro Tournament. Our girls were finalists in the Butlerstown tournament.
 U-13 - A busy year here both in the City League and O'Loughlins Blitz reaching finals in both competitions.
 U-14 - This year we were back in Roinn

A and reached the semi-final where we lost to James Stephens. The Sean Tyler Cup competition was a huge success.
 U-16 - We reached the semi-final in both league and championship but lost to eventual winners Carrickshock.

Representative Honours

Thomas Kearns, Michael Grace and Nicky Hennebry represented the club in the INTO Sevens.
 Sean Wall and Liam Hennebry were members of the Tony Forristal panel and Ray Wall was on the successful Nenagh Co-op team. Chris Hearne was second in the County Poc fada.



Mooncoin U-9 Hurlers

Back: Ciaran Blanchfield, Rory Gallagher, Mark O'Neill, Aidan Walsh, Conor O'Toole, Niall Madden.
Front: Craig Skerritt, Ellen Crowley, Laura Wall, Ethan Dobbyn.



Mooncoin - Under 12 Hurlers

Back: Richie Doyle, Cormac Daly, Niall Dowling, Shane Walsh, PJ Rowe, Thomas Kearns, Colm Walsh, Nicky Hennebry, Brian Meade, Daniel Purcell, Paul Delahunty, Genna Hennebry, Eamonn Hennebry.
Front: Thomas Healy, AJ Wall, Mark Fitzgerald, John Healy, Eoin Crowley, Donnacha Hassett, Stephen Crowley, Liam Walsh, Ian Dunphy, Ricky Croke, Elaine Delahunty.



Club Focus

Muckalee Football Club

Officers 2001

Chairman: Larry Maher
Vice-chairman: Nicky Morrissey
Secretary: Paddy Morrissey
Treasurer: Patsy Murphy

On the field

The first year of the new millennium will not be forgotten too soon in the hills around Muckalee as the Ned Langton cup came back to the parish after a lapse of 11 years when, on a beautiful August evening, our senior footballers overcame the challenge of Erin's Own to win the senior football championship for the sixth time.

The year started with a win over great rivals Railyard. This was the first time in thirteen years that this feat was accomplished. It gave great heart to the team. However, the next outing against Erin's Own ended in defeat by five points. It was at this stage that the club decided to approach Michael Dempsey to train the team. This was to prove a master stroke. The players immediately responded to him and he quickly left his mark as wins over Glenmore and Dicksboro soon followed. This left the team in the quarter-final where they were drawn against Mullinavat. This proved to be a tough match in bad conditions but Muckalee eventually pulled through by 2-4 to 0-4. In the semi-final, they were pitted against James Stephens. They won this game somewhat easier than expected by 1-9 to 0-4.

The county final against near neighbours, Erins Own, was played on 30th June and after some great football, ended all square (Muckalee 2-7, Erins Own 1-10). The replay was played on 2nd August and ended in great scenes of jubilation by Muckalee players and supporters alike when the final whistle blew. This was a just reward for the effort that the players and trainer, Michael Dempsey had put in.

Our junior team did not fare as well early on, being beaten by Danesfort, the Fenians and Ballyragget and receiving a walkover from Lisdowney. Because they fulfilled all their fixtures they were automatically entered in the special junior championship. They had a good win in their first game, beating Galmoy easily. They played old adversaries, Railyard, in the northern final winning this game by



Pictured at the new extension to the dugouts in Muckalee are: **Richard Nolan** (Selector), **Paddy Morrissey** (Secretary), **Larry Maher** (Chairman), **Paddy Hanlon** (Sponsor), **Rose Hanlon** (Sponsor) and **Patsy Murphy** (Treasurer).



Tom Daly and Larry Maher present a set of club polo shirts to Coon/Muckalee U13 football team before their appearance in the Country Cup and Roinn A Football Finals. Pictured are **Tom Daly**, **Anthony Maher**, **Ollie Walsh**, **Larry Maher** and **Conor Kelly**.

1-14 to 3-2. They are now waiting to play Shamrocks in the county final. So, what started out badly might yet end up well. The U21 team beat Clara in their first game but went out tamely to Emeralds in their next game (0-6 to 0-3)

The future for football in the parish looks bright with the U14, U16 and minor teams all winning the county titles in their respective age groups, the U14 team winning their title for the third year in succession.

Development

The extension to the dugouts was completed during the summer. This will increase the capacity to seat around 150

people. This project was very generously sponsored by Paddy Hanlon who emigrated to America from Clopook. The senior footballers were very well kitted-out for the county final with a new set of jerseys which were donated by Margaret O'Leary of Crane Hire Ltd. Dalkey, Co. Dublin. Margaret also resides in the Millfall House, The Ridge. Conor Moloney of the Strand Bar, Coon also sponsored some socks and shorts for the occasion. Margaret O'Leary also sponsored kit bags for the Leinster club championship. Our immense gratitude goes to Margaret, Paddy, Conor and Malachy Murphy who all helped make this a memorable year for the club.



Club Focus

O'Loughlin Gaels

Chairman: John Skehan
Vice Chair: Jim O'Hara
Secretary: Seamus Foster
PRO: Margaret Hanlon
Finance: Sean Casey
Games: Mick Nolan
Grounds: Marty Hanlon
Youth: John Joe Cullen
Social: Paddy Greene
Development: Coleman Loughnane
Membership: John Direen
Handball: Con Moore
Co. Board Del.: Martin Brennan

Juvenile Committee

Chairman: John Joe Cullen
Vice Chair: Peter Dowling
Secretary: John Sheridan
PRO: Gerry Tyrell

The Club would like to extend deepest sympathies to Club Members who suffered bereavements during the past year.

Development

Along with the development of a new bar the entire structure at the country end of our building has been enhanced. As part of the development we have moved our main entrance and provide a new, well designed entrance. It is a fitting year to give the Club such a facelift on the occasion of winning the Senior Hurling Championship for the first time.

All Ireland Handball Winners 2001

60 x 30 Softball

J Singles: Eddie Burke

J Doubles: Eddie Burke & Martin Lawlor

G M Doubles: P. Reilly & S. Roche

Leinster Champions

Emerald Masters: J. O'Neill & A. Greene

U-13 Doubles: K. Greene & K. Shortt

Juvenile Matters

Sunday Morning Hurling Coaching continues to be a great success.

The U'8's are coached by Hugh Mahon, Gerry Buckley, Vinny Nolan & Johnny Holohan. The U-10's also had a busy year with coaches John Wemyss, Kevin Lenihan, Mick Bourke and Joe Nolan. Several challenge games home and away were organised, with a city competition between the three city clubs played during September.

The highlight of the U-12's season was winning the John Lockes Tournament. Mark Bergin received player of the Tournament. Coaches were Richie

Kearns, Denis Tyrell, James O'Donoghue & Gerry Tyrell. The U-13's won the Diarmuid Shortall Cup. Stephen Shortt was player of the Tournament. Joe Walsh and Mark Bergin took part in the INTO skills on Leinster

Final day.

U-14 Player of the Year was Darren Hayes. Coaches here were Benny Cleere, Denis Tyrell, James O'Donoghue and Gerry Tyrell.

U-16 Player of the Year was David Wall. Coaches were Philly Holohan, Brian Murphy, Peter Dowling and Eddie Leahy. Peter Dowling won a Nenagh Co-Op medal.

Brian Dowling won a Leinster Minor Medal with Kilkenny and also a Senior County medal. Coaches were Brian Murphy, Anthony Bergin and Peter Dowling.

Senior Success

Our magnificent senior success is dealt with elsewhere in the book. Andy Comerford was selected for the 2000 All Star Hurling Team. Sean Dowling & Alan Geoghegan joined him on the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Panel. Brian Dowling was a member of the Kilkenny Minor team and Brian Hogan and Brian Murphy were members of the Kilkenny U-21 team.



O'Loughlin Gaels - Winners John Lockes U-12 Tournament

Back: Rick Leydon, David Carter, Pat Cantwell, Chris Lambert, Mark Bergin, Jonathan Kearney, Joe Walsh, Enda Butler, Enna Walsh, Craig Sutton, Kevin Manning, Andy Smith.

Front: Eddie Kearns, Michael McCarthy, David Rice, Bryan McPartlan, Brian Cooper, Philip Johnston, John Monaghan, Martin Gibbons, Stephen Murphy, Gary Meaney, Robbie McPartlan.



O'Loughlin Gaels - winners Diarmuid Shortall Tournament

Back: Stephen Murphy, Darren Leahy, Stephen Lynch, Craig Sutton, Pat Cantwell, Chris Lambert, Brendan Cleere, Gerry Rowe, Eion Wall, Stephen Shortt, Niall Phelan, Kevin Morrissey, Kevin Manning.

Front: Niall Kiely, Eddie Kearns, Stuart Delaney, Rick Leydon, Conor Bergin, Andy Kearns (Capt), Mark Bergin, David Grincell, Mark Kelly, Joe Walsh.



Club Focus

Piltown

Officers:

President: Fr. Paschal Moore P.P.
Vice-Presidents: Fr. Sean Condon C.C.
Rev. George Cliffe
Chairperson: Stephen O'Brien
Vice-Chairperson: Bill Costello
Secretary: Philip Walsh
Assistant-Secretary: Sinead O'Shea
Treasurer: David Kinsella Asst.
Treasurers: Liam Kearns/Ned Power
P. R. O. Dan Kenny
Registrar: Michael Long
Delegates: Co. Board: Ed Blackmore
Southern Board: Sean Norris
Bord na n-Og: Bill Costello
Schools' Board: Mark Connolly

Juvenile Report:

It was another year of frantic activity for the club's under-age players. Our U14 hurlers reached the Roinn B county final for the third consecutive year. A fine Clara side proved just too strong, despite a valiant effort from Jim and Sean Norris' team.

The club was represented in the excellent Waterford City Leagues at under-10, 11, 12 and 13 levels, with a huge number of games played throughout the year. Our U11s enjoyed the "Camaint" competitions for ground hurling, while the new U12 competition proved very beneficial.

With all these competitions our young hurlers have plenty of opportunities to use the skills they learn at training every Sunday. It was encouraging this year to see increased numbers of children attending U9 training and record numbers at the Summer Hurling Camp.

Camogie continues to thrive due to the hard work of Jim Malone and the committee members.

Our own U17 competition continues to provide important matches for this age group. Jim Power's efforts with our U16s and minor deserve special mention. Niall O'Brien League:

This parish hurling league was revived with great success as captains, Richie Connolly, James Farrell, Philip Kenny and John Malone did trojan work as they succeeded in getting over sixty players to take part. It promises to be a great final between Richie's and Philip's teams who were very impressive in their semi-final wins.

Junior Hurling:

The special junior B team had a very good run in the league before losing narrowly to Tullogher-Rosbercon in the semi-final. It was extremely disappointing, however, when they failed to field a team in the championship. The fact that many of their players had become ineligible due to playing junior did not help.

The junior team displayed indifferent form which saw them struggle in both league and championship. A couple of good displays got them into the All-County league final but Emeralds were just that bit sharper for them in the decider. In the southern championship they had to rely on Windgap beating Tullogher-Rosbercon to make the play-off. Again a couple of good displays got them to the final. The southern final proved to be a very disappointing occasion for a very hopeful team as they simply didn't raise a gallop. Apart from a few exceptions this very poor display gives the club much serious consideration as this squad goes back to the drawing-board.

