

Remembering **KILKENNY** All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions of **1972**



*Souvenir Booklet recalling
Kilkenny's 1972 All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Victory,
on the occasion of the team's reception by Coiste Co Chill Chainnigh,
at the 2022 County SH Final.*



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Fáilte

Tá áthas an domhain orm, ar son Cumann Luthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh, to welcome the Kilkenny All Ireland Senior Hurling champions of 1972 to the St. Canices Senior Hurling County Final day in UPMC Nowlan Park in conjunction with the Springhill Court Hotel.

Caoga blian has brought many changes since you graced the Park and hurling fields across the country. This golden jubilee brings back memories of the great days and games that led to the greatest Kilkenny team of all, until possibly recent times!

With Kilkenny having turned the corner with a momentous All-Ireland win in 1967, and adding another in '69, the alternate year momentum had been broken in 1971. With Cork having won in 1970 and being seen as the younger and fitter side, they were seen as hot favourites and left Kilkenny with little hope of getting back on the winning track.

However, little did we know that we were entering a golden era for the game in the county. After the era of the sixty minute games, the eighty minute tie saw the plethora of goals throughout the season continue to flow. With both sides being forced to replays along the way - by Tipp in the Munster Semi-Final, and Wexford in the Leinster final - the goals tally was averaging almost five per side per game. Once again, they were needed as Cork led by two points at half time and eight at the three quarters post. On this occasion it was the timing that mattered, with Kilkenny scoring 2-9 without reply. They came from a bloodied Eddie Keher and Frank Cummins as they hit the net to replicate the late scoring burst Kilkenny recorded against Wexford in the Leinster final, to see them win the McCarthy Cup by 3-24 to 5-11.

News of the build-up to the games, was confined to a world that had yet to see online coverage and when the Irish Press, Independent, Kilkenny People - and a single radio and TV station - were the staple elements on the communications menu. The game was the first All-Ireland Final broadcast in colour by RTÉ as the world still saw the game in grainy black and white and on the still relatively scarce boxes in the corner.

Ar an lá cinniúnach sin, the players became the household names of our youth and all have played many different roles throughout their lifetimes. Their immense contribution and inspiration continues to this day in their attendance at club and county matches, coaching sessions, race meetings, on radio, by writing, and on supporters, clubs and county board committees. I will bookend them by noting the milestone of Kieran Purcell's first senior medal for Windgap and Pat Henderson's on-going contribution as late as the County Board meeting on Monday night. At the final today, they will be joined by the team trainer Mick Lanigan. Killian Phelan, this year's Long Puck All Ireland winner on the Cooley Mountains will be introduced to the crowd. Sadly, Pat Delaney, Pa Dillon, Liam Chunky O'Brien, Ollie Walsh and Fr. Tommy Maher of the historic team are no longer with us and are fondly recalled in our thoughts.

I extend Míle Buíochas to the 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 be provided with a special memento of the occasion. Thanks also to Gerry O'Neill for his work in researching and producing this jubilee souvenir booklet.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an lá and all present will enjoy the game and renew old acquaintances and memories.

*Seamus Breathnach
Cathaoirleach CLG Cill Chainnigh*

Living in Kilkenny for over 14 years I have grown to be a passionate hurling fan. It is a great pleasure to be representing the Springhill Court Hotel in sponsoring the 1972 Kilkenny All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions. The Springhill Court Hotel has been working with Kilkenny GAA and honoured many famous teams over the past 27 years. I would like to congratulate the Kilkenny All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions of 1972 and hope they have an enjoyable reunion day and I'm sure many stories will be shared again of the famous day fifty 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 a fantastic County Final.

*Emma - Jayne Eaton
General Manager
Springhill Court Hotel*



Acknowledgement.
Kilkenny People and National Newspaper Archives

1972

The Year as Seen by Tom Ryall

Kilkenny got a rare fright from Laois in the first round of the 1972 championship at Portlaoise. The Noresiders got a tonic start with a goal in the first minute by Frank Cummins. At half-time they led by 3-5 to 2-5. A shock looked in store midway through the second half when Laois took a two point lead 4-6 to 3-7. Kieran Purcell moved from corner to centre half-forward and it was this move that won the match. Purcell scored the vital goal to put Kilkenny back into the lead. They added one goal and two points in the last three minutes to run out winners by 5-14 to 5-7.



Kilkenny and Wexford played a draw in the Leinster final. It was the first draw in the provincial hurling final since the same sides finished level in 1955. For sixty of the eighty minutes, it seemed as if it would go down as one of the least memorable Leinster finals. Kilkenny had first use of the wind and after the opening quarter they led by 3-5 to 1-3. Then the Wexford forwards began to tear the Noresider defence to shreds. By half-time the Slaneysiders had jumped into a 4-7 to 3-7 lead.

With the breeze in their favour in the new half, Wexford got going quickly and stretched their lead to ten points after just five minutes. It looked as if they might win by a record score. With half an hour left Kilkenny sent Paddy Moran on, and they began to get more of the play. The few Kilkenny followers who did travel, (most stayed at home thinking the team had no chance), must have really thought the end had arrived twenty-three minutes from time when the side was seven points in arrears and Mick Brennan was sent to the line. During the next ten minutes neither side scored. Wexford seemed complacent, holding out for the final whistle. Then it all happened.

Kieran Purcell had a Kilkenny point. Almost immediately, Eddie Keher broke loose for the first time and cracked a great shot past Pat Nolan. Tony Doran put Wexford four points ahead when he rose a white flag. Kilkenny, powered by the half-back line of Pat Lalor, Pat Henderson and Martin Coogan began to storm the Wexford goal. The Slaneysiders beat out a twenty-one yards free, and two seventies. Martin Coogan took a pass from Eddie Keher, but his crashing shot came back off the crossbar. Then, with four minutes remaining and the crowd wild with excitement, Frank Cummins tore through for the best goal of the day.

Kilkenny levelled with an Eddie Keher point from a free. That great Kilkenny rally looked to have been for nought when Joe Murphy, who had come in as a substitute, scored a Wexford point. The Noresiders were determined and with the last puck, Mick Crotty, from fifty yards, steered the ball over the bar for a magnificent equalising point. The final score read 6-13 each.

After the draw Kilkenny followers were clamouring for a change of goalkeeper for the replay. The selectors, however, kept faith with captain, Noel Skehan. He justified their confidence with as good a display of net minding as was ever seen at Croke Park. Indeed, Wexford would have had far more than the 1-8 to 0-6 lead at half-time, but for Skehan's brilliance. The other player who scaled the heights was Pat Delaney. He was out of it against Mick Jacob in the first half but then moved into full-forward. He "roasted" Wexford and scored 1-4. With ten minutes left the sides were locked together.

The turning point came eight minutes from time. Liam O'Brien's free from the sideline was flicked home by Eddie Keher for a lovely goal. Ned Byrne then tore through for another goal, and points by Keher and Delaney saw Kilkenny triumph by 3-16 to 1-14. In addition to Skehan and Delaney, Kilkenny's best players were "Fan" Larkin, Jim Treacy, Frank Cummins in the second half, and Eddie Keher.

The Noresiders scored one of their easiest ever All-Ireland semi-final victories when they beat Galway at Croke Park by 5-28 to 3-7. Kilkenny led at half-time by 3-11 to 1-5. Galway led by 1-4 to 0-2 after ten minutes but after twenty minutes the sides were level - Galway 1-4; Kilkenny 0-7. After a Pat Delaney goal, the winners never looked back. Eddie Keher set a record of point scoring in a championship game, when he scored 0-17, seven from frees. After this game some G.A.A. reporters queried the wisdom of Galway's entering the championship at this stage. How quickly things can change. Three years later Galway beat Cork in the semi-final and qualified for the All-Ireland final for the first time since 1958. They repeated the performance in 1979, and lost both All-Irelands to Kilkenny. They went all the way in 1980 to take their second championship, and contested their third All-Ireland in-a-row when they lost to Offaly in 1981.

Kilkenny were rank outsiders against Cork in the All-Ireland final. It was expected that the eighty minute game would suit the younger Cork team, but it was the "old men" from Kilkenny who were galloping like two-year-old thoroughbreds at the finish. Eighteen minutes from the end Cork led by 5-11 (26) to 1-15 (18) and looked to be heading for victory following goals by Ray Cummins and Beanie O'Leary. Then Kilkenny took over and scored 2-9 without reply in the closing 22 minutes.

Hurling was the real winner in this memorable match. It was played with skill, speed and courage. The first half was good by ordinary standards, but was not up to the standard usually provided by these sides. Yet it would have satisfied the 66,137 present if it had continued in that vein to the finish. The second half will never be forgotten. It was played in a blaze of glory. Both sides fought for supremacy in the blistering heat. Kilkenny put on a surge of skill and effort which took them to the top. Cork led at half time by 2-8 to 0-12, and as already stated, had increased the lead to eight points with twenty-two minutes to go.

The Noreside selectors then switched Eddie Keher to left half-forward, and this was the move that changed the game. The arrival of Martin Coogan was another important factor. He went on for "Fan" Larkin, who had played well but was injured. Coogan became a hero and played the proverbial blinder. It was Eddie Keher, as he did so often in his hurling career, who rallied Kilkenny. He shot a goal from a twenty-one yards free. Then he added a point from a free. When Pat Delaney scored a point there was just a goal between the sides. Fifteen minutes from the end Frank Cummins brought the sides level when he cut through for a great goal. Keher gave Kilkenny the lead with a point and substitute Mossy Murphy added another. Kieran Purcell added a third. A fourth by Pat Delaney put Kilkenny four points clear and they finished with a flourish and scored three more, two by Eddie Keher and one by Pat Delaney for a glorious 3-24 to 5-11 win,

Scorers for Kilkenny were Eddie Keher (2-9), Liam O'Brien (0-5), Pat Delaney (0-3), Frank Cummins (1-0), Kieran Purcell (0-2), Mick Crotty (0-2), Pat Henderson, Mossy Murphy and John Kinsella (0-1 each).

Pat Henderson, who had not a great year up to the final, was the hero. He gave a display all through, equal to that turned in against Cork in the last twenty minutes of the 1969 final. He could do nothing wrong. Noel Skehan, except for one lapse, kept a great goal and won the first of seven All-Star awards for his great goalkeeping throughout the year. Eddie Keher was another to make a big contribution. He forged the turning point and was an inspiration throughout. Frank Cummins and Liam O'Brien dominated at midfield. O'Brien's accuracy from long range was a considerable factor in the victory. This was the day Pat Delaney added a new dimension to the game by bouncing the ball off the ground back up into his hand. This became known as the "Delaney Bounce". Jim Treacy was another to play an outstanding match. Paddy Dillon gave nothing away easily, particularly in the second half, with Pat Lalor and Eamonn Morrissey giving good support to Henderson. Kieran Purcell all through, Mick Crotty and John Kinsella in patches, as well as Ned Byrne, Mossy Murphy and Paddy Moran all played their parts in this 18th All-Ireland triumph.



ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONSHIP 1972



LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP		MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIP	
May 14, 1972 First Round	Westmeath 1-7 Kildare 0-8	May 22, 1972 Quarter-final	Cork 3-16 Waterford 4-6
June 4, 1972 Quarter-final	Laois 4-7 Offaly 3-9	June 25, 1972 Semi-final	Cork 3-8 Tipperary 3-8
June 4, 1972 Quarter-final	Dublin 3-12 Westmeath 2-3	July 2, 1972 Semi-final	Clare 3-11 Limerick 2-10
June 18, 1972 Semi-final	Wexford 4-13 Dublin 2-5	July 9, 1972 Semi-Final (Replay)	Cork 3-10 Tipperary 2-7
June 25, 1972 Semi-final	Kilkenny 5-14 Laois 5-7	July 30, 1972 Final	Cork 6-18 Clare 2-8
July 9, 1972 Final	Kilkenny 6-13 Wexford 6-13		
July 30, 1972 Final (Replay)	Kilkenny 3-16 Wexford 1-14		
LEINSTER CHAMPIONS - KILKENNY		MUNSTER CHAMPIONS - CORK	
ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP			
July 23, 1972 Quarter-Final		Galway 7-16 Antrim 4-7	
August 6, 1972 Semi-Final		Kilkenny 5-28 Galway 3-7	
August 6, 1972 Semi-Final		Cork 7-20 London 1-12	
ALL IRELAND FINAL Sept 3, 1972			
KILKENNY 3-24		CORK 5-11	

LAOIS TEST CHAMPIONS IN THRILLER

By Michel Cogley

KILKENNY, 5-14; LAOIS, 5-7

FOR SOMETHING like 20 seconds at Portlaoise yesterday it seemed that we might see the sensation, of the hurling world as unconsidered Laois swept into the lead over the holders, Kilkenny, with 15 minutes to play in the Leinster S.H.C. semi-final. A great goal by Ger Cuddy had made it 4-6 to 3-7, and Laois players and spectators "did their nut" in celebration.

But, directly from the puck out, Mick Brennan finished off a slick move for a Kilkenny goal and the lead again and that was virtually the end of the road for Laois as the holders went on to win by 5-14 to 5-7 and qualify for another showdown with old rivals Wexford in the final at Croke Park next Sunday week.

What wonderfully unexpected good value it was. Sheer grit and unqualified effort may not be the match for superior skills: but they are a damned good substitute, and all credit to Laois for contributing to the most heart-warming hour — well, fifty minutes — of hurling that I have seen in years.

Mind you, it was not all just grit and effort, Laois have a number of hurlers who would win places, and several others who would battle hard for them, on any county team, and on encouragement and experience of holding their own for so long against such opposition, they are entitled to go into the next League series with high hopes of promotion.

By their speed to the ball, dedication,

lengthy striking (apart from line balls which appeared to baffle them) and entire disregard for personal safety, Laois partially disrupted the Kilkenny machine until the last quarter when, understandably, they ran out of steam and rather bewildered had no answer as some of the champions' stars found their form and took a firmer grip on proceedings.

Up to then, the panache had nearly all been on the Laois side, especially in their dominant half back trio of John Mahon, Matt Ryan and Jack Dooley, and the exciting forward play of George Lanham, Frank Keenan and Paddy Dowling.

Midfielders Phil Dillon and Eugene Moore achieved the distinction of winning the battle against such exponents as Frank Cummins and Pat Moran but, like several others on the losing team, often lost the advantage of hard-won possession by slowness in striking.

With less possession, Kilkenny maintained their slender margin of control for most of the game through their expertise in snapping, up the half chance, and they were never really in danger.

One felt that eventually Laois must crack; so they did, and then we saw confident Kilkenny at their best, with Cummins taking charge at midfield and the scores coming slickly from Mick Brennan, Eddie Keher, Mossie Murphy and John Kinsella. Fan Larkin, Jim Tracey and Pat Henderson were the best of the

Kilkenny backs who, on the whole, were not impressive under pressure.

A special word for both goalkeepers. Noel Skehan, as often in the past, showed how able a deputy he was for the man he has now replaced, Ollie Walsh; but even he was outshone yesterday by the Laois man, John Carroll, who really thrives on work and struck me yesterday as having an authentic touch of class. By and large, Laois are a team I would like to see a lot more of; and probably will.

Scorers for Kilkenny, who led by 3-5 to 2-5 at half-time, were: Brennan (2-3, one point from a free), Keher (1-6, 0-5 from frees), Murphy (1-1), Cummins (1-0), Kinsella and Crotty (0-2 each).

Laois scorers were: Dillon (2-4, 0-3 from frees), Lanham (2-1), G. Cuddy (1-0), and Keenan (0-2).

KILKENNY—N. Skehan; F. Larkin, L. Walsh, J. Tracey; P. Lalor, P. Henderson, M. Coogan; F. Cummins, P. Moran; I. Kinsella, M. Murphy, E. Keher; M. Brennan, M. Crotty, K. Purcell. -

LAOIS—J. Carroll; T. Cuddy. P. Mahon, P. Kelly; M. Mahon. M. Ryan, J. Dooley; P. Dillon, E. Moore; F. Keenan, P. Dowling, D. Sheeran; J. Conroy, G. Cuddy, G. Lanham. Subs.: J. Lyons (for Sheeran), M. Morrissey (for Conroy).

Referee—M. Spain (Offaly).

Volcanic Climax as Kilkenny Defy Odds, Earn Draw

By Michel Cogley

KILKENNY 6-13; WEXFORD 6-13

WEXFORD HURLERS have often been the heroes of almost unbelievable rallies, snatching victory from the imminence of defeat. The hurley was in the other hand, so to speak, yesterday at Croke Park, with Wexford on the receiving end when a mediocre Leinster Senior final erupted into a volcanic climax as the holders, Kilkenny, emerged from a seemingly hopeless position—seven points down, into the wind, and a man short—to snatch a replay with the second last puck of the game. The final whistle came with the puck out, and the usual high-scoring associated with clashes between these counties left it a 6-13 all draw.

Although there was hardly a dull moment in the eighty, the standard of hurling left a lot to be desired and it would have been a soon forgotten final but for the spine-tingling excitement of the last ten minutes as the champions, who had lost corner-forward Mick Brennan, sent off in the 19th minute of the second half for a foul on John Quigley which forced his retirement shortly afterwards, were sparked off by a goal from the hitherto subdued Eddie Keher and, after another goal by Frank Cummins, drew level two minutes from time with a Keher free.

COOL CROTTY

It seemed, however, that this superb rally would avail them nothing when Wexford's Joe Murphy, who had come on in the first minute as a sub. for the injured Pat Flynn, had a long range point and the lead re-stored with only

seconds to play.

But from the puck-out, the ball went to Mick Crotty and from fifty yards out he steered it coolly and confidently between the posts to bring Kilkenny back into the championship.

There must be something about playing a man short. I have seen it work time and again, that a team reduced in numbers seems to find inspiration in adversity, with every man appearing to find that little extra which more than makes up the deficiency.

So it was yesterday, and although Wexford must be accused of slackness, perhaps complacency, with many wasted chances, among their tally of twelve second half wides, it is certain that, Kilkenny, individually and collectively, had their greatest spell in those closing minutes and richly deserved the second defence of their title which that last point accorded them.

The game developed an odd pattern as Kilkenny led with a goal and two points, Wexford hit back with a goal and two points, and Kilkenny came again with a goal and two points. This time, Kilkenny stretched their lead to eight points (3-5 to 1-3), but Wexford dominated the last fifteen minutes of the half and seemed well set for victory when they led by a goal (4-7 to 3-7) at half-time and, backed by the wind, added another 2-1 in five minutes after resuming, to go ten points up.

Kilkenny made inroads, but their

cause seemed a lost one when Brennan was sent off and a point by Phil Wilson had Wexford seven up with twenty minutes to play. At this stage, however, the Kilkenny midfield, with substitute. Pat Moran having joined Frank Cummins, suddenly took control and Wexford did well to survive the storms of pressure.

Kilkenny had the, better of the first and last quarters, but- the middle period was all Wexford's, to such an extent that they should have had the title wrapped up, and in this spell certainly provided the best of the game's hurling.

SPECTACULAR

Midfielders Martin Quigley and Phil Wilson held control, but the most spectacular work, and the cause of Kilkenny's direst trouble came from Christy Kehoe and Tony Doran in the Wexford half-forward line, with Kehoe outstandingly, good in giving none other than Martin Coogan the run-around.

Wexford's outstanding backs were Colm Doran, whose only slip was a literal one as he let Eddie Keher through for the vital Kilkenny goal, and Willie Murphy, back to his brilliant best, particularly when drafted into the half-back line in positional switches.

Up front, the efforts of Kehoe and Doran were best supported in the earlier stages by Dan Quigley, but the big fellow could make no fist of Fan Larkin when the latter moved to the right corner of defence on the surprise introduction of Pa Dil

lon at full-back, late in the first half.

DEFENSIVE HONOURS

For his great play against Dan Quigley, Larkin shared defensive honours with Jim Treacy, having his best game since, last year's Leinster final; midfielder Cummins came into the picture only late in the game, but most effectively, and his goal was the best of the twelve; and the forwards to give Wexford most concern were Pat Delaney, Mick Crotty and Kieran Purcell, who, with Wexford's Tom Neville, was booked by referee Mick Spain.

Despite this incident and the side-lining of Brennan, the hard-hitting and full-blooded exchanges were bravely accepted in a game without rancour.

Scorers for Kilkenny — Keher (2-6,- 1-4 from frees), Crotty

(1-3), Delaney (1-1), Purcell (1-0), Cummins (1-0), Kinsella, O'Brien and Brennan (0-1 each).

Wexford — Berry (2-1), D. Quigley (1-4, the points from frees), Kehoe (1-3, one point from line-ball), Doran (1-2), Buggy (1-0), M. Quigley, Wilson ' and J. Murphy (0-1).

Kilkenny — N. Skehan; W. Murphy, P. Larkin, J. Treacy; P. Lawlor, P. Henderson, M. Coogan; P. Cummins, L. O'Brien; J. Kinsella, P. Delaney, E. Keher; M. Brennan, C. Purcell, M. Crotty.

Subs: P. Moran (for Kinsella), P. Dillon (for W. Murphy).

Wexford — P. Nolan; T. O'Connor, T. Neville, W. Murphy, C. Doran, M. Jacob, L. Quigley; M. Quigley, P. Wilson; C. Kehoe. T. Doran, N. Buggy; P. Flynn, J. Berry, D. Quigley.

Subs: J. Murphy (for Flynn), M. Browne (for J. Quigley).

Referee — M. Spain (Offaly),



Kilkenny - Drawn Leinster Final

**Back: Kieran Purcell, Fan Larkin, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Mick Crotty, Frank Cummins, Mick Brennan, Pat Delaney.
Front: Willie Murphy, Pat Lawlor, Chunky O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Jim Treacy, John Kinsella, Martin Coogan.**



Scan this QR code to access the GAA video archive which includes a 6-minute highlights package on Kilkenny's 1972 final v Cork.

The archive goes back to 1964 and is available on the Kilkenny GAA website

KILKENNY RETAIN LEINSTER CROWN IN STORMING FINISH

KILKENNY 3-16 Wexford 1-14

A SERIES of second half switches in the Kilkenny lineup, combined with a scintillating performance by Pat Delaney at full forward gave Kilkenny an impressive 3-16 to 1-14 victory, and the Leinster senior hurling, crown in the replay final against Wexford at Croke Park on Sunday.

The second half spurt, which quickly brought Kilkenny into the lead, helped complete the "hat trick" for the Noresiders who had already registered victories in the under 14 against Dublin and the minor final against Wexford — the first time in the history of Croke Park for any county to win three games on the same day.

The revival which has long been a feature of Kilkenny hurling obviously surprised a perhaps over confident Wexford defence. The constant, well played and coordinated attacks from the Keher-Delaney combination, despite tough pressure from the Wexford defence, broke the first half confidence of the Wexford men.

Although Kilkenny went to Croke park as "under-dogs" after their 6-13 each draw with the Model County in the first game two weeks ago, they certainly proved that they are a team to be reckoned with.

SUDDEN RISE

Their sudden and efficient rise from five points down, 1-8 to 0-6 at half time, to a point lead after 17 minutes of the second half was in keeping with the best in the black and amber tradition.

While Kilkenny certainly dominated throughout the second half, their sudden rise came as a surprise after a mediocre effort during the first 40 minutes, mediocre at least, by Kilkenny standards.

