

KILKENNY

GAA Yearbook



2003



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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2003

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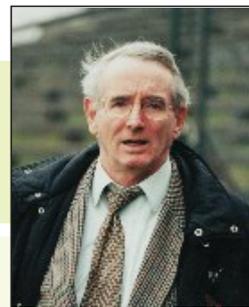
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DJ Carey, Richie Power,
and Jackie Tyrrell, Kilkenny
Senior, Minor, and
under-21 captains with
All Ireland Trophies.

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James McGarry
(SPORTSFILE)

EDITORIAL



Of the thirteen major hurling titles available to winning combinations, Kilkenny teams were to collect eleven thirteenth's of them in a season that stirred the emotions once again. I'm underselling the emotion bit. The feelings in Kilkenny hurling quarried a better word for emotion, which transported feelings to a higher plain, to a different planet. It was that kind of year.

For those die-hards of Kilkenny hurling, blessed with blinkered vision, three factors made their year. Two wins over Tipp - one a steal, an All Ireland win over Cork, and the biggest of all, going top of the All Ireland winners list to share it with Cork. Of course there was a lot more to eulogise about in 2003.

It started well for the county when the double All Ireland Colleges titles came Noreside, with St Kieran's and Castlecocker Community Colleges both making up for failure in 2002. The World Handball Championships arrived in Ireland, and Kilkenny were not slow in embracing the event with great professionalism.

Since last we met, "the lads" were in South Africa. They returned with renewed vigour, and some with a mission. The short-term mission was accomplished with great dignity and success. The second mission took a little longer, thankfully.

Our four major management teams all won titles. Messrs Cody, Fogarty, and Brennan won two apiece including All Irelands; Maurice Power was ripped at the post for one.

If hurling at National level was a superb travelogue, then much the same can be said about the games within the county. Absolutely marvellous. New Champions after two attempts, O'Loughlins have gone on to win the AIB Leinster Club title. They could go much further. The Intermediate games were terrific, with Erin's Own going all the way. Even the Junior threw up two mighty finals before Piltown won. But of course the Club of the Year in my humble opinion has to be James Stephens. Our Yearbook is dominated by green and red, a marvellous year for them.

Hopefully we have recreated some of the highlights of the year for you within the covers of our Yearbook. Buiochas to our scribblers, our professional, Enda Mc Evoy, our photographers Ray Mc Manus, John McIlwaine, Eoin Hennessy, Dylan Vaughan, and all the amateurs "clickers", to our Committee led by the determined PH, to all the contributors, and of course to the Kilkenny Printing Company, who, as always, do a splendidly professional job.

Finally in wishing you all every good health over Christmas, and into 2004, I exhort you to support our advertisers, whose support made this publication very possible.

Barrie Henriques

EDITOR

Foreword



When future historians come to write about the great years of Kilkenny hurling they will surely reserve a special place for the year 2003. Even now it is difficult to fully comprehend the achievements of our teams at all levels this year. Pride of place of course goes to our magnificent Senior Team for retaining their National League, Leinster and All Ireland titles, an achievement that many people believed was not possible in the modern era. Our Minor team also deserves our congratulations for retaining their Leinster and All Ireland titles as well. Our Under Twenty-One team were rank outsiders prior to the commencement of this year's championship but they showed tremendous commitment and defied the odds to land our eighth success at this grade. Well done also to our Intermediate team who regained the Leinster Crown then just failed by a single score in extra time to win the All Ireland. When you add the victories of St. Kieran's College and Castlecomer Community School in the Senior Colleges All Ireland Finals and the victory of our under fourteen county team in the Tony Forristal tournament, as well as James Stephens great success in the All Ireland Féile na Gael competition, then the overall magnitude of what has been achieved really begins to unfold.

To all involved in these successes I extend heartiest congratulations and thanks for the wonderful enjoyment provided throughout the year. I wish to extend sincere thanks also to Glanbia PLC who are outstanding sponsors of all our County teams and to the Kilkenny Supporters Clubs for their tremendous contributions.

The All Star presentation night brought further honours to Kilkenny with eight players chosen, namely Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Tommy Walsh, Henry Shefflin, Eddie Brennan and Martin Comerford. Congratulations to them all and special congratulations to JJ Delaney on his selection as GPA, Texaco and Players Player of the Year awards.

There was much to admire also regarding the work by a dedicated few people to promote football at inter county level this year. The work now being put in at underage level might just turn the tide in our favour and hopefully we will have some success to report on in the not too distant future.

Railyard Ladies footballers enjoyed their most successful season to date and brought great honour to their club. Let us hope that in time to come this will translate into success at inter county level also.

Kilkenny Camogie is going through a transition period at adult level but again the great work that is ongoing at underage will undoubtedly pay dividends in the years ahead. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Camogie Association and we wish them well with their celebrations.

The successful staging of the World Handball Championship was a major achievement for Kilkenny Handball Board and great credit is due to all who helped with, what was a major

undertaking. The excitement generated by the One Wall game suggests that it would offer an ideal opportunity for non-affiliated clubs to become involved in the games.

Big time hurling made a welcome return to Nowlan Park this year and the redeveloped stadium evoked much favourable comment from all who attended both the Leinster Senior Hurling Semi-finals and the All Ireland qualifier game that were staged there. These games, together with the third successful outdoor concert held in July, contributed handsomely to the economy of Kilkenny city and surrounding areas and we look forward with anticipation to more of the same in the coming years.

Radio Kilkenny has throughout its existence provided extensive coverage of all our games big and small. Their reports and commentaries brought the atmosphere and excitement of these games to the many people who for a variety of reasons could not attend. Now it seems that thanks to an utterly incomprehensible decision taken far from Kilkenny we are to lose this outstanding community service. To all in Kilkenny Radio and in particular to those in the Sports Department I express the sincere thanks of all GAA followers for your wonderfully positive coverage of our games and wish you well in your future careers.

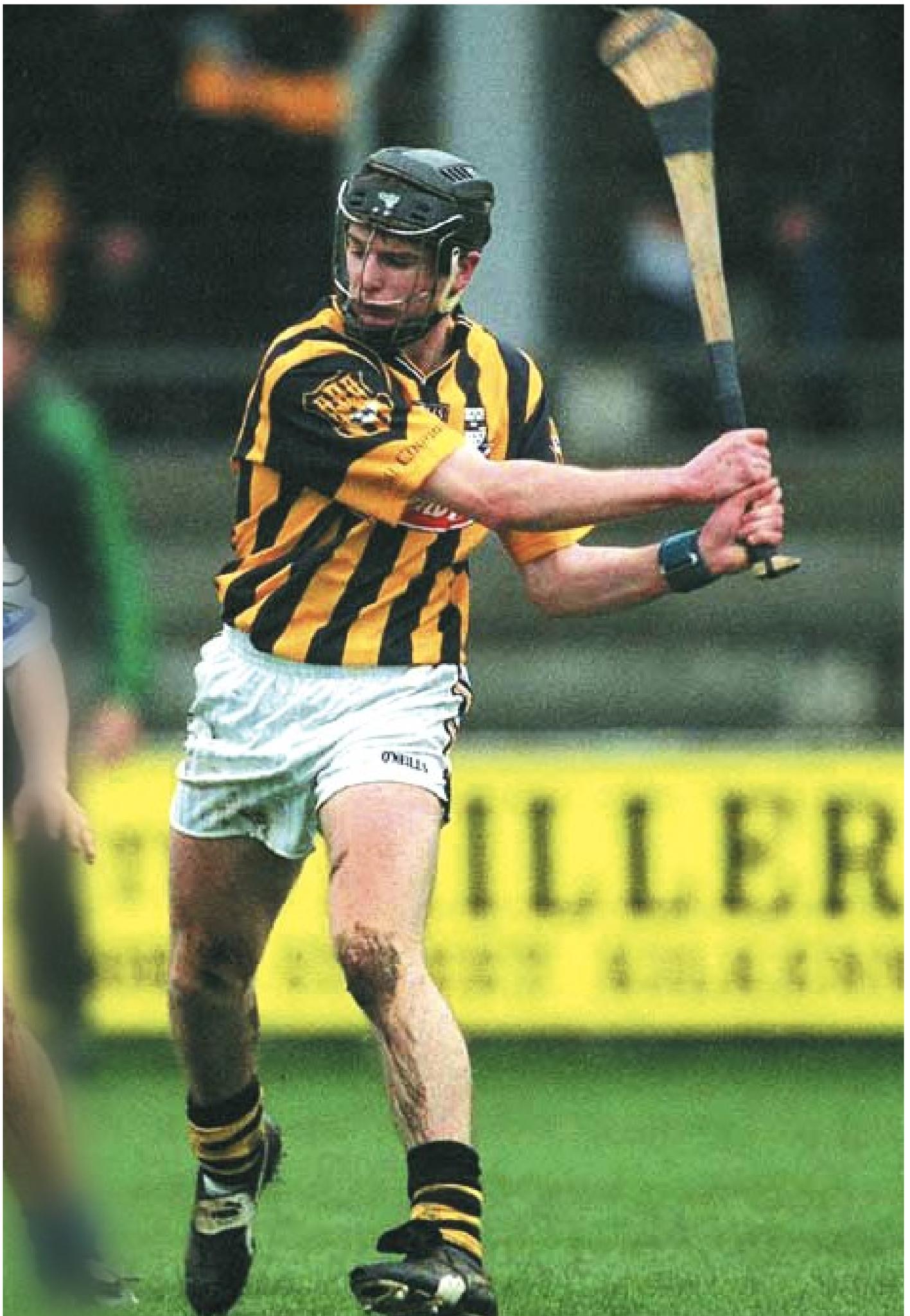
There were some tremendous games played in our local championship this year and replays were required to decide the eventual winners in a number of grades. Congratulations to O'Loughlin Gaels in regaining the Senior Title after two great games against Young Irelands of Gowran and to Erin's Own Castlecomer (Intermediate) Piltown (Junior) and James Stephens (Minor) on their great victories. Further congratulations to O'Loughlin Gaels on recording their first Leinster Club title and every success to them in the closing stages of the competition.

Kilkenny Co. Board again expresses its thanks to St. Canice's Credit Union, Vale Oil, JJ Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, Hennessy Sports, Michael Lyng Motors, Iamród Éireann and Duggan Steel for their sponsorship of all our County Championships.

No County could maintain the level of success that we regularly enjoy without the collective commitment and selfless dedication of the people who work so hard for the promotion of our games in our clubs and schools, and I hope you enjoyed to the full the great victories that were achieved this year.

Once again I wish to compliment our Year Book Committee on another wonderful publication and also for sponsoring the new electronic scoreboard in Nowlan Park. To Pat Henderson (Chairman) Gerry O, Neill, Barry Henriques (Editor) and to all who have contributed, I extend sincere thanks and I know that this book will be enjoyed by Kilkenny people both at home and abroad.

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.



JJ Delaney - GPA, Vodafone & Texaco Hurler of the year 2003

The Year of Living Dangerously!

County SH Championship Report by Tommy Lanigan

O'Loughlins tough it out for a famous victory

If last year might be remembered as the year of DJ's great final, this year's Credit Union senior hurling championship will surely be remembered as the year of never-say-die O'Loughlins.

Well done to the St. John's men. They insisted on doing it the hard way at every round. What is it about these guys? What qualities do they possess to win the games they seem most likely to lose? Why do they improve so much at moments of greatest crisis?

There are no simple answers to explain their extraordinary will to win, their ability to change tactics in mid game to preserve themselves. They themselves speak of the physically hard hurling they do in training, how uncompromising they are to each other in their own field. They have a talismanic leader in Andy - we have known that for a long time. But on days when Andy is fallible, somebody else

sticks out his chest and takes on all comers, spurring his comrades to greater heights.

Nobody would pretend they are the most skilfull hurlers in the county. But the hewers of wood and drawers of water among them have more skill than is generally credited them and more nous than most. Truly they never contemplate defeat.

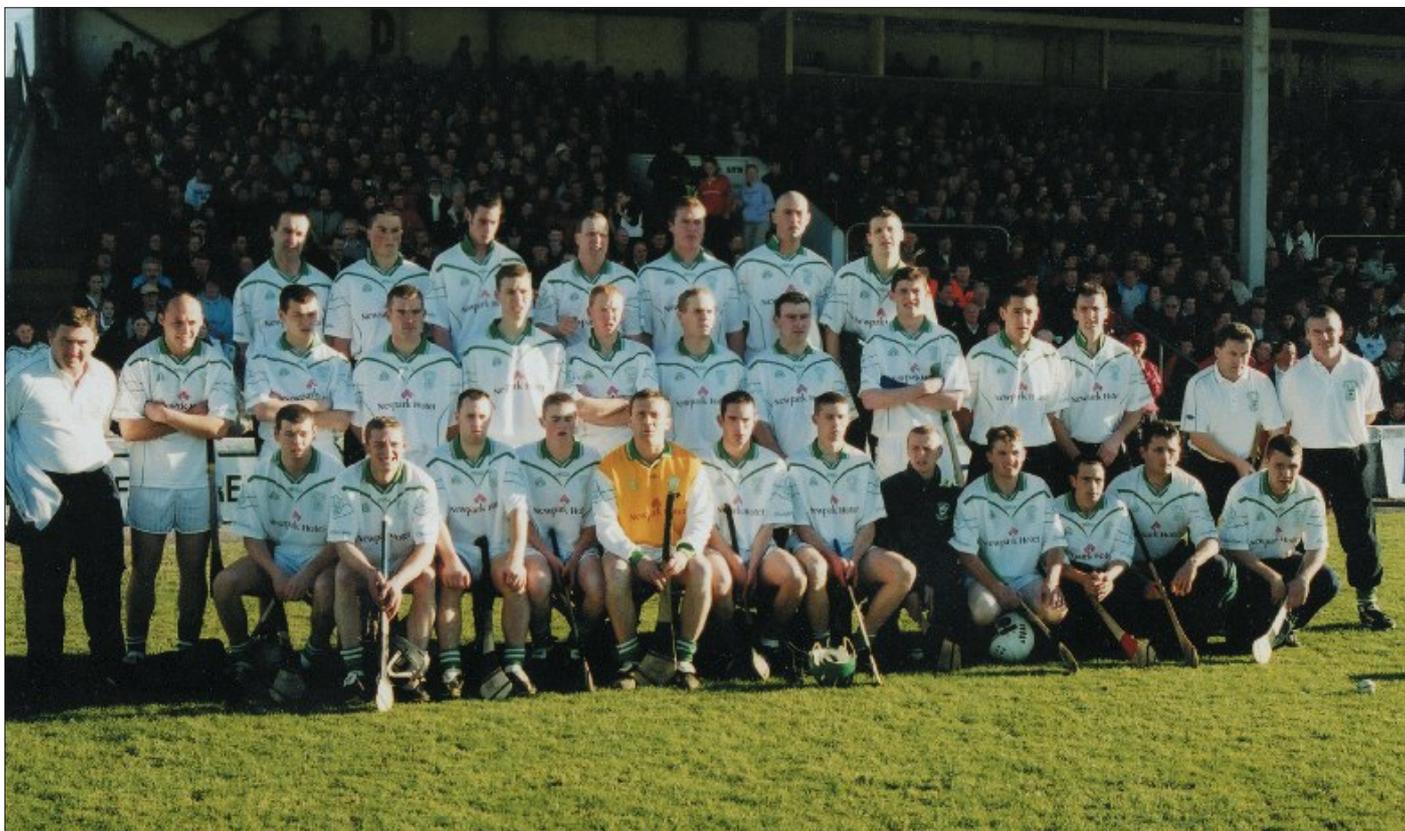
Astute Back-room

But let us consider their back-room, in particular the two men who have been there for some years. Mick Nolan, more than anyone, has instilled a raw edge to their game over the past seven years. He has also convinced them to work together for the sake of the club. Above all he knows his men. Aidan Fogarty has brought the resilience, economy and craft he demonstrated so clearly in his very distinguished hurling career with Offaly. Most importantly this year Nolan, Fogarty and Paul Cleere have made ruthless and sometimes unpopular decisions about their players. A lesson there for many aspiring managers!!

A Great Championship

We are living yet again in the glory days of Kilkenny hurling. At club level we do not have outrageously gifted teams like the Fenians and Village of the Seventies, nor the Shamrocks or Glenmore of the Eighties but we have a truly competitive championship. At the beginning of the year any one of five teams might have captured the Tom Walsh Cup.

And wasn't this years championship one of the best we have seen? True, the first round was less than inspiring but that was played without the presence of the four top League teams. That first round is a nerve-wracking time. Eagerness to progress is tempered by the fear of failure. Last year we predicted great things for a solid Mullinavat side, young and just breaking into senior ranks. Sadly for them their year unravelled, dogged by injury, loss of form and ill luck. Last years county finalists, Dunnamaggin too faced the long drop but in an inspired third quarter, driven on by the might of Noel Hickey, they found safety ahead of their Southern rivals.



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS : ST CANICES CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Johnny Holohan, Niall Bergin, Niall Mc Evoy, Pakie Fitzgerald, Peter Dowling, Joe Daly, Michael Kinchella.
Middle: Michael Nolan, Andy Comerford, Bryan Skehan, Sean Dowling, Brian Hogan, Seamus Cummins, Colin Furlong, Brian Murphy, Martin Comerford, Dónal O' Dwyer, Michael Holohan, Paul Cleere, Aidan Fogarty.
Front: Nigel Skehan, Jimmy Comerford, Alan Geoghegan, Maurice Nolan, Kevin Cleere, Brian Dowling, Alan O' Brien, Tommy Lahart, Brian Kelly, Ollie O'Connor, Barry Power, Jason Lawlor.



Colin Furlong, O'Loughlin Gaels, in action against Charlie Carter.



Andy and Jack had a rare old tussle in the final

Fenians, James Stephens and Tullaroan each had nine points to spare over their first round opponents while it took a replay for Dicksboro to advance over struggling Mullinavat. The first three showed definite signs that they would be formidable quarter finalists, and so it proved.

Outstanding Quarter Finals

James Stephens for the second successive year, withstood a tremendous Shamrocks comeback to survive by a solitary score. Young Irelands lived very dangerously before Charlie Carters point scoring prowess nudged them to safety over Fenians. O'Loughlins had a point to spare over a typically dogged Tullaroan, whose growing inability to score goals is costing them dear. Graig-Ballycallan had an embarrassingly easy victory over a hapless Dicksboro.

Contrasting Semi-finals

Graig must have rued their quarter final cakewalk when they were clearly unprepared for the onslaught of Young Irelands at their imperious best in a truly one sided semi-final.

The city derby was a classic with James Stephens levelling in injury time only for Sean Dowling to snatch a last second victory with a mighty eighty yard point.

Best Kept Until Last

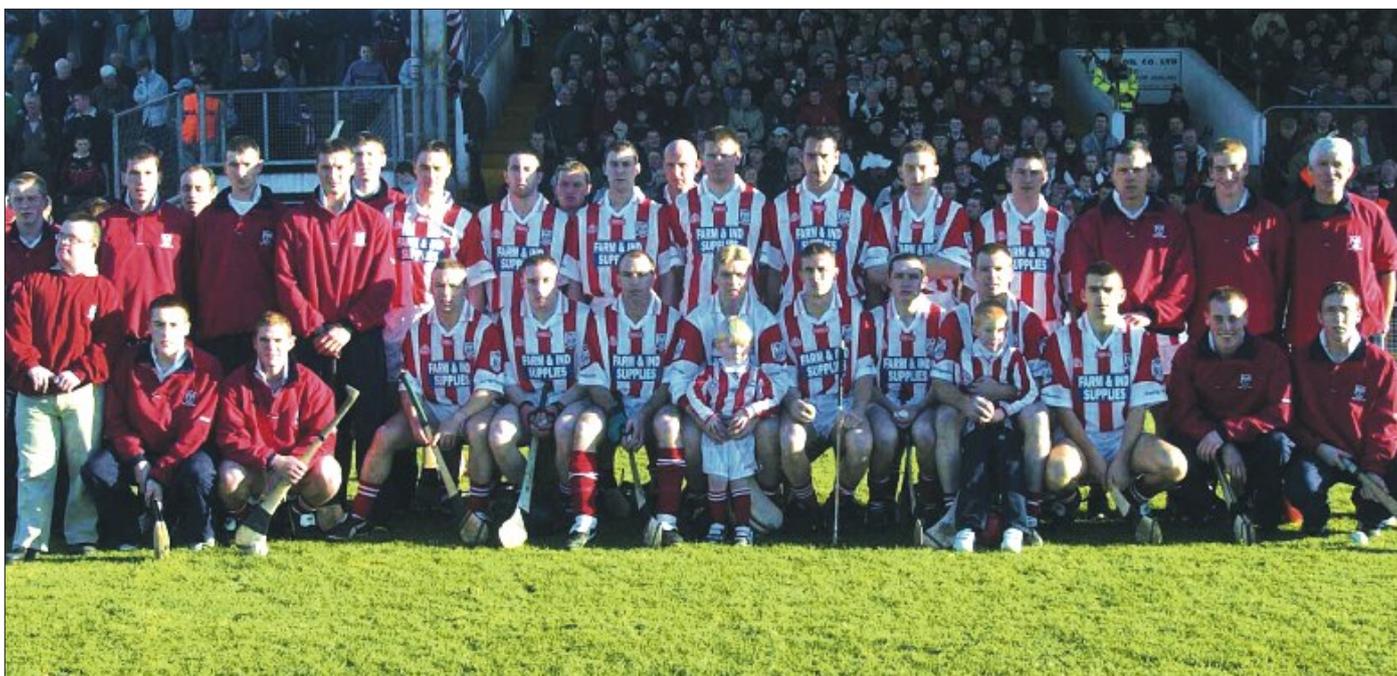
The first county final was a well contested affair, never reaching classic proportions and most would agree that Young Irelands had done enough to win a third county title. Why they stood up watching rather than defending as Nigel Skehan careered through them for the equalising goal will haunt the Gowran men forever.

What the first game lacked the replay compensated for in spades. The hurling was exceptional, the contest was wicked, splenetic and a different referee might have walked three players. Again Young Irelands led into the home straight. Despite sideline instructions, the 'Irelands players retreated and gave Andy Comerford and Alan Geoghegan time and space to drive forward in relentless fashion.

Colin Furlong managed to field two booming clearances and offload to the lethal Skehan and Seamus Cummins to seal Gowrans fate with heartbreaking goals in the final frantic moments. O'Loughlins luck held when a late DJ Carey free was charged down. Instead of a retake the final whistle blew to give the city side their second and well merited title.



The Final whistle - Alan Geoghegan leaps in the air as the Young Ireland players see their dream disappear.



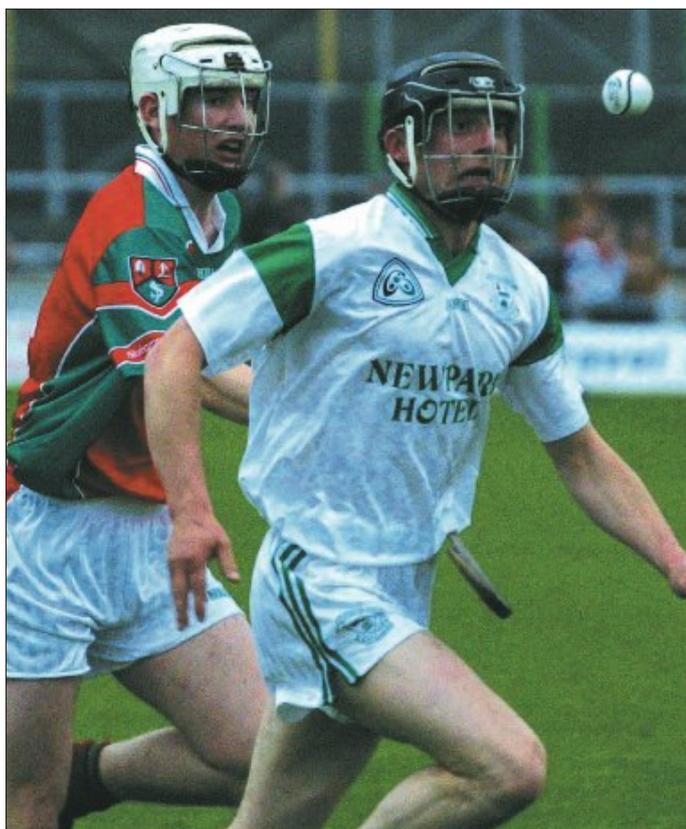
YOUNG IRELANDS - COUNTY SH FINALISTS 2003

Back: James O'Neill, Gary Farrell, Richard Kennedy, Jonathan Dunphy, Peter Carroll, Thomas Carroll, James McDermott, Stephen Byrne, Martin Carter, Ciaran Carroll, Shane O'Neill, Tom Drennan, Eoghan Farrell, Ollie Carter, Ciaran Phelan, John Drennan, Frank Farrell, John Kennedy (Selector)

Front: Tommy Harding, Dermot Madden, Patrick Murphy, Charlie Carter, Dick Carroll, D J Carey, Martin Carey, Darragh Phelan, David Carter, Jack Carey, James Fitzgerald, Colin Madden, Alan Doyle

Young talent to the fore

It was good to see several younger players demonstrate significant hurling talent in the championship cauldron. We will watch with much interest the progress of, among others, Brian Hogan, Nigel Skehan and Seamus Cummins (O'Loughlins), Davy and Ollie Carter (Young Irelands), Eoin McCormack (James Stephens), Michael Walsh (Tullaroan), Eoin Reid and James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks) and Willie O'Dwyer (Mullinavat). Let us savour the good times.



Donncha Cody (James Stephens) chases **Jimmy Comerford** (O'Loughlin Gaels) during their semi-final Clash. *Photo Eoin Hennessy*



Maurice Nolan, O'Loughlin Gaels, in action against **Eoghan Farrell**, Young Irelands, Kilkenny Senior Hurling Final. **SPORTSFILE**

A Lively League!

County Senior Hurling League
by Tommy Lanigan

If one was to rely on the evidence of this year's Credit Union Senior Hurling League final as a barometer of the championship then one would be sorely tried. For the first time in several years the League final was a total mismatch. Graig-Ballycallan played like men who were charting an inexorable course to a championship title. Their performance against an admittedly understrength Young Irelands side was dazzling. Who would have predicted a 6-16 to 0-11 hammering of the experienced Gowran men? In the semi-finals Graig had overcome a strangely goal shy O'Loughlins team in a dour struggle while Shamrocks and Young Irelands had played out a fine high scoring contest. There certainly did not seem to be much between the top four.

But it was 'only the league'. We know it is but a mediocre guide to championship form and potential. Think of when the closing stages of the competition are completed. The sun is high in the Summer sky (and championship finals are played in late Autumn!). How many players seem distracted in July with intercounty affairs, injuries and sundry absences??



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN - COUNTY SH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Micheál Hoyne, James Ryall, Shane Murphy, Eddie O'Dwyer, Gearóid Cleere, John Hoyne, Jo Jo Brennan, Adrian Ronan.

Front: Paul Dermody, Kevin Cleere, Patrick Dalton, James Young, Edward Brennan, Brian Dalton.

Photo: Eoin Hennessy.

There was little indication of their championship fate for several teams. O'Loughlins, eventually county senior champions coasted through the five rounds unbeaten, noticeable for their ability to concede few goals and win tight games using their experience garnered over the past three campaigns. It was interesting to see them completely restructuring that defence to great effect when championship time came around, despite their league form.

The young Shamrocks did well to qualify for the League semi-finals from Group Two and they headed into the championship phase with high hopes only to be dashed yet again by the Village.

Young Irelands, with DJ Carey and Charlie Carter scoring freely, won their games comfortably though they came badly unstuck against Graig. They were to extract maximum revenge later in the year. Graig qualified from the same group despite some stuttering performances. Perennial semi-finalists Tullaroan and Fenians found the going more difficult this year. Tullaroan were badly hampered by a series of woeful injuries, the most serious to John Coogan. We will miss his rugged defensive qualities and great commitment to the game.

St. Martins survived commendably in their first season back in senior ranks and with plenty of good young hurlers coming

Players who took part in the 2003 Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship

Dicksboro

Cillian Breathnach, Brian Walton, Donal Carroll, Dave Beirne, Mark Dowling, Ger Henderson, Brendan Dalton, Conor O'Loughlin, David Carroll, Alan Barry, Eddie O'Donoghue, Sam Morrissey, Shane McGarry, John Broderick, Paul O'Flynn, John O'Gorman, Tom Henderson, John Treacy, Jimmy Bergin, Dan O'Neill, Shane Prendergast, Pat Henderson.

Dunnamaggin

Niall McCormack, Noel Hickey, Tom Hickey, Canice Hickey, Eamonn Kennedy, Noel Lahart, Denis Lahart, Jim Hickey, Seaghan O'Neill, David Herity, Ramie Cahill, Paul Cahill, Ken O'Shea, Liam Heffernan, Mark Heffernan, Sean Ryan.

Fenians

PJ Ryan, James Whelan, Paul Phelan, Robert Tobin, Jason Ryan, JJ Delaney, Declan Garrett, Ger Henderson, Stephen Greham, Lar Ryan, Eoin Beehan, Brian Power, Brian Ryan, Kevin Power, Paul Quinlan, Liam McEvoy, PJ Delaney, Podge Delaney.

Glenmore

Niall Mackey, Fergal Freyne, PJ O'Connor, Jimmy Walsh, Willie O'Connor, Paddy Mullally, Seamus Dollard, Shay Vereker, Michael T. Phelan, Michael Phelan, Mark Phelan, Eddie O'Connor, John Dollard, John Phelan, B. Vereker, Willie Fitzgerald, Michael Murphy, P. Murphy.

Graigue-Ballycallan

Paul Dermody, Shane Murphy, James Ryall, Micheál Hoyne, Eddie O'Dwyer, Kevin Cleere, Ciaran Hoyne, Gearoid Cleere, John Hoyne, James Young, Paddy Dalton, Brian Dalton, Adrian Ronan, Joe Brennan, Eddie Brennan, James Dunphy, Pat Robinson, Thomas Dermody, PJ Pollard, Johnny Butler, Dermot Hoyne, Damien Cleere.

James Stephens

Francis Cantwell, Joe Mernagh, Phil Larkin, Dermot Grogan, Donncha Cody, Jackie Tyrrell, Vinnie O'Brien, Peter Barry, Paddy O'Brien, Eoin Larkin, Eoin McCormack, Joe Murray, Garry Whelan, Brian McEvoy, Liam O'Connor, Richard Hayes, Tomas O'Dowd.

Mullinavat

John Dunphy, Ger Anthony, Tom Duggan, Seamie Farrell, Walter Burke, Liam Murphy, Mossy Murphy, Conor Conway, Willie O'Dwyer, Richie Raffice, Seamus Holden, Tomas Frisby, Dinny Butler, Kevin Aylward, Michael Murphy, Jimmy Roughan, Andrew McGovern, Joe Walsh, Kenny Butler.

O'Loughlin Gaels

Kevin Cleere, Brian Kelly, Brian Hogan, Brian Murphy, Andy Comerford, Sean Dowling, Alan Geoghegan, Colin Furlong, Niall Bergin, Martin Comerford, Jimmy Comerford, Brian Dowling,

Alan O'Brien, Maurice Nolan, Seamus Cummins, Nigel Skehan, Jason Lawlor.

St. Martins

Stephen Murphy, Dick Dooley, Damien Maher, Liam Dowling, Aiden Lawlor, Alan Murphy, Niall Moran, Brendan Ryan, John Maher, Shane Coonan, Niall Maloney, Dermot Lawlor, Kieran Kelly, Ronan Maher, Dermot Comerford.

Tullaroan

Edward Holland, Ned Sweeney, Shane Hennessy, Michael Maher, Eddie Campion, Stephen Maher, Ken Coogan, Tommy Walsh, Chris Maher, Jimmy Coogan, Michael Walsh, Barry Teehan, Liam Keoghane, Paul Doherty, Tom Fitzgerald, Paddy Campion.

Young Irelands

Martin Carey, Ciaran Carroll, Eoghan Farrell, Ciaran Phelan, Darragh Phelan, James McDermott, Ollie Carter, Stephen Byrne, Tom Drennan, Charlie Carter, James Fitzgerald, Jack Carey, David Carter, Peter Carroll, Dick Carroll, DJ Carey, Thomas Carroll, Martin Carter.

Shamrocks

John Drennan, Tommy Shefflin, Conor Harrington, Paul Shefflin, Aidan Cummins, Padraig Holden, Keith Nolan, Bob Aylward, Dermot Ryan, Michael Fennelly, Tom Coogan, Henry Shefflin, Eoin Reid, David Hoyne, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Patrick Reid.

onstream they should look forward to prosperous days ahead. But we said as much last year about Mullinavat! Unfortunately for the southerners when the wheels came off the waggon in mid-season they were unable to salvage any consolation and will now ply their trade in Intermediate for 2004.

The two city teams James Stephens and Dicksboro propped up their respective groups, the Village losing most of their matches by a single point but never playing too badly.

On the other hand ominous signs abounded for the 'Boro who found it very difficult to score respectably either in victory or defeat.

What characterised Glenmore's season were the performances of two players. Willie O'Connor displayed his outrageous skills in every game and allied to Paddy Mullally's superb play (which earned him a county senior place) they remained afloat for this year.

Dunnamaggin and Mullinavat were consistently unable to defend against quality forwards and both sides conceded an average of eighteen points per game. Nevertheless the league produced many fine games and proved that unless teams were very well prepared, relatively



TULLAROAN - ALL-COUNTY SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003
Back : Tom Fitzgerald, Donie Hogan, Paddy Champion, Barry Teehan, Pádraig Kennedy, Paul Doheny, Derek Davis, Joe Norton.
Middle: Liam Keoghan, Eddie Champion, Liam Simpson, John Coogan, Chris Maher, Michael Walsh, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy, Jimmy Coogan.
Front: Richie Cleere, Stephen Maher, Bill Hennessy, Nicky Maher, Edward Holland, Michael Maher, Ned Sweeney, Tom Walsh, Richie Holland
Photo: Eoin Hennessy.

free of injuries and able to defend well they were liable to find themselves in severe difficulties. On the other hand we

saw much to delight, with many high scoring and well contested matches. Long may we continue to do so.

SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2003 RESULTS AND SCORES

1st round

Fenians 4-13 St.Martins1-14

Fenians: Brian Power 2-3, Paul Quinlan 2-2, Kevin Power 0-3 Lar Ryan 0-2 Stephen Grehan 0-1 Brian Ryan 0-1 Eoin Behan 0-1
 St Martins: Dermot Lawlor 1-9 Paul Maher 0-3 John Dooley 0-1 Niall Moloney 0-1

James Stephens 0-23 Dunnamaggin 0-14

James Stephens: Joe Murray 0-7 Brian McEvoy 0-3 Eoin McCormack 0-3 Liam O'Connor 0-3 Donnacha Cody 0-3 Peter Barry 0-1 Garry Whelan 0-1 Tomas O'Dowd 0-1 Eoin Larkin 0-1
 Dunnamaggin: Ramie Cahill 0-5 Seaghan O'Neill 0-3 Eamon Kennedy 0-2 Sean Ryan 0-2 Denis Lahart 0-1 Ken O'Shea 0-1

Dicksboro 2-14 Mullinavat 2-14

Dicksboro: Eddie O'Donoghue 1-9 Sam Morrissey 1-1 Conor O'Loughlin 0-2 Brendan Dalton 0-1 Alan Barry 0-1
 Mullinavat: Michael Murphy 0-8 Willie O'Dwyer 1-4 Joe Walsh 1-0 Seamus Holden 0-1 Anthony McGovern 0-1

Replay

Dicksboro 2-9 Mullinavat 0-9

Dicksboro: John O'Gorman 2-0 Eddie O'Donoghue 0-6 Sam Morrissey 0-2 Dan O'Neill 0-1
 Mullinavat: Michael Murphy 0-4 Jimmy Roughan 0-2 Conor Conway 0-2 Andrew McGovern 0-1

Tullaroan 2-24 Glenmore 1-18

Tullaroan: Tommy Walsh 0-5 Barry Teehan 0-5 Michael Walsh 1-2 Jimmy Coogan 0-4 Liam Keoghan 1-1 Tom Fitzgerald 0-3 Paul Doheny 0-2 Ned Sweeney 0-2

Glenmore: Mark Phelan 0-10 John Phelan 0-3 Michael Murphy 1-0 Paddy Mullally 0-1 Willie O'Connor 0-1 Michael T Phelan 0-1 Paddy Murphy 0-1 Willie Fitzgerald 0-1

Quarter Finals

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-13 Dicksboro 0-3

Graig: Eddie Brennan 0-7 John Hoyne 1-0 Gearoid Cleere 0-2 Adrian Ronan 0-2 Eddie O Dwyer 0-1 Kevin Cleere 0-1
 Dicksboro: Sam Morrissey 0-1 Shane Prendergast 0-1 Dan O'Neill 0-1

James Stephens 0-18 Shamrocks 1-14

James Stephens: Joe Murray 0-12 Eoin McCormack 0-2 Garry Whelan 0-1 Brian McEvoy 0-1 Paddy O'Brien 0-1 Jackie Tyrrell 0-1
 Shamrocks: Henry Shefflin 0-8 Eoin Reid 1-2 James Fitzpatrick 0-3 Bob Aylward 0-1

Young Irelands 1-17 Fenians 2-9

Young Irelands: Charlie Carter 0-7 Davy Carter 0-5 DJ. Carey 1-2 Dick Carroll 0-2 James Fitzgerald 0-1
 Fenians: Kevin Power 1-6 Lar Ryan 1-2 Paul Quinlan 0-1

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-10 Tullaroan 0-12

O'Loughlins: Nigel Skehan 1-7 Brian Dowling 0-3
 Tullaroan: Jimmy Coogan 0-7 Michael Walsh 0-2 Tommy Walsh 0-1 Shane Hennessy 0-1 Tom Fitzgerald 0-1

Semi-finals

Young Irelands 2-18

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6

Young Irelands: Davy Carter 1-5 DJ Carey 0-6 Jack Carey 1-0 Dick Carroll 0-3 Ollie Carter 0-2 Charlie Carter 0-2
 Graigue-Ballycallan: Adrian Ronan 0-4 Damien Cleere 1-0 Eddie O'Dwyer 0-1 John Hoyne 0-1

O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13

James Stephens 2-12

O'Loughlins: Nigel Skehan 1-5 Jimmy Comerford 1-0 Sean Dowling 0-2 Alan Geoghegan 0-2 Brian Kelly 0-1 Seamus Cummins 0-1 Martin Comerford 0-1 Brian Dowling 0-1
 James Stephens: Joe Murray 0-6 Eoin McCormack 0-4 Richard Hayes 1-0 Eoin Larkin 1-0 Paddy O'Brien 0-1 Brian McEvoy 0-1

Final

O'Loughlin Gaels 3-9 Young Irelands 2-12

O'Loughlins: Nigel Skehan 2-3 Brian Dowling 1-2 Maurice Nolan 0-2 Martin Comerford 0-1 Niall Bergin 0-1
 Young Irelands: DJ Carey 1-3 Charlie Carter 0-4 Jack Carey 1-1 James McDermott 0-1 Ollie Carter 0-1 James Fitzgerald 0-1 Dick Carroll 0-1

Final Replay

O'Loughlin Gaels 2-12

Young Irelands 2-10

O'Loughlins: Nigel Skehan 1-7 Seamus Cummins 1-0 Alan Geoghegan 0-2 Andy Comerford 0-1 Sean Dowling 0-1 Brian Dowling 0-1
 Young Irelands: DJ Carey 1-7 Dick Carroll 1-1 Charlie Carter 0-2

O'Loughlins' Proudest Day

The Kilkenny Champions opened their AIB Leinster Club account with a less than convincing win over Kildare Champions, Coill Dubh in Allenwood on Sunday, November 9th. Though the sun shone, it was a bitterly cold early Winter day. The locals posed a few threats to the Kilkenny representatives, with good players like full back, Colm Byrne, the very impressive Tom Carew, Alan Flaherty, Ger Hannify and Chris Byrne, and goalkeeper Damien Byrne.

This was a no win situation for the O'Loughlins lads, because irrespective of the size of the result, or the standard of the performance, it would cut no ice with the public. They led at half time by 0-12 to 0-1 having played with the strong breeze. A few snappy points immediately after the resumption by Martin Comerford, Alan Geoghegan and Shem Cummins set the victory up for the Kilkenny champs, which they duly achieved on a score of 0-21 to 0-12.

Their semi-final outing against Wexford stalwarts, Rathnure was a little more demanding, but not much. The Kilkenny champions expected a sterner test, but in truth, the famed Wexford surge never manifested itself in a game that was very disappointing, and mediocre. True, the Wexford lads came within the pucker of a ball of gaining parity towards the end of the game, but in the interests of brutal honesty, O'Loughlins never looked like losing a game that they should have had wrapped up, well before Pat Aherne blew the final whistle.

O'Loughlins played the best hurling they had played throughout the year, in the first twenty minutes. They led by a comfortable 0-11 to 0-1 by the 26th minute. A Paul Codd goal just before half time, was probably the reason why the many of the fine crowd didn't go home at half time. The O'Loughlins continued to impress during the second half, but they took their foot off the throttle, and nearly paid an unbelievable price. The final score read, O'Loughlins 0-20, Rathnure 2-11.

O'Loughlins scorers were, Nigel Skehan (0-10, seven frees),

Martin Comerford (0-3), Jimmy Comerford, Maurice Nolan, Brian Dowling (0-2 each), Colin Furlong (0-1).

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-15, Birr 0-9

O'Loughlins proudest day as a club arrived as they gained the accolade as best club in Leinster hurling when they defeated mighty Birr in Portlaoise by six points. Against Birr they showed skill and strength in abundance but more significantly they showed an indomitable will to win, a self belief that grows with every game they play.

When many struggled in the first half a few, notable Sean Dowling, Alan Geoghegan, Brian Hogan and Andy Comerford held the line. Birr dominated the first twenty minutes to the extent that one felt O'Loughlins had no chance to break the Offaly men's stranglehold. As Brian Whelehan, Niall Claffey and Rory Hanniffy dominated and set a 0-7 to 0-2 early lead, O'Loughlins dug in and limited the damage to three points by the interval. Crucially they were beginning to win a few battles around the field.

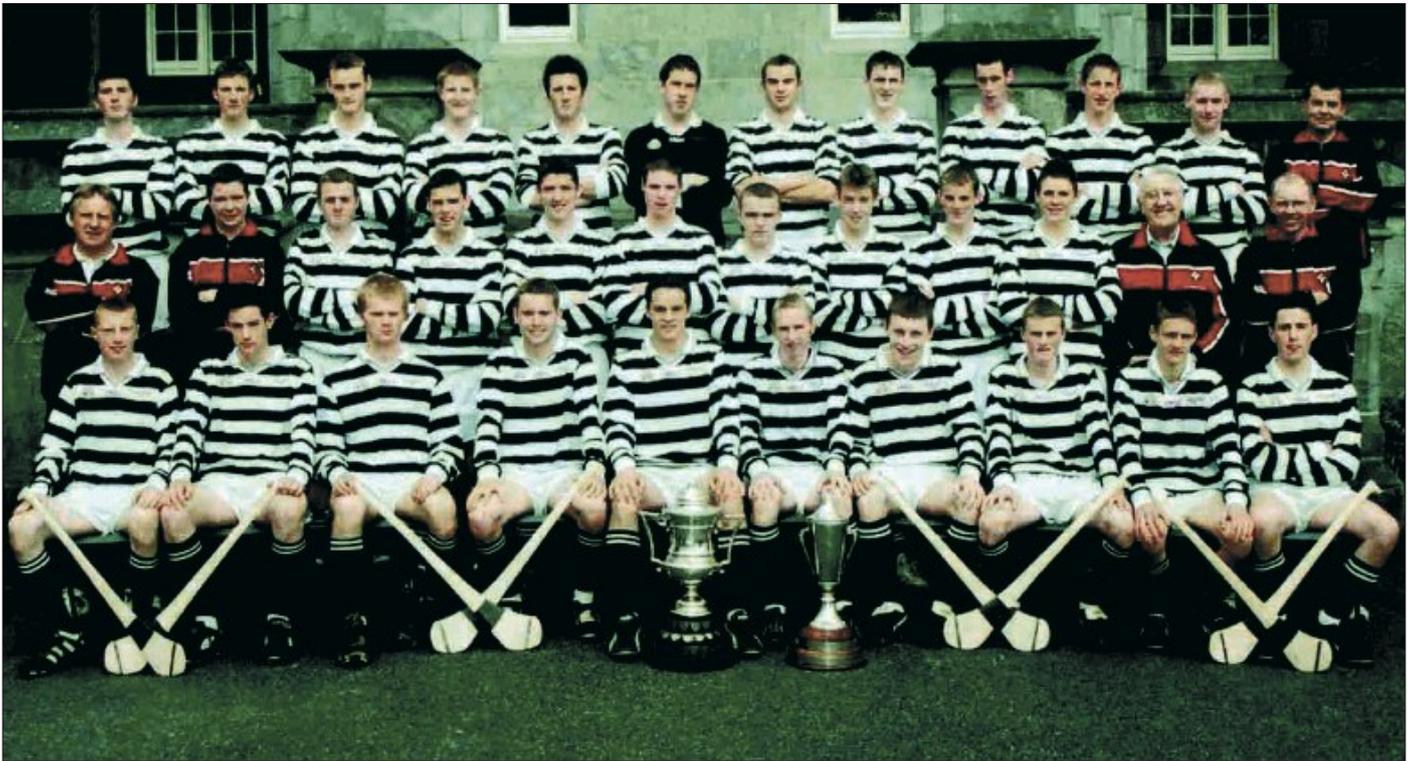
O'Loughlins began the second half like men possessed and the points flowed freely. Nigel Skehan was unerring from placed balls finishing with eight points. Jimmy Comerford harnessed the previously rampant Rory Hanniffy. Andy Comerford began to win a wicked battle with Gary Hanniffy and O'Loughlins forwards all contributed to a fine display of point scoring that left last years All Ireland champions unable to muster a counter charge.

O'Loughlins: Kevin Cleere, Brian Kelly, Brian Hogan, Brian Murphy, Alan O'Brien, Andy Comerford (capt), Sean Dowling, Seamus Cummins, Alan Geoghegan (0-1), Martin Comerford (0-1), Colin Furlong (0-1), Nigel Skehan (0-8f), Jimmy Comerford, Maurice Nolan (0-1), Brian Dowling (0-2). Subs: Niall Bergin (0-1) for Cummins inj. 12 mins.



Andy leads the Way
Captain, Andy Comerford moving against Rathnure in the Leinster Club semi-final

What a Difference a Year Makes!



ST KIERAN'S - ALL IRELAND SENIOR COLLEGES HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003

Photo - Tom Brett

Back: Neal Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, Kevin Lanigan, Richie Power, David Prendergast, James Connolly, Eamon O'Gorman, Eoin Reid, Niall McEvoy, John Tennyson, Aidan Ryan, Tom Hogan (Mentor).

Middle: John Quane (Mentor), Patrick O'Flynn (Mentor), James Farrell, Philip Walsh, John Walsh, Patrick Butler, George Hickey, Paddy Hogan, Páraic Treacy, Mickey Bergin, Art Anglin (Mentor), Ken Archbold (Mentor).

Front: Mark Aylward, Donncha Cody, Jamie Quane, Damien Bergin, Darren O'Neill, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (Capt), John Murphy, Maurice Nolan, Niall Fennelly, Willie Norton.

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Clonmel, St. Kieran's collected their 15th All-Ireland Colleges title with one of the most complete performances ever by a team in an All-Ireland.

It all began with league victories over Dublin Colleges and St. Mary's CBS, Enniscorthy, before they bowed out of the league in a thrilling match to St. Peters College by 5-06 to 0-20.

The first round of the championship saw them meet last year's league winners, Roscrea. Kieran's easily won the game, after a sluggish start, with Mickey Bergin proving to be the star of the show, scoring 2-3.

In the Leinster semi-final St. Kieran's took on the old enemy, CBS Kilkenny. The Saints were seemingly in cruise control leading by 2-08 to 0-05 heading into first half injury time but then disaster struck in the College's defence with the CBS nabbing 2-1 in injury time. It was game, set and match seconds after the break when Eoin Reid flicked the ball home from the edge of the square and

Kieran's cruised to victory thereafter with John Tennyson and James Fitzpatrick shining out.

The Leinster final proved to be a tight though affair with neither side dominating but both showing their hunger to win. Eoin Reid's goal proved to be the difference between the sides. David Prendergast and Eamon O'Gorman showed their qualities throughout and the Black and White hoops won by 3-10 to 0-11.

The All-Ireland semi final was a non-event with Gort's young side being no match for them although the game did mark the return of Richie Power from a knee operation

The battle for the Croke Cup saw odds-on favourites and reigning champions, St. Colman's take on St. Kieran's for the second year in a row and, put simply, the College Road outfit steamrolled any ambitions the Cork side had of doing three-in-a-row.

Influential centre forward, Eamon O'Gorman got the ball rolling when he pointed after just thirty seconds. Then Darren O'Neill added an inspirational point from inside his own half to give

them the tonic start they were looking for.

Captain James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick fired over two points in quick succession with Richie Power and John Murphy also getting in on the scoring act.

Andrew O'Shaughnessy finally scored for the reigning champions but Mickey Bergin and Maurice Nolan added further points for the Kilkenny school to leave them 0-10 to 0-1 clear at the break.

Just after half time Eoin Reid hammered the ball home after some great work by Murphy to finish the match off as a contest. The rest of the game was an exhibition of hurling from a truly magnificent team which well and truly buried the ghosts of Thurles 2002.

James Fitzpatrick, Donncha Cody and John Tennyson all had brilliant campaigns. David Prendergast, Eamon O'Gorman, Eoin Reid were leaders on the field throughout the year while Mickey Bergin, John Murphy and James Connolly also had successful seasons.

Juvenile Hurling

The Juvenile team retained the Leinster A championship, thus completing two-in-



CASTLECOMER CS - ALL IRELAND SENIOR "B" COLLEGES HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Peter Dollard, Ronan Maher, Conor Kinsella, David Stone, Eoin McGrath, Dermot Wallace, James Staunton, David O'Gorman, Shane Comerford.

Middle: Donal Meally, Damien Fogarty, Aidan Murphy, Cathal Hestor, David Shore, Gavin Dowd, Ronan Walsh, Steve Mahon, Tomás Nolan..

Front: Paddy Nolan, James Maher, Sean Allen, Paddy Brennan, Peter Donovan (Capt), Brian Healy, Gavin Nolan, Martin Boran, Kevin Lawlor, Paddy Shortall.

Foreground: Terence Fahy, Pat Murphy, Ned Lawlor.

a-row. It was a year when the young Saints showed their dominance in the grade beating Laois Colleges, St. Peters, Birr and CBS Kilkenny en route to the final. In the final, Good Counsel were easily disposed of with Captain Richie Hogan, John Joe Farrell, Colm Brady, Shane Brennan and David Walsh all excelling throughout the campaign.

Panel; Richie Hogan (Capt), Stephen Dowling, John Brennan, Michael McDonald, Colm Brady, John Joe Farrell, Liam Ryan, Keith Hogan, Conor O'Brien, Sean Holohan, Shane Brennan, Darren Ferns, David Walsh, Michael Lawlor, David Hession, Padraig Murphy, James Nolan, Shane Connolly, Gary Breen, Daryl Whitty, Brian O'Shea, Brendan Muldoon, David Walton, Martin Phelan, Richard Leydon, Michael Fagan, Conor McQuillan, Andrew Smith and Tom Ryan. Mentors: Aidrian Finan and John O'Keefe.

Juvenile Football

The Juvenile football had one of the best seasons in recent memory. After a number of tough league games, they qualified for the South Leinster B final where they defeated a spirited Portarlington. After a gallant effort, the young Saints bowed out in the Leinster semi-final by a solitary point to a skilful Athlone side.

Panel; Richie Hogan, Stephen Dowling,

John Brennan, Colm Brady, Gary Breen, Shane Brennan, Gary Byrne, Shane Connolly, Oisín Daly, John Fagan, John Joe Farrell, Darren Ferns, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Michael Gannon, Shaun Hayes, Andrew Hickey, Keith Hogan, Thomas Hogan, Michael Lawlor, Brendan Muldoon, James Nolan, Conor O'Brien, Brian O'Shea, Martin Phelan, Padraig Phelan, David Rice, Liam Ryan, Richard Ryan, David Walsh, David Walton, Daryl Whitty and David Hession. Mentors: Emma Ryan and Pat Murphy.

Handball.

St. Kieran's College continued their good run in the All-Ireland handball championships when they won two out of the three finals they contested. After losing the 60x30 All-Ireland, Steven Shortt and Kirk Green won the U-15 doubles 40x20 A Final while Richie Hogan picked up the other All Ireland title winning the 60x30 U-15 A singles.

Well done to the 24 past and present students who represented the county so well in winning the All Ireland senior and minor finals in Croke Park in September while there were seven past students on the victorious U-21 team. A special word of congratulations to the three winning captains - DJ Carey, Jackie Tyrell and Richie Power - and manager, Brian Cody.

**CASTLECOMER
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

In September '02, as Leinster champions, the school's senior team looked forward to defending their crown and then perhaps going the full distance to make up for defeat in last year's All-Ireland final.

ITraining started and from the off a tremendous effort was forthcoming from the players. Our first match was against Colaiste Eoin and 'Comer struggled to a four point win. Mullingar CBS were then defeated but after these two sluggish performances nobody was under any illusion about the amount of hard graft needed in order to make any impact at the serious end of things.

A challenge match against Kilkenny CBS proved to be a watershed in the development of the team. 'Comer had a good win and it showed that there was a bit of potential after all. Fringe players began to blossom and lay claim to starting jerseys for the Leinster quarter Final versus LSU Banagher in February.

Christmas came and went, and after that all focus was on the quarter final against LSU. By now our panel was buttressed by members of the school U-16 team. These lads had gone to extra time in the

U-16 A Leinster final against Good Counsel only to taste a bitter one point defeat.

LSU were defeated by four points and next up were St Declan's, Cabra. Coached by former Offaly hurler Vincent Teehan these lads had serious designs on 'Comer's title. After a right battle in Carlow 'Comer triumphed by two points and reached their fourth Leinster Senior 'B' final in a row. They would now face FCJ Bunclody, a tigerish young team under the wing of Rory Kinsella.

The final was also played in Carlow and after a jittery start 'Comer led by two points at the break and eventually opened up in the last ten minutes to record a six point victory.

St Mary's College, Galway were the opposition in the All-Ireland semi final in Birr. At this stage the team was hell bent at getting back for another shot at the All-Ireland and a polished second half performance saw 'Comer triumph by a comprehensive scoreline of 3-14 to 0-11. Leaving Birr that day we were made aware that our opponents in the final, St Joseph's, Borrissleigh would be hot favourites going by their displays in Munster - a great message for focussing minds on the task in hand. There was unfinished business that needed to be taken care of.

Final day arrived and the 'Comer team set the tone for the day, and indeed the year, for Kilkenny teams by grinding out a four point victory on a 1-12 to 1-08 scoreline. A goal two minutes from time sealed a magnificent victory.

Six of the victorious Kilkenny minor team were students of Castlecomer Community School. Four of these played on final day in Croke Park and the other two are still present and hurling in the school this year.

The hurling year finished on a high note in the school with the U-14 team winning the Roinn A shield. Narrowly beaten in their first match by Kilkenny CBS, 'Comer went on to defeat Enniscorthy CBS quite comfortably. However, struck by a bout of injuries, they failed to get the required result against Good Counsel, New Ross.

The 'Comer boys made up for this in the shield competition. In a thriller which went to extra time they defeated St Peter's, Wexford before going on to beat Birr by seven points in a keenly contested final. This is the second time Castlecomer won this competition since its inception five years ago.

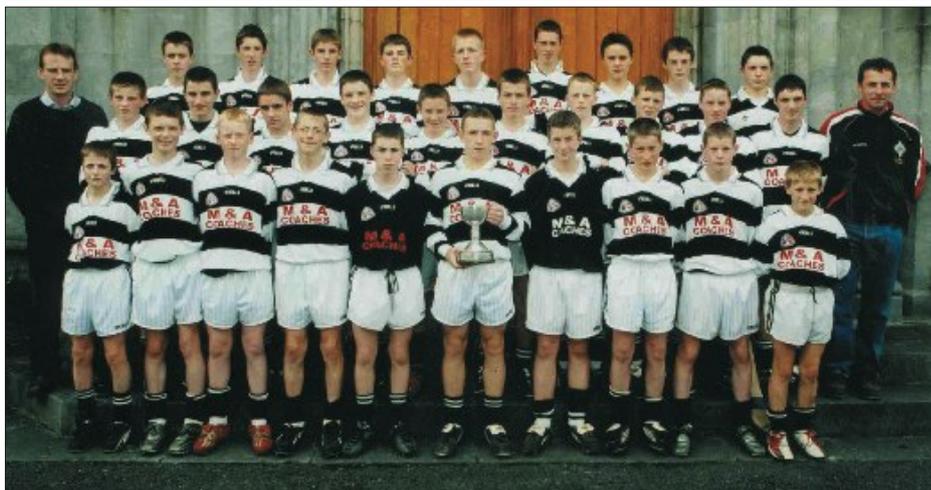


CASTLECOMER CS - LEINSTER U14 "A" SHIELD WINNERS 2003

Back: Eddie Hickey, Donal Fenlon, Eddie Dwyer, Colin McGrath, Joe Delaney, David Maher, Michael Murphy, David Healy, Oliver Walsh.

Middle: Mr. Pat Murphy, Kieran Mooney, Conor Kelly, Geoff Morrissey, James Mullins, Conor Fogarty, Thomas Keating, John Deevy, Sean Delaney, Brian Dillon, Philip Morrissey, Paraic Halley,

Front: Darren Holohan, Teilo Maher, Ger Walsh, David Baldwin, Peadar Boran, Ian Kavanagh (Capt.) Alan Ruth, Sean Geoghegan, Dermot Brophy, Noel Darcy.



ST KIERAN'S - LEINSTER U14 "A" COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Michael McDonald, Colm Brady, Conor O'Brien, David Walsh, David Hession, Gary Breen, Martin Phelan, Sean Holohan, John Brennan.

Middle: Adrian Finan, James Nolan, Brendan Muldoon, Shane Connolly, John Joe Farrell, Daryll Whitty, Pádraig Murphy, Keith Hogan, Michael Fagan, Shane Brennan, Andrew Smyth, John O'Keeffe.

Front: Liam Ryan, John Fagan, David Walton, Brian O'Shea, Stephen Dowling, Richie Hogan (Capt), Darren Ferns, Rick Leydon, Conor McQuillan, Tom Ryan. *Missing from photo - Micheál Lawlor*

KILKENNY CBS

Juvenile hurling

The Rice Cup Competition involves the Christian Brothers Schools throughout the main counties of Munster and Leinster. To reach the semi-final stages, where the James' St. boys, were beaten by the eventual winners, Charleville, was no mean feat.

Unfortunately the same fate awaited Kilkenny CBS. in the Leinster championship. In Nowlan Park the team succumbed to their city rivals St Kierans but only after a tremendous battle. Though defeated the team displayed qualities which inspire hope for the future. Players such as David and Tom Langton, Shane Maher, Mark Kelly, John Fitzpatrick, Paddy Nolan, Adrian Stapleton, John Traynor, Thomas Moore and Stephen

Murphy can be relied upon to star again for the CBS. Mark Bergin was an inspirational captain and was a worthy recipient of the juvenile hurling award at the end of year Awards Night.

Coca-Cola Leinster Schools Junior Hurling "A" Championship 2003

The first match of this competition was a trip to Castlecomer. In a tense encounter, 'Comer' salvaged a draw with an injury time goal. A home to Birr defeat followed after an indisciplined performance where CBS finished with 14 players. In the quarter-final against St. Kierans a reshuffled CBS team gave a great display taking the game to a more fancied Kierans. Dictating affairs CBS went in four points ahead at the break when a ten point lead would not have flattered them. Several early gilt-edged goal chances, inexplicably squandered, were to prove extremely



KILKENNY CBS - LEINSTER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back : Paul O'Donogue (Sel); John O'Shea; Barry Quinlan; Eamon Buggy; Eoin Guinan; Mark O'Hara; Bill Beckett; John Dooley; William Sainsbury; Peter Dowling; Mark Drennan; Conor Higgins; David O'Mahony; David McCormack; Niall Sheehan (Sel).
Front: Darren Tyrrell; Matt Ruth; David Treacy; Thomas Delaney; Liam Forristal; James Dunphy; Martin Fitzpatrick; Eoin Cody; Thomas Ryan; Kevin O'Neill; Niall Morrissey; Michael Tyrrell; Mick O'Flynn (Selector). *Missing from Photo - Edward O' Donoghue.*

costly as Kierans pulled away to win by five points in the last seven minutes. Best competition performers for the CBS were Mark Bergin, Andy Kearns, Stephen Tyrrell, John Comerford, John Traynor, Eoin Cody and Diarmuid Molloy.

Senior Hurling

The year began with a sense of optimism. Having secured a senior league victory in December the squaa reassembled after the Christmas holidays for some heavy training for the 2003 championship (Corn Uí Dhúill). The draw pitted us against St. Mary's CBS Enniscorthy. The tie was fixed for Dr. Cullen Park in February. The big dy arrived after weeks of solid preparation and the conditions in Carlow were unreasonably perfect, calm and dry underfoot. After a less than convincing start, CBS ran out easy winners on a 1-18 to 1-9 scoreline. The team would now carry an unbeaten run of matches stretching back to September 02 into the semi-final against St. Kierans College. The build up was exciting and the 'semi' eagerly awaited. However once again it seemed nothing went right on the day. The early exchanges were even enough but Kieran's greater class all over the pitch gradually exposed rearguard weaknesses. There were no excuses on the day but there was a sense of underachievement in the dressing room after the game. Hats off to Kierans as they went all the way to All-Ireland glory later on. From the CBS team that day Eddie O'Donoghue, David McCormack, Eoin Guinan and Bill Beckett went on to All-Ireland glory with their county beating Galway in the final. On Awards night in the school in May Senior hurler of the year went to Graigue Ballycallan's James Dunphy whose application to training and matches was impeccable and wholehearted.

Handball

The Leinster 'A' Championship began during the first week in October. The following players represented the CBS in this championship. Daniel O'Grady 1st year singles; Paul Delaney and Mark Bergin U15D; Patrick Nolan U15S; Rickie Nolan U19S; Keith Morris and Conor Bergin U17D and Eoin Cody U17S. Cody in the singles and Morris & Bergin doubles were unlucky to meet world champion and all-Ireland champions in their games. Patrick Nolan has reached the U.15 Leinster final while Mark Bergin, Rickie Nolan and Paul Delaney await their opponents. Daniel O'Grady reached the semi-final of the Leinster first year competition. Stephen Leahy, Danny Loughnane, David Broderick and Patrick Walsh represented the CBS in the Leinster 'B' Competition.



KILKENNY CBS HANDBALL TEAM - 2003
 Keith Morris, Conor Bergin, Mark Bergin, Richard Nolan, Patrick Walsh, Mark Nolan, Diarmuid Brennan, Patrick Nolan

COLÁISTE MUIRE, JOHNSTOWN

SENIOR HURLING

Our Senior Hurlers had a very positive start to the Vocational School A Championship with a well-earned draw with St. Brigids of Loughrea and wins over Coláiste Phobal of Roscrea and St.



Back : - James Lennon, John Paul Grehan, Jimmy Tobin, Jamie Dollard, Peter Paul Maher, Johathan Stanley, Michael Dunne, Pauraic Gray, John Broderick, Colin Grant, Séamus Nolan, Shane Webster, Kevin Sheil.
Front:- Mark Stanley, Brian Kavanagh, Frank Murphy, Noel McGree, Martyn Purcell, Philip O'Loughlin, Daniel Looby, Martin Henderson, Gary Glendon.

Rynaghs C. C. Banagher. Having qualified for the knockout stages we were hoping to progress to the semi-finals but unfortunately did not perform to our earlier heights and lost out to Borrisokane Vocational School.

Having been knocked out of the All Ireland series our attention then focused on the Leinster Title, but again we did not live up to our hopeful expectations losing out to a well-disciplined and strong Kilcormac side.

Congratulations to Colin Grant on retaining the no 1 spot on the successful Kilkenny minor team.. Jimmy Dunne a present Leaving Cert student also starred on the Laois Minor Hurling Team and with his club Galmoy.

Congratulations to JJ Delaney on his second All Ireland Medal at Senior Level, on his being a key member of the U21 team, on his Texaco Award and on his being voted players' Player of the Year. Congratulations also to Stephen Grehan who collected another senior medal and is also a great ambassador for our school and the game.

CAMOGIE

Coláiste Mhuire recorded their second victory in the Leinster Senior Camogie Championship when they defeated St. Wolstan's of Celbridge in the final of the Colleges Roinn C Championship in Portlaoise.

Aided by a strong breeze, the Johnstown girls got a dream start when Tara Warren fired over two points. St. Wolstan's dominated the remainder of the first half with Susie O'Carroll scoring seven points and the opportunism of Tara Warren, keeping Coláiste Mhuire in contention. The half time score was St. Wolstan's 0-7, Coláiste Mhuire 0-6.

Tara Warren brought Coláiste Mhuire level with the first point of the second half. Susie O'Carroll then scored a magnificent goal for St. Wolstans. Goals from Orla Hughes and Tara Warren ensured victory for Colaiste Mhuire on a score line of 2-10 to 1-8, the othe two points coming from Orla Hughes and Eileen Hughes.

UNDER 14 HURLING

Colaiste Mhuire under 14 hurlers had a great campaign in Leinster last year winning all games except one. The only blemish during the year was the one point defeat to eventual champions Mountrath in one of the most memorable underage games seen for a long time. Despite scoring a phenomenal 3-13 for 60 minutes hurling they lost out by a point. There were some outstanding individual performances during the year but all contributed. The under 14 team finished the year on a high note by winning the inaugural tournament held in Dickboro where they swept all before them including St. Kieran's, Kilkenny CBS, and Callan.



Back:- Paddy Broderick (Trainer), Máiréad Bergin, Lisa Dowling, Julie Mackey, Lorraine Peters, Tom Dollard (Coach), Aisling Tallis, Saralee Murphy, Shona Power, Siobhain O'Hara, Trisha Orr, Selina Power, Tara Warren, Mary Sheehan (Manager)
Front:- Orla Hughes, Aine Mackey, Ashling Fitzpatrick, Marian Ryan, Mary Margaret Marum (Capt.), Michelle Garrett, Eileen Hughes, Triona Meagher.



Scoil Aireagail Ballyhale South Leinster Schools Junior "C" Champions 2003

Back: David Raggett, Robert Murphy, Darren Coffey, J.T. Murphy, Eoin Ramsbottom, William Hughes, Marcus O'Connor, Paul Murphy, Andrew Power, Gray Murphy, Phillip McBride, Kevin Knox, David Kenneally, John O'Halloran[Trainer]

Front: Thomas Walsh, William Hoyne, Michael Malone, James Walsh, Colin Fennelly, Joseph Holden, Shane McCarthy, Luke Gaule, Eoin Knox, Marc O'Dwyer, Joseph Dermody, Liam Walsh.



Grennan College Thomastown Coco-Cola South Leinster Juvenile D2 Champions 2003

Back: Donall Dunne[Mentor], Stuart Waugh, James Mullally, William Duggan, Martin Naddy, Terence Croke, Paul McDonald, Patrick Malone, Anthony Greene, Terry Brennan, James Forristal, Peter Conway, Derek Dooley[Mentor].

Front: Jonathan Hynes, Davog Reilly, Andrew Aylward, Richard Hughes, Michael Lennon[Capt], Patrick Khan, Ross Dimond, Paucic Caulfield, Cian Moran, Iain Egan, Nevin Kelly, Robbie Walsh.

Colleges Senior Hurling Blitz



ST. BRIGID'S SECONDARY SCHOOL TEAM. WINNERS

Back: Ian Holden, Liam Comerford, Richard Healy, Daniel Hillier, Tomás Quinn, James Dempsey, Colin Dempsey, Keith Doyle, Raymond Healy,
Front: Theresa Shermer (Coach) Philip Kealy, Colm Dalton, Tadhg Gibbons, Kevin O'Neill, Michael McDonald (Captain), Patrick Healy



POBAL SCOIL KILKENNY BEATEN FINALISTS

Back: Murt Tierney, Morris Riara, Shane Cass, Peter Fitzpatrick, Dearan McGrath, Cian Waldron, Gary Foley, Naoise Waldron, Muinter Catnia, Conor Tyrell, James Hennessy, James McGuire.
Front: Eddie Murphy, Sean Morrissey, Caolan O'Caomh, Hughie O'Neill, John Kennedy.



DUISCE COLLEGE GRAIGNAMANAGH

Back: Pat Cronin [Teacher], Jamie McGrath, Kyle Naddy, Ciaran McGuinness, Damien O'Neill, Thomas Barcoe, Darren Costello, Shane Doyle, John Ryan, Kevin Cushen, Cyril Hughes [Principal].
Front: John Morgan, Stephan Moylan, C.J. Browne, Sean Murphy, Ian Kavanagh, Kevin Canning, Adam Fitzgerald.



GAEOLCOLÁISTE CARLOW

Back: Seanathan Mac Eochaidh, David Mac Uileagóid, James Ó Faoláin, Darren Ó Fionngaltáin, Seán Ó Cinnéide (Múinteoir), Cillian Mac Roibeárd, David Mac Donncha, Daniel Mac Niochal, Alan Ó Ceallaigh, Caoimhín de Poire.
Front: Shane Ó Fearáil, Paul Mac Cana, Pól Ó Fearáil, Mark Mac Cana, Darragh Ó hIcí, David de Rath

Graignamanagh organised a very successful Senior Hurling blitz for smaller schools in the Carlow Kilkenny area.

The Blitz took place in Thomastown and the semi-finals were Duise Col.

Graignamanagh, St. Brigids Sec. School Goresbridge, Gaelcolaiste Carlow and Pobal Scoil Kilkenny.

Goresbridge defeated Pobal scoil in the final and received a very nice trophy from Cyril Hughes.

Comhairle Laignaen and Kilkenny County Board supported the event by providing some hurleys and sliotars for all competing teams.

Meet the Fans



Kilkenny's

28th!



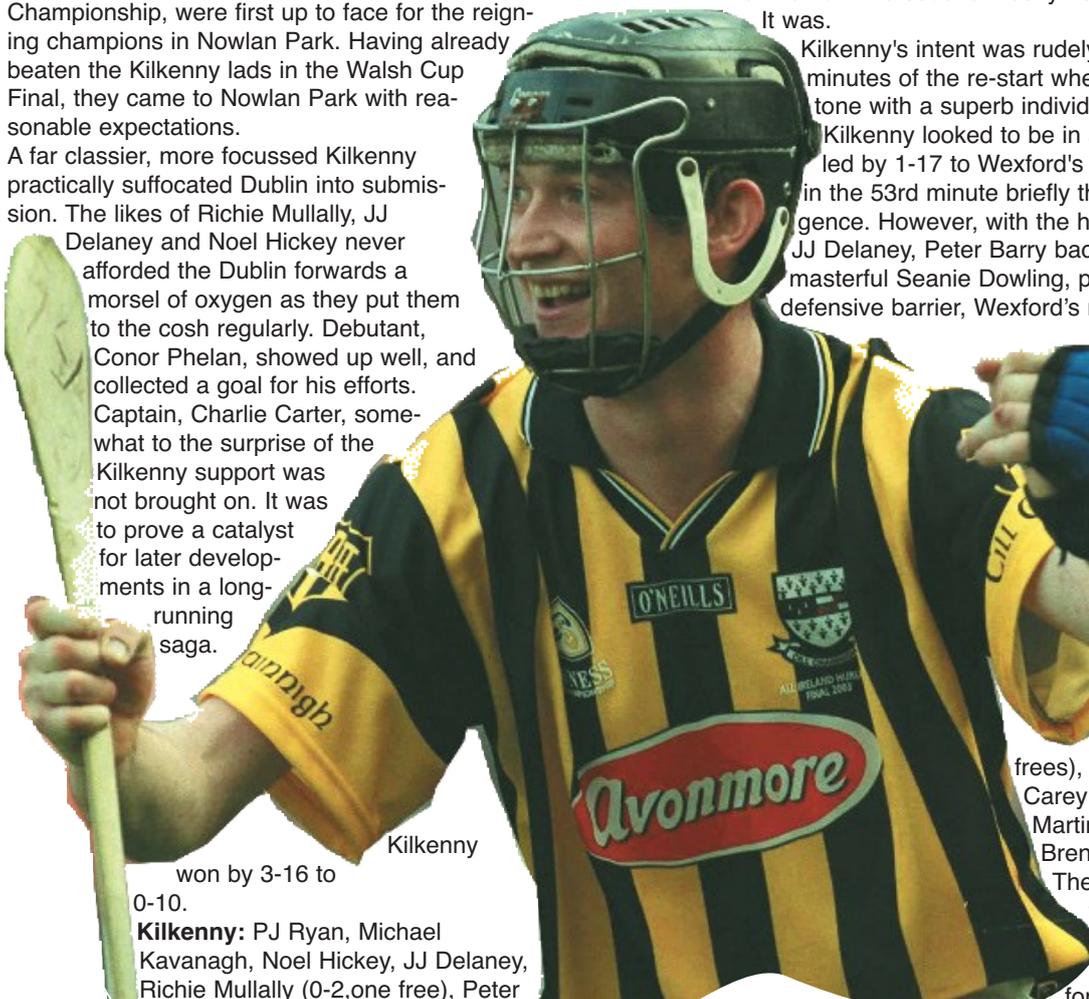
How Kilkenny caught up with Cork and achieved another Double Double
By Barrie Henriques

Having put two National Leagues back to back, Kilkenny were immediately installed as firm favourites to complete the championship double. Some feared that the favourites tag would eventually undo the Kilkenny men as they began their campaign. Others countered that Kilkenny WERE the best team in the land, and as such, it would be considered an affront to their status even to consider any other team ahead of them.

The Munster Championship promised great competition. Tipp were the expected standard bearers here. Very few were talking Cork. They were— after the first round against a very under-strength Clare.

Brian Cody and his selectors, Noel Skehan and Johnny Walsh, named a panel of 27 players for the Leinster Championship. The list did not include James McGarry, whose injured ankle was causing more than a cursory worry. St Martin's John Maher was added shortly, as were the names of Ken Coogan (Tullaroan), and Jackie Tyrrell (James Stephens). Dublin, who had qualified through the round-robin Leinster Championship, were first up to face for the reigning champions in Nowlan Park. Having already beaten the Kilkenny lads in the Walsh Cup Final, they came to Nowlan Park with reasonable expectations.

A far classier, more focussed Kilkenny practically suffocated Dublin into submission. The likes of Richie Mullally, JJ Delaney and Noel Hickey never afforded the Dublin forwards a morsel of oxygen as they put them to the cosh regularly. Debutant, Conor Phelan, showed up well, and collected a goal for his efforts. Captain, Charlie Carter, somewhat to the surprise of the Kilkenny support was not brought on. It was to prove a catalyst for later developments in a long-running saga.



Kilkenny

won by 3-16 to 0-10.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, Richie Mullally (0-2, one free), Peter

Barry, Aidan Cummins, Derek Lyng, Pat Tennyson, Conor Phelan (1-0), Henry Shefflin (1-4, one point free), Tommy Walsh (0-5), DJ Carey (0-2, one free), Martin Comerford (0-3), Eddie Brennan (1-0).

Subs: John Hoyne, Walter Burke. Wexford awaited....

After the closeness of the 2002 Leinster Final and of their 2003 league encounter, it was hardly surprising that team, mentors, and supporters were more than apprehensive as the Leinster Final dawned.

The good news was the remarkable recovery of James McGarry, who took over in goal from his understudy, PJ Ryan. The bad news— Richie Mullally had broken his leg in a club game with Glenmore, which was expected to rule him out of hurling for the rest of the season. Happily, the prognosis was to prove incorrect. O'Loughlin Gaels' Seanie Dowling, however, was to prove an excellent substitution, and more.

Following the withdrawal of services of two of its All-Stars - Brian McEvoy and captain, Charlie Carter - a new captain, DJ Carey, took hold of the rudder while Graig Ballycallan's James Ryall was to make his championship debut at corner back. Both sides teased and tormented each other in a less than memorable first half. They were level at eight points apiece at the interval. The second moeity needed to be better.

It was.

Kilkenny's intent was rudely signalled within a couple of minutes of the re-start when Eddie Brennan set the tone with a superb individual goal. By the 50th minute, Kilkenny looked to be in a free-wheel mode, as they led by 1-17 to Wexford's 1-10. A Chris McGrath goal in the 53rd minute briefly threatened a Wexford resurgence. However, with the half back line of the dazzling JJ Delaney, Peter Barry back to his brilliant best, and the masterful Seanie Dowling, presenting an unbreachable defensive barrier, Wexford's road to James McGarry's goal was closed to all traffic.

Kilkenny won by 2-23 to Wexford's 2-12.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Seanie Dowling (0-2, one free), Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng (0-3), Conor Phelan (0-1), John Hoyne, Henry Shefflin (1-8, five frees), Tommy Walsh (0-3), DJ Carey (0-3, one free, one '65), Martin Comerford (0-2), Eddie Brennan (1-1).

The hurling schedule was on target.

"The six week wait will nail us", muttered the Job's comforters. The more knowing

insisted that no hurling county in Ireland can utilise time more profitably than Kilkenny - who got on with the business of bringing the knockout stages of the local championships to quarter final stages and waited.....



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2003

Photo Dylan Vaughan

Back: Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Ken Coogan, Andy Comerford, Diarmuid Mackey, Richie Mullally, Jackie Tyrrell, Eddie Mackey, Stephen Grehan, Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan.

Middle: Tommy Walsh, Willie O'Dwyer, Walter Burke, Philip Larkin, John Hoyne, Conor Phelan, Jimmy Coogan, Derek Lyng, Peter Barry, Sean Dowling, Aidan Cummins.

Front: JJ Delaney, Paddy Mullally, Brian Dowling, Aidan Fogarty, James McGarry, DJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Pat Tennyson, John Maher, Henry Shefflin.

After some tough encounters, Tipperary and Wexford stormed through to the semi-finals. Neither of the two could face their Provincial colleagues.

First, it was Cork and Wexford.

Their first meeting was an epic. Wexford came back from the dead, due in no small part to the introduction of Larry Murphy. They scored a massive 3-17, while Cork amassed 2-20. Having to do it all over again, six days later, proved a a bridge too far for the Slanemen as Cork mopped them up with a devilish display of power-packed hurling. Cork 3-17, Wexford 2-7. Meanwhile, the Premier County, having taken care of a strangely inept Galway in their semi-final in Salthill, were champing at the bit for another crack at the reigning Champions. .

Needless to say, all the old tribalistic rivalries re-surfaced once again— nowhere moreso than in the border outposts like Urlingford, Windgap, Piltown and Callan. Just short of 70,000 souls made the pilgrimage to Headquarters and for the third time in two years, it was Tipp who had to make the disconsolate return journey through the same border towns.

They were no match for the red-hot Kilkenny Champions.

At the start, Eoin Kelly was very busy, slamming in Tipp's first five scores. The Kilkenny defence, other than Seanie Dowling, were edgy. At halftime, Tipperary were in front by 0-11 to 0-9. Fast forward to the 42nd minute. A long - very long - free by James McGarry arrived into Eddie Brennan via John Hoyne. The Ballycallan greyhound raced through the Tipperary defence and slammed the sliothar into the net - as great a goal as was ever scored by a Kilkenny player against Tipperary. The Premier County were to score just four points in the entire second half, while Kilkenny were to register 3-9. Half backs, Delaney (as usual), Barry and Dowling again, were unbeatable. They nullified every attempt by the Tipp halfbacks and centre-field pairing to get ball into John Carroll and Eoin Kelly. Brendan Cummins stood alone between his County and an even more comprehensive swamping. Kilkenny raged all over the place. Tommy Walsh's goal was the result of the persistence of at least four players to raise the green flag. Henry Shefflin's goal put the icing on the bun. Kilkenny 3-18, Tipperary 0-15.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Seanie Dowling, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng (0-2), Paddy Mullally, Henry Shefflin (1-6, four points frees), John Hoyne (0-1), Tommy Walsh (1-0), DJ Carey (Capt) (0-3, '65's), Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan (1-5).

Subs: Jimmy Coogan (0-1).

Expectations were high. Just seventy more minutes to the glorious double-double. Excitement was on all menus.

Management were at pains to quell a mounting surge of over-confidence among supporters.

Kilkenny 1-14 Cork 1-11.

Not the greatest All Ireland ever played. In fact, for most neutrals, it was a rather forgettable experience. Still, for Kilkenny folk, there is nothing as exquisite as winning the Liam McCarthy cup in Croke Park.. In years to come the record books will show that Kilkenny cruised alongside Cork in the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Roll of Honour, by virtue of their win in the 2003 Final.

Sin é. No more, no less.

It was truly a stunning day at Headquarters, kick-started by the minors, who set the tone with a last-ditch win over Galway, to join Cork at the head of the Minor Hurling Roll of Honour at eighteen titles.

In a remarkable senior final, Kilkenny can reflect on the fact that they held Cork scoreless for 26 minutes, were outscored by the same outfit by 1-5 to 0-1 in a vital twelve minute period in the second half, were caught and headed inside the last thirteen minutes, but yet dug themselves out of the quagmire to hammer a superb goal and a point to win the spoils. The final few minutes told all there was to tell about this young brand of



Tommy Walsh scorer of early points in the final John McIlwaine



James McGarry clears from Brian O'Meara in the semi-final. John McIlwaine



Derek Lyng on the run against Wexford. John McIlwaine



Michael Kavanagh, Kilkenny, in action against Cork's Alan Browne (15) and Timmy McCarthy.

SPORTSFILE

Kilkenny hurlers. They showed a great unity of purpose, when there was an easier option. They showed a character that some doubted existed.

Nowhere was this more exemplified than when the Texaco Hurler of the Year, JJ Delaney threw himself bodily on the hurley of Timmy McCarthy in the dying seconds to prevent a certain goal.

The first half - a half that Cork will want to forget - was memorable for the dreadful shooting of the Leesiders, the annihilation of the Cork attack by the best defence in the game, the roasting that Martin Comerford inflicted on the highly rated Diarmuid O'Sullivan, and three smashing points by youngster, Tommy Walsh from Tullaroan.

The reigning Champions were comfortably in front at half time by six points (0-9 to 0-3).

Martin Comerford increased the Kilkenny lead within a minute of the re-start. He was giving a man-of-the-match performance on the vaunted O'Sullivan. Within a minute, the anticipated Cork surge materialised. Suddenly all traffic towards the Cork goal stopped on the doorstep of the John Gardiner, Ronan Curran, Sean Óg O'Hailpin half back line. They clawed their way back to level terms, and still missed chances of scores. With eleven minutes remaining, the Kilkenny mentors brought last year's captain, Andy Comerford, and Richie Mullally into the fray. Their impact was instantaneous. Andy presented a huge barrier to the marauding Cork halfbacks. Mullally's value was equally significant on the half back line. The magnificent Delaney was pushed back to negate the threat of Setanta O'Halpin. Noel Hickey was a colossus at full back. Nobody in the Cork forward division came near to equalling the perfection of his performance. He's still only a youngster of less than twenty-three years, and opinion was divided as to whether he, Martin Comerford, or JJ Delaney would get the man-of-the-match crystal in the Burlington.

With time-remaining in single figures, Kilkenny dug deep into the reserves of character, bravery, and skill..

Derek Lyng charged in that familiar ground-swallowing stride of his with the sliothar glued to his hurley. At the opportune time, he released to Henry Shefflin, who promptly suffocated the Cork roar, with a clinical strike.

In the 64th minute, Kilkenny delivered a spine-breaking, match-

winning goal. Young Conor Phelan conjured up a pass to Henry Shefflin, close to the Cusack Stand sideline. Shefflin carried towards the right side of the Cork full line of defence and released an inch-perfect pass to Martin Comerford. The unassuming Comerford drilled home a goal that squeezed a Croke Park roar from the Kilkenny support that will hardly be rivalled. Cork still were threatening. Two late points by subs, Jerry O'Connor and Seanie McGrath, straddled one by Henry Shefflin. The bravery of Barry, Delaney, Hickey, Kavanagh, and Dowling was tested to the end, but never wilted. It was a marvellous day for the Kilkenny support. Not a classic by any stretch of the imagination, but who cares about frills when the Holy Grail is Kilkenny-bound on the Monday evening after the Final.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Seanie Dowling, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Paddy Mullally, John Hoyne, Henry Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, DJ Carey(capt), Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan.

Subs: *Conor Phelan, Andy Comerford, Richie Mullally, Jimmy Coogan, PJ Ryan, Philly Larkin, Aidan Cummins, Jackie Tyrrell, Ken Coogan, Brian Dowling, Aidan Fogarty, Stephen Grehan, Walter Burke, John Maher.*

Cork: Donal Og Cusack, Wayne Sherlock, Pat Mulcahy, Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Tom Kenny, Ronan Curran, Sean Og O'Halpin, John Gardiner, Michael O'Connell, Ben O'Connor, Niall McCarthy, Timmy McCarthy, Setanta Og O'Halpin, Joe Deane, Alan Browne(capt).

Subs: *Paul Morrissey, Jerry O'Connor, Seanie McGrath, Brian Murphy, Mark Prendergast, Derek Barrett, Kieran Murphy, Brendan Lombard, Paul Tierney, Martin Coleman, Michael Byrne, Adrian Coughlan, Aidan Fitzpatrick, John Anderson, Jason Barrett.*

Kilkenny scorers: Martin Comerford 1-4, Henry Shefflin 0-6 (4 frees), Tommy Walsh 0-3, Derek Lyng 0-1.

Cork scorers: Joe Deane 0-5 (four frees), Setanta O'Halpin 1-0, Niall McCarthy 0-2, Ben O'Connor, Timmy McCarthy, Jerry O'Connor, and Seanie McGrath 0-1 each.

Ref: Pat O'Connor (Limerick)

Att: 79,383.



Diarmuid O'Sullivan survives a nasal attack from Conor Phelan

SPORTSFILE

All Ireland SH Championship 2003

LEINSTER

Preliminary Round 1

3rd May at Clane:

Westmeath 2-15; Kildare 0-7

4th May at An Uaimh:

Carlow 0-17; Meath 2-10

5th May at Portlaoise:

Laois 2-22; Wicklow 0-10

Preliminary Semi-Finals

10th May at Portlaoise:

Laois 5-15; Carlow 1-10

10th May at Parnell Park:

Dublin 4-17; Westmeath 0-13

Preliminary Final

24th May at Nowlan Park:

Dublin 1-18, Laois 2-15

31st May at Nowlan Park (replay):

Dublin 3-11; Laois 0-15

Semi-Finals

7th June at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 3-16; Dublin 0-10

8th June at Nowlan Park:

Wexford 0-16; Offaly 1-12

Final

6th July at Croke Park:

Kilkenny 2-23; Wexford 2-12

ULSTER

1st Round

11th May at Casement Park:

Antrim 8-27; London 1-5

Semi-Finals

11th May at Celtic Park:

Derry 0-15; New York 1-10

18th May at Casement Park:

Antrim 0-21; Down 2-12

Final

14th June at Casement Park:

Antrim 3-21; Derry 1-12

MUNSTER

1st Round

11th May at Walsh Park:

Waterford 2-26; Kerry 1-12

18th May at Pairc Ui Chaoimh:

Clare 2-17; Tipperary 0-14

Semi-Finals

1st June at Thurles:

Waterford 4-13; Limerick 4-13

7th June at Thurles (replay):

Waterford 1-12; Limerick 0-13

8th June at Thurles:

Cork 1-18; Clare 0-10

Final

29th June at Thurles:

Cork 3-16; Waterford 3-12

ALL-IRELAND

Preliminary Qualifiers

31st May at Nenagh:

Kerry 3-15; Westmeath 0-13

7th June at Thurles:

Kerry 3-15; Carlow 3-7

22nd June at Tullamore:

Kerry 2-15; Derry 1-6

14th June at Portlaoise:

Tipperary 3-28; Laois 0-13

14th June at Ennis:

Galway 1-15; Clare 2-11

15th June at Croke Park:

Offaly 1-20; Dublin 1-14

28th June at Tralee:

Limerick 0-24; Kerry 1-14

Qualifiers Round 2

13th July at Galway:

Tipperary 1-18; Galway 1-17

17th July at Thurles:

Offaly 1-18; Limerick 0-14

19th July at Nowlan Park:

Wexford 1-20; Waterford 0-18

QUARTER-FINALS

27th July at Croke Park:

Tipperary 2-16; Offaly 2-11

Wexford 2-15; Antrim 2-12

SEMI-FINALS

10th August at Croke Park:

Cork 2-20; Wexford 3-17

16th August at Croke Park (replay):

Cork 3-17; Wexford 2-7

17th August at Croke Park:

Kilkenny 3-18; Tipperary 0-15

FINAL

14th September at Croke Park:

Kilkenny 1-14, Cork 1-11

Junior Report
by
Richie Stone
&
Jimmy Walsh

Piltown's Holy Grail!

