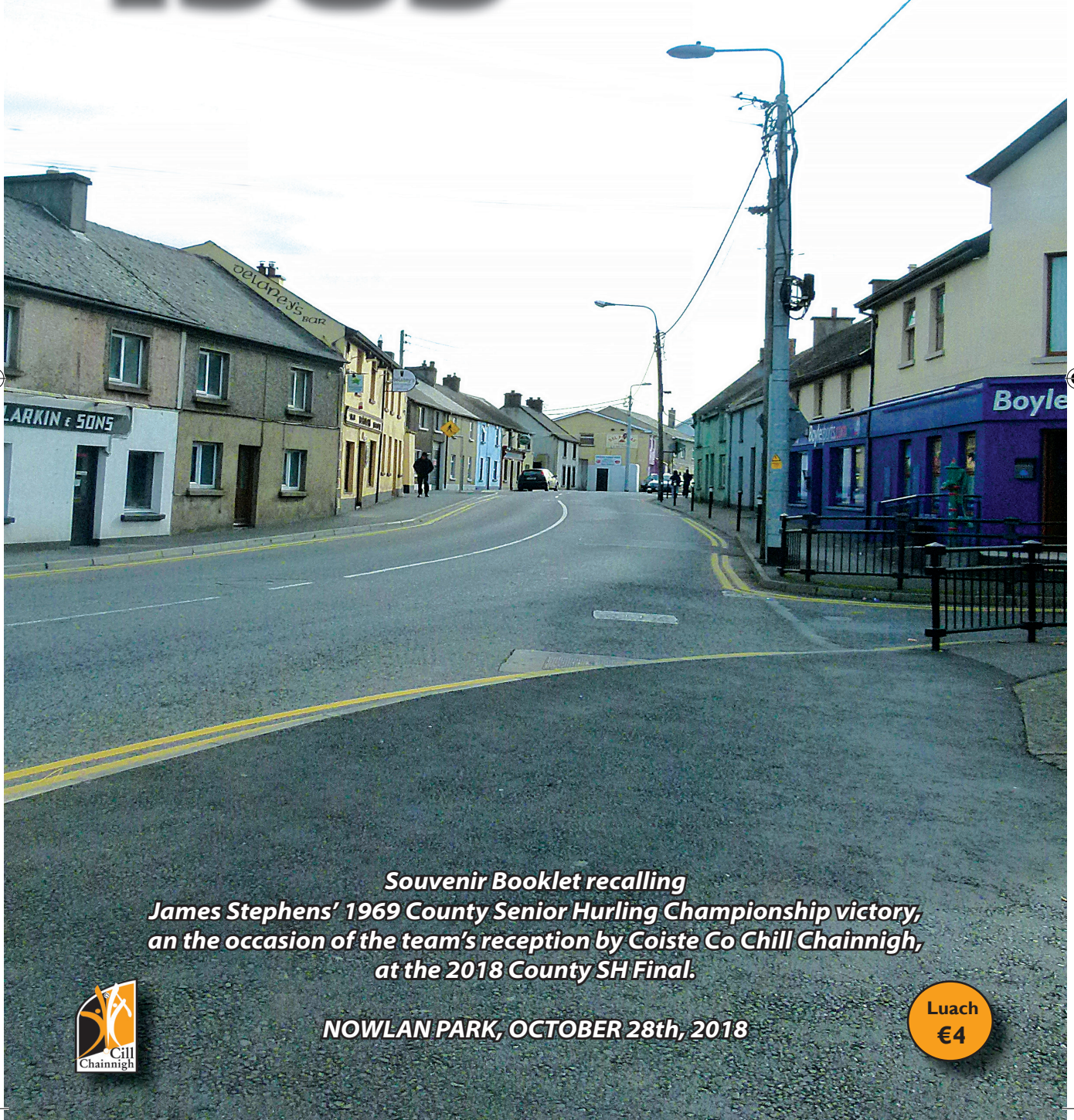




Remembering **James Stephens** County Senior Hurling Champions of

1969



*Souvenir Booklet recalling
James Stephens' 1969 County Senior Hurling Championship victory,
on the occasion of the team's reception by Coiste Co Chill Channigh,
at the 2018 County SH Final.*



NOWLAN PARK, OCTOBER 28th, 2018

**Luach
€4**





A VENUE FOR ALL OCCASIONS

- » 3, 6 & 12 month leisure club memberships
- » Daily carvery in The Paddock Bar
- » Arrange to meet our Wedding experts
- » Afternoon Tea in Kupp coffee dock
- » Private dining in Oscars Bistro



SPRINGHILL COURT
HOTEL

Springhill Court Hotel, Waterford Road, Kilkenny
T: (056) 7721122 E: events@springhillcourt.com

[SPRINGHILLCOURT.COM](http://springhillcourt.com)





FÁILTE

Scéalta, cuimhní agus reflections of great days and games are an integral part of GAA folklore at Club and County level and today in Nowlan Park, Cumann Luthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh, in conjunction with the Springhill Court Hotel, are delighted to welcome and honour the James Stephens team who were the county Senior Hurling champions of 1969.

That famous day, marked a sea change in club hurling in Kilkenny as two new faces battled for the Tom Walsh Cup. After a break of thirty two years, the Village men took the title over the new club on the block, The Fenians, who were just up from the Junior Grade. The rivalry of that occasion endured for the following fifteen years, as one or both of the clubs appeared in action in all but two of the senior finals, when they took nine county titles between them.

The championship starters list of fifteen teams, saw giants of other days in Coon, Newpark Sarsfields and St Senan's that are now no longer with us. However their areas and current players still contribute immensely to the games through their parish teams. Their loss has sparked a trawl by the Year Book committee to record the name of every club that lined out in the county since 1884.

After James Stephens first round win over Erin's Own, who battled so gallantly on Sunday last to be here for today's St. Canices Credit Union Senior final, and then a victory over St. Senan's (Kilmacow), the Village found breaking through never came easy. On the way their dreams and ambitions were strongly tested with three second round matches over eight weeks against the hurling masters of the time from Bennettsbridge. Inniu, the "Bridge" are back in the county final; back then they were seeking their eleventh senior title of their generation. After passing the test at the third time of asking in Nowlan Park with a 4-3 to 2-2 win, James Stephens then faced towards the Northern end of the county. In the semi-final they defeated Galmoy, who came through the losers group and had accounted for the County Champions the Rower Instioge by 2-14 to 1-14. After recording a 4-11 to 1-7 win over them, they faced The Fenians who had recorded a single point win, 4-8 to 4-7 after a very late-scoring burst over Mooncoin in the other semi-final.

In a time when Fixture dates were just as prominent as today, James Stephens three-match replay saga commenced the week after Kilkenny defeated Cork in the Senior All Ireland final and lasted for nine weeks until November 9th. As a result of the semi-finals being played on 30th November, and subsequent boardroom discussions, the County Final was played on April 19th the following year.

On County Final day the game attracted a crowd of almost twelve thousand supporters who saw James Stephens go on a scoring blitz of 3-2 in the first five minutes. After two goals by Sean Leahy and the third by rugby international Ned Byrne, the side led by 5-3 to 1-4 at half time. A similar explosive start to the second half, despite a Fenians comeback led by Pat Delaney, yielded them a sixteen point 8-5 to 2-7 victory.

Bedecked with hurling families Larkin's, Morrissey's, and Leahy's and other club hurling legends, many of the winning side went on to play for Kilkenny, with Fan Larkin and Mick Crotty achieving All Stars from the team that was looked after by their trainer Denis Towmey. Sadly six members of the historic team that took the honours that day in Sean (Georgie) Leahy, Michael Leahy, Paddy Larkin, Michael Larkin, Michael Dunne (Captain), Tommy Hickey and selectors Sean Tyrell, Bill Cody, Ramie Dowling, Billy Leahy and Lou McCarthy who are no longer with us and are fondly recalled.

Once again Míle Buíochas to Springhill Court Hotel and their Manager Emma Jayne Eaton for honouring the Jubilee team that will be guests of honour, with their partners, at a celebration dinner, and will all be provided with a special memento of the occasion. Thanks also to Ned Buggy and Gerry O'Neill for their work in researching and producing this souvenir booklet.

Sa deireadh, comhghairdeas is extended to the Village team that brought the third County title to the club in 1969. It was a great achievement and one that led James Stephens to their greatest era including All Ireland Club honours, and has brought the club to where it is today, on the playing fields and the Larchfield and Kells Road facilities.

*Seamus Breathnach,
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.*

Living in Kilkenny for over 11 years I have grown to be a passionate hurling fan.

It is a great pleasure to be representing the Springhill Court Hotel in sponsoring James Stephens Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Champions 1969.

The Springhill Court Hotel has been working with Kilkenny GAA and honoured many famous teams over the past 24 years.

I would like to congratulate James Stephens the Senior Hurling County Champions 1969 and hope they have an enjoyable reunion day and I'm sure many stories will be shared again of the famous day 49 years ago.

I would like to wish the hurlers, their supporters and our many customers in attendance at today's games our very best wishes and I look forward to seeing two fantastic games of hurling.

*Emma - Jayne Eaton
General Manager
Springhill Court Hotel*



Acknowledgement.

The programme committee wish to thank the following for their help and co-operation in compiling this souvenir programme:-
Damien Brett (Kilkenny Library), Kilkenny People, Paddy Bollard, James London, Gerald Corbett, Tony Sheehan, James Murphy, Sean Courtney, Eddie Keher, Seamus Delaney.



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

KILKENNY SH CHAMPIONSHIP 1969 SCOREBOARD

FIRST ROUND

Bennettsbridge	3 - 6	Fenians	1 - 7
James Stephens	6 - 6	Erins Own	1 - 6
Coon	2 - 10	St. Lachtains	0 - 7
Mooncoin	4 - 16	Galmoy	2 - 11
Young Irelands	3 - 10	Lisdowney	2 - 11
Thomastown	2 - 10	Rower Inistioge	0 - 15
St. Senans	9 - 21	Newpark Sarsfields	1 - 7
Tullaroan	Bye		

WINNERS GROUP

1st Round

Bennettsbridge	7 - 14	Tullaroan	1 - 5
James Stephens	7 - 18	St. Senans	2 - 9
Mooncoin	1 - 15	Thomastown	2 - 9
Coon	5 - 11	Young Irelands	2 - 7

2nd Round

Mooncoin	2 - 9	Coon	2 - 5
James Stephens	3 - 7	Bennettsbridge	2 - 10
James Stephens	3 - 9	Bennettsbridge	3 - 9
James Stephens	4 - 3	Bennettsbridge	2 - 2

LOSERS GROUP

1st Round

Fenians	3 - 9	St. Lachtains	3 - 4
Rower Inistioge	4 - 14	Lisdowney	4 - 4
Galmoy	3 - 15	Erins Own	4 - 4
Newpark Sarsfield	Bye		

2nd Round

Fenians	5 - 18	Newpark Sarsfields	4 - 6
Galmoy	2 - 14	Rower Inistioge	1 - 14

SEMI FINALS

James Stephens	4 - 11	Galmoy	1 - 7
Fenians	4 - 8	Mooncoin	4 - 7

FINAL

James Stephens	8 - 5	Fenians	2 - 7
----------------	-------	---------	-------

**FIRST ROUND****'Bridge Hard Pressed****Bennettsbridge 3-6 The Fenians 1-7**

SHORT about half a dozen of their regulars, Bennettsbridge had to fight hard to overcome last year's junior champions, The Fenians (Johnstown) in the first round of the senior hurling championship at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

They were in fact slightly flattered by the five points margin of (3-6 to 1-7) and were not out of danger until Paddy Moran, from far out, dropped the ball into the Johnstown net two minutes from the end.

The hurling was not great but the exchanges between two fairly evenly matched sides held interest to the end. The forwards on both sides lacked penetrative power. This was particularly the case with the Fenians, and if they had been a little more effective here, then the task of the fancied Bennettsbridge would have been much more difficult.

As it was Bennettsbridge, without S. Cleere, P. Kealy, P. Cullen, C. O'Brien, and M. McCarthy must feel reasonably happy to have survived the test with The Fenians who stepped up very considerably on form in the 1968 junior final.

Although the 'Bridge went in front after 7 minutes and were in the lead for the remainder of the game, the Fenians on several occasions came within two points of them, and that was the position with two minutes to go. Moran's goal removed the danger of a surprise. At the interval, the winners led by 1-3 to 0-4.

