

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK

2014



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GAA



KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2014

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Foreword



As chairman of Kilkenny County Board I am delighted to welcome the publication of our Annual Year Book which records in words and pictures the historic achievements of teams at Club, School and Intercounty level during 2014. Pride of place must go to our senior hurling team who won Walsh Cup, National League, Leinster and All Ireland honours, their seventh All Ireland final success during the past nine years. In addition Henry Shefflin became the first player in the history of the GAA to win ten Senior All Ireland Medals while Brian Cody became the first team manager to manage ten such winning teams. Congratulations to all involved in these magnificent achievements. Congratulations also to JJ Delaney, Paul Murphy, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, Colin Fennelly and TJ Reid on their selection on the All Star team with special congratulations to Richie Hogan on receiving the Hurler of the Year award.

Our Minor team also brought honour to our County by annexing both Leinster and All Ireland honours and they too are deserving of our congratulations.

Saint Kierans College created their own piece of history by winning the first ever Senior All Ireland Final contested by two schools from the same county while Kilkenny CBS gained National honours when they captured the All Ireland colleges junior crown. Presentation Kilkenny continued the run of Kilkenny Colleges success with a great win in the Senior Colleges Camogie Final.

Congratulations also to the Rower Inistioge club who maintained on their success in the All Ireland Intermediate Club Hurling Final. Our club championship games attracted large attendances and were very well contested. I congratulate Ballyhale Shamrocks, Mullinavat, Bennetsbridge and O'Loughlin Gaels on winning our Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor Club hurling titles and Rilyard and Thomastown on their successes in our Senior and Intermediate Football championships. The costs associated with achieving the level of success we desire are substantial and we are grateful for the continuing financial support of our Sponsors in this area. I extend sincere thanks to Glanbia PLC, Sponsors of all our County teams, and to St Canices Credit Union, Michael Lyng Motors, JJ Kavanagh and Sons, Iverk Produce, Countrystyle Foods, Kilkenny Citroen and Honda Centre and Duggan Steel

A substantial contribution is also made to the financing of all our county teams by our supporters Club Branches in Kilkenny, Dublin and Kildare, and I would like to thank the dedicated people involved in each of the Branches for their continuing support.

Kilkenny Camogie enjoyed a successful year also with their senior team winning National League honours and both their Senior and Intermediate teams qualifying for their respective All Ireland Finals. While victory eluded them in both games they can nevertheless look forward with anticipation to the year ahead.

Kilkenny handballers continued to be successful this year winning a total of seventeen All Ireland titles while the addition of three extra clubs in the county is further proof of the current popularity of the game. The successful staging of the National Championships locally was another highlight during the year. Congratulations and well done to all involved I am sure that all who purchase this Year Book either at home and abroad will enjoy reading about the achievements of 2014 and I extend sincere thanks to the voluntary contributors who made this publication possible with special thanks to Editor Barrie Henrique's, Chairman Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill.

Seasons wishes to all Kilkenny supporters wherever you are. We look forward with anticipation to another successful year in 2015.

Ber Bua, Slan agus Beannacht.

Eamon O Coinn

Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.



AIB Kilkenny is proud
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**THE TOUGHEST
OF THEM ALL**

Editorial

KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2014

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It would not be an exaggeration to say that 2014 has been a year when legend was created, and history has been re-written.

Let's start with our senior Inter-County standard bearers.

The Walsh Cup was bagged. The National League followed on, and then the Bob O'Keeffe returned to its customary position on the top shelf of the trophy cabinet. And then we had that All-Ireland! Even the new-found superlatives do not do it justice, nor did the number of All Star awards awarded.

Our Minor hurlers were gloriously puzzling. After a diabolical opening display against Dublin in Portlaoise, a dejected following were voicing superlatives of a different tone. But Manager Pat Hoban and friends worked some kind of oracle to whip their lads into a fighting, intimidating unit that swept all before them on the run to the Irish Press Cup. They even had a stand-out claimant for goal of the year when John Walsh from Mullinavat kicked a goal in the semi-final that would guarantee big transfer money if he went on the market.

For the first time in the History of Colleges hurling, two teams from the same town contested the All-Ireland Final in Nowlan Park. In an exhibition that is symptomatic of the greatness of Kilkenny hurling, St Kierans came out on top, but only just, in a cracker of a Final. Not to be outdone, Presentation Kilkenny took over where Loreto Kilkenny left off, winning the All Ireland Senior Camogie title. Congratulations girls. A new President was elected to Comhairle Camogaiochta; a Kilkenny woman steeped in the GAA tradition. – Catherine Neary; daughter of iconic hurley maker, the late Mick.

Our camogie ladies reached another senior and Intermediate finals but came up short against a Cork and Limerick respectively.. The Kilkenny girls "left nothing in the bucket", but they certainly got no touch of the green for their troubles. Beidh lá eile acu.

Our Development squads continue to improve, with top billing going to the all-conquering under-14 Forristal lads.

Congratulations to Ballyhale Shamrocks, Mullinavat on winning their respective County titles and on their ongoing success in the Leinster Club Championships.

Well done to O'Loughlin Gaels on their great Bord na nÓg clean sweep.

Besides the All-Ireland senior win, there were some hugely enjoyable, outstanding moments.

The League Final win over Tipp; Richie Hogan's smashing goal against Limerick; The emergence of quality players like Conor Fogarty (How he didn't win an All Star is beyond comprehension). The invention of yet another half-back line for the next ten years; Richie Power's goal against Tipp (first day); JJ's hook on Seamus Callinan.

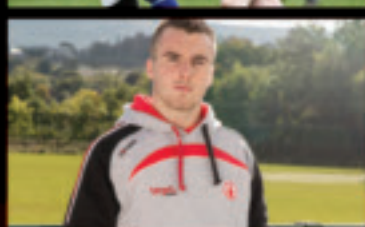
We hope we have captured all and more of those highlights in this our 25th Yearbook.

There are thousands of faces between the covers too.

Bet you can't find yourself.

Gabhaim mo bhuíochas to all our contributors – Enda McEvoy (Examiner), Tony Considine (Examiner), Jim O'Sullivan (Examiner), to our Professional photographers (listed at side), and the amateur team who were so vigilant all year. My thanks to the Officers of the Kilkenny County Board for their courtesy and help. I especially thank the Chairman Ned Quinn, Secretary Jimmy Walsh, PRO Seamus Reade who were particularly helpful and active when requested. I thank all our Advertisers whose contributions are so important in the production of this publication. I respectfully urge you to support them if you possibly can. Finally I must pay due gratitude to all members of our Committee whose dedication, and loyalty to each other have contributed to what I feel is another superb publication. Within the covers of this Yearbook they have succeeded in telling the Kilkenny hurling story of 2014. I am so proud to be associated with them and this work. I don't think that it can be bettered – I hope you are of the same mind after you read it. Míle mhaith agaibh go léir.

Barrie Henriques
Editor



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MOUTHGUARDS



Annus Mirabilis!

The old cats for the hard road

Barrie Henriques reviews
Kilkenny's All Ireland SH Odyssey



Lester agus Liam
SPORTSFILE

WHAT STARTED OUT as a "maybe" year culminated as one of the most historic episodes in the annals of the county, and country. There is now no doubting the status of this amazing Kilkenny hurling team which has smashed all records, enhanced the reputations of hurlers already steeped in hurling legend, and added further lustre to Brand Kilkenny which had been well established over a long number of years. Supporters were curious about the well-being of some players. Was there another barn-storming programme left in the already tired limbs that had more than once gone the requisite nine yards? The disturbing spectre of injuries flashed across our minds more than once. Michael Rice had logged a torrid nine months on the lone road of recovery; Michael Fennell was a worry; Richie Power too was iffy on the injury front, and Henry Shefflin was giving cause for worry. Speculation about emerging talent was well voiced. Word from Freshford was that young Kennedy was in flying early form; Pádraig Walsh was burning plenty of bushes, and O'Loughlin's Mark Kelly was keeping his head down, and still improving. Kilkenny supporters were very happy about that. Confidence was building.



Kieran Joyce rises highest in the replayed All Ireland Final
John McIlwaine

Kilkenny v Offaly Nowlan Park Saturday June 7 at 7.0pm.

Kilkenny 5-32 Offaly 1-18

This match got the overdrive version of PR. In fairness the sell factor had more to do with the game going live on Sky TV-the very first GAA transmission. A big crowd turned up in Nowlan Park, but one suspects that was a consequence of the Television concept more than the attractiveness of the game. The GAA tried their best to bill it as a battle of the Leinster hurling Titans. It wasn't. Offaly were so poor, that one felt that at least four senior club teams in Kilkenny would have no problem beating them. Kilkenny won with a leg tied up. The game was flattened as a spectacle in the third minute - although we didn't know it at the time - when Colin Fennelly robbed an Offaly defender to slam home the opening goal. Offaly tactics of playing a sweeper between the two lines of defence exploded in smithereens. They were to play a more conventional format later, but the horse had gone. At half time Kilkenny led by 2-22 to 0-6. It was extremely pleasing that all but one pointed free of the Kilkenny score came from play. Kilkenny did as they pleased in the second half, even to the unusual point of sending on five substitutes, one of which brought the house down. Tommy Walsh came on to rapturous acclaim. Kilkenny support does not forget its heroes too readily.

Kilkenny scores: Eoin Larkin (2-5); Colin Fennelly (1-5); TJ.Reid (0-6, two frees); Mark Kelly (2-0); Walter Walsh (0-4); Richie Hogan, Michael Fennelly, Aidan Fogarty (0-3 each); Lester Ryan (0-2); Paul Murphy (0-1).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, JJ.Delaney, Brian Kennedy, Pádraig Walsh, Jackie Tyrrell, Cillian Buckley, Lester Ryan, Richie Hogan, Walter Walsh, Michael Fennelly, TJ. Reid, Colin Fennelly, Mark Kelly, Eoin Larkin.

BE READY.



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KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Jackie Tyrrell, Colin Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Joe Lyng, Richie Power, John Power, William Phelan, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast, Joe Brennan.
3rd row: Paul Murphy, Mark Kelly, Geoff Brennan, T.J.Reid, Brian Kennedy, Aidan Fogarty, Tomás Keogh, Matt Ruth, Johnjo Farrell.

2nd. row: Richie Hogan, Kieran Joyce, Conor Fogarty, David Herity, Eoin Murphy, Richie Reid, Walter Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Ger Aylward.

Front: Pádraig Walsh, Brian Hogan, J.J.Delaney, Eoin Larkin, Lester Ryan (capt), Michael Fennelly, Henry Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, Michael Rice.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



*Fighting for the dirty ball - atrocious conditions in the All Ireland semi-final against Limerick.
John McIlwaine*

Subs (used): Kieran Joyce, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Aidan Fogarty, Jonjo Farrell.

Ref: James Owens (Wexford).

Att: 11,841.

**Kilkenny v Galway O'Connor Park, Tullamore June 21, 7.0pm.
Kilkenny 3-22 Galway 5-15**

This was the game that was expected to define many things. How good were Galway? Were they an All Ireland winning team? Would the youthful limbs of the Westerners expose the wearying limbs of the Kilkenny warriors that were at the coalface of raw competition before some of the Galway lads had left kindergarten? After a moderate first half in which both sides went through the finding-out process, it was 1-9 apiece at the half way mark. Galway kick-started their second half with a greater urgency. They led for a while, but the introduction of Tommy Walsh fired the Kilkenny over-burner. Kilkenny looked the more likely after Mark Kelly set up Colin Fennelly for a swashbuckling goal at the 48-minute mark. Canning lifted Galway with an equalising goal from a penalty on 51 minutes. Eleven minutes later Kilkenny looked home and hosed as they led by 3-20 to 2-13. Eoin Larkin, Richie Hogan, T.J.Reid, Aidan Fogarty, and a super Tommy Walsh point were the executioners. But Galway were not for bending the knee. Eoin Murphy made a tremendous save from Canning, but still Galway poured forward. At 65 minutes, Galway were still struggling 1-6 at the tail of the field. Two Conor Cooney goals pulled gasps of disbelief from Kilkenny chests. At 70.32, a Galway penalty was buried by Canning. Shefflin grabbed a point within seconds of the finish. Again Galway came back for an equaliser by Canning. The score against was a worry for the replay. It was a big score to concede.

Phew!

Kilkenny scorers: T.J.Reid (1-8, seven frees); Colin Fennelly (1-3); Richie Hogan (0-5, one free); Eoin Larkin (1-1); Padraig Walsh (0-2);

Aidan Fogarty, Tommy Walsh, Henry Shefflin (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, JJ.Delaney (capt), Brian Kennedy, Kieran Joyce, Jackie Tyrrell, Cillian Buckley, Padraig Walsh, Richie Hogan, Walter Walsh, Mark Kelly, T.J.Reid, Colin Fennelly, Richie Power, Eoin Larkin.

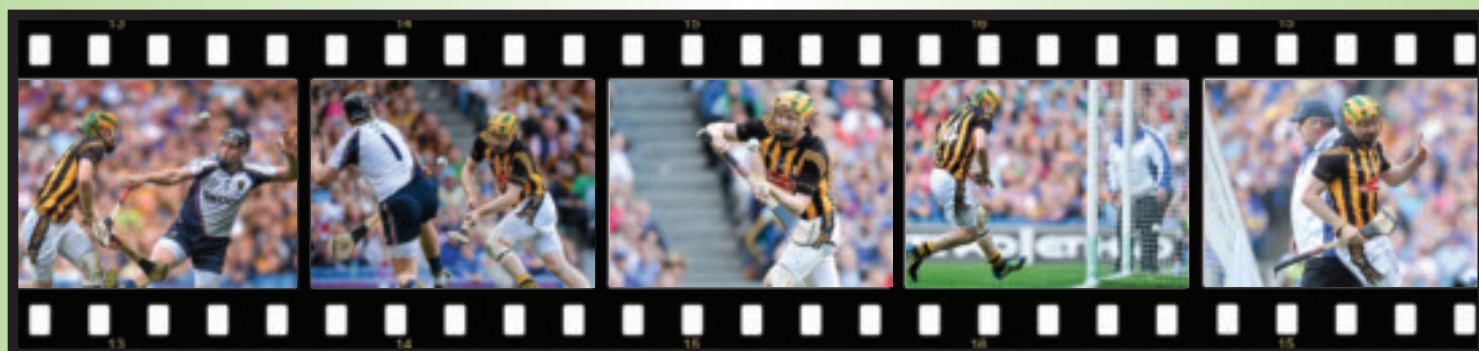
Subs (used): Tommy Walsh, Aidan Fogarty, Henry Shefflin, Brian Hogan.

Ref: Johnny Ryan (Tipperary)

Att: 12,548.

**Kilkenny v Galway O'Connor Park, Tullamore June 28 at 7.00 pm.
Kilkenny 3-19 Galway 1-17**

After the hurling intoxication of the previous week, the hoards arrived in Tullamore in anticipation of a repeat, or even more. They were not to be disappointed. Kilkenny had a couple of changes on the half back line with Ballyhale Shamrocks Joey Holden coming in on the wing, and Brian Hogan manning the centre. Conor Fogarty was to start at nine, while Aidan Fogarty would get cracking from the start at corner forward. From the bell the opening salvoes were horsepower. T.J.Reid and David Burke exchanged early points and then a great win by Paul Murphy switched the ball at Mach 2 pace to Padraig Walsh who in turn released T.J.Reid to register a superb goal. The applause had barely subsided when Jason Flynn balanced the game. This exciting opening was followed by a superb save from Andy Smith by Eoin Murphy to prevent a certain goal. Murphy was injured in doing so, and David Herity came in. A Conor Fogarty point in the 16th minute - a typical Kilkenny score, passing through several hands - put Kilkenny ahead. They were never to be headed again. At half time they led by 1-11 to 1-9. Early second-half points by T.J.Reid, Aidan Fogarty, Padraig Walsh and his brother Tommy stretched the Kilkenny advantage to six points. As the fury continued, with the crowd at fever pitch, Galway closed the gap to three points, but again Kilkenny stretched onwards. A terrific aerial win by Brian Hogan worked the advantage to



*Richie Power's great goal in the drawn final
(Photos: SPORTSFILE)*

Conor Fogarty whose lob was won by Pádraig Walsh. His bomber was too hot to hold for Colm Callanan, and Aidan Fogarty swept the breaking ball home. How often in a glittering career has he done that? It was Kilkenny's to lose. The previous week had taught them a lesson. They had memorised it well. The performances of Brian Hogan, Conor Fogarty, David Herity, Pádraig Walsh and Joey Holden were worth mentioning.

Kilkenny scorers: T.J.Reid (2-11, 0-10 frees); Aidan Fogarty (1-1); Pádraig Walsh (0-3); Richie Hogan (0-2); Tommy Walsh, Eoin Larkin (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Joey Holden, Brian Hogan, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Tommy Walsh, Pádraig Walsh, T.J.Reid, Colin Fennelly, Aidan Fogarty, Eoin Larkin.

Subs (used): David Herity, Lester Ryan, Henry Shefflin, John Power, Walter Walsh.

Ref: James Owens (Wexford)

Att: 17,059.

Leinster Final.

Dublin v Kilkenny Croke Park, July 7

Kilkenny 0-24 Dublin 1-9

It was a good day in the office for Kilkenny hurling teams. Pat Hoban brought his beleaguered minor team to victory over a Dublin team that had previously washed out the Cats in their first round battle in Nowlan Park. Their senior brothers experienced very little difficulty in addressing the champions efforts to hold onto the Bob O'Keefe they had won twelve months previously. Dublin offered stubborn resistance, but mediocre offence. Kilkenny had John Power in to start. Conor Fogarty and Richie Hogan looked like a midfield partnership made in Heaven. Joey Holden looked as if he could be good enough to cut the mustard. The fluidity of the game created more confusion than conviction. Dublin deployed a third something or other to stymie the threat of a Kilkenny tsunami in front of their goal. Kilkenny hacked into that plan, and drilled over twenty-four points with consummate ease. Kilkenny had chances to quarry goals but the primer didn't work. At half time Kilkenny led by 0-13 to Dublin's 1-6. Dublin's plan of working the short hand-passing game, just did not work. Kilkenny were well satisfied to punish from a distance.

Kilkenny scorers: T.J.Reid (0-10, four frees, four '65s); Colin Fennelly, Henry Shefflin (0-3 each); Pádraig Walsh (0-2); Richie Hogan (0-2, one free); Brian Hogan, Walter Walsh, John Power, Aidan Fogarty (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: David Herity, Paul Murphy, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Joey Holden, Brian Hogan, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Walter Walsh, Pádraig Walsh, T.J. Reid, Colin Fennelly, Eoin Larkin, John Power.

Subs (used): Henry Shefflin, Aidan Fogarty, Lester Ryan (capt).

Ref: Barry Kelly (Westmeath).

Att: 32,567.

All-Ireland Semi-final.

Kilkenny v Limerick Croke Park August 10 at 3.30 p.m.

Kilkenny 2-13 Limerick 0-17

Shades of the thunder and lightning Final of '39 haunted Croke Park for this semi-final as Kilkenny and Limerick went toe to toe for a place in the September Final. This was a superb game that tested the core element of competitive manhood. Both sides had to go to their safe deposit boxes of spirit, and courage for their reserves. This was an incredibly tough, hard, unforgiving encounter, and even though Kilkenny got up on the line to win, let it never be forgotten that the brave Limerick men lost absolutely nothing

in defeat. There were so many great things to admire about this game. Goals from Richie Hogan just before the break and Eoin Larkin in the second half proved the difference for the Cats, who were under intense pressure for long stages of a gripping, if manic, game. Limerick hurled up a storm in the first half, but still went in two points down at the break. They were 0-6 to 0-4 up after 17 minutes. Limerick's first five scores came from five different players. Michael Fennelly, who had a superb opening half, was totally at ease with the pace even though he had been struggling with injury right up to kick-off. His brother, Colin hit over three badly-needed first half points. But the zip went from Limerick's play momentarily before the break, and Kilkenny bagged a killer goal. T.J. Reid, who was well marshalled by Séamus Hickey, was fouled by Donal O'Grady, but he managed to offload to Richie Hogan who fired home a terrific goal to leave Kilkenny 1-9 to 0-10 ahead when they went in for the badly-needed break. Limerick regained their composure and initiative from the start of the new half. The rain bucketed down, the lights were on and sustained Limerick pressure from the likes of Shane Dowling and Sean Tobin, added to by heroic defending from Seamus Hickey, Richie Mc Carthy, and Gavin O'Mahoney had the Shannonsiders in front by the 55th minute. Enter Henry Shefflin and Richie Power, and shortly afterwards, yet another killer score floored the Limerick lads. A long delivery by Richie Hogan onto the Limerick square area was flicked home by Eoin Larkin. A T.J. Reid free shot Kilkenny two to the front. A foul on Power should have merited a penalty but the free was tapped over by T.J.Reid. From there to the finish the Kilkenny defence was teak tough. They stood like the Berlin wall, and nothing bar high velocity weaponry would penetrate. This was a game never to be forgotten, played by two outstanding teams.

Kilkenny scorers: T.J. Reid (0-5, four frees), Colin Fennelly (0-4), Richie Hogan, Eoin Larkin (1-0 each), Pádraig Walsh, M Fennelly (0-2 each).
Kilkenny: David Herity, Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Joey Holden, Brian Hogan, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Pádraig Walsh, Michael Fennelly, T.J Reid, Colin Fennelly, Mark Kelly, Eoin Larkin.

Subs (used): Henry Shefflin, Richie Power.

Referee: James McGrath (Westmeath)

Attendance: 45,478

All Ireland Final

Kilkenny v Tipperary Croke Park September 7.

Kilkenny 3-22 Tipperary 1-28

Tipperary had driven the treacherous qualifier route to get to the Final; Kilkenny had managed to stay on the Motorway. Our minors made it as well. They were to face Limerick. The crowds were on the roads early, and expectations of a good day out for Kilkenny supporters were high. The youngsters obliged by four points. Pat Hoban and crew were ecstatic, and deservedly so. Tension was taut in the stands - it must have been vice-grip tight in the respective dressing rooms. Thoughts of a draw were abounding.

Could it happen three times on the bounce? After all, these two sides needed extra time to determine a cracking national League Final. Maybe! This final was acclaimed as the greatest game ever played. The Sky TV audiences Worldwide were staggering. The mix of this match satisfied all appetites. Missed chances, brilliant scores, physicality of a fair but bone-crunching vintage, cardiac arresting moments, stops, blocks, saves, decisions by officialdom, and more. Much more. Twelve times the sides were locked. Tipp went away at the start, but an All Ireland is no sprint. Kilkenny caught them, and set the pace for a while. At fifteen minutes, Tipp led by 1-9 to 0-6 - a tidy advantage. By half time they led by 1-13 to 1-11.

They needed a break.



Photographer John McIlwaine captures the moments when Bubbles takes his free, celebrates, appeals and sees Barrie Kelly call for Hawkeye.

So too did the supporters.

The echo of the re-start whistle had barely left the echo chambers of the Croke Park arena when Mick Fennelly set up T.J.Reid for an amazing goal. Kilkenny by one!

Shane McGrath levelled, and still they were tied at the 48th minute stage. Kilkenny led by four points at the 59th minute stage. They were looking very good. However points by Paddy Stapleton, sub Jason Forde, Bubbles O'Dwyer and Callanan pulled the Tipp lads upsides. And then there was the cold technology of a machine deciding who would win, or who would lose. Like a good Politician, Hawk Eye discovered a heart somewhere, and called Miss.

Hearts started thumping again.

Was hurling ever better?

Up to that point not in my view, and my first All Ireland was Dublin and Cork (1952).

Kilkenny scorers: T.J.Reid (1-8, six pointed frees); Richie Power (2-1); Richie Hogan (0-6); Eoin Larkin (0-2); Brian Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, Walter Walsh (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Joey Holden, Brian Hogan, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, T.J.Reid, Walter Walsh, Richie Power, Eoin Larkin.

Subs (used): Aidan Fogarty, Padraig Walsh, Henry Shefflin.

Ref: Barry Kelly (Westmeath);

Att: 82,179

The Replay:

Kilkenny v Tipperary Croke Park Saturday September 27, 5.00 pm.

Kilkenny 2-17 Tipperary 2-14

There was something surreal about the replay. Maybe it had something to do with the day, the time, lights for an All- Ireland Final, getting out afterwards in the darkened skyline. There was an almost identical attendance despite analysts predicting a far lesser crowd because of the perceived non-attendance of the Diaspora for one, and people not being able to get time off work for another.

I couldn't believe that hurling would be elevated to a higher plane that the first encounter between these two. One was struck by the collective respect each had for the other, when you would probably expect more than a share of the unacceptable fireworks that cloak replays. One would have to feel a tinge of sadness for a gallant Tipperary band who emptied their bags for the pride, glory, and honour of *their* County. Kilkenny were very gracious in victory but Tipp were more than magnanimous in defeat. Kilkenny fixed up their team with changes at half back - Padraig Walsh and Kieran Joyce - and in the forward sextet- John Power. Michael Fennelly switched positions with Richie Hogan, and Fennelly went on to win a man-of-the-Match Award from some media outlets. Henry Shefflin became a stand-alone hero with his ten All Ireland Celtic crosses. Captain Lester Ryan played an on-field part, and then climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to accept the Liam Mc Carthy through the medium of Irish, rivalling Joe Connolly or Sean Óg Ó Halpin. Everything from a Kilkenny perspective was exemplary. This game was even better than the drawn one. Tipp led by 1-7 to 0-8 at the break. Defences were far tighter, and more vigilant. The qualities of blocking, hooking, off-loads, and striking were off the wall. People will talk long hours about the performances of Kieran Joyce, Padraig Walsh, Conor Fogarty, T.J.Reid, Michael Fennelly, Richie Power, Eoin Larkin, JJ. Delaney (and that hook), Paul Murphy, and Cillian Buckley. In years it will be the collective more than individual that will re-focus the memories of Saturday September 27th in the year of our Lord 2014. Better than I have recorded this encounter, but allow me as Editor to say thanks for the memories that the Kilkenny hurling collective have visited upon our lives. We were indeed fortunate to have borne witness to such a hurling extravaganza over such a prolonged period.

Kilkenny scorers: T.J.Reid (0-5, frees); John Power (1-1); Richie Power (1-1, pointed free); Colin Fennelly (0-4); Eoin Larkin, Richie Hogan (0-2 each); Padraig Walsh, Michael Fennelly (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Padraig Walsh, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, Eoin Larkin, Richie Power, T.J.Reid, John Power.

Subs (used): Henry Shefflin, Lester Ryan (capt), (Panel members) David Herity, Brian Hogan, Joey Holden, Brian Kennedy, Tommy Walsh, Aidan Fogarty, Walter Walsh, Mark Kelly, Jonjo Farrell, Joe Brennan, Tomás Keogh, Michael Walsh, William Phelan.

Ref: Brian Gavin (Offay).

Att: 81,753.

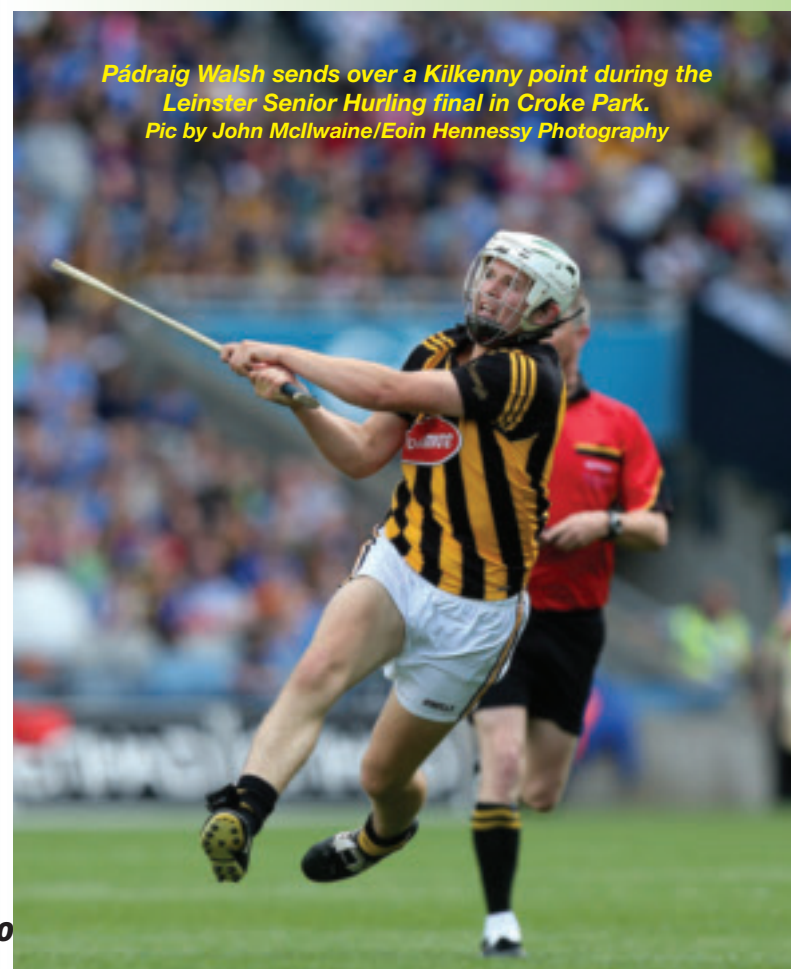


TJ Reid fires the ball to the Galway net to put the final nail in Galway's coffin.

Pic by John McIlwaine/Eoin Hennessy Photography



Hawkeye lifts Kilkenny hearts and breaks Tipp's
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Padraig Walsh sends over a Kilkenny point during the Leinster Senior Hurling final in Croke Park.

Pic by John McIlwaine/Eoin Hennessy Photography

THREE-IN-A-ROW LEAGUE TRIUMPH

Seventeenth Title won in Style



Photo: SPORTSFILE

By Tommy Lanigan

As Kilkenny neared the 2014 version of the Allianz National Hurling League, much speculation grew around the management approach to the new season. It was strange that Kilkenny were not All Ireland champions. What changes would the new season bring in terms of personnel? Supporters looked around anxiously and the perceived wisdom was that there were few new prospects in view. That wisdom, however, did not allow for the possibility that the substance of the 2013 panel would be quite sufficient to sweep all before them in 2014.

The great lesson from the 2014 Allianz NHL for Kilkenny was clear. A new group of leaders emerged from among the established stars. Richie Hogan, TJ Reid, Paul Murphy and Colin Fennelly took this competition by the scruff and we gloried in their swashbuckling style.

Allianz HL Division 1A
Sunday 16 February
At Cusack Park, Ennis
Clare 1-16 Kilkenny 0-18

The League began in hugely entertaining fashion with a trip to Ennis. All-Ireland champions Clare made the perfect start with a narrow but deserved victory over the Cats before 10,125 spectators. With 13 minutes left, the Cats appeared to make a break for the line when Pádraig Walsh, the younger brother of defender Tommy, nudged them 0-17 to 1-13 ahead. However, the All-Ireland champions showed great character with an impressive response in the final 10 minutes. Henry pegged it back to a point in the final minute, but Clare held out for a valuable win after a tremendous battle on an energy sapping pitch.



Lester Ryan, Kilkenny captain
with the League Cup
 SPORTSFILE

Kilkenny - David Herity; Conor Fogarty, Michael Walsh, Brian Kennedy; Joey Holden, Lester Ryan, Paul Murphy; Cillian Buckley, Padraig Walsh (0-2); Henry Shef flin (0-12), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Eoin Larkin; Jonjo Farrell (0-1), Mark Kelly, Walter Walsh (0-2). Subs: Jackie Tyrrell for Fogarty, Joe Brennan for Kelly, Aidan Fogarty for W Walsh, Tommy Walsh for Buckley.

Clare - D Tuohy; C Dillon, D McInerney, S Morey; P O'Connor, Conor Ryan, B Bugler; P Donnellan (0-1), S Golden; Colin Ryan (1-9), T Kelly, J Conlan (0-1); C McGrath (0-3), S O'Donnell, C Galvin (0-1). Subs: P Collins for Kelly, C O'Connell (0-1) for Bugler, N O'Connell for Golden. Referee - B Gavin.

Allianz HL Division 1A 23 February
At Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 5-20 Tipperary 5-14

Kilkenny and Tipperary served up another Nowlan Park classic before a crowd of 8651. The first half was a remarkable game. The Kilkenny defence leaked goals at an alarming rate and at one stage in the first period Tipp had forged a 10 point lead and could do no wrong as they thrived in open space.

As the game progressed, Colin Fennelly became the Cats' hero, scoring 3-5 from play. Remarkably, Seamus Callanan bettered Fennelly's tally, scoring 3-6, and still ended up on the losing side.

Fennelly completed his hat-trick in the 56th minute to level the game and then Mark Kelly kicked home a fifth for the home side with two minutes remaining. The Cats then hit three points without reply at the death to complete a stunning comeback win.

Kilkenny: David Herity; Willie Phelan, Kieran Joyce, Brian Kennedy; Joey Holden, Brian Hogan, Tommy Walsh; Lester Ryan, Padraig Walsh (0-1); Walter Walsh (0-5), Colin Fennelly (3-5), Henry Shefflin (1-5); JJ Farrell, Mark Kelly (1-1), TJ Reid (0-1). Subs: Paul Murphy for W Phelan, Richie Hogan (0-2) for B Hogan, Cillian Buckley for T Walsh, Eoin Larkin for JJ Farrell, Joe Brennan for C Fennelly. Tipperary: D Gleeson; P Stapleton, T Stapleton, C Barrett; S McGrath, C O'Brien, M Cahill (0-2); Padraic Maher, J Woodlock (0-1); K Bergin, P Murphy (0-1), B Maher (0-1); N McGrath (1-3), S Callanan (3-6), J Forde (1-0). Subs: Patrick Maher for J Forde, J O'Dwyer for K Bergin, D Maher for S McGrath, M Heffernan for P Murphy, R Maher for C O'Brien. Referee - D Kirwan.



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Allianz HL Division 1A Sunday 9 March
At Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 2-16 Galway 1-16

The Cats seemed well in control for long periods of the game played in front of 8,496 spectators, but a Galway goal from a penalty ten minutes from the end followed by another four points to Kilkenny's single point reply left a single score between the sides at the end. Kilkenny were ahead 2-11 to 0-8 at the break aided by a strong wind.

Galway mounted a comeback in the second half, but Kilkenny had too much in reserve and held on for a deserved win.

Kilkenny - E Murphy; C Fogarty, M Walsh, J Tyrrell; B Kennedy, L Ryan, C Buckley; G Brennan (0-3), P Walsh (0-3); W Walsh, R Hogan (1-3), J Brennan; JJ Farrell (0-1), M Kelly (1-0), TJ Reid (0-6). Subs: J Power for J Brennan, P Phelan for G Brennan.

Galway - C Callanan; D Collins, S Kavanagh, J Coen; A Harte, I Tannian, Daithi Burke; David Burke, P Brehony (0-1); C Mannion, G McNerney (0-3), D Glennon; N Healy (0-3), C Cooney (1-8), J Flynn. Subs: N Burke (0-1) for C Mannion, P Killeen for J Flynn, P Landers for D Glennon.

Referee - C Lyons.

Allianz HL Division 1A Saturday 15 March
At Parnell Park
Dublin 1-22 Kilkenny 3-13

This was a very entertaining game in Parnell Park, chiefly because both sides needed to win to keep their league ambitions alive.

A devastating burst that yielded 1-6 without reply in the final eight minutes of the first half was the crucial factor in this Dublin win. Kilkenny were well in touch up to this point playing against a strong wind. Despite trailing 1-16 to 1-6 at half-time, Kilkenny hit back with goals from Colin Fennelly and a TJ Reid penalty to pull within three of their hosts.

Dublin ensured the win with four late points to clinch the win.

Kilkenny - David Herity; Paul Murphy, Brian Hogan, Tomas Keogh; Tommy Walsh, Lester Ryan, Joey Holden; Richie Hogan (0-1), Cillian Buckley (0-1); Walter Walsh (0-1), Colin Fennelly (1-0), Eoin Larkin (0-4); JJ Farrell (0-1), John Power (1-1), Aidan Fogarty (0-1). Subs: TJ Reid (1-0) for J Power, P Walsh (0-2) for T Walsh, H Shefflin for A Fogarty, B Kennedy for L Ryan, R Power (0-1) for W Walsh.

Dublin - G Maguire; N Corcoran, P Kelly, C O'Callaghan; S Durkin, L Rushe, M Carton; J Boland (0-3) J McCaffrey (0-1); C Cronin (0-1), R O'Dwyer (0-1), D Sutcliffe (1-5); DO'Callaghan (0-1), C Keaney (0-3), A McCrabbe (0-6). Subs: J Doughan for N Corcoran, M Schutte (0-1) for J McCaffrey, N McMorrow for C Cronin, S McGrath for D O'Callaghan.

Referee - J Sexton.

Allianz HL Division 1A 23 March
At Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 4-22 Waterford 0-14

The winners of the game between Kilkenny and Waterford were guaranteed a quarter-final place, while the losers faced relegation trouble.

Kilkenny ripped a tame Waterford side to shreds in the second half. After a tight opening 35 minutes that left two points separating the sides, the Cats shot 3-15 on the resumption. Kilkenny led by 1-7 to 0-8 at half time. Waterford set up in defensive mode to contain Kilkenny in the first half as Michael Walsh acted as sweeper. On the resumption with Waterford committing limited numbers to attack, Kilkenny strolled to victory.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Joey Holden; Brian Kennedy (0-1), Jackie Tyrrell, Cillian Buckley; Padraig Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-3); Walter Walsh (0-3), Colin Fennelly (0-4), Henry Shefflin (0-7); JJ Farrell (1-0), Mark Kelly (2-0), Eoin Larkin (1-2). Subs: Richie Power (0-2) for JJ Farrell, Kieran Joyce for B Kennedy, Lester Ryan for W Walsh, TJ Reid for R Hogan.

Waterford - S O'Keeffe; T de Burca, S Fives, N Connors; J Nagle, M Walsh, Philip Mahony; K Moran, S O'Sullivan (0-1); J Barron (0-1), Pauric Mahony (0-5), S Molumphy; M Shanahan, B O'Sullivan (0-2), A Gleeson



Brian Kennedy had a very impressive League debut for Kilkenny
Eoin Hennessy



Mark Kelly kicks a goal for Kilkenny v Tipp
John McIlwaine

(0-1). Subs: B Coughlan for J Nagle, R Barry (0-4) for M Shanahan, S Prendergast for A Gleeson, R Donnelly for J Barron.
Referee - J Owens.

Allianz NHL Division 1 Quarter-final
30 March
At Wexford Park
Kilkenny 4-22 Wexford 2-16

Wexford endured a twelve-point whopping from Kilkenny in the Allianz quarter-final at an overcast Wexford Park.

An unanswered Kilkenny tour-de-force of 1-5 near the end of the third-quarter eased Kilkenny to victory.

Within seconds of the restart, TJ Reid shot a fine goal. Kilkenny tagged on points at ease through the second half and TJ Reid's final goal of his hat-trick put the Cats firmly ahead by 4-16 to 1-14 on 52 minutes. The strength of the visitors' hand was revealed in the second-half when Brian Cody unleashed five substitutes, all of whom have an All-Ireland Final Man-of-the-Match award to their name.

Kilkenny - Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Joey Holden; Conor Fogarty, Jackie Tyrrell (0-1), Kieran Joyce; Padraig Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-1); Walter Walsh (1-3), Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid (3-8); Richie Power (0-3), Mark Kelly (0-3), Eoin Larkin (0-1). Subs: Michael Fennelly (0-2) for P Murphy, Brian Hogan for JJ Delaney, Henry Shefflin for E Larkin, Tommy Walsh for C Fogarty, Aidan Fogarty for W Walsh.

Wexford - M Fanning; K Rossiter, M O'Hanlon, E Moore; D O'Keeffe (0-1), L Chin, C Kenny; S Tomkins, H Kehoe (0-1); P Morris, C McDonald, I Byrne (1-8); R Jacob (1-3), J Guiney (0-1), L Og McGovern (0-1). Subs: A Shore for S Tomkins, L Ryan for K Rossiter, P Doran (0-1) for P Morris, W Devereux for D O'Keeffe, E Martin for C Kenny.

Referee - C McAllister.

Allianz HL Division 1 Semi-final
At the Gaelic Grounds
Kilkenny 1-16 Galway 0-15

Kilkenny qualified for the League Final, their 10th in thirteen seasons, with a 1-16 to 0-15 win. Galway opened being favoured by a very strong breeze and a succession of points gave them a five point lead at the interval. In the conditions, it was a precarious advantage.

They drew level ten minutes into the second half and John Power's goal in the 53rd minute proved to be the decisive score. Galway hung in and the Cats remained under considerable pressure. Had Conor Cooney converted a 70th minute 20 metre free who knows what might have happened. Padraig Walsh was deservedly awarded the TG4 "Laoch na hImlirthe" award.

Kilkenny - Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Brian Kennedy; Padraig Walsh (0-

2), Brian Hogan, Cillian Buckley (0-1); Michael Fennelly (0-1), Richie Hogan; Walter Walsh, Colin Fennelly (0-3), TJ Reid (0-5); John Power (1-0), Mark Kelly, Henry Shefflin (0-4). Subs: Lester Ryan for W Walsh, Aidan Fogarty for R Hogan.

Galway - C Callanan (0-1); J Coen, R Burke, D Collins; A Harte, J Cooney, Daithi Burke; David Burke (0-1), P Brehony; N Burke (0-1), C Cooney (0-8), A Smith (0-2); J Canning (0-1), J Glynn, C Mannion (0-1). Subs: D Glennon for N Burke, D Hayes for P Brehony, K Hynes for A Smith, J Flynn for C Mannion.

Allianz HL Division 1 Final 3 May 2014
Semple Stadium
Kilkenny 2-25 Tipperary 1-27 (AET)

Anybody who thought the League doesn't count for much was well and truly dumb-founded following this superb contest. It was Kilkenny's first three-in-a-row of League titles and their 17th in total. For long spells they looked in trouble and trailed by 1-11 to 1-9 at the break, TJ Reid having drilled home a penalty just before the whistle. Reid hit a second penalty for Kilkenny in the 50th minute.

In a tight second half, it looked like a Kilkenny win in regulation time until Tipperary midfielder Kieran Bergin forced extra-time with a late equaliser.

In an incredibly tense finale, and just after the clock had passed into the 90th minute, Reid clipped a sideline ball to Richie Hogan, got the ball back and fired over a stunning winner. TJ's total for the game was 2-11 the goals coming from penalties at times when Tipp were sneaking into substantial leads.

The Cats led by a point after the first period of extra-time and extended it on the restart but Tipperary pointed three times to lead by one after 85 minutes. It was level again heading into stoppage-time before Reid held his nerve to slot the winner.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Brian Kennedy, Joey Holden, Jackie Tyrrell, Cillian Buckley, Michael Fennelly (0-2), Padraig Walsh (0-2), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-6), TJ Reid (2-11); Richie Power (0-3), Mark Kelly, Henry Shefflin. Subs: Lester Ryan for J Holden, Walter Walsh for M Kelly, Eoin Larkin for C Fennelly, Colin Fennelly for H Shefflin, Kieran Joyce for B Kennedy.

Tipperary - D Gleeson; C Barrett, Padraig Maher, M Cahill; J Barry, B Maher, C O'Mahony; K Bergin (0-2), J Woodlock (0-1); D Maher (0-2), Patrick Maher (0-1), J O'Dwyer (1-3); N McGrath (0-5), S Callanan (0-10), N O'Meara (0-2). Subs: T Stapleton for B Maher, G Ryan for D Maher, S McGrath for J Woodlock, S Bourke (0-1) for N O'Meara, J O'Brien for S Callanan, S Callanan for J O'Brien, J O'Brien for J O'Dwyer, J O'Dwyer for S Bourke.

Referee - J Owens.



Colin Fennelly in action against Waterford in the League
Eoin Hennessy



Jonjo Farrell (Kilkenny) handpasses the sliotar as Fergal Moore (Galway) tries to stop him during the NHL in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

“They won't play the game of Selling Newspapers!”

by Tony Considine (Irish Examiner)

I've been approached by the editor of this yearbook, a very persuasive man too, to do a piece on Kilkenny's last All-Ireland senior hurling title. But of course that isn't the full story of Kilkenny's success this year, though it did end there; it started (as has become almost the normal for Kilkenny) with another Walsh Cup win, was followed up with yet another National League title, then the Leinster—in other words, a clean sweep of all that was on offer for them in the year 2014. Not the first time either that they've managed all of that in the Cody era.

Given all that success I often wonder, has this county really got the credit nationally that it deserves, for all that it has achieved in hurling? And I'd be thinking of the media specifically here, or certain sections of it anyway. Far from getting the full credit, I think in fact its often the opposite, there's almost an anti-Kilkenny bias out there.

Why is this so? Is it because they don't court the media? Is it because they don't pretend to have invented the game, that they keep everything so simple? Is it because they're so quiet about their achievements, make no lavish claims, tend to undersell themselves? Is it because we probably won't hear from or about any individual Kilkenny player between now and the start of the new season, in 2015? Is it in fact because they neither talk nor tolerate bullshit when it comes to hurling, that their full focus is on the game, on winning titles?

Whatever about anyone else, this is one scribe who doesn't subscribe to any of the usual criticisms of Kilkenny. I've always been an admirer but over the last 15 years, I'm completely in awe of them. It's not just what they've achieved, it's how they've achieved it, how they've conducted themselves after they've achieved it. Because believe you me, if a lot of other counties had done what Kilkenny have done, are continuing to do, we'd know all about it!

What separates Kilkenny is how they prepare—who was it that said, "winning isn't everything, its the ONLY thing"? That's the Kilkenny attitude, that's what drives them, and that's the only thing that satisfies them—winning. You see it in their school teams but in their minor team especially. Take this year for example. Everyone felt that Waterford had a great chance of retaining their All-Ireland title this year, or that if not, Limerick were the team most likely to take over. What happened? Kilkenny were heavily beaten by Dublin in the first round in Leinster, regrouped, and came back to win not only the Leinster title, but also the All-Ireland, overcoming what was definitely a more talented Limerick team in the process.

But here's the thing. Again we look to most other counties and if you win an All-Ireland minor title there are massive celebrations, the young stars lionised and praised to the high heavens. In Kilkenny, winning an All-Ireland minor is appreciated but no more than that; U21 is the same, appreciated, well done, but that's all. The only one



Colin Fennelly, Kilkenny, in action against Brendan Maher, right, and Padraic Maher, Tipperary. GAA Hurling All Ireland Senior Championship Final Replay, Kilkenny v Tipperary. David Maher / SPORTSFILE



Kieran Joyce (Kilkenny) goes to break from Shane Bourke (Tipperary) during the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final Replay. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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that really matters is the senior, and what really matters there is the team—Individuals are just that, individuals, cogs in the machine.

Look at the All-Ireland final replay this year for the most recent evidence. Tipperary made no changes from the drawn game—Brian Cody made three. Did anyone pout, did anyone protest, did anyone walk away?? And look at the result—the three players introduced, Padraig Walsh Kieran Joyce and John Power were three of the best players on the pitch.

Then look at what happened during the game. Richie Hogan was the unanimous choice for hurler-of-the-year, had been brilliant in the drawn game; things weren't running for Richie in the replay, however,—taken off. Again, any pouting, any reaction? Nothing, one way or the other, just acceptance that what was done, was done for the good of the team.

Does this mean that they're not expert in Kilkenny, that they're not the most knowledgeable, that they're not aware themselves of their greatness? Not a bit of it—they know full bloody well, as you'll very quickly learn in any discussion in any pub in Kilkenny city of county! No, they know alright, but they just don't shout it from the rooftops. Or from a newspaper column. Maybe this is why they don't get the credit they deserve, that they won't play the game off the field, the game of selling newspapers.

Enough about the media side of things, or the negatives. There are so many positives around the success of the various Kilkenny teams over the Cody period, and yes, I mean 'teams' plural. There have been many different combinations, new players constantly introduced. On the sideline also—look at the two guys Brian brought onto the team this year for example. Derek Lyng and James McGarry are two of the soundest hurling people you'll meet, two men very typical of what I've been talking about. Before this year they didn't have any great national reputation and in a way they still don't, but by God do they know their stuff, and have they made a difference!

There were two highlights for me this year and the first involves those two, and the way they've slotted in beside the man who was formerly their own manager. Conor Fogarty used to be a defender and a good one at that, a pacy corner-back/wing-back: halfway through the season, the Galway replay, Conor was shifted to midfield and what a revelation he was, what a discovery! The second highlight is an incident that should be shown again and again for as long as hurling is played, and it happened on the field. It was the All-Ireland final replay, Tipperary's outstanding full-forward Seamus Callanan—who had given JJ Delaney a bit of a runaround in the drawn game—again breaking free, bearing down on goal, a green flag looking an absolute certainty. He had left JJ for dead, got set to take the decisive shot, and what? Hooked, that's what, JJ having shifted his position and his intention; he knew he had had lost too much ground to get in a block and instead, hung on to Callanan's jet-stream and set himself to get the hook. It was brilliant defending but it was typical JJ, typical Kilkenny—even when a cause looks lost, never give up, never beaten, do what needs to be done to get the win.

And all so understated, all for the team. But that's JJ, isn't it? We're talking about media coverage, about maybe the begrudgery that's there where Kilkenny are concerned—look at JJ Delaney, Everyone knows Hery Shefflin now has ten All-Ireland medals won on the field of play, out on his own, two more than anyone else who ever played the game. Prior to Henry, that record was jointly held by Christy Ring and John Doyle, two names that are etched into hurling folklore. JJ Delaney has now equalled what they achieved—eight All-Ireland medals on the field of play, along with Eddie Brennan, also of Kilkenny. Coming up behind those, a host of others on seven, again, all from Kilkenny.

Who were the six best forwards of the last 50 years, from 1964 to 2014? I'm going to make it easy for ye and name four, and they're all Kilkenny—Eddie Keher, Henry Shefflin, DJ Carey and Eddie Brennan. I'm going to put Jimmy Doyle in there with them, which leaves things very simple—now ye only have to name one !!

They're a unique county, Kilkenny, a county out on their own. Perhaps rather than any jealousy, rather than all the criticism (insinuated and otherwise) about their 'physicality' and all such nonsense, maybe people would be better off admiring them, studying them, learning from them, because they are the hurling benchmark, and have been for many years.

And if it ever does become the case that Kilkenny get their due respect, perhaps we'll see a situation where a team that has won everything in front of it ends the season with more All-star awards than a team that won absolutely nothing. Unless of course you consider the Waterford Crystal Tournament counts for something.



27 September 2014; Patrick Bonner, Tipperary, against Paul Murphy, Kilkenny, Piaras O Midheach / SPORTSFILE



T.J. Reid (Kilkenny) flicks the sliotar into the net past James Barry and Darren Gleeson (Tipperary) during the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

THAT WAS THE YEAR.....

WHEN NO MAN WAS AN ISLAND....

by Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

FOR STARTERS, A COUPLE OF STATS. Kilkenny hit an average of 2-23 per match during their 2014 championship campaign. Strip out the 5-32 they racked up against Offaly in the opening fixture and the average was 2-20 a game – still more than respectable, you'll agree. By way of comparison, in the 2013 championship they averaged 0-18 a match. This summer, then, Kilkenny were somewhere between eight and 11 points a better team than they had been the previous summer. And 2-20, while we're on the figure, was their average score per game when winning the All Irelands of 2011 and '12. To paraphrase Orwell's loquacious porcines: 0-18 bad, 2-20 good.

All of which is a particularly colourless and antiseptic way of contextualising one of the county's most dramatic and satisfying title victories ever. It may have been Brian Cody's most praiseworthy triumph; it was certainly his hardest earned. And also the county's hardest earned, ever: seven matches were contested before Lester Ryan at last hoisted Mr MacCarthy a little after teatime on September 27th. That was the final act. There had been several acts, most of them stuffed with incident, before that.

Think of the tumultuous closing six minutes against Galway in Tullamore when Kilkenny somehow contrived to lose a nine-point lead, had Henry Shefflin come off the bench to swing over what looked like a late winning point, then conceded an even later equalising point to Joe Canning. The biblical conditions of the second half of the All Ireland semi-final against Limerick and the life or death struggle that ensued. The sensory overload that was the drawn final. Go back a bit farther and recall the ten goals shared with Tipperary at Nowlan Park in February, followed three months later by a dramatic – that word again – league showpiece won in extra time against the same opponents in Thurles. While we're at it let's not forget Mr Ryan's

wonderful All Ireland acceptance speech, the resurrection of Pat Hoban's minors and even the all-city All Ireland colleges showdown at Nowlan Park in April. A long journey and no shortage of excitement along the way.

And so the Cody story, the Cody's Kilkenny story, continues, and so they continue to confound us in so many ways. On the face of it an ageing team – or to be more precise, a team with an ageing core – needed to go the straightest and shortest route if they were to sample glory in 2014. That appeared to be one of the lessons from 2013, when six games in a short space of time proved too much for them. Yet 2014 saw them play *seven* games and come through them all. Tiring legs? What tiring legs? Critically, these were uninjured legs and limbs; that was the difference with 2013. The difference between winning the All Ireland and departing at the quarter-final stage. The difference between 2-20 and 0-18. It is no slight on the Tipperary of 2010 or the Clare of 2013 to point out that those were the two championships since 2006 that found Kilkenny spavined by injury.

The road goes ever on, as Bilbo Baggins sang. If the four-in-a-row team didn't reach the end of it in 2009 they unquestionably did so in 2010. That ought to have been that for Kilkenny for a number of years afterwards. Had the county gone five or six years without an All Ireland, or even endured lacunae similar to the 1983-92 and 1993-2000 troughs, supporters could not reasonably have complained in view of the delights they'd been treated to during the noughties. But look how it turned out. Five championships have taken place since 2009, four since 2010 – and Kilkenny have won three of them. If it scarcely needs to be said that this represents a signal triumph for Brian Cody's gardening skills – his judgment of which flowers to water, which seeds to cultivate and precisely when to deadhead ageing plants

– it ought to be emphasised, as Cody would be the first to do, that it's equally a victory for The System on Noreside. The system, the structure, the arrangement by which everyone has a seat on the bus and is paying for their ticket.

That isn't just me. Check out this observation by Tom Clarke, the principal of Kilkenny CBS secondary school in James's Street. Tom, who hails from near Templemore in Tipperary, has taught in secondary schools in hurling counties before. He has never taught in one where such practical support was supplied by the local county board. "The help that's given to teachers by Ned Quinn and the Kilkenny county board, the recognition – it's terrific. They're not just paying lip service. Absolutely not. They want to help and they do. They acknowledge the work that's being done on the ground and this helps to make a real difference."

RICHIE THE MAN OF THE YEAR

Veering wildly: a gentleman of my acquaintance from the Kells Road in Kilkenny watched the Leinster final against Dublin from the front row of the Cusack Stand with his Australian brother in law in tow. The latter had never been to a hurling match before but, having played Aussie Rules to a reasonably high level in Melbourne, he had a fair idea of how team sport operates. His man of the match that day? Richie Hogan, who was more or less in front of him for the entire afternoon and who captivated the visitor with his powers of orchestration. "He was managing the whole thing," our Australian friend gasped in admiration. He was managing the whole thing and a few months later he was clutching the Hurler of the Year trophy. Placing Hogan at midfield provided for a more measured approach by Kilkenny in 2014, yet it would be wrong to go overboard on that score given that the Danesfort man ended up doing his



**The Clincher! John Power, Kilkenny, scores his side's second goal of the game.
Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE**

most obviously effective work not there but from centre-forward in the league final and the second half of the drawn All Ireland. Nor did Kilkenny suddenly embrace a full-blooded conversion to the joys of the short tailored clearance, although their deliveries to Colin Fennelly in the second half of the replay were ideal, pitched low in front for him to come out and fasten onto as opposed to driven over his head. (Compare and contrast with the brainless deliveries from the back to a five-man forward in the second half versus Cork at Semple Stadium in 2013.) Which or whether, the question that did the rounds for a couple of years after the 2010 All Ireland final - who was a bigger loss, Henry Shefflin or Brian Hogan? - can now be definitively answered. The correct answer is neither. It was Richie Hogan.

The county's 35th was above all a victory for the strength of the panel. *Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine*, to quote Lester Ryan in his óráid. No hurler is an island, basically. Kilkenny used no fewer than 24 starters, a staggering figure and the reason why they didn't receive more than six All Stars. In 2008 their hand comprised the best cards in the pack: five, jack, ace of hearts, ace of trumps and a host of other trumps. This time around it was a weaker hand; a couple of aces, nothing more. But what it did include was a number of very decent coloured cards, and in the end it was the sheer weight of these good cards, variously deployed at the optimum moment, that won them the pot. Sean Moran of The Irish Times summed it up best when deeming that Kilkenny's hand was "very beatable". The reason it scooped the pool was because Cody, Mick Dempsey, Derek Lyng and James McGarry mixed and matched and finessed so well, albeit not always perfectly.

Did they know their best team at any stage? Quite possibly not. Were they to some extent making it up as they went along? Yes; a nip here, a tuck there, a new midfield duo next time out. But they didn't stop learning en route and restoring Pádraig Walsh, who'd become a victim of his own versatility, to the sector they'd had in mind for him from the beginning of the season proved crucial on September 27th. And one accusation that couldn't be thrown at Cody was that of inconsistency. From the beginning of the season, as if foreseeing that he'd be employing more players than normal, he'd declared that "a settled spirit" was preferable to "a settled team". Events bore out the assertion. Kilkenny had fewer soloists than in previous years but the power of the bassline endured.

The final piece in the jigsaw was Richie Power. The moment he was sprung, at the three-quarter stage of the All Ireland semi-final, was the hinge on which the door swung. Kilkenny were struggling. One overhead touch a few minutes later for the decisive goal and everything changed. There followed two cracking goals by Power in the drawn final, the first of them - a feather-light touch to dink the sliotar over Darren Gleeson and a tap-in once he'd rounded the goalie - a quite astonishing feat of technical virtuosity that was largely overlooked in the rush to praise his second goal. Is there any Kilkenny hurler of the past 25 years, DJ Carey obviously apart, who could have scored that goal? Probably not. In the replay the Carrickshock man fired another fine goal on an evening where he visibly took on the mantle of the go-to guy up front, the Shefflin in the absence of Shefflin, with nearly everything going through him. At long last Richie Power became The Man.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FENNELLY

Just in case anyone doubted it, the summer demonstrated the importance of Michael Fennelly. He was absent for the drawn game with Galway and it mattered; well though the midfield duo of Richie Hogan and Pádraig Walsh acquitted themselves, Galway's late resurgence came about largely because Fennelly wasn't there to interpose his bulk and act as a shield for his defence when Anthony Cunningham's men went straight down the middle in the closing stages. Restored to his best position for the All Ireland replay he was a ground-devouring monster. And it surely didn't escape attention that John Power's goal came about largely because Fennelly came bullocking into the fray just as Tipperary were clearing their lines and sent the sliotar back into the danger zone.

Unsung hero? The obvious choice is Conor Fogarty, who was rebooted as a midfielder for the Leinster semi-final replay and became a fixture thereafter, a footsoldier with a voracious appetite for the hard and unglamorous grind and particularly effective in the first half against Limerick. But what about Eoin Larkin? For most of the campaign he was operating as an auxiliary midfielder, materialising all over the pitch as a cleaner-upper. Then for the All Ireland final - a neat stroke by the management, this - he was retreaded as, well, the old Eoin Larkin, a traditional wing-forward. For 50 minutes of the drawn game he was very good indeed and if he was quieter in the replay he still made a mark with two points, the second of them an improbable effort from under the Cusack Stand that plopped straight over the black spot. Henry Shefflin apart, have Kilkenny had a better decision maker of a forward in the modern era than Larkin, who rarely spills a drop of water? Or one who puts such a high percentage of his shots between the uprights?

While we're at it, three more players worthy of specific mention. Paul Murphy has been a superstar. Three All Stars in four years, and he only lost out on a split decision in 2013. While he might lack a slight touch of Michael Kavanagh's pure artistry he more than compensates in terms of his dynamism. Since 2011 the Danesfort man has brought fresh and willing legs to an ageing defence, doing much of JJ Delaney's running for him. Kilkenny wouldn't have survived the first day against Tipperary without Eoin Murphy, whose reflexes are matched by his command of his patch; there was a small but illuminating incident in the second half of the replay when a stray Tipperary ball came in from the left and was



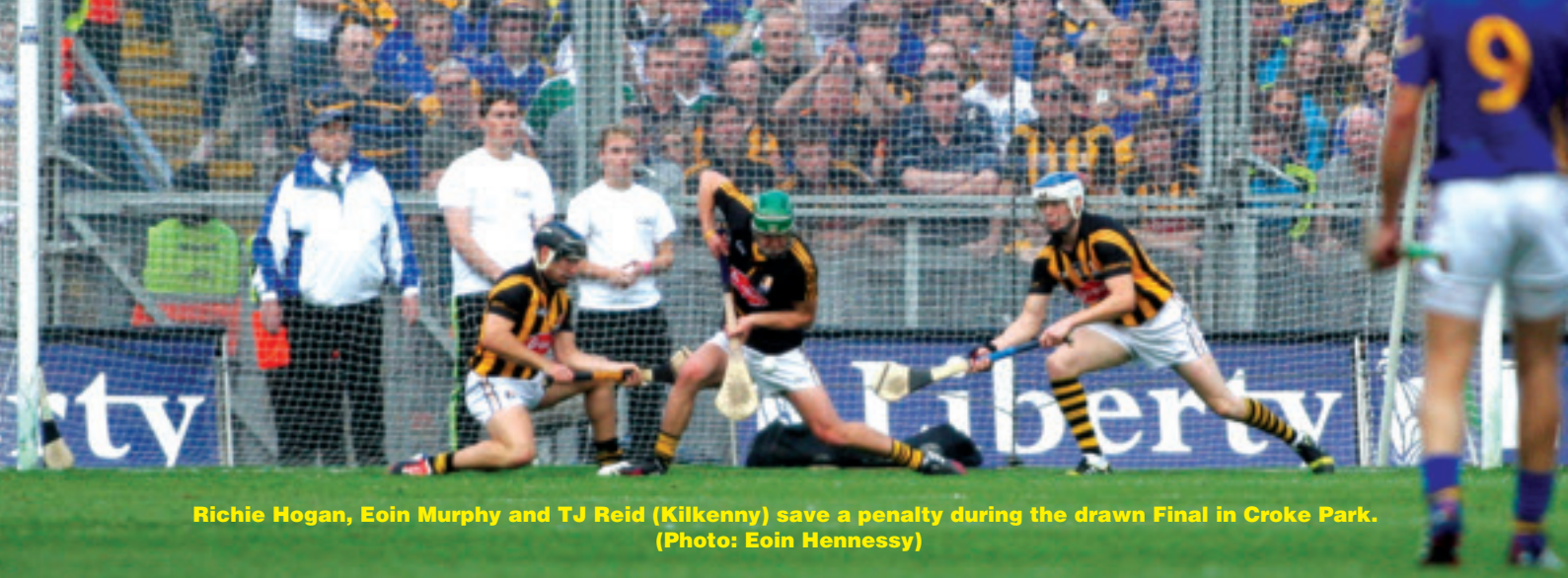
Michael Fennelly makes room for himself against Brendan Maher, left, and Pádraig Maher in the All Final Replay.
Brendan Moran/ SPORTSFILE



Conor Fogarty, Kilkenny, in action against John O'Dwyer, Tipperary, All Ireland Senior Championship Final Replay.
Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



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Richie Hogan, Eoin Murphy and TJ Reid (Kilkenny) save a penalty during the drawn Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

met outside the 20-metre line and lamped half the length of the field by Murphy, who'd read its flight and was happy – nay, determined – to act as sweeper-keeper. As for Colin Fennelly, his running has given the attack an extra dimension over the past three seasons and while cold-eyed finishing will never be his thing, his scoring days have become more frequent than his non-scoring days. If the season didn't end for Joey Holden and Brian Kennedy in the manner they might have hoped, meanwhile, they can reflect that very few candidates pass their first-year exams with flying colours in the Cody School of Hard and Heavy Knocks. The patron saint of this particular cult is Brian Hogan, who took four years to become an overnight success.

Great winners are partly made by great opponents who drive them to new heights. Even the most dyed in the wool black and amber person from, say, Callan or Kilmanagh, the kind who's old enough to remember 1945 and 1950 and 1964 and those other stations of the cross, might feel sorry for Tipperary. Imagine hitting five goals at Nowlan Park in February, taking Kilkenny to extra time in the league final, racking up 1-28 against them in an All Ireland final – and still not managing to record a single victory in four meetings in 2014. That 1-28, incidentally, was enough to win two All Ireland finals: literally so, seeing that Clare and Wexford both scored 1-13 when victorious in 1995 and '96.

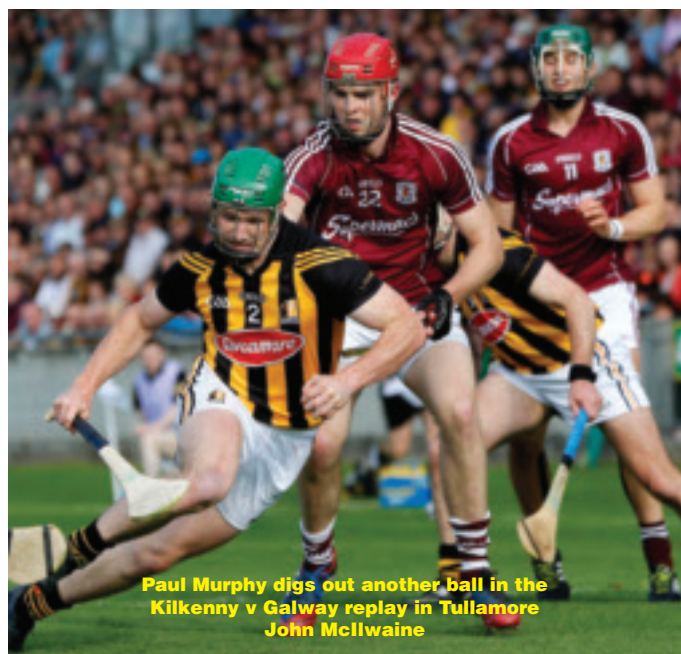
GOOD AND GRACIOUS LOSERS

A few years ago people were moaning about the absence of a serious challenger to Kilkenny, who as a consequence were having things all their own way. Under Liam Sheedy and then Eamon O'Shea the Premier County took up the challenge and responded magnificently. The upshot since 2009 has been three classic All Ireland finals and two thunderous National League finals, not to mention the evening the earth stood still at Nowlan Park in 2013. Those occasions would not have been possible without Tipperary. Their hurling on September 7th, all fizz and movement and lasered passing, was a tribute to the imagination of their manager and the wristwork of their forwards. There has never – ever – been a more enchanting attacking display in an All Ireland final. But second time around the Kilkenny management picked a team to do a specific job, and the sight of John O'Dwyer and Lar Corbett being chased by a striped wolfpack in the opening minutes and blocked down was a view of the writing on the wall. As Brian Cody never tires of repeating, hooking and blocking are skills of a high order too. Tipp have been good and gracious losers, which takes doing, and have kept coming back for more, which has taken even more resolve and determination. If they had a theme song it would, unquestionably, be Chumbawamba's I Get Knocked Down (But I Get Up Again). And Cody may not agree on this one but Eamon O'Shea had a point when he declared after the replay that there were more important things than winning. Remember, Kilkenny never moved closer to their fans than they did when raging against the dying of the light in 2013, and that was despite winning the All Ireland.