Photos by Eoin Hennessy, Charlie Maher & Jimmy Walsh

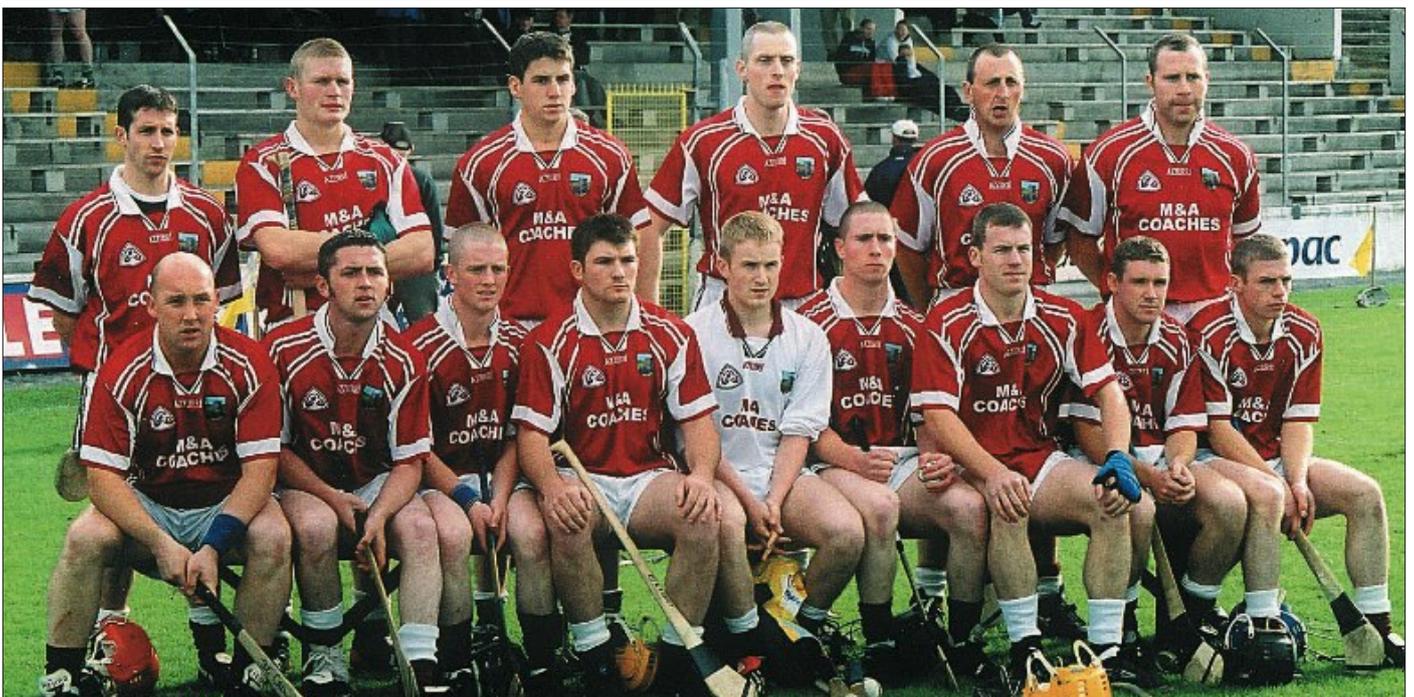


PILTOWN - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Tommy Falconer, John Brophy, Richie Connolly, Kevin Maher, Paul Maher, Conor O'Shea, Robert O'Dea, Dessie O'Dea.

Middle: Liam Kenny, Vinnie Long, Gerry Long, James Norris, James Farrell, Andrew Norris, Michael Brennan, John Malone, Shane Kinsella, Michael Galvin, Nicholas Kenny.

Front: John Lonergan, Richard Brophy, Liam Kearns, Jim Power, David Kirby, James Connolly, Pa Connolly, Andrew Mc Carthy, John Falconer, Brian Farrell, Philip Kenny.



ST PATRICK'S, BALLYRAGGET - COUNTY JH FINALISTS 2003

Back - Stephen Roberts, Jody Phelan, James Staunton, Brian (Tom) Phelan, Brian (Tim) Phelan, John Staunton.

Front - Joe Dowling, Shane Dowling, Conor Delaney, David Kenny, Niall Kenny, Niall Staunton, Mark Swan, Brendan Dooley, Brian (Brooky) Phelan.

The Junior Scene

Competition Sponsors Iverk Produce and J.J.Kavanagh & Sons

Following Black and Whites high profile and progress in the Leinster and all Ireland junior series, great expectations were the order of the day for the next Kilkenny Club to qualify for the provincial championship. To get they're by winning a divisional title before going on to add a county title was a starting point that had tried and tested clubs for generations. As a result spectators bore witness to some of the finest games played in the county throughout the year as the twenty clubs sought out the Junior Holy Grail.

When the draw was made for the 2003 J.J.Kavanagh & Sons Northern junior championship the usual suspects were touted as potential champions. Galmoy almost ever present in the closing stages, Conahy Shamrocks a team with plenty of potential, the city standard bearers Dicksboro and last years semi finalists Lisdowney were all foremost in the minds of the fans of the junior game. Preliminary games did little to detract from that point of view. The only surprise was the defeat of Lisdowney by Graigue/Ballycallan on a 2-12 to 0-15 scoreline, but with a losers group in operation once again (despite rumblings of discontent from the top table at the Northern Boards Annual convention) that defeat did not seem particularly worrying as far as the losers were concerned. Also in that preliminary round St Patrick's (Ballyragget) had an easy enough win over Cloneen (4-15 to 0-11), favourites Galmoy not surprisingly were pushed all the way by their neighbours Fenians before winning 1-12 to 2-6. Erin's Own disposed of the challenge of Danesfort 2-9 to 0-10, Conahy Shamrocks beat Dicksboro 2-19 to 2-7 which seemed to indicate a good year ahead for them, and Barrow Rangers caused a mild surprise by defeating Tullaroan a side that looked to be on the up during the all county league campaign.

In the first round of the winners group St Patrick's made people sit up and take notice when they put in a blistering first half performance to lead a strong Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 3-14 to 1-6 at half time and although the 'Comer men rallied somewhat in the second half St Patrick's ran out easy winners on a 5-18 to 2-11 scoreline. Galmoy also began to show good form when they outplayed disappointing Conahy Shamrocks 0-16 to 0-6. Barrow Rangers continued their good run with a 2-12 to 1-10 win over Graigue Ballycallan. Those results left St Patrick's, Galmoy, and Barrow Rangers through to the semi finals with one team from the losers group to make up the last semi final place.

In the first round of the losers group league champions Dicksboro eliminated Tullaroan from the competition with a 0-11 to 0-5 victory while Lisdowney ended Fenians interest with a comprehensive 2-13 to 1-6 win. The semi finals of the

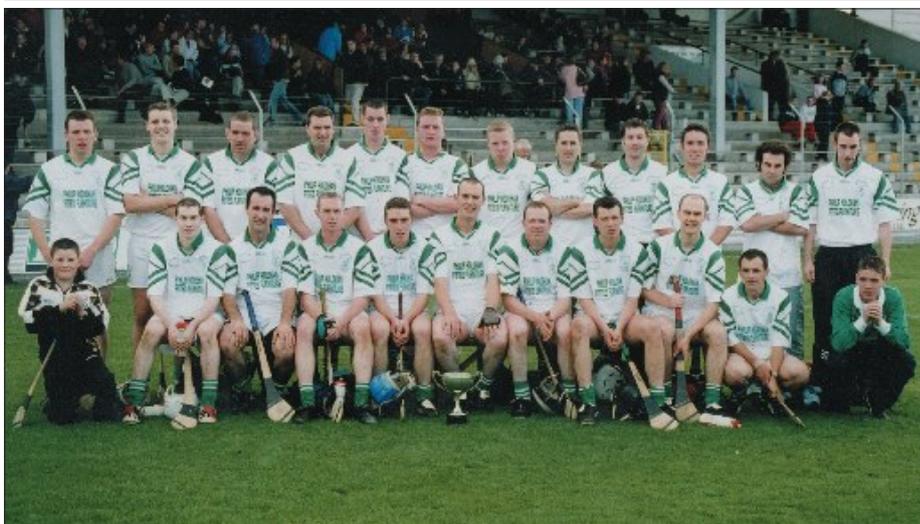


TULLOGER/ROSBERCON IVERK S JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP & S JUNIOR LEAGUE FINALISTS 2003.

Back: Richard Gaule, Richard Murphy, John Murphy (Castle), Pat Hartley, Simon Kennedy, Joe Murphy, Tom Murphy, Martin Roche, Shem Cummins, Dick Murphy, Richie Ryan, Cathal Roche.

Middle: Ger. Mullally, John Hartley, Martin Bookle, Moling Cotterell, Edward Conway, John Barron, Michael Bookle, John Cotterell, Canice Grennan, Mark Malone.

Front: Basil Glennon, Joseph McCarthy, Andrew Murphy, Kieran Barron, John Murphy (Tranaree), John Murphy (Ballyfoyle), N Gaule (Track suit top).



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - COUNTY JUNIOR A LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2003

Back: J Butler, M Kinchella, R McEvoy, F Buckley, N McEvoy, P Dowling, R Shortall, M Barco, J Nolan, N Guilfoyle, G O'Brien, L Hennessy.

Front: G Buckley Jnr, P O'Brien, J Houlihan, M Dowling, J Kelly, J Daly (Captain), P Fitzgerald, B Skehan, G Holden, O O'Connor Missing; D Dwyer, T Lahart, M Nolan, A O'Brien.



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - IVERK JUNIOR "A" SOUTHERN CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Eamonn Walsh, Liam Walsh, Edmund Mason, Sean O'Keeffe, Mark Aylward, Michael Fennelly, John Dermody, Sean Holden, Anthony Walsh, Dave Gallagher

Front: Michael Paul Drennan, Michael O'Sullivan, Pdraig Holden, Liam Grant (Captain), John Drennan, Barry Nolan, Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Keith Murphy, TJ Reid.

losers group saw Dicksboro paired with Cloneen and the city side had an easy 3-13 to 0-6 victory, while in ideal conditions at St Johns Park Lisdowney beat Danesfort by a single point 3-8 to 2-10 after a see saw struggle. That set up a loser's group final showdown between Lisdowney and Dicksboro. There was little between the sides all through and the game ended all square at 2-9 each. In the replay Lisdowney had six points to spare at the final whistle 3-9 to 1-9. The draw for the semi finals saw Barrow Rangers face Galmoy while St Patrick's were paired with their near neighbours Lisdowney. Galmoy had now been firmly installed as firm favourites for the Northern title and the manner in which they dismissed the Paulstown challenge in a game played in ideal conditions at Parc Lactain suggested that they were ready to wipe out the memory of four final defeats in a row. From start to finish they dominated the game against very disappointing opponents and ran out 4-16 to 0-5 winners. The other semi final was not so clear cut. St Patrick's entered the game as slight favourites but were lucky to escape with a draw.

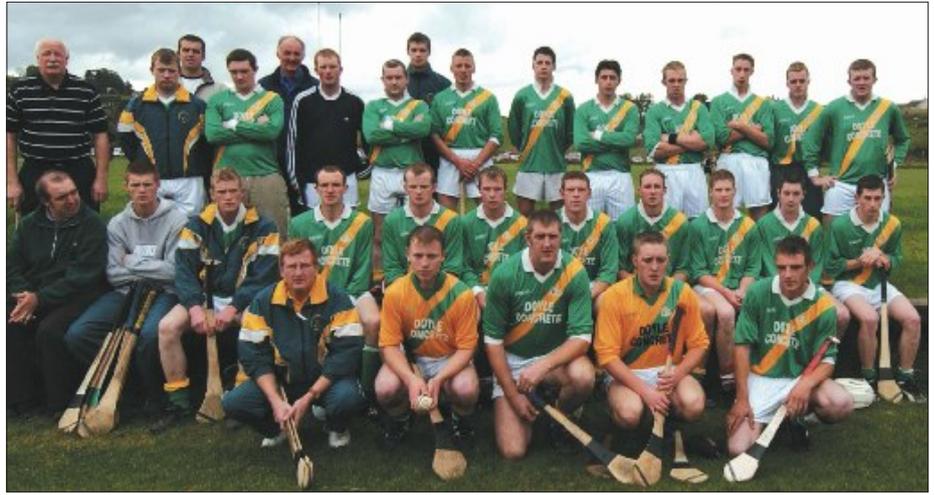
A late point from a 65 by Brian (Tim) Phelan saved their day. However they made no mistake in the replay winning easily. Once again they laid the foundations for victory in the opening half when they established a 5-7 to 1-4 lead. The second half was a formality as the Ballyragget side strolled to victory on a 6-14 to 1-5 scoreline.

The Northern final was expected to be a cracker and it did not disappoint. Galmoy were installed favourites for the final but the Ballyragget men who had not won the championship for 25 years were in no mood to be beaten. The sides were level at 1-5 each after an even enough first half. St Patrick's goal came from Brian (Brooky) Phelan while Galmoy had their goal from Phil Russell. A goal from Mark Swan early in the second half set the Ballyragget men up for a 2-9 to 1-6 lead. Ten minutes from the end St Patrick's were still seven points clear but they had to survive a tense closing few minutes when Alan Gray kicked a goal to leave just four points in it.

A feature of the game was an outstanding display by St Patrick's wingback Brian (Tom) Phelan who hardly put a foot wrong in the entire game. David Kenny, Brian (Brooky) Phelan, John Staunton, Jody Phelan, and Conor Delaney were others to play well in an all round good display. For Galmoy Niall Doherty, Martin Phelan, Michael Brennan, David Delaney and Martin Phelan all worked hard throughout as St Patrick's celebrated the silver jubilee of their only other Northern title with a surprise victory.

The Northern final was secured but could they add the county title to it?

Down South Eight teams faced the starters gun in a new look Southern Junior championship to be played on a league basis with two groups in the beginning Windgap and Kilmacow Champions of the previous two years

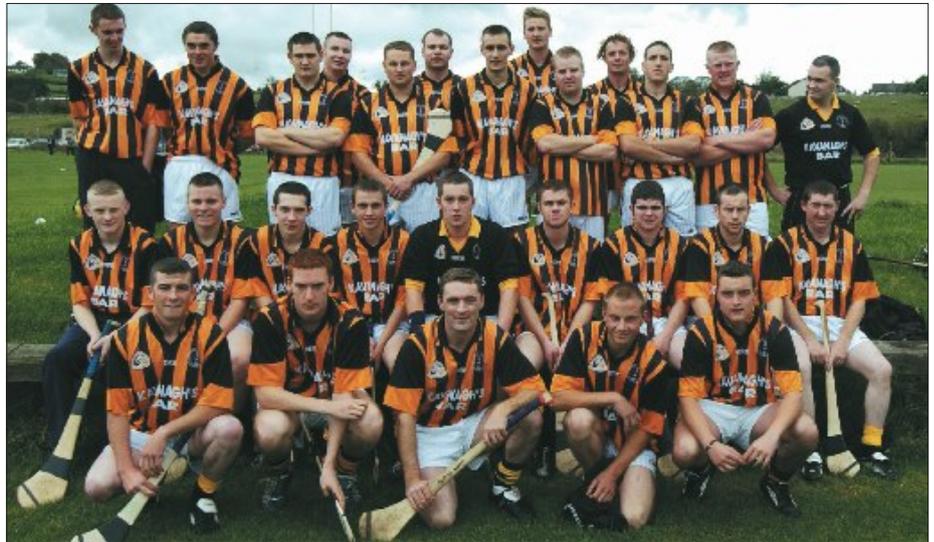


CARRICKSHOCK - JUNIOR "B" COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Noel Meagher (Asst. Trainer), Liam Ireland, John Raggett (Selector), Ger Murphy, Kevin Fennelly (Trainer), Gearoid Butler, John Dwyer, Jim Rice, Phillip Fennelly, Paddy Mulcahy, Gerry Mulcahy, Larry O'Shea, James Dalton, James Farrell, Mattie Hanrahan.

Middle: Gary Comerford, Jamie Power (Selector), Edward Power, Tommy Murphy, Anthony Holland, Liam Barron, Stephen Lonergan (Captain), Pat Dalton, Shane Power, Richie Frisby, David Millea.

Front: Willie Power (Selector), John Butler, Paraic Rohan, Richie Burke, Dan O'Brien



SAINT LACHTAINS - JUNIOR B COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2003.

Back: Bill Beckett, Mark Nolan, Tommy Kennedy, Tony Hughes, William Walsh, Noel Hughes, David Burke, Niall O'Connor, Pat Morrissey (Capt.), Ian Coakley, Kevin Dalton, John Paul Kavanagh, Richard Costelloe.

Middle: Noel McGree, Keith Hughes, Jim Costelloe, Cian Waldron, Thomas Delaney, Phillip McCormack, Jonathon Doheny, Noel Walsh, James Burke.

Front: Mark Kavanagh, John Dooley, Sean Hickey, Trevor Walsh, Gerry O'Reilly.



DICKSBORO - HENNESSY ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Back: A McIntyre, A Begley, B Corcoran, F Purcell, P Maher, E Begley, P Henderson, P Hoban, J Maher, M Dowling, K Cuddihy, B Gallagher

Front: S Rochford, B Kennedy, E O Donoghue, J Treacy, J Kerwick, O Breathnach, S McGarry, D Beirne, C O Grady, J Kelly, K Cummins, K Philpott.

donned the mantle of favourites with recently relegated Thomastown with years of Intermediate experience having the potential to go all the way. However long before any championship ball was struck on July 12th. Piltown and Tullougher Rosbercon All County League and Cahill Cup form marked them out as serious contenders. As the League progressed both made for the high ground and the direct route to the semi finals unbeaten. In the first round of the knock-out championship Slieverue and Thomastown recorded wins against Dunnamaggin and Mooncoin and went on to play Windgap and Kilmacow respectively in the quarterfinals. Kilmacow following the introduction of Noel Dunphy hauled back a Thomastown side led by Dessie Walsh that had shown match winning form in the first half to win 1-7 to 0-9. In Mooncoin Windgap overcame Slieverue in Mooncoin by 0-17 to 0-7.

The semi-finals played before large attendance saw Tullougher overcome Kilmacow by 1-10 to 0-11. In the replay of the 2001 final Piltown stared well to lead 1-6 to 0-3 early on with Windgap rallying to 1-6 to 1-4 just after the break. Another come back with points by Niall Doran and Pat Walsh at the three quarter stage only spurred Piltown on and after adding four points on the trot a John Falconer goal set his up for a 2-17 to 1-9 win.

In an exciting and closely contested Southern Final in Ballyhale Piltown seeking their second win in four successive final appearances started well against Tullougher and led by 0-8 to 0-6 at the break having led 0-4 to 0-3 at the end of the first quarter. On the restart Tullougher stormed the country goal only to see one goal chance cleared off the line and another smothered out. Their award in an Eddie Conway point left the minimum between the sides. Further points by Nicky Kenny and Andrew McCarthy stretched Piltown's lead to three at the three-quarter stage. Despite the efforts of Tom Murphy and John Barron's ball winning skills Piltown had slipped four ahead by the fifty sixth minute. Showing a never say die attitude Tom Murphy and Eddie Conway added two quick scores and the game was back in the melting pot. In the remaining minutes Piltown kept the pressure on the Tullougher defence thereby depriving their forwards of a match winning score before Eddie Crowley called time with Piltown champions by 0-14 to 0-12. For Tullougher Shem Cummins, Martin and Michael Bookle, and Tom Murphy with Moling Cotterell, John Barron and Eddie Conway giving their best up front. On the day Brian Farrell, James Connolly, Andrew McCarthy, Nicky and Phillip Kenny were best with inspirational captain Dessie O'Dea focussed only on the forthcoming county final day in Nowlan Park as he accepted the cup from Southern Chairman Paddy Gaule..

A hugely entertaining final played before a 5,000 crowd saw fortunes ebb and flow



ST MULLINS - ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Pat Coady, Seamus O'Shea, Pat Fenlon, Michael Ryan, Declan Murphy, Declan Kavanagh, Paddy Coady, Thomas Doyle.

Front: Richard Dreelan, James Coady, Anthony Ralph, Eugene McDonald, Michael Kehoe, Shaun Gahan, David Doyle, Tommy Buggy.



MOUNT LEINSTER RANGERS: CAHILL CUP & CARLOW SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 2003.

Back: Patrick Galloghoue, Patrick Kealy, David Phelan, John Coleman, Karol Lawlor, Ger. McKeever, James Hickey, Pdraig Nolan, Christopher Kealy.

Middle: Gary Doyle, Edward Cody, Sean Michael Murphy, Shane Murray, John Cody, Michael Ralph, Patrick Bolger.

Front: Ray Sweeney, Declan Dundon, Anrew Hickey, Frank Foley, Killian Griffin, Christopher Bolger.



BALLINKILLEN - FENNELLY CUP WINNERS & IVERK JUNIOR "B" LEAGUE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Patrick Murphy, Eamon Tobin, Niall Corcoran, David Murphy, David Wall.

Middle: Pat Dowling, Cyril Hughes(trainer), Paddy Foley, Paul Maher, Barry Cox, Derek Murphy, Damien O'Neill, Stephen O'Brien, Paddy Murphy,(Selector), TomDowling(Selector)

Front: Seamus O'Neill, Martin Farrell, Patrick Minchin, Thomas Walsh, Peter Minchin, Frank Murphy, Ger Foley(Captain), Andrew Gaul, Seán Minchin, Patrick Walsh, Pat O'Grady.

in somewhat dramatic fashion. After an even first quarter the sides were level at 0-3 each. St Patrick's took the lead for the first time at the start of the second quarter when Joe Dowling pointed. Mark Swan added another point before points by Michael Galvin and Andrew McCarthy for Piltown levelled matters up again. With half time fast approaching Conor Delaney found Mark Swan with a perfectly weighted pass and Swan crashed home a fine goal to put St Patrick's back in front. Then in lost time Niall Staunton landed a good point to leave St Patrick's 1-7 to 0-6 ahead at the break. St Patrick's continued to press forward in the opening minutes of the new half. Points from Brian (Brooky) Phelan and Brian (Tim) Phelan were followed by a goal from Conor Delaney after a mix up in the Piltown defence. That left St Patrick's nine points clear and seemingly on their way to a second title at this level. Suddenly Piltown found a way back. James Farrell broke a ball on the edge of the square and Philip Kenny turned it into the net. Michael Galvin and Andrew McCarthy added points and now the pressure was back on the Ballyragget men. At this stage the scoreboard read St Patrick's 2-9 Piltown 1-8. The hurling at this stage was of a high quality. Andrew McCarthy and Joe Dowling traded points as the game went into overdrive. Philip Kenny reduced the arrears to three points. A fine save by Niall Kenny in the Ballyragget goal kept his side in the game as the Southerners piled on the pressure. However the equaliser wasn't far away. In the 49th minute Michael Galvin thundered through the St Patrick's defence and crashed home a fine goal. Further points from Andrew McCarthy and Michael Brennan left Piltown two points ahead with just two minutes remaining. Now it was St Patrick's turn to show that they were made of stern stuff. A great point from Mark Swan left the minimum between the sides. Then in a nerve tingling finish Brian (Tim) Phelan put over a free to level it all up again and send the final to a replay after a high quality game. The replay was played as curtain raiser to the senior final replay and was played before a huge crowd. This game although always close never reached the highs of the drawn encounter. St Patrick's were first off the mark when Brian (Tim) Phelan pointed from a side-line cut. The equaliser came in the 20th minute when John Malone pointed for Piltown. A goal followed when Philip Kenny finished a long ball from Andrew McCarthy to the net. They were unable to build on their lead and St Patrick's clawed their way back into the game with points from Mark Swan and Brian (Tim) Phelan left the score at the break Piltown 1-1 St Patrick's 0-3. Piltown were first to score in the new half when Andrew McCarthy landed a point from a 65'. St Patrick's response was fast and decisive. Mark Swan rifled home a goal after good work by Conor Delaney and Brian (Tim) Phelan. That goal stirred



CARLOW TOWN - FENNELLY CUP FINALISTS 2003

Back: Adam Meaney; Ronan Murphy; Brian Byrne; John King; ~Eoin Garvey; Jimmy Holden; Tom Fanning; Paul Challoner; Jason Reamsbottom;
Centre: Richie Moore, Selector; Shem Brophy, Manager; Anthony Geoghegan; Vincent English; Karl English; Colm Murphy; John Leamy; Adrian Corcoran; Barry English; Frank Burke, Capt.; Tom Fitzpatrick; Jim Gibbons, Selector;
Front: Brendan Curran; Ruairi Dunbar; Sean O'Gorman; William Kelly; Rory Brennan; Eric McCormack; Pdraig Murphy;



ST PAT'S, BALLYRAGGET- COUNTY JUNIOR "B" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Adrian Stone, Tom Kelly (Sel) (partly hidden), John Walshe (Sel), Eoin Delaney, Jeff Carter (Physical trainer) Eoin Gleeson, James Staunton, Rob Lyttle, Vincent Wallace, John Saunders, Niall Staunton, Shane Phelan, Podge Butler, David Kenny, Liam Gleeson, Maurice Walshe.
Front: Enda Holoohan, Damien Walshe, Conor Delaney, Martin Gleeson, Eamon Lennon, Adrian Walshe, Alan Culleton (Capt), Niall Kenny, Brendan Dooley, Joe Lacey, Patrick Cahill, Killian Murphy.



GLENMORE IVERK JUNIOR A LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Ray Byrne, Mick Phelan, Billy Vereker, Frank Kirwan, Eoin Grennan, Brian Aylward, Paddy Murphy, Kevin Aylward, John Dollard, Kenneth Cottrell, Emmett Vereker, Willie Fitzgerald
Front: Seamus Aylward, Raymond Culleton, Larry Ryan, Anthony Phelan, Eddie O Connor, David Aylward, Richard Aylward, Jimmy Walsh, Donie Cody, Ramie Ryan.

up a game that had been relatively quiet up until that stage. Michael Galvin levelled it all up again with a point. John Falconer added a similar score to put Piltown back in front.

Further points from John Falconer, Andrew McCarthy, Michael Galvin and Michael Brennan left Piltown 1-8 to 1-3 ahead at the end of the third quarter. A point from a free by Brian (Tim) Phelan halted the Piltown surge. St Patrick's had a let off when Michael Brennan got through their defence only to kick the sliotar wide. Entering the closing minutes Piltown were still clinging on to a three point lead when St Patrick's were awarded a long range free. John Staunton dropped the free on the edge of the Piltown square. Brian (Tim) Phelan gathered and blasted for goal. The sliotar sailed wide and with it went St Patrick's last chance.

Piltown panel – David Kirby, Richard Brophy, Brian Farrell, Dessie O Dea, James Connolly, Pa Connolly, Liam Kearns, Liam Kenny, Andrew McCarthy, John Falconer. Michael Brennan, Mark Galvin, Nickey Kenny, John Malone, Philip Kenny, Subs (Used- James Norris, James Farrell.) Jim Power, Liam Kearns, Shane Kinsella, Richie Connolly, Gerry Long, Liam Kenny, Vinnie Long, Kevin Maher, John Lonergan, Conor O Shea, Robert O Dea, Paul Maher, John Brophy St Patrick's – Niall Kenny, James Staunton, David Kenny, Brendan Dooley, Niall Staunton, John Staunton, Brian (Tom) Phelan, Stephen Roberts, Jody Phelan, Brian (Tim) Phelan, Joe Dowling, Brian (Brooky) Phelan, Shane Dowling, Mark Swan, Conor Delaney. Subs Used – Paddy Cahill, Shane Phelan.)_Tom Carroll, Adrian Stone, John Kennedy, Cillian Murphy, Alan Culleton, Kieran Delaney, Liam Gleeson, Michael Stapleton, Joe Lacey, Enda Holohan, Robert Lyttle.

Junior A Divisional and County Championships

Following Mooncoin's promotion, St. Martins Northern champions of 2002 and O'Loughlins the newly crowned 2003 league champions led the list of a quintet of northern, southern contenders for promotion to the junior grade. At the first hurdle St. Martins fell to James Stephens who then beat Threecastles to book a final place, whilst O'Loughlins accounted firstly for Young Irelands and then Clara in a tough 2-13 to 1-13 semi-final victory to make it an all City final. After a close run affair in the early stages O'Loughlins ran out comfortable 4-8 to 0-9 winners to take the Northern crown.

Following a serious question in the preliminary round of the Iverk Junior A Championship Ballyhale Shamrocks overcame the Southern League champions Glenmore 3-9 to 1-12 in Thomastown to set them on a strong course for the semi final here they encountered and defeated John Lockes. Graiguenamanagh provided the opposition in the final after they had overcome the Rower Instioge. Played in



GRAIGUENAMANAGH - IVERK JUNIOR "A" FINALISTS 2003

Back: Timmy McDonald, Pat Doyle, Eddie Dowling, Jamie Cullen, Christopher Bolger, Stephen Barron, Nigel Flynn, Brendan O'Brien, Nicky Moylan, Pádraig Gill, Mark Hamilton, John Kinsella, Paul Ryan
Front: Johnny Prendergast, John Cahill, Patrick Connolly, Paul Hamilton, Michael Connolly, Willie Blanchfield, John Flood, Kevin Dowling, Ronan Dowling.

Thomastown the side had a good win over the Barrow sider's.

The long delayed county final clash of O'Loughlins and Ballyhale Shamrocks in Bennetsbridge proved to be a thriller with the sides tied 0-10 to 1-7 at the call of time. On the second day a fortnight later O'Loughlins benefiting from a longer run by their senior side proved sharper and fitter to win 2-10 to 1-11 winners to qualify for the junior grade in 2004.

Junior A Divisional and County League

After the preliminary games were completed the divisional league finals looked as if they could throw up an unusual pairing with Naomh Brid of Carlow contesting the Northern final with O'Loughlins and Ballinkillen facing an Eddie O'Connor led Glenmore in the Southern one.

On the way to the Southern final Ballinkillen who topped the group defeated Graiguenamanagh in the semi-final with old rivals Glenmore reversing their league result and piping Ballyhale Shamrocks in the second one. On a glorious evening in Thomastown Ballinkillen whose only previous defeat was a 4-10 to 3-10 loss to the same opposition looked winners from early on as they dominated the game into the town goal. However a combination of experience and youth on the Glenmore side allied to a number of missed chances and a saved second half penalty cost Ballinkillen dearly. On the evening veteran Glenmore goalkeeper Frank Kirwan operating at fullforward set up the crucial pass that saw Paddy Murphy get the crucial match winning goal from close in. After twenty eight league games in the Northern section, Carlow debutants Naomh Brid overcame St. Martins in the semi-final with O'Loughlins accounting for Clara in the second one. In the final played in Castlecomer O'Loughlins recorded a good 3-7 to 1-8 win over Ballinkillen. The difference between the sides being three early Joe Daly goals to which Alan Brennan replied in the sec-

ond half for Naomh Brid.

In the county final played in Thomastown Glenmore started sharper and led early on only to see two goals give the city side a 2-5 to 1-7 lead at the break. At the three quarter stage a Frank Kirwan penalty left his side the minimum behind on a 2-10 to 2-9 scoreline. In the end O'Loughlins proved stronger when they had a hard earned 2-13 to 2-10 over a Glenmore side many of them who had given their all in the senior championship tie the previous day.

Junior B Divisional and County Championship

Over seven hundred players on Twenty eight teams accounting for two thirds of the clubs in the county set sail on the first weekend in July to win their selves a county medal. In the ensuing weeks teams exited in great numbers as only the strong survived.

After the upheaval of the league in the South, Mullinavat overcame Thomastown 2-9 to 1-8 with Carrickshock reversing their league result with Kilmacow to leave two of the traditionally stronger faces meeting head to head in the championship final.

On the evening Carrickshock displayed great energy and enthusiasm to lead 2-9 to 0-4 at the break before running out easy winners. The game highlighted the continued imbalance at the later stages of the championship when Mullinavat had lost key players in their senior championship tie.

After three rounds of a fiercely competitive Northern Championship the semi final stages were reached. With all to play for Graigueballycallan faced Galmoy and St. Lachtains met Conahy Shamrocks for a place in the final. At the end of the day there was no change as both games ended in thrilling draws. At the second attempt St. Lachtains and the Kilmanagh side came through before St. Lachtains went on to defeat Graigue Ballycallan on a 3-9 to 3-3 scoreline. In the final Carrickshock won out on a 1-13 to 0-13 scoreline to collect an elusive set of county medals and promotion to

the junior A grade.

Junior B Divisional and County League

Bucking the trend of recent years the southern league proved to be a more open affair providing a more competitive competition thanks to the removal of the grading anomaly. In the quarterfinals Kilmacow recorded a 1-11 to 0-12 victory over champions Tullougher whilst Windgap defeated neighbours Piltown 5-6 to 2-9. Building on the impetus gained Kilmacow recorded a 2-11 to 2-9 semi-final win over Carrickshock at the second attempt and fourteen man Windgap thanks to a late Pat Power goal overcame Mullinavat 2-7 to 1-9. In the final in Piltown Windgap started well and led 0-4 to 0-1 early on, level at 0-8 each at the break they had to give best to Kilmacow who finished better with two late points to record a 1-13 to 1-11 win.

In the northern group St. Patricks made steady headway through the league before accounting for Conahy Shamrocks in the semi-final. In the other semi-final St Lachtains recorded a 1-12 to 1-9 victory over Danesfort. In the final of the Saints Patricks recorded a 2-15 to 2-9 win over neighbouring Lachtains. To many only a county league final to the men of Ballyragget it offered an opportunity to break a twenty-four year long wait for a County title at adult level. Played in Ballyhale on a heavy pitch St. Pats led 1-3 to 1-2 at the break only to find themselves level minutes later. Following a good spell they regained control to lead by three points only to concede a penalty, after Kilmacow pointed the rebound in the fifty third minute the northerners quickly restored the difference. The game was deemed for a draw as Kilmacow got and missed a certain goal chance before Adrian Walshe pointed an insurance score to give his side an historic 1-9 to 1-5 county final victory.

Hennessey Sports All County Junior Hurling League

Reaching the penultimate stages nine of the twenty-four teams were still in contention after playing eighty-four league games in the Hennessey Sports All County league since the first ball was struck in early March. They consisted of six Northern sides, two Carlow and a single Southern survivor.

A three point win for Erins Own over Tullaroan saw them meet Galmoy in a high scoring quarter final thriller only to come out on the wrong side of a 1-22 to 0-24 scoreline after extra time. In the other quarterfinals competition debutantes St. Mullins overcame Lisdowney whilst their fellow county men Mount Leinster Rangers went down to a strong Dicksboro team. The fourth and final place went to rising stars St. Patricks when they defeated Piltown 1-15 to 2-10. In the semi-finals St. Mullins overcame St. Patricks in a thriller by a single point 2-12 to 2-11 with the Boro defeating Galmoy in the second game. In the final Dicksboro dominated the first half to set



WINDGAP - JUNIOR "B" LEAGUE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Peter Long, Thomas Cronin, Thomas Lonergan, David Power, Phillip Lonergan.
Middle: Trevor Jackman, Richie McKenna, Eddie Meehan, Sean Power, Eamon Hawe, Pat Power, Dermot O'Shea, Jimmy Purcell, Padraig Power.
Front: Jonathon Duggan, Noel Enright, Niall Fennelley, James Mackey, Walter Purcell, John McKenna, Tommy Fleming, Niall Kenny, Anthony Meehan.



KILMACOW - IVERK JUNIOR "B" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: David Ryan, Greg Power, Conor Walsh, Johnny Egan, John Phelan.
Middle: Paul O'Dwyer, Mick Heffernan, Owen Dalton, Dermot Haberlain, Martin Tynan, Damien Rafter, Shane Carroll, Ray Heffernan,
Front: Damien Sullivan, Ian Walsh, John Walsh, Shane Power, Nicky Barron, Martin Moloney, Gary O'Shea.

up a 2-11 to 0-11 win over a well supported St. Mullins side (Carlow champions in 2002) that failed to sparkle as in the earlier rounds.

Cahill Cup

This years Cahill Cup proved to be a good barometer to the progress of the main contenders in the various championship games to be played later in the season. Based on the finishing positions in the all county league the competition attracted sixteen entries and was played in on a seeded basis in conjunction with the final stages of the all county league. In the early rounds Tullaroan, Conahy Shamrocks Barrow Rangers and Kilmacow made progress, with Piltown then accounting for Conahy 3-13 to 4-8 and the Boro 1-11 to 1-7 to reach the final. In a titanic quarterfinal struggle Erins Own took three games to overcome Kilmacow finally winning by 1-12 to 1-10, St Mullins were then accounted for in the semi-final before they fell to Mount Leinster Rangers. The Rangers had a

point to spare over Tullaroan in the third quarter final before accounting for Galmoy in the second semi final. The final played in Thomastown saw Carlow senior finalists Mount Leinster Rangers and Southern Champions Piltown take the field. In a game the Carlow side dominated through scores from Chris Kealy and Frank Foley to lead 0-8 to 1-1 at the break. Piltown's goal coming from Vinny Longs overhead stroke. By the twenty third minute Piltown pointed themselves back level 1-6 to 0-9. Continuing their momentum Piltown went two ahead before points by James Hickey and an injury time Christy Kealy free sent the game to extra time. Having shaken off their pre county final nervousness Piltown finished the stronger to lead by five points at the break before going on and winning the Cup for the first time.

Fennelly Cup

For the second successive year Carlow sides dominated the competition with

Ballinkillen and Carlow Town appearing in the Kevin Fennelly Cup Final in Nowlan Park. The competition was run on a league basis with four groups of three teams. The early rounds went smoothly whilst progress at the knockout stages was delayed owing to club commitments in the various Carlow and Kilkenny championships. The final produced a memorable high scoring skillful classic with a combined total of 7 goals and 24 points and an injury time sting in the tail. In even first half goals by David Wall and Paul Maher gave Ballinkillen 2-4 to 0-9 half time lead. On the resumption Carlow Town took the initiative and goals by Ruari Dunbar and Ronan Murphy gave them an eight-point lead at the three-quarter stage. A fine team move finished to the net by team captain Ger. Foley started a Ballinkillen comeback. By the twenty eight-minute only three points remained between the sides as Ger. Foley set up Patrick Minchen to tie the game. As the tie moved into injury time Ballinkillen's David Wall latched onto a breaking ball to steal or grab the laurels away from Carlow Town on a 5-9 to 2-15 scoreline. Among the fine performances given were Vinny and Karol English, Ruairi Dunbar, Eric McCormack and Ronan Murphy for Carlow Town and Pat O'Grady, Stephen O'Brien, Ger. Foley, Pat Minchen and Andrew Gaule for the winners.

Iverk Junior League

As the remaining junior clubs competed for Southern Junior championship semi-final places Piltown and Tullougher were renewing acquaintances in Mullinavat in a repeat of the Junior League Final of 2002. On the evening the Suirsiders regained the trophy when they had a comfortable enough win thanks to long range Andrew McCarthy and James Connolly goals. Their fourth goal from Nicky Kenny when he finished a three man move gave them a 4-8 to 1-12 victory



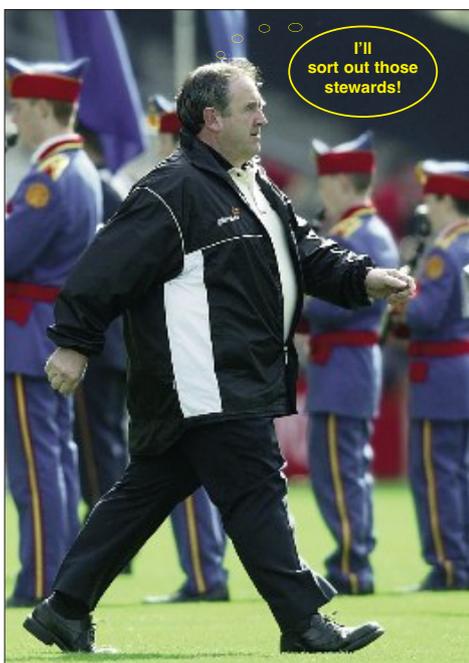
MULLINAVAT IVERK B CHAMPIONSHIP FINA LISTS 2003

Back: Paul Coughlan, Richard John Carroll, Derek Aylward, Jim McDonald, Tommy Holden, Shane Frisby, Pat Holden, Alan Wall, Liam Aylward, Maurice Holden (Captain), Ollie Aylward, Eoin Maher, **Front:** Michael Duggan, Jamie Fennelly, John Geary, Paul Kennealley, Patrick Jones, John Paul Dungan, Declan Duggan, Ryan Kennealley, John Rohan.

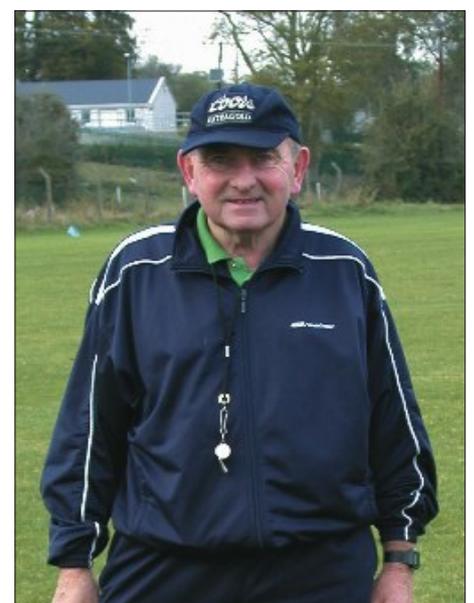


GALMOY - NORTHERN JUNIOR FINALISTS 2003

Back: Cathal Doherty, Michael Brenan, Brian Lonergan, Philip Doyle, James Dunne, Kevin Lonergan, Alan Gray, Donncha Gray **Front:** David Doyle, Brian Doherty, Niall Doherty, Martin Phelan, Philip Brennan, Liam Drennan, Noel Doherty



Newly-weds Brian McEvoy & Treacy Millea



Paudge Butler who has given a lifetime to refereeing literally working at the grass roots in almost every pitch in the county.

KILKENNY'S 11th TITLE

By
Barrie Henriques

Kilkenny returned from Africa, fresh, tanned, and with a greater unified resolve to do it all over again. The two-in-a-row was all the rage within the County. The media were screaming it. Brian Cody was remaining sthum on the subject. The lads collected a huge amount of money for some deserving project in some township. Tommy O'Brien did an even better job as a PR man for the team. On the Kilkenny People, Brian Cody said, "We want to win all of our games". A very simple philosophy.

Kilkenny, but for a little glitch against Tipperary in the first round of the Allianz National League playoffs, obliged their Manager. Still bronzed, Offaly in the Walsh Cup on a lousy, wet, cold, unappetising February was not the best choice to start your hurling year. Kilkenny won easily up in Birr, by 4-13 to 1-13. New skipper, Charlie Carter fired home 1-1, Brian McEvoy shot four delightful points. They were not to get the full hour again. Eddie Brennan shot 1-6 in Birr.

The Larkin family were feted in their own place, and the World and his Mother were present in the Village Club on a memorable night.

Great scenes of euphoria were witnessed in Parnell Park, as Dublin deservedly won the Walsh Cup, beating Kilkenny by 2-11 to 2-10.

Here we go again!

"The result is all that matters", was Brian Cody's evaluation of the 4-11 to 0-12 opener against the Munster Champions - albeit a much understrength Munster Champions. DJ and D Mackey scored 1-2 each. Eddie Brennan got 1-1, while Henry Shefflin scored four points from frees, and probably missed four more. He was to improve as the year wore on. John Hoyne got in on the scoring act too. He got a smashing goal. Aidan Cummins and Tommy Walsh were in to start. No Noel Hickey, or Charlie Carter. They were injured.

Kilkenny County Board announced development plans scheduled to cost €800,000. Croke Park announced plans to give the boot to jewellery toting "glitter boys". Brian Cody and his men went looking for the second brace of Allianz points against Galway in Nowlan Park. They got them too.

James McGarry was back in goal, and Noel Hickey was minding

the front of the house. Martin Comerford, too, was in super form. Jimmy Coogan bagged seven - six from placed balls.

Seven days later, O'Moore Park in Portlaoise was the venue. Surprisingly, the Laois men put up a stout resistance. Their raw courage, and terrific heart however were insufficient for a Kilkenny team, who were somewhat lethargic. Laois were in front at the break by a single point (1-6 to 0-8). It was the defensive sextet of Kavanagh, Hickey, Larkin, Richie Mullally, Barry and Delaney that dug this third brace of points out. Martin Comerford was to continue being the best Kilkenny forward on view. In the end, Kilkenny pulled away, after the introduction of Charlie Carter, Brian McEvoy, Brian Dowling and Eddie Brennan, to win by 1-17 to 1-8.

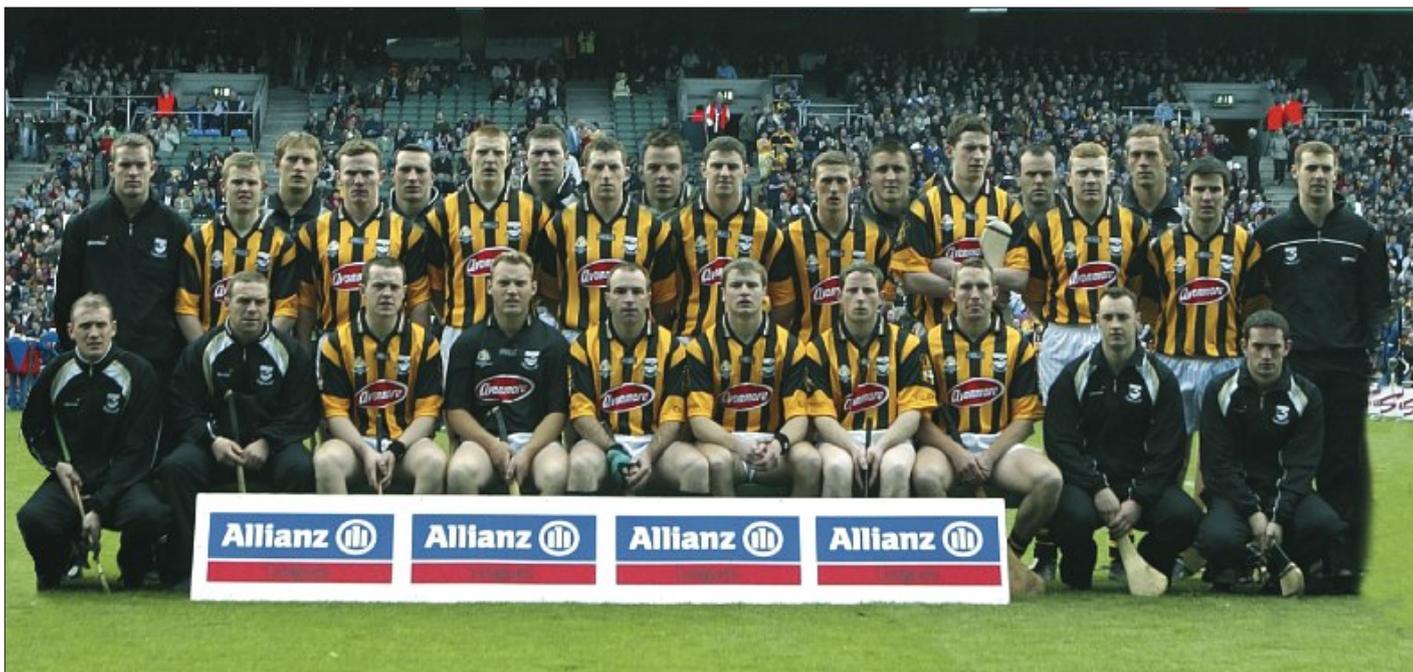
Clare arrived in Nowlan Park with great hopes of reversing the result of the 2002 All Ireland. King of the castle on the day was hurler of the year, Henry Shefflin, who fired over half of Kilkenny's total of 1-11. Again Martin Comerford gave Brian Lohan a torrid time of it, scoring three points. Charlie Carter (1-1), Jimmy Coogan (0-3), Eddie Brennan (0-2), Derek Lyng and Richie Mullally, 0-1 each. Tommy Walsh continued to add to his growing reputation, while Mullinavat's Willie O'Dwyer and Walter Burke did nothing wrong when called upon.

Going to Parnell Park for their next outing against Dublin, Kilkenny had bagged seven goals and seventy points in the League thus far. They had conceded only three goals and 45 points - stats of Champions. Dublin proved very disappointing, as they were totally demoralised by the reigning double champions, losing by 2-22 to 2-8. Charlie Carter was the star of the show, shooting 1-6. Not too far behind the Gowran sharpshooter, was Willie O'Dwyer who bagged 1-2, and Martin Comerford, of course, who shot - you guessed it - three points again.

With maximum points from five games, and with a huge scoring difference (51), Kilkenny sailed into phase two of the re-vamped League. They were joined by Clare and Galway from Division 1A. From Division 1B came Tipperary, Cork, and Wexford.

The Tipp game was up first, and Ned Quinn was adamant that "we are ready and able to handle this in Nowlan Park". A big crowd was in attendance as spectators were expecting a humdinger.

At half time, the sides were level at 1-9 each. The crowd loved every contest, every puck of the sliothar. Tipp eventually won by



KILKENNY - NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

John McIlwaine

Back: Sean Dowling, Tommy Walsh, Diarmuid Mackey, Noel Hickey, Willoie O'Dwyer, Henry Shefflin, Jimmy Coogan, Derek Lyng, Ciarán Phelan, John Hoyne, Richie Mullally, David Herity, Martin Comerford, Brian McEvoy, Peter Barry, Eddie Mackey, Philip Larkin, Aidan Cummins

Front: Stephen Grehan, Charlie Carter (Capt), Michael Kavanagh, PJ Ryan, DJ Carey, JJ Delaney, Pat Tennyson, Eddie Brennan, Alan Geoghegan, Brian Dowling.



Captain **Charlie Carter** holds up the NHL cup in Croke Park *John McLivaine*



PJ Ryan was an excellent stand-in for James McGarry

2-19 to 2-16, and deservedly so. Henry Shefflin scored 0-8, DJ Carey got 1-3, and captain Charlie Carter came off the bench to fire home a great goal. Surprisingly, Martin Comerford registered zilch. It was not a habit he anticipated maintaining. The blood and bandage brigade down Leeside way awaited.

Kilkenny beat Cork more easily than the score of 4-17 to 3-12 would suggest. It was the day when the Henry Shefflin/ DJ Carey axis was hewn. Shefflin scored 2-5, while Carey came in with 1-2, as did Eddie Brennan. I cannot remember a score where neither Shefflin nor Carey were involved. Clara's newcomer Connor Phelan started on the right side of Henry Shefflin, with Tommy Walsh starting on the left. James Ryall, Walter Burke, Brian Dowling came on in the second half. James McGarry shipped an injury that was to trouble him for longer than anticipated. The Carter storm clouds were starting to billow.

Kilkenny Colleges, St Kierans and Castlecomer Community School, collected the two major Colleges titles, with terrific wins over St Colmans and St Josephs of Borrisoleigh respectively. Kilkenny had to at least draw with Wexford to gain entry to the Allianz National League final. The game was scheduled for Nowlan Park on Sunday April 27th. The Kilkenny injury list was backing up. McGarry, Carey, Walter Burke, Ryall, Larkin, Kavanagh, and Hoyne were on specialist's tables everywhere. The dressing room was like emergency ward 10. Playing second fiddle for most of the game, it took a very late Henry Shefflin pointed free to insure the defending League Champions got a chance to defend their title against Tipperary on the May Bank Holiday Monday in Croke Park. A huge crowd was expected at Headquarters. Expectations were not realised, as a meagre 17,000 souls turned up

Carter the Hero.

In the greatest escape since Clint Eastwood got out of Alcatraz, Kilkenny, thanks to the timely introduction of Charlie Carter in the 55th minute held onto their National League title, but only just. At half time, Tipperary, who had played the better hurling by a distance in the first half, were in front, comfortably, by 2-9 to 1-7. The electric Eoin Kelly had bagged 1-7 of that figure. What was to happen in the last six minutes of this game was pure fantasia. By the 59th. minute, Tipperary were done and dusted as far as this title was concerned, or so I thought, perched in the vast emptiness of the press area on the Hogan Stand. Even the chanting, meagre Tipp support could barely be heard above the mezzanine level of the empty Croke. At 4-13 to 2-11 for Tipperary, what sane Kilkenny supporter could have anticipated the unbelievable reversal of fortune this game was about to undergo.

In the 60th. minute, Charlie Carter drilled a rasper towards Brendan Cummin's goal. DJ Carey, lurking very close to the edge of the square, and in line with Charlie's shot, seemed to stab at the fleeting sliothar. It ended up in the back of the net, but the story was to get better. Within 30 seconds, Charlie himself drilled

another special, and this time there were no distractions, no swipes, nothing but a blur as the ball billowed the back of the net. Within a short few seconds, speed merchant, Eddie Brennan collected a huge delivery from Richie Mullally, some 40 yards from goal. With the speed of a springbok, fast Eddie danced, twisted, feinted, swerved, and hopped off the opposition, before leaving Brendan Cummins helpless with a blistering shot to the net. Kilkenny were in front for the first time since the 6th minute-Kilkenny 5-11, Tipperary 4-13. It wasn't over yet. Eddie again added a huge point from a long way out to give his side a two-point cushion - a dangerous lead, and so it proved. A dying kick by the punch-drunk Tipperary lads saw John Carroll slip the Premier back in front in the 69th minute, with a great goal. Another Tipperary attack was thwarted by a superb point-blank save by PJ Ryan from the marauding John Carroll. The ball twisted out for a '65, which was missed. Tipp were still in front, 5-13 to 5-12. A foul on Derek Lyng, handed an easy equaliser to Henry Shefflin. All gathered in Croke Park would have settled for the draw, but Henry Shefflin was not one such. In Injury time, he collected a PJ Ryan puck-out, and set sail for the Tipperary posts. Onwards strode the Ballyhale Shamrock, caring not a whit about opposition, or trouble, and as he eventually arrived on the 21-yard line, his options had been considerably reduced. In fact he only had one- his trusty right foot. A soccer player of some distinction, and a better Gaelic footballer, he unleashed, more in hope than certainty, a right-footed kick that visibly drained the blood from the face of Brendan Cummins, as it passed over the black spot on his crossbar. Game set and match to Kilkenny, and it was a proud moment, and an inspirational sight to watch as Charlie Carter climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect the Cup. Could this be the forerunner of things to come? we thought. Yes, and no.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Philly Larkin, Richie Mullally, Peter Barry, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Pat Tennyson, John Hoyne, Henry Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, DJ Carey, Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan.

Subs (used): Jimmy Coogan, Aidan Cummins, and Charlie Carter.

Tipperary: Brendan Cummins, Michael Maher, Philip Maher, Benny Dunne, Brian Horgan, David Kennedy, Paul Kelly, Tommy Dunne, Noel Morris, John Carroll, Conor Gleeson, Liam Cahill, Eoin Kelly, Ger O'Grady, Lar Corbett.

Subs (used): Eoin Brislane, John Devane, Eugene O'Neill.

Kilkenny scorers: Henry Shefflin 1-6 (4 points, frees), DJ Carey 1-3 (points frees), Eddie Brennan 1-3, Martin Comerford 1-2, Charlie Carter 1-0.

Tipperary: Eoin Kelly 1-7 (1-3 frees), Lar Corbett, John Carroll, 2-0 each, Conor Gleeson 0-2, Tommy Dunne 0-1 (free), Liam Cahill, Eoin Brislane, Paul Kelly, 0-1 each.

Ref: Pat O'Connor (Limerick).



John McIlwaine

Kilkenny's 2003 Trophy Cabinet - A nice haul of nine national trophies

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Comer Bounce Back!

Photos Eoin Hennessy



ERIN'S OWN - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Brian Young, Tarla Dunne, Damien Mullins, Paul Mullins, Martin Boran, Donal Dunne, Liam Shore

Middle: Cormac Young, Patsy Brophy, Michael Owens, Colin Dunne, Eddie Brennan, Damien Fogarty, Peter O' Donovan, Danny Byrne, Shay Kennedy, Eoin Rothwell, Pat Shore, Sean Dwyer.

Front: John Feehan, Anthony Owens, Ken Brennan, David Buggy, Joe Meagher, John Buggy, Gordon Byrne, Sean Meally, Micheál Coogan.

For the second year in the row, a team relegated from senior ranks 12 months previously secured premier status following a nail-biting and thrilling intermediate county final win. So it proved for Erin's Own (Castlecomer), who proved the doubters wrong and rebuilt after last season's disappointment to retain their senior status. It took a lot of energy and determination from the Comer men to overcome Carrickshock, who were undoubtedly favourites to take the title going on form leading up to the match. However, in almost an identical fashion to last year, the Southerners found that the final hurdle was one step too many for them. It must have been an immense disappointment to all those involved in the team, considering the form they showed in the league early in the season and indeed in the league final when they disposed of Castlecomer with relative ease on a scoreline of 4-14 to 1-12. It may have been this result - the Comer men's only loss of the year - that stung the eventual title winners into seeking vengeance.

The opening round of the championship proved to go pretty much to form with St. Lachtain's securing a hard-earned victory over James Stephens, and Graignamanagh, Emeralds and Blacks & Whites securing wins over the Rower-Inistioge, John Lockes and Bennettsbridge. Results meant that John Lockes and Bennettsbridge contested the relegation play-off. Despite the first half being an even affair, the Callan men made better use of the advantage of the strong gale in the second half to retain their intermediate status and confine Bennettsbridge to

the junior ranks for 2004. The final score gave Callan a 12-point victory on a scoreline of 2-18 to 1-9.

The quarter-finals brought the four league semi-finalists, Clara, Mooncoin (who were defeated by Carrickshock and Erin's Own, respectively in the semi-finals), Carrickshock and Erin's Own into the championship equation. As with previous years, the competition really began to hot up with the quarter-final matches. As was predicted, the tightest match proved to be St. Lachtain's against Erin's Own. In the end, it took two defensive mistakes to secure Erin's Own the win on a scoreline of 2-12 to 0-14. Carrickshock always had too much class and ability against Emeralds, and, although the Uringford side made them battle hard, they easily secured a 3-18 to 1-14 victory. The two other quarter-finals saw Graignamanagh spring a minor surprise by qualifying for the semi-finals along with Clara, who both accounted for Mooncoin and Blacks & Whites.

The draw for the semi-finals pitted Erin's Own against the potentially dangerous Graignamanagh followed by a most intriguing and possible classic between Clara and Carrickshock. Almost all hurling followers expected Erin's Own to experience little hardship in disposing of Graignamanagh in the opening semi-final. Despite this, the Graig men showed that their form could not be ignored and made the Comer men pull out all the stops. It certainly was an excellent match for the neutral, with eight goals scored in all. However, one always felt that Comer were always going to hold sway in the exchanges and continually held the upper hand despite the best efforts of



CARRICKSHOCK COUNTY IH FINALISTS & LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: L O Shea, P Mulcahy, P Rohan, N Rohan, S Inorgan, J Raggett, B Tennyson.

Middle: J Barron, J Power, C Lodge, K Fennelly, P Power, A Holland, B Hoyne, J Dalton, J Tennyson, P Dwyer, M Rohan, P Barron, L Barron, N Maher, P Dalton, R Power.

Front: R Cahill, D Millea, J Farrell, T Murphy, D Ryan, P Cleary, MI Rice, MI Rohan, P Farrell, P Tennyson, J Power, J Murphy, R Frisby, R Burke, E Power, S Power.

Henry Roberts in defence and Cathal Dunne in particular up front. However, the combined effort of the experience of Brian Young, Patsy Brophy and Joe Meagher in defence, John Feehan in midfield and the class and scoring power of Damien Fogarty, Anthony Owens and David Buggy in attack saw Comer through to the final. The final score was 5-10 to 3-9 in Comer's favour.

The second semi-final was not the open game that both Clara and Carrickshock are capable of providing. In the end, it proved to be a tense and tight affair as both sides cancelled each other out. It was obvious that one chance is all it would take to succeed and when the chance arrived for Carrickshock, they took it. Carrickshock captain, Pat Farrell, struck the ball to the net for the major score. Yet it took a penalty save by Richie Power, who went back onto the line for the penalty from Conor Phelan, to ensure Carrickshock's qualification to the final. Clara can look back on this game with more than a hint of regret, as it would have taken little more to be on the other side of the result.

Despite having to work hard for their semi-final win, Carrickshock looked a good bet for the senior ranks next year. They seemed to have the right balance of strength, experience and youth through Pat Dwyer, John Dalton, John and Pat Tennyson, Michael Rice, Pat Farrell and Jamie and Richie Power. However, one could not expect Erin's



David Buggy (Erin's Own) goes past the challenge of **John Tennyson** (Carrickshock) in the Intermediate Hurling League Final.

Own to lay down without a fight. What unfolded in Nowlan Park on October 19th was a match to remember.

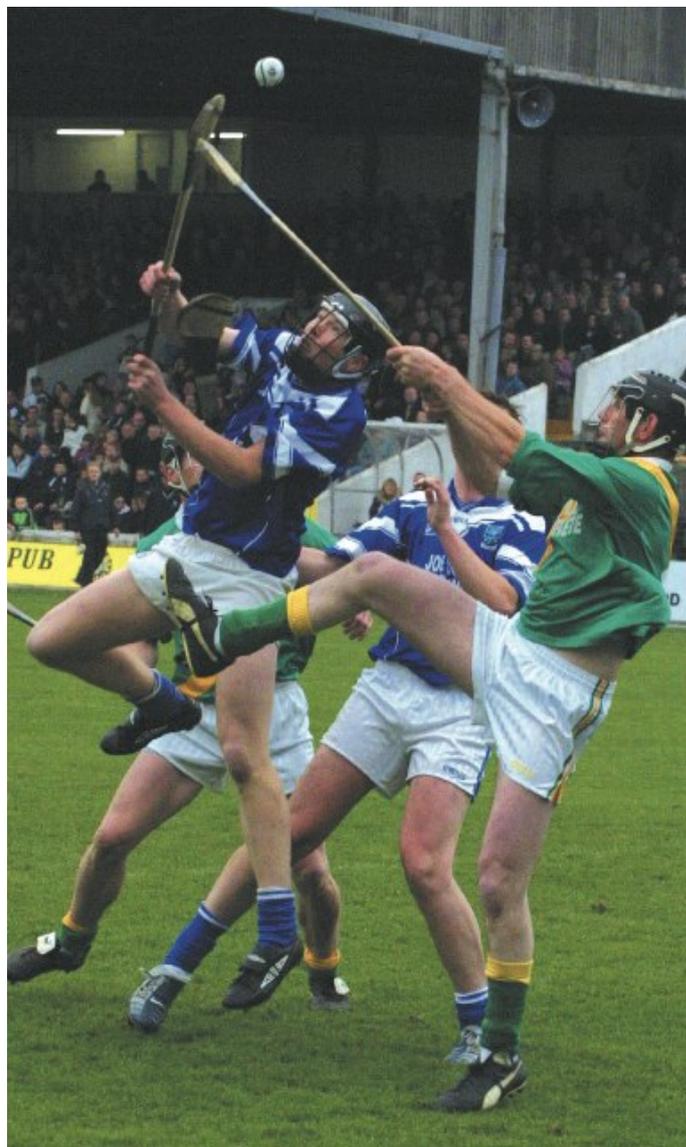
Early nerves were evident in Carrickshock's play in the opening ten minutes as they conceded four frees that David Buggy had little trouble in pointing. At the opposite end, however, the Erin's Own defence was holding very well against a potentially dangerous Carrickshock attack. However, as the midway point of the half approached,

Carrickshock opened up and fought back tenaciously. Unanswered points from Jamie Power (2), Pat Tennyson, Richie Power and Pat Farrell saw them lead. They could have been more ahead but were denied by a brilliant diving save by Brian Young from Michael Rohan and a further chance that went just wide of the posts. What was costing Carrickshock dear, however, was the unnecessary fouling by their defence which David Buggy consistently punished. There was major activity then in the closing minutes

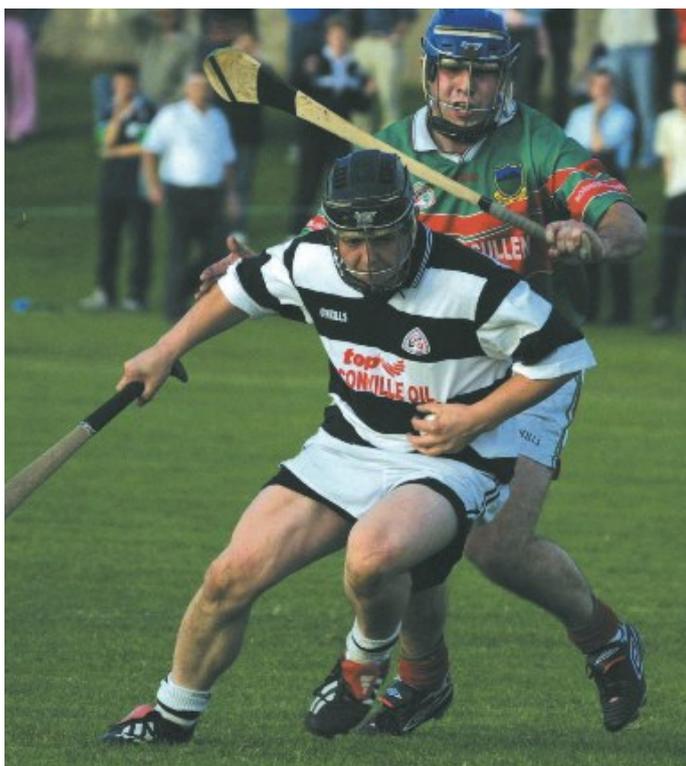
of the opening half. A loose ball around midfield was flashed up field where it landed in the hand of Pat Farrell who buried it in the net for Carrickshock to give them a two point lead. However, Comer showed why they could not be ignored when they levelled matters in a matter of seconds just before the break with points from Danny Byrne and David Buggy from a free, his eighth in all. This levelled the scores at 1-7 (Carrickshock) to 0-10 (Erin's Own) and set up an intriguing second half.

Carrickshock opened the second half with an intent they only showed fleetingly in the first half through points from Richie Power (2) and Pat Farrell. However, such was their desire to attack that they were caught off guard by a long Colin Dunne drive that John Feehan managed to get on the end of and eventually drive to the net. The goal gave Comer great confidence and this was underlined by two excellent points that followed from Anthony Owens and Eddie Brennan. But they too lost concentration at the back as Richie Power was hauled down for a penalty. Fortunately for Comer, Jamie Power's well-struck effort was tipped over the bar by Brian Young. Carrickshock pushed hard following this and points from Pat Tennyson, Pat Farrell and Richie Power gave them a two point lead. With five minutes left, it looked that Carrickshock would hold out. However, they again fell foul of a long delivery from the Comer defence - this time from Patsy Brophy - that was gathered by Eddie Brennan who kicked to the net. The goal was only awarded following a deliberation between referee John Direen and his umpires. In amazing scenes, Comer defended in large numbers in the final minutes to protect their one point lead, which they managed to do to win 2-12 to 1-14 to secure a famous day for the club.

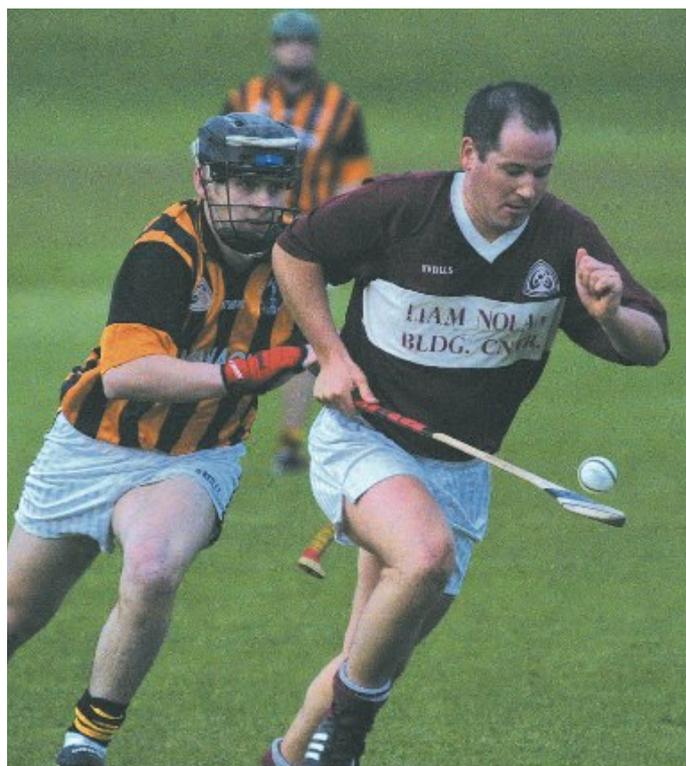
This victory meant that Erin's Own secured their first county adult title since 1958 and completed a fantastic year for the club as they had won a minor title also this year to add to this. For Carrickshock it meant returning to the drawing board again for 2004 to secure senior status at the third time of asking, a target that they are capable of achieving. However, the increasing competitiveness of the Intermediate grade should mean that it could prove tougher than ever.



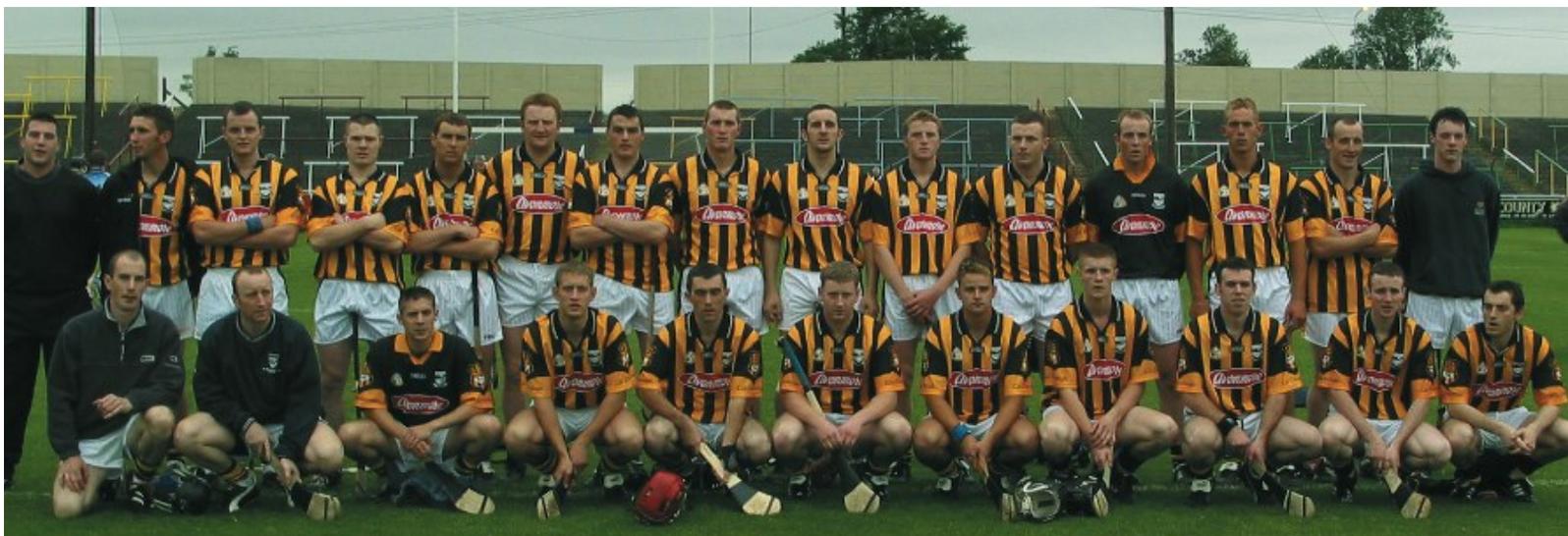
Anthony Owens (Erins Own) and **Pat O'Dwyer** (Carrickshock) in the Vale Oil IHC Final clash in Nowlan Park.



Donie Whelan (Blacks & Whites) catches and turns for goal despite the attention of **Nicky Kenny** (Rower Inistioge)



Robert Shorthall (Clara) gets away from the challenge of **Robbie Dowling** (St. Lachtain's).



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND IH FINALISTS 2003

Back: Emmett Kavanagh, JP Corcoran, Gerry Byrne, Paul Costelloe, John O'Neill, Aidan Lawlor, Paul Maher, Shane Lanigan, Pul Buggy, Aidan Fogarty, Niall Moloney, Richie O'Neill, Eddie Mackey, Michael Brennan, Denis Kelly.

Front: Alan Murphy, Dermot Lawlor, Paul Dermody, Diarmuid Mackey, John Maher, Ger Joyce, Paul Sheehan, Jamie Power, Ken Hughes, Noel Doherty, Eddie Walsh.

Under the stewardship of Maurice Power (Carrickshock) and his fellow selectors, the Kilkenny Intermediate team couldn't have asked for a tougher opening to the Leinster Championship than to face Wexford in their first game. The venue, Nowlan Park, only served as a slight movement of the goalposts, because Wexford love nothing finer than to scupper Kilkenny's ambition in their own back yard. It was not to be on this occasion as the locals totally dominated the game from start to finish, and dished out an eleven point defeat to the Champions, winning by 3-14 to 1-9.

Having played with the breeze in the first half, Kilkenny lead at the half time break by 1-11 to 1-3. The Kilkenny goal was a tremendous Niall Maloney drive in the 19th minute. Wexford did get within four points of the challengers, but two goals inside the last ten minutes by Mooncoin's Diarmuid Mackey, left the Champions with a massive hill to climb. It proved too much for the plucky Wexford men.

Kilkenny : Richie O'Neill, Ger Joyce, Shane Lanigan, Paul Costello, Pat Butler, Aidan Lawlor, Eddie Mackey, Paul Buggy, John O'Neill (0-1), Aidan Fogarty (0-2), Paul Maher (0-2), Jamie Power (0-3), Diarmuid Mackey (2-3), Niall Maloney (1-0), Paul Sheehan (0-3). **Subs:** Eddie Walsh, Diarmuid Lawlor.

Within three days of the Senior and Minor titles being captured in Croke Park, the Intermediate team made it a hat trick of Leinster titles when they totally demoralised a very poor Dublin outfit in Portlaoise on Wednesday, July 9th. A first half trio of goals by Niall Maloney, Aidan Fogarty and Paul Sheehan had the cats in front at half time by 3-11 to 0-5. It was difficult to see how Dublin could cut any inroad to the Kilkenny lead. A fourth goal by Galmoy's Noel Doherty really put the nail into the Dublin coffin in the 43rd minute. A feature of the game was the long-range striking of John O'Neill, the solid defence of captain, Aidan Lawlor, and the tenacity of Aidan Fogarty.

Kilkenny : Richie O'Neill, Ger Joyce, Shane Lannigan, Paul Costello, Eddie Mackey, Aidan Lawlor, John O'Neill, Paul Buggy, John Maher, Aidan Fogarty (1-1), Paul Maher (0-3), Jamie Power (0-5, 0-3 frees), Diarmuid Mackey (0-2), Niall

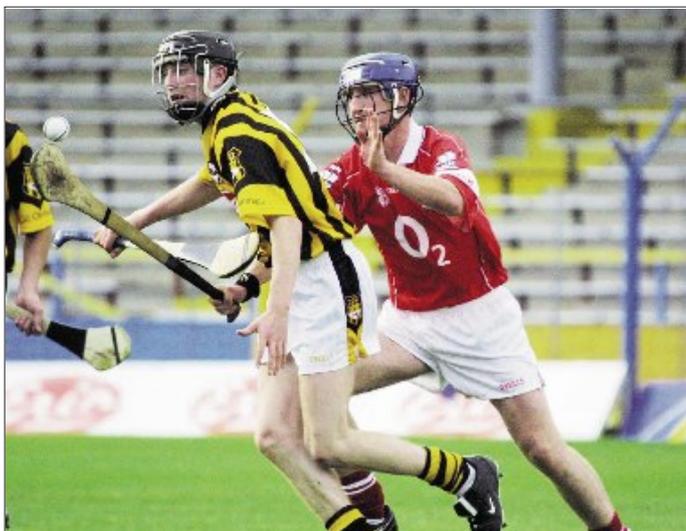
Maloney (1-1), Paul Sheehan (1-4,0-2 frees). Subs: Gerry Byrne (0-2), Eddie Walsh, Ken Hughes, Alan Murphy (0-1), Noel Doherty (1-1).

The Kilkenny Intermediate hurlers were first into the All Ireland cauldron when they faced rebel Cork in their final in Semple Stadium on Saturday 31st August. Slow to start, the Kilkenny lads allowed the Corkonians the freedom of the park in the opening ten minutes, and they did not look that gift horse in the mouth. They had hammered four points between Richie O'Neill's posts, before Jamie Power opened the Kilkenny account. Cork were still moving with a delightful conviction and certainty, and but for the timely intervention of the Emeralds Aidan Fogarty with two fine points by the 16th minute, the Cork men were looking hugely impressive as they stitched on points by sharpshooter, Jonathan O'Callaghan and James Hughes. Further points by Brendan Coleman and John Murphy had Cork looking very comfortable as the half time approached. They reached that point leading by 0-13 to 0-6.

Trainer Maurice Power laid it squarely on the line for his charges during the break, with the result that they re-emerged from the Semple tunnel with a fire in their bellies, and a determination that was patently obvious the very second that referee, Tom Mc Intyre from Antrim fired in the ball.

A booted Niall Maloney effort ended in the Cork net only for McIntyre to wipe it out for some infringement or other. Within three minutes, Diarmuid Lawlor should have registered a major score but he delayed too long and his effort was put over the end line for a '65, which Jamie Power pointed. Still Kilkenny took the game to the Cork men.

Points by John Maher, Diarmuid Mackey, Jamie Power, Aidan Fogarty and Dermot lawlor had the sides level with twelve minutes remaining. The tension was razor sharp. A long range point by Callaghan was matched by an equally impressive John O'Neill effort. Still the sides were level. A further Cork point just before full time was cancelled by an Eddie Walsh point. Try as both sides did, they just couldn't get that all important winning score.



Aidan Fogarty in action in the All Ireland Final

Into extra time, with tired bodies, and aching limbs crying out in painful torment. Muckalee's Maloney and Lawlor traded points with Cork's Quinlan and Morrissey. Kilkenny had a terrific chance of a goal within three minutes of the start of extra time but it was fluffed by Diarmuid Mackey. Kilkenny led at the half time of extra time by the minimum of margins (0-21 to 0-20). John Paul Corcoran came on as a sub, and drilled a huge sideline ball over the "black spot" to give his side a two point lead. Every ball was contested in a fashion that was frightening but fair. Cork still looked dangerous. They still stalked the Kilkenny defence in search of that all-important goal. It arrived rather fortuitously, when a long delivery into the Kilkenny goalmouth by Jonathan O'Callaghan seemed to be deflected into the net off the fingers of a defender. Game set and match to the Munster Champions.

The final score was Cork 1-21 Kilkenny 0-23.



Leinster Chairman Nicky Brennan presents Aidan Lawlor (Capt) with the Leinster Cup

Kilkenny: Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow), Paul Costello (St Lactain's), Shane Lanigan (Thomastown), Ger Joyce (Emeralds), Eddie Mackey (Mooncoin), Aidan Lawlor (St Martins), John O'Neill (John Lockes) (0-1), Jamie Power (Carrickshock) (0-5, 0-2 frees, 0-2 65's), Paul Buggy (Conahy) (0-1), Aidan Fogarty (Emeralds) (0-3), Paul Maher (St Martins), John Maher (St Martins) (0-2), Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin) (0-2), Niall Maloney (St Martins) (0-1), Paul Sheehan (Rower Instioge) (0-1)

Subs: Diarmuid Lawlor (St Martins) (0-4, 0-2 frees), JP Corcoran (John Lockes) (0-1), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh) (0-1), Noel Doherty (Galmoy), Paul Dermody (Graig Ballycallan), Alan Murphy (Clara), Ken Hughes (Emeralds), Michael Brennan Galmoy), Gerry Byrne (Clara), Pádraig Brennan (Clara), Denis Kelly (Conahy), Emmett Kavanagh (Emeralds).



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JAMES STEPHENS - UNDER-14 ROINN A HURLING & FOOTBALL AND FEILE NA NGAEL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Chris Thompson, Terry Walsh, Darren Cornally, Jimmy Byrne, Rory O'Brien, Ian Ryan, Craig Eardley, Billy Hayes.

Middle: Kieran McQuillan (selector), Ger Tyrrell (selector), Killian Murphy, Niall McQuillan, James Meehan, Caimin Brennan, Niall Quinlan, Alan Tyrrell, David Griffin, Stephen Renehan, Eddie O'Shaughnessy, Billy Walton (trainer), Kieran Brennan (selector), Val Malone (selector).

Front: Ronan Holohan, Glen Campion, Keith Ryan, Conor McQuillan, Shane Brennan, Sean Ryan, David Walton, Adam Byrne, Kenny Heffernan, Ian Hayes.

Missing from photo: Gary Breen

Photo: Tom Brett

ROINN A.

Yet another Double for the Red & Green!

The Roinn A title didn't have to travel too far for its annual holiday this year. In fact, it only crept a couple of miles from its temporary home on the Hebron Road, to its new abode in Larchfield. Strange isn't it that this Championship seems to be confined within the City walls over the past few years. Like last year's Champions, O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens can point to the dedication of a goodly number of devoted mentors as the single most discernible reason why they swept the boards in 2003. A cause for concern would be that their main rivals also are domiciled within the City bounds - Dicksboro. Nonetheless, it was a marvellous year for the lads in the red over green, who collared the Feile title as well.

Run on the normal league basis, eight teams lined up for the charge to the winning post. The three city hotshots were there, plus newcomers, StMartins. Making up the octet were Clara who have been doing tremendous work at under-age level for the past number of years, and the Southern representatives, Mooncoin and Carrickshock - no

Ballyhale Shamrocks this year! Graig Ballycallan were "in traps" as well. From the very outset, the three Kilkenny City teams set the standard. James Stephens (1-13) beat Mooncoin (2-6) in their first outing, and O'Loughlin Gaels (3-10) had a rather facile opening game against Carrickshock (0-6). Whilst Dicksboro - many people's idea of Championship winners - were given a walk-over by St Martin's in their opening game, their first game in the second round against James Stephens posted an early indication of the possible destination of the silverware. Winning by 2-16 to 2-10, the James Stephens lads certainly laid down their markers early. Mooncoin and Clara clearly had intentions of being in the final shake-up, when they had merited wins over Graig Ballycallan and Carrickshock respectively in Round 2. Wins for James Stephens (2-14 to 0-3) Mooncoin (3-18 to 1-5), and Clara (6-8 to 1-3) over Graig Ballycallan, Carrickshock and St Martin's respectively, had all three clubs well placed with the first half of the competition nearing completion. Dicksboro earned a share of the spoils with city rivals, O'Loughlins, and that point was to prove more than valuable as the Championship panned out.

Eventually the semi-final quartet read - James Stephens, Clara, Dicksboro and Mooncoin, and they were to face each other in precisely that order. In a very evenly matched encounter, James Stephens just about deserved to get the better of a younger Clara outfit, eventually running out winners by 2-16 to 3-7. The young Clara lads had great performers in centre back, David Langton, James Nolan at centre forward, Liam Ryan at corner forward, Brian O'Shea, Tommy Langton, and Stephen Quinlan. Dicksboro, too, had to pull out the stops against a hard-running, very determined Mooncoin in the other semi-final. The southerners were well served by Thomas Kearns, PJ Rowe, and Shane Walsh, who were destined to star later in the Tony Forristal Tournament, yet another first for Kilkenny. Nickey Hennebery, Seamus Kearns, and Daniel Purcell were others to shine. A late scoring surge by the city lads saw them edge their way into the final, but it would only be fair to state that the final scoring difference did flatter them somewhat. And so to the final...

The rivalry that underpins a city derby final is like no other. Whenever James Stephens and Dicksboro face off against each other in any final, the entire



ST LACHTAIN'S - U14 "B" CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: MI Cormack (Sel), William Walsh, Christina Neary; Seamus Hayes, Conrad Cooper, Tomás Flynn, John Kennedy, Mark Geraghty, Liam Darcy, Paul Guinan, Naoise Waldron.
Middle: John Kernedy (Sel), Kim Farrell, Edwin Brennan, David Rafter, Eoin O'Connell, Ross Costigan, Michael Cormack, Shane Byrne, Frank Campion, Paddy Flynn (Sel).
Front: Jim Lyng (Trainer/Sel), Patrick Rafter, Tom Condon, Bernard Mullan, John Fitzpatrick (Capt), Stephen Farrell, Brian Kennedy, David Fitzpatrick, Paul Dermody, Paddy White (Sel).



Mullinavat Under 14 Roinn C Hurling Champions & League Finalists 2003

Back: Ned Haberlin (Bórd na nÓg Sec.), James Walsh, Pakie Wall (trainer), Ian Duggan, James Culleton, Paul Haberlin, Niall Dungan, Niall Coughlan, Joseph Delahunty, Daniel Malone, Michael Malone, Paul Culleton, Joseph Fennelly, Joe Anthony (Bórd na nÓg chairman), Robert Jones, Michael Carroll (trainer).
Front: Richie Raffice (selector), David Murphy, Daniel Davis, Joseph Gahan, James Dalton, Ciarán Wall, Gerard Malone, Ciaran Corcoran, Pádraic Gahan, Gary Law, Andrew Delahunty, David Fitzgerald, John Reid.

reserves of dormant emotion seem to emerge, and manifest themselves in mounting torrents. It was no different in Nowlan Park on a balmy Sunday morning in the late July, when the gladiators from both stables emerged to do battle. A very fine crowd was in attendance as both sides set down early ground-rules. James Stephens, having won the All-Ireland Féile title for a record-breaking sixth time, were not about to be knocked from their lofty perch by the lads from out the Tularoan Road. Shane Brennan set them on their way

with an early point. Adrian Stapleton matched him with one for the Boro. The village slipped ahead, but Stapleton hauled them back with a fine goal. Only three points separated the sides at the half time break, with the Village in front by 0-9 to 1-3. By the 39th minute, the Boro were level with their opponents. By the 40th minute, they edged in front. The big crowd were enthralled. The game was decided in the 58th minute when Stephen Renehan rifled home a marvellous goal for the Village. Try as they would, the

Boro lads could not break down a very resolute Village defence, in which Ken Heffernan, Sean Ryan, Keith Ryan and the Mc Quillans were outstanding. They also had terrific performers further afield in Adam Byrne, Shane Brennan, and captain David Walton. Dicksboro too lost nothing in defeat, as they matched their opponents almost everywhere. They had terrific performers in Oisín Walsh at corner back, Liam Ryan at full back, Enda Malone, Adrian Stapleton, John Traynor, and Stephen Hayes.



YOUNG IRELANDS - ROINN C U14 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003 Photo: Eoin Hennessy

Back: Martin Carey (Trainer), Patrick Quinlan, Niamh Quinlan, Andrea McEvoy, Jody Foley, Michael Hutchinson, Anthony Greene, Michael Walsh, J J Lennon, Chris Nolan, Oliver Byrne
Front: David Doyle, Colin Dreeling, Patrick Lennon, Paul Holden, Paul Kehoe, Danny Glendon, Sean Kehoe, Vincent Byrne, Anthony McEvoy, Philip Murphy In front: Seamus Farrell, Dylan Carey



ERIN'S OWN - U14 ROINN "B" FINALISTS 2003

Back: Joseph Murphy, Eric Kavanagh, Peadar Boran, Brian Dillon, John Brennan, Conor Fogarty, Anthony Kavanagh, Michael Murphy, Ronan Phelan, Killian Brennan, John Deevy, Pierce Dargan, Thomas Keating, James Tynan, Aidan Moran, Dan Maher
Front : Eugene Dillon, Michael O' Neill, Conor Healy, Trevor Rowe, Cathal Murphy, Gerry Callinan, Caomhán Dunne, Ciarán McDermott, Marie Dargan, Oisín Byrne, Andrew Ring, Donal Dunne.

James Stephens: Ken Heffernan, Glen Campion, Sean Ryan, Keith Ryan, Conor McQuillan, Niall McQuillan, James Meehan, Gary Breen, Adam Byrne, Stephen Renehan, Shane Brennan, Niall Quinlan, Caimin Brennan, David Walton, Terry Walsh.
Subs: Alan Tyrrell, Ronan Holohan, Darren Cornally, Craig Eardly, David Butler, David Griffin, Ian Hayes, Bill Hayes, Killian Murphy, Jimmy Byrne.

Dicksboro: Ger Donoghue, Oisín Walsh, Liam Ryan, Eoin Burke, Enda Malone,

John Traynor, Bill Gannon, Colm Brady, Michael Fagan, Peter Nolan, Adrian Stapleton, Stephen Hayes, Philip Dunne, Marco Roosuman, Martin Gaffney.
Subs: Edward Hogan, Darren Leahy, John Fagan, Willie Cuddihy, Brian Fitzpatrick, Sean Tyrrell, Darren Guilfoyle, Simon O'Shea, David McNamara, Paul Barrett, Darren Hogan, Chris Dawson, Lar Burke, Keith Burke, Shane Claffey, Thomas Hayes, Peter Tierney, Cathal Kavanagh, Brian Donegan.

ROINN B.
 Run on an all-County, open-draw sys-

tem, this Championship produced some excellent hurling, particularly in Group one where there were some real hot-shots of under age hurling involved. Ballyhale Shamrocks would find some difficulty in getting out of the Group, where they would be facing the likes of Erin's Own, Tullaroan, and Danesfort. Much was expected from the likes of Callan's John Lockes, who have been doing some marvellous work with Bosco Bryan, Jimmy Corcoran, and Murt Nolan. There was good news coming from Piltown and Thomastown too. Shamrocks were to have victories in

Group one over Erin's Own (3-9 to 3-3), Tullaroan (4-10 to 1-2), John Lockes (3-6 to 1-3), Piltown (1-9 to 2-5), and Danesfort (4-8 to 1-10) as they qualified, unbeaten, for the quarter-finals. They were accompanied by Danesfort, Piltown, and Erin's Own.

