

Remembering *The Fenians* County Senior Hurling Champions of **1970**



*Souvenir Booklet recalling
The Fenians' 1970 County Senior Hurling Championship victory,
on the occasion of the team's reception by Coiste Co Chill Chainnigh,
at the 2019 County SH Final.*

NOWLAN PARK, OCTOBER 27th, 2019





FENIANS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1970



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FÁILTE

Tá aithis an domhain orm, ar son Cumann Luthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh, to welcome in conjunction with the Springhill Court Hotel, the Fenians side who were the Senior Hurling champions of 1970 back to Nowlan Park. County Final Day takes place in a vastly changed setting that we are now delighted to call UPMC Nowlan Park. It brings back memories of the great days and games and the Fenians Jubilee team that made the breakthrough have long being an integral part of hurling folklore across the country.

An lá iontach mór sin the Fenians side, after just one year in the Junior grade with a County championship final win over Glenmore went straight on to a Senior Semi Final win over Mooncoin. This first effort fell short at the last hurdle. However, lessons were learned as the side arrived straight back on a mission for their second senior county final appearance of the year. In a pulsating tie in front of a crowd of almost 12,000 the underdogs overturned the James Stephens side who had only recently secured the Tom Walsh Cup after a break of thirty two years, by 2-11 to 3-5.

For many who wondered where the new side came from so suddenly and so strongly there was no need. Just two centuries earlier in 1772 the Dubliners Gazette stated Hurling was played on Ballyspellan Spa and later in the area for big purses. At the County's first GAA convention in 1887 the parish had entered two of the affiliated fifteen teams. They came from Crosspatrick and Johnstown, who were later the Senior winners in 1914. In addition the area around the Kilkenny, Laois, and Tipperary border was a hotbed for the ancient game with tournaments attracting crowds of up to ten thousand.

Before the parish rule in 1954 sports like football, cricket and golf were played as the local players lined out with teams that included Beggar, Baile Bee, Horse and Jockey, Tullaroan, Galmoy and Urlingford. When the inspirational name "The Fenians" was selected on the back of a successful under twenty one team, linking the legendary warriors of old and the centenary of the Fenians rising in 1867, it was cemented by "nine roots of ash" from both the St. Kierans, St Finbars clubs and there was no looking back.

After just two years on the road the Fenians were back in the Senior Final and considered as rank outsiders to most hurling supporters as the Champions from the Village had overcome the form teams of Mooncoin the Rower Inistioge and Bennettsbridge in close games. Despite this, a win over Gowran set the scene. This time, the result was reversed, and the story of this victory can be read in the following pages.

With their famous 2-11 to 3-5 victory The Fenians arrival created a new era on Kilkenny Hurling's roll of honour as they amassed five senior hurling titles in eight years including a three in a row from 1972 to 1974. Over the following period they supplied many inter county stars and, with James Stephens became the new kingpins, before the baton was taken on by another new side from Ballyhale Knocktopher and Knockmoylan.

Sadly Pat Delaney, Seamus Grace, Tommy O'Connell, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Eoin Behan, Mick Gannon, Jimmy Ryan and selector Eddie Curran of the historic team are no longer with us and are fondly recalled.

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 Ned Buggy, Peter Conroy, and Gerry O'Neill for their work in researching and producing this souvenir booklet.

Sa deireadh, comhghairdeas is extended to the Fenians team that brought the first County senior title to the club in 1970. It was a great achievement that was built on and led to a dominance that extended down through the years. However, its real legacy saw a never say die resilience being built into the DNA of Na Finíní Bhaile Sheáin that has seen the teams from Jim Maher Park take the match spoils where many others would have failed.

*Seamus Breathnach,
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.*

Living in Kilkenny for over 12 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 Fenians, Senior Hurling County Champions 1970.

The Springhill Court Hotel has been working with Kilkenny GAA and honoured many famous teams over the past 25 years.

I would like to congratulate The Fenians, Senior Hurling County Champions 1970 and hope they have an enjoyable reunion day and I'm sure many stories will be shared again of the famous day 49 years ago.

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

*Emma – Jayne Eaton
General Manager
Springhill Court Hotel*



Acknowledgement.