In the aftermath of the All Ireland replay it came almost as a jolt to recall that Kilkenny were minor champions. Quite the adventure it was too, from the 2-8 to 0-3 defeat by Dublin at Nowlan Park in the opener to glory at Croke Park on the first Sunday of September. While the reasons for the Dublin defeat may never be satisfactorily explained, what isn't open to argument is that Pat Hoban and his management colleagues acquitted themselves splendidly in getting the wagon back on the road, wheels repaired, pretty quickly. Come the Leinster final the team resembled a coherent and well coached unit who knew precisely what kind of game they were attempting to play. That it wasn't the greatest minor team to ever leave the Marble City underlines the worth of the repair job. Nor does it mean that this particular outfit may not eventually produce a more handsome yield for senior ranks than the county's most recent successful sides in the grade.

Having started with a stat, we'll finish with a question. Have Kilkenny become serial moaners? Whether you agreed with Brian Cody's comments on Barry Kelly, disagreed with them or reckoned he may have had a point but shouldn't have spoken out, there's a growing perception outside the county that Kilkenny are never happy. Part of this unhappiness undoubtedly springs from 2012, when the county didn't make a song and dance over the

injuries to Michael Rice and TJ Reid – and received no credit for their silence. Such wasn't the case in 2014. It wasn't a conspiracy, of course; naturally any former player is perfectly entitled to give an opinion when rung by the papers, and it's not as if they can't think for themselves. But an accumulation of former stars grumbling about referees or refereeing standards inevitably gives rise to accusations that the denizens of Noreside are never happy unless they've something to be unhappy about. It would be nice to hope that in 2015 all Kilkenny's talking will be done on the field.



Paul Murphy digs out another ball in the Kilkenny v Galway replay in Tullamore John McIlwaine



Eoin Larkin (Kilkenny) gets away from Wayne McNamara (Limerick) during the All-Ireland SH Semi-Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Something to tell the Next Generation

Rachel Wyse's First Year with Sky GAA

The summer of 2014 promised much. For lovers of Kilkenny hurling it didn't disappoint. 2014 saw Brian Cody and his team restore order in our hurling universe. And as another winter sets in, for Kilkennys rivals the long dark evenings bring with them endless opportunity to reflect and wonder what must be done to lower the black and amber. A process I suspect which will prove most difficult in Tipperary households. They came as close as any team ever has without succeeding.

On September 7th the perfect hurling storm blew through Croke Park. Eamon O'Shea came to the final with a plan, one his players executed to perfection. Yet somehow with minute's remaining they found themselves battling for their lives to force a relay. This game was an epic. A standout 70 minutes that saw Sky sports viewership in the UK peak. I suspect Joey Barton and company couldn't believe their eyes. Each week the reaction to the Sky Sports coverage of the GAA championship became more widespread. It was clear people who had never been exposed to the games were fascinated, perplexed and in awe of the product the GAA has to sell.

Sky sports involvement in the GAA championship was met with a mixed reaction in places but I hope our efforts over the summer months have provided some reassurance to those who questioned the choice of GAA's decisions makers. We are fully aware of the honour that has been bestowed upon us in broadcasting GAA's championship games and I hope our continued efforts will demonstrate that such an honour is never lost in our thoughts. Personally it was a remarkable few months.

To be included on the Sky sports team assigned to the GAA coverage was a highlight of my career to date and whatever the future may hold in store in a professional capacity the day my colleagues and I were unveiled in Croke park was something I will never forget And it was only the beginning. Starting in Nowlan Park we took to the roads every weekend to find a welcome that was extended by GAA supporters throughout

provincial grounds in Ireland which was personally hugely reassuring.

Fittingly Sky Sports coverage was to begin with the best. A five goal blitz by the All Ireland hurling champions in waiting blew a beleaguered Offaly away long before the half time whistle. With the Walsh cup and national league in the bag the intent against Offaly was evident right from the throw in. Kilkenny were wounded after an unusual exit for the 2013 championship and it was clear it would take a considerable force to stop their march to another all Ireland title.

As the weeks passed we quickly learned

such a force was in short supply. Galway and Dublin had little answers in Leinster. Limerick's physicality in a match played in awful weather conditions set a rigorous examination for Kilkenny's resolution but in the end the introduction of Richie Power's class proved decisive. And so another title was in touching distance. After two titanic battles with the old enemy, Kilkenny once again carried the day. Brian Cody made brave calls in his team selection for the replay, decisions that proved decisive in victory.

We once again saw why he is the greatest manager to have ever taken charge of a GAA team. Victory signified his 10th all Ireland success as it did for Henry Shefflin. Two great Kilkenny men who have led an era of players to heights that will most likely never again be replicated. And just as older generations hold the attention of the young with their tales of Ring or Mackey in their pomp, the privilege will be ours when it's time to pass the gospel about the wonders of

Shefflin or JJ Delaney or Tommy Walsh.

Only years from now will the value of such a privilege be truly known and appreciated.



From left: Sky Sports presenter Brian Carney with hurling analysts Jamesie O'Connor and Ollie Canning, and GAA anchor Rachel Wyse in their studio before the Kilkenny v Offaly game at Nowlan Park.



Rachel Meets Rackard at the Kilkenny GAA Dinner (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

THE MODEST SUPERSTAR

JJ Delaney

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)



Brendan Moran/SPORTSFILE

SO HERE HE IS. JJ Delaney. Eight All Irelands on the field of play. Seven All Star awards. A walking, talking, living legend, albeit a modest one. What should the first question be? Something, perhaps, to the effect of whether the thrill of September glory at Croke Park ever begins to pall?

Delaney starts laughing. He starts laughing because that's what he does when people ask the question. "You can't get tired of winning All Irelands. It's something you're putting so much time into. It's a pastime, a pastime I enjoy. If you're putting so much time into it and *not* enjoying it, you'd have to stop and ask yourself why you're doing it.

"And it's not really the winning. It's the camaraderie. Seeing the new lads coming in every year, seeing what kind of characters they are, seeing them deal with things. You're in the background and you're seeing the work they're putting in. And then there are the people on the outside talking about these new lads, wondering if they'll make it, maybe saying So and So isn't up to it. And at the end of the day So and So proves them wrong. There's great satisfaction in watching that happen.

"Sunny evenings during the summer, there's no place you'd rather be than Nowlan Park. You go in knowing it'll be tough. The challenges you'll meet every night of the week. Seeing how well you're developing. If you're not going well in training it's up to you to do something about it. It's too late in a game if you're getting skinned."

The challenges have kept coming. For the first phase of his intercounty career JJ Delaney was a wing-back. Not the worst of positions to play. There was plenty of action to be seen, plenty of running to be done, but you were on the move the whole time. "A lot more continuous jogging." Make a mistake at number seven and the worst that usually happened was your opponent hitting a great point from 50 yards out on the touchline. You grimaced and you told yourself not to let that happen again.

It's different at full-back. Harder. The ball doesn't always come in so there's less running, but there's quite a bit of sprinting from a standing start. Short, sharp stuff. Left, right, out. And there's no centre-back to fill in behind, not in the way you could at wing-back. Full-back is merciless. "If you take your eye off the ball for a second... Also, there's never three in the full-forward line any more. There's more space, a bigger area for the players out the field to puck the ball into."

What helps keep that eye in is the calibre of the forwards he marks in training and the breadth of their attributes. Colin Fennelly's speed ("and his strength, which is greater than people might think"). TJ Reid's "unbelievable" aerial ability. Eoin Larkin and the way he'll flick the ball away from you. And not forgetting the man with "the whole package": Henry Shefflin. His strength, his pace, his movement. "The way that one minute you're beside him and the next minute he's 30 yards behind you waving his hand for the pass. The pinnacle."

It helps too to have good lieutenants. Paul Murphy and Jackie Tyrrell. What a duo. "You know they're going to cover you. I hope they think I'll do the same for them. The best thing about Paul is he gets out in front and he gets the ball. He doesn't understand playing the percentages. He attacks it, doesn't he?" Having hurled with Tyrrell for so long, meanwhile, both beside him and in front, nobody is better positioned to praise the James Stephens man's "presence, his aura".

Is Delaney sick of hearing about his hook on Seamus Callanan in the All Ireland replay? Another laugh. He's not sick of it but he's anxious to point out that the hook was only part of it, that when the sliotar went loose Callanan had a second bite at the cherry and it was Pdraig Walsh who rode to the rescue and got another hook in. "Pdraig didn't get the credit he deserved for it. He tracked back 40 yards from wing-back to challenge. I think it epitomised our spirit. One in, all in. If Pdraig hadn't got the hook, nobody would be talking about my hook."

Our man had no idea whether John O'Dwyer's late free in the drawn game was wide or not. It was going too high for him to see. JJ looked at the umpire. The umpire looked unsure. Kilkenny lived to fight another day. And to win it. Against the neighbours.

Being from Johnstown, he accepts, it "has to be sweeter beating Tipp". There's no point saying otherwise. What's more, it's even sweeter when Tipperary were as good as they were in 2013. "Great forwards. So naturally gifted. Give them a loose ball and they'll stick it straight over the bar. And all it takes is one little break for them. Had they got one in the All Ireland they'd be going for two in a row next year. Their confidence would be through the roof."

Frantic as the two All Irelands were, the second half of the semi-final against Limerick was even more demanding. That rain. Oh Lord. It was hard to hold the hurley. It was even harder to hit the ball. One high ball that landed Delaney's way in the second half he dropped and had to chase after it to retrieve. From that moment on it was safety first. Get the ball and handpass it to someone. "Managing to clear the ball 30 yards was an achievement that day."

To the million-dollar question. Brian Cody. How does he keep doing it?

"That's the million-dollar..." Snap! JJ ponders. "He's genuine. If he wasn't managing Kilkenny he'd be managing James Stephens."

The image of Cody the great unbending dictator is misplaced, he insists.

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Another day at the Office - JJ arrives at Croke Park for the All Ireland Final replay
Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

"You can't deal with a lad for 12 years if he's going to be barking at you all the time. Anything outside hurling, any problem, ring Brian and if he can do anything to help you he will. The perception that he's ruthless, well, he has to make the calls. But he's flexible. He has to be. He couldn't be there that long without being flexible."

One area where the Kilkenny management particularly excel, he adds, is in keeping training fresh. "We train very hard but rest and recovery is a massive thing. And going into training every night, you don't know what

you're going to do. That's how they've managed to keep it going for so long."

Final question. Best player he's faced? Without hesitation he nominates Ken McGrath during the Mount Sion man's attacking incarnation. "He had everything. Physique, both sides, the ability to double on the ball in the air. Could play anywhere. He brought lads around him up to his level by inspiring them. One lad you'd have loved to transfer to Kilkenny."

Kilkenny never had Ken McGrath. But they did have JJ Delaney.

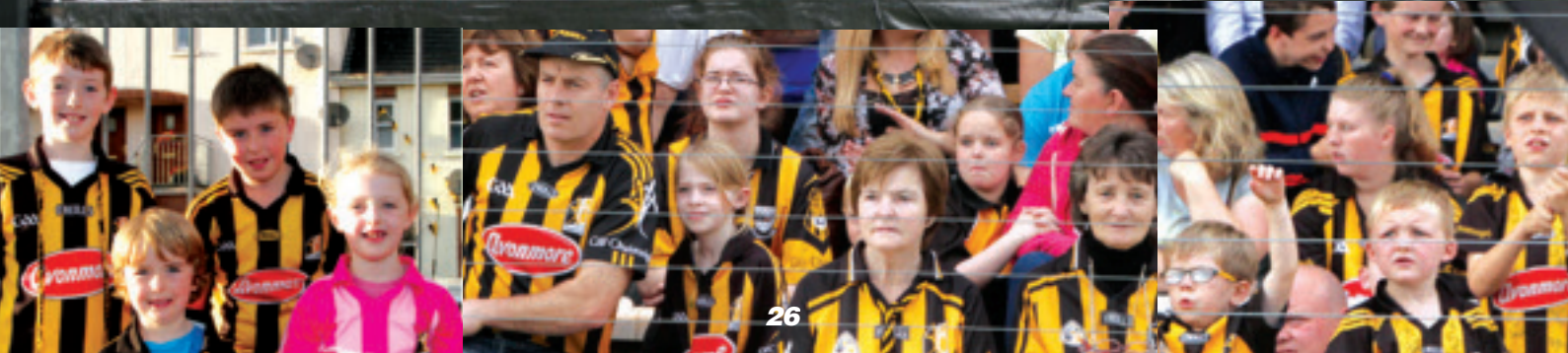
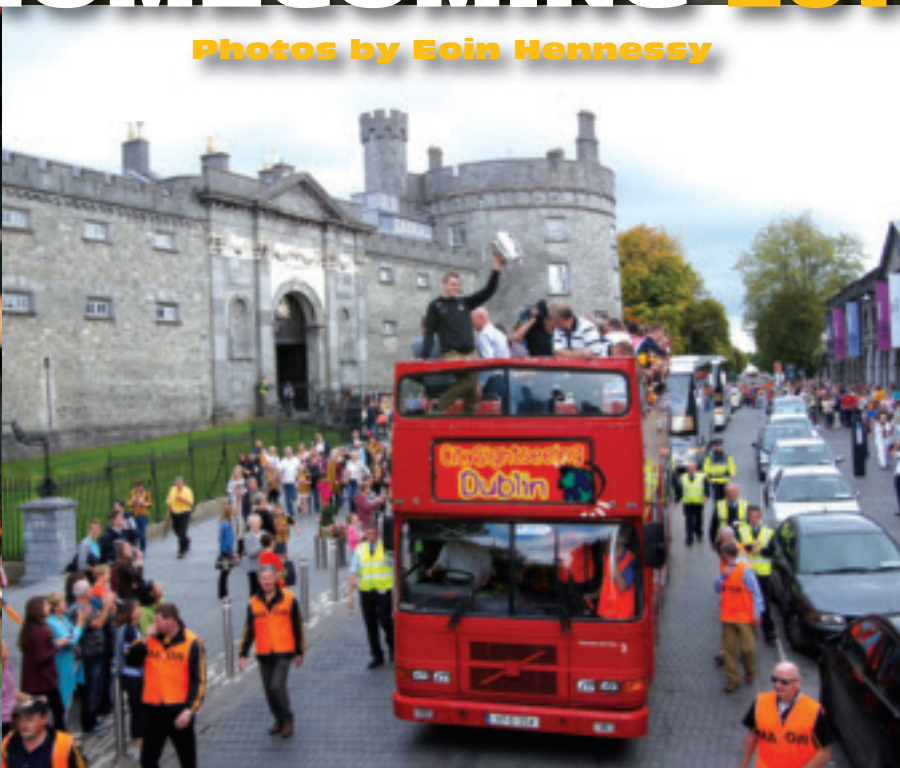


THE HOOK! - JJ's crucial hook on Seamus Callanan in the All Ireland Final Replay
John McIlwaine



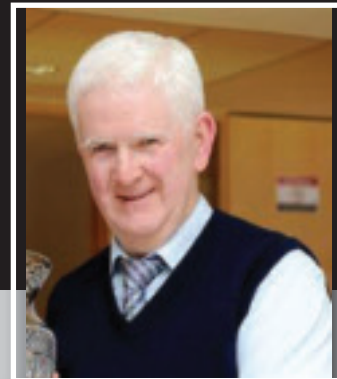
HOMECOMING 2014

Photos by Eoin Hennessy



"We have a great set-up. It works."

Jim O'Sullivan, former GAA Correspondent, Irish Examiner



SO, who else is in the running for the designation as the most successful inter-county manager in GAA history? We suspect that Kilkenny people have their mind made up about Brian Cody and that's not today or yesterday! And, not unexpectedly, he has decided to continue his involvement, so we can expect more magic and further glory for the county.

I have always shied away from nominating 'the best ever' (whether it be hurler, footballer, team or manager) whenever I have been asked. And I wouldn't be qualified to say that Brian Cody is a better manager than someone like Fr. Tommy Maher, profiled as 'The Godfather of Modern Hurling' by leading writer Enda McEvoy in his book.

However, it would have to be acknowledged that what Cody has achieved as Kilkenny manager since his appointment in late 1998 – after the embarrassment of the All-Ireland final defeat to the Offaly team they had beaten in the Leinster final – is without parallel. At the very least, it entitles him to be the leading contender, in the company of giants of the game like Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan. And who is to say what more he can achieve!

Former Clare captain and ex-Dublin manager Anthony Daly nailed his colours to the mast in his recently published autobiography when he says: "Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan are GAA legends, but to me Cody is the greatest GAA manager of all time."

Against the background of his tenth All-Ireland success this year, it's interesting to recall comments he made in an interview the morning after the 2002 All-Ireland win over Clare. The feeling beforehand was that Kilkenny hurling had reached a crossroads and at a personal level Cody had arrived at a critical stage in his managerial career.

Remember, Kilkenny had been well beaten by Galway in the 2001 semi-final by Galway. Admitting that the defeat had 'hurt' him and the players, he commented: "I asked myself if I was going to continue.

And, if I was, it was going to be absolutely do-or-die. In the aftermath of the 2000 final I would say that, subconsciously, I allowed all of our standards to drop a little. And, I took that as my responsibility to make sure those standards were raised again.

"As I saw it, we were at the crossroads with Kilkenny hurling and with this Kilkenny team and there were only two ways we could go – up or down...."

From a stage where they were faced by the possibility of losing three finals in consecutive years when they opposed Offaly in the 2000 final (Cody's second in charge and his first victory), Kilkenny got over the 'hump' of losing to Galway in the semi-final the following year to be in line for a treble of title wins after overcoming Clare in 2002 and Cork in 2003. But a year later, that result was reversed by the Rebels (now on a firmer footing after the first player strike in 2002).

Statistically, Cork's 2004 success (when they were captained by Ben O'Connor) put them one title ahead in the Roll of Honour (29/28) and, after Kilkenny were again knocked out by Galway in the 2005 semi-final, Cork went on to gain what proved to be their last win, (this time captained by Séan Óg Ó hAilpín). The counties were again level two years later, but in the interim period Kilkenny have surged ahead –

currently enjoying a five-title advantage (35/30). Intriguingly, this amounts to nine more than the Premier County.

In his own autobiography Cody revealed that he had never envisaged managing Kilkenny – being the preferred choice of a three-man committee set up by the County Board to find a replacement for Kevin Fennelly. Up to then, he had been with the James Stephens senior team and, by his own admission, his period in charge 'hadn't exactly been a spectacular success.'

Elaborating, he wrote: "in stark, blunt terms you could say that my years as The Village manager had been a failure – certainly when it came to winning trophies – so there was no obvious reason why County Chairman John Healy or the rest of the Board would look in my direction....."

John Healy was succeeded as Chairman by Ned Quinn (again at the helm after a spell as Secretary) and he has observed Cody at close quarters for the duration of his managerial career. His belief is that a failure to lead the Village to a county title during his involvement masked his undoubted leadership qualities.



Four just men! Brian Cody, Mick Dempsey, Derek Lyng and James McGarry who steered Kilkenny to their 35th title.
John McLwaine

"In leadership - and being a good leader of men - sometimes you don't always win," he commented.

"I suppose his real leadership was revealed as a player. I can remember him playing from under-14 and he was always the main man on the respective James Stephens teams at under-age.

"They won every championship from under-14 up to under-21 and he would have been the main man at centre-back on all of those teams. He was captain of the Kilkenny minor team that won an All-Ireland, outstanding at

centre-back on an under-21 team which won, captain of St. Kieran's College when they won the All-Ireland and he captained Kilkenny as a player to win the League and All-Ireland as well.

"Leadership qualities as a player better explain his success as a manager than what he might have done at club level"

From Quinn's perspective, the success Kilkenny have enjoyed since 2000 is principally explained by two factors, one being Cody's 'absolute honesty with players.' "He applies the same rules to everybody, in other words team selection is based solely on the training pitch," he explained. "And it has been, all down the 16 years he has been involved. The second – more important – thing is that he has this amazing ability to get players to play to their maximum!" Cody himself has always acknowledged the work done in the clubs and the schools in terms of what outsiders would see as the 'conveyor belt' of always having talented players around. Quinn concurs, saying: "that has always been the case. But, we have never had an era like this. You couldn't have envisaged what subsequently happened since he came in as manager.

"Remember we hadn't won an All-Ireland since 1993. Brian came in effectively in 1999. We had been beaten in the previous year's final but we hadn't won an All-Ireland since '93.

"We won the Leinster title in 1998, but none in 1994, 95, '96 or '97 - and we hadn't won at minor or under-21 level. So, there was nothing rational that you could base an assumption on that he would achieve what he went on to achieve. And back then nobody could possibly envisage a person staying for 16 years."

Another feature of his management approach has been his readiness to change around selectors (four times in all). In the initial stages, he worked with Johnny Walsh and Ger Henderson and after Henderson had to opt out because of work commitments, Noel Skehan was drafted in.

Former Laois football manager Michael Dempsey – still involved – was part of a new set-up which also involved Martin Fogarty and when he moved on, former players James McGarry and Derek Lyng came on board.

"Brian has always been open to new ideas and new ways of doing things," added Quinn. "He places great emphasis on the management teams and has always paid great credit to them."

Modestly, Cody says there is 'no magic' to Kilkenny's recent dominance, as he pointed out in an interview after the 2009 victory over Waterford. Acknowledging that he worked 'with great people in the background, he said: "at the end of the day I will forever be saying this, it is not possible to put something into place that's not already there – the drive, the ambition to be as successful as you possibly can."

"We have a great set-up. It works. It just goes ahead. It's not dependant on me, it's dependant on everybody just doing their own bit. Essentially it's down the line what's being done - the structures, the clubs, the parents and the families. Players start hurling at home. That's the key to it, the love of hurling.

It's not about 'sorts of brainwaves' and mad coaching directives.

"Give a fellow the chance to get out and play and give him the love of the game. It'll go a long way. The work being done in the clubs and the schools is immense and Kilkenny are reaping the rewards."

Something interesting happened after that final, when Cody was RTE's choice as 'man of the match.' He joked that receiving the award made up for the times 'he should have got it and didn't get it' during his playing career.

Looking in from the outside, you only have to think back to this year's All-Ireland final replay to be reminded of his shrewdness as a manager, his innate ability to analyse games

and identify problem areas – to the extent that it's almost a rarity for Kilkenny to field the same fifteen in consecutive games.

Remember how the Tipperary ran up that huge score of 1-28 (and would have won only for Hawk-Eye ruling that John O'Dwyer's injury time free was 'wide') and how so many of their players scored from a variety of angles and distances. Identifying the problem areas, the solution he came up with was simple in theory and massively successful in its execution.

He made those three changes in personnel, bringing in Padraig Walsh, Kieran Joyce and John Power. It was a master stroke - Cody at his brilliant best. And a gifted group of players delivering for him!



25 July 1982, Brian Cody Kilkenny in action against Mark Corrigan Offaly, Leinster Hurling Final. Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

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“As Good a Year as I could have asked for”

Richie Hogan

By Kieran Cuddihy



2014 is a year that Richie Hogan is unlikely to forget. It brought him his sixth All Ireland title, his second All Star award and of course the prize given to the player regarded as the best hurler in the country.

In October, he became the seventh player from Kilkenny to be crowned the GAA-GPA Hurler of the Year. For the still young Danesfort player, the honour topped off an incredible year.

“It was as good a year as I could have asked for really. In terms of the Player of the Year think, it was funny. I was just trying not to think about it. People kept asking me about it though so you end up having to talk about it. And actually looking back now, I think I would have been gutted not to win it after realising that I was favourite.”

“It’s not that I care about individual awards like that, winning the All Ireland was the main achievement this year, but it is nice to look back at the names of the some of the previous winners of the award and realise your name is there too now. It’s a privilege really.”

Born on the 8th August 1988, Richie Hogan is in fact a second-cousin of DJ Carey. Hardly a close enough connection to guarantee greatness but enough for people to perhaps pay you a little more attention.

An instrumental player in the recent successes of Danesfort, it was never written in the stars that he would in fact play for the club. His father Sean is from neighbouring John Locke’s and Liz, his mother is a Bennettsbridge native. In fact, his grandfather played on the great ‘Bridge teams of the 1960s and 1970s that won 11 county titles in 19 years.

Given his family connections, he was sent to school in Bennettsbridge and that is where his hurling career began in earnest.

“I played there up until I was 12. I loved it there too. You see with my grandparents living there, we would be around all the time and up there at the pitch pucking around so it was just the natural thing then to play with them.”

Of course, the parish rule would prove to deny the ‘Bridge the services of Richie. Not long before his 13th birthday, he lined out for the first time with Danesfort.

“I wasn’t happy about moving to Danesfort if I’m honest, not straight away. I wanted to stay where I was, that’s where my friends were playing. But then I started in Kieran’s and a fair few Danesfort fellas were in there and

I got friendly with them and that made it all easier in the end.”

“I would still have an awful soft spot for Bennettsbridge. I go to a lot of their games and I was delighted to see them winning the Junior recently. I’ll always wish them well. They’re coming strong too and have some good underage players so hopefully they can keep progressing.”

At this point, the story of Richie Hogan takes a familiar turn. St Kieran’s College has nurtured and developed more Kilkenny hurlers than any other school. Of the current senior panel, 20 went to Kieran’s and 15 of the minor panel are past or present students in the school.

Richie credits his teachers and mentors in Kieran’s with developing his own talents and style of play.

“I had some great mentors there in Kieran’s. I would have been under Tom Hogan and John Quann but I also trained with Adrian Finan, John O’Keefe and a few others. It was the making of a lot of hurlers, the training in Kieran’s. When I look back now maybe it feels a little tame but at the time it was as close to professional as you could get in school’s hurling.”

“We used to run in the Castle Park three lunchtimes per week, then we’d train after school on another two evenings and we’d have matches on top of that. And it wasn’t just a few lads in a field picking a ball around and having a laugh. It was good fun but it was savage training.”

“At the time really you’re only thinking about yourselves but now I realise the effort the teachers were putting in. Most of us had nothing better to do and were happy to be doing all that training but the teachers had to take all that on too. When you think of the effort that they were putting in, sure it’s no accident that they’ve been so successful. We were lucky that we won a college’s All Ireland when I was there too.”

Around the time he was tasting success with Kieran’s, his club career was also beginning to take off.

Founded in 1922, Danesfort CLG tasted success in their early years. Kilkenny Junior Champions in 1925 and 1930, they won the Intermediate grade in 1931. This was however, to prove their last notable victory for some 75 years.

2006 brought the drought to an end and an 18 year old Hogan played a big part. Danesfort defeated Tullogher-Rosbercon in the Junior County Final to kick start a run that would lead them to Croke Park the following spring.

“The county final was great to win obviously but it was probably more important for some of the older players. Myself and Paddy (his brother) and a few others and won things underage and maybe we were a bit more used to success. But there was lads there on that panel in their late 30’s and they had been around the club their whole lives and won nothing. So for them, it was just huge. There was also a sense of relief looking back now, that we had eventually won it.”

The Leinster Club title was secured after victory over Knockbridge. This set up a semi final clash with Kilworth down in Dungarvan which was won by the narrowest of margins and guaranteed the club a day in GAA HQ.

“In some ways, the run up to the All Ireland was tougher than the match itself. In particular the semi final against Kilworth. They were a very strong team and we just about got by.”

The opposition in Croke Park were Clooney Gaels from Antirm. Thanks in large part to a haul of 1-6 for Richie, Danesfort came out on top by 8 points.

“Winning an All Ireland at Junior or even Intermediate is really all about the club more than the team. For the team, the main thing was winning in Kilkenny and moving up a grade, that’s what you want as players. Getting to Croke Park is just sort of a bonus really but for the wider club, it’s just a huge day. There is a great buzz all around the place in the weeks up to it and whether you win or lose a game like that, people will always remember seeing the club play in Croke Park.”

Four years later, the club earned their place at the top table of club hurling in Kilkenny when they won the Intermediate county championship. Initially, the step up came as a rude awakening.

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Richie Power's great goal in the drawn final
(Photos: SPORTSFILE)

Richie Hogan (Kilkenny) in mid air after striking the sliotar with Paudie O'Brien (Limerick) closing in during the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Semi Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

"We played Ballyhale in our first game senior so it was in at the deep end all right. We actually did well in that game, we only lost by a few points and thought it set us up well for the next few games. Each game though was brutally tough. Despite playing well, we had zero points after five games."

"I think we realised that in Senior, there is savage competition for points in every game. You can't coast it at all, like maybe you could in the odd match at Intermediate or Junior."

"But we've improved a lot since and we have some good minors and other young lads coming through so the aim over the next few years is to become stable in Senior. We want to start every year not worrying about relegation, instead we want to be looking forward. That's the plan at the moment for the club."

While he was navigating through the ranks of Kilkenny hurling with his club, Richie was beginning to make a name for himself on the intercounty scene.

A member of the minor panel in 2004, Richie scored the equalising point in the drawn All Ireland final with Galway. The Tribesmen won the replay but there was silver lining for Hogan when he was named Minor Hurler of the Year ahead of Kerril Wade.

"Br Damian was over us that year and there was a great atmosphere in the

team. He put in such hard work that the players kind of felt bad if they didn't do the same. When you're that age then your life begins to revolve around it all and it's great. We lost the replay which was disappointing but there was nothing expected of that minor team so we did well to get that far."

Three years later, with one under 21 All Ireland already in his back pocket, Richie was called in to the Kilkenny panel by Brian Cody. By the time another three years had passed, he had secured three Celtic Crosses.

Three more again have since been added, with Richie playing a bigger role with each passing year. In the drawn game against Tipperary this year, he scored six points and was awarded the Man of the Match award. In the replay, he was substituted in the second half but has no regrets about the day.

"I wasn't playing well to be honest so I'm not too concerned about the fact that I came off. Over the course of the two days, I did well on balance and played my part so that's the main thing. As soon as it's over and you're All Ireland champions, you don't really care how you played yourself. It's all about the final result, that's all."

Six Senior All Ireland titles, three National Leagues, two All Stars and now a Hurler of the Year Award. It's hard to believe he's only 26.



Richie takes the field against Limerick
John McIlwaine



7 All Ireland Senior medals,
8 Leinster Senior medals,
6 National League medals
4 Walsh Cup medals
All Star 2011 and 2012.

BRIAN HOGAN

Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

5 All Ireland Senior medals
5 Leinster Senior medals
5 National Hurling League medals
3 Walsh Cup medals.



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Tús Lag - Críoch Láidir

Minors get it right in the end

By Kieran Cuddihy

Kilkenny Management team, Pat Nolan, Pat Hoban (Manager), Sean Kelly and James Meagher show their joy on winning the Final

John McIlwaine

The Kilkenny minor hurling team secured their 21st All Ireland title in 2014, a feat made all the more remarkable given their inauspicious start to the championship just over four months earlier.

On the 26th of April, Pat Hoban's wards took the field in Nowlan Park to face Dublin in the opening round of the Leinster Championship. Nobody could have predicted the outcome. In wet and windy conditions, the home side registered just three solitary points. At the final whistle, Dublin were winners on a scoreline of 2-3 to 3 points.

Even the most fervent fans of the black and amber would have been forgiven for assuming that this would not be a vintage year for minor hurling in the county but importantly, the players and mentors were undeterred.

A visit to the team by County Board Chairmen Ned Quinn also played its part in the revival.

"I just spoke to them for a few minutes and what I was getting across was that in life you are always involved with some sort of group. And you have responsibilities to group. You can't just think about yourself, you have to think about all those around you. I knew we had to get tighter as a group. If we did, I had full faith in them. We knew from colleges and under 14 and under 16 that they were talented. It was just a matter of getting it right."

Having regrouped, they firmly set their sights on near neighbours Carlow. Just two weeks after the heavy defeat to Dublin, they managed to put 3-22 on the score board. 2-9 of that came from the stick of Glenmore's Alan Murphy, setting a trend that would continue right through until early September. The final score was 3-22 to 0-7.



Kilkenny Captain Darragh Joyce lifts the All Ireland Minor Hurling Cup.
John McIlwaine

Playing with a slight breeze, Kilkenny pulled ahead again thanks to scores from Alan Murphy, Liam Blanchfield and Conor Browne. Laois refused to give up and by half time there were just four points in the game.

Playing with the breeze in this half, Laois began brightly, reducing the deficit to just two points. The turning point of the game came just moments later however when Alan Murphy put the ball in the back of the Laois net. From there on in, Kilkenny refused to surrender control of the game. Despite the home side clawing it back to a three point game with 10

A much sterner test was to follow at O'Moore Park in Laois in the provincial semi-final. Luke Scanlon opened the scoring on the day in the first minute of the game but any notion that Kilkenny may have had that this would be a repeat of their previous game was quickly dispelled as two quick frees from the home side put them in front.

minutes to go, Kilkenny ran out victors by 1-21 to 0-16 to give the Cats a Leinster final showdown in Croke Park with Dublin on July 6th.

And for manager Pat Hoban, the chance to avenge the earlier defeat provided great motivation. "We were looking forward to it. We had a few matches under our belt at this stage and a lot more training so we were confident going into it. To be honest, the Laois tie was a very important game in that regard. It really set us up for the Dublin game. Laois had been to the Leinster final the previous year and had high hopes for that team so beating them gave us every confidence."

Kilkenny fans who had attended the game in April could scarcely have believed they were looking at the same two teams. A little over two months earlier, Kilkenny had managed to score only three points over the course of 60 minutes. Here in Croke Park, they were a team transformed and by the 20th minute, found themselves 1-5 to 0-1 up, thanks to a goal from the Bennettsbridge full forward, Liam Blanchfield.

A short rally from the Dubs had reduced the gap by half time to four points but Kilkenny again started brightly in the second half. Alan Murphy maintained his deadly accuracy and Blanchfield found the net again in the 43rd minute to all but end the game as a contest.

Dublin sub Eoin Ó Conghaile sprang from the bench to score 1-2 in the final stages to put a more even gloss on the final outcome but the result had never looked in doubt. 2-19 to 2-10 meant that Kilkenny had secured their 55th Leinster crown and set up a semi-final with defending All Ireland champions, Waterford.

It was Waterford who dumped Kilkenny out of



Kilkenny - All Ireland MH champions 2014 (Photo Willie Dempsey)

Back: Liam Hennessy, Alan Murphy, Ronan Corcoran, Pat Lyng, Tommy Walsh, Cathal Mc Grath, Conor Doherty, Richie Leahy.
 Middle: Luke Scanlon, Conor Browne, Conor Delaney, Jason Barcoe, Eoin Kenny, Shane Murphy, Andrew Gaffney,
 Donnacha O'Connor, Billy Ryan.

Front: Jason Cleere, Liam Blanchfield, Darragh Joyce, Darren Brennan, John Walsh, Sean Morrissey, Ross Butler, Robbie Donnelly.

the 2013 championship and in the final moments of this year's contest it looked like they might do the same.

The match started positively for Kilkenny, opening up a lead of five points after just 24 minutes, despite hitting several poor wides. Waterford struggled against the breeze somewhat but managed to close that gap to four by half time.

The second half started in almost reverse order, with Waterford taking the upper hand. Shortly after the ball was thrown in, Shane Bennett weaved through the Kilkenny defence and worked the ball into the back of the net. Moments later, Alan Murphy sent a glorious chance of a Kilkenny goal wide.

By the 58th minute, Waterford had edged ahead by the narrowest of margins. Kilkenny, though, would have one final chance to send the game to extra time. In the dying moments, Alan Murphy stood over a 65 and slotted it expertly between the posts.

Liam Blanchfield and Alan Murphy were once again at the sharp end of the Kilkenny attack in the first period of extra time. Scores from both gave the team a two point lead at the break.

The final nail in the coffin for the Diesie came four minutes into the second period of extra time. Mullinavat man John Walsh got a high ball, turned, ran and eventually kicked the sliothar home. The Cats ultimately ran out 9 point winners, 1-23 to 1-14.

Come September 7th, John Walsh proved to be the difference between the teams. His two second half goals ensuring that Kilkenny secured possession of the Irish Press Cup for the 21st time.

The game against Limerick started evenly, with both sides trading scores for much of the first half. A final flurry from Kilkenny, courtesy of Alan Murphy and Walsh gave Kilkenny a two point advantage as the teams retired to the dressing rooms for half time.

In the second half, it was goal chances that would prove to define the outcome. Only a single point down, Darren Brennan pulled off a great save in the Kilkenny goal to deny Peter Casey.

Kilkenny would not be so wasteful. Walsh took control of a loose ball to score Kilkenny's first goal of the game and shortly afterwards he added a second, thanks in large part to the support play of Alan Murphy.



John Walsh scores for Kilkenny in the Final
John McIlwaine



Luke Scanlon (Kilkenny) is held by Thomas Grimes (Limerick) during the Minor Hurling All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Darren Brennan pulls off a vital save in the All Ireland Final
John McIlwaine.

Limerick continued to battle away and managed to reduce the deficit to four points though by this stage, the result never looked in doubt. At the final whistle, the scoreboard read Kilkenny 2-17 Limerick 0-19.

For Pat Hoban, the final whistle brought some mixed emotions. "It's relief first of all, maybe mixed with a little disbelief. Then some

satisfaction begins to kick in. Everybody had been writing us off going into that game so it was very satisfying to come out on top." Pat also credits much of the success with his back room team. "The lads with me were great, Sean Kelly, James Meagher and Pat Nolan. They really were superb. There was a great mix of skills and experience and all year they were a joy to work with."

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INTERMEDIATES FALL AT 1ST HURDLE

**Inter-County IH Report
by Noel Keane**



KILKENNY INTERMEDIATE TEAM 2014

Back: Niall Walsh, Richie O'Neill, Ian Duggan, Darren Fitzpatrick, Tom Murphy, Padraig Phelan, Padraig Gahan.
Middle: Saoirse Kenny, Pat Hartley, William Phelan, Tom Aylward, Richie Doyle, Willie O'Dwyer, Michael Walsh, Sean Cummins, Luke Harney.
Front: Paddy Deegan, Cathal Kenny, Liam Tierney, Joe Brennan, Joe Lyng, Michael Grace, Owen McGrath, Geoff Brennan, Eoin Doyle

THE INTERMEDIATES fell at the first Hurdle to a gallant Wexford Team. Kilkenny played their first and only game of the Intermediate championship against a Wexford team that had re-entered the championship after a two-year absence. Kilkenny had won this Championship on 14 previous occasions, their most recent in 2012. There was no Leinster Intermediate Hurling Championship played in 2013 but Kilkenny were nominated to represent the province in the All-Ireland Series. The Cats had appeared in the last six All-Ireland IHC Finals losing to Tipperary in 2012 and 2013, Clare in 2011 and Cork in 2009. They won it in 2010 defeating Cork in the final and in 2008 they defeated Limerick. Kilkenny have played Wexford in all of the four previous Leinster IHC finals from 2009 – 2012 and have managed to win them all. Kilkenny also defeated Dublin in the final in 2008, which meant the 2012 victory was their fifth in a row. The last team to beat Kilkenny in Leinster IHC was the Model County in the 2007 Final. Wexford also went on to add the All-Ireland crown that year as well by defeating the near neighbours Waterford by 1-11 to 1-9.

Wexford hurling was to build on the recent success of their seniors and U-21 teams with a three point Leinster IHC triumph over Kilkenny. It was a situation of having a big opportunity missed in the eyes of Cats manager Pat O'Grady. The story of the match began when Kilkenny had the first scoring opportunity from a free after 90 seconds which they missed. They would hit seven more wides before half time. Wexford opened the scoring through Jim Berry and they had run up a score of 1-4 before the opposition registered their first score through Rower Inistioge's Michael Grace from a placed ball. Things were running smoothly for the Slaneysiders as they looked sharper. They were faster to the breaking ball and also moving it forward and suddenly had attained a 1-6 to 0-1 lead by the first quarter. It would be a fair assessment to say that the home side had little or no spark. However, the introduction St Patricks' Seoirse Kenny towards the half time would ignite the Kilkenny attack come the second half. At half time the score read Wexford 1-8 Kilkenny 0-4.

Three substitutes were introduced into the fray and along with positional switches throughout the field, the Cats showed enormous spirit to overturn a seven point half-time deficit to find themselves level at 0-11 to 1-8 midway through the second half. An exchange of points followed but the key score of the match came with 10 minutes to play when two Kilkenny defenders went for the same sliotar and knocked each other over leading to former dual senior star Redmond Barry grabbing Wexford's second major to open up a three point lead which they managed to hold on to

emerge victorious. Benny Jordan and Joey Lawlor cancelled out Kilkenny's comeback attempts and Wexford held out to take the spoils. **Scorers:** Wexford – Jim Berry (0-5, two frees); Jamie Reck (1-1); Redmond Barry (1-0); Tommy Dwyer, Garry Doran, Michael O'Hanlon, Benny Jordan (0-1 each); Joey Lawlor (0-1, free).

Kilkenny – Willie Phelan (0-5, two frees); Michael Grace (0-2, frees); Owen McGrath, Willie O'Dwyer, Joe Brennan (0-2, each); Padraig Phelan (0-1).

Kilkenny – Liam Tierney (Rower-Inistioge), Eoin Doyle (Rower-Inistioge), Michael Walsh (Young Irelands), Sean Cummins (Rower-Inistioge), Joe Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Pat Hartley (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Paddy Deegan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Willie Phelan (Dunnamaggin), Owen McGrath (John Lockes), Geoff Brennan (St Patricks), Michael Grace (Rower Inistioge), Cathal Kenny (Barrow Rangers), Willie O'Dwyer (Mullinavat), Joe Brennan (St Patricks). **Subs:** Seoirse Kenny (St Patricks), for Kenny 24th min; Ian Duggan (Mullinavat) for Deegan ht; Padraig Phelan (Emeralds) for Hartley ht; Luke Harney (Kilmacow) for Doyle ht; Niall Walsh (Slieverue) for Grace 55th min.

Wexford – Niall Breen, Brendan Mulligan, James Breen, Barry Kehoe, Mark Maloney, Mick Jacob, Patrick Naughter, Bob Jacob, Tommy Dwyer, Emmet Kent, Garry Doran, Jim Berry, Jamie Reck, Michael O'Hanlon, Redmond Barry. **Subs:** Peter Murphy for O'Hanlon 25th min; Benny Jordan for Kent 40th min; Tomas O'Leary for Berry 52nd min; Joey Lawlor for G.Doran 58th min.

Referee – D Harrington (Dublin)

After the game team manager Pat O'Grady was gracious in defeat and was glad to see Wexford back in the Leinster Championship again and hoped that Laois, Offaly and Dublin would re-enter the competition to make the Leinster Championship more prestigious. O'Grady also stated 'One game is not really sufficient for a team as they were only playing as a unit for the first time'. This would have an adverse effect on the Wexford as Cork defeated them in the All Ireland final on a score 2-18 to 2-12. The Munster championship is more competitive with all five counties taking part which means that the eventual provincial champions will have had the extra games over their Leinster competitors. Sincere thanks to Pat O'Grady and his backroom staff on their work during 2014. Hopefully next year the Leinster Championship will be much more competitive and that Kilkenny will come back as strong as ever and eventually regain the Leinster Title as well as the Michael Cusack Cup.

Shem Downey

1922 - 2014

Jim Fogarty

Shem Downey was born in Conahy on 5th January 1922. He died in Ballyragget, where he had a butcher's shop for many years, on 22nd December 2013. On the club front, Shem played with Conahy, Ballyragget and Tullaroan. Though playing in 5 county senior hurling finals with Tullaroan, his only victory was in 1948. He preferred playing football to hurling and lined out in the big ball code for both Conahy and Ballyragget. Although he also played football with Kilkenny, it is of course as a hurler that he will be remembered.

Shem played at full forward on the Kilkenny minor team, which lost the 1939 All-Ireland final to Cork. Shem received word in 1946 to go into training for the Kilkenny senior team. He cycled to training on the first evening and would have walked if necessary, such was his enthusiasm to make the senior team. Promoted directly from the All-Ireland winning Junior team, Downey made a surprise senior debut in the 1946 All-Ireland final, playing at centre-back. An athletic and energetic hurler, Shem had the unenviable task of marking Christy



Ring! Except for a slight aberration near the end of the first half, when Ring got through to bat a goal, Downey could be happy with his performance. At half-time the Kilkenny mentors switched Shem to midfield. Ring's contribution to the second half was devastating as Cork won by 7-5 to 3-8.

Kilkenny gained revenge in the memorable 1947 final, when Shem con-

tributed 2 vital points as the Noresiders won by 0-14 to 2-7. Shem was corner-forward and marking the teak-tough defender Din Joe Buckley. In the 23rd minute, Downey swooped on a loose ball, delightfully side-stepped Buckley and posted a lovely point. After Cork took the lead for the first time in the second half, Kilkenny's goalkeeper Jim Donegan's long puckout deceived the Cork backs. Downey raced in and thanks to speed and excellent anticipation, he sent a mighty ground stroke soaring over the bar to level the match. With mere minutes left, Cork were ahead by a point. Injury time was in train, when Kilkenny were awarded a free after Cork full-back Con Murphy was adjudged to have fouled Downey. Terry Leahy calmly slotted the equaliser. Leahy followed up with the winning point from play, 65 yards out from the Cork goal. The ultimate difference between the sides in a classic final was the ability of Kilkenny forwards Downey, Langton, Leahy and Reidy to take their scoring chances.

In the League Final of 1950, Kilkenny lost to Tipperary by 3-8 to 1-10. Though sick before the final and not having trained for a fortnight, Shem had the game of his life. The prize for the winning team was a trip to the U.S.A. One sports writer wrote; "if ever a player deserved a trip to America, Downey did". He won 3 Leinster SHC medals in 1947, 1950 and 1953. In the 1950 Leinster Final against Wexford, he was moved at half-time to centre forward on Bobby Rackard. He scored no less than 1-3, whilst being marked by the great Rackard. Kilkenny lost the All-Ireland final of that year by a point to Tipperary. Shem never won a Railway Cup medal, losing the finals of 1950 and 1951 to Munster. He retired from inter-county hurling in 1954.

Downey, as a thirteen year old, greatly admired the Kilkenny team of 1935. His particular heroes from that team were Lory Meagher, Johnny

Dunne, Paddy Phelan and Matty Power. He had huge respect for the talents of Willie Murphy, Christy Ring and the O'Riordan brothers of Cork; Pat Stakelum, Jimmy Finn, Jimmy Kennedy, Tommy Doyle of Tipperary and John Mackey and Jackie Power of Limerick.

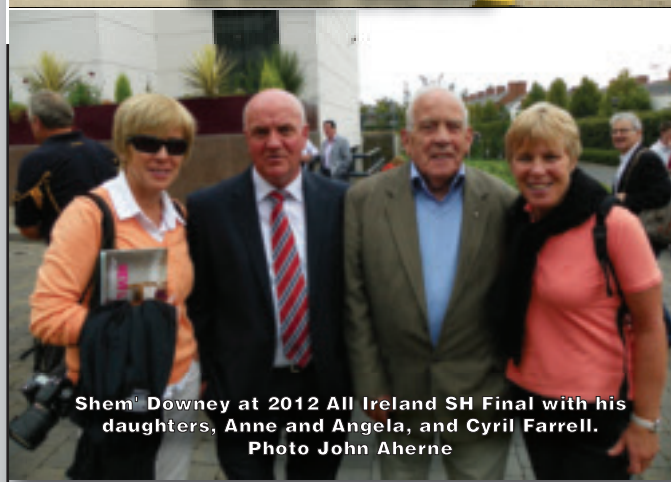
Shem was said to be the first player to develop the solo-run with the ball dead on the hurley. His only regret from his hurling days was that he lost his front teeth in a match four weeks before his wedding. Shem left an impressive legacy, but one that was outshone by his daughters Angela and Ann, who each won 12 All-Ireland camogie medals. He took great pride in his daughters' achievements. To further endorse the maxim that "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree", his grandson Conor Browne was on the Kilkenny team which won the All-Ireland minor hurling final this year.

Shem continued to attend Ballyragget matches right up to the end. Gur I measc na nAingeal é.

Jim Fogarty is the author of "The Dan Breen Cup - Tipperary County Senior Hurling Finals 1931 to 2011".



18 March 2012; Shem Downey, makes his way to the stand before Allianz NHL Kilkenny v Dublin, Nowlan Park. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Shem Downey at 2012 All Ireland SH Final with his daughters, Anne and Angela, and Cyril Farrell. Photo John Aherne

WEXFORD WIN AGAIN

Inter-County U21 Report by Seamus Reade PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny U21 Team 2014

Back: PJ.Trant, Ben Lahart, Jack McDowell, Eoin Moriarty, Owen McGrath, Conor Martin, Shane Donnelly, Aaron Duggan.

Middle: Chris Bolger, Mark Mansfield, Tom Aylward, Ger Teehan, Enda Morrissey, Robert Lennon, John Hayes, David Hennessy, David Burke, Paul Kelly, Aidan Cleere.

Front: Richie Reid, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Luke Hickey, Conor O'Shea, Ciarán Prendergast, Willie Brennan, Hugh O'Neill, Brian Troy, Ciaran Wallace.

BORD GAIS ENERGY LEINSTER UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP KILKENNY 0-10 WEXFORD 2-14

For the second year in a row Kilkenny bowed out to Wexford in the Bord Gais Energy Leinster under-21 hurling championship. Whereas in 2013 it took a last minute goal to deny Kilkenny Wexford were always on top in the 2014 version played in Nowlan Park in June. It may have taken goals by sub Peter Sutton and the wonderfully talented Rhys Clarke in the 53rd and 57th minute respectively to seal the deal and edged them 2-12 to 0-9 clear, but they always looked the better team. In a game that started in heavy rain and with a good wind blowing into the city end, Kilkenny couldn't muster a threat when backed by the elements. It took them 24 minutes to open their account, via a handy free by Richie Reid. That left them 0-1 to 0-5 behind. Both sides were guilty of poor striking and shooting during this half - 10 wides between them - but Wexford were good value for their interval lead of 0-6 to 0-3. The Cats had no one to break a tackle up front; no one who looked capable of grabbing the game by the scruff of the neck and making a difference. A lack of bulk and physical strength hurt. Wexford's best were some of their bigger guys like Clarke, Conor McDonald and Garry Moore - the full-forward line - along with full-back Liam Ryan and Shane O'Gorman, while the slightly built Garret Foley played a stormer too. There was a bit more go about Kilkenny after the turn. They had the deficit back to two points in the 41st minute (0-9 to 0-7) but there was no serious threat, despite the best urging of Tom Aylward, Robert Lennon and Mark Mansfield. Sutton's goal upped the divide to 1-12 to 0-8 to finish the contest.

Wexford subsequently went on to win the Leinster Championship and were defeated by an excellent Clare team in the All Ireland Final.

Scorers: Wexford - Rhys Clare (1-2); Jack Guiney (0-3, two frees); Peter Sutton (1-0); Conor Devitt, Conor McDonald, Garry Moore (0-2 each); Pdraig Doyle, Kevin Foley, Andrew Kenny (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Richie Reid (0-5, three frees, two 65s'); Mark Mansfield (0-2); Hugh O'Neill, Conor Martin, Ciaran Prendergast (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: Aaron Duggan (Dicksboro), Luke Hickey (James Stephens), Tom Aylward (Mullinavat), Ger Teehan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Conor O'Shea (Clara), Robert Lennon (Bennettsbridge), Enda Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), Mark Mansfield (Mullinavat), Owen McGrath (John Lockes), Richie Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Hugh O'Neill (Bennettsbridge), Aidan Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Tommy Hanrahan (Thomastown), Johnny Hayes (Kilmacow), Conor Martin (Emeralds). Subs: Chris Bolger (Clara) for Cleere 35th min; Willie Brennan (Fenians) for Hanrahan 38th min; David Burke (O'Loughlin Gaels) for Hayes 43rd

min; Ciaran Prendergast (Clara) for O'Neill 51st min; Shane Donnelly (St Lachtain's) for Martin 56th min.

Extended Panel: Ben Lahart (James Stephens), Eoin Moriarty (Emeralds), David Hennessy (James Stephens), Robert Moran (Erin's Own), Paul Kelly (Cloneen), Kevin Kelly (St Patricks) - Injured; Simon Aylward (Mullinavat) - Injured; Jack Langton (Clara) - Injured.

Management Team: Brian Ryan (Fenians) - Manager; Tommy Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks) - Trainer; Selectors: Tom Hanlon (Mooncoin), Liam Dowling (St Martins).



Mark Mansfield (Kilkenny) in action against Wexford

GOODBYE TO THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

By Barrie Henriques

Tommy Walsh

NINE ALL IRELAND MEDALS, nine All-Star Awards in five different positions, the man with the baby-faced features, with whom the vast majority of Ireland's fun-mad public are unashamedly in awe, some might even say in love, has decided to cut the umbilical cord which has tied him to the his Kilkenny inheritance since he first left the safety of his Mother's womb. Since first bursting on the scene as an under-14 Féile winner with his beloved Tullaroan back in the days Tommy Walsh has paved the footpath to the riches that hurling has landed on his sideboard with style, class, and sincerity. His considered announcement on Thursday November 20 was marked with similar qualities. The predominant feeling among Kilkenny supporters was one of depression, sadness, regret, even though deep down we all knew that the end was nigh. Texts were clogging up the systems; Twitters were hysterical; Bloggers went viral. Everyone wanted to be first with the news. Table quizzes of the future now have another stock question beginning with "where were you when?"

Because little Tommy Walsh from very rural Ireland won the hearts, souls and minds of sporting Ireland. Everyone took a piece of Tommy Walsh. They all felt that they had a right, because they all had their stories about him. He touched the hearts of so many GAA followers. I am loathe to say hurling people, because his status as a sportsman, a champion of the people, extended far beyond the confined boundaries of hurling. Many with barely a passing interest in the GAA could identify with two hurlers, both from Kilkenny, and both with a huge persona Nationally.

However there is no denying that Tommy Walsh was a son of Tullaroan primarily. With unbridled respect he has managed to shunt the Lory

Meaghers, Clohessys, White, names onto a siding while he has been allotted a centre stage spot by those that revere him, love him, in his own place. And Tommy is such an ambassador for Tullaroan, his very own people. At a medal presentation function in Langtons, well I remember his answer to the enquiring Micheál O Muirheartaigh who asked a question about the importance of winning an All Ireland medal, and taking it back to Tullaroan to add to the already lustre

of so many other such medals in the Parish. "I'll tell you Micheál, I'd give them all back if I could win just one senior County Championship with Tullaroan".

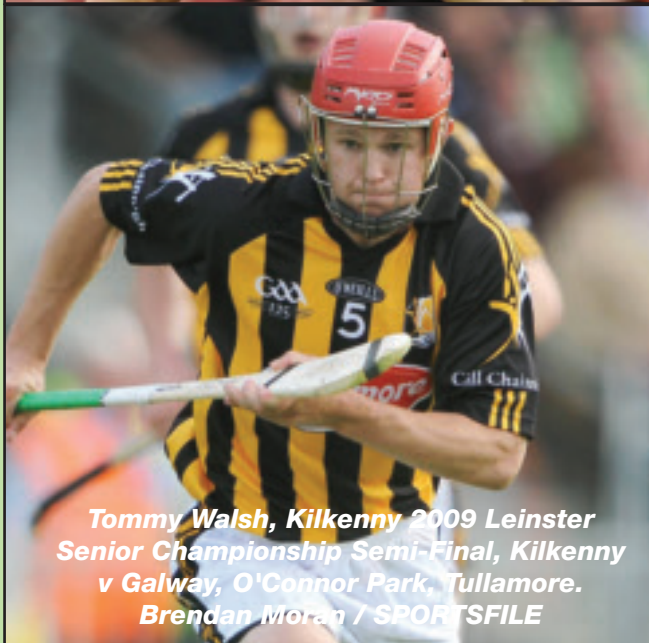
That is the Tullaroan DNA. That is what he has been bred to, listening to great Tullaroan warriors like, "Church" (Dick Walsh now 96 years old), Johnny Walton, Paddy Clohessy, Billy Gaffney, Chris Walsh, Paddy and



Tommy, with his son Finn, celebrates at the end of the All Ireland Senior Final Replay.
David Maher / SPORTSFILE



**Tommy Walsh, Kilkenny, and Eoin McGrath, Waterford, tussle off the ball during the early stages of the 2009 All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final, Kilkenny v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin.
Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE**



**Tommy Walsh, Kilkenny 2009 Leinster Senior Championship Semi-Final, Kilkenny v Galway, O'Connor Park, Tullamore.
Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE**



Tommy on Tullaroan National Féile winning team 1997

Jim Hennessy and others since he was knee high to a grasshopper. Sadly all but "Church" have passed on, and he has seen them all. He is adamant that Tommy is the greatest half-back he has ever seen. Because everything that Tommy Walsh is, started out there, will finish out there. It was packed into his playing bag wherever he went Tommy Walsh has been an entertainer of extraordinary quality. Every time his name was announced, it enticed a roar of extra density. No later than in Nowlan Park early in the Championship season when he came on against Offaly in the Leinster Championship, his late introduction brought the roof of the stand down. His first attempt at a score brought a collective exhalation of air from thousands of his admirers to push the ball through the posts. He was their property, and he loved every second of the infatuation. Tommy Walsh had a rare quality, and not given to too many in the entertainment world. He had star quality.

He was a class act.

Countless hacks have written thousands of columns about Tommy. He was never unpleasant to any of them. When appropriate he had a wicked sense of humour, and many were the butt of such inoffensive humour, and there is a myriad of stories about the Tommy forms of humour. But it was Tommy Walsh's craft with his hurl that has captured the public acclaim. Gallons of toner have acclaimed his greatness, his skill, his cavalier attitude.

The Waterford super-star John Mullane led with "Cats without Tommy just wasn't the same for me". He brought us back to a challenge game in Mooncoin a couple of years ago. "I was shifted out on Tommy. The first delivery down on top of us found me on my arse, the ball in Tommy's hand, and cleared to the baying appreciation of the big Kilkenny support". He also made the point that Tommy played on the edge, but was not a dirty player.

"On the field, there was real "devilment" in him, but if you took away that cutting edge, he would not have been half the player. The worst thing you could do was mix it with Tommy. Look what happened to us in 2008".

Then Cyril Farrell, the former double All Ireland winning Galway manager weighed in with his admiration of the great Tullaroan man, and his contribution.

He rated Tommy Walsh the best half-back of any generation. "It is hard to be unequivocal in such situations", he wrote in the Irish Independent. "You can only go on what you have seen, and from what I've seen, pound for pound, he was the greatest half-back that I have ever seen". From others came heart-felt admiration. Aidan "Taggy" Fogarty would say, that "the Gladiator had called it a day".

Henry Shefflin tweeted, "an inspiration. Small man, massive heart".

Richie Hogan tweeted "hard to go into a dressing room without Tommy Walsh. Thanks Tommy for everything".

Limerick's Gavin O'Mahoney weighed in with "a small man, but a mighty man".

His team mate, Wayne Mc Namara said "the hurling world has lost an absolute star".

Bubbles O'Dwyer tweeted, "what a hurler he was. What a man".

Cork's Eoin Cadogan "incredible in the air, and never backed down", while the "Rock" O'Sullivan said, "So Tommy Timber has called it a day. A cheeky little b****d, but could he hurl! Big big loss".

Maybe his former mentor, great friend, and confidante, Brother Damien Brennan says most of what Tommy is/was all about. "I remember when he came under the spotlight as a minor in 2001. Even then he would question every decision he didn't agree with. I remember telling Joe Hennessy at the time that this young lad had everything that was needed to be a winner".

Irish Examiner's resident Kilkenny man Enda McEvoy says

"The Team of the 20th Century had a Tullaroan player at wing-back. The Team of the 21st Century already has another."

Sure they can't all be wrong!

Was he the greatest half back of all time?

He is certainly in the frame. Is he alone?

That is a relative question. Better than I are still on the fence, but the "Church" will not be moved from the opinion that there is no doubt about it. I am inclined to agree with Dick.

A season of sundays



Images of the 2014 Gaelic Games year by the Sportsfile photographers



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Rower-Inistioge Strike All-Ireland Jackpot!

By Michael O'Leary

(Photos: Eoin Hennessy)



ROWER INISTIOGE - ALL IRELAND IH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Ger Morrissey (Manager) Padraig Lyng, Tony Whelan, James Roche, David Tennyson, Tom Murphy, Ruairi Galavan, James Doyle, Padraig Ryan, Cathal Bolger, Sean Grace, Tadgh Leahy, Richard Ryan, Sean Cummins, James Cassin, David Lyng, Padraig Grace, Bob Grace, Michael Cassin, Nicky Kenny, David Dunphy, Patrick O'Carroll, Pat Dunphy (Team Mentor) & Robbie Hennessey (Team Mentor)

Front: Toby Kavanagh, Michael Doyle, Jim Prendergast, J.J. Kenny, Neil Lyng, Ciaran Ryan, Eoin Doyle, Michael Grace (Captain), Kieran Joyce, Liam Tierney, Sean Lyster, Padraig Tierney, Joe Lyng, Paul Sheehan, Paudie Fleming, Luke Tennyson, Tommy Grace, Conor Lyng & Conor Joyce.

Following the heartache and disappointment of the Camogie girls when they lost out in the Intermediate All-Ireland final in March of last year, one wondered whether Rower-Inistioge's best chance of club All-Ireland honours had fallen by the wayside.

However, the progress of the hurlers had given the parish cause for optimism, and last February on a cold, wet and wintry February, their finest hour came as they reached the top of the All-Ireland summit in Croke Park.

As ever, the County Intermediate Championship proved as competitive as ever with a number of teams fancying their chances to give themselves the opportunity of playing in the Senior grade.

Rower-Inistioge were amongst the favourites, having lost the Intermediate decider to Danesfort in 2011, while in 2012 they lost out to St. Patrick's Ballyragget after a replay at the semi-final.

Rower-Inistioge had a chance to revert the trend last October against the Ballyragget contingent, and they duly obliged to set-up a county final showdown against Emeralds.

The South Kilkenny club were expected to prevail decisively against the Urlingford crew, but it didn't transpire that way. With normal time running out, the sides were still level in a thriller at 2-11 each, but late points from a Michael Grace '65 and James Cassin closed out victory to secure a first Intermediate Championship since 1988.

Attention switched to the Leinster Championship, and a semi-final showdown in Newbridge against the Kildare Champions Celbridge.

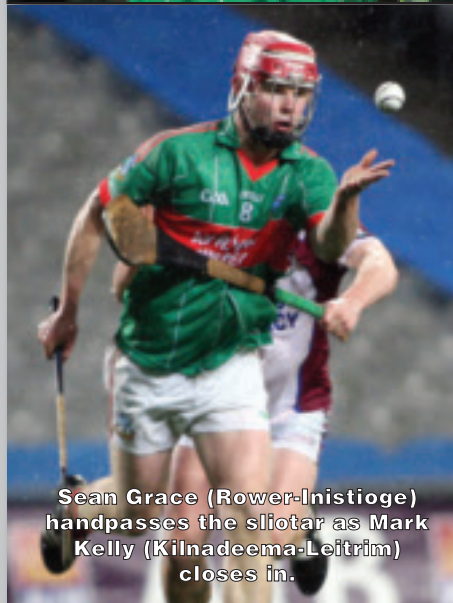
A hard fought encounter emerged as Rower-Inistioge eventually broke the Celbridge resistance, and they prevailed 1-14 to 0-13 to qualify for a Leinster final showdown with Buffers Alley of Wexford.

Played in wet, miserable underfoot conditions, the game was in doubt right till the end.

However, David Lyng's goal proved highly significant in a low scoring encounter, as they finished strongly similar to the county final with points from Sean Lyster and Ciaran Ryan ensuring victory to become the 5th Kilkenny Club to win the Leinster Intermediate Championship.



Michael Grace, Rower-Inistioge captain, lifts the AIB All-Ireland Intermediate cup in Croke Park.



Sean Grace (Rower-Inistioge) handpasses the sliotar as Mark Kelly (Kilnadeema-Leitrim) closes in.

Following the Christmas break, Rower-Inistioge turned their focus to achieving All-Ireland glory and a semi-final showdown with Clooney Gaels of Antrim.

Played in Navan in wet miserable conditions, the Northerners held the initiative at the interval to lead 0-7 to 0-6.

However, the second-half was all one way traffic, as Rower-Inistioge scored 1-8 without the concession of a solitary point with Ciaran Ryan's goal sending them on their way to croker despite shooting 19 wides.

The GAA world was plunged into mourning the next day, as match referee from the semi-final victory, Shane Hourigan of Limerick was tragically killed in a road accident while on his way to work.

The second semi-final between Kilnadeema-Leitrim of Galway and Youghal of Cork was cancelled originally due to an unplayable surface, before it was played a week later.

The Galway Intermediate Champions withstood a late revival from Youghal to hold out for a 2-11 to 0-15 victory having led 2-9 to 0-4 at half-time.

Rower-Inistioge had the advantage in having an extra week to prepare for the Croke Park showdown, and the Kilnadeema-Leitrim community was left reeling on All-Ireland final day from the tragic death of 18-year-old Patrick Halpin who was found dead in tragic circumstances in London.