Noel Skehan gave a fine display in goal for the 'Bridge, and in defence, which was altered to make up for the loss of Seamus Cleere, Conor O'Brien, P. Kealy and P. Cullen, the Treacy brothers, Martin and Jim, the latter at centre half back, L. Cleere and newcomer John Holohan held out. Paddy Moran dominated at centrefield, but only J. Kinsella impressed in attack.

For the Fenians, N. Orr, Pat Henderson and S. Grace were best in a sound defence. Paddy Murphy was good at centrefield. Best of the forwards were Pat Delaney and John Moriarty.

Scorers for Bennettsbridge: J. Kinsella (0-5), N. Ryan (2-0), P. Moran (1-0), P. Treacy (0-1).

For The Fenians: J. Moriarty (0-5), P. Delaney (1-0), P. Henderson and F. Holohan (0-1 each).

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, J. Holohan, W. Kennedy, J. Treacy, J. Holohan, P. Lalor, P. Moran, J. Kinsella, N. Ryan, C. Hayes, E. Ryan, P. Treacy, L. Bookle.

The Fenians: P.J. Ryan, M. Carroll, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, S. Delaney, P. Henderson, S. Grace, P. Murphy, J. Maher, J. Moriarty, P. Delaney, M. Garrett, W. Tobin, F. Holohan, W. Watson.

Referee: T. Ryall.

James Stephens in Fine Form**James Stephens 6-6 Erins Own 1-6**

James Stephens gave an impressive display when beating Erins Own by 6-6 to 1-6 in the first round of the Kilkenny senior hurling championship at Nowlan Park on Sunday and to their credit it must be said that they treated the game with respect. A goal and a point up after 2 minutes the city side never looked back and though Erins Own cut a half time lead of 10 points down to 5 points in the first 10 minutes of the second half, their effort ended there and the winners romped home very comfortably.

The game was too one sided to be of interest but there was a lot to like about the James Stephens attacking movements and all their scores were well directed efforts.

There was a recurrence of incidents during the hour, but they were not serious and were treated rather leniently by the referee Francie Walsh of Kilmacow and it was fortunate that they did not develop.

Any good hurling in the game was provided by the James Stephens forwards and unless the Erins Own defence can improve on this display their hopes of making any impression in the losers group are dim. Even Martin Coogan rarely made his presence felt.

Erins Own were without Peter Boran who had distinguished himself with the CBS senior team in the colleges championship and his place at centre-field was taken by Paddy Dowling. He was quite a good substitute and was in fact one of the few Castlecomer men to make an impression.

In spite of good work by Mick Taylor, centre-field was the one sector where Erins Own had an advantage as Paddy Dowling and Mick Meally played consistently. With Noel O'Sullivan coming more into the game in the second half, James Stephens more of a say at centre-field.

Mick Moore in the James Stephens goal was one of the outstanding players of the 30. He saved shots from point blank range and thwarted several Erins Own moves to get into the game.

Fan Larkin was the steadiest of the all Larkin full back line, Phil, Fan, and Paddy, but none of them gave anything away soft and there was little room for the Erins Own forwards to find gaps. Michael Leahy was outstanding on the half-back line and got good support from John O'Neill and Niall Morrissey.

The James Stephens forwards combined well and they all played a part in building up what must be regarded as a respectable score against fancied opponents. Ned Byrne a new acquisition and Mickey Dunne were the most successful score getters but they were ably supported by Fess Brennan, Sean Brennan, Eamonn Morrissey, and Sean Leahy.

Jim Byrne nursing an injury sustained in the game against Bennettsbridge opted for the role of goalie and performed quite well. Tom Shalloe, veteran of the Castlecomer men came through with his reputation unblemished showed all his old skill but the full back line of Larry O'Keeffe, O. Doyle and Paddy Dowd, were unable to cope with the fast Village forwards. Jim O'Shea and Martin Coogan gave little more than token assistance to Tom Shalloe. Paddy Dowling and M. Meally played to form at centre-field but of the forwards only Seamie Coogan and veteran Kieran Meally impressed. James Stephens led at half time by 3-4 to 0-3.

James Stephens scorers: M. Dunne 2-4, E. Byrne 2-0, S. Brennan 1-1, E. Morrissey 1-0, M. Taylor 0-1

Erins Own Scorers: S. Coogan 0-5, K. Meally 1-1



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

James Stephens Team: M. Moore, Phil Larkin, Fan Larkin, Paddy Larkin, J. O'Neill, N. Morrissey, M. Leahy, N. O'Sullivan, M. Taylor, P. Brennan, S. Brennan, E. Morrissey, S. Leahy, E. Byrne, M. Dunne.

Erins Own: J. Byrne, L. O. Keefe, O. Doyle, P. Dowd, J. O'Shea, M.

Coogan, T. Shalloe, M. Meally, P. Dowling, S. Coogan, T. Brennan, Mick Brennan, K. mealy, Martin Brennan, W. Brennan.

Referee F. Walsh Kilmacow.

Coon Surprise St. Lachtain's

Coon 2-10 Freshford 0-7

COON HAD no trouble in disposing of a St. Lachtain's (Freshford) side which gave every indication that they wanted to lose in this first round senior hurling championship game at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

The losers, who were odds on favourites to win this game, played second fiddle to the Coon men, ably led by intercounty hurler, Mick Lalor. St. Lachtain's were pathetic and during the hour they never made a determined effort to score a goal. Players like Pa Dillon, John and Richie Teehan and D. Butler who can usually mean the difference between defeat and victory joined the rest of the team in their hurling slumbers.

Coon had matters all their own way in the first period and, urged on by a great display from Lalor at midfield, they took their chances fairly well and led by 2-4 to 0-3 at half time. If the Coon attack had been a little more accurate in the early stages, however, the lead would have been much bigger at the interval.

The boredom of this period was really shown when the small crowd which had remained on for the game began to dwindle rapidly and large crowds made for the exits once the rain appeared.

Michael Lalor might not have had things so easy at midfield if the wily Sean Buckley had been in action for St. Lachtain's. The losers missed his services very badly and they will need to inject new blood into the team if they are to become a force in the championship.

The second half was much the same as the first but with scores coming less frequently. Coon had six points to Freshford's three in the half hour. Even with 10 minutes remaining and St. Lachtain's 2-3 in arrears they did not make any real attempt to get back into the game.

Although Coon's merits cannot be fully assessed from this game they looked a very impressive outfit and could cause more upsets in the championship.

John Nolan in goal did not have much to do but he dealt capably with anything that came his way. Martin Morrissey, Brendan Morrissey and Eddie Coogan stood out in a sound defence.

Michael Lalor was outstanding at midfield and he was ably

partnered by young Paul Kinsella. Bernie Somers, Murt Coonan and Martin Shelly were best in attack.

While not playing up to his standard, Pa Dillon did nothing wrong in front of the Freshford goal. Pat Butler at right half back was the only defender who really looked as if he was trying.

Jim Cullinane and John Joe Quinn were completely outclassed at midfield while Tom Butler and John Teehan did best in a very weak attack.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

John Teehan opened the scoring with a Freshford point in the second minute. Two minutes later, Murt Coonan opened the Coon account when he gave the goalie no chance with a fine shot to the corner of the net. Michael Lalor and Tom Butler exchanged points in the 10th and 12th minutes. Lalor scored two further points for the winners before N. Morrissey increased their lead with a fine goal in the 24th minute. Lalor and John Teehan exchanged points before the interval to leave the score:

Coon 2-4 Freshford 0-3

Martin Nolan and Murt Coonan scored a point each for Coon before Tom Butler scored a long-range point for the losers. Bernie Somers swapped points with John Teehan and Pat Butler to leave Coon leading by 2-8 to 0-6 after 13 minutes. Seven minutes later Murt Coonan added a point for the winners. Pat Butler replied for Freshford but Paul Kinsella had the last say when he pointed for Coon in the 25th minute.

Coon – J. Nolan, T. Dooley, M. Morrissey, M. Somers, J. Kelly (capt.), B. Morrissey, E. Coogan, M. Lalor, P. Kinsella, M. Nolan, B. Somers, M. Coonan, J. Coogan, N. Morrissey, M. Shelly.

St. Lachtain's – D. Heaphy, M. Phelan, P. Dillon, F. Walsh, P. Butler, D. Butler, R. Teehan, J. Cullinane, J.J. Quinn, T. Butler, J. Teehan, M. Dawson, J. Dooley, S. Flynn, J. Fox.

The referee was Mr. Francis Walsh, Kilmacow.

Mooncoin's 'Purple Patch' Told

Mooncoin 4-16 Galmoy 2-11

A 10 MINUTE purple patch which brought two goals and four points helped Mooncoin to a deserved win over Galmoy by 4-16 to 2-11 in a first round senior hurling championship tie at Nowlan Park on Sunday. This spate of scoring swept the Galmoy challenge aside.

Apart from this period, Galmoy were well in the hunt and gave as good as they got. They were the better side for most of the first half and, by virtue of a rather easy goal early in the game, had held the lead almost up to half time.

It was not by any means a thrilling game and interest faded when Mooncoin went ahead in the second half. Galmoy tried

hard to get back into the game in the closing stages but their forwards failed to penetrate an improved Mooncoin defence.

Dick Dunphy in the Mooncoin goal was caught out for the first Galmoy goal but he did nothing wrong afterwards and the second Galmoy goal came through a crowded goalmouth.

The Mooncoin full back line of John Walsh, J.J. Kinsella and T. Walsh improved considerably in the second half while J. Walsh was the outstanding figure on the half back line, getting good support from T. Mackey and Jim Lynch.

Mick Conway was also in better form at centrefield in the second half where Galmoy had one of their hardest workers in



Billy Harte. All the Mooncoin forwards had a say in the shaping of the victory and all six scored. Claus Dunne, when he exerted himself, excelled as the stylist of the game. N. Doyle, J. Lynch, D. Holden, T. Ryan and J. Dunphy took their scores well. Lotty Harte could not be blamed for any the Mooncoin goals and led a defence that was good in the first half. T. Phelan was in top form with J. Doherty, L. Hanrahan and B. Delaney also playing well. Billy Harte was a very hard worker at centrefield while Jim Dillon, Mile Phelan and Jack Phelan were best in attack.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

JIM DILLON opened the scoring with a Galmoy goal after five minutes, an easy score, as he walked through the Mooncoin defence and tapped the ball past Dick Dunphy in the Mooncoin goal. Within a minute Mooncoin opened their account when N. Doyle scored a point. Jim Lynch added a Mooncoin point in the 7th minute and Claus Dunne, with another point put the sides level in the 10th minute.

Mooncoin went in front with a point by D. Holden in the 12th minute and another by N. Doyle and a further Ned Doyle point left them two points ahead at the end of the first quarter. Claus Dunne pointed from a free in the 16th minute but Galmoy struck back and added three points by M. Phelan, J. Dillon and J. Phelan to get in front again. Claus Dunne levelled in the 25th minute but J. Dillon, with a Galmoy point in the 26th minute

and M. Phelan with another in the 28th, regained the lead. Jim Dillon pointed for Galmoy but a goal by Joe Dunphy and two points by Dick Holden left the half time scores:

Mooncoin 1-9 Galmoy 1-7

Jim Lynch (Mooncoin) and J. Phelan exchanged points in the first five minutes of the second half and Claus Dunne put over a Mooncoin point. Jack Phelan and Claus Dunne exchanged points and a nice point by Joe Doherty in the 10th minute left Mooncoin ahead by 1-12 to 1-10.

Mooncoin then got on top and a point by Tommy Ryan was followed by a goal by Dick Holden, a point by Ned Doyle, a point by Joe Dunphy, a point by J. Lynch and a goal by Ned Doyle.

Jim Dillon had a Galmoy point and Billy Harte receiving from Dillon had a goal but Mooncoin had last say with a goal by T. Ryan.

Mooncoin : D. Dunphy, J. Walsh, J.J. Kinsella, T. Walsh, T. Mackey, J. Lynch, J. Walsh, M. Conway, N. Doyle, E. Doyle, Jim Lynch, C. Dunne, R. Holden, J. Dunphy, T. Ryan.

Galmoy : L. Harte, M. Ryan, T. Phelan, L. Hanrahan, R. Delaney, J. Doherty, C. Doherty, L. Norton, W. Harte, M. Phelan, S. Delaney, J. Dillon, J. Phelan, P. Phelan, C. Brennan.

Mr. Tom Hogan refereed.