The programme committee wish to thank the following for their help and co-operation in compiling this souvenir programme:- Staff Kilkenny Library Research Centre, "Fenian Lore", and the Kilkenny People, whose match reports are used throughout.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The extraordinary rise of the Fenian Hurling team which culminated in five County SH titles between 1970 and 1977 can be traced to the County JH title victory of 1968, or even perhaps to the success of the Johnstown MH team of 1960 which reached the County Final of that year only to be beaten by Mooncoin in a replay.

A NEW CLUB IS FORMED

Johnstown's glorious run in the 1960 minor hurling championship was reflected in their representation on the Kilkenny minor teams of 1960 and 1961. Pat Delaney was on the panel in 1960, Pat Henderson was centre back in 1961, with Willie Waltson also on the panel. But for the club, there followed a series of barren years in which it failed to proceed beyond the first round of the junior championship. Hurling folk followed Pat Henderson's career on the Kilkenny senior hurling team and rejoiced when he won his first senior All-Ireland medal in 1967. In 1966, Johnstown mustered a formidable junior hurling team around Pat Henderson, with Pat Delaney, Seamus Grace, Frank Holohan and Nicky Orr in support. However, in a controversial ending to a championship game against Coon, in which the referee added on an extra eight minutes, Johnstown were defeated by a single point. Arising from recriminations immediately following the game, and much as happened in 1959, a group of players and others broke away and again entered a separate team in 1967, known as St. Finbarr's. There were two teams in the parish that year, St. Kieran's and St. Finbarr's. Neither progressed further than the first round, St Kierans being defeated by Coon and St Finbarrs by Conahy. Prospects were bleak but a new dawn was heralded by the progress of the U-21 team that same year. The U-21 team of 1967 was drawn from players of both clubs in the parish. Unburdened by the animosity between the two clubs, the players soon formed into a closely knit unit and there was great spirit in the team. The whole parish, long starved of success, rallied behind the players. Early victories over Ballyragget and Freshford led to a showdown with Coon in the Northern Final. In a torrid match, Johnstown emerged victorious and qualified for this first ever U-21 Final against a Bennettsbridge team that had Pat Lalor, John Kinsella and Pat Kealy in its ranks. The Johnstown players may have felt overawed playing against a club with such an exalted tradition and it was also their first game in Nowlan Park. In any event, the team did not achieve the fluency of earlier games and victory went to Bennettsbridge. The team was: Michael Dowling, P. J. Ryan, Billy Tobin, Richard Dowling, Shem Delaney, Nicky Orr, Diarmuid Broderick, Joe Burke, Fergus Farrell, Laddy

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THE FOUNDING OF THE FENIANS

The achievement of the U-21 team signalled that the best prospects of a bright future in Johnstown hurling lay in a single unified team drawn from the whole parish. Nobody doubted that the parish had fine hurlers in Pat Henderson, Pat Delaney, Willie Watson, Séamus Grace, Jim Maher, Pat Murphy and Micky Carroll. It was felt that a team containing these players and supplemented by the up and coming U-21 players would make a bold bid for the Junior Championship. On the 16 March 1968, the Fenians' Hurling Club was formed. Here is the text of the minutes of the 1st annual general meeting.

"At an extraordinary general meeting in the C.Y.M.S. Hall Johnstown on March 16th 1968 between the St. Finbarrs club and the Johnstown club, a new club was formed. It was called The Fenian Hurling Club. Rev. Fr. Malone was unanimously elected as Chairman. Paul Skehan, Michael Gannon, Paddy Henderson (Ballyspellan), James Ryan, Edward Curran, Pat Henderson were elected committee members. The committee was elected as follows;

The Finbarr's club picked three members two from the Johnstown club and one from their own and the Johnstown club did likewise. The committee was to have full authority for the administration of the club - selection of teams etc. It was proposed to purchase a new set of jerseys which would be the property of the committee. The committee was left with authority to name the club, select jerseys and raise funds. It was agreed that training would alternate between the sportsfield and Dwan's field every second week. The members of the Johnstown club were to provide nine roots of ash as members of the Finbarr's Club already had a similar number. These were to be used to provide hurleys for the club."

Proposed by: Ed Curran. Rev. Fr. Malone. CC,

Seconded by: P. Fitzpatrick.