Patrick would have hurled under-age for the club, and his untimely death caused a massive shock to the parish.

The final itself was delayed starting due to extra-time been played in the All-Ireland Junior Club Hurling Final, and it took a long time to get going.

Just like their semi-final clash against Clooney Gaels, Rower-Inistioge's shooting proved their achilles heel with 20 wides over the 80 minutes plus hurling.

They should have had Kilnadeema-Leitrim out of sight at half-time, as they shot 11 wides during the opening-half and they also missed two open goal chances.

The fact they only led 0-4 to 0-3 at the interval left the second-half all to play, but a fortuitous Ciaran Ryan goal early in the second-half appeared to have sent Rower-Inistioge.

To their credit though, Kilnadeema-Leitrim kept plugging away throughout, and goal from substitute Liam Geraghty



Ciarán Ryan (Rower-Inistioge) keeps his eye on the sliotar as Eamon Hyland (Kilnadeema-Leitrim) closes in.



Tom Murphy (Rower-Inistioge) gets away from David Tierney and Eamon Hyland (Kilnadeema-Leitrim)

brought them to within a point, before last years Galway minor Brian Molloy blazed over with the goal at his mercy to draw them level entering the last quarter.

The introduction of the highly experienced Paul Sheehan had a telling effect along with fellow substitutes Conor Joyce and James Cassin, as they contributed 0-7 of their sides total. Sheehan pointed a '65 to restore Rower-Inistioge's lead entering the final 10 minutes, before Dara Herlihy replied with a superb long range effort.

Conor Joyce restored Rower-Inistioge's lead with a brilliantly executed sideline cut from 35 yard, before Herlihy added another point to draw them level again.

Time was running out and with extra-time beckoning, there looked might a winning score might not transpire.

However, as injury-time had arrived, Rower-Inistioge conjured one last attack from defence.

Conor Joyce found possession, and this time he turned provider as Joe Lyng superbly fired over from near the sideline for what appeared to be the winning score.

However, Kilnadeema-Leitrim were not finished yet.

They launched themselves an attack to rescue the situation, and they were awarded a close range free, but from an acute angle near the sideline.

Brian Molloy though made no mistake as he magnificently dispatched the sliotar between the uprights to bring the match to extra-time.

The Galway contingent edged ahead in the first period of extra-time as goalscorer Liam Geraghty pointed, but it was all Rower-Inistioge afterwards as they outscored their opponents 0-8 to 0-0 for the remainder of extra-time.

Points from a Paul Sheehan '65 and James Cassin from play regained the lead by half-time of extra-time, before they took control during the second period of extra period Sheehan and Joe Lyng pointed to stretch the lead, but in between goalkeeper Liam Tierney brilliantly denied Brian Molloy with a first class point blank save.

Tierney's save proved inspirational, and he came to the rescue again with about three minutes of extra-time remaining.

Kilnadeema-Leitrim were awarded a close range free, and for dissent, the ref brought the ball forward to the 20 metre line, and a goalscoring chance for Brian Molloy.

However, Molloy's well struck attempt was brilliantly blocked by Tierney, before Ruairi Galavan eventually relieved the clearance from the danger area.

The resulting move from the clearance eventually led to a free in which Paul Sheehan subsequently converted to give them that decisive four point cushion, and much needed breathing space.

All of a sudden, Rower-Inistioge started scoring for fun as late points from David Lyng(2) and Joe Cassin rounded off the scoring to begin the celebrations in earnest.

In a sight rarely if ever seen at the end of matches, the Rower-Inistioge players went into the Cusack stand where all the spectators were situated, as they began to mingle and celebrate with their supporters.

It was a very special night in GAA headquarters for a very close knit community.

Strength of character and resilience, determination and a never say die attitude were attributes that contributed most to Rower-Inistioge's most famous night.

The inspiration for victory came from a start studded defence in which Seanie Cummins and Inter-County Senior Kieran Joyce led superbly.

They were just sensational.

Eoin Doyle and Ruairi Galavan were truly magnificent, while James Doyle and Sean Lyster did plenty of good work also. Liam Tierney mightn't have had much to do throughout, but while called upon to do in extra-time, he performed double heroics and his contribution proved highly significant.

Joe Lyng was simply majestic scoring three magnificent points from play, while despite not enjoying the best of evenings in the shooting stakes, the attacking division never stopped working and they got their just rewards.

Tom Murphy at full-forward was immense.

He mightn't be the greatest scoring machine, but his work-rate and grafting tenacity was a strong feature as he constantly had the Kilnadeema-Leitrim defence under all sorts of pressure, while Ciaran Ryan was another key player on a famous night.

He may have got lucky with the goal - a goalkeeping mistake - but during the second-half and extra-time, last years Inter-County minor drifted out to around midfield, and he did an awful lot of trojan work assisting his defensive colleagues.

Another contributing factor to their victory were substitutes Paul Sheehan, James Cassin and Conor Joyce who scored 0-7 between them.

The greatest day in Rower-Inistioge's club history had arrived as they hit the All-Ireland jackpot.

2015 will be the 60th anniversary since the club was founded back in 1955, and Saturday night February 8th 2014 will go down in folklore and it will be never forgotten.

ROWER-INISTIOGE ABU

Scorers All-Ireland final: Paul Sheehan 0-4(0-2 frees 0-1'65), Ciaran Ryan 1-0, Joe Lyng 0-3, Michael Grace(frees) David Lyng and James Cassin 0-2 each, Ruairi Galavan, Tom Murphy and Conor Joyce(sideline cut) 0-1 each

Team All-Ireland Final:

Liam Tierney, Eoin Doyle, Seanie Cummins, James Doyle, Ruairi Galavan, Kieran Joyce, Sean Lyster, Sean Grace, Joe Lyng, Michael Grace(captain), David Lyng, Padraig Tierney, Cathal Bolger, Tom Murphy, Ciaran Ryan,
Subs: Paul Sheehan, Conor Joyce, James Cassin, Tadhg Leahy



Rower Inistioge brothers at AIB Final in Croke Park:
Kieran and Conor Joyce (above) and Pádraig and Liam Tierney

Consistency is **CILLIAN'S** **HALLMARK**

By Richard Holden

KILKENNY enjoyed an excellent 2014 winning all the major titles on offer, and the outstanding displays of Cillian Buckley from left half-back was certainly a main contributory factor to Kilkenny's rich haul of trophies.

The Dicksboro clubman had a highly promising club career, winning Roinn A titles at Under-14, 16, Minor and 21 level, and this prompted his graduation into the Kilkenny minor team for the 2009 season. Kilkenny continued their dominance in Leinster and reached the All-Ireland Final but were defeated by Galway. Dicksboro won the Minor county title later in the season, and Cillian was subsequently appointed captain for the 2010 season. 'We had huge plans to win back the All-Ireland and the win over Clare in the Final was one of the biggest points of my career'. Indeed, seven members of the 2010 win were involved in this year's senior success - Cillian, Brian Kennedy, Willie Phelan, John Power, Ger Alyward, Pdraig Walsh and Richie Reid.

After an injury disrupted 2011 season, due to groin and hip problems, Cillian won a Leinster Under-21 title with Kilkenny before they eventually fell to Clare in the All-Ireland Final. However, the young Dicksboro man had also received a call-up to Brian Cody's senior panel at the start of the year, and won Walsh Cup, National League and All-Ireland medals in his maiden season. Cillian even started the All-Ireland Final replay at midfield scoring a point as Kilkenny powered to a comprehensive 3-22 to 3-11 win over their Leinster Final conquerors, Galway.

In 2013, the 22-year-old endured a frustrating time - 'it was one of my disappointing seasons, a year not to be remembered'. A last-gasp extra-time defeat by Wexford in the Leinster Under-21 Final was followed soon after by the seniors' exit at the hands of Cork in the All-Ireland quarter-final.

I asked Cillian what made the difference then for Kilkenny this year. 'From last November, it was a case of 'September or nothing', no stone was left unturned and the closer we got, the more ambitious we became,. One of the things I noticed this year was the work lads did individually on their own, while the squad was really tight and close-knit and there was a serious spirit evident on match days'. The stylish wing-back felt the drawn Leinster semi-final against Galway was a major turning point in the season. 'While it was disappointing to lose the lead, had we held on to win it would have masked some weaknesses, it made us re-assess and also mentally stronger. At that stage of the season, it was also probably no harm to have an extra game'.

FACTFILE

Age: 22

Occupation: Biomedical Engineering student - UCD

Honours:

Club – U-14, U-16, 2 Minor, 1 Under-21, 1 Intermediate.

County – 1 Walsh Cup, 3 NHL, 1 Leinster SH, 2 All-Ireland SH, 1 All-Star, 2 Leinster and 1 All-Ireland MH (Captain), 1 Leinster U-21H, 2 All Ireland SH Colleges



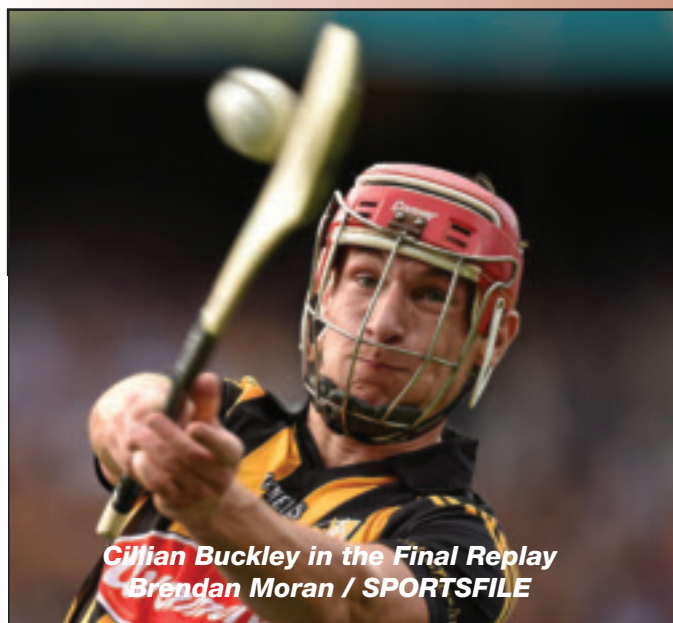
How would he define Brian Cody's managerial style? 'He leaves it up to the players a lot of the time. He is interested in you if you put in the work, he is not going to push a player. Anything he says, he's talking from experience, and indeed the same would be true of Derek and James, while Mick Dempsey would also play a big role.'

In his profile on the Kilkenny Gaa website, Cillian

cites Henry Shefflin as his favourite player. Any particular reason?

'Henry was Kilkenny's main forward, along with DJ when I was growing up and to win an All-Ireland beside him is a dream come true. He is a complete leader, and also fits in the same way as the most recent player in the squad which is great to see. The public may have seen Henry and Tommy Walsh play a different role this year but behind the scenes they played a huge part and the speeches they made, along with Michael Rice, at half-time in the All-Ireland replay is something I will always remember. It showed the whole thing about the panel and spirit again.'

When asked about the biggest influences in his career, Cillian nominates his parents without hesitation. 'They put a hurl in my hand from the age



Cillian Buckley in the Final Replay
Brendan Moran / SPORTSFIRE

of 4 or 5, but Dad also brought me down to the club and introduced me to all sports, particularly rugby and soccer. The first All-Ireland I attended was in 1999. My Dad is from Cork so we had divided loyalties on that day!' Richie Mulrooney, who is joint manager of our seniors with Michael Walsh, has also been a major help, he was involved with the Kilkenny 2010 minors and also the Under-21's in 2012 and 2013.'

Cillian makes the interesting admission that he actually played Under-'6's with James Stephens but then switched to the 'Boro having gone to school in St. Canice's, where he made his friends there.

In relation to the Boro, can the present team win a senior title, having reached the Final two years ago? 'It is the one hanging over us still, having won the main underage titles from Under-14 up, we put in a huge effort this season and to lose in the quarter-final was a big disappointment after having had one of our best League seasons in years.

When I asked Cillian about young players to keep an eye out for, he nominated two of his clubmen who were also on the county minor panel this season – Andrew Doheny and Conor Doherty. 'It would be nice to have a 'Boro lad beside me in the Kilkenny dressing room!'

Away from hurling, the 'Boro man plays golf and soccer and indeed recalls having to choose one weekend between playing in the National Féile Finals with Dicksboro or with the Kilkenny Kennedy Cup squad, going with the former.

To cap off a memorable season, Cillian was deservedly honoured with an All-Star. 'It is a huge personal achievement, and a big thing for the family.' Hopefully, the accomplished wing-back will continue his rich vein of form into 2015 and beyond.



Cillian Buckley goes high to make a spectacular catch
John McIlwaine

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Seamus Grace and Charlie Carter from TOP Oil Kilkenny, renewing their sponsorship of the Cumann na mBunscoil to Secretary, Jim Fennelly in Nowlan Park, also pictured are Brian McDonald and Ben Corcoran.

Eoin Hennessy



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Kieran Cuddihy

1922 - 2014

Barrie Henriques

Among the many great Kilkenny GAA people who departed this life during the year was a man whose contribution was extraordinary, given that he was a blow-in, a non-native, and a football man. Kieran Cuddihy, the father of all the Medical Cuddihys, and Grandad to a whole new generation of young Professional Cuddihys including Olympian representatives, was a larger than life character, whose contribution to the GAA in Kilkenny has been well recorded in the annals of the Kilkenny GAA story. There were many ages of the Kilkenny GAA development, where certain characters figured in a more prominent space than others at the time. For instance there was the Danny O'Connell era, where the man himself was responsible for the Management of Kilkenny senior teams on eleven occasions to win the Liam Mc Carthy cup. There was the Doyle/Walsh/Dunphy era back in the days, again when All Ireland Finals were won with stoic panache and courage. There was the Lory Meagher era, and then getting closer to our time we had the Grace time. Sword and sheath with the legendary Count Secretary were people like "Chew" Leahy, Jimmy Langton and Dr Kieran.

The Doctor Kieran in question was Kieran Cuddihy who nursed, patched, fixed, referred, injected, bandaged, and generally did the best his professional medical acumen could advise, not only for the big stars of the game, but for many more less talented souls. When I had the tremendous honour of meeting with and listening to Doctor Kieran, it certainly was one of the most invigorating and enjoyable conversations I ever experienced with any sportsman. Born in Dublin, he played football as a minor with the Metropolitans. His son Dr. Bill alerted us to the idea that his Dad was a proud Dub, and that he played with his club in Dublin at minor level until he was 23 years of age! There was something about this man, I remember thinking at the time, that warned me to be very careful. He had a peculiar sense of humour that at times was puzzling. I felt that you could have had great craic with the man if you were fortunate to gain his confidence, or if the subject matter under discussion was interesting, and from that perspective, hurling was a subject that was always an acceptable conversational piece.

Dr. Kieran established a tremendous rapport with all and everything within the Kilkenny dressing room. He was friend to them all. They trusted him; had a near paranoid respect for the man, and his every suggestion apropos Medical solutions, and sometimes even hurling solutions were taken on board unconditionally. Even when they had left the limelight of the Kilkenny inter-county stage, most of them actually stayed in close contact. Many had him as their family Doctor, while many more, distantly removed from Dr. Kieran's stamping ground would consult with him as their point of second opinion. In a very manly way, he loved everything there was to love about the association with Kilkenny hurling, and it loved him, right up to the day he left this universe. Here was a man who should have written a book about the life and times of a Kilkenny hurling Doctor. Believe me that would have been a publication to surpass the sporting volumes of our times.

I heard stories about Paddy Grace who carried a small teaspoon in the top pocket of his jacket which he used to give a nervous non-drinking player a little cool-down before an important game. I remember asking about the venerable Grace. "He had a grá for the medicinal juices?" To which the careful

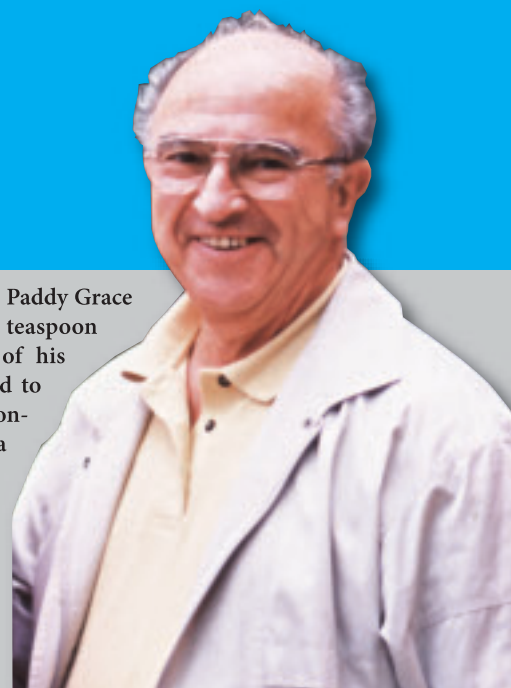
Doctor replied, "He had (pause), and he was very generous with it". And quick as a flash by way of explanation, or exoneration - "when needs were at their most demanding, he would not see anyone stuck". Besides his unbridled admiration of Paddy Grace - "I was delighted to be with him to help him on his way" (when the iconic County Secretary passed away in 1984), Doctor Kieran also numbered Fr. Maher as one of his closest confidantes. "He was a man ahead of his times" he would eulogise. "He was a tremendous judge of character, and I often thought that if he had been a chess player, he could quite conceivably have been a Grand Master".

Born in January 1922, Dr.Kieran married his beloved Dr Ailish, and they lived opposite the gate to James Park initially. He joined the Dicksboro club to whom he remained loyal until he passed away. I remember just another little story he told that needs the re-telling. "I remember a lad, a travelling salesman in Kilkenny, who put out four torches in the grass of James Park. The lad proceeded to run around the marked out track for many laps. I wondered about the lad, and one evening I enquired of him who he was and where he came from. He told me that his name was Delaney, and he came from an athletic club in Donore, Dublin. That young man went on to win the 1500 metres in Melbourne in 1956".

At 92 years of age, Dr.Kieran passed into the loving arms of his Creator. He was buried side by side with Ailish out in Foulkstown, on the Anniversary of her death. As long as Kilkenny people will read or discuss hurling folklore, I have no doubt that the name Cuddihy will be mentioned in despatches. Dr. Kieran and his wife Ailish created a sporting dynasty, which is still expanding going forward. His sons took up the torch of medical care for Kilkenny hurling teams. Their children have followed suit. The legacy of Dr. Kieran still flames brightly. His contribution has gone beyond the immeasurable. It is probably too easy to say that his

contribution will never be forgotten, but in the World we now populate, all one can say is - I hope not. His family will miss him. The game of hurling will miss him. Kilkenny will miss him. I would insist that history should be very kind to him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Dr Cuddihy on the Sideline

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'CLUB' OFFERS A €2-MILLION THANK YOU

By Jim Buggy



KILKENNY GAA FANS and friends have contributed over €2-million to the growth and development of Gaelic games over the past 23 years. They did so through their membership and backing of the very active Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club which promotes the developments of the hurling, football, camogie and handball at all levels. Established in 1991, the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club, whose membership is made up largely by Kilkenny people, contributes in the region of €80,000 per year to promote games at club and county teams alike. A large portion of the funds raised help meet the costs of running the hugely successful county senior side. During most of the successful seasons of recent times, about

€50,000 was contributed to the squads overseas holiday fund.

The senior, intermediate and junior championship winners are not forgotten, and they are backed financially when they reach Leinster and All-Ireland finals. The Supporters Club place a strong emphasis on youth development, and the various secondary and primary schools in and around the county are helped on an annual basis. Jim Freeman, the current secretary, assistant treasurer and membership secretary of the club, has been a member of the club since the beginning. "It was at a meeting in the Newpark Hotel on a cold April night when we started the Supporters Club," Mr Freeman told the 'People. "It's gone from strength to strength since. Now we support all aspects of the GAA in Kilkenny."

Mr Freeman, alongside such figures as Bill Deegan, Billy Lahart and Eddie Keher, founded the Supporters Club with the intention of supporting the GAA in all spheres of activity. The huge amount of money they raised highlights the commitment of people to the promote of games.

"Since the foundation of the club we've raised in excess of €2 million," he said. "It's not just the senior team who get assistance. We support the Kilkenny teams in the Féile. We support any team who represents Kilkenny." Originally the 'Club's sole aim was to support the senior hurlers. Over time, they had to cast the net further to include all the different levels of the GAA. "The support goes out right across the board," he said. "Initially when we started it was just for the senior team, but that has grown over the years. In supporting the schools you're supporting the future."

In 2010, membership was at it highest with more than 2,200 signed up. The 'Club flourished during the glory days of the senior team, but was also boosted by the success of the county's minor, under-21 and intermediate sides. Coinciding with the exceptional four in-a-row of Brian Cody's men, not to mention the clean sweep of All-Irelands achieved in 2008, membership rose to new heights. The club still shows signs of growth. "As the moment we have almost 1,100 members," Mr Freeman pointed out. "We have several branches, including one in Dublin. They look after the squad when it plays in the capital. We also have a Kildare branch, and ones in Northern Ireland and London too." "There are many benefits to joining the club," said Mr Freeman. "Members receive a membership card, car sticker and news on the Kilkenny teams by text as soon as they are released. Most importantly, people are playing their part in supporting all Kilkenny teams."

Further information on the club is available from Jim Freeman, tel 087-2551507.

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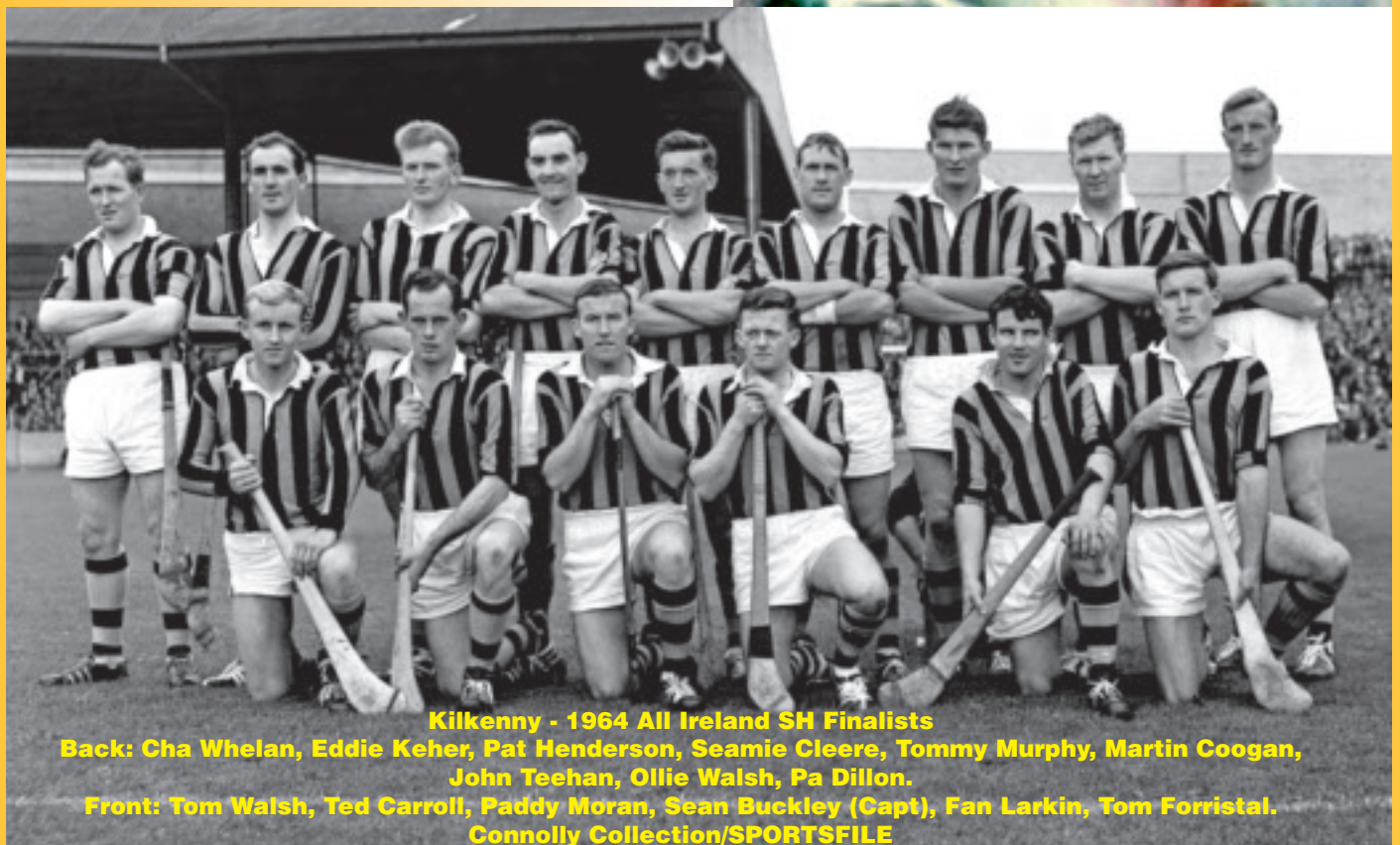
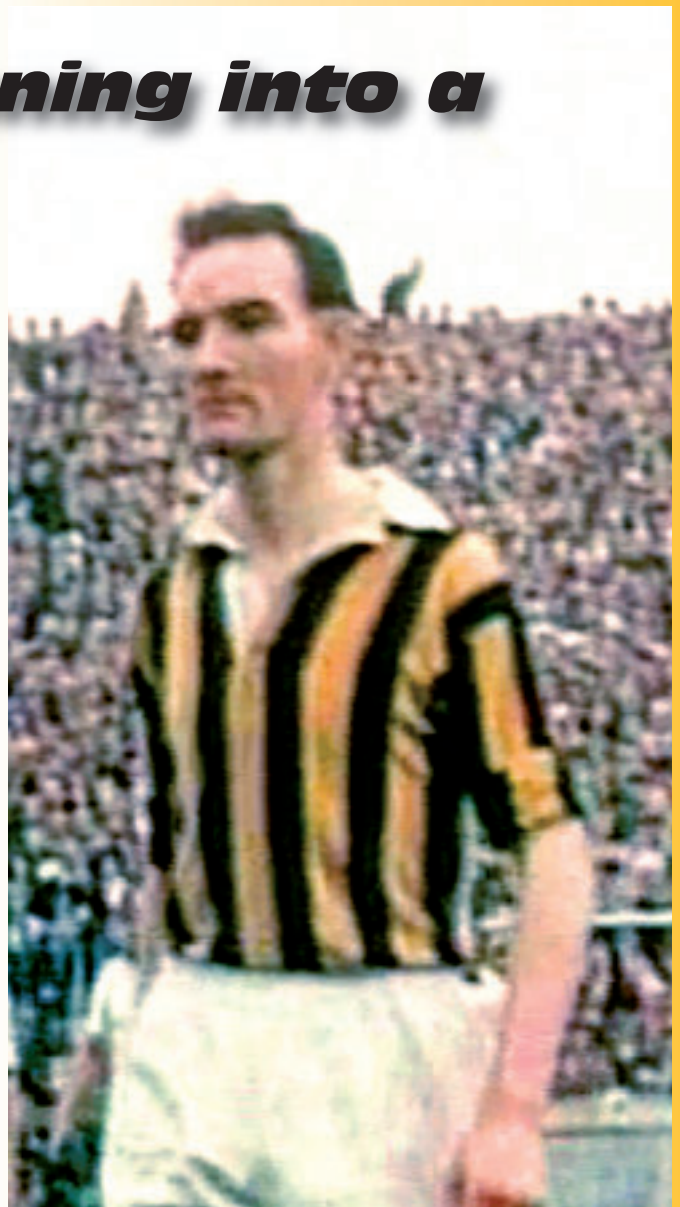
"It was like Running into a Fireplace."

By: Enda McEvoy/CORK EXAMINER

SEAMUS CLEERE knew the worst after the second ball he got. The first ball he got wasn't a problem. He put it over the bar for the opening score of the 1964 All Ireland final. But that gave him notions and, reckoning he had the measure of his marker Mick Murphy, the Bennettsbridge stylist decided to solo into the heart of Hell's Kitchen with the next ball. Not a good idea. The reigning Hurler of the Year's gallop was terminated with extreme prejudice by burly Mick Maher, the Tipp full-back. "I was seeing stars," Cleere recalls. "Maher wasn't a dirty player but it was like running into a fireplace."

If ever an incident served as a metaphor for the outcome of a match, this was it. The final score tells the story. Tipperary 5-13 Kilkenny 2-8. Not a lot that need be added to that, is there?

For the record, the defending champions were doing alright until Martin Coogan, who'd been having a fine game, went off injured shortly before half-time. Tipp led by 1-8 to 0-6 at the interval. A goal by John Teehan cut the gap to two points early in the second half, which was where the game ended as a contest. Suddenly Tipperary went through the gears and their opponents were left for dead: double-scores dead. One observer found it impossible to choose a man of the match, so beautifully balanced were the winners, but among the stars were Donie Nealon with three goals, Jimmy Doyle with 10 points, young Babs Keating and Sean McLoughlin, who passed the bullets for the others to fire. The gulf between the sides, the same observer noted, was because Tipperary "were expertly served in almost every position".



Kilkenny - 1964 All Ireland SH Finalists

Back: Cha Whelan, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Seamie Cleere, Tommy Murphy, Martin Coogan, John Teehan, Ollie Walsh, Pa Dillon.

Front: Tom Walsh, Ted Carroll, Paddy Moran, Sean Buckley (Capt), Fan Larkin, Tom Forristal.

Connolly Collection/SPORTSFILE

Oddly, Kilkenny had entered the arena as favourites; they'd beaten Waterford in the final the previous year and with a young and presumably improving team were generally fancied to get the better of a supposedly ageing Tipp. After all, John Doyle had been around the place since 1949, while Maher and Kieran Carey, his buddies in Hell's Kitchen, were no spring chickens either. But it didn't quite turn out that way. In fact it didn't turn out that way at all.

It was the greatest ever day for Tipp's greatest ever team, who 12 months later would swat Wexford aside to make it four All Irelands in five. They reached their pinnacle in 1964, Donie Nealon agrees. "A better team than in 1961-62. Mick Roche, Larry Kiely and Babs had come in. We got lucky with the replacements." They left only question behind them and it was this. Had they not lost the 1963 Munster final to Waterford by three points after hitting 12 wides in the first half, would they have been hurling's – and the GAA's – first and only All Ireland five in a row side? Maybe Kilkenny's real mistake in 1964 was to get in their way.

In hindsight Kilkenny may have been too young. Too callow at any rate, for they had five changes from 1963. One of them was a big change: Billy Dwyer had retired and that was important, for no Kilkenny full-forward line with Billy Dwyer in it was ever pushed around. "Billy was a huge asset to us when he was there. He had great determination and presence," Seamus Cleere says.

Pat Henderson was one of the newcomers. "A whole lot of us came in and on the day we weren't able to do the job. Then there was the matter of the team we were playing. Tipperary's best team ever. So you had these two factors at work."

The identity of the opposition was another factor. Kilkenny hadn't beaten Tipperary in the championship since the 1922 All Ireland decider, losing to them in the finals of 1937, '45, '50 and the 1958 semi-final. Ponder this lamentation published in the Kilkenny People in 1962 and reflect, half a century later, on the extent to which things and times have changed.

"Every time the counties meet the 'Tipperary hoodoo' raises its ugly head and while we have been able to lower the colours of the Premier County in challenge contests we have not succeeded in beating them in a league or championship match for more years

than any Kilkenny supporter will want to remember... If we could match Tipperary in determination, perhaps, we could go a long way of the road towards breaking the 'hoodoo'. We can match any county in hurling skill but while Tipperary never lack for earnestness, Kilkenny on the other hand occasionally show a tendency to lack that grim determination that is so characteristic of the Premier County and which has so often helped them to victory in face of the odds." In 1964 Tipperary not only had the earnestness, they had the skill to complement it perfectly.

For Seamus Cleere it was an eyeopening afternoon, and not in a good way. "With Bennettsbridge I used to ramble up from centre-back and get a few scores. But I shouldn't have been in the forwards with Kilkenny. It was a completely different game facing the ball. At half-back it was easy enough. Get the ball and just clear it. As a half-forward you have to find a score or find a colleague. And don't drive a foolish wide."

Without Billy Dwyer to keep an eye out for them, the three young Toms in the full-forward line – Walsh, Forristal and Murphy – sank without trace. The latter, a seminarian in St Kieran's, had scored two goals against Waterford the previous year. Here he hardly got a sniff and was substituted. He remembers his conquerors with admiration if not fondness. "Jimmy Doyle, Donie Nealon, Liam Devaney – real class hurlers. The other forwards were the play-makers. Tipperary were so much better than us that day."

The road would eventually turn for the Black and Amber, and far sooner than it might have appeared that dismal afternoon 50 years ago. Within a year and a half they'd beaten Tipperary in a league final. The year after that, 1967, at last brought September deliverance. And, five decades on, does any phrase better sum up Brian Cody's Kilkenny than "grim determination"?

"Had we learned an important lesson in '64?" Pat Henderson wonders. "Not really. But we grew up. A new team was beginning to emerge, one that only began to mature in 1967."

That was three years later, however, and the glories of the 1970s were way off yet. This was 1964 and the "Tipperary hoodoo" was still raising its ugly head.



Tipperary - 1964 All Ireland SH Champions

Back: Tony Wall, Michael Keating, Mick Burns, Mick Maher, Mick Roche, Kieran Carey, John Doyle, Sean McLoughlin, Michael Loneragan, Liam Devaney, John O'Donoghue.
Front: Pat Ryan, Peter O'Sullivan, Donie Nealon, Michael Murphy, Capt., Jimmy Doyle, John "Mackey" McKenna, Larry Kiely, Len Gaynor, Theo English.

“I was in the Motor Cars now!”

Barrie Henriques talks with John Kinsella



HARD TO OPEN a profile on John Kinsella without reference to his battle with cancer over the past twelve years, compounded latterly with the added inconvenience of Parkinson's. But typical of the man, he has never for a fleeting moment, asked the question about his selection as a victim. "Sure somebody has to get it, so instead of saying why me, I would offer why not me as a compromise", he said to me some years ago. I have known him for a very long number of years, and irrespective of setbacks, I would have to state that he is primarily the most philosophical human being that it has ever been my pleasure to befriend.

John Kinsella, born, bred, weaned and reared in Bennettsbridge was given a natural gift of being "very handy" in whatever line of sport or entertainment he addressed. However there is no doubting that his first sporting love would have to be hurling.

"In truth, no young lad had an option if he needed to get outside the village", he laughed. "As youngsters we watched in utter envy and amazement as the star-studded Bennettsbridge lads piled into motors and headed for wherever - places that we as youngsters could only guess their geographical location". Eventually he made his way onto the 'Bridge minor team, with no great success at schools and club levels. In a phrase "We won nothin", according to my interviewee.

Bennettsbridge won the first ever under-21 County Title in 1968. It was the '67 Championship, and John Kinsella was the skipper, collecting the Jack Mulcahy Trophy, called after his first cousin. As a consequence Cork beat Kilkenny in Walsh Park in the 1968 All Ireland Final with Kinsella again at the helm. No major gongs thus far for the ambitious young Kinsella. But things would turn round in spades.

His first County senior medal arrived in 1966.

"I was in the motor cars now", he roared laughing.

He was swimming with the big lads. His first cousins, Paddy Moran, and Tony Kelly, were with him. His great icon was there too - John Mc Govern "Mc Govern made hurling look simple. My eyes would be like organ stops in the middle of my forehead at some of the things he could do with a hurl and ball. I revered the ground he walked on, and now I found myself on the same team - utter magic", he swooned.

John's Mother was one of four sisters (Murphys) who brought All Ireland winning players into the World - Paddy Moran, John Kinsella, Tony Kelly and Jack Mulcahy.

John Kinsella won three County senior Titles with the 'Bridge in '66, '67 and '71. He started as a wing back, progressed to midfield, onto wing forward, and finished at wing back.

Versatile or what?

"In '71 we prevented a super Johnstown team doing what would have ultimately been five-in-a-row, and that was some achievement. They were a super team at the time, unbeatable", he enthused. John is a very modest, self-deprecating if anything. His answer to his longevity on the Kilkenny team met with a "from '67 to '73, but more off it than on it".

For the '69 Final against Cork, Liam Byrne and John Kinsella were taken off the panel after

the Leinster Final. Why?

Get this. Because Kilkenny had to reduce the panel from 22 to 20. I can hear you saying already—Holy Jazus!, or an expletive of a similar hue. He was rather miffed!

He went playing soccer, and chasing the girls. He just loves dancing, and continues to the present day stepping across the ballroom floors of many dancehalls with Sheila, herself a brilliant ballroom dancer.

He married Sheila in '73. They had one son, Dan, and three daughters, Jackie, Gerri, and Owena. Gerri is a Downs Syndrome girl who keeps her Dad and Mam well set on the ground. Like all Downs children, Gerri is the focus of John and Sheila's existence, filling their every waking moment with joy, happiness, and true values - not forgetting their four grandchildren.

After the disappointment of the '69 Final, John came back into the fold for the '72 Final against Cork. He had previously won an Oireachtas medal against Clare in 1967, played in Croke Park. Let the record show that the terrier like Bennettsbridge man earned the admiration of the Kilkenny followers, as he bagged 1-2, and a Man-of-the-March Award from the *Kilkenny People*.

One of the great County highlights he remembers with bursting joy is when Paddy Grace told him that he was going in against Tipp in '67.

"It was a never to be forgotten moment. The crowd, the atmosphere, the thrill of being on a Kilkenny team that beat Tipp in a Final for the first time since 1922. You couldn't write the script", he beamed.

John played soccer - he "was handy" at that too - with Evergreen, and with East End United. He tried his hand at



John Kinsella shows his joy after the 1967 All Ireland victory over Tipperary



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refereeing GAA games. "The lack of punctuality really peeved me off, so I turned to soccer. It was easier do those games, and anyway you wouldn't get the same abuse", he laughed.

Local Radio came on stream in Kilkenny, and John Kinsella, with his catch phrase, "a good day for the washing missus" endeared him to a huge listenership. There were housewives, and farmers hung on every word of meteorological info coming at them down the wires from the badly missed Radio Kilkenny. He did ten years with KCLR, but his services were terminated, much to his annoyance.

As I said, John Kinsella was "handy" at many sports. He is a slave to golf.

"I love it, and I enjoy the friendships that I have formed through the years. I have had great memories especially when we would go to places like Druids Glen, and the K Club for the Press launches of Irish Opens and Matchplays", he said.

"Your sporting lifestyle so far has given you enormous pleasure, John, give me a few highlights?"

"In hurling of course, I would have to say coming on against Tipp, winning the County Final against an unbeatable and unbelievable Johnstown team, playing golf with my close friends in Callan, travelling on holiday overseas with the Radio Kilkenny crowd to Spain and Cyprus. That will do you", he finished.

Still a Bennettsbridge man to the core, he involves himself with the Parish Choir,



With Family and Friends

L/R: Damien Grimes (son-in-law - son of Eamon Grimes, former Limerick star), Jim Treacy, Pat Lalor, Alowen Grimes (Grandaughter), Daniel Kinsella

the newly formed Folk Choir, and the Move 4 Parkinsons Choir in Kilkenny City, and other Community enterprises. He loves the hurling being played by the Kilkenny team of the last twelve years.

"We are indeed fortunate to be alive to witness the magical stuff these lads have provided. It would bring you back if you hadn't gone too far".

Would you change any element of your

existence so far John?

"Not one moment, although Sheila and myself have had our share, but we also had the help, only God knows from where, to challenge it. Otherwise, a resounding "No," and with the help of God, a brilliantly professional medical team and very loyal friends, we will get some more. He spoke first and He will speak last"



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1972

*Back Row: Ned Byrne, Mick Crotty, Pa Dillon, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Kieran Purcell
Front Row: Pat Lalor, Jim Treacy, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan (Capt.), Pat Delaney, John Kinsella, Eamon Morrissey.
(Missing from picture - Phil Larkin)*

Photo Tom Brett



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T.J. Reid, Ballyhale Shamrocks, captain, is presented with the Tom Walsh cup by Ned Quinn, Chairman, County Bord and Michael O'Reilly, President, St. Canice's Credit Union, Kilkenny, after the Senior Hurling Championship Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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SHAMROCKS SUPREME!

COUNTY SH REPORT BY TOMMY LANIGAN

Photos Eoin Hennessy



Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH Championship Winners 2014

Back: Liam Grant, Michael Dermody, Eoin Knox, Enda Fitzpatrick, Brian Butler, Gavin Butler, Eoin Doyle, Eugene Aylward, Jack Kenneally,

Middle: Henry Shefflin, Alan Cuddihy, Kevin Mullen, Bob Aylward, Colin Fennelly, Mark Aylward, Joey Holden, Paddy Doyle, Donnacadh Fitzpatrick, Conor Phelan, Brian Cody, TJ Reid, Joe Cuddihy, Conor Reid, Patrick Reid,.

Front: Keith Nolan, Eoin Reid, Paul Shefflin, Richie Reid, Tom Coogan, Conor Walsh, Cha Fitzpatrick, David Hoyne, Ronan Corcoran, Michael Fennelly, Aidan Cummins, Patrick Mullen

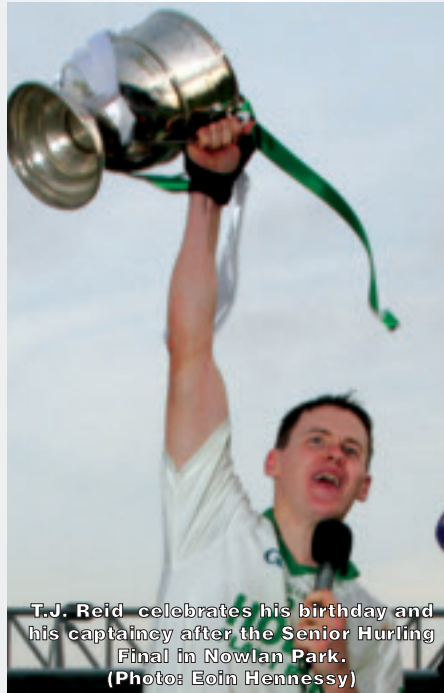
BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS garnered their 15th senior hurling championship title in considerable style with a comprehensive win (1-20 to 1-13) over 2013 champions Clara on 16 November.

The outcome of the game was inevitable from a long way out, but one suspects, this championship title was a particularly special one for this remarkable club. A somewhat less than convincing start to the league did not portend a great season. But this is a club who knows better than any other in modern hurling how to win championships. The arrival of Colm Bonnar and Andy Moloney as managers seemed to support a new impetus and their championship form was sublime.

A narrow 1-20 to 0-19 victory over Dicksboro in the Shield Final was followed by a stunning dismissal of hapless Danesfort (5-23 to 2-13), a game that had ended as a contest by the eighth minute. Shamrocks semi-final win over old rivals St. Martin's (1-19 to 0-14) was assisted by the Northerners persistence with an ultra defensive line-up while playing with the elements.

If Clara were to win the Tom Walsh Cup they would have to take the hard route. A very indifferent league saw them play a first round against James Stephens. In a quality encounter, Keith Hogan's goal was the essential difference between the sides. O'Loughlins never sparked in the quarter final and only made the scoreboard look acceptable (2-14 to 2-12) in the latter stages.

The semi-final, a rematch of the 2013 final with Carrickshock had Clara as warm favourites. It proved the most dismal game of the year. Carrickshock, shorn the leadership of Michael Rice because of the dreaded cruciate injury, offered pitiful resistance. A goal conceded through yet



T.J. Reid celebrates his birthday and his captaincy after the Senior Hurling Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

another misplaced short puck out ended the contest by the interval. When will clubs and coaches cop on and realise that a short puck out is just what the opposition relish? Thus Clara has some reason to feel confident in their game and personnel. Alas for them, there was little consolation for them in the final defeat.

They had a great start, leading 1-2 to nil before the Shamrocks subs were comfortably seated. They led by 1-6 to 1-4 after 15 minutes, then retreated to defensive mode and Shamrocks picked them off at will. The champions goal was of the wondrous variety, a supernal pass from Michael Fennelly to Henry and an adroit finish by Mark Aylward.

Driven by Fennelly at 6 and with TJ Reid,

Henry, Colin Fennelly and Cha in imperious form up front, they dictated all elements of the game, shooting a succession of spectacular points. Despite a mini revival by Clara during the second half, Shamrocks continued uninterrupted. TJ celebrated his 27th birthday as captain with a ten point virtuoso display. On a water laden sod they never needed a second touch to control the ball and their physique and ability to find the telling pass was so admirable.

Who is to say the Shamrocks cannot continue in this rich vein for years to come? Last year we wondered if we would see any team dominate the championships in the near future. Much changes, the old order remains the same. What a delight to watch these Shamrocks, brilliant on-field, modest off, admired by all except their next opponents.

The 2014 championship proved to be a mixum-gatherum of events. Other than Shamrocks sail through and Clara's semi-final, most games were very tight and well contested. St. Martin's reached the semi-final for the third successive year but showed too much respect to Shamrocks, notwithstanding a wonderful contribution by the evergreen John Maher. They continue to prove a solid team with great spirit.

Those outstanding players from their great minor successes in 2001 and 2002 have not been supplemented in Carrickshock. Playing two (very good) minors in this years contest suggests the talent is running dry. Let us hope not.

Danesfort were among the relegation prospects this year but some good league performances gave them hope. It needed a replay over Tullaroan (1-13 to 0-11) to guarantee safety and with limited supply lines, they may continue to struggle. But

they play with enthusiasm and fire and this may sustain them. Erin's Own scored more in their championship first round (0-19) than they usually manage but, uncharacteristically failed to defend against Carrickshock. They must hope to unearth a scoring forward (or two), easier said than done.

We predicted Rower-Inistioge would ruffle a few feathers in senior ranks. A great league campaign saw them top their group and lose a League final narrowly to O'Loughlins (1-18 to 2-13). The second year in senior ranks will tell more clearly how badly they want to challenge as a senior force. The potential is abundant.

That none of the city teams made the semi-finals was an item of curiosity. Currently they are running neck and neck at every level, with O'Loughlins garnering all the silverware at underage level in close contests. All three live much more in expectation than hope and with justification. Given the numbers available, they can blossom at any time. Mullinavat too, will prove serious opponents for all

St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2014 Scoreboard

1st Round

Danesfort 1-13
St. Martin's 0-13
Clara 1-20
Carrickshock 3-14

Tullaroan 0-11 (replay)
Fenians 0-10
James Stephens 0-18
Erin's Own 0-19

2nd Round

B'hale Shamrocks 5-23
St Martin's 2-16
Carrickshock 1-13
Clara 2-14

Danesfort 2-13
Dicksboro 2-13
Rower-Inistioge 0-15 (AET)
O'Loughlin Gaels 2-12

Semi-Finals

B'hale Shamrocks 1-19
Clara 1-19

St. Martin's 0-14
Carrickshock 0-8

Final

B'hale Shamrocks
Clara

1-20
1-13

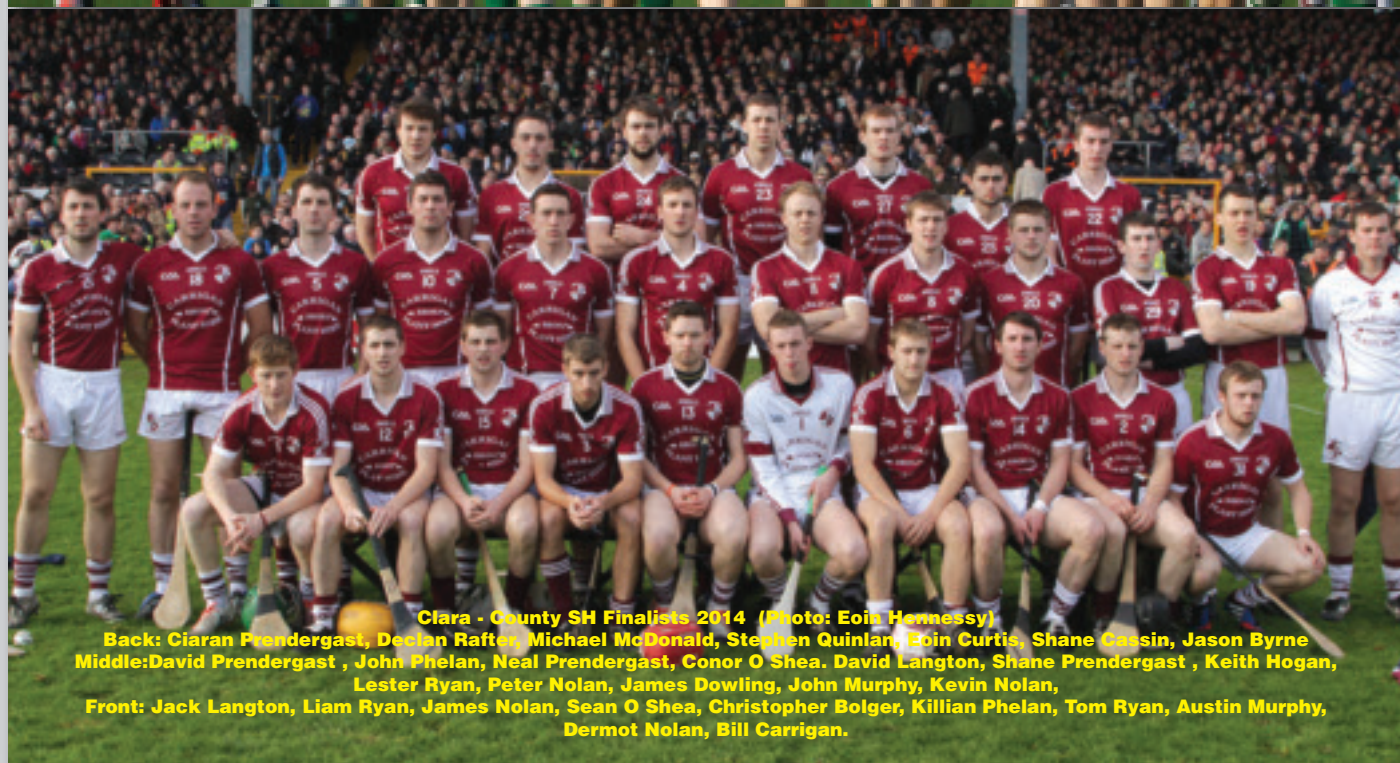
Relegation Final

Fenians
Graigue Ballycallan

0-18
1-14

next year. They have made the most of a great U21 title in 2013 and have youth, physique and skill in abundance. They have potential to prosper.

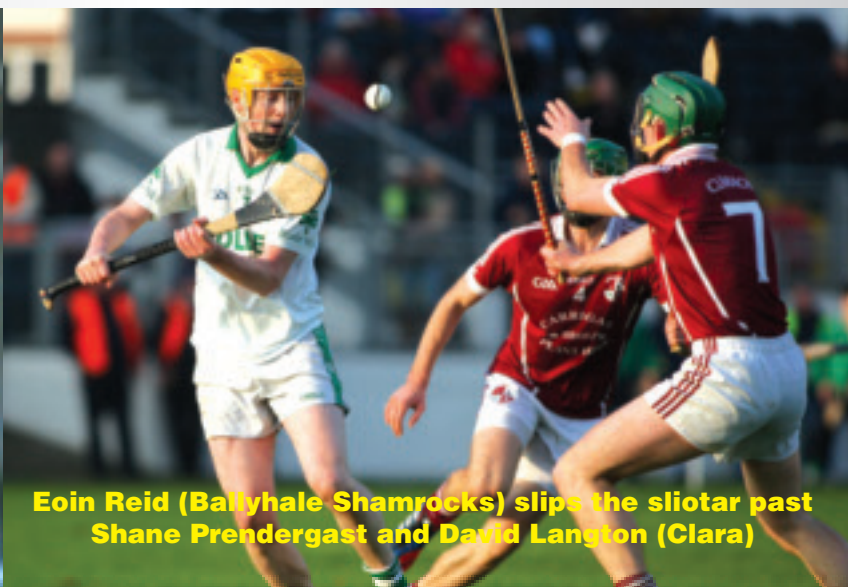
The relegation playoff continues to be one of the highlights of the championship year, provided one's own club is not involved. For once it proved a damp squib. Played in Freshford in appalling weather conditions, Fenians belied all of the doomsayers and won their seventh relegation tie. They have never wanted for leadership since their arrival in senior ranks in 1969. This year they were trained by PJ Delaney, a powerhouse centre back whose career had been finished by injury. In time of need, he returned to play at full forward and caused havoc in a young Tullaroan defence. Fenians shot three early goals to condemn the white and greens to Intermediate ranks. They may well struggle to return as a rising Bennettsbridge will render the Intermediate grade a very interesting one in 2015.



Clara - County SH Finalists 2014 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)
Back: Ciaran Prendergast, Declan Rafton, Michael McDonald, Stephen Quinlan, Eoin Curtis, Shane Cassin, Jason Byrne
Middle: David Prendergast, John Phelan, Neal Prendergast, Conor O Shea, David Langton, Shane Prendergast, Keith Hogan,
Lester Ryan, Peter Nolan, James Dowling, John Murphy, Kevin Nolan,
Front: Jack Langton, Liam Ryan, James Nolan, Sean O Shea, Christopher Bolger, Killian Phelan, Tom Ryan, Austin Murphy,
Dermot Nolan, Bill Carrigan.



Conor Walsh (Ballyhale Shamrocks) jumps with Keith Hogan and Jack Langton (Clara).



Eoin Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks) slips the sliotar past Shane Prendergast and David Langton (Clara)



Ballyhale Shamrocks players Henry Shefflin, Alan Cuddihy and Michael Fennelly celebrate after the Final

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2014 KILKENNY SH CHAMPIONSHIP

Ballyhale Shamrocks 20: Richie Reid, Alan Cuddihy, Joey Holden, Tom Coogan, Paul Shefflin, Michael Fennelly, Conor Walsh, Bob Aylward, David Hoyne, James Fitzpatrick, Colin Fennelly, T. J. Reid, Brian Cody, Henry Shefflin, Eoin Reid, Keith Nolan, Aidan Cummins Mark Aylward, Gavin Butler, Patrick Reid

Carrickshock 22: Emmett Dunphy, John Murphy, John Dalton, David Franks, John Cahill, John Tennyson, Pat Tennyson, Shane Power, Paddy Mulcahy, Jamie Power, John Power, Michael Rohan, Kevin Farrell, Richie Power, Brian Donovan, John Butler, Darren O' Dwyer, Darragh Brennan, John Power, James Grace, Richie Frisby, Pat Dalton.

Clara 20: Killian Phelan, Dermot Nolan, Sean O' Shea, Conor O'Shea, Neal Prendergast, Tom Ryan, David Langton, Lester Ryan, Jack Langton, Conor Phelan, Keith Hogan, Liam Ryan, Chris Bolger, Austin Murphy, James Nolan, Ciaran Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, John Murphy, Peter Nolan, David Prendergast.

Danesfort 18: Paddy Tynan, Gavin O' Keffe, Liam Forrestal, Robbie O' Keffe, Darren Booth, Paul Murphy, Philip Walsh, Paddy Hogan, Jim Phelan, Ben O' Connor, Cathal O' Neill, David Forristal, Oisín Daly, Richie Hogan, Robbie Walsh, Killian Treacy, Tony Woodcock, Colm Phelan.

Dicksboro 16: Aaron Duggan, Evan Cody, David Glynn, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Eoin Gough, Michael Fagan, Danny Kenny, Ollie Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Martin Gaffney, Eddie O' Donoghue, Andrew Gaffney, Paul O' Flynn, Oisín Walsh, Kevin Kelly.

Erin's Own 17: Tom Brophy, James Mullins, Ciaran Wallace, Conor Delaney, Jerry Callinan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Owens, Eoin Brennan, Jimmy Byrne, Robert Moran, Declan Dunne, Martin Boran, Eoin Meally, Martin Howley, Peadar Boran, Niall McMahon, Sean Buggy.

Fenians 17: P. J. Ryan, Luke Hughes, J. J. Delaney, Eoin Phelan, J. P. Grehan, John Henderson, Cathal Ryan, John Broderick, Willie Brennan, Kieran Grehan, Conor Tobin, Darragh Tobin, Donal Wilson, Kevin Power, Rory Phelan, Danny Dermody, P. J. Delaney.

James Stephens 18: Derrick Brennan, Niall M Quillan, Tomas Keogh, Luke Hickey, Eamon Sheehy, Jackie Tyrrell, Diarmuid Cody, Ray Cody, Matthew Ruth, Ger Flood, Eoin Larkin, Luke Scanlon, Conor Brown, Donnacha Cody, Jack McGrath, David Walton, Niall Mullins, Ben Lahart.

O'Loughlin Gaels 16: Stephen Murphy, Anthony Forristal, Eoghan Grant, Eddie Kearns, Paddy Butler, Brian Hogan, Niall Bergin, Paddy Deegan, Mark Bergin, Martin Comerford, Jack Nolan, Sammy Johnson, Conor Bergin, Mark Kelly, Danny Loughnane, Davy Burke,

Rower Inistioge 21: Liam Tierney, Eoin Doyle, Sean Cummins, Darragh Joyce, Ruari Galvan, Kieran Joyce, Sean Lyster, Michael Grace, David Lyng, Ciaran Ryan, Cathal Bolger, Tom Murphy, Pat Lyng, Conor Joyce, Richie Leahy, Pauric Tierney, James Cassin, James Doyle, John J. Kenny, Sean Grace, Joe Lyng.

St. Martin's 18: Colin McGrath, James Maher, Ollie Walsh, Shane Cadigan, Brian Byrne, Patrick Nolan, Michael Morrissey, James Dowling, Paddy Dowling, John Mulhall, Eoin McGrath, Tomas Breen, Shane Kinsella, John Maher, Paul Maher, Canice Maher, Brian Mulhall, Joe Maher.

Tullaroan 19: Richie Butler, Paddy Champion, David Dowling, Diarmuid Doheny, Stephen Maher, Shane Hennessy, Richie Maher, Ken Coogan, Padraig Walsh, Tommy Walsh, Shane Cuddihy, Mark Walsh, Peter Walsh, Martin Walsh, Paul Buggy, Josh Moore, Stephen Dowling, Michael Maher, Shane Walsh.



SH CLUB ACTION

MOONCOIN 1965 COUNTY CHAMPIONS REMEMBERED

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the victorious Mooncoin 1965 County SH Champions team. The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.



The Mooncoin Senior Hurling Champions from 1965 who were honoured before the County SH Final in Nowlan Park

Back: Michael Holden, Jack Kearns, Jim Byrne, Tom Ryan, John Lynch.

Middle: Johnny Howley, Martin Delahunty, Ed. Murphy, Billy O'Keeffe, Tom Walsh, Joe Dunphy, Ned Doyle, Willie Grant, Dick Holden.

Front: Ned Connolly, Tom Nolan, Seamus O' Carroll (Springhill Court), Jim Lynch, Ned Quinn (Co Chairman), John Walsh, Michael Conway.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Mooncoin - Senior Hurling Champions, 1965

Back: Johnny Walsh (M), Mick Conway (M), Pat Delahunty (Psc), Johnny Howley (Btsna), Claus Dunne (M), B O'Keeffe (M), Martin Delahunty (Btsna), Ed Connolly (G), Tom Nolan (G), Ned Doyle (AgI), Willie Grant (Psc).

Middle: T Ryan (Luf), T Walsh (New Aglish), Martin Howley (Btsna), Dick Dunphy (Luf), Jimmy Lynch (Bcur), John Walsh (G), Watty McDonald (E), Joe Dunphy (Luf), Ed Murphy (G).

Front: Dick Holden (M), Denis Kinsella (D), Johnny Lynch (Bcur), Jim Byrne (M), Noel Doyle (Luf).



MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS KILKENNY



The Winning Team!



Mullinavat captain, Willie O'Dwyer receives the Intermediate Hurling Cup from Ned Quinn, Chairman, County Bord and Michael Lyng, Sponsor, Michael Lyng Motors, after the County Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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UNBEATEN 'VAT REJOIN SENIOR RANKS

Michael Lyng Motors IH
Championship 2014
by Conor Brennan

Photos Eoin Hennessy & Willie Dempsey



Mullinavat - County IH Champions & League Winners 2014

Back: Ryan Bland, Conor Duggan, Nathan Malone, Ger Malone, James Culleton, Darren Kenneally, Conor Frisby, Adam Mansfield, Brian Phelan, Pat Mulhearn, Ian Duggan

Middle: Paul Ennis (coach), David Murphy, Joe Fennelly, Jamie Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Paddy Jones, Robbie Malone, Dinny Butler, Seamus Farrell, Tony Duggan, Mark Mansfield, Liam Murphy, Declan Wall (manager), John Dunphy (selector),

Front: Damien Aylward, Killian Dunphy, Ciarán Boyle, John Walsh, Mikey Jones, Willie O'Dwyer (Capt.), Thomas Aylward, Simon Aylward, Joe Gahan, Pauric Gahan, Paddy Raftice, Darren Waters. (Inset: Packie Wall & Tommy Frisby, Selectors)

As with 2013, it was a Southern team with the potential for a bright future who secured the ultimate intermediate honours this season. Mullinavat has always the capability of getting back to the top rank of Kilkenny club hurling, but getting consistency in their play was proving the major issue. They did not seem to have that issue, as they remained unbeaten throughout the season, a fine achievement in itself.

The league match ups in the earlier half of the season produced some interesting results which came quite close to mirroring what would occur later on in the heat of championship battle. The shield final saw newly promoted Lisdowney overcome their junior champion predecessors, Thomastown by 1-17 to 2-11. This was followed by what would prove to be the prequel to the championship final itself, as Mullinavat took the league honours over St. Patrick's in a highly entertaining game in Nowlan Park (2-16 to 0-18).

The opening rounds of the championship got underway on the weekend of September 13th and 14th. Tullogher-Rosbercon, who came close to qualifying for the quarter-finals automatically, faced St. Lachtain's in their first round game. Though their star player, Walter Walsh, was keenly watched by the Freshford side's defence, it was another forward, Cian O'Donoghue, who was the key man for the Southerners on this occasion. The minor player notched 1-10 for his side, with eight points from frees, to give his side the edge. They led by 1-9 to 0-5 at half-time and though St. Lachtain's fought back well in the second half, led in particular by county star Brian Kennedy, Tullogher were still able to hold on to secure a 2-14 to 1-13 victory.

On their return to the intermediate ranks, Graigue-Ballycallan faced another side with aspirations of making decent progress in the right direction this year, Glenmore, in their opening round clash. The Southerners made a flying start to the game with two early goals, but the Graigue men showed good composure to score consecutive points throughout the half. They were fortunate, however, that Glenmore spurned two further goal chances later in the half

to ensure the sides were level at half-time (2-2 to 0-8). Glenmore fought hard to gain supremacy in the second half, but some wayward shooting was to prove costly. Meanwhile, the accuracy of Philip Cahill from frees and points from a variety of forwards allowed Graigue to open up a lead. Though Glenmore tried manfully to reel their opponents in, they failed to do so, as Graigue deservedly advanced on a 0-18 to 2-6 score line.

Two sides with equally mixed fortunes throughout their league campaign were Dunnamaggin and Conahy Shamrocks. As the two sides faced each other, the threat of a relegation playoff for the loser loomed large, as this was reflected in the nature of the game played in the Kells Road Grounds. The better fortune, however, went Dunnamaggin's way. They scored an early goal to aid their cause and though Conahy fought back, they still held a goal lead at the half-time break. Dunnamaggin's second goal from John Fitzpatrick after good work by Colin Herity proved to be the decisive score and effectively killed off the Conahy challenge. In the end, the Southerners advanced on a 2-15 to 0-14 score line and ensured Conahy faced Glenmore in the relegation playoff.



Mullinavat Captain, Willie O'Dwyer lifts the Intermediate Hurling Cup.

The final first round game required a replay to separate the two sides – namely Young Irelands and last year's beaten finalists, Emeralds. In the first game, the Urlingford men held the upper hand early on, as the Gowran men struggled to cope with the absence of a number of key players due to injury. However, they proved that they were made of stern stuff by fighting back in the second half and securing the lead at one stage. It looked as if Emeralds could not provide the answer needed, but they were relieved as late on, Ian Grant scored an opportunist goal with the assistance of Alan Guilfoyle to level the scores once again and send the game to a replay. The second game proved to be a even more open affair, with the Gowran men having the better of the exchanges in the opening half, leading by 0-12 to 1-4 at the break. They increased this lead throughout the second half and led by 2-19 to 1-13. It seemed all was over for Emeralds, that was until Alan Guilfoyle and Aidan Fogarty snatched two goals to create a dramatic finish. They nearly



St Patrick's - County IH Finalists 2014

Back: Niall Dowling, John Phelan, Billy Butler, Richie McEvoy, Mark Staunton, Paddy Gannon, John Butler, Billy Morrissey, Dermot Brophy, David Kelly, Sean Mooney.

Middle: Michael Stapleton, Eoin Delaney, Eoin Bergin, Brendan Dooley, Jody Phelan, Barry Staunton, Kieran Delaney, Paddy Brennan, Paddy McEvoy, Joe Brennan, Jack Ryan, Micheál Kenny, Kevin Kelly, Michael Brennan.

Front: Ger Staunton, Robbie Healy, Seoirse Kenny, Geoff Brennan, Conor Delaney, Michael Gannon, Bill Staunton, John Mooney (Captain), Brian Phelan, James Gannon, Liam Lacey, Oisín Brennan, Brian Mulhall.

even sent the game to extra-time but a late chance was cleared away. The Gowran men just held on to advance to the quarter-finals.

St. Patrick's faced Dunnamaggin in their quarter-final clash in St. John's Park. It proved to be a unsurprisingly physical game with good fortune ultimately deciding the outcome. This good fortune fell on the side of St. Patrick's, who scored two opportunist goals at crucial times to aid their cause. Dunnamaggin were reliant of Kenny Moore's accuracy from frees to keep them within touching distance of the Ballyragget men. However, it wasn't until the final minutes that St. Patrick's were able to guarantee victory when Joe Brennan rifled a shot to the Dunnamaggin net to open up their lead and put the Dunnamaggin men to the sword, eventually winning by 2-14 to 0-13.

