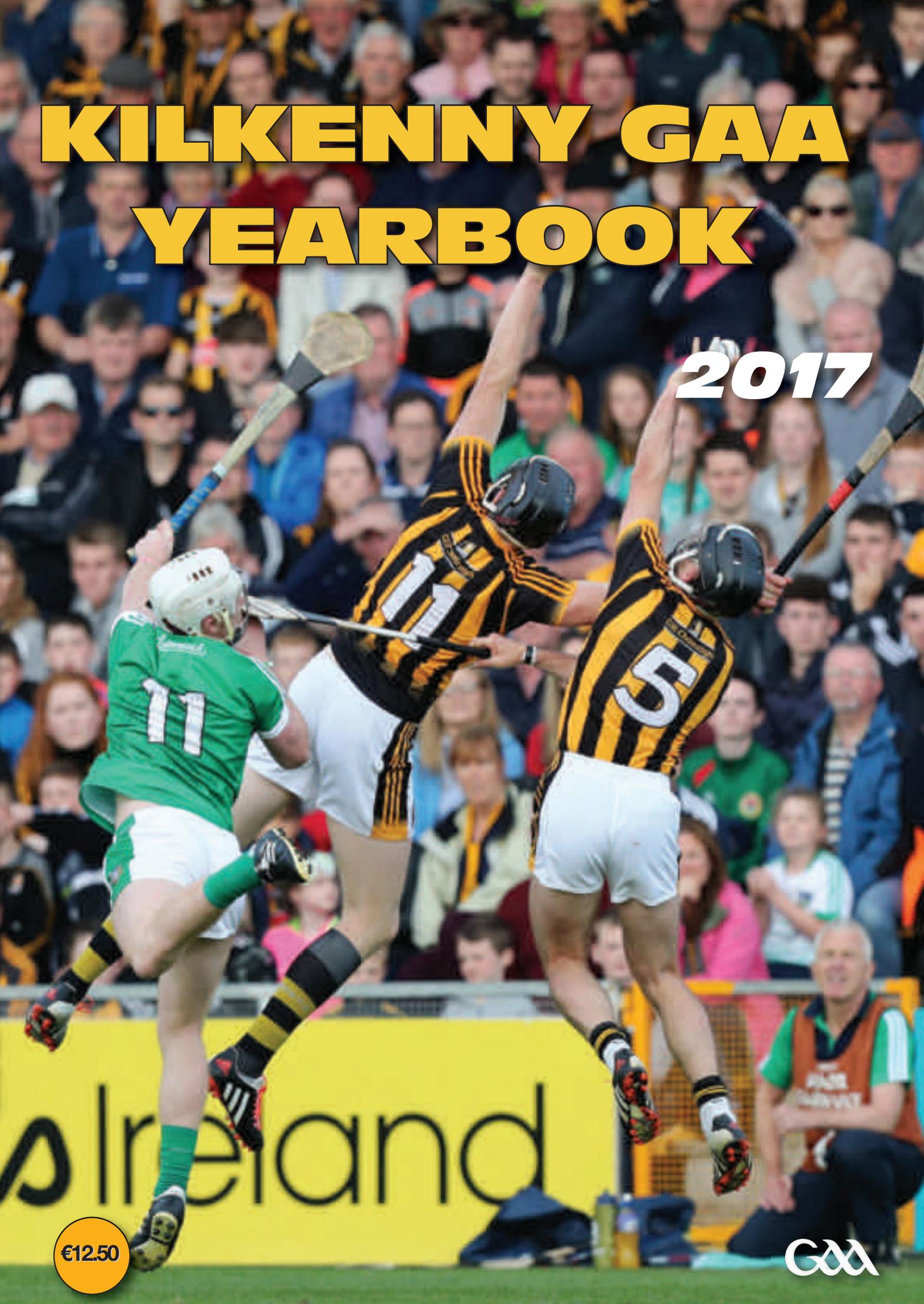


KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK

2017



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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2017



Ag deireadh na bliana is maith an rud siarfhéachaint a caitheamh ar eachtraí an seasúir agus níl bhealach níos fearr a leithéid a dhéanamh na tré leathanaigh an fhoilsíocháin bhreá seo.

As 2017 draws to a close it is understandable that disappointment due to the absence of championship success at senior level is the overriding feeling amongst followers of our county teams. That said it is important to acknowledge achievements at other levels with pride of place going to our Intermediate team who defeated Cork in the splendidly redeveloped Pairc Uí Chaoimh to retain their All-Ireland title. Credit to our U21 team also who ended a five year drought by winning the Leinster title in that grade, and to our Minor team on their Leinster success, while our junior footballers were rewarded for their weekly trips across the water by winning the British Championship for the second time. Congratulations also to Carrickshock who were deserving winners of the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Final which was played in Croke Park in February this year.

Kilkenny handballers had another successful year achieving All Ireland successes in both women and men's competitions. Another handball highlight this year was the presentation of the newly commissioned Michael Ducky Walsh trophy to the winner of the 60x30 All Ireland Senior Singles title. It is worth recalling that the late Ducky had won this particular title himself on no less than sixteen occasions.

Kilkenny senior camogie team retained their National League title this year and, while their subsequent defeat in the All Ireland final by the narrowest of margins, was a cause of great disappointment to both the team and team management it doesn't negate what this group have achieved and regaining that title has to be their objective next year. The All Ireland successes achieved at underage level along with the victories of the Loreto School teams in the Senior and Junior All Ireland Colleges' finals were other notable achievements this year reflecting the overall strength of the game in the county.

For the first time since 1937, Dicksboro and James Stephens clashed in the Saint Canice's Credit Union sponsored Senior hurling County Final and after an exciting and high scoring game, the 'Boro men claimed the title for the fifth time in their history. St Patrick's Ballyragget defeated Graigue Ballycallan in the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate final and John Locke's of Callan overcame O'Loughlin Gaels by a single point in the JJ Kavanagh and Sons sponsored junior decider. Mullinavat overcame Railyard in the JJ Kavanagh and Sons sponsored senior football final while Conahy Shamrocks claimed the honours in the JJ Kavanagh and Sons sponsored Intermediate football decider.

Kilkenny County Board greatly appreciates the financial support of Glanbia PLC sponsors of all our County teams, and that of Saint Canices Kilkenny Credit Union, Michael Lyng Motors, JJ Kavanagh and Sons, Iverk Produce, Countrystyle Foods, Citroen Honda Centre, Duggan Steel, sponsors of all our club championships. Likewise we extend our appreciation to MW Hire, sponsors of our training pitches in Dunmore.

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

In conclusion I extend thanks to Editor Barrie Henriques, Chairman Pat Henderson, to Gerry O Neill and to each of the volunteers involved with the publication of our year book which I know will be enjoyed by Kilkenny people both at home and abroad.

*Eamon O Coinn
Cathaoirleach Coiste Cill Chainnigh.*

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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2017

PRODUCTION TEAM:

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Pat Henderson (Chairman)
Gerry O'Neill (Origination)
Tommy Lanigan
Jimmy Walsh Secretary CLG
Conor Denieffe V/Chairman CLG
Seamus Reade PRO CLG
Conor Brennan
Ned Buggy

ADVERTISING

Barrie Henriques

PHOTOGRAPHS

Ray McManus, Sportsfile.
Willie Dempsey
John McIlwaine, Ballymena
Donal Foley

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Cian Lynch (Limerick), Walter Walsh and Martin Fogarty (Kilkenny) contest a high ball in the All Ireland SH qualifier. Photo by John McIlwaine.

POSTER :

Cillian Buckley
Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

EDITORIAL



In relative terms, one might be excused for nominating 2017 as a Kilkenny annus horribilis, but in truth, there was a tremendous amount of good hurling played by Kilkenny hurlers within and without the County boundaries. And I am not forgetting for one moment our footballers, and our terrific camogie ladies. As usual, the Walsh Cup swept cobwebs from slumbering hurleys. The Under-21 team under the Management of Eddie Brennan, Richie Doyle, Richie O'Neill and Bobby Aylward, managed to win it in a final played against Galway in Nowlan Park. Bigger fish awaited on a sizzling pan further down the road. There was huge speculation that Ireland might host the Rugby World Cup in 2023. Nowlan Park was cited as a very likely venue for at least three of the games in the pool section. The best laid plans of mice and men etc... No Rugby World Cup for Paddy! No up and down seats for Nowlan Park!

The National League was a carousel of good and not so. Opening the campaign against Waterford in Nowlan Park in front of a massive crowd for a League game, Kilkenny collected two winning points. Clare destroyed Kilkenny in Cusack Park, but the bus came back on the road when the Rebels were put to the sword by five points in Kilkenny. In a massive effort, Kilkenny came from the dead to earn a draw with Tipp in Semple; Dublin were beaten in Parnell Park, and it was quarter-final territory for the cats. Dublin were relegated. Wexford came "roaring for road" to Nowlan Park in the quarter-final. Big day for Davy Fitz! They roared their way home too with a semi-final place earned. Expectations were nervously hopeful as Kilkenny headed to Innovate Park for the first round of the Championship. Opinion was deeply divided. Could Wexford repeat their Nowlan Park episode of six weeks previously? The more worried were asking would they? A strange looking Kilkenny fell at the first jump. It was the qualifiers for Kilkenny. Limerick arrived in Nowlan Park for the first qualifier. They were dismissed with consummate ease. A week later the Deise faced Kilkenny in Thurles. They led by eight points with nine minutes on the clock. In one of the great comebacks, Kilkenny caught them on the wire. However in extra time, two goals floored f Kilkenny's further interest in the hurling Championship for 2017.

The U21 lads beat Dublin in a Leinster Final but fell to a very good Limerick team in the All Ireland Final. The minors won their Provincial Final but were defeated by Galway, who won the All Ireland subsequently. The two-game Intermediate team created history by beating Cork in their All Ireland Final - the first All Ireland played in the state-of-the-art Pairc Ui Caoimh. St.Kieran's lost their title when going down to Templemore CBS in a hectic game. Loreto College did a fabulous double again winning both Junior and Senior All Irelands. Our camogie girls beat Cork in the National League Final but fell by the narrowest of margins to do the double against the same opposition. Katie Power, Megan Farrell, Ann Dalton and Catherine Foley collected deserved All Stars. Dicksboro won the Tom Walsh cup after a gap of 23 years. St. Patricks made it into the senior ranks-at long last. John Lockes collected the Junior Title. It took a lot of good hurling to win those trophies.

There is plenty of news, figures, facts, photographs, reports, and stories in our history which many great people have endeavoured to illustrate and script. I thank all that have worked so diligently on behalf of our great Association in compiling it. The names of all our photographers are listed on the side of this page. I thank all of our advertisers who have been so loyal to us over the past 27 years. I respectfully ask you to return their loyalty if and when the occasion presents itself.

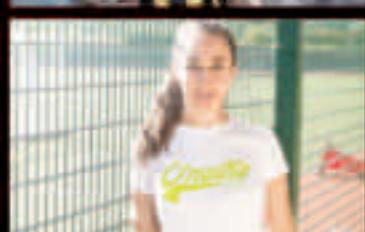
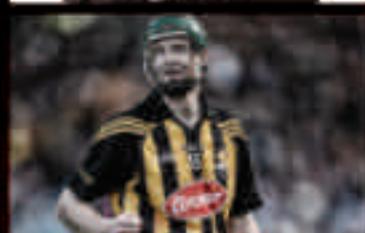
I thank you for your support, and I pray and hope that myself and all that are involved in the production of this Yearbook - our 27th edition - will still be taking the Kilkenny GAA news to you and all of your families twelve month hence.

Go n  r   an b  thar libh go l  ir

Barrie Henriques
Editor



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THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON

Inter- County SH Report by Barrie Henriques

An observation by a very wise man read, "life does not stop to wait", and how appropriate when applied to the forward thinking that engaged the Kilkenny GAA psyche post the All Ireland calm in 2016. Soldiers - gallant soldiers - were discarding their webbing, hanging up their muskets, and slipping into the setting rays of a glorious past. New County Champions, O'Loughlin Gaels came storming through. Carrickshock reclaimed senior status. However it didn't look as if the arrivals hall at the Nowlan Park station was exactly a haven for disembarking mouth-watering talent. But, nil desperandum, Kilkenny hurling folk are nothing if not optimistic. It's always an onwards and upwards dictum in Kilkenny. Their opening forays in the National League did not exactly burn too many bushes, which sowed the seedlings of doubt in many minds. But a tremendous draw against the All Ireland Champs on their home territory revamped the Kilkenny spirit.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The National League kicked in rather quickly after the Walsh Cup, in which the Kilkenny lads flexed the cobwebs from their awakening limbs with games against DCU (won by 0-21 to 0-12); Antrim (won 6-27 to 0-19); Westmeath (won 4-18 to 0-18); Wexford (semi-final; won 0-15 to 0-14); and Galway (Final; won 0-20 to 0-18).

KILKENNY V WATERFORD FEB 12TH IN NOWLAN PARK KILKENNY 0-17 WATERFORD 1-15

Waterford opened the League campaign, bringing a big crowd with them to Nowlan Park on a sunny but very cold afternoon. Kilkenny came up short against a very focussed, spirited and determined Decies outfit. TJ. Reid bagged ten points for the home side, all but two coming from placed balls. The Waterford defence was very impressive. Richie Hogan, Liam Blanchfield, and substitute, Walter Walsh only managed to score single points which were never going to be enough for the rampaging Decies.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy (0-, free), Joey Holden, Pádraig Walsh, Conor O'Shea, Paul Murphy, Ciaran Joyce (0-1), Cillian Buckley, Olly Walsh (0-1), Conor Fogarty, Pat Lyng (0-1), TJ.Reid (0-10; six frees; two '65), Sean Morrissey, JJ. Farrell, Liam Blanchfield, Richie Hogan.

Subs (used): Walter Walsh, Paddy Deegan, Richie Leahy, Shane Prendergast, Conor Martin.

Waterford: Liam O'Regan, Shane Fives, Barry Coughlan, Noel Connors, Tadhg de Bourca, Mikey Kearney, Steven Daniels, Jamie Barron, Conor Gleeson, Kevin Moran, Pádraig Mahoney, Michael "Brick" Walsh, Patrick Curren, Tom Devine, Shane Bennett,

Subs (used): Austin Gleeson, Brian O'Halloran, Jake Dillon, Gavin O'Brien.

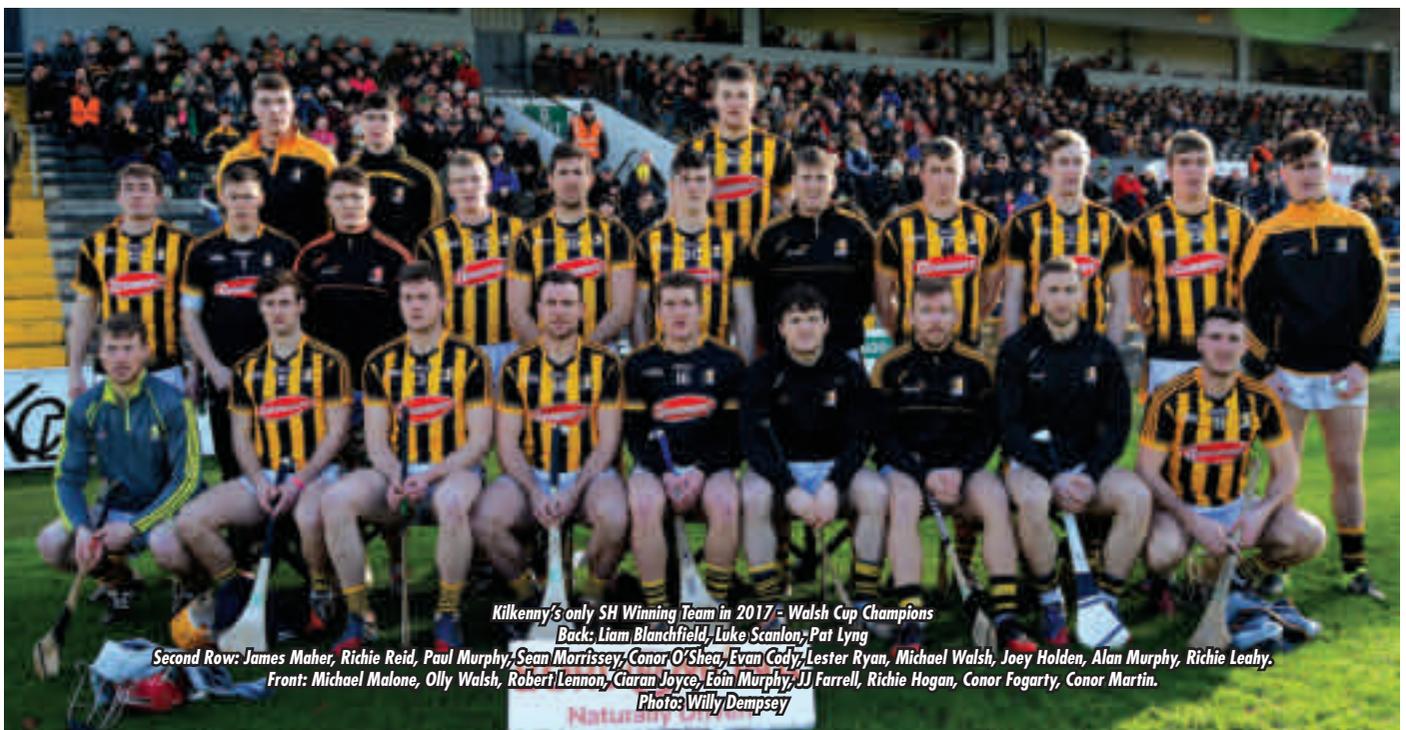


*Captain, Richie Hogan and Man of the Match, Kieran Joyce after the Walsh Cup Final.
Photo Willie Dempsey*

KILKENNY V CLARE SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY IN ENNIS. KILKENNY 0-12 CLARE 2-19

Cusack Park in Ennis, always a difficult place to go to for Kilkenny teams. Never headed, the Clare men led at the break by 1-9 to 0-8 – the goal coming from the mercurial Aaron Cunningham. Again, the inability of the Kilkenny attackers to cut the mustard with a no-nonsense Clare defence was obvious. TJ Reid kept Kilkenny in the game with six good frees-two '65s. Daniel Reid did a similar job for the winners from placed balls with a take of seven. Two matches down from two outings! Cork were next – for what? Many of the Kilkenny supporters wondered.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy (0-1, free), Evan Cody, Pádraig Walsh, Conor O'Shea, Joey Holden, Paul Murphy, Ciaran Joyce, Conor Fogarty (0-2), Cillian Buckley (0-1), Liam Blanchfield, TJ Reid (0-7. Four frees. Two 65s), Richie Leahy (0-1), Richie Hogan, Walter Walsh, Kevin Kelly.



Kilkenny's only SH Winning Team in 2017 - Walsh Cup Champions

Backs: Liam Blanchfield, Luke Scanlon, Pat Lyng

Second Row: James Maher, Richie Reid, Paul Murphy, Sean Morrissey, Conor O'Shea, Evan Cody, Lester Ryan, Michael Walsh, Joey Holden, Alan Murphy, Richie Leahy.

Front: Michael Malone, Olly Walsh, Robert Lannon, Ciaran Joyce, Eoin Murphy, JJ Farrell, Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Conor Martin.

Photo: Willy Dempsey

BE READY.



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5 January 2017; Richie Leahy of Kilkenny in action against Padraig Foley of DCU during the Bord na Mona Walsh Cup Group 2 Round 1 match
Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile

Subs (used): JJ Farrell, Shane Prendergast, James Maher, Olly Walsh, Sean Morrissey.
Clare: Donal Touhy, Oisín O'Brien, Cian Dillon, Seadna Morey, Brendan Bugler, Conor Cleary, Jamie Shanahan, David Fitzgerald, David Reidy, Aaron Cunningham, Podge Collins, Cathal Malone, Aaron Shanagher, John Conlon, Shane O'Donnell.
Subs (used): Cathal Mc Inerney, Jason Mc Carthy, Peter Duggan, Shane Golden, Pat Donnellan.

KILKENNY V CORK IN NOWLAN PARK MARCH 5TH
KILKENNY 0-22 CORK 0-15

Cork, after a good winning opener against Clare, but surprisingly failing badly against Dublin down in their own patch, arrived in Nowlan Park gagging to have a "cut off" the cats. Pointless Kilkenny were no less ambitious. For one, they love playing Cork, and their recent forays against the Rebels had been exemplary. Colin Fennelly was starting-not a bad start. Paul Murphy was back at number two. He was much more comfortable, while Padraig Walsh's form was on a slow burner, but one felt it was more than ready to



Paddy Deegan of Kilkenny during the Allianz Hurling League Division 1 Quarter-Final match between Kilkenny and Wexford at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny. Photo by Brendan Moran/SPORTSFILE

ignite. The Kilkenny attack came out of traps blazing. Richie Hogan fired over five delightful points from play. The youngster, Richie Leahy was more than impressive as he strolled the park in search of ball. Both he and Walter Walsh bagged three points apiece. Even Eoin Murphy got in on the act by clattering two frees from enormous distances between the Cork posts. Of course TJ got the rest.
Kilkenny were ready for Tipp!

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy (0-2, frees), Paul Murphy, Pádraig Walsh, Conor O'Shea, Conor Fogarty, Jason Cleere, Ciaran Joyce, Cillian Buckley (0-1), Paddy Deegan, TJ. Reid (0-7; six frees), Colin Fennelly, Richie Leahy (0-3), Richie Hogan, Conor Martin (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-3).
Subs (used): Shane Prendergast, James Maher.
Cork: Anthony Nash, Cillian Burke, Damian Cahilane, Colm Spillane, Christopher Joyce, Mark Ellis, Mark Coleman, Bill Cooper, Danial Kearney, Dean Brosnan, Conor Lehane, Shane Kingston, Alan Cadogan, Seamus Harnady, Luke Meade.
Subs (used): Cormack Murphy, Patrick Horgan, Steven Mc Donnell, Luke O'Farrell.

KILKENNY V TIPPERARY MARCH 12TH
KILKENNY 3-14 TIPPERARY 2-17

Kilkenny went to Semple Stadium, and in front of 15,000 Patrons, they needed to get something from the game to keep them in the competition. After a full-on, powerful encounter, honours were shared and Kilkenny were still on the League dance-floor. This was a terrific outing for most of the Kilkenny lads. Eoin Murphy made a few brilliant saves-one from John McGrath quite astonishing. Tipp led early and by minute 21, their advantage was a staggering 2-7 to 1-2. Kilkenny, buoyed by the heroism and solid determination of Cillian Buckley – what a performance- got closer by the break, where the home side led by 2-11 to 2-7. There was a whole lot of action left in this classic. As full time beckoned, TJ Reid levelled matters (3-11 to 2-14) going into added time. Supporters from both camps bayed for a long whistle. Four more points were shared before the referee called it quits. Buckley was the star man for Kilkenny. Walter Walsh was not too far adrift, while TJ Reid –again, Paddy Deegan, Jason Cleere, Richie Hogan, Colin Fennelly, Conor O'Shea were very impressive. On the face of what was seen that afternoon, many felt that a repeat was a distinct possibility in September.
A bit early to be talking like that, one thought!

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Pádraig Walsh, Conor O'Shea, Conor Fogarty, Shane Prendergast, Jason Cleere, Paddy Deegan (capt), Cillian Buckley (0-3), Richie Hogan (0-4), TJ Reid (3-5; two goals



Eoin Murphy of Kilkenny, supported by his full back Pádraig Walsh, wins possession ahead of Tom Devine of Waterford during the Allianz Hurling League Division 1A Round 1 game between Kilkenny and Waterford at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

pen, four points frees), Colin Fennelly, Alan Murphy, Liam Blanchfield, Walter Walsh (0-2).

Subs (used): James Maher

Tipperary: Daragh Mooney, John O'Keeffe, James Barry, Michael Cahill, Tomas Hamill, Ronan Maher, Padraic Maher, Sean Curren, Michael Breen, Dan Mc Cormack, Niall O'Meara, Noel Mc Grath, John O'Dwyer, Seamus Callinan, John Mc Grath. Subs (used): Kieran Bergin, Jason Forde, Seamus Kennedy, Steven O'Brien.

KILKENNY V DUBLIN IN PARNELL PARK SUNDAY 26TH MARCH KILKENNY 2-20 DUBLIN 1-16

Kilkenny needed a win to get into the quarter-finals of the League. Dublin needed to win to avoid a play-off situation in a relegation scenario. The new kids on the block were very good for the Kilkenny. Conor Martin, Jason Cleere and captain Paddy Deegan were exceptionally prominent. It was a tough place to be. The pitch dimensions suited the home side. Conor Martin's goal after seven minutes settled Kilkenny early. Colin Fennelly was very evident in the build-up to the score. David Burke and Chris Crummy kept the Dub's noses in front. Then a Kilkenny many-handed move saw the ball travel through Conor Martin, TJ, Reid and Walter Walsh to Liam Blanchfield. The Dublin goalkeeper, Gary Maguire stood unprotected as the Bennettsbridge man advanced for a certain goal. Maguire's solution to an impossible problem earned him a red card. Blanchfield fired home. Kilkenny led at the break by 2-5 to 0-10. With Paul Murphy strategically placed behind his centre-back, Kilkenny took all the advantages accruing from the extra man advantage. Even though Dublin nearly stole the show with a late surge, there realistically was never a chance that Kilkenny were to miss their quarter-final chance.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Pádraig Walsh, Conor O'Shea, Conor Fogarty, Jason Cleere, Shane Prendergast, Paddy Deegan, Cillian Buckley Colin Fennelly, Walter Walsh, T.J.Reid, Liam Blanchfield, Richie Hogan, Conor Martin.

Subs (used): Joey Holden, Pat Lyng, Ciarán Joyce.

Scorers: T.J.Reid (0-10; five frees; one '65); Conor Martin (1-5); Liam Blanchfield (1-2); Colin Fennelly, Walter Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-1 each).

Dublin: Gary Maguire, Fionn O Riain-Broin, Eoghan O'Donnell, Shane Barrett, Chris Crummy, Liam Rushe, Cian Mac Gabhann, Domhnall Fox, Ben Quinn, Eoghan Conroy, Niall McMorrow, Ryan O'Dwyer, Eamon Dillon, Donal Burke, Cian Boland.

Subs (used): Conor Dooley, Fiontán Mc Gibb, Rian Mc Bride, Cian O'Sullivan, Fergal Whitley.

KILKENNY V WEXFORD IN NOWLAN PARK, SUNDAY APRIL 2ND. (ALLIANZ NATIONAL LEAGUE QUARTER-FINAL) WEXFORD 2-18 KILKENNY 0-19.

Just short of 15,000 supporters brought a brilliant atmosphere to Nowlan Park

for this quarter-final. The "Davy factor", was very much an integral element in this encounter. Opinions about the game were well coloured with references to pockets, sweeper systems, off the shoulder, zonal play. Very few were talking about the game of hurling. Nevertheless Wexford came with high aspirations. Kilkenny were better than hopeful. The game had passion, guile, courage, the occasional raw edge, and atmosphere. Most of that was parked in the Wexford corner. As Brian Cody said in his post-match comments, "the better team won. They probably should have won by more than the final score reflects, but for the heroics of Eoin Murphy". He was right there, as Murphy proved again that he is the best goalkeeper in the land by a distance, and probably the best keeper that Kilkenny have had since Noel Skehan. This was a game that was level seven times, but which was also a game that the home side never headed. Kilkenny played with the strong breeze at their backs in the first half, but were only upsides with the winners at the break 1-7 to 0-10. It was never going to be enough to threaten the rampaging Wexford men. The Wexford tactics were causing enormous problems, and went unaddressed for the duration. Wexford went on to meet Tipperary in the semi-final in Nowlan Park two weeks later. Kilkenny went home to their own.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Pádraig Walsh, Shane Prendergast, Lester Ryan, Jason Cleere, Paddy Deegan (capt) (0-1), Ollie Walsh (0-2), Cillian Buckley (0-1), Colin Fennelly, Walter Walsh (0-1), T.J. Reid (0-10, nine frees) Liam Blanchfield (0-3), Richie Hogan (0-1), Conor Martin.

Subs (used): JJ. Farrell.

Wexford: Mark Fanning, Willie Deveraux, Liam Ryan, James Breen, Damien Reck, Matthew O'Hanlon, Diarmuid O'Keeffe, Aidan Nolan, Shaun Murphy, Colin Mc Donald, David Redmond, Jack O'Connor, Paul Morris, Lee Chin, David Dunne.

Subs (used): Jack Guiney, Harry Kehoe, Barry Carton, Aaron Maddock.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

KILKENNY V WEXFORD IN INNOVATE PARK SATURDAY JUNE 10TH. WEXFORD 1-20 KILKENNY 3-11

There was never a doubt but that Wexford would career through the Round Robin segment of the Leinster Championship. On a super Saturday evening, Kilkenny travelled to the south east venue to face a Wexford team who were absolutely on fire. Their win in Nowlan Park, the Davy Fitzgerald thing, and their huge support put them in a great place for the most important game of their careers thus far. The bush telegraph had Kilkenny support in disarray, as news filtered through that Pádraig



8 July 2017; Colin Fennelly of Kilkenny in action against Philip Mahony of Waterford during the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 2 match between Waterford and Kilkenny.
Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportfile



11 March 2017; Cillian Buckley of Kilkenny in action against Padraic Maher of Tipperary during the Allianz Hurling League Division 1A Round 4 match between Tipperary and Kilkenny at Semple Stadium. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile



10 June 2017; Lester Ryan of Kilkenny in action against Paul Morris of Wexford during the Leinster GAA Hurling Senior Championship Semi-Final match between Wexford and Kilkenny at Wexford Park. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Walsh, who had seen little or no action for the few weeks before the game would not play. Ditto Ger Aylward. Colin Fennelly had a problem, as did Richie Hogan with his back. Young Richie Leahy was reputedly in trouble with his hamstring. Nervous going down to the place, but all four of the above started. From the off, Kilkenny found it difficult to counteract the Wexford game plan of hard running aligned to fast, and very clever ball passing. Wexford beating Kilkenny in successive games? ---- perish such heresy! Kilkenny had a dream start when the terrific Colin Fennelly fielded a long delivery, was fouled, and T.J. Reid blasted to the net from the penalty spot. Forty seconds had elapsed.

Despite the team configuration which amazed many Kilkenny supporters, Wexford knew that a rewind of the Nowlan Park tape might not be possible. Kilkenny shot some terrible wides, but still they were winning some prime possession. The marvellous Lee Chin slowly, but very definitively injected his leadership qualities into the Wexford game plan. When Conor Mc Donald kicked his side to the front in the 20th minute, Wexford never cast a backward glance. Kilkenny were still only adrift at the break, by four points; 0-12 to 1-5. They were fighting for their lives. The action was awesome on both sides. Chin was colossal everywhere he went. Colin Fennelly was doing the work of four men up front. Wexford beat Eoin Murphy once. It could have been more. Roaring into the final six minutes, both sides missed their targets. Kilkenny could have at least drawn the game. Wexford stayed out front, and the celebrations kicked off.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Conor Fogarty, Kieran Joyce, Paul Murphy, Conor O'Shea, Cillian Buckley, Robert Lennon, Paddy Deegan (capt)(0-1), Richie Hogan, T.J.Reid (2-7,goals penalty. Six points frees. One '65); Padraig Walsh, Lester Ryan (0-2), Walter Walsh (0-1), Colin Fennelly (1-0), Ger Aylward.

Subs (used): Liam Blanchfield, Chris Bolger, Kevin Kelly, Richie Reid.

Wexford: Mark Fleming, Simon Donoghue, Liam Ryan, James Breen, Shaun Murphy, Matthew O'Hanlon, Diarmuid O'Keefe, Willie Devereux, Aidan Nolan, Jack O'Connor, Jack Guiney, Harry Kehoe, Conor Mc Donald, Lee Chin, Paul Morris.

Subs (used): David Redmond, Shane Tomkins, Podge Doran, Kevin Foley.

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

KILKENNY V LIMERICK IN NOWLAN PARK SUNDAY JULY 2ND. KILKENNY 0-20 LIMERICK 0-17

The qualifier route handed the advantage of a home tie to Kilkenny as they pulled Limerick from the drum. The prerequisite was a win. Winning nice or winning ugly was never a consideration. Limerick came with a very young outfit. They presented a serious question. Playing against the breeze in the first half, Kilkenny had their hands full trying to contain a rampant Limerick side that should nearly have been ahead at half time. But Limerick were wasteful, shooting thirteen wides, which certainly contributed to the fact that they were adrift of Kilkenny by 0-10 to 0-8. Kilkenny huffed and puffed for long

periods of the second half. They hardly threatened the Limerick goal. With 10 minutes remaining, Kilkenny led by 0-19 to Limerick's 0-17, but there were still no goals. Lester Ryan came on as a substitute for Paddy Deegan in the 55th. minute. He immediately made an impression by firing over a monster insurance point for his side. It was not a classic by any analysis, but as Bill Shankley told me one time, "winning isn't everything sonny, it's the only thing". You know he was right. It didn't matter, Kilkenny were in the next round.

Kilkenny : Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Padraig Walsh, Joey Holden, Conor Fogarty, Cillian Buckley, Joe Lyng, Michael Fennelly, Paddy Deegan (0-3), Chris Bolger (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-4), T.J. Reid (0-8. Six frees), Richie Hogan, Colin Fennelly, Ger Aylward.

Subs (used): Kevin Kelly (0-2), Liam Blanchfield, Lester Ryan (0-2), Mark Bergin.

Limerick: Nickie Quaid, Sean Finn, Richard Mc Carthy, Michael Casey, Dan Morrissey, Declan Hannon, Seamus Hickey, Darragh O'Donovan, Paul Browne, David Dempsey, Cian Lynch, Gearoid Hegarty, Pater Casey, Shane Dowling, Kyle Hayes.

Subs (used): Barry Nash, James Ryan, Tom Morrissey, Pat Ryan, Graham Mulcahy.

KILKENNY V WATERFORD IN SEMPLE STADIUM SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH. KILKENNY 2-22 WATERFORD 4.23

In a re-run of the opening National League game earlier in the season, the Decies again emerged victorious after a tremendous encounter, where the better team won it would have to be stated, but the losers lost nothing in defeat, having given every gram of courage, ability, and determination they possessed. It took an extra thirty minutes to produce a winner, but the above sentiments are still pertinent. Waterford bossed the cats everywhere on the park, but Kilkenny hung in there. Waterford led at the break by 1-10 to Kilkenny's 1-5. The second half was a tough, very tough confrontation, but Waterford looked the more likely. With eleven minutes remaining of normal time, Waterford led Kilkenny by eight points. To their credit, the Kilkenny lads still stood defiant-bent but not broken. With a dollop of Kilkenny magic, they fired home 1-5 to level matters by the 62nd. minute. It was a race to the death. Eventually they both crossed the line locked together. What a comeback. In extra time Waterford scored 2-8; Kilkenny could only muster 0-7. The season was over. But the Kilkenny lads died with their boots on in Semple Stadium on that Saturday evening. They couldn't have done more, and they were first to congratulate the Decies boys on getting to their All Ireland semi-final.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy (0-1, free), Paul Murphy, Padraig Walsh, Robert Lennon, Conor Fogarty, Cillian Buckley, Joe Lyng, Paddy Deegan (capt), Michael Fennelly, Kevin Kelly (0-1), Walter Walsh, T.J. Reid (2-12. Ten frees. One penalty. One '65), Richie Hogan (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-1), J.J. Farrell.

Subs (used): Ger Aylward (0-1), Lester Ryan (0-3), Chris Bolger, Richie Leahy (0-2), Liam Blanchfield, Mark Bergin, Richie Hogan.

Waterford: Stephen O'Keefe, Shane Fives, Barry Coughlan, Noel Connors, Tadhg de Búrca, Austin Gleeson, Philip Mahoney, Jamie Barron, Conor Gleeson, Kevin Moran, Padraig Mahoney, Jake Dillon, Shane Bennett, Michael "Brick" Walsh, Darragh Fives.

Subs (used): Patrick Curren, Stephen Bennett, Maurice Shanahan, Brian O'Halloran, Tommy Ryan, Colin Dunford, S.Mc Nulty.

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

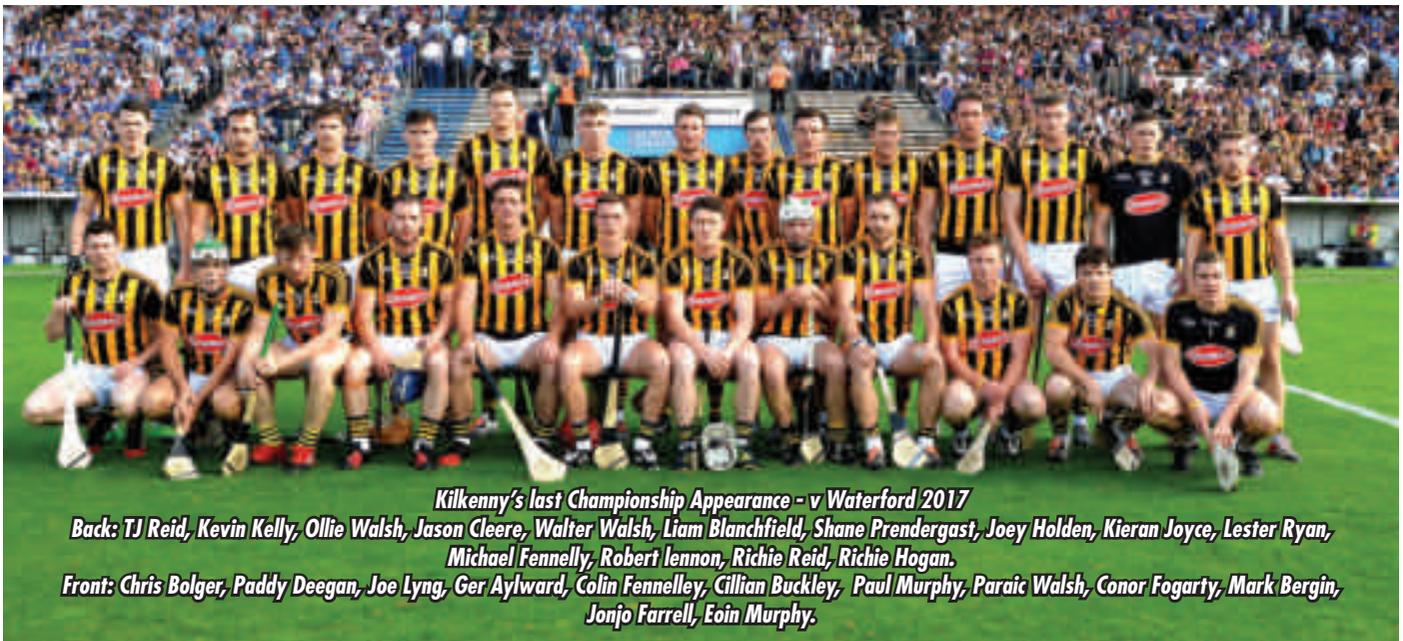
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THAT WAS THE YEAR....

that Kilkenny plumbed the depths

by Enda McEvoy



Kilkenny's last Championship Appearance - v Waterford 2017

Back: TJ Reid, Kevin Kelly, Ollie Walsh, Jason Cleere, Walter Walsh, Liam Blanchfield, Shane Prendergast, Joey Holden, Kieran Joyce, Lester Ryan, Michael Fennelly, Robert Lennon, Richie Reid, Richie Hogan.

Front: Chris Bolger, Paddy Deegan, Joe Lyng, Ger Aylward, Colin Fennelly, Cillian Buckley, Paul Murphy, Paraic Walsh, Conor Fogarty, Mark Bergin, Jonjo Farrell, Eoin Murphy.

Well, that went downhill pretty quickly. From All Ireland finalists in 2016 to championship departees on the second Saturday of July in 2017. We knew that Kilkenny's cycle was turning towards the dark side of the moon; we just hadn't realised how quickly or how comprehensively. In 2017 they wound up being the seventh-best team in the country. That's pretty comprehensive alright.

They were poor against Wexford, not much better against Limerick, game but limited against Waterford - and that was it. That was where it ended. It did so giving birth to all manner of odd facts and figures. The earliest Kilkenny were out of the championship since 1996. The first time they weren't live on RTE in the championship since Brian Cody, or possibly even Paddy Grace, was an altar boy. And an absolute corker from the GAA statistics whizz Leo McGough: the first time Kilkenny didn't play on a Sunday in the championship since 1887.

By the stats shall ye know the stunning ineffectiveness of the county's 2017 championship tilt. Here's a further sample. One point from play in the opening 30 minutes against Waterford, and not against a wind either. Eleven points at Wexford Park. Ten points in the second half against a strikingly limited Limerick with the wind. The quartet of TJ Reid, Richie Hogan, Walter Walsh and Colin Fennelly - their four most experienced attackers, two of them former Hurlers of the Year - mustering an aggregate of 2-10 between them over the course of the three games. The dependence on Lester Ryan to come off the bench and hit two points against Limerick and three versus Waterford, with Hogan's form compromised by injury and Reid yet again required to do the work of two men up front.

Then again, could we have expected anything better? Did anyone on Noneside expect anything better? The 2016 defeat by Tipperary marked the long delayed end of a cycle and rendered 2017 Year One of a new phase. Not a transitional phase. A complete reconstruction.

In passing, the disappointment of 2017 threw the All Ireland victories of 2014-15 into new and sharper relief. The suspicion at the time was that Cody had done well to accomplish so much with such comparatively limited resources. It is no longer a suspicion: he did superbly. Forget the towering achievement that was the four in a row; what Cody did next was even finer than that. He won four of the five All Irelands between 2011 and '15 with a team and panel that were getting progressively weaker. The 2014 All Ireland, for instance, was won through sheer weight of numbers - quantity rather than quality - and the 2015 All Ireland through iron focus and careful husbanding of diminishing resources. Failing so luridly in 2017 has, paradoxically and to at least some extent, made Cody look greater than ever.

The county's irrelevance this past summer can largely be attributed to one cause, the ineffectiveness of the forward line. On the eve of the championship one might have imagined the worry with Kilkenny to be the defence, not the attack. The forwards seemed likely to score enough to see the team go a long way. The defence - with questions at full-back and centre-back - appeared to lack structure and solidity and therefore seemed likely to undermine the enterprise.



Brian Cody feeling the pressure. Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

Talk about getting things the wrong way around. Turned out the defence was fine: the opposition were held to beatable totals (1-20, 0-17 and 2-15). Turned out the problem was in the other half of the field: tallies of 3-11, 0-20 and 2-15 (in normal time versus Waterford). In winning the All Ireland in 2011 and '12 Kilkenny averaged 2-20 per game. In winning the All Ireland in 2014 and '15 they averaged 2-23 per game. In 2017 they averaged 1-17 per game. Worse, far too big a proportion of their scores came from placed balls. Kilkenny were relying on Reid's accuracy over a dead sliotar to an absurd degree.

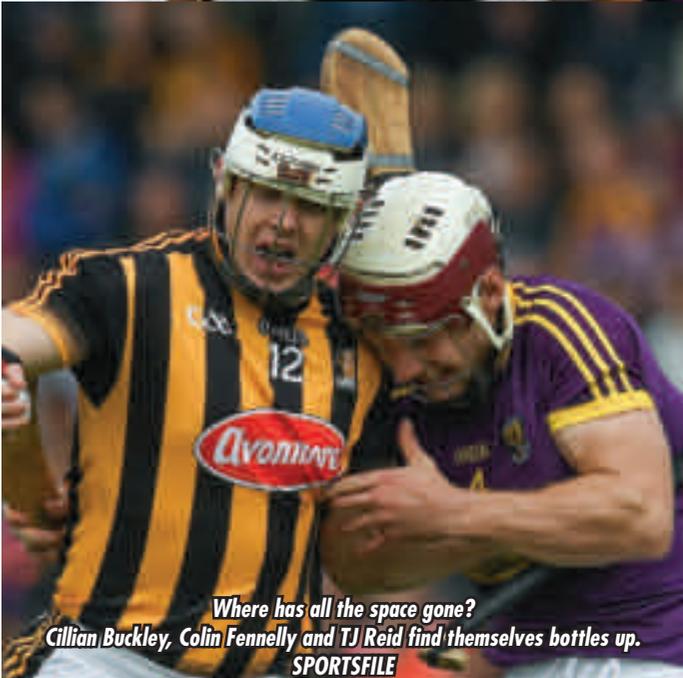
As a rule of thumb, a team with MacCarthy Cup aspirations ought to be hitting about 75 per cent of their scores from play and the remaining quarter from placed balls. When victorious in 2015 the Black and Amber compiled a total of 8-93 in their defeats of Wexford, Waterford and Galway (twice), 1-23 of it from placed balls. That's a split of 78 per cent from play, 22 per cent from placed balls. Want to know the comparative figures for 2017? Brace yourself. In their three outings Kilkenny managed an aggregate of 5-46 in normal time, a whopping 3-20 – 47.5 per cent – of it sourced from placed balls.

In three starts apiece Colin Fennelly hit 1-1, Walter Walsh 0-5 and an injury-raddled Richie Hogan 0-1, with Ger Aylward managing 0-1 in two and a half appearances. Looking at it in that light, the only wonder is not that the county's campaign was so short but that it was so long. Kilkenny have now won only two of their last six championship outings. Yet the real issue concerns whether or not they've bottomed out and whether things may not get worse before the wheel turns and they rise again. The new championship structure will at least be of assistance, guaranteeing a reshaped team four outings in Leinster in 2018 and ensuring that one defeat along the way will not automatically debar them from the provincial final.

In the macro, 2017 was a wonderful hurling year. There were very few classic matches, it is true, but big occasion followed big occasion and ultimate glory went to the best team in the land. September's Croke Park pairing was a blast of fresh air in a summer that was a blast of fresh air. All those crowds and all that colour in Wexford Park and Semple Stadium and Páirc Uí Chaoimh, and all of that before two record All Ireland semi-final attendances. And then the People's Final to conclude the People's Championship. It was a summer to refresh parts that hadn't been refreshed since Clare's triumph four years earlier and it arrived at precisely the right juncture. Between them Kilkenny and Tipperary had brought the sport to new heights since the turn of the decade. But every so often a menu needs to be changed. Cork, Wexford, Waterford and Galway ensured it was changed alright.

Kilkenny's inadequacy in the adult arena would have been easier to digest had one or two trees been pulled up on the under-age front. But the minor team had little to offer in the All Ireland semi-final while the under-21s, even though they were up against a battle-hardened Limerick, were a bitter disappointment at Semple Stadium in September. Earlier in the year St Kieran's were pipped by Our Lady's of Templemore in a splendid colleges final. On the plus side, Carrickshock became All Ireland intermediate champions. And ponder this one with 2018 in mind: Kilkenny were All Ireland under-16 champions, courtesy of a hard-working team that never stopped improving under the guidance of an enlightened management crew headed by Richie Mulrooney. Their progress as under-17s will be watched with inordinate interest. Hurling is circular and the welfare of the sport on Noneside at the moment is at much the same point it was at this time 30 years ago. A fair wind is badly needed in the shape of a successful under-age team wearing stripes. The MacCarthy Cup will not be visiting Nowlan Park again until after Kilkenny have won an All Ireland minor or under-21 title, and very possibly not just one of either.

By way of a small but pleasant surprise, the All Ireland intermediate trophy did make its way to these parts in the season under review. Granted, Anthony McCormack's men were only required to win two fixtures to do so, but the second of them was the final against Cork in the new Páirc Uí Chaoimh. It's fair to say this was a day all of those players will remember for the rest of their lives. It's also fair to say that the team management reckon one or two of the players may have a future at the top level if handled with appropriate patience. Older readers will recall that a number of members of the county's All Ireland-winning 1992-93 outfit had originally come from well off Broadway and initially made a name for themselves with various junior iterations, among them Michael Walsh, Pat Dwyer, John Power and Liam McCarthy. That was then, of course, and this is now, when the gap between playing intermediate for one's club and senior for one's county is far wider than it was in the late 1980s. So exalted is the intercounty game now, with its stratospheric standards of skill and pace and its attendant demands in terms of fitness and lifestyle, the gap may be downright unbridgeable. These are not merely parallel universes but distant universes. It would surely take three years to bring a modern intermediate clubman up to the mark. But it would be interesting to see Cody take on such a project.



*Where has all the space gone?
Cillian Buckley, Colin Fennelly and TJ Reid find themselves bottles up.*
SPORTSFILE



Liam Ryan(Wexford) grabs a piece of Colin Fennelly in Wexford Park (RayMcManus / SPORTSFILE)

There's no reason to believe he won't provided he has such a player on his radar. The man is far more flexible than his autocratic image suggests; he couldn't have won as much as he has were it otherwise. For years it suited Cody to promulgate such an image, but times have changed and much about the Kilkenny management set-up must change with it. The dearth of ready-made hurlers means that the coaching will have to be better, the gameplan too. Kilkenny cannot keep lumping the ball down the field and expecting the ghost of Henry Shefflin to win it. At Wexford Park in June they knew what was coming from the hosts – ie Shaun Murphy sweeping in front of his full-back line – yet they were unable to fashion anything by way of an imaginative counter-scheme. That Kilkenny have, in the round, become distressingly lazy and one-dimensional was acknowledged by DJ Carey on his appointment as under-21 manager. "We think, 'Oh, we don't need to do a sweeper system, we don't need to do this, we don't need to do that, we're Kilkenny, we're traditional.' But I've been involved in the Fitzgibbon Cup for the last four or five years and the game is changing. And we have to go with the change, not

necessarily the whole change, but we have to go with it." Quite.

What amounted to 2017's best wine locally was left until last. The county senior final – six goals in the first half, eight goals in total and an enraptured viewership looking in on TG4 – was one that people will still be talking about in 50 years' time. Whether it will amount to anything in the medium term is quite another matter, but at least the fare served up by Dicksboro and James Stephens provided a shot in the arm when it was badly needed. The match was the culmination of an inordinately interesting senior championship whose quarter-final stage saw no fewer than three of the fixtures go to a replay. Further down the card, St Patrick's and John Lockes won high-class intermediate and junior deciders respectively.

So that was 2017, the year Kilkenny fell down a cliff face. The journey back to a better place begins in 2018. It may prove tough going.

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The Triumph of Youth! a glorious fifth for the boro

St Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2017 by Tommy Lanigan



DICKSBORO – Kilkenny Senior Hurling & League Champions 2017

Back: Paul O'Flynn, Johnny Minogue, Evan Carroll, Conor Fitzpatrick, Sean Boyd, Thomas Kenny, Eddie O'Donoghue, Stephen Farrell.

Middle: Shane Stapleton, Chris Kavanagh, Aaron Duggan, David Glynn, Cillian Starr, Aidan Nolan, Eoin Fennelly, Mikey Hayes, Edward Moylan, Michael Fagan, Oisín Gough, Martin Gaffney.

Front: Kevin Kenny, Andrew Gaffney, Darragh Holohan, Conor Doheny, Robbie Murphy, Bill Sheehan, Joe Dowling (Mascot), Ollie Walsh (Capt.), Robbie Fitzpatrick, Evan Cody, Cillian Buckley, Eoin Gough.

[Photo: John Glynn]

All the years of hard graft with underage teams, all the heartache when so many give up so young, all the hopes and aspirations of two small city parishes came good on 5 November when Dicksboro finally captured the Tom Walsh Cup after a twenty-four year wait.

This was truly a victory of mind over matter. For years, Dicksboro have had lots of talented young players who never seemed to reach their potential at senior level. Too many were happy with juvenile honours and participation, not winning. Anybody who looked at their surrender to Clara in the 2016 championship would seriously wonder if they would ever become gritty enough to win a Kilkenny senior title.

Compliments to Mark Dowling, an astute manager, his selectors Toss Farrell and David Carroll and Liam Egan (trainer) on managing to get the youngsters to believe in themselves and achieve an exceptionally high level of consistency through the year. To be unbeaten in a season is a fine aspiration, doing precisely that in the cauldron of Kilkenny senior hurling is an entirely different matter. But defeating O'Loughlins in the league final and the manner in which they ground out victories, particularly against a fine Mullinavat side in the quarter final suggested this Boro outfit had much more than their predecessors possessed in terms of fortitude. Repeating the win against city rivals O'Loughlins in a dour championship semi-final added to their durability.

The 2017 St. Canice's CU Senior hurling championship will be best remembered as a rare City final. The Boro and The Village met in a final in 1937, their only senior final encounter. That seems unusual, given the strength and tradition of the clubs. However, looking closer, both clubs had chequered histories, the Boro going out of existence for many years and the Village moribund for many others. Their periods of excellence at senior level rarely coincided.

There will be lots of predictions that such a young team winning a senior championship (the oldest 27, with 8 u21s starting the final) will be around for a long time. Don't bet on it! Players come and go, some ambitions are sated,

champions are there to be knocked off their hard earned perch. Sometimes adding a second title can be far more difficult and a more noteworthy achievement. But it would be astounding if this was to be the last all-city final for another lifetime, given the level of organisation and commitment to excellence from u6 to adult level in the city clubs.



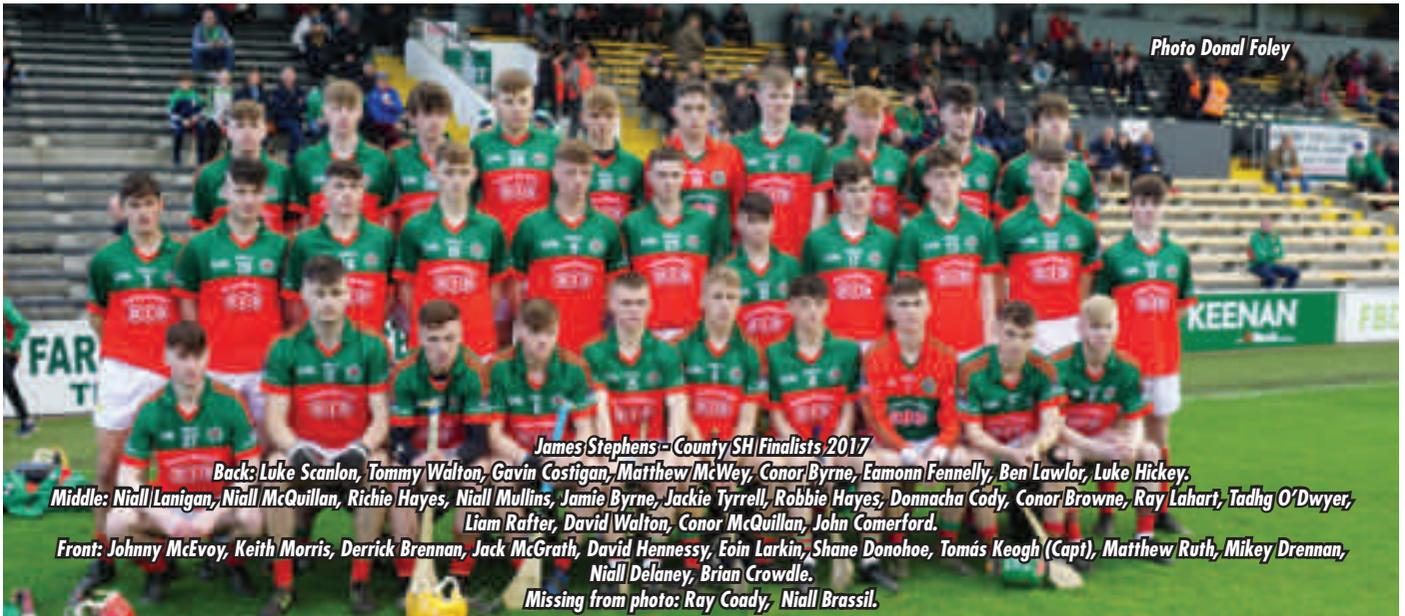
Dicksboro Captain Ollie Walsh lifts the Tom Walsh Cup

The final itself was a cracker. Six first half goals, equally shared, an avalanche of points and a golden ten minutes when the Boro ran amok garnering 2-6 without reply are testament to a thriller. It couldn't continue. The second half was a much tighter affair. Defences dominated but that didn't stop either side from massive counter attacking. The Boro had put aside sufficient credits from that first period and held grimly onto their five-point interval lead. Youngsters playing with no fear.

James Stephens proved worthy adversaries. They had an abysmal league, the nadir coming in a hammering by Danesfort on a murky Kilmanagh evening. They had to flirt with the possibility of relegation. But their season suddenly took off. A very young team backboned by veterans Derrick Brennan, Donnacha Cody, Jackie Tyrrell and Eoin Larkin took fire against St. Martins, then had to dig very deep to over come Carrickshock United at the second attempt. They hammered Ballyhale Shamrocks in the semi-final and gave much hope to their supporters that, indeed, they can come from nowhere to win. This belief has always been part of Village folklore and they came close to fulfilling the oracle.

Potentially, the Boro have several emerging hopefuls to join with Cillian Buckley, as have James Stephens also aim to continue their conveyor belt of county senior players. Here is not the place to name names and impose unfair expectations on young shoulders. Instead, let them do their bit and prove themselves.

2017 was probably the closest and most exciting senior championships of the past quarter century. There is no team touched by greatness but the standards

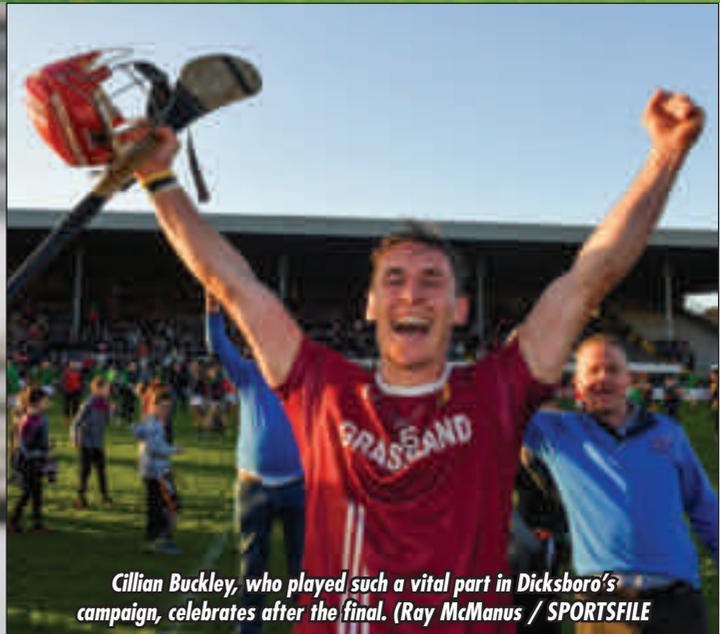


James Stephens - County SH Finalists 2017

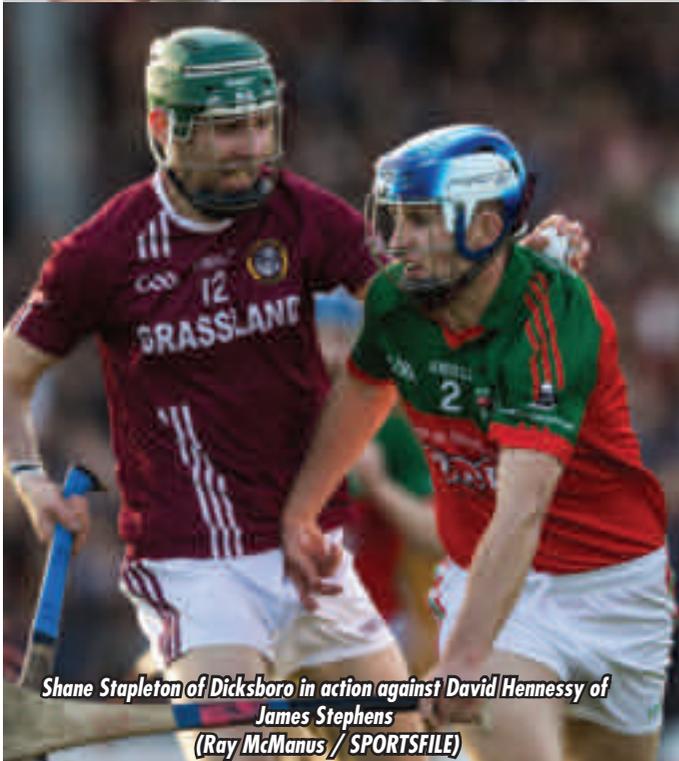
Back: Luke Scanlon, Tommy Walton, Gavin Costigan, Matthew McWey, Conor Byrne, Eamonn Fennelly, Ben Lawlor, Luke Hickey.
Middle: Niall Lanigan, Niall McQuillan, Richie Hayes, Niall Mullins, Jamie Byrne, Jackie Tyrrell, Robbie Hayes, Donnacha Cody, Conor Browne, Ray Lahart, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Liam Rafter, David Walton, Conor McQuillan, John Comerford.
Front: Johnny McEvoy, Keith Morris, Derrick Brennan, Jack McGrath, David Hennessy, Eoin Larkin, Shane Donohoe, Tomás Keogh (Capt), Matthew Ruth, Mikey Drennan, Niall Delaney, Brian Crowdle.
Missing from photo: Ray Coady, Niall Brassil.



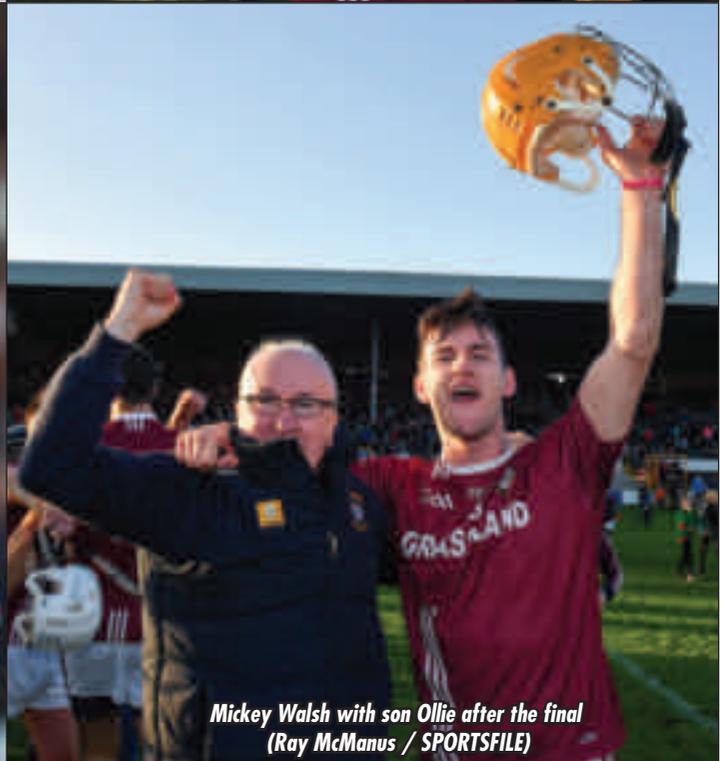
Bill Sheehan grabs the sliotar for the 'Boro's first goal. (Donal Foley)



Cillian Buckley, who played such a vital part in Dicksboro's campaign, celebrates after the final. (Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE)



Shane Stapleton of Dicksboro in action against David Hennessy of James Stephens (Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE)



Mickey Walsh with son Ollie after the final (Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE)



'Boro Selectors, Toss Farrell, David Carroll with Manager Mark Dowling deep in thought at the Mullinavat match. (John Glynn)

have levelled remarkably. Three quarter-finals went to replays and almost every championship game illustrated the finest qualities of preparedness, endeavour and no little skill. Above all, the year should encourage several other clubs to dream of greatness.

That the Boro lost to Cuala a week after the county final in the leinster club championship is not a negative reflection on the quality of the county championship, but the recognition of an outstanding and mature Dublin side. O'Loughlins looked likely champions from relatively early. Always difficult to beat, the 2016 champions went down fighting in the semi-final against Dicksboro. Their great veterans, Brian Hogan and Martin Comerford drove them onwards but the team lacked the flair that makes the difference between being pedestrian and winning. Their Achilles heel of poor scoring stats undid their prospects. They have lots of underage talent, not a guarantee of prosperity but there are lots of opportunities for young Loughs to make it to senior ranks.

Ballyhale Shamrocks are now in transition. After a wonderful seventeen-year patch, they finished this year poorly. When the pressure came on them in the semi-final against the Village, they totally imploded. 3-11 to 0-3 was a rare second half collapse by the old masters. There was no Henry, no Aidan Cummins nor Bob Aylward to rally them. But they have a plethora of youngsters waiting in the wings and they can hurl too!

Two of the best teams in the championship were Mullinavat and Carrickshock. The 'Vat ran Dicksboro closest, a draw and two-point deficit in two enthralling quarter-final games suggests they are close to great things if they truly believe in their own talent and potential. They won the Byrne Cup, a small victory for a small but great hearted club.

Carrickshock United had their moments this year. All Ireland Intermediate club champions, they have brought some good youngsters along and they served up two outstanding games against James Stephens, either of which they could have won. Injury hit them cruelly, the loss of Richie Power at half time in the replay was a grievous blow from which they never recovered. But they too have potential to rise again.

Clara and Shamrocks gave us two outstanding quarter-finals but the maroon men depended on a few stalwarts to keep them in the hunt for victory. They have not changed personnel for almost five years and some staleness showed this year. But their age profile is good for another year or two provided they nurture new talent.

Neither Erins Own nor Rower-Inistioge will be happy with their year. Both contrived some good early victories and then folded tamely in the heat of championship. They have many similarities and will need to develop a hard edge next year if they are to avoid troublesome relegation battles. The same applies to Danesfort. They prospered and struggled throughout the league, have some fine young players coming along but too often they look as if they are happy to remain in senior ranks. Perhaps that explains several of their poor knockout performances of recent years. St. Martin's finally gave up the ghost at senior level in disappointing fashion. They had a horrendous year, almost believing they were in trouble from the start. It was something of a surprise from a traditionally battling club. It was a relief for Bennettsbridge that they found such docile relegation rivals. The 'Bridge showed limited good form this year and must develop an urgency for hard competitiveness. They are young and have been on the road as a team for several years but now need to assert themselves at this grade. While we had little to enthuse about in senior black and amber in 2017, the club senior scene prospers.

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2017 KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mullinavat: J. Culleton, J. Fennelly, T. Aylward, P. Gahan, M. Mansfield, S. Aylward, R. Malone, M. Malone, W. O'Dwyer, G. Malone, I. Duggan, L. Fennelly, J. Walsh, J. Fennelly, D. Keneally, J. Gahan, C. Duggan, M. Jones, A. Mansfield.

Bennettsbridge: E. Cleere, S. Byrne, R. Lennon, E. Morrissey, M. Shiel, A. Cleere, J. Cleere, D. Wafer, K. Blanchfield, N. Cleere, B. Lennon, L. Blanchfield, S. Morrissey, D. Walsh, K. Brennan, W. Murphy, S. Dwyer, K. O'Sullivan.

Carrickshock: J. Power, J. Grace, J. Dalton, L. Gaule, N. Tennyson, E. Martin, J. Tennyson, B. Donovan, J. Cahill, J. Power, M. Rice, D. Brennan, R. Power, M. O'Dwyer, K. Farre II, D. Walsh, J. Butler, D. O'Dwyer, M. Rohan, A. O'Neill.

James Stephens: D. Brennan, D. Hennessy, D. Cody, N. McQuillan, N. Delaney, T. Tyrrell, J. McGrath, N. Mullins, C. Browne, L. Scanlon, E. Larkin, M. Ruth, M. Drennan, D. Walton, T. Dwyer, M. McWey, T. Keogh, N. Brazzil, S. Donoghue, L. Hickey.

St. Martins: C. McGrath, R. Reid, J. Maher, S. Cadigan, N. Darcy, P. Nolan, B. Cody, D. Shore, J. Dowling, J. Mulhall, O. Walsh, T. Breen, P. Maher, J. Maher, J. Shore, B. Byrne, D. Walsh.

Erins Own: T. Brophy, P. Donovan, C. Wallace, J. Dowd, C. Delaney, D. Fogarty, E. Brennan, N. McMahon, C. Fogarty, M. Murphy, A. Moran, R. Moran, S. Buggy, A. Owens, M. Boran, S. Delaney, E. Brennan, S. Feehan, J. Mullins, S. Daly.

Danesfort: K. Ireland, R. O'Keeffe, P. Murphy, D. Booth, P. Walsh, C. O'Neill, P. Hogan, R. Walsh, D. Dunne, R. Hogan, C. Treacy, P. Hickey, P. Mullen, G. Tynan, C. Phelan, J. Mullally, J. Cunningham, C. O'Neill.

Clara: K. Phelan, D. Nolan, S. O'Shea, K. Galvin, S. Prendergast, C. O'Shea, E. O'Shea, D. Langton, T. Ryan, L. Ryan, J. Langton, L. Ryan, J. Byrne, C. Bolger, C. Prendergast, J. Murphy.

O'Loughlin Gaels: S. Murphy, A. Forristal, A. Kearns, E. Kearns, P. Butler, B. Hogan, H. Lawlor, P. Deegan, J. Nolan, S. Bolger, M. Kelly, S. Mahony, M. Bergin, M. Comerford, S. Johnston, D. Burke, R. Buckley, J. Molloy, J. Leahy.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: J. Connolly, K. Mullan, J. Holden, C. Phelan, P. Shefflin, R. Reid, P. Mullen, C. Walsh, G. Butler, C. Fennelly, E. Reid, T.J. Reid, J. Cuddihy, M. Fennelly, R. Corcoran, M. Aylward, A. Mullen, D. Aylward, D. Mullen, B. Cody.

Rower Inistioge: P. Lyng, E. Doyle, S. Cummins, S. Ryan, S. Lyster, K. Joyce, J. Lyng, C. Ryan, K. Murphy, P. Lyng, T. Murphy, R. Galavan, C. Bolger, J.J. Kenny, R. Leahy, C. Joyce, J. Ryan, J. Walsh.

Dicksboro: D. Holohan, C. Fitzpatrick, E. Cody, M. Fagan, T. Kenny, C. Buckley, A. Nolan, O. Walsh, R. Fitzpatrick, S. Stapleton, O. Gough, E. Gough, M. Gaffney, A. Gaffney, B. Sheehan, C. Doheny, K. Kenny, R. Murphy, E. O'Donoghue, R. Murphy, S. Farrell.



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Dicksboro captain Ollie Walsh is presented with the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship cup by Eamon McArdle, President, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Donal Foley)

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....but for service*

**St Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union, 78 High Street, Kilkenny.
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website: www.stcanicescu.ie**

“Rest if you must, but don't you quit.”

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2017 by Conor Brennan



Photos Willie Dempsey

St Patrick's - County IH Champions 2017

Back: Billy Morrissey, Jack Ryan, Richie McEvoy, Alan Ruth, Barry Staunton, Séan Mooney, John Butler, Robbie Healy, Paddy McEvoy, Kevin Kelly.
Middle: Conor Bolger, Eoin Bergin, Jodie Phelan, Eoin Delaney, Ger Staunton, Shay Ryan, Seoirse Kenny, John Phelan, Geoff Morrissey, Paddy Brennan, Paddy Gannon, John Mooney, Stephen Staunton, Micheál Kenny.
Front: Mark Staunton, Oisín Brennan, Conor Delaney, Bill Staunton, Michael Gannon, Michael Brennan, James Gannon, Geoff Brennan, Joe Brennan.

“When things go wrong as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all up hill, When the funds are low and the debts are high, And you want to smile, but you have to sigh, When care is pressing you down a bit, Rest if you must, but don't you quit.”

The intermediate hurlers of St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) have been arguably the most consistent team in the grade for the last six years, where they had qualified for three finals in 2012, 2014 and 2015. However, success is naturally measured in silverware and progress to the senior grade, and this was a significant obstacle that they had yet to overcome, despite their best efforts. One wondered whether such opportunities would ever present themselves again as their team aged. But, the ever present physical strength that was the hall mark of the team and the patient building of a solid panel of players brought the Ballyragget men to the pinnacle of their achievements in 2017.

Thomastown were the form team of the intermediate hurling league rounds with early season potential favourites Tullaroan, having only suffered one loss each. The two sides met in the league final and it was Thomastown who secured the title, winning by 2-21 to 1-22 in a game of high quality all through. St. Patrick's took the shield honours, comprehensively defeating a weakened Glenmore side by 3-21 to 0-13.

The opening round of the championship paired together last year's finalists Tullogher-Rosbercon with Lisdowney, Graigue-Ballycallan with St. Lachtain's, Young Irelands against Fenians, and an all-Southern clash between Mooncoin and Dunnamaggin.

Tullogher and Lisdowney could not be separated at the end of sixty minutes, drawing on a scoreline of 0-13 apiece. In the replay that subsequently followed, it was Lisdowney who appeared to have gained more experience from the initial clash by comprehensively outclassing the Tullogher men, winning in the end by 2-22 to 1-14.

