

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK

2018



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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2018

CONTENTS

Editorial.....	3
Inter County Senior Hurling.....	5
That was the Year.....	11
County Senior Hurling Report.....	15
County Intermediate Hurling Report.....	21
County Junior Hurling Report.....	27
St Pat's Campaign.....	35
U21H Winners 2017.....	37
County U19 Hurling.....	39
County U17 Hurling.....	40
County U15 Hurling.....	46
County U13 Hurling.....	51
James Stephens 1969.....	55
Bishop Forristal RIP.....	56
Kieran Brennan Portrait.....	59
Msgr Ned Kavanagh RIP.....	62
James Maher Profile.....	63
Fr Martin Ryan RIP.....	67
Football Report.....	68
John O'Shea RIP.....	72
NHL Report.....	76
Inter County Intermediate Hurling.....	84
Inter County U21 Hurling.....	85
Inter County Minor Hurling.....	87
Handball Report.....	89
Paddy Deegan Portrait.....	93
Jim Bolger Interview.....	96
At the Races.....	98
Inter County Camogie.....	99
Katie Power Profile.....	104
Local Camogie Report.....	108
Ladies Football.....	113
St Kieran's Victory.....	114
Colleges Report.....	116
Fans Page.....	118
Faces Page.....	119
Féile Page.....	120
Cumann na mBunscoileanna.....	121
Lisdowney Sevens.....	130
Squads Report.....	131
Cúl Camps.....	135
Camogie Club reports.....	140
Club Reports.....	162
All Stars 2018.....	202
Obituaries.....	203
Results 2018.....	207

Réamhfhocal



Like the changing of summer greens to autumnal hues before the winter arrives, the gap between the end of the playing season and the start of the next is marked by the publication of Leabhar Bhliana Chumann Luthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh. Now an eagerly awaited event, the Yearbook brings together the many-stranded story of Kilkenny GAA within its covers, agus is mór an onóir dom é fáilte a chur roimhe.

With something in it for everyone, the annual production throws up gems in features, the stories of legends, reflective articles and a look back on the many activities of the year. Where a picture paints a thousand words the multitude of team photos, aghaidheanna, póstaí agus club activity pages provide new revelations every time the book is picked up. It also recalls those who have passed away and through their obituaries gives another picture from the lives and activities of the preceding generations.

Over the years, the book has provided an outlet for Club PROs, in a time when the news is instant through social media, radio, TV and websites and the record of the event is often lost just as quickly. With the fall off in printed material, the availability of every edition online on kilkennygaa.ie provides a valuable resource for supporters and historians

Put together on voluntary basis, its on-going financial success has been invested by enhancing the facilities in Nowlan Park. Over the years it has included the provision of the main scoreboard, AstroTurf on the side-line, and the wheelchair areas and toilets. In recent times, the Gym has been kitted out and the pictorial gallery, TV Area and the Stats positions for the participating sides have been provided. This year its funds helped support the drainage and irrigation project on the pitch.

On the inter-county playing fields, the future was forecast to match the desolation of the bad weather and snow. However, an bhliain seo caite turned out to be a very good year as an amazing tenacity was shown at all levels. Amongst the highlights were the Senior Hurlers winning the Sraith Naisiúnta Allianz, the minors reaching the All Ireland Final, our Junior footballers retaining Corn Sam Maguire of Great Britain, the senior Camogie side reaching the All Ireland Final, the ladies footballers re-entering the National League and a myriad of successes on the handball courts.

On the local scene na Clubanna had a hard year on the fixtures front trying to work around inter county round robins, an early start, climate changes and the arrival of new grades and competitions. Once again thanks to the resilience of the players, innovative officials and all who work providing the sporting facilities and social and playing opportunities to all ages the challenges were faced down. On the playing fields games were won and lost, the championships ended on a high with Ballyhale Shamrocks taking the craobh shinsearach, whilst many new learnings from the year need to be taken on board.

As we pack away Bliain 2018 and move ar aghaidh le chéile to the challenges of another year our sincere thanks goes to all involved in Kilkenny GAA in any way from our main sponsors Glanbia PLC, to our competition sponsors, players' schools, clubs parent's boards, supporters clubs and supporters. The recent visit of Iománaíthe sinsearach Chill Chainnigh to Sydney for the Wild Geese Festival further expounds the relevance and importance of our native games and culture to those who follow us ó gach cearn den domhan

Faoi dheireadh, ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le gach éinne for this year's excellent production, in our eagathóir Barrie Henriques, cathaoirleach Pat Henderson the committee, contributors, advertisers and the Year Book compiler Gerry O'Neill who burns the midnight oil to provide a single disc ready to hit the printing presses.

Tá a fhios agam go mbainfear taitneamh agus tairbhe as an Leabhar Bhliana seo.

*Seamus Breathnach (Jimmy Walsh)
Cathaoirleach, Coiste Chontae Chill Chainnigh.*



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#TheToughest

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2018

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FRONT COVER:

TJ Reid grabs the sliothar during
the All Ireland Senior Hurling
Championship quarter final at
Semple Stadium, Thurles.
Photo by John McIlwaine

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EDITORIAL



Any year a County wins a major National Title is a very good year. In a County like Kilkenny, winning the National League early on sets the tempo or the tone for many, not least the players. Not only had they won the thing, but in front of their own in Nowlan Park, they took out the "enemy", Tipperary with something to spare. Our minor team fell at the last hurdle against a stronger, more physical Galway outfit, but they won their Leinster Final. The under-21 lads could have beaten Galway in Tullamore in their first round knock-out game, but were unfortunate not to do so.

It was a great year for the club Championships, despite the long lay-off period in mid summer. It is to be hoped that next year this difficulty will be resolved.

The senior Champions, Ballyhale Shamrocks came flying through with a terrific mixture of young and seasoned. Their big players were counted well and truly, and their young bucks responded in typically traditional fashion. By the time you read this, I fully expect them to be crowned Provincial Champions. Credit too to their brand new Manager. He has them all singing from the same manual. With his brother Tommy on board and the rest of his Management team, Henry is burning the bushes. Beidh lá eile ag Droichead Binéad gan dabht.

The Intermediate Championship was a tremendous competition with at least six teams straining for the winning wire. Tullaroan were Bookies favourites from a long way out. They fell to an unfazed, vibrant Graigue Ballycallan. That was sore. John Lockes beat Tullaroan in the League Final. They would love that.

The junior Championship was a matter of who would beat Dunnamaggin. Nobody did. They are now on the road to a Provincial Final, and, as with the Shamrocks, they will have reached the winners enclosure as will the Graigue lads by the time you open this page.

Again the Development squads had some successes, but at the end of the day, they all returned to their clubs better hurlers. The camogie girls were forced to play second fiddle again to Cork. There were many questions asked as a result. Kilkenny handball continues to flourish. A little mention about Joe Hennessy who survived a difficult illness to return with his doubles partner, Johnny Brennan to win yet another Masters All Ireland gold medal - brilliant.

Thanks to all who contributed to the provision of this Yearbook-our 29th. To our contributors, our photographers, and our brilliant Committee led by our Chairman Pat Henderson. They are all listed at the side of this page. I would ask you sincerely to support all of our advertisers whenever possible.

Finally I pray that Myself and all of my long-standing colleagues who have worked hard to get this record of the activities of all our GAA brotherhood through the year will still be compos mentis, and as enthusiastic when you open the 30th edition of what we, the great GAA Family embrace, and proudly shout about at every opportunity.

Barrie Henriques
Editor



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A Positive Year...

Inter County Senior Hurling Report by Tommy Lanigan



Kilkenny SH Team v Galway in Leinster Final Replay in Semple Stadium - The first time the Final was played outside Leinster

Back: Walter Walsh, Ger Aylward, Darren Brennan, Joey Holden, Conor Delaney, Pádraig Walsh, Liam Blanchfield, Billy Ryan, Colin Fennelly, Rob Lennon, Conor Delaney, TJ Reid, John Donnelly.
Front: Paddy Deegan, Bill Sheehan, Richie Hogan, Jason Cleere, Paul Murphy, Cillian Buckley, Luke Scanlon, Enda Morrissey, Mossy Keoghan, Conor Fogarty, Richie Leahy, Eoin Murphy, James Maher. Photo: Willie Dempsey

After last year's poor campaign, the naysayers were out in force for 2018. Rarely has there been less expectation of a Kilkenny senior hurling team than this year, yet the return was satisfactory given the hill that must be climbed to find an All-Ireland winning team. It might be said that 2018 was one of Brian Cody's finest managerial achievements in capturing a League title and being genuine All Ireland contenders while utilising a limited player talent pool. Success is relative. If the year is a step on the road to greatness then we will happily accept the conclusion. Kilkenny often reached the All Ireland hurling final by winning three consecutive games. But all has now changed as the new format of provincial groups will be with us for at least three years. Is it a better format for the players? Definitely, yes, playing games is infinitely more satisfying than training sessions. Is it better for inter county management? To judge by the whinging of struggling managers after round 3, the pressure has been placed firmly on them.

Unquestionably it is a disaster for club hurling but the solution is an argument for another place.

Everybody agrees the format produced the greatest All Ireland series ever played (despite Kilkenny not making it to the sharp end of proceedings). Given its success, it is likely to be with us for a long time, though this writer would prefer to see the All Ireland finals revert to a September conclusion.

If one was to judge Kilkenny's senior hurling year on the basis of the championship one would be relatively happy. To summarise, a solid provincial campaign, two great games against the All Ireland champions the first of which we could have won and a quarter final exit against superb All Ireland champions.

Initial expectations were gloomy. After all we were coming off a poor 2017 and the conveyor belt of talent seemed rather thin on the basis of a few unsatisfactory u-21 campaigns.

There are several lessons that will surely have been learned. The championship is now a long distance journey rather than a sprint. Teams must be injury-free to make significant progress. Teams must improve consistently for three months. The latter is the most difficult bit.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 1

Late Kilkenny scoring storm blasts them to thrilling win over Dublin

KILKENNY 1-24, DUBLIN 3-16.

Kilkenny began the campaign with seven championship newcomers at Parnell Park. If they didn't appreciate the difference between league and championship they were taught a salutary lesson. How they managed to win against a superb Dublin side remains one of the mysteries of the sporting year.

With five minutes remaining, Dublin were two points ahead and in control

of a game that seemed to have by-passed most Kilkenny players. Against the run of play, Liam Blanchfield took a pass from sub. Luke Scanlon and batted the ball to the Dublin net. It was the first time Kilkenny had led in the game.

They had been thoroughly outplayed by the brilliance of Liam Rushe, Paul Ryan, Conal Keaney, Eoin O'Donnell and several other Dublin stars. However the great Kilkenny character of hanging in and taking a chance was never better illustrated in those final few minutes. The sides scored one point each in the remaining few frantic moments as Kilkenny rode their luck in a wonderful contest.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy (0-4), J. Holden, P. Walsh, P. Deegan, C. Delaney, C. Buckley, E. Morrissey, R. Leahy, J. Maher (0-2), M. Keoghan, TJ Reid (0-12), J. Donnelly (0-1), B. Sheehan, W. Walsh (0-2), G. Aylward. Subs; C. Fennelly (0-3) for Sheehan (32) C. Fogarty for Keoghan ht., P. Murphy for Morrissey, L. Blanchfield (1-0) for Leahy, L. Scanlon for Aylward.

Dublin; A. Nolan; P. Smyth, C. O'Callaghan, B. O'Carroll; S. Barrett, S. Moran, C. Crummey (0-1), R. McBride, E. O'Donnell; J. Malone (1-0), C. Keaney (0-4), D. Sutcliffe, F. Whitely (1-0), L. Rushe, P. Ryan (1-6). Subs; P. Winters (0-3) for Ryan; T. Connolly (0-1) for McBride, F. McGibb (0-1) for Whitely; R. O'Dwyer for Keaney, S. Durkin for Malone. Referee; D. Kirwan (Cork).



James McGarry and Brian Cody have a bone to chew with the linesman at Parnell Park. Photo: John McIlwaine



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Eoin Murphy makes one of his many great saves. Photo Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny's Martin Keoghan in action against Limerick's Gearoid Hegarty during Sunday's All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship quarter final at Semple Stadium, Thurles. Pic by John McIlwaine



Richie Hogan makes a high catch during Sunday's All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship quarter final at Semple Stadium, Thurles. Pic by John McIlwaine



Joey Holden goes highest to win a dropping ball during the Leinster Hurling Final in Croke Park. Pic by John McIlwaine

Kilkenny made sweat but too good for Offaly

KILKENNY 2-19, OFFALY 1-13.

A week later Kilkenny blew hot and cold, but in the end they got the result they needed when beating Offaly at Nowlan Park.

Again the team came under huge pressure in the latter stages. With eight minutes remaining, Offaly had closed the gap to three points and the young teams resilience was seriously questioned by a physically strong Offaly side who had played very well.

The players responded very well and a goal from Liam Blanchfield followed by two points from John Donnelly gave Kilkenny the momentum to finish strongly.

They probably should never been in a difficult situation as the forwards had been repeatedly off target throughout the game, eventually amassing 21 wides. A few of the younger players played much better than the previous week notably John Donnelly, Conor Delaney, Richie Leahy and Luke Scanlon which gave hope for further improvement. But the next round would tell many tales.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy (0-1), J. Holden, P. Walsh, P. Deegan, C. Delaney, C. Buckley, P. Murphy, C. Fogarty, L. Ryan, M. Keoghan (0-2), T.J. Reid (1-5), R. Leahy, J. Donnelly (0-2), L. Blanchfield (1-2), L. Scanlon (0-4). Subs; C. Fennelly (0-2) for Fogarty, C. Browne for Ryan, G. Aylward for Scanlon, C. O'Shea for Leahy.

Offaly; E. Cahill, T. Spain, D. Shortt, B. Conneely, D. Egan (0-1), P. Camon (0-1), David O'Toole Greene; D. King, S. Kinsella (0-2), J. Bergin (1-3) P. Murphy, O. Kelly (0-1), D. Currams, C. Egan, S. Dooley (0-5). Subs; C. Mahon for P. Murphy (29), P. Delaney for T. Spain, R. Hughes for Currams, S. Ryan for Egan, T. Geraghty for Kinsella.

Referee; J. Owens (Wexford).

All-Ireland champions Galway were too strong

GALWAY 1-22, KILKENNY 2-11

Much of the commentary about this Galway team reflected on their strength, the quality of their panel and their experience. It was a fearsome test for a young Kilkenny team and they never looked like challenging the power of the Westerners.

Salthill became the first venue to host a Leinster championship game and a huge crowd attended.

For much of the game Kilkenny were trying to recover from a series of hammer blows to their prospects. After sharing the first eight points, Galway took off on a scoring spree, inspired by a Joe Canning goal. Kilkenny's defence was dragged apart repeatedly and it was to the credit of Padraig Walsh and Paddy Deegan that they finally got to grips with a rampant Galway forward division. Eoin Murphy was in superb form in goal as he needed to be.

TJ Reid brought Kilkenny to within four points at the interval having converted a penalty but it was difficult to see from where a Kilkenny revival would come.

The Galway half backs and midfield took full control as the game progressed and an avalanche of points between the 55th and 65th minutes killed off the game as a contest. Kilkenny found themselves at the wrong end of an eight point drubbing. There were few complaints as only three forwards managed to get on the score sheet.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy, E. Morrissey, P. Walsh, P. Deegan, C. Delaney, C. Buckley (capt), P. Murphy, C. Fogarty, J. Maher, M. Keoghan, T.J. Reid (1-9), L. Blanchfield, J. Donnelly, W. Walsh (1-1), L. Scanlon (0-1). Subs; C. Fennelly for Donnelly, J. Holden for E. Morrissey, R. Leahy for M. Keoghan, B. Sheehan for Blanchfield.

Galway; J. Skehill; A. Tuohy, D. Burke, J. Hanbury, P. Mannion, G. McInerney, A. Harte, J. Coen, D. Burke (0-1), C. Mannion (0-2), J. Canning (1-12), J. Cooney; C. Whelan, C. Cooney (0-4), B. Concannon (0-1). Subs; J. Glynn (0-1) for Concannon; J. Flynn (0-1) for J. Cooney, N. Burke for Mannion, S. Loftus for J. Canning, P. Killeen for P. Mannion.

Referee; F. Horgan (Tipp).

Kilkenny edge past Wexford and into Leinster final

KILKENNY 0-22, WEXFORD 1-18.

Kilkenny recovered quickly and efficiently with a resounding victory over Wexford at Nowlan Park on 9 June.

Again a poor opening period when they had the greatest difficulty in coping with the Wexford sweeper system had Kilkenny firmly on the back foot from the early stages.

The movement of the Wexford forwards and their superb shooting bamboozled the Kilkenny defence and only a few scores from the ever inform TJ Reid kept Kilkenny in the game.

It was unusual to see three half time substitutions for Kilkenny but they were all needed and greatly improved the team. They closed down the Wexford running game, tackled ferociously and the Slaneysiders couldn't cope with the increased intensity. Joey Holden, Padraig Walsh, TJ and Richie Leahy dominated the game as Kilkenny shot a string of points to take the lead by the 58th minute.

Wexford hadn't finished and the ending was thrilling but Kilkenny held on for a deserved

victory and much needed morale boost.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy (0-1), P. Murphy, P. Walsh (0-1), P. Deegan, C. O'Shea, C. Buckley, E. Morrissey (0-1), C. Fogarty (0-2) J. Maher (0-1), W. Walsh, C. Fennelly, T.J. Reid (0-11), B. Sheehan, R. Hogan, L. Scanlon. Subs; M. Keoghan for Hogan ht., J. Holden (0-1) for O'Shea ht., R. Leahy (0-2) for Fennelly ht., L. Blanchfield for Sheehan (46), J. Donnelly (0-2) for Scanlon (64).

Wexford; M. Fanning, D. Reck, L. Ryan, C. Firman, P. Foley (0-5), M. O'Hanlon, D. O'Keeffe (0-1), K. Foley (0-1), S. Murphy, L. Chin (0-1), A. Nolan, D. Dunne, P. Morris (1-1), R. O'Connor (0-5), C. McDonald (0-2), Subs; H. Kehoe for Foley (53), J. O'Connor for D. Dunne (53), S. Donohoe for D. O'Keeffe (62), S. Tomkins for P. Morris (69).

Referee; J. McGrath (Westmeath).

What a contest! Leinster final 2018.

KILKENNY 0-18, GALWAY 0-18

Given the gulf between the sides a short few weeks previously, it seemed that many people were hoping for a respectable result rather than adding another Leinster title to the Kilkenny palmares. Nobody told the team.

We were treated to one of the finest Leinster finals in many years as a hugely improved Kilkenny side gave as good as they got in this enthralling contest.

This time Kilkenny never allowed Galway to run freely as every bit of ground was fiercely contested. The interval scoreline of 0-8 to 0-7 in Kilkenny's favour attests the tightness and ferocity of the encounter.

The second half was similar, tight marking, swift movement and a serious lack of space meant that neither side could gain an advantage. However Galway's greater physical strength began to tell late in the game and they nudged three points ahead by the 67th minute.



The unhookable TJ gets in his shot in Parnell Park. Photo: John Mvllwaine.

However Kilkenny dug deep and a powerhouse finish rewarded them with three points. John Donnelly and Enda Morrissey contributed two excellent points and a TJ Reid free from 60m left the sides level. No complaints from either side.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy (0-1), P. Murphy, P. Walsh, P. Deegan, J. Holden, C. Buckley, E. Morrissey (0-1), C. Fogarty, J. Maher (0-1), M. Keoghan, T.J. Reid (0-10), R. Leahy, B. Ryan (0-2), W. Walsh (0-1), G. Aylward (0-1). *Subs;* L. Blanchfield for Keoghan, J. Donnelly (0-1) for Leahy, R. Hogan for Aylward, C. Fennelly for Ryan.

Galway; J. Skehill, A. Tuohy, D. Burke, J. Hanbury, P. Mannion, G. McInerney, A. Harte, J. Coen, D. Burke, J. Cooney (0-2), J. Canning (0-6), N. Burke (0-4), C. Whelan (0-2), C. Cooney (0-1), C. Mannion (0-3). *Subs;* J. Glynn for C. Cooney, J. Flynn for Whelan, B. Concannon for Mannion.

Referee; F. Horgan (Tipperary).

Super Galway edge past Kilkenny GALWAY 1-28, KILKENNY 3-15

The first Leinster hurling final outside the province was played in Semple Stadium on 8 July. In scorching weather these two sides surpassed their brilliant efforts of a week ago and gave us a game for the ages.

This time the All Ireland champions got the start they desired and led Kilkenny by 1-9 to 0-1 after 20 minutes. Rarely has a Kilkenny side been as comprehensively thumped in a replay.

The destruction continued to the interval but for a hard earned Ger Aylward goal (that should have been disallowed for overcarrying), Kilkenny would have been swamped. The 1-16 to 1-7 Galway lead did not reflect their superiority.

The third quarter is always Kilkenny's 'moving time' and again they obliged. Led by Richie Hogan and Colin Fennelly, Kilkenny reduced the deficit to one point by the 54th minute. However Galway's superior physical power and experience overcame a great Kilkenny revival and the westerners ran out convincing winners.

The route to an All-Ireland final appearance became more difficult.

Galway; J. Skehill, A. Tuohy, D. Burke, J. Hanbury, P. Mannion, G. McInerney, A. Harte (0-2), J. Coen, D. Burke, J. Cooney (0-1), J. Canning (0-10), N. Burke (0-2), C. Whelan (0-4), J. Glynn (1-1), C. Mannion (0-6). *Subs;* C. Cooney (0-1) for Burke, J. Flynn (0-1) for J. Cooney, S. Loftus for D. Burke.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy, P. Murphy, P. Walsh, P. Deegan, J. Holden (0-1), C. Buckley, E. Morrissey, C. Fogarty (0-1), J. Maher (0-1), J. Donnelly (0-1), T.J. Reid (0-9), R. Leahy; B. Ryan, W. Walsh, G. Aylward (1-0). *Subs;* L. Blanchfield for W. Walsh (inj), R. Hogan (1-1) for R. Leahy, C. Fennelly (1-1) for B. Ryan, R. Lennon for Morrissey, L. Scanlon for Donnelly. *Referee;* J. Owens (Wexford).

Limerick hold on for deserved victory LIMERICK 0-27, KILKENNY 1-22

In hindsight the Limerick team that deservedly won the 2018 All Ireland title learned much in the quarter final victory over Kilkenny.

They were an even younger side than Kilkenny but were superbly drilled. They played to a plan of short passing and relentless pressure and Kilkenny came up just short on the day. From the start Limerick were a little sharper, more assured and ready 'to deal with everything and anything' according to their outstanding manager, John Kiely.

Almost 19,000 spectators saw a fine game played by two sides filled with character and skill.

After a relatively even first 30 minutes, Limerick found their rhythm and their cross-field passing game inspired them to a 0-15 to 0-12 interval lead.

If Kilkenny had a fault this year they relied too often on the older players to spark a revival. Richie Hogan obliged for the third time this year and somehow Kilkenny found themselves but a point adrift with 64 minutes played. However, three huge points by Tom Morrissey, Peter Casey and Aaron Gillane extended the Limerick lead and they held on firmly to the end.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy, P. Murphy, P. Walsh, P. Deegan, J. Holden, C. Buckley, R. Lennon, C. Fogarty (0-1), J. Maher (0-3), M. Keoghan, R. Hogan (1-3), P. Lyng, T.J. Reid (0-7), C. Fennelly (0-2), B. Ryan. *Subs;* L. Blanchfield (0-1) for Lyng, R. Leahy (0-4) for Keoghan, J. Donnelly (0-1) for Fennelly.

Limerick; N. Quaid, S. Finn, M. Casey, R. English, D. Byrnes (0-1), D. Hannon (0-1), D. Morrissey, D. O'Donovan (0-3), C. Lynch, G. Hegarty (0-3), K. Hayes (0-3), T. Morrissey (0-4), A. Gillane (0-5), S. Flanagan (0-1), G. Mulcahy (0-3). *Subs;* P. Casey for S. Flanagan, S. Dowling (0-1) for G. Hegarty, W. O'Donoghue for D. O'Donovan. *Referee;* J. McGrath (Westmeath).



8 July 2018; Walter Walsh of Kilkenny in action against Gearáid McInerney of Galway during the Leinster GAA Hurling Senior Championship Final Replay match between Kilkenny and Galway at Semple Stadium. Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

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

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That was the year...

that Kilkenny turned a corner*

(*Possibly)

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

Well, that wasn't too bad a season, was it?

Kilkenny were as good as they were entitled to be. They won an unexpected National League title in joyous style. They blooded a clutch of promising youngsters. They departed the championship following a narrow and slightly unfortunate defeat to the eventual All Ireland winners. Nothing much to complain about there, you'll agree.

The fear expressed here this time last year was that things might get worse before they got better. That fear proved unfounded. In a season where no more than two pucks of the ball separated the best team in the country from the seventh or eighth best team, Brian Cody's charges ranked fifth, a couple of places up from the previous season. They were only barely better than Wexford and Dublin, they were considerably inferior to Galway at their best but they weren't far behind Limerick, Cork and Clare. This represented progress; not a great leap forward but solid, visible progress nonetheless. The memory of the shambles of the summer of 2017 was firmly banished. Off the pitch as well as on it, Kilkenny were sharper, more coherent and altogether surer of what they were trying to achieve. In their eight outings during the National League they made a staggering 36 substitutions, more than half of them (19) before the 50th minute - even more staggering and very, very unCodyesque. This was the management being decisive and demanding and it was refreshing to behold.

You'll see further facts and figures later on in this article but here's the most relevant stat of all, the bedrock reality. Against Dublin at Parnell Park in May, in the opening round of the provincial round robin, the visitors fielded seven - *seven* - players starting their first championship match. There's your context. There's the backdrop against which everything the Black and Amber did and did not achieve in 2018 must be viewed.



The first year of a reconstruction programme does not tend to produce miracles.

NARROW MARGINS

The county's championship exit occurred in circumstances about as desirable as a championship exit can occur. Had John Donnelly been awarded a stonewall free that would have put Kilkenny two points up with time running out in the All Ireland quarter-final, Limerick's comeback might have been strangled at birth. But the young men in green were the better team on the day, even if their opponents did have cause to rue both a string of wides after half-time and the absence of Walter Walsh. In any case, John Kiely's charges had more improvement in them. The Noresiders would not have gone on to win the All Ireland, despite the best efforts of Eoin Murphy, who enjoyed the season of his life, and TJ Reid, who, as the designated leader of the attack, produced a series of performances richer and more rounded than the ones that saw him named Hurler of the Year in 2015. In reaching the quarter-final they found their level. One can't ask for more than that.

Before that there was the National League triumph, and let's not overlook it or dismiss it with faint praise. This was the 20th national title of Brian Cody's reign and among the most satisfying; not that supporters can't enjoy the spectacle of a young side doing their best, but the accumulation of silverware is, after all, the object of the exercise. This piece of silverware was achieved by virtue of a thundering second-half display against Tipperary in Nowlan Park - and what Kilkenny person with a heartbeat could possibly say no to a title won in great style against the old enemy? The sight of the pitch flooded afterwards with jubilating supporters clad in black and amber indicated that this was something out of the ordinary. The victory represented reassurance that New Kilkenny



An airborne Pádraig Walsh against Tipp in the League Final
Willie Dempsey



Luke Scanlon made some promising appearances with Kilkenny
Piaras Ó Midheach/SPORTSFILE

were going in the right direction. For this the management deserved considerable credit.

The wearers of the stripes had, remember, lost their opening two games of the competition, the second of them against Clare at Nowlan Park in a fixture the Banner started in rampant fashion. For 20 minutes the hosts weren't just being beaten, they were being embarrassed. But Cody and his cohorts didn't stand by watching; they made three substitutions by the 26th minute, the ship righted itself, Kilkenny won the second half – not a footnote to be dismissed; these are the marginal gains in which the great man has long put stock – and at the final whistle there was only a goal between the sides, 2-18 to 1-18.

It was the turning point of the county's season. A six-match winning run followed as the league title was annexed – annexed, moreover, with an XV that included no fewer than nine members starting their first national final. Whatever was to happen come summer, 2018 was now a success.

A quantum leap that had to be seen to be believed had taken place. No longer were Kilkenny a Route One team; now, instead, Eoin Murphy was going short to Paddy Deegan, Deegan was charging forward and offloading to Cillian Buckley, the new chief orchestrator, and the sliotar was being worked through the lines. No longer were the Kilkenny defenders merely defending; now they were pulling strings. Granted, it didn't last. A reversion to the mean occurred in the replayed Leinster final in Thurles, where far too many long balls were struck, to founder on the Galway half-back line. If Kilkenny are to persist with the gameplan, greater faith will be a prerequisite in 2019.

THE PACK CLOSED IN

What did happen come the championship was that the posse caught up. Understandable; Cody's team had been fitter than most earlier than most because they needed to be. It is not unfair to hold that they were lucky to reach the Leinster final: they got out of jail against Dublin in Parnell Park, they were suffocated by Galway in Salthill and after they predictably had too much for Offaly they just about got past Wexford in the crunch tie. Would they have just about got past Wexford had Davy Fitz's charges not been taking the field for the fourth weekend in a row and visibly tired in the closing quarter? It is debatable. But them's the breaks and you take them when you get them.

The Leinster final brought the first inkling of Galway's mortality. Kilkenny were well worth the draw, despite being required to hit the closing three points of the afternoon to obtain it. The replay was an entirely different story and one that echoed one of the findings from the round robin: the forwards weren't scoring enough from play. They weren't scoring anything like enough from play.

True, one issue from the previous season had been solved. In the 2017 championship Kilkenny were absurdly overreliant on frees and 65s from TJ Reid. Over half of their scoring output came from said source, an unsustainably high proportion. This time around the county's percentage of scores from placed balls was down to 41 per cent. It's still too high – 25 per cent or lower is the optimum ballpark figure – but it represented a step in the right direction.

Championship 2018 saw a broader spread of scorers. James Maher was always good for a point or two from out the field, Conor Fogarty ditto. Enda Morrissey popped up a couple of times to swing one over from distance. Padraig Walsh landed a whopper against Wexford. On the face of it this was healthy. Drill down below the surface, however, and it's clear that the spread of scorers disguised a grave weakness: the aforementioned lack of points from play from the Kilkenny forwards.

This isn't the place to lament lost glories, or recall the great winged points of yesteryear from Henry Shefflin and Eoin Larkin, or get all old-timer on it by muttering, "God be with the days". Those days, as Don Henley might have said, are gone forever. At any rate they're gone for the moment. But still. A point from play – *a point from play!!!* – from the starting forwards versus Wexford? The 1-2 from the same sector in Salthill? The 1-3 in the Leinster final replay and the 1-6 in the All-Ireland quarter-final when the starting Galway and Limerick attacks were shooting the lights out, hitting 1-18 and 0-17 respectively on the same occasions?

Omit the Offaly game and here's an even more frightening stat. The Kilkenny subs hit almost as much from play during the campaign as the starting forwards did, 3-16 compared to 3-22. Scary.

Now you know why the Black and Amber were unable to control any match bar the Offaly encounter. Now you know why they were continually



*Killian Buckley goes high to win the ball from Galway's Jonathan Glynn during the Leinster Hurling Final.
Pic by John McIlwaine*



*James Maher outreaches everyone against Clare in the League
Willie Dempsey*



Great piece of dispossession by John Donnelly in Parnell Park. pic: John McIlwaine

forced to come from behind. Now you know why they were so heroic, time after time. They were obliged to chase games and they never failed to answer the call. But the figures don't lie. The first item on Cody's To Do list between now and next May entails sourcing two scoring half-forwards and a corner-forward with an eye for goal.

None of this is to ignore the pluses of the campaign, which were numerous, not least the speed of the opening phase of the rebuild. James Maher had his long delayed breakout season and when Richie Leahy – still an under-21 – was good he was very good indeed. John Donnelly was another find, while we can now be certain that Martin Keoghan is not a forward. Enda Morrissey came out of nowhere and performed admirably. Billy Ryan may kick on considerably in the short term.

MORE NEW FACES REQUIRED

Problem is, Kilkenny need all of these guys to maintain their progress in 2019, and that's not a given. They also need two or three more springers to keep the pot bubbling and they need Liam Blanchfield to become the player he promised to be in the 2016 All Ireland semi-final replay against Waterford. It is quite the ask. It is quite the series of asks, rather.

The curious case of Padraig Walsh demands a prompt solution. One campaign where Walsh was confined to the edge of his own square was understandable; two campaigns of robbing Peter to pay Paul would be overdoing it. Walsh can defend but his spirit, like that of his big brother before him, demands that he attack the ball. He can do that better from the half-back line and should be allowed to. There has to be some young lad somewhere in the county who can be groomed as a full-back and coached to do the job.

Elsewhere, there was the disappointment of DJ Carey's under-21s, almost but not quite effaced by the achievement of Richie Mulrooney's minors in reaching the All Ireland final after a journey around the houses. If Galway were too big, too strong and too good for Kilkenny at Croke Park in August, no matter; this was a voyage of discovery and one whose real benefits will not emerge for four or five years yet. Not for the first time, St Kieran's managed to reinvent themselves between the Leinster championship and the All Ireland series. Bennettsbridge didn't win the county final but their presence added greatly to the occasion. And talking of grand old clubs, there wasn't a more refreshing occurrence anywhere locally than Mooncoin's unexpected triumph in the under-17 minor grade, not least because it demonstrated that a country outfit can still beat the city giants at under-age level.

A word of tribute to the new holders of the MacCarthy Cup. A couple of years ago I genuinely wondered if we would ever see Limerick win the All Ireland again. After 45 years of unlimited heartbreak we finally did – and

lo, it was good. The greatest, most dramatic hurling championship ever produced not the greatest but certainly the worthiest champions ever.

For the past couple of decades Limerick were the ultimate bacon and cabbage team. Under the management of John Kiely and the coaching of Paul Kinnerk they remained a bacon and cabbage team, except it wasn't the hairy bacon and overcooked cabbage of before. This was bacon and cabbage like never served up previously, possessing a touch of fusion about it – very much nouvelle cuisine for Limerick hurling - but retaining the base flavours.

The single most impressive feature about the new champions, a team of no superstars and an entity all the better for it, was the clean, stringent lines of their hurling. Forget that much overused word 'tactics'; modern hurling is about logistics. Get the sliotar into the strike zone and get it in quickly – but not too quickly and not simply for the sake of it. Limerick, thanks to Kinnerk, got it in there with purpose aforethought. One or two passes in their half of the field to set up the delivery, then the long or the diagonal ball, frequently pitched beyond the corner-back, with the recipient given

time to come on to the sliotar, get his head up, survey his options and either turn to shoot or lay off to a colleague within a 30-metre radius.

The flop against Clare in Ennis excepted (and forgiven; that was their only defeat of the year in normal time in any competition), the Shannonsiders' clarity of thought and execution in their build-up play was a sight to behold. They never took too much out of the ball or ran it into trouble. There

was always someone in the middle third to go long and there was always someone to supply him with clean possession to do so. Everyone took a turn to pass the bullet and everyone took a turn as quarter-back, firing the gun.

The point that put them ahead in injury time against Cork in the All Ireland semi-final began with Nickie Quaid's now fabled intervention, continued with Mike Casey picking up the pieces on the endline and involved two short passes and a long drive before Pat Ryan won the free for Aaron Gillane to convert. This was not so much grace under pressure as precision when the din was at its height. Against Kilkenny they sniped 0-24 from play and against Cork they hit 1-19 in normal time: monstrous tallies both.

Yet all of this did not take place in a vacuum. The restructuring of the provincial and All Ireland championships led to a national summer of hurling that will be remembered for all the right reasons and a local summer of non-hurling that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. Four months, from April to August, without club games: for Kilkenny, this is a situation that cannot obtain indefinitely.



Walter Walsh is held off by Dublin's Eoghan O'Donnell as the Dubs goalkeeper Alan Nolan makes a great catch under pressure during the Leinster Championship clash at Parnell Park. Pic by John McIlwaine

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SHAMROCKS REIGN SUPREME

County Senior Hurling Report by Tommy Lanigan



Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH Champions 2018

Back: Conor Reid, Jason Devereux, Evan Shefflin, Dylan Aylward, Enda Kenneally, Paddy Doyle, Eugene Aylward, Mark Phelan, Adrian Mullen.

Middle: James Connolly, Patrick Hearne, Patrick Mullen, Gavin Butler, Joey Holden, Conor Phelan, Bob Aylward, TJ Reid, Colin Fennelly, Richie Reid, Martin Davis, Kevin Mullen, Mark Gorman, Ronan Hayes, Adam Brenner.

Front: Dean Mason, Eoin Kenneally, Brian Cody, Brian Butler, Michael Fennelly Jnr, Eoin Cody, Eoin Reid, Conor Walsh, Mark Aylward, Joey Cuddihy, Darren Mullen, Ronan Corcoran, Darragh Corcoran, Kevin Fennelly Jnr.

Quality will always prevail and Ballyhale Shamrocks had more than enough quality in their young panel to win them their 16th county senior hurling final and their first since 2014.

Their sixteen titles since 1978 comfortably eclipses the Tullaroan record of sixteen between 1887 and 1933, a remarkable achievement given the vast difference in the intensity of the current contests. With such a young side, five under 20 years and a spine that should be around for quite a while, it is certain they have much more silverware in their sights. Add this to the scoring machine that is TJ Reid and they have much to aim for in future years.

TJ was unquestionably the player of the championship. In addition to hitting frees from every angle and possible distance (except for a memorably faulty day in the semi-final), he turned in magnificent performances throughout. His display against Dicksboro in the quarter final in John Locke Park will live long in the memories of those privileged to have seen it. The Shamrocks talisman has been more influential this year than any other since his senior arrival as a lively 17-year-old in 2005. The importance to Shamrocks of winning the 2017 U21 title was never more apparent than this year. They blooded several young players and were patient enough to give them time, despite some earlier poor

performances. It was Henry Shefflin's first successful foray into senior management. Older brother Tommy is coach and a very influential and astute presence too.

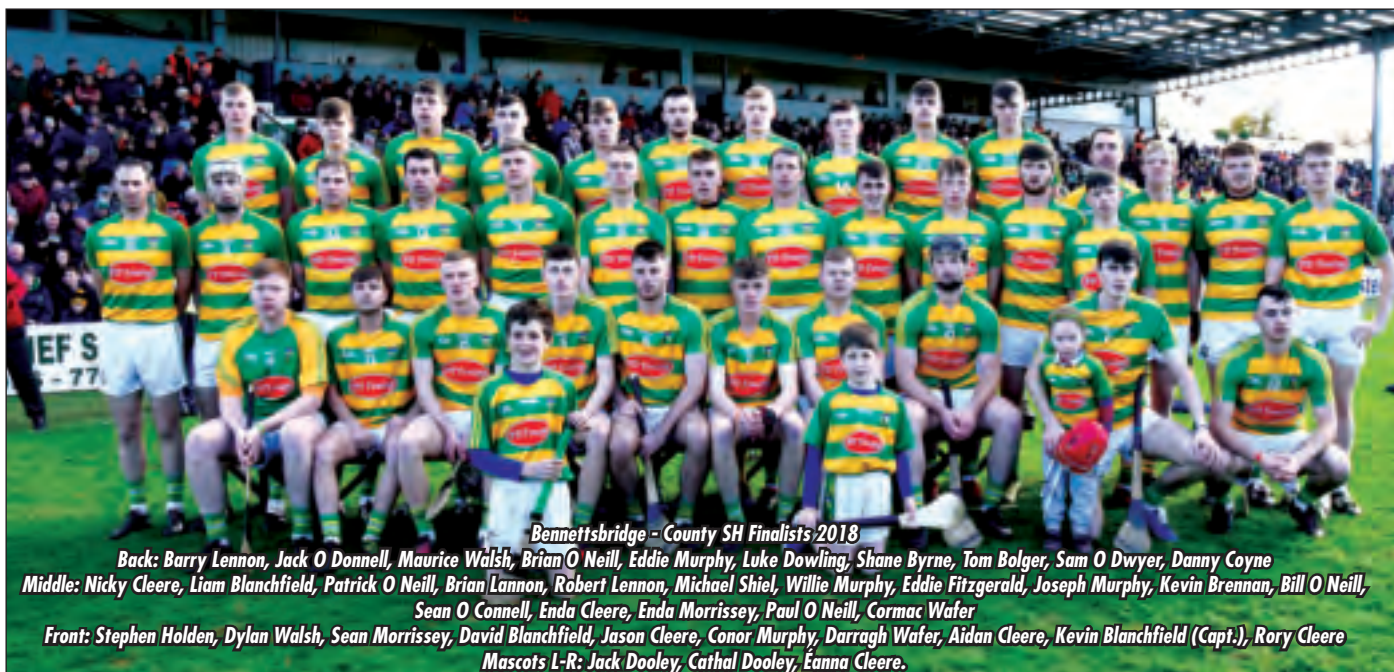
Everybody seemed delighted that Bennettsbridge made it to Nowlan Park on final day. They were there on merit too! The 'Bridge have had an uncanny habit of winning games since their Junior victory in 2014. Their direct path back to senior was adorned by National Junior and Intermediate titles, illustrating their self-belief and ability to grind out victories.

Unfortunately for them they took ten minutes to settle into the rigorous demands of a county final and Shamrocks had forged ahead by 1-6 to 0-1 in that time. It was a mountain the 'Bridge willingly climbed and some wayward shooting at crucial times in the second half prevented them from really asking the hard questions of Shamrocks. The southerners kept their noses in front at all times and never looked like being under serious pressure.

However, the 'Bridge can draw enough solace from their first final appearance since 1974 and they will surely return a better team in 2019. They have a few young players coming through their club who have the potential to improve them, particularly in attack. While they will



Jason Cleere of Bennettsbridge in action against Adrian Mullen of Ballyhale Shamrocks
Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile



be disappointed with their final performance, great credit must go to a small group of parents and long-term club members who brought this group to the big stage.

League form counted for nothing

The new inter-county structures made a pig's ear of the club championship with one round played in April and no action following until mid-August. We hope for better planning in future years. Despite the universal bleating of 'the club is the most important part of the Association', the mantra doesn't seem to refer to fixture-making.

Following Dicksboro's success in 2017 and the proliferation of young hurlers in the City, it was assumed by many that the three city clubs and Shamrocks would dominate club hurling this year. Perhaps some hubris attached to the city teams as a result, particularly as all three managed to avoid the first round by doing well in the league competition. On the other hand, Shamrocks had the relative indignity of having to come through the first round after a poor league. They lost to O'Loughlins and Bennettsbridge in a tough group. But as mentioned above they were playing the long

game with their young team.

James Stephens and the 'Boro dominated one league group while O'Loughlins were the only undefeated team in five games. Clara and Carrickshock had miserable leagues with the latter failing to win any game.

The championship turned all expectations on their heads.

Erin's Own stumbled over Carrickshock after a low scoring replay, not giving any indication of improvements to come. Clara accounted for a dismal Danesfort and Mullinavat defeated a disappointing Rower side. Ballyhale trounced an understrength St. Patricks, Ballyragget and gave a good indication of their championship potential.

In the quarter finals, several teams who had pretensions were dumped unceremoniously from the competition. Last year's most improved side, Mullinavat lost comprehensively to the 'Bridge while an ageing Clara side had too much grit and fire power for O'Loughlins. James Stephens were beaten by Erin's Own after two tough encounters in Ballyragget. But the best performance of the championship was Shamrocks demolition of Dicksboro before a huge crowd in Callan. It was clear there was



THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PARK IN THE 2018 KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Own: Tom Brophy; John Dowd, Ciaran Wallace, James Brennan; Niall McMahon, Conor Fogarty, Conor Delaney; James Mullins, Aidan Moran; Daragh Brennan, Michael Murphy, Sean Buggy; Stephen Daly, Anthony Owens, Martin Boran, Eoin Brennan, Jamie Holohan, John Dowd, Declan Dunne, Peter O'Donovan, Ross Connolly.

Carrickshock: Jamie Power; Luke Gaule, John Dalton, James Grace; Niall Tennyson, John Tennyson, John Cahill; Edward Dunphy, Eanna Martin; Brian O'Donovan, Michael Rice, Mark O'Dwyer; Kevin Farrell, John Power (Stoneyford), Darragh Brennan, Damien Walsh, Jake O'Dwyer Aaron O'Neill.

Clara: Killian Phelan; Paddy Bolger, Shane Prendergast, Dermot Nolan; Sean O'Shea, Conor O'Shea, Tom Ryan; David Langton, Liam Ryan; Jason Byrne, Stephen Quinlan, James Nolan; James Bergin, Chris Bolger, Pete Nolan, Martin O'Connell, John Murphy, Ciarán Prendergast, Matt Kenny.

Danesfort: Conor Hackett; Diarmuid Phelan, Paul Murphy, Darren Booth; Daire O'Neill, Cathal O'Neill, Des Dunne; Padraig Mullen, Robbie Walsh; Richie Hogan, Philip Cooney, Ger Dunne; Cillian Treacy, Gary Tynan, Jack Bruton, Colm Phelan, Dylan Dunphy Wallace.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: Dean Mason; Conor Walsh, Kevin Mullen, Joey Holden, Brian Butler; Evan Shefflin, Darren Mullen, Gavin Butler; Michael Fennelly, Richie Reid, Ronan Corcoran; Joey Cuddihy, T.J. Reid, Adrian Mullen; Eoin Reid, Colin Fennelly, Brian Cody, Eoin Cody, Mark Aylward, Paddy Mullen, Conor Phelan, Eugene Aylward, Bob Aylward.

St Patrick's: Michael Gannon; Stephen Staunton, Mark Staunton, Paddy McEvoy; Eamon Glennon, Bill Staunton, Robbie Healy; Seoirse Kenny, Geoff Brennan; Barry Staunton, Michael Brennan, Eoin Bergin; Kevin Kelly, Brian 'Brook' Phelan, Joe Brennan, Jason Phelan, James Gannon, Paddy Brennan, Billy Morrissey.

Mullinavat: Jim Culleton; Paucigahan, Joe Fennelly, Darren Kenneally; Robbie Malone, Michael Malone, Mark Mansfield; Ian Duggan, Willie O'Dwyer; Liam Fennelly, John Walsh, Adam Mansfield; Oisín Knox, Ger Malone, Jamie Fennelly, Simon Aylward, Joe Gahan, Michael Murphy.

Rower-Inistioge: James Logue; James Doyle, Joe Lyng, Tom Doyle; Ruairi Galavan, Kieran Joyce, Shane Ryan; Richie Leahy, Sean Lyster; Conor Joyce, Tom Murphy, Ciarán Ryan; Pat Lyng, Kevin Murphy, Jim Ryan, Eoin Doyle, Michael Grace, Cathal Bolger.

Dicksboro: Darragh Holohan; Evan Cody, Michael Fagan, Robbie Fitzpatrick; Aidan Nolan, Thomas Kenny, Edward Moylan; Ollie Walsh, Gillian Buckley; Shane Stapleton, Eoin Gough, Martin Gaffney; Bill Sheehan, Kevin Kenny, Robbie Murphy, Andrew Gaffney, Joe Sheehan, Eddie O'Donoghue, Stephen Farrell.

Bennettsbridge: Enda Cleere; Conor Murphy, Robert Lennon, Cormac Wafer; Sean Morrissey, Enda Morrissey, Jason Cleere, Darragh Wafer; Kevin Blanchfield, David Blanchfield; Aidan Cleere, Brian Lannon, Nicky Cleere; Dylan Walsh, Liam Blanchfield, Michael Shiel, Danny Coyne; Willie Murphy.

O'Loughlin Gaels: Stephen Murphy; Tony Forristal, Huw Lawlor, Eddie Kearns; Ross Butler, Paddy Deegan, Paddy Butler; Jack Nolan, Jordan Molloy; Shane Mahony, Mark Bergin, Conor Heary; Robbie Buckley, Martin Comerford, Sean Bolger, Mark Kelly.

James Stephens: Gavin Costigan; Shane Donohue, Jackie Tyrrell, Dinny Stapleton; David Hennessy, Conor Browne, Niall Mullins; Niall Delaney, Luke Scanlon; Niall Brassil, Eoin Larkin, Matthew McWey; David Walton, Mathew Ruth, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Jamie Byrne, Jack McGrath.

now one clear favourite. A talented 'Boro team played well but could never get near a Shamrocks side that showed the ancient telepathy continues to the present generation.

The semi-finals produced two tight encounters where fortunes could have swung either way. Erin's Own almost defeated Shamrocks. Superbly drilled in defence and with the Conors, Delaney and Fogarty in fighting form, they gave themselves every chance. That TJ was fallible form placed balls improved prospects of a major upset. Leading by two points at the end of normal time, Comer simply could not finish powerfully and were hit by a smash and grab goal from Evan Shefflin. It was a heart-breaking end to a great season for the Erin's Own men. No doubt they can build on this year as they too have several talented young men on the cusp of adult hurling.

The clash of the 'Bridge and Clara was a first in senior championship hurling, close neighbours though they are. Clara had been hit by injuries throughout the campaign, most notably Lester Ryan and Jack Langton but they are a fighting side. But younger legs and a bravura performance from Sean Morrissey saw the 'Bridge through to the final in a very tight encounter. The new vintage of green and yellow men had come of age in senior ranks and improved with every game. There is surely a championship within their grasp in future years.

Mixed fortunes for many

At the other end of the championship we bid farewell to Carrickshock United. The year was an unmitigated disaster for them and it was sad to see their veterans trying valiantly to hang onto senior status. What is most difficult for them in the future is a dearth of obvious young talent. They were well off the pace in the relegation final against Danesfort, as if they accepted the inevitable. Danesfort did well to survive. However, they depended so much on Richie Hogan's ability to conjure scores, it is difficult to see a solid long-term future for them unless they place more faith in their panel.

For the teams in the middle ground it was a poor year. After a great start when they hammered James Stephens it was downhill for Mullinavat. They never recovered from the loss of Tom Aylward as they shuffled their defence to no positive effect. They still have youth, power and skill on their side, provided they can believe in their collective talents.

The two city teams, the Village and O'Loughlins have similar issues. Lots of good defenders hides a dearth of forwards. Even the return of evergreen Martin Comerford didn't work for the St. John's parish men and perhaps illustrated their forward concerns by his presence this year. Like James Stephens their forwards will have to learn the essentials of movement in attack. The folly of playing Eoin Larkin as a loose midfielder brought comfort to all opposition.

Intermediate champions Graigue-Ballycallan will be an interesting addition to the mix next year with their blend of youth and furious competitiveness. In 2017 the Bridge were in relegation trouble, Carrickshock had been unlucky, Mullinavat showed great potential, James Stephens looked like the next contenders and Ballyhale went out of the championship race with a whimper. How senior club hurling changed in one year!



Eoin Cody of Ballyhale Shamrocks in action against Sean Morrissey of Bennettsbridge
Stephen McCarthy/Sportfile



Liam Blanchfield of Bennettsbridge in action against Joey Holden of Ballyhale Shamrocks
Stephen McCarthy/Sportfile



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Ballyhale Shamrocks Captain Michael Fennelly is presented with the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship cup by Eamon McArdle, President, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union and Jimmy Walsh, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Vicky's Photography)

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SCORERS:

Ballyhale Shamrocks - T.J. Reid (1-10, eight frees); Eoin Cody (1-1); Brian Cody (0-2); Evan Shefflin, Darren Mullen, Ronan Corcoran, Eoin Reid, Colin Fennelly, Adrian Mullen, Mark Aylward (0-1 each).

Bennettsbridge - Nicky Cleere (0-7, six frees); Brian Lannon (2-1); Enda Morrissey, Jason Cleere (0-2 each); Robert Lennon, David Blanchfield, Aidan Cleere, Liam

Blanchfield, San Morrissey (0-1 each).

Ballyhale Shamrocks - D ean Mason; Conor Walsh, Joey Holden, Brian Butler; Evan Shefflin, Michael Fennelly (captain), Darren Mullen; Ronan Corcoran, Richie Reid; Adrian Mullen, T.J. Reid, Brian Cody; Eoin Reid, Eoin Cody, Colin Fennelly.

Subs - Mark Aylward for E. Reid; Paddy Mullen for D. Mullen; Joey Cuddihy for E. Cody; Gavin Butler for E. Shefflin; Bob Aylward for B. Cody.

Bennettsbridge - Enda Cleere; Conor Murphy, Robert Lennon, Cormac Wafer; Enda Morrissey, Jason Cleere, Darragh Wafer; Kevin Blanchfield, David Blanchfield; Aidan Cleere, Liam Blanchfield, Nicky Cleere; Dylan Walsh, Brian Lannon, Sean Morrissey.

Sub - Danny Coyne for D. Walsh.

Referee - Paul Cahill (Dunnamaggin).

Attendance - 9,145.

ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

1ST ROUND

Erins Own	2-15,	Carrickshock	1-18 (draw)
Erins Own	1-13,	Carrickshock	0-14 (replay)
Clara	3-10,	Danesfort	1-14
Mullinavat	2-14,	Rower-Inistioge	0-16
B'hale Shamrocks	3-22,	St. Patrick's, Ballyragget	1-12.

QUARTER-FINALS

Clara	2-12,	O'Loughlin Gaels	0-16
Bennettsbridge	1-17,	Mullinavat	2-8
B'hale Shamrocks	1-24,	Dicksboro	1-19
James Stephens	0-14,	Erins Own	0-14 (draw)
Erins Own	1-15,	James Stephens	1-13 (replay).

SEMI-FINALS

Bennettsbridge	3-19,	Clara	2-17
B'hale Shamrocks	1-15,	Erins Own	1-14

RELEGATION FINAL

Danesfort	0-10,	Carrickshock	2-9
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FINAL

Ballyhale Shamrocks	2-20,	Bennettsbridge	2-17
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The Winning Team!



Graigie Ballycallan Captain, Darragh Egan, is presented with the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship cup by Michael Lyng, sponsor, Michael Lyng Motors, and Jimmy Walsh, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Vicky's Photography)

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Graigue-Ballycallan- County I/H Champions 2018

Back: C.Hogan, P.Murphy, E.Corcoran, S.Hennessy, T.Dunphy, B.Murphy, D.Walton, W.O'Connor, A.O'Brien, P.Heafey, G.Doherty, T.Ryan, R.O'Neill.
Middle: V.Teehan, J.Corcoran, D.Ryall, K.Egan, C.Prendiville, S.Ryan, P.Robinson, J.Ryall, S.O'Dwyer, C.Flynn, S.Butler, R.Keogh, B.Ryan, P.Dunphy, G.Teehan.
Front: C.Murphy, T.Ronan, E.Brennan, E.Egan, A.Brennan, J.Roberts, C.Hoyne, D. Egan (C).

The annual twist and turns of the intermediate club campaign kept the ardent Kilkenny club hurling observer more than interested during this year, but intermingled with this was some hugely memorable local derbies (the county final itself being the obvious member of this category) and some surprising u-turns in from league to championship and vice-versa in the case of a number of teams. But when eventually the surviving teams were whittled down to two finalists, we were left with a potentially classic pairing with a distinct history and tradition, Graigue-Ballycallan, beaten finalists from last year, and early season favourites Tullaroan. Undoubtedly, more than pride at stake between these two teams, but it would play a massive part in bragging rights for who ever crossed the line first. As it was, Graigue-Ballycallan were the cooler and calmer team when the time demanded, and they secured a senior spot for 2019. With a junior title won earlier in the year and some serious progress being made at under-age level in the club, hopes will be high to make a long-term impact at the high grade.

With the disjointed league season creating a degree of uncertainty amongst clubs, it was natural that it was extremely difficult to gauge the form of the vast majority of teams. And, realistically, it was only after the full completion of league matches that there was some sense of the

potential for each individual team ahead of the championship. Tullaroan and John Lockes led the way in the two league groups, and surprisingly it was the Callan men who took the league honours with a 2-14 to 1-16 victory over the previously unbeaten Tullaroan in the league final played in Nowlan Park.