The league champions, Mullinavat, faced Young Irelands, in the quarter-final played in the Kell Roads Grounds. Observers would have imagined a victory for the Southerners but the battle hardened Gowran men were having none of it. They raced into 2-2 to 0-2 lead after ten minutes, and though Mullinavat responded, they still led by 3-7 to 1-9 at half-time. A fourth goal from full-forward Sean Kehoe early in the second half increased Young Irelands' lead to seven points. But instead of giving the Gowran men extra momentum, it was Mullinavat who responded to the challenge of front of them. They held their opponents to three further points and forced their way back into the game. They secured a close range free in the final minute and though John Walsh's effort was saved, Jamie Fennelly finished the rebound to the net. A further point from Walsh gave the Mullinavat men a two point victory in



Goalmouth action from the Intermediate Final

the end (2-18 to 4-10), and heartbreak for Young Irelands.

The opportunity of qualifying for the county semi-finals was a massive incentive for both Tullogher-Rosbercon and Lisdowney, which would have been seen as a major achievement by both clubs. Once again, Cian O'Donoghue was central to the Tullogher cause, scoring the game's only goal, but he was also well assisted by Conor Hennessy, Liam Barron and a heavily watched Walter Walsh. The goal came midway through the second half when O'Donoghue kicked the ball past Niall Grogan in the Lisdowney goal. It ensured that Tullogher advanced on a 1-13 to 0-13 score line.

Graigue-Ballycallan secured the fourth semi-final place with a hard fought victory over Thomastown in Palmerstown. Thomastown did hold the advantage in

the opening half thanks to goals from Stuart Waugh and Jonjo Farrell to lead 2-5 to 0-7 at the interval. Graigue performed far better in the second half, with the experience of James Ryall in defence and Eddie Brennan in attack crucial to their cause. As the game entered the final minutes, the teams remained deadlocked until Eddie Brennan scored a point and created another point for Paddy Kennedy. This was followed with another free from Bob Murphy to give Graigue the spoils on a 0-19 to 2-10 score line.

The Graigue men went forward to face St. Patrick's in the county semi-final in Nowlan Park. It was a tight and tense affair, with little highlights to live long in the memory. The good start that the Ballyragget men enjoyed, led by Kevin Kelly in particular, was the key difference between the sides as they led by 0-8 to 0-2 at the half-time break. The weather con-

ditions made good play a difficult achievement for both teams, and there were plenty of missed chances on both sides. St. Patrick's once again made a strong finish, scoring three points in the final minutes, two from Joe Brennan and one from the tireless Seoirse Kenny, to ensure they advanced to the county final by winning by 0-13 to 1-5.

This game was preceded by the other semi-final, which was a southern derby between neighbours Mullinavat and Tullogher-Rosbercon. It certainly produced more excitement, with the win for the taking right until the final action. Walter Walsh was causing problems for Mullinavat early on with some typically direct running, but John Walsh and Willie O'Dwyer was equally troublesome for the Tullogher defence. They were fortunate that the goalkeeper, Martin Roche, was in place to make a fine save from Jamie Fennelly, to ensure that Mullinavat only held a two point lead at half-time (0-9 to 0-7). The early stages of the second half saw Mullinavat stretch their lead, thanks to a well taken goal from Willie O'Dwyer. They could have extended that lead further had they taken more of the chances that

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2014

First Round			
Tullogher Rosbercon	2-14	Mullinavat	2-18
St. Lachtain's	1-13	Young Irelands	4-10
Emeralds	2-15	Tullogher-Rosbercon	1-13
Young Irelands	2-15	Lisdowney	0-13
Replay:			
Young Irelands	2-19	Graigue-Ballycallan	0-19
Emeralds	3-13	Thomastown	2-10
Graigue-Ballycallan	0-18	Semi-Finals	
Glenmore	2-6	Mullinavat	2-13
Dunnamaggin	2-15	Tullogher-Rosbercon	1-13
Conahy Shamrocks	0-14	St. Patrick's	0-13
Quarter-Finals			
St. Patrick's	2-14	Graigue-Ballycallan	1-5
Dunnamaggin	0-13	Conahy Shamrocks	2-22
		Glenmore	3-16
County Final			
Mullinavat	2-13	St. Patrick's	2-11

came their way. Their supporters must have feared that they would live to regret this, as so it proved, as with a minute left, Cian O'Donoghue goaled after a Walter Walsh run to level the scores. Before a breath could be caught, a further point from Conor Hennessy gave his side an unlikely lead. But the drama did not end there as Mullinavat's Jamie Fennelly received a pass from his colleague Mark Mansfield. He wormed his way through and his half hit shot bobbled into the Tullogher net. It secured a 2-12 to 1-13 vic-

like they were about to hold out as they led going into the final ten minutes. But Conahy summoned great courage to produce a match winning response. Led superbly by Alan Healy, Shane Brennan and Kieran Mooney in attack, they fought back and Mooney scored a well taken goal to take the initiative back in his side's favour. There was still some drama before the finish, however, as Eoin Murphy had a last gasp chance to secure a draw for Glenmore from a close range

tory for Mullinavat, and desperate disappointment for their opponents, who gave their all throughout.

Meanwhile, the question of relegation to the junior ranks for 2015 was decided in dramatic style by Conahy Shamrocks and Glenmore. In a game that saw numerous twists and turns throughout as well as scores, Glenmore looked

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2014 KILKENNY IH CHAMPIONSHIP

Conahy Shamrocks 18: Andy O' Keffe, Thomas Nolan, Seamus Brennan, Philly Cass, Paddy Mullan, Brien Healy, John Mullan, Michael Lawlor, Garry Kavanagh, Peter Vickery, Paul Buggy, Kieran Mooney, Tom Phelan, Alan Healy, Shane Brennan, David Healy, Paraic Nolan, Gavin Nolan.

Dunnamaggin 21: David Herity, Paul Kirwan, Noel Hickey, Mark Dowling, Aidan Donavan, Canice Hickey, Paddy Delaney, Eoghan Kearney, Darren Fitzpatrick, John Fitzpatrick, Willie Phelan, Ronan Coffey, Sean Connery, Kenny Moore, Peter Kenneally, Tommy Maher, Colin Herity, Michael Cody, Mark Heffernan, Paul Kirwan, Seaghan O' Neill.

Emeralds 19: Shane Moriarty, Eoin Moriarty, Niall O' Gorman, Thomas Moriarty, Brian Troy, Patrick Doheny, Joey Doheny, Pdraig Phelan, Shane Norton, James Kenny, Aidan Fogarty, Conor Martin, Brian Campion, Ian Grant, Jamie Ryan, Francis Clohosey, Alan Guilfoyle, Damien Fitzgerald, Joe Clohosey.

Glenmore 18: Davy Aylward, Michael Phelan, Fergal Freyne, Mark Phelan, Philip Roche, Eoin Murphy, Sean Duggan, James Aylward, Shane Murphy, Ger Aylward, Liam Hennessy, Shane Doherty, Alan Murphy, Mark Aylward, Paddy Murphy, Ben Doherty, Emmett Vereker, Stephen Cody.

Graigue Ballycallan 22: P. J. Trant, Darragh Egan, Ger Teehan, Dara Walton, Bob Murphy, James Ryall, Shane Butler, Philip Cahill, Jimmy Murphy, Willie O' Connor, Eddie Brennan, James Smith, Billy Ryan, Niall Millea, Gearoid Cleere, Conor Murphy, John Purcell, Thomas Ryan, Eoin Corcoran, Michael Hoyne, Paddy Kennedy, Vinny Teehan.

Lisdowney 18: Niall Grogan, Ray Fitzpatrick, Martin Phelan, Niall Mackey, Anthony O' Hara, Sean Phelan, Peter Bergin, Pat O' Carroll, Kevin Sweeney, Aaron Fogarty, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Eddie Hickey Michael Kenny, Rory Hickey, Conor O' Carroll, Paddy Bowden, Eoin Delahunty, Eoin Walsh.

Mullinavat 19: James Culleton, Joe Fennelly, Thomas Aylward, Seamus Farrell, Robert Malone, Pauric Gahan, Simon Aylward, Dinny Butler, Darren Kenneally, Brian Phelan, Joe Gahan, Liam Fennelly, Ger Malone, Mark Mansfield, Jamie Fennelly, Willie O' Dwyer, John Walsh, Ian Duggan, Paddy Raffice.

St. Lachtain's 19: Robbie Dowling, Caoimheaghan Bergin, Niall Phelan, Benny Quinn, Tommy Flynn, Brian Kennedy, Mark Kavanagh, Noel McGree, James Maher, Colin Corcoran, David Brennan, Bill Beckett, John Fitzpatrick, Liam Hickey, Shane Donnelly, Darren Brennan, Michael Farrell, Michael Kavanagh, Paul Guinan.

St. Patrick's 21: Liam Lacey, John Mooney, James Gannon, Paddy McEvoy, Bill Staunton, Kieran Delaney, Robbie Healy, Geoff Brennan, Michael Brennan, Brian (B) Phelan, Brian Mulhall, Kevin Kelly, Barry Staunton, Sean Mooney, Seoirse Kenny, Conor Delaney, Mark Staunton, Jody Phelan, Joe Brennan, Michael Gannon, Eoin Bergin.

Thomastown 18: Dylan Waugh, Sean Mahony, Brian Murphy, Jay Burke, Barry Whelan, Richard O' Hara, Derek Brennan, Dessie Walsh, Johnny Barron, Adrian Burke, Michael Donnelly, Stuart Waugh, Thomas O' Hanrahan, John Joe Farrell, Robbie Donnelly, Darren Burke, Robert O'Hanrahan, Derek Lanigan.

Tullogher Rosbercon 18: Martin Roche, Anthony Cotterall, John Hartly, Sean Murray, Moling Cotterall, Pat Hartly, Donnacha O' Connor, John Cotterall, Brendan Lawlor, John Barron, Edmond Cullinane, Liam Barron, Conor Hennessy, Walter Walsh, Cian O' Donoghue, Kevin Hennessy, Terrance Croke, Billy Ryan.

Young Irelands 22: Martin Carey, Niall Walsh, Michael Walsh, Ciaran Carroll, Eoin Walsh, Emmett Byrne, Johnny Dunphy, Thomas Carroll, J. P. Treacy, Paul Delahunty, Paul Holden, J. J. Lennon, Dick Carroll, Sean Kehoe, Paul Kehoe, Jeff Brennan, Michael Lennon, Sean Carey, Chris Nolan, Jack Glendon, Jodie Foley, John Morris.

free. As expected, the shot was well hit, but was deflected onto the cross bar and was cleared. In the end, it meant Glenmore suffered the heart break of relegation and Conahy breathed a massive sigh of relief as they won by 2-22 to 3-16.

The county final, like those in the past, was primarily influenced by the weather conditions and the ultimate ability of both sides to deal successfully with them. St. Patrick's signalled their intent by positioning Kevin Kelly at full-forward and it seemed to have a most positive effect as he was central to the majority of the Ballyragget attacks and scores. However, they were often guilty of some wayward shooting in the opening half which ultimately would prove costly. Meanwhile, Mullinavat were far more economical in attack and appeared to be settling into the game more and more as the half wore on. Dinny Butler was highly influential in midfield, and Ger Malone and minor star John Walsh were also key men in their performance. As it was, there was little between the sides at half-time as Mullinavat held a single

point advantage (0-8 to 0-7).

The third quarter of the game was a key period for Mullinavat, who outscored their opponents by 0-6 to 0-2. But the Ballyragget men were subsequently able to respond in kind to level the scores at 0-14 each as the game entered the final quarter. Their wing-back Bill Staunton, who was superb all through, underlined his performance with one of those points. Neutrals may have suspected that the momentum was with the Northerners, but Mullinavat proved otherwise. Three consecutive points followed from Joe Gahan, John Walsh and Mark Mansfield, who had capped a fine performance in midfield with his third point. They held this advantage from there until the final whistle, winning in the end by 0-17 to 0-14, leaving Ballyragget frustrated once again. Following on from the under-21 Roinn A success last year, it is fair to say that promising times lay ahead for Mullinavat as they re-enter the senior grade once again.



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Bennettsbridge captain, Robert Lennon, receives the Junior Hurling Cup from Ned Quinn, Chairman, County Board and Paul Kavanagh, Sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons after the County Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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THE 'BRIDGE ARE BACK!

COUNTY JH REPORT BY
NED BUGGY



BENNETTSBRIDGE COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2014

Back: Paul O'Neill, Damien Donavan, Ronan O'Connor, Maurice Walsh, Brian O'Neill, Joe Murphy, Bill O'Neill, Ben Tynan, Aidan Byrne, Luke Dowling, Shane Nolan.

Middle: Eddie Fitzgerald, James Moran, Liam Blanchfield, Kevin Brennan, Tom Kiely, Aidan Cleere, Brian Lannon, Patrick O'Neill, William Murphy, Dylan Walsh, Michael Walsh, Gareth Hickey,

Front: Tim Dooley, Edward Murphy, Darragh Wafer, Cormac Wafer, Enda Cleere, Jason Cleere, Sean Wemyss, Nicky Cleere, Enda Morrissey, Shane Byrne.

Sitting: Sean Morrissey, Michael Shiel, Rob Lennon, Hugh O'Neill, Kevin Blanchfield,

J. J. KAVANAGH AND SONS JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

21 teams took part in the 2014 Junior Hurling Championship.

The 12 junior proper teams played in section A, while the 9 junior teams of senior clubs played in section B

Three teams qualified from section A for the semi-finals while one team qualified from section B

Scoreboard

Section A

1st Round

Blacks and Whites	3-14	Graignamanagh	0-10
Galmoy	3-20	Cloneen	0-8
Bennettsbridge	1-17	Windgap	0-11
Mooncoin	1-18	John Lockes	1-5
Kilmacow	4-15	Barrow Rangers	1-15
Piltown	1-18	Slieverue	0-10

Quarter finals

Bennettsbridge	6-13	Piltown	0-10
Galmoy	0-13	Blacks and Whites	1-6
Mooncoin	0-17	Kilmacow	1-12

Section B

(Jim Rice Memorial Cup)

1st Round

O'Loughlin Gaels	2-14	Erins Own	1-15
St. Martin's	3-11	B'hale Shamrocks	1-17
Dicksboro	2-14	Clara	2-12
James Stephens	1-16	Mullinavat	0-13

Semi-Finals

O'Loughlin Gaels	0-14	Dicksboro	0-13
James Stephens	2-19	St. Martin's	1-6

Final

O'Loughlin Gaels	1-13	James Stephens	0-14
------------------	------	----------------	------

County semi-finals

Bennettsbridge	2-19	Galmoy	1-16
Mooncoin	1-20	O'Loughlin Gaels's	3-11

County Final

Bennettsbridge	1-17	Mooncoin	1-7
----------------	------	----------	-----

Bennettsbridge are back in the intermediate grade after 11 years following this very impressive victory and judging by their performance and the average age of the team it will not be long before they will be back in the senior ranks where they belong.

Mooncoin started well and looked like they were going to test the hot favourites and led after 15 minutes by a point 0-4 to 0-3, but in the next 15 minutes although playing against a strong breeze the Bridge scored another 8 points to Mooncoin's 1 point and in injury time Liam Blanchfield gathered the ball and evaded a few tackles before blasting the ball into the net to leave the half time score 1-11 to 0-5 and to end the match as a contest.

Bennettsbridge increased their lead with an extra 4 points to leave the score 1-15 to 0-6 with less than 8 minutes to go before Eoin Henneberry broke through to score a consolation goal for Mooncoin.

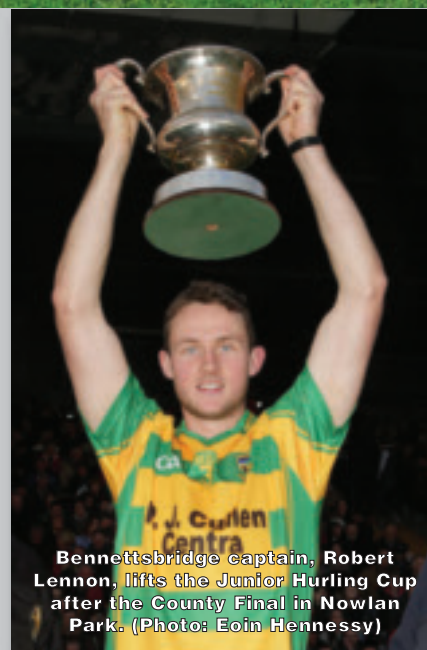
The Bennettsbridge half back line of J Cleere, E. Morrissey, A. Cleere were outstanding throughout, while all six forwards scored together with sub William Murphy and mid-field man Aidan Cleere, Nicky Cleerewas the outstanding forward on the field.

Mooncoin were very disappointing after the first 15 minutes and only Eoin Henneberry, Niall Blanchfield, Sean Wall, Ray Wall, and Stephen Crowley were prominent for them

Bennettsbridge scorers: N. Cleere 0-7, L. Blanchfield 1-1, B. Lannon 0-2, A. Cleere 0-1, S. Morrissey 0-1, K. Blanchfield 0-1, H. O'Neill 0-1, W. Murphy 0-1.

Mooncoin Scorers: E. Henneberry 1-0, E. Ryan 0-2, C. Fleming 0-1, S. Wall 0-1, J. McGrath 0-1, S. Crowley 0-1, D. Mackey 0-1.

Bennettsbridge: E. Cleere, S. Wemyss, R. Lennon, J. Moran, J. Cleere, E. Morrissey, A. Cleere, D. Wafer, K. Blanchfield, H. O'Neill, C. Wafer, N. Cleere, L. Blanchfield, B. Lannon, S.



Bennettsbridge captain, Robert Lennon, lifts the Junior Hurling Cup after the County Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Morrissey. Subs: W. Murphy, M. Shiel.

Mooncoin: P. Kinsella, C. Brophy, A. Walsh, N. Blanchfield, N. Mackey, C. Daly, E. Henneberry, E. Ryan, D. Kearns, C. Fleming, J. McGrath, S. Kearns, S. Wall, D. Purcell, R. Wall. Subs: P.J. Roe, D.. Mackey, S. Crowley, K. Kirwan, P. Walsh. Referee: Michael O'Sullivan (Ballyhale Shamrocks)

JJ KAVANAGH & SONS JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

The Junior A championship was organised by both the Northern and Southern Boards 8 teams played in the northern section and 8 teams played in the southern section.



MOONCOIN - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2014

Robbie Cody, David O'Brien, Michael Grace, Shane Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Shane Walsh, Thomas Healy, Eamon Hennebery, Stephen Crowley, Nicky Henneberry, Kevin Crowley, P.J. Roe, Padraig Walsh, J.P. Purcell.

Niall O'Hanlon, Keith Kirwan, Cormac Fleming, Cormac Daly, Eoin Henneberry, Niall Mackey, Seamus Kearns, Liam Henneberry, Ethan Ryan, Brendan Mackey, Richard Mackey, John Phelan.

Ciaran Dunphy, Niall Blanchfield, Ray Wall, Sean Wall, Alan Walsh, Patrick Kinsella, David Kearns, Conor Brophy, Jamie McGrath, Daniel Purcell, Diarmuid Mackey and Tomas Kinsella (Hydrotherapist).

Northern Junior A Hurling Championship Scoreboard.

(Sponsored by J. J. Kavanagh and Sons)

1st. Round		
G/Ballycallan	2-22	Con Shamrocks 2-19
St. Lachtain's	3-16	Young Irelands 2-6
Fenians	2-20	Emeralds 3-16
Lisdowney	0-13	St. Patrick's 0-11

Semi-Finals		
Fenians	1-15	G/Ballycallan 1-14
Lisdowney	1-17	St. Lachtain's 1-8

Final		
Lisdowney	2-17	Fenians 1-9

Southern Junior A Hurling Championship Scoreboard.

Sponsored by Iverk Products

1st Round			
Glenmore	1-13	Tull/Rosbercon	1-11
Mooncoin	1-16	Carrickshock	1-8
Thomastownw/o		Kilmacow	scr
R/Inistioge	0-16	Dunnamaggin	0-16
R/Inistioge	1-12	Dunnamaggin	1-7

Semi-finals			
R/Inistioge	1-12	Glenmore	0-11
Mooncoin	1-16	Thomastown	1-11

Final			
Mooncoin	1-10	Rower Inistioge	0-5

County Junior A Hurling Final

Sponsored by J. J. Kavanagh and Sons

Mooncoin	2-14	Lisdowney	0-19
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JJ KAVANAGH & SONS JH B CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

26 teams entered to play in this championship which was organised by both the northern and southern board.

16 teams played in the north and 10 teams played in the south.

J. J. Kavanagh and Sons Northern Junior B Hurling Championship

Scoreboard

1st Round		
O' Loughlin Gaels	4-18	Cloneen 1-10
Erins Own	1-19	Jas Stephens 1-14
Danesfort	2-21	Threecastles 1-15
Bennettsbridge	0-19	Clara 0-9
Blacks and Whites	2-21	St. Martin's 2-10
Conahy Shamrocks	3-24	Galmoy 2-21
St. Lachtain's	3-18	G/Ballycallan 2-12
Barrow Rangers	2-12	Dicksboro 2-12
Replay		
Barrow Rangers	2-20	Dicksboro 3-16

2nd Round		
O' Loughlin Gaels	5-14	St. Lachtain's 0-8
Conahy Shamrocks	1-16	Bennettsbridge 0-13
Danesfort	2-15	Barrow Rangers 1-11
Blacks and Whites	2-17	Erins Own 3-5

Semi-Finals		
O' Loughlin Gaels	5-17	Conahy Shamrocks 0-5
Danesfort	1-18	Blacks and Whites 1-13

Final		
O' Loughlin Gaels	1-20	Danesfort 2-8

Country Style Foods Southern Junior B Hurling Championship

Scoreboard		
1st Round		
Mullinavat	2-10	Carrigeen 1-12
Piltown	1-22	B Shamrocks 2-16
John Lockes	1-13	Mooncoin 1-11
Graignamanagh	4-15	Rower Inistioge 1-4

Semi-Finals		
Graignamanagh	1-20	John Lockes 1-9
Piltown	0-21	Mullinavat 0-11

Final		
Graignamanagh	3-10	Piltown 0-11

32nd Kilkenny County Junior B Hurling Championship Final

(Dick Dunphy Memorial Cup)

O'Loughlin Gaels	1-20	Graignamanagh 1-18
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Ber Leydon was the hero for O'Loughlin Gaels as his goal in the last minute of extra time ensured victory for his club in this thrilling county junior B hurling championship final.

Playing with the aid of a strong breeze O' Loughlin's shot four unanswered points in the first nine minutes and looked to be heading for an easy victory, and although they scored another six points before half time, they only led by 4 points as Graignamanagh hit back with

1-3, the goal scored by Dane Flood.

O'Loughlin's still looked winners after 47 minutes as they led by 5 points but a storming finish by the Graig lads caught them on the line with a great Terry Dreelein equalising point.

Extra time kept the tension on a knife edge. Graignamanagh led by a single point at the end of the first period and still led with minutes to go until Ben Leydon struck with that late goal.

O'Loughlin Gaels scorers: B. Hogan 0-8, B. Leydon 1-1, J. Lenehan 0-3, F. Brennan 0-3, S. Tyrrell 0-1, J. Doyle 0-1, D. Bolger 0-1, A. O'Brien 0-1, V. Wallace 0-1.

Graignamanagh scorers: L. Kinsella 0-7, C. Dunne 0-5, D. Flood 1-1, J. McGrath 0-2, C. Roche 0-1, K. Walsh 0-1, T. Dreelein 0-1.

Referee: John Walsh (Rower Inistioge)

KILKENNY JUNIOR "A" HURLING LEAGUE

This competition was organised by both the Northern and Southern Boards

19 teams entered to play in the junior A hurling league.

The 8 teams in the north were divided into two groups of 4

The 10 teams in the south were divided into two groups of 5.

After the 12 league games in the north were played the final league tables were as follows:-

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Graigue Ballycallan	3	2	1	0	5
Conahy Shamrocks	3	2	1	0	5
Emeralds	3	0	1	2	1
Fenians	3	0	1	2	1

J. J. Kavanagh and Sons

Northern Junior A Hurling League Semi-Finals

Graigue Ballycallan	2-17	Young Irelands	1-11
Lisdowney	0-12	Conahy Shamrocks	0-8

Northern Junior A Hurling League Final

Graigue Ballycallan	0-12	Lisdowney	0-10
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Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Lisdowney	3	2	0	1	4
Young Irelands	3	1	1	1	3
St. Patrick's	3	1	1	1	3
St. Lachtain's	3	0	2	1	2

After the 20 games in the south were played, the final league tables were as follows:-



MOONCOIN - COUNTY JH "A" CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Sean O'Hanlon, John Phelan, Jamie McGrath, Niall Blanchfield, Nicky Heneberry, Eoin Purcell, Sean Walsh, John Fitzgerald, Liam Heneberry, Shane Walsh, Liam Walsh, Padraig Walsh, Seamus Kearns,
Front: David O'Brien, Thomas O'Hanlon, Billy Ryan.

Front: Niall O'Hanlon, Alan Walsh, Kevin Crowley, Thomas Healy, Ciaran Dunphy, Richard Mackey (Captain), J.P. Purcell, David Kearns, Shane Walsh, Ian Dunphy, Richie Doyle, Ethan Ryan, Brendan Mackey, Diarmuid Mackey, Charlie Mackey and Eve Mackey. Thomas Kinsella (Trophy Manager).



LISDOWNEY - NORTHERN JH "A" CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Joe Bergin, Antony O'Hara, Shane Clyne, Brian Campion, Peter O'Sullivan, Vinny Fitzpatrick, Darrin Clyne, Micheal Bergin, Paddy Bowden, Brian O'Carroll, Eoin Lyons, Eoin Walsh,
Front: Padraig Kenny, Eoin Delahanty, Paul Coss, Willie Kenny, Dylan Jordan, David Dowling, Paddy Burns, Jimmy Delaney, Ciaran Bergin, Paul Murphy, Paul Sweeney, Ciarán O'Carroll.



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - COUNTY JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Seanie Tyrrell, Mick Lambert, Stephen Tyrrell, Andy Cantwell, Rick Leydon, Ben Leydon, David Rice, Danny Bolger, Michael Henebry, Andy Smith, Mick Lambert, Joe Walsh, Kevin McGarry, Eoin Croghan, James Lenehan, Kevin O'Brien, John Joe Cullen,
Front: David Ward, Brian Kelly & son, Martin Gibbons, John Doyle, Paul Denieffe, Evan Walsh, Fergal Brennan, Barry Hogan, Shane O'Brien (Captain), Mark Croghan, Stephen Wall, Richie Moylan, Vinny Wallace, Alan O'Brien & son, Jamie Kavanagh, Gerry Buckley



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Group A						
Team	P	W	D	L	P	
Erins Own		4	4	0	0	8
Carrickshock	4	2	1	1	5	
Killmacow			4	1	1	2 3
Thomastown	4	1	1	2	3	
Rower Instioige		4	0	1	3	1

Group B						
Team	P	W	D	L	P	
Ballinkillen		4	4	0	0	8
Glenmore		4	2	1	1	5
Mooncoin		4	2	0	2	4
Dunnamaggin		4	1	0	3	2
Tullagher Ros.		4	0	1	3	1

Iverk Produce Southern Junior A League

Semi-Finals			
Ballinkillen	1-12	Carrickshock	0-6
Erins Own	1-13	Glenmore	1-10

Southern Junior A Hurling League Final			
Ballinkillen	0-18	Erins Own	0-16

J.J Kavanagh and Sons County Junior A Hurling League Final			
Graigue Ballycallan	2-17	Ballinkillen	2-15

J.J.KAVANAGH AND SONS JUNIOR B HURLING LEAGUE

This competition was organised by both the Northern and Southern Boards

J. J. Kavanagh and Sons Northern Junior B Hurling League

15 teams entered and were divided into 3 groups.

The following are final league tables

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Danesfort	5	4	0	1	8
Graigue Ballycallan	5	3	1	1	7
Barrow Rangers	5	2	2	1	6
Conahy Shamrocks	5	2	0	3	4
Dicksboro	4	1	1	2	3
St. Martin's	4	0	0	4	0

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
O'Loughlin Gaels	4	4	0	0	8
Blacks and Whites	4	2	1	1	5
Bennettsbridge	4	1	1	2	3
Clara	4	1	0	3	2
Threecastles	4	1	0	3	2

Group C					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Galmoy	4	4	0	0	8
St. Lachtain's	4	2	1	1	5
Erins Own	4	2	0	2	4
James Stephens	4	1	1	2	3
Cloneen	4	0	0	4	0

Quarter Finals			
Blacks and Whites	3-13	Galmoy	2-15
St. Lachtain's	3-13	G/Ballycallan	0-14

Semi-Finals			
Blacks and Whites	1-17	Danesfort	0-9
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-13	St. Lachtain's	2-13
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-18	St. Lachtain's	0-9

Final			
Blacks and Whites	1-13	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-10

Iverk Produce Junior B hurling League

9 teams entered and played in 1 group

Team	P	W	D	L	P
Piltown	8	8	0	0	16
Mullinavat	8	5	0	3	10
John Lockes	8	5	0	3	10
Rower Instioige	8	4	1	3	9
Graignamanagh	7	4	0	3	8
Mooncoin	8	2	1	5	5
Windgap	7	2	0	5	4

Carrigeen	8	2	0	6	4
Ballyhale Shamrocks	8	2	0	6	4

Semi-finals			
Piltown	0-18	Rower Instioige	1-14
Mullinavat	3-8	John Lockes	1-14

Final			
Piltown	1-13	Mullinavat	1-12

County Final			
Blacks and Whites		v	Piltown
		(to be played)	

ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE 2013

(SPONSORED BY J.J. KAVANAGH & SONS)

(John Joe Henneberry Memorial Cup)

25 teams entered to play in the competition and were divided into five groups of five.

After a total of 50 games were played the top 2 teams in each group qualified to play in the knockout stages of the league.

The following are the groups and how they finished.

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Killmacow	4	4	0	0	8
Dicksboro	4	3	0	1	6
Erins Own	4	1	1	2	3
Windgap	4	1	1	2	3
Naomh Eoin	4	0	0	4	0

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
John Lockes	4	3	0	1	6
Piltown	4	3	0	1	6
Naomh Brid	4	2	0	2	4
Cloneen	4	1	0	3	2
James Stephens	4	1	0	3	2

Group C					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Bennettsbridge	4	4	0	0	8
O'Loughlin G.	4	2	1	1	5
Naomh Moling	4	2	0	2	4
Mullinavat	4	1	1	2	3
Ballyhale S	4.	4	0	4	0

Group D					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Slieverue	4	3	0	1	6
M. L. Rangers	4	3	0	1	6
Clara	4	2	0	2	4
Tullaroan	4	2	0	2	4
St. Martin's	4	0	0	4	0

Group E					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Graignamanagh	4	3	0	1	6
Mooncoin	4	3	0	1	6
Galmoy	4	1	1	2	3
Blacks & Whites	4	1	1	2	3
Barrow Rangers	4	1	0	3	2

Knockout stages of the league			
Preliminary Round			
O' Loughlin Gaels	2-18	Piltown	0-22
Dicksboro	1-12	M. L. R.	1-10

Quarter finals			
O' Loughlin Gaels	2-15	Slieverue	1-10
Mooncoin	0-18	Killmacow	2-8
Dicksboro	1-11	John Lockes	1-3
Graignamanagh	4-12	B'Bridge	1-13

Semi-Finals			
Graignamanagh	0-9	Mooncoin	0-8
O'Loughlin Gaels	3-13	Dicksboro	2-15

Gaels Show True Grit To Win Their First All County Junior Hurling Title.			
O' Loughlin Gaels	3-7	Graignamanagh	0-15

From start to finish this game bubbled with action. In the first half the more experience O' Loughlin lads showed the value of their senior experience of the recent past in spades as they

decimated the men from the south with some brilliant passages of possession and well orchestrated directional hurling.

Playing against the breeze the city lads led at half time by 3-4 to 0-5, and on that evidence and turning around to play with the aid of a strong breeze, it looked all over a big win for them.

How ever with a realignment of their forces, Graig came out in the second half like men possessed and swarmed forward causing hassle for the O' Loughlin defenders and slowly but most positively hauled in their rivals and by the 49th minute the gap had been pared down to a single point.

Minutes later Eddie Walsh equalised with a tremendous point but 2 very smart points by Alan Geoghegan in the 55th and 57th minutes afforded his side some much appreciated breathing space.

Eddie Walsh got another point back for Graig but the equaliser never arrived although they got three great chances to do so.

Scorers for O'Loughlin's: G: A. Geoghegan 1-2, M. Henneberry 1-1, B. Dowling 0-3, P. Cantwell 1-0, J. Doyle 0-1.

Scorers for Graig: L. Kinsella 0-6, E. Walsh 0-3, J. Meany 0-2, C. Dunne 0-1, A. Kenny 0-1, B. Foley 0-1, S. Kavanagh 0-1.

O' Loughlin Gaels: S. Johnston, A. O' Brien, B. Murphy, S. Tyrrell, A. Kearns, R. Leydon, P. Deegan, B. Dowling, M. Gibbons, A. Geoghegan, P. Cantwell, R. Buckley, M. Henneberry, J. Doyle, D. Lenehan. Subs: G. Byrne, F. Brennan, S. Cummins, C. Loy.

Graignamanagh: R. Dowling, S. Dowling, L. Blanchfield, P. Hamilton, J. Doyle, J. Cahill, B. Hennessy, E. Dowling, J. Meany, S. Kavanagh, B. Foley, E. Walsh, J. O' Donnell, L. Kinsella, C. Dunne.

Subs: A. Kennedy, S. O'Brien.

Referee: R. Byrne (Glenmore).

THE NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

(Jim Rafter Memorial Cup)

(Sponsored by J. J. Kavanagh and Sons)

Scoreboard

1st. Round			
O' Loughlin Gaels	3-19	Cloneen	0-12
Barrow Rangers	1-22	B'bridge	0-14
Blacks and Whites	1-19	St. Martin's	1-10
Erins Own	2-23	Jas Stephens	1-14

Quarter Finals			
Blacks and Whites	1-21	Dicksboro	0-11
Clara	2-12	Galmoy	2-10
Erins Own	w/o	Tullaroan	scr
O' Loughlin Gaels	1-13	B'w Rangers	3-7
O' Loughlin Gaels	3-12	B'w Rangers	2-11

Semi-Finals			
Blacks and Whites	0-18	Clara	1-10
O' Loughlin Gaels	1-12	Erins Own	3-5

Final			
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-18	B & W's	1-13

SOUTHERN JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

(Sponsored by Iverk Produce)

Scoreboard

Preliminary Round			
Killmacow	1-15	Mullinavat	0-15

1st. Round			
Graignamanagh	2-15	Slieverue	1-16
Killmacow	1-20	B Shamrocks	0-14
Piltown	1-22	Windgap	2-16
John Lockes	1-13	Mooncoin	1-11

Semi-finals			
Piltown	2-20	G'namanagh	1-18
Killmacow	0-22	Piltown	0-15

Final			
Killmacow	0-22	Piltown	0-15





NAOMH EOIN - FENNELLY CUP CHAMPIONS 2014
Back: Paraic Nolan, Shane Cranny (Capt), Barry Nolan, Peter Abbey, Dwain Kavanagh, Kevin Foley, Adam Kenny, Eoin Nolan, Conor Foley, Conor McLean, Eanna Kavanagh, Ross Smithers, Emmet Fox.
Front: Jamie Hogan, Tadgh O'Connor, Ronan Nolan, Daniel Siye, Martin Doyle, Eoghan Redmond, James O'Hara, Brian Treacy, Keith Hogan, Eoghan O'Hara.
 Photo Charlie Maher.



KILMACOW - SOUTH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2014
Back: Brian Fleming, Diarmuid O Dwyer, Andy Kearns, Dillon Cook, Paddy O'Keeffe, Johnny Hayes, Richie O'Neill, Ian Ahearn, Dean Power, Shane Gaule, Willie O Toole, Shane Harney, John Guidera,
Front: Ray Hennessey, Sean Flynn (Capt) Emmet Blanchfield, Jack McGuire, Shey Dempsey, John Daniels, Richie McNamara, Conor Dowling, Luke Harney, Ryan McKenna, Johnny Barron,
 Photo Charlie Maher.

J.J. Kavanagh and Sons Junior Hurling League 2014

12 junior proper teams entered and were divided into two groups of six.

The final league tables were as follows:

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Bennettsbridge	5	5	0	0	10
Mooncoin	5	4	0	1	8
Graignamanagh	5	2	1	2	5
Barrow Rangers	5	2	1	2	5
Slieverue	5	1	0	4	2
Cloneen	5	0	0	5	0

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
Piltown	5	4	0	1	8
Kilmacow	5	4	0	1	8
Blacks and Whites	5	2	1	2	5
John Lockes	5	1	2	2	4
Windgap	5	2	0	2	4
Galmoy	5	0	1	4	1

League Final			
Bennettsbridge	2-17	Piltown	0-20

9 junior teams of senior clubs played in section

B of the county league in 2 groups.

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
O' Loughlin Gaels	4	4	0	0	8
Clara	4	3	0	1	6
Mullinavat	4	2	0	2	4
St. Martin's	4	1	0	3	2
Tullaroan	4	0	0	4	0

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	P
B'hale Shamrocks	3	2	0	1	4
James Stephens	3	1	1	1	3
Dicksboro	3	1	1	1	3
Erins Own	3	1	0	2	2

Final		
Ballyhale Shamrocks	v	O'Loughlin Gaels
(to be played)		

KEVIN FENNELLY MEMORIAL CUP (Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)

For junior teams that finished 5th in each group in the all county hurling league.

Scoreboard		
Preliminary Round		
James Stephens	0-23	B Shamrocks 2-5

Semi-Finals		
Barrow Rangers	2-19	St. Martin's 0-17
Naomh Eoin	2-21	Jas Stephens 2-8

Final		
Naomh Eoin	2-16	B Rangers 1-14

The 'Rangers shot down in Fennelly Cup Final.

Yet another Kilkenny hurling cup winged its way to Carlow after Naomh Eoin from Myshall scored a creditable and convincing win over Barrow Rangers to take home the Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup after a highly-charged encounter in well presented Tom Walsh Park. That Naomh Eoin deserved to win is beyond question. They showed a better team ethic, a greater fitness level and a willingness to chase down even the remotest chance of profit. Naomh Eoin led at half time by 2-9 to 0-7. By the 36th minute Barrow Rangers had reduced the lead to six points and looked a different team. To improve their chances Naomh Eoin had a man sent off, but Naomh Eoin redoubled their determination and clattered over a few delightful points to run out easy winners.

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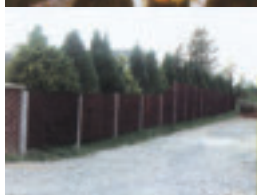
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PILTOWN - SOUTH JUNIOR B LEAGUE WINNERS 2014

Back: Sean Mundy, Conor Nugent, Ian Long, Martin Kirby, Aidan Nugent, Shane O'Dwyer, Niall Kinsella, David Byrne, Thomas Talbot, Tommy O'Gorman, David Kinsella, Thomas Murray, Aidan Ryan, David O'Shea, Pa Connolly, Kevin White, Dean Brophy
Front: Tom Kenny, Stephen Blackmore, Michael Burchill, Jamie Murphy, Tadgh Whelan, Ian Flynn, Philip Kenny, Eoin Walsh, Shane Walsh, Adam Murphy, Andrew Norris.



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - "NORTHERN JUNIOR AND ALL CO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2014"

Back: Billy Leydon, Fergal Brennan, Paddy Duggan, Paddy Cantwell, Paucic Meany, Ben Leydon, Martin Gibbons, Michael Twomey, James Lenehan, Hugh Lawlor, Mark Croughan, Michael Henebry, Eoghan Croughan, Stephen Tyrrell, Alan O'Brien, Rick Leydon, Daragh Twomey (youth).
Front: Nigel Skehan, Alan Geoghegan, Danny Bolger, Kevin O'Brien, Vinnie Wallace, Conor Holohan with cup, Brian Murphy... ohnnie Doyle Sammy Johnston Shane Parsons.

Naomh Eoin scorers: A. Kenny 0-6, E. Kavanagh 1-3, C. Foley 0-4, K. Hogan 1-1, D. Kavanagh 0-1, R. Smithers 0-1.
Barrow Rangers scorers: R. Doyle 0-11, D. Maher 1-0, C. Doyle 0-1, W. Hennessy 0-1, E. Prendergast 0-1
Naomh Eoin: B. Treacy, R. Nolan, S. Cranny, E. O' Hara, M. Doyle, D. Kavanagh, E. Nolan, B. Nolan, J. O' Hara, C. Foley, A. Kenny, R. Smithers, K. Hogan, K. Foley, E. Kavanagh.
Subs: P. Nolan, E. Redmond.
Barrow Rangers: J. Holden, K. Brennan, J. Kealy, J. Hughes, E. Prendergast, T. Brennan, T. Brennan, P. Purcell, C. Kenny, W. Hennessy, M. Whitly, R. Doyle, T. Brennan, K. Flavin, C. Doyle, M. Bambrick.
Subs: C. Green, D. Maher
Referee: Gerry Rafter.
Referee: R. Byrne (Glenmore).

JOE WALSH MEMORIAL CUP (Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)

For junior B teams that did not qualify for the play-offs of the junior B leagues. Ten teams qualified to play in the northern section. Carrigeen qualified to represent the Southern Board

Northern Section

Scoreboard.

1st. Round			
Threecastles 3-20	St. Martin's	1-0	
Dicksboro	1-12	Cloneen	0-8
2nd Round			
Clara	1-19	C. Shamrocks	3-9
Bennettsbridge	2-16	Dicksboro	0-15
Threecastles 3-10		Erins Own	1-12
Barrow Rangers	2-22	Jas Stephens	5-10

Semi-finals			
Bennettsbridge	1-18	B Rangers	0-16
Clara	3-17	Threecastles	2-15
Final			
Bennettsbridge	2-14	Clara	2-13
County Final			
Bennettsbridge	4-10	Carriageen	0-7

Bennettsbridge Win The Joe Walsh Memorial Cup.

Bennettsbridge and Carrigeen went toe to toe to decide the keeper of the Joe Walsh Memorial Cup (commemorating the legendary secretary of the Southern Board) in Thomastown. It was a game where a very young Bennettsbridge dominated a Carrigeen side which did not have one of their better days at the office. Carrigeen started brightly, forcing the 'Bridge to take a backward step or two with two very fine points inside the early few minutes, and after 15 minutes they were still in front thanks to the accuracy of free taker Johnny Cooney. At this stage it seemed they were capable of continuing their recent improving form but it was a false dawn. Willie Murphy shot the winners in front with a fine point, and Kevin Brennan added another before Dylan Walsh scored a spectacular goal and the same player drilled home an even more astonishing goal six minutes later to give the 'Bridge a 2-5 to 0-4 point lead at half time. The second half was a re-run of the first with the 'Bridge doing as they pleased, and the Carrigeen's cause was not helped when they

lost their goalkeeper for a second yellow card on 43 minutes.

Bennettsbridge Scorers: W. Murphy 1-5, D. Walsh 2-1, S. Byrne 1-1, K. Brennan 0-3,
Carrigeen scorers: J. Cooney 0-5, K. Law 0-1, L. Roche 0-1.
Bennettsbridge: B. Tynan, S. Nolan, J. Moran, B. O' Neill, M. Power, G. Hickey, S. Wemyss, L. Dowling, E. Murphy, M. Shiel, W. Murphy, G. Geoghegan, S. Byrne, D. Walsh, K. Brennan.
Subs: E. O' Connor, T. Dooley, P. O' Neill,
Carrigeen: J. Carroll, A. O' Brien, R. O' Brien, W. Kelly, C. O' Hanlon, F. Law, C. O' Keeffe, D. Gates, B. Gallagher, S. Dowley, L. Roche, K. Law, N. Gallagher, J. Cooney, F. Dermody.
Subs: H. Delahunty, M. Long, A. Skehan.
Referee: Eoin Hayes (Thomastown)

PADDY CAHILL MEMORIAL CUP

Scoreboard

Preliminary Rounds			
Windgap	0-14	Tullaroan	0-11
Cloneen	2-14	Mullinavat	0-13
Quarter Finals			
Blacks and Whites	2-19	Erins Own	1-10
Naomh Brid	3-15	Windgap	0-10
Clara	1-17	Cloneen	1-15
St. Mullins	w/o	Galmoy	scr
Semi-finals			
St. Mullins	2-16	B & W's	1-13
Naomh Brid	v	Clara	
	(To be played)		
Final			
St. Mullins	v	Naomh Brid/Clara	
	(To be played)		



JH CLUB ACTION

O'Loughlins Complete the Clean Sweep!

Bord na nÓg MH Report
Patrick O'Flynn



Photos Eoin Hennessy
& Willie Dempsey

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - MINOR "A" CHAMPIONS AND LEAGUE FINALISTS 2014

As the clock ticked towards the end of the game it looked highly unlikely that 14 man O'Loughlin Gaels would be lifting the trophy as Dicksboro were two points to the good and should have being further ahead before Cian Loy shot the lights out with a goal that sent his club supporters into wild celebrations in Nowlan Park.

The Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor A Hurling Championship was one of the most exciting in years as there were plenty of clubs with genuine designs on winning the title. First into the fray were newcomers Conahy Shamrocks who caused a mild surprise when they defeated reigning champions Rower-Inistioge by 0-14 to 1-10. Their neighbours Erin's Own also pulled off another surprise when they dumped out the fancied Bennettsbridge.

Dicksboro and Ballyhale Shamrocks also won their first round games but undoubtedly the game of the first round was the epic clash between Tullaroan and James Stephens which the Village side eventually won, making their experience tell.

The quarter finals again saw some high quality games with Thomastown getting the better of Ballyhale Shamrocks, James Stephens ending Erin's Own interest in the competition, O'Loughlin Gaels had a big victory over St Lachtains. Dicksboro were put to the pin of their collar by Conahy Shamrocks before a goal sealed the victory.

James Stephens and O'Loughlin Gaels squared up to each other in the semi-final with the St John's side winning after the Village, who were shorn of their talisman Luke Scanlon, led for most of the of the game. In the other semi-final Dicksboro defeated Thomastown to make it an all city final.



O'Loughlin Gaels captain, **Huw Lawlor**, is lifts the Minor Hurling Championship cup after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

There was nothing between the two sides in the first half with the sides level 2-2 to 1-5 at the break. Shane Maher put the St John's outfit ahead. The Boro struck through the highly talented Bill Sheehan who goaled, quickly followed by an Andrew Gaffney pointed free. Soon after Robbie Buckley was sent off which swung the pendulum firmly in Dicksboro's favour.

In the 58th minute Andrew Gaffney seemed to have sealed it for Dicksboro putting them two up with a fine free, but then up popped Cian Loy with a real sucker punch to ensure O'Loughlins completed the clean sweep of underage hurling titles in Kilkenny, and by the looks of things will be the team to beat for a few years to come.

O'Loughlin Gaels: Robbie O'Driscoll, Dan O'Driscoll, Huw Lawlor, Brian Buckley, Shane Mahony, Robbie Buckley, Gary Bryan, Thomas Gleeson, Cian Loy, Sean Bolger, Ross Butler, Ben Leydon, Danny Bolger, Daniel O'Connor, Shane Maher, Thomas Wadding, Jack Lawlor, Eoin Croghan, Luke Rafter, Lyndon Brannigan, Sean Kiely, Robbie Murphy, Kevin Rowe, Jay Leahy, Peter Collins, Robbie Buckley, Tervine Wallace, Eoin Kelly.

Dicksboro: John Hanrick, Evan Carroll, Jim Dollard, Conor Doheny, Robert Crotty, Aidan Nolan, Alan Phelan, Conor Fitzpatrick, Thomas Kenny, Kieran Ryan, Corey Cahill, Andrew Gaffney, Bill Sheehan, Chris Kavanagh, Robbie Murphy, Richard Stapleton, Ronan Butler, Cian Butler, Jamie Byrne, Edward Moylan, Oisín Gough, Billy Rowe, Kieran Dunne, Brain Power, Kieran Dunne, Brian Power, Shane O'Gorman, Dara Lynch, Travis Fahy, Shane Stapleton, Adam Clifford, David Ryan, Johnny Minogue, Liam Kennedy.

MINOR B SLIEVERUE RISE TO THE TOP

Slieverue got there in the end and deservedly won the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor B County Hurling Championship. Most sides in the competition would have fancied their chances and plenty of teams were left to lament their missed chances.

Slieverue easily defeated James Stephens B in the first round while St. Martins raised a few eyebrows with their big win over Galmoy/Windgap. John Lockes defeated the finalists of the previous two years Danesfort, Graigue-Ballycallan defeated old rivals Fenians. Tullogher Rosbercon, St. Fiaccres and Dunnamaggin all had first round victories.

In one of the most talked quarter final games of the year Graigue-Ballycallan eventually won the arm wrestle against John Lockes 1-6 to 1-5. St Martins gained revenge for last years defeat to Clara by virtue of a six point victory. Tullogher-Rosbercon overturned the highly fancied Dunnamaggin whilst Slieverue won a goal fest of a game against St. Fiacres.

Graigue-Ballycallan and St. Martins played each other in the first semi-final and the Kilmanagh outfit won 2-10 to 2-4 in a tight affair. St Martin's had come roaring back into contention being only a point behind before a Philly Cahill inspired side eventually won out. Slieverue easily swatted aside the challenge of Tullogher-Rosbercon to get to the final.

The final itself proved to be a see-saw affair with Graigue-Ballycallan leading by four points at half but three tough games in 14 days took its toll and a Slieverue side with Eoin Kenny and Luke O'Donovan in a particularly rich vein of form found the goals to land a famous victory.

Slieverue: Gavin Grant, David Irish, Jack Frisby, Dylan O'Keeffe, Peter Murphy, Luke O'Donovan, John Mulcair, Donnacha Griffin, Joe O'Brien, Colm Fleming, Oliver Mullally, Gary Walsh, Cillian Power, Eoin Kenny, Eamon Phelan, William Mullally, James Freyne, Gavin Morrissey, Michael Irish, David Hawe, Ethan Walsh, Paul Rellis, Ben Alcock, Matthew Gaynor, Danny Moore.

Graigue-Ballycallan: Bill Cuddihy, Tommy Ronan, Richard Keoghan, Tom Dunphy, Evan Walsh, Philip Cahill, Conor Flynn, Eamonn Egan, Shane Hennessy, Dylan Lanigan, Billy Ryan, Colum Prenderville, Jamie Lawlor, Padraic Dunphy, Sean Ryan, Niall Butler, Alan Harrison, Gerodan Davis, Ciaran Hogan, James Everard, Ger Doheny, David Maher, Luke O'Brien, George Murphy, Jesse Roberts, Killian Egan, David Hoyne, Peter Murphy.

SLIEVERUE - MINOR "B" CHAMPIONS 2014



THOMASTOWN - MINOR "A" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2014

With Mentors John Brennan, Mick Donnelly and Donal Farrell
Missing from photo; Eamonn O'Donnell.



DICKSBORO - MINOR "A" CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2014

Minor C Championship 'Shock take the title!

The two standout teams in the Roinn C grade all year had been Carrickshock and Barrow Rangers, so it came as no major surprise that both of them made the final. Carrickshock were quite impressive in their opening round victory over Young Irelands whilst Barrow Rangers were as equally impressive defeating Dicksboro B. St Patrick's made Rangers work for their victory in the semi-final but the Paulstown men won by seven points. Carrickshock saw off Cloneen in the other semi final.

In a highly competitive final Carrickshock had enough in the tank to defeat Barrow Rangers 0-15 to 0-11 and they always just had that touch more of class. Stefan Maher was a big presence at centre forward and a key figure to ensure the spoils went to the South of the county.

Carrickshock: Dan Blanchfield, Rory Doyle, Conor Aylward, Michael Kenneally, Ciaran Lennon, Dylan Halligan, Aaron O'Neill, Kevin Farrell, Sean Grace, Kieran Conway, Stefan Maher, David Sutton, Darragh Doyle, Darragh Brennan, David Kedney, Jody Dwyer, Jamie Barron, Michael Murphy, Sean Cassin, Conor Mulholland.

Barrow Rangers: Kevin Hennessy, James Hogan, Eoin Rudkins, Robert Gleeson, Niall Doheny, Billy Hanlon, Adam O'Neill, Darragh O'Connor, Jimmy Brennan, Marc Drennan, Brian Kelly, Dylan O'Neill, Jack Kelly, Sean Murphy, Michael Doyle, Sean Dermody, Evan Foley, Sean Grace, Paddy Hennessy, Edward O'Neill, Shane Flavin, James Hennessy, Ben Whelan, Cian Cassidy, Ross Lennon, Jimmy Byrne



CARRICKSHOCK - MINOR "C" CHAMPIONS & LEAGUE FINALISTS 2014



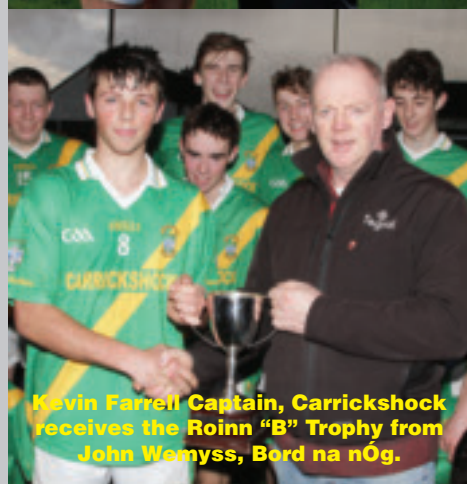
DANESFORT - MINOR "B" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2014



BARROW RANGERS - MINOR "C" FINALISTS 2014



Edin Kenny, Slieverue Captain, receives the Roinn "B" Trophy from Willie Dempsey, Bord na nÓg.



Kevin Farrell, Carrickshock Captain, receives the Roinn "B" Trophy from John Wemyss, Bord na nÓg.



YOUNG IRELANDS - MINOR "C" LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2014

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O'Loughlin Gaels captain, Huw Lawlor, is presented with the Minor Hurling Championship cup by Cathal O'Neill, Kilkenny Vehicle Centre and Willie Dempsey, Chairman, Bord na nOg after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



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O'Loughlins Lead the Way

Bord na nÓg U16 Report
by Patrick O'Flynn



Photos Willie Dempsey

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - MINOR "A" CHAMPIONS AND LEAGUE FINALISTS 2014

UNDER 16 ROINN A REPORT

Ten teams went to the post for the Duggan Steel Roinn A Under 16 Hurling Championship which eventually saw the title return to St. John's Park. In the first round O'Loughlin Gaels easily saw off the challenge of an injury-stricken Ballyhale Shamrocks side whilst it took James Stephens all their time to beat a plucky Danesfort team. In the quarter finals Conahy Shamrocks, Rower Inistioge, Erin's Own and Thomastown were all defeated to leave semi-final pairings of James Stephens against Dicksboro and O'Loughlin Gaels against Mooncoin.

In the all city semi-final it was tight with James Stephens holding the advantage by virtue of the game's only goal but some slick point shooting by the Dicksboro men saw them through on a scoreline of 0-18 to 1-13. At this stage O'Loughlin Gaels were strong favourites for the competition having defeated Mooncoin in their semi-final.

O'Loughlin Gaels 5-12 Dicksboro 1-7

O'Loughlin Gaels regained the Duggan Steel Under 16 Roinn A County title for 2014 with a superb display of skill and speed that saw them overwhelm the previous year's winners Dicksboro in Bennetsbridge.

The conditions were summer like as from the very first ball O'Loughlin Gaels made their intentions known when Eoin Wall pointed after Robbie O'Driscoll found him in space. Better was to follow for the St John's Park based outfit moments later when Ben Maher latched onto a breaking ball to send the green flag waving. Edward Moylan responded for Dicksboro with two quickly pointed frees before O'Driscoll scored a great individual goal for the green and white jerseyed team.

Moylan again pointed for Dicksboro and it took until the 20th minute for the next score to arrive with the deficit being cut to three via a Justin Cahill point. O'Driscoll, Sean Bolger & Wall all pointed with Dicksboro's sole score during the middle quarter coming from Mark Nolan. The last score of the half came from O'Driscoll leaving O'Loughlin Gaels leading 2-5 to 0-5 ahead at the break.

Many were expecting a tight second half. Instead it was game, set and match by the 43rd



O'Loughlin Gaels captain, Huw Lawlor, is lifts the Minor Hurling Championship cup after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

minute with O'Loughlin Gaels out scoring their opponents 2-4 to 1-1 to gain an unassailable lead. Wall was again to the fore, pointing from the restart with Eoin O'Shea & Sean Bolger(2) all grabbing minors. Sean Bolger then split the Dicksboro defence going on a 45 yard which ended with the midfielder sending the ball to the roof of the net. Liam Kennedy hit back with a goal for the 'Boro after some neat work by Evan Carroll. Edward Moylan briefly lifted maroon hopes with a pointed free but Eoin Wall finished the game as a contest when he goaled for O'Loughlin Gaels who were in complete control of the game at this stage and added further misery with a Ben Maher goal. The St John's outfit will take great delight in this victory with star performances from Eoin Wall, Sean Bolger, Shane Mahony & Robbie O'Driscoll. For Dicksboro Evan Carroll, Mark Nolan & Johnny Manogue tried hard on a day when things didn't go right for them.

O'Loughlin Gaels: Stephen Scanlon, Joe Banville, Jordan Molloy, Charlie Deegan, Peter Collins, Shane Mahony, Jay Leahy, Sean Bolger, Eoin Kelly, Ronan Buckley, Tervine Wallace, Ben Maher, Eoin Wall, Robbie O'Driscoll, Eoin O'Shea.

Subs: Adam Power for O'Driscoll 52m, Kevin Murphy for Buckley 52m, Ryan Poyntz for O'Shea 53m, Joe Murphy for Jordan Molloy 53m, John Delaney for Joe Banville 54m.

Dicksboro: Kieran Galvin, David Ryan, Cian Butler, Joe Sheehan. John Minogue, Evan Carroll, Cillian Timmons, Chris Kavanagh, Jack Condon, Justin Cahill, Alan Corcoran, Edward Moylan, Mark Nolan, Eoghan Moylan, Brian Cleere. **Subs:** Liam Kennedy for Kavanagh 9m, Oisín Gough for Condon 29m David Campion for Corcoran 50m, Liam Smith Brennan for Timmons 51m.

Ref: Eamon Larkin (James Stephens)

UNDER 16 ROINN B REPORT

The Roinn B Championship as ever proved to be competitive and open. Twenty teams were in the draw and it necessitated a preliminary round draw which saw Kilmacow, Galmoy/Windgap, Dunamaggin and Emeralds all emerge with impressive victories.

The first round proper saw Galmoy/Windgap run up another big win against St Fiacres whilst the game of the round was undoubtedly the clash between Graigue Ballycallan and St Lachtain's which saw the Kilmanagh men win the shoot-out 5-8 to 3-7.

Barrow Rangers accounted for Emeralds in the quarter finals whilst Galmoy/Windgap, Graigue Ballycallan and Lisdowney defeated Piltown, Dunamaggin and Slievruie respectively.

The two semi-finals proved to be close affairs with Graigue Ballycallan eventually getting by Barrow Rangers 2-8 to 0-10 whilst Galmoy/Windgap eked out a victory over Lisdowney.

Graigue Ballycallan 3-16 1-10 Galmoy/ Windgap A ten point scoring salvo by Billy Ryan was the difference between the two sides as Graigue Ballycallan won the Under 16 Duggan Steel Roinn B County title at a sunny Freshford. It all started so well for Galmoy/ Windgap with Oisín Phelan pointing after only sixty seconds play. Soon after Conor Drennan opened his account for the afternoon after Conor Grace found him in the space. Oisín Phelan who was making a lively start to proceedings found his namesake Brandon Phelan who duly pointed. Graigue Ballycallan were looking a little out of sorts at this stage and really got a goal against the run of play with Ciaran Hogan firing home from the edge of the square. This score turned the game on its head. It was at this stage that Sean Ryan started to boss things from midfield landing a

hat-trick of points in four minutes with two of these coming from play. Colum Prenderville and Ryan tagged on further points but Brandon Phelan responded for the Galmoy/ Windgap team. Ryan then showed some quick thinking when he found Jamie Lawlor with a free and Lawlor duly pointed. Prenderville and Ryan grabbed themselves further points. It was at this stage Jamie Lawlor made a decisive burst heading on a mazy 65 metre solo which ended with the corner forward sending the green flag waving. As half time approached Galmoy/Windgap did pull themselves back into the contest with points from Drennan(free) & James Culleton to leave them trailing at the break 2-8 to 0-6.

Graigue Ballycallan got the good start to the second half with Sean Ryan firing over two pointed frees. His colleague David Maher followed this by splitting the posts himself with a point. The Phelan duo of Oisín & Brandon scored a point a piece before Ryan again punished them with a further hat-trick of points. Drennan briefly lifted the siege with a point before Lawlor's goal in the 50th minute ended the game as a contest and ensured the spoils were heading back to Kilmanagh.

Teams: Graigue Ballycallan: Bill Cuddihy, Tom Dunphy, Evan Walsh, Ger Doheny, Tommy Ronan, Conor Flynn, Geordan Davies, David Maher, Sean Ryan, Dylan Lanigan, Colum Prenderville, Ciaran Hogan, Aaroan Brennan, Killian Egan, Jamie Lawlor. Subs: Luke O'Brien for Hogan, David Hoyne for Davis, James Everard for Brennan, George Murphy for Doheny, Peter Murphy for Lanigan (all 59th minute).

Galmoy/Windgap: Shane Cullen, Sean Phelan, Ryan Murphy, Luke Ward, Colm Smith, Jack Delaney, Aidan Culleton, Conor Grace, Patrick Grace, James Culleton, Brandon Phelan, Conor Drennan, Oisín Phelan, Evan Morrissey, Patrick O'Callaghan. Subs: Patrick Doyle for O'Callaghan 40th minute, Jack Hayes for Morrissey 50th minute.

Ref: John Guinan St Lachtains



Graigue Ballycallan - Roinn "B" U16 Champions 2014



Fenians - Roinn "C" U16 Champions 2014



Dicksboro Roinn "A" Finalists 2014

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

Carrickshock got their campaign off to a good start with a fine victory over St Patrick's whilst Fenian's easily defeated Mullinavat. In the other quarter final, a clash of the two city teams saw O'Loughlin Gaels overcome Dicksboro.

Cloneen then overcame O'Loughlin's in the semi-final whilst Fenian's ability to get goals helped them overcome Carrickshock.

In a tight final neither side was willing to give an inch but Cloneen were to suffer heartbreak again with Fenian's battling to a well-deserved victory 0-9 to 0-6.

Fenians: Bobby Tynan, Aaron Okoroh, Mark Hughes (capt), Fergal Maher, Evan Okoroh, Diarmuid O'Gorman, Aaron Dermody, Niall Carroll, Kyle Quinlan, Conor Holohan, Paul Warren, Killian Cullinane, Jonathan Dermody, Dominik Fraczek, Jordan Muldowney, Dion Quinlan, Rhys Quinlan Phelan, Robert Duggan, Kieran Whyte, Josh Purcell.

Cloneen: Marc Purcell, Tristan Mayo, Michael Brown, Thomas Brennan, Aidan Barry, Kevin Brennan, Kevin Young, Shane Dunne, Dan Barco, Killian O Shea, Paul O'Neill, Ciaran Cooney, Eoin Regan, Ciaran Farnan, Cathal Barry, David Langton, Eamonn Brennan, Oisín Ryan, Michael Doyle, Conor Rowe, Alan O'Neill, Tom Buggy, Kyle Dunne.

LEAGUES

At the time of writing, the only completed League competition is the Roinn "C" in which Cloneen avenged their championship defeat by Fenians, on a score of 3-13 to 2-5.

In Roinn "A", Thomastown meet Danesfort in the final, while in the Roinn "B" final, Clara meet Graigue Ballycallan.



Cloneen - Roinn "C" U16 League Champions 2014



Galmoy/Windgap Roinn "B" U16 Finalists 2014



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O'Loughlins On Top

Bord na nÓg U14 Report
by Patrick O'Flynn



Photos Eoin Hennessy & Willie Dempsey

O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn "A" U14 Championship & League Winners & Paddy Grace Finalists 2014

ROINN A CHAMPIONSHIP

The Duggan Steel under 14 Roinn A Hurling Championship saw a huge number of teams take part thanks mainly to the new format introduced by Bord na nÓg of tier leagues and championship. As a result fourteen teams took part in the championship proper. There were some rather surprising results before ultimately O'Loughlin Gaels came out on top defeating Erin's Own in the final. The achievement of country team, Erin's Own making the final showed the progress the competition made under its new format.

One first round game of note saw Dunnamaggin return to the Roinn A ranks in style with a fine victory over Thomastown. There were also first round victories for Dicksboro, Erin's Own, James Stephens and Lisdowney.

Lisdowney produced a fine display in the quarter final to overcome Mooncoin. Erin's Own and Danesfort played out an eight goal thriller that ultimately saw the men from 'Comer prevail. O'Loughlin Gaels came out on top in the city derby against Dicksboro whilst James Stephens had to be at their best to defeat Dunnamaggin on a scoreline of 1-11 to 0-9.

One of the games of the year took place in the



Joe Pyke, Bord na nÓg, presents Mikey Butler, captain, O'Loughlin Gaels, with the U14 Roinn A cup. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

semi-finals when James Stephens and Erin's Own clashed. It took two games and ten goals before Erin's Own won the battle by a point whilst O'Loughlin Gaels brought Lisdowney's gallant run in the championship to an end.

A whirlwind start by O'Loughlin Gaels saw them capture the Roinn A Duggan Steel Under 14 hurling title seven days after annexing the Under 16 title at a windswept Jenkinstown.

Right from the start the brave men from Erin's

Own were under pressure and the Castlecomer custodian Nicky Connolly brought off a great save from David Fogarty's shot.

Conor Heary got the St John's outfit off the mark soon after with a pointed free which was quickly followed by a Conor Kelly goal after the sliothar had rebounded around the box.

Heary helped himself to two further points before Jack Buggy got Erin's Own off the mark with a pointed free. Conor Kelly added a minor which was soon followed by a duo of points from the influential Heary with a Jamie Maher point being Castlecomer's sole response.