Graigue-Ballycallan and St. Lachtain's faced off in Jenkinstown in their opening round clash. Despite a slow start, Graigue led by 1-8 to 1-5 at half-time and continued in the same vein with some impressive performances throughout the field from their younger players in particular. The weather conditions made high quality play difficult for both teams, but the Graigue men were able to build on their lead during the second half, eventually winning by 2-15 to 2-8.



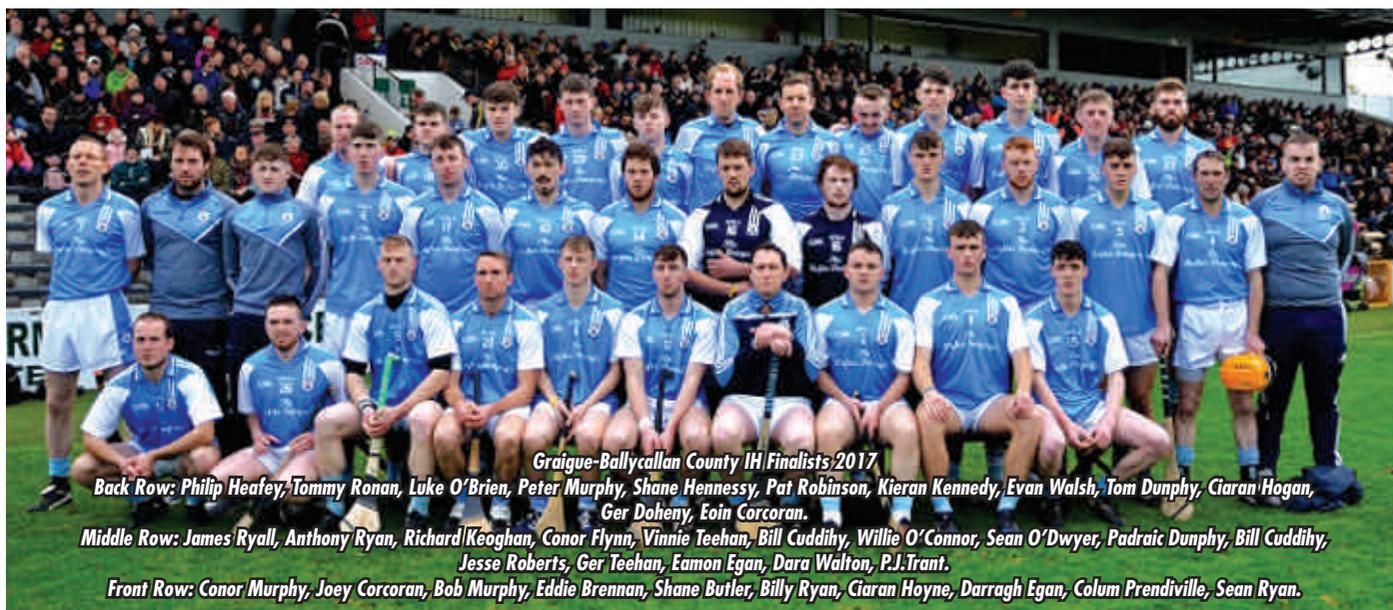
St Pat's Captain Stephen Staunton lifts the Hanrahan Cup

Young Irelands and Fenians also met in the opening round in Freshford. There was little between the sides during the opening half as the Gowran men led by 0-10 to 0-8 at half-time. An early second half scoring burst, which included the only goal of the game for Young Irelands through Paul Holden, was the key phase of the game and ultimately the main difference between the sides. Despite the Johnstown men's best efforts, it was the Gowran men who advanced to the quarter-finals by winning 1-18 to 0-17.

An all-southern clash between Dunnamaggin and Mooncoin rounded off the action in the championship first round. It was Dunnamaggin who led at half-time by 0-8 to 0-6 against last year's junior champions, and although Mooncoin managed to take the lead after the interval, it appeared that there would be little between the two teams as the second half continued. However, the final quarter was completely dominated by the Mooncoin men, as they held Dunnamaggin to a single point during that time as well as scoring 2-3 themselves to win out by 3-16 to 0-15, a score line that ultimately was harsh on

the Dunnamaggin men.

The quarter-finals saw Glenmore take on Mooncoin, Tullaroan facing Young Irelands, league winners Thomastown paired with Graigue-Ballycallan, with a highly anticipated local derby between St. Patrick's and Lisdowney rounding off the quartet of games. Glenmore were just about too strong



Graigue-Ballycallan County IH Finalists 2017

Back Row: Philip Heafey, Tommy Ronan, Luke O'Brien, Peter Murphy, Shane Hennessy, Pat Robinson, Kieran Kennedy, Evan Walsh, Tom Dunphy, Ciaran Hogan, Ger Doheny, Eoin Corcoran.
Middle Row: James Ryall, Anthony Ryan, Richard Keoghan, Conor Flynn, Vinnie Teehan, Bill Cuddihy, Willie O'Connor, Sean O'Dwyer, Padraic Dunphy, Bill Cuddihy, Jesse Roberts, Ger Teehan, Eamon Egan, Dara Walton, P.J. Trant.
Front Row: Conor Murphy, Joey Corcoran, Bob Murphy, Eddie Brennan, Shane Butler, Billy Ryan, Ciaran Hoyne, Darragh Egan, Colum Prendiville, Sean Ryan.



Thomastown - County IH League Champions 2017

Back : Jack Cullen, Richard O'Hara, Eoin Manning, Rob O'Hanrahan, Brian Staunton, Gary Mason, Jonjo Farrell, Johnny Barron, Dylan Waugh, Darragh McGarry, Dylan Caulfield, Craig Butler, Sean Mahony, Brian Murphy, Jamie Lanigan, Cian O'Mara, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Danny Monks.
Front: John Donnelly, James Burke, Barry Whelan, Stuart Waugh, Adrian Burke, David Griffin, Colin Corrway, David Prendergast, Paul Barron, Daithi Barron, Brian O'Hanrahan, Eddie Corrway, Robbie Donnelly, Dessie Walsh.

for their opponents Mooncoin in their quarter-final played in Mullinavat. Glenmore's Alan Murphy shot 1-5 during the first half, the goal from a penalty, as Glenmore opened out a decent 1-10 to 0-5 lead at the break. Glenmore didn't give much away, and they put away virtually every chance that came their way. Five minutes from the end they held a strong lead of 1-14 to 0-10. Mooncoin rallied with two goals, but Glenmore were just about able to hold on to win 1-15 to 2-10.

Tullaroan and Young Irelands played out a thrilling game when they met in their quarter-final clash in Páirc Sheamuis Stiopháin. A first half of high quality saw the Gowran men lead by 0-14 to 3-7 at half-time, despite the fact that Tullaroan played into a stiff breeze during the half. The four Walsh brothers, Tommy, Martin, Padraig and Shane were key men for Tullaroan – indeed the first three brothers mentioned accounted for 1-16 of their side's final tally. Paul Kehoe was also in impressive form for Young Irelands, scoring 0-12 from play and frees. It looked like Tullaroan's goal scoring ability was going lead them comfortably to victory until Sean Carey scored a late goal to close the gap for Young Irelands. But time was not on their side, and Tullaroan took their place in the semi-finals, winning in the end by 3-18 to 1-20.

A somewhat surprising result came in the match up between Graigue-Ballycallan and Thomastown in St. John's Park, as the league champions were defeated having been ahead by six points at half-time. This was due to a goal from Adrian Burke on the stroke of half-time to give them a 1-10 to 1-4 lead. But the Graigue men fought back tremendously throughout the second half, with the Graigue management deserving of credit for some successful positional and personnel changes which made a telling contribution. A goal from Billy Ryan levelled the scores at 1-13 to 2-10 and a third goal from Jesse Roberts five minutes later gave Graigue-Ballycallan a lead that they never surrendered. They subsequently booked their semi-final place with a most deserving 3-15 to 1-17 victory.

The neighbouring parishes of Ballyragget and Lisdowney travelled to Freshford to see who would secure the local bragging rights as their two sides faced in the final quarter-final. St. Patrick's were the more composed side and

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

1ST ROUND

Tullagher-Rosbercon	0-13	Lisdowney	0-13 (Draw)
Replay – Lisdowney	2-22	Tullagher-Rosbercon	1-14
Graigue-Ballycallan	2-15	St. Lachtain's	2-8
Young Irelands	1-18	Fenians	0-17
Mooncoin	3-16	Dunnamaggin	0-15

QUARTER-FINALS

Glenmore	1-15	Mooncoin	2-10
Tullaroan	3-18	Young Irelands	1-20
Graigue-Ballycallan	3-15	Thomastown	1-17
St. Patrick's	2-13	Lisdowney	1-12

SEMI-FINALS

St. Patrick's	4-17	Tullaroan	2-21
Graigue-Ballycallan	2-18	Glenmore	2-12

RELEGATION FINAL

St. Lachtain's	2-9	Dunnamaggin	0-15 (Draw)
Replay – St. Lachtain's	2-10	Dunnamaggin	1-11

FINAL

St. Patrick's	1-19	Graigue-Ballycallan	2-10
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with a goal either side of the half-time break leaving them 2-11 to 0-4 ahead early in the second half. Though the Lisdowney did improve their performance from this point on and St. Patrick's only added two further points to their tally, the closest the two teams got was with a seven point difference as time was running out. They did scramble a goal just prior to the final whistle, but it was merely a consolation as St. Patrick's advanced to the semi-finals by winning 2-13 to 1-12.



Tullaroan - County IH League Finalists 2017

The semi-final pairings saw Graigue-Ballycallan and Glenmore commence proceedings in Nowlan Park, and then followed by the pairing of Tullaroan and St. Patrick's. The opening game saw Glenmore enjoy the better of the exchanges as the Graigue men struggled to keep their composure in possession. The opening goal after twenty minutes from Alan Murphy helped Glenmore towards a seven point cushion at the interval, as they led by 1-10 to 0-6. Like their quarter clash with Thomastown, Graigue needed a positive start to the second half, and they got it with a goal from Sean Ryan. Glenmore looked to have the situation under control when Alan Murphy scored his second goal from a penalty soon after. But it only served to galvanise Graigue even further, and they scored a remarkable nine points without reply to lead by 1-15 to 2-10 with five minutes to play. A further goal from Billy Ryan after a two point burst from Glenmore gave them the lead again, and three further points followed during injury time to see Graigue-Ballycallan celebrate a place in the final by winning 2-18 to 2-12.

Tullaroan and St. Patrick's would have done well to match the drama provided by the first semi-final, but they did that and arguably by some amount more. Kevin Kelly was central to much of the key moments in the game, giving the Tullaroan

defence a torrid time from his position at full-forward and scoring a remarkable 3-11 of his side's total. St. Patrick's made the best start, scoring two goals in the opening minutes. Tullaroan fought back well and were soon rewarded when Padraig Walsh goaled to give them a 1-7 to 2-2 lead midway through the first half. But once again, the Ballyragget men thundered back, led by their talisman Kelly, who scored his second goal and drove his side on to a 3-9 to 1-12 lead at half-time. His hat-trick goal from a penalty mid way through the second half gave St. Patrick's a 4-14 to 1-14 lead, but Tullaroan refused to yield, and a goal later on from Peter Walsh cut the deficit to five points with eight minutes to go (4-15 to 2-16). They could have done so even more had they converted a penalty that St. Patrick's goalkeeper Michael Gannon was on hand to save, but still they managed to do so to the minimum as time ran out. But Kevin Kelly once again proved his value to his team, as he drew a foul and pointed the subsequent free to finish the scoring, though there was some dramatic defending required to hold Tullaroan at bay before the final whistle. The Ballyragget men did that, and finished 4-17 to 2-21 winners after a thrilling game, with great credit to both teams.

Graigue-Ballycallan came out of the traps in blistering fashion on county final day, with a timely

flick to the net by Billy Ryan setting up a 1-3 to 0-1 lead in the early minutes. St. Patrick's were heavily reliant on Kevin Kelly frees to keep them in touch throughout the half, and they just about managed to do that as the half progressed with them playing into the breeze. They scored their only point from play of the half through Barry Staunton to ensure parity at the break, 1-5 to 0-8.

It was early in the second half that the winning of the game could be seen in hindsight. A goal from Brian "Brooky" Phelan either side of points from Michael and Paddy Brennan gave the Ballyragget men a 1-10 to 1-5 lead. The scoring was then shared between the sides until the midway point until Graigue garnered some hope when Sean Ryan finished superbly to the net to cut the deficit (1-15 to 2-9). But St. Patrick's made good use of their greater physical size and strength to dominate the aerial exchanges and play some good ball into their forwards to increase the lead once again, with points coming from Joe Brennan, Kevin Kelly and Michael Brennan, leaving them 1-19 to 2-10 ahead. They would not be denied any longer, and when referee Ray Byrne signaled the end of the game, it sparked jubilant scenes for players and supporters alike. The long wait was over and the uphill road was overcome.

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2017 INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

Graigue Ballycallan: C. Hoyne, D. Egan, G. Teehan, D. Walton, E. Egan, C. Flynn, J. Ryall, R. Keogh, B. Murphy, W. O'Connor, C. Prenderville, B. Ryan, J. Roberts, S. O'Dwyer, S. Ryan, S. Butler, V. Teehan, E. Brennan, T. Ronan.

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

Mooncoin: N. O'Hanlon, N. Mackey, N. Blanchfield, M. Kearns, C. Daly, S. Wall, D. Kearns, R. Wall, P. Heneberry, K. Crowley, M. Grace, P. Walsh, E. Ryan, E. Heneberry, D. Purcell, L. Heneberry, J. Delahunty, S. Kearns, C. Brophy, C. Fleming, A. Walsh, S. Walsh.

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

St. Patricks: M. Gannon, P. Mcevoy, G. Morrissey, M. Staunton, R. Healy, S. Staunton, S. Mooney, G. Brennan, K. Kelly, B. Staunton, S. Kenny, M. Brennan, B. Staunton, J. Brennan, B. B. Phelan, J. Gannon, P. Brennan, E. Delaney, O. Brennan.

Thomastown: P. Barron, B. Murphy, S. O'Mahoney, D. Prendergast, B. Whelan, J. Burke, J. Barron, J. Farrell, D. Caulfield, R. Donnelly, J. Donnelly, D. Barron, G. Butler, D. Walsh, A. Burke, B. Staunton, R. O'Hara, Brian O Hanrahan.

Tullagher Rosbercon: M. Roche, D. Grennan, J. Hartley, A. Cotteral, P. Hartley, D. O'Connor, J. Cotteral, B. Lawlor, W. Walsh, C. O'Donoghue, K. Hennessy, T. Cullinane, C. Hennessy, S. Ryan, E. Ryan, R. Dollard, J. Murphy, P. Meggs.

Tullaroan, R. Butler, D. Doheny, S. Maher, S. Dowling, J. Moore, M. Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Keogh, J. Walton, B. Gaffney, T. Walsh (M), M. Keogh, P. Walsh, S. Walsh, P. Buggy, M. Walsh.

Young Irelands: P. Hutchinson, J. J. Lennon, N. Walsh, E. Byrne, G. Brennan, P. Delahunty, M. Clery, J. P. Treacy, M. Walsh, P. Keogh, S. Kehoe, C. Nolan, S. Farrell, P. Holden, S. Carey, T. Drea, P. O'Donnell, D. Carroll.

Fenians - D Delaney, E Phelan, J Henderson, J.J. Delaney, D Brennan, R Phelan, C Tobin, N Carroll, M Carroll, M Webster, D Tobin, D Ryan, C Ryan, W Brennan, K Grehan, K Power, S Tobin, D Wilson.

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS KILKENNY



The Winning Team!



St Patrick's 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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'Locke's leave it late to take their fifth

COUNTY JH REPORT BY
NED BUGGY

(Photo Willie Dempsey)



JOHN LOCKES - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2017

Back: Robbie Wall, Jim Power, John Prendergast, Pat Power, Ryan Bergin, Pauric Purcell, Jack Lynch.

Middle: Brian Mc Cann, Shane Bergin, Jack Mc Dowell, James Power, Eoin Mc Grath, John Burns, Luke Burke, Conor Murphy, Paddy Kennedy, Cian Bogue, David Phelan, John O'Neill.

Front: Matthew Houlihan, Tony Delaney, Brion Kirwan, Bill Mc Dowell, Ian Burke, Sean Power, Robert Kerwick, Cathal Mc Grath, Dan Mc Cormack, Jason Corcoran, Eoghan Scriven, Eoin Byrne.

Kilkenny Junior Hurling Scene 2017 All competitions sponsored by J. J. Kavanagh and Sons

20 clubs entered teams in the Junior competitions
19 clubs entered teams in the junior A competitions
22 clubs entered teams in the junior B competitions
Junior hurling teams played in 7 competitions, playing a total of
Junior A hurling teams played in 3 competitions playing a total of
Junior B hurling teams played in 2 competitions playing a total of

Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship 2017 Scoreboard

Round	Section	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
First Round	Section A	Blacks & Whites	1-13	Barrow Rangers	1-8
		Slieverue	2-15	Conahy Shamrocks	1-15
		Emeralds	5-22	Cloneen	0-3
		John Lockes	0-16	Kilmacow	0-9
		Galmoy	1-19	Windgap	0-16
Piltown	2-18	Graignamanagh	1-15		
Second Round	Section A	John Lockes	2-21	Galmoy	1-13
		Piltown	1-15	Blacks & Whites	0-12
		Slieverue	2-13	Emeralds	1-14
First Round	Section B	Ballyhale Shamrocks	0-17	Erins Own	1-6
		James Stephens	1-26	Tullarean	2-14
Second Round		Ballyhale Shamrocks	1-13	Rower Inistioge	2-9
		Dicksboro	1-11	James Stephens	2-7
3rd Round		Clara	1-17	Dicksboro	2-13
		O'Loughlin Gaels	1-21	B'hale Shamrocks	1-20
4th Round		O'Loughlin Gaels	1-15	Clara	0-17
Semi-Finals		O'Loughlin Gaels	2-17	Piltown	2-9
		John Lockes	4-16	Slieverue	2-11
Final		John Lockes	1-17	O'Loughlin Gaels	0-19

Power-Ful Finish Leaves John Lockes Singing John Lockes 1-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-19

With 61.39 minutes showing on the stopwatch and the sides level, Ryan Bergin (JL) fired in a short ball from the left of midfield towards the city end goal. Sub Conor Murphy worked the ball on for centre forward James Power to scoop the ball over the bar and win the junior hurling championship title for the fifth time for John Lockes.

Twelve times the scores were level which underlined how balanced the contest actually was throughout.

Half Time score:

John Lockes 1-9 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-11

John Lockes scorers: James Power 0-10, Dan McCormack 1-2, Shane Bergin 0-2, Paddy Kennedy 0-1, Ryan Bergin 0-1, Conor Murphy 0-1.

O'Loughlin Gaels: John Doyle 0-13, Alan Geoghegan 0-2, Danny Lenehan 0-2, Brian Dowling 0-1, Niall Bergin 0-1.

Subs. B. Kirwan, J. P. Corcoran, E. Scriven, C. Byrne, D. McCormack .

Referee: Owen Kenny (Tullagher Rosbercon)

THE 22ND ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE 2017 (Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)

26 teams entered to play in this competition
Teams were divided into 4 groups

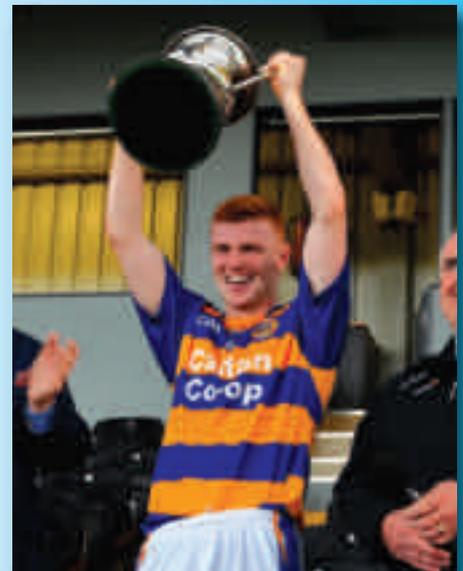
2 groups of 6

2 groups of 7

Teams in the 6 groups played 3 matches

Teams in the 7 groups played 4 matches

The finishing positions in the league tables decided the draw for the knockout stages of the competition which were as follows



John Lockes Captain, Owen McGrath lifts the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup.

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

	1st Round		
Mount Leinster Rangers	1-15	Galmoy	1-12
Slieverue	w/o	St. Mullins	scr
O'Loughlin Gaels	4-12	Windgap	2-10
Emeralds	3-16	James Stephens	0-16
	Semi-Finals		
Mount Leinster Rangers	6-22	Slieverue	1-16
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-14	Emeralds	0-10
	Final		
Mount Leinster Rangers	1-16	O'Loughlin Gaels	0-16



O'LOUGHLIN GAE'L'S - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2017

Back: David Mc Cormack, John Doyle, Ross Butler, Pat Byrne, Thomas Gleeson, Cian Loy, Seamie Cummins
Middle: Gary Kelly, Jack Lawlor, Andy, Cantwell, Eoin O' Shea, Alan O' Brien, Danny Lenehan, Martin Gibbons, Jaye Leahy, Brian Murphy, Michael Hennebery,
Front: Robbie Buckley, Conor Bergin, Jordan Molloy, Niall Bergin, Paddy Delaney, Brian Dowling, Gary Bryan, Evan Walsh, Billy Leydon.

KILKENNY JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017.

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

1st. Round

James Stephens	2-16	G/Ballycallan	0-14
Dicksboro	4-15	B Rangers	4-10
St. Lachtains	2-16	Lisdowney	1-17
St. Patricks	0-14	St. Martins	0-10
Emeralds	1-13	Fenians	1-11

Quarter Finals

Conahy Shamrocks	3-19	Dicksboro	0-16
James Stephens	1-15	O'Loughlins	1-14
St. Patricks	3-15	Emeralds	0-10
St. Lachtains	3-23	Y Irelands	4-18

Semi-Finals

James Stephens	1-13	CShamrocks	0-9
St. Patricks	2-17	St. Lachtains	1-10

Final

St. Patricks	2-16	J Stephens	0-13
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Southern Junior A Hurling Championship

COUNTRY STYLE FOODS SOUTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Dunnamaggin	1-22	Mullinavat	0-7
Thomastown	0-20	T Rosbercon	1-12

Semi-Finals

Thomastown	1-17	Carrickshock	1-13
Mooncoin	2-17	Dunnamaggin	1-14

Final

Mooncoin	3-22	Thomastown	1-19
Rower Instioge	2-15	Thomastown	1-15

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

St. Patricks	2-10	Mooncoin	0-15
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Kilkenny Junior A Hurling league

13 teams entered to play in the northern division which was divided into two groups of 7 and 6 teams.

A total of 36 league games were played plus the final between the 2 top teams.

The 6 teams in the southern division played in one group playing a total of 15 games. There was no league final played.

The final placings in the groups decided the draws for the championship.-

The following are the final league tables.

Northern Junior A hurling league table group A

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Young Irelands	6	6	0	0	12
O' Loughlin Gaels	6	5	0	1	10
St. Martins	6	3	0	3	6
James Stephens	6	2	0	4	4
Emeralds	6	2	0	4	4
St. Lachtains	6	2	0	4	4
Dicksboro	6	1	0	5	2



Mt Leinster Rangers - All County Champions 2017

Back: Gary Lawlor, Hugh Patk O'Byrne, Ted Joyce, Luke Roche, James Kelly, David Phelan, Richard Kelly, Michael Malone, Shane O'Neill, Paul Coady, Seamus Kelly, Padraig Nolan, Brian Nolan, Seamus O'Brien, Edward Coady.
Front: Ella Foley (Mascot) Frank Foley, John Coady, Michael Doyle, Jack Murphy, Dean Grennan, Diarmuid Byrne, Kevin McDonald, Jon Nolan, Gary Kelly, Edward Byrne, Chris Nolan, Richard Coady, Derek Byrne, David Grennan, Willie Hickey.



ST PATRICK'S COUNTY JH "A" CHAMPIONS 2017
 Back : Martin McGrath, Shane Phelan, Billy Morrissey, Paddy Gannon, Alan Ruff, Jack Ryan, Eoin Delaney, Jody Phelan, Ger Staunton, Geoff Morrissey, Sean Mooney, Micheal Kenny, David Kelly, Donal Brennan, Conor Bolger, Sean McGrath, Tom Phelan.
 Front : Shay Ryan, Paddy Brennan, John Phelan, Paddy McEvoy, Richie McEvoy, John Butler, Dessie Hickey, Conor Delaney, Brian Brooky Phelan, Robert Healy, Oisin Brennan, Derek Butler.



MOONCOIN - SOUTH JH "A" CHAMPIONS 2017
 Back: Eoin Doyle, Eddie Quilty, James Delahunty, Mark Fitzgerald, Padraigh Gannon, Niall Madden, David O'Brien, Stephen Wall, Shane Walsh (Polerone) Shane Walsh (Ballincur), Niall O'Hanlon, Stephen Crowley, Sean O'Hanlon
 Front: Benny Mackey, Danny Purcell, John Paul Purcell, Eoin Crowley, David Kearns, Sean Wall, Thomas Kinsella, Andy Brennan, Ryan Croke, Mark Kearns, Paddy Kinsella Zack Power Diarmuid Mackey.



JOHN LOCKES - COUNTY JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS 2017
 Back: Jim Lynch (Manager), David Phelan, Nickey Butler, Jim Power, Eoin Fahy, Luke Burke, Michael Power, Pat Power, Brian Mc Cann, Ian Burke, Cian Bogue, Patrick Cunningham, Paddy Kennedy, Rachel Kennedy, Eamonn Kennedy (Sel)
 Front: John O'Neill, Dan Mc Cormack, Conor Murphy, John Burns, Brion Kirwan, Padraig Purcell, John Paul Corcoran, Eoin Byrne, John Prendergast, Jack Lynch, Eoghan Scriven, Liam Kennedy, Robbie Jackman.



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John Lockes Captain, Owen McGrath is presented with the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup by Paul Kavanagh, sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo:Willie Dempsey)

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Group B					
Conahy Shamrocks	5	3	2	0	8
St. Patricks	5	3	0	2	6
Graigieballycallan	5	3	0	2	6
Fenians	5	2	2	1	5
Lisdowney	5	1	2	2	4
Barrow Rangers	5	0	1	4	1

Northern Junior A hurling league final			
Young Irelands	5-16	Conahy Shamrocks	1-13

KILKENNY JUNIOR B HURLING LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

24 teams entered to play in this championship
12 in the northern championship
12 in the southern championship

NORTHERN JUNIOR B HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Johnny Ivory Memorial Cup)

After 30 matches were played the following were the league tables.

Scoreboard

1st Round

Blacks and Whites	4-14	Erins Own	2-12
Danesfort	3-20	Lisdowney	2-10
Dicksboro	3-15	Clara	2-9
Cloneen	1-10	C Shamrocks	0-12

Quarter Finals

Blacks and Whites	5-13	Jas Stephens	0-10
Galmoy	1-19	Dicksboro	0-10
Threecastles	0-13	Danesfort	0-10
Bennettsbridge	0-11	Cloneen	0-8

Semi-Finals

Bennettsbridge	2-19	Threecastles	0-9
Galmoy	0-22	Blacks & Whites	1-13

Final

Galmoy	2-18	Bennettsbridge	2-15
--------	------	----------------	------

SOUTHERN JUNIOR B HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

1st. Round

Ballyhale Shamrocks	5-22	T Rosbercon	0-7
Windgap	1-19	Carrigeen	1-9
Piltown	2-16	Rower Inistioge	1-16

John Lockes	w/o	Graigieamnanagh	scr
-------------	-----	-----------------	-----

Quarter -finals

Ballyhale Shamrocks	3-13	Glenmore	0-16
John Lockes	4-22	Mooncoin	2-14
Piltown	2-24	Kilmacow	2-16
Windgap	w/o	Slieverue	scr

Semi-finals

Ballyhale Shamrocks	4-17	Windgap	1-11
John lockes	2-12	Piltown	1-15
John Lockes	0-18	Piltown	0-12

Final

John Lockes	1-17	B Shamrocks	1-14
-------------	------	-------------	------

County Junior B hurling championship Final

John Lockes win their 3rd. Junior B hurling championship title

The Lockes are best in thriller.
John Lockes 2-17 Galmoy 1-18

The junior B county junior hurling final in Nowlan Park on Saturday last produced a most entertaining game between two evenly matched teams.

The result was in question until the final whistle despite Galmoy having a man sent off in the 29th minute and then losing their centre back Ryan Murphy with a shoulder injury in the second half.

John Lockes scorers: D. McCormack 1-6, P. Kennedy 0-3, E. Scriven 0-3, P. Power 0-2, P. Purcell 0-2, B. Kirwan 0-1. **Galmoy scorers** M. Phelan 1-9, O. Phelan 0-5, D. Grey 0-3, P. Delaney 0-1.

John Lockes: Eoin Byrne, Eoghan Fahy, Robert Jackman, David Phelan, Jack Lynch, John O'Neill, Jim Power, Paddy Kennedy, Brian Kirwan, Pat Power, John Paul Corcoran, Eoghan Scriven, Luke Burke, Dan McCormack, Pauric Purcell. **Subs.** Conor Murphy, Nicky Purcell.

Galmoy: Stephen Murphy, Brian Doherty, Michael Brennan, Michael Murphy, Conor Grace, Ryan Murphy, Charles Brennan, Martin Phelan, Stephen Maher, Paul Delaney, Gavin Doherty, Padhric Grey, Oisín Phelan, Tom Corcoran, Donnacha Gray.

Subs: Brendan Delaney, Joe Ryan, Colm Smith, Tom Phelan, Stephen Delaney.
Referee John Walsh (Rower Inistioge)

THE JIM FARRELL MEMORIAL CUP 2017

Northern Junior Hurling Selection 3-22
Southern Junior Hurling Selection 2-17

The northern junior selection won the Jim Farrell Memorial Cup for the eighth time in the MW Hire Park on Wednesday night last when they beat the southern selection on the score 3-22 to 2-17.

Both sides responded positively and produced a hugely committed display of direct hurling which at times was most skilful.

The first half featured a terrific forward display from the north's half forward line of Tom Phelan, Timmy Brennan, and Eoin Moriarty despite stout resistance from the south's Sean Foley and Liam Henebery.

The southern team led at half time by 1-9 to 0-11.

The north's scorers: E. Moriarty 1-5, T. Brennan 0-6, T. Phelan 1-3, J. Lennon 0-5, P. Mullen 1-1, J. Bergin 0-1, R. Doyle 0-1

The southern scorers: J. Power 0-9, J. Fitzgerald 1-4, M. Power 1-2, P. Heneberry 0-1, S. Bergin 0-1.

The Northern Selection.

Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Ciaran Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Aidan O Dowd Damien Webster (Conahy Shamrocks), Pauric Phelan (Emeralds), Mark Drennan (Barrow Rangers), Brendan Phelan (Galmoy), Frank Phelan (Galmoy), Tommy Brennan (Barrow Rangers), Tom Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Eoin Moriarty (Emeralds), John Lennon (Blacks and Whites), Paddy Nolan (Blacks and Whites), James Bergin (Conahy Shamrocks), Paddy Mullan (Conahy Shamrocks), Garry Delaney (Cloneen), Aidan O Dowd (Blacks And Whites)

The Southern Selection.

Ronan Ryan (Piltown), Liam Heneberry (Mooncoin), Sean Foley (Windgap), Shane Walsh (Carrigeen), Adrian Rockett (Slieverue), Dean Power (Kilmacow), Pat Power (John Lockes), Sean Power (John Lockes), James Power (John Lockes), Martin Power (Piltown), John Fitzgerald (Mooncoin), Miley Connors (Carrigeen), Kevin Law (Carrigeen), Paul Heneberry (Mooncoin), Shane Bergin (John Lockes), Ger Purcell (Windgap), Chris O'Hanlon (Carrigeen)



YOUNG IRELANDS - JUNIOR A HURLING LEAGUE DIV 4 CHAMPIONS

Back: mmett McAviney (Selector), Willie Bolger, Paddy Quinlan, Patrick Drennan, Rob O'Dwyer, Jack Glendon, Sean Farrell, Geoff Brennan, Tommy Carroll, Jamie Bryan, Jodie Foley, Eoghan Twomey, Paul Kehoe, Ciaran Carroll, Tom Drennan, Ger Corcoran (Selector), Donal Twomey
Front: Peter McBride, Ollie Carter, Vinnie Hogan, Philip O'Donnell, Robert Dunne, Dick Carroll, Eoin Walsh, John Morris, Jonny Dunphy, Charlie Carter, Alan Roche (Manager)

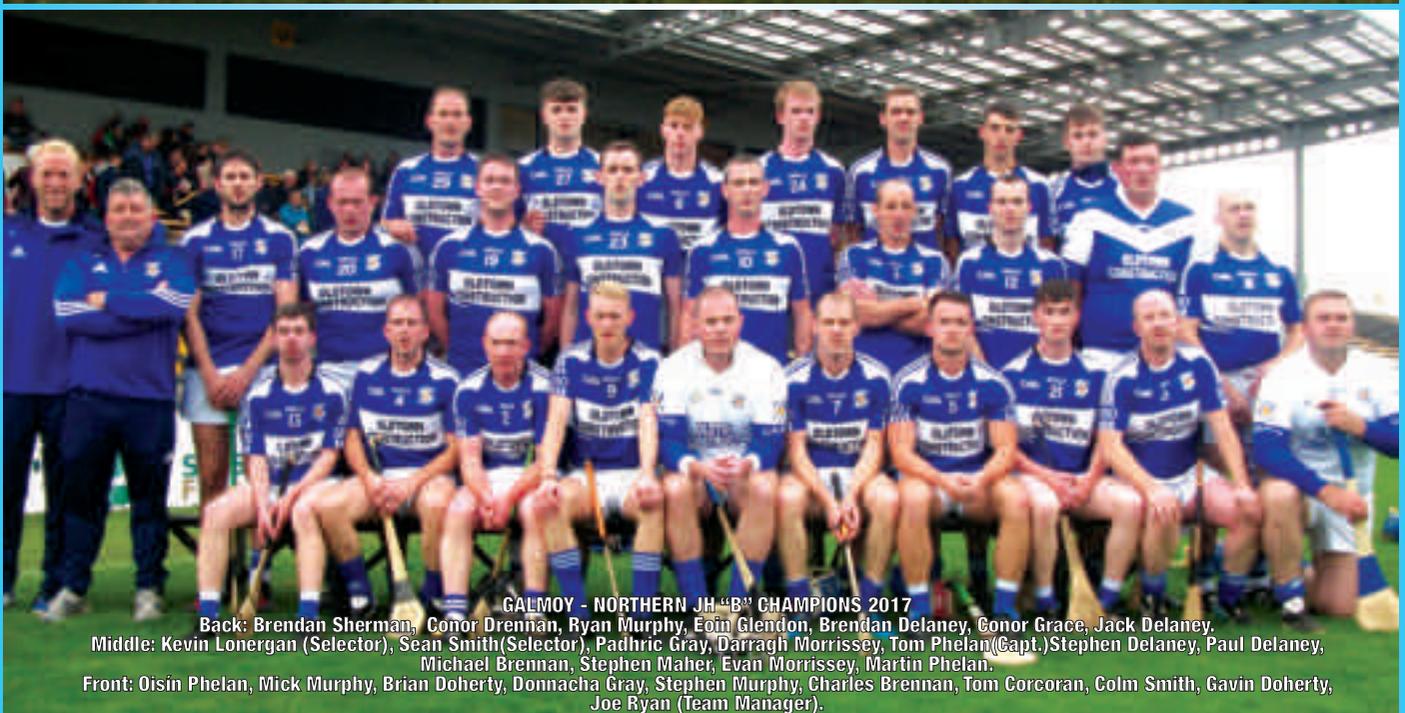


JIM FARRELL CUP NORTH SELECTION



JIM FARRELL CUP SOUTH SELECTION

Back: Seán Foley (Windgap); Dean Power (Kilmacow); Miley Connor (Carrigeen); John Fitzgerald (Mooncoin); Liam Henebery (Mooncoin); Ronan Ryan (Piltown); Adrian Rockett (Slieverue); Seán Power (John Lockes); Pat Power (John Lockes); Ger Purcell (Windgap).
 Front: Cormac Daly (Mooncoin); Chris O'Hanlon (Carrigeen); Kevin Law (Carrigeen); Shane Walsh (Carrigeen); Paul Henebery (Mooncoin); Martin Power (Piltown); James Power (John Lockes); Shane Bergin (John Lockes).



GALWAY - NORTHERN JH "B" CHAMPIONS 2017

Back: Brendan Sherman, Conor Drennan, Ryan Murphy, Eoin Glendon, Brendan Delaney, Conor Grace, Jack Delaney,
 Middle: Kevin Lonergan (Selector), Sean Smith (Selector), Padhric Gray, Darragh Morrissey, Tom Phelan (Capt.), Stephen Delaney, Paul Delaney,
 Michael Brennan, Stephen Maher, Evan Morrissey, Martin Phelan.
 Front: Oisín Phelan, Mick Murphy, Brian Doherty, Donnacha Gray, Stephen Murphy, Charles Brennan, Tom Corcoran, Colm Smith, Gavin Doherty,
 Joe Ryan (Team Manager).



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.



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - JUNIOR B LEAGUE FINAL WINNERS
 Back: Tommy Phelan (Manager), Enda Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Walsh, Niall Smyth, Eoin Kenneally, Ronan Hayes, Patrick Hearne, MP Drennan, Keith Nolan, Conor Reid, Jack Kenneally, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Eddie Walsh, Mick Fennelly (selector), Michael O'Sullivan (selector).
 Front: Cathal Coogan, Michael Kenneally, Louise Hearne (mascots) Enda Kenneally, Conor Walsh, Mark Phelan, Keith Murphy, Willie Coogan, Dylan Aylward, Martin Davies, Patrick Doyle, Gary Fitzpatrick.



BLACKS & WHITES JUNIOR A HURLING LEAGUE DIV 5 CHAMPIONS



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THREecastLES JUNIOR A HURLING LEAGUE DIV 6 CHAMPIONS



Tom Carroll (Young Irelands)



Jack Cleere (Threecastles)

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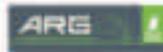
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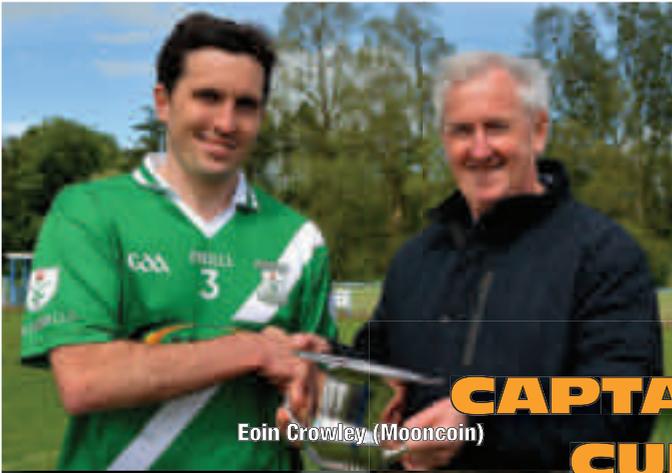
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Eoin Crowley (Mooncoin)



Willie Coogan (Ballyhale Shamrocks)

CAPTAINS & CUPS



JP Corcoran (John Lockes)



Michael Moloney (Blacks & Whites)

FROM THE ARCHIVES KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 1910

1st Round

Piltown	0-21	James Stephens	0-20
Mong	Beat	Thomastown	
Callan	Beat	Brother Banims	
Sevenhouses	Beat	Dicksboro No.1	
Threecastles	Beat	Johnstown	
D'boro No.2	4-12	Erin's Own (City)	0-6
Urlingford	6-1	Clomanto	2-0
Lodgepark	Beat	Dunnamaggin	
Tullaroan	2-0	Mooncoin	1-2
Templeorum	Bye		

2nd Round

Dicksboro	7-1	Threecastles	2-0
Mong	Beat	Piltown	
Sevenhouses	Beat	Callan	
Tullaroan	w/o	Urlingford	scr.
Templeorum	Beat	The Rower	
Lodgepark	Bye		

3rd Round.

Mong	3-1	Sevenhouses	3-0
Templeorum	Beat	Lodgepark	
Dicksboro	3-3	Tullaroan	2-0

Semi-finals.

Mong	Beat	Templeorum	
Dicksboro	Bye		

Final.			
Dicksboro	2-2	Mong	2-0

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'SHOCK STROLL TO CROKER GLORY

All Ireland
IH Club Championship
By Michael O'Leary



*Carrickshock Panel and Mentors after the Final.
Inset: Carrickshock supporters Gary Comerford, left, and Jim Rohan lift the cup.*

Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

The greatest day in Carrickshock's history arrived last February as they easily brushed aside and dismantled the feeble challenge of Galway contingent Ahascragh-Feoghenagh in Croke Park. Carrickshock never had to endure any worrying moments as they took control from an early stage as they cruised to a facile success. It was due rewards for long serving players like Michael Rice, John and Pat Tennyson, Richie and Jamie Power, David Franks and John Dalton who tasted the holy grail with their club after so much Inter-County success over the years. Having suffered the hurt and pain of being relegated from Senior in 2015, Carrickshock turned to Tommy Shefflin from nearby Ballyhale Shamrocks to revive their fortunes. Their All-Ireland Semi-Final and Final victories were the easiest games they had all year, but throughout their County and Provincial Championship successes, they received a stern test of their credentials on numerous occasions. What was different about their approach this year was the ability to battle their way and come out on top when the chips are down, and that was an accusation rightly or wrongly aimed at them over the years. However, Carrickshock proved their mettle especially against Tullaroan in the County Intermediate Semi-Final, and most of all in their most dramatic Leinster Final victory over Celbridge. On their way to winning the County title, Carrickshock easily blitzed Lisdowney 1-20 to 0-8, but their Semi-Final clash against County Championship favourites, Tullaroan, was a bruising encounter. David Franks and Pádraig Walsh were sent-off during an off-the-ball incident in the first half as Carrickshock led 0-11 to 0-7 at the interval. In an absorbing second-half, Tullaroan stormed back and a John Walton goal gave them the lead by the end of the third quarter, but Carrickshock replied and goalkeeper Jamie Power came upfield to blast home a penalty and restore their lead. Tullaroan came back to draw level at 1-16 each, entering the final five minutes, but Carrickshock found that bit extra when the pressure was at its greatest and a long range free from John Power followed by a pointed effort by Kevin Farrell edged them two points clear. Shane Walsh pointed a free to halve the deficit but Carrickshock held out to set up an all southern County final against Tullogher-Rosbercon. The Intermediate County Final was a forgettable contest as Carrickshock easily prevailed 0-14 to 0-6. Despite having team captain John Tennyson dismissed, Carrickshock finished the game strongly and they scored the final four points of the game to run out convincing winners. Carrickshock moved forward into Leinster and they endured a bruising

test against Meath Champions Kiltale prevailing 2-12 to 2-9. This was despite Kiltale going through minute periods in both the opening second-half without scoring, and also shooting 13 wides in the process, so the outcome could easily have been very different. Goals from Daragh Brennan and Mark O'Dwyer gave Carrickshock a 2-5 to 1-3 lead at the interval, but Kiltale replied and drew level with five unanswered points by the 40th minute. However, the introduction of Richie Power had a significant impact and Carrickshock dominated for the final 20 minutes scoring 0-7 from play, with Michael Rice highly instrumental scoring 0-4 from play. Kiltale grabbed an injury-time consolation goal from a Jack Regan free but Carrickshock held out to set-up a provincial final showdown against Celbridge of Kildare. The Leinster Final produced as dramatic a finish as you could probably witness as Carrickshock snatched victory from the most unlikely of positions. A Mark Moloney goal in the third minute gave Celbridge a dream start as they led 1-5 to 0-3 by the end of the first quarter. Carrickshock responded and they trailed 1-9 to 0-9 at the interval with Mark O'Dwyer, John Power, John Butler and Kevin Farrell all finding the range. Celbridge stretched the lead further during the third quarter, and they put themselves in a commanding position to lead 1-13 to 0-10 with Gerry Keegan pointing three times from placed balls (including a '65) as Carrickshock struggled to make any impression. The Celbridge defence were completely dominant for the majority of the second-half and they actually held Carrickshock scoreless for 15 minutes. The Kildare crew maintained that 6-point lead intact as the contest had entered the closing stages and they appeared on the verge of recording a famous victory. However, cue the Carrickshock onslaught. John Dalton surged through the Celbridge defence to strike home a well



*Captain, John Tennyson
Raises the Cup*



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taken goal, and a Kevin Farrell point followed almost immediately to narrow the gap to two points. 1-14 to 1-12.

Gerry Keegan steadied Celbridge nerves with a pointed free, before Kevin Farrell amazingly drew Carrickshock level with a 2nd goal in as many minutes. 2-12 to 1-15.

The drama wasn't finished yet.

Keegan struck over a superb point from the left-wing to put Celbridge back in front, but there was time for more.

A long puck our from Jamie Power found Michael Rohan and his unstoppable ripped the hearts of Celbridge and sent the Carrickshock contingent into dreamland.

What a way it was for Carrickshock to win, and equally, what a horrible way for Celbridge to have defeat snatched from an almost unassailable victory.

The All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals proved to be easy on the heart as Carrickshock were victorious from a long way out.

Playing Robert Emmets in the All-Ireland Semi-Final, Carrickshock took full-advantage of their double numerical advantage, and they built up an unassailable 0-13 to 0-1 lead at the interval with Kevin Farrell on target on six occasions during the opening-half with five of those points coming from placed balls.

The lead was stretched further early in the second-half when they led by 0-16 to 0-2, with Damian Walsh and Darragh Brennan adding to their account.

Robert Emmets, to their credit, kept plugging away and they outscored Carrickshock 1-7 to 0-2 over the closing 20 minutes with Eoin Chawke scoring 0-8 (0-7 frees) and the goal coming from Cathal Kehoe, but Carrickshock were never threatened and they had a date of destiny in GAA HQ to look forward to.

Carrickshock took complete control of the All-Ireland final right from the outset, and a 23rd minute goal from a penalty by goalkeeper Jamie Power gave them 1-6 to 0-2 lead at the interval.

Damien Walsh added a goal early in the 2nd half to send 'The Shock' towards All-Ireland jubilation, while Richie Power who only started the All-Ireland Semi-Final and Final in an injury-plagued year gave an exhibition on All-Ireland Final day scoring 0-5 from play.

With minutes remaining Tommy Shefflin decided to empty the bench, and used all five substitutions with experienced veteran Pat Tennyson coming off the bench to join his brothers Niall and John in their crowning glory.

It was fitting that Pat should score a point from play in Carrickshock's greatest day after years of sterling service, and it the All-Ireland triumph was a fitting reward for the wonderful service that so many of their established stars gave to the club for so many years.

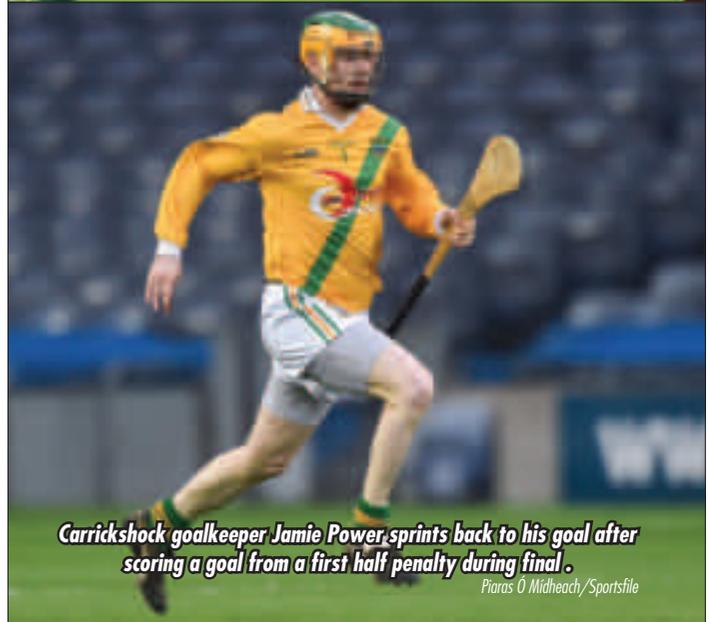
CARRICKSHOCK ALL-IRELAND FINAL TEAM: Jamie Power (1-0, pen); David Franks, John Dalton, James Grace; John Cahill, John Tennyson, Niall Tennyson; Brian O'Donovan, Michael Rice (0-01); John Power (0-2), Richie Power (0-6, 1f), Damien Walsh (1-1); Kevin Farrell (0-2, 2f), Darragh Brennan (0-1), Mark O'Dwyer (0-1).

Subs: John Butler for O'Donovan (38), John Power for Brennan (53), Pat Tennyson (0-01) for Cahill (58), John Murphy for Grace (59), Michael Rohan for O'Dwyer (59)



Mark O'Dwyer of Carrickshock in action against Eoghan Delaney of Ahascragh - Foghenach during final match.

Piarras Ó Mícheach/Sportsfile



Carrickshock goalkeeper Jamie Power sprints back to his goal after scoring a goal from a first half penalty during final.

Piarras Ó Mícheach/Sportsfile



Eoghan Delaney of Ahascragh - Foghenach comes under pressure from Michael Rice, left, and David Franks of Carrickshock in the final.

Piarras Ó Mícheach/Sportsfile

MOONCOIN SUFFER LAST GASP HEARTACHE

All Ireland JH Club Championship Report
By Michael O'Leary



Mooncoin - All Ireland JH Club Leinster Champions & All Ireland Finalists 2017

Back: David O'Brien Patrick Walsh Shane Walsh Kieran Dillon Dunphy Mark Kearns Niall Brophy John Fitzgerald Paddy Kinsella Eamon Hennebry Niall Mackey Eoin Hennebry Ciaran Walsh Andy Brennan Niall O'Hanlon Seamus Kearns Cormac Daly Paul Hennebry Niall Blanchfield Mark Fitzgerald Niall Madden
Front: Padraig Walsh David Kearns Eoin Crowley JP Purcell Michael Grace Ray Wall Sean Walsh Alan Walsh Eoin Purcell Liam Hennebry Ethan Ryan Kevin Crowley Conor Brophy Danny Purcell Keith Kirwan Cormac Fleming Tommy Healy Sean Wall.

Eoin Noonan / Sportsfile

In one of the greatest All-Ireland Junior Club Finals ever played, Mooncoin suffered last gasp heartache as an injury-time point from man of the match Nicky Kelly sunk Mooncoin hearts to bring All-Ireland glory back to Mayfield in Cork City.

The Suirsiders trailed 2-9 to 1-6 at half-time but to their eternal credit, they hurled themselves to a standstill during the second-half and entering the last 10 minutes, they clawed back on level terms, 2-13 to 1-16.

Kelly replied with two pointed frees in quick succession, before Eamonn Henebry and substitute Patrick Walsh drew Mooncoin on level terms again, 2-15 to 1-18.

However, Mayfield's scorer in chief sealed the deal to break Mooncoin hearts.

Having been relegated in 2013, Mooncoin bounced back to Intermediate grade with a comprehensive victory in the Junior County Final as they easily accounted for John Lockes (Callan) 2-19 to 1-8.

Goals from Michael Grace and Eamonn Henebry sent the Suirsiders on their way as they looked forward to their adventure in the Leinster Championship.

Mooncoin began their quest for Leinster success with a 1-19 to 0-10

victory away to St. Feichins of Louth before defeating Oliver Plunketts of Westmeath 2-11 to 1-7 in the semi-final.

Another 7-point margin was the final outcome in the Leinster Junior Final as they defeated Ratoath of Meath 1-16 to 0-12.

The exchanges were even during the first-half with the sides level on six occasions.

Ratoath edged two points ahead before Eamonn Henebry struck with a magnificent goal for the Suirsiders in the 23rd minute.

Henebry brilliantly fielded the sliothar on the edge of the square before rifling an unstoppable shot that gave the Ratoath goalkeeper no chance.

That goal gave Mooncoin a 1-7 to 0-9 lead at half-time, and they began to gain a stranglehold during the second-half as they gradually wore down Ratoath.

They outscored their opponents 0-5 to 0-1 during the 3rd quarter, with the half-time introductions of both Alan Walsh and Paul Henebry bringing a greater improvement to their performance.

Walsh scored 0-3 during the second-half, while Henebry was also on target as they put themselves firmly in the driving seat.

Kevin Crowley and Ray Wall also pointed to add to their scoring tally



Ray Wall of Mooncoin in action against David O'Neill of Mayfield during the final.

Eoin Noonan / Sportsfile



Dan Lucey of Mayfield in action against John Fitzgerald of Mooncoin during the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship final.

Eoin Noonan / Sportsfile

as they ran out resounding winners in the end and become the latest Kilkenny club to add the Leinster Junior Club Championship to their collection.

Croke Park beckoned for Mooncoin as they strolled to a comprehensive 18-point victory over Lámh Dhearg of Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final as they easily won 5-11 to 0-8.

Two early Michael Grace goals put them in the driving seat, but Lámh Dhearg plugged gamely for the remainder of the half as just five points separated the sides at the interval, 2-4 to 0-5.

However, Mooncoin were quickly out of the blocks for the restart and victory was virtually assured by the end of the 3rd quarter.

John Fitzgerald added a third goal, while Ray Wall scored four unanswered points as they led 3-8 to 0-6, and Mooncoin were firmly on their way to Croker.

Fitzgerald added a second goal, while Eamonn Henebry completed the goalscoring rout as they turned their attention to an All-Ireland Final showdown with Mayfield of Cork.

Mooncoin started the All-Ireland Final brightly with three early points from Kevin Crowley, Michael Grace and Alan Walsh.

Mayfield replied and a Patrick Duggan goal gave them the lead.

John Fitzgerald replied with a Mooncoin goal before Mayfield responded again with a David Malone goal, and inspired by Malone's goal, Mayfield enjoyed a purple patch with Nicky Kelly pointing the frees, and an inspiring long rang effort by Shane Duffy gave them a 2-9 to 1-6 lead at the interval.

Nicky Kelly pointed early after the restart to extend the advantage, but Mooncoin replied and points from Crowley, Wall and Henebry narrowed

the gap to just three points, before Kelly steadied the Mayfield ship with an important point from play.

Mayfield were still ahead by three points entering the final ten minutes, but the Suiriders pointed three times in quick succession to level proceedings.

Kevin Crowley added a free, before John Fitzgerald with a mighty effort, and a Crowley '65 restored parity with Mooncoin on top at that stage.

However, Mooncoin continued to remain guilty of conceding needless frees and Nicky Kelly twice pointed to restored Mayfield's lead entering the final five minutes.

To their credit, the Kilkenny Junior Champions displayed admirable strength of character with Eamonn Henebry and Patrick Walsh drawing them level again as extra-time loomed large.

Mooncoin had chances to win the game, but unfortunately couldn't get that all-important score and instead they were left deflated as Man of the Match, Nicky Kelly fired over the all-important point.

It was heartbreak for Mooncoin after such a gallant, trojan effort and at the very least they deserved extra-time, but alas it wasn't to be.

MOONCOIN SQUAD: Eoin Purcell, Nial Mackey, Conor Brophy, Liam Hennebry, Cormac Daly, Eoin Hennebry, Seamus Kearns, Ray Wall, Kevin Crowley, Paul Hennebry, Alan Walsh, Cormac Fleming, Michael Grace, Eoin Hennebry, Ethan Ryan, Keith Kirwan, Padraig Walsh, Sean Wall, Mark Fitzgerald, David Kearns, Patrick Walsh, Niall Blanchfield, Eoin Crowley, JP Purcell, Niall Madden, Shane Walsh, John Fitzgerald, Sean Walsh, Niall O'Hanlon, Ciaran Walsh, David O'Brien, Patrick Kinsella, Thomas Healy, Andy Brennan, David Kearns, Danny Purcell.



Joe Murphy, Mooncoin Manager

Eoin Noonan / Sportsfile



Liam Hennebry of Mooncoin in action against Patrick Duggan of Mayfield during the AIB GAA Hurling All-Ireland Junior Club Championship final.

Piaras Ó Midheach / Sportsfile



Eoin Purcell saves for Mooncoin

Photo Willie Dempsey

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CENTRA

COUNTY U21 HURLING 2016

Roinn A Final

Rower Inistioge 2-12 Dicksboro 1-13

The Rower-Inistioge showed true champion qualities when coming from behind to snatch a thrilling win in a high class Kilkenny under-21 Roinn A hurling final. After falling two points behind with a mere 30 seconds of normal time remaining, the Southern champions conjured up two fine scores to the value of four points to yank the spoils away from Dicksboro at Nowlan Park on Sunday. (*Kilkenny People Dec 16th 2016*)



ROWER INISTIOGE - COUNTY U21 ROINN A CHAMPIONS 2017

Back: Caoimhin Perrott-Lynch, James Prendergast, Jack Malone, Patrick Lyng, Diarmaid O'Brien, David Kelly, Richard Meaney.
Middle: Noel Leahy, Tommy Allen, Pat Lyng, Jim Ryan, Jack Walsh, Richie Leahy, Michael Galavan, Cathal Bolger.
Front: Tom Doyle, Oisin Morrissey, Ciaran Meaney, Shane Ryan, Kevin Murphy, Jim Murphy, Ciaran Ryan (capt), Robbie Walsh.



DICKSBORO - COUNTY U21 ROINN A FINALISTS 2017

Back Row : Johnny Minogue, Thomas Kenny, Cillian Timmons, Conor Fitzpatrick, Kieran Ryan, Shane O'Brien, Richie Stapleton, Jim Dollard, Evan Carroll.
Middle Row : Billy Rowe, Cian Butler, Kevin Kenny, Sean Boyd, Brian Power, Robert Crotty, Chris Kavanagh, Kieran Dunne, Edward Moylan, Oisin Gough, Ronan Butler.
Front Row : Alan Phelan, Stephen Farrell, Conor Doheny, Bill Sheehan, Robbie Murphy, Dara Holohan, Evan Cody, Aidan Nolan, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Dara Lynch.



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Roinn B Final

Tullaroan 4-6, Dunnamaggin 0-16

Tullaroan did a smash-and grab job when thundering to a battling victory over Dunnamaggin in the Roinn B under-21 hurling championship final. The Northern champions were full of exciting invention in attack during an all action, hugely impressive first half when Martin Keoghan (2), Bill Cuddihy and Jim Moore all grabbed goals. There were times when they threatened to bury the opposition as they put in a strong all round effort to get them to half-time leading by a handy 4-3 to 0-7. After that, Tullaroan registered a mere three points that proved enough as they held out against hardchasing Dunnamaggin in John Locke Park on Sunday. (Kilkenny People Dec 16th 2016)



TULLAROAN - COUNTY U21 ROINN B CHAMPIONS 2017

Back: Jack Keoghan, Martin Keoghan, Bill Cuddihy, Diarmuid Doheny, Bill Gaffney, Adam Tallis, Sean Cuddihy, Kevin Maher, Shane Joyce, Liam Teehan
Front: Joey Walsh, Sean Buggy, John Dooley, Jim Moore, John Walton, Shane Walsh, Dylan Simpson, Bob Cuddihy, Kieran Lanigan, Tommy Walsh, David Sweeney

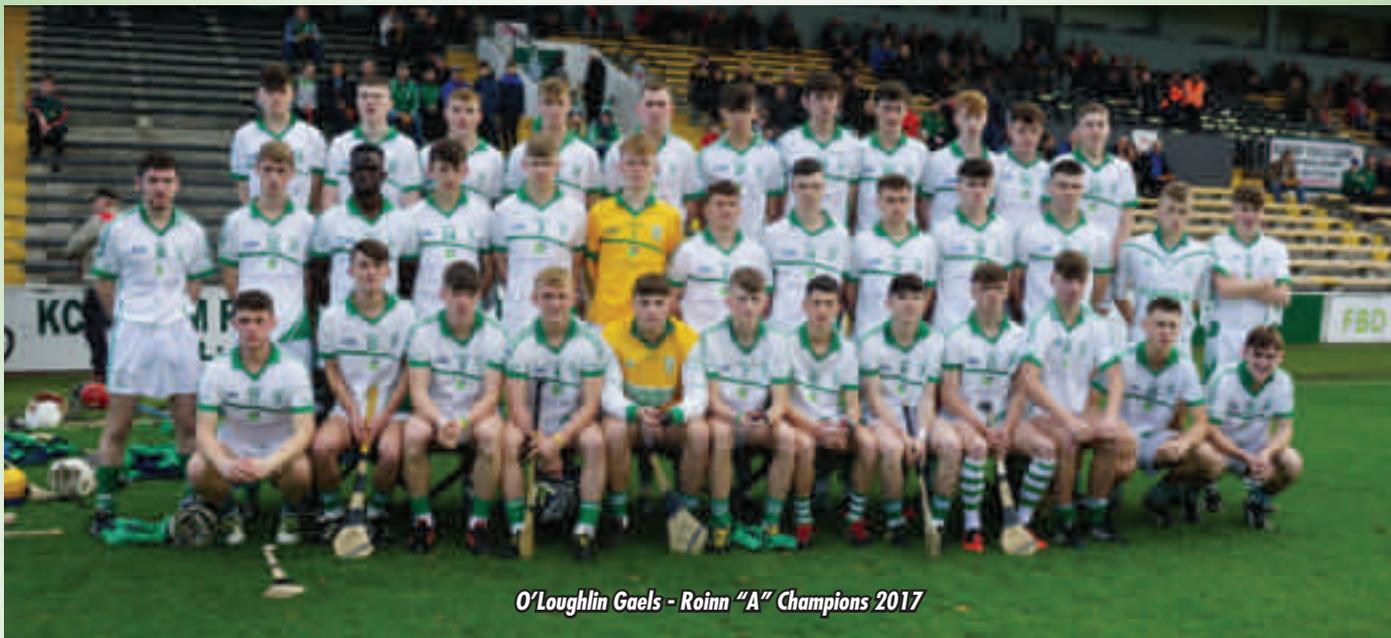


DUNNAMAGGIN - COUNTY U21 ROINN B FINALISTS 2017

Back: Dara Keane, Paul Kirwan, Jamie McLoughlin, Chris Keane, Rory Lodge, John Fitzpatrick, Roy Cullen, Ronan Coffey, Willie Bergin, Brian Farrell, Eoghan Kearney, Jason Doherty, Nicky O'Shea
Front: Eddie Dunne, Jack Crehan, Michael Cody, Jack Brett, Aaron Doherty, Darragh O'Keeffe, Ian Walsh, Victor Costello, Sean Carroll.

O'Loughlin's take minor a title in style

Bord na nÓg Minor Report by Pado O'Flynn
Photos - Willie Dempsey & Martin Rowe



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn "A" Champions 2017

Minor A Championship

As always, the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor A championship was the highlight of the GAA calendar for underage enthusiasts within the county. Erin's Own and O'Loughlin Gaels squared up in the first round of the championship with a late flurry of scores seeing the St Johns outfit through. O'Loughlin's again had too much class in the quarter final defeating city rivals Dicksboro by a margin of nine points. In the other quarter finals, Ballyhale overcame Lisdowney in a high scoring affair, Graigue Ballycallan had too much savvy for Bennetsbridge whilst James Stephens saw off Thomastown. In the first semi-final O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Graigue Ballycallan who probably were tired as five players of their players had featured in the previous weekend's Intermediate County Final.

The other semi-final saw James Stephens and Ballyhale Shamrocks clash. Despite being played in poor weather conditions James Stephens and Ballyhale served up an enthralling encounter in St.John's Park.

Eoin Cody settled the reigning champions with a pointed free before the Village hit the front with a point apiece from Cian Kenny & Killian Duffy. Ballyhale had retaken the lead by the 12th minute with Adrian Mullen and Brian Cody sending the white flag flying with two points in quick succession. The game ebbed and flowed until the next score arrived in the 20th minute through an Eoin Guilfoyle free before Jeffrey Coyne landed a point from 65 metres out to put the men clad in red and green ahead but Cody had Ballyhale back level with a pointed free soon after.

The Village made a power play after that with Mickey Byrne landing a monstrous point from inside his own half and Ryan Scanlon converted a 65'.

Shane Murphy then struck a vital goal for the Village after beating his man and firing the ball into the bottom right hand corner after some intricate play from Ross Whelan and Adam Drennan. This left James Stephens 1-6 to 0-5 ahead at the break.

James Stephens burst out of the blocks for the start of the second half scoring 1-3 without reply, Guilfoyle hitting two quick pointed frees followed by a point from Cian Kenny before Adam Drennan latched onto a Robert Butler ball to send the green flag waving.

In fairness to Ballyhale Shamrocks a lesser team would have folded. Instead they upped the ante scoring the next four points with Adrian Mullen briefly dictating the agenda with two points, followed by points from Stephen Barron and a monster free from Evan Shefflin to leave Ballyhale back in it as the game

headed for the final quarter.

The Village pulled out the next two points to give them further breathing space, the points coming from Duffy and another Guilfoyle free.

As the minutes ticked away Eoin Cody fired over a free before Keneally fired home a goal for Ballyhale Shamrocks. However, it was all to no avail as James Stephens held out to win.

County Final day arrived and a fine autumn's afternoon saw a city derby minor final between O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens act as the curtain raiser to the senior decider. O'Loughlin Gaels got the first two scores of the afternoon with Jordan Molloy and Eoin O'Shea grabbing quick scores but it was level by the 7th minute with Eoin Guilfoyle and Shane Murphy grabbing a point each for the Village.

Luke Hogan landed his first score of the afternoon with a point from midfield before Ben Maher fired home a 21-yard free skidding the sliothar along the ground. Lesser teams would have folded but Ryan Scanlon got the Village back scoring with a pointed free.

Rob Butler who was dominant in the opening period made use of a fine pass from Jeffrey Coyne to point. Guilfoyle, Ross Whelan and Adam Drennan all pointed to put James Stephens a point ahead.

Eoin Wall and Guilfoyle swapped points before Wall and Coyne did likewise.

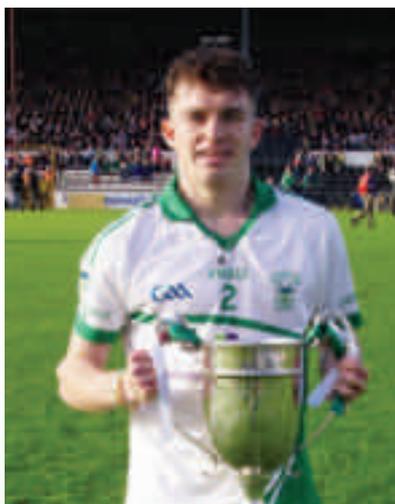
It was becoming the battle of the little wizards when Guilfoyle evaded his marker before pointing to show size doesn't matter.

Molloy then made a dramatic intervention when he careered through the Village defence from midfield and rifled his shot to the roof of the net.

James Stephens showed good composure to retake the lead before half time with a pointed free apiece from Scanlon and Guilfoyle. The half time score was 0-12 for James Stephens to 2-5 for O'Loughlin's.

The second half saw an electric and decisive start by O'Loughlin Gaels scoring 1-3 to James Stephens 0-1 with Eoin Wall firing in the goal and points for Maher, Dacel Fwamba and Hogan.

Scanlon and Guilfoyle fired over a point a piece from frees for the Village side to leave two in it but that's as close they got as the well tutored Brian Dowling side hit the next six scores with Maher (2), O'Shea (2), Wall and Young all firing over points in a strong finish. Seven was the difference in the end. It was the closest any side had gotten all year to the St. John's Park side; an indication of how hard James Stephens had worked but O'Loughlin Gaels take a bow because that was one of the best performances I can remember in a county final by a team in a minor county final since St Martins in 2005.



Ronan Buckley, captain of O'Loughlin Gaels minor team.



James Stephens - Roinn "A" Finalists 2017

SCORERS: O'Loughlin Gaels - Eoin Wall (1-4); Ben Maher (1-3); Jordan Molloy (1-1); Eoin O'Shea (0-3); Luke Hogan (0-2); Dacel Fwamba, Jamie Young (0-1 each). James Stephens - Eoin Guilfoyle (0-5); Ryan Scanlon (0-4); Niall Brassil, Ross Whelan (0-2 each); Jeffrey Coyne, Adam Drennan, Robert Butler, Shane Murphy (0-1 each).

Minor B Championship

18 teams went to post in this competition with Dunnamaggin and Piltown winning their preliminary round ties.

A couple of ties stood out in the first round where Emeralds, largely through Jack Hickey and Liam Grant's efforts gave Piltown an almighty scare before the south team just got across the line. In Skeogh Young Irelands escaped from their encounter with fourteen men St Martin's with a point to spare after a truly epic encounter. Galmoy/Windgap required two attempts and a hatful of Oisín Phelan goals to get over Graignamanagh.

The same player Oisín Phelan again proved the difference when Galmoy/Windgap over turned Piltown in their quarter final whilst Young Irelands emerged on the right side of a two point victory over the Rower Inistioge while Dunnamaggin finished Mooncoin's interest in the championship. Mullinavat had too much class for Kilmacow in the other quarter final.

The semi-finals saw relatively close affairs where late goals saw Dunnamaggin through over Young Irelands while Mullinavat just about deserved to get the verdict over Galmoy/Windgap

Mullinavat begin the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor B Final in whirl wind fashion as they raced into an early lead against huge favourites Dunnamaggin. Many spectators had barely gotten into their seats when the 'Vat, playing

against the wind, had registered a goal as Robin Davis flew through the Dunnamaggin defence like a warm knife through butter to send the green flag waving. This was soon followed by a hat trick of points from Mark McNamara, Oisín Knox and Bill Dempsey.

It wasn't until the 9th minute that Dunnamaggin got on the score board through a Robbie McCauley free and the same player and Darragh O'Keefe helped themselves to a point each from play soon after.

Knox had the men in black and white celebrating again in the 15th minute when he latched onto a loose ball and sent the green flag waving.

O'Keefe lifted Pat Hoban's charges spirits soon after before Robbie McCauley helped himself to four points on the trot that was only interrupted by a goal by Eddie Dunne after Luke Fitzpatrick had found him in space.

Padraig Dempsey and Knox pulled back two quick points to leave the interval score 1-9 to 2-5 in favour of Dunnamaggin who still had to play against the breeze in the second half.

Dunnamaggin began the brighter in the second half with Rory Lodge firing over a point before McCauley landed a minor. Knox responded with two pointed frees with McCauley landing two of his own in reply.

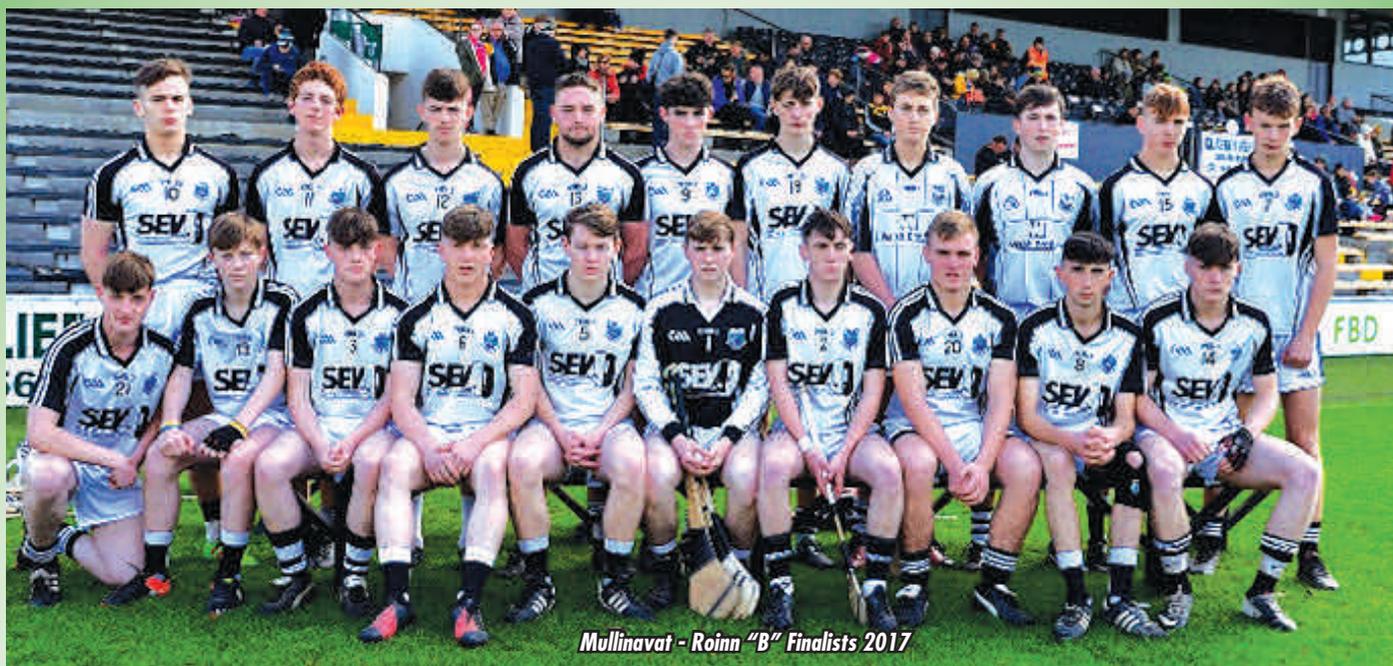
Padraig Dempsey converted with Knox adding two further well worked points from play which brought the 'Vat right back into the equation.