U21 Hurling:

The U21 hurlers put up a very spirited display against a strong Windgap team and led for most of the game before losing out in the last ten minutes.

Football:

The intermediate footballers captured the football crown for the second time and made a quick return to senior ranks after an absence of one year. They will also contest the Leinster Junior tournament.

The U21s played a thrilling first round game against Dunamaggin, snatching an equaliser in the final minutes.

Social Club:

With cards on a Thursday, table quiz



Tommy Duggan, Chairman Football Board presents Liam Kenny, Piltown Captain, with the Intermediate Football Cup

on a Friday and dancing at weekends, the social club continues to go from strength to strength.

Development

The Co-Op. draw was again an outstanding success. New showers were installed in the dressing-rooms and the lounge area of the social club got a major face-lift making it extremely comfortable and bright.

The fencing in the back field was erected behind the goals by the F. A. S. scheme. Great credit is due to Bobby Mc Carthy and Jim Power for this fine work. Locals, Patsy Walsh and Billy Norris, gave invaluable help.

Trees were felled at the roadside and the whole area landscaped again. Sympathy

The Club mourns the deaths of well-known local hurley-maker, William (Sonny) Falconer and his wife, Mary Jo. They were most helpful to every club no matter what time of the day or night when those last minute hurleys were urgently required.

The Club also mourns the death of former player, trainer and mentor, Jimmy Malone. (See obituaries)

Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamacha go leir.



Club Focus

Railyard

A Quiet Year?

This year in the Railyard club it has been relatively quiet. The seniors reached the league final but lost to Erins Own. The juniors also went as far as the semi-finals but were narrowly beaten by Muckalee. The U-21s made us proud by winning the county championship.

Juvenile

On the juvenile front the year has seen an increase in numbers and a lot of voluntary help is needed now to guide them along.

Our minors have been the new blood for the past few years. Having won all championships up from schools they crowned it by winning the minor A title. This was the first minor A title for the club.

Ladies Football

The ladies entered their first team this year in the Laois Junior championships under trainer Martin Buggy. They had a great opening victory over Rosenallis and Clonaslee Gaels but lost narrowly to an experienced Ratheniska side. However a fine win over neighbours Crettyard gave them a semi-final place against Sarsfields of Kildare but were narrowly beaten.

This team boasted players from Coon, Muckalee and Conahy. The ladies would like to thank all who supported them throughout the year, especially sponsors, Mansfields, Breda's Salon and the other businesses who helped financially.



Railyard Ladies Football 2001

Back: C. Coogan, M. Love, N. Curran, C. Gibbons, Y. Mansfield, J. Maher, B. Roche, G. Roche, M. Cantwell, AM Murphy.

Front: C. Brennan, M. Maher, M. Ryan, M. Brennan, K. Roche, C. Burke, A. Brennan, M. Cahill, J. Roche.
Missing: M. O'Keeffe, M. Dowd, G. Daly, S. McDonald, N. Kearns, M. Dowd, R. Dwyer.



Railyard - U-16 County Football Champions 2001

Back: M. Lawlor, P. Donnelly, P. Dowd (trainer), TJ Comerford, S. Allen, A. Whelan, C. Phillips, P. Roche, J. Dowd, N. Dowd, S. Maher N. Lawlor (trainer), G. Dowd.

Front: M. Fitzgerald, S. O'Shea, C. Whelan, J. Murphy, P. Brennan, P. Burns, R. Walsh, S. Dowd, T. Champion, P. Dowd, J. Keane.



Railyard - Minor Football Roinn A Champions 2001

Back: J. Power, P. Roche, S. Maher, TJ Comerford, M. Farrell, C. Phillips, P. Roche, T. Holohan, J. Dowd, L. Lyng, S. Hennessy.
Front: P. Brennan, S. Allen, B. Brennan, S. Dowd, R. Walsh, P. Donnelly, T. Murphy, A. Nolan.



Club Focus

Rower - Inistioge

The Year 2001 was another very successful year for the Rower-Inistioge GAA Club, with great activity being enjoyed on and off the field.

Pride of place must be shared between the Minor and Under 21 hurlers together with the Intermediate Footballers who have all brought honors to the Club in 2001.

Bord Na nÓg

The Under age hurlers had a very active year with many training sessions and games been arranged throughout the season. The U-8 and U-9 hurlers participated in the Roanmore ground hurling tournament in Waterford with the U-9 team winning their group outright. The U-10 team qualified for the final of the New Ross Caulfield's league Final for the second year in succession, and also participated in the Waterford City ground hurling league. The U-11 team participated with great success in the Camaint and also played in the Clover meats Tournament in Waterford.

In the newly formed U-12 Tournament, the Rower-Inistioge team emerged victorious following a great final game with neighbors, Graignamanagh.

School Competitions

The Schools hurling team narrowly missed out on qualification for the play off stages of the Roinn B championship going down to Graignamanagh in their final game.

The Schools Footballers are still actively involved in the Roinn A schools league with the final group games now scheduled for November.

U-14 and U-16

The U-14 Hurlers qualified for the Championship quarter-final but lost to Erins Own in a replay.

The U-16s narrowly missed out on qualification for the league semi-final losing to eventual league champions Conahy Shamrocks. In the championship, the U-16's had impressive victories over Thomastown and Mullinavat, but Clara the eventual County Champions proved too strong in the quarter final.

Minor and U- 21 Hurling

Pride of place must go the U-21 hurlers who won the county title in convincing fashion against St. Martins. The Minor hurlers suffered defeat in the Roinn B County Final for the second year in succession but are presently in the league final. Congratulations to Kieran Joyce, Pat Tierney, Sean Cummins and Paul Sheehan who represented the Club on the County U-14, U-15, U-16 and U-21 teams, and to all members of Development squads.

Intermediate and Special Junior

The Intermediate and special Junior hurlers enjoyed a great start to their campaigns with success in a number of their league games.



Club President and his wife, **Marty and Maureen Butler**. Marty has been a great servant to the GAA through out his life. He has been in Croke Park this year on three occasions.

The Intermediate hurlers did well to qualify for the ACHL final but had to give second best to Clara

In the first round of the championship, Bennettsbridge proved too strong for the youthful Inistioge team.

The special juniors lost to Mooncoin in the League final and to John Lockes in the Championship.

The Intermediate Footballers won the League but lost the Championship final to Piltown.

Club Activities

Off the field of play, the highlights of the Year was the Club dinner dance in February and the fund raising Golf classic, which was held in May. Our Dinner Dance was a great success with the event being used to present medals to the successful Minor Hurlers, Junior Camogie team, and the Junior Footballers of 2000. We honored our own Eddie Keher who has brought great success and honour to the Rower-Inistioge Club. Many great hurling teams have been selected to celebrate the

Centenary of the GAA and the Millennium.

Eddie has the unique distinction of been selected on all of them. Fr. Tom Murphy on behalf of the GAA Club made a special presentation to Eddie.

Club Chairman Jim Mooney made a presentation to Benny Holohan on his retirement as Bord Na Nog Secretary. Benny has been secretary since its formation in 1986 and has been instrumental in the development of underage coaching in the club.

The Golf Classic in New Ross was an outstanding success and Michéal Ó Mhuircheartaigh presented the prizes after a great day's golf.

Tommy Hayes retired as Principal of Inistioge NS. Tommy enjoyed great success with school hurling teams throughout the sixties and seventies winning five U-14 County titles in nine years.

Appreciation

Thanks to all the officers of the club, team Managers and Selectors and all who have given unselfishly of their time for the betterment of The Rower-Inistioge GAA Club throughout 2001.

Sincere sympathy is extended to all Club members who suffered bereavements throughout the year.

Ar Dheis De Go Raibh Siad.

Club Officers 2001

President: Marty Butler
 Vice-President: Michéal Roche
 Chairman: Jim Mooney
 Secretary: Ger Mackey
 Treasurer: Richard Tierney
 Bord Na Nog Chairman: Rd. Delahunty
 Bord Na Nog Secretary: Jack Lyng



Rower-Inistioge Camaint 2001

Back: David Tennyson, Brendan Meaney, Eoin Malone, Dara Kelly, Tadhg Leahy, Brendan Lyng, Brian Muldoon, James Cashin.

Front: Thomas Grace, Thomas Tennyson, Shane Brennan, Dean Keogh, Pdraig Fleming, Joe Lyng, Kevin Minogue.



Club Focus

Slieverue



Major Development

Over the last couple of years the committee and officers of the club have embarked on a refurbishment program aimed at upgrading the dressing room facilities at the club grounds. The committee has recognized for a long time that the playing space within the club grounds has been inadequate to service the needs of both adult and juvenile members. With this in mind club officials investigated the possibility of acquiring additional grounds but the parishes close proximity to Waterford and the demand for development land has pushed land prices in the area way beyond the means of the club. With this in mind the committee decided to try and maximize the use of existing club property. It was decided to relocate the existing adult pitch and lay a new juvenile pitch. The new juvenile pitch dimensions will be approximately 100 meters by 80 meters. This will relieve the pressure on the adult pitch and will help to make it available more often to adult and older youth members. The re-organization of the club grounds will mean that up to three nets will have to be installed within the grounds at a substantial cost to the club. With the completion of the club grounds redevelopment it is hoped that the infrastructure will meet the needs of the next generation of club players.

Development Squads

During the year many young players took part in the County Development squads organized by the County Board. The squads were well attended by the clubs young players. The Clubs representatives in the U-14 squads were Niall Walsh, Kevin Mulligan, Declan Ryan, Andy Hogan and Sean Connolly. Darragh Cullen, Brendan Haberlin. Ian Somers and Gavin Quilty represented the club on the U-15 squad. During the Summer Sean Loughman represented the club in the Feile skills competition and did very well against very good competition.

Aidan Hogan Tournament

This year was the inaugural year of the Aidan Hogan Perpetual Memorial Trophy for U-15 Hurling. Several local clubs took part in the competition and it turned out to be a huge success with all the young players. Slieverue and Geraldine O'Hanrahans from New Ross were the eventual finalists and Slieverue came out as the winners in a very competitive final.

Slieverue Parish History

Everyone who is involved with the GAA

in Kilkenny will know of the contribution to the association by Jim Walsh a long time Slieverue club official. His contribution at both Club and County level has spanned a lifetime. Over recent years Jim has exercised his love of local history by compiling historical material of Slieverue parish and its environs. This collection of historical facts has been put together by Jim in his history of the parish, launched at this years Eigse. The book includes information on historical events, people who influenced Irish history, important buildings in the area but most important of all it will be the historical account of the parishes people. There is coverage of important sporting personalities and events within the parish, especially in relation to the GAA that has been a life time love of Jim's. If you have even the remotest connection to Slieverue or are a lover of local History this book is a must.

Sympathy

The club would like to take this opportunity to offer its deepest sympathy to members and friends of the club who may have experienced the loss of loved ones during the year.



Picking the Team
Slieverue selectors, Pat Walsh, Ted Rockett and Liam Knox.



Club Focus

St Lachtain's

At the reconvened A.G.M., the club elected its first female secretary, Mary Fortune. New officials also filled the other main positions. Eamonn Kelly was elected as chairman and Brian Kavanagh was returned as treasurer.