Heary fired over two frees in quick succession with David Fogarty also grabbing himself a point.

Heary then showed a bit of class when he goaled after after some neat work by Jamie Young.

Erin's Own fired themselves back into contention with Kealan Ring goaling after Jack Buggy found the powerful corner forward in space. The same player, Buggy, then converted a free but O'Loughlin Gaels made a vital scoring burst before half time with a point from Conor Kelly. The killer score came from Jamie Ryan who blasted the sliothar to the roof of the net to



Dicksboro - Paddy Grace Champions 2014

leave it 3-8 to 1-3 at the break.

After the break Erin's Own did try valiantly with a James Brennan point not a fair reflection of their efforts. A David Fogarty goal finished the game as a contest after 38 minutes to ensure the spoils went back to John's Park.

Teams: O'Loughlin Gaels: Jamie Malone, Johnny Collins, Mikey Butler, Jack Kearns, Luke Hogan, Jamie Young, Joe Murphy, Conor Kelly, Oisin Murphy, Conor Heary, Dacel Fwamba, Sean Kenny, Jamie Ryan, Barry Lawlor, David Fogarty.

Subs: Declan Coffey for Ryan 52m, Jack Sheridan for Lawlor 53m, Odhran Lawlor for Fogarty 53m, Sean Baird for Murphy 54m, Mark Twomey for J. Collins 54m.

Erin's Own: Nicky Connolly, Kevin Holland, Cathal Holland, Christopher Korff, Conor McMahon, Dan Coogan, Liam Holland, James Brennan, Jack Buggy, Jamie Maher, Declan Buggy, Conor Clarke, Lee Holden, Kevin Brennan, Kealan Ring.

Subs: James Buggy for Clarke 29m, Billy O'Neill for Holden 43m, Killian Hogan for Brennan 55m.

ROIINN B CHAMPIONSHIP

From the very start of this championship all eyes were on the men from Bennettsbridge and they made their intentions known with a big win over Rower Inistioge in the first round. St Fiacres, Tullogher, Conahy Shamrocks, O'Loughlin Gaels B & Graigue Ballycallan all had first round wins. John Locke's also made the last eight after seeing off Young Irelands 5-12 to 4-14 in seesaw bout.

Graigue Ballycallan & John Lockes ran up big scores in their quarter final victories whilst Bennettsbridge and O'Loughlin Gaels B qualified for the semi-finals.

Both Bennettsbridge & Graigue Ballycallan comfortably qualified for the final. Bennettsbridge who had the League and Féile scalps under their belts added the Roinn B title to their trophy cabinet getting off to a great start by going 1-3 to no score ahead. Aaron Brennan



Graigue Ballycallan - Roinn "B" U14 Finalists 2014



Barrow Rangers - Roinn "C" U14 Champions 2014

opened the GBC tally with a well taken free and shortly afterwards added another.

After half-time GBC dominated the first five minutes of the second half but this dominance was not reflected on the score board and a

quick break from defence by Bennettsbridge resulted in a somewhat fortuitous goal. This was to prove to be the difference between the sides as Bennettsbridge bossed the proceedings till the end to run out winners 3-7 to 0-8.



Bennettsbridge - Roinn "B" Championship & League Winners & Féile Champions 2014

Bennettsbridge: Harry Murphy, Tom O'Donnell, Danny Coyne, Laurence Mahon, Daniel Murphy, Conor Murphy, Jamie Harkin, David Blanchfield, Tom Bolger, Sean O'Connell, Ciarán Brennan, Barry Lennon, Mikey Lewis, Tim Corkery, Gary Anderson, Ben King, John Doyle, Michael Molloy, Matthew Treacy, Conor Nolan, Daire Cassin. Graigue

Ballycallan: Jason O'Brien, Kevin Ging, Adam O'Brien, Alex McCluskey, Eoin Delahunty, Aaron Brennan, Eamon Corcoran, Oisín Egan, Finn Lanigan, Alan Wall, Killian Egan, Daniel Lawlor, Paddy Brennan, Stephen Keoghan, Simon O'Dwyer, Jack Walton, Lee Ronan, Scott Lawlor, Brendan Dunne, JJ Ryan, John Muldowney, Mark Brennan, Stephen Robinson.

ROINN C CHAMPIONSHIP

The Duggan Steel Roinn C Championship started off in fine style with Tullaroan and Fenians drawing 2-14 apiece in the quarter finals. The replay proved to be just as tight with Tullaroan eventually emerging victorious by 6-7 to 3-10. Slievruie defeated Windgap in a 13 goal thriller whilst Barrow Rangers and Cloneen also progressed to the semi-finals where they defeated Slievruie and Fenians respectively. The final proved to be a one sided affair with Barrow Rangers getting a couple of early goals from which Cloneen were unable to recover. Barrow Rangers: Kieran O'Neill, Liam Hogan, Sean O'Neill, Eamonn Roche, Ciaran Hanlon, Ruairi Breen, Conor Blake, Killian Rudkins, Jack Mc Donald, Eoin O Connor, Ciaran Brennan, Phillip Drennan, Eoighan Hogan, James English, Conor Hanlon, Nicolas Brennan, Matthew Fitzpatrick, James Lennon, Peter Dunne, Conor Dermody, Dermot Hennessy, Robbie Shortall, Sean Murphy, Josh Barcoe. Cloneen: Conor Byrne, Dara Delaney, David Langton, Diarmuid Rowe, Thomas Brennan, Eamon Brennan, Kyle Dunne, Tom Buggy, Michael Doyle, Alan O'Neill, Ciaran Cooney, Jack Brennan, Michael O'Keeffe, James Love, Adam Maguire, Martin Brennan, Dylan McDonald, Conor Rowe.



Windgap - Roinn "C" U14 Champions 2014



Emeralds - Féile & Roinn "B" U14 Finalists 2014

U14 LEAGUES

The Roinn "A" and "B" Leagues were won by O'Loughlin Gaels and Bennettsbridge respectively, each recording doubles. In the

case of O'Loughlins, the opposition was again Erin's Own, while Bennettsbridge accounted for Emeralds in a replay. In the Roinn "C" League final, Windgap beat Slievruie 5-9 to 1-8.



Matt Doran (Fianna Fáil Councillor)

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and Supporters
a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2015.
Thank you all for you all for your support.
Congratulations to all our young Kilkenny
hurlers on their successes, and here's to
an even better 2015.**

Late Goal Seals Victory for the Saints

St Canice's - Roinn "A" Champions 2014

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES ROINN A FINAL St Canice's NS 2-7 Gaelscoil 2-5

In a wonderfully competitive game, Saint Canice's clinched a thrilling encounter to retain the Allianz Cumann na mBunscoil Roinn A title. The Gaelscoil will reflect upon what might have been but they can be incredibly proud of their performance. This game was very much in the balance with five minutes remaining when Saint Canice's gained the upper hand and went on to claim the Roinn A crown.

The first half was nip and tuck with nothing to separate the two teams at half time. Saint Canice's started very well with the wind at their backs. After six minutes the outstanding Liam Moore had registered two points - one from play and one from a placed ball. But the Gaelscoil roared back into the game on the 11th minute with a fine goal from the corner forward Jamie Ó Caoimh. The spectators witnessed excellent first half performances from Dónal Ó Laoirghire, Dónal Ó Murchú, Eoin Mac Giolla Phóil, Tristan de Róiste, Séan Mac Aoidh and Tomás Nuinseann on the Gaelscoil team. On the Saint Canice's side Moore, Padraic Moylan, Patrick O'Shea and Aaron Murphy were all having a huge influence on the first half proceedings. With the half nearly over the teams were level 1:01 to 0:04 when Saint Canice's sharpshooter Murphy scored a fine point to re-establish a one point lead. But immediately Eoin Mac Giolla Phóil responded with a superb long range point. Both teams went in at half time with all still to play for.

Within two minutes of the resumption, Mac Giolla Phóil had scored another fine individual point to put the Gaelscoil into a one point lead. There were then goal chances at either end of the field with both defenses standing firm and neither side willing to give an inch. Mac Giolla Phóil was starting to exert a huge influence on the game and when he caught a puck out and launched a hopeful ball in the St Canice's area, Ó Caoimh was on hand to grab another goal. This was followed shortly by a point from right half forward Séan Mac Aoidh. The Gaelscoil were now leading by a score of 2:04 to 0:05. Saint Canice's refused to wilt however, and clawed their way back into this game. Moore was fouled following a great run and Moylan came forward to point the free. With five minutes to play Saint Canice's were awarded

another free. When the free dropped short, O'Shea reacted quickest and caught the ball before turning and drilling low and hard to the net. The Gaelscoil rallied strongly but could now find no way past the Saint Canice's backs with Moylan beginning to dominate at centre back. The substitute Eoin Dalton scored a great point for St Canice's to once again level the scores. With time almost up, the Saint Canice's centre forward David Conway stormed through the Gaelscoil defence before kicking to the net. To their credit, the Gaelscoil responded superbly and were immediately on the attack. They forced a free that was pointed by Tomás Nuinseann to reduce the deficit to two. But the Saint Canice's defenders stood tall and held onto their two point lead to claim a hard earned victory.

St Canice's

Ronan Lavelle, Cian Rowe, David Delahunty, Luke Morrissey, David Walsh, Padraic Moylan, Niall Rowe, Liam Moore, Patrick O'Shea, Timmy Clifford, David Conway, James Carroll, Rory O'Connor, Aaron Murphy, Cillian Hackett, Nick Doheny, Sean Maher, Eoin Dalton, Eamon O'Reilly, Zac McHardy, Shane McEvoy, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ian O'Keefe, David Kelleher, Jason Delaney, Stephen Dermody, Eoghan O'Neill, Ger Byrne, Patrick Fitzgerald, Brian Manogue, Tom Carroll, Mickey Clifford, Aaron Dorney.

Gaelscoil.

Cian de Grás, Sean Ó Rinn, Donal Ó Laoirghire, Lucas Bateman, Donal Ó Murchú, Donal Ó Dulaing, Anraí Ó Murchú, Eoin Mac Giolla Phóil, Tristan de Róiste, Sean Mac Aoidh, Tomás Nuinseann, Maitiú Ó hÓgain, Uinseann Ó Grádaigh, Jack Mac Craith, Jamie Ó Caoimh, Darragh Ó Cathasaigh, Cathal Ó Maolchathail, Sean Ó Ruadhain, Marc Ó Gormaille, Seamus Ó Ficheallaigh, Donal Ó hAodha, Seamus ÓFaoláin, Darragh Ó Faoláin.

TOYMASTER ROINN B FINAL Bennettsbridge 5-9 Freshford 4-5

The sun was shining brightly on Nowlan Park as the two teams took to the field for the Allianz Roinn B Final. For Bennettsbridge, it was their second "B" final in a row. The opposition was Scoil Lachtain, Freshford - back on the final stage for the first time since 2007. League form indicated that we were in for a thriller and so it proved to be.

The opening exchanges were very even but Bennettsbridge were first to score when Rachel Kelly fired over a point after 45 seconds. Josh McCarthy pointed a free for Freshford to tie things up. Bennettsbridge again led when centre back, Ciaran Brennan fired a long range point after superbly fielding the ball. The next two scores fell to the Bridge also as Brennan and Rachel Kelly both pointed frees. Freshford captain Darragh Maher goaled when he fired low to the net but Ciaran Mullin replied with a goal almost immediately for Bennettsbridge. For the next five minutes Bennettsbridge dominated and the Freshford defence did well to repel attack after attack. Josh McCarthy pointed for Freshford to reduce the arrears but Hannah Kelly replied almost immediately. Rachel Kelly pointed another Bennettsbridge free and with the clock ticking towards half time Ciaran Brennan drilled a 25 metres free to the net, followed a minute later by a Ciarán Mullin goal. Deep into added time, Josh McCarthy pointed for Scoil Lachtain to leave a ten point gap at the break, Bennettsbridge 3-7 Freshford 1-3.

Freshford took the game to Bennettsbridge on the resumption and Josh McCarthy pointed a free for them. However, despite their efforts Freshford were rocked again when Ciarán Mullen fired a goal after Alan Rafter parried an awkward shot. Freshford were undaunted and it was their turn to pile on the pressure. Sub Shane Grace had a great chance for Freshford but John Doyle stood firm in the Bridge goal. Finally, Freshford made the breakthrough. Twice in a minute, Darragh Maher broke through and netted. Suddenly, there was only six points in it and ten minutes to play. (BB 4-7 FF 3-4) Bennettsbridge raided again and when the Freshford defence only cleared as far as Rachel Kelly, the Bridge midfielder had nothing but goal on her mind as she fired to the net. Freshford, to their credit, never gave up and Darragh Maher pointed almost immediately and added another goal on 21 minutes but Bennettsbridge points from Rachel Kelly and Ciaran Brennan secured victory on a final score of Bennettsbridge 5-9 Freshford 4-5.

For Freshford, there is no shame in defeat by a team that played so well. Their captain, Darragh Maher played brilliantly, Alan Rafter played well in goals and his puck outs were the launch of many an attack. Jack Hickey, Frankie Keogh, Mikey Neary and Mark Donnelly stood tall throughout while the midfield duo of Josh McCarthy and Cormac Rafter had a great battle with their opponents. Up front, Maher was ably assisted by Cian Leahy and CJ Daly.

The Bridge had heroes all over the field. John Doyle was solidness personified in goal. Jamie Harkin showed superb skills at full back and Dylan Kenny and Laurence Mahon were also strong. Ciaran Brennan a centre back gave a display of fielding, reading the game, scoring and passing that will be remembered in the years ahead. Rachel Kelly and captain Mikey Lewis were great in midfield while Hannah Kelly showed strongly at centre forward. Ciaran Mullin pounced for his goals that secured a deserved title for the Bridge boys.

Finally a word for referee, Pat Hayes, who kept the game flowing and added to a great spectacle. Well done all!

Bennettsbridge:

John Doyle, Conor Nolan, Jamie Harkin, Ben King, Dylan Kenny, Ciaran Brennan (1-3), Laurence Mahon, Mikey Lewis (Capt), Rachel Kelly (1-4), Ivan Kelly, Hannah Kelly (0-1), Ciarán Mullin (3-0), Sean McBride, Daragh Cassin (0-1), Myles McGovern, Evan Cassin, Jack Forristal, Gearóid Kent, Daniel Madigan, Eoin Mitchell, Michael Molloy, Matthew Treacy, Adam Walsh Brennan.

Freshford:

Alan Rafter, Eddie Fogarty, Jack Hickey, Frankie Keoghan, Kyle Dawson, Mikey Neary, Mark Donnelly, Josh McCarthy (0-4), Cormac Rafter, Tommy Rafter, Darragh Maher (Capt 4-1), CJ Daly, Michael Phelan, Cian Leahy, Cian Franey, Shane Grace, Tom Levkalns, Odhran Bergin, Jack Bergin, Declan Killeen, Mark McCarthy, dam Ryan, Michael McCarthy, Conor Donnelly.

ALLIANZ TOP OIL

ROINN C FINAL

**Glenmore Masters of the Replay
Glenmore 2-9 Danesfort 3-6**

The Allianz/Top Oil Roinn C final between Danesfort and Glenmore took place in Nowlan Park on a warm sunny evening. The will to win was evident from the throw in, with both teams excelling in the arts of hooking and blocking. Ian Byrne was central to many of Glenmore's early attacks, and he registered his side's first point. A goal for Glenmore followed on eight minutes, scored by Ronan Doheny, and this was reflective of their dominance of the opening 10 minutes. Danesfort rallied through a point from a 65' from Adam Byrne before Glenmore centre back Jack Elliot added a point from a free on 15 mins to extend the southern team's lead. Danesfort were refusing to panic though, and a Joe Cowhig 65' got Danesfort back on the scoresheet but Aaron O'Neill and Ian Byrne responded with a point each for Glenmore and Jack Elliot added a 65', but just on the stroke of half-time some Danesfort pressure was rewarded with a Peter Donohue goal to leave the interval score 1-5 to 1-2 in Glenmore's favour.

Danesfort came out of the traps quickly after half-time with well taken points by Peter Donohue and Bill Smith followed by a great goal from Jack Ryan after good work by Brian McDonald to put their side into the lead. Jack Aylward replied immediately with a point for Glenmore and with ten minutes remaining the same player pounced for an opportunist goal to snatch the lead back for the Southerners but barely a minute later Jack Ryan batted the sliotar into the net at the opposite end to swing the lead Danesfort's way (3-4 to 2-6). A pointed free by Aaron O'Neill followed by a super individual effort by team-mate Jack Elliot put Glenmore ahead again. With the clock ticking down Brian McDonald restored parity for the boys in Black and Amber before Joe Cowhig and Aaron O'Neill exchanged '65s which left the sides level at full time, Danesfort 3-6 Glenmore 2-9.



ROINN C FINAL REPLAY Glenmore 2-12 Danesfort 0-4

Those expecting another humdinger in the replay were to be disappointed. The damp conditions made for a scrappy first half. Adam Byrne converted an early free to give Danesfort the lead. It was to be the only time they held the lead in the match, however. Ian Byrne quickly levelled matters with an excellent solo effort from well out the field. Aaron O'Neill added a well taken point, and this was to become one of the themes of the evening. He added a point from play and another from a 65'. Danesfort were under pressure but were defending stoutly and a clearance led to a successful free by Adam Byrne,

Glenmore began to exert pressure again though, with Jack Elliot running strongly at the opposition and Aidan McGree was forced into two fine saves in the Danesfort goal. Another O'Neill free gave Glenmore a 0-6 to 0-2 lead after 15 minutes, but a great Adam Byrne point for Danesfort stemmed the flow. The game opened up more after the twenty minute mark. McGree made another fine save from O'Neill, and tipped over a good Killian Griffin effort just before half time to leave the score 0-8 to 0-3 at the interval.

Danesfort needed a good start to the second half, but it was Glenmore who got the opening point of the half from Cathal Beirne. They tagged on another quick point, followed immediately by a Ronan Doherty goal, which extended their lead to 1-10 to 0-3 ten minutes into the second half. Danesfort weren't going to give up without a fight though, and for the next ten minutes they showed admirable spirit in piling the pressure on Glenmore but they just couldn't figure a way past an excellent Glenmore half back line of Conor Morrissey, Luke Whelan and Patrick Walsh. Glenmore eventually lifted the siege and managed two more points, including a free from under the New Stand at the halfway line by Jack Elliot. A goal late on by Killian Griffin killed off the remains of the brave Danesfort challenge. A consolation 65' left the scoreboard reading Glenmore 2-12 Danesfort 0-4. Glenmore were worthy champions.

Teams:

Glenmore:

Tomas Mulcahy, Patrick Hoynes, Aidan Dunphy, Jack Cody, Patrick Walsh, Jack Elliott, Conor Morrissey, Killian Griffin, Luke Whelan, Jack Vereker, Ronan Doherty, Ian Byrne, Cathal Beirne, Aaron O'Neill, Jack Aylward (Alex Hughes replay). Subs: Mickey Kirwan, Charlie Phelan, Cian Connick, Evan Halligan, Alan Lacey, Billy Reid, Richie Dunphy, Niall Doolan, Jack Ryan, James Hendrick, Paul Murphy, Kevin O'Keeffe, Kieran Ennett

Danesfort:

Daragh Hackett, John Canny, Tomás Leahy, Stephen Doheny, Connor Whitty, Joe Cowhig, Jack Canavan, Adam Byrne, Brian McDonald, Jim Ryan, Aidan McGree, Conor Farrell, Jack Ryan, Peter Donohoe, Cillian Norton. Subs: Kevin McGrath, Conor Gleeson, Alan McCabe, Stephen Walsh, James Kennedy, Cathal Norton, Liam O'Reilly, Ben Canavan, Bill Smith, Eoin O'Carroll.

ALLIANZ ROINN D FINAL Tullaroan Cruise to Victory Tullaroan 6-9 Johnstown 3-4

A quick trawl through the records of Kilkenny Primary schools hurling will show that Johnstown has two Allianz Cumann na mBunscol roinn B titles won in 1984 and 1986. These must be held as cherished treasures especially when in more recent times appearances in finals have been scarce. By contrast to Johnstown Tullaroan have won titles in all Allianz Cumann na mBunscol grades - one Roinn A, four Roinn B, one Roinn C and two roinn D.



Tullaroan - Roinn "D" Champions 2014



At the recent Donegal - Dublin All-Ireland Football semi-final in Croke Park, Sophie Pembroke and Emma Dunphy represented Scoil an Chroí ... aofa; Urlingford and Cumann na mBunscol, Cill Chainnigh in the GAA/INTO Go Games Respect Exhibition Match wearing the colours of Donegal. Both girls are members of Emeralds Camogie Club also.

The opening exchanges in this special 11 a side competition were pretty even with Tullaroan opening their account with a pointed free from Tomas Dunne. This was followed up by a well taken goal by the very lively Jordyn Muldowney who made a sensational run from mid field to rifle to the net. Tullaroan continued to work the scoreboard with a point from a free and when a free from midfield dropped in the square Gearoid Dunne seized his chance from a goalmouth melee to put the ball into the net. Johnstown had chances also but two wides from scorable positions left them trailing 1.3 to 1.0 after the ten minute mark. Tullaroan entered a period of dominance for the next ten minutes and heroic defensive play from Niall Holland, Richard Cash and Tomas Dunne ensured great supply of ball to their forwards and they profited to the tune of 2.2 in the space of eleven minutes. The game remained in competitive mode and in fairness to Johnstown a pointed free by Jordyn Muldowney and a goal from play also on the stroke of half time sent the teams into added on time. During the dying minutes of the half Tullaroan added a further goal from the stick of Anna Mc Cabe while Johnstown remained in touch with two pointed frees. Half time 3-5 to 2-3 in favour of Tullaroan.

With little or no wind in the excellent conditions of Nowlan Park the second half was only three minutes old when Gearoid Dunne found the net to edge Tullaroan further ahead. The tempo was upped considerably by Tomas Dunne, Niall Holland, Anna Mc Cabe and Bill Walton. During a ten minute spell Tullaroan added on an impressive 1-2 while Johnstown faded around the mid field sector where vital ball was being mopped up by the rampant Tullaroan attack. A pointed free from Gearoid Dunne and a super point from the left hander Gearoid Dunne sealed a win for Tullaroan. A consolation goal from Jordyn Muldowney and heroic effort in goal by Josh Purcell helped to keep heads high on the Johnstown team. John Doheny from Johnstown also contributed well to his team's performance as did Kieran Whyte but the day was won by the more industrious Tullaroan who claimed their second title at this level.

Tullaroan: Niall Holland, Thomas Dillon, Brendan Walsh, David Fitzgerald, Tomas Dunne Capt, Richard Cash, Anna Mc

Cabe, Eamon og Holland, Bill Walton, Paul Og Mulligan, Gearoid Dunne, Sam Coughlan, Liam Walsh, James Cash, James Walton, Billy Keogh, Pdraig O Mahony, Laoise Holland, Shannon Bush, Sinead Murphy, Ella Dillon, Amy Cleere.

Johnstown: Josh Purcell, Dion Quinlan, Adam Duggan, Shane Whyte, Jack O'Brien, John Doheny, Alex lawlor, Kelly Webster, Mikaela Ryan, Jordyn Muldowney Capt, Kieran Whyte, Jack Quinlan Phelan, Mary Ellen Phelan, Gearoid Phelan, Luke Moriarity, Pdraig O Grady, Kealan Dermody, Billy Garrett, Tomas Sharkey, Charlie Tobin.

Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe Final Freshford 6-7 Ballyhale 5-3

The Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe, or the Country Cup, is a knockout hurling competition dedicated to the memory of Tom Waldron, founder member of Cumann na mBunscol Cill Chainnigh way back in 1939. It is indeed a fitting tribute to Freshford's hero that in 2014 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Cumann na mBunscol Cill Chainnigh that Freshford would win its first ever title at this level.

It was a cracking game from start to finish and full credit to Ballyhale for contributing to the marvellous display.

Freshford opened their account in the third minute with a pointed sixty five metre free from captain Darragh Maher. Ballyhale responded with a similar score from the stick of Stephen Barron.

A clever sequence of play involving Josh Mc Carthy, Mikey Neary and Darragh Maher produced a super point for Freshford on the fifth minute and this seemed to provide the catalyst for a period of Freshford dominance that produced a goal and three points from Josh Mc Carthy 0-1, C J Daly 0-1 and the lively corner forward Cian Franey 1-1. Ballyhale did well to limit the scoring during this period and some good goalkeeping from Niall Shortall helped this cause. Therese Donnelly and Stephen Barron did Trojan work in the Ballyhale forward line but it wasn't until the 20th



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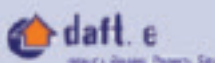
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minute that their efforts were rewarded. A goal mouth melee resulted in Michael Phelan scooping to the net and this gave a huge boost to the southerner's confidence. The half ended with some near misses on both sides but on the half time whistle the scores read 1-4 to 1-2 in favour of Freshford who had done all the hurling but the score difference was very manageable from a Ballyhale perspective.

The second half began well for Freshford. Mc Carthy at midfield and Darragh Maher pulled all the strings, and on the fifth minute were rewarded with a goal. This was followed by a pointed free following some good work by Cormac Rafter. There was no panic in the Ballyhale camp and they chipped in for 1-1 from the stick of Stephen Barron which kept them well in the game. The next passage of play produced two top class scores - a goal for Freshford from Michael Phelan and Ballyhale's captain Stephen Barron replied immediately with a top class goal of his own. This put Ballyhale a point in front and the game was now going into the last ten minutes. The tempo was upped considerably and the record crowd were on the edge of their seats. The response from Freshford was quick and clinical. Darragh Maher goaled twice in two minutes one from play and the second from a long range free which sailed all the way to the net. A cruel score at this point and it opened an eight point lead for Freshford 6-5 to 4-3. Following a great save by Freshford keeper Alan Rafter from Stephen Barron, the Ballyhale full forward Brandon Ryan was on hand to pounce and finish the loose ball to the net. It was now a five point game and five minutes remained on the clock. The response from Freshford and their worthy captain Darragh Maher was measured and he put two balls between the uprights in the last four minutes to seal an historic victory for the Freshford school.

**Allianz Cumann an mBunscol
Tommy O'Brien Cup Final.
Graigue Skeough 2-11
Carrickshock 1-9**

In what were ideal conditions for school's hurling Graigue Skeough secured their first ever Tommy O'Brien Cup title by beating a plucky Carrickshock side in this Allianz Cumann an mBunscol final designed solely for Roinn C teams.

Both teams got off to flying starts and in the opening minute Sam Byrne found the net for Graigue Skeough following great team work by Pierce Blanchfield, Michael Sheehy and Sam Byrne. A further point from a free by team captain Jason Byrne insured a good start. Carrickshock were also firing at will in the opening five minutes with Luke McNamara at centre forward showing up well. He secured a point for his team on the fourth minute and Eoghan O'Neill in the corner added another soon after. The response from the boys on the Carlow border was instant and a good pass from Michael Sheehy put Ben Savage in for a point. By the end of the opening quarter the gap between the teams was four points but then Carrickshock opened their shoulders and owned the next period of play adding two fine points from Eoghan O'Neill and Luke Hudson while Denis Walsh added another from a free. The deficit was down to a single point with six minutes to the interval. Some costly wides at this stage thwarted the Carrickshock boys from driving on and when Graigue Skeough substitute Dylan Cahill followed in a stray ball and found the net with a deft touch it extended their lead. A further point from Pierce Blanchfield and a pointed '65 m free for Carrickshock midfielder Denis Walsh put the half time score at 2-5 to 0-6.

On the restart, flying wing forward P.J. Fennelly fired over a super point with Denis Walsh adding a pointed free and Harry Walsh from centre back also contributing a point. It looked like a Carrickshock fight back. Graigue/Skeough didn't respond until the eighth minute with a point from Cian Kennedy. Carrickshock needed to drive home their



Graigue/Skeough - O'Brien Cup Winners 2014



Ballyhale Corn de Bhaldrathe Finalists 2014



Carrickshock- Corn de Bhaldrathe Finalists 2014

dominance at this stage but, like the first half, some costly wides upset their progress. Goals win matches and in the tenth minute Cian Kennedy set off on a fine run and rifled his shot to the Carrickshock goal in great style to restore a five point lead. Harry Walsh moved to centre forward now to lead the Carrickshock attack and forced a fine save from Ryan Murphy and the resultant 65 m free ended up in the net but was adjudged a square ball. Feeling relieved Graigue/Skeough drove on to add three more points - one in particular a great effort from Seanan Doyle. Some stout defending in the last ten minutes from Michael Prendergast and Michael O'Neill kept Graigue/Skeough ahead but the 'Shocks got in for a consolation goal in the last minute to bring the deficit to five points and when the final whistle blew there was uncontrolled joy in the Graigue Skeough camp.

Graigue Skeough

R Murphy, M Prendergast, Jack Ryan, D Moran, M O'Neill, Jamie Ryan, P Cullen, P Blanchfield, Jason Byrne (Capt), M Sheehy, C Kennedy, S Doyle, D Murphy, B Savage, S Byrne, S Lanigan, T O'Shea, J Cross, O Canning, L Cahill, C Murphy, D Cahill, P Mc Donald, J O'Neill, S Cleary, O Kelly, J Kennedy, J Dunne.

Carrickshock:

R Grace, N Murphy, B Fitzpatrick (Capt), J Mc Guirk, P Lennon, H Walsh, E Crowley, L Barron, D Walsh, D Kenneally, L McNamara, P.J. Fennelly, E O'Neill, L Hudson, A Reddy, M Byrnes, D Dwyer, T Barron, K Byrnes, O Doyle, S Fennelly, S Neville, C Brennan, J O'Shea, L O'Shea, J Dineen, P Hickey, A Long.



The Fonts meet The Cats!

Liatroim Fontenoy are a small rural club from Co. Down and in fact were the first GAA club to be established in Down in 1888.

Starting approximately 10 years ago, a plan was put in place to improve the level of hurling within the club, so, when an offer from the Kilkenny county board to help out where they could, was one we wouldn't let go by!

After a quick consultation with our coaches, we decided a pre season trip to a match would be a great way to bring everyone together after the winter hibernation and the Waterford match on the 23rd of March fit the bill perfectly, and on the morning of the 23rd we met at our club and set off for Kilkenny on the M1 to Dublin. A clear run round the M50 and out the M9 had us in Kilkenny in a little over 3 hours.

Margaret Hanlon, of O'Loughlin Gaels, very kindly arranged for us to park in their grounds, not to mention the use of the clubhouse facilities. We were a little early but were well entertained by O'Loughlins U14s playing a league match.

Very soon we were in the midst of the Kilkenny team, players and management, whilst they warmed up, a great experience for our youngsters (and adults)! The match, as it turned out was a very strong display by Kilkenny and Waterford eventually had no answer for Kilkennys attack, but our children had the opportunity to see top quality intercounty hurling in close quarters and get out onto the grass afterwards for a puc about!

After the game, the icing on the cake came when we were able to meet the Kilkenny players for pictures and to have jerseys, sticks and just about everything else signed. Nothing was too much trouble and the lads were very giving of their time. It was a great experience for our players, to meet their heroes but also to see that they are still just men and with the right dedication anything is possible.

MICHAEL CROTTY

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***Congratulations to All Cumann na mBunscoileanna
Winners in 2014***

Kierans Condemn CBS to Further All-Ireland Misery

St Kieran's College - All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2014

Back Row: Billy Hanlon, Ally Rafter, Joe Cuddihy, Eoin Walsh, Daniel O'Connor, Brian Cody, Ray Lahart, Conor O'Carroll, Michael Cody.

3rd Row: Robert O'Flynn, Shane Walsh, Kieran Freeman, Bill Carrigan, Richie Leahy, Billy Ryan, Paul White, Edmond Delaney, Robbie Donnelly, Niall Walsh, Conor Murphy, Mr Ger Flood (trainer).

2nd Row: Mr Liam Smith (trainer), Josh Haines, Dylan O'Shea, Jason Barcoe, Conor Browne, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Gavin Costigan, Tommy Walsh, Gary Tynan, Mr Ken Maher (trainer).

Front Row: Jack Keoghane, Jason Byrne, Kevin Blanchfield, Jason Cleere, James Maher (captain), Darren Mullan, Liam Blanchfield, Sean Morrissey.

The clash of city rivals and neighbours Kilkenny CBS and St. Kieran's College in the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Hurling Final played in Nowlan Park in April was historic, as it was the first time that two Kilkenny schools clashed together in an All-Ireland final since the competition began back in 1944.

Having suffered All-Ireland final heartache in 2012 and 2013, hopes were high that CBS could add to their sole All-Ireland success of 1981 especially when they defeated Kieran's 2-13 to 0-13 in the Leinster Senior Final.

However, it wasn't to be, as Kieran's condemned the Christian brothers school to further All-Ireland misery running out 2-16 to 0-13 winners.

Leinster Schools League Final

Three times during the season, the two city schools played one another in league and championship with Kieran's coming out on top 2-1 in the head to heads including the ultimate prize, the All-Ireland decider.

The schools League final was played on a perfect Winter's afternoon in early December last year, and Kieran's prevailed in a thriller 1-17 to 1-15.

A Billy Ryan goal late in the first-half gave Kieran's an advantage they wouldn't relinquish as Conor Murphy's free taking proved decisive. Murphy scored 0-11 (0-10 frees) as Kieran's edged out a two-point victory.



James Maher, Captain, St Kieran's College, lifts the Croke Cup after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

St. Kieran's: Robbie Donnelly 0-7 (0-4f, 0-1 '65), Brian Cody 0-3, Billy Ryan, Liam Blanchfield, James Maher 0-1 each.

KILKENNY CBS: Darragh Holohan (Dicksboro); Kevin Galvin (Clara), Cathal McGrath (John Lockes), Conor Doherty (Dicksboro), Gary Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Evan Cody (Dicksboro), Paddy Deegan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Niall Mullins (James Stephens), JP Treacy (Young Irelands), Huw Lawlor (O'Loughlin Gaels), Luke Scanlon (James Stephens), Andrew Gaffney (Dicksboro), Robbie Buckley (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jamie Byrne (James Stephens), Robbie Murphy (Dicksboro).

Subs: Danny Bolger (O'Loughlin Gaels) for Cody (52), Matthew McWey (James Stephens) for Murphy (57). **ST KIERAN'S:** Jason Barcoe (Clara), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Eoin Walsh (Lisdowney), Jason Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Darren Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), James Maher (St Lachtain's), Jack Keoghane (Tullaroan), Kevin Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), Jason Byrne (Clara), Liam Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), Daniel O'Connor (O'Loughlin Gaels), Niall Walsh (Windgap), Robbie Donnelly (Thomastown), Billy Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Brian Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks).

Subs: Josh Haines (John Lockes) for N. Walsh (ht), Michael Cody (Dunnamaggin) for Keoghane (ht), Paul White (St Lachtain's) for E. Walsh (43), R Lahart (James Stephens) for Ryan (47), Tadhg O'Dwyer (James Stephens) for O'Connor (47).

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

St. Kieran's had only six days to recover from their Leinster final disappointment as they played St. Brigid's Loughrea in the All-Ireland quarter-final.

Kieran's had to pull out all their strength of character in abundance as they came from behind to defeat the Loughrea school 4-22 to 2-22 after extra-time to set-up an All-Ireland semi-final showdown against Munster champions Ardscoil Ris in a repeat of the 2010 and 2011 All-Ireland Finals.

In a low scoring first-half played in Templemore, Kieran's trailed 0-4 to 0-3, but they let rip afterwards as they outscored the Limerick school 4-7 to 1-8 in the second-half, as goals from Conor O'Carroll, substitute Robbie Donnelly and Tadhg O'Dwyer sent them towards the All-Ireland final.

The stage was set up for CBS to defeat Doon CS and set-up an Kilkenny final, and they duly obliged winning out 2-9 to 0-10 with Andrew Gaffney accounting for 2-2 of the schools total.

KIERAN'S CRUISE TO 19TH ALL-IRELAND

The All-Ireland Final was an historic all-Kilkenny affair for the first-time,

LEINSTER SENIOR COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIP

The Leinster Colleges Championship swung into gear after Christmas and the quarter-final games were played in the second weekend in February in bitterly cold windswept conditions.

St. Kieran's prevailed in a low scoring encounter against a very disappointing Castlecomer Community School outfit 1-10 to 0-3, while Kilkenny CBS began the defence of their Leinster Championship when defeating St. Brendan's Birr 2-17 to 2-10, while they were joined in the Leinster Semi-Finals by Colaiste Eoin, Stillorgan and Good Counsel New Ross.

Two weeks later, both Kilkenny CBS and St. Kieran's qualified to play one another in the Leinster decider for a fifth consecutive year after winning their respective semi-final matches.

St. Kieran's easily defeated Colaiste Eoin, Stillorgan 2-14 to 0-7, while Kilkenny CBS defeated Good Counsel, New Ross 1-16 to 0-13.

The Leinster final played on Sunday 9th March was a curtain raiser to the Kilkenny and Galway NHL clash, and CBS retained the Leinster championship for the first time defeating their city neighbours 2-13 to 0-13.

Jamie Byrne was double goal scoring hero to give the Leinster Champions a 2-8 to 0-5 at the interval, and they were never really threatened throughout.

Scorers: Kilkenny CBS: Jamie Byrne 2-1, Andrew Gaffney 0-7 (0-4f, 0-2 '65), JP Treacy 0-2), Luke Scanlon, Robbie Buckley, Robbie Murphy 0-1 each.



Kilkenny CBS - Leinster Senior Colleges Champions & All Ireland Finalists 2014

Back: Aaron O'Neill, Mark Drennan, Bob Cuddihy, Bill Cuddihy, Jamie Kavanagh, Jim Moore, James Lenihan, Niall Mullins, Dylan Scott, Paddy Deegan, Matthew McWey, Diarmuid Doheny, JP Treacy.
Middle: Mr. N. Tyrrell, Thomas Kenny, John Walton, Kevin Gahin, Chris Kavanagh, Paul Delahanty, Jim Dollard, Cathal McGrath, Jamie Byrne, Vincent Wallace, Ross Butler, Danny Bolger, Kevin Mullen, Mr. M. Ruth, Mr. G. Morrissey
Front: Robbie O'Driscoll, Conor Doheny, Ronan Butler, Darragh Holohan (Capt.), Andrew Gaffney, Robbie Murphy, Jake Scanlon, Luke Scanlon, John Hanrick, Robbie Buckley, Gary Bryan, Huw Lawlor.
Missing from photo, Evan Cody

and Kilkenny CBS were hopeful they would be third time lucky following the disappointments of All-Ireland final defeats in 2012 and 2013. CBS made a very prominent start as they led 0-5 to 0-0 after 12 minutes with Luke Scanlon playing a starring role at centre-forward. However, Kieran's responded and a brilliantly taken goal by Brian Cody narrowed the gap to two points. 0-5 to 1-0.

Kieran's outscored their neighbours 0-4 to 0-2 for the remainder of the half to draw level at the interval 0-7 to 1-4 with Conor Murphy hitting the target four times from placed balls.

CBS started the second-half with points in instant succession from Luke Scanlon and James Lenihan, but Kieran's replied with a second goal from Tadhg O'Dwyer to give them the outright lead for the very first time.

CBS replied to level with points from Scanlon and an Andrew Gaffney free, before Kieran's put the accelerator on outscoring CBS 0-11 to 0-2 over the closing 23 minutes.

The introduction of substitutes Robbie Donnelly and the exceptional Sean Morrissey proved highly significant as they accounted for 0-7 between them.

Wing-back Jason Cleere who was superb throughout strode forward to score a magnificent point late in the match, while Tadhg O'Dwyer who was a real handful and live-wire added to his goal with three excellent points from play.

A deserved 19th All-Ireland for Kieran's and they were certainly rejuvenated from their Leinster final, and only goalkeeper Jason Barcoe and midfielder Kevin Blanchfield were the only two players to have started the same positions in both the Leinster and All-Ireland finals.

Kieran's really turned the style during the second-half and it was very impressive well rounded team performance.

Jason Barcoe was solid personified in goal, while the magnificent Jason Cleere stood out in

defence in which Michael Cody, Tommy Walsh and the tenacious Eoin Walsh also impressed. Liam Blanchfield despite not scoring was a constant source of havoc at centre-forward, while Conor O'Carroll at full-forward also didn't score played a valuable part in the two goals.

Tadhg O'Dwyer and Brian Cody were excellent while the real star on show was super-sub Sean Morrissey who was truly majestic while intro-

Scorers – St. Kieran's: Tadhg O'Dwyer 1-3, Brian Cody 1-1, Conor Murphy 0-4, Robbie Donnelly 0-4f, Sean Morrissey 0-3, Jason Cleere 0-1. Kilkenny CBS: Luke Scanlon 0-5, Andrew Gaffney 0-5f, James Lenihan 0-2, Paddy Deegan 0-1.

St. Kierans – Jason Barcoe (Clara), Michael Cody (Dunnamaggin), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Jack Keoghan (Tullaroan), Jason Cleere (Bennetsbridge), Darren Mullan (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Eoin Walsh (Lisdowney), Kevin Blanchfield (Bennetsbridge), James Maher (St. Lachtains) (captain), Jason Byrne (Clara), Liam Blanchfield (Bennetsbridge), Brian Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Conor Murphy (Graigie-Ballycallan), Conor O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Tadhg O'Dwyer (James Stephens), Sean Morrissey (Bennetsbridge) for Byrne, Robbie Donnelly (Thomastown) for Murphy, Billy Ryan (Graigie-Ballycallan) for Cody, Conor Browne (James Stephens) for Walsh.



Liam Blanchfield (St. Kieran's College) with Gary Bryan (Kilkenny C.B.S.) during the Final. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

duced scoring 0-3 from play.

CBS were best served by the exceptional Luke Scanlon at centre-forward who scored 0-5 from play, and excellent wing-back Paddy Deegan who was peerless throughout and also scored a great point late in the match when the outcome was beyond them.

Robbie Buckley, Jamie Byrne, Niall Mullins and Gary Bryan all tried their best, but with a number of their players having been involved in all three All-Irelands, this was the most disappointing of the lot as they had high hopes of victory after their Leinster success, but they overblown and overpowered by the strength and class of a re-birth Kierans contingent.

Kilkenny CBS: Darragh Holohan (Dicksboro)(captain), Kevin Galvin (Clara), Cathal McGrath (John Lockes), Conor Doheny (Dicksboro), Gary Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Evan Cody (Dicksboro), Paddy Deegan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Niall Mullins (James Stephens), J.P. Treacy (Young Irelands), Huw Lawlor (O'Loughlin Gaels), Luke Scanlon (James Stephens), Andrew Gaffney (Dicksboro), Robbie Buckley (O'Loughlin Gaels), James Byrne (James Stephens), James Lenihan (O'Loughlin Gaels).

Subs: Matthew McWey (James Stephens) for Byrne, Robbie Murphy (Dicksboro) for Lawlor, Paul Delahunty (Young Irelands) for Lenihan, Diarmuid Doheny (Tullaroan) for Gaffney.

Referee: Alan Kelly (Galway).

AROUND THE COLLEGES



CBS Kilkenny All-Ireland Junior Champions, Leinster Junior Champions Fr. Cosgrave Cup 2014

(Back row L-R): Jay Leaky, Fin Dowling, Andy Gaffney, Chris Kavanagh, Conor Flynn, Sean Nolan, Adam Clifford, Pádraic Brennan, John Quinn, Robbie Murphy, Robbie O'Driscoll, Robbie Crotty

(Middle row L-R): P.J. McCormack, Conor Morrissey, Jordan Mulloy, Ross Walsh, Liam Kennedy, Shane Mahony, John Campion, Eoin Byrne, Daniel Rafferty, Declan Wall-Young, Aaron Malone, Robert Dunne, Bill Gaffney, Alan Healy, Paul O'Donoghue

(Front row L-R): Michael Doyle, Kieran Ryan, Sean Bolger, Conor Fitzpatrick, Johnny McEvoy, Marc Drennan (Joint Capt.), Conor Doherty (Joint Capt.), Bill Sheehan, Roman Buckley, John Connick, Peter Collins, Niall Brazil

KILKENNY CBS

JUNIOR ALL-IRELAND GLORY FOR CBS

There was consolation for the Junior Team a week earlier as they defeated Midleton CBS of Cork 1-7 to 0-7 to win the Niall McInerney Cup for the very first time in Fraher Field, Dungarvan. CBS won the toss before the off and they decided to play with wind advantage.

The decision worked wonders, as they built up a healthy 8 point lead at the interval. 1-7 to 0-2. CBS led 0-4 to 0-1 at the end of the first quarter with Andrew Gaffney scoring 0-3 – twice from frees –.

The city school maintained that three point lead (0-5 to 0-2) by the 23rd minute, before Bill Sheehan kicked home a goal to put the victors firmly in the driving seat by the interval.

The second-half was a different kettle of fish, as their defence had to weather the persistent threat of the Midleton attack.

Midleton CBS added four unanswered points in the opening 10 minutes of the restart to halve the deficit. 1-7 to 0-6.

The tension began to increase, but the CBS defence really stood firm during that closing 20 minutes proving impossible to break down, as they only conceded a solitary point.

With their backs to the wall during the second-half, their work rate was superb as they continued to frustrate Midleton CBS from making inroads.

There were scenes of jubilant delight at the final whistle as CBS held out for a famous victory.

Kilkenny CBS - Eoin Byrne (John Lockes);

CBS Joint Captains Marc Drennan and Conor Doherty accept the 'Niall McInerney Cup' from Mary McInerney following an historic All-Ireland Junior Hurling victory over Midleton CBS in Fraher Field in Dungarvan.



Robert Crotty (Dicksboro), Shane Mahony (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ciaran Ryan (Dicksboro); Conor Fitzpatrick (Dicksboro), Conor Doheny (Dicksboro), Mark Drennan (Barrow Rangers); Chris Kavanagh (Dicksboro), John Quinn (St Lachtain's); Andrew Gaffney (Dicksboro), Jay Leahy (O'Loughlin Gaels), John McEvoy (James Stephens); Sean Bolger (O'Loughlin Gaels), Robbie O'Driscoll (O'Loughlin Gaels), Bill Sheehan (Dicksboro). Subs - Declan Wall (James Stephens) for Gaffney (inj) 43rd min; Robbie Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels) for Quinn 54th min (both used).

Despite the heartache of losing the All-Ireland Senior 'A' Colleges Final for the third consecutive year, Kilkenny CBS enjoyed a hugely successful year on the hurling field. The Senior hurlers retained their Leinster title in fine style against St. Kieran's in Nowlan Park ensuring the presence of the Corn Ui Dhuill in the school for the past two years. Subsequently the team qualified for the All-Ireland Final but came up short in an all-Kilkenny affair again, against St. Kierans. The CBS would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of Conor Doheny, Ross Butler, Cathal McGrath, Luke Scanlon and Andrew Gaffney to the Kilkenny Minor All-Ireland success in 2014. The CBS Senior Hurler of the Year was Paddy Deegan, Junior Hurler of the Year was Chris Kavanagh and Juvenile Hurler of the Year was Conor Heary. We look forward to another successful year in 2014/2015. Ar aghaidh le CBS!

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

(See separate article on our SH All Ireland success)

Juvenile Hurling Dr Barry Cup St Kieran's 3-16 Kilkenny CBS 0-3

Panel:

Ciarán Brennan (St. Martin's), Tommy Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Luke Murphy (James Stephens), Mark Nolan (Dicksboro), James Phelan (Lisdowney), Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks) Captain, Jesse Roberts (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoin O'Shea (O'Loughlin Gaels), Killian Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoghan Moylan (Dicksboro), Diarmuid Phelan (Danesfort), Ryan Scanlon (James Stephens), Eoin Wall (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ross Whelan (James Stephens), Conor O'Keefe (Danesfort), Cathal Power (Freshford), Eoin Kenneally (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Cian Dawson (Freshford), David Blanchfield (Bennetsbridge), Ian Walsh (Dunamaggin), Ciarán Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ned Kirwan (Thomastown), Evan Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Rory Cleere (Bennetsbridge), Rory Lodge (Dunamaggin), Aaron Brennan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Adam Tallis (Tullaroan), David O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Jack Brennan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Conor Condon (Danesfort), Rory O'Keefe (Clara), Eoin Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Adam Fitzpatrick (Dunamaggin), Shane Murphy (James Stephens), Darragh Corcoran (Ballyhale



St Kieran's Juvenile Hurling Panel 2014



Castlecomer CS Leinster Junior Hurling A Shield Winners

Shamrocks).

Many thanks to our Transition Year students, and, especially, Maurice Walshe for their help both at training and at matches. Thanks for a second year to Robert O'Flynn from fifth year who showed great professionalism in assisting at training and at matches. A special word of thanks to Mr. John Quane for lending his first aid expertise. Hopefully, the juvenile final was a fitting farewell for Mr. Quane as he retires in June. Tom Hogan/ Philip Walsh.

CASTLECOMER CS

Castlecomer CS Senior Hurling 2013

Castlecomer CS competed strongly in the Leinster Colleges Hurling A league this year. In the league campaign the team had very competitive games against St. Brendan's Birr, Kilkenny CBS (All Ireland finalists), Good Counsel and Dublin South. The league was a great workout to prepare the team for the Leinster Colleges Senior Hurling A quarter final against a much fancied St. Peter's Wexford. This quarter final proved to be a tough encounter against the Wexford boys and was a very tightly contested match from start to finish with the Comer boys holding on to win by three points to secure a semifinal place against St.

Kieran's College.

The semifinal went right down to the wire with St. Kieran's edging it out on a score line of CCS 0-6 to St. Kieran's 1-8. Castlecomer CS put in a very strong second half performance and came within two points of the Leinster Champions before St. Kieran's gathered momentum in the last five minutes to secure a Leinster Final place.

This year's Senior Hurling team put in a huge effort without any major success but their attitude to training and games was one to be very proud of and the school would like to wish the players leaving us all the best in their college and hurling careers. They were an incredible bunch of guys to train and work with.

We would also like to congratulate Eoin Brennan, Ciaran Wallace, Philly Cass and Conor Delaney on making the Kilkenny Minor panel and wish them the best of luck in Leinster and All Ireland Minor championship.

We would like to thank the clubs for their continuing support with players and pitches and to Joe Comerford for his support during the year. Finally we would like to thank Mr. Seamus O Connor, Principal, for his great support throughout the year to the players and mentors. Castlecomer CS Senior Hurling Panel 2013:

Jason Shore, Padraig Delaney, Paddy Brennan,



Ciaran Wallace, Dean Shortall (Captain), Eoin Brennan, Donal Shore, Darragh Brennan, Shane Kinsella, Nicholas Feehan, Fabian Jacob, Philly Cass, Padric Delaney, Shane Rice, Andrew Dowd, Liam Cass, Jimmy Comerford, Conor Delaney, Ollie Feehan, Niall McMahon, Donal Carroll, Damien Egan, David O'Neill, John Callinan, Shane Donnelly, Stephen Walsh, Billy Morrissey.
Mentors: Pat Tynan and Peter O'Donovan.

U-16 Hurling and Football

Our U-16's had a mixed bag of fortune this season. With the League/Championship starting so soon after coming back (the 24th of September) they did not have long to prepare. Unfortunately they came up against stiff opposition in their first two games, losing both to Kilkenny C.B.S. and St Peter's Wexford. In their third game they beat Colaiste Eoin of Dublin comprehensively, however this was not enough to keep them in the championship proper. They then faced a stiff challenge from Johnstown (who were playing for their first year in Roinn A) whom they beat after a replay. This qualified our lads for the shield final which we had won last year. However this year, the Offaly boys proved too strong, winning by four points after a hugely competitive game of hurling. On the football front, we fielded an U-16 Football team in the Leinster Roinn C championship for the first time in five years. There were big attendances at training. We won our first game against Heywood C.S. before falling to a very strong and well trained Mountmellick team.

U-14 Hurling and Football

Pre -Christmas our U-14's were busy in September and October with the First Year and the First and Second Year Leagues. In October the football season started. We played three games: drawing against Kilkenny C.B.S., beating Heywood and losing to Mountrath; this was sadly not enough to qualify from the group. Hurling training began this year in early December. Although our panel is slightly smaller (at 35 players) than the last couple of years the attendance and enthusiasm at training has been second to none. At time of writing we have played 14 hurling matches between the 'A' and 'B' team, with the 'A' team scoring good wins over Johnstown, Kilkenny C.B.S., Birr and Offaly Schools and losing two matches to very strong teams from Dublin North and St Kieran's. Roll on the championship!

COLÁISTE MHUIRE

South Leinster Post Primary Schools Junior Hurling B Final

**Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown 2-1
FCJ, Buncloody 4-7**

Colaiste Mhuire Panel:

Paddy Killeen, Niall Carroll, Niall Brennan, Phillip Purcell, Gavin McCarthy, Podge Delaney, Stephen Delaney, Connor Grace, Connor Madden, Liam Grant, Fionn Cleary, Oisín Phelan, David Nolan, Keane Hayes, Brian Kavanagh, Aidan Ryan, Ciaran Dawson,

Ryan Murphy, Ben Tallis, Gary O'Sullivan, Nathan Ryan, Sean Phelan, Darren Quinlan, Karl Campion, Bobby Tynan, Evan Morrissey, Keith Wellwood.

Colaiste Mhuire Panel Jun Hurling

*1. Patrick Killeen, St. Lactains, 2. Ben Tallis, Lisdowney, 3. Ryan Murphy, Galmoy, 4. Eoghan Doherty, The Harps, 5. Karl Campion, Gortnahoe, 6. Liam Grant, Emeralds, 7. Darren Quinlan, Emeralds, 8. Niall Brennan, Lisdowney, 9. Conor Madden, Rathdowney, 10. Dominik Franczek, Fenians, 11. Padraig Delaney, The Harps, 12. Gary O'Sullivan, Lisdowney, 13. Ciarán Colclough, St. Lactains, 14. Oisín Phelan, Galmoy, 15. David Nolan, Gortnahoe.
Subs: 16. Enda Kelly (Emeralds), 17. Mark Fitzpatrick (Lisdowney), 18. Cathal O'Leary (St. Lactains), 19. Padraig Donnelly (St. Lactains), 20. Nathan Ryan (Ballyragget), 21. Ollie Kenny (Emeralds), 22. John Kennedy (Gortnahoe), 23. Gerard Kavanagh (Gortnahoe), 24. Padraig Dunne (The Harps), 25. Calvin Ryan (Emeralds), 26. Rickie Burke (Emeralds), 27. Martin Burke (Emeralds), 28. Rory Deegan (The Harps), 29. Jack McGree (St. Lactains), 30. Lee McCann (Lisdowney), 31. Leo Costigan (St. Lactains), 32. Elijah Garrett (St. Lactains), 33. Conor Holohan (Fenians), 34. Jordan Burke (St. Lactains), 35. Ryan Bolger (Ballyragget), 36. Roan Bolger (Ballyragget), 37. Alex Bowe (Rathdowney), 38. Aaron Dermody (Fenians), 39. Rory Kenny (Lisdowney), 40. Shane Leahy (Emeralds).*

KILKENNY WIN 7th FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT

DEVELOPMENT SQUADS NEWS



KILKENNY - TONY FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS 2014

Tony Forristal/Sonny Walsh Tournament 2014 Kilkenny 2-16 Galway 2-5

Kilkenny County Board Chairman Ned Quinn was present in Waterford last weekend to cast an eye over the future Kilkenny stars and on this evidence the Mooncoin man can rest easy.

Kilkenny completely out played all their opponents on the way to their seventh ever Tony Forristal title.

The Leinster side had victories over Limerick (20 points), Wexford (17 points) and Tipperary (18 points) on the way to the final. Galway for their part after a facile win over Offaly beat both Waterford and Cork by nine points in qualifying for the final.

In the final played at Walsh Park last Saturday evening it was no surprise that Kilkenny stamped their mark on the game from the get go.

Full-forward Declan Duggan had a goal for Kilkenny in the opening minute and a Justin Cahill point put the Cats four points up.

David Jordan had Galway's first score after six minutes and a free from Conor Molloy left the Tribesmen trailing 1-2 to 0-2. Further points from Liam Grant, Justin Cahill and two from Conor Henry had Kilkenny leading 1-5 to 0-2 at half-time.

Galway had the first score of the second half from a Mark Kennedy free but once again Kilkenny took control hitting five points in succession to lead 1-10 to 0-3 halfway through the second half. The impressive Galway corner-forward Conor Molloy goaled with seven minutes to play leaving his side trailing 1-12 to 1-4.

The Galway comeback came to a shattering halt when Liam Grant hit Kilkenny's second goal and they eased to an 11-point victory by game's end.

Kilkenny: Dean Mason; Sean Brennan, James Phelan, Mickey Butler; Eoghan Moylan, James Brennan, Diarmuid Phelan; Alex Hatt, Killian Egan; Conor Henry, Ian Walsh, Liam Grant; Justin Cahill, Declan Duggan, Conor Drennan.

Scorers: Liam Grant (1-4), Justin Cahill (1-2), Conor Henry (0-5), Declan Duggan (1-0), Conor Drennan (0-2, 0-1f), Alex Hatt (0-2), Killian Egan (0-1).

Galway: Darach Fahy; Sean Duffy, Conor Lee, Jack Galvin; Adam Clarke, Conor Walsh, Simon Thomas; Enda Egan, Cillian Lawless; Eoin Caulfield, David Jordan, Nathan Earner; Conor Molloy, Jack Egan, Mark Kennedy.

Scorers: Mark Kennedy (0-4, 0-2f), Conor Walsh and Conor Molloy (1-0 each), David Jordan (0-1).

Player of the Tournament: Alex Hatt (Rower Inistioge).



KILKENNY U17 SQUAD - EUGENE CAREY MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT SHIELD WINNERS 2014



U16 SQUAD KILKENNY - TIPP SUPPORTERS TOURNAMENT FINALISTS 2014

Kilkenny came very close to winning the prestigious Tipp Supporters Tournament having come through an extremely difficult group to make it all the way to the final. In the Group stages, Kilkenny defeated Cork by a last minute point. Laois fell at the next stage by a very creditable (for Laois) four points. A two-point win over Tipperary fired Kilkenny into a semi-final in which they took care of a very strong Wexford side by two points, thanks to a very late John Donnelly goal. The Final against Dublin saw the game go to extra time, which Kilkenny lost by a single point.

Panel: Ronan Ryan (Piltown), Brian Coady (St. Martins), Jack Frisby (Slieverue), Evan Carroll (Dicksboro), Martin Keogh (Tullaroan), Marc Drennan (Barrow Rangers), Shane Mahony (O Loughlin Gaels), Chris Kavanagh (Captain, Dicksboro), James Mullaly (Danesfort), Tom Whitty (Danesfort), Joe Connolly (Clara), James Bergin (Conahy Shamrocks), Sean Bolger (O Loughlin Gaels), Edward Moylan (Dicksboro), Edmund Delaney (Conahy Shamrocks), Sean Buggy (Erins Own), Donal Cass (Conahy Shamrocks), Paddy Nolan (St. Fiaches), John Donnelly (Thomastown), Sean Power (Emeralds), Brian Kavanagh (Lisdowney), Victor Costelloe (Dunamaggin), Jay Leahy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Cillian Power (Slieverue).



KILKENNY - MICHAEL FOLEY BLITZ WINNERS WEXFORD 2014



KILKENNY UNDER 14 SELECTION CENTRAL SQUAD INTERCOUNTY BLITZ GOREY JULY 2014

MARTIN TREACY

1935 - 2014

Barrie Henriques

Oscar Wilde remarked one time, “be yourself, everyone else is taken”. Never was a man more defined by such disarming prose than Martin Treacy from famed Bennettsbridge, who left this place on June 5th to meet a Creator with whom he had established a strong bond over a near eighty-year span.

Martin Treacy never had an ambition to be anybody but Martin Treacy. He was a simple man with simple needs. He had no pretensions of being anybody else, and he never indulged in the envy of others irrespective of their position, status, or possessions. He was a man of Bennettsbridge, and even though he married his beloved Theresa, and made a home in Parnell Street, Kilkenny City, Martin gave many hours back with his own in the ‘Bridge in Blackwell.

He was the eldest of the Treacy children born in 1935 to Martin and Mary (Doran). Coming behind him like the steps of a stairs were Willie, Sean, Lil, Paddy, Annie, Jim, and Paddy. Back in 1935, and for two decades later, life was no garden tea party for the working classes of rural Ireland. You got what you could whenever you could, and there was no place for alternatives. Hurling for all the Treacy lads was their only outlet for sporting entertainment. Four of them won County senior Championships with the ‘Bridge. His brothers, Jim, Paddy, and Willie played and won nine County Titles.

Those were not strawberries, cream and tennis affairs on the lawns in Wimbledon. They were a mish-mash of cuts, bruises, tough tackling, sore muscles, and downright cussedness. Hurling in the time was no game for the faint-hearted. Martin won an All-Ireland senior medal in 1963 when Kilkenny beat Waterford by 4-17 to 6-8.

Martin Treacy was employed by CIE (Irish Rail) for a long number of years. He was a very familiar figure as he traversed the County delivering goods which were all sent to the railhead at Kilkenny Railway Station. No task was too burdensome for the barrel-chested defender. In his Parish of St Marys, he was a sterling member of his congregation, offering voluntary assistance to his Priests at Mass times, and on many other occasions as was deemed necessary. His mantra was

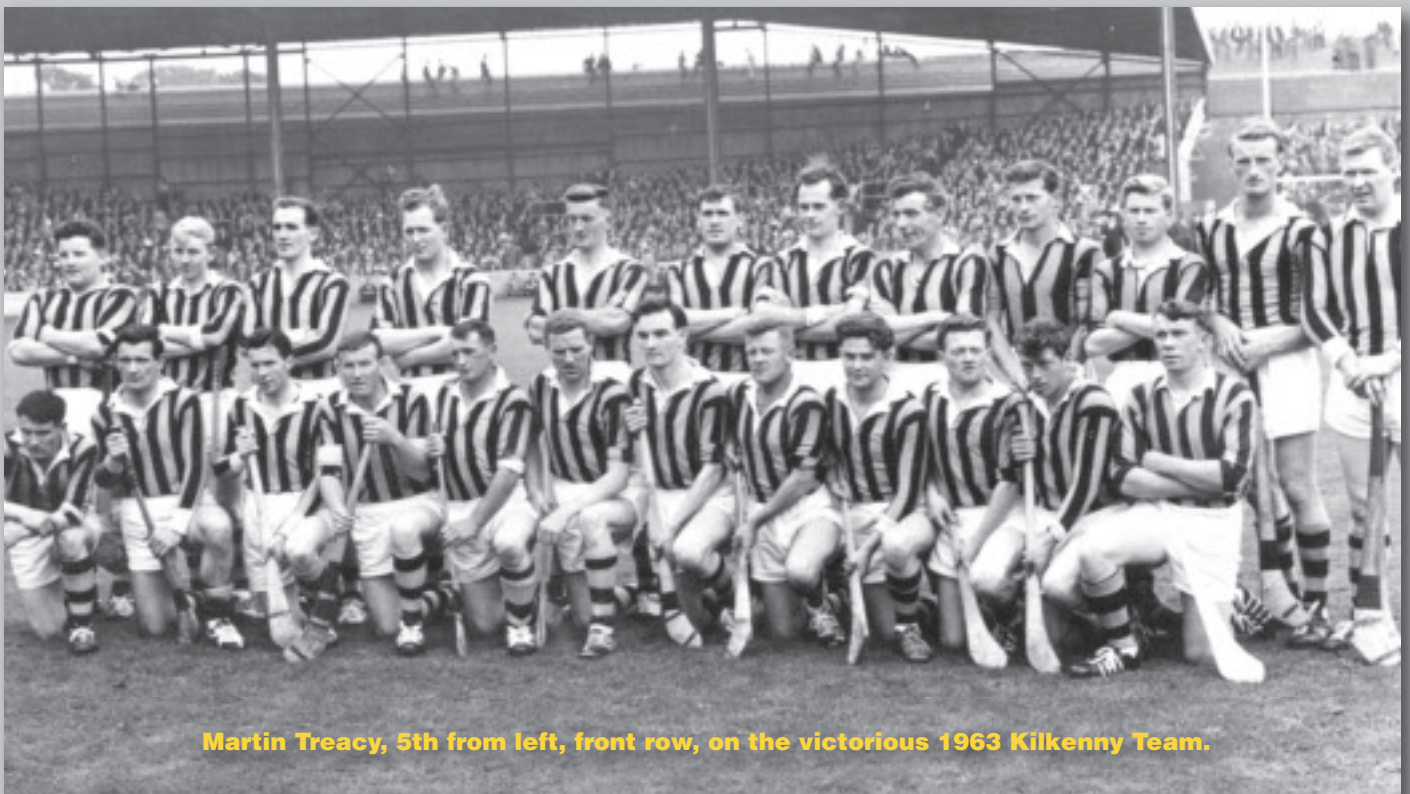
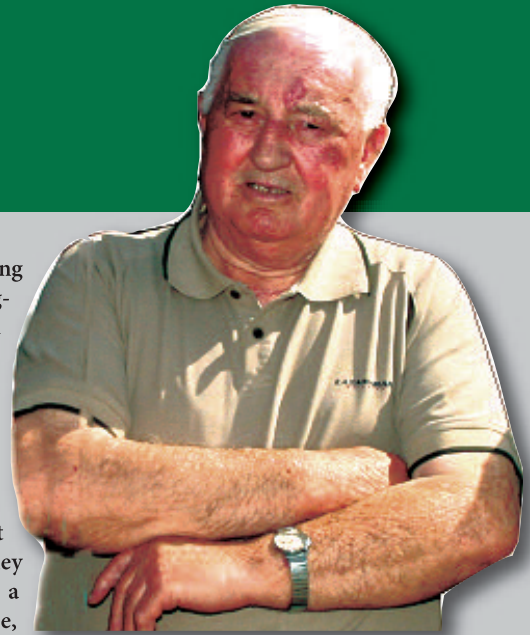
helping out.

When the day of hanging up the boots, and slinging the nicks and socks arrived, He immersed himself in the demanding development of his beloved Bennettsbridge. When the ‘Bridge purchased their present home, and when money was as scarce as a singing chimpanzee,

Martin was out beating the bushes in an effort to drum up financial support for his club’s building fund. His enthusiasm never waned, and he had a super method of encouraging people to give a hand. He never asked anyone to do what he couldn’t do himself. As a hurling defender of granite compound he never shirked a challenge.