Dunne then popped up in the 56th minute with a super goal followed by Dylan Crehan winning the puck out and he duly sent the white flag waving.

Knox briefly raised a white flag to give his side some hope. Mullinavat's problem in the second half was that Knox was the only man scoring for them. Lodge ended the long wait for a minor title for Dunnamaggin with a goal to ensure victory and to cue the celebrations.



Dunnamaggin - Roinn "B" Champions 2017



Mullinavat - Roinn "B" Finalists 2017

Minor C Championship

The Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor C Championship saw 13 teams take their chance in the draw in what was an extremely competitive year for the grade. James Stephens B had too much class for their city counterparts, Dicksboro, in the first round whilst there were also wins for Slieverue over Black & Whites and Carrickshock, who saw off a gallant Tullagher side by 0-12 to 2-5.

A high class encounter between Tullaroan & Slieverue saw the southerners send out their signal of intent with a fine victory, 3-19 to 3-12 in the opening quarter final. Conahy had too much class for O'Loughlin Gaels B whilst Carrickshock defeated Cloonen/Railyard in their encounter. The tie of the round saw a Jack Morrissey inspired St Patrick's get over the Village by 2-14 to 1-14.

Both the semi-finals were tight affairs with Slieverue edging out Conahy 2-7 to 1-9 whilst St Patrick's late burst of points got them over the line against Shock 0-22 to 0-14.

It took two attempts for St Patrick's to defeat Slieverue in the final. The first day

in MW Hire Dunmore Park they were probably lucky to have gotten the draw. The second day in Danesfort however they confirmed their status as the undoubted class side in the competition.

Paul Relis got Slieverue on the scoreboard early in the first half with a fine point. This was soon followed by a point from a placed ball by Stephen Mullally.

It took until the 14th minute for St Patrick's to register their first score but it was a peach when it arrived with Jack Morrissey sending a shot into the bottom right hand corner.

Slieverue responded with points from Craig Phelan and a Mullally pointed free before Mick Kelly fired over his first of the afternoon to again draw level.

Jason Phelan and Mullally swapped points before St Patrick's hit the front with points from Morrissey and a Robbie Doheny free.

Mullally steadied the Slieverue ship hitting a hat trick of frees. Phelan again landed a point to level matters but it was not the last score of the half as Paul Ryan flicked an Eamon Glennon clearance to the roof of the net to leave St

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Patrick's 2-5 to 0-8 up at the break.

St Patrick's made a burst after halftime, scoring 1-6 without reply with Kelly, Bolger, Morrissey & Doheny (3) all firing over points before Ryan finished off a sweet move to send the green flag waving and put the match out of Slieverue's grasp.

St Patrick's- Vincent Brophy, Adam Jacob, Josh Wallace, Ryan Bolger, Kian Drennan, Eamon Glennon, Kieran Walsh, Jack Morrissey, Robbie Doheny, Dan Brophy, Jason Phelan, Mick Kelly, Eoin Ryan, Paul Ryan, Rowan Bolger

Subs- Peter Holohan, Paddy Brennan, John Cash, Luke Kelly, Michael McInerney, Eoin Southgate, Jack Delaney, Nathan Ryan.

Slieverue - Gavin Grant (Captain), Conor Galvin, Luke Heffernan, Mark O'Donovan, Reece Murphy, Danny Moore, Craig Phelan, Mark Keogh, William Halpin, Evan Cullen, Paul Rellis, Josh Walsh, Paddy Dowling, Stephen Mullally, Subs- Conor Wall, Jake Hogan, Callum Walsh, Joel Walsh, Sean Freyne, Paul O'Donovan, Sean Howard, Cormac Doyle, James Murtagh, Ian Ahern, Shane Cantwell



St Patrick's - Roinn "G" Champions 2017

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O'Loughlins win county final with sucker punch

Bord na nÓg U16 Report by Pado O'Flynn
Photos - Willie Dempsey



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn A League & Championship Winners 2017

Roinn A

The U-16 Duggan Steel Roinn A Championship had a number of interesting sub plots and stories which had many a neutral enthralled.

In the first round Mooncoin caused a major upset when they prevailed against Erin's Own in an eight-goal thriller in Thomastown. St Martin's also gained their first ever U-16 championship win when they defeated a plucky Piltown thanks mainly to a strong performance from Tristan Roche and the Coughlan twins Dara and Donal which saw the men clad in red and green to victory. Dicksboro gained the other first round win over Bennetsbridge. Dunnamaggin and O'Loughlin Gaels clashed in the quarter finals and although a Conor Kelly inspired Gaels eventually won that southern bastion of hurling Dunnamaggin can take great heart from their display. Also in the quarter finals Mooncoin had too much physicality for St Martin's whilst Kilmacow saw off Thomastown by three points. In the tie of the round James Stephens with Cian Kenny and Eoin Guilfoyle in full flow defeated Dicksboro a scoreline of 0-22 to 4-9.

In the semi-finals James Stephens ability to get goals proved to be vital as they defeated Mooncoin 4-16 to 1-16 whilst a late goal for O'Loughlin Gaels put the gloss on their 2-19 to 2-10 win over Kilmacow. It took two games to separate O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens in the county final. The first game saw O'Loughlin's score an injury time free to level the game at 0-15 points apiece. The replay had an equally exciting finish when a late goal saw the St. John's Park based team defeat James Stephens 1-17 to 4-9 for O'Loughlin Gaels

O'Loughlins win county final with sucker punch O'Loughlin Gaels 4-9 James Stephens 1-17

Rarely does a replay live up to the excitement and drama of the drawn classic that took place in the drawn game in Jenkinstown where Cian Kenny rescued the Village in the dying embers of the game but by god did this replay live up to expectations.

The Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn A Hurling championship came down to the 64th minute in Palmerstown where James Stephens leading since the 5th minute of the match seemed to have held off O'Loughlin Gaels when goalkeeper Jamie Reid again denied Conor Kelly with a smart save but from the clearance Kelly again found possession and his pass to Niall Higgins saw the midfielder take a chance with a spinning shot from distance which landed up in the back of the net. Cue delirium from the St John's parish outfit who after 120 odd minutes hurling stood atop the podium.

Huge crowds had gathered in Palmerstown to watch this replay and Conor Kelly got the show on the road with a fine point almost straight from the throw in, which was followed by fellow O'Loughlin's player Ethan Kerwick sending the white flag waving.

For the rest of the half it belonged to one man, probably one of the smallest on the field - James Stephens Eoin Guilfoyle. In the space of four minutes and 21 seconds the live wire full forward landed five points in a row - one a real

gem from out on the side line before the men clad in green & white eventually came up for air with a pointed free from Kelly.

Soon after Guilfoyle showed huge temperament and class before offloading possession to Leon Hayes who rifled the sliothar home for a Village goal. Guilfoyle added a further two points and was threatening to turn the game into a one man show before Conor Kelly registered another pointed free.

Aodh O'Connor for James Stephens and John McNamara of O' Loughlin's exchanged points before O'Loughlin's Ronan Lavelle pulled a point back for his side.

Jamie O'Keeffe then scored a storming point from midfield for the Village men. Jamie Reid pulled off the first of a superb hat trick of saves from Kelly with Kelly pointing the resulting free but Guilfoyle had the last score of the half landing a point to leave the interval score James Stephens 1-11 to O'Loughlin Gaels 0-7. Admittedly James Stephens had played with a strong breeze in the first half. On the resumption Guilfoyle added two pointed frees for the Village sandwiched between a Kelly free for the Gaels.

O'Loughlin's thought they had come back into the game when Conor Kelly split the James Stephens defence before finding Ethan Kerwick in space and the corner forward duly found the back of the net.

The Village men did not panic with Guilfoyle landing a hat trick of points by the 41st minute to negate the effect of the goal and it seemed possibly the winning surge of the match but then again anything can happen in hurling. Sensing they needed goals to get back into the game Kelly again went at the heart of the Village defence, his shot stopped by Reid but Lavelle picked up the rebound to send the green flag waving.

Seconds later it was like an action replay with Kelly's shot this time rifling to the back of the net. He soon followed up with a pointed free as the Village defence decided he was not going to get past the third time.

Wisely the Village mentors decided to cut out the space and this move lead to no score for either side until the 53rd minute when Cian Kenny landed a sweet point from out on the wing for the Kells Road outfit.

The game seemed to be going the way of James Stephens until those dramatic final few moments and they'll be disappointed to be pipped at the finish but they did make a huge contribution to two exciting games and an exciting championship with Guilfoyle being ably assisted by Aodh O'Connor, Jason Butler, Jamie Reid Jamie O'Keeffe. O'Loughlin Gaels will take great joy from this Houdini act and can largely thank Conor Kelly, Ethan Kerwick, Ben Tyrell and Jamie Young for this win.

Scorers: O'Loughlin Gaels: Conor Kelly (1-6, 0-5 frees), Ethan Kerwick & Ronan Lavelle (1-1 each) Niall Higgins (1-0) & John McNamara (0-1). James Stephens: Eoin Guilfoyle (0-13, 0-6 frees) Leon Hayes (1-0), Cian Kenny (0-2), Aodh O'Connor (0-1) Jamie O'Keeffe (0-1).



James Stephens - Roinn A League Shield Winners & Championship Finalists 2017

O'Loughlin Gaels: 1. Declan Murphy, 2. Donal O'Leary, 3. David Fogarty, 4. Ian O'Keeffe, 5. Peter McNamara, 6. Jamie Young, 7. Ben Tyrrell, 8. Niall Higgins, 9. Declan Coffey, 10. John McNamara, 11. Conor Kelly, 12. Jack Sheridan, 13. Ronan Lavelle, 14. Vinny O'Grady, 15. Ethan Kerwick. Charlie Maher for O'Grady 51st minute, William Slattery for McNamara 60th minute.

James Stephens: Jamie Reid, Michael O'Brien 3 Jason Butler 4 Cian Russell 5 Thomas Nugent 6 Jim Ryan 7 Sean McKee 8 Jamie O'keeffe 9 Ben O'Shaughnessy 10 Leon Hayes 11 Aodh O'Connor 12 Cian Kenny capt 13 Naill Mcevoy 14 Eoin Guilfoyle 15 Chris O'Connor. Subs Sean Ruth for O'Brien 24th Min

Ref: Stephen Delaney (Graigue Ballycallan)

Roinn B

The Duggan Steel Roinn U-16 B hurling championship saw 16 teams square up for the title. Draws were certainly in vogue in the first round as it took Tullaroan two attempts to get over Graignamagh winning by two points in a replay whilst Galmoy/Windgap got over Tullogher Rosbercon at the second time of asking. Other first round victories saw Ballyhale Shamrocks last year's winners fall at the first hurdle thanks to a deluge of goals from Cathal O'Leary for St. Lachtain's whilst Lisdowney and the Rower Inistioge also had good first round victories.

In the quarter finals late goals Danesfort defeated Emeralds and St Lachtain's defeated near neighbours Lisdowney whilst the Rower had too much class for Galmoy/Windgap. The game of the championship saw age old rivals Graigue Ballycallan and Tullaroan square up and in an epic the men in blue & white won out by 4-11 to 3-10. Once again St Lachtain's ability to score goals saw them advance to the final with a well merited victory over Danesfort. The other semi-final proved to be much closer with Graigue Ballycallan defeating the Rower Inistioge.

St. Lachtain's 6-15 Graigue-Ballycallan 2-12

A superb Freshford team proved too strong for Graigue-Ballycallan in this one-sided U16 Roinn B final in Tullaroan. St. Lachtain's had a very

strong spine to their team with centreback Elijah Garret, Darragh Maher at midfield, Micheal Neary at number 11 and full forward Cathay O'Leary leading by example. Cathal had the ball in the net twice within the first minute of the game. This set the pattern of the game and centre forward Neary added two more three pointers before halftime. In between O'Leary was unerring from placed balls, while Darragh Maher scored some excellent points from centre field. St Lachtain's had the benefit of a very strong wind in the first half. Graigue-Ballycallan kept in touch mainly from frees scored by Oisín Egan. Two goals from Paddy Brennan and Jack Butler gavethe blue and white clad team some hope before halftime. However, the wind advantage in the second half made no real difference and the black and amber clad boys from Freshford ran out convincing winners on a final score line of 6-15 to 2-12. The Graigue boys battled manfully to the end but were outclassed by a Freshford side which might have figured prominently in the top division.

St Lachtains: Alan Rafter, Jack Bergin, Jack Hickey, Frankie Keogh, Cormac Rafter, Elijah Garrett, Michael McCarthy, Josh McCarthy, Darragh Maher Captain, CJ Daly, Michael Neary, Cian Freany, Cian Leahy, Cathal O'Leary, Mark Donnelly, Conor Donnelly, Declan Killeen, Mark McCarthy, Evan Kenny Landers, Dylan Bowden, Adam Ryan, Jimmy Cantwell, Odhran Bergin, Tommy Rafter.

Graigue Ballycallan , 1 Jack Walton, 2 JJ Ryan, 3 Eoin Delahunty, 4 Dan Cahill, 5 Jason O'Brien, 6 Stephen Keogh (capt), 7 Craig Lawlor, 8 Eamon Corcoran , 9 Simon O'Dwyer, 10 Paddy Brennan , 11 Finn Lanigan, 12 Oisín Egan, 13 Scott Lawlor, 14 Tom Brennan, 15 Jack Butler, 17 Mark Brennan, 18 Brendan Dunne, 19John Muldowney, 20 Daniel Lawlor, 21 Sam Jackson, 22 Ewan McLaughlin, 23 Shane Comerford, 24 Billy Jackson.

Roinn C

Eleven teams competed in the Roinn C Championship but many had Conahy Shamrocks and Young Irelands tipped to make the final once they avoided each other in the draw.

James Stephens B, St Patrick's and Carrickshock all had early round victories.

Conahy Shamrocks had five points to spare over

Slieverue in the first quarter final. Young Irelands had a scare over near neighbours Blacks and Whites before emerging with a 1-11 to 1-9 victory. James Stephens B had too much class for a gallant Fenians whilst Carrickshock just about came out on top against St Patrick's winning by 3-14 to 3-11. In a ten-goal thriller Conahy got the better of Carrickshock 5-12 to 5-8 to book their place in the final whilst Young Irelands easily brushed aside the challenge of the Village B team in the other semi-final.

In the final Conahy faced a stiff breeze in the opening half but played some terrific hurling, especially in defence where they held the Young Irelands attack to four points. All six defenders played superbly in the opening thirty-minutes with Sean O'Dornnan, Ciarán Rice and John Paul Gamble particularly prominent.

Goalie Josh Comerford was also brilliant in the opening half saving two shots that were destined for the back of the net in the 3rd and 22nd minutes. Despite playing against the breeze Conahy enjoyed parity of possession with their opponents in the first half and their efforts were rewarded with four pointed frees from Mark Gunner. Harry O'Mahony got Conahy's fifth point of the opening half close to the interval to leave Conahy ahead at the break on a score of 0-5 to 0-4.

The breeze was not quite as strong in the second half when Young Ireland's emerged from their dressing room with a couple of positional changes. Conahy made the better start with a superb solo point from Ciarán Rice when he soloed from defence and another from Tommy Blanche after he was set up by Darren Cuddihy. The interval changes which the Gowran side made slowly began to make an impact. A Young Ireland's goal after six minutes brought the sides level and they quickly added two points to move ahead of Conahy. The Gowran boys were now on top and another goal after twelve minutes followed by a point two minutes later pushed the lead out to six points.

Darren Cuddihy narrowed the margin with a good point for Conahy in the 17th minute, but that was quickly cancelled out when Young Ireland's scored a point at the other end of the pitch. Conahy badly needed a goal and they almost grabbed one in the 19th minute only for Mark Gunner's effort to go agonisingly wide. It was a big let off for Young Ireland's and a decided blow to Conahy. Gowran grabbed another point in the 20th minute in between Conahy points from Oisín O'Connor



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St Lachtain's - Roinn B League & Championship Winners 2017



Young Irelands - Roinn C League and Championship Winners 2017



John Lockes - Roinn C Shield Winners 2017



and a Mark Gunner free. The winners finished impressively scoring three unanswered points. Conahy had a couple of close-in frees as the game headed into injury time, but on each occasion the winner's defence stood up to the challenge and cleared their lines.

Final score – Young Ireland's (Gowran) 2-12 Conahy Shamrocks 0-10.

Young Irelands: Jason Brennan, Andy O'Donnell, Patrick Brennan, Cathal Darcy, Patrick Langton, Sean Middleton, Jimmy Lennon, Daniel Nevin, Ciarán Byrne, Jimmy Drennan, Gavin Manning, Conor Fitzpatrick, Myles Kehoe, Jack Kennedy Byrne, David Holland.

17. Padraig Naddy, 18. Tommy Phelan, 19. Ian Kelly, 20. Ben Higgins, 21. Brogan McAviney, 22. David Drennan, 23. Sean Fitzpatrick, 24. Killie Carey, 25. Charlie Fitzgerald, Conahy Shamrocks: Josh Comerford; Liam Healy; Sean O'Dornan; Louis Feehan; Jack Dempsey; John Paul Gamble; Ciarán Rice Darren Cuddihy, Kevin Conry; Oisín O'Connor, Mark Gunner, Tommy Blanche, Jack Murphy, Harry O'Mahony, Robbie Dooley. Subs: Billy Brennan; Robert Ring; Kieran Brennan; Damien Cuddihy; Oisín Cahill; Billy Mulhall.

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*Bord na nÓg U14 Report by Pado O'Flynn
Photos - Willie Dempsey*



Dicksboro - Roinn A Hurling & Football Double & Féile na nGael Winners 2017

Under 14 Roinn A

The Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn Championship saw seven teams compete for the prize in what was probably its last year in its current format.

There was a novel feature to the first quarter final as Young Irelands entered Roinn A at this level for the first time in many years.

They had the All-Ireland Féile Champions in the shape of Dicksboro to face in the quarter final. Late scores from the Palmerstown outfit saw them win out 2-20 to 4-5. Watch out for this Young Ireland's side in the future. In the other quarter final James Stephens outclassed local rivals O'Loughlin Gaels.

The first semi-final took three attempts to sort out as Thomastown and Mooncoin drew 2-8 to 0-14 at the first time of asking, then 0-11 a piece at the second, before Thomastown eventually got over the line in this epic struggle winning by 1-10 to 1-6.

In the all-city semi-final Dicksboro showed a touch of class when defeating James Stephens. Dicksboro, in their county final against Thomastown showed why they were the undoubted top side not only in Kilkenny but in the whole

of Ireland as they displayed some supreme hurling skills and talent.

They won well and were always in command helped by the fact that Thomastown missed a large number of chances in the first half with the wind to make it a one-sided affair in the second half. First half goals by Harry Shine and Nick Doheny gave the Palmerstown side a nine point cushion by the middle of the first half.

The team have won every game they played this year winning the county league Roinn A in football and hurling, Roinn A hurling and football championships, Féile qualifiers in hurling and football in Kilkenny and the National Roinn A hurling Féile and the national Division 5 national football Féile. Dicksboro looked as dangerous without the ball as when they had it thanks to great tackling and marking. At half-time it was 2-11 to 0-3 and Dicksboro had the wind in their favour in the second half.

It didn't get any better after the interval for Thomastown and the Boro tagged on 2-13 to run out easy winners. Dicksboro had no weak link and with midfielder, Rory O'Connor in great form, the Boro's lethal forwards got the kind of ball they needed to inflict damage on a committed Thomastown defence. Harry Shine was again tormentor in chief and even though he scored



Thomastown - Roinn A Finalists 2017

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Matt Doran (Fianna Fáil Councillor)

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*Congratulations to all our Kilkenny hurlers on
their successes, and here's to an even better
2017.*

1-11, it was his hooking and blocking that really caught the eye. One word about the Dicksboro management team led by Richie Mulrooney who showed humility throughout the year.

Thomastown had fantastic individual performances by Zach Bay Hammond, Tony Collins, Cian Moore, Naoise Dempsey and Jordan Knight.

Dicksboro: Brian Manogue, Luca Loli, Niall Rowe, Stephen Dermody, James Carroll, Charlie Nolan, Eoghan O'Neill, Rory O'Connor, Charlie Delahunty, Nick Doheny, Timmy Clifford, Sean Maher, Vinny Roberts, Harry Shine, Cillian Hackett.

Subs used: Zac Mchardy, Kevin Moore, Johnny Keane, Eamon O'Reilly, Declan Farrell, Michael Raggett, Sean Keenan, Andrew Brennan Smyth.

Thomastown: Conor Holden, Conor O'Neill, Ben Tennyson, Senan O'Neill, Tony Collins, Luke McNena, Cian Moore, Luke Connellan, Zack Bay Hammond, Naoise Dempsey, Conor Cody, Luke Skehan, John McCarthy, Jordan Knight, Paddy Collins. Subs used: Kasper Kanopika, Dylan Cullen, Sean O'Keefe, Kyle Jordan.

Under 14 Roinn B

As always, probably the biggest minefield to try to predict in the local competition calendar is the Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn Hurling Championship, where literally anything could happen the 22 runner field.

Twelve teams had to participate in the preliminary round - a record many reckoned.

Emeralds and Danesfort played a humdinger of a match in St Lachtain's where late goals saw Emeralds rescue a draw but Danesfort saw out the replay by four points. Glenmore sent out their signal of intent by posting a nice win over Mullinavat. John Lockes & St Lachtain's drew the first day out before Lockes made sure of victory rather comfortably the next day.

In the first round proper there were a couple of shocks with Graignamanagh getting over Conahy Shamrocks quiet convincingly whilst St Martin's stunned



Dicksboro captain Charlie Nolan receives the Cup from John Byrne, Bord na nÓg Chairman

Graigue Ballycallan with three quick goals to seal their berth in the next round. Rower Inistioge, Tullogher & Bennetsbridge all advanced.

Goals were certainly the order of the day for the quarter finals. Two big guns squared up to each other in the form of Dunnamaggin & Galmoy/Windgap with the latter winning an epic by 3-17 to 3-9. St Martins were comfortably swatted aside by Graignamanagh whilst the 'Bridge were narrow losers in their defeat by the Rower-Inistioge. In the fourth quarter final, Glenmore had a change of fortune when they finally got on the right side of a close call over



Galmoy/Windgap - U14 "B" Champions 2017



Glenmore- U14 "B" Finalists 2017

Tullagher-Rosbercon. This Glenmore team had been particularly unlucky over the last few years. Again, through their sheer hard work, Lady Luck shone upon Glenmore in the semi-final when they really hurred up a storm to get over Rower-Inistioge by 1-15 to 1-14. Galmoy/Windgap were showing some nice finishing touches in their win in the other semi final.

**U-14 ROINN B CHAMPIONSHIP COUNTY FINAL
11-11-2017**

Galmoy/Windgap 1-20 Glenmore 2-7

Having been amalgamated at Juvenile level for 12 years, Galmoy/Windgap won their first ever Roinn B Duggan Steel Championship when their Under 14 team proved a shade too strong for a very game and competitive Glenmore side in Thomastown on Saturday 11th November.

In a very sporting yet competitive encounter, not a single yellow card was produced by referee John McCormack.

The combined side had a number of stars through out with Billy Drennan contributing five points from play in the first half. An Adam O'Shea posting of 1-1 also helped put some distance between the sides. Goals came from Michael Kirwan and Evan Haligan but the point-taking ability of Galmoy/Windgap proved to be enough to see them home. Bord na nÓg Chairman, Mr John Byrne presented the Winners' trophy to Joint Captains Adam O'Shea and Billy Drennan

*Galmoy/Windgap: Killian Doyle (Windgap), Jamie Joy (Windgap), Sean Purcell (Windgap), Calum Lonergan (Galmoy), James Darcy (Galmoy) Sean Barron (Windgap), Gearóid Phelan (Galmoy), Matt Delaney (Galmoy), David Sherman (Galmoy) (0-2), Karl McCoy (Windgap), Billy Drennan (Galmoy) (0-14, 0-6 frees), Blade O Gorman (0-1) (Windgap), Zak Kennedy (Windgap) (0-2), Adam O'Shea (Windgap) (1-1), Killian Enright (Windgap).
Subs used: Niall O'Brien (Windgap) for Karl McCoy 54 mins,*

Glenmore: Colm Roche, Alex Whelan, Richie Dunphy, William Holden, Tomas Mullally, Billy Reid, Ciaran Vereker, Evan Halligan (1-0), Cathal Beirne, Cian Connick (0-1), Michael Kirwan (1-5 frees), James Hendrick (0-1), Eamon Roche, Charlie Phelan, Dominic Roche.

Subs: Padraic Cody for Dominic Roche 45 mins, Patrick O'Connor for Eamonn Roche 55. mins, Shane Telford for Charlie Phelan 55 mins, Luke Aylward for Alex Whelan 58 mins, and Danny Dowling for Tomas Mullally 58 mins.

Referee: John McCormack (James Stephens)



Barrow Rangers - Roinn C Football & Hurling Finalists 2017

Under 14 Roinn C

The Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn C Championship saw nine teams go to post. James Stephens B got the better of St Patrick's in the first round. It took the Village men two games to get over Ballyhale Shamrocks in the quarter final with late goals proving the difference. There were also wins for Carrickshock, Barrow Rangers and Fenians at the quarter final stage.

The semi-finals were one-sided affairs where Fenians and Barrow Rangers had too much class for Carrickshock and James Stephens B respectively.

So, it came to pass that the two most fancied sides clashed in Jenkinstown on a windy Sunday morning in the Under 14 Roinn C final.

Dylan Hunston got Barrow Rangers off to a flyer pointing from near 60 metres as he took full advantage of the elements.

John Doheny landed his first free of the afternoon soon after but Joe Healy announced himself with a fine point for Rangers to retake the lead.

Doheny grabbed a point before Alex Lawlor fired Fenians ahead. Healy and Cathal Phelan swapped points before Conor Hanlon levelled matters at 0-4 each after 16 minutes play.

For the next 11 minutes Barrow Rangers took over, scoring 1-6 without reply, in a flurry of action.

Healy (0-3), Hanlon (0-2) and Evan Rudkins all contributed, with the vital goal coming from the mercurial Healy.

Doheny briefly lifted the siege with a pointed free but Healy converted a similar score just on the stroke of half time to leave it 1-11 to 0-5 in favour

of Barrow Rangers at the interval.

On the resumption of play Doheny got Fenians right back into to it with three rapid points, briefly interrupted by a Charlie Mullins point while Doheny and Healy again swapped points soon after.

Doheny again fired over two points and soon it was game on when Regan Downey sent the green flag waving but that was to be Fenians last meaningful attack as Healy and Hanlon tacked on the winning points. Final score Barrow Rangers 1-16 to Fenians 1-10.

Fenians: Luke Moriarty, Darragh O'Grady, Padraig O'Grady, Oisín Berry, Darragh McCormack, Adam Duggan, Stephen McEvoy, Tomas Sharkey, John Doheny, Brendan McEvoy, Alex Lawlor, Billy Garrett, Rory Garrett, Keelan Dermody, Cathal Phelan,

Subs: Daniel Whelan, Evan Maher, Colin O'Brien, Craig Bowe, Patrick Cullen, Regan Downey, Niall Mackey, Mattie McEvoy, Adam Phelan, Odhran Kenny, Cian O'Donoghue.

Barrow Rangers: Jack Doyle, Robert Kelly, Conor Dermody, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Joey McEvoy, Evan Rudkins, Paul Delaney, Killian O'Neill, Conor Bourke, Shane Wall, Joe Healy, Charlie Mullins, Cathal Purcell, Conor Hanlon, Dylan Hunston..

Subs: James Kealy, Martin Drea, Cormac Hogan, Eolan McDonald, David Murphy, Darragh Carpenter, Noah Scully, Liam Healy, Conor Dunne, Sean Hanlon, Evan Kelly, Larry Ryan, Cain Scully



Galmoy/Windgap Joint Captains Billy Drennan and Adam O'Shea with John Byrne, Bord na nÓg Chairman



Barrow Rangers U14 Football captain Conor Dermody receives the Trophy from John Byrne, Bord na nÓg Chairman

Remembering the Men of '69

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the victorious Kilkenny 1969 All Ireland SH team who defeated Cork in the Final. The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.



1969 Vetrans in Nowlan Park on County Final Day 2017

Back: Emma Jayne Eaton (Springhill Court), Carmel Cleere (Springhill Court), Mick Lanigan (Team Trainer), Seamus Cleere, Paddy Moran, Fr Tommy Murphy, Noel Skehan, Jim Lynch, Ned Quinn (Cathaoirleach CLG).

Front: Joe Millea, Frank Cummins, Jim Treacy, Eddie Keher, Billy Murphy, Pat Henderson, Mick Lawlor, Martin Brennan.

Photo Donal Foley



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1969

Back: Pa Dillon, Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Billy Murphy, Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson, Ollie Walsh.

Front: Joe Millea, Martin Brennan, Jim Treacy, Tommy Murphy, Eddie Keher, Claus Dunne, Pat Delaney, Mick Lawlor.

Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

Kilkenny have lost their unbeatable aura....

by Christy O'Connor



On the evening that Kilkenny played Waterford in the qualifiers in July, the greatest triumph for Waterford was not beating Kilkenny for the first time since 1959, but in how they had to beat their neighbours twice before they had the match won. When Waterford led by eight points with ten minutes of normal time remaining, Kilkenny looked down and out. Kilkenny had only shaved the deficit down to six points five minutes later and there was no suggestion that they could explode in Waterford's faces. And then, they did.

The manner in how Waterford regrouped and won the game in extra-time was a testament to how far this group have travelled, especially when the Kilkenny demons must have been rattling inside their heads with how they had coughed up such a commanding lead. Kilkenny were a pale shadow of their former selves and yet they still found the energy and wherewithal to draw a match in which they were comprehensively outplayed. In that context alone, Kilkenny were faithful to the culture and principles which Brian Cody has long espoused – never-say-die-attitude, absolute and total commitment to the cause.

"Kilkenny will always have plenty of hurlers but what they have lost most is their unbeatable aura, which spooked so many teams over the years. A lot of those same teams will believe they can beat Kilkenny now."

Kilkenny kept going but even on the one evening they got a result, against Limerick, it was a struggle. In the 55th minute of that match, Colin Fennelly won possession around 30 metres from the Limerick goal. Fennelly was bottled up by three Limerick defenders but he handpassed the ball out to TJ Reid, who flicked it first time into the path of Bolger, who was straight through on goal. Bolger let fly from ten metres but his shot was brilliantly saved by Nickie Quaid.

In many ways, that sequence of play encapsulated Kilkenny's championship – not quite there, but desperately trying to get there. It was Bolger's third clear-cut goal chance in two games but he didn't raise a green flag. That play was Fennelly's first possession of the match because Kilkenny couldn't get Fennelly into the game, largely because their use of possession was so poor. Richie Hogan had two assists but was nowhere near his usual standard, hitting four wides from nine plays before being taken off. Ger Aylward was hauled off scoreless again, just like he had been against Wexford. Kilkenny eventually found a way but they couldn't do so against Wexford and Waterford with similar patchy performances.



*Where has all the space gone?
Kilkenny feeling the pressure against Wexford and Limerick. (SPORTSFILE)*

Those qualities were also evident on the evening they also lost to Wexford in the Leinster semi-final in June. Kilkenny were comprehensively outplayed for long periods but the ending was faithful to the match, frantic and knife-edged as Kilkenny went hunting for an equalising goal. Mark Fanning denied Chris Bolger deep in injury time with a body stop but Fanning had been heroic throughout the second half.

Kilkenny didn't get the goal they needed to save themselves but it was goals which gave Kilkenny a foothold that evening because they desperately needed them. Wexford had ten more shots at the target. Kilkenny only managed six scores against the breeze; Wexford mined nine, one as good as the next.

Wexford won the hook-block-tackle count 53-44 but they smothered Kilkenny everywhere, especially in the second half. Colin Fennelly was brilliant, scoring a goal and being fouled for a converted 2-2 but he was restricted to just seven plays, largely because Kilkenny couldn't get the ball into his hands. Kilkenny only had four scorers from play, with two of their goals coming from TJ Reid penalties.

Wexford set up with Shaun Murphy as their sweeper, which Kilkenny mirrored with Conor Fogarty, but Kilkenny repeatedly hit the ball down Murphy's throat in the second half, which is exactly what Wexford wanted them to do. With Murphy sitting so deep in front of Colin Fennelly, Kilkenny were gasping for air. And eventually, the air ran out.

They only scraped over the line that evening too because – apart from the aerial battle – Limerick won most of the key stats categories. Limerick made more effective hooks-blocks-tackles (43-40) and won more puckouts (33-31). Kilkenny had one more shot at the target (36-35) but Limerick's profligacy, and wasteful use of possession, killed them, especially in the first half when they had 12 wides.

Kilkenny's attitude, commitment and spirit was never in question during 2017 but they no longer have the same brilliant players or decorated stock of options on the bench which defined their success under Brian Cody. Tactically, they were also exposed at times during this championship, which was something Henry Shefflin articulated in his Sunday Times column the day after the Wexford defeat.

"Kilkenny were extremely organised, more so than normal," wrote Shefflin. "Conor Fogarty was sitting back very deep. They had two lads inside in the full-forward line. Kilkenny didn't want to be opened up like they had been in April (in the league quarter-final) but they never pushed up, or pushed on, from the get-go.

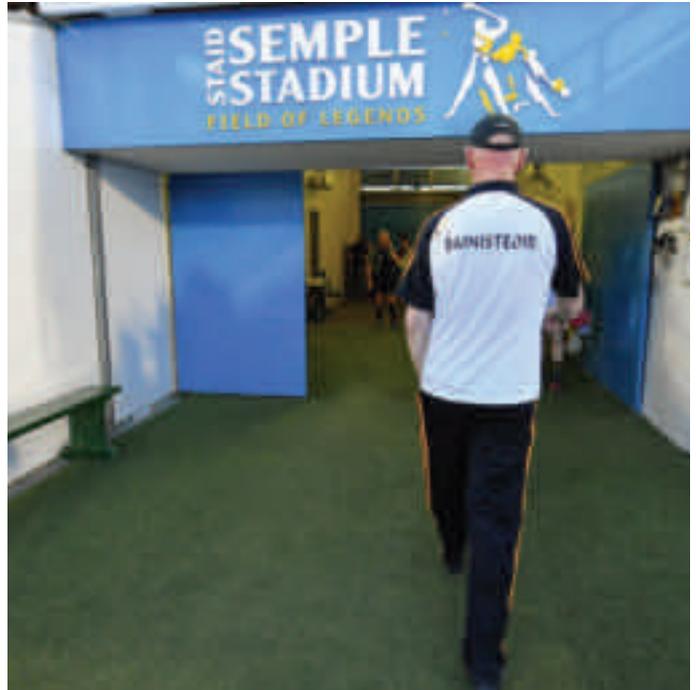
"That is not Kilkenny's natural game but I just don't think Kilkenny have the players to play that game at the moment...I thought Kilkenny panicked too. They kept banging the ball long when Shaun Murphy was sitting so deep as the Wexford sweeper. Even their puckouts were going straight down the

centre and Shaun Murphy got better and better as the game went on...We just don't have the players at the moment to outperform, or even react to a team like Wexford." Kilkenny will always have plenty of hurlers but what they have lost most is their unbeatable aura, which spooked so many teams over the years. A lot of those same teams will believe they can beat Kilkenny now. Kilkenny will have to adapt and evolve, to try and find new players, to develop some of the younger players that have been on the panel in recent years. In

the past, some of those players may have been deemed not good enough, and another batch would have been rolled off the production line. Yet the conveyor belt has slowed down and Kilkenny need to harness whatever talent they have now. That will be another one of the many huge challenges Brian Cody faces in 2018 but it is just the type of test that Cody will relish.



*Surrounded!
Kilkenny captain, Paddy Deegan, under severe pressure in Wexford Park. (Willie Dempsey)*



*Brian Cody walks down the tunnel after the Waterford match at Semple Stadium.
Brendan Moran/Sportsfile*

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The goal is still the same..

Conor Fogarty speaks with Kieran Cuddihy

2017 is unlikely to be a year that Conor Fogarty will look back upon with any degree of warmth. A mediocre league campaign ended with defeat to Wexford in Nowlan Park. While the venue changed for the provincial semi final, the opposition did not. Nor did the result.

Despite rallying somewhat in a qualifier against Limerick, Kilkenny were ultimately put to the sword by Waterford.

“This year was very disappointing really. It just felt like we never got going, we never gathered any momentum. I don’t know what it was, but we always felt like we were struggling to get up to the pace of previous years.

“But then having said that, we weren’t that far away from the final in the end. There really wasn’t much between ourselves and Waterford. The difference was that they really took their chances in extra time that day. So I suppose you wouldn’t want to be too harsh on the team at the same time.”

Born on 12th May 1990, Conor was on the fringes of senior county panels long before most. His father Martin was a selector with Brian Cody from 2005 to 2013 and it gave Conor a glimpse into a world he would eventually inhabit.

Born and bred in Castlecomer, he enjoyed underage success with his club Erin’s Own. Most notably winning a minor championship in 2008.

“We beat the Boro in that final. It was a great day really, one you’ll never forget. Davy Buggy was over the team, along with Ronan Ryan. You would have had plenty of talent on that team but most of them aren’t hurling anymore out in Comer. That’s a real pity. You can’t afford to lose so many players in a club like ours. You only have myself and Aidan Moran left.”

Like any successful sports person, Conor credits much of talent to his underage mentors, both in the club and at the Community School in Castlecomer.

“I was lucky to have great hurling men over me in both primary and secondary. The likes of Joe Maher, John Kelly, Joe Dillon and then Terrance Fahy and Pat Murphy in secondary. We actually won a Senior Leinster A in 2007, which was a massive achievement. De La Salle from Waterford bet us in the semi final and then of course they went on to beat Kilkenny CBS in the All Ireland final up in Croke Park. That was a strong De La Salle team with the likes of Noel Connors and a few other Waterford lads on it.”

It was while he was still at school that he first pulled on the black and amber jersey, lining out for two years with the minor side. In 2007, they lost the All Ireland final to a Tipperary team that included an up-and-coming Padraic Maher. The following year, they faced Galway and despite going 26 minutes without scoring in the second half of that game, they scraped over the line. The same success eluded him at under 21 level. “The closest we came to winning an All Ireland was my first year on the panel in 2009. Clare bet us by a single point. Then we didn’t even get out of Leinster the following two years.”

It was while training and playing with the under 21 panel that he made his first appearance at senior training. “I would have first got the call to come in and train in 2010. Funnily enough it wasn’t

my father at all that said it to me. Brian was the one who rang. That’s just the way things worked.

“I was in awe of most of the lads in there training to be honest. You had Henry, Tommy, Martin Comerford and these lads. All players I had grown up watching and then to be training with them was brilliant.

“I remember one of my first training sessions was one of these famous ones from back in 2010 when we were going for five in a row. There were thousands over in the Park. Someone got a knock early in that game and I was lucky enough to get a good run out. It was the stuff of dreams really to be on the pitch with a team trying to win their fifth All Ireland, with such a big crowd watching.

Much has been written about those sessions and the ferocity of effort from all involved. For Conor it was a difficult adjustment from what he was used to. “It was a huge jump up for me. I would have been fairly light still when I went in first and it was tough, there’s no doubt about it.”

2011 and 2012 ended with All Ireland success for Kilkenny though Conor didn’t feature in either final. It wasn’t until 2014 that he finally managed to become a more permanent feature at midfield. That year too ended in glory, after Kilkenny overcame Tipperary in a replay. Despite it being Conor’s third medal, it was easily the most special.



Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile



Conor Fogarty (centre, back Row) with his 'Comer BNS schoolmates after winning the 2001 Roinn B Schools Final.

games too, both the drawn game and the replay. So to come out on the winning side was great.”

He hung on to that midfield spot for the next two years, before moving into defence for this year’s campaign. “The move didn’t bother me at all, I’m happy enough to play anywhere and I’ve played plenty of games for my club in the backs so it wasn’t that big a change.”

Whether he lines out in defence, midfield or anywhere else next year, one thing is certain. Conor is determined to see Kilkenny back at the top table. Though he admits that the prospect is more difficult now than it has been for some years.

“It’s the most even playing field I can remember in a long time. You have about six teams all with serious hopes of winning an All Ireland next year and then you couldn’t write off Limerick or Dublin. Limerick have had good underage teams so they’ll be coming through and Dublin could be a new force under Pat Gilroy.

Like most of his teammates and indeed most fans, changes to the championship structure are also occupying his mind.

“One of the big things to get used to next year will be the structure. It’s certainly something different, which can be good sometimes. There are probably good and bad things about it. The extra games will be taxing and you might see more lads picking up knocks. But it’ll be great to see big games over in the Park and I’m sure the likes of Galway will love having teams travel over to play them.

“So I’m looking forward to the challenge anyway. And the goal is the same as it is every year, to win the All Ireland.”

“2014 was obviously important because it was my first All Ireland on the field of play. You’ll always remember that. It was really the first year too that I had nailed down a place. They were really tight

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

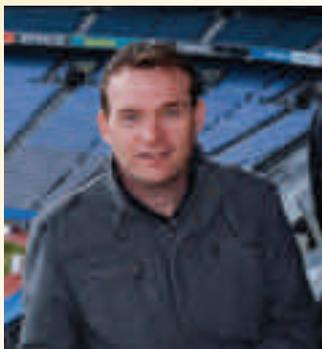


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An Insecure Perspective...

Damian Lawlor
RTE
looks at the new
Hurling Structures



ON the last Saturday in September the GAA's Special Congress met to reform the hurling championship.

The keynote proposal was to turn Leinster and Munster into round-robin competitions from 2018 and form a third tier, a qualifying group which would also be played off on a round-robin basis, from which the winners would earn promotion to their relevant provincial championship for the following season.

The proposal needed 60 per cent to carry and in the end it got 62 per cent. Enough to get through.

It means that Westmeath, Kerry, Laois, Meath, Carlow and Antrim will all play tier two hurling next season and they will not be able to compete for the Liam MacCarthy Cup.

Instead, the five counties in Leinster - Galway, Wexford, Kilkenny, Dublin and Offaly, with the Munster five - Cork, Waterford, Tipperary, Clare and Limerick in Munster will all fight for the Championship proper in 2018.

"The thinking behind a Special Congress is that we are having a reformed football championship coming into play next year, from 2018, and it was felt that it would be much better that if we were going to have a reform of hurling that it would coincide with the football reform," explained GAA President Aogán Ó Feargháil. "We will have a three-year period beginning in 2018, where we would have a reformed football and hurling championship."

In general terms it could be argued that, because there will be more football games during the three-year Super Eight trial, the hurling fraternity feared the small-ball game would become marginalised. They wanted more games too.

It was an insecure perspective.

Just because there will be more football games next season doesn't mean they will be better or more exciting. Contrast this year's All-Ireland hurling semi-final between Galway and Tipperary to the Tyrone-Dublin football semi-final, for example. An epic which saw a score every 1.7 minutes compared to the football non-event that saw Tyrone, the losers, get all 15 men behind the ball on 12 occasions with Dublin leaning on the back-pass tactic and Ciaran Kilkenny getting 68 possessions, most of which were lateral plays across the field.

Apart from Jim Gavin, who is seeing his side rack up trophies at a rate of naughts, wants more of that?

"Look, reform in hurling is always welcome but this has been a fine season and I think the GAA should this time have left well enough alone, and I am speaking for both the stronger and weaker counties, I think," said two-time All Star and Kildare hurling manager Joe Quaid

Quaid is correct. For the first time in a long time there are more counties than ever capable of competing for an All-Ireland title.

No wonder the proposal met with some stiff opposition when it landed on the desk of Special Congress.

What will it mean for the club game?

I was in Kilkenny on the same day that the motion was carried, watching O'Loughlin Gaels play Erins Own in one quarter final, and looking at Ballyhale Shamrocks and Clara drawing in another quarter-final.

I thought back on how well run the Kilkenny Championship has always been, how Brian Cody takes in so many local games and picks on form, bringing players with potential through to his extended squad, letting them learn further with their clubs and building them over a two to three year period. You will see the likes of Conor Delaney, Adrian Mullen and maybe Joey Cuddihy come through that system in the coming seasons and it has served the county so well.

I just wonder, though, will that template survive.

The five-team Munster and Leinster championships will play the 2018 season on that round-robin basis with the top two teams in each provincial group will face off in the provincial final. The bottom two teams in either group play-off to reach the quarter-finals. The quarter-final winners play the provincial champions in the All-Ireland semi-finals. There will be more games and the county team will demand more from the clubs players in terms of their time.

That might mean an end to the famed Kilkenny practice of releasing intercounty players back to their clubs and letting them play at peak times during the season.

Kilkenny people won't lose too much sleep on the fact that a county like my own, Tipperary, where football is thriving in certain pockets, I fail to see how this new system is a positive. The Tipp championship is elongated enough as it is. The North Tipp Under-21 championship only begins in October. Imagine if the Tipp footballers reach the Super 8 and the Tipp hurlers get by the round robin stages and into the business end of the season.

Where will the county board get the space and time to run of their championships? A whole new restructure has to be on the way there too.

But mostly spare a thought for the Tier 2 championship teams, the likes of Westmeath, Carlow, Laois, Meath and Antrim.

I always feared that Laois would fall away after Cheddar Plunkett left town. Eamon Kelly is currently trying to keep standards high and he's unearthed some fine players for the future.

Meath, too, are working harder than anyone else at Under 16 and Under 17 level and had some fine results in the 2017 Celtic Challenge.

Another county that railed against the restructure were Westmeath. They topped the round robin group this year and have been making genuine strides at underage level. They beat Kilkenny in the Under 21 in 2016, and gave Tipperary a big fright in this year's senior qualifiers in Semple Stadium.

But they are back in limbo under the new system.

So too are Kerry who have enjoyed wins against the likes of Offaly recently. They were included in the Leinster Championship this year, but if they top the tier two competition, they will have to play off against a Munster county in order to earn their way into the Munster Senior Hurling Championship.

Their manager Fintan O'Connor is also unhappy. "It's very disrespectful for teams that were in the round robin this year to be essentially relegated with no consultation. It would be very hard to justify these proposals to any player from one of the counties affected," O'Connor says.

A team that comes from the second tier will most likely suffer immediate relegation and this annual yo-yo effect will only serve to preserve the top nine while driving a bigger wedge between them and the rest.

"The weaker counties could be lost altogether," says Quaid.

"For us the only thing wrong with the old system was the staging of the Christy Ring Cup over a short period of time. Last year we played three games in 14 days. Insulting."

Hurling was crying out for meaningful change for years but in 2017 both provincial championships were as competitive as they had been in decades.

All five Munster counties would have been hoping to win one-off matches and gain silverware in their provinces.

Change is frequently for the better but maybe this time there is a sense that those delegates who voted at Special Congress might have left well enough alone. Perhaps it might have been better to focus solely on those third tier counties who desperately yearn for a breakthrough. Give them more financial aid, designated coaching programmes, improve their training resources, bend the rules a little for them. Try to bring them up to the table over a three to five year period.

And then take a look at structures.



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Liam Keoghan...

- a popular player on a popular team

By Enda McEvoy

Three things about Liam Keoghan to begin with.

1. He was stunned to receive the phone call. ("You want to interview me for the Yearbook..?") Of course he was, being Liam Keoghan.

2. The interview, which naturally took place in Langton's, was preceded by a brief chat about the size of that splendid establishment, the extent to which it had changed and been enlarged since Keoghan's days – his evenings, rather – as a regular diner after Kilkenny training, the genius that is Eamon Langton, etc.

3. Back in the mid-1990s the Tullaroan man happened to look younger and more fresh faced than he actually was. Happily for him he has not mislaid this serendipitous attribute. He was a minor in 1985. He barely looks 40 now.

Last September he enjoyed (the operative word) one of the best days out of his life. The Kilkenny team of 1992-93 were being feted as the jubilee team on All Ireland day and Keoghan, right-half back on the 1993 outfit, was naturally part of the crew. They wore new suits, they were "treated like royalty in Croke Park – great seats" and he got to meet old colleagues he'd barely seen in the intervening quarter of a century. Eamon Morrissey for one, PJ Delaney for another. His fellow Tullaroan man Bill Hennessy returned from Australia for the occasion. Being in the innards of the Hogan Stand and witnessing the workings of Croke Park on a big day was a particular eyeopener. "All the dinners being served up, and us used to going to matches there with our sandwiches. There are other ways of living too..."

He initially fetched up on the big stage via the highways and byways. Keoghan didn't play for Kilkenny at under-14 or under-16 level as a result of being deemed too small. In time he grew bigger and improved, with Tullaroan's triumph in an under-16 county championship putting him on the radar. In 1985, now both big enough and good enough, he lined out in a Leinster minor final that resulted in a win for Wexford. Three years later he was centre-back in the All Ireland under-21 decider in Birr, with hopes high for a second under-age success following the scintillating victory of the minors (DJ Carey, Adrian Ronan, Pat O'Neill et al) seven days earlier. It proved to be a chastening afternoon not just for him but for the county. Cork 4-11 Kilkenny 1-5. "Someone said afterwards that we should have sent up the minors instead..."

Such a defeat ought to have spelled the end for Liam Keoghan in the stripes. Such a defeat ought to have spelled the end for all of them. Instead, bizarrely, no fewer than four members of the XV smithereneed by Cork would win senior medals within five years: Keoghan, Willie O'Connor, Bill Hennessy and Michael Phelan. Just goes to show you never can tell, huh?

"I'd say a lot of people never wanted to see us again. But we went back to our clubs and Tullaroan won the intermediate championship not long afterwards. That's what kept me in the frame."

For the next couple of years, with Diarmuid Healy and then Ollie Walsh managing Kilkenny, Keoghan remained on the periphery. Not quite out of sight, not quite out of mind, but not an obvious intercounty man in waiting either. He was called up for challenge matches here and there, a game in Coventry, Walsh Cup fixtures, then invariably dispensed with after a while. He still hadn't made the panel by the time Kilkenny won the All Ireland 1992, but Tullaroan reached the county final that autumn and now Keoghan was finally and fully on the radar. Liam Walsh, the incumbent right-half back, succumbed to a recurring injury on the eve of the 1993 championship and Keoghan, despite never having played a National League game, was the new number five.

It took him time to adjust. "A long long time. Nerves. I'd be shaking with nerves going out. Hoping for a loose ball to hit to give me confidence. Eventually I settled and got to know the lads around me."

And what lads. The unflappable Pat Dwyer. The flamboyant Pat O'Neill. The irrepressible Adrian Ronan. The one and only John Power. The two and only O'Connors. DJ. There would be greater Kilkenny teams to follow in the Cody era, yet few Kilkenny teams are as fondly remembered and few All Irelands were as hard or as worthily won as that of 1993. Offaly narrowly, Carlow easily, Wexford in a replay following a titanic drawn game in which the MacCarthy Cup holders scored the last four points, Antrim handily and then Galway in a grinding final, with PJ Delaney pouncing late on for the decisive goal.

It was a joy to be part of it, Keoghan confirms. "That team had so much confidence. It came from winning. It's a super feeling to have because you don't mind when you're behind in a match. You feel that you can come back and will come back."

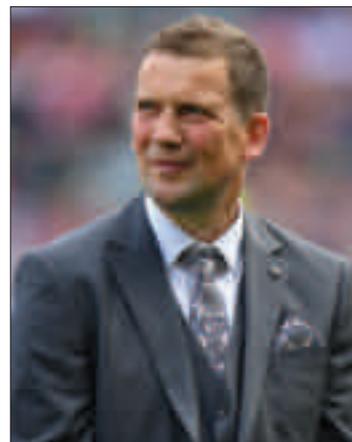
They couldn't have had a better manager. Ollie Walsh, he says, made everything click. "He was always having the galár, but then before a match it got very serious. He was brilliant. He was able to coax in everyone. He had his own way about him and realised that everyone had to be treated differently. He told me to 'hurl like you do with the club', which gave me great confidence."

Nor could Ollie have had a better wingman in Nickey Brennan, Keoghan adds. "Someone had to be the boss. Nickey did a lot of that. He had to run the show while Ollie was a players' man. And then after being president of the GAA he went back to the under-sixes in Conahy. A great man."

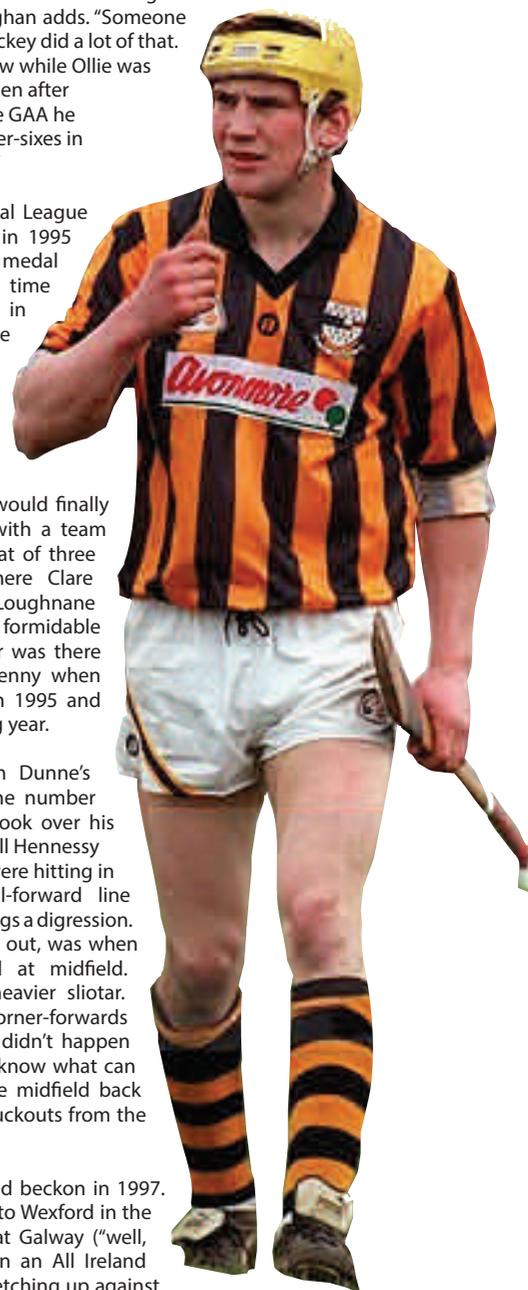
Although a National League medal would follow in 1995 and another Leinster medal in 1998, this was a time of unparalleled flux in hurling, within the province as well as without. Offaly were at last delivering on their under-age promise. Wexford hadn't gone away and indeed in 1996 would finally win the All Ireland with a team less talented than that of three years earlier. Elsewhere Clare had risen under Ger Loughnane and Limerick were formidable under Tom Ryan. Nor was there a back door for Kilkenny when defeated by Offaly in 1995 and Wexford the following year.

Mention of Liam Dunne's observation about the number of times he had to look over his head at all the balls Bill Hennessy and Michael Phelan were hitting in to the Kilkenny full-forward line during the period brings a digression. That, Keoghan points out, was when the puckout landed at midfield. He'd like to see a heavier sliotar. "Teams bring out corner-forwards now to take a 65'. It didn't happen 20 years ago. I don't know what can be done to bring the midfield back into it. Maybe take puckouts from the endline.?"

An escape route did beckon in 1997. Kilkenny succumbed to Wexford in the Leinster final but beat Galway ("well, DJ beat Galway...") in an All Ireland quarter-final before fetching up against



Liam Keoghan of the Kilkenny 1992 All-Ireland winning team who was honoured prior to the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final at Croke Park. Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportsfile





**1993 All Ireland SH Final - Liam Keoghan watches Liam Burke (Galway) shoots for goal, flanked by Eddie and Willie O'Connor.
Ray McManus // SPORTSFILE**

Clare in the semi-final. It's the one match Keoghan would like to play again, not so much because of the outcome but because on the morning of the game Kilkenny lost the services of both their full-back, Liam Simpson, and their full-forward, Michael Phelan. "The two lads had begun to settle very nicely into their positions. To lose the two of them was massive. Clare were very physical and well able to hurl and the crowd roared them on. But I've always wondered what might have happened had we been at full strength."

The following autumn brought an unexpected form of consolation for Keoghan. Much to his surprise, he was named an All Star. He'd been all set to present medals to the Tullaroan under-14s, who'd won Feile na nGael, when a phone call came through telling him he had to be in Dublin. There followed a dash into Kilkenny to get a suit from Adrian Cashin, the tailor in John Street, then a "mad rush up to Dublin". A good night followed in the Burlington Hotel, even if he was "still in shock".

The 1998 All Ireland defeat by Offaly marked his last day to wear the black and amber. It was the end and he knew it without having to be told. "I didn't play well. I wasn't getting younger. I was married with one child and another on the way. It was time to move on and get busy at home on the farm."

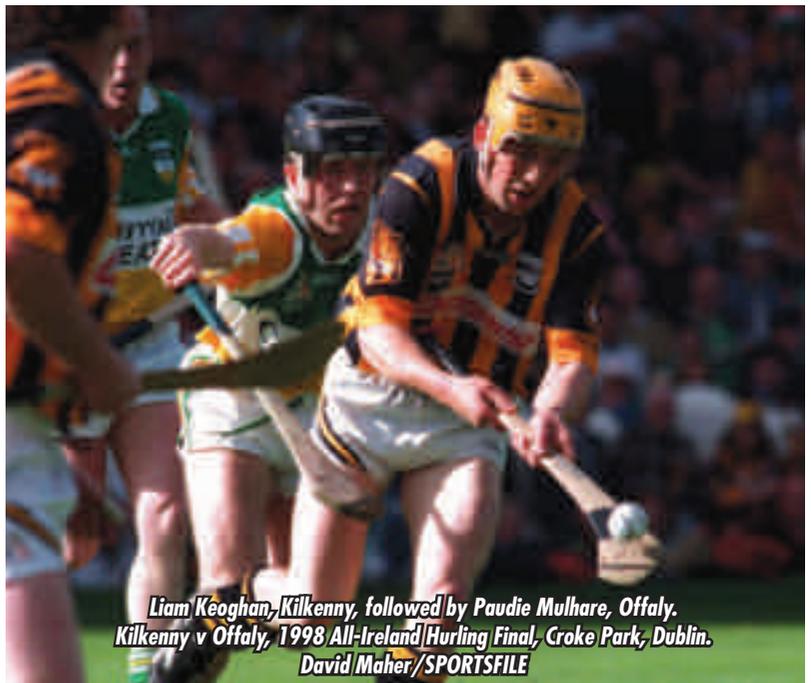
Any regrets? "None. I was six years there and I enjoyed every one of them. It was great to be involved and I made loads of friends. And I think I was there at the right time. I'm not sure I would have survived with Kilkenny today."

His sweetest afternoon of all took place not in Croke Park but in Nowlan Park. County final day 1994. Tullaroan, who hadn't been champions since 1958, versus Dicksboro, the holders. It was tight, it was tense and it was almost absurdly low-scoring, 1-6 to 0-6 being the outcome. The challengers were a point ahead midway through the second half when this happened. Over to Dermot Kavanagh's *A History: Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Finals 1887-2003*.

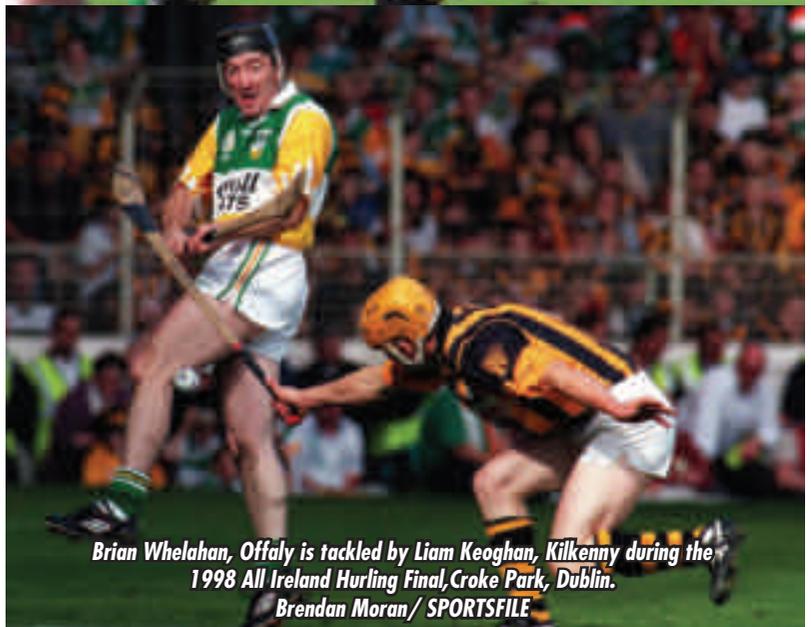
"Then the best score of the game came from Liam Keoghan, who having burst through several tackles sent a shot from all of 75 yards between the posts to leave two points between the teams. The momentum was now with Tullaroan."

Younger readers may be interested to know the identity of the winners' full-back. One Michael Walsh, these days better known as Tommy's dad or Pdraig's dad. "Mickey marked stars that year - Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan - and got the better of most of them," Keoghan recalls. "He was very good. He was a lot older than most of us and we looked up to him."

And there you have it. One thing about Liam Keoghan to finish with. When the interview had ended, he paid for his interrogator's coffee. Of course he did, being Liam Keoghan.



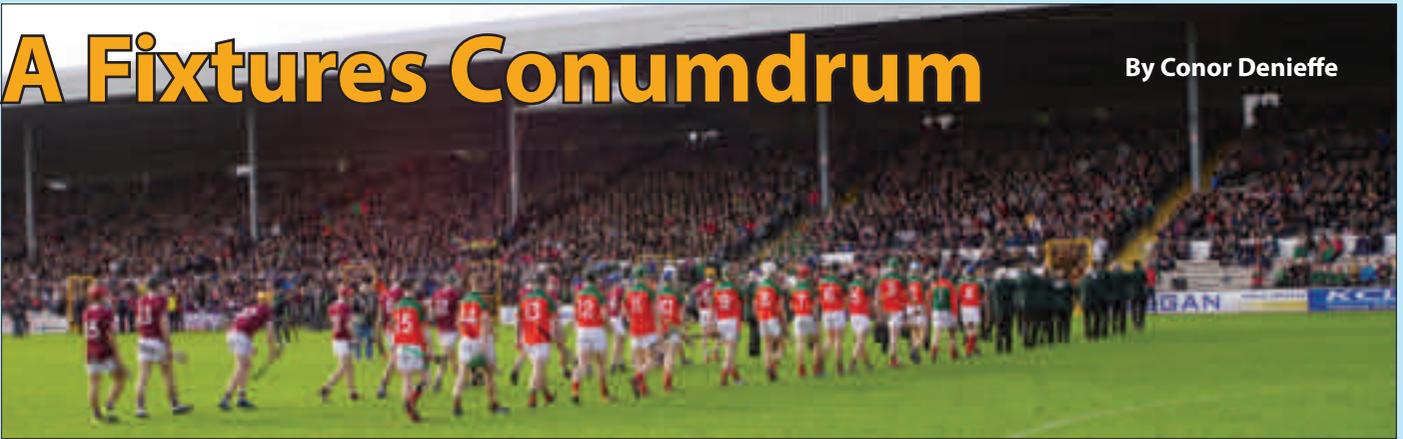
**Liam Keoghan, Kilkenny, followed by Paudie Mulhare, Offaly.
Kilkenny v Offaly, 1998 All-Ireland Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin.
David Maher // SPORTSFILE**



**Brian Whelahan, Offaly is tackled by Liam Keoghan, Kilkenny during the
1998 All Ireland Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin.
Brendan Moran // SPORTSFILE**

A Fixtures Conundrum

By Conor Denieffe



There can be little doubt but that the structural changes to the 2018 Senior Hurling Championships (and for the following two years at least), wrought by a Special Congress held at the end of September last, are the greatest since the introduction of the "Back Door" in 1997. Indeed many would argue the 2017 changes are the greatest ever introduced.

Essentially the new format was introduced to solve a problem which may or may not exist i.e. to counteract increased exposure for football, and it succeeded at Special Congress despite the opposition of many of the stronger hurling counties, including Kilkenny.

Briefly, in 2018 the Leinster and Munster championships will each be confined to five counties. Each county will play the others in their group on a League basis with two home and two away games. In Kilkenny's case that will involve games against Dublin (away on 13th May), Offaly (at home on May 20th), Galway (away on May 27th) and Wexford (at home on June 6th). The top two teams in each province will play the provincial final with the winner progressing to the All Ireland semi-final and the loser to an All Ireland quarter final. The third placed team in each province will play a preliminary All Ireland quarter final against one of the top two teams from a Tier 2 group consisting of five weaker counties.

While there are advantages to this format, such as increased coverage and home championship games for counties, it may also throw up a number of anomalies. A team could potentially be beaten twice in the provincial league section and still qualify for the provincial final. The same team could be beaten in the provincial final and still progress to win the All Ireland final despite being defeated three times en route. By the same token a county could lose the All Ireland final to a county it had already defeated twice in that championship.

What must also be considered is that the new championship structure and timetable will have a huge impact on fixtures at local level in Kilkenny. For many years now Kilkenny's primary competitions at adult level have been organised on a League/ Championship basis. Twelve teams at Senior and Intermediate level are drawn into two groups of six, with each team playing five league games followed by a knock out championship which takes four rounds to complete. The Junior competition has followed a similar format in recent years also. Generally the league games were played in April, May, July and August with the championship being played in September and October. However, the new inter-county fixtures calendar for 2018 will mean that if Kilkenny progress to the All Ireland senior hurling final on August 18th 2018 then the months of May, June, July and most of August will be unavailable for local League/Championship fixtures. Were Kilkenny to also progress in Intermediate and Under 21 hurling grades and intercounty Junior Football this progress in these competitions would reinforce the unavailability of these months for local League/ Championship games. Compounding this will be the fact that the Allianz Hurling League will start on the 27th January in 2018 with the final scheduled for 25th March.

It is difficult to see a solution to this fixtures conundrum. If Kilkenny's involvement in various inter county championships extends into August in 2018, as we hope it might, then clubs will face a big gap between the first league rounds in March/April and the remaining three league rounds in late August/September followed immediately by the championship played on a week by week basis with little or no room for replays. If Kilkenny exit the senior and other championships at an earlier stage in 2018 then the local league games could resume earlier but certainty could not be given to anyone as to when they might be playing in that circumstance.

With no obvious solution in sight it looks like some difficult years ahead for local fixtures and competitions.

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“Georgie was a gentleman”

Sean ‘Georgie’ Leahy 1938 - 2017

By Tommy Lanigan

We begin at the end. The throngs of mourners who congregated at Georgie’s home in Archers’ Crescent and St. Patrick’s Church in June seemed never ending. They came from every part of Ireland, wherever hurling is played, to pay respects to one of hurling’s greatest characters.

GAA Presidents past and present, County Board officers, players, colleagues and acquaintances who had been touched at one time by his magnetism were anxious to pay tribute to one of GAA’s and the Village’s finest.

They all spoke of his enduring and simple qualities, kindness, honesty, enthusiasm, integrity. They agreed, above all, that ‘Georgie was a gentleman’. He knew everybody, remembered everybody. ‘How are ye going down South?’ he would ask, though he generally knew the answer before it was offered.

Georgie lived and worked on the street. His job for forty years was with Posts and Telegraphs, always a foreman, a leader. When he managed work was something of a mystery as he had a word with every passer-by. His humanity and charity were quiet, often surreptitiously passing a few bob to a less fortunate soul.

From there he embarked on his favourite job, coaching officer to schools in South Kilkenny. ‘When is Georgie coming?’ was a question many a harassed teacher had to answer. The school kids flocked to him because he had a way. Goodness knows how he remembered every name and connection in the county but he always had the kind and appropriate word.

This latter quality enabled him to become a truly outstanding hurling coach. He began his coaching career at 16, helping out with James Stephens. By the 1960s underage hurling was at a critical point in Kilkenny city. Other than primary schools there was little organization, less coaching and even less interest in developing young players. The work of Georgie, Bill Cody and later Fr. Liam Barron made a lasting impression on city hurling. When they inspired James Stephens to success from 1965 onwards, other clubs began to follow, taking their inspiration from these men. While playing himself, helping to raise a family, Georgie managed to bring club teams and underage county teams all over the country to test themselves against the best. In an age when young people were expected to be ‘seen and not heard’, Georgie gave them a new lease of life and his tremendous enthusiasm and positive energy were a breath of fresh air to all he met.

His most successful days in coaching were in the seventies and eighties. He was a Kilkenny senior selector from 1972 to ’78, county minor manager in those years too when great success came to the county. In 1975 he became sole manager and selector to a James Stephens team which went on to win three county titles (1975, ’76, ’81) and two All Ireland club titles (1976, ’82) in the golden days of club hurling.

He managed Laois from 1981 to ’86, bringing them from a low base to the Centenary Cup final of 1984 and Leinster final of 1985. Over the years he managed Offaly, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Carlow, always raising the bar of expectations and imbuing everybody with his love for the game. He conducted countless coaching courses and weekends with clubs, in the company of his great friend Brendan O’Sullivan. Georgie could never say no. He loved going to small places and finding hurling passion. He will always be spoken of with reverence, gratitude and admiration in those abodes scattered all over Ireland.

He became the first man to train two All Ireland club winning teams when he guided Glenmore to the Tommy Moore Cup in 1991, adding a hatful of county senior titles with them too.

But his favourite club outside the Village was Galmoy. His father, Jack, hailed from there and Georgie never forgot his roots. Appropriately, the Blue and Whites and James Stephens

u14 hurlers were the last teams he trained as illness latterly took over.

He played down his own achievements, dismissing his own hurling efforts as ‘average enough’.

A junior title with James Stephens as a 17-year-old in 1955,

a senior title in 1969

and one year as a sub with Kilkenny seniors,

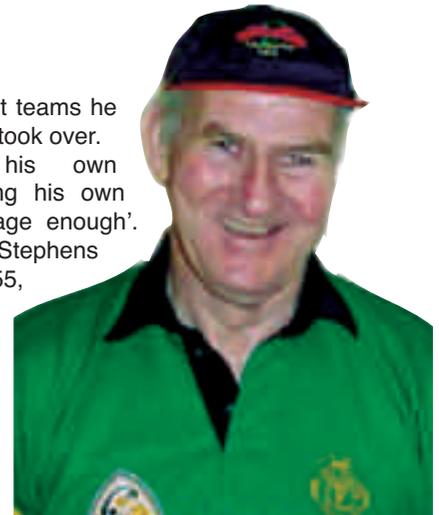
1970/1 winning a Leinster title were the pinnacles of success.

In between, he labored long and ferociously

as a full forward, in the days when the battles were full blooded.

To Rita, his beloved wife, his family and friends we extend our deepest sympathies.

Ní bheidh a leithéid an arís.



Beyond the call of duty - Ned Quinn (Chairman, Kilkenny Co. Board) presents Sean ‘Georgie’ Leahy with a special memento for his years of service and dedication both to Kilkenny GAA and GAA nationally over the years.



Georgie and Rita

Looking for Officialdom! Who would be a G.A.A. official?

By Fr Liam Barron



I suppose the same question could apply to any amateur association; but since it's now that time of year when practically the only G.A.A. news is convention news, when practically every parish, village, town, division and county in the country is having that annual turbulent affair; we'll stick to the G.A.A.

At almost every level - Junior B to National Executive - the high profile G.A.A. positions are demanding, time-consuming, divisive, thankless, expensive and

frustrating. Often it's boring, futile and friendless. Occasionally, and only every occasionally, it's rewarding. So why would anyone in their right mind want to take such a position?

Broadly speaking, there are two basic types of G. A.A. top brass - those who are in it for love of the club, love of the G.A.A.; and those who are in it for themselves.

Let's take those who are in it for the love of it first. Throughout the G.A.A., these are in the vast majority. There's very little glamour in most clubs. However, through the basic motivating factor, love of club, may be the same; these form a wide ranging and colourful spectrum by themselves.

First, and this poor devil is always first, there's the man, always the man, who in the absence of any other candidate, and without ever really wanting a position, always feels duty bound to serve and always is duly bound into service.

Always prevailed on - "I'd like to prevail on "Jack" again". A massive sense of responsibility. The most common of all, he's usually a quiet, steady, respectable, conservative, non- controversial kind of a fella. He won't usually have much personal ambition - just take life as it comes, sit back and enjoy it while you can. This attitude will usually be reflected in the way he runs the club: slow but steady progress. One dressing room this year, pause to recover; then another dressing room a few years later. Without this solid soldier, the G.A.A. would cease.