Young Irelands defeat Lisdowney

Young Irelands 3-10 Lisdowney 2-11

A strong second half by Young Irelands earned them a deserved victory over Lisdowney by 3-10 to 2-11 in the first round of the senior hurling championship played in Nowlan Park on Sunday. The main difference between the sides was that Young Irelands were the better all-round while Lisdowney relied too much on the overworked Ted Carroll.

Playing with a fairly stiff breeze in the first period Lisdowney had the better of the exchanges and led by 1-7 to 1-2.

Ted Carroll at centre half back was outstanding for Lisdowney in this period. On his own he broke up several Young Irelands attacks with scores written all over them.

The roving Dick Blanchfield was their chief scorer.

Although Young Irelands only scored three times in the first half they could easily have been closer to Lisdowney if their forwards had taken some of the easy scoring chances that came their way.

On the other hand if Larry Dwyer had not been in such good form in the Young Irelands goal Lisdowney would certainly have benefitted.

Young Irelands piled on the pressure right from the start of the second half and within 15 minutes they led by 3-6 to 1-9. Lisdowney came back again and the teams were after 18 minutes.

The stage was set for an exciting finish, but by now nearly all the steam had gone out of the Lisdowney side. Young Irelands tapped over three points to a single point from the losers to emerge deserving winners by 2 points.

Larry Dwyer in goal for Young Irelands gave an impeccable display and could not be faulted for the shots that beat him, Jim Carter, Sean Kelly, and Pat Drennan were outstanding in a strong defence while Billy Kennedy and John Brophy held their own at centre-field. Jim Byrne and Michael Dwyer were best in an attack which only came to life in the second period.

Andy Comerford at centre forward was quieter than usual but he was up against Lisdowney's outstanding player Ted Carroll.

Ted Carroll on the half back line was the star of the Lisdowney's defence, but he was completely overworked, so that he was very tired when he was needed most in the second half.

The industrious Con Fogarty was another tireless worker for Lisdowney but both he and Carroll were the only ones to stand out in a weak defence. Michael Fogarty and Sean Colclough fared well at centre-field while Dick Blanchfield who scored 2-6 of his side's total and Michael Mackey were the pick of the forwards.

Michael Mackey opened the scoring for Lisdowney with a point in the second minute. Three minutes later Jack Dowling added another. Podge Carty opened the scoring for Young Irelands with a well taken point in the 6th minute. In the 7th minute Jack Dowling scored his second point for Lisdowney. In the 10th minute Michael Dwyer gave Young Irelands the lead for the first time with a well taken goal. The same player added a point two minutes later which was Young Ireland's last score of the half. Dick Blanchfield won back the lead for Lisdowney when he shot to the net after a fine passing movement in the 18th minute. Before the end the same player added 4 points without reply from Young Irelands to leave the half-time score Lisdowney 1-7, Young Irelands 1-2.

Young Irelands set about their task right from the second half with John Brophy scoring a point. Dick Blanchfield replied with a point for Lisdowney. In the 4th minute Jim Byrne scored Young Irelands second goal to put them within 2 points of Lisdowney. Three minutes later Jim Brophy tapped over another point to leave only a point between the sides.

It was Jim Byrne again who struck again for Young Irelands in the 10th minute when he shot to the net after the Lisdowney goalkeeper made a great save on a 21 yard free. Andy Comerford 1 point and Michael Dwyer 2 points shot further points for Young Irelands before Dick Blanchfield sent a 21 yard free all the way to the net to leave only 1 point between the sides after 17 minutes. Michael Mackey scored the equalizer



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

for Lisdowney a minute later. John Brophy regained the lead for Young Irelands when he tapped over a free. Michael Dwyer and Andy Comerford added further points for Young Irelands. Michael Mackey replied with a point for Lisdowney which was the last score of the game.

Young Irelands: L. Dwyer, T. Kenny, J. Carter, J. Green, S. Kelly, P. Drennan, P. Roche, B. Kennedy, J. Brophy, M. Dwyer, A. Comerford, P. Carty, J. Byrne, P. Comerford, M. Kelly. Subs.

T. Murphy, Jim Carty.

Lisdowney: K. Costello, C. Fogarty, B. Drennan, S. Hogan, D. Dunne, T. Carroll, D. Farrell, M. Fogarty, S. Colclough, D. Blanchfield, D. McEvoy, M. Mackey, J. Skehan, M. Carroll, J. Dowling. Subs. T. Boran, M. Holohan.

Referee Phil Larkin (James Stephens)

Thomastown Beat County Champions. Thomastown 2 - 10 Rower Inistioge 0-15

A Thomastown team playing their best hurling for some years created a major surprise when they defeated the county champions Rower-Inistioge by a single point in a thrilling first round senior hurling championship game at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

This was a changed Thomastown side from the half-hearted outfit we saw in last year's championship. Powered by Ollie Walsh who gave an outstanding display in goal, they hurled with spirit and determination and on this form they will be a considerable force in this year's championship.

Rower-Inistioge although they did not show the same spirit as against Bennettsbridge in last year's county final played as good as they were let and just could not get on top of the Thomastown boys.

Although all the Thomastown side played their part in this fine victory, pride of place must go to the outstanding Seamus Kearney. Only a teenager Kearney broke the hearts of all the Rower-Inistioge forwards. He was easily the best defender on view as he broke up attack after attack.

Another major factor in Thomastown's victory was the impeccable display given by Ollie Walsh who did not make a single mistake throughout the hour. His long puck-outs assured the forwards of an adequate supply of the ball. He made one really magnificent save from a 21 yard free by Eddie Keher.

An unusual incident occurred during the hour. Thomastown's Brendan O'Sullivan who sustained an injured finger went to the lend line to exchange jerseys with substitute John Kelly. After removing his jersey Brendan saw a scoring opportunity. He rushed across the goal, jerseyless, gained possession and sent to the net. The score was disallowed however as he was judged to have left the field of play.

Playing with the wind in their favour in the first half Thomastown put everything they had into the game and had the Rower-Inistioge defence confused for most of the first period. Although they had the upper hand, Thomastown had to work very hard for all their first half scores and at times they made heavy work of scoring.

The Rower never really settled down in this first half and corner forward John Delaney and Johnny Murphy were a constant threat to the Rower defence. Both of these players made some excellent breaks and all the Rower-Inistioge defence could do was to foul them which gave Thomastown some handy points from frees.

Eddie Keher was very quiet in this first half and his only contribution to the scoring was a point from a free. He was never given an inch by the close marking Sean Challoner who did an excellent job of marking the Kilkenny sharpshooter.

One of the best scores in this half came from the Rower-

Inistioge midfielder Pat Kavanagh when he sent a line ball from over 45 yards out over the bar.

Thomastown led at half time by 1-9 to 0-5.

Thomastown increased their lead early in the second half when substitute John Kelly scored a fine goal .Seamus Kearney scored Thomastown's only other score of this half, a point from a 70.

The Rower-Inistioge gradually settled down and bit by bit they pulled down the Thomastown lead but a stubborn Thomastown defence refused to lie down.

Thomastown led by a single point 2-10 to 0-15 with five minutes remaining. The Rower tried desperately to get the equaliser but Thomastown held out for a really deserved victory.

Ollie Walsh gave an outstanding display in the Thomastown goal as well as Seamus Kearney. Cha Whelan, Pat Cullen , and Sean Challoner stood out in in a very sound defence. Ted Hoyne and N. Cullen played well at midfield although they found it very hard to master the Rower-Inistioge's best player Pat Kavanagh.

Brendan O'Sullivan until he retired injured, John Delaney and John Murphy were outstanding in the Thomastown attack. Delaney in particular had an excellent game and his bursts of speed always troubled the Rower-Inistioge goal.

Donal Kavanagh in the Rower goal could not be blamed for the 2 goals that beat him. F. Murphy and E. Flood were best in defence. Willie Murphy their inter county centre half back was very disappointing. He never got going and was easily beaten. Pat Kavanagh was the outstanding figure at midfield where he was ably assisted by his brother Dermot. Pat contributed some very nice points to his side total.

The Rower defence never clicked. Eddie Keher, Dan White, Tom Murphy who had split the Bridge defence in last year's final never looked a serious threat while the rest of the attack were also well watched.

Scorers for Thomastown : B. Sullivan 1-2, S. Kearney 0-3, T. Hoyne 0-3, J. Kelly 1-0, G. Lee 0-1, S. Coone 0-1.

Rower Inistioge Scorers: E. Keher 0-5, P. Kavanagh 0-6, T. Murphy 0-2, M. Kavanagh 0-2.

Referee Derry Noonan.

**WINNERS GROUP FIRST ROUND****The 'Bridge Win Easily**
Bennettsbridge 7-14 Tullaroan 1-5

BENNETTSBRIDGE easily disposed of a weak Tullaroan challenge when they defeated them by 7-14 to 1-5 in the first round of the senior hurling championship at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

The 'Bridge got on top from the start and at no stage during the hour were they in any danger. The game was all over as a contest at half time when Bennettsbridge led by 5-1 to 0-3. Even at this the 'Bridge were not fully extended.

The second half was much the same as the first with Bennettsbridge adding a string of points to their first half total. They scored 2-13 in this period while Tullaroan could only scrape 1-2, the goal coming in the 26th minute.

Tullaroan started off very well with a point from Paddy Molloy in the second minute. Two quick goals for the 'Bridge however put paid to any challenge by Tullaroan. After this the winners scored as they pleased and they made use of almost every scoring opportunity that came their way.

The second period was a very drab affair. It was only a question of how many scores the 'Bridge would get before the end.

Noel Skehan in the Bennettsbridge goal did not get much to do in the first period but he dealt capable with any shots that came his way. Noel, who was injured in the early stages of the game, was replaced by Liam Cleere at half time.

Martin Treacy, Larry and Seamus Cleere formed a strong full back line.

Jim Treacy had a very sound game at centre half back and he got good help from John Holohan. Paddy Moran was ably partnered by Phil Cullen at midfield.

John Kinsella, Pat Lalor and Paddy Treacy were strongest in the 'Bridge attack which is not nearly as good as the scores suggest.

Jim Hogan and Jim Hennessy tried very hard in the Tullaroan defence. Willie Maher at midfield was easily the best Tullaroan player on view. He tried very hard to get the side going but it was all in vain. Billy Fitzgerald and Paddy Molloy were the only forwards to make any impression. Between the six forwards they could only score three times in the first half and three in the second period.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

PADDY MOLLOY opened the scoring with a Tullaroan point in the second minute. Pat Lalor had the first goal for the 'Bridge in the 5th minute when he sent all the way to the net from 20 yards out. Two minutes later Phil Hayes scored goal number two. Johnny McGovern passed to Noel Ryan whose shot was saved by Campion in the Tullaroan goal. Before he could clear Hayes rushed in and tapped to the net.

Five minutes later, Paddy Molloy tapped over another Tullaroan point from a 21 yard free. This was negated by John Kinsella from a free in the 17th minute. Noel Ryan put the 'Bridge further ahead in the 23rd minute when he doubled on a pass from John Kinsella. Paddy Treacy increased the lead when he beat Campion with a ground shot. Almost immediately Nickey Maher scored Tullaroan's third point of this half. Just before half time, N. Ryan scored his second goal when he received a pass from Paddy Moran.

It was a Tullaroan man who scored first in the second half again. Jim Marshall pointed in the first minute. John Kinsella (0-2), one from a free and Paddy Moran (0-3) gave the 'Bridge a very comfortable lead which was increased by Paddy Treacy in the 15th minute. Treacy finished a cross from Noel Ryan go the net. Billy Fitzgerald interrupted the 'Bridge rampage with a Tullaroan point in the 17th minute.

Moran sent a line ball over the bar a minute later and almost immediately he pointed a '70. Kinsella added another point before Billy Fitzgerald scored a consolation goal for Tullaroan. Pat Lalor and Paddy Moran completed the scoring with points in the 27th and 29th minutes.

Bennettsbridge – N.Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, S. Cleere, C. O'Brien, J. Treacy, J. Holohan, P. Moran, P. Cullen, J. Kinsella, J. McGovern, P. Lalor, N. Ryan, P. Treacy, C. Hayes, L. Cleere for N. Skehan.

Tullaroan – N. Campion, J. Hogan, J. Hennessy, C. Maher, B. Hennessy, P. Doheny, M. Kennedy, W. Maher, J. Young, N. Maher, B. Fitzgerald, P. Molloy, E. Doheny, J. O'Neill, J. Marshall.

Sub P. Young for O'Neill.