From the throw in, Kilkenny were first to the ball with a long shot to the Wexford square, but after only half a minute Wexford were a point up after a beautifully aimed shot from Martin Quigley.

The Wexford ascendancy continued throughout the first half. Martin Quigley went to the side line with Kilkenny's Fan Larkin after a melee in the Wexford goalmouth, late in the second half. It was unfortunate that referee Mick Spain of Offaly had to give marching orders to a player from each side. The game was played hard and tough but very fair. However, Mr Spain was determined to keep a good grip on the game even though the incident took place near the end.

CONTINUAL ONSLAUGHT

The reasons for the Kilkenny half time changes were indeed obvious. Wexford men dominated to a great extent at midfield and kept up a continual onslaught of good shots into the Kilkenny goalmouth where stalwarts Doran, Wilson and John Quigley put them to good use.

Noel Skehan in the Kilkenny goal gave one of his greatest displays ever in the black and amber jersey. Wexford would surely have built up



Pat Nolan saves from Kieran Purcell, watched by Eddie Keher, Matt Brown (W), Willie Murphy (W), Mick Crotty, Christy Jacob (W), Colm Doran (W) and Pat Delaney.

for his brilliant saves. His coolness under pressure must have given great confidence to the Kilkenny defenders.

The bustling Pat Delaney proved once again that he is one of the top forwards in the game. He was quiet enough in the first period but when the Kilkenny selectors switched him to full forward, he ran riot.

As well as causing panic in, the Wexford defence on several occasions, he made many good openings for his colleagues. His final tally of a goal and four points was indeed a sizeable contribution to the Kilkenny total.

Delaney certainly had a field day. He was sharp, gathered the ball quickly, and sent many well aimed shots whizzing into the Wexford goalmouth. His scoring sorties broke through only occasionally in the first 40 minutes, due to the relentless pressure exercised by Mick Jacob.

COOGAN SWITCH

Early in the second half, Eamonn Morrissey who gave a tremendous performance, came on in place of Martin Coogan. Morrissey held his ground well against Wilson and Quigley.

Wexford put all their traditional determination into the game and stepped up on their performance in the drawn game. They exercised considerable influence at centrefield and their half back line and half forward line posed serious problems for Kilkenny.

Facing a five points lead after the interval, Kilkenny, on the run of play in the first half, appeared to be set

an impossible task. Certainly many teams similarly placed would have faded from the scene, particularly after Wexford had two further points early in the second half.

The real turning point in the game emanated from the sideline. Kilkenny played their winning stroke by the switch which brought Kieran Purcell to the half

forward line, Pat Delaney to the full forward line, and the introduction of Eddie Byrne — moves that underlined the selectors' sound judgement.

Another factor which may have contributed significantly to Kilkenny's easy win was that they lasted the pace better.

They completely dominated the last 10 minutes and a series of moves made by the Wexford mentors had little effect, except to emphasise the panic which had overtaken the players.

STORMED BACK

In the closing stages there was only the one team in it and having survived Wexford's first half dominance, Kilkenny stormed back.

In addition to Noel Skehan, Fan Larkin, Pa Dillon, Jim



Pat Delaney sweeps past Tom Neville



Tony Doran and Pat Henderson face each other

Treacy and Pat Lalor were prominent throughout and the Kilkenny defence generally was much tighter than in the drawn game.

At midfield, Liam O'Brien did well while in the last 20 minutes, Frank Cummins did a tremendous amount of work, even in helping the defence. He did best at a stage when Kilkenny had most need of his services.

Apart from Pat Delaney and Eddie Keher who was top scorer, the Kilkenny forwards fell a little below expectations. Kieran Purcell tried hard and was rather unlucky not to have reaped a richer reward while Eddie Byrne, put another nail in Wexford's coffin when he dodged a flying Wexford hurley to palm the ball to the net at a crucial juncture.

Pat Nolan was very sound in the Wexford goal and best of a sound full back line was veteran Tom Neville. Willie Murphy and Teddy O'Connor also figured prominently, but the whole defence collapsed when Kilkenny made their master stroke. Pat Delaney rocked the model

county rearguard when he switched.

On the Wexford half back line, Mick Jacob, John Quigley and Christy Doran were very prominent for most of the game. Phil Wilson and Martin Quigley gave as good as they got at centrefield, while most prominent in the Wexford attack were Tony Doran, Dan Quigley, Jack Berry and Joe Murphy.

Kilkenny—N. Skehan; P. Larkin, P. Dillon, J. Treacy; P. Lawlor, P. Henderson, M. Coogan; F. Cummins. L. O'Brien; J. Kinsella, P. Delaney, E. Keher; M. Murphy. K. Purcell, M. Crotty. Subs: E. Morrissey for Coogan, E. Byrne for Crotty.

Wexford—P. Nolan; W. Murphy, T. Neville, T. O'Connor, C. Doran, M. Jacob, J. Quigley; P. Wilson, M. Quigley; C. Kehoe. T. Doran, J. Murphy, N. Buggy; P. Flynn, J. Berry, D. Quigley. Subs: C. Dowdall for Murphy, J. Pender for J. Quigley, J. Quigley for Wilson.

A FIRST FOR KILKENNY'S U14 SIDE

KILKENNY 6-5 DUBLIN 4-6

KILKENNY won the first Leinster under 14 Hurling Championship at Croke Park. on Sunday to take the first leg of the hurling treble, by beating Dublin.

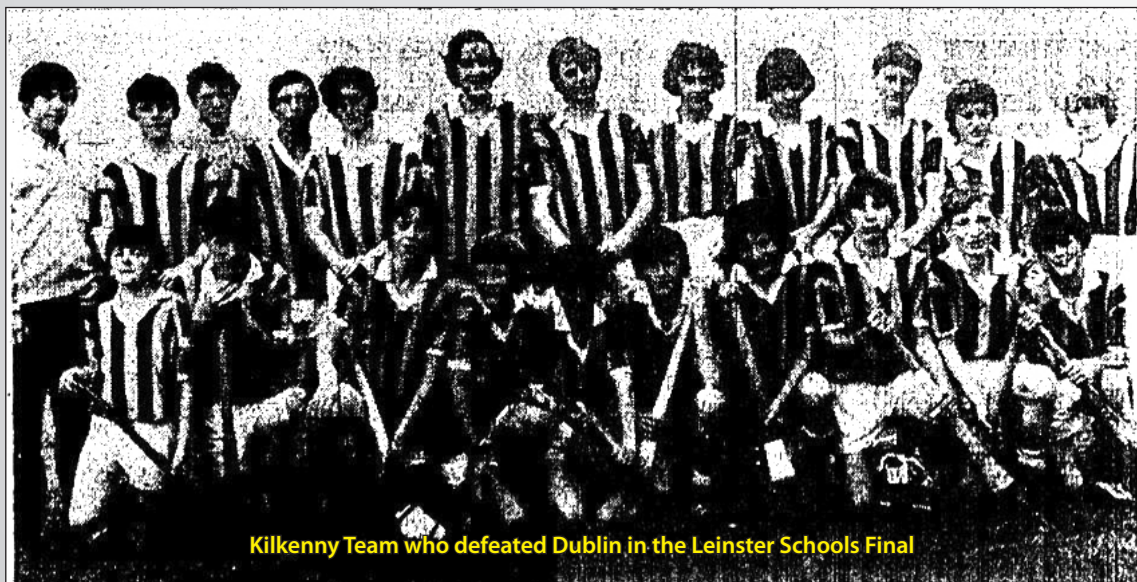
On a tiny pitch more suited to 'marbles than' hurling the Kilkenny boys took time to adapt to the conditions and they set about their task with great determination.

The traditional style of Kilkenny hurling which these boys have consistently shown in County championship games on full size pitches was but of the question. Hard, fast tight pulling was the order of the

day and through no fault of the teams, what could have been a feast of hurling developed into a hard physical battle.

With great wins against Laois and Wexford behind them, the Kilkenny boys went into this game with confidence and when centrefield man Joe Wall of Mooncoin got a grip on midfield, they dominated the first half.

Joe contributed 2-1 in the first half and managed to career towards goal on a number of occasions despite a congested centre.



Kilkenny Team who defeated Dublin in the Leinster Schools Final

Eamon Murphy's hard dependable play at left half back was the signal for Paddy Pender at centre back, W. Phelan, Ger Stapleton and D. Dowling to keep a liberal supply to their forwards. Kilkenny led by 4-4 to 1-4 at half time and they could have been even further ahead but for the fact that the half forward line took a long time to realise that they were dogging midfield. At half time Francis Walsh was replaced by Dick Moran after a hard first half in which he had worked very hard.

Richie O'Keeffe was now at right half back and although Dublin did score 3-2 in this half, the Kilkenny defence was infinitely tighter.

Up front Pat Buggy, J.J. Buckley and Johnny Waters began to disrupt the Dublin full back line. Tony Malone, L. Fennelly and Brendan Broderick, began to play with more drive and urgency.

Malone, who was shouldered with the captaincy, certainly displayed great flair and he inspired his clubmate Ger Lester to great heights

Two great Kilkenny, goals towards the end finally sewed up the issue.

Dessy Butler was sound in the Noreside goal. Best in the Kilkenny defence were W. Phelan, Ger Stapleton, E. Murphy and, in the second half, P. Pender and Richie

O'Keeffe who had played at centrefield in 'the first half.

Joe Wall was the game's outstanding player and was ably assisted by D. Moran,

In the forwards T. Malone, G. Lester L. Fennelly, P. Buggy, an J.J. Buckley all played well.

Brendan Broderick scored a beautiful point in the first half but began to fade in the second. He was replaced by J. Waters who played well.

The Kilkenny under 14 team have now the proud record of being unbeaten in intercounty hurling for the last four years against the best opposition in Ireland.

Scorers: Kilkenny: J.. Wall (3-1), L. Fennelly, T. Malone, J. Waters, P Buggy (1-0) each, P Prendergast 0-2).

Dublin: P. Hogan (2-4), J. Reville (1-1). M, Murphy (1-0), S. Mannion (0-1),

Kilkenny ; D. Butler, W. Phelan, G. Stapleton, D. Dowling. F. Walsh. P. Prendergast, E. Murphy, J. Wall, R. O'Keeffe. B. Broderick, T. Malone (capt), G. Lester, P. Buggy, J.J. Buckley, L. Fennelly.

Subs : D. Moran for Walsh, J. Waters for Broderick,

KILKENNY 1972 BACKROOM TEAM



Fr Tommy Meagher
Coach



Mick O'Neill
Co Chairman (Kilmacow)



Paul Skehan
Fenians



Paddy Buggy
Slieverue



Sean Georgie Leahy
James Stephens



Johnny McGovern
Bennettsbridge



Mick Lanigan
Trainer

HURLING SEMI-FINALS WERE A FARCE

Keher 'Points' the Way

By PEADAR O'BRIEN

KILKENNY... 5-28 GALWAY... 3-7

It is extremely difficult to be analytical when 27 points separate two teams in an All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final. The result was a foregone conclusion, the moment the pairing was known, and the small Croke Park crowd watched out the last fifty minutes in almost complete silence.

Year after year, following matches like this, I suggest an open draw or some system whereby counties like Galway will be accommodated where they will be suited best.

I think Central Council are hindering rather than helping the game in the West. Certainly matches like this must be more than hurtful and frustrating to the morale of the Galway team and officials.

For the first time in twenty minutes they were in the game with a chance. Not only did they jump into the lead first, when centre half Ted Murphy pointed a free, but they had the "audacity" to lead

1-4 to 0-2 after eight minutes.

The weaknesses were, however, evident. Midfielders Seamus Murphy and Tim Calahan slowly faded from the game.

The attack carried too many extras and after Kilkenny had levelled 0=7 to 1-4 in the 21st minute the game was as good as over.

Immediately after this Pat Delaney, who started at centre forward, moved in to full forward in a swap with Kieran Purcell.