COUNTY JH FINAL 1968

FIRST JUNIOR HURLING TITLE FOR JOHNSTOWN *(Kilkenny People)*

Fenians 5-8 Glenmore 3-4

The Fenians (Johnstown) won their first Junior Hurling county title when they held off a strong challenge from Glenmore, to win by 5-8 to 3-4 in a very entertaining final in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

This game proved a worthy curtain raiser to the senior final. There was not a single incident in the whole hour and the hurling was of a very high standard. Johnstown certainly deserved the victory, which came after a very tough campaign.

Glenmore, with a strong wind in their favour, had the better of things in the first period and looked as if they would upset the fancied Johnstown side when they led by 3-4 to 2-2 at the interval. Chief reason for Glenmore's first half supremacy was their supremacy at midfield, where Seamus Culleton and Willie Fitzgerald had things much their own way.

To add to Johnstown's troubles, Glenmore man Richard Dowling was giving a lot of trouble to their star centre back Pat Henderson.

Glenmore on Top

Glenmore were on top in the first quarter and they lead by 2-3 to 1-1 after 20 minutes of good hard hurling. Johnstown were lucky, however, to be so near the Southerners at this stage as their goal came by way of a '70' from Pat Henderson. Glenmore seemed to lose a grip on the game just before half time and they let the Johnstown forwards through for a goal and a point to leave the half time scores Glenmore 3-4; Johnstown 2-2.

Johnstown Take Over

With a strong wind in their favour in the second period, the Johnstown men began to take over slowly but surely, and at the halfway stage they lead for the first time by 3-6 to 3-4. Once Johnstown got on top there was no stopping them. County player Pat Delaney ran riot and as well as contributing to the scoring himself, he set up some very nice scores for his team mates.

Glenmore did not have the power to last the second half. They lost their grip at midfield, and although they changed the partnership a few times, they could not get back into the game.

While Johnstown totted up 3-6 in the second period Glenmore failed to register a single score.

PJ Ryan in the Johnstown goal had a very good hour and could not be blamed for the shots that beat him. He got good protection from Nicholas Orr, Martin Fitzgerald and Pat Henderson in the second half.

Midfield Revival

Jim Maher and Fergus Farrell at midfield had to play second fiddle to their opponents in the first half but they came more into the game after the interval. Maher especially came to life, and as well as sending some nice balls into the Glenmore goalmouth, he contributed some very well taken long distance points.

Presence Felt

Centre forward Pat Delaney was well held until the second half was about ten minutes old, and then he made his presence felt, when he split the Glenmore defence wide open on several occasions. Billy Watson and F Holohan took their scores very well while Seamus Grace was probably the most industrious of all the forwards. From the very first whistle he worked very

hard and did some very good work in attack as well as helping out the defence on a few occasions.

Overrun

Jim Ryan in the Glenmore goal was just as good as his namesake at the other end. Nicholas Forrestal, Michael Phelan and Johnny Vereker were sound in the defence, which was completely overrun in the closing stages of the game. Seamus Culleton and William Fitzgerald had a powerful game at midfield in the first half. Culleton was really in the centre of attraction here in this half. In the second moiety however, this rock of strength crumbled. Culleton moved into attack at one stage but was moved back to midfield again. But there was just no stopping Johnstown.

Richard Dowling, Martin Cass and John O'Shea were the pick of the forward line. Dowling, who had the mammoth task of marking Pat Henderson, did very well in the first half but faded away after the interval. Cass contributed two well taken goals in the first half.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Richard Dowling opened the Glenmore account after five minutes with a nice point. Three minutes later the same player added a goal. Johnstown's first point came from full forward F Holohan after ten minutes. Pat Henderson put the sides level after 12 minutes when he sent a '70' all the way to the net. Richard Dowling put Glenmore ahead again when he pointed after a very nice solo effort.

Seamus Culleton increased this lead with a point from a free. Within five minutes Martin Cass had two opportunist goals to put Glenmore in a commanding position, just seven minutes before half time. John O'Shea added a further point to leave them ahead by 3-4 to 1-1 after 27 minutes but just after half time Johnstown got within reach of the Southerners. In the 28th minute Pat Delaney pointed from a 21 yard free and just on half time Billy Watson sent a pass from S Grace all the way to the net.

Johnstown go ahead

After eight minutes of the second half, Johnstown were only a goal in arrears. Jim Maher and Michael Garrett scored a point each and minutes later Frank Holohan missed a great chance of levelling the scores when he had the ball in front of the goal with a goal at his mercy, but he shot wide. Jim Maher scored another point for Johnstown after the ball hit the crossbar. Frank Holohan added another before Pat Delaney put the Northern side ahead for the first time, with a goal from 40 yards out, after a good solo run.