Referee was Mr. Jim. Murphy, Tullogher.

Mooncoin Held Thomastown Rally
Mooncoin 1-15 Thomastown 2-9

Thomastown who hit the spotlight by beating the county champions Rower-Inistioge in the first round failed to measure up to expectation when losing to Mooncoin by 1-15 to 2-9 in the first round of the winners group in Nowlan Park on Sunday. Mooncoin deserved their win but they had to fight hard. Ollie Walsh left the goal to take up a role in the attack and signalled the change with by blazing to the net from a free. The score put new life into Thomastown but it came too late and Thomastown are now regretting that Ollie did not decide to change earlier.

It was the failure of the Thomastown attack that made all the difference. Mooncoin were a goal and six points up before Thomastown had their first point after 20 minutes. In that period Thomastown had hit many wides and unlike the game he had against Rower-Inistioge Seamus Kearney had an off day

as far as his shooting was concerned.

It was a hard fought vigorous but entertainment game. Hard knocks were given and taken and although the referee had to caution a number of players, it was on the whole a sporting game.

The Mooncoin defence can claim a big share of the credit for the success. Their tackling was tough but fair but it had the effect of knocking the Thomastown forwards off their game. Obviously it was designed to keep the Thomastown score within limits, and at the other end Ned Doyle and Claus Dunne picked off the points to keep them safely in front.

Another factor in Thomastown's failure was that Ted Hoyne did not really come into the game until the second half and even then this was not by any means one of his better games. For the most part Claus Dunne and Mick Conway had the better



of matters at centre-field and Claus Dunne adopting a roving commission was always on hand to pick up the loose balls and he made the maximum use of them.

Most of the neutrals in the fair sized crowd were with Thomastown making a gallant bid to come back into prominence, but no one can deny that victory went to where it rightly belonged and no side in the championship will find it easy to overcome this uncompromising Mooncoin defence.

A factor which must have influenced Ollie Walsh's decision to leave the goal was that Mooncoin from the start concentrated on points and apart from the one that beat him he was not overworked. The Mooncoin decision may have been a calculated one and it is not without some point that all their scores came from the half forwards and Claus Dunne at centre-field.

Like Ollie Walsh, Dick Dunphy did not have very much to do in the Mooncoin goal but any time he was called upon he proved his worth. John Joe Kinsella, Tom Walsh, and Ned Connolly gave little scope to the Thomastown full forward line but Joe Delaney deserved a better reward for all his trying. His fitness counted for little against defenders that left little room for fancy hurling. Tom Mackey had a very sound game at right half back and got good support from John Howley and John Walsh, Ned Doyle.

Joe Dunphy and Tom Grant were in top form on the Mooncoin half forward line so much so that even Seamus Kearney never found running smoothly for him. Jim Lynch was a hard worker in the full line but here the Thomastown full back line of Willie Grace, Cha Whelan, and Dick Walsh were the masters.

Sean Challoner and Pat Cullen did some useful work on the Thomastown fullback line but with Seamus Kearney below his best the persistence by this sector was not as effective as it was against Rower-Inistioge. Noel and Ted Hoyne in the second half won some share of the spoils for Thomastown but their full forward line, like that of Mooncoin, had little say in the game and it was left to Brendan O'Sullivan, Sean Coone and George Lee to do the scoring.

The half time score was: Mooncoin 1-9, Thomastown 1-2

Mooncoin: D. Dunphy, J.J. Kinsella, T. Walsh, E. Connolly, T. Mackey, J. Howley, J. Walsh, C. Dunne, M. Conway, T. Grant, E. Doyle, J. Dunphy, D. Howlin, J. Lynch, W. O. Keefe.

Thomastown: O. Walsh, W. Grace, C. Phelan, R. Walsh, S. Challoner, P. Cullen, S. Kearney, T. Hoyne, N. Cullen, B. O. Sullivan, S. Coon, G. Lee, J. Delaney, M. McGrath, J. Kelly.

WINNERS GROUP SECOND ROUND

Mooncoin Win Dull Game

Mooncoin 2-9 Coon 2-5

Mooncoin emerged deserving winners over Coon by 2-9 to 2-5 in a dull, uninteresting senior hurling championship 2nd round of the winners group at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

Neither side looked as if they wanted to win this game and the large crowd which attended the previous encounter dwindled rapidly as the game progressed. The standard of hurling was very poor and both sides missed far too many scoring chances.

Both sets of forwards threw away score after score, particularly in the early stages. Mooncoin's star player was undoubtedly Jim Lynch and their and their final tally would have been very small if his scores were deducted. Michael Lawlor who played a very good game for Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final worked tirelessly for Coon at centre-field but he lacked support. He was toiling alone for Coon in this sector in the first period and it was evident that he wouldn't last the pace.

Only once during the hour did Coon look as if they would make a fight of it. They hurled with a little determination from the 8th minute to the 17th minute of the second half period when they scored 2-2 to bring them up with Mooncoin for the first time in the game.

The stage was now set for a grand slam finish but it was not to come. Coon fell away again and the Mooncoin forwards tapped over a string of points to make sure of victory.

Mooncoin were without the injured Claus Dunne who would surely have made a big difference. The open game would have suited Dunne and he would certainly have been worth at least half a dozen points.

Scores came very slow in the first half and it was Jim Lynch, Ned Doyle, and Tom Grant who collected most of Mooncoin's first half total. Coon only scored 2 points in the first half. The first was in the second minute of the game and the second came a full 27 minutes later.

Mooncoin led by 1-5 to 0-2 at the interval.

The second half opened just as drab as the first but after 6 minutes Coon came to life suddenly and mounted a series of attacks on the Mooncoin goal. The rampage started when Nickey Morrissey got through for a easy goal after 8th minutes, and a few minutes later Brendan Morrissey scored their second goal. But Coon could only add a further 2 points to their total in the final 15 minutes and Mooncoin ran out easy winners in the end but will have to improve considerably if they are to meet with any further success in the championship. On Sunday's display they would not make any impression on any of the sides remaining in the championship.

Dick Dunphy in the Mooncoin goal had a very quiet day. He got good cover from Johnny Walsh, Tom Mackey, and John Howley. Michael Conway and M. Howley had the upper hand at centre-field for most of the hour.

Jim Lynch was Mooncoin's best forward and he got



good help from Tom Grant and Ned Doyle. Joe Dunphy at corner forward had a very quiet hour. Coon goalkeeper John Nolan made some great saves and cannot be blamed for his sides defeat. John Ryan and Ned Coogan were the pick of the defence. Far too much was left on the shoulders of Michael Lawlor at centre-field who worked himself to a standstill and without help his efforts were in vain. The forwards with the exception of Brendan Morrissey were completely outclassed. Murty Coonan who had such a fine game against Young Irelands in the previous round was very quiet and did not succeed in getting a single score. Paul Kinsella who also played well against Young Irelands also failed to shine.

Mooncoin's scorers: J. Lynch 1-3, J. Dunphy 1-0, T. Grant 0-3, Ned Doyle 0-2, Noel Doyle 0-1.

Coon scorers: B. Morrissey 1-1, N. Morrissey 1-0, M. Lawlor 0-2, M. Nolan 0-2.

Mooncoin: D. Dunphy, J. Walsh, T. Walsh, N. Connolly, T. Mackey, J. Howley, J. Walsh, M. Conway, M. Howley, T. Grant, Ned Doyle, Noel Doyle, D. Holden, J. Lynch, J. Dunphy.

Coon: J. Nolan, T. Dooley, J. Ryan, M. Sommers, J. Kelly, S. Coogan, T. Teehan, M. Lawlor, M. Shelly, P. Kinsella, N. Morrissey, M. Coogan M. Nolan, M. Morrissey, B. Morrissey.

Referee Tommy O' Brien

2nd Round Sunday 14th September 1969 Nowlan Park

Thrilling Draw In Championship Tie Fitting End to Great Game

James Stephens 3-7 Bennettsbridge 2-10

Leading by 2 points with two minutes to go Bennettsbridge looked as if they would survive the Village onslaught, but in the 29th minute the city boys mounted an all out attack which resulted in Noel Skehan the Bennettsbridge goalkeeper being bundled over the line with the ball to give the Village a one point lead.

The tide had now turned completely and James Stephens tried desperately to hold on to this lead as the seconds ticked away. Just on full time the Bridge side was awarded a free which Seamus Cleere sent over the bar to leave the sides level after a hectic senior hurling tie.

This was a fitting end to an entertaining game between two very evenly matched sides. The last 15 minutes in particular provided some magnificent fare as the Village fought desperately to get on level terms.

Although James Stephens played very well all through it was not until midway through the second half that they really clicked. At this stage they made a number of positional changes which completely changed the pattern of the game. Sean Brennan moved to centre-field and Mick Crotty moved into the forwards. Phil Larkin swapped positions with Niall Morrissey and Mick Leahy moved out to mark the ever dangerous John Kinsella. Moving Leahy was a very shrewd move as he blotted the Bridge sharp shooter out of the game for the last quarter.

The Village revival started in the 14th minute when Phil Brennan blasted to the net after a number of Bridge defenders had hesitated to clear. This gave the city the tonic they badly needed.

Although the Bridge were very lucky to get off with a draw in the end they must still be wondering what hit them in the final stages. The last Village goal will be the topic of conversation in Bennettsbridge for some time as many people seemed to think Skehan was fouled.

Handicapped by the loss of their ace midfielder Paddy Moran, Bennettsbridge never really got into their stride. They fell down completely when James Stephens put on the pressure and but

for the good work by Johnny McGovern and Seamus Cleere they would have been in trouble long before the end.

Bennettsbridge will be very anxious to have Paddy Moran fit for the replay. Although Sunday's midfield pairing did exceptionally well, the industrious Moran was badly missed. As well as grabbing a few long range points he usually gives the forwards a very good supply of ball.

The first period produced some very good hurling. The opening quarter in particular was very entertaining as both sides concentrated on ground hurling. The Village had 75 per cent of the play but they failed to turn their superiority into scores.

The Bridge were on top in the last 10 minutes and they made use of every scoring opportunity. Their hero of the hour John Kinsella was playing superbly at this stage and he sent over some nice points.

The first Village goal came after a very fine movement. Sean Leahy collected and beat a number of defenders before sending a neat hand pass to Phil Brennan who blasted to the net.

Des Murphy who substituted for Jimmy O'Neill after 17 minutes made a big difference in the Village attack. The speedy Murphy proved quite a handful for Johnny McGovern and he sent in some very nice balls.

Bennettsbridge led by 1-7 to 1-3 at the interval.

Within 3 minutes of the resumption the Bridge increased their lead with a goal from Noel Ryan. John Kinsella tackled on 2 points before Philly Brennan scored his second goal for the Village after 14 minutes. This was the signal for the great James Stephens revival. After this they made attack after attack and Noel Skehan was called into action on several occasions.

After 25 minutes they had cut the Bridge lead down to 3 points. Mick Dunne reduced this lead with a point after almost 29 minutes. Then came the all important goal. Noel Skehan saved a low shot but within seconds he was surrounded by James Stephens and was jostled over the line.

From the puck-out the Bridge were awarded a free which



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

Seamus Cleere sent over the bar to level the game and from the puck out referee James Murphy blew the final whistle.

Mick Moore was very sound in the James Stephens goal and he got good covering from the all Larkin full back line. The half back was not a Village strong point as the trio were constantly troubled by John Kinsella and Christy Hayes.

Although not as effective as usual Michael Taylor put in an amount of good work at midfield. His partner Michael Crotty had one of his best games for some time. He was particularly effective when he moved into the attack.

Sean Brennan, Phil Brennan, Des Murphy when he came on worked unceasingly in attack. Mick Dunne was not quite as effective as he usually is and he has certainly had better days.

Noel Skehan was very busy in the Bennettsbridge goal. Larry Cleere and Conor O'Brien were sound on the full back line which was strengthened considerably when Jim Treacy moved back. The half back line of Johnny McGovern, Seamus Cleere, and John Holohan did well without being spectacular. The experienced Johnny McGovern was one of the coolest defenders even when the Bridge goal under constant siege. John Kinsella was their outstanding forward. He worked

tirelessly from the throw in and was a constant threat to the James Stephens defence. He got good assistance from Christy Hayes and Noel Ryan who scored two fine goals. John Kinsella was their outstanding forward. He worked tirelessly from the throw in and was a constant threat to the James Stephens defence. He got good assistance from Christy Hayes and Noel Ryan who scored two fine goals.