The Comer youngsters were to register good wins over Piltown (4-8 to 2-6), Thomastown (8-14 to 1-2), Tullaroan (3-9 to 2-4), and a whopping win over John Lockes. They were beaten once by the Shamrocks, and drew with Danesfort (2-4 to 3-1). Piltown too had fine wins over Thomastown (4-10 to 1-13), John Lockes (6-10 to 1-3), and Tullaroan (3-10 to 1-4). Danesfort too crashed into the quarter finals with very impressive performances against John Lockes (4-8 to 1-1), Thomastown (4-15 to 4-3), Tullaroan (5-15 to 3-3), Piltown (0-10 to 1-5); they drew with Erin's Own (2-4 to 3-1), and lost to the Shamrocks.

In Group two, six hopefuls lined up for a crack at the Championship. Lisdowney looked very good in their opening encounter against fancied St Lactain's from Freshford, winning by 4-4 to 2-5. They were to add the scalps of Fenians/Galmoy (5-7 to 3-4), St Patrick's Ballyraggett (3-5 to 1-9), Emeralds (4-7 to 2-6), before failing to the Rower Inistioge after a titanic battle, losing by 3-6 to 2-4. After that opening encounter with their Lisdowney neighbours in the first round, the Freshford lads got down to the serious business of Championship fare, in their very next game against the Rower Inistioge. They took care of the southern representatives, winning by an impressive 5-9 to 2-3.

They continued on their winning way all the way to the winning post St Patrick's made it into the quarter finals thanks to a couple of good wins over Fenians/Galmoy (5-11 to 3-5), and the Emeralds (3-10 to 2-1). The Rower Inistioge too got to the 'quarters, compliments of wins over Emeralds, Fenians/Galmoy, St Patrick's, and Lisdowney.

St Lactain's took care of Piltown on a score of 5-9 to 3-5. Shamrocks experienced little difficulty in overcoming the Ballyraggett lads, winning by 4-9 to 2-6, while Erin's Own barely got into the semi-final after a tough, no-nonsense game against the Rower Inistioge. Eventually the Rower lads had to give best to the northerners, losing by just two points - 4-5 to 4-3. Danesfort too got into the semi-final draw with a hugely impressive win over high-flying Lisdowney - Danesfort 4-6, Lisdowney 0-7.

In the first semi-final, the result was in doubt to the finish. St Lactain's led by the minimum of margins at half time. They had a brilliant goal midway through the first half, compliments of Paul Guinan. The Shamrocks had goals from Colin Fennelly and Thomas Hession.



GRAIGNAMANAGH - UNDER-14 ROINN B FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: John Moylan, Kevin Moran (Trainer), Daniel O'Brien, Stuart Kinsella, Nathan Sblia, Gary Grace, David Dunne, Pdraig Whelan, James Foley, Dean Broaders, Kevin Cushen (Capt.), Jim Whelan, Mary O'Donnell.
Front: John Morgan, Dane Mangan, Stephen Moylan, Orla O'Donnell, Nicholas O'Donnell, Aaron Duggan, CJ Browne, Kevin Canning, Shane Heugh, John Butler, Sean O'Brien.
Photo: Eoin Hennessy.

Trailing by two points, and with little time left, the Shamrocks laid siege to the Freshford goal. A free, some twenty-five metres out in front of the Freshford goal, was driven low by James Walsh, but his effort was well saved and cleared, and with it went the last chance for the Ballyhale lads. St Lactain's can thank the timely entrance of substitute, Seamus Hayes, whose goal certainly went a long way towards a famous victory. Erin's Own also had to fight tooth and nail in their semi-final against vastly improving Danesfort. They eventually won, but not without some shaky moments from the talented 'Fort lads who never gave up trying. For Danesfort, none tried harder than the stylish Paul Murphy, Ciaran Treacy, Pdraig Daly, Oisín Daly and Melvin Phelan.

The Final between the two northern opponents, St Lactain's from Freshford and Erin's Own from Castlecomer on August Bank Holiday Monday in Nowlan Park was truly a thriller. Not until the fifth minute of added time was the end result obvious. With just two points between the sides, St Lactain's captain, Kieran Mc Dermott charged forward from his own 65-metre line with the sliothar glued to his hurley. He fired an unstoppable shot beyond the reach of Erin's Own goalie, Kieran Mc Dermott, thus insuring the St Lactain's win. The first half was frantic, with advantages being enjoyed by both sides at different times. At half time the Freshford lads were in front by 1-5 to 1-3. The goalscorers were Paul Guinan (St Lactain's) and Andrew Ring (Erin's Own). The second half was a captivating exhibition of all that is great about the game of hurling. Great catching, marvellous hooking, magnificent striking, superb defending, even better attacking, competent goalkeeping were the order of the day. Pity there had to be a loser. St

Lactain's had star players all over the field. From goalie Eoin O'Donnell to Seamus Hayes, they were magnificent. Likewise the Erin's Own lads were wonderful, but none more so than full forward, Marie Dargan.

St Lactain's: Eoin O'Donnell, David Rafter, Liam Darcy, Mark Geraghty, Michael Cormack, John Fitzpatrick, Patrick Rafter, Tomas Flynn, Ross Costigan, Frank Campion, Naoise Waldron, Kim Farrell, Brian Kennedy, Paul Guinan, St ephen Farrell.
Subs: John Kennedy, Seamus Hayes, Shane Byrne, Christina Neary, David Fitzpatrick, Edwin Brennan, Conrad Cooper, Bernard Mullan, Will Walsh, Paul Dermody, Tom Condon.

Erin's Own: Kieran Mc.Dermott, Thomas Keating, Eric Kavanagh, Anthony Kavanagh, Gerry Callinan, Conor Fogarty, Pierce Dargan, Aidan Moran, Brian Dillon, Peadar Barry, Michael Murphy, John Brennan, Oisín Byrne, Marie Dargan, Andrew Ring.
Subs: Ronan Phelan, John Deevy, Joseph Murphy, James Tynan, Caoimhean Dunne, Martin Hawley, Mark O'Neill, Michael O'Neill, Cathal Murphy.

ROINN C.

Sixteen teams from around the County set off in search of glory in this very competitive contest. After the first round of matches, it was fairly obvious that teams like Conahy Shamrocks, Young Irelands and Graignamanagh would still be in the field as the finishing line approached. Mullinavat shot an incredible 6-16 opening salvo against Blacks & Whites, and they too were looking like potential champions. Young Irelands beat the James Stephens second round in their opening match by

5-12 to 3-1. Kilmacow had a whopping win over Bennettsbridge, while Conahy also took care of the Glenmore challenge rather more easily than they expected. Tullogher and Windgap had an aggregate score of 12-9, with the Tullogher lads coming out on top. Barrow Rangers beat the Dicksboro second team (6-7 to 2-3), while Graignamanagh steamed the hapless Dunnamaggin into the ground in their opener. Slieverue, too, proved far too good for Cloneen.

The quarter finals produced wins for Young Irelands (over Kilmacow), Conahy (over Tullogher), Mullinavat (over Barrow Rangers), and Graignamanagh (over Slieverue).

The semi-finals were hugely entertaining, well contested encounters. Conahy had 1-1 to spare over Young Irelands, but the Graignamanagh/Mullinavat game was much closer. It took a last-minute point from Niall Dungan to get the Rod Iron men into the winners enclosure.

Having failed to win the League (against Young Irelands), and two football finals, Mullinavat went into the Championship Final with great apprehension. Conahy were deemed favourites on the back of some terrific wins through the competition. Nevertheless, the Vat, playing with the strong breeze in the first half, stormed into the fray with great enthusiasm. Two swift goals by Niall Dungan and David Fitzgerald inside the first ten minutes were the catalyst for a superb Mullinavat win, even though the Conahy lads showed tremendous tenacity throughout the rest of the game. The two goals were instrumental in keeping the Mullinavat lads in front at the break, leading by 2-4 to 0-3. With the aid of the breeze in the second half, the Conahy boys stormed the Mullinavat defences, but try as they could, the northerners just couldn't improve on the four point differential that separated the teams for most of the game. Two late points by John Reid and Joseph Gahan only served to underline the invincibility of the Mullinavat lads in this encounter, an encounter that they were never going to lose. They had much to thank goalkeeper Pádraig Gahan, Paul Haberlin, Joseph Delahunty, Michael Malone, Niall Dungan, John Reid, David Fitzgerald, Ian Duggan, Joseph Fennelly, and Paul Culleton for. For their part, Conahy could glean some consolation from the fact that they contributed to one of the best under-age games of the year. They too had mighty performers in Andrew O'Keefe, David Baldwin, Kieran Mooney, David Healy, Michael Lawlor, James Murphy, and their young ladies, Mariga Nolan, Noreen O'Keefe, and Noelle Corrigan.

The final score read - Mullinavat 2-6, Conahy Shamrocks 0-6.

Mullinavat: Pádraig Gahan, Joseph



LISDOWNEY - U14 ROINN C FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Shane O'Sullivan, Jimmy Ruth, Sean Phelan, Aran Fogarty, Canice Mackey, Eoin Warren, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Ollie Stapleton, Eddie Hickey, Niall Mackey (Capt.), Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nOg), Martin Phelan, Ray Fitzpatrick, Shane Healy, Kelvin Sheehan, Tony Thornton, Keith Roe, Michael Carroll, Stephen Murphy.

Front: Nick Marham, Shane Ruth, Pat O'Carroll, Damien Clyne, Michael Lennon, Stephen Ruth, Jamie Burns, Robert Buckley, James Delaney, Brian Bergin, Conor Stapleton, Laurence O'Carroll.

Fennelly, Paul Haberlin, Kieran Corcoran, Joseph Delahunty, Michael Malone, James Walsh, Niall Dungan, Ian Duggan, John Reade, Robert Jones, Joseph Gahan, David Murphy, Paul Culliton, David Fitzgerald.

Subs: James Culliton, Daniel Malone, Ciaran Wall, Gerard Malone, Garry Law, Niall Coughlan, James Dalton, Daniel Davis.

Conahy Shamrocks: Andrew O'Keefe, Pádraig Harding, David Baldwin, Mariga Nolan, Teilo Maher, Kieran Mooney, Paddy Mullins, David Healy, Noreen O'Keefe, David Buggy, Gary Kavanagh, Donal Brennan, James Murphy, Michael Lawlor, Noelle Corrigan.

Subs: Pádraig Hally, Philip Murphy, Barry Waters, Conor Whelan, Eoin Muldowney, Lorraine Cass, Aisling Cass, Sean Delaney.

ROINN C LEAGUE.

Divided into four groups of four, there were wins for Young Irelands, Black & Whites, Tullogher/Rosbercon, Cloneen, Bennettsbridge, Mullinavat, and the Dicksboro second string in round one. Blacks & Whites and Young Irelands, were to continue in like mode in round two, and they were accompanied on the winners' rostrum by Barrow Rangers, Kilmacow, Glenmore, and Windgap. Conahy were to get their first win in round three, but Blacks & Whites were to come a cropper against high flying Young Irelands. Barrow Rangers scraped over Kilmacow, whilst Glenmore had five points to spare over Windgap. Graignamanagh, too, got in on the winning act. When the quarter-final stage was reached, it transpired that Young Irelands would face the James Stephens second string, whom they dutifully beat

by a mere two points (4-3 to 4-1). Barrow Rangers (7-1) beat Graignamanagh (4-7), Glenmore knocked out Blacka & Whites by a single point, while Mullinavat had 17 points to spare over Tullogher Rosbercon.

Young Irelands (5-8) "nailed" Barrow Rangers (2-2) in their semi-final, and Mullinavat experienced little difficulty in doing likewise with Glenmore in their 'semi.

Only four points separated the sides at the end of a great contest between two evenly balanced sides. It looked at half time that Mullinavat were done and dusted, but the Gowran lads had different ideas. Two first half goals by David Fitzgerald, added to by some glorious point scoring by Ian Duggan, Fitzgerald and Michael Malone left Mullinavat out in front with a comfortable seven point advantage. However, a storming second half revival by the Gowran lads had the sides level as the full time whistle beckoned. The revival was led by JJ Lennon, Jody Foley, who was outstanding, Vincent Byrne and Chris Nolan. Mullinavat's fate was sealed when Andrea McEvoy slammed home a marvellous goal inside the last four minutes, and it was followed with two terrific match-winning points by Foley and Anthony Greene.

In addition to those mentioned, Young Irelands had great performers in the very sound goalie, Paul Holden, David Doyle, Michael Hutchinson, Patrick Lennon, centre back Michael Walsh, Greene and Sean Kehoe at midfield.

For Mullinavat, who were just touched off from making it a double, Daniel Malone, Joseph Fennelly, Robbie Jones, James Delahunty, Niall Dungan, Ian Duggan, David Fitzgerald and Joseph Gahan were best.

Young Irelands: Paul Holden, David Doyle, Michael Hutchinson, Patrick Lennon, Colin Dreeling, Michael Walsh, Danny Glendon, Anthony Greene, Sean Kehoe, Vincent Byrne, JJ Lennon, Jody Foley, Chris Nolan, Andrea McEvoy, Paul Kehoe.

Subs: Patrick Quinlan, Vincent Byrne, Oliver Byrne, Anthony Mc Evoy, Philip Murphy, Niamh Quinlan.

Mullinavat: Daniel Malone, Joseph Fennelly, Robbie Jones, Kieran Corcoran, Pádraig Gahan, James Delahunty, James Walsh, John Reade, Niall Dungan, David Murphy, Michael Malone, Ian Duggan, Damien O'Brien, David Fitzgerald, Joseph Gahan.

Subs: Gerard Malone, Paul Heberlin, Joseph Delahunty, Robert Jones, Paul Culliton, James Culliton, Ciaran Wall, Garry Law, Niall Coughlin, James Dalton, Daniel Davis.



YOUNG IRELANDS U14 FOOTBALL ROINN D CHAMPIONS 2003

Back : Philip Murphy, Sean Kehoe, Michael Hutchinson, Michael Walsh, Danny Glendon, Oliver Byrne, JJ Lennon, Paul Kehoe, Paul Holden.

Front: Colin Dreeling, Chris Nolan, Patrick Lennon, Niall Kennedy, Jody Foley, David Doyle, Jack Glendon, Eoin Walsh.

FEILE REPORT.

As always, the under-fourteen competitions really only start in serious fashion when the Paddy Grace/Féile Tournaments get under way. Eight teams came out of the hat for a four game preliminary round, with winners, Erin's own, Tullaroan, St Lactain's and Thomastown qualifying.

The competition thus was condensed to four groups of four teams playing each other on a league basis.

In Group 1, James Stephens beat Dicksboro by 1-5 to 0-3, a big win over Fenians/Galmoy, and qualified for the quarter final having also received a walkover from Thomastown. Dicksboro accompanied them after a fine win over Fenians/Galmoy and also a walkover from Thomastown.

Clara made it through from Group 2, but O'Loughlins had to rely on the scoring difference scenario to accompany them. St Lactain's and Graig Ballycallan flew home from Group 3, while Erin's Own

and Lisdowney completed the quarter final octet from Group 4.

The quarter finalists were divided into two groups of 4, which was again played on a league basis.

In Group A, Dicksboro (2-2) beat Clara (0-5), Erin's Own (3-4 to 1-5), and drew with St Lactain's, 1-4 apiece. St Lactain's (1-6) beat Erin's Own (1-4), and drew with Clara (1-5 to 2-2), and Dicksboro. Thus both Dicksboro and St Lactain's qualified from that Group.

In Group B, O'Loughlins (3-7) walloped

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James Stephens (0-3), and St Martin's, (5-7 to 0-4) to qualify for the playoffs. James Stephens also qualified. In the semi-finals, O'Loughlins, the defending champions beat St Lactain's by 2-7 to 1-2, while James Stephens had little difficulty in coping with the Dicksboro challenge. The final between the two city rivals was close, hard fought, and in doubt to the final whistle. James Stephens eventually won back the title from O'Loughlins, thus hoping that they might go that step further in the National Féile Finals. They did.

**FEILE NA NGAEL
Glory for Village:**

James Stephens took the highway to Féile glory in Kildare, when, on a superb June week-end, they faced the might of Clare (Clonlara) in their opening game. Scoring 2-10 to the Clare Champions, 2-3, the Village were led from the front by their outstanding captain, Shane Brennan, who collared 1-8 of their total. He was never to relinquish his resolve as captain from that game to the moment he collected the famed Tower of Cloyne, on behalf of a superb team, who were well served by their mentors, Billy Walton, Kieran Brennan, Kieran McQuillan, Ger Tyrrell and Val Malone. Even tougher opposition awaited the Kilkenny champs in their second round game- Dúrlas Og. Whilst the first half was an evenly contested affair, the second half took on a very one-sided aspect. James Stephens, thanks to sharpshooters, Brennan (0-6), Gary Breen (1-2), Alan Tyrrell (0-1), and Terry Walsh (0-1) ran out easy winners by 1-10 to 0-3. Having accounted for the might of Clare and Tipperary, surely the Village deserved a little respite. It was not to be. Next up were the Cork and reigning Féile Champions, Glen Rovers. Hurling with tremendous determination, and quite superb skill, the Kilkenny representatives never shirked the Cork challenge. They never lost their focus, or their admirable discipline. On this occasion they were carrying too much powder for the five-times Féile Champions, and won by 1-13 to 0-1. Again Brennan (0-7), Breen (1-1), Tyrrell (0-4) were still walloping in the scores. Adam Byrne (0-1) gave them a hand this time round. From Caragh, the lads moved a bit further east in Kildare to Celbridge for the semi-final against the Offaly Champions, Birr. Both sides produced a magnificent brand of fluent hurling. The Birr lads however were swept to one side early in that pulsating first half by two great James Stephens goals, both scored by captain fantastic, Shane Brennan.

It helped them to be out in front at the half time break by 2-5 to 1-0. While the Stephens defence stood strong against mounting Birr attacks, they were only pierced for a single point for the duration of the second half. The James Stephens scorers were, Shane Brennan (2-6), David Walton (1-0), Terry Walsh (0-2), St ephen Renehan (0-2), Gary Breen and Adam Byrne 0-1 each.

'Twas onto Cusack Park, Mullingar for the final against Dúrlas Og, who had stormed through to the final after their hiccup earlier against the Kilkenny representatives. Could history repeat itself we wondered? The signs were ominous for the Tipp representatives. Having played with the stiff breeze in the first half, they were in arrears by 0-4 to 0-1 at half time. However, midway through the second half, Thurles scored a quick goal and point to head up proceedings for the first time. Captain Brennan levelled matters, but still Dúrlas Og persisted,



Mrs Beenie Ryall presents the Tom Ryall trophy to James Stephens captain, David Walton.

and their persistence was rewarded when they again hit the front. Playing for their sporting lives, the Village lads redoubled their determination, a determination that was rewarded when a smart inter-passing movement between Brennan and David Walton saw the former ram home an unstoppable rocket. There were only six minutes remaining to the call of full time. Two further goals by Brennan and Tyrrell sealed a marvellous victory in the final flourishing four minutes.

In the final analysis, James Stephens beat Dúrlas Og by 3-7 to 1-3, to go top of the Féile record, winning their sixth title. Congratulations to all concerned.

Their scorers were; Shane Brennan 2-4, Alan Tyrrell 1-0, David Walton, St phen Renehan, and Gary Breen 0-1 each.

Panel: Shane Brennan (Capt), Ian Ryan, Killian Murphy, Ian Hayes, Sean Ryan, Kenneth Heffernan, Niall Quinlan, Conor McQuillan, Alan Tyrrell, Adan Byrne, Gary Breen, David Walton, Keith Ryan, Glen Campion, Chris Thompson, Eddie O'Shaughnessy, Rory O'Brien, Ronan Houlihan, Darren Cornally, Jimmy Byrne, Terry Walsh, Niall McQuillan, James Meehan, Caimin Brennan, Stephen Renehan, Billy Hayes, Craig Eardley, Kieran McQuillan.

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The Homecoming





Inter County
Minor
Championship

by
Brian Waldron

Minors Double Up



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Noel Delehunty, Damien Fogarty, Eoin McGrath, Ronan Maher, Austin Murphy, Neal Prendergast, John Dalton, Eddie O'Donoghue.

Middle: Brian Waldron, Anthony Maher, Maurice Nolan, Bill Beckett, Shane Cadogan, Pat Hartley, John Tennyson, David Prendergast, Donncha Cody, David McCormack, Michael Fennelly, Br Damien Brennan.

Front: Joe Dunphy, Brian Doheny, Peter Donovan, Eoin Guinan, Colin Grant, Richie Power (Capt), Alan Healy, Ray Wall, James Fitzpatrick, Joe Hennessy.

The challenge that faced the Kilkenny minor hurlers in 2003 was completely different from that faced in 2002. Last year saw the bridging of a nine year gap under manager Nicky Cashin. The aim in 2003 was to win two in a row. New manager Bro. Damien Brennan and his selectors, Brian Waldron, Joe Dunphy, Tony Maher and Joe Hennessy, set about building a team that would be willing and determined to achieve that aim. Having ten of the 2002 panel was at once both an advantage and a millstone around the neck of the manager and selectors. The advantage can be readily seen in that the team would have an experienced backbone that knew what it took to win an All-Ireland. The major worry was of course the danger of a lack of appetite and a creeping over confidence.

Kilkenny for the third year in a row were drawn against Dublin in the Leinster semi-final. Dublin took Kilkenny right to the final whistle last year and this match was approached with the utmost respect for Dublin. Trial matches, challenge matches against other counties and training sessions from January were all arranged to have the team ready for this formidable challenge on the 25th of June.

Kilkenny got straight into their stride when Ritchie Power soloed through from midfield and crashed the sliotar to the net. Soon after Alan Healy flicked a long delivery from David Prendergast to the Dublin net. Austin Murphy pulled on a ball from Ray Wall and the Dublin net shook for the third time. The half time score was Kilkenny 3-2 Dublin 0-5. For most of the second half the two sides matched one another in point scoring but the final blow for the Dubs came when Eoin Guinan goaled following a good pass from James Fitzpatrick. Kilkenny supporters left Portlaoise that evening satisfied with the result but hoping that the team would be capable of taking their points and not concentrate on goals. As things turned out they needn't have

worried.

Scorers: A. Murphy 1-4 R. Power 1-4 E. Guinan 1-1 A. Healy 1-1 D. McCormack 0-2.

Team: Colin Grant, Shane Cadogan, John Tennyson, John Dalton, Peter O'Donovan, Donnacha Cody, David Prendergast, Ritchie Power, Michael Fennelly, James Fitzpatrick, Austin Murphy, Ray Wall, Alan Healy, David McCormack, Eoin Guinan.

Subs (used): Maurice Nolan, Neil Prendergast, Ronan Maher, Damien Fogarty, Eddie O'Donoghue.

Offaly were awaiting Kilkenny in the Leinster final having defeated Wexford in the semi-final. Offaly's young team were in the happy position of being written off by all the pundits. They of course responded as Offaly always do with a whole-hearted and skilful display. They pushed Kilkenny right to the end in a match that saw neither team scoring a goal. James "Cha" Fitzpatrick scored the opening point. A battle of free takers then ensued with Ritchie Power landing some great scores from all distances and angles.

Offaly kept in touch but were stung by great points from play by Eoin Guinan, Maurice Nolan, James Fitzpatrick, Austin Murphy and Guinan again. Two further points from Freshford's Guinan and Conahy's Alan Healy left the score at half time Kilkenny 0-11 Offaly 0-6. The second half took on much the same pattern as the first half with Kilkenny forging ahead only to be hauled back by dogged Offaly resistance. Kilkenny's defence was unbreachable with Emerald's Colin Grant very safe in goal. St. Martin's Shane Cadogan and the two Carrickshock men, John Tennyson and John Dalton, formed a very tight full back line. The half back line of Peter O'Donovan, Donnacha Cody and David Prendergast were the launching pad of many attacks. Damien Fogarty and Ray Wall were introduced and they played their part in seeing that the cup returned to the banks of the

Nore. The final score was Kilkenny 0-18 Offaly 0-13.

Scorers: R. Power 0-6 (0-5 from frees) E. Guinan 0-4 J.Fitzpatrick 0-2, A.Murphy 0-2, A.Healy 0-2, M. Nolan 0-2.

Team: Colin Grant, Shane Cadogan, John Tennyson, John Dalton, Peter O'Donovan, Donnacha Cody, David Prendergast, Ritchie Power, Michael Fennelly, James Fitzpatrick, Austin Murphy, Alan Healy, Maurice Nolan, David McCormack, Eoin Guinan.

Subs (used): *Damien Fogarty, Ray Wall.*

The goals which delighted the fans against Dublin had suddenly dried up and this was to cause much soul searching over the coming weeks as some serious training was done for the upcoming tilt at Cork. Cork had earned their place in the semi-final with a late, late comeback against a gallant and under-strength Offaly side. Kilkenny Cork matches are always tense affairs and this was no exception. Kilkenny introduced Pat Hartley at mid field for this game and the Tullagher man justified his selection with a whole hearted display. Cork got off to the perfect start with a goal and a point in the first five minutes. Kilkenny were stunned and found it hard to break free from the Cork defenders. Carrickshock's Ritchie Power gave a marvelous display of free taking as he punished Cork for every indiscretion. The half time was Kilkenny 0-7 Cork 1-5. Cork went for broke early in the second half. Having scored a point they forced a great save from Colin Grant. Cork hit over another point and Kilkenny were in trouble. Three Ritchie Power frees were followed by a point from Ballyhale man James Fitzpatrick in the 43rd minute. Ritchie Power then placed Pat Hartley for a magnificent point with fifteen minutes to go. Power pointed his eight free and when Eoin Guinan shot his second point to give Kilkenny a four point lead the black and amber seemed to have secured victory. Cork crashed home a goal with three minutes left to play. The pressure was now firmly on Kilkenny but a great display by the backs saw Kilkenny through by the narrowest of margins. The final score was Kilkenny 0-15 Cork 2-8.

Scorers: R.Power 0-10 (0-8 frees) E.Guinan 0-2 P.Hartley 0-2 J.Fitzpatrick 0-1.

Team: Colin Grant, Shane Cadogan, John Dalton, Peter O'Donovan, Donnacha Cody, John Tennyson, David Prendergast, Michael Fennelly, Pat Hartley , David McCormack, Ritchie Power Alan Healy, Ray Wall, James Fitzpatrick, Eoin Guinan.

Subs (used): *Maurice Nolan, Austin Murphy,*

The goal drought was now becoming a real worry as Kilkenny set up camp to prepare for an All-Ireland final against Galway. Last years magnificent semi-final had whetted the appetite and a thrilling match was expected by both sets of supporters. They weren't to be disappointed. Joe Pyke, chairman of Bord na nÓg, saw to it that all arrangements ran smoothly as the build up to the final tested body and soul. Bro. Damien and his selectors had the team ready for the fray. Galway felt that they were unlucky to lose in a titanic struggle last year and were thirsting for revenge. With a full forward line of the calibre of Donal O'Reilly, Aonghus Callanan and Niall Healy they had every right to be confident that they would emerge victorious. A major worry for Kilkenny was the state of fitness of John Tennyson who had undergone an appendix operation 18 days before the final. The Carrickshock man came through with flying colours and gave a storming display in the last quarter of the match.

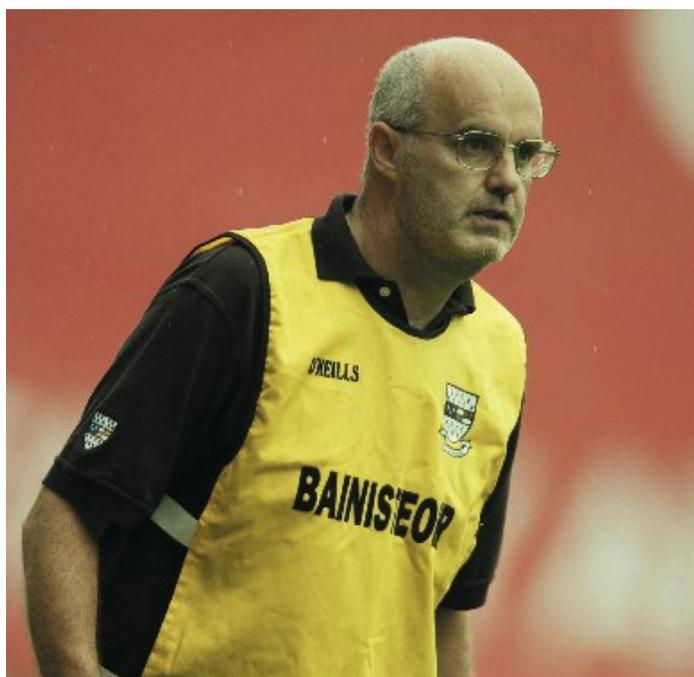
The game ebbed and flowed throughout as two outstanding minor teams battled to outfox one another. In the opening minute Colin Grant had to be alert to keep out a Callanan effort. At the end of the first quarter Kilkenny lead by 0-6 to 0-3. Ritchie Power was displaying unerring accuracy from placed balls. Niall Healy scored frees and then blasted a goal to shoot Galway into the lead. Kilkenny immediately answered with a superb goal from Eoin Guinan. Eoin McGrath had made a courageous recovery from a long term injury and was giving his all. The westerners refused to be rattled and attacked constantly as the match moved towards half time. Dalton, Tennyson and Cadogan refused



Neal Prendergast flanked by Galway's Cian Burke and Damien Kelly. SPORTSFILE



"Cha" Fitzpatrick in action in the final. John McLlwaive



Kilkenny Manager, Bro Damien watches his charges. SPORTSFILE

to buckle. Cody, Prendergast and O'Donovan formed a wall across the half back line. Towards the end of the first half Galway jumped into the lead. The half time score was Kilkenny 1-10 Galway 2-8.

Whatever Bro.Damien said to his charges Kilkenny emerged a new team in the second half. Michael Fennelly opened his shoulders at midfield and began to send the sliotar towards the Galway goal. He was ably supported by Pat Hartley. Within seven minutes Kilkenny had scored 1-4 without reply. The goal came following a huge delivery from Donnacha Cody which found James Fitzpatrick who rattled the net. Austin Murphy, Ray Wall and David McCormack all played their part when introduced. Galway rallied their forces and drew level with a minute to go. The hurling in the three minutes of added time was magnificent as both teams laid down the gauntlet in search of victory. Ritchie Power emerged the hero when the captain, receiving a pass from James Fitzpatrick, struck over a brilliant point at the second attempt. The game was over and the crowd rose to their

feet not only to salute a superb Kilkenny team but also a gallant Galway side who played their part in one of the best minor finals seen in Croke Park.

For Kilkenny the aim had been fulfilled. Each member of the panel had played their part in bringing the All-Ireland minor title back to the Nore.

Scorers: R.Power 0-9 (0-8 frees) E.Guinan 1-2 J.Fitzpatrick 1-2 M.Nolan 0-2 P.Hartley 0-1

Team: Colin Grant, John Dalton, John Tennyson, Shane Cadogan, Donnacha Cody, David Prendergast, Peter O'Donovan, Pat Hartley, Michael Fennelly, Eoin McGrath, Ritchie Power, Alan Healy, Maurice Nolan, James Fitzpatrick, Eoin Guinan.

Subs (used): Austin Murphy, Ray Wall, David McCormack.
Rest of panel : Damien Fogarty, Ronan Maher, Bill Beckett, Noel Delahunty, Neil Prendergast, Eddie O'Donoghue, Brian Doheny.



Eoin Guinan evades Galway's Dermot Ryan in the All Ireland Final.

SPORTSFILE



The score that won the All Ireland - Captain, Richie Power shoots Kilkenny's last-minute point in the Final.

SPORTSFILE

“He’ll Do!” ... says Dick

By *Barrie Henriques*



“He’ll make a great hurler some day”. The speaker of such appraising words is that doyen of Tullaroan hurling, Dick Walsh, or as he is more identifiably known, Dick o’ the church. Dick has seen most of the greatest hurlers of the land. He “pegged back” the ball to the famed Graces. He played with Lory -never mentions the surname, because he assumes you are aware that Meagher is the Lory he refers to. He hurled with “Whalen”, - Paddy Phelan, the prince of halfbacks. He could tell you about the Mackeys of Limerick, the Coughlans, Rings, Brennans, and Lottys of Cork, the Doyles, Brennans, and Kennys of Tipp. Yes indeed, Dick o’ the church has seen the very best. The time is a July Saturday evening, ten years ago, in a public house in Callan, frequented by the Tullaroan people after a game in John Locke Park. Tullaroan people are embarrassingly loyal. The subject of his admiration is a young boy, Tommy Walsh, sat in a corner with his brothers, Martin, Shane, Pádraig, and his sister Grace. Their drink is coke, their diet is the après match Taytos, their conduct exemplary.

His father, Mikey had starred at corner back for Tullaroan. His mother Frankie was hovering like a dutiful guardian. Pints had to be drunk. Excuses had to be offered. Lies had to be garnished.

“He’s bred in the purple for it, and sure it’s like a good greyhound, if you haven’t it in the bucket, you won’t get it on the track”, finished Dick.

Fast forward to 1997. The short pants have been replaced by the “longers”. The body has grown a little more.

Tullaroan won the County Féile, and under-fourteen championship. They march towards a Féile Final against the mighty Sarsfields Club from Cork. They are accompanied by every man jack from Tullaroan. They win for the first time in their history. Euphoria in the little village. The diminutive Tommy Walsh starred.

His star was in the ascendancy. They went on to win the County under-16 double of Championship and League a couple of years later, and twelve months later, young Tommy pulled on his first Kilkenny black and amber jersey, when he lined out in the first round of the Leinster minor hurling championship against Offaly in Carlow. It was a losing one. His Grandfather (on his mother’s side), the revered Paddy Grace, would have been so proud. His uncle Tommy (Blonde) Walsh was ecstatic. Earlier in the same year he had shared the same stage with his Offaly opponent, Brian Carroll as they went down to St. Flannans of Ennis in the All Ireland Colleges final. Twelve months later they were to share the victory podium against the same opposition in Nenagh. Young Tommy was to win his first All Ireland medal.

With UCC he started his Arts Degree course in the fall of the same year. An outstanding Freshers campaign underlined his growing reputation. The following year he made the Fitzgibbon side, lining out at corner back. Tommy’s education on the big stage was further

goal in the Leinster semi final in Nowlan

Park in 2002, Tommy was drafted into the Kilkenny panel after the Leinster senior final.

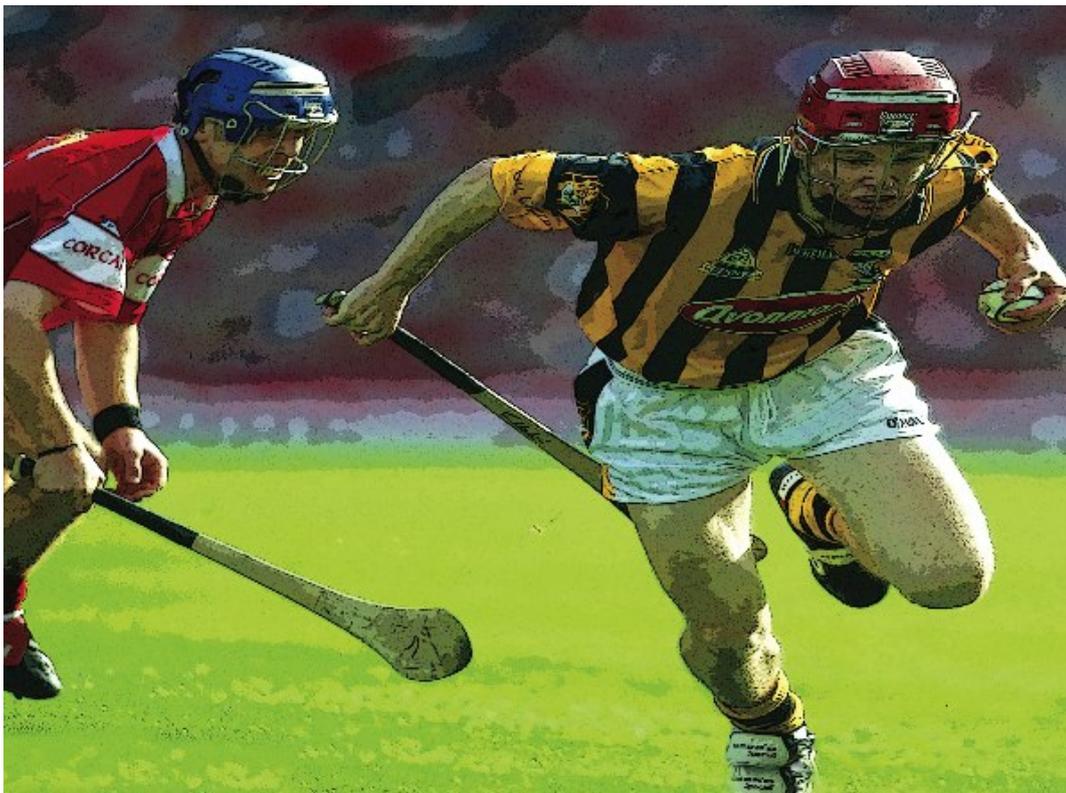
He made his debut on the senior team against Waterford in Walsh Park in the opening round of the Allianz National League last February. Due to the disciplining of a Waterford forward, Tommy found himself playing the “sweeper” role, having started at corner back.

Dick o’ the church wouldn’t understand that “foreign” terminology.

Like the Kilkenny team on the day, Tommy played steady hurling, without being, or having to be brilliant. A fortnight later, Tommy donned the more familiar uimhir a naoi, as he partnered Derek Lyng in midfield against Galway.

Scoring four points from the midfield area, Tommy gave a man-of-the-match performance, which was endorsed by TG 4. The media hacks were more than impressed. So was Brian Cody.

So too was Dick. “Didn’t I tell ya”, he belted from one end of the counter in



Tom Walsh eludes **Paul Curran** in the All Ireland Final - artistic rendering by John McIlwaine

Eamonn Langton’s hostelry, as I came through the door afterwards. Holding down the number nine shirt against Laois, Clare, and Dublin, Tommy, and Kilkenny headed into the play-offs of the League. Against Cork, Tommy was shunted forward a peg to right half forward. He fired home four immaculate points

advanced when he won a Leinster minor medal in 2001, but the quest for further honours were denied by a very impressive John Gardiner-led Cork outfit in the semi-final. They were to cross swords later with reversed fortunes. His promotion was swift and changeable. Starring with the Kilkenny under 21 side that was beaten by a late Rory Jacob

against the Rebels in Pairc Uí Caoimh. Kilkenny won a “rattler”, and Tommy had found a new haven. Onwards to deserted Croke Park for the League final. The League title was hijacked, but who cares? Not Kilkenny support certainly, particularly when the victim was Tipperary. Tommy Walsh had collected his first

major adult medal, even though he didn't exactly set the place on fire, on his own admission. A pragmatic, level-headed young man is Tommy Walsh from Tullaroan, who turned just twenty years of age last May. Bedded in at left half forward, Tommy scored five terrific points in his first senior hurling inter-county championship game in which Kilkenny beat Dublin by 3-16 to 0-10. A Leinster final appointment against Wexford beckoned.

We wondered how would Dick's young protégé stand up to such rigours. He wasn't on the park four minutes when he was practically uprooted with a shoulder charge. We felt the impact high in the Hogan Stand. We worried for his safety. We worried for his mother Frankie, and his father, Mikey. Dusted down, he came out for round two! "He'll do," people said around. "He'll more than do," said others. What did Dick say about being bred in the purple? His words were proving ominous. His contribution of three great points were welcome at the time they arrived, but probably not in the overall context of things, as Wexford were walloped off the park.

The All Ireland semi-final against Tipperary was totally forgettable, except that Tommy Walsh showed a maturity far beyond his youthful years. Word has it



that he has the confidence to self express in a dressing room, populated by players whose autographs he was honoured to collect a few years previously. His goal against Tipperary underlined this confidence. Twice he blazed shots at Brendan Cummins, only for the ball to come back off Cummins' stick. The young cub shied away from taking the safe option at the third attempt, and instead of firing over the bar, he blasted the sliothar to the net.

That's confidence for you. The All Ireland was won in September against the John Gardiner-powered Cork. Tommy fired over yet another three magnificent points, the first a beauty off his left side into the railway goal, from forty-five yards out, under the shadow of the Hogan

Stand, where his "mentor" Dick sat.

Let Dick finish the story.

"I had cut a young ash in me own land, that was jutting out from the bank of the river, early in the year. I got four smashing planks cut out of it. Young ash, ya know is best. I stuck them into a round bale of hay to dry. I had planned to get a few hurls made for Tommy. The week before the Final, I gave him two hurls. I swear me oath, when he threw up the ball to hit that first point, I knew he couldn't miss. 'Twas my hurl he had", said Dick. The world is the oyster for this young son of Tullaroan. He has had a magnificent introductory season to the big time hurling arena. He has shown to the

Manager that his hurling skill, embellished with an inner confidence are the hallmarks of the kind of warrior hurler that Brian Cody admires, and is constantly seeking.

And by the way, he stormed through the All Ireland under-21 final against Galway to collect his first medal at that grade.

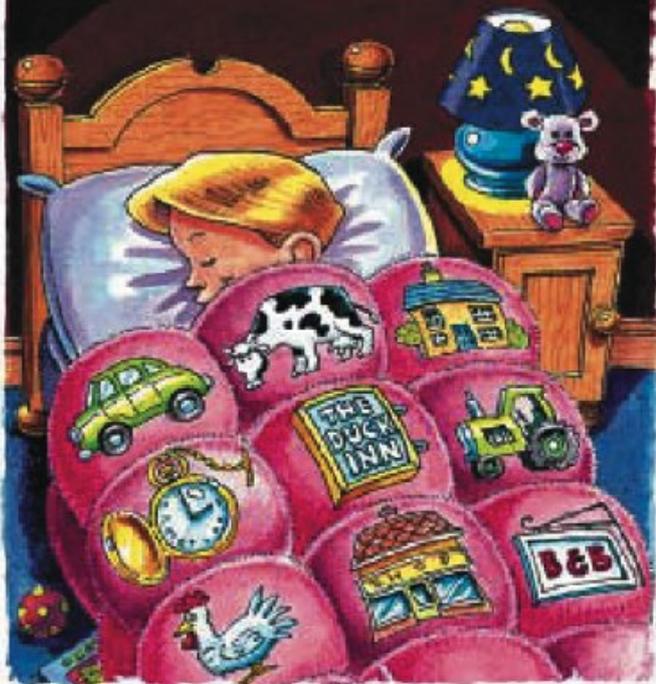
Could any youngster have dreamt about such a year.

Enjoy it while it's there, Tommy. It's gone in the fleeting of a moment.

Even Dick has plans made for next year.

"He broke the last two hurls I gave him, but I have me eye on a bit down by the river, that nobody knows about, and he won't break them", says he, as he goes his joyful merry way, to the next GAA watering hole.

Sleep tight



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World Championships A Huge Success

Handball report by Martin Lalor
PRO Kilkenny Handball Board

Kilkenny Handball was dominated in 2003 by the staging of the World Championships in the region in October.

A huge success by all involved, it was very satisfying to produce three winners during the week long championships. Other than that, the handball year saw Kilkenny record three adult All Ireland victories while our juveniles brought home seven titles.

40 x 20

Kilkenny had a number of provincial wins in the adult grades but failed to add any National titles.

Eddie Bourke and Canice Quigley (O'Loughlins) had a tough 21-14,21-19 win over Offaly in the Leinster final but were well beaten in the All Ireland semi final by Tipperary. Eddie also played Offaly in the singles final but came off second best on that occasion.

Billy Bouke, also O'Loughlins, was fancied to win the Masters A grade but came unstuck at the final hurdle. Having accounted for all in Leinster he defeated last year's winner, John Herlihy (Cork), in the semi and came up against Eamonn Conneelley (Galway) in the decider.

The first game saw the Kilkenny player in vintage form, winning 21-1, but in the second the Westerner rallied to level the tie.

The third game was a tough battle for both players, with Conneelley scraping home 21-19 to take the title.

There was some consolation for Billy later on in the 40 x 20 season as he won the Masters grade in the Irish Open.

In Masters A Doubles, Kilkenny also suffered a final defeat.

Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins) and Martin Lalor (Talbots Inch) had won the B Doubles in 2002 and were looking to add the A crown this year. They defeated all comers in the Leinster championships and then had a third game win over Tipperary before meeting Billy Silcock and Stevie Madden (Antrim) in the All Ireland final.

On the day the Antrim pair played cleverly and had a comfortable 21-12,21-13 win.

Seamus Reade (Talbots Inch) was the Leinster champion in Emerald Masters A Singles when he beat Garret Sommers (Wexford) 21-2,21-18 but then came unstuck against the vastly experienced John Kirby (Clare), losing in two sets.

In Ladies handball Mary Murphy (Goeresbridge) kept the flag flying by taking All Ireland honours in the Junior B Singles but lost out on the Doubles title where she was partnered by Grainne Hughes (Clogh).

On the juvenile front, there were a number of excellent performances in the championships.

There was a good start to the 40 x 20 juvenile campaign when Stephen Shortt and Kirk Greene won the Colleges All Ireland Junior Doubles title. The pair, representing St.Kierans College, captured their first title of the year by overcoming Mayo in a pulsating tie break. The O'Loughlins lads found themselves 8-1 behind but kept their nerve to come back to 8 all and then

HANDBALL SCOREBOARD

40 x 20 County Champions 2003

U10(A)S Ian O'Dwyer (Kells) **U10(A)D** Peter Funchion/Andrew Whitney (Kells)
U11(A)S Eoghan Hennessey (Clogh) **U11(A)D** Pauric Maher/Brian Cahill (Clogh)
U10(B)S Edward Kenny (Lisdowney) **U10(B)D** Tony O'Grady/Daniel Lenihan (OLG)
U11(B)S Pat Carroll (Lisdowney) **U11(B)D** David Lafford/Owen Finnegan (Kells)
U12S Patrick Funchion (Kells) **U12D** David Delahunty/Michael Fennelly (Kells)
U13S Dean Wilson (Clogh) **U13D** Shane Delaney/Dean Wilson (Clogh)
U14S Mark O'Dwyer (Kells) **U14D** Eamonn Foley/Niall Smith (Kells)
U15S Nicholas Anthony (M'vat) **U15D** Stephen Shortt/Kirk Green (OLG)
U16S Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) **U16D** Brendan Burke/Gavin O'Keefe (Kells)
U17S Mark Nolan (Mothel) **U17D** Diarmuid Brennan/Ricky Nolan (Mothel)
U12S Rebecca Mulholland (OLG) **U13S** Claire Moore (Windgap)
U14S Maire T O'Neill (Clogh) **U15S** Fiona Ryan (Clogh)
U16S Ann Maire Hawe (Windgap) **U17S** Loretta Murphy (Goresbridge)
U12(B)S Brian Campion (Urlingford) **U13(B)S** Eddie English (Goresbridge)
U14/15(B)S Walter Landy (Windgap) **U16/17(B)S** Edward Fitzgaurd (Kilfane)
Minor League Mark Nolan (Mothel)
Junior(B) League Thomas Campion (Clogh)
Junior League Sean Maher (Clogh)
Intermediate League William Love (Clogh)
Senior League Michael Walsh (Talbots Inch)
Masters(A)League Michael Reade (Talbots Inch)
Masters(A)Doubles Seamus Reade/Mick Reade (Talbots Inch)
Masters(B)League Joe Anthony (Mullinavat)
Masters(B)Doubles John Ryan/Peirce Mockler (Windgap)
Masters(C)League John Direen (OLG)
Novice Singles Thomas Campion (Clogh)
Novice Doubles Thomas Campion/Andrew Lawlor (Clogh)
Junior Singles Thomas Hughes (Clogh)
Junior Doubles P J Egan/Pat Walsh (Windgap)
Senior Singles Martin Lalor (Talbots Inch)
Senior Doubles Pat Maher/William Love (Clogh)

Leinster Champions

U12D Rebecca Mulholland (OLG)/Tina O'Brien (Goresbridge)
U12D Patrick Funchion (Kells)/Peter Landy (Windgap)
U14S Maire T O'Neill (Clogh)
U15S Ailish Cantwell (Mothel)
U15S Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat)
U15(B)S Paul Delaney (OLG)
U15D Stephen Shortt/Kirk Green (OLG)
U16D Ann Maire Hawe (Windgap)/Claire Love (Clogh)
U17S Loretta Murphy (Goresbridge)
U17D Sarah Lafford (Kells)/Nicola Kierin (Clogh)
U17D Diarmuid Brennan/Ricky Nolan (Mothel)
U12/13 Team 6 Mark O'Dwyer, Niall Smith, Patrick Funchion (Kells), Michael O'Brien (Goresbridge), Peter Landy (Windgap), Dylan Whearty (OLG)
U14/15 Team 6 Gavin O'Keefe, Eamonn Foley, Niall Mulally, Stephen Conway (Kells), Patrick Nolan (Mothel), Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch)
Ladies Junior (B) Singles Mary Murphy (Goresbridge)
Ladies Junior (B) Doubles Mary Murphy (Goresbridge)/Grainne Hughes (Clogh)
Junior Doubles Eddie Burke/Canice Quigley (OLG)
Masters(A)Singles Billy Bourke (OLG)
Masters (A) Doubles Martin Lalor (Talbots Inch)/Philly Parsons(OLG)
Emerald Masters (A) SinglesSeamus Reade (Talbots Inch)

60 x 30 County Champions 2003

U10(A)S Ian O'Dwyer (Kells) **U10(A)D** Andrew Whitney/Peter Funchion (Kells)
U11(A)S Eoin Hennessey (Clogh) **U11(A)D** Luke Greene/Tony O'Grady (OLG)
U12S Patrick Funchion (Kells) **U12D** David Delahunty/Michael Fennelly (Kells)
U13S Gearld McGrath (Kells) **U13D** Dean Wilson/Eoin Hennessey (Clogh)
U14S Mark O'Dwyer (Kells) **U14D** Eamonn Foley/Niall Mulally (Kells)
U15S Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) **U15D** Patrick Nolan/Ciaran Brennan (Mothel)
U16S Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) **U16D** Richard Hogan/James Forrestal (Kilfane)
U17S Mark Nolan (Mothel) **U17D** Diarmuid Brennan/Ricky Nolan (Mothel)
Minor League Patrick Hogan (Kilfane) **MD** Patrick Hogan/Richard Hogan (Kilfane)
Junior (B) League Michael Wallace (T's Inch) **JBD** Ger Anthony / Nicholas Anthony (M'vat)
Junior League Shem Kelly (Mothel) **JD** Andrew Lawlor/Thomas Campion (Clogh)
Senior League Johnny Brennan (Mothel) **SD** Diarmuid Brennan / Johnny Brennan (Mothel)
Masters (A) League Jimmy Neary (Talbots Inch) **MAD** Jimmy Holden/Liam Mahon (Kilfane)
Masters (B) League Padraig Caulfield (Kilfane) **MBD** Ned Lawlor / Billy Love (Clogh)
Masters (A) League Jim Caulfield (Kilfane)
Junior Singles Brian Reade (Talbots Inch)
Intermediate Singles William Love (Clogh)
Senior Singles Pat Maher (Clogh)
Masters Singles Jimmy Neary (Talbots Inch)

Leinster Winners

Girls U14 Singles: Maire T O'Neill (Clogh)
Boys U15 Singles: Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat)
Boys U15 Doubles: Patrick Nolan (Mothel) / Kirk Green (OLG)
Girls U16 Doubles: Ann Maire Hawe (Windgap) / Claire Love (Clogh)
Boys U17 Single: Mark Nolan (Mothel)
Boys U17 Doubles: Ricky Nolan/Diarmuid Brennan (Mothel)
Ladies Junior (B) Singles: Mary Murphy (Goresbridge)
Ladies Junior (B) Doubles: Mary Murphy (Goresbridge)/Grainne Hughes (Clogh)
Junior (B) Singles: Michael Maher (Clogh)
Junior (B) Doubles: Michael Maher/Colm Love (Clogh)
Masters (A)Singles: Billy Bourke (OLG)
Masters (A) Doubles: Johnny Brennan (Mothel)/Philly Parsons(OLG)
Emerald Masters (A) Singles: Paddy Reilly (OLG)
Emerald Masters (A) Doubles: Seamus Reade (Talbots Inch)/Paddy Reilly (OLG)
Diamond Masters (B) Singles: Johnny O'Mara (Mullinavat)
U14/15 Team 6 Eamonn Foley, Niall Mulally (Kells), Nicholas Anthony (M'vat), Patrick Nolan (Mothel), Ciarán Neary (T's Inch), Kirk Greene (OLG)
Joe Maxwell(A) League Eoghan Hennessey, Pauric Maher (Clogh), Mark O'Dwyer, Niall Smith (Kells) Richard Hogan (Kilfane), Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat).
Joe Maxwell (B) League John Power (Kells), Luke Greene (OLG) Ger McGrath, Martin Murry (Kells), Paul Delaney, Steven Shortt (OLG).

scored the three aces to give them a 11-8 victory and their first title of the year. Stephen and Kirk continued their good run in the Under 15 Doubles championship as they added another All Ireland title by first beating Kerry in the semi final and then accounting for Cavan, 21-19,21-8 in the decider.

Claire Love (Clogh) and Ann Marie Hawe (Windgap) proved what an excellent partnership they are by winning the Girls under 16 Doubles crown by beating Mayo's Rachel Gibbons and Alma Geraghty 21-14, 21-19 in the All Ireland final.

There was also a National title brought to Goresbridge this year when Loretta Murphy won the Girls under 17 grade by defeating Una Toner (Tyrone) 21-10, 21-7. This was a unique achievement as her sister Mary had won this grade last year. So one could say she kept it in the family!

Kilkenny also recorded a number of Leinster successes in juvenile grades.

Marie Therese O'Neill (Clogh) reached her first All Ireland final this year, Girls under 14 Singles, by defeating Cork but was then well beaten by Antrim's Aishling Reilly, 15-5, 15-5.

In Girls under 15 Singles Ailish Cantwell (Mothel) won out Leinster, but failed to progress any further, losing to Louise Hayes (Clare). In the Boys under 15 Singles Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) also claimed provincial honours but then had a narrow 11-9 defeat in the third set to his Clare opponent, Cathal Hannon

There was also no luck for Sarah Lafford (Windgap) and Eimear Skehan (O'Loughlins) as they reached the All Ireland final in Girls under 17 Doubles. Here they won the first game 21-18, lost the second 21-14 and went down 11-8 to Mayo in an exciting tie break.

Boys Under 17 Doubles also produced All Ireland finalists in the form of Diarmuid Brennan and Ricky Nolan (Mothel). Having accounted for Clare in the semi, the Mothel duo played well below their best in the All Ireland final and went down 21-19, 21-16 to Tyrone.

60 x 30

The 60 x 30 championships were more rewarding from a Kilkenny point of view as the county captured three adult and five Juvenile All Ireland titles.

Pride of place in this year's championships goes to Michael Maher and Colm Love (Clogh) who finally put a lot of ghosts to rest by winning the Junior B Doubles crown.

The North Kilkenny pair have been close on a number of occasions to winning honours but luck seemed to desert them when most needed. This year things were different. Firstly

2003 Handball Snippets

At the One Wall championships in Sligo, the final of the girls under 14 plate was a family affair involving Rebecca and Claire Mulholland. On this occasion Rebecca came out on top.

Just a week after winning his World title, Richard Hogan (Kilfane) secured his place on the Irish team that played at the USHA Junior championships in San Francisco, USA. These championships are played in the last week of December.

When Clogh won the 60 x 30 Junior B Team of Four, it made up for last year's narrow defeat in the final. On that occasion they lost to Clonmel, but in this year's final there was no doubt about the result as they beat St. Colmans, Roscommon 131-50.

Michael won the Leinster Singles title by beating Eamon Rice (Wicklow) and then, with Colm, won the Doubles by overcoming Wexford.

In his semi final against Colm Jordan (Cork), Michael had a narrow 21-18 loss in the third set

The Junior B Doubles semi final win was against Tipperary, thus setting up an All Ireland decider against Cavan's Eddie Halligan and Paul Fitzpatrick in Croke Park.

Before a large Clogh following, Michael and Colm turned on the style as they soundly beat their opponents, 21-11,21-5.

This year was a great year for the Clogh club, as they also captured the Junior B Team of four All Ireland title by defeating St. Comans, (Roscommon). The team was Michael Maher, Colm Love, Andrew Lawlor, William Love and Ned Lawlor.

After his disappointments in the 40 x 20 championships, Billy Bourke was determined to make no mistake in the 60 x 30 campaign.

A tough Leinster final against fellow Kilkenny man, Johnny Brennan, resulted in a third set victory on a 14-21,21-14,21-12 scoreline. This set him up for a comfortable semi final win over Pat Griffin (Tipperary) and in the All Ireland final he disposed of Francie McCann (Sligo).

Philly Parsons and Johnny Brennan won the Masters A Doubles title in 2002 and were eager to retain it this year. After coming through the Leinster championship, they saw off the challenge of Clare on their way to the final against Sligo, beaten finalists in 2002.

There was to be no repeat this time for the Noresiders, as Francie McCann and Michael Porter controlled proceedings from the start and ran out 21-11, 21-11 winners.

Paddy Reilly was also a 'double' Leinster champion but came unstuck in both his semi finals against Clare. First John Kirby beat him in the Singles tie and then Paddy and Seamus Reade put up stiff resistance before losing to John and Dan Kirby.

Veteran Mullinavat player Johnny O'Mara once again reached the Diamond Masters B Singles final. A tough semi win over Carl Burkett (Kerry) set the South Kilkenny star up for a tussle with Mark Maken, Mayo. Unfortunately age once again proved the decisive factor in determining the win-

ner of this grade, and here the younger Westerner proved too fit for the Mullinavat player.

One Kilkenny player who was very unlucky to make the breakthrough this year was Jimmy Holden (Kilfane) who lost a three



2003 All Ireland Champions and World Champion

Back: Nicholas Anthony, Diarmaid Brennan, Patrick Nolan, Mark Nolan, Kirk Greene.
Front: Marie Therese O'Neill, Anne Marie Hawe, Claire Love

set marathon, 17-21,21-19,15-21 to eventual Masters B All Ireland champion, Pechelli English (Wexford). In the Ladies 60 X 30 championships, Mary Murphy (Goresbridge) again took the honours in Junior B Singles and Doubles in Leinster, again partnered by Gráinne Hughes (Clogh). However, fate then played a major part in the rest of her season as she got injured against Marion Coleman (Tipperary). Having to concede the match to the Munster girl, the Kilkenny duo then had to withdraw from the Doubles due to the injury.

There was plenty to cheer about in the Juvenile championships, where five All Ireland titles were brought Noreside. The Mothel club can feel very proud of themselves as they produced four gold medalists.

First up was the vastly improved Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) who won the Boys under 15 championship. After winning the province he again faced Cathal Hannon (Clare) at the semi final stage. Having lost the corresponding match in the 40 x 20 championships there was no chance of a repeat this time round. Nicholas played exceptionally well to trounce the Clare boy 21-3, 21-8 and he then repeated the dose when disposing of Conor Duff (Tyrone) 21-1, 21-3 in the All Ireland final.

Patrick Nolan (Mothel) and Kirk Greene (O'Loughlins) were a new partnership formed in this year's under 15 Doubles grade. The O'Loughlins boy had already won two All Ireland medals and was keen to add another.

Patrick and Kirk progressed to the All Ireland semi final stage where they faced David and John Walsh (Waterford). Kilkenny won the first set by the narrowest of margins, 21-20, with the second set going in favour of the Munsters lads, 21-14.

The tie break was a tense affair which resulted in the Kilkenny pair squeezing through to the final, winning 11-9.

The final was one sided, as Mayo's Dara Reid and Steven Ryder, were no match for the class of Patrick and Kirk, who eased home 21-3, 21-3.

In Girls under 16 Doubles, there was an opportunity for Claire Love (Clogh) and Ann Marie Hawe (Windgap) to add the 60 x 30 crown to the 40 x 20 title won earlier in the year.

Once again they came through the Leinster championships, and on their way to the decider they saw off the challenge of Tipperary's Cliona Collins and Ann Marie Ryan.

They now faced Mayo in a repeat of the

40 x 20 decider. Claire and Ann Marie went behind by losing the first game 15-21, but soon put things back on track by taking the second 21-14.

In the tie break there was only one pair in it as Kilkenny dominated from the start and ran out convincing winners, 11-1. Mark Nolan (Mothel) was another who won captured National honours by beat-



Kilkenny's World Championship winners - Marie Therese O'Neill, Pat O'Keeffe and Richard Hogan.

ing all comers in the under 17 Boys Singles championships.

A Leinster crown was followed by a defeat of Christy Enright (Limerick) in two games, 21-13 21-5.

His opponent in the decider was Cian Dowling (Roscommon) who proved tough to crack.

The Roscommon player took the first set 21-13, but after that initial setback it was Mark who took control. The Mothel lad levelled the tie by winning the second set and in the deciding tie break, Mark was the stronger and took home the gold medal when winning 11-2.

Kilkenny completed the clean sweep of the under 17 Boys grade when Ricky Nolan and Diarmuid Brennan (both Mothel) took the laurels.

This pair played well below their best in the 40 x 20 final earlier in the year and were keen to make amends in the 60 x 30 championships.

Once again they got through Leinster, but then almost came a cropper at the semi final stage against Clare's Paul Lynch and Daniel O'Halloran.

The first game went to the Munsters pair, 21-18 while the second was another close affair with Kilkenny levelling matters by taking it 21-19.

The tie break turned out to be nerve racking with the result in doubt right up to the very end. Keeping their cool, the Mothel lads pulled off a famous victory to take the set 11-10 and so make up for earlier disappointments in the year.

One player who was very unlucky in both the 40x 20 and 60x 30 championships this year was Marie Therese O'Neill (Clogh).

Marie Therese again got through to the All Ireland final where she played Marie-

Anne Rushe (Roscommon).

The first set was close all the way with the advantage going to the Roscommon girl, 15-13.

The second set was again controlled by Rushe and she scored the vital shots to secure victory in the under 15 Girls Singles grade.

Over the years Kilkenny has enjoyed considerable success in Juvenile team events and this continued during 2003.

In both the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 competitions, the under 14/15 team achieved All Ireland victories, and in the under 12/13 event in 40 x 20 the Kilkenny lads lost the All Ireland semi final by two aces to Clare.

After winning in Leinster, the Kilkenny 40 x 20 side beat Waterford and

Tyrone in the under 14/15 grade and in the 60 x 30 decider they completed the double by repeating their victory over Waterford, 86-40.

The 11th World Handball Championships, played in Kilkenny and surrounding counties, turned out to be a huge success.

On the playing front, Kilkenny produced three World Champions, while off the court the South East region proved a very popular location with 800 or so players.

The three wins were in One Wall Girls 15 and under where Marie Terese O'Neill (Clogh) won out, in Four Wall Boys 15 and under Singles Richard Hogan (Kilbane proved too strong for all comers and in Diamond Masters Doubles Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat) teamed up with Kevin Delgrande (USA) to take the honours.

Apart from producing three champions the local organising committee can look back on what has been acknowledged as the best championships ever. With almost 1100 entries in all 66 grades, 800 of those players travelled to the Kilkenny region to take part in 52 events.

The One Wall championships were being played in Ireland for the first time and took in 230 matches, in 16 different grades, by the time they were completed on the Sunday night. To facilitate the large entry in the 36 Four Wall events it was necessary to play 70 matches on Sunday and follow this up with 220 matches on the Monday and Tuesday. By the time the finals were played on Friday almost 760 contests had taken place, to give a grand total of 990 handball matches played in eight days.



Colleges U15 Doubles champions, Kirk Greene and Stephen Shortt with teacher, Tom Looby.

One Wall Handball

To facilitate the playing of the One Wall events it was necessary to erect courts in the O'Loughlin Gaels complex, along with marking out courts in Talbots Inch and Kilfane.

For most Irish players this was their first opportunity to play this type of handball, and it was also a chance to witness some of the best exponents of this type of game. Anyone who saw the Open One Wall matches were amazed by the agility and athleticism of the USA players who mainly came from New York. Also competing were players from the Basque country who quickly became favourites with the crowd.

One Wall Girls 15 and under

Marie Terese O'Neill, from Clogh, will find it very difficult to forget these championships as she overcame injury to beat all before her in the girls 15 and under grade.

In her first round she accounted for Maria Gilligan (Longford) in two sets. A slow start in her quarter final tie with Katie Costelloe (Roscommon) resulted in the match going to the tie break, where Marie Terese hurt her arm. After an injury time out the Clogh girl kept her composure and got through 11-5.

In the semi final on Sunday morning, Marie Terese was again slow to get into her stride against Karen Lawlor (Kerry) and lost the first set heavily. However, she fought back to bring the match to another tie break situation, where she won 11-7 to reach the final.

Up against the top seed, Sinead Sheridan (Longford), it was the Clogh girl who took the first set. The midlander levelled by winning the second game and in the tie break Marie Terese kept calm and squeezed home 11-9 to record a marvellous victory.

Four Wall Boys 15 and under

Rated as the number one seed to win in this grade, Richard Hogan (Kilfane) still had a few scares before he confirmed his rating, by taking the title.

In his first match Richard accounted for

David Power (Waterford) which set him up to play his tournament doubles partner, Niall Maher (Wexford).

This was a tough tie with Richard progressing to play another Wexford player, Paddy Berry, in the semis.

Here the Kilfane youngster showed his mettle by resisting the stiff challenge of the Slaneysider, winning 21-14, 21-16. In the final he faced the promising Suhm Lee, from the USA. An injury to his thumb in the first game gave the advantage to Lee who won the set 21-14.

The second went to Richard 21-19 and this seemed to break the spirit of the American as Richard won the tie break 11-0 to take the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club sponsored World title. In the 15 and under Doubles Richard and Niall Maher reached the final where they played Paddy Berry/Martin Doran (Wexford). In an excellent match the Wexford boys came through 21-20, 21-11 to deny the Kilkenny player a second crown.

Diamond Masters A Doubles (Over 70's)

Pat O'Keeffe, from Mullinavat, has been a very loyal servant to Kilkenny handball down the years and has probably played more handball than any other player in the county.

In these World Championships Pat had intended to play in the Singles competition, but withdrew and entered in Doubles with his friend Kevin DelGrande (USA). With five pairs entered in this grade, the preliminary round resulted in a walkover for Pat and Kevin. They were now drawn against the top seeded USA duo Richard Sleeper and Jerry Garcia.

The Kilkenny/USA pair turned on the style in the semifinal, and won in two sets, 21-16, 21-15. They now faced Sligo in the decider, but their opponents failed to show up, thus crowning Pat and Kevin World Champions for 2003.

Finalists

Kilkenny also produced a number of finalists and semi finalists at the championships. In the One Wall Boys 15 and under Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) reached the decider while in the Four Wall Doubles he partnered Patrick Nolan (Mothel) to the semi finals before losing to Richard Hogan/Niall Maher.

Another finalist in the One Wall events was Johnny Brennan (USA) who put on a great show in defeating Chris Roberts (USA) in the semi, before losing to Paul Williams (USA) in the final.

Eddie Bourke (O'Loughlins) played his heart out to reach the Mens B decider in Cavan, but went down to Pat O'Donnell (Wicklow) 21-16, 21-15. Eddie also played in Open One Wall semi final where he partnered David King (Carlow).



Billy Bourke

Players who reached the semi finals include ;

- Four Wall Championships
- Boys 13 and under Doubles- Mark O'Dwyer/Niall Smith (Kells)
- Boys 13 and under Singles – Mark O'Dwyer (Kells)
- Boys 17 and under Doubles – Gerry Kane/Patrick Hogan (Carlow/Kilkenny)
- Boys 19 and under Doubles – T.J.Comerford/Thomas Campion (Clogh)
- Girls 15 and under Doubles – Marie Terese O'Neill/Claire Love (Clogh)
- Masters A Doubles - Billy Bourke (O'Loughlins)
- Veteran Masters Doubles (Over 45's) - Willie Pratt/Johnny Brennan (O'Loug/Mothel)
- Mens B Doubles – Timmy Clifford / Canice Quigley
- Mens C Singles – Michael Maher

Along with those above the full list of Kilkenny players who took part in the championships is : Eoghan Hennessy, David Delahunty, Andrew O'Dwyer, Michael Fennelly, Dean Wilson, Patrick Funchion, Eoin Lalor, Gerard McGrath, Michael O'Brien, Ian O'Dwyer, Niall Mullally, Darren O'Dwyer, Paul Delaney, Ciaran Neary, Eamonn Foley, Paul Murphy, Kirk Greene, Gavin O'Keeffe, Stephen Conway, Stephen Shortt, John Murphy, Brendan Burke, Mark Nolan, Diarmuid Brennan, Sean Maher, Claire Mulholland, Rebecca Mulholland, Nicola Kieran, Fiona Ryan, Ann Marie Hawe, Loretta Murphy, Eimear Skehan, Mary Murphy, Martin Lalor, Philly Parsons, John Direen, Gerry Murphy, Con Moore, Joe Hennessy, Jimmy Neary, Liam Mahon, Joe Anthony, Michael Reade, Jimmy Neary, Mick Dalton, Seamus Reade, Paddy Reilly, Sean Curran, Frank Manogue, Johnny O'Mara, Bridget Mulholland, Ger Anthony, Andrew Lawlor, Paul Dowling, Diarmuid Burke, Seamus Kavanagh, Andrew Hosey, John Curran, Ned Lawlor, John Doyle, Padraig Maher, Kevin Phillips, Mark Nolan, Graham Lawlor, Michael Maher, Colm Love, William Love, Pat Maher, John Morrissey, Paul Bergin, Thomas Hughes.

1956 Remembered

On County Final day, 2003, the County Board invited the survivors of the Kilkenny 1956 Junior All Ireland winning team to Nowlan Park as special guests at the Senior and Minor finals and afterwards to a reception sponsored by Springhill Court Hotel. This team beat Wexford, Wicklow and Dublin before overcoming Laois in the Leinster Final. After a semi-final win over Galway, they went on to win the Home Final against Kerry and finally took the title proper when they beat London at Eltham stadium on 30th September 1956. They provided the backbone of the victorious 1957 Kilkenny Senior team which was to break a ten-year famine beating Waterford in the final of that year. The 1956 junior selectors were **Michael Larkin** (James Stephens), **PJ O'Neill** (James Stephens), **Martin Egan** (Threecastles), **Jimmy Kelly** (Knocktopher), and **John Harte** (Galmoy). John Harte, the only surviving selector, was honoured on County Final day and, with the other team members, was presented with a memento of the occasion.



SURVIVORS OF KILKENNY 1956 VICTORIOUS JUNIOR TEAM AS GUESTS AT THE COUNTY FINAL

Back: Phil Brennan, Mick Fleming, Donal Gorey, Jim McCarthy, Philly Murphy, Dinny Hogan, Denis Heaslip.

Front: Tom Ryan, Tom Walsh, Brian Brennan (Springhill Court Hotel), Paul Kinsella (Vice Chairman, Co Board), Dick Bolger, Sean Tyrrell.

Eoin Hennssy



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1956

Back row: Mick Larkin, Bob Aylward, Phil Murphy, Jimmy Coyne, Roddy O'Neill, Peter Fennelly, Donal Gorey, Paddy Lacey, Jack Murphy, McCarthy, Billy Costigan, Jim "Link" Walsh, Tom Ryan, PJ O'Neill

Front: Dixie Brennan, Dinny Hogan, Sean Tyrrell (captain), Jack Dunne, Tom Walsh, Dick Bolger, Denis Heaslip, Jimmy Bourke, Mick Fleming

2003 - That Was The Year That Will Never be Bettered

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

From a Kilkenny point of view, how could it be? Without getting too parochial about it, there's little point in hiding light under a bushel, so here goes. All Ireland hurling titles in senior, minor, under-21, under-14, colleges' A, colleges' B and Feile na nGael. National League success. The senior title to go joint-top of the roll of honour with Cork. The minor title to do likewise. The county's second All Ireland senior, minor and under-21 treble, only the third time the feat has been achieved. The first back-to-back McCarthy Cups since Kilkenny themselves did the trick in 1992-93. The National League and All Ireland double-double, a feat harking back to the one accomplished by Pat Henderson's team in 1982-83. The All Ireland senior and minor double in successive seasons, a unique achievement. And on and on and on. To repeat, it doesn't get better than this. Frankly, it cannot. So eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

Which isn't necessarily to say that Kilkenny have overachieved at senior level these past few years. Not with a formidable team containing two of the county's finest forwards ever – pardon, two of the *game's* best forwards ever. Not with an even more formidable manager in Brian Cody, a man possibly more admired outside the county than inside. And not with a splendidly determined and enlightened county chairman in Ned Quinn, about whom his old schoolmate Liam Griffin wrote a

couple of years ago: "Were Kilkenny to do the All Ireland senior, minor and under-21 treble, Ned's reaction would be, 'Right, how do we repeat it?'" It'll be interesting to see how they go about trying in 2004. Anyway, here's how your correspondent went about trying (people) in 2003.

April/May: A well-deserved and hugely overdue holiday for this overworked poor soul is topped and tailed by two Noreside victories. Three Noreside victories, actually. First off, Clonmel on the last Saturday in April. Castlecomer Community School record a fine and hard-fought win over St Joseph's of Borrissoleigh in the All Ireland colleges' B final, due reward for the trojan work being done in the school by Pat Murphy, ably assisted by Terence Fahy and Ned Lawlor. Two hours later in the A decider, St Kieran's handsomely avenge their one-point defeat of twelve months earlier by crushing St Colman's in the A decider. Assisted by the wind in the first half, Kieran's do the sensible thing and go for points at every opportunity; the goal eventually comes early in the second half and the remainder is a stroll. There's something vastly reassuring about the presence of names like Prendergast(s), Cody and Power in the line-up, and something very worthy – to these eyes, at any rate – in the performance at centre-forward of Eamon O'Gorman of the Emeralds, one of the hardest-working and most effective players on the field. It's all very well to have stylists, but every team needs one or two Eamon O'Gormans.

Back into Dublin airport in the early hours of bank holiday Monday and off to Croke Park in the afternoon for the National League final. In the same way that history is written by the victors, so the Wagnerian climax provided by Kilkenny and Tipp overrides the 55 minutes of frankly mediocre fare that preceded it. Cody's side hurl badly but win. Michael Doyle's under-strength side, damaged further in running by injuries to Philip Maher and Noel Morris, hurl well but lose. Though we don't realise it at the time, Tipperary's summer is already on the slide.

June: Kilkenny see off Dublin on a Saturday evening in Nowlan Park. Charlie Carter sees himself off the panel three days later. Cork, all sweetness and light after the players' strike was won, do a job on Clare, then come from behind to dispose of Waterford in the Munster final. A red storm rising once more.

July: Nearly 50,000 paying spectators turn up at Croke

Park for the Leinster final, the majority of them optimistic Wexford folk (is there any other kind, to paraphrase Dr Kevin Whelan..?). After the champions' 11-point victory, it'll be a while before the fixture attracts 50,000 paying spectators again. But,



Henry Shefflin, Kilkenny, in action against Cork's Sean Óg Ó hAilpín in the All-Ireland Final. SPORTSFILE

as if to underscore their manager John Conran's assertion that on their day they're a match for anyone, Wexford come out the following Saturday week and upset Waterford in a riveting encounter at a thronged and colourful Nowlan Park. It is, incredibly, the first-ever championship meeting of the neighbours, which only goes to show (yet again) what a faulty piece of engineering the old championship system was.

August: To Croke Park on the 17th. Kilkenny 3-18 Tipperary 0-15. Further comment is superfluous except in two regards. Firstly and more importantly, there's many a Kilkenny person over the age of 60 who will die happy now. Secondly and pretty irrelevantly, had Brian Cody's side – perhaps from an awareness of the burden of history – unconsciously shown Tipp too much respect 12 months earlier? Not so irrelevantly, a team is always at its most vulnerable in the match immediately following a commanding performance. And 1999 should be too fresh in the mind for any Kilkenny person to believe – as all too many Kilkenny persons did then - that Cork will be coming along for the ride next month.

September: Achievement atop achievement atop achievement. They're counted up back at the start of this article. So why the palpable sense of anti-climax after DJ Carey lifts the McCarthy Cup? A case of too much of a good thing? The fact that Kilkenny failed to win in the manner constitutionally required of hot favourites? A bit of both?

Certainly the Cats stagger across the line. Nothing wrong with that; it is a far, far better thing to do to nearly lose an All Ireland final than to nearly win one. And to a large extent Cork, by missing chances to go two and three points ahead when they hit the front, hand Kilkenny back the initiative as opposed to the winners wresting it back for themselves. Nothing wrong with that either, given that the champions are good enough and

smart enough to take advantage. Sometimes professionalism really does come down to being able to work on a bad day and grind out the result. If that state of affairs is partly a consequence of the other crowd's fallibilities, so be it.

Looking back at a remove of three months, it now seems generally accepted that the titleholders peaked ten days or a fortnight before the All Ireland final, were past their best when meeting Cork and just about got away with it. Given the store that Brian Cody puts on the evidence of the training ground and the ever more towering peaks of power and pace and forcefulness negotiated there as the season unrolls and the challenges grow in importance, that Kilkenny may have been ominously close to burnout on September 14th is not a surprise, merely a predictable byproduct of how this team conducts its business. It's a lesson to be remembered for next year nonetheless. There is a place, as John Power pointed out after the final, for freshness too.

Another thought to occur is that the physical force the modern Kilkenny place such a premium on doesn't always prevail; the balance was only restored in the closing 15 minutes against Cork when Cody, Noel Skehan and Johnny Walsh changed their tack, took Conor Phelan away from trying to go mano a mano with Diarmuid O'Sullivan - a ploy that simply doesn't work - and despatched Martin Comerford back to the edge of the square to hurl O'Sullivan instead. And Comerford's goal sprang not from a comrade running at the opposition defence – the favourite tactic, indeed the *raison d'etre* of this Kilkenny forward line - but from John Hoyne's first-time pull on a ground ball. In other words, for all the faith invested in size and strength up front, sometimes there's no substitute for simplicity. In the end, and at the risk of sounding overly simplistic, hurling is about letting the ball do the work.



Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Cork (4), supported by team-mate Ronan Curran (blue helmet), holds discussions with Kilkenny forwards, Eddie Brennan, D.J Carey and John Hoyne. SPORTSFILE

His hole cards (Phelan, Andy Comerford, Richie Mullally) played and played to auspicious effect, Cody may never have a finer moment than the one captured by the TV cameras with ten minutes left: pacing the sideline, encouraging his players to “keep going, keep going”. It was all he could do at that stage, and he did it. In the plaudits that have rightly been showered on Brian and will presumably continue to be, arguably the greatest compliment to the man is that Kilkenny have played three must-win All Irelands under him (2000 because they were facing the Armageddon of a third defeat in a row, 2002 because they needed it to justify 2000, 2003 because losing would have undone everything) – and won them all. Let’s not forget either that the one All Ireland lost on his watch was lost with a team he inherited as opposed to a team he built. A word too about Henry Shefflin, who having given the assist for the decisive goal on September 14th followed it by popping over two points from play almost as an afterthought. It’s a tribute to Shefflin that such acts of understated genius are now routinely taken for granted from him.

A question. Had the Cats won against Cork in 1999 as they should have, would they now be enjoying their current eminence? Almost certainly not. The bottom line about Kilkenny under Brian Cody is that the cliché holds true and that the reverses that might have killed them – ’99, the 2001 All Ireland semi-final - have made them stronger. It would have been easy to wallow in success in 1999 and lack the will to kick on from there. The 2003 final was ’99 in reverse, Cork the ones blowing it this time and a circle closed.

The under-21s, who probably wouldn’t have been allowed return home had they failed against Galway, duly complete the treble the following Sunday at Semple Stadium. It’s not a team of superstars. It is a team that’s clearly been well coached, look cleverly handled and vary their game neatly. Hard to believe that as minors, these guys were the only ones from the county to have been beaten in Leinster since 1989. Easy to believe they’re all the better for it.

A final thought. While all sports contain their haves and their have-nots, hurling contains (“boasts” is scarcely the appropriate word) them to a larger degree than most. Kilkenny, most definitely, constitute a significant percentage of the haves. With privileges, however, come responsibilities, and to learn of the county’s opposition to the HDC’s recent proposals for championship reform – opposition grounded in nothing more substantial than the fact that the introduction of two more All Ireland quarter-finals would cost Kilkenny one Sunday of club fixtures – was as bizarre as it was disappointing. By sending envoys in the past to Offaly, Wexford and Laois, Noreside has done its bit for the game’s health and growth. But doing one’s bit should be an ongoing process; just imagine how profound and worthwhile a concerted Kilkenny initiative to help promote the game in, say, Carlow, would be. It’s well and good – and right – for readers to take pride in the achievements of the Black and Amber in 2003. But there’s a world outside your window. A twilight hurling world. Don’t ever forget that.

We close with this column’s usual awards

- Hurler of the year:** JJ Delaney.
- Next best:** Henry Shefflin, Ronan Curran.
- Young hurler of the year:** Setanta O hAilpin.
- Next best:** Tommy Walsh.
- Match of the year:** Cork v Wexford, drawn All Ireland semi-final, August 10th
- Next best:** Waterford v Limerick, drawn Munster semi-final, June 1st.
- Goal of the year:** Joe Deane versus Clare.
- Point of the year:** Martin Comerford’s equaliser in the All Ireland final.
- Team of the year:** Damien Fitzhenry (Wexford); Michael Kavanagh (Kilkenny), Noel Hickey (Kilkenny), Ollie Canning (Galway); Sean Dowling (Kilkenny), Ronan Curran (Cork), JJ Delaney (Kilkenny); Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny), John Gardiner (Cork); John Mullane (Waterford), Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny), Martin Comerford (Kilkenny); Setanta O hAilpin (Cork), Joe Deane (Cork), Eddie Brennan (Kilkenny).



On a Mission
Captain DJ Carey leads Kilkenny in the pre-match parade
Photo Eohn McLwaine



Camogie Reports

Ballyhale Shamrocks

Shamrock's Camogie Club had another good year in 2003 After winning the Intermediate Final in 2002 they were back in the top grade once again and acquitted themselves very well, winning the quarter final against Mullinavat in which Jackie Frisby was in great form scoring 4 goals. In the semi final they were beaten by a strong Freshford team who went on to win the final. The U21 team had a great win in the quarter final against Mullinavat by one point. Mullinavat were going for three in a row wins at this level but were overcome by a very strong finish by the Shamrock's girls. In the semi final they had an easy win against Tullogher to reach the U21 A Final. Sadly this final failed to materialise when opponents Freshford failed to turn up for their appointment and Shamrock's were awarded the match by the County Board. This was a pity as this promised to be a great game between two evenly matched teams.

Our U18 and under 16 teams bowed out at semi final stage. Our U14's and U12's failed to make semi final stage but put in some fine performances during the year and maybe in the future will have some luck. Our U10's won all their games at the blitz in Thomastown helped by four great lassies from Blacks & Whites and two from Thomastown.

At county level we had probably our best representation ever with Keira Kinahan,



Ballyhale Under 10 Blitz Team.

Back: Orna Fennelly, Edel Keogh, Sarah Knox, Emma Cleere, Brid Kelly, Eliza Barcoe, Elizabeth Barcoe, Jade Cuddihy, Dermot Fennelly.

Front: Charlotte Brenner, Ailish Power, Ciara Ryan, Aoife Donnelly, Emily Dwyer, Ciara Farrell.

Jackie Frisby, Assumpta Farrell and Emily Darmody at Senior Level, Ciara Fennelly on Junior Team, Jackie Frisby at U18 level.

Keeva Fennelly, Leona Kinahan, Orla Ryan and Roisin Fennelly all won Leinster Minor (under 16) medals. The highlight of the year was the County's Presentation Night in Langton's when two of our girls were voted Player of the Year at their respective levels, with Keira Kinahan becoming the Senior

Player of the Year and Keeva Fennelly at Minor Level. Well done girls, richly deserved.

It's great to see such a small club competing at highest level in all championships, thanks mainly to the following people who gave their valued time in the field helping to train, Ber Doyle, Margaret Cuddihy, Joan Ryan, Michael Fennelly, Niall Mason, Martina Wilson and Dermot Fennelly all who look after the various teams.



Ballyhale Under 21 Team

Back: D Fennelly, N Mason, L Ryan, A Walshe, P Kenneally, E Darmody, K Cummins, K Kinahan, D O'Brien, B Fennelly, S Kenneally, C Fennelly, M Wilson.

Front: B Walshe, A Farrell, R Fennelly, O Ryan, M Connors (Capt), K Fennelly, J Frisby, L Kinahan, L Fennelly.



Camogie Reports

Emeralds

Juvenile Coaching and Games

The Emeralds committee has dedicated enormous time and effort into developing under age camogie in the club. The U-8 girls played challenge matches and participated in the tournament organised by the County Board. Parents of these girls were very enthusiastic and committed to encouraging the girls in their efforts. Hopefully this will continue next year.

U-14 Action

Under the leadership of captain Brid Leahy our U-14s reached the Roinn A County semi-final, where they were narrowly beaten by St. Lachtains. Our team was managed by Gerry Fahey and Mary Burke. Our club was represented on a Leinster Final winning team by Siobhain Fahey, Annie Doyle, Marion Clohessey and Colette Grant.

Trainers Patricia Norton, Aine Fahey, Maureen Norton and Sinead Curran

Club Officers

Chairperson	Paul Kavanagh
Secretary	Sheila Doyle
Asst Secretary	Mary Burke
Treasurer	Kay Bowden
Asst. Treasurer	Brigid Hennessey
PRO	Eileen Hughes

Ryan Cup

The Ryan Cup was introduced on behalf of the late Eamon Ryan, who was the first Chairperson of the Emeralds Camogie Club. Five teams participated

including Slievenamon, Lisdowney, Moycarkey/Borris, St. Annes and Emeralds and we did very well to defeat neighbours St. Annes in the final after a replay.

U-16

Our U-16's also reached a Roinn A county semi-final, beaten in a superb game, by St. Lachtains. The Final score was St. Lachtains 4-17, Emeralds 6-7. Management were Sheila Doyle, Siobhain O'Hara and Maura Brennan. Representing our club on the county team were Aine Fahey and Laura Kavanagh.

U-18

The U-18 Championship began late in the year and it was an all out club effort. After our Junior Success', the U-18 team under the management of Henry O'Grady and Tommy Hickey, went on to achieve yet another title for our Club. Our first outing was against Blacks and Whites on homeground, with a convincing victory. On narrowly beating Lisdowney, we reached the Semi-Final to play the runners-up from the South, Tulllogher. This final was eagerly contested by the two excellent and determined teams of Emeralds and Lisdowney with the outcome to be decided by a refixture. Club Players Eileen Hughes and Aine Fahey represented our club at county level.

U-21

We were less successful in this Championship, bowing out, narrowly to Windgap in the first round. Management at this level was Paddy Hughes, Paul Kavanagh and Gerry Fahey

Intermediate/Junior Exam-Break League

This year was the first year that this competition was started. Proving great success for our Club, we went on to compete against two Intermediate teams and two Junior teams. Being victorious in all four matches, Emeralds went on to take the title.

Junior Championship

The year began with a walkover from O'Loughlin Gaels and with Emeralds defeating Lisdowney on homeground, for their first success in the Championship. Going on to beat Blacks and Whites, Freshford and Clara, Emeralds attained the top spot in the North. From here we took on Danesfort in the semi-final held in James Park and yet again proved successful. Then we marched on to the final in Johnstown, against St. Lachtains ladies of Freshford. This was by far the greatest moment in the history of our club, when the girls in green won their first ever Junior County Final, under the management of Georgie Leahy, Paul Kavanagh, Gerry Fahey, Paddy Hughes and Tommy Hickey. Representing our club at County Level was Sarah O'Gorman and Aine Fahey.



Emeralds Camogie Team - Under 18 Roinn B Finalists 2003

Back: Paul Kavanagh (Chairperson), Helen Power, Brid Leahy, Danielle Campion, Siobhan O'Hara, Sarah Byrne, Collette Grant, Eileen Hughes, Marion Clohosey, Annie Doyle, Ciara O'Flaherty, Orla Gleeson, Eileen Hayde, Henry O'Grady (Selector), Gerry Fahey (Selector).
Front: Geraldine Moriarty, Tommy Hickey (Selector), Laura Kavanagh, Siobhan Fahey, Aine Fahey, Selena Power, Claire O'Gorman, Shona Power (Captain), Orla Stokes, Eilish Brennan, Bridget Campion, Clodagh Cleere.



Camogie Reports

Lisdowney

Presentations

The club ran a successful Dinner Dance in Hotel Kilkenny, the U-21 Champions of 2002 were presented with their medals by Ann Downey & Derek Lyng. The night also incorporated the club paying tribute to Ann Downey in recognition of her outstanding career.

U-10's

U-10's again entered the annual tournament in Castlecomer defeating Gowran and 'Comer, Muckalee and eventually Clara in a great final. Panel: Grace Murphy, Kathleen Dowling, Orla Kearney, Lisa Hickey, Claudia Hudner, Linda Sweeney, Aoife Murphy, Amy O'Sullivan, Jessie O'Sullivan, Claire Phelan, Katie Delaney, Kelly Ann Quinn

U-12's

A young U-12's enjoyed mixed fortune during their championship, playing five games, losing to O'Loughlin's and St. Brigid's, drawing with St. Anne's and defeating Clara. Great credit to Margaret Kenna for her continued work with these girls.

Mini Sevens

Congratulations to Siobhan Holland, winning captain in the Local Mini Sevens, this competition is a parish 7's which is run annually in conjunction with the Coca Cola Mini Sevens. Her team defeated James Delaney's team in the final.

U-14's

The U-14's captured the Roinn C Championship playing nine competitive games. The final against St. Annes was a great game and Lisdowney won 3-2 to 2-1. There were jubilant scenes as Captain Niamh Brennan accepted the cup from Liam Dunne.