There's the pub club-man, but since they rarely do anything other than

criticise, they're not in this piece!

Then there's the dedicated club-man, a common species. There's the inclusive type, who accepts that though others may disagree with his strongly held opinions, they can still be good for the club. They may even be right, himself wrong! He, or sometimes she, usually serves for years in the same demanding position, only very occasionally mildly controversial. The 'invaluables' of the club.

But there's the other dedicated club-man. He's always right, and everyone else - those who soldiered with him through many a blood-stained campaign, those who schooled with him from short trouser days; even those who grew up in the same bed as him - are always wrong! No deviation, black or white. Every club has their own.

He wears his heart on his sleeve, lives and dies with the fortunes or misfortunes of the club. He will always have held a prominent position in the club, will always have had opposition - this is Ireland - will always have quit in disgust and eloquently to express himself, but when challenged to stand for a position, will always then be in the position to say, "Well, when I was there, ye didn't want me, so I'm gone!" And, will always say it too!

These are the greatest loss to any club. They are usually the most driven, the most passionate, the most progressive, the most forward thinking, the most loyal, the most talented and the most stubborn. And their abdications usually leaves the door open, ironically for those they most oppose.

Finally - and only time restrictions make this a 'finally', as there are dozens more! - there are those who are in it for themselves. The club is a vehicle through which they can express themselves. Usually, these are the most ambitious of people, the most personable, the most manipulative. Often, the club benefits enormously from these qualities, as it's dragged, boosted, catapulted forward. Often, it doesn't.

And of course, there are the dishonest ones - but this is life. Most people are aware of the money now circulating within the G.A.A. and doubtless, there are those who would like a piece of it. In small communities however, people usually know their own. Mistakes are rarely made.

So there we have it - the most democratic organisation there is. Some would think too democratic - especially lately, some of the full time administrators, those who don't have to stand for any election (luckily, in many cases, for themselves!), but who surely know what's best for all of us mere plebs.

On the way to this year's A.G.M. of your local club, think of the above. Give the present officers a break, and take some responsibility yourself. Be aware that what happens on that one day can have a bigger impact than all the effort on the field. "Returned opposed" too often means "no-one else is interested!" It's your G.A.A. Get involved!

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Words of Praise

By Seamus O'Doherty

One of the trends which has emerged at club AGMs over the past decade is that they finish without filling all of the officer positions. This stalemate invariably results in the rapid organisation of an EGM or the more favoured 'adjourned convention'. Some clubs have left the first sitting without electing a Chairman, a Secretary or a Treasurer, which is an obvious cause of concern, insofar as these are acknowledged as the key operational positions in any GAA club.

After the AGM soundings will be made to club personnel who may need some encouragement to assume office, but very often reassurance and persuasion will result in a willing volunteer becoming available to help the club. In former years there would often be a contest for officer posts and this invariably led to a huge attendance, as members made their preferences known. In recent years various problems involving work patterns, time commitments and family obligations have ruled many other wise willing people out of the reckoning. Everyone understands that a parent of three young children can't be expected to act as club Runai. Similarly, members who work much of the week away from base are also at a disadvantage, in consideration for high office.

It is always great to read the club notes in the following weeks and see that the vacant positions have been filled. The club is then ready to proceed and the willing volunteers are acknowledged and appreciated. The contribution of volunteers to the GAA has been its strength since the foundation in 1884 and when we think of how difficult transport and communications were for so long, our admiration for our predecessors is enhanced. These days the IT world makes communication so much easier, but there is still plenty to do.

No matter where you go in Ireland, GAA clubs are fortunate to have people with a diverse range of skills which when pooled, oil the wheels of club activities. The greatest volunteers of course are our players – club and county – who devote much of their lives to preparing and playing for their teams. Their lives are very much controlled by matches and training, which then demand a lifestyle which is Spartan, for most of the year. The sight of inter county players being married in December (notwithstanding the influence of climate change, with as good a chance of a sunny day as there is in June) has become a regular feature of GAA life. The glories of All Ireland success in Croke Park are the result of significant time invested for the rest of the year. There may be some tangible rewards at inter county level – but they are hard earned. At club level, the training and games are less structured and often depend on the outcome of inter county fixtures. This was one of the arguments for changing the inter county structure in 2018.

Club pillars

The club goes far beyond the players though. The Chairman is the accountable officer for everything and the brief is increasing apace, while a line from a seventy five year old local verse "if no one else does it the Secretary must" sums up the additional responsibilities which join the numerous routine duties, discharged by the Runai. The Treasurer has the challenging task of balancing the books and that is the supreme test these days, where a win in the club lottery can make or break the end of year accounts. The work of finance committees in mounting major fundraisers, the reliable lottery ticket sellers and the generous local sponsors are invaluable. The PRO is now king or queen of social media and updates on all club activities are being read simultaneously, in places as far apart as the local supermarket and Dubai. The image of the club must be enhanced, the brand highlighted, credibility earned & maintained. Generally the GAA club is the big one in most Irish towns and villages, but it has to compete for membership in many parts of the bigger cities. There are no guarantees of loyalty anymore, even from sons of former stalwarts.

Back at base there is always someone in charge of the dressing rooms – they are spick and span every time there is training or a game. The pride in keeping them so is the caretaker's lifeblood.

The club pitches are like favourite toys to the grounds man and attention to detail ensures a range of compliments on match days. Some clubs are lucky to have expertise in soil management at hand and serious errors are thus avoided with pitch maintenance.

There are other key roles also – the gear, hurleys, sliothars, footballs, jerseys, water bottles, cones, bibs must be minded and be available in perfect order when required. The holder

(s) of this post won't be bored. The 'reward' may be in earning the title of Equipment Officer. The Membership Officer/Registrar has a difficult job – always seeking money and not always successful in its pursuit. Clubs vary in how they address the membership package, with some linking it to gym usage, club lottery, insurance costs and season tickets. Whatever works is the way to go.

There are significant roles also in Child Welfare & Health and Well Being, which is becoming an agenda item now at many club meetings. The Bord na nOg officers, Coaches and committee are vital in the success of every club and will be supported by the adult wing to ensure consistency and adherence to the rules of the GAA. It is interesting to see that some clubs refer to their Bord na nOg section as a 'Juvenile club', when it is actually a sub committee of the affiliated club. The GAA rule book is not an A La Carte publication!

The final group for mention are the club's team Managers. Anyone who has been involved in the recruitment process will appreciate the mental anguish involved, especially if there are several people available and the merits of the candidates need to be assessed, with balance required in the skill set of the chosen group. Thereafter committee approval is vital followed by appointment of selectors, strength and conditioning staff, physiotherapist, physical therapist, liaison officer and statisticians / performance analysts. It is not an easy task.

Inclusion

In recent years more ladies have become officers in clubs around the country, while others have served at Co. Board level. It will be interesting to see how the proposed gender quota proposal works out. Ladies have done wonderful work in their clubs over many decades – going far beyond catering duties. It is interesting to watch the Club Players Association trying to make an impact for the betterment of its members. Their cause is sympathetically understood, even if the solution must be reached by multi party agreement. The grassroots membership movement is a big battalion and should be welcomed. Next year's GAA fixtures schedule will be watched with great interest.

Any club which is democratic, treats its members with respect, has a development plan, is run with integrity and has progressive leadership will always thrive.

One of the mistakes which can be made is giving members too many responsibilities. The solution is to give those who make themselves available one job each. Let them do it without interference and be responsible for delivering the intended results. It saves a lot of confusion and avoids potential conflict. My own club bears a useful reminder of individual obligations on the back of the membership cards – "As a member you agree to adhere to the club's rules, respect its officials, other members, our property and facilities".

Talent and generosity

I have no idea how many aggregate hours a rural or urban club receives from its volunteers in the course of a playing season. One Kilkenny club chairman told his 2016 AGM that a Selector with the flagship adult team would have contributed 500 hours of time, between January and October. Taking travel time to games and training, team selection meetings, training sessions and matches, dvd reviews and other tasks which arise, it is a plausible figure. We may start the annual voluntary membership commitment calculations to the club, from that reference point.

The key point though is that practically everyone who contributes to club business is a volunteer and that is what keeps them vibrant and solvent. These talented and generous people, who are spread across the GAA landscape in Ireland and overseas can never be repaid for their contributions and commitment, usually over many years. They must always be acknowledged, appreciated and never taken for granted.

Three cheers then for our volunteers who have enormous pride in their clubs and do so much to boost the promotion of Gaelic Games, no matter what difficulties they face. May they always be with us.

Seamus O'Doherty is a member of St. Patrick's GAA Club, Ballyragget.



Kilkenny Fixtures Committee 2017

Back: Sean Breathnach, Tom O'Reilly, Conor Denieffe, Ned Buggy. Front: John Minogue, John Byrne, Martin Gordon, Dan Kenny

Pádraig ticks both boxes.

Kieran Cuddihy meets Pádraig Walsh

The great 'nature or nurture' debate is as old as sport itself. Are great sportspeople bred or are they something that can be acquired through hard work? For Pádraig Walsh, it's impossible to say because he ticks both boxes. As a grandson of Paddy Grace, he's steeped in hurling history and with siblings Tommy and Grace has sought to ensure that history repeats itself. At the same time, he scarcely recalls a time in his childhood when he didn't have a hurl in his hands. Indeed some of his earliest memories are of watching his club Tullaroan competing in the local club championship.

While he's just old enough to remember some of the famous 1994 team finishing out their careers, similar levels of success have to date eluded him at club level.

"Underage we were never really up at the top level with the club. We would always have been around Rionn B or C. We got to a county final alright and a couple of league finals but that was it."

"We were lucky underage to have a few great men over us in Liam Keoghán, Matty Butler and Jim Buggy. I wouldn't have really remembered Liam Keoghán playing with Kilkenny but I did see him hurl for the club a few times later in his career. And I've seen the video of the 1994 County Final a fair few times as well. So we would have had a huge amount of respect for him."

As well as the tutelage of Liam Keoghán, Walsh was fortunate enough to have an older brother in Tommy who was already making waves on the intercounty juvenile scene. When Tommy graduated to hurling senior for Kilkenny, he shared as much of that experience as possible with Pádraig and his young teammates in Tullaroan.

"What was very good for us underage in the club was that a fair few lads who had hurled with the county team used to come in and help out at training. So Tommy used to come along and so did Ken Coogan, Jimmy Coogan and a few more. That was great for young lads as you can imagine. Jimmy Coogan is over us now at Intermediate too. So we've had some great players through the club in the last 10 years or so, even though we probably haven't gone too well on the pitch."

Like so many current and former Kilkenny players, it was at Kieran's College where Pádraig first tasted success.

"Kieran's was brilliant really if you were into hurling at all. We won a Leinster title when I was in second year and then a senior colleges All Ireland in 2010, when I was in Leaving Cert. We hadn't won it for a few years then so it was a big thing for the school at the time. Tom Hogan and Philip Walsh were over the team and we had the likes of Willie Phelan, Cillian Buckley, John Power and Robert Lennon playing for us. So looking back now, it was a very strong team. It would have been disappointing for a team with lads like that not to win an All Ireland really."

So good was that team, that for a long time, Pádraig failed to stand out on it. In fact, he didn't make the Kilkenny under 16 panel so there were question marks over what role he might eventually have for the county minors.

Ultimately though, he played himself onto the minor panel and not in an undramatic fashion.

"What actually happened was that I was playing with the under

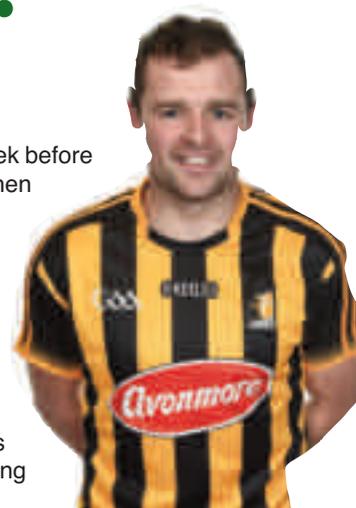
17 team at a tournament the week before the minor All Ireland. And when I came back from that, I got a phone call asking me to join the minor panel for the All Ireland. It was amazing really."

That was the 2009 final, which Kilkenny eventually lost to Galway. While the experience was short lived, Pádraig feels that it stood to him the following year.

"I had the taste for it then and it gave me a big boost I felt going into 2010. I had been in there, even though it was for a short time, and in a way, I knew a little bit about what to expect. So I didn't have the same nerves as maybe some of the other lads had getting called up."

The 2010 All Ireland decider pitted Pádraig and his teammates against Clare, a game Kilkenny eventually won by 2 points. "That was some Clare team looking back now. They had Tony Kelly, Podge Collins and all these lads who played a big part in that All Ireland win for Clare in 2013. Sure most of them went and won three under 21 titles in a row too. So it shows you what an achievement it was to win that year."

With All Ireland minor success, came the inevitable step up to under 21 level and from there, the progression into the senior



4 November 2016; Kilkenny hurler Pádraig Walsh with his award at the 2016 GAA/GPA Opel All-Stars Awards.

Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile



Padraig Walsh of Kilkenny catches the sliothar under pressure from Cyril Donnellan of Galway during the 2016 Leinster SH Final. *Ray McManus/Sportsfile*

ranks. That was in 2012 and for Padraig, the fact that he had company at that first training session settled the obvious nerves.

“I actually got called in the same time as Walter Walsh so it was grand to have a fella along with me. The two of us were a bit apprehensive I suppose but you’d be mad keen to impress all the same, mad to get ball.

“I didn’t really feature that year but Walter got in for the All Ireland replay and was Man of the Match on the day. That drove me on in a way. I had come in with him and there he was winning an All Ireland and playing that well. I thought sure if he could do it, I could do it too.”

His full Kilkenny debut would ultimately come the following year in the National League against Waterford. Padraig came on as a substitute after Jackie Tyrell was forced to retire with an injury. His second appearance for Kilkenny followed in a similar vein after JJ Delaney got injured against Clare. Replacing such high profile players was a boost to Padraig’s confidence and now he looks back on those moments as pivotal in his own development.

“That was a confidence boost alright that you’re going into replace these lads that are so important. It gives you a belief in yourself and you start to see yourself a little bit at the top level.

“But still you’d be looking up to lads at training. I would have been used to watching the likes of JJ, Henry, Larks and Hogie from the stands and here I was alongside them. It was surreal I suppose to be in the dressing room with them. And then you don’t want to lose that spot so it drives you on to work harder.

In the wake of Jackie Tyrell’s autobiography this year, much has been made about the ferocity of the Kilkenny training session and Padraig finds it hard to disagree. “The training was savage, a huge step up from under 21. It takes everyone a little bit of time to get used to it but when you do, it’s great training. You just have to be training that hard these days if you want to compete at all.”

2013 would end in failure for Kilkenny at the semi final stage to Cork though it was not until 2014 that Padraig became more of a fixture on the team. That year, he picked up a National League medal with victory over Tipperary and a Leinster title two months later after beating Dublin. Despite playing an important role in those games, Padraig found himself out of favour when it came to the All Ireland decider in September.

“I was actually dropped for the All Ireland final, the first match against Tipp. To be honest, I hadn’t been going well in training. I was in the forwards at the time and Walter and Richie Power were just flying it. So myself and Mark Kelly lost out.

“But I was lucky that Bubbles (John O’Dwyer) missed that free at the end because it gave me a chance to get back in there. Myself and Kieran Joyce then got put in for the replay. That was obviously special, it was amazing. I think maybe getting dropped for the first match made it that bit better too. I nearly lost out on the chance to win an All Ireland on the pitch so to do it, was great.”

2015 saw Padraig further cement his place on the team as he helped Kilkenny retain their All Ireland crown and while 2016 ended in disappointment, he did pick up his first All Star award.

2017 however, is a year he’d prefer forget. “This year was bad, no doubt about it. I don’t know what it was but we never got going at all. We went well in patches but just couldn’t get into any rhythm for some reason. Injuries were part of it but to be fair, we probably lost to a better team in the end. Waterford deserved it.”

What about the notion that Walsh is part of a transitional team for Kilkenny. Not a great team, rather a team between great teams. He’s not buying it.

“I don’t really get that idea that we’re in transition. You hear that every year. The fact is, when they won four All Irelands in a row, the team was always changing and nobody talked about transition. It’s just something people say when you’re not winning as much. And then a few big names went at the same time which made it all more noticeable but I think we have a strong team, easily good enough to win an All Ireland. There is no point competing at all if you don’t think that.”

And so thoughts turn to 2018. The goal this year is no different than any other year – another All Ireland title. Of course, to do it, Kilkenny will have to play more games than they are used to as a result of changes to the championship structure. Padraig however, welcomes that change.

“I like the new format. I think it could be very exciting. Having Championship games in the Park will be something else, like that game against Tipp back in 2013. Even though it’s a round robin format, it might add some excitement to it all knowing that teams will be turning up for games needing a win to progress or to avoid relegation. It’ll be a bit like the last round of club league fixtures here in Kilkenny most years, with teams all playing for something. So I’m looking forward to it anyway.”

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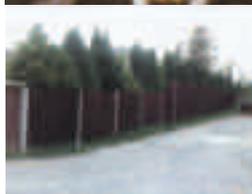
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BRITISH ISLES FOOTBALLING GLORY

Football Report by Michael O'Leary



KILKENNY - BRITISH JF CHAMPIONS 2017

For the second time in three years, the Kilkenny Junior Footballers won the British Junior Championship when easily defeating Warwickshire in the Final. Kilkenny began the competition with a comprehensive 4-17 to 0-8 victory over Scotland, before enduring much stiffer challenges when narrowly overcoming Warwickshire, before defeating Lancashire by 1-14 to 0-15 in the All-Ireland Semi-Final.

That victory set-up a British Final showdown against Warwickshire after Warwickshire defeated London in the other Semi-Final 3-12 to 0-11.

The final was much more comprehensive than the clash between the two teams in the group stages.

Kilkenny easily won the final 3-16 to 1-6 which was played in Birmingham.

After winning the British Junior Championship, Kilkenny set-up an All-Ireland Junior Semi-Final clash with Meath who won the Leinster Championship.

A good first-half showing saw Kilkenny trail by only three points at the interval, before a strong second-half saw Meath turn on the accelerator as they won out 2-21 to 2-8.

There was a lot of commitment in travelling over and back to the UK over a 6 week period, and coming back home to Ireland on the day of the game itself which indeed was challenging.

Two stalwarts of Gaelic Football in Kilkenny, Tom O'Reilly and Pat Mulrooney left no stone unturned in getting everything sorted and ensured that everything went smoothly for each playing member and management.

The last three years has certainly been an enjoyable experience for the Kilkenny footballers winning two British Junior Championships, and entering the competition has certainly been a beneficial experience and gives them something to aim for in terms of winning silverware.

KILKENNY SQUAD: JJ Sullivan (St. Patricks Ballyragget), James Mackey (Windgap), Richard O'Hara (Thomastown), Joe Fennelly (Mullinavat), Pat Hartley (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Patrick McConigley (Railyard), Ger Malon (Mullinavat), Michael Malone (Mullinavat), Tom Aylward (Mullinavat), Philip Roche (Railyard), James Culleton (Mullinavat), Tom Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Bill Sheehan (Dicksboro), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat), David Kelly (Rower-Inistioge), John Mansfield (Railyard), Tom Kenny (Dicksboro), James Nolan (Clara), Ronan Coffey (Kilmaganny), Eddie Moylan (Dicksboro), Cian O'Donoghue (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Michael Jones (Mullinavat), Conor Joyce (Rower-Inistioge), Daragh Brennan (Carrickshock), James Power (John Lockes, Callan), John Walsh (Rower-Inistioge), Conor McDonald (Railyard).



Mullinavat Captain Tom Aylward receiving trophy from JJ Kavanagh (Sponsor) and Tom O'Reilly (Chairman Football Board)

VAT STROLL TO SENIOR GLORY

Mullinavat strolled to County Senior Final success when easily defeating Railyard 3-12 to 2-5 to regain the title they previously and put a halt to Railyard's recent run of County titles.

The County Champions drew their Quarter-Final clash with Clara at 1-11 each before winning the replay 2-9 to 1-7.

In the other Quarter-Finals, Kilmoganny defeated St. Patricks Ballyragget 0-9 to 0-5, Railyard defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 2-16 to 1-4, while James Stephens defeated Dicksboro 1-6 to 0-7.

Mullinavat defeated Kilmoganny 3-7 to 0-8, while Railyard qualified for the final after having received a walkover off James Stephens.

In the County Final itself, played in late August, Mullinavat made a blistering start and they built up a 2-6 to 0-1 lead at the interval.

However, Railyard stormed back and narrowed the gap to just three points by



Mullinavat - County SF Champions 2017

Back: Simon Alyward, Liam Fennelly, Gavin Maher, Joe Fennelly, Ger Malone, Brian Phelan.
Middle: Pdraig Gahan, Willie O'Dwyer, Ryan Bland, Mark Mansfield, James Brennan, Michael Malone, Conor Frisby, Thomas Alyward, Aron Tynan, James Culleton, Sean Brennan, Nathan Malone, Damien Alyward.
Front: John Walsh, Darren Kenneally, Adam Mansfield, Michael Jones, Killian Dunphy, Conor Duggan, Jack Byrne Doyle, Ian Duggan, Jamie Fennelly, Jack Walsh.



Railyard - County SF Finalists 2017

Back: Cormac McDonald, Patrick Brennan, Ciaran Farnan, Colin Phillips, Paul O'Neill, Colm Moran, Noel Raftery, Paul Roche, Eoin Regan, Tom Buggy.
Middle: Ronan Walsh, Conor McDonald, Ozzie Roche, Brian McDonald, Ultan Walsh, John Mansfield, Kevin Phillips, Fergal Brennan, David O'Neill, Paul Kelly, Michael Mooney (Manager).
Front: Aidan Barry, Sean Dowd, Paddy McConigley, Ciaran Whelan, Caleb Roche, Conor Delaney, Philip Roche, Cathal Barry, Eddie Roche, Noel Roche.

the end of the 3rd quarter, before Mullinavat regained supremacy and control and a 3rd goal scored by John Walsh killed off the Railyard challenge as they ran out resounding winners.

There was compensation for Railyard in the League Semi-Final as they defeated Mullinavat 1-11 to 1-10, and they set-up a League Final clash with Dicksboro who defeated Kilmaganny 1-13 to 2-5.

At time of writing the Senior League Final clash is still to be played.

INTERMEDIATE HONOURS FOR CONAHY

Conahy Shamrocks won the Intermediate Final when defeating Rower-Inistioge 1-8 to 0-8 in the Final played in the last weekend of March on the Kells Road.

The Champions defeated Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-5 to 0-7 in their Quarter-Final, while in the remaining Quarter-Finals, Erins Own defeated Thomastown 3-3 to 1-4, Rower-Inistioge overcame Piltown 2-7 to 1-7, while Blacks and



Conahy Shamrocks - County IF Champions 2017

Back: Brian Rossiter and Kevin Healy (joint managers) Donal Cass, Peter Dollard, Seamus Og Brennan, Padraic Conway, Daire Connery, James Bergin, Eoin Coogan, Gary Kavanagh, Simon Callinan, Eoin Carroll, Sean Brennan, Alan Healy, Keith Dunne and Declan Buggy.
Front: Tom Nolan, Philly Cass, Kieran Mooney, Tom Mullan, Tom Phelan, Paddy Mullan, Liam Cass, Andy O Keeffe(Captain),Donal Brennan, Michael Bergin, Paul Buggy, Peter Harding, Padraic Delaney, Gary Dunne John Muldowney.

Whites defeated Graignamanagh by double scores 0-8 to 0-4. In the first Semi-Final played on St. Patricks Day, Conahy Shamrocks overcame near neighbours Erins Own Castlecomer by a solitary point 0-10 to 0-9 in Jenkinstown, while the following day Rower-Inistioge defeated Blacks and Whites at home 1-8 to 0-7. The Intermediate Final saw a Kieran Mooney goal give Conahy Shamrocks a 1-3 to 0-5 lead at the interval, before Conor Joyce scored an equalizing point early in the second-half. James Bergin made a massive impact while introduced of the bench and he scored 0-3 including a well-executed '45, while Alan Healy also came of the bench and he played a valuable part also scoring an important point. At time of writing Conahy Shamrocks still have to play their first round game of the Leinster Junior Club Championship against Glen Emmets of Louth. Meanwhile, Thomastown easily defeated Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-17 to 1-0 in the Intermediate League Final.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

The 2017 Junior Football Championship has yet to commence. The 2016 competition was completed in December 20th last, too late for the 2016 Yearbook, so the winners - Tullogher Rosbercon, who defeated Carrickshock by 3-14 to 1-5 in the final, are shown below.



Conahy Shamrocks Captain Andy O'Keeffe receiving trophy from Tom O'Reilly (Chairman Football Board)



Tullogher Rosbercon - County JF Champions 2016

Back: Pat Hartley, Donnacha O'Connor, Kevin Hennessy, Peter Meggs, Liam Walsh, James Ryan, Mark O'Brien, James Murphy, Terrence Croke, John Grennan, Conor Hennessy, John Barron (sel), Brendan Lalor, James Grennan.
Front: Ger Mullally (Sel), Paudie Walsh, Jason Sheily, Eoin Ryan, Declan Grennan, Sean Murray, Cian O'Donoghue, Walter Walsh, Billy Ryan, James Mullally, Mark Lalor.



Carrickshock - County JF Finalists 2016
Back: Ciaran Lennon, Eric Lonergan, Sean Grace, John Tennyson, Pauric Barron, Michael Rohan, Darragh Brennan, Chris Price.
Front: John Power, Seamus Millea, John Cahill, Brian O' Donovan, Jamie Power, Niall Tennyson, Jody Dwyer.



Action from the Senior Football Final



Kilkenny's Chelsea Pensioners at the Football Final

Something to cheer about..

All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship 2017 By Conor Brennan



Members of the Kilkenny team celebrate with the cup after the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final match between Cork and Kilkenny at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in Cork. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Any time an All-Ireland title of any description is secured, it should naturally be a satisfying occasion for all concerned. Though an All-Ireland intermediate title may not rank highly in terms of inter-county honours, Kilkenny's intermediate panel of 2017 will surely look back on their success as a memorable addition to their individual honours. Their two performances en-route to their ultimate victory showed a team with a fine array of talent and no little skill, and when the pressure was on in the All-Ireland Final against Cork, they proved they had the collective determination to secure the county's fifth intermediate title in all, and their second in succession.

Kilkenny began on their way when they proved much too good for Wexford in the Leinster final in Nowlan Park on July 12th. The build-up to the game was somewhat overshadowed by the difficulties encountered by Wexford to secure enough players to make up their panel. As it was, the game opened with Kilkenny well on top in the scoring stakes.

That said, Wexford should have scored a goal early on when a Wexford forward missed an open goal. They did score the only goal of the half after twenty minutes but Kilkenny were able to score points without relative difficulty from the likes of their captain Darragh Brennan, Edmond Delaney, Paul Holden and Robbie Donnelly. They led by 0-15 to 1-1 at half-time and the second half continued in the same vein as the first.

Paul Holden shot Kilkenny's only goal in the 51st minute on an evening when nine players shared in the scoring. Wexford did add some points during the half but it was not enough as Kilkenny easily won out on a 1-26 to 1-8 score line.

The Kilkenny scorers in full from the Leinster Final were:

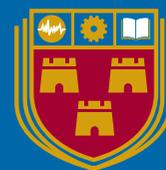
Robbie Donnelly (0-9, three frees, one 65); Paul Holden (1-5); Darragh Brennan (0-5); Sean Carey (0-2); Cormac Fleming, J.P. Treacy, Edmond Delaney, Martin Power, James Power (0-1 each).

The All-Ireland Final against Cork was played as a curtain raiser to the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Quarter-Final between Waterford and Wexford in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on July 23rd. Kilkenny had first use of the breeze that varied in terms of strength throughout the half. Eight times the scores were level during the opening period with little between the teams and the scoring of a particular high quality. Kilkenny led at the break by 0-11 to 0-10, with Robbie Donnelly shooting the dividing point from a free following a foul on Sean Carey.



Kilkenny captain Darragh Brennan lifts the cup. Photo by Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile

STUDY SPORT



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Kilkenny Elite and Gold Scholarship Students:
Katie Nolan, Kevin Kelly and Edwina Keane

However, Cork began the second half with a more positive attitude and opened up a three point lead close to the mid-way point, leading by 1-15 to 0-15. Yet this was when Kilkenny really proved their aforementioned determination with a brilliant six minute spell when they turned a three point deficit into a three point lead. The Kilkenny fightback was launched by Paul Holden when he flashed over a super point from the right wing. Within a minute Edmond Delaney shot a quick side-line ball to midfielder Martin Keoghan, who then hit the target from close range. When corner-back Niall Doherty was fouled after a strong run upfield, Robbie Donnelly popped over the equalising score from a free.

Soon after, Kilkenny plundered the lead goal. Martin Power made a strong run at the Cork goal, and when his shot was saved by the Cork goalkeeper, the ball broke loose to team captain, Darren Brennan, who was tripped for a Kilkenny penalty. Robbie Donnelly subsequently blasted to the net to fire Kilkenny to a 1-18 to 1-15 lead, ensuring a turn around of six points in a mere six minutes.

Kilkenny grew stronger and stronger as the game wore on, and with the help of a second goal from sub Tom Phelan with seven minutes to play, they raced a commanding 2-19 to 1-15 in front, and victory was within sight. Cork did manage to fight back to a small extent with a second goal of their own late on, but it wasn't enough. The winners charged all the way to the finish to claim a famous victory by 2-23 to 2-18. For Kilkenny, Niall Doherty was the man of the match at corner-back, while Martin Keoghan, Edmond Delaney, Robbie Donnelly, Paul Holden and John Cahill were also star performers.

The Kilkenny scorers in full from the All-Ireland Final were:

Robbie Donnelly (1-11, goal penalty, nine points frees); Edmond Delaney (0-4); Martin Keoghan, Paul Holden (0-3 each); Tom Phelan (1-0); John Cahill, Martin Power (0-1 each).

The Kilkenny Intermediate panel in full was:

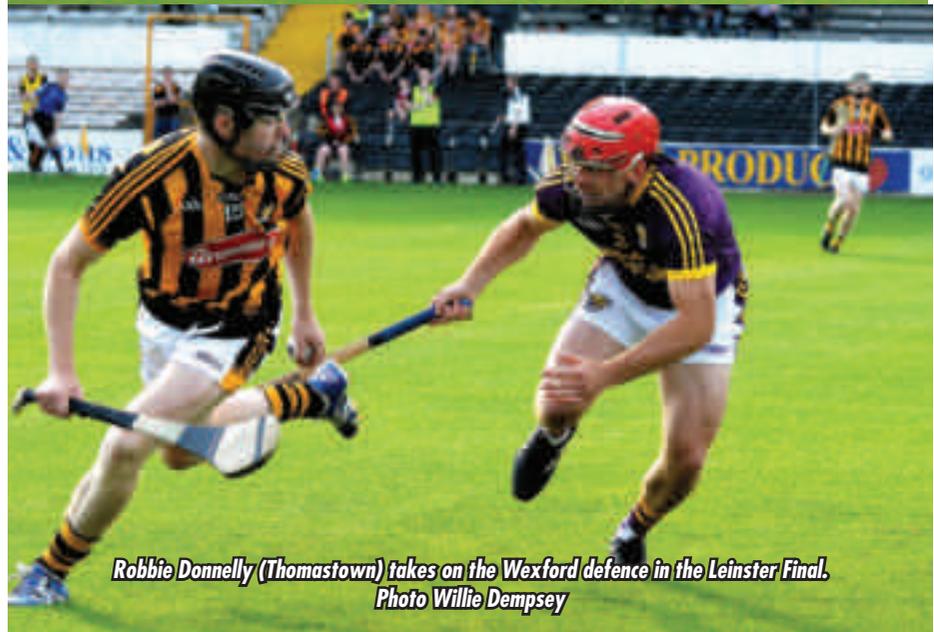
David Aylward (Glenmore), Niall Doherty (Galmoy), Ger Teehan (Graigue Ballycallan), David Prendergast (Thomastown), Barry Whelan (Thomastown), Cormac Fleming (Mooncoin), John Cahill (Carrickshock), J.P. Treacy (Young Irelands), Martin Keoghan (Tullaroan), Paul Holden (Young Irelands), Darragh Brennan (Captain-Carrickshock), Edmond Delaney (Conahy Shamrocks), Sean Carey (Young Irelands), Martin Power (Piltown),

Robbie Donnelly (Thomastown), Darragh Phelan (Emeralds), Eamonn Egan (Graigue Ballycallan), Victor Costello (Dunnamaggin), James Power (John Lockes), Colum Prendiville (Graigue Ballycallan), Liam Hickey (St. Lachtain's), Tom Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Damien Walsh (Carrickshock), Niall Walsh (Windgap), Eoin Moriarty (Emeralds), Simon Rafter (St. Lachtain's), Criomthann Bergin (St. Lachtain's), Sean O'Dwyer (Graigue Ballycallan), Tony Delaney (John Lockes), James Grace (Carrickshock), Kevin Brophy (Piltown), Jack McDowell (John Lockes).

Team Management: Anthony McCormack (Dunnamaggin), Nigel Skehan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock), Dave O'Neill (Graigue Ballycallan), John Brennan (Thomastown), Declan Gahan (Kilmacow).



Barry Whelan (Thomastown) going for Ball with Cormac Fleming (Mooncoin) during the Leinster Final.
Photo Willie Dempsey



Robbie Donnelly (Thomastown) takes on the Wexford defence in the Leinster Final.
Photo Willie Dempsey



Sean Carey and James Power of Kilkenny celebrate with the cup after the Final.
Ray McManus/Sportsfile



Kilkenny - All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Champions 2017

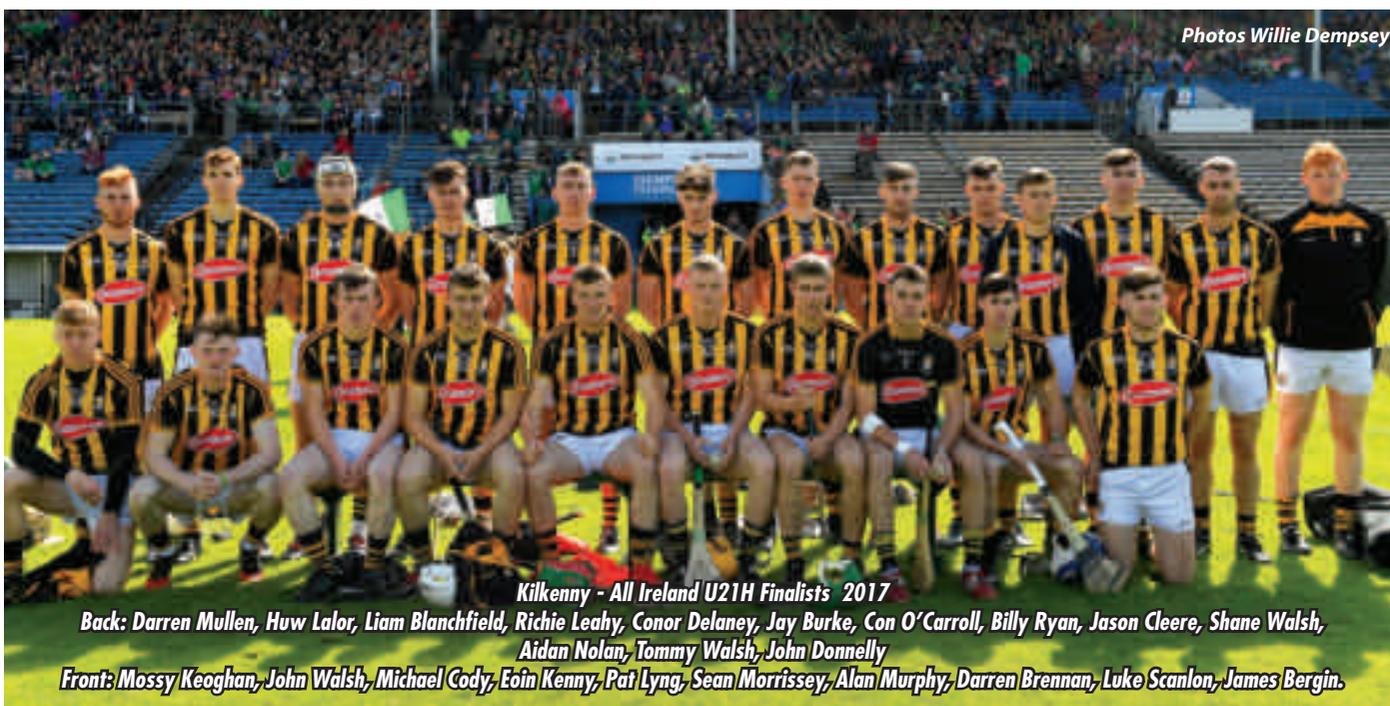
Back row: Darragh Phelan Eamon Egan, Colum Prendiville, Ger Teehan, James Power, Edmond Delaney, David Pendergast, Martin Power, Paul Holden, Sean Carey, Liam Hickey, David Aylward, Robbie Donnelly

Front row: Barry Whelan, Niall Doherty, Damien Walsh, Martin Keogh, JP Treacy, Victor Costello, Cormac Fleming, Darragh Brennan, Tom Phelan, Niall Walsh.

Missing from photo John Cahill Roy McManus/Sportfile

Limerick were not to be denied.

Inter-County U21H Report by Seamus Reade



Kilkenny - All Ireland U21H Finalists 2017

Back: Darren Mullen, Huw Lalor, Liam Blanchfield, Richie Leahy, Conor Delaney, Jay Burke, Con O'Carroll, Billy Ryan, Jason Cleere, Shane Walsh, Aidan Nolan, Tommy Walsh, John Donnelly

Front: Mossy Keoghan, John Walsh, Michael Cody, Eoin Kenny, Pat Lyng, Sean Morrissey, Alan Murphy, Darren Brennan, Luke Scanlon, James Bergin.

Following the shock exit in Mullingar in the very early stages of the 2016 Leinster campaign Eddie Brennan and his selectors of Richie Doyle, Richie O'Neill and Bob Aylward entered the 2017 season with a certain amount of trepidation but equally one of great determination to put Kilkenny back on the map in this important grade. The task was not made any easier when they draw threw up a first round tie against reigning Leinster champions Dublin.

31st May 2017 – Nowlan Park: Kilkenny 0-21 Dublin 0-16

Late points from subs John Donnelly and James Bergin calmed the nerves and pushed Kilkenny towards the winning posts in the Leinster under-21 hurling championship quarter-final at Nowlan Park.

The Cats turned into the last quarter leading defending champions, Dublin by 0-17 to 0-10 after their best attacker, Billy Ryan landed a lovely point. However, for whatever reason the winners failed to drive on and the opposition claimed the next four scores through Colin Currie (2), Donal Burke and Rian McBride to drag themselves back into content. It was game on again.

Donnelly threw over a massive point from virtually on the left sideline to lessen the rising pressure on Kilkenny, and although Colin Currie landed a reply, when Donnelly struck again and Bergin added another the ticket into the semi-final was Kilkenny's.

Dublin finished well and they might have grabbed a late goal, but the Cats had done just about enough.

The main feature of the first half was the poor shooting by both sides. They registered 16 wides, with Kilkenny the worst offenders with nine.

Twice in the early stages the scores were level, but Kilkenny enjoyed the better of things after that. However, they weren't a bit flattered by a half-time lead of 0-9 to 0-7, even after playing against the fresh breeze.

SCORERS:

Kilkenny - A. Murphy (0-7, six frees); B. Ryan (0-5); S. Walsh, J. Donnelly (0-2 each); T. Walsh, S. Morrissey, J. Walsh, L. Blanchfield, J. Bergin (0-1 each).

Dublin - C. Currie (0-9, six frees, one 65); R. McBride (0-3); D. Burke, E. Conroy, F. Whitely, C. O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - D. Brennan; M. Cody, C. Delaney, R. Bergin; C. Doheny, J. Cleere, T. Walsh; H. Lawlor, S. Morrissey; P. Lyng, S. Walsh, J. Walsh; A. Murphy, L. Blanchfield, B. Ryan. Subs - J. Donnelly for L. Blanchfield; L. Scanlon for P. Lyng; J. Bergin for S. Walsh; D. Mullen

for C. Doheny; C. Hennessy for J. Walsh.

Dublin - J. Treacy; D. Gray, S. Barrett, J. O'Neill; C. Hendricken, J. Malone, P. O'Dea; B. Bolger, D. Burke; E. Conroy, F. Whitely, C. Burke; C. Currie, R. McBride, P. Crummey. Subs - E. McHugh for C. Burke; C. O'Sullivan for P. Crummey; C. Sammon for D. Gray; J. McGuirk for Bolger; C. Dowling for C. Hendricken.

21st June 2017 - Mullingar: Leinster Semi-Final: Kilkenny 1-21, Westmeath 1-11

A strong second half saw the Kilkenny under-21 hurlers reach the Leinster final, but the Cats' nerve was certainly tested by Westmeath.

The boys from the Lake County proved to be a stubborn opponent as they fought and harried all the way, but it was Kilkenny's reserve of energy that paid off as they scorched past their rivals in Cusack Park.

Kilkenny made a solid start, bustling their way into an early lead thanks to points from Sean Morrissey, Alan Murphy (free) and Liam Blanchfield. Westmeath rallied, but a spell of wides in quick succession raised their frustration levels. They kept plugging away, inching closer to their rivals with scores from the impressive Killian Doyle (0-2), then stunned the Cats when

James Goonery crashed the sliotar to the net, pouncing to snap up the rebound after Kilkenny 'keeper Darren Brennan did well to stop Shane Clavin's 19th minute shot (1-4 to 0-5).



Pat Lyng, Kilkenny captain with Leinster Trophy.

Kilkenny were rattled by that goal and memories of the corresponding fixture in 2016 no doubt kept flooding back. However, Kilkenny responded in style. Pat Lyng fought his way into space on the left, battling through a series of challenges to squeeze the sliotar over the bar from the tightest of angles. They were back on level terms when Alan Murphy put over another free late on, but Westmeath edged their noses in front when Killian Doyle converted an injury-time free. They should have been much further in front, but were guilty of too many wides in that opening half (1-7 to 0-9).

It was a different Kilkenny who took the field for the second half. The addition of Richie Leahy and Darren Mullen added stability and a threat to the side. They kicked on, edging



Aaron Gillane hooked by Michael Cody and prevented from scoring

their way in front by the 41st minute with another Murphy free, but two top class saves from Sean Maher kept Westmeath in the game. The net-minder did well to smother a stinging Liam Blanchfield shot, then did even better to deny Alan Murphy from close range. The saves were a sign of what was to come in the final quarter, however, as Kilkenny upped the ante and surged on. They took control of the scoreboard after that, moving further away with fine points from John Donnelly, Richie Leahy and Eoin Kenny. A late flurry from Alan Murphy, who converted two frees and then smashed home a fine goal, saw the Cats advance to a Leinster final with Wexford.

SCORERS:

Kilkenny – Alan Murphy (1-8, 0-7 frees, 0-1 65); John Donnelly, Sean Morrissey (0-3 each); Pat Lyng, Richie Leahy (0-2); Luke Scanlon, Liam Blanchfield, Eoin Kenny (0-1 each). Westmeath – Killian Doyle (0-8, 0-6 frees); James Goonery (1-0); Niall Mitchell (0-3).

Kilkenny - Darren Brennan (St Lachtain's); Michael Cody (Dunnamaggin), Conor Delaney (Erin's Own), James Burke (Thomastown); Conor Doheny (Dicksboro), Jason Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan); Luke Scanlon (James Stephens), Pat Lyng (Rower-Inistioge); Alan Murphy (Glenmore), Sean Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), Billy Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan); Liam Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), John Donnelly (Thomastown), Shane Walsh (Tullaroan). Subs: Darren Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks) for Doheny, 31 mins; Richie Leahy (Rower-Inistioge) for S. Walsh, 31 mins; Eoin Kenny (Slieverue) for Blanchfield, 43 mins; Ryan Bergin (John Lockes) for Burke, 57 mins; Conor Hennessy (Tullagher-Rosbercon) for Donnelly, 60 mins. Westmeath - Sean Maher; Sean Quinn, Conor Shaw, Darren Giles; Naoise McKenna, Darragh Eggerton, Joe Rabbit; Michael Daly, Shane Clavin; Darragh Clinton, Killian Doyle, Niall Mitchell; James Goonery, Jack Galvin, Ciaran Doyle. Subs: Darren Finn for Rabbit, 46 mins; Johnny Bermingham for Goonery, 57 mins; Adam Loughlin for Clinton, 60 mins.

**5th July 2017- Nowlan Park:
Leinster Final:
Kilkenny 0-30 Wexford 1-15**

A sparkling performance delivered by stars all over the field helped Kilkenny capture the Leinster under-21 hurling title. The Cats picked up their first piece of provincial silverware in the grade since 2012 by picking off 30 points against 14-man Wexford at Nowlan Park.

The turning point, as far as Wexford were concerned, centred on the 19th minute dismissal of Brian Quigley, who was red-carded for a pull on Richie Leahy. All of a sudden Kilkenny had more space in which to flow about the pitch - they didn't waste the opportunity.

Kilkenny made a great start to the game, opening well with points from Billy Ryan, Richie Leahy and Alan Murphy (free) but they were hauled back in when Wexford struck a hammer blow on seven minutes. Stephen O'Gorman did the damage, rising highest to catch Joe O'Connor's probing sideline cut before drilling a low shot to the far side of Darren Brennan's net.

The Cats were quick to hit back. Liam Blanchfield thought

he had scored a goal within 60 seconds when he lofted the sliotar over net-minder Darragh Hughes, but Conor Firman raced back to clear the ball off the line.

Kilkenny kept pressing, taking the lead again with points from Murphy (free) and the impressive Leahy (2), then stretched their lead to four points by the 17th minute when Luke Scanlon and Jason Cleere found room to break forward and score (0-8 to 1-1). Wexford started to claw the deficit back, but Quigley's dismissal left them a little stretched in defence. The Cats used the extra man to widen the pitch and string together a good run of points that took them well clear of their rivals.

With the likes of Leahy, Sean Morrissey and John Donnelly to the fore, Kilkenny began to put distance between the sides. They kept driving, with late scores from Billy Ryan and Liam Blanchfield helping them to establish an eight-point cushion at the break (0-17 to 1-6).

Played in warm conditions it wasn't a surprise to see the teams open at a slower pace in the second half, but Kilkenny kept working on their lead. Although Joe Coleman shaved two points off the deficit with early frees, sub James Bergin (0-2) and Richie Leahy kept Kilkenny comfortably ahead. The Cats didn't let up in the final quarter, finding space in which to fire over more points. Midfielders Luke Scanlon and Pat Lyng weighed in with scores, as did subs Eoin Kenny and Shane Walsh. Centre-back Jason Cleere also helped himself to a brace, the latter coming in the last act of the game, as Kilkenny cruised to the title.

Scorers: Kilkenny: Richie Leahy 0-5; Alan Murphy 0-5f (5f); Luke Scanlon 0-4; James Bergin 0-3 (3f); Jason Cleere 0-3; Billy Ryan, Sean Morrissey, John Donnelly 0-2 each; Liam Blanchfield, Pat Lyng, Eoin Kenny, Shane Walsh 0-1. Wexford: Joe Coleman 0-5 (5f); Stephen O'Gorman 1-0; John Doyle 0-2 (1f); Cathal Dunbar, Rory O'Connor 0-2 each; Joe O'Connor, Cormac Moore, Darren Codd 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: Darren Brennan; Michael Cody, Conor Delaney, James Burke; Darren Mullen, Jason Cleere, Tommy Walsh; Luke Scanlon, Pat Lyng; Alan Murphy, John Donnelly, Sean Morrissey;



Kilkenny U21 Selectors 2017 - Bob Aylward, Richie Dotle, Eddie Brennan (Manager), Richie O'Neill

Richie Leahy, Liam Blanchfield, Billy Ryan. Subs: Ryan Bergin for Burke (31), James Bergin for Murphy (39), Eoin Kenny for Blanchfield (44), John Walsh for Ryan (50), Shane Walsh for Donnelly (57).

Wexford: Darragh Hughes; Conor Firman, Darren Byrne, Shane Reck; Brian Quigley, Aaron Maddock, Gary Molloy; Joe O'Connor, Rowan White; Sam Kelly, Rory O'Connor, Joe Coleman; Cathal Dunbar, Stephen O'Gorman, Harry O'Connor. Subs: Jake Firman for Kelly (31), Darren Codd for H. O'Connor (35), John Doyle for Coleman (40), Cormac Moore for White (45), Darragh Pepper for O'Gorman (48).

**19th August 2017 – Semple Stadium:
All Ireland Semi-Final:
Kilkenny 8-35 Derry 0-7**

In the context of the Under 21 Season this contest did little for either team. Surprise Ulster champions Derry were totally outclassed by Kilkenny and the game was very poor preparation for a Kilkenny side destined to meet high flying Limerick in the final three weeks later. In contrast, Limerick and Galway played out a thrilling semi-final in the second game in Thurles that Saturday afternoon with Limerick qualifying for the final on a 2-23 to 2-19 score-line.

Kilkenny: Darren Brennan, Michael Cody, Conor Delaney, Niall Mc Mahon, Darren Mullen, Jason Cleere, Tommy Walsh, Luke Scanlon, Huw Lawlor, Richie Leahy (Capt), John Donnelly, Sean Morrissey, Shane Walsh, Liam Blanchfield, Billy Ryan. Subs: Alan Murphy, Ryan Bergin, Shane Ryan, Aidan Nolan, Martin Keoghan, John Walsh, Eoin Kenny, Conor O'Carroll, James Bergin.

Scorers: S Walsh 2-7 (0-4f), J Donnelly 1-7, L Blanchfield 0-6, B Ryan 2-0, E Kenny, R Leahy, L Scanlon 1-1 each, A Murphy 0-4 (0-1f), J Walsh 0-3, N McMahon, D Mullen, H Lawlor, S Morrissey, R Bergin 0-1 each

**9th September 2017 – Semple Stadium:
All Ireland Final:
Kilkenny 0-11 Limerick 0-17**

Limerick underage teams are becoming accustomed to dealing with high expectations and a second title at this grade in three years was met by a great green and white roar in Thurles. A huge Limerick support made up the majority of the 15,485 crowd and they gleefully celebrated a deserved success. For much of the past decade Limerick's Academy system has produced a raft of talented hurlers, who are beginning to acquire silverware on the national stage.

Pat Donnelly's charges governed vast chunks of the opening period with their self-sufficient forward line causing Kilkenny plenty of bother. By the time the interval rolled around Limerick led 0-11 to 0-4 which was an accurate reflection of their supremacy when backed by a significant breeze. There were streaks of Kilkenny defiance with Shane Walsh and Billy Ryan contributing good scores, but Limerick grated impressively. It wasn't all about hard work, though, because Aaron Gillane, Cian Lynch, and Barry Nash demonstrated some flashes of real class up front.

Shane Walsh rifled over an early point for Kilkenny, but Limerick responded impressively reeling off seven points on the spin. That was a seriously damaging spell for Kilkenny, who were battling bravely, but Limerick, prompted by Gillane's precise shooting, were in the groove. Billy Ryan terminated an 18 minute search for a Kilkenny score, but Limerick struck four of the next six points to lead by seven at the turnaround.

Kyle Hayes was safe and sound anchoring the defence, while at centrefield Robbie Hanley buzzed about craving involvement. While Limerick weren't as efficient converting opportunities after the restart they were still doing enough and were 0-14 to 0-6 ahead by the 47th minute. Kilkenny struck five points in eight minutes with Alan Murphy sharp from frees, but Limerick were still four clear as Conor Boylan raised a white flag in that stint. Just as Kilkenny were posing some questions Limerick had the resolve and resilience to locate the answers with Gillane and substitute Oisín O'Reilly decorating the triumph with late grace notes. Limerick weren't going to be denied. All those weekend mornings at UL with the Academy had them prepared for days like these.

Scorers:

Limerick: Aaron Gillane 0-7 (2fs), Peter Casey and Ronan Lynch (3fs) 0-3 each, Oisín O'Reilly, Cian Lynch, and Barry Nash 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: Alan Murphy 0-5 (4fs, 165), Shane Walsh 0-3 (2fs), Liam Blanchfield, John Donnelly, Billy Ryan 0-1 each.

Limerick: Eoghan McNamara; Sean Finn, Darragh Fanning, Dan Joy; Ronan Lynch, Kyle Hayes, Thomas Grimes; Colin Ryan, Robbie Hanley; Tom Morrissey, Barry Nash, Cian Lynch; Peter Casey, Barry Murphy, Aaron Gillane. Subs: Conor Boylan for Cian Lynch (40), Andrew La Touche Cosgrave for Tom Morrissey (47), Oisín O'Reilly for Barry Murphy (53), Lorcan Lyons for Barry Nash (60).



Billy Ryan in action against Wexford.

Kilkenny: Darren Brennan; Michael Cody, Conor Delaney, Niall McMahon; Huw Lawlor, Jason Cleere, Tommy Walsh; Luke Scanlon, Richie Leahy; Billy Ryan, Sean Morrissey, Liam Blanchfield; John Walsh, John Donnelly, Shane Walsh. Subs: Alan Murphy for Sean Morrissey (25), Pat Lyng for John Walsh (HT), Eoin Kenny for Shane Walsh (40), Martin Keoghan for Billy Ryan (41), Darren Mullen for Richie Leahy (45).

As we go to print new Under 21 Manager D J Carey is putting the final touches to his Management Team. Although much of the debate around the 2018 hurling season has centred round the new format to the senior championship there are also changes to the Under 21 Grade with Galway and the Ulster champions now competing in the Leinster Championship. 2017 Finalists Kilkenny and Wexford have byes to the semi-final with Kilkenny scheduled to meet the winners of the Galway v Offaly quarter-final on Wed 20th June 2018. The all-Ireland Semi-Finals, to be played over the August Bank Holiday weekend, will see the Provincial Winners meeting the runners up from the other province.

We are set for a very interesting 2018!



Great endline catch by John Donnelly in the final.



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Hopes for 2018

*Inter County Minor Hurling Report
By Kieran Cuddihy*

After two disappointing years, the Kilkenny minor's journey to regain the Irish Press Cup began on the 8th of April at TEG Cusack Park in Mullingar.

Westmeath provided the opposition in a game that saw Kilkenny claim victory by 27 points. The early signs were ominous for The Lake County when Niall Brennan of Lisdowney found the net on 14 minutes.

Things got steadily worse from there for the hosts and at half time they trailed by 1-13 to 0-3. The second half continued in the same vein with Kilkenny eventually winning by 3-22 to 0-4, thereby setting up a second round meeting with Wexford in Nowlan Park. The Cats rarely looked troubled in that encounter, despite the best efforts of Ross Banville. The Wexford free taker scored from five placed balls in the first half. He was however outshone by Kilkenny's Adrian Mullen who helped Kilkenny go into the break with a four point advantage.

Early second half points from Sean Ryan and Ted Drea added to Kilkenny's lead before they all but seized victory when Mullen took advantage of a long range delivery and rifled the sliotar to the net. Ultimately the game ended Kilkenny 1-20 Wexford 0-11.

That victory meant a provincial quarter final was avoided and Kilkenny's next outing was on May 13th against Laois in O'Moore Park.

Playing into the strong wind blowing towards the town end, Kilkenny enjoyed a great start. The first of six goals came in the third minute, courtesy of Ballyhale's Mullen. Other strong performances from the likes of Niall Brassil and John Dowd helped the Cats to a five point advantage at the break.

Laois's problems were compounded early in the second half when they were reduced to 14 men and from that point it never looked likely that they would be able to mount a comeback. A goal rush in the closing ten minutes ensured that Kilkenny booked a place in the Leinster decider on July 2.

As defending champions, Dublin went into that match with high hopes of retaining their provincial crown but despite putting



*Kilkenny captain Adrian Mullen lifts cup after the Electric Ireland Leinster GAA Hurling Minor Championship Final match between Dublin and Kilkenny at Croke Park in Dublin.
Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile*



Kilkenny - Leinster MH Champions 2017

Back: Eoin O'Shea, James Brennan, Brian Staunton, Killian Egan, Adrian Mullen, John Dowd, Niall Brennan, Jim Ryan, Conor Heary, Darragh Walsh, Jesse Roberts, Conor Flynn, Sean Ryan, Ben Maher, Luke Murphy, Eoghan Moylan, Ross Connolly, Ted Drea, Evan Shefflin

Front: John Manogue, Eoin Cody, Tommy Ronan, Michael Carey, Niall Brassill, Mikey Butler, Jordan Molloy, Jack Kelly, Daithi Barron, Dean Mason, Oisín Phelan, Richie Hennessy, Sean Boyd.



Action from the All Ireland MH Semi-Final v Galway
Willie Dempsey

Kilkenny under pressure in the closing stages, the title ultimately went Noreside.

Not for the first time this year, Kilkenny enjoyed a dream start, with back-to-back goals by Adrian Mullen and his colleague on the full-forward line, Sean Ryan during the opening four minutes. However, the Dubs kept on hurling and found themselves only three points down at the break.

Mullen again was on the scoresheet early in the second half before Ryan created an opening and found the net in the 37th minute. From that point on, Kilkenny slowly extended their lead to clinch their 57th provincial title by 3-15 to 1-17.

Having already improved on their exploits in 2016, the Cats were one win away from a 43rd All Ireland minor hurling final appearance. Unfortunately, eventual champions Galway stood in

their way.

Kilkenny started that game brightly. After conceding the opening point, Jim Ryan finished a good move to the net and despite playing against the wind, maintained that one goal advantage until the half time interval.

The second half was to prove a tight affair, with both teams trading scores right throughout the 30 minutes. Indeed, as the game entered injury time, it looked like a replay might be on the cards. However, a 63rd minute score from Enda Fahy for the Tribesmen ensured a dramatic victory.

For the third year in succession, Kilkenny would be returning home without an All Ireland but given the narrow nature of their defeat, hopes will be high for 2018.



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'Titch' Phelan

– a man steeped in the game.

Interview with Michael Phelan
Richard Holden

It is now an established tradition that the GAA honour the All-Ireland hurling and football champions from twenty-five years ago, on All-Ireland Final day. This year, the Kilkenny team of 1992/1993 were honoured and amongst their number was Glenmore's Michael 'Titch' Phelan, who formed a very successful midfield partnership with Tullaroan's Bill Hennessy.

I asked Michael how his interest developed for the game. 'We had a very good teacher in primary school, Mr. Lynch who hailed from Kerry. Then, I got a taste of success when Glenmore won the Under-12 League and Championship double, where I played on goal. I played at midfield then moving up the grades for the club and also with the school, Good Counsel! I then enquired about his under-age career with Kilkenny. 'In 1985, I was on the minor team which reached the Leinster Final but we lost to Wexford having had a goal by Pat Hoban ruled out in the last few minutes which would have put us ahead. Then, I played for three years at Under-21 reaching the All-Ireland Final in my last year- 1998 where we lost heavily to Cork.'

The seniors came calling then and Michael started out in the '87 National League. He would go on to play for over a decade, amassing a fine-haul of 2 All-Ireland senior medals, two League titles and 4 Leinster titles while also collecting an All-Star in 1992. In what was to be his final year, 1998 Michael came on as sub in the Leinster Final win over Offaly but just a week later, while playing for Glenmore, tore his cruciate and this was to result in an untimely end to his inter-county career. 'Unfortunately, I took off the bandage after returning from the doctor and this caused a clot to develop in my leg which significantly delayed my recovery. At the start of 1999, Brian Cody rang me to see if I would go back but the knee hadn't healed and I knew it would not come right for at least another few months. Indeed, I only got to play a few League matches that season with my club and missed our run to the county title.'

When asked for a favourite memory from his playing days, 'Titch' nominates

their first county senior title in 1987 over Shamrocks, 'particularly sweet after losing to our great rivals two years earlier'. 'The All-Ireland club-Final win over Patrickswell also ranks right up there.'

After hanging up his hurl, the genial Glenmore man turned his hand to coaching where he has held a number of roles. In 2009, he took over the reins of the Wicklow senior hurlers after been contacted by the County Board. 'They wanted someone to try and push on and



Michael Phelan of the Kilkenny 1992 All-Ireland winning team who was honoured at the All-Ireland SH Final match between Galway and Waterford at Croke Park in Dublin. Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

FACTFILE	
Age:	50
Occupation:	Glanbia Yard Manager
HONOURS	
Club:	5 SHC; 2 Leinster Club SH 1 All-Ireland club SH
County	1 Leinster U-21H; 4 Leinster 2 All-Ireland SH; 2 NHL 1 All-Star

develop
t h e
hurling

scene further. There were plenty of willing hurlers and you certainly couldn't fault them for effort but they were at a level that was going to be hard for them to make a lot of progress in the short-term. I enjoyed my time with them but decided to leave at the end of the season, due to work commitments and spending time away from a young family.' Michael has also trained a number of club teams, including two spells with Glenmore, Piltown-where they reached a Junior Co. Final, Danesfort, Ballyduff Lower in Waterford-who reached a senior semi-final and Wexford's Clongeen.

I asked Michael what changes had he noticed in the game today compared to his own playing days. 'I find there is too much emphasis now on drills-the ball and hurl should always be the most important. There is also too much of an emphasis

on development squads; while they may be of some benefit, some players may think they are better than they actually are by virtue of been in one of these squads and the clubs are also affected by not seeing enough of their players.'



Titch takes a breather during the 1993 Final. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

'At under-age level, any bit of natural talent is been trained out of a player, they should be encouraged to use their own skill and initiative and think their way through a game. The game should be an enjoyment not a chore.' I asked about social media and was this an added pressure for players today. 'Social media can be good but your whole life could revolve around it, any step out of line could be on camera. When we played, you had more time to switch off.'

The Glenmore stalwart is also concerned about the more defensive route the game is taking. 'Kilkenny under Brian Cody have tried to play their own game but find they are been strangled and the same calibre of players is not there now. My biggest worry is clubs copying it, some clubs are playing this way purely to hold on to their junior or intermediate status, and my view is what's the point in just playing the game for that. They would be better off having a go



*Kilkenny - 1993 All Ireland SH Champions. Michael Phelan back left.
Photo Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE*

and even if they do go down, maybe that is the right grade for them and they can have a better chance of success.'

Next year will see a new hurling format, and I asked Michael did he agree with the changes. 'It is a hard one to call until you see how it works out. Kilkenny's suggestion to delay it by a year and see how the 'Super 8' changes worked in the football might have been good. However, when you see the draw it looks good. A lot though will be crammed in and it is hard to see inter-county managers giving all the players back to their clubs with the risk of injury. The one thing I definitely don't agree with is bringing the All-Ireland Final forward. I thought September was ideal, there will be less exposure for hurling with no inter-county games between the end of August and December.'

I asked Michael about Kilkenny's chances for next season and which players would he like to see given an opportunity. 'I would like to see Richie Reid tried out the field, he looks a decent prospect. I try to get to a good few club games, and the elder statesmen still seem to be the main ones playing well. In one way, it might have been a good time for Brian Cody to step away after last year's All-Ireland Final - no-one would question his record, we were spoiled and I wouldn't like to hear the criticism growing if we had a few lean seasons.'
It was a pleasure to meet such an engaging and passionate hurling man!



Michael (Tich) Phelan (Glenmore) strikes the sliotar into the danger area despite the attempted block by Bill Hennessy. (July 2003)




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Lots of Success for Handballers in 2017

Martin Lalor PRO



Diamond Masters B Doubles 40 x 20 winners - Joe Anthony (Mullinavat) and Billy Love (Clogh) with Handball President Joe Masterson



Silver Masters B Doubles 40 x 20 winners - Willie Holden (Kilfane) and David Bourke (Mothel).



Billy Drennan and Joe Masterson

Looking back on another successful year for Kilkenny handballers, the future of the sport in the county is secure as there was considerable success in the juvenile grades when winning seven All Ireland titles. At adult level, the county captured a number of national titles, but it was the Ladies who came to the fore in 2017 as they won All Ireland titles in a number of championships.

Joe Leads the Way

In the adult championships during 2017, Kilkenny players were successful in winning All Ireland titles in both the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 courts. Early in the year the 40 x 20 championships were completed with the county contesting eight All Ireland finals, winning gold in three of the grades. There was success on the Double for Joe Anthony (Mullinavat) as he captured national titles in the Diamond Masters B Singles and Doubles championships. In his Singles final he defeated Brian Havern (Down) in two tight games, 21-17, 21-18 and in the Doubles decider he teamed up with Billy Love (Clogh), and they comfortably beat Down, 21-7, 21-5. The other All Ireland success was in Silver Masters B Doubles where the Kilfane/Mothel pair, Willie Holden and David Bourke defeated Tyrone 21-17, 21-12.

Kilkenny finished runners up in five other All Ireland finals; Eoin Brennan (Kells) lost to Cork in Minor Singles, 21-17, 21-14, in Intermediate Doubles, Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch) and Brendan Burke (Kells) lost to Tyrone in three sets, 19-21, 21-19, 21-5. In Silver Masters B Singles, Willie Holden won the first set against Monaghan, 21 19, but lost the next two 21-14, 21-6, the U21 Doubles pairing of Brian Mahon (Clogh) and Emmet Landy (Windgap) were beaten by Tyrone, 21-19, 21-13 and in Emerald Masters A Doubles, Eddie Burke (O'Loughlins) and Joe Walsh (Mullinavat) lost out to a strong Antrim team, 21-17, 21-6.

For the first time in a number of years, Kilkenny contested the Open 40 x 20 Doubles semi-final when Kells brothers, Patrick and Peter Funchion, were defeated by Clare in two games, 21-12, 21-17. The adult All Ireland 60 x 30 championships were completed in early October, and once again, the Black and Amber secured a number of titles along the way.

In the Ladies championship history was made when two Kilkenny ladies reached the All Ireland final of the Open Doubles competition. The Clogh/Kilfane duo of Ciara Mahon and Aoife Holden have been to the forefront of the development of the

game within the county. On the day they came up against a very strong and experienced Cork pair, but Ciara and Aoife gained many new supporters with their performance when losing in two sets. Apart from this defeat it was a very successful year for Aoife Holden (Kilfane) as she won the two titles on offer in the Intermediate grade. After defeating Fiona Tully (Roscommon) in a top class Singles final, 17-21, 21-19, 21-13 the two ladies clashed again in the Doubles final. In the Doubles decider, Aoife teamed up with club mate Ailish O'Shea and they eventually secured their position in the Senior ranks when winning a ding dong battle in the deciding set, 21-19. In the Minor Ladies Doubles final, Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane) and Sorcha Delaney (Clogh) were defeated by Clare in two games, 21-10, 21-6.

There was success for local players in the Men's championships as the county played in four finals, winning in U21 Singles and Silver Masters A Singles. In the U21 grade, Brian Mahon (Clogh) had mixed luck during the year. Having lost the

40 x 20 final earlier in the season, he produced some top class performances to win the 60 x 30 Singles championship when beating Ryan Mullan (Tyrone), 21-12, 21-9. He then teamed up with Emmet Landy (Windgap) but they, again, lost out to Tyrone in the All Ireland Doubles final, 21-11, 21-6. In the Silver Masters A Singles grade, Willie Holden (Kilfane) was in top form throughout the championship and completed a great season with a comprehensive win in the All Ireland final against Jimmy McKeon (Cavan), winning 21-5, 21-1. In the Emerald Masters A Doubles final, Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins) and Johnny Brennan (Mothel) fell short of victory when losing out to Limerick in three sets, 14-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Billy Shines on Big Stage

After a great year in 2016 when the county won eight national titles, Kilkenny juveniles continued this great run of success in 2017 when they were successful in winning another seven All Ireland titles, four in the 40 x 20 championships and then



All Ireland Juvenile 60 x 30 winners - Billy Drennan (Galmoy) in U14, Jack Holden (Kilfane) in U16, Amy Brennan (Clogh) in U14



U21 60 x 30 Champion - Brian Mahon (Clogh).



All Ireland U16 40 X 20 Doubles winners - Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill (Clogh) with Handball President Joe Masterson



Ladies Intermediate Doubles 60 x 30 champions - Ailish O'Shea and Aoife Holden (Kilfane)

a further three in the 60 x 30 competitions held in October.

In the prestigious U14 and U16 grades local players were in top form when securing wins in four of the finals. Pride of place this year goes to Billy Drennan (Galmoy) as he continued his upward progress in handball when winning both of the All Ireland crowns available in the U14 grade. In the 40 x 20 decider Billy produced a great performance when he easily outclassed Tiernan O'Rourke (Monaghan) in two sets, 15-4, 15-1. The Galmoy player then confirmed his dominance of the grade in 2017 when he comfortably defeated Tipperary's Rory Grace, 15-6, 15-5 in the 60 x 30 final later in the year.

In the Boys U16 championships, Kilfane and Clogh players secured All Ireland titles for the county. In the 60 x 30 Singles final, Jack Holden from Kilfane confirmed his status as the best player in the grade when he defeated Cork's Dara Ducey, 21-3, 21-4 in a top class display of big court handball.

In the 40 x 20 U16 Doubles final earlier in the year, Clogh duo Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill confirmed their superiority over all challengers when they beat Monaghan's Justas Dambinskas and Konrad Kowal 21-14, 21-12.

There was also success for boys from Windgap and Clogh at U15 as they won both All Ireland titles on offer in the 40 x 20 championships. In the Singles final, Jack Doyle from Windgap came through some tough competition to defeat Sean Doyle (Clare) 15-13, 15-2. In the Doubles competition, the Clogh/Windgap pairing of Jamie Maher and Padhraic Foley secured the title when beating Clare's Sean Coughlan and Cormac Murphy in a

three set thriller, 13-15, 15-5, 15-12.

Keeping the flag flying for Kilkenny girls in the juvenile championships was Amy Brennan (Clogh) as she won the U14 Singles 60 x 30 title when beating Tyrone's Cloda Nic Con Midhe 15-6, 15-8. There was disappointment in the 60 x 30 Girls U16 Doubles final when Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilfane) and Noelle Dowling (Mothel) lost out to impressive Tyrone pair of Caitlin Conway/Elizabeth McGarvey in two games, 21-13, 21-11. This was the second All Ireland defeat of the year in U16 Doubles for Roisin O'Keeffe as she lost the 40 x 20 final, when partnered by Edel Mulholland (O'Loughlins), to the same opposition.

Teams

In the Boys All Ireland Juvenile team events, Kilkenny enjoyed more success when winning four of the six titles that were on offer. In the 40x 20 championships, the Boys U12/13 team of six showed tremendous battling qualities to defeat a strong Cork outfit by one ace, 73-72, and in the U14/15 event the Kilkenny team had a bit more to spare when beating Tipperary 70-52.

Winning Teams

40 x 20

Boys U12/13 - Kyle Jordan, Conor Holden, Daniel Hanrahan, Thomas Sharkey, David Holden, Ronan O'Brien, James Purcell, Michael Brennan.

Boys U14/15 - Eoin O'Brien, Sean Barron, Sean Purcell, Ciaran O'Neill, Gearoid Phelan, John Doheny, Tom Holden, David Quinlan.

2nd Level Colleges Winners

40 x 20

Junior Girls Doubles – Edel Mulholland/Noelle Dowling (Pres SS Kilkenny)

Senior Girls Doubles - Aoife Holden/Dearbhail O'Keefe (Grennan College, Thomastown)

Junior Boys Doubles - Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill (Castlecomer CS)

GAA Handball 60x30 Nationals - Finals

Boys 15&U Kyle Dunne / Billy O'Neill (Kilk) dft Mark Doyle / Josh Kavanagh (Wex) 10-15, 15-4, 11-7

Boys 17&U Jack Doyle / Eoin Brennan (Kilk) dft Ciaran Cooney/Conor Drennan (Kilk) 10-15, 15-2, 11-5

Boys 13&U Jack Glynn / Mikey Kelly (Gal) dft Conor Holden / Kyle Jordan (Kilk) 15-14, 15-6

Girls 13&U Ellen Casey / Chloe Philpott (Cla) dft Amy Brennan / Lauren Power (Kilk) 15-9, 15-11

Girls 15&U Mollie Dagg / Caitiosa NiDhuill (Kild/Arm) dft Noelle Dowling/Sontae Jackson (Kilk) 15-8, 15-0

3RD Level Colleges Winners

60 X 30

Mens Open Singles - Shane Dunne (ITT)

Mens Open Doubles – Shane Dunne / Shane Murphy (ITT)

Ladies Open Singles – Ciara Mahon (TCD)



Ducky's family, Shena, Dylan, Megan and Niamh, his brother Billy, Mary, Elaine and Conor and DJ Carey at the Launch of the Ducky Walsh Memorial Competition

Handball

There was success for Kilkenny in the All Ireland Minor Doubles championship when Eoin Brennan (Kells) and Jack Doyle (Windgap) defeated Mayo in the final.

