

### Issue: June 2021

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With the Kilkenny senior hurlers performing very well to finish top of a keenly contested Division 1 B of the Allianz League Brian and the management team have a quick turnaround to getting set for 2021 championship hurling. The Leinster Semi Final clashes, Dublin V Galway (2pm), Kilkenny V Wexford (4.30) are set to be played at Croke Park this Saturday. Eight thousand lucky supporters will get the opportunity go along to a game.

We continue to support Kilkenny teams in whatever ways we can and when requested by the County Board. The communication equipment used by team mentors on match days has been upgraded for 2021 and we were happy to meet the cost of the new equipment.

As a follow on to our recent article, congratulations to the grounds crew and all Nowlan Park on the stadium being chosen to host the Dublin V Cork U20 All Ireland hurling final on 10<sup>th</sup> July, a fitting acknowledgement of excellence.

Richie Mulrooney has the unique distinction of training the 2020 and 2021 Kilkenny minor teams at the same time. His evenings are particularly busy as he manages one team each evening before taking a short break and then training the second team – best wishes Richie and all involved in the 2020 Minor Final on Saturday.

On page 2 there is a photo of a plaque marking the site of Kilkenny's first All-Ireland win along with a team photo. With former Kilkenny Chairman/Secretary Ned Quinn appointed to chair an advisory group to examine the sliotar, an article on page 3 looks at the history and development of the sliotar to date.

As always, the committee hopes that members and their families and friends are keeping well. Please support our Golf Classic which is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup>, full details may be found on page 6.

### Littlewoods Camogie League Final 2021: Kilkenny 1-18 V Galway 1-15



*Meighan Farrell lifting the trophy*

Congratulations to the management and Kilkenny Camogie team panel on adding the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 title to the O Duffy Cup they won against the same opposition last December. Kilkenny raised their intensity levels at the start of the second half with a sensational Aoife Doyle 33<sup>rd</sup> minute goal. The goal along with five points turned a three-point deficit into a five-point advantage. The match was keenly contested with some excellent individual performances and scores. On the back of three fine saves, goalkeeper Aoife Norris from Piltown was voted the Player of the Match.

### Bereavements

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sinead Freeman (nee Rainsford) daughter of our former President Bernard. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

## Hurlers Draw

The Piltown draw tickets are gone to print and are scheduled to be available at the beginning of next week. The first draw will take place on Sept 21st. The ticket is €50 so there will be 5 draws, some only a week apart. The last draw is October 5th. More information to follow.

## Results

For all County and Club Fixtures lists & Results visit the newly updated Kilkenny GAA Website <https://kilkennygaa.ie/fixtures-results/>

## Photos from the Archives:

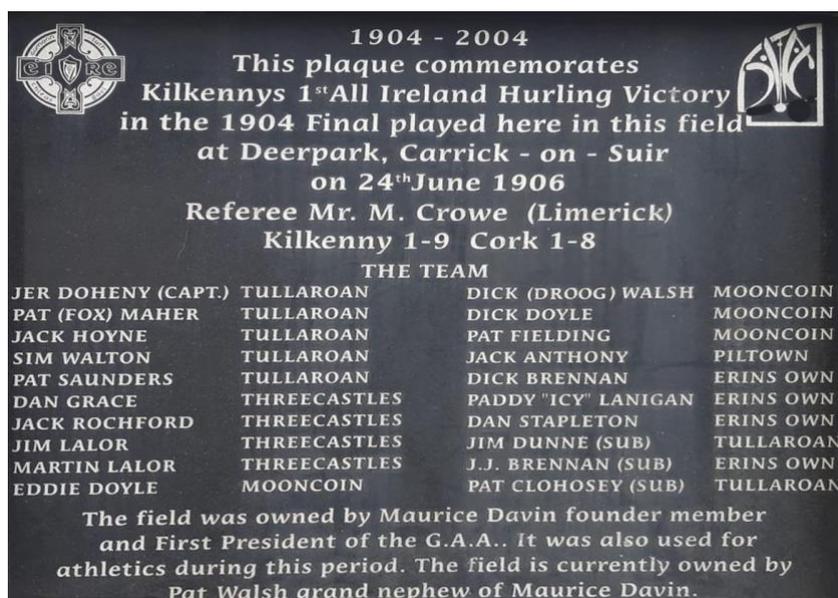
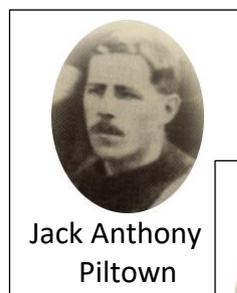
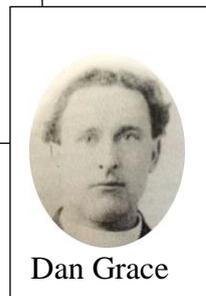