The opening round brought four pairings together involving Glenmore and St. Martin's, Thomastown and Mooncoin, Tullagher-Rosbercon and Fenians and St. Lachtain's and Young Irelands respectively. Glenmore and St. Martin's both experienced middling league campaigns, but facing each other with the opportunity of a championship victory could have ensured a massive boost to their respective championship credentials. As it was, both sides could not be separated after a tough battle, drawing at 2-17 apiece. When they faced off again seven days later, the greater forward power of Glenmore through the likes of Alan Murphy and Ger Aylward in particular saw the Southerners through on a 3-11 to 0-14 score line.

Thomastown and Mooncoin were two sides with similar moments of regret from their league campaign, and as a result their first round championship clash held moments of natural tension from an early stage.



Tommy Walsh of Tullaroan clears under pressure during the Final
 Stephen O'Brien/SPORTSFILE

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Tullaroan - County IH Finalists 2018

Back: Mark Walsh, Eddie Campion, Liam Teehan, Tommy Walsh, Tom Fitzgerald, Diarmuid Doherty, Joey Walsh, Joe Norton, Gavin Joyce
Middle: Shane Cuddihy, Adam Tallis, Dylan Simpson, Martin Walsh, Richie Maher, Bill Gaffney, Jack Keogh, Sean Cuddihy, Josh Moore, John Maher, Padraig Walsh, Ken Coogan
Front: Sean Buggy, Paul Buggy, Tommy Walsh, Peter Walsh, Ger Luby, Shane Walsh, Stephen Maher, John Walton, Stephen Dowling, Martin Keogh, Bill Cuddihy, Richie Butler



John Lockes - County Intermediate League Winners 2018

Back : Conor Murphy, Dan Mc Cormack, Sean Power, Jim Power, Evan Doyle, Brian Mc Cann, Pauric Purcell, John Burns, Eoghan Scriven, Jack Mc. Dowell.
Middle: Ryan Bergin, Cathal Mc Grath, Owen Mc Grath, Eoin Byrne, Michael Power, Paddy Kennedy, James Power, Pat Power, Eoin Fahy.
Front: David Phelan, Tony Delaney, Bill Mc. Dowell, Matthew Holohan, Michael Power (Coolagh), Jason Corcoran, Brion Kirwan, Shane Bergin, TJ.Tierney, Robert Kerwick.

But, the greater balance around the field and a better use of possession saw Thomastown advance on this occasion, winning by 2-13 to 1-10. A team who had the potential to make a breakthrough during 2018, Tullogher-Rosbercon were able to overcome a gallant Fenians side in their first round game. Their key men in attack, Walter Walsh, Conor Hennessy and Cian O'Donoghue, were once again to the fore in ensuring a 1-15 to 0-12 victory.

A team that were to enjoy a huge turnaround in good fortune, St. Lachtain's, began that journey to a more positive end with a hard-earned but deserved victory over Young Irelands by 1-17 to 0-17. It was the start

The opening match up of the quarter-final schedule saw Graigue-Ballycallan give notice of their undoubted ability with a comprehensive victory over Glenmore. Though the exchanges were even until midway through the second half, Graigue pulled away following a crucial second goal from Aaron Brennan to eventually win by 2-21 to 0-16. John Lockes faced into their championship bow with huge optimism following their league success on the back of their junior championship win in 2017. However, the momentum expected failed to materialise as their quarter-final opponents,

Tullogher-Rosbercon, took and held all the aces to register an extremely polished victory. A strong defensive performance allied with the Callan men being reduced to 14 men just before half-time paved the way to an eventual 1-22 to 2-10 victory.

Tullaroan also had the better of Thomastown in their quarter-final clash played in Danesfort. A steady display all throughout the field hallmarked the Tullaroan performance, with the contribution of midfielder John Walton a particular highlight, as he helped himself to six points from play. They led by 1-20 to 1-10 as the final moments approached, but a late second goal for Thomastown's Jonjo Farrell gave them some consolation, as Tullaroan advanced on a 1-24 to 2-11 score line.

The local derby of St. Lachtain's and Lisdowney was the obvious standout of all the quarter-final pairings as the two sides faced off in Urlingford. Both sides balanced themselves out in general until the final minutes, with the Freshford men effectively using Brian Kennedy as an auxiliary defender during this time. The concluding drama began when Lisdowney's Conor O'Carroll broke through to score a well taken goal to put his side ahead by 1-10 to 1-9 as injury time approached. But St. Lachtain's



Graigue Ballycallan captain Darragh Egan lifts the Bob Aylward Cup
 Stephen O'Brien/SPORTSFILE



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Thomastown: Darragh McGarry, James Burke, Brian O'Hanrahan, David Prendergast, Brian Staunton, Craig Butler, Brian Murphy, Barry Whelan, Dessie Walsh, Thomas Hanrahan, Jonjo Farrell, Adrian Burke, Danny Monks, John Donnelly, Robbie Donnelly, Dylan Caulfield, Aaron Kehoe, Daiithi Barron, Stuart Waugh, Danny Monks, Stephen Donnelly.

Mooncoin: Eoin Purcell, Niall Madden, Alan Walsh, Sean Gannon, Cormac Daly, Paul Heneberry, Martin O'Neill, Stephen Crowley, Ray Wall, John Fitzgerald Michael Grace, Ethan Ryan, James Delahunty, Patrick Walsh, Sean Walsh, Conor Brophy, Mark Kearns, Eoin Heneberry.

Glenmore: Davy Aylward, Sean Duggan, John Gahan, Eoin Aylward, Shane Doherty, Shane Murphy, Mark Phelan, Eoin Murphy, Shane Doherty, Richie Hennessy, Liam Hennessy, Alan Murphy, James Cody, Emmet Vereker, Ger Aylward, Mark Aylward, Robbie Fitzgerald, Michael Phelan, Darragh Hartley.

St Martin's: Colin McGrath, Shane Cadigan, James Maher, Jack Nolan, Brian Cody, Bryan Byrne, Mick Morrissey, Paddy Nolan, Noel Darcy, Donal Shore, Thomas Breen, John Mulhail, Shane Kinsella, Eoin McGrath, Ollie Walsh, Jason Shore, Robert Reid.

Tullogher Rosbercon: Eoin Ryan, Moling Cotterell, John Hartley, Sean Murray, Donnacha O'Connor, Pat Hartley, Kevin Hennessy, Billy Ryan, John Cotterell, Walter Walsh, Richard Dollard, Shane Ryan, Jason Shiely, Conor Hennessy, Cian O'Donoghue, Tarek O'Connor, Brendan Lawlor, Frank Murphy, Terence Croke.

Fenians: James Dermody, Eoin Phelan, Rory Phelan, Sean Brennan, Cillian Walsh, Michael Carroll, John Henderson, Donal Wilson, Niall Carroll, J.J. Delaney, Willie Brennan, Conor Tobin, Sean Tobin, Kieran Grehan, Darragh Tobin, David Ryan, Daniel Dermody, Aaron Dermody, Pa Duggan.

St Lachtain's: Darren Brennan, Harry Burke, Criomhthann Bergin, Philip Campion, John Fitzpatrick, Brian Kennedy, Brendan Quinn, Simon Rafter, James Maher, Patrick Killeen, Noel McGree, Denis Lennon, Alexander Rafter, Shane Donnelly, Liam Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Barry Hughes, Davy Brennan.

Young Irelands: Peter Hutchinson, Niall Walsh, Mick Walsh, Philip O'Donnell, Geoff Brennan, Michael Carey, Pauric O'Neill, Jack Brennan, Paul Delahunty, Chris Nolan, Sean Keogh, Paul Holden, Sean Farrell, Sean Carey, Ted Drea, J.J. Lennon.

Graigue-Ballycallan: Ciaran Hoyne, Darragh Egan, Bob Murphy, Tommy Ronan, Eamon Egan, Conor Flynn, James Ryall, Shane Butler, Jesse Roberts, Eddie Brennan, Billy Ryan, Conor Murphy, Aaron Brennan, Sean O'Dwyer, Sean Ryan, Tom Dunphy, Killian Egan, Willie O'Connor, Richard Keoghan, Vinnie Teehan.

John Lockes: Eoin Byrne, Jack McDowell, Cathal McGrath, Eoin Scriven, Owen McGrath, Bill McDowell, Tony Delaney, Paddy Power, Paddy Kennedy, Matthew Houlihan, Jason Corcoran, Sean Power, Robert Kerwick, Brian Kirwan, James Power.

Lisdowney: Liam Dunphy, Ray Fitzpatrick, Sean Phelan, Martin Phelan, Kevin Sweeney, Eoin Walsh, Peter Bergin, Pat O'Carroll, Niall Brennan, Brian Kavanagh, Conor O'Carroll, Aaron Fogarty, Edward Kenny, Rory Hickey, Willie Kenny, David O'Carroll, Ciaran Mackey, Eddie Hickey, Dylan Jordan.

Tullaroan: Richie Butler, Ger Luby, Stephen Maher, Jack Keoghan, Martin Walsh, Tommy Walsh (Village), Tommy Walsh (M), John Walton, Stephen Dowling, Bill Gaffney, Padraig Walsh, Martin Keoghan, Peter Walsh, Shane Cuddihy, Shane Walsh, Mark Walsh, Paul Buggy.

showed great composure as James Maher blasted to the Lisdowney net immediately after to regain the lead. This was soon followed by a point from Shane Donnelly, which gave St. Lachtain's a dramatic 2-10 to 1-10 win.

The semi-final weekend kicked off on Saturday, October 13th, with Graigue-Ballycallan taking on Tullogher Rosbercon in Nowlan Park. The story could be effectively summarised by the ability of the teams to take their scoring chances when presented to them. In this case, Tullogher were the team that were found wanting, while Graigue using the economy of effort and opportunity to add to their tally throughout the game. The Southerners hit fifteen wides throughout, some from what would be considered reasonable scoring positions. Credit must also go to the Graigue defence, however, who dealt with the threat of the Tullogher attack admirably throughout. Graigue led by 0-8 to 0-7 at the interval but Tullogher made a number of real threats on the Graigue goal during the third quarter which could have yielded more. Graigue goalkeeper Ciarán Hoyne was particularly sharp at one stage to keep out Tullogher's Conor Hennessy. There was no denying that Graigue, while seemingly not on top form, had just about enough in reserve to secure their county final place. In the end, they did just that, winning by 0-14 to 0-11, and leaving Tullogher-Rosbercon once again wondering what might have been.

24 hours later, having overcome one neighbour in the quarter-final last time out, St. Lachtain's now looked to get the better of another neighbour of theirs, Tullaroan, in their semi-final clash. St. Lachtain's once again looked to Brian Kennedy to act as an extra defender, but Tullaroan were able to keep adding to their tally due to indiscretions by the Freshford men which were duly punished by their freetaker Shane Walsh. The aforementioned Walsh was on top form from placed balls throughout, scoring 0-13 along with another point from play during the hour. Tullaroan led by 0-11 to 0-8 at the half-time break without ever coming near the heights of what they might have expected of themselves. They were particularly relieved midway through the second half when St. Lachtain's Shane Donnelly was fouled in the small square and a penalty was subsequently sent whizzing past the post by the normally reliable Liam Hickey. Tullaroan grew in confidence as the final minutes approached and try as St. Lachtain's might, they could not reduce the deficit, until when at the final whistle Tullaroan were winners by 0-19 to 0-13.

In recent memory, there can't have been a more anticipated intermediate county final. With one side looking to cancel out the disappointment of losing the county final twelve months earlier (Graigue-Ballycallan), and the other attempting to break back into the senior grade after four previous years of being tipped to achieve this (Tullaroan), the stakes could not have been higher. This does not even take into consideration the local bragging rights which would inevitably linger into the future between two well-established rivals.

The game started with Tullaroan looking to establish their authority from an early stage. Martin Keoghan was moved to full-forward from the



*Eddie Brennan of Graigue Ballycallan embraces Tullaroan captain Stephen Maher following the Final.
Stephen O'Brien/SPORTSFILE*



Joint John Lockes winning captains, Jason Corcoran and Bill Mc.Dowell, with Barry Hickey, Co Board treasurer and Neil Lyng Sponsor

throw-in and it proved a shrewd decision as he was central a number of scores for Tullaroan in the opening quarter. The major two of these came when firstly Keoghan scored himself as he batted the ball to the net and later on was fouled as he typically burst through on goal. Padraig Walsh blasted the ball to the net to open up a 2-4 to 0-3 lead for Tullaroan. It could have been more had they not hit a number of aimless wides during that time. Graigue were struggling for any sort of leeway during the first twenty minutes but they appeared more settled as the half went on, having restructured both their defence and attack. Despite this, Tullaroan still appeared comfortable at half-time as they led by 2-8 to 0-7.

Graigue needed a good start to the second half, and they got it, as the increasingly threatening Billy Ryan was fouled for a penalty. Conor Murphy, who was on form from placed balls throughout, dispatched the ball to the net to bring the difference back to a goal (2-8 to 1-8), having pointed a free previously. Tullaroan looked to have composed themselves again as the half progressed, and increased their lead to six by the half-way point (2-11 to 1-8).

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

1ST ROUND

Glenmore	2-17	St. Martin's	2-17 (Draw)
Replay – Glenmore	3-11	St. Martin's	0-14
Thomastown	2-13	Mooncoin	1-10
Tullagher-Rosbercon	1-15	Fenians	0-12
St. Lachtain's	1-17	Young Irelands	0-17

QUARTER-FINALS

Tullagher-Rosbercon	1-22	John Lockes	2-10
Tullaroan	1-24	Thomastown	2-11
Graigue-Ballycallan	2-21	Glenmore	0-16
St. Lachtain's	2-10	Lisdowney	1-10

SEMI-FINALS

Tullaroan	0-19	St. Lachtain's	0-13
Graigue-Ballycallan	0-14	Tullagher-Rosbercon	0-11

RELEGATION FINAL

Young Irelands	3-14	Mooncoin	2-11
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FINAL

Graigue-Ballycallan	2-16	Tullaroan	2-13
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But from this point on, it was all about Graigue-Ballycallan. They out scored Tullaroan by 1-8 to 0-2 during the final quarter with their attack in particular, finding a new lease of life. Eddie Brennan, now positioned at full-forward, used his experience to direct his colleagues from there as they gave their all for the win. The key second goal came as Conor Murphy reacted sharply to turn and blast the ball home to give Graigue the lead with only minutes to play. Tullaroan did level the scores at 2-13 apiece as injury time loomed but Graigue would not be denied as two Conor Murphy frees and a Shane Butler point gave them a superb 2-16 to 2-13 victory. Murphy's final tally of 2-10 was indicative of his fine individual contribution in a otherwise fantastic team performance. It was a shell shocked Tullaroan who were left with multiple regrets, having enjoyed such a good start. The champions of 2018, however, Graigue-Ballycallan, were fully deserving of that name bestowed on them!



Action from the Intermediate League Final between John Lockes and Tullaroan Willie Dempsey



DUNNAMAGGIN TOPS under new regime

Photos Willie Dempsey

County Junior Hurling Report by John Stapelton & Ned Buggy



DUNNAMAGGIN - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 2018

Back: Aidan Donovan, Eoghan Kearney, Tommy Maher, Paul Kirwan, Jason Doherty, Aaron Doherty, Sean Connery, Anthony Kearney, Luke Fitzpatrick, Eddie Dunne, Rory Lodge
Middle: William Moylan, Noel Hickey, John Fitzpatrick, Conor Long, Mark Heffernan, Conor Hoban, Darren Fitzpatrick, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Jamie McLoughlin, Canice Hickey, Brian Farrell, Jack Crehan.

Front: Paddy Delaney, Michael Cody, William Bergin, Ray Cody, Darragh O'Keeffe, Willie Phelan, Jack Brett, Ian Walsh, Ronan Coffey, Adam Fitzpatrick, Seaghan O'Neill.

At the end of 2017 both the Northern and Southern Boards were disbanded and so ended many decades of divisional competition. Since the Junior championship structure was changed in 2011 the need for both divisions were diminished. But from Little Acorns grow Mighty Oaks, so in March 2018 the new Junior County Board was created with John Lacey of Ballyragget becoming the first Chairman. The Junior board were given charge of the new 'A','B','C' and 'D' leagues and championships as well as the new Under 19 competitions and the new Under 21 format. Dunnamaggin made a swift return to the Intermediate grade after relegation in 2017 by winning the 2018 junior championship. Their march through the championship was very impressive throughout with wins over Kilmacow, Conahy Shamrocks, Dicksboro led them to a final clash against Southern rivals Piltown.

Piltown had been also impressive throughout the championship, so the scene was set for a very competitive clash on Sunday 21st October. Kilkenny People's John Knox reports:

"A missed penalty and a scored penalty within minutes of each other helped shape the outcome of this lively Kilkenny junior hurling championship final in Nowlan Park. Piltown missed one, and they bit the dust. Dunnamaggin scored one, and they ended up recording their second win in the championship and climbing back to the intermediate divided from where they descended 12 months ago.

While Dunnamaggin opened backed by the wind blowing down the field from the country end, it took them a while to find their feet in the match.

Piltown opened the scoring through Cian Kinsella, and for 20 minutes or so they gave as good as they got. Indeed, they might have nabbed a goal in the 14th minute, but Martin Power's



PILTOWN - COUNTY JH FINALISTS 2018

Back: Peter McCarthy; Tom Kenny; Thomas Murray; James Kirby; Ronan Ryan; Thomas Talbot; Robbie Culleton; Eoin Fitzgerald; Aran Gallagher.
Middle: Shane Kinsella; Aidan Nugent; Robert Tobin; Aidan Ryan; Shane Walsh; Kevin Walsh; Shane O'Dwyer; Daniel Norris; David Kinsella; Declan Duggan; Michael O'Dwyer; James Norris; Jamie Norris.

Front: Séamus Norris; David Burchill; Micheál Dunne; Ian Flynn; Conor Friend; Oran Brophy; Darragh Walsh; Kevin Brophy; Martin Power; John Kenny; Tommy O'Gorman; Cian Kinsella; Ian Long.

effort after being put through by Kinsella was well saved by Dunnamaggin goalie, Seaghan O'Neill.

All the time Willie Phelan was a powerhouse at the heart of the Dunnamaggin defence; the captain, the leader, the inspiring force. With Michael Cody as a most able wingman and Mark Heffernan solid on the edge of the square in place of the injured Noel Hickey, they didn't cough up scores too simply.

The teams were together at 0-2 each after 10 minutes and then John Fitzpatrick, a lively man on his feet, won a Piltown puck-out before shooting between the posts.

When deadly finisher, Ronan Coffey, got in on the scoring act the winners found themselves two clear, but not for long.

John Kenny (frees) hit the target at the other end to punish fouls on Kevin Brophy and Cian Kinsella (0-4 each).

Dunnamaggin hit the front again in the 19th minute when a hand on the back of Luke Fitzpatrick offered free taker, Thomas Maher an opportunity from 20 metres, which he snapped up.

Within a jiffy, Darren Fitzpatrick sent over a very good point, and second later Adam Fitzpatrick brought through for a point.

All of a sudden the divide was up to 0-7 to 0-4, but the thing was, Dunnamaggin were moving that better better, with more freedom, with more cutting up front.

They galloped on, Ronan Coffey scoring after a wonderfully struck crossfield pass from John Fitzpatrick; Darren Fitzpatrick and Coffey again finding the target.

With normal time in the half completed, Dunnamaggin were showing 0-10 to 0-5 in front.

However, before the call for the rest Kevin Brophy pulled back a top class goal for Piltown

He rose into the air to win a cross from the left at the country end from Martin Power, but when he hit the ground and made for goal his jersey was pulled.

The referee waved on. Brophy took full advantage, drilled to the net from 20 metres.

That fine individual effort reshaped the half-time score, and left it at 0-11 (D) to 1-5.

A trip on Michael Cody allowed free taker, Thomas Maher add to the gains for Dunnamaggin within 33 seconds of the restart.

The next four scores were shared equally before the game hit the 46th minute and Piltown were awarded a penalty.

This was for a foul on Kevin Brophy after he had fielded a huge free from goalie, James Norris.

Peter McCarthy got a decent strike on the ball, but goalie Seaghan O'Neill turned it out for a 65. John Kenny point (0-14 to 1-8).

The next score was claimed by Dunnamaggin through Thomas Maher following a foul on Paddy Delaney, and then they were awarded a penalty.

John Fitzpatrick was hauled down in the 54th minute, and when Willie Phelan stepped up the finish was emphatic. He rifled the shot into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

The gap jumped to 1-15 to 1-8, and taking stock of all that had gone before, you could see there was no way aback for Piltown.

Kevin Brophy and Peter McCarthy tried all they could to make it a good day for Piltown, but their great efforts weren't enough.

The losers did chase to the end. On the hour mark they drew a foul on Robbie Culleton in the big square.

Penalty. Nice goal for Peter McCarthy, but the title was long gone on them.

Dunnamaggin last won this championship in 1974. Subsequently, in 1997 they won the senior title.

Such things are a long way away just now, but the club took a major step forward at Nowlan Park.

SCORERS:

Dunnamaggin - Thomas Maher (0-6, frees); Ronan Coffey (0-4); Willie Phelan (1-0, penalty); Darren Fitzpatrick, John Fitzpatrick (0-2 each); Michael Cody, Adam Fitzpatrick (0-1 each).



O'Loughlin Gaels - All County JH League Champions 2018



Mooncoin - County JH A Champions 2018



Thomastown - County JH A League Champions 2018



Graigue Ballycallan - County JH B League & Championship Winners 2018



New Junior Committee
Back: John Stapleton PRO, Ned Buggy (Secretary), Pat Dunphy (Vice Chairman)
Front: John Lacey (Chairman), Paul Kavanagh (Treasurer).



Attendance at First Junior Convention

Piltown - John Kenny (0-6, five frees, one 65); Peter McCarthy (1-0, penalty); Kevin Brophy (1-0); Cian Kinsella, Ronan Ryan (0-1 each).

Dunnamaggin - Seaghan O'Neill; Darragh O'Keeffe, Mark Heffernan, Jack Brett; Andrew Fitzpatrick, William Phelan (capt), Michael Cody; Darren Fitzpatrick, Ian Walsh; Thomas Maher, Ray Cody, John Fitzpatrick; Ronan Coffey, Luke Fitzpatrick, Adam Fitzpatrick. Subs - Paddy Delaney for I. Walsh; Eddie Dunne for L. Fitzpatrick; Eoghan Kearney for Adam Fitzpatrick; Aaron Doherty for Andrew Fitzpatrick. Piltown - James Norris; Oran Brophy, Seamus Norris, Michael O'Dwyer; Shane Walsh, Peter McCarthy, Darragh Walsh; Aidan Nugent, Shane O'Dwyer; John Kenny, Kevin Brophy, Martin Power; Cian Kinsella, Kevin Walsh, Ronan Ryan. Subs - Daniel Norris for A. Nugent; David Kinsella for R. Ryan; Ian Long for M. Power; Robbie Culleton for J. Kenny.

Referee - Owen Kenny (Tullogher-Rosbercon).

The All-county League always proves to be a very competitive competition and with a number of Carlow clubs added to the competition it creates an extra edge. Carlow teams have had great success in this competition so Kilkenny teams were hoping to regain the title. Many of the games were played throughout the months of May and June culminating in an all Kilkenny final between O'Loughlin Gaels and Piltown in early July with a fine win for the city outfit

The Junior League again proved to be a great competition this year. A clash of City Rivals O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens at Palmerstown will always prove to be a mouth watering affair no matter what grade. The August 26th Clash ended in favour of the O'Loughlin Gaels with a convincing win and so completed the double in League and All County League.

In the Junior 'A' Championship final Mooncoin were the victors over Thomastown but the Thomastown men turned the table on the South Kilkenny men by winning the league.

Graigie/Ballycallan completed the double in Junior 'B' league and champions

In the Junior 'C' competitions Galmoy won the League final by defeating Danesfort in a pulsating game in early August. They also reached the Championship final but came up short against a very good Glenmore outfit.

At Junior 'D' Mooncoin proved to be an unstoppable force and they also completed a double in both Championship and League finals.



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*Dunnamaggin Captain, William Phelan is presented with the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup by Paul Kavanagh, sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons and Jimmy Walsh, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Willie Dempsey)*

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Glenmore - County JH C Champions 2018



Galmoy - County JH C League Champions 2018



Mooncoin - County JH D League & Championship Winners 2018



Ballinkillen - Fennelly Cup Champions 2018



Captains



**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Junior Hurling Championship 2018**

Championship divided into 2 sections
12 junior proper teams played in section A
10 junior teams of senior clubs played in section B
3 teams qualified for the semi-finals from section A
1 team qualified for the semi-finals from section B

Section A

1st. Round

Galmoy	2-15	Barrow Rangers	1-18
Conahy Shamrocks	4-15	Clara	3-3
Dunnamaggin	1-14	Kilmacow	0-1
Emeralds	4-15	Blacks and Whites	1-10
Piltown	0-15	Graignamanagh	0-13
Slieverue	1-18	Windgap	1-13

2nd Round

Dunnamaggin	1-14	Conahy Shamrocks	1-11
Piltown	2-20	Galmoy	1-11
Slieverue	3-15	Emeralds	3-14

Section B

1st Round

Rower Inistioge	5-21	Tullaroan	2-11
St. Patricks	3-18	Clara	2-16

2nd Round

Ballyhale Shamrocks	5-21	St. Patricks	3-19PP
Dicksboro	3-21	Rower Inistioge	1-16

3rd Round

O Loughlin Gaels	2-16	Ballyhale Shamrocks	1-17
Dicksboro	0-18	James Stephens	1-13

4th Round

Dicksboro	1-18	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-9
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Semi-Finals

Dunnamaggin	2-18	Dicksboro	1-14
Piltown	4-14	Slieverue	0-16

Final

Dunnamaggin	1-16	Piltown	1-8
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**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Junior A Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round

Conahy Shamrocks	4-12	Young Irelands	1-13
Lisdowney	2-19	St. Iachtains	3-11
Dunnamaggin	3-21	Carrickshock	1-17
James Stephens	4-14	Erins Own	3-1

2nd Round

Lisdowney	2-21	Dunnamaggin	21
James Stephens	0-16	Conahy Shamrocks	1-11

Semi-finals

Mooncoin	2-27	James Stephens	2-15
Thomastown	5-18	Lisdowney	2-18

Final

Mooncoin	1-13	Thomastown	1-7
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**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Junior B Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round

Mullinavat	2-13	Tullagher Rosbercon	1-6
Dicksboro	4-13	John Lockes	1-13
Fenians	1-16	Barrow Rangers	2-10
St. Martins	w.o.	Emeralds	scr.

2nd Round

Mullinavat	6-13	Fenians	1-13
St. Martins	1-20	Dicksboro	1-16

Semi-Finals

O Loughlin Gaels	6-12	St. Martins	5-8
GraigieBallycallan	1-21	Mullinavat	0-16

Final

Graigie Ballycallan	2-18	O Loughlin Gaels	1-7
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**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Kilkenny Junior Hurling League 2018**

12 clubs entered and were divided into 2 groups of 6 in which each team played five matches with the top team in each group qualifying for the final.

The following are the final league tables.

Group A

Dunnamaggin	5	3	1	1	7
Windgap	5	2	1	2	5
Piltown	5	2	1	2	5
Conahy Shamrocks	5	2	1	2	5
Emeralds	5	1	2	2	4
Barrow Rangers	5	2	0	3	4

Group B

Galmoy	5	4	0	1	8
Blacks and Whites	5	3	0	2	6
Cloneen	5	3	0	2	6
Graignamanagh	5	2	0	3	4
Slieverue	5	2	0	2	4
Kilmacow	5	1	0	4	2

Final

Dunnamaggin	v	Galmoy
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**Iverk Produce
Junior C Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round

Ballyhale Shamrocks	1-22	Blacks and Whites	2-16
Piltown	0-24	Windgap	0-13
Glenmore	1-19	Bennettsbridge	0-19
Threecastles	4-17	Carrigeen	1-16

2nd Round

Piltown	2-21	Glenmore	4-8
Threecastles	4-17	Ballyhale Shamrocks	1-16

Semi-Finals

Galmoy	2-18	Threecastles	2-17
Glenmore	3-13	Danesfort	1-13

Final

Glenmore	2-16	Galmoy	1-16
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**Country Style Foods
Junior D Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round

James Stephens	3-10	Erins Own	3-7
Rower Inistioge	3-10	Graignamanagh	1-10
Lisdowney	1-16	Dicksboro	1-13
Conahy Shamrocks	w/o	Slieverue	scr

2nd Round

Kilmacow	0-22	Lisdowney	1-9
Mooncoin	4-19	James Stephens	1-14
Clara	2-18	Conahy Shamrocks	1-8
Rower Inistioge	2-13	Cloneen	1-15

Semi-Finals

Mooncoin	3-14	Kilmacow	0-11
Clara	0-14	Rower inistioge	0-8

Final

Mooncoin	3-18	Clara	2-3
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ST PATRICKS SUFFER CROKER HEARTBREAK

Photos: Willie Dempsey

By Michael O'Leary



St Patrick's - All Ireland IH Club Finalists 2018
Back: Geoff Morrissey, Seoirse Kenny, Micheál Kenny, Alan Ruth, Paddy Brennan, Shay Ryan, John Mooney, Richie McEvoy, Billy Morrissey, Kevin Kelly, Jody Phelan, Barry Staunton, John Butler, Jack Ryan, Ger Staunton, John Phelan, Mark Staunton, Sean Mooney, Michael Brennan, Conor Bolger, Paddy Gannon.
Front: Eoin Delaney, Paddy McEvoy, Robbie Doheny, James Gannon, Oisín Brennan, Bill Staunton, Conor Delaney, Stephen Staunton, Michael Gannon, Joe Brennan, Geoff Brennan, Brian "Brook" Phelan, Robbie Doheny, Jason Phelan.

Having condemned Charleville to late heartbreak courtesy of an injury-time point from Bill Staunton in 2012, it was St. Patrick's Ballyragget's turn to be on the receiving end last February as they suffered a one-point defeat in the dying moments of injury-time to Kanturk in the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Final in Croke Park.

A superb goal from Michael Brennan as the match entered the final quarter gave the Ballyragget men the outright lead for the very first time, and when Kevin Kelly doubled the lead with a pointed free shortly afterwards, they were in a very strong position.

At that stage, they led 1-15 to 1-13, and when both sides added a point each afterwards, St. Patrick's were still in a very strong position coming down the home stretch.

However, Aidan Walsh shipped an injury and had to be aided off, and that stoppage certainly halted St. Patrick's momentum.

Ian Walsh and a Lorcan McLoughlin free drew Kanturk level entering injury-time, and when McLoughlin pointed from play, it appeared Kanturk had their hands on the trophy.

However, Kevin Kelly replied with a pressurized free to draw them level, and into the 5th minute of time added on, it appeared that extra-time was inevitable.

St. Patrick's Ballyragget had a sideline cut around halfway, but it was Kanturk who regained possession and they worked the ball out to the Hogan Stand side and Ian Walsh, who was a real handful during the 2nd half, was in the perfect position and from around 60 yards he calmly struck over the all-important winning point to condemn St. Patrick's Ballyragget to heartbreak.

It was a most terrible way to lose.

Having such heartbreak losing three County Finals since 2012, St. Patrick's Ballyragget finally broke their Intermediate maiden tag when defeating Graigue-Ballycallan in the decider.

They began their Leinster adventure with a convincing 0-24 to 1-8 victory away to Ardclough, before easing to a 2-20 to 2-10 victory over Kiltale.

The Leinster Final didn't go to plan as anticipated.

A closely fought first-half saw the Ballyragget men leading 0-9 to 0-8, and Glenealy refused to yield throughout the 2nd half.

The Wicklow men took a shock lead when a Wayne O'Gorman goal in the 45th minute gave them a 1-11 to 0-12 lead.

They stretched the lead further when Jonathan O'Neill pointed to lead 1-13 to 0-13 with 10 minutes remaining.

St. Patrick's Ballyragget were certainly tested to the limit, but to their credit they responded when the chips were down and they outscored Glenealy 0-6 to 0-2 over the closing period.

Kevin Kelly pointed three times from frees, before points from Seoirse Kenny and Brian "Brookie" Phelan drew them level with time running out.

There was time for a winning score and Kelly duly obliged to strike over the winning free as they got out of jail against an unfortunate Glenealy.

Having won the Leinster Championship, attention turned to their All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against Toureen of Mayo in January.

The Semi-Final clash was scheduled to be played in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick but due to an unplayable surface, the match was switched half an hour away to Cusack Park, Ennis.

Playing with a very strong first-half breeze, St. Patrick's built up a 0-7 to 0-2 lead at half-time, but struggled during the opening 10 minutes of the 2nd half as Toureen narrowed the gap to just three points. 0-8 to 0-5.

However, St. Patrick's suddenly found a new lease of life and the full-forward line started to plug gaps in the Toureen defence.

Eoin Bergin scored the all-important goal that sent them on their way, and when Joe Brennan rifled home an unstoppable shot, victory was virtually assured.

Joe added a second goal near match end after he was set-up by his brother Michael, and while Toureen grabbed an injury-time consolation goal, St. Patrick's won 3-14 to 1-9.

Kanturk easily defeated Middletown Na Fianna of Armagh in the other Semi-Final in Newbridge and that set-up an intriguing



showdown in Croke Park on Sunday 4th February.

The All-Ireland Final was half-an hour later starting than scheduled because of the extra-time played in the Junior decider between St. Mogues Fethard (Wexford) and Ardmore (Waterford) which Ardmore won by a point.

Kanturk held the edge throughout the first-half, and a superb individual goal late in the first-half by Man of the Match Ryan Walsh gave them a 1-9 to 0-8 lead at half-time.

During the third quarter, St. Patricks Ballyragget started to gain supremacy with Seoirse Kenny lording proceedings in midfield.

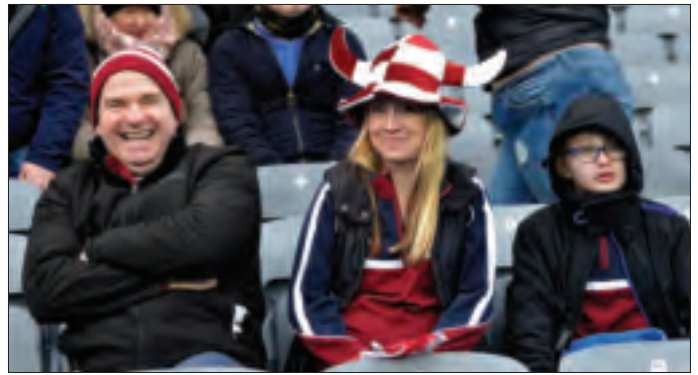
Entering the final quarter, St. Patricks trailed by two points, but a magnificent goal by Michael Brennan gave them outright lead for the first-time, before Kevin Kelly pointed a free moments later to turn the game completely on it's head. 1-15 to 1-13.

As mentioned earlier, the injury sustained to Kanturk's Aidan Walsh broke the St. Patricks Ballyragget momentum, and Kanturk suddenly found a new lease of life.

The manner in which St. Patricks Ballyragget lost was most heart-breaking and they deserved at least another 20 minutes of extra-time.

However, they hurled themselves to a standstill and they did themselves justice in the manner in which they fought courageously right to the bitter end.

Despite Ryan Walsh being named AIB Man of the Match after



wards, Seoirse Kenny was the most consistent outstanding performer throughout, scoring 0-5 from play in an exceptional 5-star performance.

Kevin Kelly deserves immense credit for toging out not having trained since the Leinster Final, and played his part, while Joe Brennan, despite being quieter than in the Semi-Final, along with the hard-working Bill Staunton also led the siege to their comeback during the 2nd half.

SCORERS – ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINAL

ST. PATRICKS BALLYRAGGET – Kevin Kelly 0-8 (0-7 frees), Seoirse Kenny 0-5, Joe Brennan 0-3, Michael Brennan 1-0, Bill Staunton 0-1,

KANTURK – Lorcan McLoughlin 0-7 (0-5 frees), Ryan Walsh 1-2, Ian Walsh 0-3 Anthony Nash (frees) and Aidan Walsh 0-2, Donncha Kenneally 0-1 and Alan O'Keeffe 0-1 each,

ST PATRICKS BALLYRAGGET TEAM ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINAL – Michael Gannon, John Mooney, James Gannon, Mark Staunton, Geoff Brennan, Stephen Staunton (captain), Robert Healy, Seoirse Kenny, Bill Staunton, Eoin Bergin, Joe Brennan, Barry Staunton, Michael Brennan, Brian "Brookie" Phelan, Kevin Kelly,
Subs: Patrick McEvoy, Sean Mooney,

Rest of panel: Oisín Brennan, Paddy Brennan, Patrick Gannon, Conor Delaney, Ger Staunton, Richie McEvoy, Alan Ruth, Jack Ryan, Billy Morrissey, Joseph Phelan, Eoin Delaney, John Phelan.



UNDER 21 WINNERS 2017

Photos: Willie Dempsey



*Ballyhale Shamrocks - Roinn A Under 21 Champions 2017
Score: Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-11, James Stephens 0-16*



*Clara - Roinn B Under 21 Champions 2017
Score: Clara 1-15, Galmoy/Windgap 0-14*



Galmoy/Windgap - Roinn B Under 21 Finalists 2017

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New U19 Competitions



O'Loughlin Gaels who defeated James Stephens, 2-13 to 1-14 in the inaugural Roinn A U19 Championship Final.

Photo: Wille Dempsey

As a result of the deliberations of the Special Games Administration Committee, where the minor grade was erased from the structures, to be replaced by an under 17 grade, and as a consequence of the same Committee altering the under 21 grade to under-20 (football) for 2018, with hurling expected to follow suit in 2019, Kilkenny decided to bring in a special under-19 competition to bridge the age gap between under-17 and the expected under-20. Former Cathaoirleach Ned Quinn, while accepting that the competition did not get off to an auspicious start this year, but who still believes in its value in helping clubs to retain a large cohort of their players in that age bracket, explains as follows—

“In response to a survey in 2017 which indicated that less than 20% of those playing on their club u21 teams were up to the age, together with the decision of Congress to change the minor age to u 17 and to make it illegal for u 17's to play on adult club teams Kilkenny Co Board took the decision to alter the age grades of their league/championship competitions to u13, u15, u17 and u19 while retaining u21 as a knockout championship as heretofore. The introduction of the u19 grade offers a developmental pathway for players to graduate to adult level and should help clubs offset the hemorrhage of players previously being experienced at this age level. While it is accepted that the unprecedented number of games that our county u17 team were involved in this year had a seriously adverse effect on the playing of club games at both u17 and u19 level, it is this issue that needs addressing rather than the reduction of games for our club players in these age brackets.”

So Kilkenny County Board decided that whilst the minor (u-17) players at club and inter-county levels are well catered for, the under-21 players were rendered victims of a system that offered little competitive action. For instance half of that band of hurlers were non-operatives after one game, given that the competition was a knock-out one. Incidentally our minor team that played in the All Ireland against Galway played an unbelievable 12 games in their Championship. That kind of extraordinary demand on the minors rendered the running of the local u-21 Championship nigh on impossible. Note that whilst the expectations are that the inter-County u-21 Championship is anticipated to be turned back to u-20 inside the next two years, the local Kilkenny Championships will not follow suit. We will still have an under-21 Championship, which will always be a knock-out competition.



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Eoin O'Shea, Captain of O'Loughlin Gaels victorious U19 Roinn A team, with Mary Comerford and Louise Lawless (TSB Kilkenny), and Junior Chairman, John Lacey.

Photo: Wille Dempsey

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Thriller After Thriller

Bord na nOg U17
Report
by Pado O'Flynn
PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Mooncoin Minor A Champions 2018

Boy, did this year's minor championship live up to the expectations of being the best underage championship in the country bar none. As thriller after thriller ensued, and where games were turned on their head and we had three new champions from last year's U-16 kingpins.

KILKENNY HONDA CENTRE MINOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

Dicksboro's run to the final was quite an eventful one to put it mildly. They played St Martin's in the quarter final in a really tight match, 1-12 to 1-10, which saw Padraig Moylan and co come out on top where a save from Brian Minogue proved crucial whilst Mikey Clifford had the scoring touch up front.

In the semi-final they had the edge on St Lachtain's from the get-go, Darragh Maher and Cathal O'Leary couldn't get loose from the shackles of the Dicksboro defence with David Conway and Tom Carroll proving particularly effective.

Mooncoin's journey began with a South derby in the quarter final against Kilmacow. It saw the them make a terrific start, getting an early lead into which Kilmacow never really made inroads and they gained a good 1-18 to 1-9 victory.

There was a huge crowd in Mullinavat for the semi-final clash with James Stephens and it was an epic encounter to say the least with neither side giving an inch.

Mooncoin raced into a 1-6 to 0-0 lead after 13 minutes play with Adam Croke, Killian Hogan and Sean O'Dwyer leading the village defence on a merry dance.

The men in red and green were not to lie down, with Eoin Guilyfoyle almost single-handedly dragging them back into the game by half time.

Try as they might, James Stephens could not get any joy from a well-marshalled Mooncoin defence ably led by Cormac Kinsella.

Dicksboro went into the final looking to be the first team to do the U-15 and Minor double.

Mooncoin 3-14 Dicksboro 2-12

You've seen the movie about the epic scarcely believable comeback at the death, but which doesn't happen in real life. Well Mooncoin, take a bow.

Instead of the explosive start they had in the semi-final against

James Stephens, this time they reserved the fireworks for the last ten minutes against Dicksboro. The Southerners had dished out a dose to the town teams they usually hand out themselves.

It began brightly for Mooncoin with Killian Hogan converting a first minute free and it was level at 0-2 a piece after the first burst of play but cue the entry of Michael Clifford who showed some dazzling finishing to send the green flag waving and put the Palmerstown outfit into a lead they'd hold till the dying embers of the game.

When Clifford again sent the net shaking at half time the maroon men were 2-7 to 0-7 to the good.

Mooncoin owned the 3rd quartet of the half and were denied numerous goal chances, having only four points to show for their efforts before Clifford eased their nerves to stretch the lead back out to three.

Dicksboro outscored their opponents 0-5 to 0-1 to leave them in control or so it would seem.

County U-15 starlet Sean O'Dwyer led the comeback charge with a fine point before Lee Treacy unleashed an absolute rocket to send a wave of excitement around Nowlan Park as it was game on. Treacy brought it to the minimum with a fine point before sub Daragh Murphy showed the others how to finish, pouncing on a rebound.

Before most Mooncoin supporters had retaken their seats in the stands, Tracey had the cup en route to the banks of the Suir, scoring another fine goal to seal the deal.

It'll be tough for Dicksboro to take but you'd have to admire these young men from Mooncoin with the bulk of the side underage again next year it may not be beyond the realms of possibility of two in a row.

Mooncoin panel: Donnacha Hogan, Daniel Fewer Ward, Cormac Kinsella (captain), Pauric Delahunty, Ryan Carroll, Aidan Doyle, James Aylward, Killian Hogan, Daniel Cleary, Sean O'Dwyer, James Delahunty, Oisín Henebery, Lee Treacy, Mairtin Gannon, Adam Croke, Darragh Murphy, Jack Ryan, Arron O'Neill, Jack Conway, Pauric Murphy, Sean Sutton, Michael Ryan.

Dicksboro panel: Brian Manogue, Colm O'Grady, David Conway, Conor Egan, Tom Carroll, Padraig Moylan, Keith O'Connor, Aaron Murphy, Colm O'Hara, Cian Rowe, Cormac Kennedy, Liam Hennessy, Kevin Fitzpatrick, David Delahunty, Michael Clifford, Liam Moore, Luke Morrissey, Oisín Timmons, Eoin Dalton, David Walsh, Paddy O'Shea, Paddy Fitzgerald, Oisín Tynan.

Ref: Conor Everard



KILKENNY HONDA CENTRE MINOR B CHAMPIONSHIP

The Roinn B Championship saw 17 teams go to post and as usual there was the mix of surprises and high drama.

In the first round, Danesfort had to get the better of Tullagher Rosbercon and it was a late flurry of goals that saw them get over the line 3-14 to 1-11. Next up were Rower Inistioge and the men clad in Black and Amber simply had too much class for the Southerners whilst the semi-final again saw Danesfort showcase their eye for goal, getting five of the six goals in a 5-8 to 1-7 victory.

In probably one of the underage games of the season, Thomastown played out a thrilling draw with Galmoy/Windgap in the first round – 4-11 to 3-14. The replay saw the 'Town win by 3-11 to 0-12. They outclassed Ballyhale Shamrocks in the quarter-final whilst they managed to get the better of Piltown in the semi final, 3-8 to 0-9.

Both of these sides have an eye for goal so an entertaining final was expected.

Thomastown 3-13 Danesfort 2-13

The early exchanges of this encounter was slow-burning stuff with 0-2 apiece until the 10th minute when Joe Conlon fired over a fine individual point.

Despite a point from Jack Holden, Danesfort soon hit the front when Peter Donoghue somehow managed to goal from an acute angle.

There was then a flurry of points which saw 'Fort out in front by one - 1-4 to 0-6 but Holden was starting to turn on the star power at this stage and rifled the sliothar to the roof of the net to help Thomastown to retake a lead they never lost thereafter.

Again both sides shared points to leave two in it at the break, 1-8 to 1-6, in what was proving to be an absorbing contest.

McDonald and Holden added points on the restart which were soon followed by a converted penalty by McDonald. Danesfort lifted their game as it looked like it was about to slip away from them.

By the time Donohoe converted a penalty of his own, it was back to a two-point game, but Holden blasted home a scorcher of a goal in the 52nd minute which put the men in blue in



Dicksboro Minor A Finalists 2018



Thomastown Minor B Champions 2018



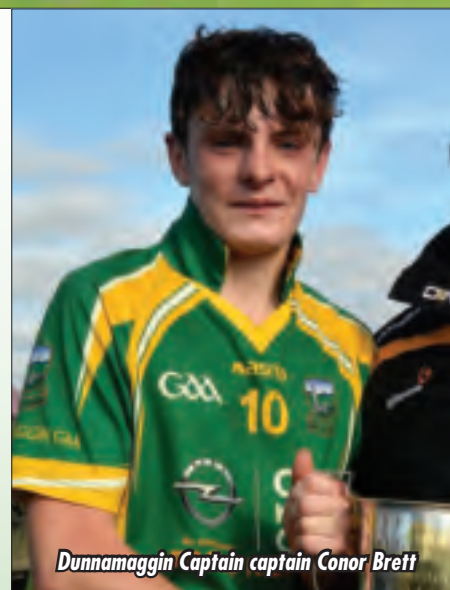
Danesfort Minor B Finalists 2018



Thomastown captain Eddie Donnelly



Tullaroan Captain Jack Keoghan



Dunnamaggin Captain captain Conor Brett





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Seated: Pat Treacy (Head of Sport), Declan Gibbons (Manager CRKC), Liam Kelly-O'Rourke (All sport),
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the driving seat.

Danesfort did outscore them 0-3 to 0-1 in those last eight minutes but they couldn't land that goal that would have reignited the game as Thomastown deservedly landed their first minor title since 1981.

Thomastown: Diarmuid Galway, Conor Cody, Ben Tennyson, Fintan Brennan, Cian Moore, Eddie Donnelly, Jack Sheehan, Liam Treacy, Peter McDonald, Luke Connellan, Jack Cahill, Joe Connellan, Naoise Dempsey, Jack Holden, Cian McCormack, Luke McNena, Grey Hoban, Conor O'Neill, Gordon Whelan, Ryan Malone, Paddy Collins, Tony Collins, Peter Connellan, Zac Hammond

Danesfort: Darragh Hackett, Aidan McGree, Stephen Doheny, Thomas Leahy, Dan Dowling, Oisin Drennan, Brian McDonald, Troy Walsh, Conor Whitty, Conor Farrell, John Canny, Eugene Sinnott, Alan McCann, Ciaran Mullen, Peter Donoghue, Jamie Phelan, Ian Wallace, Joe Cowhig, Adam Byrne, Evan McDonald, Cathal Norton, Cillian Norton and Pdraig Bradley

Ref: Jim Fitzgerald

KILKENNY HONDA CENTRE MINOR C CHAMPIONSHIP

Twelve teams went to post in the Roinn C Minor Hurling championship but there were two teams that stood out from the crowd, with Tullaroan and Conahy Shamrocks being the early favourites.

Fenians, Tullaroan, Graignamanagh and Cloonen/Railyard all had impressive first round victories.

Graignamanagh and Tullaroan made use of their first round game by getting early leads in their quarter final victories whilst Slieverue's late goal ended Cloonen/Railyards interest

in the competition.

The semi-finals proved to be high octane affairs with Conahy Shamrocks defeating Black and Whites 2-14 to 3-10, whilst Tullaroan's late surge saw them get the better of a game Graignamanagh side, 3-10 to 1-10.

Conahy Shamrocks and Tullaroan couldn't be separated the first day but in the replay there was a decisive winner.

Conahy Shamrocks 0-8 Tullaroan 3-14

Gearoid Dunne got Tullaroan off to the perfect start with a pointed free and '65 after only minutes' play, showing great accuracy despite the elements.

It took until the 10th minute for Conahy to respond and they duly did through a Mark Gunner pointed free. Darren Cuddihy made it all square soon after he pointed from inside his own half.

The game erupted into life when Thomas Dunne found Bill Walton and after a solo run he dispatched the ball to the roof of the net. Tullaroan's second arrived in the next move and Jack Keogh's speculative shot found Walton and he flicked the ball home to send the green flag waving.

There was further excitement when Conahy were reduced to 14 men for an off-the-ball incident.

Conahy regained a foothold in the game with Gunner firing over a pointed free.

Thomas Dunne pointed after some fine play by Eamon Og Holland to put the sash back up by six.

It was at this stage that Conahy began to create some dominance in the middle with Harry O'Mahony and Darren Cuddihy

getting on top. Gamble pointed a free prior to receiving a cute pass from O'Mahoney and the half forward duly pointed.

The man of the half, Bill Walton, inevitably had the last say of the session, scoring a point to leave Tullaroan 2-4 to 0-5 ahead.

Upon the restart, Gearoid Dunne quickly restored the six point lead when converting a placed ball. The half forward then made a burst forward showing great skill to goal. Thomas Dunne quickly added a point soon after before Dunne landed a pointed free.

This was the decisive burst and saw the cup go to Tullaroan.

Scorers: Tullaroan: Gearoid Dunne (1-7, 0-6 frees), Bill Walton (2-1), Jack Keogh (0-3), Thomas Dunne (0-2), Brendan Walsh (0-1).

Conahy Shamrocks: Mark Gunner (0-6, 0-5 frees) Harry O'Mahoney and Darren Cuddihy (0-1 each).

Subs: Robert Ring for Blanche

Tullaroan: Niall Holland, Sam Coughlan, Richard Cash, Thomas Dillon, David Fitzgerald, Joe Coughlan, Jack Cleere, Tommy Walton, Brendan Walsh, Eamon Og Holland, Thomas Dunne, Gearoid Dunne, Bill Walton, Jack Keogh, Paul Og Mulligan.

Subs: Liam Walsh for Og Mulligan

Teams: Conahy Shamrocks: Joshua Comerford, Louis Feehan, John Paul Gamble, Liam Healy, Jack Dempsey, Darren Cuddihy, Kevin Conry, Jack Murphy, Conor Duggan, Ciaran Rice, Sean Dornan, Mark Gunner, Billy Mulhall, Harry O'Mahony, Tommy Blanche.

Ref: Eoin Hayes

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A MUCH ANTICIPATED COMPETITION

Photos: Willie Dempsey

Bord na nOg U15
Report
by Pado O'Flynn
PRO



Dicksboro - Roinn A U15 Champions 2018

There was a sense of anticipation ahead of the 2018 Under 15 championships from the very moment the draws were announced as clubs looked forward to the new age group and formats. The added dimension of it immediately following last years Under 14 championship also whetted the appetite.

Duggan Steel Under 15 A Hurling Championship.

The first round of the championship saw an epic encounter between up and coming side Young Irelands and Dicksboro. Don't let the final score 2-15 to 0-9 in favour of the 'Boro mislead you as this was a full blown test of the city team's credentials as Feile Champions from 2017. In the end however the league champions from Gowran faded in the last quarter when the Palmerston outfit put on the afterburners to book a semi final berth.

The other quarter finals saw Thomastown overcome James Stephens by 1-15 to 1-14 whilst Billy Drennan starred as Galmoy/Windgap overcame O'Loughlin's despite the best efforts of John Comerford for the city team. In the semi final again Dicksboro were

made to work hard by a plucky Mooncoin side and the Southerners were unlucky to lose 1-15 to 2-3. Thomastown had too much up front for Galmoy/Windgap in the other clash.

It was then onto the the final which was a bit of an anticlimax considering how competitive all the matches had been in the competition. Dicksboro captured the first ever Under 15 Duggan Steel Roinn A Hurling Championship title when a dazzling display of attacking hurling saw them overcome a plucky Thomastown side at a well appointed Danesfort. The opening quarter proved to be a tight affair with Naoise Dempsey getting Thomastown off to a flying start with a superb point after a solo run.

Nick Doheny responded with a pointed free but he was soon to show a touch of class. Latching onto a clearance from Rory O'Connor, Doheny brought his marker out to the side on a solo run before a sweet finish to the bottom right hand corner saw the green flag waving. Dempsey fired over a pointed free with Doheny getting one of his own. Harry Shine grabbed his first point of the evening



Young Irelands - Roinn A U15 League Champions 2018

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after fine play by the influential Doheny. Dempsey and Doheny again swapped frees to leave the St Canice's men up 1-4 to 0-3 at the end of the first quarter.

Shine and Charlie Delahunty fired over points in quick succession before Dempsey converted a free which was to be Thomastown's last score of the half as ill discipline was costing them at this stage. Sean Maher and Cillian Hackett finished off the scoring with a point a piece to leave Dicksboro 1-8 to 0-4 up at the break. Dicksboro got a lighting start to the second half which really finished the game as a contest with Sean Maher pilfering a point before Vinny Roberts scored a fire cracker of a goal after a long delivery from Timmy Clifford.

Dempsey briefly lifted siege with a pointed free but the eventual winners kept their foot on the pedal with Doheny and Ward grabbing a point a piece before Doheny's deft flick from the edge of the square set the roof of the net rippling. In truth this is a special Dicksboro team that conquered all before them last year both in Kilkenny and in Ireland. Great credit to them for entering two teams in the league and giving more players within their club the opportunity to play Roinn A Hurling.

Their attacking play was sweet to watch and along with Doheny they had fine performers in Timmy Clifford and Rory O'Connor to name but a few as this was the ultimate team performance. Thomastown to their credit tried to the end and can take solace in some of the fine performances they had in getting to the final.

Dicksboro: Brian Manogue, Luca Loli, Niall Rowe, Stephen Dermody, Eoghan O'Neill, Timmy Clifford, Rory O'Connor, James Carroll, Charlie Nolan, Nick Doheny, Charlie Delahunty, Sean Maher, Vinny Roberts, Harry Shine, Cillian Hackett Subs :Tom O'Neill, Zac Mchardy, Eamon O'Reilly, Johnny Keane, Michael Raggett, Liam Connolly, Andrew Brennan Smith, Evan Rowe.

Thomastown: Darren Fennelly, Charlie Watts, Ben Tennyson, Aaron Wemyss, Conor O'Neill, Luke McNena, Conor Cody, Naoise Dempsey, Luke Skehan, John McCarthy, Luke Connellan, Cian Moore, Paddy Collins, Jordan McKnight, Senan O'Neill Subs: Tony Collins, Conor Holden, Dylan Cullen, Pauric Kirwan, Darragh Cuddihy, Sean O'Keeffe, Jake Power, Robert Power

Duggan Steel Under-15 B Hurling Championship

Fifteen teams went to post in the Roinn B Championship and to pick a winner was like picking the winning horse in the Grand National.