James Stephens Scorers Phil Brennan 2-0, Mick Dunne 0-3, Mick Taylor 0-2, Des Murphy 0-1, P. Larkin 0-1, 1-0 unknown

Bennettsbridge scorers : Noel Ryan 2-0, John Kinsella 0-6, Paddy Treacy 0-2, Seamus Cleere 0=2

James Stephens: M. Moore, P. Larkin, F. Larkin, P. Larkin, E. Morrissey, N. Morrissey, M. Leahy, M. Taylor, M. Crotty, P. Brennan, S. Brennan, J. O'Neill, S. Leahy, E. Byrne, M. Dunne. Subs: D. Murphy, E. Tallent.

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, C. O'Brien, J. Holohan, S. Cleere, J. McGovern, P. Lawlor, P. Cullen, J. Kinsella, J. Treacy, C. Hayes, N. Ryan, P. Treacy, F. Ryan. Subs: M. McCarthy.

Referee : James Murphy (Tullogher)

2nd Round Replay Sunday 26th October 1969 Nowlan Park

The Bridge and the Village must try again Another Thrilling Draw.

James Stephens 3-9 Bennettsbridge 3-9

A see-saw struggle between Bennettsbridge and James Stephens resulted in a thrilling 3-9 to 3-9 draw in their senior hurling championship replay in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

Both sides should be fully satisfied with a draw as it was a fair result. The lead changed hands on a number of occasions during the hour and on two occasions during the second half the sides were level.

After two minutes of the second half they were on terms for the first time Bennettsbridge 2-3 James Stephens 1-6. Bennettsbridge then went ahead but James Stephens came thundering back and the sides were again level (3-7 each) with 10 minutes left.

Mick McCarthy gave the Bridge a point lead in the 22nd minute only for Mick Taylor to equaliser almost immediately. Ned Byrne gave the Village the lead after 25 minutes, but when all seemed lost Mick McCarthy came to the rescue for the Bridge when he shot over the equalising point in the dying seconds of the game.

This was a fitting end to one of the best games seen in Nowlan Park for some time and it is a great tribute to both sides that there was not a single instance of bad sportsmanship throughout the hour.

James Stephens who attacked from the throw in dominated the play for at least 20 minutes in the first period but they failed to show their superiority on the scoreboard. After 18 minutes they led by 1-4 to no score but then they seemed to lie down and Bennettsbridge availed fully of their temporary lapse. Mick McCarthy made his presence felt with a great goal after 22 minutes and minutes later Conor O'Brien levelled when he doubled on a Paddy Moran free and sent all the way to the net. James Stephens now realised that all their hard work had gone for nothing and they were determined to win back the lead. Before the interval they mounted a series of attacks and succeeded in totting up 2 points which gave them a 1-6 to 2-1 lead at the interval.

Bennettsbridge came out a more determined outfit after the interval and after 2 minutes they were on level terms. The Bridge were now in in their best hurling form and Paddy Moran and John Holohan had them 2 points in front after six minutes. The lead changed hands again when Mick Taylor blasted to the net in the 7th minute. Both sides added scores but neither could get on top and after 20 minutes they were again level. In the final 10 minutes of power packed hurling both sides failed to get on top although they both had opportunities of doing so.

The Village team is undoubtedly one of the best to represent the club for some time but still there is something missing. They had the measure of the of the Bridge in the first period but they allowed them to come back and snatch a dramatic draw.

Mick Moore gave a brilliant display in the Village goal. He brought off several magnificent saves and if he not been in such form the Village would have been in jeopardy.

The stonewall back line of the Larkins, Phil, Fan and Paddy provided excellent covering for Moore. Fan Larkin got in many fine clearances and he did very well to hold the industrious Mick McCarthy to 1-2. The Morrissey Brothers Niall and Eamon and Michael Leahy formed a sound half back line although too many Bennettsbridge frees came from this sector.

Michael Taylor and Michael Crotty formed a very competent midfield combination. Crotty worked unceasingly while Taylor was brilliant in patches and was very consistent all through.

Sean Brennan and Phil Brennan worked very hard on the half forward line. Des Murphy who played a big part in the first game never really found his feet on Sunday and it was no surprise when he was replaced by Eddie Tallent.

Ned Byrne proved far more effective at left corner forward than at full forward and he contributed 1-4 of the Village total. Sean Leahy and Mickey Dunne also got in an amount of good work. Noel Skehan in the Bennettsbridge goal could not be faulted



for any of the shots that beat him and he made many good saves. Martin and Jim Treacy were sound defenders and Larry Cleere played well up to a time he retired. Although Conor O'Brien scored a very good goal he was completely out of position at centre forward and played much better when moved to full back.

As usual Seamus Cleere was a tower of strength at centre half back and he was ably flanked by John Holohan and Paddy Kealy who returned to the side after a lapse of some months. Paddy Moran was not near as effective at midfield as he usually is and this was because he was given very little rein by the Village pair. Christy Hayes found his midfield role a little too much and he did much better when moved into the attack. John Kinsella, Pat Lalor and Noel Ryan worked non stop in attack. Mick McCarthy was a very industrious full forward and he scored the equalising point just on full time while Johnny

McGovern was very quiet in the corner forward position.

Bennettsbridge scorers. M. McCarthy 1-2, C. O'Brien 1-0, J. Kinsella 0-4, C. Hayes 1-1. P. Moran 0-1, J. McGovern 0-1

James Stephens scorers: N. Byrne 1-4, S. Leahy 1-1, M. Taylor 1-1, M. Dunne 0-1, S. Brennan 0-1, M. Crotty 0-1.

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, J. Treacy, P. Kealy, S. Cleere, J. Holohan, P. Moran, C. Hayes, P. Lalor, C. O'Brien, J. Kinsella, N. Ryan, M. McCarthy, J. McGovern. Sub. P. Cullen.

James Stephens: M. Moore, P. Larkin, F. Larkin, P. Larkin, E. Morrissey, N. Morrissey, M. Leahy, M. Taylor, M. Crotty, D. Murphy, S. Brennan, P. Brennan, S. Leahy, M. Dunne, N. Byrne, Sub. E. Tallent

Referee: James Murphy Tullogher.

2nd Round Second Replay Sunday 9th November 1969 Nowlan Park

Third time lucky for James Stephens

James Stephens 4-3 Bennettsbridge 2-2

Three goals within five minutes in the first half were the decisive scores in James Stephens' magnificent 4-3 to 2-2 victory of Bennettsbridge in their senior hurling championship tie at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

The second replay was not by any means the best of the three games, but there were still plenty of thrills during the hour. A downpour before the start made underfoot conditions difficult but both sides adapted themselves well to the slippery pitch. The three goals scored between the 24th and the 29th minutes were the deciding scores. Before these scores came there was only a point between the sides, and although The Village looked like the much stronger side, they were in a sorry position after 25 minutes of the first half with only a goal to their credit.

The last time a senior championship game went to a third game was in 1935, and then again James Stephens were involved. On that occasion they pipped Tullaroan by a single point.

From the start of Sunday's game James Stephens looked a cooler, more determined and far more confident side than in the previous encounters.

They set about their task right from the start but they made little headway against a stubborn Bennettsbridge side. They were in command for most of the first half but they still only lead by a point after 24 minutes.

Both sides missed some very easy scoring chances in the first ten minutes. Mick Dunne tried from a goal from a 21 yard free and his shot was cleared and J. Kinsella tried to tap over the bar but his shot hit the upright and went wide.

Five minutes before half time the city side sprang to life and Mick Dunne struck the first deadly blow when he collected a pass from Seán Brennan and gave Noel Skehan no chance with a pile driver.

Minutes later Noel Skehan in the 'Bridge goal was caught napping when a 70 yards free by Fan Larkin dropped over his head and into the net. Evidently the goalie was sure the ball was going over the bar. The 'Bridge defence was now completely disjointed and Dunne took full advantage of the situation when he shot to the net just before the interval.

James Stephens led by 4-0 to 0-2 at half time. Before the interval Fan Larkin moved to centre-half back for the 'Village' and Niall Morrissey took up the full back position. The 'Bridge made a number of positional changes at half time in an

effort to curb the 'Village' onslaught. John Kinsella went from midfield to centre-forward, Phil Cullen moved to midfield and John Holohan went back to help the defence.

With the wind in their favour the 'Bridge tried desperately to get back into the game. They mounted attack after attack but their forwards were outclassed by a very strong defence. After 15 minutes of this half the 'Bridge looked a tired force.

No matter how hard they tried they could not penetrate the city team's rear-guard which covered up brilliantly. They could only score two goals in this half while the 'Village' replied with three points.

This was easily the best display given by the 'Village' in this year's championship. But they must still be wondering how they made such hard work of beating a weak 'Bridge side. Bennettsbridge had been on the top of Kilkenny hurling for the past 15 years and they surely deserve a rest.

In the semi-final James Stephens meet Galmoy. The Galmoy side will certainly be no pushover as they demonstrated when disposing of last year's county champions The Rower Instiogue. In the other semi-final Mooncoin take on last year's Junior champions The Fenians (Johnstown.)

Another Sound Display

As usual Mick Moore gave a sound display in the Village goal but in the beginning of the second period he was a little shaky. Phil and Paddy Larkin and Niall Morrissey formed a very sound full back line. Morrissey changed positions with Fan Larkin in the first half.

Fan Larkin was a tower of strength at centre-half back. E. Morrissey had one of his best games ever in the Village colours. Despite a head injury sustained in the first half he played brilliantly all through and was one of the main reasons for the failure of the 'Bridge forwards.

Michael Taylor and Michael Crotty got the better of the midfield exchanges. Between them they gave the forwards a good supply and curbed the activities of star midfielder Paddy Moran. Paddy worked tirelessly during the hour but he was alone in his efforts.

Seán Brennan who wore protective headgear was a source of consistent worry to Seamus Cleere. He got most help from Phil Brennan and Mick Dunne. Mick, who was off form for the first two games came back to his best on Sunday and did some very



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

good work. He contributed two very well taken goals. The 'Village' still have problems in the forward line and these will have to be resolved before the next game.

Noel Skehan had one of the toughest games in his life in the 'Bridge' goal. On several occasions the referee allowed him to take far too much punishment as he attempted to clear.

Full-back Conor O'Brien had a handful in Seán Leahy but he succeeded in holding him scoreless. Jim Treacy and Larry Cleere were not near as effective as usual. Seamus Cleere worked very hard on the half back line but as the game progressed he became less effective.

The 'Bridge' selectors failed to find a suitable partner for Paddy Moran. They moved a number of players to help him but they just could not hold the 'Village' pair.

The Bridge attack fell down completely. Players like John Kinsella, Pat Lalor and Noel Ryan, who are usually a headache to any defence, were very quiet. Mick McCarthy who played very well in the second game was also inactive.

In fact the only forward worth mention was Paddy Treacy. Paddy, who missed the second match, worked unceasingly during the game but he lacked support.

The 'Bridge' did try to put some life into the attack when they introduced John McGovern but even he could do nothing to stop the all-conquering 'Village' side.

How the scores came

Christy Hayes opened the scoring when he sent over a 'Bridge' point after six minutes. A minute later Phil Brennan scored the first goal for the 'Village' when he collected on the 21 yard line and sent to the net. Skehan had no chance of blocking this shot as he was knocked to the ground by a Village forward.

Paddy Moran reduced the arrears when he tapped a free over the bar after Paddy Treacy was fouled going through. After 18 minutes Phil Brennan broke through the 'Bridge' defence but his shot was well saved by Noel Skehan. After 24 minutes James Stephens lead by 1-0 to 0-2.

The Village rampage started in the 24th minute when Mick Taylor sent a low ball through the centre. Seán Brennan collected and sent a neat pass to M.Dunne who made no

mistake with the low shot. Minutes later the 'Village' were awarded a free near midfield. Fan Larkin tried for a point and Noel Skehan was sure he got the point, but the ball dropped over his head and into the net. Mick Dunne completed the first half scoring when he blasted to the net just before the interval. This time the 'Bridge' defence was caught completely off balance. The half time scores were:

James Stephens...4-0, Bennettsbridge...0-2.

The 'Bridge' mounted an attack right after the resumption but a good shot by Noel Ryan was deflected wide by a Village defender. Paddy Moran sent wide from the '70'.

Mick Crotty increased the lead with a point in the second minute. Three minutes later Mickey Dunne added another point to the Village account.