On the social side a barbecue, the Golf Classic and the Golden Jubilee celebrations were the highlights.

On Friday November 9th., the club celebrated its Golden Jubilee. A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered by Canon Henry, P.P., in St. Lachtain's Church. Afterwards all roads led to Langton's Hotel for a joint celebratory dinner with St. Lachtain's Camogie Club. Over 380 packed in to mark this auspicious occasion. Chief guests of honour were the members of the team which won the Roinn B Under 14 hurling championship in 1951.

The presentation of medals to the winners of the 2001 Intermediate and Special Junior B hurling leagues and the winners of the Senior camogie championship also took place.

On the playing fields it was the most successful year since 1993. The winning of the two adult titles provided the highlights. A controversial disallowed goal caused a draw in the Intermediate championship semi-final. St. Lachtain's bowed out of the competition in the replay. The Under 21's gave great enjoyment with two wins in the Northern championship but lost out in the quarter-final. Murty Kennedy was a selector with the county Under 21 team.

The minor hurlers reached the Division 4 league final and were unfortunate to lose by one point. Congratulations to Robbie Dowling who won a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny. Brian Waldron was a selector with this team.

The Under 16s hurlers reached the semi-final of both the league and champi-



Team members, or representatives, of the 1951 Roinn B Under 14 county champions who received a commemorative presentation at St. Lachtain's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Back: Johnny Butler, Pat Cullinan (representing his brother Fr. Billy), John Teehan, Mrs. Kay Julian (representing her late husband Billy), Sarah McGrath (representing her uncle Frank Dawson), Liam Butler, Denis Butler, Eddie Lawlor. Front: Jimmy Cullinan, Nicky Grace, Phil Delaney, Mrs. Phil Grace (representing her brother Matty Maher), Pa Dillon, Sean Flynn.



ST LACHTAIN'S UNDER 12 TEAM

Back: Garda Mike Cormack, Edwin Brennan, Michael Cormack, John Fitzpatrick, Naoise Waldron, Ross Costigan, David Fitzpatrick, Paul Guinan, Brian Kennedy, Lachtain Kennedy, Kieran White, Liam Darcy. **Front:** Patrick Rafter, Tomás Flynn, Byron Butler, John Kennedy, Conrad Cooper, Gerard Dunne, Stephen Farrell, Paul Dermody, Brendan Quinn.

onship. Bill Beckett was on the successful Under 16 county team.

The highlight of the Under 14 league campaign was a tremendous drawn game with Tullaroan.

The Scoil Lachtain under 13 team reached the quarter-final of the league.

The Under 12 team won their section of the new Bórd na nÓg tournament.

Sympathy is extended to the families of members bereaved during the year and especially to the families of Din Lennon, Lil McCarthy and Nicholas J. Harrison. Go ndéana Dia trócaire orthu.



Club Focus

St Martin's

Intermediate News.

St. Martins intermediate team had a disappointing year which never sparked into life.

They exited the championship at the quarterfinal stage and the all county league at the semi final stage. They have however qualified for the finals of the Tom Kinsella Memorial Tournament and the Ballinabranna Tournament, which have still to be played. Erin's Own provides the opposition in both.

Special Junior and U21.

Our special junior team had a respectable year bowing out of the Championship to Tullaroan after a replay. Our U21 team have had a great run in the Roinn B championship and have qualified for the County final against Rower Inistoige.

St. Martins Bord Na nÓg

On the underage front while not reaching the heights of 2000 it has still been a hectic and enjoyable year for the club. The school team won the Roinn B football championship and reached the quarterfinal of the Roinn A hurling Championship.

The U10's were beaten by Clara in the final of the Jim Comerford Tournament. The u 11's had a successful camaint campaign.

The U12's took part in the new county summer league winning their shield final. They also competed in the Dennis Molloy Tournament.

The U13's gave a great account of themselves in both the Lisdowney sevens and the O Loughlins Tournament.

Our U14's retained the Roinn B football championship defeating Clara in the final. They reached the semi final of the Roinn B hurling championship before losing to Piltown.

Our U16 hurlers lost to Conahy in the Roinn B semi final. The football team reached the County Roinn A league final but lost to Piltown. They still have the

championship to look forward to. Our minor hurlers won the shield final by defeating Mullinavat. In the Roinn A Championship they were beaten at the quarter-final stage. They are now embarking on the trail of the football championship.

County Involvement.

- A number of players represented the club at underage level during the year.
- ◆ Under 14 Football - *Patrick Nolan, Mick Morrissey, Joe Maher, John Mulhall, James Dowling.*
- ◆ Under 15 Football - *Ronan Maher, James Maher, Aidan Murphy.*
- ◆ Under 15 Hurling - *Ronan Maher, James Maher.*
- ◆ Under 16 Hurling - *Shane Cadogan, Owen McGrath won Nenagh Co-op Tournament with Kilkenny.*
- ◆ Minor Football - *Shane Coonan, Don Callanan, Niall Moran, Thomas Nolan and John Coonan.*
- ◆ Minor Hurling - *Damien Maher won a Leinster medal with Kilkenny.*

Club Members who were selectors on Kilkenny Teams.

- ◆ Tony Maher was a selector with the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team.
- ◆ Dick Nolan was a selector with the Kilkenny Minor Football Team.

- ◆ Patsy Murphy was a selector with the Kilkenny U-15 Football Team.

Other Achievements.

The club had nine players on the Castlewarren U13 Hurling Team who won the gold medals in the Community Games Finals in Mosney - Patrick Nolan, Colin McGrath, Fionn Lawlor, Noel Darcy, Conor Kelly, Thomas Breen, Ciaran Brennan, Oliver Walsh and Roderick Hogan.

The following club members were on the Castlecomer Community School Team that won the Leinster U-14 Roinn C Football Final - James Maher, Joseph Maher Shane Comerford, Mick Morrissey, Padhraig Callinan, Padhraig Haughney, Mark Murphy, Micheal Morrissey, Tomas Morrissey and Paul Coogan .

John Mulhall won a Rice Cup medal with Kilkenny CBS
Patrick Nolan won the U13 All Ireland Handball Championship.
Diarmuid Brennan, Mark Nolan and Ricky Nolan won U-15 All Ireland Handball medals.

Congratulations.

Congratulations to Tom Agars, Coon and Patricia Egan, Castlecomer who were married during the year.



ST MARTIN'S - MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN B CHAMPIONS 2000
Back: Shane Coonan, Conor Kinsella, Niall Moran, Don Callinan, Michael Mulhall, Damien Maher, Kieran Kelly, Tom Nolan, John Coonan, Declan Holohan, Stephen Murphy, Brendan Maher, Joseph Shore.
Front: John Buggy, Pat Quirke, David Shore, Eoin McGrath, Robert Shore, Shem Kelly, Tom Kinsella, Shane Cadogan, Edmund Hogan, Michael Walsh, Kieran Byrne.



Club Focus

St Pat's, Ballyragget

Development

After many months of planning and dozens of meetings, the way is now clear for development work to go ahead at the local park. Planning permission is now being sought for new dressing room facilities and the upgrading of the entrance area. It is expected work will commence during the coming year. New nets have been erected behind both goalmouths while the new floodlighting has proved to be a huge help.

Phelan tournament

The second annual Phelan tournament proved to be hugely successful with sixteen teams taking part. After five weekends of exciting hurling, Mooncoin surprised city kingpins, James Stephens, in the final of the Phelan tournament while O Loughlin Gaels edged out Erins Own in the Benny Stone memorial final for first round losers. Inter-county star Michael Kavanagh, Bord na nÓg chairman, Joe Pyke, Jimmy Phelan, who sponsored the Phelan tournament, and members of the Stone family, who sponsored the Benny Stone cup, were special guests on finals day.

Inter County

Shane Dowling was a member of the Kilkenny team that won the Arrabawn Co-op (formerly Nenagh Co-op) U16 inter-county tournament in Tipperary. Brian (Brooky) Phelan was a member of the Kilkenny U21 team that was beaten by Wexford in the Leinster final.

Fund Raising

The club's weekly lottery draw and the Hurlers Co-op draw were once again the main sources of income.

Club Lottery Prize Fund

There were six jackpot winners up to the end of October. They were Helen Phelan (£6,800) Marty Butler (£2,800) John Mc Grath (£2,400) Jim Morrissey (£1,800) Jason Culleton (£1,400) Robert Irwin

(£1,000 Overall, almost £24,000 was paid out in prize money in the first ten months of the year.

Obituaries

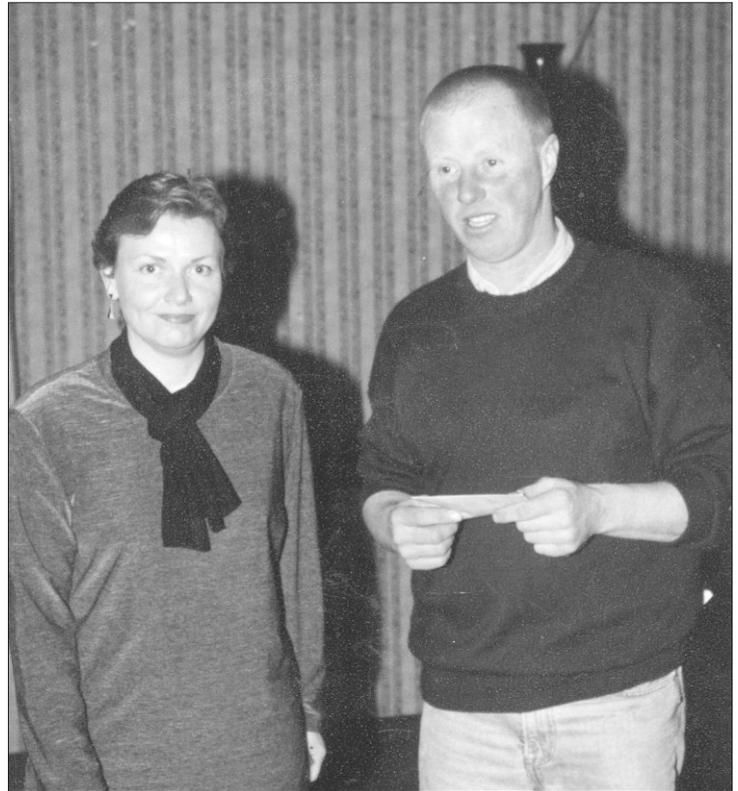
Club members and indeed the wider community were shocked to learn of the untimely deaths of both Seanie Butler and Mark Kennedy early in the year. A native of Clomantagh, Seanie who played with the club in the late sixties and early seventies was a very accomplished forward and represented Kilkenny at Intermediate level. Mark was a noted midfielder who played with the club in the fifties. Following his retirement, he continued his support for the club at every level and rarely missed a game involving St Patrick's or, indeed, Kilkenny. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and to all who suffered bereavements during the year

On the playing fields

Details of the club's efforts on the playing fields can be found elsewhere in this publication. The under 21 hurlers and the under 16 footballers were the most successful of the club's teams this year.