Minor

The young U-16's played well throughout the championship, holidays & Gaeltacht commitments meant the team were short players on every occasion they played. The future looks bright if the girls put in as much effort into training next year.

U-18

In the qualifying rounds the U-18's defeated Blacks & Whites & lost narrowly to Emeralds, but won a close semi-final against Windgap. A fiercely contested

county final ended in confusion as most people had recorded the score as a draw 2-6 each, the referee had 2-6 Lisdowney, 2-7 Emeralds. Following a Co. Board Meeting a replay has been fixed.

U-21

By virtue of Roinn B victory in 2002, the U-21's played in Roinn A this year. This competition was played on a knock out basis, the girls put up a good show but were beaten by a stronger Tullogher team.

Junior

We entered a team in the Junior competition again this year but we were well beaten by St. Lachtains.

Senior

The senior reached the Co Final losing to neighbours St. Lachtain's. In the league section we defeated St. Brigid's, Shamrocks, Tullogher, Mullinavat and lost to St. Lachtain's. This set us up for a semi final meeting with the reigning Co. Champions St. Brigid's.

Sympathy

The club extends sympathy to any of our club members who have suffered bereavements during the past year. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad. Many thanks to our sponsors who contributed to the running of the club during the year particularly Pat, Peter & Stephen Tallis.



Lisdowney U-18 Team 2003 who drew with Emeralds in the County Final

Back: Julie Mackey, Michelle Holland, Sara Lee Murphy, Lorraine Lyons, Lisa Dunne, Mary M. Marum, Aoife Campion, Lisa Dunne, Aisling Fitzpatrick, Marie Dargan.

Front: Edel Coonan (mascot), Siobhan Holland, Claire Dunne, Claire Coonan, Carol Gunner, Danielle Coonan, Aine Mackey & Siobhan O'Hara.

Missing from photo: Jeanette Boran & Rachel Coady.



Lisdowney - U-14 Roinn C County Champions 2003

Back: Anne Brennan (Selector) Claire Sherman, Eimear Glendon, Emma Bergin, Louise Skehan, Sabrina O'Shea, Aisling Kearney, Marina Downey (Trainer), Claire Dunne, Grace Murphy, Orla Kearney, Sinead Campion, Stephanie Ivory.

Front: Rachel Coady, Amy Sweeney, Siobhan Holland, Aoife Campion, Marie Dargan, Madeline Fogarty, Niamh Brennan (Captain), Amy O'Sullivan & Clodagh Kearney.



Camogie Reports

Mullinavat

Officers 2003

Chairperson: John-Joe Aylward
Secretary: Mary Aylward
Treasurer: Anna Woods

2003 was another successful year for Mullinavat Camogie Club. Having finished 2002 on such a high note by retaining the U21 Roinn A title, beating Freshford in the final, hopes were high for 2003. Fielding in all grades from U12 to senior these hopes were soon realised.

U14

Our U14 team were first in action in the county Feile na nGael competition. Having taken 2 days to defeat reigning champions Freshford they went on to record impressive victories over Carrickshock and O Loughlins before accounting for a strong Piltown team in the final. The first ever such title for Mullinavat. However before this panel went on to contest the national feile they recorded a historic double in Kilkenny, adding the U14 Roinn A title to their Feile title. A feat never before achieved in the history of this club. Maynooth, Co Kildare were our host club and a great weekend was enjoyed by all. The highlight being qualification for the quarterfinals. However on the day our side had to give way to a stronger more experienced Rathnure side, but not before doing both club and county proud.

U16

Our U16 team had a good run in their

championship qualifying for the county final only to be beaten on the day by a stronger Freshford side.

U21 and Senior

The U21 team were drawn against near neighbours Ballyhale Shamrocks in the first round, and following an epic game went under by a single point. However such a young enthusiast panel coupled with the determination shown that evening bodes well for the future of these players.

Having lost some of our more experienced players this year, a younger team stepped up and despite some encouraging performances failed to make an impact at this level. However much more is expected from this group of players in the coming years.

U18

The U18 team opened their Roinn A campaign with a good win over Clara. They then went on to beat James Stephens in the semi final thus booking themselves a place in the county final. On the last Sunday of October they travelled to Johns Park to take on a much-fancied St Martins Muckalee side. However with five star performances throughout the field, from goalkeeper to full forward, Mullinavat overcame their tag as under dogs to claim their first ever U18 Roinn A title on a score of 2-6 to 1-6.

The club's participation on all counts was a year.

Lucinda Gahan, Paula Butler, Regina Madigan and Michelle Quilty all helped Kilkenny to U14 Leinster success. While Amy Butler, Carol Phelan and Miriam Frisby all played a part in the U16 Leinster final win. Brid Aylward and Catherine Freyne were part of the U18 panel. Brid also represented Kilkenny at junior level, along with Claire Aylward, and at senior level with Elaine Aylward and Angela Kenneally.

Having competed at the highest level in all grades this year and contesting four county finals, the future of camogie looks bright in Mullinavat. Finally the club would like to thank all those who helped in anyway during the year especially trainers Mary Aylward, Michael Law and John-Joe Aylward.

U-18 Panel:

Brid Aylward, Marie Atkins, Sinéad Aylward, Cathy Dalton, Carol Phelan, Amy Butler, Catherine Freyne, Claire Aylward, Miriam Frisby, Lucinda Gahan, Lorraine Fennelly, Paula Butler, Laura Gahan, Aileen Murphy, Valerie Law, Regina Madigan, Sinéad Phelan, Christine Murphy, Michelle Quilty, Claire Dalton, Susan Fitzpatrick, Sarah Maddock, Marita Aylward, Jennifer Delahunty, Grainne Dalton, Elizabeth Cunningham, Alison Duggan, Rebecca Reade, Leanne Fennelly, Roisin Wall, Emma Duggan, Danielle Phelan, Sinéad Madigan.



MULLINAVAT - U-14 FEILE & ROINN A CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2003

Back: Lisa Knox, Clíodhna Foskin, Susan Fitzpatrick, Alison Duggan, Grainne Dalton, Regina Madigan, Paula Butler, Lucinda Gahan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Dawn Holden, Rebecca Reade, Jennifer Delahunty, Imelda Aylward, Leanne Fennelly.
Front: Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Danielle Phelan, Deirdre Murphy, Rachel Holden, Sarah Grennan, Michelle Quilty, Elaine Fitzpatrick, Sinéad Phelan, Emma Duggan, Elizabeth Cunningham, Kerri Doolan. (Inset: Laura Walsh).



Camogie Reports

O'Loughlin's



O'Loughlin Gaels - U-12 Camogie County Champions

Back: Rosie Hayes, Mary Claire Walsh, Laura Butler, Denise Gaule, Aislinn Rice, Sarah Burke (capt), Rebecca Cleere, Emma Conroy, Rebecca Mulholland, Briona O'Neill.

Front: Michelle Walsh, Shauna Brennan, Ena Kearns, Mary Deegan, Aoife Nolan, Stacey Conroy, Claire Mulholland, Karen Cleere. **Mascot:** Brona Cleere.

U-12 County Champions

Having reached the county final in 2001 and the county semi-final in 2002, there were high hopes for the U-12 team this year and they didn't let the club down. Even though beaten in their first match by Clara, the girls then had good wins over St. Brigids, Lisdowney, St. Lachtains and St. Annes. This qualified them for the knockout stages of the competition. They had good wins over St. Martins in the quarter final and Thomastown in the semi-final, a reversal of last year's result. They met St. Brigids in the final. Having earlier beaten St. Brigids it was going to be hard to repeat the dose, but they did. O'Loughlins took

an early lead and were leading 2-2 to nil before St. Brigids got off the mark scoring two goals just before half time. In the second half, O'Loughlins continued where they left off, scoring another 2-2 to a solitary goal from the opposition giving us a seven point victory. This was O'Loughlins first ever U-12 title.

Well Managed

Great credit is due to the panel of players with their effort put in at training and to the team management of Joan Gaule, Aoife Lanigan and Sarah Buckley for their work with the team during the year. The club also competed in the U-14, 16, 18 and Junior championships. Despite

lack of success at these levels there was a great commitment at training.

County Representatives

Eimear Rodgers and Elizabeth Kavanagh represented the club on the County U-14 team who were trained by Liam Dunne. Jean Delaney represented the club on the county U-16 team. O'Loughlins had two representatives on AllIreland hurling semi-final and final day. Both Sarah Burke and Elizabeth Kavanagh, respectively lined out in the mini-sevens. All this success bodes well for the club.

O'DWYER PROMOTIONS



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Camogie Reports

Paulstown/Goresbridge

Club Officers

Chairman:	James Flavin
Secretary:	Ailish Drennan
Assistant Sec:	Margaret Brennan
Treasurer:	Breda Purcell

Schools Camogie

Great work continues in the schools promoting the game. With such dedication it cannot be long until silverware comes to the parish.

Under Age Competitions

The U-14 team reached the County Final where they came up against a very strong Thomastown side. Despite putting up a brave display they were unsuccessful.

The U-16 side had a great season with victories over Windgap, St. Martins, St. Annes and Lisdowney getting them a place in the semi-final. Here they had a magnificent victory over St. Brigid's, Ballycallan with a goal in the dying moments.

In the final the Windgap girls turned the table with a 1-4 to 1-1 victory.

Panel: Aoife Drennan, Claire Whitely, Mary Brennan, Julia Purcell, Rita Coady, Aoife Murphy, Lisa Brennan, Sarah Brennan, Rose Ann Brennan, Sarah Brophy, Leonie Staunton, Collette Dormer, Orla Kealy, Fiona Brennan, Michelle Brennan, Alison Staunton, Siobhan Murphy, Mary Buggy, Leanne Corcoran, Nichola Heffernan, Emma Staunton, Emma Flavin.

U-19s Great Campaign

The U-18 side beat O'Loughlins and Dicksboro to earn a semi-final place against Danesfort. Having played with a gale in the first half of this game their 6 point lead did not look at all good enough but they knuckled down to it in the second half and two goals in quick succession midway through the half set them up for a place in the final on a 4 – 4 to 2-2 scoreline.

Exciting Final

The final turned out to be an extremely exciting game. The Boro girls took the lead in the 2nd minute with a great point from influential centre forward Susan Kennedy. They were not to score again for the remainder of the half, despite being camped in the Paulstown goal area. Heroic defending and some brilliant

saves from goalie Lee Ann Corcoran kept them at bay, while in one of only two attacks the Paulstown girls earned a thirty metre free which was pointed by Collette Dormer.

The game turned right around in the second half with Paulstown taking the game to the Boro, who found themselves defending brilliantly so that scores were very hard to come by. It was not until the 15th minute that Catriona Bambrick put Paulstown ahead with a point which was followed by another from Collette Dormer shortly afterwards. In a tight finish Elaine Doyle somehow forced the ball over the line, following a right old schemozzle in the goalmouth to give the Boro girls the lead. Alas, Paulstown missed a couple of

relatively easy frees to level the game. Final score Dicksboro 1-1 Paulstown 0-3.

In Black and Amber

Collette Dormer and Roseanne Brennan were members of Kilkenny U-14 team that won the Leinster Championship. Rita Coady was a member of the U-16 team.

Thanks for All the Work

During the year many members worked hard bag packing to help them buy new tracksuits.

A sincere word of thanks to all the coaches: Stephen Dormer, Edel Mullins, Aisling Kealy, Catriona Bambrick and Leoni Staunton.



Paulstown-Goresbridge U-14 County Finalists Roinn C

Back: Mary Buggy, Fiona Brennan, Leanne Corcoran, Collette Dormer, Carmel Lennon, Clare Fitzpatrick, Nichola Heffernan, Roseanne Brennan.

Front: Emma Staunton, Mary Prendergast, Laura Bambrick, Michelle Brennan, Emma Flavin, Siobhan Murphy, Orla Kealy.



Paulstown-Goresbridge U-18 Camogie County Finalists Roinn C.

Back: Jim Flavin, Chairman, Sheila Kelly, Aoife Murphy, Lisa Brennan, Collette Dormer, Rita Coady, Aoife Drennan, Leonie Staunton, Catriona Bambrick, Aisling Kealy, Edel Mullins, Sarah Brophy, Stephen Dormer, Trainer.

Front: Orla Kealy, Sara Brennan, Alison Staunton, Nichola Heffernan, Julia Purcell, Roseanne Brennan, Mary Brennan, Lee-Ann Corcoran.



Camogie Reports

St Anne's

Senior Status for Saints

The highlight of 2003 was winning the Intermediate championship and moving the club up the final step to senior. When the girls lost the 2002 championship, they vowed that they would win this years championship. They went through the league part of the championship in style with convincing wins over ST. Martins, James Stephens, Young Irelands, Dicksboro, Rower Inistioge and Thomastown. This left them heading of the group and a date with Dicksboro in the semi-final.

This was a very hard fought match with both teams going all out for the win and a place in the final. The final score was St. Anne's 4-10, Dicksboro 3-1. The final was played in Nolan Park. St. Anne's got off to a good start with points by Sinead Kavanagh and Tara Warren but St. Martins bounced back with a very fine goal to take the lead. It was very short lived however, with Eimear Power scoring 2 goals and Catherine Doherty 5 points to leave the score at half time, St. Anne's 2-7, St. Martins 1-1

Second half goals by Clare Delaney, Orla Hughes, Edel Maher and Eimear Power sealed the victory 6-10 to 2-4. The U-21s went out in the first round

against St. Lachtains. The U-18s suffered the same fate at the hands of James Stephens. The U-16 girls battled hard but were not able to make any impression on the championship.

U-14s

Our U-14 team this year had a very successful run. they reached the final after topping their group with wins over Mooncoin, Lisdowney, Young Irelands and Ballyragget. In the semi-final they met a young Gowran team. Our girls proved too strong on the day and eventually won the match very convincingly. Lisdowney were our opponents in the final and the eventual winners of the competition. Our girls fought to the end, but a goal from Marie Dargen was to be their downfall. However this St. Anne's team is very young and many of them will be underage again next year.

U-12s

The young St. Anne's girls began this competition very well with a draw and a win over Lisdowney and St. Lachtains respectively. However O' Loughlins, St. Brigids and Clara proved too strong. There is a lot of interest at this age

group, both from the girls and parents alike, with big turn outs at training every weekend.

U-10 Blitz

This is a day long competition, held in Thomastown, for the youngest members of every club. The girls played and won 6 matches against Clara, Dicksboro, James Stephens, Piltown and Carrickshock in the final. At the end of the day, the delighted St. Anne's girls received their medals and refreshments from Liam Dunne. These young girls are the future of the club and the future looks bright.

Pan Celtic

The Intermediate team entered the Senior B in the Pan Celtic. They won all their matches in Thomastown to reach the final. It was a Cork/Kilkenny final with St. Anne's coming out on top, scoring 6-9 to ensure a Kilkenny victory.

Thanks for the Help

The club would like to thank every one who helped out during the year especially our sponsors, The Johnstown Inn and Barry's Bar.



ST. ANNES - COUNTY U-14 FINALISTS

Back: M. Glendon (trainer), M. Walsh, N. Tobin, M. Doyle, R. McCormack, M. Hughes, F. Browne, S. Gorman, M. Phelan, A. Maher, S. Nolan, C. Ryan, M. Hughes, MA. Vaughan, C. McCormack. **Middle:** N. Ryan, R. Brennan, N. Norton. **Front:** B. Kirwin, D. Nolan, P. Quinlan, A. Vauzer, H. Tobin, M. Hughes, H. Ryan, C. Brennan, F. Morrissey, O. Curran, L. Norton, S. Molloy, N. Glendon, J. Barton.



Camogie Reports

St Lachtain's

A Memorable Year

2003 was another successful year for St.Lachtains Camogie Club, with our senior team winning the Pan Celtic Competition, the Senior County Final and Leinster Club title. Our U-16 team had success also in winning the Roinn A County Final. Our U-12 team competed in the competition but success was not to be with us this year.

Our U-14 team were the first team to compete in the 2003 championship. Their first competition was the Feile na nGael where they were defeated by Mullinavat by a single point in the quarter-final after a replay.

The next competition was the U-14 Roinn A Championship where the girls reached the County Final against the same Mullinavat Feile team that had earlier in the year defeated them by a point in the Feile Competition. Yet again success went to Mullinavat.

Winning Ways for U-16s

Our U-16 team played some outstanding camogie during the course of the championship and reached the county final against our southern rival Mullinavat yet again. The first half was a close encounter with only a few points between the teams at half time. In the second half our team turned on the style and gave an exhibition of camogie, with the result favouring the Freshford girls this time. A delighted Marie Anderson accepted the cup on behalf of the victorious Freshford team.

Our U-18 team did not reach the final this year but there is always next year.

Junior Championship

For the first time in a number of years we entered a team in the Junior Championship and it was wonderful to qualify for the Junior County Final against our neighbours the Emeralds. On the night Emeralds played better camogie and came out on top. The consoling factor for the St. Lachtains team is that there is promise for the future as the majority of our team is still U-16.

Great Year for the Seniors

Our senior team began their campaign with the Pan Celtic competition, which was being hosted by Kilkenny for the second successive year. After three preliminary games along with a semi-final on the Saturday our senior team qualified for the Pan Celtic Final against the 2003 Tipperary champions Drom and Inch. This turned out to be the first win for the seniors of the season.

County Title

Next it was on to the local county Senior Club Championship with St.Lachtains qualifying for the semi-final stage by topping the table in the league section. In the semi-final we took care of the Shamrocks and a crack at our near neighbours Lisdowney in the County Final with victory coming our way, our fifth senior county final out of the last six.

Provincial Campaign

Next our senior team were in the Leinster Club Championship, with a home semi-final game against Dublin Champions Erins Isle, with victory once

again going to St. Lachtains.

The following week we faced a Leinster Final against the Wexford Champions Oulart the Ballagh in Wexford. On the day we were lucky to escape with a draw, facing a replay on home soil a week later and the players finished the job they had started the previous week. A Leinster final title for St. Lachtains.

All Ireland Semi-final

For the All-Ireland Club semi-final where we had home venue against the Munster Club Champions Grannagh-Ballingarry of Limerick and on the day lady luck was not on our side with victory going to the Munster Champions. The club would like to thank the players for their effort out in during the year and that hopefully that next year they will be back stronger and better than ever.

Many Thanks

The club would like to thank the trainers and selectors of the different teams for all their effort and commitment, Tommy Butler for videoing matches, T. Campion for photographs, the officers and committee of the club. We would also like to thank the GAA club for all their help throughout the year. We would also like to congratulate all those from the club who played on the various county teams and also those who represented us on the various schools and college teams that were successful.

Finally thanks to all our supporters and helpers during the year and that 2004 will be another successful year for St. Lachtains Camogie.

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Camogie Reports

St Martin's



ST MARTIN'S U18 TEAM 2003

Back: Georgina Kelly, Rosie Maher, Miriam O'Keefe, Elfish Ryan, Clodagh Holohan, Marie Butler, Miriam Maher, Ann-Marie Walsh, Aoife Dunne, Claire Haughney, Michelle Walsh, Aishling Holohan, Sinead Murphy, Eilish Cantwell, Michelle Mulhall,
Front: Aoife Dwyer, Kelly Roche, Hannah Maher, Teresa Shore, Sharon Shore, Marie Therese O'Neill, Mary Love (Capt), Grainne Daly, Edwina Keane, Martina Maher, Sarah Shore.

Officers: Chairperson: Lillian Holohan
Secretary: Annette Purcell
Treasurer: Breda Roche

St.Martin's Camogie Club had a very successful year .A team was entered in every grade and the semi-final or final was reached in each grade.

U-16

Our u-16 team had a great year, having won none of their matches last year they started 2003 with a win over Carrickshock.They went on to beat Lisdowney, Windgap and got a walkover from St.Annes, lost to Paulstown and St.Brigid's and reached a semi-final against Windgap.They were unlucky to have been beaten by a point in injury time. Thanks to Thomas Kinsella, Conor Kinsella and Stephan Murphy for training this team.

U-16 Panel: Brenda Buggy, Eilish Ryan, Sarah Shore, Claire Haughney, Marie Therese O'Neill, Ann-Marie Walsh, Sharon Shore Capt., Eilish Cantwell, Hannah Maher, Miriam Maher, Aideen Dwyer, Edwina Keane, Marie Butler, Michelle Mulhall, Aoife Dunne, Michelle O'Keefe, Deirdre Haughney, Joann Kelly, Sinead Murphy, LeAnn Taylor, Rosie Maher, Marion Murphy, Clodagh Holohan.

U-18

Our u-18 team were in a new grade this year having won the Roinn B championship last year. They have the distinction of being the first Roinn A camogie team in the parish.

Their first match was a quarterfinal match against St.Lachain's in Coon .As it was the first year to play at this level all the opposing teams were an unknown entity and Freshford was one such team. However after a shaky start the Martin's girls were victorious. They went on to beat Shamrocks in the semi-final and were now in their first Roinn A final where they would meet Mullinavat. Unfortunately, on a very historic day for the parish, we lost by three points.

U-21

This was our first year to enter U-21 and it was very successful. We beat Moincoin, got a walkover from Rower-Inistoige to reach a semi-final. Clara was our semi-final opponent and we beat them to compete in our first u-21 final .We travelled to Bennettsbridge to meet Windgap in the final and on this occasion we were victorious.

U-21 Panel: Hannah Maher, Sharon Shore, Teresa Shore, Sarah Shore, Miriam Maher Geraldine Roche, Eimear Maher Capt., Martina Maher, Georgina Kelly, Aideen Dwyer, Collette Coogan,

Mary Love, Grainne Daly, Miriam O'Keefe, Kelly Roche, Marie Butler, Edwina Keane, Rosie Maher, Michelle O'Keefe, Marie Therese O'Neill, Eilish Ryan, Ann Marie Walsh

Intermediate

Our Intermediates had another successful year. They competed in the intermediate final against St.Anne's and although they were beaten this was a great achievement in their second year in the intermediate grade. Many thanks and congratulations to Mikey Maher and Bobby Shore who train our u-18, u-21 and intermediate teams on a very successful year. Congratulations to our u-14 World Handball Champion Marie Therese O'Neill who plays on three of our teams. Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters for all their help and encouragement through the year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2004. Intermediate Panel: Miriam Maher, Colette Coogan, Eimear Maher, Kelly Roche, Mary Love, Sarah Shore, Cathy Gibbons, Clodagh Kinsella, Breda Roche, Noelle Curran, Martina Maher, Sharon Shore, Joan Maher, Aideen Dwyer, Hannah Maher, Niamh Maher, Georgina Kelly, Miriam O'Keefe, Siobhan Keegan Capt., Ethel O'Flynn, Grainne Daly, Geraldine Roche, Teresa Shore, Marie Purcell.



Camogie Reports

Thomastown

Officers for 2003

Chairperson: Caroline Maddock

Treasurer: Olive Lannon

Secretary: Trish Dempsey

Ass Treasurer: Liz Dempsey

Team Management:

Intermediate – Paul Dempsey

U-16 – Trish Dempsey & Olive Lannon

U-14 & U-12 – Helen Farrell and

Michelle Walsh

This year the future of camogie in Thomastown was hugely enhanced. Firstly by the success of our primary school team who won the Roinn A County Final for the first time. The school now has the distinction of winning all divisions from Roinn D to Roinn A. Well done to Breda O'Shea and Patricia Moran for the huge amount of work they do for camogie in the primary school.

Our U-13 girls participated in the Community Games. Firstly they won the county final of the competition and then went on to win into the Leinster side of the Leinster title. They then had the privilege of going to Mosney not only to represent Kilkenny but also Leinster. The girls did themselves and the parish proud and were very unlucky to lose the All Ireland Final by just one point. Well done to all the girls for all their work throughout the year.

In June our U-14 team bridged a 25-year gap when they beat Paulstown in the B final to bring the second county title of the year to the town. The girls put in a great effort all year and deserved their victory.

In September our U-16 team topped the year off with the clubs 4th county title of the year when they over came a strong Piltown side to claim the Roinn C Title for the first time in 24 years. Well done to all concerned.

The U-12 team, who won all their league matches, was very unlucky to lose the county semi final to the eventual winners O' Loughlin Gaels. Well done to all the girls.

The club also fielded a team in the intermediate grade but were unlucky not to make the knockout stages of the championship.

The club came second in the Club of the Year Awards.



U-14 ROINN B COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2003

BACK: Helen Farrell (Trainer), Niamh Whelan, Sinead Brennan, Chloe Corrway, Katie O' Hara, Amy Maher, Tara O' Hanlon, Mary Treacy, Marian Ryan, Sarah Cody, Kate McDonald, Michelle Corrway (Trainer).

FRONT: Michelle Farrell, Grace Brennan, Anna Farrell, Nicole Corrway, Alice Heafey, Aine Manning, Roisin Dunphy, Lisa Carey.



U-16 ROINN C COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2003

BACK: Olive Lannon (Trainer), Mary Treacy, Chloe Corrway, Tara O' Hanlon, Grainne Stapleton, Sinead O'Meara, Jenny Reddy, Caroline Donnelly, Aisling Dempsey, Jenny Lannon, Sally Teehan, Katie O' Hara, Trish Dempsey (Trainer).

FRONT: Sarah Dunphy, Sinead Brennan, Sarah Walsh, Alice Heafey, Mag Laherty (Captain), Kate McDonald, Grace Brennan, Julie Reddy, Amy Maher. *Missing from Photo: Sonia Bove*



U-13 COMMUNITY GAMES COUNTY AND LEINSTER CHAMPIONS AND ALL IRELAND FINALISTS

BACK L TO R: Assumpta Manning, Roisin Dunphy, Lisa Carey, Grace Clarke, Sarah Walsh, Amy Maher, Niamh Whelan, Marian Ryan, Alice Heafey, Sarah Cody, Darina O Connor.

FRONT L TO R: Aine Manning, Anna Farrell, Chloe Corrway, Michelle Corrway (Trainer), Grace Brennan, Kate McDonald, Helen Farrell (Trainer).



Camogie Reports

Tullogher



Tullogher Camogie Primary School - Roinn B Finalists 2003

Back: S. Hennessy, E. Walsh, C. Larkin, D. O'Shea, S. Daniels, A. O'Neill, J. Phelan, E. O'Hanlon, M. Ryan.
Third Row: A. Phelan, AM Walsh, M. Lyng, L. Murphy, S. Cullinane, R. Young, A. Bennett, K. Morrissey, S. Henry, E. Kennedy.
Second Row: M. Barron, MC Walsh, S. Phelan, L. McGrath, C. Young, K. Quigley, A. Joyce, S. Kelly, C. Lewis.
Front: AM Malone, C. Barron, E. Richardson, S. Kielthy, L. Ryan, S. Dollard, M. Henry, M. Walsh.

An Eventful Year

Tullogher camogie club fielded in all grades from U-12 to Senior in 2003. For the second year running, the senior team lost to St. Brigids, this time at the quarter-final stage. Our U-21s and U-18s both reached the semi-final stages of the championship. The U-16 and U-14 teams did well too but failed to reach the knock out stages. The U-12s had a good year.

Great Primary Performance

Our Primary school team kept the flag flying for camogie in our parish. They improved with each match but were unlucky to go down to a much stronger St. John of God team in the Roinn B county final. Well done to Kelly Ann Cotterell and Siobhan Murphy who won Leinster Minor medals with Kilkenny.

Caitriona Ryan, Bridget Brennan, Marie Ryan and Kelly Ann Cotterell were on the county senior camogie panel.

Most Grateful

Thanks to all the trainers, our sponsor Paddy Ryan and Tullogher-Rosbercon GAA Club for use of their facilities. Thanks to all who helped out and supported us during the year.

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Camogie Reports

Windgap

2003 was a very successful year for Windgap Camogie Club. The club won the inaugural "Club of the Year" title in the awards scheme promoted by Kilkenny Camogie Board. Formed in December 1994, the club attributes its success to the great effort and determination by all involved over the years, while at all times ensuring a fun approach to the game. As Windgap is a very small parish, the club depends on players and support from neighboring parishes, in particular, Dunnamaggin.

All Levels

2003 was the first year Windgap Camogie Club fielded teams at all levels from u8 to adult. The u8s and u10s competed in the County Board Blitzes in Thomastown. The u12s were beaten by one point in the County Semi-Final by St Brigids. The u14s competed in Roinn A for the first time. The u16s are the Roinn B County Champions, beating a strong Paulstown. The u18s were beaten by Lisdowney in the Roinn B Semi-Final. The u21s reached the Roinn B County Final, losing out to St Martins. At adult level we competed at Junior Grade for the first time – fielding a majority of teenage players.

Black and Amber

Congratulations to Matt Doran (Chairman) who was part of the Kilkenny u16 Management team who were beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland Semi Final. Elaine O Shea, Ann Marie and Sarah McCarthy represented the club on the team. Phena Heffernan did the club



Windgap Under 16 County Champions.

Back: Aine Delaney, Katie Kirwan, Brigid Cahill, Aoife Ryan, Lisa Phelan, Elaine O Shea, Shauna Fennelly, Annette O Shea, Claire Moore, Cait Mackey, Anita Meagher, Sarah McCarthy.

Front: Julie Walsh, Aimee Doran, Claire Comerford, Caroline McCarthy, Mandy Egan, Doireann Mackey, Libby Moore, Eleanor Barry, Alison Walsh, Ann Marie Phelan, Suzie Phelan.

proud on u18, Junior and Senior teams.

Coaching

The club is very lucky to have eight members involved in team coaching, both male and female. All new coaches attended the Kilkenny GAA Coaching Course. Training takes place three times a week from March to October. Windgap Camogie Club must acknowledge the co-operation of Windgap GAA club at all times during the year.

Thank You

Thank you to all who supported our fundraising during the year, bag packing,

cabaret, quiz night and match forecasts. We greatly appreciate the generous sponsorship we received from Pius and Sheila Phelan, Kilford Hotel, Johns Street, Kilkenny. Finally the club would like to thank each of our players for their efforts during the year and also the parents who shuttled the girls to and fro.

In a small and rural parish where social activities are minimal, the Camogie Club has played a pivotal role in the development of social and interpersonal skills for the girls.



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TEXACO



Camogie Reports

Young Irelands



Young Irelands Under 14 Camogie Team

Back: Elaine O'Neill, Emma Comerford, Sarah Delehaunty, Amy O'Neill, Andrea McEvoy, Michael Dunne (Trainer), Elizabeth Byrne, Sheila Nolan, Niamh Quinlan, Katie Dunne, Julie Harding, Aisling Carey, Laura Fennelly, Alice Harding.

Front: Paula Farrell, Ann Drea, Aisling Byrne, Eibhlin Fogarty, Kay Drea, Orlaith Byrne, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Kelly Treacy, Mairead Fogarty, Aisling Henessy.

Officers:

- Chairperson:** Joan Treacy
- Vice Chairperson:** Ellen Horgan
- Secretary:** Mary Holden
- Treasurer:** Suzanne Kennedy

This year saw a number of new volunteers to help out at under age level. The club competed at under 8, 9, 10, 12, under 14 and Primary School levels with basically the same core players involved in all teams throughout the season. There is a great group of dedicated girls playing camogie in the parish at the moment and hopefully their commitment and dedication will continue and begin to bear fruit. Thanks to Martina Byrne, Mary McEvoy, Betty Byrne, Helen Fogarty, Nicola Farrell, Sarah Quinlan, Michael Dunne and Michael Rudkins for their great work during the year. With some new young blood coming on stream our Intermediate panel went from strength to strength over the season. The year began with the club participating in the Pan Celtic competition and coming away feeling that the early sea-

son training was beginning to pay dividends as they recorded their first win of the year. Two great victories were recorded over James Stephens and Thomastown in the championship and these gave the girls great heart as the season progressed. The club decided to finish off the year by entering the Butlerstown 7 a side tournament in Waterford.

A marvellous day was had by all and the team put in terrific performances to come unbeaten out of their group and qualify for the semifinals. Here they were only narrowly beaten by Burgess, Tipperary after a great game. This day out will hopefully be the foundation the team will



The club are very grateful to Three Rivers Oil for their sponsorship of a new set of jerseys and skirts for our juvenile teams. Pictured here receiving the jerseys are : Joan Treacy (Chairperson) Mary Holden (Secretary), Matt Byrne (Three Rivers Oil), Betty Byrne (Juvenile Section), Julie and Alice Harding (players).

continue to build on as they start next season. Many thanks to Patrick Treacy for the great training he gave the team over the year and to his fellow selectors Catherine Kennedy and Mary Holden.

Well Done, Andy & Co!



John Joe Cullen



(Trading as William Sullivan)

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ROINN "A" FINAL

Thomastown 2-5 Clara 1-3

This Roinn A Final was a fine game. It brought together last year's runners-up, Thomastown and Clara who brought a young but talented side to Nowlan Park. It was Clara who made the early running and were first on the scoreboard when midfielder and captain, Ruth Bergin pointed for them. Thomastown were taking time to settle but Kate McDonald soon had them on level terms with a well-struck thirty. The same player was becoming more and more prominent as Thomastown upped the tempo and laid siege to the Clara goal. The Clara defence was very good however and they went ahead again when Niamh Byrne doubled on a ball and sent it all the way over the bar. Thomastown then hit a purple patch when Anna Farrell pointed for them and this was quickly followed by an Aine Manning goal. Kate McDonald finished the first half scoring with a point from a long-distance free.

Thomastown 1-3 Clara 0-2
Thomastown made a good start to the second half when Anna Farrell pointed for them. She had an excellent game for the southern team. Catherine Nolan was equally good in the Clara defence and she repelled many of the Thomastown attacks with fine clearances. The next score fell to Clara when their most prominent player, Ruth Bergin scored a fine point. Clara needed a goal but it was Thomastown who got one when following a melee, the ball was scrambled over the line. Clara did not lie down and struck back immediately with a good goal from Niamh Byrne. Thomastown held their nerve, however, and Anna Farrell finished the scoring with a good point. Thomastown were good and deserving winners but Clara made them fight all the way and may well be back in Nowlan Park in twelve months' time.

Thomastown: A Reddy, S Walsh, G Clarke K McDonald, R Dunphy, A Manning, L Carey, S Stapleton, C Maher, A Farrell, M Farrell, E Ryan. **Subs:** S Butler, V Tennyson, J Harrison-Daly, J Brannigan, A Donnelly, C Brennan, A Lanning, N Corray, R Kelly.

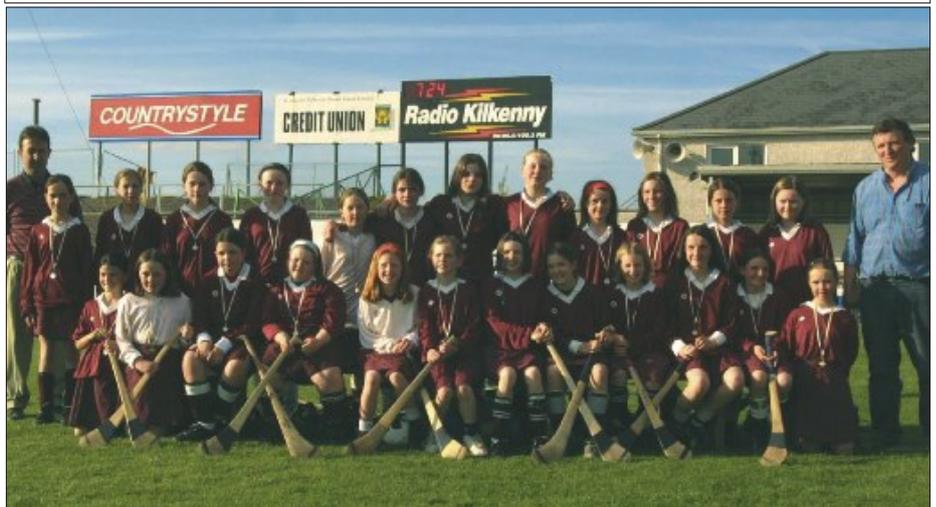
Clara: O Quinlan, E Kirwan, C Nolan, L Kehoe, J Gleeson, N Byrne, R Bergin, C Murphy, M Rafter, P Carrigan, M Quigley, A Murphy. **Subs:** C Murphy, O Langton, E O'Driscoll, B Murphy, E Brennan, S Heffernan, M Carroll, C D'Arcy, E Carroll, M Bergin, A Creane, E Evans.



THOMASTOWN - ROINN A SCHOOLS CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2002

Back: Edel Ryan, Sarah Walsh, Vicky Tennyson, Kate McDonald, Anna Farrell, Joanne Kelly, Jodi Harrison-Daly, Caoimhe Brennan, SinÉad Butler, Anne Donnelly

Front: Jenny Brannigan, Sinéad Stapleton, Nicole Corway, Lisa Carey, Annette Reddy, Caroline Maher (Capt), Aine Manning, RÚisín Dunphy, Meighan Farrell, Aine Lannon, Grace Clarke



CLARA ROINN A CAMOGIE RUNNERS - UP

Back: Richard Mulrooney (Principal), Catherine Murphy, Claire Murphy, Eadaoin Kirwan, Patricia Carrigan, Orla Quinlan, Jessica Gleeson, Ruth Bergin, Catherine Nolan, Niamh Byrne, Olive Langton, Maeve Quigley, Michelle Bergin, John Bolger (Coach).

Front: Brid Murphy, Michelle Carroll, Ellen O'Driscoll, Sarah Heffernan, Aisling Curtis, Cora D'Arcy, Amy Creane, Elaine Evans, Aoife Murphy, Margaret Rafter, Edel Carroll, Laura Kehoe.

ROINN "B" FINAL

St John of God 3-3 Tullogher 0-0

St John of God from the city and Tullogher from the deep south met in the Roinn B Final. The city girls had won Roinn C the previous year while Tullogher were contesting their first final in a number of years. St John of God elected to play with the wind and they applied the early pressure. Denise Gaule opened the scoring for them when she pointed. St John of God continued to put pressure on the Tullogher defence but Aisling O'Neill, Jennifer Phelan, Mairead Ryan and Roisin Young were all strong backs for Tullogher and repulsed most attacks. Denise Gaule was in excellent form for the city side and she

finally got through for a well-taken goal. Shortly before half-time, Caroline Walton scored a second to put St John of God in a strong position going in for the break.

St John of God 2-1, Tullogher 0-0

Tullogher began the new half in determined fashion and put a lot of pressure on their opponents' goal. They could not get through for the all-important goal however and it fell to Kate Magner to get the next score when she goaled for John of God. Denise Gaule pointed after that and the same player finished the scoring when she converted a thirty. Tullogher had given it their all and can be proud of their performance in the final. St John of God were very worthy winners and can look forward to competing in the top flight next season.



ST JOHN OF GOD ROINN C CHAMPIONS 2002

Back: Máiréad Walsh; Lisa Claffey; Rebecca Cleere; Christine Campion; Yasmin Grace; Dervla Murphy; Ciara Everard; Alice Norwood; Yvonne Brennan; Sarah Moynihan.

Front: Aoife Corcoran; Serina Fogarty; Megan Paybody; Catherine Nyhan; Kate Magner; Denise Gaule; Caroline Walton; Deirdre Martin; Eleanor Lacey; Amy Mulholland.

Flag-bearers: Paul Martin, Joan Gaule Coach: Kathleen Hogan



PILTOWN - ROINN C CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Eamonn McGowan (Trainer), Aisling Coody, Laura Nugent, Jane O'Sullivan, Eimear Walsh, Fiona Malone (Capt), Sinead Long, Caitlin O'Reilly, Georgina Culleton, Sarah Healy, Jim Malone (Trainer), Miriam Reid (Trainer)

Front: Eileen Malone (Trainer), Karen Duggan, Nicole Grace, Katie Power, Ruth Farrell, Emma Dunne, Laura Scahill, Aisling O'Brien, Amy McGowan.



COON/MUCKALEE - ROINN C FINALISTS 2002

Back: Bernie Butler, Michelle O'Keefe, Ann Marie Walsh, Marie Butler, Brenda Buggy, Nicola Hennessy, Orlaith Butler, Bernadette Cantwell, Bernie Coonan .

Middle: Carmel Hennessy, Annette Morrissey, Joanne Kelly, Edwina Keane, Michelle Mulhall, Caitriona Teehan, Denise Comerford, Margaret Tynan.

Front: Lucy Doyle, Edel Coonan, Ciara Butler, Marian Morrissey.

St John of God: L Claffey, D Murphy, D Martin, C Campion, E Lacey, S Moynihan, D Gaule, C Everard, K, Magner, R, Cleere, M Walsh, C Walton. *Subs:* Y Grace, Y Brennan, A Norwood, C Nyhan, A Corcoran, A Mulholland, S Fogarty, M Paybody.

Tullagher: A Phelan, A O'Neill, J Phelan, M Ryan, R, Young, D Kennedy-Walsh, S Hennessy, S Cullinane, M Barron, S Daniels, S Henry, C Larkin *Subs:* D O'Shea, A O'Neill, A Bennett, E Kennedy, L McGrath, E O'Hanlon, E Walsh, L Murphy, AM Walsh, M Lyng, S Kelly, C Lewis, K Quigley, C Young, A Joyce, S Phelan, M Walsh, C Barron.

ROINN "C" FINAL

Piltown: 3-4, Muckalee: 3-1

This was an excellent game between two evenly-matched sides that had spectators on their feet from beginning to end. There was a strong wind blowing in Nowlan Park and Muckalee played with the elements in the first half. Exchanges were very even and both sides found scores hard to come by. It was Muckalee's Edwina Keane who broke the deadlock when she goaled following a great run. They followed this up with a second goal when Johanne Kelly's thirty went all the way to the net. Georgina Culleton and Karen Duggan were playing very well for Piltown and did all they could to stem the Muckalee tide. Edwina Keane got through for her second goal and as half-time approached, Piltown were badly in need of a score. It did come when the ball was scrambled over the line following a great run by Katie Power.

Muckalee: 3-0 Piltown: 1-0

Muckalee moved Edwina Keane into goal for the new half. Piltown applied the early pressure but found it very hard to break down the Muckalee defence in which Ann-Marie Walsh was excellent. Piltown were in hard luck not to score on a number of occasions but Karen Duggan eventually got through to score a fine goal. They followed this up with a Georgina Culleton point. Muckalee were not yet ready to throw in the towel and they replied with a good point from Michelle Mulhall. Karen Duggan popped up with another point for Piltown and the game was now there for the taking. Katie Power took on the Muckalee defence at every opportunity and she scored a goal and two points in the closing stages to cap an all-round excellent performance. Piltown had won an absorbing game but Muckalee had contributed so much to an excellent final.

Piltown: F Malone, S Long, S Healy, G Culleton, A McGowan, R Farrell, K Duggan, C O'Reilly, N Grace, K Power, E Dunne, A O'Brien. *Subs:* A Coody, E Walsh, J O'Sullivan, L Nugent, L Scahill.

Muckalee: B Buggy, M Stapleton, N Hennessy, A Morrissey, A M Walsh, J Kelly, M O'Keefe, O Butler, M Mulhall, C Teehan, E Keane, D Comerford. *Subs:* B Cantwell, F Morrissey.

ROINN D FINAL

St John`s 3-0 , Bennettsbridge 0-1

This clash brought together St John`s from the city and Bennettsbridge who were making their first appearance in a final for many years. St John`s had appeared in last year`s final when they went under to Piltown.

Bennettsbridge started well and defended stoutly. Caoimhe Shiel and Vivienne Holmes were excellent backs and broke up most of the St John`s attacks. Emer Lyons eventually got the city side on the scoreboard with a well-taken goal. Frances O`Sullivan was coming more into the game for John`s but Bennettsbridge hit back with a fine point from a thirty by captain, Vivienne Holmes. Full-forward, Annie Dunne had been thwarted on a number of occasions but she finally got through for a good goal to stretch the St John`s lead. The same player again found the net just before half-time.

St John`s 3-0 , Bennettsbridge 0-1

Bennettsbridge were still in the game and they came out in determined mood for the second half. It was St John`s however who got the first score of the half when Frances O`Sullivan goaled. This was followed by a Sarah Burke point and another Annie Dunne goal. Frances O`Sullivan scored her second goal and Sarah Burke, who was excellent for John`s, scored one from way out the field. The city side scored two more goals in the dying minutes to seal victory. This was an excellent win for St John`s who made up for the disappointment of losing last year`s corresponding game. Well done to Bennettsbridge who came to Nowlan Park with a young team and laid down a marker for the future.



ST JOHNS - ROINN D CHAMPIONS 2003

Back : Mary Claire Walsh, Norma Hayden, Laura O'Neill, Sarah Morrissey, Mairead Farrell, Eimear Lyons, Annie Dunne, Frances O'Sullivan, Tammy Murray, Briona O'Neill, Ms. Dermody (Coach)
Front: Stacey Conroy, Kelly O'Sullivan, Kelly McGuinness, Emma Conroy, Danielle Malone, Megan Shortis, Elizabeth Kavanagh (Capt.), Sarah Burke, Kayleigh Morrissey, Angela Flynn.



BENNETTSBRIDGE - ROINN D FINALISTS 2003

Back : Caoimhe Shiels, Laura Dooley, Jessica Cleere, Ciara Anderson, Katie Wemyss, Cathy Kenny, Vivienne Holmes(Capt), Lisa Hynes, Caroline Booth, Jessie Molloy
Front: Bronagh Shiels, Lucy Dooley, Hazel Bolger, Nicola Foley, Sarah Dooley, Orla Morrissey, Rachel Hogan, Ailbhe Dollard
 MAscots: Michel Shiels, Rory Cleere, Enda Morrissey

St John`s : E Conroy, S Morrissey, M Shortis, E Kavanagh, B O`Neill, D Malone, L O`Neill, S Burke, F O`Sullivan, E Lyons, K McGuinness, A Dunne. **Subs:** K Morrissey, M C Walsh, M Farrell, K A O`Sullivan, S Conroy, N Hayden, A Flynn.

Bennettsbridge: S Dooley, C Kenny, L Hynes, C Shiel, L Dooley, L Dooley, V Holmes, O Morrissey, B Shiel, J Cleere, K Wemyss, J Molloy. **Subs:** R Hogan, C Booth, C Anderson, H Bolger, N Foley, A Dollard.

LEINSTER SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

Preliminary Round

Group A

Carlow v Laois

Winners play Meath

Group B

Westmeath v Wicklow

Winners play Kildare

Quarter-Finals

QF 1 - Winners Group A v Offaly

QF 2 - Winners Group B v Dublin

Semi-Finals

Winners QF 1 v Winners QF 2

Wexford v Kilkenny



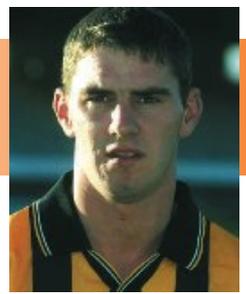
Le gach dea-mh in  
Chomhairle Laighin

C. L. G.

Miche l   Dubhshl ine
Run 

John Hoyne - WYSIWYG!

By Barrie Henriques



John Hoyne is the kind of player that many Managers dream about. He has had a huge inbred love of hurling, and he has a tremendous pride in his Parish, and his native County. As a leader of the Graig Ballycallan team over the past number of years, he is the one that is always out in front. He is the won that leads by example. He is the one that is the first man into the hot kitchen. Sometimes his determination gets a little too enthusiastic, and he pays a high price for his transgression, but he is a man without malice, who leaves the game inside the white lime marks once the referee calls a halt. John – or as his friends call him, Dougal – stands well over the six-foot mark in height even without his socks on. I have always found him courteous, pleasant, and well-mannered whenever I had occasion to ask for a comment on a given scenario. Like his hurling, John delivers always via route one. What you see is what you get from big John, warts and all. For a goodly number of years, John lived in the shadow of his brother, Micheál, the real "talking hurler" of Kilkenny from when he was under 14 years of age. At the time, John was a bit of an afterthought whenever hurling people in Kilkenny were discussing future prospects. Make no mistake about it; Micheál Hoyne was the finest young hurler in Ireland as he approached his late teens. But much of those opinions changed when it was discovered that the elegant Micheál had a serious spinal problem that seemed destined to end his so promising career. Thankfully, such a prognosis proved to be a little offside, as Micheál is hurling well with his club at present. But it is to the "big lad", that all the attention has been diverted for the past two years. Having first been tutored by the legendary Jim Neary in the Kilmanagh National School Academy, John travelled in the road to Kilkenny CBS Secondary School. His hurling education continued, winning Rice Cup and Leinster Colleges junior competitions. He won two Cumanna mBunscoileanna titles, one with Kilmanagh and one with Kilkenny. Winning the County Roinn A under 14 title, John progressed to the minor grade, and eventually pulled on the black and amber in 1996, when beating Dublin by 1-16 to 1-11. It was a particularly exciting time for Kilkenny under-age hurling, and the many minor and, under-16 players of the time were destined for greater prizes later in their developing process. Players like John Hoyne, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Aidan Cummins, and Henry Shefflin were still there when Hickey captained the under-21 team to All-Ireland glory against Galway on that never to be forgotten sunny afternoon in Tullamore in 1999. Unfortunately for the Graig man,

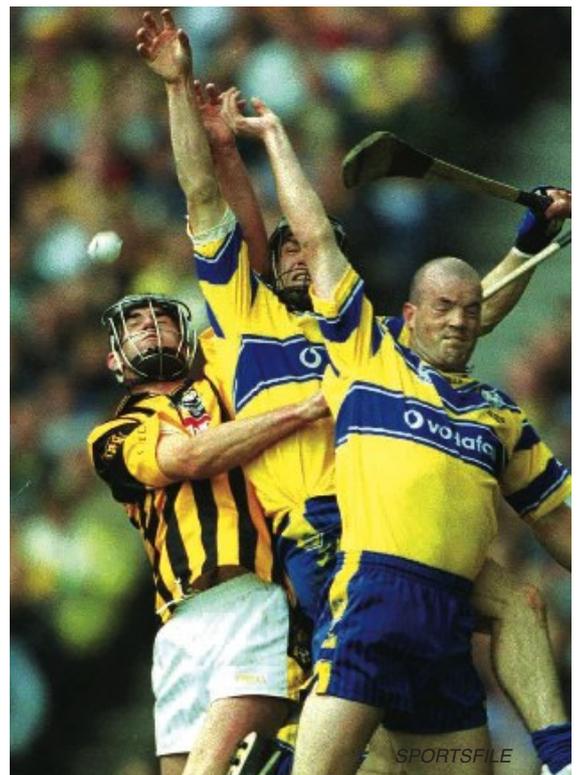
injury dogged him throughout the 1999 season, having made his senior debut under Manager, Kevin Fennelly against Dublin in 1998.

Like his younger brother - by one year only - John continued to be dogged during the early part of 2000. He did come on as a sub against Offaly in the Leinster final. He was to get a better look at them later, when facing them in the All Ireland final. Kilkenny won that by 5-15 to Offaly's 1-14. With his first senior All Ireland medal in his pocket going home to his hurling-mad home in

Dreelingstown, John was looking at the prospect of winning a second Kilkenny senior championship. His Graig team careered to the final, beating a disappointing O'Loughlins by 0-16 to 0-9. Another tilt at winning the O'Neill Cup was focussed upon, as early as the Tuesday night after winning the Tom Walsh cup. John Hoyne was central to the enthusiasm. "There were going to be no slip ups this time" bellowed the Graig centre forward, when training was resumed. The unfortunate Trim were "bedded down" in Nowlan Park in the opening game. Castletown followed suit at the same venue in the Leinster semi-final, and the O'Neill cup was won against the Kilkenny-powered UCD, again in Nowlan Park. The Hoyne presence was considerable throughout the march. Fast forward to the All Ireland semi final in Thurles against the Munster Champions, Sixmilebridge. It took two titanic games to put down the Munster men, but it was done.

Athenry were the opposition in the final. The less said about that game the better. If John Hoyne were to be born all over again, he couldn't expect a year to rival the one just gone. He played in games that were but figments of his young imagination while still pucking the ball around the field behind the school in Kilmanagh, under the watchful eye of Jim Neary. In his mind's eye he would always have played against Cork and Tipp. As the old Chinese proverb states, "same dream, different bed", and that seemed to summarise John Hoyne's year in 2003. Tipperary were robbed of the National League final, but John Hoyne didn't care. He had his second national League medal.

Better was to come. The Leinster final against Wexford was a non event, but he didn't care about the quality of that either. His philosophy, simply put, "I'd prefer to win a special junior county final than lose an All Ireland final" speaks



Against Ollie Baker in the 2002 Final

volumes about the man.

The All Ireland semi-final against Tipp promised so much, but yielded little above mediocrity, as Kilkenny, led by the Ballycallan man, hammered Tipp into submission.

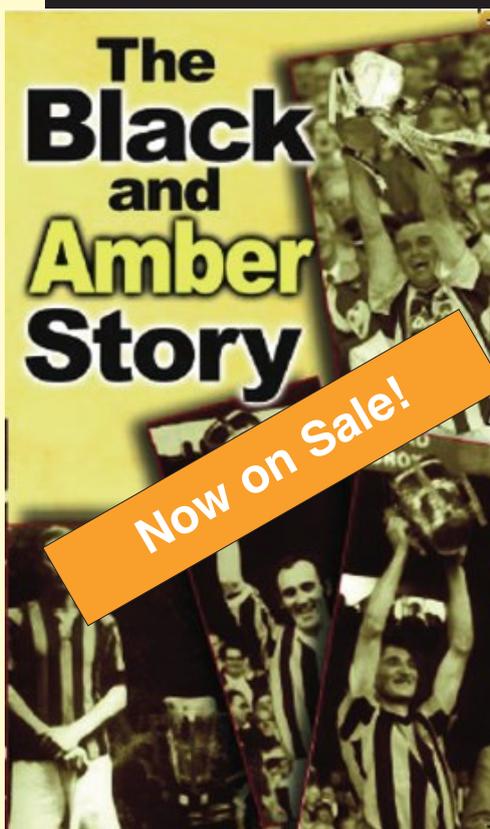
The Hoyne clan - father Kieran, a great hurling man, mother, Peggy and brothers, Micheál and Ciarán - were ecstatic, for many reasons, chiefly because of the blade-sharp rivalry that is hugely discernable between his Parish and the Tipp lads, just a hen's kick across the fields. The All Ireland win over Cork was close, nearly lost, but yet, John Hoyne was delighted to collect his third Celtic senior cross. He had travelled a long way in a very short time.

He has won every hurling award on the field of play that's worth winning. He has two Railway Cup medals, one Oireachtas medal in addition to those already mentioned, but despite all his success, John Hoyne is a simple lad, with simple requirements, and with simpler demands. Whatever goes down, John Hoyne will be there, with no fuss, no disquiet. He expresses his opinion, but if it's not heeded, he is not too perturbed. As I said at the outset, what you see is what you get with John Hoyne. No frills, no decoration, no cosmetics. Presently he is where he has always wanted to be, as Jimmy Cagney would say, "Top of the World, kid".

John Hoyne loves the view.



John Hoyne in action against Cork's Ronan Curran in the All-Ireland Final
SPORTSFILE



The Black and Amber Story

Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons

The Story of the Kilkenny senior hurling team from 1884 to 2003 on DVD and Video. The history of Kilkenny hurling contains all that is good in our national game. It is the story of great matches, shrewd victories, courageous comebacks and honourable defeats. Interwoven with the golden ages and the barren periods are the stories of great skill, great scores and individual performances. Covering 120 years, 'The Black and Amber Story' features more than 70 matches, with interviews from key Kilkenny players involved. A wider perspective is given through interviews with Ger Loughnane, Pat Fanning, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Cyril Farrell and many more.

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- Produced by Frank Burke
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Clara Sweep the Board!



Photo - Eoin Hennessy

CLARA - ROINN "A" and COUNTRY CUP HURLING CHAMPIONS 2002

Back: Richard Mulrooney (Coach), Billy Leydon, Padraig Walsh, David O' Connell, Padraig Meany, Kevin Barcoe, Gary Armitage, Ciaran Prendergast, Shane Cassin, Jack Langton, John Bolger (Coach)

Middle: Nicky Creane, Peter Nolan, Patrick Galvin, David Hope, Nicky Langton, Danny Brennan (Roinn A Capt.), Brian Prendergast, Sean Lennon, John Murphy,

Front: Conor O' Shea, Philip Ryan, Darragh Carrigan, James Dowling (Corn de Bhaldraithe Capt.), Matthew Byrne, Ben Nolan, Killian Phelan, Thomas Byrne.

June 21st, the longest day but for some the sweetest day....

This year, for the first time, all divisional finals were held on one day in Nowlan Park. When the powers that be sit in conference to discuss its merits, they will remember a day of atmosphere, passion, thrills and hurling to the highest standard. All members pulled their weight and their stamina throughout the day ensured a smooth running of events which began at 12 noon and ended at 7 pm. What's the bet "same again for 2004", le cúnamh Dé

Roinn A and signs for the future.....

When the Cumann na mBunscoil year is reviewed annually, the discerning eye is looking for a sign of things to come. Consider for a moment the years from 1984 to 1995, twelve Roinn A finals and guess what? – Kilmanagh contested each one, winning four. Their club Graigue /Ballycallan won the Junior Championship in 1985, so what's the connection. Well! all of you enlightened followers of our national game will appreciate the success of Graigue Ballycallan GAA in recent years having won senior county honours and contested an All-Ireland club final. Adrian Ronan, Eddie

Brennan John Hoyne, Johnny Butler, Micheál Hoyne are household names at inter club and county level. They all honed their skills in the school field under the careful eye of their teacher Jim Neary during this era. This is what Cumann na m Bunscoileanna is all about. Developing the skills of the young enthusiastic hurler for another day which has the potential to bring immense pride to the local parish. Each game, each championship sees progress amongst all the boys and girls who participate.

So what about 2003?.....

One team, one club, comes to mind, Clara, Roinn A champions for the second time in three years and Corn de Bhaldraithe winners of 2003. They were worthy champions, but they do so with very heavy hearts, having this year lost their greatest supporter Anthony Prendergast after a courageous battle with illness, who was the proud dad cheering on at every single game. Clara's win this year was the result of total dedication to hurling. In 2000 they were Roinn C champions. They elected to go straight to Roinn A to hurl in 2001, a brave decision not often taken. Their conviction was rewarded and they took

the title, adding Corn de Bhaldraithe for good measure. 2002 saw them take a brief interlude but back as strong as ever this year. Are we now looking at a school intent on dominating Roinn A hurling for the foreseeable? If so mark down some names, Lester Ryan, James Nolan, Sean O'Shea, Patrick Galvin....., the list is unlimited. Stare into your crystal ball and watch history repeat itself in the most satisfying of ways.

Let's not forget Kilkenny CBS, the beaten finalists, because they went to this final with an impeccable record. They were unbeaten all year. They beat Clara with six points to spare in round two of the league stage. But something hung in the air about that contest that willed a second chance out in Clara. The form guide of both teams practically guaranteed it. The result was the avenging of their earlier defeat but with an impressive thirteen point margin. Four un-stoppable goals was the outstanding feature of the game.

Roinn B and what a display of hurling.

Roinn B can sometimes be viewed as the bridesmaid of Roinn A but this year Urlingford and St. John's could claim equal status to the premier division as



URLINGFORD - ROINN "B" CHAMPIONS 2003

Photo - Eoin Hennessy

Back: Jamie Ryan, Kieran Bergin, Anthony Farrell, Thomas Webster, Pdraig Bergin, Dean McGarry, James Leahy, Mark Phelan, Shane Pollard, Marty Woods.
Middle: Henry O'Grady (Trainer), Stephen Tobin, Joseph Clohosey, Damian Fitzgerald, Jason Moore, Noel Flanagan, Edward Ryan, Shane Norton, Andrew Moriarty, Daniel O'Dwyer, Dermot Dunphy (Trainer).
Front: Enda Purcell, James Kavanagh, Brian Campion, Nicholas Walsh, P.J. Nolan, Gary Peters (Captain), Martin Lonergan, Shay Butler, Stephen Walsh.



BALLYRAGGET - ROINN "C" CHAMPIONS 2003

Photo - Eoin Hennessy

Back: Frank Brennan, Michael O' Conner, James Gannon, TJ Sherman, John Mooney, Brian Mulhall, Eddie Brophy, Thomas McGrath, Brendan Morrissey, James Morrissey, Bill Staunton, Pat O'Neill
Front: Brian Joseph Kilkenny, Stephen Staunton, Michael Brennan, Donal Brennan, Liam Lacey (capt), Paddy McEvoy, Geoffrey Brennan, Mark Staunton, Brendan Brophy.

they served up a standard of hurling not equalled for some time in Nowlan Park on finals day. Tullaroan came back from Roinn A while Gowran won promotion from Roinn C. St Canice's went south to compete and with six games each plus quarters and semis this is a long campaign. St Johns looked like the early favourite ,with creditable efforts from St Canice's, Thomastown and Mooncoin in the south, it was take your pick for a final placing. Urlingford were late starters due to INTO sevens duty and when up and running they laid down

a firm challenge to all. When St John's met Urlingford in the league only one point separated them with St John's the victorious one . But always beware of such situations as the pendulum swings constantly. The story unfolded on finals day and it warmed the hearts of many. Urlingford pulled away like champions only in the last quarter. On the day a player, Shay Butler stood out but before we get carried away, he belongs to Tipperary, being a native of Gortnahoe. cant say we are not doing all we can for Tipp hurling, at least in Urlingford.

Ballyragget have to wait for toughest test in Final of Roinn C.....

The traditionalists won out at convention this year when they voted to return to two separate C and D divisions. This gave the task of re-drawing the groups to the regrading committee. Bennettsbridge, being past winners of Roinn D stayed in C along with Ballyragget, Conahy, Danesfort and Johnstown in the north while Mullinavat, Callan, Glenmore, Slieverue and Dunamaggin fought out the south. The



ST CANICE'S - ROINN D LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Photo - Eoin Hennessy

Back: Garron Clarke, Caimin Browne, Sean Treacy, Tom Nugent, Colum Kennedy, Hugh Walsh, Ian McKeown, Chris Hickey, Aaron McDonald, David Carroll (coach).
Middle: Martin Hanrick (Coach), Padraig Crowley (Coach), Anthony Ryan, Dylan Clifford, David Gaule, Michael Hayes, Evan Walsh, Eoin Pendergast, Peter Vickery.
Front: JJ Hickey, Conor Maharaj, Darragh Buggy, Nicholas O'Shea, Gerard Hayes, Sam Johnson, Evan Guilfoyle, Aidan Nolan, Shane Clohesey, Luke O'Hara.
Mascot: John Hanrick.



KILKENNY CBS - EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES LEAGUE ROINN "A" " FINALISTS 2003

Back: Adam Leahy, Stephen Lawlor, Briain Dollard, Ben O'Mahony, Sean Doherty, Michael Dunne, Eoin O'Donoghue, Richard Comerford, Adam Comerford, Micheal Cotter.
Middle: Dave Kinchella, Jamie Lynch, Lawrence Burke, Oisín Walsh, Daniel Kenny, Martin Gaffney, Patrick Cantwell, Simon O'Shea, Gary Gaule
Front: Micheal McDonald, Jesse Watters, Ollie Walsh, Eamonn Campion, Micheal Hennebray, Sam Dunlop, Killian Murphy, Barry Brennan.
Mentors (L-R): Charlie O'Neill, Michael Walsh, Anita O'Halloran, Martin Gaffney.

teams had less games to play than when the groups were joined and this could well be looked at again. One group is a possibility here similar to Roinn A at present. Ballyragget looked a class apart in this group all season. They contested the INTO sevens final and Corn de Bhaldrathie final against Clara proving their quality, but the final brought credit to Callan for the way they put it up to Ballyragget. In the end the margin between the two sides was not as great as would have been predicted. So, well done, Ballyragget – you are Roinn B-

bound but hats off also to Callan

Roinn D the most gripping contest all year.....

This division was great value all year. It would have been impossible to predict a winner. All games were close. Windgap kept their nose out in front but hot on their heels were St Patrick's 2 and St Canice's 2. The much improved Clogh Mooneenroe also set the title within their sights.

The final was a display of fast wristy stickwork from the smaller city side, St Canice's, which gave them the edge

over a disappointed Clogh Mooneenroe. Perhaps Clogh will be back again to seal a victory they really yearn for.

Our sponsors deserve a special thanks. Educational Supplies, Hennessy Fuels, TC Tyres and Tedcastles Oils. Without their support, running our competitions would be a lot more difficult. They play their part in keeping Kilkenny hurling strong. Welcome is also extended to Mc Donalds who have come on board to promote football.



ST JOHN'S - ROINN B LEAGUE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Craig Quigley, Robert Butler, Tony O'Grady, Albert O'Brien, Jamie Glennon, Ben Ryan, Richard Shortall, Sean Dunne, Daniel Lenehan.

Middle: Colm Brennan, Conor Byrne, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Daniel O'Grady (Capt), Eoghan Grant, Cormac Walkin, Anthony Forristal, Kevin McGuinness.

Front: Richard Moylan, Michael Rice, Jack Nolan, Dylan Whearty, Edward Burke, Patrick Butler, Sean Dيرةen, Daire Nolan.



ALLIANCE - R IONNC L AEUG EIFANILTS S0230B

ca:kD mael nyAwlra dS(leceot)r ,iNla leHnseys ,eDnaC opek ,aDrmo D'ywre ,aPrcti kuFcneho ,eSnaB yrna ,aMkrK oehg ,iRhcrd d'OoCnnle,IP J'OrBei,nR ay n'OwDey,rJ J'OeKfeef ,iRkc yuBkcel,yJ ho naMolen yS(leceot)r ,Paddy Byrne.

Front: Damien Roche, Kevin Walsh, Emmet Bergin, JJ Doheny, Alan Bergin, Jason Corcoran, Dan McCormack, Shane Bergin, Eoin McGrath, Daniel Doheny, Nigel Cahill.



CLOGH/MOONENROE - ROINN D FINALISTS 2003

Back: David Wilson, Joseph McGuire, Michael Buggy, Colm Egan, Gerard O'Neill, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Jamie Donnelly, Shane Purcell.

Middle: Shane Delaney, Dean Wilson, Ossie Roche, Cormac McDonald, Gary Delaney, Conor McDonald, Michael Doheny, Adam O'Neill.

Front: Brian Cahill, Anghous Daly, Brian Byrne, Cathal Murtagh, Eoghan Hennessy, Daniel Costigan, Ger McGuire, Fergal Brennan.

Missing from photo - Bréannán Buggy

Corn de Bhaldráithe- Clara continue to dominate.....

Any team who can take all three majors in one year has to be up there with the best. They set the standard for all others to beat. Having been crowned INTO sevens champions and Roinn A champions, Clara had one final call to Nowlan Park just as the summer holidays beckoned – to decide where Corn de Bhaldráithe would reside for 2003.

Ballyragget showed themselves to be a seriously good team all year and they came through a draw which contained Kilmanagh, Thomastown and even, Roinn B winners, Urlingford. Clara had to overcome Piltown, Rower inistige and Freshford. The final was a case of "he who dares wins" – a barrage of goals from Galvin, Carrigan, Ryan and Langton sealed a famous victory, giving Clara the treble. Ballyragget can take pride in their performance and their star defender James Gannon has a bright future ahead as he coped admirably with everything the Clara attack threw at him. It may be little consolation to those chasing titles next year when it can be reported that Clara can field eleven of this year's team in 2004. Like we said, that's the standard.

Enjoy the winter break and prepare for more absorbing games in 2004.

CLARA ARE COUNTRY CUP KINGS . .

Clara 4-7

Ballyragget 2-5

Roinn 'A' and INTO mini sevens champions Clara landed their third title in a successful year when they beat Ballyragget in the 2003 Country Cup Final.

Ballyragget came into the final with a respectable season behind them – the Roinn 'C' champions having also contested a close mini-sevens final against Clara. The difference between the teams on the day revolved around three vital scores, as two goals in as many minutes got Clara off to a flying start handing them a lead they never relinquished. Centre-forward Patrick Galvin got the first, ending a brilliant solo run by firing to the net. A minute later, Galvin sent the ball goalwards, resulting in a melee which ended with the sliotar being forced over the line.

While Ballyragget did recover, the third and decisive goal came midway through the second half. James Gannon fired over a great point during a good spell for his team, but within a minute Clara corner-forward Daragh Carrigan found the net from a well directed drive from Patrick Galvin. This was the killer blow for Ballyragget.

Ballyragget will regret their slow start, but they could do little to halt the flow of the powerful Clara forwards, who put 3-5 on the board to Ballyragget's 1-0 in the first half. Galvin was brilliant in this half, bagging 1-3 for himself and being involved in

every other score.

For Ballyragget, Liam Lacey played very well in the opening half, while goalkeeper James Morrissey saved his team on many occasions. They recorded their first score in the 25th minute, when a James Gannon free deceived the Clara defence, but the winners hit back immediately with a goal from Nicky Langton to end the half 3-5 to 1-0 ahead.

On resumption of play, Patrick Galvin fired over a point, before Stephen Staunton's early efforts were rewarded with a goal from way out. This was a good spell for Ballyragget, and continued when Bill Staunton put a Geoffrey Brennan cut over the bar, reducing the deficit to eight points. But then came that decisive goal from the stick of Daragh Carrigan. Geoffrey Brennan and James Gannon added two more points for Ballyragget, while sub Jack Langton completed his Clara's account with a point. Clara's backline of Nicky Creane, Ben Nolan and Danny Brennan gave nothing away. Other key players were James Dowling, Killian Phelan, Thomas Byrne, Patrick Galvin and Philip Ryan. Ballyragget had stars in James Morrissey, James Gannon, Bill and Stephen Staunton and Liam Lacey.

Clara – M. Byrne, N. Creane, B. Nolan, D. Brennan, B. Leydon, J. Dowling (capt), B. Prendergast, K. Phelan, T. Byrne (0-1), C. O'Shea, P. Galvin (1-4), P. Nolan, D. Carrigan (1-1), P. Ryan (1-0), N. Langton (1-0). *Subs:* D. Hope, J. Langton, P. Meaney, G. Armitage, D. O'Connell, P. Walshe, K. Barcoe, C. Prendergast, S. Cassin, J. Murphy, S. Lennon.

Ballyragget – J. Morrissey, R. Healy, E. Brophy, T.J. Sherman, P. McEvoy, J. Gannon (1-2), D. Brennan, B. Staunton (0-1), J. Mooney, S. Staunton (1-2), B. Mulhall, G. Brennan (0-2), M. Brennan, L. Lacey, T. McGrath. *Subs:* B. Morrissey, B.J. Kilkenny, B. Brophy, M. Staunton.

Referee – Podge Butler (James Stephens).

GRADE "A" THRILLER!

Clara 4-8 Kilkenny CBS 0-7

THE ROINN 'A' Schools' final saw Clara and Kilkenny CBS serve up a thrilling hurling match. The CBS were first to score, Oisín Walsh pointing after a great solo run. Clara hit back when Patrick Galvin beat three backs to score a superb goal. Michael McDonald pulled a point back, leaving Clara 1-0 to 0-2 up. Simon O'Shea kicked a great point on nine minutes to level the match, but Clara took control from here. A point from a Thomas Ryan free was followed by four great points by Philip Ryan. Byrne closed the first half scoring with a free to push his side 1-6 to 0-3 in front.



Clara - Mini Sevens Hurling Champions 2003

Back: Danny Brennan, Nicky Creane, Patrick Galvin, David Hope, Thomas Byrne
Front: James Dowling, Killian Phelan, Brian Prendergast, Peter Nolan, Ben Nolan

The Mini-Sevens hurling title went to Clara, who were recording their third victory in four years. This competition, which is played early in the season, often indicates which sides will be in contention for honours in the 15-a-side contests. This year proved no exception as Clara defeated Ballyragget in an enthralling final on a score line of 7-4 to 3-7. These sides would later serve up a cracking Corn de Bhaldráithe final. Mooncoin and Rower-Inistioge also reached the final stages of the mini-sevens which were held in Nowlan Park.

Clara then represented Kilkenny in the Regional Mini Sevens Festival. Three of the panel were chosen to display their skills in Croke Park. Thomas Byrne proudly played on All-Ireland Semi-Final day, while both Patrick Galvin and Ben Nolan had the thrill of playing on All-Ireland Final Day. All three players did their school and team mates proud. Point of Interest: Patrick Galvin, who played on All-Ireland Final Day in the Mini Sevens, had an accident on the night before the match. He fell through the front door of the house and cut himself badly. He received 5 stitches to his forehead and had another 16 stitches inserted from his right sided shoulder to his elbow. He left casualty at 12.40 a.m. on Sunday morning. After four hours sleep he was up and on his way to Croke Park. He took some pain killers, played and scored two smashing goals !!



The girls of Owinging N.S. and Templeorum N.S. cruised to their second county title in as many years in the mini sevens this year after fending off opposition from friendly rivals Piltown and last years beaten finalists Mullinavat. Ruth Farrell proudly represented her school when she donned the Donegal jersey in Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final day. Katie Power will line out in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day where she will wear either the Tyrone or Armagh jersey.

Back: Fiona Malone, Laura Nugent, Georgina Culleton, Sinead Long
Front: Emma Dunne, Katie Power, Ruth Farrell

Missing from photo..... Nicole Culleton, Sarah Healy, Aisling Coady



ST JOHN'S - CAMOGIE MINI-SEVENS CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Briona O'Neill, Kelly McGuinness, Eimear Lyons, Sarah Morrissey, Danielle Malone, Tammy Murray.
Front: Laura O'Neill, Frances O'Sullivan, Emma Conroy, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Sarah Burke.

St. John's Senior School camogie team enjoyed a very successful year on the pitch when they added the title of I.N.T.O. Mini-Sevens champions to their Roinn D championship crown.

St. John's hosted the 1st round of the competition in nearby John's park and managed to defeat all teams which came before them. The girls proved too strong for such teams as Castlecomer and St. John of God. The finals of the competition brought together several schools from the county to Nowlan Park. The teams were divided into two groups with the winners of each group meeting in the final. Despite the valiant efforts of both Conahy and Bennetsbridge teams, St. John's showed some great skill and teamwork to earn themselves a place in the final against Roinn A champions Thomastown. The final proved to be a heart-stopping affair with the lead changing hands several times. Laura O'Neill, Danielle Malone and Sarah Morrissey ran themselves tirelessly into the ground at midfield; Elizabeth Kavanagh and Sarah Morrissey were a tower of strength at the back while up front Frances O'Sullivan and Sarah Burke provided brilliant scores at crucial times. Captain Emma Conroy, Emer Lyons, Tammy Murray and Kelly McGuinness also contributed to this first historic win for St. John's.

At the regional rounds of the mini-sevens held in O'Loughlins, St. John's had the great honour of having two girls selected to play for their county in Croke Park. Sarah Burke played on All-Ireland semi-final day and scored a great individual goal while Elizabeth Kavanagh got her chance on All-Ireland final day when she played at full-back. Hopefully next year St. John's will have similar success in this and other competitions.

INTO MINI-SEVENS FOOTBALL

Mooncoin qualified for the county final by defeating Thomastown and the Rower Instioge. The final was a round robin series involving Callan, Carrickshock, Clara, Mullinavat and Mooncoin. Mooncoin emerged victorious after 3 wins and a draw against Carrickshock. They then played in the Leinster finals in Portlaoise from which Stephen Crowley was selected to play in Croke Park on All Ireland football day on September 28.

The CBS reshuffled their team for the second half and were rewarded with a Michael McDonald point from a free. Clara replied with a Peter Nolan goal, but the CBS battled on with points from Oisín Walsh and Michael McDonald. However, two further goals from Patrick Galvin left Clara in control of the game. Galvin added another point, before the CBS replied with a point from Michael McDonald. The final score went to Patrick Galvin, leaving Clara 4-8 to 0-7 winners.

Clara — M. Byrne, N. Creane, B. Nolan, D. Brennan (captain), D. Hope, J. Dowling, B. Prendergast, K. Phelan, T. Byrne (0-2, frees), C. O'Shea, P. Galvin (2-2), P. Nolan (1-0), D. Carrigan, P. Ryan (1-4), N. Langton. *Subs:* B. Leydon, J. Langton, P. Meany, G. Armitage, D. O'Connell, P. Walsh, K. Barcoe, C. Prendergast, S. Cassin, J. Murphy, S. Lennon.

Kilkenny CBS — E. Campion, D. Kenny, K. Murphy, G. Gaule, O. Walsh, P. Cantwell, J. Watters, L. Burke M. Gaffney (captain), M. Hennebry, O. Walsh (0-2), B. Brennan, S. Dunlop, S. O'Shea (0-1), M. McDonald (0-4, 1 free). *Subs:* S. Glynn, M. Cotter, J. Lynch, M. Dunne, S. Doherty, B. Dollard, D. Kinchella, E. O'Donoghue, A. Comerford, B. O'Mahony.
Referee — John Minogue (Thomastown).

STRONG FINISH SEALS WIN Roinn 'B'

Urlingford 5-9
St John's 2-7

THE Roinn 'B' match between Urlingford and St John's will be remembered as one of the best schools finals in recent years. The standard of hurling was a credit to both sides, who gave spectators a game they will not forget for a long time to come.

From the throw-in Urlingford went on the attack, scoring first with a point from full-forward Shay Butler. They continued their good early form when Butler hand-passed to centre forward Shane Norton, who soloed through to blast the ball into the net. St John's reorganised their team but a fourth minute goal from Butler saw them chasing the game by 2-1 to 0-0. The city side got going when Eoghan Grant scored a great goal to give his team the lift they needed. Michael Rice at centre forward was working hard while Grant pointed a close free to leave just one goal between the teams. Back came Urlingford again, Butler raising the white flag with another point. The city boys were fast improving though, and Jack Nolan gave his side real hope when he blasted the ball to the net, but only after Urlingford goalkeeper P.J. Nolan had first saved a shot from Sean Direen. The final five minutes of the half saw both teams score some great points, leaving Urlingford marginally ahead by 2-5 to 2-4. The second half began with both teams giving their all. Urlingford had a great point from Norton following a good pass from wing back Joseph Clohessey. St John's replied straight away, but were unlucky to see Daire Nolan's terrific ground strike rebound off the Urlingford crossbar. The city boys kept attacking however, Grant picking off another point to cut the gap to the minimum. This spurred Urlingford on, Butler scoring a goal and a point to give them a five point advantage. With 10 minutes remaining, Urlingford led 3-8 to 2-6. Both sides added a point apiece, before Urlingford corner-forward Enda Purcell blasted the sliothar to the net. John's bravely battled back and scored another point before Urlingford finished in style with another point and goal from Butler to leave the score at Urlingford 5-9 St. John's 2-7.

Urlingford — P.J. Nolan, Stephen Walsh, Edward Ryan, James Kavanagh, Noel Flanagan, Gary Peters (c), Joseph Clohessey, Brian Campion, Jason Moore, Martin Lonergan, Shane Norton, Damien Fitzgerald, Enda Purcell, Shay Butler, Nicholas Walsh. *Subs:* Marty Woods, Andrew Moriarty, James Leahy, Stephen Tobin, Mark Phelan, Dean McGarry, Anthony Farrell.

St John's — Edward Bourke, Colm Byrne, Patrick Butler, Kevin McGuinness, Anthony Forristal, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Cormac Walkin, Dylan Whearty, Daniel O'Grady (c), Daire Nolan, Michael Rice, Eoghan Grant, Jack Nolan, Sean Direen, Conor Brennan. *Subs:* Robert Butler, Richard Shortall, Sean Dunne, Ben Ryan, Tony O'Grady, Daniel Lenihan, Albert O'Brien.
Referee — Pat Hayes (Graigue-Ballycallan).

SAINTS JUSTIFY FAVOURITES TAG

Roinn 'C'

St Patrick's 3-4

Scoil Iognáid Rís 1-2

SAINT Patrick's (Ballyragget) justified the favourites tag to overcome a determined Callan in the Roinn 'C' final.

Ballyragget were worthy victors, but the high level of skill and teamwork shown by both teams was appreciated by the spectators.

The early exchanges were notable for the close marking, with scoring opportunities limited for both sides. It was Ballyragget's James Gannon who opened the scoring on four minutes with a point from a 50m free. He also picked off his side's second point, this time from a 35m free.

Backed by their confident goalkeeper Jason Corcoran, the Callan backline repelled the Ballyragget attacks until the 18th minute, when Geoffrey Brennan pointed. Niall Hennessy ended the first half by getting Callan off the mark from a 65m. At the break it was 0-3 to 0-1.

Callan's hopes for success were boosted early in the second half when centre-forward Richard O'Connell pointed from 30m to leave just one point between the sides. Exchanges were fast and furious, and the Ballyragget fans were ecstatic when nippy corner-forward Michael Brennan finished a James Gannon free to the net.

Undaunted, Callan's reply was swift and deadly. A 65m shot was blocked in the Ballyragget goalmouth, but corner-forward Ryan O'Dwyer connected beautifully with the rebound to rattle the net. Ballyragget responded in a decisive manner. A 65m shot led to a goalmouth melee, but Thomas McGrath was on hand to score Ballyragget's second goal. Slowly but surely, they began to get the upper hand – a well worked goal from captain Liam Lacey was a serious blow to Callan's hopes.

The concluding moments of the game served to underline the merit of the Ballyragget success, as their defence stayed firm to a determined Callan onslaught. It was left to Ballyragget's Geoffrey Brennan to get the last score of the game, a well-taken point to leave his side 3-4 to 1-2 winners.

Ballyragget – Paddy McEvoy, Mark Staunton, Eddie Brophy, T.J. Sherman, James Morrissey, James Gannon (0-2), Donal Brennan, Bill Staunton, John Mooney, Stephen Staunton, Brian Mulhall, Geoffrey Brennan (0-2), Michael Brennan (1-0), Liam Lacey capt (1-0), Thomas McGrath (1-0). *Subs:* Brendan Morrissey, Brian Joseph Kilkenny, Brendan Brophy.

Callan – Jason Corcoran, Patrick Funcheon, Mark Keogh, Darren O'Dwyer, Kevin Walsh, Niall Hennessy (0-1), Emmet Nolan, Paddy Byrne, Daniel Doheny, P.J. O'Brien, Richard O'Connell (0-1), Nigel Cahill, Ryan O'Dwyer (1-0), Daniel McCormack (capt), Alan Bergin. *Subs:* Jamie Bergin, Seán Bryan, Ricky Buckley, Damien Roche, Dean Cooke, Shane Bergin, J.J. Doheny, Graham Bergin. *Referee* – Michael Maher (Danesfort).

St Canice's were worthy winners.....

Roinn 'D'

St Canice's 2-4, Clogh/Moneenroe 1-4

CITY side St Canice's were worthy winners of the Roinn 'D' schools final. In a frantic contest, the Saints edged out a gallant Clogh/Moneenroe by a single goal. The game sparked to life at the first whistle with the first score coming within the first minute through a 65 by Clogh's Shane Delaney. Canice's settled quickly too, and were rewarded with a fine point from corner-forward Evan Walsh. Defences were on top over the next few minutes, as the forwards searched in vain for a little space. Conor Maharaj and fellow wing back Aidan Nolan put in some super tackles and clearances for St Canice's to keep the scores level.

The game remained tight until midway through the half, when Canice's bagged the first goal. Clogh goalkeeper Gary Delaney managed to save the first shot on his goal, but was powerless to stop Michael Hayes from smashing home the rebound.

Scoreboard 2003.

Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A).

Clara 4-8, Kilkenny CBS 0-7

Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B).

Urlingford 5-9, St John's 2-7

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

Ballyragget 3-4, Callan CBS 1-2

Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D).

St Canice's II 2-4, Clogh/Moneenroe 1-4

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldrathie.

Clara 4-7, Ballyragget 2-5

GARDA SIOCHÁNA CITY CLASS LEAGUES

6th Class: St Patrick's beat St. Canice's

5th Class: St. Canice's beat St Patrick's

4th Class: St. John's beat St. Canice's

3rd Class: St. Patrick's beat Gaelscoil

2nd Class: St. John's beat St. Canice's.

INTO/GAA Mini-Sevens

Hurling: Clara.

Football: Mooncoin.

Camogie: St John's.

Girls' Football: Owing.

Girls' Handball:

Under 11 (S): Claire Mulholland (Gaelscoil)

Beginners: Mary Phelan (Clogh)

Under 11 (D): Laura & Nicola Moore (Windgap)

Beginners: Hazel Cuddihy/Shauana Martin (Kells)

Under 13 (S): Tina O'Brien (Goresbridge)

Beginners: Doireann Mackey (Windgap)

Under 13 (D): Clodagh Holohan/Stacey Quirke (Muckalee)

Beginners: Eleanor Barry/Sheila Purcell (Windgap)

Boys' Handball:

Under 11 (S): Peter Funcheon (Callan CBS)

Beginners: Pat Carroll (Lisdowney)

Under 11 (D): Eoghan Hennessy/Pádraig Maher (Clogh)

Beginners: Thomas Walsh/Jamie Molyneaux (Stoneyford)

Under 13 (S): Niall Smyth (Stoneyford)

Beginners: Gary Delaney (Clogh)

Under 13 (D): Aidan Martin/David Delehunty (Kells)

Beginners: Ger McGrath/Brian O'Donovan (Stoneyford)

Thanks to the schools who released their pupils to watch the World Championship.

However Clogh didn't panic, and came back strongly at St Canice's. They put on lot of pressure, and registered their second score when Shane Delaney tapped over another 65. With Delaney dominating from centre back, Clogh poured forward looking for more scores. After another Delaney 65, full-forward Conor McDonald got the goal he and his team had been threatening. Latching on to a long ball, McDonald got past in Sam Johnson in the Canice's goal before pulling to the net. At halftime, the score was Clogh 1-3, St Canice's 1-1. The second half went from end to end, with the game continuing at a relentless pace. The first score of the half took time to

come, but it went to David Gaule of St Canice's, who was now playing as full-forward. Gaule managed to drive past his marker and slot the ball over the bar. That switch proved masterful, as Gaule quickly bagged the all-important second goal. During a spell of Canice's pressure, Gaule got and hammered the ball into the net from 12 yards out. Once again, Clogh rallied and Delaney scored an excellent point from play. With the prompting of Adrian O'Neill in midfield they pushed forward, looking for a goal to put them in front again. That score never came however, as St Canice's got the final score of the game through Michael Hayes to win their first hurling title since 1989. Conor Maharaj put in a man of the match performance at wing back for the winners. He was ably supported by Aidan Nolan and Michael Hayes. For Clogh/Moneenroe Shane Delaney was outstanding, with Gary Delaney and Adrian O'Neill also doing well.



TC Tyres World of Gaelic Games Kit Bags.....

During the year players from all four divisions and Corn de Bhaldráithe were nominated for a free draw to win a TC Tyres kit bag. Those lucky winners were:- **Michael Rice, St John's, Oisín Walsh, CBS Kilkenny, David Kennedy, Kilmanagh, Patrick Rafter, Freshford, Conor Coffey, Dunamaggin, Kieran Foley, Piltown, Colm Dowling, KSP, Mark Walsh, Slieverue, Eoin Murphy, Glenmore, Thomas Breen, Coon/Muckalee, JJ Lennon, Gowran, Sam Holmes, Tullaroan.**

On Co Final Day there were the following winners:- **Patrick Galvin, Clara, Eamon Campion, CBS Kilkenny, Shay Butler, Urlingford, Eoghan Grant, St. John's, James Gannon, Ballyragget, Niall Hennessy, CBS Callan, Gary Delaney, Clogh Mooneenroe, Caimin Browne, St Canice's.**



**Clara Representatives in Croke Park
Ben Nolan, Patrick Galvin, Thomas Byrne**

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**Congratulations to All
Cumann na
mBunscoileanna
Winners in 2005**



Club Reports

Ballyhale Shamrocks

Committee 2003

Chairman:	Frank Costelloe
Secretary:	Dave Gallagher
Vice-Chairman:	Sean Reid
Treasurers:	Neddy Walsh, Patrick Holden
Registrar:	Michael Hoyne
PRO:	Dave Gallagher
Juvenile Sec:	Tommy Kelly
Juvenile Chair:	Sean Reid
Football Board:	Tommy Kelly

Underage

The underage levels of the Club continue to grow and organise. In such a small Club it is impossible not to play lads out of their age group and they have all done themselves proud. Coaching has been taken on by adults of teams as young as under 10's. Under 14's and under 16's did not go out of any competition without putting up a fight and the Clubs minor team were unlucky to have been knocked out of the Championship but they did fight back to make it to the League Final. Selectors Paul Phelan, John Drennan and Brendan Mason will be hoping they can win this Final.

Under 21 Hurling

Our U-21 panel had a great win over local rivals Carrickshock in the Southern Final Under 21 Roinn A. The match which went to extra time was one of the most exciting matches many have witnessed for some time. Captain, David Hoyne gave a brief speech in which he thanked all the players and especially the three selectors Paul Phelan, Brendan Mason and Ger Fennelly. By the time you read this hopefully they will also have won the County Final.

Football

The Shamrocks went up Intermediate since the last yearbook was published, having won the County Junior Football

Championship. We also won this year's Intermediate League Final. Captain Liam Grant thanked the selectors Tommy Shefflin, Tom Coogan and Tommy Kelly and hoped we would do well in the Championship. Unfortunately it was not to be and we only lost out to the eventual Champions after forcing them to a replay.

Special Junior 'A' Hurling

This panel fought their way to become Southern Champions this year beating Graiguenamanagh in the Final. Captain Liam Grant had high hopes for the County Final as did the whole panel. The lads held O'Loughlin Gaels to a draw in the County Final and when the match was replayed we were unlucky to have lost by a mere two points after a match that could have gone either way. Selectors Joe Dunphy, Paul Phelan and Patrick Phelan were very proud of every member of the panel.