Photo of commemorative plaque courtesy of Eamonn Purcell



Jack Anthony Piltown



Dan Grace



Kilkenny 1904 All Ireland Champions – Back row (l to r) Dick Brennan, ‘Drug’ Walsh, Eddie Doyle, Paddy ‘Icy’ Lanigan, John James Brennan, Martin Lalor, Jack Hoyne. Front: Jim Dunne, Sim Walton, Pat Fielding, Dan Stapleton, Ger Doherty (Capt), Jim Lalor, Jack Rochford, Pat ‘Fox’ Maher, Foreground Dick Doyle and Paddy Saunders. Jack Anthony and Dan Grace who played in the final but are absent from the team photo are pictured above right.

## The Sliotar

The sliotar has been in use since pre GAA times. Over the years sliotars have been made using such materials as animal hair, wood, rope, leather, and even hollowed metal before today's moulded synthetic versions. Hair hurling balls found (see top image to right) have been carbon dated to almost 1000 years old and consist of a core of felted hair covered by matted cord made from animal hair. Materials used over the years for the core included bone, timber, stone and of course cork. Prior to GAA rules there was little by way of standardisation until 1886 when a stitched leather ball made by a hurler named Ned Treston from Co Galway was adopted as a prototype and used extensively.

In 1904, the official GAA rules set the minimum weight for the sliotar at seven ounces (200 grams). At that time most games were characterised by the scoring of relatively few points, largely attributed to the heavy weight of the ball.

In 1919 a retired hurler from Co Limerick named Johnny McAuliffe went from mending out of shape and damaged sliotars to designing and manufacturing his own. His leather sliotar had a cork core and was better constructed, lighter, more resistant to wear than earlier sliotars and the McAuliffe ball kept its shape.

By the 1930s sliotars had been reduced in size, closer to today's dimensions of sliotars and with a covering of white tanned leather for improved visibility.

In the early 2000's, the GAA initiated a series of steps to provide for more exacting regulations and specifications governing the manufacture of an Improved and official GAA Sliotar. Sliotars with rubber cores were trialled but were proven to be faster moving and less predictable than cork so the cork core ball was reintroduced. With balls from different manufacturers performing very differently, the GAA set about ensuring greater consistency and "playability".

The mechanical characteristics and design of sliotars was examined in detail by a team in DCU using a specially designed testing rig in conjunction with a high-speed cameras. Tests measured how fast (and far) the sliotar would travel when struck for distance and the coefficient of restitution (how bouncy the sliotar was) were also assessed by researchers. with 'ideal values' determined to serve as a prerequisites to the granting of an official stamp of approval.

Steps taken to prevent counterfeiting of sliotars include the introduction of readable tagging technology with an associated mobile phone app and data handling infrastructure.

The white sliotar often 'scored' low on the visibility stakes and often hard to see and track when it passed in front of other white or pale colours (for example clouds, stands, floodlights and goal posts). To improve visibility of the sliotar the GAA consulted with an optometrist and a colour part-way between yellow and green was determined as most suitable. A shade referred to as florescent or "optic yellow' has been adopted by the GAA.

The optic yellow sliotar introduced for the 2020 championship has been retained for use in 2021, further developments under the stewardship of Ned and his advisory group are eagerly awaited.



**'Meet the Committee Member' Q&A with our Treasurer Seamus O'Neill.**

**What part of the county do you hail from?** *Kilkenny City, beside St. John's Church. In the heart of O'Loughlin Gaels' territory.*

**Did you play sports at school or with a local club?** *Not to any notable level!*

**Any honours or notable sporting achievements?** *I'm a much better spectator than player! I was on the winning team in the St. Kieran's College Golf Outing in 2017!*

**Are you working or retired?** *I have my own tax consultancy.*

**Give us three words that describe you?** *I asked my family to supply the words and they said: Kind, easy going, knowledgeable, warm Smithwicks drinker, encyclopaedic.*

**Do you have a particular hobby or pastime?** *I have been doing a lot of walking since the pandemic began. Over the years I have been involved with different voluntary organisations but at present I am active only in the Kilkenny Supporters Club.*

**What are your main interests?** *I watch almost all sports, especially GAA, rugby, cricket, soccer and golf. I love listening to music and reading, especially about sport, history and music.*