Under Age

It was a very good year for the club's under age section with several new coaches coming in to help out with the very young players in particular. The club



Helen Phelan, Moate, was one of the big winners in the club Lotto 2001. She is pictured here receiving her cheque for £6,800 from club chairman, Lar McEvoy.

now has teams at under 8, 9,10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, and minor. The U13 team, under the guidance of schoolteachers Mick and Claire O Connor and Pat O'Neill, reached the semi-final of the primary schools league where they lost narrowly to Conahy Shamrocks

Presentation Night

The club's Annual dinner dance had to be cancelled due to the foot and mouth crisis early in the year but a presentation night was held in Stapleton's in November in which the minor hurlers belatedly received their championship medals and coaches who had completed the foundation coaching course were presented with their certificates.

The following received certificates:- Dessie Staunton, Lar McEvoy, Philip Kenny, John Lacey, Helen Dooley, Anne Brennan, Marie Holland, Damien Walshe, Joseph Brennan, Henry Mooney, Eileen Mulhall.



Club Focus

Thomastown

Thomastown GAA Club

Ollie Walsh Memorial

The GAA year in Thomastown was dominated by the unveiling of the Ollie Walsh Memorial in Mill Street in August. It was the culmination of almost 5 years work for the hard-working committee and it was fitting that the President of the GAA, Sean McCague and the Chairman of the Leinster Council, Seamus Aldridge, took time out from their busy schedules to be with us in Thomastown for this special occasion. The site in Mill Street, on the spot where Ollie was born and where he first learned his hurling craft, was transformed over a matter of days from a building site to what is now a famous landmark in Thomastown. The memorial has been the subject of much praise and hundreds of people have stopped since that great evening in August to admire the work and have photographs taken. As we go to print, work is at an advanced stage to have the monument floodlit.

In association with the unveiling, the local Bank of Ireland branch secured an outside broadcast of Sue Nunn's popular "Kilkenny Agenda" and an Ollie Walsh special was aired from Mill Street on that same weekend. Joe Dunphy, Tommy Hayes, Mick Kelly, John Murphy and a host of others recounted great stories of Ollie's hurling days. Ollie's sons, Michael & Billy, also contributed to the feature which received much positive response and set the tone nicely for the opening ceremony on the following Sunday.

On Field Activities

This year was an unsuccessful one on the playing fields. Having fallen at the semi-final stage last year, hopes were high that our Intermediate team could do well this year. With three points in the bag from our first two games, courtesy of a draw with newly promoted James Stephens and a fine win over neighbours Bennettsbridge, it seemed like we were well on our way. But then successive defeats against Mooncoin, eventual champions Mullinavat, and St Martins left us in the relegation zone. We played some great hurling at times during all these games but complete second half collapses against St Martins and

Mooncoin were hard to explain. On to the relegation semi-final and a poor performance against Carrickshock saw us out of the championship and our season hanging on a knife-edge with a relegation final against Blacks and Whites. The team put in an excellent performance and had a comfortable victory in the end. One wonders how far this team might have progressed had they played like that in the other games. However, the performance of some of the younger players in that play-off augers well for the future.

Our Special Juniors had a great start when they had their first win in the championship in many years with victory over Carrigeen. In the next round they were most unlucky not to hold out when they lead Kilmacow by 4 points with time up. But two sores from a gallant Kilmacow side in injury time saw them force a replay. The stronger Kilmacow side had a 6 point win in the replay. Both our under-21's and minors fell at the first hurdle.

Under-Age

Much good work continues to be done at under-age level and the dedication of all those involved in coaching under 9's, 10's and 12's over the past few years is beginning to pay off. The under -14 football team were narrowly beaten by Castlecomer in the Roinn A final but they hope to go one better when they meet the same opposition in the under-13 Winter League Final shortly. The under 16 squad disappointed somewhat after a great season in 2000. However much good work continues and it is certain that with the dedication of Martin Farrell, Helena O'Hara, Richard Moore and all the other parents the future of the games in Thomastown is in good hands.

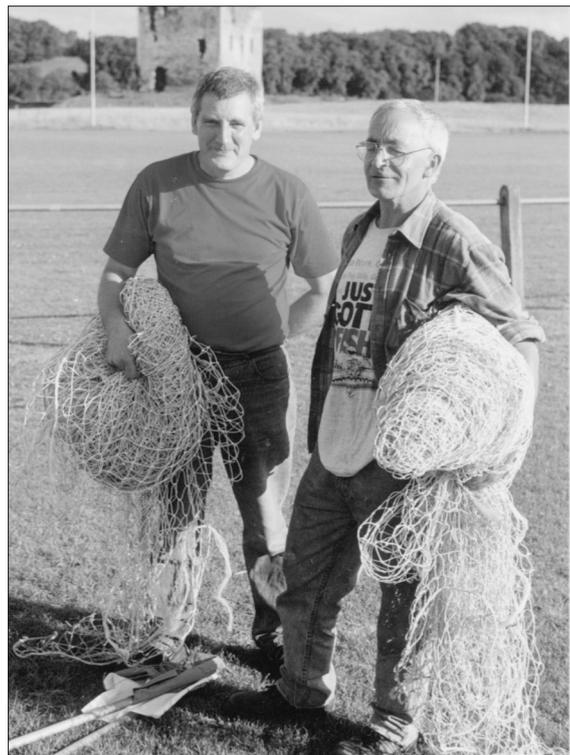
Website

Eoghan Reade, the thirteen year old son of club PRO Seamus, continues to develop the club's website. This can be accessed at www.thomastown-gaa.fanspace.com. There is



Eoghan Reade

also a link to and from the Kilkenny GAA website. The site this year featured photos of the Ollie Walsh Memorial opening ceremony. Besides his work on the site, Eoghan is the regular scoreboard official at the club grounds in Grennan.



Denis Brennan (Club Chairman) and Gerry Gibbons minding the nets.



Club Focus

Tullaroan

Officers 2001

PRESIDENT: Chris Walsh
CHAIRMAN: Dick Walsh
VICE CHAIR: John Teehan
SECRETARY: Simon Walton
ASST SEC: Donny Hogan
TREASURER: Tom Cleere
ASST TREAS: Peter Holland
PRO: Chris Walsh

On the Field

The Seniors were undefeated in the League before losing to Glenmore in the semi-final. In the Championship we lost to Graigue-Ballycallan in the quarter final. The absence of Jimmy Coogan through injury proved a major loss. The Special Juniors had a fantastic year winning both the Division I County Championship and League for the first time. In the Northern Final we defeated Threecastles while in the County Final we defeated John Lockes. In the League final we defeated Mooncoin. The U-21's take pride of place with their outstanding success to win the county final after a hard fought replay over Carrickshock.

Mol an Oige

The Minors had a disappointing season losing to the Shamrocks in both the League Semi-Final and the first round of the Championship. The U-16's with a very young team lost to Piltown in the Championship. The U-14's reached the quarter-final where they also lost to Piltown in an exciting game. The U-13's had a very good year before losing out at the semi-final stage to CBS. The U-11's and 12's played well in their respective competitions and they showed great potential for the future. A special word of thanks from the club to all who coached and trained teams through the year and to the parents who provided transport. This year also saw club member Peter Holland take up refereeing. He is wished all the best for the future.

County Players

Jimmy Coogan played National League and against Offaly before injury ruled him out for the year. Chris Maher played for the County U-21 team. Tommy Walsh, Michael Walsh and Shane Hennessy won Leinster minor medals. Martin

Walsh was on the Kilkenny U-14 team. Sean Glennon, Richie Butler and Brendan Cahill won Leinster Colleges medals with Callan C.B.S.

Dinner Dance

The club held a very successful Dinner Dance in the Community Centre in March at which the senior team was presented with League medals. The club also made a presentation to Ned Kennedy in recognition of his work with the young hurlers in the school.

Presentation

An Post published stamps which honoured the great players of hurling and football chosen on the An Post/GAA Teams of the Millennium. To mark the selection of Lory Meagher and Paddy Phelan from Tullaroan, An Post are pre-

sending to Tullaroan G.A.A. Club copies of the portraits.

Tree Planting

The Club is also engaging in a Tree Planting Millennium Project where they will plant 15 trees to honour every player who played for the Club over the past 100 years. A tree will represent every position on the field. Trees will be planted also to honour all officers from the club over the past 100 years.

Obituaries

The sympathies of the club are extended to the families of Patrick Walsh, Elizabeth Young, Matty Butler, Simon Hoyne, John Dillion, May Doheny, May Purcell, Molly Dunne, Eily Maher, John Gleeson.



Tullaroan GAA Club Makes a Presentation to Ned Kennedy NT

Tom Cleere, Ned Kennedy, Eileen Kennedy, Dick Walsh, Simon Walton.



Tullaroan - U-13 School Team 2001

Front: Paul Glennon, Josh Moore, Chris Walsh, Mark simpson, Ian Doheny, Shane Connolly, Luke Gleeson, Sam Holmes.

Back: Tony Hall, John Maher, Aisling Pollard, Pierce Doheny, David Walsh, Thomas Hogan, Michael Brennan, Tony Moore.



Club Focus

Tullagher - Rosbercon

Club Officers

President: James Cummins
Chairman: John Kennedy
Vice Chair: John Ryan
Secretary: Shem Cummins
Asst Sec: Eamonn Phelan
Treasurer: Joe Conway
PRO: John Paul Phelan
Juvenile Chair: Jimmy Mullally
Juvenile Sec.: Matt O'Brien

On the Playing-Fields

The year 2001 proved to be a very quiet one on the playing-field. The Junior hurlers saw their progress in both league and championship stopped by Piltown. The intermediate footballers lost their status and now revert to the Junior grade for the first time in many years. The U-21 hurlers had a good run which took them all the way to the South Final where near neighbours and old adversaries The Rower/Inistioge proved just too strong. The minor hurlers saw their championship run ended in a replay by neighbours Mullinavat.

Redevelopment

The club's redevelopment programme continued apace during the year. A neighbouring field was purchased to provide a second playing-field. This along with the completion of dugouts and extension to the existing clubhouse means that the redevelopment work is now nearing completion.

Fund Raising

Once again the "Play for the Park" Kilkenny GAA lottery was a major source of funding for the redevelopment work. Also a door-to-door once-off parish collection was held to help fund the purchase of the new pitch. Also a pony-ride took place in Listerlin in early November which helped to raise much-needed funds. The annual Christmas raffle was again held. The main source of funding for the club was once again the hurler's co-op draw.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to the Tullagher Camogie club on the successful year, culminating in their Intermediate championship success.

Thanks to Sponsors

The club's main sponsor Paddy Ryan of Ryan's Bar Listerlin is sincerely thanked for his continued support of the club as are all other individuals and businesses who sponsored teams and events throughout the year.