He signalled his move by lashing over a goal, and a point in two minutes and that, I'm afraid, was the start of a goal and points rush of which even Kilkenny got tired of in the finish.

Faded

Galway faded so quickly that it was not really a contest from there to the finish. Kilkenny found it so easy to

score anytime they wished and their twenty-eight points total is a record for a championship game at senior level.

Wide

Apart from their team record, corner forward Eddie Keher set up a personal points-best with seventeen, seven from frees, beating the fourteen points total which he scored in the 1963 All-Ireland final against Waterford and against London last year in the semi-final.

This morning's scoreline differs by one point from that which was recorded by the scorekeepers. They gave Kilkenny at 5-29 total but referee Noel Dalton from Waterford was adamant afterwards that they had scored 28 points.

The controversial point - as if it makes any difference - was scored by Keher in the 12th minute of the second half. The umpire signalled wide. The goals and points scorekeeper who was behind the



Jim Hughes (Galway) tries to get around Pa Dillon.

shot, signalled the point but at the far end of the pitch, the points umpire did not for at least five minutes.

After Delaney's switch Kilkenny did as they liked. And, between that and the interval, they added two goals and three points to lead 3-11 to 1-5 at half time.

They were 5-15 to 1-7 in front after eighteen minutes of the second half and did not seem unduly worried when Galway broke through for goals from Jim Hughes and PJ Mulloy in the 25th and 35th minute of the second half.

Naming the best hurlers on the Kilkenny side might be unfair because this was purely a practice session after the first twenty minutes.

Galway must, by now, realise the futility of entering the championship at such a stage. They have good hurlers, some of whom are of fine style, but they need tough, hard matches

every Sunday. But, let's face it, at the moment Kilkenny could give them a few goals start and still beat them. I'm sorry for Galway.

Scorers: Kilkenny - E. Keher (0-17) seven points from frees; P. Delaney (2-5) L. O'Brien, K. Purcell (1-1 each), E. Byrne (1-0) J. Kinella (0-4), Galway - J. Hughes (2-1), PJ Mulloy (1-0), A. Fenton (0-2), T. Murphy, P. Fahy, P. Niland, P. Mitchell (0-1 each). Kilkenny - N.Skehan, N. Orr, P. Dillon, J. Treacy, P. Lalor, P. Henderson, E. Morrissey, F. Cummins, L. O'Brien, J. Kinsella, P. Delaney, M. Murphy, E. Byrne, K. Purcell, E. Keher. Sub - M. Crotty for Cummins.

Galway - S. Kelly, M. Howley, J.Fawl, J. Walsh, P. Niland, L. Murphy, G. Clarke, S. Murphy, L. Calahan, A. Fenton, B. O'Connor, P. Fahy, T. Ryan, J. Hughes, M. Greaney. Subs P. Mitchell for Calahan, J. Glynn for S. Murphy, PJ Mulloy for P. Fahy.

Referee - N. Dalton (Waterford).

VOTE GOES TO CORK

John D Hickey's
Prediction

expect an enchanting battle royal, and I will be grievously disappointed if it does not materialise. While one is not so innocent as to advance the theory that past All-Irelands between the counties will have any bearing whatever on the outcome of Sunday's test, they certainly provide irrefutable evidence of the expertise of the hurlers from Cork and Kilkenny. My faith, stems from three sources. They are: the bravery of Kilkenny when they were reduced to 14 men in the drawn Leinster final against Wexford, the courage of Cork when they found themselves no fewer than ten points in arrears at the interval in the indecisive Munster semi-final against Tipperary. and the sheer hurling sorcery of the Rebel County in the first half of the National League decider against Limerick. True, they have never since even remotely approached the standard they reached that day at Semple Stadium, but the 30 minutes of fantastic hurling they produced, must have alarmed other hurling counties above the potential of the team, particularly the forward division. No less a hurling judge than Rev. Tommy Maher, the Kilkenny trainer, doubts their ability to maintain such excellence over 80 minutes. So do I. But I still rate them a team of almost awesome power and talent.

The All-Ireland final, its setting and their rivals will, I feel sure, provide Cork with the stimulus to produce something akin to what we saw at Thurles. If they do, and I believe they will, Kilkenny, if they are sons of their fathers, will be enriched rather than impoverished by the glory of their opponents.

Memories of the last two All-Ireland finals between the great rivals add to one's expectancy about the 1972 decider. In 1966 none other than faithful Cork men gave their side a chance against Kilkenny. Cork won by 3-9 to 1-10. Three years later, when the counties were again in opposition on All-Ireland day, the only issue which seemed in doubt was Cork's margin of victory. Kilkenny won by 2-15 to 2-9. Again Cork are firmly entrenched as favourites. But will they win? There's the rub. On five of the six occasions on which Kilkenny have defeated Cork in an All-Ireland, the winning margin was a point. It is common knowledge among the elders of hurling men that Cork expected to win each of those finals. So it is today. My own leanings are towards Cork, but unlike many another I have not gone overboard about their

prospects of winning. Trimuph would bracket them with Tipp at the top of the All-Ireland Roll of Honour with 22 titles won. My reservations about the southerners have their root in the fact that nothing except their fortitude was proved in a rather pallid Munster championship. In recovering from a ten points half-time deficit in the drawn game against Tipperary, they displayed admirable spirit but little else against opposition that was extraordinarily timid.

They did better in the replay against the 1971 All-Ireland champions, but there was scarcely anything else they could do, so disappointing was Tipperary's effort in the second encounter. The Provincial decider against Clare had little more than the merit of a training stint for the Cork team. Kilkenny, on the other hand, had two searching tests against Wexford, but there is a niggling doubt in my mind about the present-day standard of Model County hurling. Nevertheless, one must accord Kilkenny a generous measure of praise for having drawn with the Loch Garman side, although a man inferior for the last 21 minutes of an 80-minute game. While appreciative of the threat that Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell, Jim Treacy, Pa Dillon, Fran Larkin, Frank Cummins and Pat Lawlor present to Cork, I stand by the conviction that Cork will even the score at six-all in All-Ireland finals between the counties. Some Kilkenny supporters may brand my estimate of their danger men as utter heresy, in that the brilliant Eddie Keher is omitted. I make no apology. The Kilkenny star will be opposed directly by Tony Maher, who held Ray Cummins scoreless from play in the recent St. Finbarrs - Blackrock championship tie and has given Michael Keating only a miserable three points from play in all of seven games. Although Cork are by no means above suspicion all over the field, I consider that they have more potential than Kilkenny, and their list of big men reads like a litany — Maher. Con Roche, Gerald McCarthy, Mick Malone, Pat Hegarty, Charlie McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Sean O'Leary.

The fact that six of eight elect are forwards is to me significant. Kilkenny will not surprise me if they score a respectable tally, but do matter how large it is, I expect the Cork total to be bigger.

CORCAIGH



(1) **P. de Barra**
P. Barry
(St. Vincents)



(2) **A. Ó Meachair**
A. Maher
(St. Finbarrs)



(3) **P. Mac Dónaill**
P. McDonnell
(U.C.C.)



(4) **B. Ó Murchú**
B. Murphy
(Nemo Rangers)



(5) **P. Norberg (Capt.)**
F. Norberg
(Blackrock)



(6) **S. Ó Luanaigh**
S. Looney
(St. Finbarrs)



(7) **C. de Róiste**
C. Roche
(St. Finbarrs)



(8) **S. Mac Cárthaigh**
J. McCarthy
(Passage)



(9) **D. Ó Cochláin**
D. Coughlan
(Glen Rovers)



(10) **G. Mac Cárthaigh**
G. McCarthy
(St. Finbarrs)



(11) **M. Ó Maoileoin**
M. Malone
(Eire Óg)



(12) **P. Ó hÉigeartaigh**
P. Hegarty
(Youghal)



(13) **C. Mac Cárthaigh**
C. McCarthy
(St. Finbarrs)



(14) **R. Ó Cuimín**
R. Cummins
(Blackrock)



(15) **S. Ó Laoire**
S. O'Leary
(Youghal)

Fir Ionaid: (16) M. Coleman, Ballyhassig, (17) P. Crowley, Newcestown, (18) E. O'Brien, Glen Rovers, (19) D. Collins, Blackrock, (20) J. Rothwell, Blackrock.

CILL CHAINNIGH



(1) **N. Ó Sceacháin (Capt.)**
N. Skehan
(Bennettsbridge)



(2) **P. Ó Lorcáin**
P. Larkin
(James Stephens)



(3) **P. Ó Diolúin**
P. Dillon
(Freshford)



(4) **S. Ó Treasaigh**
J. Treacy
(Bennettsbridge)



(5) **P. Ó Leathlobhair**
P. Lalor
(Bennettsbridge)



(6) **P. Mac Einrí**
P. Henderson
(Johnstown)



(7) **E. Ó Muireasa**
E. Morrissey
(James Stephens)



(8) **L. Ó Briain**
F. Cummins
(Blackrock, Cork)



(9) **L. Ó Briain**
L. O'Brien
(James Stephens)



(10) **S. Cinsealach**
J. Kinsella
(Bennettsbridge)



(11) **P. Ó Dúláinne**
P. Delaney
(Johnstown)



(12) **M. Ó Crottaigh**
M. Crotty
(James Stephens)



(13) **E. Ó Broin**
E. Byrne
(James Stephens)



(14) **C. Puirseál**
C. Purcell
(Windgap)



(15) **E. Ó Ceithir**
E. Keher
(Rower-Inistioge)

Fir Ionaíd : (16) O. Walsh, Thomastown, (17) N. Orr, Johnstown, (18) W. Murphy, Rower-Inistioge, (19) M. Murphy, Mullinavat, (20) M. Coogan, Erin's Own, (21) P Moran, Bennettsbridge, (22) Senan Cooke, Kilmacow.



All Ireland Champions 1972
Back: Ned Byrne, Mick Grotty, Pa Dillon, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Kieran Purcell.
Front: Pat Lawlor, Jim Treacy, Chunky O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Pat Delaney, John Kinsella, Eamon Morrissey.
Missing from photo: Fan Iarkin.



CORK - MUNSTER SH CHAMPIONS 1972

*Back: Tony Maher, Seamus Looney, Con Roche, Mick Malone, Brian Murphy, Sean O'Leary, Denis Coughlan, Justin McCarthy.
Front: Roy Cummins, Pat Hegarty, Pat McDonnell, Paddy Barry, Frank Norberg, Gerald McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy.*

The Final as John D Hickey saw it

GLORIOUS KILKENNY WIN

Henderson the Star - Skehan the man who stopped Cork.

By JOHN D HICKEY

Kilkenny 3-24 Cork 5-11

This was far more than a Kilkenny victory over Cork, it was a conquest of the Rebel County. That in my opinion is a primary and imperative observation on the titanic second half of the All Ireland senior hurling championship final in which the Leinster standard bearers scored a 3-24 to 5-11 triumph over the Munster representatives at Croke Park. At the interval with Cork leading by 2-8 to 0-12 I was crestfallen at the poor quality of the performances. But midway through the second half, I found myself with a match in my mouth attempting to light it with a cigarette. That is the kind of epic it became as Kilkenny unleashed a brand of hurling that almost caused me to regret that I had not some affinity with the county, no matter how tenuous".

Con Kenealy: Mick Crotty opened the scoring with a Kilkenny point.

Ray Cummins, taking a pass from Justin Mc Carthy gave Cork the lead with a superb goal. By the 11th. minute points by Pat Henderson, Liam "Chunky" O'Brien (two frees), and an Eddie Keher free had Kilkenny steaming in front".