The first round games saw the usual number of shocks and high octane action. The adage that goals win matches was particularly true in the St Martin's v Graigue Ballycallan match with Martin's getting three goals before half time which helped them gain a good win. Tullaroan and Barrow Rangers played out an epic draw before the men in the sash won out an equally epic replay scoring five out of the nine goals



Rower Inistioge Roinn B U15 Champions 2018



Conahy Shamrocks - Roinn C U15 Champions 2018

to win by 4-24 to 5-11. Glenmore edged Bennetsbridge whilst Kilmacow, Danesfort & Rower Inistioge all had good wins in the other first round games.

Tullagher Rosbercon had four points to spare over Tullaroan in the first quarter final whilst Danesfort showed a touch of class to overcome a valiant St Martins. Rower Inistioge and Dunnamaggin had good wins over Kilmacow and Glenmore respectively. Tullagher Rosbercon and Dunnamaggin battled each other manfully for the first final berth which went the way of the men clad in black and amber on a 2-13 to 1-13 scoreline. Eoin O'Brien led the Danesfort defence on a merry dance in the other semi as the Rower Inistioge gained the second final berth.

Rower Inistioge 4-11 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-7

Sometimes you just have to sit back and admire the play of your opponents, when despite all your valiant efforts they still find a way to dazzle and that was very much the case in this Duggan Steel Roinn B County Under 15 hurling final played in

Thomastown.

Rower Inistioge put on an attacking master class in the first half hour of hurling which ultimately broke Tullagher Rosbercon's hearts. Led on a merry dance by the mercurial Eoin O'Brien they found the going tough. O'Brien helped himself to 2-1 in the first half and it could have being more whilst he set up Dean Cummins for his own goal which was after Tullagher had gotten themselves back into game through the free taking of Danny Glennon who ended the half as their sole scorer with four from frees whilst Josh Kennedy and Eoin Lyng were proving accurate on frees for the men clad in red and green to leave the score 3-7 to 0-4 at the break.

The second half proved to be a much closer affair but try as they might Tullagher couldn't breach the rear led admirably by Rory Delaney.

Scorers: Rower Inistioge Eoin O'Brien 2-2 Josh Kennedy 1-2 (2'65's) Eoin Lyng 0-5 (5f) Dean Cummins 1-0 Michael Moffat 0-1 Conor Bolger 0-1

Tullagher: Danny Glennon 0-5(4f) Brian O'Shea 0-1(1f) Jamie O'Shea 0-1

Rower Inistioge: Mark Flood, Michael Savage (Jt Capt), Ruaidhri Delaney, Oisín Whelan, Joe Mulholland, Rory Flanagan, David Prendergast, James Murphy, Joshua Kennedy (Jt Capt), Conor Bolger, Michael Moffit, Eoghan Lyng, Dean Cummins, Eoin O'Brien, Brandon Kelly.

Subs: Nathan Savage, Jack Morrissey, Liam Bolger-Hynes, Joshua Savage, Tom Callaghan, Sean McGlone, Arron Savage, Julian Maher, Cian Murphy.

Tullagher Rosbercon: Eoin Kennedy, Aidan Lawlor, Conor Ryan, Jamie Brennan, Cathal Mooney, Brian O' Shea, Dara Murray, Michael Handrick, Martin Murphy, Dan Kennedy, Lar Murphy, Jamie Lyng, Kevin Aylward, Danny Glennon, Pat Doyle.

Subs: Pdraig Dooley, Jack Handrick, Niall Mooney, JJ Ryan, Fionn Connolly, Ryan Murphy, David Kennedy.

Ref: Paul Cahill

Duggan Steel U15 Roinn C Hurling Championship

Fifteen teams saw action in the Roinn C championship with the first round proving to have many tight encounters and a couple of draws. It took two attempts for Conahy Shamrocks to get over a resolute Lisdowney side whilst Fenians had too much for Clara at the second time of asking. A novel first as far as I'm aware saw Young Irelands enter a B team. Although they found the going tough going against St. Patrick's it was a positive move as thirty two youngsters saw championship action between their A and B campaigns.

The quarter finals were pretty one sided affairs with Dicksboro, Fenians and Mullinavat having wins over James Stephens B, Black & Whites and St Patrick's. Conahy had it all to do to get over Carrickshock as the southerners pillaged their defence for 5-8 but Mark Gunner got them through scoring a large portion of their 2-18 total

Again Conahy left it late in the semi final clash against Fenians to win by two 4-12 to 2-16. Dicksboro got on a roll early on against Mullinavat and gained their final place displaying some sparkling play in the process.

U-15 Roinn C County Final:

Con Shamrocks 1-12 Dicksboro B 1-9

Mark Gunner lit up the Duggan Steel Roinn C Final from the get go at a well appointed Ballyragget. Before a decent crowd the centre forward converted a placed ball after only thirty odd seconds play. Dicksboro response came through a Declan O'Farrell point which was quickly followed by a point from the Palmerstown outfits free taker Kevin Moore. A flash of brilliance saw a 11th minute goal from Gunner after Jack Bergin found him in space. The centre forward quickly followed this up with a point from a free. This period of the game was a real see-saw affair with Kyle Maher and Gunner registering a point a piece before Gunner again popped up with a point. Moore fired over a pointed free soon after. Billy Mulhall and Maher swapped points before



Mullinavat - Roinn C U15 League Champions 2018



Tullagher Rosbercon - Roinn B U15 Finalists & Shield Winners 2018

Conahy through Gunner made a decisive burst before the break making use of the elements to fire over a hat trick of points to leave it Conahy ahead 1-8 to 0-5 at the interval.

On the resumption Dicksboro cut the deficit on the 33rd minute when Mick Carroll landed a monster of a free from inside his own half. The next score didn't arrive until the 42nd minute as both defences had gotten on top but it was worth the wait with a peach of a point from Mulhall out near the side line. A speculative free Carroll saw O'Farrell bundle the resulting rebound into the back of the net. Conahy responded with a Gunner pointed free which took the edge off the goal to leave it 1-10 to 1-6 as the game entered the last ten minutes. Moore pointed a free soon after to leave the goal between it. It was back out to four soon after when Gunner sent the white flag waving from a free.

A Moore pointed free after a searing Farrell run set up a grand stand finish which was soon added to by a point for Farrell himself as the Palmerstown side was exerting huge pressure at this stage. A point from a Gunner ensured in injury time Dicksboro had to go searching for a goal for parity. However Gunner's score proved to be the last score of the match as Conahy held onto for a famous victory.

Conahy had a lot of fine performers in Mark Gunner, Billy Mulhall, Conor Duggan Jack Dempsey & Eoin Dunne. Credit must be given to the Boro whose decision to play with two split teams in the league was a good decision which led to the C team putting in some fine performances with Mick Carroll, Declan O'Farrell and Kyle Maher showing promise.

Scorers: Conahy Shamrocks: Mark Gunner (1-10, 0-4 frees) Billy Mulhall (0-2).

Dicksboro: Declan Farrell (1-2), Kevin Moore (0-4 frees) Kyle Maher (0-2) & Mick Carroll (0-1 free).

Teams: Conahy Shamrocks: Joshua Comerford, Sean Dunne, Conor Duggan, Damien Cuddihy, Darragh Hennessy, Jack Dempsey, Kieran Brennan, Jack Murphy, Robert Ring, Brooklyn Sinnott, Mark Gunner, Eoin Dunne, Jack Bergin, Billy Mulhall and Jack Joyce.

Dicksboro B: Michael Clarke, Denis Dalton, Andrew Brennan Smith, Evan Rowe, Sean Keenan, Mick Carroll, Fionn McGarry, Kevin Moore, Conor Kavanagh, Matthew Kelleher, Declan O'Farrell, Kyle Maher, Peter Conroy, Sean Knox and Sam Tynan.

Subs: David Mulrooney for Knox 33rd min. Thomas Cassin for Dalton 41st min. Luke Burke for Conroy 45th minute.



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Magical Displays in Under 13 Championships

Photos: Willie Dempsey

Bord na nOg U13
Report
by Pado O'Flynn
PRO



Graigue Ballycallan Roinn A U13 Champions 2018

There's something special or magical about the Under 13 grade. Anything can happen in these matches as young hurlers go out and give their all for glory and nothing else really matters to them other than to hurl with their friends.

Under 13 Duggan Steel Roinn A Hurling Championship

Right from the get go there was huge anticipation of this competition as James Stephens and Graigue Ballycallan had whetted the appetite with a draw in the league final before the Village men eventually won in the replay.

Graigue Ballycallan dusted themselves down for their first round clash with Dicksboro which the Kilmanagh men won 3-13 to 3-9. James Stephens had a similar four point victory over the city rivals O'Loughlin Gaels whilst Tullogher Rosbercon gained a rare Roinn A championship victory when defeating Thomastown.

Graigue Ballycallan had too much for the Southerners in the semi final but they only pulled away in the last fifteen minutes. James Stephens ability to get the green flag waving saw them get the better of Young Irelands.

In what was a lively affair James Stephens and Graigue Ballycallan played out a pulsating match in the inaugural Duggan Steel Under 13 Roinn A County Final at Bennetsbridge which saw the Kilmanagh men gain revenge for the replayed league final defeat.

Sean Casey got the Village off to a flyer when he caught a side line to turn and point after seconds play. Jeff Neary responded with a point for the league finalists before Stephen Manogue and Aaron McEvoy conveyed a free a piece.

Sean McGrath pulled off a super save from a penalty which saw Graigue work the ball all the way to Ryan Corcoran who duly pointed. The response from James Stephens came in the 17th minute with a Minogue score before Ballycallan again responded with a McEvoy free to level the score at four points apiece.

Sean Casey benefited from an Ed McDermott knockdown and the wing forward sent the white flag waving. Corcoran again showed a bit of panache to point.

McEvoy put Graigue Ballycallan two in front for the first time in the

dying embers of the half when he put over a free to leave it the interval score Graigue Ballycallan 0-6 to 0-4 for James Stephens.

James Stephens got the second half off to a flyer when Sean Casey's long range shot landed up in the back of the net prior to Billy Wall adding to this with a super point.

Ryan Corcoran responded with a pointed free for Ballycallan. It was Corcoran who was the catalyst for the men in blue and white to go back in front in the 40th minute when he scored a fine goal. Corcoran tagged on a point from a free soon after.

James Stephens got their first score in 14 minutes when Manogue pointed a free in what was proving to be a see-saw bout but McEvoy hit back with a pointed free of his own.

Oisín Bateman got his first point of the afternoon to cut the deficit to two points with eight minutes to go but Corcoran fired over a free soon after which he quickly followed with a pointed '65.

The men from the Village were not going to lie down and in a twinkling of an eye Minogue had them back in it when he goaled with a rasper of a shot.

As the game entered the last minute or so Neary fired over a point to put Ballycallan two ahead. Despite the valiant efforts of James Stephens it was not meant to be their day. It was very apt that the first year the Tom Ryall trophy was being presented it would be to Graigue Ballycallan admits scenes of huge jubilation.

James Stephens: Daniel Power , Sean Deely, Noah Manogue, Bill Whelan, Ed Lauhoff, Sean Bergin, Jack Noonan, Billy Wall, Ruairi Harrison, Sean Casey, Jacob Breslin, Oisín Bateman (c), Stephen Manogue, Ed McDermott, Callum Dooley.

Subs: Billy McDermott for Dooley.

Graigue Ballycallan: Sean McGrath, Dean O'Brien, Sean Roberts, Ben Young, Ryan Cody, Billy O'Neill, Pat Purcell, James Casey, Jeff Neary, Elliot Teehan, Aaron McEvoy, Martin Brennan, Jake O'Brien, Ryan Corcoran, Tony Butler.

Ref: Paul Cahill

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

U13 Duggan Steel Roinn B Hurling Championship

No fewer than twenty nine goals greeted the start of the first round championship action in the Under 13 Roinn B championship. Bennetsbridge and Galmoy/Windgap played out a belter of a match which saw the Bridge men hang on for a 4-12 to 5-7 victory. The other first round game of note was John Lockes tough victory over Kilmacow.

In the resulting quarter final Erin's Own took more of their chances against John Lockes for 3-8 to 2-4 win. Clara came back from the brink on a number of occasions to get across the line against a highly fancied Danesfort side. Rower Inistioge and Piltown got over Bennetsbridge and Glenmore respectively.

The semi finals saw two tight encounters with Clara holding sway over Erin's 2-10 to 0-10 whilst the Rower Inistioge just had a touch more class to defeat Piltown 3-15 to 4-6.

U13 B County Championship Final: Clara 2-13 Rower Inistioge 0-13

On a bright sunny September evening the faithful followers from Clara and Rower Inistioge clubs made their way to Dr. Tierney Park in Graigueanamanagh. Barry Donohoe was in charge and on the dot of four o'clock the sloitar was thrown in to start what was to prove to be a thrilling game. The opening point came quickly from Clara, when a Joe Power pass to Conor Hoyne saw the former put the ball between the uprights. This was answered by three quick points from Ewan Gilsenan and Eoghan Lyng for the Rower Inistioge which put their side into an early lead. It wasn't until the fourteenth minute that Clara's next score was registered by Conor Hoyne followed by another from David Barcoe, bringing Clara's tally to three points. Eoghan Lyng and Conor Hoyne thundered on to score three points each and Clara's Cian Kelly pulled off a great save to deny the Rower Inistioge's free taker a score. Clara pulled away by two points, scored by Luke Lawlor and Conor Hoyne, his sixth point of the match before injury time was up. Half time had the scoreboard showing Clara with eight points to Rower Inistioge's six. The players and the supporters took a deserved break.

The second half brought just as much energy as the first. Clara scored three points to the Rower Inistioge's one point in the opening six minutes, but this didn't put the boys in the Red and Green off as they scored four points to bring the match level again with ten minutes to go. Conor Hoyne put a 65' over the bar which seemed to put renewed fire into Clara. This was followed by two quick goals from the duo of Seán Carrigan and Joe Power. Joe batted the first one in after a quick pass from Seán and Joe soon returned the favour with a pass in from midfield for Seán to find the net. As Clara hopes began to soar, the Rower-Inistioge boys never gave up hope. Tom O'Callaghan



James Stephens - Roinn A U13 League Champions 2018



Clara - Roinn B U13 Champions 2018



Erin's Own - Roinn B U13 League Champions 2018

put one point over right before the Clara number eight scored his eleventh point to put his side seven up as the final whistle blew. This was a good spirited game, with both sides representing themselves and their clubs with pride and respect.

Clara: Cian Kelly, James Cody, Ben Murphy(C), Philip Carrigan, Alex Firbank, Zach Lawlor(C), Ben Crow, Conor Hoyne, Rory Glynn, Sean Carrigan, David Barcoe, Ned Langton, Joe Power, Harry Boyle, Luke Lawlor, Dillon Cummins, Liam Carrigan, Shane Walsh, Tommy Delaney, Diarmuid Matthews, Adam Matthews, Ross Gormley, Bill Kealy, Conor Galvin, Hugh Kelly.

Rower Inistioge: Cian Murphy, Conor Downey, Peter Mackey, John Joe Malone, Donal Óg O'Brien, Joe Mulholland(C), Cathal Langton, Callum McGrath, Richard Miskella, Adam Clifford, Tom O Callaghan, Ewan Gilsenan, Robin Lanigan, Eoghan Lyng, PJ Mackey, Eoghan Crotty, Dylan Alfred, Jack Hearne, Matthew Hennessy, Eoin Murphy, Jack Tennyson, Luke Dempsey, Diarmuid Smithwick O'Brien, Darragh Murphy, John Delaney, John Walsh, Jack Roche, Jack Mullet, Liam Crotty.

U13 Roinn C Hurling Championship

One thing that was noted this year by all the onlookers was the standard of hurling in



Graignamanagh - Roinn C U13 League and Championship winners 2018



Rower Inistioge - Roinn B League & Championship Finalists

Roinn C was quite high. In actual fact there was very little difference in standard over the three Under 13 grades.

Late goals saw the Paul Maher managed St Martin's side get over a plucky Blacks & Whites team. One of the other first round highlights was the clash of the City B teams where James Stephens defeated O'Loughlin Gaels.

Tullaroan again posted a big score in their quarter final victory over Carrickshock whilst Graignamanagh get the better of the Village B with St Patrick's also getting their semi final berth. The last quarter final was a typical Under 13 match that saw Mullinavat get one over St Martin's. The 'Vat men were involved in one of the games of the year with St Patrick's before the Ballyragget team got through after a real sea saw bout 5-10 to 4-12. Graignamanagh got over Tullaroan with some late unanswered scores.

Roinn C Final

Graignamanagh 2-13 St. Patrick's 1-11

The Under 13 Duggan Steel Roinn C Final saw a novel pairing as Graignamanagh and St. Patrick's clashed in Paulstown on a Sunday morning.

This was a great advertisement for hurling

and there was very little between the sides at any stage of the game. Indeed a draw looked a distinct possibility at one stage.

Sean Hamilton got Graig off to a flying start with a pointed free which was soon followed by a Charlie Kielthy point from far out on the left wing.

St. Patrick's were level by the 10th minute with pointed frees from Christian Connick and Sean Brennan. Ivan Bolger got his name on the score sheet when he fired over from 45 metres to put the men from the south in front a lead they would only relinquish once more.

This was quickly followed by a pointed free from Hamilton and another fine individual point from Kielthy. Connick and Sean Brennan had it back to the minimum when they grabbed a point a piece. The half's defining score landed in the 21st minute when Hamilton stood over a 30 metre free and he duly dispatched a powerful shot to the roof of the net. Both sides exchanged a couple of points each in the run up to half time to leave Graignamanagh 1-7 to 0-6 to the good at the break.

It was all level by the 41st minute as three different freetakers for St Patrick's

scored through Connick (two), Brennan and Conor Phelan. Hamilton showed he was as accurate on the frees with a point before a speculative ball from Ivan Bolger somehow landed in the back of the net. Further points from Hamilton and Kielthy put the Southerners six in front. Connick briefly lifted the siege for St. Patrick's with a pointed free.

At this stage St. Patrick's looked like getting a goal but each chance they missed was punished by points from Kielthy and Hamilton who were the star turns for Graignamanagh in a highly competitive and entertaining game.

Graignamanagh: Bill O'Shea, Martin Barron, Danny Kennedy, Jack Brown, Keelan Gahan, Conor Hamilton, Eoghan Stafford, Ivan Bolger, Charlie Kielthy, Steven Kinsella, Sean Hamilton, Conor Byrne, Colin Bolger, Mike Hoban, Cian O'Shea.

St. Patrick's: Tadgh Phelan, Ruairi Farrell, Niall Kavanagh, Michael Glennon, Mark Doheny, Thomas Love, Christopher Delaney, Shane Culleton, Tara Biletskyy, Christian Connick, Sean Brennan, Conor Phelan, Marc Hogan, Oisin Troy, Oran Waters. Sub: Marc Bergin for Waters.

JAMES STEPHEN 1969 REMEMBERED

*This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the victorious James Stephens County SH Title winners of 1969.
The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.*



Photo: Vicky's Photography

James Stephens 1969 Veterans at Nowlan Park 29th October 2018

Back: Patsy Dowling, Jimmy O'Neill, Liam Tyrrell, Jimmy Holohan, Jimmy O'Brien, Eamonn Morrissey, Mick Crotty, Eddie Tallent, Des Murphy, Noel O'Sullivan, Mick Drennan.

Front: Fan Larkin, Phil Larkin, Michael Moore, Emma Jayne Eaton (General Manager, Springhill Court), Jimmy Walsh (Cathaoirleach CLG Cill Chainnigh), Phil Brennan, Michael Taylor, Sean Brennan.



Photo: Vicky's Photography

Jubilee Team with family and friends at Reception in Springhill Court with County Board Officials

He loved Hurling all his life

Bishop Laurence Forristal 1931 - 2018

By Kieran Cuddihy

If there was one thing in life that the late Bishop Forristal enjoyed more than hurling, it was surely talking about hurling.

Any regular visitors to his homes down through the years, whether that be Peace in Christ, the Freshford Road or more recently Gowran Abbey Nursing Home, will tell you that plans could very quickly become derailed. Whether intending to call on diocesan matters or simply for a quick hello, visitors found themselves engaged in lengthy discussions on Kilkenny hurling.

While those discussions would often begin in the present, it wouldn't be long before the Bishop would take his one person audience on a trip back in time. What made these journeys to the past so entertaining was the vivid memory with which he could recall some of the great names and great days out for the Black & Amber.

His interest should probably come as no surprise. In his first ten years of life, Kilkenny competed in eight All Ireland finals, winning four of them. While Bishop Forristal was a young boy, Lory Meagher was firmly cementing his place as one of the all time greats of the game.

And so it was that a passion for hurling developed in the young Larry that would follow him for the rest of his days. Though at times, his attempts to closely follow the exploits of the Kilkenny team ran into obstacles.

In the 1990 version of this very publication, he recounted the struggles he faced as a young seminarian desperate for news of his beloved hurlers.

In 1949, as a young man, Bishop Forristal entered Holy Cross College on Clonliffe Road in Drumcondra. This was the diocesan seminary for Dublin at the time and as most readers will know, was a stone's throw from Croke Park.

Despite the proximity, seminarians were not allowed to attend matches. In fact, every Sunday they were allowed no contact whatsoever with the outside world. This was before televisions and transistor radios became ubiquitous, never mind smartphones. Newspapers too could not pass through the college gates which left people like the Bishop painfully unaware of what was happening on the field a few hundred metres away.

Of course, as any economist will tell you, where there is demand, so too is there supply. It wasn't long before some of the Bishops fellow classmates began to stand outside in the grounds and train themselves

to identify when a point or a goal had been scored depending on the type of cheer. Some even claimed to have worked out a means to identify which team had scored based on the timbre or pitch of the full throated celebrations.

Alas, these experts were often anything but. Which left Bishop Forristal mired in ignorance. Though perhaps he should be thankful. After all, while in the seminary, he missed Kilkenny losing to Tipperary, Laois and Wexford in Croke Park.

In the end, it was one of the priests in Holy Cross College who lifted the veil. Despite having no interest himself in Gaelic games, he knew that the Bishop and others were desperate for information. Every Sunday night, when the voice of Sean O Ceallachain came on to RTE to read out the results, he would turn up his private radio loud enough to be heard through the walls. Before long, news would spread amongst the student body.

Many years later, Bishop Forristal conveyed this thanks to the rule makers in Holy Cross. As Bishop, every Sunday in Spring and early Summer was taken up with communions and confirmations. Meaning that he once again began to miss out on seeing Kilkenny hurl. Thanks however to his training on Clonliffe Road, he was able to cope with the frustration!

Another event in the life of Bishop Forristal involved Holy Cross and Croke Park, though it came several years after his time as a seminarian.

In 1984, the GAA began the process of planning a redevelopment of Croke Park. It became quickly apparent that it would be necessary for the Association to acquire land in and around the stadium to accommodate the new design. Thus began a series of negotiations with private homeowners, Dublin City Council, local businesses and of course, the Dublin Archdiocese.

It was in these latter negotiations that Bishop Forristal played a central role. His position as Bishop of Ossory (and a former seminarian on Clonliffe Road) and as a avid hurling supporter, meant that he was well placed to view this issue from both sides.



Bishop Forristal with the surviving Kilkenny Senior Hurling Captains in Gowran Park 2016

While the details of the negotiations were and remain private, a letter from outgoing GAA President John Dowling in 1991 to the Bishop, is telling.

In it, he wrote;

"I want to thank you sincerely for your wonderful assistance in connection with the purchase of Clonliffe and Belvedere properties for the association. All of this has made the redevelopment of Croke Park possible."

"Due to your kind intervention, guidance and help, you made the purchases possible. I am satisfied that without your help the future for Croke Park would have been very bleak."

So it transpired that with the acquisition of this land, the GAA were able to develop the stadium that now exists. And it was a stadium that Bishop Forristal spend many a Sunday afternoon in.

As anyone who accompanied him to games can attest, he was a well known face to many of the stewards and staff around the ground, often stopping to chat with those he knew best.

In recent years, as his health began to decline, travelling to Croke Park became impossible. Television and radio coverage filled the void, though nothing compared to seeing the game in the flesh.

Much as he had done as a seminarian, Bishop Forristal found a solution.

As Kilkenny approached some of their more important fixtures, the crowds attending training could become a distraction. So Brian Cody began holding sessions behind closed doors. No 'outside eyes' would be allowed to pry.

None that is, except the Bishop.

On many evenings in recent years, you could find him sitting in front of Aras O Cearbhaill, casting an eye over the emerging talent.

Throughout his life, hurling brought him much joy. From the clandestine attempts to acquire information as a young priest, to those training sessions in Nowlan Park, he never tired of marvelling at those who played the game.





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CONAHY AND POINTS BEYOND!

Major General Kieran Brennan talks with Barrie Henriques

The Clan Brennan has brought tremendous fame, acclaim, achievement, and honour to its home base in Kilkenny over many years. Many of them have distinguished themselves in various fields of excellence. In the near past, we have had one - the third Kilkenny man to do so - reach the highest levels of the GAA. I speak of course of Nickey. Another one has trod a similar path of meritorious achievement in the GAA world but also in Forsai Cosanta na hÉireann - Irish Defence Forces.

Kieran Brennan, has risen through the ranks of our armed forces to the heady heights of Major General. Kieran most certainly did not come from a Military background. To rise to the position of second-in-command of the Irish Armed Forces is a major achievement for any member of the Army Officer Corp. Invariably such standards are achieved by Officers reared with a strong Military spoon in their mouths, and coming from Military Academies.

I met up with the Major General recently for the purpose of this profile. A more captivating, centred, lucid gentleman you would not meet on a day's walk. We spoke of things Military, things Conahy, things GAA, and, more importantly, things Kilkenny GAA, of which more anon. He had just returned from a meeting of the United Nations Military heads in the UN Headquarters Building in New York. Pushing him on a date for a little tete-a-tete, he told me that he was scheduled to be in Syria for a few days, so a later date was set. On reflection I got to thinking of what the man had achieved in his chosen career. From the day long ago when he took the Oath to Country and President at his Commissioning day, when caps were tossed aloft in the Curragh gymnasium, Kieran Brennan has come a long, tough, uncompromising journey that has seen him rise through the ranks with distinction. His meteoric rise from 2nd Lieutenant to Major General is, and should be, a great source of pride to his friends, family, the people who served with him and under his command, and his hurling colleagues at club and Inter-County levels.

Prior to his entrance to the famed Cadet School in the Curragh, the only Military College Major General Kieran Brennan attended involved milking cows, cutting ditches with a slashers, thinning beet and turnips with hessian bags tied to his knees, and pulling calves from cows etc. - his words, not mine.

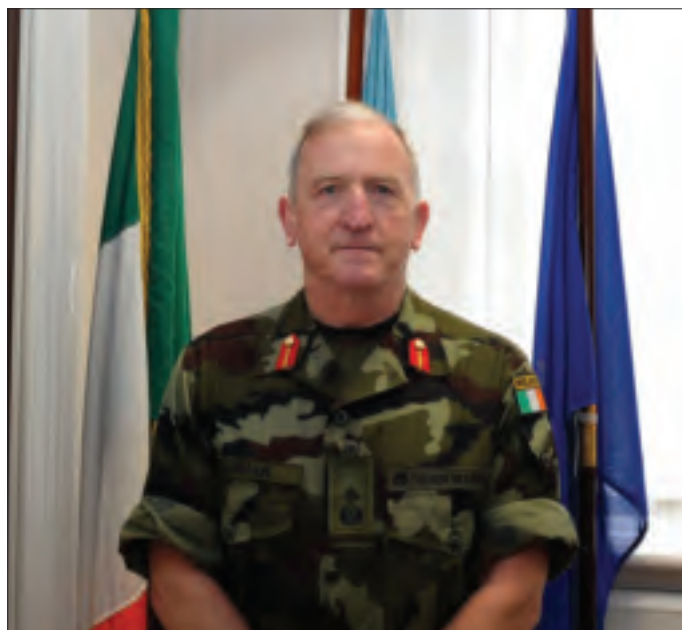
"Why the Army Kieran? I asked. "Is there a family connection with the defence forces?"

"None whatsoever then, but presently there is nearly a platoon of Brennans serving. My two brothers, Gearoid and Canice gave distinguished service before retiring. Then my own two sons, Kieran and Shane are making their way. My nephew Stephen - Paudie's son - has just been commissioned, while yet another nephew, Eoin Fennelly is presently serving in Syria, and I hope to meet him next week out there".

"Not an all-out Platoon?" I observed.

"Well, a little Platoon", he laughed.

The Brennan family were totally devastated when, in 1985, their father, Kieran died from an accident in their farmyard. Being away from home, Kieran was somewhere in the Glen (Imaal) training Cadets. "A colleague came with the sad news. We were all very close to our Dad who was all things to our mother and his kids. I was rushed to the Dublin Hospital, but he had passed away. He was a very practical man,



who had the intelligence and forethought to realise that the way forward was through Education. We were each sent to Kieran's College in our turns. Each of us is eternally grateful to our parents for the sacrifices they made for us in the '70s, not an easy period for family life in Ireland", he said.

Kieran spoke glowingly, and with an obvious pride about the status and esteem afforded to the Irish Cadet Corp. He pointed out that the Cadet Corp is front and central to all important State occasions. He spoke too in like vein about the enormous pride felt by the entire Nation when the Corp were invited by the Kennedy Family to flank the cortege of the late President on its way to Arlington - a fact well commented upon in the Press and TV the World over.

Kieran Brennan talks a great talk about the values and opportunities available to all ranks of the Army. He speaks of a system which was endorsed by the High Command some years ago where a rank and file (NCO) soldier could enter the Officer Corp, where, on completion of a year-long course in the Cadet School, they become commissioned officers.

"The Defence Forces is an organisation of opportunity, among other things", he said. "I've known Cadets who have had tremendous careers as Officers. I've known enlisted soldiers who have had great NCO careers, who have had opportunity in technical areas of operation, and acquired apprenticeships. We now have a Professional Military education model, which endeavours to fully optimise the potential of all personnel if they have the necessary ambition,

In 1982 - October to be precise - two months after Kieran had played for Kilkenny in the victorious All Ireland Final against Cork - he was Platoon Commander of an anti-armour Platoon in the 52nd Batt. With his All Ireland medal in his pocket, he had great banter with his great friend, Dermot Early - God Rest him, (one of the greatest footballers not to win an All Ireland medal). That was a traumatic Tour!



KILKENNY ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1982

*Back: Richie Power, Christy Heffernan, Dick O'Hara, Frank Cummins, Liam Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson.
Front: Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Noel Skehan, Brian Cody (Capt), Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Nickey Brennan.*



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ST KIERAN'S ALL IRELAND COLLEGES SH CHAMPIONS 1975

Back: Mick Meagher, Pat Gannon, Paudie Brennan, Dick Dalton, Gordon Ryan, Jimmy Lennon, Brendan Broderick.
Middle: Michael Cuddihy, Jimmy Prendergast, Kevin O'Shea, Declan Fitzpatrick, Paddy Prendergast, Toddy Farrell, Richard Marnell.

Front: Diarmuid Healy (Trainer), Seamus Brennan, John Ryan, Kieran Brennan (Capt.), Martin Joyce, Harry Ryan, Lester Ryan.



CONAHY SHAMROCKS - 1975 COUNTY IH CHAMPIONS



THE BRENNAN BROTHERS - KIERAN, NICKY, PAUDIE, CANICE, AND GEAROID.

Let Kieran take on the story.

"Within one week of taking up duty, three Irish soldiers were shot at a checkpoint at Tibnin Bridge. At the time we felt that it was as a result of enemy fire — Lebanon was a dangerous place at that time. It transpired later that one of our own soldiers had shot our three colleagues. That was a very tough tour for all the wrong reasons", Kieran's next tour was again in the Lebanon, in a base in Haddatha. Now with the rank of Captain, he was 2nd in Command of an Infantry Coy.

"That was a real pressure situation where we were bunkered most of the time, because of the continuous action between the opposing forces - we were very lucky not to have had casualties. At times we were the meat in the sandwich in the continuous fire-fight between Hezbollah and Israeli forces", he said.

It was a dangerous place to be Kieran?

"It was no barrel of laughs I can tell you. Since the peace keeping started in the Lebanon, the Irish Army has lost 47 men. That probably answers your question"

A seven month tour of duty to KOSOVO followed in 2004 where, now in Command of an Infantry Company, the horrors and sufferings of the Balkan Conflict was much in evidence.

He recalled his most difficult posting in Chad in 2008/2009 as the Commander of a Multi-National Battalion

"I had a big number of Kilkenny lads whom I knew intimately in my Command of 400 Irish troops. I also had 70 Dutch Marines and 30 French engineers. Everything had to be airlifted into and out of Chad. We had a tough time protecting the Darfur refugees and internally displaced Chadians from Sudanese rebels who came across the border frequently. We were operating in full battle dress in temperatures of over 50 degrees plus, and frequent sand storms".

Major General Brennan had yet another posting far removed from the war zones that necessitated peacekeepers. Posted to Vienna, he enjoyed being part of an International gathering of Military Attaches, Ambassadors, and Leaders within the OSCE. He enjoyed being a member of the civvy street gang, doing civvy street work for a change.

The GAA was hugely important and valuable in framing your life?

"Unquestionably. I would not be talking to you about my life so far but for the influences of the GAA in my development. Even before my Conahy club days, there were games at home in the yard between Nickey, Paudie, Gearoid, and myself — Canice was still in the nappies - as tough and demanding as any I ever played, relatively speaking. St. Kieran's College was a tremendous learning curve for us all as well, but we should never lose sight of the fact that the men in our Conahy club like Dermot Healy, Martin Coogan, Mick Brennan and others were worth gold on reflection. I played in a Leinster Colleges Senior Final against St. Peter in 1973 when I was 15. I captained the winning Senior Colleges team against Sullivan's Quay of Cork in '75. Paudie was on that team". He played on the losing Kilkenny Minor All Ireland Team of 1974 when Mickie Lyng was the captain

Kieran with his brother, Paudie, at full forward, won his All Ireland minor medal in '75, beating Cork in the Final. "That was a super minor team", said Kieran. "Richie Power was corner back that day. Harry Ryan was our captain, and many of that team- John Henderson, Paddy Pender, Harry, Dicko (Hara), Paudie Lannon were to win senior All Irelands later", he said. He made it three from three (Colleges, Minor, U-21) in '77 when collecting his U-21 gong. Kieran made his debut — in a way — as a sub on the Kilkenny team in the Leinster Final against Wexford in 1976. That was the swan song of a mighty Kilkenny team, who were well beaten.

"I was on the bench, but imagine being in the same dressing room as Henderson, Delaney, Purcell, Keher, Skehan, Orr; its what a young lad's dreams were made. They were such household names that they were known the land over by their surnames", said Kieran. He made his playing debut against Limerick in the National League of 1976 and remained on the panel until the end of the 1978 Championship, losing two league finals to Clare in the meantime.. He didn't return to the fold until '81.

"Why? I asked.

"I was caught up with my studies and Army duties", he answered.

Then the glorious Double Double years happened.

"What do you remember of them?"

"The '82 one is somewhat of a blur, but I have vivid memories of the '83 one. A windy day, and how Cork persisted in driving the ball down on top of Ger (Henderson), Cummins (Frank), Joe (Hennessy) and our half back line I will never fathom. Richie got that great goal, fashioned by the bravery of Harry Ryan, and Cork could not peg us back. I must say that Brian Cody has been a fantastic manager for Kilkenny, but I have to say too that Pat Henderson was truly a brilliant, intelligent tactician, and a fantastic man Manager, where he convinced you that you were the greatest hurler on the pitch. You couldn't but respond. He was bloody brilliant".

"To what do you attribute your success, Kieran?"

"I suppose, I worked hard at it, and, as they say, behind every man there is a better woman, and Maria and the family have been my rock, and mega support all through it".

"Would you change any of it?"

"Not a milli-second", he smiled the smile of a contented man.

From Suttonsraath to Suttonsraath, and a lot in between!

A truly remarkable story.

The Last of the '47 Team

Monsignor Edward "Ned" Kavanagh (1925-2018)

The death has occurred of Monsignor Edward "Ned" Kavanagh in Sacramento.

Edward is the Last surviving member of Kilkenny 1947 All Ireland Senior Hurling team that beat Cork in the Final when he went in as a sub at centre-back. The win was the sole McCarthy Cup victory in the famine that lasted from the 1939 win over Cork to the 1957 win over Waterford.

A native of Urlingford he was one of four children and spent much of his time helping out with his family's bus transport and newspaper distribution business. He played his first competitive hurling during his school days in St. Kierans College. In a time when no Leinster minor hurling championships were played in 1942 and 1943, he made his debut on the senior inter-county scene at the age of twenty-two.

At club level he played for Tullaroan in the 1947 Senior Hurling Final when the side went down to Eire Óg by 3-10 to 0-13. After being ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral on June 6th in 1948, he was ordered to leave for his new post in America but he refused to go until Tullaroan were finished in the county championship. In it, he won a County Senior Hurling medal at full back on the side that defeated Carrickshock by 1-12 to 2-3. On the day 11,000 spectators attended the game in Nowlan Park where the gate receipts were £155-12 shillings and 6 pence.

After the game he left for New York and took a cross-country train to via Denver. In Sacramento Msgr. Kavanagh, pastor emeritus of St. Rose Parish served as a priest of the diocese for nearly 70 years, serving 58 of those years at St. Rose Parish as assistant pastor and pastor. Over the years Msgr. Kavanagh served as pastor, the parish expanded its Sunday Mass schedule from three to twelve.

During his time he baptized more than 16,000 people and celebrated 4,000 marriages. His extensive outreach extended to the Latino community and several Masses were celebrated each weekend in Spanish in the Kavanagh Community Center. Msgr. Kavanagh was appointed Chaplain of His Holiness on July 21, 1965 by Pope Paul VI and appointed an Honorary Prelate on Jan. 21, 1977 by Pope Paul VI.

Aged 93 Edward got his final wish when he passed away on St. Patrick's Day at the Mercy McMahon Terrace Centre. On Friday, Bishop Jaime Soto will preside at a funeral Mass for Msgr. Kavanagh in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento. In his reflections on "Father Eddy" Bishop Jaime said "He cared deeply for the community, working tirelessly on behalf of the poor and children. 'Did you need a job? A place to live? Maybe an old car to get to that job? A few dollars for gas?' Monsignor Kavanagh would always find a way."

In his time in the United States he remained close to home and his family that he regularly visited. He also looked forward to getting and reading the copies of the Irish magazines and the local newspapers that were posted out to him.

Published March 2018



The Kilkenny SH Team - All Ireland Champions 1947

Back Row: Tom Walsh (Chairman Co. Board), Nick O'Donnell, Tommy Murphy, Shem Downey, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Ned Kavanagh, Terry Leahy, Tom Walton, Jimmy Heffernan, Jimmy Kelly, Bill Walsh.

Middle Row: Mick Dalton (trainer), Liam Reidy, Mark Marnell, Pat "Diamond" Hayden, Dan Kennedy (Capt.), Peter Prendergast, Bill Cahill, Paddy Grace, Syd Bluett.

Front Row: Mick Joyce, Jack Egan, Jim Donegan, Padraig Lennon, Paddy O'Brien.

JAMES MAHER - A MODEL OF CONSISTENCY

By Richard Holden

James Maher was a man on a mission this year, determined to make up for lost time after two serious injuries had derailed his progress.

The St. Lachtain's man was first called up to the senior panel in 2015 but didn't make his full debut until the 2016 National League first round tie against storied rivals Tipp. He certainly made his mark scoring four points in a man of the match performance and looked sure for an extended run in the team until a freak farm accident in April ruled him out of the championship. James broke his kneecap and faced a lengthy period out of the game. Then, just as he was almost on the verge of recovery, he suffered another devastating injury last summer when breaking his jaw during an accidental clash in county training. Thus, in his own words, 'I didn't make a proper comeback until this year'. The 23-year-old started the first round of the League against Cork and was an ever present all season, with a string of consistent displays leading to a well-deserved All-Star nomination. A good display which yielded three points, in the Wild Geese Trophy match against Galway in Sydney last month, rounded off the year nicely.

How would he reflect on Kilkenny's season overall? 'It was nice to win the League but the aim is always to win the All-Ireland, when you don't do that it's always going to be disappointing in the end.'

James is steeped in hurling stock; his mother Gillian is a holder of three All-Ireland camogie titles, his father Noel played underage with Kilkenny and won three All-Ireland colleges' with St. Kieran's (winning captain in his last year like James) while his grandfather was the legendary Pa Dillon, holder of three Celtic crosses.

James' brother Darragh was right-half back on the Kilkenny minor team which reached this year's All-Ireland Final losing out to a fine Galway side

while another brother, Patrick plays with the club.

James was a county minor for three years and also played under-21 but interestingly while he played half-back and centre-back at minor, with the seniors, he has played at wing-forward and midfield. How did this change in position come about? 'In my Freshers year at UCD, I was picked at centre-forward and midfield and I also hurled there for two years in the Fitzgibbon Cup where Nicky English was the manager. I think Brian and the senior selectors were at some of these games and felt I had something to offer in these positions.'



FACTFILE

Age: 23
Honours: 1 All-Ireland Senior Colleges (Capt)
 1 Leinster MH;
 1 NHL;
 1 Leinster and All-Ireland SH;
 1 Co. U-21A;
 All-star Nominee 2018

The transition from club to county can be a big one so I asked what were the main differences the Freshford native noticed? 'It is a fairly marked step up for sure, particularly the physicality and volume of training.'

Regarding the new structure of the hurling championship, James had some interesting views. 'It was great to get a load of games though for lads that aren't starting it is a bit of a disaster as it is hard to prove themselves in training games, where the focus is more on recovery with the games coming week in week out – they don't get as much of a look in.'

James felt the new structure also had an impact for the clubs. 'It can give the younger lads of 20/21 the chance to go travelling but for the lads that have to stay around it is more difficult as there can be a long gap between games.'

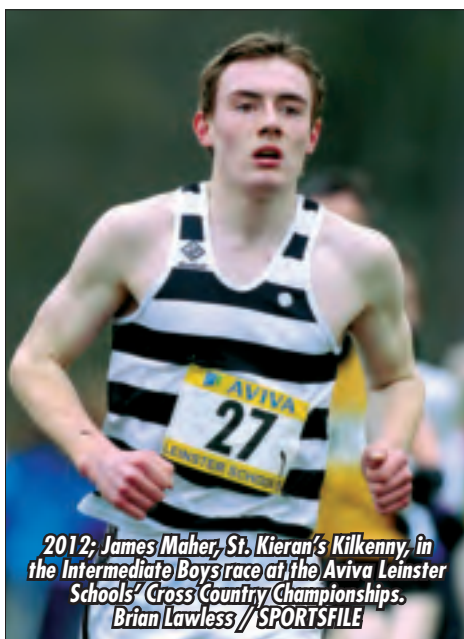
Staying with club matters and St. Lachtain's reached the county intermediate semi-final, losing out to Tullaroan. How does James view their future prospects? 'We have a lot of good young players, we had two on this year's county minor team – Cathal O'Leary and Darragh



James Maher in action against Dublin in the 2012 Leinster MH Championship
 Stephen McCarthy //SPORTSFILE



Victorious St Kieran's Captain 2014
 Pat Murphy //SPORTSFILE



2012; James Maher, St. Kieran's Kilkenney, in the Intermediate Boys race at the Aviva Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships.
Brian Lawless//SPORTSFILE



In action against Joe Canning of Galway during the Leinster SH final.
Daire Brennan/Sportfile



In action against Paul Morris of Wexford during the League semi-final in Wexford.
Matt Browne/Sportfile

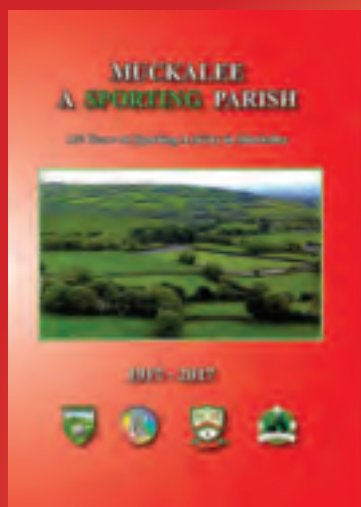
(Maher). We are a small club struggling with numbers so it is good to have potential coming through.'

James has also excelled at athletics, having won All-Irelands at cross-country with the Kilkenney City Harriers while he has also competed for Ireland at the Celtic Games and in another discipline, Tetrathlon which is a combination of shooting, swimming, horse-riding and running.

I asked James if it had ever come to a point where he had to choose between the athletics and the hurling? 'If I had stuck with the athletics,

the ambition would have been to represent Ireland at the Olympics. However, I got sick and became very run-down from the sheer volume of training involved with both so it was a case of having to concentrate on the one sport.'

After a promising 2018, Kilkenney will eagerly look forward to the new season and we look forward to seeing James play his part for many years to come.



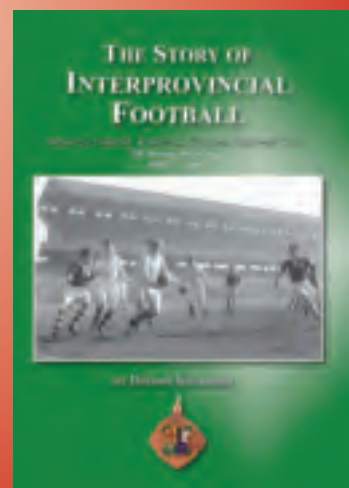
GREAT CHRISTMAS READS FOR 2018

Muckalee - A Sporting History
A Season of Sundays
The Story of Interprovincial Football
(By Dermot Kavanagh)

Kilkenny GAA Bible 2018



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James Maher



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The Man who had Half the Philippines praying for Muckalee

Fr Martin Ryan (1929-2018)

Revered by the people of Muckalee Parish, Fr Martin Ryan gave most of his life as a Columban missionary in the Philippine Islands, but always managed to remain deeply involved with his native place. Throughout his fifty one years of exile, he made many visits home, primarily for matches, and when he couldn't get home, he included his beloved Muckalee in the bidding prayers at all his masses. Many a Filipino found him/herself praying for success for St Martin's in a county championship game.

His involvement in the amalgamation of the Coon and Muckalee/Ballyfoyle clubs resulted in the new club adopting his name. His proudest moment must have come when he saw the newly-founded St Martin's win the 1984 County title and the All Ireland SH Club final.

In later years, his recording of the "Sporting History of Muckalee Parish" in a six-volume video was a priceless contribution to the history of sport in the Muckalee area.

Fr Martin's brother Lar was also a Columban missionary in the Philippines where he was tragically killed in 1995. (See his obituary in Kilkenny GAA Yearbook of that year.)

There follows a tribute from Martin's lifelong friend Nicky Morrissey:

Fr. Martin was born January 22nd 1929 in Wildfield, Muckalee, Co Kilkenny, to Jim and Mary Ryan. He was the third eldest of a family of seven: Jim, Ned, Fr. Martin, Tom, Lar, John and sister Josie. He started primary school (old school) in 1933, and then started in the present new school in 1935. In 1942 he went as a boarder pupil to St Kieran's College for secondary education.

Fr Martin, like most Muckalee boys, had a great love of Gaelic Games, and played on St Kieran's teams in the forties. It was a great achievement for him as there was no competitive hurling in Muckalee at that time, only football.

During the summer holidays, Fr. Martin worked on the family farm, making hay, milking cows and doing all types of farm work. He also helped out on his neighbours' farms. Fr. Martin played on all the Muckalee football teams. At a very young age, he was a very talented player. His brothers Ned, Tom, Lar and John also played on Muckalee football teams.

In 1947, Fr. Martin joined the Columban Brothers in Dalgan, County Meath, where he studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1954. He was assigned to the Philippine Islands, the mission of his choice. He spent the next 51 years of his life devoting all his energy and spiritual love to the people of the Philippines.

Before leaving for the Philippines, he visited every house in Muckalee to say goodbye. Fr. Martin was loved (and still is) by all the people of the parish. His first term was seven years, after which time he was allowed home for one year. He came home in 1962, before returning to the Philippines at the end of that year. He came home again in 1968 for a period of six years. In later years he came home almost every year until he retired in 1990. He would return to the Philippines yearly from this time onwards, and the last time he visited was February 2014. He had a feeling of happiness and a life well devoted to the Lord at this time.

His health gradually declined in the last few years, and he was very well cared for in his real home-from-home in St Columbans, County Meath. The people of Muckalee visited him regularly. During his retirement, Fr. Martin did a great amount of charity work, and was

always ready to help the parish priest of Muckalee, Fr Larry Wallace. He said Mass every morning for the Presentation Sisters in Parnell Street, Kilkenny. Fr. Martin was a very generous man, and any money he received was sent to support *I.T. Works*, an organisation he helped set up in the Philippines to support and help people struggling with substance abuse. He was very proud of how well it had done, and how many people have recovered because of the *I.T. Works* Centre.

Fr. Martin's sporting career goes back to minor days. He played minor hurling with Castlecomer. There was only football in Muckalee then.

As mentioned before, he played on all the teams in St Kieran's and on all the Muckalee football teams. When studying for the priesthood in Dalgan, the seminarians were not allowed to play outside of Dalgan College. Fr. Martin made his place on the hurling and football teams within the college. Some of the best players in Ireland were studying there, so one had to be very good to make the team. They played challenge games against the County Meath football team, and UCD teams, on many occasions. He was also on the hurling team who played challenge matches against the Teacher Training College. On numerous occasions, Fr. Martin would have made the grade in both hurling and football in Kilkenny, if he had been allowed out of the seminary in Dalgan to play and practice.

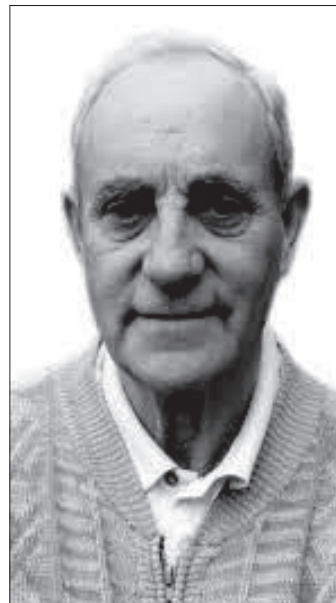
When Fr. Martin came home after seven years in the Philippines in 1962, he won his place at corner forward on the Coon junior hurling team. He played in all the rounds and the team was beaten by Thomastown in the County Final of 1962.

Fr. Martin returned again on leave from his missionary work in 1968. He took over the training of the senior football team in Muckalee (with help from others) and brought them to a new level of fitness and skill. The team went on to win the first Senior Football Championship in the parish, and history was made. Fr. Martin, at 39 years of age, was good enough to play on that team – he played a couple of practice matches but got a knee injury that ruled him out of selection.

Fr. Martin introduced racquetball to the parish. He organised doubles tournaments in Mothel Handball Alley in the mid-1980's. He had a big input in the building of the community centre, and Mick Dunne of RTE performed its official opening. Fr. Martin and Mick played an exhibition game on opening day.

Fr. Martin always kept fit, he would be up early every morning (5am) and go for a few miles run or jog as he would say. He would travel to Dublin on a regular basis and stay with his good friend Ned Coogan, they would have serious friendly games of racquet ball in the Garda Headquarters at St Phoenix Park. He loved the challenge – no give on either side.

He just loved his native parish and all the people in it. Saying Mass in the church in Muckalee gave him great happiness. The Video of Sport in Muckalee gave him great satisfaction, as did the writing of the book about his life in Muckalee and the Philippines. Copies of this book are still available.



Nicky Morrissey

BRITISH FOOTBALL DOMINANCE CONTINUES

Football Report by Michael O'Leary



Kilkenny Football Team - British JF Champions 2018

Back: Mikey Jones (Mullinavat), Aaron Duggan (Dicksboro), Shane Stapleton (Dicksboro), Killian Dunphy (Mullinavat), Paul Kelly (Railyard), Donnacha o Connor (Tullogher), Jim Power (John Lockes), Conor O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Mick Kenny (Lisdowney).

Middle: Joe Fennelly (Mullinavat), Conor Joyce (rower Inistioge), Brian Cahill (Railyard), Richie o Hara (Thomastown), Michael Malone (Capt) (Mullinavat), Sean Dowd (Railyard), Jim Culleton (Mullinavat), Tom Kenny (Dicksboro), Martin Gaffney (Dicksboro).

Front: Ronan Coffey (Kilmoganny), Edward Moylan (Dicksboro), Shane Kelly (Mullinavat), Patrick McConigley (Railyard), JJ Sullivan (St Patrick's), John Walsh (Mullinavat), Ben Hickey (James Stephens), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat), Luke Hickey (James Stephens).

Mascots: O Darragh McConigley and Odhran McConigley. **Missing from picture:** Patrick Hartley (Tullogher), Philip Roche (Railyard), Cian O'Donoghue (Tullogher), James Nolan (Clara).

Kilkenny again went Cross-Channel to compete in the British Junior Championship in a competition they have dominated in recent years and they gained further success when defeating Warwickshire in the final to complete a hat-trick of consecutive titles.

Under the guidance of Christy Walsh once again, Kilkenny defeated Scotland 2-13 to 1-8 in the Semi-Final in Leeds, while Warwickshire defeated Hertfordshire in the other semi-final 0-13 to 1-7.

Kilkenny had a narrow victory against Warwickshire in the group stages, and a close final was expected, but Kilkenny gave a dominant display in the blistering heatwave, and they eased out to an emphatic victory.

The victors took control from the outset and by half-time victory was virtually assured as they led 3-7 to 0-4 at the interval.

Top scorer on the day Ian Duggan got the ball rolling and his goal in the 17th minute put Kilkenny 1-4 to 0-1 ahead.

Despite losing Martin Gaffney to injury, Kilkenny maintained their rhythm, composure and confidence and further goals from Mullinavat duo of James Culleton and team captain Michael Malone gave them a 3-7 to 0-4 lead at the interval.

Kilkenny continued their dominance after the restart, and they added three further goals during the second-half to run out resounding and convincing winners.

Michael Kenny blasted home an unstoppable effort to extend the Kilkenny advantage, and further goals from Ian Duggan and substitute Ben Hickey confirmed their far superior dominance as they ran out 6-12 to 0-9 winners.

KILKENNY SCORERS: Ian Duggan 2-5, Michael Malone and Jim Culleton 1-2 each, Michael Kenny and Ben Hickey 1-0 each, John Walsh, Eddie Moylan and Shane Stapleton 0-1 each.

Another victory in the British Junior Championship gave them the chance to compete in the All-Ireland Series and they were rewarded with a semi-final clash at home to Galway in early July.

Kilkenny gave it everything in their pursuit of battle against Galway, but ultimately the massive gap in standard from the British Junior Championship proved too much to handle despite their valiant attempts. The gulf in class was very evident right from the outset as the Tribesmen already had three points on the board inside two minutes, with the games outstanding performer Padraic Cunningham on target twice in those very early stages.

However, Kilkenny fought back to draw level in the 4th minute with a very well worked goal.

John Walsh punched to the net to finish off an excellent move involving Patrick McConigley, Michael Malone and Edward Moylan, but immediately Galway regained full control and goals from Jonathan Ryan and Matthew Redington confirmed their superior dominance as they led 2-12 to 1-3 at the interval.

Kilkenny battled away bravely during the 2nd half, with the Mullinavat trio of John Walsh, Michael Malone and Ian Duggan adding points to their account, but Paddy Cunningham was giving an exhibition for Galway at full-forward and he was scoring at will as they maintained supremacy.

Kilkenny goalkeeper JJ O'Sullivan denied Galway three certain goals with a host of wonderful saves, but despite a late sub from substitute Mikey Jones, Galway had long assured of victory and they qualified for an All-Ireland Final showdown with Kerry, but the Kingdom winning out 2-13 to 2-11.

SCORERS: Kilkenny: John Walsh 1-2, Mikey Jones 1-0, Ian Duggan 0-2 (0-1f), Michael Malone, Shane Stapleton and Conor O'Carroll 0-1 each, Michael Kenny 0-1 (f)

Galway: Jonathan Ryan 1-4 (0-2 f), Paddy Cunningham 0-7, Gary Kelly 0-6 (0-2f), Matthew Reddinton 1-1, Michael Day 0-2, Anthony O'Laio and Shane Gaffney 0-1 each.