The first goal of the game for the 'Bridge' came the 10th minute after a melee in the Village goalmouth. Mick Moore stopped a ground shot but he was quickly bundled over the line by the 'Bridge' forwards.

After 18 minutes Paddy Moran tried for a goal from a 21 yard free. His shot was saved and the ball came out again to a 'Bridge' forward but his shot was again blocked and cleared.

Ned Byrne missed a goal in the 25th minute. He rounded the full back and only with Skehan to beat he shot wide from 10 yards out. Pat Lalor put a respectable look on the scoreboard when he shot to the net, after a 21 yard free by Paddy Moran was saved.

James Stephens: M.Moore, P.Larkin, F.Larkin, Paddy Larkin, E.Morrissey, N.Morrissey, M.Leahy, M.Taylor, S.Brennan, E.Tallent, M.Crotty, Phil Brennan, N.Byrne, S.Leahy, M.Dunne. Sub – D.Murphy for E.Tallent

Bennettsbridge: N.Skehan, L.Cleere, C.O'Brien, J.Treacy, P.Kealy, S.Cleere, P.Cullen, P.Moran, J.Kinsella, C.Hayes, J.Holohan, P.Lalor, N.Ryan, M.McCarthy, P.Treacy. Sub-J.McGovern.

Referee- Mr J.Murphy

2ND ROUND LOSER'S GROUP

The Fenians had It Easy

Fenians 5-18 Newpark Sarsfields 4-6

The meeting of last year's junior finalists The Fenians and Newpark Sarsfields in the second round of the loser's group in Ballyragget on Sunday last produced little of the fireworks of the junior final as Fenians coasted to an easy 5-18 to 4-6 victory. The power of Pat Henderson in the defence and Pat Delaney in the forwards proved too much for the city side who did not make an impact until it was too late.

Newpark fielded a depleted side and while many of their players could match their opponents in skill the overall strength which the winners displayed was the most vital factor and they were worth their 15 points margin. Of the Newpark total of 4-6, 3-2 came from frees.

The first half provided entertaining hurling and even though the Fenians forged ahead they had to fight hard for their scores. The Newpark defence collapsed in the early stages of the second half and the winners had stretched their lead to 14 points at the three quarter way stage. The hurling in the second half was not quite as good as in the first half.

Both sides had an expert marksman, Tommy O'Connell 2-7 for

the winners and Liam O'Brien scoring 3-5 for Newpark. While Fenians had Tommy O'Connell to pick off the scores from frees and from play he was ably assisted by his colleagues notably Pat Delaney, but Liam O'Brien had to depend almost entirely on Eamon Doyle.

The Newpark attack, apart from Doyle and O'Brien made little impression on a sound Fenians defence and were it not for the splendid goal keeping of David Dalton and good work by Brendan Corcoran, Michael O'Connor, and Albert Bolger would suffer a more crushing defeat.

Newpark had to wait until the 24th minute of the first half for their first goal and Fenians led by 1-5 to 1-3 at this stage. The Newpark scores were slow to come in the second half and by the time they did Fenians were too far ahead to be in any danger of being caught.

P. J. Ryan in the Fenians goal did not get an awful lot to do thanks to the fine defence work of Nicky Orr who got good help from Mick Carroll and Martin Fitzpatrick in the full back line and Pat Henderson at centre back who was capably flanked



by Seamus Grace and Pat Murphy.

Fergie Farrell was the more prominent at centerfield where Sean Lanigan did good work for Newpark. All six forwards for Fenians had a hand in the big total and if Tommy O'Connell and Pat Delaney were the more prominent, John Moriarty, Mick Garrett, Willie Watson and Frank Holohan took their chances in fine style.

Mick Brophy switched from right half back to left half back but he found Tommy O'Connell's speed a big problem. Dick McGrath was given limited scope by Pat Delaney while Sean McGarry who came on in the second half had another problem in the speedy John Moriarty. Tommy Phelan was a very lively

partner for Sean Lanigan but apart from Liam O'Brien and Eamon Doyle the Newpark forwards were given limited scope.

Half Time Score: Fenians 2-9 Newpark Sarsfield 1-3

Fenians Scorers: Tommy O Connell 2-8, Mick Garrett 1-2, Willie Watson 1-1, Pat Delaney 1-0, Frank Holohan 0-3, J. Moriarty 0-2, Donie Walsh 0-1, Pat Murphy 0-1.

Newpark Sarsfields Scorers: Liam O'Brien 3-5, Eamon Doyle 1-0, Tom Brennan 0-1

Referee P. Dempsey (Thomastown).

2ND ROUND LOSERS GROUP 26th OCTOBER NOWLAN PARK

County Champions Dethroned Galmoy on Top in Closing Stages.

Galmoy 2-14 Rower Inistioge 1-14

A power packed finish by Galmoy earned them a surprise but well deserved 2-14 to 1-14 win over Rower-Inistioge (Holders) in their senior hurling championship tie in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

Although the sides were neck and neck for most of the game one felt that the Rower-Inistioge would eventually get on top of their less experienced opponents.

But this never happened and the writing was on the wall for the champions when the sides were level after 20 minutes of the second half as Galmoy were doing all the pressing. They attacked for the last 20 minutes and added 3 points without replay from the holders to gain a hard earned but meritorious victory.

Up to the last 10 minutes the game was played at a fairly slow pace as neither side rarely exerted themselves. The game was played in a very sporting manner and the only incident occurred after 10 minutes of the first half when a player from each side was sent to the line. Although it was only a slight incident referee Paddy Johnston was intent on nipping trouble in the bud.

The first half was evenly contested with both sides getting their share of the spoils. Had Galmoy decided to watch Eddie Keher more closely they could have been ahead instead of trailing by a point at half time. Eddie contributed five of the Rower-Inistioge points. Willie Murphy was the main stumbling block to the winners in this half. Playing at centre-back he repulsed attack after attack and kept the forwards well supplied with the ball.

Rower-Inistioge led by 0-10 to 1-6 at the interval.

Just after the interval Keher put the losers further ahead with a well taken goal but Galmoy fought back and were within a point of Rower-Inistioge after 4 minutes. Billy Harte 1-0 for Galmoy and 2 points from Keher left the sides level after 10 minutes. Willo Phelan put Galmoy ahead again but Keher and Tom Murphy restored the lead for the Rower.

With 10 minutes to go the Galmoy side really came to life and they piled on the pressure. The Rower-Inistioge could only look on helplessly as the winners snatched the vital scores.

Although Galmoy did not look good as the Stephens or Bennettsbridge they could easily cause an upset in the semi-finals.

Charlie Brennan had a very good hour in the Galmoy goal. He got good protection from a very sound backline in which B. Delaney excelled. He was very cool under pressure as he repelled attack after attack.

Frances Harte, Joe Doherty and Charlie Doherty formed a fairly sound half-back line.

Billy Harte and Sean Doherty were on top at centre-field for most of the hour. Harte in particular was outstanding and as well as giving the forwards a good supply of the ball he contributed some very fine points.

Willo Phelan was outstanding on the half forward line and he was mainly responsible for the Galmoy revival. John Phelan and Jim Dillon were other forwards to impress.

Donal Kavanagh brought off some good saves in the Rower-Inistioge goal. Fintan Murphy, Martin Walsh and Eamon Flood were sound defenders, but Willie Murphy was really the mainstay of the defence.

Martin Freeman and Dermot Kavanagh were very disappointing at midfield. Eddie Keher and Tommy Murphy combined for some very good scores but they did not get enough of the ball. Martin Kavanagh and Tom Waters also tried hard.

Galmoy's Scorers: Jim Dillon 1-3, Billy Harte 1-3, Willo Phelan 0-5, John Phelan 0-3.

Rower Inistioge Scorers: Eddie Keher 1-8, Tom Murphy 0-2, Dermot Kavanagh 0-2, Billy Murphy 0-1 Martin Kavanagh 0-1

Galmoy: C. Brennan, L. Hanrahan, T. Phelan, B. Delaney, F. Harte, J. Doherty, C. Doherty, W. Harte, S. Doherty, W. Phelan, P. Phelan, S. Delaney, J. Phelan, J. Dillon, L. Harte.

Rower Inistioge: D. Kavanagh, J. Murphy, F. Murphy, M. Walsh, J. Walsh, B. Murphy, E. Flood, M. Freeman, D. Kavanagh, D. White, E. Keher, T. Waters, M. Kavanagh, G. Mackey, T. Murphy.

Referee: Paddy Johnston.





JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

SEMI-FINAL

James Stephens Back at the Top

James Stephens 4-11 Galmoy 1-7

James Stephens returned to hurling scene in earnest on Sunday when they beat Galmoy 4-11 to 1-7 to qualify for Kilkenny senior hurling championship final in which they will play the Fenians of Johnstown. Their last appearance in a county final was in 1937 when they defeated Dicksboro.

Galmoy surprisingly offered little more than token opposition. In spite of the promise shown by the Village in the past few years and their great display against Bennettsbridge few people thought that Sunday's tie would never have been such a cake walk for them.

James Stephens were a completely competent side and it was hard to find a weak link. Their defence was sound. They controlled centre-field and their forwards let few opportunities go astray.

While Galmoy battled gamely if unavailingly, they fell short of what was expected of them and while they were in with a chance up to the interval the early second half goals left their position hopeless.

The James Stephens success is significant from several points of view. This is the first time since Dicksboro won the championship in 1950 and before that the powerful Eire Og side of the late 1930's and 1940's that a city side made any worthwhile impact in the senior hurling championship. This success is all the more welcome because of that.

It was probably the failure of Willie Harte and Joe Doherty to rise to the occasion that was mainly accountable for Galmoy's poor showing. There were other disappointments in the Galmoy side but the northerners have become accustomed to pin there hopes on these two. Consequently their failure had a demoralising effect.

James Stephens played with confidence and their approach work was perfect. They combined much better than the opposition and their striking was top class. In a well balance side two men stood out. Fan Larkin gave a magnificent display at full back, so much so that the good work of Phil Larkin and Paddy Larkin was overshadowed by his brilliance.

Sean Leahy in the full forward line proved the undoing of Galmoy. His first goal was the inspiration the Village needed to push ahead and his goal immediately after the restart marked the beginning of the end for Galmoy.

Galmoy might have liked firmer going which would have

suited Willie Harte but the lighter James Stephens side had little to gain from the soft going and their power hurling in the second half left little room to doubt about their ability.

Mick Moore in the James Stephens goal gave another faultless display and was not at fault for the only shot that got past him. Phil and Paddy Larkin combined splendidly with Fan. The ever improving Mick Leahy turned in another splendid hour at left half back, getting good support from Eamonn and Niall Morrissey.

James Stephens were completely at on top at centre field where Mick Taylor and Mick Crotty accounted for several Galmoy partnerships.

All the James Stephens forwards were good and they showed splendid team spirit. Sean Leahy was of course the real match winner but the work of Mickey Dunne, Sean and Philly Brennan, Eamonn Tallent and Ned Byrne contributed to the success.

Charlie Brennan made some good saves in the Galmoy goal and Liam Hanrahan was a hard worker in the full back line while Tommy Phelan and Bobby Delaney tried hard under the constant pressure. Joe Doherty showed only flashes of his real form. Frances Harte and Charlie Doherty played well but the failure of Willie Harte to strike his usual form at centre-field left Galmoy at a distinct disadvantage. The Galmoy attack generally had its worst day for quit some time. Paddy Phelan was a hard trier and Jim Dillon showed accuracy from frees. Lotty Harte was about the best man in the attack with Paddy Phelan lending good support.

The half time score was: James Stephens 2-6, Galmoy 0-4

James Stephens: Mick Moore, Phil Larkin, Fan Larkin, Paddy Larkin, Eamon Morrissey, Niall Morrissey, Mick Leahy, Mick Taylor, Mick Crotty, Eddie Tallent, Sean Brennan, Phil Brennan, Ned Byrne, Sean Leahy, Mickey Dunne. Subs. L. Drennan, Des Murphy.

Galmoy: Charlie Brennan, Bobbie Delaney, Tommy Phelan, Liam Hanrahan, Frances Harte, Joe Doherty, Charlie Doherty, Willie Harte, Sean Doherty, Willow Phelan, Stephen Delaney, Lottie Harte, Jack Phelan, Jim Dillon, Paddy Phelan.

Referee: Richard Dowling Glenmore

SEMI-FINAL

Sensational Johnstown Rally.