All Ireland Results

Minor Doubles

Quarter Finals

Kilkenny (Aidan & Cathal Barry) dft Cavan (Cillian O'Reilly/Conor Owens) 21-3, 21-10

Semi Final

Kilkenny (Eoin Brennan/Jack Doyle) dft Kilkenny (Aidan & Cathal Barry) 21-10, 21-10

Final

Kilkenny (Eoin Brennan/Jack Doyle) dft Mayo (Patrick Murphy/Lorcan Conlon) 21-6, 8-21, 21-14

Intermediate Singles Final

Dublin (Keith Burke) dft Kilkenny (Shane Dunne) 10-21, 21-14, 12-4 ret. inj.

Intermediate Doubles Final

Cork (Michael Hedigan/Donnacha O'Dea) dft Kilkenny (William & Daniel Love) 21-6, 9-21, 21-19

Wall Ball

GAA Handball Wall Ball Nationals – Finals

B13&U: Kyle Jordan (Kilk) dft Mikey Kelly (Gal) 15-13

B13&UB: Harry Delaney (Kilk) dft Sean Callan (Mon) 21-12

B15&U: Billy Drennan (Kilk) dft Josh Kavanagh (Wex) 31-1

B15&UB: Tommy McNeela (Gal) dft Phillip Doran (Dow) 23-7

B17&U: Eoin Brennan (Kilk) dft Michael Egan (Ros) 19-11

GAA Handball Wall Ball Championships – Finals

LC: Kilkenny (Margaret Purcell) dft Down (Michelle McCoy) 15-2, 4-15, 11-2

BU17: Tyrone (Dara Curran) dft Kilkenny (Eoin Brennan) 15-9, 15-9

GU15: Kilkenny (Noelle Dowling) dft Tyrone (Mairead Fox) 15-7, 13-15, 11-7

Feile na Gael

Kilkenny enjoyed tremendous success at the Feile na Gael tournament when Kilfane and Galmoy won the Division 1 titles in 60 X 30 and 40 x 20, respectively.

40x20 Boys Finals

Div 1: Galmoy 1 (Kilkenny) dft Tuamgraney (Clare)

Div 1 (Plate): Breacach (Tyrone) dft Windgap 1 (Kilkenny)

Div 2 (Plate): Friary/Abbeyside/Ballinacourty 1 (Waterford)



U12,13 60X30 WINNERS 2017

dft Glenmore (Kilkenny)

Div 4: Boherbue (Cork) dft Kells (Kilkenny)

Div 4 (Plate): Ballydesmond 1 (Cork) dft Galmoy 2 (Kilkenny)

40x20 Girls Finals

Div 1 (Plate): Micheal Breathnach 1 (Galway) dft Clogh (Kilkenny)

Div 2 (Plate): Kells (Kilkenny) dft Cullohill (Laois)

60x30 Boys Finals

Div 1: Kilfane (Kilkenny) dft Ballina (Tipperary)

Gael Linn

For the second year in a row, Galmoy retained the national Gael Linn title when beating Clogh in the final, 80-47. The Galmoy club was represented by Daniel Hanrahan and Una Duggan, while Clogh had Dominic Bolster and Amy Brennan.

GAA Handball 40x20 Junior Nationals - Finals

B13&UB John Doheny (Kilk) dft Kaelan Murphy (Cor) 15-9, 13-15, 11-5

B17&U Eoin Brennan (Kilk) dft Cian O'Driscoll (Cor) 15-9, 15-9

B13&U Mark Doyle (Wex) dft Kyle Jordan (Kilk) 15-3, 15-8

G17&U Megan McCann (Arm) dft Mary Ellen Phelan (Kilk) 15-2, 15-0

Ducky Walsh Tournament

In late July the cream of Irish Handball descended on Kilkenny to pay tribute to the late Michael Ducky Walsh in a one off tournament in his memory. With matches taking place at Clogh, Kilfane, Mullinavat and Talbots Inch in a round robin series in the morning, the focus switched to the Freshford road venue for the semi-finals and final in the afternoon. Before a packed crowd in Talbots Inch, it was fitting that Ducky's time rival,

Tom Sheridan and his partner Brian Carroll won out in a pulsating final against Tommy Hynes and Robbie McCarthy, 21-19.

In September the first presentation of the newly commissioned Michael Ducky Walsh trophy was presented to the winner of the All Ireland Open Singles championship at the finals in Croke Park. A competition that Ducky won on sixteen occasions, the first winner of the trophy was Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath) as he defeated Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) in the final.

TEAMS:

In the Boys All Ireland Juvenile team events, Kilkenny enjoyed more success when winning three of the six titles that were on offer. In the 40x 20 championships, the Boys U12/13 team of six showed tremendous battling qualities to defeat a strong Cork outfit by one ace, 73-72, and in the U14/15 event the Kilkenny team had a bit more to spare when beating Tipperary 70-52. The U12/13 completed a fantastic season when they won the 60 x 30 title by again defeating Cork in the final, 80-53

Winning Teams

40 x 20

Boys U12/13 - Kyle Jordan, Conor Holden, Daniel Hanrahan, Thomas Sharkey, David Holden, Ronan O'Brien, James Purcell, Michael Brennan.

Boys U14/15 - Eoin O'Brien, Sean Barron, Sean Purcell, Ciaran O'Neill, Gearoid Phelan, John Doheny, Tom Holden, David Quinlan.

60 x 30

Boys U12/13 - Luke Flannagan, Kyle Jordan, Conor Holden, David Holden, Michael Brennan, Harry Delaney, Joseph Prendergast and Ronan O'Brien.

Danny O'Connell an early legend

Kilkenny's first great Manager by Liam Burke

Brian Cody and Danny O'Connell as Kilkenny Managers of eleven Senior Hurling All-Ireland winning teams, each stand apart from all others.

Everyone is well aware of Brian Cody's wonderful success as Kilkenny's Manager since 1998, but what may not be as well known is that Danny O'Connell, who was a Kilkenny hurling legend at the beginning of the last century, also managed Kilkenny to eleven Senior Hurling victories between 1904 and 1913 and even up to 1939.

When the County Board appointed Danny O'Connell as Manager of the Kilkenny team in 1904, he had a big task in hand, as the Noresiders had participated in five All-Ireland finals without success. That all changed during the next decade under Danny's leadership when Kilkenny won seven All-Irelands, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, and 1913. Business commitments forced Mr O'Connell to retire as County Board Secretary and Kilkenny manager following the 1913 All-Ireland final, but he stayed closely associated with the GAA at club level and as a referee. When Kilkenny beat Tipperary in the 1922 final (played in 1923) Paddy (Icy) Lanigan and Mick Dalton looked after the Kilkenny team

However Danny was far from finished with hurling at the highest level, and, in 1932, he returned as County Secretary and Kilkenny hurling manager to win the All-Ireland. The Kilkenny Camogie Board was also formed in 1932 and Danny was appointed as Chairman.

Kilkenny also won the All-Ireland in 1933, and again in 1935 and 1939 with Danny at the helm. He retired again following the (thunder and lightning) final of 1939 and many were of the opinion in Kilkenny that if Danny had remained as Manager for another year they would have beaten Limerick in the 1940 final. During this period Danny had two very efficient trainers with him in Mick Dalton of the Watergate and Paddy Parsons of Wolfe Tone Street. Danny O'Connell's secret as Manager was his ability to motivate team members and to make quick changes on the field of play. He also had the ability to spot the making of a good hurler at under age level, and he did not care where the hurler came from as long as he had the ability.

Danny was born in Blackmill street in Kilkenny in 1875. His father was a native of Ballingarry in Co Tipperary and his mother was a Dubliner. From an early age he took a great interest in Gaelic games and was soon to become involved

in every aspect of GAA activity from being a founder member of the Erin's Own club in the City (later known as the Dicksboro club), as well as refereeing both hurling and football. He was elected County Secretary in 1902 at the age of 27 and he held this position until 1913.



As I said, Danny O'Connell is a legend in Kilkenny's hurling history. The fact that his memory is not commemorated by either a cup, a grounds, or indeed a local championship should have been put right long before now.

Danny was father of Danny (Jnr) who lives in Bagenalstown and daughter Kitty who lives in Ballyraffon, Ballyfoyle who was married to the late Jim Rice a founder member and the first Chairman of the O'Loughlins GAA club. Jim was also a trustee of the County Board for a long number of years. Another daughter, Sr Marie Louise, is attached to the Loreto Convent in Rathfarnham in Dublin.

Danny was also a breeder of greyhounds for a time and helped form the Seven Houses Coursing Club in 1922 and held the position of Secretary until the thirties. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Ballyragget Coursing club.

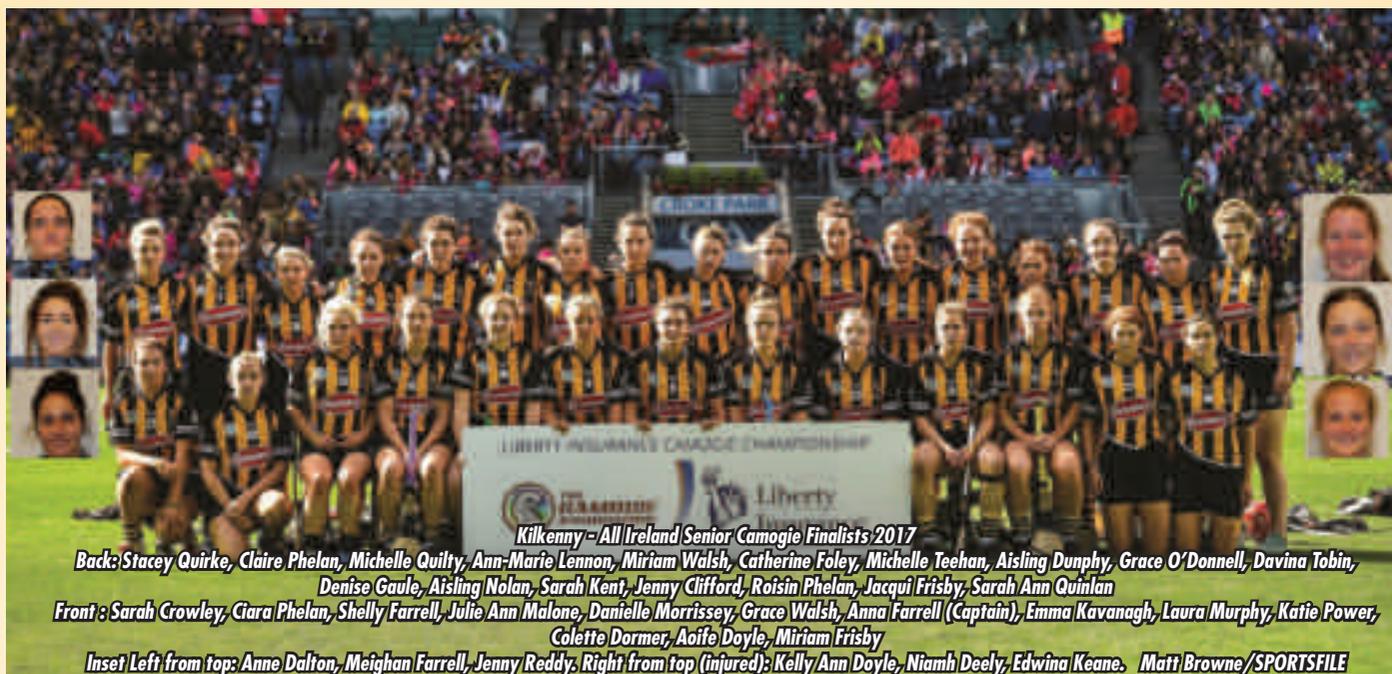
Danny who ran a very successful licensed premises in High Street in Kilkenny died in 1960. He was an uncle of Jimmy O'Connell the Kilkenny goalkeeper of the thirties, brother of Edward O'Connell Town Clerk of Kilkenny for 33 years, also brother of John O'Connell former member of Kilkenny Corporation and William O'Connell who ran a public house at John's Bridge in Kilkenny.



Danny O'Connell stands behind one of his first successful teams - the 1907 All Ireland Champions

Cruel end to a good year..

Camogie Inter-county Year Review by PRO Aoife Ianigan



Kilkenny - All Ireland Senior Camogie Finalists 2017

Back: Stacey Quirke, Claire Phelan, Michelle Quilty, Ann-Marie Lennon, Miriam Walsh, Catherine Foley, Michelle Teehan, Aisling Dunphy, Grace O'Donnell, Davina Tobin, Denise Gaule, Aisling Nolan, Sarah Kent, Jenny Clifford, Roisin Phelan, Jacqui Frisby, Sarah Ann Quinlan
Front: Sarah Crowley, Ciara Phelan, Shelly Farrell, Julie Ann Malone, Danielle Morrissey, Grace Walsh, Anna Farrell (Captain), Emma Kavanagh, Laura Murphy, Katie Power, Colette Dormer, Aoife Doyle, Miriam Frisby
Inset Left from top: Anne Dalton, Meighan Farrell, Jenny Reddy. **Right from top (injured):** Kelly Ann Doyle, Niamh Deely, Edwina Keane. **Matt Browne/SPORTSFILE**

SENIOR

The first league match was a completely one-sided affair with Kilkenny defeating Tipperary 4-13 to 0-8. In the second match, Kilkenny travelled to Gorey to play Wexford and they suffered their first defeat in 10 months, 0-9 to 2-11. Up next, they played Dublin which was another one-sided contest, Kilkenny winning 2-14 to 0-4. Kilkenny travelled to play Waterford in the next match and were 4-point winners, 2-12 to 0-14. In the last group match, they played a strong determined Cork side. After a closely contested match, Cork won by a point 0-12 to 0-11. Even though Kilkenny suffered defeat, they were through to the League semi-final against Galway

After a slow start to the Semi-final, Kilkenny ground out a hard-earned victory, 1-14 to 0-11 to set up a final meeting with Cork. The League Final was played as a double header with the Hurling League in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick. They say 'goals win matches', Kilkenny got two through Denise Gaule & Miriam Walsh and pushed on to win 2-7 to 0-10. They had retained their League title

For the Leinster Championship, they came up against Dublin, the match went to Extra Time

after Anne Dalton had equalised from a free in injury time. Kilkenny came good in the extra 20 minutes and won by 0-15 to 1-9. In the Semi-Final, they faced Meath and they were victorious 2-18 to 0-11. This set them up for a Leinster Final against a strong determined Offaly side. The final was played in Birr. After a closely contested Final, Kilkenny won by a point, 1-14 to 1-13

In their first game of the All-Ireland Series, Kilkenny travelled to Walsh Park to play Waterford. This was a one-sided contest, Kilkenny winning 2-15 to 0-6. Their second game, Kilkenny played Clare, which was a curtain raiser to the Kilkenny/Limerick Hurling 2nd Round Qualifier in Nowlan Park and after a closely contested match, Kilkenny needed an injury time point from Denise Gaule to draw the game, 1-14 to 3-8. They then travelled to Athenry to play Galway in the third game and they upped their performance from the previous match and got their campaign back on track, winning 2-10 to 1-8. In the last group match, Kilkenny played Dublin and after the Leinster Quarter Final going to extra time, Kilkenny expected a tighter contest, but it was a completely one-sided affair which Kilkenny won 3-13 to 0-8. Kilkenny were through to the All-Ireland semi-finals as Group 1 winners and they had to wait until two weeks later to know their opponents following the Quarter Finals. After



Kilkenny captain Meighan Farrell lifts the cup after the Camogie League Division 1 Final Photo by Diarmuid Greene/Sportsfile

these matches, Dublin qualified for the Semi-finals against Kilkenny. This match was a much tighter affair, with Dublin putting Kilkenny under real pressure. It wasn't until the third minute of injury time, when substitutes Jenny Reddy and Jenny Clifford combined, for the latter to crash home a rocket to the net to make sure of the victory, 2-11 to 0-9. This set up a repeat of last year's All-Ireland against Cork.

The All-Ireland Final was a tough contest. After a slow start to the game, which saw Cork leading 0-5 to 0-2 at the break, Kilkenny dragged their way back into the game, then stormed ahead in the closing stages, only for Gemma O'Connor to equalise. Then Julia White struck the winning point as the game ticked into a seventh minute of injury time. It was a very cruel end to a good year for the Seniors



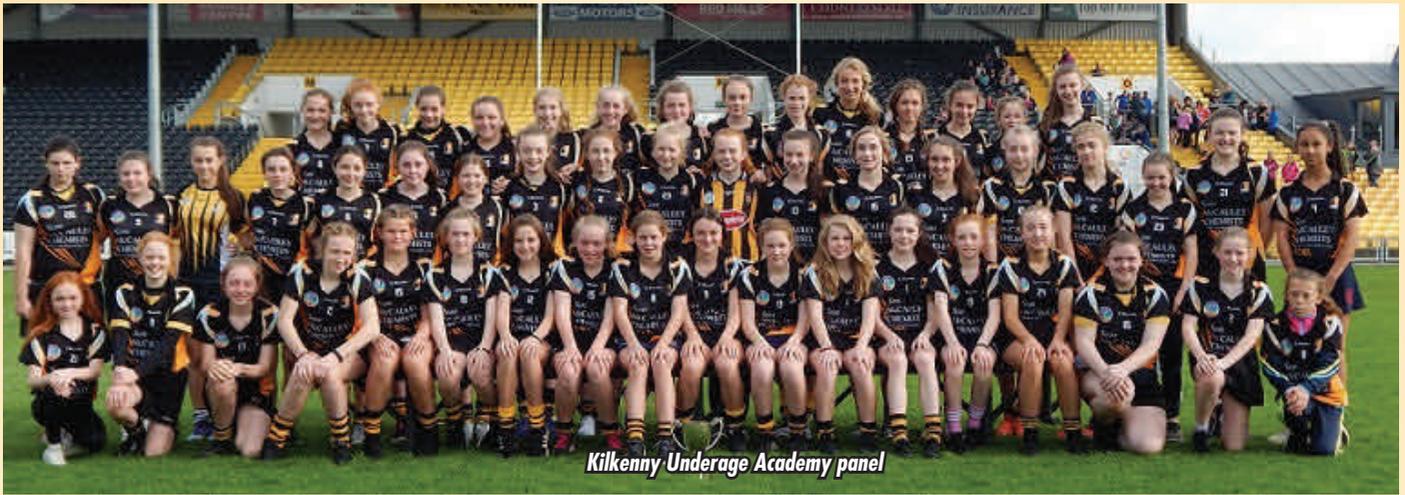
Angela Downey, Kilkenny Manager

Kilkenny Senior All-Ireland Final Team – Emma Kavanagh, Catherine Foley, Davina Tobin, Grace Walsh, Colette Dormer, Anne Dalton, Aisling Dunphy, Meighan Farrell, Anna Farrell, Julie Ann Malone, Katie Power, Denise Gaule, Shelly Farrell, Miriam Walsh, Danielle Morrissey

Subs – Ann Marie Lennon, Claire Phelan, Michelle Quilty, Miriam Frisby, Stacey Quirke, Sarah Crowley, Sarah Kent, Laura Murphy, Michelle Teehan, Jenny Reddy, Jenny Clifford, Aoife Doyle, Roisin Phelan, Jacqui Frisby, Grace O'Donnell

INTERMEDIATE

Kilkenny having won the 2016 All-Ireland Intermediate title had to line out with a complete new outfit for the 2017 season. They began their League campaign against a determined Down side and recorded a two-point victory, 2-13 to 0-17. In their second game against Carlow in Fenagh, they had a four-point win 0-10 to 1-3. They then played Wexford, after being 2-4 to 1-4 down at half time, they came out for the second half a rejuvenated side and took the League points, winning 2-11 to



Kilkenny Underage Academy panel

2-7. Then they travelled to play Derry and suffered a three-point defeat, 2-7 to 2-10. In the final game, they played Laois and they had a 9-point victory, 3-13 to 2-7. With 4 wins and 1 defeat, Kilkenny finished level on 12 points with Derry & Carlow, but lost out on a Semi-final spot on scoring difference

In the Leinster Championship, they played Westmeath in the semi-final and they were defeated after extra time, 5-4 to 3-17

For their first All-Ireland Championship match, they travelled to Enniscorthy to play Wexford and they shared the spoils, 3-8 to 2-11. In their second game, they entertained a very strong Derry side and were defeated 1-7 to 1-13. The team then played a strong Kildare side, who beat them 0-10 to 2-9. They travelled to Tir na nOg, Randalstown to play Antrim in the fourth game and they came away with their first win, on a score line 6-2 to 2-12. In their final game, they travelled to The Ragg to play Tipperary & they were defeated 1-14 to 3-14

MINOR

In the first game of the All-Ireland campaign, Kilkenny played Limerick in Piltown and the homeside won 3-12 to 1-13. Fir their second game, they played Wexford in Enniscorthy and were victorious on a score line 3-11 to 1-3. They played Clare next at home which was a very close encounter, with the Cats prevailing by a point 2-12 to 2-11. In their final match of the group, they played a very strong Galway side, who won 5-18 to 2-15. With 3 wins & 1 defeat, Kilkenny finished level on 9 points with Clare and Galway but lost out on a Semi-final spot on scoring difference

In the Leinster campaign, Kilkenny played Wexford in the Semi-Final & were victorious on a score line 2-11 to 1-7. In the final, they met Offaly and they recorded an excellent 13-point victory to win the Leinster title, 4-13 to 1-9

U17

On the 19th August, the U17 team travelled to Limerick IT, to play in the All-Ireland finals. They were beaten by Cork in their first match, then they regrouped and they beat Clare to set them up for a rematch against the Rebels. They came out on top this time on a score line 3-5 to 1-7 to win the All-Ireland

U16

The U16 were divided into an A & B team
U16A

In the first game of their Leinster campaign, they played Dublin & they suffered a three-point defeat, 2-12 to 3-6 and in their next game, they went down to Offaly 2-7 to 0-8. They finished off their campaign with a 3-point win over Wexford, 2-12 to 1-12, this meant they qualified for the Shield Final where they met Offaly again. It finished 1-9 a-piece and in the replay, Kilkenny came out winners, 2-6 to 1-6

In the first game of their All-Ireland campaign, they recorded an excellent 21-point victory over Limerick

5-10 to 0-4. However, they suffered a four-point defeat to Galway, 3-13 to 4-14 and a five-point defeat to Dublin, 1-12 to 1-7

U16B

In the first game of their Leinster campaign, they played Kildare and they were 6-point winners, 2-2 to 0-2. In their next game, against Laois, they lost by 7-points, 1-13 to 2-3. Their last game was against Meath and they drew 3-6 apiece

In the first game of their All-Ireland campaign, they played Antrim away and they were defeated by the Saffron side, 1-9 to 3-19. For their second game, they played Offaly. In a tough game, it was Offaly that came out victorious, 1-6 to 3-15. In the third game, they played Derry, the Oak Leaf County recorded a 1-16 to 1-8 win and in their final game, they travelled to Meath and recorded a 23-point win, 8-12 to 3-4

U15

The U15 Squads had a good year too. The teams were divided in two teams, A & B

First up for both teams was the Kilkenny Blitz, both teams reached the finals and both defeated Cork. Next up was the Clare Blitz, the A squad beat Tipperary/Cork & Galway to take the honours, but the B squad were defeated in the semi-final

Next up was the All-Ireland Blitz, both teams played very well in their groups and qualified for the final. The A squad defeated Cork to claim the title, but the B squad were unfortunate losing out to a strong Antrim side

U14

One of the highlights of the year for Kilkenny on



Kilkenny U16A Leinster Shield winners



Kilkenny U15 A team



Kilkenny U15 B team

an Intercountry Camogie scene was the performances of the U14 teams. The teams were divided into two teams, A & B

First up for both squads was the Leinster Competition, both teams reached the final, with the A squad defeating Wexford and the B Squad defeating Laois. Next up, was the Cork blitz. Both teams reached the final, but missed out on silverware, both losing to Cork. The Kilkenny Blitz was next, the A Squad beat Cork in the final, but the B Squad didn't qualify for the final. The Wexford Blitz was next to follow and both squads beat Wexford in the final. Then the Squads went to the Tipperary Blitz, the A squad didn't qualify for the final, the B squad beat Cork in the final. This was followed by the Waterford Blitz, again the A squad didn't qualify for the final and the B squad beat Limerick in the final. Then for the All-Ireland Blitz, both squads played very well in their groups and qualified for the final, where both teams defeated Cork to claim the All-Ireland title. It was a very successful year for the squads, claiming nine wins between both sides.



Kilkenny Minor Leinster winners



Kilkenny U17 All-Ireland Champions



Kilkenny U14 A team



Kilkenny U14 B team

Great Year for Thomastown

Camogie Club Season Review by PRO Aoife Ianigan



Thomastown Senior Camogie Champions 2017

SENIOR

The Club Action began in January when Thomastown faced Sarsfields of Galway in the All-Ireland Club Semi-final. In a game that had to have the venue changed due to the bad weather conditions. It was Sarsfields who were victorious on a 0-8 to 0-7 score line

Senior Shield League Final, Rower Instioge were victorious over Clara on a 3-9 to 1-6 score line

Senior League Final, pitted Thomastown against Mullinavat. Thomastown were far too strong for Mullinavat and they ran out winners 3-18 to 1-9

County Semi-final, saw last years finalists Thomastown against Mullinavat and it was Thomastown who secured the spot in the final, recording a 2-11 to 2-5 victory. In the other semi-final, it was Dicksboro who faced Tullaroan. Dicksboro advanced to the county final on a 2-14 to 1-9 score line In the County Final saw defending Champions, Thomastown came up against first time finalists, Dicksboro. Thomastown

made a better start to the game and led 1-7 to 0-3 at half time. Thomastown ran out winners on a score line of 3-10 to 2-5. Victory set up a Leinster Final against St Martin's, Wexford. (Game was not played at time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com)

INTERMEDIATE

The Intermediate County Final had St Brigid's & Clara vying for the title. After a close encounter, St Brigid's won on a 1-13 to 1-11 score line. St Brigid's then began their Leinster Championship campaign at home to Myshall, but they just came up short to the reigning Leinster & All-Ireland Champions on a 1-11 to 2-9 score line Intermediate League Final saw Young Irelands & Conahy Shamrocks in the final. Young Irelands were too strong for Conahy and ran out easy winners 2-14 to 1-3

JUNIOR

Thomastown & St Claire's contested the

Junior League final. Thomastown won 2-14 to 3-7

The Junior A County Final saw Conahy Shamrocks & Blacks/Whites in the final. The northern side being victorious 4-18 to 0-4

Mooncoin & St Claire's battled it out for the honours in the Junior B County Final, with Mooncoin defeating their neighbours 4-9 to 0-8

U21

The U21 Championships were just beginning at the time of going to print. All details of games can be found on kilkennycamogie.com

MINOR

Minor A Championship & League were still underway at time of going to print

The Minor B league final saw Danesfort & St Martin's in the final. In an entertaining encounter, Danesfort came out on top 3-17 to 3-9

Minor B County Final saw a repeat of



Dicksboro - Senior Camogie Finalists 2017



Intermediate County Champions - St Brigid's



Young Irelands - Intermediate League Champions 2017



Conahy - County Junior A Champions 2017



Junior B County Champions - Mooncoin

the League Final participants, but St Martin's reversed the outcome the League Final defeating Danesfort 3-7 to 1-8
 Minor C League final saw Carrickshock/Mullinavat and Clara battle it out for the title, the team from the south were victorious 3-10 to 1-0
 Minor C County final also saw a repeat of the League Final between Carrickshock/Mullinavat & Clara and again Carrickshock/Mullinavat got the better of Clara on a score line of 2-9 to 4-1

U16

U16A League Final saw Thomastown & Young Irelands in the final. Thomastown were too strong for Young Irelands and ran out winners 5-12 to 3-8

U16A County Final saw a repeat of the League Final and again Thomastown got the better of Young Irelands 3-16 to 1-3

U16B League Final saw O'Loughlin Gaels take on St Fiachras, with the city side being victorious 4-9 to 3-6

U16B Shield Final, Windgap and St Lactains featured. Windgap were victorious 4-16 to 2-6

U16B County Final saw James Stephens & St Brigid's vying for the title. The city side came out on top 4-19 to 5-9

U16C County Final featured Clara & Ballyhale Shamrocks in a tough encounter and it was Clara who prevailed after Extra time, 2-15 to 5-5

U16C Shield Final, St Anne's got the better of John Lockes, 4-9 to 2-8

U16C League Final saw Tullogher and Ballyhale Shamrocks battle it out for the title. Ballyhale emerged victorious 3-9 to 2-6

U14

U14A County Final was won by Dicksboro, when they defeated Thomastown in the final, 5-3 to 2-2

U14A Shield Final had James Stephens & Glenmore vying for the title. It ended 1-4 apiece. James Stephens ran out winners in the replay 4-9 to 2-0

U14B County Final featured John Lockes and Emeralds. John Lockes emerged victorious, 4-3 to 3-4

U14B Shield Final featured Danesfort & St Lactains. Danesfort won 3-9 to 4-2

U14C County Final was won by Tullogher defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks 8-5 to 3-7

U14C Shield Final was won by Young Irelands defeating Kilmacow, 1-7 to 1-4

U14D County Final saw Carrickshock emerging victorious over Rower Inistioge 1-3 to 1-2

U14D Shield Final saw St Anne's defeating Mullinavat 4-2 to 2-4



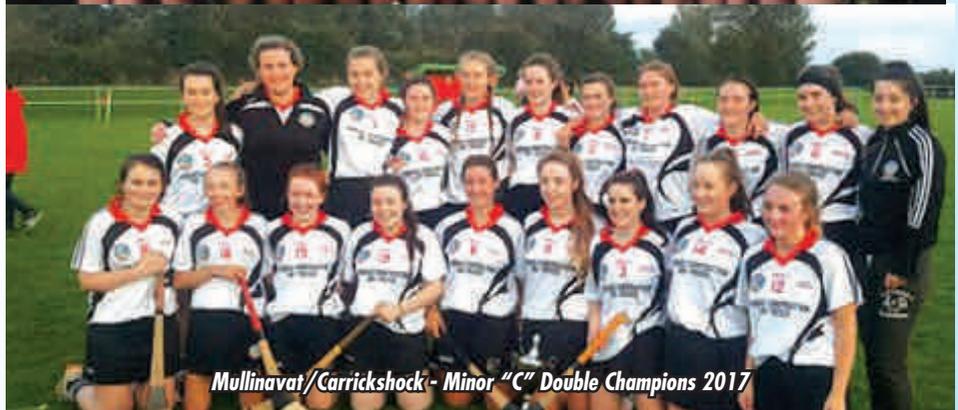
Thomastown - Junior League Champions 2017



Danesfort - Minor "B" Champions 2017



St Martin's - Minor "B" League Champions 2017



Mullinavat/Carrickshock - Minor "C" Double Champions 2017



Thomastown - U16 "A" Champions 2017



U16B County Champions - James Stephens



Dicksboro - U14 "A" Champions 2017



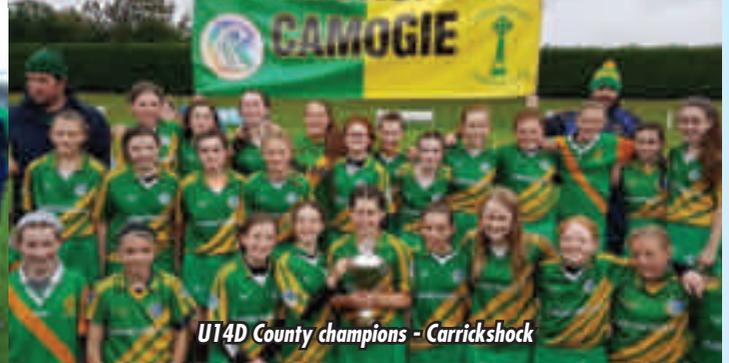
U16B League County Champions - O Loughlin Gaels



John Lockes - U14 "B" Champions 2017



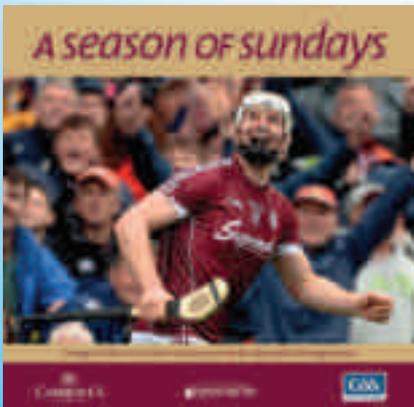
Ballyhale - U16C League Champions 2017



U14D County champions - Carrickshock



Tullogher - U14 "C" Champions 2017



Now in its twenty-first year of publication, A Season of Sundays 2017 embraces the very heart and soul of Ireland's national games as captured by the award winning team of photographers at Sportsfile. With text by Alan Milton, it is a treasured record of the 2017 GAA season to be savoured and enjoyed by players, spectators and enthusiasts everywhere.

**A Great Christmas Read.
Ask Santy to bring it!**



Farrell's happy to write own legacy.

The Farrells of Thomastown by Aisling Dalton



Meighan, JonJo, Anna and Shelly Farrell (Photo by Willie Dempsey)

Part of what makes the GAA such a special organisation is the family dynasties weaved throughout it. Think the O'Se's of Kerry Football, the Rock's and Brogan's of Dublin, and the Cooney's of Galway.

Kilkenny have had their fair share of famous names which have become synonymous with the success of hurling in the county. One could not pass through Ballyhale without saying, "Ah, isn't the home of the Fennelly's?". It would be fair to say that a book could be written on the contribution of the Fennelly's and the Larkin family of James Stephen's to Kilkenny. It is not very often that an exceptional talent is passed on to the next generation, or that a group of siblings share that talent, so whenever it does happen, it can only mean good things for the county and club involved. One thing is for sure, there is a new familial tour de force emerging in

Kilkenny. The Farrell family of Thomastown. Megan, Shelly, Anna, and more recently, Eimear have been part of the success story of Kilkenny camogie in recent years, while their older brother Jonjo has become a regular face on the Kilkenny hurling team. They are also key members of their respective club teams. Their brother, Jonjo has been the part of the Kilkenny hurling panel since 2014 and has two All Ireland medals. He credits his parents encouragement to getting him and his sisters involved with the club which obviously ignited their desire to play hurling and camogie competitively. " My mother and father always brought me and the girls to matches. My mother was playing camogie up until a couple of years ago, so we were also brought to her matches. They always made sure we gave a hundred percent in everything we did. We were always just told to give it everything we had. It probably helped that we always used to play with our cousins



*JonJo Farrell in action in the All-Ireland Championship match v Waterford 2017.
Photo by Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE*



*Anna Farrell in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final 2017.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE*



*Shelly Farrell in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final 2017.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE*

in Wexford, Ciaran and Diarmuid Lyng whenever they would come down for family occasions and we would all play a sport of some sort". No doubt those matches hard wired that competitive streak that helped the Farrells whenever they took to the field.

If we were to examine the family's influence on the county's camogie scene, you could compare the Farrell sister's winning mentality to Angela and Ann Downey, who, coincidentally, are part of a dynasty of their own. (Their father, Shem Downey was part of the All Ireland winning Kilkenny team of 1947 that beat Cork).

When Kilkenny won their first All Ireland title in 22 years last year, the Farrell name was well represented throughout the pitch. Anna and Meghan were partners in midfield. While Shelly was terrorising other counties' defence's at corner forward. According to Anna Farrell, it's truly a family affair. "It's brilliant to have the girls on the team, coming from such a sporting family, and we're all so close, and there is a great comradradrie, and that transcends onto the pitch. The benefit is also having someone in your corner, if you're not going well, if you're under pressure, there's always someone to encourage you."

Fast forward to 2017, and casting a retrospective eye over the county's fortunes in both hurling and camogie, it is fair to say that the Farrell family are still a household name. Kilkenny were literally a whisker away from landing a second title in a row in the senior camogie final. They lost by the most agonising of margins, a point, to rivals Cork and it is possibly hard to take anything positive from the season after such a defeat. Anna however, has opted to look on the bright side and muses that it was the little things that amounted to the loss, "We had a few injuries throughout the year that probably didn't help. The feeling we had in 2016 just wasn't there." However, nothing can take away from the fact that the Farrell sisters had a big part to play in getting Kilkenny to the top. What they experienced in 2016 may just be the tool to drive them on to righting the wrongs of the year just passed. "Whenever you lose an All Ireland, it's always such great ammunition for the next year. It makes you want to experience the feeling of being Croke Park on the biggest day of the year. I think it will be the thing that drives us on, because we know now what it takes to be successful. No better support system to have around you than

your family, especially when they have been the same position.

"We definitely learned a lot from each other, particularly Jonjo. He would have been a big help on the nutrition side of things, what to eat, before and after training. He would go to all of our matches. He was always someone we looked up to. It made us want to step it up and be disciplined on how we look after ourselves, as hurling and camogie are getting more and more competitive and more professional. You see that hard work does pay off as it has with JonJo."

2017 could be considered a strange year for the Kilkenny hurlers. (They crashed out of the championship at the hands of All Ireland finalists, Waterford in early July) It's possibly the earliest marching orders Kilkenny ever received. It's certainly the earliest under Brian Cody. Jonjo believes it is just a part of the process of transition that Kilkenny are going through at the moment. "2017, while it wasn't a disaster, it's not what you come to expect from Kilkenny teams. It wasn't what we set our goal at the start of the year. We didn't expect to be knocked out at the start of the league or in July, so in that sense it was disappointing. From a personal point of view, I was disappointed that I didn't get to play that much throughout the year, after playing a good part of the 2016 Leinster championship, it was just disappointing to get to play as much as I had. I don't know if Kilkenny are transition or not, but if they are, there is a great panel of players there that are capable of winning All Irelands in the near future." It probably be safe to say that for a player that may not have seen in many Kilkenny matches in 2017, JonJo left his mark whenever he was brought on. You could always rely on him to chip in with a score when things were not going Kilkenny's way. Playing with the likes of TJ Reid and Richie Hogan certainly helped bolster the eldest Farrell's scoring ability. Who could forget his performance in the 2016 Leinster final where he scored an impressive tally of 1-04? Fast forward to this year, and while his efforts were not enough to help Kilkenny go further in the championship, Jonjo was still a worthy member of the Kilkenny setup. His leadership helped the county achieve success even though it is going through a tough transition period, and has pointed the way forward for the younger players. Asked what does the future hold for Jonjo himself? He is now concentrating on bringing a county title back to Thomastown. "We were disappointed with how the league and championship went for us last year but hopefully now we can put in a big effort in bringing some silverware back to the club next year."

One thing is for sure, JonJo, Anna, Meghan, Shelly, and Eimear have left their left their mark on Kilkenny GAA, and can stand shoulder to shoulder with all of Kilkenny's family dynasties. It's a special honour, and a tradition that Anna, JonJo and all the rest of the Farrell family are immensely proud to be a part of. "That is what is special about the GAA, it's an organisation that has the ability to bring families together through their love of sport. It is a credit to everyone involved, and something we are delighted to be a part of."



*Meighan Farrell in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final 2017.
Photo by Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE*

WIT 2016-2017 Year Review

2017-18 will see the WIT GAA Club embark on its 36th year. Since its inception, the club has gone from strength to strength and has been successful in various third level competitions.

In 1981 it consisted of one Hurling team playing in Division 3. Currently it has 18 teams competing in 25 competitions each year which amounts to over 130 games across the five codes. The club operates off a 'One Club Model' which means we cater equally for male and females and for players of all abilities and levels. This is an important part of our ethos and helps to welcome and make all players part of the WIT family as it is known.

Today our Hurling, Men's Football, Ladies Football and Camogie teams all compete at a top level in their respective competitions and have tasted great success down through the years. In addition, the club has always strived to provide as many games for as many students as possible, which has resulted in maximum participation among our students. This policy has been so successful that teams from WIT have won a total of 103 titles, including: Division 1 Hurling titles, Fitzgibbon cup trophies, Fresher 1 and Fresher 2 All-Irelands, Ashbourne Cup, Purcell Cups, Division 1 Leagues and numerous Men's and Ladies Football titles. In fact since its foundation, the club has won at least one major title every year. Recent successes include winning the Fitzgibbon cup in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2014, the Ashbourne cup in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013, the Giles cup in 2011 and the Lynch Cup in 2017.

Ladies Football

After a disappointing end to the 2016 Lynch Cup campaign, 2017 turned out to be a memorable year for the WIT Ladies Footballers.

Following victories over UUC2, the Garda College and DIT, the girls qualified for a League Final encounter against UUU. UUU proved a formidable side controlling the game for much of the first half but WIT plucked away a few scores which kept them in contention. At half time, the girls regrouped and came out in the second half guns blazing and came out eventual winners on a score line of 3.12 to 2.8.

February saw the opening round of the championship; first up was a pairing with Dundalk IT at home. The game finished 4.17 to 3.8. Next up was a second meeting with DIT also at home, a game that ended 2.21 to 1.5 in favour of WIT. Two consecutive victories meant the girls automatically qualified for the Lynch cup semi-final, hosted this year in the Centre of Excellence in Mayo. Once again, the girls faced UUU. WIT never really got into the game in the first half and were down by five by the half time break and while the team saw a big improvement in the second half; the WIT ladies found themselves two points in arrears in injury time. With time running out Mairead Daly was fouled in the square and calmly slotted home the resulting penalty to leave the girls a point up. The game ended WIT 2.9, UUU 2.8.

We were pitted against DIT in the Lynch Cup Final. A strong wind favoured the WIT girls in the first half, who looked to be transformed from the UUU game the previous day. The scores soon racked up and WIT led at the break by 1.17 to 4 points. However, a dramatic comeback by DIT in the second half saw them score two well-earned goals. However, the WIT girls were not to be denied and ran out eventual winners by 1.20 to 2.9. Aine Buggy from Muckalee and Miriam Walton from Callan represented Kilkenny on the day.

Men's Football

In the 2016-2017 year WIT fielded three teams; Fresher's, Senior and Junior teams. Once again another "so close but yet so far" journey occurred for the Men's Senior Football Team. So close in the respect that they lost the Trench Cup Final by a mere two points and so far because they have to wait until February 2018 for redemption. Having played in the last three Trench Cup Finals in a row, it really highlights just how close WIT are to breaking into top tier that is Sigerson football.

In this year's final WIT got to have another crack at DKIT after having their hearts broken from the previous year's final. Unfortunately, it just wasn't meant to be and WIT lost out (WIT 1.14, DKIT 3.10).

Hurling

The Intermediate Hurlers had a good win over LIT (WIT 2.11 LIT 0.11) in the Munster Semi Final, however, UCC proved too strong and beat us in the Final on a score-line of WIT 1.10, UCC 0.15. This was certainly a Munster & All Ireland title that got away from WIT, as UCC had a very convincing win over UCD in the All-Ireland Final. The Junior Hurlers regained the Munster Junior Hurling Championship after a very convincing win over (WIT 2.21, UL 0.12). For the coming year lots of excitement builds in the Senior and Fresher camps as PJ Ryan (Fenians, Johnstown) and Alan Roche (Young Irelands) are involved in the Fitzgibbon set up with Pado Flynn (St Martins, Muckalee), Richie Power (Carrickshock), Aidan Fogarty (O'Loughlin Gaels) John Campion (St. Lachtains) and Maurice Flynn (Mooncoin) aiding our Fresher's.

Camogie

Led by Kilkenny greats Ann Downey (St Pauls), Paddy Mullally (Glenmore) and WIT's Conor Phelan (Clara) the WIT girls reached the Ashbourne Semi Final stage but lost out on the narrowest of margins to UCC (WIT 0.7, UCC 0.8). Even though no silverware was attained, it must be mentioned that Julianne Malone (Mullinavat) was a fantastic captain to the WIT side. A huge congratulation must go to Denise Gaule (Windgap) who received the Camogie Association/WGPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award for 2016. Moreover, well done to past and current WIT students Anne Dalton (St. Lachtains) who claimed her fifth All Star Award this year at centre half-back. While at WIT, Anne captained the Ashbourne team to success in 2011, a year that also saw her receive WIT Sport-star of the year. Meighan Farrell (Thomastown) was named at midfield with Katie Power (Piltown) being awarded her third All Star at the centre-half-forward position. Both girls were key players within the Ashbourne set up while at WIT.

Handball

WIT's sole representative at this year's Kingscourt Collegiate Championships in Cavan was Anthony Fitzgerald. Anthony reached the Semi Final, but unfortunately was beaten by Cian Counihan from IT Tralee after a game that lasted for over two hours 21-18 21-16.

*For more information on WIT GAA Club please contact
Katie Redmond (WIT GAA Development Officer), 051-302239 kredmond@wit.ie
Facebook (WIT GAA) Twitter (@WITGAA)*



**Anne Dalton - 2011 Ashbourne Cup Captain
2017 All Star**



Denise Gaule - 2017 All Star



Katie Power - 2017 All Star



Meighan Farrell - 2017 All Star



WIT - LYNCH CUP CHAMPIONS 2017

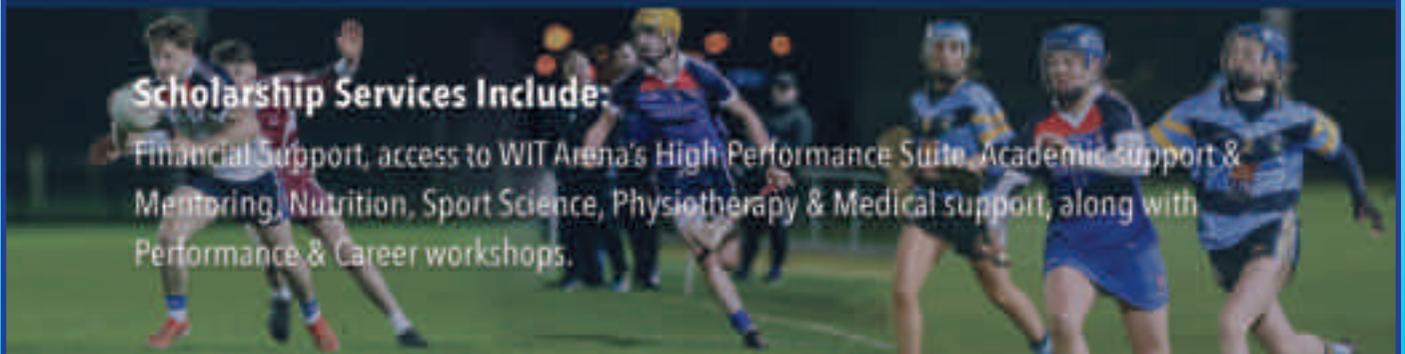
*Back: Sharon Twomey, Shauna Dunphy, Paula Faulkner, Lorraine Bray, Deirbhle Hennessy, Michalea Nolan, Aileen Sheehan, Laura Fitzgerald.
 Middle: Sarah Banville, Katie Murray, Laura Quirke, Louise Horgan, Nicole Fortune, Breda Martin, Marie Byrne, Nora Walsh, Niamh Treacy, Mairead Daly.
 Front: Emma Byrne, Emma Murray, Aoife McAuliffe, Aine Byrne (Captain) Miriam Walton, Aine Buggy, Niamh Moore.*



WIT GAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Scholarship Services Include:

Financial Support, access to WIT Arena's High Performance Suite, Academic support & Mentoring, Nutrition, Sport Science, Physiotherapy & Medical support, along with Performance & Career workshops.



Our Ladys Templemore deny Kieran's Quadruple Quest

Colleges SH
Championship
By Michael O'Leary



St Kierans - All Ireland Colleges SH Finalists, 2017

Back Row: Robert Butler, Shane Dawson, Eoin O'Shea, James Phelan, Ted Drea, Ben Lawlor, Paddy Bolger, Dylan Simpson, Eoghan Moylan, James Bergin, Ted Drea, Dylan Aylward, David Carroll, Eamonn Egan, Ryan Scanlon, Mark Nolan, Ciaran Hogan, Daithi Barron, Luke Murphy, Brian Staunton.
Front Row: Ross Whelan, Evan Shefflin, Ciaran Mullen, Sean Ryan, Martin Keoghlan, Sean Carey, Diarmuid Phelan, Adrian Mullen, Dean Mason, Tommy Ronan, Ciaran Brennan, Shane Donohue, Conor Hackett, Conor O'Keffee, Andy Parsons.

Eoin Noonan / Sportsfile

St. Kierans College quest for a 4th straight All-Ireland ended when they lost out to Our Lady's Templemore in an absorbing see-saw All-Ireland Senior Colleges Hurling Final in Semple Stadium at the end of March.

Their 4-in-a-row bid similar to 12 months earlier almost ended at the very first hurdle, as they had to overcome the stubborn resistance that Borris Vocational School provided.

Kierans prevailed narrowly 0-14 to 1-9 with Adrian Mullen the decisive difference, scoring 0-11 (0-5 from play).

Indeed Mullen was the star player throughout the series, accumulating massive scoring totals on their way to the final, but unfortunately for him, he endured a difficult afternoon in the All-Ireland decider.

Kilkenny CBS, who lost out narrowly to the eventual All-Ireland Champions in the All-Ireland Semi-Final, began the Leinster campaign with a 1-19 to 1-12 victory over Dublin North, but Castlecomer Community School lost out to a late goal against Good Counsel New Ross.

St. Kieran's had a much easier encounter in their Leinster Semi-Final clash as they easily brushed aside St. Peter's College, Wexford, 1-18 to 1-7 with Adrian Mullen giving a masterclass of exceptional quality scoring 0-14 (0-7 from play), while the CBS prevailed at the second time of asking against Good Counsel of New Ross.

In the original fixture, the CBS were leading 2-5 to 0-3 early in the 2nd half, but the game was abandoned as Rower-Inistioge clubman Jim Ryan suffered a severe head injury which thankfully wasn't too serious.

After a lengthy delay, the match was subsequently abandoned and the game was replayed.

The sides were level at 1-3 to 0-6 at the interval with Sean Bolger scoring the CBS goal.

It was all to play for, entering the last few minutes with the CBS just narrowly ahead 1-8 to 0-10, before a Conor Drennan goal in the 56th minute secured victory and they added two points afterwards to run out 2-10 to 0-10 victors.

The Leinster Final between the two city neighbours was a ding-dong struggle and, approaching injury-time, St. Kierans were ahead narrowly as they led 0-14 to 0-12, before the clinching score came in injury-time.

A long puck-out was brilliantly field by substitute Sean Ryan and his goalbound shot ended up deceiving the CBS goalkeeper as they ran out 1-14 to 0-13 winners.

Adrian Mullen gave a captain fantastic performance for the saints scoring 0-10, with six of those coming from play.

St. Kieran's marched into an All-Ireland Semi-final, while CBS went through the back door and an All-Ireland Quarter-final against Presentation Athenry. The All-Ireland Quarter-Final was a see-saw clash which saw the CBS come back to win.

A Sean Bolger goal gave CBS a 1-2 to 0-2 lead in the 17th minute, but Athenry dominated the 2nd quarter and they led 0-9 to 1-3 at the interval with Evan Niland their scorer in chief as he accounted for 0-7 of his school's total during the opening-half.



Michael Carey of St Kieran's College in action against Sean Bolger, left and Conor Drennan of Kilkenny CBS during the Leinster Colleges SH final.

Seb Daly / Sportsfile

CBS came out with all guns blazing during the 3rd quarter, and a 2nd goal from Sean Bolger, and one from Sean Boyd, put them in a very strong position entering the closing quarter - 3-7 to 0-9.

However, the Galway school fought back and six unanswered points including four pointed frees by Niland left just a point between the sides approaching the closing stages.

Sean Bolger steadied the CBS nerves with an important point in the 59th minute before Niall Brassil pointed to conclude the scoring— 3-9 to 0-15. Our Lady's Templemore were living up to their promise as they annihilated St. Colman's Fermoy 2-22 to 1-6 to win only their second Munster title having been previously successful in 1978.

That year, they went on and won the All-Ireland and history would repeat itself in 2017.

Following a slight delay, the All-Ireland Semi-Finals were played midweek on Wednesday, March 15th.

There was disappointment for Kilkenny CBS as they lost out to Our Lady's Templemore 0-24 to 2-15 after an enthralling hours hurling.

Despite goals from Joe Sheehan and a 20 metre from goalkeeper Ben Maher, the Templemore school mainly held the edge throughout, and 0-9 from Brian McGrath – younger brother of Tipperary Senior forwards Noel and John – inspired them to victory, with Andrew Ormonde giving an exceptional display scoring 0-5 from play.

Meanwhile, the coast was much clearer in the other semi-final as St. Kieran's strolled to a 3-19 to 1-9 victory over St. Brigid's Loughrea.

Adrian Mullen led the way for Kieran's, scoring 2-9 of his school's total. He had accounted for 1-8 in the opening-half, as they built up an unassailable lead by the interval to lead 1-13 to 0-3.

Adrian added a second goal during the second-half as Ciarán Brennan was also on target to complete a resounding victory and qualify for a 4th consecutive All-Ireland Final.

The All-Ireland Colleges Final was played in Semple Stadium, Thurles on Saturday March 25th on a glorious Sunny afternoon, and it turned into one of the great Colleges finals in recent years.

Like Tina Turner's classic song Proud Mary, the match was a bit slow to get going, but like Proud Mary, when the pace increased, it really started to rock and by the end it was rock and roll with both schools giving it everything in pursuit of victory.

Our Lady's led 1-7 to 1-6 at the interval, when a superb individual goal by Ciarán Brennan in first-half injury-time narrowed the gap to just a solitary point.

Brennan's magnificent goal set the trend for the early stages in the second half when Adrian Mullen added a second goal for Kieran's to suddenly lead 2-8 to 1-7.

Lyndon Fairbrother replied with an unstoppable rocket-blast effort, and all of a sudden the place was rocking— 2-8 to 2-7.

However, Kieran's replied again and Mullen added a second goal to restore the four point advantage— 3-8 to 2-7.

Like that great 90s classic, Tubthumping from Chumbawamba, and those famous lyrics, "I get knocked down and I get up again, if you never going to keep me down", Our Lady's replied once again after another sucker punch with another superb goal by Ray McCormack that drew the Tipp school level, 3-9 each.

Displaying the greater hunger over the closing ten minutes, Our Lady's pushed on and added four unanswered points which included a monstrous inspirational long-range effort by wing-back Aidan O'Meara.

Kieran's kept plugging away to the end and they added two late points, but unfortunately for them, they couldn't find a way to manufacture the all-important goal to rescue the situation despite having chances from Mullen and Brennan.

Unfortunately for Adrian Mullen, he endured a difficult afternoon in the Colleges Final missing numerous chances, but he will respond and will have plenty of memorable days ahead.

However, it was Our Lady's day and they deservedly rounded off a memorable year.

ALL-IRELAND FINAL SCORERS:

Scorers for Our Lady's Templemore: Brian McGrath (1-8, 0-4 frees 0-2 '65); Lyndon Fairbrother (1-1); Ray McCormack (1-0); David O'Shea, Diarmuid Ryan, Aidan O'Meara, Jerry Kelly (0-1 each).

Scorers for St Kieran's College: Adrian Mullen (2-2, 0-1 free, 0-1 '65); Ciaran Brennan (1-1); Eoin O'Shea (0-3); Daithi Barron (0-2). Ted Drea, Diarmuid Phelan (0-1 each).

ST. KIERAN'S TEAM ALL-IRELAND FINAL: *Dean Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Luke Murphy (James Stephens), Michael Carey (Young Irelands), Tommy Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ben Lawlor (James Stephens), Martin Keogh (Tullaroan), Killian Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ted Drea (Young Irelands), Eoin O'Shea (O'Loughlin Gaels), Eoghan Moylan (Dicksboro), Diarmuid Phelan (Danesfort), Adrian Mullen (captain) (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Daithi Barron (Thomastown), Ciarán Brennan (Bennettsbridge), Evan Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks)*

Subs:

Sean Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan) for Evan Shefflin (41m)

Pádraig Mullen (Danesfort) for Eoghan Moylan (55m)

Ross Whelan (James Stephens) for Ben Lawlor (55m).



Stephen Nolan of Our Lady's Secondary School Templemore in action against Diarmuid Phelan of St Kieran's College during the Final. Piaras O Midheach /Sportsfile



Daithi Barron of St Kieran's College in action against Neil Quinlan of Our Lady's Secondary School Templemore during the Final.

Seb Daly /Sportsfile



Referee James Owens with captains Niall Brassil of Kilkenny CBS and Adrian Mullen of St Kieran's College prior to the Leinster Colleges SH final.

Seb Daly /Sportsfile

Second Level Scene



At Coláiste Éamann Rís, Callan, we promote enjoyment of sport and participation by all who wish to partake as we see this as being essential in the development of our students holistically. We are very proud of the efforts being made to promote Gaelic games in our school, Juvenile hurling, Coláiste Éamann Rís performed very well in Leinster championship, but came up short in the quarter final. The school had a great day out at the Rice Shield where our lads had a great victory after extra time in the final. Our juvenile team partook in the 'U14 Super Games' in Croke Park which was a great experience for all involved. , **Juvenile Football:** Callan C.B.S also partook in juvenile football during the year. Great enjoyment was had

by all and we look forward to further promotion of Gaelic football next year., **Senior and Under 17 Hurling;** Coláiste Éamann Rís competed well in the senior hurling league and in the Under 17 hurling league. We reached the U17 final for the second year in a row but were unable to retain our title., **Handball:** Our students partook in single and doubles competitions at Under 15, Under 17 and senior levels. Great performances were given by all. , Congratulations to 6th Year students **Conor Murphy and James Culleton** who won the senior doubles 40x 20 Leinster Final. , **G.A.A. Department;** Coláiste Éamann Rís welcomes former county senior hurler Michael Rice to our G.A.A. Department where he joins present and former county players Conor Fogarty P.J. Delaney, Canice Hickey, David Walton and Cian Ryan. Ms. Lorraine O'Shea (Tipperary Ladies football) and John Timmons also do great work in promoting Gaelic football in our school. Many hands make light work and we appreciate efforts of our staff who provide so many opportunities for our students to partake in Gaelic games,



Juvenile team in Croke Park 'Super Games',



U16 HURLING, Our U16 team performed very well during the year and reached the Leinster final where they were narrowly defeated in extra time.



Congratulations to our Art teacher Ms. Bibby who won the best design for a new Kilkenny camogie crest. County senior camogie star, Denise Gaule, visited Ms. Bibby to present her and her students with the prize.



Duiske College fielded teams at juvenile, junior and senior in both gaelic football and hurling during 2016-17 school year. Pride of place went to the juvenile gaelic football and senior hurling teams whom both won South Leinster titles.



Duiske College Juvenile Hurling team 2017



Duiske College Juvenile Gaelic Football team who won the South Leinster D Championship.



Pat Henderson Leinster GAA presents Duiske College captain Taighe O'Brien with the plaque for winning the South Leinster Championship



Steven Cahill (Duiske College) attempts to block Brian Coady (Carlow CBS) during the South Leinster Senior Hurling C Final.



Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown



Panel: 1. Ben Dunphy Harps, 3. Willie Cahill Lisdowney, 2. Adam Duggan Fenians, 4. Jack O'Sullivan Lisdowney, 5. Tiarnach Doheny Harps, 6. Mark McCarthy St. Lactains, 7. Kyle Webster Emeralds, 8. Jack Grace Lisdowney, 9. Conor Delaney Harps, 11. Michael Monaghan Harps, 10. Mark Donnelly St. Lactains, 12. Patrick Daly Harps, 14. Oisín Cleary Gortnahoe, 13. Killian Dunne Lisdowney, 15. Mark Holland Harps, Subs: 17. Jack Murphy Harps, 18. Jack Downey Harps, 19. Michael Spooner Emeralds, 20. Shane Whyte Fenians, 21. Brendan Cleere Emeralds, 22. Cody Comerford Harps, 23. Luke Moriarty Fenians, 24. Matt Delaney Galmoy, **Mentors:** Jim O'Grady and John Dunne.



Castlecomer CS



ACCS ALL IRELAND U 17 ½ COMMUNITY & COMPREHENSIVE BR. DENIS MINEHANE CUP FINAL 2017
CCS 0.19 BLACKWATER CS 1.12

Castlecomer Community School secured the ACCS All Ireland U 17 ½ Community & Comprehensive Minehane Cup for the second year running. CCS defeated Blackwater Community School in a pulsating game of hurling in Nowlan Park.

The first half saw both teams producing some fine displays of hurling and it was nip and tuck right up to half time. CCS played against the wind in the first half with Blackwater CS squandering many good scoring opportunities in the first thirty minutes with CCS leading by a single point at half time on a score line CCS 0.11 and Blackwater CS 0.10.

CCS had some fine displays in the first half from Karl Downey who saved two very important efforts from the Blackwater forward line and some good displays from Jack Buggy on frees, Jason Phelan, Cian Harding, Ross Connolly, Cian Harding, Adam Brennan.

The second half produced some excellent hurling from both teams and at any given stage there was no more than one point separating the teams at any stage. With both teams down to fourteen players the final ten minutes produced some excellent hurling with CCS beginning to get a grip on the game and eventually secured a real team performance victory to secure back to back All Ireland titles.

Panel: 1. Karl Downey Conahy Shamrocks, 2. Cian Harding Conahy Shamrocks, 3. Cathal Holland Erins Own, 4. Adam Brennan Erins Own, 5. Christopher Korff Erins Own, 6. James Brennan Erins Own, 7. Frank Gunner Conahy Shamrocks, 8. Dan Comerford St. Martin's, 9. Jack Morrissey St. Patrick's, 10. Ross Connolly Erin's own, 11. Jason Phelan St. Patrick's, 12. Adam Comerford St. Martin's, 13. Darragh Dooley Conahy Shamrock's, 14. Eoin Regan Cloneen, 15. Jack Buggy Erin's Own, 17. Dean Farrell St. Martin's, 18. Dan Coogan Erin's Own, 19. Eoin Cahill Conahy Shamrock's, 20. Conor McMahon Erin's Own, 21. Ciaran Cooney Cloneen, 22. Liam Brennan Erin's Own, 23. Conor Clarke Erin's Own, 24. James Buggy Erin's Own, 25. Conan Dunne Conahy Shamrock's, 26. Adam Jacob St. Patrick's, 27. John Dowd Erin's Own, 28. Conor Normoyle Erin's Own, 29. Dan Brophy St. Patrick's, 30. Jamie Maher Erin's Own. **Mentors:** Peter O'Donovan & Pat Tynan.

CBS Kilkenny

'Ná déan nós agus ná bris nós'



Far from breaking tradition in Kilkenny CBS, the school has built on the efforts of previous generations and embellished and enhanced tradition, particularly when we talk about the ancient game of hurling. From 1918, Kilkenny CBS has contested twenty two Corn Uí Dhuill Finals in Leinster. The most pertinent statistic is that ten of those finals have been reached since 2002.

Kilkenny CBS has won this trophy on eight occasions with three of those victories secured since 2006. It is a clear indication of the recent resurgence in the school's status at the top flight of school's hurling in Leinster. At national level the picture is similar. Kilkenny CBS reached the Croke Cup Final on seven occasions with four of those appearances coming between 2007 and 2014. The past decade has been one of the most successful eras of our school's hurling history at all levels, but particularly at senior level.

Reaching Leinster Senior and All-Ireland Finals has become a much more regular occurrence and there is a sense of expectation each year that to progress to provincial and national finals is almost a minimum requirement. The bar continues to be higher and higher each year to compete at the highest level and add to the eight provincial titles and the All-Ireland crown secured in 1981. "No player left behind", and no stone is left unturned in the quest for hurling success.

Leinster Colleges League Champions 2016/2017

CBS Kilkenny emerged victorious in another thrilling encounter with old adversary, St. Kieran's College in the Leinster Senior Colleges League final at St. John's Park on December 14th last.

In the early exchanges it was tit for tat as both sides traded scores. The first two points registered by Killian Egan and Adrian Mullen for St. Kieran's College were followed by scores from Conor Drennan and Sean Bolger for CBS.

In a finely balanced first half it was a noble effort by Conor Heary who withstood two serious body charges to solo up along the sideline and register a fantastic point to nose CBS Kilkenny ahead at the interval by the narrowest of margins, 8 points to 7.

CBS Kilkenny came out of the traps with determination and struck for the game's first goal from Niall Brassil in the first three minutes of the

second half, to give CBS a four point advantage. This was followed by a point from Adrian Mullen before Ronan Buckley backed himself to slot home a fine individual effort in registering a second green flag for CBS by the ninth minute of the second half. St Kieran's College responded with points from Diarmaid Phelan, Daiti Bannon and Eoghan Moylan to bring it back to a three point game.

CBS Kilkenny then had a huge score from Sean Boyd, followed by Conor Drennan's third point from play and then a long range point from a free by CBS goalkeeper Ben Maher, bringing the score to 2-11 for CBS and 0-13 for St. Kieran's College.

In a pulsating final ten minutes there were many heavy physical exchanges with possession being at a premium. After a stalemate period, Sean Bolger reached high to snap the ball and laid off a lovely hand pass to Captain Niall Brassil who calmly struck a long range point from his own 65.

This appeared to be the insurance score for CBS but St. Kierans' had one final rally with a last minute goal from Padraic Mullen to narrow the gap to two points.

With the game on a knife edge and now in extra time, St. Kieran's launched one final attack on the CBS goal but the heroic efforts of Ronan Buckley, who swallowed up the ground to hook Diarmuid Phelan and spurn the St. Kierans' boys' efforts ensured victory for CBS Kilkenny in another titanic battle CBS 2-12 St. Kierans 1-13.

CBS Kilkenny hosts very popular U10 Hurling Blitz

On Saturday April 1 2017, CBS Kilkenny hosted its inaugural U10 Hurling Blitz at Dicksboro GAA grounds. More than three hundred competitors on twenty four teams from clubs in Kilkenny and surrounding areas played superb hurling across the morning and afternoon sessions. Each team played three games and all players got game time. No scores were kept as the emphasis was on promotion of skill as opposed to competition. This did not lessen the enthusiasm of participants however and games were played in a competitive manner with some fine individual displays.

Tasty refreshments were served to the gathered crowds and the weather held good for much of the day. Each participant was presented with a CBS gift pack which also contained a unique commemorative trophy which was designed and manufactured by CBS TY Technology students. Kilkenny Captain Mark Bergin was on hand to present CBS Kilkenny jerseys to the eight most outstanding players on the day.

CBS Principal Tom Clarke thanked Dicksboro GAA Club, The Kilkenny County Board as well as all the attending teams and their mentors and hoped to welcome them again next year.



Action at CBS Hurling Blitz



Principal Tom Clarke Presents each Player with a Gift Pack and Commemorative Trophy



Captain Niall Brassil



Kilkenny CBS - Leinster SH Colleges Champions 2016/2017



Loreto Kilkenny - Another Great Year!



Leinster Colleges' Minor Camogie (3-in-a-row) Champions 2017

Loreto Kilkenny 5-1 Presentation Kilkenny 2-4

Back row: Siobhán Treacy (Clara), Abby Wemyss (Thomastown), Aoife Jordan (Lisdowney), Eva O'Donnell (Young Irelands), Julianne Bergin (Freshford), Dee Murphy (Dicksboro), Caragh Keating (Graigue-Ballycallan), Emer Stynes (Dicksboro), Dearbhla O'Reilly (Thomastown), Isabel Caldbeck (Graigue-Ballycallan), Miriam Brennan (Young Irelands), Ella Dillon (Tullaroan), Kate Everard (Graigue-Ballycallan), Niamh Walsh (Thomastown), Mia Ryan (Paulstown), Niamh Moore (Dicksboro), Cait Whelan (James Stephens), Eva Collins (O'Loughlin Gaels), Soidhbhin Reid (John Lockes), Caragh Donovan (John Lockes), Sophia O'Shea (Dicksboro), Hannah O'Keefe (Ballyhale), Amy Cleere (Tullaroan), Jane Purcell (James Stephens), Maria Comerford (Danesfort), Orla O'Keefe (Thomastown), Lucy Cody (Clara).

Front row: Kate McCluskey (Graigue-Ballycallan), Anna Doheny (James Stephens), Molly Butler (Graigue-Ballycallan), Hannah Keher (John Lockes), Hannah Larkin (James Stephens), Rachel Leahy (James Stephens), Emma Manogue (James Stephens), Asha McHardy (Dicksboro), Jennifer Leahy (James Stephens), Ciara Mullan {Captain} (Dicksboro), Sarah Roche (John Lockes), Aine Kirwan (Thomastown), Sarah Harrison (Graigue-Ballycallan), Rebecca Lennon (Young Irelands), Rachel Heeran (Clara) Orla Farrell (Clara), Aoife Lynch (John Lockes), Ellie Peters (Dicksboro).



The Loreto Junior Camogie Team – All-Ireland Colleges' Junior A Camogie (3-in-a-row) Champions 2017

Loreto Kilkenny 3-11 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 2-9

Front row: Emma Manogue (James Stephens), Miriam Brennan (Young Irelands), Ciara Mullan (Dicksboro), Sinead Keoghan (Tullaroan), Ruth Kent (Danesfort), Nicole Carter (Young Irelands), Jane Cass (Dicksboro), Clodagh Hanlon (St. Martin's), Rebecca Cuddihy (Tullaroan), Maddy Lawson (Young Irelands), Caoimhe Holland (Tullaroan), Sinead Bass (Danesfort), Sinead O'Keefe (Thomastown), Anna McCabe (Tullaroan), Olivia Mahony (Danesfort), Niamh Moore (Dicksboro), Molly Butler (Graigue-Ballycallan), Asha McHardy (Dicksboro).

Back Row: Jennifer Leahy (James Stephens), Hannah Kelly (James Stephens), Steffi Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Ciara O'Keefe (Young Irelands), Tara Walsh (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ruth Gardiner (Naomh Brid), Eimear Leahy (Emeralds), Shauna Treacy (Paulstown), Rachel Kelly (James Stephens), Beth Grace (Tullaroan), Hannah Brennan (Young Irelands), Danielle Quigley (O'Loughlin Gaels), Amy Lennon (Young Irelands), Kate Dempsey (Dicksboro), Elizabeth Keher (John Lockes), Tiffanie Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Eva Collins (O'Loughlin Gaels), Anna Doheny (James Stephens), Hannah Larkin (James Stephens).



The Loreto Senior Camogie Team – All-Ireland Colleges' Senior A Camogie Champions 2017

Loreto Kilkenny 6-19 Ursuline Thurles 1-4

Front row: Ciara Mullan (Dicksboro), Caoimhe Dowling (Dicksboro), Michelle Teehan (James Stephens), Ella Moore (Tullaroan), Sophie O'Dwyer (James Stephens), Aisling Maher (Conahy Shamrocks) Rachel Kelly (James Stephens), Tara Clifford (Dicksboro), Eimear Keoghan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Hannah Murphy (Conahy Shamrocks), Saoirse Comerford (James Stephens), Laura Tynan (St Martin's), Olivia Mahony (Danesfort).

Back row: Ciara O'Keefe (Young Irelands), Jane Cass (Dicksboro), Steffi Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Hannah Kelly (James Stephens), Nicole Carter (Young Irelands), Evelyn Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Ruth Kent (Danesfort), Kate Drennan (Young Irelands), Aoife O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Niamh Deely {Captain} (James Stephens), Ciara O'Shea (Dicksboro), Katie Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Rebecca Cuddihy (Tullaroan), Tara Walsh (Graigue-Ballycallan), Kate Dempsey (Dicksboro), Hannah Brennan (Young Irelands).



St Kieran's College



First Year Blitz Teams



St Kieran's College Juvenile Football Team 2017



Junior Hurling "B" team

JUNIOR B HURLING *(Ruairi Breen and Jeffrey Coyne)*

Mr Farrell, Mr Rice and Mr Browne were over the Junior B hurling teams this year. There was great interest in the teams with nearly 100 students turning up for the trials. After two weeks, the three teams were formed from the remaining players. For our first match we were at home against Abbey Community College. We had a comprehensive win. Our next match was against near rivals Kilkenny CBS. Once again, we had success with great performances from Darragh O'Keeffe in midfield and Shane Murphy in corner forward. We played our final game of the group against Callan CBS to see who progressed to the semi final. We got off to a quick start with our forwards finding their range early. This was central to us winning the game. We progressed to the semi final to face another St Kieran's team. Mr Farrell was over team 1 and Mr Rice was over team 3. Team 1 progressed to the final by the slimmest of margins. On the other side of the draw, St Kieran's Team 2 failed to hold out against a strong Scoil Aireagail side from Ballyhale.

The final was held on February 1st on the Fr Tommy Maher pitch in St Kieran's. With the wind at our backs in the first half, we held a six-point lead at half time. Scoil Aireagail used the wind to their advantage in the second half and put it up to us but we maintained our lead right till the final whistle and won the Monsignor Thomas Maher perpetual trophy.

