

KILKENNY

GAA YEARBOOK

2016



€12.50



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Foreword



Bliain eile thart, agus bliainiris eile á fáiltiú agam.

Scéalta agus eachtraí na bliana 2016 – buíochas do lucht a n-insint agus a chur le chéile

It is my privilege as Chairman of Kilkenny GAA County Board to welcome the publication of our annual year book which contains reports and reviews of much of the Gaelic Games activity that took place in our county during 2016.

Our senior hurling team set out to achieve a third successive All Ireland victory this year, and having retained their Leinster title by defeating Galway, they overcame an outstanding Waterford team in a thrilling replayed All Ireland semi-final.

Unfortunately they couldn't replicate that display in the Final and had to give best to a very fine Tipperary team who fully deserved their victory on the day. Our Intermediate team won both Leinster and All-Ireland honours and we extend congratulations to all involved in these successes. The victories of Bennettsbridge and Glenmore in the All-Ireland Intermediate and Junior club Finals are deserving of special mention as does the achievement of Saint Kieran's College who won their twenty first colleges' senior All Ireland title.

Kilkenny Camogie enjoyed a tremendously successful year in which their Senior team completed the double by winning both National League and All Ireland honours while their Intermediate team also won their All Ireland final. Congratulations to all involved in these successes.

Kilkenny handballers achieved many successes also but unfortunately these were overshadowed by the untimely death of Michael Ducksie Walsh just weeks after he had won his most recent All Ireland senior singles title. The passing of one of the giants of the game leaves a void that will not be easily filled. We will not see his likes again.

Benefitting from the prevailing summer-like weather conditions, the concluding games in our club championships attracted large attendances, with the destination of honours remaining in doubt right to the end. Ultimately it was O'Loughlin Gaels who emerged as deserving senior hurling champions, with Carrickshock winning the Intermediate title and Mooncoin taking the junior crown. In football Railyard and Dicksboro captured senior and intermediate honours. Congratulations to each of these clubs on these successes.

Sponsorship is a key element in maintaining the financial solvency of our County Board and we extend our thanks to Glanbia PLC, sponsors of all our county teams and to our championship sponsors, St Canices Kilkenny Credit Union, Michael Lyng Motors, JJ Kavanagh and Sons, Iverk Produce, Countrystyle Foods, Kilkenny Citroen and Honda Centre, and Duggan Steel.

Thanks also to the Officers and members of our Supporter clubs in Kilkenny, Dublin and Kildare for their financial support for all our teams.

Our Race Day in Gowran Park was a great success again this year. Twenty of our senior All Ireland winning captains were our guests of honour and their presence greatly enhanced the day for all present. Sincere thanks to the members of the organising committee and to our Race Sponsors and Advertisers.

The inclusion of Nowlan Park in the list of potential venues for Ireland's bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup is an endorsement of the decisions taken in recent years regarding the upgrading of facilities at the venue for players, spectators and the media alike. The two big attractions held there this year were the Leinster Senior Football quarter final, featuring All-Ireland champions Dublin, and the sold-out Rod Steward Concert both of which enhanced Kilkenny's reputation as a suitable location for such events as well as contributing handsomely to the local economy.

In conclusion I extend my thanks to Editor Barrie Henriques, Chairman Pat Henderson, to Gerry O'Neill and to each of the volunteers involved in the production of another outstanding publication which I know will be enjoyed by Kilkenny followers both at home and abroad.

Beir Bua, Slán agus Beannacht,

Eamon O Coinn

Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh



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Michelle Quilty of Kilkenny lifting
the the O'Duffy Cup All-Ireland
Senior Camogie Final. Photo by
Eóin Noonan/Sportsfile
Kilkenny captain Áine Fahey lifts
the Jack McGrath Cup after the All-
Ireland Intermediate Camogie Final.
Photo by Piaras ÓMídheach
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Editorial



As the Van Morrison song goes, "there are days like this". Changing one word probably defines the kind of year enjoyed by the GAA Family of Kilkenny. It was not the greatest – hard to improve on the banquet of success enjoyed since 1999 – but it still far exceeded some of the decades of the last century when Kilkenny GAA were confined to looking into the tent of celebratory success, rather than being central to it.

There was plenty of success on the playing fields for the wearers of the black and amber. The camogie girls, God bless 'em, fought plenty of tough encounters before gliding around the grassy floor of Croke Park, hoovering up All Ireland titles at two levels. Will the superb goal of Shelly Farrell, with assists by Ann Malone and Katie Power ever be forgotten? Neither can a penalty save from the Cork goalkeeper, Aoife Murray by Ann Dalton at the expense of a point. The win capped a brilliant two-timer for the Camogie Queens, as our Intermediate girls won their Title. Well done Ladies and we include the input of people like former Camogie All Stars, Ann and Angela Downey, Paddy Mulally, Ciaran Phelan, Liam Egan and others.

On the hurling front, the Leinster crown was again claimed – the 71st title- when Galway were put to the sword. Injuries became a real issue, and didn't improve one iota. Waterford couldn't beat – and many felt that they had a great chance first day – Kilkenny in the All Ireland semi-final replay in Thurles. Kilkenny lost Michael Fennelly for the rest of the season with a ruptured Achilles tendon. Tipperary had stormed to Croke Park in September. They were lava hot. They won, and deserved to do so. To the eternal credit of the Kilkenny management, they were supremely magnanimous in defeat- a fact much alluded to in many quarters.

The Intermediate team, by beating Wexford and Clare, insured that the 2016 hurling chest carried one piece of silver on its shelf. Well done lads. Our Under-21 lads went out rather meekly against Westmeath in Mullingar in their opening game. It was a game of inches, and one could speculate what might have been if a penalty had been struck two inches more to the left!

Our Minor team beat Offaly but were beaten by Dublin in Parnell Park after extra time. They certainly did not get a rub of any colour in that game. Glenmore won their All Ireland junior crown, beating Eoghan Rua (Derry), and Bennettsbridge took their second All Ireland Title in succession when beating Galway's Abbeyknockmoy. The in-house competitions produced plenty of exciting fare. O'Loughlin Gaels won the Senior Title, while Carrickshock returned to senior ranks by virtue of their Intermediate County Final win against Tullagher Rosbercon. Mooncoin stepped up to Intermediate grade when taking out John Lockes of Callan in the Junior Final.

Amongst great pre-match controversy, Nowlan Park was in splendid shape for the Leinster senior football Championship game between Laois and Dublin. The Dubs, as is their wont, brought great colour and pageantry to our City. The Laois supporters were conspicuous by their absence.

Rod Stewart came too – not to the football game might I hasten to add.

We have tried to record most of the activity of our great organisation involving our County. We are helped enormously by people such as our Professional photographers, and other local "snappers". We are indebted to all the writers too who contribute. Your names are recorded elsewhere. Our gracious thanks to one and all. To all our Advertisers we say many thanks, and we exhort our readers to be as generous with the support of our advertisers as they can be. We thank you all.

Our little Committee are listed to the left of this page. After 26 Editions you should know by now how the thing works! You know we appreciate your work every year.

Nollaig fé shona dibh go léir.

Barrie Henriques
Editor



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The Better Team Won...

Barrie Henriques reviews
Kilkenny's League and Championship Story 2016



(Photo Willie Dempsey)

KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH FINALISTS 2016

Back: James Maher, Conor Delaney, Sean Morrissey, Conor O'Shea, Colin Fennelly, Robert Lennon, Joseph Holden, Walter Walsh, Shane Prendergast, Diarmuid Cody, Jackie Tyrrell, Ciarán Joyce, Lester Ryan, John Power, Richie Reid, T.J.Reid, Michael Walsh, John Joe Farrell, Liam Blanchfield, Pdraig Walsh, Joe Lyng, Richie Hogan
Front: Alan Murphy, Ger Aylward, Eoin Larkin, Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Conor Fogarty, Cillian Buckley, Mark Bergin, Chris Bolger, Conor Martin, Kevin Kelly, Michael Malone.

Outside the walls of the Kilkenny fiefdom, the World and his Mother could not see beyond Kilkenny when the whips were really cracking with a vengeance as the finishing tape loomed on the first Sunday in September. Pre-Championship chat centred round injury problems which became concerning or worse during a League campaign that saw a number of prospects tested. Richie Power had finally called it a day, sadly. Paul Murphy had shipped a worrying injury, Ger Aylward was in an injury limbo, and to compound matters, Conor Fogarty picked up a very worrying injury in the League game against Cork down in Páirc Uí Rinn. Kilkenny were knocked out of the Walsh Cup when Offaly came to battle in wet and windy Birr. Nine under-21 players were on duty. Offaly won by 3-9 to 1-9. There was good and bad news. Our County Minors went caput in the Championship before April had completed its thirty day cycle. The under 21 lads were soon to follow after an inglorious defeat against Westmeath in Mullingar. We still had two horses on the track.

The good news?

Michael Fennelly had made a decent return to the Shamrocks team. Little were we to know that a dreadful Achilles injury fourteen minutes before an All Ireland replay in Thurles that the same Michael Fennelly would be a mere spectator against Tipperary in the Final. Richie Hogan shipped a broken hand and would not be available for the Leinster semi against Dublin. The rumour machine was on overtime. Facts became fiction, and fiction morphed into damn lies.

Kilkenny V Dublin O'Moore Park, Portlaoise June 12th Kilkenny 1-25 Dublin 0-16

The first thirty five minutes of this game was as confrontationally tough as any game that has been played at this often time unhappy hunting ground for the Cats. Disruption with attitude was the game plan of the Metropolitans. Kilkenny were not for capitulation---- not even the slightest of wobbles. The defence was mega. Paul Murphy worked the sweeper role with confidence and perfection. Cillian Buckley played the Superman role as he soared for dropping ball. Walter Walsh used his Rolls Royce engine with a wide open throttle. T.J Reid bore through the Dublin defence like a hunting badger, while Mick Fennelly drew post-match compliments, never before uttered, from the impressed Boss. At half time, Kilkenny lead by 0-12 to 0-11. It was important to lead. The half time talk in the dressing room could not embrace sentiments other than positive factors. There were plenty of similarities in the second half to the first half action. The warriors in the black and amber shirts were still game for battle. One lad, Jonjo Farrell put in a tremendous shift for the cause. He shot 1-5 all from open play. He must have convinced the selectors of his immense talents. A long delivery from Paul Murphy in

the 46th minute found its way to Farrell hovering on the twenty-metre line. Having gathered the ball with great difficulty, he still had much hard graft to address. He did, and buried the ball. The differential was now an unforgiving 1-19 to 0-11. There was no way back for the blues. It was Galway or Offaly in the Provincial decider.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Robert Lennon, Pdraig Walsh (0-1), Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley (0-2), Conor Fogarty (0-1), Lester Ryan (capt) (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-2), Michael Fennelly (0-2), T.J.Reid (0-10, seven frees, one '65), Jonjo Farrell (1-5), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Eoin Larkin.

Subs (used): Liam Blanchfield for Larkin: Kevin Kelly for Ryan: Diarmuid Cody for Michael Fennelly.

Dublin: Conor Dooley, Eoghan O'Donnell, Cian O'Callaghan, Oisín Gough, Shane Barrett, Liam Rushe, Chris Crummy, Darragh O'Connell, John Mc Caffrey, Dara Plunkett (0-1), Niall Mc. Morrow, David Treacy (0-11, ten frees), Ryan O'Dwyer, David O'Callaghan (0-2), Eamonn Dillon (0-1).

Subs (used): Paul Ryan (0-1) for O'Dwyer: Oisín O'Rourke for Mc. Morrow: Niall Corcoran for Gough: Sean Treacy for Barrett: Chris Bennett for O'Callaghan.

Leinster Final.

Kilkenny V Galway Croke Park Dublin July 3rd.

Kilkenny 1-26 Galway 0-22

The headlines screamed "Stars galore as vicious Cats dig out Title No 71". That banner alone sums up the story of the Leinster Final in glorious Croke Park in front of a smallish thirty odd thousand supporters. This was a real tough encounter, where Galway out hurled the Champions, leading at the break by 0-13 to 0-10. Whilst the Kilkenny defence was very methodical, and centred, there was not a lot of good value being carved out from the very frequent supply of ball going up to the front six. The world and his mother knew that two of the Kilkenny forwards were not having a good time, and that it would take the introduction of Richie Hogan and one other to rectify the situation. Hogan did arrive, accompanied by John Power. There was an immediate turn round of the Kilkenny fortune. Hogan clattered five great points, while Jonjo Farrell had a magnificent 1-5 chalked behind his name. Kilkenny lived dangerously, and were fortunate to prevent two goals when Cillian Buckley swiped one off the line in the 46th. minute. Galway were a big threat for the entire game. The Kilkenny defence won the game at their end of the Park, but it really did not look too promising until Hogan, and to a lesser extent John Power, were added to the fray. Pdraig Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Robert Lennon, and Joey Holden excelled in a great Kilkenny team effort. Jonjo

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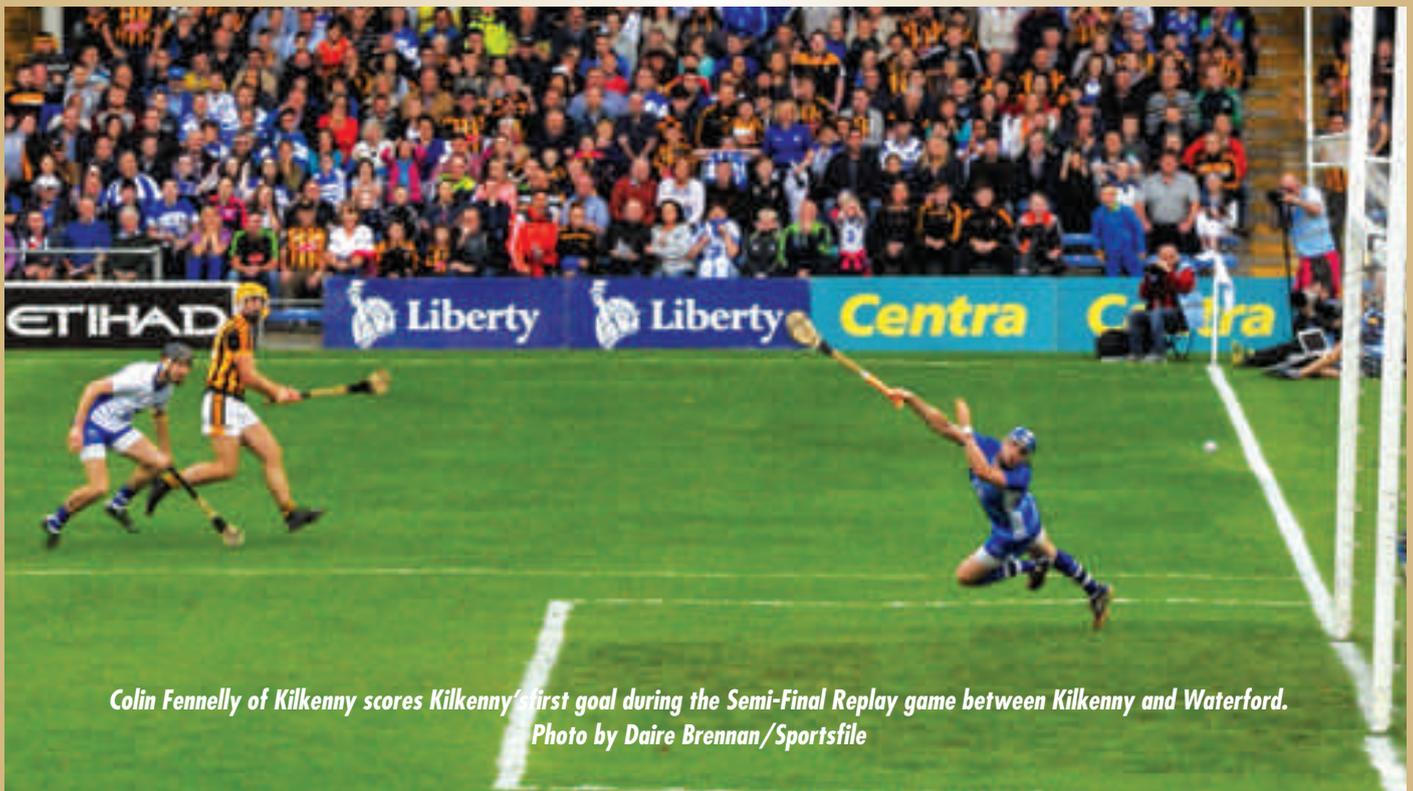
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DEJECTION!



(Photos John McIlwaine)



Colin Fennelly of Kilkenny scores Kilkenny's first goal during the Semi-Final Replay game between Kilkenny and Waterford.
Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile

Farrell, Walter Walsh and of course Hogan were quite outstanding.
Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Robert Lennon, Padraig Walsh, Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty (0-3), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-2), T.J. Reid (0-10, eight frees, one '65), Lester Ryan (capt), Jonjo Farrell (1-4), Colin Fennelly, Eoin Larkin. Subs (used): Richie Hogan (0-5) for Eoin Larkin, John Power (0-1) for Colin Fennelly,

Galway: Colm Callanan, Pauric Mannion, Daithi Burke, Johnny Coen, Aidan Harte, John Hanbury, Gearóid Mc Inerney, David Burke (capt), Davy Glennon (0-1), Conor Cooney (0-3), Joseph Cooney, Niall Burke, Conor Whelan (0-3), Joe Canning(0-6, frees), Cathal Mannion (0-5). Subs (used): Cyril Donnellan(0-1) for Joseph Cooney (0-2), Fergal Moore for Johnny Coen, Andy Smith (0-1) for Davy Glennon.

Kilkenny V Waterford Croke Park August 7th.

Kilkenny 1-21 Waterford 0-24

This was a game that Waterford people firmly believe they should have won with a bit to spare. There are many neutrals that would concur. They were never led from the 11th minute until that young giant from Tullagher, Walter Walsh crafted a super goal in the 69th minute of a pulsating contest. Wally got clinical assistance from Colin Fennelly in the making of the goal. The Deise had drastically altered their style for this one. They played without fear, with superb composure, and in a traditional system. They looked a team of all the talents. They led at half time by the odd point in 25. Waterford managed to hit five successive balls wide of the Davin Stand end of Croke Park just before Walsh's goal. They had led by five points with seven minutes on the clock. Surprisingly they decided to defend their lead. What a foolish idea, when scores can be bagged from over a hundred yards! Added time was announced over the Tannoy. Where did that come from? Both sides missed long-range chances, before Gleeson was fouled. Pauric Mahoney's free was approved by an eruption of Waterford acclaim. With seconds on the clock, a wonderful point by Conor Fogarty paralysed the Waterford euphoria. Seconds later Paul Murphy availed of a very poor Waterford defensive clearance to have a shot at a winner. It was coronary time for the Waterford support. As the ball sailed towards Stephen O'Keeffe's posts, the only sound heard was a distant gull. Waterford lived to fight for the privilege of an All Ireland appearance in a replay in Thurles six days later as the shot sailed wide.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (capt), Padraig Walsh, Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty (0-2), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Walter Walsh (1-1), T.J.Reid (0-11, ten frees, one '65), John Power, Jonjo Farrell, Colin Fennelly (0-1), Richie Hogan(0-4).

Subs (used): Eoin Larkin (0-1) for Jonjo Farrell, Lester Ryan for Ciarán Joyce.

Waterford: Stephen O'Keeffe, Shane Five Barry Coughlan, Noel Connors, Tadhg De Búrca, Austin Gleeson, Philip Mahoney, Jamie

Barron, Conor Gleeson, Kevin Moran (capt), Shane Bennett, Michael Walsh, Pauric Mahoney, Jake Dillon, Colin Dunford. Subs (used): Maurice Shanahan for Colin Dunford, Patrick Curren for Shane Bennett, Brian O'Halloran for Jake Dillon.

Replay

Kilkenny V Waterford Semple Stadium, Thurles August 13th.

This game will most certainly go down in the annals of the modern era as one of the top three games ever. It had every component of a thrilling hurling match from start to finish. What a feast of hurling was put before the baying crowds in Thurles on a balmy evening in August. In stark contrast to the benign climatic situation, the action was anything but benign. There were bodily clashes that would do justice to the best bone-crunching tackles we see on a regular basis in the NFL. There were 70-plus minutes of breathless action, the likes of which we rarely, if ever, we have seen. Colin Fennelly earned the RTE Man-of-the-Match Award. He scored two marvellous goals. His brother started at six, moved to midfield for a spell, and had a little spell at 11. Ditto T.J.Reid who was all over the shop. Mark Bergin and Liam Blanchfield were given debuts, and were not out of place. Blanchfield belted three marvellous points between the posts. Again Padraig Walsh, Walter Walsh, Buckley, Fogarty, Joyce, Reid were all on people's lips for any Awards being handed out. Waterford too had plenty that merited Awards if there were any about. Kilkenny led by 2-10 to 2-7 at the break. Fourteen minutes after the restart, Michael Fennelly was stretched off with a horrendous season-ending Achilles injury. At the 71-minute mark, Kilkenny led by two points. Home and hosed you could say. Not so said the Waterford lads as Maurice Shanahan stormed forward to narrow the gap to a single point. They weren't finished. A foul on Shane Fives afforded Mahoney a chance to even the score. The imperious free-taker, who had been accuracy personified all through the Championship did everything right. From 65 yards out he drilled the ball towards Eoin Murphy's posts.

Waterford prayed.

Kilkenny held their breath.

In flight it looked a shoe-in for the prayerful believers. But somehow, Murphy leapt like a running salmon, grabbed the ball as it travelled eighteen inches (the distance will vary with the passing years) above the crossbar height.

Kilkenny were facing Kilkenny on the first Sunday in September! Long after the dust of time has settled, Eoin Murphy's catch will be remembered.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (capt), Padraig Walsh (0-2), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Walter Walsh (0-1), T.J. Reid (0-7, six frees), Richie Hogan (0-4), Mark Bergin, Liam Blanchfield (0-3), Colin Fennelly (2-0), Eoin Larkin (0-1).



An aerial scramble at the Kilkenny v Tipp League match.
Photo Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny captain Lester Ryan lifts The Bob O'Keeffe Cup
Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Subs (used): Lester Ryan for Michael Fennelly, Jonjo Farrell for Mark Bergin, Kevin Kelly for Liam Blanchfield.

Waterford: Stephen O'Keeffe, Shane Fives, Barry Coughlan, Noel Connors, Tadhg De Búrka, Austin Gleeson (1-2), Philip Mahoney, Jamie Barron (0-2), Conor Gleeson, Kevin Moran, Shane Bennett (0-2), Michael Walsh, Pauric Mahoney (0-9, seven frees), Jake Dillon (1-0), Stephen Bennett.

Subs (used): Maurice Shanahan (0-1) for Stephen Bennett, Patrick Curren for Shane Bennett, Tom Devine for Jake Dillon.

**All Ireland Final September 4th.
Tipperary 2-29 Kilkenny 2-20.**

Tipperary's captain, Brendan Maher said on receiving the Liam MacCarthy, "We have suffered enough", and in fairness that proud County had indeed suffered long and hard. It had been five long years since they had tasted victory in the Final, but there was no doubting who deserved to collect the Trophy in 2016. In truth Michael Ryan and his players had done their homework-not that Kilkenny had not. It's just that the Tipp lads out fought, out hurled, and out manoeuvred their opponents at every turn of the road. Ryan had obviously targeted the Kilkenny fullback line. Bubbles Dwyer, and John McGrath ensured that Paul Murphy and Shane Prendergast were totally occupied, thus allowing Seamie Callahan to go one on one with the Kilkenny fullback. That line alone bagged all but eight of Tipp's score. Kilkenny were severely stretched all over the park. But they doggedly held tight. Every ounce of energy in their bodies was left out on the pitch. They could not have given any more. But a fresher Tipp had a smidgen more to give in the long run, and so ended a glorious hurling mardi gras that started way back in the last century. Tipp led at the break but only just. Kilkenny to their credit had toughed it out as hard as they possibly could, but the signs were ominous. They were still there at the 45-minute mark when Kevin Kelly finished a goal chance started by Walter Walsh and helped on by Liam Blanchfield. The score read Kilkenny 1-14, Tipperary 0-15. Maybe, we thought, maybe the famed Kilkenny kick for the line could have something in the tank still. It was not to be. Tipperary bagged 1-3 without reply, and we knew then that the cup was Slievenamon bound. Tipp were rampant. We were facing something akin to the old Chinese torture of a thousand cuts. But the Kilkenny lads fought the war to the finish. The better team won, of that there can be no doubt. We applaud them, and salute them as true Champions.

Kilkenny:Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (capt), Padraig Walsh, Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley, T.J. Reid, Conor Fogarty, Walter Walsh, Richie Hogan, Eoin Larkin, Kevin Kelly, Colin Fennelly, Liam Blanchfield.

Subs (used): Robert Lennon for Ciarán Joyce, Lester Ryan for Eoin Larkin.

Tipperary: Darren Gleeson, Cathal Barrett, James Barry, Michael Cahill, Seamus Kennedy, Ronan Maher, Padraic Maher, Brendan Maher, Michael Breen, Dan Mc Cormack, Patrick Maher, Noel Mc Grath, John O'Dwyer, Seamus Callinan, John Mc Grath.

Subs (used): Jason Forde for Michael Breen, Niall O'Meara for Dan Mc Cormack, Donagh Maher for Michael Cahill, Kieran Bergin for Noel Mc Grath, Tommy Hamill for Seamus Kennedy.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

**Waterford V Kilkenny in Walsh Park 14 February.
Waterford 0-14 Kilkenny 0-10.**

On a pitch more familiar to a local club's cross country course, Kilkenny came up short against a feisty Waterford outfit by a four-point margin. It could have been much worse, but the Cats battled hard for points that seemed a remote possibility from early in the second half. In a League where the maintenance of first Division status was paramount, this loss was difficult to accept, given that the next game would be against old rivals, Tipperary. T.J. Reid belted seven points between the Waterford posts, six from frees, while Padraig Walsh, Colin Fennelly and Richie Hogan recorded single scores. James Maher came on for the injured Mark Kelly, while Colin Fennelly was sent off in the 44th minute having received two yellow cards.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (capt), Padraig Walsh, Ciarán Joyce, Diarmuid Cody, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Walter Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-1), T.J. Reid (0-7, six frees), Jonjo Farrell, Colin Fennelly (0-1), Mark Kelly.

Sub (used): James Maher.

Waterford: Stephen O'Keeffe, Shane Fives, Barry Coughlan, Noel Connors, Austin Gleeson, Dara Fives, Philip Mahoney, James Barron, Maurice Shanahan (0-3, one free), Kevin Moran, Shane Bennett (0-3, two frees), Michael Walsh, Patrick Curran (0-3, one free), Jake Dillon (0-2), Colin Dunford (0-2), Austin Gleeson (0-1).

Subs (used): Brian O'Halloran for Curran.

Kilkenny V Tipperary, Nowlan Park 21 February.

Kilkenny 2-17 Tipperary 0-18

Two points in this game were mandatory. In front of a big crowd, Kilkenny were more than fired. It was a big day for newcomers, Robert Lennon, James Maher and Ballyragget's Kevin Kelly. Kelly's two goals made huge contributions to the Kilkenny cause. Tipp led at the break by the odd point in 17. Eoin Murphy, Shane Prendergast, Robert Lennon, James Maher, Walter Walsh, Padraig Walsh, and Kevin Kelly were marquee players on the day. Kilkenny were back in the League mix.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (cast0, Padraig Walsh (0-1), Robert Lennon, Diarmuid Cody, Lester Ryan, Conor Fogarty, Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid (0-10, six frees, one '65), James Maher (0-4), Walter Walsh (0-1), Kevin Kelly, John Power. Subs (used): Jonjo Farrell for John Power, Ciarán Joyce for Joey Holden.

Tipperary: Darren Gleeson, Cathal Barrett, Tomás Hamill, Michael Cahill, Brendan Maher, James Barry, Padraic Maher, Michael Breen (0-1), Daire Quinn, Dan Mc Cormack, Patrick Maher, John O'Dwyer (0-9, four frees, one '65), Noel McGrath (0-2), Conor Kenny (0-2), John McGrath (0-4, one free).

Subs (used): Niall O'Meara for Kenny; Ronan Maher for Quinn; John Meagher for Padraic Maher; Jason Forde for McCormack.



Kilkenny v Galway Nowlan Park March 6

Kilkenny 0-21 Galway 1-14

Though new Galway Manager, Michael O'Donoghue felt that his side could have done better, he was satisfied to take back plenty of positivity with his side's performance against the All Ireland Champions nonetheless. After a tremendous first half, Kilkenny led by 0-13 to Galway's 0-5. TJ Reid's take of 10 points was more than impressive. Padraig Walsh was the best talent on view, while Conor Fogarty was conductor-in-chief throughout. Things changed dramatically in the second half for Galway, and by the 59th minute they were only a point adrift, thanks to the storm hurled up by Canning, Dathi Burke, Niall Burke, and Davy Glennon. It finished in nail-biting fashion, with Kilkenny getting over the line in front - but only just.

Kilkenny: Richie Reid, Shane Prendergast (capt), Joey Holden, Jackie Tyrrell, Padraig Walsh, Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Lester Ryan, Conor Fogarty (0-2), Colin Fennelly (0-1), TJ. Reid (0-14, six frees, three '65), James Maher (0-2), Walter Walsh, Kevin Kelly, Richie Hogan (0-2).

Sub (used): Jonjo Farrell for Kevin Kelly.

Galway: James Skehill, Fergal Moore, Daithi Burke, Gearoid McInerney, Aidan Kelly, David Burke (capt), Paul Hoban (1-0), Davy Kelly, Davy Glennon (0-2), Iarliath Tannion (0-2), Conor Whelan, Cathal Mannion, Joe Canning (0-8, three frees), Jason Flynn (0-1),

Subs (used): Eanna Burke for Mannion, Padraig Brehony (0-1) for Whelan, Joe Cooney for Tannion, Richie Cummins for Flynn.



Shane Prendergast (above) and Liam Blanchfield (below) in All Ireland Final action (Willie Dempsey)

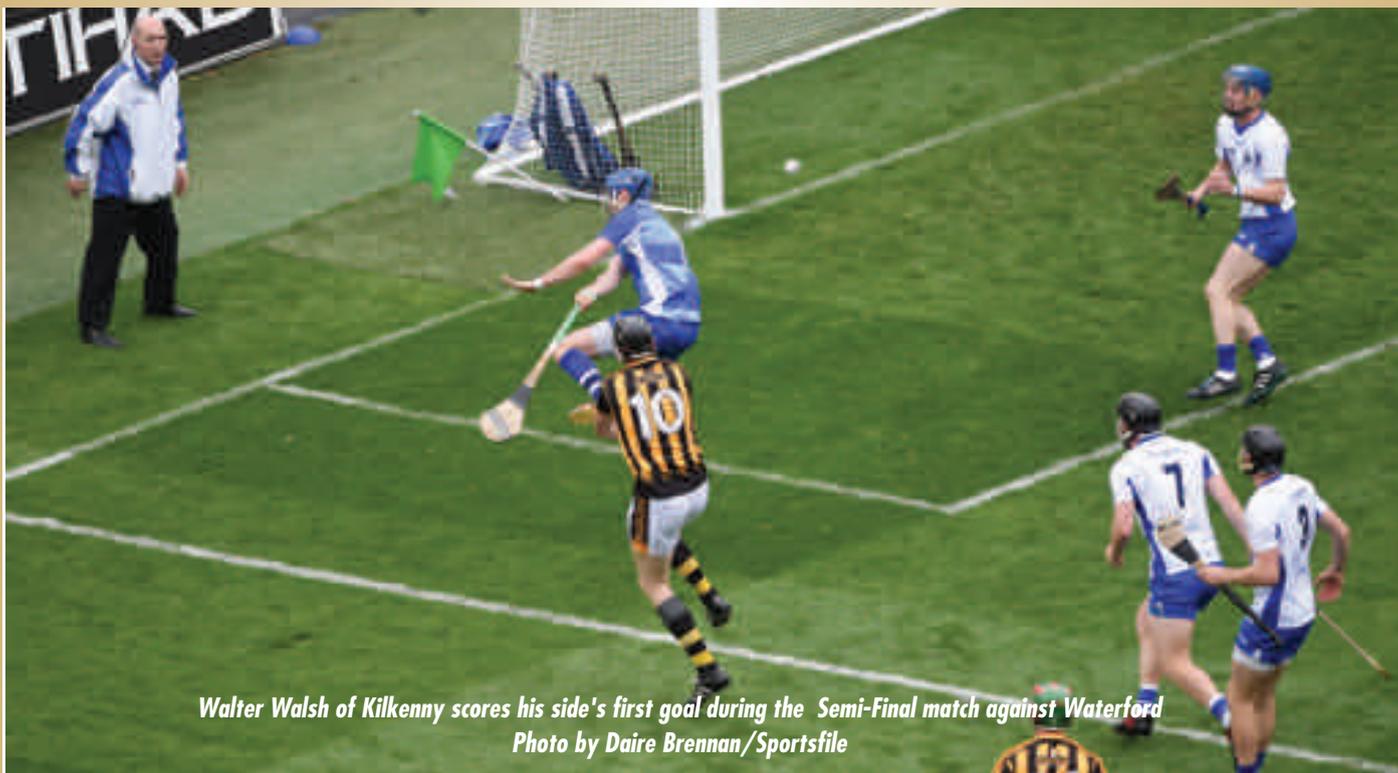
Cork V Kilkenny Páirc Uí Rinn March 13.

Kilkenny 2-23 Cork 2-22

In one of the games of the entire season, Kilkenny came from a long way back in the field to deny Cork badly-needed points. At 63 minutes Cork led by 2-20 to Kilkenny's 0-20. Five minutes later they were 2-22 to



Cillian Buckley prevents a certain goal for Galway, as he clears the sliothar off the line in the 50th minute of the Leinster Final. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile



Walter Walsh of Kilkenny scores his side's first goal during the Semi-Final match against Waterford
 Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile

2-20 behind. They had been slam dunked with 2-2 from TJ Reid and Colin Fennelly. It was not over as the game thundered into injury time. Cork, with the baying Corkonians beside themselves, caught them. With seconds remaining, sub John Power was presented with the great Roy of the Rovers chance he ever got.

A poor clearance with plenty of room.

He couldn't miss! ----

He didn't!

PS. Conor Fogarty shipped a bad leg injury at the throw-in. It took a long time to heal.

Kilkenny: Richie Reid, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (capt), Pdraig Walsh, Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Diarmuid Cody (0-1), Colin Fennelly (1-2), TJ Reid (1-12, nine frees), Conor Martin, Walter Walsh (0-3), Richie Hogan (0-1), Kevin Kelly.

Subs (used): Lester Ryan (0-3), John Power (0-1), James Maher.

Cork: Patrick Collins, Killian Burke, Damian Cahalane, Stephen Mc Donnell (capt), Cormac Murphy (0-2), Christopher Joyce, Lorcan Mc Loughlin (0-1), Paul Haughney (0-1), John Cronin (0-1), Brian Lawton (0-1), Bill Cooper, Conor Lehane (0-5, one free), Luke O'Farrell (0-1), Seamus Harnedy, Patrick Horgan (0-6, four frees, one '65).

Subs (used): Donal Kearney, Stephen Moylan, Paudie O'Sullivan.

Kilkenny V Dublin in Nowlan Park on March 20th.

Kilkenny 0-23 Dublin 1-14

This no-value game was a very tame affair as both had qualified for the League play-offs. At half time Kilkenny comfortably led by 0-13 to Dublin's 1-3. TJ Reid was immaculate, while Pdraig Walsh, Cillian Buckley, and Lester Ryan were not too far behind. Kilkenny would face Offaly in the League Quarter finals, while the dubs would go toe to toe with Limerick.

Kilkenny: Richie Reid, Jackie Tyrrell, Joey Holden, Brian Kennedy, Pdraig Walsh (0-2), Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley (0-1), Lester Ryan (0-2), Diarmuid Cody, Walter Walsh (0-3), T.J. Reid (0-11, six frees), James Maher, Jonjo Farrell, John Power (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-3).

Subs (used): Michael Malone, Shane Prendergast, Kevin Kelly.

Garry Maguire, Eoghan O'Donnell, Cian O'Callaghan, Oisín Gough, Chris Crummy, Liam Rushe (0-1), Shane Barrett, Darragh O'Connell, Glen Whelan, Colm Cronin, Niall Mc Morrow (0-2), David Treacy (0-4, frees), Fionntán Mc Gib (1-1), Eamonn Dillon (0-3), Mark Schutte (0-1).

Subs (used): John Mc Caffrey (0-2), Sean Mc Grath, S.Treacy.

Kilkenny V Offaly in Nowlan Park April 3rd.

Kilkenny 6-20 Offaly 0-14

The score tells most of the story with Kilkenny winning by a clear eight goal. Not pretty reading for followers of the Faithful County.

It came at a cost but!

Injuries to Paul Murphy (shoulder), Michael Fennelly (Hamstring), and Colin Fennelly (Hamstring) did not make happy reading for supporters

of the Cats. Kevin Kelly bagged 1-7 to lead a plethora of Kilkenny players, whose names were listed as score-getters. The win provided Kilkenny with the chance to pit their resources against far stiffer opposition in the semi-final. Clare would certainly help to evaluate what progress the All Ireland Champions had made during the League.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Robert Lennon, Shane Prendergast (capt), Conor O'Shea (0-1), Ciarán Joyce, Cillian Buckley (0-1), Michael Fennelly (0-2), Lester Ryan (0-2), Walter Walsh (0-1), Colin Fennelly (2-1), Kevin Kelly (1-7, seven frees), Liam Blanchfield (1-3), Jonjo Farrell (1-0), John Power (1-2).

Subs (used): Joey Holden, Diarmuid Cody, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Malone, Conor Martin.

Offaly: James Dempsey, Niall Wynne, Dermot Shortt, Chris Mc Donald, Pat Camon, Conor Doughan, Dermot Mooney, Sean Ryan, Kevin Connelly (0-3), Pdraig Guinan, Colin Egan (0-1), Shane Kinsella, Shane Dooley (0-6, frees), Joe Bergin (0-1), James Mulrooney (0-2).

Subs (used): Paddy Murphy (0-1), Cillian Kiely, Dan Kelleher, James Gorman, Jason Sampson

Kilkenny V Clare League semi-final in Thurles April 17th.

Clare 4-22 Kilkenny 2-19

A score of 2-19 would have won five of the last eight National League semi-finals. It wasn't enough to get Kilkenny into the final against a rampant Clare who drove hard from start to finish, taking the honours. Kilkenny were short Paul Murphy, Michael and Colin Fennelly, Conor Fogarty, and Eoin Larkin back from UN duty in Syria. Despite the titanic drive of Pdraig Walsh all through, the industry of the rest of the Kilkenny players really didn't cut the mustard against this well focussed, and driven Banner. Kilkenny's top scorer was again TJ Reid. His total score of 1-7 was all scored from frees with one exceptional point from play. Clare's pace and the understanding caused plenty of problems for the losers, and as Brian Cody said afterwards, there were plenty of lessons there to be learned. The Division B Champions had plenty of star quality in their team. One would include David Reidy, Colm Galvin, Cian Dillon, Brendan Bugler, Aaron Cunningham, Conor Mc Grath, and Patrick O'Connor.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast (capt), Pdraig Walsh (0-2), Ciarán Joyce, Conor O'Shea, Lester Ryan, Cillian Buckley (0-2), Walter Walsh (0-2), T.J. Reid (1-7, 1-6 frees), Kevin Kelly (0-2), John Power (0-1), Jonjo Farrell (1-1) Richie Hogan (0-1).

Subs (Used): Brian Kennedy, Liam Blanchfield, Chris Bolger (0-1).

Clare: Patrick Kelly, Oisín O'Brien, Cian Dillon, Paul Flanagan, Brendan Bugler, Conor Cleary (0-1), Patrick O'Connor, David Reidy (0-1), David Fitzgerald, John Conlon (1-1), Colin Galvin (0-5), Aaron Cunningham (2-3), Conor Mc Grath (1-6, 0-3 frees, one '65), Pdraig Collins (0-1), Darach Honan (0-1).

Subs (used): Tony Kelly (0-2), Cathal O'Connel (0-1), Colin Ryan, Aaron Shanagher, Bobby Duggan.

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*Overhead View of Completed Training Centre at Dunmore
(Eoin Hennessy)*

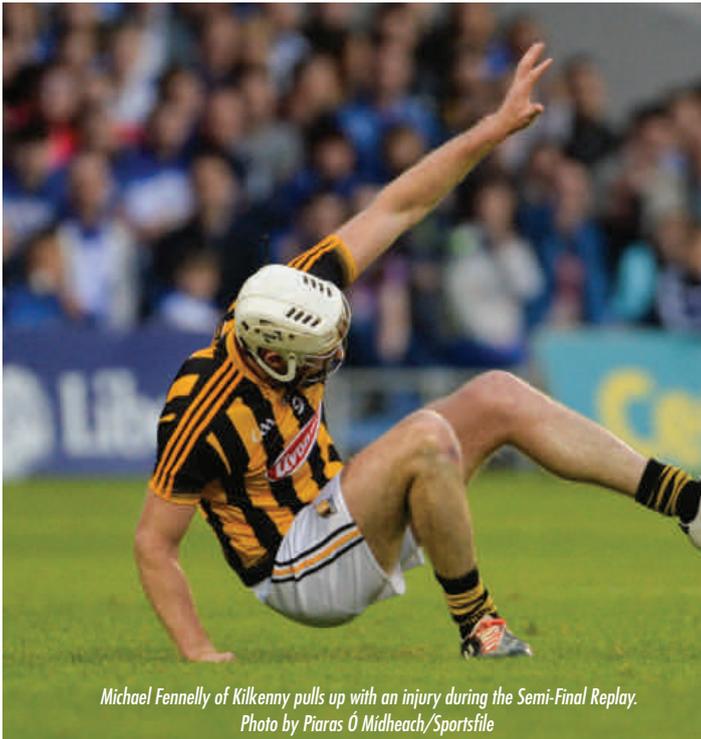
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Well Done Kilkenny Camogie 2016!

2016: THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WASN'T QUITE

by Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)



Michael Fennelly of Kilkenny pulls up with an injury during the Semi-Final Replay.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Michael Fennelly in action against Davey Glennon of Galway during the Leinster Final.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Just to give you the heads-up, this is a moany kind of an article. It grumbles. It groans. It asks questions. It seeks answers. It does not hand out too many plaudits. But here's the thing. It would still have been a moany kind of an article even if Kilkenny had won the All Ireland.

After all of that, you may be surprised to discover that the events of the first Sunday of September come in for little in the way of carping. Context is everything and the context that attended Kilkenny's defeat by Tipperary was immense. Here's a list of players who were unavailable (or in Tyrrell's case not selected) for the All Ireland final: David Herity, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, JJ Delaney, Michael Fennelly, Michael Rice, Henry Shefflin, Ger Aylward, Aidan Fogarty, Richie Power.

That is two thirds of an All Ireland-winning team. Correction: that is two thirds of a multiple All Ireland-winning team, and each of those players had been available for selection as recently as two years ago. Such a wealth of corporate memory gone, almost at a swoop. Sometimes we're so close to the case that we miss the obvious and in this instance we did. In view of the ravaging of their playing pool over the past two seasons Kilkenny's achievement in reaching a third consecutive All Ireland final was little short of incredible. At the very least it was substantial. They were fooling us, right up to September 4th. They'd bluffed us into believing that, while they'd lost a swathe of players, the inevitable consequent decline wasn't significant. The All Ireland final proved otherwise.

Regular Yearbook readers won't need to hear, yet again, about the importance of Michael Fennelly post-2010. The most influential Kilkenny player of the first half of the decade, his influence was never more obvious than in its absence in September. The moment he broke down against Waterford was the moment whatever fleeting hopes the champions possessed of retaining the MacCarthy Cup disappeared. Would they have beaten Tipperary had he been there in the full of his health in Croke Park? Of course not. But they'd probably have kept the damage down to four or five points, not least because Fennelly would have been sitting on top of his half-back line in the second half and the gaps close to goal that Tipperary so icily exploited would not have existed – or at worst would have been chinks rather than chasms.

So Brian Cody had a much weaker hand than he was accustomed to.

To give the man his due he played it as well as he could and better than anyone else could have. What's more, the very scale of the defeat to Tipperary cast the victories of 2014 and '15 in a new and better light and rendered them a good deal worthier than they appeared at the time – that of 2015 at any rate. It also cast a new light on the manager's mantra about the joys of a settled spirit as opposed to a settled team. That worked in 2014, when the team wasn't settled but the depth of the panel – he used more players in that championship than he'd ever used in a championship before – served to get Kilkenny over the line. It didn't work in 2016, not so much because the team wasn't settled but because there was no depth of panel.

This season Cody had to mix and match what he had and this is what he had. Jonjo Farrell making his championship debut at the age of 27. Mark Bergin making his championship debut at the age of 27 in an All Ireland semi-final. Liam Blanchfield making his championship debut at the age of 19 in an All Ireland semi-final. Kevin Kelly making his first championship start in an All Ireland final. The boss had squeezed the orange as long and as hard as he could and there was no more juice to be extracted.

Even without Fennelly they might still have got away with it had they been facing a Joe Canning-less Galway. Instead they were facing a progressive Tipperary side that featured a captivating balance of youth, bitter experience and, in the full-forward line, a wagonful of high explosive. Against this was pitted Kilkenny's poorest team in an All Ireland final since the 2004 edition. It was also Cody's least distinguished day on the sideline in an All Ireland since that same 2004 decider.

Let's not overdo it. Nothing Cody could have done, nothing short of springing a young Noel Hickey, a fit Michael Fennelly and the Eddie Keher of the early 1970s, would have made a difference. He's long been wary of making changes during matches for the sake of it and one can understand why. Taking action to try and swing a delicate balance can misfire. Sometimes less can be more. But against Tipperary the management had to do something.

With Joey Holden being cleaned out by Seamus Callanan and a tide of ball coming in from the Tipperary half-back line, inaction was not an op-

tion. Granted, there was no magic bullet; putting an extra man behind the half-back line, say, would have left a bill to be paid elsewhere. There were holes to be plugged in the full-back line and holes to be plugged in the half-forward line, where Kilkenny simply couldn't make the sliotar stick. Were Cody and his selectors possibly mesmerised by the extent of the crisis? Very possibly. The patient was bleeding all over the place - and the doctor stood watching and did nothing to staunch the blood loss. Allowing an opposition forward to score nine points from play is surely unprecedented in a top-class championship match, certainly so in an All Ireland final. One thing is definite: Kilkenny's in-game management will need to be considerably better in 2017.

OTHER ISSUES AT PLAY

Yet getting worked up about the failure to make a switch in the full-back or half-forward line risks ignoring what was a far graver issue. Kilkenny were not quite at concert pitch for the final. Even acknowledging Tipperary's aggression and forcefulness and the plethora of turnovers that ensued - this was Kilkenny at their ferocious best, except clad in blue and gold - the defending champions' first touch was noticeably off. The number of unforced fumbles by the half-back line in particular was staggering. Perhaps it was a case that the replay against Waterford upset the training regime. Whatever the story, Kilkenny looked a team a week or two off being pitch-perfect. Given that Cody and Mick Dempsey have specialised for so long in having them cherry-ripe for the big occasion, what went wrong this time around? It is a question that cannot be avoided and one that a certain resident of the general Kilferna/Sheestown metropolitan area has doubtless been asking himself for the past few months.

If all of this sounds like doing Tipperary a slight injustice, apologies. Credit must go where credit is not merely due but should be lavished: on Michael Ryan and his team. Ryan had a vision not just from the moment he took over but for a year beforehand. Silk and steel, hip and whip. The brawn of Seamus Kennedy, Michael Breen and Dan McCormack - the latter Championship 2016's real unsung hero in that the grunt work he did took the load of Patrick Maher, for so long Tipp's sole plough horse - complementing the cutting edge of Callanan, John O'Dwyer and the McGrath brothers. The end product was an All Ireland performance for the ages. A near-incredible bottom line of 2-29, 2-23 of it from play, 2-15 from the full-forward line.

Right, consider the following statistic. "For eight of Séamus Callanan's points in the All-Ireland final the full-forward benefitted from a quality delivery, had space to work in and the structure of his side engineered a one-on-one scenario against his direct marker in acres of space." This comes from a two-part article in the Tipperary Star - well, really it's less an article and more a monumental piece of research - by Brian McDonnell, the newspaper's sports editor. McDonnell watched (and rewatched and rewatched and rewatched) Tipp's championship matches in 2016 and crunched the numbers. Then, crucially, he put a shape on them and made sense of them. It is an astonishing piece of work that deserves some kind of award.

Readers with the internet, here is the link: <http://www.tipperarystar.ie/news/sport/217928/blueprint-all-the-numbers-that-mattered-in-the-making-of-an-all-ireland-for-tipperary.html>

Readers without the internet: please importune someone to track this article down and print it off for you. It is worth the trouble and in passing it's gratifying to note that McDonnell identifies the importance of Dan McCormack's selflessness (he was Tipperary's most prolific tackler despite being one of the forwards). Also, that sentence he wrote about Callanan is one that every member of the Kilkenny backroom team and panel should commit to memory for 2017. *Eight points accruing from quality ball delivered to a one-on-one situation.* Of course Callanan ended up as man of the match recipient. With supply of that quality and quantity, how could he not have?

It is not being wise after the event to hold that the first Sunday of the National League, Valentine's Day, contained some of the secrets of Kilkenny's season. Richie Power had departed and even if his role would never have been a prominent one he could have made a fine last-quarter cameo man. Ger Aylward's intercounty season was over before it started and this was a heavier blow: the loss of a current All Star who provided thrust and incisiveness from a standing start inside the opposition's 50-metre line. James Maher, moreover, would have been a highly useful option from the bench come high summer.

Waterford won comfortably that afternoon despite hitting 18 wides. Even allowing that the visitors had just returned from holidays a tiny alarm



Kevin Kelly after scoring his side's first goal despite the attempts of James Barry during the Final.
Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile



Johnjo Farrell (John McIlwaine)

bell began to sound. The bell was silent when Kilkenny recovered and foiled both Tipperary and Cork at the death in due course, then rang again after Clare put 4-22 on them in the league semi-final. Such a defeat, to fitter and amped-up opponents, could have been dismissed as one of those springtime things. We now know it was more than that. The evidence was hiding in plain sight all the time. Kilkenny's resources had been depleted beyond repair.

There was one highlight of the year nonetheless. The All Ireland semi-final replay against Waterford. What a contest. What an atmosphere. What a night.

The attendance was given as 30,000; it was surely 40,000 or more. Waterford didn't possess quite their zip of Croke Park six days earlier but they lacked for nothing in grit. Kilkenny, with a rejigged XV, were a much sharper proposition but found their opponents impossible to kill off. Five points down early in the second half Derek McGrath's side plugged away and kept plugging. Pauric Mahony very nearly sent the game to extra time, only to be foiled by Eoin Murphy's hydraulic hand, and Richie



All Ireland Final 2016 - Pre-match Parade. Paul Mohan/Sportfile

Hogan nailed the closing score at the other end moments later.

Two chaps separately materialised at the counter in Cleere's of Parliament Street much later that night. Although they'd been in Semple Stadium they looked noticeably clean and tidy and spruce. There was a reason for that: they'd gone home, had a shower and changed their sweat-soaked clothes. And they were only spectators.

Not every Kilkenny supporters will agree that being in Semple Stadium was worth the cost of losing to Tipperary. Maybe most of them won't. But would you really want to have missed out on an occasion those of us there will take with us to our graves? In big-picture, long-view terms, indeed, perhaps ending up in the All Ireland final will prove to be healthier for Kilkenny than a narrow defeat to Waterford first time around – and clearly Waterford played 60 minutes of sparkling hurling in Croke Park were the better team by a few points, except the will of their opponents was indomitable - might have conducted to. No room now exists for debate. There's a reconstruction job to be done and it's a monster.

A LONG-HAUL TASK

Formulating a new, strong, settled team will comprise the work of three years. An entire spinal transplant is called for: 3, 6 (Padraig Walsh?), 8 or 9 (James Maher?), 11 and 14. Although finding a new centre-forward and new full-forward in one go is too big a leap, finding one or other in time for the 2017 championship is essential. TJ Reid and Richie Hogan cannot be left to carry the burden – the dual burden of showing for the ball and scoring with it, of being both creator and provider – any longer by themselves. If there was one Kilkenny player who merited sympathy this year it was Reid; now centre-forward, now full-forward, now on the wing, now at midfield. Quick, where's the next fire going to break out that we can send TJ to fight? The sooner Reid and Hogan can get back to playing their own position – one position apiece – the better for them and the better for the county.

Away from the senior arena 2016 brought All Ireland club titles for Bennettsbridge and Glenmore. St Kieran's were again kings of the colleges patch. But there was no more noteworthy result anywhere than the defeat of the Kilkenny under-21s by Westmeath in Mullingar, a Kilkenny under-21 team that – as All Ireland minor champions two years earlier - should have been capable of challenging for the ultimate silverware in the grade. In the event they were nothing of the sort. Kilkenny were beaten by Westmeath. Westmeath were beaten by Dublin. Dublin were beaten by Galway. Galway were annihilated in the All Ireland by Waterford. Even allowing for Waterford being a fabulous team this says something about Kilkenny - and not something flattering.

It serves to make one pause and wonder exactly where Kilkenny hurling is at right now. Are the right people in charge of teams at all levels? Are the right selectors being appointed? Is the balance of the management teams right? Is the appointments process sufficiently streamlined? Does

a proper path exist for aspiring youngsters to make it through to adult level? Are too many of them falling through the cracks or is the talent simply not of the standard that obtained during the noughties? In refusing – commendably – to go with the trend for higher, faster, stronger at under-age level is Kilkenny hurling in danger of turning a virtue into a vice and going in the opposite direction? Do the county board have a vision for Kilkenny in five years' time? If not, why not? And what will we do when Ned Quinn is gone?

I don't know the answers to these questions. Nor am I saying that the answers, whatever they may be, are necessarily negative ones. But if such questions aren't asked now they'll be asked next year or the year after. So let's not pretend everything in the garden is blooming.

(Exhibit A: the fiasco of the minor footballers, which didn't only bring Kilkenny GAA into disrepute, it by implication brought Kilkenny hurling into disrepute. Can it really be that difficult to put together a minor football team that will give a decent account of itself? Shrugged shoulders and a handwringing, "We can't get enough lads interested" really don't cut it.)

If history indicates Kilkenny hurling to be at any particular point right now it may be where it was in the mid-1980s. Heading for a period of stasis. The double-double of 1982-83 gone, the heady days of the early 1990s yet to come. Famous players departed and, as is always the way when famous players depart, not adequately replaced. A successful under-age team (Brendan O'Sullivan's 1988 minor outfit) boasting some scintillating youngsters who'd lead the way to a brighter horizon yet to materialise.

You might respond, perfectly justifiably, that at this time in 2005 nobody saw the four in a row coming. One knows not the day nor the hour. But at this time in 2005 Kilkenny were more than halfway through the process of winning three All Ireland under-21 titles in four years, had given championship debuts to Jackie Tyrrell, Eoin Larkin, Richie Power and Brian Hogan and had Cha Fitzpatrick, Michael Rice, Michael Fennelly, TJ Rice and Richie Hogan approaching the starting stalls. So, no: we're hardly where we were in 2005.

Right now supporters are left hoping for another exciting minor team to come around before too long and also for the most promising of the victorious All Ireland minors of 2014 to make an impression. Speedily. Admittedly the failure of the under-21s put an automatic question mark over the group. But Cody will be obliged to try and make something out of the best of them in 2017.

The days of the Cody era are not over. The days of the Cody empire may be. But now for his next trick, which will make for fascinating viewing. While it may take a few years for a captain in stripes to be seen on the Hogan Stand podium in September again there's only one person out there capable of making it happen sooner. It's still the big man.



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A YEAR TO REMEMBER!

Camogie Report by TJ Mills PRO



Kilkenny players with the Downey twins and Breda Holmes celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final
Photo by Eóin Noonan/Sportsfile

INTER-COUNTY SCENE

Senior

2016 was a year to remember for Kilkenny as they ended the 22 year wait back bringing the O'Duffy cup back home to Noreside.

The senior side trophy haul began early in the year as they claim back the league title in May when they proved too strong for Galway 2-07 to 0-07 in Thurles.

They began the year under new management with Ann Downey, Conor Phelan and Paddy Mullally taking the reins. Derry provided first opposition at the start of the league when the Oakleaf Side travelled to Conahy. It was a complete mismatch as Kilkenny proved too strong on a 5-09 to 0-01 point score line. In their next game Kilkenny entertained 2015 All Ireland Intermediate champions Waterford to Piltown. Kilkenny proved too strong and were able to fight off a late Waterford challenge to come out the right side of a 3-16 to 3-07 score line. In their third game they entertained 2015 All Ireland senior champions Cork. In a game that can only be described as one that got away as Cork edged Kilkenny 1-09 to 0-11 points with a Kattriona Mackey goal proving the difference between the sides. In their fourth encounter Kilkenny travelled to take on a high flying Limerick side with Kilkenny needing a win to claim a knockout spot. Kilkenny showed great grit taking on a high competitive Limerick side and even a Niamh Mulcahy scoring tally of 0-12 points could stop Kilkenny claiming a 2-12 to 0-14 point victory to secure a semi final spot with Tipperary. In a hard fought tussle in which the premier side brought Kilkenny to extra time, with goals from Denise Gaule and Julie Ann Malone in each half of extra time proving the difference as Kilkenny won out on a 2-13 to 0-15 point score line. This victory secured a league final berth against Galway in Semple Stadium in May. In the final Kilkenny led from start to finish with goals from Anna Farrell and Julieann Malone proving the difference as Kilkenny ran out 2-07 to 0-07 point victors to claim the league crown back for the first time since 2014.

The League champions began the Leinster championship campaign with a tricky away test assignment to Wexford. The Slaneysiders by their high standards had a disappointing league campaign and only avoided bottom spot on score difference to Dublin. Wexford were a complete different side in the Leinster series and taught Kilkenny a lesson as they out powered the league champions on a 2-19 to 2-09 score line to end Kilkenny's Leinster title bid.

Kilkenny regrouped from this set back and began the All Ireland series in style. In their first game Kilkenny made the long trek to Swatragh in Derry to take on the home side. In an impressive display Kilkenny ease to victory on a 5-24 to 2-03 score line. In their second contest they entertained Dublin. In a tough contest where the Metropolitan pushed Kilkenny for long periods Kilkenny held out to record a 2-12 to 0-10 point score line. Kilkenny then had to travel in their third game to take

on Tipperary in Semple Stadium in Thurles. In a contest completely different to their league encounter Kilkenny ran out easy 1-21 to 0-11 point victors. In their final group game Kilkenny entertained Galway in Freshford where a victory would secure top of the table and an automatic semi final spot. In a game that can only be described as one of two halves. Galway gained revenge for their league final defeat and recorded a 1-12 to 0-10 points score line. This loss meant Kilkenny had to play Offaly in the Quarter Finals. On a cold blustery day Kilkenny travelled to Nenagh to take on a fancied Offaly side. Kilkenny put in a very clinical display and overpowered the Faithful on a 1-19 to 0-11 point score line to secure a semi-final spot against Galway for the third time this season. In the semi-final the tribeswomen looked in trouble as the Cats put in a powerful display throughout the contest and were leading by three points going into the end of normal time 2-13 to 0-16 points. Galway were not going to go down without a fight on force extra time when Ailish O'Reilly latched onto a breaking ball from a Rebecca Hennelly free that was dropped in on the twenty one to tap home to force extra time on a 2-13 to 1-16 score line. Kilkenny would have to wonder how they found themselves in that position having in having to face extra time. In the extra period Kilkenny showed great hunger and grit and an Ann Dalton goal in the second period of extra time push Kilkenny clear as they secure the final spot against Cork on a 3-15 to 1-19 score line.

The final was eagerly anticipated with Kilkenny trying to end a twenty two year wait, and Cork hoping to do the three in a row. There was something different with Kilkenny this year whenever they seemed to be in adversity, they found that extra piece of magic to get over the line. Kilkenny's final display could only be described as magical. Twenty two years of pain and hurt were released on Cork. No longer were they the bridesmaid watching on they were going to be the bride. And did they do it in style! From the off they rained havoc on the Cork defence with Julieann Malone and Shelly Farrell causing chaos. Kilkenny led at the break by 0-08 points to 0-06 with the score not rightly reflecting the performance. Kilkenny knew this and emerged from the dressing room at the start of the second half on a mission. No more would they come out second best. Right from the start they set down the stall and extended their advantage to 0-11 points to 0-07 and when Shelly Farrell found the back of the Cork net after a brilliant passage of play that saw Katie Power passing to Farrell who blasted the sliotar to the roof of Aoife Murray's net, they just weren't going to be denied. Kilkenny pushed on and added points to go 1-13 to 0-09 clear heading into the final moments and not even a late Orla Cotter goal from a free could deny Kilkenny as they held on to record a 1-13 to 1-09 score line. Ann Downey who was the last captain to bring the O'Duffy Cup back Noreside masterminded the return twenty two years later.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: Aine Gannon, Davina Tobin, Edwina Keane, Denise Gaule, Kellyann Doyle, Stacey Quirke, Aisling Dunphy, Sarah Crowley, Meighan Farrell, Niamh Deely, Aoife O' Carroll, Laura Murphy, Maureen Walsh, Sarah Kent, Miriam Walsh, Emma Kavanagh,

Front: Sarah Ann Quinlan, Michelle Teehan, Julie Ann Malone, Jackie Frisby, Anna Farrell, Michelle Quilty, Grace Walsh, Colette Dormer, Katie Power, Claire Phelan, Annmarie Lennon, Shelly Farrell, Miriam Frisby, Anne Dalton.

Intermediate

2016 will also go down as a historic year for the Kilkenny Intermediate team as they regained the Jack McGrath Cup for the first time in eight years.

The team made a slow start to the year down 24 players from the previous year. They opened their season with an away trip to Down and came away with a 0-07 points each draw. In their second clash they entertained Carlow and were unlucky to come out the wrong side of a 2-04 to 0-06 points defeat. They entertained Kildare in third game and put in a brave performance only come up short on a 0-14 points to 1-06 score line. In their fourth game they put in a spirited performance to claim their first win of the campaign over Wexford 2-10 to 0-03. In their final game they took on Laois in Trumera. In a dead rubber contest for the cats Laois claimed the spoils on a 0-09 points to 1-02 score line.

The Kilkenny side then focused on the Leinster Championship in which they travelled to Mullingar to take on Westmeath in the first round. In a impressive display Kilkenny came out the right side of a 6-09 to 0-07 points score line. This set up a semi-final clash against Carlow. In a game Kilkenny dictated for long periods it was Carlow who claimed victory with late scores on a 2-11 to 3-06 score line.

Kilkenny's focus then turned to the All Ireland series in which they entertained Tipperary in the opening game. In a one sided encounter Kilkenny came out the right side of a 5-18 to 0-11 points score line. In their second game Kilkenny travelled to take on Antrim. In a contest where all of Kilkenny's score came from play they made it two wins from two on a 6-11 to -07 score line. In their third game Kilkenny travelled to New Ross to take on Wexford. In a scrappy game for long periods Kilkenny finally cut loose of the shackles and recorded a 3-11 to 0-05 victory and continued there unbeaten run. A victory in their final group game against Laois and top spot would be cemented in the group. Kilkenny duly obliged as they ran out 2-14 to 0-11 point victors. This win secured an All Ireland semi-final spot against Kildare. In a game played in tough conditions Kilkenny were never daunted in playing the previous

year's finalist and recorded a 1-15 to 0-07 point victory keeping Kildare scoreless for the entire second half. This victory secure an All Ireland final berth against Cork on the second Sunday in September. In the final, Kilkenny played second fiddle for most of the first half, with their rebel challengers enjoying a good opening half which saw them lead 0-07 points to 0-03. Kilkenny improved dramatically from the start of the second half, scoring 1-01 on the spin to equalise the tie with the goal scored by Jenny Clifford. Keeva Fennelly raised the green flag twice more for the Cats and even though Kilkenny had to endure some nervy late moments they came out the right side of a 3-06 to 1-11 victory to claim the Jack McGrath Cup for the first time since 2008 and set up a great day for Kilkenny camogie.

Minor

For the Kilkenny minor team it was a mixed season. They came up short in their All Ireland title bid when Galway edge them in the All Ireland semi-final, and also came up short in the Leinster semi-final against Wexford but bounced back to claim the Leinster shield title over Dublin.

They began the year at home to Tipperary. In a game that Kilkenny controlled for long periods Tipperary stormed back into the contest to clinch victory on a 2-12 to 3-07 scoreline. In their second game they bounced back brilliantly when they defeat Clare away on a 3-07 to 0-08 point score line. In their third game they were pushed all the way by a determined Offaly side but claim victory on a 2-06 to 1-06 score line. In their final group game they staged a gallant second half comeback against Dublin to claim a 3-07 to 1-11 victory to secure a semi final spot against Galway. In the semi final Galway dictate play throughout and not even a gallant second half Kilkenny performance could stop the Tribeswomen as they held on to claim a 0-12 point to 1-05 victory as there All Ireland title bid ended.

Old rivals Wexford stood between Kilkenny and a Leinster final place. In a tight affair Wexford edged the contest and claimed victory on a 1-17 to 2-10 score line. This ended Kilkenny's chances of retaining the Leinster title but offered them a second chance in the shield competition. Dublin were the opposition

in the final played in Carlow and Kilkenny made no mistake in winning the shield title by 2-10 to 1-10.