Obituaries

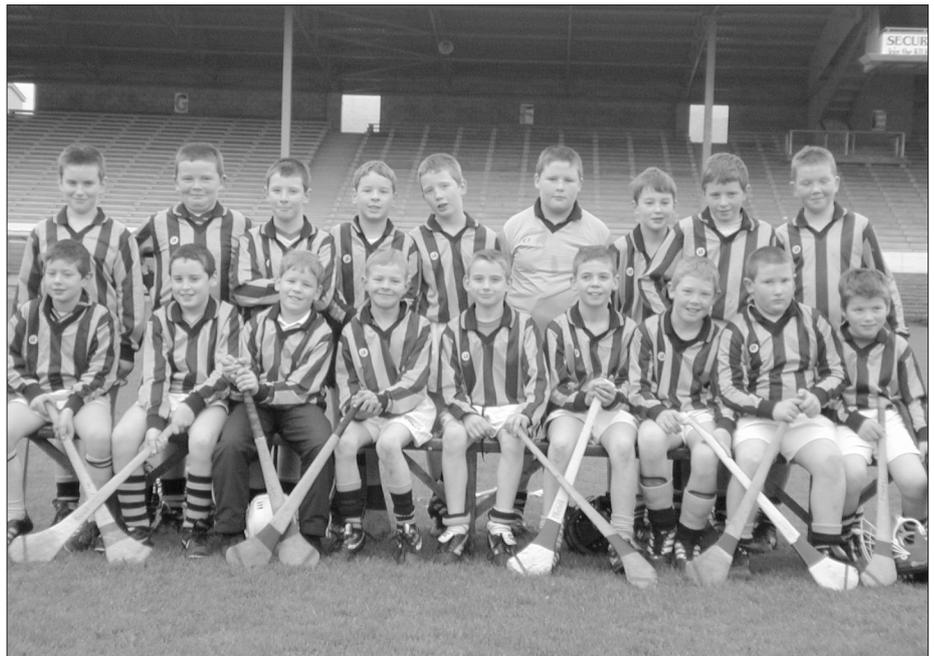
Jim Malone of Glynn, and formerly of Shanbogh died during the year. Jim, or "Boots" as he was affectionately known was a talented sportsman. He was a noted swimmer, and was also part of the first hurling teams to represent the parish in the 1940's.

Another member of the first hurling teams from the parish to pass away during the year was Henry Doolan. Henry was originally from Shanbogh, but passed away in New York after many years there. Henry won Wexford county Senior hurling titles with Geraldine

O'Hanrahan's of New Ross in 1942, '43 and '44. He also won a New York Senior hurling championship as part of the victorious Kilkenny team of 1957.

Great shock was occasioned in the parish with the sudden death at his residence in Dungarvan, county Waterford of Paddy Cummins formerly of Cooleen. Paddy was a member of a well-known GAA family. Paddy was on the Senior football team that won the County championship in 1962. Paddy was still a relatively young man and was not long retired as an assistant Chief Executive of Waterford Foods.

Bobby Nolan of Tinneranny also passed away recently. Bobby was a former player as well as a great supporter of the club. Another loyal supporter to pass away was Paddy Lawlor of Glenpipe. Early in the year the death occurred after a short illness of Canon John Carey, the retired parish priest of Rosbercon parish. A native of Ballyraggett, Canon Carey had spent 25 years in the parish and was a deeply loved Pastor and friend.



TULLOGHER CAMÁINT TEAM 2001

Back: Mark O'Mahony, Kevin Ryan, David Mullally, Tony Conway, James Mullally, Michael Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Eoin Ryan, Walter Walsh.

Front: Richard Ryan, Brian Conway, Thomas Conway, James Murphy, Patrick Ryan, Michael Corcoran, Paraic O'Gorman, David Hartley, James Byrne.



Club Focus

Young Irelands

Chairperson: John Carroll
 Vice-Chairperson: Willie Delaney
 Secretary: Patrick Farrell
 Assistant Secretary: John Drennan
 Treasurer: Pat Treacy
 Assistant Treasurer: Brendan Kehoe
 PRO: Beatrice Treacy
 School Liason Officer: Eddie Power
 Juvenile Chairperson: Eddie Power
 Juvenile Secretary: Ollie Carter

The year 2001 for Young Irelands started with our Annual Dinner Dance which was held in the Springhill Court Hotel in February. Liam McCarthy took centre stage for the night while a large attendance dined and danced the night away. This year's Hall of Fame award was to Tom Hogan who has served the club since its foundation.

Training had only just resumed for the year when it had to be cut short due to the precautions implemented to avoid the spread of Foot and Mouth disease. Training began with a renewed vigour when the ban was lifted. As matches began our Senior panel was hit with a spate of injuries. As a result some of our Junior players were required to play two games per weekend. This put mentors and players under severe pressure. Nevertheless we contested all league and championship fixtures in all grades with many enjoyable games. Thanks to players and mentors alike for their dedicated commitment during the year.

Our club is very proud of DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, Martin Carey and Thomas Drennan who represented us on the County panel during League and championship. Charlie had a great season claiming two Man of the Match awards and Eircell Player of the Month for July. DJ was named Player of the Year for 2000 and was awarded the Guinness Hall of Fame Award for 2001.

Despite not having any ultimate success on the field of play underage much hard work continues to be done with these players. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all those who work for the club with all our underage teams as coaches and selectors.

An encouragingly large number of children attended Saturday coaching sessions for our younger juveniles. Credit must go to these children and their parents for the consistent attendance that hopefully will someday pay dividends. This group fielded teams in under 9, 10 and 11. The Under 9's had a great day out at the Roanmore Tournament in Waterford. An enjoyable evening blitz was also held in our own pitch for this age group with Bennetsbridge, Barrow Rangers, and Clara participating along with our own players. The under 10 team had a great run in the Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament recording victories over Comer and Conahy. They were

beaten by Clara and narrowly missed out on a final place when they went down by a point to St Martins. The Under 11 Camáint team completed a very successful season, in which they were unbeaten, with the annual much coveted trip to Nowlan Park.

In times when it has become exceedingly difficult to keep clubs financially afloat the monies raised from the Play for the Park Lotto, CoOp Draw and much appreciated sponsorship went a long way to easing the pressure. Our Annual Golf Classic was held for the first time in the picturesque setting of the new Gowran Park Golf Course. The event was a great success and the club acquired the added distinction of being the first group to play the full 18 holes of the course. Indeed to the Finance and all other subcommittees we are grateful as they as all cogs in the big wheel that helps to keep our club running smoothly.

On a lighter note three of our hurling contingent uncovered hidden talent earlier in the year when John Kennedy, Ciarán Phelan and Donal Twomey hit the stage in the Christmas Parish Pantomime under the direction of Tom Dempsey. Well done to all concerned.

Each week the club keeps the parish abreast of weekly matches and events through the space kindly given in the Parish newsletter. For this we are grateful as we are to our sponsors. This year Statoil Lubricants combined with Farm and Industrial Supplies came on board as our main sponsors for the next three years. To them and to all of our sponsors go a sincere thank you.

Congratulations are extended to Ciarán Phelan and Deirdre Hennessy on their engagement during year and to our Secretary Pat Farrell and his wife Joan on the occasion of their marriage. Congratulations also to Pat and Siobhán O'Neill, Jack and Gillian Carey and to Brian and Ann Farrell on the birth of their baby sons.



Representing the Camogie Club in the Golf Classic
 Suzanne Kennedy, Mary Holden, Teresa Aylward, Ber Fitzgerald



UNDER 9 TEAM WHO PLAYED IN THE ROANMORE TOURNAMENT.
Back: Declan Bennett, Paul Holden, Dara Kehoe, Patrick Quinlan, Jack Glendon, David O'Brien.
Front: Emmet Byrne, Eoin Walsh, Brian Murphy, Michael Lennon, Niall Walsh.

We were saddened in September to hear of the untimely death of Paddy Johnston. Paddy trained our Senior team in 1995. That year the club claimed the distinction of becoming the first ever Kilkenny Club to win the Kilmacaud Sevens Title – an honour of which Paddy was justifiably proud. He had since maintained a great affinity with the club and was a very active member of the executive committee which organised the Annual Golf Classic. Indeed, though unwell at the time, he travelled out to Gowran Park in August to visit us during the event. To his wife Eileen and his family we extend our deepest sympathy. Ar dheis De go raibh sé.

To any club members or parishioners who suffered bereavements during the year we extend our sympathies also.



Five of Kilkenny's representatives on the Supreme All Stars Team 1971- 2001
Fan Larkin, Frank Cummins, Ger Henderson, Eddie Keher and Noel Skehan. (Missing - DJ Carey)

Photo Sportsfile



Lenehans win Guinness All-Ireland Hurling quiz.

Kilkenny representatives, Lenehan's Bar, Comer road, pictured receiving their cheque for £2000, having defeated Gort(Connaught), and Clare(Munster) teams in the Final in the Guinness Brewery, on the eve of the All-Ireland Final.

Making the presentation is the Managing Director of Guinness Group Sales, Liam Lanigan, Martin Foley, Seamus O'Doherty, and Jim McGarry. RTE Broadcaster Micheál Ó Muireartaigh is on the right of the picture.

**Supreme Hurling
 All Stars
 1971 - 2000**

1. Noel Skehan (Kilkenny)
2. 'Fan' Larkin (Kilkenny),
3. Pat Hartigan (Limerick)
4. John Horgan (Cork)
5. Brían Whelahan (Offaly),
6. Ger Henderson (Kilkenny),
7. Anthony Daly (Clare)
8. Frank Cummins (Kilkenny),
9. John Fenton (Cork)
10. Nicky English (Tipperary)
11. Joe Cooney (Galway)
12. DJ Carey (Kilkenny)
13. Charlie McCarthy (Cork),
14. Joe McKenna (Limerick)
15. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny).

Obituaries



Tommy O'Neill

Tommy O'Neill, the man we all remember at hurling and football games all over the county, with his trusty camera capturing players, teams, supporters and all things GAA, games has gone to his eternal reward. The news took some time to come to terms with. Could it be true that the man who just a couple of short hours earlier had been as busy as usual at the Kilkenny versus Dublin Leinster minor hurling championship game in Carlow was no longer with us? When it eventually sank in my thoughts went back to the many times we had soldiered at various venues to bring back news in words and pictures of games of varying importance. To Tommy every game was important, be it the most humble tournament match at his beloved Prince Grounds (Castlecomer) to the All Ireland Final in Croke Park. Who will ever forget his brilliant snapshot of the lid of the Bob O Keeffe cup almost hitting the President Mary McAleese as Denis Byrne hoisted it proudly aloft. Tommy was the only photographer in Croke Park to capture that moment but he got just as much satisfaction from pictures of school teams, or indeed photos of his own grandchildren, as from anything taken at Croke Park, Nowlan Park, Semples Stadium, Ballyragget or Ballyhale. Tommy was also a most helpful individual. This publication will be ever indebted to him for the many photos he supplied to us down through the years. Nothing was too much trouble for him. When asked for a picture of a certain event, he invariably came up with it. In his early years, Tommy played hurling with his native Erin's Own. He won a junior championship medal with them in 1958 before emigrating to America. He was known as the 'rubber man' such was his ability to shake off hard knocks and bounce back. He returned from exile some years ago and turned a lifetime's interest in photography into gainful employment. The loss of his wife, Pat, a couple of years ago was a major shock that affected him deeply. His first duty early every morning after that devastating blow was to pray at her graveside. Tommy was well known as a photographer. Not so well known was his work for charity and good causes particularly the Home Care team for whom he worked tirelessly. In recent years, he raised thousands of

pounds for that particular organisation with an Annual draw which he ran almost single handedly.