JUNIOR A HURLING

Having won the All-Ireland final last year, St Kieran's College were eager to retain their Leinster and All Ireland titles. In the group games, St Kieran's defeated St Peter's College, Castletomer CS and St Brendan's CS, Birr. In the semi final, St Kieran's faced Mountrath CS. On a blustery day in Ballyragget, St Kieran's ran out easy winners after a very even first half.

Castletomer CS were St Kieran's opponents in the Leinster Final played in Freshford. It was a tight low scoring first half until Ciarán Brennan scored a brilliant goal in injury time. St Kieran's pulled away in the second half against a gallant Castletomer team with the final score at 2-15 to 0-8.

After lifting the Fr Cosgrove Cup, St Kieran's College focused on the All-Ireland final which took place in Clonmel against one of our traditional rivals, St Colman's College, Fermoy on Sunday December 4th 2016. The game began at a quick pace, with Colman's starting the better out of both teams. Eoin Cody scored a brilliant goal before half time to put one between the sides at half time. St Kieran's College performed heroically in the second half to run out winners, 2-12 to 1-12. Conor Murphy accepted the Niall McInerney Cup on behalf of his team for a second successive year.



St Kieran's College Leinster JH "A" Champions 2017

NEW FACES - Schools' Games still flourishing and growing!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report
by Dermot Dunphy
Photos - Willie Dempsey



St Canice's - Roinn A Champions 2017

The great thing about being involved in schools' games is that every new year is just that, a new year. Teams are constantly changing and evolving, and the boys who were the foot soldiers in fourth or fifth class step up to become the leaders of sixth class. No doubt about it, school teams may develop over years, but each and every year is unique and never to be repeated. Added to the fact that school and age groups don't exactly co-ordinate, it is often the case that this year's school team and next year's Under 14 team are not one and the same thing, a quirk that gives the Cumann na mBunscoileanna championships a uniqueness of their own.

Therefore this makes the continuity that St Canice's Co-Ed on Granges Road have achieved even more amazing. Nine titles in the last thirteen years, eleven finals contested, six in a row this year! While there is undoubtedly links from year to year, such a level of consistency shows a dedication to the game that is huge and the school must complimented. Next year will bring a new challenge and new teams trying to oust the champions but guaranteed St Canice's will be in the mix again next year. This year's runners-up were Kilmanagh, back in the Roinn A decider and to be complimented themselves after opting to compete at the top level after just losing out in Roinn B last year. They got their just rewards for a great season by claiming the Corn de Bhaldráithe (Country Cup) in exciting fashion. Added to this they claimed the INTO Sevens title on a great finals day, a great year for the St. Aidan's boys.

In contrast to the continuity of Roinn A, Roinn B saw new faces claim the title. It was fourteen years since Urlingford claimed their last title and eleven since they had contested a final. Therefore there was unbridled joy and great celebrations when the boys of Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa claimed a fine win over a gallant Clara side. As for Clara, they showed great skill and endeavour in defeat and with twelve of their starting side available again in 2018 they are sure to be knocking on the door again next year. Interestingly these four finalists were also the four finalists in the Sevens competition and gave a super days hurling at the finals in Danesfort!

In Roinn C, Kilmacow ended a ten year wait for a title when defeating a gallant Coon-Muckalee. Indeed, the southerners were winning the Roinn C division for the first time since 1986! And like the buses, two titles came together as Kilmacow also claimed the Tommy O'Brien Cup, again at the expense of Coon-Muckalee. The boys and girls schools in Kilmacow amalgamated in recent years and to highlight this, the school teams wear a maroon and green jersey to represent the two school! Looks like the new jerseys have brought good luck! Don't expect them to change them too soon! For Coon-Muckalee, two defeats were hard on them, but they should take consolation that qualifying

for two county finals in a single year is an achievement in itself.

Finally comes Roinn D. A change here as the 13-a-side Roinn D and 11-a-side Roinn E were merged into one division at 13-a-side to ensure that enough meaningful games were provided. The amalgamation was complete in the final as the Roinn E champions of 2016 and the Roinn D runners-up of 2016 met in this year's final. Johnstown claimed a second title in a row with a great win. The boys of St. Kieran's NS were not to be denied glory again but the St. Canice's second squad deserve great credit for yet again making their way to the final. A lot of these lads are young enough for next year and will be hoping to make their mark in the first team of 2018 - always a new start!!

A special new face

For the first time in many the long year, we had a complete new face in the Cumann na mBunscoileanna competitions. Kilkenny Church of Ireland National School, better known in Kilkenny as the 'Model School' which is situated just off the Castlecomer Road competed for the first time in the Roinn D 13-a-side competition. The team have a ready-made coach as O'Loughlin Gaels' player Andy Kearns works in the school and the boys and girls turned their hands to hurling competitively. No county finals this year but the first steps are always small and hopefully these steps are the beginning of something great. We wish the Model School the best of luck in the years ahead!

Under 11

After the successful introduction of Under 11 mini-competitions last year, the games grew again this year and the grade through up some great tussles. Thomastown claimed the Roinn A title with a fine win over Clara and there are renewed hopes for the 'Boys in Blue' in the years ahead. For Clara, it was a case of two finals, no silverware, but allowing for the youth of their Under 13 team with the back-up of the under 11s, we can be sure that we will see Clara seriously contending again next year. There was great celebration for Dunnamaggin in the Roinn B final and great hope for a bunch of hurlers coming through together. What was impressive for the Dunna' boys was the depth of their squad and they will hope to be contenders at under 13 in the next few years. Urlingford lost out on a double chance, but after a long period out of the picture, two Nowlan Park appearances in ten days was a fair achievement in itself. The pick of the finals came at Roinn C where it took two attempts to split Ballyragget and Slieverue with a single puck of the ball separating them at the end. Ballyragget won their second title in a row and will hope to contend next year at Under 13 level, while like a number

of other schools, Slieverue's final appearance was very welcome and a sign of good days ahead. No doubting it but the Under 11 experiment is starting to blossom nicely.

INTO Mini-Sevens

Victories in the INTO Seven-a-side competition were dominated by Kilmanagh who were victorious in Hurling, Camogie and Girls' Football, a superb effort by the St Aidan's children. The Football crown headed to Bennettsbridge who backed up their victory in Roinn B Football last autumn with the title at the smaller form of the game. Congratulations to all the young children who represented Kilkenny in Croke Park – Billy Dowling, Kilmanagh (All-Ireland Hurling Final), Bill Hughes, Bennettsbridge (All-Ireland Football Semi- Final), Matthew Cowley, Danesfort (All-Ireland Football Final), Claire Doheny and Lauren East, Kilmanagh (All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final), ????? (All-Ireland Football Semi-Final).

Congratulations to all the winners in INTO Handball with all the winners and runners-up listed in our results section! A special congratulations to St John's Senior NS teacher, John Cooney on his retirement this year. John and Brigid Burke have kept the handball end of the INTO games going for years and years and many children have successfully gone on to succeed in Leinster and All-Ireland blitzes. Brigid has continued to be very active with Cumann na mBunscoileanna handball in her retirement and hopefully John can be persuaded to continue on too. Whether or which, we take this opportunity to thank him and wish him many happy years of retirement!

Cumann na mBunscol National AGM 2018

Next year, Kilkenny has the honour of hosting the National AGM of Cumann na mBunscol. Our own secretary, Jim Fennelly, is very involved and active on the National Committee and has represented the National body at GAA Congress for the past number of years. Therefore, we are delighted to have the National AGM come to the Marble City next March. The event takes place on March 9th and 10th and it will be all hands on deck locally to put the event together, with the presentation dinner on Friday night and the AGM itself on Saturday. A great event to host and we will strive to ensure all delegates leave our county happy with their weekend.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn A Final.

**St Canice's show their class!
St Canice's 6-13 Kilmanagh 1-3**

In the first of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol finals St Canice's Co-Ed beat a tigerish Kilmanagh in the Toymaster Roinn A decider in Nowlan Park. The City team had suffered a narrow defeat against the men in blue in the league section and they piled on the pressure in the early minutes. Michael Clarke broke through for a goal for the city boys in the fifth minute and Mikey Stynes then quickly added a point to get them off to a flying start. Kilmanagh's centre forward Ryan Corcoran scored their opening point in the tenth minute but St Canice's went further in front when Michael Clarke first timed a smart delivery to the Kilmanagh net. Two quick points kept the country side in touch only for a swift reply or St Canice's in the form of a well taken goal by Mikey Stynes.



Kilmanagh - Country Cup Champions & Roinn A Finalists 2017



Urlingford - Roinn B Champions 2017



Kilmacow - Roinn C & Corn Ui Bhriain Champions 2017



Johnstown - Roinn D Champions 2017

Kilmanagh's attacking efforts finally paid off when Aaron McEvoy whipped a ground ball just inside the post for a spectacular goal to leave the halftime score of 3-9 to 1-3.

Scores were scarce in the early stages of the second half. Kilmanagh tried hard to get back into the game but Harry Shine and Matthew Kelleher extended the Granges' Road side's lead with well taken points. Charlie Cleere was fouled in the square but Kilmanagh's Billy Egansaw his well taken penalty saved by Barry Dunne in the St Canice's goal. Further goals from Mikey Raggett, Mikey Stynes and Conor Kavanagh for the city side and two late points left the final score; Saint Canice's 6-13 Kilmanagh 1-3.

This young Kilmanagh side had great battlers in Sean Robert, Jeff Neary and Patrick Foley who will no doubt bring the experience of a great season in Roinn A into next year and success can't be too far away for them. St Canice's showed their usual skill and accuracy when scoring chances were available. It was a complete team performance from the city side as the Joe Dunphy Cup heads back to Granges' Road for yet another year.

St Canice's: Barry Dunne, Sean Keenan, Tom McPhillips, Mark Cleere, Johnny Keane, Kevin Moore, Kyle Maher, Mikey Raggett (1-0), Harry Shine (Capt, 0-8; 0-1f, 0-3 65s) Mick Carroll, Conor Kavanagh (1-0), Michael Clarke (1-1), Matthew Kelleher (0-2), Mikey Stynes (3-1). Subs: Brian Moore, Billy Fitzpatrick, Tom O'Neill, Joey Ryan, Adam Hayes, Harry Cummins, Denis Dalton, Ross Doyle, Sean Cullen, Josh Galvin.

Kilmanagh: Billy O'Neill, Ben Young, Seán Roberts, Jack Guiry, Jeff Neary, Bill Dowling (Capt), Patrick Foley, Charlie Cleere (0-1), Aaron McEvoy (1-0), Eoin Egan (0-1 f), Ryan Corcoran (0-1), Ciallin Brennan, Jake O'Brien, Billy Egan, Micheál Harrison. Subs: Dylan Teehan, James Casey, James Brennan, Pat Purcell, Aidan Cahill, Martin Brennan, Ryan Cody, Dean O'Brien, Seán McGrath, Cillian Hoyne, Elliot Teehan

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil Roinn B Final.

**Urlingford end long wait!
Urlingford 2-8 Clara 0-7**

The boys from Urlingford National School ended a long wait of 14 years when they recaptured the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Roinn B Title and brought the Paddy Hennessy Cup to the north west of the county for just the second time. In a great game of hurling the Urlingford and Clara school teams had a mighty tussle that was only decided when Urlingford's dangerman, Darragh Queally, fired his and Urlingford's second goal with a few minutes remaining. The score finally stemmed a super Clara effort that had seen them come from nine points down and cued wild excitement on the Urlingford side.

Urlingford were out of the traps quickly with a goal from Darragh Queally in the first minute. The same player added two quick points and Urlingford had made a perfect start. Clara responded as you would expect with great fight and effort. They opened their account in the eight minute when Rory Glynn scored a great point. Both sides were now playing really well and the battle all over the field was fantastic. The first half finished in a flurry of scores with a point from Thomas Langton for Clara and points from Darragh Queally(2) and Killian Doyle for Urlingford leaving the half time



Clara- Roinn B Finalists 2017



Coon/Muckalee - Roinn C & O'Brien Cup Finalists 2017



St Canice's- Roinn D Finalists 2017



Thomastown - Roinn A Under 11 Champions 2017

score at Urlingford 1-5 Clara 0-2.

At the start of the second half, the two goalies were the heroes for their teams, with both Cian Kelly and Adam Cashin making great saves. Urlingford got on top, with Darragh Queally now at midfield and Paul Moloney storming into the game. Two points from captain, Killian Doyle, now on the edge of the square and one from Paul Moloney saw the Urlingford boys stretch their lead to nine. The game was not over yet and Urlingford sent Darragh Queally back into full forward with Killian Doyle back to midfield and they again started to get a grip on the game. The pass of the match came from young Urlingford sub Dylan Ivers straight into Darragh Queally's hand who buried to the net finally finishing this contest. Final Score: Urlingford 2-8 Clara 0-7.

Urlingford were ecstatic with their victory and there were great celebrations as captain Killian Doyle, who had returned from holiday for the game, received the cup. The captain had led his team well with great support from Kacper Woloczko, Adam Butler, Tomás Cussen, Micheál Ahern, Adam Cashin in goal, Dylan Ivers and Darragh Queally who had a personal haul of 2-4. Clara earned huge credit in defeat with a battling display in which they showed their skills and ability. Cian Kelly in goal, captain Ben Murphy, Sean Carrigan, Ben Crow, Ned Langton, Thomas Langton, Conor Hoyne, the irrepressible Rory Glynn and David Mulrooney brought the fight to Urlingford all day long. When you consider twelve of this team are available next year, expect Clara to be back searching for honours again!

Urlingford: Adam Cashin, Daniel Stapleton, Kacper Woloczko, Adam Butler, Oisín Deegan, Tomás Cussen, Micheál Ahern, Killian Doyle (Capt 0-3), Paul Moloney (0-1), Jimmy Cleere, Darragh Queally (2-4), Rory Hyde, Craig Barnaville, Dean Gilligan, Diarmuid Burke. Subs: Killian Burke, Oisín Mealy, Cormac Burke, Dylan Ivers, Conor Kavanagh, Callum Lawlor, Riley Walsh, Billy Champion, Aaron Mouton-Meakin, Nikki Ivanov, Oisín Quinlan, Cian Hickey, Conor Gibbons, Nathan Barnaville, Simon Zhang.

Clara: Cian Kelly, Ben Crow, Ben Murphy (Capt), Zach Lawlor, Adam Walsh, Sean Carrigan, Jack Lennon, Paddy Walsh, Diarmuid Langton, Ned Langton, Rory Glynn (0-3), Harry Boyle, Thomas Hoyne (0-1), David Mulrooney, Conor Hoyne (0-3). Subs: Alex McDonald, Alex Firbank, Eamonn Maher, Eoghan Bennett, Joe Power, Eoghan O'Brien.

Referee: Eamonn Mansfield

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn C Final.

Joy for Kilmacow!

Kilmacow 4-12 Coon-Muckalee 3-5

There were scenes of great joy in Nowlan Park after the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Roinn C TOP Oil Final as Kilmacow overcame Coon-Muckalee. It was the Southerners first schools' victory at this level since 1986 and there was great excitement from their supporters at the final whistle. For Coon-Muckalee there was disappointment but



Dunnamaggin - Roinn B Under 11 Champions 2017



Ballyragget - Roinn C Under 11 Champions 2017



Slieverue - Roinn B Under 11 Finalists 2017



Urlingford - Roinn C Under 11 Finalists 2017



Model School - New Faces in Cumann na mBunscoileanna in 2017

undoubtedly their supporters felt great pride in the super battle the young St Martin's boys put up. Kilmacow, in their school colours of green and maroon, made the early running and looked dangerous in attack, yet it was Coon-Muckalee who opened the scoring with a pointed free on 2 minutes. The first four scores were all from placed balls showing the intensity both sides were going into the tackle with. On eight minutes Kilmacow struck for a goal. Seán Dowling's long ball in broke to Jack O'Neill and he finished smartly to the net. Coon-Muckalee responded putting on relentless pressure in front of goal and Conor Dooley swept the ball home. Kilmacow began to dominate exchanges and extended the lead to three points. Just as it seemed Kilmacow were going to pull away Coon-Muckalee struck for a great goal, Niall Shore hit the net. Two more frees and they were level for the fifth time! Kilmacow finished the half the stronger and two pointed frees from Seán Dowling saw the southerners lead by a slender two points at the break. Kilmacow 1-8 Coon-Muckalee 2-3.

Kilmacow again started in strong fashion. The game was no way indisciplined but the tackling continued to be teak tough. On 9 minutes, Kilmacow through Eoin Aylward. Another pointed free saw Kilmacow forge six points clear. Coon-Muckalee were hanging on and fighting tooth and nail but three points more meant the game was definitely Kilmacow's to lose. Despite Coon-Muckalee's never say die attitude a Jack O'Neill goal sealed matters with Jamie Morrissey scoring a consolation for Muckalee. Full-time Kilmacow 4-12 Coon-Muckalee 3-5.

Kilmacow were deserving winners but even their most ardent supporter would agree that final margin didn't reflect the closeness of the game. Coon-Muckalee can be very proud of their efforts especially Ciaran Nolan and Cathal Keegan who defended strongly. Jamie Morrissey and Tadhg Gill had a great battle in midfield while Conor Dooley and the sharpshooting captain Niall Shore did well up front.

For Kilmacow they had heroes all over the field with Lorcan Suffin, Ciaran Murray and Fionn Walsh doing well in the backs. James Walsh and Donnchadh Williams played stormers in that super midfield contest while David Williams, Sean Dowling, Eoin Aylward and Jack O'Neill were great up front.

Kilmacow: *Josh Mate, Shane Egan, Lorcan Suffin, David Sheridan, Ciarán Murray, Tadhg Connolly, Fionn Walsh, James Walsh (0-3 f), Donnchadh Williams, Calum Regan (Jt Cpt), Seán Dowling (0-5 f), David Williams (0-2), Daniel Griffin, Jack O'Neill (Jt Cpt 3-2), Eoin Aylward (1-0). Subs: Eoin Murray, Shane Morrissey, Michael Carroll, Alex Burke Derham, Jack Quinn, Caoilin Kelly, Eden Gillespie, Gearoid Long, Ben Sutton, Jack Butler, Ben Doyle.*

Coon-Muckalee: *Donal Kealy, Matthew Bolger, Ciarán Nolan, Micheál Keane, Adam Morrissey, Cathal Keegan, Peter Downey, Jamie Morrissey (1-0), Tadhg Gill, Ronan Walsh, Conor Dooley (1-0), Adam Keogh, Cormac Quirke, Seán Hunt, Niall Shore (Capt 1-5; 0-5 f). Subs: Jack Murphy, Micheál Ruane, Tomás Daly, Aaron Coogan, Eoin Brennan, Cathal McCormack, Oscar Broderick, Jack Coogan, Conor Murphy, Jake Dowling.*

Referee: *John Minogue*

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil Roinn D Final.

Johnstown on the double!

Johnstown 7-6 St Canice's 1-5

After victory in the Roinn E 11-a-side last year, Johnstown made it a double by winning this year's Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Roinn D TOP Oil Final. This is the 13-a-side competition and in their victory the boys from Johnstown and Crosspatrick schools beat a gallant St Canice's Co-Ed second team who were yet again contesting the final.

It was Johnstown who made the faster start with two quick points and it looked if Johnstown would have it their own way. However, back came the St Canice's boys and they were soon level and it was now the city school in the ascendancy. The game see-sawed up and down the field before Joey Dalton threw the tie on its head with a super ground stroke to push St Canice's into the lead. In the next flurries both sides could have goaled. For the last five minutes Johnstown slowly got on top. Tomas Sharkey pointed again to reduce the lead to a point before Cathal Phelan broke through again and this time finished low and hard to fire his team into the lead again. Darragh McCormack added another point and as the first half ended Johnstown had a three point lead 1-5 to St Canice's 1-2.

If the last five minutes of the first half were good for Johnstown, the first five in the second half saw them secure the contest. Jack Walsh was first to pounce for a goal before the ever dangerous Cathal Phelan again broke through and kicked to the net. Tomas Sharkey added a point and suddenly the Fenian boys were nearly out of sight. It could have been a greater hill for the St Canice's boys but goalie Tom O'Neill made two more excellent saves to keep Johnstown at bay. Cathal Phelan continued his goal scoring blitz with two quick goals on ten and eleven minutes. St Canice's showed their resolve and refused to give in. Josh Galvin led a mini revival and scored three good points in a row for them. However, Johnstown were not to be denied and two more goals, from Jack Walsh and Rory Garrett ensured the Roinn D trophy was heading north. Full time Johnstown 7-6 St Canice's 1-5.

St Canice's tried their very best. Goalie Tom O'Neill pulled off some great saves and was assured throughout. Joey Dalton and Josh Galvin were dangerous up front as was Luke Kerwick on his introduction. Captain Denis Dalton worked hard all game.

For Johnstown, Tomás Sharkey played a captain's role with excellent fielding and point scoring. Cathal Phelan was super in attack along with Rory Garrett and Jack Walsh. Darragh O'Grady, Patrick Cullen, Stephen McEvoy and Darragh McCormack contributed handsomely as well.

Johnstown: *Regan Downey, Darragh O'Grady, Colin O'Brien, Patrick Cullen, Oisín Berry, Stephen McEvoy, Tomás Sharkey (Capt 0-3), Darragh McCormack (0-2; 0-1f), Brendan McEvoy, Cathal Phelan (4-1), Rory Garrett (1-0), Craig Bowe, Jack Walsh (2-0), Niall Mackey, Gerry Henderson, Sam Murphy, Evan Ryan, Cillian Purcell, Matt McEvoy, Alex Beehan, Andrew Casey.*

St Canice's: *Tom O'Neill, Sean Cullen, Adam Hayes, Christy Murphy, Joey Ryan, Denis Dalton (Capt), Harry Cummins Billy Fitzpatrick, Ross Doyle, James O'Neill (0-1), Josh Galvin (0-3), David Fitzpatrick, Joey Dalton (1-1), James Cleere, Josh Hynes, James Brennan Smith, Bill*

O'Shea, Max Doyle, Mark McPhillips, Aaron Russell, Hugh Greaney, Luke Kerwick, Mulz Tahir, Enda Kavanagh, Aidan Cullen (inj).

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Corn de Bhaidraithe Final

Kilmanagh are Kings of Country Kilmanagh 8-8 Glenmore 3-7

This Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Country Cup final between two traditional teams served up some great hurling in well-appointed Palmerstown. Titles at this level are scarce indeed as a trawl through the records shows just one win a piece for both these teams. Glenmore more recently in 2015 but Kilmanagh go back to 1994 for their last win.

Kilmanagh came into this final on the back of a defeat to St Canice's in the Roinn A final but as they had captured the Mini Sevens hurling title, their form was in no doubt. Glenmore were coming in under the radar having exited Roinn B at the quarter final stage against Bennettsbridge.

Goals win matches and this was never more in evidence than in this final. Three in the first and five in the second half from Kilmanagh left the final result in no doubt. Glenmore made Kilmanagh fight all the way and were very much in contention in the first half as only a goal separated them at half time K 3-4 G 2-4.

Kilmanagh's sharpshooter Billy Egan was in fine form in front of goal as he netted six times for his team. Egan had huge support from Jeff Neary at wing back, Bill Dowling at centre back Charlie Cleere and Aaron Mc Evoy at midfield and Ryan Corcoran at the centre of attack.

Glenmore had wind advantage in the opening half and they held Kilmanagh to a two point lead in the opening quarter. It was Glenmore who enjoyed the better exchanges as the game entered the second quarter. This pressure produced a goal from a 21 yard free which took a deflection from a defender on route. Padraig Cody added a point to lift the hearts of the large Glenmore support. Kilmanagh responded with a pointed free from Eoin Egan on fifteenth minute and when Egan soon after combined neatly with Billy Egan, he made no mistake with the follow up. They drove on from this score and Billy Egan added a hat trick of goals as the game approached the half time mark. Glenmore corner forward David Walsh found the net on the stroke of half time to lift his team. Half time score to 3-4 to 2-4.

Kilmanagh began the second half at full throttle. The pressure on Glenmore mounted and when a long free was delivered goalwards, it was blocked from going wide and Billy Egan pounced to goal from close distance. Kilmanagh added 2-3 without reply in a ten minute spell. To their credit Glenmore never gave up and brought their centre back Colm Roche into attack and he rewarded his team with a goal midway through the half.

However the Kilmanagh response was predictable as goals from Ryan Corcoran and that man again Billy Egan sealed the title for Kilmanagh.

The final score did not do justice to the super effort from Glenmore who really had no answer to rampant full forward Billy Egan. They can take a lot from this game for the future and Kilmanagh as champions brought the curtain down on a wonderful year of schools' hurling.

Kilmanagh: *Billy O'Neill, Ben Young Seán Roberts, Jack Guiry, Jeff Neary, Bill Dowling, Patrick Foley, Charlie Cleere, Aaron Mc Evoy,*

Eoin Egan Ryan Corcoran, Ciallin Brennan, Jake O'Brien, Billy Egan (Capt), Micheál Harrison. Subs: Dylan Teehan, James Casey, James Brennan, Pat Purcell, Aidan Cahill, Martin Brennan, Ryan Cody, Dean O'Brien, Seán Mc Grath, Cillian Hoyne, Elliot Teehan.

Glenmore: James Reid, Patrick Fitzgerald, William Holden, Shane Telford, Darragh Vereker, Colm Roche (Capt), Padraig Cody, Dale Duggan, Ciarán Vereker, Patrick O'Connor, Eamon Roche, Jack Dollard, David Walsh, Luke Aylward, Jason Cody. Subs: James Connolly, Danny Dowling, Shane Duhig, Declan Murphy, Conaill Lynch, Alex Philpott, Patrick Delahunty, Michael Lacey.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Tommy O'Brien Cup Final Classy Kilmacow Kilmacow 3-7 Coon-Muckalee 0-4

Classy Kilmacow turned on the style in sunny Palmerstown (Dicksboro) to win their second schools' title of the year as they added the Tommy O'Brien cup to the Allianz Roinn C title they had already landed against the same opposition in early June.

Kilmacow had the advantage of the fresh breeze in the first half, and when the deadly Jack O'Neill finished the first of his three goals to the net in the third minute, the southern lads never looked back. A converted free from the dominant James Walsh was soon followed by Jack's second goal, a beautiful ground stroke into the bottom right hand corner. Niall Shore opened Coon-Muckalee's account with a well taken free. From there to half time, it was all Kilmacow, three James Walsh points added to Jack's third goal, finished to the net after a goalmouth scramble. Coon-Muckalee did have a chance to point a free late in the half, but an attempt to "go low" went narrowly wide. (HT: Kilmacow 3-4 Coon-Muckalee 0-1).

With the assistance of the wind in the second half, Coon-Muckalee opened brightly. The swapping of Coon-Muckalee's Ciarán Nolan and Tadhg Gill at half time did make an early impact in the new half, with both lads doing really well, and by the 7th minute Niall Shore had landed 3 points from placed balls, against one from a James Walsh 65. However, for the remaining 18 minutes, the powerful Kilmacow defence kept their opponents scoreless. Josh Mate made a superb double save in the 9th minute of the half that might have given the Coon-Muckalee lads some confidence, and with the brave Tadhg Connolly controlling from centre back, ably assisted by Lorcan Suffin, they hurled their way to the title in style.

For Coon-Muckalee, Cathal Keegan continued to defend manfully, while up front Jamie Morrissey and Cormac Quirke were the pick of their attack.

On a day when most of the scoring came from frees, the point of the game was scored by the classy Eoin Aylward. The final point came from stylish David Williams, who with his midfield partner James Walsh, set the foundation for this win. Ms. Quinn informed us that centre forward Sean Dowling was gone to Rome to pray for a victory!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Secretary, Jim Fennelly presented the Tommy O'Brien Cup to joint captains Calum Regan and hat trick hero Jack O'Neill in front of a large jubilant Kilmacow band of supporters.

Kilmacow: Josh Mate, Shane Egan, Lorcan Suffin, Ben Doyle, David Sheridan, Ciarán Murray, Tadhg Connolly, Fionn Walsh, James Walsh (0-5; 2f 2'65"), Donnchadh Williams, Calum Regan (Jt Cpt), David Williams (0-1), Daniel Griffin, Jack O'Neill (Jt Cpt 3-0), Eoin Aylward (0-1). Subs: Eoin Murray, Shane Morrissey, Michael Carroll, Alex Burke Derham, Jack Quinn, Caoilin Kelly, Eden Gillespie, Gearoid Long, Ben Sutton, Jack Butler, Seán Dowling.

as they were convincing winners in this Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Roinn A Under 11 final played out at Larchfield. While some games ebb and flow this was not the case as the Town boys took firm control from the throw in with centre back Cian Farrell playing a captains' role as he slotted over his side's first point from a free.

Conor Hoyne levelled the game before full forward Tyler Nolan made no mistake in front of goal to open a goal lead for Thomastown. Scores came fast and furious from then on. Colm Treacy hit a

ALLIANZ CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL SCOREBOARD 2017

Toymaster Roinn A	St Canice's	6-13	Kilmanagh	1-3
TOP Oil Roinn B	Urlingford	2-8	Clara	0-7
Toymaster Roinn C	Kilmacow	4-12	Coon-Muckalee	3-5
TOP Oil Roinn D	Johnstown	7-6	St. Canice's	1-5
Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe	Kilmanagh	8-8	Glenmore	3-7
Allianz Corn Ó Briain	Kilmacow	3-7	Coon-Muckalee	0-4
Toymaster Under 11 Roinn A	Thomastown	6-5	Clara	1-3
TOP OIL Under 11 Roinn B	Dunnamaggin	3-3	Urlingford	1-1
Toymaster Under 11 Roinn C	Ballyragget	3-2	Slieverue	2-5
Replay	Ballyragget	2-6	Slieverue	1-6
INTO Mini-Sevens Hurling	Kilmanagh			
INTO Mini-Sevens Football	Bennettsbridge			
INTO Mini-Sevens Camogie	Kilmanagh			
INTO Mini-Sevens Girls Football	Kilmanagh			

INTO MINI-SEVENS HANDBALL

	Winner	Runner-Up
U 11 (S)		
Girls A	Katie Brennan (Moneenroe)*	Úna Duggan (Galmoy)
Girls B	Katie Grace (Stoneyard)	Clohdna Walsh (Mullinavat)
Boys A	Conor Doyle (Windgap)*	Niall Drennan (Galmoy)
Boys B	Noah Manogue (Gaelscoil)	Luke Hanrahan (St. John's)
U 11 (D)		
Girls A	Katie Jordan/Aoibhe Ryan (Thomastown)*	Unopposed
Girls B	Cara Delaney/Róisín Nic Ghiolla Bhui	Niamh Drennan (Galmoy)/Abby Ni Chonaill (Gaelscoil)
Boys A	Eanna O'Keefe/Conor O'Sullivan	Alex Begley (Thomastown)/Bobby Brennan (Firoda)
Boys B	Cian O'Rourke/PJ Delaney	Darragh Doyle (Windgap)/Fionn Lonergan (Galmoy)
U 13 (S)		
Girls A	Nathania Jackson (Windgap)	Amy Clifford (St. Canice's)
Girls B	Lauren Ronan (Kilmanagh)	Doireann Knox (Mullinavat)
Boys A	Kyle Jordan (Thomastown)*	Tomás Sharkey (Johnstown)
Boys B	Noah Bourke (St Patrick's)	Callum Lonergan (Galmoy)
U 13 (D)		
Girls A	Emer Barron/Margaret Mary O'Shea	Orlaith O'Shea (Windgap)/Emma Delaney (St. Canice's)
Girls B	Ailise Mahony/Eimear Smyth	Nadine Brennan (Burnchurch)/Sarah Cullen (Windgap)
Boys A	Dominic Bolster/Seán O'Keefe	Luke Flanagan* (Clogh)/Conor Holden (Thomastown)
Boys B	Rory Glynn/Brandon Wall	Cian Kelly (Clara)/Neil Wadding (St. John's)

* Five different Kilkenny Representatives won the Leinster Title and represented their province at National Competition in Kingscourt, Cavan!

Coon-Muckalee: Donal Kealy, Matthew Bolger, Ciarán Nolan (Capt), Micheál Keane, Adam Morrissey, Cathal Keegan, Peter Downey, Jamie Morrissey, Tadhg Gill, Ronan Walsh, Conor Dooley (1-0), Adam Keogh, Cormac Quirke, Niall Shore (0-4 f), Seán Hunt. Subs: Jack Murphy, Micheál Ruane, Tomás Daly, Aaron Coogan, Eoin Brennan, Cathal McCormack, Oscar Broderick, Jack Coogan, Conor Murphy, Jake Dowling.

Referee: Sean Brennan

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster U11 Roinn A Hurling Final Thomastown Turn on Full Throttle to Take Title Thomastown 6-5 Clara 1-3

Thomastown served notice of what is to come

point from play and Tyler Nolan was on hand again to fire home from point blank range. Clara tried to keep in touch with a pointed free from Conor Hoyne but they were finding the going tough. The last few minutes of the half brought sheer style out to play as Thomastown midfielder fired over a wonderful point and they went in to the break leading by eight points.

Clara got off to a bright start and had a much needed early score from their central attacker Joe Power. Oisín Farrell goaled in a clever interchange with Alex Begley and Thomastown showed strength on the bench as sub Tadhg Mc Mahon goaled soon after his introduction displaying rarely seen ground hurling skills.

Some vital defending was still required from Thomastown and their subs took over now as goals from Darragh Dack and Tadhg Mc Mahon again made sure of a fantastic victory. Clara fought

to the end and their captain kept leading as he slotted home almost on full time.

Thomastown will certainly be a team to watch next year in under 13 and they were in jubilant form as they received the winning trophy from chairman Noel Power. Clara will regroup again as they have some fine young hurlers at under 13 to add to next year's panel so a lot more from them to come also.

Thomastown: *Colin O'Neill, Conor Barcoe, Eanna O'Keefe, Darragh Coverdale, Conor Kelly, Cian Farrell (Capt), Evan Wilson, Conor Monks, Alex Begley, Oisín Farrell, Colm Treacy, Seán Denieffe, Cian Doherty, Tyler Nolan, Ciarán Coone. Subs: Matthew Cullen, Aaron Darcy, Darragh Dack, Finn Beck, Mikey Bookle, Reuben Allen Grace, Oisín Mc Guinness, Josh O'Hara, Albi Vettichira, Tadhg Mc Mahon.*

Clara: *Dillon Cummins, Alex Firbank, David Barcoe, James Cody, Bill Kealy, Thomas Langton, Ruairc Sweeney, John Bergin, Luke Lawlor, Shane Walsh, Conor Hoyne (Capt), Eoin Corr, Jake Maher, Joe Power, Sean Byrne. Subs: Liam Carrigan, Connor Lynch, Hugh Kelly, Matthew Lehane, Ross O'Gorman, Oisín Reilly Nicholls, Daniel Murphy, Kian Kealy, Diarmuid Downing, Adam Downing, Eoghan O'Brien, Philip Carrigan, Daniel Ryan, Sean Cooke, Joe Langton, Conor Galvin, Tom Murphy, Tomás Brennan.*

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil U11 Roinn B Hurling Final

Dunnamaggin strike early to win. Dunnamaggin 3-3 Urlingford 1-1

Dunnamaggin struck early and regularly to set up an unassailable lead that helped them capture the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil Roinn B Under 11 title against a game and brave Urlingford side. In a game of two halves, the umpires were not troubled at the Town End goal of Nowlan Park as Dunnamaggin completed all their scoring in the first half and the young Urlingford boys did all their scoring in the second period.

Dunnamaggin won the toss and chose to play with the very strong wind which was blowing towards the country end. The Dunnamaggin lads settled into the game very quickly and each to a man were out first to the ball with the first play of the game nearly yielding a score. It was not long before the first score came with Jamie Tallon splitting the posts from a long ball. Next up the smallest man on the field, Noah Cahill made no mistake when a long ball in from Sean Rossiter bounced kindly and he duly rattled the net. Cian Hickey next drove the ball over the bar. Urlingford were working hard but the Dunnamaggin lads were fighting for everything and when a long ball in from John Hayes fell in-front of Cathal Buckley he used his speed to turn his marker and goaled. Then came a period of Urlingford pressure lead by Michel Ahern and the two Oisins, Deegan and Quinlan. As the game headed towards half time the Dunnamaggin lads knew they needed more scores with such a strong breeze and Jamie Tallon popped up in the right place and got himself a nice goal. Sean Lawton then added a point just on half time to send his side in 3 - 03 to nil up at half time.

The Dunnamaggin lads knew the pressure would be on in the second half against the wind. And indeed shortly after the restart Urlingford got a well worked point from Jimmy Cleere. They had reshuffled their team and it was paying dividends.

They pressed again and got a goal from the same player which somehow worked its way through several sets of legs to bounce up kindly and give Thomas Deegan no chance in the goal. Urlingford had a great chance to add a second goal but Dunnamaggin however held firm. Cathal Buckley again raced forward to score a goal only for it to be ruled out for over-carrying. Back came pressure from the Urlingford puck out again where Killian Burke was acquitting himself well in goal. However Dunnamaggin held firm and Ross O'Neill had the privilege of climbing the steps of the old stand in Nowlan Park and accepting the trophy on behalf of his team. Full Time score was: Dunnamaggin 3-3 Urlingford 1-1

Dunnamaggin: *Thomas Deegan, David Moore, John Hayes, Jack McCormack, Pierce Costello, Ross O'Neill (Capt), Sean Rossiter, Sean Lawton, Ciarán Hickey, Tim Doherty, Eoin Shiel, Conor Lawton, Noah Cahill, Cathal Buckley, Jamie Tallon. Subs: Tommy Steed, Shay Delaney, Charlie Nesbitt, Liam Davis, Conor Aylward, Brian Hickey, Cathal Rossiter.*

Urlingford: *Killian Burke, Billy Champion, Craig Barnaville, Diarmuid Burke, Oisín Quinlan, Oisín Deegan, Aaron Mouton-Meakin, Micheál Ahern, Dylan Ivers, Conbor Kavanagh, Jimmy Cleere, Callum Lawlor, Riley Walsh (Capt), Cormac Burke, Conor Gibbons. Subs: Cian Hickey, Simon Zhang, Nathan Barnaville.*

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster U11 Roinn C Hurling Final

Ballyragget win through at the second attempt Drawn game

Ballyragget 2-5 Slieverue 3-2

Ballyragget and Slieverue booked a return to Nowlan Park to decide who would take the honours in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Under 11 Roinn C Hurling Final. Ballyragget opened in very positive and assured mood. Oisín Troy pointed in the first minute and he scored their team's first goal in the fourth minute to open a strong lead. Slieverue kept in touch in fairness and they goaled soon after with some fine team work involving Callum Cleary, Sean Atkins and Ryan Connell. Ballyragget then entered a purple patch and had points from Mark Doherty (2) and Ruairi Farrell from a free. Ballyragget looked the more potent force the scoreboard didn't reflect their dominance. Jamie Aldridge pointed for Slieverue and right on the stroke of half time Callum Cleary added another and only two points separated the sides at the half time mark.

If Ballyragget enjoyed a commanding role in the first half this was reversed in the second, Callum Cleary, Paul Brophy in defence Jamie Aldridge and Ryan Connell were excellent for Slieverue and they engineered two goals in a five minute spell thus setting the game alight. This reawakened the resolve of their opponents and Ballyragget goaled in the eleventh minute. Score now 3-2 to 2-4 with Slieverue holding a single point lead and plenty of time on the clock. However what intrigued most was that Slieverue would not score again for the remainder of the half but they put up one hell of a fight to hold on to their slimmest of margins. It was end to end stuff, and the all-important score finally came in the eighteenth minute when Oisín Troy rose highest to field the sliotar and he fired over to level the match. Neither side could find that telling score to seal the title as the game played out the

last eight minutes and the crowd drew sighs of relief at the final whistle happy to fight another day.

Replay Ballyragget 2-6 Slieverue 1-6

Ballyragget and Slieverue met for the second time in a couple of days in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Under 11 Roinn C final replay. The teams could not be separated in the original fixture and as the replay of the final at Nowlan Park was another very close affair.

It was Slieverue who made the better start with two early points getting the scoreboard ticking early. Oisín Troy opened the account for Ballyragget with a fine score before Paul Brophy restored Slieverue's two point lead. Then came a crucial moment in the 13th minute of the first half when Ballyragget's Marc Bergin made a great catch and finished to the net to give his school their first lead of the game. Bergin and Oisín Troy added two quick points to give the Ballyragget team the advantage at half time on a scoreline of 1-3 to 0-3.

Ballyragget started the second half as they had finished the first and after some great work by Marc Bergin, it was Harry Culleton who finished the ball to the net to give his team the dream start. Oisín Troy added two more gave Ballyragget a commanding 2-6 to 0-3 lead with only 5 minutes on the clock.

The Slieverue team were not so quick to throw in the towel however and led by their captain, Callum Cleary. Callum gave an exhibition of free taking in the final few minutes scoring 1-3 from placed balls to leave just a goal between the teams. The Ballyragget defence held firm under pressure in the end and they ran out deserving winners on a scoreline of 2-6 to 1-6.

Ballyragget: *Harry Culleton, Michael Glennon, Conor Rocliffe, Charlie Culleton, Christopher Delaney, Joshua Dowling, Christian Connick (Jt Capt), Mark Doherty, Ruairi Farrell (Jt Capt), Oisín Troy (Jt Capt), Matthew Grogan, Marc Bergin, Patrick Morrissey, Kyle Galvin, Shay Smith. Subs: Tadhg O'Gorman, William Ryan, James Cash.*

Slieverue: *John Rellis, William Haberin, Corey O'Brien, Paul Brophy, Seán Atkins, Charlie Delahunty, Tadhg Doherty, Ryan Connell, Callum Cleary (Capt), Pat Kennedy, Adam Dowling, Niall Cullen, Fionn Howard, Darragh O'Brien, Jamie Aldridge. Subs: Brian Temple, Dean McGovern, Eoghan Wilson, Sophie Slattery, Noah Kirwan, Touchaan Moore.*

INTO Mini-Sevens

Victories in the INTO Seven-a-side competition were dominated by Kilmanagh who were victorious in Hurling, Camogie and Girls' Football, a superb effort by the St Aidan's children. The Football crown headed to Bennettsbridge who backed up their victory in Roinn B Football last autumn with the title at the smaller form of the game. Congratulations to all the young children who represented Kilkenny in Croke Park –

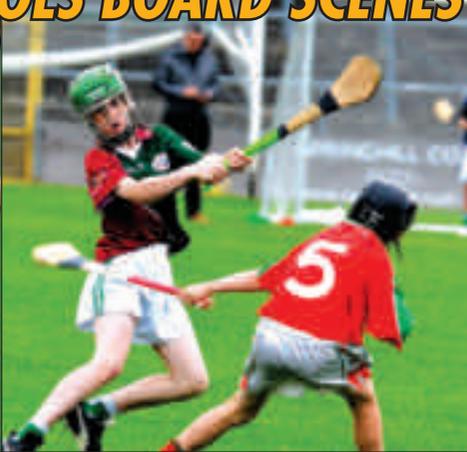
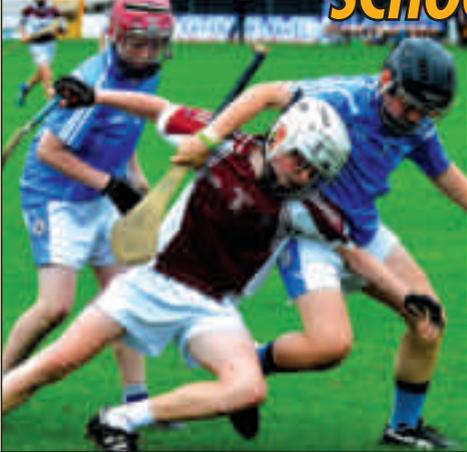
Billy Dowling, Kilmanagh (All-Ireland SH Final), Bill Hughes, Bennettsbridge and Jack Aighmear (Gaelscoil Osraí) (All-Ireland SF Semi-Final), Matthew Cowley, Danesfort (All-Ireland SF Final), Claire Doherty and Lauren East, Kilmanagh, Emma Mulhall, Conahy (All-Ireland SH Semi-Final), Fraya Hardy Petit de Mange (Gaelscoil Osraí) (All-Ireland SF Final).



Kilmanagh Ladies Football-Camogie & Boys Hurling Mini Sevens Winners 2017



SCHOOLS BOARD SCENES 2017



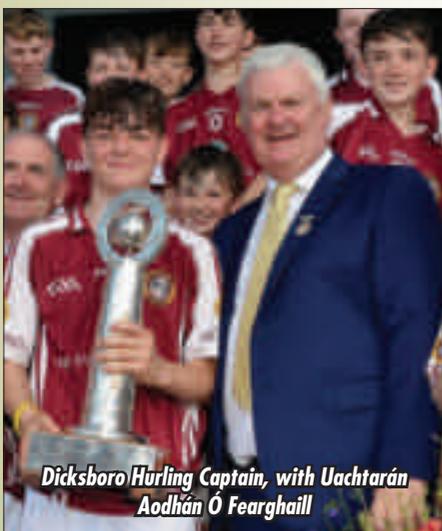
Dicksboro's double delight a highlight of fabulous Feile

Hurling and camogie the winners as clubs across Kilkenny bathe in sunshine and sport.

Kilkenny People Report



Combined Dicksboro Hurling & Camogie Teams - Féile na nGael Division 1 & 2 Champions 2017



Dicksboro Hurling Captain, with Uachtarán Aodhán Ó Fearghail



Dicksboro Camogie Captain, Caoimhe Carroll Aodhán Ó Fearghail

FEILE: Hurling and camogie the winners as clubs across Kilkenny bathe in sunshine and sport. The South-East was aglow with Gaelic Games over the weekend as the Féile na nGael took over. The next generation of Henry Shefflins and Michelle Quilts were on show as the international under-14 hurling and camogie competitions took over pitches all over the county and beyond.

Some 684 matches were played over three days across venues in Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford. The sunshine was a welcome treat, only adding to the occasion, as a record 176 hurling teams (88 host teams and their visitors) and 112 camogie teams (56 hosts with the same number of visitors) competed across 18 divisions in the two codes.

And it proved to be a marvellous weekend for Dicksboro, who won not one but two national titles. The boys' hurling team won the top competition, and secured the Christy Ring Cup, when they beat the Banner's Sixmilebridge in convincing fashion in Nowlan Park. Harry Shine, Rory O'Connor, James Carroll and Sean Maher were among the stars for the 'B o r o' as they dominated the final.

That win followed hot on the heels of the club's camogie team, who took the Division Two spoils when they beat Offaly's Kilcormac-Killoughey, the game turning their way thanks to a late goal from full-forward Rachel D e r m o d y.

In all 11 titles were won by Kilkenny clubs over the weekend. James Stephens were among the winners when they captured the Division One Shield thanks to a win over Galway's Craughwell, while there were celebrations for B e n n e t t s b r i d g e, Dunnamaggin, Lisdowney, Galmoy/Windgap and Slieverue in hurling and for John Lockes (Callan), Windgap and Paulstown/Goresbridge in c a m o g i e.

And the action isn't over. Dicksboro will be hoping to add a third Feile title to their haul when they travel to North for the Football finals, which will be held this weekend across venues in Cavan, Monaghan and F e r m a n a g h.

RESULTS

HURLING

Division One Cup

Dicksboro 3-11, Sixmilebridge (Clare) 0-1

Division One Shield

James Stephens 2-3, Craughwell (Galway) 1-4

Division Two Cup

Rosenallis (Laois) 0-5, Young Irelands 0-4

Division Two Shield

Slaughtneil (Derry) 1-8, Trim (Meath) 1-6

Division Three Cup

Na Piarasigh (Cork) 2-3, St Vincent's (Dublin) 1-3

Division Three Shield

Ballina (Tipperary) 3-2, Westport (Mayo) 1-2

Division Four Cup

Bennettsbridge (Kilkenny) 3-5, CRC Gaels (Offaly) 1-3

Division Four Shield

Eoghan Ruadh (Tyrone) 2-8, Ferns St A i d a n 's (Wexford) 2-2

Division Five Cup

Fethard St Mogue's (Wexford) 0-9, Horeswood (Wexford) 0-3

Division Five Shield

Dunnamaggin 0-7, Ballyheigue (Kerry) 0-3

Division Six Cup

Cuchalainn (Cork) 1-7, Oylegate-Glenbrien (Wexford) 1-4

Division Six Shield

Lisdowney 1-6, Caiseal Gaels (Mayo) 1-2

Division Seven Cup

St Maur's (Dublin) 3-3, St Mollans (Waterford) 0-4

Division Seven Shield

St Abbans Adamstown (Wexford) 0-10, Roscrea (Tipperary) 2-0

Division Eight Cup

Hospital Herberstown (Limerick) 4-5, Conahy Shamrocks 2-4

Division Eight Shield

Clonlara (Clare) 3-3, St Fintans Mountrath (Laois) 3-2

Division Nine Cup

Galmoy / Windgap 2-8, Davidstown-Courtmacuddy (Wexford) 2-4

Division Nine Shield

Tooreen (Mayo) 4-8, AthLeague/Tremane (Roscommon) 1-2

Division 10 Cup

Broadford (Clare) 1-4, Burt (Donegal) 1-2

Division 10 Shield

Killeavy (Armagh) 2-2, Wolfe Tones (Longford) 0-5

Division 11 Cup

St Kevins (Cork) 3-7, Mountbellow-Maylough (Galway) 0-3

Division 11 Shield

Slieverue 0-8, Bunrana (Donegal) 1-1

CAMOGIE

Division One Cup

Sarsfields (Cork) 2-13, Knockavilla (Tipperary) 1-2

Division One Shield

Monaleen (Limerick) 1-6, Galltír (Waterford) 1-1

Division Two Cup

Dicksboro 1-5, Kilcormac Killoughey (Offaly) 0-5

Division Two Shield

Ballygalet (Down) 6-2, Na Fianna (Meath) 5-1

Division Three Cup

Naas (Kildare) 3-9, Salthill (Galway) 1-1

Division Three Shield

Myshall (Carlow) 2-4, Oylegate/Glenbrien (Wexford) 0-2

Division Four Cup

John Lockes 6-4, Muinebhéag (Carlow) 0-1

Division Four Shield

Duffry Rovers (Wexford) 4-1, Drumsum (Derry) 0-1

Division Five Cup

Brideoga (Mayo) 1-4, Rathgarogue-Cushinstown (Wexford) 1-3

Division Five Shield

Kiltegan (Wicklow) 2-3, Danesfort 1-2

Division Six Cup

Cillard (Kerry) 3-2, Rower-Inistioge 0-4

Division Six Shield

Westport (Mayo) 2-1, St Kevins CC (Louth) 1-1

Division Seven Cup

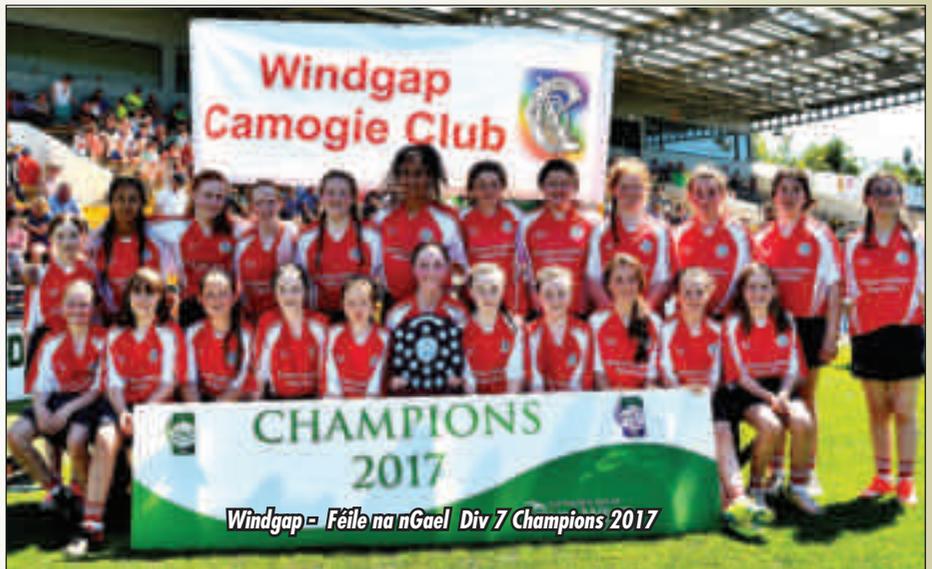
Windgap 2-1, Knockananna (Wicklow) 0-1

Division Seven Shield

Paulstown/Goresbridge 1-3 Laochra Óg (Cork) 0-1



Kilkenny City Ladies Football Team Féile - Peil Div Champions 2017



Windgap - Féile na nGael Div 7 Champions 2017



Dicksboro - Féile Peil Div 5 Champions 2017



Five boys from Galmoy Handball Club travelled to Davidstown in Wexford on Saturday June 10th 2017 to compete in the Division Four Féile Handball Competition. Galmoy took on players from Kells, Ballydesmond, Boherbue and Windgap and, after playing some intense games, Galmoy qualified for the Plate final, meeting Ballydesmond from Cork. It was nip and tuck the whole way but unfortunately the Galmoy team came out runners up, pipped by a couple of aces in the end.

Galmoy Division Four team consisted of Jay Maguire, Billy Garrett, Cathal Phelan, Adam Duggan and Pdraig O'Grady. Thanks to all the parents who travelled to Wexford with the boys to take part in this great competition.



12 June 2017; John Doheny from Fenians GAA Club, Co Kilkenny, pictured with Dublin's Liam Rushe and Carlow's Kate Nolan after participating in the boys hurling competition at the John West Skills Day in the National Sports Campus on Saturday 10th June. The Skills Day is an opportunity for Ireland's rising football, hurling & camogie stars to show their skills ahead of the John West Féile na nÓg and John West Féile na nGael competitions at Abbottstown, Dublin. Photo by Cody Glenn/Sportsfile

A Club Perspective - Féile an nGael i gClárach

By Caroline Clifford

When the news broke that Kilkenny GAA Clubs would co-host the John West Féile na nGael 2017, the excitement and planning started in Clara. Some members of our club had lived through the Féile experience in 2007 when Clara last hosted this event. The novices to Féile listened to Féile stories with wonder, silently believing the tales of the military style organisation and the high jinks at the disco had gained embellishment over the years. Clara Camogie Club recalled how twenty-five years previously, they were crowned Féile champions in 1992.

Clara is a wonderful welcoming parish, so it was with ease that the Hurling and Camogie clubs embraced the prospect of hosting clubs from both codes, thus ensuring our U14 boys and girls would be part of this monstrous Irish sporting event. Little did some of us know what lay ahead!

A Féile committee was set up, members of the Camogie and Bord na nÓg clubs came together to plan and plot how our club would be a successful part of the biggest event in the youth sporting calendar in Ireland. As lists were drawn up of players and parents, and as jobs were assigned, without knowing, new friendships were forming within the club which have lasted beyond that weekend in June. Which players would be available, who would be on holidays, who would we be hosting, how would we entertain our guests; these were some of questions we needed answers to. As the weeks moved on, gradually our plans took shape. The announcement that we would host Southern Gaels GAA Club from Athlone and Derrynouse Camogie Club of Armagh set off a frenzy of web searches to get inside information about these clubs!

After months of speculation and planning, the 16th of June

arrived. The club house gleamed, the grass was manicured to perfection, tents were in place and bunting and flags flew in the wind, all the boxes had been ticked; Clara was ready! To add to the weekend, Clara Camogie club hosted a BBQ in honour of our girls' victory in the 1992 Féile. In glorious sunshine, the burgers sizzled on the BBQ, cups of tea were drunk and old friends and club members relaxed and chatted, no doubt catching up on the intervening years. A flutter of phone calls and text messages between parents and committee members ensured that everyone was kept up-to-date on game results and everyone's whereabouts. The Hurlers kicked off the weekend with two wins, victory over Mount Leinster Rangers and Tooreen on Friday in the GAA grounds in Borris, Co Carlow. Success again on Saturday morning at home in Clara, and in New Ross against Banagher, ensured that our boys would play in the semi-finals. The road led Clara hurling supports to Myshall early Sunday morning, but despite a gallant and talented performance the boys came out second best to Galmoy/Windgap. The team's disappointment at the loss was greatly reduced by the knowledge that they played their hearts out with honesty and spirit, making all in Clara so proud of them. This squad may have been small in numbers but on the field this didn't matter, they played like giants.

A similar pattern emerged for the Camogie team, two out of two wins at home in Clara on Friday evening and again on Saturday morning, ensured a quarter final in Rathnure, with a victory there leading to a semi-final against Dicksboro in Palmerstown on the 17th. The supporters had no complaints, sharing cold drinks, sandwiches and above all sun cream as temperatures soared to nearly 30 degrees, all delighted with the early start to the

summer suntan. Sunday morning saw Clara's girls bow out of the competition after a close and low-scoring game against the Boro girls. This Clara team are a credit to their parents, their mentors and most of all themselves; of course they were disappointed but were so gracious in defeat, knowing they again played their very best for Clara.

This is a weekend that will live long in the memories of Clara Club players and members; friendships have been formed, some which will last a lifetime as highlighted by the visit of a 1978 Féile

team player from the North who returned to Clara during the Féile weekend of 2017 - this time as a team mentor who had remained friends all this time with the Ryan family. This weekend was a huge success due to the cooperation and involvement of all club members, the host families and the Féile committee. A special work of word of thanks must be given to all the mentors who prepared the teams so well for all the games and to the players who represented the club so proudly. Long may they enjoy playing Camogie and Hurling in the maroon and white of Clara.



CLARA GREETES FÉILE 2017

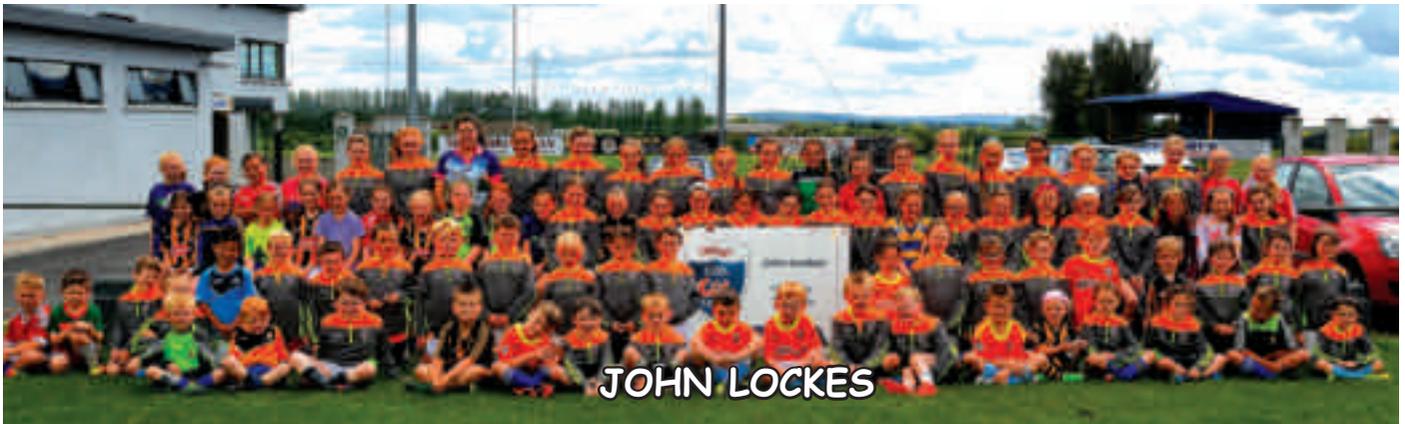




Cúl Camps 2017



Photos: Willie Dempsey



JOHN LOCKES



JOHN LOCKES



CLARA



Photos: Willie Dempsey

MULLINAVAT



CLARA



CLARA



MULLINAVAT

ST KIERAN'S

ST KIERAN'S

GRAIGNAMANAGH



GO GAMES 2017



Photos: Willie Dempsey



MULLINAVAT



TULLAROAN



BENNETTSBRIDGE



SLIEVERUE



GLENMORE



GRAIGNAMANAGH



CARRICKSHOCK



PILTOWN



CONAHY



CLARA



BALLYHALE



YOUNG IRELANDS



DANESFORT



CLOGH MONEENROE



ST PATRICK'S



GALMOY

What a tremendous marketing job!

Barrie Henriques visits Croke Park with the kids

Last April on the 11th of the month – I think it was – I accompanied my daughter-in-law, Vicky, two of her children-my grandchildren-to Croke Park for a very special occasion. Being of an age where I-pods, I-pads, snap chat, twitter etc. are the accoutrements of a fast-growing technological age, of which I am a total dunce in the knowledge of, I really was intrigued by this concept-fostered by the Leinster Council of the GAA-of a product call Go-Games. What did it hope to do? What was the concept behind its creation? What was the point of bringing young children to Croke Park for the day to play with a specially designed (not to hurt) sliothar? When I heard that there were children from Mullinavat, O'Loughlin Gaels, Bennetsbridge, Clara, Conahy Shamrocks, Danesfort, Dicksboro, Emeralds and John Lockes also on the road, I was wondering what the whole enterprise was costing and who was going to pay? There were over 210 Kilkenny children- boys and girls- in a multiplicity of busses on the road to Croke. Some of the children likened the trip on the bus to a Kilkenny team going to Croke Park to play in an All Ireland. I met people from all the Kilkenny clubs up there. There were plenty of Mams and Dads present glorying in seeing their siblings playing on the hallowed turf. There were a few Grandads and Grannies there too, and how proud they were as their grandchildren strode out on the superbly presented turf of Croke Park. It had a magical ring tone just repeating the name.

I met up with a great friend of Kilkenny hurling, choreographer of the event, Cian Murphy. Ostensibly the PRO of the Leinster Council, but his love of, and ability to tell the good story stands him apart from many others.

"How many children do you cater for over the two days", we asked the affable Dub.

"Over the course of the two days there were 98 games involving 129 clubs from across all 12 Leinster counties and was another huge success. Each of the Provinces have access to Croke Park to run a certain underage event. Different Provinces take a different approach with who should go. For Leinster, it has always been about capturing players at this early age and in the last nine years there have been almost 30,000 Under 8 kids who have been given the day out of a lifetime" said Cian.

"Who decides which club can come to Croke Park, and on what date".

"The clubs are selected on a rota basis in each county and the feedback is

overwhelmingly positive", he told us

"I love the way the youngsters are paraded out, and the introductions to the opposition, but there are other nuggets of wonderment dished out as well, Cian".

"As well as getting the chance to play on the hallowed turf, all of the children get to visit the famous Croke Park dressing rooms and warm up areas and, regardless of the result, get to go up the steps of the Hogan Stand and pose for a picture with a cup. To see the absolute joy, and excitement in their faces is worth any money. The Kilkenny kids are simulating the likes of TJ (Reid), Henry (Shefflin), Jackie (Tyrrell), Brian (Hogan), as they vie with each other to lift the cup. And what amazes me always is their knowledge of the Kilkenny players, and their mentors. Your Kilkenny GAA PR machine must be working overtime down there", he added as an afterthought.

"You obviously capture the mind and soul of all of the kids, and one would have to admit that this was surely the core issue of the exercise. But there were quite a number of Parents and Grandparents in attendance, and it appeared to me that they were well impressed and proud of their children".

"It is perhaps an even bigger thrill for the parents, and family members who get to be there to see their little ones play. There's a magic attached to playing in Croke Park which exists regardless of whether you are eight or 28 and if anything, they get more of a kick out of the day and have memories to last a lifetime", Cian Murphy replied

"For Leinster GAA, these two days are at the heart of what the Provincial Council is about – helping to nurture and develop clubs and players".

I met a youngster from the Dicksboro Club, who was on high doh making his way to the bus. Tom was his name. When I asked him about his favourite moment of the day, he answered with a gleaming smile, and an enthusiasm of one looking forward with great hope and expectation to a repeat sometime in his little minds eye. "Driving into Croke Park on the bus was great. When we



Cian Murphy
PRO Comhairle Laighin



John Lockes Youngsters in Croke Park

Leinster GAA

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Go Games days
at Croke Park
for 30,000 Under 8s
since 2007



Proudly supporting the development
of Gaelic Games in Kilkenny



Dicksboro Children in Croke Park Dressing Rooms

went into the dressing room where the Kilkenny lads would always be very exciting, and racing out on to the pitch was great", he informed me. Anything else Tom?

"Yeah---- going into McDonnells on the way home", he smiled the smile of the innocents.

I met my own Grandson, Sean. I remarked to his Mother Vicky that he might not sleep for a week. I asked him what he scored, and what his best part of the day was.

"I scored three goals, but they disallowed a point I got, and I wouldn't mind but it went straight over the black spot on the crossbar. They didn't need the birds eye yoke Barrie. (Points are not allowed in the Go-Games) It was great going up to lift the cup too".

Out of the mouth of babes-----

What a superb method of marketing a product.

Comhgairdeas Comhairle Laighean.

You certainly got all your ducks in line on this one!



Sean Henriques in action.



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**Congratulations to
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DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

Squads 2017 by Seamus Norris & Richie Mulrooney



Kilkenny Arrabawn Tournament winners 2017

U16 Hurling

The Kilkenny u-16 hurlers had a very active and successful year. Many of the players, mainly those not doing the Junior Cert, started off the year by representing Kilkenny Black in the national U-17 Celtic Challenge. This gave them plenty of game time in a well organised and competitive setting. They gave a fine account of themselves before eventually bowing out to Tipperary South.

The U-16 full panel made the annual trip to Antrim and defeated the hosts. Early indications from training suggested that Kilkenny would be very competitive throughout the season. When the Junior Cert ended the extended panel trained twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Challenge matches against O'Loughlin's minor team, Dublin and Offaly served notice of a strong bond being formed between the players.

Two panels were picked for the prestigious U-16 All Ireland Hurling Tournament which took place on National Hurling Day, Saturday, August 26th. In preparation for the tournament, both Kilkenny teams headed to Coolderry in early August to take part in an inter provincial blitz. The A squad had

fine performances in defeating both Waterford and Offaly. The B squad also performed very well, beating Kerry and losing narrowly to Waterford B. In the U-16 All Ireland tournament Kilkenny A were in the same group as Limerick and Wexford in Grangemockler. With only one team advancing to the knockout stages of the cup competition, Kilkenny needed to be focused from the very start. After a tight tense affair they defeated Limerick on a score line of 1-12 to 0-9. A comprehensive victory over Wexford, 4-12 to 0-7 saw the Kilkenny boys through to the cup semi - final. The semi- final against Clare will live long in the memory of the players, mentors and supporters. An outstanding first half by the Banner boys left them 3-6 to 1-3 ahead at half time. Kilkenny looked to be in serious trouble. A couple of personnel changes and a host of positional switches were made to the team. Within two minutes of the restart of the second half, Clare had stretched their lead to 11 points. Nobody could have foreseen what was about to happen. With spirit and courage and a never say die attitude the young kittens roared into the game outscoring their opponents by 2-9 to 0-2 in the remaining 18 minutes. A final score line

of 3-12 to 3-10 to Kilkenny was testament to the unity within the panel. It was onto Clonmel for the final against a highly fancied Tipperary team who had comprehensively beaten Offaly, Dublin, Clare and Galway on their way to the final. Kilkenny played some of their best hurling of the day and in a high quality game between two small, skilful sides it was the Noresiders who led from start to finish. The final score of 3-12 to 2-10 was a fair reflection of the contest. To the delight of the travelling supporters Conor Kelly of O'loughlins lifted the cup as Kilkenny won the U16 All Ireland Hurling tournament for just the 5th time in the 30 years of the competition.

The Kilkenny B panel also did the county proud that weekend in the John Doyle Cup. Despite being in a very difficult group with Galway, Waterford and Cork, the Kilkenny boys emerged to reach the final with fine wins over Galway and Waterford. The final against Cork was a very tight affair with some fine bouts of hurling from both sides. The game ebbed and flowed and unfortunately Kilkenny just came up short losing by 2-9 to 1-8.

All players put in a great effort throughout the year.



Arrabawn Captain Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels)



*Arrabawn Team Management:
Adrian Finan, Martin Carey, Richie Mulrooney, Niall Bergin and Diarmuid Iawlor*

U 16 A Arrabawn Tournament

Panel: Jason Brennan (Young Irelands), Tim Corkery (Bennettsbridge), Jamie Young (O'Loughlin Gaels), Chris Korff (Erin's Own), Shane Staunton (Clara), Jack Morrissey (St. Patricks), Harry Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels) (Captain), Cillian Rudkins (Barrow Rangers), Darragh Maher (St. Lachtains), Jack Buggy (Erins Own), Ciaran Brennan (Bennettsbridge), George Murphy (Rower Inistioge), Killian Hogan (Mooncoin), Stephen Keoghan (Graigue Ballycallan), David Fogarty (O' Loughlin Gaels), Cathal O'Leary (St. Lachtains), Jack Hickey (Emeralds), Jordan Muldowney (Fenians), Jamie Harkin (Bennettsbridge), Jack Holden (Thomastown), Dylan Crehan (Dunnamaggin), Pdraig Dempsey (Mullinavat)

Management Team: Richie Mulrooney, Niall Bergin, Adrian Finan, Dermot Lawler, Martin Carey.

U 16 B Tipperary Tournament

Panel: Philly Drennan (Barrow Rangers), Mick Kelly (St Patrick's), Dan Coogan (Erin's Own) Captain, Michael Walsh (Mullinavat), Thomas Dunne(Tullaroan), Brian O Meara (Kilmacow), Aidan Doyle (Mooncoin), Niall Higgins (O Loughlins Gaels), Jim Ryan (James Stephens), Alex Moore (Dunnamaggin), Stephen Barron (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Eoin Guilfoyle (James Stephens), Lee McCann (Lisdowney), James Delahunty (Mooncoin), Ronan Shore (St Martins), Aaron Kinsella (Piltown), David Conway (Dicksboro), Jack Elliot (Glenmore), Eoin O Connor (Barrow Rangers), Conor Clark (Erin's Own), Sean Bourke (Emeralds), Jason Byrne (Graignamanagh), Edward Prendergast (Rower Inistioge), Jason Butler (James Stephens)

Management Team: Stephen Dormer, Pat Nolan, Aidan Moran, James Gittens.

UNDER-14 HURLING

The selection process for Under-14 hurling developments squads, the first rung on the pathway of Inter-county hurling, changed in 2017. Selection was based on a Féile Na nGael county competition which had three tiers. Each club had the opportunity to play four games over two days which were viewed by at least one development squad coach per venue. This meant every single "up to the age" player had the opportunity to be viewed by at least two different neutral squad coaches. It meant that a player had ample opportunity to impress with players of his own level in a competitive environment while allowing for an off day. It also allowed the coaches to take note of younger players with potential, for future reference. The end result was 99 players were selected which were divided into three regions, North, South and Central. Three further players were added subsequently based on performances in later club games highlighting the continuous review of players by the squad coaches. The players then received ten coaching sessions in their regions from the squad coaches and some guest inter county coaches before the squads for Tony Forristal and Sonny Walsh tournaments were selected. Although the results in the Waterford tournaments were not as would have been wished for, the squads were competitive. The process is under continuous review and will most likely be tweaked further for 2018 especially with the changes to age grades.

Tony Forristal Tournament

U 14 Tony Forristal Tournament

Management Team: Seamus Norris, Gavin Nolan, D.J. Carey, Tommy Brennan, Jim Neary.

Panel: Brian Minogue (Dicksboro), Adam O'Sullivan (John Lockes), Shaun O'Keeffe (Dunnamaggin), Mark Donnelly (St. Lachtains), John Canny (Danesfort), James Aylward (Mooncoin), Charlie Nolan (Dicksboro), Pdraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Billy



U 14 Tony Forristal Panel 2017



U 14 Sonny Walsh Hurling Squad 2017



U 15 North Hurling Squad Panel 2017



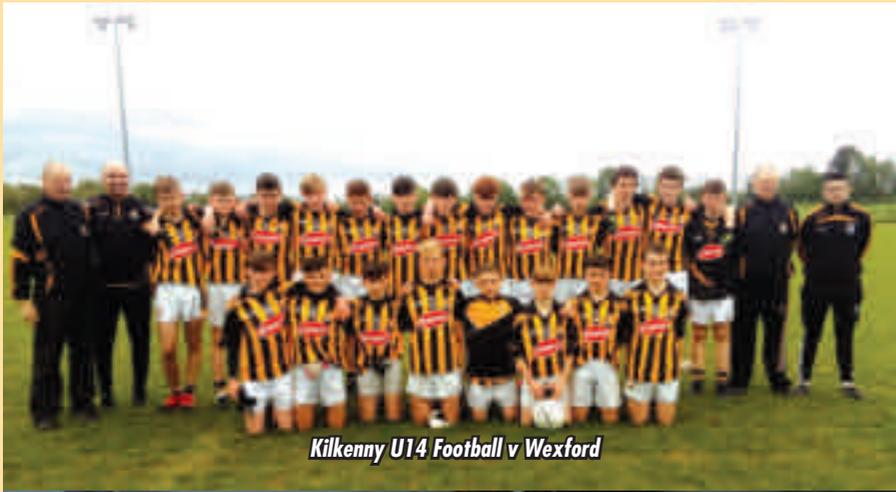
U 15 South Squad Hurling Panel 2017

Drennan (Galmoy), Ciaran Phelan (John Lockes), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), John Doheny (Fenians), Mark Gunner (Conahy Shamrocks), Tom Brennan (Graigue Ballycallan), Denis Walsh, (Dunnamaggin), Michael Kirwan (Glenmore), Sean Purcell (Windgap) Ivan Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Willie Cahill (Lisdowney), Cathal Darcy (Young Irelands), Neil Moriarty (Piltown), Braedon Wheeler (Piltown), Dylan O'Brien (James Stephens), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro).