KILKENNY JUNIOR SQUAD 2018: JJ O'Sullivan (St. Patricks, Ballyragget), Aaron Duggan (Dicksboro), Richard O'Hara (Thomastown), Paul Kelly (Railyard), Martin Gaffney (Dicksboro), Patrick McConigley (Railyard), Shane Kelly (Mullinavat), Sean Dowd (Railyard), Michael Malone (Mullinavat) (Capt.), Michael Kenny (Lisdowney), Jim Culleton (Mullinavat), Shane Stapleton (Dicksboro), Edward Moylan (Dicksboro), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat), John Walsh (Mullinavat), Jamie Fennelly (Mullinavat), Luke Hickey (James Stephens), Michael Jones (Mullinavat), Conor Joyce (Rower-Inistioge), James Power (John Lockes), Conor O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Ben Hickey (James Stephens), Brian Cahill (Railyard).

Management team: Christy Walsh, JJ Grace, John Dowd.

UNDER-16s OFFER HOPE TO MINORS

The Kilkenny Under-16 Development Squad in the curtain raiser to the Junior clash when they pitted their wits against their Galway counterparts. This was the perfect challenge game for the youngsters ahead of an

assault at the Leinster Minor campaign in the coming year.

Despite three first-half goals, Kilkenny were trailing 2-8 to 3-3 at the interval after a thrilling half hours football.

Galway eased further clear during the 2nd half, and while Kilkenny fought manfully to the very end and added two further goals, they couldn't manufacture and conjure up that all important levelling goal that their efforts thoroughly deserved and their brave attempts came up short as they lost out 3-14 to 5-5.

This is the 2nd year that the Juvenile Football game has been promoted in Nowlan Park and is proving very popular. It was a great initiative from the Kilkenny County Board to promote Gaelic Football.

Scorers: Vincent O'Grady, Braedon Wheeler (1-1 each), Conor Walsh, Evan O'Shea, Jack Skehan (1-0 each), Fionn Blanche, Sean O'Neill, Pierce Blanchfield (0-1 each).

Team: Jack Conway (Mooncoin), Francis Moore (Piltown), Oisín Henerbry (Mooncoin), Sean O'Dwyer (Mooncoin), Senan Doyle (Blacks & Whites), Gavin Manning (Young Irelands - Capt.), Ryan Murphy (Blacks & Whites), Fionn Blanche (Kilmacow), Conor Walsh (Mullinavat), John McNamara (O'Loughlin Gaels), Evan O'Shea (Piltown), Tommy Coogan (Erins Own), Pierce Blanchfield (Graignamanagh), Vincent O'Grady (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ian Byrne (Glenmore).

Subs: Sean O'Neill (Piltown), Oisín Carroll (Carrickshock), Rory O'Connor (Dicksboro), Liam Treacy (Thomastown), Braedon Wheeler (Piltown), Aidan Walsh (Piltown), Donnacha Hogan (Mooncoin), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands), Pierce Blanchfield (Graignamanagh), Jack Skehan (Thomastown), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), Jack Kennedy (Blacks & Whites).

Extended Panel: Brogan McAviney (Young Irelands), Callum Arthurs (Tullogher Rosbercon), Cormac Rafter (St. Lachtains), David Maher (Mullinavat), Eoghan O'Neill (Dicksboro), Fergal Suffin (Kilmacow), Ian Kelly (Young Irelands), James Carroll (Dicksboro), Michael Prendergast (Blacks & Whites), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro), Paddy Reagan (Kilmacow), Richard McEvoy (Lisdowney), Ruaidhri Delaney (Rower Instioge).

Management Team: Seamus Norris (Piltown), Angelo Cullen (Danesfort), Thomas Rossiter (Danesfort), Murt Flynn (Tullogher Rosbercon).



Patrick McConigly in possession against Galway

FENNELLY HAT-TRICK LEADS 'VAT TO FOOTBALLING GLORY

Jamie Fennelly was the toast and savour of Mullinavat as he scored 3-4 to help the South Kilkenny men emphatically retain the County Senior Football title with a comprehensive victory over Muckalee.

Mullinavat began the defence of their County title by brushing aside Clara 5-14 to 3-7, while they also strolled to victory in their quarter-final and semi-final clashes.

In the quarter-final, they easily defeated Kilmoganny 3-14 to 1-5, while they safely negotiated their path into the final with a 3-13 to 1-3 victory against O'Loughlin Gaels.

In the other first round of matches played in the competition, Conahy Shamrocks defeated Danesfort 4-15 to 1-6, James Stephens defeated city neighbours Dicksboro 5-6 to 1-12, while Glenmore defeated St. Patricks Ballyragget 2-12 to 1-14 after the sides finished level at 1-9 each in the original fixture.

As mentioned, Mullinavat easily defeated Kilmagany in the quarter-final, while in the other last 8 fixtures, O'Loughlin Gaels overcame city neighbours James Stephens 1-10 to 1-3, Railyard cruised to victory winning 2-15 to 1-6 against Conahy Shamrocks, while it was even easier for Muckalee who crushed Glenmore 6-18 to 0-6.

With Mullinavat having easily defeated O'Loughlin Gaels, they were joined in the final by Muckalee who defeated Railyard 1-13 to 2-6. Mullinavat had 6 members of the Kilkenny squad who won the British Junior Championship, and they played a key role in helping them retain the Senior crown.

Despite having a penalty having gone off the upright, John Walsh did score a penalty as the South Kilkenny men led 2-5 to 1-4 at the interval.

Mullinavat put the match to bed by the end of the third quarter, when they accelerated clear to score an unanswerable 1-6 without reply.

They had a commanding 13 point lead intact, and a Padraic Gahan goal virtually sealed the deal.

Muckalee to their credit made a fightback, and added 1-4 without reply with a Mick Morrissey goal giving them hope, but Mullinavat regained control and two late Jamie Fennelly goals confirmed victory as he completed a personal hat-trick to help his side run out 5-11 to 2-9 winners.

SCORERS: Mullinavat - Jamie Fennelly (3-4, 0-2f), John Walsh (1-1, 1-0 penalty, 0-1f), Padraig Gahan (1-1), Michael Malone (0-2), Liam Fennelly, Joe Fennelly and Mark Mansfield (0-1 each).

Muckalee - Tomás Breen (0-4, 0-3f), Mick Morrissey, Sean Maher (1-0 each), Colin McGrath and Brian Byrne



Mullinavat - County SF Champions 2018

Back: Mark McNamara, Sean Fitzpatrick, Stephen Law, Brian Phelan, Damien Aylward, Michael Malone, Mark Mansfield, Jim Culleton, Joe Fennelly, Conor Duggan.

Front: Gavin Maher, Jack Byrne-Doyle, John Walsh, Jack Walsh, Shane Kelly, Ryan Bla, Adam Mansfield, Jamie Fennelly (Captain), Liam Fennelly.

Missing from Photo: Mikey Jones, Darren Kenneally, Simon Aylward, Tom Aylward, Ger Malone, Paudi Gahan

Manager: Michael Aylward

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CENTRA

(0-2 each), Tom Morrissey (0-1).

Mullinavat - Killian Dunphy, Shane Kelly, Simon Aylward, Mikey Jones, Ryan Bland, Mark Mansfield, Joe Fennelly, James Culleton, Michael Malone, Conor Duggan, John Walsh, Liam Fennelly, Adam Mansfield, Jamie Fennelly, Brian Phelan. Sub;Padraig Gahan.

Muckalee - Stephen Murphy, Damien Tynan, James Maher, Noel Darcy, Colm Kealy, Paddy Nolan, Jason Shore, Tomas Breen, Mick Morrissey, Brian Coady, Tom Morrissey, John Mulhall, Ollie Walsh, Brian Byrne, Sean Maher.

At time of writing the Senior League Final between Railyard and Kilmoganny remains to be played.

TULLOGHER EASE TO INTERMEDIATE SUCCESS

The Intermediate Championship began with the first two quarter-finals played as Tullogher-Rosbercon defeated Piltown 2-8 to 1-6, while Thomastown overcame Mooncoin 3-7 to 1-8. The semi-final line-up was completed when Erins Own defeated Lisdowney 4-9 to 2-5,

while Rower-Inistioge easily defeated Blacks and Whites 2-10 to 0-5.

Tullogher-Rosbercon became the first team into the final as they defeated Thomastown 2-12 to 2-4, while in a high scoring encounter Erins Own prevailed 4-12 to 2-13 against Rower-Inistioge.

The final saw Tullogher-Rosbercon take control with two second-half goals to run out 2-10 to 0-7 winners.

In a tight first-half the South Kilkenny men led by the minimum 0-7 to 0-6, but second-half goals from Jason Shiely and Conor Hennessy saw them assert control as they ran out convincing winners having restricted their opponents to just a solitary point in the 2nd half.

Tullogher-Rosbercon; Cian O'Donoghue (0-4), Conor Hennessy, Jason Shiely (1-1 each), Walter Walsh, Donnacha O'Connor, Brendan Lawlor, Shane Ryan (0-1 each).

Erin's Own; Eddie Brennan, Martin Boran (0-2 each),

Owen Meally, Stephen Daly and Conor Fogarty (0-1 each).

Tullogher-Rosbercon - Owen Ryan, Terence Croke, Declan Grennan, Sean Murray, Billy Ryan, Pat Hartley, Kevin Hennessy, Donnacha O'Connor, Jason Shiely, Harry O'Connor, Walter Walsh, Shane Ryan, Conor Hennessy, Cian O'Donoghue, Brendan Lawlor.

Erin's Own - Ciaran Brennan James Brennan, Dermot Wallace, Liam Wallace, Owen Brennan, Ciaran Wallace, Conor Delaney, Michael Murphy, Conor Fogarty, Martin Boran, James Mullins, Niall McMahon, Owen Meally, Stephen Daly, Eddie Brennan.

Meanwhile, Lisdowney won last years (2017) Junior Final when they defeated Graigue-Ballycallan 2-9 to 2-8 in a thriller played in late January.

However, at time of writing this years Junior League and Junior Championship are still to be played.

More than likely they will probably conclude around the Christmas/New Year period.



Muckalee - County SF Finalists 2018

Back: James Maher, David Walsh, John Joe Kelly, Paddy Nolan, Jack Nolan, John Coonan, Tommy Quirke, Luke Maher, Mark Coady, Noel Darcy, Jason Shore, Brian Coady, Colin McGrath, John Maher, Ollie Walsh, Brian Byrne.

Front: Eugene Maher, Tom Walsh, Adrian Farrell, Ciaran Fitzpatrick, Joe Maher, Sean Maher, Stephen Murphy, John Mullhall, Mick Morrissey, Colm Kealy, Thomas Breen, Damien Tynan, Shane Kinsella, Tom Morrissey.



Tullogher Rosbercon - County IF Champions 2018

Back: Paudie Walsh, Liam Walsh, Darren Walsh, Frank Murphy, Ted Cullinane, Richard Gill, Kevin Hennessey, Conor Hennessey, Terence Croke, Pat Hartley, Jason Shiely, Tarek O'Connor, Cian O'Donoghue, Shane Ryan, Liam Shiely (selector), James Mullally, Wally Walsh, Philly Murphy.

Front: David Walsh, Sean Murray, Billy Ryan, Richard Aylward, Declan Grennan, Eoin Ryan, Donnacha O'Connor, Shane Lyng, Tony Conway, Brendan Lalwor, John Barron (selector), Ger Mullally (selector).

John O'Shea (R.I.P.) - A Proud Son of Piltown

By Nickey Brennan

John O'Shea passed to his eternal reward on Monday 8th October leaving a family and community devastated at his passing at such a young age. The late Mr. O'Shea packed a lot into his almost sixty-six years as an entrepreneur, benefactor and wonderful community activist.

His sharp business brain was key to the founding of Iverk Produce in 1980. It is now one of the leading providers of fresh vegetables to over 750 retail stores nationwide, especially the Aldi and Super Valu Groups. In 1991 Iverk Produce formed a joint venture with Total Produce plc, Europe's largest distributor of fresh produce.

Away from the business of Iverk Produce, John O'Shea was an extraordinary generous benefactor, helping many charities, organisations and individuals in need. This help was provided privately with the late Mr. O'Shea seeking no headlines for his generosity. Many in Piltown and further afield have acknowledged the kindness of Mr. O'Shea and the impact his help has had on the lives of so many people.

The influence of John O'Shea is visible everywhere around Piltown and the adjoining hinterland. Among the groups he provided support to were the local Tidy Towns, the Iverk Show, Piltown National School and the Piltown Community Centre, which was one of his early initiatives. In truth there were many more!

Through his entrepreneurial vision John O'Shea provided both guidance and support to the Piltown Community Enterprise Centre which became a hub for local businesses. The success of the Centre is testimony to the business acumen of the late Mr. O'Shea. In more recent times his energy and expertise saw an investment of €360K in the old Piltown Creamery complex.

Hurler's Co-Op Draw

Mention the 'Hurler's Co-Op Draw' in Kilkenny and it is fair to say that most people in the county will be familiar with the annual Kilkenny GAA fund raising venture. It may be even more familiar to some people as the 'The Piltown Draw'.

Thirty seven years ago four natives from Piltown became the driving force behind the 'Piltown Draw'. Sadly Sean Gorey, James O'Keeffe and now John O'Shea have been called to their eternal reward. Billy Norris, thankfully, remain hale and hearty and continues to guide the fortunes of the Hurler's Co-Op Draw locally in Piltown. The inspired leadership of these four men continues to see the draw remain a vital source of income for the GAA in Kilkenny.

Billy Norris recalls the early planning for the 'Piltown Draw'. At that time the DeLorean car manufacturing plant was operating in Belfast and John O'Shea thought 'why not have a DeLorean car for the first prize in the Hurlers Co-Op draw'. That headline grabbing prize never materialised, only to be replaced by a new house adorning the tickets as first prize for many years. John O'Shea was strongly of the view that 'we need to think big to ensure we made the sales'.

The 'Piltown Draw' organisers hit many a bumpy road, not least when the organisers led by John O'Shea were called into the Bank Manager in Carrick-on-Suir to explain a worrying overdraft. They left that meeting with the Bank Manager convinced that he need have no worries about his bank loan.

What is probably not known by many, according to Billy Norris is that discussions between the 'Piltown Draw' organisers and Government representatives was an important factor in the establishment of the National Fás Scheme around 1983.

Facilities Developed

The initial purpose of the 'Piltown Draw' was to raise funds to develop the facilities at the local GAA club. Anyone visiting the facility nowadays cannot but be impressed by the pristine pitches, a hurling wall, floodlighting and a very impressive Club House. It is fair to say that the vision of the original founders of the 'Piltown Draw' has been well and truly fulfilled and the players, mentors and supporters of the club can proudly claim to have one of the finest facilities of any club, and not just GAA clubs, in Ireland.

The early days of the Piltown Draw saw club members travel far and wide selling tickets. Those journeys took them outside the Kilkenny borders. It is no exaggeration to say that many GAA clubs throughout the South East and Midlands of Ireland used their proceeds from the 'Piltown Draw' to good effect to enhance their facilities.

It became clear in the early years of the 'Piltown Draw' that its success required clerical help and that is when the long-serving administrator Gerri Hickey came on board. At the launch of the 2018 draw, Gerri recalled

three members of the organising committee, led by John O'Shea, knocking on her door seeking her interest in taking on the role of draw administrator..

In the early nineties as the Kilkenny GAA County Board sought to increase its own fund raising ventures, the organisers of the 'Piltown Draw' were approached with a view to creating a funding partnership. Following a series of meetings between the parties, agreement was reached to establish the 'Hurler's Co-Op Draw' with the administration remaining in Piltown with Gerri Hickey. John O'Shea played a key role in these discussions as he was strongly of the view that the interests of the Piltown GAA Club would be paramount in any new arrangement.



Johnny O'Shea with his friends in Africa

Kilkenny GAA County Board Treasurer, Barry Hickey, outlines some fascinating statistics on the last ten years of the draw noting that 'since 2008 Kilkenny GAA Clubs have received €2.448M, the Nowlan Park Development Fund has benefited to the tune of €864K, while prize money in the period amounted to €1.184M'.

Barry Hickey was also keen to point out that the redevelopment work undertaken in Nowlan Park and planned future work, would not have been possible without the 'Hurlers Co-Op Draw'.

The County Board Treasurer also noted that 'if Kilkenny GAA County Board has been a significant beneficiary of the 'Hurler's Co-Op Draw', so too have the clubs of the county. Proceeds of €2.448M have been raised by clubs over the past ten years'.

A Great Irishman

Former Kilkenny County Board Chairman, Ned Quinn, remembers John O'Shea as a great Irishman. Living in the neighbouring parish of Mooncoin, Mr. Quinn saw at close proximity the array of development which took place in Piltown under the guidance of John O'Shea,

It was during Ned Quinn's term as Chairman of the former Southern GAA Board that Iverk Produce came on board as their championship sponsors. That sponsorship remains to the present day.

As a regular at every 'Hurlers Co-Op Draw' since its inception, Ned Quinn pointed out that the draw never took place without John O'Shea being present to pull the numbers. And that often meant John O'Shea having to return from a business meeting somewhere around the country.

People far away from Ireland also benefited greatly from the generosity and astute business skills of John O'Shea. He had a long and close involvement with Vita, the Third-World Charity which strives to address agriculture developments and sustainable livelihoods in rural communities in the Horn of Africa.

John O'Shea's loss will be especially felt by his close family. He will be sadly missed also by the community of Piltown and the wider GAA community throughout Kilkenny and indeed further afield. But, he will be greatly missed also among many communities in the Horn of Africa.

John O'Shea lived a life in the service of others with his generosity helping to make a huge difference in the lives of many. What a wonderful legacy for one individual!

Beatha síoraí Johnny, a chara, ó mhuintir Bhaile Phoil agus Cill Chainnigh.



3 November 2018; Amanda Stapleton with referee Brian Gavin, Kilkenny captain Paul Murphy and her brother Tipperary captain Paddy Stapleton before the Benefit Match.
Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile



Lotto Organisers Night Out



Hurlers Co-Op Draw



Páistí a bhuaigh Scoráireachtaí Gaeltachta 2018



Captains Joe Canning and Richie Hogan with referee James Owens before the Wild Geese match at Spotless Stadium in Sydney, Australia.
Photo Ray McManus/Sportsfile.



11 November 2018; The Kilkenny squad before the Wild Geese Cup match between Galway and Kilkenny at Spotless Stadium in Sydney, Australia.
Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Bill Sheehan



Richie Leahy



EIGHTEENTH NHL TITLE FOR KILKENNY

National Hurling League Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photo: Willie Dempsey



KILKENNY - NHL CHAMPIONS 2018

Back Row: Billy Ryan, Liam Blanchfield, Luke Scanlon, Conor Delaney, Conor Browne, Darren Brennan, Joey Holden, Lester Ryan, Richie Reid, Bill Sheehan, Enda Morrissey, Pat Lyng, Robert Lennon, Conor Fogarty, TJ Reid
Front Row: John Donnelly, Paddy Deegan, Martin Keoghan, Pdraig Walsh, Walter Walsh, Eoin Murphy, James Maher, Cillian Buckley, Richie Leahy, Alan Murphy, Conor Martin, Conor O'Shea

Since the National Hurling League became a contest of two groups of six teams in 2012 we have had the most competitive and high quality NHL games in the history of the competition. There are few dead rubbers, lots of close results and very serious games of exceptionally high quality. Kilkenny have won four of the seven leagues in the 6-team format.

The new championship structure may well cause much harm to the Allianz League since now teams have a relatively short window of opportunity after the league to train for the early first rounds. It is unfortunate because the current format has treated us well, though the playing of quarter-finals cost the clubs a championship weekend. After a dismal 2017 there was much pessimism among supporters about Kilkenny's prospects and this gloom was deepened after the first two rounds.

However Kilkenny rocketed to victory despite a poor start, losing narrowly to Cork and Clare in the first two rounds. They gained great momentum from the return of TJ Reid for round 3 and his stirring performances showed him to be the best player in the whole contest. It was also a measure of how much Kilkenny depended on him, a factor also illustrated in the championship. Several players were blooded in pressure games and the experience accelerated the progress of Martin Keoghan, John Donnelly, Enda Morrissey, James Maher and Richie Leahy among others. The Walsh Cup is worthy of note this year if only because of the manner of the final result. After facile wins over Laois and Kildare and a close encounter with Offaly, Kilkenny and Wexford met in the final. They finished level 1-24 each after extra time following a highly entertaining contest. Under experimental rules each side had five 65s to win. As darkness and cold fog closed in, Wexford won the shoot-out 3-2. Opinion was divided among the crowd as to the merits of deciding games in this manner.

Sat 27 January 2018 Allianz HL Division 1A round 1 at Páirc Ui Chaoimh

Cork 1-24 Kilkenny 0-24

The Allianz League began two weeks early in anticipation of the new championship format. Cork out-scored Kilkenny by five points to two during the dying stages to win a high scoring and hugely entertaining Allianz NHL opening round game.

Level with seven minutes remaining, an injury to Cillian Buckley seemed to halt Kilkenny's momentum as Cork reacted best after a long delay in play. Points from Conor Lehane and a Shane Kingston goal put daylight between the sides as two young sides threw everything into securing a first brace of points. The losers chased hard to the bitter end, but they couldn't save the match after what had been a most pleasing effort by a largely young and inexperienced crew. At half-time Kilkenny led by 0-15 to 1-11, the excellent dividing point having been posted by Alan Murphy in the 36th minute after the ball was worked through the hands of three players. This was typical of the efforts of both sides who produced fast, open hurling.

Kilkenny; E Murphy (0-2), J Holden, P Walsh (0-1), P Deegan, C O'Shea, J Lyng, C Buckley (0-3), C Fogarty (0-1), J Maher (0-1), M Keoghan (0-1), R Reid (0-3), P Lyng (0-1), A Murphy (0-5), W Walsh (0-2), C Martin (0-1). Subs: J Donnelly for M Keoghan, TJ Reid (0-3) for C Martin, L Blanchfield for A Murphy, R Leahy for J Maher, E Morrissey for C Buckley.

Cork; P Collins, M Ellis (0-1), E Cadogan, C Spillane (0-1); C Joyce, T O'Mahony, S O'Donoghue, D Fitzgibbon (0-1), D Kearney (0-1), R O'Flynn (0-2), C Lehane (0-11), B Lawton, A Cadogan (0-1), S Harnedy (0-3), S Kingston (1-1). Subs: L Meade (0-1) for B Lawton, M Cahalane for R O'Flynn, J O'Connor (0-1) for A Cadogan.

Referee; F Horgan.

Sun 4 Feb 18 Allianz HL Division 1A Round 2 at Nowlan Park

Clare 2-18 Kilkenny 1-18

Clare needed a 73rd minute point from Niall Deasy, to finally kill off Kilkenny and claim their second win in a thrilling National Hurling League tie.

In a totally forgettable first half, Kilkenny were all at sea as Clare's pace and assured touches sowed confusion in Kilkenny ranks. Clare, who finished the day with 18 wides, were strong leaders by 2-12 to 1-7 at half-time. It was unique in the Cody era to see three subs introduced by the 26th minute. This was the tonic needed to rally the team and avoid a first half whitewash.



Bit of a head-scratcher. Brian Cody during the Clare game. Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE



Ollie Walsh, Walter Walsh and Mark Ellis (Cork) in the first round (SPORTSFILE)

A powerful second half was inspired to a large degree by youngsters Richie Leahy, James Maher and Martin Keoghan and brought the gap was down to two points with the clock ticking down. In the end Deasy's late score finished the Kilkenny revival and left Brian Cody's men still chasing a League victory. It proved to be the end of the poor league performances as the youngsters found their self-belief.

Kilkenny; E Murphy (0-2), J Holden, P Walsh, P Deegan, C Buckley, R Lennon, J Lyng, J Maher, O Walsh, J Donnelly, R Reid, R Leahy (0-1), B Sheehan (1-0), W Walsh (0-2), A Murphy (0-10). Subs: E Morrissey for J Lyng, P Lyng (0-1) for O Walsh, M Keoghan (0-2) for R Reid, C O'Shea for R Lennon, L Blanchfield for J Donnelly.

Clare; D Tuohy, J Browne, C Cleary, P O'Connor, D Fitzgerald (0-1), D McNerney, S Morey (0-1), C Galvin (0-1), T Kelly (0-1), C Malone (0-2), J Conlon (0-3), D Reidy (1-3), S O'Donnell (1-0), P Duggan (0-5), P Collins. Subs: M O'Malley for D Fitzgerald, I Galvin for P Collins, N Deasy (0-1) for C Malone, J McCarthy for P Duggan.

Referee; J McGrath.

Sun 18 Feb 18 Allianz HL Division 1A round 3 at Walsh Park

Kilkenny 1-20 Waterford 1-12

Kilkenny finally got their National Hurling League campaign up and running at Walsh Park when they scored a top class win over All-Ireland finalists of last season, Waterford. The return of TJ Reid was eagerly anticipated and he turned in a superb performance from play and placed balls throughout the game. Both sides had lost their previous two games so the contest was mustard keen. The glue-pot pitch and swirling breeze didn't help but the two teams rose above the conditions to give the spectators good value.

With TJ in imperious form, Kilkenny led by 0-11 to 0-6 at the interval. When he shot a wonderful goal in the 51st minute, Kilkenny were firmly in control. Waterford had a penalty chance but Eoin Murphy saved brilliantly. Indeed, Murphy's form was proving inspirational to the Kilkenny side and continued to do so as the year progressed. Suddenly the mood had changed and everybody eagerly looked forward to the visit of old rivals Tipperary.

Kilkenny; E Murphy, J Holden, P Walsh, P Deegan, C Delaney, C Buckley, E Morrissey, L Ryan, C O'Shea, M Keoghan (0-5), TJ Reid (1-11), P Lyng, B Ryan, W Walsh, J Donnelly (0-2). Subs: L Blanchfield for B Ryan, J Maher (0-1) for C O'Shea, L Scanlon (0-1) for L Ryan.

Waterford; I O'Regan, S Fives, B Coughlan, N Connors, T De Burca (0-1), A Gleeson (0-1), Philip Mahony, J Barron, C Gleeson, K Moran, Pauric Mahony (0-8), T Devine (0-1), J Dillon, M Shanahan, M Kearney. Subs: C Dunford (0-1) for M Kearney, P Curran for A Gleeson, S Bennett for J Dillon, DJ Foran for M Shanahan, T Ryan (1-0) for Pauric Mahony.



TJ goes highest again Wexford. (Willie Dempsey)

Referee; F Horgan.

Sun 25 Feb 18 Allianz HL Division 1A Round 4 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 2-22 Tipperary 2-21

Tipperary had been the form team of the League to this point and to lower their colours would have been a huge fillip to Kilkenny. A crowd of almost 11,000 saw a rip-roaring and high scoring contest with victory going to Kilkenny thanks to a 71st minute point from Richie Leahy. The drama didn't end with Leahy's score as Tipp had a great goal chance only to be foiled by a great block by Lester Ryan in the dying seconds.

Kilkenny deserved the victory as they had been more economical throughout and they drove harder for the winning post when it mattered most.

Assisted by a fresh breeze, Kilkenny led by one point at the interval, having struggled to break down a stubborn Tipp defence. But two great goals within minutes of the restart by Luke Scanlon and Walter Walsh turned the game firmly towards Kilkenny. Tipp bit back with two Michael Breen goals but outstanding defensive work by Paddy Deegan and Cillian Buckley ensured that Kilkenny would go into the last game of the league knowing that a win would bring them to the quarter-finals.

Kilkenny; D Brennan, E Morrissey, J Holden, P Deegan, C O'Shea, C Buckley, C Browne (0-1), J Maher (0-1), L Blanchfield (0-1), M Keoghan, TJ Reid (0-13), P Lyng (0-1), R Leahy (0-3), W Walsh (1-0), L Scanlon (1-0). Subs: A Murphy (0-1) for L Blanchfield, L Ryan for P Lyng, R Reid (0-1) for M Keoghan, C Martin for L Scanlon.

Tipperary; D Mooney, A Flynn, T Hamill, S O'Brien, S Kennedy, J Barry, D Maher, B Maher (0-4), R Maher (0-1), S Curran (0-1), B McCarthy (0-1), Patrick Maher (0-1), G Browne, M Breen (2-9), N O'Meara (0-2). Subs: M Russell (0-1) for G Browne, C Darcy (0-1) for N O'Meara.

Referee; A Kelly.

Sun 11 March 18 Allianz HL Division 1A Round 5 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 0-22 Wexford 0-19

It was unusual for Kilkenny to face Wexford having lost the three previous encounters. There was much at stake for Kilkenny as they strove to make the knock-out stages and nothing less than a win would suffice. 9,793 spectators attended in anticipation of fireworks. The game was a tough, dour and tense one, filled with elementary errors on both sides and was the least satisfying of the whole league. But the result mattered and was achieved the hard way.

Again it was an inspirational TJ Reid performance that drove Kilkenny to victory as his twelve points from twelve attempts kept Kilkenny ahead from start to finish. Leading by six points with ten minutes remaining,



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Paddy Deegan makes a great catch v Waterford (Willie Dempsey)



Martin Keoghan in action against Pádraig Maher in the League Final (SPORTSFILE)

Mon 19 March Allianz HL Division 1 quarter-final at O'Connor Park

Kilkenny 0-24 Offaly 1-19

This game was an object lesson the players needed that they should never underestimate Offaly. The Faithful men came closer than anybody in the previous three games to defeating Kilkenny and had they done so there would have been few complaints.

Offaly were a physically strong side and used their power legitimately throughout and succeeded in unsettling Kilkenny, who showed great heart and skill and had an edge in physique, really tested the visitors. There was little separating the sides near the interval when Conor Mahon finished a ground ball to the net to give Offaly a 1-10 to 0-10 lead.

Eventually Kilkenny through TJ and Walter overcame the stubborn Offaly half back line. As fortunes ebbed and flowed, the sides were level with one minute of normal time remaining. It needed points in the 70th and 73rd minutes from TJ Reid (free) and Walter Walsh to earn Kilkenny a rather fortunate victory and a place in the Allianz NHL semi-finals.

Kilkenny looked assured. But a great revival led by Rory O'Connor reduced the deficit to two points before Walter shot a long range point. Nevertheless there were some worrisome moments at the finish as 'keeper Darren Brennan held his nerve and produced a fine save and clearance to ensure local victory.

Padraig Walsh's return from injury and the fine form of Richie Leahy, Walter Walsh and TJ seemed to restore a balance to the team that they had struggled to find in previous games.

Kilkenny: D Brennan, J Holden, P Walsh, P Deegan, C Delaney, C Buckley (0-1), E Morrissey, J Maher (0-2), R Leahy (0-3), M Keoghan, TJ Reid (0-12), P Lyng, J Donnelly (0-1), W Walsh (0-2), G Aylward (0-1). **Subs:** L Scanlon for P Lyng, L Blanchfield for M Keoghan, L Ryan for J Maher, A Murphy for J Donnelly, O Walsh for R Leahy.

Wexford: C O'Leary, W Devereux, L Ryan, C Firman, P Foley (0-6), M O'Hanlon, D O'Keeffe (0-1), K Foley (0-3), S Murphy, A Maddock, H Kehoe, J O'Connor, C Dunbar (0-2), C McDonald (0-1), R O'Connor (0-6). **Subs:** P Morris for H Kehoe, D Reck for A Maddock, A Nolan for D O'Keeffe, E Martin for J O'Connor, M O'Regan for C Dunbar.

Referee: J McGrath.



Richie Leahy makes a big catch v Offaly (Willie Dempsey)



Bill Sheehan of Kilkenny in action against David McInerney of Clare (SPORTSFILE)

Kilkenny; D Brennan, J Holden, P Walsh, P Deegan, C Delaney, C Buckley, C Browne; R Leahy, O Walsh, L Blanchfield (0-3), TJ Reid (0-12), J Maher (0-2), G Aylward (0-1), W Walsh (0-4), R Reid. Subs: L Scanlon for G Aylward, J Donnelly (0-2) for O Walsh, L Ryan for R Leahy, E Morrissey for C Browne, A Murphy for R Reid.

Offaly; E Cahill, T Spain, S Gardiner, B Conneely, D O'Toole, D Shortt, P Camon, S Kinsella (0-2), D King (0-1), C Mahon (1-2), C Kiely (0-1), C Egan (0-2), S Dooley (0-8), J Bergin (0-2), D Currams (0-1). Subs: P Rigney for S Gardiner, O Kelly for C Kiely, D Egan for S Kinsella, T Geraghty for C Egan, S Ryan for P Rigney.

Referee; P O'Dwyer.

Sun 1 April Allianz HL Division 1 semi-final at Innovate Wexford Park

Kilkenny 1-27 Wexford 2-15

These sides must surely have been getting heartily sick of meeting each other in 2018. A large, enthusiastic crowd thronged Wexford Park with most of them going home disappointed.

Wexford had a great start with a Cathal McDonald goal but it all went pear-shaped after that for the Slaneysiders who were depending far too much on placed balls.

Kilkenny took a grip of the game and led all the way from the 17th minute to the final whistle. It was a game that lacked high quality and Wexford seemed to accept the inevitable shortly after the interval.

Again it was the inspiration of TJ, Walter, Pdraig Walsh, Cillian Buckley and Ger Aylward who ensured that this game was out of reach long before the final whistle. It was the best preparation possible for a League final.

Kilkenny; E Murphy (0-1), J Holden, P Walsh, P Deegan, C Delaney, C Buckley (0-1), E Morrissey (0-1), R Leahy (0-2), J Maher, M Keoghane (0-1), TJ Reid (0-15), J Donnelly (0-2), G Aylward (0-2), W Walsh (1-1), B Sheehan (0-1). Subs: C Fogarty for J Maher, L Blanchfield for J Donnelly, L Ryan for R Leahy, L Scanlon for B Sheehan, P Lyng for M Keoghane.

Wexford; M Fanning, W Devereux, L Ryan, S Donohoe, P Foley, M O'Hanlon, D O'Keefe, K Foley, S Murphy (0-1), J O'Connor, R O'Connor (0-12), L Chin, A Nolan (1-0), C McDonald (1-1), P Morris. Subs: D Reck for W Devereux, H Kehoe (0-1) for P Morris, D Dunne for A Nolan, C Dunbar for J O'Connor.

Referee; C Lyons.

Sunday 8 April Allianz HL Division 1 final at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 2-23 Tipperary 2-17

Six weeks after their enthralling Round 4 encounter, Tipperary and Kilkenny met again in Nowlan Park. This time the battle was for silverware. Tipp showed seven changes from the previous meeting. Kilkenny showed five changes in personnel and a team that would not substantially change for the championship, injuries excepted. It was clear that Brian Cody had learned much about his best team through the previous five league games. We have seen this pattern so many times before.

We have also seen the third quarter phenomenon many times. Tipp deservedly led by two points (1-10 to 0-11) at the interval after tense first half, dominated by the accuracy of TJ and Jason Forde. Then Kilkenny took control, inspired by a Walter Walsh goal immediately on the restart



Captain Cillian Buckley receives the League Trophy from Uachtarán John Horan (Willie Dempsey)

and from then on they never looked back. Kilkenny dominated in almost every phase and hit 2-12 from play. Conor Fogarty shot a second goal and only a late Jason Forde goal took the bad look off the scoreboard for Tipp.

This was a most satisfying win as the team showed hunger and self-belief against their old rivals. Little were we to know that Tipp would recede from here into one of their worst seasons ever, while the young and inexperienced Kilkenny squad would continue to develop.

Kilkenny; E Murphy (0-1), J Holden, P Walsh, P Deegan, C Delaney, C Buckley, E Morrissey, R Leahy (0-1), J Maher, M Keoghane (0-1), TJ Reid (0-15), J Donnelly (0-2), A Murphy, W Walsh (1-2), B Sheehan. Subs: L Blanchfield (0-1) for A Murphy, L Scanlon for B Sheehan, C Fogarty (1-0) for R Leahy, C Martin for J Donnelly.

Tipperary; D Mooney, A Flynn, J Barry, M Cahill, B Heffernan, R Maher, P Maher; B Maher, S Kennedy (0-1), S Curran (0-1), B McCarthy, J McGrath (0-2), W Connors (0-1), J Forde (2-12), M Breen. Subs: J O'Dwyer for M Breen, C Barrett for S Kennedy, M Russell for S Curran, D Maher for J Barry.

Referee; A Kelly.



John Donnelly in action in the League Final (SPORTSFILE)



Mick Dempsey entertains New York U14 Hurlers in Nowlan Park



*4 August 2018; Eoin Murphy of Kilkenny makes his way to take his next shot during the 2018 M Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Poc Fada Finals in the Annaverna Mountain, Ravensdale, Co Louth.
Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile*



LGFA Safeguarding Course in Nowlan Park



*Rollin' to Nowlan cxdyclists arriving in Nowlan Park
Willie Dempsey*



Summer Camp Coaches in Ballyhale



Kilkenny Referees 2018

*Back: Ollie O'Neill, Jim Fitzgerald, Eddie Crowley, Richard Dowling, Paddy Bowden, Sean Mc Mahon, Ger O'Grady, Gerry Rafter, Eamon Mansfield, Paddy Neary.
Middle: Anthony Barcoe, Kieran Canavan, Julian O'Dwyer, James Barry, Gavin Quilty, Michael O'Sullivan, John Kennedy, John Walsh, Martin Quilty, Sean Brennan.
Front: Conor Everard, Barry O'Donoghue, Stephen Delaney, Pat Hayes, Tommy Duggan, Sean Cleere, Eamon Larkin, Owen Kenny, Paul Cahill, John Bennett.*

Martin Keoghan



John Donnelly



And then there were Two!

Inter County Intermediate Hurling Report by Conor Denieffe



CORK 2-19 KILKENNY 0-18

Kilkenny's attempt to win an unprecedented third All Ireland Intermediate Hurling title in succession came to nought at the hands of Cork in the All Ireland final played in Nowlan Park on Saturday 28th July 2018. The Leesiders recorded their ninth title when they had the better of a closely fought game. Two goals from towering Cork full-forward Dan Mangan proved the crucial scores as the St. Catherine's player found the opposition net in both halves

The opening stages were evenly contested and after six minutes scores were level at two points apiece before Cork playing with the advantage of a strong wind took the lead thanks to Mangan's first goal. Undeterred Kilkenny fought their way back to parity after ten minutes thanks to scores from centrefielder Paul Hennebry and two James Bergin frees. A pointed free from Stephen Condon re-established Cork's lead and the Munster team registered the next four points in succession, two from former county senior player Cormac Murphy. James Bergin kept Kilkenny in touch displaying his accuracy from placed ball but further Cork minor scores from Michael Collins, Stephen Condon (free) and Jack Walsh saw the Munster team head for the dressing room at the interval 1-10 to 0-8 to the good.

Kilkenny's best chance of a goal came on the resumption when Conor Hennessy brought a good save from Cork goalkeeper Shane Hurley, the net minder turning a good low shot round the post. Bergin converted the resultant 65'. Despite playing with the strong breeze to their backs Kilkenny found it difficult to reduce the deficit in the second half and by the three-quarter stage the Leesiders were 1-16 to 0-13 to the good. Kilkenny raised their game at this stage and appeared to be timing a final run when Conor Hennessy and Patrick Walsh put a hat-trick of points together between the 49th and 52nd minutes to reduce the deficit to three points but then came Mangan's smartly taken second goal for Cork which put the game beyond the reach of the home team.

It was a brave effort from an entirely new Kilkenny team from last year's All Ireland winners due to the rules of the competition. Credit to Manager Dave O'Neill and selectors Nigel Skehan, John Brennan and Tom Phelan for their team and its performance despite a short preparation time.

Scorers: Cork - Dan Mangan (2-2); Stephen Condon (0-6); Cormac Murphy (0-3); Jack Walsh, Chris O'Leary (0-2 each); Shane Hegarty, Michael Collins, Cian Fleming, David O'Neill (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - James Bergin (0-8); Patrick Walsh (0-3); Shane Murphy, Paul Hennebry, Conor Hennessy (0-2 each); Rory Hickey (0-1).

Kilkenny - Darren Brennan; Michael Carey, Conor Flynn, Paul Delahanty; Eamon Egan, Pat O'Carroll, John Henderson; Shane Murphy, Paul Hennebry; Conor Hennessy, Conor Tobin, Owen McGrath; Patrick Walsh, Conor O'Carroll, James Bergin. Subs - Sean Ryan for O. McGrath 41st min; Rory Hickey (0-1) for C. O'Carroll 48th min.

Cork - Shane Hurley; Niall Motherway, Michael Russell, Ger Mellerick; Chris O'Leary, Shane O'Donovan, John Cronin; Nicky Kelly, Shane Hegarty; Jack Walsh, Cormac Murphy, Michael Collins; Cian Fleming, Dan Mangan, Stephen Condon. Subs - Ciaran O'Brien for Motherway (inj) 26th min; David O'Neill for Collins 39th min; Liam O'Shea for C Fleming 47th min; Michael O'Sullivan for J Walsh 51st min.

Referee: John Keane (Galway).

The Future

As there were only two teams and one game in the 2018 Intermediate hurling championship the future of the competition must seem in doubt. This is a pity as it is a competition that has served Kilkenny well providing many Intermediate and Junior club hurlers with the opportunity to wear the black and amber at inter county level, something they did with pride and no little success. It also provided a stepping stone for many Kilkenny hurlers on their way to senior level with the county. Some years ago Ned Quinn spoke eloquently at Congress and was instrumental in defeating a motion to abolish the Intermediate Hurling Championship. It is difficult to understand why only Cork and Kilkenny of the stronger hurling counties saw fit to enter at Intermediate level this year and the 2018 final played in Nowlan Park is quite possibly the last game that will be played in the competition.

BRAVE EFFORT BUT EARLY EXIT

Inter County U21 Hurling Report by Paul Fitzgerald PRO

Photos Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny U21 Team 2018

Back: Darren Mullen, Ryan Bergin, John Donnelly, Cathal McGrath, Mikey Carey, Michael Cody, Edmund Delaney, Colum Prendiville, Adrian Mullen, Thomas Kenny, Conor Hennessy, Matt Kenny, Eamon Egan.
Front: Niall Walsh, Martin Keoghan, James Bergin, Shane Mahony, Robbie Murphy, Richie Leahy, Bill Sheehan, Sean Carey, Shane Murphy, Tommy Walsh.

Galway 3-13 Kilkenny 1-17

Kilkenny came up against a hardened Galway in their opening game of the Leinster Championship. A late rally of 1-5 in the closing quarter of the game was not enough to avoid an early departure from Leinster.

The Kilkenny character of 'never say die' was evident throughout this game, and despite being nine points behind (3-12 to 0-12) when Galway's Ciaran Fahy claimed his 47th minute goal, Kilkenny kept pushing on. Points from Richie Leahy, James Bergin, Conor Hennessy and John Donnelly ensured a tight closing period.

Both teams started slowly, taking some time to settle into the game in the opening stages. After 14 minutes the score was 0-2 to 0-1, with 11 wides between them, Kilkenny accounting for six of those. Galway's first goal was to arrive on the 18th min and that score provided a cushion for the tribesmen at half-time.

On the restart Galway started the brightest claiming their second goal and a point to widen the gap, but Kilkenny kept plugging away. John Donnelly claimed a late goal but a couple of missed goal chances in the closing few minutes proved expensive. In the end Galway marched on, no doubted aided in part by a game against Offaly the previous week but the future for many of our current U-21 cohort is bright.

Scorers for Galway: Evan Niland 1-6 (0-3f), Ciaran Fahy 1-2, Kevin Cooney 0-4, Seán Bleahane 1-0, Brian Concannon 0-1.

Scorers for Kilkenny: James Bergin 0-7 (0-5f, 0-1 '65), John Donnelly 1-2, Richie Leahy 0-3, Adrian Mullen & Conor Hennessy 0-2 each, Colum Prendiville 0-1 each

Galway: 1. Eanna Murphy (Tommy Larkins), 2. Ian O'Shea (Athenry), 3. Fintan Burke (St. Thomas), 4. Shane Bannon (Clarinbridge), 5. Jack Fitzpatrick (Killimordaly), 6. Mark Hughes (Liam Mellows), 7. Sean Loftus (Turloughmore), 8. Tomás Monaghan (Craughwell), 9. Jack Grealish (Gort), 10. Seán Blehane (Ahascragh-Fohenagh), 11. Brian Concannon (Killimordaly), 12. Ciaran Fahy (Ardrahan), 13. Evan Niland (Clarinbridge), 14. Jack Canning (Portumna), 15. Kevin Cooney (Sarsfields),

Subs: 21. Cian Salmon (Clarinbridge) for Canning (half-time), 19. Conor Caulfield (Kilconieran) for Grealish (53), 18. Patrick Foley (Clarinbridge) for Bleahane (60), 20. Ronan Murphy (Tommy Larkins) for Niland (60+4), 24. Andrew Greaney (Craughwell) for Burke (60+5),

Kilkenny: 1. Liam Dunphy (Lisdowney), 2. Michael Cody (Dunamaggin), 3. Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), 4. Ryan Bergin (John Lockes), 5. Tom Kenny (Dicksboro), 6. Martin Keoghan (Tullaroan), 7. Shane Murphy (Glenmore), 8. Edmond Delaney (Conahy Shamrocks),

9. Richie Leahy (Rower-Inistioge), 10. Colum Prendiville (Graigue-Ballycallan), 11. Conor Hennessy (Tullogher Rosbercon), 12. Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), 13. Bill Sheehan (Dicksboro), 14. John Donnelly (Thomastown), 15. James Bergin (Conahy Shamrocks).

Subs: 18. Michael Carey (Young Irelands) for Ryan Bergin (half-time), 19. Matt Kenny (Clara) for Delaney (49), 22. Sean Carey (Young Irelands) for James Bergin (54),

Referee: Alfie Devine (Westmeath),



Captains Adrian Mullen (KK) and Fintan Burke (G) with Referee Alfie Devine



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No Silver, but back on the big Stage

Inter County Minor Hurling Report by Kieran Cuddihy



Kilkenny - All Ireland MH Finalists 2018

Back: Eoin Guilfoyle, George Murphy, Padraig Dempsey, Stephen Keogh, Darragh Maher, Dan Coogan, Harry Walsh, Killian Hogan, Padraic Moylan, William Halpin, Cillian Rudkins, Cathal O'Leary, David Fogarty, Jack Hickey, Kieran O'Neill, Alex Moore, Peter McDonald, Peter Donoghue, Colman O'Sullivan
Front: Jack Morrissey, Jack Buggy, Jack Doyle, Cian Kenny, Jason Brennan, Conor Kelly, Jamie Young, Shane Staunton, Jamie Harkin, Chris Korff, Dylan Crehan, Niall Higgins, Aaron Kinsella, Aaron Murphy, Ciaran Brennan, Andy Hickey. (Willie Dempsey)

Not since the introduction of the "backdoor" in 1997 had the minor championship witnessed such an overhaul as it did in 2018.

The age limit on players was reduced from 18 to 17 and two round-robin stages were brought in. The first would be played at provincial level with a later one at the quarter finals.

It was through this new format that Kilkenny hoped to regain the Irish Press Cup for the first time since 2014.

Their campaign began on 13th May against Dublin in Parnell park in what was billed as Round One of Tier One. While seven goals were scored in all that day, it was the point scoring of Conor Kelly that proved the real difference between the sides.

Dublin enjoyed a decent start to the game, taking advantage of their size and strength advantage. In the third minute, full-forward Luke Swan put the ball in the Kilkenny net. They held this lead for the first quarter before Kilkenny edged in front. The remainder of the first half saw the lead switch over and back again before Kilkenny went into the break with a three point advantage.

Playing with the breeze in the second half, Kilkenny began to pull away, thanks in no small part to the aforementioned Kelly. The O'Loughlin Gaels clubman scored the opening three points of the half. Ultimately he would contribute a haul of 12 points to Kilkenny's winning margin of 3-23 to Dublin's 4-12.

The second outing in the Leinster round-robin for Kilkenny was a home game against Wexford. From early on that day, it looked like it would all be one-way traffic, with Kilkenny taking a four point lead after only five minutes.

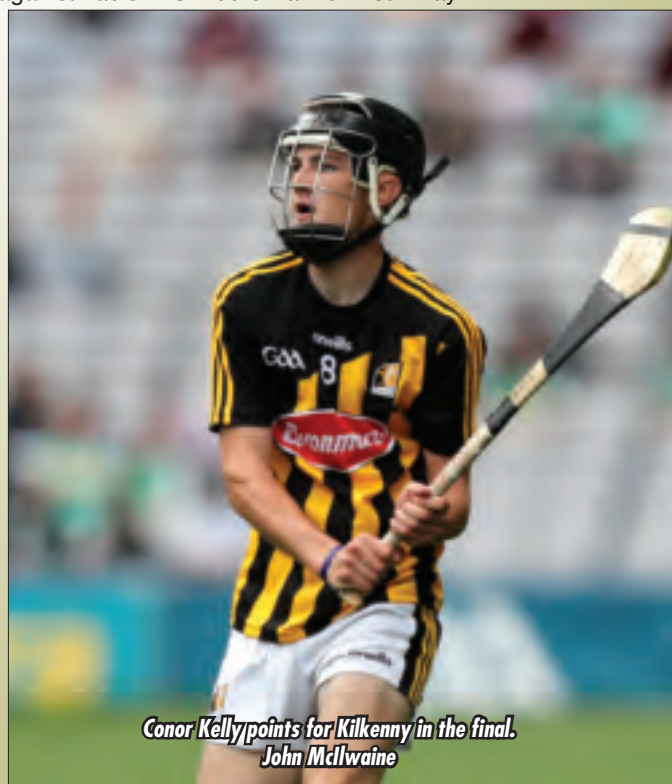
Wexford however played themselves back into the game brilliantly and were it not for the shot stopping of Jason Brennan, Kilkenny could have been in trouble.

The second half though saw Kilkenny completely dominate the contest. They outscored their opposition by 3-12 to 1-3, leaving the Cats with two wins from two.

That would become three from three after the final group game against Laois in O'Moore Park on 25th May.



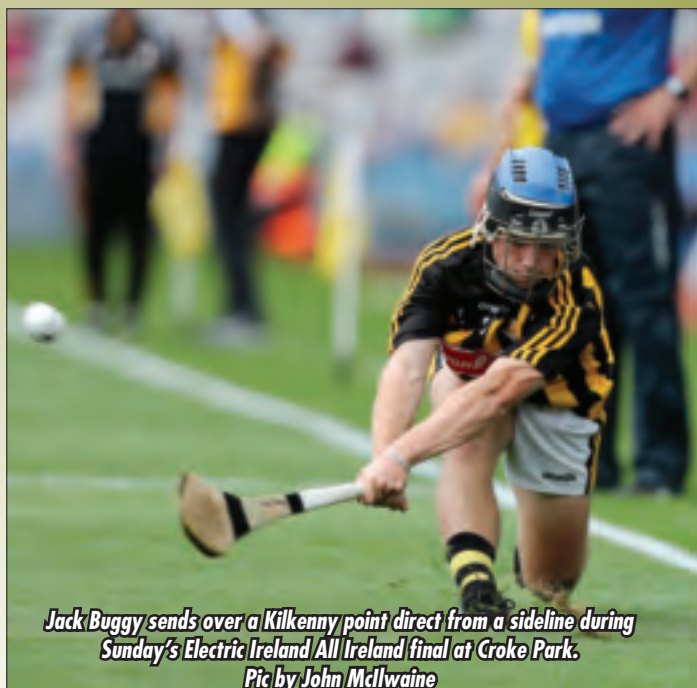
Ciarán Brennan scores a goal in the semi-final.
 Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE



Conor Kelly points for Kilkenny in the final.
 John McIlwaine



Jack Morrissey - John McLlwaine



**Jack Buggy sends over a Kilkenny point direct from a sideline during Sunday's Electric Ireland All Ireland final at Croke Park.
Pic by John McLlwaine**

Cian Kenny, Jack Doyle and Niall Higgins all played their part in what turned out to be a 14 point win.

With the cessation of the group stage, a Leinster quarter final against Westmeath was next on the cards. On a windy day in Mullingar, Kilkenny were never really in trouble throughout the first half, leading by five at half time.

The opening minutes of the second half put paid to any notion the hosts might have had of staging a comeback. Goals from Jack Buggy, George Murphy and Eoin Guilfoyle inside five minutes brought the contest to an effective end.

That high scoring form would follow Kilkenny into a semi-final against Offaly, though the game would prove to be a much tighter affair.

Having had an early goal disallowed, Kilkenny found themselves under pressure from the Faithful county. Ciaran Teehan's goal for the home side on the 17 minute mark ultimately meant that for the first time in 2018, Kilkenny would go into the break with a deficit.

Conor Kelly dragged Kilkenny back into the game early in the second half with some impressive point scoring, only for Offaly to find the net again, this time through DJ McLoughlin.

However, with 11 minutes to go, Cian Kenny found the posts twice before a final point from Kelly saw the game out.

A repeat of the 2017 Leinster final beckoned for Richie Mulrooney's men, and it would prove to be a thriller.

13 goals were scored between Kilkenny and Dublin in a remarkable game with Dublin eventually emerging victorious. Luke Swan, the Dublin full forward who had provided Kilkenny with so many problems back in May, again scored 3-1.

It was Kilkenny who enjoyed the better start in the game, with a goal each from George Murphy and Killian Hogan giving them a seven point lead after just six minutes. Amazingly, by the nine minute mark, Dublin had scored three goals themselves. Things continued in that vein through to half time, with Kilkenny leading by 4-8 to 3-10.

The second half started no differently. Two quick goals from Dublin gave them a five point cushion. A great strike from Conor Kelly found the Dublin net and helped Kilkenny to reduce the deficit but Swan completed his hat-trick moments later. The final scoreline was 6-19 to 7-12 in favour of the Dubs.

The loss meant that instead of Kilkenny progressing straight to an All Ireland semi final, they would instead compete in a second round-group stage.

First up in that group was Galway in Semple Stadium on 15th July. The tribesmen had already played one group game already, beating Limerick the previous weekend. Victory for them would assure them of qualification and so it proved that when they final

whistle went, they were seven points the better team against Kilkenny. That scoring difference would prove a portent of things to come.

Losing to Galway meant that when Kilkenny faced Limerick the following week, it was a 'winner takes all' scenario. This was the third time in four weeks that the Treaty men played in Thurles and in the opening stages, they looked the more at home. After 20 minutes, they were a point ahead but at that point, the game began to turn.

Kilkenny reeled off 1-4 in the closing ten minutes of the first half, Jack Morrissey bagging the goal.

The Noresiders picked up where they left off after the break with Jack Morrissey inflicting yet more damage. A goal from Killian Hogan was the final nail in the Limerick coffin and Kilkenny now found themselves facing into an All Ireland semi final against neighbours Tipperary.

Much like in the game against Limerick, it was in the ten minutes before half time that would be decisive. In this instance, Kilkenny managed a haul of 1-3 without reply which meant they returned to the their dressing room at half time six points up.

That lead was maintained for much of the second half but in the closing minutes, Tipperary piled on the pressure. Substitute Mikey O'Shea scored 1-2 from play but they had left themselves to high a mountain to climb.

A two point victory meant that Kilkenny were through to their first All Ireland final in four years. Galway would be the opposition, a repeat of the quarter final group fixture played a month previously. Much as they had done in other games, a lightning start put Kilkenny in the driving seat. They hit the first four points of the game without reply. The last of those was a superb sideline cut from Ciaran Brennan.

With that, Galway awoke from their slumber and reeled off the next six points. Not to be deterred, Kilkenny fought back into the lead with, remarkably, another point from a lineball. This time from the hurl of Jack Buggy.

By half time, Kilkenny were two up. The opening stages of the second half maintained these tight margins, but by the beginning of the fourth quarter, Galway had begun to show their class.

A wonderful solo effort from Evan Duggan put them three up for the first time and they would go on to extend that lead.

Despite a late goal chance from Kilkenny, Galway ran out victors on a scoreline of 0-21 to 0-14, thereby repeating their seven point winning margin from July.