Scores came thick and fast. "Chunky" O'Brien, Keher, Kieran Purcell shot points, while Charlie Mc Carthy, and Ray Cummins were nullifying their value with points for Cork. Noel Skehan was brilliant in the goal making some great saves from Mc Carthy and Cummins. A Cummins point in the 21st. minute afforded a short-lived lead as an O'Brien free levelled matters. Noel Skehan again came to Kilkenny's rescue with a point-blank save from Mick Malone in the 23rd. minute.

Keher and O'Brien levelled matters shortly after the interval but no sooner had the scorekeeper put up the figures than Mick Malone got in for a marvellous goal. Points by Seanie O'Leary- who had laid off the pass to Malone for the goal-and another by Ray Cummins showed Cork ahead



Pat Henderson had one of his greatest days in the Black & Amber



Jim Treacy had a tremendous game in the Kilkenny defence.

by five points. Eddie Keher shot 1-1 in the space of eighty seconds. His point coming from play out on the right side of the Kilkenney attack, while his goal came a minute later from the opposite side. Kilkenney one behind.

With 23 minutes left Cork led by seven points. A point by Con Roche increased that lead, but it was also the last score Cork were to post as Kilkenney started to run rings around them. Keher set the stage for the Kilkenney resurgence wit a pointed 21-yard free in the 18th. minute. Keher and Delaney added further points. A 30-yard solo run by Frank Cummins was slammed into the net for a superb goal to level matters. Keher added a leading point with 13 minutes remaining. Points by Purcell and Mossy Murphy gave Kilkenney a three-point cushion. With eight minutes remaining, Delaney bagged the insurance point. Two Keher frees and a grand point from Delaney sorted it all out".

John D. Hickey: I was particularly impressed by the unquenchable spirit of Pa Dillon's "management" of Ray Cummins, and the brazen

hurling of Fan Larkin, Pat Lalor and Eamonn Morrissey. For me though, Pat Henderson stands unchallenged as the Man of the Match. What a colossus!. A giant among many on

Morrissey, Frank Cummins, Liam "Chunky" O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Pat Delaney, John Kinsella, Ned Byrne, Kieran Purcell, Eddie Keher. Subs: Mossy Murphy (for Byrne); Martin Coogan (For Larkin); Paddy Moran (For Kinsella).

Scores: Eddie Keher (2-9); Liam O'Brien (0-5); Frank Cummins (1-0); Pat Delaney (0-3); Mick Crotty, Kieran Purcell (0-2 each); Pat Henderson, John Kinsella, Mossy Murphy (0-1 each).

Cork: Paddy Barry, Tony Maher, Pat Mc Donnell, Brian Murphy, Frank Norberg (capt), Seamus Looney, Con Roche, Justin Mc Carthy, Denis Coughlan, Gerald McCarthy, Mick Malone, Pat Hegerty, Charlie Mc Carthy, Ray Cummins, Seanie O'Leary. Subs: Ted O'Brien (for Norberg); Donie Collins (for Hegerty).

Scores: Ray Cummins (2-3); Mick Malone (2-1); Seanie O'Leary (1-1); Charlie Mc Carthy (0-4); Con Roche (0-2).

Figures Of The Game						
FIRST HALF						
	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's	
Kilkenny	0	12	6	12	0	
Cork	2	8	4	8	3	
SECOND HALF						
	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's	
Kilkenny	3	12	7	9	0	
Cork	3	3	8	4	2	
SECOND HALF						
	Gls	Pts	Wides	F's	70's	
Kilkenny	3	24	13	21	0	
Cork	5	11	12	12	5	

a Kilkenney team hardly rated by the baying masses.

Kilkenny: Noel Skehan (capt), Fan Larkin, Pa Dillon, Jim Treacy, Pat Lalor, Pat Henderson, Eamonn



Noel Skehan played a Captain's part in the Final.



Martin Coogan's introduction for the injured Fan Larkin was vital.

The Final as Pádraig Puirseál saw it

KILKENNY ARE KINGS!

Fantastic Rally Foils Corkmen

KILKENNY 3-24 CORK 5-11

MAGNIFICENT KILKENNY! Once again glorying in the label of outsiders, these superb hurlers in black and amber upset the odds, the confident Corkmen, and the predictions of almost all the experts to come storming back in the last quarter of this thrill-packed All-Ireland final at Croke Park yesterday and turn what had looked like seemingly inevitable defeat into glorious victory.

But in doing so they and their beaten rivals also achieved a badly-needed victory for hurling itself. Those 80 minutes of swaying fortunes provided what every lover of the game had hoped it would, proof positive that no ball-game can stir the blood of an Irishman like hurling at its best.

After a promising, but far from scintillating first half, this confrontation flared into spells of second-half brilliance that revived aU the oft-told glories of past Cork-Kilkenny clashes, roused the enthralled spectators to a fever of excitement, and left even the most hardened press-box scribes limp with tension when the battle for supremacy was really joined mid-way through the second half to emphasise that, as long as teams like Kilkenny and Cork can give us the hurling they gave us yesterday, the game can never die while grass grows and water runs in Ireland.

EARLY LEAD

The excitement began early with Cork missing a goal by inches in the opening second, and the sprightly Kilkennymen, though facing the strong sun and the Canal Goal, snatching an early lead. But the first time Cork got moving there was a chilling sight for Kilkenny followers as tall Ray Cummins whipped round Pa Dillon to goal.

Through the rest of the first quarter, both teams seemed to be testing the other out, and there was nothing at all between the sides as play swung from end to end with alternate scoring that saw them level three times. Then, as we moved towards the half-hour mark, Cork began to pull away despite some almost miraculous goalkeeping by Kilkenny captain Noel Skehan.

Mick Malone's long-range centre landed between Ray Cummins and Dillon, and the ball broke to the net past Skehan for what seemed then likely to prove a vital score.

Yet Kilkenny did not wilt. Though Eddie Keher was policed out of the scoring business by Tony Maher, and had to be



content with a couple of minor markers from placed balls, the Noremen kept fighting back and must have gone to their dressing-room reasonably content to find themselves trailing by only two points, 2-8 to 0-12.

FORTUNATE

Kilkenny nowadays pride themselves on being a second-half team, and two points is no margin in such a hurling game. Yet it was obvious that, for all their twelve scores, this black and amber attack was showing little or no penetration close in.

But Kilkenny seem to be fortunate nowadays in possessing hurling strategists on the sideline as well as hurling skill on the field. Big Eddie Byrne, who, hard though he tried, had manifestly in that first half, lacked the mobility seriously to trouble the Cork defence, did not reappear after the interval. Instead Kieran Purcell was now at top of the right and Mossy Murphy from Mullinavat manned the full-forward position.

Cork again should have goaled in the opening seconds, but Skehan brought off a seemingly impossible save from Malone, and now the thrills really 'began.

FALTERING

Kilkenny points saw the sides level for the fourth time. Again Skehan foiled Cork, but he raced out to dear and before he could get back Malone had shot past Dillon for a well-worked Cork goal.

The Noremen now badly needed a boost to their faltering hopes and it seemed to have come when Keher's high lob came out of the sun and went off Paddy Barry's grasping hand to the Cork net. But the mighty roar from the Kilkenny fans was silenced almost in their throats. From

the puck-out, Charlie McCarthy placed Ray Cummins who sent the huge Cork following into ecstasies with a great goal. Half a minute later, Skehan made his only blunder of the game, when he failed to lift after coming out to clear, and though Pa Dillon and Martin Coogan, who had just come on for the injured Fan Larkin, both saved in turn on the Kilkenny line, young Seanie O'Leary nipped in to score Cork's second goal inside a minute and the Leesiders seemed on the high-road to victory.

MASTER MOVE

Indeed when Con Roche added a long-range point to put the red jerseys eight points ahead with the game almost at the three-quarter mark, Cork seemed all but certain to step up to join Tipperary at the head of the All-Ireland honours list.

But then these shrewd Kilkenny mentors made their master-move. They switched Keher out to his old post of left-half forward. The veteran from the Rower Instiogue proved he was enjoying his new-found freedom with a couple of typical snipe-like runs, but his rallying contribution came from a placed ball.

With, just 22 minutes left for play, Kilkenny were awarded a 21-yard free for a foul on Murphy. Keher stepped up and cracked the sliothar through the Cork "stone-wall" to the net and from that moment on Kilkenny never looked back.

Suddenly the black and amber jerseys seemed to be every-where. Two points brought the margin down within striking distance. Then Frank Cummins, amazingly subdued until now, broke away from midfield. On and on he went through a Cork defence that raced away from him to cover off Keher and Delaney who were running into position "off the ball". But the Cork-based Garda kept on going, and then blasted home a shot that Paddy Barry never saw until he picked it out of the net. Scores were level for the fifth time with 15 minutes left for play!

CRUEL LUCK

It was now that Kilkenny scaled the

heights, proving once more that they are the men for the closing stages of an 80 minute game. With Henderson, Coogan and Treacy driving every Cork attack back with raking clearances, and with Keher and Delaney now tearing the Leeside defence to shreds, these rampant Nore-iders took over complete control. Point after point after point went sailing over the crossbar.

They had cruel luck when Crotty, then at full-forward, had the ball in the net again, only to be awarded a free instead which Keher pointed, but with veteran Paddy Moran now on, and lending - a hand at midfield, they, never again relented in their ceaseless late onslaught and were manifest winners five minute before referee Spain blew the final whistle. In looking back on this game many reasons will be advanced why Kilkenny won. and many heroes will vie for top honour, but my first award goes to a man who was not on that field at all - fitness-coach Mick Lanigan. The former athletics star has conclusively proved in every game this season that he has mastered the secret of pre-paring a team for the 80-minute game, for in every match Kilkenny have won, they have been at their best in the last 20 minutes.

Thinking back over the closing stages yesterday I am left wondering whether it really was that Cork wilted in the heat, after all they were the younger side, or whether they were swept out of it by the sheer hurling power of Kilkenny's last-quarter display.

Su great was the contribution of so many Kilkennymen to the victory that it seems almost unfair to single out in- dividuals for special mention. Yet who can forget the brilliance of Liam O'Brien at midfield where, playing in his first senior final, he showed all the coolness of a veteran with his

long range points both from frees and from play, and where he outmatched in turn both Justin and Gerald McCarthy.

Little behind him was Pat Henderson who recaptured once again all the brilliant form he last revealed against the Cork men in the 1969 final. His long clearances again destroyed Cork hopes in the closing stages, but he got plenty of assistance from his flankers. Pal Lawlor and Eamonn Morrissey.

Skehan had half a dozen all- but unbelievable saves in goal, all of them at crucial moments, no man afield was going better than the white-headed Jim Treacy in the second half, while, if Pa Dillon seemed in danger of getting the run-around early on from Ray Cummins, the durable Freshford man gave nothing at all away in the closing stages.

Martin Coogan was also a tremendous defensive asset when he came on. though Fan Larkin had been doing well until he damaged a knee.

COMPENSATED

Frank Cummins seemed out of it at midfield for long spells, but that goal of his compensated for a lot of earlier looseness.

Up front, Keher, when he came out, made all the difference and especially to Pat Delaney, who then really shook off the shackles which Seamus Looney had imposed on him early on. Keher did not quite reach his tally of 2-11 when on the losing side against Tipperary in last year's final, but his score of 2-9 yesterday was his highest total for a winning Kilkenny side. Kieran Purcell all through, Mick Crotty and John Kinsella in patches, also did well in a Kilkenny attack that really came into its own in the closing stages.



Captain, Noel Skehan, surrounded by his team-mates raises the McCarthy Cup.