Well I remember him telling me about the All-Ireland win over Tipperary in 1967. “We didn’t meet them as often some people thought, but nevertheless, we hadn’t beaten them in a Final since 1922”. The fact that his youngest brother, Jim was captain made the occasion all the more poignant. “When the match was over, and we had won, we were delirious. As the lads went up the steps to collect the cup, my father, God rest him, was very close to Jim when he came down. There were tears in his eyes, as he grabbed Jim in a bear-hug, and nearly squeezed him to death. I never saw a prouder man. Fathers would never show their emotions like that in public, but my father was so proud of the young lad that he couldn’t help himself”.

Jim and his beloved Therese never missed a game where Kilkenny were playing. The old green Fiesta could be seen anywhere from Casement Park to Killarney, from Croke Park to Croagh Patrick. When their son



Martin Treacy, 5th from left, front row, on the victorious 1963 Kilkenny Team.



Martin Treacy, 3rd from left, front row, on the victorious 1966 Bennettsbridge Team.

John played on Kilkenny teams, Therese and Marty were not too far removed from one of the side lines. Even when John won Championships with the Boro, Martin and Therese - if the 'Bridge was not engaged - would be there. Martin was a solid defender of the right of the County Board to make decisions that were binding on all. He was an avid defender of the democratic process, and he was an untiring labourer in the field of GAA Democracy. As his honoured Remains made their way slowly through the City bounded by a Guard of Honour from Bennettsbridge, the County Board and Dicksboro, Kilkenny stood in silence as a mark of respect for a great man whom they all had known.

Chairman of the County Board Ned Quinn endorsed Martin's contribution as valuable, loyal, memorable and unconditional. He told the gathered crowds that Martin Treacy gave of himself totally, never

looking for affirmation.

One's heart went out to Martin's soul mate Therese, as she stood grieving at the graveside by her daughter Patricia, the apple of Martin's eye. Sad to say that within a calendar month, Therese had joined her Martin among the Heavenly hosts, of that there can be no doubt.

We sympathise with Martin's family, Patricia, his sons John, Martin and Desmond. We are mindful too of the loss suffered by his brothers, Mick, Paddy, Willie, and Jim, and his only living sister, Annie Kelly. His daughters-in-law will miss him, and of course his five grandchildren will miss their Grandad. The GAA will feel the loss of a great servant, but those who numbered him as a dear friend will never forget the big man with the bigger heart, the willing hand, the gentle manner, the courteous disposition, and of course his unconditional friendship. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.*

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RAILYARD TURN THE TABLES



....Photos Willie Dempsey

RAILYARD - COUNTY SF CHAMPIONS & LEAGUE FINALISTS 2014

Back: Eoin Boran, Paul Kelly, Brian Cahill, Damien Purcell, Kevin Brennan, Cormac McDonald, Noel Roche, Gearoid O'Neill, Eddie Roche, John Mansfield, Ozzie Roche, Conor McDonald, Ronan Walsh, Kevin Phillips, Kevin Delaney, David Wilson, David O'Neill, Paul Roche, Paul Donnelly, Laurence Holohan, Paul O'Neill.

Front Row: (l to r) Seanie Brennan, John Dowd, Sean Geoghan, Kieran Whelan, Fergal Brennan, Caleb Roche, Pa Brennan, Phillip Roche, Ger Campion, Michael Farrell, Sean O'Neill, Darren Purcell.

SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

12 Teams participated in the League in 3 groups of 4 during the months of February and March. Railyard set the tone for their year by finishing top of Group A ahead of Kilmoganny with two wins and a draw. Conahy Shamrocks topped Group B on scoring difference from Mullinavat, whilst in Group C Mooncoin topped the group ahead of Muckalee with three wins out of three. Muckalee accounted for Conahy Shamrocks 0-11 to 0-7 in the first semi-final and they were joined in the final by Railyard who saw off Mooncoin by the exact same scoreline 0-11 to 0-7. In the final, played in Canon Kearns Park in March, victory went to Muckalee on a 2-9 to 1-6 scoreline.

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Kilmoganny, Clara, James Stephens and St Patrick's all emerged from the first round ties played on 16th March to meet

the top 4 from the League in the Quarter-Finals. Conahy Shamrocks were again at the wrong end of a 0-11 to 0-7 score-line when Kilmoganny booked their place in the semi-finals. Mooncoin played out a thriller against Clara under lights in Piltown emerging with a one point win (0-13 to 2-6). Railyard continued their good form with a 2-10 to 1-5 win over James Stephens whilst Muckalee proved too strong for St Patrick's winning 0-12 to 0-5. In the semi-finals Muckalee were always in control of their game with Mooncoin and qualified for the final on a 1-8 to 0-6 score-line. In the second semi-final Kilmoganny seemed destined for the final but an injury time goal gave Railyard a single point victory 2-10 to 3-6. The Final was played in Nowlan Park on 5th July and in a hugely exciting contest Railyard got the better of their neighbours and great rivals Muckalee on a 1-5 to 1-4 score-line.



MUCKALEE - SF LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2014

Back Row: Paddy Nolan, James Maher, Eugene Maher, Brian Cahill, Tom Morrissey, Paul Maher, Conor Kinsella, Brandon Sheehan, Damien Egan, Brian Byrne, John Coonan, Mick Morrissey, Noel Darcy, John Maher,

Front Row: John Mulhall, Eoin McGrath, Shane Coonan, Shane Egan, Aidan Egan, Alan Murphy, Robert Shore, Aidan Murphy, Ollie Walsh, Colin McGrath.



THOMASTOWN - COUNTY IF CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: J. Lanigan, C. Clarke, D. Brennan, S. O'Mahony, S. Connolly, J. Hoynes, S. Lanigan, B. Murphy, S. Treacy, S. Whelan, PJ Whelan

Front: P. Khan, J. O'Connell, D. McGarry, P. Barron, JJ Farrell, J. O'Hanrahan, D. Prendergast, E. Corryway, T. O'Hanrahan, J. Fitzgerald, B. Whelan, N. O'Mara

AIB LEINSTER CLUB INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Railyard qualified for the Leinster Quarter-Final with a very brave and hard fought win (2-8 to 1-7) over Aughrim of Wicklow played in Freshford on Oct 19th. Paul Donnelly was the hero of the hour with 2-1 of his side's total. Their next outing was also played in Freshford in early November when Kildare Intermediate Champions Eadestown provided the opposition. The Kildare champions proved too strong and although the Kilkenny side held their own in the first half they were comprehensively defeated in the second half with the final score 2-15 to 0-2.

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

Erins Own emerged victorious in the League with a 2-12 to 0-6 win over Ballyhale Shamrocks in the final. Both sides had come through their league pro-

gramme undefeated. Rower Inistioge, Blacks and Whites, Piltown and Thomastown were the other clubs competing. In the championship Piltown had a narrow 1-5 to 1-4 win over Blacks and Whites in the first quarter-final. A four goal blast saw Thomastown get the better of neighbours Rower Inistioge (4-3 to 0-5) to qualify for the semi-final. The semi-finals were played in April with Piltown having a great win over Ballyhale on a 2-11 to 3-2 score-line whilst Thomastown put up an equally impressive score of 2-10 to see off Erin's Own by two points.

In the final, played under lights in Piltown in October, Thomastown proved too strong for their hosts. Three goals in the opening half had Thomastown ahead comfortably at half time 3-2 to 0-1. A second goal from captain David Prendergast early in the second half finished the game

as a contest and Thomastown ran out convincing winners 5-5 to 1-3 to qualify to meet Straffan of Kildare in the AIB Leinster Junior Club Championship.

AIB LEINSTER CLUB JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The shoe was on the other foot when Thomastown travelled to Newbridge to face Kildare champions Straffan in the AIB Leinster Club Junior Championship. Thomastown, missing a number of their first choice players, just couldn't cope with the pace and experience of the Straffan team and eventually succumbed to a 5-16 to 1-4 defeat.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Graignamanagh took the first honours of the season when they defeated Carrickshock 2-11 to 3-5 in the League Final. They had topped their group with four



PILTOWN - COUNTY IF FINALISTS 2014

Back: Sean Mundy, Shane Ahern, Stephen Blackmore, Andrew McCarthy, Tommy O'Gorman, Peter McCarthy, James Norris, Aidan Ryan, Aidan Nugent, Thomas Talbot, Shane Walsh, Ian Long, Niall Kinsella, Daniel Norris, Fran Duggan, David Kinsella, Shane Kinsella, Liam Knox, James Farrell.

Front: Brian Gallagher, Conor O'Shea, Tom Kenny, Robbie Culleton, Neil Kelly, Jamie Murphy, Nicky Kenny, Thomas Murray, Michael O'Dwyer, Denis Lawler, Pa Connolly, Brendan McCarthy, Philly Kenny.



GRAIGNAMANAGH - JUNIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Tom Duggan, Alan Foley selector, Eddie Dowling, Ger Dowling, (Jessica & Tommy Dowling), Syl Cushen, James McCabe, Bernard Hennessy, Lee Kinsella, Sean O'Brien, James Meaney, Leonard Blanchfield, Sean Dowling, Patrick Dowling, James Doyle, Padraig Whelan, Hughie Flood, James O'Donnell.
Front: Seamus Kavanagh, Jamie McGrath, Pierce Blanchfield, Ian Kavanagh, Dane Mangan Capt, Sean Cahill Kevin Canning, Thomas O'Donnell, James Cahill(seated), Adam Kennedy, Ronan Dowling, Eddie Walsh, Brendan Foley, Martin Kelly.

wins out of four over Tullogher-Rosbercon, Windgap, Muckalee and Carrigeen. Carrickshock also emerged from their group undefeated with wins over Danesfort, Young Irelands, Graigue-Ballycallan and Railyard.

The Championship is at quarter-final stage as we go to print. Windgap v Tullogher Rosbercon, Graigue-Ballycallan v Graignamanagh, Railyard v Young Irelands and Carrickshock v Danesfort are the line-ups.

INTER-COUNTY SCENE

Kilkenny again took part in the British Junior Football Championship. Their first outing was a home tie against Warwickshire in Nowlan Park and this turned out to be a humbling experience losing out 0-10 to 1-2. However, the squad quickly turned this around and had an excellent 3-8 to 1-13 win over London in Ruistlip on the following weekend. They followed this up with an emphatic 4-11 to 1-12 win over Lancashire in Manchester to set up a semi-final clash with Scotland. Despite a brave effort they were defeated by a strong Scottish side on a score-line of 0-7 to 0-18. Scotland went on to win the British championship and were defeated in the All Ireland Semi-Final by a Cavan side that went on to become All Ireland Junior Champions.



Paul O'Flynn of the 'Boro drives the ball home for Kilkenny against Lancashire



KILKENNY FOOTBALL TEAM IN UK 2014

Back: James Culleton, Tom Aylward, Bob Aylward, Eoin Mulhearn, JJ Grace, Ger Purcell, Noel Darcy, Paul O'Flynn, Michael Duggan, Joe Fennelly, Eddie Kearns, Alan Murphy, Conor Conway.
Front: John Mulhall, Stephen Murphy, Pat Kinsella, Brian Egan, Peter McBride, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Farrell, Robert Shore, JJ O Sullivan, Paul Donnelly, Sean Geoghegan.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

HANDBALL REPORT by JOSEPHINE COONEY PRO



All Ireland Handball Winners 2014

Junior Doubles 40x20 Brendan Burke Kells/Ciarán Neary Talbots Inch, Ladies Intermediate Singles 60x30 Ciara Mahon Ladies Intermediate Doubles 40x20/60x30 Ciara Mahon/Mary Phelan Clogh, U16S 60x30 Shane Dunne Clogh, Masters A Singles 40x20/60x30 Ducksy Walsh Talbots Inch Masters A Doubles 40x20 Ducksy Walsh Talbots Inch/DJ Carey Goresbridge, Intermediate Singles 40x20 Peter Funchion Intermediate Doubles 40x20 Peter Funchion/Patrick Funchion Kells, 0358 Doubles 40x20 Canice Quigley St. Canices/Stephen Barcoe Goresbridge,

Kilkenny Handball Report

Another successful year has passed. We had players take part in all four codes of our game, 40x20, 60x30, Hardball and Wall Ball, Kells participated in the Feile na nGael in Ulster, clubs participated in the interclub competitions, Primary schools took part in the Cumann na mBunscoileanna and secondary schools took part in their respective competitions and 3rd level students from the county took part in the Intervarsity. The county have 14 clubs registered and they are Clogh, Mothel /Muckalee, O'Loughlins, Talbots Inch, St.Canices, Kells, Windgap, Goresbridge, Kilfane, Mullinavat, Rejuvenated clubs in Callan, Galmoy, Glenmore and looking forward to Tullaroan have their new alley up and running in the near future.

40x20 Juvenile

County Juvenile 40x20 Championship

U10 Singles Conor Holden (Kilfane)
U10 Doubles Aaron Hosey/Dylan Hunston (Goresbridge)
U11 Singles Kyle Jordan (Kilfane)
U11 Doubles Shaun O Keffe/Pdraig Lennon (Kells)
U12 Singles Kyle Dunne (Clogh)
U12 Doubles Jamie Maher and Jack Brennan (Clogh)
U13 Singles Jack Holden (Kilfane)
U13 Doubles Billy O'Neill and Jack Buggy (Clogh)
U14 Singles Ciarán Cooney (Clogh)
U14 Doubles Eoin Brennan and Conor Hoban (Kells)
U15 Singles Conor Condon (Kells)
U15 Doubles Eoin Regan and Cathal Barry (Clogh)
U16 Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh)
U16 Doubles Roy Cullen and Conor Murphy (Kells)
U17 Singles Sean Carey (Goresbridge)
U17 Doubles David Doyle and Robert White (Windgap)
U10B Singles Daniel Hanrahan Galmoy
U10B Doubles Sean and Eanna O Keffe Kilfane
U11B Singles Billy Drennan Galmoy
U11B Doubles Matt Delaney/David Sherman (Galmoy)
U12B Singles Joe Cowhig (Kells)
U13B Singles Eamonn Brennan (Clogh)
U14B Singles Conor Drennan (Galmoy)
U15B Singles Rory Lodge (Kells)

All Ireland Juvenile r/up

U14S Ciarán Cooney (Clogh)

County Juvenile Girls 40x20 Championship

Girls U10 Singles Amy Brennan (Clogh)
Girls U10 Doubles Aisling Cooney/Katie Brennan (Clogh)
Girls U11 Singles Keara Ryan (O'Loughlins)
Girls U12 Singles Roisin O Keffe (Kilfane)
GU12 Doubles Noelle Dowling and Orla Nolan (Mothel)
Girls U13 Singles Rebecca Roche (Mothel)
GU13 Doubles Laura and Roisin Foley Windgap
Girls U14 Singles Dearbhail O Keffe (Kilfane)
Girls U14 Doubles Edel Mulholland and Laura Geoghegan O'Loughlins
Girls U15 Singles Sorchá Delaney (Clogh)
Girls U15 Doubles Margaret Purcell and Margaret Foley Windgap
Girls U16 Singles Aoife Holden (Kilfane)
Girls U16 Doubles Caoimhe O Shea and Aine Dunne Windgap
Girls U17 Singles Karen Walshe (Kells)
Girls U17 Doubles Sarah Molloy and Elaine

Leinster 40x20 Juvenile winners

U13S Jack Holden Kilfane
U14S Ciaran Cooney Clogh
U16D Roy Cullen and Conor Murphy Kells
U17S Sean Carey Goresbridge
U17D David Doyle Windgap and Marc Purcell Clogh
GU12S Roisin O Keffe Kilfane
GU12D Noelle Dowling Mothel and Roisin Foley Windgap
GU15S Sorchá Delaney Clogh
GU15D Margaret Purcell Windgap and Kym Ryan Kells
GU16S Aoife Holden Kilfane
GU17D Sarah Molloy and Karen Walshe Kells

60x30 Juvenile

County Juvenile 60x30 Championship

U10 Singles Kyle Jordan Kilfane
U10 Singles Plate final Dominic Bolster Clogh
U10 Doubles Conor Holden and Kilian Kelly Kilfane
U12 Singles Kyle Dunne Clogh
U12 Doubles Peter McDonald and Tom Holden Kilfane
U13Singles Billy O'Neill Clogh
U13 Doubles Jack Buggy and Eamonn Brennan Clogh
U14 Singles Ciarán Cooney Clogh
U14 Doubles Jack Holden and Jack Kerins Kilfane

U15 Singles Aidan Barry Clogh

U15 Doubles Cathal Barry and Eoin Regan Clogh
U16 Singles Shane Dunne Clogh
U16 Doubles Roy Cullen and Conor Murphy Kells
U17 Singles Jack Crehan Kells

County Juvenile Girls 60x30 championship

GU10 Singles Amy Brennan Clogh
GU10 Singles Plate final Holly Byrne Clogh
GU10 Doubles Aisling Cooney and Katie Brennan Clogh
GU12 Singles Roisin O Keffe Kilfane
GU12 Doubles Eva and Amy Brennan Clogh
GU13 Singles Edel Mulholland O'Loughlins
GU13 Doubles Rebecca Roche and Noelle Dowling Mothel
GU14 Singles Dearbhail O Keffe Kilfane
GU14 Doubles Kate Cowhig and Kym Ryan Kells
GU15 Singles Sorchá Delaney Clogh
GU15 Doubles Margaret Purcell and Margaret Foley Windgap
GU16 Singles Aoife Holden Kilfane
GU16 Doubles Cora Delaney and Caitriona Lawlor Clogh
GU17 Singles Deirdre Purcell Windgap
GU17 Doubles Elaine Power and Aoife Walsh Kells

Leinster 60x30 Juveniles Winners

U12S Kyle Dunne (Clogh)
U14D Ciarán Cooney (Clogh), Jack Holden (Kilfane)
U15D Cathal Barry (Clogh), Eoin Regan (Clogh)
U16S Shane Dunne (Clogh)
U16D Roy Cullen (Kells), Dion Bourke (Mothel)
GU12S Roisin O Keffe (Kilfane)
GU12D Noelle Dowling (Mothel), Eva Brennan (Clogh)
GU15D Margaret Purcell (Windgap), Sorchá Delaney (Clogh)
GU16S Aoife Holden (Kilfane)
GU17D Aoife Walsh (Kells), Elaine Power (Kells)

All Ireland 60x30 Juvenile Winners

U16S Shane Dunne (Clogh)
GU16S Aoife Holden (Kilfane)

All Ireland 60x30 Juvenile r/up

U15D Cathal Barry/Eoin Regan (Clogh)
U16D Roy Cullen (Kells)/Dion Bourke (Mothel) GU17D Aoife

Gael Linn

2 teams from the county go on to represent Kilkenny in Leinster and they are Jack Holden and Roisin O Keffe Kilfane and Dylan Crehan and Olivia Mahony Kells. Kifane's Jack Holden and Roisin won Leinster final and now go on to represent Leinster at the National Event in Mayo. Jack and Roisin won the Solas competition

Cumann na mBunscoileanna

A big number of primary schools in County Kilkenny took part in the Cumann na mBunscoileanna competition held in O Loughlins.

Boys U11 Singles Billy Drennan Galmoy National School

Boys U11 Doubles Kyle Jordan and Conor Holden Thomastown National School

Boys U13 Singles Kyle Dunne Moneenroe National School

Boys U13 Doubles Billy O Neill and Jamie Maher Boys School, Castlecomer

Girl U11 Singles Amy Brennan Moneenroe National School

Girls U13 Singles Edel Mulholland Gael Scoil

Girls U13 Doubles Breanna O Dwyer and Ciara Walsh Stoneyford

Boys U13B Singles Tom Holden Thomastown National School

Boys U13B Doubles Charlie Ryan and Darragh Glynn Clara National School

Girls U13B Singles Meg Ryan Callan

Girls U13B Doubles Eva Brennan and Nicole Dowling Moneenroe National School

Billy Drennan Galmoy NS and Amy Brennan Moneenroe NS went on to represented Kilkenny and Leinster at the National Cumann na mBunscoile day in Kingscourt

Irish Junior Nationals

33 Juveniles took part at the Irish Juvenile Nationals in Clare Jamie Maher, Jack Doyle, Billy Drennan, Daniel Hanrahan, Kyle Jordan, Conor Holden, Ciarán Cooney, Padraig Cooney, Aoife Holden, Jack Holden, Jack Buggy, Jack Crehan, Dylan Crehan, Mark Dowling, Noelle Dowling, Amy Brennan, Aidan Barry, Cathal Barry, Michael Power, Eoin Brennan, JJ English, Sean Carey, Ciara Mahon, Shane Dunne, Conor Quinlan, Rhianna McNamara & Kassia McNamara, Kelly Ann Ryan & Katie Ryan, Aishling Delaney, Matt Delaney, David Sherman, Jack Hanrahan, the majority of our Juveniles got to the quarter finals with Jack Buggy getting to the semi final of boys 13 & under B grade, Amy Brennan & Noelle Dowling getting to semi final of girls u11doubles, Jamie Maher & Jack Doyle getting to final of boys U11doubles and Conor Drennan Galmoy Club winning the boys 13 & under B grade.

Kells win Division 4 Feile Final and Eoin Brennan wins Feile Division 4 skills

Kells Handball team of Eoin Brennan, Michael Power, Colin McKenna, Dylan Crehan, Conor Hoban, Conor Dwyer O'Keeffe travelled to Saval, Co. Down to compete in Division 4 Feile na nGael 2014. They defeated Cashel, Co. Tipperary in the final. Eoin Brennan represented his club and county in the Feile Division 4 skills competition where he brought home gold to the club. Well done to all the lads who represented their club with pride and displayed some great handball over the weekend. A big thank you goes to all their coaches, and also to all the parents who travelled with them.

Colleges

Ten Secondary Schools in Kilkenny entered the 60x30 colleges handball with approximately 40 juvenile handballers competing in the following grades in both singles and doubles, First year, Junior, Intermediate and Senior for boys and girls claiming eight Leinster titles and two All Ireland title.

Girls first Year Leinster Final Roisin O Keffe Grennan College was winner

First Year Leinster Final Tom Holden Grennan College was winner

First Year Doubles Leinster Final Kyle Dunne/Billy O Neill Castlecomer Community School were winners

Junior Singles Jack Holden Grennan College won Leinster and was defeated in the All Ireland Final

Junior Doubles Ciarán Cooney/Eoin Regan Castlecomer Community School won Leinster and were dft in the All Ireland semi final

Intermediate Doubles Padraig Cooney/Shane Dunne Castlecomer Community School All Ireland Winners

Senior Doubles Marc Purcell/Aidan Barry Castlecomer Community School won Leinster and were dft in the All Ireland semi final

Girls Junior singles Aoife Holden Grennan College Thomastown won the All Ireland Final for the second year in a row

Girls Senior Doubles Aoilean Hennessy and Caitriona Lawlor Castlecomer Community School were dft in the All Ireland Final



Windgap Handball Club 2014

Sean Foley, Catherine, Foley, Roisin Foley, Margaret Foley, Laura Foley, David Doyle, Robert White, Deirdre Purcell, Margaret Purcell, Eamonn Purcell, Jimmy Purcell, Aine Dunne, Caoimhe O'Shea



Kells Handball Club 2014

Dylan Crehan, Eoin Brennan, Conor Hoban, Conor Murphy, Padraig Lennon, Shaun O'Keeffe, Joe Cowhig, Jack Crehan, Mikey Prendergast, Olivia Mahoney, Karen Walshe, Elaine Power, Kate Cowhig, Cillian Lafford, Nick O'Shea, Michael Power, Colin McKenna, Darragh O'Keeffe, Peter Funchion, John Fitzgerald, Pat Funchion, Paddy Fennelly, Diarmuid Burke, Anthony Martin and Brendan Burke.

Missing from photo: Roy Cullen, Rory Lodge, Dillon Wall, Kym Ryan, Aoife Walsh, Sarah Molloy, Meg Ryan, Dan Breen, Ger McGrath, Marie Walshe and Patrick Funchion.

Juvenile Teams

40x20

Kilkenny U12/13 Team of 6 consisting of Dylan Crehan (Kells), Peter McDonald (Kilfane), Jack Holden (Kilfane), Jamie Maher (Clogh), Jack Doyle (Windgap), Kyle Dunne (Clogh), Jack Buggy (Clogh) and Billy O'Neill (Clogh) were defeated by Wexford in the Leinster Final. The U14/15 team of 6 of Rory Lodge (Kells), Cillian Lafford (Kells), Conor Hoban (Kells), Shane Cullen (Windgap), Jack Hayes (Windgap), Pat Grace (Windgap), Aidan Barry (Clogh) and Jack Kelly (Goresbridge) defeated Wexford in the Leinster Final and were dft in the All Ireland semi final.

The U16/17 Team of 4 of Jack Crehan (Kells), James Culleton (Windgap), Robert White (Windgap), Patrick King (Goresbridge), Declan Whearty (Mothel) and Conor Fahey (Mothel) were defeated by Wexford in the Leinster Final

60x30

Kilkenny U12/13 team of 6 defeated Wexford in the Leinster Final were defeated by Tipperary by 1 ace in the All Ireland final. The team were Kyle Dunne (Clogh), Jamie Maher (Clogh), Billy O Neill (Clogh), Dylan Crehan (Kells), Jack Buggy (Clogh), Tom Holden (Kilfane), Eamonn Brennan (Clogh), Jack Doyle (Windgap) U14/15 Team of 6 were dft by Wexford in the Leinster Final, the team were Aidan Barry (Clogh), Eoin Brennan (Kells), Colin McKenna (Kells), Conor Hoban (Kells), Conor Condon (Kells), Cillian Lafford (Kells), Darragh O Keffe (Kells)

U16/17 Team of 4 were dft in the All Ireland Final, the team were David Doyle (Windgap), Rory Lodge (Kells), Conor Fahey (Mothel), Nick O Shea (Kells), Shay Reilly (Mothel)

Leinster Female Player of the Year

Rachel Hogan was awarded with the Leinster Female player of the year for all her achievements won in Handball.

Hardball

The following handballers represented Kilkenny in Hardball Padraig Cooney Clogh and John Walsh Mullinavat in Minor Doubles, Peter and Patrick Funchion Kells, Brendan and Diarmuid Burke Kells in Junior doubles and Ciaran Neary Talbotts, William Love Clogh, Ducky Walsh Talbotts Inch and Eddie Bourke O Loughlins in Intermediate Doubles. All five Kilkenny pairs got to their respective finals.

Minor Doubles final saw John Walsh Mullinavat and Padraig Cooney Clogh take on Evan Sheridan and Robert Fox Meath. The first game saw a strong Meath pair serve well taking the first game. The second game started the same as the first but the Kilkenny pair fought back strong but fell short in the game with Meath claiming victory. Junior Doubles Final was an all Kilkenny, all Kells club and family affair between brothers Patrick and Peter Funchion and Diarmuid and Brendan Burke. This game proved to be a very closely contested final with both games going to the final ace with victory going to Patrick and Peter Funchion.

Intermediate Doubles Final was an all Kilkenny affair with Michael Ducky Walsh Talbotts Inch and Eddie Bourke O Loughlins taking on Ciarán Neary Talbotts Inch and William Love Clogh. The first game Ducky's serving proved difficult. The second followed a similar pattern but William and Ciarán did fight back but was not enough with Ducky and Eddie winning the game.

Intersivities 60x30

Ciara Mahon won the Ladies Open Singles and also the Ladies Open Doubles with Lisa McKenna representing Trinity College Dublin for the second year in a row. Catherine Foley representing DIT won Ladies A Singles also for the second year in a row.

US Collegiates

Division 1B Singles Final winner Sean Foley Windgap
Division 1B Doubles Final winners Shane Walsh Windgap and Alex Sheehan
Mary Phelan Clogh was awarded a certificate and was honoured as All American for handball. This award is of the highest standard in the US for excellence in ones chosen sport and is a fantastic achievement for Mary and Irish handball

Inter club

Kells Junior 40x20 Interclub team of Diarmuid Burke, Anthony Martin, Brendan Burke and Ger McGrath dft Crinkle (Offaly) in the Leinster Final. In the All Ireland series they defeated Curraghboy, Roscommon in Semi Final and were defeated by Brackey, Tyrone in the Final

In the 60x30 Interclub Kells dft Brackey, Co. Tyrone in the semi final and dft Fenagh Co Leitrim in the Final. The Kells team were Brendan Burke, Anthony Martin, Dan Breen, Diarmuid Burke and Ger McGrath and this title added to the Junior B title they won last year in the 60x30.

60x30 Hal Clarke, Kilfane Tournament

Hal Clarke tournament commenced in May with 27 players from various Kilkenny clubs taking part. There were some great games on display from all participants. The final was an all Kells affair between Ger McGrath and Anthony Martin with Anthony Martin claiming the title in two games.

County Wall Ball

The 6th annual county one wall championship was held in Windgap. There were four grades with 19 participants. A great display of one wall was on show in the brilliant sunshine. Winners were:
Open Final Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch)
Masters A Final Tom O Keffe (Kilfane)
Masters B Final Ned Lawlor (Clogh)
Ladies Final Marie Walshe (Kells)

County Juvenile Wall Ball winners

U12Singles Kyle Dunne Clogh U13Singles Jack Holden Kilfane
U14Singles Robert Dowling Mothel
U15Singles Cathal Barry Clogh U16Singles Shane Dunne Clogh
GU12Singles Roisin O Keffe Kilfane GU13Singles Edel Mulholland O Loughlins
GU14Singles Dearbhail O Keffe Kilfane GU15Singles Margaret Purcell Windgap
GU16Singles Aoife Holden Kilfane

Leinster Juvenile Wall Ball winners

U12Singles Kyle Dunne Clogh U13Singles Jack Holden Kilfane
U14Singles Robert Dowling Mothel,
GU12Singles Roisin O Keffe Kilfane
GU12Doubles Noelle Dowling Mothel/Kelly Ann Ryan Galmoy
GU13Singles Edel Mulholland O Loughlins, GU13Doubles Meg Ryan Kells, Roisin Foley Windgap
GU14Singles Dearbhail O Keffe Kilfane, GU15Singles Margaret Purcell Windgap,
GU15Doubles Kym Ryan Kells/Margaret Foley Windgap
GU16Singles Aoife Holden Kilfane GU17Singles Cora Delaney Clogh

Irish 60x30 Nationals

60x30 Doubles Nationals were held in Kilkenny and Tipperary venues in July. Representing Kilkenny were Michael Ducky Walsh, Ciaran Neary, Brendan Burke, Diarmuid Burke, Dan Breen, Canice Quigley, Rebecca Mulholland, Marie Walshe, JJ English, Padraig Cooney, Dion Bourke, Roy Cullen, Ciaran Cooney, Aidan Barry, Cathal Barry, Eoin Regan, Conor Condon, Shane Dunne, Kyle Dunne, Billy O Neill, Jack Buggy, Jamie Maher, Jack Holden, Aoife Holden, Dearbhail O Keffe, Roisin O Keffe, Noelle Dowling, Edel Mulholland.

Ladies Open Final winners Rebecca Mulholland O Loughlins/Marie Walshe Kells

Masters Doubles winners Canice Quigley St. Cancies/John Ryan Carroll

Mens B Plate Final Dan Breen Kells/Jason Murphy Wexford dft Diarmuid/Brendan Burke Kells

13 & Under Final Jack Holden Kilfane/Glen Murphy Wexford dft Billy O Neill/Kyle Dunne Clogh

15 & Under Final r/up Shane Dunne Clog h/Tadhg O Neill Cork

15& Under Plate Final r/up Aidan Barry/Ciaran Cooney Clogh
G15& Under Plate Final r/up Roisin O Keffe Kilfane/Noelle Dowling Mothel

Adult County and Leinster Winners in 40x20 and 60x30

Adult 40x20 County Finals

Minor Singles JJ English Goresbridge
Minor Doubles: Padraig Cooney/Brian Mahon Clogh
Junior B singles Patrick Brennan Mothel
Junior Singles Sean Foley Windgap
Junior Doubles John O Neill/JJ English Goresbridge Intermediate
Singles Diarmuid Burke
Intermediate Doubles Diarmuid Burke/Anthony Martin Kells
Senior Singles Peter Funchion Kells
Senior Doubles Peter Funchion/CJ Delaney Kells
Ladies Junior B Singles Catherine Foley Windgap
Ladies Senior singles Mary Phelan Clogh
Ladies Senior Doubles Mary Phelan/Ciara Mahon Clogh
Masters Singles Joe Hennessy O Loughlins
Masters Doubles Joe Hennessy/Philly Parsons O Loughlins
Masters A Singles Tom O Keffe Kilfane
Masters B Singles Jimmy Purcell Windgap
Masters B Doubles Pat Funchion/Paddy Fennelly Kells
Masters C Singles Jimmy Shanahan Kilfane

Adult 60x30 County Final Winners

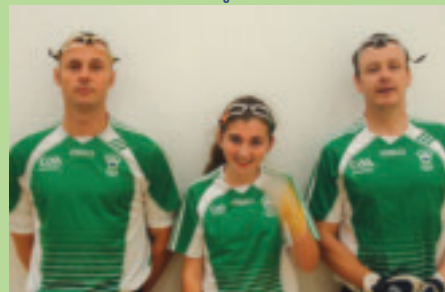
Minor Singles JJ English Goresbridge
Junior B Singles Sean Foley Windgap
Junior Singles JJ English Goresbridge
Intermediate Singles Anthony Martin Kells
Intermediate Doubles Anthony Martin/Dan Breen Kells
Senior Singles Ducky Walsh Talbots Inch
Senior Doubles Ducky Walsh and Ciaran Neary Talbots Inch
Masters Singles Canice Quigley St. Cancies
Masters A Doubles Eddie Bourke/John Morrissey O Loughlins
Masters B Singles Jimmy Shanahan Kilfane
Masters C Singles Eddie English Goresbridge
Masters B/C Doubles Jimmy Shanahan/Pat Caulfield Kilfane
Ladies A Singles Ciara Mahon Clogh
Ladies B Singles Aoife Hennessy Clogh



All Ireland Colleges 60x30
Girls Junior Singles
Aoife Holden, Grennan College, Thomastown



Leinster Female Player of the Year
Rachel Hogan Kilfane



O Loughlins HBC 2014
Names Eddie Bourke, Edel Mulholland, John Morrissey

Adult 40x20 Leinster Final winners

Ladies Intermediate Doubles Mary Phelan/Ciara Mahon Clogh
Junior Doubles Ciaran Neary Talbots Inch/Brendan Burke Kells
Intermediate Singles Peter Funchion Kells
Masters A Singles Michael Ducky Walsh Talbots Inch
Masters A Doubles Ducky Walsh Talbots Inch/DJ Carey Goresbridge
Masters B Singles Stephen Barcoe Goresbridge
O35B Doubles Stephen Barcoe Goresbridge/John Morrissey O Loughlins

Adult 60x30 Leinster Finals

Minor Singles Brian Mahon (Clogh)
Minor Doubles Brian Mahon/Padraig Cooney (Clogh)
Masters A Singles Michael Walsh (Talbots Inch)
Emerald Masters A Singles Johnny Brennan (Mothel)



County Adult Wall Ball 2014

Back Row: Jimmy Purcell, Emmet Landy, PJ O'Brien, Ciaran Neary, Fergal Lalor, Tom Dooley, Michael Dalton, Jimmy Neary, Tom O Keffe, Eamonn Purcell, Shane Doyle, Michael O Shea,
Front Row: Martin Lalor, Dan Breen, Marie Walshe, Jimmy Shanahan, Ned Lawlor, Seamus Reade, Jimmy Holden, Ray Ryan, Deirdre Purcell

Ladies Intermediate Singles Ciara Mahon (Clogh)
Ladies Intermediate Doubles Ciara Mahon/Mary Phelan (Clogh)

All Ireland Finals

All Ireland 40x20 Finals winners
Intermediate Singles Peter Funchion Kells
Masters A Singles Michael Ducksy Walsh Talbots Inch
Junior Doubles Ciarán Neary/Brendan Burke Kilkenny
Intermediate Doubles Patrick/Peter Funchion Kilkenny
O35B Doubles Stephen Barcoe/Canice Quigley Kilkenny
Masters A Doubles Michael Ducksy Walsh/DJ Carey Kilkenny
Ladies Intermediate Doubles Mary Phelan/Ciara Mahon Kilkenny

60x30 All Ireland Finals winners

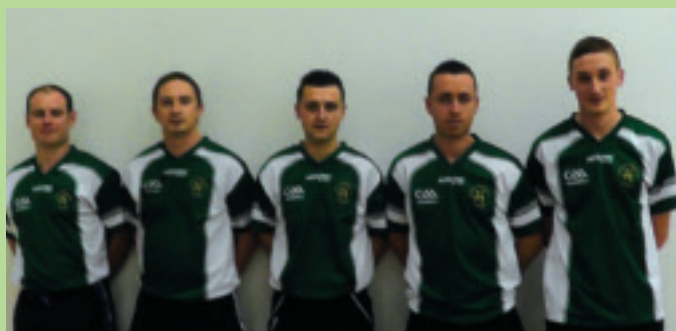
Ladies Intermediate Singles Ciara Mahon (Clogh)
Ladies Intermediate Doubles Ciara Mahon/Mary Phelan (Clogh)
Masters A Singles Michael Walsh (Talbots Inch)

60x30 All Ireland Final r/up

Emerald Masters A Singles Johnny Brennan (Mothel))

Other Tournaments

Kilkenny players took part in a number of tournaments during the year
Golden Gloves: Ciarán & Jimmy Neary Talbots Inch, Eddie Bourke O Loughlins
She's Ace Breaffy House, Mayo: Noelle Dowling Mothel
Wexford League: Ducksy Walsh Talbots Inch, Patrick Funchion, Peter Funchion and Diarmuid Burke Kells,
Eamonn Purcell Windgap, John O'Neill Goresbridge, Mary Phelan Clogh. Kilkenny winners were
Division 1 final Ducksy Walsh Talbots Inch
Division 6 final was an all Kilkenny final John O'Neill Goresbridge dft Eamonn Purcell Windgap
Ladies Division 1 Mary Phelan Clogh
Mount Talbot One Wall, Roscommon: Dearbhail and Roisin O'Keefe, Pat and Kyle Jordan, Sean and Pat O'Keeffe all from Kilfane
U10 Final Kyle Jordan was r/up, Roisin O'Keeffe won the GU12 Final and her sister Dearbhail won the Gu14 Plate Final
60x30 Virginia Cavan Tournament: Dan Breen and Ger McGrath Kells were dft in the semi final.
One Wall Breaffy House, Mayo: Dan Breen, Maria Walshe Kells, Ducksy Walsh Talbots Inch, Conor Quinlan Callan, Kirk Greene, JJ Hennessy O Loughlins, Kyle Jordan, Peter McDonald Kilfane, Billy Drennan, Daniel Hanrahan, Conor Drennan, Jack Hanrahan, Kelly Ann Ryan Galmoy, Noelle Dowling Mothel
Masters Final: was won by Ducksy Walsh, Bu13 B Final Conor Drennan was r/up



Kells Interclub 60x30 All Ireland Winners
From left: Anthony Martin, Diarmuid Burke, Dan Breen, Ger McGrath, Brendan Burke



Kilfane Handball Club 2014
Pat Caulfield, Tom O'Keeffe, Aoife Holden, Jack Holden, Conor Holden, Dearbhail O'Keeffe, Roisin O'Keeffe, Eanna O'Keeffe, Kyle Jordan, Killian Kelly, Sean O'Keeffe
Missing from photo: Tom Holden, Peter McDonald, Jack Kerins, Jimmy Shanahan



Galmoy Handball Club
Conor Drennan, Billy Drennan, Katie Ryan, KellyAnn Ryan, David Sherman, Jack Hanrahan, Daniel Hanrahan, Padraig Glendon, Aoibheann Duggan, Aine Duggan,
Missing from Photo: Jay Maguire, Matt Delaney, Odhran Moloney and KassiaBelle McNamara Tully.



All Ireland Colleges 60x30 winners 2014
Intermediate Doubles: Padraig Cooney and Shane Dunne Castlecomer Community School

Kilkenny Girls on the Interprovincial Team of 10
Dearbhail O'Keeffe, Aoife Holden Kilfane, SORCHA DELANEY Clogh,



Clogh Handball Club 2014
Padraig Cooney, Ciarán Cooney, Aisling Cooney, Shane Dunne, Kyle Dunne, Amy Brennan, Katie Brennan, Eva Brennan, Jack Brennan, Eamonn Brennan, Aidan Barry, Cathal Barry, Eoin Regan, Billy O'Neill, Jack Buggy, Marc Purcell, Dominic Bolster, Mary Phelan, Caitriona lawlor, Aoilean Hennessy, Lauren Power, Holly Byrne, Nicole Dowling, Cora Delaney, Sorcha Delaney, Inset Brian Mahon, Ciara Mahon
Missing from photo: Jamie Maher



County Juvenile Wall Ball 2014

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*Congratulations Kilkenny
on a magnificent year.
Best of luck for 2015
from Ger, Graham, and Keith.*

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ANOTHER GOOD YEAR AT WIT

WIT GAA club provides the perfect sporting spectrum for its students with a club that competes in five different sports with a total of 17 teams competing in hurling, camogie, ladies football, men's football and handball. From September to April there is always a ball in action whether it's being struck with the ash, the outside of the boot or off the side wall.

There is a real family environment surrounding the WIT GAA club as there is huge support from within the college through staff, lecturers, and students, where Conor Phelan captains the ship in his role as WIT GAA Development officer.

2014 turned out to be a memorable year for the WIT GAA club as the senior hurling team defied all the odds to capture the Fitzgibbon Cup for the first time since 2008. After an opening round loss to UCC it was hard to see where this win would come from but a derby win over IT Carlow and then an extra time win over Dublin IT in the quarter final set WIT up for a semi-final with LIT. WIT trailed by ten points at half time and the goose looked to be cooked with only two minutes remaining, however

Wexford's Harry Kehoe rifled the sliothar to the net and WIT never looked back as they marched on to victory in extra time. The momentum and unbreakable bond in the WIT dressing room was never going to be stopped in the final as CIT were beaten by the Deise College on a 0-17 to 0-12 score line. Kilkenny goal keeper Eoin Murphy (Glenmore) was the captain of the winning team, while other Noreiders on the winning team and panel included Cathal Kenny (Paulstown), Ger Teehan (Graigue Ballycallan), Jack Langton (Clara), John Cahill (Carrickshock), Johnny Hayes (Kilmacow), Luke Hickey (James Stephens), Martin Gaffney (Dicksboro), Pauric Gahan (Mullinavat), Alan Roche (Young Irelands) (Selector), Patrick O'Flynn (St Martins, Muckalee) (Selector).

WIT collected national honours on the football fields in 2014 also, as the All-Ireland Junior football title was won after a fantastic campaign. In the Munster final WIT got the better of IT Tralee moving on from there was a win over GMIT in the All-Ireland semi-final while in the All-Ireland final WIT beat DIT 4-8 to 1-5 to take the honours. There were two Kilkenny men on the winning team and

panel namely Ger Malone (Mullinavat) (WIT Junior Footballer of the year) and Kevin O'Brien (O'Loughlins).

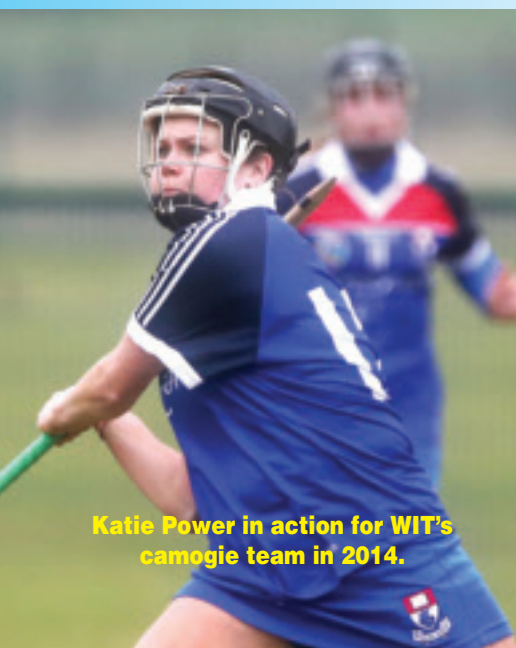
WIT relinquished their grip on the Ashbourne Cup as old rivals UL won this year's camogie competition beating WIT in another epic final with the Limerick college winning 0-12 to 1-8 in the final, however there is early signs of promise for 2015 as WIT fresher's camogie team captured the All-Ireland Fresher competition in Athlone IT in November.

The handball team of four completed a fifth win in succession in the 60 x 30 courts with a team backed by three Kilkenny men namely Patrick Funchion, Ger McGrath and Daniel Breen, who were joined by Tipperary's Jason Cahill to capture title number five for WIT.

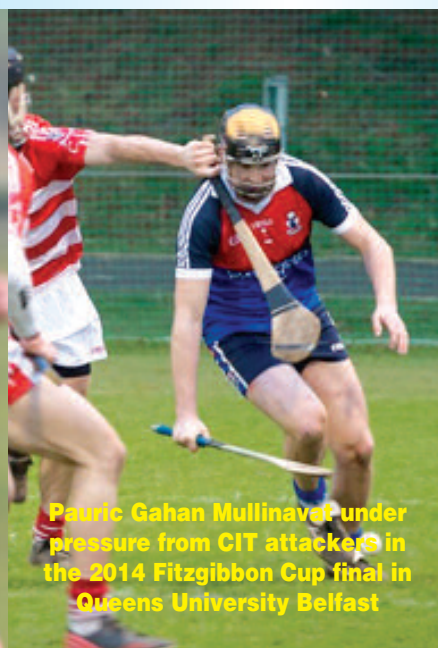
For more information on WIT GAA Club please contact

Conor Phelan (WIT GAA Development Officer; 051-302239 cphelan@wit.ie

Facebook (WIT GAA) Twitter (@WITGAA)



Katie Power in action for WIT's camogie team in 2014.



Pauric Gahan Mullinavat under pressure from CIT attackers in the 2014 Fitzgibbon Cup final in Queens University Belfast



WIT Handballers win fifth 60 x 30 title. Daniel Breen, Ger McGrath, Patrick Funchion, Jason Cahill with club official from Killians



Kevin O'Brien (O'Loughlin's), Conor Phelan WIT GAA Development Officer and Ger Malone (Mullinavat) with the All-Ireland Junior Football Cup.



Glenmore's Eoin Murphy lifts the Fitzgibbon Cup as WIT captain in February 2014.



Ger Teehan from Graigue Ballycallan climbs high to win possession for WIT v CIT in the 2014 Fitzgibbon Cup final.



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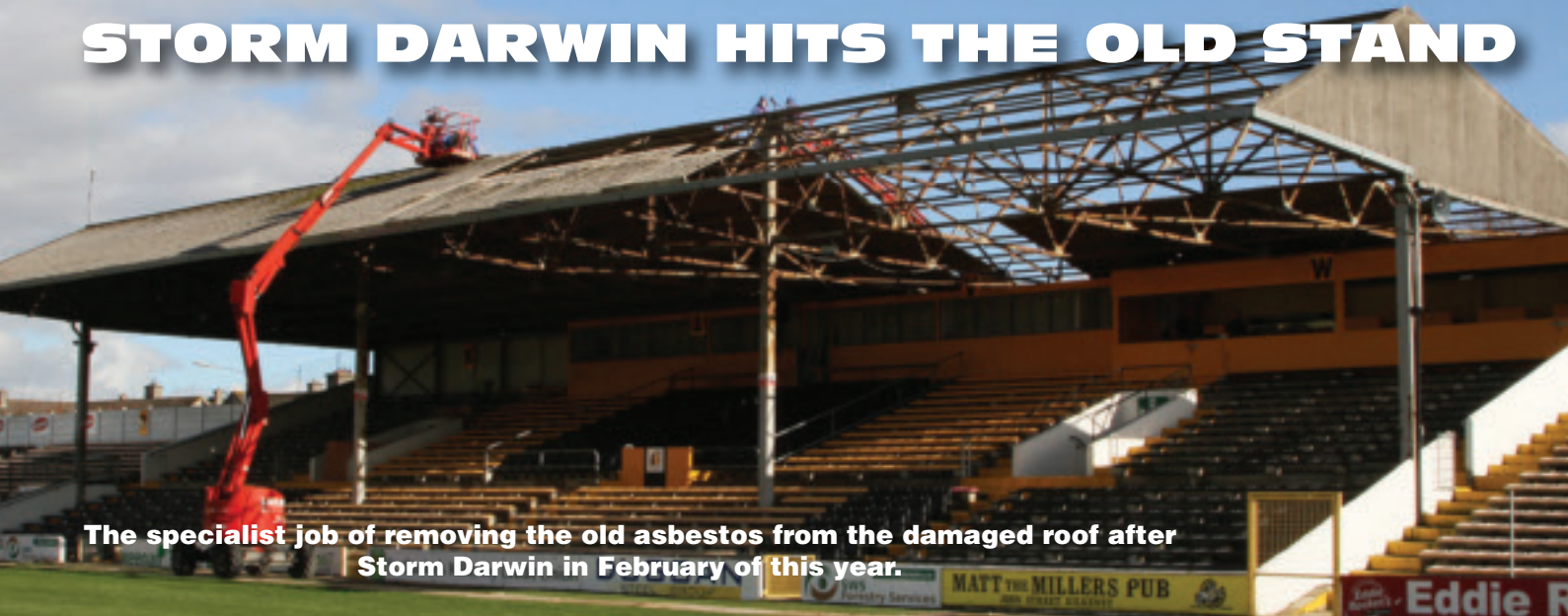
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Email: sport@wit.ie

Web: www.wit.ie/sportrec

STORM DARWIN HITS THE OLD STAND



The specialist job of removing the old asbestos from the damaged roof after Storm Darwin in February of this year.



50 metre steel roof-bearing section being prepared for lifting into place



Two cranes raise the steel section to be bolted to supporting pillars



The Finished Job, Completed November 2014

NEW TRAINING COMPLEX AT DUNMORE



View of Undeveloped Site



Early Site Preparation



Preparation of Pitches



Aerial View of Site under Preparation 2013
(Eddie Hughes)

Complex will Open early 2015



Two new pitches, seeded and floodlit



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Spectator Stand



Car Park

A MIXED YEAR

LADIES FOOTBALL REPORT by SEAMUS NORRIS PRO



Thomastown Junior County Champions 2014

ADULT CLUB FOOTBALL

Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football has had a mixed year as it makes strives to return to adult inter county football in the near future. On the upside, 2014 did see the return of adult championship football to Kilkenny with three teams entering the Junior competition. They were Thomastown, Erins Own and new adult club John Lockes from Callan. A competitive league section was followed by an entertaining final in Nowlan Park where Thomastown beat Erins Own by 2-5 to 1-6 after an epic game.

THOMASTOWN: Niamh Sheehy, Linda Minogue, Aine Sheehy (Capt), Sheila Sheehy, Lynn Boland, Jessie Carroll (1-0), Claire Kelly, Joanne O'Hanrahan (0-2, one free), Ann Prendergast (0-2), Ria Lawson, Fiona Cullen, Shauna Carroll, Katie Walsh, Eimear Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Norris.

Subs: Becky Walsh (1-0), Jenny Reddy, Caoimhe Cullen (0-1), Lucy Elvidge, Jennie Brennan.

Panelists: Rachel O'Carroll, Sinead Whelan, Sally Teehan, Michaela O'Neill.

ERINS OWN: Megan Walsh, Lauren Dermody, Emer Kelly, Lisa Kehoe, Frances Farrell, Grainne Daly, Tamara Agar (1-0, penalty), Aoife Dunne (0-1), Ciara Cody, Caoifhionn Uí hArgain, Katie Nolan (0-2), Maeve Walsh, Alice Farrell (0-2), Ailish O'Neill, Mairead Daly (0-1)

Subs: Nora Daly, Eimear Rice, Brianna Mallon.

Panelists: Brenda Downey, Laura Walsh, Claire Manning, Orla O'Neill, Lisa O'Rourke, Georgina Smyth, Breda Daly, Majella Finn, Anita Brennan, Sheila Kenny, Majella Fenlon, Katie Butler.

Thomastown went on to compete in the Leinster Junior Championship and started off with a great win over Clara of Offaly in Clara, County Kilkenny by 6-8 to 1-6. Next up they had a home quarter final clash against the Dublin champions, Clann Mhuire featuring Dublin county star Carla



Presentation Kilkenny Junior Colleges D Leinster Winners 2014

Rowe. The Naul based outfit proved too strong for Thomastown despite a gallant effort in the second half. Thomastown went down by 2-5 to 3-13.

Several clubs took part in a combined Carlow/Kilkenny leagues at adult and juvenile age groups with success coming for debutants, John Lockes who won the 11-a-side Division 3 competition when they beat Palatine by 3-6 to 0-5 in the November final.

JOHN LOCKES: Roisín O'Neill, Deirdre Carroll, Aisling Bryan, Sarah Slevin, Fiona Bryan, Jessica Scriven, Tina Wright, Nicola Butler, Antoinette Power, Jenny Logue, Kira Komar, Katie Delaney, Briona O'Neill, Michelle Maher, Irene Guilfoyle, Breda O'Neill, Joanne Walsh, Jemma Komar (Capt), Lynn Beirne, Ciara Power, Caroline Murphy

Management: Bosco Bryan, Paddy Phelan, Majella Phelan

COUNTY MINOR

Sadly, although the county minor team reached the semi-final, they were unable to field a team against Louth and went out of the competition.

COUNTY UNDER-16

The Under-16's campaign started off very promising but faded as the campaign progressed. Despite this, they did deservedly get a reward for their efforts when they beat Louth in the "B" Shield Final by 4-15 to 3-6 in Newbridge. This squad certainly has great potential and hopefully 2015 will prove a better year at minor inter county level.

Scorers: Ciara Delaney (1-8, 0-2 frees), Emily McCarthy (2-2), Becky Walsh (1-1), Hannah Scott (0-2), Ria Lawson (0-1), Blathnaid Galway (0-1)

SQUAD: Niamh Sheehy (Thomastown), Ailish O'Shea (Thomastown), Rebecca Brennan (Erins Own), Lauren Valentine (City), Maeve Delaney (Erins Own), Aobha O'Gorman

(City), Jenny McGuinness (Thomastown), Blathnaid Galway (Thomastown), Ruby Harvey (Thomastown), Becky Walsh (Thomastown), Hannah Scott (City), Aoife Naddy (Thomastown), Ria Lawson (Thomastown), Emily McCarthy (Piltown), Ciara Delaney (City)

Subs: Neasa Galwey (City), Andi Snyder (City), Hannah Moran (Barrow Gaels), Brianna Mallon (City), Beth Behan (City), Sinead Fitzpatrick (Three Friars), Grace Kent (Three Friars), Carolyn Howes (City), Denise Byrne (Barrow Gaels), Laura Tynan (City), Saoirse Comerford (City), Nicole Byrnes (John Lockes), Aine Murphy (Muckalee), Jennifer O'Keeffe (City), Ally O'Keeffe (City)

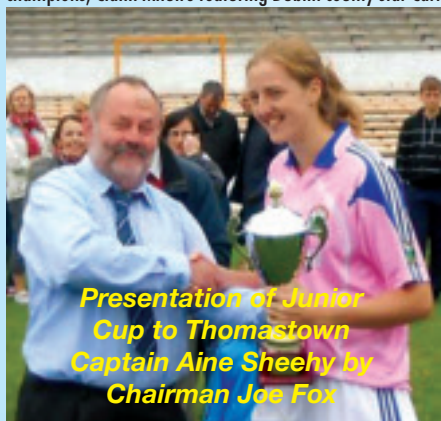
Management Team: Paul Whelan, Richie Windle, Andy Korff

COUNTY UNDER-14

In the Leinster competition, home venue proved vital for Carlow as they reversed an earlier league defeat to win the "C" Shield Final in a high scoring affair by 4-11 to 6-15 at the Eire Og grounds.

SQUAD: Katie Tynan (Erins Own), Lisa Norris (Piltown), Emma Nolan (City), Aoife Murphy (Muckalee), Leah Maher (Erins Own), Jane Cass (City), Sarah Smith (City), Roisín Allen (Erins Own), Rebecca Roche (City), Lizzie Buckley (Thomastown), Nicole Carter (City), Kate Maher (Erins Own), Nicole Dwyer (Clara), Ruth Ryan (Thomastown), Caoimhe Kelly (Thomastown), Kate Drennan (Barrow Gaels), Meabh Walsh (Erins Own), Laura Power (Piltown), Vivienne Healy (Piltown), Emma Fox (Barrow Gaels), Alannah Keegan (Muckalee), Clodagh Hanlon (Muckalee), Michelle Farrell (Erins Own), Sarah Jayne Brophy (Piltown), Laoise Prendiville (City), Jenny O'Dea (Piltown), Laura Mullally (Erins Own), Claire Curtin (City), Hannah Brennan (Thomastown)

Management Team: Tom Cullen, Seamus Norris, Tommy Nolan



Presentation of Junior Cup to Thomastown Captain Aine Sheehy by Chairman Joe Fox

DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

A series of Development squad sessions were run at Under-12/13/14 & 15 during the year with blitzes taking place subsequently. The U13 & U15 sessions were used as a foundation for the 2015 Under-14 and Under-16 county squads. The Under-12s, 14s and 15s all competed well in Leinster Blitzes held in Carlow.

Kilkenny Under-12 Development Squad: Anna Patterson, Eva O'Donnell, Laura Langton, Lucy Cody, Miriam Brennan, Rachel Heeran, Reece Carter, Saoirse Smith (Clara), Chloe Power, Marliese Flynn (Piltown), Ella Comerford, Megan Brennan, Niamh Moore, Nicole Dowling, Sarah O'Neill, Shauna Kerr, Sophie Burke, Molly Coogan (Erins Own), Daragh Donohue, Hannah Monks, Kayleigh Begley, Sábha O'Neill, Sarah O'Neill, (Thomastown), Kate Cullen, Hazel Moore, Orla Nolan (Muckalee), Sophie Phelan, Eimear Holden (Barrow Gaels), Hannah Clifford (Kilkenny City),

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hope future depends on the schools and some Kilkenny players are getting great exposure outside the county at the top level of colleges. Scoil Mhuire (Carrick-On-Suir) featuring players from the Piltown club had huge success at Munster and All-Ireland level. On the senior squad were Jennifer Norris, Kelly Ann Doyle and Chloe Holden. They won the Munster "B" Championship beating St. Augustine's (Dungarvan) 2-8 to 1-9 before being beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final by Glenamaddy Community School (Galway) in Birr on a score of 4-6 to 3-10. The Junior squad featured Kelly Ann Doyle, Emily McCarthy, Lisa Norris, Aoife Doyle, Laura Power, Chloe Holden and Sophie Holden. They won the Munster Junior "C" title by beating ArdScoil na nDeise (Dungarvan) 5-7 to 3-4 in Clonea. They subsequently went all the way beating Gallen Community School (Ferbane) by 6-17 to 3-5 in Crettyard to claim the All-Ireland title. There was also All-Ireland glory for Presentation, Kilkenny who had an impressive victory in the final of the Leinster Junior Colleges "D" championship beating Loreto Foxrock of Dublin by 9-11 to 0-2. They were managed by Thomastown junior medallist, Jenny Reddy.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Thirty-two clubs took part in 2014 primary schools championship, a competition which is the jewel in the crown of Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football. Huge credit goes to competition co-ordinator, Ger O'Reilly. The competition finals are planned to be complete before Christmas.

Roinn A

The Roinn A final features St. Canice's and Thomastown who had semi-final wins over Gowran and Owning/Templeorum respectively.

Roinn B

Gaelscoil will face Kilkenny School Project in the Roinn B Final.

Roinn C

Roinn C is the section with schools beginning with C still in contention as Clara will play Callan.

Roinn D

Roinn D is divided into North and South and still a number of schools are in contention. In the North, St. St. John Of God will play the winners of Presentation Kilkenny or St. Canice's "B". In the South, Dunnamaginn will play the winners of neighbours Paulstown and Goresbridge in one semi. While in the other semi-final, Windgap will play the winners of Graignamanagh "B" or The Rower.

The local game was profiled at a high level when 2013 Roinn A Schools champions, Gowran played the half time mini game during the Leinster Senior hurling clash at Nowlan Park between Kilkenny and Offaly in front of almost 12,000 people with an exhibition game against Offaly's Edenderry. Gowran: Zoe Fenlon, Laura Langton, Aoife Farrell, Caitlin Simpson, Ciara O'Keefe, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Maddy Lawson, Sarah O'Neill, Eimear Naddy, Amy Lennon

JUVENILE CLUB

At juvenile level, there was one new club from Clara who fielded at Under-14 and below following a successful Gaelic4Girls programme. In 2014, mouthguards became compulsory for all juvenile players.

Club Under-16

The Under-16 competition was run off as a round robin blitz with Kilkenny City taking the county title after a win over Thomastown. The Shield final went to the host club from



Callan-Carlow U11A Side Winners



Clara Under-12B Runners-Up



Clara Under-14C Winners 2014



Erins Own - U14A Winners 2014

Castlecomer, Erins Own who beat Piltown Gaels (an amalgamation of Piltown and Barrow Gaels). Erins Own also won the Under-17, 7-A-side in Carlow defeating O'Hanrahans by 5-14 to 1-3 at Dr. Cullen Park in April.

Under-14 Féile Na nGael

Kilkenny City won their third consecutive County Féile Na nGael title beating Erins Own in the final but they did get a scare along the way in the semi-final versus Piltown. Kilkenny City went on to represent the county at the national finals in Connacht. The City side who have won two national Féile titles in the last two years were beaten in the Division

1 Shield final by Corofin of Galway.

KILKENNY CITY: Catriona Gough, Kate Dempsey, Emma Nolan, Anna Larkin, Sarah Smith, Lucy Power, Shauna Valentine, Jane Cass, Ciara Deeley, Nicole Carter, Róisín Treacy, Niamh O'Connor, Rebecca Roche, Laoise Prendiville, Clare Curtin, Lucy Keane, Ava Fitzgerald, Caoimhe Holland, Caoimhe Maher, Kate Ryan, Aoibheann Power, Emma Quinn, Alisha Shannon, Eimear O'Reilly, Niamh Ward, Emer Phelan, Anna O'Shea, Ailbhe Galwey, Aislinn Treacy, Sinead Bass, Aoife Bergin, Emily Durkin



Erins Own Junior Runners-Up 2014

Under-14 Roinn A

The Roinn A County Final was a hugely entertaining game in Callan and victory went to Erins Own over Piltown by 6-12 to 5-3. The standard of football was extremely high and competitive. These two had met in the 2013 Roinn B Final also.

ERINS OWN: Roisín Allen, Dervla Bergin, Molly Boland, Cara Brennan, Ellen Buggy, Aoife Cahalan, Emma Dwyer, Sarah Dwyer, Katie Holohan, Michelle Farrell, Shannon Feehan, Kate Maher, Leah Maher (Capt), Amanda Molloy, Laura Mul-lally, Hannah Murphy, Katie Tynan, Danielle Morrissey, Maebh Walsh, Sarah Smyth, Nicole Allen O'Keefe, Holly Moore

PILTOWN: Danielle O'Brien, Megan Byrne, Jenny O'Dea, Maria Phelan, Lisa Norris (Capt), Vivienne Healy, Sarah Tobin, Laura Power, Maire Beth Kirby, Aoibheann Kavanagh, Brihbhanna Doody, Anna O'Brien, Sine Kavanagh, Marlise Flynn, Chloe, Patsy Kenny, Aoife Doyle, Niamh Kirby, Rebecca Doyle, Melissa Byrne, Ciara Dunne, Aine Doyle, Emma Phelan.

Under-14 Roinn B

Piltown face Barrow Gaels in the Roinn B County Final to take place in Graignamanagh.

Under-14 Roinn C

The Roinn C final saw a first county trophy for the newly formed Clara club as they beat Muckalee in a wonderful final played in Callan.

CLARA: Ellen Hughes, Zoe Fenlon, Laura Langton, Reece Carter, Abby O'Connell, Caitlin Simpson, Aoife Treacy, Ellen O'Donnell, Ann Maire Darcy, Aoife Corr, Emily Hughes, Lenika Artini, Aoife Heeren, Miriam Brennan, Saoirse Smith,



Erins Own U17 Carlow League Winners



Kilkenny MiniGames Team Leinster Ladies Football Finals 2014



Kilkenny City Feile Squad 2014

Rachel Heeren, Lucy Cody, Lisa Prendergast, Sinead Healy, Orla Farrell

MUCKALEE: Sinead Healy, Emma Kelly, Caoimh McGuinness, Martina Morrissey, Ciara Farrell, Therese Kelly, Chloe Dooley, Hazel Moore, Clodagh Hanlon, Catriona Murtagh, Alannah Keegan, Laura McDowell, Kate Cullen, Katie O'Neill, Orlan Nolan, Aoife Murphy, Shauna Coady, Saoirse McGuinness, Ava Coogan, Ellen Lawlor, Lucy Coogan, Sophie Kelly

Club Under-12

Under-12 saw several blitzes and a league take place with all clubs taking part in the league with the exception of Piltown. The league finals played in Thomastown saw victories in the A Final for Thomastown over Kilkenny City (4-6 to 1-2), Barrow Gaels over Clara (2-5 to 2-3) in the B Final and in the C Final, Muckalee beat neighbours Erins Own (0-5 to 1-1). The main blitz in Castlecomer was also used as a development squad day and featured some excellent football. In the Carlow/Kilkenny league, it ended up as an all Kilkenny final with Thomastown beating Kilkenny City. Again in 2014, Kilkenny fielded a group of girls playing Longford during the Leinster Finals held at Port Laoise. They were Chloe Power (Piltown), Ella Comerford Jones (Erins Own), Hazel Moore (Muckalee), Kaelah Begley (Thomastown), Maria Nolan (Clara), Marlies Flynn (Piltown), Nicole Dowling (Erins Own), Peig Carrigan (Clara), Sarah Barcoe (Thomastown), Sinead Bass (Kilkenny City), Sophie Phelan (Barrow Gaels) and they were mentored by Noelle Curran and Anne Barcoe.