Senior Hurling

Having made it successfully through the relegation trap Shamrocks Seniors turned their attention to the Senior County Championship. Trainer Sean Fennelly and fellow selectors Paul Phelan and Joe Dunphy had great faith in the panel, training was done and a team picked. But they came up against a strong Village team and were unlucky to have lost by a single point after a great display of Hurling. Senior Captain Bob Aylward epitomised the courage and determination of the whole team by playing on after breaking two ribs. The team were also unlucky to have lost Tommy Shefflin after 20 minutes and not to have been able to play Padraig O'Farrell. Undoubtedly some younger players were disappointed not to play but they will have their chance again next year. In common with every Senior Club in the county we will go forward into the coming year with ambi-

tion and determination and we are still aiming for the County Final!

Fundraising

The Annual Golf Classic was once again a great success this year raising much needed funds for the Club. Thanks are due to the organising committee, competitors and especially to our sponsors. Other fundraising includes the ongoing local Lotto which continues to be a success thanks to the commitment of all sellers and organisers. Thanks also to Andy's, Sheff's, The Little Arrigle and Pakie's Bar for helping to make the weekly draw an event in itself!

Dressing Rooms

The Club has agreed to proceed with the Planning Permission to build two additional dressing rooms. This will be undertaken on a voluntary basis and every member of the Club will be asked to contribute both money and effort over the coming months. Many thanks to Martin Holden who has agreed to oversee the work. A serious fundraising effort will now have to be undertaken by everybody to turn the dressing rooms into a reality quickly.

Sympathy

The sympathy of the Club was extended to all the families who lost loved ones during the year. In such a small Parish they will be remembered not just by their families but by the entire community.

Thanks

The Club would like to thank everybody at every level for their participation and effort on our behalf including Players, Captains, Trainer, Selectors, Physio's, Committee, Field Committee, Volunteers, Families and all Sponsors but especially our main sponsor - Andy's Bar.

Butlers Inn

Congratulations to Derek, Aidan & Colin

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Club Reports

Barrow Rangers

Officers 2003

Chairman:	Mick Medlar
Vice Chair:	Mick Barcoe
Secretary:	Bob Shortall
Asst. Sec:	William Hanlon
Treasurer:	Philip Maher
Asst. Treasurer:	Pat Drea
P R O:	Dermot Maher and Bob Shortall

Adult Grades

The junior hurlers showed some promise early on before losing to Galmoy in the Northern semi-final.

They failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the ACHL and were beaten in the Paddy Cahill Cup by St. Patrick's. The Special Juniors failed to make any progress on previous performances. The U-21 side turned in some impressive performances to reach the U-21 final where they met Danesfort who were flattered by their six point victory.

Underage

The underage section of the club had another disappointing season. The U-14 Football was the only team to reach a final, going down to neighbours Young Ireland's.

The U-14 hurling team were beaten by Young Ireland's in the League semi-final before losing to eventual winners Mullinavat in the Championship.

In U-16 hurling the team won just one game all season and were defeated by Dunnamaggin in the Championship. The Minor hurling team disappointed and were no match for Blacks and Whites.

Juvenile

The U-12 side were successful for the second year running in the league organised by Bord na nOg. They beat Danesfort and Bennettsbridge to reach the final where they defeated Young Ireland's in a top class game. They also reached the final of the Anne Brennan Memorial Tournament in Paulstown, failing narrowly to Rower – Inistioge. The U-8's and U-10's took part in a number of tournaments with the former winning group 5 of the Roanmore 7 a side blitz and the latter reaching the final of James Stephens League.

Thanks

A special word of thanks to all team coaches: Junior: David Holmes, U-21: Stephen Dormer. Underage: Jimmy

Morrissey, Ollie O'Neill, Joe English, Peter Breen, Joe Brennan. Juveniles: Michael Lonergan, Joe English, Christy Kenny, Tommy Kelly, Maurice Treacy, Robert Prendergast, Noel Brennan, Jim Flavin, Stephen O'Connor, Leo Gordon, Denis Drennan.

In the Black and Amber

Seamus and Aidan Brennan played for the Kilkenny minor football team in the Leinster Championship. Aidan Brennan and Billy Murphy played for Kilkenny U-17s against the Scottish U-17 Shinty team. Paddy Barcoe played county U-16 football.

Development

Development still continues in the parish field. Building continues on the dressing

rooms, Boxing hall and indoor court. Fundraising continues for the centre and many thanks to all who helped with the sponsorship.

March of Time

Many were saddened earlier this year at the death at a relatively early age of Pierce Brennan. Pierce was a useful corner forward and played with the club for a number of years. Sympathy is extended to his brothers and sisters.

Sympathy is also extended to club chairman Mick Medlar on the death of his mother, Anastasia and sister, Breda, to Seamus and Aidan Brennan on the death of their uncle, Martin and to all players, officials, supporters and friends who suffered bereavements in 2003.

Ar dheis lamh Dé go raibh said.



Paulstown - Goresbridge U-12 Bord na nOg Summer League Winners

Back: Sean McDonald, Tom Brennan, Kevin Brennan, Michael O'Brien, Richard Doyle, William Morrissey, Cathal Kenny, John Brennan, Martin Dormer, Sean Leahy, Danny Byrne, Emma Staunton, Emma Flavin. **Front:** Michelle Brennan, Christopher Nolan, Cathal English, Michael Lonergan, Damien Barcoe, Michael Whitley, James Hassain, Ciaran Doyle.



Paulstown-Goresbridge, Coca Cola Sevens Shield Runners Up 2003

Back: Joe English, Coach, Thomas Brennan, Patrick Purcell, Eamon Nolan, Coca Cola, Jason Holden, Larry Hamilton, Sevens Secretary, Richard Doyle, Kieran Costello, Lisdowney Chairman, Gerard Walsh, Christy Kenny, Coach. **Front:** Kevin Hennessy, Martin Bambrick, Cathal Kenny, Cathal English.



Club Reports

Bennettsbridge



Left: Dublin Lord Mayor, James Carroll (Centre) poses with the opposing captains, David De Loughry (New York) and Mickey Kelly (Kilkenny) at the Polo grounds, New York, June 1958. David DeLoughry won Senior Championships with Bennettsbridge and was President of New York GAA for some years. Mickey Kelly was captain of the victorious 1957 Kilkenny team. There was also a football game between All Ireland champions Louth and New York. New York won both games.

Right: The McGarry Fans– Bennettsbridge folk come out in full colour in support of local hero, Kilkenny, goalie, James McGarry

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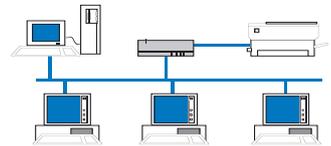
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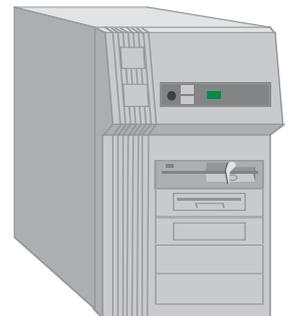
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Club Reports

Blacks & Whites

Officers 2003

President: Jack Kelly
 Vice President: Mikey Brien
 Chairman: Joe Lawlor
 Vice Chairman: Michael Byrne
 Dr. Michael Helly
 Secretary: Gerry Murphy
 Treasurer: Nancy Moloney
 Registrar: Michael Lennon
 PRO: David Murphy

Bord na nOg

Pride of place among all our teams must go to our U-16 hurlers who had a very successful year. The team reached the league final, losing out to Kilmacow. In the championship we reached the Roinn C final. Our opponents in the final were Dunnamaggin. We ended up victorious in a very entertaining game on a score line Blacks & Whites 1-9, Dunnamaggin 1-3. Our Minor Hurling Team reached the league playoffs and were unsuccessful in the championship.

Adult Teams

The club having won the Junior Hurling Championship in 2002 were the Kilkenny representatives in the Leinster Junior Hurling Tournament. We had wins over Kilcotton (Laois), Confey (Kildare), Naomh Eoin (Carlow). In the Leinster Final our opponents were St. Kevins (Dublin). In a thrilling game played in Tom Walsh Park the team emerged victorious on a score line Blacks & Whites 4-8 St. Kevins 3-7. In the All Ireland Final of the competition played in Walsh Park (Waterford)



Blacks & Whites Minor Football Champions Roinn C 2002

Back: Anthony Barcoe, Niall Coady, James Brennan, Myles Doyle (capt), Sean Barcoe, Joseph Murphy, Niall Kennedy, Barry Moloney, Peter Cleere, Colm Dalton, Phillip Murphy.
Front: John Lawlor, Jason Carroll, John Whelan, John Murphy, Denis Brennan, Michael Doyle, Tom Moloney, Ray Coady, Charlie Ryan, Brian Cleere.

Ballinhassig (Cork) proved to be so strong for us on the day and eventually ran out easy winners. Our Intermediate Hurling Team had mixed fortunes throughout the year. The team reached the All County Intermediate Hurling League Final. Erin's Own (Castlecomer) were our opponents who took the honours. The team also reached the quarter-final of the Intermediate Hurling Championship where they were defeated by Clara. Our U-21 hurlers also reached the Northern Hurling Final where they also lost out to Clara.

Football

Pride of place must go to our U-18 Football Team who won the County Roinn C Title 2002 after defeating

Graigue-Ballycallan on a score line Blacks & Whites 1-7 Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6. Our Intermediate Football Team had very little success in this years campaign. Our U-21 football team reached the Northern Final losing out to Conahy Shamrocks in a very close contest

Congratulations

Well done to Peter (Chap) Cleere who was a member of the successful Kilkenny All-Ireland U-21 Hurling Team

Thanks

The club wish to thank those who gave their time and commitment to both juveniles and adult players throughout the year. Many thanks to all our sponsors who helped the club throughout the year.



Blacks And Whites Camaint 2003

Back: Michael Kelly,(Selector), Alan Murphy, Trevor Murphy, Catherine Murphy, Bríd Kelly, Chloe O'Shaughnessy, Elizabeth Barcoe, Thomas Drennan, Michael Doyle, Thomas Joyce, Niall Foley, Ned Kelly (selector).
Front: Jamie Byrne, Sean Doyle, Michael Coady, Holly O'Shaughnessy, Daniel Drennan, James Barcoe, Brian Barcoe, Joseph Kelly, Edward Murphy, Emmet Foley, Gary Maher.



Club Reports

Carrickshock

Reflections on Times Past

The time has come to reflect on the past sporting year, which has been a roller coaster one for Carrickshock at both inter club and inter county level alike.

Adult Competitions

The clubs intermediate team enjoyed a competitive league, which resulted in a well deserved, win over Erin's Own in the final. The championship saw Carrickshock triumph over Emeralds and Clara to again meet Erin's Own in the final, this delivered to us a very tight evenly balanced affair with Erin's Own emerging victorious by the slightest of margins. Our junior B team was great ambassadors for the club and attained the championship for the club at this level after a magnificent struggle against St Lactains. To all involved with these teams over the last year we extend our thanks and appreciation and hope the 2004 season will bring the riches this panel of players and mentors deserve. The U-21 hurlers remain in contention as we go to press and we wish them the best.

Bord na nÓg

The minor hurlers exited the championship at the penultimate stage succumbing to the greater effort of James Stephens on the night. They have qualified to meet Ballyhale Shamrocks in the minor league semi-final. To this panel of players who brought two county championships to the parish we extend the best for the future.

The schools enjoyed a busy year but were unsuccessful in their competitions. It was heartening to see large groups of u 9s training every Sunday morning and as these represent the future of the club we applaud all for their efforts.

Football

It was a successful footballing year for the teams of Carrickshock with county titles in minor A (2002) and the junior players finally making the breakthrough beating Railyard in the final. The addition of Eamon Foley to the coaching structure has enhanced all teams. The club was well represented at county level with Eamon Phelan at junior level, John Murphy, Pat Cleary, Shane Power, Paul Barron, Gerry Mulcahy at U- 21, and Conor Mullally, Gary Foley and James Moran at minor grade.

Intercounty Scene

Again the club had unprecedented representatives at inter county level. Richard Power was an able captain for the minor team and he was well supported by John Dalton and John Tennyson who despite having a major health scare went on to play a full part in the final.

There were great scenes of joy and pride at having the Irish Press Cup returned to the Nore for the second year. Pat Tennyson maintained his place on the senior panel and achieved his second all Ireland medal. Well done to Michael Rice on winning an All Ireland U-21 medal. Maurice Power was trainer for the intermediate team with Jamie Power on the team, they unfortunately suffered heart-break losing to Cork in extra time. All of the above mentioned provide inspiration to us all and we acclaim them for their efforts.

Fundraising

Anyone involved in the running of a club will realise the expenditure involved and this is our opportunity to extend our appreciation to our main sponsors Doyle Concrete and Norograde Construction, to the Golf Classic committee, the Piltown draw committee and the weekly lotto committee. We would also like to extend thanks to those individuals who contributed funds to the club especially around county final time.

Club Developments

A recently formed committee is currently drawing up plans to completely renovate the dressing rooms, toilets and exterior of the clubrooms. A submission to the National Lottery for funds was successful and these funds will be instrumental in the future developments in the club.

Social Scene

The club enjoyed a busy year, with a well-attended dinner dance and many successful cabarets throughout the year. Congratulations to William Duggan and Margaret Murphy and Jim O Shea and Siobhan Furey on their recent nuptials and Pat Dwyer and Catherine Keoghan on their recent engagement.

Obituaries

The club would like to extend sincere sympathy to the Lonergan, Grace and Power families Lismatigue, the Brennan family Keatingstown, the Fennelly and



Mrs. Angela Longergan RIP 2003
with Declan Lonergan RIP 2002



Richard 'Dick' Power RIP
pictured with the Liam McCarthy Cup



Michael 'Mikie' Fennelly RIP

Ryan families, Stoneyford and others who experienced loss over the year. Mrs. Angela Lonergan was an integral member of the weekly lotto committee. Michael Fennelly, Ballycaum, Stoneyford was a member of a famous Kilkenny hurling family he was one of six brothers who won the junior hurling championship with St Brendans, Stoneyford in 1943. He was an ardent supporter of the great Ballyhale Shamrocks teams of the 70s and 80s with whom seven of his nephews played. He liked nothing better than watching a hurling match and often went to three different matches on a Sunday. The last match he saw was the Intermediate All Ireland. It was the only final he saw this year and the only final Kilkenny lost. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Club Reports

Carrigeen

Silver Jubilee Raffle

It was the usual busy type year for the committee and members of Carrigeen GAA Club. The club, although small, were busy kept busy with off the field activities and fundraising. The committee ran a successful Christmas raffle as the first event of the new committee. This was the 25th year of the raffle and it proved to be the most successful. Club members, especially the younger members gave of their time over 5 weekends leading up to Christmas. Every pub was covered in Kilkenny and neighbouring counties. The club wish to thank the publicans who allow club members sell tickets on their premises and the public who purchase the tickets, for their support and generosity.

Talent Show

Another event was the annual variety show. Again this was a very successful venture for the Club. The competition took place in The Royal Oak, Rathkieran and was also sponsored by the Royal Oak. Congratulations to The Rising Stars group from Carrick On Suir who won the competition for the second time in succession. Mala Raggett trains the group.

Asper Park Development

During the year Planning Permission was given to the club to further develop and upgrade Asper Park. A meeting room, referees room, dugouts, drainage and an all weather training pitch are planned. All of this is planned over the coming years. The timeline will depend on finance and club members will be busy organising fundraising events and seeking financial support from the various Government Departments. The Junior B hurling team bowed out of the championship on a terrible wet evening in Mullinavat when Kilmacow did enough to progress to the next round. There was great disappointment at this result as the team had prepared well under the management of Tommy Brown. The club competed

strongly in the various leagues and football competitions.

Junior Hurling Tournament

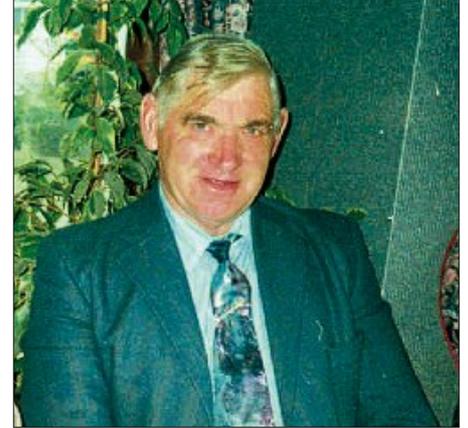
A Junior Hurling tournament was run throughout the summer. This tournament helped in preparing Carrigeen and other teams who took part, for the championship that lay ahead at the time. The final of this tournament between, Mullinavat and Fenor has yet to be played.

Busy Officials

Congratulations to club member Pat Dunphy who refereed the replayed county senior hurling final, between O'Loughlin Gaels and Young Irelands, Gowran. This was Pat's 5th county senior hurling final and is a great honour for the club. Congratulations also to the Umpires who officiated with Pat, club members, Noel Kelly, Ballygorey, Clause Dunphy, Ballygorey, Tony Fleming, Kilmacow and Jim Kearns, Shamrocks Ballyhale.

Condolences

The year ended in a sad fashion when club president, Tom Dunphy, Ballygorey, passed away after a short illness. Tom had been president for a number of



Tom Dunphy, Ballygorey, Mooncoin RIP
Former President Carrigeen GAA Club

years. Tom hurled with the club on one of the best teams that represented the Carrigeen Club, in the mid to late 1950s, see photograph. To his wife Nonie, sons Pat and Clause, daughter Anna and sister Peggy, we offer our sympathy.

... And Best Wishes

As the year comes to a close, the club would like to wish all members and players a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. The same is also wished to your many sponsors and indeed all those who help the club in any way. Your contribution is much appreciated.



County Senior Hurling Final Replay referee Pat Dunphy is flanked by a group of his officials - Richie Quinn, Tony Kelly, Pat Dunphy, Tony Fleming, Paddy Power



Club Reports

Clara

Officers 2003

President: Rev. Jim Murphy PP
 Vice Presidents: Paul Murphy, Paddy Ryan
 Chairperson: Eddie Phelan
 Vice Chair: Tom Brennan
 Secretary: Bob Shortall
 Treasurer: Martin Nolan
 PRO: Jimmy Coogan

Thanks to Selectors

Special mention to all selectors, players, trainers and everyone associated with teams who played throughout the year. Our U-21's proved to be our most successful team this year, special mention to JJ Ward (trainer), Michael Pendergast / Gerry Nolan (selectors). A spirited performance saw them beat Tullogher-Rosbergen in a keenly contested final.

Successful Lotto

Without your help and support, which is very much appreciated, we would be in grave danger of losing serious finances. Many thanks to all our sellers and promoters who give up their spare time, also anybody who would like to help out with this venture, can contact any committee member. Thanks to all who supported us

throughout the last year.

Person of the Year Award

Congratulations to Joe Pyke, winner of the sports category on the "People of the year Awards" at the seventh annual awards ceremony in the Newpark Hotel on Friday 7th November 2003.

Anthony Pendergast RIP

Deepest sympathy to the Pendergast family on the death of someone very special, who worked very closely with the GAA and camogie club. The club will certainly be the poorer for his passing. Anthony, always one who had a smile on his face but more importantly, put other people before himself. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

Black & Amber with Pride

Proud Clara people who wore the Kilkenny jersey with pride throughout the year were: David Pendergast, Austin Murphy and Neal Pendergast (Kilkenny Minor) Leinster and All-Ireland. Conor Phelan and John Phelan (Kilkenny U-21) Leinster and All-Ireland. Conor Phelan National League, Leinster and All-Ireland. Brian O'Shea, David Langton and James Nolan Kilkenny U-14 (Tony Forristal Tournament winners). Eoin O'Shea and Neal Pendergast U-16. Gerry

Byrne and Padraig Brennan (intermediate) Leinster winners and All-Ireland finalists. David Pendergast, Shane Pendergast, Neal Pendergast, John Murphy and Michael Bergin won All Ireland senior medals with St. Kierans College. John Phelan and Conor Phelan with WIT Fitzgibbon Cup.

Club Development

Many thanks must go to TJ Byrne and Johnny Byrne for keeping both grounds and premises in pristine condition throughout the year. To everyone who helped in erecting nets and poles for floodlight! Also the dug-outs are getting their final touches. Two new dressing rooms and a referee's room had been added to the existing clubhouse and the drainage for the new pitch is also complete. Tennis and basketball courts are proving very popular with all members of the club but are open to all, for information contact any committee member.

Celebrations

The year 2004 will be a memorable one for Clara as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The club will have an official opening of its new facilities early in the New Year to which we all look forward.

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Club Reports

Clonkeen

Twenty Years A-Growing

Not a great year by way of trophies for the Northernmost club which is beginning its 20th year in existence. The most pleasing aspect was the new drive towards the development of the juvenile section led by the great work of Michael Feehan, Michael Delaney and Michael McDonnell. The improvement seen among the young players was immense and culminated with the school team reaching the County Final in Nowlan Park. They put up an excellent show before losing narrowly to St. Canice's. Goalkeeper, Gary Delaney was rewarded for his great performance with a special award and was selected for the Kilkenny team which played at half time during the Leinster Final in Croke Park.

The U-11 squad also had a fine run in the Camaint competition, winning six of eight games played.

The U-21 side who were the holders were knocked out at the semi final stage by Barrow Rangers, while confidence is high that there are some promising players coming through the U-16 ranks, giving rise to the prospect of a useful minor squad in the next year or two.

Development Work

The development work continued during the year with a further stage of the car park surfacing being completed and 130 tons of special sand being added to the playing pitch. On a negative note, club officials were dismayed by an act of wanton vandalism which saw a relatively new goal net vandalised.

World Championships

Hundreds of competitors and supporters descended on the club for the recent Handball World Championships and all were full of praise for the facilities and the hospitality.

All the locals who took part gave a good account of themselves and the hurling club sent congratulations to the handball mentors and players, especially Marie Therese O'Neill who brought home a World Championship trophy.

Larry Brennan (Rushe) R I P

In September, Clonkeen Hurling Club lost one of its great supporters, club Life President, Larry Brennan (Rushe). He was well known far and wide throughout the GAA and was a skilled hurley maker. He adored the game of hurling and had

a great knowledge of its history. He was a great fundraiser during a period when this talent was very important to the recent developments undertaken by the club. He represented Clonkeen on Bord na nOg for years and it was fitting that the Chairman of that board, Joe Pyke should lead the impressive guard of honour at his funeral.

Larry Brennan (Rushe) RIP

Seated centre at a Committee Meeting. Also included Sheila Hosey, Pat Lawlor and Richard Roche.



Clonkeen - Executive Officers 2003

Charlie McCarthy, Secretary, Donal Brennan, Chairman, Tim Wilson, Treasurer.



Clogh - Moneenroe U-13 Roinn D County Finalists

Back: David Wilson, Joseph Maguire, Michael Buggy, Colm Egan, Gerard O'Neill, Patrick Fitzgerald, Jamie Donnelly, Shane Purcell.

Middle: Shane Delaney, Dean Wilson, Ossie Roche, Cormac McDonnell, Gary Delaney, Conor McDonnell, Michael Doherty, Adam O'Neill.

Front: Brian Cahill, Aengus Daly, Brian Byrne, Cathal Murtagh, Eoin Hennessy, Daniel Costigan, Ger Maguire, Feargal Brennan.



Club Reports

Conahy Shamrocks

Success continues to elude the club at adult level after a season that again promised hope finished ultimately with disappointment for the junior, special juniors and under-21's. Indeed, there was further disappointment when the club were defeated in the intermediate football final in extra-time by Graigue-Ballycallan.

Ground Improvements

While the club once again went through the season without any silverware, progress continues to be made off the field. Work was finally completed with the refurbishment of the squash court and earlier this year, local club members assisted with the digging and re-sodding of the goal areas. The club are extremely grateful to all those who contributed to this work.

Finance

The club continues to receive valuable sponsorship from NN Euroball, Purcellsinch and hope that this relationship will continue to develop in the coming years. The club have also been extremely busy on the fundraising front, having organised a series of cabarets throughout the year and the annual race night and poker classic that continue to be extremely well supported by all parishioners. We hope that all club members continue to support the club in any fundraising ventures throughout the coming years.

Juvenile Matters

Conahy had high hopes of success at all under-age levels and while the club contested one county final at under-14 level, there was ultimately disappointment for all teams despite the immense work put in by

players and coaches alike. Once again, the club's Bórd na nÓg committee continue to work tirelessly on the fundraising front with a bag-packing weekend in Dunnes Stores the major highlight. On the field, the annual Kevin Bergin tournament proved once again to be a great success as did the Parish Under-11 and Under-14 street leagues that concluded recently.

Bereavements

The club bade a sad farewell to two former members this year.

Michael Brennan served as both a player and manager in the club and was part of the managerial set-up that won Conahy a junior and intermediate double in 1976 and 1977. Ned Cahill was the first Bórd na nÓg chairman in the club and his sons Sean and Pat served as a player and treasurer in the club respectively. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-aimneacha dilís.

County success

The club were well represented on the county scene where Alan Healy won his second All-Ireland minor medal, a first for a Conahy man. Denis Kelly was a panel member on the successful under-21 team and was also a part of the Kilkenny Intermediate panel that lost to Cork in the All-Ireland along with Paul Buggy, who lined out at midfield.



Kilkenny captain DJ Carey speaking to Conahy's young hurlers flanked by Jim Murphy (left) and Paudie Brennan (right).



DJ Carey presents the Under-14 Street League trophy to winning captain David Baldwin.

KILKENNY CORPORATION and COUNTY COUNCIL



Congratulations to our Victorious Kilkenny Teams



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL
KILKENNY
Tel: 056-7721196

KILKENNY CORPORATION
CITY HALL
KILKENNY
Tel: 056-7721076



Club Reports

Danesfort

"Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí"

The wisdom of applying this old Irish saying to GAA activities in Danesfort in 2003 certainly paid off handsomely. The club lifted four trophies this year, U-14 B football, U-16 B hurling, minor C hurling and U-21 C hurling. Richard Hogan was crowned U-15 world handball singles champion while he also contested the doubles final.

U-8 & U-10 Hurling Action

2003 was a busy year for the young hurlers of Danesfort.

In April Danesfort U-10's took part in a tournament organised by Conahy Shamrocks and were beaten by a point in the Shield final by Graigue-Ballycallan. The U-8's & 10's trained every week and played challenge games against Inistioge and Callan.

Success finally came for the U-8's in the tournament organised by Graignamanagh in August. In a very exciting final, helped by excellent individual performances, Danesfort defeated Gowran by two points. The U-10's also beat Gowran in the Shield final.

The U-8's and U-10's participated in the Bennetsbridge tournament in September. The U-8's again played some excellent hurling in the semi-final to beat city rivals James Stephens. In the final they were narrowly beaten by the host club.

The U-12's and U-11's were also very busy participating in the Summer League and Camaint competitions.



Danesfort U-11 Camaint Team 2003

Back: John Cooney (coach), Barry Briscoe, Conor McMurrugh, Shane Banaghan, Ben O'Connor, Cathal O'Neill, Stephen McKenna, Luke Power, Pat Tynan (coach).

Front: Alex Stanley, Cillian Treacy, Jack Bruton, Kevin Ireland, Michael O'Neill, Kevin Duncan, Darryl Cody, Ryan Bolger, Eoin Cooney, Daragh Sheehan, Patrick Tynan, Ronan Leahy.



Philip Walshe

is presented with the Minor C Cup by Joe Pyke



Gráinne Brennan

Kilkenny Junior Camogie 'Player of the Year'



A happy group of Danesfort supporters at the U-16 final

Dick Mahony, Mons. Martin Campion, Paddy Forristal, Dympna Forristal and Alice Mahony.



Danesfort U-8, Winners Graignamanagh Tournament 2003

Back: Ger McCormack, Brendan Cullen, Harry Bruton, Ronann Leahy, Michael O'Neill, Kieran Condon, Colm Phelan, Gerard Dunne.

Front: Jack Brophy, Gary Tynan, Jack Tynan, Thomas Rossiter, James Tynan, Brian Mullaly.



Club Reports

Dicksboro



Dicksboro U12 Team - Winners of first "Millenia Windows" Competition

Back: Declan Gough (Coach), Eamon Campion, Keith Burke, Daniel Kenny, Gary Gaule, Martin Gaffney, Larry Burke, Kevin Nolan, Ciarán Gough, Cian Tynan, Philip Butler, Martin Gaffney (Manager).

Front: Anthony Ryan, Evan Guilfoyle, Cillian Buckley, Ollie Walsh, Rory McPhillips, David Glynn, Barry Brennan, JJ Hickey, Stephen Glynn.

It has been another busy year for Dicksboro GAA Club both on and off the pitch. Great work has been put in over the year by many members from the Juvenile to the Senior grade. The Club AGM in January 2003 saw the election of Tommy Bawle as Club Chairman. The other officers elected for the year were:-

Treasurer: Seamus Rochford
Vice-Chairman: Patsy Lacey
Secretary: Noel Deevy
Dev Chairman: Billy Wise
Registrar: Martin Hanrick
Games Chairman: Shem Tynan
Juv Chairman: Tom O'Donoghue
PRO: Frank Tynan
Irish Officer: David Carroll
Children's Officer: Paddy Grace
Exec Members: Jim Ryan, Frank Nolan.

ACTIVITIES REVIEW

Impressive development work has taken place in Palmerstown over the last year. Thanks to the great work of the Development Committee the building of two new dressing rooms was completed and also the upgrading of the original dressing rooms.

LADIES CLUB

The Dicksboro Ladies Club have had a very active year and organised a number of social events.. Their health awareness evening on the topic of 'Breast Cancer Awareness' organised in association with the Marie Keating Foundation was very well received by all those who attended.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Club organised a successful First Aid Course in association with the Order of Malta in 2003. Club members also took part in a Co. Board sponsored Coaching Course during the year. Dicksboro G.A.A. Club also launched its official 'Club Web Site' during the summer registration day.

GAMES REVIEW – JUVENILE

The juvenile section of our Club continues to shine with many fine under age performances during the year. The u-10's had a very active year taking part in the McDonald's tournament, the James Stephen's tournament and the Roanmore tournament in Waterford. They also had an enjoyable trip to Cork visiting Trabolgan. The u-11's brought great pride to the Club by winning for the first time the Phelan-Stone tournament in Ballyragget during the summer. The u-12's had a superb year with victories in the new Dicksboro organised Millenia Windows tournament defeating James Stephen's. They also won the Kilkenny Summer League competition . The u-14's A Team reached the county final losing out on victory with a great performance. Three of the under 14 panel, Colm Brady, John Traynor and Adrian Stapleton were members of the winning Kilkenny u-14 team that won the Tony Forristal tournament in Waterford. The Club also organised the Denis Molloy u-15 hurling tournament . The u-16's reached the final of the u-16 league

and the semi-final of the u-16 county championship. U-18 The Roinn C team reached the semi-final of the league but sadly the Roinn A team bowed out at the first round of the championship. The Club took great pride in the fact that Eddie O'Donoghue was part of the victorious Kilkenny Minor panel.

GAMES REVIEW – SENIOR

The Dicksboro u-21 hurlers were unlucky to go out at the first

round stage of the championship. Congratulations to Conor O'Loughlin who was a member of the Kilkenny All-Ireland u-21 panel and also to Tommy Bawle who was a selector. Dicksboro junior hurling team for the first time won the Hennessy Sports all county league.. In the County Senior Championship Dicksboro and Mullinavat served up an exciting encounter with both teams ending the first meeting level on a score of 2-14 each. However a great team display in the replay saw Dicksboro run out winners on a score of 2-09 to 0-09. Sadly Dicksboro were defeated in the quarter final of the competition by Graigue-Ballycallan.

The Club wish to thank their Sponsors and Supporters for their great efforts in 2003. We look forward to the 2004 season.

CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS.

The Dicksboro Camogie Club are delighted to report another great year for the club. The u-8 and u-10 blitz organised by Margaret O'Grady and Alice Kelly was a huge success. The u-12, u-14, u-16, u-18 and Intermediate teams all contested semi-finals. Three members of The Intermediate Team were selected on The Kilkenny Junior Camogie Panel they were Nicola Tynan, Emer Tynan and Ann Marie Hogan. The Club would like to thank all their Coaches and Supporters for their help in 2003 and look forward to the year ahead.



Club Reports

Dunnamaggin

Club Officers 2003

Chairman	– Seamus Martin
Secretary	– Eugene O'Donovan
Treasurer	– Sean Ryan
PRO	– John Hickey
Juvenile Chair	– Johnno Reid
Juvenile Sec	– Niall McCormack
Juvenile Treas	– John O'Dwyer

Club Social

The year started with a social night held in Carroll's of Knocktopher. Presentations were made to Noel Hickey, Paul Cahill and Mark Heffernan for the parts that they played in bringing home All – Ireland honours with Kilkenny. The Monsignor O'Neill Player of the Year Trophy went to Paul Cahill, while Aidan Farrell won the Shirley's Clubman of the Year Trophy for his contribution, particularly with regard to pitch development, over the years.

Pitch Developments

The pitch continues to improve from year to year, with the soil itself settling to make it perfect to play on, while the surrounds are also in pristine condition. Credit must be paid to all those involved in the Field Committee, to Paddy Moore and John Walsh for keeping the grass cut, to Oliver Herity whose great work is now becoming clear as we enjoy the benefits of the shelter provided by the surrounding shrubs and trees, and to Thomas O' Shea for his dedication in ensuring that the dressing rooms are kept in tip top condition.

Senior Hurling

The senior team began the year with Seamus Knox, Johnny Ryan and John Hayes as the management team, with Pat Long coming on board as selector later in the campaign. Luck was not on the teams' side in the league stages of

the championship, when losing out on a place in the first round proper on scoring difference to Muckalee. As a result, the seniors met James Stephens in the first round relegation championship, and on a disappointing night, were beaten convincingly and left to face Mullinavat in the relegation final. It seemed as if the slippery slope to intermediate faced the team at half-time of the relegation final as they trailed by 8 points, but a great second half display saw them retain senior status.

Thomas O' Shea, carried out his usual trojan work for the senior end of the club all year, while Paddy Reade and Fr. Flavin looked after first aid.

Junior

Dick O' Shea, Billy Heffernan and Tom Phelan were selectors for the junior team. From the beginning of the year it became clear that a tough season lay ahead for the team as defeat followed defeat during the ACHL. However, the team showed great determination and commitment to almost turn things around, and were unlucky to lose to Slieverue in the championship. The team did, however, bring home silverware in the shape of the Marnell Cup presented to them as winners of the Danesfort Tournament.

U – 21

The under 21's season came to an early end in the first round against a highly fancied Ballyhale Shamrocks team. Seamus Knox, Billy Heffernan and Dick O' Shea were in charge of the team.

Juvenile Hurling

The U-16's contested the Roinn C final, but were unlucky to go down to the Blacks and Whites after a spirited performance. At U-12 level, the team

reached the Summer league final. Hopefully we will see a number of these talented young hurlers donning jerseys for the adult teams in the near future.

Acknowledgements

The club would like to thank all who supported them during the year, in particular Comerford's Bar and Lounge who was main sponsor of the hurling club, all those who participated in the Golf Classic, those who supported the parish lotto and all those who took the time to follow and cheer on the teams. In an era when the running of clubs has become so expensive their contribution cannot be underestimated.

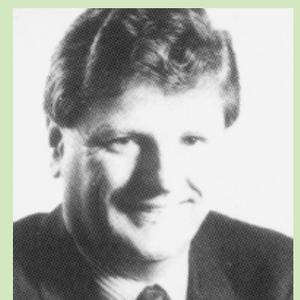
Well Done!!

Congratulations to all those who represented the County at any level during the year. In particular, a special word of congratulations to Noel Hickey who won his third Senior All – Ireland medal, to Canice Hickey and Seaghan O'Neill who won All-Ireland U-21 medals, and to Mark Heffernan who trained with the County U-21's all year. Well done to Thomas O' Shea who celebrated his 50th birthday during the year. A presentation in recognition of all his work for the club was made on the night of his surprise party in the Horse & Hound. That may well be remembered as the only night that Thomas was ever speechless.

William 'Harney' Fitzpatrick

Harney, as he was popularly known, passed away quietly on the 31st of October. He had represented the club in football and his sons were great servants as players to the club. He will be missed in the parish, and in particular from the Horse and Hound pub. Obituary for John Hayes is elsewhere in the book.

LIAM AYLWARD, T.D.
Greetings to all my Supporters
Well done, Kilkenny!





Club Reports

Emeralds

Disappointment

2003 will go down as a disappointing one for adult hurling teams in Urlingford. The intermediate team opened well with a draw against Clara. However subsequent losses to Castlecomer, Freshford and Graiguenamanagh meant that our Club faced relegation. The team performed to its potential against Bennetsbridge but failed to match Carrickshock in the quarter-final. The special junior team lost out to St. Patrick's Ballyragget in the league and to Conahy in the Championship. However this team showed much skill and was unlucky in many games.

All Ireland Heroes

Four players from the Club featured with Kilkenny All Ireland winning teams. Colin Grant collected his second minor All Ireland medal. Likewise Derek Lyng collected his second medal and an All-Star award. Aidan Fogarty won U-21 and senior All-Ireland medals, while Gerard Joyce also collected a U-21 medal. Emmett Kavanagh and Ken Hughes won Leinster medals with the Kilkenny Intermediate Team.

Tournament Success

Another highlight of the year was the JJ Kavanagh sponsored Intermediate Tournament. This was a well-organised event; a large crowd attended and Tipperary emerged winner by one point.

Significant Developments

The club carried out great work on the grounds and Clubhouse. One new dressing room and a referee's room were built plus a wheelchair accessible toilet. The Club now has three dressing rooms, a dining/ kitchen area and a garage for tractor and mower. In addition a massive pitch drainage scheme was undertaken. Approximately 150 tons of sand was spread on the pitch. This has improved the surface and now with the new modern floodlights the Club is one of the most modern in the country. This development was possible due to the highly successful Golf Classic held in Rathdowney last June. The Club also sold about 200 Co. Board tickets and also runs a very successful Lotto weekly.

On the Playing Field

At juvenile level the U-14, 16 and minor teams lacked strength in numbers to succeed. The U-16s were beaten by two points in the Roinn C semi-final. At this level Joseph Doheny, Shane Webster, Conor Costello and Noel Cleere performed with distinction.

At schools level our team won the Roinn B title for the first time. This is only our second victory at this level since the school last won

in 1987. Great credit is due to their trainer Dermot Dunphy.

Great Strides in Coaching U-11

The most impressive section of the Club this year dealt with the under eight's, eleven's and twelve's. The under 8's were coached by Maureen Norton, Helen Phelan and Sinead Curran. This mixed team participated in numerous challenge matches against Durrow and travelled to Littleton to an under 8 Tournament. Over 40 children were coached. Great work was done with the U-11's and U-12's, by David Moriarty, Michael Troy, Gerry Kavanagh and Nicholas Walsh. Training for U-11 started in March. The team had challenge matches against Moyne-Templetoohy and Na Fianna of Dublin. The U11's took part in the Phelan/Stone Tournament and reached the final of the Camaint Tournament.

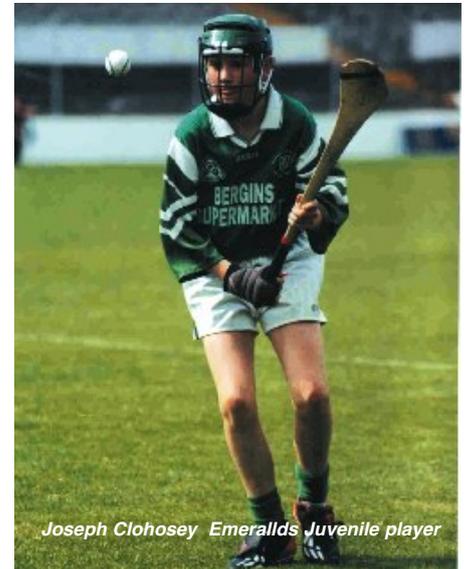
U-12s Have a Great Year

The U12 panel also started in March. All of the panel were part of the school team, which won the Roinn B county board final. They won the Summer league. Later on they got tremendous enjoyment by playing in the well organised Andy Egan Tournament run by James Stephens. After a number of wins in the league section we were unlucky against a very strong Thomastown team in the semi-final. In September thirty six eleven and twelve-year-olds took part in our annual street league. This was easily the most

active section of the Club during the year. The year finished with 36 U-11 and U-12 children in our street league, which was a great success.

Presentations

The Club held a very successful social in the Community Hall in early November. Guest speaker was Brian Cody. The Club made presentations to all our County Players. The U-8's received certificates, while the winners of the street league were presented with beautiful trophies.



Joseph Clohosey Emeralds Juvenile player



Emeralds Camaint 2003

Back: Vincent Webster, Nicholas Walsh, Anthony Farrell, Jamie Ryan, Kieran Bergin and Cathal Walsh.

Middle: Padraig Bergin, PJ Nolan, Damien Fitzgerald, Darragh Gleeson, Thomas Moriarty, James Tobin and Martin Phelan.

Front: Brian Campion, Tommy Webster, Conor Martin, Shane Quinlan, Marty Woods, Brian Troy, Shane Moriarty and Owen Moriarty.



Club Reports

Erin's Own

Back from the Wilderness:

2003 will be remembered in Castlecomer as a great year as senior status was reclaimed after just a single year in the Intermediate grade. The pain and suffering of last years relegation final defeat carried the players through this years Intermediate Final against a youthful and fancied Carrickshock side. The pride of the Parish was at stake and when the chips were down in a close fought finish the Erin's Own lads dug deepest to regain a place at the top table for the 2004 championship. Earlier in the year the team suffered a heavy defeat in the League Final against the same Carrickshock but regained some ground later on by winning the "Boot League" This championship victory has given a great lift to the Parish and players are now eagerly awaiting the new championship. Well done to the team management of Larry O' Neill, Harold Stone and Peter Boran.

Junior Hurling:

Tommy and Dinny Brennan put a great effort into the Junior and Special Junior teams this year. There were plenty of games and some great training sessions. While no silverware was landed the teams performed well. The Juniors loost out in the league quarter final to Galmoy while they beat Danesfort in the championship only to loose to eventual finalists St. Patricks in the second round.

U-21 & Minor

Under age hurling has enjoyed an excellent year in the club. As we write, the U-21's are preparing for their second replay in the Roinn-A championship. In the first round, even though short some key players for the replay they had a comprehensive victory over O' Loughlins and following a second round draw with GraigueBallycallan are awaiting the re-fixtue.

The minors are unbeaten to date. They have won the Roinn B championship and are currently in the League semi-final. This capped a great year for many of the players who also won an All-Ireland Colleges medal with the community school.

U-16 & U-14

The future of the club looks bright if one is to judge by the interest and skill level of both these age groups. John Kelly (u-16) and Eugene Dillon(u-14) along with their selectors provided top class coaching and games for these players. A tremendous amount of hurling was done. The U-16's lost out early to a good Lisdowney side



Development:

More progress has been made at the development of Canon Kearns Park and Áras Ó Meallaigh. The club has recently secured a National Lottery grant and all going according to plan the work will be finished early in the new year and hopefully there will be an official opening later on in the season.

but many of the same players were part of an epic U-14 final with Freshford where unfortunately they were beaten but such was the standard of hurling you can be sure these players will be back to Nowlan Park. The U-13's were beaten by James Stephens by a single point in the final of the prestigious Lisdowney Sevens having led for most of the game. They gained some consolation however by beating Stephens a week later in the O'Loughlins Tournament final.

Primary School & Juvenile

The Primary school team under the watchful eyes of dedicated Teachers John Kelly and Joe Meagher had a great run in Roinn-A this year and were not too far away from making the shake-up. With plenty of coaching going on in the schools and a regular Monday training session in the Prince, hurling has never been in a healthier position. One of the most important success stories in the Club this year has been the formation of a **Juvenile Coaching Squad**. Fifteen dedicated members, most of who had not been involved in coaching before attended a number of training courses and have been doing tremendous work all year with players from 6 to 11 years of age. The new coaches are: Kevin Dunne, Noel Callinan, Martin Holohan, Martin Dwyer, Michael Daly, Dinny Brennan, Martin Shea, Jim Carroll, Richard Connolly, Paul Rice, Jimmy Wallace, Kieran Moran, Sean McMahon, Mike Holland and Eugene Dillon. This is the real "Grass Roots" and is the foundation for not just Club but also County teams of the future.

Sadness:

2003 saw the passing of two men that were dear to the hearts of Erin's Own. **Gerry Holden** who gave a lifetime of

service to the club, particularly in coaching and encouraging young players passed away suddenly while **Terry Renwick** who played in the U-16 County final of '73 and in the Minor final of '75 was taken to his eternal reward at a young age following two long years of illness. May they rest in Peace.

Snippets:

Congratulations to *Peter O' Donovan* and *Damien Fogarty* who won All-Ireland minor medals with Kilkenny this year and to *Colin Dunne* who won an All-Ireland U-21 medal. To *Martin Fogarty* who was manager of the victorious Kilkenny U-21 side and to his son *Conor Fogarty* who got player of the tournament in the Lisdowney Sevens tournament. The last Erin's Own player to win that prestigious award was David Buggy. To *Michael Murphy* who was a member of the victorious Kilkenny side that won the Tony Forristal Tournament for the first time in ten years. To *Denis O' Sullivan* who did a fine job refereeing the senior hurling final.

Best Wishes for the future to *Michael Owens* and *Ann Marie Kirwan*, to *Ken Brennan* and *Fran Shore* and to *Patrick Comerford* and *Catherine Murphy* who all got married recently.

Open Evening:

The Club held a well attended open evening in the community hall during the year where club officers and team managers were available to discuss all aspects of the club with visitors. There was a comprehensive display of old photographs on show. The club also produced an attractive newsletter early in the year and hope to do the same next year with a synopsis of last years activities.



Club Reports

Fenians

Thanks to All

The club would like to thank all those involved, who assisted in all capacities, with the running of the club for the past year and look forward to their support in the future.

Development Work

This year the club is planning to further developments at the Sportsfield. The Club Committee is presently implementing a five year Development Plan which should complement the facilities available to all members.

Good PR Work

The local Club felt that their club's youngsters were not getting sufficient coverage of their juvenile matches on the local papers decided on a plan of action. The PRO, Jimmy Brennan decided to set up a weekly Newsletter. Each Friday evening a full colour production was produced with amongst other items, match reports of all the teams who participated during the week, Lotto details, members profiles, "Guess the GAA Member pictured", a GAA Quiz about the local club, and a Moment of the Week. The production has become very popular. Well done to Jimmy Brennan, PRO and Editor.

Group Text

This year the PRO set up a Group text messaging service which has proven very beneficial in contacting players, supporters and club committee members of ongoing Fenian activities.

The Fenian's On line

Check up on our latest news on line by logging on at <http://kilkenny.gaa.ie/fenians.htm>

On the Field - Senior

League victories were secured against The Village, Glenmore and Mullinavat but lost to O'Loughlins and Ballyhale Shamrocks. An excellent display in the Championship first round was good enough against St. Martin's. The quarter-final game against Young Irelands saw a great contest but unfortunately we lost by five points. An up and down year, overall so next year should be an interesting one, if all remain committed for the entire year. Selectors: P. McCormack, J. Carroll, G. Henderson. Trainer: J. Ryan.



Fenians U-14 team

Back: C.J.Cullinane, T.Costigan, E.Phelan, J.Henderson, N.Stanley,R.Phelan,K.Reid, J.Dollard, J.Quinlan, C.Tobin
Centre: J.Sweeney, J.Whyte,D.Broderick,D.Dermody,C.Behan,B.Vaser, R.O'Gorman.
Front: E.Glendon,E.Corcoran,E.Curran,J. Gorman, E.Phelan, D.Ryan

Junior Hurling

The only victory of the league came against a strong Tullaroan when the selectors could select from a full strength panel. The Championship first round against Galmoy had all spectators on the edge of their seats, with the young and not so young Fenians showing commendable spirit to only lose narrowly. The team qualified for the semi-final of one competition and after training diligently for two months were denied the chance to play after a questionable decision by the County Board, which left a lot of players annoyed and disappointed.

Minor & U-21

Championship First Round: Defeat to eventual champions Erin's Own. The team had a great victory in the final of the league, after excellent victories over St. Lachtain's, Barrow Rangers, John Lockes and Erin's Own. Great credit must go to managers Mick Phelan and Jimmy Brennan and selectors Tommy Hanrahan, Richard Beehan and Patrick O' Loughlin. The U-21s lost in the first round to Tullaroan.

U-16

Found the going tough, but are looking forward to next year after excellent displays to reach the U-15 11 a side final. The Fenians for the first year in a long time had no problem organising transport for matches. With this sort of backing from people, the club has a bright future and is greatly appreciated.

County Players

Congratulation to JJ Delaney, what a terrific year by the star Kilkenny hurler, Stephen Grehan, PJ Ryan on bringing back 3 more All-Ireland medals and three National Leagues to the parish. Amongst all the awards he won, the GPA award is an accolade JJ must highly appreciate, as his intercounty peers selected him the Best Hurler in the Country.

Juvenile Hurling

The primary school team had a successful year and special thanks must go to teachers John Curran and Diarmuid Broderick. The camaint team did very well and progressed to Nowlan Park. The U-12s won the mini-league defeating Young Irelands, Emeralds and Cloneen. In June the Juvenile club entertained St. Vincents, Dublin and a great days hurling was had by the U-11, 12 and 13s. The U-14s and U-16s travelled to Dublin earlier in the year to play Lucan Sarsfields, coached by Joe Whyte of Sevensisters. The Juvenile section wishes to thank all parents who helped in any way throughout the year. Special thanks to coaches-Jimmy Brennan, Anna Culleton, Ger Brennan, Tom Holohan, Richard Curran, Dan Hughes and Willie Costigan.

Obituaries

We wish to pass on our condolences to the families of Dickie Beehan, a fanatical Fenian, Matthew Walsh, father of former hurlers Matty and Tom, Mrs Walsh, mother of former hurlers Paddy and Donal. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Club Reports

Galmoy

Club Officers 2003

Vice-Presidents: Fr. Tom Coyle, John Harte and Mattie Phelan
 Chairman: Stephen Delaney
 Vice-Chairman: Sean Doherty
 Secretary: Nicky Maddock
 Asst.-Secretary: Brian Doherty
 Treasurer: Gerry Maher
 Asst-Treasurer: Brian Lonergan
 PRO: Jerry Drennan

Finance

2003 with the annual parish auction, an outstanding success raising over E6,000 for club funds. On April 11th Galmoy GAA club joined forces with Emeralds GAA club to host a monster table quiz in Butler's Lounge Urlingford. The event raised E1,000 which was donated to the Special Olympics fund.

Michael Strikes it Rich

As in previous years, the Hurlers Co-op draw was also a primary source of income for the club. This year, club centre-back Michael Brennan struck it rich when he won first prize in the first draw in June. This is the third time in recent years that Galmoy GAA has sold a first prize winning ticket.

Games

The Junior hurlers reached the Northern final where they succumbed to St. Patricks Ballyragget. The Special Junior team had an excellent run progressing to the Northern semi-final losing out to Graigue Ballycallan. The U-21s made their exit against Blacks and Whites.

Development Squads

During the Summer many players attended the Development Squads: U-17- Gary Glendon, Padraig Gray, Michael Harte and Brian Kavanagh. U-16 - Mark Stanley. U-15 - Stephen Delaney, Stephen Maher and John Phelan, while Billy Harte was a coach with the U-16s.

World Handball Championships

In October there was great activity in the local handball alley which hosted many rounds of the World Handball Championships. The alley itself is now in pristine condition having been freshly painted and re-lined for the championships. It was a most entertaining week with players from places as far away as Massachusetts and Missouri as well as our local players.



Galmoy Change from Sash

Bill McEvoy, Oldtown, presents new strip to Chairman, Stephen Delaney. Included L - R: Sean Doherty, Stephen Delaney, Nicky Maddock, (Sec), Brian Doherty, David Delaney, Bill McEvoy, Billy Harte.



Galmoy Camaint 2003

Back: Frank Phelan, Darren Grace, Cormac Glendon, Jason Stanley, Jenny McCormack, Micheal Phelan, George Bassett, David Fogarty, Niamh Glendon, Daragh Morrissey, Thomas Phelan and Thomas Phelan.
Front: Conor Grace, Kieran Phelan, Kevin Duggan, Eimear Grace, Siobhan Corcoran, Bethan Hiscock, Lloyd Bassett, Jonathan Geoghegan and Martin Duggan.

Honours

Niall Doherty and Martin Phelan won Leinster and All-Ireland U-21 medals while Michael Brennan and Noel Doherty won Leinster Intermediate medals. Martin Phelan also won a Dublin County U-21 medal with DIT. Leo Doherty and Niall Doherty played with Suir Engineering, winning Munster and All-Ireland Inter-Firm medals. Georgie Hickey was a member of the St. Kierans College panel while Georgie and James Dunne were Laois minor panellists. Congratulations to John Harte who was honoured on senior county final day as a selector with the victorious Kilkenny Junior team of 1956. Padraig Gray, Georgie Hickey, James Dunne, Michael Harte, Gary Glendon, Brian Kavanagh, Jonathan and Mark Stanley, were mem-

bers of the Fenians / Galmoy minor team, winners of Div. 2 Hurling League.

Juveniles

It was very encouraging to see the many parents who became involved in juvenile coaching and credit is due to School / Club Liaison Officer Pat Glendon for his co-ordination of the underage work.

Sympathies

The club extends deepest sympathy to the families of the following who passed away in 2003: Mrs. Mary Doherty (nee Harte), Mrs. Stella Walsh (nee Phelan), Mrs. Kathleen Maguire (nee Drennan), Mrs./ Joan Cooney (nee Maher), John Costigan, Paddy Daly, Jim Grace, Bernard McCormack and to all those who were bereaved.

U21's Make it Three!



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND U21 CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Shane Hennessy, Ken Coogan, Tommy Walsh, John Phelan, Jackie Tyrrell (Capt.), Canice Hickey, Peter Cleere, Conor Phelan, Colin Dunne, Sean O'Neill.
Middle: Ger Joyce, Aidan Fogarty, Michael Rice, Richie O'Neill, David Herrity, Mark Phelan, JJ Delaney, Brian Dowling, Willie Dwyer
Front: Chris O'Neill, Eoin McCormack, Michael Grace, Conor O'Loughlin, Niall Moran, Niall Doherty, Martin Phelan, Ned Sweeney..

John McIlwaine

Kilkenny won the county's eighth U-21 All-Ireland title at well attended Semple Stadium on Sunday 21st September this year. The victory was gained with remarkable ease and composure over a Galway team that was never allowed get a foothold on the game. Looking at Kilkenny in the final, a neutral observer could justifiably conclude that Kilkenny must have been the dominant team all year and favourites to take the title. However, that conclusion would be light years away from the real picture. Galway were the favourites from the outset, having taken the minor crown three years previously and with a decent representation of players that had played in last years final. Cork and Tipperary were also highly regarded, as it was hard to see Limerick having enough material to dominate in the grade for four years. In Leinster, Offaly meant business, having reached the All-Ireland semi-final at minor level three years ago. They had their eyes, not just on the Leinster trophy, but on the "Cashel Cross" itself. Wexford won Leinster last year and would take stopping again but Dublin who narrowly lost out to the Wexford men in last year's final were in with a great chance to make the break through – according to the media. It was possibly this media hype that led to their eventual downfall.

Very little was expected of Kilkenny– they had gotten a trouncing at minor level by Offaly and held the unenviable record of being the first Kilkenny minor team in eleven years not to win a Leinster title. Again, their first round opponents were Offaly and it looked as if it could be a short year. That was not to be, thankfully, and by September that group of Kilkenny players had won many, many admirers for their great hearted and spirited play throughout the campaign. Winning the U-21 was an outstanding achievement but eight of those players had the added bonus of winning senior medals. Three of them also won Leinster Intermediate medals and came with in a whisker of winning All-Ireland Intermediate medals.

It all started in late January in the fields of Thomastown and Bennetsbridge. A new management team was in place with Manager Martin Fogarty, Selectors Tom O'Hanlon, Tom Doheny, Tommy Bawle and the enigmatic trainer Michael Dempsey. All had great experience working at the coalface in their clubs for years while Michael Dempsey had the added experience of managing his native Laois Senior football team and bringing Carlow side O'Hanrahans to Leinster club glory.

The formula was simple. Over seventy players were given a decent chance in various trial games. The management demanded hard work and honesty. The aim was to beat Offaly in the first round. The players responded magnificently and with Dempseys innovative training methods everyone enjoyed the training. The county board allowed the management the latitude of an extended training panel and this was critical to the preparations especially as more of the players got the call up to senior duties. The support of the clubs in this respect was also crucial and certainly the Club-County relationship that exists in Kilkenny has a major bearing on the county's success.

Three years of anguish were bottled up inside the Kilkenny players as they hit the sod of newly revamped O' Moore Park for that long awaited opportunity for revenge against Offaly on June 11th. Kilkenny faced a stiff breeze in the opening half and had to be prepared for an Offaly onslaught. Prepared they were and with Peter Cleere, Conor Phelan and Aidan Fogarty keeping the Offaly half back line under severe pressure they were not able to give their forwards the pin-point ball that they required. Meanwhile Kilkenny's gladiatorial half back line of Ken Coogan, Jackie Tyrrell and JJ Delaney soaked up anything that was thrown at them in uncompromising fashion. Kilkenny were just two points adrift at half time and the tornado that hit Offaly in the second half just could not be stopped as the cats surprised even themselves by running out victors on a score line of 2-18 to 0-10.

Two weeks later June 24th, again at O' Moore Park, Laois provided the opposition. Laois took the game to Kilkenny and led for the first twenty minutes. Eoin McCormack kept Kilkenny in touch with some well-taken points but when Tommy Walsh grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck with a superb goal it was all one-way traffic and Kilkenny won out again by a 14 point margin– 3-14 to 0-9.

The Leinster Final was next in Dr. Cullen Park Carlow on July 16th. and a highly rated Dublin side stood between Kilkenny and the first piece of silverware that they so craved. Kilkenny were growing in confidence and Brian Dowling was now in the side following a lengthy absence due to injury. Conditions were poor and the punters said that Kilkenny worked rather than impressed. While it took two good points from substitute Sean O'Neill late in the game and two further gems from young Willie Dwyer to seal the game for Kilkenny, they always seemed to be comfortable. Kilkenny took an early lead and were three points ahead after twenty minutes. Dublin then scored a fortuitous goal from out the field and followed up with a point to take the lead. Conor Phelan scored to send the teams in level at half time. 0-5 to 1-2. Scores were scarce early in the second half with Dublin squandering a few chances while Ken Coogan landed a brace of good scores for Kilkenny. The Cats upped the pace in the closing quarter and landed their Leinster Title on a score line of 0-12 to 1-4.

The All-Ireland Semi-Final was played at well-appointed Mullingar with Down in the opposite corner. Kilkenny were in serious mood and were taking no prisoners with an All-Ireland spot looming. Brian Dowling was back to his best and, with Aidan Fogarty and Shane Hennessy finely tuned, scores came regularly. David Herity and his rearguard were men on a mission and gave nothing away. At the close of play the cats were purring having won by 4-19 to 1-7. As they tucked into steak and chips in their hotel, Tipperary and Galway battled out in extra time for the second place in the final.

Galway won through and the stage was now set for "Death or Glory". By this time Kilkenny had eight players on the senior panel with the senior final just seven days before the U-21 final. The question on everyone's lips was obvious! The treble had not been achieved since Kilkenny pulled it off in 1975. Would the pressure be too much? Galway had extra incentive now, to stop Kilkenny's clean sweep. The result is now history with Kilkenny taking their eight title in the grade and doing so in style. With David Herity sound in goal and the full back line of Mark Phelan, Canice Hickey and Ger Joyce as tight as the proverbial "trout's rear" the die was cast. Kilkenny were not going to be beaten and they took the game to Galway from the outset. Man for man, Kilkenny won every battle. The intelligent hurling of the like of Michael Rice coupled with the power of Cleere and Phelan epitomised this team. Galway got a few frees at the start of the game and enjoyed a two point lead after twenty minutes of play. Kilkenny were composed during this period and were doing well from general play. Aidan Fogarty shaved the Galway line with a tidy flick that left the defence gasping.

After 25 minutes Michael Rice found Fogarty again, who caught brilliantly on the edge of the square to rattle the net. Kilkenny retired at the break 1-7 to 0-7 ahead. Just after the break Kilkenny delivered the fatal blow. Peter Cleere shipped a heavy tackle to the right of the Galway goal, passed to Conor Phelan who raced in and buried the cats second goal. From there to the end Kilkenny just kept it simple and tight and became the only County in history to complete two trebles. The final score was 2-13 to 0-12 . For Kilkenny David Herry had a great year conceding just one goal. Mark Phelan was tenacious at corner back and ensured that any "runners" got nowhere. Canice Hickey and Ger Joyce used their strength and intelligence in front of goal to minimise opportunities for forwards. The half back line of Ken Coogan, Jackie Tyrrell and JJ Delaney were often referred to as "the wall" and, unlike the



Aidan Fogarty - Strong man in the Kilkenny attack *John McLwaine*



The Boss Man - Martin Fogarty *Sportsfile*

Berlin wall, there was no knocking this one. At midfield the Tullaroan duo of Shane Hennessy and Tommy Walsh just oozed skill. Shane kept his best performance for the final while Tommy– well, there's just one Tommy. Conor Phelan and Peter Cleere were the powerhouse of the forward line. Conor had a remarkable year which saw him elevated to the senior team while Peter was wearing the Black and Amber for the first time this year. Both of these players terrorised defences . Willie Dwyer and Aidan Fogarty used their speed and accuracy to great effect and were a constant torment for their opponents. Michael Rice's versatility, his reading of the game and his ability to find a free player established him as a player to be reckoned with while Brian Dowling could only be described as the predator supreme who, in the blink of an eye can turn a half chance into a score. Richie O' Neill, Chris O' Neill, Eoin McCormack, Sean O'Neill, Colin Dunne, Niall Doherty, Conor O'Loughlin, Niall Moran, Michael Grace, Ned Sweeney Martin Phelan and John Phelan all saw action also and were an invaluable part of the team.

When asked about the reasons for Kilkenny's success at U-21 this year, manager Martin Fogarty remarked that there were two identifiable areas that he could point to.

The first was the background team where Tom O' Hanlon and Tom Doherty had an extraordinary knowledge of every

player in the county. Tommy Bawle had a rapport with the players and could understand their psyche. Michael Dempseys training methods which were challenging and almost always involved the ball and hurl ensured that the players enjoyed training and were working on their weaknesses. Jimmy Meagher ensured that everything was organized for match days and training sessions.

The second was the panel. There were three aspects to it. The first aspect was the group of eight players that were on the senior panel. Their commitment was total and their example exemplary. At 6.30 p.m. on the Tuesday after winning a senior All-Ireland medal the eight of them were on the field in Nowlan Park for 7.00p.m. training. Enough said. The second aspect was the remaining group of players that were on the official panel. These players, in the absence of the leaders, assumed leadership. They kept the drive on in training and they stood up and were counted in challenge games even though many of their stronger colleagues were absent. The third and most important aspect was the players that got the bad news – that they were not on the official panel. They were invited to continue training with the panel with the slim hope of maybe making the official list because of an injury or loss of form of one of the “lucky ones”. This they did with vigour and enthusiasm. They committed themselves and trained one hundred per cent and it was this drive that kept the other players on their toes and gave them an appreciation of the elevated position that they themselves enjoyed. It was this commitment, spirit among players and respect for each other that delivered the eight U-21 title to Kilkenny in 2003.

Panel:

David Herrity, Mark Phelan, Canice Hickey, Ger Joyce, Ken Coogan, Jackie Tyrrell, J.J. Delaney, Shane Hennessy, Tommy Walsh, Conor Phelan, Peter Cleere, Willie Dwyer, Aidan Fogarty, Michael Rice, Brian Dowling, Richie O' Neill, Chris O Neill, Colin Dunne, Niall Moran, Michael Grace, Conor O' Loughlin, John Phelan, Ned Sweeney, Martin Phelan, Niall Doherty, Eoin McCormack, Sean O' Neill.

Extended Training Panel:

Anthony Owens, Jamie McGrath, Denis Kelly, John Murphy, Damien Maher, Mark Heffernan, Eoin Reid, Brendan Maher, Niall Bergin , Niall Mackey, Ciarán Hoynes.



Tommy Walsh strikes for Kilkenny *John McIlwaine*



Willie O'Dwyer in action in the All Ireland Final *John McIlwaine*



Martin Phelan in action against Galway's Kenneth Burke *Sportsfile*



BRIAN & GEORGY'S CORNER



Hi,

Hope that you are all enjoying your Christmas break. If you do get a nice day over the hols it would be no harm to head outside for a few puck or kicks of Gaelic football to keep the "eye in" for the upcoming competitors in the new year. In the meantime, enjoy the few pieces which we have put together to pass some of your time over the Holidays, and also take a look at some of the Coaching and Games Development work, which has been undertaken in Kilkenny during 2003. Bye for now and enjoy the hols, we would look forward to meeting you all in the New

Year,

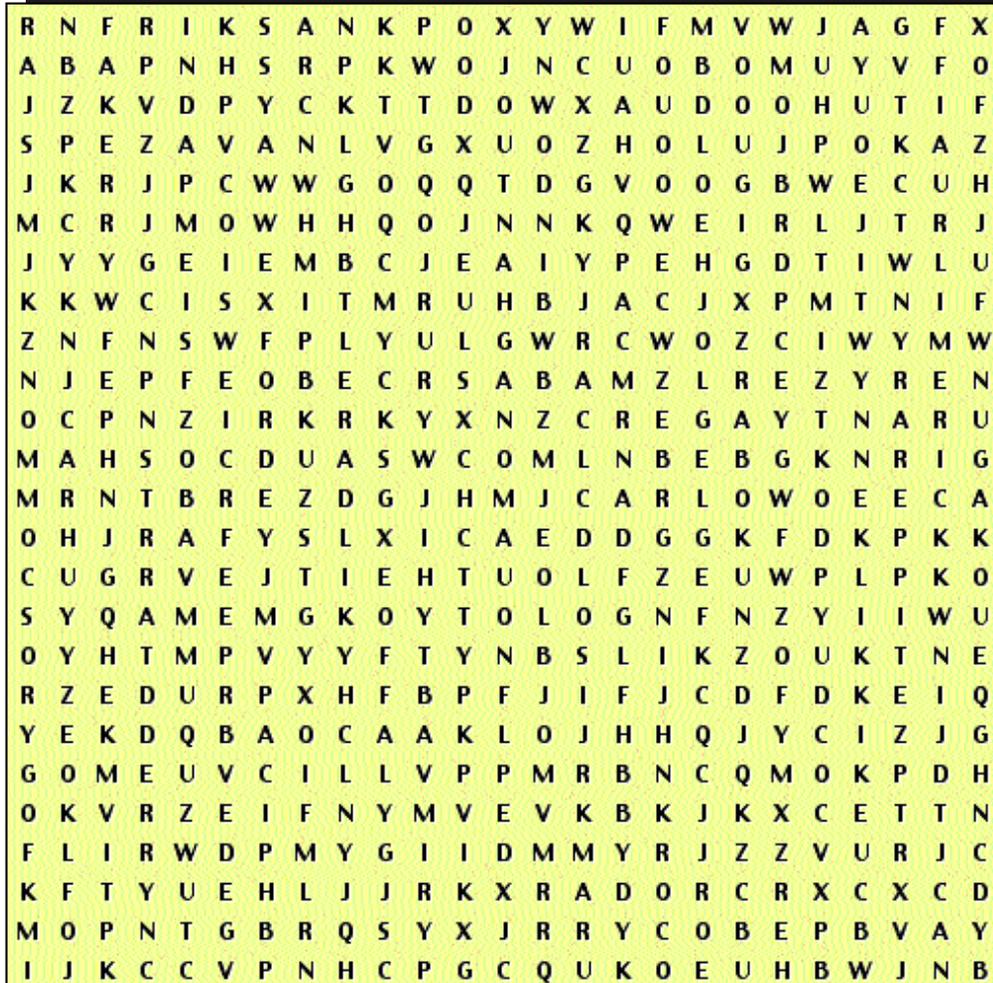
Brían and Georgie

BRIAN & GEORGY'S WORD SEARCH

Hidden here are the names of the 19 counties which have won All Ireland SF Titles. Can you find them? Then, can you find the three non-winning counties hidden among them?

- ARMAGH
- CAVAN
- CORK
- DERRY
- DONEGAL
- DOWN
- DUBLIN
- GALWAY
- KERRY
- KILDARE
- LIMERICK
- LOUTH
- MAYO
- MEATH
- OFFALY
- ROSCOMMON
- TIPPERARY
- TYRONE
- WEXFORD

Send the names of the three intruders to Barrie Henriques, Callan, Co Kilkenny. First three out of the hat win a gearbag! Closing date - 31st Jan 2004.



Can you unscramble these Kilkenny Senior hurlers from Georgy's Anagram Machine?

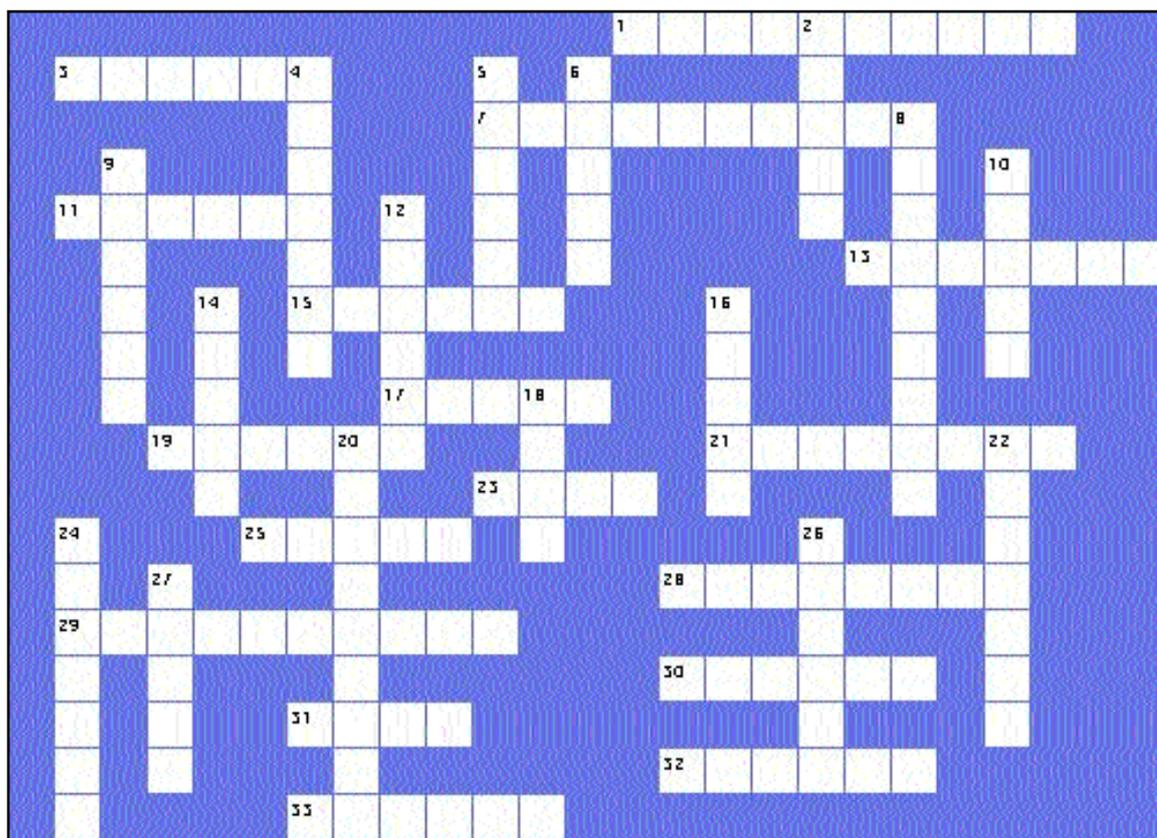
Banner Denied, Cheeky Lion, Poor Channel, Lined Wagons, Mostly Wham.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES!



Georgy got at the picture above and made ten changes before we caught him. Can you spot them?

Brian & Georgy's GAA Crossword



Down

- 2. Clare trainer who retired in 2003.
- 4. Last person to score in 2003 SH All Ireland.
- 5. 2003 Leinster MF Champions
- 6. Conor Phelan's club.
- 8. Won their first Roinn "C" MH title this year.
- 9. Tipp Camogie Goalie's first name.
- 10. All Ireland SF referee.
- 12. Cork SH Manager
- 14. Kilkenny MH Captain 2003.
- 16. Retired as Tipp trainer 2003.
- 18. Wexford SH full back.
- 20. Beaten by O'Loughlins in SH quarter final.
- 22. Venue of All Ireland Colleges Hurling Finals 2003.
- 24. Tipp SH goalie.
- 26. Ger Oakley's county.
- 27. Markievicz Park is here.

Across

- 1. O'Moore Park is here
- 3. Beaten by Wexford in SH Championship.
- 7. Colin Grant's club.
- 11. Known as "Gooch".
- 13. JJ Delaney's club.
- 15. Kevin Hughes plays for this team.
- 17. Joe Brolly's county.
- 19. Kilkenny U21 Goalie.
- 21. They have 7 All Ireland SH titles.
- 23. County with red & green colours.
- 25. President of GAA.
- 28. Hurler of the Year 2002.
- 29. Willie O'Dwyer's club.
- 30. Name of GAA Park in Ennis.
- 31. Bishopstown is a club in this county.
- 32. Donal Óg Cusack's club.
- 33. Dunloy is a club in this county.

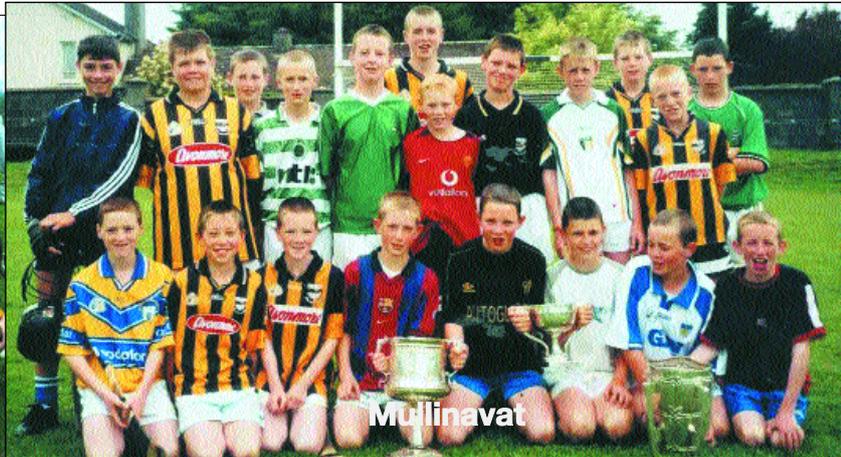


Who is this present Kilkenny star?

AROUND THE SUMMER CAMPS



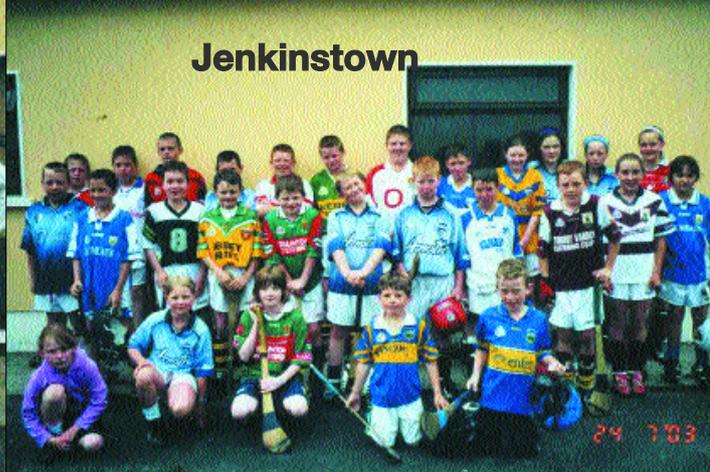
Jenkinstown



Mullinavat



Piltown



Jenkinstown



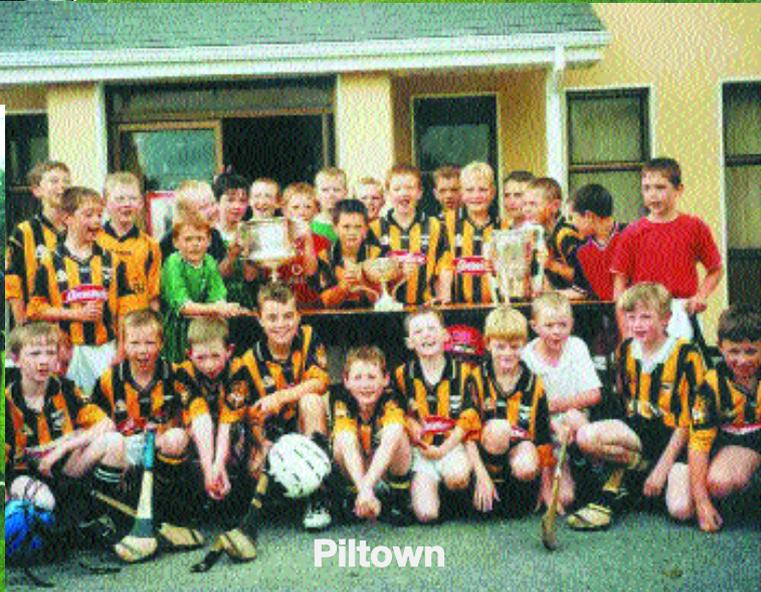
Mullinavat



Mullinavat



Jenkinstown



Piltown



Kilmacow



O'Loughlin's



Can you name the above current stars taken at school?



Kilkenny Primary Schools' Pupils in Croke Park on Leinster Final Day
 Back; Philip Ryan, Stephen Fennan, Shane Norton, Eoin Murphy, Gary Delaney
 Front: Eoin Grant, Conor Maharej, Geoffrey Brennan, Thomas Breen

A Village Treble!



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY MINOR HURLING A CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Michael Neary, David Doyle, Ross Hennessy, Damien Phelan, Shane Campion, Paddy Noonan, Keith Morris, Tommy Hoyne, Anthony Lawlor, Stephen Hoyne, Adrian Walsh, Tomas Keogh, Phil 'Fan' Larkin (selector).

Middle: Fergal walshe (selector), Niall Lanigan, Mark Coyne, James Hennessy, Kevin O'Neill, Padraig O'Keefe, Donnacha Cody, Eamon Sheehy, James Whelan, Jamie Quane, David Byrne, Mark Power (trainer), Tommy Lanigan (selector).

Front: Matthew Ruth, Stephen Barham, Paddy Butler, Adrian Harkin, David McCormack (capt), Kieran Brennan, John Comerford, Damien Kelly, John Taylor, Conor Noonan, Eoin Everard.
Missing from photo: Darren Leahy, Julian O'Dwyer. *Photo Tom Brett*

The year belonged to the red and green army of James Stephens as they careered through the entire spectrum of under-age hurling within the County and at National level also. They started with their under 14 starlets who set the headline for the rest of the under age guys in the club, by winning the under 14 Championship, and stitched the National Féile title to it. The club followed that up with a Championship/League double at under 16, and in front of one of the largest crowds seen for many a long day on senior county final Sunday, the year was gilded with a magnificent Minor Championship win. It was truly a remarkable haul of titles by the Village youth, where the value of the hard work being done by their many mentors was never more evidently underlined.

James Stephens, Dicksboro, St Martins and Clara were involved in a preliminary round. The eventual winners had to come through the most testing route, as they faced the arch city rivals, Dicksboro in their first outing. Displaying a determination and a ruthlessness that was both admirable and awesome, they totally dominated the Boro, and ran out very convincing winners at the finish, winning by 2-16 to 1-6. The other prelim game was a much tighter game. It took all the

guile, and sharpness of a very promising St Martins to eventually conquer the determination of a youthful Clara in a thriller. The Saints won, but not before they encountered a few nerve-stopping moments from the Clara lads who didn't know the meaning of the word, capitulate. St Martins won eventually by 2-8 to Clara's 0-11.

In the quarterfinals, Carrickshock, who were highly fancied for the title, and who were subsequently to win the League title, proved far too good for Mooncoin, winning by 2-13 to 0-8. James Stephens faced the Shamrocks, and it was rather surprising the ease at which the Village lads lowered the Shamrocks' colours, a Shamrocks team of which much had been expected. James Stephens won by 3-15 to 0-10. The Rower/Inistioge and O'Loughlins were forced to make two attempts at winning their encounter. It finished level at the first attempt, with the Rower scoring 2-7 to which the O'Loughlins replied with 0-13. In the replay, the city side ran out easier winners than the eventual score, 2-11 to 1-8, would suggest. St Martins had a mere point to spare over Graig Ballycallan, winning by 0-11 to 1-7.

The semi-finals were a little lopsided, with James Stephens easily conquering

Carrickshock by 3-9 to 0-8, and St Martins having less trouble beating O'Loughlins by 1-14 to 0-5. And so to the County Final in Nowlan Park.

This was a novel encounter between the giants of Kilkenny minor hurling, James Stephens, and the St Martins "Davids". The Saints seeking their very first Roinn A minor crown, and the Village lads endeavouring to be on the winning podium for the twelfth time. The odds were stacked against the lads from the high country.

Surprisingly the Muckalee lads took the fight to the James Stephens, and this ploy upset the favourites. They matched their opponents with skill, power, determination, and on the scoreboard. As half time approached, James Stephens were in front, but only just. A Muckalee attack just before the break saw corner forward, Chris Mahony avail of a block down by James Stephens goalkeeper, Kieran Brennan, to wallop the ball to the back of the net. The underdogs were in front by 1-5 to 0-7, a position they scarcely anticipated. The Muckalee lads were hugely impressive. James Stephens seemed uneasy. The second half fairly exploded in the 39th minute. An early exchange of points



Eoin Hennessy

ST MARTIN'S - MINOR "A" COUNTY FINALISTS 2003

Back: Paddy Brennan, Eoin Bolger, Patrick O'Flynn, Brian Mulhall, Robbie Healy, Michael Morrissey
Middle: Michael Darcy, Diarmuid Brennan, Shane Comerford, Chris Mahony, Con Hogan, Shane Cadogan, Mike Keane, Kieran Byrne,
Front: Colin McGrath, Eoin McGrath, Joe Maher, Eamon Buggy, David Shore, Aidan Murphy, James Maher, Brian Malone, Ronan Maher, John Mulhall, James Dowling.
Photo Eoin Hennessy

between David McCormack, and Eoin McGrath, had the Muckalee lads still in front by a goal. McGrath side footed the sliothar into Kieran Brennan's goal following a delightful through ball from Maher. They led by six points. Could the unthinkable become reality? Could the minnows catch the big fish? Could the St Martins get their name on the Roinn A trophy for the first time in their history? We waited; us neutrals at least did, with bated breath.

James Stephens still looked lethargically out of sorts. But they had a considerable ace to play. Cometh the hour, cometh the man. The man was their captain, David Mc Cormack. After the second Muckalee goal, Mc Cormack shot four unanswered points. His side were back in business by the 50th minute. Colin McGrath came on as a Muckalee sub. His introduction steadied the floundering Muckalee ship. He slammed home a great goal with five minutes remaining. They now had a five point lead. Step up captain McCormack. 'Twas Eamonn Sheehy that started the rebirth of the Village recovery plan. But it was McCormack who took it on, and finished it. Well into added time, he levelled matters, and in truth, both sides would have welcomed the long "feadóg". It didn't come, but McCormack, receiving a long Patrick Butler delivery, twisted his shot between the Muckalee posts for an amazing winning score, and a ball-breaking loss for the gallant St Martins men. Of such scores are legends born.

James Stephens : Kieran Brennan, John Comerford, Patrick Butler, Tomás Keogh, Eamon Sheehy, Donnacha Cody,

Kevin O'Neill, Damien Kelly, Shane Campion, Tommy Hoyne, Adrian Harkin, Eoin Everard, Jamie Quan, David McCormack (capt), Matthew Ruth.

Subs: Michael Neary, James Whelan, Niall Lanigan, Pdraig O'Keeffe, Paddy Noonan, Ross Hennessy, James Hennessy, David Byrne, Anthony Lawlor, Stephen Barham, Conor Noonan, John Taylor, Mark Coyne, Keith Morris, Julian O'Dwyer, David Doyle, Stephen Hoyne, Darren Leahy, Damien Phelan, Adrian Walsh.

St Martins : David Shore, Aidan Murphy, Kieran Byrne, Joseph Maher, James Maher, Shane Cadogan (capt), Michael Keane, Ronan Maher, Eamon Buggy, Brian Mulhall, Eoin McGrath, Shane Comerford, Brian Malone, John Maher, Chris Mahoney.

Subs : Patrick Brennan, Colin McGrath, Diarmuid Brennan, Eoin Bolger, Patrick O'Flynn, Michael Darcy, Con Hogan, James Dowling, John Mulhall, Michael Morrissey, Robbie Healy.

ROINN "A" LEAGUE

Divided into two groups, the League competition produced some exciting fare, and for the first time ever, a team from without of the county competed. It was a hands across the border gesture of good will towards the young Laois hurlers from the Clough/Ballacolla Parish. They proved worthy adversaries, and were not overawed by the apparent reputations abounding in their group, group two. In Group One, Clara and Carrickshock

were the bookies favourites to qualify for the semi-finals, and so it proved. Clara opened their account with a fine 2-13 to 1-11 win over O'Loughlins. It was followed by wins over Rower/Inistioge (2-15 to 1-6), Dicksboro (1-15 to 1-8), and Graig Ballycallan (4-11 to 2-10). They suffered just one defeat against Carrickshock, going down by 2-8 to 2-5. Carrickshock had four wins and a draw in their run, beating, the Rower/Inistioge, Graig Ballycallan, Clara, and Dicksboro, whilst they shared the points with O'Loughlins.

In Group Two, Mooncoin, Ballyhale Shamrocks, James Stephens, Conahy Shamrocks, St Martins, and Laois "apprentices", Clogh/Ballacolla were preparing for battle. Ballyhale Shamrocks, James Stephens, and Mooncoin were fancied. The Laois boys were unknown entities. Before the campaign was over, many teams had plenty reasons to remember them.

The Laois contingent were beaten by St Martins in their opening game, 2-12 to 2-7. Out of their dept, we surmised. They drew with James Stephens in their next outing, 1-11 apiece. Hmm.

They hammered Conahy by 5-9 to 1-10 in their third game. We might have something here.

They trimmed the sails of the Ballyhale lads by 2-12 to 0-10. They underlined that victory with a bigger one over Mooncoin, winning by 3-10 to 0-3. They qualified for the semi-final. Not bad for newcomers! The Ballyhale lads had fine wins over,



CARRICKSHOCK ROINN "A" MINOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Patrick Carr, Cathal Quigley, John Tennyson, Patrick Duggan, Ricky Brennan, Tommy Brophy, Richie Power, James Moran, Seanie Gibbons, John Dalton, Colm Mullaly, Darren O Dwyer, Eoin Smith.

Front: Denis Murphy, John Power, Ciaran Holden, Garry Foley, James Farrell, John Butler, Niall Tennyson, Pauric Barron, John Sheehan, Gerard Power, Tommy O'Leary, John Phelan.

Mooncoin (1-12 to 1-5), Conahy (1-18 to 0-10), St Martins (3-9 to 3-5), and James Stephens (3-12 to 1-12). They too qualified for the semi-finals.

Shamrocks proved to be a little bit too strong for a very youthful Clara, who didn't contemplate ever throwing in the towel. The Shamrocks eventually won by 1-11 to 0-7. In the other semi-final, the Laois lads bowed out, but not before giving Carrickshock a few reminders that they were a decent outfit, which graced the Kilkenny scene with a mighty attitude, and proved that the experiment was a well worth exercise from all points of view. Carrickshock won the game by 2-11 to 0-10.

The Final was a terrific encounter with the end result in doubt to the final whistle. Two first half goals by Tommy Brophy and Patrick Duggan had Carrickshock in front at the break. However in a frantic second half, a Mark Aylward goal after 17 minutes set up the game for a titanic finish. The Shamrocks caught the high-flying Carrickshock close to the finishing line, but the doughty battlers from the Hugginstown Parish dug deep to take the spoils eventually.

The final score read, Carrickshock 2-8 Shamrocks 1-9.

Carrickshock : John Butler, Ricky Brennan, John Dalton, Niall Tennyson, John Sheehan, John Tennyson, James Farrell, Colm Mullally, Garry Foley, Tommy Brophy, Patrick Duggan, Richie Power, Seanie Gibbons, James Moran, Cathal Quigley.

Subs: Pauric Barron, Darren O'Dwyer, John Phelan, John Power, Dinny Murphy, Kieran Holden, Tony O'Leary, Ger Power, Eoin Smith, Paddy Carr, Christopher

Price.

Shamrocks : James Connolly, Tomás Cullen, Eamon Walsh, Donal Dempsey, Eddie Walsh, Michael Fennelly, Barry Nolan, Ger Fennelly, TJ Reid, Mickey Carroll, Dickie Holohan, Mark Aylward, Kieran Grace, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick.

Subs: Liam Muldoon, Anthony Wymess, Michael Mason, Jason O'Brien, Cillian Holden.

ROINN "B" CHAMPIONSHIP

There was some great hurling done across the entire spectrum of the Kilkenny championships, and particularly at under age level, and the Roinn B championship was no exception. In the first round, some great games took place, particularly where neighbouring Parishes clashed. Mullinavat had dreadful trouble trying to overcome neighbours, Tullogher/Rosbercon, which they did, but only just. Barrow Rangers had only four points to spare over the Emeralds in their first round clash. Conahy got a walk over from St Patricks, while John Lockes were no match for a hugely improving Thomastown. Tullaroan were well walloped by Blacks and Whites, and Erins Own took care of the Fenians/Glamoy challenge a little easier than the score of 4-10 to 3-4 would suggest.