SCORES BY THE CLOCK

TIME	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
FIRST HALF			
2 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Mick Crotty
4 min.	Cork	GOAL	Ray Cummins
5 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Pat Henderson (F)
8 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Liam O'Brien (F)
9 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
11 min.	Cork	POINT	Charlie McCarthy (F)
13 min.	Cork	POINT	Charlie McCarthy (F)
15 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Kieran Purcell
17 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
18 min.	Cork	POINT	Ray Cummins
21 min.	Cork	POINT	Charlie McCarthy (F)
22 min.	Cork	POINT	Ray Cummins
24 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Liam O'Brien (F)
26 min.	Cork	POINT	Mick Malone
27 min.	Cork	POINT	Con Roche (F)
29 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Liam O'Brien (F)
32 min.	Cork	GOAL	Mick Malone
33 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	John Kinsella
35 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
37 min.	Cork	POINT	Charlie McCarthy (F)
39 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Mick Crotty
HALF TIME SCORE: CORK 2-8 KILKENNY 0-12			
SECOND HALF			
3 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
5 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Liam O'Brien (F)
8 min.	Cork	GOAL	Mick Malone
11 min.	Cork	POINT	Sean O'Leary
12 min.	Cork	POINT	Ray Cummins
13 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher
14 min.	Kilkenny	GOAL	Eddie Keher
14.5 min.	Cork	GOAL	Ray Cummins
15 min.	Cork	GOAL	Sean O'Leary
17 min.	Cork	POINT	Con Roche
18 min.	Kilkenny	GOAL	Eddie Keher (F)
21 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
24 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Pat Delaney
25 min.	Kilkenny	GOAL	Frank Cummins
28 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher
29 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Mossy Murphy
30 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Kieran Purcell
33 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Pat Delaney
35 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
38 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Eddie Keher (F)
39 min.	Kilkenny	POINT	Pat Delaney
FULL TIME SCORE: KILKENNY 3-24 CORK 5-11			

As for Cork, it seemed for a long time that their fast and clever forwards would swing the game in their favour as they had been expected to do, but they were hurled out of it when Kilkenny really came at them in that last 20 minutes.

Captain Norberg's departure may have unsettled the half-back line, even though the Blackrock man, while on, had been obviously affected by that suspect knee. Tony Maher. Pat McDonnell and Brian Murphy- had a great first half, but lost their steadiness when the real heat came on.

Likewise, the half-back line played extremely well for two-thirds of the game, but then cracked badly despite the bright moments of Con Roche and

Seamus Looney. Denis Coughlan played a world of hurling at midfield without any consistent assistance, but while Ray Cummins and Mick Malone look their scores well, the whole Cork attack seemed to be thrown out of gear once Martin Coogan came in, and they failed to raise a flag through the last 25 minutes of this sensational game.

Finally, a word of heartfelt thanks to both teams for putting hurling back on its pinnacle. for giving us the greatest final since 1947 (yesterday's match may have been even greater, except in the closeness of the finish, to that classic 25 years ago which Kilkenny won by a point) and for doing so without a single significant unsporting incident from either side, despite a little first-half testiness.

HURLING, THIS MORNING, IS MORE DEEPLY THAN EVER IN DEBT TO THE MEN OF CORK AND KILKENNY.

Scorers: Kilkenny — E. Keher 2-9 L. O'Brien 0-5, F. Cummins 1-0, P. Delaney 0-3, M. Crotty 0-2, K. Purcell 0-2, P. Henderson 0-1, J. Kinsella 0-1, M. Murphy 0-1.

Cork— R. Cummin 2-3, M. Malone 2-1, S. O'Leary 1-1, C. McCarthy 0-4, C. Roche 0-2.

KILKENNY—N Skehan (Capt): P. Larkin, P. Dillon, J. Treacy: P. Lawlor, P. Henderson, E. Morrissey, P. Moran, F. Cummins, M. Crotty. P. Delaney, J. Kinsella, E. Byrne, K. Purcell E. Keher. Subs. — M. Murphy for Byrne at half-time, M. Lawlor for Larkin 49 mins, P. Moran for Kinsella 74 mins.

Cork—P. Barry. A. Maher. P. McDonnell. B. Murphy: F. Nurberg; (Capt), S. Looney. C. Roche. J. McCarthy, D. Coughlan, G. McCarthy, M. Malone P. Hegarty, C. McCarthy, R. Cummins, S. O'Leary.

Subs — T. O'Brien for Norberg 36 mins ». D. Collins for Hegarty - 70 mins.

Referee: M. Spain, Offaly.

KILKENNY COMEBACK SHATTERS CORK

DRAMATIC CHANGE IN SPECTACULAR FINAL

THE MOST ASTONISHING feature of this classic All Ireland hurling final at Croke Park yesterday was not the defeat of firm favourites Cork, but the way in which Kilkenny won. Cork's failure to justify their rating, especially after a convincing display in the first half, was indeed surprising, but the dramatic change in the course of the game early in the second half, was totally unpredictable. Spirited Kilkenny, eight points behind in the 56th minute, somehow managed to reassert themselves with superlative hurling from the defence and inspired forward play. And, amazingly, they were winners by seven points at the end.

Perhaps it was Kilkenny's greater experience; perhaps Cork became complacent too soon. But, whatever the explanation, Cork declined steadily after Eddie Keher netted a 2L yards free in the 58th minute and midfielder Frank Cummins hit the equalising goal seven minutes later. For the first time in the game, Kilkenny's superiority was unchallenged, except for determined but disorganised Cork forward movements and heroic clearing from Con Roche.

From Cork's point of view, this superiority increased at an alarming rate, so much so that a team which looked potential winners for three quarters of a game was shattered at the end. Yet, by any reckoning, it is still hard to reason how Cork faded so quickly. They had led by two points at half-time (2-8 to 0-12), allowed Kilkenny to come level in the first five minutes of the second half and with three goals in the space of seven minutes took a commanding lead. And they remained in front until the 65th minute.

A number of factors were, however, vital. On Kilkenny's side, these were the powerful play of Pat Henderson at centre-back, the excellence of Noel Skehan in goal, their gradual takeover at midfield, and the combined results of the switch of Eddie Keher to the wing and the dominance of Pat Delaney. From Cork's point of view, the lessening in the threat from Ray Cummins when moved to centre-forward, their failure to either

improve their position at midfield or control the flow of play down the centre, were fatal, especially when there were obvious alternatives open to the selectors. But there was never any hint of this collapse given in the first half, when Cork probably had a slight edge but were never allowed to go too far ahead on the scoreboard.

Ray Cummins hit a brilliant goal in the fourth minute, after Mick Crotty pointed to give Kilkenny the first score. But it was obvious from an early stage that the Cork attack was up against a formidable defence. For instance, Cummins' success against Pa Dillon was contrasted by the lack of progress which Mick Malone made against the tenacious Pat Henderson. And without this thrust from Malone, the Cork attack was missing much of its power, even though Gerald McCarthy and Pat Hegarty won possession on the wings regularly enough to supply the front line trio.

However, Sean O'Leary could make little or no impression on Fan Larkin, and Charlie McCarthy's impact on the game was little until he swapped with Malone in the 17th minute. In the centre of the field, Denis Cughlan was the dominant figure and was well over a strangely subdued Frank Cummins. And, while Liam O'Brien won a fair share of possession on the other side, Justin McCarthy hurled consistently enough over the 40 minutes to give the Munster champions a slight edge here.

Kilkenny had little enough to offer by way of concerted forward movements, but on occasions they were helped by hesitancy among the Cork backs. Crotty got only a limited number of opportunities from tearaway Roche, over the 30 minutes Cork's outstanding player, and even though Cork's captain Frank Norberg was obviously not able to play up to standard, he was able to restrict John Kinsella on the left wing.

Significantly, in the centre Seamus Looney was quite successful against Pat Delaney, although he resorted very much to fouling on occasions to stop him, and there was no change in

the balance of power when Delaney went to full-forward late in the first half and Looney followed him.

Inside, the Cork full-back trio of Brian Murphy, Pat McDonnell and Tony Maher, were well over their opposite numbers, with Maher out-hurling and outsmarting Keher in impressive fashion, and Murphy experiencing no difficulty in handling strong man Ned Byrne.

But the major fault with the defence as a whole was that it conceded frees too frequently, and this is instanced by the fact that Kilkenny scored seven of their twelve first-half points from placed balls.

Cork's rate, of progress was slow enough until after Charlie McCarthy and Malone swapped positions. The teams were level for the second time in the 24th minute, but once Cork took the lead with a point from Malone, they stayed in front until the interval. However, while Kilkenny's scoring may not have been impressive in comparison, it was still sufficient to maintain the pressure on the favourites.

But for the continuing excellence of Kilkenny captain Noel Skehan in goal, Cork would definitely have been in a more commanding position before half-time. Skehan deprived Malone alone of two certain goals in the 28th and 33rd minutes, and these were just two of a variety of saves he brought off.

He was beaten, however, by Malone — now using his speed and ball control to make progress against Jim Treacy — in the 31st minute, when the Cork forward's shot from the left wing seemed to be diverted in by Cummins. In fact the ball went straight from Malone's shot, but undoubtedly the brilliant Cork full-forward helped by unsighting the 'keeper.

Kilkenny were deprived of a goal at a stage in the game when they needed one, in the 36th minute, when Crotty's shot came out off the right upright and Cork were maybe a little lucky to be still in front at half-time by two points. Still, they were hurling confidently enough to have been further ahead.

The second half was only 20 seconds old when Cork came near to snatching a third goal. Again it was the great anticipation of Skehan in goal which stopped a palmed ball from Malone, after he had weaved his way past Henderson. Malone, now back at centre-forward, had the beating of Henderson for the first time in the game, and the result was that the Cork full forward line looked much more dangerous in possession. It was Skehan again in the 48th minute, saving this time from a low free from Charlie McCarthy, but, in endeavouring to clear on the right side of the goal, he lost possession. Sean O'Leary quickly saw an opening, found Malone unmarked at the edge of the square, and Skehan was not back in time to attempt a save. O'Leary followed up quickly with a point, and Cummins had another to put Cork in front by five points.

Five minutes later Keher had his first point from play — an indication of the close marking of Maher up to then — and in the 54th minute he scored a real opportunist goal. Midfielder O'Brien placed him near the sideline about 35 yards out on the left, and in one movement he had grabbed the ball and beaten Maher on the turn. To his surprise his high shot was helped into the net by Paddy Barry, (the Cork 'keeper's only real mistake of the match, incidentally).

While it didn't appear so then, that goal was to prove a vital score in bringing about the downfall of Cork.

It certainly didn't look that way when Charlie McCarthy flicked a long ball into Curnmins's hands and the Blackrock man palmed a goal 30 seconds after Keher's, and when O'Leary goaled from the edge of the square a minute later. This score was a reward for the work-rate of Charlie McCarthy, who dispossessed Skehan near the left goal-line and then made the opening for O'Leary.

Cork's lead was then increased to eight points with a great long-range; point from Roche, scored from inside his own half of the field. The time of this score is significant, - the 17th minute of the second half, since it was to prove Cork's last of the game. Once again Henderson took over at centre-back and remained in control after Ray Cummins was switched out from full-forward. Inside, Malone didn't have any more success on Dillon. Kilkenny assumed almost complete

control in defence once Henderson's dominance was complemented by the powerful play of corner men Treacy and substitute Martin Coogan, who came in for the injured Larkin shortly after the resumption.

Coughlan didn't yield his supremacy to Frank Cummins until the last 20 minutes, but the Blackrock star's recovery of form was very evident as he soloed through an open Cork defence to goal in the 65th minute, and level the game.

Justin McCarthy lacked the pace to match the rampant O'Brien, and, while the switch of Gerald McCarthy to the middle had worked for a while, there was no improvement when Justin reverted midway through the second half.

Keher, now operating on the left wing against Ted O'Brien, who had come on for Norberg in the 36th minute, regained the lead for Kilkenny in the 67th minute, and as far as Cork were concerned that was the beginning of the end. O'Brien had plenty of success on Keher and cleared regularly, while Roche's wholehearted hurling remained the only real inspiration for a flagging Cork. In the centre, however, Delaney won possession regularly and Looney was helpless to stop him steamrolling through.