U17

For the first time, Kilkenny entered a team in the National under 17 Competition. Over 30 girls came together over a short four week period with a chance to claim an All Ireland title. In the final Galway proved the opposition to the Cats. In a tough hard fought open period it was Galway who led by three points at half time 1-05 to 0-05 points, in a half that Kilkenny just didn't perform. In the second half Kilkenny were a different animal and they outplayed Galway all over the field to claim the inaugural All Ireland title on a 1-15 to 2-06 score line.

U16

The Kilkenny under 16 team also had a mixed year. They had a terrific start when they claimed the Leinster title but suffered the heartbreak of a narrow loss to Galway in the All Ireland final in August.

The side began the year in the Leinster championship where they entertained Dublin in their opening game. In a tough contest Kilkenny just proved that much stronger for Dublin and emerged victorious on a 2-10 to 1-09 score line. In their second game they proved far too strong for Wexford on a 5-14 to 1-04 score line. In their final group game they played Offaly. In an impressive display by Kilkenny they proved far too strong for Offaly on a 5-14 to 1-04 score line. This victory secured a Leinster final spot against Dublin. In a spirited performance by Kilkenny they regained the title on a 3-18 to 3-06 score line.

Kilkenny's focus then turned to All Ireland series. Kilkenny began their campaign with a tricky assignment away to Waterford where the cats staged a second half comeback to claim a 2-14 to 1-10 score line. In their second game Kilkenny entertained Limerick. In a one sided encounter Kilkenny continued their winning ways by claiming victory on a 4-18 to 0-07 points score line. In their third game they travel to Dublin to take on the home side for the third time this year. In tough encounter Kilkenny claim the bragging rights and there third win on a 0-10 points to 0-03 score line. In their final group game they entertained Clare and secured top spot in the group and an All



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: Catherine Walsh, Ciara Phelan, Edel Frisby, Aisling O'Farrell, Niamh Leahy, Eilis Regan, Roisin Breen, Miriam Bambrick, Kirsty Maher, Ciara Holden, Lydia Phelan, Aoife Norris, Sabrina Walsh, Eimear Corr, Ciara Murphy, Niamh Sweeney, Mary Corcoran, Sophie O'Dwyer.

Front: Keeva Fennelly, Katie Nolan, Niamh Bambrick, Noelle Maher, Angela Kennelly, Aine Fahey, Laura Greene, Jenny Clifford, Sarah Walsh, Roisin Phelan, Megan Walsh, Roisin Kealy, Jennifer Norris, Edel Connan.

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Ireland semi final spot on a 3-26 to 1-04 score line. In the semi-final Kilkenny faced Cork in Nenagh. In a game where Kilkenny dominated for long periods and where they led well heading into the closing stages, they had to fight off a late Cork surge to secure the All Ireland final berth on a 2-17 to 3-11 score line. In the final Kilkenny just came up against a very strong Galway side and just came up short. Kilkenny started the game brightly and raced into a 0-04 points lead. Galway stormed back into the contest and got the rub of the green in getting two goals. Kilkenny tried to bounce back into the contest but just couldn't get the crucial scores and came up short after a brave performance on a 3-14 to 1-11 score line.

U15

The Kilkenny under 15 teams continued the winning blanket that continues to envelop camogie in the county with both A & B sides claiming All Ireland titles in style.

On the third of July Kilkenny played host to a very successful blitz that goes down as one of the best in the country for under 15 teams. On a day that Kilkenny were not going to be beaten both sides qualified for the finals with the As proving too strong for Tipperary and B squad too strong for Laois.

The teams continued their winning ways in claiming the Dublin A & B titles just over a week later. From that both sides travelled to take part in the Wexford blitz. In a unique occurrence both sides found themselves playing each other in the final with the A side just shading it. Next up for both sides were the All Ireland finals. Held in Kilkenny both sides were determined to continue their winning ways and that they duly did with both the A & B sides claiming the All Ireland titles making it six All Ireland titles coming to Kilkenny and to round off a fantastic year for Kilkenny camogie.

U14

With over 96 girls and four squads this was a very busy year for all involved. Commencing in early January for trials over 300 girls attended aged 13 and 14 yrs. This year Croke Park allowed for 13yr olds to compete and Kilkenny obliged by adding a 4th team. So by the end of March Kilkenny u14 Academy had 4 squads.

Over the next 6 months all teams took part in monthly Blitzes gaining huge experience travelling to Limerick, Cork, Wexford, Dublin and Waterford. All teams enjoyed success and the various Blitzes which gave all team members huge satisfaction and confidence going into the All Ireland series in Dublin in early September.

On the day all teams achieved some great results with BLACKS been narrowly beaten in the All Ireland semi by eventual winners Galway.

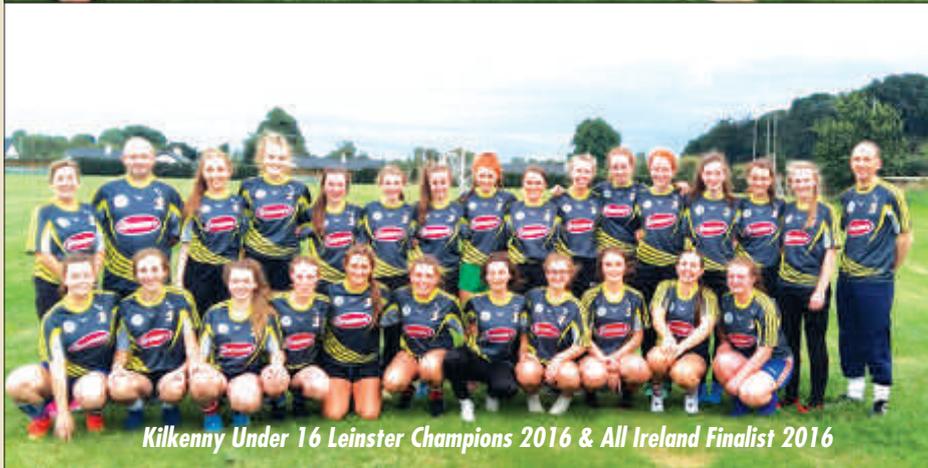
Both AMBERS and WHITES reached semi finals but were unfortunate with injuries on the day.

Pride of place went to REDS who won their respective All Ireland and brought home the cup to Kilkenny.

The following day was probably the highlight of the year for all concerned when all 96 girls marched in the u14 Parade in Croke Park on All Ireland Camogie Finals Day. This was so special as Kilkenny won both the Senior and Intermediate All-Irelands and reminded the girls of what can be achieved when you mix your dreams with hard-work on the camogie field.



Kilkenny Under 17 All Ireland Champions 2016



Kilkenny Under 16 Leinster Champions 2016 & All Ireland Finalist 2016



Kilkenny Under 15A Team All Ireland Champions 2015



Kilkenny Under 15 B Team All Ireland Champions 2015



Kilkenny Under 14 All Ireland Division 4 Champions 2016

Club Scene



Thomastown Senior County & League Champions 2016

Senior

What a year it has been for Thomastown as they completed the league championship double. The league semi final saw Thomastown play St Lachtains/ Lisdowney while Mullinavat played Dicksboro. Thomastown showed no mercy as they secure a league final berth on a 2-15 to 0-03 points. In the other semi final Mullinavat defeated Dicksboro on a 3-14 to 2-08 score line to secure a mouth watering league final. In the league final Thomastown put in a spirited performance in recording a 3-11 to 0-08 point score line.

In the championship the same sides made the later stages of the championship with Mullinavat facing St Lachtains/ Lisdowney and Thomastown facing Dicksboro. In the first of the semi finals Thomastown played Dicksboro under lights in Dunmore. In a cracking encounter Dicksboro pushed the league champions Thomastown with a gallant second half comeback but the Town had that bit more ex-

perience and secured the final berth on a 2-09 to 1-08 score line. In the other semi final Mullinavat proved too strong for a brave St Lachtains/ Lisdowney side on a 4-14 to 1-03 score line to secure another shot at Thomastown. In the final Thomastown showed no mercy and secure their first title since 2014 when they recorded a 2-14 to 1-10 victory to claim the senior county title.

In the All County league final Dicksboro proved too strong for Mullinavat on a 2-11 to 1-06 score line.

In the Leinster Club Championship Thomastown put in an impressive display in defeating Oulart-the-Ballagh on a 2-12 to 2-09 score line to set up a Leinster club final sport against St Vincents of Dublin. At the time of going to print the Leinster final was not played.

Intermediate

2016 will be a year that will go down in history for Glenmore as they claim all the silverware on offer at the intermediate grade, as they

claimed the All County League, League and County titles.

The Intermediate league semi finals saw Glenmore taking on Ballyhale Shamrocks. In a cracking encounter it was Glenmore who edged home on a 1-11 to 0-13 point score line. In the other semi final St Brigid's took on Clara. In a gallant display St Brigid's made no mistake and secure the league final place on a 3-19 to 3-09 score line. In the league final Glenmore edged out a brave St Brigid's side on a 1-14 to 1-10 score line.

In the championship the semi final pairings saw Rower Inistioge take on St Brigid's and Glenmore take on Danesfort. In a game that Rower Inistioge were pushed all the way but secure the county final place on a 2-10 to 2-06 score line. In the other semi final Glenmore made no mistake and recorded a 3-10 to 0-09.

In the county final a Glenmore goal was the difference as they claimed a hat trick of titles for 2016 on a 1-08 to 0-09 point score line. In the All County league final Glenmore took



Glenmore Intermediate ACL Champions 2016



Young Irelands Junior League Champions 2016



Tullogher Rosbercon e Junior B champions



Slieverue All county jr B champions

on St Brigid's. In a cracking encounter it was Glenmore who won out on a 3-11 to 2-17. In the Leinster club championship Glenmore took on Carlow champions Myshall. It was heart break for the Glenmore side as a late injury time goal from Ciara Quirke proved the difference as the Carlow champions ran out 3-08 to 2-08 victors.

Junior

Young Ireland's were the big winners in Junior this year as they claimed all the titles on offer in the Junior grade for 2016, the All County League, League and County titles. The first title on offer in the Junior grade saw Conahy Shamrocks facing Young Irelands in

the Junior All County league title. In a determined display it was Young Irelands who secured the title on a 1-17 to 1-09 score line. The same sides made the league semi-finals with Young Irelands facing Mooncoin and Conahy Shamrocks facing Tullogher. Young Irelands secured the final spot with a convincing 2-16 to 0-03 point victory. While Conahy Shamrocks secure the league final spot with a 3-14 to 0-04 point victory over Tullogher in a determined display. In the final Young Irelands secure their second title with a 2-09 to 0-10 point victory over brave Conahy. Young Ireland and Conahy Shamrocks found themselves again in the championship semi-finals with Young Irelands facing Mooncoin and

ran out 2-16 to 0-03 point victors. In the other semi-final Conahy Shamrocks defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 0-14 to 0-02 to secure down a final showdown against Young Irelands for the third time. In the County final Young Irelands proved too strong again for a brave Conahy side and claimed the County title on a 2-12 to 0-11 score line to complete the treble for 2016. In the Junior B County final Tullogher defeated Blacks and Whites on a 5-01 to 0-11 score line. In the ACL final Slieverue defeated Blacks & Whites 6-11 to 0-06 to claim the title.

U21

At time of going to print the Under 21 champi-



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onship had not began. Full details of the competition can be found on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

Minor

Minor A

The Minor A League Final saw Thomastown overcome a brave Conahy Shamrocks 1-8 to 1-4. At the time of going to print the county final was not played but that was set to feature Conahy Shamrocks taken on Dicksboro in a mouth watering contest. Full result will be on www.kilkennycamogie.com

Minor B

The Minor B league final saw James Stephens/Tullaroan overcome a brave Rower Instioge 5-21 to 0-2. The Minor B County Final was set to feature the league champions James Stephens/Tullaroan taken on Young Irelands in an highly anticipated clash. At the time of going to print the county final was not played. Full result will be on www.kilkennycamogie.com

Minor C

The Minor C league final saw Clara overcome a brave O'Loughlin Gaels side to claim the league title on a 4-6 to 1-5 score line. The Minor C county final was set to feature the same sides clashing again. At the time of going to print, the game had not taken place. Full result will be on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

U16

Under 16A

The under 16A county final saw Thomastown and Young Irelands going to battle. In a determined display by Thomastown they proved too strong for their near neighbours as they recorded a 3-16 to 3-06 victory to claim the A title. The sides were due to play each other again in the league final but at the time of going to print the game has yet to be played.

Under 16B

The Under 16 B league final saw Danesfort playing St Fiachras. It was Danesfort who edged there southern rivals on a 4-07 to 2-04 score line to claim the title. In the shield final Windagp proved too strong for Mullinavat/Carrickshock as they recorded a 1-11 to 0-04 point's victory. The B county final saw James Stephens / John Lockes up against Danesfort. In a close encounter it was Danesfort who claimed victory on a 1-10 to 1-06 score line.

Under 16C

The Under 16C league final saw Tullaroan taking on Slieverue. In a close encounter it was Tullaroan who claimed the title on a 2-08 to 2-04 score line. The Shield final saw Tullogher taking on St Annes, it was the southern side who claimed the title on a 3-07 to 2-02 score line to claim the title. The county final saw a repeat of the league final with Tullaroan taking on Slieverue. A goal hungry Tullaroan made no mistake as they recorded a 6-07 to 2-02 victory to claim the title.

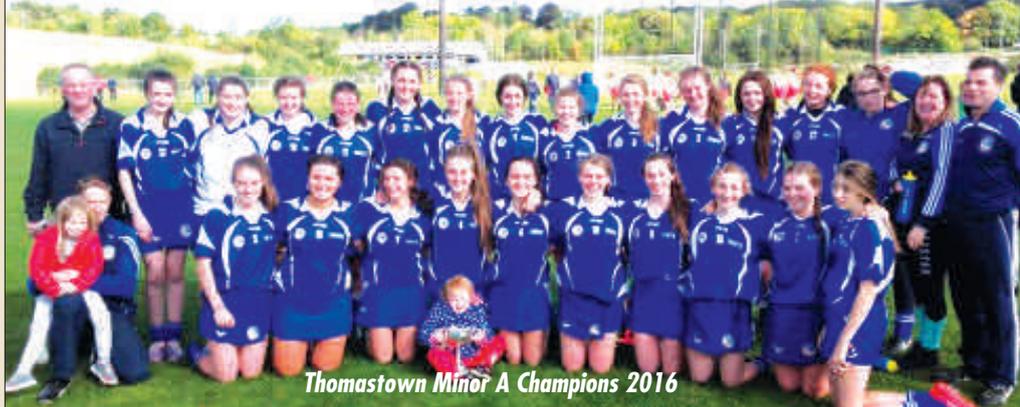
U14

Under 14A

In the under 14 county final Thomastown claim the county title for 2016 when they overcame a brave Piltown 5-07 to 1-03. In the shield final Glenmore over came Dicksboro in a high scoring encounter 5-02 to 4-03.

Under 14B

James Stephens are the Under 14B county



Thomastown Minor A Champions 2016



Clara Minor B Champions 2016



Thomastown Under 16 A County Champions 2016



Danesfort U-16 Camogie Roinn B League and Championship winners



Tullaroan U-16 Camogie Roinn C League and Championship winners



Tullagher U16 Shield Champions



Windgap Under 16 B Shield Final Winners



Thomastown U14 feile and Roinn A Champions



James Stephens U14B Co Champions 2016



Clara 2016 U14 C County Champions



Tullagher U14 D County Champions

champions after they overcame a brave Emeralds 4-06 to 3-03 to claim the title. In the shield competition a goal hungry Conahy Shamrocks over came Windgap to claim the shield title 7-04 to 2-01 to claim the title.

Under 14C

Clare are the Under 14C county champions after overcoming a brave St Martin's side 4-09 to 3-08. In the shield Tullaroan overcame Mullinavat / Carrickshock in a high scoring contest 8-08 to 5-05.

Under 14D

In the Under 14D county final Tullagher overcame Lisdowney in a highly entertaining contest that produced 13 goals with the Tullagher side emerging victorious on a 7-05 to 6-01. In the shield competition Paulstown are champions after overcoming Naomh Bríd on a 6-11 to 2-03 score line to clench the title.

Feile

Thomastown continued their good year at underage in Kilkenny when they won the Kilkenny Feile over St. Brigids 4-09 to 1-0 to Qualify for the A National feile competition in June. Young Ireland's went to the National B Feile, St Brigids went to the National C Feile and Piltown went to the D féile. All clubs put in very impressive performances and done Kilkenny camogie very proud.

U 12

The Under 12 competition took place over 5 groups and saw some bril-

liant displays of camogie action. The group 1 final saw Lisdowney claiming the title after overcoming a brave Danesfort side on a 3-8 to 2-1 score line. In the group 2 final St Fiachras overcame a brave Tullagher side on a 1-02 to 0-01 score line. In the group 3 final St Brigids overcame a brave James Stephens 8-05 to 1-03. In the group 4 final Glenmore edged out Mooncoin 5-04 to 2-01. While in the group 5 final Conahy Shamrocks just shaded St Lactains 2-02 to 1-04. The display of skill and sportsmanship was terrific among all sides and showed that the future of camogie in the future is in safe hands.

Cumann na mBunscoil Finals

In June the Cumann na mBunscoil finals took centre stage in Nowlan Park while the Shield finals also took place throughout the month of June.

In the Roinn A final goals were the difference as St Canice's overcame Kilmanagh 3-3 to 0-3 points while in the shield final goals also proved decisive as Tullaroan overcame Glenmore on a 5-0 to 0-3 score line. In a cracking Roinn B final, Clara overcame Gaelscoil Osrai on a 4-3 to 2-5 score line to clench the title. In the Shield Final goals proved the difference as Young Irelands overcame Urlingford 3-2 to 0-2 points. In the Roinn C final a late scoring burst from Conahy Shamrocks was the difference as they overcame Carrickshock 1-05 to 1-01. The Roinn D final saw Tullagher taking on St Canice's B where the southern side just proved too strong on a 5-02 to 2-01 score line to claim the title. While in the Shield final Galmoy Johnstown had the goal scoring touch to overcome Mullinavat 3-00 to 0-02 points to claim the plate.

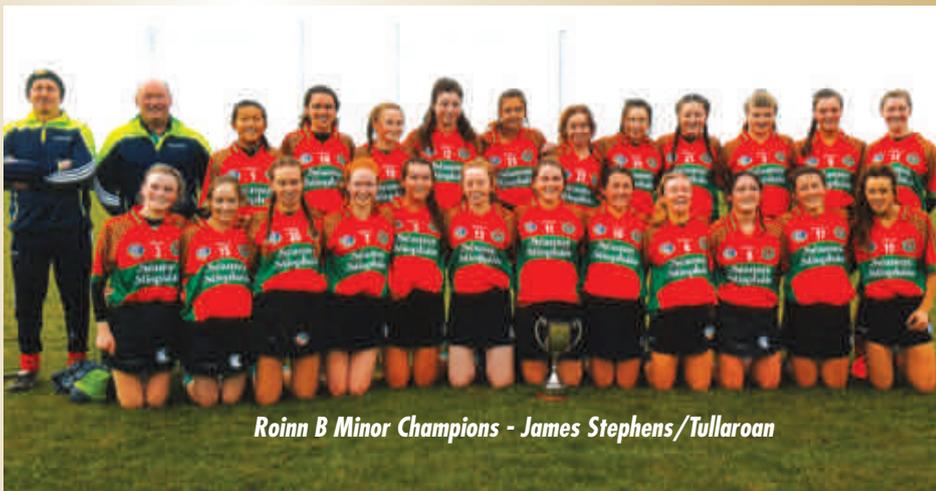
Senior

What a year it has been for Thomastown as they completed the league championship double. The league semi final saw Thomastown play St Lachtains/ Lisdowney while Mullinavat played Dicksboro. Thomastown showed no mercy as they secured a league final berth on a 2-15 to 0-03 points. In the other semi final Mullinavat defeated Dicksboro on a 3-14 to 2-08 score line to secure a mouth watering league final. In the league final Thomastown put in a spirited performance in recording a 3-11 to 0-08 point score line.

In the championship the same sides made the later stages of the championship with Mullinavat facing St Lachtains/ Lisdowney and Thomastown facing Dicksboro. In the first of the semi finals Thomastown played Dicksboro under lights in Dunmore. In a cracking encounter Dicksboro pushed the league champions Thomastown with a gallant second half comeback but the Town had that bit more experience and secured the final berth on a 2-09 to 1-08 score line. In the other semi final Mullinavat proved too strong for a brave St Lachtains/ Lisdowney side on a 4-14 to 1-03 score line to secure another shot at Thomastown. In the final Thomastown showed no mercy and secured their first title since 2014 when they recorded a 2-14 to 1-10 victory to claim the senior county title.

In the All County league final Dicksboro proved too strong for Mullinavat on a 2-11 to 1-06 score line.

In the Leinster Club Championship Thomastown put in an impressive display in defeating Oulart-the-Ballagh on a 2-12 to 2-09 score line to set up a Leinster club final sport against St Vincents of Dublin. Thomastown were pushed right to their limits in the final and staged a late fight back to secure the Leinster title with a late goal on a 1-07 to 0-8 points score line.



Roinn B Minor Champions - James Stephens/Tullaroan



O'Loughlin Gaels Minor C County Champions 2016

Minor B

The Minor B league final saw James Stephens/Tullaroan overcome a brave Fower Inistioge 5-21 to 0-2. The Minor B County Final saw league champions James Stephens/Tullaroan taken on Young Irelands in an highly anticipated clash. A goal hungry James Stephens/Tullaroan claimed the title over Young Irelands on a 6-04 to 2-03 score line.

Minor C

The Minor C league final saw Clara overcome a brave O'Loughlin Gaels side to claim the league title on a 4-6 to 1-5 score line. The Minor C county final saw the same sides feature, but with the result reverse as O'Loughlins overcome Clara on a 4-09 to 2-08 score line.

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All Ireland IC Action



Paradise Regained by Camogie Queens

by Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)



Collette Dormer in action against Briege Corkery of Cork during All-Ireland Senior Final
Photo by Éoin Noonan/Sportsfile

meant in a cocky way. But we were so focused, so determined to follow the plan right to the end. Orla Cotter got a late goal for Cork. We never panicked.”

Collette, Ann Dalton, Jacqui Frisby, Anna Farrell, Denise Gaule. Contemporaries. They’d graduated to the senior panel when they were 16 or 17 and they’d known, none better, the bad days. Such bitter experience made Croke Park last September the greatest day of all.

They had Ann Downey as manager, a woman who when she bleeds bleeds Kilkenny camogie. They had Ann Downey’s backroom team, of which more anon, a comprehensive and well chosen collective that ensured all the bases were covered. And they had that critical element that came from within and couldn’t be implanted: determination. Sheer, bloody-minded, old-fashioned determination.

To Collette, the right-half back, that determination was sourced in a communal maturing. Time was ticking by. The years were moving on. The longest serving members of the panel were getting – well, older if not old. “Girls realised it was their responsibility to get us over the line. You can go through the motions and turn up for training every night, but it’s what you do off the field that can matter as much. And that’s a slog. Getting up early to go to the gym before work or college. Doing that extra bit of hurling with a friend. Early in the year girls decided they were going to put their head down and commit fully to the task.”

Regarding the aforementioned backroom team, one element of it came about via Waterford IT. That’s how Clara’s Conor Phelan, an All Ireland winner under Brian Cody in 2003, found himself ending up a selector. As GAA development officer at WIT he’d got Ann Downey and Paddy Mullally involved with the college’s Ashbourne Cup team. When they asked him to return the favour with Kilkenny he couldn’t say no. Also, no fewer than 15 members of the Kilkenny panel were past or present WIT gals.

To Conor there was one obvious turning point in the season. Kilkenny



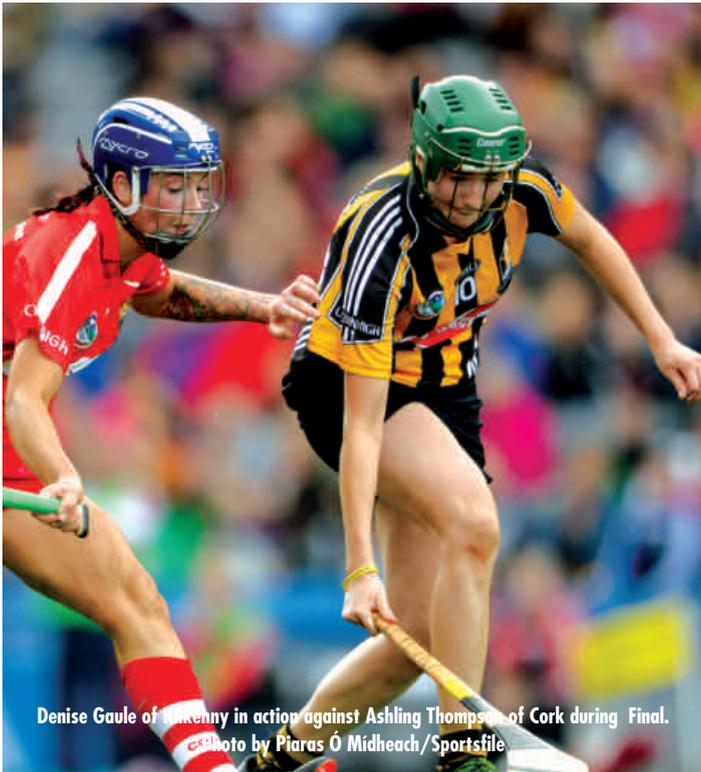
Kilkenny manager Ann Downey prior to All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Want to know what it feels like when the final whistle goes in an All Ireland final and the Promised Land has been reached after years of hard trekking?

It feels like this: your knees give out and you drop to the ground. Your emotions are a whirl. Disbelief, excitement, relief, pure joy. Thus it was for Collette Dormer at Croke Park last September. Ten years a member of the Kilkenny camogie panel. Three losing All Ireland final appearances. Now, eventually, victory. (Her knees have recovered, happily.)

Cork were going for three in a row. Kilkenny hadn’t been champions for 22 years. Cork had had the upper hand on Kilkenny in the past few seasons. This was a big ask for the undercats. They rose to the challenge magnificently. To the camogie world at large the outcome may have constituted a mild surprise. For the winners, in notable contrast, it was anything but.

“People outside the camp may have been worried about us before the All Ireland final,” Collette acknowledges. “Our bad experiences in previous finals and that. Inside the dressing room it was different. There was this feeling – not that it was said aloud – that everyone knew what they had to do. There was no question to us that we weren’t going to win. That’s not



Denise Gaule of Kilkenny in action against Ashling Thompson of Cork during Final.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Anna Farrell in action against Clodagh McGrath, Galway in the National League Final.
Picture credit: Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE

beat Galway in the National League final and were delighted with themselves. All looked right for a championship tilt. The following weekend they faced Wexford in the Leinster championship and were demolished. “The trimming of all trimmings,” he recalls. “It was a grounding straight away for us.”

The scale of the defeat to Wexford prompted the addition of another, and very different, component to the backroom team. Dr Fergus Heffernan came in to help out on the psychological side.

Now Fergus Heffernan, while a fervent Kilkenny GAA supporter, isn't a camogie man and has never pretended to be. But he has more degrees and doctorates than you can shake an ash stick at, including a PhD in neuroscience, an MSc in cellular molecular biology and an MSc in family therapies. (And you thought Ann Downey had plenty of honours..?) He has counselled US veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder. He's a noted and in-demand public speaker. A number of members of the Kilkenny camogie players had heard him speak in the past. It might be no harm, they decided in the aftermath of the Wexford fiasco, to talk to him and listen to him.

Fergus turned up at training one Tuesday night. He had one question for the players. After they left the field following the Wexford match and went home, how did they feel for the evening? He asked them individually and got the same response over and over again. “Maybe we're not good enough.” That was the ghost that the defeat had conjured up. A feeling of inadequacy.

But where did that feeling spring from? It soon became apparent that the issue was rooted in all the big matches they'd lost. And not only the fact they'd lost them but the way they'd lost them. In each of those games they had led at half-time. In each of them they'd lost their way in the second half. Trite as it undoubtedly is to compare the hangover from defeats on a camo-

gie field with the mental anguish of combat veterans, Fergus could nonetheless see a link with the US soldiers he'd counselled.

“If an issue like that is not resolved...” he says. “Well, look at the Mayo footballers. You've told your brain you're not good enough. You have to reprogramme your brain.” Conscious mind versus the subconscious. Short-term memory versus long-term memory. All those unpleasant flashbacks stored on their mental hard drive. “With the girls, when I got to know them, it didn't become about winning. It became about wanting to win.”

And history would repeat itself. Up to a point anyway. The All Ireland camogie semi-finals were the underbill to the Kilkenny/Waterford replay on a Saturday evening at Semple Stadium. After Cork had beaten Wexford in extra time Kilkenny faced off against Galway. As usual they led at the interval. Galway came back in the second half and right at the death got a goal that brought the match to extra time. Just before they went back out Fergus Heffernan had a quick word for them. “Girls, you've arrived. You're here. If this was last year you were gone. You're not.”

They went back out and won. In that moment, Fergus reckons, not only was the All Ireland semi-final won but also the All Ireland itself. Definitely, agrees Conor Phelan, the girls took it over. “They did the talking, not us. There was a realisation that if they wanted to win the match they had to do it by themselves.”

Winning the All Ireland semi-final twice, as it were, made new women of them. Getting on the bus at the Aspect Hotel the morning of the final Fergus could see that the attitude and the body language were just right. “You can't say you know they'll win but that morning it was clear they'd perform. They were in the zone. Not arrogance. Humility.”

They performed alright. Psychologically they were bombproof and when it came to the basics of the game they demonstrated that the time



Dr Fergus Heffernan



Conor Phelan

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spent on the training field had not been wasted. All summer Ann Downey and Paddy Mullally had placed a premium on moving the ball quickly while keeping possession. That's how Shelly Farrell's goal against Cork, the moment that allowed the challengers to take a decisive grip, came about. They worked the sliotar all the way up the field. "Five or six passes," says Conor Phelan, "then the self-belief to take the chance when you've created it."

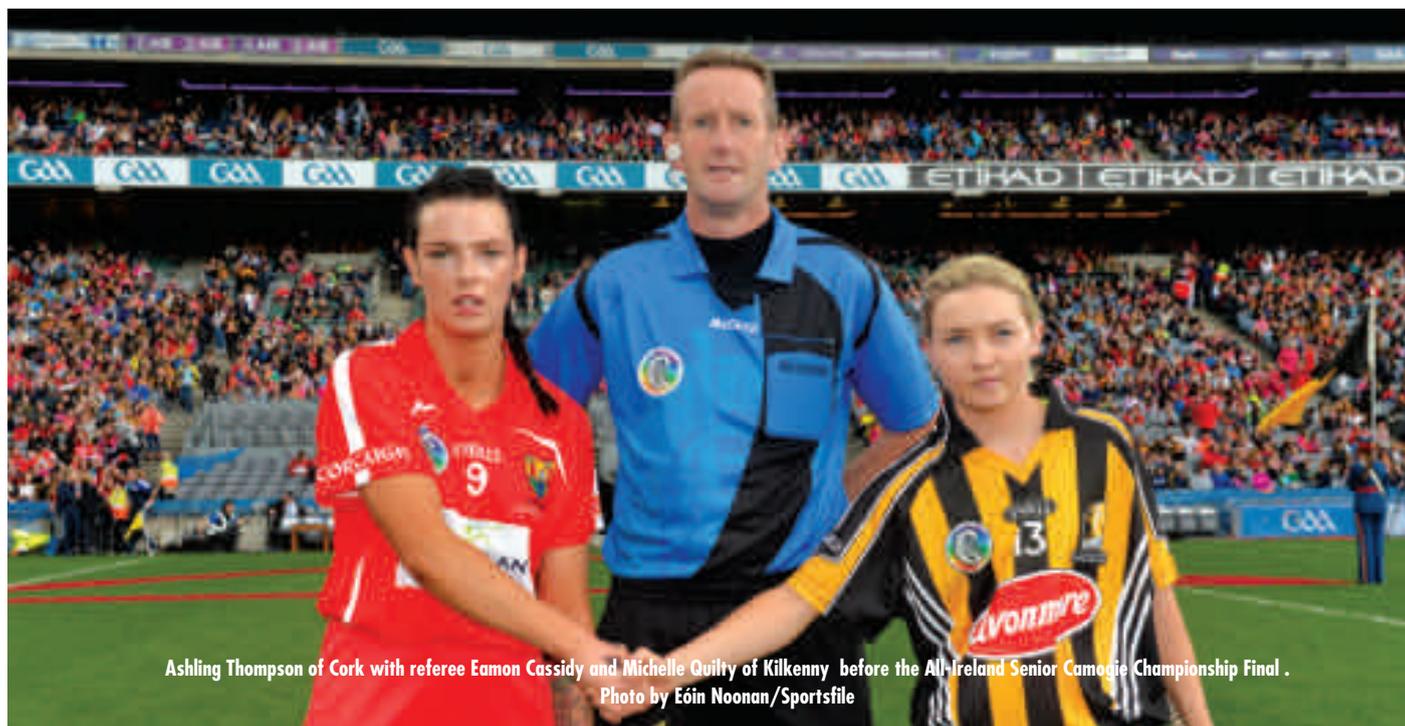
Conor had tasted Croke Park glory as a player himself but this was different. "When you're a player you're in your own little bubble. This wasn't the same. It was bigger." And Ann Downey? "What a woman. Heart on sleeve. Huge passion. Lives it and breathes it. Phone calls from here at 11.30pm or midnight, talking about this team or that player." Sounds like our woman alright.

While winning the All Ireland was an end in itself it could also be the start of something. All summer long Fergus Heffernan had emphasised

the importance of balance in one's life. This wasn't, he told the players, exclusively about winning the All Ireland – because if it was and they didn't win, how would they go about coping? It was about having a dream and creating a winning mentality. There was no guarantee they'd win the All Ireland, yet if they learned as they went along and broadened their horizons they would – metaphorically speaking – win the All Ireland in later life.

"It's a model for your life afterwards. It's only about camogie to a small extent. But in this case the bottom line is that the girls were good enough. That was the key. No matter how much spirit or confidence you have you're not going to win an All Ireland without the skill."

They had the skill. They showed they have the mentality. Now comes the next challenge: to ensure 2016 is not a one-off. Collette Dormer and friends may well be capable of that. They may well be capable of anything.



Ashling Thompson of Cork with referee Eamon Cassidy and Michelle Quilty of Kilkenny before the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final .
Photo by Eóin Noonan/Sportsfile



Kilkenny manager Ann Downey lifting the the O'Duffy Cup with her players and sister Angela after the Final .
Eóin Noonan/Sportsfile



JOY UNCONFINED!



Jackie Calls it a Day

JOHN KNOX
KILKENNY PEOPLE
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SPORTSFILE

The final call came after 14 staggeringly successful years. The hurling road Kilkenny star, Jackie Tyrrell trod was indeed paved with gold. There were nine senior All-Ireland winners medals. He missed out on joining Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks) with the record 10, but he accepted his fate; it wasn't meant to be. Throw in 11 Leinster championships, six National Leagues and 30 various other medals won with club and county, for hurling and football, and you realise Jackie Tyrrell's haul placed him in a special, elevated place in the annals of the GAA. Then the question arises, how hard was it to say goodbye?

Jackie explained: "I had an idea it was coming. You have to ask the question of yourself when you get to the stage I am at in my career and you are not in the team.

"I thought about it for a while. I made the decision. Then I took another week to make sure it was right. I am comfortable with the decision." He said he felt good during the week he stalled in order to allow the decision settle. There was no anguish or tossing and turning in bed at night.

"I was very, very sure of myself but when it came to actually picking up the phone and telling Ned Quinn (County Board chairman) and Brian (Cody), every part of your body is telling you don't to it, you love this thing too much. Then the mind takes over. You know it is time." He made the announcement on Friday. It was a day filled with emotion. Former colleagues, long servers and not so longer servers, and countless others flooded him with texts offering best wishes and thanks.

"I am very emotional, mainly because of the messages of support I have received from the other lads on the panel," he told me when we spoke that afternoon. "I didn't realise some of the simple things I did with and for people mean so much to them. That sparked the emotions. "I put my heart and soul into it for 14 years. As soon as I got a sniff of making the panel I never let go.

"I loved putting on that Kilkenny jersey," he added, almost standing on the word loved. "When handed the jersey, generally with No. 4 on the back, I always took two or three seconds to feel the appreciation. "When I took off the last one I did the same, even though it had No. 17 on the back."

That was on All-Ireland final day in September after the defeat by Tipperary. He was a non-playingsub. "I knew leaving Croke Park that day it was probably the end. I walked around the place, the dressingroom and so on. I took it all in." That No. 17 shirt is now in the safe keeping of his mother, Mary. It is hers to keep.

Of course he was disappointed not to see some action during the match, but he fully accepted what happened, the rules of engagement even if the Kilkenny defence suffered badly.

This year like every other, he was fastidious in his preparations. Between 15 and 20 hours a week, he suggested, always went into honing mind and body to be ready to serve the cause. He worked hard on the field with the squad; in the gym on his own. He never ate or drank anything that might lose him a morsel of power or energy. "I was in great shape," he insisted. "I needed to be to be competitive. In 2016 I possibly gave it more than ever." The final chapter written in the All-Ireland was a losing one. He shrugged the shoulders and smiled. "Look, the ultimate was the J.J. Delaney situation. He won an All-Ireland. He got in a hook during the final that will be remembered forever and he finished with an All-Star award. "That was perfect. I knew going into the season this might end well, it might not. I appreciate what management had to do all season and in the final. I didn't get on. That was it. "This year made me appreciate all the years I did play. This year was challenging from a different perspective in that I had to keep motivated even though I wasn't playing. I think that was my biggest challenge, to keep pushing. "I won't suggest it was ever easy, but it is a lot easier when you have the jersey to keep everything on the boil. I really enjoyed the season although I didn't play a whole lot."

Would he go back again knowing now what the season would hold for him?

Absolutely, he insisted. "I leave behind a great team, and I have an ocean of friends for life," he said. Tyrrell, tall and powerfully built, was an Adonis on the field, a PR person's delight, and style icon off it. His driving motto was - every challenge was an opportunity. The demands of the game changed several times during his career. When power and strength were the demands and he needed to be big and bulky, he was. When the demands changed again and speed and agility were of paramount importance, he became mean and lean.

"He was a terrific player from the time he came into the squad until the very end," Brian Cody said when asked to sum up Tyrrell's career. "He gave outstanding service. He made that No.4 jersey his own for so long. "There were times in the run up to match and people suggested if you did this or that to Kilkenny, if you run at them and turn them, you could trouble them. "They tried it all against Jackie and he won. He was simply outstanding."

Tyrrell appreciated his place. He got to play with and against some of the greats. J.J. Delaney he classed as the greatest of them all. J.J. was one of the first with a text when the news of the retirement broke. Retirement meant he was the new chairman of the Kilkenny Retirement Club. He laughed.

"People point to the nine All-Ireland medals and think wow," he continues. "That is great. I have this belief that there is no perfect life, just perfect moments. "In my career I have enjoyed so many perfect moments. I appreciate them as much as the nine All-Ireland medals. "The medals are in my mam's house. They are there to be enjoyed, and hopefully if I am lucky enough to have children, I will be able to show them to them. "But it was the fun, the friendships, the challenges, the helping to get each other through difficult times in difficult games that give me the biggest buzz. I have been blessed."

THE JACKIE TYRRELL FILE

Club: James Stephens

Date of Birth: June 19, 1982. Height: 6' 2". Weight: 14st 5lbs

Occupation: Sales Rep [Glanbia] Joined panel: 2003

Honours -

9 All-Ireland SHC (2003, 2006-09, 11, 12, 14, 15);

11 Leinster SHC (2003, 2005-11, 14, 15, 16)

6 NHL (2005-06, 2009, 12, 13, 14),

4 Walsh Cup (2005-06, 12, 14)

4 All-Star (2007-10),

4 Railway Cup (2006, 2008-09, 12),

1 All-Ireland under-21 HC (2003),

1 Leinster under-21 HC (2003)

1 Leinster MHC (1999),

1 All-Ireland club SHC (2005),

2 Leinster club SHC (2004-05),

3 Kilkenny SHC (2004-05, 11),

2 Kilkenny SFC (2003, 2008),

1 Kilkenny JHC (1999),

2 Kilkenny under-21 HC 'A' (2000, 2002),

1 Féile-na-nGael 'A' (1996),

2 Fitzgibbon Cup (LIT: 2005, 2007),

1 All-Ireland Colleges SHC (2000).

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EOIN WAS A CUT ABOVE THE REST IN 2016!

Interview with Eoin Murphy
Richard Holden



(Photo John McIlwaine)

Glenmore and Kilkenny's senior hurling custodian Eoin Murphy certainly comes from good stock. His father, Paddy was on the first Glenmore team to win a senior hurling title in 1987 and is the current club chairman while mother Brigid played camogie and is chairperson of the camogie wing of the club. 'I owe my parents so much, and would always listen to my father's advice. They are with you on the good days and the bad days. I'd also like to mention Neddie Aylward who gave started me off in goal for the under-14's.'

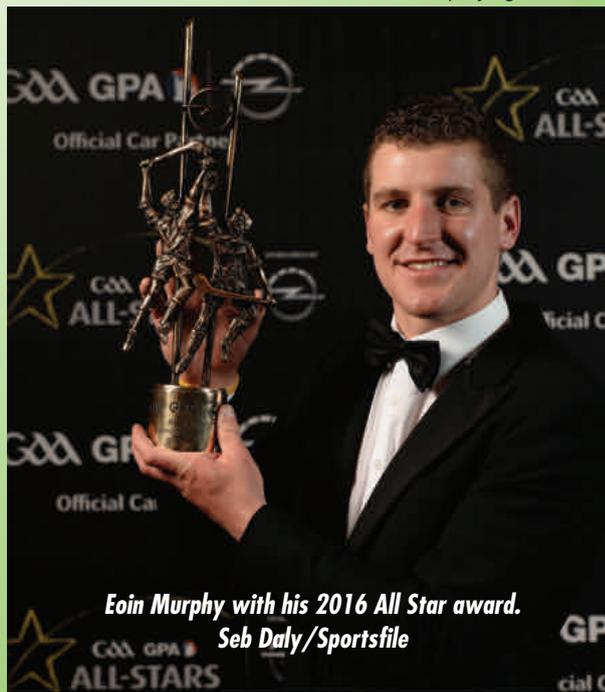
When I ask Eoin to pick his favourite player, he unhesitatingly plumps for one of his own clubmen, the tigerish Willie O'Connor. 'Willie was a player I always looked up to. He had a great understanding and reading of the game. When he captained Kilkenny to the All-Ireland in 2000, it was emotional seeing him come back to the parish on the Tuesday night with the McCarthy Cup.'

Eoin's year started with an All-Ireland win in Croke Park, when Glenmore claimed the junior title with victory over Eoghan Rua of Derry. The road to Croke Park started of course in Kilkenny when the southerners won the junior title, a win which had special resonance for Eoin. 'Winning the county title was the be-all and end-all, as I hadn't won anything with the club, apart from the football (a senior title in 2009). It was an added bonus to go on and win the Leinster and All-Ireland club title.'

Eoin's brothers, Alan and Shane, were also on the team, with Alan hitting 2-2 in the All-Ireland Final while another brother, Patrick was on the panel. Alan and Shane followed in Eoin's footsteps by winning All-Ireland minor medals in 2014.

Glenmore went on to win the Intermediate shield title and reach the county semi-final, losing to Tullogher-Rosbercon. 'We had a tough couple of weeks leading up to the semi-final, having extra-time the week before against Ballyragget, and were just really flat on the day. However, in fairness to Tullogher, they hurled very well and we were lucky to stay so close to them. It would definitely be an ambition to play senior so hopefully we can achieve that aim.'

The 26-year-old, who is employed as a sales-executive with Michael Lyng Motors, also has a brother, James and a sister, Helen involved in the GAA abroad with James playing for the



Eoin Murphy with his 2016 All Star award.
Seb Daly/Sportfile



*Seamus Callanan of Tipperary looks on as Eoin Murphy makes a save from his shot during the first half of the All-Ireland Final.
Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportsfile*

Sydney Shamrocks while Helen won the all-Britain senior camogie title this year with Tara in London.

Eoin's introduction to the county ranks came with the minors in 2008, when he won Leinster and All-Ireland minor medals alongside future seniors, Walter Walsh, Conor Fogarty and Michael Walsh. He then won a Leinster Under-21 title in '09 before graduating to the senior panel in 2011. He started the League Final in 2013 against Tipperary and made his championship debut the following month against Offaly. Heading into this year's Championship, Kilkenny were aiming for a third successive title and I asked Eoin for his reflections on the season overall. 'We were trundling along in the League without playing particularly well and reached the semi-final against Clare who were very good on the day and to be honest gave us the kick up the back-side we needed.' Personally, Eoin's brilliant catch from Pauric Mahony's free in the dying embers of the All-Ireland semi-final replay against Waterford was my highlight of the year but he modestly plays it down. 'Management trust you to be in that position and make the right call.' Kilkenny ultimately lost out to a rampant Tipp side in the Final. 'It is never nice losing an All-Ireland—hopefully we can bounce back next season.' The Glenmore man's form deservedly won him an All-Star. 'It is nice on a personal level but it would mean a lot more if you had the All-Ireland to go with it.'

Eoin plays his club-hurling in the half-forward line and I asked him how this compared to playing in goal for the county. 'I enjoy hurling outfield but to get a Kilkenny jersey, regardless of what number, is a special achievement. I find having hurled outfield has positive aspects when I play in goal as it helps me with my reading of the game, I try to play as an extra-back.'

I asked Eoin what changes would he make to the game? 'I wouldn't make too many changes but I feel there should be a more structured club-scene. Club players don't really know where they are. In Kilkenny, the situation is a lot better than in other counties as club players still get to play championship hurling in September and October. The Club Players Association being set up should help but they really will have their work cut out trying to get a structured system in place.'

Eoin, who is a first cousin of Richie, John and Jamie Power from Carrickshock, has also taken his first steps into coaching, as he was joint manager, with Ger Aylward of the Glenmore Under-21's, this season. 'I love helping out in any way I can and hopefully we can achieve some success.'

Despite his busy hurling commitments, the Glenmore man finds time to follow the American football side Baltimore Ravens in the NFL while he is also involved in a greyhound syndicate with seven or eight of his county colleagues. 'A dog was donated through the Supporters club, it was a lovely gesture and we have had good fun with 'Catspell'! It was a pleasure to be in the presence of such engaging company, and I'm looking forward to witnessing more memorable moments from Eoin in 2017.'



*Eoin Murphy in action in the AIB GAA Hurling All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final v Eoghan Rua.
Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE*

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30 NOT-OUT AS 'BRIDGE COMPLETE' HISTORIC DOUBLE

All Ireland IH Club Final 2016 Report By Michael O'Leary



BENNETTSBRIDGE - ALL IRELAND IH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2016 (Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE)

Back: Tommy Lennon, Enda Morrissey, William Murphy, Patrick O'Neill, Damien O'Donovan, Aidan Byrne, Tom Kiley, Dylan Walsh, Bill O'Neill, Shane Nolan, Luke Dowling, Brian Lannon, Enda Cleere, Sean Wemyss, Kevin Brennan, Ronan O' Connor, Ben Tynan, James Moran, Eddie Fitzgerald, Aidan Cleere, Cormac Wafer. Front Tim Drea, Robert Lennon, Maurice Walsh, Brian O'Neill, Edward Murphy, Shane Byrne, Kevin Blanchfield, Darragh Wafer, Hugh O' Neill, Joe Murphy, Nicky Cleere, Liam Blanchfield, Micheal Power, Michéal Shiel, Paul O'Neill, Jason Cleere, Sean Morrissey.

Following Glenmore's All-Ireland Junior Club Final earlier in the day, Bennettsbridge completed a Kilkenny Green and Gold Double when displaying magnificent character to overturn a four point deficit entering the final quarter and comeback to record a three point victory over Abbeyknockmoy in one of the great Club All-Ireland Finals.

In the process, the Bridge extended their unbeaten run to 30 games stretching back to the 2013 heart-breaking one-point defeat by Lisdowney in the County Final.

The greatest day in the club's history last February meant that the Bridge became the first hurling club in history to record Junior and Intermediate All-Ireland Club Final triumphs in consecutive years.

The former Kerry Senior hurler Christy Walsh has done such a wonderful job along with his backroom team in developing the Bennettsbridge success story and, with the youthful potential within their squad, they can easily become contenders for Senior honours in the not too distant future.

Co-incidentally, it was Christy's homeplace, Ardfert, that achieved history in the football equivalent when winning Junior and Intermediate All-Ireland Club Championships in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

It was a lucky omen for Christy and for Bennettsbridge.

What was also a lucky omen was the Green and Gold scarf (bought in Kerry) worn by this correspondent while on commentary duty for KCLR on both Glenmore and Bennettsbridge's All-Ireland triumphs in Croke last February.

Bennettsbridge's heartbreaking defeat by Lisdowney in the 2013 Junior Final followed on from their heavy defeat by a John Joe Farrell hat-trick inspired Thomastown in the 2012 decider.

With the disappointment of those two County Final defeats in succession, the Bridge's focus was certain – winning the 2014 County Final was a must, and after the heartbreak of the previous two years, it was mission accomplished as they easily defeated Mooncoin.

Since making that breakthrough, they have never looked back, and they have gone from strength to strength continuously improving, and, as already mentioned, with more potentially to come.

However, it looked bleak for them early on in the Intermediate Final against St. Patrick's Ballyragget.

Early in the first-half, two Michael Brennan goals gave the Ballyragget men a 2-2 to 0-2, but with the prolific free-taking of Nicky Cleere keeping them ticking over, Bennettsbridge reduced the

deficit to trail by only two points at the interval, 2-6 to 0-10.

A 3rd goal from Michael Brennan put St. Patricks in the driving seat again, but Nicky Cleere's free-taking ensured they would live to fight another day as he scored 0-15 from placed balls to force a replay. 3-11 to 0-20.

The replay was much closer throughout, and having trailed by two points at the interval – 1-10 to 1-8, the Bridge outscored their opponents 0-8 to 0-4 in the second-half to record a famous victory, and add the Intermediate County title to the Junior title 12 months previously.

The celebrations were put on hold for 24 hours as they had to play a Leinster Championship game against the Kildare Senior Champions Coill Dubh, and they had no such trouble as they ran out easy resounding winners.

Another Leinster Final beckoned after an 0-18 to 1-6 victory over Bray Emmets in the Leinster Semi-Final as they played the Meath Senior Champions Kiltale.

Kiltale playing with the advantage of a very strong first-half breeze, led by 0-9 to 0-5 at the break, but Christy Walsh's charges produced a blistering final quarter and a well-taken goal by Brian Lannon proved decisive as they won out 1-14 to 0-13.

Following the Christmas break, Bennettsbridge turned their attention to their All-Ireland Semi-Final against Wolfe Tones of Shannon.

The match was switched from Cashesel to Banagher because of an unplayable surface.

It was straightforward for the Bridge as they ran out 0-15 to 0-8 winners and they could look forward in eager anticipation to the All-Ireland Final against Abbeyknockmoy (Galway).

The All-Ireland Final itself was one of the truly great club finals.

The sides were level at 0-10 apiece following a



Bennettsbridge captain Enda Morrissey lifts the cup.
Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

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Bryan Skehan, Relationship manager, AIB, presenting Seán Morrissey, Bennettsbridge, with the Man of the Match award.
Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Brian Lannon celebrates with his manager Christy Walsh.
Picture credit: Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE

compelling opening half-hour's hurling, and the third quarter belonged to Abbeyknockmoy.

Around the 40th minute, Abbeyknockmoy struck to gain the lead. Enda Cleere produced a wonderful double save, but following his second save, the sliothar took a wicked bounce off the stick of Damian Rooney and the Galway club opened up a three point lead.

Their star forward Paul Flaherty pointed to quickly stretch the advantage, and they could have had Bennettsbridge out of sight entering the final quarter as they blazed a glorious goal chance wide of the target in front of goal.

Bennettsbridge trailed by four points entering the final quarter, but as they showed in both the County and Leinster Intermediate Finals, they displayed great character when they needed it most and that is what they showed above all throughout their victorious campaign.

Two points in succession from Sean Morrissey halved the deficit, and a further points from frees by the unerring accuracy of Nicky Cleere brought the Bridge back level, and the momentum firmly swung their way.

Entering the final five minutes, Bennettsbridge were totally dominant and appeared certain to go all the way, but it was a goalkeeping mistake that decided the outcome.

Sean Morrissey found himself in space 60 yards from goal, and unmarked; it appeared that he would strike over what would have been the lead point. However, his point attempt dropped short, and the Abbeyknockmoy goalkeeper Declan Molloy made a complete misjudgement and the sliothar tricked over him and fatally for the Galway contingent, it went underneath the crossbar. Bennettsbridge were firmly in the driving seat now.

Abbeyknockmoy tried in vain to rescue the situation but attempts at a rescuing goal were denied by heroic defending.

The final whistle sounded to joyous scenes amidst the Bennettsbridge contingent, and the Green and Gold Kilkenny double was complete on a memorable day in GAA headquarters.

The Green and Gold scarf was a lucky omen.

As mentioned the character displayed by Bennettsbridge was a massively central factor to their success, and it was required on a number of occasions, none more so than the last 15 minutes of their All-Ireland Intermediate Final.

Defensively, they were under a lot of pressure throughout, but they stood up well, with the half-back line of the imperious Jason Cleere, team captain Enda Morrissey and the exceptionally determined Aidan Cleere superbly dominant.

Behind the defence, Enda Cleere made numerous vital saves during the second-half and was unlucky with conceding the goal after initially pulling off a miraculous double save.

Darragh Wafer and the hard-working Kevin Blanchfield had a good battle with their opposite counterparts Damien Rooney and the energetic Caelom Mulry in midfield, while Sean Morrissey was the supreme star in attack.

He scored 1-5 from play in a wonderful individual display, and he was deservedly named Man of the Match afterwards.

His scores kept the Bridge in contention when Abbeyknockmoy were gaining supremacy, and he got the vital scores when most needed including the opportunist winning goal.

What a wonderful memorable day in GAA headquarters in which the Green and Gold stormed Croke Park.

Scorers All-Ireland Club Final

Bennettsbridge: Sean Morrissey 1-5 Nicky Cleere 0-7 (frees), Brian Lannon and Willie Murphy 0-2 each, Hugh O'Neill 0-1,
Abbeyknockmoy: Paul Flaherty 0-8 (0-5 frees), Damian Rooney 1-0, Brian Flaherty, Brian Costello, Caelom Mulry, Eoin Blade, Fionnan Garvey and Greg Kennedy 0-1 each,



Liam Blanchfield in action against John Culkin, Abbeyknockmoy.

Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

BENNETTSBRIDGE SQUAD:

Enda Cleere, James Moran, Robert Lennon, Cormac Wafer, Jason Cleere, Enda Morrissey(captain), Aidan Cleere, Daragh Wafer, Kevin Blanchfield, Hugh O'Neill, Nicky Cleere, Brian Lannon, Sean Morrissey, Liam Blanchfield, William Murphy, Ben Tynan, Michael Shiel, Kevin Brennan, Edward Fitzgerald, Patrick O'Neill, Sean Wemyss, Bill O'Neill, Dylan Walsh, Edward Murphy, Paul O'Neill, Shane Byrne, Shane Nolan, Brian O'Neill, Maurice Walsh, Joseph Murphy,
Management Team: Christy Walsh (Manager), Michael Walsh, Tommy Lennon, Tim Drea,

Paddy Moran

One of the 'Bridge Greats

By Barrie Henriques



I met Paddy Moran in Nowlan Park on County Final day, and, as ever, it was a great privilege and joy to exchange some conversation with the guy whom I have known for nearly as long as I have been in my adopted County. It can be said without any hesitation that the iconic Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny and Railway Cup star is one of the most shy and unobtrusive people you could meet in a day's hunting. Decent to the point of embarrassment, if Paddy couldn't do you a good turn, a bad turn would not indulge his thought processes for a single moment.

Not many would be aware of the fact that Moran started his competitive hurling as a goalkeeper, playing in the under-16 Championship at 12 years of age (he was born in the 'Bridge, but the family moved to Danesfort when he was about four or five). Still less would be aware that he made his debut in the same Championships with Danesfort, where he played with lads like Val Moylan, Frank Mahoney, and Seamie Bolger – "tough as nails" - to mention a few. One story of the time deserves the re-telling.

"I was playing in the goal, and I asked could I move out the field, so they shifted me to corner back. We were playing Thomastown in Sheehy's field. And who was playing at corner forward on the day but Ollie Walsh", he smiled as the memory flowed back.

But Paddy's hurling interests manifested themselves long before he came out of a short trousers.

"My father was a fierce hurling man. His heroes were the likes of Paddy Phelan, and Lory Meagher. He would have newspaper pictures of them around the house. Well I remember him taking me into Nowlan Park on his shoulders when Kilkenny played Wexford sometime in the mid-40s.

There were over 38,000 there one day. I never lacked for encouragement from him, God rest the great man. And then of course we had the youngest captain of a winning All Ireland team, Dan Kennedy from our Parish as well, so really I couldn't miss the hurling Gospel".

The family returned to the 'Bridge when Paddy was about twelve. There was no under-age hurling there at the time. He was a sub goalkeeper on various 'Bridge teams, including junior, until making his debut on the senior team in 1956. The 'Bridge were defending the Title, won the previous year. John Lockes from Callan were in the other corner. A young Paddy Moran was at right half back. On the opposite side one of Moran's greatest thrills, and a man whom he greatly admired was one, Johnny Mc Govern.

His friend, Frankie Ryan, and now his neighbour for 45 years was a year Paddy's elder. He had played in the '55 Final beating Mooncoin, so Paddy was delighted to get on in '56.

"Frankie had played minor with Kilkenny in '54 and '55, while I played in '56 and '57. Tipp were great that time. Jimmy Doyle, a great friend of mine later on, played in four minor Finals winning '55, '56 and '57. He was a brilliant minor, at his best in '57. I remember him taking a 21 yard free.

There were seven of us in the goal. The ball that time was as heavy as a stone. To tell you the God's honest truth, I never saw the ball. All we heard was a whoosh as it flew into the net. He was a brilliant striker".

In 1956, at seventeen years of age he won the first of his eight County Finals. He waxed lyrically about the six he lost to great teams like the Fenians, Rower Inistioge, Mooncoin, and Tullaroan. He was now playing with the "big lads".

Not only were many of your own colleagues more than hardy, and more than capable of going to war, young Paddy Moran was facing similar el-

ements when meeting opposition upon the road to success?

"I was playing on a brilliant 'Bridge team, who gave as good as they got, and sometimes a bit more. They were Gods in my young eyes. I never had a worry in the world. They were all my heroes, one and all", he remarked. "But I don't want to mention them individually in case I miss someone. However I hope they don't mind if I mention just two of them. John Mc Govern was a colossus of a man, and a terrific Bennettsbridge man. He was the most organised and punctual man I ever knew. When he spoke, and seldom he did, but you would show respect and shut yer gob. He insisted that lads turned up on time in the field for training, and they would do their best not to let him down. Sam Carroll was as good a forward as ever played the game. He had the courage of a lion, and whenever our backs were to the wall, Sam would always find a way to dig us out of trouble. A superman always for Bennettsbridge. He didn't want to play for Kilkenny, but was quite contented to play for his own Parish. He would train until it was dark every night. Every ball was the last ball, until you couldn't see it", he laughed.

He told me a story about his arrival on the Kilkenny minor team. "John (Mc Govern) knew Mick Duggan from Glenmore, thankfully still hale and hearty, who happened to be a selector on the Kilkenny minor team. Mick asked about possible good ones in the 'Bridge. John mentioned my name to Mick – I was called into a trial against Tipp in Freshford, and I played OK at centre-back. So you see it's often a case of who you know than what you know. I played for the two years I was eligible", he smiled.



Paddy Moran, John Teehan, Mick Roche and Theo English at the throw in, 1967 All Ireland Final.

Fast forward to Paddy Moran's progress through the ranks of Club and County. In 1957, the 'Bridge were beaten in the first round of the Championship, in which Paddy did not play. Consequently he was eligible for the County junior team, a competition that took him to Leinster glory but Kilkenny were beaten by Cork in Nowlan Park in the Home Final in '58. Paddy's progress apropos County senior participation was stalled for a while. In 1960 he got a couple of League games against Cork in Nowlan Park, and Waterford in Walsh Park. No room on the panel for the Championship – yet. 1963 dawned with some trepidation, and more hope for the young 'Bridge hopeful. He played against Wexford away in '63. He more than acquitted himself against no less an opponent than the stylish, immensely skilled Phil Wilson in the middle of the field. He would partner the same Wilson later when winning Railway Cup medals. "Eddie Keher threw me a couple of good balls, and I drove them in towards the Wexford goal over seventy yards away. I can still see him doing it for me. It brought me into the game, giving me great confidence".

Six months on Paddy Moran was to collect his first of four Celtic crosses.

"We beat Wexford and Dublin to win the Leinster Final. Against Dublin in the Final I was on Des Foley, a lovely fellow, and a fine hurler, God Rest him".

How did you travel to Dublin for the Final?

"That time Jamesy Hayes was our hackney car man. There were so many 'Bridge lads on the team, we would fill the taxi on our own. Later on, when I was living in Kilkenny for a few years, I travelled with Ollie". With Seamie Cleere as captain, and the rest (seven) from the 'Bridge on the panel, it was not surprising that excitement around Bennettsbridge



Leinster - Railway Cup Champions 1965 - Paddy Moran third from left, front row.

was mega. Paddy well remembered the post-match excitement. John Players cigarette factory always hosted both teams to a lunch and a tour of the factory.

“Don’t forget the pockets of loose fags”, he laughed.

Paddy Moran was a fastidious trainer, putting in long hours self-training in the fields behind his home.

Paddy’s first trip Stateside was in ’63.

He mentioned the usual Touristy sights, but “the lights as we came in to land I have never forgotten”.

‘Twas in New York that he met one of the greatest centre-field hurlers he ever played on. “I played against a Brendan Hennessy, a lad as good as I ever met. His brother Michael was equally as good. They were from Kerry of all places. Players of our time would remember them”, he said.

Paddy was to make a number of visits through his long career, but the one he really remembers is the trip to the West Coast.

“Birdie, his wife of nearly 52 years was with me then, and it was great, because being a hurler, it was difficult to be all the time going without an understanding partner, particular when children came on the scene. With Birdie, I was very fortunate in that regard”.

Paddy remembers nearly every puck of the many matches he played in. He remembered the ’69 All Ireland and the hard determination and medical attention Dr. Kieran Cuddihy put in to getting him ready for the Final, having contracted tonsillitis seven days before the game.

“I remember he even came out to the house with injections at four o’clock in the morning. I only came on for twenty minutes in that Final. He was a great friend to all the players.

He was thrilled and somewhat emotional when talking about his Dad who was fortunate to watch him winning many of his games including the All Ireland Final of 1963, when he came in on the field to hug and congratulate him. Would he nominate a favourite All Ireland.

“Sure that is a no-brainer. It would have to be the ’67 one. After all of the years not being able to beat them, ’67 happened”.

Kilkenny had a great start with your goal very early?

Give me your opinion.

“I slipped Theo going in, and the lads inside, Goggy (Brennan), Tom (Walsh) always wanted low ball. I hit from my hand low, and while Lynch—what a mighty warrior he was—and Jim Bennett were occupying two or three of the Tipp backs— they’d be pulling when the ball was at the other end of the field. John O’Donoghue was a little unsighted with the pulling that was going on outside him, and the ball flew into the net”. I would have to apologise to Paddy for this abbreviated version of our very long chat. May I conclude by saying that he never held a grudge against any colleague, or opponent. He was at pains to express the admiration and respect that he had for all the men who soldiered with him in his beloved Bennettsbridge.

Outside of his club colleagues, Paddy Moran played on a wide variety of opponent.

On his partner at midfield, John Teehan, he said, “He was a great hurler.

He was as brave as a lion, very strong, and just the kind of player we needed against teams like Tipp and Wexford. He never took a backward step. He had a blinder in the Final”.

On Tommy Walsh?

“The incident was dreadful, but I have to say that the injury finished the most promising development of a young man who would have been a great asset to Kilkenny hurling. He hadn’t even reached his prime”.

Others from within your County but not your club County? “I had great admiration for Pat Henderson, Pat Delaney, and Mick Garrett. It amazed me that Mick never got a long time on the County team. I could never understand that, because he was a powerful hurler”. It was such a joy, and a privilege to have spoken to the Bennettsbridge man who was one of the great Princes of the game. He hurled with the same decency and fair play that he brought onto the field of play. He was side lined once in a minor game, but never troubled a referee again.

In the pantheon of great players, Paddy Moran from famed Bennettsbridge is very close to the top.



Paddy and his Grandson Cian



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DUCKSIE

- the handball Legend

In early August, Kilkenny Handball, and Irish sport, lost one of its finest stars with the passing of the legendary Michael Duckie Walsh following a short illness. For many years Dicksie was recognised as the face of Handball in Kilkenny and across the country, and was responsible for a huge surge in interest in the sport which led to packed galleries at many of his matches. His training and playing regimes brought a new intensity to the sport which ultimately led to a situation today where Irish players are considered the best handballers in the world, and have dominated the Mens and Ladies events at International level for the last number of years. During his career the Talbot's Inch star amassed a haul of titles, which included thirty eight Senior All Ireland titles, almost thirty Masters titles and huge success in Ireland and abroad.

Career

Born in the shadows of the handball courts in the Waterbarracks in Kilkenny city, Dicksie was identified early as a future Handball star by the late Tommy O'Brien. Winning All Irelands in U12, U14 and U16 Singles titles in both the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 codes, he continued this success in the Minor grade where he won eleven National titles across a three year period. As a seventeen year old, Dicksie partnered Eugene Downey to success in the Junior 60 x 30 championship in 1983, thus qualifying them to play in the Senior championships the following year. In 1984 he contested the All Ireland Senior 60 x 30 Singles semi-final, along with closing out his underage career with more success at Minor level.