Seamus Grace scored another goal for Johnstown a minute later, but this was disallowed. Pat Delaney increased their lead with a point in the 18th minute. Johnstown were completely on top at this stage and Billy Watson added two goals before the end, and F Holohan scored a point to leave Johnstown deserving winners.

Johnstown: PJ Ryan, M. Carroll, N.Orr, M. Fitzgerald, S. Delaney, P. Henderson, P. Murphy, J. Maher, F. Farrell, S. Grace, E. Delaney, D. Walsh, M. Garrett, F. Holohan, B. Watson.

Glenmore: J. Ryan, J. Dowling, N. Forrestal, W. Doherty, M. Cody, M. Phelan, J. Vereker, S. Culleton, W. Fitzgerald, J. Phelan, R. Dowling, P. O'Connor, M. Cass, P. Walsh, J. O'Shea

The referee was Mr. Paddy Johnston.



The Fenians - 1968 Co Junior Hurling Champions

Back: Shem Delaney, Dick Dowling, Patrick Loughlin, Nicky Orr, Billy Watson, Owen Behan, P.J Ryan, Larry Ryan, Mick Carroll, Seamus Grace, Jimmy Tobin, Michael Garrett, Pat Delaney.

Front: Frank Holohan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Feagus Farrell, Jim Maher, Canon Scott, Pat Henderson, Donal Walsh, Pat Murphy .



Johnstown had high hopes for the senior championship of 1969, and why not, they had already beaten a number of very good senior teams in the county. Their forces were augmented in the Spring of that year when Tommy O'Connell, three goal hero for Kilkenny in the 1959 drawn All-Ireland final returned to his roots, and Johnny Moriarty, who was marrying Vera Moriarty, transferred to the Fenians from Gortnahoe.

The latter stages of the championship were delayed until after the All-Ireland final in which Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney starred. The Fenians easily qualified for the semi-final where they met Moincoin. In a hard fought game, Moincoin went seven points clear in the third quarter.

But a final rally from the Johnstown men brought three great goals per Billy Watson, Pat Delaney and Johnny Moriarty - from a pass by Pat Delaney. It was a dramatic denouement to say the least. The Fenians' euphoria at reaching the final was dashed when Mooncoin lodged an objection.

Their objection was completely unfounded. But through an oversight, Johnny Moriarty's name had been incorrectly entered on the 1969 register. The objection was eventually thrown out as it referred to a non-existent

club - "Na Fianna" and not "na Finini", as it should have. This wrangle delayed the county final to the following April and with it went the Fenians' hopes of a senior championship..

The team prepared assiduously for the final. Sgt. Walsh, an uncle of the great Kerry footballer Séan Walsh, helped out with training. James Stephens, after their titanic duels with Bennettsbridge, entered the game as favourites. The Fenians with only one defeat since their formation, were not overawed and their supporters were quietly confident.

Tactically, James Stephens were better prepared, opting to play with a gale force wind at their backs, and having a crack full forward line of Byrne, Leahy and Dunne, their strategy of feeding this line with low ball paid off. Within ten minutes, James Stephens had scored four goals and the game was virtually beyond reach. The Fenians never recovered from this early blitz and could make no impression on the large deficit. The game limped to its inevitable conclusion.

1970, however, was to be a different story.



Fenians 1960 County Minor Finalists

*Back: Andrew Broderick, Dickie Murphy, Pat Delaney, Pat Henderson, Billy Watson, Michael Glendon, Jimmy Renehan, Vincent Fitzgerald.
Front: John Moriarty, Jim Gannon, Eddie Walsh, Sean McGarry, Tommy Watson, Jim Maher, Ken Walsh.*

**1970 COUNTY SH CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPAIGN - ROUND 1****THE FENIANS HAD IT EASY****The Fenians 5-12; Lisdowney 2-8.**

The Fenians (Johnstown) had a clear cut and decisive victory over their neighbours Lisdowney in the senior hurling championship at Freshford and qualified to meet Galmoy at Ballyragget on Sunday.