For the fourth year in succession, Kilkenny would be returning home without an All Ireland but much solace can be taken from the level of their performances throughout the campaign and their return to the biggest stage.

Shake Up Of Handball On The Horizon

Handball Report by Martin Lalor PRO



Photo: Willie Dempsey

Kilkenny Handball Board Convention in Nowlan Park in December 2017.

Back: Ray Ryan (Kilfane), Tom O'Keeffe (Kilfane), Sean Love (Clogh), Ned Lawlor (Clogh), Liam Drennan (Galmoy), Mark Brennan (Talbots Inch) and Jim Dooley (O'Loughlins)
Middle: Niall Ahearne (Mullinavat), Sean Walsh (Mullinavat), Dennis Law (Mullinavat), Betty Funchion (Kells), Triona Drennan (Galmoy), Sean Foley (Windgap),

Jim Dalton (Kells), Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch).

Front: Gerry Murphy (Goresbridge), Eddie English (Goresbridge), Michael O'Shea (Windgap), Martin Lalor (Talbots Inch), Liam Mahon (Goresbridge), Billy Love (Clogh),
 Brigid Mulholland (O'Loughlins) and Seamus Reade (Talbots Inch)

The Handball year for 2018 was another busy time for all the people involved in the sport. There was plenty of activity on the courts of Ireland and at the World championships in Minneapolis, but the main talking point of the year were the proposals for the growth and development of the game. These proposals have generated considerable debate across the country and have led to excitement regards the future of handball.

On the playing front the Kilkenny players were very active during 2018 with success on the National and International stage. With local players involved in all codes of handball there were plenty of titles brought back to the county during the year.

The highlights of the year were the victories in the All Ireland 60 x 30 Intermediate and Minor championships. Here the county was the dominant force in the Minor grade where it won both titles on offer along with success in the Intermediate Singles championship.

60 x 30 - As one of the strongest participating counties in the 60 x 30 championships there was All Ireland success for Kilkenny in a number of adult and juvenile grades. The county had some good outings in Croke Park during the season when winning Minor and Intermediate titles. In early October Jack Holden from Kilfane brought home the All Ireland Minor Singles title to his club. The young player dominated the Leinster championship and was a comfortable winner over Cavan, 21-8, 21-7 in his All Ireland semi-final. The Kilfane player continued this form in the final against Daire Keane (Kerry) as he controlled the match when winning in two games, 21-12, 21-8. This was the second time the club has won this title with the previous winner Liam Egan winning in 1950.

Later in the month it was the turn of the Clogh

club to dominate at headquarters. First up was the All Ireland Minor Doubles final with Ciaran Cooney and Billy O'Neill taking on Cork's Conor Walsh and Cian O'Driscoll. The Kilkenny duo had improved steadily throughout the campaign and having defeated Cavan in three sets in the semi-final they were quietly confident of success in the final. A good start was rewarded by them taking the first set 21-10 with the Munster duo levelling the match when winning the second 21-11. The third, and deciding set, was a close affair up to 10 when Ciaran and Billy made a break and secured the title when winning the game 21-10. A great win for the Clogh pair who brought the title back to Kilkenny for the first time since 2005.

To complete a good season for the North Kilkenny club Brian Mahon captured the Intermediate Singles title with a victory over Waterford in the final. This was a tremendous feat for Brian as he had to juggle the traditional game along with his successful exploits at the World championships in August. His Leinster championship resulted in a win over Wexford in the provincial final. This was followed up with a two set victory over Ryan Mullan (Tyrone) in the semi-final to set up an All Ireland final meeting with Waterford's Philip Butler. Here Brian was dominant in the first game when winning 21-9, with the Munster player upping his game to take the second set 21-13. In the third game Brian regained the advantage to close out the match 21-13, and secure the Intermediate Singles crown for the county whose last victory in this grade was in 2009.

For the second year running the Clogh/Kilfane pairing of Ciara Mahon and Aoife Holden contested the Ladies Open Doubles final where they lost to Cork's six in a row chasing pair Catriona Casey and Aishling O'Keeffe. In the



All Ireland 60x 30 Minor Doubles champions Billy O'Neill and Ciaran Cooney from Clogh



All Ireland 40 x 20 U21 Doubles champions Padraig Cooney and Shane Dunne from Clogh



Amy Brennan (Clogh) winner of the Girls All Ireland U14 Singles title



All Ireland 60 x 30 Boys U14 Doubles champions Kyle Jordan and Sean O'Keeffe with defeated finalists and Handball President Joe Masterson.

Mens Open Doubles Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) and Keith Bourke (O'Loughlins) were beaten by eventual champions Meath's Garry McConnell and Brian Carroll at the semi-final stage.

Otherwise in the adult 60 x 30 season it was our Doubles competitors who brought home national success when winning two All Ireland titles. In Emerald Masters A Doubles Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins) and Eamonn Purcell (Windgap) reversed the 40 x 20 defeat to Cork when defeating John Herlihy and John Hedigan in the final 21-6, 9-21, 21-17, and in Diamond Masters A Doubles Johnny Brennan (Mothel) and Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins) needed three sets to defeat Tipperary's Billy and Pakie Mullins 7-21, 2-14, 21-12. The county also suffered defeats in U21 Doubles where Dylan Caulfield lost to Galway, in Masters B Doubles when John Morrissey (O'Loughlins) and Willie Murphy (Kilfane) were defeated by Limerick and in Ladies Junior B Doubles Windgap's Margaret Purcell and Caoimhe O'Shea had to concede a walkover in the final due to injury.

The county contested four All Ireland Singles finals which all resulted in defeats. In the U21 final Dylan Caulfield (Kilfane) lost out to Diarmuid Mulkerrins from Galway 21-5, 21-6 and in the Diamond Masters Singles decider Johnny Brennan (Mothel) found the going tough when losing to Billy Mullins (Tipperary) 21-5, 21-12. There was no luck for our ladies in their two finals with Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane) going down to the impressive Sinead Maher (Tipperary) 21-10, 21-3 in Junior Singles and Margaret Purcell (Windgap) coming out on the wrong side of a 21-6, 21-4 score line to Laura Finn (Sligo).

The county's juvenile had a very successful year in the traditional big court championships. The young Kilkenny players contested seven finals winning titles in four grades. First up to collect a winners medal was Amy Brennan (Clogh) who was victorious in the Girls U14 final when she defeated Clodagh Munroe (Tyrone) in two sets. Also successful for the Clogh club on the day was Kyle Dunne as he produced a fantastic display to win the Boys U16 title with a tie break defeat of Eoghan McGinnity from Monaghan. The Kilfane club also had two winners in Boys U14 Doubles and Girls U16 Singles. The U14 crown was won by Kyle Jordan and Sean O'Keeffe in impressive style by overcoming the strong challenge of Charlie Treen/Sean Callaghan (Waterford) in three sets and in the Girls U16 decider Roisin O'Keeffe was in top form when comfortably defeating Chloe Philpott from Clare in two games.

Unfortunately the county suffered three defeats at the finals when James Love (Clogh) and Tom Carroll (Talbots Inch) were beaten in Boys U17 Doubles by Cork, Eoin O'Brien (Windgap) lost his U17 Singles decider to Waterford and in Girls U16 Doubles Aine Duggan and Doireann Knox were runners up to Tipperary.

40 x 20

-The first action of the year was in the 40 x 20 Singles and Juvenile championships which were completed in Kingscourt on the St. Patricks weekend. Here Kilkenny contested adult and juvenile All Ireland finals with success in three under age grades. In the Minor Singles final, Eoin Brennan (Kells) was defeated for the second consecutive year when he lost out to Tiarnan Agnew (Clare) 21-8, 21-9 and in Ladies Junior B Singles, Margaret Purcell (Windgap) lost to Eimear Ní Bhiadha (Galway) 2-14, 21-11.

On the Bank Holiday Monday it was the turn

of the county's juveniles to make their way to Kingscourt as they played in six All Ireland finals. Here the county collected three titles when winning the Boys U14 and U16 Doubles and U17 Singles championships. In Boys U14 Doubles, Daniel Hanrahan and Thomas Sharkey from Galmoy defeated Conor Owens/Patrick McCann (Tyrone) 15-7, 15-8 to claim the title and in the Boys U16 Doubles, Kyle Dunne (Clogh) and Jack Doyle (Windgap) beat Tipperary's Jack McGrath and Conor O'Dwyer 21-4, 21-7. Completing the Kilkenny wins at the Cavan venue, Jack Holden (Kilfane) was a comfortable winner of the Boys U17 Singles grade when defeating his Donegal opponent 21-5, 21-11.

In the Girls U14 and U16 Singles finals, Amy Brennan (Clogh) and Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilfane) lost out to Tyrone opposition. Amy lost her final 15-10, 15-8 and Roisin was beaten 21-9, 21-15 by her Northern opponent. There was also defeat for John Doheny (Galmoy) in Boys U15 Singles as he was beaten by Tipperary by two sets to one.

To complete the 40 x 20 season the All Ireland Doubles finals were also played at the Cavan venue with the county collecting two titles. The Clogh duo Shane Dunne and Padraig Cooney completed a good U21 campaign with a 21-7, 21-13 over Tipperary's Colin Ryan/Jason English and in Silver Masters A Doubles Eddie Bourke (O'Loughlins) and Willie Holden (Kilfane) defeated Fergal Coughan and Tom Kirby (Clare) in three games, 21-12, 13-21, 15-21.

Elsewhere there was defeat for Eoin Brennan (Kells) / Padraig Foley (Windgap) in Minor Doubles when losing to Clare, in Ladies Junior B Doubles Windgap duo Margaret Purcell and Caoimhe O'Shea lost to Galway. Defeat was also the order of the day in Ladies Junior Doubles when Aoife Holden (Kilfane) and Claire Love (Clogh) lost out to a strong Tipperary pair and in Emerald Masters Doubles Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins) and Eamonn Purcell (Windgap) were defeated in three sets by Cork. There was also disappointment in Junior B Doubles as Kells duo Anthony Martin and Diarmuid Burke from Kells came out on the wrong side of a 2-1 defeat to Waterford, and in Intermediate Doubles Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) and Brendan Burke (Kells) came up short against Cork.

World's

The World Handball Championships were played in Minneapolis, USA during ten days in August. The championships were dominated by the travelling Irish players with all the major grades coming back to Ireland. The poor performance of the host country in almost all grades leaves the future of these championships up for debate before they return to Ireland in 2021. From Kilkenny's point of view the travelling party returned with medals in a number of competitions.

In the Men's B championship, Brian Mahon (Clogh) was top seed in the grade and he lived up to the favourites tag by claiming the title. Coming through a field of forty nine entrants the Clogh player was in great form all week and recorded some notable wins along the way. In the decider he faced the second seed Seamus O'Conghaile from Galway in a match that went to the tie break set. In the Mens 23 and under grade, Brian and his partner Galen Riordan (Wexford) toppled the top seeds, Daniel Hedigan / Michael Hedigan (Cork) in an exciting final, 21-14, 20-21, 11-4 to add another



Brian Mahon from Clogh with the Intermediate Singles trophy after defeating Waterford in the final



Clogh girls who won the Division 1 40 x 20 title at Feile Na Gael



Boys U14 All Ireland 40 x 20 champions Daniel Hanrahan and Thomas Sharkey from the Galmoy club



All Ireland Minor Singles 60 x 30 champion Jack Holden from Kilfane with GAA Handball President Joe Masterson



All Ireland 60 x 30 Diamond Masters A Doubles champions Johnny Brennan and Joe Hennessy



Kilfane Team which won the 2018 Feile na Gael Division 1 60 x 30 competition.

gold medal to his growing collection of trophies. Elsewhere at the championships Shane Dunne (Clogh) was part of the Irish team having won the right to represent when winning the Irish National 19 and under title earlier in the year. The North Kilkenny player teamed up with Sean Kerr (Tyrone) to claim the 19 and under Doubles crown. In the Ladies under 23 grade Ciara Mahon (Clogh) was defeated in the final by Ciana Ni Churraoin (Galway) and in Girls 19and under Doubles Aoife Holden (Kilfane) partnered Ella Donnellan (Clare) to a silver medal when losing the decider to a Kildare pair.

In the juvenile grades players from Kilfane and Mothel will have fond memories of these championship. In the Boys 13 and under grade Kyle Jordan was the dominant player when winning all four titles on offer over the ten days, two Wall ball and two Four Wall. His sister Katie also collected two gold medals, one each in the Four wall and Wall ball girls 11 and under grade.

There was also glory for Noelle Dowling from Mothel when she teamed up with Clodagh Munroe (Tyrone) to win the girls Wall Ball 15 and under Doubles title. In the girls 15 and under four wall event, Noelle progressed all the way to the final where she lost out to top seed from Tyrone.

40 x 20 Nationals

The Irish Nationals produced two winners for the county when Shane Dunne (Clogh) won the 19 and under crown and Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) captured the 13 and under title. In winning a very tough 19 and under title the Clogh player secured his place on the Irish team that competed at the World championships in the USA.

Colleges

All Ireland 40 x 20 results

Junior Girls Singles

Final: Mairead Fox (Loreto, Omagh) dft Amy Brennan (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) 15-9, 15-12

Junior Boys Singles

Final: Billy Drennan (Kilkenny CBS) dft Rory Grace (Nenagh College) 15-9, 15-3

Junior Boys Doubles

Final: Tiernan Slattery/Patrick Crotty (Scariff CC, Clare) dft Jim O'Connor/John Doheny (Col Mhuire Johnstown, Kilkenny) 15-10, 13-15, 15-14

Intermediate Boys Doubles

Final: Antoin Fox/Lorcan McBride (Omagh CBS) dft Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill (Castlecomer CS) 15-6, 15-2

Senior Boys Doubles

Final: Sean McAdams/Cormac Doheny (Borrisokane CC, Tipperary) dft Ciaran Cooney/Aidan Barry (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) 7-15, 15-11, 15-13

All Ireland 60 x 30 results

GSD Final: Dearbhail & Roisin O'Keeffe (Grennan College, Kilkenny) dft Cuilleann Bourke/Claire Reynolds (Balla SS, Mayo) 15-10, 15-5

BSS Final: Jack Holden (Grennan College, Kilkenny) W/O Nathan Corbett (Balla SS, Mayo)

BJD Final: Kyle Jordan/Conor Holden (Grennan College, Kilkenny) dft Cormac Finn/Shane Rafferty (Coldiste Muire, Sligo) 15-4, 15-3

BID Final: Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill (Castlecomer CS,

Kilkenny) dft Brian McAleer/Jack Darcy (Omagh CBS) 15-0, 15-1

GJS Final: Amy Brennan (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) dft Sadhbh Ni Fhlaithearta (C na Coirbe, Galway) 15-0, 15-9

BJS Final: Mikey Kelly (Clarín College, Galway) dft Luke Flanagan (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) 15-1, 15-0

BIS Final: Eoghan McGinnity (St. Macartan's, Monaghan) dft Billy Drennan (Kilkenny CBS) 15-4, 15-10

BSD Final: Ciaran Cooney/Jamie Maher (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) dft Konrad Kowal/Justas Dumbinskas (St. Macartan's, Monaghan) 15-11, 15-2

3rd Level – In the third level Intervarsities 60 x 30 championships Aloife Holden (DCU) and Shane Dunne (Tralee IT) captured the Ladies and Mens Open titles.

Juvenile Teams

In the 40 x 20 Juvenile team events there was a mixed bag of results with the U12/13 team reaching the All Ireland final where they lost to Cork, 76-65 and in the U14/15 competition the Kilkenny boys reached the decider and defeated their Cork opponents 77-72 in a thrilling contest.

All Ireland Winning U14/15 team; Conor Holden (Kilfane), Luke Flannigan and Dominic Bolster (Clogh), Harry Delaney (Kells), David Sherman and Gearoid Phelan (Galmoy), Sean Purcell and Adam O'Shea (Windgap), Mickey Kerwin (Glenmore).

All Ireland Runners Up U12/13 team; ; Niall Drennan (Galmoy),Conor Doyle (Windgap) John Hayes, Cathal Buckley (Kells), Michael Brennan (Clogh), David Holden (Kilfane), James Purcell (Windgap) and Joseph Prendergast (Kells).

Wall Ball – There was only one victory for Kilkenny in the Irish Nationals in Mayo when Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) had a comprehensive 30-3 win over another local player Harry Delaney (Kells) in the Boys 13 and under division.

Feile na Gael

– The county had a successful time at the annual handball event when winning the Division 1 title in the Girls 40 x 20 and the Boys 60 x 30 categories along with the Boys Division 5 crown. There was also wins in the skills section with Amy Brennan (Clogh) victorious in Girls 40 x 20 Division 1 and Sean O'Keeffe (Kilfane) coming out on top in the Boys 60 x 30 Division 1 section.

Winners

Boys 60 X 30 Division 1 - Kilfane - Conor Holden, Kyle Jordan, Alex Begley, Sean O'Keeffe and Eanna O'Keeffe.

Girls 40 X 20 Division 1 – Clogh - Lauren Power, Amy Brennan, Aisling Cooney, Katie Brennan and Holly Byrne.

Boys 40 X 20 Division 5 – Clogh - Eamon Power, Bobby Brennan, Dominic Bolster, Luke Flanagan and Michael Brennan

She's Ace

At the very popular ladies only event in Mayo there were two winners from Kilkenny. In girls 13 and under Amy Brennan (Clogh) defeated Tyrone 25-18 in the final and in girls 15 and under Noelle Dowling (Mothel) had a narrow 25-23 win over Roisin O'Keeffe from Kilfane.



Kilfane group with medals following World Handball championships, including Willie Holden, Katie Jordan, Kyle Jordan and Aoife Holden



All Ireland U16 40 x 20 Doubles champions Kyle Dunne and Jack Doyle with Joe Masterson. Kyle also won the U16 Singles 60 x 30 title.



All Ireland Ladies 60 x 30 Doubles runners up Aoife Holden (Kilfane) and Ciara Mahon (Clogh)



Noelle Dowling from Mothel pictures with her Gold and Silver medals from the World Handball championships in Minnesota.



All Ireland 60 x 30 Emerald Masters Doubles champions Eamonn Purcell (Windgap) and Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins)



Roisin O'Keeffe from Kilfane after winning the Girls 60 x 30 All Ireland U16 Singles title with beaten finalist Chloe Philpott from Clare and Joe Masterson

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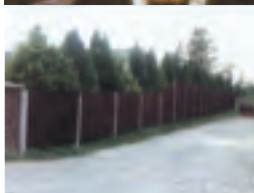
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Paddy Deegan

Getting to Like the No.4 Jersey

By Conor Denieffe



Over the last two years Kilkenny supporters have witnessed the integration of a large number of new players into the Kilkenny Senior Hurling panel and team and are following those players' progress with interest and encouragement. One of those young players is O'Loughlin Gaels, Paddy Deegan who, having played a number of games for Kilkenny senior team around the midfield area in 2017 has become domiciled in the full back line in the last year. Speaking to Paddy it is apparent that, like many players, he is happy to play anywhere but states he has become accustomed to and grown to like the corner back role.

Son of former O'Loughlin Gaels player Eugene and with Mam, Mary, hailing from the Galvin family of Clara, Paddy was probably always destined to be a hurler. He can remember coming to St. John's Park as an Under 6 with coach Hugh Mahon in charge. Weather was no issue as there was always the option of ground hurling in the Hall on rainy days. On to St. John's senior school where there was plenty of hurling with teacher Brian Roche looking after teams with Padraig O'Neill and John Cooney providing the support. At second level with Kilkenny CBS there was to be the disappointment of losing three senior All Ireland Colleges finals in a row against a Jason Forde inspired Nenagh CBS team, a combined Waterford Colleges team featuring a number of current Waterford players and old rivals St. Kieran's College.

Strangely, while Paddy was a constant on O'Loughlin Gaels underage teams, he enjoyed little or no success. His team seemed to fall in between two very successful groups



Paddy Deegan grabs a high ball during the Leinster Hurling Final in Croke Park. Pic by John McIlwaine



11 December 2013; Paddy Deegan, Kilkenny C.B.S., in action against Liam Blanchfield and Sean Morrissey, back, St. Kieran's. Leinster Post Primary School Senior Hurling "A" League Final, Kilkenny C.B.S. v St. Kieran's, Kilkenny, Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. Picture credit: Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE

representing the St. John's Park outfit and Paddy was a minor player before he won an underage championship match with his club. Having done so that team reached the County Minor final before losing out to a talented Rower Inistioge team. His first championship title was at under 21 level in 2015 when O'Loughlin Gaels defeated

Glenmore in the county final. This success was followed quickly with a county senior title the following year with a victory over Ballyhale Shamrocks.

Having spent time on the training panel, a full call up to the county senior panel followed the January after the County

Final success. A student in Maynooth University at the time without a car Paddy had to travel from there to Dublin and get a bus to Kilkenny for training for a time, before Richie Hogan came to the rescue, providing transport to and from Dublin. Paddy made his first senior appearance for Kilkenny as a sub against Waterford in a league game and got his first start in the following game against Cork. The O'Loughlin Gaels man was on his way.

Asked to pick his favourite players growing up Paddy identifies fellow O'Loughlin Gaels players Brian Hogan and Martin Comerford along with club stalwarts Alan O'Brien, Alan Geoghegan and Brian Kelly while at County level Tommy Walsh and JJ Delaney would be his choice as two of the best defenders ever.

While Paddy can see the benefit of the new inter county structure for the players involved and for supporters, he cautions that he would not be too happy if he were a club player as they suffered badly under the new system this year, with some of the best months of the year for hurling passing by with no championship games.

Looking forward, following on Kilkenny's Allianz Hurling League success and an encouraging championship Paddy feels the outlook is extremely positive and with the good young players coming through Kilkenny will be winning All Irelands again in the near future.



Paddy Deegan in action against Paddy Murphy of Offaly during the Leinster GAA Hurling Senior Championship Round 2 match between Kilkenny and Offaly at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Paddy Deegan



THE WEXFORD MAN IN THE HILLS

Barrie Henriques meets Jim Bolger

The elevation of Wexford's J.S. Bolger to the pantheon of equine Royalty is a story worth the telling by any standards. It is a story of courage, entrepreneurial nous, luck, and downright cussedness. From a very early age he knew that his DNA would shuffle him towards the equine world, even though he was a qualified Accountant in the Motor Industry. He was a showjumper of modest success, and all through his show jumping sojourn, he was convinced beyond redemption that his life's future would most definitely be corralled-pardon the pun- by horses of one denomination or another. But racing was his first equine love. However whilst his show jumping CV career was of a modest spectre, he did manage to engage a certain Major Muammar Gadafi in a business transaction which saw cash exchanged for a decent show jumper.

He began in the sport with six of "my own horses", or to be correct, "six of our own horses" he smiled. Maybe the fact that his wife Jackie was transiting their cosy sitting room at the time prompted the meticulous Jim to make the hurried correction. Having taken out his Trainers license in July 1976, he had four winners. It wasn't exactly burning the bushes time as far as racing headlines were concerned, but it was striking the match time. "Two of the winners came in the same day, one in Clonmel and one in the Curragh", he beamed. Far greater than I have chronicled the rise and rise of one of Wexford's finest in the high rolling world of equine perfection. It is well known that whilst JS Bolger Racing in '76 had barely rippled the waters of racing excellence, the following year, with a little help from friends swelling the yard to 18 equine athletes, he rattled off 22 winners. The acorn of success had broken through the top soil! The pragmatic Jim Bolger was fully aware that the realisation of his ambitions would need a relocation of operation. He got a fortuitous break when the iconic Nugent racing family inquired if he could be interested in leasing Lohunda Park on the Clonsilla Road, not too removed from his own 22-box yard on the Coolmine Road, Clonsilla, where he had started. His equine stock had risen to 35 horses including 10 from Sir Hugh's Family.

The Bolger family tree is an impressive creation of various tangents. Jim worked on the Family farm in Wexford with his six siblings, as he attended and negotiated a high standard of Education with the Christiaan Brothers in Enniscorthy. He became very familiar with the hard-work ethic that was, and still is his mantra for success. With no Television, telephones only with the local Priest, Doctor, or Garda, Jim Bolger never saw a film until his 16th Birthday. He never saw a double decker bus until he went to Dublin as a cost clerk in an electrical firm. A pair of horses was the unaffordable Massey Ferguson of many Farming families including the Bolgers. His Aunt was married to the Irish Free State's first Ambassador to Washington, Robert Brennan, as well as being the Founder of the Irish Press newspaper, and National Director of Elections for Arthur Griffiths and Michael Collins's Sinn Féin Party. He had been condemned to death after the 1916 Rising, but was sent to Frangach instead with Collins and many more.

Jim spoke with a wry smile of the days in Coolmine Road and how the sale of a show jumper for £13,000 precipitated his "arrival" into racing, with an eight boxes at the back of the house. He spoke of the gallops in the Phoenix Park which finished outside the American Embassy, when Jackie would pick up the tack etc. He remembered when they only had three staff, one of whom, David Downey, still plays an active role to this day. He recalled with obvious reflected satisfaction that his first Group one winner was a filly called Condessa. He spoke of a man who gave him 20k to buy a horse for him. "I bought Condessa for 13k but I just couldn't for the life of me come near anything else, so I had to give him back 7k. That hurt, I can tell you. Condessa proved a very lucrative purchase for the owner, as she won the Yorkshire Oaks in 1982 against all the odds in a hugely eventful race. We also sold her on for £350k, so all were happy with that arrangement. He had two Group One victories in 1983

when Give Thanks won the Irish Oaks and the Musadora, and Flame of Tara won the Coronation Stakes at Ascot. The astute Bolger recalled how he tried to buy Give Thanks at the Newmarket sales, but a retired American Banker, Ogden White was "carrying too heavy" for the Bolger purse. However when Jim was asked for his opinion about the filly, his honest appraisal was enough for the American to plunge. The silver lining to the cloud of disappointment came when Mr Ogden White asked Jim to train her, hence the story about Give Thanks.

In '82, Jim Bolger arrived in Kilkenny. He built two gallops- one a sand gallop- with both rising 150 feet. He also started a stud farm down in Wexford (Redmondstown) managed by his brother Paddy. It was not a bed of roses for JS Bolger Racing. They sailed close to the wind on the books betimes. Never actually insolvent in his own words, but there were times when they were exposed in matters of book balancing. In 1992 the fastest horse ever to win the Irish Derby, St Jovite came storming home pulling a train to win by 12 lengths. He coupled the King George with the Derby. A magnificent athlete, his success was not without controversy. An eleventh hour decision by the Turf Stewards freed Christy Roche to take the mount. It was not the first nor would it be the last time that Jim Bolger and Officialdom would face-off across the table of autocracy. He was the best racehorse in the World and rated as such that year.

For a man who was a late vocation to the serious business of racing,



Jim Bolger had an uncanny methodology in equine judgement. Even before he got serious about his ambition, he would be a floater at all of the major bloodstock auctions, in particular Goffs. After the St. Jovite carousel of euphoria had slowed, he invested in a stallion called Last Tycoon. A Breeders Cup winner, with an astonishing reputation and bloodline. He rolled the dice, and piled on the chips. It was a disaster that practically dismantled JS Bolger Racing. A mistake admitted Jim. However with the cool head and encouragement of Jackie beside him, he started to build up his stock of good mares. He went "all in" backing the stallion Galileo. JS Bolger struck gold.

If you have a mind to, grab a DVD "The Master of Cool" produced by Setanta. It's all there for the World to marvel at. Given that many of the Bolger horses are carrying names as Gaelge, I asked him about his fluency with the Irish language. "I love the language, and whilst I would not be very fluent, it wouldn't bother me if the News was as Gaelge or Béarla. English bookies and indeed some Irish commentators have problems with pronunciation, but they compromise by calling "the Bolger horse", he smiled.

The World and his Mother now know that the Racing Empire up in Kilkenny's Coolcullen is a mecca of equine excellence and success. Its racing progeny have graced the race courses from Kilkenny to the US, France, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, et al. In equine parlance the name Bolger is emblazoned in neon wherever horse racing is mentioned. If racing was and still is Jim Bolger's greatest sporting love, you would not be more than the "minimum distance" behind, if you suggested that hurling was a close second. He was around as a nipper when the greatest band of Wexford hurlers swept all before them during the halcyon days of Rackards, Wheeler, O'Donnell, Flood, Morrisseys, English – I could stay rattling on. He had a particular grá for the elder Nickey. Any time you would mention that era, those giants of hurlers, the battles with Cork



Trading Leather - Jim Bolger's 2013 Irish Derby Winner with Kevin Manning aboard.

and Galway, and Kilkenny, the Bolger persona would bubble with the impossible hope that a time warp could be reversed. "I met Ned Wheeler the other day at poor Tom Neville's funeral", he said. "Still as straight as a rush. A great Wexford man", he smiled.

And so we come to Newbridge, hurling, and the Cancer Research annual game in St. Conleth's Park. The how, why, who, and when was put to the Master of Cool. "It was going on between myself and Davy Russell. I am sure that if Davy wasn't a jockey that he could have won an All Ireland with Cork at some stage. He was that good. He was aware that there were plenty of hurling men on my staff including myself, and he persisted with the query of when are all ye Kilkenny lads going to take on the jockeys. Davy persisted for a couple of years, and then I met Professor Fitzpatrick who was doing marvellous things in the field of Cancer research. He asked me could I come up with something to raise money for his Research. I suggested that we could broaden the idea to include golden oldies, former stars of other sports and have a 15 a side game of hurling. We could go somewhere with the game, have an admission fee etc. get a bit of sponsorship as well. Davy was still pushing the idea, when I met a great man, the Chairman of the Kildare County Board Jack Wall –also a labour TD for South Kildare- at a function. I told him about the idea, and he asked why not play in Newbridge. I asked if he was offering the ground gratis, and he was delighted to do so. I was somewhat apprehensive initially, but we had over 2,000 the first day, and last year we had over 5,500 coming through the gates. We have a few very big sponsors but most of the money-and we are closing on the €1m figure-is

from individuals. The agreed house rules initially were that all players had some affinity with the racing industry. I don't know whether Davy or I took a bit of a swerve, but eventually guests became the norm, and a more welcome norm it became. Last year for instance we had 83 All Ireland medallists and 66 All Stars playing. It is a PR exercise of monumental value, as everybody stays around for photographs, and autographs. I have only had one refusal over all of the years. Players and supporters come from all over the land in support. It is such a marvellous occasion. We obviously don't go near teams who are in an All Ireland Final, but the golden oldies like DJ Carey, Ollie Canning, Damien Fitzhenry, Lee Chin, and many, many others show up every year. Umpires include Colm O'Rourke, Ronnie Delaney, Ted Walsh, Tadhg Furlong and Sean O'Brien. Lineswomen are Katie Walsh and Miriam O'Callaghan".

We spoke further about the state of hurling. He gloried in the excitement of the Championship scene. His next game was to watch his own club Oylgate play in the Leinster Junior club Championship. He would be totally agin the idea of a Professional game. He is certain that even though the game is such a terrific spectacle presently, but the players of yore were equally as good, from a relative viewpoint.

I could give many hours talking to Jim Bolger. My opinion of him has not changed one iota from the first time we met. He is still the most modest, decent, God-fearing individual, who still subscribes to this mantra of expecting nothing more from his fellow man than an honest attention to everything he does and says.



KILKENNY SUPPORTERS CLUB Ag na Rásaí 2018

Photos: Willie Dempsey

Gowran Park, Saturday 23rd June 2018



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'Cross of Cashel' winning captains Honoured at Supporters' Club Race Day

Back: Jimmy Walsh Cathaoirleach CLG, Jackie Tyrrell, Philly Larkin, Peter Chap Cleere, Mayor Kilkenny, Kevin Fennelly, Eamon Aylward Cathaoirleach Kilkenny Co Council, Neill Lyng (representing his father Michael) Michael Fennelly (representing his son Michael)

Front: James Dowling, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Ger Fennelly, Pat McCorry of McCorry Construction who sponsored the event, Noel Hickey, Eoin Crowley representing his uncle Seamus Delahunty, Martin Brennan representing his son Jamesie Brennan.

Another Cruel End.....

Camogie Inter-county Year Review by PRO Aoife Ianigan



SENIOR

The first league match, Kilkenny travelled to Clonlara to play Clare and were 10-point winners, 1-13 to 1-3. In the second match away to Dublin, winning 3-17 to 3-5. Waterford were their third-round opponents and Kilkenny were nine-point winners, 1-14 to 0-8. Up next they played Limerick and they suffered a five-point defeat, 1-9 to 1-14. In the last group match, they played Meath in Trim. They had an emphatic win, 2-19 to 0-6

In the Semi-final, Kilkenny played Galway in Banagher. Kilkenny ground out a hard-earned victory, 2-10 to 1-9 to set up another final meeting with Cork. The League Final was played as a double header with the Hurling League Final in Nowlan Park. Kilkenny got off to a great start leading by 0-11 to 0-1 after 20 minutes. Cork fought back and Kilkenny won by the minimum 0-15 to 1-11. It was 3 in a row League titles for Kilkenny

For the Leinster Championship, they played Laois in the Quarter Final. They were victorious 6-20 to 1-7. In the Semi-final, they face Wexford and won comfortably 5-13 to 0-12. This set up for a repeat of last years Leinster Final against a strong determined Offaly side. The final was played in Birr. After a closely contested Final, Kilkenny won by two points, 1-14 to 1-12

In the first game of the All-Ireland Series, Kilkenny travelled to Bruff to play Limerick. After a slow start to the game, that saw them down 0-6 to 0-8 at half time, they came out all guns blazing in the second half and swept Limerick



Katie Power of Kilkenny in action against Pamela Mackey of Cork during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final
Stephen McCarthy/SPORTSFILE

aside winning 2-18 to 0-11. Their second game, Kilkenny played Waterford on a sun scorched Walsh Park, winning 1-13 to 0-10. Clare were their next opponents in a home match in Ballyragget. Kilkenny donned their new white away jersey. It was a completely one-sided affair with Kilkenny winning 4-13 to 0-2. In the last group game, Kilkenny played Galway in Nowlan Park. In a hotly contested match, Kilkenny were victorious 1-17 to 0-13.

Kilkenny were through to the All-Ireland Semi Final as Group 1 winners and they had to wait until two weeks later to know their opponents following the Quarter Finals. After these matches, Galway qualified for the semi-final against Kilkenny. This was a much tighter affair with Galway putting Kilkenny under a lot of pressure. Katie Power's goal in the 48th minute was the decisive score of the match, Kilkenny winning 1-10 to 1-7. This set up a repeat of the last two years All-Irelands against Cork



Kilkenny captain Shelly Farrell lifts the cup following the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final
Stephen McCarthy/SPORTSFILE

The All-Ireland Final was a tough contest again this year. After a slow start to the game which saw Cork awarded a Penalty in the 9th minute, Kilkenny came back into the match and it was level 0-8 a piece at the interval. The match was nip & tuck during the second half, with not more than two points separating them. Heading towards the closing stages, Cork took the lead through a Chloe Sigerson free, Denise Gaule equalised a minute later. But then Cork were awarded a dubious free and Orla Cotter converted the free which was the winning point. It was again a very cruel end to a good year for the Seniors

Kilkenny Senior All-Ireland Final Team – Emma Kavanagh, Colette Dormer, Catherine Foley, Grace Walsh, Claire Phelan, Anne Dalton, Edwina Keane, Davina Tobin, Meighan Farrell, Julieann Malone, Anna Farrell, Denise Gaule, Shelly Farrell, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty

Subs – Jacqui Frisby, Michelle Teehan, Jenny Clifford, Miriam Walsh, Kelly Ann Doyle, Danielle Morrissey, Aoife Doyle, Grace O'Donnell, Roisin Phelan, Niamh Deely



Kilkenny Senior Leinster Champions

INTERMEDIATE

They began their League campaign against Derry at home and recorded a seven-point victory, 3-11 to 2-7. In the second game away to Laois, they had a two-point win, 2-10 to 3-5. They then played Dublin away and came away with a draw 0-11 to 1-8. Their fourth match was played in considerably bitter cold conditions against Kildare. Kilkenny lead by 2-5 to 2-1 at the break, but whatever was said in the warmth of the Kilkenny dressing room at the interval, they emerged with all guns blazing. They outscored their opponents 5-6 to 0-2 in the second half winning 7-11 to 2-3. Their next match was a long journey to Armagh. Kilkenny were victorious on a 1-17 to 0-6 score line. In the final game, they played Tipperary winning by seven points, 2-10 to 0-9. With four wins and a draw, they qualified for the semi-final against a strong Cork side. They suffered a seven-point defeat, 0-9 to 1-13.

For their first All-Ireland Championship match, they played Antrim at home, Kilkenny had an emphatic win 3-14 to 0-6. In their second game, they played Kildare and they won by twenty-two points – 4-16 to 0-6. The team then played Westmeath and were defeated by six points, 2-7 to 2-13. The next match was against Tipperary and they also suffered a defeat, 2-10 to 2-13. In their last match, they played Galway and they won on a score line 3-8 to 1-11.

MINOR A

In the first game of the All-Ireland campaign, Kilkenny played Galway and won 0-13 to 1-8. For their second game, they played Cork away and they were defeated 0-8 to 3-11. They next played Dublin and suffered a defeat 0-2 to 1-15. In their final match, they played a strong Wexford side, who beat them 1-9 to 2-16.

In the Leinster Campaign, Kilkenny played Offaly in the semi-final and they had an emphatic win 6-20 to 0-7. In the Final, they met Wexford who defeated them 1-9 to 2-11.

MINOR B

In the semi-final, Kilkenny were victorious over Meath on a score line 1-13 to 0-8. In the Final, played in miserable wet conditions, Kilkenny came up against a very strong Dublin side who defeated them 1-5 to 2-12.

U17

It was played as an Interprovincial competition this year instead of an All-Ireland competition. It was played on Saturday 8th September. Kilkenny had 16 representatives on the team and the management were also from Kilkenny.

In the first match, Leinster played Munster and were defeated 0-5 to 4-5. In the second game, Leinster

played Ulster and were victorious 3-5 to 0-2. In the last match, Leinster were winners over Connaught 1-9 to 0-2. This set them up for a final meeting with Munster. The final was much tighter than the match played earlier in the day. Munster won 1-7 to 1-3.

Kilkenny players – Ellen Purcell, Emily Hughes, Gillian Costello, Laura Foley, Caoimhe Kelly, Meabh Walsh, Caoimhe Moran, Laura Power, Aimee Hanrahan, Sarah O'Sullivan, Clodagh Hanlon, Jenni O'Dea, Ruth Ryan, Aine Phelan, Mary Ellen Phelan & Sarah Doherty.

Management – Jer Donovan, Seamus Kelly, Michael Ryan, Aoife Lanigan, Roisin Breen.

U16

The U16 were divided into an A & B team

U16A

In the first game of the Leinster campaign, they played Offaly and they had an eleven-point win, 5-10 to 2-5. In their next game, they defeated Dublin 1-8 to 1-6. In the last group match, they played Wexford and had an eight-point win 3-10 to 1-5. In the Leinster Final, Kilkenny played



U17 Leinster Interprovincial Panel

**Back: Clodagh Hanlon (Kilkenny), Emily Hughes (Kilkenny), Laura Foley (Kilkenny), Caoimhe Moran (Kilkenny), Meabh Walsh (Kilkenny), Sarah Davis (Wicklow), Caoimhe Kelly (Kilkenny), Leah Carroll (Offaly), Mollie McCormack (Wicklow), Aimee Hanrahan (Kilkenny), Grace Cashin (Offaly), Gillian Costello (Kilkenny).
Front: Mary Ellen Phelan (Kilkenny), Ellen Purcell (Kilkenny), Jenni O'Dea (Kilkenny), Aine Phelan (Kilkenny), Ruth Ryan (Kilkenny), Sarah Doherty (Kilkenny), Laura Power (Kilkenny), Sarah O'Sullivan (Kilkenny), Shannon James (Offaly), Tracey Kelly (Offaly)**



Kilkenny U16A team



Kilkenny U16B team



Kilkenny U15A team



Kilkenny U15B team



Kilkenny U14A team



Kilkenny U14B team

UPMC Whitfield and WIT Vikings GAA Club Announce Multi-Year Sponsorship



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Dublin again and Kilkenny won 2-12 to 0-10.

In the first game of the All-Ireland campaign, they were defeated by five points by Cork, 2-4 to 1-12. They defeated Clare in their second match by twenty-six points, 4-22 to 0-8, but they suffered defeat to Dublin in their last game, 2-3 to 1-13.

U16B

In their first Leinster match, they played Westmeath and they were beaten 1-3 to 5-16. In their next game against Dublin, they were beaten 0-4 to 6-16. The last game against Meath, they won 4-4 to 0-2. This meant they qualified for the Shield Semi-Final where they played Wexford and beat them 3-3 to 1-4. They met Meath in the Final and Kilkenny won.

In the All-Ireland Reserve first match, they played Cork and they were defeated 1-1 to 3-11. In their second match, they played Clare losing 0-5 to 1-8. In their final match, they played Dublin and were beaten 2-3 to 1-13.

U15

The teams were divided into two teams, A & B.

The A squad won the Carlow & Wexford blitzes. A & B won the Leinster Blitzes, A beating Galway and B beating Carlow.

In the All-Ireland Blitz, the A squad defeated Dublin to win 5-in-a-row, the B squad were defeated by Clare.

U14

The teams were divided into two teams, A & B.

The A squad won the Cork Blitz, they then won the Waterford Blitz. Next up was the Leinster Blitz, which they won. They played in the Kilkenny Blitz, but they were beaten by a strong Galway side



Kilkenny Underage Academy panel



Kilkenny Underage Academy panel 1

The B squad won the Dublin Blitz, they followed this up by winning the Wexford Blitz. They then won the Kilkenny Blitz beating Waterford in the Final. They also won the Tipperary blitz.

Then for the All-Ireland Blitz, the U14A squad were defeated by Dublin in the Semi-Final and the U14B squad qualified for the Final but were defeated by Waterford.

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Katie Power



She's Got the **Power!**

Say Hello to Katie Power.

She plays camogie for Piltown and Kilkenny. She is a three-time All Star. She commutes half an hour each way every day to work in Michael Lyng Motors on the Hebron Road in Kilkenny. She loves the chicken goujons in Langton's, albeit – being an athlete – not as regularly as she'd prefer. She idolised DJ Carey when she was younger and still does. She has a rake of All Ireland under-age medals. She has one All Ireland senior medal. She hopes to hell she'll have a second All Ireland medal by the time she turns 28 next November.

The lack of a second – or third or fourth – medal niggles her. It niggles her even more because in her teenage years she never knew a rainy day with the county. She was part of a cohort that included Denise Gaule and Anna Farrell, a cohort so talented that from under-14 upwards, Katie never lost an under-age match in the black and amber. Two All Ireland under-16 medals, three All Ireland under-18 medals, innumerable Leinster honours. Upon which she graduated to the Kilkenny senior team and her adult career commenced.

It wasn't easy going at first, and not only because Kilkenny themselves were treading water. It wasn't easy going for a long time. Adjusting to the big girls' arena didn't take her merely a year or two. It took her "three, four, five years. Up and down. We were very inconsistent – but very young, so it probably comes with the territory. I was worried about my own consistency though. One day I'd be fine, the next day I'd hurl absolutely stink."

Her form wasn't helped by injury, in this case a troublesome left kneecap that required four operations. Each procedure killed off her chances of a proper pre-season that particular year. "I was just rehabbing and not getting the same training in. It was difficult on the mind and on the body playing catch-up the whole time." The last operation was at Christmas in 2015, meaning she's had three whole campaigns free from injury and preceded by a satisfactory pre-season. It may be a coincidence that those three campaigns have seen her, and Kilkenny, reach Croke Park each September. Then again, it may not be.

In any case there was no lightbulb moment. Kilkenny improved gradually and eventually became true championship contenders once more. Their presence on a regular basis on the national stage prompted the realisation that she must be benefitting the team in some way. In what position she was deployed on the field wasn't an issue. "Anywhere from midfield up. As long as I'm on the ball I don't mind."

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

Paradise was regained in 2016. Kilkenny were All Ireland champions for the first time since 1994. To Katie it felt like a dream. It still does, she says. "The few weeks after we won the All Ireland, even the first few months after it, were very emotional. The goodwill towards the team and towards camogie around the county was incredible. Getting to train in Nowlan Park, for instance, is amazing. Girls from other counties can't get over the fact that we're able to do so."

After the dream, alas, came the nightmare. She hasn't been able to stop processing this one either. Losing by a point to Cork in 2017 was bad enough. Losing by the same margin to the same team in 2018 was worse. "We'd been performing better all the way this year than in 2017. But it was up to us to perform on the big day and we didn't. That was very tough to take. It still is. We just played so badly."

None of which stops her producing, unprompted, a torrent of praise for the Kilkenny management. Ann Downey: the boss, and nobody's in any doubt about that. "You couldn't look for better." Paddy Mullally and the way he's helped bring the players to a higher level. Liam Egan and his enlightened fitness and conditioning regime. Conor Phelan and his knowledge. Angela Downey-Browne and Breda Holmes: kit women in name, "like mothers in reality". A great set-up.

MORE SILVERWARE, PLEASE

You can probably guess our girl's overriding ambition. To win the All Ireland again. If they don't, she declares, this generation of Kilkenny players will have underachieved. "There's so much more in the team. It would be a shame to be remembered as one-hit wonders."

On the thorny subject of the refereeing in this year's All Ireland final she is diplomatic yet firm. "We train to be stronger, we train to be faster, we train to be tougher. But come the day of a match you're not allowed to express that." She brings up the episode in the closing stages of the All Ireland final when Davina Tobin was penalised "for being stronger than her opponent" and Cork were awarded a crucial free. "You can give out about referees but the real problem is the rules."



8 April 2018; Katie Power of Kilkenny in action against Pamela Mackey of Cork during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final match between Kilkenny and Cork at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny. Photo by Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile



Katie Power of Kilkenny in action against Aileen Sheehan of Cork.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Katie Power of Kilkenny in action against Pamela Mackey of Cork during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final. Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile

This darkest of clouds produced an unexpected silver lining. As is the way of the world, Katie went back to her club the following week, “never feeling as down in my life”. They didn’t put their arms around her – not literally, anyway – but they made the hurt go away for a while. Then something odd happened. Piltown, unfancied Piltown, surfed a wave and reached the county final. Unbelievable.

Although they didn’t win it, there was no dishonour in losing to Thomastown. What’s more, getting that far was a triumph in itself. In previous years they’d always hoped for the best but deep down were probably afraid of the big guns. Not any more. Now Piltown know they’re good enough and Katie can look forward to 2019 with her club as much as she’s looking forward to it with the county.

Behind every great camogie player who wants to be on the ball is a great family – in this case Jim and Martina Power. Jim played in goal for Piltown throughout her childhood and beyond, and it was no surprise that she and her brothers Martin and Jamie lived in the local hurling field. It’s only now she’s a little older that she appreciates how much her parents sacrificed, ferrying her around to games. “When you’re young you take it for granted.”

We’ll finish with a pop quiz.

Most difficult opponents? Edwina Keane and Claire Phelan locally, Pamela Mackey and Sarah Dervan nationally.

Funniest ladies on the Kilkenny panel? Grace Walsh, Meg Farrell and Grace O’Donnell.

Coldplay or Taylor Swift? Coldplay. She saw them in Croke Park and was blown away.

Most recent movie trip? A Star is Born. “I didn’t know what to expect but it was unreal.

Life in Michael Lyng Motors, which one scarcely needs to add is a hotbed of hurling – and now camogie – chat? “I landed on my feet there. They look after me brilliantly.”

Pastime outside camogie? “I did a course in health and nutrition. It’s important to take care of yourself during the winter months. Keep ticking over. No point in going back training in January and having to slog it out.”

January. New year. New hope. But the same ambition as ever. The return to Noreside of the O’Duffy Cup. Nothing less.

What Katie does next.



Katie, dejected after the All-Ireland Final.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Happier Times
18 August 2018; Katie celebrates after scoring a goal during the Championship semi-final against Galway at Semple Stadium, Tipperary.
Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile

Anne Dalton
*Senior Camogie Player
of the Year 2018*



THOMASTOWN still to the fore

Camogie Club Season Review by PRO Aoife Iannigan



Thomastown Senior Camogie and All County SC League Champions 2018

SENIOR

Last years Champions, Thomastown beat St Martin's, Wexford in the Leinster Final played last November by a point 0-16 to 3-6 Thomastown travelled to Inniskeen Grattans GAA, Co Monaghan in January to take on reigning All-Ireland Club Champions Slaughtneill

Slaughtneill had the benefit of a strong wind in the opening half and made good use of it, leading by 0-9 to 0-2 at the interval. Thomastown inspired by the Farrell sisters, came on strongly in the second half with the elements in their favour and they took over completely, chipping away at the deficit and drawing level at 0-10 a-piece. They could not carry that momentum forward into extra time however and Slaughtneill ran out winners 0-14 to 0-11

Senior League – still to be finished

Senior All County League – Thomastown and St Brigid's contested this final. Thomastown coming out victorious 3-18 to 1-8

County Semi-final – saw last years Champions, Thomastown against Mullinavat and it was Thomastown who secured the spot in the final recording a 2-14 to 0-9 victory. In the other semi-final, it was Piltown who faced Windgap. Piltown advanced to the county final on a 1-12 to 1-6 score line

The County Final saw defending Champions Thomastown come up against first time Senior

Finalists Piltown. Piltown started the better of the two teams and led 0-6 to 0-5 at half time. But experience prevailed and Thomastown won out on a score line 0-11 to 0-9. Victory set up a Leinster Semi Final against Naomh Jude of Dublin who they beat 1-14 to 0-5.

They now play St Martin's (Wexford) in the Leinster Final. (Game not played at time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com)

INTERMEDIATE

The County Final had Young Irelands and Clara vying for the title. Young Irelands were victorious on a score line 0-12 to 1-3. Young Irelands were due to begin their Leinster Championship campaign away to O'Moores (Laois) but it was postponed due to a bereavement, so game not played at time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com

Intermediate League – still to be finished

Intermediate All County League – Rower Inistioge & St Annes/Emeralds contested this final. Rower Inistioge won 2-11 to 1-12 after a close encounter

JUNIOR

Thomastown & Piltown contested the Junior League Final. Thomastown won 3-17 to 1-6

Junior All County League had O'Loughlin Gaels & Blacks & Whites battle it out for the honours. O'Loughlin Gaels won 3-12 to 1-7

The Junior A County Final - O'Loughlin Gaels & St Claire's in the Final. After a close encounter, O'Loughlin Gaels won on a 1-9 to 2-5 score line

Junior B County Final – Tullogher & Blacks/Whites in the Final. (Game not played before going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com)

U21

The U21 Championships were still being played at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com

MINOR

Minor A Championship was still underway at time of going to print.

Minor A League Final - Thomastown & Piltown played in the final. After a close encounter, Piltown won on a 2-11 to 3-7 score line

Minor B County Final had St Claire's & O'Loughlin Gaels battle it out for the honours. It was a thrilling encounter. St Claire's won after



Young Irelands Intermediate Camogie Champions 2018



Extra Time on a 2-9 to 1-8 score line

Minor B League Final - St Claire's & Tullaroan vied for the title. St Claire's won 1-12 to 1-5

Minor C County Final had Ballyhale Shamrocks & Clara battle it for the honours. After a close encounter, Ballyhale Shamrocks won on a 3-10 to 3-9 score line

U16

U16 A County Final - St Brigid's & Thomastown vied for the honours. St Brigid's were too strong for Thomastown and ran out winners 5-6 to 3-8

U16 A League Final - a repeat of the County Final with St Brigid's & Thomastown in the final. It was an epic match, both teams gave it their all, but Thomastown just held out to win by a point for a 3 in a row, 2-8 to 3-4

U16 B League Final - St Martin's & Danesfort were in the final. Danesfort won 2-8 to 0-2

U16 B Shield Final, Kilmacow/Slieverue & Mooncoin featured. Mooncoin were victorious 3-7 to 2-6

U16 B County Final - Clara & Danesfort vied for the honours. Clara took the honours, 3-7 to 0-7

U16 C League Final - St Lactains were up against Rower Instioge. St Lactains were victorious 2-9 to 0-3

U16 C Shield Final, Lisdowney & Paulstown featured. Paulstown took the honours 5-7 to 3-4



U16 C County Final - Ballyhale Shamrocks took on St Lactains, the southern side were victorious 3-8 to 2-4

U14

U14 A Shield Final had James Stephens & Thomastown vying for the title. James Stephens ran out winners 5-5 to 3-4

U14 A County Final - St Brigid's played Dicksboro. St Brigid's won 5-9 to 0-4

U14 B Shield Final - Young Irelands took on Piltown. Young Irelands were victorious 9-5 to 1-2

U14 B County Final featured Conahy & Tullaroan/St Annes and it was Tullaroan/St Annes who prevailed after Extra Time 6-7 to 3-9

U14 C County Final - Carrickshock played Lisdowney/Naomh Brid. Carrickshock were victorious 6-9 to 4-5

U14 D Shield Final - Mullinavat & Rower Inistioge vied for the honours. Mullinavat were victorious 4-6 to 3-7

U14 D County Final, St Fiachras & Paulstown/Goresbridge featured. St Fiachras took the honours 4-7 to 3-4



HIGHLIGHTS OF A SPORTING YEAR!

Ladies Football Report by Brendan Healy PRO



Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny benefitted from generous sponsorship from St. Canice's Credit Union Kilkenny in 2018. The Credit Union's aim in working with LGFA in Kilkenny is to help support its continuous expansion and improvement of the game in the county. This long-term partnership will complement each other's values and vision and where both parties achieve growth from working together. At the launch of the new agreement, the new crest was unveiled.



U14

On the 24th March, Kilkenny had a great win over Louth, 9-6 to 1-6. The girls came up against a strong Carlow side on the 12th of April but overcame Offaly in the Leinster Semi Final on the 27th of April on a score line of Kilkenny 7-8 Offaly 4-7. Kilkenny played the Leinster final on the 9th of May but were beaten by a formidable Laois side.

The girls also participated in the U14 Leinster Blitz in Carlow on the 9th of July



U16

Kilkenny had a tough match to start against Wicklow but had a great game on the 20th April against Carlow to make it through by a one point margins on a score line of Kilkenny 7- 14 Carlow 7-13. Unfortunately, the result was reversed in the Leinster Final with Carlow coming out on top.



Junior All Ireland Championship

Most of the adult clubs in Kilkenny were represented on the Junior side that fielded against London, Louth and Antrim in the All Ireland Championships. Kilkenny also fielded in the league earlier in the year against Carlow, Limerick, Derry, Fermanagh and Antrim and played Carlow in the Leinster Championship. The experience gained at inter county level in 2018 will be of huge benefit going forward and will help prepare the panel for competition in 2019.



THE 2018 National Under 17 Academy Blitz Day took place in the impressive surroundings of the GAA National Development Centre in Abbotstown on Tuesday, August 21 with 16 teams representing 13 counties in attendance. The U17 Academy Programme has become a very important event in the LGFA Calendar as it assists with developing players in the age bracket that is most vulnerable to drop-out in our sport.



St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Ladies championship

Thomastown were crowned county champions on the 30th of September in Bennettsbridge. Thomastown and the Kilkenny City served up a nail biting match with one goal separating the sides at half time. Thomastown took control of the game in the last 15 minutes and were worthy winners in the end winning 7-12 to 4-10.



40 of our u12 players took part in the Leinster u12 blitz on the 8th of September in Portlaoise. Our u12s also had a fantastic day in Edenderry on the 4th of October playing Kildare and Offaly, with a brilliant standard of football played by all the girls.

Transition Year Blitz

Greennan College won the inaugural transition year blitz and we look forward to seeing this going from strength to strength.

2018 Club Roll of Honour

After their County final win, Thomastown went on to have a great win in the Leinster club quarter final against Ballygarret, the Wexford champions. They then made the trip to Dublin on the 21st of October to play Castleknock in the Leinster Semi-final. Unfortunately, Thomastown only had a skeleton team due to injuries and clashes. However, the girls that travelled put in a fantastic performance and played their hearts out. Having gone in 2 pts up at half time it looked possible, but it was a huge ask for some players who had also taken

part and won a senior county camogie final that morning. Thomastown lost by a goal in the end.