The first of his Senior 60 x 30 Singles titles was won in 1985, thus starting a phenomenal run of sixteen All Ireland titles in the next seventeen seasons, with the only blemish in 1998. During this period he also had a very successful Doubles career winning ten All Ireland titles with his long term partner, Eugene Downey. Dicksie was also very proficient in the smaller 40 x 20 court where he collected twelve national titles, which included seven Singles crowns and five Doubles with Michael Reade (2) and DJ Carey (3). This total of thirty eight Senior All Ireland titles is unlikely to be overtaken.

He also was a winner of the Irish 40 x 20 Nationals title, was Handballer of the year on a number of occasion and was World Championships Open runner up in 1986 and 1994. He competed for Ireland at the USHA Junior championships where he was the first player to complete the clean sweep of all four titles at 15, 17, 19 and 23 level. In recent years he competed regularly in the USA, where he was a firm favourite with the home crowd. Along with winning many overage titles on the US circuit, Dicksie also collected four consecutive World Masters Singles titles since 2006. In June this year he added the USHA over 45 title to his collection of international successes.

As a Masters player, his record is incredible and unlikely to be matched for many years. He won ten All Ireland 40 x 20 Singles titles in eleven years, was on course to win his eleventh successive 60 x 30 crown this year and collected a large number of Doubles titles along the way.

While success in the Senior grades deserted him when the new kids on the block arrived in the early 2000's, Dicksie was still seen by many supporters of handball as the man who just wouldn't give in to age. He was in the top four or five players in Ireland for many years and was a competitor that many a young player feared in either the 40 x 20 or 60 x 30 court. Arguably, his finest achievement in 60 x 30 handball occurred just two weeks before his untimely death when he was crowned Irish Nationals Open champion. Although he reached the half century this year,

Martin Lalor Kilkenny Handball PRO

he rolled back the years in his home court, Talbots Inch, when he played some marvellous handball to claim the Open title with a win over Eoin Kennedy (Dublin), a truly remarkable achievement for a player of his age.

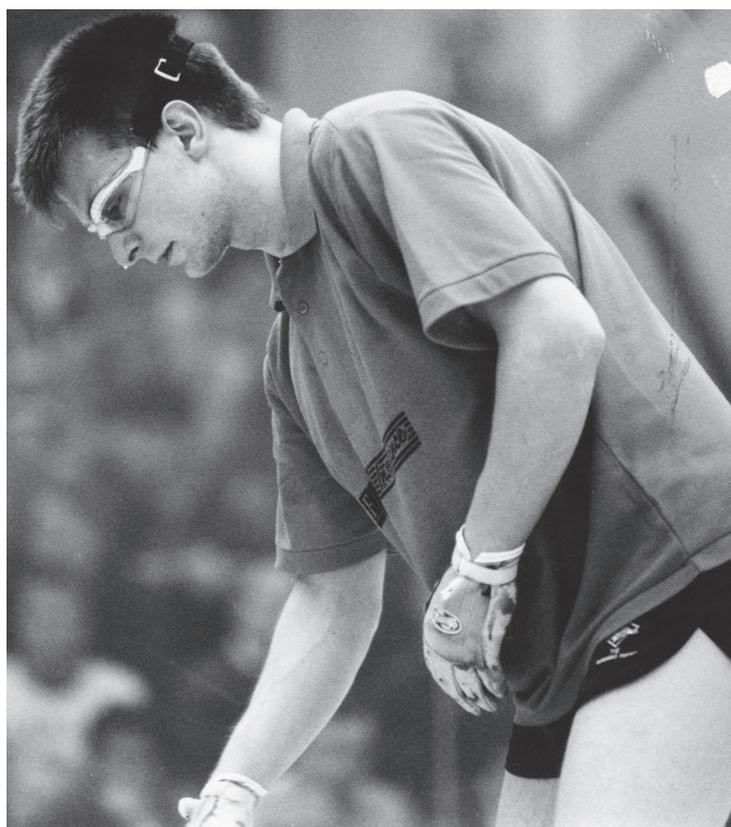
Ever since winning his first All Ireland title at under 12 level, Dicksie was a crowd favourite and an icon in

Handball across Ireland, and in many other countries where his feats were well publicised in handball circles. Always wonderfully prepared, he left nothing to chance when in pursuit of success. His training regime was of the highest intensity and he was always prepared to meet the new challenges that came his way. He very seldom disappointed his huge number of supporters, many from outside Kilkenny.

In the last few years he was dedicating more of his time to Juvenile development and he was very much involved in preparing the stars of the future.

Dicksie was a legend of his sport, both in Kilkenny, Ireland and further afield. A unique character who represented his club and county with tremendous passion. His success on the handball courts will unlikely be ever matched and his loss to handball is a very sad occasion for such a young man. All in Handball would like to pass on their condolences to his wife Sheena and his three children, Dylan, Megan and Niamh, and to his extended family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Jim McGrath

A Lifetime of Service.

On the 20th of March 2016, Jim McGrath, one of the county's biggest hurling fans for many years, took to the pitch on Nowlan Park at the end of the county's National Hurling League victory against Dublin to take a look at the surroundings.

When he saw the image online, his son Brian thought it a little incongruous. He had never seen his father on the pitch at Nowlan Park before, and wondered why he would do so. But maybe, on some level, he knew. It was to be Jim's last game as a Kilkenny fan, and perhaps he just wanted to take one last look around the place.

Five days later Jim was no longer for this world. He had fought the good fight against prostate cancer for a long time but, rather than see it as an ordeal, he tried not to let it bother him. He still attended as many matches as before. He went to the All Star celebration in 2014, where he was delighted to see his own club man Richie Hogan honoured with Hurler of the year. He chided the Tipperary nominees about what they had (or to be more precise hadn't) won that year.

But when Jim and his family visited the doctor in the first week of January this year the prognosis was not good. While the prostate disease was not life threatening, a newer, more aggressive form of cancer was now attacking his liver. The doctors gave him three weeks to live. Rather than feeling sorry for himself, Jim went home and took a look at the fixtures for Kilkenny's national league program: "Tipperary, in February, I'll make that. Galway, I'll make that too....." His son tried to reason with him, explaining he wasn't listening to the doctors advice on the severity of his condition. But Jim was good to his word. There were 3 fixtures in Nowlan Park in the group stages of this year's league. He made each one.

By Mark Townsend

When Jim's funeral took place on the 27th of March crowds of thousands thronged the church. Brian was amazed. He couldn't believe the amount of people who had attended to pay their respects. The Danesfort Club were especially prominent, forming a guard of honour that consisted of almost every member of the club. The family felt overwhelmed. But if they were paying a debt of gratitude to the man, it was only a small return on years of service.

Jim McGrath was born in Annamult, a picturesque little townland on the banks of the Nore on the 7th of March 1943. He originally hurled for St Brendan's of Stoneyford but due to the parish rule, moved to play for Danesfort at the age of 14. With a crew cut he cut an imposing figure, and his style was tough and uncompromising. His great friend Seamus Delaney remarked "He didn't let much past him". Another old colleague Dick Mahoney added knowingly that "Jim was never afraid to pull"

In 1961 he hurled at right corner back on the second of Kilkenny's three in a row of minor All-Ireland victories. While always reluctant to discuss his own playing career, Jim was fiercely proud of the team's success, and was particularly irked some years ago when he heard a journalist state Kilkenny had never won a 3 in a row.

His hurling career was a stellar one, involving a Leinster intermediate title for the county in 1967 and two Mount Carmel challenge cup medals. The Mount Carmel challenge cup was a sort of precursor to the All-Ireland club hurling championships, where teams from all around the country, including giants like Mount Sion and Buffers Alley, would face off.



Kilkenny All Ireland MH Champions 1961 - Jim McGrath centre front row.

While fiercely enthusiastic about the game, due to economic circumstances, Jim had to move to London in the 1960's. He soon returned to Kilkenny though, and he set up a painting and decorating business in the town, where he married Ann McHugh in 1970. They had two children, Brian and Aine.

Unfortunately, he may never have reached his full potential as a player. A serious stomach ulcer had to be removed in England and he finished quite young for someone of his ability. The severity of the stomach condition meant he had difficulty eating large amounts for the rest of his life.

Rather than seeing the premature end of his career as a burden, Jim soldiered on in other ways. He poured his energy into the club, becoming trainer in the 1980's. He also became a referee and took charge of matches until the early 90's. And if he wasn't on the pitch, he was sweeping the dressing rooms, selling money for club raffles, or charging attendance on the way in to games. As his son noted, the young members of the club seemed especially saddened by his father's passing, as it meant "now we'll have to pay in at the gate"

Mainly though, Jim was a fan, and a devoted one at that. It was not unusual for him to attend three games of hurling in a day in different areas of the county. And if Kilkenny were playing a match in Antrim, he was bound to be there too. He may have been a lover of hurling, but he wasn't so much a fan of hanging around after. The minute the game was over, he would return to his car as soon as possible, and would hardly touch the road on the way home. Once there, he would be first in the pub, often in one of his favourite haunts such as Delaney's, where he would derive enjoyment from discussing with the patrons the merits of what he had just seen.

Although Jim was a particularly loyal and enthusiastic follower, he wasn't always diplomatic about airing his opinions if things were going awry for his team. "If you had a bad game he would tell you straight" said Danesfort Club-man Maurice Woodcock. One time, when a player was having a particularly nightmarish afternoon, he pleaded with the club's selectors to substitute him. "But we have no-one" was the plaintive cry from the sideline. "Well take him off" said Jim "and bring in no-one"



Jim McGrath, on one of his last visits to Nowlan Park spotted by Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

If there was one other thing that matched Jim's enthusiasm for hurling throughout his life, it was his fondness for people. Through the thousands of men and women he met at matches throughout the years, he made many lifelong friends, and would go to great lengths to honour the memories of them or their respective families at funerals. While such an activity may prove a bit morbid and difficult for some, Jim saw it as a necessary gesture, and a way of paying his respect for those who had gone before him. No doubt his strong presence at such events was one of the reasons his own funeral was so notably attended.

On the third of April this year, as Brian sat down to take his seat as Kilkenny played their League quarter final against Offaly, he was amazed to discover

a minutes silence was being held before the game in his father's honour. Filling up with pride, his memory cast back to his father, who had sat in the same stadium only 2 weeks before. Jim McGrath left Nowlan Park that day for the last time, and as he did, a little bit of Danesfort and Kilkenny hurling went with him.

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GLENMORE OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES TO HOLD OFF SPIRITED RUA REVIVAL

All Ireland JH Club Final 2016 Report By Michael O'Leary



GLENMORE - ALL IRELAND JH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2016 (Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE)

Back: Liam Hennessy, Stephan Cody, Mick Phelan, Tommy Maher, Ciaran O Connor, Dean Croke, Shane Doherty, Mark Aylward, PJ Roche, Shane Walsh, Ben Doherty, James Irish, Brian O Donoghue, James Aylward, Michael Boyle, Paddy Hennessy, Colm Foran, Eoin Murphy, Ritchie Mullally.

Front: John Gahan, Emmett Vereker, Ben Maher, Eoin Aylward, Mark Phelan, Fergal Freyne, Sean Duggan, Philip Roche, Alan Murphy, Davy Aylward, Darren Aylward, Paddy Murphy, Shane Murphy, James Cody.

The build-up to last February's All-Ireland Junior Club Final for Glenmore was marred by a difficult two weeks in the parish beforehand.

Firstly, Ger Aylward sustained a serious knee ligament injury in their All-Ireland Semi-Final victory over Dungourney of Cork, while a week later, the parish was in mourning following the tragic death of Mary Long in a road accident.

The tragic incident had a devastating effect around the parish in the build-up to the game, and understandably as a result, the focus of the squad would have been undoubtedly affected by the untimely events.

The greatest day in the club's history arrived 25 years ago when they defeated Patrickswell in the All-Ireland Senior Club Final back in 1991, and it appeared they were cruising to victory in the Junior Final when they built up a 2-5 to 0-2 lead after 20 minutes.

Alan Murphy was on fire scoring the two goals, but Glenmore struggled afterwards, as their final opponents Eoghan Rua displayed admirable resilience as they had done throughout the game to slowly creep their way back into contention.

At the end of play, Glenmore were relieved to hear the full-time whistle as they held out for victory.

Rewind 16 months earlier and Glenmore suffered utter devastation when they were demoted to the Junior grade having lost the Intermediate Relegation Final to Conahy Shamrocks.

It was a massive blow to the club with such a prestigious recent history, but the Junior success of the past year is the first step on the ladder in their attempt to return to the glory days. Glenmore defeated Kilmacow 1-12 to 2-6 in the County Final despite being reduced to fourteen men before the game even started when Michael Phelan was dismissed for an off the ball incident involving Luke Harney.

They blazed a trail in the Leinster Championship easily accounting for the Dublin Junior Champions Scoil Ui Choinaill 3-20 to 0-1, before strolling to a 5-19 to 1-9 victory over the Louth Senior Champions St. Feichins.

Those victories set up a Leinster Final showdown against Lusmagh of Offaly.

The Leinster Final was scheduled to be played the first weekend in December, but due to a waterlogged surface in O'Connor Park, Tullamore, the game was switched to Lusmagh. However, because of an unplayable surface in hosts playing ground also, the game was moved till after Christmas due to Glenmore's involvement in the County Under-21 Final against O'Loughlin Gaels.

Eventually it was played in mid-January, and Glenmore eased to victory winning 0-23 to 0-13. A week later, Glenmore played their All-Ireland Club Semi-Final clash against the Cork and Munster Junior Champions Dungourney in the WIT Sports Campus.

Glenmore led throughout and they emerged victorious 3-10 to 1-11.

Alan Murphy was on fire, and he displayed his capabilities with a brace of excellent goals to put them firmly in control to lead 2-5 to 0-4 at half-

time as Dungourney were reduced to 14 men during the opening-half following the sending-off of their team captain James McCarthy.

Despite Dungourney's best attempts, Glenmore remained in control and an excellent solo goal from Mark Aylward in the 46th minute secured victory.

However, Glenmore's victory was marred by a serious injury sustained to team captain and last year's All-Star forward Ger Aylward.

48 hours later, the worst fears were confirmed when Aylward was ruled out for the year having sustained knee ligament damage.

As mentioned earlier, Glenmore's preparations were disrupted in the build-up to the All-Ireland Final, and it was in difficult circumstances that they played in Croke Park.

GAA headquarters are used to seeing the Green and Gold of Kerry represented on All-Ireland Final day, but last February on a cold Sunday afternoon, the Green and Gold of Glenmore and Bennettsbridge took over Croke Park to deliver double success back to Noreside.

Glenmore were expected to cruise to a facile victory, and after 20 minutes they appeared on course to record a landslide win, when Alan Murphy crashed home two goals to lead 2-5 to 0-2.

However, Eoghan Rua (Coleraine) displayed admirable battling qualities and persistent determination throughout, and they slowly clawed their way back into contention to trail 2-6 to 0-6 at half-time.

Glenmore struggled badly throughout the second-half, as they were frustrated by Eoghan Rua's success in denying the South Kilkenny men the freedom and space which they normally thrive on.

Eoghan Rua outscored Glenmore 0-6 to 0-2 in the second-half and by the end, the South Kilkenny men were extremely fortunate to hang on to a narrow victory.



Glenmore captains Philip Roche and Ger Aylward, right, lift the cup.
Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Eddie Buckley, Regional Director Midlands, AIB, presenting Alan Murphy, with the Man of the Match award. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Glenmore manager Tom Mullally. Picture credit: Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE



Brothers Mark, left, Ger and Darren Aylward, right, celebrate with the cup after the game. Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

The Ulster men were unquestionably the better side from the 20th minute as they dominated in most facets of play, and they applied a more potent attack during the second-half with the experienced Sean Leo McGoldrick restored to attack having operated as an extra defender during the first-half.

Sean Leo scored 0-2 during the second-half, while another of the five brothers, Colm, scored an excellent point following in the footsteps of another brother Liam who surged upfield to score a monstrous point early in the first-half.

Declan Mullan gave an imperious display as a third midfielder, especially during the second-half as he grafted tenaciously winning plenty of possession and linking the play very intelligently with his attacking colleagues.

However, free-taker Ciaran Gaile endured a mixed afternoon from placed balls, and he missed a few scoreable frees that ultimately proved costly. To Glenmore's credit, the defence held firm as they spent a considerable amount of the second-half under intense pressure, as Sean Duggan, Fergal Byrne and playing captain on the day, Philip Roche, all performed solidly.

Alan Murphy was named Man of the Match afterwards for his goal heroics in the first-half.

It was a delightful end to a difficult fortnight, as part 1 of the Green and Gold double was complete.

Scorers All-Ireland Club Final:

Glenmore: Alan Murphy 2-2 Mark Aylward 0-4 (all frees), Shane and Eoin Murphy 0-1 each

Eoghan Rua: Ciaran Gaile 0-7 (all frees), Sean Leo McGoldrick 0-2, Liam and Colm McGoldrick and Thomas Magee 0-1 each

GLENMORE SQUAD:

David Aylward, Sean Duggan, Fergal Freyne, Shane Doherty, Philip Roche, Richie Mullally, Mark Phelan, Shane Murphy, Darren Aylward, Eoin Murphy, Michael Phelan, Emmet Vereker, James Cody, Alan Murphy, Mark Aylward, Stephen Coder, Colm Doherty, Liam Hennessy, Brian O'Donoghue, Ben Doherty, Colm Foran, James Aylward, John Gahan, Patrick Murphy, Patrick Hennessy, Dean Croke, Ben Maher, Eoin Aylward, PJ Roche, Ger Aylward(captain)

MANAGEMENT TEAM: Tom Mullally, Willie Fitzgerald, David Beirne, Paddy Mullally.

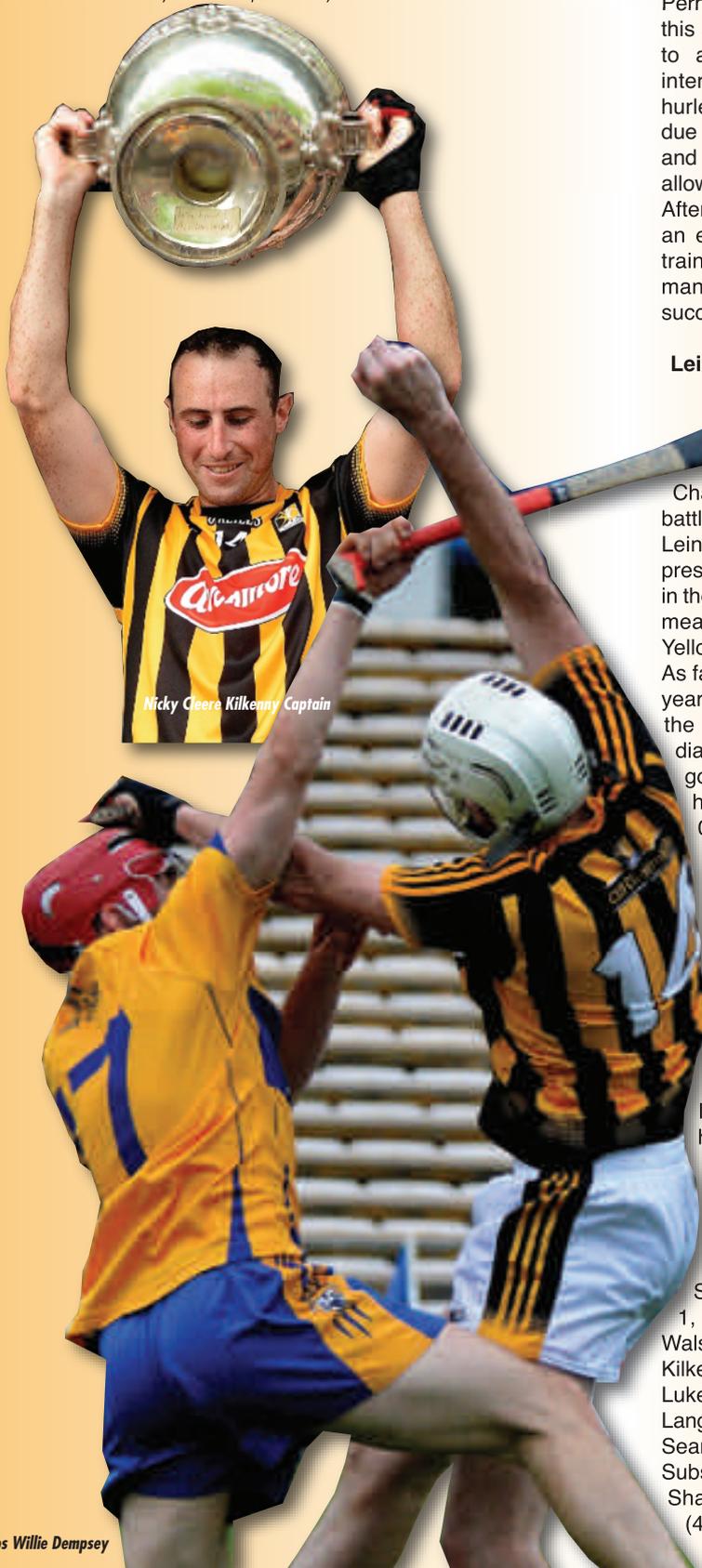


Eleven Glenmore players combine to stop this last-second shot by Colm McGoldrick, Eoghan Rua, in the dying seconds of the game. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

INTERMEDIATES

keep the flag flying

Inter County IH Report by Mark Townsend



Nicky Cleere Kilkenny Captain

Given the high standards set in Kilkenny, success is not measured in intangibles, but only in terms of the highest silverware possible. Given those lofty standards, of the four inter-county grades that Kilkenny competed in this year, only one was successful: the intermediate side.

While we have been spoiled with success at senior inter-county level in recent years, intermediate victories have been much more difficult to come by. Although finals had been reached in 2011, 2012 and 2013, six years had passed since the county's last All-Ireland victory.

Perhaps one of the biggest deciding factors in Kilkenny's success this season was the decision taken by Central council last year to allow players from the county senior clubs onto the intermediate panel. For years Kilkenny were forced to play hurlers from just their junior and intermediate clubs. However, due to the relaxation of the rules a few years ago from Tipperary, and Cork last year, it was decreed in the interests of fairness to allow Kilkenny apply the same standard.

After an intensive process of trials that involved over 50 players, an extended panel of 33 was drawn up from April. Over 50 training sessions were conducted as Pat O'Grady and his management team left no stone unturned in their quest for success.

Leinster

Final: Kilkenny 3-14 Wexford 2-14, Wexford Park, July 13 2016

The Leinster Intermediate championship is not one that has always garnered the fullest of respect in recent years. While the Munster Championship is a hotly contested affair with 5 counties doing battle usually in front of large crowds before senior games, the Leinster equivalent is often hidden away from the spotlight. At present, only 3 sides (Kilkenny, Galway and Wexford) compete in the competition. Wexford beat Galway in their first round game, meaning it was a straight shootout between the Cats and the Yellowbellies in the Leinster final.

As fate would have it, it turned out to be one of the games of the year. Kilkenny got off to a hesitant start, hitting four wides within the first ten minutes, but in the twelfth minute John Walsh's diagonal delivery to Mark Bergin enabled the Loughlin's man to goal and give Kilkenny a 1-02 to 0-02 lead. For the rest of the half though, the Slaneysiders came to dominate, and led by 0-10 to 1-06 at the interval.

Despite a few tough words from management at half time, the initial stages of the second half didn't improve. If anything things got worse as Nicky Kirwan goaled for Wexford after 60 seconds. Billy Ryan responded for Kilkenny with a goal of his own four minutes later, but Jack Pettitt netted Wexford's second goal to put them in the ascendancy by 2-12 to 2-07.

At this stage things looked grim, and Wexford extended the lead to 6 at one point, but the introduction of Richie Leahy helped change the balance of the game. The Rower Inistioge man netted a crucial goal on 53 minutes to level affairs and though Wexford struck back through Kirwan, unanswered points from Leahy, Conor Tobin and John Walsh earned the side a hard fought victory.

Scorers for Kilkenny: Mark Bergin 1-4 (0-2f), Richie Leahy 1-1, Billy Ryan 1-0, Jack Langton, Nicky Cleere (0-1f), John Walsh, Conor Tobin 0-2 each, Shane Donnelly 0-1.

Kilkenny team v Wexford: Kevin Nolan, Evan Cody, Tom Aylward, Luke Hickey, Jason Cleere, Conor Delaney, Jack McGrath, Jack Langton, Shane Murphy, Conor Tobin, Mark Bergin, Nicky Cleere, Sean Morrissey, Billy Ryan, John Walsh

Subs: Shane Donnelly for Nicky Cleere (29') Geoff Brennan for Shane Murphy (HT) Richie Leahy for Seán Morrissey (40') Aaron Duggan for Kevin Nolan (43') Rory Hickey for Billy Ryan (inj., 54')

Photos Willie Dempsey



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Action from the Final (Willioe Dempsey)





(Photo Willie Dempsey)

KILKENNY IH TEAM V WEXFORD 2016

Back: Paul O'Flynn, Luke Harney, Shane Donnelly, Jason Cleere, Shane Murphy.

Middle: Kevin Nolan, Jack Langton, Thomas Aylward, Conor Tobin, Geoff Brennan, Sean Morrissey, Luke Hickey, Richie Leahy, John Walsh, Enda Malone, Rory Hickey.

Front: Conor Delaney, Evan Cody, Nicky Cleere, Jack McGrath, Mark Bergin, Billy Ryan.

**All Ireland Final: Kilkenny 5-16 Clare 1-16
Semple Stadium Thurles 6th August**

Given the less than emphatic nature of the Leinster final victory, Kilkenny approached the All-Ireland final against Clare as underdogs. Five changes were made to the lineup from the Leinster final win as Pat O'Grady and co tried to raise performance levels.

Similar to their senior team, the Clare intermediate side employs a running game with the emphasis on possession. Having watched their Munster final victory against Limerick the Kilkenny management team had decided it was essential to stifle this tactic, while then ensuring the ball was delivered as quickly as possible into the Cat's full forward line. As it happened, the game-plan worked a treat.

Clare started well in the game, moving 1-2 clear after 10 minutes thanks to a Ryan Taylor goal, but they would be sucker-punched for three goals inside six minutes, with Kilkenny's full-forward line of Billy Ryan, Nicky Cleere and John Walsh all getting in on the goal-scoring action, before a fourth for Luke Scanlon ensured a 4-5 to 1-7 half-time advantage.

Clare fought back after the restart, mainly through captain Shane McGrath's frees, but Kilkenny were always able to reply with Ryan and Walsh, in particular causing the Banner huge problems.

Clare would get to within four points of their opponents, but despite being reduced to 14 men following a second yellow for Evan Cody in the 52nd minute, Kilkenny finished with aplomb, outscoring a flagging Banner by 1-6 to 0-1 including an injury-time goal for Walsh to garner the first adult hurling championship honours of the year.

Scorers for Kilkenny: J Walsh 2-2, B Ryan 1-4, N Cleere 1-4 (4fs), L Scanlon 1-2, A Murphy 0-2 (2fs), J Langton 0-1, S Morrissey 0-1.

Kilkenny (IHC v Clare): Aaron Duggan (Dicksboro); Evan Cody (Dicksboro), Tom Aylward (Mullinavat), Luke Hickey (James Stephens); Jason Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Conor Delaney (Erin's Own), Geoff Brennan (St Paticks); Jack Langton (Clara), Luke Scanlon (James Stephens); Alan Murphy (Glenmore), Conor Tobin (Fenians), Richie Leahy (Rower Inistioge); Billy Ryan (Graigue Ballycallan), Nicky Cleere (Bennettsbridge), John Walsh (Mullinavat)

Subs: Sean Morrissey (Bennettsbridge) for Tobin (45), Jack McGrath (James Stephens) for Leahy (54), Shane Donnelly (St Lachtains) for Murphy (60).

Unused Subs: Kevin Nolan (Clara), James Gannon (St Patricks), Enda Malone (Dicksboro), Shane Murphy (Glenmore), Mark Aylward (Glenmore), Willie Brennan (Fenians)

Other Panel Members: Shane Walsh (Tullaroan) Enda Morrissey (Bennettsbridge) Shane Doherty (Glenmore) Michael Murphy (Erin's Own) Luke Harney (Kilmacow) Liam Ryan (Clara) James Power (John Lockes) Paul Holden (Young Irelands)

Considering the otherwise fallow season that Kilkenny had, the intermediate success was accepted with open arms. A winning culture is difficult to obtain, but easily lost, so a victory after so many years of fruitless endeavour was a major boon. The management and players can be proud of the hard work done in order to retain the title.

Paradoxically perhaps one of the biggest contributors to the intermediate success was the loss of the Kilkenny under 21 side to Westmeath in the Leinster championship. While the shock defeat was obviously a massive blow to morale, it actually helped to galvanize the seven members of both panels into redoubling their efforts for their only remaining chance of silverware.

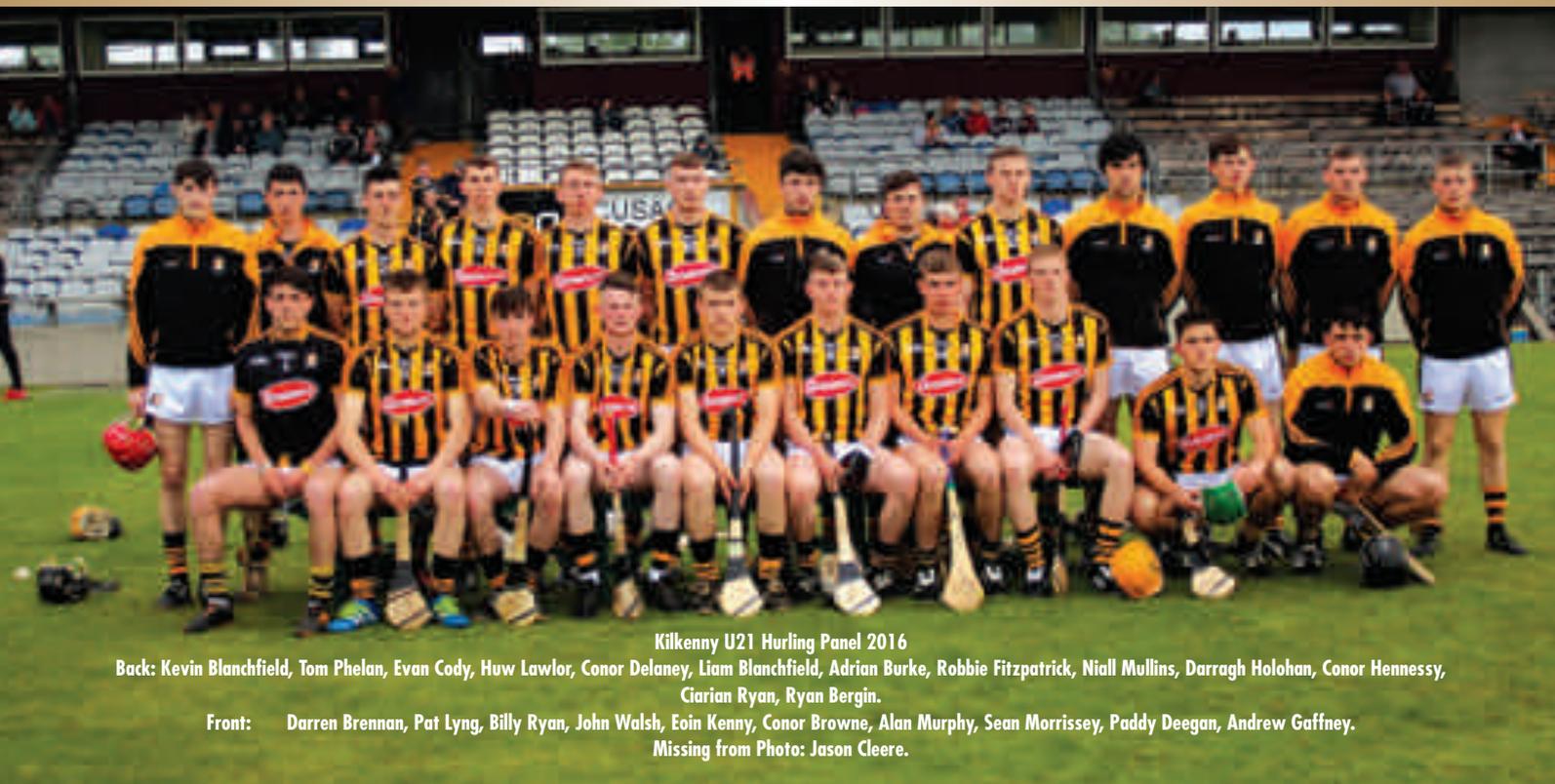
Given the exceptional performance of the side in the final, it's only natural that people will expect certain members of the squad to be called up to the senior ranks in the coming years. Certainly, the likes of John Walsh and Billy Ryan would see themselves as being contenders for call ups, while perhaps Jason Cleere, Conor Delaney and others may also force their way into contention.

Kilkenny employed a strong backroom team in pursuit of glory. Not only did they have the vastly experienced Pat O'Grady (Blacks and Whites) at the helm, but Anthony McCormack (Dunnamaggin), Joe Walsh (Mullinavat), David O'Brien (Graigue Ballycallan) and Willie Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge) acted as selectors with a Clareman, Sean Mangan, plotting the downfall of his own county as coach. The all-important kitman was JP O'Neill from Clonee.

"More Gloom..."

Inter County U21H Report by Seamus Reade

Photos Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny U21 Hurling Panel 2016

Back: Kevin Blanchfield, Tom Phelan, Evan Cody, Huw Lawlor, Conor Delaney, Liam Blanchfield, Adrian Burke, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Niall Mullins, Darragh Holohan, Conor Hennessy, Ciaran Ryan, Ryan Bergin.

Front: Darren Brennan, Pat Lyng, Billy Ryan, John Walsh, Eoin Kenny, Conor Browne, Alan Murphy, Sean Morrissey, Paddy Deegan, Andrew Gaffney.
Missing from Photo: Jason Cleere.

There was a high expectation in Kilkenny following the appointment of Eddie Brennan as Under 21 Team Manager for 2016. His management team of Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow), Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers) and James Meagher (St Lachtains) seemed well equipped to put together a side capable of arresting the very poor record in this grade in recent years. Our last Leinster title was in 2012 whilst our last All Ireland title was back in 2008.

Eddie and his selectors took charge of the Walsh Cup campaign. The first game was played under lights at the MW Hire Training Centre on Jan 13th and a somewhat depleted side was well beaten by DIT 4-14 to 0-16. Four days later they travelled to Birt to take on Offaly and with the inclusion of three or four players from the senior panel they put up a far more creditable performance before being eventually overtaken by a full strength Offaly side 3-09 to 1-09 in very wet and heavy conditions.

It was then on to the Leinster Championship in May and what seemed like a relatively straight forward visit to Cusack Park in Mullingar to take on Westmeath. There was nothing straightforward, however, about the tie and a defiant Westmeath side denied Kilkenny in an historic home victory. As we go to print Eddie Brennan, Richie O'Neill and Richie Doyle have again been handed the mantle for 2017. Their task will not be simple as the draw for the 2017 Leinster Championship sees us drawn away to Leinster Champions Dublin in the quarter-final.

Bord Gáis Leinster U21 Quarter-Final 25th May 2016 – Cusack Park Mullingar Westmeath 1-11 Kilkenny 0-12

Kilkenny's recent poor record at Under-21 level continued in 2016 as Eddie Brennan's side came unstuck in a dramatic defeat to Westmeath in Cusack Park Mullingar. After running Dublin close in 2015, the Midlanders went one better on this occasion to book their place in the semi-final.

Kilkenny exploded into life and they had the ball in the net after 50 seconds. However, play was called back for a free, which John Walsh pointed. The Lake County were two points down after five minutes, but with deadly free taker Darragh Clinton judging the light breeze to perfection, he had it all square at 0-4 each after 14 minutes. The teams were together again later at 0-7 each, but as Clinton took his tally for the

half to seven, Westmeath went in at the break 0-9 to 0-8 in front. The Cats had missed a few chances, including from frees, but the appetite for the fray of centre-back, Liam Varley, Clinton, Conor Shaw and others meant there was nothing soft going.

Within minutes of the restart, Kilkenny regained parity through the lively Billy Ryan, who always looked a threat. However, on 35 minutes they were hit for the goal that proved crucial. Warren Casserly prodded the ball home from close range after a good play made by Jack Galvin. The Noresiders poured forward in wave after wave of attack after that, but Westmeath were utterly defiant. When a home player picked up an injury there was a long delay which led to six minutes added time at the finish. Casserly's goal remained the main divider, however. After Kilkenny changed their free taker, sub Andrew Gaffney registered once from a 65 in the 63rd minute to leave a brace between them. It was Gaffney who had the last effort from the penalty, following a foul on Liam Blanchfield, but the ball sailed high and wide.

Westmeath were fully deserving of their victory whilst the defeat added to the gloom in Kilkenny following the defeat of the minors in the Leinster Championship the previous week.

SCORES:

Westmeath - Darragh Clinton (0-8, frees); Warren Casserly (1-0); Liam Varley (0-1, free); Killian Doyle, Ciaran Doyle (0-1).

Kilkenny - John Walsh (0-6, frees); Billy Ryan (0-3); Sean Morrissey (0-2); Andrew Gaffney (0-1, 65).

Westmeath - Sean Maher, Alan Cox, Conor Shaw, Mick Heeney, Joe Rabbite, Liam Varley, Robbie Gillen, Warren Casserly, Killian Doyle, Niall Mitchell, Liam Cassidy, Darragh Eggerton, Jack Galvin, Ciaran Doyle, Darragh Clinton. Subs - D. Giles for Heeney 29th min; P. Lynam for Casserly (inj) 47th min.

Kilkenny - Darren Brennan, Evan Cody, Conor Delaney, Pat Lyng, Jason Cleere, Paddy Deegan, Conor Browne, Eoin Kenny, Liam Blanchfield, Sean Morrissey, Niall Mullins, Billy Ryan, Alan Murphy, John Walsh. Subs - Andrew Gaffney for Kenny ht; Kevin Blanchfield for Murphy 49th min; Tom Phelan for Mullins 59th min.

Referee - B. O'Leary (Wexford).



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"Too Early to be Finished..."

Inter County MH Report by Kieran Cuddihy

Photos Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny Minor Hurling Panel 2016

Back: Victor Costello, Matt Kenny, Edward Moylan, Mossy Keoghan

Middle: Jack Walsh, John Dowd, Ronan Ryan, Liam Dunphy, Chris Kavanagh, Mark Drennan, Colum Prenderville, Brian Coady, Tom Whitty, Tommy Walsh, Darragh Walsh, Darren Mullen, Jack Frisby, James Mullally, Conor O Shea, Shane O Donoghue, Jack Kelly

Front: Paddy Nolan, Sean Buggy, Sean Bolger, Niall Brazil, Jordan Molloy, Shane Mahony, Evan Carroll, Joe Connolly, James Bergin, Edward Delaney, John Donnelly.

After an agonising loss to Galway at the semi final stage of last year's championship, the Kilkenny minor hurlers set out on their campaign to regain the Irish Press Cup in 2016 on an April Saturday in Nowlan Park.

Offaly provided the opposition in a game that saw Kilkenny claim victory by 18 points. The writing was on the wall early for the young midlanders, with Kilkenny racing into a 7 point lead within 15 minutes. When James Bergin from Conahy found the net before half time, the contest was all but over.

At the break, 13 points divided the teams.

Sean Buggy from Erin's Own goaled 7 minutes into the second half to give Kilkenny an unassailable lead. This allowed Pat Hoban and his selectors to use the remaining 25 minutes to stretch the legs of several subs. Ultimately 6 players were sprung from the bench.

That victory set up a Leinster semi final clash with Dublin on the 14th of May in Parnell Park.

In the 2015 provincial decider, Kilkenny beat Dublin by only 2 points and their meeting this year would prove to be another tight affair.

Edmund Delaney opened the scoring on the day with a sublime sideline cut before Dublin squandered two good goal chances. Parity was restored with a pointed free from John McGuirk on six minutes before Kilkenny began to assert some dominance on the game.

Jordan Molloy and Tommy Walsh were proving worthy of their place in the full back line while John Donnelly from Thomastown scored 3 points from play to ensure that Kilkenny returned to the dressing room at half time with a comfortable 08-04 lead.

For much of the second half, it looked like Kilkenny were doing enough to seal their place in another Leinster final. Adrian Mullen and Donnelly were in exceptional form and continually kept Kilkenny's noses in front. When Donnelly scored a great point at 58 minutes, the contest looked to be over.

Credit to the Dublin players however, they refused to accept their fate and deep into injury time, their salvation came. Donal Burke found himself on the end of a sideline cut and directed the ball passed Liam Dunphy in the Kilkenny goal.

The late goal ensured that extra time would be needed and now the momentum was all with the team from the capital. 8 minutes into the first half, Colin Currie took advantage of that momentum to clinch a second goal for Dublin.

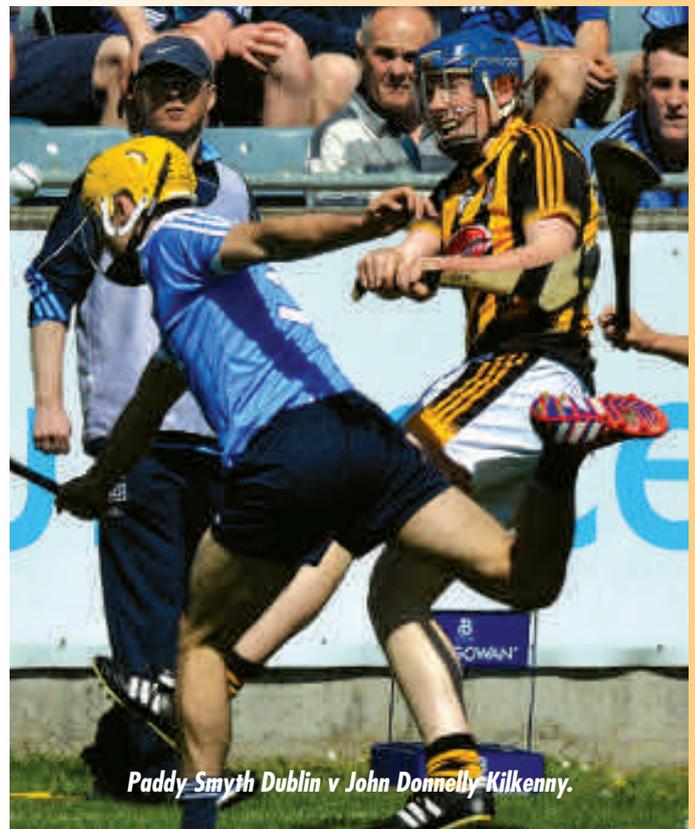
From then on Kilkenny were chasing the game and despite a late goal from Shane Mahony, Dublin won out a scoreline of 2-18 to 1-19.

For manager Pat Hoban, it was a difficult pill to swallow. "It was a very disappointing result. We felt that we played very well on the day and we led right through the match but got caught with that late goal. Dublin in fairness to them used that to drive on in extra time and we just couldn't get back out in front".

"Overall of course we are disappointed with the year, having gone out at the Leinster semi final stage. It's was too early for a team of our quality to be finished hurling for the year but that's how it is".

"I would say that the players themselves put in a great effort and should be very proud. It's also worth mentioning that underage hurling in Kilkenny is still very strong and we should remember that a lot of our players won an All Ireland with St Kieran's too".

After the defeat, Pat Hoban and his management team stepped down. The Mullinavat native spent four years at the helm of minor hurling in Kilkenny, during which time they won three Leinster titles and an All Ireland.



Paddy Smyth Dublin v John Donnelly Kilkenny.

John Teehan

Hero of '67

By *Barrie Henriques*



When one mentions heroes of former greatness, there is a tendency to talk about specifics. Invariably it comes down to a certain score, a particular tackle, an interception, block, jump etc. Whenever I mention John Teehan, it certainly comes down to the tremendous display he gave for his beloved Kilkenny in the never-to-be-forgotten All Ireland Final of 1967, the heroes of which were presented to over 9,000 Kilkenny supporters in Nowlan Park on County Final day. Sadly many of the greats of that bygone day were not among their compadres—they had gone to a better place hopefully. Thankfully the rest were looking well, booted and suited appropriately for the occasion, among them the great John Teehan.

Well I remember back in 1967, as the tears rolled down my face to hear Micheál O'Hehir paint the picture of what every emigrant would dearly love to have been witness to, but due to circumstances beyond their control just could not be in Croker. Well I remember too, listening as O'Hehir extolled the virtues, deeds, and athleticism of the big man from Freshford. Many of those nostalgic memories came flooding back as the lads of '67 took their curtain call on County Final day.

In another life I had the great experience of visiting with John in the home he shares with his wife, Teresa in Bradestown. The big man, born in Graig Ballycallan—a place called Barrack Hill—his family moved to the Kilree Lane in Threecastles when he was ten years of age. Having attended Bonnettstown School for six months, he progressed to Tulla National school—endearingly known as “the University”. In Tulla he formed life-long friendships with people like Nicky Grace, Dinny Lennon, John Minogue, all the Daltons, Joe Mullen and others. Threecastles was very special, and meaningful to John Teehan. The iconic Tom Waldron, Principal of Freshford National school inveigled his counterpart in Tulla, Mr. Mc. Auliffe to arrange for his sixth class students to play with Freshford in the newly-formed Schools Championships. John Teehan was in fifth class, but even at that early stage, he was showing exceptional qualities as a hurler. Difficulties were addressed, and surmounted, and John Teehan eventually played on the Freshford school team, even though he was still in “fifth book”. Little did people know then that a new star was about to “come out of the East”. In '51 the Roinn B Championship was collected. Teehan was in the company of lads who would

subsequently be in the same trench when more serious challenges were on the menu. “We had Pa (Dillon), Sean (Buckley), Toss Molloy, Nicky Grace, Johnny Butler, Dinny Butler, Kevin Dalton and others whose names I cannot think of at the moment”, said the big man. Many of the Threecastles contingent was on board, and certainly when the same team won the Roinn A under 16 title two years later. A year later, John was unfortunate that he was unavailable when Freshford beat Glenmore by three clear goals in the County Minor Final. He went on for the final few minutes, even though he had a well strapped ankle. With practically the same team they failed to beat Thomastown in the final the following year—a terrible disappointment—John would say.

After playing with the Freshford minors, John returned to pastures familiar in Threecastles. “Freshford were training in Harrisons that time”, said John. “I was living in the last house in the Parish close to Kilkenny. There were very few motor cars on the road. I don't think I even had a bike”, he smiled. “And anyway, I was more friendly with the lads I palled around with. It would have to happen, and in '59 we played them in the Junior Championship. It took a couple of games to decide it, but Freshford eventually progressed. I thought we had a better team, but they won. After a couple of bad years for both sides, an amalgamation of both was engineered in 1960 and completed in '61. With the Threecastles crew of Daltons, Minogue, Teehan etc. Freshford took out the Near South amalgam in the County Final of 1961. The brilliant Bennettsbridge took them out in the '62 semi-final, but they thundered back to take back the Title two years later when accounting for Tullogher in the '63 Final. John had already worn the black and amber when called into service for the 1960 junior outfit. Beaten in the first round by Wexford, John was ferried to the game by the indomitable Paddy Phelan, considered one of the princes of half backs in his and other eras.

John would say that he owed plenty to some tremendous people during his early days serving his County. In that category he would name Threecastles' Joe Mullen as one of his greatest friends and advisers who ferried him everywhere. Jack Lalor too would be very close to the developing Teehan.



St Lachtain's County SH Champions 1961 - John Teehan centre back row.



Leinster - Railway Cup Champions 1967 - John Teehan 4th from left, back row.

Inter County career.

John Teehan's first smell of senior action was against Wexford in a Tournament in Ferns in 1962. "I was pitch-forked into full forward, where I got a baptism of fire against the great Nick O'Donnell. What a learning curve that turned out", he smiled. John made the County panel in '62, but was dropped for the Leinster Final. For reasons best known, but alas can never be queried as selectors have passed to their Heavenly rewards—hopefully—, John Teehan expected to re-assert himself on the Kilkenny team for the '63 campaign. "I had a right good season with Freshford, winning the County title. I was picked on the panel, but was dropped for the All Ireland Final against Waterford. I was badly hurt with that decision. I had not done much to play myself off the panel. In fact I hadn't played at all!" Things improved for the hurting Freshford man in '64. He played every game in the National League, including the Final against Tipp. It is recorded that the Kilkenny forwards made little headway against the Hell's Kitchen Tipp defence. Tipp led at the break by 1-8 to 0-6. John Teehan put Kilkenny in a great position with a great goal on the resumption, but the game never fired for Kilkenny, who had lost Martin Coogan before half time. Ted Carroll and Pa Dillon were tremendous defenders for the losing Kilkenny side. Having beaten Dublin in the Leinster Championship of '65, Championship, he broke an ankle shortly afterwards. Going into the Leinster Final against Wexford, Teehan's misfortune was further exacerbated with the non-availability of Seamie Cleere, and Ted Carroll. Wexford went on to challenge a rampant Tipperary in the Final. John always felt that Kilkenny's biggest problems centred around games with Wexford. "They were very difficult to beat any time. They were very passionate, and courageous, and no matter how hard you would hit them, they would be straight back to even the score immediately. They were hardy lads, as hard as I ever played against". And so we arrive at the marquee year of 1967. John Teehan won a Railway Cup medal with Leinster when beating Munster 2-14 to 3-5. He had Jim Bennett, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Martin Coogan, Tom Walsh, Claus Dunne, Ollie Walsh, Seamus Cleere, Paddy Moran, with him on the team. He also broke his wrist. That caused problems when endeavouring to put the ring on his new bride, Teresa, on the morning of their wedding- "she wasn't too pleased". Having lost the League Final to Wexford, John feared that Championship prospects were somewhat shaky. Kilkenny clattered Dublin in the first round in Carlow. Jim Lynch bagged two goals. Wexford were waiting in the wings. They led at the break by four points. Still ahead at the end of the third quarter, a tsunami of goals by Bennett, Claus Dunne, and a Keher special got Kilkenny over the line by 4-10 to 0-12. John Teehan came on as a second half centre forward sub. Tipp had taken out Champions Cork in the Munster Final. It was black

and amber against blue and gold on the first Sunday in September. We spoke about training, the input of Fr.Maher; the invaluable work of Mick Lanigan; the training schedule (two weeks before the Final); the pressures—personal and external; and the trip on the train that was so dramatic, with Ollie cutting his hand, and playing with over thirty stitches in his hand; the injury to Tom Walsh, and other such issues. Why did you change positions at midfield? I asked. "Paddy Moran was a superb hurler. When things were going bad for us, Paddy was the man who did something exceptional, like scoring a goal inside five minutes when we were playing against the wind in the first half. Cometh the hour cometh the man. He asked me to pick up Mick Roche, while he would handle Theo (English). It was a great idea, because neither of the two lads finished the game. We must have done something right", he smiled. I asked him to summarise the game from a Kilkenny viewpoint.

"For a start, Ollie played the game of his life. Tipp led at the break by 2-6 to 1-3. We were playing shocking well. Ted and Pa were outstanding, while Jim (Treacy) was keeping Jimmy Doyle very quiet, and that was no easy job, as Jimmy was one of the three best hurlers in the land. Pat (Henderson) brushed anything Tipp fired at him away with such passion and skill. Tipp threw three different forwards in on top of him to curb his effectiveness, but all failed. Coogan and Seamie (Cleere) had never played better. We knew that if we held our first half form, a win was distinctly possible. Tom (Walsh) got the game-changing goal after the break. Sadly he didn't finish the game nor did he ever play again. Eddie (Keher) fired over three marvellous points, while Martin "Goggy" (Brennan) — what a player—got a great goal. Claus (Dunne), God rest him, scored two grand points while Dick Blanchfield got a single. All great men, the likes of which will never come again. I don't care who or where they come from. Kilkenny has never had better than those men, I can assure you".

Did he enjoy it?

"Yes I did. I had my All Ireland medal, and to beat Tipp after 45 years, made it all the sweeter. And from a personal viewpoint, didn't the great Sim Walton, a cousin of Teresa's, promise that he would give her one of his seven medals if we won". He was close to being emotional as the memories came flooding back. He was the Sports Star of the week in the Irish Independent as an added bonus. "Sure, how could you beat that".

He never played with Kilkenny again. He played for a while with Freshford, but more pressing demands in running a farm, a young family, and other family matters were more demanding. He left with his memories, great friendships, and an envious collection of achievements.

HEROES OF 1967 REMEMBERED

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the victorious Kilkenny 1967 All Ireland SH team who defeated Tipperary in the Final. The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.



(Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile)

The Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions from 1967 who were honoured before the County SH Final in Nowlan Park
Back: Ned Quinn (Co Chairman), John Kinsella, Pat Carroll, Dick Blanchfield, Noel Skehan, Mick Lanigan (Team Trainer),
tSeamus O'Carroll (Springhill Court).
Front: Martin (Goggy) Brennan, Tom Walsh, Paddy Moran, Seamus Cleere, Jim Treacy (Capt), Pat Henderson, John Teehan,
Eddie Keher, Jim Lynch.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1967
Back: Ted Carroll, Pat Henderson, Claus Dunne, Eddie Keher, John Teehan, Pa Dillon, Jim Lynch, Ollie Walsh.
Front: Martin Coogan, Martin Brennan, Seamus Cleere, Jim Treacy, Capt, Jim Bennett, Paddy Moran, Tom Walsh.



RACE DAY 2016



(Photos Willie Dempsey)



RACE DAY 2016



KILKENNY ALL IRELAND CAPTAINS HONOURED AT THE RACE DAY

Back: Andy Comerford (2002), Joey Holden (2015), Lester Ryan (2014), Eoin larkin (2012), Brian Hogan (2011), Michael Fennelly (2009), Cha Fitzpatrick (2008), Henry Shefflin (2007), Jackie Tyrrell (2006), DJ Carey (2003).
 Front: Willie O'Connor (2000), Liam Fennelly (1983, 1992), Brian Cody (1982), Ger Fennelly (1979), Billy Fitzpatrick (1975), Nicky Orr (1974), Noel Skehan (1972), Eddie Keher (1969), Jim Treacy (1967), Seamie Cleere (1963),

(Photos Willie Dempsey)

WORTHY CHAMPIONS

St Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2016 by Tommy Lanigan



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS- COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2015 (Willie Dempsey)

Back: Cian Loy, Pat Byrne, Billy Leydon, Anthony Forristal, Martin Gibbons.

Middle: David Burke, Huw Lawlor, Luke Leydon, Shane Parsons, Martin Comerford, Gary Bryan, Shane Mahony, Sean Bolger, Eddie Kearns, Paddy Cantwell, Thomas Gleeson, Daniel O'Connor, Eoghan Grant, Fergal Brennan, Mark Kelly, Andy Kearns, David Fogarty, Paddy Butler.

Front: Daniel Lenehan, Jamie Malone, Mickey Butler, Alan Geoghegan (Robbie & Conor Geoghegan), Paddy Deegan, Niall Bergin, Mark Bergin, Danny Loughnane, Brian Hogan (Jack Hogan), Gary Kelly, Stephen Murphy, Alan O'Brien (Daniel O'Brien), Sammy Johnston.

Worthy Champions

Well done to O'Loughlins who garnered their fourth county senior title on 30 October with a well merited win over Ballyhale Shamrocks.

A team that plays persistently and strongly throughout the hour is always an admirable side.

Truly O'Loughlins is a team devoid of stars. They have many very good hurlers led by a veteran group of Martin Comerford, Brian Hogan, Alan Geoghegan and Alan O'Brien. Their youngsters are coming good too. Their minor championship win of 2014 has yielded two outstanding prospects in Paddy Deegan and Huw Lawlor and several others who contribute to a very solid panel. They have swept the titles at Bord na nÓg level in recent years and Aidan Fogarty and his team of selectors did very well to improve their all round game. Their gatekeepers are stern and Mark Bergin is an unerring free-taker. The whole package makes them very difficult to beat even if they are not heavy scorers. Most importantly they are a collective who showed admirable self belief at almost every turn through league and championship, losing only twice, and narrowly at that, in a very competitive campaign.

Bitterly disappointed after losing a final that they could have won in 2015 against Clara, it seemed they were on a mission from the beginning of the year. Martin Comerford, their spiritual leader, was

pictured in tears after the final, testament to the significance of their victory. Few club players in Kilkenny deserve it more. Club captain Brian Hogan recovered from a nasty injury earlier in the season to lead with his customary style and power.

To the final itself. Over 9000 saw a strange contest on a perfect day for hurling. The early skirmishes were bordering on boring, though briefly lit by an outrageous TJ Reid goal. This score separated them for along time with neither side showing the ability to forge ahead. O'Loughlins, however seemed too reliant on the free-taking of

Mark Bergin. Shamrocks forged three points ahead by the fortieth minute and from there, they managed but two more. The Continents side, however, hit nine points from a variety of players and angles as they left nobody in doubt as to which was the better team on the day.

For Shamrocks, it could well be a watershed game with some of their elder statesmen showing signs of struggle as the pace increased. Nevertheless, several of their young 'uns demonstrated the required mettle. Their minor championship victory has come at an opportune time and will help to stiffen their development.



O'Loughlin Gaels captain Brian Hogan lifts the Tom Walsh Cup. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Martin Comerford celebrates scoring a point during final. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - COUNTY HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS & LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2016 (Willie Dempsey)

Back: Eugene Aylward, Patrick Doyle, Conor Phelan, Evan Shefflin, Dylan Aylward, Patrick Hearne, Eoin Kenneally, Joe Cuddihy, Adrian Mullen.

Middle: Brian Butler, James Connolly, Eoin Doyle, Patrick Reid, Bob Aylward, Colin Fennelly, Kevin Mullen, Darren Mullen, TJ Reid, Joseph Holden, David Hoynes, Enda Kenneally, Conor Reid.

Front: Kevin Fennelly, Mark Phelan, Henry Shefflin (Henry Shefflin Jr.), Ronan Corcoran, Pdraig Holden, Eoin Reid, Mark Aylward, Richie Reid, Patrick Mullen, Keith Nolan, Paul Shefflin.

As usual there was great anticipation following the league draws. Inevitably the groups were lopsided as three of the four eventual semi-finalists came for one side. O'Loughlins stumbled over Erins Own to start their campaign and Clara got off to a great start defeating Ballyhale. For Clara the season should have ignited but they seemed lethargic thereafter. Shamrocks continued on their way amassing wins over every other opposition and topped the group with O'Loughlins recovering well enough for second.

Dicksboro lost their first round to St. Martins in a low scoring encounter but stabilised to earn runners-up spot. They subsequently lost the Shield final to O'Loughlins. St. Martins were the enigma of the season. They won their section of the league, finishing with a demolition of James Stephens, and played well in the league final against Shamrocks without threatening to win.

The first round of the championship threw up a few cracking matches. It needed two games for Mullinavat to defeat Bennettsbridge. The latter seemed to have settled in mid table in their second year back in senior ranks and must hope to unearth a few players from minor ranks in the next two years if they are to become contenders.

Rower-Inistioge required a replay and extra time to see off the challenge of an unlucky Danesfort team who missed vital chances in both games. While they brushed too closely with relegation, Fort have survived a change of manager and injuries in a season they will wish to forget. However, they have some good young players coming along and they can be hopeful for next year.

Clara recovered well to defeat Fenians and James Stephens finally found their form by seeing off a limited Erins Own side. The 'Comer lads need some new blood if they wish to make further progress.

The quarter finals were all won with relative ease. O'Loughlins accounted for a James Stephens side who defended well but found scoring very challenging. Clara had an indifferent first half against Dicksboro and found their form in the second. The manner of the Boro collapse was surprising as they had seemed to have real prospects of making at least a semi-final slot.

The Rower similarly wiped out St. Martins and showed themselves to be worthy semi-finalists while Ballyhale eased past neighbours Mullinavat in the other quarter final.

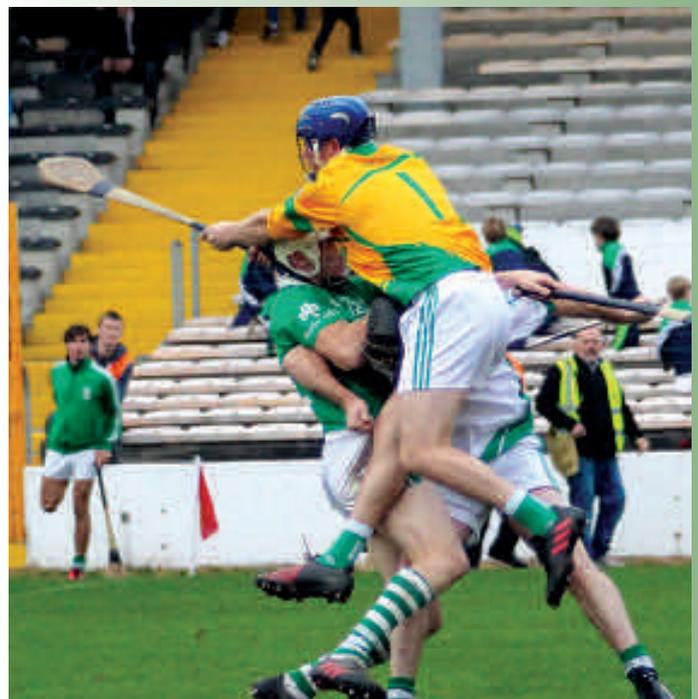
Neither semi-final provided great entertainment for the supporters. Yes, there was lots of endeavour but no team showed anything like dominant form. O'Loughlins struggled past the Rower, thanks to two soft goals either side of half time. The irony for the Southerners was that they could easily have been facing relegation instead of almost reaching a final. They have improved and will be more difficult to beat next year.

Three magical points from Colin Fennelly were the difference

between Ballyhale and Clara, though Clara looked a rather tired outfit. They have been on the hurling road for a long time and need to regroup. They have lots of good players and should return stronger next year.

Fenians had despatched six teams to Intermediate ranks but it was to be expected they would stumble this year. Typically they went down fighting. They managed a draw with Danesfort in the first game with both sides fearful of the consequences of error. Fort made no mistake in the replay. The Johnstown men face a huge challenge to return to senior ranks but they are brave to a fault. That will help greatly.

It is clear that the standard of senior hurling has levelled off. We have been moving to that scenario since Shamrocks have been slowly declining. Is that a good thing? Of course it is. Every senior team can now fancy their chances of reaching a semi-final, then who knows. For the next few years it can truly be said 'it is all on the day'. While we may not see a wonderfully accomplished team sweep before them, next year should see more teams capable of winning a championship than at any other time in senior hurling in the county.



O'Loughlins Goalie, Stephen Murphy collides with TJ Reid in the final.

(Photo: Willie Dempsey)

**ST CANICE'S CU SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2016
SCOREBOARD**

First Round		
Rower Inistioge		1-10
Danesfort		0-13
Rower Inistioge		1-21
Danesfort		2-16
Clara		1-17
Fenians		2-9
James Stephens		2-17
Erin's Own		1-10
Mullinavat		3-16
Bennettsbridge		4-13
Mullinavat		2-15
Bennettsbridge		0-15
Quarter-Finals		
Rower Inistioge		2-19
St Martin's		0-12
Ballyhale Shamrocks		3-20
Mullinavat		1-11
O'Loughlin Gaels		1-16
James Stephens		0-14
Clara		1-24
Dicksboro		0-12
Semi-Finals		
O'Loughlin Gaels		2-13
Rower Inistioge		0-16
Ballyhale Shamrocks		0-19
Clara		0-16
FINAL		
O'Loughlin Gaels		0-19
Ballyhale Shamrocks		1-12
RELEGATION FINAL		
Danesfort		0-14
Fenians		0-14
Danesfort		1-18
Fenians		1-12



*Captains Mark Aylward and Brian Hogan with Co Final referee Richard Dowling.
Willie Dempsey*



*County Final Action.
Willie Dempsey*

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2016 KILKENNY SH CHAMPIONSHIP

Ballyhale Shamrocks:

J. Connolly, P. Holden, K. Mullen, D. Mullen, R. Reid, J. Holden, B. Aylward, H. Shefflin, C. Fennelly, E. Reid, P. Mullen, T. J. Reid, B. Cody, P. Mullen, C. Phelan, P. Shefflin, D. Hoyne, J. Cuddihy, E. Aylward, R. Corcoran, P. Reid.

Bennettsbridge:

E. Cleere, E. Murphy, R. Lennon, J. Moran, E. Morrissey, J. Cleere, A. Cleere, K. Blanchfield, D. Wafer, B. Lannon, L. Blanchfield, S. Morrissey, W. Murphy, N. Cleere, M. Shiel, C. Wafer, D. Walsh, K. Brennan.

Clara:

K. Nolan, D. Nolan, S. O'Shea, T. Ryan, N. Prendergast, D. Langton, J. Langton, L. Ryan, J. Byrne, C. O' Shea, L. Ryan, C. Prendergast, J. Phelan, C. Bolger, A. Murphy, J. Nolan, J. Murphy, C. Phelan.

Danesfort:

P. Tynan, R. Leahy, P. Murphy, D. Booth, R. O'Keefe, P. Hogan, P. Walsh, D. Dunne, J. Phelan, C. O' Neill, R. Hogan, P. Hickey, C. Treacy, R. Walsh, K. Ireland, C. O' Neill, C. Phelan, G. Tynan, B. Cullen.

Dicksboro:

A. Duggan, M. Fagan, E. Cody, R. Fitzpatrick, C. Delaney, C. Bucley, E. Malone, O. Walsh, E. Fennelly, P. O' Flynn, S. Farrell, K. Kenny, A. Gaffney, M. Gaffney, E. O' Donoghue, R. Murphy, C. Kavanagh.