The Fenians laid the foundations for victory in the first half when aided by the breeze they led by 3-10 to 1-1 at half time. During this half The Fenians produced some delightful hurling as they picked off points from long range and the Lisdowney defenders were forced to foul them on many occasions to prevent goals. It added to Lisdowney's discomfort that at least two of the winners' goals should have been saved.

It was The Fenians who started best in the second half getting two early goals but although Lisdowney came more into the game they could only add a few points as the goal they needed just would not come. Indeed it was left to Ted Carroll

defence to score half goal with a by then it was too trend of the game.

PJ Ryan was good goal while Pat was outstanding getting most support from them

to come up from the losers' second powerful shot but late to affect the

in the winners' Henderson in defence

from

Delaney

a n d newcomer Dick who came on for Seamus Grace. ably assisted by gave The Fenians of the midfield Pat Delaney was player on view to think what accomplished of lesser ability He got most Moriarty and Ted Carroll

Dowling the injured Mick Garrett, Donal Walsh, a liberal share play. easily the best and one shudders he might have against a defender than Ted Carroll. assistance from John Frank Holohan. played his heart out



TED CARROLL & MICK GARRETT

for the losers and scored a very good goal. Con Fogarty and Paddy Bergin gave him most support in defence. The Fogarty brothers Jim and Mick at midfield played a fine hour but the attack lacked penetration and best in this sector were Dick Blanchfield, M. Mackey and Jimmy Skehan.

The Fenians: PJ Ryan, S. Delaney, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, R. Dowling, P. Henderson, P. Murphy, M. Garrett, D. Walsh, P. Broderick, P. Delaney, J. Moriarty, T. O'Connell, F. Holohan, W. Watson, sub M. Carroll for Watson.

Lisdowney: T. Bowe, J. Fogarty, B. Drennan, P. Bergin, C. Fogarty, T. Carroll, T. Farrell, J. Fogarty, M. Fogarty, M. Mackey, J. Skehan, R. Mackey, R. Blanchfield, M. Blanchfield, J. Dowling. subs F. Purcell for D. Farrell, Mick Carroll for J. Dowling, J. Dunne for R. Mackey.



1970 COUNTY SH CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPAIGN - ROUND 2

CLOSE CALL FOR THE FENIANS

The Fenians 1-12 Galmoy 1-8

THE FENIANS (Johnstown) qualified for the county senior hurling championships semi-final in which they meet Young Irelands (Gowran) as a result of their four points victory (1-12 to 1-8) over their neighbours Galmoy at Ballyragget on Sunday.

Played in ideal weather before a big attendance the game never really came up to expectations and it was only the closeness of the scoring - there was never more than three points between the sides that kept interest alive. True, there were good passages of hurling but generally there was much fumbling and mis-hitting.

This was a game that Galmoy could and should have won. They were a point behind at half time (1-7 to 1-6) and in the second half they dominated things in every sector of the field except in the vital task of scoring.

With only two points separating the sides Galmoy laid siege to The Fenian's goal and PJ Ryan in the winners' goal came to his side's rescue on a number of occasions. Galmoy forwards missed at least two chances for goals and numerous points from both play and frees. The Fenians came back into the game in the closing stages to clinch the issue with two points.

The game started half an hour late due to the fact that The Fenians arrived without their jerseys and had to go back to Johnstown for them.

The Fenians will have to improve on this display if they hope to reach the county final for the second year in succession.

PJ Ryan was outstanding in goal and saved his side with some fine saves. Shem Delaney was easily the best of the winners' backs making many fine clearances while Nicky Orr also impressed on the full back line. Pat Henderson had a very quiet hour and found it hard to cope with the speed of Billy Harte.

Newcomer Dick Dowling was best of the half backs. Mick Garrett turned in a fine performance at midfield getting good assistance from Donal Walsh. They held the upper hand in the opening half but faded out of it after the interval. Pat Delaney started as if he was going

to be unstoppable but when Bobby Delaney switched out on him after 15 minutes he was rather subdued and only scored one point to the goal and three points in the first quarter.

John Moriarty tried hard but the full forward line was well held with Willie and Tommy O'Connell only occasionally leaving an imprint on the game.

While Charlie Brennan might have saved the winners' goal, he atoned for this lapse with one fantastic save in the first half. Stephen Delaney at right half was the

best player of the 30 and he fed his forwards with a continual supply. Bobby Delaney performed a great feat for the losers by holding Pat Delaney. Tom Phelan was outstanding on the full back line while Joe Doherty put in some good work but did not seem to do as much as usual and failed to follow up his opponent on occasions in the first half.