U17 League

The U17 league final saw great performances from both Kilkenny City and Muckalee. In a highly quality football game Kilkenny City settled into the game well in the first half and picked off some lovely scores to lead 6-3 to 2-2 at half time. The second half tempo remained height and Muckalee came out strong with a few goals to narrow the gap but Kilkenny City kicked 6pts during the half and their backs defended well to stay ahead and win on a scoreline of 6-9 to 6-3. The u17 B final will be contested by Clara and Dunnamaggin.

U17 Championship

At time of writing Kilkenny City will play Dunnamaggin/Muckalee in the U17 final. Railyard had a good win over Erins Own in the 17 B shield with a final score line of 4-10 to 2-9.

U16 League

Kilkenny City won the Roinn A u16 league beating Muckalee in the final. Muckalee started strong with some excellent score taking and staunch defending took a 5 point lead in the first half, Kilkenny City worked themselves back into the match and with some great team work lead at half time by 2 points, in the second half both teams lifted the standard even further with Muckalee changing score around again to lead by 2, both teams traded scores but in the final 5

minutes Kilkenny City took a 3 point lead, again some fantastic defending by Kilkenny City held the Muckalee attack out to the final whistle. Final score Kilkenny City 3-10 Muckalee 3-7 St. Canice's Credit Union

Clara won the 16B league final against Railyard. Railyard got off to the ideal start with an early goal but Clara responded quickly with a goal of their own and built from there. Both teams worked to the final whistle with Clara taking the honours in the end.

U16 Championship

The U16 A Championship final was contested by Muckalee and Kilkenny City. This was always going to be a tight game with only 3 points separating the team in the league final. The teams were evenly matched at half time but a strong second performance by Kilkenny city ensured they ran out winners.

U14 St Canices Credit Union Championship

Kilkenny City and Muckalee contested the u14 championship final. With both teams having a very successful year in the league and their All Ireland Feile competitions this promised to be a very competitive match and it did not disappoint. Both teams delivered a fantastic game of football with 3 late goals by Kilkenny city proving the decisive scores in the end. Erins Own retained the u14 championship shield cup. The finals were played off in a blitz format and the winner was decided in the last match against Clara. In the end the teams were

separated by a single goal.

U14 League

A: Kilkenny City took the honours in the u14 A league final versus Erin's Own. In what was again an enthralling match with both teams providing an exhibition of football in the end the winning margin was a single goal.

B: Thomastown and Piltown contested the B final. In what was an enthralling match with each team taking the lead at multiple times Thomastown took control with 15 minutes to go to finish strong winners.

C: Muckalee won the C League final against a young Clara team. Clara battled in every position and scored some late goals of their own but Muckalee had built an unassailable lead and finished up comfortable winners.

D: Railyard won the D league final versus Dunnamaggin. Both teams matched each other score by score. With 2 minutes to go Dunnamaggin scored a point to go one ahead but Railyard won a penalty and dispatched it to the right hand corner for Railyard to go 2 ahead and they held this to the end.

John Lockes were victorious over Tullogher after a nail-biting finish to a closely contested game. The Lockes led by 1.4 to 2pts at half time having played into a strong breeze and looked to be heading for victory early in the second half, but Tullogher scored 2 cracking goals to go ahead. The lead that was short lived with John Lockes scoring 2 fantastic goals of their own. Again Tullogher rallied with 2 further

scores but a fantastic save on the line from the Lockes goalkeeper ensured their victory.

U14 Feile

Roinn A

Winners Kilkenny City

Runners Up Thomastown

Roinn B

Winners Muckalee

Runners Up Dunnamaggin

Both Kilkenny Clubs had great weekends at their feile competitions, reaching the championship quarter final stages and were narrowly defeated by the eventual winners.

St. Canice's Credit Union u12 League Finals

	Winners	Runners Up
U12A	Dunnamaggin	Kilkenny City
U12B	John Lockes	Erin's Own
U12C	Piltown	Clara
U12D	Railyard	Muckalee

40 of our u12 players took part in the Leinster u12 blitz on the 8th of September in Portlaoise. Our u12s also had a fantastic day in Edenderry on the 4th of October playing Kildare and Offaly, with a brilliant standard of football played by all the girls.

Primary Schools Final

	Winners	Runners Up
Roinn A	St Canices	Dunnamaggin
Roinn B	Callan	Clara
Roinn C	Moneenroe	Coon/Muckalee
Roinn D	Windgap	John of God
Roinn E	Tullaroan	Freshford

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SUPER SAINTS PREVAIL IN EXTRAORDINARY TITANTIC CLIFFHANGER

Senior Colleges Hurling Report by Michael O'Leary



St Kieran's - All Ireland CH Colleges Champions 2018

Back: David Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), David O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Mark Nolan (Dicksboro), David Griffin (Thomastown), Jack Nolan (St Martin's), Jamie Young (O'Loughlin Gaels), Pádraig O'Neil (Young Irelands), Brian Staunton (Thomastown), James Phelan (Lisdowney).

Third row: Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Eoin Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Ciaran Brennan (St Martin's), Dean Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Sean Manogue (James Stephens), Aaron Brennan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Liam Brennan-Smyth (Dicksboro), Dacel Fwamba (O'Loughlin Gaels), Mr Michael Walsh.

Second row: Mr Philip Walsh, Mr. Tom Hogan, Ryan Scanlon (James Stephens), Luke Murphy (James Stephens), Ciaran Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Killian Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ciaran Brennan (Bennettsbridge), Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), George Murphy (Rower-Inistioge), Ned Kirwan (Thomastown), Conor Ryan.

Front row: Ian Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Eoghan Maylan (Dicksboro), Jessie Roberts (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoin O'Shea (O'Loughlin Gaels), Diarmaid Phelan (Danesfort), Daithí Barron (Thomastown) (Capt.), Tommy Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Jeffrey Coyne (James Stephens), Conor Murphy (Bennettsbridge), Eoin Kenneally (Ballyhale Shamrocks).

It had the most extraordinary of finishes, but St. Kieran's recovered from having their 12 point lead early in the 2nd half wiped out by the end of normal-time to regain their composure and win their 22nd Senior Colleges All-Ireland following a titantic cliffhanger against a plucky Presentation Athenry.

Kieran's appeared to be cruising to victory at half-time when a goal-scoring blitz in the last 10 minutes of the first-half gave them a 3-7 to 0-6 lead.

Goals from team captain Daithí Barron, Ciaran Brennan and David O'Carroll appeared to have assured them of victory by the interval, and they were in an even stronger position when adding further points to stretch the lead early in the 2nd half.

However, the Athenry School have battling qualities in abundance which they proved during their All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against Kilkenny CBS when overturning a 10-point half deficit, and they proved it again in the final.

A scrambled goal credited to Adam Brett began the comeback, and they had given themselves hope as they trailed by 6 points entering the last 5 minutes.

Another goal moments later by Mark Kennedy left just three points between them, before the comeback was completed in the dying moments of injury-time.

It was goal or bust as Presentation Athenry dropped a free in around the goalmouth which caused havoc.

Shane Quirke got his shot goal-bound in which they appeared to have been a foul inside the penalty area, but play continued and Adam Brett smashed home the all-important levelling goal for the most incredible of comebacks. 3-12 each.

It was such a massive shock to the system to have such a huge lead reeled in, but to their eternal credit they responded and took control of the game in extra-time.

The substitutions who were introduced in the 2nd half came to the fore in extra-time and a superb goal from Jamie Young re-asserted control once again, before Ciaran Brennan confirmed victory with another

magnificent goal towards the end of extra-time.

St. Kieran's also won the Leinster Senior Schools League Final a few months earlier when defeating Borris Vocational School in the Final 3-5 to 0-7, but lost out in the Leinster Championship Final to Dublin North 1-14 to 1-11.

However, because the Dublin school were an amalgamated combination, they weren't allowed to compete in the All-Ireland section.

The Leinster Championship competition itself began before Christmas last year when Kieran's defeated Castlecomer Community School 1-12 to 0-9 after extra-time, while Kilkenny CBS safely negotiated their passage to victory against St. Peters, Wexford winning 0-16 to 0-7.

In the new look format competition, Kieran's defeated Kilkenny CBS 0-16 to 0-12 after extra-time while Castlecomer Community School had a 1-14 to 0-8 victory against St. Brendan's, Birr, before Kilkenny CBS ended Castlecomer Community School's hopes in the Quarter-Final of the competition when winning 2-16 to 0-13.

Any hopes of an all Kilkenny all Leinster Final were dashed when Dublin North defeated Kilkenny CBS 3-12 to 0-18, but Kieran's did prevail overcoming St. Peters 2-13 to 2-8.

Meanwhile in Munster, Ardscoil Ris were living up to their billing as competition

favourites as they comprehensively defeated Midleton CBS 3-18 to 2-10 to win the Harty Cup and qualify for an eventual semi-final showdown with St. Kieran's.

St. Kieran's defeated Gort Community School 1-10 to 0-5 in a drab quarter-final to set up a last four showdown with the Limerick school, while Conor Drennan was the star on show as he scored 0-13 (0-10 frees) for Kilkenny CBS who held off a storming comeback from Midleton CBS.

Kilkenny CBS appeared to be cruising to a facile victory when they led 0-14 to 0-3 entering the final quarter.

However, a Liam Gosnell goal in the 46th minute began the comeback trail for the Cork school, and they had narrowed the gap to 4 points into injury-time.



Photo: Willie Dempsey

Photo: Willie Dempsey



Full forward Ciarán Brennan

Photo: Willie Dempsey



Eoin Cody

Photo: Willie Dempsey

A second goal from a Liam O'Shea free gave Kilkenny CBS some nervous moments, but they held out for victory by the slenderest of margins.

The CBS school build up a comprehensive lead again in their All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against Presentation Athenry as they led 2-9 to 1-2 at half-time.

However, the Athenry school inspired by last years All-Ireland minor winner Conor Walsh

began the fightback, and they complete control of the second-half restricting Kieran's to just three points while scoring 3-8 in the process.

Eoin Caulfield grabbed a brace of goals, while an injury-time goal from Mark Kennedy finished CBS hopes for another year.

Meanwhile, Kieran's upset the odds with a hard fought 0-19 to 1-14 victory over competition favourites Ardscoil Ris to qualify for their 5th consecutive final.

Their regaining of the Croke Cup saw them complete the Junior/Senior All-Ireland double after the Juniors had defeated Thurles CBS to win the Junior All-Ireland in The Ragg last December.

Peter Donohue struck home a magnificent goal after brilliantly fielding possession before rifling home an unstoppable shot to give them a 1-5 to 0-4 lead at the interval.

With Captain fantastic Daragh Maher, Kieran's held the upper hand and they held a 5 point lead intact approaching the closing 5 minutes. Thurles CBS added two points to narrow the gap before they were awarded a penalty on the stroke of full-time.

However, Darren Flood's well struck attempt just went the merest fraction of inches over the crossbar, and Kierans held out for victory.

ALL-IRELAND FINAL SCORERS -

Scores for St Kieran's College: Ciaran Brennan 2-1, Daithi Barron 1-2, Adrian Mullen 0-7 (0-1f), Conor Kelly 0-7 (0-2f), David O'Carroll and Jamie Young 1-0 each, Ian Walsh and Eoin O'Shea 0-1 each.

Scores for Presentation College Athenry: Mark Kennedy 1-8 (0-6f), Adam Brett 2-2, TJ Brennan 0-2, Eoin Caulfield, Brion Connolly (0-1f), Ian McGlynn (0-1f), Cillian Lawless 0-1 each.

ST. KIERANS TEAM: Dean Mason(Ballyhale Shamrocks), Tommy Ronan(Graigue-Ballycallan), Conor Murphy(Bennettsbridge), Mark Nolan(Dicksboro), Diarmuid Phelan(Danesfort), Jesse Roberts(Graigue-Ballycallan), Luke Murphy(James Stephens), Killian Egan(Graigue-Ballycallan), Adrian Mullen(Ballyhale Shamrocks), Eoghan Moylan(Dicksboro), Eoin O'Shea(O'Loughlin Gaels), Daithi Barron(Thomastown) (Captain), Conor Kelly(O'Loughlin Gaels), Ciaran Brennan(Bennettsbridge), David O'Carroll(Lisdowney),

Subs: George Murphy(Rower-Inistioge) for O'Carroll 36 minutes, Ian Walsh(Dunammaggin) for Moylan 46 minutes, Jamie Young (O'Loughlin Gaels) for O'Shea 49 minutes, Eoin Cody(Ballyhale Shamrocks) for Barron 51 minutes, Daithi Barron for Egan half-time in extra-time, David Blanchfield(Bennettsbridge) for Murphy(Half-time in extra-time)



Photo: Willie Dempsey

Photo: Willie Dempsey

For the second successive year, and for an extraordinary sixth time in this decade, Loreto Kilkenny have captured the All Ireland Colleges Senior Camogie title.



All-Ireland Colleges' Jubilee Senior Camogie Champions 2018
Loreto Kilkenny 2-18 Cross & Passion Ballycastle, 4-8

Back: Olivia Mahony (Danesfort), Kate McCluskey (Graigue-Ballycallan), Tiffanie Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Elizabeth Keher (John Lockes), Clodagh Hanlon (St. Martin's), Saoirse Comerford (James Stephens), Steffi Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Sinead Keoghan (Tullaroan), Ciara O'Shea {Captain} (Dicksboro), Katie Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Karen Delaney (Lisdowney), Nicole Carter (Young Irelands), Maddy Lawson (Young Irelands), Rebecca Cuddihy (Tullaroan), Aisling Maher (Conahy Shamrocks), Eimear Leahy (Emeralds), Caoimhe Holland (Tullaroan), Hannah Brennan (Young Irelands), Kate Dempsey (Dicksboro), Evelyn Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks).

Front: Emma Manogue (James Stephens), Hannah Larkin (James Stephens), Anna Doheny (James Stephens), Molly Butler (Graigue-Ballycallan), Amy Clifford (Dicksboro), Asha McHardy (Dicksboro), Rachel Kelly (James Stephens), Ciara O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Jane Cass (Dicksboro), Tara Clifford (Dicksboro), Hannah Kelly (James Stephens), Ruth Kent (Danesfort), Hannah Murphy (Conahy Shamrocks), Ruth Gardiner (Naomh Bríd), Issey Carroll (Dicksboro), Laura Tynan (St. Martin's), Caoimhe Dowling (Dicksboro), Ciara Mullan (Dicksboro).



Colaiste Mhuire Junior Hurling B South Leinster 2018 winners



St Kieran's Junior Hurlers who beat Kilkenny CBS in a thrilling Leinster Final, 3-15 to 2-15 after extra time.



Kilkenny CBS JH Team who put a terrific show in the Leinster Final.



*Duiske College -
South Leinster Juvenile Gaelic Football winners*



Duiske College Camogie team

Duiske College competed in Juvenile, Junior and Senior competitions in both Hurling and Gaelic Football in 2018. It was a very successful year, with all six teams reaching the South Leinster final stage. Special mention must go to the Juvenile and Junior Football teams on winning their competitions.

Duiske College also competed in a number of camogie blitzes in 2018. Some great team performances in these games qualified the school for the Leinster finals in Portlaoise, where the girls won all their games to claim a Leinster Development title.

At the end of year student awards ceremony the following students won Player of the Year awards.

Senior Hurler: Aaron Foley

Young Hurler: Shane Cleary

Gaelic Footballer: Jack Dunne

Camogie: Sophie Phelan



Duiske College - South Leinster Junior Gaelic Football winners



Borris Vocational School Senior Hurling Squad 2017/18 - Leinster Senior Hurling 'A' League Finalists 2017/18.



An tú féin atá ann?



FÉILE NA NGAEL WINNERS 2018

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Dicksboro - Roinn A Feile Hurling Champions. Final: Dicksboro 2-7, Young Irelands 2-2.



Emeralds - Roinn B Feile Hurling Champions. Final: Emeralds 0-8, Kilmacow 0-6



Graignamanagh - Roinn C Feile Hurling Champions.

A Sky Blue Summer!

*Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report
by Dermot Dunphy PRO
Photos - Willie Dempsey*



Summer 2018 will be remembered as a summer of bright sunshine and blue skies. In the world of Schools' Hurling, Sky Blue also reigned as the hurlers of St Aidan's NS Kilmanagh swept all before them in what was a glorious summer for the school. The signs were there in 2017. They had won the Corn de Bhaldraithe and INTO Mini-Sevens and had also been finalists in Roinn A, and with many of those teams still available, they were among the favourites when competition started. Even so, the manner of their victories in Roinn A and the Corn de Bhaldraithe finals was outstanding. They scored freely, conceded no goal over the course of two finals and against teams of quality in Clara and Gowran. Their hurling was skilful and fluent and a joy to watch. They hurled the perfect storm in the Roinn A Final against a very good Clara side, who must have wondered what had happened after fifty plus minutes of chasing the wind. Clara themselves deserve much praise. With the majority of their young team that had been beaten in the Roinn B Final of 2017, they opted to go to Roinn A this year and earned their place in the final. They were unfortunate to run into a team on top top form and while the result may seem very one-sided, Clara contributed to a great hurling game. Likewise, Gowran. Another fine team they acquitted themselves well in the Corn de Bhaldraithe final but Kilmanagh's ability to get crucial goals at crucial times, and not concede at the other end again proved crucial! The skies were blue this summer but nowhere bluer than over St Aidan's NS where the Joe Dunphy Cup and the Corn de Bhaldraithe reside together!

There was a blue tinge to the first final played in the summer also, this time the Royal blue of Castlecomer. The young boys of Castlecomer and Firoda captured the Hennessy Cup after a pulsating Roinn B final against Tullogher-Rosbercon. In a game that swung back and forth, goals again proved king as the young 'Comer lads raised two green flags in the second half to claim the spoils. Blue was the colour this summer!

Roinn C saw an all southern clash between Mullinavat and Rower-Inistioge. Not many miles separate the two parishes and very little separated them in a super game that produced six goals and 23 scores. In the end, it was the Rod Iron boys who took home the brand new Georgie Leahy Cup for the first time for their first title in 13 years. For the Rower-Inistioge it was another year of what could have been having lost out at the final stage two years ago. Be sure they will return again and stronger.

Roinn D saw St Canice's reach the promised land! With the success of their first team in Roinn A over the past fifteen years, the second team have knocked on the door a number of times and had lost the D finals of '15, '16 and '17. No surprise then that their was joy unrestrained when they finally got their hands

on the cup, defeating Windgap in another thrilling final which saw ten goals shared evenly! In a strange year where the first team didn't make Nowlan Park, the Roinn D squad brought home the spoils. Huge credit!!

The Tommy O'Brien Cup final took the trend of high scoring finals to the limit. Danesfort and Freshford shared 16 goals and 28 scores between them. In a game that was level on many occasions it was the young 'Fort boys who finally pulled away to claim the cup in a super advertisement for schools' hurling. It was only the second time that the O'Brien Cup final was contested by two teams who did not make a league final. The standard of hurling throughout was great and having so many teams capable of reaching and winning finals emphasizes the strength of the game in the county's schools.

Under 11

Year three of the Under 11 competitions saw a number of schools reappearing in the finals and proving that perseverance does pay off. In Roinn A, Clara were appearing in the final for the third year in a row and this year victory was to be their lot after two reverses to date. Bunscoil McAuley Rice Callan provided the opposition and in a very close game it was the young Clara boys who prevailed by two points. Perseverance also proved to be the case in Roinn C where last year's beaten finalists were also back in the frame and successful. Slieverue had lost out in a replay in 2017 but they were too strong for a brave Johnstown side this year. The success was truly savoured as the proud Slieverue players brought their title south. Roinn B threw up another great game. A local derby between Carrickshock and Dunnamaggin, these two young teams served up a belter. Only a point separated them at the finish and it was the Dunna' boys who defended their title and became the first team to do so at an under 11 grade. Super stuff!

INTO Mini-Sevens

Another highly competitive year for the annual INTO Sevens saw some of the regular faces to the fore. St Canice's came through in two disciplines, winning the Boys' Hurling and Girls' Football. Another team in maroon, Clara, were the victors in the Boys' Football while a great performance saw Glenmore claim a precious Camogie title. As always, these competitions lead to Croke Park for some lucky players. St Canice's had two players who played at semi-final stage, Tara McGrath played in Dublin colours at the Dublin-Galway football semi-final while Brian Moore was in Cork colours for their hurling semi-final vs Limerick. That day, Clara's Conor Hoyne also ran out in Cork colours on the hallowed turf. Clara also had a football representative when Ned Langton got to play on All-Ireland Final Day in the Dublin jersey. Jeff Neary, the dynamic

Kilmanagh captain also showed his skills at the games. Glenmore also had two representatives at the Mini-Sevens when Sarah May Walsh, on All-Ireland Hurling Final day wore the Galway colours and Julie Lennon got to play at in the football. A great thrill for all the lucky children and well deserved for their hard work and commitment to their school teams.

INTO Cumann na mBunscol Handball

This year, the Cumann na mBunscol handball competition took place in O' Loughlin Gaels where both courts were put to full use for what was a highly competitive and entertaining days handball. Players participated in Under 11 and Under 13 competitions in both singles and doubles for boys and girls. On the day, players showed a combination of skill, determination and fair play to produce handball of excellent quality.

Results

U 11 Boys singles – Ciarán Hickey (Dunamaggin NS) bt Séán Morrissey (St. Patricks De La Salle)

U 11 Boys doubles – Bobby Brennan/Eoin Brennan (Firoda NS) bt Cian Doherty/Oisín Farrell (Thomastown)

U 11 Girls singles – Niamh Drennan (Galmoy) bt Jenny Saunders (Windgap)

U 11 Girls doubles – Orla Duggan/Cara Delaney (Galmoy) bt Blathnaid Mullins/Kate Ryan (Thomastown)

U 13 Boys singles – David Holden (Thomastown) bt Niall Drennan (Galmoy)

U 13 Boys doubles – Cathal Buckley/Ross O' Neill (Dunamaggin) bt Ronan O' Brien/Evan Doyle (Windgap)

U 13 Girls singles – Una Duggan (Galmoy) bt Katie Brennan (Moneenroe)

U 13 Girls doubles – Aoibhe Ryan/Katie Jordan (Thomastown) bt Aisling Cooney/Kerri Maguire (Clogh)

All the winners went on to represent Kilkenny in the provincial stage of the Cumann na mBunscol handball competition which was hosted by the St. Josephs club in Wexford Town. In the Under 11 Boys doubles, brothers Eoin and Bobby Brennan qualified for the National Skills Awards Day held in Kingscourt Co. Cavan. Here the boys played against representatives from Ulster, Connaught and Munster.

Georgie remembered – a beautiful cup for a great man.

Georgie Leahy is a name synonymous with hurling, not only in Kilkenny but throughout the country. Georgie worked in the schools of South Kilkenny for many years as one of the county's development coaches and spent many summers working on the camps throughout the county. Georgie loved schools' games and was a regular at our finals, throwing his knowledgeable eye over the emerging talent of the county. It was very fitting then when the retired teachers of Kilkenny commissioned a new and very beautiful cup to be given to the Schools Board to be presented to the Roinn C Champions. Launched in the James Stephens Clubhouse in early summer, a great



Kilmanagh - Country Cup Champions 2018



Castlecomer - Roinn B Champions 2018



Mullinavat - Roinn C Champions 2018



St Canices B - Roinn D Champions 2018

crowd joined the Village Club and the Leahy Family to remember Georgie and his contribution to Kilkenny and Schools' Hurling in particular. The Cup itself is a thing of beauty, a fitting memory of a great man. A big thanks to the Leahy Family, James Stephens Club and the retired teachers of Kilkenny. Interestingly, the cup was contested for the first time by Mullinavat and Rower-Inistioge – two southern schools!!

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn A Final. Kilmanagh 4-18 Clara 0-6

Kilmanagh and Clara met in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn A final in a sunny Nowlan Park in front of a large crowd. It was the boys from Kilmanagh who got the all-important fast start with an early goal from a Ryan Corcoran placed ball. Another free and a Ciallin Brennan goal from a tight angle gave Kilmanagh a commanding early lead. Clara however stuck at it and the excellent Conor Hoyne opened their account with a fine point. Kilmanagh tacked on two quick points from Jake O'Brien and Aaron McEvoy and moments later, Ben Young broke through to finish to the net for their third goal of the half. The teams exchanged points in the final minutes of the half to leave the score 3-7 to 0-3 at half time.

Kilmanagh's Ryan Corcoran opened the second half scoring with an excellent point from play before both corner forwards, O'Brien and McEvoy got on the scoreboard again. Conor Hoyne kept the scoreboard ticking over from a battling Clara side but the killer score came on 34 minutes when Ben Young cracked home his second goal of the game for Kilmanagh. Both teams battled on to the end of a hard fought contest but it was Kilmanagh who had that killer instinct in front of goals and were deserving winners of their first Roinn A title in 26 years.

It was heartbreak for the second year in a row for the Clara boys who had lost out narrowly in last year's Roinn B Final before opting to compete in Roinn A this year. For Kilmanagh however, following their defeat at this stage last year, it was to great celebration that captain Jeff Neary raised the Joe Dunphy Cup as they returned to the top of the tree in Kilkenny schools Hurling

Kilmanagh: *Seán McGrath, Aidan Cahill, Seán Roberts, Elliot Teehan, Jeff Neary (c), Billy O'Neill (0-1 [free]), Dean O'Brien, Ryan Cody, Charlie Cleere, Ryan Corcoran (1-11 [1-6 frees, 0-2 65s]), James Casey, Ben Young (2-0), Jake O'Brien (0-2), Ciallin Brennan (1-1), Aaron McEvoy (0-3)*

Subs: *Martin Brennan, Pat Purcell, Cillian Hoyne, James Brennan, Tony Butler, Frank McCluskey, Páidí Egan, Aidan Comerford, James O'Halloran, Robbie Tector*

Clara: *Cian Kelly, Ben Crow, Paddy Walsh, Thomas Langton, Alex Firbank, Rory Glynn (c), Diarmuid Langton, Eoghan Bennett, Ruarc Sweeney, Seán Carriage, Harry Boyle, Eoghan O'Brien, Joe Power, Ned Langton (0-1), Conor Hoyne (0-5, [4 frees])*

Subs: *David Barcoe, Eoin Corr, Dillon Cummins, Seán Byrne, Jake Maher, James Cody, Shane Walsh, Connor Lynch, John Bergin, Ross Gormley, Liam Carrigan, Kian Kealy, Daniel Murphy, Diarmuid Matthews Downing*

Referee: *Sean Cleere*



Danesfort - O'Brien Cup Winners 2018



Clara- Roinn A Finalists 2018



Tullogher Rosbercon - Roinn B Finalists 2018



Rower Inistioge - Roinn C Finalists 2018

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol
TOP Oil Roinn B Final.
Comer are Champions
Castlecomer 3-8 Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-9

Three second half goals were vital as the boys of Castlecomer and Firoda schools saw off the challenge of Tullogher-Rosbercon and claimed back the Paddy Hennessy Cup for the first time since 2001. Trailing by four points at half time, the young Comer lads scored at vital times in the second half and with their defence holding firm at the other end they had five to spare at the end.

It was Castlecomer who started faster and they had four points on the board in the first ten minutes through James Coogan, Shane Holden and Michael Brennan. Marty Murphy and Sean Guiney started to win the battle at midfield and Tullogher opened their account with a Murphy point. As Comer came under pressure, they conceded a few frees and Marty Murphy punished them each time. Slowly but surely, the southern lads pulled the deficit back with Niall Mooney and Ronan Guiney also scoring. Eventually their pressure cracked the Comer defence and Tullogher won a penalty. Marty Murphy stepped up and buried a goal. The northern boys did manage another point before half time but it was Tullogher who lead at the break 1-6 to Castlecomer's 0-5.

Comer again started the second half brightly but it was Tullogher who registered the first score with a Marty Murphy point. Shane Holden responded for Castlecomer and in a five minute spell, the game turned on its head. Firstly a long Michael Brennan dropped dangerously in and found the corner of the net. Tullogher thought they had scored at the other end immediately and within two minutes James Coogan latched onto a ball for Castlecomer and blasted to the net. Comer were ahead! The teams traded points as Niall Mooney and Ronan Guiney swapped points with Shane Holden and a beauty from Cathal Dunny. The game was in the balance now, but the defences were now fighting every ball. With five minutes left, Castlecomer delivered the killer blow. Again it was captain Michael Brennan with a long delivery from the middle and a hard bounce which saw the ball hit the back of the net. The Tullogher-Rosbercon lads redoubled their efforts but they couldn't breach a solid Comer defence which stood tall. Time was on Castlecomer's side and when Paddy Neary blew the final whistle, they were still five points clear; Castlecomer 3-8 Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-9.

For a gallant Tullogher side JJ Ryan led by example from the back ably assisted by Aidan Lawlor. Marty Murphy and Sean Guiney had a great midfield battle with Shane Holden and Michael Brennan, while Andrew Murphy, Joe Malone and Niall Mooney did well up front. As well as the two midfielders already mentioned, Comer had fine performers in Jack Coogan, Bobby Brennan, James Coogan, Cathal Dunny and Robert Coogan. It was to great jubilation that captain Michael Brennan raised the Paddy Hennessy Cup.

Castlecomer: Conor O'Sullivan, Adam Reason, Jack Coogan, Eamon Brannigan, Conor Brophy, Bobby Brennan, Mark Kennedy, Shane Holden (0-5), Michael Brennan (2-1), Patrick Coughlan, Robert Coogan, Cathal Dunny (0-1), Jake Connery, James Coogan (1-1) Leo Downey. Subs:



Windgap - Roinn D Finalists 2018



Gowran - Corn de Bhaldraithe Finalists 2018



Freshford - O'Brien Cup Finalists 2018



Clara - Roinn A Under 11 Winners 2017



Dunnamaggin - Roinn B Under 11 Winners 2018

Jack Comerford, Eoin Nolan, James Comerford, Matthwe Rowe, Adam Nash, Josh Kirwan, Mikey Maher, Will Healy, Will Tynan.

Tullagher-Rosbercon: *James Cummins, John Murphy, JJ Ryan, Sean Power, David Kennedy, Aidan Lawlor, Fionn Connolly, Marty Murphy (1-5), Sean Guiney, Dean Kinsella, Andrew Murphy, Joe Malone, Sean Ryan (0-1), Niall Mooney (0-2), Ronan Guiney (0-1).* **Subs:** *Kyle Duggan, Fergal O'Shea, Adam Arthurs, Niall Cummins, Sean Jordan, Jack Allen, Jamie Connolly Smith, Gerard Hennessy, Kyle Cummins, Phoenix Doherty, Adam White.*

Referee: *Paddy Neary*

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn C Final. Mullinavat Hold on in Second Half Thriller Mullinavat 3-10 Rower Inistioge 3-7

The late Georgie Leahy looked down approvingly on a splendid Nowlan Park for this Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn C Schools' final. A small coincidence that it was an all-south final but then Georgie did spend his time as county coach down with the schools in the south of the county. In fact Georgie was finding it difficult to choose a winner as the teams were level at half time 2-4 each and then only a puck of a ball separated them in what was to be a second half thriller. Many of the Leahy family members were very pleased as they were in attendance to present the new Georgie Leahy cup to the inaugural winners 2018.

Mullinavat got the dream start with a goal in the second minute from star corner forward Conor Power. Rower-Inistioge were quick to respond and in the fifth minute a goalkeeping error presented the ideal opportunity for Rower-Inistioge to pounce. A penalty was awarded to Mullinavat in the seventh minute and CJ Fitzpatrick fired over the bar. Callum McGrath at midfield for Rower-Inistioge scored a supreme point from play to level the game and Eoghan Lyng pointed a free soon after to edge them ahead by the minimum of margins. Dylan Dungan in goal for Mullinavat then produced a fantastic save to deny the Rower-Inistioge.

Adam Clifford found the net following a sustained period of pressure by the Rower-Inistioge attack and soon after Eoghan Lyng added a point to open a five point lead. A great Mullinavat move involving Eoin Aylward and Conor Power produced a fine point and then John Walsh wearing No 17 found the net to level the game. A pointed free from Eoghan Lyng and a similar score from play by CJ Fitzpatrick kept the score board working. At the half time whistle the teams retired with nothing between them at 2-4 each.

Mullinavat were all business at the start of the second half. CJ Fitzpatrick pointed an early free. His air of leadership was now imposing on the opposition and his team mates followed. Clíodhna Walsh fired over a fine point from the sideline. She had played for her team the previous evening in a drawn camogie schools' final. Clíodhna's camogie team mate Ambar Laherty scored a fine goal from a simple strike and now the gap was five points. Eoghan Lyng kept his team in touch with a pointed free. Rower-Inistioge enjoyed their own purple patch. Tom O'Callaghan and Eoghan Lyng pointed from play for the Rower-Inistioge. Two pointed frees from CJ Fitzpatrick steadied the Vat nerves. The game entered the final quarter and Rower-Inistioge pushed for a goal. One came as Tom

O Callaghan reduced the lead to a single point with five minutes to play. Coolness and a calm approach came from corner forward Conor Power who produced the score of the game, a strike from over his right shoulder travelled 45 metres and split the posts. CJ Fitzpatrick pointed a free to leave a dangerous three points between the sides and then the same player was seen playing deep in defence during the closing minutes, a true sign of a leader. Mullinavat held out to mark a historic occasion, the first winners of the Georgie Leahy perpetual cup. Rita Leahy proudly presented the impressive cup to Mullinavat captain and star player CJ Fitzpatrick.

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. St Canice's reach Promised Land! St Canice's B 5-10 Windgap 5-07

St Canice's B secured their first victory ever for the school's second team at this grade in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Primary School Leagues. Following a number of final appearances in recent years, the Grange's Road team finally reached the promised land and claimed the Roinn D title.

The game was hugely entertaining and the level of skill displayed by both teams was impressive. Ronan O'Brien (W) and Luke Quigley (St C) opened the scoring for their teams. In the sixth minute sharp free taker Anthony Clifford struck two deadly accurate frees to open a lead for St Canice's. The game's first goal fell to Ronan O'Brien after a fantastic solo run. Clifford responded with a pointed free and the game was level. The game then entered a new level of energy. Windgap's Ronan O'Brien goaled after a sensational side step which wrong-footed the St Canice's defence. The response from St Canice's was instant as Anthony Clifford goaled in fine style. Windgap pointed from a free and St. Canice's added two points from play courtesy of that man, Anthony Clifford, again. St Canice's goaled just before half time after clever combination play between Louis Raggett and Luke Quigley who raised the green flag. Windgap had not scored in a twelve minute spell but when St Canice's keeper delayed in clearing the ball, Shane Lomax pounced and he earned valuable goal for his side just on the half time whistle to leave the score on the break at 2-8 to 3-2 in favour of the city school.

On the restart points were traded by Ali Kennedy (W) and Luke Quigley (St C). The game then

produced a spate of wides from both sides which indicated the tension in the game. Twelve minutes into the half Josh Hynes found Luke Quigley with a super pass and Quigley goaled. Some fine play by Aaron Fanning and Luke Kerwick was tipping the advantage in favour of St Canice's. Windgap did keep in touch with a pointed free from the impressive Ronan O'Brien. Max Doyle made no mistake when he got his chance to point from long range. Windgap's captain Conor Doyle hit a piledriver in the 18th minute and the net danced, reducing the lead now to a goal. As St Canice's tended to do throughout the game they responded in like fashion and when Windgap keeper batted down Josh Hynes did not hesitate as he struck to the net from a ground strike. Windgap continued to apply pressure and were rewarded with a penalty which Cian O'Rourke duly dispatched to the back of the net. Ronan O'Brien added a point immediately after and the score now read 5-10 to 5-6. The closing minutes belonged to Windgap and when Cian O'Rourke pointed from play, the crowd were on the edge of their seats with the game in added time. Stout defending by Marcus Trait and captain Hugh Greaney helped St Canice's to hold out. The siege was lifted when referee blew the final whistle. Captain Hugh Greaney lifted the cup on behalf of his team to great cheering. Windgap can take heart from their performance and how they approached the game.

St Canice's: *Mark Mc Phillips, Marcus Trait, Hugh Greaney, Ryan Gorman, Aidan Cullen, Max Doyle, Aaron Fanning, Aaron Russell, Enda Kavanagh, Luke Kerwick, Josh Hynes, Anthony Clifford, Ciaran Power.*

Subs: *Luke Quigley, Louis Raggett, Luke Browne, Eoin Walpole, Bill Clune, James Kenny, Andrew Comerford, Cathal Russell, Rory Mc Evoy, Sean Keogh, Conor Holohan, Ryan Butler, Robbie Young, Ben Hogan, Matthew Mc Carthy, Alex Reynolds.*

Windgap: *Alex Culleton, George Culleton, Michael Freaney, Evan Doyle, Darragh Doyle, Jenny Saunders, Noah O'Shea, Cian O'Rourke, Ali Kennedy, Eoin O'Shea, Ronan O'Brien, Conor Doyle, Shane Lomax.*

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Corn de Bhalldraithe Final Kilmanagh on the double. Kilmanagh 5-10 Gowran 0-8

Kilmanagh secured a clean sweep of Allianz Cumann na mBunscol titles on offer this summer as they captured the Roinn A and Country Cup Titles. They were Corn de Bhalldraithe champions in 2017 and they outscored Gowran in impressive style to add two in a row to keep them Kings of Country hurling in primary GAA.

Stand out player on the day for Kilmanagh, Jeff Neary was ably assisted by Billy O'Neill, Charlie Cleere, Ryan Corcoran, James Casey, Ben Young and big full forward Ciallin Brennan. Indeed it was this core group of the team that ran the show from start to finish. Ryan Corcoran a point and Charlie Cleere a goal opened the scoring for Kilmanagh and with Corcoran also on frees duty 0-2 by the tenth minute Kilmanagh were well on top with further scores from Jake O'Brien 1-0 leaving the

score 2-3 to a point for Gowran from the stick of the lively Ben Phelan.

The heat was intense and following a sensible water break Kilmanagh got the scoreboard moving again. Ryan Corcoran on the right wing added a point and soon after his team mate Aaron McEvoy playing at top of the left rattled the net. Gowran managed a point from a free and on the half time whistle Kilmanagh held a commanding lead 3-4 to 0-2.

On the resumption of second half the blocking and hooking displayed by both teams was a joy to behold. Kilmanagh full forward Ciallin Brennan moved into top gear and he influenced many of the scores of the half. Three fine points from Brennan and a goal from Aaron McEvoy who pounced on a slow clearance piled on the pressure for Gowran. Gowran enjoyed some fine passages of play themselves and while goals were next to impossible Bobbie Brennan worked the scoreboard with two pointed frees. Gowran did press on from the tenth minute and Bobbie Brennan played a captain's role as he added six points to his side's tally. In defence Kilmanagh were rock solid with goal keeper Sean McGrath and full back Sean Roberts in total command. Charlie Cleere scored his team's final goal to great applause.

The final score of 5-10 to 0-8 reflected an assured win in confident style for Kilmanagh.

Kilmanagh: Sean Mc Grath, Aidan Cahill, Sean Roberts, Elliot Teehan, Jeff Neary, Billy O'Neill, Dean O'Brien, Ryan Cody, Charlie Cleere, Ryan Corcoran, James Casey, Ben Young, Jake O'Brien, Ciallin Brennan, Aaron Mc Evoy.

Subs: Martin Brennan, Pat Purcell, Cillian Hoyne, James Brennan, Tony Butler, Frank Mc Cluskey, Paidi Egan, Aidan Comerford, James O'Halloran, Robbie Tector.

Gowran: Luke O'Donnell, James Brennan, Tim Brennan, Richard Nolan, Cian Phelan, Robin Carey, Shane Simpson, Bobbie Brennan, Luke Phelan, Timmy Brennan, Ben Phelan, Mikey Keating, Jim Conlon, Eoin O'Neill, Billy O'Keeffe.

Subs: Aaron Fenlon, Andrew Corbett, Conor Doyle, Tommy Gittens, Tristan Nolan, Alex Kenny, Charley Phelan, Darragh Doyle, David Langton, Eddie Scally, Eoin Brennan, Jake Byrne, Matthew McAviney, Ruairi Phelan, Sam Brennan, Tadhg Ahern.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Tommy O'Brien Cup Final

Danesfort champions in a scorefest!

Danesfort 9-8 Freshford 7-4

The Tommy O'Brien Cup for schools in Roinn C and Roinn D was unusual this year as neither of the two finalists had contested their respective league deciders and had reached Nowlan Park on the back of a good cup run. Whether this was the root of the open, free-flowing scoring fiesta that these teams served up, we do not know, but Danesfort and Freshford came to play and to attack at every possible opportunity!

It was the St Lachtain boys who were fastest out of the blocks scoring in the first fifteen seconds before Jerry Bergin added a second point. Bergin bagged a goal and within two minutes Freshford had made a perfect start. But the nature of this game showed itself as back bounced Danesfort with goals in

quick succession from captain Cian O'Reilly and full forward Mark Fitzpatrick. Harry Lanigan added two pointed frees to edge Danesfort a goal in front before Marty Campion levelled things up with another Freshford goal. Seven minutes gone, 2-2 a piece. The scoring slowed for a while as the teams caught their breaths but the last ten minutes of the first half exploded again! Marty Campion goaled again to put Freshford back in front. Mark Fitzpatrick pointed for the 'Fort and Colin McGree (F) and Ronan Hackett swapped (D) quick points.

of the game. Freshford threw everything into their efforts to come back but try as they might they just couldn't find another score and with Danesfort striking twice more for goals through Mark Fitzpatrick and Timmy Corr, they seized the day and the title.

There was great jubilation on the Danesfort side and devastation for the Freshford boys but the crowd rose as one on the full time whistle to acclaim two fantastic teams who left every ounce of energy they had on the Nowlan Park field in

ALLIANZ CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA SCOREBOARD 2018

Toy-master Roinn A	Kilmanagh	4-18	Clara	0-6
TOP Oil Roinn B	Castlecomer	3-8	Tull-Rosbercon	1-9
Toy-master Roinn C	Mullinavat	3-10	Rower-Inistioge	3-7
TOP Oil Roinn D	St Canice's	5-10	Windgap	5-7
Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe	Kilmanagh	5-10	Gowran	0-8
Allianz Corn Ó Briain	Danesfort	9-8	Freshford	7-4

Toy-master Under 11 Roinn A	Clara	3-2	Callan	2-3
TOP OIL Under 11 Roinn B	Dunnamaggin	3-4	Carrickshock	2-6
Toy-master Under 11 Roinn C	Slieverue	4-6	Johnstown	0-2

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 (Stoneyford)	Clodhna 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'Keeffe/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'Keeffe	Luke Flanagan* (Clagh)/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!

Mikey Tiernan drove through from midfield to goal again for Freshford and five points up they looked strong. But Danesfort came back with points from Harry Lanigan and Timmy Corr either side of Mark Fitzpatrick's goal and by the time we all paused for abreak the scores were tied again – Danesfort 3-6 Freshford 4-3.

Could the pace be kept up for the second period. In a short answer, yes! Within two minutes Patrick Kelly fired a goal for Danesfort and Daragh Dwane added a point. Freshford's turn, Captain Cathal Hickey goaled and Marty Campion pointed, level again! Mark Fitzpatrick completed his hat-trick for Danesfort but Cathal Hickey levelled matters up with his second goal. The impressive Harry Lanigan fired a free long and to the net before the equally impressive Marty Campion levelled matters once more with his hat-trick goal. However, the last ten minutes belonged to the Danesfort boys as they again finished the game strongly. Daragh Dwane goaled to restore their lead and Harry Lanigan added a point to open their biggest lead

a brilliantly skilful and entertaining game. Final score Danesfort 9-8, Freshford 7-4.

Danesfort: Charlie Sheehan, Mark Srouji, Max Coffey, Finn Drennan, Kieran Walsh, Harry Lanigan (1-4), Mark Reddy, Evan Srouji, Fionn Mahony, Ronan Hackett (0-1), Cian O'Reilly (1-0), John Davis, Timmy Corr (1-1), Mark Fitzpatrick (4-1), Patrick Kelly (1-0). **Subs:** Alan Cuniffe, Callum Murphy, Conor Dillon, Daniel Smith, Liam Ireland Wall, Louie Lawlor, Aiden Cowley, Oisín Fanning, Daragh Dwane (1-1)

Freshford: Michael Murphy, Anthony Colclough, Eoin Dalton, Sean Counihan, Luke Phelan, Conor Dalton, David Kavanagh Hayde, Sean Kennedy, Mikey Tiernan (1-0), James O'Connor, Cathal Hickey (2-0), Colin McGree (0-1), Cian Donnelly, Jerry Bergin (1-2), Marty Campion (3-1). **Subs:** Matthew Colclough, Jamie Denieffe, Bobby Darcy, Jack Dalton, Tadhg Bolger, Sean Colclough.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster U11 Roinn A Hurling Final

Third time lucky for Clara

Clara 3-2 Bunscoil McAuley Rice (Callan) 2-3

Having lost the first two editions of the Roinn A Under 11 final may well have been the motivation for Clara to go all out to win this Allianz Cumann na mBunscol final in a warm and splendid Nowlan Park. Ice cream was not available but certainly ice cool nerves were needed by Clara to stave off a late challenge by Scoil McAuley Rice of Callan.

Clara started in very positive fashion and their persistence was rewarded when star forward Eoin Corr fired over a point in the tenth minute. A pointed free soon after from David Barcoe seemed to ease the nerves for Clara. Zak O'Halloran was in fine form from placed balls for the Callan side and by the sixteenth his two points from frees had levelled the game. Both teams were up and running.

The game's first goal came as Donagh O'Neill, minding the net for Callan brought off a super save but Jake Maher for Clara was on hand to finish the ball to the net. While O'Neill was making saves for Scoil McAuley Rice so too was Conor Galvin in the Clara goal. The art of goalkeeping is alive and well in Kilkenny primary schools. Half time score 1-2 to 0-2 in favour of Clara.

The second half provided all the excitement and skill you could wish for. The hooking and blocking from both sides was exceptional. The third minute saw Scoil McAuley Rice full forward Zak O'Halloran find the net as he deflected the long ball from a 65m free. Clara piled on the pressure and their second goal came with full forward Jake Maher again getting the vital touch. He followed up with another display of tenacious hurling when he blocked down Paddy O'Brien at full back and then finished to the net with aplomb. Fifteen minutes into the half saw Scoil McAuley Rice come to life and a goal from Ollie O'Donovan left just a goal between the teams.

While Clara created fewer scoring chances in the last ten minutes, Callan fired all they had at Clara. They reduced the lead to two points when Zak O'Halloran pointed a free. However, Clara defended their narrow lead right to the end. Scoil McAuley Rice are a team for the future. Captain Thomas Langton received the winner's shield on behalf of his team.

Clara: *Conor Galvin, Daniel Murphy, James Cody, Philip Carrigan, John Bergin, Thomas Langton, Connor Lynch, Joe Power, Luke Lawlor, Eoin Corr, David Barcoe, Bill Kealy, Sean Byrne, Jake Maher, Joseph Langton.*

Subs: *Sean Cooke, Tomas Brennan, Tom Murphy, Peter Firbank, Jay Taylor, Tom Boyle, Hugh Kelly, Daniel Ryan.*

Scoil McAuley Rice: *Donagh O'Neill, Jack Hennessy, Paddy O'Brien, James Power, Gavin O'Neill, Tom Power, Eoghan Lynch, Robbie Jackman, Hugh Hennessy, Jack Lennon, D O'Sullivan, Danny Carey, Ollie O'Donovan, Zak O'Halloran, Marcus Ryan.*

Subs: *Ben McGuire, John Power, Luke Power, Alfie Lynch, Eoghan Cassin, Richard Power, Oisín O'Neill, Jack Kennedy, Joseph Butler, Ollie Molloy, Padraig Croke, Joey Tobin, Paddy Grace, Jack Dawson, Charlie Goff, Daniel Adriano, Edmund Power, Alex Brudell, Kian Bergin, Andrew O'Halloran, Joseph Moran, Luke Molloy, Shay O'Donovan.*



Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil U11 Roinn B Hurling Final

Dunnamaggin win Southern Derby Classic

Dunnamaggin 3-4 Carrickshock 2-6

On a glorious evening for hurling, these Southern rivals served up a classic which literally went to the last ball as Dunnamaggin held on to make it two Under 11 Roinn B titles in a row at the expense of near neighbours Carrickshock by the slimmest of margins. Derby games are always good and after a close encounter at the league stages, a large

crowd gathered to see the neighbours meet again! They were not left disappointed though there was heartbreak for Carrickshock who led for all but five minutes of this game! For Dunnamaggin it was joy unrestrained as they claimed this title again and in the most dramatic of fashions.

Carrickshock made the brighter start and were on the scoreboard within a minute as captain, Conor Farrell landed a 65 within the first minute. Mikey Rohan doubled the lead with a lovely individual score on 8 minutes. Dunnamaggin finally settled and won a free in which Ciarán Hickey pointed. However, they were immediately rocked on their heels when Donnachadh Hogan swept the ball

to the net for a Carrickshock goal. Ciarán Hickey added his second point from play which Conor Farrell answered with a long range free. Just at the break, Jamie Tallon cut out a dangerous attack and was fouled. He landed a great free which left the half-time score Dunnamaggin 0-3 Carrickshock 1-3. On resumption it was the 'Shocks who again made the stronger start. Cian Franks shot a great point over his shoulder on five minutes to extend their lead. From the puck out, Mikey Rohan broke free and shot yet another fine score leaving Carrickshock five clear. Dunnamaggin fought hard to stay in touch and a lovely pick up and shot saw Noah Cahill score a point that they badly needed. Within three minutes the tie turned on its head. Jamie Tallon fired his shot low and it travelled all the way to the net and suddenly there was just a point between the teams (D 1-4, C 1-5). In the very next attack Ciarán Hickey worked the ball in front of goal and Cormac Holden applied the finishing touch. Dunnamaggin were in front! Tim Doherty then fired a long ball in to the square which Patrick Irish cut out. Brian Hickey snapped up the breaking ball and fired a third Dunnamaggin goal. Carrickshock were rattled. They had three minutes to rescue the game. Conor Farrell pointed a '65 metre free. Mikey Rohan then set off on another driving run and fed Farrell who fired to the net. Within two minutes, Carrickshock had the gap back to the minimum and were finishing strongly. Rohan fed Farrell again and his shot was deflected out for yet another '65. Conor Farrell again took the placed ball but the sliotar came low off his hurl and looked destined for the net before Thomas Deegan reached out and deflected it away. Dunnamaggin managed to scramble the ball clear and jumped high with delight as referee, John McCormack sounded the final whistle.

Dunnamaggin: *Thomas Deegan, Cathal Rossiter, David Moore, Liam Davis, Jake O'Neill, Jamie Tallon (1-1), Conor Lawton, Pierce Costello, Tim Doherty, Brian Hickey (1-0), Ciarán Hickey (0-2), Noah Cahill (0-1), Stephen Walsh, Eoin Ryan, Cormac Holden (1-0). Subs: an McEneaney, Conor Aylward.*

Carrickshock: *Matthew Murphy, Christopher Aylward, Patrick, Irish, Conor Duggan, John Somers, Mikey Rohan (0-2), Adam Franks, Conor Farrell (1-3), Jody Dineen, Eoin O'Gorman, Oisin Drea, Donnachadh Hogan (1-0), Cian Franks (0-1), Mark Askins, Liam O'Grady. Subs: Dara O'Neill, Oisin Dalton, Sam Mansfield, Ben Raggett, Alex Hickey, Daniel Dunphy, Eoghan O'Connell, Edward Kavanagh, Brandon Murphy, Darragh O'Dwyer, Harry Moore, Jack Donnelly.*

Referee: *John McCormack*

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster U11 Roinn C Hurling Final
Slieverue Shine in First Title
Slieverue 3-6 Johnstown 0-2

Slieverue captured their first Under 11 title in this Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Roinn C hurling final at splendid Nowlan Park. Indeed their superiority never wavered throughout this game and centre field general Ryan Connell dominated matters from start to finish.

Johnstown attacked from the throw in but shot an early wide. In the third minute Jack Knox found the net to get Slieverue off the mark. Ryan Connell fired over two points from frees. Johnstown began to settle more and Jack Walsh settled the nerves with a point from play. Orla Power made no

mistake in front of goal and scored a fine point and soon after Ryan Connell continued to cause havoc as he added a goal and two points to open up a strong lead for Slieverue.

At the half time mark Slieverue enjoyed a ten point lead. From the restart Slieverue continued to pile on the pressure and that man again Ryan Connell was at the centre of all the action. He chipped in a further 1-1 and goalkeeper turned attacker Tadhg Doherty sealed victory with a fine goal. Johnstown added their second point, a free from the stick of Jack Renehan. Orla Power completed her side's tally with a fine ground stroke that finished in the back of the net.

A fine performance from Slieverue and it should help to push them up the ranks for next year at Under 13. Johnstown can take heart from the experience gained in this final and as past winners of Under 13 Roinn D their day in the sun will not be far away again.

Slieverue: *Tadhg Doherty, William Haberin, Jake Kikkers, Craig Mc Govern, Pat Kennedy, Niall Cullen, Ryan Connell, Jack Knox, Corey O'Brien, Fionn Howard, Callum Cleary, Ruben Costello.*

Subs: *Blaithnaid Dolan, Brian Phelan, Orla Power, Alex Murphy, Eanna Wilson, Patrick Walsh, Adam Walsh, Brendan Dolan.*

Johnstown: *Aaron Phelan, William Colclough, Grainne O'Loughlin, Luke Walsh, Aoife McCormack, Eoghan Summer, Jack Walsh, Evan Ryan, Harry Grehan, Chloe Phelan, Tiernan O'Connor, Ella Curran.*

Subs: *Sinead Henderson, Aoife O'Grady, Jack Renehan, Cathal O'Donovan, Donagh Maher.*

MICHAEL CROTTY

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Congratulations to all
Cumann na mBunscoileanna Winners in 2018



The Leahy family with Schools Board Officers at the launch of the Georgie Leahy Cup



Roinn A Presentation



Roinn B Presentation



Roinn C Presentation by Mrs Rita Leahy



Roinn D Presentation



Corn de Bhaldratthe Presentation



Tommy O'Brien Cup Presentation



Mini 7's Hurling Winners - St Canice's



U11 B Presentation



Mini 7's Camogie Winners - Glenmore



Mini 7's Football Winners - Clara



U11 C Presentation



Mini 7's Girls' Football Winners - St Canice's



Young Ireland - Sweeney Cup Winners



Dicksboro- Sweeney Cup Runners-up



James Stephens -Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield Winners



Naas- Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield Finalists



Camross



Graigue Ballycallan



The Harps



Danesfort



Kilmacud Crokes



Moycarkey Borris



Mullinavat



Clara

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ADAPTING TO AGE GRADE CHANGES

Photos: Willie Dempsey

Development
Squads Report
by Seamus Norris



Kilkenny Squad Footballers with Jim Gavin (Dublin) in Dunmore

Development Squads in 2018 have had to adapt as a result of the age grade changes. Minor became Under-17 for the first time and this led to a domino effect for other ages. The Tony Forristal and the Sonny Walsh All-Ireland tournaments remained at Under-14.

The Arrabawn, formerly Under-16 moved to Under-15 and added a qualification process which led to the unprecedented situation where the holders could not compete in the Cup competition on the National Day. The Under-15 Michael Foley tournament in Wexford moved to an Under-16 competition while The Under-17 Mallow tournament moved to Under-16. Meanwhile club competitions also moved to Under-15 and Under-17. The Development Squads took on the challenges posed with vigour. Communication events were held for clubs, coaches and parents. Sean Kelly led the Kilkenny County Board winter strength and conditioning education programme. It became common to see squad players proudly wearing the black and amber. The development coaching sessions commenced including specialist ones like the PJ Ryan led goalkeeping session. The MW Hire Training Centre became the home of the Development Squads. The measurement at the end of the year was the improvement in all participants with skills they are also expected to bring back to their Club. A secondary measure is the success in the National Day tournaments in August.