Fenians 4-8 Mooncoin 4-7

Sunday 30th November 1969 Nowlan Park

With eight minutes remaining Fenians trailed by 8 points but in a brilliant comeback they scored three goals to qualify for their first senior county final by a single point when defeating Mooncoin by 4-8 to 4-7 after a brilliant game at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

Fenians winning goal came about a minute from full time when Pat Delaney broke through a packed defence and got the ball to Johnny Moriarty who scored the all

important goal.

It was Moriarty who started the revival in the 22nd minute when he accepted a neat pass from Billy Watson and gave Dunphy in the Mooncoin no chance. Three minutes later Watson scored their third goal.

This was a hectic finish to a great hours hurling. The brilliant Mooncoin defence which had held the Fenians forwards to a minimum of scores for three quarters of the



game were some what disappointing in the last quarter. They were under severe pressure and as soon as they gave the hard working Fenians forwards freedom the damage was done.

With a good 4-7 to 1-8 lead 18 minutes after the interval Mooncoin looked as if they would coast to an easy victory. The sides were level at the interval 1-6 to 2-3 and after half time Mooncoin made the switch which swung the game completely in their favour. Jim Lynch moved out to centre forward and Ned Doyle went to full forward.

With Lynch overshadowing Henderson and Doyle proving quite a handful for Nicky Orr the Mooncoin scoring machine really got moving and gave the Fenians defence a very tough time.

It was a pity there had to be a loser on Sunday. Both teams contributed to a magnificent game which the attendance of around 10,000 fully enjoyed.

Mooncoin must be still wondering what hit them. Had they taken their scoring chances from frees they could have been out of reach of the winners. On the other hand they were lucky to be level at the interval.

They got a very easy goal 24 minutes after the start when Nicky Orr watched as Tom Ryan's shot rolled into the nett. Evidently he thought the ball was going wide .

Pat Delaney who was well marked by John Walsh was the main reason for the Johnstown revival. A tireless worker he kept slogging away until he found a slight weakness in the Mooncoin defence. Fenians are a very fine side and they will be very hard to beat in the final. A well balanced side They have no weaknesses and each man keeps working right up to the final whistle. They have gone from strength to strength since winning the junior championship and have been steadily improving in the senior championship.

The first half was tame enough but still there were some very good hurling and the sides were neck and neck for all this period.

Had justice being done Johnstown would have in the lead at the interval as they had much of the play in the first half. An easy goal by Tom Ryan left the losers a goal ahead after 24 minutes of this period but 2 points from frees by Tommy O'Connell and a point from a 70 from Pat Henderson left the sides level at half time.

Mooncoin 2-3 Fenians 1-6.

The Lynch-Doyle switch paid off right from the start of the second half but after only two minutes Doyle was presented with a goal when he found himself right in front of goal with only the goalie to beat but he shot hopelessly wide. He however atoned for this miss with some good scores later. Mooncoin led by 4-7 to 1-8 with only 8 minutes left for play.

The hurling was hectic at this stage as Fenians fought tooth and nail in an effort to get on top. When the first goal came by Moriarty Mooncoin stormed back again and looked as if they would weather the onslaught. Fenians continued to press and goal number three by

Willie Watson in the 26th minute . With a very vociferous crowd behind them Fenians continued to pound at the Mooncoin defence and Moriarty scored the winning goal just before the final whistle.

P.J. J. Ryan was very sound in the Fenians goal and he cannot be blamed for Tom Ryan's easy goal as he was caught out of position. Michael Carroll, Nicky Orr, and Martin Fitzpatrick formed a very sound full back line . Pat Henderson got on some very good at centre back although he found Jim Lynch quite a handful. Definitely the pillar of the defence his power packed hurling upset the Mooncoin attack.

Seamus Grace was also very sound and he found time to help the attack on a number of occasions ,Shem Delaney also worked hard in the half back line .The bespectacled Fergus Farrell and Seamus Murphy held their own at centre field but they could never afford to slack with players like Martin Howley and Michael Conway around. Although well held by Johnny Walsh Pat Delaney never gave up and battled gamely to the end. Fenians star forward was undoubtedly John Moriarty. A real opportunist he was a real danger to the Mooncoin defence any time he gained position .He scored 2-2 of his sides total. Tommy O Connell was given very little leeway by the Mooncoin defenders and he was kept very quite The full forward line kept the Mooncoin defence busy but they never really mastered the full back trio.

Like his opposite number Dick Dunphy was as sound as ever in the Mooncoin goal . All the defenders played brilliantly up to the final quarter when they yielded somewhat under severe pressure. Centre half back John Walsh was the most outstanding defender. He marked danger man Pat Delaney very closely and cleared his lines time and time again. Jim Lynch did some excellent work in attack . He was quiet enough in the first half when playing at full forward but as soon as he was moved to the half forward line he became far more effective. Ned Doyle who swapped positions with Lynch was also very effective . Tom Ryan also did good work. Particularly disappointing was inter county player Claus Dunne who never got moving.

Fenians scorers John Moriarty 2-2, Willie Watson 2-0, Tommy O Connell 0-3 , Mick Garrett 0-2, Pat Henderson 0-1.

Mooncoin Scorers Tom Ryan 2-0, Ned Doyle 1-3, Jim Lynch 1-2, Joe Dunphy 0-1, Tom Grant 0-1

Fenians Team. P. J. Ryan , M. Carroll, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, S. Delaney, P. Henderson, S. Grace, F. Farrell, S. Murphy, T. O'Connell, P. Delaney. J. Moriarty, M. Garrett, F. Holohan W. Watson.

Mooncoin: D. Dunphy, J. J. Kinsella, T. Walsh, N. Connolly, J. Howley, J. Walsh, Johnny Walsh, M. Howley, M. Conway, T. Grant, N. Doyle, C. Dunne, J. Dunphy, J. Lynch, T. Ryan.

Referee: Seamus Delaney.



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINAL

Na Fininí



FIR IONAI D

- 16. M Dillon
- 17. F Hawkes
- 18. M. Dowling
- 19. P Broderick
- 20. D Dowling
- 21. D Walsh
- 22. P Fitzpatrick



PJ Ryan



M. Carroll



N. Orr



M. Fitzpatrick



S. Delaney



P. Henderson



S. Grace



F. Farrell



P. Murphy



T. O'Connell



P. Delaney



J. Moriarty



M. Garrett



F. Holohan



W. Watson



FINAL HURLING FINAL 1969

Seamus Stiofáin



M. Moore



Phil Larkin



Fan Larkin



Paddy Larkin



E. Morrissey



N Morrissey



M. Leahy



M. Taylor



S. Brennan



E. Tallent



M. Crotty



P. Brennan



E. Byrne



S. Leahy



M. Dunne



FIR IONAIID

- 16. J. Holohan
- 17. D. Murphy
- 18. P. Dowling
- 19. J. O'Brien
- 20. M. Larkin
- 21. M. Drennan
- 22. J O'Neill
- 23. L. Tyrrell
- 24. D McCormack
- 24. N O'Sullivan
- 26. T Hickey



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

FINAL

Day of Glory For James Stephens Fenians Flop In Final Fiasco

James Stephens 8-5 Fenians 2-7

Sunday 19th April 1970 Nowlan Park

A sensational and devastating opening five minutes which brought three goals and two points settled for all practical purposes, the fate of the 1969 senior hurling championship in which James Stephens romped home to an 8-5 to 2-7 victory over The Fenians of Johnstown in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

An estimated 10,000 - 12,000 spectators, a new attendance record, were treated to an exhibition of team work and ground hurling by the victors which left the northern side helpless in the early stages and left them with an impossible task when they got the wind behind them in the second half.

The final was memorable only from a James Stephens point of view and though Fenians battled gamely to the end all the interest had gone out of the game long before the final whistle.

James Stephens won their third title and won back for the Village a noted stronghold for many years some of the glory associated with the city parish in the herculean days of Paddy Larkin and his colleagues in the 1930's and before that when James Stephens had many fine hurlers.

Big Margin

The 16 points winning margin was a crushing blow for the junior champions of the previous year, making their first appearance in a senior final but they can take some consolation from the fact that they won their way to the final in their first time of trying and must benefit from the experience gained.

A strong wind with occasional showers of hail made the pitch slippery - conditions were difficult but the winners adapted themselves better, their team work was superior and they played like a winning team from the start.

While there were no weak links in a highly competent James Stephens side, the full forward line wrought the greatest havoc and Eddie Byrne, Sean Leahy, and captain Mickey Dunne can claim a big in the triumph. Eddie Byrne whose ground hurling carried terrific force, was top scorer with four goals, Sean Leahy contributing two goals and three points.

Playing with the wind in the opening half the James Stephens team adopted a policy of getting early scores. But they could hardly have hoped to have chalked up an eleven points lead in five minutes. This they did, however and it is fair to say that there was no fluke about any of them.

The Johnstown full back line of Mick Carroll, Nicky Orr, and Martin Fitzpatrick were obviously caught napping in the early stages and they never got properly into the game afterwards. Crotty in Attack

James Stephens also deployed their forces intelligently and played Mick Crotty at centre forward where he gave Pat Henderson a most unhappy time. This is one game the county centre half-back will want to forget. He was never able to master Crotty and with the man on whom Johnstown depended so much neutralised, the defence generally failed to

come to grips with the Village attack.

By way of contrast the Village defence was very sound with Fan Larkin superb at full back. Mick Taylor and Sean Brennan were superior at centre-field and several switches which Johnstown made here failed to make any appreciable impact.

The Johnstown attack also fell short of expectations. Pat Delaney apart - and he certainly must be absolved from blame for the defeat - there was little serious threat from the others, though Tommy O'Connell put over some nice scores.

Mick Moore, apart from one occasion when he flustered and handled the ball on the ground, gave a sound display in the James Stephens goal and Phil and Paddy Larkin gave good help to the irrepressible Fan at full-back. Niall and Eamon Morrissey and Mick Leahy did good work on the half line.

Fenians tried substitutes for both Fergus Farrell and Patrick Murphy at centre-field but there was no stopping Mick Taylor and Sean Brennan. The whole James Stephens attack was full of power and if Ned Byrne and Sean Leahy had the hefty end of the scores to their credit, Mick Crotty, Eamonn Tallent, Mickey Dunne and Phil Brennan were all in great form.

P.J. Ryan made some very good saves in the Fenians goal and Shem Delaney and Seamus Grace did well on the half back line with only occasional flashes from Pat Henderson. Mick Carroll, Nicky Orr and Martin Fitzpatrick were caught napping for the early Village scores and did not get into their stride until late in the game.

Pat Delaney was outstanding in the attack and tried all the way but apart from John Moriarty and Tommy O'Connell, the attack made little impression on the sound Village defence.

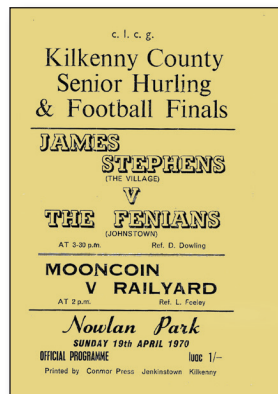
The game opened lively and despite the rapidly increasing lead which gave it a one sided aspect, there was some good hurling in the first half. After 10 minutes of the second half the fare was poor.

The teams were played round the pitch by the St. Patrick's Brass and Reed Band and the Durrow Pipe Band.

The Scoring

James Stephens got away to a dream start when Sean Leahy slammed in a great goal from an awkward angle in the second minute and before another minute had passed Mickey Dunne sent over the Bar. Sean Leahy fastened on to a centre by Mickey Dunne to score another goal and a Sean Brennan point gave the Village a 2-2 to nil lead after four minutes. Ned Byrne with a terrific ground shot sent past P.J. Ryan in the Fenians goal in the 5th minute.

Willie Watson opened the account for Fenians with a point from a free a minute later. P.J. Ryan made a great save in the Fenians goal but his weak clearance came to Mick Crotty who shot to the net in the 12th minute, stretching the James Stephens lead to four goals. Eamon Tallent stretched it further with a fine goal in the 13TH minute.





JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969



Pat Henderson pointed a Fenians free in the 13th minute and Sean Leahy pointed from a free a minute later. Tommy O'Connell pointed a Fenians free.

Fenians first goal came in the 27th minute when Johnny Moriarty blasted to the net from a free to leave the half time score: James Stephens 5-2, Fenians 1-4.

James Stephens had a good second half start when Sean Leahy pointed and Ned Byrne scored his second goal within 3 minutes of the restart.

Pat Delaney raised Fenians hopes when he sent all the way to the net from a 50 yards free in the 5th minute and added a point from a free two minutes later.