**Name your Favourite:**

**Person?** *My wife Sue*    **Meal?** *Bacon and cabbage*    **Holiday destination?** *Australia*  
**Song?** *'Waterloo Sunset' by The Kinks*

**Name your Favourite sporting:**

**Occasion?** *All-Ireland Final*    **Venue?** *Nowlan Park*    **Memory?** *All-Ireland Final 2009*

**Sports personality of all time?** *Apart from hurlers, George Best, Wilfred Rhodes, Tom Watson*

**Who is your favourite hurler of all time?** *DJ Carey*

**What's your earliest All Ireland related memory?**

*Eddie Keher scoring fourteen points against Waterford in 1963 All-Ireland Final*

**From what era would your favourite team be drawn?**

*The Noughties team was clearly special but I have great affection for the Seventies team.*

**Is there something you wish you were better at?** *Driving.*

**What is one job you would never do?** *Anything that would involve heights.*

**Tell us something you are proud of?** *My family*

**What is the most memorable place you have visited?**

*I love cities and London and New York are always great. Hong Kong was fantastic but it has changed since I was last there. Australia was memorable; I appeared live on stage at the Sydney Opera House!*

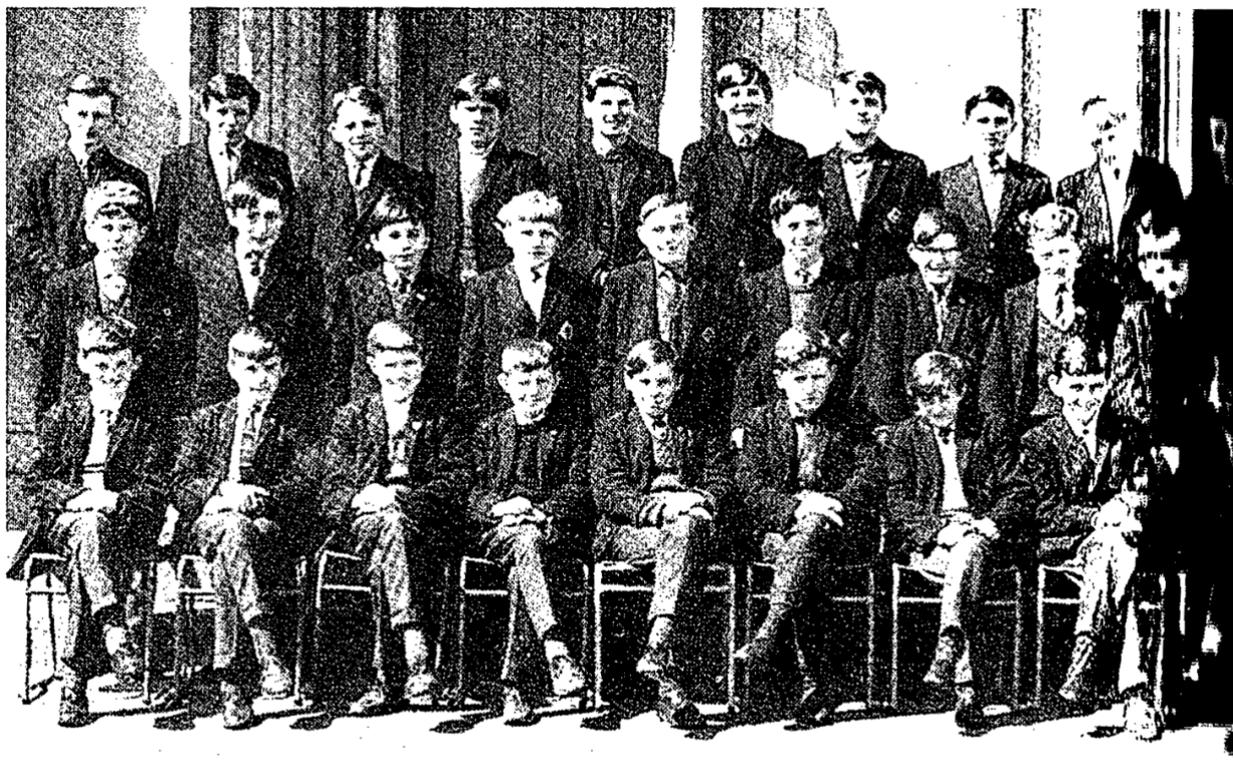
**If you could meet any person, past or present, which one would it be?** *Lyndon B Johnson***If you could change something in the world, what would it be?**

*It would be great if people everywhere had what we take for granted, like clean water and medicine.*

**Name something that's on your bucket list?**

*In sport, The Ashes at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (where Ronnie Delany won his gold medal), The Masters at Augusta, Ireland in a Rugby World Cup Final, Leinster in a European Cup Final. Final.*

*In non-sport, -Glastonbury, ideally with Sir Paul McCartney headlining.*



***Those were the days.***

*First year in St Kieran's College, that famous hurling nursery ( Seamus - Front row, extreme left )*



Dear Member

As many of you are aware, the club was forced to cancel our Annual Golf Classic last year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions. As it stands, this year's All Ireland Championship is scheduled to go ahead. The Supporters Club will of course be expected to (and will gladly) make our usual contribution towards related expenses.