HURLING DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

The Paddy Grace Féile Na Gael Tournament once again provided the selection foundation for the 2018 Under-14 Development Squads. 2018, saw the end of the North, South and Central format which has served the county over the last number of years. Over 100 Players were selected from the Féile Tournament and viewed in the initial squads. This was further reduced following a series of trials to two working squads of 30 known as Amber and Black. These players were then developed through intensive coaching sessions and inter county challenge games to finally reach the Tony Forristal (Amber) and Sonny Walsh (Black) match day panels.

In the Under-14 National Day tournaments, Kilkenny reached the final of the Tony Forristal with very good wins over Tipperary, Waterford and Dublin. In the final they faced a Cork team who had topped an easier group in the Walsh Park final. Victory went Cork's way despite a valiant Kilkenny effort on the score of 3-6 to 2-15. In the Sonny Walsh Tournament, Kilkenny suffered a narrow defeat to Westmeath

before going down to a strong Offaly first team. Cork pulled off the double by beating Tipperary in a penalty shootout final.

The Under-15 moved format also moved away from North, South and Central to Amber and Black. Their selection was based on feedback from the previous year at Under-14, communication with clubs and viewing matches involving players of the age by the squad coaches. No stone was left unturned so that nobody was omitted and any player who had not made it previously but had since developed well got every opportunity to join or re-join the system.

The initial Under-15 Arrabawn tournament had a nonsensical prelude. For the first time ever qualifying rounds took place and Kilkenny were drawn in a round robin with Offaly and Cork with winners going into the Cup Semi-Finals. Offaly withdrew so it meant a Kilkenny had a one-off match in Cork (Ballyhea) with a Cork referee. The valiant Kilkenny boys brought the game to extra time and the exertions of the long drive took its toll amidst some controversy regarding the officials score and the "disappearance" of two Kilkenny points from the officials notebook. Kilkenny still made the shield on National Day but found both Wexford and Waterford too strong. However, the Kilkenny Black Under-15 squad beat Kildare and then Limerick 2-11 to 1-9 in the Plate Final to register All-Ireland success.

In Wexford at the Michael Foley Under-16 Tournament, Kilkenny Amber beat Waterford and Offaly before going down by three points to Wexford in the Semi-Final. Kilkenny Under-16 Black travelled to Mallow (formerly an Under-17 competition). They lost by two points to Cork before beating Kerry in the round robin section, but it was not enough to progress.

The Development Squad system is under continuous review and will most likely be tweaked further for 2019.

GAELIC FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

The DJ Carey led Gaelic Football development squads project continued at pace throughout 2018. About 20 sessions were held during the year at the MW Hire Training Centre in Dunmore with coaches Seamus Norris, Thomas Rossiter, Angelo Cullen and Donal Carroll. The winter sessions were combined with the Kilkenny Development squads S&C education programme which for the first time included those who were on the football squads but not the hurling squads. The footballers received the same high level



Black Squad under 14



Amber Squad under 14



Amber Squad Under 15



Black Squad Under 15

of treatment as their hurling counterparts. Jim Gavin, the four-in-a-row Dublin Senior Football Manager took a session in February in Dunmore. Both players and coaches learned a lot from his immense expertise with both a “classroom” and practical skills session.

Two Under-16 teams played challenge games versus Waterford in Carriganore and both resulted in wins for the Kilkenny teams where everyone commented on the huge work rate of the Kilkenny boys. A panel of 40 were available to play a Galway selection as the curtain raiser to the All-Ireland Junior Football semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway in Nowlan Park. Although it did not result in a win, 27 players got exposure to playing in Nowlan Park on a big occasion; some for the second consecutive year and still Kilkenny remained competitive throughout the game.

In October, Kilkenny will field an Under-16 team in the Fr. Manning inter county Cup. They have been drawn in a group with Waterford, Carlow and Wexford. There are four groups of four featuring counties from all provinces. They will play a series of round robin games before the knockout stages. This will be the first competitive preparation for the squad as they remain on target to compete in the 2019 Leinster Minor championship, which has been the end game, though the post will arrive a year early with the move of Minor from Under-18 to Under-17. The Kilkenny county board have been hugely supportive of the project since the beginning in 2016 and as it enters year four, there are still over fifty players involved in the Under-16/15 age group.

The new batch of Under-14s have started the development process under the coaching of Stephen Morgan, Michael Rossiter and Mick Hanley. This will ensure a continuous cycle of development of Kilkenny inter county footballers going forward. New players are always welcomed and it is hoped to get further buy in to the advantages from the clubs whose support is required for the continued success.

NATIONAL DAY SQUADS

Under-14 Amber: Joe Fitzpatrick (Dunnamaggin), Killian Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Evin Rudkins (Barrow Rangers), Shane Aylward (Mullinavat), Bill Hughes (Bennettsbridge), Gearóid Dunne (Tullaroan), Peter McDonald (Mullinavat), David Sherman (Galmoy), Sean Moore (Carrickshock), Ben Whitty (Danesfort), Padraig Naddy (Young Irelands), Ted Dunne (Graignamanagh), Harry Shine (Dicksboro), Danny Glennon (Tullogher Rosbercon), Darragh Queally (Emeralds), Michael Clarke (Dicksboro), John Keane (Dicksboro), Alex Sheridan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Kieran Cleere (Emeralds), Kieran Cleere (Emeralds), Killian Carey (Young Irelands), Alex Burke (Emeralds), Shane Glynn (James Stephens), Kian Dunne (James Stephens),

Management Team: John Buggy (Erins Own), Seamus Norris (Piltown), Simon Walton (Dicksboro), Richie Manogue (James Stephens)

Under-14 Black: Niall Holland (Tullaroan), James Walsh (Kilmacow), Gavin Flynn (Piltown), Bill Smith (Danesfort), Colm Roche (Glenmore), Jack Kelly (James Stephens), Alan Dunphy (Lisdowney), Cian Doherty (St. Patricks) Killian Enright (Windgap), Lar Murphy (Tullogher Rosbercon), Tadgh Connolly



Celtic Challenge Team



Under 16 Squad

(Kilmacow), Kevin Moore (Dicksboro), Michael Raggett (Dicksboro), Thomas Sharkey (The Fenians), Joe Healy (Barrow Rangers), Callum Lonergan (Galmoy), Billy Dowling (Graigue Ballycallan), Sean Keenan (Dicksboro), Declan O'Farrell (Dicksboro), Sean Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), Harry O'Grady (O'Loughlin Gaels), Billy Garrett (The Fenians) Killian Doyle (Emeralds), Pádraig O'Grady (Fenians)

Management Team: Liam Lacey (St Patricks), Pat O'Grady (O'Loughlin Gaels), Willie Hanlon (Barrow Rangers), John McCormack (James Stephens).

Under-15 Amber: Brian Minogue (Dicksboro), Sean Purcell (Windgap), Luke Owens (James Stephens), Ian Ahern (Slieverue), James Aylward (Mooncoin), Mark Gunner (Conahy Shamrocks), Charlie Nolan (Dicksboro), Ciaran Phelan (John Lockes), Eoin O'Brien (Rower Inistioge), John Doheny (Fenians), Liam Lacey (Kilmacow), Tommy Coogan (Erins Own), Billy Reid (Glenmore), Shaun O'Keeffe (Dunnamaggin), Mark Donnelly (St Lachtains), Michael Kirwan (Glenmore), Pádraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Naoise Dempsey (Thomastown), Jimmy O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), Sean Maher (Dicksboro), Braedon Wheeler (Piltown), Billy Drennan (Galmoy), Neil Moriarty (Piltown), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), Denis Walsh (Dunnamaggin).

Management Team: Pat Hoban (Dunnamaggin),

Pat Nolan (Blacks & Whites), Tommy Brennan (Erins Own), Ger Kirwan (Thomastown).

Under-15 Black: Oisín Kelly (St Martins), Peter Holohan (St. Patricks Ballyragget), Ivan Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Brian O'Shea (Tullogher Rosbercon), Cillian Norton (Danesfort), Conor Dermody (Barrow Rangers), Eamonn Holland (Tullaroan), George O'Connor (Mullinavat), Timmy Clifford (Dicksboro), Ruaidhri Delaney (Rower Inistioge), Sean O'Dwyer (Mooncoin), Stephen Doheny (Danesfort), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands), Evan Buggy (James Stephens), John Canny (Danesfort), Rory O'Connor (Dicksboro), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro), Charlie Delahunty (Dicksboro), Adam O'Shea (Windgap), Charlie Phelan (Glenmore), Dylan O'Brien (James Stephens), John Comerford (O'Loughlin Gaels), Tom Brennan (Graigue Ballycallan), Willie Cahill (Lisdowney), Ruairi Flanagan (Rower Inistioge), Cathal Norton (Danesfort),

Management Team: Aidan Fogarty (O'Loughlin Gaels), Donal Carroll (Dicksboro), Angelo Cullen (Danesfort), Pado Flynn (St. Martins)

Under-16 Amber: Alan Rafter (St Lachtains), Aidan Tallis (Lisdowney), Dean Bray (Erins Own),

Senan Doyle (Blacks & Whites), Ciaran Rice (Conahy Shamrocks), Tomas Leahy (Danesfort), Liam Moore (Dicksboro), Ryan Murphy (Blacks & Whites), Ian

Byrne (Glenmore), Oisín Egan (Graig-Ballycallan), Pierce Blanchfield (Graignamanagh), Vincent O'Grady (O'Loughlin Gaels), Luke Byrne Doyle (Mullinavat), Sean O'Neill (Piltown), Bill Dowling (St. Martins), Kieran O'Neill (Barrow Rangers), Colman O'Sullivan (Tullogher Rosbercon), Pádraig Moylan (Dicksboro), Tristan Roche (St. Martins), Peter McDonald (Thomastown), Jack Doyle (Windgap), Aaron Murphy (Dicksboro), William Halpin (Slieverue), Andy Hickey (Dunnamaggin).

Management Team: Liam Dowling (St Martins), Pat Tynan (Danesfort), James Gittens (O'Loughlin Gaels).

Under-16 Black: Francis Moore (Piltown), James O'Keeffe (Mullinavat), JP Gamble (Conahy Shamrocks), Eoin Delahunty (Graig-Ballycallan), Oisín Carroll (Carrickshock), Colm O'Hara (Dicksboro), Daniel Murphy (Bennettsbridge), Oisín Hennebery (Mooncoin), Cormac Rafter (St. Lachtains), Craig Bolger (Rower Inistioge), Jamie O'Keeffe (James Stephens), Edmund Fitzpatrick (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Adam Byrne (Danesfort), Pádraig Foley (Windgap), Mairtin Gannon (Mooncoin), John McNamara (O'Loughlin Gaels), Tom Carroll (Dicksboro), Daryl Maye (Piltown), Paddy Brennan (Young Irelands), Michael Clifford (Dicksboro).

Management Team: Brian Ryan (The Fenians), PJ Ryan (The Fenians).



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CÚIL CAMPS 2018



CASTLECOMER

Photos: Willie Dempsey



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GRAIGNAMANAGH



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KILMACOW



KILMACOW



MOONCOIN



MOONCOIN



PILTOWN



PILTOWN



PILTOWN



THOMASTOWN



THOMASTOWN





U14 County Final winners



*Emma Ryan Kilkenny
representative Long Puck*



St. Fiachra's U12's



U10's 2018



Junior Camogie Team 2018



Winning Primary Schools Team



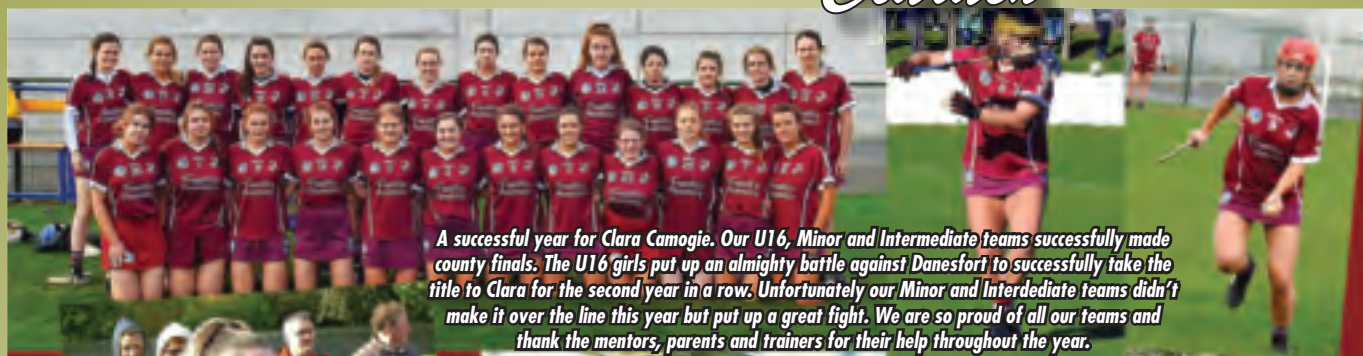
Carrraig Seabhac



Úrsai **Camóige**



Clárach



A successful year for Clara Camogie. Our U16, Minor and Intermediate teams successfully made county finals. The U16 girls put up an almighty battle against Danesfort to successfully take the title to Clara for the second year in a row. Unfortunately our Minor and Intermediate teams didn't make it over the line this year but put up a great fight. We are so proud of all our teams and thank the mentors, parents and trainers for their help throughout the year.





Feile U14 B Competition winners



U8 Camogie team.

Conahy Camogie Update 2018

Our Intermediate girls competed very well in their first year at this level reaching the county semi-final where an experienced Clara team got the better of them on the day. They are a young team and the future is bright for this group of girls who will learn from this and can look forward to next year with real enthusiasm.

After a slow start to the 2018 camogie year the U16 girls league/championship campaign left plenty for them to build on going forward. Containing a very young panel of which only 5 girls are over age next year this group have great ambitions for 2019.

The championship got off to a super start with a comprehensive victory over Southern competitors Windgap at the Polo Grounds. However, after a tenacious drawn battle against rivals St Martins in Coon in the quarter final, the teams had to do it all over again, approximately three weeks later, where unfortunately after a courageous and gallant effort they just came up short, with their year coming to an abrupt end.

Great positivity can be taken from this panel's resilience and 'never give up' attitude shown at every session undertaken this year, along with their work hard ethics on the training ground, u16 camogie is well and truly alive in Conahy for 2019.

Our U14 girls had a great year the highlight being their victory in the Feile B competition following a great battle against near neighbours St Lachtair's in the final in Clara in April. This was a great achievement for the girls and the parish as it was the first time a team from Conahy qualified to play in the All Ireland Feile weekend. What followed was a memorable weekend in Oranmore Galway where the girls played fantastically well winning all their group games and qualifying for the semi-final after a great quarter final win over Olyegate of Wexford. Whilst it would have been great to compete in the final the girls came up short losing to St Vincent's in the semi-final. The memories from this weekend will last a lifetime. In the League/Championship the girls competed brilliantly winning all their group games and after a titanic battle with Tullaroan/St Anne's lost out narrowly in the final after extra time.

Our girls competed well at U12/10/8/6 also with our U8's playing particularly well throughout the year winning the majority of their blitz matches. The future looks exciting for this group of players.

CENTRA

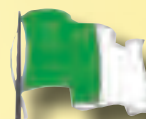
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Roinn A Champions 2018!**

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CENTRA



U14 Camógs & Dublin Squad



U8 Camógs



U10 Camógs



U6 Camógs



U16 B League Winners



U12 Championship County Champions



Intermediate Camógs



Dicksboro Camogie Club has a playing membership of almost 200, from Under 6 to Adult. The Under 6 to Under 12s trained from march to september playing matches and taking part in organised blitzes. The Under14s had a great year, winning the County Féile Final and representing Kilkenny at the National Féile Connacht in Galway, and reaching the Roinn A County Final.

The U21 (2017) panel played in and won the (deferred) 2017 County Final against Piltown over the Easter weekend.

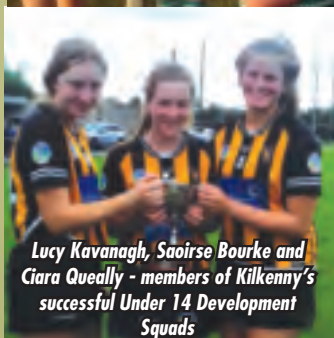
Dicksboro Camogie Club would like to thank all players, parents, trainers and in particular main Club Sponsor PRL Ltd for their help and support during the year.



Emeralds Under 14 team 2018 - Winners Stephen Dunican Tournament



Emeralds Under 12 team 2018 - at Freshford Tournament



Lucy Kavanagh, Saoirse Bourke and Ciara Queally - members of Kilkenny's successful Under 14 Development Squads



Róisín Ahern and Ruth Ryan - members of Kilkenny's successful Under 15 Development Squads



Emeralds Under 8 team 2018



Emeralds Under 10 team 2018 - winners of Danesfort tournament



U12 trip to Croke Park for World Record Training Evening



U10 training with Edwina Keane



U6 Training Session



U12 New jerseys with thanks to Castlecomer Credit Union



Erin's Own Camogie Trip to Croke Park for All Ireland Final



Erin's Own U10 Team



U6 Team 2018



U8 Team 2018



Gráig na Manach



Junior semi-finalists 2018



U8 Blitz in Tullogher



Minor Roinn C League Final Winners 2018



Medal Presentation U6, U8 & U10



Féile Runner Up Tournament Dublin



Referee & Captains before Shield Final



Winning Captains U14/A Shield



Winning Team U14 A Shield



Visit to Naomh Mearnóg on All Ireland Sunday



John Lockes U12's 2018



John Lockes Leinster 7 aside Champions



John Lockes U6's 2018



John Lockes U10's 2018



John Lockes Camogie club at the All Ireland Camogie final



U8. John Lockes Camogie Team

John Lockes had another successful year and great credit is due to all players, coaches and committee. Numbers are at an all time high in the club and continuing to grow. A number of historic achievements again this year:

Our U14's competed in Roinn A, first players from John Lockes to play at this level. A challenging year but a great learning curve for a very talented group of girls. U16's were crowned Leinster Division One champions in the annual 7 aside competition. U12's reached the county final again, and showcased some amazing skill, work-rate and determination. U6/8/10's entered all their blitzes and made great progress from the start of the season. The future is bright if their performances are anything to go by!! Well done to all who represented the club on County Panels and the U18 girls who competed at Minor and Intermediate level with James Stephens. We thank all the coaches, mentors and parents for their commitment to the club.



Kilmacow/Minors Roinn B League & Championship Winners



Kilmacow U10



Kilmacow U6



Kilmacow /Slieverue U14



Kilmacow U12



Kilmacow Slieverue U16



St Claire's Juniors



Kilmacow U8

During 2018 Kilmacow Camogie Club participated in U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, Minor, U21 and Junior. Our Juniors play under St Claire's which is the amalgamation arrangement with Slieverue. In 2017 the club struggled to field teams in the older under age groups so for 2018 we arranged with Slieverue to combine our U14, U16, Minor and U21 groups. By doing this we had sufficient numbers to field teams and therefore competed well in all groups.

We reached a shield final at U16 and won Minor B league and championship. The U21 competition is currently ongoing. St Claire's (Junior) reached the County Final. The club had 18 girls represented on County teams and Developing Squads.



Naomh Bríd girls at kilkenny camogie All Ireland



Street League Team



Street League Team



Street League Team



Naomh Bríd U8's at Blitz



Jubilant juniors celebrate county final win v St. Claire's



U10 players and mentors celebrate winning the Rena Sheridan blitz



All hands on deck at the U16 v Danesfort semi final



U8s enjoy the Street League final day in Gowran



U12s celebrate after their group win against Ballyhale



Senior Final Team



Under 10's 2018



Under 8's 2018



Minor League Final



Under 12's 2018



Under 14's 2018



U16's (Photo Joe Cashin)



St.Annes/Emeralds intermediate panel & mentors



Presentation of new jerseys by Donal Phelan from The Crosspatrick to intermediate captains Niamh Sweeney & Niamh Leahy



U8 & U10 girls that took part in the Half time games in Nowlan Park



U8 Girls at blitz during the year



St.Annes/Tullaroan panel celebrating win



U14 Roinn A County Champions



St Brigid's Seniors - Leinster League Champions

Back: Deirdre Prendiville (Selector), Marie Doheny, Orla Ryan, Celine O'Dwyer, Sarah Dunphy, Tara Hogan, Sarah Mockler, Antoinette Power, Ashling Dunphy, Claire Quigley, Katie Brennan, Emma Boland, Eimear Keoghán, James Logue (Manager)
Front: Laoise Prendiville, Amy O'Connor, Anne Doheny, Caoimhe Murphy, Siun Corcoran, Therese Muldowney (Joint Captain), Laura Hennessy (Joint Captain), Kym Ryan, Anna Robinson, Laurena Murphy, Miriam Walton.
Missing from photo: Bronagh Neary, Tara Walsh, Therese Purcell, Nicola Butler, Kayleigh Nolan.



Joint Senior Captains 2018
 Therese Muldowney and Laura Hennessy



U16 Roinn A County Champions



Joint U16 Captains 2018





Thomastown U16A League



Thomastown U6 team



Thomastown U8 team



Thomastown U8 team 1



Thomastown U8 team 2



Thomastown U14 team.



The U14 team gave it their all in Roinn B this year



The U12 team beat Kilmacow in the shield final. Well done girls!



U6's and U8's had a great year competing in all their blitzes.



The U10 team went from strength to strength this year and did their family's and the club proud.



Well done to our U16 and minor team who were very competitive this year.



Tullogher Camogie Junior Women Roinn B Finalists 2018



Windgap Seniors 2018



Windgap U12's 2018



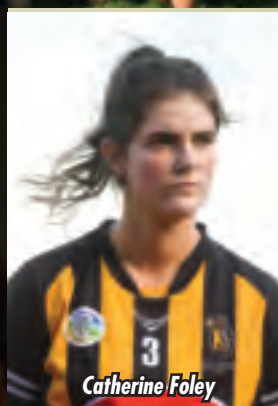
Windgap U14's 2018



Windgap U6's 2018



Denise Gaule



Catherine Foley

Windgap Camogie Club have had a very positive and encouraging year at all grades from U6 to senior in 2018. We would like to thank and attribute this success largely to our hard working and dedicated club people who continue to coach, manage, play, fundraise and organise year in year out.

U6, U8 and U10 girls competed in many games throughout the county, with great enjoyment and success. There seems to be an abundance of young talent coming through, the future looks bright for Windgap Camogie Club. Well done to all our young stars.

Our U12 team had a fantastic year. Facing strong opposition all year they were drawn to face Glenmore in their group semi-final. In a tough battle the Windgap girls had the edge and progressed to the final versus Mullinavat in September. One of the highlights of the Windgap Camogie Club year was their victory in front of a large crowd on a sunny Saturday morning in Hugginstown. Our U14 squad competed very well all year. They found themselves in a shield final against Mooncoin in Mullinavat in September to conclude their season. In a game where the final score was not representative of the competitive nature of the game Windgap came out on top 5.04 – 1.04.

Our U16 and 18 girls competed well in their divisions but weren't successful at championship stage. The U16s also travelled to the Leinster Camogie Blitz in Portlaois where they were very unlucky to be beaten in the final. 2018 was one of the most successful seasons for the Windgap Senior Camogie team in a number of years.

A great league campaign saw Windgap overcome Tullaroan, Freshford Lisdowney and Mullinavat. In early October a win over Tullaroan in the quarter final saw Windgap progress to a senior semi-final against neighbours Piltown. Unfortunately Piltown proved too strong for the Windgap girls on the day but there is no doubt that 2018 has been a great year for our senior team. Well done and thank you to all involved in the participation and success of all our teams.

As a club we are very proud of Catherine Foley and Denise Gaule who represented Windgap at senior inter county level again this year. A large number of supporters travelled to see the girls in action in Croke Park in September. The U16s and the senior players stopped off in Kildare for challenge matches in Johnstown Bridge and Naas respectively. The Hurl & Curls All Ireland Camogie Quiz was hosted in Powers in Tullahought where Windgap were one of the clubs with the most number of tables. A number of juvenile players also attended the meet & greet in Nowlan Park in the run up to the final where they got to meet Denise, Catherine and many other county stars. We were also well represented on county teams and squads from U13 to U18 level and at intermediate & senior level. Well done to all involved. Windgap Camogie Club hosted a Tea Party in Kilmaganny in June which was a huge success. Congratulations to all involved and a huge thank you to all who supported this event.



U14 team winners of the Roinn B Shield final



Scoil Mhuire Gowran NS – Roinn B winners 2018



Club Captain Sarah/Ann Quinlan proudly lifting the Intermediate cup after the final whistle



U8's and visiting teams for our Summer League finals day at Gowran

Well done to all our teams and coaches for their hard work and commitment during 2018 and good luck to our Senior team in their first season at senior level in 2019.

A big thanks to all of the organisers/sponsors of our Race Night, and the fundraising volunteers – a team effort all round and 'winner alright'.



Seamróga Baile hÉil



Senior manager Henry Shefflin with our Aylward Cup U10 panel



Brian Butler, Joey Cuddihy, Eoin Cody and TJ Reid celebrate County Championship Final. Photo by Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile



Eoin Doyle RIP

Our juvenile section continued its crucial work under Tom Coogan (Chairman), Pat Corbett (Treasurer), Jim Cullen (Secretary) and John Darcy (Vice Chairman). 'Hurling with the Stars' proved a bold initiative. Mentors undertook vital work. U6: Aidan Cummins and Paul Shefflin. U7: John Darcy, Martin Dunphy and Liam Grant. U9: Pat Corbett, Patrick Cummins, Richie Grant, Louis O'Neill and Séamus Ryan. U11: Tom Coogan, Dermot Ryan and Tom Walsh.

The U13 panel, looked after by Dave Gallagher, Dermot Ryan and John Shefflin (Manager), made progress and finished fourth in their league group. They lost a second round tie with Barrow Rangers, 5-9 to 3-2.

U13HC C Tiernan Shefflin, Michael Lyons captain, Aaron Doyle, Cathal Coogan, Killian Ryan, Tom Cleere 1-1 (0-1 65), Tommy Walsh, Michael Kenneally, Seán Shefflin, Jake Mullen 0-1 (f), Jack Holden 1-0, Thomas Murphy, Rian Shefflin, John Fitzpatrick, Charlie Lennon.

Subs: Michael Barron 1-0 for Jake Mullen (inj, 19m), Brian Wilson for Charlie Lennon (49m), Jack Deacon for Cathal Coogan (59m), Daniel Devereux for Thomas Murphy (59m), Logan Fitzgerald, Mark Costigan (away).

Lisdowney Sevens panel: Tom Cleere captain, Daniel Devereux, John Fitzpatrick, Jack Holden, Michael Kenneally, Thomas Murphy, Killian Ryan, Rian Shefflin, Seán Shefflin, Brian Wilson. On the day, they were beaten by Emeralds (2-10 to 0-4) and Dicksboro (5-8 to 1-5).

The U15 panel, looked after by Jim Cullen (Manager) and John Shortall, were really short on numbers but finished third in their league group. The first round saw them go down fighting, 3-20 to 0-9, to James Stephens B (who refused to play 13 a side).

U15HC C Tom Cleere, Thomas Murphy, Michael Cullen, Michael Lyons, Jack Holden, Tomás Barron acting captain, John Fitzpatrick, Larry Cody 0-1, Niall Shortall, Seán Shefflin, Killian Corcoran 0-8 (7f), Michael Kenneally, Jack Cody.

Subs: Joshua Burke (inj), Mark Costigan (away), Dara Mason captain (away), Brian Wilson (away).

The Minor panel, looked after by Pat Cullen, Michael Paul Drennan (Manager) and Enda Fitzpatrick, finished seventh in their league group. They worked hard and championship saw real progress: first round defeat of Glenmore (3-13 to 1-16) and second round defeat of John Lockes (1-12 to 0-11). The margin of quarter final defeat against Thomastown United, 4-20 to 1-7, told not the true tale.

MHC B Niall Shortall, Christopher Coady, Cian Cullen, Tomás Barron, Brandon Ryan, Casey Corcoran 0-2 (1f, 1 65), David Lawler, Liam Barron captain 0-1, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Dara Mason, Reece Anderson, Andrew Devereux, Killian Corcoran 1-1, Fionnán Shefflin, Stephen Barron 0-3 (2f).

Subs: Larry Cody for Stephen Barron (inj, 29m), Michael Cullen for Brandon Ryan (53m), Seán Reade for Andrew Devereux (53m).

Due to insufficient numbers committing to gaelic football, the club could not enter an adult team.

The Junior panel, looked after by James Fitzgerald (Manager), Brendan Mason and David Walsh, did well and were fourth after their league campaign, which guaranteed Junior status. Championship commenced with

a second round win over St Patrick's, 5-21 to 3-19. Then they were unlucky to lose by two points, after extra time, to O'Loughlin Gaels, 0-16 to 1-17.

JHC Dean Mason, Paul Shefflin, Evan Shefflin, Brian Butler, Eugene Aylward, Bob Aylward captain, Patrick Hearne, Dylan Aylward 0-3, Darragh Corcoran, Martin Davis 0-3 (1 sl), Mark Aylward, David Hoyne 0-3, Eoin Kenneally, Mark Gorman 0-1, Eoin Cody 1-5 (0-2f).

Subs: Eoin Knox, Patrick Mullen 0-2 for Mark Gorman (inj, 44m), Enda Fitzpatrick for Eoin Kenneally (49m), Eoin Kenneally for Patrick Hearne (71m), Jason Devereux for Enda Fitzpatrick (84m), Adam Brenner, Patrick Doyle, Kevin Fennelly, Enda Kenneally, Mark Phelan, Conor Reid, John Shortall, Ronan Hayes (inj).

The third adult panel, in its fifth season, was looked after by John Darcy, Michael Fennelly Sr, Michael O'Sullivan and Tommy Phelan (Manager). Restructure put them hurling Junior C. Seventh in their league group, they beat Blacks and Whites, 1-22 to 2-16, in the first round but lost a quarter final to Threecastles, 4-17 to 1-16.

JHC C Conor Reid, Keith Murphy, Aidan Cummins captain, Tom Coogan, Patrick Doyle, Patrick Hearne, Keith Nolan, Adam Brenner, Martin Davis 0-8 (4f, 1 65), Eoin Knox, Darragh Corcoran 0-3, Jason Devereux 1-1, Kevin Fennelly 0-1, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick 0-1, Mark Phelan.

Subs: Eoin Cody 0-2 (1f) for Eoin Knox (38m), Eoin Walsh for Adam Brenner (47m), Michael Paul Drennan for Mark Phelan (50m), John Shortall for Donnchadh Fitzpatrick (55m), Derek Fitzpatrick, Michael O'Sullivan, Mark Gorman (inj), Liam Grant (inj), Ronan Hayes (inj), Dean Mason (away), Patrick Reid (inj).

The U19 A panel, looked after by Aidan Cummins, Seán Reid (Manager) and Paul Shefflin, awaited James Stephens in a County semi final.

The U21 A panel, looked after by Tom Coogan (Manager), Liam Grant, David Hoyne and Eoin Reid, awaited Thomastown United in a County quarter final. The club was deeply saddened by the passing of Eoin Doyle, one of our players, and Brigid Hoyne, who contributed so much for so long to our Lotto fundraiser.



**Ballyhale Shamrocks - Byrne Cup Winners 2018
Photo: Willie Dempsey**



Raonaithe Bearbha



Barrow Rangers Under 11's



Barrow Rangers Under 8's/9's in Croke Park



Barrow Rangers/Paulstown Goresbridge Camogie Club Proposed New Development



Paulstown team that won Skeough and Clara Hurling Tournaments 1957

Back: Luke Morrissey, Billy Redmond, Fr. Tom Walsh, Liam O'Brien, Brendan Dunleavy, Jack O'Neill.

Middle: Jack Glennon, Micheal Medlar, Pa Walsh, Joe Mahon, Johnny Murphy, Ned Monissey, Phil Walsh, Murt Brennan, Jim Doherty, Paddy Dowling, Jim Murphy (Official).

Front: Seamus Glennon, Michael Doherty, Jim Hennessey, Joe Mahon, Tom Mahon, Jimmy Doyle

Inset. (L) Paddy Reeves, (R) Dermot Dunleavy



Droichead Binéid



U-13 Football League Winners & Championship Runners-Up



U12 Camogie Shield Winners



'Bridge Members of the victorious St Kieran's All Ireland Team - Conor Murphy, Ciaran Brennan and David Blanchfield-

Killarney GAA

Killarney GAA Club existed from 1913 to 1942. They entered the Kilkenny Junior Championship in 1914 but were defeated by Inistige with a scoreline of 3-2 to 1-0. Little championship was played in Killarney for the next decade due to the political turmoil in the country. In 1929 Killarney was affiliated to the Southern County Board. Green jerseys with a gold sash were worn. These later changed to navy-blue and white. Games were played at Dullard Hill, Peter Pendergast's house in Killarney and at Thomastown. Michael Callaghan and Tim Kelly were the main driving force at this time. The team entered the 1929 championship and played Dunkitt Ramblers on July 14th in Knocktopher. Dunkitt won the game on a scoreline of 6-1 to 4-2. In 1930 Killarney reached a Southern Semi-Final by overcoming Knocktopher by a walkover and beating Mooncoin on a scoreline of 6-2 to 1-2. They lost the semi-final however to Crowroddy (Callan) by 1-5 to 1-2. They reached the South Semi-Final again in 1932 losing to Knockmoylan on a scoreline of 5-2 to 5-0.

In 1936 Killarney joined with Bennettsbridge & Donesfort for two years but were back in the Championship as Killarney in 1937. The finest achievement of the club came in 1940 when they became South Champions. They defeated The Rower No.1 team, Thomastown, Suir Rangers (Pitown) and The Rower No.2 in the South Final on a scoreline of 5-8 to 4-5. The County Final was played on November 10th in Nowlan Park where Three Castles defeated Killarney by 5-2 to 0-1. In 1942 many players transferred to St. Brendan's Club in Stoneyford and to the Bennettsbridge Club which was beginning to become successful again. Many family names who played for Killarney became synonymous with Bennettsbridge over the years such as Kelly, Skehan, Power, O'Connell, Reidy, Cullen, Muldowney, Jackman and Cassin.

(All information sourced from 'Killarney GAA Club' by Jim O'Connell from 'In The Shadow of the Steeple No.1' (1987).

Memory Lane



Bennettsbridge Intermediate Hurling League Champions 1995

Back: Fintan Cleere, Seamus Moran, Paul Forde, Michael Conlon (R.I.P.), Eoin Lawlor, Tommy Lennon, John Drea. Front: Jimmy Lennon, James Dowling, Leo Mahon, James McGarry, Richard McCarthy, Liam Simpson, Tim Drea, Richard Moran.



Dubh agus Bána



U8's day out in Croke Park



U7's 2018



U17/Roinn C League Winners



U11 Blitz Shield Winners



Blacks & Whites Junior team 1970.

Back Row: Seamus Murphy, John O'Grady, Pat Savage, Patsy Roe, Owen Ryan, Ned Moran, Joe Lawlor, Joe Moran, Danny Doyle.

Front Row: Tommy Murphy, Jimmy Kennedy, Mick Kennedy, Seamus Barcoe, John Carroll, Sean O'Grady, Tim Byrne, Ned Moran, Kieran Lawlor.



Carraig Seabhac



Under 11s Winners of Celbridge Tournament.



Under 13s in Lisdowney 7s.



Carrickshock Representatives on Kilkenny squads in National Hurling Day Tournaments (L-R): Padraig Lennon (U15), Oisín Carroll (U16), Sean Moore (U14).



Under 8s Go Games in Croke Park.



Eoin Crowley in action with St. Kieran's in Leinster Schools Junior Hurling Championship.



Under 17s in Niall O'Brien Memorial Tournament, Piltown.



Under 9s in Rower Inistioge blitz.



Under 6s.



Under 11s Go Games.

Obituary Notes

Carrickshock GAA extends its condolences to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year, in particular: Rita O'Shea, Lismatigue, May O'Shea Croan, Miriam Brennan Stoneyford, Frank O'Connell Stoneyford, Tom Burke Knocktopher.



CARRAIGÍN



Carrigeen V Bennettsbridge Final of the Junior B League 29/5/16.



Presenting 1st prize in the Piltown Draw 2018 of a car to Marie McDonald, From Left Michael Murphy, Marie McDonald, Pat Dunphy, Catherine Blackmore, Jack McDonald.



Carrigeen Ogra 2018 1



Carrigeen Ogra 2018/2



Some of the group who took part in our fundraiser Cycle in July 2018.



Club committee 1992 with Ted Carroll and Paddy Buggy at the Presentation of the John Joe Henebery Cup.





Cluainín



All Ireland Boys U16 Singles and Girls U14 Singles winners



*All Ireland Minor Doubles Winners Ciaran Cooney and Billy O'Neill
All Ireland Intermediate Winner Brian Mahon*



All Ireland U21 doubles winners Shane Dunne and Padraig Cooney



Brian Mahon World Mens B Singles and U23 Doubles winner Ciaran Mahon Ladies 23 singles rup Shane Dunne Worlds 19 doubles winner with Chairman Sean Love



Cloneen/Railyard U9 Hurlers



Cloneen/Railyard U7 hurlers



Cloneen/Railyard U14 Mullinahone Hurling Tournament winners



*Girls Division 1 Feile na nGael winners
Boys Division 5 Feile na nGael winners*



CloneenRailyard U11 Hurlers

Seamróga Conachaidh



Conahy Shamrock Juniors 2018



Conahy U 19s who won in Johnstown 4/08/18 to commemorate Garlic Sunday



Bill Murphy & James Bergin - All-Ireland Freshers winners with DCU.



Conahy U11 in Dicksboro tournament



Annual John Butler Puc Fada Competition



Conahy U7's at O'Loughlins Blitz



Dún Féarta



Danesfort Minor Team 2018



Danesfort U9 Team 2018



*JJ Reddy Danesfort Run 2018 - a great Fundraiser for our Club .
Well done everyone!*



*Danesfort U10 team that played in Annual Shane O Neill
Tournament*



Danesfort U7 team with Mentors and our County Players Paul Murphy & Richie Hogan.



Danesfort Senior Football Team 2018



*The Cast of Danesfort GAA Club LipSync Battles Show which took
place in May 2018, a great Fundraiser for our Club*

Planning permission for new Clubrooms was granted in January 2018. This is a huge project and there are many details which the Development Committee are busy addressing. Final drawings are being prepared and when ready will be put out to tender.
Taxback.com became our main Club Sponsors this year.



Dicsboro



Boro St Patrick's Day 2018



Proud Grandad after Féile Peil 2018



Denis Philpott under 11 Blitz



Boro Gaelic Sunday 2018



Boro Ladies Footballers 2018



Boro - Féile Peil Winners 2018



Boro (Under eight and nine) 2018



Dún Iomaíáin



Our U13's won their football league in the beginning of the year showing great will and determination to overcome their opponents Bennettsbridge.



After doing the double last year in Roinn B our Minor hurlers went one better this year when they were crowned Roinn A League champions defeating James Stephens in the Final.



After the heart break of being Relegated last year. Our Junior hurlers returned to the Intermediate ranks after a super display in the final against Piltown which allowed captain Willie Phelan to walk up the steps of the stand in Nowlan Park and Lift the Bob Alyward cup. A super day for the club.



The club held a clean-up day early in the summer. Thanks to all who helped out on the day to make such improvements in only a few hours.



Our U6's and U7's had a great year attending many blitzes and challenge games they are seen here after a blitz in Callan.



Our U11 hurlers were crowned divisional shield winners in their section of the Ballyhale blitz after some super displays of hurling skill over the course of the tournament.



Our U8's were lucky enough to get invited to Croke Park to play in the go Games festival. They had a great day and won all their matches.



Na hIathghlasaí



Emeralds Sticksmen 2018



Conor Martin sends one over for the Kilkenny Senior team



1918 Gaelic Sunday commemoration



More Emeralds Sticksmen 2018



1918 Gaelic Sunday commemoration



Alan Guilfoyle soaring to catch a ball in the Junior Hurling Championship



U17 Team that were runners up in the Piltown memorial tournament

The club would like to thank everyone for the huge effort put in at all levels to make it an enjoyable year had by all. We would also like to say well done to Derek Lyng and Conor Martin at representing the club on the Senior County Team. Jack Hickey who was a member of the County Minor Team who finished All Ireland Finalists. Sean Burke who was on the Celtic Challenge Go Games team and Cillian Doyle and Darragh Quelly who were on the Tony Forristal team.

Rogha Éireann



U7 Team 2018



U6 & U8 Girls Football Team 2018



County Minors 2018 - Chris Korff, Dan Coogan, Jack Buggy



U9 Team 2018

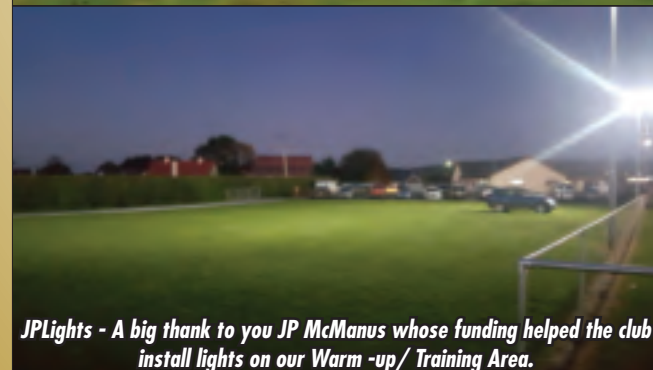


U10 Alyward Cup Champions 2018



U11 Go Games 2018

U-19 Seamus Grace Memorial Cup :
In Johnstown Conahy Shamrocks played the Fenians to commemorate Gaelic Sunday Aug 4th 1918 -Aug 4th 2018



FENIANS GAA - FOUNDED 1968

"Bringing pride to our Parish"

roll of honour

LEININCH SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

Leininch Champions (1) 1974

KILPATRICK SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

Kilpatrick Champions (1) 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977
Finalists (1) 1969, 1971, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1996

ROSENTHAL SENIOR LEAGUE

Champions (1) 1995
Finalists (1) 2006

ROSENTHAL SENIOR

Champions (1) 2016

ATLANTIC CUP

Champions (1) 2011

ALL COUNTY SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE FINAL

(BYENAL CUP)

Champions (1) 2012, 2016

ROSENTHAL SENIOR

Champions (1) 2013

JUVENILE CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1968

JUVENILE "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1980, 1992, 2010
Finalists (2) 1978, 1995

JUVENILE "A" LEAGUE

Champions (1) 2010

VERMILION "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1978, 1982, 1989, 2007, 2012
Finalists (2) 1984, 1995

JUVENILE "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1983

VERMILION "A" LEAGUE

Champions (1) 1988

individual honours

"Station of the Cross"

3: Pat Henderson 1974, Gar Henderson 1979, PJ Delaney 2003.

Captain of the

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Team

2: Nicky O'Leary, Billy Fitzpatrick 1972

Lines of the Hurlers

Order of All-Ireland Hurling Medal

4: Pat Henderson 1974, Billy Fitzpatrick 1982, PJ Ryan 1989, PJ Delaney 2011.

All-Ireland Junior Winners

7: Billy Fitzpatrick (2), PJ Ryan (1), PJ Delaney (2), PJ Ryan (2), Pat Henderson (5).

All-Ireland Junior

5: Pat Henderson 1971, PJ Delaney 1973, Nicky O'Leary 1978, Billy Fitzpatrick 1975,
Gar Henderson 1979.

All-Ireland Senior Hurling medal winners with Tipperary

17: John Henderson, Pat Henderson, Brian Ryan, Pat Henderson, PJ Delaney,
PJ Ryan (5), Billy Fitzpatrick, Gar Henderson, John Henderson, Billy Parnell,
PJ Delaney (Main Street), Brian Ryan, Matty Walsh, Stephen Galvin, PJ Ryan (Jes),
PJ Delaney (Dublin Road), PJ Delaney (Dublin Road).

Hurling Hurling Medal, winner with Tipperary

18: Billy Fitzpatrick, Nicky O'Leary, Pat Henderson, Pat Henderson, Gar Henderson,
Billy Parnell, Pat McCann, Stephen Galvin, PJ Delaney (Main Street), PJ Ryan (Jes),
Kenny Dwyer, Brian Ryan, PJ Delaney (Dublin Road), PJ Delaney (Dublin Road).

SENIOR "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (4): 1978, 1985, 1995, 2009.

SENIOR "A" LEAGUE

Champions (1) 1987, 2016

Finalists (1) 1984, 1996, 2002

SENIOR "B" LEAGUE

Champions (1) 1987, 2010

SENIOR "B" LEAGUE

Champions (1) 2001

Under 19 "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1986

Under 16 "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (2) 1972, 1974

Finalists (1) 1990, 1995, 1997

Under 15 "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1982, 2010, 2014

Under 13 "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (2) 1987, 1993

Under 10 "A" CHAMPIONS

Champions (1) 1983

Finalists (1) 2010

Under 14 "B" LEAGUE

Finalists (1) 2008

John O'Leary

Champions (1) 1971, 2008



NA FININI C.L.G.
108 Clonsilla

The Fenians GAA Club

50th Year Celebration

1968 - 2018

Hosted by
Seamus Walshe
D.J.
Mark Glynnihan

Friday 9th November 2018
Hotel Kilenny, Skyline Room
Multi-Media Reception: 7.30pm

Guest Speaker
Niall Quarm
Chairman of the National GAA

Fenians 50th Tickets - This year we celebrated our 50th year with a celebration on the 9th November. We look forward to the next 50!



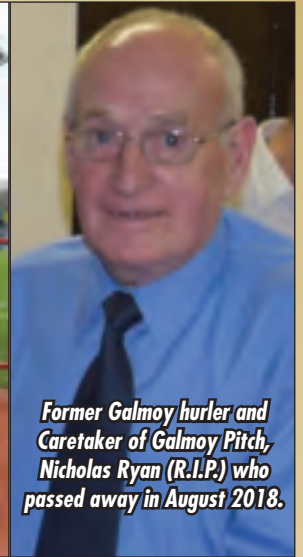
Gabhal Dhaoth



Total Focus in Croke Park



The Galmoy Under 8 Hurlers, pictured with their Trainers David Delaney and Stephen Murphy, on the occasion of their Littlewoods Sponsored U-8s Day in Croke Park on April 4th 2018



Former Galmoy hurler and Caretaker of Galmoy Pitch, Nicholas Ryan (R.I.P.) who passed away in August 2018.



The Galmoy Senior Scór Quiz team which won the Kilkenny County Final and went on to take part in the All Ireland Scór Final in Sligo on April 14th 2018.

Back Row: Jerry Drennan & Paul Delaney
Front Row: Eddie Kavanagh & Brian Kavanagh



The Galmoy U-12s 2018



The Galmoy Juvenile Scór Quiz team which won the Kilkenny County Final and went on to take part in the All Ireland Scór Final in Sligo in February 2018.



Galmoy Contingent on the 2017 Galmoy/Windgap U-21 Team which won the South Roinn B Final and contested the U-21 County Final v Clara.

Back: Jack Delaney, Ryan Murphy, Kieran Phelan, Colm Smith, Brandon Phelan & Conor Grace.
Front: Patrick Doyle, Sean Phelan, Kevin Duggan, Oisín Phelan & Conor Drennan.



Galmoy Players who represented the Club on Kilkenny Development Squads in 2018 were,

U-14 Tony Forristal Squad: David Sherman

U-14 Sonny Walsh Squad: Calum Loneragan

U-15 Kilkenny Squad: Billy Drennan



Tense action scenes at the U-8s Day in Croke Park captured by SPORTSFILE



Glenmore U6 team 2018



Glenmore U8 team 2018



Glenmore U9 team 2018



Glenmore U11 team 2018



Gráig na Manach



U6/7's wrapped up their year with a very entertaining game against Bennettsbridge.



Graignamanagh U9's 2018



U11's 2018 Graig Blitz winners



U11's celebrate their cup win 2018

DEDICATION OF DR TIERNEY PARK



Group at the dedication of Dr Tierney Park L to R Donnagh Tierney Jimmy Walsh Co Chairman Thomas Holden Club chairman Ronan Tierney Deirdre Tierney William Tierney Seated John Bolger.



Billy Hoare presents Dick Bolger who was first secretary of Graiguenamanagh in 1953 known then as The Vincents



Fr Gerry Byrne Blesses the facility at the dedication of Dr Tierney Park



Donnagh Tierney Son of Dr Tierney addresses the large attendance at the dedication of the pitch in Graiguenamanagh

OLD GRAIGNAMANAGH CLUBS (BY JIM WHELAN)

Coolroe won the 1909 Senior football Championship and were runners up in the 1957 minor hurling final. They also featured in some southern finals in early 50s. When the Graignamanagh club was founded in 1953, Coolroe was the name of the minor club. The minor club name was changed to St Vincents in 1961.

Brandon Rovers were also a club from the area. St Vincents was the club founded in 1953 and replaced the Brandon Rovers, but the name changed to the current club, Graignamanagh in 1966.

The Shaughrans were also a club from the Graignamanagh area but I have no record of them achieving any success. It seems this club was the forerunner to Brandon Rovers.

Former players

Nick O'Donnell was born and raised in Graignamanagh and hurled at schools level for the club. Matty Power was also born in Graignamanagh in 1899, but I have no record of him ever playing for any local team. Batt Crowley was a member of the Graig football team that won the senior Championship 1956. Batt was a forerunner who came to work locally. While he is not a household name, John B Keane wrote his play "The man from Clare" about Batt Crowley and his love of Gaelic football.



Gráig Baile Calainn



Family Fun Day 2018



Family Fun Day 2/2018



Senior Colleges All-Ireland Medalists



U8s Croke Park



U11s 2018



U9s 2018



Minors 2018



U15s 2018



U7s 2018

Congratulations to the following Graigue-Ballycallan Gaa Club members who won All-Ireland medals throughout the year: Tommy Ronan, Jesse Roberts, Killian Egan, Ciaran Hogan and Aaron Brennan who won the All-Ireland Senior Colleges with St. Kiernan's College. Well done to minor Stephen Keogh on reaching the Minor All-Ireland Final, Colum Prendiville and Eamon Egan on the u-21 Kilkenny Team and Sean Ryan, Eamon Egan and Conor Flynn who represented the club on the Intermediate Kilkenny Team. In addition, well done to all who represented our club on National Development Squads day in August: u-14 Billy Dowling, u-15 Tom Brennan and u-16 Oisín Egan and Eoin Delahunty.

Unfortunately, the club lost some great supporters and past players throughout 2018 and sincere sympathies go to the families of the following dearly departed: Liam Delaney (President GBC Gaa Club), Johnny Caldbeck, Fr. Tom Murphy, Michael Murphy, Richard Murphy, Ellen O'Brien, Dick Hennessy, Maureen Butler (Nee Purcell) and Breda Ryall.



Seamus Stiopháin



U11 and U10 squads in Ballincollig

James Stephens U11 and U10 squads took part in the annual Joe Delaney Cup in Ballincollig GAA Club in Cork. Always a great day and well organised by Ballincollig GAA Club. James Stephens, Ballincollig, Na Piersaigh (Limerick) and Ballyboden St. Enda's all participated with three teams from each club competing. All teams played three matches each and after winning eight matches the Village captains for the day Ruairi Walsh, Greg Ruane and Ryan Burke accepted the cup on behalf of their team-mates. Well done to all the young Village players on a great days hurling.



James Stephens U12 team who participated in the annual Andy Egan Cup competition



James Stephens U10 team celebrate a great day's hurling at the Seamus Fry Tournament. Paddy Fry joins the fun.



St. Fiachre's, Sheastown - Kilkenny Junior Champions 1933, Intermediate Champions 1934

Colours: Red and white

Back: Philip Hughes, Billy Langton, Matty Corr, Tony Nolan, Phil Doyle (goal), Mikey Nolan (trainer).

Middle: Mr. R. Bowen, County Surveyor, (seated) Mick Conway, Jack Lawless, Timmy Donovan, Ned Langton, Dick Hughes, Fonsie Tallent, John Hughes, chairman.

Front: Jack Tallent, Tommy Jordan, Dermot Hughes, Paddy Leahy, Jim Corr, Eddie Tallent, Joachim Kenny. Boys: Tommy Cantwell and Billy Delaney.

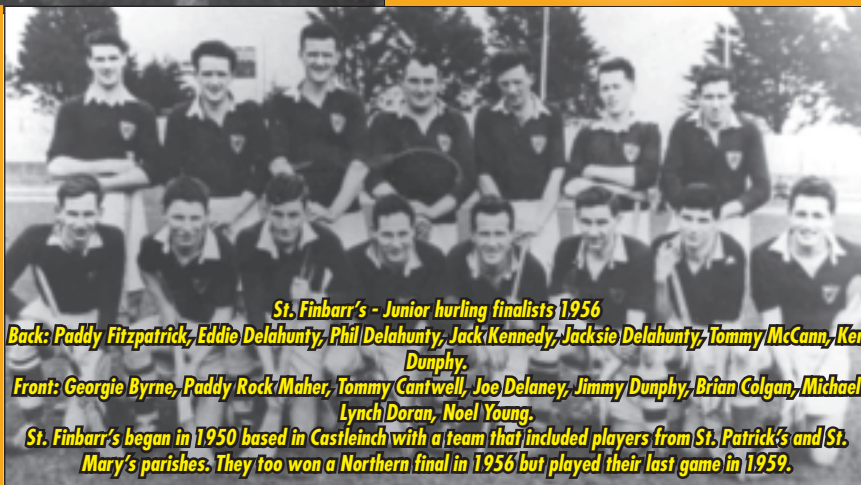
Billy and Ned Langton (father of Eamon Langton, John St.) crossed the river from Lavistown to train with the team in a field between Sheastown school and the Nore. Tommy Cantwell was a brother of James Stephens club stalwart Jim Cantwell. Dermot Hughes's son, Cyril had a distinguished football career with Carlow and Leinster in the 1970-'80s. Dick Hughes manned the scoreboard in Croke Park for many years.

FORMER TEAMS IN ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

While players from St. Patrick's parish played with all teams in the city at different times, there existed three teams in the rural areas of the parish. Traditionally only urban Villagers played with James Stephens.

The second team formed in the parish was Foulkstown. They had two incarnations, first from 1910-1916, led by the Rice and Renahan families. They reformed in 1952 and survived until 1968. They won a Northern junior title in 1953. A brief history was published in the 2005 Yearbook.

St. Fiace's formed in 1932 in the Sheastown area and had conspicuous success. They won a Northern Junior final in 1933 and the county Intermediate title in 1934. However they broke up almost immediately afterwards in unknown circumstances.



St. Finbarr's - Junior hurling finalists 1956

Back: Paddy Fitzpatrick, Eddie Delahunty, Phil Delahunty, Jack Kennedy, Jacksie Delahunty, Tommy McCann, Ken Dunphy.

Front: Georgie Byrne, Paddy Rock/Maher, Tommy Cantwell, Joe Delaney, Jimmy Dunphy, Brian Colgan, Michael Lynch/Doran, Noel Young.

St. Finbarr's began in 1950 based in Castleinch with a team that included players from St. Patrick's and St. Mary's parishes. They too won a Northern final in 1956 but played their last game in 1959.



Séan Locha



John Lockes U9's 2018

John Lockes had another successful year and great credit is due to all players, coaches and committee. Numbers are at an all time high in the club and continuing to grow. A number of historic achievements again this year: Our U14's competed in Roinn A, first players from John Lockes to play at this level. A challenging year but a great learning curve for a very talented group of girls. U16's were crowned Leinster Division One champions in the annual 7 aside competition. U12's reached the county final again, and showcased some amazing skill, work-rate and determination. U6/8/10's entered all their blitzes and made great progress from the start of the season. The future is bright if their performances are anything to go by!! Well done to all who represented the club on County Panels and the U18 girls who competed at Minor and Intermediate level with James Stephens. We thank all the coaches, mentors and parents for their commitment to the club.