Tommy O'Neill was a man of many parts. He was a top class photographer, a great charity worker, a lover of all things Gaelic, but, most of all, a devoted family man. The crowds at the removal of his remains were testimony to his popularity. He will long be remembered in his native parish of Castlecomer, a town of which he was rightly proud. This publication will also feel his loss deeply. To his family we send our deepest sympathy. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Bobby Power

During the year 2000, Thomastown club lost one of its favourite sons in Bobby Power. Previous editions of the Yearbook have quite rightly marked the great contribution of individuals from Thomastown who have passed on. Names such as Ollie Walsh, Cha Whelan and Joe Pender spring to mind and Bobby Power's name is now up in lights with the best of them. Bobby was a gentle soul who served the community of Thomastown in a quiet and unassuming way. He worked with many community organisations during his lifetime and much of his good work, especially with the St Vincent de Paul Society, will have passed un-noticed. His work with the GAA club was very visible as Bobby was a regular sight at the gate of his beloved Grennan. He gave almost 50 years service to his club and always had a kind and friendly word for all who passed through "his gates". He was especially friendly with the children who were always made very welcome to all matches in Grennan. Bobby also served the County Board as steward at Nowlan Park for many years. Former County Board Chairman, John Healy, described Bobby recently as the most reliable steward he has ever worked with at the Park. Members of the club formed a guard of honour at Bobby's Funeral in Thomastown and a minute's silence was observed at the Intermediate Semi-final in Nowlan Park in October. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé. *(The above obituary was inadvertently omitted from last year's publication, for which we apologise to the Power family and the Thomastown club. Ed)*



William 'Bill' Cody 1915 - 2001

On Sunday 21 October as James Stephens were preparing to defend their county U-21 title, word came through that the Club President and former chairman of 16 years had passed away.

Bill was born in Baunskeha, Thomastown a place he held dear to his heart. He married Annie Hoyne of Ballinamona in 1949 and set up house in Sheestown in the early 1950s.

In the early sixties Bill became involved in James Stephens GAA club. Together with Sean 'Georgie' Leahy they formed a youth section within the club. It brought spectacular success, contesting six county minor finals between 1965 and 1971, winning four of them. In the same years the club contested six U-21 finals and won numerous U-16 titles in both football and hurling. Bill was elected vice-chairman in 1967 and chairman in 1969. He served an unbroken sixteen years in office until he retired in 1985. Under Bill's leadership the club grew in strength and contested eight county senior finals, winning four in 1969, '76, '77 and '81. Two All Ireland Club titles were captured in 1976 against Blackrock and 1982 over Mount Sion.

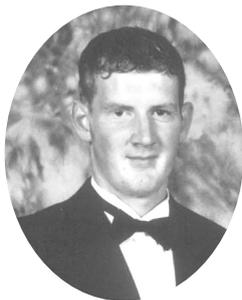
Through the club's golden era, Bill took great pride in seeing many James Stephens players wear the Black and Amber with distinction, none more so than when he saw his son, Brian, become the first city and clubman to captain a senior All Ireland winning side and subsequently manage the team of 2000.

Under Bill's chairmanship the club purchased its main club grounds at Larchfield and developed its present impressive club facilities.

Bill served as a county minor selector in 1966-'68 and 1971 and as a senior selector in 1971. He was a club delegate to the Northern Board, the U-16 Board and County Board at various times. Bill served Royal Liver Assurance loyally from 1946 to his retirement. He was known and respected as a gentleman throughout counties Kilkenny and Carlow and by everyone who knew him in business and sport.

Bill's parting is a great loss to James Stephens club, the parish and his many friends in the Sheestown area. His loss will of course be felt greatest by his wife Annie,

sons, Eamon, Michael, Brian and Niall and daughters Ann, Marie, Therese, Claire, Martina and his many grandchildren. 'Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis'.



Keith Madigan (1981-2001)

When news broke on Monday morning 19th February 2001 that one of Mullinavat's most talented young sportsmen had been tragically killed in a road accident, the entire community, and indeed the whole county was in a state of shock. For his loving family, his friends in Mullinavat and beyond this news was just too cruel to bear. Keith had played a starring role for Kilkenny under-21 footballers on the Saturday, and turned out with his club the following morning in their opening senior football match of the season. A few short weeks previously, Keith had been hugely inspirational in helping his club win their first ever Roinn A under-21 football title. Keith had been eagerly awaiting the 2001-playing season and was determined to play his part in the club's hurling and football campaigns. Little did we in the club think on that Sunday morning as he joked and chatted with his team mates that it would be the last match he would play for us. Keith was an outstanding hurler and footballer and had played with distinction on many under age county teams in hurling and football. He was an ever-present member of all Mullinavat's hurling and football victories during the past few years. He made his first appearance for his club in the 1993 primary schools final and even at that early age he showed that he had that vital ingredient in a player. He had a presence on the field that was to become obvious to all who subsequently came in contact with him in his short but glittering playing career. His talent really blossomed when he went to Good Counsel Secondary School in New Ross and he became one of a select few Kilkenny men to win an all-Ireland Football medal when he lined out at centre back in the 1999 All Ireland Colleges Senior Football Final. Keith was a quiet lad off the field but a fierce competitor on it and the respect he gained from his team mates and opponents alike was obvious from the huge turnout at his funeral. We will never forget the sheer numbness and sadness in Mullinavat as his coffin was flanked by guards of honour from his teammates in Mullinavat, Good Counsel and Kilkenny jerseys. The Mullinavat players decided that they would remember Keith in their own way by not wearing the number 11 jersey for the remainder of the year. How fitting it was then that in his acceptance speech following Mullinavat's victory in the Intermediate Hurling final in Nowlan Park, team captain Mossy Murphy should dedicate the win to Keith.

*"He is gone on the mountain,
He is lost to the forest.
Like a summer dried fountain
When our need was the sorest!"*

The Madigan family: parents Eugene and Bidy, brothers: Eoghan, Niall, Damien, David, Alan, and Gary, his sisters Paula, Sinéad and Regina have lost a loyal and loving son and brother. They and all in Mullinavat GAA club sorely miss him. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.* Dinny Keane went to his eternal reward on



Dinny Kane

Monday July 30th in the company of his closest family, in the Avondale Nursing Home, at the ripe old age of 90 years. Dinny, or as he was endearingly referred to, "Timber" was a charismatic character, a bachelor all his life, who enjoyed the care-free life to its ultimate. From farming stock, Dinny was a hugely popular man, with one and sundry. He had a mischevous sense of humour, and a penchant for delivering it at the opportune moment. He had a great interest in greyhound racing, and coursing. But his greatest sporting interest centred around hurling. He was a member fo the Kilkenny team that won the Leinster and All-Ireland finals of 1939 - the thunder and lightning All-Ireland. From that time he established a close relationship with the great Jimmy Phelan, who played left corner forward on that team. Jimmy was in attendance at Dinny's funeral when he was laid to rest in Danesfort Cemetry. His Requiem wa concelebrated by Mgr Martin Campion, and Dinny's great friend, Fr John O'Brien in Kells Church. Fr. Reynolds was also in attendance. In his youth, Dinny was a superb handballer, a good cricketer, and a very keen fisherman. He followed the fortunes of all Kilkenny teams over the years, and he was particularly interested in the prowess of his close relative, John Power. It was only a few years ago that he played golf in Callan, against the Emerald Golf Society from New York, in the company of some of the greatest names that ever wielded a hurley. He loved being in the company of hurling men, and he would ask nothing finer than to be spinning the yarns with Tipp lads in particular. Up to a short time before his death, he was a regular card player at many of the hostelries in Callan, Windgap, Kells and Dunnamaggin. He is survived by his sisters, Nell and Sheila, his niece and nephew

Jimmy was a boyhood hero of mine, having



Jimmy Malone

got to know him in the mid 40s. He was a giant of a man in the Piltown Club as a hurler, trainer and selector. I renewed my friendship with Jimmy and his lovely wife, Nancy, in '58 and he was a loyal, dedicated, caring husband and father. The Malone family were loyal supporters of the Piltown G.A.A. Club especially his brother, Jeff, a tireless worker in preparing pitches for matches. He also trained the Piltown camogie team as his son, Jim, and daughter-in-law continue this work at present.

A great love of Jimmy's was saving the hay. At that time of year he had few equals with a pitchfork. He enjoyed 43 years of hard work in the forestry. Liked his bottle of Guinness, flutter on the horses, packet of fags and the game of cards.

When I returned to Piltown in 1999 after a 33 year absence I found him to be the same unpretentious man I had last met in 1966 and I was very humbled by the generosity of Jimmy and Nancy during my stay.

I felt privileged to have Jimmy as a friend as people like him all too seldom cross our paths. So with sincere condolences to Nancy and the Malone family let us not mourn Jimmy's death but celebrate the wonderful life of a true gentleman. May he rest in peace.

Tribute by Robert Keane (Australia)

Paddy Johnston can certainly be numbered



Paddy Johnston

among the greats of Kilkenny hurling. From his early years in his Hebron Road home, just a stone's throw from Nowlan Park, he developed a passion for hurling. As a teenager, it was his pride and joy to carry the great Jim Langton's hurley to games and later he was to grace Croke Park with a performance which his idol would have admired. Paddy was to develop into one of the finest hurlers the county has ever produced.

Probably his greatest hour was in the minor All-Ireland final of 1950 when he was a star in the Kilkenny team that beat Tipperary. His performance in the following year's Leinster final was arguably as good, if not better. He

scored 3-5 while giving a hurling exhibition which is still spoken about today.

In 1951 he had the unique distinction of playing minor, junior and senior hurling for Kilkenny in the same year.

The following tribute came from G.A.A. columnist, Moondharrig: "Eighteen years old Paddy Johnston is a hurler in a thousand who has the accuracy and guile of Langton, the style and lengthy stroke of Lowry Meagher. If the Kilkenny mentors handle him right he could be their match-winner for a dozen years".

Paddy was a Clerical Officer with Kilkenny Co. Council. He joined the Council staff at the age of 18 and retired three years ago at the age of 65.

It was during his school years at Kilkenny C.B.S. that his love of hurling was nurtured. He wore the maroon and yellow of the C.B.S. with pride and also starred in the colours of his home parish of St. John's. He was to join the famous city club, Eire Óg and among his team mates were Kilkenny hurling heroes like Jim Langton, Liam Reidy, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien, the 'Diamond' Hayden and the Gargan brothers. When his playing days were over he gave great assistance to several hurling clubs, such as Muckalee, Clara and Gowran and they benefited greatly from

his fund of knowledge. He led Clara to senior county final honours in 1986.

He took up refereeing and here too his standards were high and his services were sought at all levels of the game. He refereed the 1976 senior hurling final in which Cork beat Wexford and then toured America with the All-Stars to officiate at matches in the U.S.

He refereed up to 10 Kilkenny county senior finals.

Much of Paddy's life was given in the service of others. He devoted many hours to team games and to promoting sport but he never forgot his first love, his beloved wife and family. He made many friends during a glorious career and huge numbers turned up to pay their respects at his funeral.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

(From Kilkenny People article by John Knox)



Bill Cahill

It was a great shock to many when it was announced that Bill Cahill had passed away in the Waterford Regional Hospital on Saturday 26th August, on the eve of the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway, in the company of his devoted family. Bill lived for a long period of his life around the south Kilkenny area, having devoted his working life to the Co-Operative movement, which

was a concept very much in its infancy after Bill gained a Dairy Science Degree at UCC, and the Albert College in Glasnevin. He worked in Co-Ops in Piltown, Ballinurra, Lough Cullen, Slieverue, and eventually and finally in Glenmore. He devoted his life and his business acumen to fostering, and developing the Co-Operative movement, and it was people like Bill Cahill whose contribution was such a valuable progression to the modern day phenomenon like Glanbia, Kerry, and Midland.