In the quarterfinals, and Conahy fought out a ferocious battle, with the result in doubt to the full time whistle. St Lactains won, but only just on a score of 3-11 to 2-12. Mullinavat and Thomastown had to do battle twice before the latter came home winners, on a score of 7-15 to 4-7.

There was some enjoyment at that one. Blacks and Whites nailed Barrow Rangers, and Erins Own followed them into the semi finals with a 2-12 to 2-7 win over Piltown.

Thomastown, showing a marvellous determination, and a great work ethic, had a goal to spare over never say die, St Lactains (2-9 to 1-9), but Erins Own had a rather facile victory over Blacks and Whites to get their spot at the final table.

All the action in the final seemed to be reserved for the final minutes before the half time break, and just before the end of the game. A Richard O'Hara goal for Thomastown shot his side into a four point lead on the 32nd minute. The 'Comer lads, unperturbed matched the score with a terrific Liam Oates shot, within seconds of the break, when the score read Thomastown 2-5, Erins Own 1-7. It was still all to play for. In the early part of the new half, the sides matched each other score for score. With ten minutes remaining, a Barry Dunne goal looked like a match-winning score, but still Thomastown fought back. However, Dunne shot another cracker of a goal, to increase his side's lead to four points. Erins Own looked done and dusted. Two more points by Jimmy Byrne and Martin Boran underlined the opinion that the 'Comer lads would be certainties to collect the Cup. But Thomastown dug deep into their reserves of determination, and Dermot Lanigan goal close to full time had the game right back in the melting pot. Martin Boran though, made sure that the title was 'Comer bound when he fired home his side's fourth goal on the call of full time. A great contest. A great final. A great win for the Erins Own club.



Eoin Hennessy

ERIN'S OWN MINOR ROINN 'B' (TED CARROLL MEMORIAL TROPHY) WINNERS 2003

Back: Thomas Dwyer, David O, Gorman, Michael Moran, Brian Nolan, Dermot Wallace, Donal Fenlon, Liam Oates, Donal Mealey, Martin Boran, Paddy Shortall, Peter O, Donovan.

Middle: Michael Murphy, Michael Dunne, Liam Carroll, Christopher Brennan, Damien Fogarty (Capt.) Wayne Kavanagh, Jimmy Byrne, Barry Dunne, Alan Treacy

Front: Ronan Dowling, Eddie Kelly, Peadar Boran, Conor Fogarty, James Mullins, John O, Gorman, Jason McGuire, Ger Coady.

Thomastown will be back for sure.

Erins Own : Donal Fenlon, Christopher Brennan, Paddy Shortall, Michael Dunne, Thomas Dwyer, Peter O'Donovan, David O'Gorman, Michael Moran, Ger Cody, Martin Boran, Dermot Wallace, Jimmy Byrne, Liam Oates, Damien Fogarty (capt), Barry Dunne.

Subs : Alan Treacy, Brian Nolan, Donal Mealey, Michael Murphy, Liam Carroll, Wayne Kavanagh, Ronan Dowling, Eddie Kelly, Peadar Boran, Conor Fogarty, James Mullins, John O'Gorman, Jason McGuire.

Thomastown : Dwayne Tennyson, Richard Moore, Liam Mahoney, Sean Doyle, Stewart Tennyson, Sean Mahoney, John Furlong, Peter O'Hanrahan, Stephen Cullen, Jamie Tennyson, Richard O'Hara, Dermot Lanigan, Garry Ryan, JJ Farrell, Seamus Kelly.

Subs: Ross Diamond, John Mc Donald, Richard Ryan, Ian Egan, Thomas Kavanagh, Pauric Nolan, Jamie Whitty, Eoin Hayes.

ROINN "B" LEAGUE

There were two groups of six teams competing for the League title. In group one, it seemed from the early rounds that the likely qualifiers were going to be St Lactains, Fenians/Galmoy and Blacks and Whites. In round 1 St Lactains 93-16) beat Tullaroan (2-4), while Blacks and Whites had a single point to spare over Fenians/Galmoy. John Lockes (0-13) had a surprising win over Barrow Rangers (1-5). St Lactains (1-24) continued on their merry way with a nice win over Barrow Rangers (1-2).



Eoin Hennessy

DANESFORT - IARNRÓD ÉIREANN ROINN "C" MINOR CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Anthony Dunne(trainer), Richard Devane, Sean Leahy, John Corr, Padraic Treacy, Liam Forristal, Michael Moylan, Paul Pembroke, Jonathon Ryan, James Hickey, Jonathon Grace, Martin McMahon, Shane O'Neill, Michael Saunders, James Tierney(Selector), Noel Morrissey(Selector).

Front: Pat Treacy(Selector), Richard Hogan, Donal Maher, Bill Muldowney, Robert Walsh, Michael Cunningham, Philip Walsh(Captain), Dwayne Martin, Martin Dunphy, Jason Cody, Patrick Hogan, John Brennan, Shane O'Hara.



FENIANS / GALMOY MINOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: S. Warren, G. Hickey, K. Grehan, G. Glendon, J. Dunne, J. Broderick, D. Brennan, D. Looby, T. Barry, M. Purcell (capt), M. Stanley, P. Grey, E. Ryan, P. Ryan.
Front: B. Kavanagh, C. Ryan, J. Dermody, P. Murphy, J. Stanley.

Missing from photo: W. Tobin, F. Murphy.

Fenians/Galmoy beat John Lockes, and Tullaroan fell foul of a marauding Blacks and Whites. By round three, St Lactains had a full compliment of points, when they beat Blacks and Whites by 3-17 to 2-10. John Lockes beat Tullaroan, and Fenians/Galmoy accounted for Barrow Rangers. In round four, the Fenians/Galmoy really came good with an impressive win over Tullaroan; 2-17 to 2-3. St Lactains got a walk over from John Lockes, and Blacks and Whites (8-5) had a comfortable win over Barrow Rangers (1-5). Wins for Tullaroan, Fenians/Galmoy and Blacks and Whites all but settled the semi-final placings. The Fenians/Galmoy win was impressive as their opponents were the all-conquering St Lactains.

In Group 2, there were some formidable teams going for honours. Erins Own (3-14) started well against Piltown (0-9). So did Danesfort, who beat Tullogher/Rosbercon by 2-14 to 0-16. Thomastown too had a nice opening win, beating the Emeralds by 2-11 to 3-4. In round 2, Erins own (4-14) beat Danesfort (3-10), Tullogher/Rosbercon (3-15) proved too hot to handle for Thomastown (1-11), but Piltown collected their first points by beating the Emeralds by 4-6 to 0-3. In a very close encounter, Danesfort beat Thomastown by 3-12 to 3-10 in round 3, and Piltown had a point to spare when they played Tullogher/Rosbercon. Erins Own continued on their winning ways with a comprehensive win over the Emeralds. Wins for Piltown, Erins own and Danesfort in round 4 set the group up for a nail biting last round. Piltown, going great guns, proved too hot for Danesfort, while Erins Own conquered Thomastown. The Emeralds and Tullogher were out of the equation at this point.

From Group 1, Fenians/Galmoy, St

Lactains and Blacks & Whites all finished on eight points. St Lactains went straight into the semi-final while the other two fought out a playoff game. The Fenians/Galmoy outfit won the spot, on a score of 6-13 to 3-8. Erins Own and Piltown had come through from Group 2. The Fenians/Galmoy lads came through their game against Erins own, winning by 2-10 to 1-10. Piltown had three points to spare over St Lactains, 0-11 to 0-8. The northern combination of neighbours, Fenians/Galmoy were worthy winners of the title, beating the southern lads by an impressive 0-15 to 1-8. The win probably did more for the winners than it might have done for Piltown.

Piltown : David Knox, Paul Maher, Peter Kelly, Joe Blackmore, Kieran Norris, Shane Kinsella, Seamus Norris, Nicholas Kenny, Paul Kirby, Ciaran Galvin, Mark Culleton, John Brophy, Kevin Kelly, Richard McCarthy, Brendan Mc Carthy.

Subs : Paul Mc Namara, Nigel Brennan, Martin Gordon, Neil Kelly, James Norris, Gerard Brennan, Liam White.

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championship was a little lobsided, resulting in Danesfort careering through the competition, without too much fuss. Credit to the mentors out there who have been doing trojan work with the youngsters, and have improved the mind set of players, who have not exactly been world beaters for a number of years. It is no accident that Danesfort have been showing such tremendous improvements across the entire under age spectrum. In round 1, Danesfort, Glenmore, and Kilmacow had facile wins over Cloneen, Dicksboro (2), and Graignamanagh. The

same three teams were still winning in the quarterfinals against Lisdowney, Bennettsbridge, and Young Irelands. Windgap were the other winners in the quarterfinals.

In the semi-finals, Danesfort were far too good for Kilmacow, while Glenmore too proved too much of a problem for Windgap.

Danesfort had little difficulty in containing the challenge of Glenmore in the final, winning by 4-23 to 2-5 for the hapless Glenmore. Danesfort were making amends for last year's defeat at the same stage of this championship, while Glenmore were the defending champions. A feature of a lack lustre game was the scoring performances of the Hogan brothers, who between them scored 4-12 of their sides total. With firepower like that, you will always have a chance of winning.

Danesfort : Dwayne Martin, Michael Cunningham, Richie Devane, Jonathan Ryan, Michael Moylan, Páraic Treacy, Jonathan Grace, Martin Dunphy, Philip Walsh (capt), Shane O'Neill, Patrick Hogan, Liam Forristal, Robbie Walsh, Paul Pembroke, Richie Hogan.

Subs : Shane O'Hara, Jason Cody, James Hickey, Michael Saunders, Bill Muldowney, Martin McMahon, Donal Maher.

Glenmore : David Aylward, David Garvey, Raymond Aylward, Mark Flynn, James Murphy, Michael Cody, John Cody, Eamon Dollard, Tommy Dollard, Paul Phelan, David Kelly, Alan Flynn, James Cody, Richard Fitzgerald, Seamus Culleton.

Subs : Nicky Walsh, David Long.



Mullinavat Minor Hurling League Roinn C Champions 2003

Back: Patrick Brennan, David Brown, Daniel Monk, Richard Cunningham, James Murphy, Paul Coughlan, Derek Aylward, Pat Farrell, John Madigan.
Front: Patrick Raftice, James Freyne, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Patrick Woods, Jamie Fennelly (Capt), Patrick Jones, Micheál Farrell, Stephen Duggan, John Dalton, Nicholas Anthony. *Missing from Photo:* Jason Duggan, Joseph Wall.

ROINN "C" LEAGUE

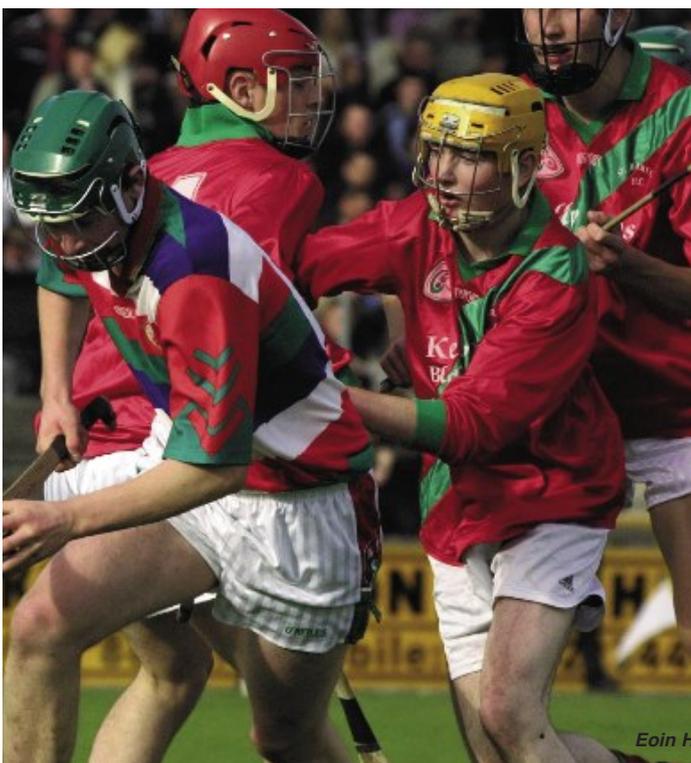
Mullinavat and Kilmacow thundered their way to the League semi-finals by virtue of some sterling performances through the group 1 stage. Mullinavat beat, Bennettsbridge, Windgap, St Patricks Ballyraggett, Lisdowney, and got a walk over from Dunnamaggin to get to the "semis", while Kilmacow hammered their way to the same spot with wins over Dunnamaggin, Mullinavat, Lisdowney, and Windgap. In group 2, Dicksboro second team, and Slieverue joined Mullinavat and Kilmacow in the semi finals as well. Dicksboro had good victories over

Graignamanagh, Glenmore, and Young Irelands, while Slieverue won games against Graignamanagh, Young Irelands, Cloneen, Dicksboro to earn their place in the quarter finals. Mullinavat knocked out Dicksboro by a slender four points, winning by 2-8 to 2-4, but Kilmacow had a little more to spare over Slieverue winning by 1-13 to 0-7. In the final, Mullinavat proved a little too smart for their near neighbours winning by 1-11 to Kilmacow's 1-7.

Mullinavat: Patrick Brennan, David Brown, Daniel Monk, Richard

Cunningham, James Murphy, Paul Coughlan, Derek Aylward, Pat Farrell, John Madigan, Patrick Raftice, James Freyne, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Patrick Woods, Jamie Fennelly (Capt), Patrick Jones, Micheál Farrell, Stephen Duggan, John Dalton. Nicholas Anthony., Jason Duggan, Joseph Wall.

Kilmacow : Fergus Walsh, Niall Irish, Paul Laffin, Eoin Doody, Damien Walsh, Sean McGrath, Brian King, Michael Tobin, Padraig Brick, William O'Toole, Paul Kelly, Sean Ivory, Eoin Dalton, Robert Walsh, Mark McGuinness. *Subs:* Tommy Flynn, Conor Gahan, Richie Kearns, Liam Kearns,



Eoin Hennessy





Three Wise Men.....



Liam Hinphy, who left Kilkenny in 1964 to teach in Dungiven, steered the Kevin Lynch's club to a dramatic one point victory over Ballinascreen in the the Derry Senior hurling final. Liam's three sons, Kieran, Kevin and Liam played their part in the victory, scoring 2 goals and 2 points between them. Liam Hinphey (one of kilkenny's greatest supporters), with his sons Liam, Kieran and Kevin.



Carey & Son.....



Seven Chairmen of Kilkenny County Board - six past and the present - attended James Stephens GAA Club to pay tribute to the Larkin family - three generations of whom have won All Ireland SH medals with Kilkenny. From left: - Mick O'Neill, Nicky Purcell, Tommy Murphy, Paddy Buggy, Nicky Brennan, John Healy, Ned Quinn and Philip Larkin - whose grandfather, Paddy won four All Ireland medals in the 1930's.



Radio Kilkenny's GAA Team - Let's hope they're left with us.....



Bord na nÓg Chairman, Joe Pyke, who was honoured at the 2003 Kilkenny People of the Year Awards.

Stephens Finish Strongly

James Stephens, Erin's Own, Graigue-Ballycallan, Shamrocks Ballyhale, Carrickshock and Lisdowney collected the top honours in the Championships and Leagues 2003. With the Senior, Intermediate and Junior programmes commencing early in March it facilitated an early summer competition of all football competition.

Erin's Own and Railyard topped their respective groups in the Seniors thus setting up a local derby in the league final with Erin's Own taking the title in a close encounter in Ballyragget as they reversed the previous years result to take their first trophy. Erin's Own had already taken the 11-a-side league with a final victory over surprise packet Freshford in a great final in the Prince Grounds.

James Stephens were not over impressive in the early stages but came through strongly in the closing rounds to lift the Senior Championship. They knocked out Erin's Own in a replay quarter-Final, then topped Kilmoganny in the semi-final while O'Loughlins came through with wins over Railyard and Muckalee in the quarter and semi-finals to set up an all city County Final with 'Stephens taking the title after an interesting contest, denying O'Loughlins a first title win.

Graigue-Ballycallan were stretched to the limit as they took the Intermediate title edging out a gallant Conahy team in the final replay. Ballyhale Shamrocks won the Intermediate league title but were knocked out of Championship action in the semi-final by Graigue-Ballycallan with Conahy getting by Rower-Inistioge in the other semi-final.

Carrickshock and Lisdowney took the Junior A and Junior B titles respectively. The 'Shock were a dominant force in the "A" competitions, scoring a big win over a youthful Railyard in the final. Lisdowney took the "B" title with a final victory over southern representatives Kilmacow.

J.J.Kavanagh & Sons, Urlingford were sponsors of all Senior, Intermediate and Junior

James Stephens regained the Senior football title with a very impressive, spirited sixty minutes against their arch rivals, O'Loughlin Gaels in the County Final in Nowlan Park on Saturday, May 9th. Playing with the breeze in the first half, the winners were rattled in the first minute, when Alan Geoghegan fisted a long delivery into the Village square to the back of Franny Cantwell's net. However, some tidy, determined football by the Village saw a Brian Mc Evoy point, followed by a goal and three pointed frees by Eoin Larkin leave the red and green brigade lead by 1-4 to the Geoghegan goal as the first half neared the



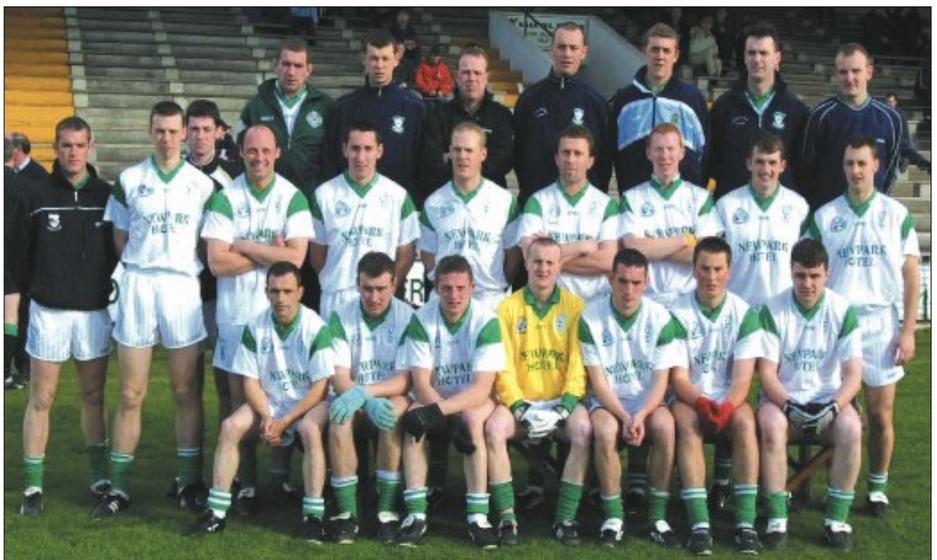
JAMES STEPHENS CO. SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2003

Eoin Hennessy

Back: Liam Smith, David Harkin, Adrian Harkin, Paddy Butler, Simon Creane, Gary Whelan.

Middle: Kevin Grogan, Martin Phelan, Liam O'Connor, Jackie Tyrrell, Eoin Larkin, Brian Dooley, Richie Hayes, Peter Barry, Tomas O'Dowd.

Front: Niall Grogan, Tommy Fogarty, Eoin McCormack, Dermot Grogan, Philip Larkin, Maurice Harkin, Francis Cantwell, Brian McEvoy, Richie Manogue.



O'Loughlin Gaels - County SF Finalists 2003

Back: Richie McEvoy, Bryan Skehan, Pakie Fitzgerald, Joe Daly, Barry Hogan, MI Holohan, Paul Carroll.

Middle: Sean Dowling, Brian Hogan, Martin Comerford, Andy Comerford, Donal O'Dwyer, Colin Furong, Kevin Cleere, Seamus Cummins, Brian Kelly, Alan Geoghegan.

Front: Ollie O'Connor, Brian Murphy, Jimmy Comerford, Tommy Lahart, Brian Dowling, Niall Bergin, Jason Lawlor.

fifteen minute stage. Three points by Colin Furlong after his Garda colleague, Jason Lawlor, was fouled, followed by a terrific pointed solo effort by Lawlor had the Village leading at the break by 1-6 to 1-3. Larkin had collared the other brace of points in between the Lawlor, Furlong show. The Village should have been further in front, but for an unbelievable save by O'Loughlins goalie, Tommy Lahart from the penalty that was awarded to James Stephens when Maurice Harkin was unceremoniously upended. The second half was barely four minutes old when James Stephens doubled their lead. A high delivery from corner back, Dermot Grogan, was collected by the styl-

ish Eoin McCormack, who danced his way through the O'Loughlins defenders, including their goalkeeper, to plant the ball in the net. However, as they have shown all this year, the O'Loughlin's never-say-die approach to all their games manifested itself yet again, when Jason Lawlor, Colin Furlong, and Niall Bergin shot some great points to leave but four points between the sides at the fifty minute stage. Further pressure saw Alan Geoghegan bear down on Cantwell's goal, with only the keeper to beat. Geoghegan shot, but somehow, Cantwell sensing that he stood alone against the mounting tide of O'Loughlin pressure, bravely launched his body against Geoghegan's shot, and effected a

The View From the Glens

Freelance photographer John McIlwaine, who has covered the big Croke Park games for the Kilkenny People over the past few seasons, has been a Kilkenny follower for more than thirty years. Here, the Antrim native takes a look back over those last three decades.

1972 was my first final, and possibly because of that, the one which stands out most vividly in the memory. On that hot September day, when the cats came back from eight points down to beat Cork by seven, my love for the black and amber was established. The deeds of Keher, Delaney, Larkin, Skehan and Co. lit a fire that still burns brightly, and though there have been a few occasions in those thirty years when I have shouted for the opposition, you will understand when the team facing the Cats on those occasions were my beloved Antrim.

Back in '72 of course Antrim were competing in the Intermediate ranks, and like the hundreds of other hurling fans from the county, to whom the All Ireland final is an annual pilgrimage, I 'adopted' a team to support.

Quite often the connection was as tenuous as the colours the clubs at home wore. Loughgiel Shamrocks wear the blood red, and so the most of them would have followed Cork, Cushendall sport the maroon of Galway and consequently the Tribesmen have a large following in the north Antrim coastal village.

For me it was the black and amber of Ballycastle McQuillan's, not my home club, but coming from a football parish where hurling was only played at junior level, they were the senior side I followed.

One thing that stands out for me in that first final was the solo-runs of Paddy Delaney as he bounced the ball off the rock hard Croke Park surface and back onto his hurl. Those runs really got the crowd going, and with the maestro Eddie Keher in superb form, the Cats wove a magic spell in the final twenty-five minutes, as they shot 2-9, while holding the Rebels scoreless, to record one of their most famous victories against the Munster men.

Since 1972 I have seen all the All Ireland finals, and the vast majority of the Leinster deciders as well, but the team of the early seventies still holds very fond memories.

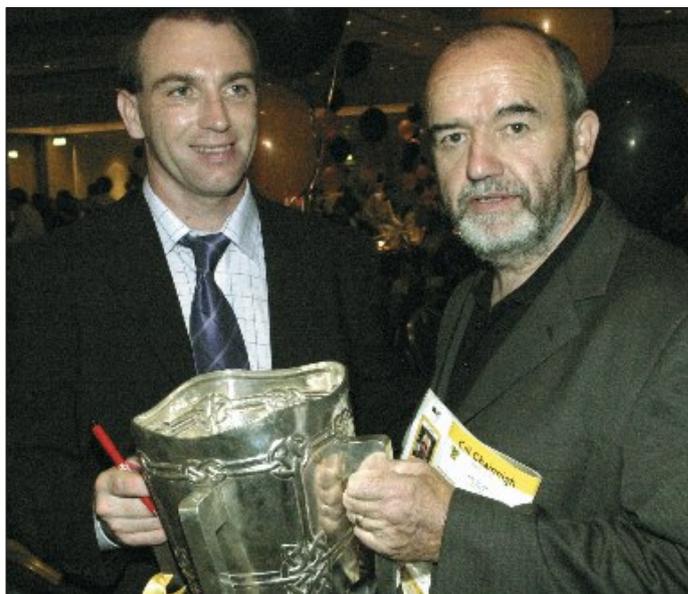
The '73 Leinster final win over Wexford was for me their best display in that golden era, and had it not been for the series of misfortunes which befell the team between then and the All Ireland final, I am convinced that Limerick would not have made the breakthrough and Kilkenny would have gone on to win four-in-a-row.

I was there in '76 when the great run ended, and Wexford gained revenge in full measure with a 2-20 to 1-6 drubbing, but every cloud has a silver lining and that day I first saw the silky skill of the great Joe Hennessy, who came on as a second-half sub.

1979 and the novelty pairing against Galway, '82 and '83 and the double-double brought new names to the roll of honour, and that full-forward line of Billy Fitz, big Christy and Liam Fennelly, which would hold its own with the very best in any era.

The emergence of Offaly brought new challenges, and some cracking battles through the eighties, but the game from that period which stands out for me is the semi-final of '87 when for the first time ever I was cheering for the opposition.

Antrim were an emerging team, but not for the first time



John McIlwaine with DJ Carey on All Ireland Final night 2003

the authorities in Croke Park saw them as a bit of a nuisance, and so set the semi-final for that hotbed of hurling-Dundalk.

In St Brigid's Park on a hot August day, the Saffrons scared the proverbial out of the Cats with some superb hurling. They led at half-time, and stretched that lead early in the second half when the late Danny McNaughton outfoxed Paddy Prendergast to score a great overhead goal.

However Harry Ryan gave a virtuoso display of score-taking to break Antrim hearts and earn his team a place in the final against Galway.

Much is made of Antrim's win over Offaly in the All Ireland semi-final of '89, and while it was a day to remember for all Saffron fans, the performances of '87 and '91 against Kilkenny were much better.

That '91 game was Antrim's greatest ever display in Croke Park, and when Sambo McNaughton levelled at the end of normal time it looked as if the impossible was about to happen. Two injury time points from Eamon Morrissey and D J Carey put paid to the dream, however, but I console myself at times with the fact that I had witnessed at close hand for the first time, the best forward I have seen in a black and amber jersey.

From that day on the Dodger has excited like no other. No man could equal him when it comes to scoring goals, and if Ring, Mackey, Rackard and Co. were better, then they must be seated among the gods.

He was on a hiding to nothing when he made his second comeback against Tipp last year. His reputation, and that of team manager Brian Cody, was on the line, but from the opening minute, you could see it was going to prove a success. What surprised me most was the fact that the burst of acceleration was still there after the long lay-off. He had been out of sorts the previous year against Galway, but the display that day will, for me, rank among the very best in his illustrious career.

Ironically there is a strong connection with this present team and the one I first witnessed thirty years ago. On that

September day in 1972 Brian Cody captained the Kilkenny minors to an emphatic win over Cork, while selector Noel Skehan was the man who had the honour of lifting the McCarthy Cup after his side's stirring comeback win over the Rebels.

The present day side may not have accumulated as many honours as the team of the early seventies, but, in my humble opinion, the likes of Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Peter Barry, Henry Sheflin, Martin Comerford and DJ are right up there with the very best.

To have had the opportunity to cover the big games for the People over the past few years, and getting to know a few of the players, has been a great thrill. To see these men at close quarters, playing the greatest game in the world, gives me a great buzz.

This year's win over the Rebels may not have produced the epic final of that first day more than three decades ago, but it still had its moments of high drama. When the chips were

down this side showed their character once again, just as they had done against Tipp in the league final.

What a game that was. The press, and even the GAA themselves, tried to play it down, but despite their misgivings the two great old rivals produced a jewel of a contest. It started slow, but the tempo increased by the minute, and the final quarter was simply breathtaking.

The Dublin scribes have tried to write off the National League for some strange reason, but the last two finals against Cork and Tipperary were both memorable matches.

And so for the three in-a-row! The pressures of the modern day game would seem to make that feat impossible, but if any team can do it then this present squad surely can.

If they do I'll be there cheering them on - that is of course unless the opposition is Antrim!

*Kilkenny GAA Yearbook has much to thank John McIlwaine for. His generosity to our publication over the past number of years is greatly appreciated.
Ed.*



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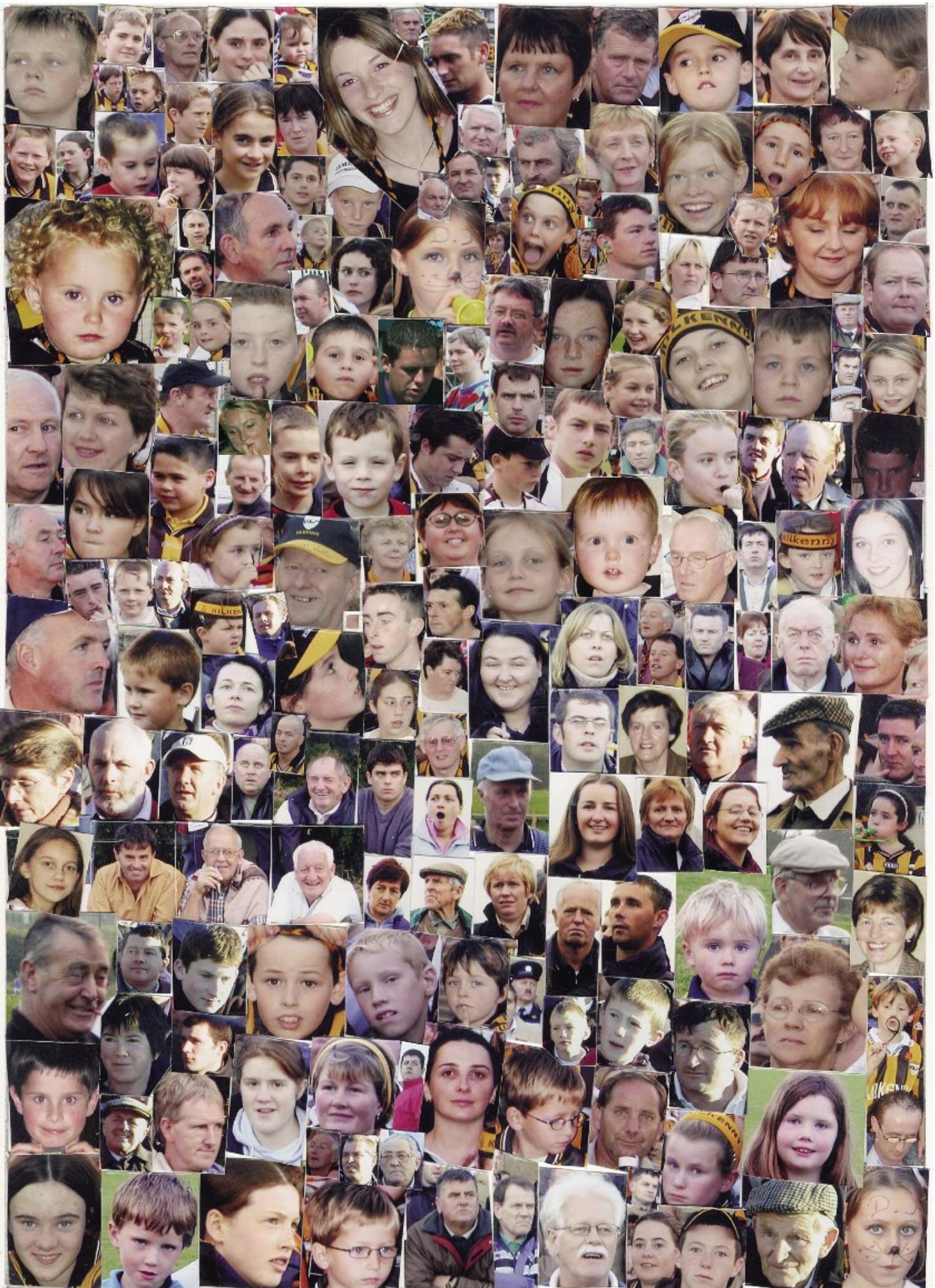
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Photo John McLlwaive

Artistic study of James Ryall in action in the All Ireland semi-final by John McLlwaive



The goal that won the All Ireland 2003 - captured in sequence by John McLlwaive



Eddie Brennan in action v Tipp in All Ireland semi-final.
Photo John McIlwaine



Michael Kavanagh v **Brian O'Meara** in All Ireland semi-final
Photo Sportsfile



DJ Carey and **Derek Lyng** Kilkeny, in action against Tipperary's **Paul Curran** Kilkeny v Tipperary, SPORTSFILE



Club Reports

Glenmore

Well Done to All

Congratulations to our club members who won All Ireland medals during the year. Paddy and Richard Mullally won senior and Mark Phelan won U-21. On the club front it was a quiet year mainly due to a spate of injuries, including Richie Mullally missing most of the year. Our junior "A" was just pipped in the league final and narrowly in the championship. Our minor hurling team got through to the County Final but were beaten by a strong Danesfort team. A new juvenile committee under stewardship of Eddie Aylward and John Phelan and took charge of all the under age teams from under fourteen down to under eight's. In all at least fifty games were played and with much success.

Club Development

Our new dressing rooms have just been completed and thanks to the grants from the Lotto, Leinster Council and the generosity of the parishioners most of the funds needed have been raised. It is hoped to have an official opening with an intercounty game next summer. The club had a new trainer this year. Mick Purcell a Good Counsel teacher, who had much success with the hurling teams there. He took charge of the senior side and our other adult sides, he has already been appointed for the coming year.

Obituaries

The death occurred of Eddie O'Connor of Graiguenakill, a member of the Kilkenny minor team defeated in the 1937 All Ireland final by Cork. Along with clubmate Mick Heffernan they were the first Glenmore natives to play in an All Ireland Final. He later played for Mullinavat senior team that appeared two County Final's against Carrickshock. The death also occurred of Daisy Irish (Nee Walsh). Her husband Pat was chairman of the GAA club through the sixties and all the committee meetings were held in their house during that time. Ar dheis Dè go raibh siad.

Juvenile Club Formed

Chairman: John Phelan
 Vice-Chair: Elma Aylward
 Secretary: Brigid Murphy
 Asst. Sec: Una O'Dwyer
 Fixtures Sec.: Eddie Aylward
 Treasurer: Michael doherty
 PRO: Fidelis Doherty



Glenmore FC footballers (Unbeaten Champions) 1914 – 1925

(This is the official photo which appeared on a post card at the time).

Back: James Vereker, J Murphy, William Irish, Pat Hartley, Andy Heffernan, Richard Hanrahan.

Third: Mick Heffernan (Sec.), John Fitzgerald, John Doherty, P Fitzgerald, Michael Connolly, Peter Kirwan, Paddy Coady, James Dunphy (Waterford).

Second: Stephen Heffernan, James Fitzgerald, Martin Coady (Captain), Fr. Richard Vereker, John Phelan, Bill Hartley.

Front: Jim Hanrahan, John Mullins, Mick Coady, Paddy Murphy.



Glenmore U-12 Hurling Team 1972 - Championship and League Winners.

Back: Ray Cass, Eamon Walshe, Thomas Mullins, Frank Kirwan, Michael Duggan, Pat Dowling, Gerard Cass.

Middle: Declan Cass, Michael Freyne, Martin Freyne, Paschal Phelan, Pat Barron, Willie O'Connor, Richie O'Connor.

Front: Richard Murphy, David Power, Jim Hartley, Paschal Hennessey, John Boyle, Seamus Fitzgerald, Vincent O'Connor.

Committee: Sheila Boyle, Mary Aylward, Eddie Kenny, Paul O'Connor, Seamus Boyle.

A Busy Year

We had a very busy year as the U-8 and U-9s got to grips with learnign teh skills.

We participated in the camaint competi-tion and had a great run.

The schools team, drawn from Glenmore and Ballyfacey, did well in Roinn C, while the U-14s had a mixed year but can look forward to much better times ahead.



Club Reports

Graigue-Ballycallan

Club Officers

Patrons: Fr Phelan, Fr McGree,
Fr Buckley

Presidents: Nicholas Teehan,
Kieran Egan, Paddy
Fennelly, Martin Kerwick,
Nicholas Purcell, Billy Fennelly,
Liam Delaney.

Chairman: Kieran Hoynes
Vice-Chair: John Calbeck
Secretary: Michael Marnell
Treasurer: John Robinson
PRO: Ann-Marie Ryall
Asst PRO: Maurice Ronan
County Board: Michael Dermody
Northern Board: Kieran Brennan
Football Board: John Power
Liaison Officer: Tom McGrath
Liaison Underage: Maurice Ronan

On the Field

2003 will have to be looked upon as being a very successful year for Graigue-Ballycallan. On the field every age group worked hard and all enjoyed relative success. The Senior hurlers turned in a great league campaign and were crowned league champions after defeating Young Irelands in the league final. Their bid for a Senior championship was halted at the semi-final stage by Young Irelands, who reversed the league final result.

Football Champions

The intermediate footballers captured the football crown despite a tough championship campaign. They fought off strong challenges from Young Irelands, Mooncoin, Shamrocks and finally Conahy Shamrocks.

Panel: Ciaran Hoynes, Johnny Butler, Joe Brennan, Tom McGrath, Pat Robinson, James Ryall, Shane Murphy, James Young, Paddy Dalton, Brian Dalton, John Hoynes, James Dunphy, Thomas Dermody, Pat Comerford, Joe Joe Brennan, Adrian Ronan, Michael Teehan, Edward Delaney, Declan Brett, John Dermody, Dermot Hoynes, Michéal Murphy, Brendan Hayes, Michéal Hoynes.

Juvenile Successes

There was plenty of activity on juvenile scene with teams from primary school level right through to minor level taking part in the various competitions. The biggest success was the U-16's claiming the Roinn 'B' league final. This was a thrilling encounter between ourselves



Graigue Ballycallan Under 12's

Back: Darragh Twomey, Liam Doyle, David Cleere, William O'Connor, Sean O'Dwyer, Martin Doheny, Niall Cleere, James Power, Conor Hogan, Dermot Heaphey, John Robinson, Ger Teehan, John Dunphy.

Front: Jamie Hogan, William Harrison, Gerard Corcoran, Eoin Corcoran, Pdraig Egan, Eoin Robinson, Shane Butler, James Gleeson, PJ Trant, Tommy Egan, Pdraic Tynan.

and a gallant Mooncoin.

Panel: Ian Hennessey, Pdraig Murphy, Robert Dunphy, Mark Butler, Eoin Heafy, Adrian Burke, John Cleere, Patrick Kennedy, James Smith, Robert Murphy, Johnny Dunne, Stephen Kenna, Nicholas Harrison, John Paul Murphy, Garry Brennan, Shane Dunphy, PJ Delaney, Ciaran Neary, Noel Dermody, Richard Ryan, Justin Dermody, Ger Hall, Philip Heafy, Eoin Doheny, Paul Harrison.

Under 12 Stars

The U-12's won their group in the county board summer tournament beating Windgap in the final by 3-5 to 0-1.

Panel: Eoin Robinson, Eoin Corcoran, Martin Doheny, PJ Trant, John Robinson, Niall Cleere, John Dunphy, Dermot Heafy, Conor Hogan, David Cleere, James Power, Sean O'Dwyer, Darragh Twomey, Ger Teehan, Liam Doyle. Subs: William Harrison, Joey Corcoran, William O'Connor, Tommy Egan, Darragh Egan, Shane Butler, James Gleeson, Jamie Hogan, Pdraig Tynan.

Club of the Year 2002

The club's greatest achievement off the field, was winning Kilkenny 'Club of the Year', recognition for the club's advancement in all areas of GAA activity. The award was presented to club PRO Ann-

Marie Ryall at a reception in Croke Park.

Development

A decision was made in 2002 to build on two extra dressing rooms to cater for the increasing numbers and the demand on both pitches. This development, which started in the summer has just been completed. Two dug outs were also erected.

The annual dinner dance in association with St. Brigids camogie club took place in Springhill Court Hotel. It was very well attended and a great night was had by all. Plans are already underway for 2004. The weekly lotto continues to be the club's major fund raiser and many thanks is extended to all who buy and sell tickets. A special thanks to the ladies who run the draw every Monday night.

County Players 2003

Senior: Edward Brennan, John Hoynes, James Ryall
Intermediate: Paul Dermody
Under 14: John Cleere, Eoin Doheny.

Sympathy

The club would like to take this opportunity to offer its deepest sympathy to members and friends of the club who lost a loved one during the year.



Club Reports

Graignamanagh

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The club celebrated its golden jubilee in 2003 in what proved to be a very productive year for the club. The Annual dinner dance at Langtons was the biggest in the clubs history with all the remaining founders of the club being honoured. The club was founded in February 1953 and was called St. Vincent's a name that was changed to Graignamanagh in 1968.

A Field of Dreams

The Golden Jubilee year was celebrated with the launch of 'A Field of Dreams', a publication filled with information anecdotes, match reports, photographs, poems and ballads from the early days of the club right up to the present day. The book was launched by the clubs first chairman Michael Moore.

A Superb Pitch

Our playing field came in for close attention and the contractors moved in July to drain, level, lengthen and widen the field with the result that the club can now boast of one of the finest pitches in the south-east. This work was funded by a grant from the national lottery and local fund raising ventures.

A Successful Year

On the playing pride of place must go to our U-14 Footballers who took home the Roinn B football championship. Well done to Christopher O Neill for winning an All- Ireland U-21 medal with Kilkenny, and to Padraigh Whelan who was a member of the Kilkenny U-14 team to



Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance

Surviving members and relatives of the first committee of Graignamanagh GAA Club celebrate in Langtons
Front: Vena Dunne, Eamon Foley, Kathleen Foley, Bridie Doyle.

Back: Paddy Doherty, Patricia Dempsey, Paddy Whelan, Jim Bolger (first capt.), John Bolger, Kitty Meaney, Michael Moore, Anna Dunne, Jim Dunne, Ned Fenlon, Valerie Ryan.



Graignamanagh U-14 Roinn B Football Champions 2003

Back: John Moylan, Kevin Moran (Trainer), Daniel O'Brien, Stuart Kinsella, Nathan Spbila, Gary Grace, David Dunne, Padraig Whelan, James Foley, Dean Broaders, Kevin Cushen, Jim Whelan, Mary O'Donnell.
Front: John Morgan, Dane Mangan, Stephen Moylan, Orla O'Donnell, Nicholas O'Donnell, Aaron Duggan, CJ Browne, Kevin Canning, Shane Haugh, John Butler, Sean O'Brien.

win the Tony Forristal Tournament. Other players to represent the Kilkenny from the club this year were, Kevin Cushen, Kevin Canning, CJ Browne, Padraig Whelan, Kilkenny U-14 football, Jim O'Donnell, Shane Foley Kilkenny U-15 Hurling Team, Padraig Gill, Kilkenny Vocational School Hurling Team, Eddie

Orla O'Donnell

proudly shows off her Black and Amber cast on her injured foot.

Walsh Kilkenny Intermediate team.

Sincere Thanks

The club would like to take this opportunity to thank our main sponsor Michael Doran of Dorans Super-Valu Main Street Graignamanagh and to thank neighbouring clubs Rower-Inistioge, Gowran, Thomastown, St. Mullins for the use of their facilities to train while our own were under development.



Club Reports

James Stephens

Record Breakers

What a year for James Stephens club and in particular for the younger players! The club repeated the achievement of Thomastown in 1959 by capturing U-14, U-16 and minor hurling A titles in a single year. In addition our u-13s captured the Lisdowney Sevens title and our juveniles performed well in a host of tournaments.

Sixth Feile na Gael

Our U-14s were captured the Christy Ring Trophy for the sixth time. This victory puts James Stephens / St. Patricks at the top of the honours list with six titles in 1981, '83, '89, '94, '96 and 2003.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brian Cody, Club Vice-Chairman on his achievements as a manager and coach. Well done to Peter Barry, Jackie Tyrrell and Philip Larkin winning senior medals, to David McCormack and Donnacha Cody on their minor success where Joe Hennessy was also a selector. Jackie Tyrrell captained Kilkenny to U-21 success and Shane Brennan played on the Tony Forristal team with Matt Ruth as trainer.

The Larkin Contribution

In March the club honoured the unique contribution of the Larkin family to Gaelic Games with club, county and province. Michéal O Muircheartaigh hosted a wonderful tribute to their sporting achievements.

Sympathy

The club lost several great supporters during the year and we offer sympathy in particular to the families of Din Brennan, Ann Marie Manogue and Margaret Shanahan. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

James Stephens U-12 - Andy Egan Memorial Tournament Winners

Back: Mark Tyrrell (trainer), Niall Connolly, Alan O'Brien (selectors)
Middle: Colm Walsh, Donal O'Riordan, Derek O'Brien, Dermot Kelly, Eoin Holohan, Jamie Fox, Darragh Walshe, Darren Evans, Peter Lynch, Ian O'Brien, Gavin Holohan.
Front: Bill Murtagh-White, Hugh O'Brien, Conor Gorey, Sam Malone, Declan Thompson, Ronan Holohan (capt), David Cummins, John Meehan, Kieran Snype, Sean Queally, Keith Doyle.



Remember this Team? - Feile na Gael Champions 1983

Back: Fran Whelan, Declan Forristal, Adrian Connick, Adrian Dempsey, Anthony Smith (capt), Dominic Bradley, Anthony Canny, Brendan Delahunty, Ronan Conway.

Front: Shane Prendergast, Shane Holland, Pdraig Larkin, Nicky Morrissey, Jimmy Conroy, Kevin Conroy, Paul Brennan, Bob Cody.



James Stephens U-10 Hurling Team 2003

Winners: Ballyboden, Bennettsbridge, O'Loughlins & Seamus Fry Tournaments

Back: Brian Hickey, Peter Butler, Eddie Walsh, Dean Walsh, William Murphy, Declan McQuillan, Anthony Corr, Brendan Dowling, David Hennessy, Robert Hayes.

Front: Thomas Phelan, Nathan Owens, Michael Drennan, Patrick Duggan, James O'Shea (capt), Stephen Thompson, Jack McGrath, Diarmuid Cody, Luke Hickey, Tim Healy-Brennan.

Selectors: William O'Shea, Martin Hennessy, Michael Slattery, Kieran McQuillan, Peter Butler, Elsie Cody.





Club Reports

John Lockes

Disappointment for Intermediates

The new management team consisted of Chairman Michael Lynch, his brother Jim and Sean Hogan. In the first round of the league the Lockes were devastating against James Stephens totally over running their opponents in one of the greatest displays of power hurling by a Callan team in years. But dreams were short lived when they came back to earth with defeat to Carrickshock two weeks later. We drew against Bennetsbridge but defeats to Rower-Inistioge and Mooncoin followed, leaving us second from bottom at the end of the League.

We lost against Graignamanagh in the first round of the championship. The Lockes have made a habit of contesting relegation finals and this year was no different. As it turned out the final against Bennetsbridge was a non-event with the Lockes running out convincing winners.

Other Teams

At minor and U-21 level it was an uneventful year. The Minor team did reasonably well in the league while the U-21 team bowed out in the South semi-final to Tullogher-Rosbercon.

There was a lot of interest in football this year with some good results earlier on. But as soon as the hurling season kicked in interest fell away.

County Representatives

The club had four representatives on Kilkenny hurling panels. Br. Damien Brennan led the Kilkenny Minors to All-Ireland glory. Brian Doheny was a member of the minor panel.

John O'Neill put in some terrific performances for the Kilkenny Intermediate team. JP Corcoran played in the earlier games, came on as a substitute in the final and made a significant contribution. A number of John Lockes players participated in the County development squads during the year: Brendan Grace U-14, Thomas Melia, Mark Nolan and Eoghan Fahy U-15. Brendan Burke, Paul Roche and Mark McDowell U-16 and James Hartley was with the U-17 squad.

Bricks and Mortar

The club has applied for planning permission to develop the area of ground near the Green for housing. Before planning is granted the County Council have requested a number of adjustments to the area before planning can be granted.

This development will bring significant funding to the club and we hope to immediately upgrade facilities at John Locke Park.

Obituaries

Richie Condon, a gentle giant sadly passed away in November 2002. Richie was very involved as an officer and team selector during the 1960's and 1970's. Richie was always a loyal supporter through the good days and bad. Eamon Croke passed away on 1 May 2003. Eamon played at underage level and later with both the Junior and Special junior teams during the seventies and early eighties. He loved his hurling and attended as many Lockes and Kilkenny games as possible. Patsy Hogan was also taken from us during the year. Patsy won an All-Ireland Minor medal with Kilkenny in 1950 and was also on the minor teams of 1951 and 52. He won a Junior championship with the Lockes in 1952 a feat his son Sean achieved in 1987 as Captain. The club will dearly miss all.

Underage Developments

The year would have to go down as very successful one for the juvenile club by virtue of the fact that more adults than ever came on board to help with the management of various teams. People like Martin Doheny, Paddy Phelan, Colm McGrath, Richie Buckley and the ever-green Kieran Lanigan joined the existing committee to share the workload in field-

ing teams at U-8, U-10, U-12 and U-14 levels.

School Success

The CBS primary school reached the County Final in football and hurling, beating Danesfort in the former and losing to Ballyragget in the latter. It had been some time since the school had reached a final of any type, but through the excellent work of Principal John Moloney and Damien Aylward success has finally come back to the school.

Once again the club held its annual juvenile tournament in August. This year the teams were split into A & B divisions which befitted the weaker U-12 teams. James Stephens won the U-9 section and O'Loughlin Gaels captured the Colm Nolan Cup in U-12 A for the third time. The John Lockes team won the 'B' division beating Dunnamaggin. Team Captain was Dan McCormack.

Juvenile Games

The U-10's played many games during the year while the U-8's completed a very successful street league during October.

Our u-15 hurlers won the Div. 2 eleven-a-sidetitle, defeating Fenians in the final at Nowlan Park. It is hoped that this team will continue the good work at U-16 level next year. The success of this team was a tribute to the work of trainer Aidan O'Dwyer and mentors Mick Melia, Colm McGrath and Martin Fahy.



John Lockes U-12 - Winners Div. B John Locke Tournament 2003

Back: Damien Roche, Jason Corcoran, Alan Bergin, Nigel Cahill, Darren O'Dwyer, Partick Funchion, Ryan O'Dwyer, JJ O'Keefe, Richie O'Connell, Sean Bryan.

Front: Jason Foran, Shane Bergin, Graham Bergin, Emma Hennessy, Matthew Holohan, Owen McGrath, Dan McCormack (C), Tony Delaney, JJ Corrigan, Jamie Bergin, Rickie Buckley.



Club Reports

Kilmacow

Juvenile Development

Yet again we had another great year with the juvenile section of the club. Firstly our U-11s reached the final of the Waterford City League yet again. In this they played Mooncoin and after a thrilling match in Walsh Park the teams ended up level. Unfortunately in the replay the following week they lost out in another good match. They also went very well in the Cámaint tournament which ended up with them winning both of their matches in Nowlan Park.

Great Year for Under Twelves

Our U-12 had a fantastic year. In the City League they were unbeaten all year long and made it to the final against Butlerstown. In a very tense game they just edged out the Déise side to win and now move up to Div. 2 next year. We also took part in the U-12 Kilkenny tournament which we overcame Glenmore in the final. The U-13 team also had a very good year getting to the semi-finals of the league where they were unfortunately beaten by a stronger Slieverue side. The Schools team had a good year also doing very well in the league.

Good work at U-14

Our U-14s went very well in the football championship only to be narrowly beaten in the semi-finals. In the hurling they were knocked out of the league in the group stages but done well in the championship where again they ended up playing Gowran. Despite a brave second half display they couldn't quite overcome a big half-time deficit. Well done to all of these teams and especially to their parents and coaches who helped out throughout the year.

Adults

The junior footballers had a great run in the championship where they ended up playing Riallard in the semi-finals. After a very exciting match in which we had many chances to win the game went to a replay. Again it was a close affair which unfortunately the result didn't go our way losing by the narrowest of margins. After a successful but unlucky year last year hopes were high for junior hurling this year. Unfortunately this was not the case. After a very poor run of form in the all-county league they played Tullogher in the championship southern semi-final. It didn't go right for us on the day and

Tullogher progressed to the southern final. The special-juniors reached the league final where they played Ballyragget. In a close match played in poor conditions we just couldn't manage to overcome the northern side. In the southern semi-final of the championship we came up against Carrickshock but this turned out to be a poor display ending up with a loss.

Bord na nÓg

Our minor team went well reaching the league final where they were beaten by Mullinavat and in the championship got to the county semi-final where a much stronger Danesfort side prevented them from reaching the final. The U-16 team had a great run in the league beating Blacks & Whites in the final to take the trophy. In the championship they provided us with some thrilling games including the two against Conahy Shamrocks. They met Blacks & Whites again in the semi-finals. This time round they could not repeat the success they had in the league final narrowly losing out. Well done to all involved with these teams.

Social Affairs and Fundraising

A hugely successful Night at the Dogs was held in Kilcohan Race Track in September. This night turned out to be

great crack as a great crowd turned out on the night. Our thanks goes to all members and others who helped out with the organising and supported the club on this night, and especially to all those who sponsored us on the night. Your help is greatly appreciated! Also to those who sponsored teams from under-age to adult levels our thanks goes out. Following the success of our trip to the Canaries two years ago another holiday is being organised for November 2004. This trip is to Lanzarote and should turn out to be great craic once again. Information about this can be obtained from Paul Long or from any of the committee members.

Coaching and Developments

A good number of people took part in the Foundation Level coaching course that was run over two days. From this Noel Dunphy and Mark McDonald went on to take part in the Level 1 Course which was run over ten weeks in Kilkenny College. We would encourage more people to take part in these courses in the coming year as it benefits the club greatly. More floodlights were also placed around the pitch which were a great help when it came to training early on in the year. Thanks to those who helped out with the setting up of these.



Kilmacow U-12s - Waterford City League Winners Div. 3

Back: J. Fox, H. Walsh, J. Hayes, E. Irish, J. O'Neill, L. Harney, J. Connolly, M. Dennehy, A. Kearns, S. Dunphy, C. Croke, D. Dollard, E. Blanchfield.

Front: C. Twomey, D. Dowling, S. Dempsey, D. Power, L. Ivory, D. Sheehan, J. Vereker, D. McGrath, R. McKenna, J. Power, K. McNamara.

Mascots: S & J. Harney.



Club Reports

Lisdowney

Well Done U-14s!!

In what was a busy year all round pride of place must go to the U-14 lads who completed a football league and championship double. They defeated Conahy, Emeralds, Shamrocks and Mullinavat on the way to the league title. They got the better of Mullinavat again in an exciting championship decider.

Well done to mentors Ollie Stapleton, Jimmy Ruth, Michael Carroll, Tony Thornton & Canice Mackey.

In the hurling championship they had a good run but lost out to a good Danesfort side.

Mixed Fortunes

The U-16s lost out to a strong St Martins side after a replay following a very exciting first game.

The minors had mixed fortune in the league and lost in the championship to a

fine Danesfort team.

The U-10s showed a lot of promise this year and had a very successful Conahy tournament.

The U-11s again did well with a strong showing at the Ballyragget tournament while the schools team reached the semi final.

Well done to John Phelan, Tom O'Carroll, Eileen Connery, Teresa McGinn, John Kennedy, Philip Walsh, Tim Brennan and all who helped with coaching during the year.

Junior Hurling

The junior hurlers qualified for the quarter-finals of the league and were then beaten by St Mullins.

In the championship a opening round defeat by Graigue-Ballycallan was followed by wins over Fenians, Danesfort and Dicksboro following a replay.

In the northern semi - final they lost out to neighbours St Patricks in a replay.

Football News

The special junior football team got the year off to a good start by winning the football title.

Panel

N. O'Hara, B. Blanchfield, O. Blanchfield, PJ Kenny, A. O'Hara, B. Purcell, L. Maher, N. Dowling, J. Nolan, E. Delahunty, T. Mackey, P. Bowden, S. Downey, D. Dowling, P. Mullally, G. Quirke, C. Dunphy, J. Lennon, D. Tallis, J. White, R. Costelloe, D. O'Shea, P. Murphy.

Handball

Well done to the handball club who successfully took part in hosting several rounds of the World Championships this year.



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Club Reports

Mooncoin

Club Officers 2003

Chairman: Nicholas Hennebray
Secretary: Pat Kinsella
Treasurer: Jamie Dunphy

Field of Play

Our intermediate team reached the semi-final of the league and lost by a point to Erins Own. We also lost by a point to Graignamanagh in the championship. This year we competed in the junior competition, doing well in both League and Championship but failing to reach the knockout stages. Our Junior B team drew with Thomastown in the championship but were defeated in the replay. The U-21 hurlers lost the South final against Tullogher.

The Intermediate footballers reached the quarter-final of the championship and were defeated by Graig-Ballycallan. The U-21 footballers lost to Rower-Inistioge in the championship.

Inter County Success

Congratulations to Diarmuid and Eddie Mackey who brought back All Ireland senior medals to the parish and Ray Wall and Noel Delahunty won minor hurling medals. Diarmuid and Eddie were also members of the county Intermediate team. Congratulations to the county selectors, Johnny Walsh SH, Joe Dunphy MH and Tom O'Hanlon U-21.

Social

Our annual Dinner Dance took place in February. Ned Quinn, Chairman presented medals to members of the Junior A and minor hurling teams of 2002. The clubs Silver Circle Draw, Golf Classic, Hurlers Co-Op Draw and Play for the Park Lotto are our main fundraising events. Many thanks to all who organised these and thanks to our generous patrons and sponsors.

Sympathy

During the past year, former players Michael Meaney, Tommy Tobin and Tommy Butler went to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace. We also extend our sympathies to all members who suffered bereavements during the year.

Juvenile Matters

The club had a very good year with over 75 boys and girls in the field from U-6 to U-10. Teams competed in all grades



Mooncoin U-14 Footballers 2003

Back: Donnacha Hasset, Conor Daly, Mark Fitzgerald, Richie Doyle, Thomas Healy, Glenn Walsh, Shane Walsh, Niall Dowling, John Healy, Nicky Hennebray, Brian Meade, Paul Delahunty, PJ Rowe.

Middle: Liam Roche, Seamus Kearns, Hugh McGovern, Thomas Kearns, Niall O'Hanlon, Ian Dunphy, AJ Wall, John Wall, Eamon Hennebray, David Purcell.

Front: Eric Wall, David Kearns, Alan Gallagher, John Fitzgerald, Walter Crowley, Eoin Crowley, Stephen Crowley.



Mooncoin U-11 Hurlers - Winners Waterford City League

Back: Conor Lavery, Craig Skerrit, Evelyn Rowe, Ellen Crowley, Mairead Brennan, Ian Walsh, Aidan Walsh, Shane Walsh, Bobby Walsh, Christopher Walsh, David Kearns, Niall Madden, JP Purcell, Conor O'Toole.

Front: Mark O'Neill, Ciaran Blanchfield, Aidan Treacy, Rory Gallagher, Niall Gallagher, Conor Brophy, Ethan Ryan, Jason Savage, Conor O'Sullivan, Michael Forde, Walter Crowley.

from U-10 upwards. Our U-11s won the WCL, and the U-12s won the Garda Tournament. The school team had great wins in the Country Cup and the mini sevens football. The U-13s lost to a very good Ballygunner team in the WCL.

Great Year for U-14s

The U-14s had a great year, winning the football league but lost to James Stephens in the county final. They then went on to represent Kilkenny in the Feile in Galway. In hurling they lost to Dicksboro in the semi-final.

Our U-15s were beaten by Dicksboro in the County 11-a-side. Our U-16s had a great league only to be beaten in the final by Graig-Ballycallan and then lost to Mullinavat in the championship.

County Players

Well done to Shane Walsh, Thomas Kearns and PJ Rowe members of the Tony Forristal winning team, Paul Delahunty, AJ Wall, Richard Doyle, John and Thomas Healy who played for the county U-14 football team.



Club Reports

Muckalee FC

On the field

This past year hasn't seen any silverware come to the club but yet both the senior team and the junior team contested county semi-finals. The u-21 team won the 'A' championship since last year's yearbook was printed.

The senior team had wins against O'Loughlin Gaels, Mullinavat and Kilmoganny whilst going under to Erin's Own narrowly in the league section. This meant they qualified for the championship quarter final and a joust with city side Dicksboro. They won this game comfortably by 2-14 to 1-6. They played O'Loughlin Gaels in the semi-final. At the final whistle, both sides were level at 1-10 each with our lads getting a last minute point to draw.

The replay looked to be going Muckalee's way early on but they ran out of steam in the last quarter to go down by 1-14 to 1-9. The junior had a good run in the championship and were beaten by eventual winners, Carrickshock.

They began with a 2-14 to 1-6 win over Clara in April. Next up were Danesfort whom they beat narrowly by 1-8 to 2-4. They were now in the county semi-final. However, Carrickshock proved much too strong on the day and ran out easy winners by 3-12 to 1-4.

The U-21 team have yet to play as we go to press but we look forward with hope to a repeat of last year from them.

Obituaries



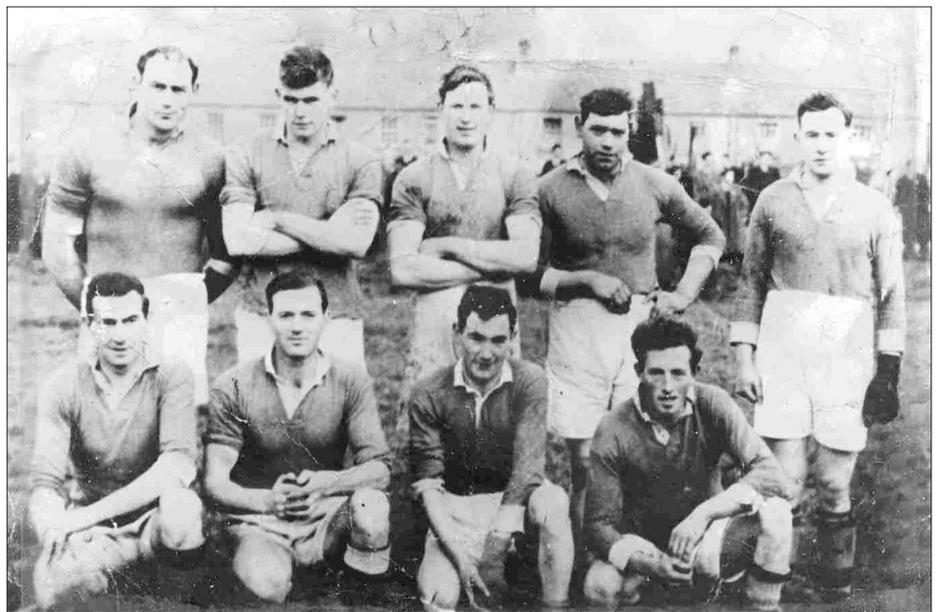
Johnny Hennessy

In the past year we lost three great servants of Muckalee football club. They were Johnny Hennessy, John Coogan and Martin Coogan.



Coon/Muckalee U13 Football Team 2003

Back: Canice Maher, Patrick Lawlor, Keith Davitt, Laurence Cantwell, Thomas Tynan, Anthony Maher.
Middle: Michael Moylan, Eoin O'Mahony, Michael Doyle, Cornelius O'Flynn, John Haughney, Damien Tynan, Jamie Heffernan, Paddy Dowling, Graham Farrell, Thomas Walsh.
Front: Cathal Healy, Luke Maher, Rory Kinsella, David Breen, Alan Lawlor, Brendan Menton, Shae Egan, Jason Allen, Sean Hennessy, David Walsh.



Muckalee 7-a-Side Team which played at Waterbarracks in late fifties

Back: Nicksy Comerford, Nick Morrissey, John Coogan, Bill Comerford, Mikey Morrissey.
Front: Eamon Morrissey, Matt Dwyer, Martin Morrissey, Michael Ryan

All three played with distinction for the club. Johnny Hennessy came to Muckalee from Kileshin, Carlow in 1932 and played all his football with the club, winning a junior county medal in 1947. John Coogan also won a junior medal in that year and played right up into the sixties winning another junior championship

in the fifties. His brother, Martin kicked football in his early years with Muckalee but moved into Kilkenny later and won a senior championship with city side Clana nGael.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad



JAMES STEPHENS - ROINN A UNDER 16 LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2003

Photo Eoin Hennessy

Back: Conor O'Brien, Stephen Hoyne, Paul Grogan, James Hennessy, David Doyle, Adrian Walsh, Martin Grace.

Middle: Richie & Sean Manogue (selector) Tadhg Donoghue (selector) Shane Champion, Darren Leahy, Michael Savage, Shane Brennan, Gary Breen, Glen Campion, Padraig Neary, John Comerford, Matthew Ruth, John Brennan, Keith Morris, Patrick Millea (selector), Damien Phelan, Conor Crowe, Michael Slattery (selector), John Sheehy (selector).

Front: David Byrne, James Meehan, Michael Neary, Killian Everard, Conor McQuillan, David Walton, Anthony Lawlor, Niall Lanigan, Diarmuid Moynihan, Sean Ryan, Kieran MxQuillan, Keith Ryan. Mascots: Shane & Nathan Donoghue.

As the story of under-age hurling unfolded, the James Stephens express was hurtling along at an unstoppable speed towards ultimate glory in all grades. Having taken the laurels at U14 grade at both local and national levels, their next ambition was to emulate it with a similar performance at the under-16 level. There was no Féile level at under-16 grade, but there was a League, but more about that anon. With seven teams competing for the Roinn A title - Clara, Tullaroan, James Stephens, Carrickshock, Dicksboro, O'Loughlins and Ballyhale Shamrocks, it was necessary to get the competitors down to a four-team semi-final stage. The Ballyhale lads drew the short straw straight into the semi-finals.

Defending champions, James Stephens, were pitted against champions of 2001, Carrickshock. It was always going to be too much for a small rural parish like Carrickshock to keep churning out good under-16 teams, and so it proved as James Stephens powered through them with an impressive 4-21 to 1-4 victory. Tullaroan provided a huge stumbling block to the impressive Clara, ultimately going down by 2-5 to Clara's 1-12. It was even closer between city rivals, where

Dicksboro had but a goal to spare over O'Loughlins, winning by 0-12 to 1-6.

The semi-finals were memorable, with a tremendous level of skill being demonstrated throughout.

James Stephens fought out a nerve-racking encounter with their city rivals, Dicksboro. The Village lads led at the break by some nine points, thanks in the main to three first half goals of a fortuitous nature. A spirited fight back by the maroon and whites saw them creep ever so close to the Stephens, but alas, they were just not good enough on the night. James Stephens were superbly served by man of the match, Matthew Ruth, wing forward, Anthony Lawlor, David Byrne and John Comerford. The Boro lads never gave up trying, and their stars were, centre back, Michael Tyrrell, corner backs, John Traynor and David Ryan, Peter Higgins at wing back, and forwards, David Broderick, Cillian Starr and Michael Rafter.

In the other semi final, Clara had but two points to spare over Shamrocks at the end of a hard-fought encounter, in which the result was in doubt right to the finish. Clara won by 3-7 to 2-8.

The final was a somewhat lopsided affair, with the Village setting a blistering

early pace, from which the challengers had little time to recover. The very impressive James Stephens had shot 2-4 before the 12th minute had elapsed, before the shell-shocked Clara could muster a decent forward sally. Michael Neary, Matthew Ruth and Shane Brennan were the executioners in chief. The opening score for Clara came, compliments of Eoin O'Shea in the 13th minute. At half time James Stephens were nearly gone out of sight, leading by 2-6 to Clara's 0-4. Two quick goals shortly after the commencement of the new half by Matthew Ruth and Michael Neary, really finished the game as a contest, and try as they could, the hardy Clara battlers - to their credit, they never stopped trying - just had no answer to the superb hurling of the city lads. Final score read:-

James Stephens 4-11 Clara 0-5.

James Stephens: Keith Morris, James Hennessy, Niall Lanigan, David Doyle, Paul Grogan, Shane Champion, David Byrne, Killian Everard, John Comerford (0-1), Anthony Lawlor (0-2), Matthew Ruth (Capt)(1-4), Adrian Walsh, Conor Crowe, Michael Neary (2-2), Shane Brennan (1-1).



DANESFORT - U16 ROINN B HURLING CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: John Grace, Michael Cassin, Emmett Power, Paddy Grace, Liam Lyng, John Kenny, Davie Morrissey, Eamon Casin, Pauric Tierney, Rory Galvin, Damien Flood, Eugene Murphy.

Front: Billy Cuddihy, James Doyle, Stevie Murphy, Eoin Kavanagh, Pat Tierney, Liam Tierney (Captain), Seamus Holohan, David Lyng, Walter Kavanagh, George Phelan, Kieran Joyce.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN - U16 ROINN B LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Jim Neary, Michael Dermody, Pádraig Murphy, Robert Murphy, Richard Ryan, Joseph Johnson, Paul Harrison, Nicholas Harrison, Johnny Dunne, Mark Butler, James Smith, Adrian Burke, Patrick Kennedy, Eoin Heafey, John Paul Murphy, John Cleere, Maurice Ronan.

Front: Philip Heafey, Noel Dermody, Gearad Hall, Shane Dunphy, Eoin Doheny, Robert Dunphy (Capt), Ian Hennessy, Ciarán Neary, Justin Dermody.

Subs: Damien Phelan, Conor O'Brien, Darren Leahy (0-1), Michael Savage, William Hoyne, Patrick Neary, John Brennan, Martin Grace, Gary Breen, Sean Ryan, Dermot Moynihan, Glen Campion, Conor McQuillan, Niall McQuillan, David Walton, James Meehan, Keith Ryan.

Clara: David Langton, Lester Ryan, Michael McDonald, Sean O'Shea, Keith

Hogan, Néal Prendergast (0-2), Tom Langton, Brian O'Shea, Jody Creane (0-1), James Nolan, Eoin O'Shea (0-1), James Brennan, John Prendergast, Liam Ryan (0-1), Martin Meaney

Subs: Kevin Nolan, Tom Ryan, Declan Rafter, Stephen Quinlan.

Ref: John Walsh (Rower Inistioge)

Roinn A League.

Nothing could come close to the all conquering James Stephens as they absolutely powered their way to the League title. They laid down their marker in the very first game when they totally demoralised Carrickshock. In the same round, O'Loughlins beat Tullaroan by 2-15 to 0-7, Dicksboro beat Ballyhale Shamrocks by 3-15 to 0-4, while Clara,



BLACKS & WHITES - U16 ROINN C CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Richard Dowling (Manager), Ray Murphy (Selector), Damien O'Dowd, Sean Murphy, Ray Coady, Frank Ryan, Joseph Murphy, Peter Cleere, Mikey Murphy, John Lawlor, Jim Coady (Selector).

Front: James Kennedy, Joseph Savage, Keith Doherty, Paul Murphy, Philip Murphy, Dennis Brennan (Captain), Colm Dalton, Mikey Whelan, Jimmy Lennon, Pauric Joyce, Jason Foley.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

the Championship runners-up, had a bye.

Tullaroan and Clara got off the block with wins over Carickshock and Shamrocks respectively. Dicksboro put up stout resistance to the Village in their game, going down on a score of 2-13 to 1-7 in round 2.

In round 3, Dicksboro (1-11) had very little to spare over city rivals, O'Loughlins (2-6). Ballyhale Shamrocks (3-14) were too hot for Carrickshock (0-7), while James Stephens (3-16) proved far too good for Clara (1-6).

O'Loughlins all but put paid to Shamrocks league ambitions when they beat them 3-13 to 4-3. As the Village had a bye in this round (4), Dicksboro had a runaway win over Clara, winning by 3-10 to 0-2. Further wins for James Stephens, O'Loughlins, Dicksboro and Clara in rounds 5, 6 and 7 dictated the semi-finals thus.

James Stephens were to face O'Loughlins, while Dicksboro were to take on Clara. As events turned out, James Stephens walloped their way to the final following a 5-14 to 1-7 win over O'Loughlins, while their rivals from the other side of the city easily accounted for Clara, winning by 6-16 to 2-8.

In the keenly contested final, two first half goals by Matthew Ruth and Michael Neary helped the Village lead at half time by 2-4 to 1-5. Whilst the Village were

masters in the first half, thanks to the efforts of Paul Grogan, Conor O'Brien, Shane Champion, and David Byrne on the half back line, and the direct running of Adrian Walsh, Michael Neary and Matthew Ruth in the forwards, the Boro were a far different outfit in the second half. The Boro dominated for long periods of the second half, but try as they may, they couldn't breach the one goal advantage that their opponents held. Michael Tyrrell, Peter Higgins, Craig Cahill, David Broderick, Darragh Tynan, and David Ryan tried all they knew, but it was not enough on the day. The final score was certainly not a true reflection of the game.

Final score, James Stephens 4-11 Dicksboro 2-10.

James Stephens: Keith Morris, James Hennessy, David Doyle, Paul Grogan, Conor O'Brien, Shane Champion, David Byrne, John Comerford (0-1), Adrian Walsh, Michael Neary (0-1), Damien Phelan, Anthony Lawlor (0-2), Shane Brennan (0-3), Matthew Ruth (3-4), Darren Leahy.

Subs: Michael Savage, John Brennan (1-0), Conor McQuillan, Niall McQuillan, Keith Ryan, Stephen Hoyne, Glen Campion, Sean Ryan, Paddy Neary, Dermot Moynihan.

Dicksboro: Derek Deegan, Lorcan Brennan, Darragh Tynan, David Ryan,

Robbie Tyrrell, Michael Rafter (0-2), Peter Higgins, Michael Tyrrell (capt)(0-2), Cillian Starr, Dean Brennan (0-2), Craig Cahill (1-4), Shane Maher, Liam Lenehan, David Broderick, Adrian Stapleton (1-0),

Subs: Peter Brady, John Traynor, Peter Fitzpatrick, Brian O'Shea, Drew Phelan, Eoin McCormack, Colm Brady, Conor Phelan, Ger O'Donoghue.

Derek Davis :

Ref: John Guinan.

ROINN B (Championship).

Danesfort, an outstanding example of what can be achieved, given the proper structures, dedication to detail, and the will to succeed, came through to capture the Roinn B title after a hectic campaign. They had won the under-14 Roinn C title two seasons ago, but they now found themselves in a higher grade twenty four months down the road. The sixteen teams went into competition on the 28th July, every one of them with great aspirations of winning. Danesfort had a close call, when they defeated the Rower Inistioge by 1-10 to 2-4. Thomastown and Piltown had easy wins over Tullogher Rosbercon and Graigue Ballycallan respectively. While St Lactains and Fenians/Galmoy had facile wins over John Lockes and St Patricks

Ballyraggett, it was not so easy for Mullinavat who scraped home against Mooncoin (0-13 to 1-7), nor Lisdowney, who were only ahead of Erin's Own by a single point when the final whistle was blown (3-6 to 2-8). St Martin's took out Slieverue by 2-7 to 1-4.

There were some very close encounters in the quarter-final stages, with St Lactains (2-9) for instance having very little to spare over near neighbours, Fenians/Galmoy (2-7). Lisdowney and St Martins could not be separated the first occasion they played, playing out a memorable high scoring draw. Lisdowney scored a whopping 5-6 while the Muckalee lads answered them with 3-12. The replay was equally compelling, with the Lisdowney lads shooting a mighty 1-13, while St Martin's shot a winning 5-6. Danesfort won their game against a poor Thomastown side, winning by 3-11 to 1-7. Piltown (2-15) had even less trouble taking care of Mullinavat (0-4).

In the semi-finals, Danesfort continued on their merry way beating Piltown rather comprehensively by 1-11 to 0-5. St Martin's too had too much firepower for St Lactain's, winning by 3-7 to 1-6. The final in Nowlan Park towards the end of August was a well contested affair, which was well appreciated by the big numbers of spectators. It would have to be labelled the Richie Hogan show. This youngster is something special. He scored an unbelievable 4-8 of his side's total of 4-12 playing at centre forward. The Muckalee lads had no answer to the superb quality of this young man's hurling ability. His brother, Patrick, hurling at centre back, fired over three long range points, while Paul Murphy got one point. To their eternal credit, the St Martins lads never gave up trying. They had mighty performers in Pádraig Haughney, Paddy



CLARA - U16 ROINN A CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2003

Back: Declan Rafter, Martin Meany, James Brennan, Neil Prendergast (Capt), Eoin O'Shea, Michael McDonald, Jody Creane, Brian O'Shea, David Langton.

Front: Kevin Nolan, Tom Ryan, John Prendergast, Keith Hogan, Liam Ryan, Sean O'Shea, Lester Ryan, Tom Langton, James Nolan.



KILMACOW- U16 ROINN C HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Philip Ivory (Sel), Peadar Kelly (Manager), Tommy Barron, Christopher Hughes, Gerry Harney, Sean McGrath, David Duggan, Conor Gahan, Eoghan Dooley, Paul Laffan (Capt), Pádraig Brick, Brian King, Aaron O'Dwyer, Michael Heffernan, Richie Kearns (Sel).

Front: Thomas Rddy (Sel), Sean Ivory, Eoin Irish, Richard McNamara, Thomas Flynn, Fergus Walsh, Liam Kearns, Conor Dowling, John Kirby, Richard Kearns, PJ Ivory, Jake Harney (Mascot)

Nolan, Colin Mc Grath, James Dowling, John Maher, and John Mulhall. The 'Fort had terrific performers in Donal Maher, Ciaran Treacy, Michael Cunningham, Pádraig Daly, Johnny Corr, Oisín Daly, Robbie Walsh, Paul Murphy, and John Brennan.

Danesfort : Donal Maher, Ciaran Treacy, Michael Cunningham, Sean Leahy, Pádraig Daly, Patrick Hogan, Johnny Corr, Shane O'Neill, Robbie Walsh, Oisín Daly, Richard Hogan, John Brennan, James Cunningham, Paul Murphy, Pádraig Corcoran.
Subs: Richard Troy, Bill Muldowney, Melvin Phelan, Derek Brennan,

St Martins : Pauric Haughney, Conor

Kelly, Patrick Nolan, Darragh Callinan, Colm McGrath, Joseph Maher, Mick Morrissey, James Dowling, Fionn Lawlor, Noel Darcy, John Maher, Garry Brennan, Mark Murphy, John Mulhall, Ollie Walshe.

Subs: Michael Stapleton, Kieran Brennan, Thomas Breen, Micheál Morrissey, Thomás Morrissey, Canice Maher, Paddy Dowling.

Ref: John Guinan.

ROINN B (League).

The League competition was divided into four groups of four teams, each of which played each other. The two top placed teams from each group emerged to con-

test the quarter finals whilst the remaining non-qualifying eight teams played in the subsidiary shield competition.

In Group 1, the qualifiers were Danesfort and St Martin's. Coming out of Group 2 were Thomastown and St Lactain's, while Graigue Ballycallan and Tullogher Rosbercon trundled through Group 3. The Rower Inistioge and Mooncoin made up the quarter final compliment of teams.

Graigue Ballycallan proved far too good for Danesfort, winning by 4-10 to 2-4. It was a very similar situation with Thomastown inflicting a heavy defeat on the Rower Inistioge (1-15 to 0-6).

Surprisingly, St Martin's were tipped off at the line by Tullogher Rosbercon, who won by 2-11 to 2-7, while Mooncoin were a little too good for St Lactain's, who won by 2-12 to 1-2.

In the semi-finals, Graigue Ballycallan proved too good for Thomastown, winning by 3-7 to 2-4, and Mooncoin got into the final by virtue of a hard-fought close game with Tullogher, winning by 1-13 to 0-10.

The final was a nail-biting affair with Graigue Ballycallan getting home by the slenderest of margins, 1-9 to 2-5.

Graigue Ballycallan : Ian Hennessy, Pádraig Murphy, Robert Dunphy, Paul Harrison, John Cleere, Adrian Burke, Mark Butler, Patrick Kennedy, James Smith, Robert Murphy, Johnny Dunne, Eoin Doheny, Ciarán Neary, John Paul Murphy, Noel Dermody.

Subs: Eoin Heafy, Richard Ryan, Shane Dunphy, Justin Dermody, Philip Heafy, PJ Delaney, Gearóid Murphy, Nicholas Harrison.

Mooncoin : Kevin Law, Joseph O'Hanlon, Frank Law, Thomas Hennebery, Jamie Cody, Shane Walsh, John Kenny, Liam Henneberry, Michael Grace, Christopher Hearne, PJ Roe, Damien Jacob, Tomás Kearns, Shane Dowley, Stephen O'Brien.

Subs: Robert Flynn, Michael O'Hanlon, Shane Walsh, Christopher O'Hanlon, Nickey Henneberry, Sean Wall.



PILTOWN - U16 ROINN B SHIELD WINNERS 2003

Back: John Duggan, Gerard Brennan, Fran Duggan, Paul McNamara, Tommie O'Gorman, Michael Burchill, Seamus Norris, Kevin Brophy, Nigel Brennan, Martin Gordon.

Front: Matthew Kenny, David O'Shea, James Norris, Neil Kelly, Mark Culleton, Christie Falconer, Liam White, Declan Long.

Photo: Eoin Hennessy



DICKSBORO - U16 ROINN A LEAGUE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Colm Brady, Peter Fitzpatrick, Conor Phelan, Brian O'Shea, Robbie Tyrrell, Lorcan Brennan, Craig Cahill, David Broderick, Dean Brennan, Michael Rafter, Darragh Tynan, Michael Tyrrell, DD Molloy, Peter Brady,

Front: Drew Phelan, John Traynor, Cillian Starr, Liam Lenehan, Peter Higgins, Ger O'Donoghue, Derek Deegan, David Ryan, Shane Maher, Adrian Stapleton, Eoin McCormack.

ROINN B (Shield)

In the Shield competition, Piltown (2-15) beat Slieverue (0-4), John Lockes got a walk over from Lisdowney, Mullinavat (2-11) beat Fenians/Galmoy (1-9), while Erin's Own (3-22) beat St Patricks Ballyraggett (0-5). Piltown had a facile victory over John Lockes while Erin's Own (1-12) had five points to spare over Mullinavat (2-4), in the semi-finals.

The final proved to be very disappointing, with Piltown far too good for Erin's Own, coming home easy winners on a score of 3-13 to 1-5.

Piltown: John Duggan, Gerard Brennan, Fran Duggan, Paul McNamara, Tommy O'Gorman, Michael Burchill, Seamus Norris, Kevin Brophy, Nigel Brennan, Martin Gordon, Matthew Kenny, David O'Shea, James Norris, Neil Kelly, Mark Culleton, Christopher Falconer, Liam

White, Declan Long.

Erins Own : James Hurley, Conor Fogarty, Liam Oates, Peadar Boran, Eddie Kelly, Liam Carroll, James Mullins, Donal Fenlon, Jimmy Byrne, Mark Delaney, Barry Dunne (capt), John O'Gorman, Wayne Kavanagh, Michael Moran, Michael Murphy.

Subs: Pierce Dargan, Brian Dillon, Leon Brennan, James Sherwood, Andrew Ring, Anthony Kavanagh.

ROINN C (C'ship).

Wins for Dunnamaggin against Windgap, Barrow Rangers (w.o), Blacks & Whites against Young Irelands, Bennettsbridge against Graignamanagh, and Kilmacow against Glenmore, set up the quarter final pairings thus: Dunnamaggin (3-11) defeated Barrow Rangers (2-6),

Emeralds (3-18) beat Bennettsbridge (3-6), Blacks & Whites (2-10) defeated Cloneen (1-3), while Kilmacow defeated Conahy Shamrocks (0-9). Both semi-finals were very keenly contested, with Dunnamaggin having just a single point to spare over Emeralds, winning by 2-10 to 1-12, while Blacks & Whites had a little more leeway between themselves and the Kilmacow batlers, winning by 2-6 to 1-6.

The low-scoring final was closely contested with just three points

between the sides at half time; the score being, Blacks & Whites 0-8, Dunnamaggin 1-2. The Dunnamaggin goal was scored by full forward, Gavin O'Keeffe. Mid-way through the second half the all important match-winning score came when corner forward, Philip Murphy, latched onto a long delivery from Denis Brennan, to slam the ball into Daniel Reid's goal. The Blacks & Whites had terrific hurlers in the full backs, Jason Foley and Joseph Murphy, centre back Denis Brennan, centre forward,



Dunnamaggin U-16 Roinn C Hurling Finalists 2003

Back: Johno Reid (Trainer), Sean Murphy, Luke Fahey, Darren Coffey, Gavin O'Keeffe, Darren Fitzpatrick, Nigel Hawe, Thomas Maher, Christopher Brennan, James Kelly, Liam Davis, James Kehoe, Tom Phelan (mentor).

Front: Brendan Martin, Patrick Phelan, Garry Coyne, Oliver Weeks, James Ryan, Daniel Reid, Aidan Donovan (capt), Jim Power, William Hughes, JJ Dunphy, Sean Davis.

Ray Coady, and his partner on the half forward line, Jimmy Lennon. For Dunnamaggin, Daniel Reid, Andrew Donovan, Patrick Phelan, Gavin O'Keeffe, and William Hughes were best. The final score read:

Blacks & Whites 1-9, Dunnamaggin 1-3

Blacks & Whites : Paul Murphy, Jason Foley, Joseph Murphy, Frank Ryan, Colm Dalton, Denis Brennan, Damien O'Dowd, John Lawlor, Mikey Whelan, Sean Murphy, Ray Coady, Jimmy Lennon, Philip Murphy, Peter Cleere,

Mikey Maloney.

Subs: Pádraig Joyce, Joseph Savage, Chris O'Grady, Keith Doherty, James Kennedy.

Dunnamaggin : Daniel Reid, Nigel Hawe, Aidan Donovan, Jim Power, Oliver Weeks, Patrick Phelan, Darren Coffey, Luke Fahy, Darren Fitzpatrick, Tommy Maher, Garry Coyne, JJ Dunphy, James Ryan, Gavin O'Keeffe, William Hughes.

Subs: Sean Murphy, Christopher Brennan, James Keogh, Brendan Martin, Liam Davis, Sean Davis, James Kelly.



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ROINN C (League)

Split into two groups, the League campaign produced some sterling displays of good hurling. In Group 1 Conahy dropped three points in their games, while Blacks & Whites stormed through with maximum points from their programme. The unlucky teams in this group were the Emeralds who collected six points from their games, and Bennettsbridge who had some nice wins, including one against Young Irelands and a creditable draw with Conahy. Conahy Shamrocks and Blacks & Whites then went on to compete in the semi-finals. In Group 2, there was no stopping Dunnamaggin and Kilmacow, who amassed huge scores between them, as

they storm trooped their way to the semis. In three games, Dunnamaggin slammed home twenty-two goals and thirty six points. Kilmacow did something similar, scoring twenty nine goals and thirty seven points in three of their games.

In the first semi final, the men from Skeaghvosteen proved a little too strong for the Dunnamaggin lads, and won by 3-11 to 2-7. It needed two games to separate Kilmacow and Conahy, before the eventual finalist was known. They drew their first game, where they both scored 3-9, but it was a little different on the second day, with the Blacks & Whites winning comfortably by a score of 3-11 to 1-6.

The final proved to be a little bit of an

anti-climax with Kilmacow proving far too good for the ever-trying Blacks & Whites outfit.

The final score read:
Kilmacow 4-7 Blacks & Whites 1-6.

Kilmacow: Fergus Walsh, Tommy Barron, Paul Laffin, Pauric Brick, Michael Heffernan, Sean McGrath, Brian King, Tony Flynn, Eoin Doody, John Kirby, Sean Ivory, David Duggan, Richie Kearns, Conor Gahan, Liam Kearns.

Subs: Christopher Hughes, Gerry Harney, PJ Ivory, Aaron O'Dwyer, Eoin Irish, Conor Dowling, Thomas McGuire, Richard McNamara.

Blacks & Whites : As above.

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Estd. 1974

Winning over the Begrudgers

By PM O'Sullivan

"She knows there's no success like failure/And failure's no success at all": so sings Bob Dylan, all gravel and wisdom, on 'Love Minus Zero/No Limits'. It's not that long since Mr Zimmerman graced Nowlan Park. Only two summers gone, in fact, since Ned Quinn quipped that he knew rather more about Pa Dillon. We were about to meet Galway in a semi-final. Some bookies were offering 5-1 against the challengers.

We all know what happened. August 2001 now seems aeons away. A mere two seasons on, the progress since that searing defeat has been remarkable. Most obviously, there is the silverware: six All-Ireland titles at four different levels in twenty-four months. We have seen both sides of Dylan's equation. And we know which one we prefer.

Not that everyone can be expected to share that delight. No problem there. That said, the reaction in certain quarters has left a lot to be desired. Spade called spade, much of that response is little more than rank begrudgery. Take the poll mounted during coverage of the U21 Final, asking whether Kilkenny's "current dominance" was bad for hurling. It would be hard to conceive of a more ridiculous question. Worry about the game — even just in Leinster — might more logically query the inertia of the Dublin, Laois and Wexford Co. Boards. Equally, on another note, was Cork's treble 1976-78 bad for hurling? Some people are really rattled, judging by this sort of carry-on.

A frustrating scenario, so. A few notable exceptions (such as Liam Griffin) aside, there seems little appetite for a serious analysis of what Kilkenny are getting right (and of what, by extension, other counties are getting wrong). For the mutterers, this ascendancy has to come down to some headstart. After the Leinster Final, for instance, online GAA discussion boards scornfully compared said contest to Exeter City trying to take on Manchester United, with the Cats supposedly benefiting to an enormous degree through hurling in Leinster. The fact that some of the most vocal of these contributors were from Waterford dived with karma. Karma duly had the last word in Nowlan Park.