Erins Own

T. Brophy, N. McMahon, L. Wallace, C. Wallace, A. Moran, C. Delaney, E. Brennan, C. Fogarty, P. O'Donovan, M. Boran, R. Moran, J. Byrne, J. Holohan, E. Brennan, S. Buggy, M. Murphy, A. Owens, S. Daly.

Fenians:

J. Dermody, C. Ryan, J.J. Delaney, E. phelan, W. Brennan, J. Henderson, E. Hughes, R. Phelan, P. Duggan, C. Tobin, D. Dermody S. Brennan, K. Grehan, S. Tobin, M. Webster, K. Walsh.

James Stephens

D. Brennan, N. McQuillan, T. Keogh, D. Hennessy, N. Mullins, J. Tyrrell, L. Hickey, E. Larkin, J. McGrath, D. Cody, M. Ruth, R. Cody, D. Walton, D. Cody. L. Scanlon, C. Browne, W. Spencer.

Mullinavat:

J. Culleton, J. Fennelly, T. Aylward, I. Duggan, R. Malone, W. O' Dwyer, J. Gahan, G. Malone, A. Mansfield, J. Fennelly, J. Walsh, M. Mansfield, S. Aylward, M. Jones, R. Bland.

O'Loughlin Gaels:

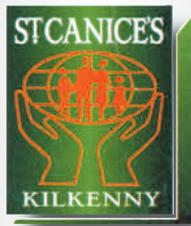
S. Murphy, A. Forristal, A. Kearns, E. Kearns, A. O' Brien, B. Hogan, P. Deegan, H. Lawlor, P. Butler, A. Geoghegan, M. Kelly, E. Grant, S. Johnston, M. Bergin, M. Comerford, S. Bolger, D. Burke, D. Loughnane.

Rower Inistioge:

P. lyng, E. Doyle, R. Galavan, J. Doyle, C. Ryan, K. Joyce, S. Ryan, S. Grace, R. Leahy, P. Lyng, D. Lyng, J. Cassin, C. Joyce, T. Mutphy, D. Joyce, M. Grace, K. Murphy, C. Bolger, D. Joyce, K. Meany, S. Cummins, T. Kelly.

St. Martin's:

C. McGrath, P. Nolan, J. Maher, S. Cadigan, B. Cody, B. Byrne, M. Morrissey, S. Kinsella, O. Walsh, J. Mulhall, T. Breen, E. McGrath, J. Maher, P. Maher, B. Mulhall, R. Reid, J. Maher, D. Shore.



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O;Loughlin's captain Brian Hogan is presented with the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship cup by Michael O'Reilly, Chairman, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Willie Dempsey)

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SH ACTION





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The Winning Team!



Carrickshock Captain, John Tennyson is presented with the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship cup by Michael Lyng, sponsor, Michael Lyng Motors, and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Willie Dempsey)

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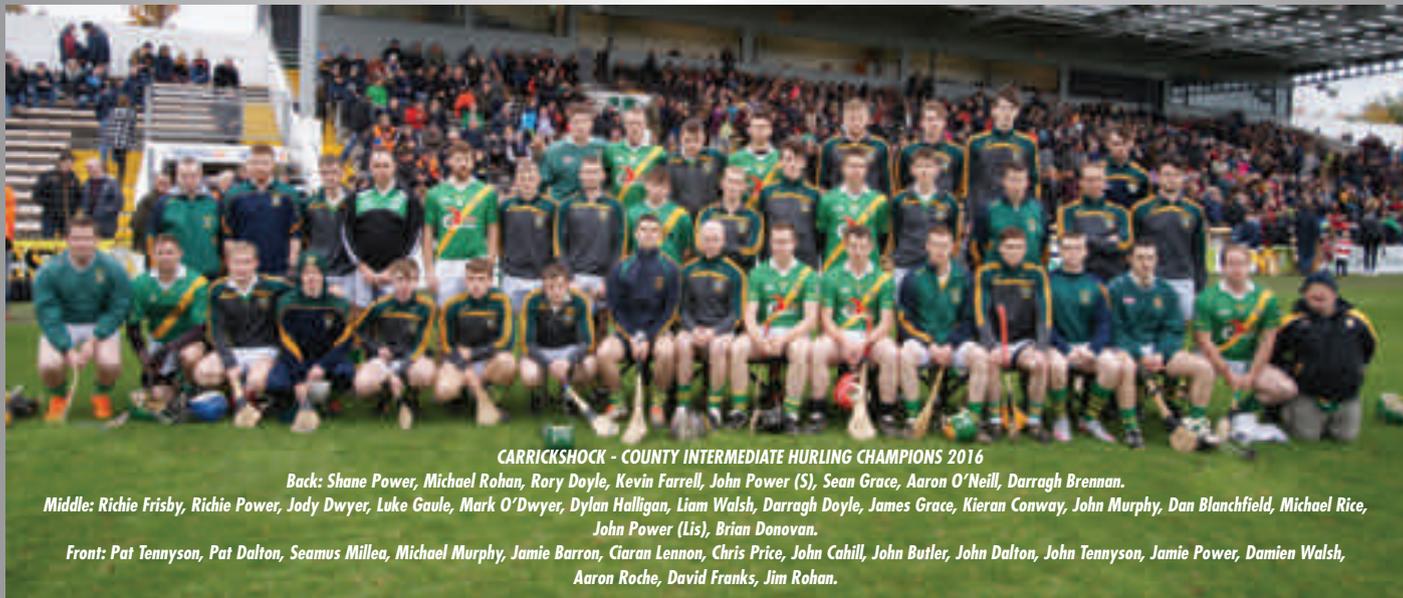
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'SHOCK ARE BACK SENIOR

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2016 by Conor Brennan

All Photos Willie Dempsey



CARRICKSHOCK - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: Shane Power, Michael Rohan, Rory Doyle, Kevin Farrell, John Power (S), Sean Grace, Aaron O'Neill, Darragh Brennan.

Middle: Richie Frisby, Richie Power, Jody Dwyer, Luke Gaule, Mark O'Dwyer, Dylan Halligan, Liam Walsh, Darragh Doyle, James Grace, Kieran Conway, John Murphy, Dan Blanchfield, Michael Rice, John Power (Lis), Brian Donovan.

Front: Pat Tennyson, Pat Dalton, Seamus Millea, Michael Murphy, Jamie Barron, Ciaran Lennon, Chris Price, John Cahill, John Butler, John Dalton, John Tennyson, Jamie Power, Damien Walsh, Aaron Roche, David Franks, Jim Rohan.

It wasn't plain sailing by any means, and it took a lot of soul searching, self-motivation and consistency, but the Intermediate Hurling County Champions of 2016, Carrickshock, were in the end certainly worthy of the title. The hangover of last year's relegation loomed for the early part of the champions season, though they still had the strength and skill to qualify for the league final. But with the experience of John Dalton, John Tennyson, Michael Rice and Richie Power (albeit limited) to call on with the youthful enthusiasm of the likes of Kevin Farrell, consistent form came in time for the championship. And ultimately, a return to the senior grade!

The league proved to be a decent mirror towards the form shown by teams in the championship, with one or two exceptions rising or falling in standing in their future championship form. The shield final saw future semi-final opponents Glenmore see off Tullogher-Rosbercon by 1-24 to 2-10 while Tullaroan claimed the league title with an emphatic win also over their future semi-final opponents Carrickshock by 5-16 to 1-16. Things would change in a few weeks time, however!

The opening round of the championship saw four interested pairings – St. Patrick's taking on Dunnamaggin, Lisdowney battling with Young Irelands, a Northern battle between St. Lachtain's and Graigue-Ballycallan, and a relegation fight between Thomastown and Conahy Shamrocks. St. Patrick's, having gone so close in previous years, showed their intent to progress with an emphatic win over Dunnamaggin in Palmerstown. The Ballyragget men scored two goals within a five minutes spell from Seoirse Kenny and Kevin Kelly to ensure that they lead by 2-9 to 0-8 at the interval. Try as Dunnamaggin might, they could never reel in the deficit, and Ballyragget were able to win out at their ease by 2-20 to 0-14.

Lisdowney and Young Irelands faced off with two issues in mind for both teams – a place in the quarter-finals for the winners, and adversely the threat of relegation for the losers. Lisdowney enjoyed the better of the exchanges in the opening half to lead by 1-8 to 0-5 at the break, the goal coming late in the half from Conor O'Carroll. Credit must go to the Gowran men who fought back well, led in no small way by their captain and chief score getter Paul Holden. But the key score once again went Lisdowney's way, when they were awarded a penalty and was subsequently finished to the net by Rory Hickey. It meant no back for Young Irelands, as Lisdowney advanced on a 2-10 to 0-11 score line.

The highlight of the round was a tough and uncompromising contest between St. Lachtain's and Graigue-Ballycallan in Tullaroan, as one would expect between two teams who have

strong and physical players to call upon. The Freshford men were the better team in the opening half, with the Graigue attack highly dependent on Thomas Ryan frees to keep them in contention. A great move between Liam Hickey and Noel McGree saw the latter finish well to the net to see St. Lachtain's ahead 1-7 to 0-6 at half-time. Graigue-Ballycallan upped their performance in the second half, and had managed to level the scores at 1-8 to 0-11 by the midway point of the half. However, they would rue a number of missed chances and the Freshford men's defence, which was impressive throughout. Yet with five minutes remaining, Graigue led by a single point thanks to two Thomas Ryan frees. But, Brendan Quinn proved to be the Freshford hero as he scored two consecutive points to take back the lead and ultimately the victory for his side, as St. Lachtain's won out by 1-11 to 0-13.

Conahy Shamrocks and Thomastown, like Young Irelands and Lisdowney, were also attempting to avoid the dreaded relegation final and keep their collective heads above water. The difference between the sides on this occasion could be simply defined as the physical strength of the Thomastown team over what is a young, skillful, yet undersized Conahy out fit. Despite this, both sides were still highly dependent on each of their free takers, Robbie Donnelly (Thomastown) and Shane Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks). Both players accounted for ten points of each of their team's total. There was only a point between the sides at the interval (0-9 to 0-8), which would have given Conahy great grounds for optimism. However, the third quarter saw Thomastown extend their lead to six points in as many minutes. It meant that despite their honest endeavour, Conahy could not fight their way back as Thomastown eased through in the end, winning by 0-19 to 0-11.



*Carrickshock Captain John Tennyson lifts the Hanrahan Cup
(Photo: Willie Dempsey)*



TULLAGHAN ROSBERCON - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: Liam Walsh, Cian O'Donoghue, Stephen Lawlor, Walter Walsh, Pat Hartley, Conor Hennessy, Richard Dollard, Martin Roche, Terance Croke, John Cotterell, Donnacha O'Connor, John Barron, James Murphy, James Mullally, Moling Cotterell, Kevin Hennessy.

Front: Tarek O'Connor, John Hartley, Marc Lawlor, Declan Grennan, Brendan Lawler, Daire McGrath, John Barron, Richard Gill, John Murphy, Jason Shiely, Sean Murray, Peter Meggs, Liam Barron (Capt), Billy Ryan.

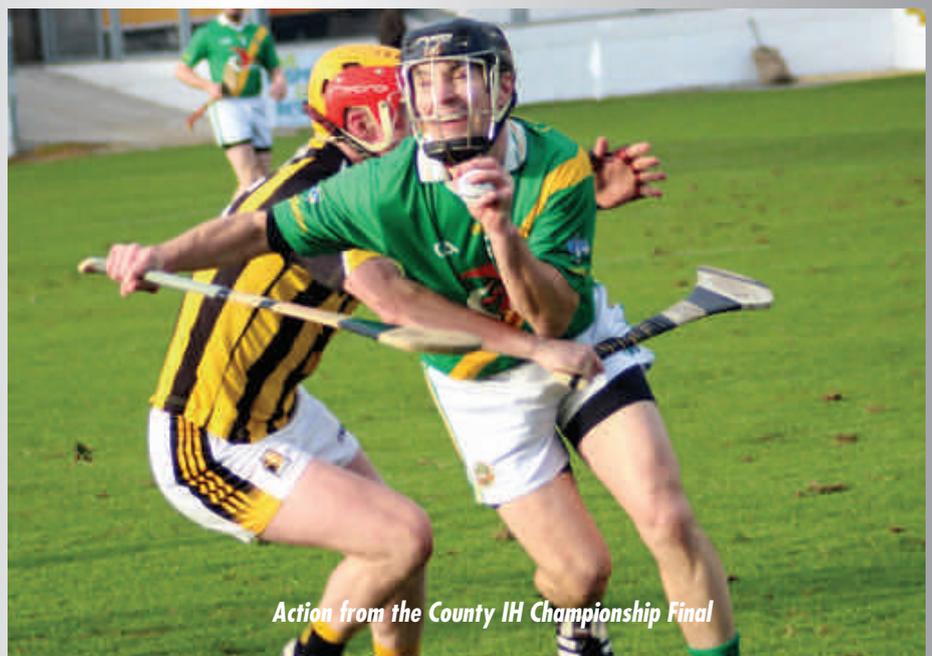
The quarter-final pairings opened with a absolute thriller between neighbours St. Lachtain's and Tullaroan in Páirc Sheamais Stiopháin. The term "classic" does not undersell this game as both sides thundered into the exchanges with the quality of the scoring as good as you will see. There were twenty eight scores throughout the first half, with St. Lachtain's holding the lead at half-time (2-13 to 1-12) and the potential for what would have been considered a surprise victory against the league champions. But Padraig Walsh showed his undoubted class in leading Tullaroan with a superb individual tour de force throughout the second half. He opened the half with a brilliantly taken goal and assisted by his brother Shane with pointed frees and a further goal from Paul Buggy, they turned the game on its head to see Tullaroan ahead by 3-17 to 2-14 by the midway point. St. Lachtain's never gave up, and were rewarded when Shane Donnelly scored his second goal of the game to cut the deficit to a single point (3-18 to 3-17). Once again, however, Padraig Walsh was to the fore, scoring two points before the end (and finished with a personal tally of 1-7), ensuring a 3-20 to 3-17 victory for Tullaroan after a thrilling battle.

It took two attempts to separate St. Patrick's and Glenmore in their quarter-final clash, held in St. John's Park on both occasions. Neither side justifiably did not deserve to lose the opening game, though one could also argue that neither could claim that victory was theirs by right either. Both teams enjoyed periods of superiority, the Ballyragget men in the first half and Glenmore in the second half. However, missed chances at various stages would be costly for both teams. St. Patrick's started the game well, but despite this, only led by 0-9 to 0-8 at the interval. They had also been forced

to start without Kevin Kelly due to a hamstring injury, and although introduced in the second half, had to be replaced immediately due to further aggravating the problem. Glenmore were the better team throughout the second half, and could have made it better count on the score board had their shooting radar been in better form, and also if Eoin Murphy had converted a penalty, which was brilliantly saved by St. Patrick's custodian Michael Gannon. In the end, it was to a replay we went, as the scores finished on 0-16 apiece.

The replay was a far more enjoyable and open affair, with Glenmore edging the result on this occasion. Glenmore could be grateful on this occasion for the performance of the

Murphys, Eoin and Alan, who showed great leadership when needed most. The Ballyragget men, despite having good performances from the likes of Joe Brennan in attack and Geoff Morrissey in defence, missed the class that would have been provided by Kevin Kelly were he fit to play. Glenmore totally dominated the opening half and led by 0-14 to 0-6 at half-time. But three second half goals brought St. Patrick's right back into the game, and in a welter of excitement they scored in the final minute to bring the game to extra-time (3-11 to 0-20). Both sides were beginning to feel the effects of a frantic game and it was clear that the fitter side will prevail. In this case, it was Glenmore, who rallied their troops well at the key



Action from the County IH Championship Final

moments. St. Patrick's did have a chance to equalise once again at the death, but they could not convert on this occasion and Glenmore survived to claim a semi-final place, winning 0-24 to 3-14.

Another championship favourite, Carrickshock, found the going far easier against Lisdowney in their quarter-final in Tom Ryall Park. The Southerners led by 1-11 to 0-6 at half-time, led in no small way by the experienced John Dalton and David Franks in defence, who controlled affairs superbly all through, and Kevin Farrell in attack, who scored their only goal. The game continued in the same vein during the second half, despite Lisdowney's best efforts. As it was, Carrickshock cruised to victory, winning by 1-20 to 0-8.

Thomastown and Tullogher-Rosbercon needed a replay in well-appointed Inistioge to find a victor in their quarter-final clash. Freetakers Robbie Donnelly and Cian O'Donoghue were on form for their respective sides in the opening half, as Thomastown led by 0-8 to 0-6 at half-time. They managed to increase that lead to five points early in the second half with a succession of scores, but Tullogher showed great resolve in levelling affairs as the game entered the frenetic final minutes. Thomastown did edge ahead by a single point once again, but in the final play of the game, there was as much drama as one could expect to see. A Thomastown goal chance was superbly saved by Tullogher

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

First Round			
St. Patrick's 2-20	Dunnamaggin 0-14		
Lisdowney 2-10	Young Irelands 0-11		
St. Lachtain's 1-11	G/Ballycallan 0-13		
Thomastown 0-19	Con Shamrocks 0-11		

Quarter-Finals		Semi-Finals	
Tullaroan 3-20	St. Lachtain's 3-17	Carrickshock 1-18	Tullaroan 1-17
Carrickshock 1-20	Lisdowney 0-8	Tull/Rosbercon 2-11	Glenmore 0-11
Tull/Rosbercon 0-17	Thomastown 0-17		
Replay			
Tull/Rosbercon 1-15	Thomastown 0-17		
Glenmore 0-16	St. Patrick's 0-16		
Replay			
Glenmore 0-24	St. Patrick's 3-14		

RELEGATION FINAL		FINAL	
Young Irelands	1-15		
Conahy Shamrocks	1-11		
Carrickshock	0-13		
Tullogher-Rosbercon	0-6		

goalkeeper Martin Roche, and subsequently was cleared to Walter Walsh, who drove through the Thomastown defence in his typical style to slot over another equaliser to ensure a replay (0-17 apiece).

There was little or nothing once again between the teams in the replay a week later. Thomastown looked to have learnt more from the drawn game on the basis of the first thirty minutes and led by 0-8 to 0-5 at the break. But the Tullogher men were re-energised in the second half and the only goal of the game came from Cian O'Donoghue, which saw them take the lead. Little separated the sides from there until the finish, but when the final whistle did come, it was Tullogher who had their noses in front by a single point, winning by 1-15 to 0-17.

side led by 1-8 to 0-6 at half-time. His second came with ten minutes to go, a major body blow to Glenmore's ambitions. Aided and abetted by the experience and leadership shown by Pat Hartley in defence and Walter Walsh in attack, Tullogher held the upper hand as Glenmore were left to rue missed chances and being tactically undone by their opponents. Despite having the returning Ger Aylward to call upon to assist Eoin Murphy, Richie Mullally et al, it was not enough. Tullogher-Rosbercon would take the first county final place available, winning by 2-11 to 0-11.

Tullaroan and Carrickshock, two clubs with a fabled history, battled for the second final spot. It was a fantastic battle all through, though the game hinged on a controversial moment in the first half when following an

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2016 KILKENNY IH CHAMPIONSHIP

Carrickshock: J. Power, J. Grace, J. Dalton, D. Franks, N. Tennyson, J. Tennyson, J. Cahill, D. Walsh, B. Donovan, J. Power, M. Rice, M. Dwyer, M. Rohan, D. Brennan, K. Farrell, J. Murphy, S. Power, R. Power, J. Butler.

Conahy Shamrocks: P. Delaney, S. Callinan, K. Mooney, P. Cass, D. Webster, B. Healy, O. Feehan, D. Brennan, G. Kavanagh, P. Mullan, A. Healy, S. Brennan, B. Murphy, J. Bergin, E. Delaney, E. Carroll.

Dunnamaggin: D. Herity, V. Costello, N. Hickey, M. Heffernan, P. Delaney, K. Moore, M. Cody, E. Kearney, D. Fitzpatrick, P. Kirwan, C. Hickey, S. Connery, S. O' Neill, J. Fitzpatrick, T. Maher, R. Coffey, A. Fitzpatrick, A. Doherty.

Glenmore: D. Aylward, S. Duggan, M. Phelan, S. Doherty, S. Cody, R. Mullally, P. Roche, S. Murphy, L. Hennessy, A. Murphy, E. Murphy, E. Vereker, M. Aylward, E. Aylward, M. Phelan, D. Aylward, D. Croke, J. Aylward, G. Aylward.

Graigie Ballycallan: P. J. Trant, D. Egan, B. Murphy, D. Walton, E. Egan, G. Teehan, S. Butler, A. Burke, T. Ryan, C. Prenderville, J. Ryall, V. Teehan, B. Ryan, W. O' Connor, E. Brennan, E. Corcoran, S. O' Dwyer.

Lisdowney: L. Dunphy, K. O' Sullivan, E. Walsh, N. Mackey, D. Jordan, P. O' Carroll, K. Sweeney, S. Phelan, B. Kavanagh, C. O'Carroll, V. Fitzpatrick, R. Hickey, W. Kenny, M. Phelan, C. Mackey, E. Hickey, P. Bowden, J. Bergin, A. Fogarty, M.

St. Lachtain's: D. Brennan, H. Burke, M. Kavanagh, C. Bergin, S. Rafter, J. Maher, B. Kennedy, J. Fitzpatrick, P. White, M. Farrell, N. McGree, B. Quinn, L. Hickey, D. Brennan, S. Donnelly, R. Dowling, P. Campion, J. Campion.

St> Patrick's: M. Gannon, J. Mooney, J. Gannon, S. Staunton, S. Mooney, G. Morrissey, G. Brennan, B. Staunton, S. Kenny, M. Staunton, J. Brennan, E. Bergin, M. Brennan, B. Phelan, R. Healy, O. Brennan.

Thomastown: P. Barron, S. Mahony, J. Burke, D. Prendergast, B. Murphy, B. Whelan, C. Butler, D. Walsh, J. Barron, J. Donnelly, R. O'Hara, A. Burke, R. Donnelly, J. Farrell, T. O'Hanrahan, D. Waugh, P. O' Hanrahan, D. Monks.

Tullogher Rosbercon: M. Roche, T. Croke, J. Cotterel, S. Murray, M. Cotterel, P. Hartley, D. O' Connor, T. O'Connor, J. Ryan, B. Lawler, W. Walsh, L. Barron, C. Hennessy, E. Cullinane, C. O' Donoghue, D. McGrath, R. Dullard, J. Shiely, J. Hartley, B. Ryan, R. Gill, K. Hennessy,

Tullaroan: R. Butler, J. Keoghane, E. Campion, R. Maher, S. Maher, M. Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Walton, P. Buggy, T. Walsh, P. Walsh, M. Keoghane, P. Walsh, K. Coogan, S. Walsh, S. Dowling, M. Walsh,

Young Irelands. P. Hutchinson, G. Brennan, M. Walsh, M. Lennon, J. P. Treacy, E. Byrne, J. J. Lennon, C. Carroll, C. Nolan, P. Delahunty, P. Holden, J. Dunphy, S. Casey, N. Walsh, S. Kehoe, P. Kehoe.



Tullaroan County IH League Champions 2016

Back: John Connolly, Dick Walsh, Richie Holland, Bob Cuddihy, Bill Gaffney, Shane Cuddihy, Gavin Joyce, Diarmuid Doheny, Ken Coogan, Martin Walsh, Ger Luby, Richie Butler, Richie Maher, Jack Keoghlan, Eddie Campion, Bill Cuddihy, Pdraig Walsh, Stephen Maher, Joe Norton, Jimmy Coogan, Shem Dunne.
Front: Richie Cleere, Declan Dowling, Liam Teehan, Stevie Dowling, Kieran Lanigan, Paul Buggy, Mark Walsh, Josh Moore, Jim Moore, John Walton, Shane Walsh, Tommy Walsh, Peter Walsh, Martin Keoghlan, Tommy Walsh, Peter Dukelow, Dylan Simpson
Mascots (L-R): Frankie Cleere, Tom Cleere, Ciaran Coone, Micheal O'Mahony, Ciabhan Maher, Rian Maher, Finn Walsh, Billy Maher

altercation, Tullaroan's Pdraig Walsh and Carrickshock's David Franks, two key members of the respective teams, were sent off. This clearly had a more negative impact on the Tullaroan men, and in a game of such tight margins, it was bound to have a major impact. Carrickshock led by 0-11 to 0-7 at half-time, but Tullaroan showed great resolve early in the second half, led by the two Tommy Walshs in their ranks. They even took the lead when John Walton scored a well taken goal midway through the half. But Carrickshock got a vital break when they were awarded a penalty and their goalkeeper Jamie Power came forward to finish to the net. With five minutes to play, the scores were level at 1-16 apiece before John Power scored a long-range free for Carrickshock and this was soon followed by a Kevin Farrell point, his ninth in all. Tullaroan did replay with a Shane Walsh free, but it was not enough, as Carrickshock held for a 1-18 to 1-17 victory after a memorable tussle between two fine teams.

The final on November 6th in Nowlan Park proved to be a less exciting affair to the two semi-finals preceding it. Carrickshock started well but seemed to lose their way as the opening half progressed. Fortunately for them, Tullogher could not translate this opportunity into scores and Carrickshock continued to lead by 0-5 to 0-3 close to half-time. Carrickshock then showed some opportunism of their own to score two points from Kevin Farrell and Mark Dwyer to increase this lead by two further points to give them a four point cushion at the break (0-7 to 0-3).

Tullogher did manage to reduce the gap to three points on two occasions in the second half but Carrickshock always appeared to have the edge. Carrickshock did suffer a major blow, however, when John Tennyson was red carded. This galvanised them though, and the moving of Michael Rice to centre-back to cover the vacancy created



Tullaroan captain, Tommy Walsh receives the Intermediate League Trophy from Barry Hickey

by the sending off was crucial. The final four points of the game were scored by Carrickshock and Tullogher were also reduced to fourteen men when Pat Hartley was sent off also. The result was never in doubt, as Carrickshock won out by 0-14 to 0-6. A title gained, and more than earned by all involved!

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MAIN SPONSOR OF COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Mooncoin Captain, Ethan Ryan is presented with the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup by Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Willie Dempsey)

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Hurling and Camogie Teams**

MOONCOIN KEPT THEIR BEST FOR THE FINAL

COUNTY JH REPORT BY
NED BUGGY

(Photo Willie Dempsey & Charlie Maher)



MOONCOIN - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2016

Back: Keith Kirwan, Pdraig Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Niall Blanchfield, Mark Kearns, Kevin Crowley, Ethan Ryan, Cormac Daly, Eoin Crowley, JP Purcell
Middle: Niall Madden, Shane Walsh, Niall Brophy, Niall Mackey, Conor Brophy, Eamon Hennebery, Eoin Hennebery, John Fitzgerald, Cormac Fleming, Sean Walsh, Niall O'Hanlon, Ciaran Walsh, David O'Brien
Front: Patrick Kinsella, Thomas Healy, Andy Brennan, David Kearns, Ray Wall, Michael Grace, Alan Walsh, Sean Wall, Eoin Purcell, Liam Hennebery, Seamus Kearns, Paul Hennebery, Mark Fitzgerald, Kieran Dillon Dunphy. (Missing from photo Danny Purcell.)

105TH KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons

Sponsored by J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
 20 teams entered to play in this championship and were divided into 2 sections
 In section A the 12 junior proper teams were divided into 2 groups of 6.
 In section B the 8 junior teams of the senior clubs played in one group.
 After 58 games were played the following were the final league tables which decided the draw for the championship.

Section A Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	P
Mooncoin	5	4	0	1	8
Emeralds	5	4	0	1	8
John Lockes	5	3	0	2	6
Kilmacow	5	2	1	2	5
Blacks and Whites	5	1	1	3	3
Cloneen	5	0	0	5	0

Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	P
Graignamanagh	5	4	0	1	8
Slieverue	5	4	0	1	8
Barrow Rangers	5	3	0	2	6
Piltown	5	2	0	3	4
Windgap	5	1	0	4	2
Galmoy	5	1	0	4	2

Section A Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	P
O' Loughlin Gaels	7	7	0	0	14
Dicksboro	7	5	0	2	10
James Stephens	7	4	1	2	9
Erins Own	7	4	1	2	9
Ballyhale Shamrocks	7	3	1	3	7
Clara	7	2	1	3	5
St. Martins	7	1	0	6	2
Tullaroan	7	0	0	7	0

J. J. Kavanagh and Junior Hurling Championship

First Round	Section A		
Blacks and Whites	1-12	Slieverue	0-9
Graignamanagh	2-11	Cloneen	0-12

Barrow Rangers	3-17	Kilmacow	0-14
Emeralds	0-20	Windgap	1-12
Mooncoin	1-15	Galmoy	1-11
John Lockes	1-17	Piltown	1-7
Quarter Finals			
Barrow Rangers	1-12	Blacks & Whites	0-11
Mooncoin	3-13	Emeralds	1-17
John Lockes	3-21	Graignamanagh	1-12

First Round Section B

Ballyhale Shamrocks	3-27	Tullaroan	0-12
Clara	3-19	St. Martin's	3-13
Semi-finals			
James Stephens	2-14	Ballyhale S'rocks	0-14
Dicksboro	1-20	Clara	3-12
Final			
Dicksboro	1-20	James Stephens	0-14

Semi-Finals

Mooncoin	1-12	Barrow Rangers	0-11
John Lockes	2-18	Dicksboro	2-13
Final			
Mooncoin	2-19	John Lockes	1-8

Mooncoin Win Their 5th Junior Hurling Championship Title.

Mooncoin 2-19 John Lockes 1-8

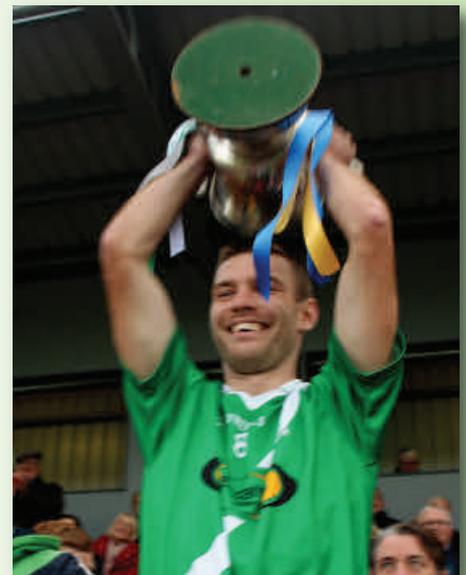
Mooncoin, after an absence of 3 years, will play in the intermediate grade next year after their great win over John Lockes in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

On semi-final form John Lockes were the fancied team to claim the title and in their three matches in the championship they scored 6-56 while conceding 4-32.

Mooncoin had a slightly quieter run to the final scoring 5-40 while conceding 2-39

Mooncoin looked a class act on Sunday and were powerful all over the field and seemed to have kept their best performance of the year for Sunday.

On the other hand John Lockes never produced the form they had shown in the earlier rounds.



Mooncoin captain, Ethan Ryan lifts the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup.

Mooncoin Scorers: K. Crowley 0-7, E. Hennebery 1-2, M. Grace 1-1, C. Fleming 0-3, K. Kirwan 0-2, R. Wall 0-2, A. Walsh 0-1 M. Fitzgerald 0-1

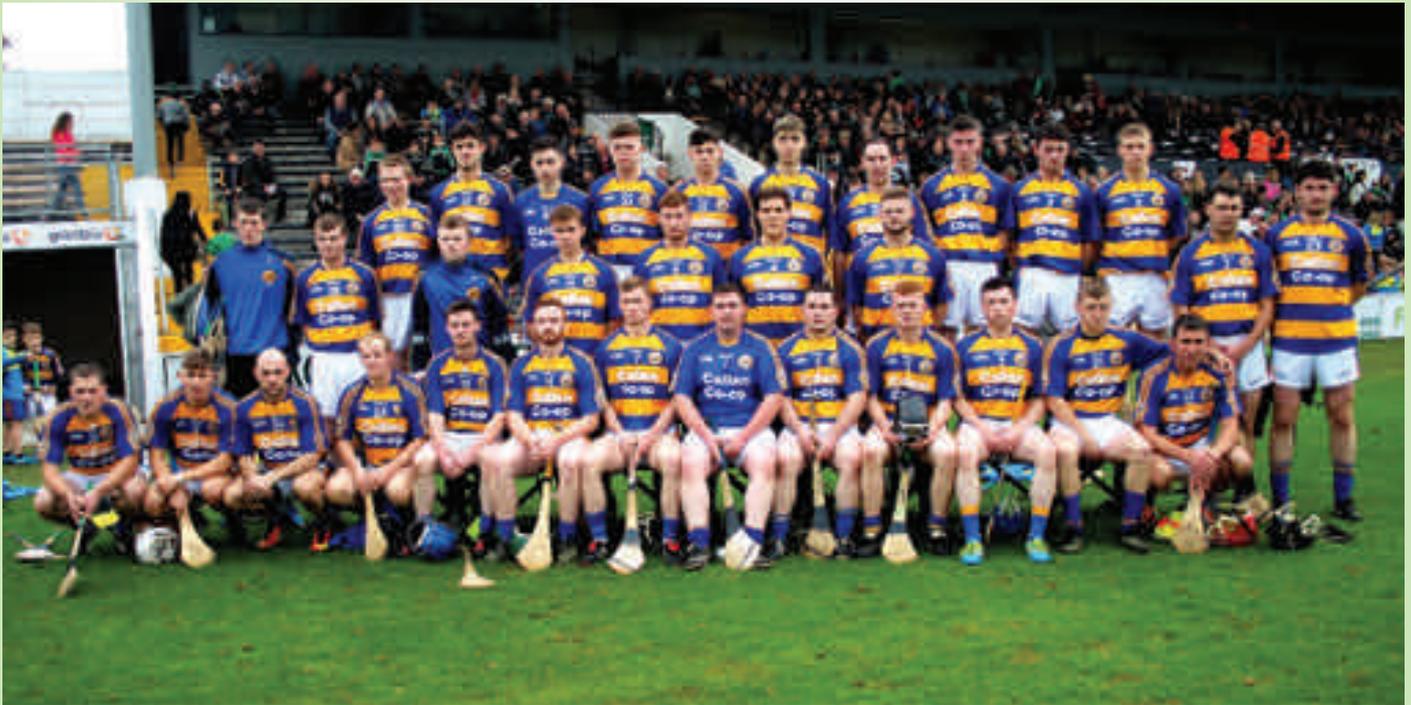
John Lockes: D. McCormack 1-2, R. Bergin 0-3, P. Kennedy 0-3.

Mooncoin: E. Purcell, N. Mackey, C. Brophy, L. Hennebery, C. Daly, E. Hennebery, S. Kearns, R. Wall, K. Crowley, P. Hennebery, A. Walsh, C. Fleming, M. Grace, E. Hennebery.

Subs: K. Kirwan, P. Walsh, S. Wall, M. Fitzgerald, D. Kearns.

John Lockes: I. Bourke, B. McDowell, J. O' Neill, J. McDowell, T. Delaney, P. Power, C. McGrath, R. Bergin, S. Power, P. Kennedy, J. Power, O. McGrath, S. Bergin, S. Bourke, R. Kerwick.

Subs: B. Kirwan, J. P. Corcoran, E. Scrivan, C. Byrne, D. McCormack.
Referee: Owen Kenny (Tullougher Rosbercon)



JOHN LOCKES - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2016

Back: Eoghan Scriven, Jack Lynch, Nicholas Butler, John Burns, Briain Kerwin, Pauric Purcell, Paddy Kennedy, James Power, Sean Power, Ryan Bergin.
Middle: Michael Power, Cian Bogue, Owen Byrne, Robert Kerwick, Patrick Power, Jack Mc Dowell, Cathal Byrne, John O'Neill, Jim Power.
Front: David Phelan, Bill Mc Dowell, Robbie Wall, Liam Kennedy, Luke Burke, Simon Burke, Cathal Mc Grath, Ian Burke, Shane Bergin, Owen McGrath, Tony Delaney, Dan McCormack, JP. Corcoran.

THE 22ND ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE 2016
 (Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)

26 teams entered to play in this competition.
 20 Kilkenny teams and 6 Carlow teams.
 The teams were divided into 4 groups of 4 and 2 groups of 5.
 The following are the final league tables after 44 games were played.

Group A

Naomh Brid	3	3	0	0	6
Barrow Rangers	3	2	0	1	4
Erins Own (K)	3	1	0	2	2
Cloneen	3	0	0	3	0

Group B

O'Loughlin Gaels	3	3	0	0	6
Galmoy	3	1	0	2	2
Ballinkillen	3	1	0	2	2
James Stephens	3	1	0	2	2

Group C

Naomh Moling	3	3	0	0	6
Emeralds	3	2	0	1	4
Dicksboro	3	1	0	2	2
Clara	3	0	0	3	0

Group D

Blacks and Whites	3	3	0	0	6
St. Martins	3	2	0	1	4
Erins Own	3	1	0	2	2
Tullaroan	3	0	0	3	0

Group E

Mt L Rangers	4	3	1	0	7
Mooncoin	4	3	1	0	7
John Lockes	4	1	0	3	2
Slieverue	4	1	0	3	2
Graignamanagh	4	1	0	3	2

Group F

Piltown	4	3	1	1	7
Naomh Eoin	4	2	1	2	5
Kilmacow	4	2	0	2	4
Windgap	4	2	0	2	4
Ballyhale Shamrocks	4	0	0	4	0

The draw for the knock out stages of the competition was decided by the placings
 The top two teams in each group qualified to play in the knock out competition.

All County League Knockout Stages

Preliminary Round

Barrow Rangers	2-12	B & W's	0-12
O' Loughlin Gaels	w/o	Emeralds	scr
Naomh Brid	1-11	St. Martins	2-6
Naomh Moling	2-18	Galmoy	2-14

Quarter Finals

Barrow Rangers	2-18	O'Loughlin G's	2-17
Piltown	0-20	Mooncoin	1-13
Naomh Eoin	0-24	Naomh Moling	1-16
Mt L Rangers	w/o	Naomh Brid	scr

Semi-Finals

Barrow Rangers	3-13	Piltown	0-10
Naomh Eoin	3-12	Mt L Rangers	1-14

Final

Barrow Rangers	1-16	Naomh Eoin	3-9
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Final Match Report by Tommy Murphy

Barrow Rangers Win the All County Hurling League for the First Time

Barrow Rangers 1-16
 Naomh Eoin 3-9

For the second year in a row Naomh Eoin (Myshal) came tantalisingly close to winning their first Kilkenny hurling title.

In the corresponding final last year at the same venue, they were edged out narrowly by Mount Leinster Rangers by 1-23 to 1-22

This year they were again narrowly defeated by another Rangers side – Barrow Rangers (Paulstown)

Naomh Eoin were very slow to start and were outplayed for most of the first half as the winners' forwards picked off some neat points particularly Cathal Kenny as he scored three points and was involved in many other scores before retiring with a shoulder injury.

Incidentally, Cathal's father Christy won a number of senior championship medals with Naomh Eoin in the eighties

Rangers led by 1-9 to 0-3 but a late rally by Naomh Eoin with Paraic Nolan scoring a point from a free and a John Nolan goal narrowed the gap to five points at the break.

Naomh Eoin brought the game to life on the restart with Dwaine Kavanagh scoring a great goal from meters out.

Ciaran Doyle steadied the Rangers men with a point from a free, but Kevin Foley, receiving a pass from Dwaine Kavanagh, scored Naomh Eoin's third goal.

Intensity was ramped up at this stage with each side playing good hurling.

Richie Doyle came out of goal and with his first touch scored a point from a tight angle. Cillian McCabe equalised and it looked as if it was heading extra time, only for Naomh Eoin to concede a '65 which Ciaran Doyle converted and which turned out to be the winner. The Carlow men did have some long range efforts but they dropped at the wrong side of the posts in the final seconds of the game.

Barrow rangers scorers: C. Doyle 0-6, M. Bambrick 1-0, C. English 0-3, C. Kenny 0-3, K. Flavin 0-2, T. Brennan 0-1, R. Doyle 0-1.

Naomh Eoin scorers: D. Kavanagh 1-2, P. Nolan 0-4, K. Foley 1-0, J. Nolan 1-0, C. Treacy 0-1, C. McCabe 0-1.

Barrow Rangers: R. Doyle, J. Hogan, J. Kealy, C. Breen, D. O'Connor, P. Purcell, K. Brennan, M. Drennan, K. Flavin, B. Kelly, T. Brennan, K. Doyle, C. English, C. Kenny, M. Bambrick.

Subs. J. Holden E. Ruthkins, B. Hanlon.
Naomh Eoin: D. Jordan, J. Kavanagh, S. Cranny, R. Nolan, E. Redmond, K. Hogan, D. Kavanagh, M. Doyle, P. Nolan, J. M. Doyle, E. Kavanagh, C. Treacy, A. Kenny, K. Foley.

Sub. C. McCabe.
Referee Peter Burke (Emeralds)

26TH PADDY CAHILL MEMORIAL CUP

Confined to the 8th teams that finished 3rd and 4th in their groups in the All County league.

1st Round

John Lockes	2-12	Erin's Own (K)	0-12
Kilmacow	2-16	Ballinkillen	1-10
Dicksboro	w/o	Slieverue	scr
Erin's Own (C)	2-13	Windgap	0-10



Barrow Rangers - All County League Champions 2016

Back: Daniel O'Neill, Marc Drennan, Ciaran Breen, James Hogan, Jimmy Brennan, Brian Kelly, Billy Hanlon, Ciaran Doyle, Kevin Brennan, Timmy Brennan, Cathal English.

Front: Darragh O'Connor, Eoin Rudkins, Richie Doyle, Jason Holden, John Kealy (Captain), Martin Bambrick, Patrick Purcell, Conor Brennan & Keith Flavin. *Missing from Photo: Cathal Kenny, Willie Hennessy, Tom Brennan.*



GRAIGNAMANAGH - FENNELLY CUP CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: Thomas Holden-Chairman, Jim O'Driscoll-Selector, Padraig Whelan, Bernard Hennessy, Eddie Walsh, James Cahill, Sean Cahill, James Meaney, Lee Kinsella, Sean Dowling, Cian Aylward, Seamus Kavanagh, Adrian Doyle, Nicholas O'Donnell-Selector.

Front: John Osbourne, Ciaran Kavanagh, Shane Kavanagh, Seamus Lannigan, Thomas O'Donnell, Cathal Dunne, Ian Kavanagh, Terry Dreehan, James Doyle & Neal Jordan.



ROWER INISTIIGE- COUNTY JUNIOR A CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: David Lyng, Michael Doyle, Declan Byrne, Patrick Lyng, Kieran Meaney, Neil Lyng, Paudi Fleming, Sean Grace, Howard McDonnell, Padraig Lyng, Robbie Walsh, Pauric Ryan, Kevin Murphy, Noel Leahy, Richard Meaney, James Doyle, Robert Grace.

Front: David Kelly, Conor Lyng, Jim Murphy, John James Kenny, Luke Tennyson, James Cassin (Capt), Shane Ryan, Diarmuid O'Brien, Jack Walsh, Sean and Eoghan Byrne.

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Semi-Finals			
John Lockes	0-18	Kilmacow	1-14
Dicksboro	2-16	Erin's Own	1-8
Final			
Dicksboro	1-20	John Lockes	0-20

15TH KEVIN FENNELLY MEMORIAL CUP

(Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)

This knockout competition was confined to the 6 teams that finished in 4th and 5th places in the All County Junior Hurling League.

James Stephens	1-16	Clara	1-13
Clara	w/o	Tullaroan	scr
Semi-Finals			
Graignamanagh	3-11	Cloneen	0-13
James Stephens	0-15	Ballyhale S.	0-12
Final			
Graignamanagh	1-15	Jas Stephens	1-11

MARTIN TREACY MEMORIAL CUP

12 Junior Teams entered teams in this competition The 12 were divided into 2 groups of 6

After 36 games were played ,the following were the final league tables which decided the draw for the knockout stages of the competition.

The top 4 in each group qualified to play in the cup, the other 4 qualified to play in the shield.

Group A	P W D L P	Group B	P W D L P
Mooncoin	6 6 0 0 12	Galmoy	6 4 0 2 8
John Lockes	6 4 0 2 8	B Rangers	6 3 1 2 7
Emeralds	6 3 1 2 7	Piltown	6 3 0 3 6
Kilmacow	6 3 0 3 6	G'namanagh	6 3 0 3 6
B & W's	6 3 0 3 6	Slieverue	6 1 0 5 2
Cloneen	6 1 0 5 2	Windgap	6 0 0 6 0

Martin Treacy Memorial Cup

First Round

B Rangers	4-17	Emeralds	2-10
Piltown	4-18	Mooncoin	1-18
John Lockes	2-17	G'namanagh	0-10
Galmoy	3-14	Kilmacow	1-18

Semi-Finals

John Lockes	1-16	Piltown	0-15
Galmoy	1-19	B Rangers	1-18

Final

John Lockes	2-11	Galmoy	1-13
-------------	------	--------	------

Martin Treacy Memorial Shield

Semi-Finals

Slieverue	w/o	Cloneen	scr
B & W's	bt	Windgap	

Final

Slieverue	3-13	B & W's	3-12
-----------	------	---------	------

KILKENNY JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2016.

NORTH

Ten teams entered to play in the northern championship which was divided into two groups of five.

The final places in each group decided the draw for the knock out stages of the championship. The following were the final league tables.

Group A	P W D L P
Young Irelands	4 3 1 0 7
St. Lachtains	4 3 1 0 7
Emeralds	4 2 0 2 4
Barrow Rangers	4 1 0 3 2
Fenians	4 0 0 0 0

Group B	P W D L P
Lisdowney	4 3 0 1 6
Graigue Ballycallan	4 3 0 1 6
Conahy Shamrocks	4 2 0 2 4

St. Patrick's	4 2 0 2 4
O'Loughlin Gaels	4 0 0 0 0

The following are the result of the draw and the scoreboard for the championship

J. J. KAVANAGH AND SONS NORTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Rounds

O'Loughlin Gaels	1-15	Fenians	0-7
St. Patrick's	3-15	Barrow Rangers	3-15
St. Patrick's	1-14	Barrow Rangers	0-12

Quarter Finals

O' Loughlin Gaels	1-15	Young Irelands	1-14
Lisdowney	2-14	St. Patrick's	1-16
St. Lachtain's	1-16	Conahy Shamrocks	0-12
G Ballycallan	2-17	Emeralds	1-12

Semi-Finals

Lisdowney	2-13	O'Loughlin Gaels	0-14
St Lachtain's	3-8	Graigue Ballycallan	0-15

Final

Lisdowney	3-17	St. Lachtain's	3-12
-----------	------	----------------	------

SOUTH

7 teams entered to play in the southern championship which was divided into 2 groups of 4 and 3 and played on a cross over system. The following were the final league tables

Group A	P W D L P
Thomastown	3 2 0 1 4
Dunnamaggin	3 2 0 1 4
Tullagher Rosbercon	3 1 1 0 3
Carrickshock	3 0 1 2 1
Group B	P W D L P
Rower Inistioge	4 3 0 1 6
Mooncoin	4 1 2 1 4
Mullinavat	4 1 0 3 2

COUNTRY STYLE FOODS SOUTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round

Carrickshock	2-14	Tullagher Rosbercon	0-12
--------------	------	---------------------	------

Quarter Finals

Carrickshock	1-13	Dunnamaggin	0-15
Mooncoin	2-14	Mullinavat	1-13

Semi-Finals

Rower Inistioge	1-13	Mooncoin	1-8
Thomastown	1-14	Carrickshock	0-14

Final

Rower Inistioge	2-15	Thomastown	1-15
-----------------	------	------------	------

J. J. KAVANAGH AND SONS KILKENNY JUNIOR A HURLING FINAL

Rower Inistioge	2-22	Lisdowney	3-19
Rower Inistioge	0-21	Lisdowney	0-14

KILKENNY JUNIOR B HURLING LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

26 teams entered to play in this competition 14 teams entered to play in the northern division 12 teams entered to play in the southern division In the northern division the 14 teams were divided into 3 groups 2 groups of 5 and 1 group of 4 A total of 26 games were played. The draw for the championship was decided by the finishing places in the league tables. The following were the final league tables.

NORTHERN JUNIOR B HURLING LEAGUE After 30 matches were played the following were the league tables.

Group A	P W D L P
Name	
Bennettsbridge	4 4 0 0 8
Clara	4 2 0 2 4
Lisdowney	4 2 0 2 4
Erins Own	4 1 0 3 2
Conahy Shamrocks	4 1 0 3 2

Group B	P W D L P
James Stephens	4 3 1 0 7
Dicksboro	4 3 0 1 6
St. Martins	4 4 2 2 4
St. Lachtains	4 1 0 3 2
Threecastles	4 0 1 3 1

Group C	P W D L P
Danesfort	3 2 0 1 4
Blacks and Whites	3 2 0 1 4
Galmoy	3 2 0 1 4
Cloneen	3 0 0 3 0

As a result of the final placings in the 3 groups the following was the draw and the results. J. J. Kavanagh and Sons Northern Junior B Hurling Championship 2016

1st Round

B & W's	1-15	St. Lachtains	1-11
Threecastles	2-10	Danesfort	1-9
Cloneen	2-11	Clara	1-9
Dicksboro	1-17	Erin's Own	1-3
Galmoy	2-13	Lisdowney	1-11
St. Martins	1-15	Conahy S.	1-14

Quarter Finals

Bennettsbridge	2-24	B & W's	0-20
James Stephens	4-11	Cloneen	0-8
Threecastles	5-10	St. Martins	4-12
Dicksboro	2-19	Galmoy	1-8

Semi-Finals

James Stephens	1-16	Threecastles	1-12
Dicksboro	1-14	B'bridge	0-13
Final			
Dicksboro	0-17	Jas Stephens	0-10

Report Of the 35th Northern Junior B Hurling Championship Final Dicksboro Win Local Derby Dicksboro 0-17 James Stephens 0-10

Dicksboro won their first northern junior B title on Sunday when they defeated their city rivals James Stephens in a great game played in Pairc Lachtain and so qualified to meet Glenmore in the county final. Dicksboro gained the upper hand during the first quarter and were full value for their 0-10 to 0-6 lead at half time.

Dicksboro scorers: E. O' Donoghue 0-9, E. Moylan 0-4, A. Phelan 0-2, A. Nolan 0-1, S. O' Brien 0-1. James Stephens scorers J. Murray 0-5, A. Lawlor 0-3, N. Tyrrell 0-1, M.Drennan 0-1. Dicksboro: R. Stapleton, J. Lynch, C. Gough, S. Treacy, R. Crotty, A. Nolan, E. Carroll, E. O' Donoghue, T. Kelly, A. Phelan, K. Ryan, E. Moylan, P. Fitzpatrick, C. Breathnach, S. O' Brien. Subs. R. Butler, L. Kennedy. James Stephens: K. Morris, A. Butler, N. Lanigan, E. Hennessy, J. Meehan, D. Phelan, N. Tyrrell, C. Connelly, A. Lawlor, I. Hayes, R. O' Keefe, J. Murray, M. Drennan, A. Parsons. Subs. K. Mulcahy, B. Lawlor, L. Rafter, J. Walton, J. Butler. Referee C. Everard (Graigue Ballycallan).

SOUTHERN JUNIOR B HURLING LEAGUE The 12 teams in the southern division were divided into 2 groups of 6 A total of 30 games were played. The following were the final league tables which decided the championship draw

Group A	P W D L P
Name	
Glenmore	5 5 0 0 10
Ballyhale Shamrocks	5 3 0 2 6
Mooncoin	5 3 0 2 6
John Lockes	5 2 0 3 4
Graignamanagh	5 1 0 4 2
Kilmacow	5 1 0 4 2



Lisdowney - COUNTY JH A FINALISTS 2016

Back: Martin Grace Cashin, Peter O'Sullivan, Paul Sweeney, Peter Bergin, Niall Kenny, Eoin Lyons, Jamie Bergin, Brian Champion, Joe Bergin, Paul Murphy, Raymond Fitzpatrick.

Front: Niall Grogan, Willie Kenny, Brian Kavanagh, Eoin Kenny, Eoin Delehunty, Kevin O'Sullivan, Paddy Bowden, Laurence O'Carroll, Stephen Delaney, Ciarán O'Carroll.



PILTOWN - SOUTHERN JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: James Farrell, Aran Gallagher, Seamus Norris, Tommy O'Gorman, Vinny Long, Josh Moroney, Peter McCarthy, Thomas Talbot, Ronan Ryan, James Kirby, Niall Kinsella, Daniel Norris, Nollaig Brophy, David Kinsella, Shane Walsh, Ian Long, James Norris, Thomas Murray, Paddy Farrell

Front: Michael Dwyer, Andrew Norris, Ian Flynn, Michael Burchill, Philly Kenny, Neil Kelly, Shane Doody, Jamie Norris, Dean Brophy, Donal Ryan, Kevin Walsh, Tom Kenny, Dessie O'Dea.



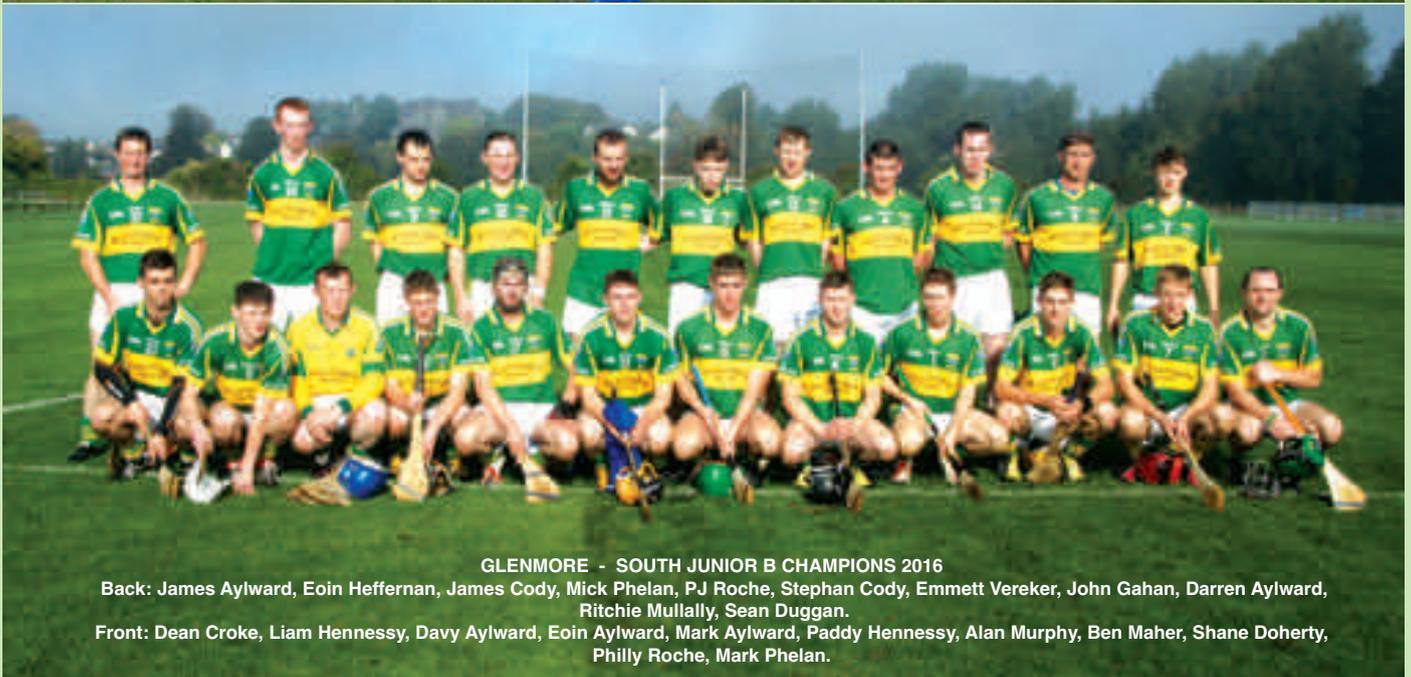
THOMASTOWN - SOUTH JH "A" FINALISTS 2016

Back: Richard O'Hara, Joe Walsh, Brian O'Hanrahan, David Prendergas, Robert O'Hanrahan, Jamie Lanigan, Eoin Manning, Dylan Caulfield, Aaron Kehoe, Derek Brennan, Andy Walsh.

Front: Luke Gibbons, Eddie Corrway, Fergal Challoner, Stuart Waugh, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Paul Barron, Eamon O'Donnell, Colin Corrway, Adam Power.



Carrigeen 2016 County Junior B League Group D winners & South Junior B Championship Semi Finalists.
 Back: Wally M'Orahan(Selector), Fintan Dermody, Noel Butler, Eoin Gallagher, Ger Foran, Thomas O'Brien, Chris O'Hanlon, Miley Connors, J.J. Butler, Jamie Carroll, Richie O'Brien, Liam Roche, Johnny Cooney, Jamie Skehan, Nicky Dunphy(Selector).
 Front: Brian Blackmore(Selector), Joey O'Hanlon, Cathal O'Keeffe, Sean Martin, A.J. Cronin, Anthony O'Brien, Nico Butler(Manager), Stephen Blackmore(Capt.), Hilary Delahunty, Frank Law, Kevin Law, Mark Long, Shane Walsh, Brian Gallagher.



GLENMORE - SOUTH JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS 2016
 Back: James Aylward, Eoin Heffernan, James Cody, Mick Phelan, P.J. Roche, Stephan Cody, Emmett Vereker, John Gahan, Darren Aylward, Ritchie Mullally, Sean Duggan.
 Front: Dean Croke, Liam Hennessy, Davy Aylward, Eoin Aylward, Mark Aylward, Paddy Hennessy, Alan Murphy, Ben Maher, Shane Doherty, Philly Roche, Mark Phelan.



MOONCOIN - SOUTHERN JH "A" FINALISTS 2016
 Back: Sean O'Hanlon (Manager), Kieran Dunphy, Keith Kirwan, Ciaran Walsh, Richie Doyle, Sean Walsh, Padraig Walsh, Stephen Wall, David O'Brien, Richard Mackey, Cormac Daly, Niall O'Hanlon, John Patrick Purcell, Eric Wall, Seamus Kearns and John Phelan.
 Front: Liam (Bull) Walsh, Ian Dunphy, Patrick Kinsella, Liam (Shorty) Walsh, Thomas Healy, David Kearns, Tomas Kinsella, Brendan Mackey, Ian O'Keeffe, Eoin Crowley and Mark Fitzgerald.

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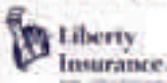
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NAOMH EOIN - ALL COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE FINALISTS 2016

Back: M. Mullins, E. Nolan, K. Foley, E. Kavanagh, D. Kavanagh, D. Jordan, A. Kenny, C. Foley, P. Nolan, P. Abbey, B. Treacy.
 Front: E. Redmond, C. McCabe, R. Smithers, C. Treacy, M. Doyle, J. Kavanagh, J. O'Hara, K. Hogan, P. Siye, S. Cranny, R. Nolan.



Dicksboro Junior B County Champions 2016

Rear: Anthony Martin, EJ Ryan, Pat Carroll, David Ryan, Robert Crotty, Ciarán Gough, Aidan Nolan, Kieran Dunne, Evan Carroll, Darra Lynch, Richie Stapleton, Thomas Kenny, John Treacy, John Hanrick, Graham Egan, Eoin McCormack, Jamie Lynch, Edward Moylan, Declan Gough.
 Front: Brian Fitzpatrick, William Cuddihy, Liam Kennedy, Ronán Butler, Shane O'Brien, Alan Phelan, Kieran Ryan, Enda O'Donoghue, Cillian Breathnach, Peter Fitzpatrick, Cian Butler. (James Carroll, Mick Carroll, Johnny Keane, Mascots).

Group B	P	W	D	L	P
Piltown	5	4	0	1	8
Carrigeen	5	4	0	1	8
Rower Inistioge	5	4	0	1	8
Stieverue	5	2	0	2	4
Windgap	5	1	0	4	2
Tullagher Rosbercon	5	0	0	5	0

COUNTRY STYLE FOODS SOUTHERN JUNIOR B LEAGUE/CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

First Round			
Rower Inistioge	2-17	Kilmacow	1-15
Mooncoin	1-14	Tullagher Rosbercon	1-12
John Lockes	2-13	Windgap	1-11
Graignamanagh	0-15	Stieverue	0-11
Quarter finals			
Carrigeen	1-16	Mooncoin	0-12
Rower Inistioge	2-14	Ballyhale S.	2-5
Piltown	1-14	John Lockes	1-12
Glenmore	3-12	Graignamanagh	0-14
Semi-finals			
Glenmore	5-21	Carrigeen	2-14
Piltown	0-15	Rower Inistioge	0-9
Final			
Glenmore	0-25	Piltown	0-20

Glenmore win Their 4th Southern Junior B Hurling Championship Title.

Piltown led at half time by 0-12 to 0-8 and immediately after the restart added another point, but then disaster struck when they had a player sent off.

Glenmore took full advantage and with 10 minutes to go continued to dominate and outscored Piltown by 0-6 to 0-2 to level the tie at 0-16 each and send the game into extra time. In that extra time Glenmore outscored their opponents by 0-9 to 0-4.

Glenmore scorers: P. Murphy 0-13, M. Phelan 0-5, L. Hennessy 0-4, E. Aylward 0-2, J. Aylward 0-1
 Piltown scorers: P. Kenny 0-6, A. Norris 0-3, D. Brophy 0-3
 J. Norris 0-3, S. O'Dwyer 0-3, N. Kinsella 0-1, V. Long 0-1

KILKENNY COUNTY JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

**Battling Dicksboro Make History.
 Dicksboro 1-15 Glenmore 1-14**

For the first time in their history Dicksboro won the Kilkenny Junior B hurling championship title when they defeated Glenmore by 1 point in Thomastown after a pulsating battle.

Enda O'Donoghue was the star for the winners scoring 1-8 of his sides total.

Dicksboro led at half time by 1-11 to 0-6.

Glenmore came more into the game in the second half and by the 52nd minute they had reduced the lead to 1 point but points by E. O'Donoghue and and sub, C. Butler increased the lead before P. Murphy finished the scoring with two late points.

Dicksboro: R. Stapleton, J. Lynch, C. Gough, S. Treacy, R. Crotty, A. Nolan, E. Carroll, E. O'Donoghue, T. Kenny, A. Phelan, K. Ryan, E. Moylan, P. Fitzpatrick, C. Breathnach, S. O'Brien.
 Subs: L. Kennedy, C. Burler.
 Glenmore: S. Cody, P. J. Roche, J. Gahan, B. Maher, B. O'Donoghue, C. Foran, N. Dunne, D. Croke, P. Hennessy, W. Treacy, M. Phelan, J. Aylward, L. Hennessy, E. Aylward, P. Murphy.
 Referee John Walsh (Rower Inistioge)



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Suzanne Grace and Charlie Carter from TOP OIL Kilkenny, renewing their sponsorship of the Cumas na mBunscoil to Secretary, Jim Fennelly in Nowlan Park, also pictured are Brian McDonald and Ben Corcoran. Eoin Hennessy



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TALENT AND PRIDE

(Photos Willie Dempsey)

Minor Bord na nÓg report by Pado O'Flynn PRO



Ballyhale Shamrocks - Roinn A MH Championship Winners 2016

Roinn A

It's strange writing about the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor A Championship. There were nine genuine teams looking to land the title, some serious games, full of talent pride and passion and a throw back to the early 2000's when anyone really could beat anyone and like the famous soccer phrase about Germany it was quite a similar story. 60 odd minutes of hurling and the Shamrocks win!

In an absolute belter of a first round championship game the reigning champions

O'Loughlin Gaels were dethroned by fierce rivals Dicksboro. The hits were ferocious and at the end the Palmerstown outfit held on for an impressive one point victory. They followed this up with a quarter-final win over an improving Mooncoin side that were much closer than the scoreline would suggest.

In the other quarter finals Danesfort just had that too much class up front when they eventually pulled away in the dying embers of the game against Lisdowney 0-22 to 2-10. Another close game saw James Stephens defeat Thomastown 2-18 to 1-17 with the towering Robert Butler impressing. Two of the big guns of late in

underage Ballyhale Shamrocks and Graigue-Ballycallan hurling saw the southerners win 4-9 to 1-9 largely thanks to the deadly Mullen duo but note the names of Ronan, Ryan and Flynn from Ballycallan expect their names to crop up again in the hue of black of amber.

Semi finals are all about winning and under the Wednesday night lights of Dunmore James Stephens and Danesfort went toe to toe. Driven on by the likes of Niall Brassil, Ryan Scanlon and Luke Murphy they again shaded the match by four.

At John Locke Park the underage conveyor belt



James Stephens - Roinn A MH Finalists 2016



Erin's Owns - Roinn B MH League & Championship Winners 2016



Tullaroan - Roinn C Championship Winners 2016

of Ballyhale showed there's more than a few Mullen's coming through as Darren Aylward, Massod and Hayes all shone as they were most impressive ending Dicksboro's interest in the contest.

In the final the decisive act was played out in a crowded blur. The sliothar was launched forward more hopeful and there in a more central position to scramble it into the net with his boot was substitute Stephen Barron. James Stephens, the kings of the Roinn A minor hurling championship, who'd stolen many of these finals in similar circumstances, wouldn't let this final go.

A 20 metre free by Ryan Scanlon, who had scored a penalty earlier, was blocked. There was confusion that the ball might have been forced over the line in the scramble that

followed, but the referee said no after consulting with his umpires. The resulting 65 was batted away and sweet victory was the lot for the Ballyhale men.

That Ballyhale Shamrocks claimed their third Roinn A title was due to huge talent and versatility, with Adrian (what a sidestep he is blessed with) and Darren Mullen their main men, along with Evan Shefflin, Dylan Aylward, Patrick Hearne and Adam Brenner.