Bill was a simple country lad, who first saw the light of day in Kilbrahan, just inside the parish boundary of Ballycallan, a couple of miles outside Callan. He gleaned a very honourable Secondary education at Callan CBS before seeking a third level education in UCC. From rural stock, it was inevitable that Bill would bend his preferences towards agriculture, and the agrarian sciences. Bill's sporting interests didn't extend beyond playing hurling. I remember talking to him about his interests around Callan and Graigue during his youth, and he couldn't remember having any interest other than hurling. He hurled in Callan CBS, winning a Leinster Colleges medal in 1941, before going on to UCC.

Bill Cahill won practically every honour that the ancient game offered. He played and helped to train his native place, Graigue - the fore runner of Graig Ballycallan - to win their only Senior Kilkenny title in 1949. He had helped Graigue to win their first County Junior crown in 1946, just three years after the formation of the club. With him on the team were his cousin, Paddy, and Nicky Purcell, who became a life-long, and valued friend, and who later won Fitzgibbon medals with him in UCC. The same year saw him win his first All-Ireland medal with the Kilkenny junior team, who beat London in the final by 5-4 to 2-2.

What a momentous year 1947 turned out to be in success starved Kilkenny. The Noreiders had not taken the Liam McCarthy back since 1939, - an unprecedented seven years. In his book Kilkenny: The GAA Story 1884-1984, the late Tom Ryall said of that trio, "Shem Downey, Liam Reidy and Bill Cahill all contributed their parts in an historic win". Bill Cahill won Fitzgibbon and Oireachtas medals in that year also.

Bill trained and played with Slieverue to win their only Kilkenny Senior Championship in 1954. Paddy Buggy later to rise to the highest office in the Association, was on that Slieverue team. He was to deliver a poignant oration at his friend's funeral on the day he was buried in Ferrybank Parish graveyard. Bill's friends from near and far attended his funeral. His Graigue colleagues, Kilkenny colleagues, and Gaels from all over the country, who knew, and had befriended the quiet Graigue man turned up in big numbers to pay their last respects.

This delightful Graigue man will be missed by his many close friends, but particularly by his devoted wife, May, his son, Edward, and his daughters, Joan, Mary, Bernadette, and Ann. We tender our sincerest sympathies to all family members, relatives and friends of such a marvellous Christian Kilkenny hurler. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé anam dílis.



Tommy Murphy

Yet another great icon of the social scene in Kilkenny, Tommy Murphy, passed away at the beginning of November. A publican by trade and nature, his pub occupied the spot where the Emerald Garden is now situated. His premises was "home" to a huge clientele from every walk of life. He was many things to a large "following", and many was the great night of craic, intelligent conversation and debate that was central to his place on the High Street, into the small hours. He was a very talented man, but probably his greatest talent was in dealing with the vast cross section of society and customers that frequented his pub. The fun, friendship, and camaraderie he personally embellished his premises with by his presence alone, left all with a plethora of treasured stories and anecdotes. In a battle of words he was the equal if not the master of many who dared take him on. He had a wonderful singing tenor voice, and he performed in many of the St Mary's Choral Society musicals over a long number of years. His Prince Carl in the Student Prince created a lasting memory for those blessed to have heard him sing. He was an all-round sportsman. He was an adept soccer player. He played rugby, and he even dabbled in boxing for a while. But it was in hurling that Tommy created the greatest impression. Seanie O'Brien will tell you that he was the unluckiest player around at the time. "When he played with us (Eire Óg), as an outstanding centre back in 1950, the Boro beat us after a replay, and when we won in '47, "Spud" was with the Boro".

Tommy's hurling career was nurtured in St Kierans College, where he shared the hurling stage with people like Msgr Tommy Maher, and the legendary Nickey Rackard. They won successive Leinster Colleges Championships in 1943 and 1944. He lined out for Kilkenny in 1948 against Laois in the Leinster championship. At centre back, he was flanked on the day by Seanie O'Brien and Jack Mulcahy. His opponent on the day was the former Dublin star, Harry Grey. History will say that the greatest shock in the history of the game happened in Portlaoise on that day, when Laois won. They won again the next year.

Tommy was a member of the Kilkenny panel for a number of years into the fifties, but whilst he was a well respected, talented hurler, the "big day" pressures affected him in a major way. He was a valued player with Éire Óg and Dicksboro, and he could add valued famous "scalps" to his CV, notably that of Christy Ring, whom he held scoreless in a tournament final in Walsh Park in

1951, while playing with Dicksboro.

Tommy's passing will have caused much anguish for all the friends he knew. They will miss the kindly, sharp publican for a number of reasons, all of which are complimentary to the man and his business. The sympathy of all great Gaels is extended to his wife, Nancy, his daughter Claire, and his sister, Frances.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh an am dílis.



Nicholas J. Harrison. Died, 25/2/2001

Just a few minutes before his 90th birthday Nicholas J. Harrison, popularly known as "Joker" died at St. Luke's hospital, Kilkenny. He had spent the previous three and a half years in the loving care of the Sisters of Prague House, Freshford. He spent his life up to then at Crohill, Freshford where he farmed extensively with his brother Paul and late sisters, Hennie and Nunnie.

The Harrisons were great patrons of sport and the fine expanse of grassland on the Clinstown Road was used for many different sports. It was freely given for pony racing, athletics, coursing and even for hot rod racing but it was for hurling that this famous venue will be best remembered.

It was never called the hurling or G.A.A. pitch. It was simply called "Harrison's". It came into use in the late Twenties. By the end of the Thirties "Harrison's" had become firmly established as the regular G.A.A. ground. It was regarded as one of one the driest surfaces in the county, due mainly to its fine sandy soil. It became the central venue for all clubs in the North and Sunday after Sunday it staged great contests. The hurlers of North Kilkenny and the city teams would do battle, witnessed by huge crowds, standing three deep outside its timber railing, which was erected in the mid-Forties. Some teams had a preference for playing in Harrison's and one such team was Galmoy who really felt at home there. Apart from being a central venue for adult hurling it was also a nursery for schools and juvenile hurling.

In 1984 suitable land adjacent to the school and village became available and was purchased and developed into the fine facilities that St. Lachtain's G.A.A. Club now owns. In 1990 the curtain finally came down on "Harrison's". The local G.A.A. and previous clubs together with the various G.A.A. Boards will always be in debt to the Harrison family for their great generosity over the years. In 1992 the Harrison family was elected to St. Lachtain's G.A.A. Club's Hall of Fame and received the Cumann Lachtain trophy.

To Nicholas Harrison's brother Paul and his relatives and friends we extend our deepest sympathy. May the sod of St. Lachtain's cemetery lie lightly on his breast.

P.B.



Joe Gargan

WE WERE greatly saddened to learn that Joe Gargan had passed away. Joe was a close family friend and a fellow traveller with my father and myself, to all major hurling games. There was a special bond of comradeship between my father and Joe, both of whom shared a passionate love of hurling.

Despite the fact that dad was a Dicksboro man and Joe gave his allegiance to another city club, Eire Óg, during their playing days, they held a tremendous respect for each other on and off the field.

As a young man, Joe Gargan became a household name in G.A.A. circles in Kilkenny for his uncanny skill with the sliotar. He won several senior hurling championships with Eire Óg in the company of former greats such as Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy and Paddy O'Brien.

When his hurling days were over, Joe continued to follow the games, seldom missing an important match whether in Croke Park, Pairc Uí Chaoimh or our own Nowlan Park. I always felt privileged to travel to these games in the company of Joe and my father and I will miss him greatly now that he has gone to God. Joe loved to drink a pint with his peers while discussing hurling in general, and he knew his favourite game inside out. He could recall games, score for score, which were played decades ago and his opinion was always appreciated.

Joe loved his family and his family loved him in return. His friends, like myself, will also miss him greatly and every time I hear the clash of the ash or see the black and amber colours flying I'll think of this great man with deep affection.

Apart from hurling, Joe was a gifted stonemason. One of the old-time tradesmen who would not settle for anything less than perfection. Some of his work may be seen today and will remain for centuries to come for posterity to appreciate.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

Martin Murray



James Power 1940 to 2000

The sudden and untimely death of James Power on Christmas Eve, brought immense shock and sadness all around the Southeast of the country. Aged sixty, James was born and reared in the Knockroe' just a stone's throw from his new home in the Slatequarries. James was synonymous with all sporting activities His first love was hurling and the hurling club. Over the years he had watched the young club and helped it grow as a player, official, parent and sponsor. A big man with a big heart, Jim lined out at full forward, winning a county hurling junior championship in 1970 and graced the senior ranks when the club challenged for senior honours. On the football fields, he played in three senior finals at corner forward with St. Nicholas and Lamogue in the sixties. As an official, James served as Chairman for three spells in the late sixties and early seventies when the new pitch was being bought and developed and again in the eighties. As a businessman, he provided scarce employment in the area and was the clubs ongoing sponsor whose jerseys were worn in this year's County Junior final. Having inherited a keen interest in the games from his footballing uncle and Camogie playing mother, Lena, he passed the love of the games on to his ten children and grandchildren. A community supporter all his life, his machinery, employees and expertise were available for the provision of sporting and recreational facilities. In recent times, James had expanded his plant hire business and specialised in building and developing playing pitches and golf courses. A lover of nature, James appreciated and promoted the use the natural amenities of water, rocks, wildlife and plants in his life's work. James also had a great interest in history and local archaeology and was a founder of the highly successful annual Slatequarries Arts and Culture festival that attracted many people to the area.