U9 Action



John Lockes U8's 2018



U11s celebrating



Cathal McGrath in action in the Intermediate League Final



Cill Mochua

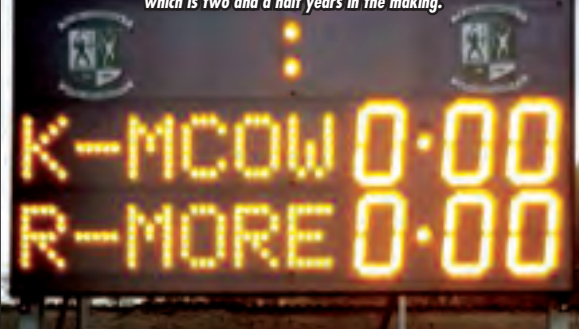


Kilkenny Feile 2018 Roinn B Football Champions - the u/14 Kilmacow Football team. On route, they defeated Mullinavat, followed by Bennettsbridge then to the final V Cloneen/Railyard. The team produced a stunning performance against Railyard, amid a second half that saw the conditions move from splendid sunshine to torrential rain. Well done to both the players and the team management.



Brilliant performance by all the lads in the O'Donovan U10 blitz in Slieverue in September. Three great wins on the bounce to claim the Shield. Congratulations to them all, their club very well. A huge thanks to parents for their support on the day and in the lead up to this occasion.

Our new scoreboard finally in working order. A few finishing touches to be added in time but it's another addition to club facilities. Huge thanks to Seamus Kelly, David Williams & Liam Williams, Tom & Eamonn Reddy, Don Butler, Don Laffan, Paul Kelly & Peadar Kelly, James Foskin, John Daniels, Rory Williams and Dick MacNamara for their hard work. Also thanks to James O'Neill who initially started the process which is two and a half years in the making.



The club would like to thank John Daniels, Rory Williams, Mark McDonald and Eddie Murphy who were involved in the organisation, coordination, training and coaching of our U8's who competed in the Go Games competition in Croke Park during April of this year. It was a fantastic occasion in which both the coaches and players represented their club very well. A huge thanks to parents for their support on the day and in the lead up to this occasion.



Our Junior B team played 10 games in the Country Style Junior D Hurling League Group A remaining unbeaten and recording 8 wins, a draw and a walkover. Unfortunately, our lads were defeated in the League Final by a better Mooncoin team on the day in Piltown. A week later we recorded another great win in the Championship Quarter Final over Lisdowney, which set up a rematch against Mooncoin in the Championship Semi-Final. Unfortunately again on the day our lads didn't have enough to defeat Mooncoin and our campaign ended there.

Patrick (Pat) Forristal

The club would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of Patrick (Pat) Forristal formerly of Grannagh and Skeard, Kilmacow who passed away in July of this year. Pat was highly regarded player in his day who went on to play for Kilkenny in both tournament and challenge games.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



Sunday May 6th 2018. Kilkenny Legends vs. Waterford legends. Fundraiser in aid of Pieta House and Teac Tom Charity organisations. Attendance was over 3,000 in the Kilmacow Sports Complex. Organisers include our health and well-being officer Damon J O'Suilleabhain, Chairman Shan Gaule and all members of the Kilmacow GAA committee. Massive thanks go out to all involved in the organisation of such a successful and worthwhile event.

Lios Dúin Fhiaich



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Kilkenny**



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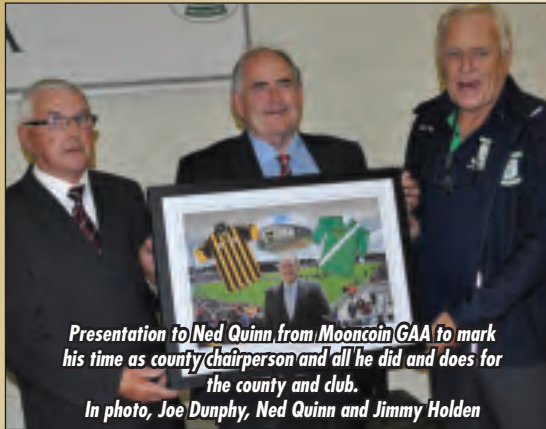
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Doín Choinn



*Presentation to Ned Quinn from Mooncoin GAA to mark his time as county chairperson and all he did and does for the county and club.
In photo, Joe Dunphy, Ned Quinn and Jimmy Holden*



U17 Minors - Oct. 2018



U6 Kilmacow Blitz - Sept 2018



Schools Hurling Team 2018



U7 Boys



U6 Girls



U10-11 Kierans Blitz



U12 Camogie Winners



U17 sevens winners Piltown - Sept 2018



Mádh Collidhe



April 2018 Boys from Muckalee pictured with the Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Trophies at the Go Games Provincial days. Sam Barnes/SPORTSFILRE

Launch of "Muckalee - A Sporting Parish"

To celebrate its Centenary celebrations the Club launched a book titled "Muckalee a Sporting Parish" 100 years of sporting activity in Muckalee. The official book launch took place on 09th November at the new facility and was attended by over 200 people. Special guests on the night added to the goodwill and atmosphere for the book launch.



Launch Committee and Guests

Back: Pat Fitzpatrick, Martin Morrissey, Nicky Morrissey, Patrick O'Flynn, Anthony Maher, Paddy Tynan, Colm O'Rourke, Eamon Morrissey, Johnny Brennan.
Front: Paul Corcoran, Gerry O'Neill, Nicky Brennan, Edwina Keane, Cyril Farrell, Jim Bolger, Edward Nolan, Paul Kinsella.



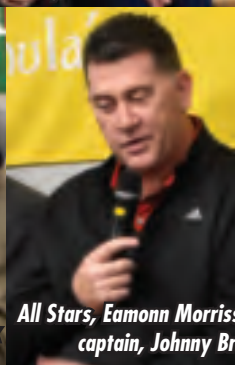
Some of the volunteers who helped out on the night
Back: Laura Tynan, Hannah Maher, Breda Maher, Kathleen Tynan.
Front: Agnes Maher, Ann Nolan, Deirdre Maher



Football Club Chairman, Larry Maher, addresses the attendance.



Jim Bolger launches the Book



All Stars, Eamonn Morrissey, Edwina Keane and St Martin's 1984/85 victorious captain, Johnny Brennan, take questions from MC Nickey Brennan.



The Club commenced its Senior Football league of 2018 with a win over Danesfort. The second match was against Railyard who beat Muckalee by 5 points. The final league match was against Clara where the team recorded its second win by two points. The League semi final was played against Kilmoganny who won by two points. The Senior Football championship commenced against Glenmore on 06th June. The team had an excellent win and qualified for the Senior semi final. Muckalee played their near neighbours Railyard in an exciting encounter. After a keenly contested match the final scoreline was Muckalee 1 - 13 to Railyard 2 - 06.

(See Senior Football Final report elsewhere in this book)

The junior football team competed in just one match in the league but were unsuccessful against Graigue Ballycallan.

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

Opening of the new Club House took place during the summer. Great praise to everyone who was involved in the completion of this major undertaking for the Club.

Bereavements

The club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year, especially Father Martin Ryan who was instrumental in keeping football alive in the parish, his CD on the sporting history of the parish plus his own book titled "Muckalee to Mindanao and back" was of an immense help in the production of "Muckalee a Sporting Parish" the centenary book.

(See Fr Martin's obituary elsewhere in this book).



Muilleann an Bhata



Mullinavat 13 Shield winners v Tullaroan (3-15 to 0-10)



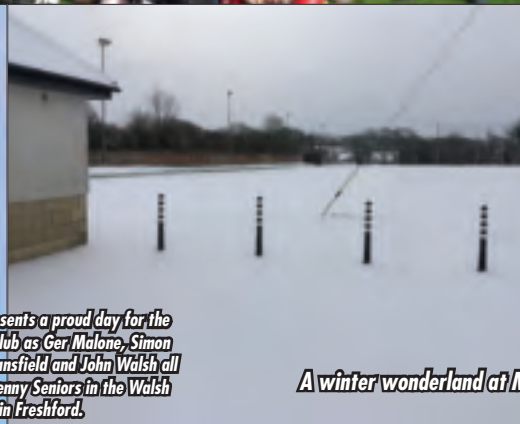
Mullinavat Under 10 team at the Kitty Aylward Tournament in Ballyhale. They lost first match to the Rower Inistoge but regrouped and had two good wins over Na Piersaigh of Cork and Dunnamaggin to qualify for the Shield semi final.



Senior Football Presentation 2018



Programme represents a proud day for the Mullinavat GAA club as Ger Malone, Simon Aylward, Mark Mansfield and John Walsh all lined out for Kilkenny Seniors in the Walsh Cup in Freshford.



A winter wonderland at Mullinavat GAA club in March 2013



FEILE NA hGAEL, 1979 MULLINAVAT TEAM

Back, left to right: Brigid Walsh, Helen Holden, Maura Aylward, Catherine Delahunty, Catherine Foskin, Antoinette McDonald, Kay Aylward. Front, left to right: Ellen O'Neill, Ann Kent, Mary Delahunty, Geraldine Power, Mary O'Shea, Bernadette Kirwan, Suzanne Holden, Ann Davis and Teresa Power.



MULLINAVAT HURLING TEAM, 1960

Back row: Tom Sutton, Paddy Hendrick, Larry O'Shea, Ned Delahunty, Jimmy Reddy, Tommy Reddy, Matty Woods, John Campion, Jim Conway. Front row: Philip Frisby, Jimmy Aldridge, Paddy Hoban, Philip O'Neill, Seamus Sutton, Seamus Foskin, Jack Frisby and Johnny Walsh.



Gaeil Uí Lochlainn



A section of O'Loughlin Gaels Juvenile Players at the very successful Summer Camp 2018 brandishing special jerseys for the occasion. 246 Players from 6 - 13 participated over a two week period in August.



The latest Club Sponsors Kilkenny Hostels' Noel Buckley presenting Club Chairman Brian Murphy with an image of the new Score Board to be installed at St. John's Park to mark the club's 50th celebrations in 2019. Also pictured are Margaret Hanlon (Club Secretary), Padraic Leydon and Mick Cahill (Scoreboard operator)



O'Loughlin Gaels Minors Jamie Young and Conor Kelly receiving their Electric Ireland Minor GAA Star Awards at Croke Park. Of the 15 players selected from all over the country two O'Loughlin Gaels featured making at an exceptionally proud day for all involved in their hurling development.



Members of the Lawlor Family presenting their chosen charity Ataxia Foundation with a cheque from funds raised after the 'Seniors Run with Ciara' to Ataxia Foundation Ambassador, Mick Galwey, at an event held at the club this summer.

O'Loughlin Gaels Gaa will next year look forward to celebrating 50 years since it's foundation in 1969. Since that time the club has seen a steady growth in members and has built up a healthy roll of honour accross all it's teams. As it completes it's 50th year, O'Loughlin Gaels can look back at its achievements on and off the field of play and be proud of it's association with the people of St. John's Parish and Kilkenny City. We intend to celebrate that rich history and community association over the course of the next 12 months.



O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Executive 1969

Back: Marty Brennan, Luke Roche, Dick Guilfoyle, Neddy Brennan (RIP), Ted Bennett, Sean Casey, Arthur/Rushe (RIP), Fr Tom Murphy, Marty Hanlon.
Front: Liam Burke, Jim Rice (RIP), Tommy Gormley (RIP), Seamus Dowling



Baile an Phoill



Our Intermediate Footballers were first into the fray and went on to win the intermediate football league competition and lost narrowly to Tullagher in the championship. This was a very young team managed by David Kinsella as player manager and his selectors were Brian Gallager, M. Gordon and Dan Kenny.



Piltown Under-12 Girls Gaelic Football team that beat Clara in the "C" Final, 4-5 to 0-2 in Dunmore.



Locals enjoying a match and a chat on a fine summer's evening under our new electronic scoreboard

2018 was an interesting year in the history of Piltown GAA Club. As a club we aim to provide as much game time for as many participants as possible. This year we entered teams in all adult and all under age competitions.

Our Junior B team played all their games won some lost some and were finally defeated by a strong Glenmore team. We were competitive in all games and only lost our championship game after extra time. Our Junior B management team was Pa Connolly, Philly Kenny, Ger Frend and Eoin Walsh. Well done to all.

Piltown's junior team played in the Leinster League, All County League, Martin Treacy Cup and the Junior League /Championship.

We reached the final of the all county league, won the Martin Treacy Cup and were eventually defeated in the Leinster League.

We were competitive in all our league championship games, never shipping a heavy defeat and eventually ended up playing Graignamanagh in the first round championship knockout. In 2017 we reached the county semi final, so nothing less than reaching the final would not show any progress. After getting over the first round, we encountered Galmoy in Callan and duly accounted for this gallant team. We were now back in Nowlan Park for the county semi-final against our Southern rivals, Slieverue who were appearing in their second consecutive county semi final. We got off to a dream start and although Slieverue fought back, we eventually prevailed to reach the county final.

This game ended in defeat by our local Southern rivals, Dunamaggin. We had a reasonable start but could never fully get on top of this experienced team. We had a number of injuries in the lead up to the game but no excuses - beaten by a better team. James Farrell, Manager, and his selectors Eamon Kenny, Dessie O'Dea and Trainer Richard Crowe put in a huge effort but victory eluded us by five points in the end. Piltown have a very young team and if they are in a position to put in an even greater effort next year. The world is their oyster.

Piltown continue in the U21 and U19 championships as we speak, and hopefully will have a good run. We are blessed in the club with the number of young selectors and club officials coming forward to serve in the various positions. Many of these people are either past or current players and this development is greatly welcomed in the club.

Our juvenile club continue to provide a wide range of games to all entrusted into their care. The volunteerism spirit is alive and thriving in Piltown and it is this voluntary work that makes the GAA locally, nationally, and increasingly internationally, the wonderful organisation it is. Ask not what your club can do for you but what can I can do for my club.

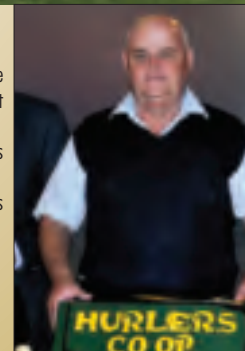
We in Piltown and Kilkenny lost one of our greatest servants this year. Many miles of print has been written about Johnny O'Shea. We in the club always appreciated Johnny's work in the club and community. He was efficient, friendly, knew about all members of the community and knew nearly all of them personally. The boxes of sweets and later the strawberries and cream were legendary. His generosity of time and ability knew no limits. Ni bheidh a leithéid arís ann.



Two Piltown stalwarts Billy Norris and Robert Kane taken in 2017. Both ex chairmen of Piltown club. Robert now resides in Australia and returns to Piltown every two years



Ned Power Piltown in The new Pairc hi chaoimh in cork on the weekend of its opening in 2017. Ned played on the original athletic grounds in the mid sixties for Kilkenny against Cork and marked the great Justin McCarthy





Clós an Rial



U14s pictured with our host Glenfinn and Donegal County stars Frank McGlynn and Michael Murphy



U14 Team who played a friendly up in Donegal



U-11 Kelly Cup Champions 2018



Joe Walsh Cup Winners



U-13 League Runners-Up



Patrick Dowd Cup Winners



An Róghar Inistíog



2018 U7 Panel



2018 U17 Hurling League Roinn B Shield/Final Winning Panel



2018 U9 Panel



2018 U11 Panel



Sliabh Rua



Slieverue JH Team - County Semi-Finalists 2018



The U7 team



Jnr Qtr win - last puck of the ball to make it to the Junior County semi-final



The U9 team



U13's on a day out in Castlecomer



Discussing Tactics - some of our very youngest having a team talk.



U15 team out training at start of the year when it was snowing.



Naomh Lachtain





Naomh Mairtín



Under 21 B Northern Finalists 2017

Back Jack Nolan, Damien Egan, James Carrigan, Ciaran Brennan, Ciaran Fitzpatrick, Mark Coady, Dean Farrell, Brian Coady, Robert Reid, JJ Kelly, Eoin Murphy, Loughlin Hogan, Adam Comerford, Pádraig Buggy

Front David Walsh, Daragh Quinlan, Tommy Quirke, Jason Shore, Sean Maher, Conor Mulhall, Liam Brennan, Darragh Coughlin, Adam Kelly, Colm Kealy, Daniel Comerford



Under 11 Go Games Team Green



Under 11 Go Games Team Red



Kealy Cup Champions 2018



County Star Pádraig Walsh coaching at the St Martin's GAA Summer Camp which was attended by over 120 kids from the parish.



Naomh Pádraig



In July this year two teams from both St. Patrick's GAA and Conahy Shamrocks GAA made up from their respective club's Junior All Ireland final winning teams, took part in a friendly match in Conahy, as part of a charity fundraiser night. Many old and familiar faces don the jerseys again for a worthy cause.



A group from both Naomh Bríd Camogie and St. Patrick's GAA BnÓg, who travelled to Croke Park to watch Kilkenny Camogie in the final this year.



Our BnÓg's U13s team who reached the County Final this year



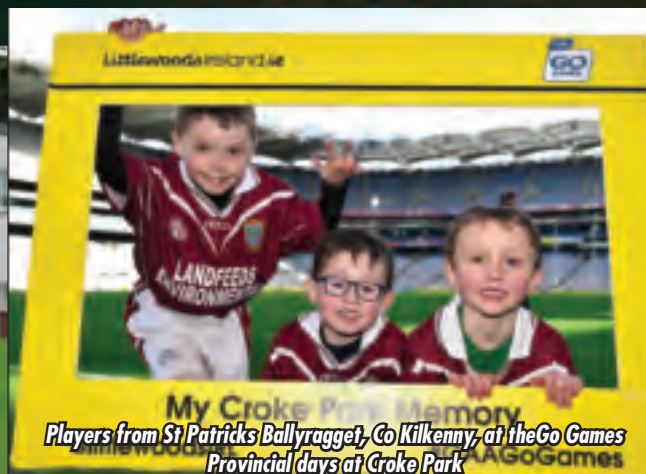
Our BnÓg's U12s who travelled to Portaferry, Co. Down in October to take part in a hurling tournament, and they return home champions.



The St. Patrick's GAA Scór team that represented our club and Kilkenny GAA in the Leinster Finals in Dublin, in Spring of this year.



St. Patrick's GAA Senior team getting ready for one of their first senior games for the club this year.



Players from St. Patrick's Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, at the Go Games Provincial days at Croke Park



Baile Mhic Ándáin



U15A Championship Finalists 2018



Joan McElwee, Chair of our Healthy Club Committee, being presented with a Healthy Club Hero award in Croke Park in October. Thomastown GAA Club formally became a smoke free club in 2018



Junior A Champions



Kilfane Handballers



Memory lane - the great Ollie Walsh

DEFUNCT CLUBS FROM THOMASTOWN AREA: GRENNAN ROVERS, CHAPEL HILL, MONG AND THOMASTOWN RANGERS

Mong

1909 - Mong contested a county final and were beaten by Dicksboro.

1913 - Mong won a county final and beat Ballycloben

1909 Mong Team - Dick O'Hara, Tommy Hanrahan, Pat Byrne, Ned Prendergast, Tom Prendergast, Dick Walsh, John Sprohan, Tom Byrne, William Byrne, Paddy Prendergast, Jimmy O'Hara, Jim McKenna, Davy Hanrahan, Butty Hanrahan, Josie Hanrahan, Nicholas Mullins (Coolbawn Ambush), Mick Murphy, Ned Walsh and Dick Moore

Tom Hanrahan of Mong was the first Thomastown man to play for the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team. Frank Minogue was the first Thomastown man to win a Senior All-Ireland hurling medal with Kilkenny.

Thomastown Rangers

Period of existence: Late 1950s to 1972 (amalgamated with Thomastown)

Catchment Area: All areas within Thomastown

Uniform - Yellow and blue - Thomastown Rangers jerseys were the first jerseys worn by the newly formed Ballyhale Shamrocks
Training fields: Mrs. Cronin's Field, Friars Hill
Players - Billy "Butty" Whelan, Brian "Bun" Doolan, Mickey Neill, Tony Stapleton, PJ White, John Walsh, Pat Forristal, Leonard Forristal, Joe Devoy, Ollie McEntee, Ray McEntee, Johnny Minogue, Paddy Cullen, Jimmy Forristal, Denis Treacy, Larry Neill, Michael O'Brien, Tommy Madigan, James, O'Neill, Mick Donnelly, Luke

Donnelly, Mikey Bookle, Pat Bookle, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Kelly, Willie O'Keefe, Paddy O'Keefe, Mickey Walsh (Bawnskeha)

Achievements - Contested three Southern Junior Finals and one County Junior Final. Beaten by Thomastown in Grennan in the 1962 Southern Junior Final, Five players were sent off in a tense match in this order: Paddy O'Keefe (Rangers) and Tommy Hayes (Thomastown), John Delaney (Thomastown - his first and only ever sending off) and Ollie McEntee (Rangers), Joe Devoy (Rangers)

Chapel Hill

T. O'Hanrahan, D. Holden, J. Skehan, T. Ryan, T. Murphy, J. Murphy, J. McKenna, L. Roche, M. Holden, D. Cassin, M. Dobbins, D. Murphy, M. Cassin and M. Cassin (Coolroe), N. Murphy, Tom Mullins, Nicholas Mullins (Coolbawn Ambush), W. Holden, C. Hayes and T. Dobbins

Bán na Duach



Upcoming fundraiser event being held by Threecastles GAA on 09.12.18 in partnership with the Samaritans. All support is welcome!

Area served by club: Threecastles Co. Kilkenny.

Colours: Green and gold.

Training field: Threecastles GAA Pitch.

Period of existence: 1984-2018

Junior C Panel 2018

Jack Boland, David Cleere, Conrad Cooper, PJ Dalton, Cian Lyng, Paul Mullan, Nick O'Shea (Cap), Eddie Bourke, Pat Trait, Frank Campion, Jack Cleere, Ciaran Dalton, Seamus Dunne, Eamonn Hennessy, Damien Lennon, Seamus McEvoy, Vincent O'Donnell, Canice Pratt, Daniel Rafter, Sean Rafter, Bill Doheny, Derek Deegan, Ross Walsh
Management Team: Bill Doheny, Michael Eardly, Kevin O'Brien.



Derek Deegan defending the goal



Vincent O'Donnell with his eye on the ball



Jack Cleere concentrating hard on the game



Eamonn Hennessy keeping his eye on the ball



Captain Nick O'Shea showing who's boss



Tulach Ruáin





Tulach Thoir/Ros Bearrcon



U15 Roinn B Shield Winners



U12 Richie Young Tournament Winners



U7 Players and Mentors



U11's at Go Games Finals



Captain Donnacha O'Connor presented with trophy



Wallie turns his attention to the big ball.



Bearna na Gaoithe



Windgap Juniors versus Dunnamaggin in Windgap



Giaran Neary and Sean Foley the Kilkenny Handball Open One Wall Handball Finalists in Windgap with Co. Chairperson Joe Anthony



Stage 1 removing the line of evergreen trees on the sideline to allow for the leveling, seeding and widening of the pitch



Faces in the crowd at the Primary Schools Final in Nowlan Park



St. Kierans College under 9 Hurling blitz



Hurling Club AGM as Treasurer Eamon Doyle, front right, steps down after 30 years



U21 Southern Champioopns at their medal presentation (Willie Dempsey)



Éire Óg



U13 Boys at the Mount Leinster Rangers Floodlit tournament



U10 Boys at the Annual Kitty Alyward tournament in Ballyhale



U9 Boys at the Annual Luke Roche tournament in Inistioge



U11 Boys at the Go Games Festival Day in Clara



The club hosted our Inaugural U12 tournament to honour deceased club members in 2018. After a great days hurling Young Irelands claimed the trophy, which this year was in honour of the late James Byrne. The trophy presentation above sees James' wife Teresa presenting the cup to the winning captain, her grandson Jake!

KILKENNY'S ALL STARS 2018



Kilkenny's 2018 Camogie All Stars receiving their awards from Uachtarán Kathleen Woods
From left: Anne Dalton, Denise Gaule, Grace Walsh, Katy Power, Meighan Farrell.

The Junior & Intermediate Soaring Stars Awards started off the proceedings on the night

Next up were the Player of the Year awards, Caragh Dawson (Dublin) received the Junior Player of the Year Award, Saoirse McCarthy (Cork) received the Intermediate Player of the Year Award. Anne Dalton (Kilkenny) was nominated for the Senior Award with Orla Cotter (Cork) and Chloe Sigerson (Cork). **Anne Dalton** (Kilkenny) deservedly claimed the award.

The main part of the evening then got underway with the Senior All Star team 2018 being announced with 9 of the Kilkenny team being nominated. First up was goalkeeper Emma Kavanagh, Rower Inistioge up against Aoife Murray (Cork) and Sarah Healy (Galway), with the Cork netminder winning the Award.

The full back line was next up with Catherine Foley, Windgap, Grace Walsh, Tullaroan, Edwina Keane, St Martin's & Colette Dormer, Paulstown/Goresbridge getting nominated along with Mary Ryan (Tipperary), Laura Treacy (Cork), Shauna Healy (Galway), Sarah Dervan (Galway), & Pamela Mackey (Cork). The right corner back award went to Kilkenny's **Grace Walsh** (1st All Star Award). The Full-Back award went to Sarah Dervan (Galway) and the left corner back award went to Pamela Mackey (Cork).

Following on was the half back line with Claire Phelan, Lisdowney, Anne Dalton, St Lactain's & Davina Tobin, Emeralds up against Karen Kennedy (Tipperary), Hannah Looney (Cork), Hannah Hegarty (Dublin), Roisin Egan (Offaly), Aine Lyng (Waterford) & Chloe Sigerson (Cork). The right half back award went to Hannah Looney (Cork). The centre back award went to Kilkenny's **Anne Dalton** (6th All Star Award) and Chloe Sigerson (Cork) received the left half back award.

For the Midfield positions, saw Meighan Farrell, Thomastown nominated along with Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Lorraine Bray (Waterford), Julie White (Cork) & Libby Coppinger (Cork). The first Midfield award went to Cork's Gemma O'Connor with Kilkenny's **Meighan Farrell** (3rd All Star Award) claiming the second Midfield All-Star.

The half forward line saw Katie Power, Piltown, Denise Gaule, Windgap & Anna Farrell, Thomastown up against Orla Cotter (Cork), Orla O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Siobhan Flannery (Offaly), Orla Cronin (Cork), Amy O'Connor (Cork) & Niamh Rockett (Waterford). The right half forward award went to Orla Cotter (Cork), the Centre Forward award went to Kilkenny's **Katie Power** (4th All Star Award) with Kilkenny's **Denise Gaule** (2nd All Star award) claiming the Left Half Forward position.

Shelly Farrell, Thomastown & Michelle Quilty, Mullinavat were nominated for the Full Forward line along with Orla Beagan (Dublin), Carrie Dolan (Galway), Cait Devane (Tipperary), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Beth Carton (Waterford), Grace O'Brien (Tipperary) & Siobhan Kehoe (Dublin). Katrina Mackey (Cork) won the right corner forward award, Cait Devane (Tipperary) (Championship Leading scorer) claimed the Full Forward position and Beth Carton (Waterford) finished the All-Star team for 2018 claiming the Left corner forward award.



Anne Dalton receives the prestigious Senior Player of the Year award from Uachtarán Kathleen Woods and Gemma Begley, WGPA.



Kilkenny's only Hurling All Star, Eoin Murphy, with his well-deserved award at the PwC All Stars 2018 at the Convention Centre in Dublin. Photo by Sam Barnes/Sportsfile

OBITUARIES



Michael Shortall

Having written countless obituaries for this publication unfortunately it is the turn of Michael Shortall to have his penned. Michael was Barrow Rangers (Paulstown/Goresbridge) through and through. The club coursed through his veins. Although he never hurled himself it was in administration that he served his club so well. It was in his role as PRO that he really excelled. He attended every match he possible could involving Barrow Rangers and when not there always made sure to enquire about the result and how they played. Michael standing on the side line at matches of all grades and age groups with notebook and pen in hand recording team line outs and scores is the image that generations of club members will remember him by. While PRO Barrow Rangers punched way above its weight as regards coverage in the local Press.

He was the club historian and the go to man when anyone needed facts and figures. Michael was in the process of writing a history of Barrow Rangers at the time of his death. For many years he was the Club's County Board Rep and at one stage was the County Boards delegate to the Leinster Council. He acted as steward in Nowlan Park looking after the wheelchair section.

Michael died on the 6th June after a short illness, sadly never getting to see the proposed plans for the new pitch development in Paulstown.



Fr Nicholas Flavin

It was with great shock and sadness that news travelled quickly through Kilkenny and beyond of the sudden death of the much-liked Fr Nicholas Flavin.

Many of GAA supporters and players across the county and beyond will have memories of Fr Flavin from their time is the hurling stronghold of St.Kieran's where he started teaching in 1976 and then was principal from 1983 - 1996.

Fr Nicholas was an avid supporter of GAA. As soon as he moved to Dunnamaggin in 2001 to take up his role as parish priest Fr Nicholas became heavily involved with his local club Dunnamaggin GAA.

Fr Nicholas occupied many roles within the club. In his early years he was a medic with adult teams on match day and more recently he helped injured players with their recovery. He also served as club Chairman and was currently the club's President, member of the executive committee and involved in developing the clubs training pitch in Kilmoganny.

He will be terribly missed by all.
May he rest in peace.



Harry Matthews

The Kilmacow club would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the family of Harry Matthews who passed away in February of this year.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Noreen, Eva, Catherine and extended family. Harry was one of Kilmacow Hurling Club's (then St Senan's) finest players and a member of the team that won our sole Junior Hurling Championship to date in 1956.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Robert Croke

Kilmacow club would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the Croke family on the passing of Robert in May of this year.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loving parents Michael and Carmel, brothers Conor and Damien, sisters Christine, Julie, Sheonagh and Kathleen, grandmother Brigid (Walsh), brother-in-law Hugh, nieces Bambi and Paige, uncles, aunts, cousins, extended family, relatives and many friends. Bob was a highly regarded club member and player.

His presence both on and off the field is and will continue to be, sorely missed by all at Kilmacow GAA.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Tom Neville

Tom Neville will always hold a special place within Ballyfoyle, Coon and Muckalee managing the newly formed St. Martins to County Final glory in 1984 two years after the clubs formation. His managerial prowess did not stop there as the club powered on to take Leinster and National honours and emerge as worthy All Ireland club champions. Tom will be forever remembered as been an inspirational figure to not only that team but to every hurler in the parish since that time. Indeed, he continued to follow St Martins and was seen at games on a regular basis often giving a handout at trainings as recently as last year. He achieved further success with Oulart the Ballagh leading them to their maiden county final ten years on in 1994 and repeated the trick in both 1995 and the All Ireland winning year of 1996.

A quiet natured, shy man, Tom Neville was a master of his craft and is regarded as one of the greatest players of his era and is held in regard wherever great hurlers are assessed and discussed. Tom made 27 championship appearances for the Model County, during which he won All-Ireland SHC medals in 1960 and '68 as well as five Leinster SHC medals in 1960, '62, '65, '68 and '70. Widely regarded as one of Wexford's greatest ever players, he also garnered three Railway Cup medals with Leinster and won one county SHC medal with Geraldine O'Hanrahan's.

Beloved husband of Annie and much-loved father of Mary. Sadly, missed by his wife, daughter, sisters Stáís and Kathleen, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, Peter, Emma and all his other grand-nieces and grand-nephews, cousins, relatives, many friends especially those of his GAA family.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Jim Fitzgerald

On the 12th of March 2018 it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jim Fitzgerald after a short illness. Born in Freynestown the parish of Clara where he lived and played hurling until he moved to Ballyquirke in Gowran in 1969. He then went on to play Junior Hurling with Young Irelands Gowran. He immediately became involved with the

club at committee level, he was elected Chairman in 1975 and remained as Chairman until 1984. In this time he also became involved at County Board Level as a delegate representing Young Irelands. A very active member of the Young Irelands Club he was involved in all aspects of running the club through the years, holding fort over the hurls and was a Selector on the Intermediate and Special Junior Teams. He played a pivotal role in Club Fundraising, involved with Club Lotto, Co-op Draw Tickets and most recently he travelled the country in his dedication to raising funds for the recent pitch developments reaching out to his contacts cemented through the years of working as a Sales Rep for Keenans.

Our deepest sympathies to his wife Peggy, his Sons Cathal, James and Michael and Daughters Mary and Anne, Grandchildren, Relatives and Friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis.



Michael (Micky) Fitzgerald

Michael (Micky) Fitzgerald – a native son of Glenmore, Micky Fitzgerald departed this earthly world in April 2018 at the great age of 93 years. Micky was a great footballer and loved all grades within the beloved GAA. Micky won Kilkenny Junior football medals and along with his great friend, Shem Lawlor, did much to promote the gaelic football tradition.

Micky, and his late great friends, Willie and Nicky Fitzgerald went to every match, be it underage hurling or camogie or schools and all levels through to All-Irelands and club All Ireland.

Rest in peace dear Micky.



Paul Fitzgerald Snr

Paul was born 15 November 1931 and died on 23 March 2018, aged 86 years old. Paul was a devoted family man who gave a lot of his time and energy to Glenmore, with a lifelong proud association with the GAA, and in parish life as Chairperson of the Glenmore Parish Council. Paul served the GAA with great distinction on winning Junior club titles, All Ireland Junior with Kilkenny in 1951 and in winning Railway Cup with Leinster in 1954. Paul Fitzgerald was the Chairperson of the Glenmore Hurling and football club for many years and along with his love of the GAA, and family, Paul loved working the land and all aspects of farming.

Rest in peace, dear Paul.



John Doherty

John Doherty of Davidstown, Glenmore passed away on St. Patrick's Day 2018 and was born on Dec 11th 1939, the second youngest of nine children with a kind, gentle disposition. John enjoyed hurling all his life and played at underage, minor and junior, and in 1959 won a Junior County title with his native Glenmore. John was very active in parish life being a committee member of the local Glenmore Glangbia, and was an active IFA member, and farmed, and appreciated, nature all his life in his native townland. John was uncle to, and followed the success of the great clubman, Christy Heffernan, along with family members and thoroughly enjoyed the contribution that Glenmore hurlers made down through the years to various Kilkenny county teams. A highlight in John's life was Glenmore's club All Ireland winning success in 1991 which saw many of John's parishioners reaching the highest level on success.

Rest in peace, dear John.



Kevin Dunne

Kevin Dunne of Woodlawn, Bennettsbridge, died on January 26th, 2018 at the age of 80. A quiet man, Kevin will be sorely missed by his many friends in Bennettsbridge and beyond. Kevin was born in England but came home to Bennettsbridge during World War 2, playing hurling at schools, u-16 and minor level. On his return to England, he played with the Moine Dearg Club.

On return to Ireland in 1970, he played senior hurling with the Bennettsbridge team, winning a senior championship in 1971 where he scored two goals and one point off no less a figure than Nicky Orr of Johnstown. He also played in the finals of '72 and '74 where the Bridge lost out to Johnstown. Kevin was involved with East End Soccer Club for many years serving as both a player and an officer. He was a keen fisherman and was also involved in amateur dramatics with the Watergate Theatre. Kevin was predeceased by his wife Vera and is survived by his daughter Janet and his grandson Ricky, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam.



Michael Treacy (1946-2017)

Throughout his life Michael supported Bennettsbridge GAA from every angle as a player, fundraiser and constant willing volunteer. Michael played alongside his brothers throughout the 60s on the Bennettsbridge team panel.

The pride Michael showed as a Bridge man could be seen throughout his life from his involvement in the infamous Bennettsbridge Festivals which were run to raise money to build St. Bennetts Church, to his membership on the committee during the 1980s which developed the hurling pitch we see in the Bridge today.

Michael working life began in McCreery's where he learned his trade before opening his own business in Blackwell, Treacy's Carpets & Furniture. Michael's loyalty and dedication to his customers was also what he constantly offered to Bennettsbridge GAA.

Rest in Peace, Michael.



Paddy Treacy (1940-2017)

Paddy Treacy was a constant figure at all Bridge matches, often parked up at the top of the hill in the field in the bridge to ensure the best possible view of the game. Paddy was a tough character himself on the pitch. In 1964 alongside three of his brothers, Paddy played on the Bridge Team that won the county final. That year saw four of the Treacy brothers play in the four corners of the field, with Paddy taking his place as corner forward. This is a feat that has yet to be repeated by any club in the country.

Paddy spent his working life with CIE and with the County Council where he became a well-known character. His dedication to the Bridge GAA was however irrefutable and he took great pleasure in watching the Bridge lift silverware at the top of both Junior and Intermediate divisions and return to senior level in the county.

Throughout his lifetime Paddy was a solid figure at all Bennettsbridge GAA events from fundraising to dinner dances, to lifting spirits after bitter defeats. Paddy was and will always remain a figure of encouragement and a figure that embodies what the bridge is all about.

Rest in peace, Paddy.



Victor Mullally

Glenmore lost a true gael on December 10th 2017. Victor Mullally passed away suddenly at the age of 57 years. He gave of his time so loyally, and was hugely committed to his parish club, Glenmore hurling and football GAA club. Victor served as the club's Kilkenny County Board representative, and also was the club's football representative. Victor will be remembered for his commitment as he, along with others secured the future of the Glenmore GAA club in the relocation of the club grounds to Pairc Na Rathra.

Rest in peace, dear Victor.



Eoin Doyle

Two silences.

Knocktoper Graveyard, last April 11. A recording of 'Forever Young' finishes playing. The massive crowd present seems to draw a collective breath, heavy with the enormity of what has happened. A young man of 24 is gone.

Nowlan Park, last October 28. Michael Fennelly, captain of Ballyhale Shamrocks, accepts the Tom Walsh Cup following victory over Bennettsbridge in the Senior Final. He acknowledges and thanks people, the usual courtesies. Then his tone changes. Michael dedicates this title to a panellist taken by a terrible accident.

The crowd before the Old Stand pauses a moment, understanding this moment's gravity, before resuming applause.

The link between those silences is a tragic death. Born on January 5, 1994, Eoin Doyle passed away due to a motorbike accident on April 9. That morning, he trained and returned in great form, delighted with an encouraging word from Henry Shefflin. That evening, he was not long home after watching with friends Kilkenny's triumph over Tipperary in the NHL Final. Life is forever fragile and Eoin was just unlucky.

He relished every game he played with St Patrick's NS (Ballyhale), Scoil Airegail and Ballyhale Shamrocks. A twist meant the family home lay within the neighbouring parish of Dunnamaggin. But there was never any question where Eoin would hurl. Being a Ballyhale man meant so much to him.

If nothing else, his mother, Ber, is an Aylward from Knockmoyle, a family at the heart of hurling in the parish since the 1920s. The whole family, led by Ber and father Johnny, by sisters Clodagh and Dearbhla, by grandparents Pat and Eileen, offered great support on every playing day, be it Senior or

Junior B.

Eoin Doyle was a valued panellist during the 2014-15 season, when Ballyhale Shamrocks won Senior, Leinster and All Ireland honours. He likewise has a Senior medal from 2012's victory and was important at midfield for the Junior A Champions of 2013. Eoin was only starting off.

The family, at the worst moment in their lives, saw his club as the bigger picture. Johnny Doyle spoke powerfully to Ballyhale Shamrocks' Senior panel after the serious setback that was loss to Bennettsbridge in their league group's final round. Those present considered this moment a galvanizing one, a turning point for a team not reaching its potential. Following Senior Final victory, one of the people most closely involved with the set up confided: "I don't think they'd have won it but for what Johnny said. The whole thing was slipping away."

The pain of one family's loss will never abate. No more can be said for the moment than that a young man's memorial is the most Ballyhale of tributes, a Senior title.



Noel Walsh

Noel Walsh: A Local Hero

The recent death of Noel Walsh has deprived Kilkenny of a truly remarkable man. His kind and considerate demeanour ensured initial casual relationships usually blossomed into friendship. Noel loved conversation. Swapping well embellished stories with select friends was a major joy. He was a person of enthusiasms whose dynamic personality added sparkle and lustre to those fortunate enough to know him.

After successfully completing his Leaving Cert in St Kieran's, Noel took a summer job in Smithwick's Brewery. The psychiatric nursing career he had planned, somehow, got shelved and he remained in 'the brewery' for his working life. He made great friends and enjoyed the work. His stories from the workplace were legendary but best appreciated in houses where fermented liquor is for sale. Noel was the ideal employee, diligent, trustworthy and honest. Traits he carried with him always.

In his younger days Noel was immersed in local soccer playing mainly with Ormonde Villa. He was an on-field leader and enjoyed the camaraderie associated with match day. He maintained a keen interest in the club and the game to the end.

Early retirement followed by serious illness brought major changes to his lifestyle. Not all of them bad. Restricted mobility allowed him to wallow in long loquacious lunches. Here his encyclopaedic knowledge of obscure sporting trivia was tested, daily. Some inquisitors sought knowledge others attempted to baffle. The former were rewarded the latter disappointed. Representing O' Loughlin's, partnered by Frank Mc Kenna, Cyril Keegan and Enda Mc Evoy, Noel had won the Jimmy Magee All Ireland quiz and confessed he had no intention of tarnishing that record over lunch.

As the small hand descended Noel would leave the Kilford Arms and venture across the road to John Joe Cullen, ostensibly to purchase a ticket for the club lotto, but in reality to discover news of the parish. The last stop of the afternoon was always

MacDonagh Junction and a visit to Quigley's café. Meeting cronies, the concerns of the day were accessed and discussed. Tales and adventures were recounted, many requiring a small amount of sodium chloride, until dismissal came with the Angelus bell. Recalling these occasions, they were times of fun, frivolity and laughter.

As Noel's life ebbed away it was perhaps fitting that his alma mater won their 22nd All Ireland colleges title and that the Kilkenny senior team was reinvigorated in Wexford. Both would have brought satisfaction. The county success was maybe a tad more satisfying, this time. As the Stripy Men's credentials were questioned Noel remained steadfast. He vociferously proclaimed that transition in Kilkenny hurling should take place between January and March. Then, win or lose, it was time to perform.

A founding member of O'Loughlin Gaels Noel enjoyed their success both on and off the field. His astute knowledge and understanding of hurling made him a much sought after and valued selector, a role he filled, successfully, for many years. Indeed he made a cameo appearance a few years ago as an under 21 selector. Though he found the regime dramatically changed nonetheless he revelled in the role. He loved the sporting interacting with these young players and grasped the opportunity to offer advice and guidance. The two year term brought no trophies but during a time of ill health it gave him renewed confidence and self belief. Not a sentimental person, he would admit, privately, his gratitude to the club for giving him the opportunity to be involved, for a final time.

As we followed the hearse from Johnston's Funeral home to St John's church, pathos and pride intermingled. The whispered conversations ceased and silence descended. The solemnity of the occasion reverberated as through the falling rain, we accompanied Noel, who for the last time was following his heroes. Led by Chairman Brian Murphy O' Loughlin Gaels formed an impressive and dignified guard of honour, for one of their own.

Noel Walsh was a deeply religious person, whose faith was of paramount importance. As scandal and secular diversions saw many fall by the wayside, Noel remained constant. His religious ethos was integral to his existence and he unashamedly admitted he derived inspiration and solace from Catholic beliefs. Noel had a genuine concern for the welfare of others and he did good deeds in secret, with few aware of his generosity and kindness.

Noel lived his life, grew and developed, in the few acres between Assumption Place and John's Bridge. Travel to the foreign regions of Freshford, Mullinavat, Thomastown, Castlecomer etc usually involved attendance at a sporting fixture.

Outwardly stoic, family was important to Noel. He cared for them deeply and celebrated their success. During the final years he had a special affinity with Marie and recognised it was her care that allowed him the opportunity to continue his independent life.

Surrounded by those he loved, Noel left this world in the same way as he had lived his life, quietly and with dignity.

As friends, we are bereft, our hearts are broken. Noel was an important part of our lives and the void created by his parting is enormous. We will miss his wry humour, his roguish devilment, his easy companionship and his warm friendship. Saddest, is the wealth of wisdom and knowledge now gone forever. Large tranches of our parish are eerily silent, as we, vainly, seek comfort in familiar surroundings. Lost and alone, we are left to contemplate the transient and fragile nature of life.



Seamus Butler RIP Jan 4th 2018

It was with a heavy heart that St Patrick's GAA learned of the passing of one of its founding members at the start of the New Year. Seamus had battled illness for the previous two years, and had been in St Luke's Hospital for all of this time. However, he still made it to the St Patrick's matches with the help of his family and the nursing staff of St Luke's and it was a truly joyous moment for the St Patrick's team to learn that he was there on the day they lifted the Intermediate cup in 2017.

Seamus, lived with his wife Sue in Grove Terrace, a stone's throw from the St Patrick's pitch, he worked for Avonmore as a milk collection lorry driver and was known and held in the highest esteem by one and all who knew him. Seamus held every position that he could within the club including Chairman and President. Seamus was also the club's hurl supplier. He took this task very seriously and ensured that he always had the best of ash on hand for the club. It was a joy to have to call to him

for all the players from young and old to get a hurl, as this task involved a long and welcoming chat with both Seamus and Sue.

Seamus was the embodiment of club volunteerism. He was St Patrick's to the people of the parish. He attended all the matches he could and knew every child of the parish and watched them develop.

To Seamus's wife Sue, his sister Ann, brother Packie, nieces, nephews and wide circle of friends we extend our sympathies.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh an anam dílis.



Paddy Walsh (1946 - 2018)

There was great sadness locally when the news filtered through the parish on April 4th 2018 that Paddy Walsh of Cotterstown, Windgap had passed away.

From the early days Paddy was a very involved member of the Cotterstown football team and

legend has it that he even carried the yellow and green jersey around in his gear bag long after its amalgamation with Lamogue

Paddy won a county junior hurling medal with Windgap in 1970 and played in goal in the epic games when Windgap went senior for the first time in 1971. Paddy was also a selector on the 1986 winning team that brought the club its second county junior title.

Music was a big love of Paddy's, and as a talented accordion player and signer he played with a number of bands including the Glensiders. Paddy won a Scór Instrumental Music County Title with Barry Murphy and he is well remembered for entertaining the locals at the Saturday evening sessions in Guinans. Paddy even had the privilege of playing on RTE's up for the match on the eve of an All Ireland and had a great interest in gardening.

Paddy commenced work in Creamery Store in Callan and will be much remembered for his long career in Chadwick's Kilkenny where he became much loved and known to many people throughout the county.

Paddy will be sadly missed by his wife Mary, daughter Julie, son Willie, son in law Davy Pat, and daughter in law Mary, grandchildren and extended family, neighbours and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam dílis

Solas na bhFlaitheas ar Anamnacha na
Marbh

Kilkenny GAA Results 2018

SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING	
County SH C'ship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-20 Bennettsbridge 2-17	Roinn "A" U21H Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
SH League Final	James Stephens 1-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-16	Roinn "B" U21H Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
SH Shield Final	Dicksboro 2-24 Bennettsbridge 2-17	UNDER 19 HURLING	
New SH League (Byrne Cup)	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-20 Mullinavat 2-16	Roinn "A" U19 C'ship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13 James Stephens 1-14
SH Relegation Final	Danesfort 0-19 Carrickshock 2-9	Roinn "B" U19 C'ship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "C" U19 C'ship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
County IH C'ship Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-16 Tullaroan 2-13	Roinn "D" U19 C'ship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
IH League Final	John Lockes 2-14 Tullaroan 1-16	MINOR (U17) HURLING	
IH Shield Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-16 Lisdowney 1-13	Roinn "A" MH C'ship Final	Mooncoin 3-14 Dicksboro 2-12
New SH/IH League (Aylward Cup)	St Martin's 3-16 Rower Inistioge 2-18	Roinn "B" MH C'ship Final	Thomastown 3-13 Danesfort 2-13
New IH League Div 3	John Lockes v Young Irelands	Roinn "C" MH C'ship Final	Tullaroan 2-11 Conahy Shamrocks 2-11 Tullaroan 3-14 Conahy Shamrocks 0-8
IH Relegation Final	Young Irelands 3-14 Mooncoin 2-11	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Dunnamaggin 1-15 James Stephens 1-12
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "B" MH League Final	Thomastown v Danesfort
County JH C'ship Final	Dunnamaggin 1-16 Piltown 2-8	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Blacks & Whites 2-10 Carrickshock 2-9
County JH C'ship Section B Final	Dicksboro 1-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-9	UNDER 15 HURLING	
County JH League	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Roinn "A" U15H C'ship Final	Dicksboro 4-18 Thomastown 0-7
All County JH League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-20 Piltown 1-17	Roinn "B" U15H C'ship Final	Rower Inistioge 4-11 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-7
JUNIOR HURLING A		Roinn "C" U15H C'ship Final	Conahy Shamrocks 1-12 Dicksboro 1-9
County JH A League/C'ship Final	Mooncoin 1-13 Thomastown 0-7	Roinn "A" U15H League Final	Young Irelands 4-15 Galmoy Windgap 1-13
League Final	Thomastown 1-27 Mooncoin 1-21	Roinn "B" U15H League Final	Dunnamaggin 4-14 Graigie Ballycallan 2-13
JH A Relegation Final	Erin's Own 2-11 St Lachtain's 1-14 Erin's Own 2-16 St Lachtain's 1-13	Roinn "C" U15H League Final	Mullinavat 4-7 Fenians 2-10
JUNIOR HURLING B		UNDER 13 HURLING	
County JH B League/C'ship Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-7	Roinn "A" U13H C'ship Final	Graigie Ballycallan 1-12 James Stephens 2-7
League Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-14	Roinn "B" U13H C'ship Final	Clara 2-13 Rower Inistioge 0-12
JH B Relegation Final	John Locke's 2-18 Emeralds 2-18 John Locke's 3-22 Emeralds 4-13	Roinn "C" U13H C'ship Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-13 St Patrick's 1-11
JUNIOR HURLING C		Paddy Grace Féile Final	Dicksboro 2-7 Young Irelands 2-2
Championship Final	Glenmore 2-16 Galmoy 1-16	Roinn "A" U13H League Final	James Stephens 4-10 G/Ballycallan 2-16 James Stephens 2-13 G/Ballycallan 1-7
League Final	Galmoy 1-18 Danesfort 0-16	Roinn "B" U13H League Final	Erin's Own 2-13 Rower Inistioge 3-6
JH C Relegation Final	Windgap 3-12 Blacks & Whites 3-11	Roinn "C" U13H League Final	Graigie Ballycallan 1-13 St Patrick's 3-7 Graigie Ballycallan 1-17 St Patrick's 3-8
JUNIOR HURLING D		PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
Championship Final	Mooncoin 3-18 Clara 2-3	Roinn "A" U13H Final	Kilmanagh 4-18 Clara 0-6
League Final	Mooncoin 2-12 Kilmacow 2-7	Roinn "B" U13H Final	Castlecomer 3-8 Tullagher-Rosbercon 1-9
CUP COMPETITIONS		Roinn "C" U13H Final	Mullinavat 3-10 Rower-Inistioge 3-7
Paddy Cahill Cup	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Roinn "D" U13H Final	St Canice's "B" 5-10 Windgap 5-7
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Ballinkillen 1-21 Blacks & Whites 2-9	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Kilmanagh 5-10 Gowran 0-8
Joe Walsh Cup	<i>No Competition</i>	Corn Uí Bhriain	Danesfort 9-8 Freshford 7-4
Martin Treacy Cup	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Roinn "A" U11 Final	Clara 3-2 Callan 2-3
Jim Farrell Cup	<i>Discontinued</i>	Roinn "B" U11 Final	Dunnamaggin 3-4 Carrickshock 2-6
		Roinn "C" U11 Final	Slieverue 4-6 Johnstown 0-2

SENIOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Final	Mullinavat 5-11 Muckalee 2-9	Junior "A" Championship Final	O'Loughlins 1-9 St Claires 2-5
County SF League Final	Kilmoganny v Railyard	Junior "B" Championship Final	Blacks&Whites 1-10 Tullagher 1-5
County SF Relegation Final	Danesfort 3-13 St Patrick's 3-5	Junior "A" League Final	Thomastown 3-17 Piltown 1-6
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Junior "A" All-County Lge Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-12 Blacks & Whites 1-7
County IF Final	Tullagher Rosbercon 2-10 Erin's Own 0-7	Junior Shield Final	Graigenamanagh 2-9 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-10
County IF League Final	Piltown 2-6 Lisdowney 0-11	UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		U21 A Championship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
County JF Final	<i>Not Begun</i>	U21 B Championship Final	Tullaroan 0-8 St Claire's 0-6
County JF League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	MINOR CAMOGIE	
MINOR FOOTBALL		Minor A C'ship Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>
Roinn "A" MF Final	Danesfort 2-6 Kilmoganny 2-5	Minor B C'ship Final	Kilmacow/Slieverue 2-8 O Loughlin Gaels 1-7
Roinn "B" MF Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Minor C C'ship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-10 Clara 3-9
Roinn "B" MF Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Minor A League Final	Piltown 2-11 Thomastown 3-7
U15 FOOTBALL		Minor B League Final	Kilmacow/Slieverue 1-12 Tullaroan 1-5
Roinn "A" U15F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Minor C League Final	Graignamanagh 5-8 Ballyhale 2-5
Roinn "B" U15F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	U16 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "C" U15F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under-16 A C'ship Final	St Brigid's 5-6 Thomastown 3-8
U13 FOOTBALL		Under-16 B C'ship Final	Clara 3-7 Danesfort 0-7
Roinn "A" U13F Final	Dicksboro 5-14 James Stephens 3-8	Under-16 B Shield Final	Mooncoin 3-7 Kilmacow/Slieverue 2-6
Roinn "B" U13F Final	Graigie Ballycallan 2-10 Clara 2-6	Under-16 C C'ship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-8 St Lactains 2-4
Roinn "C" U13F Final	Kilmoganny 4-10 Bennettsbridge 2-11	Under-16 C Shield Final	Paulstown 5-7 Lisdowney 3-4
Roinn "A" U13F League Final	Thomastown 2-7 James Stephens 3-2	Under-16 A League Final	Thomastown 2-8 St Brigid's 3-4
Roinn "B" U13F League Final	Piltown v Clara	Under-16 B League Final	Danesfort 2-8 St Martin's 0-2
Roinn "C" U13F League Final	Bennettsbridge 4-7 Cloneen/Railyard 1-5	Under-16 C League Final	St Lachtains 2-9 Rower Inistioge 0-3
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		U14 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" U13F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 A C'ship Final	St Brigids 5-9 Dicksboro 0-4
Roinn "B" U13F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 A Shield Final	James Stephens 5-5 Thomastown 3-4
Roinn "C" U13F Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 B C'ship Final	Tullaroan/St Annes 6-7 Conahy 3-9
Corn na Tuaithe Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 B Shield Final	Young Irelands 9-5 Piltown 0-9
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Under 14 C C'ship Final	Carrickshock 6-9 Lisdowney/Naomh Brid 3-5
County SC Final	Thomastown 0-11 Piltown 0-9	Under 14 C Shield Final	Mooncoin Windgap
County SC League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Under 14 D C'ship Final	St Fiachras 4-7 Paulstown/Goresbridge 3-4
All-County SC League	Thomastown 3-18 St Brigids 1-8	Under 14 D Shield Final	Mullinavat 4-6 Rower Inistioge 3-7
Senior Relegation Final	St Martins 10-8 Glenmore 3-8	PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		Primary Schools A Final	St Canices 4-6 Glenmore 4-3
County IC Final	Young Irelands 0-12 Clara 1-3	Primary Schools B Final	Gowran 7-11 Mooncoin 1-4
IC League Final	<i>To Be Completed</i>	Primary Schools C Final	Callan 5-9 Tullaroan 2-6
All County IC League Final	Rower Inistioge 2-11 St Annes/Emeralds 1-12	Primary Schools D Final	Mullinavat 3-2 Danesfort 3-2 Mullinavat 3-4 Danesfort 3-1
Intermediate Relegation Final	Danesfort 3-12 James Stephens 2-8		

* As of November 26th 2018. Results of finals too late for inclusion here will be recorded in Kilkenny GAA Bible 2019, and on kilkennygaa.ie