Adrian Mullen was their main man they bossed the opening 20 minutes to lead by 0-8 to 0-3. Lesser men would have folded but the Village hit a purple patch between the 20th and 24th minutes to bag 2-2 to turn the match on its head. The first goal was plundered by Tommy Walton after snapping up a cross from Robert Butler, and the second came via a penalty from Ryan Scanlon after Brian O'Neill had been fouled.

That blast shot 'Stephens into an interval lead of 2-5 to 0-9.

Shamrocks trailed until the 39th minute when a cross from the right by Rónán Hayes saw Eoin Cody connect with a first-time pull. Goal! Shamrocks 1-11, 'Stephens 2-7.

A class score from Adrian Mullen added momentum for the winners, but they were called back by scores from the lovely striking Niall Brassil (free) and Tommy Walton (1-12 to 2-9). Another great score from the now flying Adrian Mullen didn't stop 'Stephens. They hit back for a goal, Brian O'Neill and Liam Rafter combining for the latter to get off a shot which was blocked, but Tommy Walton knocked the rebound home (3-9 to 1-13).

When they grabbed another goal through Brian O'Neill in the 51st minute (4-9 to 1-13) after powerful work by Brassil and Ross Whelan it



Clara - Roinn B MH Finalists 2015

looked like they might do it.

No way! The now unstoppable Adrian Mullen shot a point and then a goal from a penalty after being fouled when fielding a delivery from Martin Davis to tie it up at 4-9 to 2-15 in the 57th minute.

The final and decisive chapter was scripted by young Barron. It was tough on 'Stephens and their heroes Niall Brassil, Robert Butler, Ross Whelan, Shane Donohue and Ben Lawlor, but they were beaten by quality opposition.

SCORERS: *Ballyhale Shamrocks - Adrian Mullen (1-8, goal penalty, two frees); Eoin Cody, Stephen Barron (1-0 each); Darren Mullen, Rónán Hayes, Dylan Aylward (0-1 each); Eoin Kenneally (0-1). James Stephens - Tommy Walton (2-1); Niall Brassil (0-6, four frees); Ryan Scanlon (1-0, penalty); Brian O'Neill (1-0); Ross Whelan, Rob Butler (0-1 each).*

Ballyhale Shamrocks - Dean Mason, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Hearne, Darragh Corcoran, Sulayman Masood, Evan Shefflin,

Martin Davis, Adam Brenner, Darren Mullen, Rónán Hayes, Dylan Aylward, Jason Devereux, Eoin Kenneally, Adrian Mullen, Eoin Cody. Sub: Stephen Barron.

James Stephens - Sean Manogue, Ryan Scanlon, Eamon Fennelly, Sean Walsh, Ben Lawlor, Shane Donohue, Luke Murphy, Liam Rafter, Jeffrey Coyne, Rob Butler, Niall Brassil, Ross Whelan, Tommy Walton, Andy Parsons, Brian O'Neill. Subs: Shane Murphy, Niall Doheny.

Referee - Conor Everard (Graigue-Ballycallan).

SUPPORTING KILKENNY GAA



Ballyhale Shamrocks Captain, Dylan Aylward, is presented with the Minor Hurling Championship cup by John Byrne, Chairman, Bord na nÓg and Cathal O'Neill, Kilkenny Vehicle Centre after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Willie Dempsey)



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Minor B

In fairness probably one of the unluckiest Bord na nOg clubs in the last number of years has been Erin's Own having lost a number of finals and semi-finals in heart breaking circumstances. 18 teams took their place on the starting grid with the Conahy Shamrocks and Piltown needing two attempts to separate themselves with the Edmund Delaney inspired side taking the spoils the second day where James Bergin was also a serious threat around goal.

In the other close encounter in the first round St Martins will wonder how on earth they lost to Rower-Inistioge in normal time and extra time as they had built up leads on both occasions but lost by two.

Erin Owns sent out a clear signal of intent with a comprehensive win over Emeralds. Clara, Dunnamaggin and Conahy Shamrocks progressed from the other quarter finals.

A game from the ages ensued in the first semi-final where Dan Coogan, Sean, Jack Buggy and James Brennan squared up to Delaney, Bergin and Donal Cass. In a fiery encounter Erin's Own hit the front in the last few minutes of the game and had Richie Brennan largely to thank for them being a position to win pulling of some super stops.

The teams shared equally the opening six scores, but to hold that position Erin's Own had to thank goalie Brennan, who already deprived James Bergin and Conor Kealy of big scores with stunning saves.

The winners won back the lead with a converted free from Sean Buggy. Buggy crashed home a penalty in the 27th minute after a delivery from Declan Buggy caused confusion in the Clara defence, which led to the concession.

When the centre-forward added a point from a free, it helped Erin's Own into an interval lead of 1-5 to 0-5.

Buggy punished a foul on Sean Coogan within 20 seconds of the restart before the lively Jack Buggy added to the gains for the winners.

Clara looked in a spot of bother when Ross Connolly, with an assist by Dan Coogan, weighed in with a point to up the divide to 1-8 to 0-5 in the 34th minute.

Clara didn't wilt. Driven strongly from the back by Matt Kenny, Michael Rafter and Shane Staunton, and further afield by Kevin Kehoe, James Bergin and Joe Connolly they simply kept chasing.

A goal from James Bergin, after he stole

possession from a defender, injected new life into the chasers and they gave 'Comer and uneasy time from there to the finish.

When Bergin worked space for Martin O'Connell to shoot a goal in the 48th minute to slice the divide to 2-6 to 1-11, it was very much game on. Erin's Own hit back smartly for a point from the elegant Ross Connolly after Declan Buggy created the opening.

In Clara's next raid James Bergin sent a whistling shot across the face of goal, hitting the umpire, it appeared, instead of the net.

Bergin converted a free moments later before Erin's Own full-back, Ian Holohan took the ball off the line after Martin O'Connell looked sure to score.

When James Bergin punished a foul on Joe Connolly in the 55th minute, the gap was down to 1-12 to 2-8.

Enter Sean Buggy to shoot a point for Erin's Own. Enter Sean Coogan to add the all important deciding goal.

Erin's Own had a batch of stars, including the Buggys', Sean and Jack, Ross Connolly, a wonderful striker, James Rothwell, James Brennan, Ian Holohan and, of course, goalie Brennan.

SCORERS: Erin's Own - Sean Buggy (1-7, six points frees), Ross Connolly (0-4), Sean Coogan (1-0), Jack Buggy (0-2). Clara - James Bergin (1-6, five points frees, one 65), Martin O'Connell (1-0), Matt Kenny, Conor Kealy (0-1 each).

Erin's Own - Richie Brennan, Adam Brennan, Ian Holohan, Joe Phelan, Eoin O'Rourke, James Brennan, Christopher Korff, James Rothwell, John Dowd, Dan Coogan, Sean Buggy, Declan Buggy, Jack Buggy, Sean Coogan, Ross Connolly. Sub: Cathal Holland.

Clara - Bill Cody, Killian Fitzgerald, Paddy Bolger, Michael Rafter, Leo Barcoe, Matt Kenny, Shane Staunton, Kevin Kehoe, Jim Kehoe, Martin O'Connell, James Bergin, Joe Connolly, Conor Kealy, Rory O'Keeffe, Eoin Harding. Sub: Joe Delaney.

Referee - Owen Kenny (Tullagher-Rosbercon).

Minor C

James Stephens B showed their potential with a big first round win over Carrickshock whilst Tullagher-Rosbercon had no response to the free moving forwards from Dicksboro who had

too much class in front of the posts. The other first round saw a close clash develop between near neighbours Cloneen / Railyard and St. Patrick's with a Jack Morrissey inspired effort getting them across the line.

Tullaroan ensured that O'Loughlin Gaels would win no underage hurling title in 2016 by defeating the St Johns outfit in the quarter-final. Young Irelands got their campaign off to a perfect start when inspired by Ted Drea and Michael Carey they defeated Blacks & Whites.

Graignamanagh had an impressive victory over Dicksboro B whilst James Stephens B's ability to get goals saw them over the line against a gallant St. Patrick's.

The first semi-final saw a thriller unfold as Drea, Carey, Brennan and Dunne went for the jugular. An awesome display from Martin "Mossy" Keoghan almost singly handedly dragged Tullaroan back from the abyss to win quite snugly in the end.

Graignamanagh were in touching distance of their first underage hurling final since reforming but the couldn't hold James Stephens out for goals and the Village won an entertaining game 4-12 to 2-14.

The final was a very tight affair where neither side were giving an inch but the two men who'll lead Tullaroan and most probably Kilkenny teams into the future, Tommy Walsh and Martin Keoghan ensured their return to Roinn B would be swift on a score of 2-17 to 3-11.

Tullaroan: Joe Walsh, Simon Lanigan, Kevin Maher, Paddy Lowry, Adam Tallis, Tommy Walsh, Joe Coughlan, Sean Buggy, Bill Gaffney, Tomás Dunne, Martin Keoghan, Dylan Simpson, Tommy Walton, John Dooley (Capt), Bobby Cummins. Subs: Jack Cleere, David Fitzgerald, Brendan Walsh.

James Stephens: James Kelly-Trant, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Niall Doheny, Dylan Gleeson, Liam Fennelly, Eric Kearney, Jason O'Keeffe, Killian Duffy, James Dwyer, Adam Morrissey, Ethan Butler, Andy Whelan (Cap), Andy Walsh, Adam Drennan, Daniel Cotter. Subs: Eoin Guilfoyle, Kevin Murray, Sean Comerford-Liston.

Boro Back on Top

Under 16 Bord na nÓg report by Pado O'Flynn PRO



Dicksboro - Roinn A Championship Winners 2016

Roinn A

Eleven teams went to post in the Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn A Championship that was full of future county stars that had lit up the Tony Foristal and the Kevin Foley u-15 tournament in the last couple of years.

The first round saw a novel pairing between Bennettsbridge & St. Martins where the class act on show Ciaran Brennan proved to be the difference between the sides with his goals coming at crucial stages. O'Loughlin Gael and Thomastown had good first round wins over Mooncoin and Lisdowney respectively.

In the quarter finals O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens had large wins over Bennettsbridge and Kilmacow but the two other games proved to be epic encounters.

Thomastown and Dunnamaggin had a see-saw bout which had Thomastown ahead by one when Owen Kenny blew his full time whistle. Muckalee was the fine venue for Dicksboro and Erin's Own in a game that ebbed and flowed till a burst of scoring by Eoghan Moylan with ten

minutes to go proved to be the difference.

The semi-finals were one sided with O'Loughlin Gaels accounting for Thomastown and Dicksboro brushed aside the challenge of James Stephens.

Dicksboro ended the domination of O'Loughlin Gaels in the U-16 Roinn A Duggan Steel Championship where Eoghan Moylan's second half intervention proved to be the difference between the sides as he hit 1-2 to give the Palmerstown outfit the victory they craved so much.

This game was a bit of a slow burner with both centre backs Liam Stynes and Jamie Young dominating proceedings which saw the sides level after the opening ten minutes at 0-2 a piece with frees from Justin Cahill (2) & Mikey Butler and the score arriving from the hurl of O'Loughlin Gaels Joe Murphy.

At this stage Brian Dowling's charges were threatening to take control and the lively Jamie Ryan pounced on a loose ball the send the green flag waving which was quickly followed by a sweet Conor Kelly point from out on the wing that dropped over the black spot.

Cahill and Kelly swapped frees before Dacel Fwamba helped himself to a point. Dicksboro captain Liam Stynes eventually awoke his colleagues into action when he landed a monster of a free and as Kelly and Cahill again exchanged frees Dicksboro saw out the half a little bit stronger to draw level 1-6 to 0-9 with Liam Brennan Smyth's point being a highlight.

Points at the start of the second from Kelly and Sean Kenny seems to suggest the 3 in a row seeking Gaels were going to take off however Dicksboro landed the next couple of points through Moylan and Justin Cahill to draw level again. The game changer arrived in the 42nd minute when Eoghan Moylan latched onto a through ball from Justin Cahill to smash the ball past the onrushing Jamie Malone. Quick points were added through Moylan and the impressive Mark Nolan. A Kelly pointed free was responded to with points from Cahill (3), Smyth and with that there was only going to be one winner.

Credit to O'Loughlin Gaels who have being worthy champions who were shorn of the talented Conor Heary but on the day the best side were Dicksboro who ended their three in a



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn A Finalists 2016



James Stephens- Roinn A League Winners 2016

row hopes in a convincing fashion.

Scorers: Dicksboro: Justin Cahill (0-11, 0-8 Frees), Eoghan Moylan (1-2), Liam Brennan Smyth (0-2) Mark Nolan (0-1) & Liam Stynes (0-1 free). O'Loughlin Gaels: Conor Kelly (0-5, 0-4 Frees) Jamie Ryan (1-1), Joe Murphy, Dacel Fwamba, Sean Kenny & Mikey Butler (0-1 each). Dicksboro: Nicky Burke, Joe Lacey, Tadhg Butler, David Conway, Cian Rowe, Liam Stynes, Pdraic Moylan, Mark Nolan, Daire Maher, Justin Cahill, Eoghan Moylan, Liam Brennan Smyth, Evan Clarke, Liam Hennessy, Tommy Farrell. Sub: Mark Kenny. O'Loughlin Gaels: Jamie Malone, Luke Hogan, David Fogarty, Jack Kearns, Johnny Collins, Jamie Young, Oisin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Sean Kenny, Joe Murphy, Niall Higgins, Dacel Fwamba, Jamie Ryan, Conor Kelly, Ethan Kerwick. Sub: Sean Baird.
Ref: Paul Cahill (Dunnamaggin)

Roinn B

If anyone claimed to have known the winner of the Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn B Championship you should also have asked the same person for the lotto numbers as with 17 teams involved it was a pure guess who'd get to the semi-finals never mind win it. In the quarter finals it took Mullinavat and Emeralds two attempts to sort out a winner and despite the heroics of Liam Grant, the southerners decisively won the replay. St. Lachtains and Clara played out an eight goal thriller where Cathal O'Leary shine brightest

which ensured a Freshford win whilst St. Patrick's and Ballyhale Shamrocks defeated Glenmore and Danesfort respectively.

Much like the A semi finals there was decisive wins in both with St. Patrick's and Ballyhale Shamrocks progressing to the final with wins over Mullinavat and St. Lachtains.

It was a superb second performance from Ballyhale reminiscent of their senior side that they came from seven points down to land the Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn B County hurling final in Johns Park.

The men from Ballyragget got off to a great start rattling off five points in a row from Phelan, Doheny, Kelly (2) & Bolger putting them 5-1 ahead with the sole Ballyhale response being from Adham Massod which seemed to spark them to life.

Three points in a row from Eoin Cody brought the southerners back into but Jack Morrissey finished a goal mouth scramble but Darragh Corcoran quickly responded with a point.

Jason Phelan landed 1-2 on the trot but a Cody free gave Ballyhale some respite just at half time 2-7 to 0-6.

On the resumption Ballyhale were back in it when Cody fired home from 20m with a fire cracker of a shot. Stephen Barron added a minor soon after.

A quick interchange between Morrissey & Phelan saw the former land a point which Cody

replied with a pointed free.

In the 43rd minute a goal mouth scramble ensued which saw Eoin Cody probably get the flick of the ball to the net but nobody really knew as there was so many bodies in there.

Mick Kelly responded with a pointed free. Inspired by Josh Wallace St Patrick's soaked up huge pressure before Kelly picked off his first point from play to put them 2 clear but Cody instantly responded with a pointed free and he followed this up with another to level matters in the 54th minute.

In the dying embers of the game Cody popped up with a super point to put Shamrocks ahead for the first time. In the end Cody proved to be the difference between the sides as he landed points in injury time to ensure a return to Roinn A hurling for the Shamrocks men and heartbreak for this gallant and talented side from North Kilkenny.

Scorers: Ballyhale Shamrocks: Eoin Cody (2-10, 0-4 frees) Stephen Barron, Darragh Corcoran & Adham Massod (0-1 each).

St Patrick's: Jason Phelan (1-3), Jack Morrissey (1-1) Mick Kelly (0-4, 0-3 frees), Rowan Bolger & Robert Doheny (0-1 each)

St Patrick's: Vincent Brophy, Adam Jacob, Josh Wallace, Ryan Bolger, Paddy Brennan, Eamonn Glennon, Kieran Walshe, Jack Morrissey, Robert Doheny, Dan Brophy, Jason Phelan, Mick Kelly, Rowan Bolger, Cian Drennan, Paul Ryan.

Subs: Michael McInerney, Owen Ryan, Luke Kelly, Eoin Southgate, Peter Holohan.



Ballyhale Shamrocks - Roinn B Champions 2016



Conahy Shamrocks - Roinn C Champions 2016



James Stephens - Roinn C U16 League Champions 2016



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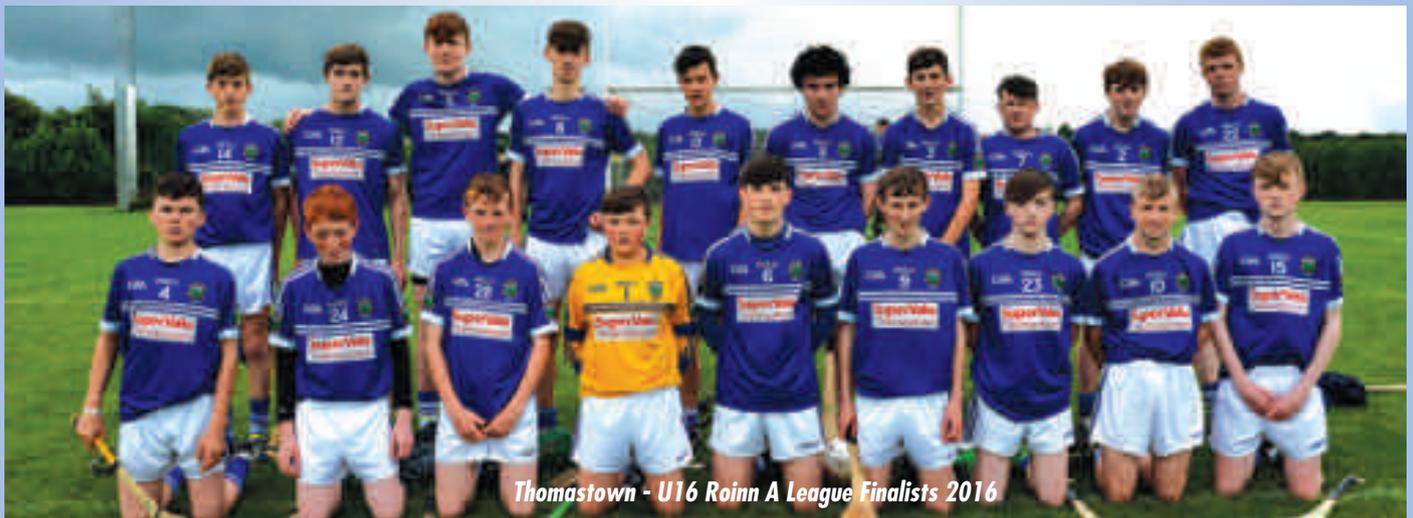
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Thomastown - U16 Roinn A League Finalists 2016



St Patrick's - U16 Roinn B Championship Finalists 2016

Ballyhale Shamrocks: *Dean Mason, Cian Cullen, Casey Corcoran, Christopher Coady, Conor Doyle, Daragh Corcoran, Reese Anderson, Jason Devereaux, Eoin Walsh, Liam Barron, Stephan Barron, Edmund Fitzpatrick, John Shortall, Eoin Cody, Adham Massod.*

Subs: *Brandon Ryan, Finnian Shefflin, James Reid, Richie Cody, Dara Mason, Andrew Devereaux, Thomas Barron, Sean Reade.*

Ref: Paddy Bowden (Lisdowney)

Roinn C

A tremendous performance from the Conahy Shamrocks Under 16 hurlers saw them capture the 2016 Roinn 'C' title when they scored a deserved win over James Stephens II.

It could have been all so different for Conahy as Cloonen/Railyard should have really defeated in the drawn first round game but the men from Jenkinstown easily won the replay before defeating Blacks & Whites in the quarter final.

Fenians got the better of Tullaroan in their clash whilst O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Carrickshock. In the other quarter final James Stephens came out on top in a 12 goal thriller against Tullogher Rosbercon.

James Stephens had four points to spare against O'Loughlin Gaels in the all city semi final whilst Conahy's late goals saw them get across the line against Fenians.

In the final Conahy elected to play against the breeze in the first half and it was a decision that paid handsome dividends. Karl Downey opened the scoring after three minutes with a pointed free.

James Stephens responded well and moved ahead with points from play and frees from star man Shane Guilfoyle and James Kelly Trant. Aided by the breeze they exerted a lot of pressure on a very stout Conahy defence. A tense and tight first half played out with neither team gaining an advantage.

The Conahy supporters would have been very happy with their young

charges first half performance, going in at the break on a score of James Stephens 0-7 Conahy Shamrocks 0-6 where the village outfit were unlucky not to be further ahead.

Conahy levelled matters early in the second half with a well taken point from play by Eoin Cahill. Pushing on with the aid of the now strengthening wind they went a further two points ahead before James Stephens replied with a pointed free from Guilfoyle. The city side had the better of the exchanges for the next few minutes and re-captured the lead through points from Eoin Dowling & Jake Bourke.

Conahy dug deep and slowly regained the initiative. Points from play by Karl Downey and Mark Gunner were followed by a sweet strike on goal by Thomas Rice to put them five points up. It also gave them a strong grip on the tie.

James Stephens battled gallantly but could not find a way back. A resolute Conahy defence held firm, while the attack made good use of the possession that came their way. They finished out this final in fine fashion and were worthy winners on a score of Conahy Shamrocks 1-14, James Stephens II 0-12

Conahy Shamrocks: *Tommy Blanche, Kevin Conry, John Paul Gamble, Ciaran Rice, Cian Harding, Frank Gunner, Sean O'Dornan, Darren Cuddihy, Geoffrey O'Shea, Thomas Rice (1-1), Eoin Cahill (0-3), Mark Gunner (0-1), Jack Murphy, Karl Downey (0-9, 0-6 frees), Robbie Dooley.*

Subs - *Harry O'Mahony, Louis Feehan, Shane O'Loughlin, Josh Comerford, Oisín Cahill and Jack Bergin.*

James Stephens: *Jamie Reid, Killian Dolan, Dylan Gleeson, Nicky Grace Kelly, Sean Comerford, Cian Russell, Michael O'Brien, Jake Burke (0-1), Ben O'Shaughnessy (0-1), Eoin Dowling (0-1), Shane Guilfoyle (Capt) (0-6 frees), Shaun Liston-Comerford (0-1), James Kelly Trant (0-2), Kevin Murray, Jamie Phelan,*

Subs: *Kealan Coyne, Sean McKee, Adam O'Shea, Liam Kelly O'Rourke, Sean Ruth, Jamie O'Keeffe, Cathal Mulhall, Pdraig Holohan.*

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Congratulations to all our Kilkenny hurlers on
their successes, and here's to an even better
2017.*

A HUMDINGER!

(All Photos Willie Dempsey)

Under 14 Bord na nÓg report by Pado O'Flynn PRO



Dicksboro - Roinn A League & Championship & Féile A Competitions 2016

ROINN A

The Duggan Steel Roinn A hurling championship promised to be a humdinger right from the get go as eight high quality teams must have all fancied their chances.

Beaten finalists of the last two years Erin's Own exited at the 1/4 final stages to an improving Dunamaggin. Dicksboro just had too much power for Graigue Ballycallan in the second quarter final but the men for Kilmanagh will be in contention next year with most of the team underage for 2017. Mooncoin ran James Stephens to a point and will look back with regret at all the chances they failed to take during the second half. The biggest surprise was in the fourth and final quarter final where Thomastown easily swatted aside the challenge of O'Loughlin Gaels.

The semi finals proved to be pretty one sided

with Dicksboro eventually pulling away from Thomastown whilst James Stephens ability to get goals proved to be the difference in their victory over Dunamaggin.

So we rolled onto Johns Park where age old rivals Dicksboro and James Stephens squared up to each other on county final day.

This was hurling played out in tough conditions that was full of heart determination and pride and in the end Dicksboro were crowned the Duggan Steel Roinn Hurling champions for 2016 played on a wonderful surface in Johns Park.

It took until the 9th minute for Ned Devlin to the Village in front and this was soon followed by a pointed Jamie O'Keeffe free.

A bit like the Dublin footballers like the previous week it took until the 32nd minute for the Palmerstown outfit to get on the score sheet and after 13 wides it duly arrived through Mikey Clifford to leave James Stephens 0-2 to 0-1

ahead at the break.

The second half began at a frenetic pace with straight from the throw in O'Keeffe firing over but then Dicksboro struck for the decisive score of the match.

In a move which showed Mikey Clifford a touch of class and speed before rifling the ball to the roof of the net. His cousin in the other corner Timmy sent the white flag waving and in another twinkle of the eye Mikey had the gap out to 1-4 to 0-3.

Liam Moore landed a monster of a free which he added to with a couple of points from play. It was all Dicksboro at this but the re-sited Michael O'Brien lifted the siege briefly with a fine point.

Captain Aaron Murphy landed two points either side of a Padraig Moylan free.

Try as they might James Stephens could not break the resistance of the Dicksboro defence and would rue missed chances in the first half when they were in top.

Scorers: Dicksboro: Mikey Clifford (1-2), Liam



James Stephens - Roinn A Championship and Féile A Finalists 2016



Piltown - Roinn B Championship and Féile Winners 2016

Moore (0-4, 0-2 frees), Aaron Murphy (0-2), Timmy Clifford (0-1) & Padraig Moylan (0-1 free).

James Stephens: Jamie O'Keeffe (0-2, 1 free), Ned Devlin & Michael O'Brien (0-1 each).

Dicksboro: Brian Manogue, Charlie Nolan, Niall Rowe, Zac McHardy, Charlie Delahunty, Padraig Moylan, Rory O'Connor, Liam Moore, Colm O'Hara, Tom Carroll, Aaron Murphy, Sean Maher, Timmy Clifford, Cormac Kennedy, Mikey Clifford.

Subs: Kyle Maher, David Walsh, Oisín Timmons, Stephen Dermody, Nick Doheny, Eoin Dalton, Kevin Moore, Eoghan O'Neill, James Carroll, Luca Loli, Eamon O'Reilly, Vinny Roberts, Cillian Hackett, Harry Shine, Killian Phelan, Evan Rowe, Liam Connolly, Andrew Brennan Smyth, Finn O'Brien & Paddy Fitzgerald.

James Stephens: Daragh Casey, Cathal Mulhall, Michael O'Brien, Adam O'Connor, Evan Buggy, Luke Bateman, Stephen O'Keeffe, Bill Kavanagh, Jamie O'Keeffe, Sean Ruth (Capt), Michael Kennedy, Cian Dolan, Ben Cantwell, Jack McGrath, Ned Devlin.

Subs: Paul Kiely, Dylan O'Brien, Cian Grace, John Ruane, Luke Wallace, Niall Reid, Paddy Kehoe, Daniel Hughes, Shane Bowles, Joshua O'Rourke, Paddy Larkin, Aaron Dorney, David Walsh, Jamie Chisholm, Daragh Kennedy, Steven Butler, Shaun Rafter, Harry McIntyre, Daniel Smithwick, Evan Dowling, Cian Dunne, Jack Kelly, Conor Beale,

Daragh Whelan & David Parle
Ref: Conor Everard (Graigue Ballycallan)

Roinn B

19 teams had designs on the Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn B Championship and with so many teams in contention, naturally it was a bit of minefield to figure out who was going to land it. The first preliminary round saw Graignamangh and last years champions Kilmacow clash which saw the green and white clad team win by 1-7 to 0-7. There were wins for Tullagher Rosbercon and St. Lachtains.

In the last 16 Bennettsbridge 3-4 3-7 Young Irelands was a tight tough affair where late goals sealed it for the Gowarn men whilst Glenmore flexed their muscles with a win over the Rower Inistioge but the tie of the round was the highly entertaining match between Galmoy/Windgap 4-11 5-6 Graignamangh which saw the amalgamated side hold on for a two point victory.

Two of the heavy weight contenders clashed in the quarter final where St. Martins just about came out on top against Glenmore by two points but if the game had gone on any longer the result have swung the other way. Piltown accounted for St. Lachtains with their ability to pick off points being the difference. Tullagher Rosbercon progressed after a replay against

Galmoy/Windgap whilst Young Irelands got the better of Lisdowney.

Semi finals are there to be won and despite a few wobbles in both matches the two expected sides in St Martins and Piltown progressed to the final.

Piltown's first half scores do the trick
Piltown 2-10 0-8 St Martins

Scorers: Piltown: Evan O'Shea (2-1), Daryl Maye (0-3, 0-1 free), Billy O'Callaghan (0-2, 0-1 free), Sean O'Neill, Michael Norris & Aaron Reid (0-1 each).

St Martins: Tristan Roche (0-3, 0-2 frees), Josh Dempsey (0-2 frees), Shane O'Neill, Jack Farrell & Shane Fahy (0-1 each)

Piltown exploded into life in the early stages of this Duggan Steel Roinn B County hurling final played at Pairc na Seamróige.

Evan O'Shea got the southerners off to the perfect when he pointed from out on the far wing. This was quickly followed by points from the influential pair of Michael Norris and Aaron Reid.

Sean O'Neill and Daryl Maye all landed monster frees before Billy O'Callaghan grabbed himself a point.

It took St Martins 18 minutes to get on the scoreboard and they duly did through a Josh Dempsey free.



St Martin's - Roinn B League Winners and Championship & Féile Finalists 2016



Tullaroan - Roinn C Champions 2016



Conahy Shamrocks - Roinn C Finalists 2016

Roinn C

Piltown responded in devastating fashion scoring 1-4 without reply. A sweet move involving Braedon Wheeler ended with O'Shea sending the green flag waving. Further points were gotten by O'Callaghan & Maye (2). St Martins did muster a response just on the stroke of half time with a Tristan Roche pointed free to leave Piltown 1-9 to 0-2 up.

The second began in a flurry of excitement with Daryl Maye receiving a straight card which was followed by a Dempsey point and a Billy O'Callaghan free.

Two points for St Martins from the inspirational Roche brought them back into the game and they had a number of goal chances which was quickly followed by a superb Shane Fahy point and Shane O'Neill further brought the northerners back into it.

Then Piltown struck a real sucker punch when Evan O'Shea ran 60metres and buried the ball in the back of the net.

Martins were not going to lie down and instantly responded with a Jack Farrell point and again piled the pressure on the Piltown goal.

Try as they might they couldn't breach a superb defence marshalled by Sean O'Neill & Conor McGown with Evan O'Shea a name to watch from the forwards.

For St. Martins this was tough losing two finals in a row. They looked good at times particularly with Tristan Roche when moved up the field to the forward line whilst Shane Fahey, Matthew Shortall, Cillian Bryan and Shane O'Neill all tried hard.

St Martins: Oisín Kelly, Paddy Brennan, Matthew Shortall, Ciarán Nolan, Russell Kealy, Tristan Roche, Jack Farrell, Shane O'Neill, Thomas Lalor, Josh Dempsey, Bill Dowling, Shane Fahey, Luke Burke, Joseph Reid, Cillian Bryan. Subs: Niall Shore, Tommy Flynn, Kyle Walsh, Cathal Keegan, Aaron Meaney, Rory Buggy, Conor Egan, Tadhg Gill & Conor Dooley.

Piltown: Francis Moore, Eoin Morgan, Aidan Friend, Tom Reid, Aidan Walsh, Sean O'Neill, Dara Whittle, Ian Balding, Conor McGowan, Micheal Norris, Evan O'Shea, Daryl Maye, Aaron Reid, Braedon Wheeler, Billy O'Callaghan. Subs: Ben Grace, Andrew Dermody, Senan McDonald, Neil Moriarty, Conor Hogan, Eoin Butler, Conor Power, Fiachra Twohig, Artjoms Sergejs. Ref: Julian Dwyer (James Stephens)

Tullaroan sent out an early message of intent when they easily dispatched near neighbours Fenians at the quarter final stage before inflicting more woe on James Stephen B in the semi final.

Conahy Shamrocks made the final after a hugely entertaining semi final against Carrickshock that saw them win on a score line of 4-10 to 2-10.

In what was a tight game from start to finish, the winners made good use of the strong breeze in the second half to take to title. Conahy will regret missing a brace of goal-scoring chances in the first half and on a morning when defences dominated every score was vital.

Aided by the breeze, Conahy started well with points from Mark Gunner from a sixty-five, Oisín O'Connor and a Ciarán Rice free. They were well on top in those early stages and would have gone further ahead but for some wasteful shooting in front of goal. Their cause was not helped either by opting to go for goals on a few occasions when points were the better option.

Having withstood the early Conahy pressure, Tullaroan thundered into the game and three unanswered points brought the sides level by the seventeenth minute.

Given the strength of the breeze Conahy needed to keep the score board ticking over and they responded well to that trio of points for Tullaroan scoring three of their own in a four-minute spell from Mark Gunner and two from Harry O'Mahony, one of which came from a free. With the half-time break looming Tullaroan scored this fourth point and the first half scoring was wrapped up by Ciarán Rice who pointed from thirty metres for Conahy Shamrocks.

With the strengthening breeze now favouring Tullaroan in the second half much of the play was in the direction of the Conahy goal. The winners managed four unanswered points in the opening quarter and it might have been more but for some outstanding defensive play from Conahy. Conahy wasted further scoring chances in the second half before Ciarán Rice pointed a free in the fifteenth minute to bring the sides level. Two minute late Tullaroan retook the lead with a well-taken point from thirty metres.



Thomastown - Roinn A League Finalists 2016



Tullogher Rosbercon Roinn B Finalists 2016

But Conahy were not ready to concede and a fine run from midfield by Jack Murphy once again levelled the game. Despite enjoying the bulk of the possession Tullaroan were finding it hard to engineer scores against a resolute Conahy rearguard. Their possession eventually paid off in the closing minutes of the game when they hit two great points to record a merited victory.

Tullaroan: Niall Holland, Sam Coughlan, Jack Cleere, James Cash, Eamon Og Holland, Richard Cash, Thomas Dillon, Charlie Cleere, Brendan

Walsh, Gearoid Dunne, Bill Walton,
Subs: Arron Grogan, James Walton, Billy Keogh, Joshua Tallis
Conahy Shamrocks: Tommy Blanche, Louis Feehan, Sean O'Dornan, Liam Healy, Jack Dempsey, Mark Gunner, Conor Duggan, John Paul Gamble, Jack Murphy, Josh Comerford, Ciaran Rice, Harry O'Mahony, Robbie Ring, Oisín O'Connor, Oisín Cahill.
Subs – Kieran Brennan, Billy Mulhall, Jack Bergin, Jack Joyce, Darragh Hennessy.



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New Year, Familiar Stories

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA REPORT
by Dermot Dunphy PRO



St Canice's - Roinn A Champions 2016

Another year has passed for Cumann na mBunscoileanna, Kilkenny and as has happened many times before familiar faces and schools have appeared at the finals' stages of the primary schools' competitions. It is the nature that teams come in cycles and schools often have a good run of final appearances. Indeed, of the ten different teams that contested this year's hurling finals, six had appeared in the finals of 2015! Added to this, three of those schools followed up last year's success with another win. Indeed success definitely breeds success.

However, of all these schools, one stands out above all others. St Canice's Co-Ed on Granges Road only opened 35 years ago in 1981, won their first hurling title, Roinn D in 1989, and won their first Roinn A crown as recently as 2005 when a young Cillian Buckley led them to a historic win. Since then, eight times the Joe Dunphy Cup has rested on Grange's Road for the winter months and it is back there again this year with the Bertie O'Callaghan Football Cup for company! To make matters better, the school's second team contested the Roinn D final for the second year running and though they lost out to Windgap, it is a great achievement for these young players to reach the final again. On top of all this, the school had a clean sweep of all four INTO Mini-Sevens titles, hurling, camogie, boys' and girls' football, a feat never before achieved in Cumann na mBunscoileanna, Cill Chainnigh! Great credit goes to the staff and mentors who are helping their pupils achieve so well. The boys and girls in maroon and white are setting the standard and the challenge is there to all others to try and match them.

Others winning again in 2016 were Tullaroan and Windgap and both schools had moved up a division making their efforts even more special. Tullaroan were completing a 3-in-a-row when they won Roinn C overcoming the Rower-Inistioge after a replay. Windgap won Roinn D to add to their Roinn E victory of 2015. Graignamanagh-Skeoughvosteen continued their high standards of last year with two final appearances in Roinn A and the Corn de Bhaldrathie but unfortunately for the Barrowsiders they tasted defeat twice. However, they did add a football victory over the winter of 2015. The victors in the Corn de Bhaldrathie were Gowran who also won the Roinn B title at Kilmanagh's expense. These were Gowran's first titles since 2002 and like the buses, two came together! Also back in the winners enclosure were Johnstown who won out at Roinn E level against near neighbours Galmoy. Unfortunately for Galmoy this was their second final defeat in two years but Johnstown's first win since 2001!

Under 11!

The board introduced something completely new this year, hurling competitions at Under 11 grade. It is the first time since 1985 that the Schools Board has run competitions at two different age groups. Small groups of three to four teams played round robin in three different divisions. Semi-finals and finals were then played. This new grade gives schools a chance to play

younger pupils who may not get a lot of game time at Under 13 level and also will give schools the chance to develop younger players. The competitions are open only to country schools as the city schools still have Class Leagues for the younger players in their schools.

Inaugural victories were recorded by Kilmanagh who defeated Clara in Roinn A, Tullagher-Rosbercon who defeated Danesfort in Roinn B and Ballyragget who overcame Windgap in Roinn C. A successful beginning, expect these competitions to grow and grow!

INTO Mini-Sevens

Victories in the INTO Seven-a-side competition all went to St Canice's who had a clean sweep in Hurling, Football, Camogie and Girls' Football. Congrats to all the young children who represented Kilkenny in Croke Park – Harry Shine (All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final), Cillian Hackett (All-Ireland Football Final), Asha McHardy (All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final), Amy Clifford (All-Ireland Football Semi-Final).

Congratulations to all the winners in INTO Handball with all the A winners who participated in Leinster listed in our results section!

Ó Fhás go hAois

The final victors to be congratulated are the Board themselves. In March Cumann na mBunscoileanna Cill Chainnigh picked up Annual Publication Trophy at the Cumann na mBunscol National Awards in Cork. Ó Fhás go hAois by Gerry O'Neill and Dermot Dunphy was judged the best publication by a schools' board in Ireland! An enjoyable celebration ensued!

Allianz Roinn A League Final

St Canice's are champions again as "Harry Shines"

St Canice's 2-9 Graignamanagh-Skeoughvosteen 1-6

St Canice's collected yet another Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Educational Supplies Roinn A title at the hands of a gallant Graig-Skeough who were contesting their first Roinn A final. It was the city side's fifth title in a row.

Both teams were quick off the mark as both Cillian Hackett and James Whitty traded points in the opening minute. The game ebbed and flowed then with no advantage accruing to either side until Harry Shine from St Canice's broke the deadlock with a fine point from play.

St Canice's seemed to find another gear as they missed an open goal in the tenth minute from menacing corner forward Nick Doheny and he continued on the rampage but was wide on two further occasions.

Graig-Skeough had their moments also in this opening quarter with Jack Kennedy in fine form at midfield but they just couldn't get the scores they deserved. Ryan Kielthy was introduced for Graig-Skeough and he repaid the trust in him with a fine point on the fourteenth minute. Michael Sheehy added

a point for the country side to edge them ahead and he added a point from a free soon after but Cillian Hackett kept his side in touch with two fine points to leave the game level close to the interval. Jack Kelly took a slick pass from Eoghan O'Neill and fired over the lead point for St Canice's just on the half time whistle to end a fine half of hurling.

On the restart Graig-Skeough were soon to level the game from Sheehy but within seconds Harry Shine fired a powerful shot off his left to register the game's first goal and when Eoghan O'Neill added a point, St Canice's suddenly had a four point lead. Jack Kelly and Cillian Hackett pitched in two further points to advance the city team's lead further. The response from Graig-Skeough was swift with a well taken goal by Ted Dunne on the eighth minute and Sam Byrne worked the scoreboard again with a fine point. St Canice's lead two points at this stage as the game entered the last quarter. A point from play from Harry Shine followed by star forward Nick Doheny's goal put six points between the teams. Graig-Skeough goalkeeper Shane Cleary put in a spirited last ten minutes and kept a marauding St Canice's from opening an even bigger lead.

St Canices had too many forwards who could score at will and when Graigue Skeough threatened at the other end Rory O'Connor was captain fantastic and he defended stoutly ably assisted by James Carroll at full back and wing backs Zach McHardy and Johnny Keane blocked numerous paths to goal. Harry Shine contributed 1-2 and was dangerous throughout. Hackett and Doheny worked their socks off for the city side.

Graig-Skeough had heroes in goalkeeper Shane Cleary, full back Sean O'Neill, stylish midfielder Michael Sheehy and attackers James Whitty, Ted Dunne and Jack Dunne.

St Canices: K Maher, L Loli, J Carroll, E O'Reilly, Z McHardy, R O'Connor (Capt), J Keane, C Delahunty, C Nolan, C Hackett, E O'Neill, J Kelly, N Doheny, H Shine, K Moore.

Subs: M Kelleher, C John, A Dorney, P Conroy, S Tynan, M Raggett, F Mc Garry, C Kavanagh, B Dunne, M Carroll.

Graignamanagh-Skeoughvosteen: S Cleary, I Bolger, S O'Neill, O Kelly, D Murphy, D Moran, C Doyle, J Kennedy (Joint Capt), M Sheehy (Joint Capt), J Whitty, J Dunne, T Dunne, A Flood, S Byrne, S Connolly.

Subs: S Foley, M Fogarty, R Kielthy, S Hamilton, F Gahan, P O'Neill, S O'Brien, S Greene, C Jordan, J Kelly, B O'Shea, C Byrne, C Hamilton.

Allianz Roinn B League Final

Gowran Guns Roar in 2nd Half Performance.

Gowran 3-13 Kilmanagh 1-5

A second half display of skill and strong hurling earned Gowran the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn B title, the first win in school's hurling since 2002.

The first half was well contested by both sides and in ideal conditions at Nowlan Park. Both team's central attackers were prominent from the start. Tom Brennan opened Kilmanagh's account with two fine points only for Gowran's marksman Killian Carey to level matters two minutes later with a point from play and a second from a placed ball. After six minutes Pdraig Naddy edged Gowran ahead with a point from play and as often happens at this level the team in control gains in



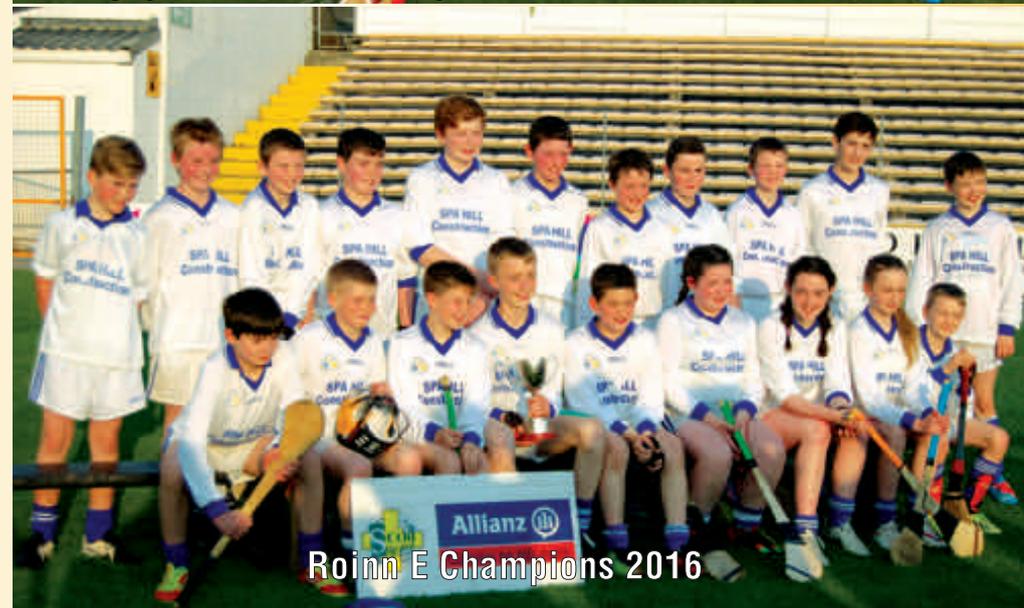
Gowran - Roinn B & Country Cup Champions 2016



Tullaroan - Roinn C Champions 2016



Windgap - Roinn D Champions & U11 C Finalists 2016



Roinn E Champions 2016

confidence. This is what happened as the in-form Carey at centre forward scored his side's first goal, a cracking shot which gave Billy O'Neill little chance in the Kilmanagh goal. Kilmanagh responded well and forced a free which was converted by Charlie Cleere. The following ten minutes were hugely competitive and fine displays of hurling skill from Gowran full back Sean Fitzpatrick, forwards Killian Carey, Padraig Naddy and Jamie Carter heaped pressure on the Kilmanagh team. Kilmanagh keeper, Billy O'Neill held firm as did Jack Butler at centre back. Both sides added just a point each, Carter for Gowran from play and a free from the stick of Charlie Cleere. As the game moved towards half time exchanges were full on between the teams and a feature of the play was the stout defending of Kilmanagh's back line led by Jack Butler and Conor Walton. On the stroke of half time Killian Carey pointed a free and left the half time score at 1-5 to 0-4 in favour of Gowran.

The second half seemed to awaken a monster in Gowran and in an instant Padraig Naddy fired over a point from play and within minutes Jamie Carter combined well with Luke Doyle to find the net opening an eight point lead for the Gowran lads. A further point from a free and Gowran were in full control. A yellow card to Tom Brennan was an indication of the exchanges between the teams and when Kilmanagh won a free some fifty metres out Charlie Cleere stepped over it only to see his effort go straight to the net. This revived Kilmanagh's spirit somewhat. Gowran defence came under attack in the following play but Tommy Phelan was majestic in his high fielding and long clearances out of defence. After the third quarter Gowran continued to hold on to a seven point lead but were made work all the way for this advantage. On the fifteenth minute a speculative ball dropping in front of Kilmanagh's goal was finished to the net by Mikey Knox. Gowran added four points all from play in the closing six minutes which left the end result in no doubt. Kilmanagh though fighting to the end, they found it hard to work the scoreboard. Gowran were great value for this win and any team would find the going tough against them.

Gowran: B Brennan, R Farrell, S Fitzpatrick, B Higgins, C Fitzgerald, T Phelan, P Langton (Capt), B Mc Avinney, J Lennon, D Drennan, K Carey, P Naddy, J Carter, M Knox, L Doyle.

Subs : C Kavanagh, C Brennan, L Farrell, M Holland, J Middleton, T Brennan, R Carey, L O'Donnell, E O'Neill, B Phelan, L Phelan, S Simpson.

Kilmanagh: B O'Neill, J Guiry, C Walton, S Roberts, B Dowling, J Butler (Capt), P Foley, R Corcoran, C Cleere, B Egan, T Brennan, E Egan, A McEvoy, C Brennan, J Neary.

Subs: L Walsh, M Harrison, D Teehan, A Cahill, M Brennan, R Cody, J O'Brien, D O'Brien, B Young, S McGrath, E Teehan, J Casey, J Brennan, S Power, P Purcell, C Hoynes.

Roinn C (Replay)

**Tullaroan Take Title in Titanic Struggle
Tullaroan 4-7 Rower-Inistioge 3-6**

Following on from their dramatic drawn game, Tullaroan and Rower-Inistioge met in Palmerstown for a second throw of the dice in this Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Top Oil Roinn C hurling final replay. True to the form of the drawn game this



**Kilmanagh- U11 Roinn A Champions
& Roinn B Finalists 2016**



Tullagher Rosbercon - U11 Roinn B Champions 2016



Ballyragget - U11 Roinn C Champions 2016

encounter needed extra time to finally sort out the winners.

A nervous start from both sides saw three wides registered before Tullaroan found the net from a great individual effort by corner forward Paul Og Mulligan. Gearoid Dunne found full forward Eamon Og Holland with a clever pass and Holland fired over for a classy point to increase Tullaroan's lead. It appeared that Tullaroan could run away with the game when Gearoid Dunne executed another fine goal for his side and with Niall Holland in total command at centre back there appeared no way through for Rower-Inistioge who

had heroes in Ruairi Delaney at full back, and Rory Flanagan at centre back. Rower-Inistioge continued their drought in front of goal as they registered two more wides in the opening quarter. Their patience did reward them in the thirteenth minute with a pointed free from Eoghan Lyng. They were up and running. For the next seven minutes or so Rower-Inistioge literally roared into the game. David Prendergast at wing forward and Dean Cummins at full forward created nervous moments for Tullaroan in front of goal. Eoghan Lyng grazed the crossbar to add his side's second point of the half. Two minutes later Aaron Savage took a short pass and fired over to reduce the

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deficit between the teams to four points. Tullaroan added a point to their tally from the excellent Gearoid Dunne and a minute later he fielded high and slipped his marker to hit the net. The game was in high octane mode by now and Rower-Inistioge continued attacking despite the goal set back and when a twenty one yard free was awarded to them Eoghan Lyng sensed his side needed a shot in the arm and this is what they got as he rifled to the net. At half-time Tullaroan enjoyed a five point lead.

The second half resumed with a pointed free for Tullaroan by Bill Walton. Rower-Inistioge began the half much the same as the first half and scores were hard to come by. Six minutes in Bill Walton converted a long free to add a point but there was a sense that Tullaroan were not capitalising on their dominance. Rower-Inistioge kept looking for any openings in the Tullaroan defence and they found one on ten minutes with a fine goal from the in-form Eoghan Lyng. As before Tullaroan responded with a score of their own, a pointed free from Bill Walton. Rower-Inistioge enjoyed a purple patch. Eoghan Lyng fired over a point and soon after Mark Flood got on the end of a well taken sideline cut to finish to the net. The margin was now down to one point with five minutes remaining and with a minute of normal time to play Rower-Inistioge won a free about forty metres out to the left wing. Captain Rory Flanagan took the responsibility and he didn't disappoint. He levelled the game. Extra time was called on the final whistle.

Tullaroan seemed to be the masters of the opening half as they set about winning this game. A point from Bill Walton after a fine block down was backed up by a goal from Gearoid Dunne when he gained possession from a long clearance. Rower-Inistioge had no immediate response and four points divided the teams after the first period of extra time.

It is fair to say that Rower-Inistioge threw everything they had into the second half and this made for a hugely exciting finish. Full back Ruairdhi Delaney converted to attack and he fired over a great point after three minutes. Eoghan Lyng had a rasper of a shot saved by Tullaroan keeper Josh Tallis but the resultant 65 went wide. Gearoid Dunne steadied Tullaroan with a pointed free and it restored the lead to a secure four points. This is how it ended and both teams were well applauded for a really fantastic game.

Tullaroan: J Tallis, L Simpson, T Dillon, P O'Mahony, L McCabe, N Holland, J Cash, B Walton, G Keoghan, J Walton, G Dunne, L Walsh, P Og Mulligan, E Og Holland, B Keogh.

Subs: C O'Shea, C Bibby, B Coogan, R Delaney, C Fitzgerald, M Mulligan, D Treacy, J Leahy, R O'Shea.

Rower-Inistioge: B Kelly, L Bolger, Hynes, R Delaney, J Morrissey, J Mulholland, R Flanagan (Capt), C Bolger, E O'Brien, E Lyng, M Flood, M Melfitt, D Prendegast, T O'Callaghan, D Cummins.

Subs: A Savage, C Murphy, A Clifford, JJ Lawless, C Langton, R Langan, M Hennessy, E Gilsenan, D Alfred, P Mackey.

Referee: Pascal Connolly



Graig/Skeough - Roinn A & Country Cup Finalists 2016



Galmoy - Roinn E Finalists 2016



Danesfort - U11 Roinn B Finalists 2016

Roinn D
Windgap on the double!!
Windgap 9-3 St. Canice's 4-6

Windgap secured a second schools' hurling title in as many years when they defeated city side St. Canice's in a high scoring and hugely entertaining Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil Roinn D Final in Nowlan Park. The winners were full value for their win, scoring some superb goals throughout the game and playing with great skill and confidence throughout.

The city side were the first to score through one of their best performers, Aaron Dorney. However, a three goal scoring blitz midway through the half

SCOREBOARD 2016

Educational Supplies' Roinn A

St Canice's 2-9 Graig/Skeough 1-6

Toymaster Roinn B

Gowran 3-13 Kilmanagh 1-5

TOP Oil Roinn C

Tullaroan 3-8 Rower-Inistioge 3-8

Replay Tullaroan 4-7 Rower-Inistioge 3-6

TOP Oil Roinn D

Windgap 9-3 St. Canice's 4-6

TOP Oil Roinn E

Johnstown 7-9 Galmoy 1-2

Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe

Gowran 6-4 Graig/Skeough 3-9

Allianz Corn Ó Briain

Competition unfinished

Toymaster Under 11 Roinn A

Kilmanagh 2-4 Clara 1-6

Educational Supplies Under 11 Roinn B

Tullagher-Rosbercon 3-5 Danesfort 2-3

TOP Oil Under 11 Roinn C

Ballyragget 4-5 Windgap 1-2

INTO Mini-Sevens Hurling

St. Canice's

INTO Mini-Sevens Football

St. Canice's

INTO Mini-Sevens Camogie

St. Canice's

INTO Mini-Sevens Girls Football

St. Canice's

INTO Mini-Sevens Handball

Girls

Boys

Under 11 Singles Una Duggan (Galmoy)

David Holden (Thomastown)

Under 11 Doubles Ava Ryan

Conor Doyle

Katie Jordan (Thomastown) Ronan O'Brien (Windgap)

Under 13 Singles Amy Brennan (Moneenroe) Kyle Jordan (Thomastown)

Under 13 Doubles Millie Doyle Ryan Daniel Hanrahan

Áine Duggan (Galmoy) David Sherman (Galmoy)



St Canice's Mini-Hurling Team - Winners 2016



Keara Ryan, Clara, Asha McHardy, St. Canice's, 3rd and 4th from left, front row, ahead of the INTO Cumann na mBunscol GAA Respect Exhibition Go Games at the Kilkenny v Waterford All-Ireland Semi-Final at Croke Park in Dublin. (SPORTSFILE)

from James Purcell, Cian Horgan and Niall O'Brien respectively saw the Windgap side lead by 4-1 to 0-2 as the first half came to a conclusion. Aaron Dorgan did reply with another point for St. Canice's but Windgap still managed to hold a significant lead at the half-time interval (4-1 to 0-3).

St. Canice's looked like they were about to mount a comeback early in the second half when Aaron Dorgan scored a well taken goal after good work by Brian Moore, another tireless worker for St. Canice's. But Windgap swiftly put paid to any thought of this by once again scoring a burst of goals to retain their dominance of the scoreboard. Niall O'Brien was again central to this, scoring two further goals, ably supported by team captain Zac Kennedy and midfielder Killian Enright in the scoring department.

As the final minutes approached, it looked as though Windgap were the obvious winners, but St. Canice's did battle hard to the end, and were rewarded for their efforts with two goals. But Windgap would not be denied, and they finished the game with two points from Killian Enright and Cian Horgan to secure a well-deserved victory.

For St. Canice's, they had some excellent performers in Sam Tynan, Mick Carroll, Fionn McGarry, Aaron Dorney and Brian Moore, while Jack O'Shea, Killian Enright, Sontae Jackson, Niall O'Brien, Zac Kennedy and Cian Horgan stood out for Windgap, though it is fair to say that all players from both teams should be commended for serving up such an entertaining game.



Annual Publication Trophy at the Cumann na mBunscol National Awards in Cork. Ó Fhás go hAois by Gerry O'Neill and Dermot Dunphy was judged the best publication by a schools' board in Ireland

Windgap: Eoin O'Shea, Eoin Freaney, Shane Houlihan, Jack O'Shea, Karl McCoy, Killian Doyle, Killian Enright (2-2), Sontae Jackson, James Purcell (1-0), Niall O'Brien (3-0), Michael Freaney, Zac Kennedy (Captain, 2-1), Cian Horgan (1-0), Ronan O'Brien, Nathania Jackson, Liam Conalty, Evan Doyle, Orlaith O'Shea, Shane Lomax, Noah O'Shea, Conor Doyle, George Culleton, Matej Dullard, Darragh Doyle, Cian O'Rourke.

St. Canice's: Barry Dunne, Sam Tynan (Captain), Mick Carroll, Tom McPhillips, Fionn McGarry, Harry Cummins, Conor Kavanagh, Mikey Raggett, Michael Stynes, Aaron Dorney, Mark Cleere, Peter Conroy, Brian Moore, Clinton John, Josh Culleton, Cian Farrell, Jamie McGrath, Evan Rowe, Tadhg O'Meara, Luke Morrissey, Sean Keenan, Michael Clarke, Adam Hayes, Christy Murphy, Sean Cullen, Billy Fitzpatrick, Denis Dalton, David Fitzpatrick, Tom O'Neill, Kevin Benny, Joey Dalton, Joey Ryan, Josh Hynes, James Brennan.

Roinn E

Johnstown Cruise to Precious Title
Johnstown 7-9 Galmoy 1-2

Johnstown emerged victorious against near neighbours Galmoy in this Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Educational Supplies' Roinn E final. Johnstown were last winners of a school title in 2001 while Galmoy go back even further to 1995 for their last taste of victory. Easy then to see how much pride was at stake in this final played out in splendid Nowlan Park.

Johnstown opened the scoring with a point from a long range free taken by wing back John Doheny and almost immediately Calum Lonergan levelled the game with a similar score for Galmoy. Pdraig O'Grady edged Johnstown ahead with a well taken point and when Gearoid Phelan combined well with O'Grady the end result was Johnstown's first goal. This began a purple patch for the Fenians' boys and girls. John Doheny landed a further point and when he stood over a 65 m free, he struck it well and it went straight to the Galmoy net. Galmoy replied in earnest now and had a near goal on the puckout but sterling defender Alex Lalor saved the day. His clearance found the on fire John Doheny who made an incisive run through the Galmoy defence and goaled. In an eight minute spell Johnstown had opened a twelve point lead which they held and added to as the game progressed. Calum Lonergan tried with all he could muster to bring his team back into contention.

The second half was brighter for Galmoy and a few early frees went narrowly wide. This dented their confidence somewhat but still full marks to Lonergan and Laura Phelan who hurled on despite the odds against them. Points from Cathal Phelan and John Doheny continued to work the scoreboard for Johnstown. Daniel Hanrahan and David Sherman upped their game for Galmoy but goals from Kady Downey, John Doheny and Cathal Phelan put this game beyond doubt. Consolation scores came from Galmoy hero Calum Lonergan and he added a point from a free to complete his side's score.

This particular 11 a side hurling is purely developmental and teams are embracing the chance to promote hurling in their schools as the opportunity is there now each year for teams to



INTO Handball - Boys' Champions 2016



INTO Handball - Girls' County Champions 2016

play in Nowlan park. Johnstown enjoyed their day in the sun and there is no doubt that Galmoy's day is not very far away.

Johnstown: B Garrett, A Lalor, D McCormack, K Dermody, N McCormack, J Doheny (Capt), G Phelan, P O'Grady, T Sharkey, C Phelan, E Maher.

Subs: K Downey, R Mackey, N Mackey, O Berry, B McEvoy, S McEvoy, D Whelan

Galmoy: C Maloney, J Darcy, R Lonergan, D Hanrahan, P J Delaney, D Sherman, L Phelan, A Duggan, C Lonergan, N Drennan, J Dermody.

Subs: K Ryan, K Doyle, A Sherman, D Bassett, C Darcy, F Lonergan, C Hynes, C McCormack, Campion, U Duggan.

Corn de Bhaldrathie

Gowran Reap Rich Rewards in Double Victory
Gowran 6-4 Graig/Skeoghvosteen 3-9

Gowran emerged from their great Roinn B victory to contest the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Country Cup final against Graig-Skeough. It was billed as the contest of the year in that Graig-Skeough had contested the Roinn A final already and like Gowran they had won their way through the open draw to the final of the country cup. It pitted the two best country primary school teams against each other. They had not played each other previously.

Graig-Skeough opened the scoring, a pointed

free from top marksman Michael Sheehy. The dream start continued for the men from the banks of the Barrow when Sam Byrne found an acre of space in front of the Gowran goal and he duly responded by firing to the net to open a four point lead for his team. Some two minutes later corner forward Jamie Carter fired over his side's first point and Gowran were up and running. When the advantage rule was played in the sixth minute as full forward Mikey Knox was bearing down on goal he did as was intended, took advantage and fired past Graig-Skeough keeper to level the game.

Ted Dunne was causing a lot of problems for Gowran with his many attacks at left half forward and Michael Sheehy added to the menacing attacks and they added two further points to their side's tally. Tommy Phelan was busy in the centre of Gowran's defence and while they had chances during this period they registered two wides one from play and one from a placed ball. The lead was extended to three points for Graig-Skeough when corner forward Simon Connolly fired over a point. The mid field battle was clearly being won by the Graig-Skeough men as Michael Sheehy and Jack Kennedy refused to give an inch.

Gowran defended well as Patrick Lennon closed off many attacks down the right wing. Their efforts were rewarded in the eighteenth minute when Jamie Middleton added a goal to level the game. A long range free from Tommy Phelan reached its target and points from play from wing forward Pdraig Naddy and a pointed free from

A season of sundays



Images of the 2016 Gaelic Games year by the Sportsfile photographers

CARROLL'S

Now in its twentieth year of publication, *A Season of Sundays* again embraces the very heart and soul of Ireland's national games as captured by the award winning team of photographers at the Sportsfile photographic agency. With text by Alan Milton, it is a treasured record of the 2016 GAA season to be savoured and enjoyed by players, spectators and enthusiasts everywhere.



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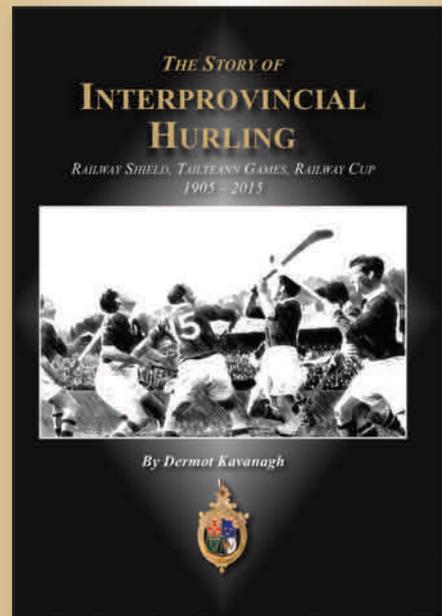
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The Story of Interprovincial Hurling
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Killian Carey opened up a three point lead for Gowran. Graigue Skeough needed a response and it came from the classy Michael Sheehy demonstrating his silken football skills as he deftly finished to the net. The game was level again but not for long. A well timed cross-field pass from mid fielder Brogan Mc Avinney found Jamie Carter well positioned and he finished clinically to the net. Michael Sheehy responded immediately with a point to stay in touch and when the half time whistle sounded Gowran enjoyed a two point advantage.

On resumption of the second half Graig-Skeough added a point from Michael Sheehy but Jamie Carter pounced once again with a well taken goal. Graig-Skeough had a goal denied them with a wonderful interception by wing back Patrick Langton thus preserving his side's one goal lead. However Graig-Skeough drove on relentlessly and pressure from Michael Sheehy at midfield and stout defending from Sean O'Neill and Ivan Bolger in the full back line inspired their team. A 65 metre free was dropped into the square and Sam Byrne was first to react as his well-directed ground stroke made the net dance. The game was now level for the third time. Sheehy and Knox continued to heap the pressure on Gowran but in fairness Sean Fitzpatrick at full back and David Brennan were equal to it for Gowran. Brennan scored an excellent goal fifteen minutes into the half and as was the pattern in this game Graig-Skeough responded immediately, this time a point from Michael Sheehy from a placed ball. As the game moved towards the final whistle the exchanges were frantic between the teams and the very large crowd were now noticeably vocal as they urged on their teams. Graig-Skeough added a further point from a free to reduce the lead to a

single point. Gowran sensed the urgency of the situation and in the closing minute of the game they ran at Graig-Skeough lead by Killian Carey. He bore down on goal and as he entered the square he was challenged high and referee awarded a penalty. A point would leave a two point advantage while a goal would very likely seal the title for Gowran. The pressure shot fell on the shoulders of Killian Carey and he made no mistake as he rifled to the net giving Shane Cleary little chance in the Graig-Skeough goal. It was to be the final score of a fantastic game.

Gowran: B Brennan, R Farrell, S Fitzpatrick, B Higgins, C Fitzgerald, T Phelan, P Lennon (Capt), B McAvinney, J Lennon, D Drennan, K Carey, P Naddy, J Carter, M Knox, J Middleton. Subs: C Kavanagh, C Brennan, L Farrell, M Holland, L Doyle, T Brennan, R Carey, L O'Donnell, E O'Neill, B Phelan, L Phelan, S Simpson.

Graignamanagh-Skeoughvosteen: S Cleary, O Kelly, S O'Neill, I Bolger, D Murphy, D Moran, C Doyle, J Kennedy, M Sheehy, J Whitty, J Dunne, T Dunne, M Fogarty, S Byrne, S Connolly. Subs: S Foley, R Kielthy, S Hamilton, F Gahan, P O'Neill, S O'Brien, A Flood, S Greene, C Jordan, J Kelly, B O'Shea, C Byrne, C Hamilton.