Ni bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

**Solas na bhflaitheas orthu
go léir**



KILKENNY GAA RESULTS 2001

Credit Union Senior H Final

(Tom Walsh Memorial Cup)

O'Loughlin Gaels.....1-17
Graigue Ballycallan.....1-6

Senior Relegation Final

Fenians.....2-9
John Lockes.....1-7

Vale Oil Intermediate H Final

(Hanrahan Cup)

Mullinavat.....1-5
Clara.....1-5
Mullinavat.....2-10
Clara.....2-7

Intermediate Relegation Final

Thomastown.....2-17
Blacks and Whites.....2-10

JJ Kavanagh & Sons JH Co Final

(Bob Aylward Memorial Cup)

Emeralds.....3-11
Windgap.....1-7

Special Junior H Roinn A Final

(Shem Lawlor Cup)

Tullaroan.....3-17
John Lockes.....2-8

Special Junior H Roinn B Final

St Lachtains.....3-8
Mullinavat.....2-7

Michael Lyng Motors U- 21 H Roinn A Co Final

Tullaroan.....1-14
Carrickshock.....1-14
Tullaroan.....2-16
Carrickshock.....2-7

Michael Lyng Motors U - 21 H Roinn B Co Final

Rower Inistioge.....3-14
St.Martins.....2-7

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn C Final

Dicksboro.....2-8
Barrow Rangers.....0-3

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn A Co Final

(Joyce Memorial Cup)

Carrickshock.....2-9
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....1-9

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn B Co Final

(Ted Carroll Memorial Trophy)

Clara.....1-11
Rower Inistioge.....0-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C Co Final

Barrow Rangers.....2-11
Cloneen.....1-6

Credit Union Senior H League Final

(Matty Power Cup)

Glenmore.....0-12
Erin's Own.....0-10

Vale Oil Intermediate H League Final

(Pat Tierney Cup)

St.Lachtains.....1-14
Mullinavat.....1-11

St Canice's Credit Union All-Co SH League Final

(Byrne Cup)

Dunamaggin.....1-15
Fenians.....1-3

Bus Éireann All-Co IH League Final

(Aylward Cup)

Clara.....0-20
Rower Inistioge.....1-9

Hennessy Sports All Co JH League Final

Emeralds.....0-16
Piltown.....1-10

Barlo Nissan Northern Junior H Final

Emeralds.....0-18
Galmoy.....1-11

Iverk Produce South Junior H Final

Windgap.....1-2
Piltown.....0-3

Special Junior H League Div 1 Final

Tullaroan.....1-13
Mooncoin.....3-1

Special Junior H League Div 2 Final

Clara.....3-9
Kilmacow.....1-11

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Special Junior H Roinn A North Final

Tullaroan.....3-21
Threecastles.....2-7

Iverk Produce Special Junior H Roinn A South Final

John Lockes.....1-9
Mooncoin.....2-5

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Special Junior H Roinn B North Final

St.Lachtains.....2-15
James Stephens.....1-10

Iverk Produce Special Junior H Roinn B South Final

Mullinavat.....1-12
Kilmacow.....0-6

Iverk Produce Southern Junior H League Roinn A Final

Mooncoin.....2-15
Rower Inistioge.....1-13

Iverk Produce Special Junior H League Roinn B Final

Kilmacow.....1-13
Tullogher Rosbercon.....1-8

Barlo Nissan Junior H League Div. 1 Final

Tullaroan.....1-12
O'Loughlin Gaels.....2-9
Tullaroan.....3-10
O'Loughlin Gaels.....3-7

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Northern Junior H League Div. II Final

Clara.....2-8
Emeralds.....2-6

(NB - No Div III competition)

Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final

Windgap.....5-16
St Patricks.....0-9

Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup Final

Lisdowney.....3-8
Mount Leinster Rangers.....2-9

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn A North Final

Tullaroan.....1-12
James Stephens.....2-7

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn A South Final

Carrickshock.....1-12
Mullinavat.....0-9

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn B North Final

St Martin's.....2-9
St.Patricks.....0-13

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn B South Final

Rower Inistioge.....2-11
Tullogher/Rosbercon.....2-7

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn B North Final

Clara.....1-14
Erin's Own.....2-7

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn B South Final

Rower/Inistioge.....3-17
Mooncoin.....3-4

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C Co Final

Barrow Rangers.....2-11
Cloneen.....1-6

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C North Final

(Open Draw)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C South Final

(Open Draw)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div I Final

(John Tobin Memorial Cup)

Carrickshock.....2-13
Ballyhale Shamrocks.....1-7

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. II Final

Clara.....1-10
Rower/Inistioge.....2-7
Clara.....1-11
Rower/Inistioge.....0-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. III Final

Erin's Own.....2-13
St.Lachtains.....4-6

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. IV Final

Fenians.....2-10
Lisdowney.....3-7
Fenians.....4-6
Lisdowney.....2-5

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. I Losers Final

Emeralds. w.o.....O'Loughlin Gaels scr.

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. II Losers Final

St.Martins.....3-15
Mullinavat.....1-2

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. III Losers Final

(Comprion not played)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div. IV Losers Final

Cloneen.....2-12
Young Irelands.....2-5

Duggan Steel U-16 H Roinn A Co Final

Carrickshock.....2-9
James Stephens.....2-9
Carrickshock.....5-9
James Stephens.....0-7

Duggan Steel U-16 H Roinn B Co Final

Clara.....	2-9
Conahy Shamrocks.....	1-12
Clara.....	2-7
Conahy Shamrocks.....	1-8

Duggan Steel U-16 H Roinn C Co Final

Barrow Rangers.....	2-15
Danesfort.....	3-5

Duggan Steel U-16 H League Roinn A Final

Carrickshock.....	2-6
James Stephens.....	0-5

Duggan Steel U-16 H League Roinn B Final

Conahy Shamrocks.....	1-17
Erin's Own.....	1-6

Duggan Steel U-16 H League Roinn C Final

Danesfort.....	4-8
Dunnamaggin.....	1-2

Duggan Steel U-14 H Roinn A Co Final

Dicksboro.....	1-14
James Stephens.....	1-7

Duggan Steel U-14 H Roinn B Co Final

Clara.....	3-10
Piltown.....	2-9

Duggan Steel U-14 H Roinn C Co Final

Danesfort.....	4-15
Kilmacow.....	3-6

Under-14 H Féile na nGael Final (Paddy Grace Memorial)

James Stephens.....	5-8
Dicksboro.....	2-5

Duggan Steel U-14 H League Roinn C Final

Danesfort.....	4-8
Dunnamaggin.....	1-2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn A Co Final (Educational Supplies League)

Clara.....	4-13
Kilkenny CBS.....	1-5

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn B Co Final (Hennessy Fuels League)

Castlecomer.....	6-8
Thomastown.....	5-4

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn C Co Final (Paddy O'Connell, Dublin League)

Lisdowney.....	1-7
Conahy.....	1-3

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn D Co Final (Tedcastles Oil)

Johnstown.....	4-4
Dunamaggin.....	1-2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup H Final (Tedcastles Oil)

Clara.....	4-15
Urlingford.....	1-6

Football

Senior Co F Final

Muckalee.....	2-7
Erin's Own.....	1-10
Muckalee.....	1-11
Erin's Own.....	0-9

Intermediate Co F Final

Piltown.....	3-7
Rower Inistioge.....	2-5

Junior Co F Final

Mooncoin.....	2-11
Fenians.....	1-7

Senior F League Final

James Sephens.....	2-6
Railyard.....	0-5

Intermediate F League Final

Rower Inistioge.....	2-8
Conahy Shamrocks.....	2-4

U-21 F Roinn A Final

Not Finished

U-21 F Roinn B Final

Not yet finished

Northern Junior F Final

Fenians.....	2-11
Barrow Rangers.....	0-3

Southern Junior F Final

Mooncoin.....	1-13
Graignamanagh.....	2-6

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn A Co Final

Not yet finished

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B Final

Not yet finished

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B North Final

Not yet finished

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B South Final

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn A Final

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn B Final

St Patrick's.....	3-14
Slieverue.....	2-1

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn C Final

Not yet finished

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn A League Final

Piltown.....	2-9
St Martin's.....	0-5

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn A League Final

St Patrick's.....	2-11
John Lockes.....	1-7

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn A Final

Erin's Own.....	2-6
Thomastown.....	2-5

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn B Final

St Martin's.....	1-12
Clara.....	3-4

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn C Final

John Lockes.....	6-4
Carrickshock.....	2-1

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn D Final

Danesfort.....	3-5
Graigue/Ballycallan.....	1-3

C na mB Roinn A F Final

(Bertie O'Callaghan Cup/Kilkenny Association, Dublin)

Carrickshock.....	1-2
Coon/Muckalee.....	0-5

C na mB Roinn B F Final

(Toymaster League)

Graignamanagh.....	2-3
Mooncoin.....	1-5

C na mB Roinn C F Final (Tedcastles Oil)

Glenmore.....	3-6
Danesfort.....	1-3

C na mB Country Cup F Final

Coon/Muckalee.....	2-10
Graignamanagh.....	4-2

Northern U-21 F Roinn A Final

Erin's Own.....	7-15
Graigue/Ballycallan.....	2-6

Not yet finished

Southern U-21 F Roinn A Final

Mullinavat.....	3-5
Carrickshock.....	2-6

Northern U-21 F Roinn B Final

Muckalee.....	1-15
Clara.....	1-6

Southern U-21 F Roinn B Final

Mooncoin.....	4-7
Rower/Inistioge.....	1-5

Outstanding Results

1999 FOOTBALL

Under 21 F Roinn A Final	
Erin's Own.....	2-6
Kilmoganny.....	1-6

2000 HURLING

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H Roinn A Final	
James Stephens.....	2-5
Dunamaggin.....	0-9

Michael Lyng Motors U21 H Roinn B Final (2nd Replay)	
Carrickshock.....	0-9
Clara.....	0-6

Jun B H C'ship North Final	
James Stephens.....	1-13
Emeralds.....	1-4

Jun B H C'ship Co Final	
John Lockes.....	1-11
James Stephens.....	3-2

2000 FOOTBALL

U21 A F C'ship North Final	
O'Loughlin Gaels.....	3-11
Young Irelands.....	4-3

U21 A F C'ship South Final	
Mullinavat.....	2-15
Kilmoganny.....	0-5

U21 A F C'ship Co Final

Mullinavat.....	1-8
O'Loughlin Gaels.....	2-4

U21 B F C'ship North Final

Emeralds.....	2-9
Conahy Shamrocks.....	1-1

U21 B F C'ship South Final

Carrickshock.....	1-8
Mooncoin.....	0-5

U21 B F C'ship Co Final

Carrickshock.....	1-5
Emeralds.....	2-2
Carrickshock.....	1-10
Emeralds.....	1-7

Jun F C'ship North Final

Danesfort.....	3-13
Barrow Rangers.....	2-5

Jun F C'ship South Final

Rower/Inistioge.....	0-11
Kilmacow.....	0-5

Minor A F C'ship Co Final

Railyard.....	1-8
James Stephens.....	0-9

Minor B F C'ship Co Final

Muckalee.....	3-9
Mooncoin.....	1-3.

Minor C F C'ship Co Final

John Lockes.....	0-12
Danesfort.....	1-6.

U16 A F C'ship North Final

Railyard.....	2-7
Emeralds.....	0-5

U16 A F C'ship South Final

Carrickshock. beat Piltown

U16 A F C'ship Co Final

Carrickshock.....	0-7
Railyard.....	1-4
Carrickshock.....	2-6
Railyard.....	1-5

U16 B F C'ship North Final

Muckalee.....	1-8
Conahy Shamrocks.....	1-6

U16 B F C'ship Co Final

Muckalee.....	0-11
Thomastown.....	1-4

U16 C F C'ship North Final

Clara.....	2-8
B & W's.....	3-4

U16 C F C'ship South Final

Mooncoin.....	5-8
Tullogher.....	0-4

U16 C F C'ship Co Final

Mooncoin.....	4-3
Clara.....	0-4

Coiste CLG Cill Chainnigh Club Colours



Ballyhale Shamrocks



Clonee



Kilroganny



O'Loughlin Gaels



St Pat's Ballyragger



Barrow Rangers



Conaly Shamrocks



Fennans



John Lockes



Piltown



Thomastown



Bennersbridge



Danesport



Galaxy



Kilnawc



Ralyard



Tinecastles



Blacks & Whites



Dicksboro



Glenwoke



Lisdowney



Rowe Imstroge



Tullaroan



Carricksack



Dunnamaginn



Gaughranagob



Moominn



Sieveue



Tullaghan/Rosbencon



Carrigeen



Emeralds



Graigue/Ballycallan



Muckalee



St Lachrain's



Windgap



Clara



Eun's Own



James Stephens



Mullmaver



St Martin's



Young Irelands