The issue was well and truly sealed when Ned Byrne, following a good centre by Mickey Dunne shot passed P. J. Ryan in the Fenians goal. Sean Leahy added a point from a free at the end of the third quarter and the only scores in the last quarter were 2 points from Pat Delaney.

Referee: Dick Dowling (Glenmore)

FIGURES OF THE GAME

	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	70's
FIRST HALF					
JAMES STEPHENS	5	3	6	2	0
FENIANS	1	4	4	9	1
SECOND HALF					
JAMES STEPHENS	3	2	4	4	1
FENIANS	1	3	5	10	3

SCORES BY THE CLOCK

TIME	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
FIRST HALF			
2 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Sean Leahy
3 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Mickey Dunne
3 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Sean Leahy
4 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Sean Brennan
5 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Ned Byrne
9 min.	Fenians	POINT	Billy Watson
10 min.	Fenians	POINT	Tommy O'Connell
12 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Michael Crotty
13 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Eddie Tallent
15 min.	Fenians	POINT	Pat Henderson
16 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Sean Leahy
18 min.	Fenians	POINT	Tommy O'Connell
27 min.	Fenians	GOAL	John Moriarty
HALF TIME SCORE: JAMES STEPHENS 5-3 FENIANS 1-4			
SECOND HALF			
1 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Sean Leahy
4 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Ned Byrne
5 min.	Fenians	GOAL	Pat Delaney
7 min.	Fenians	POINT	Pat Delaney
10 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Ned Byrne
13 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Ned Byrne
15 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Sean Leahy
22 min.	Fenians	POINT	Pat Delaney
24 min.	Fenians	POINT	Pat Delaney
FULL TIME SCORE: JAMES STEPHENS 8-5 FENIANS 2-7			



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969



Forty year Re-union of 1969 team and selectors

Back: Tommy Hickey, Liam Tyrrell, Michael Derman, Patsy Dowling, Jim O'Neill, Jimmy Holohan, Mick Moore, Sean Georgie Leahy, Fintan Morrissey (Niall), Mick Crotty, Eddie Tallent, Des Murphy, Paddy O'Brien (Jimmy), Tom McCormack (Denis).

Front: Mick Muggers Larkin, Sean Brennan, Michael Taylor, Michael Leahy, Mickey Dunne, (capt), Sean Tyrrell (selector), Eamonn Morrissey, Phil Fess Brennan, Philly Larkin, Phil Fan Larkin.

Photo: Eoin Hennessy



Sean 'Georgie' Leahy

1938 - 2017

We begin at the end. The throngs of mourners who congregated at Georgie's home in Archers' Crescent and St. Patrick's Church in June seemed never ending. They came from every part of Ireland, wherever hurling is played, to pay respects to one of hurling's greatest characters. GAA Presidents past and present, County Board officers, players, colleagues and acquaintances who had been touched at one time by his magnetism were anxious to pay tribute to one of GAA's and the Village's finest.

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

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

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

This latter quality enabled him to become a truly outstanding hurling coach. He began his coaching career at 16, helping out with James Stephens. By the 1960s underage hurling was at a critical point in Kilkenny city. Other than primary schools there was little organization, less coaching and even less interest in developing young players. The work of Georgie, Bill Cody and later Fr. Liam Barron made a lasting impression on city hurling. When they inspired James Stephens to success from 1965 onwards, other clubs began to follow, taking their inspiration from these men. While playing himself, helping to raise a family, Georgie managed to bring club teams and underage county teams all over the country to test themselves against the best. In an age when young people were expected to be 'seen and not heard', Georgie gave them a new lease of life and his tremendous enthusiasm and positive energy were a breath of fresh air to all he met. His most successful days in coaching were in the seventies and eighties. He was a Kilkenny senior selector from 1972 to '78, county minor manager in those years too when great success came to the county. In 1975 he became sole manager and selector to a James Stephens team which went on to win three county titles (1975/'76, '81) and two All Ireland club titles (1976, '82) in the golden days of club hurling.

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

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

But his favourite club outside the Village was Galmoy. His father, Jack, hailed from there and Georgie never forgot his roots. Appropriately, the Blue and Whites and James Stephens u14 hurlers were the last teams he trained as illness latterly took over.

He played down his own achievements, dismissing his own hurling efforts as 'average enough'. A junior title with James Stephens as a 17-year-old in 1955, a senior title in 1969 and one year as a sub with Kilkenny seniors, 1970/1 winning a Leinster title were the pinnacles of success. In between, he labored long and ferociously as a full forward, in the days when the battles were full blooded.

To Rita, his beloved wife, his family and friends we extend our deepest sympathies. Ní bheidh a leithéid an arís.



Tommy Lanigan - Kilkenny GAA Yearbook 2017



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969

RESULTS 1969

LEINSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Round 25th May in O' Connor Park, Referee John Dowling (Offaly)
Laois 5-12 Westmeath 0-1
Quarter Final 15th June in O' Moore Park, Referee Paddy Johnston (Kilkenny)
Offaly 8-10 Laois 2-5
Semi-Final 22nd June Wexford Park, Referee B. Stack (Laois) Attendance 5,000
Kilkenny 2-20 Dublin 2-6
Semi-Final 29th June Croke Park, Referee Jimmy Rankin (Laois)
Offaly 5-10 Wexford 3-11
Final 20th July Croke Park Referee Jimmy Grey (Dublin) Attendance 24,800
Kilkenny 3-9 Offaly 0-16

MUNSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter Final June 1st. Walsh Park, Referee Michael Slattery (Clare)
Tipperary 3-18 Waterford 1-12
Quarter Final June 15th Thurles Referee S. O'Connor (Limerick) Attendance 21,000
Cork 3-8 Clare 1-4
Semi-final 22nd June Cork Athletic Grounds, Referee Michael Slattery (Clare)
Tipperary 0-14 Limerick 2-5
Semi-Final 29th June Limerick, G. Fitzgerald (Limerick) Attendance 10,000
Cork 3-15 Galway 1-10
Final July 27th Limerick, Referee S. O'Connor (Limerick) attendance 43,569
Cork 4-6 Tipperary 0-9

ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final, August 17th Croke Park, Referee A. Higgins (Galway)
Kilkenny 3-22 London 1-10
All-Ireland SH Final, Sept 7th Croke Park, Attendance 66,844, Referee S. O'Connor (Limerick)
Kilkenny 2-15 Cork 2-9

OTHER ALL IRELAND HURLING FINAL RESULTS

Intermediate	Kildare	2-8	Cork	3-4
Junior	Warwickshire	3-6	Kerry	0-11
Under 21	Cork	5-13	Wexford	4-7
Minor	Cork	2-15	Kilkenny	3-6

OTHER NATIONAL HURLING RESULTS

National Hurling League	Cork	3-12	Wexford	1-14
Oireachtas Final	Kilkenny	4-14	Cork	3-10
Walsh Cup	Wexford	6-13	Dublin	3-18
Railway Cup	Munster	3-13	Connaught	4-4

KILKENNY'S NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE RESULTS 1968/1969

13-10-1968	Waterford	4-12	Kilkenny	3-7
27-10-1968	Kilkenny	2-15	Laois	2-8
9-2-1969	Wexford	2-6	Kilkenny	2-4
9-3-1969	Kilkenny	6-7	Offaly	2-5
23-3-1969	Kilkenny	4-7	Tipperary	3-15



KILKENNY SNIPPETS 1969

KILKENNY'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS

Senior Hurling	James Stephens	8-5	Fenians	2-7
Junior Hurling	Clara	1-17	Tullogher	2-6
Under 21 Hurling	James Stephens	5-17	St. Senans	0-3
Minor Hurling	Dicksboro	2-9	Dunnamaggin	2-3
Under 16 H	Dunnamaggin	6-5	St. Patricks	0-8
Senior Football	Railyard	0-11	Mooncoin	0-6
Junior Football	Bennettsbridge	3-5	Lamogue	1-5
Minor Football	Dicksboro	2-4	Kilmoganny	1-5
Under 16 F	St. Patricks	beat	Graignamanagh	

KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD OFFICERS 1969

COUNTY BOARD

Chairman	Michael O' Neill	Kilmacow
Secretary	Paddy Grace	Dicksboro
Central Council	Nicholas Purcell	Graigie
Leinster Council	Paddy Buggy	Slieverue
Registrar	Liam Moore	Kilkenny

FOOTBALL BOARD

Chairman	Francis O' Brien	Kilmaganny
Vice chairman	Tom Brennan	Clara
Secretary	Seamus Delaney	Clann na Gael

NORTHERN BOARD

Chairman	Edward Curran	Urlingford
Vice Chairman	Liam Ryan	Clara
Secretary	John Ivory	Lisdowney

SOUTHERN BOARD

Chairman	John Reade	Ballyhale
Vice Chairman	Joe Walsh	Thomastown
Secretary	Seamus McKenna	Thomastown

UNDER 16 BOARD

Chairman	Br. Michael	St. John's
Vice-chairman	Tom Brennan	Clara
Secretary	Joe Walsh	Thomastown

THE PERFECT GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Purchase a monetary Gift Voucher
and let them decide...

- » Overnight Stays
- » Dining Experiences
- » Leisure Club Membership

Our Gift to you...

Spend €150 or more and receive a Complimentary
Afternoon Tea Voucher for 2

*Complimentary Afternoon Tea voucher must be redeemed within 6 months.
T&C's apply.



SPRINGHILL COURT HOTEL

Springhill Court Hotel, Waterford Road, Kilkenny
T: (056) 7721122 E: reception@springhillcourt.com

[SPRINGHILLCOURT.COM](http://springhillcourt.com)



JAMES STEPHENS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1969



The Morning After...

From left: Phil Fess Brennan, Tommy Hickey, Mick Dunne (Captain), Sean Georgie Leahy, Paddy Larkin, Jack Leahy, and in front, Ger McCarthy.



The
Paddock
Bar

EVERY DAY... GREAT FOOD

» Carvery Lunch » Traditional Cuisine
» Evening Menu » Live Music
» Craft Beers » Cocktail Specials



TEAMS PREVIOUSLY HONOURED ON COUNTY FINAL DAY

- 1989 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team 1939**
- 1990 Carrickshock Senior Hurling Team 1940**
- 1991 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team 1947**
- 1992 Éire Óg Senior Hurling Teams 1939 & 1947**
- 1993 James Stephens Senior Hurling Teams 1935 & 1937**
- 1994 Thomastown Senior Hurling Team 1946**
- 1995 Tullaroan Senior Hurling Team 1948**
- 1996 Kilkenny Junior Hurling Team 1946**
- 1997 Graigue Senior Hurling Team 1949**
- 1998 Dicksboro Senior Hurling Team 1950**
- 1999 Carrickshock Senior Hurling Team 1951**
- 2000 Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team 1950**
- 2001 Kilkenny Junior Hurling Team 1951**
- 2002 Bennettsbridge Senior Hurling Teams 1952, 53, 55, 56, 59.**
- 2003 Kilkenny Junior Hurling Team 1956**
- 2004 Slieverue Senior Hurling Team 1954**
- 2005 John Lockes Senior Hurling Team 1955**
- 2006 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team 1957**
- 2007 Tullaroan Senior Hurling Team 1958**
- 2008 Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team 1960**
- 2009 St. Lachtain's Senior Hurling Teams 1961 & 1963**
- 2010 Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team 1961**
- 2011 Bennettsbridge Senior Hurling Teams 1960, 62, 64, 66, 67**
- 2012 Kilkenny All-Ireland Minor Team 1962**
- 2013 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team 1963**
- 2014 Mooncoin Senior Hurling Team 1965**
- 2015 Rower Inistioge Senior Hurling Team 1968**
- 2016 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team 1967**
- 2017 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team 1969**

Appreciation.

The Chairman and members of the Kilkenny GAA County Board would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the Springhill Court Hotel for their generous sponsorship of this event.





CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

**FRIDAY
14TH DECEMBER
SATURDAY
15TH DECEMBER**

- » Festive drinks reception
- » 4 course meal
- » Live band “The Works” & DJ
- » Photobooth
- » Bar extension
- » Spot prizes



**STAY THE
NIGHT**
FROM ONLY
€58PPS B&B



SPRINGHILL COURT
HOTEL

Springhill Court Hotel, Waterford Road, Kilkenny
T: (056) 7721122 E: events@springhillcourt.com

[SPRINGHILLCOURT.COM](http://springhillcourt.com)