U 14 Sony Walsh Tournament:

Management Team: Liam Lacey, Brian Young, Adrian Landy, Maurice Flynn, Ray Byrne.

Panel: Oisín Kelly (St Martins), Dara Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Cathal Norton (Danesfort), Conor Dermody (Barrow Rangers), Liam Lacey (Kilmacow), Niall Rowe (Dicksboro), Adam Duggan (Fenians), Alex Lawlor (Fenians), John Doyle (Bennettsbridge), Billy Reid (Glenmore), Eimhin McAvoey (Lisdowney), Seán Maher (Dicksboro), Rory O'Connor (Dicksboro), George O'Connor (Mullinavat), Josh Kennedy (Rower Inistioge), Adam Croke (Mooncoin), Charlie Delahunty (Dicksboro), Conor O'Hanlon (Barrow Rangers), Ian Ahern (Slieverue), Seán O'Dwyer (Mooncoin), Ruaidhri Delaney (Rower Inistioge), Tom Reid (Piltown), Cillian Norton (Danesfort), Luke McNena (Thomastown)



Kilkenny U14 Football v Wexford

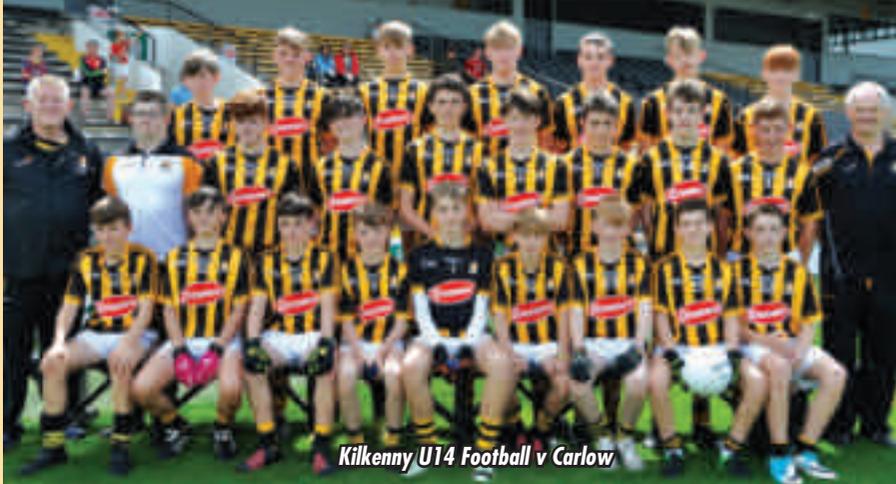
Other mentors of our U 14 Squads in 2017 included Willie Hanlon, John Buggy, Martin Gordon, Canice Brennan, John McCormack, John Carroll and James Dowling.

U 15 South Management Team: Pat Hoban, Tommy Shefflin, Noel Skehan, Angelo Cullen, Ger Kirwan.

Panel: Francis Moore (Piltown), Sean O Neill (Piltown), Daryl May (Piltown), Kieran Dowling (Kilmacow), Oisín Hennebray (Mooncoin), Mairtin Gannon (Mooncoin), Daniel Murphy (Bennettsbridge), Harry Murphy (Bennettsbridge), Andy Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Conor Morrissey (Glenmore), Ian Byrne (Glenmore), David Maher (Mullinavat), Luke Byrne Doyle (Mullinavat), Conor Walsh (Mullinavat), William Halpin (Slieverue), Colman O Sullivan (Tullagher Rosbercon), Brian Walsh (Tullagher Rosbercon), Peter Mc Donald (Thomastown), Edmund Fitzpatrick (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Craig Bolger (Rower Inistioige), Pdraig Foley (Windgap), Jack Doyle (Windgap), Pierce Blanchfield (Graignamanagh), Senan Doyle (Blacks & Whites)

U 15 North Management Team: Liam Smith, Liam Dowling, Tom Hogan, Aidan Fogarty, Ollie O Connor

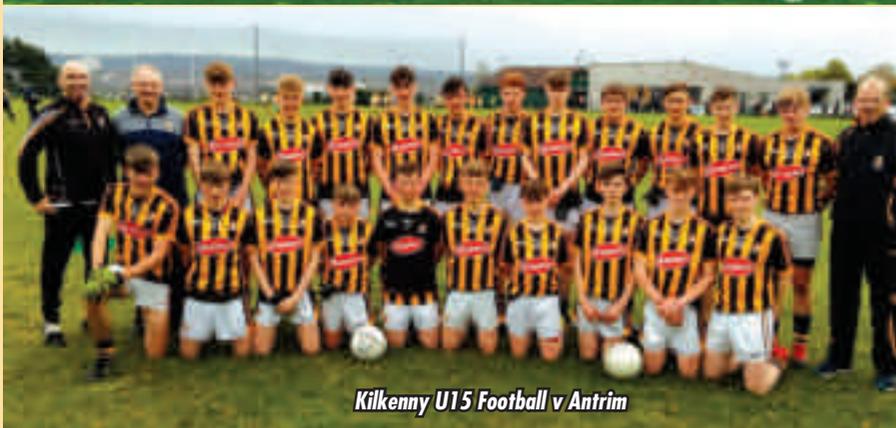
Panel: Kieran O'Neill (Barrow Rangers), Ciaran Rice, John Paul Gamble (Conahy Shamrocks), Adam Byrne, Tomas Leahy (Danesfort), Aaron Murphy, Colm O'Hara, Pauric Moylan, Michael Clifford, Liam Moore (Dicksboro), Dean Bray, Jamie Maher (Erin's Own), Eoin Delahunty, Oisín Egan (Graigue Ballycallan), Jamie O'Keefe, Ben Cantwell (James Stephens), Aidan Tallis (Lisdowney), John McNamara, Vincent O'Grady (O'Loughlin Gaels), Alan Rafter (St Lachtain's), Bill Dowling, Tristan Roche (St Martin's), Brendan Walsh (Tullaroan), Patrick Brennan (Young Irelands).



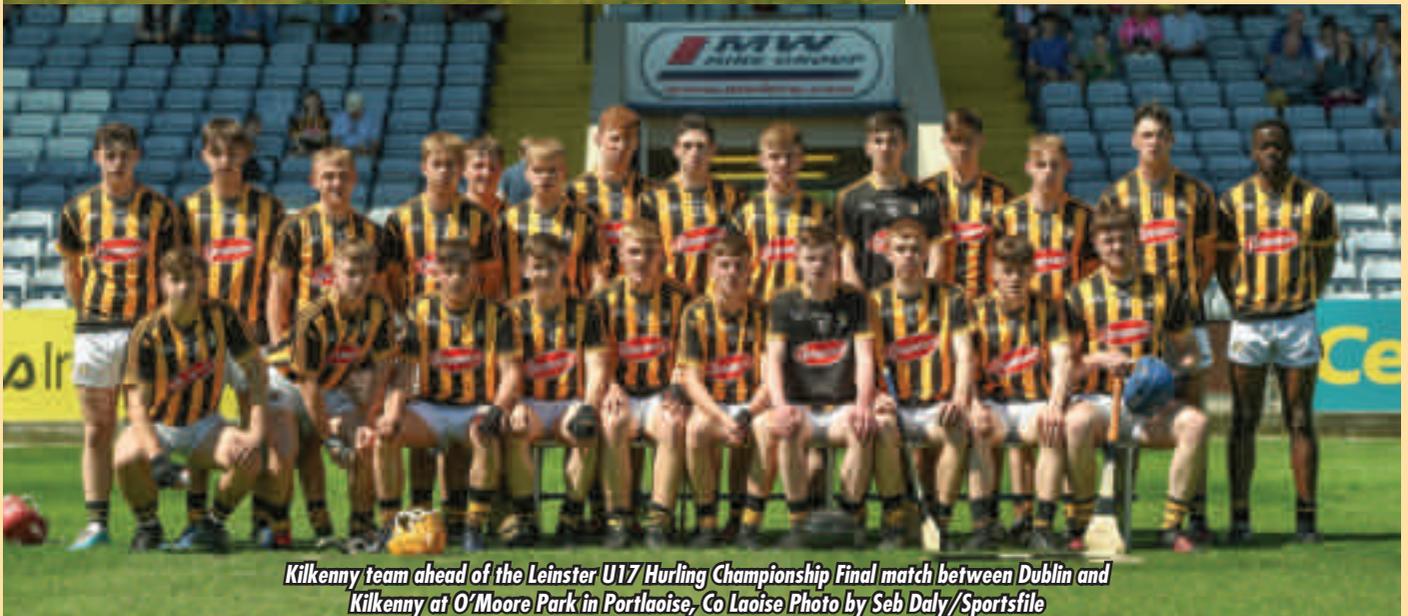
Kilkenny U14 Football v Carlow

UNDER-15 AND UNDER-14 GAELIC FOOTBALL

The DJ Carey led Gaelic Football squads project continued in 2017. Several sessions were held during the year at the MW Hire Training Centre in Dunmore and Coaches Seamus Norris, Thomas Rossiter, Angelo Cullen and Murt Flynn. Senior Hurling coach, Michael Dempsey expertise was also brought on board highlighting the serious approach to Gaelic Football. For the first time ever a Gaelic Football squad travelled to Belfast to play the hosts in the Antrim Cup. It was a historic day for the Kilkenny lads who won the game by 3-10 to 0-7. The Under-15s also took part in the Leinster Blitz in Portlaoise playing games against Laois and Wicklow. The Under-14's had a very good win over Wexford 10-3 to 4-6 in the Leinster Blitz and



Kilkenny U15 Football v Antrim



Kilkenny team ahead of the Leinster U17 Hurling Championship Final match between Dublin and Kilkenny at O'Moore Park in Portlaoise, Co Laoise Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile

fought valiantly against a strong Meath team. They also played Carlow as the curtain raiser to the All-Ireland Junior Football semi-final between Kilkenny and Meath in Nowlan Park. Although it did not result in a win, it was a fantastic day for the young Kilkenny footballers who were well looked after. The hurling equivalents squads have never played in Nowlan Park. The words win and Kilkenny football although not commonplace is becoming more prevalent as the Gaelic Football project continues. The players received exactly the same preparation, quality coaching, gear and after match treatment as their hurling counterparts. The door is always open to more players who want to wear the black and amber jersey with details posted on the Kilkenny GAA website when required. The project is still on track to field a competitive minor team in 2019.

Under-15 Gaelic Football squad that beat Antrim in the Antrim Cup
 Back Row: DJ Carey (Manager), Seamus Norris (Coach), Jack Skehan (Thomastown), Thomas Lawlor (St. Martins), Kieran O'Neill (Barrow Rangers), Jamie O'Keeffe (James Stephens), Liam Treacy (Thomastown), Oisín Henerbry (Mooncoin), Evan O'Shea (Piltown), Cormac Rafter (St. Lachtains), Oisín Carroll (Carrickshock), Francis Moore (Piltown), Jack Kennedy (Blacks & Whites), Angelo Cullen (Coach)
 Front Row: Gavin Manning (Young Irelands), Ian Kelly (Young Irelands), Patrick Brennan (Young Irelands), Brian McDonald (Danesfort), Jack Conway (Mooncoin), Donnacha Hogan (Mooncoin), David Holland (Young Irelands), Aidan Walsh (Piltown), Sean O'Neill (Piltown), David Maher (Mullinavat)

Under-14 Gaelic Football squad that beat Wexford in the Leinster Blitz
 Back Row: Angelo Cullen (Coach), DJ Carey (Manager) Stephen Foley (Graignamanagh), Sam O'Brien (Graignamanagh), Cathal Darcy (Young Irelands), Jack Kennedy (Blacks & Whites), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands), Ben Canavan (John Lockes), Sean O'Dwyer (Mooncoin), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), Braedon Wheeler (Piltown), Neil Moriarty (Piltown), Ruaidhri Delaney (Rower Inistioge), Callum Arthurs (Tullagher Rosbercon), Jack Conway (Mooncoin), Seamus Norris (Coach), Thomas Rossiter (Coach)
 Front Row: Brogan McAviney (Young Irelands), Oisín Kelly (St. Martins), Simon Connolly (Graignamanagh), John Canny (Danesfort), James Whitty (Blacks & Whites), Conor Brennan (Danesfort), Luca Loli (Dicksboro), Tom Reid (Piltown)

Under-14 Gaelic Football squad that played Carlow in Nowlan Park prior to the All-Ireland junior semi-final between Kilkenny and Meath
 Back Row: James Carroll (Dicksboro) Braedon Wheeler (Piltown), Neil Moriarty (Piltown), Jack Kennedy (Blacks & Whites), Tom Reid (Piltown), Stephen Foley (Graignamanagh), Timmy Clifford (Dicksboro)
 Middle Row: Murt Flynn (Coach), Thomas Rossiter (Coach), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), Ben Canavan (John Lockes), Sean O'Dwyer (Mooncoin), Cathal Darcy (Young Irelands), Callum Arthurs (Tullagher Rosbercon), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands), Seamus Norris (Coach)
 Front Row: Padraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Oisín Kelly (St. Martins), Luca Loli (Dicksboro), Rory O'Connor (Dicksboro), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro), Conor Brennan (Danesfort), Richie McEvoy (Lisdowney), Simon Connolly (Graignamanagh), James Whitty (Blacks & Whites),
 Missing From Photo: DJ Carey (Manager)

UNDER-14 HURLING

U-17 Celtic Challenge

Kilkenny were represented in the U-17 Celtic Challenge by two panels of players. Kilkenny Amber was made up completely of U-17 players while Kilkenny Black was a selection of U16 players who were mostly in transition year, rather than using junior cert students, where possible. Both panels deserve huge credit for their willing attitude and many players made great progress throughout the campaign.

In the group stages Kilkenny Amber had fine victories against Dublin Clarke, Wexford Gold, Carlow, Wexford Purple and Meath Royals. Kilkenny Black had equally impressive wins against Kildare, Dublin Plunkett, Wicklow and Westmeath.

In the All-Ireland quarter final Kilkenny Amber bowed out to a very good Tipperary South team on a score line of 1-16 to 2-12. Kilkenny Black had a great win against Wexford Purple in their last eight match, winning 2-16 to 3-12. In the semi-final Kilkenny Black lost out narrowly to Tipperary South. With continued development, many of the players from both panels, could feature on future Kilkenny U21 panels.

U-17 Celtic Challenge Panel Kilkenny Amber
 Sean Manogue (James Stephens) Paddy Brennan (St. Patricks) Oisín Murphy (O'Loughlins) Michael Power (John Lockes) Rory Breen (Barrow Rangers) Robert Doheny (St. Patricks) Sean Phelan (Glenmore) Fergus Byrne (James Stephens) Josh Doheny (John Lockes)



Ciarán Brennan of Kilkenny in action against Lee Gannon of Dublin during the Leinster U17 Hurling Championship Final
 Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile



Lee Gannon of Dublin in action against Diarmuid Phelan of Kilkenny during the Leinster U17 Hurling Championship Final
 Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile

Declan Duggan (Piltown) David O'Carroll (Lisdowney) Declan Buggy (Erins Own) Jake Dwyer (Carrickshock) Shane Maher (Thomastown) Dylan Carey (Young Irelands) Martin O'Connell (Clara) Aaron Okoroh (Fenians) Robbie Fitzgerald (Glenmore) Danny Coyne (Bennettsbridge) Stephen Donnelly (Thomastown) Dan Comerford (St. Martins) Darragh Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks) Cathal Holland (Erins Own) Paddy Doyle (Galmoy) David Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge) Darragh Hartley (Glenmore)

Mentors: Richie Mulrooney (Dicksboro), Martin Carey (Young Irelands), Stephen Dormer (Barrow Rangers)

U-17 Celtic Challenge Panel Kilkenny Black
 Philly Drennan (Barrow Rangers) Michael Walsh (Mullinavat) Shane Staunton (Clara) Dylan Crehan (Dunnamaggin) Niall Higgins (O'Loughlins) Killian Hogan (Mooncoin) Aaron Kinsella (Piltown) Ronan Shore (St Martins) Cathal O'Leary (St. Lachtains) Sean Bourke (Emeralds) Alex Moore (Dunnamaggin) Lee McCann (Lisdowney) George Murphy (Rower/Inistioge) Cian Kenny (James Stephens) Dan Coogan (Erins Own) Christopher Korff (Erins Own) Eoin O'Connor (Barrow Rangers) Sean Cosgrave (Graiguenamanagh) Harry Walsh (Dunnamaggin) Jamie Harkin (Bennettsbridge) Conor Kelly (O'Loughlins) David Fogarty (O'Loughlins) Jack Holden (Thomastown)

Mentors: Adrian Finan (James Stephens), Niall Bergin (O'Loughlins), Dermot Lawlor (St. Martins)

AN ACTION PACKED YEAR

for the Ladies Footballers

Kilkenny LGFA Report 2017 by Angela Kenneally



Kilkenny ladies Junior Squad 2017

*(Back Row L-R) James Neary (Manager), Shauna Carroll (Thomastown), Saoirse Comerford (KK City), Blathnaid Galwey (Thomastown), Jessie Carroll (Thomastown), Jennifer Norris (Piltown), Sinead McGrane (Muckalee), Lynn Beirne (Callan), Anne Prendergast (Thomastown), Tina Wright (Callan), Aoife Naddy (Thomastown), Joanne Quinn (Thomastown), Mary Beamish (Thomastown), Aine Sheehy (Thomastown)
(Front Row L-R) Lauren Valentine (KK City), Caoilfhionn Ni h'Argain (KK City), Michelle Farrell (Erin's Own), Ailis O'Shea (Thomastown), Rebecca Brennan (Erin's Own), Martin Dowd (Manager), Katie Nolan (Erin's Own), Roisin Allen (Erin's Own), Angela Kenneally (Thomastown), Lisa Norris (Piltown)*

2017 has been an action packed year for the ladies footballers in the county. With clubs dotted the length and breadth of Kilkenny, ladies football is the fastest growing sport for ladies in the area as is reflected nationally. We have competitions running from February right through until late November and have girls from under ten right through to adult level participating. This year Kilkenny was represented at inter-county level in many competitions and one of our clubs Kilkenny City has had national success at both Féile Peil and the All Ireland Sevens competition at adult level.

Should you wish to get involved in any capacity (Player, Mentor or Spectator) please check out our Facebook page: 'Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football' for more details.

U 12

Kilkenny entered two U12 teams in Leinster blitzes in 2017, these teams were formed from all our u12 clubs across the county, with 28 players traveling to Carlow and 24 to Portlaoise. The first blitz in June saw Kilkenny in a group with Wicklow, Offaly and Laois, we had a good win in our first match against Wicklow and were piped at the end by a late score by Laois. In the end Offaly proved too strong for us.

Our second blitz was in Portlaoise. This time Kilkenny were in Division 4 with Offaly, Westmeath Laois and Wicklow. With 3 wins out of 4 in the group stage Kilkenny qualified for the final against Westmeath. This was a very tight affair with both teams taking the lead at different times, however it was Westmeath that got the final 2 scores to seal the win.

Great thanks is due to the parents for bringing the players to training and to the blitz days, and to the trainers who worked with both squads.

U 14

We had over 90 girls turn up to the first day of trials in February for our 14 panel in St. Kieran's College. It was great to see such a fantastic interest in Ladies Football which is one of the fastest growing sports in the Country. Unfortunately we had to cut the panel down to 40 players after three weeks as we did not have enough coaches available to look after any more than one panel. This group of players quickly bonded and started their Leinster Campaign with an opening match away to Wicklow in Tinahealy on March 11th. The girls put in a huge performance and showed great heart and determination to come back from seven points down to level it at 3-9 a piece at half time. Unfortunately Wicklow proved too strong in the finish. The final score was Wicklow 6-15, Kilkenny 4-11. In their next League game on March 25th the girls took on Louth at home in Clara. This was a hum dinger of a game from start to finish and the Kilkenny girls left it all on the pitch. They

finished worthy winners on a score line of Kilkenny 6-9 to Louth 2-6. The final league match in the group was home to neighbours Carlow on April 8th, the girls won this one comfortably. It was a great performance by the entire panel that made it on to the field of play.

Having finished second on the group C table this set the Cats up for a semi-final showdown against neighbours Wexford who finished in third place in group B. The semi-final was another home venue for the Cats on April 22nd in Clara. Both teams played some excellent football and there was great movement off the ball by both teams. Kilkenny went in 3 points up at half time having just conceded a late goal before the half time whistle. The girls came out all guns blazing in the second half and started strong with a goal in the first minute. There was nothing between the two sides until Wexford pulled away with 10 mins to go and unfortunately the game got away from Kilkenny. The final score was Wexford 8-4 to Kilkenny 9-9. This finished their Leinster campaign but they still had a Leinster Blitz and All Ireland Blitz to look forward to.

They took part in the All Ireland Blitz on May 13th, where they had comprehensive wins over Sligo and Offaly with one loss to Louth on this. Their final outing of the year was the Leinster Blitz in Portlaoise on July 15th where they won their three group matches convincingly defeating Offaly, Louth and Longford. This set them up for a final against old rivals Louth who finished second in the group. Louth having the bigger panel and having had the opportunity to rest some of their players in the group matches proved too strong in the end. We are very proud of this group of girls who have represented their county so well and put in a huge effort in all their matches during the year. Mentors for this group were Anne Barcoe, Brian Glynn, Michelle Doherty and Lynn Beirne.

Adult:

For the first time since 2011, Kilkenny were represented at adult level in both the Division 4 National League and the All-Ireland Junior Championship. With a blended squad of both experienced and new players, we competed well in the early stages of the National league putting eventual All Ireland Junior Champions for the season, Fermanagh to the test. With what was probably our best performance in the competition, a gutsy Kilkenny side very nearly caused a huge upset early on. The remainder of the league campaign proved challenging, coming up against some very strong Intermediate sides but the Kilkenny girls grew from strength to strength.



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The opening championship game saw Kilkenny travel to Manchester to take on Lancashire, a side who boasted a number of former Irish senior inter county players. The cats put on a fierce display and held out to take home a win. Unfortunately the squad sustained a number of injuries over the following weeks which brought the season to an end for some of the key players. We were beaten by a much improved Carlow side and a strongly fancied London outfit to bring an end to our first season competing at adult level for six years. Much progress has been made and the girls are already in training for what promises to be a very exciting year in 2018. Many thanks to mentors James Neary, Martin Dowd and Paddy Phelan for their work with the squad throughout the year and to Brendan Healy who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

Kilkenny City Ladies win All-Ireland Football title (FEILE)

Kilkenny City Ladies Gaelic Football Club travelled to Cavan and Monaghan on Friday 23rd June to compete in the All Ireland Feile football competition and came away with an All Ireland title after victory over a highly fancied New York in the Div 2 final played in Clones.

The City girls got off to a shaky start in the competition when they played Armagh champions Derrynoose on the Friday evening, going down by the minimum margin 1-6 to 1-5. Derrynoose fielding five Armagh county players who have qualified for the U14 All Ireland football, got their noses in front from the start of the match and despite the efforts of Kilkenny City they held out for a one point win helped by some questionable refereeing decisions.

Despite that setback the girls and mentors regrouped for the remaining two matches in the group which they needed to win to qualify for the cup quarter finals. This they did with clinical victories over Kingscourt on a score line of 8-9 to 0-1 on Friday evening and then on Saturday morning played their wonderful hosts for the weekend Sheroock and came away with a win, 9-7 to 2-2.

Then it was off to Cavan town on Saturday afternoon for a quarter final against Edenderry from Offaly who had topped their group with wins over the Down champions and two other local Cavan teams. It was in this game that the girls began to play some delightful football with some lovely passing movements which resulted in Kilkenny City's better balanced panel gaining a huge scalp, winning on a score line of 3-6 to 2-3.

The semi-final on Sunday morning in Scotstown was against another highly fancied outfit Kilcullen from Kildare. It didn't look good early in when Kilcullen got in for an early goal and Kilkenny City held their nerve and with great determination fought back to be just one point down at half time 1-2 to 1-3. In the second half Kilkenny City stormed into the match and with ruthless efficiency scoring 2-4 with Kilcullen's reply being just one goal to leave the final score Kilkenny City 3-6 Kilcullen 2-3 and Kilkenny City had qualified for the Div 2 final.

It was then a quick turnaround to get to Clones for the final versus New York who had qualified for the final with quarter and semi-final wins over Timahoe from Laois and Derrynoose from Armagh. The game started with early chances for



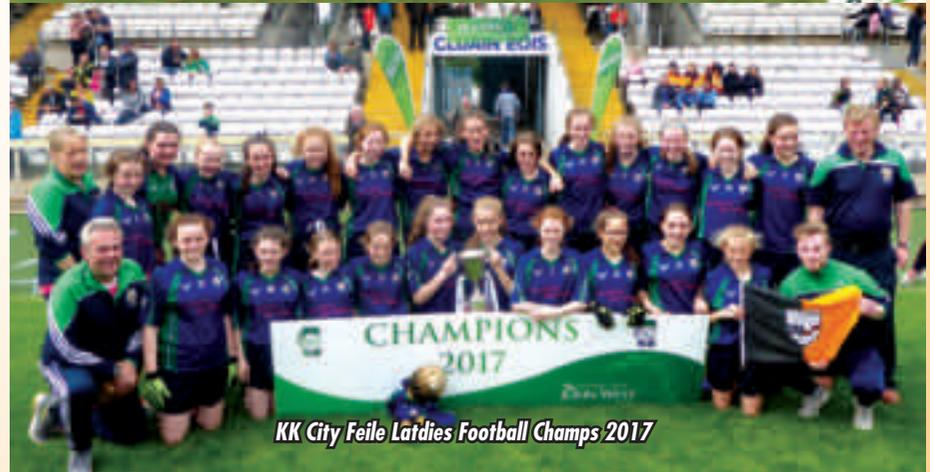
U12 squad at June Leinster Blitz



U12 Squad at September Leinster Blitz



Kilkenny U14 Team 2017



KK City Feile Ladies Football Champs 2017

New York which the Kilkenny City defence repelled before then getting a couple of goals to go in at half time leading 2-3 to 1-0. The second half was a tight affair with both sides giving their all and it was the Kilkenny City girls who prevailed to win the All Ireland 3-4 to 1-3 to the delight of team mentors and vociferous supporters. This was a huge win over a New York side whose boys won the Div 1 Feile title.

The cup was presented by LGFA President Marie Hickey to Kilkenny City joint captains Niamh Phelan and Eva Collins and it rounded off a fabulous weekend for the Kilkenny City club and all the players and supporters will have many wonderful memories criss crossing Cavan and

Monaghan to the various matches.

A special mention to the mentors for all the hard work put in to this and to the supporters who really got behind the team especially in the knockout stages when the girls needed it most. This is the 3rd National title for the Kilkenny outfit in 5 years. The team is represented by members of the three City clubs and one or two others and it was a particularly great occasion for the 12 Boro girls on the panel who had won the Div 2 Camogie Feile final the previous week.

*Team Mentors
Jim Smith manager, and selectors Conor Gorey,
Emer Tynan and John Gorey.*



Ballyhale Shamrocks



Ballyhale U10 Team 2017



Ballyhale U12 Team 2017

Congratulations To The Kilkenny Senior & Minor Hurling Teams From

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Carrickshock



Carrickshock Community Games Team 2017



Carrickshock Cumann na mBunscol Roinn C Champions 2017



Carrickshock Minors Joined with Mullinavat 2017



Carrickshock U10 team with the O'Duffy Cup



Carrickshock U12 Shield Champions 2017



Carrickshock U16 Team 2017



Carrickshock U8 Team 2017



Féile na nGael



U16 County Champions



Intermediate Camogie Team



Minor Camogie Team



U14 Féile Team



U16 LGFA





Conahy - Roinn B Schools Winners 2017



Conahy U14 Feile team

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Danesfort



Danesfort Camogie U6's



Danesfort Camogie Intermediate Winners of the League Shield Final



Camogie U14 B Shield Winners



Danesfort Camogie U8's



Danesfort Camogie Minors Winners of the League



Danesfort Camogie U10's winners of Danesfort Shield



Danesfort Camogie U12's Semi-finalists in League



Danesfort Camogie Feile Team 2017



Dicksboro

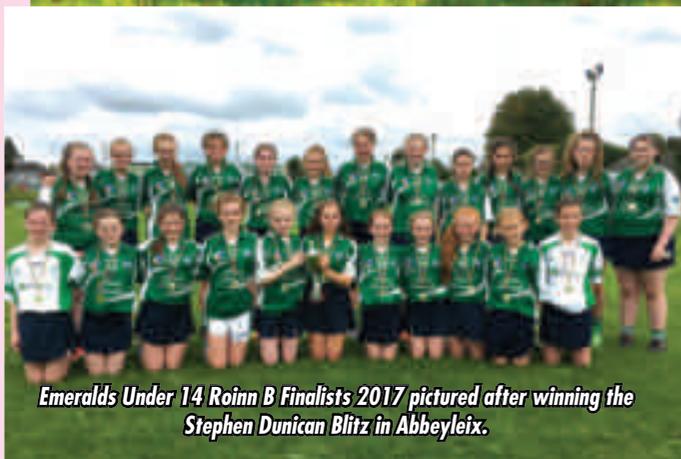




Emeralds



St Anne's/Emeralds Intermediate Camogie Team. The two clubs are amalgamated at this level only.



Emeralds Under 14 Roinn B Finalists 2017 pictured after winning the Stephen Dunican Blitz in Abbeyleix.



Emeralds Under 14 girls looking good for Feile 2017



Emeralds Under 8's 2017



Emeralds Under 10's 2017



Emeralds Under 12's 2017



Emeralds Minors 2017



James Stephens



James Stephens U6 and U8 Teams



James Stephens U12 Team



*James Stephens winning U16B captain
Caoimhe Moran*



James Stephens U10 Golden Ticket



*James Stephens winning U14A captain
Lucy McGrath*



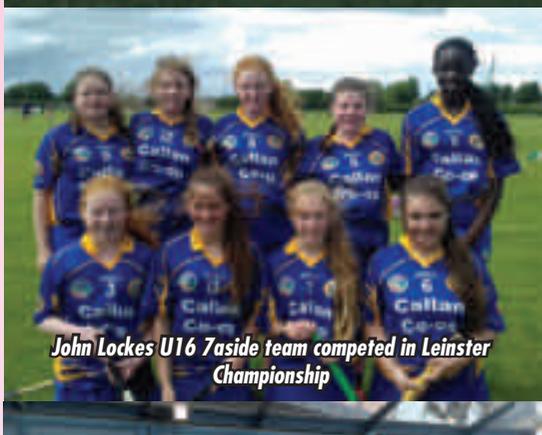
John Lockes



John Lockes U6 players receiving end of year Certificates, after a great season



John Lockes U8 team



John Lockes U16 7aside team competed in Leinster Championship



John Lockes U10 team



John Lockes All Ireland day out



John Lockes U12 team



John Lockes U14 Feile Winners



John Lockes U16 team

What a great year for John Lockes Camogie club as it continues to grow in numbers and victories on the pitch! The 2017 season was a bumper year for the club - Feile Champions, U14 Roinn B champions, U12 County finalists, U16 County Shield finalists and great performances from all our younger players in their Go-Games Blitzes and challenge games. Credit is due to a very committed group of coaches and mentors, with the backing of a hard-working committee. Plans are already in place for the 2018 season and the club hope to field a Minor team for the first time. New members are always welcome at every age group.



Kilmacow



Kilmacow U6 team



Kilmacow U12 team



Kilmacow U10 team



Kilmacow U8 team



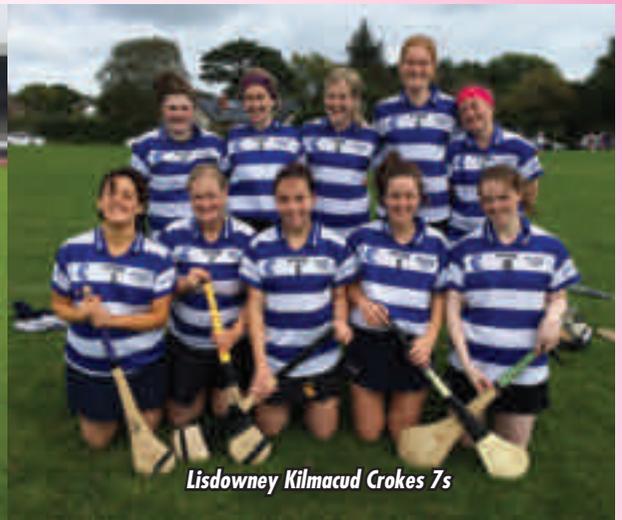
Kilmacow U14 team



Lisdowney



Lisdowney Cumman na Bunscoil D Champions



Lisdowney Kilmacud Crokes 7s



Lisdowney/Naomh Bríd Ballyragget U14 team



Lisdowney/St Lachtain's Senior Team



Mullinavat



Mullinavat U8 team



Mullinavat U10 team



Mullinavat Hurling Camogie Summer Camps 2017

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St Anne's



St Anne's U8's



St Anne's U10's



St Anne's U14's - Shield Champions, Captain Kady Downey.



St Anne's U12's - County Champions, Captain Eva Sumner.



St Anne's U16's - Shield Champions, Captain Mikaela Ryan.



Captain Amy Morrissey (Conahy) & Niamh Sweeney (St Anne's/ Emeralds).



St Anne's/Emeralds U-21 team 2017.



St Lachtain's



St Lachtain's U6 team



St Lachtain's U8 Team



St Lachtain's U10 Team



St Lachtain's U14 team



St Lachtain's U12 team



St Lachtain's U16 Team



St Lachtain's Minor Team



St Martin's



St Martins U6 team



St Martins U10 team



St Martins winning captain Annie Dowling



St Martins U10 with Golden Ticket



St Martins U12 County Champions 2017



St Martins U14 Feile Team 2017



Thomastown



Thomastown Liberty Squad Goals supporters



Thomastown U14 Feile team sponsorship from Centra



Thomastown Liberty Squad Goals



Thomastown U12 team



*Thomastown players on Kilkenny Senior County Team
Shelly Farrell, Anna Farrell, Jenny Reddy
and Meighean Farrell*



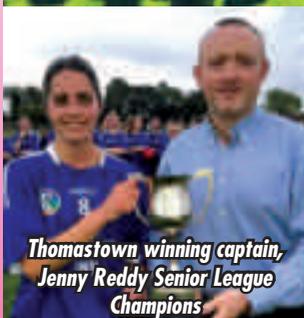
Thomastown U14 Feile team



Thomastown U14A County Finalists



Thomastown U8 Team



*Thomastown winning captain,
Jenny Reddy Senior League
Champions*

Thomastown had a very successful year in camogie. It started off with our U16s winning the League and Championship and they set a high standard for all teams following. The Junior team won the League Final and were beaten by Conahy in the Championship semi-final who later went on and won the final. Our senior team won the league in July beating Mullinavat and this was followed by a championship win in October against Dicksboro. They are now looking forward to the Leinster Final. From our senior team we had four members representing Thomastown on the county team Jenny Reddy, Anna, Shelly and Meighan Farrell. The U14 got to the shield semi in the Feile. And they got to the county final but were beaten by Dicksboro. Four girls reached the semi-final in the Liberty Insurance squad goals competition and won 1500€ for their club. Blathnaid Galway, Una Donnelly, Sinéad O Keeffe, Ciara Morrissey, Dearbhail O Keeffe



Tullaghan



Our U6's enjoyed their introductory year to camogie, a credit to their club and families



Our U10 girls went from strength to strength competing in challenges and blitzes which improved their skill no end. Keep up the good work girls



Our 'mighty' U12 camogie team did themselves and the club proud in September in reaching the county final against Windgap. Roll on 2018



The U8's had another great year where they were very competitive in their blitzes. Well done girls



The U16s went from strength to strength this year reaching the Roimn C championship semi-final and League Final, great display



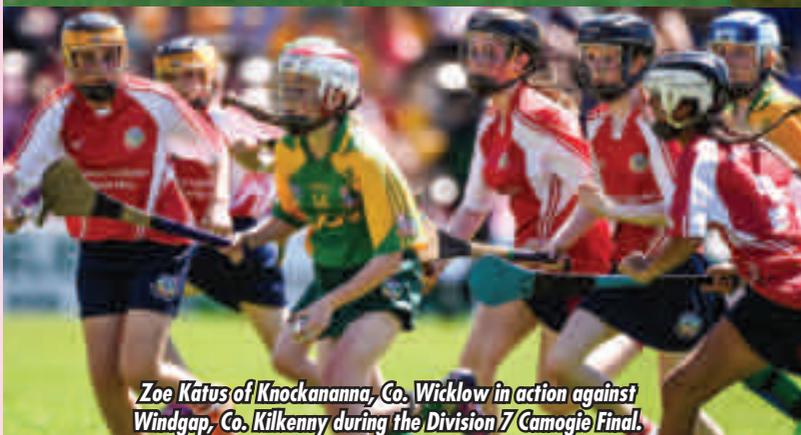
Windgap



Windgap U16 B' Shield Champions.



Windgap U10 Danesfort Cup Champions 2017.



Zoe Katus of Knockananna, Co. Wicklow in action against Windgap, Co. Kilkenny during the Division 7 Camogie Final.



Minor Blitz Team



County representatives and U14 All Ireland champions Clodhna O'Shea and Sontae Jackson.



U12 Group Champions



Féile Champions 2017

Windgap Camogie Club are delighted with the successes of the club both on and off the field during 2017. The reason for this success is due largely to our diligent and competent club people who put great effort into coaching and managing our teams, fundraising and organising club functions.

Our U6/8 and 10 girls competed in many games throughout the county, with great enjoyment and success. The U11 group were successful in winning the Mike Williams Shield in Tullahought during National Heritage Week.

The U12s had great success, winning Group 4 in Kilkenny. The highlight of the year was the achievements of our U14 squad. They won Division 5 of Féile na nGael, beating our host club Knockananna from Co. Wicklow in a closely contested final in Nowlan Park. They did the club and parish proud in the first ever Féile win for Windgap CC.

Our U16 & 18 girls competed well in their divisions but weren't successful at championship stage. A squad of ten minor girls won a Leinster 7-a-side blitz in Portlaoise in August. They fought off opposition from several teams from around Leinster, including our Féile visitors Knockananna.

Unfortunately, our senior girls had little success this year. However, with a new and revitalised management team in 2017, we are confident that next season will be more fruitful.

In late September, we organised a club day to celebrate the successes of the juvenile teams. Our county stars & All Star Nominees Denise & Catherine were on hand to present the medals and certificates. The fun activities were all organised by the senior girls and a great afternoon was had by all.

We were well represented on county teams and squads from U13 to U18 level and at intermediate & senior level. Well done to all involved.



Young Irelands



Young Irelands U6 Team



Young Irelands U12 Team



Young Irelands U10 Team



Young Irelands U8 Team



Young Irelands U14 team



Young Irelands U16A team

Around the Clubs

Ballyhale Shamrocks



Ballyhale Shamrocks Féile na nGael Team 2017



Building for the future: Larry Aylward, new juvenile sponsor



County Final Referee, Michael O'P'Sullivan (Ballyhale) with his officials

To everyone's approval, our juvenile section was reorganized under new Chairman Tom Coogan. This initiative likewise involved Pat Corbett (Treasurer), Jim Cullen (Secretary), John Darcy (Vice Chairman) and a vibrant committee.

Mentors undertook vital work. U6: John Darcy, Martin Dunphy and Liam Grant. U8: Pat Corbett, Patrick Cummins, Richie Grant, Brian Murphy, Louis O'Neill and Séamus Ryan. U10: Tom Coogan, Mark O'Mahony, Dermot Ryan and Tom Walsh. U12: Dave Gallagher, John Shefflin and Dermot Ryan.

The U14 panel, looked after by John Burke, John Corcoran, Jim Cullen (Manager) and John Shortall, absorbed restricted numbers and a difficult league campaign. They did well in drawing a championship quarter final with James Stephens B, 2-8 to 1-11, but lost the replay, 5-8 to 2-10.

U14HC C Tom Cleere, Jack Cody, Michael Cullen, Michael Lyons, John Fitzpatrick, Dara Mason captain 0-3 (f), Tomás Barron, Pearse Phelan, Yinal Phelan, Joshua Burke, Niall Shortall, Larry Cody 0-1, Seán Shefflin, Killian Corcoran 2-6 (3f), Thomas Murphy.

Subs: Mark Costigan for Thomas Murphy (27m), Michael Kenneally for Seán Shefflin (ht), Seán Shefflin for Michael Kenneally (50m), Jack Holden (inj).

The U16 panel, looked after by Gavin Butler (Trainer), Niall Mason, Patrick Phelan and Seán Reid (Manager), put together a reasonable league campaign. Championship wise, they went down to St Lachtain's in the first round, 6-17 to 1-7.

U16HC B Dara Mason, Tomás Barron, Christopher Coady, Larry Cody, Reese Anderson, Cian Cullen, Brandon Ryan, Casey Corcoran captain 0-2 (1f), Edmund Fitzpatrick, Finnian Shefflin, Stephen Barron 1-5 (0-2f), Andrew Devereux, Seán Reade, Liam Barron, Niall Shortall.

Subs: Jack Cody for Seán Reade (46m), Michael Cullen for Niall Shortall (51m), Killian Corcoran, Pearse Phelan, David Lawler (away).

The Minor panel, looked after by the same mentors, had a decent league campaign and also made the final of the Special 13 a side competition, where they lost to Thomastown United, 2-21 to 2-9. Championship wise, they overcame Lisdowney in the first round (4-24 to 3-11) but relinquished their title in a semi final with James Stephens, 2-11 to 1-10.

MHC A Dean Mason, Conor Doyle, Patrick Hearne captain, Eoin Walsh, Casey Corcoran, Evan Shefflin 0-1 (f), Martin Davis, Darragh Corcoran, Jason Devereux, Stephen Barron 0-1, Adrian Mullen 0-3 (1f), Eoin Kennelly 1-0, John Shortall, Eoin Cody 0-5 (4f), Ronan Hayes.

Subs: Liam Barron for John Shortall (48m), Edmund Fitzpatrick for Jason Devereux (56m), Reese Anderson, Christopher Coady, Cian Cullen, Billy Moran, Keelan O'Donoghue, Seán Reade, Brandon Ryan, Finnian Shefflin, Adham Masood (away).

Due to insufficient numbers committing to gaelic football, the club could not enter an adult team. The Junior panel, looked after by John Drennan (Manager), Seán Holden and David Walsh, thrived after an initially difficult league campaign. For the first time since 1983, the club made the South Junior Final, beating Kilmacow (1-14 to 0-11) and Slieverue (3-16 to 1-15) before going down by 2-12 to 1-11 to John Lockes (who ended up Junior Champions). Championship proper commenced with a first round win over Erin's Own, 0-17 to 1-6. Then The Rower-Inistogie were surmounted, 1-13 to 2-9. Following a terrific battle under lights, we fell by minimum margin, 1-21 to 1-20, to O'Loughlin Goels (later within a point of John Lockes in the Junior Final).

JHC Michael Paul Drennan, Enda Kenneally, Aidan Cummins captain, Tom Coogan, Evan Shefflin, Eugene Aylward, Bob Aylward, Dylan Aylward, Gavin Butler, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick 1-11 (1-6f, 2 6S), Joe Cuddihy 0-7, Enda Fitzpatrick, Kevin Fennelly, David Hoyne, Eoin Kennelly 0-2.

Subs: Conor Reid, Patrick Doyle for Aidan Cummins (inj, 16m), Paul Shefflin for Gavin Butler (41m), Patrick Reid for Enda Fitzpatrick (inj, 46m), Patrick Hearne for Enda Kenneally (55m), Martin Davis, Ronan Hayes, Conor Phelan, Mark Phelan, Brian Butler (inj), Eoin Doyle (inj), Conor Walsh (inj).

The Junior B panel, in its fourth season, was looked after by Michael Fennelly Sr, Séamus Grace, Michael O'Sullivan and Tommy Phelan (Manager). On May 14, they defeated James Stephen, 2-15 to 1-16, in the Junior B League Final, a first ever trophy at this level.

Fifth in their league group, the Junior Bs improved significantly for an emphatic first round win over Tullagher Rosbercon, 5-22 to 0-7. Overcoming a highly fancied Glenmore (3-13 to 0-16) gave them Windgap in the South semi final and further progress, 4-17 to 1-11. A serious South Final with John Lockes (who won the County Final against Galmy) was lost by three points, 1-17 to 1-14.

JHC B Michael Paul Drennan, Keith Murphy, Aidan Cummins, Patrick Doyle, Keith Nolan, Patrick Hearne, Niall Smyth, Willie Coogan captain, Enda Fitzpatrick 0-9 (8f), Mark Phelan 0-1, Liam Grant, Martin Davis 0-1, Kevin Fennelly 1-1, Éamonn Walsh, Ronan Hayes.

Subs: Donnchadh Fitzpatrick 0-2 for Patrick Doyle (inj, 39m), Derek Fitzpatrick for Ronan Hayes (51m), Michael O'Sullivan, Shane Timmons, Dylan Aylward (tied), Gavin Butler (tied), Eoin Doyle (inj), James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick (unavailable), Enda Kenneally (tied), Eoin Kenneally (tied), Jack Kenneally (away), Conor Reid (tied), Evan Shefflin (tied), Conor Walsh (tied).

The U21 A panel, looked after by Tom Coogan (Manager), Liam Grant, Joey Holden and Patrick Reid, awaited a South quarter final with Glenmore. This year, Michael O'Sullivan (Derrynahinch) became the second Ballyhale native to referee a Senior Final. The first was Jack 'The Count' Phelan (Ballytasna) in 1953.

Around the Clubs



Barrow Rangers



Barrow Rangers (Paulstown/Goresbridge) Minor Team who won the Anthony Prendergast Memorial Cup, beating O'Loughlin Gaels (B), Clara and Bennettsbridge in the Cup Final.



U14 Captain Captain Conor Dermody receiving the Cup



Barrow Rangers Official Kit Minder 2017



Barrow Rangers U9's at Roanmore 2017



Barrow Rangers U10's - Danesfort Shield Winners. 2017



Barrow Rangers U6's 2017



Féile 2017 Barrow Rangers with visitors Knockbridge/Pearse Óg (Co. Louth)

Around the Clubs



Bennettsbridge



Team Photo of the players, mentors and winning trophy from the Feile 2017



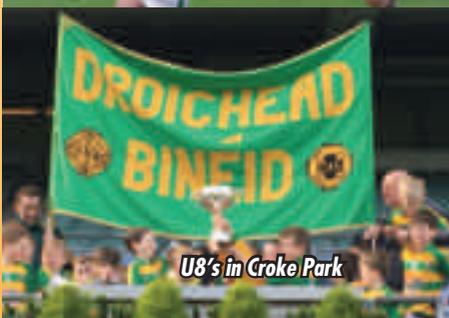
Winning players from Feile 2017



U6 Stars of the Future



U10 action when we hosted Éire Óg from Ottawa, Canada



U8's in Croke Park

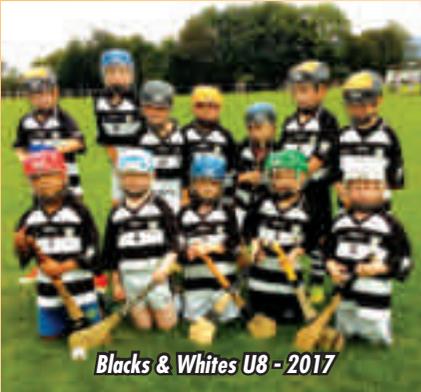


U8 on their visit to Croke Park

Around the Clubs



Blacks & Whites



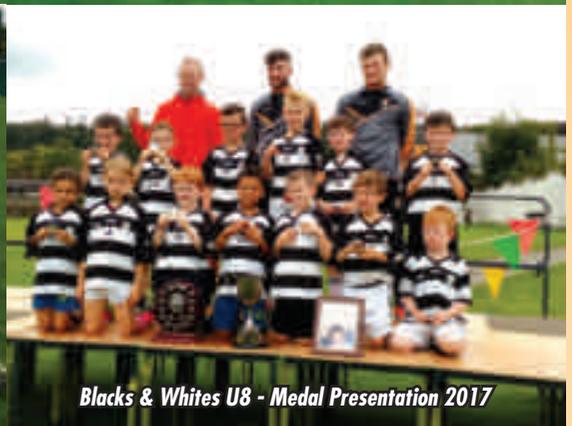
Blacks & Whites U8 - 2017



Blacks & Whites U14 - 2017



Blacks & Whites U12 - 2017



Blacks & Whites U8 - Medal Presentation 2017



Blacks Whites Junior Camogie Team - Co Finalists 2017

This year was a great year for our club, we reached the County Junior Final unfortunately we were beaten by Conahy. We look forward to next year and to build on this. Well done to our club member Ann Marie Lennon on her success with the Kilkenny senior team.



Blacks & Whites U6 - 2017 Skeough Blitz



St Canice's - Roimn A Champions 2017 St Fiachra's & Coill Dubh U14 Féile 2017



Around the Clubs



Carrickshock



Carrickshock - Hospital Herberistown



Carrickshock Under 12s - Winners of Myshall Tournament



Kevin Farrell Goes High



Under 6s Team Huddle



Carrickshock Team Bus arrives in Croke Park for the final.



Minor 13-a-side Shield (Roimh C) Winners



Feile - Carrickshock boys



Carrickshock players on St Kierans Juvenile Football Team



Cup Collection



Carrickshock Contingent on Kilkenny/Intermediate All-Ireland winning team



Leinster Final Scoreboard



Under 6s in Piltown

Around the Clubs



Carrigeen



Carrigeen Ógra First Blitz in Windgap



Family Day in Carrigeen



Carrigeen Team 2017

Joe Cahin Photography © 2016



Opening of Páirc Asper 1991
Back: Fr Michael Norton, Councillor Johnny Maher, Councillor Dick Dunphy, Eugene Fitzgerald (Club Sec), Pat Dalton.
Front: Petie Walsh, Antrim Co Board Chairman, Nickey Brennan, Paddy Buggy, Barrie Henriques, Richard Quinn (Club Chairman).

Around the Clubs



Clara



Around the Clubs



Clonkeen



*Photos from our Larry Brennan Rush confined tournament.
Larry rip was heavily involved in juveniles in our club*



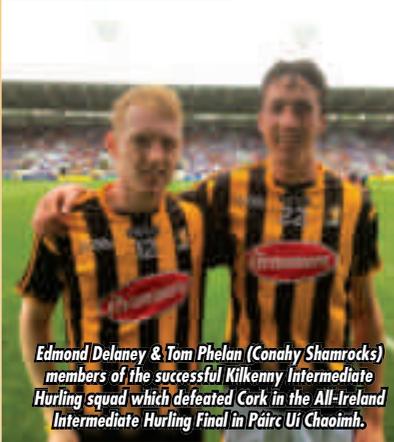
U8's in Limerick



Clonkeen/Railyard U14 hurling feile team

Around the Clubs

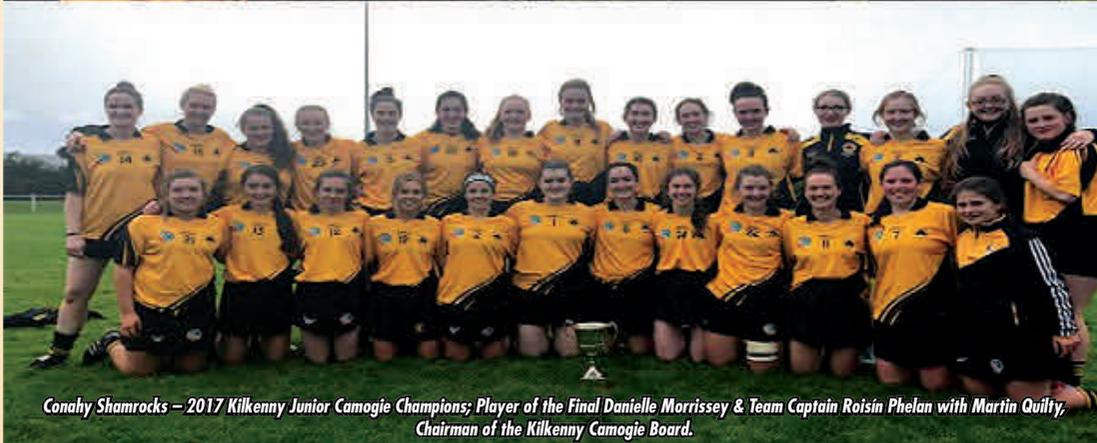
Conahy Shamrocks



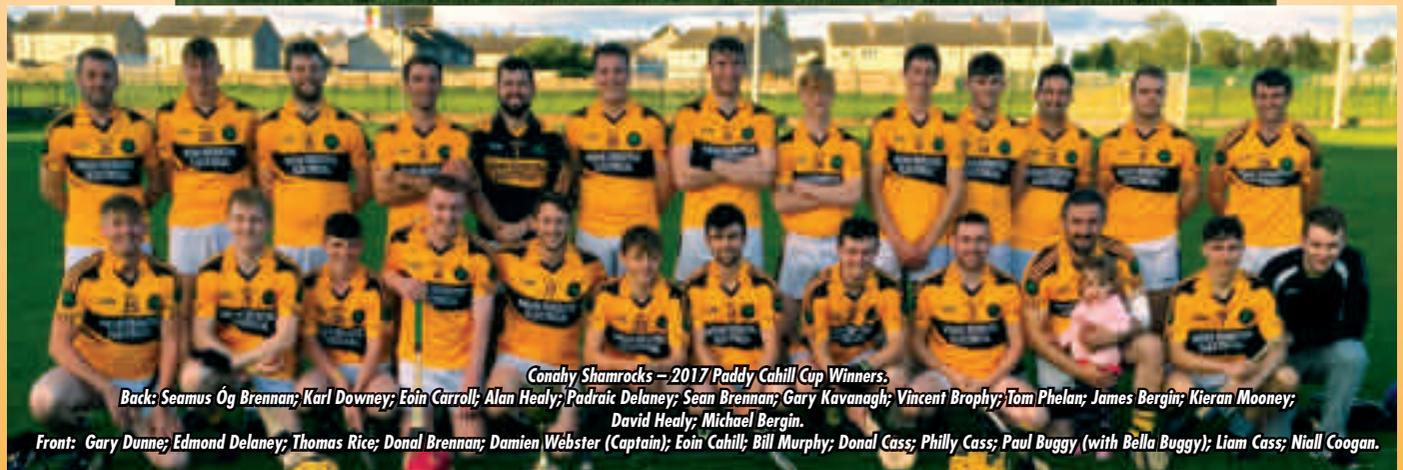
Edmond Delaney & Tom Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks) members of the successful Kilkenny Intermediate Hurling squad which defeated Cork in the All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



Conahy Shamrocks – Under 14 Féile na nGael Div. 8 Runners-Up.



Conahy Shamrocks – 2017 Kilkenny Junior Camogie Champions; Player of the Final Danielle Morrissey & Team Captain Roisín Phelan with Martin Quilty, Chairman of the Kilkenny Camogie Board.



Conahy Shamrocks – 2017 Paddy Cahill Cup Winners.

Back: Seamus Óg Brennan; Karl Downey; Eoin Carroll; Alan Healy; Padraic Delaney; Sean Brennan; Gary Kavanagh; Vincent Brophy; Tom Phelan; James Bergin; Kieran Mooney; David Healy; Michael Bergin.

Front: Gary Dunne; Edmond Delaney; Thomas Rice; Donal Brennan; Damien Webster (Captain); Eoin Cahill; Bill Murphy; Donal Cass; Philly Cass; Paul Buggy (with Bella Buggy); Liam Cass; Niall Coogan.

Around the Clubs



Danesfort



Danesfort U8 Team & Management that took part in Littlewoods Ireland Gaa Go Games for Clubs in Croke Park April 2017



An tUachtarán Aogán O Fearghail meets a Danesfort club member at Féile na nGael Launch in Dolmen Hotel Carlow.



Danesfort U6 team at Kilmacow Tournament



Danesfort U10 team. Winners Shane O'Neill Cup at Shane O'Neill Annual Tournament.



President Higgins meets a club member who played at All Ireland Football Final as part of Cumann na mBunscoile.



Danesfort U14 Team that competed in Feile na nGael 2017

Thank you to our Sponsors
Affidea & Taxback.com.

Planning is being sought
at present for our new Clubhouse
Development.

Well done to Danesfort players
who represented Kilkenny in
Squad & County :-
U14 Tony Forristal: John Canny,
U14 Sonny Walsh: Cathal &
Gillian Norton,
U15 North: Adam Byrne, Tomás
Leahy & Brian McDonald,
U17 Kilkenny: Daire O'Neill &
Diarmuid Phelan.

Around the Clubs



Dicksboro



Dicksboro U8 Teams in Groke Park for April Go Games



Joe Phelan, Eugene Begley, Mick Byrne, Tom Rafter and Tony Dunning in Spectator Mode...



.... amazingly, the same five men taking part in the Lip Sync event.

Under 21 Football champions for 2016 played in February 2017: The Under 21 footballers had to dig deep to win the county championship final against Kilmoganny played under lights in Piltown on Friday night.

They were just a point up at half time (1-5 to 1-4) and facing a second half against the wind. They dug deep and although, physically smaller than their opponents, they didn't stand back and Kilmoganny only scored a single point in the second half. The final score was 2-12 to 1-5.

Once again, Edward Moylan came up trumps and kicked free after free to maintain the Boro's superiority.

Many of the lads made a huge sacrifice to play and they were rewarded with a county medal and a poem beforehand. Even though it's only football, there is nothing wrong with representing your club and doing yourself and your team mates proud and bringing home a county medal and in doing so, displaying great tenacity and bravery in what was a tough slog.

Kilmoganny manager, Noel Hickey who, was as always gracious in defeat, put it so well when he came into the Boro dressing room after the match and said it was great to see football being played in such a competitive fashion and how disappointed he was to lose. To hear that from a man with nine All Ireland senior hurling medals was heartening.

Every member of the Boro team played great and did their absolute best. They did not shy away from



Dicksboro - 2016 U21 Football Champions

tackles and were manly.

It would be unfair to pick out any particular player for special mention because this was a team effort and when the time came, they stood up for themselves and their team mates.

Team: Richie Stapleton, Darragh Lynch, Tom Kenny, Evan Carroll, Robert Crotty, Alan Phelan, Conor Doheny, Robbie Murphy, Bill Sheehan, Chris Kavanagh, Aidan Nolan, John Hanrick (captain), David Doheny, Edward

Moylan, Oisín Gough. Sub; Kieran Dunne for D Doheny.

Scorers: Edward Moylan 1-8 (0-6 frees), Chris Kavanagh 1-0, David Doheny 0-1, Oisín Gough 0-1, Bill Sheehan 0-1.

Selectors: Niall Morrissey, Mick Byrne, Frank Morrissey, Liam Scott and John Keane (manager).

Declan Lacey was in charge of logistics and Ed Nolan did the Twitter feed while Martin Hanrick gave crucial advice. Team captain John Hanrick said how proud he was to win the medal and to lift the cup on behalf of his team mates and spoke about how much it meant to him.

Around the Clubs



Dunnamaggin



The development of our facilities in Kilmoganny continues this year with the ball nets being erected, lawnmower being purchased and entrance wall and gates built. Thanks to all for their efforts.



The victorious 1997 co final winning team were reunited for an exhibition game against the current intermediate team at our pitch in Kilmoganny as part of the August Bank holiday festival. Despite the bad weather a good day was had by all.



The U6's had a great year and this happy bunch loved training and the matches. This photo shows the team at the U6 blitz in Callan.



Our U10's had an excellent day out at the U10 Thomastown blitz where they won both finals that they reached.



Our U8's had a great year which was well split up with loads of blitzes and matches. Here they are at the Danesfort blitz.



Our U14 team performed brilliantly in this year's Feile to secure the Division 5 Shield. They met the team they were hosting, Ballyheigue in the final.



Our Minor hurling team won the Roinn B League this year against Glenmore in St. Kieran's College. Jamie McLoughlin accepted the Trophy on behalf of his teammates.

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:-
Richard O'Keeffe, Biddy Fennelly, Maura Mullally, & Richard (Dick) O'Neill.

Around the Clubs



Emeralds



Emeralds Under 8s at Centra Day in Croke Park



Councillor Michael McCarthy cuts the ribbon on the new Indoor Ball and Fitness Centre at Mill Road.



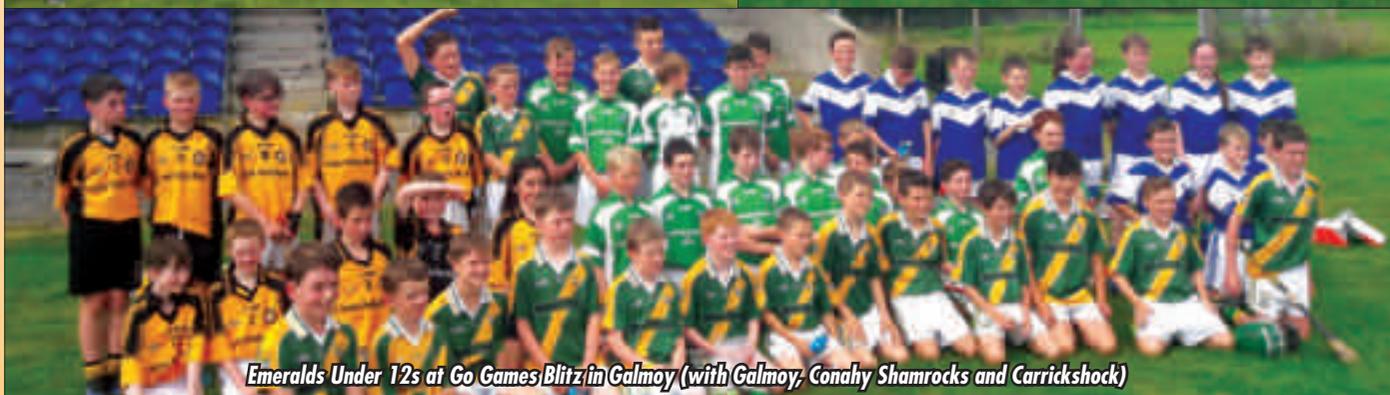
Emeralds Under 6 Hurling and Camogie!!



Emeralds Under 14 - Looking well for Feile



Emeralds Under 10's 2017



Emeralds Under 12s at Go Games Blitz in Galmoy (with Galmoy, Conahy Shamrocks and Carrickshock)



Emeralds and Caiseal Gaels (Mayo) Under 14 - Feile na nGael 2017

Around the Clubs

Erin's Own



U-14 Girls Football League Champions



U-8 Team 2017



U-10 Kevin Bergin Tournament Winners



U-12 Holden Tournament Winners 2017



U-14 Feile Panel 2017



Bressie in Ballycomey playing Kilkenny Outdoor Music Festival

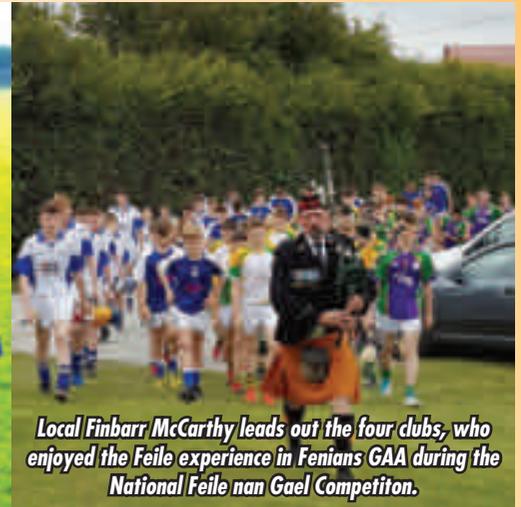
Around the Clubs



Fenians



Fenians Féile Team 2014



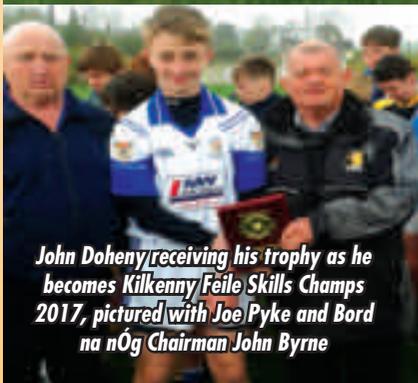
Local Finbarr McCarthy leads out the four clubs, who enjoyed the Féile experience in Fenians GAA during the National Féile nan Gael Competition.



Fenians U12's had a very successful year



Fenian members of the 1993 All-Ireland successful winning panel - PJ Delaney, Matty Walsh, Brian Ryan, at the re-union in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day.



John Doherty receiving his trophy as he becomes Kilkenny Féile Skills Champs 2017, pictured with Joe Pyke and Borna nOg Chairman John Byrne



Observing the Féile

Patrick O'Loughlin and granddaughter Chloe.



Juvenile Chairman Ger Brennan with Milo Quinlan.

JJ Tobin and Patrick O'Loughlin.



Two locals win championship in England: Kevin Reid accepts the county final trophy on behalf of Brother Pearsons. Kevin captained the team from Centre Back while Owen Sheils played midfield.



Neil Tynan (left) and Vincent Morrissey (right) present Fenians Féile team with gear.



Joe Pyke pictured with Jordan Muldowney who represented Fenians on the U-16 successful Arrabawn Inter-county campaign.

Around the Clubs

Galmoy



Galmoy GAA Club Officers 2017

Galmoy GAA Club made history at their AGM in January 2017, when they elected their first female member to their Executive Committee. Kathleen Grace(Bayswell), became the first woman at Galmoy's top table when she was elected to the position of Club Treasurer .

The other officers elected on the night were,

Chairman: Brendan Sherman

Vice Chairman: Nicky Maddock

Secretary: Liam Drennan

Assistant Secretary: Jerry Fogarty

Treasurer: Kathleen Grace

Assistant Treasurer: Gerry Moloney.



Georgie, R.I.P.

It was with great sadness that the Galmoy Parishioners learned of the passing on June 6th of the great Georgie Leahy. Georgie spent four years, from 2012 to 2015, in charge of the Galmoy Junior Hurling team and in that time, he steered the club to two Northern Final successes as well as a County Junior League title. In fact, it was with a heavy heart that he gathered the club players and administrators together in November 2015 to reluctantly announce that he felt that his time in Galmoy was at an end. It was a wonderful four years during which he managed our team with a friendly word for each and every person, male and female alike. Georgie was always the first man to training and spent many an evening sitting in his car smoking his favourite pipe, while the players drifted in to training. A devout religious man, Georgie often attended Mass in Galmoy during his time with us. He also brought many players to training in Galmoy from various destinations around the county. Indeed, he always had a special place in his heart for the young players and it was fitting that he took on the role of Minor Selector for 2016 with the Galmoy/Windgap team.

To his wife Rita, his four sons and his daughter and to all his relatives and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Georgie, the Gentleman will always have a special place in the Galmoy hearts.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Galmoy Handballer, Billy Drennan brought home another All Ireland title in October when he landed the U-14 Boys Singles 60 x 30 to add the title to the 40 x 20 Championship won earlier this year.

In St Mary's Wexford on Sunday September 10th, Billy won the Boys U-14 Singles Leinster Final when he beat Tommy Connors(Wexford), 15-7, 15-0. On Oct 1st in the All Ireland Semi Final in St Coman's Alley Roscommon, Billy beat Mikey Kelly(Galway) 15-5 in the first game but Kelly took the second game 9-15. In the ensuing tie break, Billy prevailed 15-2 to advance to the All Ireland Final.

In that Final on Sunday October 15th Billy beat Rory Grace(Tipperary), 15-5, 15-6 in Garryhill Carlow.

Billy is pictured receiving his All Ireland medal from Leinster Handball Secretary Billy Love.

Thanks to Fran Grincell for sponsoring a set of Bibs etc for Galmoy Juvenile Hurlers in 2017.



Galmoy/Windgap U-14 Hurlers 2017:

Eleven Galmoy boys were members of the successful Galmoy/Windgap U-14 Hurling team which enjoyed a great 2017.

This team won all it's games in the Kilkenny Féile in March, before winning Division 9 in the National Féile, when they had a four point winning margin over Wexford outfit, Davidstown Courtnacuddy, in the final in Fenagh on Sunday June 18th. They then went on to win the U-14 Roinn B League Title and at the time of writing, have qualified for the U-14 Roinn B Championship Final.

The boys involved were, Calum Lonergan, James Darcy, Billy Drennan(Joint Captain), Gearóid Phelan, Daniel Hanrahan, David Sherman, Matt Delaney, Niall Drennan, Rohan Lonergan, Colman Moloney and John Dermody.



Left: Conor Drennan (Galmoy) lined out at Full forward on the Kilkenny U-17 Team in the Leinster Final v Dublin on June 18th.

Right: Billy Drennan (Galmoy) lined out at wing forward on the Kilkenny U-14 Team in the Tony Forristal Tournament in Waterford.



All Ireland Intermediate Winner On Sunday July 23rd, Galmoy's Niall Doherty won his Third All Ireland Intermediate Hurling medal with Kilkenny, when he lined out at corner back on the Kilkenny Team which beat Cork, 2-23 to 2-18 in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Niall previously won All Ireland medals in 2008 and 2010 and has won five Leinster Intermediate medals.

Around the Clubs



Glenmore



U10 Caulfield Cup Winners 2017



U10 O'Donovan Cup Winners 2017



Glenmore Féile Team 2017



Glenmore U8 Roanmor Tournament Team

Our U11, U10 & U9 teams had a very successful year competing in Kilkenny & Waterford Leagues. Our U10 won the Caulfield Cup and the Slieverue Blitz (O'Donovan Cup). We also had eight representatives on the GTR Team that won the All-Ireland in Community Games beating Athenry of Galway in the final.

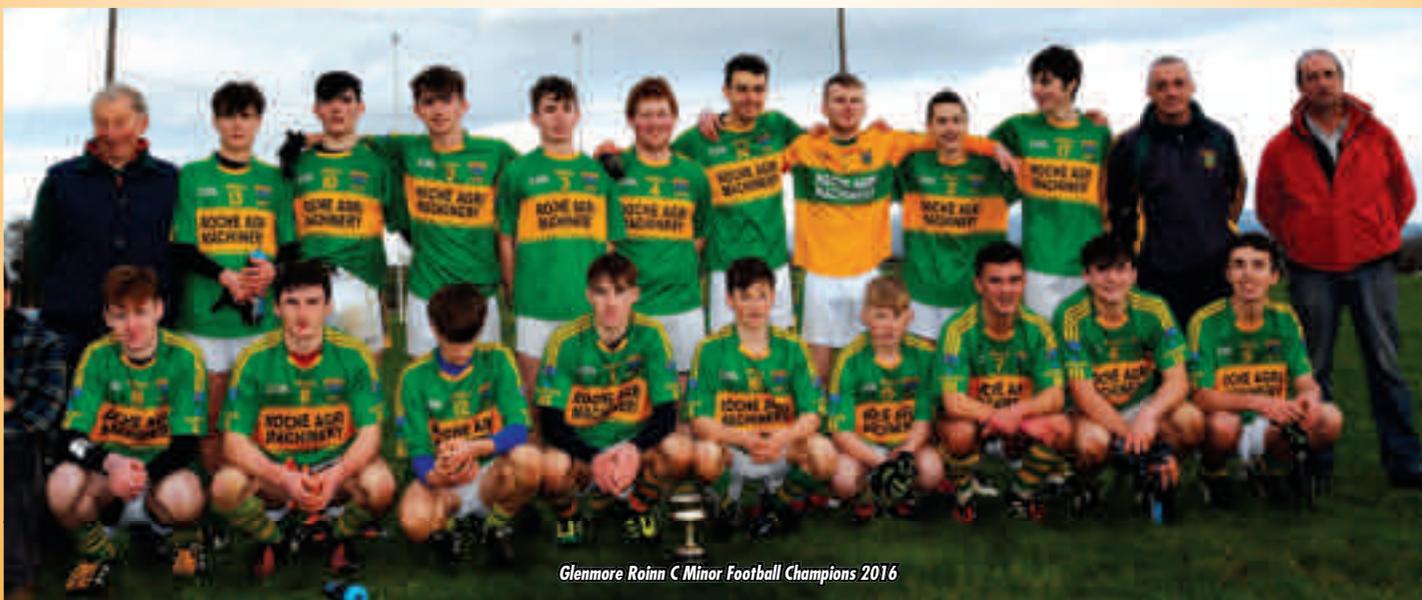
Our U14 B Hurlers have reached the County Semi Final
 Our U16 Hurlers lost to The Rower in the Championship
 Our Minor Hurlers lost to Mooncoin in the Championship. The Minor Footballers have won all their matches in 2017 so far. Our Intermediate Hurlers reached the Shield final & Co Semi Final, losing to Ballyragget & Graigue Ballycallan respectively. We competed at Senior Football Level but had no success this year.