Referee Pascal Connolly

U-11 Roinn A

Kilmanagh NS 2-4 Clara NS 1-6

It was fitting that the first ever Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster U-11 Roinn A final for Country Schools, played in Palmerstown, was contested between two of the traditional power houses of schools hurling.

These two teams emulated previous heroic

performances of their two schools by serving up an epic clash for such tender years with the skill levels on both sides of the highest standard.

Clara got off to a whirlwind start, scoring a goal and a point from full forward Cian Kelly before their opponents settled. A further point from Rory Glynn gave the boys in maroon an early and deserved five point advantage. Kilmanagh roared back into the contest and two well taken points from Aaron McEvoy signalled their intent. A wonderful point while on the run from Ned Langton brought cheers from the Clara contingent and the match was now in full flow.

The hooking, tackling and blocking on view had to be seen to be believed. No quarter was asked or given from these 11, 10 and 9 year olds! Clara continued to impress and a workmanlike score from Harry Boyle restored their five point lead. However all was to change as determined hurling by the likes of Ben Young, Charlie Cleere and Ryan Corcoran kept the Kilmanagh cause coming in waves. Sean McGrath struck for a vital goal as the first half neared its conclusion. These two sides were really bringing the best out of each other.

The half time score read Clara NS 1-4 Kilmanagh NS 1-2

The second half continued to be a titanic struggle with both sides sharing periods of dominance. Aaron McEvoy proved to be a huge influence on proceedings by landing two points to level matters and then he provided the defining score of the day when his goal edged Kilmanagh into a 2-4 to 1-4 lead.

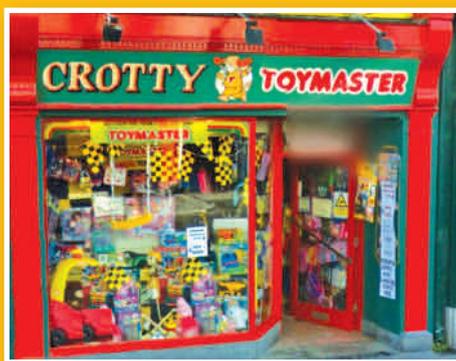
The young boys from Clara responded in typical fashion and laid siege to the Kilmanagh goal for the last ten minutes. Two points, one from play from Jack Lennon and a free from Rory Glynn

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Congratulations to All Cumann na mBunscoileanna Winners in 2016

from left the minimum between the sides. Heroic defending from the boys in blue kept their opponents at bay. The final whistle brought contrasting emotions for the victor and the vanquished but the real winner here was hurling and the fantastic display served up to the supporters of both parishes.

Sean Roberts, Charlie Cleere and Aaron McEvoy were best of an excellent team performance for the winners while Clara also had a team of all-rounders ably led by Diarmuid Langton, Sean Carrigan, Ben Murphy and Rory Glynn.

Kilmanagh: Billy O'Neill, Aidan Cahill, Seán Roberts, Elliot Teehan, James Casey, Charlie Cleere, Ryan Cody, Ben Young, Aaron McEvoy (1-4, 2 Frees), Jake O'Brien, Ryan Corcoran, Jeff Neary, Seán McGrath (1-0), Cillian Brennan, Dean O'Brien.

Subs: Pat Purcell, Martin Brennan, Cillian Hoyne, James Brennan

Clara: Dillon Cummins, Thomas Langton, Ben Murphy, Ben Crowe, Zach Lawlor, Sean Carrigan, Jack Lennon (0-1), Rory Glynn (0-2 frees), Diarmuid Langton, Ned Langton (0-1), Harry Boyle (0-1), Conor Hoyne, Joe Power, Cian Kelly (1-1), Eoin O'Brien

Subs: Jake Maher, Eoin Corr, Shane Walsh, James Cody, John Bergin, Liam Carrigan, Daniel Murphy, Adam Matthews-Downing, Diarmuid Matthews-Downing, Sean Byrne, Connor Lynch,

Kian Kealy, David Barcoe, Bill Kealy

Referee: Podge Butler

**Under 11 Roinn B Final
Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-5 Danesfort 2-3**

The Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Educational Supplies Roinn B Under 11 Final between Danesfort and Tullogher Rosbercon was played at Nowlan Park. Both teams displayed high levels of skill and no shortage of commitment in this close encounter. It was the South Kilkenny school who made the better start and Tullogher found themselves 1-2 to no score ahead after only 4 minutes thanks in part to an early goal from centre-forward, Jack Handrick. Danesfort replied instantly with a goal of their own from corner-forward, Patrick Kelly. A superbly struck long-range from Danesfort's Anthony Ireland followed soon after to reduce the margin to a single point half-way through the first half.

The Tullogher-Rosbercon boys finished the half the stronger and after a goal mouth scramble it was Tullogher's Andrew Murphy who was on hand to find the net on the stroke of half-time and give Tullogher a 4 point lead at the break, 2-2 to 1-1.

Danesfort needed a strong start in the second half and that is exactly what they got with an early point from Anthony Ireland. Three minutes later, Ireland, who was excellent throughout, surged forward from midfield delivering a dangerous ball

towards the Tullogher goal. Ronan Hackett was the man on the end of the move, kicking home from close range to raise Danesfort's second green flag of the game and level the scores.

After a slow start to the half, Tullogher found another gear, leaning on centre-forward Jack Handrick. Handrick scored 1-2 from play in a four minute period and gave the southerners a strong advantage. Danesfort kept at it and points followed from Patrick Kelly and Anthony Ireland and a kicked goal by Ronan Hackett kept spectators on the edge of their seats. However, it was to be Tullogher-Rosbercon's day. A final 65 from wing-back, Sean Ryan sealed the deal and Captain Sean Power lifted the trophy in the Grace Stand after a thrilling encounter from two very strong and skilful teams.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: S Power, C Tobin, JJ Ryan, A Arthurs, D Kennedy, A Lawlor, S Ryan, M Murphy, N Mooney, J Murphy, J Handrick, A Murphy, J Malone, R Murphy, F Connolly.

Subs: K Duggan, S Kinsella, F O'Shea A White, C White, K Cummins, J Cummins, S Handrick, P Doherty.

Danesfort: M Coffey, C O'Reilly, K Walsh, E Srouji, M Kavanagh, H Lanigan, S Gleeson, A Ireland, J Davis, M Srouji, R Hackett, B O'Shaughnessy, P Kelly, B Sinnott, J Kavanagh.

Subs: F Drennan, C Dunne, M Reddy, M Fitzpatrick, L Browne, C Mahony.

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All Ireland SH Colleges Final 2016 By Michael O'Leary



ST KIERAN'S - ALL IRELAND COLLEGES SH CHAMPIONS 2016

Back Row: Oisín Gough, Martin Keoghan, Conor Byrne, Geoff Brennan, James Phelan, Colum Prendiville, William Spencer, Edmond Delaney, Padraic Mullen.

Third Row: Mr Michael Walsh, Victor Costello, Adrian Mullen, Ben Lawler, Eamonn Fennelly, Jake Cullen, Patrick Brennan, Dylan Jordan, Evan Carroll, Tommy Ronan.

Second Row: Mr Ken Maher, Bríon Kirwan, James Mulally, Robert Kerwick, Darragh Phelan, Aidan Nolan, Eoin O'Shea, Ciarán Brennan, Niall Delaney, Brian Crowdle, Mr Liam Smith.

Front Row: Diarmuid Phelan, Joe Cuddihy, Matt Kenny, Joe Connolly, Michael Cody (Vice-Captain), Tommy Walsh (Captain), Edward Moylan, Darren Mullen, Seán Carey, Tom Whitty.

Sor the second time in the schools history, St. Kierans College completed a three-in-a-row of All-Ireland Senior titles as they defeated Ardscoil Ris of Limerick in a pulsating encounter played in Semple Stadium, Thurles on Easter Monday.

It was the third time in 5 years that the two schools played each other in an All-Ireland Final, and on both previous occasions in 2010 and 2011, St. Kierans prevailed narrowly, and a similar outcome but same result transpired last April as the City school retained the Croke Cup winning out 1-15 to 1-13.

However, Kierans had a narrow escape in their first hurdle as they held off the spirited challenge of an unfortunate Borris Vocational School winning out by a solitary point.

Borris led by 0-8 to 1-3 at the interval, but Kierans upped the ante after the restart, and led 1-10 to 0-9 approaching full-time and victory virtually assured.

However, a late Borris goal left Kierans hang on for dear life, and it was such a relief when the full-time whistle sounded.

Kierans gave a much improved performance as they comfortably accounted for Dublin

Colleges 3-11 to 2-7 in the Leinster Semi-Final to set-up an all Kilkenny Leinster Colleges decider against their city rivals CBS.

CBS defeated Good Counsel New Ross and Mountrath on their way to the provincial decider.

The Leinster Final itself was well contested with Kierans coming through in the end.

The sides were level at 1-3 to 0-6 with top scorer Adrian Mullen on target for Kierans.

Mullen scored 1-9 as Kierans emerged victorious 2-12 to 1-11, with Martin Keoghan scoring the victors 2nd goal in the 43rd minute.

CBS were overrelying on the free-taking accuracy of Sean Bolger who scored 0-11 (0-10 frees) and despite a late goal from Marc Drennan, Kierans won out and qualified straight into an All-Ireland Semi-Final.

Kierans All-Ireland Final opponents, Ardscoil Ris of Limerick won their 4th Harty Cup in 6 years when overcoming Our Ladys Templemore in a low scoring Munster-Final, 0-11 to 0-8.

As defeated provincial finalists, Kilkenny CBS went into the back door competition and they

faced Ardscoil Ris in the All-Ireland Quarter-Final.

The Limerick City school prevailed 3-15 to 1-13.

CBS trailed 1-9 to 0-7 at the interval, but it could have been so different had they not as been as wasteful with their shooting.

They shot 9 wides but got themselves back into contention early in the second-half when a Bill Sheehan goal left a solitary point between the sides.

However, Ardscoil Ris effectively killed the game as a contest around the 40th minute mark with goals from Conor Boylan and Padraic O'Loughlin.

All-Ireland Senior Club medal winner with Na Piarasigh Peter Casey was on fire scoring 0-5 from play.

St. Kierans faced up to Harty Cup Finalists Our Lady's Templemore in the semi-final, while Ardscoil Ris played Connacht Champions Presentation Athenry.

Kierans were in in control all the way through, and a very early 2nd minute goal from Colum Prendiville in the 2nd minute put them in the driving seat.



St. Kieran's College's captain Tommy Walsh celebrates with the cup after the game.
Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

They led 1-9 to 0-8 at half-time, before Our Ladys halved the lead on three occasions during the second-half.

However a well worked 2nd goal finished off by Joe Cuddihy condemned Our Ladys and Kierans won by 2-16 to 0-13 to set-up an All-Ireland Final with Ardscoil Ris of Limerick.

Ardscoil Ris prevailed in a thriller 1-10 to 0-20, as Brian Ryan was the match winning hero with a late point in the dying seconds.

The All-Ireland Final was played in Semple Stadium, Thurles on Easter Monday.

The two previous All-Ireland contests between the two schools in 2010 and 2011 were close fought battles, and a similar outcome was expected here, and that's how it ended.

The teams were level at 0-6 each by the 20th minute, before the decisive goal came in the 22nd minute.

Man of the match Joe Cuddihy blasted home a well struck goal to put Kierans in the driving seat as they led 1-8 to 0-7 at the interval.

Ardscoil Ris replied early in the second-half and a Padraic O'Loughlin goal left just a solitary point between the sides.

However, Kierans dug deep and they replied with four unanswered points.

Colum Prendiville pointed before three in a row from Cuddihy stretched the advantage further. 1-12 to 1-7.

Ardscoil Ris replied again and points from Conor Boylan, Paul O'Brien, O'Loughlin and Daragh Cunningham with Edward Boylan on target on Kierans left two points between the teams again as the contest was set-up for a pulsating finish.

Adrian Mullen added an important point for the Saints, before Paul O'Brien pointed two frees in a row to leave the minimum between the teams.

However, Kierans held firm and Joe Connolly struck over the final point as Kierans won out to complete the schools second three-in-a-row in their history having achieved the feat from 1988-1990.

A special mention for both Tommy Walsh and Darren Mullan.

They were the only two who started on all three All-Ireland winning teams with Tommy playing full-back, while Darren captained the team from centre-back.

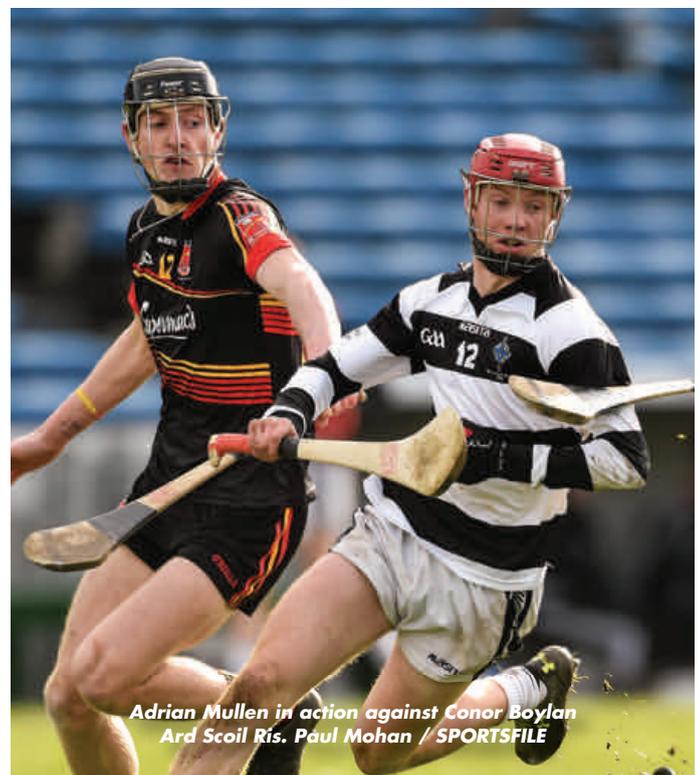
Scorers for St Kieran's: Joe Cuddihy 1-3, Adrian Mullen 0-5 (0-3f), Edmond Delaney, Joe Connolly 0-2 each, Martin Keoghan, Edward Moylan, Colum Prendiville 0-1 each.

Scorers for Ardscoil Ris: Paul O'Brien 0-7 (0-7f), Paraic O'Loughlin 1-2, Conor Boylan 0-2, Brian Ryan, Darragh Cunningham 0-1 each.

St Kieran's Squad: Darragh Phelan (Emeralds), Conor Byrne (James Stephens), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Evan Carroll (Dicksboro), Michael Cody (Dunnamaggin), Darren Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks) (captain), Matt Kenny (Clara), Martin Keoghan (Tullaroan), Edmond Delaney (Conahy Shamrocks), Joe Connolly (Clara), Colum Prendiville (Graigie-Ballycallan), Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Seán Carey (Young Irelands), Joe Cuddihy (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Edward Moylan (Dicksboro) Subs

Aidan Nolan (Dicksboro) for Kenny (inj) (39), Geoff Brennan (Young Irelands) for Carey (59), Niall Delaney (James Stephens) for Byrne (61) Rest of Squad: Ciaran Brennan (St. Martins Muckalee), Brian Kirwan (John Lockes, Callan), Victor Costello (Dunnamaggin), Oisín Gugh (Dicksboro), James Mullally (Danestort), William Spencer (James Stephens)

MANAGEMENT TEAM: Liam Smith, Ken Maher, Michael Walsh



Adrian Mullen in action against Conor Boylan Ard Scoil Ris. Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

COLLEGES NEWS



St Kieran's combined teams with the 2015/2016 silverware haul by their Senior Junior and Juvenile teams



Loreto Kilkenny All-Ireland Colleges' Junior A winning team



Loreto Kilkenny Leinster Colleges' Minor A winning team

As well as winning the All-Ireland Colleges' Junior A and Leinster Colleges' Minor A Finals, Loreto came within a goal of winning the All Ireland Senior Colleges "A" title. Julia White is a current member & former captain of the Cork senior Camogie team and has won 9 Senior All-Ireland medals with Cork and UCL. She joined the staff of the Loreto Secondary School in September 2015 and managed the school's Junior & 7-a-side All-Ireland winning teams as well as the minor team which won their Leinster final and the first team which won their county final. Here are her reflections on the year:

"Despite moving to Kilkenny over a year ago, I never cease to be amazed every time I am in town that I see hoards of young people, both boys and girls, with Hurleys in their hands. Coming from Cork city, it became immediately clear to me why our hurling teams, across all ages, have experienced such little success over the past number of years.... I became involved in coaching the school's Junior and Senior Camogie teams. I had no idea of what sort of level to expect. I knew they'd be good, having vague memories of hearing about them winning a

four in a row a few years ago (Senior Colleges All Ireland Champions 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013) but nothing could have prepared me for some of the exhibitions I had the privilege of witnessing throughout the year on both the training pitch and match days.

While, I enjoyed watching some beautiful pieces of individual skill and wonderfully worked team scores throughout the year (too many to mention) it was the attitude of each and every single one of the girls committed to the sport that really blew me away. The first match I attended, we won by 15 or 16 points. I was impressed. The girls, however, were disgusted with their performance. I learned then that they never cared what the score was. They didn't care if we won by 20 points or 1 point. Every game their goal was to play to their potential and they knew exactly when they did or didn't manage to achieve this. I had never seen such motivation and dedication to succeed among such young people before. Nothing was ever good enough, there was always more to be done. They were greedy and ruthless in their pursuit of success. As the Vince Lombardi saying goes, "perfection isn't attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence". I highly doubt any one of the girls in Loreto has ever heard of Vince Lombardi, however, day in day out, his mantra seemed to emanate from their every pore.

Team play is another thing we are lacking in Cork. Here, it is obvious that no-one cares who gets on the scoreboard. Everything is done for the good of the team....

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent with both teams throughout the year. I was proud of my students involved whose hard work was rewarded on the biggest stage in Croke Park in September. My primary worry however, after seeing first hand the conveyor belt of talented Camogie players being produced in Loreto, is that Kilkenny Camogie will dominate for many years to come. 24 present and past pupils on two All Ireland winning panels is surely unprecedented."



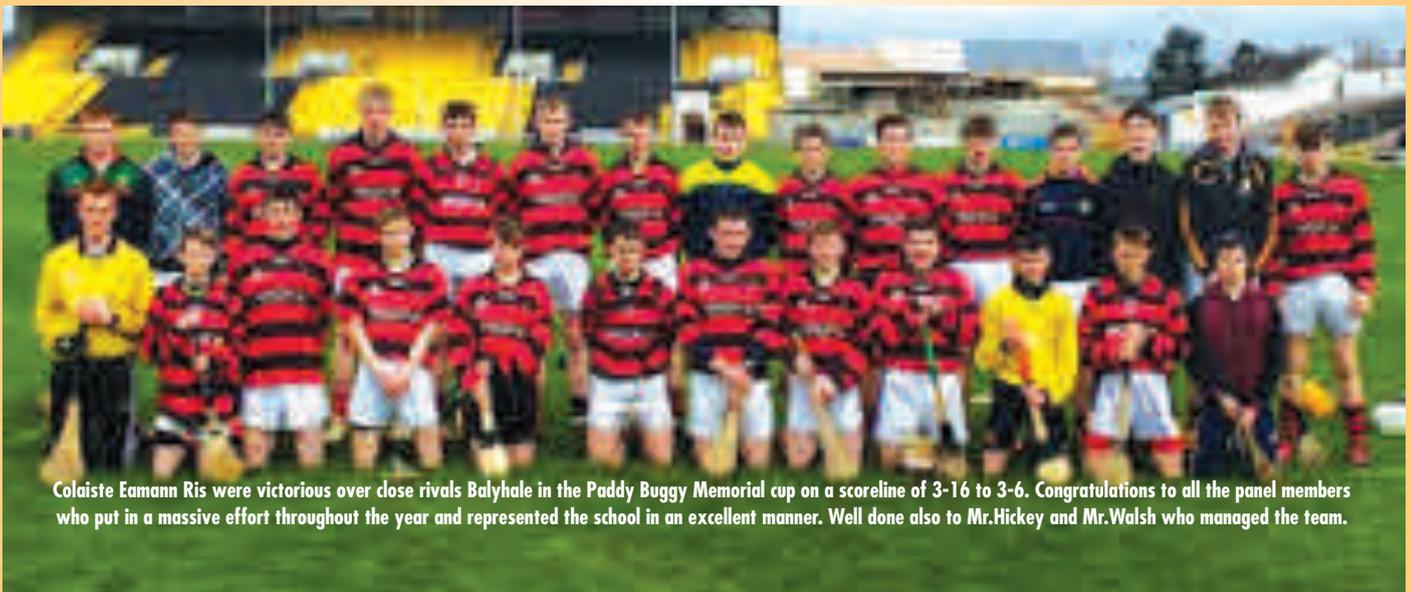
St Kierans Leinster PP Schools Junior Hurling 'A' Champions 2016



Castlecomer CS - St Kierans Leinster PP Schools Junior Hurling 'A' Finalists 2016



Colaiste Mhuire Junior Hurling B South Leinster Finalists 2016



Colaiste Eamann Ris were victorious over close rivals Balyhale in the Paddy Buggy Memorial cup on a scoreline of 3-16 to 3-6. Congratulations to all the panel members who put in a massive effort throughout the year and represented the school in an excellent manner. Well done also to Mr.Hickey and Mr.Walsh who managed the team.



Colaiste Eamann Ris welcomed Carnew to Páirc Eamann Ris on Tuesday (18/10/2016) for the U16 Leinster Semi Final. Two years ago Carnew were victorious over CER in the U14 final so the scene was set for a chance at redemption. After a massive battle, CER ran out winners on a scoreline of 4-8 to 1-16 with heart and hunger major contributing factors in securing victory. Mr Walton, Mr. Ryan and the panel now look forward to the upcoming Leinster Final.

Panel: R. Culleton, S. Dunne, P. O'Callaghan (c), C. Denny, J. O'Brien, D. Bergin, D. Lawlor, L. Walsh, P. Brennan, S.Lawlor, J. Doheny, S. Morris, C. Lawlor, M. Power, L. Hennessy, A. McLawrence, A. Wall, D. Carroll, J. Donegan, S. Grace, D. Delaney, E. Donnelly, A. Homan, S. Corcoran



Our U-14 hurlers had an excellent day out in the Croke Park on Monday (25/9/16) at the U-14 Super Games. Colaiste Eamann Ris were joined by a number of schools from each province. The players from each school were split up and joined together with other schools, credit must be given to the players for coming together and hurling alongside each other with boys they have never met before. The games were 9-a-side and players rotated positions getting an invaluable experience of playing all over Croke Park. The boys got to play 3 matches each and the games ran over a period of two hours.



Kilkenny CBS - Leinster Senior Colleges Finalists 2016

Development Squads



Kilkenny Under-14 Development Squads in 2016 saw 117 boys take part in the Hurling squads broken into North, South and Central regions. 2016 also saw a return to Gaelic Football Development squads with 69 players from 19 clubs taking part.

The return of Under-14 development squads in Gaelic Football will be viewed as one of the successes of the year. It followed the adverse publicity of the minors Leinster campaign. Former hurling great DJ Carey led by example, showing great leadership and committing his time and energy to the young footballers of Kilkenny. He was joined by hurling coaches Seamus Norris (Piltown) and Murt Flynn (Tullogher Rosbercon), Games Development Officer Brian Ryan and Danesfort men, Thomas Rossiter and Angelo Cullen. A number of sessions where every club was invited to send players where held at the MW Hire Training Centre in Dunmore in advance of a Leinster Blitz in May. Although games against Carlow and Limerick did not yield victories, the short space of development ensured competitive performances and the potential for further improvement.

The summer months saw further sessions including games against the county Féile representatives, Dicksboro and Thomastown in preparation for a second Leinster Blitz in July in Longford. Kilkenny were in a group with two Longford teams and Leitrim. The two Longford teams were of equal strength and despite a good performance in the first game, Kilkenny lost. However, progress was being made and the management team and the players rallied themselves for the second Longford game. The result was a favourable 6-13 to 2-10 win, the first by a juvenile Kilkenny football team in four years. It proved that Kilkenny boys can be competitive in Gaelic Football and it high-

lighted what can be achieved in a short space of time with the commitment from the many football people around the county. The challenge for the clubs in 2017 is to allow the natural enthusiasm of Kilkenny boys to play Gaelic Football and to encourage them. Of the 117 boys who played hurling, only 48 made panels for the Waterford tournament. However, a number of others got to be part of the historic day with Kilkenny Gaelic Football in Longford. The "DJ" factor created national interest but so too did the unexpected success of the players.

The hurling squads held 10 regional sessions which were open to all squad players nominated by the clubs. The squads for the Waterford tournaments were not cemented until the beginning of August. As is now normal the year started with a panel of players travelling Belfast to play Antrim. In May the leading contenders for tournament places played against Waterford. In June, combined regional sessions took place at the Kells Road, one of which became the focus of a Channel 4 documentary introduced by Ardal O'Hanlon (aka Fr. Dougal). July saw games for multiple squads against Dublin, Limerick, Waterford and Cork as well as the regions taking part in inter county blitzes in Thurles and Laois. As the Tony Forristal and Sonny Walsh squads emerged, three weeks of preparation as a panel took place which included challenge games against Clare opposition.

The national tournament took place in Waterford on the last weekend of August. The "A" team was based in St. Saviours, Ballybeg and started with an easy win over Offaly. The was followed by an epic victory over neighbours, Tipperary in a bruising encounter by 2-8 to 1-8 which meant Kilkenny once again topped their group. The injuries received in the Tipperary game

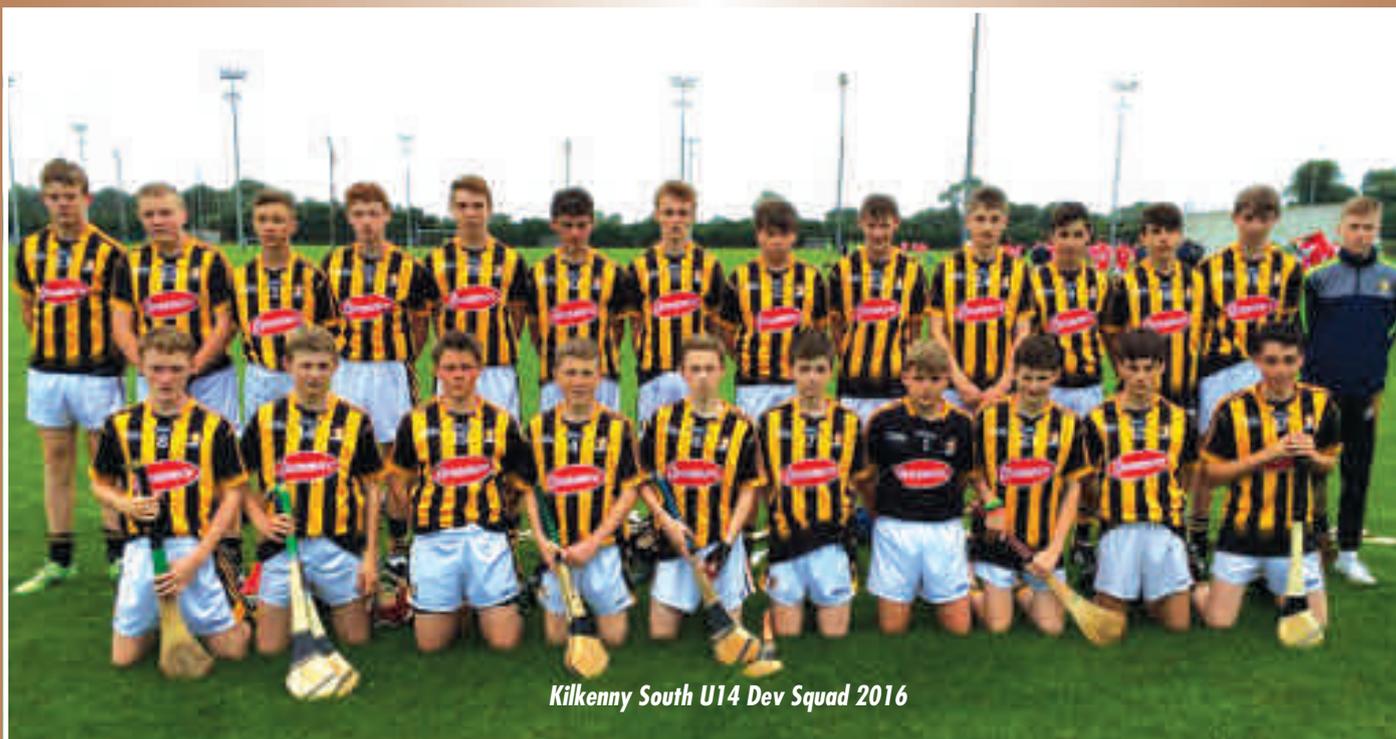
took its toll as Kilkenny were overcome in the semi final by eventual Tony Forristal champions Cork. However, the Kilkenny team were competitive enough to give Cork their hardest test on the way. The management team was Seamus Norris (Piltown), Murt Flynn (Tullogher Rosbercon, Simon Walton (Dicksboro) and John Buggy (Erins Own). The "B" team were competitive in their base at De La Salle, but just came up short against Tipperary and Waterford. The "B" management team was James Dowling (St. Patricks), Tommy Brennan (Erins Own), Jim Neary (Dicksboro) and Lar McEvoy (St. Patricks).

The year finished with the Sonny Walsh squad and two other squads making the trip to the Hawkfield Centre of Excellence in Kildare to play three Kildare teams. A venture which gave every squad player the chance to have worn the Kilkenny jersey and it also showed the great progress in development that had been

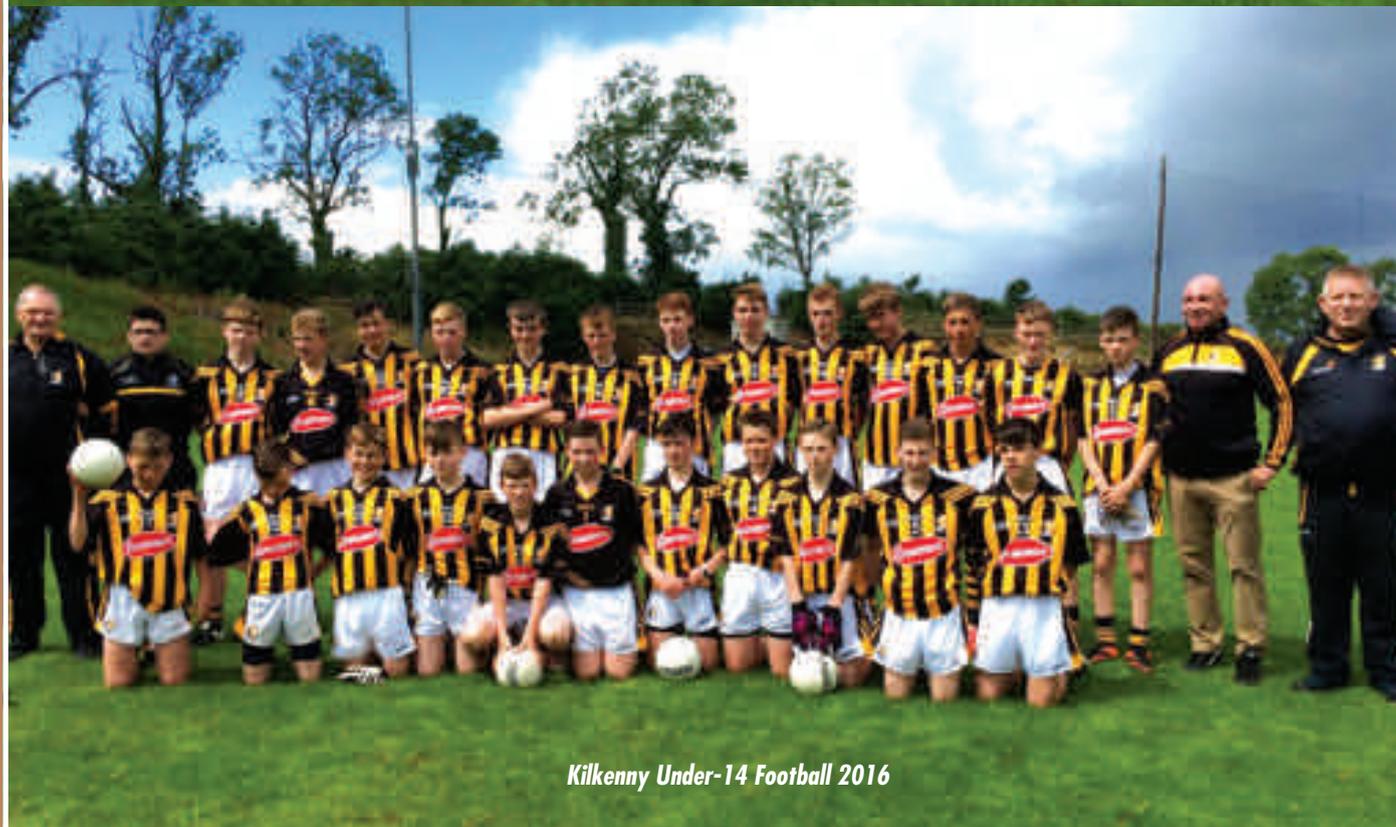
made with the players during 2016. The challenge for 2017 will be to continue to be open to new challenges in player development and in particular around the area of new inter county age groups that are almost upon us.

South Squad Coaches: Seamus Norris (Piltown), Murt Flynn (Tullogher Rosbercon), John McCormack (James Stephens), Ray Byrne (Glenmore) and Ger Kirwan (Thomastown)
 Central Squad Coaches: Matt Ruth (James Stephens), Jim Neary (Dicksboro), John Carroll (Graignamanagh), Simon Walton (Dicksboro), Sean Brennan (James Stephens) and Tadgh O'Donoghue (James Stephens)

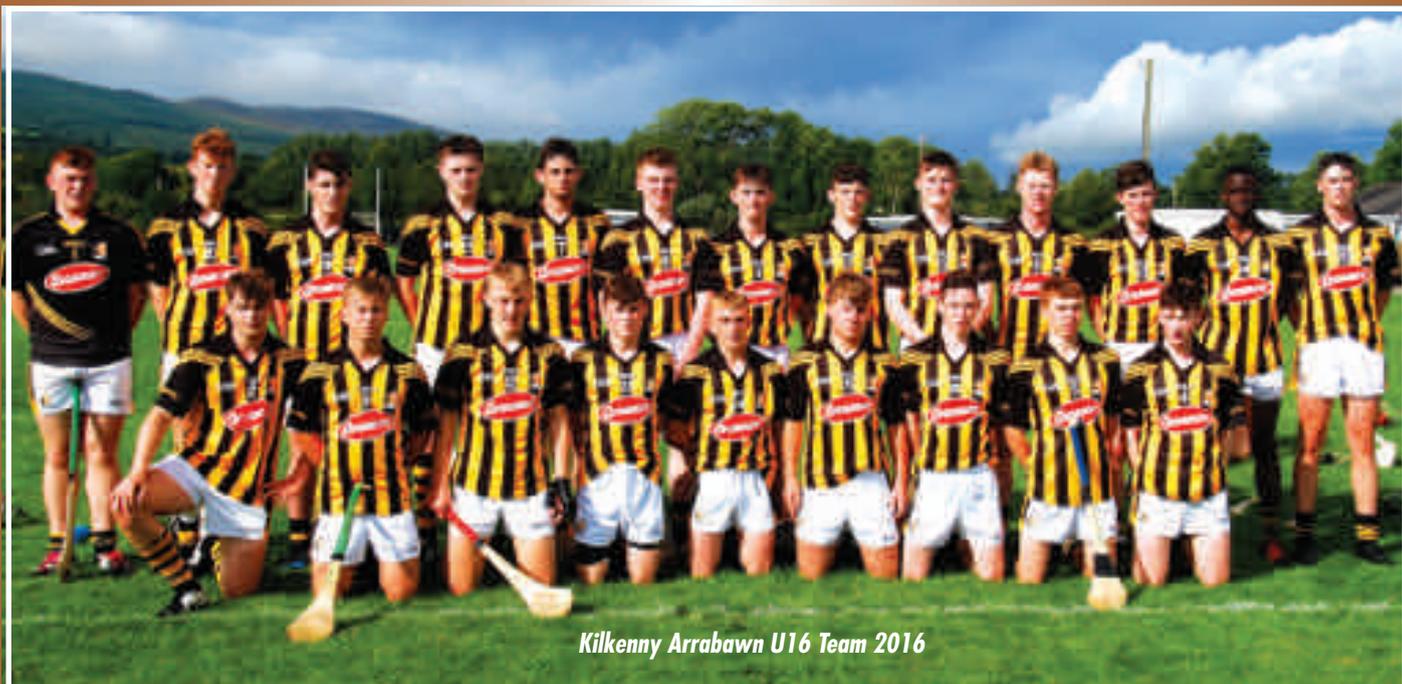
North Squad Coaches; James Dowling (St. Patricks), Tommy Brennan (Erins Own), John Buggy (Erins Own) and Lar McEvoy (St. Patricks).



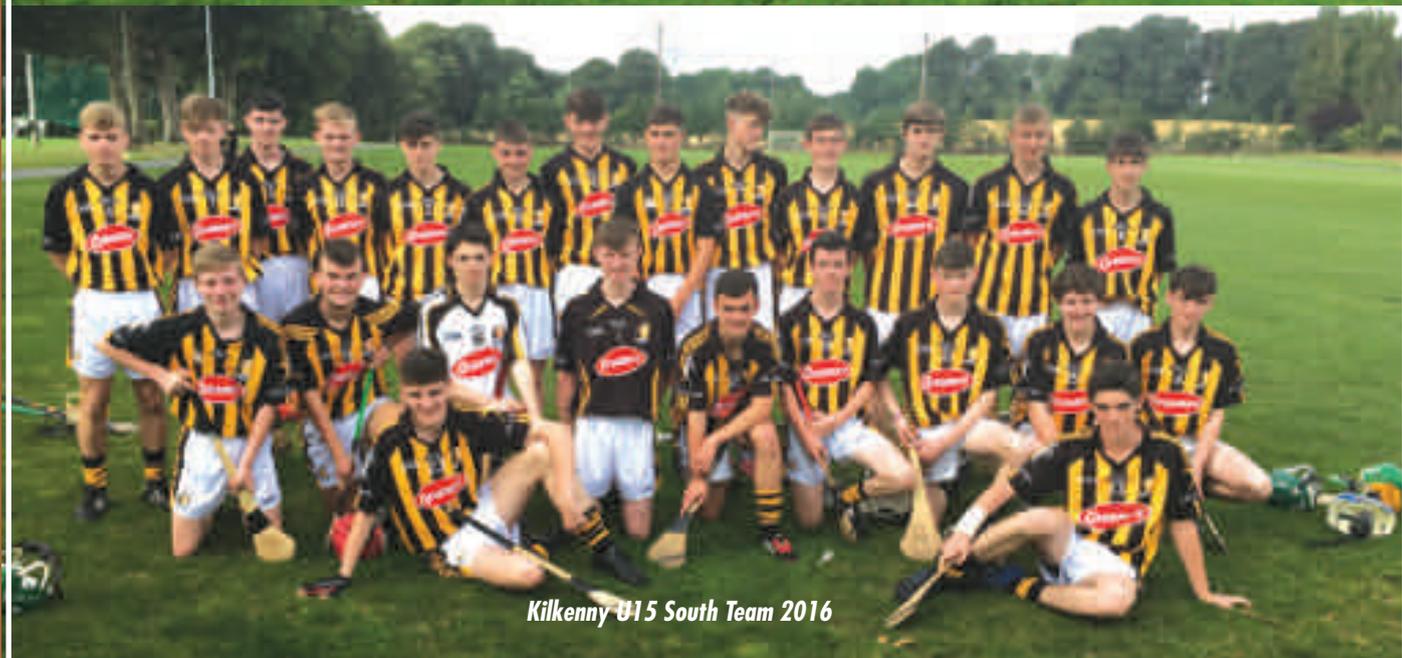
Kilkenny South U14 Dev Squad 2016



Kilkenny Under-14 Football 2016



Kilkenny Arrabawn U16 Team 2016



Kilkenny U15 South Team 2016



Kilkenny U17 Team who won the Eugene Carey Memorial trophy in Mallow

SUMMER CAMPS



ST KIERAN'S



ST KIERAN'S



KILMACOW



KILMACOW



MULLINAVAT



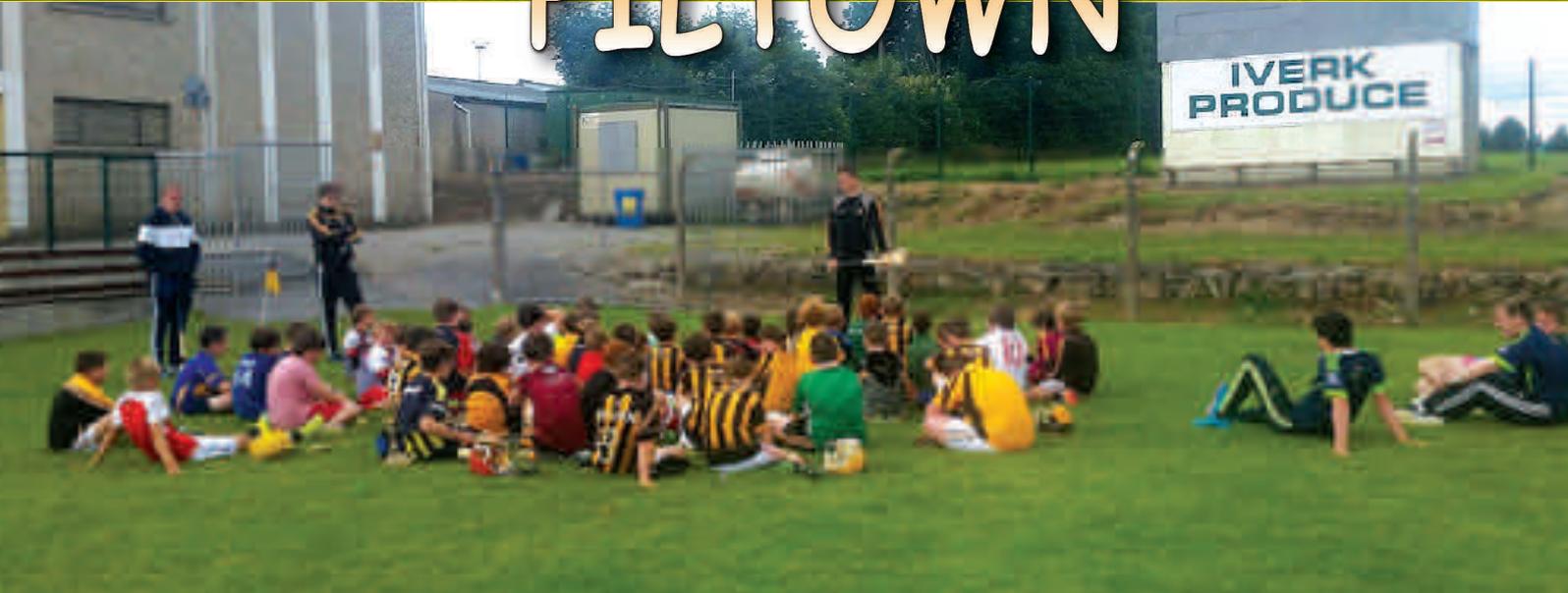


MULLINAVAT





PILTOWN



THOMASTOWN



THOMASTOWN



THREE IN A ROW FOR RAILYARD

Football Report
By Michael O'Leary



(Photo Willie Dempsey)

RAILYARD - COUNTY SF CHAMPIONS 2016

Back Row: Patrick Brennan, Noel Roche, Giaran Farnan, Brian McDonald, Paul Donnelly, Eoin Doyle, Kevin Delaney, Paul Kelly

Middle Row: Mick Mooney, Michael Delaney, Fergal Brennan, Paul Roche, Noel Rafferty, Ronan Walsh, Cormac McDonald, Kevin Phillips, Brian Cahill, Kieran Whelan, Sean O'Neill, David O'Neill, Paul O'Neill

Front Row: MJ Feehan, Conor Delaney, Eddie Roche, Paddy McGonigle, Sean O Dowd, Caleb Roche, Conor McDonald, David Roche, Philip Roche, Sean Geoghegan, John Mansfield, Dean Shortall



(Photo Willie Dempsey)

KILMOGANNY - COUNTY SF FINALISTS 2016

Back: Jim Fallon, Aidan Donovan, Tommy Maher, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Jason Doherty, Jack Brett, Eoghan Kearney, Paul Kirwan, Willie Bergin, Seaghan O'Neill.

Middle: Donal O'Shea, Brian Farrell, Peter Kenneally, Noel Hickey, John Fitzpatrick, Mark Heffernan, Willie Phelan, Kieran Bergin, Canice Hickey.

Front: Paddy Delaney, Darren Fitzpatrick, Mark Dowling, Liam Heffernan, Aaron Doherty, Sean Connery, Davy Herity, Ronan Coffey, Kenny Moore.

SENIOR REPORT

Having lost out to them by six points in the Senior League Semi-Final (1-8 to 0-5), Railyard got their revenge where it mattered the most when they defeated Kilmoganny 1-8 to 2-3 to win their third consecutive County Senior Football title on the May Bank Holiday weekend.

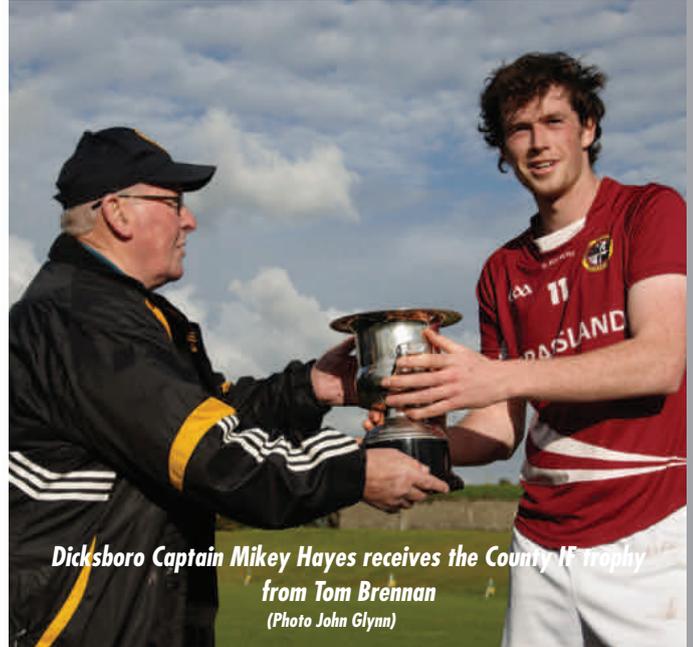
Both teams came through contrasting semi-finals with Railyard edging out their near neighbours Muckalee 0-7 to 0-6, while Kilmoganny eased to

William Phelan levelled proceedings with the equalizing point for Kilmoganny on the quarter-hour mark, but Railyard replied with points from a Caleb Roche free and a Noel Rafferty point, 1-3 to 1-1.

Kilmoganny replied and grabbed a goal just before half-time when Darren Fitzpatrick set-up Ronan Coffey for a well taken goal, but Sean Dowd replied for the victors with the equalizing point to leave the teams at the interval, 1-4 to 2-1.



Railyard Captain Conor McDonald receives the County SF trophy from Tom O'Reilly (Chairman)
(Photo Willie Dempsey)



Dicksboro Captain Mikey Hayes receives the County IF trophy from Tom Brennan
(Photo John Glynn)

victory accounting for St. Patricks Ballyragget 3-12 to 1-5.

With a highly impressive semi-final victory behind them, and victory over their opponents in the semi-final of the league, Kilmoganny would have been favourites to deny the North Kilkenny men three-in-a-row.

However, Kilmoganny found a Railyard outfit who were so driven and determined to complete their hat-trick that they weren't going to be denied. Railyard are the kingpins of Kilkenny Football and last May's County Final triumph was their 22nd in total.

As mentioned the three-in-a-row was complete, and the first part of the hat-trick in 2014 was their first County Senior title since 1999. That was a famine for a club of such footballing tradition and history.

It was the 5th three-in-a-row in the club's history.

Railyard made an excellent start and took early control in the 8th minute when Sean Dowd punched to the net after Kevin Philips' initial shot came off the upright.

Ronan Walsh added a point, but Kilmoganny replied when Kieran Bergin set-up Ronan Coffey for a well taken goal, 1-1 to 1-0.

David Herity and Caleb Roche exchanged points early in the second-half, but scores were extremely difficult to come by afterwards.

Herity regained the lead for Kilmoganny with a point in the 44th minute, but that was to be their final score as Railyard added three points inside the final quarter.

Caleb Roche, Noel Rafferty and substitute Fergal Brennan all found the target as Railyard completed the three-in-a-row.

Scorers – Railyard: Sean Dowd 1-1, Caleb Roche 0-3 (frees), Noel Rafferty 0-2, Ronan Walsh and Fergal Brennan 0-1 each, Kilmoganny: Ronan Coffey 2-1, David Herity (free) and William Phelan 0-1 each

Railyard: John Mansfield, Paddy McConigley, Philip Roche, David Ozzie Roche, Paul Kelly, Paul Roche, Noel Roche, Conor McDonald (captain), Kevin Philips, Noel Rafferty, Cormac McDonald, Ronan Walsh, Brian Cahill, Caleb Roche, Sean Dowd
Subs: Fergal Brennan, Eddie Roche, David O'Neill,



(Photo John Glynn)

DICKSBORO - COUNTY IF CHAMPIONS 2016

Back: James Gittens, Shane O'Brien, John Hanrick, Marco Russman, Bill Sheehan, Paul O'Flynn, Kevin Nolan, Mikey Hayes (Capt), Eoin Fennelly, Martin Gaffney, Eoin McCormick. Front: William Cuddihy, Aidan Nolan, Robbie Murphy, Conor Doheny, DD Molloy, Eddie O'Donoghue, Edward Moylan, Mick McAdden, Philly Hogan, Cillian Starr, Darragh Holohan. Missing from photo: Enda O'Donoghue and Aaron Duggan.



(Photo John Glynn)

BLACKS & WHITES - COUNTY IF FINALISTS 2016

Back: Joss Murphy, Aron Foley, Michael Barcoe, Damien O'Dowd, Emmett Foley, Aidan O'Dowd, Michael (Mo) Moloney, Edward Murphy, Peter (Chap) Cleere, John Murphy, Ian Foley, Pdraig Joyce.

Front: Martin Kelly, Richard Barcoe, Paddy Cushen, Brian Cleere, Paul Murphy, John Lennon, Stewart Maher, Anthony Barcoe, Brian Barcoe, Michael (Crow) Moloney

Kilmoganny: Aaron Doherty, Liam Heffernan, Noel Hickey, Mark Heffernan, Mark Dowling, Canice Hickey, Eoghan Kearney, William Phelan (captain), Sean Connery, Kenny Moore, David Herity, Darren Fitzpatrick, Ronan Coffey, Kieran Bergin, Tommy Maher,
Subs: Peter Kenneally, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Paddy Delaney,
 Meanwhile, at time of writing, the Junior Championship and League competitions still have to be completed.

Blacks and Whites and Erins Own of Castlecomer still have to play the League Final, while in the Junior competition, the Championship still hasn't gotten underway and the League Final between Railyard and Carrickshock still has to be played.

INTERMEDIATE REPORT

Boro's blistering start seals Inter football glory

It wasn't till late October, but Dicksboro won the Intermediate Football crown when they defeated Blacks and Whites 3-8 to 1-3, played in splendid Autumnal sunshine in Bennettsbridge.

The Boro took a stranglehold right from the off and already they were 2-0

to 0-0 ahead after three minutes with Mick McAdden and Paul O'Flynn finding the target.

Edward Moylan added two points from play in the 7th and 9th minute, before Blacks and Whites replied.

They opened their account with a point from play in the 16th minute, before adding a goal as just four points separated the sides.

Moylan and McAdden added points late in the first-half as Dicksboro led 2-4 to 1-1 at the interval.

Bill Sheehan pointed from play early in the second-half, before Moylan stretched the lead with a pointed free as Boro asserted control entering the final quarter, 2-6 to 1-1.

Blacks and Whites added a point to narrow the deficit, before Dicksboro goalkeeper DD Molloy pulled off a superb point blank save to deny Blacks and Whites a certain goal which would have given the Skeough club hope. However, inspired by Molloy's superb save, Dicksboro pushed on and added a point from Mick McAdden entering the final ten minutes.

Victory was completed when substitute Daragh Holohan, fresh from the bench rounded off a solid team performance with a well taken goal in the 58th minute.



(Photo Willie Dempsey)

Kilkenny Football Team v London

Back: Dan McCormack, John Walsh, Cormac McDonald, Paddy McConigley, Philip Roche, Noel Darcy, Paul Donnelly, Peter McBride.

Middle: Donnacha O'Connor, Noel Rafferty, Ger Malone, Paul Kelly, Sean O'Mahony, James Culleton, Pat Hartley, Darragh Brennan, JJ Sullivan.

Front: Brian Cahill, Jason Shiely, Caleb Roche, Conor McDonald, Kevin O'Brien, Ronan Coffey, David Hartley, James Mackey.

Both sides added a point each late-on as the Boro completed a comprehensive victory.

Victory would have been far greater only for the 18 wides that Dicksboro kicked over the hour.

The Boro defence were completely dominant, stifling the threat of the Blacks and Whites attack, while Eoin Fennelly and Martin Gaffney gained complete supremacy around the middle third area.

The majority of the scoring threat in attack came from the inside forward line of Edward Moylan, Mick McAdden and Paul O'Flynn who contributed 2-6 of their sides total.

Blacks and Whites: Anthony Barcoe, Pdraig Joyce, Peter Cleere, Michael "Mo" Moloney, Emmet Foley, Paul Murphy, John Murphy, Edward Murphy, Aidan O'Dowd, Jamie Byrne, John Lennon, Martin Kelly, Stuart Maher, Michael "Crow" Moloney, Brian Barcoe.

Subs: Damien O'Dowd, Joss Murphy, Richie Barcoe, Brian Cleere, Patrick Cushen.

Dicksboro: DD Molloy, Conor Doheny, Kevin Nolan, Eoin McCormack, Eddie O'Donoghue, Enda Malone, Philly Hogan, Eoin Fennelly, Martin Gaffney, Bill Sheehan, Mikey Hayes, Enda O'Donoghue, Mick McAdden, Paul O'Flynn, Edward Moylan.,

Subs: Robbie Murphy, Darragh Holohan, They also brought on no. 27 but only 26 listed in program

INTER-COUNTY REPORT

After last year's success in which they won the British Junior Championship, before producing a valiant effort in which they lost out to Mayo in the All-Ireland Semi-Final, there was disappointment this year, as Kilkenny lost out at the Quarter-Final stage to Scotland.

Kilkenny began their Championship at home to London in Nowlan Park, in a match that served as curtain raiser to Dublin's Leinster Championship game against Laois.

Played in the sweltering heat in glorious Summer sunshine on the Saturday of the June Bank Holiday weekend, there was disappointment for Kilkenny as they lost out 4-6 to 0-9.

Hopes were high for Kilkenny at the interval as they only trailed by a

solitary point, 1-4 to 0-6, but two goals from the English men early in the second-half gave Kilkenny a mountain to climb.

A fourth London goal late on from John Daly – his 2nd goal of the match – killed off the Cats' challenge, and despite an exceptional individual performance from Celeb Roche who kicked 0-8 of his sides total – 0-4 from play -, the goals conceded were the ultimate killer.

Attention turned to their next game in Glasgow, away to Hertfordshire and Kilkenny made short work across the water winning easily 8-18 to 1-7.

That set-up a return to Glasgow for their Quarter-Final clash against Scotland, and despite Kilkenny's best attempts they went down 1-9 to 1-7.

KILKENNY SQUAD: JJ Sullivan (St. Patricks, Ballyragget), James Mackey (Windgap), Conor McDonald (Railyard), Kevin O'Brien (O'Loughlin Gaels), Paddy McConigley (Railyard), Ger Malone (Mullinavat), Philip Roche (Railyard), Sean Mahony (Thomastown), James Culleton (Mullinavat), David Herity (Kilmoganny), Caleb Roche (Railyard), Noel Rafferty (Railyard), Ronan Coffey (Dunnamaggin), Pat Hartley (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Jason Shiely (Tullagher), Cormac McDonald (Railyard), John Walsh (Mullinavat), Dan McCormack (John Lockes, Callan).

Elsewhere, the Minors endured the lowest point in Kilkenny Football history when they were annihilated by a staggering 70 point margin against Wexford in the first round of the Leinster Minor Championship back in April.

A 17-20 to 0-1 scoreline tells it's own story and unsurprisingly Kilkenny pulled out of the Championship shortly afterwards, as they conceded a walkover to Carlow.

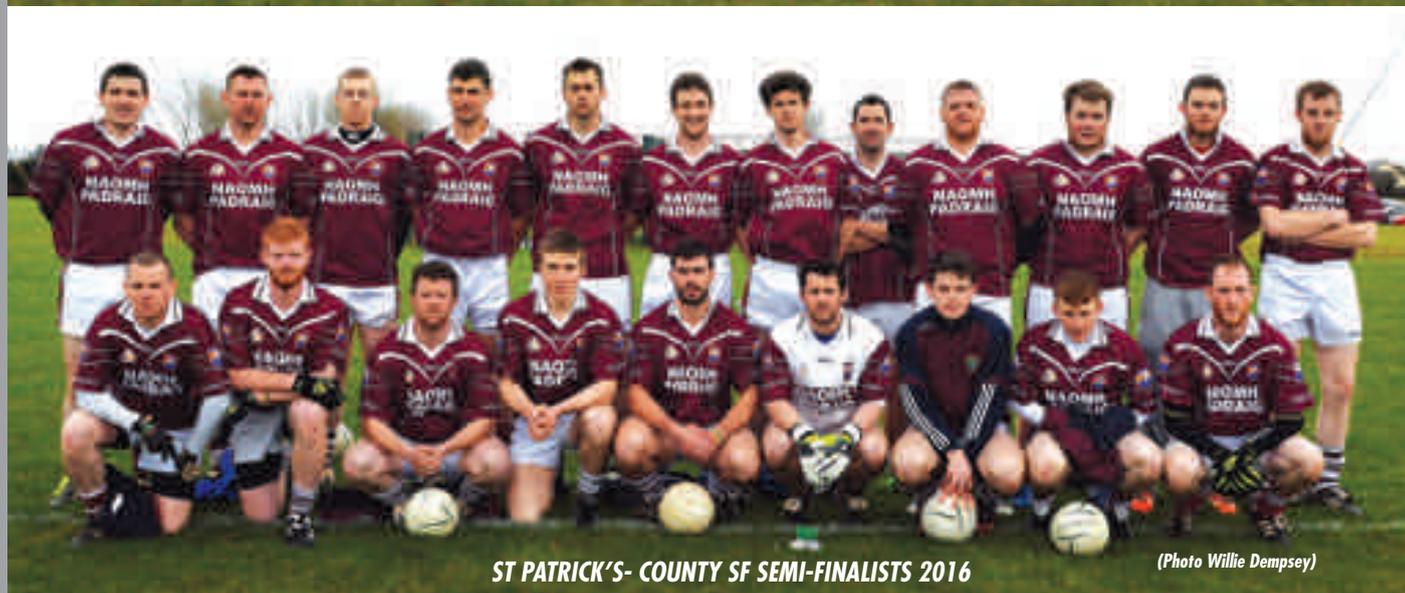
With an embarrassing scoreline like that, the question has to be asked about the capability of Kilkenny competing in provincial championships, when clearly they are out of their depth.

Also, the humiliating manner of that defeat may have psychological long-term effects for the youngster who played who endured such a horrendous experience on a sad day for Kilkenny Football.



MUCKALEE - COUNTY SF SEMI-FINALISTS 2016

(Photo Willie Dempsey)



ST PATRICK'S- COUNTY SF SEMI-FINALISTS 2016

(Photo Willie Dempsey)

HANDBALL SUFFERS TREMENDOUS LOSS

HANDBALL REPORT by MARTIN LALOR PRO



Michael Ducksie Walsh RIP

Handball Suffers Tremendous Loss

As the curtain comes down on another Handball year, the sudden death of Kilkenny legend Michael Ducksie Walsh overshadowed all the on court activity during 2016. Regarded as the greatest player of all time, the Talbotts Inch star set records that are unlikely to be ever equalled. During his career, Ducksie was recognised as a future star at an early age, winning all the major juvenile titles on offer, before going on to win an incredible 38 Senior All Ireland titles. A true legend of Irish sport, Ducksie died unexpectedly after a short illness in early August, thus casting a cloud over the handball family throughout Ireland, and the handball world. Kilkenny also lost long serving player and coach, Pat O'Keeffe from Mullinavat during the year. Ar dheis dei go raibh siad.



Pat O'Keeffe RIP

On the playing front, Kilkenny enjoyed another successful year, with a large number of National title won by players from various clubs in the county.

40 X 20

While Kilkenny contested a number of All Ireland adult finals, it was fitting that Ducksie Walsh brought home the only Singles title when regaining his Masters crown by defeating Antrim's Sean Devine, 21-15, 21-5, thus securing his tenth win in this grade in eleven



Kilkenny U12.13 Team 2016



Kilkenny U14,15 Team of 6

seasons. The only blemish was in 2015 when he lost to Tipperary, a loss he avenged in this year's semi-final. In the Masters Doubles decider, Ducksie teamed up with DJ Carey to secure another win in this grade when they defeated Devine and his partner, Seamus O'Tuama in two sets 21-12, 21-11. There was also success for the Mothel/O'Loughlins partnership of Johnny Brennan and Joe Hennessy as they secured the Emerald Masters A Doubles title when seeing off the challenge of Thomas Maguire and Anthony Caddell

(Antrim) 21-19, 21-14 in two close games. Elsewhere, Ciaran Neary (Talbotts Inch) and Brendan Burke (Kells) came up short for the second successive year in the All Ireland Intermediate Doubles final when losing to Tyrone's Johnny Woods and Conor McElduff, 21-11, 21-19. In the Diamond Masters B Doubles grade, Mullinavat's Joe Anthony and Gerry Murphy from Goresbridge won their way through to the All Ireland decider where they went down to a third set defeat to Mayo's Columba Holleran and Jimmy



Left: Jack Buggy and Billy O'Neill, U15 Champions 40X20, Middle: Dearbhail O'Keefe, Right: Cathal and Aidan Barry U17



Left: Mary Ellen Phelan, Middle: Kyle Dunne, Right: Laura Foley and Edel Mulholland 2016

Sheridan, 21-9,6-14,21-14.

At Juvenile level, Kilkenny enjoyed great success in this year's 40 x 20 championships when winning six of the sixteen All Ireland titles on offer and also taking gold in the two of the three team finals. In a very successful season for local players, there was an even split, three each, between the boys and girls when it came to winning All Ireland titles.

At Boys under 14 level, Kyle Dunne (Clogh) had a magnificent victory when defeating Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan) in a two hour marathon. Showing fantastic resilience, the North Kilkenny player showed a never say die attitude to scrape home, 15-9,12-15,15-14 in what was a titanic struggle for both players. In the Girls U15 championships there was double delight for local players as they captured both titles on offer. In the Singles final, Mary Ellen Phelan (Galmoy) scored a comprehensive win over Claire Reynolds (Mayo), 15-4,15-3, and in the Doubles decider, the Windgap/O'Loughlins combination of Laura Foley and Edel Mulholland recorded a 15-11,15-13 victory against Tyrone's Meabh McCrystal and Emer Kerr. The next All Ireland title collected by Kilkenny on the day at Kingscourt was in Boys U15 Doubles when Clogh pair, Jack Buggy and Billy O'Neill defeated Cavan's Diego DiFolco and Emmet Boylan, 15-2, 15-9. In the U17 grade, Dearbhail O'Keefe (Kilfane) was too strong for Sligo's Laura Finn, winning 21-19, 21-6, and to round off a great day for Kilkenny handball, Clogh twins Aidan and Cathal Barry captured the Boys U17 Doubles crown when getting the better of Tyrone in three sets, 21-17,12-21,11-3.

There was disappointment for Connor Drennan (Galmoy) and Ciáran Cooney (Clogh) as they suffered defeat at the hands of Tyrone's Cormac Munroe and Lorcan McBride in three games, 19-21, 21-6, 11-6.

In the All Ireland team events, Kilkenny scored fantastic wins in the Boys U12/13 and Boys U14/15 events. The U12/13 side registered a 58-26 win over Cork in the semi-final, sealing the title with a 60-18 triumph against Cork in the decider. The U14/15 team accounted for Clare in their All Ireland semi-final win, 60-29, going on to defeat Down in the decider, 87-31. In the Boys U16/17 Team of four semi, Kilkenny lost to a strong Cork outfit, 60-12.

The Kilkenny teams and coaches were;

U12/13 - Kyle Jordan, Conor Holden (Kilfane), Billy Drennan, Gearoid Phelan, Daniel Hanrahan David Sherman (Galmoy) Sean Purcell, Sean Barron (Windgap).

Coaches- Liam Drennan, Noel Holden and Jimmy Purcell.

U14/15 - U14/15 -Jamie Maher, Eamonn Brennan (Clogh),Jack Doyle, Pauric Foley, Eoin O' Brien, Robert Culleton (Windgap), Jack Hanrahan (Galmoy), Michael Prendergast (Kells). Coaches Michael Maher & Shane Doyle.

U16/17 - Eoin Regan (Clogh), Michael Power, Nick O'Shea (Kells), Pdraig O'Neill, Keelin O'Grady(Goresbridge). Coaches Gerry Murphy & John Regan.

Colleges and Irish Nationals produced more success for Kilkenny Handballers.