Minor hurling in Leinster's lapse in competitiveness is a very serious concern. But the notion that Kilkenny obtain some great boon via their province simply doesn't stand up. Analysing this season in *The Irish Times*, Sean Moran instanced Kilkenny's two main blessings: "ease of egress from Leinster" and "the stream of underage talent". While Moran is an excellent journalist, this analysis is flawed. Ease of victory doesn't automatically equate with unfair assistance. For Moran's analysis to cohere, the fate of Leinster teams outside the province over a defined period would have to have been disastrous. No such collapse has been evident. There are no criteria — 'head-to-head encounters since 1997', 'underage titles won' 'All-Ireland titles won', 'the Railway Cup' — which support that case to the high level that such a case demands. If anything, such criteria argue for Leinster hurling more than holding its own.

Relatedly spurious is this late-made preoccupation with Kilkenny's decision not to field a Senior football team. Again, there is a simple point to be made. It is one thing to say that Kilkenny should be attempting to ensure parity of esteem for both codes. If so, though, why

not reverse the point to Armagh, say?. What's sauce for the hurling goose should be sauce for the footballing gander. Which or whether, it is quite another thing to hold that we gain some great advantage through eschewing Senior football. For the notion of benefit to stack up, you would have to envisage the (highly unlikely) scenario where players currently on the hurling panel would leave it so as to concentrate on football. What disadvantage could otherwise arise? After all, until relatively recently, we did field a Senior team. Could anyone seriously claim that choice harmed our chances with the small ball? And where, in any event, was such analysis in 1998, in 1999, in 2001? Or does football only count when Kilkenny win? Tellingly, that's a question the begrudgers wouldn't at all enjoy. They merely want to diminish Kilkenny hurling off the field when it is proving very difficult to do so on the pitch.

Sporting triumph is never entirely explainable. The nature of a team effort, where so much depends on individuals' private attitudes, always ensures a certain opacity. Some local factors, nevertheless, are clear. We now have a tempered team, mentally strong and prepared to die in the last ditch if victory requires it, one who have won all decided-in-the-last-ten-minutes contests since August 2001. We have a tremendous manager, one who has clarity about what he expects from his players. We have an excellent Co. Board, well chaired by Ned Quinn, ensuring that the players, as they are very quick to acknowledge, are very well looked after. This factor is far more important than is commonly realized, you'd have to think, looking at in-fighting in other counties. Liam Griffin recently said that the Kilkenny man he'd most like to bring Slaneyside is our current Co. Chairman.

Equally, coherent internal structures have evolved. Many outsiders say that a dozen Senior clubs is nearly ideal as a number. Our underage hurlers play a high percentage of their games with the sun on their backs. Likewise, there was the inauguration of development squads in 2000. It hardly seems credible for any county to lament Noreside "dominance" if they haven't made similar arrangements themselves. Why should we apologize about being proactive on youth's behalf?

Nor does the talent noted by Moran drop out of the sky when it is seventeen. As Martin Fogarty rightly remembered after the U21 Final, it all goes back to parents and coaches driving U10s to matches. Nothing happens by itself or as a result of short-termist thinking, least of all ongoing success in sport. Relatively few members of those development squads will step up to be inter-

county players. But that's not the point. The point is enhancement of hurling's attractiveness and prestige within the county. Locals in their sixties and seventies often remark that the game has never more popular. Recently, the story goes, one highly talented prospect turned down an underage soccer trial with Ireland, even after he was told he might well be passing up, down the line, a lucrative career in the Premiership. He supposedly replied



Should Henry concentrate on the big ball?

that all he wanted to do was hurl for Kilkenny.

That sort of attachment, in individuals and in groups, only accrues through long generations of voluntary effort. Begrudgery, forever hovering with its blandishments about there being a reason for losing beyond the need to improve, is counterproductive. We have no divine right to win. But neither is there some sacred onus on us to lose just because of recent wins. It is up to other counties to match us, to overtake us. Begrudgery has no such torque, as many are fast learning. There are no shortcuts.

Enough of the sourness. What of next year? Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of 2003 was how, mostly, the Seniors underperformed. Save for the twenty minutes after halftime in the semi-final, the team's performances often ground the clutch, jerking between high and low gears. What might the trait mean? One interpretation is that the players were especially nervous due to this season's significance. More than just one year's hurling was at stake: there were five summers on the line. Brian Cody knew precisely why it would have been a shattering defeat: "It would have made bits of the things we had achieved".

Now the first five years of his managerial stint are safely filed: 'Very satisfactory (and wouldn't have been flattered by another

title, in fact)'. This cycle will sometime end, of course. Hopefully, though, with that filing done and dusted, the current players will be released from all inhibitions, all nervousness. Nothing can now abrade their remarkable achievements since 1999. Even if we lose next summer, that fact won't change.

New demands, as ever, loom. Rest is rust, as the saying goes. Or as Dylan elsewhere sings: "He who is not busy being born is busy dying". Those tests will be all the more severe because teams win in two ways. First, they win as challengers. Then, if they are good enough, if they are hungry enough, they win again as Champions. The latter category, however welcome, brings its own difficulties. Right now, Kilkenny are up in the air like a clay pigeon, with everyone else scoping us out. Play in the half-forward line, as Cork's spell of dominance showed, probably needs to be varied a bit more. For opposing half-backs, life would be even more difficult if they were unsure as to whether a fetch will be attempted each time. There is room for occasionally moving the ball in quicker (as John Hoyne, declining the pick, did for Martin Comerford's goal). But ultimately, of course, there is only the manager's brutal and inspiring eloquence during that unforgettable last quarter: "Keep going! Keep going!"

We live in hope, the eternal townland.

Well Done, Kilkenny!



EJ MCDERMOTT

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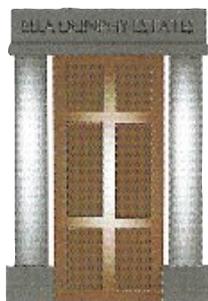


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Mick Kenny - The Passing of a Legend

By Gar Freaney.



A man, legendary in his home place, Callan, and fields further, passed away just after Christmas last (Dec 29) quietly, without undue fuss, in the company of his wife, Marie, his step-son Christopher, his daughters, Margaret Casey, and Helen Tyrrell, and his son Michael. He was in his eighty-first year. I speak of the great Mick Kenny, because on a hurling field, unbowed and unbeaten, there was no one around to rival the great Callan man.

Mick was born during the Civil War, and was still a teenager when he joined the Irish Army at the start of World War Two. Stationed in Clonmel, it didn't take too long for his abilities with a camán to become evident. He played with the Marfield club in many stirring Tipperary hurling championship encounters.

Mick transferred his allegiance to Graigue (now Graig Ballycallan), in 1945/46, at a time when the three-parish rule applied, and when the hurling scene within the County was totally dominated by three clubs— Eire Og, Tullaroan and Dicksboro, who between them boasted some 24 players who had worn the County colours of Kilkenny, Tipperary, and Waterford. In 1946 however, with no small help from Mick Kenny, Graigue made the break through, and won the County Junior Hurling Championship, beating St Kierans (Clogga) by 8-5 to 3-0. With clubmates, Paddy Cahill, Bill Cahill and Henry Giles, Mick went on to win the All Ireland Junior crown, beating Galway by 4-2 to 2-3, with Mick Kenny ramming home a great goal. In 1949, Graigue set the seal on a marvellous few years by winning the County Senior hurling crown, beating the unbeatable Tullaroan by 3-12 to 2-14. Mick Kenny wrote another chapter into the folklore of his own achievements, by drilling the sliothar over the Tullaroan crossbar, at the O'Loughlin end of Nowlan Park in injury time to win the day. It's what legend is all about. Kilkenny senior hurling at the time was a cauldron, where every game was contested with a ferocity that was unbelievable. Consider Kenny's achievement with that match-winning point, and against neighbours. Graigue would never have won that title without Mick Kenny, an opinion held by many of the Tullaroan support. Truly legendary.

In 1950, Mick captained Kilkenny in the All Ireland senior hurling final against Tipperary. They were beaten by a single point, but

to this day, hurling gurus are still amazed that the Kilkenny mentors did not see fit to give the free-taking duties to the sure-fire Kenny, when at least seven close-in frees were missed.

In 1951 Mick declared for Tipperary, and was selected on the panel. However, Cork were the dominant team in Munster at the time, and Tipp could only manage to win a National League title during Kenny's time there.

Mick came home to Callan and the John Lockes Club. The Lockes had won the County Junior title in 1952, and slowly carved a bit of a reputation for themselves in the Senior Championship. Kenny took over control of the training, and they were beaten in the 1956 County Final by Bennettsbridge (2-8 to 3-3). The duel between Kenny and the late great Dan Kennedy on that day was spoken of long after the game was over. However, the Lockes stormed back the following year to record their first and only senior win, with Mick Kenny the dominant force behind the effort.

The County Final was against Slieverue, who sported three county colleagues of Mick's— Paddy Buggy, Mick Walsh and Dick Rockett. Slieverue were very warm favourites. Being a man who liked the occasional flutter, I remember getting 5/2 against the Lockes in a Waterford bookies.

At centre back, Mick Kenny gave a masterful display, and a feature of his game was the unerring accuracy of his frees from long range. As with Graigue, the Lockes would never have won their only title but for Mick Kenny.

Mick lined out with Kilkenny in 1957 - the Rooney Year. That's when actor John Gregson marched behind the Artane Boys Band in the famed black and amber, as part of the film, "Rooney".

Kenny, giving a performance of incredible drive, determination, and leadership had one of those games that was as close to perfection as was humanly possible. He score a phenomenal 2-5 of Kilkenny's total of 4-10. Kenny came home a hero to Callan on Monday night with the Liam Mc Carthy cup.

As non-playing captain in 1958, Mick could only watch as Tipperary beat Kilkenny in the All Ireland semi-final. It precipitated his retirement from hurling, and shortly afterwards, Mick and family moved from Callan to Kilkenny. Having retired from the Army later, he took up a position with a TV rental company.

In later years he trained and guided St Brigid's College Callan camogie team to championship wins.

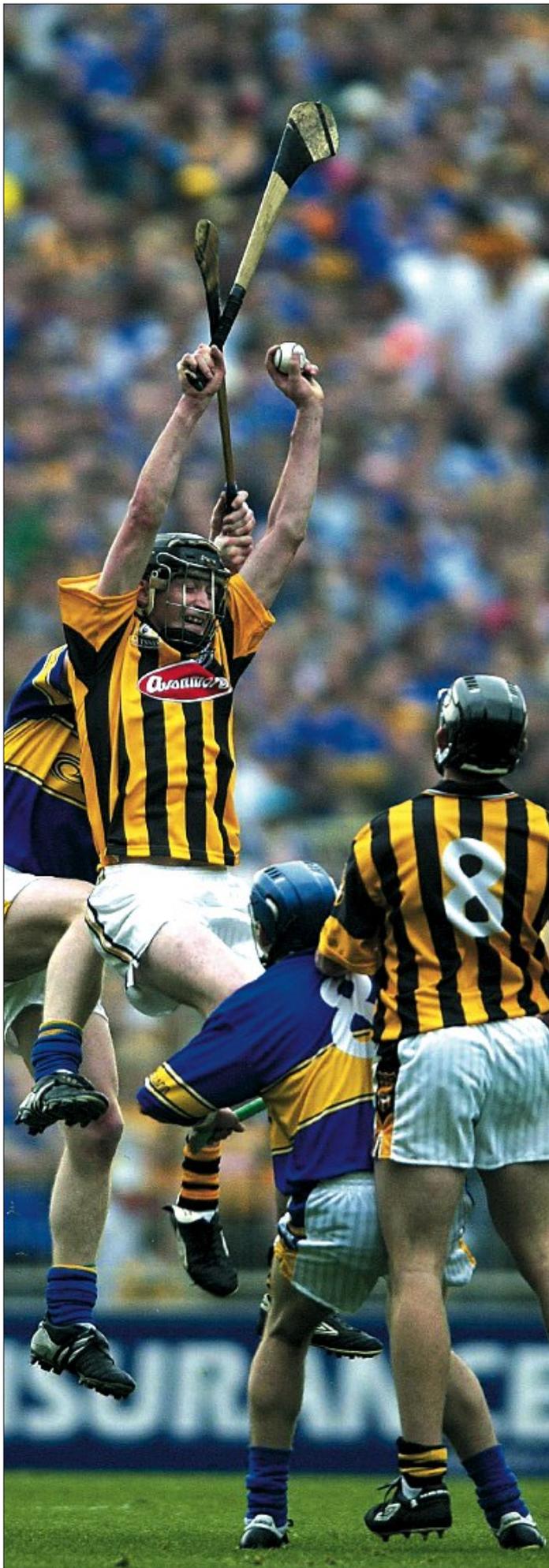
In recent years, whenever I met Mick Kenny, the subject was always hurling, and he tremendous admiration for the Kilkenny teams of the past forty years. He rarely spoke about himself, and never blew his own coal. He surely deserves the little bit I have blown for him here. Mick Kenny, a prince of hurling, whose exploits have seldom been equalled, and never surpassed.



Kilkenny SH Champions 1957

Back: Syd Bluett (Trainer), Jim "Link" Walsh, Dick Rockett, John Sutton, Mick Brophy, Sean Clohosey, Mick Kenny, Ollie Walsh, Bob Aylward (Chairman, Co. Board).

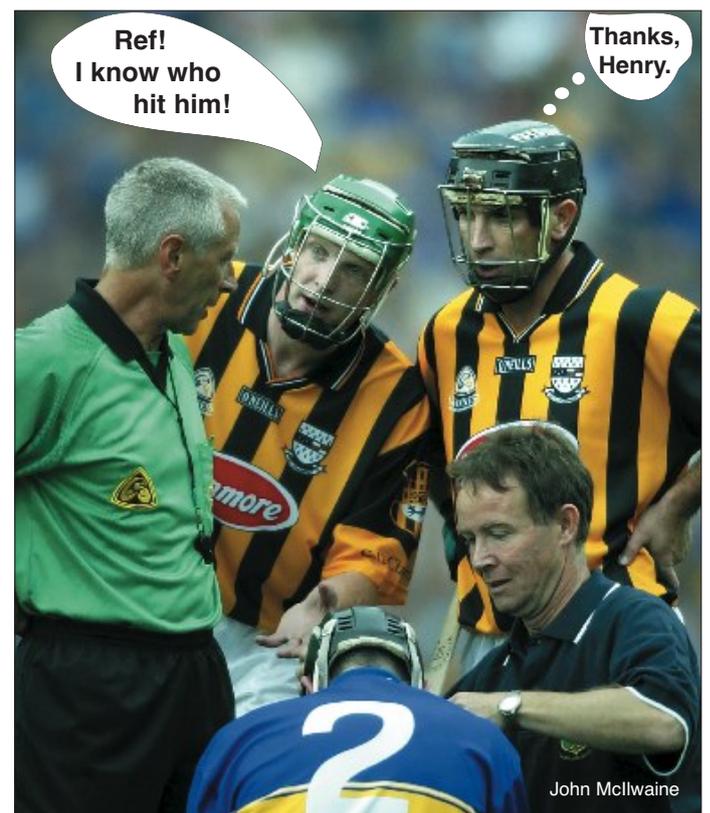
Fron: Johnny McGovern, Billy O'Dwyer, Paddy Buggy, Denis Heaslip, Micky Kelly (Capt.), Mick Walsh, Tom Walsh, John Maher.



Martin Comerford rises high for the Ball. Sportsfile



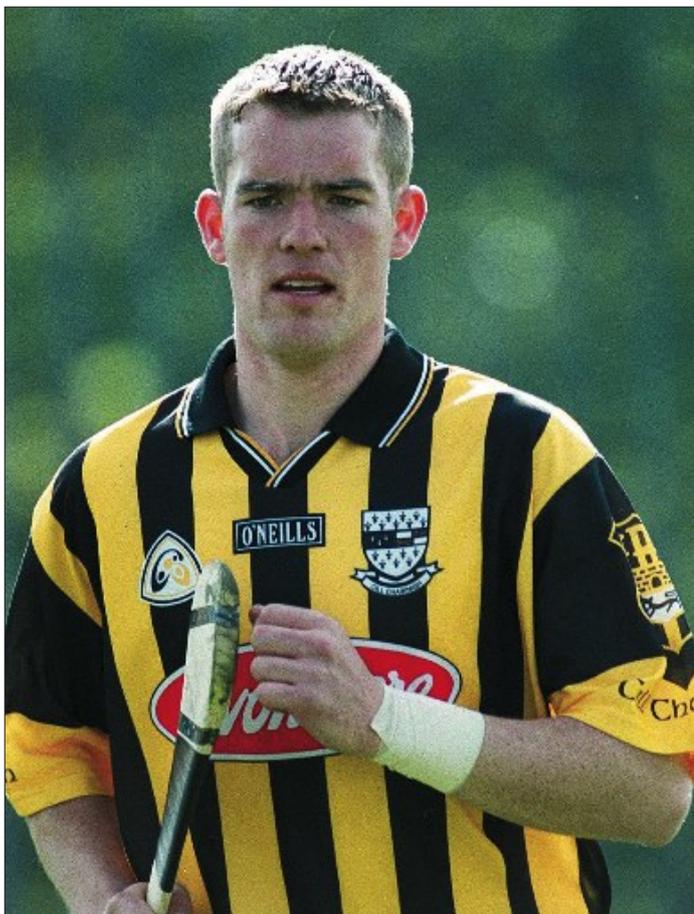
Brian Cody and Peter Barry celebrate the Final victory Sportsfile



Ref!
I know who
hit him!

Thanks,
Henry.

John McIlwaine



Sean Dowling had a great campaign with Kilkenny
Photo Sportsfile



Tommy Walsh celebrates his goal against Tipp
Photo Sportsfile



Noel Hickey - RTE "Man of the Match" in the All Ireland Final

Sportsfile

HURLERS' TRIP OF A LIFETIME

By Tommy O'Brien

Victory on the 2002 All Ireland final meant a deserved holiday for the players and backroom staff. Previous trips had gone to places such as Tenerife, Orlando and Thailand and this time the reward was a trip of a lifetime to South Africa.

27 of the panel of 30 hurlers travelled on the trip—**Philly Larkin, John Power** and **Paul Cahill** were the missing ones.

The selectors **Brian Cody, Johnny Walsh** and **Noel Skehan**, as well as the back room team—**Mick O'Flynn, Tadhg Crowley, Robby Lodge, Joe Malone, Noreen Roche** and **Denis Coady** all travelled as did County Officers **Ned Quinn, Paul Kinsella, Pat Dunphy, Dick Dunphy** and **Barry Hickey**.

Add to this a large group of supporters and you had a happy group of 125 on their way to Cape Town and Sun City.

After a gruelling trip, all the party had arrived in the luxurious Cullinan Hotel in Cape Town by mid afternoon on Sunday 12th January and had a welcome barbecue at the poolside. Guest of honour at the barbecue was star Golfer, **Gary Murphy** who got a great reception when he arrived. He had been in action in a major Golf Tournament that weekend and on his final round he was cheered on by **Frank Morrissey, DJ Carey** and **Pat and Ella Dunphy**. Kilkenny shared the hotel with the Dublin and Kerry teams.

Monday was a free day with a moonlit boat trip arranged followed by a meal in a Waterfront Café. At least it was expected to be a romantic boat trip evening but turned out to be far from romantic as the boat appeared to be making efforts to break the world speed record and some people found their sea legs were missing, to put it mildly!

However, when everyone got their balance back on dry land, the fine meal arranged by tour operator Sean Skehan compensated.

Trips to Table Mountain and to Robben Island were popular events in Cape Town.

Table Mountain was ascended by cable car. The floor of the cable car rotated a full 360 degrees as you went up so everyone got a great view of stunning Cape Town Bay. The searing heat meant that some visitors had a short stay at the Mountain top while others spend much of a day there.

Robben Island was extremely interesting with guides giving accounts of the history of black oppression and especially the plight of Nelson Mandela while he was on the island. Indeed many of the guides were in jail there at the same time as Mandela, and gave first hand accounts of atrocities there.

However, the greatest interest while in Cape Town was roused by the people of the townships. **Johnny Crowley** of Mooncoin is a long-term contributor to a township fund and was given a tour on which he brought **Peter Barry, Sharon Flynn, Richard Mullally, Claire Galvin** and **Joe and Josephine Malone**. They came back enthusing about the trip and the plight of the people there. This set off a chain reaction when group after group went out to view the township and was highlighted when **Fr Tommy Murphy** said Mass for residents and visitors, a highly charged emotional Mass for everyone there.

A fund raising committee was set up with **Peter Barry** and **Richie Mullally** as trustees and containing **Barry Hickey, Johnny Crowley, Eileen Morrissey, Joe Malone, Eamonn Hennessy, Mary Hennessy, Dick Dunphy, Ger Woodcock, Tommy Knox, Willie Murphy, Ned Doyle, Fr Tom Murphy, Tommy O'Brien, Tommy Kavanagh, John Lyng, Denis Cody** and **Seán Aylward**. Cabarets, race nights and quizzes were among the methods of fund raising employed with a final Cabaret on the night of the Kilkenny-Galway league game. The committee was delighted with the positive response, which saw the €10,000 target achieved many times over and ending over €60,000.

Golf

Golf also proved popular with the travelling group. Not all the hurlers played golf—however, **DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, Brian McEvoy, Sean Dowling, Eddie Brennan, Andy Comerford, Henry Shefflin** and **Aidan Cummins** all played and showed that their sporting prowess extended far past their hurling ability.

Birthday Party

The famous horse-racing track at Kennelworth enticed **Brian McEvoy, Tracy Millea, Charlie and Maria Carter, James McGarry** and **Vanessa Mahony. Andy and Martin Comerford and Paula Egan**, and **Frank and Helen Prendergast** to gamble a few bob. With Frank's sister giving them a 9-2 winner for starters, they all came away happy.

The luckiest person on the trip was **Michael Kavanagh**, a native of the Rower now living in Wexford, who won the free trip in the Supporters Club raffle, and brought his dad **Micheal** with him while his brother **Tomas** also travelled..

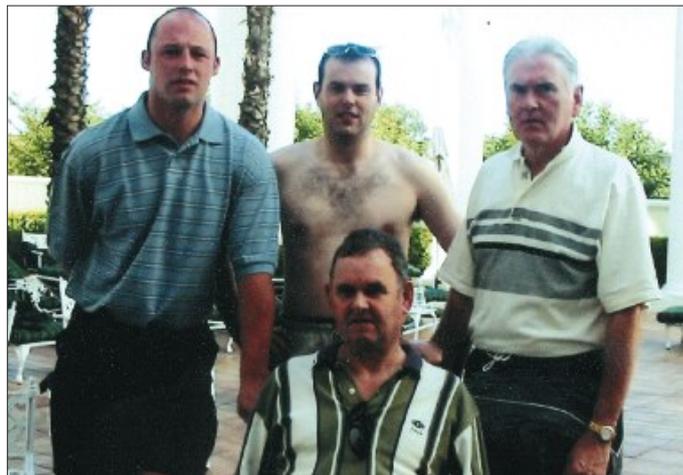
Sun City

Then it was on to Sun City—a plane journey followed by a bus trip— and an altogether different type of holiday. Watersports, paragliding, jetskiing, were among the daytime activities while many elected to sun themselves by the swimming pools.

There was no shortage of night attractions in the Casinos that kept the younger (and not so young) element happy. The tem-



Henry Shefflin and Michael Kavanagh at Charlie Carter's birthday party.



Three City Clubs unite in Capetown
Andy, Brian McEvoy, Bill Murphy and Tommy Knox

perature rose also—it was near 30 degrees in Cape Town, it was 40 in Sun City.

Once more we had a Kilkenny sports star to meet. **Noel Brennan** joined us just after coming 5th in the world carting championships, breaking the lap record in doing so. His prowess on jetskis showed just how bravely he drives his cart.

The final night in Sun City saw a great singsong with the older element of the trip gathering. The singing of the Kilkenny group attracted the locals working in the kitchen and the bar and they gave a brilliant, impromptu concert with magnificent singing and stunning harmony the order of the day.

The supporters star was surely **Joan Knox**. She went paragliding, slid down the highest water slides and was top singer in the singsong. Take a bow, Joan. And special mention must be made of super supporter **Michael Kelly** of Carrickshock who was on his 9th trip with the Kilkenny team.

There was some soccer on the trip also. Dublin declined an offer—we'll see what happened to Armagh, Kildare and Donegal when they took on the Cats! Sun City have a team and they lined out in searing heat against Kilkenny. Goals from **Diarmuid Mackey**, **Eddie Brennan** and a brace from **Henry Shefflin** meant we won 4-1.

Among the unsung heroes of the trip were **Dr Tadhg Crowley** and **Dr Sean Dunne** who were available to treat all kinds of mishaps from sunburn to problems of a digestive nature.

So a brilliant holiday came to an end on Thursday evening and we all faced the long journey home. For the players it meant getting ready for action as they had their first training session just a few nights after they arrived home. But look at what they achieved! Back to back magnificent victories means they are now looking forward to a trip to Australia.

Where Does the Money Go?

Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club gathers money from supporters of our team during the year. The main sources of income are Membership Fees, Golf Classics and Greyhound Racing.

What does the Supporters Club do with this money? The major part of this in All Ireland Years goes to the Players' Holiday Fund (€40,000) but there are many other projects assisted by the Supporters Club. Hurling Coaching in the county gets major help (€5,000) while €5,000 is also given in grants to schools. The Development Squads all got kit bags which cost a further €3,150. Help was also given in the cost of preparing county teams at all levels (€12,170) while clubs representing the county in hurling, football and camogie were granted €2,300.

Handball had one grade of the recent World Championship sponsored by Kilkenny Supporters Club.

Members of the Committee also assist in fund raising for the All Ireland training fund on the Corporate Night and at the Celebration Banquet on the

night of the All Ireland final as well as helping with Players' Holiday Fund by being involved in the selling of tickets for the car won in the National League and selling Team Photographs.

Kilkenny Supporters Club also ran an extra Golf Classic to help with the Holiday Fund.

You can help with this work by joining the Supporters Club. The cost in 2003 was €20 and you can join by contacting any officer or committee member with the relevant fee.

The Officers and Committee for 2003 were:-

Chairman: Frank Morrissey

Vice Chairman: Eddie Keher

Secretary: Jim Freeman

Assistant Sec: Seán Dunne

Assistant Treasurer: Eamon Hennessy

PRO/ Membership: Tommy O'Brien

Committee Members: John Mackey, Jim Kearns, Eugene Grehan, Billy Norris, Senan Cooke, Frank Holohan, Tom Murphy, John Lyng.

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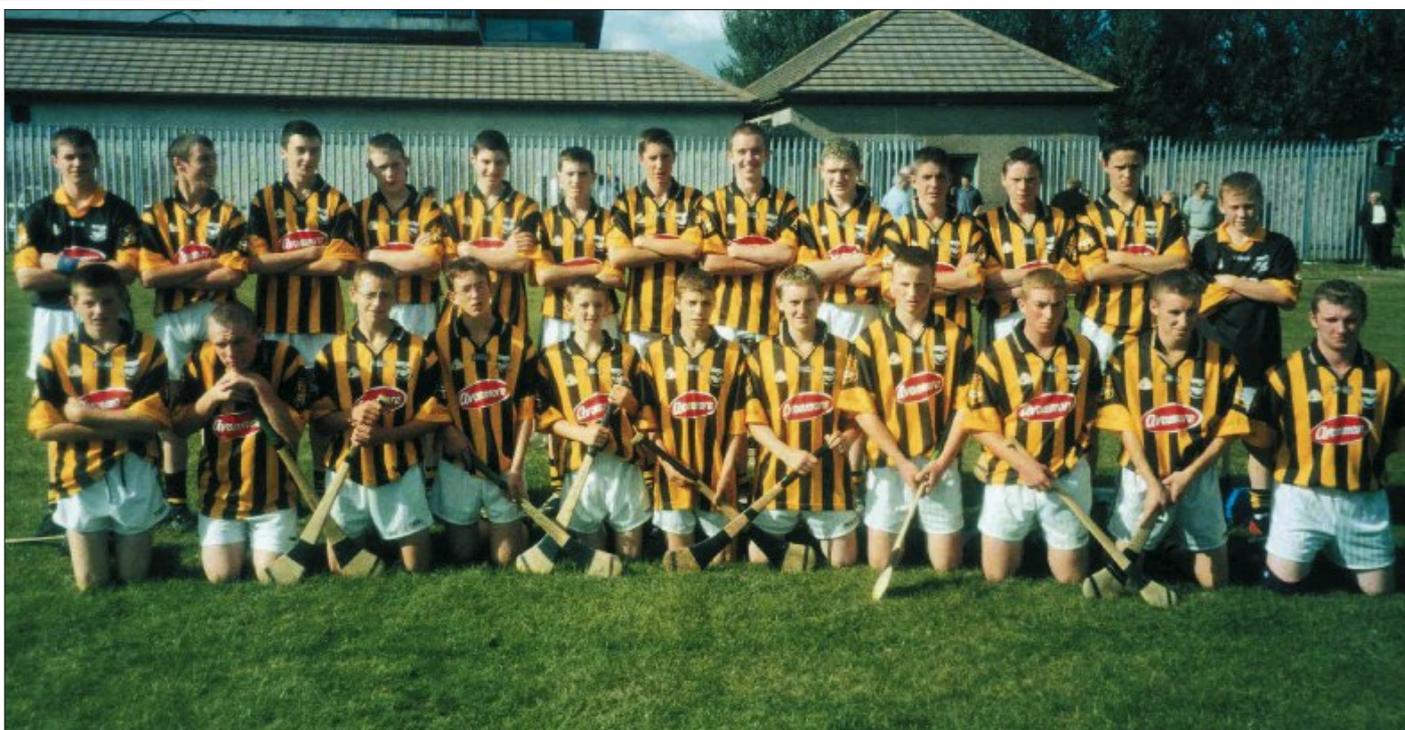
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KILKENNY - TONY FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Colin McGrath, Adrian Stapleton, John Cleere, Michael Murphy, P.J. Roe, Tomás Kearns, Colm Brady, Shane Walsh, Paul Murphy, Naoise Waldron, Shane Brenna, Martin Phelan, Peter McCarthy.

Front: James Nolan, Pádraig Whelan, Brian O'Shea, David Langton, Colin Fennelly, John Fitzpatrick, James Walsh, Mark Bergin, John Traynor, Niall Kelly, Owen Doheny.

Kilkenny's Under-14 hurlers bridged a gap of 21 years when they defeated Galway in the final of the prestigious Tony Forristal tournament in Walsh Park, Waterford on Sunday, August 31st. Indeed, the team could claim to have earned the county's first real win in the tournament to date as Kilkenny's last victory in 1982 featured only two teams, Waterford and Kilkenny.

In the opening rounds of the tournament, Kilkenny were based in the Waterford Crystal Grounds in a group with Offaly, Dublin and Cork. Their opening match against Offaly saw Kilkenny record an emphatic win and this was followed with a similar victory over Dublin. Cork provided the opposition in the final round match and victory for either side would have secured a final place. It proved to be Kilkenny's toughest match by far as they were made to battle hard by a determined Cork side. Kilkenny started brightly however with team captain Mark Bergin and full-forward Pádraig Whelan particularly to the fore. Despite this, Cork fought back superbly to leave very little between the sides at the break. Once again, Kilkenny dominated after the break and established a seven-point lead with four minutes to go. However, a combination of defensive lapses and tiredness allowed Cork to snatch a draw with two goals in a matter of minutes. This left the final score 5-6 to 4-9 after a pulsating game. Fortunately for Kilkenny, their superior scoring average throughout their three games secured their final place against Galway.

The final saw Kilkenny produce by far their best performance of the weekend against a Galway side that were truly dominated throughout. Despite early nerves and a number of bad wides, Kilkenny settled well by the midway point of the first half. This was confirmed by two excellently taken goals in the opening

period from Paul Murphy and Shane Brennan. The defence was outstanding throughout in particular Naoise Waldron at centre-back who was dominant. The midfield duo of P.J. Rowe and Colm Brady completely outclassed their opponents while upfront, all six forwards were on top form. The second half saw Kilkenny completely overwhelm Galway and a goal from Eoghan Doheny and fine points from Mark Bergin followed by a well-struck '65 from Shane Brennan gave Kilkenny a sizeable cushion. A further late goal from substitute James Nolan put the icing on the cake as Kilkenny secured a well-deserved 4-7 to 0-2 victory. Team captain Mark Bergin accepted the Tony Forristal trophy on the team's behalf while Naoise Waldron picked up the man-of-the-match award for his great performance.

The team that played in the final was:

Colin McGrath (St. Martin's), John Cleere (Graigue-Ballycallan), John Traynor (Dicksboro), James Walsh (Shamrocks), Shane Walsh (Mooncoin), Naoise Waldron (St. Láchtain's), John Fitzpatrick (St. Láchtain's), P.J. Rowe (Mooncoin), Colm Brady (Dicksboro), Tomas Kearns (Mooncoin), Mark Bergin (O'Loughlin Gaels, capt.), Eoghan Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Shane Brennan (James Stephens), Pádraig Whelan (Gaignamanagh), Paul Murphy (Danesfort).

Subs: Peter McCarthy (Piltown), Adrian Stapleton (Dicksboro), Colin Fennelly (Shamrocks), David Langton (Clara), Brian O'Shea (Clara), James Nolan (Clara), Martin Phelan (Lisdowney), Neil Kelly (Piltown), Michael Murphy (Erin's Own).

**FIRST TITLE FOR EMERALDS
Emeralds 4-6 St Lachtain's 3-0**

Emeralds Camogie Club won their first ever-adult title when they defeated St Lachtain's at Johnstown on Tuesday in the JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior final. Supported by the majority of their hurlers, Emeralds displayed a fine brand of camogie with St Lachtain's very young side also showing great skills.

The winners opened well with Siobhán Fahey and Laura Kavanagh scoring points and the defence kept the Freshford girls at a distance until the 11th minute when Ann Dalton was wide with a free. Emeralds continued to dominate the scoring and Siobhán Fahey (0-1) and captain Sheila Doyle (1-0) put them 1-3 to 0-0 in front after 20 minutes. Laura Kavanagh had the score of the match after 24 minutes when she swerved and shot in one movement for a point and Emeralds were totally in command when Sheila Doyle shot to the net after Noelle Corrigan in the St Lachtain's goal had saved well.

Catherine Ryan replied with a fine Freshford goal and the half ended with a point from the accurate Siobhán Fahey leaving Emeralds 2-5 to 1-0 in front.

St Lachtain's began the second half well with stylish Carol Kavanagh sending a 50 yards free straight to the net to leave just 5 points between the sides. Siobhán Fahey sent a great ground shot to the net in reply but St Lachtain's did not give up and brought 2 great saves from Emeralds keeper, Siobhán O'Hara. Laura Kavanagh put 6 points between the sides and Eileen Hughes scored a brilliant goal after 17 minutes when she raced determinedly through the defence and shot to the net.

Ann Dalton replied with a goal for St Lachtain's but Emeralds were too far ahead for it to really worry them and the Urlingford girls finished 4-6 to 3-0 in front at the finish.

Áine Fahey was a tower of strength at centrehalf for Emeralds and got great support from Shona Power and Maura Brennan. Eileen Hughes was a powerhouse at midfield with Siobhán Fahey, busy Sarah O'Gorman and Laura Kavanagh in great form.

Noelle Corrigan added to her growing reputation as a goalie with Marie Anderson, Áine Connery and Carol Kavanagh prominent in defence. Carol Kavanagh's stylish striking of frees was



EMERALDS - COUNTY JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Catherine Ryan, Claire Ryan, Mary Burke, Maura Brennan, Shona Power, Celina Power, Sarah O Gorman, Lorraine Peters, Siobhan O Hara.
Front: Siobhan Fahy, Laura Kavanagh, Sheila Doyle(Captain), Eileen Hughes, Aine Fahy, Sarah Byrne.



ST LACHTAIN'S JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Noreen O' Keefe, Carol Kavanagh, Áine Connery, Breda Kavanagh, Ann Dalton, Mary Dalton, Catherine Neary, Claire Dermody (capt).
Front: Niamh Kennedy, Noelle Corrigan, Marie Anderson, Cathriona Cormack, Cathriona Meagher, Roisin Kennedy, Marion Maher

one of the feature of the game. Twins Ann and Mary Dalton always tried hard at midfield while Breda Kavanagh and Caitríona looked most dangerous in attack.

Emeralds: Siobhán O'Hara; Mary Burke, Maura Brennan, Lorraine Peters; Shona Power, Áine Fahey, Sarah Byrne; Eileen Hughes, Celina Power; Siobhán Fahey, Sarah O'Gorman, Claire Ryan; Sheila Doyle (Capt), Catherine Ryan, Laura Kavanagh

Subs: Ailish Brennan, Bridget Campion, Danielle Campion, Clodagh Cleere, Marian Clohessy, Sinéad Curran, Annie

Doyle, Eileen Fitzgerald, Orla Gleeson, Collette Grant, Elaine Hayes, Geraldine Moriarty, Trish Norton, Claire O'Gorman, Suzanne Stapleton, Stephanie Webster

Management Paddy Hughes, Paul Kavanagh & Gerry Fahey
Coach George Leahy

St Lachtain's Noelle Corrigan; Marie Anderson, Claire Dermody (Capt), Noreen O Keefe; Áine Connery, Carol Kavanagh, Catherine Neary; Ann Dalton, Mary Dalton; Marian Maher, Cathriona McCormack, Breda Kavanagh; Róisín Kennedy, Cathriona Meagher, Niamh



ST ANNE'S - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Helen Phelan, Marian Holohan, Aisling Delaney, Claire Phelan, Jean-Ann Phelan, Alvara Duggan, Edel Maher, Tara Warren, Eimear Power, Ann-Marie Phelan, Mary Lonergan, Sinead Kavanagh, Marie Dowling, Patricia Orr.

Front: Mary Ryan, Stephanie Hickey, Mairead Henderson, Orla Hughes, Therese Glendon, Catherine Doherty, Claire Delaney, Tara Corrigan, Laura Murphy, Orla Phelan, Siobhan Henderson, Marian Ryan.

Kennedy

Subs: Michelle McGrath, Claire O'Donnell, Nicola Bowden, Christina Neary, Edel Harding, Stacey Beckett, Bridget Bergin, Kim Farrell

Referee: Pat Hayes (Graigue Ballycallan)

Claire Delaney free and scored a fine point for St Anne's. Tara Warren followed suit before Mary Love scored a brilliant goal for St Martin's. Georgina Kelly added a point to put doubt in the minds of the St Anne's players. Scoring machine Catherine Doherty was first to recover and three points—two from play put her side into a lead they never lost.

**THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR ST ANNE'S
St Anne's 6-10 St Martin's 1-5**

Eimear Power then played a major part in the fortunes of St Anne's. She gathered a Catherine Doherty cross after 26 minutes to shoot to the net and raised a second green flag two minutes later to leave St Anne's 2-7 to 1-1 in front at half time.

St Anne's have dominated the Intermediate grade for the past 3 years but found the final hurdle too steep to overcome when they faced Tullogher (2001) and Ballyhale Shamrock's (2002) but team manager Seán Warren was determined not to allow this to happen three times in a row when his side faced a classy St Martin's team at Nowlan Park on Sunday. It was bad news for St Anne's from the start with fullback Claire Phelan pulling out due to injury.

Alvarra Duggan was first to react to a blocked Claire Doherty free early in the second half and forced the ball to the net. Orla Hughes scored St Anne's fourth goal as the team began to over-run the opposition. Star player Catherine Doherty scored a fifth goal from a very acute angle for No 5 while Eimear Power completed her hattrick with a goal after 20 minutes which left the talented girls from St Martin's totally deflated.

Nevertheless they began well with Sinéad Kavanagh gathering a

This was a great team performance by St Anne's with Claire



ST MARTIN'S - INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINALISTS 2003

Back: Miriam Maher, Collette Coogan, Emer Maher, Kelley Roche, Mary Love, Sarah Shore, Kathy Gibbons, Clodagh Kinsella, Breda Roche, Noelle Curran, Martina Maher, Sharon Shore, Joan Maher.

Front: Aideen Dwyer, Hannah Maher, Niamh Maher, Georgina Kelly, Miriam O'Keefe, Siobhán Dooley, Iris O'Flynn, Grainne Daly, Geraldine Roche, Teresa Shore, Marie Purcell



ST LACHTAIN'S - SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Claire Darmody, Deirdre Delaney, Ruth Comerford, Imelda Kennedy, Sinead Costello, Mairead Lawlor, Sinead Corrigan, Magaret Kavanagh, Gillian Dillon Maher, April Purcell, Helen McGrath, Catherin Maher.

Front: Niamh Kennedy, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Fiona Dowling, Mairead Costello, Laura Comerford, Maria O'Connor, Danielle Minogue, Paula Dowling, Esther Kennedy, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Breeda Kavanagh, Aoife Connery.



LISDOWNEY - COUNTY CAMOGIE SENIOR FINALISTS 2003

Back: Marina Downey(Capt.), S. L. Murphy, Lisa Dunne, Catherine O'Loughlin, Mary Brennan, Bridget Barnaville, Mary M. Marum, Lesley Stapleton, Julie Mackey, Claire Tallis, Jane Shore, Kelly Long, Marlise Coonan & Lizzie Fogarty.

Front: Ann Marie Lacey, Claire Coonan, Aisling Tallis, Sandra Gleeson, Fran Shore, Deirdre Hosey, Miriam Holland, Linda Crennan, Louise Hogan, Alice Farrell, Daneille Coonan, Miriam Dillon, Olivia Donnelly & Carol Gunner.

Delaney, Edel Maher, Tara Warren, Sinéad Kavanagh, Catherine Doherty and Eimear showing great class while St Martin's were best served by Geraldine Roche, Georgina Kelly, Collette Coogan and Miriam O'Keeffe.

Trainer: Brian Doherty
Selector: Jack Phelan
Sponsors: Tom & Sheila Ryan of The Johnstown Inn; Barry's Bar Johnstown;

St Anne's Orla Phelan; Ann Marie Phelan, Mairead Henderson, Jean Ann Phelan; Laura Murphy, Claire Delaney, Mary Lonergan; Edel Maher, Tara Warren; Orla Hughes, Tara Corrigan (Capt), Sinead Kavanagh; Catherine Doherty, Alvara Duggan, Eimear Power

St Martin's Joan Maher, Cathy Gibbons, Noelle Curran, Theresa Shore; Niamh Maher, Geraldine Roche, Breda Roche; Martina Maher, Siobhan Keegan; Georgina Kelly, Collette Coogan, Mary Love; Grainne Daly, Miriam O'Keeffe, Clodagh Kinsella

Subs: Therese Glendon, Marion Holohan, Patricia Orr, Helen Phelan, Ashling Delaney, Mary Ryan, Siobhan Henderson, Marie Dowling, Marian Ryan, Stephanie Hickey

Subs: Aideen Dwyer, Eimear Maher, Miriam Maher, Ethel O'Flynn, Kelly Roche, Marie Purcell, Hannah Maher, Sharon Shore

Manager: Sean Warren

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Thomastown)

FRESHFORD ARE CAMOGIE QUEENS
St Lachtain's 2-13 Lisdowney 0-4

Although the scoreline does not reflect the brave efforts of a game Lisdowney side, St Lachtain's looked like the team of all the talents when they won their 5th Kilkenny senior title in 6 years at Nowlan Park on Friday night.

Every line of the Freshford outfit was strong and, indeed, many of their substitutes would have been automatic choices for most other teams.

Lisdowney knew that they were going to play without the services of their captain, Marina Downey but they can hardly have been prepared for the whirlwind start of a determined St Lachtain's side. The Freshford forwards raced through the Lisdowney defence in the early stages with Imelda Kennedy looking especially dangerous. Some poor shooting and resolute defence kept Freshford scoreless for the first few minutes but then Marie O'Connor went on a typical solo run which ended in the speedy forward finding the net.

Carol Gunner replied with a Lisdowney point but scores from Eileen Fitzpatrick and Imelda Kennedy put the favourites 1-5 to 0-1 as half time approached. Fran Shore doubled the Lisdowney tally just on the stroke of half time to leave St Lachtain's 1-5 to 0-2 ahead at the break.

Eileen Fitzpatrick almost raised a green flag for Freshford in the first minute of the second half but was blocked by Kelly Long and sent the rebound over the bar. Freshford led by 1-8

to 0-3 when Lisdowney had their best shot at goal. Laura Comerford and a determined full back line saved a number of shots and any possibility of a Lisdowney revival was lost. Imelda Kennedy—who won the player of the match award—had some brilliant scores in the second half but none better than a long, weaving solo run which ended with her sending a piledriver past hapless Sara Lee Murphy.

Imelda Kennedy (1-8) Marie O'Connor (1-1) Eileen Fitzpatrick (0-3) and Gillian Dillon (0-1) scored for St Lachtain's with Linda Crennan, Carol Gunner and Fran Shore replying for Lisdowney.

Hopefully this is just the beginning of a successful run for St Lachtain's. They begin their Leinster Championship campaign at the end of the month and Kilkenny camogie could do with the shot in the arm an All Ireland victory would bring.

St Lachtain's Laura Comerford; Paula Dowling, Sinéad Costello (Capt), Fiona Dowling; Danielle Minogue, Máiréad Lawler, Máiréad Costello; Esther Kennedy, Aoife Fitzpatrick; Ruth Comerford, Margaret Kavanagh, Gillian Dillon-Maher (0-1); Marie O'Connor (1-1), Imelda Kennedy (1-8), Eileen Fitzpatrick (0-3)

Subs: Sinéad Corrigan, Deirdre Delaney

Lisdowney Sara Lee Murphy; Louise Hogan, Bridget Barnaville, Danielle Coonan; Claire Holohan, Kelly Long, Julie Mackey; Sandra Gleeson, Fran Shore (0-1); Linda Crennan (0-2), Catherine O'Loughlin, Miriam Holland; Mary Brennan, Carol Gunner (0-1), Deirdre Hosey

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Wishing all Kilkenny teams continued success in 2004.

High Expectations!

Club Championship

When Railyard Ladies Football was formed in 2001, little did they know that "having a go" in the Laois Junior Championship would result in them blazing their way through to become Champions in 2003.

Fifteen of the panel is camogie players so fitness could never be a problem, but would they master the art of football? Having lost out at semi final stage in 2001, narrowly beaten in the final of 2002, the ultimate goal was achieved in 2003.

In round 1 they beat Ballyroan 4-14 to 0-0. Round 2 they beat R & C Gaels 4-10 to 1-13. Not suprisingly they got a walkover from Killeshin in Round 3. A battle was expected from Crettyard in the semi-final but Railyard cared nothing for reputation winning 10-14 to 1-6.

Nothing would stop them claiming the title and on 10th August the dream came true when they ousted Timahoe in the County Final played in Newtown 3-10 to 2-4. Railyard dominated the match and even when Timahoe grabbed two late goals the Kilkenny girls always knew the title was theirs.

Railyard didn't just win this championship; they blitzed all before them. With a defence that's almost impenetrable, an engine room in midfield and a lethal forward line, Martin Buggy has single handily moulded this team into a dominant force.

Next came the Leinster Club Championship and the girls faced their toughest test against Longford Champions Carrigedmond. After a great battle they came through 1-5 to 0-6. The mighty Fingallians of Dublin were the next test in the Leinster semi-final. In a cracking match Railyard were agonisingly beaten by a 3 points 3-13 to 5-4. Fingallians then swept through the All Ireland semi-final and are set to contest the All Ireland. Deep down every Railyard player knows it could be them that's how high the girls set their targets.

Kilmacud 7's

Railyard entered the Kilmacud 7's on the eve of the Ladies All Ireland final and were the talk of the tournament with some awesome displays, defeating Kilbride (Wicklow) 5-2 to 1-2, Castlebar (Mayo) 6-4 to 0-4, Galbally (Tyrone) 9-4 to 2-4 and na Fianna (Meath) 5-3 to 2-3. Old Parish (Waterford) narrowly beat them in the semi-final 5-8 to 4-8 and this team went on to win the final.

Railyard rounded off the club year by playing their Southern counter-

parts Mullinavat in Nowlan Park in October. This was an opportunity for Kilkenny folk to see the standard of Ladies Football has attained. Both teams put on a display of football, which surprised many, who found it hard to believe that Kilkenny ladies could master the skills with ease. Mullinavat have played in the Wexford league this year where they've given a great account of themselves, but on the day the experience of Railyard shone through, winning 6-5 to 1-3.

It must be remembered that these girls gave equal commitment to camogie all year. 4 of the panel play camogie with Glenmore, Lisdowney and Ballycallan., while a remarkable 12 play for St Martin's. Combining both sports takes very hard work and dedication but the girls vowed that neither sport would suffer. The proof of this was shown with St Martin's winning their way through to the U-18. U-21 and Intermediate County Championships to contest all 3 finals. Contesting 3 camogie finals in Kilkenny (winning the U-21) while claiming the Laois Football Championship is a dear example of the work rate and dedication shown by all players.

County Scene

While occupied with the club games from May to September, Railyard are not idle from October to March. The black and amber lined out in the 2002/2003 National league for the first time, made up entirely of Railyard players. In a group with Laois, Offaly, Wicklow, Wexford, Cork, Galway and Limerick, the girls learned that relying on one club to represent the County against counties with a pick from 10-20 clubs, would be an uphill struggle. However, while each of these counties would have an eye on All Ireland honours, Kilkenny made them fight all the way and the gap began to narrow. After some heavy defeats they finished with a draw against Wexford 2-5 to 2-5. In the Leinster Championship they faced Carlow and Wexford, losing out to Wexford by 5 points. Hopes are high with the emergence of Mullinavat and hopefully some more clubs in the County, that the County Board will strenghten. With so many girls playing football in the County's secondary schools, Gaelic football could gain momentum among the cats. For the moment, Railyard have made football their own and with Martin Buggy at the helm, what goal have they made for 2004. Ask any player – "To win the Laois Intermediate Championship and have a serious crack at the All Ireland Club Championship" High expectations, not for the Railyard Ladies



Railyard team who were victorious over Mullinavat in the Final.

Eoin Hennessy

Back: Alice Farrell, Ann Marie Murphy, Aisling Murphy, Kerry Foster, Marianne Ryan, Aoife Brennan, Brigid Murphy.

Middle: Martin Buggy, Siobhan Keegan, Breeda Roche, Jo Roche, Geraldine Roche, Mary Love, Noelle Curran, Kelly Roche, Andrea Murphy, Martine Maher, Helen Murphy, Michelle Dowd, Adrian Love.

Front: Miriam O'Keefe, Siobhan Bollard, Gemma Phelan, Cathy Gibbons, Grainne Daly, Eilish Bollard, Rose Mullins, Alana Keegan (Mascot).

WIT experienced one of its most successful periods in Fitzgibbon Hurling when over a five-year period from 1999 to 2003, WIT contested four finals, winning three. Losing the 2001 semi final to UCC while going for three in a row was a bitter disappointment to all involved. When UL beat WIT in the Final the following year it seemed the end of a great period for WIT Hurling, as we had lost a number of high quality players like Henry Shefflin, Alan Geoghegan, Damien Joyce, Stephen Brown, Andy Moloney, Chris "hopper" McGrath, Gearoid Considine, Willie Maher, Shane McClearn, etc over these two years. Also the management team of four years, were unable to commit themselves to another year due to work and family commitments. Pdraig Fanning was manager in 1999 and Tadgh O Sullivan took over as manager from 2000 to 2002.

WIT started off the 2002/03 season with a new back-room team, with Colm Bonnar as manager/coach, Phil Fanning and Conor Power as selectors, Brendan McKeogh as coach/selector, and Shay Fitzpatrick as trainer/physio.

When the squad first came together in October '02, many of the players were still involved with their clubs so we took the opportunity to experiment. As a result of this experimentation we struggled in the Higher Education League, which meant that we had to play a preliminary round against UUJ (Jordanstown). However, gradually a team was materialising during the league, and even though we had lost a number of high quality players from previous years, when we saw the players that were available to us, we realised that we had a team capable of going all the way.

The UUJ game didn't pose too many problems, we ended up with a comfortable victory. That win saw us through to a quarter-

final meeting with GMT. A Conor Phelan goal in the 16th minute put us on our way and at half time the score was 1-6 to 0-5. On the re-start, Setanta O' hAilpin scored two goals in a minute to effectively end the game. Cathal Coen pulled back a goal for GMT from a 20 metre free with 15 minutes to go. We held out and won by a score line of 3-12 to 1-6.

UL were waiting for us in the semi-final, but WIT was ready for the challenge. The WIT players were so focused that day, it was unreal. The game was played in Ardfinnan on the 25th of February. Aided by a strong breeze in the first half, we got off to a great start with a goal from Setanta after four minutes. Brian Carroll kept UL in touch from placed balls. We went in at half time leading 1-8 to 0-5. A Conor Fitzgerald goal in the 37th minute started a come back for UL but we weathered the storm, and the introduction of Rory Jacob and Shane Hennessy was the extra step we needed to win the game. Both of them scored vital scores when the sides were level. Relief all round, nobody had given us a chance going into the game, but we had dethroned the champions and favourites.

The final was played in front of a huge attendance five days later in the Ragg. CIT had beat UCC in the other semi-final. This was the first ever final to involve two Institutes. WIT raced into an early 0-4 to 0-1 lead and we were unlucky not to add a goal to our tally when Michael Jacob shot came back off the post, but Brian Dowling was alert to the rebound to fire over. We went in at half-time 8 points to 3 up and immediately extended our lead from points from MJ Furlong, Shane Hennessy and Setanta. The game's defining moment came in the 45th minute when Damien Young produced a brilliant save to deny Garvan McCarthy a certain goal. CIT reduced the deficit to five points before late scores from Brian Dowling and Fergus Flynn sealed the victory. The final score was 0-13 to 0-7.



WIT - FITZGIBBON CUP CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Declan Ryan, Michael Walsh, Shane Hennessy, Ned Sweeney, Michael Frisby, Peter Garvey, John Phelan, Michael Fitzgerald, Fergus Flynn, Brian Lynch, Ken Coogan, Ollie Moran, Keith Rossiter, Joe Brady, Anthony Owens, Domhail McKeogh, Setanta O'hAlpin,
Front: Philip Brennan, Rory Jacob, Hugh Maloney, Damien Young, M.J. Furlong, J.J. Delaney, Michael Jacob, Damien Murray, Paul Curran, Brian Dowling, Conor Phelan, Adrian Cullinane, Chris O'Neill

Waterford IT

would like to congratulate all their past and present players who have won All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny this year.

The following Senior players have also won Fitzgibbon Cup medals with WIT_ **JJ Delaney, Conor Phelan, Brian Dowling, Ken Coogan, Henry Shefflin, Michael Kavanagh, Derek Lyng, Peter Barry, Andy Comerford, Aidan Cummins.**

College Members of the victorious U21 team **JJ Delaney, Conor Phelan, John Phelan, Brian Dowling, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy, Anthony Ownes, Ned Sweeney and Chris O'Neill.**

College Members of the victorious minor team, these players also won a Division 1 Fresher All-Ireland this year with WIT.

Alan Healy and Ray Wall.



All-Ireland Winners who are currently in 1st year **PJ Delaney, Eoin Reid, Colin Grant and Andrew McCarthy.**



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Unfinished Business!

ROINN "A" CHAMPIONSHIP

The county U-21 A hurling championship has been the one to suffer most in the inevitable fixtures glut that accompanies so many All Ireland final appearances by the county teams this year. Unfortunately, but we have seen many high quality games thus far to satisfy most followers of the game. One of the benefits of a thirty man county squad is that many more players receive top quality training for longer in the year and the concomitant benefits are clear to the club teams, even if there are many complaints from clubs shorn of county players at training sessions.

Tullaroan and Ballyhale Shamrocks have qualified for the county A final in worthy fashion. Long before the championship began they were everybody's favourites to progress to the final though several clubs had much to say about that in the course of the campaign. That the first round is played in July makes the competition somewhat of a lottery in the Summer pause of the senior and intermediate championships. But the expected teams came through the early rounds.

In the North James Stephens and St. Martins squared up to each other shortly after the minor county final. Clearly the awful sting of minor defeat gave Martins the extra incentive and with county minor Eoin McGrath contributing 2-7 of his team's total, Martins finished powerfully to defeat last years champions by 3-9 to 3-8 Graig-Ballycallan had hopes of overcoming Tullaroan but they simply did not possess enough scoring power to inflict grievous damage. Tullaroan were comfortable enough winners on a scoreline of 0-14 to 0-6.

The Northern final was a very evenly contested affair for the first half but then Tullaroan tore Martins to shreds with an outstanding team display to win by 2-14 to 1-9. For St. Martins this was their fourth final to lose this year. Tullaroan had powerful players in Ken Coogan, Richie Butler, Ned Sweeney and Michael Walsh while Martins too often depended on the reliable Eoin McGrath.

It was inevitable that the Southern final would be fought out between neighbours Shamrocks and Carrickshock. 'Shock went into the final troubled by a frustrating season when they failed to capture the Intermediate title and a fancied minor team lost the county semi-final. They had a very strong team but Ballyhale showed the benefit of playing adult hurling in the senior division. Five of the Shamrocks forwards had played very well during the senior championship and the experience garnered in that competition stood well for them. The match went to extra time and the more persistent Ballyhale boys eventu-



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - SOUTHERN U21 "A" CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Jason Nolan, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Robbie Aylward, Pdraig Holden, Anthony Walsh, James Connolly, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Patrick Reid, Eamon Walsh, Mark Aylward, Alan Knox.

Front: Kieran Grace, David Healy, Keith Nolan, Keith Murphy, John Dermody, Michael Paul Drennan, David Hoyne, Eoin Reid, Michael Dermody, TJ Reid, Barry Nolan, Mickey Carr.



TULLAROAN - NORTHERN ROINN "A" U21 CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Chris Breen, David Dowling, Richard Dowling, Michael Mullally, Robbie Moore, Tom Butler.

Middle: Michael Walsh, David Cleere, Eddie Champion, Pdraig Kennedy, Nicky Maher, Richie Butler, Eamon Brennan, Ken Coogan.

Front: Tommy Walsh, Stephen Maher, Ned Sweeney (Captain), Mark Walsh, Michael Connolly, Sean Glennon, Shane Hennessy.

ally ground out a 2-16 to 3-8 victory. Carrickshock had the better start but gradually Ballyhale wore them down though it took two late points from Shamrocks to force the match to extra time. A Patrick Reid goal gave Shamrocks some breathing space and, try as they might, Carrickshock were unable to break a resolute Shamrocks defence.

The victorious divisional teams were:

Ballyhale Shamrocks: MP Drennan, E. Walsh, P. Holden, K. Murphy, K. Nolan, M. Dermody, A. Walsh, J. Dermody, M. Fennelly, D. Hoyne, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Fitzpatrick, R. Aylward, E. Reid, P. Reid, Subs: D. Fitzpatrick, J. Nolan.

Tullaroan: D. Cleere, Podge Kennedy, Eddie Champion, Michael Connolly, Ken Coogan, Stephen Maher, E. Brennan, Shane Hennessy, Richie Butler, Tommy Walsh, Michael Walsh, Nicky Maher, Sean Glennon, Ned Sweeney, Mark Walsh.

ROINN "B" CHAMPIONSHIP

Clara bridged a long gap when running out convincing winners in this years B Championship. Their first title at this grade was in 11983 and they quickly followed it with success in the A championship a year later with a team that backboned their senior championship victory of 1986. They came close to their second B title in 2000 only to lose against Carrickshock after two tremendous contests.

They had far less difficulty in capturing the 2003 title and with a young team will surely benefit both their Intermediate and U-21 prospects next year. This year's title will surely give them a spur to further glory as they performed very creditably to forge a series of convincing performances en route to victory.

Clara's opening round was somewhat controversial as they gained a walk-over (unusual in championship contests) against St. Patrick's, Bullyragged in July. The northern semi-final was a splendid duel with St. Lachtains and it proved to be the closest game anybody managed to give Clara in their title run. They emerged victors by 1-10 to 1-7 and their form improved significantly over the remaining games.

The Northern final was a most disappointing affair that turned into a one sided rout of their neighbours Blacks and Whites with a 2-20 to 0-4 hammering.

Tullogher-Rosbercon had a very impressive run through the southern Championship but it must be said it was a mediocre standard of hurling and perhaps this did not assist the Southerners in their preparations for the county final.

They had a very convincing first round win over Graignamanagh on a score-line of 4-19 to 0-7 and then edged out John Lockes by 1-17 to 2-6.

The championship reached a thrilling climax in the South when it took extra time to separate themselves and Mooncoin.

Tullogher proved very strong and confident in added time and forged ahead with a fine point taking display to win by 2-21 to 2-15.

In the county final, Clara proved too strong and with the Phelans, Conor and John, the Prendergast brothers and Dermot Nolan all playing very well they had a clear advantage over a gallant Tullogher side with whom John Cotterell and young minor Pat Hartley were outstanding. The final score of 1-13 to 1-6 does not fully do justice to Tullogher's efforts but Clara were worthy winners and return to A competition next season.

Clara: Michael Barcoe, Fintan Treacy, David Prendergast, John Murphy, Shane Prendergast, John Phelan, Tom Brennan (capt), Neal Prendergast, Kieran Tobin, Dermot Nolan, Conor Phelan, Ger Prendergast, Michael Bergin, Mark Drennan, Jack O'Keefe. Subs. Fergus



CLARA - MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS ROINN "B" U21 CHAMPIONS 2003

Back: Ger Prendergast, David Prendergast, Derek Knox, Thomas Brennan, Shane Prendergast, Conor Phelan, Fintan Treacy, Patrick Foley, John Phelan, Michael Barcoe, Denis Tobin.

Front: Lester Ryan, Eoin O'Shea, Michael Bergin, Kieran Tobin, Neal Prendergast, Mark Drennan, Dermot Nolan, John Murphy, Jack O'Keefe, John Brennan.



TULLOUGHER - UNDER 21 "B" COUNTY FINALISTS 2003

Back: Andrew Murphy, Richard Ryan, John Hartley, John Cotterell, Richard Dollard, Jim Prendergast, Declan Grennan,

Centre: Richard Gaule, Richard Murphy, Pat Hartley, John Murphy, Willie Ryan, Liam Barron, Robert Forristal.

Front: Kieran Barron, Joseph McCarthy, James Grennan, Edward Conway, Martin Roche, Ger. Mullally, Moling Cotterell, Martin Malone.

Knox, Lester Ryan, Derek Knox, Eoin O'Shea, John Brennan, Denis Tobin, Austin Murphy.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: Martin Roche, James Grennan, Kieran Barron (capt), Joseph McCarthy, John Hartley, Richard Gaule, John Cotterell, Andrew Murphy, Martin Malone, Richard Ryan, Eddie Conway, Pat Hartley, John Murphy, Moling Cotterell, Ger Mullally. Subs. Richard Murphy, Martin Woods, Declan Grennan, Richard Dollard, Rob Forristal, William Ryan, Liam Barron, Joseph Ryan, James Ryan, Aaron McCarthy, Jim Prendergast.

Rangers, Slieverue, Cloneen (2002 Champions) and Lisdowney. The championship was played on a "Round Robin" basis.

In Round 1 Danesfort had a comfortable 8 – 15 to 3 – 8 victory over Barrow Rangers while Slieverue found it more difficult against Lisdowney winning by 0 – 11 to 0 – 7. Round 2 saw victories for Danesfort over Slieverue 3 - 9 to 0 - 10, and Cloneen over Lisdowney 1 – 8 to 0 – 6.

In the third round Cloneen had a narrow 0 – 11 to 0 – 7 victory over Slieverue while Barrow Rangers had a close call against Lisdowney, prevailing by just two points, 2 – 11 to 3 – 6. Round 4 also produced two very close games. Danesfort who were short the Hogan brothers had a goal to spare over Cloneen 1 – 8 to 0 – 8. Barrow Rangers finished strongly to edge out Slieverue by two points in a tough

ROINN "C" CHAMPIONSHIP

Five teams took part in the Michael Lyng Motors U-21 Roinn C Hurling Championship, Danesfort, Barrow

game played at Thomastown on a score-line of 1 – 12 to 1 – 10.

The semi finals paired Barrow Rangers with Cloneen and Danesfort with Slieverue on 25th October.

Barrow Rangers were always in control against last years champions and won more convincingly than the 3 – 11 to 2 – 9 scoreline suggests. Meanwhile Danesfort had a comfortable 3 – 8 to 1 – 5 victory over Slieverue in the other semi-final.

The Final produced a game of the highest quality. Rangers were in control for most of the first half but failed to get scores on the board. Danesfort did not get their first score until the 28th minute, at which stage Rangers had scored only 3 points. They then produced a gem of a goal when Patrick Hogan chased a ball that looked dead. He flicked it into the path of Shane O'Hara who duly applied the finishing touches. This enabled the Danesfort boys to go in at the break just one point behind 0 – 6 to 1 – 2 and with wind advantage in the second half.

A well-taken goal from Thomas Ryan in the 10th minute gave Danesfort the lead for the first time. It was score for score for the next ten minutes. Rangers had a great chance of a goal but Liam Walsh was not aware he had so much space and kicked wide. Rangers had a penalty in the 20th minute but Darren O'Neill's well struck shot just skimmed the crossbar. From the puck out Thomas Ryan was set up to score a match-winning goal. Rangers camped in the Danes fort goal area for the remainder of the game but two brilliant saves by Shem Hurley kept them out and so Danes fort atoned for last years defeat at the same stage.

For Danesfort Shem Hurley, James Hickey, Ciaran Walsh, James Mullins, Patrick Hogan, Nigel and Shane O'Hara and Thomas Ryan were very impressive, while Joe Hughes, Danny Kearney, Shane McEvoy, Darren O'Neill and Derek McEvoy were best.

Danesfort: Shem Hurley, James Hickey, Mark O'Neill, Ciaran Walsh, Michael Moylan, James Mullins (captain), Peter Mulhall, Liam Forristal, Pauric Treacy, Patrick Hogan, Paul Pembroke, Nigel O'Hara, Shane O'Hara, Philip Walsh, Thomas Ryan, Brian Minogue, Martin McMahon, Philip O'Shea, Richard Hogan, Michael Saunders, Richard Devane, Jason Cody.

Barrow Rangers: Derek Whelan, Joe Hughes, Seamus Brennan, Eddie Gavin, Stephen Brophy, Danny Kearney, Shane McEvoy, Aidan Brennan, Michael Fitzpatrick, Liam Walsh, Darren O'Neill, Denis Kealy, Ian Holden, Derek McEvoy (captain), Paddy Barcoe, Kevin McDonald, Billy Murphy, Raymond Healy, Peter Brophy, Robert Collins-Hughes, Tom Brophy, David Kelly.



DANESFORT - ROINN "C" U21 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2003
Back: Nigel O'Hara, Philip Walsh, Michael Moylan, Mark O'Neill, Richard Devane, Liam Forristal, Shem Hurley, James Hickey, Phil O'Shea, Paul Pembroke, Shane O'Hara.
Front: Ciaran Walsh, Paddy Hogan, Thomas Ryan, Peter Mulhall, Brian Minogue, James Mullins (Captain), Pauric Treacy, Martin McMahon, Jason Cody.



ST MARTIN'S - NORTHERN ROINN "A" U21 FINALISTS 2003
Back: Chris Mahony, Ed Cody, Brian Malone, David Shore, David Tynan, Declan Holohan, Aidan Murphy, Shane Comerford.
Middle: Eugene Maher, Shane Coonan, Eamon Buggy, Michael Mulhall, Shem Kelly, Shane Cadogan, Brendan Maher, Kieran Kelly, Conor Kinsella, Damien Maher.
Front: Kieran Byrne, Tom Kinsella, Don Callanan, Robert Shore, Eoin McGrath, Niall Moran, Stephen Murphy, Ronan Maher.



MOONCOIN SOUTHERN U21 "B" FINALISTS 2003
Back: Joe Kearns, Noel Delahunty, Vincent Power, Michael Jones, Jamie McGrath, Peter Ryan, Gerard Sutton.
Middle: Adrian O Keeffe, Cathal O Keeffe, Sean Wall, Paul O'Neill, Niall Mackey, Keith Kirwan, Richard Hogan, Nicholas Delahunty, Shane Kinsella, Stephen Murphy.
Front: Robert Cody, Liam Kinsella, David O'Brien, Derek Phelan, Ray Wall, Patrick Kinsella, Thomas O'Hanlon, Anton Lennon, Dick Howley, Alan Walsh. *Missing from photograph: Liam Henebery*

Portrait of Giant Killer

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)



This is how his intercounty career began in earnest. Not with a bang but with a whimper.

Semple Stadium, May 5th 2002. Martin Comerford v Diarmuid O'Sullivan, seconds out, round one. It is the National League final. It is Martin Comerford's first big match in the black and amber. He is marking Diarmuid O'Sullivan. He is not looking forward to the prospect. For he knows all about O'Sullivan, his reputation for atin' lads without salt, the way he bursts out of defence "driving man and ball and the whole lot out of his way". Before the throw-in, Comerford is unable to look his opponent in the eye. This is not, he decides, a day for standing in O'Sullivan's way or generally trying to make a name for himself. So, discretion being the better part of valour, he compromises and instead spends his afternoon doing his best to keep the ball out of O'Sullivan's reach. Kilkenny win with an injury-time point. Comerford finishes the game breathless, legless and a National League medallist. In intercounty hurling terms, it is the day he becomes a man. And looking back on it, the way Kilkenny came from behind to win on the finishing line – "such a great experience for all the new players: Richie Mullally, Derek Lyng, the Dowlings and myself" – has stood to them ever since.

Croke Park, September 14th 2003. Martin Comerford v Diarmuid O'Sullivan, seconds out, round two. In the dressing room beforehand he's more nervous than he's ever been. Pucking around with Henry Shefflin in the warm-up room he can feel the bile literally rising in his throat, seeping into his mouth. His legs are jelly. Shefflin puts an arm around Comerford's shoulder and convinces him that he's going to be alright. "Today is your day," Old Man Shefflin reassures him. The first ball that comes in, it's in Comerford's mind to bring O'Sullivan out the field and in an effort to leave space inside for DJ Carey and Eddie Brennan. He wins possession, is chased, gets free, changes his mind and

has a shot. Over it goes. Three more efforts go the same way before the evening is out. And then there's the matchwinning goal: the pass from Shefflin, the attempt to aim for the far corner, the little touch from Sean óg ó hAilpín, the ball hitting the ground, rearing up, deceiving Donal óg Cusack and sneaking in at the near upright. Game, set and championship.

Martin Comerford, scorer of 1-4 - and earner of two Shefflin-pointed frees to boot - in an All Ireland final. Martin Comerford, dual All Ireland and National League medallist at the age of 23. Martin Comerford, with his two All Stars in his two seasons on the intercounty beat. Martin Comerford, twice a county medallist with O'Loughlins and now a Leinster club winner. Martin Comerford, the lad nobody outside Kilkenny had heard of – and quite a few people inside the county hadn't either – two Christmases ago. Martin Comerford, the guy who in a hurling context is no longer "Andy Comerford's brother". Shy, droll, unassuming, nonchalant, hardworking Martin Comerford.

He is not God's gift to the sport. He

he admits. But he likes attacking the ball, running at goal, drawing defenders, opening up the play for the artists around him. He and John Hoyne, that's what they do. They're good at it and they're happy doing it. The Kilkenny attack wouldn't be the Kilkenny attack without them.

Comerford arrived there by a circuitous route. A low-key teenage career, summers spent working on the sites in London and hurling with Brother Pearses ("you'd be looking forward all day to going training in the evenings"), an oft-mentioned Kilkenny and District League soccer dalliance with Freebooters. But winning an All Ireland with the Black and Amber was, he says, always the main ambition; hurling was his game, soccer his pastime. Tim Comerford, a Gowran man domiciled in Meadow Way in Kilkenny, made sure of that at home. And Tim, whose brother Andy was a gifted hurler in his own day and a National League winner with Kilkenny in 1962, isn't above tossing out the not-so-occasional piece of advice to Martin, Andy and Jimmy even now. (Their sister

Emma, she doesn't need any.)

Take the 2002 All Ireland final. There were no special instructions from the management to Martin beforehand, no in-depth briefing from Brian Cody on how to go about handling Brian Lohan. Just play your own game, they told him. What Tim Comerford had to say, well, that was a different matter.



Martin Comerford in All Ireland Action - artistic rendering by John McIlwaine

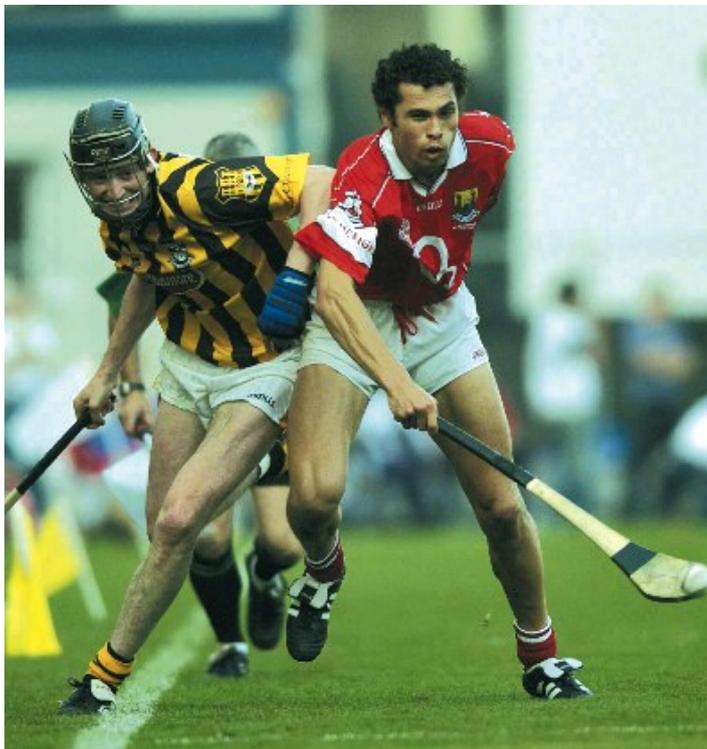
knows it. In fact, knowing what he is and isn't capable of constitutes the basis of his game. But he is, he hopes, developing by degrees nonetheless. He's not very strong, for starters, which is one area he'd like to improve on so that he doesn't keep getting shoved off the ball more easily than some of his colleagues. His striking "mightn't be the best" either,

Get out in front of Lohan, Tim advised him. Take him out the field a bit. Martin did and did it well. "Brian Cody was blue in the face telling us that defending begins in the full-forward line. We practised blocking in training a lot, and it worked, because I think someone came up with the statistic that Kilkenny got 20 blocks in during the final to Clare's four."

The most notable block of them all was Martin Comerford's on Lohan under the Cusack Stand that led to Shefflin's contest-killing goal late on. An All Ireland medal and an All Star award in his first season. It usually doesn't get any better than that. For Comerford, though, it has.

The first All Ireland brings ecstasy. The second All Ireland brings satisfaction. Proving that they still had the hunger – the foundation stone of any successful bid to retain a championship – was for Comerford one of the most fulfilling subtexts to Kilkenny's success in 2003. Ask him when he twigged that their appetite was undiminished and he'll tell you. It was the day Clare visited Nowlan Park in March.

His early-season form had been indifferent up to then. Inasmuch Martin Comerford can ever get worried, that worried him, not least because the task of demonstrating that his rise and shine in 2002 hadn't been a fluke was a motivational tool for him. Then Clare came calling and, the scars of the previous September unhealed, lowered the blade during a fractious first half. Kilkenny gave it back with interest. Having shown they were willing and able for the bareknuckle stuff, the home side proceeded to outhurl their opponents in the second half, eventually winning by 2-22 to 1-13, Comerford chipping in with 0-3. "We knew Clare were going to come



Martin Comerford & Sean Óg Ó h-Ailpín contest a sideline ball in the Final
SPORTSFILE

at us. It was an important match for us, to see if we still had the hunger and desire. That was the day we showed we had." The rest you know.

"We might have left a bit of our form on the training field coming up to the All Ireland final. People with niggly injuries were playing through the pain. But when you're winning, you'd walk over to train-

ing. It's no chore at all. And it's an experience training with the guys. Going through the skills, picking up tips from them. DJ, Henry Shefflin, James McGarry. An education."

Martin Comerford lives in a strange and wonderful world. A world paved with gold and silver, a world where he undertakes hurling holidays to South Africa and Australia, a world where The Irish Times runs the front-page headline "O'Loughlins capture Kilkenny county title" (and who'd have foreseen that six years ago?). He has an All Ireland club semi-final date with Newtownshandrum to look forward to in mid-February. He has a McCarthy Cup three-in-a-row attempt to be part of after that. Matters like county captaincy don't figure on his horizon; "with so many young lads coming along, Conor Phelan and the likes", keeping his place in the starting line-up is his one and only priority. After that, what will be in 2004 will be. "We mightn't get the breaks again like we got against Cork. But if we put in the effort, I'm sure the breaks will come."

Be sure he'll keep putting it in.

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From Michael Shefflin and Staff
in The Vat



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James Delahunty 1926 – 2003

An Appreciation

By Joe Doyle

On 9 September, three weeks short of his seventy-seventh birthday, James Delahunty of Portnahully, Mooncoin, passed away after a long and lingering illness bravely borne. Apart from his dedication to his wife, Kitty, and the other members of his immediate family, and in a special way his twenty-seven grandchildren, it cannot be denied that, of the things of this life, his love for the GAA ranked next in importance. Such was his involvement and commitment, whether as a supporter, a selector or administrator – holding office at the highest level within the county – in the minds of all who came across him in these various roles he was synonymous with all that is good within the Association. The commendable efforts of the Mooncoin Club which ensured that the removal and burial arrangements were a fitting tribute to a man who gave a life of dedicated service and the impressive crowds that turned out on both occasions bear clear testimony to the regard in which he was held throughout the broader community.

In a moving and incisive graveside oration, fellow clubman and County Chairman, Ned Quinn, faithfully detailed James's qualities and charted his contribution to the GAA. James, and others like him, through selfless dedication have helped in no small way to make it the vibrant association it is today. Ned Quinn had no doubt that many in the large graveside attendance had at some stage come to know James through his lifetime involvement in the GAA., and that it was this that drew them to gather in tribute. The occasion was possessed of an added note of poignancy in that James was called to his final reward just days before his beloved Kilkenny retained both their Senior and Minor All-Ireland titles. Indeed, it is

tempting to consider that he felt sufficiently confident of the result.

James's formative years coincided with an era of success for the Mooncoin Club, fuelling in him a passion for hurling that never waned. Though he held every office in the Club and many important positions at county-level – Senior and Minor selector and for many years Chairman of Bord na nÓg – it is in his contribution to the under-age that his greatest legacy lies. The generation gap did not daunt him. If anything he relished the challenge of relating to and commanding the respect of the youth. At local level he was a founder member of the Juvenile Club more than thirty years ago – one of only three in the county at that stage. His extraordinary commitment and loyalty to the young players of the parish and to numerous county minor panels for which he was a selector need no relating to those involved. Though the onset of illness some ten years ago forced him to curtail gradually his hands-on involvement, his interest as a spectator remained undimmed, and, until quite recently, at whatever pitch throughout the south of the county where a car could be strategically placed to gain a view of a game, James was likely to be found.

Ned Quinn spoke for many when he proclaimed James's philosophy regarding his involvement in the GAA. It was uncomplicated: 'You served, you gave your all, you sought nothing in return'. Indeed this simple approach permeated his entire attitude to the game, and indeed anyone who had the pleasure of being in earshot of him at the game would readily concur with Ned Quinn's observations on James's comments, whether to players or officials: 'They were honestly given, very easily understood, and no interpretation was needed!'

Our sincerest heartfelt sympathy goes to Kitty and family, to his relations and to all who were privileged to share his company and his trust. In the dark moments that will arise from time to time one could do worse than dwell on the thoughts of the County Chairman: 'Perhaps the greatest tribute that can be paid to any man after his long life on earth is to say of him that he has made a contribution, that he has made a difference, and that he will be missed. I am certain that all who came here last night and again today in such huge numbers will in the case of James Delahunty bear witness to the fact that he did make quite an extraordinary contribution, and he has indeed made a difference, and that he will be sorely missed'. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís – ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

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Club Reports

Mullinavat

Club Developments

2003 was a very busy year for the club as work began on the new dressing rooms and the pitch development. In September work began on moving the pitch to accommodate the new building. This involved a considerable amount of earth moving and levelling. In October the old dressing rooms were demolished and work began on the new construction. It is hoped to have the new facility ready for use by May 2004. This project requires a lot of finance and the club asked for donations from everyone in the parish. The response has been excellent and the club is very grateful to the people of Mullinavat for their generosity.

On the Playing Field

At juvenile level the club had a very busy and worthwhile year. The U-12s won the county final after a very good match against Piltown. The U-14s reached no less than four county finals winning the last one: the Roinn C hurling championship. This was a fitting reward for a busy year. John Dunphy took over the training of the U-16 and minor squads and this group of players put in a great year's work. The minors had a great run in the championship, beating Tullagher before going out to Thomastown after a replay and extra-time. They got their reward by winning the Roinn C League final against Kilmacow.

Downturn in Fortunes

The major disappointment of the year was the relegation of our senior hurlers and footballers. Ironically in the year when the club is making huge strides off the field, we should lose our senior status after just two years in the top flight. After a promising start to the league when we won three points out of four, the rot set in after two defeats within a week.

The fortunes of the team went into a downward spiral and it proved impossi-



The demolition of the old dressing rooms in October: "Clerk of works" Neddy Aldridge keeps an eye on John Joe Aylward and Anthony Conway



Work Under Way!
Foundations of the new Club Dressing Rooms

ble to reverse it. The first round championship defeat to Dicksboro after a replay was critical. Even though the team led Dunnamaggin by eight points at half time in the relegation final, they could not

withstand a strong second half by the opposition and relegation was the outcome. This is a young squad of players and regaining senior status must become their priority for the coming year.



Club Reports

O'Loughlin Gaels

Executive Committee 2003

Chairman John Skehan
Vice Chairman Jim O'Hara
Secretary Margaret Hanlon
Finance Joe Nolan
Hurling/Football Mick Nolan
PRO Conor Denieffe
Youth John Sheridan
Pavilion Benny Walsh
Grounds Martin Hanlon
Social Paddy Greene
Development Coleman Loughnane
Handball Con Moore
Membership Sean Cleere
Co Board Delegate Martin Brennan

The year 2003 has been a wonderful one for the O'Loughlin Gaels club as we captured our second senior hurling championship. The team under inspirational captain Andy Comerford and shrewd mentors Mick Nolan, Aidan Fogarty and Paul Cleere displayed a never say die attitude throughout the campaign and made a number of recoveries from the dead that even Lazarus would have been proud of. Having won all their games in the league the seniors also contested the league semi-final and the Byrne Cup final. The senior players showed that their talents were not confined to the small ball code when they reached the county football final also this year. Another success at adult level was chalked up by the special junior A side who went undefeated in all of their 16 games this year winning both the league and championship in the process. Well done to all concerned with this team especially selectors Gerry Buckley, John Joe Cullen, Johnny Holohan, Brian O'Neill and Larry Walsh.

Great work continued at under age level this year also. The Sunday morning coaching and hurling street leagues continued to be a great success with over 150 boys ranging in age from six to twelve years old participating. Coaches Hugh Mahon and Liam Leydon looked after the U/8's, while Kevin Lenihan, Eddie Burke and Mike Bourke coached at U/10 level. Three teams from the club took part in the U/10 street leagues organised by the county board and all the teams got to play in Nowlan Park on the finals day. The U/11's won the Shield in the Ballyragget tournament while the U/12's won the Colm Nolan Cup in the John Locke's tournament and also contested the final of the Andy Egan tournament. Coaches were Richie Kearns,

John Grant, John Wemyss, Brendan Mc Partlan, Joe Nolan, Mick Mc Guinness and Brian Roche. The u/14's reached the county Féile final but lost out to eventual All Ireland winners James Stephen's in a thrilling game by 0-7 to 1-6. Mark Bergin competed in the Féile skills final in Mullingar and captained the Kilkenny U/14 side, which won the Tony Forristal Cup. U/14 mentors this year were Gerry Tyrrell, Denis Tyrrell, James O'Donoghue, Tony Forristal and Mick O'Neill. The U/15's captained by Conor Bergin won the 11 a side Tournament beating city rivals Dicksboro in the final. At U/16 level O'Loughlin's exited the championship at the semi-final stage. Stephen Tyrrell and Matthew Comerford played on the Kilkenny side, which reached the shield final of the Nenagh Co-Op tournament. The under 16's were looked after by James O'Donoghue, Benny Cleere, Philly Holohan and Gerry Tyrrell. The minors who were looked after by Philly Holohan, Brian Murphy, Peter Dowling, Anthony Bergin and John Joe Cullen, were beaten in the semi final of the championship by St. Martin's. The juvenile section would like to thank the selectors, parents and sponsors for their great support throughout the year.

The fantastic facilities enjoyed by the O'Loughlin Gaels club received recognition in October of this year when the club was a host venue for the World Handball championships. Over 800 players passed through the club during this competition and great credit is due to Con Moore and Anthony Bergin for their organizational work on this event.

The club was very well represented at county level this year. Maurice Nolan was a member of the all Ireland winning Kilkenny minor side and the St. Kieran's senior colleges All Ireland winning team where he was joined by Niall Mc Evoy. Niall Bergin was a member of the Kilkenny U/21 panel while Martin Comerford, Sean Dowling, Andy Comerford, Brian Dowling and Alan Geoghegan all played a role in bringing the National League, Leinster and All Ireland titles to Kilkenny again this year. Martin who won his first All Star award gave a man of the match performance in the All Ireland where he was joined by Sean Dowling while Andy Comerford made a major contribution when he joined the fray.



County Chairman, **Ned Quinn**, presents Special Junior "A" trophy to Captain, **Joe Daly**.



Niall Bergin, Captain of victorious Kilkenny Tony Forristal Tournament team.

To run a club like O'Loughlin Gaels successfully is a major operation in personnel and financial terms. Thanks to the many people who give of their time at all levels of the club. The club's Lotto continues weekly while a very successful Golf classic took place in Gowran Park during the year. We also won €6000 in the AIB Club of the Year competition. The Club's dinner dance was a highlight during the year with a large attendance-enjoying captain Andy Comerford bringing the National League, Leinster and All Ireland trophies along. The Player of the Year awards were presented at the Dinner Dance to Jimmy Comerford (Senior) and Maurice Nolan (Junior).

Finally the O'Loughlin Gaels Club would like to extend its deepest sympathies to club members who suffered bereavements during the past year.



Club Reports

Piltown

Club Officers

Chairman:	John Maher
Vice Chairman:	Jim Fitzgerald
Secretary:	Philip Walsh
Asst Secretary:	Jackie Norris
Treasurer:	Cepta Brennan
PRO:	Robert Blackmore
County Board:	Eddie Blackmore

Junior Glory

A supreme effort was put in this year into getting the Junior Team prepared for the Championship. All the sacrifices paid dividends as in a welter of excitement they overcame a gallant St. Patrick's in the County Final replay.

They had accounted for Thomastown, Kilmacow, Dunamaggin, Windgap and Tullogher Rosbercon en route to the final.

In a very rewarding year the Junior team also won the Southern Junior Hurling League by defeating Tullogher Rosbercon and also the Cahill Cup when they overcame Mount Leinster Rangers in extra time.

Juvenile Games

Much time and effort was put into all age levels from U-8 to U-13. Each Sunday morning throughout the year witnessed large numbers of youngsters training diligently under guidance of dedicated coaching personnel, with many challenge games organised. The Waterford City Leagues provided competitive action and entertainment, where the U-13 team won their division B Final after a replay against Glenmore. The U-12's reached the final, but were pipped by Tramore. The U-10's & 11's tried hard in all games but did not reach the concluding stages. The school teams acquitted themselves well in both codes. In particular, the U-13's reached their first ever semi-final in Roinn A, only to lose out in a close encounter to CBS Kilkenny. The club participated in the Camaint League and the Lisdowney Sevens.

U-14 to Minor

Our U-14 Hurlers, played with great spirit throughout the year and despite having many underage again next year, reached the County quarter-final, where they were pipped by Freshford in a tight encounter at Callan.

At U-16 level, Piltown won the Roinn B Hurling League Shield when they scored a comprehensive victory over

Castlecomer. They also reached the county semi-final after some solid displays, where they lost to eventual champions Danesfort.

The Minors reached the semi-final in the Hurling Championship, where Erins Own proved too strong.

Football

The Club was once again very active on the Football scene. The Seniors scored victories over Dicksboro and Glenmore, but lost out narrowly to Railyard & James Stephens in the League. Having qualified for the second round match, they lost by one point to Kilmoganny.

Participation in the 11-a-side was a noteworthy exercise in developing and keeping a keen interest in football. The squad overcame Slieverue, Kilmacow & Carrigeen before eventually losing to Glenmore.

Coaching

Jim Norris and Pat Duggan assisted with the County Development squad at U-14 level, whilst Martin Gordon was involved as manager with the U-15 squad. The Summer Camp held at the GAA grounds was a great success, with more than one hundred youngsters attending.

A new initiative at the club this year involves Winter Indoor Hurling coaching in the Handball & Squash courts.

The club has an abundance of coaches and helpers who can be seen week after week providing their time and energies in the promotion of the games.

Club Development Work

Club personnel have recently been hard at work, in installing a new drainage system for the second pitch and Juvenile pitch. Funding was received in part from the National Lottery, however, the Hurlers Co-Op Draw played a significant part in paying for the development. Part of this initiative entails making the second pitch all-weather, suitable for matches during the winter.

A Winter Venue

It is hoped to install permanent Floodlighting in the near future for training purposes. The committee felt it was a pity that the Club and the excellent Main Pitch did not receive many appointments for matches of note during the year. The club provides large resources in personnel and time, second to none, for any

and all matches held at the venue.