SUPREME TEAM EFFORT

On reflection, it was really the supreme team effort of Kilkenny, brought about by the excellence of the players referred to, which began to topple Cork. The favourites just were not able to stem the tide once it had turned, although there was always the chance that, with the Kilkenny lead at three points with ten minutes to go, Cork could have produced an equalising goal. But, even though they made the openings, they were continually foiled by sustained defensive, covering.

Once the time began to tick away, Kilkenny added four extra points, and it was obvious that Cork were not going to come back. Donal Collins was somewhat successful when introduced at left half-forward for Hegarty (whom I thought was doing quite well up to then) but John Rothwell came on too late to achieve anything.

Cork can learn much from this upset — just like Kilkenny undoubtedly learned from last year's defeat.



**1 August 2022; Killian Phelan of Kilkenny after winning the M. Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Poc Fada Finals at Cooley Mountains in Louth.
Photo by Harry Murphy/Sportsfile
Killian will be presented to the crowd at today's game.**



**1972 Panel members not included in team photos in this book.
Nicky Orr, Senan Cooke, Paddy Moran, Ollie Walsh**

HOME ARE THE HEROES!



Kilkenny's senior and minor hurlers last night came home to the biggest reception for an All Ireland hurling squad ever seen in the city. And with them was yet another recently crowned county champion handballer Paddy O'Reilly, who on Saturday won the All Ireland junior

softball championship.

When the teams arrived at the Parade on floats led by St. Patrick's band, and majorettes some 15,000 wildly-cheering supporters had assembled for the civic reception by the Mayor, Aid. Kieran Crotty, T.D. and members of the Corporation.

The Mayor congratulated the teams on their wonderful double in Croke Park. He said they had seen hurling played as it should be - hurling that is peculiar to a Cork-Kilkenny clash, and he congratulated Cork on the manly sporting spirit in which they accepted defeat.

Fr. T. Maher, trainer of the senior team, said he had no hesitation in saying that, of their encounters with Cork since 1939, Sunday's was the greatest final, and the man who captained the Kilkenny team in 1939, Jimmy Walsh, agreed with him. Jimmy told him they 'would now have to play an entirely different game, a faster and more scientific game.

Cork had perfected that game. Fr. Maher said, but Kilkenny had perfected it slightly better. "People say the association and hurling are in dire straits, but those who saw the games on Sunday and witnessed the massive attendance at the reception here tonight, will have to change their minds; "Not even the Church nor any of the politicians could draw a crowd like this.", he declared

County Secretary, Paddy Grace, was loud in his praise for the Senior team. In reference to the Minors he pointed out that the minor selectors had travelled the county this year to find the best in minor hurlers and thanks was due to them for their magnificent selection.

Mr Grace then referred to the part played in the minor training and selection by Rev Dermot Healy, St John's, and by Sean Leahy. He also thanked Michael Lanigan, Fr Tommy Maher, Dr Kieran Cuddihy and Dr John Hindle

Mr Michael O'Neill said they had grabbed two of the greatest victories in the history of Kilkenny hurling. "Last year we stood on the same platform and promised we would be back this year with two cups and we did"

He said they should not forget the gallant men of Cork, who took their defeat like gentlemen. He added that it took two great teams to make a great final, but on Sunday they had four great teams and every honour was

due to the Cork players for their part in making this one of the greatest games of all time. He hoped that when Kilkenny's turn came they would be able to accept defeat in the same spirit.

He also reminded supporters that Paddy O'Reilly (St Mary's) had won a Junior All Ireland handball title. Mayor Crotty joined in complimenting Paddy O'Reilly on his wonderful victory.

Mr O'Neill thanked Smithwicks Brewery for the victory platform and Gardai and Fire Brigade and for their services.

Noel Skehan, goalkeeper and captain of the senior team said it was a marvellous night for everyone in Kilkenny city and county. He paid tribute to Father Maher and Mick Lanigan, whom, he said, really won the All Ireland for them.

Brian Cody, captain of the minor team said it was a _ fantastic night for him. He congratulated Cork on their wonderful minor team.

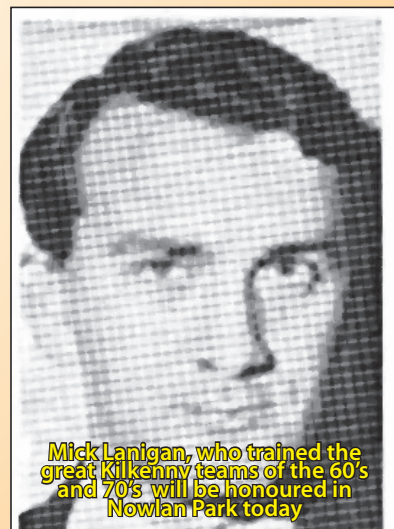
Eddie Keher said this was the best night ever for Kilkenny, and he thanked all who had turned out for the reception.

Substitute Ollie Walsh and defender Nick Orr received a great reception when they were introduced.

Mr Michael Lanigan, team trainer thanked both teams for the work they put into training right through the year. "People said Kilkenny were an old team and that they were going to be beaten", he pointed out "but when Kilkenny got into an all Ireland final they were going to fight and no other team in the world would fight as well as they did".

Senator Sean Walsh, Chairman, brought good wishes on behalf of the Kilkenny Association in Dublin.

Finally Aid Crotty paid tribute to St Patrick's brass and reed band and majorettes who met the team at the Railway station.



Mick Lanigan, who trained the great Kilkenny teams of the 60's and 70's will be honoured in Nowlan Park today

AND HANDBALL TOO!

ALTHOUGH it was our senior and minor hurlers who set the county ablaze last weekend with their All Ireland victories, the first All Ireland success of the weekend was scored by the brilliant St Mary's handballer, P. O'Reilly in the JSBS final at Croke Park when he totally demolished the highly rated Paddy Walsh of Sligo.

Highly rated Walsh certainly was. He had brilliant victories in Connacht and over the Munster champions to win his way to three All Ireland junior finals this year.

Kilkenny were warned on Saturday by people who had seen him in action that O'Reilly was in for a hiding and could forget about victory. But Kilkenny were happy that Reilly was at last fully fit and really on his game.

ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere was razor-keen as Joe Lynch announced the players. The big Kilkenny contingent supporters from Clogh, Kilfane, Ullard, St Canice's, Talbot's Inch, as well as St Mary's — roared approval when 'Paddy O'Reilly, Kilkenny' was called.

Referee Pakie Hoare from Roscommon flipped the coin, Walsh from Sligo called incorrectly and Reilly took his place between the lines.

He tossed a high ball, Walsh returned it and Reilly stroked the ball to the butt with his left. He tossed again, Walsh returned it and raced in expecting a kill, but the cute Reilly played a passing shot down the right. The third ace was won by a kill in the right — a shot which was to subsequently dominate the game — and Walsh failed to return a beautifully timed lob toss — another shot which was much in evidence. So Reilly was 4-0 up.

The Sligoman failed to score and two more immaculate lob-tosses left Reilly six up before Walsh got in for another score- less hand. Now Reilly was really on the march and there was no stopping him.



He tossed 7 aces in the next hand; a further 6 aces in the fifth hand and finished the game with two great kills in the right. He needed a mere 6 hands in 10 minutes to go one game up. The Sligoman's score? - Nil. He simply couldn't score on O'Reilly.

We expected the Sligoman to turn on the style in the second game. He tried hard — after three hands each Reilly led 6-4. After another hand apiece, it was 8-6 for the Kilkenny player; then 9-6 with his 6th hand. Reilly went to town again to add 6 aces to his total.

He relaxed somewhat then— he needed a further 7 hands to toss the necessary 6 aces, but there was no doubt as to who was king.

The St Mary's stylist was the picture of fitness and the way he moved to good shots from Walsh was a joy to watch. He killed confidently and often used the lob toss to perfection.

As Joe Jennings said as he presented him with his all Ireland shield — "I have no doubt but he'll be back as a senior".

ALMOST TWO

Jim Bourke (St Mary's) and Jim McEvoy (Talbot's Inch) almost made it two All Irelands on Saturday. They faced last year's JSBD winners, John Kirby and Michael Hogan of Clare.

After an even start, the Clare duo pulled ahead to win the first game 21-12. The start of the second game was just as even as the first and then, suddenly, the Kilkenny pair appeared to realise that they were just as good as their much vaunted opponents.

They plugged away, with Jim Bourke now killing well as was Jim McEvoy all through. Two terrible decisions gave Clare two aces when it should have been a hand out but a 21-19 victory in the second game gave Clare the title.

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE 1972 PANEL



Ollie Walsh
RIP 1996



Liam "Chunky" O'Brien
RIP 2021



Pat Delaney
RIP 2013



Pa Dillon
RIP 2013

KILKENNY'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS 1972

Senior Hurling	Fenians, 3-10	Bennettsbridge, 1-6.
Junior Hurling	Graignamanagh 2-12	Emeralds 3-5.
Under 21 Hurling	B Shamrocks 7-9	Jas Stephens 5-13
Minor Hurling	O'Loughlin's 4-7	R-Inistioge 1-6
Under 16 H	Thomastown 4-7	St Lachtain's 4-6
Under 14 H	Inistioge 8-5,	St. Patrick's 7-3.
Senior Football	Railyard 2-10,	Clann Na Gael 0-9
Junior Football	Graignamanagh 1-8,	Barrowmount 0-5
Minor Football	The Village 3-5,	Graignamanagh 1-2
Under 16 Football	Thomastown 3-6,	Mooneenroe 0-4
Under 14 Football	St. Patrick's 2-5,	Ballyhale 1-2

KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD OFFICERS 1972

COUNTY BOARD

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Michael O' Neill</i>	<i>Kilmacow</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Paddy Grace</i>	<i>Dicksboro</i>
<i>Central Council</i>	<i>Nicholas Purcell</i>	<i>Graigie</i>
<i>Leinster Council</i>	<i>Bob Aylward</i>	<i>Knockmoylan</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Liam Moore</i>	<i>Kilkenny</i>

FOOTBALL BOARD

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Mick Meally</i>	<i>Railyard</i>
<i>Vice chairman</i>	<i>Francis O'Brien</i>	<i>Kilmoganny</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Seamus Delaney</i>	<i>Clann na Gael</i>

NORTHERN BOARD

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Edward Curran</i>	<i>Urlingford</i>
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Liam Ryan</i>	<i>Clara</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>John Ivory</i>	<i>Lisdowney</i>

SOUTHERN BOARD

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Kevin Fennelly</i>	<i>Shamrock</i>
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Martin Forristal</i>	<i>Glenmore</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Joe Walsh</i>	<i>Thomastown</i>