We hosted Fingallians of Dublin for the very successful Féile Weekend.

"Sonny's GAA Summer Camp" was held in our grounds this year & was a great success with special guests including Eoin Murphy, Ger Aylward & Stephen Cluxton.

Well done to all our player representatives at County level. David Aylward won an Intermediate All Ireland with Kilkenny & Alan & Shane Murphy reached an U21 All Ireland, losing to Limerick. Eoin Murphy, Alan Murphy & Ger Aylward represented us at Senior Level.

The Development of our Complex continues apace with the completion of Dressing rooms 3 & 4, Installation of Safety Nets & installation of Walking Track lights in 2017. This is on the back of so much hard work from various people & the financial support from our various sponsors for fundraisers & supporters of the Silver Circle.



Glenmore Roimn C Minor Football Champions 2016

Around the Clubs

Graignamanagh



Our Under-12 hurlers played 23 games, winning 17, drawing 1 and losing just 4 – a fantastic record.



Thomas Holden, Chairman Graignamanagh GAA Club presenting a cheque for €500 to Catherine Doyle, Principal of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smail. Proceeds of this years Santa Run held on 26.12.16



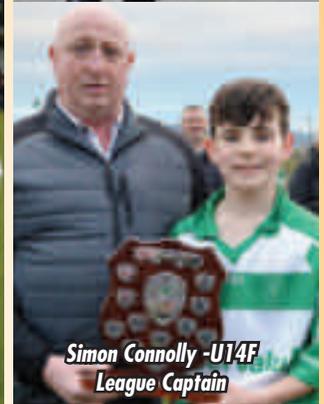
Damien Kielthy leads the Feile Parade in Graignamanagh



U10s Graignamanagh team who won the Martin Codd Memorial Shield in Rathnure and won our own U10 Blitz in Graig also.



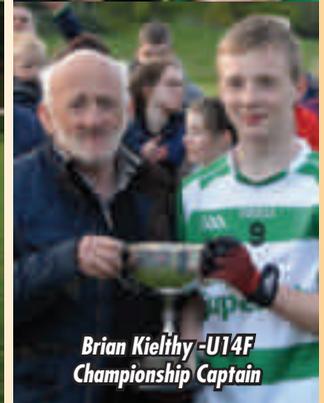
Eoin Kenny with his Graignamanagh umpire for the Junior first round championship game played in Dr Tierney park between Blacks/Whites and Barrow Rangers



Simon Connolly -U14F League Captain



Graignamanagh -U14F "B" League & Championship Winners 2017



Brian Kielthy -U14F Championship Captain

Graignamanagh GAA Club wishes to extend sympathy to the Families of the following who passed away during the year:

Jim & Ann kinsella, Tinnahinch Parents of current player Lee both sadly passed away within a few months of each other.

Mrs Teresa Tierney, wife of the late Dr. William Tierney. Dr. Tierney was the main man involved in securing our grounds many years ago, hence we named it "Dr. Tierney Park.

Their son Ronan currently sits on our committee. Todd Whelan, Brandon Park. Todd was a player and life long loyal supporter of our Club. His son Jim is a Committee member and grandson Padraig a current player.

Mrs Molly Fox, Leitrim, Her son Joe is on our Committee and Field Committee.

Liam Coady, High Street a former player with our Club. It is with great sadness we learned of the sudden passing of Jim Bolger, Wood Road, a founder member, player, mentor and administrator of our Club. We extend our sympathy to his wife Nellie & Family.

Sympathy to the Ryan Family Tyroe, on the death of Tim Ryan, a former great Ullard Handball player

May they rest in Peace.



Feile BBQ Committee of Graignamanagh G.A.A Club



The Participants in the Santa Fun Run on St. Stephens Day.

Around the Clubs



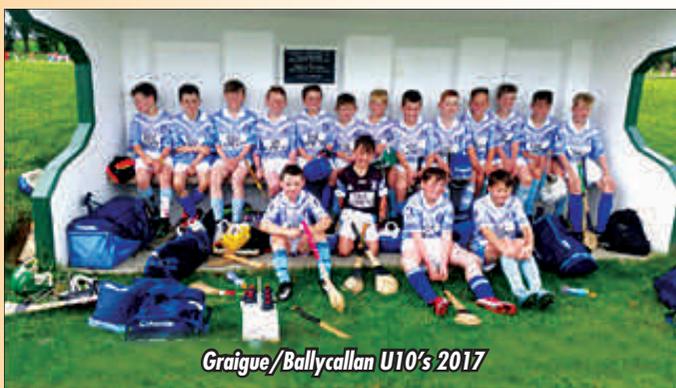
Graigue-Ballycallan



Graigue/Ballycallan U6's 2017



Graigue/Ballycallan U8's 2017



Graigue/Ballycallan U10's 2017



Graigue/Ballycallan U12's 2017



Graigue/Ballycallan U14's 2017



Graigue/Ballycallan U16's 2017

Congratulations to the following Graigue-Ballycallan Gaa Club members who won the All-Ireland Intermediate Final with Kilkenny this year: Ger Teehan, Eamon Egan, Sean O'Dwyer and Colm Prendiville.

The following members represented the club at County level on Kilkenny Teams in 2017: Billy Ryan (u21 Kilkenny), Conor Flynn, Tommy Ronan, Sean Ryan, Jesse Roberts and Killian Egan (Minor Kilkenny), Aaron Brennan (u17 Kilkenny), Stephen Keogh (u16 Kilkenny), Eoin Delahunty, Oisín Egan (u-15 Kilkenny), Tom Brennan (u14 Kilkenny).

Unfortunately, the club lost some great supporters and past players throughout 2017 and sincere sympathies go to the families of the following dearly departed: Noel Delaney, Pierce Hogan, Bridie Comerford, Rose Caldbeck, Tom Nugent, Jimmy Hartley, Pat O'Halloran, John Brennan, Mary Brennan, Geoff Foxhall. May they rest in peace.

Around the Clubs



James Stephens



Seamus Fry U10 Cup winners



U11 Andy Egan Cup winners



DID became the new club sponsors in 2017. Manager Martin Cornally (Centre), Ned Quinn and club officials attend the official launch.



James Stephen teams participating in the Seamus Fry U10 Tournament



*Two great hurlers retired from Kilkenny duty in 2016, the club honoured their achievements in March 2017.
Left: Right: Eoin Larkin, family and friends. Right: Jackie Tyrrell, family and friends.*

Around the Clubs



John Lockes



John Lockes U12 Ladies Football Roinn B championship winners 2017



John Lockes U-9 team who took part in the Colm Nolan annual tournament in Callan



Happy Lockes followers after the Junior Final



John Lockes U12 team and management at the Annual Colm Nolan tournament in Callan

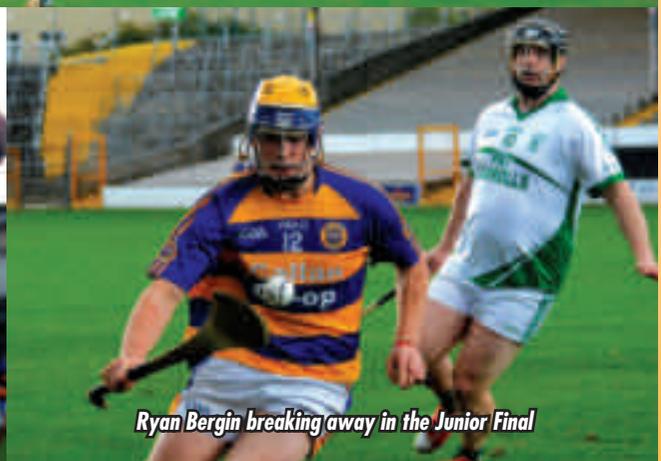
2017 was a bumper year for John Lockes. The Junior Team did the league and championship double and the Junior B team won the Junior B county championship. The U12 girls made history as the first ladies football team from John Lockes to win a county championship. They beat Thomastown to win the U-12 Ladies football roinn B championship.



James Power Scores the winning point in the Junior final 2017 for John Lockes in injury time



Denis O'Sullivan Celebrates at the final whistle.



Ryan Bergin breaking away in the Junior Final

Around the Clubs



Kilmacow



Kilmacow U6's 2017



Under 7 and under 8

Congratulations to our u7s and u8s on their great performance and win in Slieverue during the year winning by 9-0 to 3-2. Well done players and coaches and thanks to parents for their support.



Winners of the Under 10 Blitz in Lisgoold Co. Cork. Huge congrats to the players team management and parents. What a fantastic achievement.



Under 11's

2016 Waterford City league U11 Division 2. This is the 2nd year in a row that Kilmacow has won this title and proves great progress is being made. Well done to the players and coaches and thanks to parents and supporters



Under 12's

Our U12s won the shield at the Piltown Blitz, beating Barrow Rangers of Paulstown by 4-4 to 3-3 in October. Under the watchful guidance and exemplary coaching of Eamon Reddy, Brian Murray and Ger Long. Thanks to all involved.



Féile under 14 team

Kilmacow Hurling and Football Club Féile team 2017. Our boys made it to the division 4 semi-final losing out in the end to Bennettsbridge. It was a fantastic event which the boys performed to their best and represented the club with pride.

Around the Clubs



Lisdowney



Lisdowneys own representative Team that we entered in the Coca Cola 7's tournament



4 Coca cola 7's Captains 2017



Fun Day 2017



Combined feile squads girls and boys 2017



Division 6 shield winners Feile '17



A group shot of our club members who with The Fenians GAA presented a sticity come dancing event to raise funds for the club.

Around the Clubs

Mooncoin



U6 Boys



U8 (Girls)



U7 Boys



Mooncoin U8 Blitz -sept 2017



U8 (Girls)



U9 Boys



U10 Boys



Wally Walsh and Joe Lyng visit Mooncoin during Feile Weekend



U12 Boys



Mooncoin Camogie U10 Girls



Sponsorship for All Ireland Junior Hurling Final - Feb 2017



Gemma Murphy - AD Test Centre- sponsors Mooncoin Camogie



All Ireland Finalists - Home Coming Feb 2017



High Kings Concert - with Darren Holden - Dec 2017



All Ireland Junior Final Feb 2016 - Checking the pitch out

2017 turned out to be one of the most memorable years in the club's history. In December 2016, the club was crowned Leinster Junior Hurling Champions for the first time, following a hard fought victory over Ratoath in Nowlan Park. The winning streak continued in January, as the Mooncoin men beat Láimh Dhearg of Antrim in Trim. Thus, the men of famed Mooncoin grabbed their chance of gracing the field in Croke Park in the AIB All-Ireland Junior Hurling Final in February. The build-up to the big game will long be remembered in the parish as everyone got on board to support the lads. Unfortunately, the result did not turn out the way they would have liked, heartbreakingly losing by a point to a strong Mayfield team from Cork. Nevertheless, the image of the Mooncoin crest on the big screen, and the lads running out onto the pitch in Croke Park will be reminisced about for years to come.

To celebrate the achievement of the club, a dinner dance was held in the Woodlands Hotel in Waterford City in April, which was attended by over 200 people. The ever successful 'Rose Run' was held on the May Bank Holiday weekend with Pat Grant winning the 5k and Conor Shiels winning the 10k. Mooncoin GAA club welcomed the parents, mentors, and kids from

Kilgarvan (Kerry) and Na Fianna (Meath) as the club was a host for the Féile na nGael tournament in June. Hundreds attended a barbeque in the GAA complex to celebrate the event, with the glorious sunshine on one of the hottest days of the year adding to the occasion.

The new AstroTurf pitch was opened in October 2017 after much work and fundraising. The facility will be a great addition to the village. The memorial and historic year for the club was capped off in December with the visit of The High Kings. The band played the first leg of their 10th anniversary tour at the GAA complex. Tickets sold out within two days, no doubt to welcome home band member, local hero, and Mooncoin GAA club member, Darren Holden.

On the field of play, Mooncoin were back in the Intermediate grade and retained their place at that level for 2018. The Junior A team was crowned League champions, as well as south Junior A champions. The U14 team played out an epic trilogy in the U14A Championship semi-final, but were eventually beaten by Thomastown after three games including extra time on both occasions. The U16 team also reached the county semi-final, while the minors bowed out in the quarter finals.



Muckalee GFC



Muckalee GFC's New Club Premises

Muckalee GFC 2017

The Club had an average campaign in the Senior, Junior league and championship competitions in 2017.

The Senior league commenced on the 28th January 2017 with their first outing against Dicksboro.

Dicksboro won on a score line of 1 – 09 to 2 - 02

Their senior team's second outing was against the county champions Railyard. Railyard won on a score line of 0 -14 to 0 - 5

The third senior league match was against Danesfort with the team securing its first win of 2017 on a score line of 3 – 09 to 0 – 06.

The team did not qualify for the League playoffs for 2017 after just one win was secured.

The Senior Football championship commenced against Clara on 12th March. After a keenly contested close match Clara won on a score line of 04 -04 to 1 – 11.

The junior football team completed in just one match in the league but were unsuccessful against Lisdowney. The Club got a walkover in the second match and conceded its third match.

The Junior and Under 21 championship for 2017 has yet to be played.

Sponsorship

Special thanks to our team sponsor Mr Jim Bolger and all those that helped the club in any way during the year.

Club Development

The club is currently in the final stages of completing its new Club House Building Project at its pitch in Muckalee. The committee of the Club would like to thank everyone who helped with financial support in the purchase off signage at the club grounds and the Buy a Brick fundraiser which was tremendously supported by all within the Parish. Work is near completion on this exciting phase in the Clubs ongoing development.

Bereavements

The club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year.



40 Years ago: Muckalee - County SF Champions 1977

Back: Patsy Moran, Dick Nolan, Jim Moran, Jimmy Maher, Brendan Morrissey, Tom Maher, Tom Moran, Nickey Morrissey, Tony Maher, John Moran, Martin Nolan, Paddy Morrissey.

Front: Pat Maher, Martin Morrissey, Larry Maher, Jack Morrissey, Mikie Maher, Murty Coonan, Jimmy Kelly, Nickey Morrissey, Tom Daly.



Muckalee Gaelic Football Club Committee 2017

Back: Richard O'Shea, Paddy Morrissey, John Buggy, Breda Tynan, Seamus Tynan, Anthony Maher, Pado O'Flynn, Micheál Brennan, Pat Geoghegan.

Front: Tom Dooley, Richard Nolan, Patsy Murphy, Larry Maher, Paddy Tynan, Pat Fitzpatrick.

Around the Clubs



Mullinavat



Mullinavat under 14 team for Féile Na nGael.



Mullinavat under 8's in Croke Park this year



*Maurice Holden Mullinavat
New York Junior Hurler of
the Year 2017*



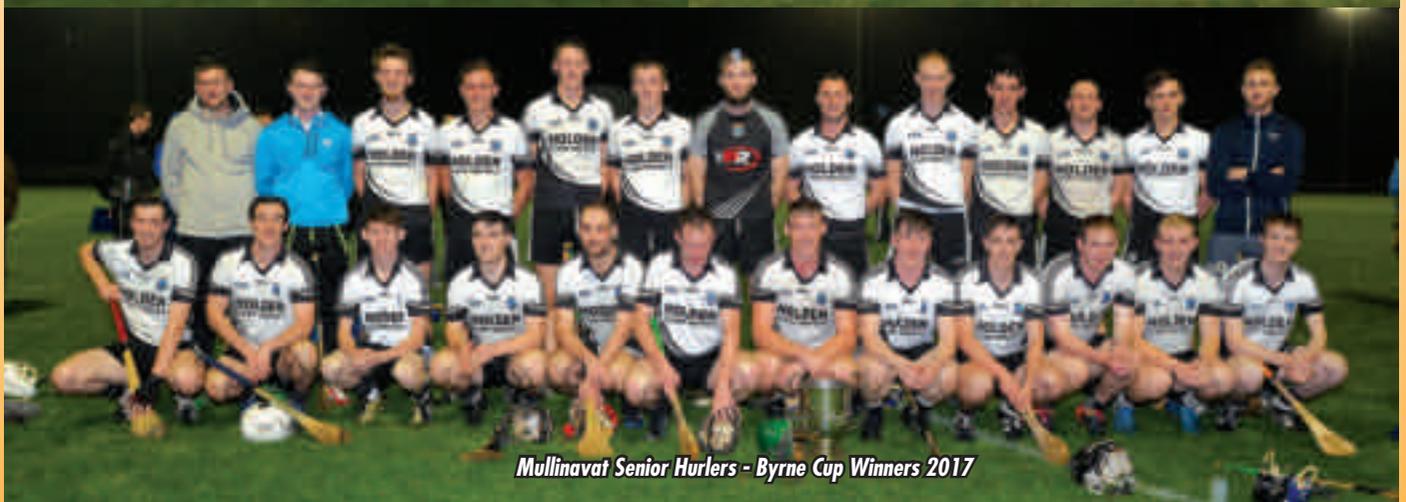
*Mullinavat player and Kildavin Clonegal
player having a chat during the game.*



Mullinavat under 12 team at blitz in Piltown



Mullinavat under 13 team at Lisdowney 7's



Mullinavat Senior Hurlers - Byrne Cup Winners 2017

Around the Clubs



O'Loughlin Gaels



Minor Captain Ronan Buckley proudly holds the Minor Cup aloft amongst a O'Loughlin Gaels Minor Celebrations.



Club Referee Seán Cleere who refereed this year's Minor Hurling All-Ireland Final being presented with a club jacket by Chairman Brian Murphy along with umpires on the day Nigel Skehan, Sheamie Cummins, Coleman Loughnane and Mick Nolan.



O'Loughlin Gaels GAA U12s visit Paidi O'Shea's in Ventry while on their weekend hurling tour of Kerry and Limerick in August.



Large crowds enjoying Feile 17 at St. John's Park.



Damien O'Connell enjoys a cup of tea during Feile 17



O'Loughlin Gaels during The Go Games Provincial Days at Croke Park. Photo by Cody Glenn/Sportsfile

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA enjoyed a successful 2017. It brought County Championship Titles to both U16 & Minor teams and the Junior Team won the Northern championship but were beaten by the minimum in Nowlan Park by John Lockes in the County Final. The Minor team produced some fantastic hurling in an unbeaten run with their best performance undoubtedly coming in the Championship semi-final against Graigue-Ballycallan under lights in MW Hire Dunmore. The U16s were already crowned league champions and had to work hard over two games to eventually beat James Stephens in a pulsating replay at Palmerstown ..winning with a goal on the last play of the game to take the game by a single point.

The club enjoyed activities off the field of play too. The hosting of group games at St. John's Park for Feile '17 brought every club member on board to provide the best in GAA hospitality. Hundreds of players and supporters passed through the gates on a weekend that will go down as one of the best in it's social history.

Seán Cleere continued to represent O'Loughlin Gaels GAA well in 2017, earning the honour of refereeing the Minor Hurling Final at Croke Park. He did a fantastic job and was aided by fellow club men Sheamie Cummins, Nigel Skehan, Coleman Loughnane and Mick Nolan who all umpired on the day.

At juvenile level the numbers continue to grow and serve families of St. John's Parish. U6s held their 5th annual blitz this year with Clubs and almost 400 players from all over Leinster and North Munster taking part. The best Club Summer Camp completed it's 10th year with a record number of U6 to U13s participating in 2017, and the U12s took a weekend of hurling to Limerick and Kerry following the success of the previous year's trip to North Antrim.

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club - Hebron Road, Kilkenny - 056 7765036

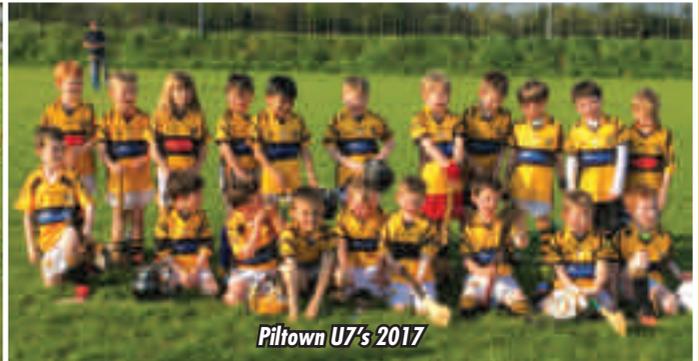
Around the Clubs



Piltown



Piltown U6's 2017



Piltown U7's 2017



Piltown U8's 2017



Piltown U10's 2017



Piltown Senior Camogie Team 2017



Piltown U12's 2017



Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence.

Obituaries:

The Sympathy of Piltown GAA Club is extended to the families of those breaved during the year:

*Mick Fitzpatrick, Templeorum, Piltown
Ann Gahan, Mountain Grove, Piltown
Jimmy Knox, Ballygowan, Piltown*

*Andy McCarthy, Templeorum, Piltown
Denis Walsh, Jamestown, Piltown
Michael Walsh, Foxrock, Dublin & formerly of Piltown*

Around the Clubs



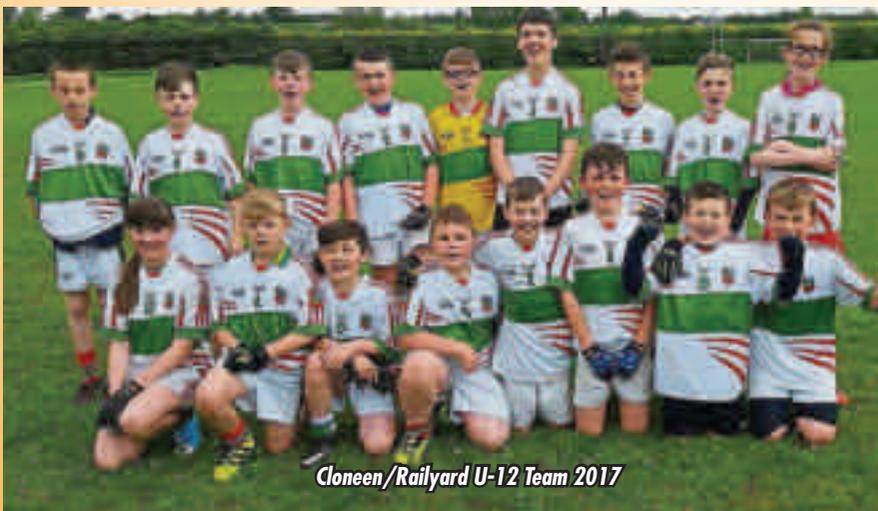
Railyard



County SF Final Action - Railyard v Mullinavat



Cloneen/Railyard U-14s who took part in the Leinster Feile



Cloneen/Railyard U-12 Team 2017



Captain Adam Buggy being presented with Kelly Cup after U-12s defeated Spink GFC.

Around the Clubs



Rower Inistioge



Rower Inistioge U6 Panel 2017



Rower Inistioge U8 Panel 2017



Rower Inistioge U10 Panel 2017



Rower Inistioge U12 Panel 2017



Rower Inistioge U14 Panel 2017



Rower Inistioge U16 Panel 2017



Rower Inistioge Minors 2017

Around the Clubs



Slieverue



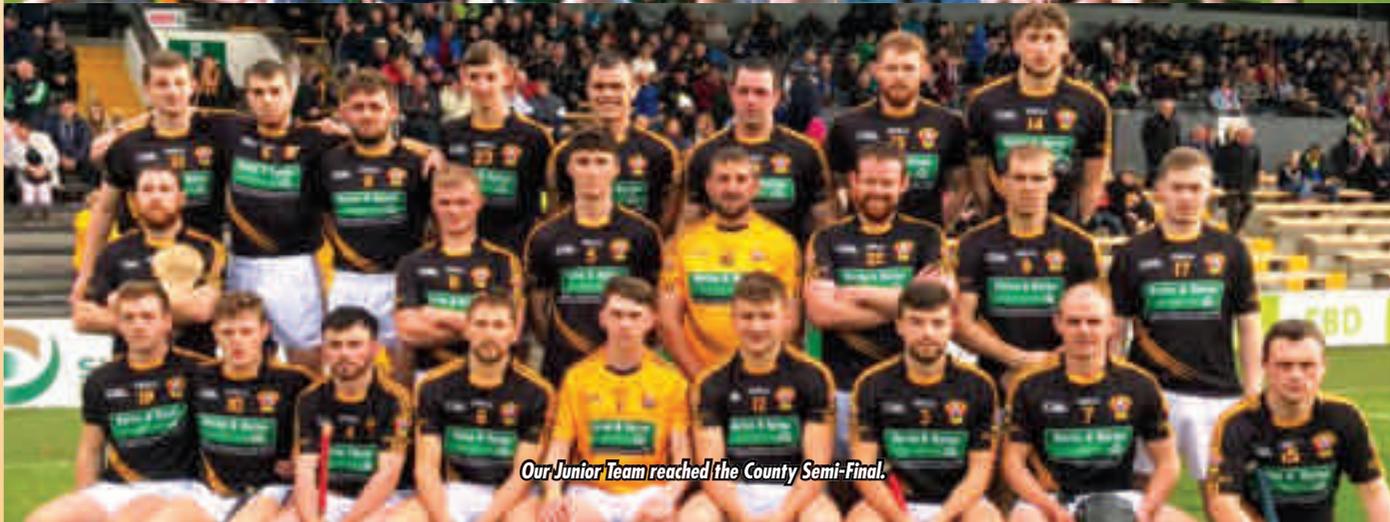
Our u14 Team won the Division 11 Shield



U10 boys and girls in Croke Park for a day out.



Slieverue and Tourlestrane U14 teams on morning of the Féile



Our Junior Team reached the County Semi-Final.



Action from the Junior Semi-final v John Lockes

Around the Clubs



St Lachtain's



St Lachtain's & Setanta Féile Teams 2017



St Lachtain's Féile Team 2017



Easter Camp 2017



St Lachtain's - MH County Finalists 1959 (Thomastown 8-4, St Lachtain's 5-3)

*Back: Nicky Grace, Tom Bowe, Martin Lawless, Denis Guinan, Dinny Lennon, Pa Dillon, MI Dermody, Kevin Dalton, Jack Lacey, John Teehan, Tom Kinsella, Gearóid McAuliffe, MI Teehan.
Front: Denis Butler, Billy Dawson, Billy Julian, Sean Flynn, Billy Cullinane, Sean Ryan, Sean Buckley, Johnny Butler, Patens Ryan, Jimmy Dowling.*



St Lachtain's - U14 Roinn B Football Champions 1996 (St Lachtain's 2-11, Carrickshock 2-3)

*Bck: Denis Long, MI Hickey, Paul Costelloe, Richard Teehan, Brian Duignan, Raymond Dawson, Pat Morrissey, Ger Beehan, Niall Phelan, David Burke, Liam Cahill, Rd Dalton, Karl Barnaville, Rory Kavanagh, Martin Daly, Colin McGree (RIP), Darren Burke, MI Kavanagh.
Front: Tommy Kennedy, Jonathan Doheny, Jamie Kennedy, Biolly Minogue, Ger Dalton, JJ Grace, JJ Burke, Tommy Fortune, Alan Bowden, John Flynn, Brian Minogue.*

Around the Clubs



St Martin's



The St Martins and Trim GAA from Feile 2017 weekend!



St Martin's U10's Preparing for a Blitz



Coon Hurling Team 1962



The O'Loughlins and St Martin's U12 panels after the 2017 Dowling Cup final.

Around the Clubs



St Patrick's



The Brennan Brothers, Geoff, Paddy, Michael and Joe with the Hamrahan Cup.



Some of the Intermediate Champions who went up to the back of Ardan De Gras after winning to pose with life long club stalwarts Seamus and Sue Butler



St Pat's players surround Eddie Brennan in the County IH Final.



Promotional photoshoot for the club's summer fundraiser "Turas le Naomh Padraig", featuring Ann Downey (Kilkenny Camogie), Kevin Kelly (Kilkenny GAA and St. Patrick's GAA clubman), Club Committee members and supporters.



The Gannon Brothers, Michael, James and Paudie.



Richie McEvoy, Junior "A" captain receives the trophy from Chairman Ned Quinn.



St Patrick's Intermediate League Winning Team 2017

Around the Clubs



Thomastown



Fergal Challoner (capt) raising the cup after Thomastown's victory over Piltown in the final of the J. J. Kavanagh and Sons Junior/A League Division 3 in April



Robbie Donnelly, Barry Whelan, David Prendergast and John Brennan after the Intermediate All Ireland Final win over Cork in Pair Uí Caoimh in July



U11s after winning the inaugural Paddy Sheridan Cup at Mount Sion GAA Club in July



Thomastown U10 team who won the Ballyhale Shamrocks tournament in September



Minors after their win in James Stephens Mullen tournament in June, beating Blackrock of Cork in the final



U14s who represented the club in the Feile in June and reached the U14 Roinn A final in October

Around the Clubs



Threecastles



Threecastles Captain, Jack Cleere accepts league trophy from PJ Kenny, Northern Board.



5KM Winner Joey Dalton accepts his prize from Tony Coy, Irish Wheelchair Association



No wonder they're smiling...Our 10KM winners each won a holiday to the Algarve



Damien getting the pre-season training in!!!



Threecastles Fun Run - Everyone enjoying a cup of tea at base camp!



Countrystyle Junior A Div. 6 League Winners 2017.

Around the Clubs



Tullaroan



Tullaroan U10's - Nowlan Park 2017



Tullaroan U8's 2017



Tullaroan U6's 2017



Dick Walsh & Ned Fennelly at the IH League Final in Callan



Shane Walsh - U21 Winning Captain 2016



*Tullaroan U21 Selectors 2016
Ned Sweeney, Ken Coogan, David Cleere, David Dowling.*



Tullaroan U12 County Champions 2017



Action from the County IH League Final between Tullaroan and Thomastown

Tullaroan GAA Club would like to extend deepest sympathies to the families and friends of following club members and supporters who passed away over the past year:

- Michael Kirk
- Jim Holmes
- Jimmy Marshall
- Philip Doherty
- Sean "Georgie" Leahy
- Teresa Teehan
- Sean Gillespie
- Peggy Dunne
- Bridie Maher
- Breda Dooley
- Billy Malone
- Maura Hogan
- Kathleen Gibson
- Mary Teehan
- Pierce Dunne

Around the Clubs



Tullagher Rosbercon



U14 Féile team pictured with team from Westmeath



All Ireland winning Community Games Team



Féile team with new kit



U12 team after winning Richie young Tournament



U6 hurling team



U14 football team

Kilkenny GAA

Around the Clubs



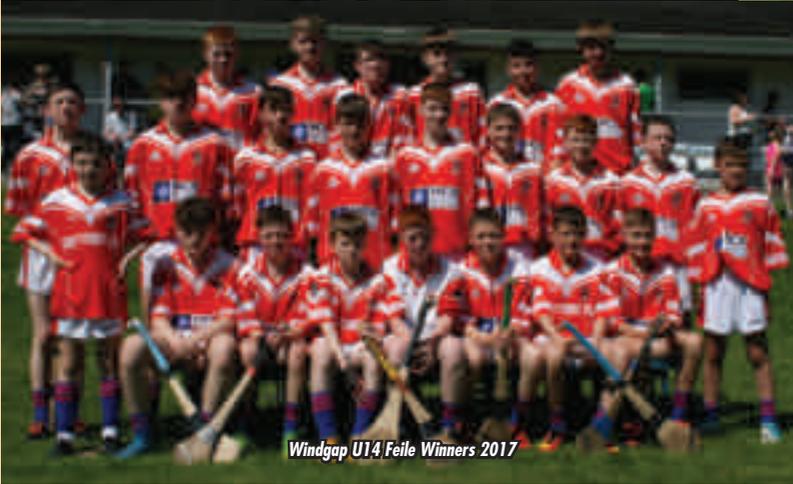
Windgap



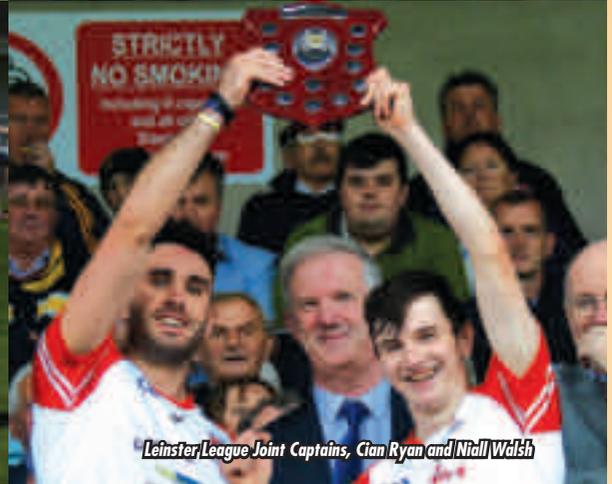
Fir Bearna na Gaoithe i mbun oibre.



Windgap U6's v Dunnamaggin



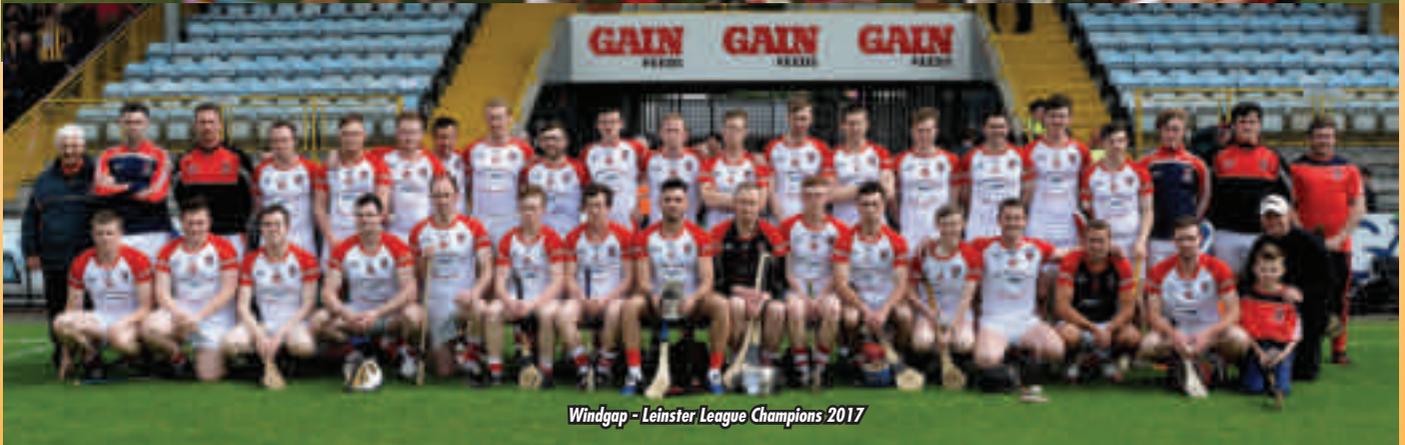
Windgap U14 Feile Winners 2017



Leinster League Joint Captains, Cian Ryan and Niall Walsh



Windgap U8's - Final Match v Mullinavat



Windgap - Leinster League Champions 2017

Around the Clubs



Young Irelands



Our newly opened club grounds in Castle Ellis hosted its first competitive Intermediate League game on the 12th August when we played Thomastown.



Having lost out after extra time in the final of the Lisdowney 7's in 2016, our U13 boys and mentors went one better in 2017 with a great win over Dicksboro. The day was rounded off nicely when Charlie Fitzgerald took home the Player of the Tournament Award.



Feile na nGael weekend with the lads One of the highlights for our U14's was Feile with the lads reaching the Division 2 final where they lost out by a single point to Rosenallis. Back in Roinn A for the first time in 30 years the team reached the League Final and lost out to eventual winners Dicksboro in the championship.

Picture Gallery



Winning Captains 2017



My shirt is on the reds!



Over the last on Race Day



Official Programmes!



Getting the Picture



County Board Lotto - 1000th Draw

KILKENNY SUPPORTERS CLUB RACE DAY 2017



Gowran Park
Saturday 24th June 2017

Photos: Willie Dempsey

faces.....faces.....faces.....faces.....faces...



DEDICATION OF ÁRAS Ó CEARBHAILL

On May 28th 2017, the newly extended and refurbished Áras Ó Cearbhaill together with Ardán Ó Cearbhaill were dedicated to the memory of former County Secretary Ted Carroll who played such a pivotal role in the development of Nowlan Park over many years. The building was blessed at the ceremony by his old playing colleague, Fr Tommy Murphy.



Members of the extended Carroll Family at the dedication ceremony.



Presentation by Cathairleach Ned Quinn to Mrs Angela Carroll



From back clockwise: Pat, Ted, Donal, David, Angela and Hellen Carroll.



Carroll Family with Co Board Officials and Guests

KILKENNY PEOPLE HONoured IN 2017



Members of the Kilkenney 1992/93 panels who were Jubilee Guests at Croke Park for the 2017 All Ireland Final
 Back: Ray Heffernan, Brian Prendergast, Pat Hoban, Michael Phelan, Michael Morrissey, Paul Phelan, Richie Power, Christy Heffernan, Liam Simpson, Pat O'Dwyer, Eamon Morrissey, Adrian Ronan, Joe Walsh, John Power, Tom Murphy, Pat O'Neill, Eamonn Holland.
 Front: Brian Ryan, Liam Keoghan, DJ Carey, PJ Delaney, Dermot Lawlor, Charlie Carter, Jamesie Brennan, Liam Fennelly, Mickey Walsh, Bill Hennessy, Willie O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Liam McCarthy, Matty Walsh. *Photo: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE*



Lifetime Achievement Award for Eddie Keher
 Left: Former Kilkenney hurler Eddie Keher, right, is presented with his Lifetime Achievement Award by GPA President David Collins. Right: Eddie with Former Donegal footballer Brian McEniff, who also received a Lifetime Achievement Award. *Photos: Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE*

Kilkenny's Séamus Reade with his PRO of the Year Award at the Gaelic Writers Association Awards 2017.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

KILKENNY'S CAMOGIE ALL STARS 2017



Kilkenny's 2017 Camogie All Stars receiving their awards from Uachtarán Catherine Neary
 From left: Catherine Foley, Anne Dalton, Meighan Farrell, Katy Power.

Nine Kilkenny players in total were nominated for All Stars in 2017, while Anne Dalton was nominated for Senior Player of the Year.
Goalkeepers: Emma Kavanagh. **Full-Back Line:** Catherine Foley, Grace Walsh. **Half-Back Line:** Anne Dalton.
Midfield: Meighan Farrell. **Half-Forward Line:** Denise Gaule, Katie Power. **Full-Forward Line:** Julie Ann Malone, Miriam Walsh.

2017 All-Stars

Aoife Murray (Cork), Rena Buckley (Cork), Catherine Foley (Kilkenny), Laura Treacy (Cork), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Eimear O'Sullivan (Cork), Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Ashling Thompson (Cork), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Orla Cotter (Cork), Ailish O'Reilly (Galway), Aisling Maher (Dublin), Aoife Donohue (Galway).
 Senior Player of the Year: Rena Buckley (Cork)

OBITUARIES



Seanie O'Brien 1955-2017

Seanie was a bright star who blazed a short youthful way across the hurling landscape in the early 1970s. Coming from a hurling family, his brothers, Jimmy, Paddy and the late Josie all found conspicuous success at an early age.

Seanie won two All Ireland minor hurling titles with Kilkenny. In 1972 he featured at right half forward in a team captained by Brian Cody which defeated Cork by 8-7 to 3-9. However, it was in 1973 that Seanie left an indelible mark on an All Ireland final. Full forward on a Kilkenny team featuring Dick O'Hara and Joe Hennessy, there were no great expectations as they faced a Cyril Farrell trained Galway team in the All Ireland final. Seanie dominated the game, scoring 4-2 from play of Kilkenny's total of 4-5, as they won by four points. He thoroughly enjoyed his sobriquet 'The King' after his exploits.

He played in that year's senior county final as James Stephens lost to Fenians and shortly afterwards emigrated to the UK, thus ending a potentially fine hurling career.

He is mourned by his daughter Paige, brothers and extended family.



Todd Whelan

Thomas (Todd) Whelan, Graignamanagh Co Kilkenny

The final whistle blew for Todd on the 21st June 2017, aged 88.

His great memory made him a great source of tales and stories about our Club's activity or lack of activity in the bygone days.

Todd was a staunch supporter of our GAA Club since its foundation in 1953, and took a particular interest in the Juvenile section of our Club since the early 70s, when our schools had their most successful times.

Despite being unwell for a while, Todd would always enquire, "how did the lads get on Sunday?" As a player and a mentor, he held a long association with our club, and his last position was Club President of which he was very proud.

Todd's family were very appreciative of the the Guard of Honour which was provided by Club members from all decades from the 50's to the present Day.



Billy Halpin

Slieverue GAA club and community was deeply saddened in May of this year by the untimely passing of our good friend Billy Halpin. Billy was from Gyles Quay, Slieverue, where he lived with his wife Suzanne and sons William and Paul. Billy played hurling with Slieverue for years and after his retirement, took up a coaching role in the club where he passed on his years of experience and taught young players the skills that he himself showed on the pitch. Billy was also an integral part of the crew that helped organise the Eamonn O'Donovan U10 tournament, a hugely popular tournament for the past eleven years. Billy was a hard worker with limitless energy and was always there to lend a hand when help was needed.

We extend heartfelt sympathies to Billy's family and many friends.

Ar a dheis dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Colm McGrath

It was with a heavy heart that we reported the sudden death of our Club Colleague and friend Colm McGrath Westcourt on 30/11/16.

Colm hurled as a young boy going to school but had his playing career cut short following a motorbike accident in his youth which meant that his future in the G.A.A. was going to be in a different capacity. Colm progressed to being a committee member of the club and was a selector on many underage teams which saw success over the years.

Colm had been a stalwart of the Club over many years acting in various roles from Club Registrar to team selector, Car Park on match days, Quiz master for various different events, and involved in the selling of the weekly Lotto and every other fundraising event undertaken by the club over the years. Colm had also been an avid follower of the county team going to every league and Championship match each year and he also followed the Irish soccer team in their home Internationals and he also got to attend a world cup in Japan in 2002.

We are proud to have known Colm and to call him a friend, no request of Colm was ever met with a negative response rather the answer was ' NO

PROBLEM' and that was indeed the case.

Colm is greatly missed by all members of the club and team captain Owen McGrath paid a fitting tribute to Colm's memory when he dedicated the junior final victory of 2017 to his memory. His work colleagues in Callan Co-Op, his colleagues in Callan Credit Union where he was Chairman and his family members all miss Colm and remember him with great fondness.

The bed of Heaven to you Colm, You will be forever in our thoughts.



Louise Queally

Sunday May 7th was an extremely sad day for the Parish of Urlingford and Graine. To lose two young people, Louise Queally and Pat Phelan, in one day, both parents to young families, left our parish numb as we tried to come to terms with the grief that had been visited on two of our families, our neighbours, our friends, our clubmates. The sense of the loss felt by the local community was only too evident in the huge numbers that were present for the funerals on that sad week.

Louise Queally

Louise was a member of the popular Kenny family from Clomantagh Lower, well known for Kenny's Bar as you sweep into Barna on the road to Thurles. Louise was involved with many local groups, and especially loved playing darts for Kenny's Bar. Her talents at the oche were well known and she went on to represent Ireland at darts. She was also an active member of Emeralds GAA Club and did a lot of work for the club. She had her own print and design business and produced many posters and tickets for both hurling and camogie clubs. The only thing Louise didn't produce was a bill! Louise also ran for Lord Mayor in a club fundraiser in 2011 where all three candidates raised a huge amount for the club. Louise was always only too happy to help.

First and foremost, Louise was a supporter, especially to her own children who play with Emeralds. Even though she had not been well over the past number of years, she was at every match and training session she could, enjoying watching and cheering on the young Emeralds girls and boys. She was delighted to see Ciara called up to Kilkenny Camogie Development Squads earlier this year and was always so proud of her lads exploits on the field for club and schools.

Pat Phelan

The Phelan family from Goresgrove are steeped in Emeralds GAA. While Pat himself didn't actively play a number of his family have played with the Emeralds down through the years and his brother, Tom is the present Hurling Club Chairman. Pat preferred squash and was an accomplished player



Pat Phelan

at the Clomantagh Squash Club. He also loved to walk around the roads of Graine and was a great quiz man. Whenever there was a quiz, be it for the club or the county All-Ireland Radio quizzes, Pat would be there and his competitive side on full show.

Pat was also another proud parent who loved nothing more than to support his three children as they played for Emeralds. He was a regular at minor hurling games, under 14, under 12 and school camogie games. He was also very supportive to his wife Margaret, who has been Emeralds Camogie Club Secretary for the past number of years. We all know that club officers cannot complete their heavy workload without support from home, and Margaret always commented that Pat was a patient man with the Emeralds!

Both Louise and Pat would have been so proud of their respective girls as they competed for the club and school in camogie county finals this year. Louise's happy smile and Pat's jovial manner were both missed by all on the sideline.

To Mervyn, Kathleen, Ciara, Niamh, Shay, Róisín, dad Ollie, and the Queally and Kenny families; To Margaret, Luke, Sarah, Rachel and the Phelan and Kavanagh families, our most heartfelt sympathies and our promise of continued support in the years to come.



Tom Hogan

Tom Hogan passed away after a short illness on April 10th 2017. A Gowran native Tom moved to Paulstown when he married his wife Margaret in 1965. While he was involved in many local groups in Paulstown he remained a loyal Gowran supporter all his life.

Tom played hurling for Gowran in his younger days. Tom was a much valued member of Young Ireland's executive committee and in latter years he served on the Field Committee and as Safety Officer for the club. When the request went out for stewards for any club event Tom would always be one of the first to respond. His last turn out in this capacity was at the Open Day in the new pitch in Castle Ellis in October 2016 and he was very proud to be present.

Tom was highly respected as a steward in Nowlan Park by all members of the County Board and was always delegated a responsible and important role. When Kilkenny returned by train after their All Ireland Finals Tom took great pride in taking up his position as the team alighted from the train.

To his daughter Ailish, his sons Paul, John, Eugene & Colm and their families, his brothers, sisters we extend our sympathies.



Beatrice Treacy

There was great sadness locally when the news filtered through on the morning of May 17th that Beatrice Treacy had passed away after a short illness.

Beatrice was born in 30 Parliament St, Kilkenny and moved to Gowran when she married Pat Treacy in 1963. Their house became a local focal point for many lively GAA discussions over the years.

Beatrice had attended secondary school in Goresbridge and it was there that the seeds were sown for what was to be a life long association with camogie. She later played with St Luke's, Cuffesgrange and in 1966 was a founding member of St Mary's Camogie Club in Gowran.

Beatrice served as Secretary of Kilkenny Camogie County Board from 1972 to 1976 and Chairperson in 1977. She acted as Kilkenny delegate to Leinster Council for three years while also serving as Vice Chairperson and Secretary for one year. One of her most treasured memories was her role as selector with the 1974 All Ireland winning Kilkenny Camogie team.

From the early 1970s Beatrice was a vocal and active committee member of Young Irelands GAA Club. In 2000 she was editor-in-chief, and the main driving force, behind the compilation of the The Gowran GAA Story which will always remain a testament to her. From 1992 to 2010 she acted as club PRO with no stone left unturned in performing this role, including submitting the yearly overview of club activities for the Kilkenny GAA Year Book. While she helped run many social events, she took particular enjoyment each year in organising, alongside Pat, the Annual Golf Classic and she was sadly missed from her corner at the event this year.

All her life she followed the fortunes of Kilkenny & Gowran teams and took great pride in the achievements of her children and grandchildren through the various grades.

Beatrice will be fondly remembered. As former camogie players & hurlers gathered around the time of her funeral many stories were told. The Guard of Honour jointly formed by past & present members of both clubs, as her funeral cortege travelled down the street from her house to the church on that May morning, was a fitting tribute to her.

To her husband Pat, daughter Bernadette and sons Patrick, Brian, Martin & Diarmuid, sister Teasie, brothers Eugene and Thomas, her grand children and wider family circle we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.



Tony "Rossi" Davitt 1962 – 2016

Tony Davitt or Rossi as he was fondly known to everyone played corner forward on what was then the Goresbridge under 16 team to win the Parish's first Juvenile title in 1977. On that historic Monday evening on the 9th August in Nowlan Park Rossi bagged three goals in the Roinn C Final to help his side beat Mullinavat 5-06 to 3-04.

Rossi wasn't blessed with good health and kidney failure at the age of 25 curtailed his participation in sport but not his interest. It has to be said that Rossi threw his lot in with Bridge United but he never lost touch with Barrow Rangers. In 1988 he had a kidney transplant, he bore the cross he was given with grace and was never heard to complain. Together with his wife Margaret he managed to run a thriving bus hire business which he started in the mid eighties. Rossi and Margaret reared three children, Sinead, Kevin and Paul. He had a great way with people, was proud of where he came from and was a lover of the Irish language.

On the 8th December 2016 Rossi departed this life to join two other players and several mentors from the 1977 team.



John Harte

The death occurred in Archersrath Nursing Home on Friday April 21st of John Harte from Galmoy Village. Predeceased by his wife Sheila and his daughter Mary, John or Johnsie Harte as he was better known, had given a lifetime of service to Galmoy GAA Club. Having been to the fore in amalgamated teams involving Galmoy, Johnsie was one of the driving forces behind the Parish Rule which was introduced in Kilkenny in 1954. Following on from Galmoy's appearance in the 1954 final, He was a selector with the Kilkenny Junior team which won the All Ireland in 1956 featuring two famous Galmoy hurlers in Rody O Neill and Billy Costigan.

Johnsie then held the position of Secretary in Galmoy GAA Club, a role he fulfilled for many many years. He was seen as a modern day Secretary, way before his time. He also represented Galmoy GAA Club as County Board Representative for many years.

As a result of Galmoy's success in winning the 1966 Junior County Final, he was appointed a selector with the Kilkenny Intermediate team which won the 1967 Leinster Final. Since stepping down

from active club service, Johnsie had been club President up to the time of his passing. His remains were received into Galmoy Church on Monday morning April 24th and burial was in the adjoining cemetery. He is survived by his daughter Anne, sons-In-Law, Sam & Richard and grandsons, Aidan, Ronan & John along with a large number of relatives and friends.



Martin Roberts

We extend our sincere sympathy to Teresa Roberts and Family, Ballyogan on the death of Martin R.I.P. Martin played for and was always a loyal supporter of our Club.

In the words of one of his old team mates "when Martin went to hurl he gave it his all, he hurled with his heart, when the ball appeared Roberts would pull, his philosophy was to pull, he was a tough bit of stuff". Martin played at corner back and later on at full forward. One day in Thomastown Martin went in at full forward on "The Link Walsh", a Kilkenny senior hurler. Two high balls came in, Martin pulled and ended up scoring two goals off "The Link" that day, questions were asked, where did ye get him? Another evening in training Martin was in on Jack Bolger, he doubled on a ball with such ferocity, it struck Jack in the eye and he spent a spell in hospital, those were the days before the helmets. Just some of the memories of the quiet man from Ballyogan.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam



Jim Bolger

Jim Bolger Woodroad Graignamanagh.

It is with great sadness that Graignamanagh G.A.A Club acknowledges that The Final whistle has blown for one of its most dedicated members and supporters "Giant of the Ash" Jim Bolger was a founding member of our club in 1953, and was the first man to be elected Captain of St Vincents G.A.A Junior hurling team now known as Graignamanagh. Jim gave sterling service to the our proud G.A.A Club as a player, mentor and administrator. Jim Was club treasurer from 1960-1963 and served as Club Chairman in the years 1970-1971, he was also the man responsible for choosing the club Colours the now famous Green and White hoops. His interest in "How the lads were getting on" never waned and Jim was a regular feature at all our club games he will be sadly missed by all.

The club would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Jim's wife and Family at this sad time.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam dilis.



Anthony (Tony) Kelly

The death in June of Anthony (Tony) Kelly, Millennium Court, Bennettsbridge, was heard of with deep regret in the parish and GAA community. Formerly from Gowran Road, Tony was one of four children born to Michael and Annie Kelly.

He was a very skilful and stylish hurler who made his way up the ranks from underage to make his senior debut in 1962, winning senior championships with Bennettsbridge in 1962, 64, 66 and 67. The 'Bridges were defeated finalists in 1965 and 1968. He was a very versatile player and could adapt to any position on the field.

He won an All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 1963 when they beat Waterford and was also the holder of a Leinster medal.

He travelled to New York with the Kilkenny team in 1964 and was a member of the team which beat Tipperary in the Cardinal Cushing World Cup Tournament.

Tony was a first cousin of, Paddy Moran, John Kinsella and Michael Phelan, former All-Ireland and Bennettsbridge senior hurlers.

A minutes silence was observed in Nowlan Park on the Saturday evening prior to the Kilkenny/ Limerick match.

Tony was a quiet inoffensive member of the community and a bachelor. He worked for some years in Mixrite, Bennettsbridge. He was predeceased by his brother Paddy and his sister Maura.

Following prayers in Johnston's Funeral Home the remains were removed to Bennettsbridge where a guard of honour comprising members of the GAA Club and former teammates escorted the remains to St Bennett's Church. The remains were received by Canon Patrick Duggan and the Parish Choir sang during reception.

Requiem Mass was con-celebrated by Canon Patrick Dalton and Canon Patrick Duggan. The lessons were read by Owena Grimes and Luke Dowling (cousins). Family and friends took part in the Prayers of the Faithful and Offertory Procession. Music throughout the service was provided by Mollie Cahalane on the organ.

He is survived by his brother Michael, cousins, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Sean O'Grady

The community of Skeoughvosteen and family of Blacks & Whites club lost one of its finest sons with the passing of Sean O'Grady R.I.P. Sean died on 31st March 2017 after a long battle with illness, which he bore with great dignity and a wonderful spirit.

Sean, or "Milea", as he was affectionately known, was one of those larger than life figures that would brighten anyone's day when they met with him. He was fantastic family man and a valued man and leader in the community. Born on 13th January 1937 to a family of four, he was the oldest son to the late Patrick and Anastasia O'Grady of Mount Loftus.

Like of lot of families in the 1950's his family decided to emigrate to the UK in search of employment, however Sean remained and was reared by his aunt Margaret. He was proud of his Skeough heritage and never longed to venture further afield. He attended the local school at Skeoughvosteen. Leaving school at the tender age of fourteen and began working with local farmers prior to working with Red Mills, Goresbridge where he remained for 40 years as a long Distance truck driver all over Ireland.

In 1960 he married Eileen and in his own words she was the making of him! They had three children Anne, Pat and John, five grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. They would have celebrated 57 years of married life last August.

Sean was hugely involved with his beloved Blacks & Whites, beginning as a player and going on to become Chairman, Selector, and was the Club President at the time of his passing. He was instrumental in the purchase and development of Blacks & Whites home pitch at Tom Walsh Park and his proudest moment was the Blacks & Whites winning their first ever Junior final in 1998 with the added bonus that his two sons were on the winning team.

He was an accomplished 56lb weight thrower, either for distance or height and would be seen at field days throughout the county winning very many trophies. He became involved with Gowran athletic club from the beginning and competed for them winning a Leinster and All Ireland medal for weight throwing.

Sean attended his first All-Ireland hurling final in 1954 when Cork defeated Wexford. He loved his beloved Kilkenny, his own personal hero being Kieran Purcell. He continued to attend every All-Ireland final up to 2016. He was extremely proud of his children's hurling achievements, his Daughter Anne, Captained Kilkenny in Camogie, John was an integral player of Blacks & Whites and Pat who is the current Kilkenny Minor Manager. His grandchildren gave him wonderful proud moments with Megan, Keelin and Vincent all playing for Kilkenny in recent years. His brightest moments were when his grandchildren would be playing hurling around his house in Skeough.

Throughout his illness he was cared for at home by his loving family especially his daughter Anne and is survived by his wife Eileen, daughter Anne, sons Pat & John, daughter in law Orla and Cathy, grandchildren Megan, Kielan, Vincent, Harry and Ava, great grandchild Sophie, sisters Maureen & Betty, nieces and nephews, Extended Family. Sadly Predeceased By His Brother Michael on 9th February 2017.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan, who died on March 5th 2017, was a wonderful servant of the Ullard Handball Club on the outskirts of Graignamanagh. He played handball at school and it was his first love, taking part in all grades, minor, junior, Senior & Gael Linn competitions for Club and County. In 1955 he won his first All Ireland medal partnered by Syl Lennon, also from the Ullard Club, representing Kilkenny and went on to win the All Ireland final in the Junior softball doubles. "A report in the following days Irish Independent said that the 26 year old farmer from Ullard, gave an exhibition of handball in Croke Park yesterday".

Ten years later in 1965 he partnered Joe Delaney of Talbots Inch Club in the senior softball doubles, when they beat P Downey & J O'Brien of Kerry. Kerry had won five times consecutively up to 1964. Next, Tim won two Masters All Ireland medals beating Joe Delaney and secondly Christy Delaney both of Talbots Inch. He won four All Irelands and many County Kilkenny medals in all grades. There is no doubt that he was the best handball player ever to come from the locality.

Tim will be sadly missed by his wife Stasia, sons John & Seamus. His son Ollie died in 2014 R.I.P. He is also survived by his daughters-in-law Margaret, Anne Marie & Felicity, eight grandchildren, his sisters and extended family and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam dílis.



Dan Phelan (1927- 2017)

Just a couple of days short of his ninetieth birthday and unaware of a surprise party being organised in the community, the news broke that Dan Phelan had been suddenly called away.

Born in Seskin, Dan went to school in Windgap and played an enormous part in the life of his parish. After school Dan, went working with Watt O'Shea, where driving his Hackney Car brought him to every All Ireland Hurling and Football final and gave him a massive knowledge and love of the games. He later worked for almost thirty years with Nicholas Murphy in Cussane. Following his retirement he lived to the full and was hale, hearty and out driving to the end.

After the advent of the parish rule in Kilkenny

GAA in 1954, Dan along with Ned Fitzpatrick, Seamus Horgan, Jimmy and Geoff Butler and a young Seamus Fleming gathered in the shade of the gable wall of O'Shea's Pub. On that cold dark February night they mooted the formation of a Hurling Club in Windgap and Dan became its first chairman and Seamus Horgan the secretary.

For the first match, jerseys were borrowed from the Carrick Davins and they became the famed red and white colour of Windgap. With one championship game a year, Windgap got three games when they beat Hugginstown and the club was on its way. The first South Junior final was reached in 1964 when the full back line against Thomastown Rangers was Phil Cronin, Dan Phelan and Paddy Houlihan. Windgap continued to develop through fete and tournament games, where they held their own with many of the top senior teams. In 1970 Windgap's great day arrived, when they won the South Junior final against Mullinavat. A County title followed and with it Senior status and a golden period for the game and the local players. During his life, Dan and his brother Jimmy kicked football with Cuaile, Cotterstown and St Nicholas. Dan also loved a game of handball and won a county title with the Slatequarries. In later years he played badminton with the Tullahought Club.

In 1957 Dan married Mary Moore a local Camogie player and moved to Birchwood where they had two children Judith and Seamus. Both played, with Shamie hurling for Windgap and Judith playing Camogie in the Red and White of Piltown, before the local club was re-founded.

Dan was a great man for cuardíaching and visiting the sick and was always there organising car parking and providing seating for mourners at the funerals in the parish. In later years bingo became his main pastime, as was a trip to Tramore on Sunday evenings and he also enjoyed a good game of cards. Dan loved to meet people and especially on his daily trips to Carrick-on-Suir where he got the daily papers. They were read, whilst parked on the Main Street where he would catch up on all the news from the passer-by's and debate the recent club and particularly the local inter county games.

In his day Dan moved from Club chairman to selector, to trainer, delegate, driver, mentor, committee member and he also refereed. Having being recently re-appointed as the Club President at the AGM he was very proud of all things Windgap and its people and their achievements. Dan was also a recent recipient of a well merited Maurice Davin, Three Counties GAA award in Carrick on Suir.

Dan has always being a huge part of the Windgap story and everyone has a Dan Phelan memory as he wore his heart on his sleeve. In the Club every player of every age knew him. He was the man standing pencil and paper in hand recording the score on the school end line for every Hurling and Camogie game. He was there right up to the last game of the year and his last official functions were making the Camogie Club presentation to Denise Gaule for winning a Senior Camogie All-Ireland medal and the National Camogie Player of the Year Award and giving the graveside oration for his former team mate Jimmy (Foxy) Walsh. The reality of his contribution was seen as throngs from playing comrades in their eighties, to men, women, boys and girls in their teens joined together sporting the club colours to escort Dan on his final journey to Tullahought Church.

Dan's passing is probably the last of the founding fathers of the Parish Rule System in Kilkenny a move that helped the county turn into a hurling power. However Dan's story is not finished, the little acorn planted on a distant February evening that gave the parish a new identity is now established, vibrant and ambitious and is growing to the size of a mighty oak.

Go ndéana Dia Trocaire ar a Anam



Jim Walsh

The sudden passing of the late Jimmy Walsh in the latter days of 2016 cast a cloud over the new year celebrations. The word legend is used loosely these days, but Jimmy was a real local legend, an unassuming man of a quiet disposition it was not until the conversation turned to hurling and horseracing that his true personality emerged. he travelled the country to race meetings, but it was his great love of hurling for which he was best known.

The GAA club in Windgap was founded in 1954 and from then until 1968 the club was based in a field belonging to the Walsh family. It was at a time when carnivals were popping up throughout the county, Piltown, Bennettsbridge, Callan and Mullinavat to name but a few. But the Windgap Fete was one of the earliest and hosted huge crowds at its junior and senior tournaments. They travelled far and wide to play on Walsh's field, Tullatoan came with their stars, the Hennessey's and the Hogan's, Freshford with Pa Dillon and Alfie Hickey, Clonmels Theo English, and the likes of Eddie Keher, Sean Clohessy and Oliver Gough who represented MoonDearg, the Dublin based GAA club that was home to a large Kilkenny contingent.

Despite the many All Stars our own hero's were Eddie Kelly, Geoff Butler, Paddy Egan, Jimmy and his brother Philip and we all watched in awe as they returned bloodied from battle with little care for their own safety. One abiding memory of Jimmy on the field of play was a miraculous score from the sideline against Clara on the Fairgreen in Callan, one that TJ or Richie Hogan would be proud of.

Jimmy's skills weren't just confined to the small ball, at a time when Lamogue played in three senior football finals he was the star, and the match report at the time stated that he played ducks and drakes with the Railyard defence in one notable performance. Jimmy spent his life farming in Coolhill Windgap and lived there with his sisters Kathleen and Annie RIP.

Solas na bhflaitheas ar a anam

Kilkenny GAA Results 2017

SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING 2017	
County SH C'ship Final	Dicksboro 4-15 James Stephens 4-10	Roinn "A" U21H Final	Dicksboro 4-15 James Stephens 4-10
SH League Final	Dicksboro 0-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-14	Roinn "B" U21H Final	To Be Completed
SH Shield Final	Carrickshock 2-18 Clara 2-11	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship North Final	To Be Completed
SH Relegation Final	Bennettsbridge 1-20 St Martin's 0-15	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship South Final	To Be Completed
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" U21H C'ship North Final	To Be Completed
County IH C'ship Final	St Patrick's 1-19 Graigue/Ballycallan 2-10	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship South Final	To Be Completed
IH League Final	Thomastown 2-21 Tullaroan 1-22	MINOR HURLING	
IH Shield Final	St Patrick's 3-21 Glenmore 0-13	Roinn "A" MH C'ship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-15 James Stephens 0-17
IH Relegation Final	St Lachtain's 2-9 Dunnamaggin 0-15 St Lachtain's 2-10 Dunnamaggin 1-11	Roinn "B" MH C'ship Final	Dunnamaggin 3-16 Mullinavat 2-11
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "C" MH C'ship Final	St Patrick's 2-12 Slieverue 1-15 St Patrick's 4-13 Slieverue 0-9
County JH C'ship Final	John Lockes 1-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-19	Roinn "A" MH League Final	To Be Completed
Rafter Cup Final	Emeralds 1-19 Tullaroan 0-13	Roinn "B" MH League Final	To Be Completed
Fr Kearns Cup Final	John Lockes 2-12 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-11	Roinn "C" MH League Final	To Be Completed
All County JH League Final	Mt Leinster Rangers 1-16 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-16	UNDER 16 HURLING	
JH League	John Lockes 2-22 Emeralds 1-18	Roinn "A" U16H C'ship Final	O'Loughlin's 0-15 James Stephens 0-15 O'Loughlin's 4-9 James Stephens 1-17
JUNIOR HURLING "A"		Roinn "B" U16H C'ship Final	St Lachtain's 6-15 Graigue/Ballycallan 2-12
County JH A C'ship Final	St Patricks 2-10 Mooncoin 0-15	Roinn "C" U16H C'ship Final	Young Irelands 2-12 Conahy Shamrocks 0-10
Northern Junior A C'ship Final	St Patricks v James Stephens	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-14 Dunnamaggin 3-10
Northern Junior A League Final	Young Irelands 5-16 Conahy Shamrocks 1-13	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	St Lachtain's 7-8 Danesfort 4-15
Southern Junior A C'ship Final	Mooncoin 3-22 Thomastown 1-10	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	Young Irelands 1-20 Cloneen 3-11
JUNIOR HURLING "B"		UNDER 14 HURLING	
County JH B C'ship Final	John Lockes 2-17 Gamoy 1-18	Roinn "A" U14H C'ship Final	Dicksboro 4-23 Thomastown 1-5
Northern Junior B C'ship Final	Gamoy 2-18 Bennettsbridge 2-15	Roinn "B" U14H C'ship Final	Galmoy Windgap 1-20 Glenmore 2-7
Northern Junior B League Final	Bennettsbridge 0-21 Gamoy 20-10	Roinn "C" U14H C'ship Final	Barrow Rangers 1-16 Fenians 1-10
Southern Junior B C'ship Final	John Lockes 1-17 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-14	Paddy Grace Féile Final	Dicksboro bt Thomastown
CUP COMPETITIONS		Roinn "A" U14H League Final	Dicksboro 3-15 Young Irelands 2-7
Byrne Cup Final	Mullinavat 1-24 Clara 2-12	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	Galmoy Windgap 6-20 Tullagher Rosbercon 2-6
Aylward Cup Final	St Patrick's 0-21 Tullaroan 0-10	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	Barrow Rangers v Fenians
Paddy Cahill Cup	Conahy S 1-22 Barrow Rangers 2-19 Conahy S 0-21 Barrow Rangers 1-15	PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Naomh Eoin 2-20 Blacks & Whites 0-12	Roinn "A" U13H Final	St Canice's 6-13 Kilmanagh 1-3
Joe Walsh Cup	<i>Not Played</i>	Roinn "B" U13H Final	Urlingford 2-8 Clara 0-7
Martin Treacy Cup	Piltown 2-14 Barrow Rangers 1-13	Roinn "C" U13H Final	Kilmacow 4-12 Coon-Muckalee 3-5
Jim Farrell Cup	North Kilkenny 3-22 South Kilkenny 2-17	Roinn "D" U13H Final	Johnstown 7-6 St. Canice's 1-5
UNDER 21 HURLING 2016		Corn de Bhaldraithe	Kilmanagh 8-8 Glenmore 3-7
Roinn "A" U21H Final	Rower Inistioge 2-12 Dicksboro 1-13	Corn Uí Bhriain	Kilmacow 3-7 Coon-Muckalee 0-4
Roinn "B" U21H Final	Tullaroan 4-6 Dunnamaggin 0-16	Roinn "A" U11	Thomastown 6-5 Clara 1-3
Roinn "A" U21H North Final	Dicksboro 0-22 James Stephens 0-10	Roinn "B" U11	Dunnamaggin 3-3 Urlingford 1-1
Roinn "A" U21H South Final	Rower Inistioge 0-21 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-15	Roinn "C" U11	Ballyragget 3-2 Slieverue 2-5 Ballyragget 2-6 Slieverue 1-6
Roinn "B" U21H North Final	Tullaroan 5-15 Graigue/Ballycallan 2-19		
Roinn "B" U21H South Final	Dunnamaggin 1-16 Piltown 2-9		

SENIOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Final	Mullinavat 3-12 Railyard 2-5	Junior "A" Championship Final	Conahy Shamrocks 4-18 Blacks & Whites 0-4
County SF League Final	Dicksboro v Railyard	Junior "B" Championship Final	Mooncoin 4-9 St Claire's 0-8
County SF Relegation Final	Danesfort 4-6 Mooncoin 2-8	Junior "A" League Final	Thomastown 2-14 St Claire's 3-7
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Junior "A" All-County Lge final	To Be Completed
County IF Final	Conahy Shamrocks 1-8 Rower Inistioge 0-8	Junior "B" All-County Lge final	To Be Completed
County IF League Final	Thomastown 2-17 Tullagher Rosbercon 1-0	UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		U21 A Championship Final	To Be Completed
County JF Final	Not Played	U21 B Championship Final	To Be Completed
County JF League Final	To Be Completed	MINOR CAMOGIE	
MINOR FOOTBALL		Minor A C'ship Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "A" MF Final	To Be Completed	Minor B C'ship Final	St Martin's 3-7 Danesfort 1-8
Roinn "B" MF Final	To Be Completed	Minor C C'ship Final	Carrickshock/Mullinavat 2-9 Clara 4-1
U16 FOOTBALL		Minor A League Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "A" U16F Final	No Competition	Minor B League Final	Danesfort 3-17 St Martin's 3-9
Roinn "B" U16F Final	No Competition	Minor C League Final	Carrickshock/Mullinavat 3-10 Clara 1-0
Roinn "C" U16F Final	No Competition	U16 CAMOGIE	
U14 FOOTBALL		Under-16 A C'ship Final	Thomastown 3-16 Young Irelands 1-3
Roinn "A" U14F Final	Dicksboro 3-8 Thomastown 1-1	Under-16 B C'ship Final	James Stephens 4-19 St Brigid's 5-9
Roinn "B" U14F Final	Graignamanagh 4-12 Tullagher Rosbercon 4-4	Under-16 B Shield Final	Windgap 4-16 St Lachtain's 2-6
Roinn "C" U14F Final	Barrw Rangers 6-10 Carrickshock 1-4	Under-16 C C'ship Final	Clara 2-15 Ballyhale Shamrocks 5-5 AET
Roinn "A" U14F League Final	Dicksboro 5-18 Young Irelands 2-5	Under-16 C Shield Final	St Annes 4-9 John Lockes 2-8
Roinn "B" U14F League Final	Graignamanagh 6-10 Bennettsbridge 2-8	Under-16 A League Final	Thomastown 5-12 Young Irelands 3-8
Roinn "C" U14F League Final	To Be Completed	Under-16 B League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 4-9 St Fiachra's 3-6
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		Under-16 C League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-9 Tullagher 2-6
Roinn "A" U13F Final	Gaelscoil Osraí 6-4 St Canice's 2-5	U14 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "B" U13F Final	James Stephens 1-4 Glenmore 1-4	Under 14 A C'ship Final	Dicksboro 5-3 Thomastown 2-2
Roinn "C" U13F Final	To Be Completed	Under 14 A Shield Final	James Stephens 1-4 Glenmore 1-4 James Stephens 4-9 Glenmore 2-0
Corn na Tuaithe Final	To Be Completed	Under 14 B C'ship Final	John Lockes 4-3 Emeralds 3-4
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Under 14 B Shield Final	Danesfort 3-9 St Lactain's 4-2
County SC Final	Thomastown 3-10 Dicksboro 2-5	Under 14 C C'ship Final	Tullagher 8-5 Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-7
County SC League Final	Thomastown 3-18 Mullinavat 1-9	Under 14 C Shield Final	Young Irelands 1-7 Kilmacow 1-3
Shield League Final	Inistioge 3-9 Clara 1-6	Under 14 D C'ship Final	Carrickshock 1-3 Rower Inistioge 1-2
All-County SC League	To Be Completed	Under 14 D Shield Final	St Anne's 4-2 Mullinavat 2-4
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
County IC Final	St Brigid's 1-13 Clara 1-11	Primary Schools A Final	Kilmanagh 4-6 St Canice's 3-5
IC League Final	Young Irelands 2-14 Conahy Shamrocks 1-3	Primary Schools B Final	Conahy 7-8 Urlingford 1-3
All County IC League Final	To Be Completed	Primary Schools C Final	Carrickshock 3-9 Tullagher 1-2
		Primary Schools D Final	Lisdowney 7-8 Bennettsbridge 1-1

* As of November 26th 2017. Results of finals too late for inclusion here will be recorded in Kilkenny GAA Bible 2018, and on kilkennygaa.ie