In Colleges Junior Singles, Jack Holden (Grennan College) defeated Eoghan McGinnity (St.Macartans, Monaghan), 15-8, 15-5, while Dearbhail O'Keefe (Grennan College) and Eoin Brennan (St.Kierans College) were runners up in Girls Junior Singles and Boys Intermediate Singles, respectively. The Irish Nationals produced two champions in the Mens A and Masters grades. Ciáran Neary (Talbots Inch) defeated Michael Hedigan (Cork) for the Mens A crown, 15-9,15-14, and in the overage competition, Ducksie Walsh continued his domination of the event when he, again, beat Sean Devine (Antrim), 15-4,15-6. In the underage grades, Noelle Dowling (Mothel) was runner up in Girls 13 and under, while Jack Doyle (Windgap) lost to the impressive Josh Kavanagh (Wexford) in Boys 13 and under.

60 x 30

As the handball season progressed, the focus switched to the traditional 60 x 30 championships. Here, Kilkenny were once again victorious in a number of grades winning five All Ireland titles at adult level, along with two juvenile crowns.

Pride of place in the adult championships goes to Shane Dunne (Clogh) as he cruised to the All Ireland Minor Singles title with a comprehensive 21-9, 21-10 win over Diarmuid Mulkerrins (Galway). Fellow Clogh pair, Billy Love and Ned Lawlor captured their first All Ireland crown when defeating Sligo's Peter Chambers and Michael Murphy 21-2, 21-17 in the Emerald Masters B Doubles final. In the Diamond Masters A Doubles decider, Johnny Brennan and Joe Hennessy added the big court crown when they beat Galway's Jimmy Connaughton and Martin Ward, 21-12,21-7.

In the Ladies championships, local players continued to make a big impression on the national stage. In the All Ireland Intermediate Doubles championship, the Kilfane / Clogh duo of Rachel Hogan and Claire Love gained their Senior status for 2017 with a 21-0, 21-12 victory against Siobhain Tully and Laura Mannion (Roscommon). There was also All Ireland success in the Ladies Minor Doubles final when Kilfane's Aoife Holden and Ailis O'Shea scored a pulsating 21-12, 20-21, 21-20 win in a marathon match.

Newly formed club, St.Patricks got off to a great start when they won the All Ireland 60 x 30 Junior B Team of Four championship. The victorious team was; Michael Conville, Paddy Delaney, Stephen Fitzpatrick and Stephen O'Reilly.

Kilkenny also suffered a number of defeats in 60 x 30 All Ireland finals. In the



**Top: Ailis O'Shea and Aoife Holden
Middle: Jack Doyle and Pdraig Foley
Bottom: St.Patricks Club Team of Four**



Left: Kilkenny U12,13 60X30 Winners Right: Kilkenny U16,17 60 X30 Winners



Left: Billy Love and Ned Lawlor, Middle: Shane Dunne and Eoin Brennan, Right: Clare Love and Rachel Hogan.

Intermediate championship, William Love (Clogh) suffered a third game defeat to Ollie Conway (Galway), 21-17, 8-21, 21-17, and in the Doubles decider, William and his brother Daniel found the Cavan duo, Paul and James Brady, too hot to handle, losing 21-6, 21-13. There was also defeat for Rachel Hogan in her Intermediate Singles final with Lauren O'Riordan (Roscommon) as she was beaten 21-13, 21-6.

At Juvenile level, Kilkenny contested five All Ireland finals, bringing home gold in two of the grades. The Windgap pair, Jack Doyle and Padraig Foley produced a top class display in the U14 Doubles decider against Galway's Enda Collins and James Cummins, winning 15-3, 15-3.

In the Boys U17 Doubles, Clogh twins Aidan and Cathal Barry captured their second All Ireland title in the grade when they beat Galway's Fionn and Oisín Cusack, 21-8, 10-21, 11-2.

There was defeat for Kilkenny in the three girls juvenile finals that they contested. In U14 Singles, Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilfane) lost to Tyrone 15-3, 7-15, 15-12, while in U14 Doubles, Noelle Dowling (Mothel) and Kellyanne Ryan (Galmoy) were defeated by Tipperary, 11-15, 15-5, 15-7. At U16 level, Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane) lost out to Galway in two sets, 21-9, 21-6.

As in the 40 x 20 team events, Kilkenny contested all three finals at a packed Talbots Inch in late October. The U12/13 Team of six took the honours when defeating Tipperary 67-46, while the U16/17 Team of four scored a 55-40 win over Waterford. The U14/15 Team of six suffered a defeat to Waterford on a 82-54 scoreline.

Kilkenny Teams;

U12/13 – Billy Drennan and David Sherman (Galmoy), Sean Barron and Sean Purcell (Windgap), Conor Holden and Cillian Kells (Kilfane), and Harry Delaney and Sean Purcell (Kells)

U14/15 – Jamie Maher and James Love (Clogh), Eoin O'Brien and Jamie Joy (Windgap), Micheal Prendergast and Ryan Grace (Kells) and Tom Holden (Kilfane)

U16/17 – Michael Power, Colin McKenna and Kevin Murray (Kells), Mick Power (St.Patrick's) and Robert Dowling (Mothel).

Irish Nationals produced more success for Kilkenny handballers. In the Mens Open, Ducksie Walsh rolled back the years with a vintage display to record his first win against Eoin Kennedy (Dublin). Having disposed of the challenge Brian Carroll (Meath) in the quarter-final on the Saturday afternoon, the Talbots Inch player comprehensively beat Dominic Lynch (Kerry), 15-8, 15-2 in his Sunday morning semi-final match. This set up an afternoon final against his long time rival, Eoin

Kennedy. In a pulsating contest, Ducksie produced vintage handball to win 15-9, 15-11 and thus preserve his record of never having lost a competitive adult Singles tie at the famed Freshford Road venue.

Other winners in the Nationals were, Amy Brennan (Galmoy) and Noelle Dowling (Mothel) in Girls 13 and under, Clogh duo, Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill in Boys 15 and under, Kilfane pair, Dearbhail O'Keeffe and Aoife Holden in Girls 17 and under, and Margaret Purcell (Windgap) who partnered Meadhbh Ni Dhalaiigh (Dublin) in the Ladies B/C competition.

Hardball, the oldest form of Handball, yielded two All Ireland victories at Minor level. In what turned out to be a great year for Shane Dunne, the Clogh player was in top form from early on and defeated Patrick Murphy (Mayo) in the Singles final, 21-15, 21-1. He then teamed up with Eoin Brennan (Mothel) to land the Doubles title, also against Murphy and his partner Martin Mulhern, 15-21, 21-8, 21-11.

The One Wall championships held in Breaffy House, Mayo in early July have become a major success and have proved very popular with the handball community. On the playing front, Kilkenny produced winners in a number of grades, in what was a very competitive event for all players. There was local success for Duxie Walsh in the Masters A grade when he defeated fellow Kilkenny player Eddie Bourke, 26-8, Billy Drennan (Galmoy) had a convincing win in Boys 13 and under when defeating Josh Kavanagh (Wexford) 31-14. In Boys 13 and under B grade, Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) was successful, while in Boys 15 and under, Conor Drennan (Galmoy) was well beaten by his Tyrone opponent, 25-14 in the decider. In Girls 15 and under B, Edel Mulholland (O'Loughlins) came out on top and in the Mens B/C plate competition, Dan Breen (Kells) partnered Laurence Dunne (Wexford) to success, and in the Boys 17 and under plate, fellow clubman Eoin Brennan finished as runner up.

Extras

In third level Colleges handball, Peter Funchion (Kells) captured the prestigious USHA Collegiate title in Minneapolis earlier in the year when he defeated the highly rated Tyler Stoffel, 21-8, 21-14.

In the Irish third level 60 x 30 championships, Ciara Mahon, representing Trinity College, claimed the Ladies Open crown when defeating Ciana Ni Churaoin 21-7, 21-14. Both these players had met in the USHA final and the Irish 40 x 20 decider with the honours going to Ni Churaoin on both occasions.

The Galmoy team of Billy Drennan and Aine Duggan won the Gael Linn competition with a 67-24 win over St. Joseph's Wexford.

Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilfane) won the She's Ace 13 and

under grade when beating Orla O'Brien, 25-14. Feile na Gael winners – Windgap won the Boys 40 x 20 Division 1 crown, while Kyle Dunne (Clogh) captured the skills title in 60 x 30. The Windgap team; Jack Doyle, Padraig Foley, Eoin O'Brien and Sean Barron. Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) and Eoin Brennan (Kells) brought home Boys 11 and under and 17 and under titles from the prestigious USHA championships in October.



Ducksie and DJ Carey



Johnny and Joe



Shane Dunne and Willie Roche 60x30 Final

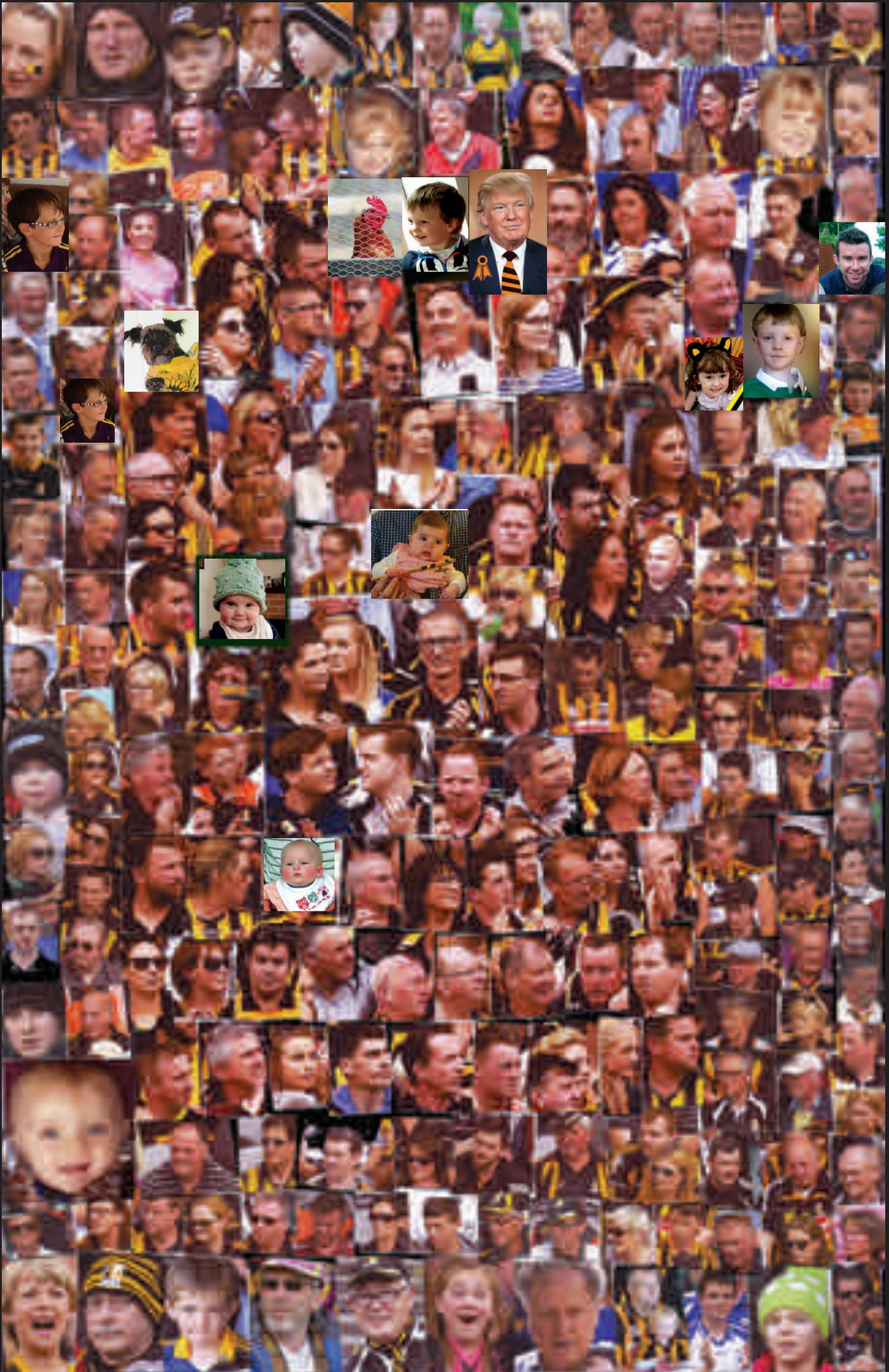


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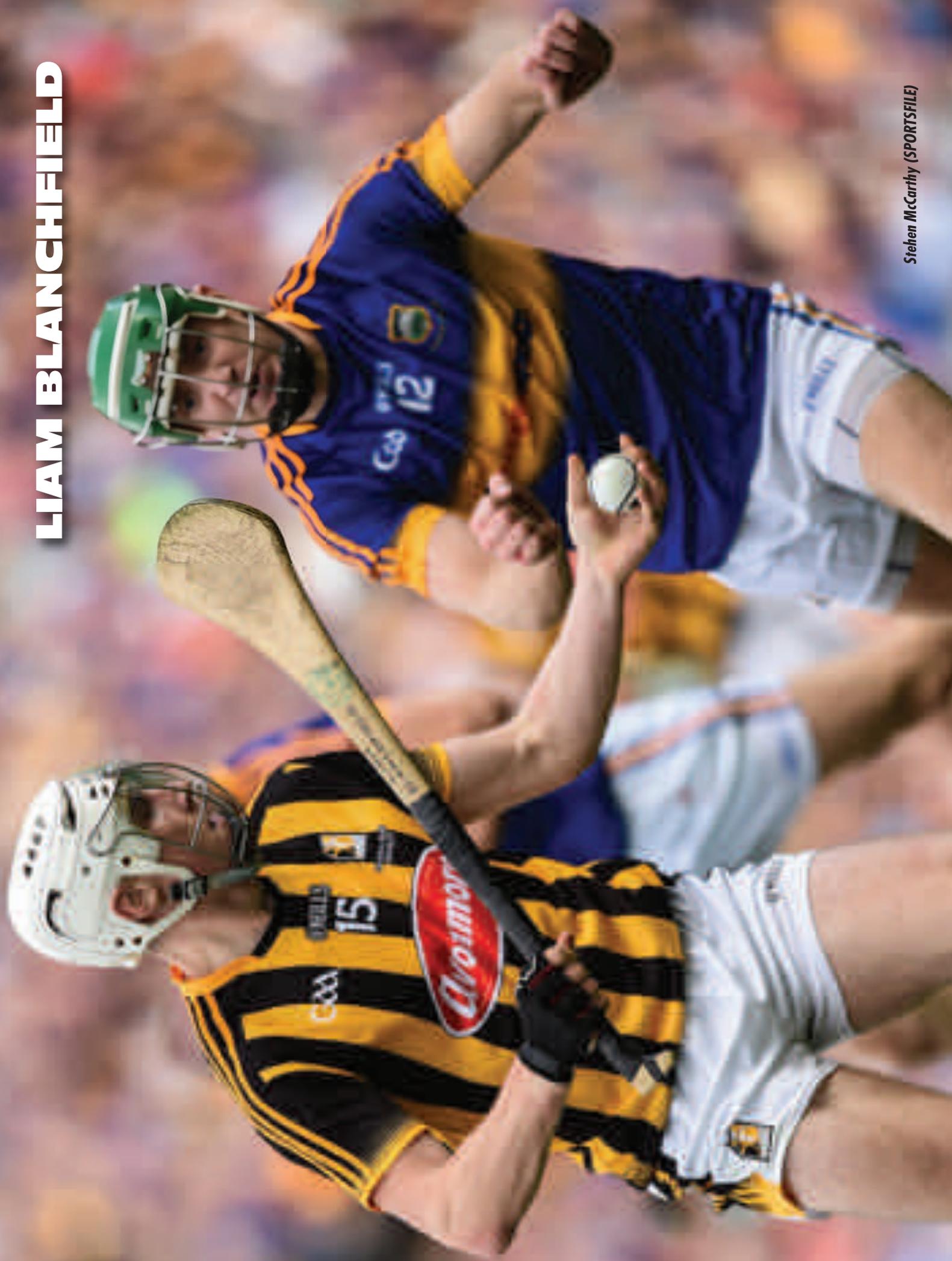
Kilkenny Ladies
Are The Best
There Gonna Be!
All The Rest!

UP
THE CATS

Anyone You Know?



LIAM BLANCHFIELD



Stephen McCarthy (SPORTSFILE)



Ballyhale girls at the Thomastown Coaching Day with Senior Camogie Team



Ballyhale Shamrocks U12 Semi Final V St. Fiaccres



Ballyhale Shamrocks U6 Girls



Ballyhale Shamrocks U12's Blitz in Kilmacow



Ballyhale Shamrocks U8 Girls



Junior team reached Junior B AC League & Junior B Finals



St Fiachra's U12 Camogie Champions 2016



U16's reached the League Final



Carrickshock U8's



Carrickshock U6's



Carrickshock U12's



Carrickshock U10's



Day out in Croker



Cup Day in Hugginstown



U12 Girls getting ready for their half time game during the All-Ireland Camogie Semi-Final



Are you being served? Keeping everyone well fed and watered during the 2016 Liam Ryan Hurlathon



U14 County Ladies Football Champions.



U12 County Ladies Football Champions.



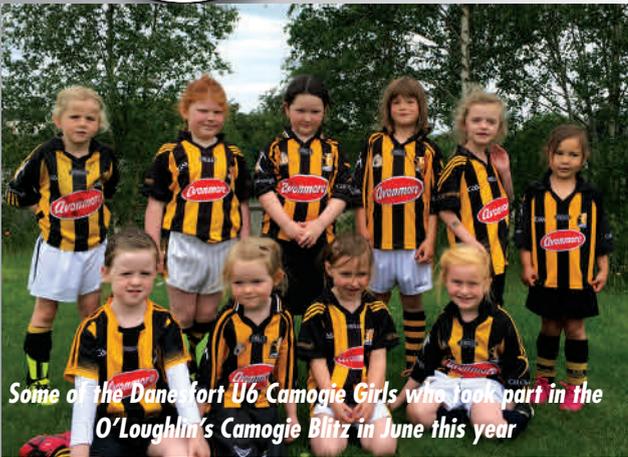
U16 County Ladies Football Champions.



Conahy Schools Roinn C Camogie County Final Winners V Carrickshock



Conahy U12 County Final Win V St Lachtain's



Some of the Danesfort U6 Camogie Girls who took part in the O'Loughlin's Camogie Blitz in June this year



Danesfort U16 Team 2016



Danesfort U8's 2016



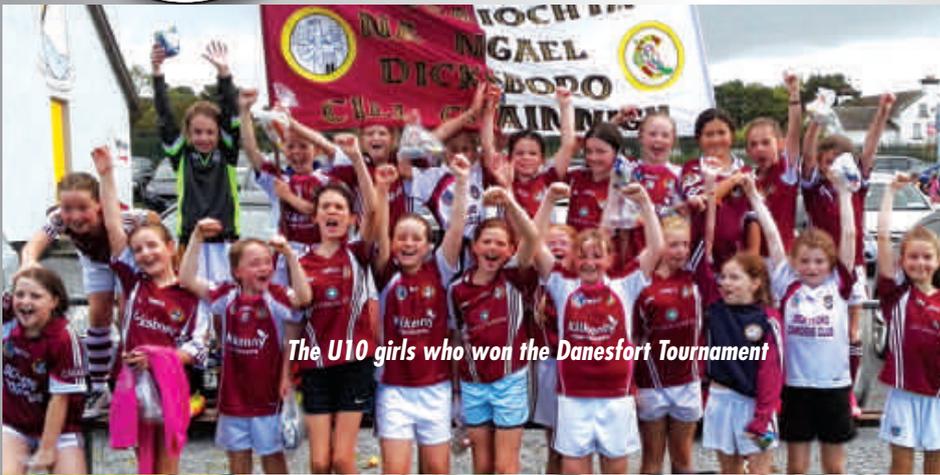
Danesfort U10 Team 2016



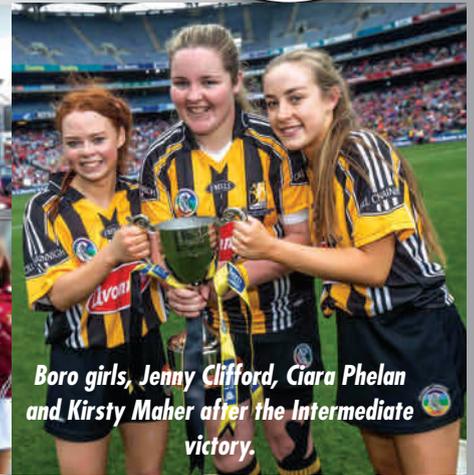
Danesfort Intermediate Team 2016



Danesfort Kilmacud 7's Team



The U10 girls who won the Danesfort Tournament



Boro girls, Jenny Clifford, Ciara Phelan and Kirsty Maher after the Intermediate victory.



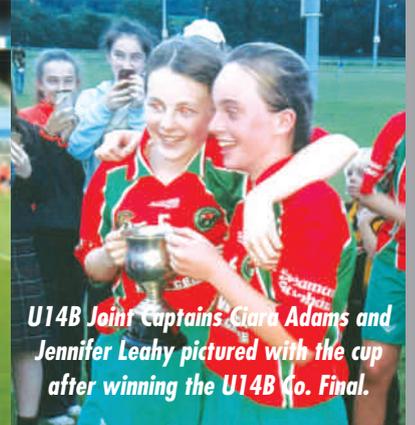
Dicksboro U13s won the Faughs tournament



Dicksboro's Jenny Clifford scores Kilkenny's first goal in the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Final Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportfile



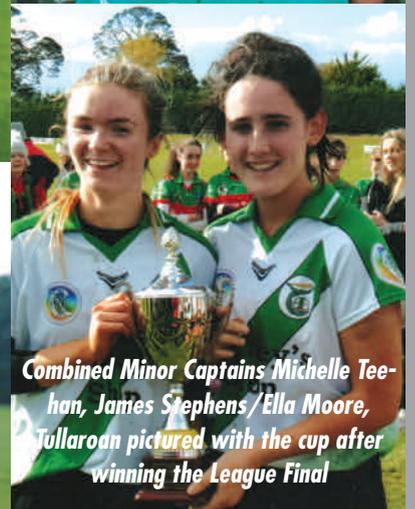
U12 team who played in Caman to Leinster, Caman to Croker and reached the U12 Final with Camogie President Catherine Neary and their Manager Vera Manogue



U14B Joint Captains Ciara Adams and Jennifer Leahy pictured with the cup after winning the U14B Co. Final.



U14B Camogie team who won the U14B Co. Final pictured with their Managers Mary McGrath and Philly Larkin.



Combined Minor Captains Michelle Teehan, James Stephens/Ella Moore, Tullaroan pictured with the cup after winning the League Final



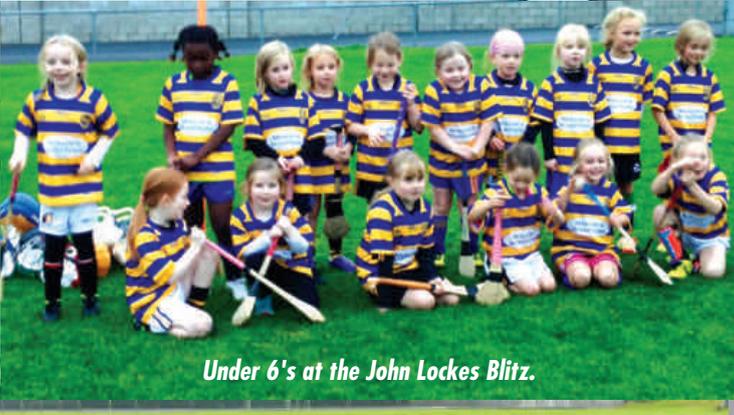
Pictured after the Leinster Blitz are Manager Mary McGrath with Hannah Larkin Captain, Anna Doheny and Lucy McGrath.



U16B joint camogie team of James Stephens/John Lockes who reached the U16 Co. Final.



U12 panel members with the O'Duffy Cup, delivered by Julia White, Cork



Under 6's at the John Lockes Blitz.



Under 8 panel and Mentors



John Lockes Under 10 panel



John Lockes Under 14 panel



The club welcomed the O'Duffy for an early visit in May!!



Kilmacow u8s and u10s at the National Gaelic Centre in Abbotstown. Both players and their parents were delighted to take part in the 2016 Hurl with Me programme which finished with a national blitz in Abbotstown.



2016 Camán and Run Winners



(Kilkenny squad members): Pictured are Eve Lacey, Kate Sheridan, Katie Larrissey, Kathleen Croke, Una Kinsella, Aine Phelan and Afton Grace. Missing from photo and who also represented Kilmacow this year on Kilkenny teams were Danielle Mate-Maher, Eimear Dolan, Roisin Cleary and Cliona Murphy.



U12s take to the field for a pre-match parade complete with a pipe band for their home blitz.



The u12 team at the Camán to Croker blitz which was a fantastic day for all who took part.



Lisdowney U16 team 2016



Lisdowney U12 team 2016



Lisdowney U14 team 2016



Lisdowney Minor team who reached semi final this year



Mooncoin End of Year Family Dog Night Presentation



Mooncoin U7 team



Mooncoin U8 Camogie Team



Mooncoin U14 Slievenamon walk



Mooncoin U12 team



Mooncoin U0 Camogie team



O'Loughlin's U6's 2016



Juniors: O'Loughlin Gaels Junior team were proud to be represented by Laura Greene on the All-Ireland winning Intermediate team and Laura Murphy on the All Ireland winning Senior teams.



O'Loughlin's U8's 2016



O'Loughlin's U10's 2016



O'Loughlin's U12's 2016



Rise 'n Run 2016: O' Loughlin Gaels Camogie Club held a very successful fundraiser in April, aptly titled Rise 'n Run 2016.



Piltdown U14's 2016



Jennifer Norris, Aoife Norris, Kelyanna Doyle, Katie Power with the O'Duffy Cup and the Jack McGrath Cup



Piltdown 2016



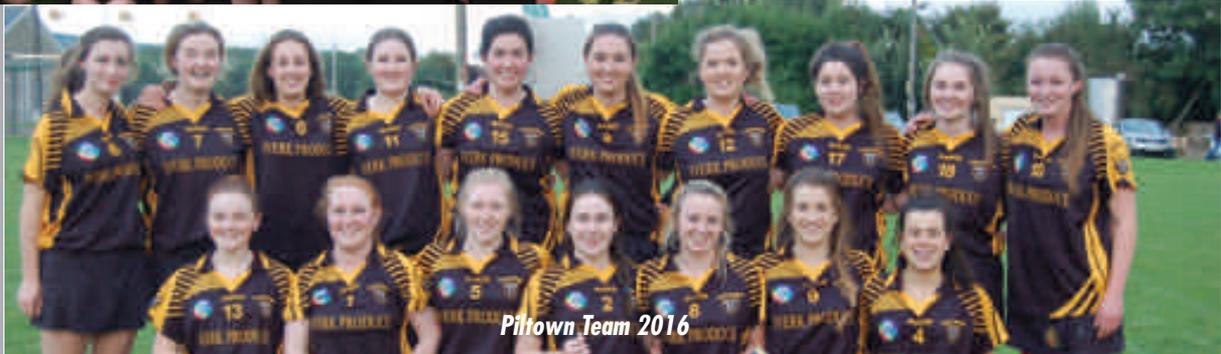
Piltdown U8's 2016



U12s Caman to Leinster



Camogie Feile Team 2016



Piltdown Team 2016



Piltdown Committee with All Irelands Winners



Slieverue U14 Team 2016



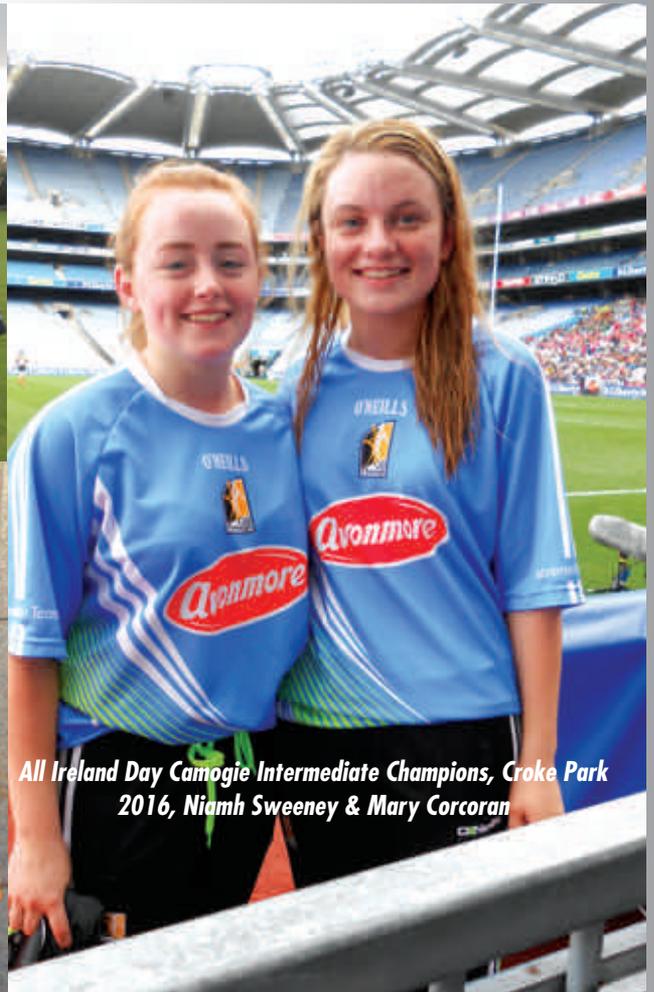
Slieverue U16 Team 2016



Slieverue Junior B team 2016



Intermediate Team 2016, Captain Tara Warren



All Ireland Day Camogie Intermediate Champions, Croke Park 2016, Niamh Sweeney & Mary Corcoran



Celebrating with "The McGrath Cup", Mary Corcoran, Aine Fahy (Captain) & Niamh Sweeney



Intermediate Team 2016,



U8s with County Player Aisling Dunphy



U12 County Champs '16



St Brigid's U14 Féile Team 2016

2016 round-up

St. Brigid's camogie club has had a great 2016 with successes at different levels and also in fundraising. We had eleven u-6 players this year who proved to us that the future of the club will be a bright one. Our u-8's had a fantastic year winning ten out of twelve Go Games, drawing one and one defeat. The u-10's were successful in many of their tournaments and had a great last session meeting the O'Duffy cup! The u-12's were deservedly crowned county champions after a brilliant year of camogie. The u-14s got to the semi-final this year and took part in the Féile Shield competition in Abbotstown on Saturday 18th June. Our u-16s also got to the semi-final against James Stephens/John Lockes and our minors got to the Roinn A quarter final. Our intermediates fell short in the championship semi-final after narrow defeats in both the All-County League and League finals. Many of our club players also had great success at county level, with schools and colleges. The St. Aidan's National school team also got to the county final. We would like to thank all our trainers for their hard work and dedication to their teams and to the parents and supporters who stuck by the teams all year.

Special congratulations to Aisling Dunphy and Ciara Murphy who we are very proud of for being part of the All-Ireland winning Kilkenny senior and intermediate panels. It is fantastic to have two club players on these history-making teams and we are sure they will not be the last players from the club to achieve these honours.

We have held several fundraisers throughout the year. We started the year off with our 80's/90's disco night in Langton's which was followed by our Annual Mary McGrath tablequiz in the Pound in Ballycallan. Our whist drives, especially our annual Christmas and Easter drives, were also successful. At the social evening in June our underage girls took part in a training session with Eddie Brennan and Tommy Walsh. We also held a very successful score forecast competition for the senior hurling All-Ireland final. Thank you to all those who put in the effort in the organisation and support of these events.

U12 county champions

The 16th of September saw the conclusion of the u-12 season where they lined up against James Stephens in the Roinn A U12 County Final. A large Ballycallan crowd came to support the girls which made the final feel like a home fixture. The experience that most of the girls have, even at such a young age, having contested 2 Roinn A school finals and a Roinn A U12 Semi-Final last year, stood to them. If there ever was a day for all the girls to play to their potential, this was this day and they didn't disappoint. Final Score- James Stephens 1-5 St Brigid's 8-6. Team as follows: Molly (Jolly) Lawlor, Katie Maher, Stephanie Brennan, Molly Dunne, Moya O'Brien, Aoife Power, Orla Flynn, Claire Doheny, Lauren East (Westy), Lauren Ronan, Robin Delaney, Ellie Lanigan. Louise Ronan, Ella Delahunty, Katie Marnell, Niamh Hogan, Rachel Ronan, Tara Brennan, Katie Ronan, Joanne Brennan and Molly Conroy.

An obituary to Molly Maher

Molly Maher was also a great loss to the club and parish this year. She was an avid supporter of the club and is fondly remembered for her help to club members when they trained in Shipton with no facilities, her door was always open. She had great pride in her family members who have played with the club. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

Billy Malone RIP

(See Obituary section at back of this Publication)



U12's won their Final.



St Fiachra's U8's



Junior team reached Junior B AC League & Junior B Finals

Congratulations to our club member Ann-Marie Lennon who was a member of the Kilkenny Senior All Ireland winning team.



U16's reached the League Final



St. Lachtain's Camogie Club U12



St. Lachtain's Camogie team of five who represented their club & went on to be finalist in the Liberty Insurance Squad Goals Challenge which took place in Croke Park



St Lachtain's Minors 2016



Members of the U6 U8 and U10 St. Lachtain's Camogie Team with O'Duffy Cup and members of the Senior All Ireland Winning Team.



St Lachtain's U14 Team 2016



St Lachtain's U16 Team 2016



St. Martins senior team after winning the inaugural "Martina & Padraig Murphy Memorial Cup"

St Martin's U8's 2016



St Martin's U10's 2016



U12 Presentation by Edwina Keane & Stacey Quirke (County & Club players)



U14 Roinn C Final 2016



U12 2016 Shield Final 2016



Thomastown U18 Team 2016



Thomastown U16 Team 2016



Thomastown U6 Team 2016



Thomastown U8 Team 2016

What a year for Thomastown camogie Club. We have a very competitive and united club in Thomastown, where we promote and encourage all aspects of our club both socially on and off the field. We have been very successful in winning our 3rd in a row U14 Championship and Feile competition and again for the 3rd time in a row reached the final of the All Ireland feile, The U16 championship, and are in the U16 league final, Minor League final, and both Senior League and championship in Kilkenny and are contesting the Leinster final in Parnell Park on Sunday 13th November against St Vincents. What a year!

A special word of thanks to our trainers of all the teams who have given their time to work with and encourage our players. Also a special mention to Thomastown GAA club for their help and support. Thanks to our supporters and especially our fantastic girls who are a credit to themselves, their parents and their club.



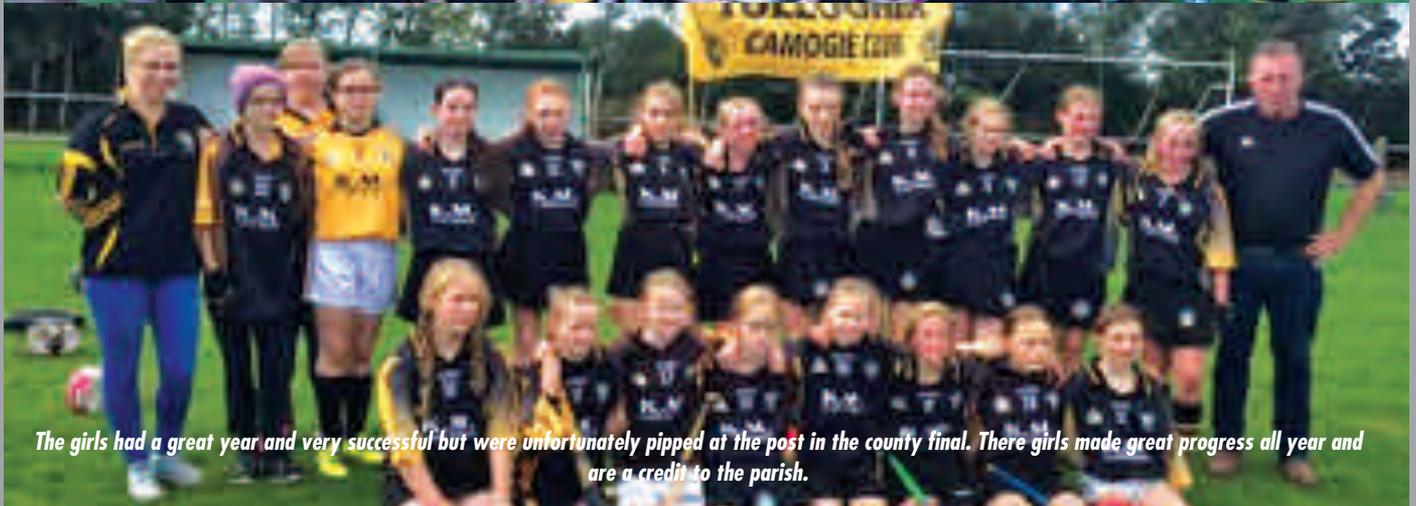
Our Under 6 and 8 girls were a credit to the club. The girls had a great experience and thoroughly enjoyed the training and matches. They also played in blitzes across the county and performed super in all of these blitzes.



The U14's had a fantastic year and very successful in competing in several blitzes and challenge matches during the year.



The U14 girls won the county final this year beating Paulstown in an epic match. They hurled brilliantly all year.



The girls had a great year and very successful but were unfortunately pipped at the post in the county final. These girls made great progress all year and are a credit to the parish.



The U16's hurled brilliantly all year and won the shield final.



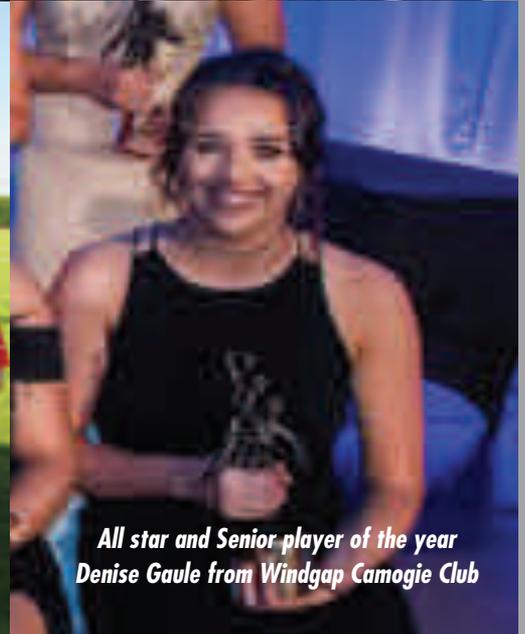
U12 Windgap Camogie team who won the Mike Williams shield at the Tullahought Tournament



Denise Gaule and the O'Duffy Cup with the Windgap girls



Windgap Camogie Under 14 Team 2016



*All star and Senior player of the year
Denise Gaule from Windgap Camogie Club*



Windgap Senior County Semi Finalists 2016



Young Ireland U8 Team 2016



Young Irelands U10 Team 2016



Young Ireland U6 Team 2016



Young Irelands U14 Team 2016



Young Irelands U12 Team 2016



Young Irelands U16 Team 2016



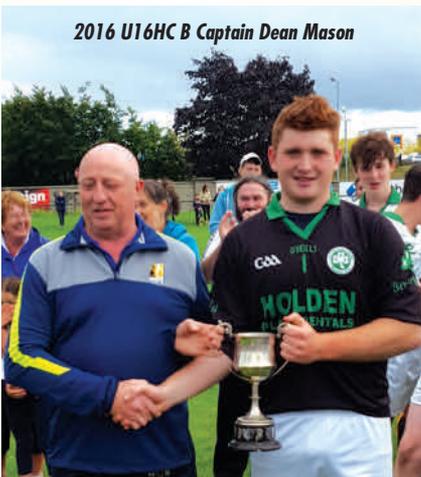
The Minor A panel, looked after by the same mentors, likewise went all the way (1976 and 1997 are the club's two other wins in this grade). Quarter final winners over Graigue-Ballycallan (4-9 to 1-9), semi final winners over Dicksboro (2-13 to 1-10), they defeated James Stephens in a riveting County Final, 3-15 to 4-9.

MHC A Dean Mason, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Hearne, Darragh Corcoran, Sulayman Masood, Evan Shefflin, Martin Davis, Adam Brenner, Darren Mullen 0-1, Rónán Hayes 0-2, Dylan Aylward captain 0-2, Eoin Cody 1-0, Eoin Kenneally 0-1, Adrian Mullen 1-9 (1-0 pen, 3f), Jason Devereux.

Subs: Liam Barron, Stephen Barron 1-0 for Jason Devereux (40m), Reece Anderson, Christopher Coady, Casey Corcoran, Conor Doyle, Adham Masood, Andrew Moran, Keelan O'Donoghue, James Reid, John Shortall, Eoin Walsh, Kevin Fennelly (inj).

The Intermediate footballers, jointly managed by Michael Carroll and David Walsh, defeated The Rower-Inistioge (2-5 to 1-5) in a first round tie but exited to Dicksboro at quarter final stage, 3-9 to 2-8.

2016 U16HC B Captain Dean Mason



Captain Dylan Aylward with MH A Trophy



Mol an óige: an U6 selection in 2016

IFC Conor Reid, Patrick Doyle, Bob Aylward, Brian Butler, Dylan Aylward, Paul Shefflin, Gavin Butler, Mark Aylward, Patrick Mullen, Keith Nolan 0-1, David Hoyne 0-3 (f), Eoin Reid, Keith Murphy, Brian Cody captain 1-3, Eugene Aylward 1-1.

Subs: Kevin Mullen for Dylan Aylward (46m), Eoin Doyle for Keith Murphy (51m), Tom Coogan, Mark Phelan, Conor Phelan (inj).

The Junior panel, looked after by John Drennan (Manager), Seán Holden and David Walsh, enjoyed a decent season, finishing fifth in their league group. Championship commenced with an emphatic first round win over Tullaroan, 3-27 to 0-12. Alas, James Stephens got best in the second round, 2-14 to 0-14.

JHC Conor Reid, Enda Kenneally, Eugene Aylward, Tom Coogan, Keith Nolan, Aidan Cummins, Conor Phelan, Bob Aylward captain 0-2 (f), Kevin Mullen, Darren Mullen 0-2 (f), Patrick Mullen 0-4 (2f), Eoin Doyle 0-1, Joe Cuddihy, David Hoyne 0-2, Patrick Reid 0-3.

Subs: Patrick Doyle, Kevin Fennelly, Liam Grant, Mark Phelan, Dylan Aylward (inj), Brian Butler (inj), Gavin Butler (inj), James Connolly (work), Jack Kenneally (away).

The Junior B panel, in its third season, was looked after by Séamus Grace, Michael O'Sullivan and Tommy Phelan (Manager). Championship wise, they qualified automatically for a South quarter final by finishing second in their league group. But a seriously understrength selection went down in that quarter final to The Rower-Inistioge, 2-14 to 2-5.

JHC B Conor Reid, Patrick Doyle, Eugene Aylward, Willie Coogan, Eoin Doyle captain 0-3 (f), Conor Phelan, Niall Smyth, Gavin Butler, Michael O'Sullivan, Dylan Aylward 1-0, Liam Grant, Kevin Fennelly 0-1, Dave Gallagher, Michael Paul Drennan 1-1 (0-1f), Mark Phelan.

Subs: Adam Brenner (away), Michael Carroll (inj), Derek Fitzpatrick (away), Donnchadh Fitzpatrick (away), Enda Fitzpatrick (away), Kieran Grace (inj), Enda Kenneally (away), Jack Kenneally (away), Andrew Moran (away), Keith Murphy (away), Jason Nolan (away), Éamonn Walsh (away), Eddie Walsh (away).

The U21 panel, looked after by Tom Coogan (Manager), Liam Grant, Joey Holden and Patrick Reid, awaited a South semi final with Mooncoin.

The club was saddened by the passing of Kevin Kennedy (Vice President and former Groundsman) and Thomas 'Big Tommy' Walsh (President).

Vital work, led by new Chairman Jim Cullen, drove the juvenile section. U6 and U8: Tom Coogan (Manager), Patrick Cummins, John Darcy, Martin Dunphy, James Fitzgerald, Richie Grant, Dermot Ryan and Tom Walsh. U10: Dave Gallagher, Noel O'Keefe and John Shefflin (Manager). U12: Jim Cullen (Manager) and John Shortall.

The U14 panel, looked after by Jim Cullen (Manager) and John Shortall, got through valuable work. Highly restricted numbers meant this team (with only 13 hurlers available) had to compete in U14 C's 13 a side section. Having made that league final, where they lost a tight contest to Blacks and Whites, this plucky group were defeated in their championship semi final with Barrow Rangers, 5-12 to 4-8.

U14HC C Niall Shortall 1-0, Michael Cullen, Dara Mason, Tomás Barron, Cian Cullen, Jack Cody, Kilian Corcoran, Edmund Fitzpatrick captain 0-3, Larry Cody, Andrew Devereux, Tom Cleere, Finnian Shefflin 3-5 (0-1f). [plus: Pearse Phelan (inj)]

The U16 panel, looked after by Niall Mason, Patrick Phelan, Seán Reid (Manager) and David Harrington (Trainer), enjoyed a terrific season, taking the B title (last won in 2011). First round winners over Piltown (2-15 to 1-14), quarter final winners over Danesfort (4-11 to 1-10), semi final winners over St Lachtain's (1-19 to 1-5), they defeated St Patrick's in an enthralling County Final, 2-13 to 2-10.

U16HC B Dean Mason captain, Cian Cullen, Casey Corcoran, Christopher Coady, Conor Doyle, Darragh Corcoran, Reece Anderson, Jason Devereux 0-1, Eoin Walsh, Liam Barron, Stephen Barron 0-1, Edmund Fitzpatrick, John Shortall, Eoin Cody 2-10 (0-4f), Adham Masood 0-1.

Subs: Brandon Ryan for Eoin Walsh (inj, 60m), Thomas Barron, Richie Cody, Andrew Devereux, Dara Mason, Seán Reade, James Reid, Finnian Shefflin.



Silver lining: captain Mark Aylward receives the Matty Power Cup for SHL win



Group photo from Family Fun Day- Junior Infants to U12's



Barrow Rangers Roinn C County Football Champions 2015



Kieran O' Neill u 14 Long Point County Champion receiving his trophy from Richie Hogan



Philip Maher from Kilkenny Limestone, Sponsors of Barrow Rangers underage jerseys making the presentation



U 14's & Amazing Sky



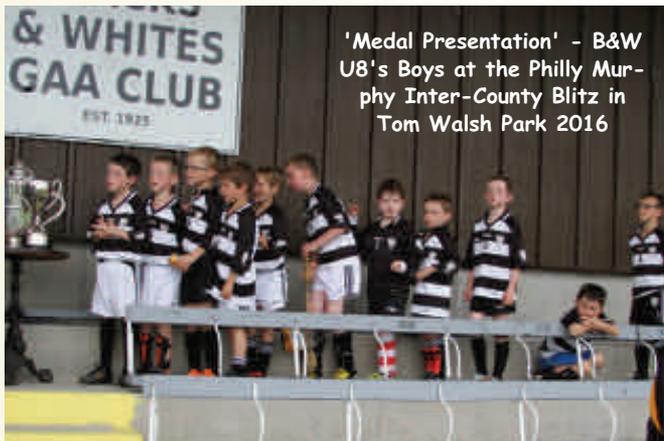
U 8's at Rounmore



Above:
Happy Faces after the
'Bridge's All Ireland win.

Below:
Photos from the Shane
O'Neill Tournament won by
Bennettsbridge.





'Medal Presentation' - B&W U8's Boys at the Philly Murphy Inter-County Blitz in Tom Walsh Park 2016



B&W u-14's - Roinn C (13-side) League Champions 2016.tif



B&W U12's Go-Games Finals in TomWalsh Park 2016



'Pull Like a Dog' - Some B&W U8's Girls at the Philly Murphy Inter-County Blitz in Tom Walsh Park 2016



B&W u-14's - Roinn C (13-side) Championship Winners 2016



'Medal Presentation' - Some B&W U10's Girls at the Philly Murphy Inter-County Blitz in Tom Walsh Park 2016



'What's the Game Plan Lads?' - Some B&W U10's Boys at the Philly Murphy Inter-County Blitz in Tom Walsh Park 2016



Under 14s after completing football league and championship double.



Under 12 panel after their final training session.



Carrickshock Under 6s start their hurling careers with a great display in Ballyhale against the Shamrocks.

Photo includes: Michael Beagan, Daniel Dunphy, Harry O'Brien, Aidan Farrell, James Cuddihy, Darragh Kavanagh, Darragh O'Brien, Adam Power, Rhys Power, Adam O'Malley, Tom Duggan. (Not in photo Eanna Dunphy, Donnie Cahill).

Under 8s after their blitz in Inistioge, meeting county stars Ger Aylward and Joe Lynn



The highlight of the year for Carrickshock was no doubt provided by our Intermediate Hurlers. After a solid run through the league, they won through to the league final, losing to a very fancied Tullaroan team. But they were the outstanding team of the Championship. They beat Lisdowney in a quarter-final, then avenged the league final defeat by beating Tullaroan in the semi-final before a comprehensive win over Tullagher in the County Final on November 6 - a day that will live long in the memory! (See the IH Report page for details.)

Our Under-14s provided the highlights of the year for our juvenile teams, completing a league and championship double in fine style. They put in some great performances in the hurling league too before coming up just short in a cracking final against Tullaroan.



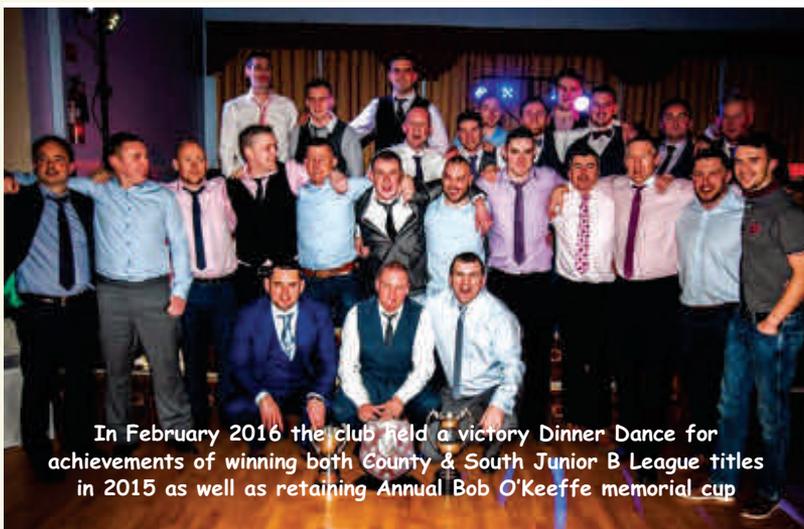
Winners of the €1000 Sweepstake at the Greyhound night in April - Ann-Marie Phelan, Dunnamaggin and Ann Power, Lawcus, Stoneyford - receiving their cheques from Jimmy O'Shea and club treasurer, Pai Dwyer.



Under 10s at their end-of-season training day.

Obituaries

Carrickshock extends its condolences to all associated with the club who suffered bereavements in the past year, especially Larry O'Shea (Lismatigue) and Mick Duggan (Ballinteskinn). May they rest in peace.



In February 2016 the club held a victory Dinner Dance for achievements of winning both County & South Junior B League titles in 2015 as well as retaining Annual Bob O'Keeffe memorial cup



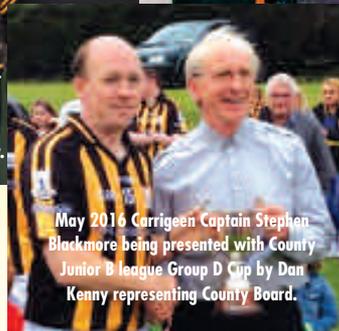
At end of 2016 year Colin Fennelly presented certificates of achievements to juvenile players for all the hard work they put in during the year.



In October 2016 Carrigeen GAA welcomed sponsorship in 2016 of our All Weather Tournaments from Surehaul Commercials Slieverue. Included in photo is Dan O Connor from Surehaul, committee members Pa Walsh, Pat Dunphy, Catherine O'Brien, & Coordinator Martin Quilty.



In September 2016 an Adult Gym facility was opened which is proving a great facility for people in the community.



May 2016 Carrigeen Captain Stephen Blackmore being presented with County Junior B league Group D Cup by Dan Kenny representing County Board.



2016 was an historic year for the club which saw the formation of Carrigeen Ogra and the introduction of Juvenile Hurling to the club. Here in this photo are Juvenile coaches & Juvenile players along with T.J. Reid who presented jerseys to all juvenile members.

Joe Cashin Photography © 2016



1: U12 Clara and St Vincents players after their annual visit to Clara.

2: The youngest and oldest members of Clara with Tommy Brennan and Shane Prendergast.

3: 2016 Clara launched Healthy Club initiative. With Clara Grounds becoming the first club in Kilkenny to become a Smoke free grounds.

4: Clara members out in force during the Pieta House Cycle.

5: Ladies Gaelic Mothers + Others during the annual All-Ireland blitz in Dublin.

6: 2016 Lá ná gClub. Members walked to Freestone Hill.





Cloneen U21 Hurlers 2016



Cloneen 5k/10k Walk gets under way



Cloneen Féile Team 2016



Conahy u 13 s whin won the Lisdowney shield this year in the annual Lisdowney 7s



Conahy GFM & others football team who won the Eilis O'Rourke tournament in Castlecomer recently



Well done to the under-12 hurlers who won the club's Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament in fine style. The team are pictured with the coaches Billy Hennessy and Claire Gunner.



Club Hero - Joe Phelan
Probably one of the most unsung heroes of Conahy hurling throughout the early years was Joe Phelan. Joe, or "Suggins" as he was known, was the first man to begin under-age coaching of young hurlers in the parish and his work and influence was later seen when those hurlers progressed to adult level in the 1970's, winning junior and intermediate hurling titles.



This year saw the first running of Conahy Shamrocks GAA Summer Camp. Held over three days, the young club members enjoyed top coaching from club coaches and visits from a number of Kilkenny players.



Laochra - Danesfort who represented Kilkenny at Laochra - a show that commemorated The GAA- 1916, the spirit of Gaelic Games, large scale innovative fire, song, dance and pageantry at Croke Park 24th April 2016.



U6 Danesfort Hurling Team - the future is bright.

Thanks to our sponsors Affidea and Taxback.com for all their support during the year. The JJ Reddy Danesfort Run was a huge success, a great fundraiser for our Club. Well done to the committee and everyone involved.



Danesfort U12 Hurling team, Winners Annual Danesfort U12 Hurling Tournament.



U8 Danesfort Hurling Team 2016



U10 Danesfort Hurling team - Winners Shane O'Neill Cup at Shane O'Neill Memorial Tournament



U9 Danesfort Hurling Team 2016



Danesfort Minor Hurling Team - reached the Semi Final Roinn A Hurling Championship

Congratulations to the Danesfort U9 boys (above) who won the Callan Alive Ground Hurling Tournament on Saturday the 27th August. Danesfort, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown and Mooncoin were in one group, after three hard fought and well contested games, Danesfort won two games and drew one. Danesfort were into the Final against Carrick Davin's. The standard of team work and hurling by both teams in this game was fantastic.



Hilary Cantwell with the cheque for €5,000 which she won for Dicksboro GAA Club as part of a Specsaver-sponsored nationwide competition. She is photographed outside Specsavers in the Market Cross with Boro club chairman, Eddie Holohan in the middle and club secretary, Ed Nolan on the left.



The Dicksboro Camogie U10 & U9 girls travelled to Danesfort competed in the Cup and Shield tournaments, the U10's winning the Cup and the U9's narrowly losing out in the Shield competition.



Boro win Under 12 Kilmacow tournament, beating Lucan Sarsfields, Tullogher and Kilmacow (in the Final).



Our favourite John Glynn photo from the County Junior B Hurling Final in Thomastown



Dicksboro Under 13 hurlers (sponsored by Aut Even Hospital, Kilkenny) won the Lisdownney 7s. Captained by Niall Rowe, they beat Gowran 5-8 to 1-9 in a great game of hurling. Afterwards Rory O'Connor was named player of the tournament.



Last day of the successful Dicksboro Summer Camp at Palmerstown



The clubs facilities took a huge step forward this year with its new pitch in Kilmoganny being opened for use. Thanks to all who helped in anyway in getting it to this stage.



The club had great success in the Piltown draw this year with seven winners. Pat DeLahunty claimed top prize in the second draw. Thank you to all who supported us in the draw.



On the 22nd Oct the Club, with Kells Recreation Area group held the Reign of Terror obstacle course race as a fundraiser. It was a huge success and involved an enormous community effort. Thanks to all who helped in anyway to make the event happen.



Victor Costello receives the Minor B Shield after his team defeated Piltown.



Our U12 hurlers had a busy year, playing many matches and blitzes. They won the Shield at the Richie Young tournament in Tullogher. Well done to all involved.

Obituaries
 Dunnamaggin GAA club extends its condolences to all club members who have suffered bereavement during the past year. We would especially like to remember the following who have passed away through the last year, Paddy Moore, Paddy Reade, Patricia & Jim O'Shea, Mary Ellen O'Keeffe and Kitty Kirwan.

Emeralds U-12 hurling team who won all their games in the Dicsboro U-12 hurling tournament.



Jim Tobin Tournament 2016 - Thanks to the Ladies Committee who provided refreshments all day!



St Mullin's - Jim Tobin Tournament Winners 2016



Emeralds Under 6's 2016



Emeralds - Jim Tobin Tournament Runners-Up 2016



Emeralds Under 10's 2016



Emeralds Under 8 2016





Erin's Own at Leinster Go Games 23rd August 2016 at Croke Park



Erin's Own at Leinster Go Games 23rd August 2016 at Croke Park



Erin's Own Camogie players were presented with medals by Senior All Ireland winners Edwina Keane, Claire Phelan, Jacqui Frisby and the great Ann Downey at Castlecomer.



Ladies Football Winners in the Tullow Tournament 2016.



Erin's Own under 12 Hurling Team 2016

Erin's Own Gaelic for Mothers Hosted the Ellis O'Rourke Memorial Tournament on 17th Sept at Erin's Own Grounds, Castlecomer

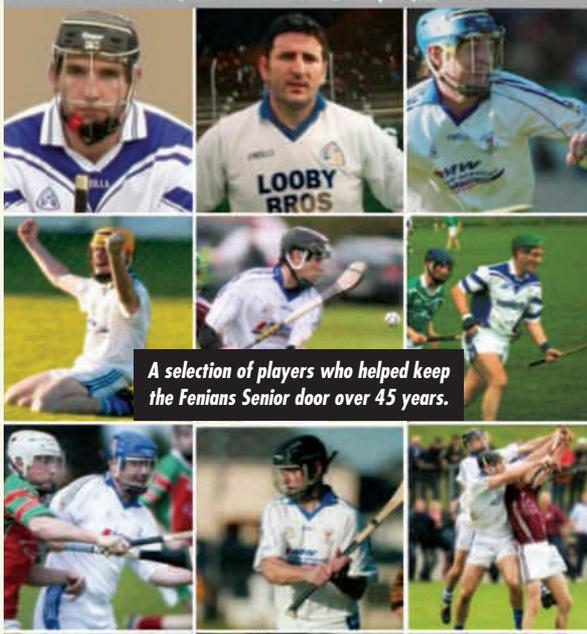




Fenian captain Darragh Tobin receiving the Byrne Cup Shield.



Our under 10's get their day out in Croke Park.



A selection of players who helped keep the Fenians Senior door over 45 years.



Fenian under 8's receiving their certs of achievement awards, presented by JJ Delaney.



Rory and Billy Garrett meet former Clare great Ger Loughnane.



Fenians U8 - Croke Park



Fenians U12's getting ready to entertain at half time of the All Ireland semi final replay in Thurles.



The new Ball Wall being opened in Crosspatrick NS by Martin Fogarty.



U-12 Long Puck Champion:

For the second year in a row, a Galmoy boy won the Kilkenny U-12 Long Puck in Gowran Park. Pictured receiving his trophy from Richie Hogan is Galmoy's Daniel Hanrahan, Kyle.



All Ireland Féile Skills Winner

Billy Drennan Galmoy receives the All Ireland Féile na nGael Hurling Skills trophy from Joe Pyke (Kilkenny Bord Na nÓg) in Abbotstown in June 2016. This is a first for Galmoy and a great honour also for Kilkenny.



Kilkenny U-17 Captain:

Galmoy's Osín Phelan had the huge honour of captaining the Kilkenny U-17 Squad to their first ever victory in the Eugene Carey U-17 Tournament in Mallow on August 27th with victories over Wexford, Limerick, Dublin and in the final over Cork.



Well done to the four Galmoy lads involved with the Suir Engineering Ltd team which won the All Ireland Junior Inter Firms Hurling Final defeating Safety Direct Galway 0-21 to 0-12, Leo Doherty (Selector) and players Mick Murphy, Niall Doherty (Capt.) and Donnacha Gray.



Some Galmoy GAA Members who completed a Defibrillator Training Course during the summer. Back: Jerry Fogarty (Asst Secretary), Jimmy Duggan, Brian Doherty (Junior Team Trainer), Front: Margaret Fogarty, Sarah Fogarty & Brendan Sherman (Club Chairman).



Some Galmoy Juveniles surprised Ducksy with a Birthday Cake to mark his 50th in May 2016. Ducksy trained many of our Juvenile Handballers over the past years. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Galmoy - County JH Champions 1966
Back - Charlie Doherty (Levalley), Stephen Delaney, Phil Bowe, Dan Daly (RIP), Paddy Phelan, Billy Harte, Jim Phelan, Mick Hennessy (RIP)
Middle - Francie Harte, Bobby Delaney, Jack Phelan, Murt Ryan capt (RIP), Charlie Brennan (RIP), Lottie Harte, Nicholas Ryan, Billy Costigan (RIP)
Front - Sean Doherty, Joe Doherty (RIP), Tommy Phelan, Charlie Doherty (Whiteswall), Missing from photo Mikie Ryan (RIP)
Missing from photo: Liam Hanrahan



U14 Feile Handball Team



U10 Caulfield Cup Winners



All Ireland Celebrations Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE



U14 B League and Championship Football Winners plus Hurling Shield Winners



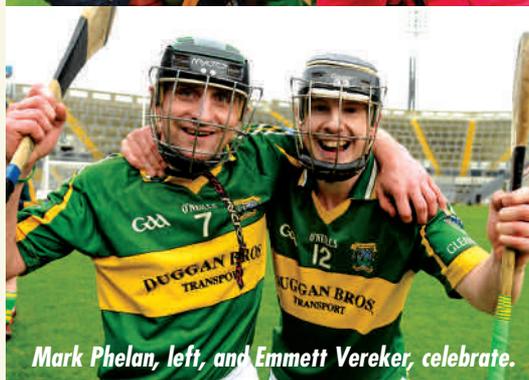
More Celebrations Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE



Richard Mullally, Glenmore, in celebrates with his kids Richie, Jr., Michael, and Olivia. Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE



Glenmore players celebrate. Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE



Mark Phelan, left, and Emmett Vereker, celebrate.

Glenmore camogie club had a great year from U.6 to Intermediate. U8 to U12 competed in blitzes and contributed very well in them with the U12's going on to win their final against Mooncoin. Both our U16 and Minor teams were knocked out at quarter final stage. The highlight of the year was the Intermediate team who won all three competitions and went on to represent Kilkenny in the Leinster Intermediate championship only to lose out narrowly to Myshall. The club was well represented at inter county level from U.14 to Intermediate. During the year the club suffered a huge loss with the untimely death of Mrs Mary Long who was a very active woman in the club and was responsible for the washing of the jerseys. Sympathies are extended to her Husband Willie and Family.



Graignamanagh Minors 2016



Graignamanagh U12's 2016



Graignamanagh U8's 2016



U14's Feile Panel 2016



Graignamanagh U21 Football winners 2016



We extend sympathy to our former Chairman John and all the Meaney family on the death of their mother & grandmother Kitty Meaney R.I.P. The Meaney family has been very much involved in GAA circles in Graignamanagh down through the years and Kitty was Grandmother to our current Junior hurling Captain James. Kittys late husband Jim was involved in all aspects of our Club and Kitty was a great supporter.



Graignamanagh U10's 2016



U10s O'Loughlins Mini Blitz



Presentation to Jack & Joan Ronan for Long Service & Dedication to the Club, by Chairman Dave O'Neill



Eddie Brennan U8 Group

Congratulations to the following Graigue-Ballycallan Gaa Club members who won All-Ireland medals throughout the year: Billy Ryan (Intermediate All-Ireland), Colum Prendiville and Tommy Ronan (Senior A Colleges All-Ireland), Jesse Roberts, Tom Dunphy, Tommy Ronan, Killian Egan and Ciaran Hogan (Junior A Colleges All-Ireland).

In addition, well done to all who represented our club on National Development Squads day in August: U14 Oisín Egan, Eoin Delahunty; U15 Stephen Keaghan; U16 Killian Egan, Aaron Brennan; U17 Tommy Ronan, Sean Ryan, Jesse Roberts, Conor Flynn.

Unfortunately, the club lost some great supporters and past players throughout 2016 and sincere sympathies go to the families of the following dearly departed: Paul Harrison, Joe Dalton, Billy Malone, Jim Murphy, Pat Lennon, Molly Maher, Ruth Treacy, Eamon McCluskey, Paddy Walsh, Dan Walsh, Paddy Hally, Brigid Robinson, Mollie McMahon, John Byrne, Stasia Butler, TD Purcell and Joe Dawson.



Launch of new Michael Lyng Sponsored Scoreboard.



U8s Family Fun day



Graigue Ballycallan U6's 2016



Winners of League Forecast Competition



Every year we run two large tournaments at u18 and u16 level to which we invite the best of teams from around the country. We are grateful for the continuing support the Mullen (right) and Morrissey families (left) have given to the club to facilitate these outstanding tournaments.