UNDER 16 BOARD

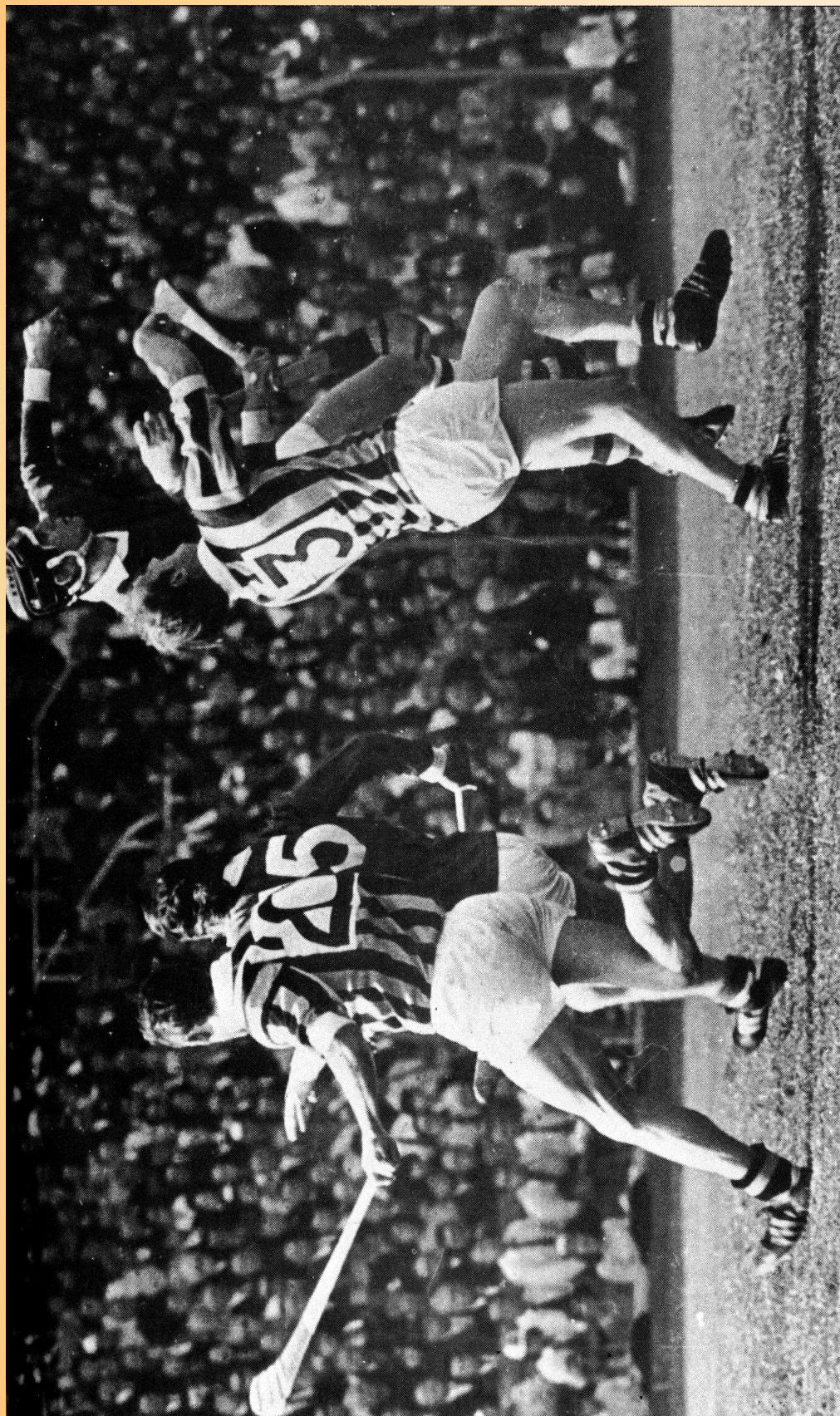
<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Tom Brennan</i>	<i>Clara</i>
<i>Vice-chairman</i>	<i>Sean Leahy</i>	<i>James Stephens</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Kevin Hennessy</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>

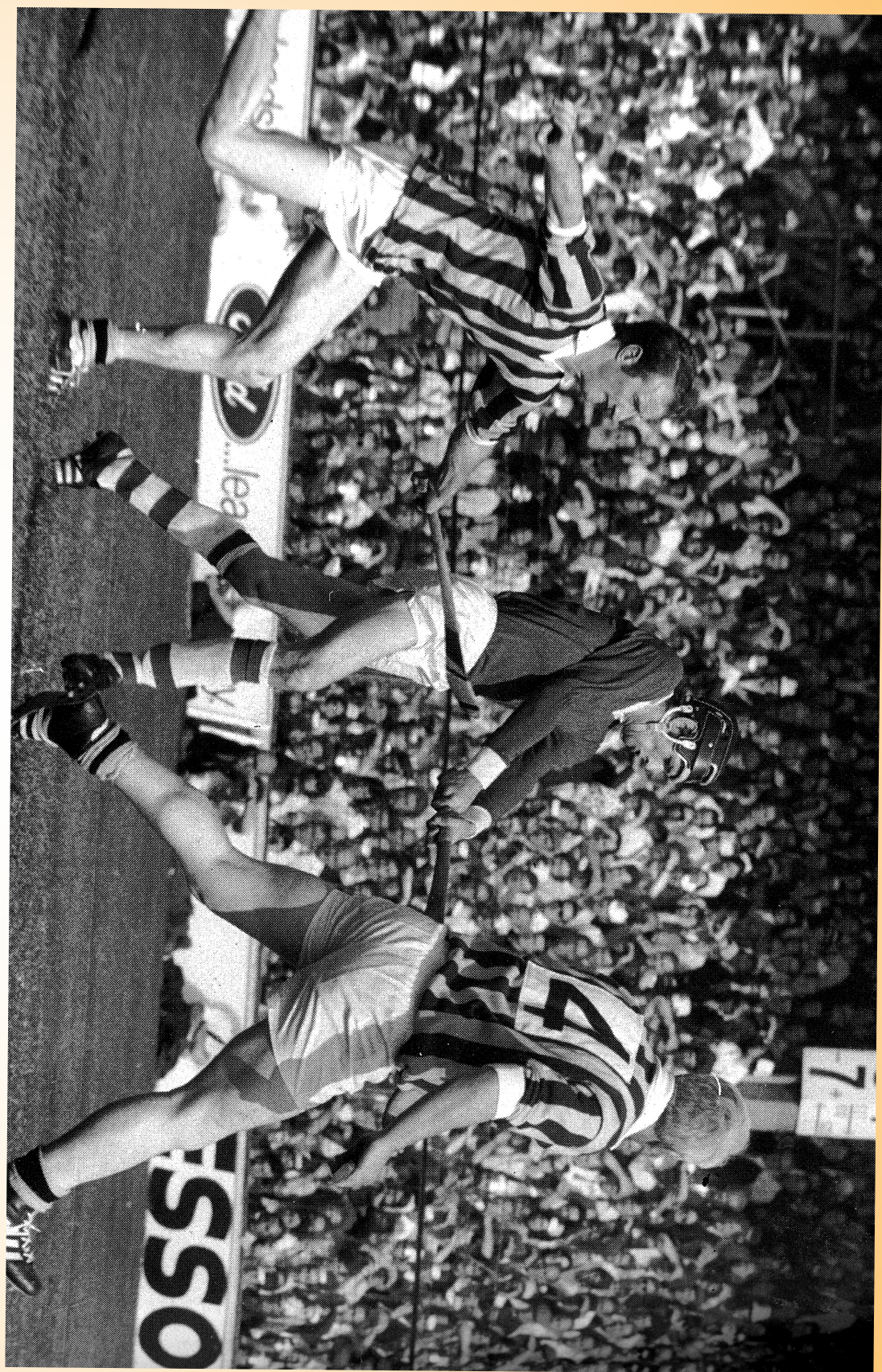
SCHOOLS BOARD

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Joe Dunphy</i>	<i>Ballyhale</i>
<i>Vice-chairman</i>	<i>Richie Walsh</i>	<i>Clara</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Tom Waldron</i>	<i>Freshford</i>

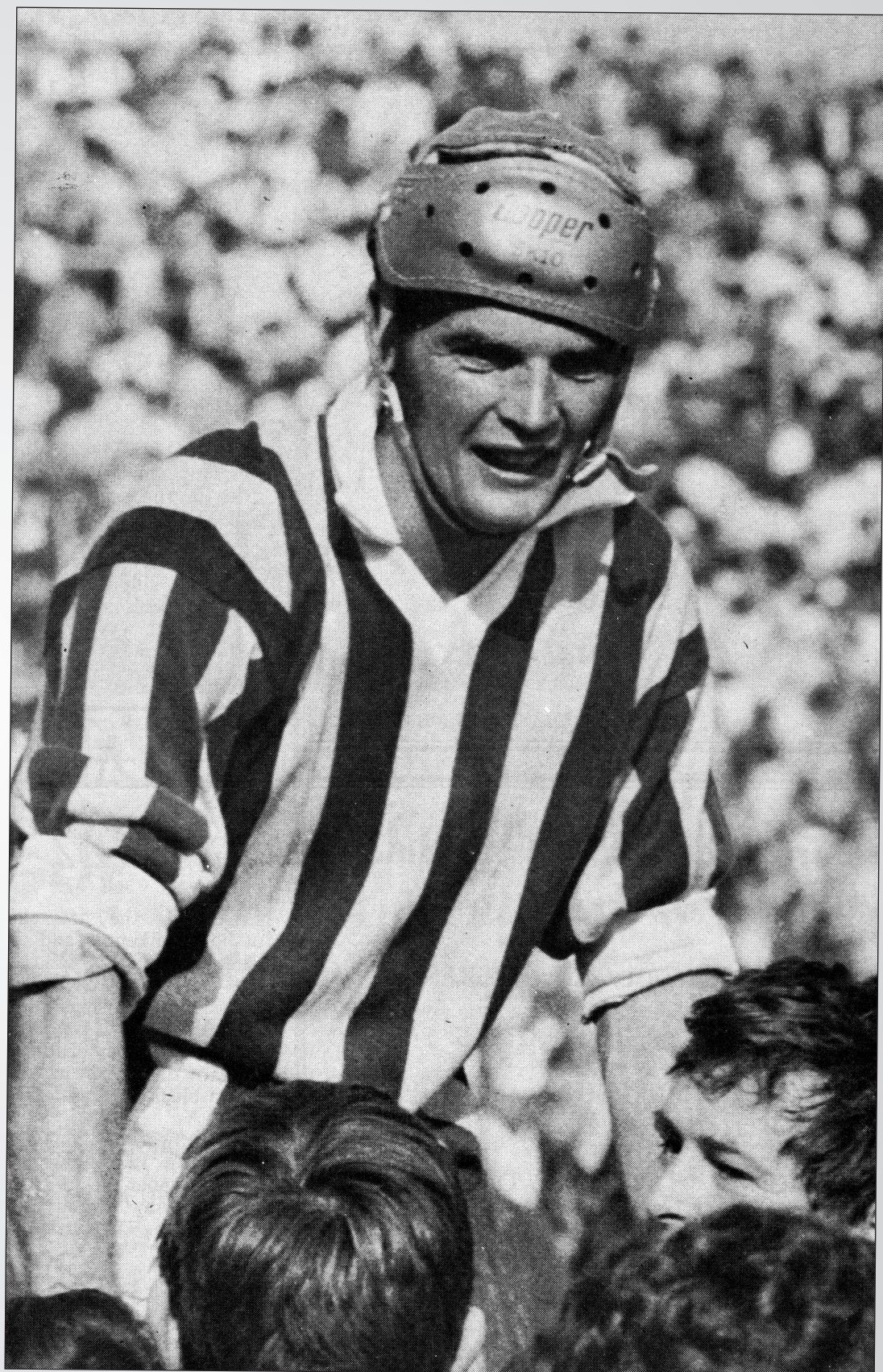
KILKENNY'S NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE RESULTS 1971/72

10 October 1971	Kilkenny	2-16	2-10	Tipperary
24 October 1971	Limerick	4-8	3-7	Kilkenny
7 November 1971	Kilkenny	2-18	2-8	Cork
21 November 1971	Offaly	1-6	0-16	Kilkenny
5 December 1971	Kilkenny	1-14	1-9	Wexford
13 February 1972	Dublin	0-10	5-10	Kilkenny
5 March 1972	Clare	3-16	4-7	Kilkenny
9 April 1972	Quarter-final	Waterford	3-10	Kilkenny
23 April 1972	Semi-final	Limerick	3-13	Kilkenny
7 May 1972	Final	Cork	3-14	Limerick











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**
- 2018 James Stephens Senior Hurling Team 1969**
- 2019 Fenians Senior Hurling Team 1970**

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.



EVERY DAY.... GREAT FOOD

Carvery Served

Monday to Saturday 12:30 - 3:30pm

Sunday 12 - 4pm



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