Club Under-10

Under-10 saw the young girls enjoy blitzes in Castlecomer, Thomastown and Graignamanagh hosted by the Barrow Gaels club.

GAELIC4MOTHERS & OTHERS

Gaelic4Mothers and Others is the fastest growing section of Ladies Football in Kilkenny. For the social players there are now active clubs in Piltown, Thomastown, Conahy, Clara, Dicksboro, Erins Own and James Stephens. The social game is rapidly growing in popularity for women over 18 and all levels of ability. All except Dicksboro and James Stephens took part in the National Blitz held in Portmarnock in October which had over 70 teams and 1,100 players involved.

FUTURE

The future of Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football is dependent on getting more people involved at both club and county level while also creating a more competitive club scene. Kilkenny Ladies Football County Board would like to thank all who supported the sport locally in 2014 especially Kilkenny County Board, clubs who supply pitches, referees, the mentors and officers, the local media who have done so much to promote the game and of course the players and the parents of juvenile players who commit so much time to the game.



Piltown Barrow Gaels Under-16B Runners-Up



Muckalee - U14C Runners-Up 2014



Kilkenny Under-14 Squad Leinster C Shield Runners-Up



Piltown U14A Runners-Up 2014



Kilkenny Under-12 Development Squad - Leinster Blitz in Carlow



Kilkenny Under-16 Squad Leinster B Shield Winners



Muckalee Under-12C Winners



Piltown G4M at National Blitz 2014



Piltown Players Scoil Mhuire Senior Munster B Champions



Piltown Players Scoil Mhuire Junior All-Ireland C Colleges Champions



Presentation of U16B Leinster Shield To Lauren Valentine by President Elect Marie Hickey



Under-12 Blitz Teams

Pres Continue Kilkenny Schools Dominance



**All Ireland Colleges Senior Camogie Report
by Michael O'Leary**

THE DOMINANCE of Kilkenny schools winning All-Ireland Senior Colleges Camogie titles continued, as last March, Presentation Kilkenny won their 4th All-Ireland Senior crown adding to their previous successes in 1969, 1970 and 1995. Presentation's victory meant it was the 7th year in succession that a Kilkenny school won the Senior Colleges All-Ireland adding to the consecutive victories of St. Brigid's in 2008 and 2009 and the four-in-a-row of Loreto from 2010 to 2013.

The Pres had been making steady and consistent progress over the past few years with their Senior team reaching the All-Ireland Semi-Final in 2012, while last year in 2013, they were unfortunate to lose out by a solitary point to Loreto in the Leinster decider. This year's successful Senior team was the Junior Team that reached the 2012 All-Ireland decider only to lose to Loreto after a replay, so prospects were promising of achieving silverware in 2014.

For the 3rd year in succession, Loreto and Presentation played one another in the Leinster senior decider in late January in Thomastown, and the Pres prevailed 0-4 to 0-1 in arctic conditions more suited to Water Polo on Ice Hockey. The Pres defence was very strong as they dominated the Loreto attack with Mary O'Connell all of her sides total from placed balls.

Next game was an All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against Portumna Community School in Clonfert located outside Loughrea, and twice the match was cancelled due to an unplayable surface mainly affected by the treacherous conditions that occurred as a result of Storm Darwin that happened on the 12th of February. However, the match did eventually get played on the 3rd time of asking on Friday 28th February and goals from Aisling Nolan and Aoife Farrell helped the Pres to a 2-3 to 1-3 with the defence giving another heroic display.

That set-up an All-Ireland Final clash with St. Mary's Magherafelt, and there was a quick turnaround for the Pres, as the final was played only 8 days after their semi-final victory. The All-Ireland Final was played on Saturday 8th March, and the venue was Parnell's GAA Grounds in Coolock. The Pres played the opening half hour with a strong wind advantage, and they began brightly as they led 0-3 to 0-0 after 12 minutes Mary O'Connell pointing twice from frees and Orlaith Conlon also finding the range from play. O'Connell added two further points to extend the advantage, before the Pres confirm their

superior overall dominance early in the match with a 17th minute goal. Eimear Donnelly sent in a superb ball from the right-wing, and loose play from the St. Mary's defence allowed team captain Aisling Nolan with a clear path in front of goal, and swept home an emphatic ground shot that flew past the opposing goalkeeper. 1-5 to 0-0.

The Pres maintained their grip on proceedings till the interval as they led 1-7 to 0-3 at half-time with O'Connell adding two further points. The Ulster school began the 2nd half with all guns blazing, and three consecutive points narrowed the gap. 1-7 to 0-6. St. Mary's revival inspired the Pres to awake from their slumber, and shortly afterwards they squandered two certain goal chances, when Aisling Nolan had a rasping shot that crashed against the post, while Mary O'Connell had a goal chance blocked by the goalkeeper.

However, the Pres girls reasserted control. O'Connell steadied the ship with a well taken point from play before Aoife Farrell added a second goal. A Claire Nolan shot was blocked by goalkeeper, but Farrell reacted quickest on the rebound to follow up and victory was virtually assured. 2-8 to 0-6. The second goal was the clinching score and the Pres didn't look back afterwards. It was a very assured and solid display from Presentation overall. Defensively, they were excellent only conceding two points from to the St. Mary's attack, Ciara Farrell played the proverbial blinder in midfield, while Mary O'Connell led the way in attack from centre-forward, as five of starting forwards scored from play.

Scorers: Presentation Kilkenny - Mary O'Connell (0-7, five frees); Aisling Nolan, Aoife T. Farrell (1-0 each); Orlaith Conlon, Claire Nolan (0-1 each). St Mary's - Kirsty McLeod (0-6, three frees, one 45); Eimear McGuigan (0-2, one free); Ciara Scullion, (0-1).

Presentation Kilkenny - Roisin Walsh, Sarah Walsh, Michaela Kenneally, Maeve O'Connor, Eimear Corr, Ailish Butler, Rachel Phelan, Ciara Farrell, Alice Talbot, Eimear Donnelly, Mary O'Connell, Claire Nolan, Aoife T. Farrell, Aisling Nolan (capt), Orlaith Conlon. Subs - Aoife Walsh, Aoife Brasil, Grainne Walsh, Ciara Tracey, Jenny O'Neill, Ciara Phelan, Jackie Rainey, Ciara Murphy, Aoife B. Farrell, Margaret O'Connell, Blathnaid Galway, Eadaoin Murphy, Ronelle Henderson, Tamsin English.

Management - Mary McGrath, Jenny Reddy, John Dooley, Pat Ryan.

CRUEL END TO A GOOD YEAR

Camogie Report by TJ Mills PRO



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR FINALISTS 2014

Back: Claire Aylward, Grace Walsh, Áine Connery, Aisling Dunphy, Elaine Aylward, Leann Fennelly, Denise Gaule, Edwina Keane, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Ann Marie Lennon, Kelly Hamilton, Stacey Quirke, Miriam Walsh, Aine Kinsella, **Front:** Ann Dalton, Claire Phelan, Michelle Quilty, Emma Kavanagh, Mairead Power, Kate McDonald, Jacqui Frisby, Collette Dormer, Kate Power, Aoife Neary, Shelly Farrell. Photo Paul Mohan/SPORTSFILE

INTER-COUNTY YEAR REVIEW

SENIOR

It was a year of misfortune for the Kilkeny senior camogie team, as they tried to win back the O'Duffy cup for the first time since 1994, but they suffered the pain of losing two All Ireland finals in succession. The team began the year in flying form running through their league campaign undefeated. Their first league game was a real test of character where they played the All Ireland champions of the previous year, Galway. In a game played in dreadful weather conditions in Ballinasloe, the cats showed that they were out to make amends for their 2013 defeat and ran out easy 2-11 to 0-08 point winners. In their second game they defeated Clare 1-09 to 0-07. Kilkeny then easily defeated Derry 3-18 to 1-04. They closed out their group campaign with a 2-13 to 1-06 victory over Limerick to set up a semi-final clash with Wexford. In a much tighter contest, Kilkeny defeated Wexford to set up a final showdown with Clare. The final was a completely one-sided contest with Kilkeny running out easy 1-15 to 0-04 point winners.

Kilkeny could then look forward to the Leinster Championship campaign where they would face Offaly in the semi-final. In a game that was close up to half time, Kilkeny let loose in the final 20 minute to run out 7-14 to 1-10 to set up a Leinster final clash with Wexford. The Leinster Final just didn't go Kilkeny's way and a much improved Wexford team got the goals at the crucial stages and defeated Kilkeny 2-12 to 1-10. Kilkeny, after suffering their first defeat, had to focus on the All Ireland Campaign.

In their first game they played Offaly and eased to a 5-16 to 0-08 point victory. They followed this up with an easy 2-21 to 0-07 point victory over Tipperary. In their third group game they travelled to play Clare in a tight contest where Kilkeny finished with 14 players, they came good to record a 1-13 to 0-12 point victory. In their last game they faced Derry and a win here would secure an All Ireland semi-final place. In a game they were in complete con-

trol of, they ran out easy 4-16 to 1-05 victors and set up a semi-final spot against Galway. The semi-final was a very tough contest in which Kilkeny led 2-05 to 1-03 at half time. In the second half Galway stormed back into the contest, but Kilkeny showed great character and held on to record a 4-12 to 3-07 win and set up an All Ireland shootout with Cork. The All Ireland final was a tough contest with Kilkeny enjoying the better of the first half and led 1-06 to 0-04 at the break, Michelle Quilty scoring the Kilkeny goal. Cork stormed back into the game and ran out 2-12 to 1-09 victors. It was a cruel end to a good year for the seniors with an obvious penalty shout not given in the final minutes. There is an All Ireland in this team and we just hope the twenty year drought ends in 2015.

Kilkeny Senior All Ireland Final Team: Emma Kavanagh, Mairead Power, Kate McDonald, Jacqui Frisby, Claire Phelan, Collette Dormer, Elaine Aylward, Leann Fennelly, Ann Dalton, Denise Gaule, Aisling Dunphy, Áine Connery, Shelly Farrell, Kate Power, Michelle Quilty. Subs: Ann Marie Lennon, Edwina Keane, Aoife Neary, Grace Walsh, Miriam Walsh, Kelly Hamilton, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Stacey Quirke, Claire Aylward, Aine Kinsella.

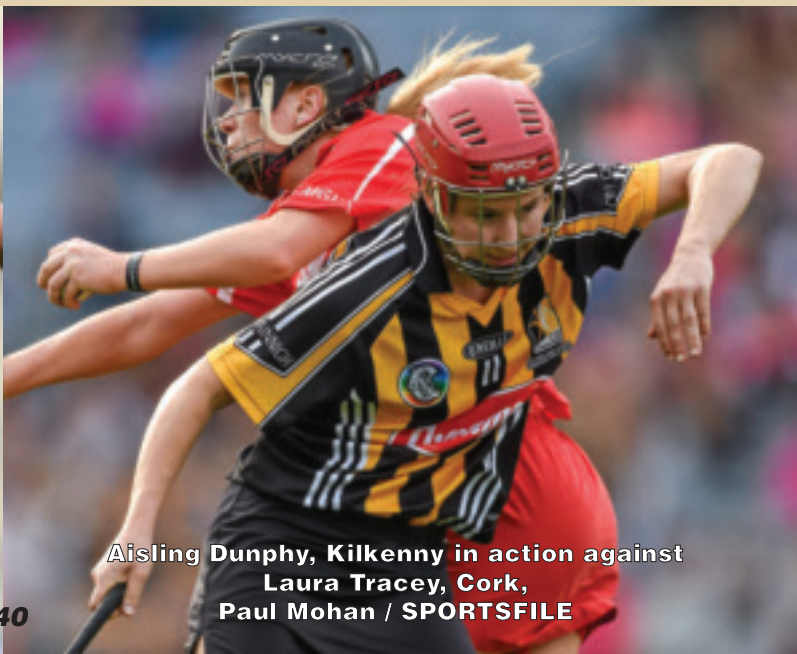
INTERMEDIATE

Just like their senior counterparts the Intermediate team also suffered the pain of losing an All Ireland final in September. They are a very young side and will be one to watch in the coming years.

The intermediate team also began their league campaign against Galway in Ballinasloe and recorded an easy victory over a new-look Galway side on a 2-08 to 0-08 point score line. In their second game they entertained Antrim and suffer a two point defeat as the northern side finished stronger to record a 1-11 to 0-12 point victory. They then travelled to play Down



Julia White, Cork, in action against Elaine Aylward, Kilkeny. Ramsey Cardy/SPORTSFILE



Aisling Dunphy, Kilkeny in action against Laura Tracey, Cork, Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE



KILKENNY INTERMEDIATE TEAM - ALL IRELAND FINALISTS 2014

Back: Sonia Buggy, Laura Walker, Aine Kinsella, Orla Hanrick, Aisling Butler, Laura Norris, Emma Comerford, Stacy Quirke, Mags Fennelly (Captain), Catherine Connolly, Aine Fahey, Megan Farrell, Mary O'Connell, Catherine Foley, Kirsty Maher, Edel Frisby,
Front: Aine Gannon, Therese Muldowney, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Ann Marie Lennon, Anna Farrell, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Sarah Crowley, Claire Aylward, Meave Mansfield, Aisling Nolan.
 Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

in Meath and suffered their second defeat of the campaign against the eventual Junior All Ireland Champions on a 2-13 to 1-07 score line. In their fourth game they travelled to play Wexford in a must-win match, they recorded a 1-10 to 1-03 win. In their final game they played Laois - a win in this game and they would qualify for the playoffs. The team eased to 0-11 points to 0-01 lead at half time. The second half was completely different and the Laois side stormed back to pip Kilkenny at the post and denied them a play off place on a 1-10 to 0-12 point score line.

In their first Championship game they had to travel to Ballincollig to face Cork. In a tough game the cats came good in the end to run out 1-10 to 0-12 point victors. In their second game they entertained Wexford. In a very one-sided contest they ran out easy 4-20 to 0-01 point victors. The team then entertained a very strong Waterford team in their third game and recorded a very impressive 2-09 to 1-06 win. They then needed to get a win over Meath in their final game to secure the semi-final spot and they did just that when they recorded an impressive 2-15 to 2-10 away win to set up a semi-final show down with Kildare. In the semi-final Kilkenny were never fazed by the previous year's junior All Ireland champions and ran out easy 1-16 to 0-07 point winners.

In the final they face a very strong and impressive Limerick side. In a tough contest the Shannonsiders had bit more experience and ran out 1-12 to 0-10 winners. It was a sad end for the team but they are a young side and will be the ones to watch in 2015

Kilkenny Intermediate All Ireland Final Team- Ann Marie Lennon, Edel Frisby, Catherine Foley, Therese Muldowney, Claire Aylward, Aine Fahey, Stacy esquire, Megan Farrell, Aine Kinsella, Sarah Crowley, Anna Farrell, Laura Norris, Mags Fennelly (Captain), Orla Hanrick, Lydia Fitzpatrick.

Subs- Laura Walker, Aisling Butler, Aine Gannon, Mary O'Connell, Aisling Nolan, Catherine Connolly, Emma Comerford, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Kirsty Maher, Meave Mansfield, Sonia Buggy.

MINOR

The minor side were very unlucky in their All Ireland and Leinster campaigns suffering some narrow losses. In the first game of the All Ireland series they played Tipperary and recorded an impressive 2-03 to 0-06 point victory. In the second game they entertained Galway in a tough tight encounter. Galway pipped them at the post to record a 3-08 to 2-10 victory. In their third game they travelled to play Wexford needing a win to get their campaign back on track. In poor conditions the Slaneysiders grabbed the win by 0-07 to 0-05 - another game Kilkenny were very unlucky in. This put the cats out of contention for the later stages of the championship. They played Clare in the final game and recorded a highly commendable 3-17 to 2-03 victory but it wasn't enough for them to progress through. In the first game of the Leinster campaign they travelled to Wexford and recorded an impressive 4-10 to 1-12 victory. In their second game they entertained an up and coming Offaly side and record a convincing 0-16 to 1-03 victory. They needed to get a result in the final game against Dublin to progress through to the final and they did just that when they drew with the Dubs 1-12 apiece to book a final spot with Wexford. In a game that Kilkenny were dominating in the latter stages, Wexford came strong to grab the victory from the jaws of defeat on a 3-12 to 2-10 score line to end a very unlucky year for the side.

U16

The U16 team, similar to the minor team, were very unlucky in their Leinster championship campaign. In their first game they recorded an excellent 10 point win over Offaly in

Glenmore in February. However, they suffered a disappointing two-point loss to Dublin in Dublin 1-10 to 1-08, and another disappointing single point loss to Wexford in Cushintown 1-05 to 0-06 meant they qualified for the Shield Final where they would meet Wexford again where they ran out 3-9 to 2-6 winners to claim the shield title.

The team were very unlucky in the All Ireland series as they were in a very tough group. In the first game they played Cork away and suffered an unfortunate defeat against a strong Rebel side on a 4-15 to 0-03 point score line. In the second game they played Clare. In a tough game it was Clare that came out victorious on a 5-13 to 3-11 score line. In the third game they travelled to played Dublin. In another tough tight game it was the Dubs that came good to record a 2-13 to 3-06 win. In the final game Kilkenny entertained Galway who came out victorious 2-16 to 1-12, to end a disappointing year for the side. The team are a very young side and will come back stronger and will be one to watch out for in 2015.

U14

The highlight of the year for Kilkenny on the intercounty camogie scene was the performances of the U14 teams. The teams were divided into two teams A & B. Their first game of the year was a challenge against Dublin which both teams won convincingly. Both sides then travelled to Rathkeale in Limerick with the Kilkenny A side beating Galway in the A decider and the B squad narrowly losing to Cork in their final. Next up for the squad was the Leinster competition. Again the A squad ran out winners beating a much improved Dublin team in the final. The B squad again narrowly missed out on silver wear losing to a strong Wexford team in the final. The teams then competed in the Cork (Munster) Eileen Carmody Memorial Competition. This has not been a happy hunting ground for Kilkenny teams over the last few years. After an early loss to a strong Galway team, the Kilkenny A team had it all to do for the rest of the competition. They fought back reaching the final where they proved too strong for Clare. The B's, meanwhile, reached another final seeing off strong Cork and Waterford teams and, although leading at halftime v Dublin, faded in the second half and narrowly lost at the final whistle. The B team then went and competed in the Laois blitz where they ran out comfortable winners. The Kilkenny Blitz was next up. The A squad reached their fourth final in a row but narrowly lost the final to a spirited Tipperary team. This will be remembered for the performance of the B side, having lost three finals and after coming through a tough group they played Cork in the final and ran out comfortable winners. The Dublin blitz was next up and the A's got back to winning ways beating Cork in the final. The B's lost out in the quarter final to eventual finalists Tipperary. Next up was the Tipperary Blitz and again the B's fought hard to get out of their group but were outdone by a strong Waterford team in the final. The A's, on the back of their Dublin triumph, played well but could not get the better of Tipperary in the final. The B team then went and competed in the Offaly Blitz where once again they showed great spirit in winning the Shield, beating a much improved Laois team in the final. Next up was the All Ireland Final Blitz in Ballyboden St Enda's. The B team were placed in a tough group and were unlucky not to emerge. They were defeated by Antrim by a single score, beat Galway, but again luck was not on their side and they again lost by a single score to Offaly and failed to progress. The A squad lost their first match to Clare but that was to be their last loss of the year as they swept Dublin and Tipperary aside to set up a semi-final against Cork. Again Kilkenny proved too strong to set up a final berth against Galway and ran out winners on a score line of 0-7 to 0-4 to claim the All Ireland Title. It was the most successful year for the squad in many a year, entering seven competitions and claiming seven wins between both sides.



Kilkenny Minor Camogie Team Leinster Finalists 2014



Kilkenny U16 Panel Leinster Shield Winners 2014



Kilkenny U14 "A" Camogie Team 2014



Kilkenny U14 "B" Camogie Team 2014



Thomastown - County Senior Champions 2014



Piltown - All County League, League and County Intermediate Champions 2014



St Martin's - Senior & All-County League Champions 2014



Glenmore - Junior A League and Junior A County Champions 2014

CLUB SEASON REVIEW

SENIOR

The club action for 2014 began in February when Ballyhale Shamrocks faced Ardahan of Galway in the All Ireland Club semi final. In a game played in poor weather conditions it was the Galway side that ran out victorious on a 2-08 to 0-08 point score line.

The senior All County league began in April and after four rounds of games, it was Thomastown and St Martin's that made it to the final. In a tough hard-fought encounter, St Martin's that ran out 2-07 to 1-09 winners.

The senior league came down to a shootout between Mullinavat and St Martin's. In an exciting encounter it was St Martin's that had a ten point lead at half time 2-09 to 0-04. Mullinavat stormed back into the game and cut the margin to a single point, but St Martin's pushed on and got late scores to win on 3-12 to 2-12 score line.

The County semi-finals saw last year's final pairing avoiding each other in the semi-final. Thomastown were faced with the challenge of playing St Martin's who had won the league final the previous week. It was Thomastown who secured the final berth when they recorded a 3-11 to 0-09 point win. In the other semi-final it was Mullinavat who faced off against St Lachtain's. Mullinavat cruised through to the final on a 5-18 to 0-02 score line. The county final was a repeat of last year's encounter with Thomastown and Mullinavat facing off in Ballyhale. In a low-scoring first half it was Mullinavat who were edging it 0-04 points to 0-02. It was a game that a goal could change, and it was Thomastown who got them, which helped them to a 3-06 to 0-09 point victory to set up a Leinster final clash with Oulart the Ballagh. (Game was not played at time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.)

INTERMEDIATE

In the intermediate side of games, it was a clean sweep for Piltown as they won the All County league, the League and also the County Championship.

The club action began in February when Ballyhale Shamrocks were involved in the All Ireland club championship. In the semi-final they faced Portumna of Galway. In a tough battle it was Ballyhale who emerged victorious by 2-03 to 0-07 to set up an All Ireland final showdown with Lismore of Waterford. In the final, in a close encounter, Lismore had the better of the first half exchanges and led by 0-06 to 0-03 at half time. In the second half Ballyhale came back into the contest with a Mags Fennelly goal. Ballyhale led by two points going into the final five minutes but Lismore stormed back into the game to force a replay. In the replay Ballyhale had the better of the first half and were leading by 0-05 points to 0-03 coming up to half time but Lismore got in for a goal to go ahead at the break 1-05 to 0-03. The concession of this goal seemed to break the Shamrocks confidence and Lismore ran out 3-08 to 0-7 point winners in the end.

The All County decider saw Piltown facing off against St Anne's. In a close tight encounter it was Piltown who edged it 1-09 to 1-07.

The league final came down to the same pairing as the All County League with Piltown and St Anne's facing off in the final. In a close encounter Piltown came good in the end to edge it on 1-10 to 1-09 score line.

The semi-finals of the county championship saw St Brigid's facing St Anne's. In close contest St Brigid's emerged victors 5-13 to 3-11. In the other semi-final it was Piltown taking on James Stephens. Piltown were too strong for the city side and emerged victors 2-14 to 1-02.

The final between Piltown and St Brigid's was played in John Locke Park Callan. Piltown made the better start to the



Mooncoin Junior "B" County Champions 2014



Kilmacow Minor "C" County Champions 2014



Dicksboro U16 "A" County Champions 2014



St Brigid's U16 "B" County Champions 2014

game and led by 1-08 to 0-03 points at half time. They didn't take their foot off the pedal and ran out comprehensive victors 4-18 to 0-05. Piltown then began their Leinster championship campaign away to Birr and eased to a 1-11 to 0-04 point victory to set up a Leinster semi-final clash with Myshall of Carlow. In the semi-final in a close contest it was Piltown who emerged victorious 1-12 to 1-09 and set up a final clash with Camross of Laois. (Game was not played at time of going to print, details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.)

JUNIOR

The Junior A all county league final was won by Glenmore when they defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 4-12 to 1-05 in the final. The Junior A league final featured Emeralds and Glenmore in the final. Emeralds were leading for a long period in the game but Glenmore came strong near the end to run out 0-12 points to 1-06 winners. The Junior A County final featured the same pairing of Glenmore and Emeralds in the final. In a close encounter the Glenmore side finished the stronger 1-11 to 1-05.

The Junior B All County League featured Emeralds and Conahy Shamrocks in the final, where Emeralds ran out comprehensive winners on a 4-11 to 2-04 score line. The junior B final saw Mooncoin and Black and Whites clash. Mooncoin were too strong for the Blacks and Whites side and ran out 5-12 to 3-06 winners.

U21

The U21 championships were just beginning at time of going to print. All details of the games can be found on kilkennycamogie.com

MINOR

The Minor A championships were still underway at time of going to print with Glenmore and Thomastown in one quarter final and Clara and St Martin's in the other. The victors of both are due to play Dicksboro or Piltown in the semi-finals. All details of the games can be found on kilkennycamogie.com. The minor B league final saw Paulstown and Rower Inistioge in the final. In an entertaining encounter Rower Inistioge came out on top on a 1-17 to 3-07 score line. In the championship the final saw Paulstown and Rower Inistioge in the final. In a low scoring entertaining encounter it was Paulstown who came out on top by 0-09 points to 0-08. The minor C league saw Slieverue and Ballyhale Shamrocks in the final which finished in an entertaining draw between the sides, Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-08 Slieverue 2-05. The game went to a replay and in an entertaining encounter Ballyhale emerged victorious 5-07 to 2-10. The C final saw Tullaroan/St.Lachtains and Kilmacow clash in the final. The Kilmacow side came out winners on a 6-12 to 3-06 score line.

U16

The U16 A league final saw Dicksboro and Glenmore in the final. The city side were too strong for Glenmore and ran out 3-09 to 1-03 winners. The U16 A final saw a repeat of the league final and again the city side got the better of Glenmore on a 5-05 to 2-05 score line. The U16 B league saw Danesfort and St Brigid's in the final. In an entertaining encounter, St Brigid's got the better of Danesfort on a 2-11 to 3-04 score line. The B county final saw the same pairing in the final. In a low scoring final St Brigid's left it late and clenched the contest with a last minute goal to secure a 2-03 to 1-05 victory. The U 16 C championship saw victories for Paulstown over Tullogher in the Shield Final on a 3-04 to 0-01 point score line. In the County Final it was Slieverue who got the better of Mooncoin in the final 6-05 to 2-05.



Slieverue U16 "C" County Champions 2014



Under 14 Kilkenny teams being presented with training tops by Aut Even hospital.



Kilkenny received 12 nominations and won three All Stars in 2014: Colette Dormer half back, Anne Dalton midfield, and Michelle Quilty corner forward. Kilkenny also won an Intermediate Soaring Star for Catherine Foley.

U14

The U14 A championship was won by Thomastown when they defeated Piltown in the final on a 5-06 to 1-05 score line. The U14 A shield final had Danesfort and Young Irelands vying for the title. In a close encounter Danesfort ran out 0-10 point to 2-03 victors. The B final featured St Martin's and Emeralds in a tough encounter and it was Emeralds who emerged victorious on a 5-03 to 3-01 score line. The Roinn C final was won by Kilmacow when they defeated Mooncoin 2-05 to 1-04. The Roinn D final saw Mullinavat emerging victorious over Naomh Brid 5-00 to 2-03.



Last, but not least, Congratulations to Kilkenny's Catherine Neary Uachtarán Tofa of National Camogie Association. Catherine will take office at Congress 2015



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

CLARA



U12 team during 2014 Liam Ryan Hurlathon



Clara Camogie & Hurling Stars



Last night of Underage Training



Carmel Brennan serving tea at the 35 years Clara Camogie Celebrations



McDonald Family enjoying the 35 years Celebrations



All the ladies enjoying the celebrations



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

DICKSBORO



Dicksboro U14 Féile Team 2014



Dicksboro U16 League Winners 2014



Dicksboro Minor "A" Winners 2014



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

GLENMORE



Glenmore U12's 2014



Junior Captain Ann-Marie Roche receiving the Tom Ryan Memorial Cup



Nicole Garvey, Captain Kilkenny u16s receives the Leinster shield

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AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

GORESBRIDGE PAULSTOWN



Under 12 Shield Final Winners 2014



Our Very First Under 8 Team



PG girls waiting to welcome home the 2014 Hurling Champions



Under 16 Shield Final Winners 2014



Under 14 Shield Final Winners 2014

Smiles all round after Winning Minor County Final



Our All Star Collette at County Training with some young fans



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

GRAIGNAMANAGH



St Fiachras U14 – Winners of Rena Sheridan Memorial Cup



St Fiachras U10 girls



St Fiachras U12 Team which was defeated by Glenmore in their Group Final



St Fiachras U8 girls



Graig/Skeough Primary School Roinn B Champions 2014



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

JAMES STEPHENS



Intermediate team who reached the County semi-final



U12 Team who reached the County Final



James Stephens U10 Team 2014



James Stephens U8 Team 2014

LEINSTER SH FIXTURES 2015



ROUND ROBIN (3 ROUNDS) INVOLVING WESTMEATH, CARLOW, ANTRIM, LAOIS.

Round 1 - 3rd May, Round 2 - 10th May, Round 3 - 24th May.

QUARTER-FINALS						
A	Dublin	v	Galway	31.5.2015	Croke Park	2.00
B	Group Winners	v	Offaly	7.6.2015		
C	Group Runners Up	v	Wexford	7.6.2015		
SEMI FINALS						
1	Dublin/Galway	v	Group Winners/ Offaly	20.6.2015	O'Moore Park/ O'Connor Park	
2	Kilkenny	v	Group Runners Up/ Wexford	21.6.2015	Nowlan Park/ Round Robin Team	2.00
FINAL						
	1	v	2			

Le gach dea-mhéin ó Chomhairle Laighin CLG

Micheel Ó Dubhshláine
Runaí



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

PILTOWN



*Leinster Winners
Piltown Intermediate Team, winners of the A.I.B. Leinster Intermediate Club Championship.*



*Above:
Captain Laura Norris and Vice Captain Katie Power lift the A.I.B. Leinster Intermediate Club Championship Cup*



*On Left:
U16s 2013 with the Tom Holden Memorial Cup at the 2014 Social in the Rising Sun*



Cumann na mBunscoil Roinn A Finalists



The u14 team who were beaten in the Roinn A Final by Thomastown.



Piltown's U10 team 2014



Piltown's U8s 2014



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

SLIEVERUE



Slieverue U10's 2014



Slieverue Minor Team 2014



Slieverue U12's 2014

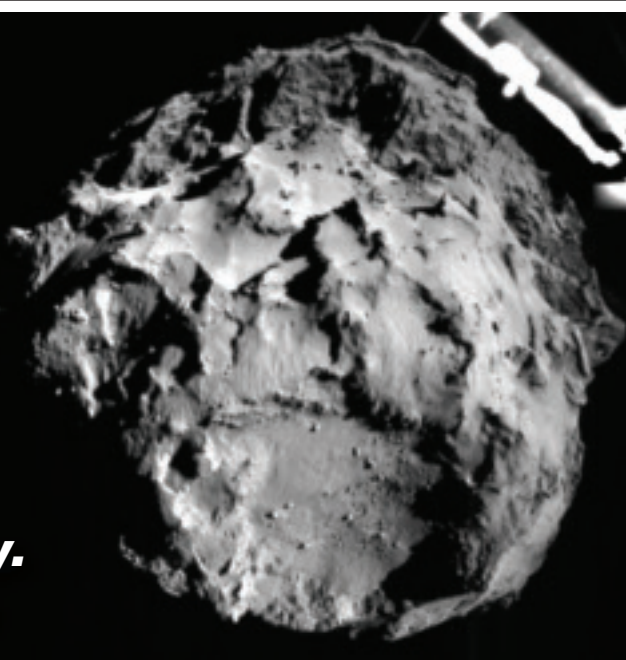
Congratulations to our U16 team on winning the Roinn "C" County Championship, beating Mooncoin 6-5 to 2-5 in the final. See photo of this team in the Camogie article.

**If there's
water
there.....**

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AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

ST ANNE'S



U12 County Champions, Caoilinn Smith Captain



U21's Meadhbh Broderick Captain



U14's, Lauryn Dermody Captain



**St Anne's Minor Team
Mary Corcoran Captain**



St Anne's Intermediate Team Claire Hughes Captain



Above: Catherine Doherty, St Anne's Club member was presented with an award from Camogie Association as the "CAMOGIE PLAYER OF THE DECADE".
Far Left: Kilkeny Minor Team 2014 – St Anne's Team Members Mary Corcoran, Sarah Whelan, Chloe Purcell & Niamh Sweeney.
Left: St Anne's & St Brigid's Minor Captains 2014



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

ST BRIGID'S



U10's 2014



U6's 2014



U8's 2014

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AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

ST MARTIN'S



St. Martins All County League Winners



U6 Team & Trainers 2014



St. Martins celebrating winning the league final



U10 Team & Trainers



St. Martins Minor League & Championship winners 2013



2014 Schools Team Roinn B County Finalists

St. Martin's Juvenile Camogie teams had a great season this year. From U6 up to U14 the girls worked very hard in training and played brilliantly in all their blitzes, challenge, league and Championship matches. With over one hundred players, St. Martin's Juvenile Camogie Club is going from strength to strength. The committee would like to thank all the volunteer coaches for their time and effort this year and also thank all the parents and supporters for all their help during the season, and we look forward to 2015.



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

NAOMH BRÍD, BALLYRAGGET



The combined Naomh Bríd Camogie Club , Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 teams, at the end of year party on September 16th.



The Naomh Bríd , Ballyragget, Under 12 Camogie Team played well in all of their League and championship games



The Naomh Bríd, Ballyragget, Camogie Club coaches , whose commitment during the year was much appreciated, by officers, players and parents.

*Back: Brendan Walshe, Aidan Morrissey, John Gunner, Martin Foley.
Front: Caroline Phelan, Sandra Walshe, Jackie Lawless.*



The Naomh Bríd U10 team, which participated in the Camogie Blitz, at Ballyragget, on Saturday August 23rd.

Naomh Bríd Camogie Club, Ballyragget Officers 2014 -

Chairman: Noel Cummins, Vice Chair - Michelle Brennan, Secretary/Treasurer- Shiela Gunner
PRO: Seamus O' Doherty, Child Welfare Officer- Betty Smith, Co. Board Delegate - Maureen Lennon
Committee: Brid Kavanagh, Bernie O' Doherty, Karen Phelan, Mags Southgate, Caroline Phelan, Shiela Walshe.

Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising events during the year, including the cake sale, bag packing at Super Valu and the church gate collection . We also appreciate the sponsorship from St. Patrick's GAA Club, Bord na nOg, Super Valu, Vicky's X treme Beauty, Ballyragget Pharmacy and our generous anonymous donors.

Thanks to everyone who helped with transport during 2014. A special word of appreciation is also due to Morgan O'Kelly and Michael Foley for their help with the pitch, which was in top class condition for all of our games.

The club enjoys tremendous goodwill locally and from our neighbouring parishes, so we thank everyone for their support and contributions.

The Kilkenny People newspaper published our notes throughout the season, while the St. Patrick's GAA PRO, Ger Butler, who launched the club web site during the Summer, kindly posted some of our news items and photographs.



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

THOMASTOWN



Laura Quigley Eimear farrell Dearbhail o Keffe caoimhe Kelly Lisa Donnelly on u14 county team



All star nominees Shelly farrell Denise Gaule and Emma Kavanagh at city West hotel . Gerry put the Gaelic for mothers pic in thomastown gaa thanks again . Congrats to Kate macdonald Shelly Farrell Anna Farrell And Meg Farrell members of Kilkenny Senior and Intermediate teams who got to the All Ireland this year.



Thomastown U14 Roinn A County Champions



Thomastown : Naomh Jude U13 All Ireland 9's Champions 2014



Thomastown U14 County Feile Champions



Thomastown : U12 Team 2014



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

WINDGAP



Under 10's 2014



U12 Camogie Team 2014 at the Tullahought Heritage Tournament



*Under 14 Camogie Team 2014
County Semi-finalists*



*Catherine Foley receives the Intermediate
Soaring Star Award from Camogie
President Aileen Lawlor and Liberty Insurance
representative*



Windgap Senior Team 2014



AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS

YOUNG IRELANDS



U12 Shield Final



*County & All Ireland Champions
Nicole Carter, Steffi Fitzgerald
& Rachel Dreeling.*



National Schools Roinn A Camogie, Gaelic & 7's Champions 2014.



U14 Shield Final Roinn A



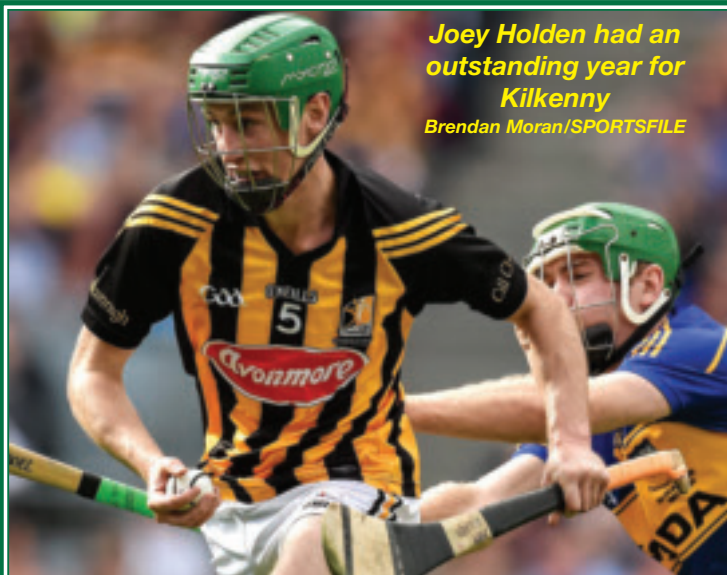
*Fans meet club girls at Meet and Greet
at Nowlan Park before All Ireland.*



AROUND THE CLUBS



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



Joey Holden had an outstanding year for Kilkenny
Brendan Moran/SPORTSFILE

The footballers, managed by David Kennedy and David Walsh, lost an Intermediate semi final to Piltown, 2-11 to 3-2.

IFC Gary Mason, Michael O'Sullivan, Paul Shefflin, Willie Coogan, Stephen Donnelly, Mark Aylward, Richie Reid, Gavin Butler, David Hoynes 0-1 (ft), Eoin Doyle, Eoin Reid, Keith Nolan (acting captain) 2-1 (2-0ft), Enda Fitzpatrick, Keith Murphy 1-0, Dylan Doran.

Subs: Pádraig Holden for Stephen Donnelly (38m), Darren Mason for Dylan Doran (54m), Eugene Aylward (away), Tom Coogan (away), Alan Cuddihy (captain; away).

We fielded a third adult team for the first time. John Dermody (Manager), Michael Dermody, Seán Holden, Keith Murphy and Paul Shefflin looked after the Junior Bs. This panel, a positive initiative, completed every tie and beat Windgap in a South first round, 0-14 to 0-11. They bowed out at quarter final stage to Piltown, 0-17 to 1-8.

JHC B Gary Mason, Patrick Doyle, Keith Murphy, Eugene Aylward, John Dermody, Pádraig Holden (captain), Jack Kenneally, James Deasy 0-2, Michael O'Sullivan, Joe Cuddihy 0-1, Michael Carroll 0-1, Stephen Donnelly, Dylan Aylward 0-4 (3f), Brendan Costelloe 1-0, Dylan Doran.

Subs: Conor Reid, Shaun Donnelly, Liam Elvidge, Dick Fitzpatrick for Dylan Doran (43m), Darren Mason, Conor Phelan for Stephen Donnelly (33m), Mark Phelan, Shane Timmons (away), Eamonn Walsh (inj), Eddie Walsh for Keith Murphy (inj, 44m).

The U21s, looked after by Aidan Cummins, John Drennan (Manager) and Michael O'Sullivan, awaited a South A quarter final with The Rower-Inistioge.

The club was saddened by the passing of Neddy Walsh (Coolmore), a club founder in 1972.

JUVENILES

Vital work, led by Chairperson Noreen Malone, drove the juvenile section: at U8 by Tom Coogan and John Shefflin (Manager); at U10 by John Corcoran and Jim Cullen (Manager); at U12 by Noreen Malone (Manager) and Niall Mason.

Again, all three underage panels hurred in the A grade, achievement in itself for a country club. The U14s, looked after by Bob Aylward, Gavin Butler, John Kennedy (Manager) and Séamus Ryan, went out battling in the first round to Lisdowney, 4-17 to 3-7.

U14HC A Liam Barron, Cian Cullen, Casey Corcoran, Billy Moran, Christopher Coady, Darragh Corcoran (captain), Jason Devereux, Rhys Anderson 0-1, Eoin Walsh, Eoin Cody 0-3, Dean Mason 0-3, Stephen Barron, John Shortall, Adam Masood 2-0, Conor Doyle 1-0. Subs: Richie Cody for Christopher Coady (58m), Edmond Fitzpatrick for Rhys Anderson (44m), Dara Mason for Billy Moran (58m), Tom O'Dwyer for Eoin Walsh (56m), Seán Reade for Conor Doyle (56m), James Reid for Cian Cullen (53m), Brandon Ryan for Jason Devereux (50m), Fionnán Shefflin for John Shortall (47m).

Dean Mason kept goal for Kilkenny's victorious Tony Forristal team, with Eoin Cody corner forward on the Sonny Walsh team.

Lisdowney Sevens panel: Rhys Anderson, Liam Barron, Stephen Barron, Christopher Coady (captain), Casey Corcoran, Cian Cullen, Tom O'Dwyer, Seán Reade, Brandon Ryan, Fionnán Shefflin. They ultimately lost a Shield semi final to Mooncoin, 6-10 to 1-2.

The U16s, looked after by Pat Cullen, Eoin Knox and Seán Reid (Manager), progressed but fell in the first round to O'Loughlin Gaels, 3-15 to 0-11.

U16HC A Dean Mason, Enda Kenneally, John Hession, Patrick Hearne, Evan Shefflin, Dylan Aylward (captain) 0-3 (2f), Martin Davis, Kevin Fennelly 0-1, Sulayman Masood, Rónán Hayes 0-1, Adrian Mullen 0-4 (2f), Adam Brenner, Dylan Drennan Smyth, Andrew Moran, Eoin Kenneally 0-1 (ft).

Subs: Eoin Cody, Darragh Corcoran 0-1 for Dylan Drennan Smyth (ht), Conor Doyle (away), Darren Mullen (inj), Keelan O'Donoghue for Kevin Fennelly (inj, 47m), Eoin Walsh.

The Minors, with the same mentors plus Tommy Phelan, beat Glenmore in the first round, 2-16 to 0-10. Then came quarter final exit against Thomastown United, 4-13 to 1-17.

MHC A Conor Reid, Conor Phelan, Eugene Aylward, Patrick Hearne, Patrick Doyle, Kevin Mullen, Sulayman Masood, Rónán Corcoran (captain) 0-8 (7f), Tom O'Keeffe, Martin Davis, Adrian Mullen 0-3, Dylan Aylward, Kevin Fennelly 1-0, Joe Cuddihy 0-5 (2f), Dean Mason.

Subs: Adam Brenner, Luke Donnelly 0-1 for Patrick Hearne (42m), Rónán Hayes, John Hession for Dean Mason (42m), Enda Kenneally, Andrew Moran, Darren Mullen (inj), Keelan O'Donoghue, Evan Shefflin.



Henry Shefflin and his son Henry after the All Ireland Final Replay.
Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE



Shamrocks captain, T.J. Reid is presented with the League Shield by Co Board Treasurer, Barry Hickey.
Photo: Eoin Hennessy

The second hurling panel, looked after by Bobby Aylward, Seán Holden, Michael Hoynes and Patrick O'Sullivan (Manager), competed Junior after nearly 30 years. Having topped their league group, ensuring the grade for 2015, they lost a South quarter final (captained by Eoin Knox) to Kilmacow, 1-20 to 0-14.

Championship proper involved a first round against St Martin's and two exciting draws (1-17 to 3-11 and 0-21 to 1-18).

The second replay was lost by minimum under lights in Muckalee, 2-10 to 2-9.

JHC Conor Reid, Keith Nolan, Michael Dermody, Eugene Aylward, Gavin Butler, Pádraig Holden, Kevin Mullen, Enda Fitzpatrick (captain), Willie Coogan, Tom Coogan, Brian Cody 0-6 (4f), Eoin Doyle, Conor Phelan, Liam Grant 0-1, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick 2-2.

Subs: Dylan Aylward, Brian Butler (inj), Brendan Costelloe for Keith Nolan (inj, 46m), Joe Cuddihy (inj), James Deasy (inj), Shaun Donnelly, Stephen Donnelly (away), Dylan Doran, Patrick Doyle, Liam Elvidge, Jack Kenneally for Willie Coogan (39m), Eoin Knox (away), Darren Mason (away), Gary Mason (inj), Darren Mullen (inj), Patrick Mullen (inj), Patrick Reid for Conor Phelan (ht), Shane Timmons, Eamonn Walsh (inj), Eddie Walsh.

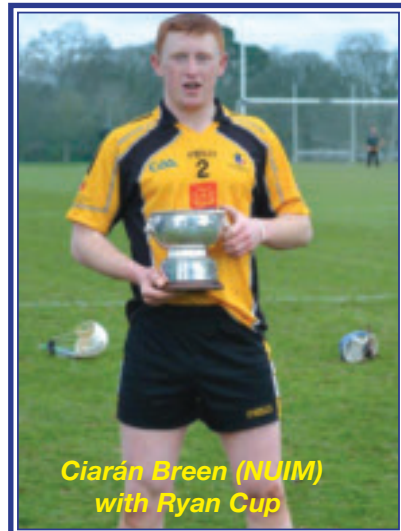


AROUND THE CLUBS

BARROW RANGERS



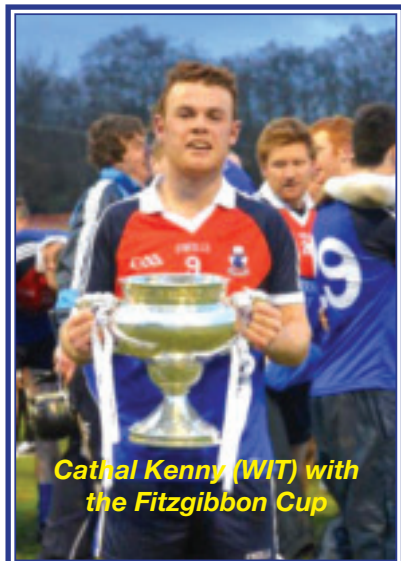
Barrow Rangers and Omagh St. Enda's at Féile



*Ciarán Breen (NUIM)
with Ryan Cup*



Barrow Rangers U6's 2014



*Cathal Kenny (WIT) with
the Fitzgibbon Cup*



U8 Blitz 2014



Roanmore U9's



AROUND THE CLUBS

BENNETTSBRIDGE



The Bennettsbridge u14 panel & mentors that represented Kilkenny in the National Féile in Ulster in June.

The Bennettsbridge u14 panel & mentors that represented Kilkenny in the National Féile in Ulster in June.

Representing Kilkenny was a huge honour for the Club and was a great experience for all the young players and parents. The panel were hosted by Loughgiel Shamrocks in North Antrim, one of the top club sides and the Bridge had a magnificent weekend both on and off the field as our hosts treated us so well leaving us with many treasured memories. On the field, the team did very well, winning all three matches in their group and losing out narrowly at the quarter final stage.



U14 Captain Conor Murphy accepts the U14 Roinn B Championship Cup

U14 – The U14 panel crowned a magnificent year when they won the Roinn B Championship. They remained unbeaten in all hurling competitions in Kilkenny and in addition to the Championship, captured the League proper, the Tier League and Tier Championship and also won out the local Feile competition.



Bennettsbridge - Roinn B U21 Champions 2013



Left: Bennettsbridge finished 2013 winning the Kilkenny county U21 B Championship after suffering heartbreak in the Junior county final but this team of players were keen to drive on in 2014 and focus on doing extremely better in 2014.

Read of the School team's County Final success in Schools Board report

Amongst all the success in the year Bennettsbridge GAA club lost a loyal member and supporter. Martin Treacy was the heart of the club, many people have said that Martin was "Mr Bennettsbridge". Pictured here are members of the victorious Co JH Team with the Cup at Martin's grave after the game.

(For full obituary see separate article)



Willie Dempsey



AROUND THE CLUBS

BLACKS & WHITES



B&W U8 in Luke Roche Tournament Inistioge



B&W Players with the Cup after winning the U12 Shield Ladies Football Final as part of the victorious Barrow Gaels Team



B&W u8 & 10's representing KK during the medal presentation at our Inter-County Blitz 2014 held in Tom Walsh Park featuring teams from Wexford, Laois & Tipperary also.



Some of the U8 players in Inistioge with Brian Cody



B&W U8 in Kierans College Blitz



B&W U12 team

Congratulations to Blacks & Whites on winning the Northern Junior Hurling "B" final in 2014.

Also to Graigue Skeough Schools team on their victory in the Tommy O'Brien Cup. Photographs of these teams are in the Junior Hurling and Schools Board articles respectively



B&W U10 in Nowlan Park Blitz



AROUND THE CLUBS

CARRICKSHOCK



*Carrickshock & Friends Iverk Produce
Tug Of War Champions 2014*



*Under-12s Mullinavat Vintage Show
2014*



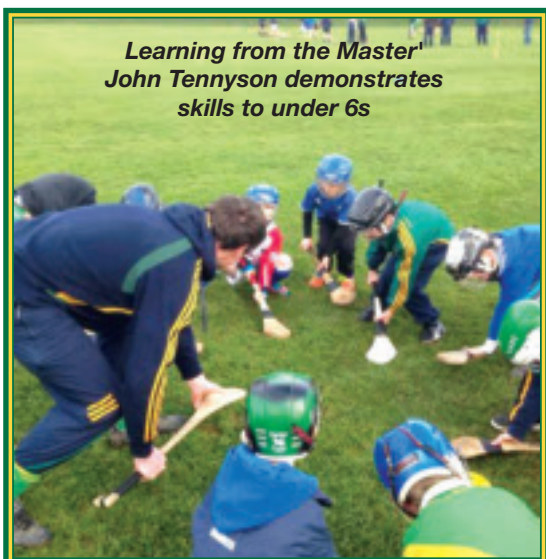
Carrickshock 'Drive for Liam' winners 2014



*Carrickshocks departed assist London's
Kilburn Gaels to
Championship Success 2014*



Carrickshock U6 2014



*Learning from the Master'
John Tennyson demonstrates
skills to under 6s*



Hugginstown Hurling Team 1926



AROUND THE CLUBS

CARRIGEEN



A happy looking Carrigeen team that regained the annual Bob O'Keeffe cup on a scoreline 1-20 to 0-10. This is an Annual competition where Carrigeen play Borris in Ossory/Kilcotton in memory of Bob O'Keeffe former President of the G.A.A. who was born in Glengrant Carrigeen and spent most of his working life in Borris in Ossory.
Back: Paul Barry, Frank Law, Kevin Law, Sean Boyle, Anthony O'Brien, Johnny Cooney, Jamie Carroll, Niall Gallagher, Liam Roche, Adam Skehan, Cathal O'Keeffe.
Front: Brian Gallagher, Dean Gates, Chris O'Hanlon, Richie O'Brien, Stephen Jacob, Joey O'Hanlon, Wayne Kelly, Hilary Delahunty, Mark Long.



Congratulations to Dean Gates and Frank Law who were awarded Joint Player of the Year awards at our recent Social Night.



Carrigeen contested the final of Joe Walsh Cup in 2014 losing out to Bennettsbridge on a scoreline 4-10 to 0-7.
Back: Adam Skehan, Liam Roche, Richie O'Brien, Kevin Law, Fintan Dermody, Frank Law, Chris O'Hanlon, Cathal O'Keeffe, Sean Boyle, Michael Moran, Mark Long.
Front: Niall Gallagher, Dean Gates, Jonathon Jacob, Anthony O'Brien, Wayne Kelly, Jamie Carroll, Brian Gallagher, Hilary Delahunty, Stephen Jacob, Pa Walsh.



Congratulations to former Carrigeen player Brian Murphy who has qualified to represent Ireland in British & Irish Masters Cross Country Athletics Championships.



Carrigeen hurling team of 1999
Back: Gerry Moran, Seamus Jacob, Richie Roche, Geoffrey Dobbey, Jimmy Quinn, Neville Synnott, Brian Murphy, James Power, John Fripps, Wally Morahan, Shane Walsh, Jimmy Carroll.
Front: Pat Dunphy, Tommy Walsh, Mark Quinn, Brian Walsh, Michael Murphy, Ivan Tobin, John Hearne, Paddy Moran, Eddie Moran.



Carrigeen Captain Richie O'Brien receiving Bob O'Keeffe Memorial Cup from Eamonn O'Keeffe (grand-nephew of Bob O'Keeffe)



Marcus Dunlea (R.I.P),
The club would like to offer our condolences to the Dunlea family on the sad passing of Marcus. Marcus was a wonderfully talented hurler and will be missed by his many friends in the club.
May he rest in peace.



AROUND THE CLUBS

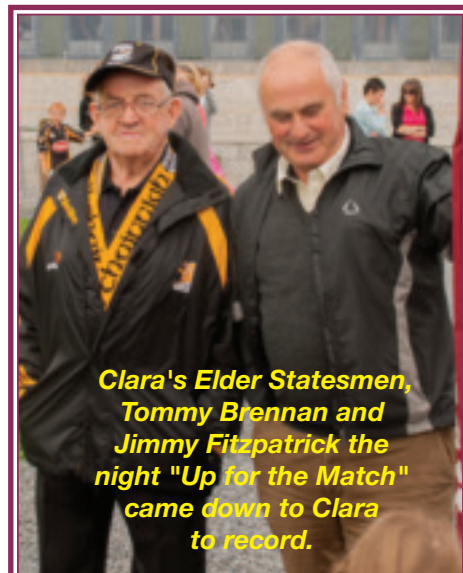
CLARA



Standing guard outside the club house are Ronan Phelan and Jerry Farrell.



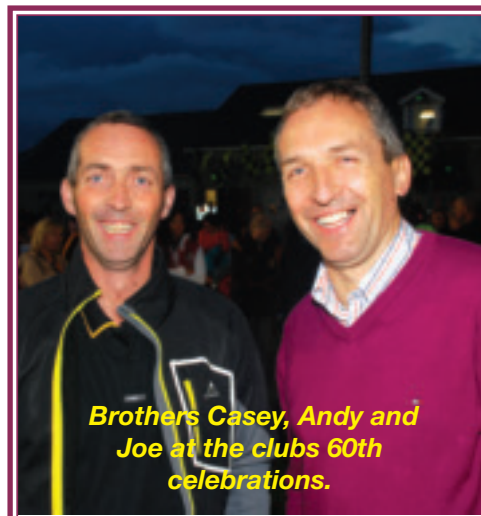
Daragh and Oran enjoying the 60th celebrations.



Clara's Elder Statesmen, Tommy Brennan and Jimmy Fitzpatrick the night "Up for the Match" came down to Clara to record.



Young Clara players enjoying the Kilkenny teams visit to Clara.



Brothers Casey, Andy and Joe at the clubs 60th celebrations.



Lester and Shane at U6 training with the League Cup.



The Delaney family enjoying the Kilkenny celebrations.



AROUND THE CLUBS

CLONEEN



Runners and Walkers at the starting line getting ready for the 5K fun Run/Walk



Captain Marc Purcell being presented with the U16 League shield by Joe Pyke (Bord na nÓg)



Runners and Walkers at the starting line getting ready for the 10K Fun Run/Walk

Clogh Handball Club

The club won numerous county and Leinster titles and 7 All Ireland titles with two of our ladies Mary Phelan and Ciara Mahon joining the elite in ladies handball in both alleys where they will be playing Senior from 2015. All Ireland titles won: Ciara Mahon won the Ladies Intermediate Singles in 60x30, Intervarsities Ladies Open Singles and Doubles in 60x30. Ciara Mahon and Mary Phelan won Ladies Intermediate Doubles in both alleys. Shane Dunne won U16 Singles in 60x30. Padraig Cooney and Shane Dunne won Colleges Intermediate Doubles in 60x30.

Players in the photo:

Padraig Cooney, Ciarán Cooney, Aisling Cooney, Amy Brennan, Katie Brenna, Eva Brennan, Jack Brennan, Eamonn Brennan, Jack Buggy, Billy O Neill, Shane Dunne, Kyle Dunne, Mary Phelan, Caitriona Lawlor, Cora Delaney, Sorchá Delaney, Marc Purcell, Aidan Barry, Cathal Barry, Eoin Regan, Aoilean Hennessy, Dominic Bolster, Nicole Dowling, Lauren Power, Holly Byrne, Insert: Brian Mahon, Ciara Mahon





AROUND THE CLUBS

CONAHY SHAMROCKS



Kilkenney Senior Hurling Manager Brian Cody was a welcome guest to the GAA Club-house early in the year to present last year's successful minor hurlers and under-16 footballers with their respective medals. The minor team is pictured with him along with their management.



Well done to both the under-10's and under-12's who enjoyed a busy season of matches. The highlight for the under-10's was the annual Go Games festival in Nowlan Park while the under-12's performed excellently in a number of various tournaments throughout the county.



BLAST FROM THE PAST – Conahy Shamrocks Under-11 Squad 2004



The annual Street League that concludes the under-age hurling year was once again a great success. Well done to all the participants and to all the coaches who organized and ran the league with such efficiency as always.



AROUND THE CLUBS

DANESFORT



U12 boys pictured before the Clonsilla hurling blitz final in July. Danesfort went all the way to the final in which they were narrowly beaten



Danesfort U12 Camogie Team



The Junior B team had a great campaign reaching the semi-final of the league and the Northern County Final. Unfortunately O'Loughlin Gaels were too strong in the final, but a lot of the young players will gain from the experience of 2014.



2014 was a remarkable year for two Kilkenny hurlers from Danesfort. Paul Murphy continues to improve every year and played a critical role in helping Kilkenny win back the McCarthy cup.

What can we say about Richie Hogan – playing in the position of midfield he was the outstanding hurler all year and it was no surprise to anyone that he was awarded player of the year.

Our seniors were somewhat unlucky in the league but played well in all games. Two draws against Dicksboro and Erins Own and a win against Fenians would normally take you out of relegation zone, but this group was so tight that at the end of it Danesfort were facing Tullaroan in a First Round/Relegation semi-final. With five minutes remaining against Tullaroan, things did not look great. However the team's never say die attitude paid off with two great goals by Paddy and Richie Hogan to bring the match to a replay a week later in John Lockes Park. Danesfort took advantage of the second chance and qualified for the quarter final against Ballyhale Shamrocks. Unfortunately we met Ballyhale on one of those days when they 'could do no wrong' Danesfort will look back at the year happy in that they can build on what they have achieved in their 3 years at senior level and will hope to blood in young of the young talent coming in next year.

Our U-21 team unfortunately fell to Conahy Shamrocks in the first round, who were very impressive. However the club can look forward to 2015 as all of the starting team will be eligible again next year.

As we face in to Christmas, we await the resumption of the Football championship.

Well done to all of the players and management teams who gave so much for their teams and the club in 2014.

OBITUARIES 2014

Anne Marie McCugh, Jim Costigan,
Tommy Dowling, Holly Gorey,
Gerry Dunne, Bernie Tobin, Liam
O'Hanrahan (Dundaryark), Margaret Hoban, Liam
O'Hanrahan (Cuffesgrange),
Breda Dooley, Patrick "Fiacre" Tierney.

Sonás Síoraí dóibh

Danesfort U8 Boys with their Coaches and Mentors. The Danesfort U8 Boys hosted 3 clubs at the Danesfort Parish Field Day - September 2014



Danesfort - U-14 Camogie Feile Champions



AROUND THE CLUBS

DICKSBORO



With over 240 participants our Summer Camp was another huge success. Our photo shows the participants with Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan and Padraic Walsh



Dicksboro Junior 'B' Panel 2014



Our clubhouse in Palmerstown was subject to major refurbishment in 2014 and was officially reopened by County Chairman Mr. Ned Quinn in October



Our stars of tomorrow-Under 12 panel



Dicksboro's All Star, Cillian Buckley pictured with Patsy Dempsey, Seamus Rochford, Liz Holohan, Mick Byrne and Fr. Kieran O'Shea at opening of the new refurbishment to the Dicksboro G.A.A. Club house in Palmerstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



AROUND THE CLUBS

DUNNAMAGGIN



Our U6's played a great series of matches over the year, here they are pictured at a blitz held as part of the Kells Summer Fest in Margaret's field, Kells.



Our Under 12's finished the year strongly with some great performances in the Tullagher and Danesfort blitzes to win both of them.



Our U14 team competed in a newly structured championship this year, in which they performed brilliantly to be eventually crowned Roinn A tier 2 Champions. The picture shows the team with mentors Canice Hickey, Denis Walsh, John Walsh and PJ O'Keeffe.



Dunnamaggin Hurling Club had nine players who played with development squads this year. Ian Walsh featured on the U14A Tony Forrester. We had three players involved in the U14B Sonny Walsh team Robbie McCauley, Adam Fitzpatrick and Darragh O'Keeffe. In U15 action was Luke Fitzpatrick and Rory Lodge. Victor Costello was our representative at U16. While on the U17 squad was Michael Cody and Ronan Coffey. Well done to all the lads.



Dunnamaggin U16 Roinn B Tier Champions



Thank you to Pius Phelan of The Kilford Arms who has come on board to sponsor the Kilmaganny Football team



Our U8's were invited to Croke Park earlier this year to play matches against St Martins of Wexford. There was huge excitement on the bus travelling up and when they got to play on the famous turf. Two wins against the Wexford side was capped off with the customary trip to McDonalds on the way home. Well done to all involved.

Obituary Notes:-

Dunnamaggin GAA club extends its condolences to all club members who suffered bereavement during the past year. We would especially like to remember the following who have passed away through the year. Michael (Mossy) Moore, Joe Moore, Bezie Cahill, Mairead Moran, Maura Davis, Dick O'Keeffe.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad



AROUND THE CLUBS

EMERALDS



**U8 Hurling team with mentors,
Winners of Harps Blitz 2014**



**U16 team who won U16 Roinn B Tier
Hurling Competition 2014**



All our Strictly Come Dancing competitors



Emeralds U10's 2014

Above: All our Strictly Come Dancing competitors. This fundraiser was a great success for the club as it generated a profit of 14,000 euros. Many thanks goes to those 600 people who purchased a ticket and attended the show and to all local businesses who were yet again so generous with their sponsorship. Many thanks also to Kavanagh Travel who were our clubs main sponsor in 2014.

On Right: Our Strictly Come Dancing Judges Derek Lyng, Edward Hayden, Karen Fitzpatrick and Aidan Fogarty. Congratulations to Derek (selector) and Aidan on winning the All Ireland Final with the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team.

Below: U14 team who won the O'Loughlins Division 2 Hurling Tournament 2014, were U14 County League runners up and who represented Kilkenny in Feile na nGael in Derry. Well done to Liam Grant who played on the Kilkenny U14 Hurling team who won the Tony Forristel All Ireland Tournament. All well done to Harry Kavanagh and Enda Kelly who played with the Kilkenny Development squads in 2014.

Top Right: U16 team who won U16 Roinn B Tier Hurling Competition 2014. Well done to Gearoid Troy and Sean Power who played with the Kilkenny U15 & U16 in the All Ireland Tournaments. Well done also to Connor Martin, Brian Troy and Eoin Moriarty (U21) and Padraig Phelan (Intermediate) who represented our club on the County Panels.

Our U10 hurling team were very strong winning several blitzes throughout 2014. They were trained by Adrian Cleere.



Strictly Come Dancing Judging panel



**U14 team winners of O'Loughlins Division 2
Hurling Tournament 2014**

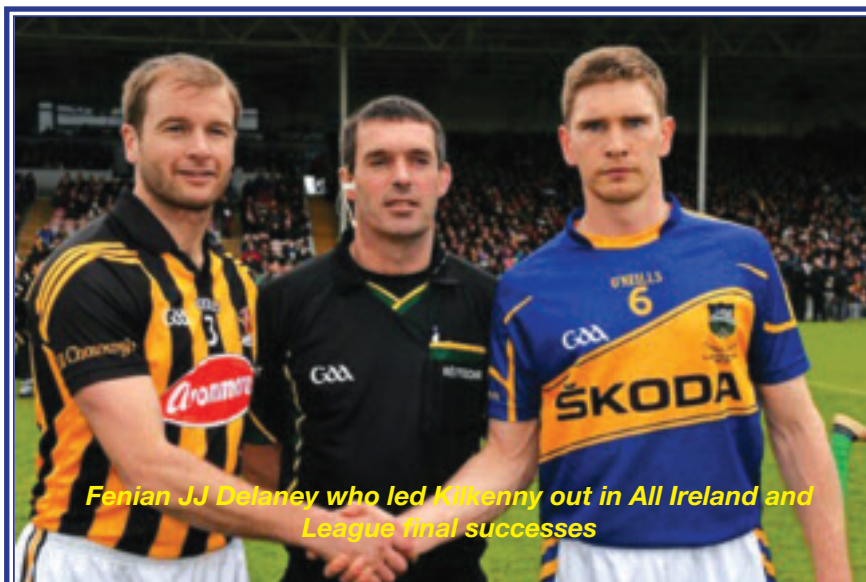


**U13 Emeralds Team Lisdowney
Shield Runners Up 2014**



AROUND THE CLUBS

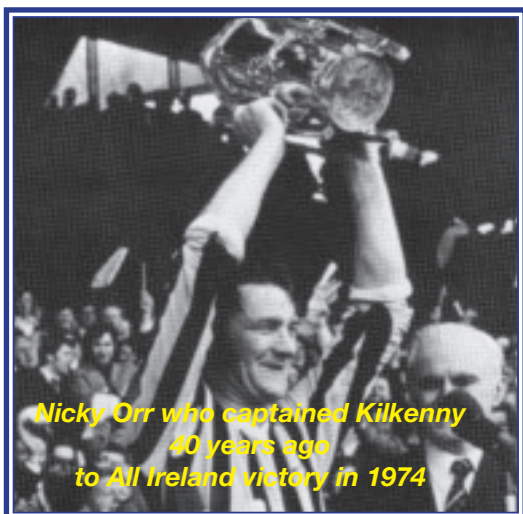
FENIANS



Fenian JJ Delaney who led Kilkenny out in All Ireland and League final successes



Michael Carroll Hurler of the Year in Colaiste Mhuire in 2014, presented with his trophy by Derek Lyng.