Fundraising

The Hurlers Co-Op Draw run in conjunction with the County Board was a resounding success, with well in excess of six hundred tickets sold through the club. Many thanks go to sellers and purchasers alike. The "Play for the Park" Lotto was run by the Juvenile section of the club and was well supported throughout the year. Thursday night Progressive 30's Cards in the Complex provides steady funding for our underage teams.

Social Membership / Developments

The social activities in the GAA Complex continues apace, with dancing every Saturday night and Bank Holiday Sunday nights attracting crowds from near and far all year round. A new timber Floor was laid in the Complex Lounge.

The club Squash Courts & Handball Alley are valuable assets during the Winter months. The Fitness Gym was used to advantage early in the year by the Junior Team training and also by members of the public on a regular basis.

Achievements

The Club was proud to play host to some of the games in the recent World Handball Championships.

Peter McCarthy and Neil Kelly were members of the victorious Kilkenny U-14 Team in the Tony Forristal Tournament. Seamus Norris was on the Kilkenny U-15 team. Mark Culleton was involved in the U-16 Development squad.

Shane Kinsella, Peter Kelly, Kevin Kelly & Nicky Kenny, were on the South Minor Hurling Team which reached the Leinster League Final.

Andrew McCarthy and John Brophy were members of the Kilkenny Vocational School Team, with Andrew as captain. Liam Kenny, John Malone & Barry Walsh were all playing members of the Kilkenny Junior Football team.

Obituaries

Minor Hurling League winning captain of 1998, Peter Falconer died tragically this year. Former GAA Complex Secretary, Angela Delaney died this year also. The Club wishes to extend its sincere sympathy to all members & associates who suffered a bereavement in the past year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Club Reports

Railyard

Juveniles

In the past eighteen months there has been a new structure in place for our juveniles and it has worked very well. Their mentors have provided them with plenty of matches throughout the year. The Summer of 2003 saw them taking part in the 21st Feile Peil na nÓg and also being a host club for this event. They were successful in winning the Kelly Cup tournament in Spink. They had a great day in August when they were treated to a trip to Galway. With regard to our other grades this was not a very successful year but we look forward to better fortunes in the future.

Development

This year we started our pitch development scheme which will see the grounds

out of action for two years. We have completely levelled the existing field, created banks for the spectators and will construct two new pitches, one full size and one training / juvenile pitch.

We were blessed with the weather and are delighted with the results so far. The next phase will be the verti-draining programme. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the contractors involved especially Roche Agri-Contractors and all of our active committee members and volunteers who have given their time and effort during the year.

Fundraising Events

As with any development of a club, funding is a big issue. This year the committee ventured into the golf arena, holding a classic at Castlecomer golf club in

August. This was a very enjoyable day for all participants and we hope to make it an annual event. We aim to have further fundraising activities during the coming year.

Ladies Football

The ladies from the Railyard have indeed done their club very proud this year. All year they have played both for club and county and it certainly paid off. They won the Laois Junior county final in August and went on to reach the semi-finals of the club championship where they were narrowly beaten by the Dublin Champions. In October they won the Kilkenny Junior final which had not been played for twenty years. The club wishes them the best in the future.

Well Done to All the Kilkenny Teams!



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Club Reports

Rower - Inistioge

Club Officers 2003

President: Dick Bolger
Chairman: Jack Lyng
Vice-Chairman: Michael Lyng
Secretary: Matt Galavan
Treasurer: Richard Tierney
PRO: John Dunphy
Chair B. na nÓg: Richard Delahunty
Sec B. na nÓg: Breda English

Bord na nÓg

2003 was again a very active year for all the underage teams. The minors competing in Roinn A made their Championship exit to O'Loughlins after a replay. The U-16 hurlers lost to eventual Champions Danesfort. The U-14s qualified for the Championship quarter final but had to give second best to Castlecomer by a narrow margin. The schools team was unlucky not to qualify for the quarter-finals of the Championship missing out by one point. The mini sevens squad qualified for the finals and the schools team ended their involvement in the Country Cup, losing to Clara in the Q-final. The U-12s had a very good year winning their League group and the Barrow Rangers U-12 Tournament. The U-10 team participated in the Caulfields League and in the Waterford City ground Hurling League. The U-8 and U-9 Teams had a number of outings with the highlights being the victory of the U-8 Team in the Roanmore Tournament and their qualification for the final in the St.Mullins Tournament.

Adult Games

Although the Intermediate Hurlers enjoyed victories over John Lockes and B'Bridge in their last two league games, they failed to qualify for the knock out stages having suffered earlier defeats to Mooncoin, C'Shock and James Stephens. In the first round of the Championship, they made an early exit going down to Black and Whites in a low scoring game 2-6 to 0-6. The Junior A Hurlers and our U-21 team both drew their first round games, but both Teams exited the Championship going out in the replays. The U-21s had two great games with the Shamrocks and were very disappointed to loose out in the replay by 2 points. The Junior A team exited the Championship after two close games with neighbours Graignamanagh.

Football

The Intermediate Footballers qualified for the semi finals of the Championship, but suffered defeat at the hands of Conahy Shamrocks. The U-21 Footballers qualified for the Roinn B County Final but once again Conahy proved too strong. The Schools Football Team also had a very good year qualifying for the semi-final of the Roinn A Championship and the semi-final of the Country Cup.

Social

The Club had a very successful Dinner Dance in Langtons with County Medals being presented to all members of the successful Minor and U-16 Hurlers of 2002. Hurlers of the Year, adult - Sean Cummins, Underage - Michael White. A

special presentation was also made to the Special Junior Hurling Teams that won County titles in 1977 and '78. The Club joined with Tullougher to organise a special fund raiser for Richie Walsh who was injured in an accident in Australia. A special word of thanks to Brendan Murphy and Jim Mooney for their efforts in helping to make it such a success.

Our Golf Classic was again very successful and great credit is due to the Committee chaired by Eddie Keher.

Conclusion

The Club extends sympathy to all Club members who suffered Bereavements in 2003. Ar dheis lamh Dé go raibh said. Thanks to all who worked for the Club and to all who supported us in 2003.



Rower-Inistioge U-12 League Winners 2003

Back: Richard Ryan, Conor Joyce, Shane Brennan, Padraig Ryan, Kevin Minogue, Joe Lyng, Sean Lyster, James Cashin, David Tennyson, Robert Grace, Patrick Walsh.

Front: Kevin O'Neill, Evan Gantley, Shane McDonald, George Allen, Tom Murphy, Kieran Cummins, Owen Doyle, James Lyster, Bill Phelan, Paul Malone.



Rower Inistioge U-8 - Winners Roanmore Tournament 2003

Back: Tony Phelan, Ciaran Ryan, Dylan Kehoe, Shane Foskin, William Allen, Sean Grace, Patrick Lyng.
Front: Timmy Cummins, Kevin Murphy, Daniel Kelly, John Murphy, David Miskella, Shane Ryan.



Club Reports

Slieverue

Club Development Work

Two important developments were brought to completion during the year, namely the levelling and seeding of the new juvenile pitch and the erection of the ball-stop netting at the road or western end of the main playing pitch.

Due to our large numbers of juvenile members there was increasing difficulty in accommodating all training groups at their preferred times on the one pitch. Hopefully this problem will be greatly eased from now on.

Pitch improvements

The club committee is appreciative of the voluntary efforts of several members in preparing the site for seeding. Tractors with trailers and rollers were freely available when needed and many members became very proficient stone pickers! Finally John Hoynes moved on site with his seed spreading machinery and all are impressed with the uniformity of seeding he achieved as is evidenced by the green sward now developing.

We look forward to seeing what was a waste patch of land being the scene of exciting under-age matches and training sessions in the years to come. Thanks to all those who made it a reality.

The Games

Club teams participated in the usual wide range of competitions from U-8 to adult and for the first time ladies football was catered for. Camogie got back on the club agenda and it is hoped that both games for girls will get a firm foothold on the club agenda for the future.

Lisdowney 7s

After a lapse of some years the club was represented in this prestigious U-13 hurling competition in 2003. The team was pleased to get to the quarter-final stage and enjoyed the experience of playing at this level.

Development Squads

A number of our players participated in this very important aspect of player development. The club was also represented on the Coaching Development Panel by Michael Ryan. It is hoped that their efforts will be rewarded in the future.

Trophies

We had a modest level of success in



Slieverue Minor Hurling Team 2003

Back: Justin Doran, Sean Connolly, Conor Grant, Gavin Quilty, Nicky Coady, Dan Murphy, Declan Ryan, Martin O'Donovan, Andy Hogan, Cian Tyler, Ricky Hogan.

Front: Darragh Cullen, Stephen Doherty, Ian Somers, Niall Walsh, Kevin Mulligan, Sean Roche, John Maher, Adrian Rockett, Paul Walsh.



Slieverue U-13 Winners Waterford City League 2003

Back: James Roche, William Walsh, Mark Walsh, Kieran Dowling, Christopher Butler, Stephen Walters, Jamie O'Brien (capt), Eamon O'Donovan, Eoin Carroll, Stephen Haberlin, Enda Loughman, Dylan Haberlin, Brian Grant.

Front: Patrick Dowling, Calvin Lyons, Michael Morrissey, Ross Kelly, Stephen Dolan, Michelle Quilty, Patrick Murphy, Paul Rockett, Laura Walsh, Martin Dowling.

2003 as far as silverware is concerned. Pride of place goes to the U-13 hurling team who won their division of the Waterford City League.

The U-9 team won at the Roanmore Hurling Blitz Tournament while the U-12 hurling team beat Tullougher / Rosbercon in the Final of the Shield competition.

Our only adult success was in the Butlerstown Junior Hurling Tournament. Congratulations to all and to the team trainers and selectors.

Fundraising

The club committee wishes to thank the many people who supported the club in our various fundraising ventures during the year. We continue to sell big numbers of tickets for the weekly Co. Board Lotto and much credit is due to the sellers who consistently do this work for the club. Another source of very significant income is the Hurlers Co-Op Draw and once again without the goodwill of both our sellers and supporters this would not be the success it continues to be.



Club Reports

St. Lachtain's

Highlight of the Year

The highlight of the year was the winning of the U-14 Roinn B hurling championship for the seventh time. In the county final St. Lachtain's beat Erin's Own by 4-6 to 2-7 after a terrific game. The victory was a tribute to the work put in all year by the panel and selectors Jim Lyng, Mike Cormack, John Kennedy, Paddy Flynn and Paddy White. A number of challenge matches were arranged in addition to the coaching sessions and the hard work paid off when the title was won for the first time since 1989.

U-13 Successes

The U-13s reached the semi-final of both the Corn de Bhaldráithe and the League but bowed out to stronger opposition. Five of the school panel started in the U-14 county final which is a tribute to the work done by Tom Doheny in Scoil Lachtain.

The Corn de Bhaldráithe competition was won this year by Brian Kennedy's team. Teams led by Naoise Waldron and John Fitzpatrick won the delayed 2002 Philip Kinane Cup and Colin McGree Shield competitions while the 2003 competitions are currently under way. Brian Waldron spent another summer coaching the under-age players in Páirc Lachtain. Great credit is due to him for running what amounts to a 'School of Hurling' during the holidays.

U-16 and Minor Matters

The U-16s and minors both went out of the championship at the semi-final stage. At the time of going to press the minor hurlers had reached the semi-final of the league. Thanks to selectors Jim Delaney, Jerry Beckett, John Kennedy, Brian Waldron and Joe Dermody for their work with these teams.

The U-21s reached the second round of the championship but lost to Clara.

Adult Games

The Special Juniors provided the highlights when they won the Northern Junior B title, defeating Graigue-Ballycallan by 3-9 to 3-3. They lost the county final by a goal to Carrickshock.

The Intermediate team reached the quarter-final of the championship but lost to Erin's Own. In the ACHL, Blacks and

Whites beat them at the semi-final stage while they missed out on qualification for the league semi-final. Credit is due to trainer Martin Power and coach Brian Waldron for the work put into the adult teams during the year.

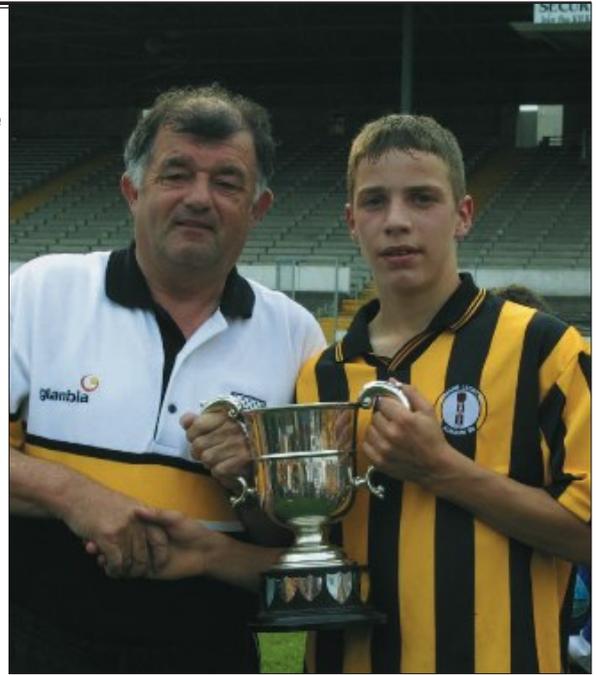
Thanks to the following selectors for the time given to the respective teams this year: U-21, Pa Hickey, Paddy Moriarty and Jerry Beckett; Special Junior: Murty Kennedy, Pat Anderson, Paddy Butler and Richard Costelloe; Intermediate: Jim Marnell and Ned Kennedy.

Inter County Successes

Michael Kavanagh added to his reputation and his medal collection when winning his third All-Ireland senior medal this year and he has been nominated for another All-Star Award. Paul Costelloe was a member of the Intermediate team beaten in the All-Ireland final. Eoin Guinan and Bill Beckett were on the successful minor panel. Brian Waldron was selector for the minors and Tom Doheny was a selector with the All-Ireland winning U-21 team. It was a great honour for St. Lachtain's to be associated in this way with the history-making Kilkenny teams this year.

Social Activities

The Social Committee organised the Golf Classic and the August Bank Holiday function, important social and fund-raising occasions for the club. A very successful dinner dance was held in January to celebrate the triumphs of 2002. The winners of the minor league received their medals. There were presentations to club members connected with the 2002 All-Ireland championship victories. Michael Kavanagh was presented with a painting by local artist Ann Buckley, to mark his second senior medal and his, and the club's, first modern-day All-Star Award. Minor medallist Robbie Dowling and selector Brian Waldron also received presentations. The All-Ireland victories of 1972 were remembered with presentations, designed by local photographer Terry



John Fitzpatrick (Captain, St. Lachtain's) receives the Duggan Steel U14 Roinn B Hurling cup from Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nÓg)



Sean Flynn, gateman - keeping the animals out! Campion, to Pa Dillon, Michael McCarthy and Paddy Butler.

Bereavements

Members and indeed everyone in Freshford were shocked by the unexpected passing of Johnny 'Killarney' Butler. His untimely death left the club and parish of Freshford the poorer for his passing. His huge contribution will not be forgotten.

The sudden death of Martin Chandley, whose hurling exploits as a minor with Laois were recalled, also caused widespread regret.

Sympathy is extended to members, past and present, who were bereaved during the year and especially to the families of the late Patens Ryan, Jimmy and Paddy Brophy, Paddy Hogan and Katty Mackey. May they rest in peace.



Club Reports

Saint Martin's

The year 2003 was another hectic year for St. Martin's GAA Club. Teams were fielded in all grades from senior right down to U 8. On the senior front, the club consolidated its position in the senior ranks after three years in the intermediate grade. We look forward to 2004 and hope to build on our progress to date.

Team News

The highlight of the year for our club teams was our minor hurling team reaching the roinn A final. This was the first time that any minor team from our parish had reached the roinn A final. The team was extremely unfortunate to be beaten by a point, which was scored way into injury time. Nevertheless the club was delighted and proud of their performances throughout the year.

The U 16 hurling team reached the Roinn B final where they lost out to Danesfort. The U14 hurling team won the shield final in the Declan Byrne memorial tournament run by Graigue/Ballycallan. With the exception of U16 grade at hurling, all our teams participated at A level in underage hurling and football in 2003. This highlights the magnificent work and effort that St. Martin's Bord na Oig have been putting in over the past few years. Prior to its formation nearly all of our underage teams played in the lower grades.

Further down the line teams were fielded at all ages down to U8 and great fun was had by all concerned with all these teams. Training continues for all national school players every Saturday morning from March to October. All are welcome, including parents who may wish to get involved.

County involvement

It has been a magnificent year for Kilkenny GAA on the county front. The St. Martin's club was well represented on Kilkenny teams during the year. John Maher (senior), Niall Moran (U21) Shane Cadigan, Eoin McGrath

and Ronan Maher (minor) all brought home All Ireland Medals in September. Tony Maher was a selector again with the successful minor team. Aidan Lawler, Dermot Lawler, John Maher, Paul Maher. Niall Moloney and Alan Murphy were all part of the Kilkenny intermediate team, which was extremely unlucky to lose to Cork in the All Ireland Final while Tom Dowling was a selector with that team. Colin McGrath was a member of the U14 county team who won the Tony Forristal tournament in Waterford. The club also participates actively in the development squads providing players at all levels.

John Ryan Memorial Cup

The family of the late John Ryan has generously donated a beautiful cup in his memory to St. Martin's Bord na Oig. John was an active member of all parish GAA. teams both on and off the fields of play. He greatly encouraged the establishment of the juvenile section of our club to cater for all the young people in the parish. The cup will be played for at minor hurling level and will commence in 2004.

Fr. Delaney Cup.

Fr. John Delaney, C.C. Coon and a president of our club, has kindly donated a cup to St. Martin's Bord Na Oig. This annual tournament began this year in the U9 hurling age group and the first final will be between Erin's Own and Barrow Rangers. Competition to win this cup has been very keen.



St Martin's Players on Castlecomer CS Team - All Ireland SH "B" Champions
Back: Ronan Maher, David Shore, Paddy Brennan, Conor Kinsella, Shane Comerford.
Front: James Maher, Eoin McGrath, Aidan Murphy, Peter O'Donovan (Capt).

Other News

On the development front, the St. Martin's/Muckalee GAA member's draw is now into its second year and continues to be a great success. It is the main source of revenue for both clubs, providing the funding for the everyday running of the clubs and for any other developments that need to be implemented. This year both fields in Coon and Muckalee were spiked and sanded. New drains were also put in place, which should be of great benefit to the sod of both fields. A club newsletter, which is produced by PRO Conor Moloney, is circulated in the parish every month. It keeps members up to date with club activities throughout the year. Congratulations to Conor and Lynn Holden on their marriage and to Caleb Daly and Breda Byrne who also were married during the year.



ST MARTINS ROINN A U16 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2002

Back: Thomas Breen, John Maher, James Kelly, Diarmuid Brennan, Johnny Walsh, James Maher, Con Hogan, Mike Keane, Brian Mulhall, Ronan Maher, Eoin Bolger, Gary Brennan, Paul Coogan.

Front: Robbie Healy, Colin McGrath, Mick Morrissey, Shane Comerford (Capt), James Dowling, Aidan Murphy, John Mulhall, Chris O'Mahony, Joseph Maher, Mark Murphy, Patrick Nolan, Michael Stapleton, Podge Callanan.



Club Reports

St. Patricks, Ballyragget

Development

After many delays for various reasons the clubs development plans are finally becoming a reality. Work has commenced on the new dressing rooms at 'The Park' and should be completed in early Spring.

Tournament

The Phelan/Stone U-11 tournament continues to go from strength to strength. This year Dicksboro won the Tom Phelan memorial tournament. They defeated James Stephens in the final. The Benny Stone memorial final was won by O' Loughlin Gaels who defeated Clara.

Ned Quinn Chairman of the County Board attended the finals and presented the Benny Stone Cup to the O'Loughlin Gaels captain while Gretta Phelan widow of Tom Phelan presented the Phelan trophy to the Dicksboro captain. Special guest was inter-county player Conor Phelan who presented medals to the winners and runners up.

Juvenile & Schools Hurling

St. Ciarans boys school team won the Roinn C primary schools championship when they defeated Scoil Iognaid Ris (Callan) in the final at Nowlan Park. They also reached the final of the Country Cup which they lost narrowly to Roinn A champions Clara. The Clara side also proved too strong for them in the mini sevens final. However this was a great year for this young team and much is expected of them in the future.

The U-12 hurlers took part in several tournaments bringing home medals from many of the competitions including the Andy Egan, Barrow Rangers and Dicksboro tournaments. The ground hurling team won silver medals in the Camaint competition. A new street league saw some great competition in the 'Carrolls Garage' sponsored com-

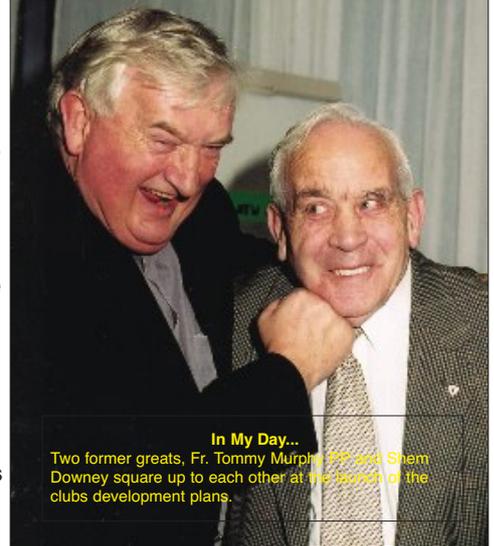
petition for seven to twelve year olds. The hard work being done with development at this level augurs well for the future.

Fund Raising

Once again the main source of income came from the clubs lottery. Another source of income was the hurlers co-op draw. The clubs main sponsor M & A Coaches provided major sponsorship which was on a par with any sponsorship deal at senior or junior level in the county. We wish to thank the many sponsors who assisted the club in this very busy, demanding and successful year for St. Patricks.

On the Playing Fields

A great year for the club on the field of play at adult level in which the Northern title was won for the first time since 1978 and the Junior B league title was also annexed is recorded elsewhere in this publication.



In My Day...
Two former greats, Fr. Tommy Murphy and Shem Downey square up to each other at the launch of the clubs development plans.



County Board and Club officials at the launch of the St. Patricks development plans.
Back: Barry Hickey, Pat Dunphy, John Healy, Joe Pyke **Front:** Richie Stone, Lar McEvoy, John Lacey, Ned Quinn.

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Club Reports

Thomastown

Struggle

The Juniors failed to make the knockout stages of the All County League and when the championship got underway, matters did not improve. They had a good win over Dunamaggin but failed to Kilmacow and Piltown. A win over Mooncoin in the first round gave some hope for the rest of the championship. They met Kilmacow in the next round and despite a replay were defeated.

County Representatives

Congratulations to Shane Lanigan who played at full back on the County Intermediate Team. Peter O'Hanrahan and Richard O'Hara were selected on the County U-16 team which was defeated in the Arrabawn Shield Final.

Success at Underage Levels

At under-age level, the club saw relative success this year, winning three competitions and contesting a further two finals. A feature of the Juvenile section is the number of parents who support the teams in great numbers and make themselves available for transport, catering and the likes. The Club is very indebted to them all.

The U-11 team, trained by Adrian Burke, won the Camaint Competition in Nowlan Park without losing a game.

The U-12 team, also trained by Adrian, won the Summer league and reached the final of the Andy Egan Memorial Tournament.

In October, Thomastown invited St.Maur's of Rush, Co Dublin to play them in Grennan. They played both football and hurling with Thomastown winning both games.

U-14 Action

The U-14 team found themselves in a very competitive Roinn B Championship and struggled for much of the year. That said they were involved in some very good matches and can only benefit from the experience. Stuart Waugh was selected on the South Kilkenny U-14 team.

U-15

In the U-15 eleven-a-side tournament, Thomastown failed to progress to the knockout stages despite an impressive victory over Graigue-Ballycallan in which they conceded only a single point scored from a late 65. John Joe Farrell, Ian

Egan and David Kavanagh played for the County u-15 team that won Leinster Tournament and in games against Cork, Limerick & Clare.

U-16s Good Performance

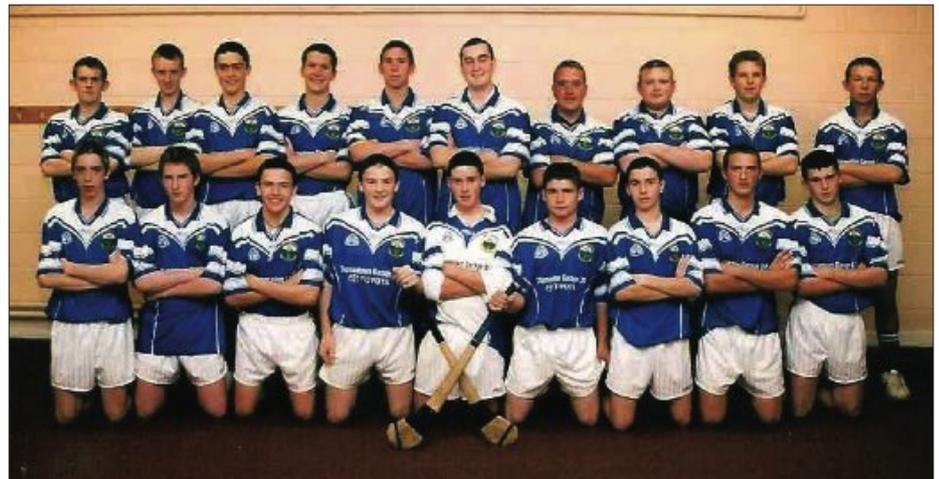
The team won the Ollie Bergin Memorial Tournament held in O'Loughlins.

This side showed great early season promise, winning all their league games.

They were eventually defeated in the semi-final by Graigue-Ballycallan. After a great victory over Tullogher-Rosbercon in the championship the team disappointed somewhat by losing to Danesfort.

Minor Success

Pride of place this year goes to the Minor team who reached the County Roinn B Final. They defeated John Lockes, Mullinavat and St. Lactains to reach the final against Erins Own. Two Erins Own goals in the closing ten minutes saw off a great Thomastown challenge. Noel Moore and Michael Ryan can be proud of the progress made this year. Many thanks to all the businesses and individuals who sponsored and helped this squad throughout the year.



Thomastown Minor Hurling Roinn B Finalists 2003

Back: Gary Ryan, John McDonald, Richie O'Hara, Sean Doyle, Dermot Lanigan, Stephen Cullen, Stuart Tennyson (capt), Liam O'Mahony, Eoin Hayes, Peter O'Hanrahan.

Front: Ian Egan, Richard Moore, Ross Diamond, Jonjo Farrell, Dwayne Tennyson, Seamus Kelly, Jamie Whitty, Padraic Nolan, Richard Ryan.

Missing from photo: Sean O'Mahony, Jamie Tennyson, Thomas Kavanagh, John Furlong.



Thomastown U-12's Summer League Winners

Back: Adrian Burke (trainer), Jamie O'Hara, Richard Waugh, Dylan Waugh, Eoin Delahunty, Robert Skehan, Mark Sheehan, Robbie O'Hara, Danny O'Donnell, Jake Egan, Sean Farrell, Dan Moran, Tom Donnelly (trainer).

Front: Richard Prendergast, Michael Donnelly, Darren Burke (capt.) Philip Moore, Michael Kavanagh, Dylan Walsh, Michael McDonald, Michael Sheehan, John Fitzgerald.



Club Reports

Threecastles

Centenary Year Celebrations

One hundred years ago this year in 1903, Threecastles Hurling Club won the Kilkenny Senior County Championship and went on to play Blackrock in the All Ireland Final. Despite its small size, our Club is one that is big in pride and stature. Many good men and women have contributed enormously to this wonderful club over the years. Like any small club, it is not always easy to find the numbers necessary to ensure all the good work of the club is carried out both on and off the field. Despite this, the Club has survived and given many a good display of hurling against many of the 'big guns' in the County. We would hope that for the future, with the continued effort of everyone involved and associated with the Club that we can develop and go on to achieve great things. We certainly don't intend to wait another 100 years before Threecastles wins another County Championship!!

Consistent Efforts

This year, the squad worked extremely hard in training and maintained a consistent effort throughout the year, and while our League and Championship run was not as good as we would have liked, the squad gave many determined displays full of heart and passion. There is no

doubt that the present squad, despite being small in numbers, is a determined and dedicated group of players who have huge pride in the Club and want to achieve success. We have every confidence and belief that success will come, and it will be sooner rather than later.

Social Events

A group of club members travelled recently to Edinburgh for the Bank Holiday Weekend and had a ball of a time. Edinburgh will never be the same again!! Congratulations go to Denis Butler and Aine who got married in September of this year.

Race Night

On the 12th of December we have what has become an Annual Event in the Club Race Night. The Race Night is held in The Rock Bar. This has proven a very successful venture for the Club in recent years and thanks are due to all involved in making last years Race Night such a resounding success. Please support us to make sure this years is as successful! Another previous success which we hope to repeat next year is our Barbeque which we held in Campion's Bar last year and this also proved to be a great night for everyone concerned.

Obituaries

The Club would like to extend deepest sympathies to the families of the following who had bereavements during the year: Mary Nolan, Mick Whitty, Danny Egan, Johnny Butler (Killarney), Billy Minogue.
Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a nanam-nacha

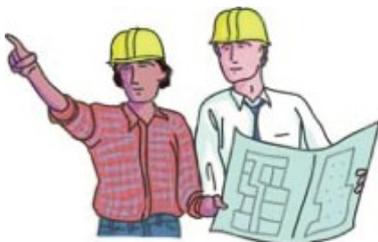
Club Officers 2003

President:	Billy Minogue RIP.
Vice-Presidents:	Mick Whitty RIP. Fr. S Henry, Sean Murphy, Billy Murphy
Chairman:	Gay Rafter
Vice Chairman:	ML Cantwell
Secretary:	Tom Trait
Assistant Sec:	MC Rafter
Treasurer:	Robbie Webster
Northern Board:	Sean Murphy, PJ Trait
County Board:	Sean Murphy
PRO:	Jim Gogarty
Trainer / Coaching Staff:	Jim Gogarty, Jim Lyng
Selectors:	Andy Cleere, Jim Lyng, Jim Gogarty
Captain:	Lorcan Carroll
Vice Captain:	Damien Lennon

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Club Reports

Tullaroan

Club Officers 2003

President: Chris Walsh
Chairman: Dick Walsh
Vice Chairman: John Teehan
Secretary: Simon Walton
Assistant Sec: Peter Holland
Treasurer: Tom Cleere
Assistant Treas: Edward Holland

On the Playing Field

The seniors started of the year by winning the 2002 League Final against Young Irelands. We had a good run in the St. Canices Credit Union Senior Hurling League just failing narrowly for a semi-final position. This was a very bad year for injuries in the club. John Coogan received a serious injury against Dicksboro resulting in the loss of sight in his eye. This was a tragic blow to John, his family and all in Tullaroan Hurling Club. A Trust Fund has been set up by Tullaroan Hurling Club. Bill Hennessy and Liam Simpson were also unavailable for the quarter-final through injury. The Junior team did not qualify for the latter stages of the ACHL. They lost to Mt. Leinster Rangers in the Paddy Cahill Cup. In the Championship they were defeated by Barrow Rangers and Dicksboro. The U-21's beat Fenians in the first round of the championship. They now await to play the winners of Graigue-Ballycallan and Erins Own. Bord na Nóg – Chairman: John Glennon; Secretary: Elizabeth Maher; Treasurer: John Connolly.

School Teams

Great credit must go to Breda Holmes for all her hard work in the school and to all the excellent under age coaches and selectors in the club. The U-11 team participated in the camaint and they all enjoyed themselves immensely. The U-12s took part in the summer tournament and also the Callan Tournament. The U-13's took part in the Lisdowney seven-a-side tournament. They performed very well but lost in the semi-final. Our U-14, U-16 and minor teams competed in their respective competitions but unfortunately there was no success at these levels.

Richie Delaney Memorial Tournament

Bord na Nóg held an U-13 hurling tournament in memory of Richard Delaney who died in 1985. Tullaroan, Graigue-Ballycallan, Freshford & Callan partici-



Tullaroan U-13 Team 2003

Front: N. Dowling, G. Walsh, C. Kenny, P. Butler, P. Walsh, P. Buggy, P. Walsh, N. Maher, J. Holmes, G. Joyce, O'Brennan.
Back: J. Buggy (Trainer), R. Dowling, B. Simpson, J. Moore, R. Buggy, J. Maher, R. Maher, P. Glennon, C. Kennedy, S. Holmes, M. Simpson, C. Kenny, D. Holmes (Trainer).

pated. Tullaroan emerged winners after a well-contested final against Callan.

Development

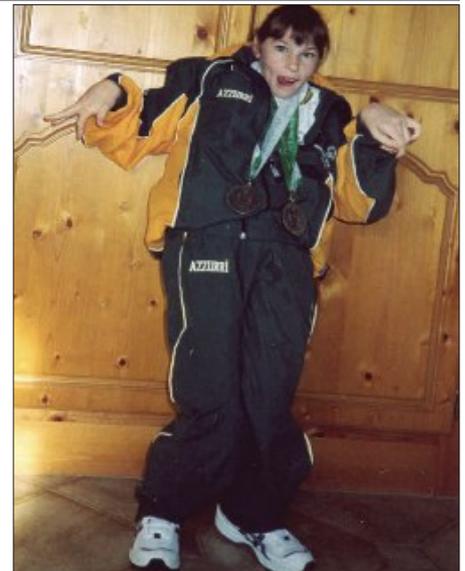
Plans are in progress to develop a second pitch adjacent to our existing pitch. We have received preliminary notification from the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism for a grant of E40,000 towards this project. It is hoped to commence work in the near future.

Fundraising

The club held its first Golf Classic in Rathdowney in August. This was a tremendous success. Great credit must go to the organisers of this event. The 'Play for the Park' Lotto. The Hurlers Co-Op Draw and the Christmas Draw were the other sources of income.

County Players

Congratulations to Tommy Walsh, Jimmy Coogan and Ken Coogan on winning National League and Senior All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny, also to Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy and Ned Sweeney on winning U-21 All-Irelands medals. Ken Coogan, Shane Hennessy and Ned Sweeney won Fitzgibbon Cup medals with WIT. Paul Glennon was on the North U-14 panel. Martin Walsh, Stephen Dowling, Shane Connolly and David Walsh were on the U-15 north panel. Stephen Dowling, Shane Connolly and David Walsh also won Leinster Colleges medals with St. Kierans. Sam Holmes won TC Tyres Schools Player of the



Patricia Maher displays her Special Olympics Medals.

Month. He was a member of the U-13 schools county team. The main source of income for Bord na Nóg was 'Bag Packing' in Dunnes Stores and a Cabaret.

Special Olympics 2003

Bord na Nóg made a presentation to Patricia Maher before leaving to compete in the Special Olympics. Patricia took part in the 'Motor Activities' section and did extremely well at both events.

Obituaries

Sympathy is extended to the families of Peg Kennedy, Michael McGrath and Mary Lahart.



Club Reports

Tullogher - Rosbercon

Club Officers 2003

President: - Matt O'Brien
Vice Presidents: - Jimmy Phelan, Jimmy Cummins, Fr. Michael Norton P.P.
Chairman: - John Kennedy
Vice Chairman: - Pat Lyng
Secretary: - Shem Cummins
Assistant Secretary: - Eamonn Phelan
Treasurer: - Joe Conway
Assistant Treasurer: - Paddy Gaule
P.R.O.: - John Paul Phelan
Southern Board: - Eamonn Phelan
County Board: - Jim Ryan
Juvenile Chair: - Jimmy Mulally

Congratulations

Sincere congratulations to Pat Hartley, Brabstown, who became the first player from the Parish in over 20 years to win an All-Ireland Medal with the County.

Thanks to Sponsors

A special word of thanks to Paddy and Eleanor Ryan of Paddy Ryan's Pub, Listerlin who continue to be the main club sponsors.

ON THE PLAYING FIELDS

Juniors

It was a year of marginal improvement for the Club's Junior Hurlers who reached the Southern Junior Championship Final for their first time in

their recent sting in the grade, only to be denied in the Final by Piltown by two-points. We were defeated in the Southern League Final earlier in the year by Piltown also.

Special Juniors

The Special Juniors lost out early in the Championship to Kilmacow after a good league run.

Underage

Mullinavat narrowly defeated the Minor Hurlers in a great game in the Championship. The Under 16 Hurlers lost out to Thomastown. The under 14 footballers are in the County League final at the time of going to press.

Under 21's

The Under 21 hurlers had an eventful year. It all started with an easy victory over Graiguenamanagh in the first round. They followed this with another comfortable win over John Lock's of Callan in the Southern Semi-final. The Southern Final proved to be a much more difficult affair, where Mooncoin provided the opposition. Tullogher led for most of the game, only to be three points in arrears with normal time over. Defender Richie Gaule was fouled on the 21 and managed to squeeze the resultant free into the net and push the game

into extra time. In extra time Tullogher proved too strong, running out the winners. The County Final against Clara proved disappointing as the northerners superior scoring power told in the finish winning 1-13 to 1-6.

Fund raising

The Hurlers co-op draw continues to be a major source of day-to-day funding. The Christmas Raffle was held again.

Obituaries

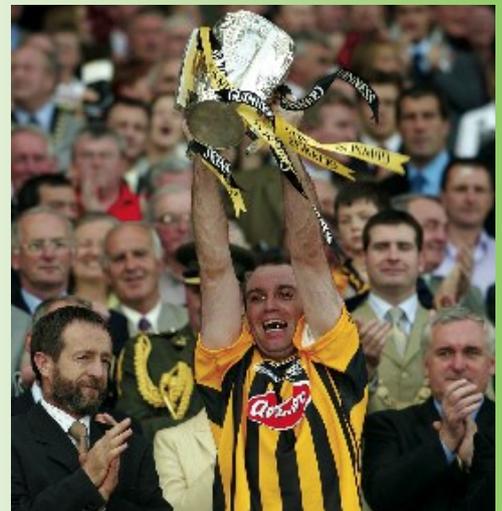
During the year the death occurred of Dick Doherty of Listerlin. Dick was a long-standing club supporter and could be relied on to attend every game. Mrs. Margaret Barron from Brownsford also died during the year. Several of her grandsons are now involved with the club.

During the year the club lost one of its greatest ever players with the death of Tom Bird from Hoodsgrove at the age of 93. Tom was the last surviving member of the Tullogher Senior Football Team of the 1930's that won 6 Championships in the decade.

Henry Rellis, originally of Tinneranny, died during the year also. Henry, along with his brothers was a former player and staunch supporter. To their families and to all members bereaved during the year we extend our sympathy.

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Club Reports

Windgap

Disappointing Season

Despite a number of encouraging performances, 2003 proved to be a year where ultimate success continued to elude Windgap teams. As with many clubs, considerable efforts were made but it is clear that more needs to be done if silverware is to be seen in future years. The hurling season commenced in March with a club competition held over three Sundays between four teams, and was eventually won by Noel Power's team. Club matches commenced with junior football victories over Galmoy and Threecastles before the side were edged out in a close semifinal against Slieverue.

All County Junior League

The All County hurling league started promisingly with a victory over Thomastown in Windgap but things went downhill for the remainder of this league and the team failed to subsequently qualify for the Cahill Cup competition. Renewed effort under Bobby Jackman in the summer led to southern junior league victories over Slieverue and Mooncoin to qualify for a Southern Junior semi-final. However, on the night, the team were soundly beaten by eventual champions Piltown to bow out on a disappointing note.

Battling Performances

At Junior B level, the side qualified for the quarter finals of the league competition and fine performances against Piltown and Mullinavat then saw them qualify for a league final encounter against Kilmacow where they were narrowly edged out. In the championship, Mullinavat proved too strong on a night where they were short some key players.

Encouraging Signs

At U-21 level, the side were involved in two titanic struggles against Mooncoin. Both games ended level after normal time and the side eventually lost out by a point after extra time. Many fine displays were delivered in these games which was managed by PJ Egan and the performances were very encouraging considering the absence of key players at crucial stages through injury.

Minors Do Well

At minor level, the local side won three of their six league games against

Ballyragget, Bennettsbridge and Gowran. In the championship, they had an excellent victory over Dunnamaggin in the first round before bowing out to Glenmore in the southern semi-final.

U-16 & U-14

At U-16 level, the locals won two of their five league matches against Gowran and Bennettsbridge and drew with Glenmore. In the championship, they fell to Dunnamaggin in the first round. At U-14 level, the side also made a first round exit at the hands of Tullogher.

A Busy Year

At schools level, the locals continue to make great strides with very limited numbers. Led by Simon Brophy who stepped down after 13 years as club secretary this year and Mick Shea, the team which includes four girls had league victories over Clogh-Moneenroe, Kilmacow, the Project School and St. Canice's before being edged out in a league semi-final to Clogh-Moneenroe. At camaint level, the

U-11 side were joint winners with Mooncoin of the ground hurling tournament. The side also performed very well in two tournament events – one at Graigue Ballycallan and one in Windgap which was generously organised and sponsored by Garda Denis Deacy and Sergeant Superintendent Aidan Roche.

Colleges Medal

In other GAA news, Niall Fennelly won a senior colleges medal with St. Kieran's College this year and Gerard Purcell played a number of times for the county U-14 football team.

Fundraising Events

In off field events, the club's second annual Golf Classic was held in Mountain View Golf Club in June and again proved to be a great social outing as well as a vital fundraiser. Many thanks to all who helped to supported the event and to those supporting the local Lotto and other club draws.



Windgap Camaint 2003

Back: Shane Walsh, Cian Ryan, Claire Grace, William Phelan, Darren Walsh, Laura Moore.

Middle: Ian Murphy, Paul Comerford, Nicola Moore, Katie O'Gorman, Ciara Molloy, Marie Phelan, Kieran Purcell.

Front: Gerard Phelan, Kieran Fennelly, Sean Foley, Gary Lyons, Adrian Landy, Kieran Power, Michael Power.



Club Reports

Young Irelands

A Time to Celebrate

Following on the marvellous Leinster club campaign of the 2002 season the winter break was shorter than ever. The annual dinner dance was a special occasion as we were celebrating the club's golden jubilee along with the fact that we were senior county champions. It was appropriate that we were able to hold the event in Gowran at the picturesque golf complex in Gowran Park. We were honoured by the attendance of the President of the GAA, Mr Sean McCague. Tom Hogan received the Hall of Fame Award for 2002 and Beatrice Treacy for 2003.

Retirements

As our senior hurlers entered into the fray of this year's championship it was without two long serving stalwarts - Patrick Farrell and Pat O'Neill. The club wishes them well in their retirement from the field of play.

The retirement of Pat O'Neill brings to an end an illustrious hurling career. He was a central figure on various club teams for many years. At County level he won All Ireland minor, U-21 and senior medals, earning a man of the match award in the 1992 All Ireland and an All Star Award in 1993. Another player who missed this season due to injury was Cathal Fitzgerald. His presence on the field of play was sorely missed. We wish him a full recovery and hope to see him back in action in 2004.

Mixed Fortunes

The Special Juniors were unlucky in their campaign this year as were the U-21, minor and U-16 teams. Well done to Michael Lennon who played with the Kilkenny U-15 team. The U-14 panel had a very successful year with the footballers getting the year off to a great start by completing a league and championship double under captain Jody Foley. Their marvellous work continued into the hurling season when they won the league title with Danny Glendon captaining the side. The success continued to the semi-final stages where they were narrowly defeated.

The U-13 panel had a great run in the Lisdowney Sevens qualifying for the semi-final of the Cup where they were narrowly beaten. The U-12s did well in many of their games this season and the U-11 camaint enjoyed their games and their final day in Nowlan Park.

Teams were fielded in various U-8, 9 & 10 blitzes around the county. One of the highlights of the season was the Roanmore Tournament in Waterford where the U-8s won their section and the U-9s only losing one game. Those



Young Irelands Under 8 - Graignamanagh Tournament 2003

Back: Paul Delehaunty, Michael J Comerford, Evelyn Fogarty, Eoin Murphy, Fionnuala Quinlan, Sean Farrell, Michael Dunne

Front: Bill Brennan, Keith McEvoy, Sean Carey, Paddy O'Leary, Brian Rudkins, Peter Hutchinson.



Young Irelands Under 10 - Graiguenmanagh Tournament 2003

Back: Patrick Hennessy, Joseph Ryan, Jack Quarrell, Brian Donnelly, Declan Bennett, Gearoid Kennedy, Michael Lennon, Brian Murphy, Ciaran Denieffe, Emmet Byrne

Front: Elaine Rudkins, Mairead Fogarty, Orlaith Byrne, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Emma Comerford, Aisling Byrne, Paula Farrell, Nora O'Leary.

who work with all of our teams deserve great praise for their commitment.

the atmosphere of the occasion was a joy to behold.

Great Captains

History was created this season when Gowran men captained the Kilkenny Senior hurlers to League and Championship double. With great pride we watched Charlie Carter lift the League Cup after making a memorable contribution to the victory. Then in September D J Carey had the honour of being the first Gowran man to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup back to Gowran as Senior Captain. About 1500 people gathered to give DJ and the panel the welcome they deserved. All the hard work put in the space of 24 hours by the hard working committee was worth while as

Thanks to All

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to those in our club who support all of our fundraisers and to our many sponsors who continue to contribute when asked. Their generosity is much appreciated. The Club wishes founder member Jim Harding well as he has been ill in hospital for the last few months. Congratulations to Pat & Siobhan O'Neill on the birth of their baby daughter and to Ciaran & Deirdre Phelan on their marriage. The club offers its deepest sympathy to members of the club who suffered bereavements during the year.

"a glimpse at the stars of the future"

by
Eamon Dunne
PRO

Lisdowney Sevens

“The competition has provided us with some great tussles and more importantly, a glimpse at the stars of the future,” said Nicky Brennan, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean, in the foreword of the Finals Day programme of the Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens.

When Co. Chairman, Ned Quinn was being thanked by the organisers for his attendance on a very busy day for hurling he replied in his own inimitable style, “Why wouldn’t I be here? This is where it starts.”

In 1992 Henry Shefflin won the Best Player Award and member of the Sweeney Cup winning Ballyhale team and Michael Kavanagh was captain of the St. Lachtains team that won the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield. Need we list their achievements since?

In 1995 Jackie Tyrell was a member of the James Stephens team that won the Sweeney Cup and this year captained the victorious Under 21 team. In 1996 Tullaroan did the same and team members Shane Hennessy (also Best Player Award), Tommy Walsh and Ken Coogan were on the same Under 21 team. In 1997 and 1998 James “Cha” Fitzpatrick won the Best Player Award and Sweeney Cup with Ballyhale and starred on this year’s Minor team. In fact most of the panels of the Senior, Minor and Under 21 teams have played in the Sevens.

This is the 22nd year of the competition and 32 teams from Kilkenny, Tipperary, Laois and Galway took part. It provided a feast of hurling over three Saturdays in September and is now firmly established on the hurling calendar.

In the Sweeney Cup the closeness of the competition was reflected in the semi-finals when James Stephens overcame Clara after extra time and Erin’s Own beat Young Irelands by 1 point. In a titanic final James Stephens clawed their way back to overcome Erin’s Own by 2 points. There was, however, consolation for the Castlecomer team when Conor Fogarty (son of Under 21 manager Martin) won the Best Player Award.

James Stephens: Adam Byrne capt., Caimin Brennan, Craig Eardley, Doug Power, Chris Thompson, Ian Hayes, Rory O’Brien, Killian Murphy, Ronan Holohan and Colm Dowling.

Erin’s Own: Conor Fogarty capt., Andrew Ring, Marie Dargan, Aiden Moran, Andrew Kavanagh, Jerry Callinan, Pierce Dargan, James Tynan, Caoimhan Dunne and Martin Hanley.

In the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield the home team, Lisdowney, made history by winning the competition for the first time, after beating a very gallant Barrow Rangers by 2 goals. They both had beaten Tipperary teams Ballingarry and Gortnahoe, respectively, in the semi-finals.

Lisdowney: James Delaney capt., Laurence O’Carroll, Brian Bergin, Owen Warren, Sean Phelan, Damien Clyne, Stephen Ruth, Rory Hickey, Aaron Fogarty and Niall Kenny.

Barrow Rangers: Martin Bambrick capt., Gerard Walsh, Richard Doyle, Kevin Hennessy, Thomas Brennan, Cathal Kenny, Patrick Drennan, Cathal English, Jason Holden and Danny Byrne.

From the local point of view the most popular part of the whole tournament is the Parish Sevens. A round robin competition was played among 6 teams of boys and girls from Clontubrid, Gathabawn and Lisdowney. A little bit of history was



Sweeney Cup Winners James Stephens
Front: Colm Dowling, Chris Thompson, Danny Power, Adam Byrne (capt), Ronan Holohan.
Middle: Ian Hayes, Rory O’Brien, Caimin Brennan, Killian Murphy, Craig Eardly.
Back: Billy Walton (Coach), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Kieran Costelloe (Chairman), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec)



Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield Winners Lisdowney
Front: Niall Kenny, Laurence O’Carroll, James Delaney (capt), Stephen Ruth, Brian Bergin.
Middle: Damien Clyne, Owen Warren, Rory Hickey, Aaron Fogarty, Sean Phelan.
Back: P.J.Kenny, Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Connor Brennan (Coach), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO).

made when the winning team was captained by a girl, namely Siobhán Holland. Siobhán, who had played a real captain’s part throughout the competition, proudly raised the Lisdowney Shield. Her team had beaten James Delaney’s team by 4-3 to 0-7.

Teams: Siobhán Holland capt, Aaron Fogarty, Niall Kenny, Pat O’Carroll, Robert Fitzpatrick, Claire Sherman, Aisling Kearney, Orlaith Kearney, Ciara Mackey and Amy Ivory.
James Delaney capt, Laurence O’Carroll, Kieran Delaney, Shane Healy, Shane Ruth, Brian Murphy, Michael Kenny, Sinéad Campion, Gerry O’Reilly, and Ciara Maher.

In the 3rd and 4th place ply-off for the Hennessy Sports Medals Stephen Ruth had a clear-cut victory over Brian Bergin.

Teams: Stephen Ruth capt, Robert Buckley, Grace Murphy, Claire Phelan, Jamie Bergin, Aoife Murphy, Andrew Hickey, Simon Randall, Claudia Hudner and Simon Hudner.
Brian Bergin capt, Damien Clyne, Conor Stapleton, Cormac Glendon, Emma Bergin, Louise Skehan, Michael Drennan, Linda Sweeney and Lisa Hickey.



The GAA in Oz

CENTRAL COAST HURLING & LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

The Central Coast Club was formed in 1983 by Peter Murphy (Rower) and Tom Bowden (Gathbawn). Kilkenny people and hurlers alike travelling to Sydney over the last 20 years have found the Club a great focal point for - meeting people, finding work and most of all an outlet to continue playing the great game of hurling. The colours of the Central Coast are the famed Black & Amber.

The Club set up a ladies football team in 1989 spearheaded by Noreen Delahunty (Nee Holden of Mullinavat) and Pam O'Mahony (Kilmoganny) Eamon Morrissey, Tony Henderson, Eddie O'Neill (Village), Larry & Seamus Delahunty, Willie Flemming (Mooncoin), Liam Egan (Callan),

The Dalton Brothers and Patsy Doheny (Threecastles) along with many others were a driving force in the 80's. In more recent years the Club has been thankful for seeing the skills of Paddy O'Dwyer & Tommy Manogue (Graig Ballycallan), Bill & Paul Hennessy (Tullarone), Mick Holihan & Joe Daly (O'Loughlins), Peter Hennessy (Threecastles), Liam Smith, Frankie Morgan (Village), Tony Byrne, James Fitzgerald (Gowran), Cuz Delaunty, Eddie & Eamon Mackey, Kevin Dunply, Liam Walsh (Mooncoin), Thomas Reddy, Dermot Tierney, Steven O'Keefe (Kilmacow), John Barron, Brian Alyward (Tullagher), Paddy Farrell (Carrickshock), Paul Alyward (Mullinavat) and many many more. If you are thinking of going to Sydney for a spell, and are interested in playing Hurling or Ladies Football be sure to make contact with this Club.

Contact web site: www.thecoastgaa.com Peter Hennessy 0414 937255 Paddy O'Dwyer 0421 553418 Larry Delahunty 0412 534084



Back: Steve Carey (Cork – Ass coach), Paddy O Dwyer (Kilkenny), Paul Alyward (Kilkenny), Brian Carey (Waterford), JP O' Neill (Kilkenny), Aiden Lyons (Westmeath), Billy Keogh (Kilkenny), Paddy O Keefe (Kilkenny), Brian O' Brien (Tipperary), Shane Hickey (Wexford), Jason Barron (Wexford), Richie Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny), Larry Delahunty (Kilkenny – Manager),
Front: Brendan Dalton (Tipperary) Breen McGrath (Tipperary), Michael Redmond (Wexford), Dermot Tierney (Kilkenny), Paul Bolger (Wexford), Peter Hennessy (Kilkenny), Steve O' Keefe (Kilkenny), Eamonn Curley (Dublin), Sean Harvey (Antrim), Richie Dalton (Kilkenny), Willie Lawless (Galway)

SYDNEY SHAMROCK HURLING CLUB – 2003 SEASON

The 2003 season has been another successful one for the Kilkenny-founded Sydney Shamrocks Hurling Club. A victorious beginning at the pre-season 7-aside Melbourne tournament in February set a precedent for the campaigns that followed which culminated in a clean sweep of all New South Wales hurling titles.

The Kilkenny players who've played with the Shamrocks during the year include: Philip Brennan – Galmoy, Paul Hennessy – Tullarone, Nick Murphy – Carrickshock, Brian Blanchfield – Thomastown, Colin Herity – Dunnamaggin, PJ Coady – John Lockes, Tommy Falconer – Piltown, Luke Grennan – Tullagher, Garrett Hickey – Bennettsbridge

Matt Murphy of Carrickshock managed the team through our early season victories in Melbourne and Gosford.

Anybody coming to Australia interested in a game of hurling contact Nick Murphy in Sydney on: 00 61 414 860 701, or Matt Murphy in Kilkenny on: 087 418 2461 or Larry O'Shea on: 087 741 3113.

You can also check out the Shamrocks website www.sydneyshamrocks.org



SYDNEY SHAMROCKS NSW LEAGUE WINNERS 2003.

Back: Ger Collins (Clare), Pat Enright (Limerick), Tom Falconer (Kilkenny), Declan Rooney (Laois), Paul Barro n(Wexford), Brendan Varden (Galway), Anthony Coote (Clare), Liam Donovan (Wexford), Paddy Gardiner (Galway), Paul Hennessy (Kilkenny), Derek Hayes (Tipp), Mervyn Dixon (Clare), Darragh Rabbitt (Tipp), Gary Lane (Cork), Ross McCaul (Limerick), Dermot Kelly (Gal), Adian Cowen (Tipp),
Front: PJ Coady (Kilkenny), Declan Maher (Offaly), Jacko Doyle (Tipp), Brian Blanchfield (Kilkenny), Bernard O'Callaghan (Cork), Nicky Murphy (Kilkenny), Declan Mahe r(Tipp), Paul Ryan (Tipp), Colin Herity (Kilkenny), Denis Mulcahy (Cork)

Kilkenny's All Stars 2003



*Eight Kilkenny players received All Star Awards for Hurling in the year 2003 -
Pictured at the awards ceremony are - Eddie Brennan, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, Henry Shefflin,
Michael Kavanagh, Martin Comerford, Derek Lyng and Tommy Walsh.*



SMITHWICKS SPORTS STARS AWARDS
Gaelic Games Awards 2003 from left: JJ Delaney (Hurling Award), Ned Byrne (Hall of Fame Award - Hurling & Rugby), Billy Bourke (Handball Award),
Brian Cody (Hurling Team Manager), and Tommy O'Brien (Sports Stars Treasurer)
Tom Brett



Obituaries



Fiachra Ryan

Fiachra Ryan, who died on August 4th last, was a steadfast Kilkenny supporter all his life. Whether growing up in Maddoxtown and playing for his native Clara, working in Kenya and later in Wembley, or in Tullamore where, for the final twenty five years of his life, he carried on a successful business with his wife, Patty, he was an unrelenting and uncompromising follower of the black and amber and of the maroon of his beloved Clara. Fiachra had an inordinate interest in all sports - he excelled at golf - he could sit and enjoy a full Cricket test - he followed the English Premiership, was a keen student of athletics and even at one stage had a croquet lawn in his back garden in Wembley!

However, being a Ryan from Maddoxtown, hurling was his joy, first, last and always, and he shared with his family a passionate and formidable love of club and county. He had great pride in the success of the next generation(s) of Ryans in Kilkenny and Wexford. He took great pleasure in taunting, arguing with, and betting against his Offaly neighbours whenever the two counties met. Fiachra being Fiachra, the arguments and bets were serious at the time, but the huge turn-out of locals at his funeral testified to the enormous affection in which he was held in his adopted town and county. He had a unique faculty for making and keeping friends and the friends that he (and Patty) made at all stages of their lives were loyal always. Church Road, Tullamore was an open house and all who called - and there were many - were sure of great warmth, hospitality, fun and fierce arguments, and left the better for having made the visit.

Fiachra Ryan was a warm-hearted, entertaining, great-humoured, companionable and extremely generous man.

He will be greatly missed by his brothers, Maurice, Paddy and Fr Harry, his sisters Maura and Kathleen (his twin), a host of nieces and nephews who loved his company, many, many faithful friends and neighbours, but most of all, by Patty, who shared all his joys and sorrows and by his children, Dermot, Ann-Marie and John to whom he was a great friend and father.

He is now with his eldest child, Deirdre, who was tragically killed in 1993 and who, like her father and all the family, loved Kilkenny and its hurling.

I measc na Naomh go raibh sé.



John Hayes

On Friday the 29th of August 2003 Dunnamaggin Parish came to terms with the loss of its most dedicated sons, John Hayes. The reverence and solemnity of such a large congregation of people bore testament to the high regard in which John was held. John's devotion and commitment was eminent in every aspect of his life. Farming was not only his livelihood but one of his primary passions. John's other passion was hurling—especially that of Dunnamaggin. He served as club Chairman in the early 1980's and then in more recent years as selector. He embodied the belief that the foundations of future success were built on caring for, nurturing and encouraging the youth. He rejoiced in the club's county championship title in 1997 and poured all his energy into helping the team in their subsequent campaigns. Nothing gave him greater pride than receiving Clubman of the Year in 1997. This reflected not only his huge effort in fundraising but also his effort in the layout and development of the new Dunnamaggin hurling pitch. John would be a happy man in heaven now not only to see the Kilkenny team win their 27th title this year but more predominantly to

see Dunnamaggin fight another day in the Senior Championship next year. He had a word for everyone and was known and well-liked the length and breadth of the county and indeed further afield. He loved nothing better than a good chat about last weekend's game or perhaps one from the distant past. John's loss to all that knew him is enormous. People will miss his presence, his benign friendship, his warmth, his wisdom and his generosity. The biggest loss of all will be felt by his wife Kathleen and children. John was unique among men.

"For he gave the young men dreams to dream

The old ones tales to tell
To the youth he gave the five year plan
Their skills to nurture well
That is the sporting picture
The other side brings tears
The great one is gone from us
All in his prime of years"
(John Carrig)



Con Malone

A devoted member of Dicksboro Club went to his eternal reward when Con Malone passed away in November. Formerly from the Old Callan Road, Con died at St Columba's Hospital, Thomastown, where he was a patient for some time. He was originally from Tullogher but for several seasons he was a member of Dicksboro juvenile committee and was associated with many juvenile teams there.

Con was pre-deceased by his wife, Brigid. A devoted couple, their lives revolved around Dicksboro GAA Club and Brigid's favourite saying at Dicksboro matches was "Yahoo! Up the 'Boro". The couple was extremely generous to the club and never let a celebration at the club go without contributing to the club.

They somehow made their way to every Dicksboro game and regularly travelled to Croke Park to support Kilkenny. Dicksboro committee members and supporters attended Con's funeral at Mullinarrigle, Tullogher when the club's maroon jersey was placed on Con's coffin.

Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Johnny 'Killarney' Butler

In the early hours of February 5, 2003, Johnny Butler of Cooleshal, Freshford, more popularly known as 'Killarney', departed from this world. Johnny left home the previous evening for his usual weekly night outing in Mackey's of Gathabawn, where he participated in the weekly poker game which he loved and enjoyed so much. He played his cards well and in fact won the pot that night. Minutes later, Johnny was suddenly taken ill and within seconds was called home by his maker at the age of 63 years. When news of Johnny's sudden departure broke, there was shock, profound sadness and utter disbelief amongst the community of Freshford and throughout the county. He was a jolly and cheerful character and loved the craic. He was liked by all, both young and old for his jovial personality and wit and brought joy and happiness to many people's lives. Johnny was kind and caring and many of his good and generous deeds went unnoticed or unknown. Johnny was a caring and devoted husband and a doting father. He farmed his small holding at Cooleshal for many years and was very proud of his fine crops of corn and beet which he produced each year.

He enjoyed life and was involved in many organisations but it was the GAA that he was mainly involved with. He played at wing back when Freshford won the schools U-14 county final in 1951. Following that victory, his neighbour and friend, Mick Molloy composed a poem about Johnny and that poem was recently published in Jamesie Murphy's book of poems "Black and Amber Glory". Further hurling honours came Johnny's way in 1954 and 1956, when he won county titles at U-16 and minor level, when he

played in goal. The year 1959 saw him add a junior county medal and he rounded off his collection with county senior medals with Lachtain's in 1961 and 1963. He was a member of the current GAA committee and attended all their games. His final game was just two days before his death, when he went to see St. Lachtain's v Erin's Own 13-a-side football final in Castlecomer. He had attended the clubs dinner dance in Langtons the previous Friday night and graced the floor for most of the night. Johnny played his part too when Pairc Lachtain was being developed. Like many other committee members and helpers, he spent many hours with his tractor and trailer and chainsaw up in 'The Cobbs', in Kilcooley and the other woods, getting ready for the famous St. Lachtain's timber auctions.

He was a keen Kilkenny follower also and a regular traveller on the bus to Croke Park each year. Johnny and his neighbour and friend Ned Heaphy, who passed away a few years previously, had some great laughs and jokes, especially when Kilkenny and Tipp met.

The send-off Johnny was given was a sign of the high esteem he was held in by both the club and community. His coffin was carried shoulder high from Kennedy's funeral home all the way to the church, draped in the Black and Amber, and was carried by relays of pall bearers made up of friends, neighbours and hurling colleagues. Johnny's parting is a great loss to St. Lachtain's club, the parish and his many friends. His loss will of course be felt greatly by Mary, AnneMarie and the Butler family.

'Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dílis'.



George Byrne

Kilkenny and Dicksboro lost a great supporter with the untimely death of George Byrne last December.

A native of Michael Street, George had wide-ranging interests in sport. In his sporting career he played hurling with St Finbarr's and later won a county minor title with Dicksboro.

He was an effective official and talented player with Talbot's Inch handball club with whom he won a host of titles.

He also showed great talent at Basketball—as he did, indeed, with every sport he took up. His working life saw him begin in Bridget's. He moved on to work in Paul's and finished his working life in the Monster House. In all three establishments he was hugely popular with customers and always had a friendly word to impart as well as a good bargain! When the Dicksboro enthusiast fell in love, he travelled across the city to rivals James Stephens where he married Mary Dunne, a member of a dedicated James Stephens family in the Kells Road. George and Mary had two children, Gerard who works with Gandon Enterprises and Catherine, who is an official in Kilkenny County Council. He was a dedicated family man and loved nothing better than to hear his wife Mary sing with the Unity Singers or at Mass. George and Gerard, although living in the Village, continued to actively support Dicksboro! They never missed a Kilkenny game when Gerard was proud to wear his black and amber.

He was hugely supportive of his son Gerard. He was a founder member of Enable Ireland and Club 96—an organisation which helped organise the social life of people with disabilities. He was one of the main movers in this club and organised trips to the Cinema and Theatre when George always ensured everything was done to make his clients happy.

It was fitting that a guard of honour at his funeral was formed by members of Club 96.

Tá leaba i measc na naomh tuillte go maith aige.



Ger Holden

The passing of Gerry Holden, one of the great foot soldiers of the G.A.A. particularly in Castlecomer has left a void that will be very difficult to fill. Gerry Holden was first and foremost a gentleman. He was also a great family man. His dedication to the G.A.A. in his home town in particular, but also much further a field will not be forgotten. He was never one for the limelight but was always on hand to help out the Erins Own club whom he

served as player, mentor, supporter and fundraiser. He represented the club on the Northern Board for many years. He helped out with the juveniles and also gave his time to football. He was particularly pleased to see his grandson Adam Holden collect a senior football championship medal in 2002.

Gerry was a man of the highest integrity. What you saw is what you got.

The G.A.A. played a major part in his life. He attended his first All Ireland in 1935 and I doubt if he missed an All Ireland that Kilkenny were involved in up to the time of his death. Gerry was extremely proud of the new Erins Own development at Ballycomey. He was a deeply religious man but could discuss sport or politics with the most knowledgeable. A miner by profession he suffered a serious injury in 1967 but that did not dampen his enthusiasm for life at the coalface. This scribe considers it a privilege to have known him. To his sons Sean, Ger and Robbie; daughters Nellie Margaret and Mary; brothers Michael and Seamie and his extended family we convey our deepest sympathy.



Patrick "Patsy" Hogan

The passing of Patsy Hogan on came as a great shock to his family, his work colleagues, and to the people of Callan. He had been working up to the previous evening as proprietor of Kilkenny School of Motoring. The eldest of six boys born into the family grocery business in Mill street in 1934, Patsy attended Callan CBS Primary and Secondary schools, before entering the Atlantic College in Dublin, there qualifying as a ships radio officer. He was to enlist in the British Merchant navy from 1954 until 1962. Like all youth of the time, Patsy was an avid sportsman, with hurling his main outlet. He played on the Kilkenny minor team from 1950 until 1952 inclusive, winning an All Ireland medal in 1950. He was a member of the John Lockes team that won the County Junior title in 1952. His hurling career was temporarily halted because of his career in the merchant navy. Returning to Callan in 1962, he

married Bea Gardiner, whose father, the late Jack Gardiner was the proprietor of the Steppes Bar. Patsy and Bea took over the running of the flourishing hostelry.

Patsy and Bea reared a terrific family of Linda, Sean and Una. Sean has starred for the John Lockes club for a long number of years, captaining them to Junior and Intermediate county title. He is also the father of present day young stars, Patrick and Richard Hogan. Patsy was a past Captain and President of Callan Golf Club. He set up the Kilkenny School of Motoring in 1989. A well read man, Patsy had an insatiable interest in History, and more particularly in Military and Ecclesiastical History. He gave many years researching, and lecturing on the history of the 16th Irish Division of the British Army, who fought in WW 1. A great number of Callan's sons were recruited into that Regiment, and subsequently lost their lives in places like the Somme and Ypres. Patsy's research often took him to the British Archives in Kew Gardens in London for long periods. He also visited Somme and Ypres during his research. A delightful baritone, Patsy was a very active member of the Callan Choral Society, and the Callan Parish Church choir.

He is survived by his wife, Bea, his son Sean, his daughters, Linda and Una, his grandchildren, Patrick, Richard, Rachel and Niamh, his daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, his son-in-law, Kieran McGroarty, his brothers John (London), Michael (Carrick-on-Suir), TJ (Callan), and Fergie (Germany).

Since last we wrote the good story, some



Ann Marie Manogue and Mags Shanahan

great friends of Kilkenny, Kilkenny hurling, and the GAA have gone to their Eternal Reward. Great people all, whose lives touched us all in one way or the other. Some were young, with family responsibilities, others not so young with their contribution well underlined. Margaret Shanahan from Haltigan Terrace left us suddenly on Wednesday August 20th, without a warning, without a last adieu. The so popular Mags, as she

was endearingly known, was your larger than life human being, about whom one could not but say the nice word. Mags was a darling young woman whose enthusiasm for the great deeds, and interests that she cherished was infectious. She was a marvellous parishoner in her native St Patricks. She worked unceasingly, and unsparingly for the good of others. Outside of her Church, she had two other loves - Radio Kilkenny and Hurling.

She was hugely popular with many of the Kilkenny stars, particularly, DJ Carey, John Power, Pat Dwyer, Michael Walsh, Eddie Brennan, Peter Barry and Philly Larkin.

She shared her interests with her life-long wheelchair bound friend, Ann Marie Minogue, who lived with her mam and dad, Marie and Sean in Nuncio Road. Within two weeks of the sad departure of Mags, Ann Marie also passed away. Ironic in a sense, that the great friends in life could not be separated even in death.

The inseparable duo shared the same interests, the same bus, the same Kilkenny favours, the same ambitions for the black and amber. They considered themselves as the lucky Kilkenny talismen. They argued vehemently about players, and their best positions. They got vexed when their favourites were treated with other than the height of respect by friend or foe. Woe betide the referee or linesman who didn't call it as Mags or Ann Marie saw it. They had the inside track with THE MAN, as they referred to the Almighty. Often I overheard them discussing plans to light candles in St Patricks, and the Black Abbey before an important Kilkenny match. They displayed their colours for all to see. James Stephens on the one side, and Kilkenny on the other. Religiously, Mags would push her friend up to the the Village club every Saturday night for the craic, the music, and the hurling chat. They were loved by all in the hallowed halls of their favourite club. They were loved by many more, as the numbers who gathered to pay their last respects at their obsequies will testify.

If St Peter is a referee, I'm sure that the Village duo are even now giving him a hard time.

Two lovely girls, who sadly didn't linger too long among us before travelling on to the Nowlan Park in the sky.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad beirt



Martin Lynch

Martin Lynch, a giant among men in most respects, passed away suddenly on Friday 22 November in Ardkeen Hospital after a short illness. A man that was so well known, and respected over a wide area of the South East, Martin Lynch had that charismatic persona that endeared him to the many whose lives he touched. A farmer, with an enormous interest in the meat trade, he was also a great hurling man. He played for the John Lockes Club in Callan from his early youth. He lined out at full forward for them in the only senior county final that they won in 1957. Picked to play for Kilkenny against Wexford in a National League match in Ferns in 1957, he was pitted against a great Wexford full back, Billy Goodison. Martin Lynch scored six marvellous goals on the day. The headlines on the paper the following day read, "Lynch hat tricks break Wexford". He might never have scored those goals, because the Kilkenny selectors, in their questionable wisdom, never picked him again.

He was generous to the point of embarrassment. He had a great grá for all things Kilkenny, and even though he lived, with his wife Bernadette - who is Tipperary to the marrow of her being -, and their children, Philip, Martina, and Michelle in their public house in Mullinahone, he never missed an opportunity of championing the Kilkenny cause whenever the occasion arose.

This past year would have been underlined in his diary as a vintage Kilkenny year. Mind you, he was always magnanimous, even if a little begrudgingly, in defeat.

But it was Kilkenny first and last in his natural order of things hurling. He travelled the length and breadth of the country to matches. He was on first name terms with most if not all Kilkenny hurlers. Wherever the Kilkenny hurlers went on holidays, Martin Lynch and Bernadette travelled in the party. He was scheduled to travel to Singapore and Australia on their next trip, but alas, that will not happen now. Even recently when the John Lockes club honoured John Power, John alluded to Martin as one of

his more forthright critics. "Martin would tell you straight up if you didn't have a good game", said John on the night. Martin Lynch, was an honest, decent, honourable, kind, generous, charitable, God fearing man, whose friendship, and companionship one would be more than honoured, and grateful to have enjoyed. His passing will have left a great void in the lives of the many hundreds who turned out to pay their last respects at his obsequies.

To his wife Bernadette, his son Philip, his daughters, Martina, and Michelle, his brother Bunny, his sisters, Nan, Sister May (Convent of Mercy), his sons-in-law, Denis Foley and Tom Kennedy, family friend Elaine Malone, his grandchildren, Ashling, Conor, Orla, and Fiona, his sister-in-law, Helen, his nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, the sympathy of all is extended.



Anthony Prendergast

The demise of a friend, neighbour, a relative, or a work colleague is always a sad occasion, but when the person is a young man, a young family man with three young sons and a young wife, a young active sportsman, the sadness, the dreadful loss, is always more poignant. The death of one of Kilkenny's and Clara's favourite sons, Anthony Prendergast, was one such sad occasion.

A member of the broad hurling-mad Prendergast family, Anthony too had his days in the sun with the black and amber of his native county, or the famed maroon and white of Clara. As a youngster, Anthony couldn't but be a hurler. There was no alternative in the hotbed of Clara hurling, with the Prendergasts, Ryans, Langtons, and Brennans. At his obsequies in Clara Parish Church, a place very much central to Anthony's existence, his parish Priest, Fr Jim Murphy very much encapsulated the hallmarks of what Anthony was, who he was, and what legacy he left to his friends and family.

"Anthony loved life and epitomised love and care in his private life and within his community", Fr Jim said. "His love and

dedication to Áine, his young wife, and to his boys, John, Brian and Ciarán was total and without compromise. His passion and enthusiasm for life was reflected in his hurling, his golf, and in his coaching for our young people in the Parish", continued Fr Jim.

In hurling terms, Anthony graced many playing pitches during his long hurling career. He won his All Ireland senior medal as a panellist with Kilkenny in 1993. He was proud of that, but more so, when in 1986, with his own people in the Clara Parish, they stormed to the only Senior County title in their history. He played all over the place for Clara, even in goal. His forte was the power of the stroke in his wrists. He belted sliothars enormous distances, and it was no surprise that he was in the winners' enclosure habitually in the many "poc fadas" he competed in. Golf, too, was a game that he graced with aplomb. A delicate player around the greens, but again, it was in the art of propelling that little small white ball huge distances that he will forever be remembered. A great squash player, Anthony won many awards there too. He was that kind of sportsman, a naturally endowed player with oodles of natural ability.

With his lifelong friend from Callan, Liam Egan, he started the very successful Fun Factory on New Street in Kilkenny. It was experimental at the outset, but it flourished into a unique, thriving business subsequently.

He was a marvellous worker within his own Parish, tirelessly giving of his time for the cause and development of his own place. He was a member of the Clara Schools Parents Group, who did tremendous work in renovation, and increasing the capacity of the local school in Clara. Anthony Prendergast left his mark, a legacy that many would do well to emulate. He went about his work and play with a permanency about the smile on his face, even in his darkest hour, that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. A light has gone out in the lives of the many people that befriended him during his short life of forty years. Many will miss him, but none more than his young wife, Aine, his three young boys, John Brian and Ciaran, his sisters, Marjorie, Kathleen, and Mary, his brothers, Dick, Michael, David, John, Jimmy, Paddy, Martin, Frank, and Peter, his many relatives, and neighbours. The people of Clara parish, whom he served without reservation, will miss him, and of course the many who admired his contribution and presence on a hurling field, a golf course, or a squash court.

Ní beidh a leitheid ann arís.

Results 2003

Credit Union Senior H Final
(Tom Walsh Memorial Cup)
O'Loughlin Gaels 3-9, Young Irelands 2-12
Replay
O'Loughlin Gaels 2-12, Young Irelands 2-10
Senior Relegation Final
Dunnamaggin 3-11, Mullinavat 1-9

Vale Oil Intermediate H Final
(Hanrahan Cup)
Erins Own 2-12, Carrickshock 1-14

Intermediate Relegation Final
John Lockes 2-18, Bennetsbridge 1-9,

JJ Kavanagh & Sons JH Co Final
(Bob Aylward Memorial Cup)
Piltown 2-12, St. Patricks 2-12
Replay
Piltown 1-11, St. Patricks 1-8

Special Junior H Roinn A Final
(Shem Lawlor Cup)
O'Loughlin Gaels 0-10, Shamrocks 1-7
Replay
O'Loughlin Gaels 2-10, Shamrocks 1-11

Special Junior H Roinn B Final
Carrickshock 1-13, St. Lachtains 0-13

Michael Lyng Motors U- 21 H Roinn A Final
To be played

Michael Lyng Motors U - 21 H Roinn B Final
Clara 1-13, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-6

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn C Final
Danesfort 3-7, Barrow Rangers 0-10

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn A Co Final
(Joyce Memorial Cup)
James Stephens 0-18, St. Martins 3-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn B Co Final
(Ted Carroll Memorial Trophy)
Erins Own 4-9, Thomastown 3-7

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C Co Final
Danesfort 4-23, Glenmore 2-5

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div I Final
Carrickshock 2-5, Shamrocks 1-6

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div II Final
Fenians/Galmoy 0-15, Piltown 1-8

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div III Final
Mullinavat 1-11, Kilmacow 1-7

Iarnród Éireann Minor H League Div IV Final
no competition

Credit Union Senior H League Final
(Matty Power Cup)
Graigue-B'callan 6-16, Young Irelands 0-11

Vale Oil Intermediate H League Final
(Pat Tierney Cup)
Carrickshock 4-14, Erins Own 1-12

St Canice's Credit Union All-Co SH League Final
(Byrne Cup)
James Stephens 2-16, O'Loughlin Gaels 1-11

Bus Éireann All-Co IH League Final
(Aylward Cup)
Erins Own 1-22, Blacks & Whites 2-12

Hennessy Sports All Co JH League Final
Dicksboro 2-11, St. Mullins 0-11

JJ Kavanagh Northern Junior H Final
St. Patricks 2-11, Galmoy 2-7

Iverk Produce South Junior H Final
Piltown 0-14, Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-12

Junior Hurling A League Co Final
O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13, Glenmore 2-10

Junior Hurling B League Co Final
St. Patricks 1-9, Kilmacow 1-5

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling A North Final
O'Loughlin Gaels 4-8, James Stephens 0-9

Iverk Produce Junior Hurling A South Final
Shamrocks 2-10, Graignamanagh 1-5

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling B North Final
St. Lachtains 3-9, Graig-Ballycallan 3-3

Iverk Produce Junior Hurling B South Final
Carrickshock 3-11, Mullinavat 0-5

Iverk Produce Southern Junior H League Roinn A Final
Glenmore Ballinkillen

Iverk Produce Junior Hurling League Roinn B Final
Kilmacow 1-13, Windgap 1-11

JJ Kavanagh Junior H League Div. 1 Final
O'Loughlin Gaels 3-7, Naomh Brid 1-8

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Northern Junior H League Div. II Final
St. Patricks 2-15, St. Lachtains 2-9

Iverk Produce Southern Junior H League Final
Piltown 4-8, Tullogher Rosbercon 1-12

Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup Final
Piltown 4-8, Mt. Leinster Rangers 1-12

Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup Final
Ballinkillen 5-9, Carlow Town 2-15

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn A North Final
Tullaroan 2-14, St. Martins 1-9

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn A South Final
Shamrocks 2-16, Carrickshock 3-8 (aet)

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn B North Final
Clara 2-20, Blacks & Whites 0-4

Michael Lyng Motors U-21 H Roinn B South Final
Tullogher-R'con 2-21, Mooncoin 2-15 (aet)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn B North Final
(Open Draw- No Competition)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn B South Final
(Open Draw- No Competition)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C North Final
(Open Draw- No Competition)

Iarnród Éireann Minor H Roinn C South Final
(Open Draw- No Competition)

Duggan Steel U-16 H Roinn A Co Final
James Stephens 4-11, Clara 0-5

Duggan Steel U-16 H Roinn B Co Final
Danesfort 4-12, St Martin's 2-11

Duggan Steel U-16 H Roinn C Co Final
Blacks & Whites 1-9, Dunnamaggin 1-3

Duggan Steel U-16 H League Roinn A Final
James Stephens 4-11, Dicksboro 2-10

Duggan Steel U-16 H League Roinn B Final
Graig-Ballycallan 1-9, Mooncoin 2-5

Duggan Steel U-16 H League Roinn C Final
Kilmacow 5-5, Blacks & Whites 1-7

Duggan Steel U-14 H Roinn A Co Final
James Stephens 1-11, Dicksboro 1-7

Duggan Steel U-14 H Roinn B Co Final
St. Lachtain's 2-9, Erins Own 2-7

Duggan Steel U-14 H Roinn C Co Final
Mullinavat 2-6, Conahy Shamrocks 0-6

Under-14 H Féile na nGael Final
(Paddy Grace Memorial)
James Stephens 1-6, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-7

Duggan Steel U-14 H League Roinn C Final
Young Irelands 3-8, Mullinavat 2-7

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn A Co Final
(Educational Supplies League)
Clara 4-8, Kilkenny CBS 0-7

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn B Co Final
(Hennessy Fuels League)
Urlingford 5-9, St John's 2-7

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn C Co Final
(Paddy O'Connell , Dublin League)
Ballyragget 3-4, Callan CBS 1-2

Cumann na mBunscoileanna H Roinn D Co Final
(Tedcastles Oil)
St Canice's II 2-4, Clogh/Moneenroe 1-4

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup
H Final (Tedcastles Oil)
(Corn Na Bhaldraithe)
 Clara 4-7, Ballyragget 2-5.

Football

Senior Co F Final

James Stephens 2-7, O'Loughlin Gaels 1-6

Intermediate Co F Final

Graig-B'callan 1-10, Conahy Sh'rocks 1-10

Replay

Graig-B'callan 1-13, Conahy Sh'rocks 1-12

Junior Co F Final

Carrickshock 5-11, Railyard 0-2

Senior F League Final

Erins Own 1-8, Railyard 0-7

Intermediate F League Final

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-9, B & W's 1-6

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-8, B & W's 1-3

U-21 F Roinn A Final

(to be played)

U-21 F Roinn B Final

Carrickshock 4-6, Conahy Shamrocks 0-3

Northern Junior F Final

Clara 2-8, Muckalee 1-7

Southern Junior F Final

B Shamrocks 1-13, Graignamanagh 0-5

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn A Co Final

(to be played)

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B North Final

no competition

Iarnród Éireann Minor F Roinn B South Final

no competition

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn A Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn C Final

(to be played)

Duggan Steel U-16 F Roinn D Final

Glenmore 0-8, Windgap 0-3

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 1 League

Thomastown winners

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 2 League

Danesfort winners

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 3 League

Unfinished

Duggan Steel U-16 F Div 4 League

Graignamanagh winners

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn A Final

James Stephens 1-13, Mooncoin 0-4

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn B Final

Graignamanagh 8-7, Carrickshock 2-6

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn C Final

Lisdowney 2-3, Mullinavat 1-2

Duggan Steel U-14 F Roinn D Final

Young Irelands 1-8, Slieverue 1-2

Duggan Steel U-14 F League Div II Final

Danesfort 2-5, Carrickshock 1-4

Duggan Steel U-14 F League Div III Final

Lisdowney 4-7, Mullinavat 3-1

C na mB Roinn A F Final

(Bertie O'Callaghan Cup/Kilkenny Association, Dublin)

St. Canices 6-3, St. Patricks 2-1

C na mB Roinn B F Final

(Toymaster League)

Clara 5-6, Callan 1-5

C na mB Roinn C F Final *(Tedcastles Oil)*

Dunnamaggin 2-11, KSP 1-2

C na mB Country Cup F Final

Clara 3-8, Rower/Inistioge 2-0

Northern U-21 F Roinn A Final

(to be played)

Southern U-21 F Roinn A Final

(to be played)

Northern U-21 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Southern U-21 F Roinn B Final

(to be played)

Camogie



Senior

St. Lachtains 2-13, Lisdowney 0-4

Intermediate

St. Annes 6-10, St. Martins 1-5

Junior

Emeralds 4-6, St. Lachtains 3-0

Under 21A

Shamrocks v. St. Lachtains

Under 21B

St. Martins 7-7, Windgap 2-3

Under 18A

Mullinavat 2-6, St. Martins 1-6

Under 18B

Emeralds 2-6, Lisdowney 2-6

Under 18 C

Diclsboro 1-1, Paulstown 0-3

Under 16A

St Lachtain's 6-10, Mullinavat 0-5

Under 16B

Windgap 1-4, Paulstown 1-1

Under 16C

Thomastown 5-7, Piltown 2-2

Under 14A

Mullinavat 5-1, St. Lachtains 3-0

Under 14B

Thomastown 3-7, Paulstown 1-3

Under 14C

Lisdowney 2-4, St. Annes 2-1

Under 12

O'Loughlins 4-4, St. Brigids 3-0

Outstanding Results - 2002

Credit Union Senior Hurling League final

Tullaroan 2-18, Young Irelands 2-8

Special Junior Hurling League Div. 1 Final

St. Martins 2-9, Shamrocks 0-5

MI Lyng Motors U-21 Hurling Roinn A final

James Stephens 1-10, Mullinavat 1-4

Under 21 Roinn A Co Final

Muckalee 1-6, O'Loughlin Gaels 1-5

Iarnród Eireann Minor Football A Co Final

Carrickshock 5-8, St. Martins 1-7

Iarnród Eireann Minor Football B Co Final

Rower-Inistioge 3-8 Glenmore 1-4

Iarnród Eireann Minor Football C Co Final

Blcks & Whites 1-7 Graig-Bcallan 1-6

Iarnród Eireann Minor Football D Co Final

Kilmacow 0-7, Lisdowney 1-2

Duggan Steel U-16 Football A Co. Final

St. Martins 2-6, Thomastown 1-6

Duggan Steel U-16 Football B Co. Final

Tullogher-R'con 3-4, St. Patricks 3-3

Duggan Steel U-16 Football C Co. Final

Slieverue 5-3, Mullinavat 1-8

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Country Cup

Mooncoin bt. Carrickshock

C na mB Roinn A F Final

(Bertie O'Callaghan Cup/Kilkenny Association, Dublin)

St. Canices bt. Carrickshock

C na mB Roinn B F Final

(Toymaster League)

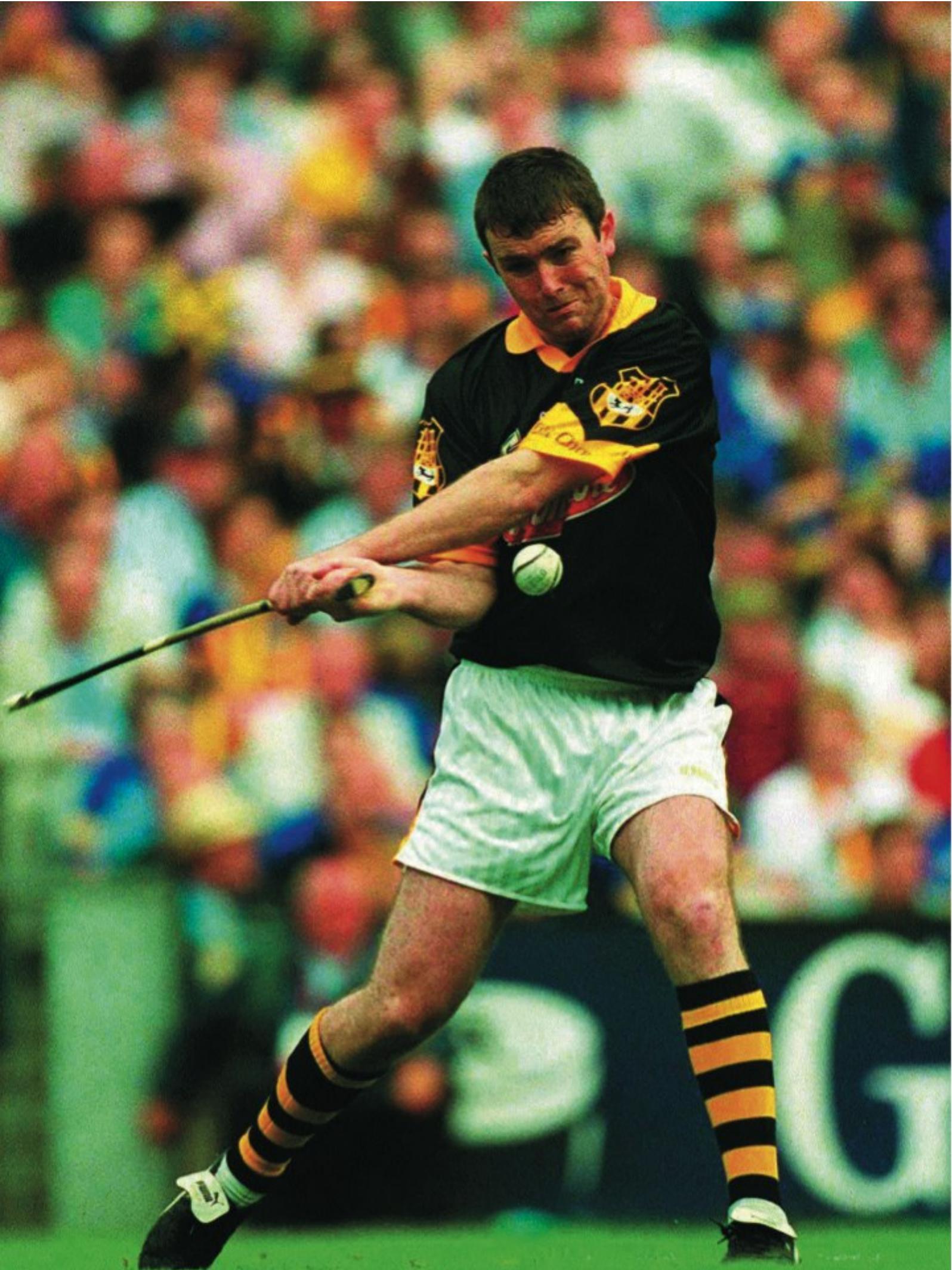
St. Johns bt. Urlingford

C na mB Roinn C F Final *(Tedcastles Oil)*

Callan bt. Danesfort

Iarnród Eireann Minor Hurling A League Final

Shamrocks 4-13, Carrickshock 0-6



Designed for Cumann na mBunscolleanna and sponsored by Kilkenny Supporters' Club

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