Therefore, it has been decided to hold the Golf Classic on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Killeen Golf Club, Kill, Co Kildare. You will no doubt appreciate that because of current circumstances, support from many of our usual sponsors is unlikely and we are working hard to attract some replacement sponsors. The club is appealing to you as a member to pull together a team to participate in this event. The entry fee €350 per team of four.

**Tee Times - Morning: 11.00 – 12.00 hrs Afternoon: 1.30 – 3.30pm**

Not only will you have the opportunity to enjoy a great day's golf but your participation will provide welcome fundraising support for Kilkenny GAA teams chasing All-Ireland championship success.

On the chance there may be members who are short someone to make a full team, please make contact with the organising committee who will endeavour to assist.

All are welcome.

Eddie Nolan 086 2421924

John Nolan 086 8439590

Willie Grant 087 2561569

## Test your knowledge with this month's GAA Quiz!

**Q1.** As of their last final appearance in 2013 Cork have been runner up in 18 All-Ireland finals. How many of these have they lost to Kilkenny?

**Q2.** How many times were Kilkenny the runners up in an All-Ireland final?

**Q3.**

- a) What Kilkenny player won 3 Hurler of the Year Awards in 2009?
- b) Name the awards?



**Q4.** In how many positions has Tommy Walsh won All Stars?

**Q5.** In 1982 Kilkenny scored 7-31 to 0-13 in the Leinster semi-final. This was Kilkenny's biggest ever score (52 points), their biggest ever winning margin (39 points) and the biggest total score in a game involving the Cats (65 points). Who did they beat?

**Q6.** In what year did Brian Cody win the Sunday Game All Ireland Man of the Match award?

- a) 2003 b) 2006 c) 2008

**Q7.** In what year was the Sunday Game first broadcast?

**Q8.** Kilkenny have failed to score at all in two matches – 1887 and 1898. Against who?

**Q9.** Since 1935 Croke park has hosted every All Ireland Final with the exception of 2.

- a) What were the years?
- b) Name the stadiums?

**Q10.** 22 sets of brothers have won All Stars Awards in hurling?

- a) How many sets of brothers from Kilkenny?
- b) What are the family names?

**Q11.** One set of twins won hurling All Star awards, name them?

**Q12.** What player won Hurler of the Year and Young Hurler of the Year in 2016?

**Q13.** There were 4 Kilkenny men on the first Hurling All Stars team in 1971, name them?

**Q14.** What All-Ireland Hurling winning county never lost an All-Ireland hurling final?

**Q15.** In what year was the Rower-Inistioge GAA club formed?

**Q 16** What year did JJ Delaney captain Waterford I.T. to win the Fitzgibbon Cup?

**Q17.** In what year was the Connacht Senior Hurling Championship abolished?

**GAA Quiz - Answers**

**Q1.** Thirteen.

**Q2.** Twenty Seven.

**Q3.** a) Tommy Walsh b) Hurler of the Year, (i) Texaco, (ii) All Stars and (iii) GPA.

**Q4.** Five.

**Q5.** Westmeath, goalkeeper Noel Skehan was amongst the players that scored!

**Q6.** C) 2008.

**Q7.** 8 July 1979.

**Q8.** Tipperary and Dublin.

**Q9.** a) 1937 and 1984

b) FitzGerald Stadium, Killarney and Semple Stadium, Thurles.

**Q10.** a) Six.

b) Comerford (Andy and Martin), Fennelly (Liam and Ger), Henderson (Pat, Ger and John), O'Connor (Willie and Eddie), Fennelly (Michael and Colin), Walsh (Tommy and Padraig).

**Q11.** Ben and Jerry O'Connor from Cork.

**Q12.** Austin Gleeson.

**Q13.** Jim Treacy, Martin Coogan, Frank Cummins and Eddie Keher.

**Q.14** Kerry – 1891 - 1 appearance, 1 win.

**Q.15** 1955.

**Q16.** 2004. (JJ also has a Fitzgibbon Cup winners medal from 2003).

**Q17.** 1999