Nicky Orr who captained Kilkenny 40 years ago to All Ireland victory in 1974



Fenian referee Eugene Ryan and our groundsman, Tipperary man Paul Webster



Fenians U11's at the final game of a very successful 2014 campaign.



AROUND THE CLUBS

GALMOY



Galmoy Juveniles who drew with Southern Gaels Athlone Co Westmeath in Croke Park in July 2014.



Pictured at the opening of the Lory Meagher Centre in Tullaroan in 1994 were two members of Galmoy's first Junior Championship Winning team in 1949 along with two famous women.

Back: Willie Drennan (R.I.P. 2014) & Rody O'Neill (R.I.P. 2003)
Front: Mary Ring (wife of Christy Ring Cork) & Mrs Mackey (wife of Mick Mackey Limerick)



Above: In 2014 Galmoy had five boys who played on the Kilkenny Development Squads.

Pictured are: Jack Delaney (Kilkenny U-16 B Team), Conor Grace & Oisín Phelan (Kilkenny North U-15s who reached the U-15 final), Patrick Doyle (U-14 Sonny Walsh Team) and Conor Drennan (Victorious U-14 Tony Forristal team).

Right: Galmoy had seven winners in the Kilkenny Hurlers Co-Op Draws in 2014. Pictured are four of the winners.

Back: Sean Doherty & Tom Delaney Front: Alvara Duggan & Kathleen Delaney.
The other three winners were Mrs Brigid Delaney, Liz Breen & Loughlin Delaney



PHOTO OF ALL THE GALMOY HURLERS WHO LINED OUT IN A RETIRED HURLERS GAME ON THE OCTOBER BANK HOLIDAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR GALMOY NS. - OVER €3,500 WAS RAISED.

Back: Tom Nolan (Selector), Joe Ryan (Manager), Kevin Lonergan, Joe Doyle, Cathal Doherty, John Maguire, Gavin Doherty, Pierce Harte, Padraig Tully, Jimmy Duggan, Brendan Delaney, Brian Doherty, Jerry Fogarty, Michael Brennan, Robert Delaney, Tom Delaney (Manager), Jarlath Duggan, Pat Glendon, David Campion, Niall O'Higgins, Shane Doherty & Paul Delaney
Front: Brendan Sherman, Nicky Maddock, Leo Doherty, Jerry Drennan, Jimmy Ryan, Loughlin Delaney, Peter Ryan, Charles Brennan, Liam Drennan, Martin Phelan, Phil Brennan, Tommy Drennan & John Whelan.



AROUND THE CLUBS

GLENMORE



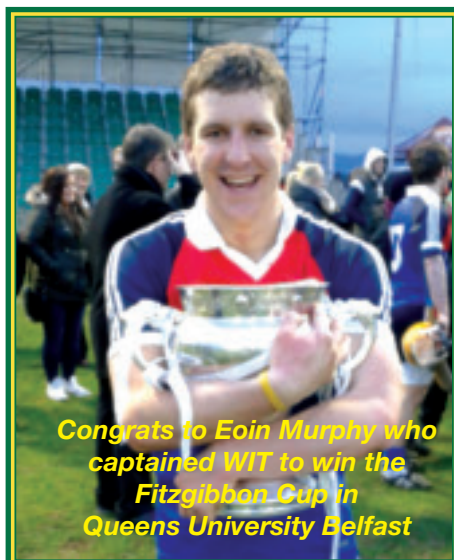
Glenmore - Carlow U12 Blitz Winners



Micky Fitzgerald who turned 90 this year with Liam McCarthy



Glenmore U8's 2014



Congrats to Eoin Murphy who captained WIT to win the Fitzgibbon Cup in Queens University Belfast



Glenmore U6's 2014



Glenmore - New 40/20 Handball Alley opened in 2014

2014 was a successful year for our players involved with Kilkenny teams:-
Eoin Murphy and Ger Alyward on winning Senior All Ireland Final; Alan Murphy, Liam Hennessy and Shane Murphy on winning the Minor All Ireland with Kilkenny.
Glenmore won the Roinn C Primary Schools Final in Nowlan Park. (See Picture in Schools Board Report)
Our adult team will play in the Junior grade in 2015. With a strong will and commitment this team will progress in this grade in the future.



AROUND THE CLUBS

GRAIGNAMANAGH



U8's enjoyed a great trip to Croke Park.



U12's played some great hurling on one of their trips to Wexford.



Training Tops Presented by Physio Matters: A huge thank you to John & Rebecca Flood of "Physio Matters" who sponsored lovely O'Neill's training tops for the full panel of players before the All Co. League final game. This sponsorship was really appreciated by everyone in the Club especially the players John & Rebecca with their children Ali and Abhainn were at the game & they are looking after the Physio end of things for the Club. We wish John & Rebecca the very best of luck with their Physio Practice in Irishtown New Ross.



AROUND THE CLUBS

GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



**U14 County Roinn B Finalists
and Declan Byrne Tournament Cup Finalists.**



**First day of training for a new
batch of hurlers – U6s**



Graigue Ballycallan U12's Go Games



Under 10's



U8's in Croke Park



Under 10's

Obituaries

Graigue-Ballycallan Gaa Club extends its condolences to all associated with the club who suffered bereavement recently. We remember the following, Ned Walton(Vice-President), Paddy Ronan, Mary Marnell, Ann Darcy,Alice O'Keeffe(Ballyfrunk), Paddy Brennan (Drakelands), Liam Comerford, Paddy Moore, Brigid Byrne(Ballykeeffe), Mary McGrath, Patrick Murphy(Corstown), Tom Comerford(Gurteen), Pat O'Dwyer, Jack Murphy, John O'Connor, Nicholas Teehan (Club President),Canon Dick Phelan (Parish Priest and Club Patron), Seamus Murphy, John Purcell (Australia/Ballyfrunk), Mary Dunne . May they rest in peace.

Club Website

This year saw the club launch our new website. This was a new departure for the club and after a lot of hard work from the website committee over the previous winter www.graigueballycallan.ie was launched on registration day. To date it has proven to be an outstanding success with all the club's activities being recorded and thanks goes not only to the committee but also to all those who regularly contribute to keep it up to date and relevant.



AROUND THE CLUBS

JAMES STEPHENS



Officers and Guests at the official Opening: John O'Neill (Bar Treas.), Jimmy Walsh (Co. Sec), Jimmy O'Brien (Trustee), Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Joe Malone, Tom Keane (Treasurer), Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Reidy, John McGuinness TD, Cllr. Sean ÓhÁgáin, Seamus Daly (Secretary), Mayor Martin Brett, Michael Moore (Chair, Development), Liam Tyrrell (Vice-Pres), Liam Ó Neill (Uachtarán CLG), Fr. Dan Carroll PP, Paddy Neary (Vice-Chair), Catherine Neary (Uachtarán Tofa, An Ch. Camogieochta), Phil Hogan (Minister for the Environment), Ned Quinn (Co. Chairman), Val Malone (PRO). photo: Eoin Hennessy.



Lisdowney 7s Champions

James Stephens won The Sweeney Cup, defeating O'Loughlin Gaels 3-7 to 3-3
Included in the photograph: Jamie Reid, Jim Ryan, Jason Butler (capt), Cian Kenny, Cian Russell, Eoin Guilfoyle, Jamie Phelan, Thomas Nugent, Sean McKee, Ben O'Shaughnessy.
On right: Match Officials for the Kilkenny v. Clare game on 18 May. Derrick Brennan, Willie O'Shea, Sean Brennan, Dickie Murphy, Eamonn Larkin, Paddy Shiggins, Michael Walsh.

All-Ireland Winning captains framed presentation from Allen Larkin to Brian Cody, Principal, St. Patrick's DLS. Three All-Ireland captains were former pupils from the De La Salle School - Brian Cody, Eoin Larkin and Jackie Tyrrell.



Our U8 hurlers who played at half time in the Kells Road Official Opening game. Mentors: Mick O'Keeffe, Frank Manogue, Tony Lauhoff, Shane Walsh, Brian Dooley.



AROUND THE CLUBS

JOHN LOCKES



John Lockes u-8 Hurling Team 2014.



Winners of Art Competition at Club Field Day



U12 Camogie Team Co Champions 2014

Below: 2 pictures from this year's Peil Abú finals at John Locke Park.
This is a mixed tournament played like Tag Rugby





AROUND THE CLUBS

KILMACOW



Kilmacow U6 v Roanmore



U18s Playing a Trial of Ground Hurling v Ferrybank at the WIT Campus



U9s at the Johnny Ryan Memorial Blitz



*U8s in Croke Park 2
U8 Croke Park Games
July 2014*



*U10s Shield Winners at the Eamonn O'Donovan
U10 Blitz in Slieverue*



U13s Winners of WCL Div 3 2014

Congratulations to Kilmacow Junior team on winning the 2014 Southern JH Championship, beating Piltown 0-22 to 0-15 in the final.
See photo in County Junior Hurling report



AROUND THE CLUBS

LISDOWNNEY



Luke Campions Parish Sevens winning team



The Lisdownney panel gather in Gathabawn before they set off on the Intermediate season



Lisdownney team, subs & supporters (Inter. Shield)



Blast from the past 1990 U13 County Finalists



The Lisdownney team that won the 2003 Lisdownney Sevens Supporters Club Shield



AROUND THE CLUBS

MOONCOIN



*Colm Walsh winner of Hurlers
Co Op Draw*



Retired players return for match at Fun Day



2014 New Beginners



*Eoin Doyle 2014 main sponsor of
Mooncoin GAA*



*Start line of 1st Mooncoin GAA
Fun Run*



Michael Rice with the U12 team at the Fun Day



AROUND THE CLUBS

MUCKALEE GFC



The club had a good year in 2014 with the senior football team winning its third Senior League championship in succession and also reached its sixth senior county football final in a row.

The team was successful in the league with a good performance against the Railyard in the final and won on a scoreline of Muckalee 2 - 09 to Railyard 1 - 06.

Further details of match reports on league and championship are available on the St Martin's website (Football Section).

The quarter final of the championship was our first outing and a win was secured over Ballyragget by 0-12 to 0-05. The semi final was played against Mooncoin and we were again successful on a scoreline 1-08 to 0-06 and thus the club qualified for its Sixth senior county final in a row.

The final was played against The Railyard on 5th July 2014 and after a very close game our great rivals the Railyard won on a scoreline of Railyard 1 - 05 to Muckalee 1 - 04.

The junior football team competed well in its four matches in the league but they lost the first round of the championship with Railyard on 15th March 2014..

Great praise must be given to the players, team management, club officers and committee which resulted in the most successful playing period in the history of the club and we look forward to further success over the coming years.

Many thanks to our team sponsor Mr Jim Bolger and all those that helped the club in any way during the year.

Club Development

The are plans to install lighting around the walking track at the pitch in Muckalee and this project will commence once planning permission is secure. This facility will help all age groups in the parish become more fit and healthy as this will allow the track to be used on a constant basis throughout the year.

Bereavements

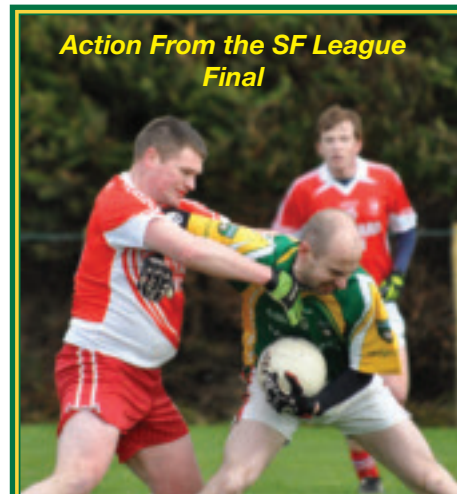
The club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year.



Muckalee - County Senior Football League Champions 2014



Tom Brennan Football Board Chairman presents Muckalee Captain, Ollie Walsh with the SF League Trophy.



Action From the SF League Final



Muckalee Senior Football Champions 1968 - Their First Senior Title

Back: Rev Martin Ryan, Tom Ryan, Eamon Morrissey, Billy Byrne, Sean Brennan, Willie Lawlor, Shem Lawlor, Niall Morrissey, Tom Maher, Paddy Byrne, Martin Morrissey, Jimmy Coogan, Neddy Coogan.

Front: Mick Lawlor, Tom Daly, Pat Comerford, Murty Coonan, Eamon Morrissey, Brendan Morrissey, Nicky Morrissey Abban Quinn, Bernie Somers, Jimmy Kelly, Mikey Morrissey.
Inset: Ralph Hunt (Chairman) John Ryan (Injured), Rev Patsy Foley (Left for African Missions)



AROUND THE CLUBS

MULLINAVAT



Mullinavat Intermediate team in Shielbaggan Co. Wexford



Pat O'Doherty, ESB Chief Executive, presents John Walsh from Kilkenny with the Electric Ireland Man of the Match award for his outstanding performance in GAA Hurling All Ireland Minor Championship Final.
Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Mullinavat U9's 2014

'Vat Captain Willie O'Dwyer with his mother, Mary, after the Co IH Final (Paddy's Pics)



Mullinavat U10's 2014



*Mullinavat Roinn A U21 Champions 2013
The final was played after the yearbook was published last year.*



AROUND THE CLUBS

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



Champions League: The OLG seniors won the S.H.L. for the first time in our history in a tight, tense encounter on an unseasonably warm November day, in Thomastown. The Rower Instioge proved stiff opposition in an entertaining game, which OLG won by a scoreline of 1-18 to 2-13. OLG would like to congratulate the players and thank the management team of: Aidan Fogarty, Colin Furlong, Nigel Skehan and Dinny Tyrrell.



Niall Bergin Capt, O'Loughlins receives the SH League cup from Conor Donleiffe, Vice Chairman CLG



Shane O'Mahoney Capt, O'Loughlins U16's receives the cup from Willie Dempsey, Chairman B na nÓg



Some of our Juveniles get into the swing for the St Patrick's Day Parade.



Junior B Champions: OLG captured the Junior B Championship in August after a titanic battle against Graiguea-managh after extra time. The final score was OLG 1 - 20, Graiguea-managh 1-18. Evan Walsh bagged the match-winning last minute goal. OLG would like to congratulate the players and thank the management team of: Davy Ward, John Joe Cullen, Michael Lambert, Gerry Buckley and Seanie Tyrrell.

Minor Team win Roinn A final: OLG would like to congratulate our minor players and the management team of Michael Holohan, Martin Comerford, Jimmy Comerford and Niall Bergin. The match was played in Nowlan Park on Sun 16th Nov v Dicksboro. This completed a great treble for the club, sweeping U14, U16 and Minor titles.

U16 Roinn A County Champions: In October, our U16's turned in a devastating display against Dicksboro to win the Roinn A Championship. OLG would like to congratulate the players and thank the management team of Brian Dowling, James O'Keeffe, Kevin Cleere and Paul Phelan.

U14 Roinn A league and Championship Double: In October our U14's rounded off a league and championship double by defeating Erin's Own comprehensively in the County final. OLG would like to congratulate the players and thank the management team of Maurice Nolan, Michael Nolan, Sheamie Cummins, Bryan Skehan and Brian Kelly.

OLG Ethos: O'Loughlin Gaels GAA club was founded in 1969 and proudly represents St John's Parish, Johnswell and Dunmore. Our club has distinguished itself in the sports of Hurling, Camogie and Handball. We also boast thriving juvenile sections for both boys and girls. As a city based club, we have all the benefits that our location brings – ease of access etc. We pride ourselves on being a family based, inclusive club. We welcome new members and pledge to treat all equally, regardless of age, ability, gender or background.



OLG in association with Kilkenny Special Olympics ran a very successful fundraiser on 18th May in the Club gym. the monies raised went towards the Kilkenny members of the Team Leinster Special Olympic Squad, who competed in the All-Ireland Games in Limerick in June.

OLG would like to send a special thank you to our sponsors for their continued support throughout the year.





AROUND THE CLUBS

PILTOWN



2014 U-6 team



Declan Duggan & Oran Brophy - members of the 2014 winning Kilkenny U-14 Tony Forristal team.



Conor Friend, runner up of the U-16 Poc Fada County Final & Kevin Walsh, winner, Senior Poc Fada County Final & Kilkenny County Representative & 5th place finisher at the All-Ireland Poc Fada Final.



2014 U-8 team



2014 U-12 team



2014 U-10 team

OBITUARIES

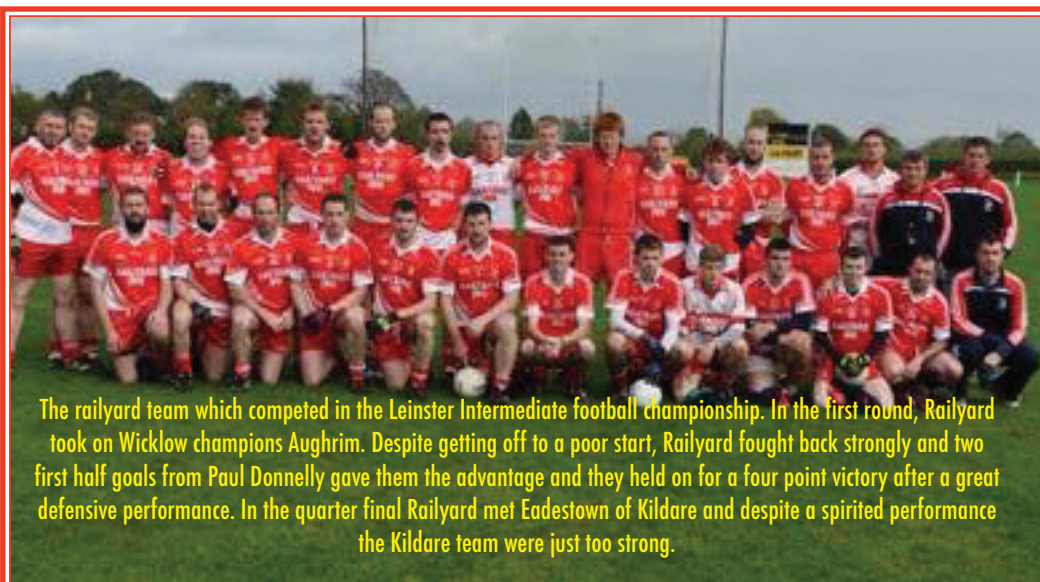
Jim Commins, Banagher, Piltown
John Talbot, Clonmore Hall, Piltown
David Scathill, Main Street, Piltown
Chris Hanrahan, Garnarea, Whitechurch, Piltown

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad

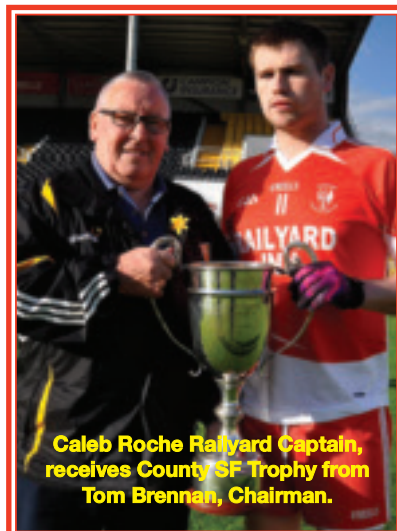


AROUND THE CLUBS

RAILYARD GFC



The Railyard team which competed in the Leinster Intermediate football championship. In the first round, Railyard took on Wicklow champions Aughrim. Despite getting off to a poor start, Railyard fought back strongly and two first half goals from Paul Donnelly gave them the advantage and they held on for a four point victory after a great defensive performance. In the quarter final Railyard met Eadestown of Kildare and despite a spirited performance the Kildare team were just too strong.



Caleb Roche Railyard Captain, receives County SF Trophy from Tom Brennan, Chairman.



Railyard U-16 team who won the county final after defeating Young Irelands in the final.



Action from SF League Final.



Liam Aylward MEP



Wishes friends, supporters and constituents a very happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year

Congratulations again to the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team and Ballyhale Shamrocks on a very successful year and to Henry on his outstanding achievement of 10 All-Irelands

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Website: www.Liamaylward.com

Address: Aghaviller, Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny



AROUND THE CLUBS

BOWER INISTIOGE



Bolger Sisters, Claire, Regina, Criona and Anne Bolger taking part in the November Table Quiz.



Michael Lyng, DJ Carey, Eddie Keher, Paschal Bolger, Noel Skehan and Michael O Muirheartaigh enjoy the Annual Golf Classic.



The RTE Man Of the Match award awarded to Kieran Joyce for his brilliant display in the All Ireland replay.



Club Members who won All Ireland Medals at various grades with the Liam McCarthy Cup at the Club Breakfast Morning,



Neil Lyng receiving a Cheque of €1,000 as one of the Winners in the Monthly Development Draw.



Pat & Joan Cummins & Family enjoying the Club Breakfast Morning.



Under 8 Team with Mick Grace, Richie Leahy, Pat Lyng & Darragh Joyce at this year's Luke Roche Memorial Tournament



AROUND THE CLUBS

SLIEVERUE



Our U10 Team took part again this year in the Annual Eamonn O'Donovan Tournament. Tullogher Rosbercon won the Cup while Kiimacow won the Shield. We had a very young team this year but they will bounce back next year and are determined to win the Cup back..



The Club was delighted that Eoin Kenny won a Minor Hurling All Ireland with Kilkenny in 2014.



The U11 team which took part in the Waterford City league



Our U14 team reached the League Final where they were defeated by Windgap. Also made the Semi-Final of the Championship this year. It was a good year for this team and hopefully some silverware will come their way very soon.



Our U16 team enjoyed great success in the Summer League this year and came away with victory over Barrow Rangers in the Final. It really helped this team to progress to win the Minor County Final also. Fantastic effort by the whole panel during the year.

County Final Referee

The club was delighted that Gavin Quilty was appointed to referee the Senior County Final this year. It was a great achievement for Gavin to have been appointed to his second final in three years.



Club Chairman Ger Frisby with Betty and Eddie Rockett, Mary Rockett club Secretary and David Purcell after the erection of the new electronic scoreboard at Slieverue GAA Grounds kindly sponsored by Eddie Rockett Engineering and Slieverue Tyres. Fantastic addition to have in operation in the GAA field during matches.



AROUND THE CLUBS

ST FIACHRA'S



Minor game v Lisdowney



*U14 Hurling Competition Final
v St Pat's, Ballyragget*



U16 v Tullogher Rosbercon

*Congratulations to
Graig/Skeough Schools
team on their great vic-
tory in the Tommy
O'Brien Cup Final over
Carrickshock on a score-
line of:*

*Graig/Skeough 2-11,
Carrickshock 1-9.*

*For photo of this team,
see*

*Cumann na
mBunscoileanna
article.*

For

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AROUND THE CLUBS

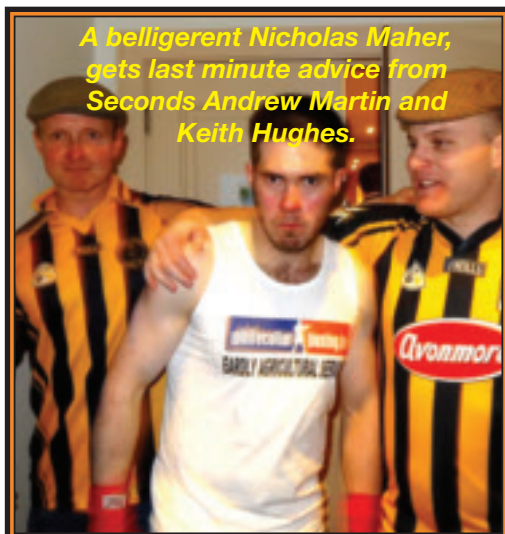
ST LACHTAIN'S



St Lachtain's Boxing Team at the Fight Night with St Pat's, Ballyragget.



Jimmy Meagher, Brian Kennedy and Darren Brennan visit the Hall with Minor & Senior Cups.



A belligerent Nicholas Maher, gets last minute advice from Seconds Andrew Martin and Keith Hughes.



Group in the Hall greeting Liam McCarthy and the Irish Press Cup.

The St Lachtains Junior Hurling team that played Galmoy in the Northern Junior Championship in Harrisons in 1963. Galmoy won, and went onto beat the Rower-Inistioge in the County Final. The Rower-Inistioge objected, a replay was ordered, and Galmoy lost the replay.

Back: Billy Walsh, Mickie Dowling, Den Maher, Tommy Butler, Bobby Co-clough, Billy Dalton, Denny Lennon, Tom Cleere, Bill Crosby, Jimmy "Crowley" Brennan
Front: Jack Egan, Michael Teehan, Paddy Butler, John Minogue, Mick Maher, Eamonn Dunne, Teddy Ryan.

Photo taken in Harrisons.





AROUND THE CLUBS

ST MARTIN'S



U.10's with Team Mentors taking part in the Fr. Delaney Cup which was played in Coon on 16th Aug



Development work in Coon included a new training area (pictured above) along with new entrance.



U. 8's team who were the star attraction of the Bord na nÓg field day held in Muckalee. They played Clara and O'Loughlin's in a mini blitz.



U14 Roinn "C" Champions 1982



**St. Martin's
All-Ireland SH Club
Champions 1985.**

Back: Richard Maloney,
John Moran, Michael
Maher, Jim Moran, Patsy
Moran, John Morrissey,
Tom Moran, Tony Maher.
Front: Jack Morrissey,
Bobby Shore, J.J. Dowling,
Paddy Lawlor, Johnny
Brennan, Jimmy Kelly,
Danny Coonan,
Tom Walsh.

*St. Martin's Hurling Club would like to offer sincere sympathy to all those who have been bereaved in 2014.
Ar dheis de go raibh siad.*



AROUND THE CLUBS

ST PATRICK'S



St Pats - 60 Years
Ger Butler (Club PRO) , Philip Kenny (Club Chairman), Michael Devane (Faughs Chairman)

St. Patrick's GAA celebrated their diamond jubilee (60 years of hurling) on the week ending 30 May 2014 - Club held a weekend of events to mark the occasion, with a large turnout from club members and supporters over the festivities.



St. Patrick's GAA Street League 2014
With the first ever "Catherine Carroll Memorial Cup".

The cup name this year after local business woman Catherine Carroll after her passing this year. Catherine had a great involvement with the youth of the club and town for many years.
 Back: Martin Walsh, John Carroll, Bridie Walsh, Geoff Brennan, Joe Brennan.
 Middle & Front rows: Winning Team of the 2014 Street League.



Battle of the Saints: St. Patrick's GAA v St. Lachtains GAA (Freshford). (1 March 2014)

Joint club fundraiser. Which saw both clubs undertake boxing training, together for up to eight weeks before the fight night on the 1st of March in Newpark Hotel.
 Pictured: Everyone involved in the organisation/participation, from both clubs - Fighters, Boxing Committees, Trainers.



Overview of clubhouse/current field.
New field development in background.

St. Patrick's GAA is currently developing their second field at the club grounds, progress is going well and hope to have it ready for use in the later stages of next year.



St. Patrick's GAA Flashback photo. Since the club turn 60 this year, this is a photo of the 1955 hurling team. one of the first teams within the club.



AROUND THE CLUBS

THOMASTOWN



Section of the crowd at the American Tea Party in Grennan College in May.



Chairman Sean Treacy and Secretary Richard Moore at our annual golf classic held in Mount Juliet in May with a team which included Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh and Eddie Keher.



Our U16s pictured after winning the Jim Reid Memorial Shield in Piltown last March



Our U14s had a very successful year this year in both hurling and football grades. They represented the County in both the football Féile held in Connaught and the hurling Féile held in Kilkenny. They also put in a great display and held their own in u14 Roinn A hurling competition in Kilkenny. The photo shows the Féile Football boys who were hosted by Coolaney Mullinabreena of Sligo in June 2014



AROUND THE CLUBS

THREecastLES



Threecastles Junior B Team 2014.



Kids Race from 2014 Field Day



Threecastles Field Day Sack Race.



Action shot from the Veterans Match



Veterans team which took part in an exhibition match at the Field Day



AROUND THE CLUBS

TULLAROAN



Kilmanagh Tournament U8 team



*Tullaroan
Lisdowney Sevens Team 2014*



Tullaroan team that took part in Callan tournament



Tullaroan U8 team



U6 team 2014 who played St Lachteins in a challenge game.



Tullaroan men prior to departing on sponsored cycle to Tullamore to raise funds for Tullaroan GAA Club.



AROUND THE CLUBS



TULLOGHER ROSBERCON



U10's at the Slieverue Tournament



U13's at the Lisdowney 7's



U14s at O'Loughlins Tournament



*New Astro Turf at the
Hurling Wall*



U14's at the Croke Park Tour



U10's at the Slieverue Tournament

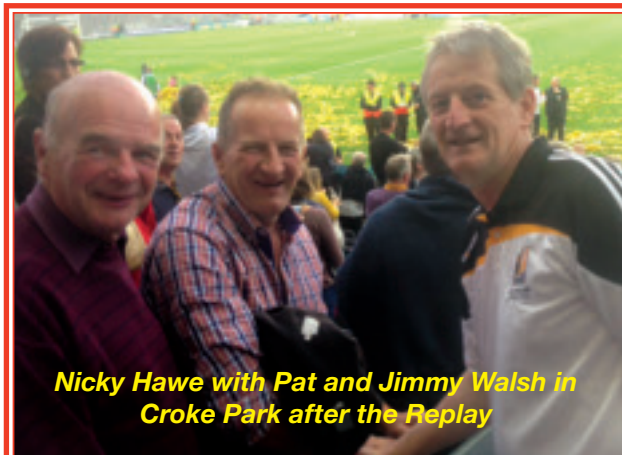


AROUND THE CLUBS

WINDGAP



Windgap U8 Roanmore Blitz Team



Nicky Hawe with Pat and Jimmy Walsh in Croke Park after the Replay



Windgap U9 Roanmore Blitz Team



Windgap School Staff meet TJ and Niall



TJ Reid and Niall Walsh on their visit to Windgap National School with the McCarthy and Irish Press Cups



AROUND THE CLUBS

YOUNG IRELANDS



Young Ireland U10's in Ballyhale 2014



A great day out was enjoyed by all who attended our Family Fun Day including this lucky winner of the autographed Kilkenny jersey



Young Ireland U12's in Danesfort 2014



Eamon Doherty, Slieverue was the lucky first prize winner in the Monster Draw in aid of our new Club Development. The widespread support received for the draw was much appreciated.



1964 County Junior Champions

Back: Paddy Loughlin (Mentor), Ollie Byrne, Paddy Comerford, Dick Moylan, Tom Carroll, Brendan Phelan, James Byrne, Dick Roche, Lar Gibbons, Andy Comerford, Martin Murphy (Capt), Jimmy Byrne, Minie Kennedy (Mentor).

Front: Martin Kennedy, Michael Drennan, Pat Drennan, Seán Kelly, Michael Comerford, Terry Brennan, Tommy Murphy, Podge McCarthy, Pat Roche, Larry Dwyer.

Kilkenny's 2014 All Stars



KILKENNY ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS 2014

Kilkenny players, from left, Richie Hogan, Paul Murphy, Cillian Buckley, Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid and JJ Delaney with their 2014 GAA GPA All-Star awards at the 2014 GAA GPA All-Star Awards Ceremony.

Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

CAMOGIE ALL STARS FOR 2014

Goalkeeper

Aoife Murray (Cork)

Backs

Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork)
Máire McGrath (Clare)
Sarah Dervan (Galway)
Eimear O'Sullivan (Cork)
Gemma O'Connor (Cork)
Collette Dormer (Kilkenny)

Midfield

Rena Buckley (Cork)
Anne Dalton (Kilkenny)

Forwards

Jennifer O'Leary (Cork)
Orla Cotter (Cork)
Brieger Corkery (Cork)
Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny)
Ursula Jacob (Wexford)
Katriona Mackey (Cork)



24 October 2014; Kilkenny hurler Richie Hogan 2014 GAA GPA All-Star Hurler of the Year award at the 2014 GAA GPA All-Star Awards, sponsored by Opel. Convention Centre, Dublin. Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

GAA/GPA HURLING TEAM OF THE YEAR 2014

Goalkeeper

1. Darren Gleeson (Tipperary)

Full-Backs:

2. Paul Murphy (Kilkenny)
3. JJ Delaney (Kilkenny)
4. Stephen Hickey (Limerick)

Half backs

5. Brendan Maher (Tipperary)
6. Pádraig Maher (Tipperary)
7. Cillian Buckley (Kilkenny)

Midfielders

8. Richie Hogan (Kilkenny)
9. Shane McGrath (Tipperary)

Half forwards

10. John O'Dwyer (Tipperary)
11. Patrick Maher (Tipperary)
12. TJ Reid (Kilkenny)

Full forwards

13. Colin Fennelly (Kilkenny)
14. Seamus Callanan (Tipperary)
15. Shane Dowling (Limerick)

Obituaries



Laz Breen

Laz Breen, a native of Ballymurphy, Co. Carlow came to Goresbridge in August 1949 as a 16 year old to take up work at Connolly's Red Mills. His working days also took in a spell at the local creamery. For a while he opened a shop himself selling toys and bicycles before ending up where it all started back at the Mill. Laz was a lover of hurling and a lifelong Kilkenny Supporter. In 1970 he was a founding member of what was then Paulstown/Goresbridge Juvenile Hurling Club and would act as a Secretary/Treasurer for many years.

In 1977 the Club won its first County Title with success in the under 16 Roinn C Hurling League. It was the juvenile game where his heart really lay and he was happiest at what he termed as "chap's matches". On the 15th May he passed away.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam.



Mick Carroll

WE OFTEN said we would have to be bury him under the goalposts" - these words by his family at his funeral Mass go some way to capturing the spirit and lifelong commitment to the GAA of the late Mick Carroll, former Chairman of Mullinavat GAA Club and long serving member of Kilkenny County Board, who went to his eternal reward at the conclusion of the Mullinavat versus Dun-namaggin Intermediate Hurling league game which was played in Mooncoin recently.

Mick was first and foremost a family man. He loved his family unequivocally and selflessly. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and

brother, he was especially happy when surrounded by his family, even during those inevitable tough times that life has a way of throwing at you.

As a young man, Mick was an exceptionally talented hurler. Unfortunately, in his late teenage years and with inter-county recognition beckoning, he was struck down with polio, which succeeded in ending his playing career but never affected his desire to be involved in the activities of his local club, as well as at County Board level, and his contribution to both during the fifty years that followed fully entitle him to be numbered amongst the pantheon of outstanding GAA men. There are those amongst the attendance here today who know far more than I do about the immense contribution that Mick has made to the Mullinavat club at every level. His tireless work as a club officer, as a fundraiser, as a gate collector at all games held in the local GAA grounds, as a friend and confidante to young and old alike. The list goes on. Perhaps his greatest contribution was as a team mentor with both the hurling and camogie teams in the club. He got immense pleasure and enjoyment from seeing young players he had worked with come through to play with the club's top teams in both codes and even greater pleasure from seeing them go on to wear our county's famous Black and Amber jersey. It is agreed by all who knew him that the achievement of last year's Under-21 team in winning the club's first ever 'A' County title in the grade and his role as a selector with them was a source of particular pride to him.

Mick has been his club's delegate to Kilkenny County Board over a long number of years. In keeping with his approach to all positions he has held, he took his duties and responsibilities as a member of our County Board very seriously, never missing a meeting, while his knowledge and experience of the workings of the Board together with his positive approach to all that the Board was trying achieve was of immense value to the Officers of the day. Big match days in Nowlan Park would see him amongst the first to report for duty and he was ever willing to take up his position at the turnstiles, even though he knew this would mean missing at least half of the game being played. The only exception to this would be the day that his beloved Mullinavat would be in action.

Mick is now interned in the soil of the parish he served so well but his spirit will live on in the local GAA field there, in Nowlan Park, and in the many GAA fields that he was so familiar with throughout our county and country and I have no doubt that in each of these he will be remembered with pride by all who came in contact with him. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dills. Ni bheidh a leithéid arís ann. Beir bua agus beannacht ar don turas go dtí ar dTiarna

Éamon Ó Coinn,
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh



John J Dunleavy
1932 - 2014

For the past 24 years I would receive a letter, and a cheque from a man I never met, but over the years I felt I knew. His name was John Dunleavy, born in Paulstown where his Dad was the local Garda Sergeant. His letter included commentary about the Kilkenny hurling year, their prospects etc. It also included six addresses to where Yearbooks should be sent. They included his four brothers, and a great lady called Maureen Butler who is in her mid- 90s, and still hale and hearty in a Nursing Home in New Ross. John's four brothers - Brendan, Dermot, Pat, Denis, and were all deeply interested in Kilkenny hurling. Dermot played with the Boro club, and the Kilkenny Minor team in the early fifties. They all had a tremendous grá for the GAA. John finished his Secondary education in St.Brendans in Killarney, before going onto Maynooth, where he acquired a First Class Honours Degree. From there he obtained a first in his master Degree in Latin, English, and greek studies. He progressed to teach Latin and English in the iconic Belvedere College. He was a student of literature, poetry and linguistics, but through his outstanding teaching career, his love for his native Kilkenny and its hurlers never waned. He was a studious aficionado of all things Kilkenny hurling as his scrapbook collection bore witness. He was Chairman of the famed Kilmacud Crokes Club from 1971-1975. His brother Denis was Chairman of the Dublin Kilkenny Supporters Club. John himself was a more than passing activist in the movement. John passed away on February 6th, and as his daughter Sarah told us, "he may not have survived the two All- Ireland games, but I would dearly love to have seen his face when young Ryan raised the cup and spoke such eloquent Irish".

John Deleavy was a decent, friendly man on every occasion he made contact to organise his "paper round" with our Yearbook.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Editor



Kevin Dowling 1936 - 2014

Kevin Dowling, late of 5 Park View Drive, Kilkenny, who died on Jan 16th, was born in 1936 to Tom and Mary Dowling, 7 Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny. He first attended school at The Lake and St John's Boys National Schools before going on to Kilkenny CBS Secondary School.

Kevin started his working life as a clerk in Smithwicks Brewery in the 1950s before becoming a psychiatric nurse and worked in St Canice's hospital until the early seventies. He then joined the Probation and Welfare Service where he had a distinguished career as a Probation Officer, ending his career in 2000.

Kevin was a keen sportsman, excelling at both hurling and handball. He represented his school at all age levels, captaining Kilkenny CBS to a Leinster Colleges final victory in the fifties. He was a lifelong member of Dicksboro GAA club and represented the 'Boro at all levels, winning among other honours, two County Minor Hurling titles in 1952 and '53. In 1954 he captained the Kilkenny minor hurling team defeated by Dublin in the Leinster final. For many years after playing, he continued his involvement in the 'Boro as a mentor to several underage teams and remained a devoted supporter up until his death.

As a talented handballer and basketballer, Kevin won County titles at various grades and was an active handballer into his forties.

Kevin was the quintessential Kilkenny man and followed the Kilkenny hurling team far and wide over the years, in good times and in bad, always enjoying the company of both family and friends in doing so. He married Frances Conroy in September 1960 and was a devoted family man. In recent years he dedicated his time to his beloved fourteen grandchildren. A familiar face around town, he was a regular sight on his morning chores. With a word for everyone, and a discussion on a match or the weather, he was a welcome face in many of his regular haunts.

In his retirement Kevin enjoyed the simple things in life, walking his dogs, going to matches and doing various chores around the house. He also found great enjoyment, in his later years, in learning to play the saxophone, under the tutelage of his brother Joe, and achieved a degree of proficiency consistent with his family's distinguished musical background.

The large crowd who turned up to say a final goodbye to Kevin was a testament to his great popularity and he will be missed by many. Affable and courteous, the word "gentleman" was on the lips of all who attended his funeral. His pleasant persona and kind nature endeared him to all and was enjoyed not only by his family, but by all who met him. He was indeed a true Christian gentleman.

Solas na bhFlaitheas ar a anam dílis.



Joe English

On the 16th July after a long illness Joe English, another of the founding members of Paulstown/Goresbridge Juvenile Club, slipped away. Joe was its chairman for several years and was known to his close friends as "The Chairman". Originally from Barracore outside Goresbridge, Joe moved to England for a while in the early fifties before returning to Goresbridge where he began driving a lorry for Kellymount Quarries. Joe, Laz Breen and Paddy Doyle travelled the County and Country for hurling matches. All three have now departed to follow the slíotar elsewhere.

Solas na bhFlaitheas air



Kitty Blanchfield

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Blanchfield Family on the sudden death of Kitty R.I.P.

There was great shock and sadness as the news broke throughout the community of Graignamanagh that one of our most loyal supporters was gone from us. Kitty, along with her husband Lenny travelled the length and breadth of the County and further afield to support Graignamanagh teams with whom her three sons Willie, Matt and Leonard played and indeed Leonard is a current player. Kitty also got great

enjoyment watching her grandsons and granddaughters playing with Graignamanagh, Bennettsbridge & Barrow Rangers Clubs. Her support of GAA did not stop at Club level as she was a staunch supporter of Kilkenny hurling teams. Kitty would have been very proud of her grandson Liam Blanchfield who won an All Ireland Minor medal with Kilkenny in September. It was a fitting tribute for her contribution to the GAA that County Board Officers Ned Quinn, Jimmy Walsh & Barry Hickey came to pay their respects to the family. The esteem she was held in was very evident at her funeral as over 100 members of Graignamanagh GAA, Barrow Rangers GAA and The Bridge Club lined the route in a Guard of Honour from the Church to the Graveyard. A fitting send off for a wonderful lady who will be greatly missed from the playing fields of Graignamanagh and Kilkenny. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam .



Liam "Red Willie" Walsh

We extend our sympathy to the Walsh Family, Tinnahinch on the passing of Liam Walsh R.I.P. A man who adorned the hurling fields of Ireland for over two decades went to his final resting place last week as Liam "Red Willie" Walsh or "The Red Lad" as he was sometime known, crossed the bridge of Graignamanagh for the last time and was laid to rest in St. Michaels Cemetery.

A hurler of consummate skill, Liam's scoring feats were legendary. After a famous intermediate victory against Cork the following was penned, "Like Dick Turpin on Black Bess he plundered our territory and try as they might the Cork defenders couldn't tie this red-headed highway man down." Liam was a marked man throughout his career but he seemed to revel in this as he scored almost at will helping St. Mullins to several Carlow Senior Titles. Liamy became the first Carlow man to play for Leinster in the Railway Cup, amongst such luminaries as Eddie Keher, Tom Walsh and Phil Wilson.

It was Graig's good fortune that Liam came to live in High Street in the mid 70's and he helped the Club to their first Intermediate County title in 1976 scoring eight points in the final against Dicksboro.

Liam moved back to Tinnahinch in the late 70's and ended his hurling career where it began, with St. Mullins.

May his soul rest in peace.



Jerry Dunne 1927 - 2014

Jerry Dunne passed away on 12th March 2014. Jerry was born on the 10th March 1927 in Raheenduff, Cuffesgrange. He moved to Tullaroan at a young age and farmed there all his life. Jerry played hurling with Tullaroan and was a member of the victorious 1958 team.

Jerry was a true gentleman, loving husband, devoted father and grandfather. A guard of honour was formed at the removal of his remains by members and players of Tullaroan GAA Club of which he would have been very proud. He is sadly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Danny Norton

Danny Norton of Liss, Tullaroan and formerly Graine, Urlingford passed away on the 4th August 2014.

Danny was of a very quiet disposition and a great husband and father. He had a lifelong interest in greyhounds and produced many winners over the years. He liked both coursing and track racing and was very well known throughout the greyhound industry.

Sheep-shearing was another of Danny's many talents and with his son Tommy worked all over Kilkenny, Tipperary and Laois.

From the time he moved to Tullaroan, Danny got involved in the local hurling club and helped out with underage teams for many years. Along with his wife Ellen, Danny would be seen at all Tullaroan matches from underage to senior and also followed all Kilkenny teams.

A large guard of honour was formed by Tullaroan GAA Club at the removal of his remains.

Danny is survived by his wife Ellen, sons John, Michael, Tommy, Joe, Paul, PJ, Donal, Jimmy and Vincent. daughters Statia, Ellen, Mary and Catherine.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Mary Moore

The sudden passing of one of Kilkennys finest singers, Mary Moore (Liss, Tullaroan) on the 7th June 2014 left the parish of Tullaroan stunned. Mary's wonderful singing marked almost all occasions in the parish, both happy and sad. Mary could put across a traditional Irish song, a Jazz number, a Blues tune, a Big song and all of them in a natural and totally effortless way.

The attendance at her home and at her Funeral bore testament to the great singer she was, and to the enormous popularity of Mary amongst her many friends. It was also very much testament to the beautiful, caring, obliging, easy-going, helpful person that she was.

A guard of honour was performed at her funeral by members of Tullaroan Hurling Club and her work colleagues.

She will be sadly missed by her loving family, especially her three sons Michael, Alan and Shane and her mother Bet.

Suaimhneas Síoraí di.



Catherine (Kitty) Walsh

On the 7th of May 2014 the parish of Tullaroan was in mourning as Catherine (Kitty) Walsh was laid to rest in Tullaroan graveyard. Catherine was the wife of Chris Walsh, former hurler and president of Tullaroan G.A.A. club. Kitty was a great supporter of everything Chris did, not only in his G.A.A. activities but in his business career as well. Chris and Kitty ran a very successful business in Tullaroan village. A most unassuming and welcoming person, Kitty always did things in her own quiet way. Never one to seek the limelight she preferred her role as shopkeeper meeting the locals daily and expressing a personal interest in local activities. Kitty was a member of the Moore family, Oldtown and carried the musical talents of that family right through her life. An accomplished singer and musician, she always enjoyed a good musical gathering whether

amongst family, friends or visitors. Kitty passed away in her 90th year, and the huge crowds who attended her funeral, bore testimony to the high regard in which she was held. A guard of honour comprising of members of the G.A.A. club and the county board accompanied the hearse as it went on its final journey. At the service, Kitty was remembered for her generosity, her kind and helping nature, and above all, her welcome to her home, regardless of what time of the day or night it was.

Kitty is lovingly remembered by her children; Esther, Angela, Dick, Jimmy, Claire, Joe, Noel, Geraldine and Ann, her brother Milo and her sisters Josie and Nancy and her extended family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dilis.



Dick O'Keeffe

The unexpected and untimely death of Dick O'Keeffe, Kilree occurred in November. Dick was a very committed member of Dummamaggin GAA club for which he hurled with for many a year. Dick served on many committees and held many officer positions during his life. He was a dedicated fundraiser for the club through his selling of the weekly lotto and the Annual Piltown tickets, which he undertook with little fuss. Dick was a dedicated follower and supporter of Kilkenny GAA and was to be seen frequently in Nowlan Park where he acted as Steward on all the big match days. He will be sadly missed. May he rest in Peace.



Nicholas Teehan

The death of Nicholas Teehan, Shipton House, Kilmanagh, saw the parish and Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club lose one of its most valued and respected members. Nicholas had held the position of Club President.

As a player and mentor, he had a long association with the club. For nearly fifty years he provided a playing field to the club before the new grounds were purchased and developed. He was a selector with the Kilkenny teams that won All-Ireland

Junior titles in 1986 and 1988.

Farming was his livelihood but in his free time he enjoyed attending hurling and Gaelic football games and horse-racing, all in the company of his wife Statia.

He is also survived by his sons John, Edward and Nicholas, daughters Helena, Bridget, Mary and Nicola and grandchildren.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Peter Doyle 1936 – 2014

The death occurred of Peter Doyle, Luffany, Mooncoin on 15th January 2014. The 78 year old had a life long association with the GAA and he was an authority on the game. He played in the forward line for Mooncoin and won a Kilkenny Junior Championship with them in 1961 beating Coon in the final.

He was vice-president of the club at the time of his death and was steeped in its history and tradition.

He farmed all his life at Luffany and was great vegetable grower and immersed himself in all types of farming.

Peter was a giant in ploughing terms and represented Ireland four times at the world championships, coming third in Spain to take bronze. He won many county senior titles and represented Kilkenny many times.

Although he never won a senior All Ireland title, he was runner up on a number of occasions and was actually awarded the All Ireland when the championships were held in Ardfer, but was told the following day that the marks had been added wrongly and that he had come second again.

He was gracious in defeat and just continued ploughing.

To his wife Kitty; sons Eddie and Patrick, daughters Helen, Moira and Collette; sisters Mrs Theresa Dermody and Mrs Maria Aylward and brother Matthew, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, the deepest expression of sympathy is extended by the Mooncoin Club.

His remains were brought from his home to St Kevin's Church, Carrigeen on Friday, January 17. The funeral Mass was on Saturday with Fr Peter Muldowney as main celebrant. At his funeral both the Mooncoin Club and Ploughing Association gave him a guard of honour of which he would have been very proud.

Peter was buried afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.

May the sod that he so often expertly turned lie gently on his grave.



William Drennan 1925-2014

Galmoy GAA lost one of its old characters on May 21st 2014 with the passing of Willie Drennan Coolnacritta. At the time of his passing, Willie was Joint Club President, following a lifetime of devotion to the GAA. A farmer by profession, Willie's love of sport kept him young and right up to the end he had a keen interest in happenings at club and county level. At the age of 25 he lined out at midfield in 1949 on the first Galmoy team to win the Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship. The club has won two more in the interim in 1966 and 2004. Having won that Junior Title, he was then on the Galmoy team which made their senior debut against Dicksboro when he marked the famous Paddy Grace. In later years he served as a club selector and latterly as Club President.

In addition to the GAA, Willie's other great love in life was greyhounds. He owned and trained greyhounds all of his life and was proud of his "Dance" prefix carried by his dogs at Kilkenny and Thurles Greyhound tracks and farther afield. He also trained many coursing dogs, winning Trial Stakes in meetings such as Freshford, Johnstown & Urlingford, North Kilkenny and Sevenhouses. In addition he won many honours for Cycling and Athletics.

He is sadly missed by his loving wife Mary, sons Jerry and Liam, daughter Kay, daughter in law Triona and grandchildren Conor, Billy, Niall and Niamh.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Dick Phelan (1927 - 2014)

Dick Phelan passed to his eternal reward on Tuesday 26th Aug 2014 in the loving care of Sarah and staff at Strathmore Lodge Nursing Home, Callan where he had spent his last few years. Dick in his eighty eighth year, was a great family man who had spent his life farming in Rossenaney. With a passion for the GAA, Dick played at Centre Forward for Cotterstown in the 1951 Junior Football Final victory versus Castle

Rovers (Goresbridge). He later went on to play Senior Football for the Club. Having enjoyed watching all sports Dick was a loyal supporter of the Windgap and Kilkenny teams and got great enjoyment out of Kilkenny's latest successes. Dick is survived by his sisters, Sr. Ailis, Nora and Evelyn, daughters Sarah Ryan, Marion McDonagh and son Gerard. Also his sons and daughter-in-law, grandchildren, other relatives, neighbours and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam Dílis



John (Johnny) Ryan

Death of John (Johnny) Ryan Ballykillaboy, Kilmacow

02/03/1936 – 12/02/2014

It is with a great sadness that the club acknowledges the passing of one of its most loyal and dedicated members and supporters. Johnny Ryan was the club's Honorary Vice President, and had given a lifetime of service and support to the GAA in Kilmacow. In his young days Johnny played some hurling but mainly kicked football with the club,

However it was off the field where his wholehearted support of all club teams and the tireless and invaluable hours of work on the pitches, dressing rooms, committee meetings, fundraising and selling tickets showed what a great clubman he was. There wasn't a wall or railing built, nor a ticket sold in over 50 years, but Johnny Ryan wasn't there, working hard doing his bit and making sure it was done right. He wasn't a man for the big jobs or titles, but when it mattered most, and in often very tough times in this country, Johnny would always get the tickets sold and money collected.

If you were to define the term 'dedicated clubman', it would simply say Johnny Ryan.

We can only hope that he is reunited with his brother Jimmy, and that they are reminiscing about the great Kilkenny and Kilmacow teams and players of recent times.

All 5 of Johnny's sons hurled with distinction for the Green and White, and it must have given Johnny great pleasure to see their efforts rewarded. It is probably true to say that between about 1980 and 1995 there was a Ryan family member on every championship winning team from minor up to Junior. Johnny was in his 50th year of marriage when he passed away on the 12th of February 2014. His working life took him for the Mill in Kilmacow to Johnny Hearn's in Waterford and later to Bestock Farm Feeds. He was a man that always had time for a chat with both young and old, and loved his game of 30's. The club was

delighted to honour Johnny when we ran the Johnny Ryan Memorial Blitz for U9 teams in the south of Kilkenny on the first weekend in October, which given his love of young people was a fitting tribute to a great man.

The club would like to pass its sincere condolences to Johnny's wife Nora, his daughters Noreen, Margaret, Catherine, sons Seamus, Andy, Sean, Peter and Michael, to his sons and daughters in law and grandchildren.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam



Catherine Carroll

The death occurred in early September of Catherine Carroll, Gragara, Jenkinstown. At the time of her death Catherine was the Treasurer of Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club.

Although Catherine had been unwell for some time her death brought great sadness to Conahy parish and many adjoining parishes where Catherine and her family are well known.

Catherine was not a native of Conahy but along with her husband John she was a trojan worker in many parish community activities.

Her initial involvement with Conahy Shamrocks was with the club's Bórd na nÓg section. She was the driving-force behind a series of fund-raising activities and her methodical attention to detail as Bórd na nÓg Treasurer impressed everyone.

After a number of years with Bórd na nÓg Catherine progressed to the role of Treasurer of the Conahy Shamrocks adult club. She brought the same high standards to that role and made an invaluable contribution to the overall running of the club.

Although quite ill during 2014, Catherine continued in her role as Club Treasurer with drive and determination. Despite receiving on-going treatment for her illness she never wavered in her efforts to fulfil her duties. It was a particularly sad committee meeting when Catherine indicated that she would be unable to continue as Club Treasurer.

Volunteers are the heart-beat of every GAA club and no one epitomised that more than Catherine Carroll. Her boundless energy, loyalty and commitment to Conahy Shamrocks has left an indelible mark on all club members and the wider parish community.

Catherine will be greatly missed by everyone in the club but most especially by her loving husband John, daughters Aisling, Caitríona, son Eoin, sisters, Sheila, Leisha, Mary & Bridie, her mother-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, many other relatives plus a wide circle of friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.



Benny Holohan.

The sudden death of Benny Holohan on March 23rd after a very short illness, shocked the local Community of the Rower-Inistioge and beyond. Benny, a GAA Man through to the core was deeply involved and made an immense contribution to the Rower-Inistioge Club since he crossed the ferry Bridge from his native home in Rathnure (Wexford) to set up home in Killeens, The Rower when he married his beloved wife, Kathleen (Walsh).

Benny travelled to Croke Park on many occasions throughout his life to support his home County of Wexford in hurling, football & camogie and also his home Club of Rathnure when they played in Club competitions. However it was probably most fitting that his final visit to Croke Park was in February 2014 when he witnessed his adopted Club of The Rower-Inistioge win the All Ireland Intermediate Club Hurling final. Having trained and coached many of the players who were part of the successful Intermediate panel from a very young age, it was an extremely joyous and proud occasion for Benny as he witnessed the fruits of his love of Gaelic games achieve success in Croke Park.

Benny was an active member of the Rathnure GAA scene in his youth. Hurling, football and handball – he served his time with them all. He was part of the renowned squad of the 70's who won several county senior and two Leinster club titles, and was also on a Rathnure team that got to two county senior football finals. He also enjoyed playing soccer with his local Shelbourne United club.

Benny was instrumental in setting up of the Bord Na Nog committee in the Rower-Inistioge Club and served for many years as Secretary, Treasurer and in later years as Chairman. He managed and trained numerous teams throughout his time at

Bord Na Nog level and achieved many great successes on the field of play with the winning of the Under 14 Hurling and Football double in 2000, one of his many great achievements. He had a great love for football and travelled all over Ireland to watch his beloved Wexford play, be it in league or Championship, Senior Junior or Under 21, when the purple and gold fielded in football, Benny was almost always there to support them.

He instilled this great love of football to many young players in the Rower-Inistioge and took great enjoyment to see these same players progress with Good Council College New Ross and also with various under age Kilkenny teams. He served as selector on a number of Kilkenny under age Football teams and made a significant contribution to the County under age football teams that were prominent in the late 90's and early 2000's.

Benny also played a huge part in the promoting of Camogie within The Rower-Inistioge Club and like the hurling and football, he was involved with numerous teams with many great success stories also including success at the national Feile competitions.

At the Club AGM in January 2014, Benny was appointed as a Club Vice President in recognition of his great contribution to the Club. There was wonderful admiration and great respect for Benny from his fellow Club members, past and present Club players and amongst all of the many GAA followers outside the Club who would have known Benny through his involvement with the GAA.

A proud family man and a great friend to so many people, Benny took great pride in the achievements of the many teams he was involved with and would on many occasions recall at length the successes and share a few stories about the various players and indeed mentors involved. Like any Parent, he took great pride when one or more of his sons or daughters were part of the successful teams.

The exceptionally large turnout at Benny's funeral bore testimony to the high esteem that he was held by such a wide community.

To Benny's loving wife Kathleen and his children Ciarán, Brídín, Mairéad, Catríona, Áine, Geraldine, Séamus and Sinéad we extend the sympathy of the Rower-Inistioge Club, its Officers, Members, Players past & present, supporters and all who knew Benny.

Our Club will always remember and cherish Benny's many great qualities, his great love of the GAA and most importantly, remember him as a great friend whose friendly manner and cheerful word often helped to brighten up a dull occasion.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam Dilis.

**SOLAS NA bhFLAITHEAS AR
ANAMNACHA NA MARBH**



Kilkenny GAA Results 2014



SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING	
County SH Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-20 Clara 1-13	Roinn "A" U21H Championship Final	To Be Completed
SH League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-18 Rower Inistioge 2-13	Roinn "B" U21H Championship Final	To Be Completed
SH Shield Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-20 Dicksboro 0-19	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Northern Final	To Be Completed
SH Relegation Final	Fenians 3-10 Tullaroan 0-8	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Southern Final	To Be Completed
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Northern Final	To Be Completed
County IH Championship Final	Mullinavat 0-17 St. Patrick's 0-14	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Southern Final	To Be Completed
IH League Final	Mullinavat 2-16 St. Patrick's 0-18	MINOR HURLING	
IH Shield Final	Lisdowney 1-17 Thomastown 0-18	Roinn "A" MH Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-10 Dicksboro 3-6
IH Relegation Final	Conahy Shamrocks 2-22 Glenmore 3-16	Roinn "B" MH Championship Final	Slieverue 4-8 Graigie Ballycallan 1-12
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "C" MH Championship Final	Carrickshock 0-15 Barrow Rangers 0-11
County JH Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 1-17 Mooncoin 1-7	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Thomastown 2-16 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-11
Northern JH Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-15 Blacks & Whites 1-13	Roinn "B" MH League Final	Danesfort 0-17 John Lockes 2-10
Southern JH Championship Final	Kilmacow 0-22 Piltown 0-15	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Young Irelands 2-13 Carrickshock 2-11
County JH League Final	Bennettsbridge 2-17 Piltown 0-20	UNDER 16 HURLING	
All-County JH League	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-7 Graignamanagh 0-15	Roinn "A" U16H Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 5-12 Dicksboro 1-7
JUNIOR HURLING "A"		Roinn "B" U16H Championship Final	Graigie/Ballycallan 3-16 Galmoy/Windgap 1-10
County JH A Championship Final	Mooncoin 2-14 Lisdowney 0-19	Roinn "C" U16H Championship Final	Fenians 0-9 Cloneen 0-6
County JH A League Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-17 Ballinkillen 2-15	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	Danesfort v Thomastown
Northern Junior A Hurling Championship	Lisdowney 2-17 Fenians 1-9	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	Clara v Graigie Ballycallan
Southern Junior A Hurling Championship	Mooncoin 1-10 Rower Inistioge 0-5	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	Cloneen 3-13 Fenians 2-5
Northern Junior A Hurling League	Graigie Ballycallan 0-12 Lisdowney 0-10	UNDER 14 HURLING	
Southern Junior A Hurling League	Erin's Own (Carlow) Ballinkillen	Roinn "A" U14H Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 6-14 Erin's Own 1-5
JH "A" Relegation Final	St Patrick's 3-13 Kilmacow 2-9	Roinn "B" U14H Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 3-7 Graigie/Ballycallan 0-8
JUNIOR HURLING "B"		Roinn "C" U14H Championship Final	Barrow Rangers 8-16 Cloneen 2-6
County JH B Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-20 Graignamanagh 1-18	Paddy Grace Féile na nGael Final	Dicksboro 1-10 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-9
County JH B League Final	Blacks and Whites Piltown	U14H Féile	Bennettsbridge 2-12 Emeralds 1-3
Northern Junior B Hurling Championship	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-15 Danesfort 2-8	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 5-12 Erin's Own 1-14
Southern Junior B Hurling Championship	Graignamanagh 3-12 Piltown 0-11	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	Bennettsbridge 2-9 Emeralds 2-9 Bennettsbridge 3-6 Emeralds 1-11
Northern Junior B Hurling League	Blacks and Whites 1-13 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-10	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	Windgap 5-9 Slieverue 1-8
Southern Junior B Hurling League	Combined with Championship	Roinn "D" U14H League Final	No Competition
CUP COMPETITIONS		PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
Byrne Cup Final	Clara 1-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-13	Roinn "A" U13H Championship Final	St. Canice's NS 2-7 Gaelscoil 2-5
Aylward Cup Final	Dicksboro 1-18 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-10	Roinn "B" U13H Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 5-9 Freshford 4-5
Paddy Cahill Cup	Naomh Brid Naomh Moling	Roinn "C" U13H Championship Final	Glenmore 2-9 Danesfort 3-6 Glenmore 2-12 Danesfort 0-4
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Naomh Eoin 2-16 Barrow Rangers 1-14	Roinn "D" U13H Championship Final	Tullaroan NS 6-9 Johnstown 3-4
Joe Walsh Cup	Bennettsbridge 4-10 Carrigeen 0-7	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Freshford 6-7 Ballyhale 5-3
Jim Farrell Cup	No Competition	Corn Uí Bhriain	Graigie Skeough 2-11 Carrickshock 1-9

* As of November 25th 2014. Results of finals too late for inclusion here will be recorded in Kilkenny GAA Bible 2015.

SENIOR FOOTBALL		SENIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Championship Final	Railyard GFC 2-10 Muckalee 3-6	County SC Championship Final	Thomastown 3-6 Mullinavat 0-9
County SF League Final	Muckalee 2-6 Railyard GFC 1-6	County SC League Final	St Martin's 3-12 Mullinavat 2-12
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Senior/Intermediate All County League Final	St Martin's 2-7 Thomastown 1-9
County IF Championship Final	Thomastown 5-5 Piltown 1-3	SC Relegation Final	Windgap 2-5 Rower Inistioge 1-7
County IF League Final	Erin's Own 2-12 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-6	INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE	
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		County IC Championship Final	Piltown 4-18 St Brigid's 0-5
County JF Championship Final	To Be Completed	IC League Final	Piltown 1-10 St Anne's 1-9
County JF League Final	Graignamanagh 2-11 Carrickshock 3-5	All-County League Final	Piltown 1-9 St Anne's 1-7
MINOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" MF Championship Final	No Competition	Junior "A" Championship Final	Glenmore 1-11 Emeralds 1-5
Roinn "B" MF Championship Final	No Competition	Junior "B" Championship Final	Mooncoin 5-12 Black and Whites 3-6
Roinn "C" MF Championship Final	No Competition	Junior "A" League final	Glenmore 0-12 Emeralds 1-6
Roinn "A" MF League Final	To Be Completed	Junior "A" All-County League Final	Glenmore 4-12 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-5
Roinn "B" MF League Final	To Be Completed	Junior "B" All-County League Final	Emeralds 4-11 Conahy Shamrocks 2-4
Roinn "C" MF League Final	To Be Completed	UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
U16 FOOTBALL		The U21 A championships were still ongoing at time of going to print. All details of the games can be found on kilkennycamogie.com	
Roinn "A" U16F Championship Final	To Be Completed	MINOR CAMOGIE	
Roinn "B" U16F Championship Final	To Be Completed	The Minor championships were still ongoing at time of going to print. All details of the games can be found on kilkennycamogie.com	
Roinn "C" U16F Championship Final	To Be Completed	U16 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" U16F League Final	To Be Completed	Under-16 Roinn A Final	Dicksboro 5-5 Glenmore 2-5
Roinn "B" U16F League Final	To Be Completed	Under-16 Roinn B Final	St Brigid's 2-3 Danesfort 1-5
Roinn "C" U16F League Final	To Be Completed	Under-16 Roinn C Final	Slieverue 6-5 Mooncoin 2-5
U14 FOOTBALL		U14 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" U14F Championship Final	Dicksboro 4-15 Thomastown 1-3	Under-14 Roinn A Final	Thomastown 5-6 Piltown 1-5
Roinn "B" U14F Championship Final	To Be Completed	Under-14 Roinn B Final	Emeralds 5-3 St Martin's 3-1
Roinn "C" U14F Championship Final	To Be Completed	Under-14 Roinn C Final	Kilmacow 2-5 Mooncoin 1-4
Roinn "D" U14F Championship Final	Kilmacow v Slieverue	Under-14 Roinn D Final	Mullinavat 5-0 Naomh Brid 2-3
Roinn "A" U14F League Final	To Be Completed	Féile na nGael "A" Final	Thomastown 7-2 Glenmore 0-2
Roinn "B" U14F League Final	To Be Completed	Féile na nGael "B" Final	St Brigids 3-7 Emeralds 0-0
Roinn "C" U14F League Final	To Be Completed		
Roinn "D" U14F League Final	No Competition	PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		Primary Schools Roinn A Final	Gowran 1-10 Piltown 0-7
Roinn "A" U13F Championship Final	St Canice's 2-5 Thomastown 2-4	Primary Schools Roinn B Final	Graigue/Skeough 1-2 Coon/Muckalee 0-2
Roinn "B" U13F Championship Final	To Be Completed	Primary Schools Roinn C Final	Conahy 3-3 Tullaroan 4-1
Corn na Tuaithe	To Be Completed	Primary Schools Roinn D Final	Johnstown 2-3 Mooncoin 3-3

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