U11s at the Seamus Fry Tournament.



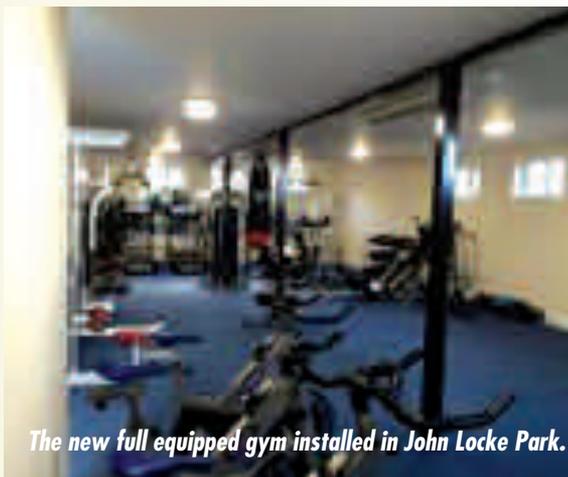
U10s at the St. Rynaghs tournament



U8s bursting for action in Croke Park.

Champions Reunion 1975/'76.
 In those years James Stephens won two Kilkenny senior hurling titles, one county football title and became the first team outside Munster to capture the Tommy Moore Cup as All Ireland club champions, achieving 25 matches undefeated. We honoured the group on the 40th anniversary of their outstanding achievements.
 Back: Brian Cody, Niall Morrissey, Tom McCormack, Jimmy O'Brien, John Joe Cullen, Michael Neary, Paddy Neary, Sean Georgie Leahy, Tom Brennan.
 Middle: Mick Power, Liam Chunky O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Jim Dollard, Kevin Hennessy, Alan O'Brien (Josie O'Brien RIP), Brian Leahy (Mick Leahy RIP), Joe Earle, Eamonn Morrissey, Mick Moore, Dinny McCormack.
 Seated: Sean Brennan, John McCormack, Mick Taylor, Barry O'Neill, Phil Fan Larkin, Joe O'Dwyer, Joe Hennessy, Ger Tyrrell.

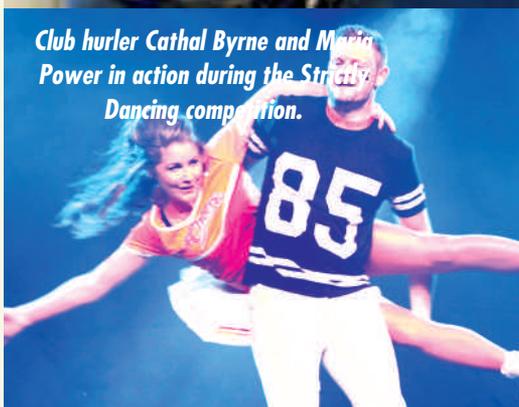




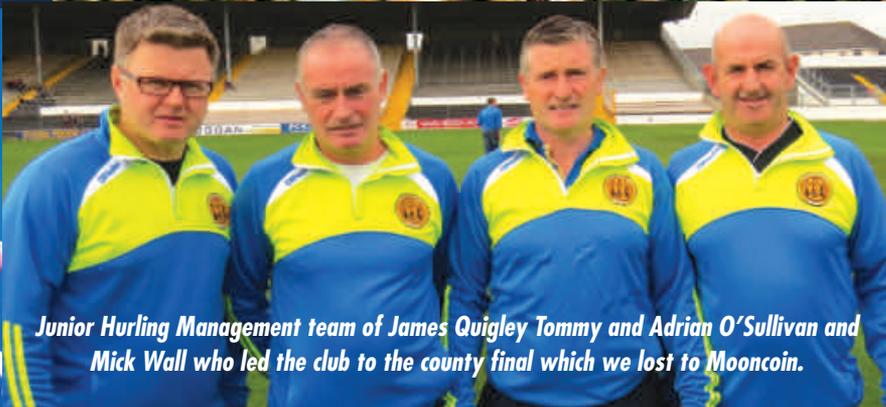
The new full equipped gym installed in John Locke Park.



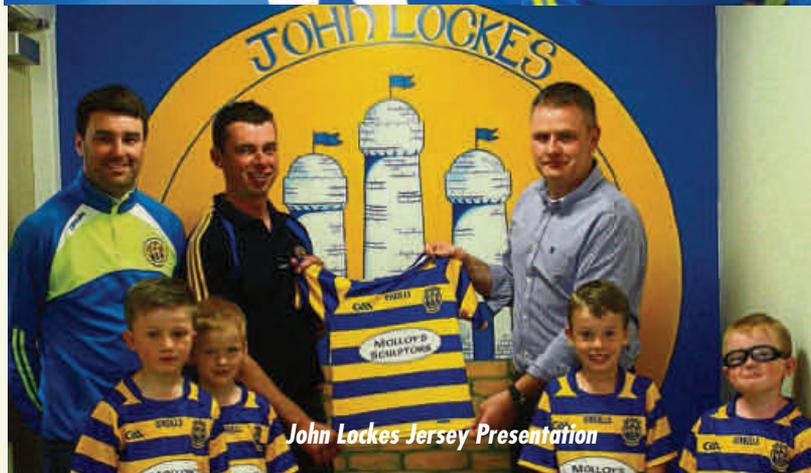
Minor A hurling title winning team from 1984.



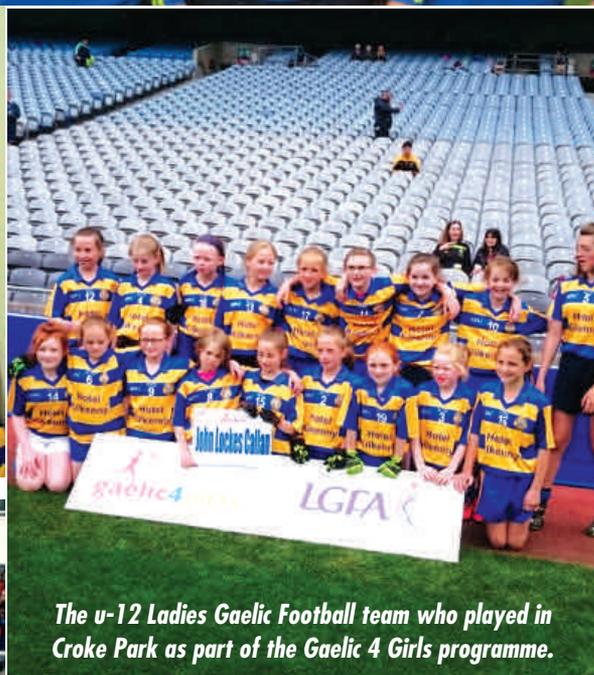
Club hurler Cathal Byrne and Maria Power in action during the Strath Dancing competition.



Junior Hurling Management team of James Quigley Tommy and Adrian O'Sullivan and Mick Wall who led the club to the county final which we lost to Mooncoin.



John Lockes Jersey Presentation



The u-12 Ladies Gaelic Football team who played in Croke Park as part of the Gaelic 4 Girls programme.



The u-6 hurlers and their mentors who took part in the O'Loughlin Gaels tournament during the summer.

The Club had a very busy year both on and off the field beginning with the biggest fundraiser ever undertaken in the form of strictly come dancing event held in Lyrath Hotel. It proved a huge success and the Club are eternally grateful to all who contributed to a fantastic adventure.



U6s at Blitz in Complex



U6s at Game in Bannow Ballymitty



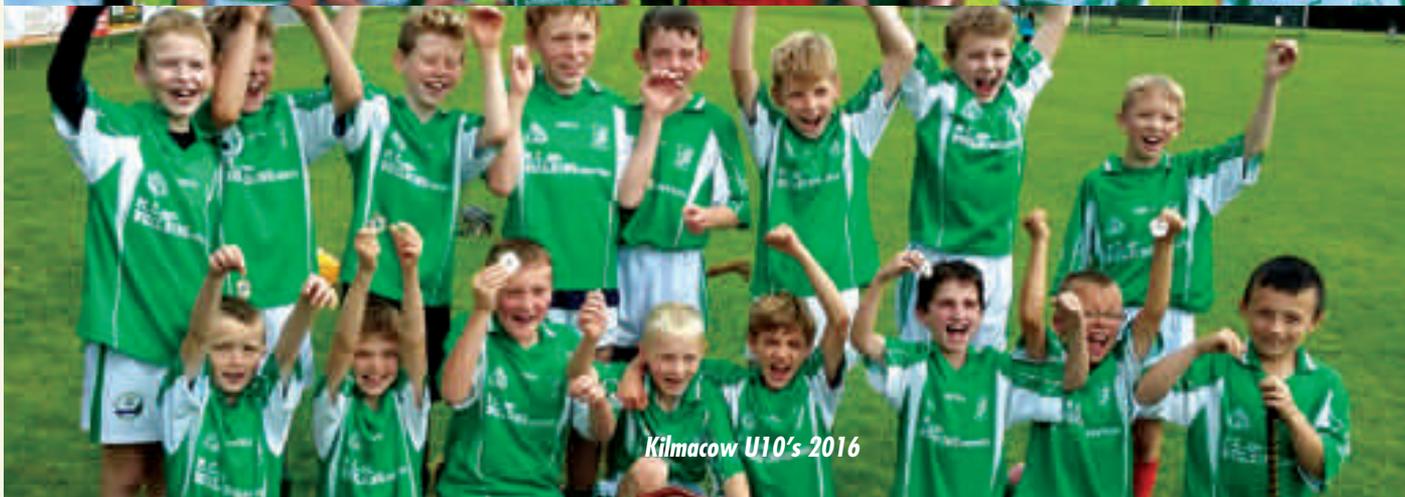
U14 v Graignamanagh



Kilmacow U16's V O'Loughlin Gaels



U12 at Kilmacow U12 Festival of Hurling



Kilmacow U10's 2016



Dicksboro - Lisdowney Windfarm 7's Sweeney Cup Winners 2016



The U8's form a queue to meet Liam Blanchfield



The full crew of Strictly Let's Dance Fenians & Lisdowney



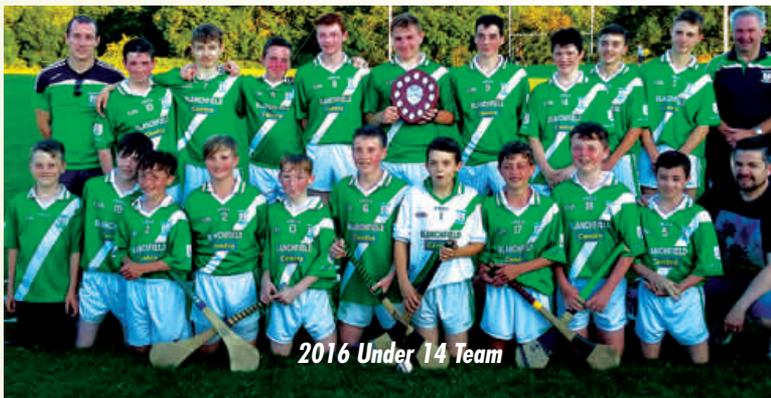
Rory Hickey & Rebecca Stapleton-winners of Strictly Let's Dance Fenians & Lisdowney



Kilkenny Hurler Liam Blanchfield meets the U6 squad on the final day of training.



Parish 7's winner Killian Dunne and all the players who took part



2016 Under 14 Team



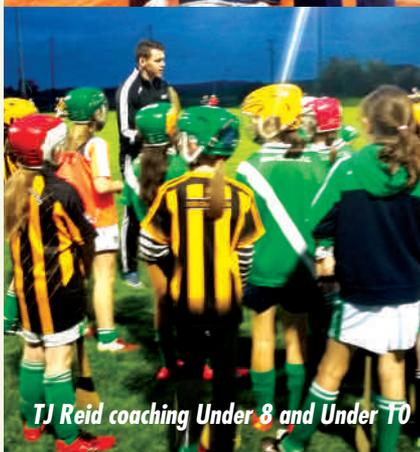
Eoin Doyle of All Test Centre presenting new set of jerseys to Joe Murphy. Also in picture are Ethan Ryan, Tommy Healy and Shane Walsh.



Niall Mackey & Family with Junior Championship Cup



Under 10 Girls trip to Camogie All Ireland.



TJ Reid coaching Under 8 and Under 10



Under 10 Boys who took part in Callan Blitz



Mooncoin U6 enjoying some buns after match in Kilmacrow



Model of new Muckalee Club Development Project



Builder Joe Maher signs the contract with Committee members and Co Board Officers



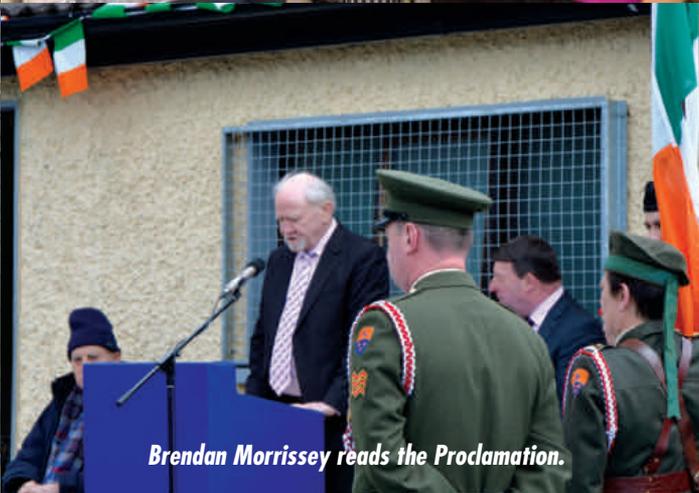
Section of the attendance at Development Project Launch



Agnes and Breda Maher, Breda Tynan and Kathleen Tynan and Marie Murphy at the Launch



The lone piper leads the Parade at the 1916 Commemoration Ceremony at Muckalee GFC Grounds



Brendan Morrissey reads the Proclamation.



Some members of the committee at the existing Club Premises Paddy Tynan, Paul Corcoran, Seamus Tynan, Patsy Murphy, Richard Nolan, Lar Maher, Micheal Brennan.



Senior Football Management Team Martin Dowd, Tom Cullen, Nicky Purcell, Lar Maher.



Mullinavat players representing The Field Bar who won the Red Bull Dawn to Dusk tournament in Kilkenny Castle this year



Mullinavat U 12 2016



Mullinavat Under 8 2016



Mullinavat U 12 Pil town Tournament Shield Winners 2016

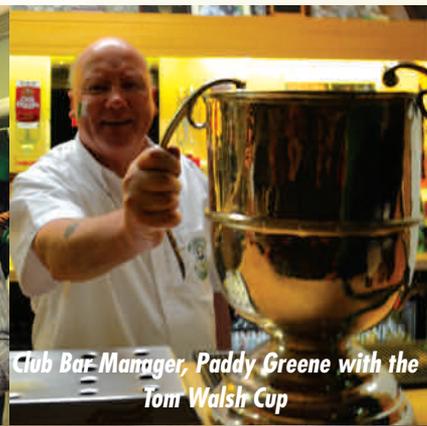
CELEBRATIONS!



Elaine Murphy, Pat Whelan, Richie Hogan and Brian Hogan enjoy County Final Celebrations



Two Sporting Legends - Mick Galway and Andy Kearns



Club Bar Manager, Paddy Greene with the Tom Walsh Cup



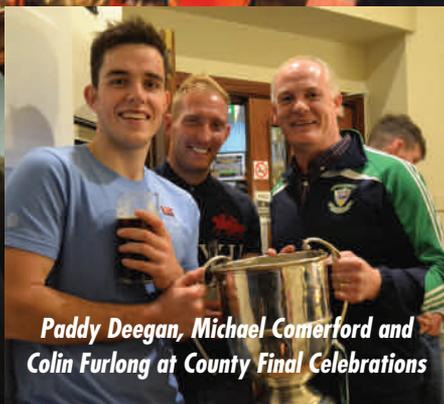
Happy Supporters Catherine Cleere, Yvonne Leydon, Majella and Jack Kelly, Benny Cleere



Mary Kearns, Liz Fogarty and Geraldine Kelly at O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club Celebrations



Brian Hogan, Danny Loughnane and Shane Mahony



Paddy Deegan, Michael Comerford and Colin Furlong at County Final Celebrations

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club - Club Ghaeil Uí Lochlainn

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club was founded in 1969 and serves St. Johns Parish which includes Dunmore, Johnswell and the greater part of Kilkenny City. The club boasts extensive facilities located at St. Johns' Park, Hebron Road, adjacent to Nowlan Park, with two Championship size pitches, a Juvenile Pitch, two Handball Alleys, Bar, Lounge and large Sports Hall catering for All Social and Sporting Events. O'Loughlin Gaels GAA are current County Senior Hurling Champions having secured the title for the fourth time in its history. Juvenile Training continues each Sunday morning and new members are always welcome. For details of all Club Activities and contacts view our website www.oloughlingaels.gaa.ie and Facebook and twitter pages. (Tel 056 7765036) or pro.oloughlingaels.kilkenny@gaa.ie

Club Officers:

President:	Marty Hanlon	Treasurer:	Sean Casey
Chairman:	Brian Murphy	PRO:	Eoin Lawlor
Vice-Chairman:	Sean Tyrrell	Juv Chairman:	Nigel Leydon
Secretary:	Margaret Hanlon		



U-6 panel's first match of the season



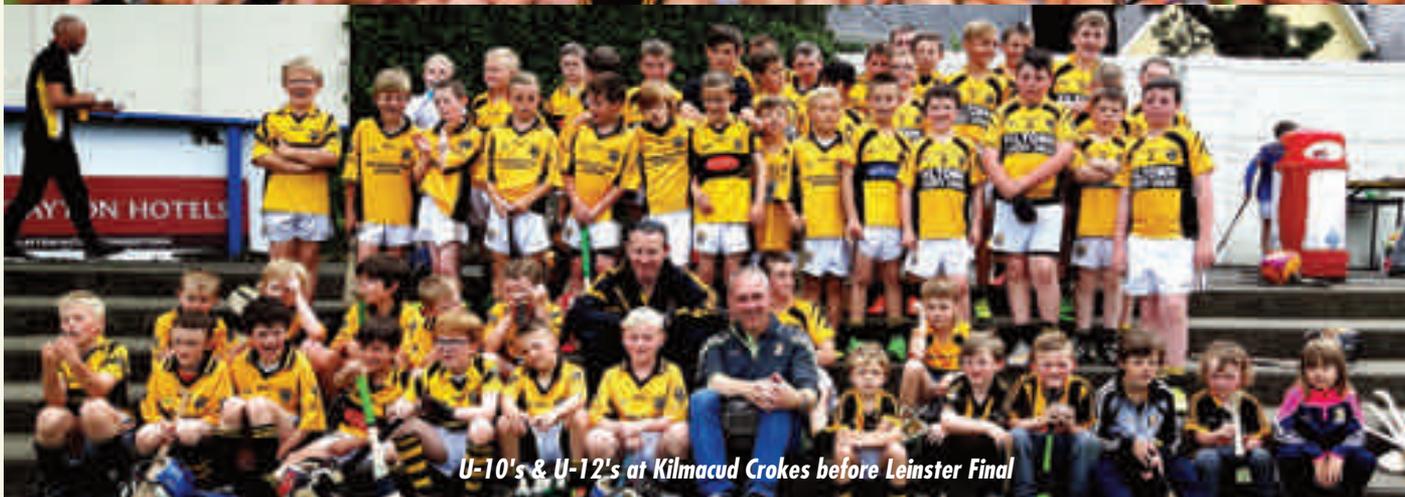
U-8 panel at St Kieran's College blitz



U-16 Jim Reid tournament finalists



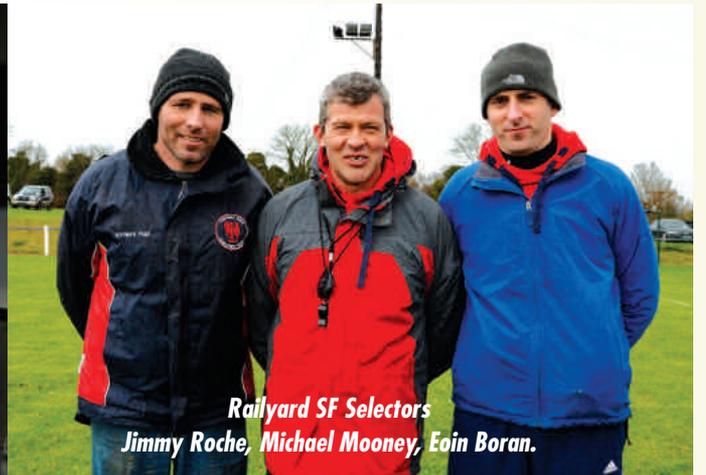
Minor panel & Niall O'Brien tournament winners.



U-10's & U-12's at Kilmacud Crokes before Leinster Final



Conor McDonald receiving the Ned Langton Cup from Tom Reilly



Railyard SF Selectors Jimmy Roche, Michael Mooney, Eoin Boran.



Action from the County Final Railyard v Kilmoganny



Our Senior team once again won the Senior Championship in 2016 to complete three in a row.

After overcoming Mooncoin in the Quarter-Final, our old rivals Muckalee stood in our way in the semi. The game was played on a wet and windy day in Castlecomer and after a hard fought hour of football, Railyard prevailed on a scoreline of 0-7 to 0-6.

Kilmoganny were the opposition in the final and had beaten Railyard in the 2016 League semi-final earlier in the season. The final, like the league semi, proved to be a close contest with both teams having periods of dominance during the game. In the end the experience of this Railyard team proved to be the difference and they ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-8 to 2-3 to claim the Senior Championship for the 3rd time in a row and the 22nd time overall.

Our Seniors also captured the delayed 2015 Senior League when the beat Mooncoin 1-11 to 1-5.

Our Junior team started their league season with a walkover from Carrickshock and a fine victory over Three Castles. However, this was the only action they saw and they are still waiting to complete their season.

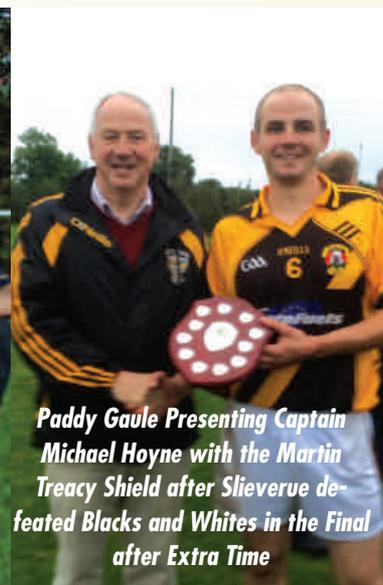
The 2015 U-21 Football Championship was played early in 2016 and our lads qualified for the final where they were defeated by a strong Grainamanagh team.



Railyard stars of the future celebrate the county championship



Our Under 10 team who took part in the 9th Eamonn O Donovan Memorial Tournament.



Paddy Gaule Presenting Captain Michael Hoyne with the Martin Treacy Shield after Slieverue defeated Blacks and Whites in the Final after Extra Time



Slieverue Winning Martin Treacy Shield Team



Pic 5: Our Under 5/6's who took part in many challenge games during the year



Our Under 9/10's who took part in the Go Games blitz in MW Hire Training Centre, Dunmore

The Club was delighted that William Halpin was picked to play on the Tony Forristal Team this year. The club would also like to congratulate Gavin Grant who played in the Under 17 Celtic Final in Nowlan Park and also to Pat Power who was the manager of the team.



U14 team being presented with league trophy by John Byrne



U6 Team



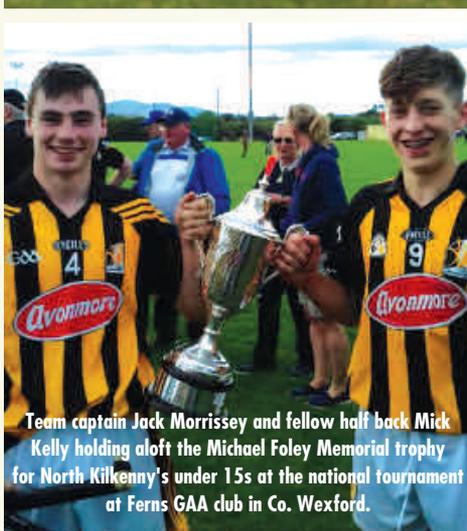
Above and left: Muckalee U8's



U10 team at go games finals in Dunmore



Our Intermediate Team with the Alyward Cup 2016 (St Patricks GAA 3:16 v Young Irelands 0:11)
 Back: Seoirse Kenny, Micheál Kenny, Mark Staunton, Donal Brennan, Barry Staunton, Billy Morrissey, Sean Mooney, Geoff Morrissey, Kieran Delaney, Ger Staunton, Eoin Delaney, John Holland,
 James Morrissey, Michael Gannon, John Butler, Michael Brennan.
 Front: Conor Foley, Brian Phelan, Stephen Staunton, Oisín Brennan, Jack Ryan, Conor Delaney, Robert Healy, Paddy Cahill, Bill Staunton, John Mooney, Joe Brennan, Richie McEvoy, Geoff Brennan, James Gannon.



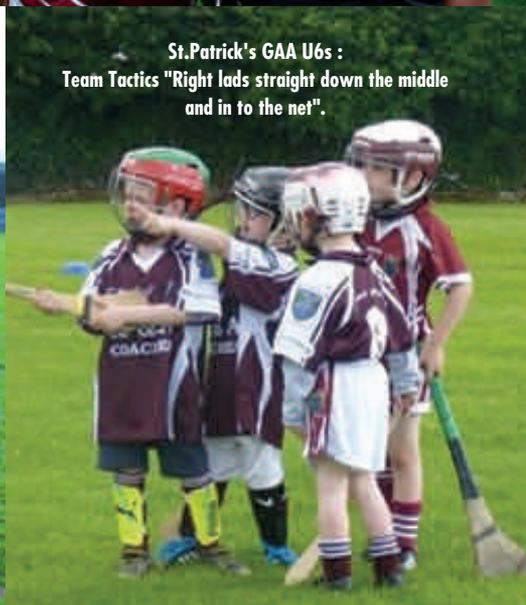
Team captain Jack Morrissey and fellow half back Mick Kelly holding aloft the Michael Foley Memorial trophy for North Kilkenny's under 15s at the national tournament at Ferns GAA club in Co. Wexford.



Phelan Stone U11 Tournament presentation for Emma Dowling.



Kilkenny GAA All star player Tommy Walsh visiting St.Patrick's GAA under 10s.



St.Patrick's GAA U6s :
 Team Tactics "Right lads straight down the middle and in to the net".



Above:
St Lachtain's GAA hosted a lecture during Heritage Week titled "Kilkenny in 1916" delivered by noted Kilkenny Historian Jim Maher. Left to right John Kennedy, Jim Hayes, Jim Maher, Ned Kennedy.

Right:
Ladies who danced in the Strictly St Lachtain's GAA Fundraiser



Above:
The juvenile winners in the Drive for Liam quiz. Left to right Pdraig Donnelly, Patrick Killeen, Jordan Burke and Leo Costigan.

St Lachtain's Juvenile Team - Kinraig Scotland June 2002

Back: Patrick Rafter, Denis Lennon, Brian Kennedy, Edwin Brennan, Stephen Farrell, Paul Guinan, Eoin O'Donnell, Kieran White, Ger Dunne, William Walsh, Lachtain Kennedy, Tommy Condon.
Front: David Fitzpatrick, Gerry Corcoran, Paul Dermody, Bernard Mullen, Philip Campion, William Cleere, Michael Neary, Conrad Cooper, David Buggy.



Freshford School Team 1956

Back: Donal Heaphy, Patins Ryan, Billy Walsh, Tom Cleere, Marty Dunne, Oliver Phelan, Joe Walsh, John Keoghan, Tommy Butler, Teddy Ryan, Kieran Bowe, Paddy Butler.

Front: Marty Connolly, Joe Dunne, Pierce Britten, Martin Dawson, Din Dunne, Richard Buggy, Seamus Kinsella.



Busy start to 2016 to clean up following Storm Frank



Main sponsors Supervalu Thomastown presenting the club with a new set of jerseys in February



Nathan Carter performing in Grénnan as the headline act at our An Grianán Festival in June.



Our U14 footballers getting ready for the trip to Kerry to participate in the Feile na nOg. The lads had a great tournament eventually losing the final to St Patrick's GAA Club Wicklow.



Birds eye view of our field day to round off the An Grianán Festival in June



Our U10 hurlers who competed in the County Go Games in Dunmore



The club signed up to the GAA Social Initiative during the year and our first event was a stadium tour and meal in Croke Park in September for more than fifty of our senior supporters.



Threecastles Team Photo for 2016



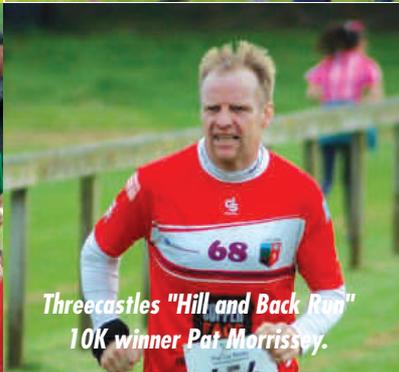
Chairman Tom Kelly presents the winners of the annual Road Hurling Event Simon and David Rafter with their prize.



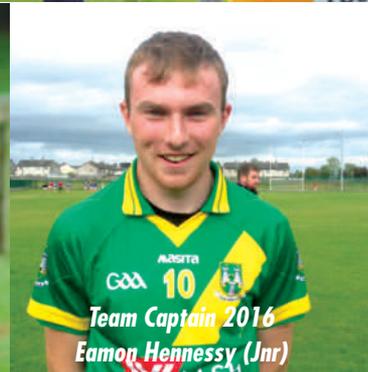
Threecastles "Hill and Back Run" 5K Start.



Hill and Back Run" 2.5K Start



Threecastles "Hill and Back Run" 10K winner Pat Morrissey.



Team Captain 2016 Eamon Hennessy (Jnr)



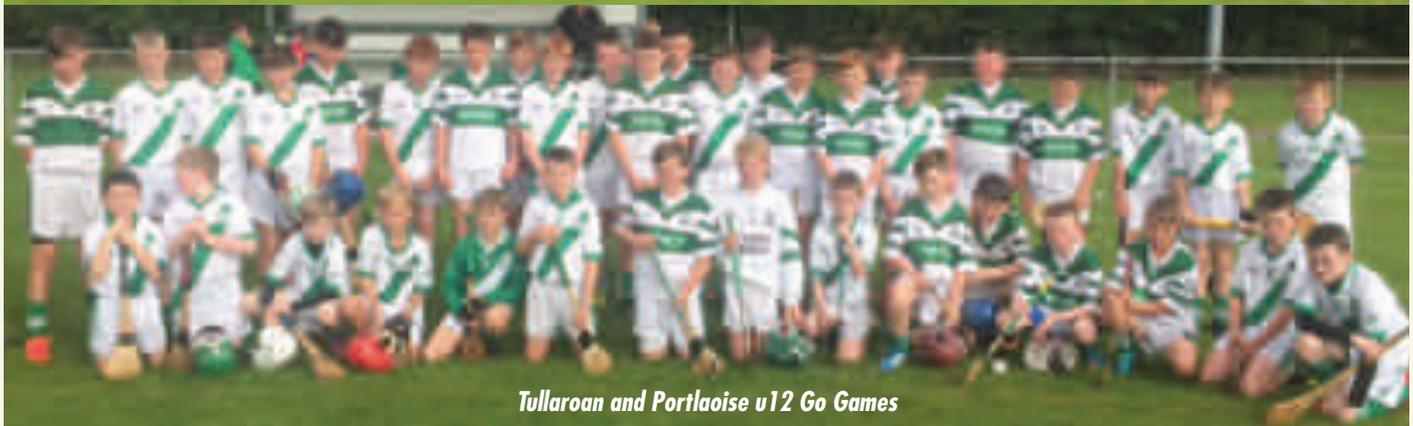
Kids Tug of War from the 2016 Field Day.



And there off in the underage races at the field day.



Tullaroan and Ballygalget teams. Ballygalget Tournament 2016



Tullaroan and Portlaoise u12 Go Games



Tullaroan Chairman Dick Walsh making presentation to Ballygalget (Co. Down) Chairman Martin Bailie



Tullaroan u6 team



Tullaroan u8 team collect the cup in Croke Park!



Tullaroan u8 team. Croke Park Go Games



Tullagher/Rosbercon U10's Rathnure Tournament Winners



Captains Liam Barron, Tullagher Rosbercon and John Tennyson, Carrickshock with referee Peter Burke before the County IH Final



Tullagher/Rosbercon U12's Piltown Blitz Winners.



Tullagher/Rosbercon goalmouth action from the County IH Final



Walter Walsh, Tullagher's GAA All Star 2016



Windgap Club Co-founder (Founded 1954) Dan Phelan and family members Shamie and Judith with his Maurice Davin Award at Tipperary, Waterford, Kilkenny, GAA Triangular Awards held at the Carraig Hotel Carrick-on-Suir.

Windgap Committee 2016



2016 U11 School Team



2016 Lisdowney 7s U13 Team



2016 School Team

U8 Croke Park trip, July 2016



Ciaran, Peter & Tommy Carroll of Farm & Industrial Supplies (FIS), Cilin Hill, pictured presenting a new set of jerseys for the club adult teams to Chairman Liam Walsh, Secretary Eddie Power and players Paul Holden & JJ Lennon. FIS have provided much appreciated support to Young Irelands as main club sponsors for the past 15 years



U13 boys and mentors that reached the final of the Lisdowney 7's with great wins over Ballycallan, Bennettsbridge, Mooncoin and Carrickshock. The boys lost the final to Dicksboro after a great battle that went to extra time.



Edel Quinlan from Northern Trust Bank presenting a new set of jerseys for the club U12 team.



U14 Regional Feile winners in Portlaoise with victories over teams from Galway, Carlow and Cork



Minor Hurling squad that reached the Roinn C league final for the second year in a row where they lost out to eventual double winners Tullaroan.

KILKENNY'S 2016 ALL STARS



Denise Gaule
Senior Player of the Year and All Star left half forward.



Manager of the Year Ann Downey



Intermediate Soaring Star team



Intermediate Player of the Year Ciara Holden

2016 is the year that keeps on giving for Kilkenny camogie as they were the big winners at the Camogie All Stars that took place in the Citywest Hotel in Dublin on Saturday last, as they came home with two Intermediate soaring stars, eight senior All Stars, two players of the year and Manager of the year awards.

The night began with Junior soaring stars awards that saw Carlow secure 2 of the six awards on offer with Eleanor Treacy and Ciara Quirke claiming the All Stars with Armagh claiming two and Westmeath and Roscommon making up the remainder. Next up was the Intermediate soaring stars that saw six of the All Ireland champions Kilkenny up for awards. Ciara Holden (Mullinavat) and Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro) claim two of the six awards on offer with Cork claiming two and Laois and Meath claiming the other two All Stars.

Next up was the player of the year awards. Eleanor Treacy claimed the junior Player of the year award. Ciara Holden and Jenny Clifford who claimed Intermediate awards earlier in the night competed for the Intermediate award with Mullinavat player getting the nod from her peers to claim the Intermediate player of the year award. Next up was the Senior player of the year award. Denise Gaule found herself nominated for the senior award with Orla Cotter (Cork) and Kate Kelly (Wexford). Denise Gaule claimed the vote of her fellow players to claim the Senior honour for 2016. The next award on the night was the Manager of the year that saw Ann Downey up against Mark Brennan of Carlow and Paudie Murray of Cork for the award. To the roar of the Kilkenny crowd in attendance Ann Downey claimed the award in recognition of bringing the O'Duffy cup back Nore side for the first time in 22 years.

The main part of the evening then got underway with the Senior All Star team for 2016 being announced with 15 of the Kilkenny team being nominated. First up was Goal keeper with Emma Kavanagh up against Aoife Murray (Cork), and Mags D'Arcy (Wexford) with the Rower Instioge net minder claiming the award for the All Ireland champions. The full back line was next up with Collette Dormer, Jacqui Frisby, and Davina Tobin getting the nomination along with Rena Buckley (Cork), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Laura Treacy (Cork), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Jean Brady (Offaly), Aoife McGrath (Tipperary). The right back award went to Pamela Mackey of Cork. The full back award went to Sarah Dervan of Galway with Collette Dormer of Paulstown getting the Left corner back award. Next up was the half back line with Anne Dalton St Lachtains, Meighan Farrell Thomastown, Edwina Keane, St. Martins, and Claire Phelan Lisdowney up against Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Rebecca Hennelly (Galway), Siobhán Flannery (Offaly), Patricia Jackman (Waterford), Sarah O'Connor (Wexford).

The Right Half-Back award went to Rebecca Hennelly of Galway. The centre back award went to Anne Dalton of St Lachtains her fourth award and Meighan Farrell of Thomastown finished up the back line with the Left Half-Back award her first All Star. Next up was the Midfield nomination that saw Anna Farrell Thomastown and Miriam Walsh Tullaroan up against Orla Cotter (Cork), Ashling Thompson (Cork), Teresa Ryan (Tipperary) and Shelley Kehoe (Wexford). The first midfield award went to the Rebel county with Orla Cotter claiming the award. Miriam Walsh of Tullaroan claiming the fifth award for Kilkenny. The next awards of the night was the half forward line that saw Denise Gaule Windgap and Julie Ann Malone Mullinavat up against Hannah Looney (Cork), Niamh O'Dea (Clare), Aoife Donohue (Galway), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Mary Ryan (Tipperary), Nicole Walsh (Tipperary) finishing the nominations. The Right Half-Forward award went to Denise Gaule of Windgap. The Centre Half-Forward went to Julie Ann Malone of Mullinavat with Aoife Donohue of Galway claiming the Left Half-Forward award. Next up was the full forward line that saw Shelly Farrell Thomastown, Katie Power Piltown and Michelle Quilty Mullinavat up against Briege Corkery (Cork), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Ailish O'Reilly (Galway), Tina Hannon (Offaly), Orla O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Kate Kelly (Wexford) making up the nominations. The Right Corner-Forward award went to Michelle Quilty of Mullinavat. Kate Kelly of Wexford claimed the full forward award while Katrina Mackey of Cork finished up the All Star team for 2016 in claiming the Left corner forward spot.

The All Star awards really were the icing on the cake after a terrific year for Kilkenny camogie.



Intermediate soaring stars Ciara Holden and Jenny Clifford



CAMOGIE ALL STARS FOR 2016

Back: Orla Cotter (Cork), Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Rebecca Hennelly (Galway), Collette Dormer (Kilkenny), Sarah Dervan, (Galway), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Emma Kavanagh (Kilkenny), Miriam Walsh (Kilkenny),
 Front: Padie Murray (Cork manager collecting award for Katriona Mackey), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny), Aoife Donohue (Galway), Julieann Malone (Kilkenny), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny).
 Kilkenny's Emma Kavanagh, Galway's Sarah Dervan, Kilkenny's Collette Dormer, Galway's Rebecca Hennelly, Kilkenny's Anne Dalton, Kilkenny's, Cork's Kilkenny's Miriam Walsh, Kilkenny's Denise Gaule, Kilkenny's Julie Ann Malone, Galway's Aoife Donoghue, Kilkenny's Michelle Quilty and Kate Kelly of Wexford with Camogie President Catherine Neary, CEO Joan O'Flynn, Minister Patrick O'Donovan and Alan Johnston from Liberty Insurance

CAMOGIE TEAM OF THE YEAR 2016

Emma Kavanagh (Kilkenny), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Collette Dormer (Kilkenny), Rebecca Hennelly (Galway), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Orla Cotter (Cork), Miriam Walsh (Kilkenny), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny), Julie Ann Malone (Kilkenny), Aoife Donohue (Galway), Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Katrina Mackey (Cork).

GAA/GPA HURLING TEAM OF THE YEAR 2016

1. Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny), 2. Cathal Barrett (Tipperary), 3. James Barry (Tipperary), 4. Daithi Burke (Galway), 5. Pádraig Walsh (Kilkenny), 6. Ronan Maher (Tipperary), 7. Padraic Maher (Tipperary), 8. Jamie Barron (Waterford), 9. David Burke (Galway), 10. Walter Walsh (Kilkenny), 11. Austin Gleeson (Waterford), 12. Patrick Maher (Tipperary), 13. Richie Hogan (Kilkenny), 14. Seamus Callanan (Tipperary), 15. John McGrath (Tipperary).



KILKENNY ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS 2016

Kilkenny hurlers, from left, Pádraig Walsh, Walter Walsh, Eoin Murphy and Richie Hogan with their awards at the 2016 GAA/GPA Opel All-Stars Awards at the Convention Centre in Dublin. Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile

Obituaries



Michael (Mick) Doyle

The news of the untimely death of Michael (Mick) Doyle, Garryduff, Paulstown on 4th January, 2016 was received with great shock and sadness in the parish of Paulstown and beyond. Mick suffered a number of illnesses during his short life, all of which he bore with great courage and good humour, helped by his wife Maureen and sons Richie, Ciaran and Michael who were a tower of strength to him during his difficult times.

Mick Doyle enjoyed a lifelong passion for hurling, and in particular his club Barrow Rangers. He was no mean footballer either and that trusted left foot set up many a score for his colleagues. His career for the club spanned three decades.

A strong forward who played in a variety of positions, he was spotted more than once by county selectors, had some trials with the senior panel and won All-Ireland and Leinster junior honours with the Black and Amber. He was on the county team which won provincial junior honours in 1983, 1984 and 1986. In 1984, Centenary year, Mick and club mate John Lawlor had the distinction of returning to Paulstown with Junior All-Ireland medals. Mick went on to win his second All-Ireland junior medal in 1986.

Barrow Rangers most successful year in their history was 1982, when the club won both hurling and football county junior titles with Mick featuring prominently in both. Further honours arrived with county junior hurling titles in 1988 and 1990 and Intermediate Football titles in 1990 and 1993.

But Mick was not finished yet. He loved his hurling so much that he could not be kept away from it. He joined up with the Kilkenny Masters team and brought home another Celtic Cross when they won the All Ireland in 1998.

Mick always had great time for the youth in the parish. His involvement with the youth came to the fore when, with Eugene Kealy, Derek McEvoy and others, he took over the under sixteen and minor teams and took both teams from Roinn C to Roinn A, an incredible feat for a small rural parish.

His proudest moments however were yet to come, when son Richie played for Kilkenny at Senior level and became the first player from the club to bring home Senior All Ireland Medals in 2011 and 2012. Mick continued to relive those memories right to the end.

He was so passionate about the game that even in his darkest moments he summoned the strength to put on a brave face and his woolly hat and was off to follow the three boys, wherever that took him, Kilkenny, Barrow Rangers or the CBS.

The huge crowds from all over that attended his funeral was a fitting testament of the esteem in which he was held.

Ar Dheis Lámh Dé go raibh a anam



Billy Malone

2016 has been a great year for the club but in February we lost one of our most important members, Mr. Billy Malone. Billy was proud to be one of the camogie club's founding members and presidents. Elected one of the club's trustees in 1990, he steered the club through the transition from Shipton to the current pitch in Kilmanagh. Billy was an integral part of the club and officiated at all levels for both club and county, having been involved in the hugely successful seven-in-a-row Kilkenny camogie team. He travelled the roads supporting all age groups and the county panels and always took great pride in supporting his daughters and granddaughters who played with the club and county. He could be seen at all games recording the score lines with pen and paper in hand. He was an absolute gentleman who had a keen eye for skills and tactics and was an ever-present voice offering words of encouragement and support to all camogie players and hurlers.

Billy will be fondly remembered for his invaluable contribution to St. Brigid's Camogie Club over many years and is greatly missed by all those who knew him.

He leaves behind a wonderful family and we send our deepest sympathies to his daughters Marie, Anne, Celine and Deirdre, sister Brigid, sons-in-law, fourteen grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Pat O'Keefe

Pat O'Keefe, who died on the 19th of August, achieved legendary status in handball.

He was born on June 28, 1933 in Moonvoor, Clonassy, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny, the eldest son and third child in a family of seven of James and Katie O'Keefe.

He started school at Garrygaug, Mullinavat where he attended for six or seven years. He decided one day to switch to Mullinavat Village School where he enrolled himself, which was often humorously spoken about by his brothers and sisters.

Apart from his parents, he was greatly influenced by his favourite teacher Master Crotty and his aunt Peg O'Keefe, his father's sister, who loved him dearly.

As a teenager he emigrated to England for work. He quickly found that England wasn't for him.

He left for Canada, which he greatly enjoyed, before heading to New York City where he was to remain for 25 years. He had many different jobs, including in the US Army, but his most permanent position was in the New York Port Authority where he worked for over 20 years. He was so proud to receive a pension from them up until his passing in August.

He met his wife Phyllis (nee Sheehan), who was from Fethard, in New York. She had herself emigrated and was daughter of Ned and Nancy Sheehan, St Patrick's Place.

They met at an Irish dance near Gaelic Park in 1961. They married on August 20, 1966. Their son Pearse was born the following June (1967).

Pat was very proud that he, Phyllis and Pearse were US citizens and was proud of their American passports. Pat loved his time in New York, where, apart from his family life, he was involved in many sports including hurling, which he played regularly in Gaelic Park.

Pat won an All-Ireland with the New York Kilkenny Team (midfield) in 1957. He was also a champion athlete, winning many track and field cross-country titles under the guidance of Pete McArdle, who was the Track and Field coach at the prestigious New York Athletic

(NYAC) where Pat was a respected member for years. He absolutely adored the place.

He was also a champion boxer and reached the semi-final of the prestigious Golden Gloves.

It was at handball that Pat really excelled. He won numerous tournaments around New York, including One Wall, Three Wall and Four Wall courts.

He played with many legends at the New York Athletic Club, and others around New York, including The Baily Avenue Club where Pat met some of his best friends.

In 1963 Pat received the Baily Avenue Sportsman of the Year Award.

In 1975, Pat, Phyllis and Pearse reluctantly returned to Ireland and bought a house on Main Street, Fethard, beside the Garda Barracks. They lived there for years, with Pat continuing to play handball with the Fethard club.

Pat enjoyed great games in Fethard with senior All-Ireland champion John Ryan (Ballingarry) and All-Ireland champions from Clonmel, Mick (Stick) Griffin, Tommy Morrissey and Noel O'Brien, to name but a few.

He became great friends with many Fethard sportspeople, including Jack Wall, Cly Mullins, Derry O'Dwyer and John Quirke.

Pat was proud of the numerous All-Ireland medals that were being won at under-age level by local players Willie O'Donnell and John Woodlock.

In 1976 Pat, representing Tipperary, won his first All-Ireland handball title, junior 40x20 singles, thus becoming the first man from Mullinavat to win a handball All-Ireland.

The following year came Pat's greatest handball achievement when the Irish Handball Council decided to send two senior players to represent Ireland in the American Championships with the All Star hurling and football teams to California. Pat Kirby, who was senior singles All-Ireland champion, was picked automatically. Who joined him would be decided by the first Irish trials for senior players to represent Ireland.

Peader McGee (Mayo), Pakie Ryan (Dublin), John Kirby and Dan Kirby (Clare) and Mick Ahearne (Kerry) were in the running but Pat won the right, receiving a special Cuchulainn Statue trophy. Pat always said it was the trip of a lifetime.

Pat and Phyllis's daughter Maggie was born in January 1976 in Fethard, and in 1980, Pat, Phyllis, Pearse and Maggie left Fethard to be near Pat's home village of Mullinavat, where daughter Susie was born in 1980.

While representing Mullinavat, Pat went on to win a further 28 All-Ireland titles in singles and doubles. His doubles partner was mostly Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's), a long-time friend with whom he broke many records.

He was also thrilled to win an All-Ireland doubles title with his clubmate and close friend, Johnny O'Meara. In 1984 Pat received the Smithwick's Sportstar of the Year Award for handball after winning four All-Irelands in the same year.

His son Pearse also received this award in 1987. To this day, they are the only father and son to win this award for handball.

Pat also won two World handball titles, being the only Mullinavat player to become World Champion. Apart from playing handball, Pat enjoyed training the young players of Mullinavat, hardly ever missing a training session.

He trained his son Pearse to win 19 All-Ireland medals. Pat attended every one of those matches, including when Pearse won the US junior singles title in Baltimore, Maryland in 1992.

Pat continued to play handball up until the time he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease some years ago. Because of Pat's illness, he moved into a small bungalow in Fr Maher Place for the elderly in Mullinavat, which was organised by Tommy Duggan and his committee, something which Pat's family will be forever grateful.

Sadly for Pat, as much as he loved living in Fr Maher Place, he had to move to the Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel when his illness worsened, which meant he could no longer live independently. This broke his heart.

Pat O'Keeffe lived life to the full. He enjoyed everything to do with sports and family and there was never a dull moment. His wife Phyllis, son Pearse, daughters Maggie and Susie, grandchildren Aaron, Amy, Lauren, Ben, Caoimhe, Ryan, Allannah, Max, Sophie and Alex, his brothers Ned, Sonny and Jim, his sisters Mary and Kitty and friends greatly miss him but wish to thank everybody who sympathised with them and sent cards and thanks to the wonderful ladies who looked after catering in the village hall. Thanks to Fr Barron, the Choir, undertaker Martin Power and his wife, the gravediggers, the readers and everyone for being so kind.

May Pat rest in peace.

Ruth



Eddie O'Donoghue

The victory of the Dicksboro Under 14 hurlers on Saturday, September 24 in the Roinn A county hurling final was tinged with sadness for everyone in the club.

Eddie O'Donoghue senior, Drakelands, Kilkenny one of the great servants of Dicksboro GAA club was letting go to life in St Luke's Hospital while the match was being played. Eddie's son Tom was a selector on the team adding even more poignancy to events.

And Eddie who was president of the club at the time of his death, was told of the win before he passed away in St Luke's hospital surrounded by his loving family.

Eddie senior acted as selector, player, umpire, linesman and groundsmen in his time at Palmerstown and is linked inextricably with the club and that proud tradition of volunteerism is carried on by his children and grandchildren. His grandfather, Paddy, was a founder member of the club and had the distinction of scoring the winning goal for Kilkenny in the 1922 All Ireland senior hurling final. An achievement that is often forgotten about a man who was an extremely skillful hurler. That win was a huge achievement and marked the first time that Kilkenny had beaten Tipperary in the All Ireland senior hurling final.

Eddie senior was a carpenter by trade and his tasty work can still be seen in many houses around the city. He served his time with the late Jackie Dowling and worked for a time with WK Cleere and sons.

Eddie was a great greyhound man and always kept dogs with varying degrees of success, a tradition maintained by his family.

A huge guard of honour was formed by the club as the cortege made its way from the Kennywell Road to St Mary's Cathedral for his removal. He was buried in Foulkstown cemetery on Tuesday, September 27 after Requiem Mass in the cathedral with Fr Kieran O'Shea as the chief celebrant.

Eddie is survived by his sons Paddy, John, Jim, Tom and Eamonn, his daughters-in-law Jane, Deborah, Rose, Margaret and Mary, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and many friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Christy Leahy 1939-2016

Christy Leahy came from a family deeply embedded in the life of St. Patrick's parish for many generations. His father John was Mayor of Kilkenny in 1951-52. His uncles, Billy and Pakie served as secretaries of James Stephens GAA Club.

Christy was a panel member of the 1957 minor hurling and football championship winning teams and subsequently a most enthusiastic member of the junior hurling team.

Christy was one of the youngest committee members in the history of the club and served in various formal roles for over thirty years, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar and on a host of sub-committees. In latter years Christy was an essential member of the Lotto committee. Perhaps his greatest bequest to the club and

the community is his monumental club history, published in 1988 and titled '100 Years of Gaelic Games in the Village.'

Though assisted by a team of researchers, the final product is a testament to his painstaking research and editing skills. His genuine love of the Village and its community shines through every line.

Christy worked as a clerical officer with Kilkenny County Council for over forty years. He was an enthusiastic cyclist and local historian. Christy was predeceased by his wife Bobbie. To his son, Mark, brothers, sisters and family we offer our condolences.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Mick Leahy 1947-2016

Mick Leahy was a wonderful servant of James Stephens GAA Club. Son of Jack Leahy, club vice Chairman, Mick played for Kilkenny at every level including the All Ireland u21 final of 1967. He made this club senior debut while still a minor as a wing back where he played for a decade. Mick won county senior championship medals in 1969, '75 and '76 and an All Ireland Club senior title in the latter year, this time as a corner forward, scoring in all but one of twenty four consecutive winning contests. Such was his talent and determination, he could and did play in every position on the field. You knew you were in a game after an hour on Mick.

In 1976 James Stephens established the first GAA Bar and Social Club with Mick as manager for the next thirty two years.

As his six children, Eleanor, Breda, Yvonne, Brian, Michael and Paul grew up, each progressed to become a competent and cheerful presence behind the bar.

In conjunction with the bar committee, Mick played a huge role in developing a prosperous business both in managing and enhancing the quality of the service. He was hugely popular and

took great pride in his work. The huge GAA and community presence at his obsequies bore ample testament to his popularity and stature as a devoted family man. To his wife, Rita and extended family, we offer our condolences. He would be proud of his family's continuation in GAA involvement at many levels.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



**Tommy Walsh
1920 – 2016**

October 3rd, broke a link almost a century old when Tommy Walsh quietly departed this life. Born in Kilmacoliver, he resided most of his life in Poulrone, Tullahought and lived through all the changes and recessions since the foundation of the state.

Having drawn corn and timber and then stone for the building of the river banks in Fiddown he went farming with his uncle Pat. He later worked on the buildings, as a market gardener and was a skilled carpenter with an eye for perfection.

Of accomplished football stock which was the game of the time, Tommy was a member of the St. Josephs Hurling team that played in Power's Field and staunchly followed the red and white of the Windgap Club since its foundation in 1954. Born in the shadow of Slievenamon and living close to the county border he developed a lifelong grá for Kilkenny hurling.

In 1955 he married Mollie Murphy from Powerswood, Thomastown and they lived happily until her passing in 1998.

Hurleys were made, balls stitched and a love of the game was instilled in his family pucking the ball up and down the "Long Pavement". Tommy was proud of each individual's sporting achievements and travelled to all the games across the country.

Throughout his life his interest in cards, politics, nature, heritage and the community were only surpassed by his great faith and his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary that saw him erect the local Grotto in 1996. In his eighties he got the international travelling bug visiting Lourdes and Fatima many times.

Strong and hardy, with a huge heart, big hands and a great work ethic, Tommy led by example and will be sadly missed. A Vice President of Windgap GAA club, one wonders what he would have thought of the guard of honour formed by the local club at his removal and the minute's silence on match day in Nowlan Park. Tommy is survived by his sons Jimmy, Richard, Pat and daughter Joan, daughters in law Therese, Joanne, Helen, and son in law Pat O'Gorman, eleven grandchildren, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé



Kevin Kennedy

Every good club has a Kevin Kennedy. You know the kind we mean. He's the lad that pulls out the door, turns out the light, and locks the front gate. That will be his last task, because his mantra has been littered with jobs that many see, but very few undertake. The great volunteerism, to which the likes of Kevin Kennedy made a considerable contribution over a long number of years in service to his beloved Shamrocks, is being slowly eroded with the passing of time. Kevin Kennedy was never one to ask a lad to do something little task in the field if he couldn't do it himself. He was there, on one of the first Committees when the three elements of the new formation founded by people like Kevin Fennelly (Snr), Paddy Reid, and Sean Walsh. He succeeded Sean over twenty three years ago as caretaker of the new grounds, Páirc Seamrog. He was so protective, and proud of his "new baby". He took a tremendous satisfaction from presenting his field in as perfect condition as he could possibly manage. He delighted in the complimentary language used by many visitors to the Ballyhale venue. He was as proud as a peacock, when the crowds flocked to the venue, standing ten deep as the star-studded Shamrocks went toe-to-toe with the likes of Glenmore, or James Stephens or Carrickshock.

Kevin Kennedy was the kind of foot soldier that no club could afford to be without. He was all things to all men down Ballyhale way. There is no doubt that his labours were well rewarded- not in any form of a monetary imbursement- more in the appreciation shown by his Shamrocks lads, including some of the greatest players who ever strode Ireland's greatest stadia. He was a tremendous seller of all fund-raising elements within the club. He was one of the few who never complained about going the full nine yards. He earned the respect of all in his beloved hurling Empire, and he took great pleasure in naming all the great lads who trained there if a stranger came calling. Right up to the last few weeks of his life Kevin Kennedy was still actively involved. He was a tremendous admirer of Henry Shefflin, and he was a great friend of the Shefflin family. He had a great grá for all of the Shamrocks players, and revelled in their great history, to which he contributed regally.

Kevin passed away on November 8th after a short illness. His coffin was carried high into St. Martin of Tours Church in Ballyhale on November 10th, and after Requiem Mass on November 11, he was laid to rest in his local parish Cemetery.

Kevin will be sadly missed by his wife of 42 years, Bridget, his sons, Michael, Councillor David, and John. His daughter Ann will miss her Dad as will his relatives, a wide circle of friends, neighbours, and his eight grandchildren. His passing has left a considerable void in the Shamrocks armour, of that there can be no doubt.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.



Kilkenny GAA Results 2016



SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING	
County SH C'ship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-19 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-12	Roinn "A" U21H Final	Dicksboro v James Stephens
SH League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-24 St Martin's 1-19	Roinn "B" U21H Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
SH Shield Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13 Dicksboro 1-13	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship North Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
SH Relegation Final	Danesfort 0-14 Fenians 0-14 Danesfort 1-18 Fenians 1-12	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship South Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" U21H C'ship North Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
County IH C'ship Final	Carrickshock 0-13 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-6	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship South Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
IH League Final	Tullaroan 5-16 Carrickshock 1-16	MINOR HURLING	
IH Shield Final	Glenmore 1-24 Tullagher Rosbercon 2-10	Roinn "A" MH C'ship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-15 James Stephens 4-9
IH Relegation Final	Young Ireland 1-15 Conahy Shamrocks 1-11	Roinn "B" MH C'ship Final	Erin's Own 2-13 Clara 2-8
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "C" MH C'ship Final	Tullaroan 2-17 James Stephens 3-11
County JH C'ship Final	Mooncoin 2-19 John Lockes 1-8	Roinn "A" MH League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
Northern JH C'ship Final	Barrow Rangers 2-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-17	Roinn "B" MH League Final	Erin's Own 2-18 St Lachtain's 2-10
Southern JH C'ship Final	Piltown 0-20 Mooncoin 1-13	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Tullaroan 4-17 Young Irelands 3-8
County JH League Final		UNDER 16 HURLING	
All County JH League Final	Barrow Rangers 1-16 Naomh Eoin 3-9	Roinn "A" U16H C'ship Final	Dicksboro 1-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-10
County JH Relegation Final		Roinn "B" U16H C'ship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-13 St Patrick's 2-10
JUNIOR HURLING "A"		Roinn "C" U16H C'ship Final	Conahy Shamrocks 1-14 James Stephens 0-12
County JH A C'ship Final	R/Inistioge 2-22 Lisdowney 3-19 R/Inistioge 0-21 Lisdowney 1-14	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	James Stephens 4-16 Thomastown 2-8
County JH A League Final		Roinn "B" U16H League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
Northern Junior A C'ship Final	Lisdowney 3-17 St Lachtain's 3-12	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	James Stephens 2-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-9
Southern Junior A C'ship Final	Rower Inistioge 2-15 Thomastown 1-15	UNDER 14 HURLING	
Northern Junior A League Final		Roinn "A" U14H C'ship Final	Dicksboro 1-10 James Stephens 0-4
Southern Junior A League Final		Roinn "B" U14H C'ship Final	Piltown 2-10 St Martin's 0-8
JUNIOR HURLING "B"		Roinn "C" U14H C'ship Final	Tullaroan 0-11 Conahy Shamrocks 0-9
County JH B C'ship Final	Dicksboro 1-15 Glenmore 1-14	Paddy Grace Féile Final	Dicksboro 3-13 James Stephens 1-7
County JH B League Final		U14H Féile Féile Final	Piltown 2-6 St Martins 0-9
Northern Junior B C'ship Final	Dicksboro 0-17 James Stephens 0-10	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	Dicksboro 2-13 Thomastown 0-9
Southern Junior B C'ship Final	Glenmore 0-25 Piltown 0-20	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	St Martin's 2-8 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-8
North Junior B League Final		Roinn "C" U14H League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
South Junior B League Final		PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
CUP COMPETITIONS		Roinn "A" U13H Final	St Canice's 2-9 Graigue Skeough 1-6
Byrne Cup Final	James Stephens 3-19 Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-19	Roinn "B" U13H Final	Gowran 3-13 Kilmanagh 1-5
Aylward Cup Final	St Patrick's 3-16 Young Irelands 0-11	Roinn "C" U13H Final	Tullaroan 6-2 Rower Inistioge 3-8 Tullaroan 4-7 Rower Inistioge 3-6
Paddy Cahill Cup	Dicksboro 1-20 John Lockes 0-20	Roinn "D" U13H Final	Windgap 9-3 St Canice's (B) 4-6
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Graignamanagh 1-15 James Stephens 1-11	Roinn "E" U13H Final	Johnstown 7-9 Galmoy 1-2
Joe Walsh Cup	<i>No Competition</i>	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Gowran 6-4 Graigue Skeough 3-9
Martin Treacy Cup	John Lockes 2-11 Galmoy 1-13	Corn Uí Bhriain	<i>Not Completed</i>

SENIOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Final	Railyard 1-8 Kilmoganny 2-3	Junior "A" Championship Final	Young Irelands 2-12 Conahy Shamrocks 0-11
County SF League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Junior "B" Championship Final	Tullagher 5-01 Blacks and Whites 0-11
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Junior "A" League Final	Young Irelands 2-09 Conahy Shamrocks 0-10
County IF Final	Dicksboro 3-8 Blacks & Whites 1-3	Junior "A" All-County Lge final	Young Irelands 1-17 Conahy Shamrocks 1-09
County IF League Final	Erin's Own v Blacks & Whites	Junior "B" All-County Lge final	Slieverue 6-11 Blacks & Whites 0-06
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
County JF Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	U21 A Championship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
County JF League Final	Railyard v Carrickshock	U21 B Championship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
MINOR FOOTBALL		MINOR CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" MF Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 5-16 Cloneen Railyard 2-3	Minor A C'ship Final	Conahy Shamrocks vs Dicksboro
Roinn "B" MF Final	Kilmacow v Mooncoin	Minor B C'ship Final	James Stephens/Tullaroan 6-04 Young Irelands 2-03
Roinn "C" MF Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Minor C C'ship Final	O'Loughlins Gaels 4-09 Clara 2-08
U16 FOOTBALL		Minor A League Final	Thomastown 1-8 Conahy Shamrocks 1-4.
Roinn "A" U16F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Minor B League Final	James Stephens/Tullaroan 5-21 Rower Inistioge 0-2
Roinn "B" U16F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Minor C League Final	Clara 4-06 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-5
Roinn "C" U16F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	U16 CAMOGIE	
U14 FOOTBALL		Under-16 A C'ship Final	Thomastown 3-16 Young Irelands 3-06
Roinn "A" U14F Final	Dicksboro 5-11 Thomastown 0-5	Under-16 B C'ship Final	Danesfort 1-10 James Stephens/John Lockes 1-06
Roinn "B" U14F Final	Glenmore 5-12 Graignamanagh 2-1	Under-16 C C'ship Final	R/Inistioge 2-07 C'shock/M'vat 2-07 R/Inistioge 2-06 C'shock/M'vat 1-8
Roinn "C" U14F Final	Carrickshock 4-9 Dicksboro 0-1	Under-16 A League Final	Thomastown vs Young Irelands
Roinn "A" U14F League Final	Dicksboro 5-11 Mooncoin 1-5	Under-16 B League Final	Danesfort 4-07 St Fiachras 2-04
Roinn "B" U14F League Final	Glenmore 7-11 Bennettsbridge 2-1	Under-16 C League Final	Tullaroan 2-08 Slieverue 2-04
Roinn "C" U14F League Final	Carrickshock 10-6 Barrow Rangers 0-2	U14 CAMOGIE	
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		Under 14 A C'ship Final	Thomastown 5-07 Piltown 1-03
Roinn "A" U13F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 A Shield Final	Glenmore 5-02 Dicksboro 4-03
Roinn "B" U13F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 B C'ship Final	James Stephens 4-06 Emeralds 3-03
Roinn "C" U13F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 B Shield Final	Conahy Shamrocks 7-04 Windgap 2-01
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Under 14 C C'ship Final	Clara 4-09 St Martin's 3-08
County SC Final	Thomastown 3-11 Mullinavat 0-08	Under 14 C Shield Final	Tullaroan 8-08 Mullinavat/Carrickshock 5-05.
County SC League Final	Thomastown 2-14 Mullinavat 1-10	Under 14 D C'ship Final	Tullagher 7-05 Lisdowney 6-01
Senior/Intermediate All County Final	Dicksboro 2-11 Mullinavat 1-06	Under 14 D Shield Final	Paulstown 6-11 Naomh Brid 2-03
SC Relegation Final		Feile Na nGael A Final	Thomastown 4-09 St.Brighds 1-0
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		Feile Na nGael B Final	St Fiachres 4-0 St Brighds 0-2
County IC Final	Glenmore 1-08 Rower Inistioge 0-09	PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
IC League Final	Glenmore 1-14 St Brigid's 1-10	Primary Schools A Final	St Canices 3-3 Kilmanagh 0-3
All County IC League Final	Glenmore 2-17 St Brigid's 3-11	Primary Schools B Final	Clara 4-3 Gaelscoil Osrai 2-5
		Primary Schools C Final	Conahy Shamrocks 1-05 Carrickshock 1-01
		Primary Schools D Final	Tullagher 5-02 St Canices B 2-01