Billy Harte was the losers' best forward. Jack Phelan had a great first half but was guilty of some bad misses in the second. "Willo" Phelan played well when he came to midfield in the second half in a switch with Joe Doherty.



PJ RYAN

The Fenians - Pat Delaney (1-4); John Moriarty (0-4); Tommy O'Connell (0-2); Willie Watson (0-1); Pat Broderick (0-1).

Galmoy - Jim Phelan (10); Jack Phelan (0-3); Billy Harte (0-2); Joe Doherty (0-2); Paddy Phelan (0-1).

The Fenians - PJ Ryan, S. Delaney, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, R. Dowling, P. Henderson, P. Murphy, M. Garrett, D. Walsh, J. Moriarty, P. Delaney, P. Broderick, F. Holohan, W. Watson, T. O'Connell, Sub: P. Fitzpatrick for F. Holohan.

Galmoy - C. Brennan, B. Delaney, T. Phelan, T. Doherty, S. Delaney, F. Harte, L. Harte, J. Doherty, S. Doherty, Jack Phelan, W. Harte, W. Phelan, Jim Phelan, J. Dillon, P. Phelan. Subs: L. O'Hanrahan, D. Norton.

Ref - J. Murphy (Tullagher.)



LEAD UP TO THE SEMI-FINALS

SEMI FINALS SHOULD PROVIDE GOOD FARE

Barring a draw Sunday's senior hurling championship semi-final will clear the road for the county final and while both Bennetsbridge and Young Irelands will have something to say on the matter it is not impossible that we will have a repeat of last year's decider between James Stephens the holders and The Fenians.

A lot of the pundits are strongly favouring another James Stephens success but in "The Village" they never count their chickens before they are hatched and all they would like to say for themselves at the moment is that they will be trying all they know and the side that will beat them will have to be fit and full of power.

Our main concern at the moment, however, is with Sunday's double bill at Nowlan Park which brings the title holders and Bennetsbridge into opposition in the first game and The Fenians and Gowran in the second game. Both should provide interesting fare and draw a big crowd.

Having come to the top after many years' hard trying "The Village" have blended together a very useful side. They have a great tradition behind them and hardly anywhere in Ireland is there more enthusiastic support for the national games than in St Patrick's parish, particularly in the area that was originally "The Village."

THREE GAMES

Bennetsbridge and James Stephens played three games last year before the issue was finally settled in favour of James Stephens. Like James Stephens, Bennetsbridge too have an enviable tradition and even if the present side is not quite as formidable as that of a few years ago, they can never be counted out.

Bennetsbridge beat a Castlecomer side that was regarded by many of their supporters as a side with reasonably good prospects, while James Stephens successfully withstood a second half rally by the Rower Inistioge but both Sunday's contestants will be quick to acknowledge that the task they face on Sunday is infinitely harder and whichever comes through will be well on the road to ultimate honours.

In last year's campaign "The Village" proved themselves a well balanced side with slightly more emphasis on the smooth work of their forwards but this year, particularly in the game against the Rower Inistioge, the defence and centre field played a very important part.

Eamon Morrissey has stepped up considerably on performances and the load on Fan Larkin's shoulders has been lightened, but it is fair to say there are no weak links in the defence and the all Larkin full line provides an effective rearguard for the Morrisseys and Mick Leahy.

Their centrefield where Mick Taylor is likely to have Fess Brennan as his partner, making room for Mick Crotty in attack will have a harder task than Bennetsbridge where Paddy Moran is a key man and this is likely to be a very vital test for "The Village" midfield men. If they come through with the same success they achieved against the Rower Inistioge they look like being able to get to the final again.

Mick McCarthy is like to be Paddy Moran's centrefield partner. He is one of the most effective players in the senior championship and seldom comes away from a game without a score. Paddy Kealy and Seamus Cleere on the half back line and Jim Treacy in the full line will allow scope for the wily James Stephens attack to function with the same smoothness which enabled them to build up an early lead in the Thomastown game.

LEADING THE ATTACK

John Kinsella, leading the attack is also a player with a high scoring potential and if the Bennetsbridge men get into their stride early on they will be very hard to hold. This should be quite a game and considering the close struggle which the sides provided last year it would be foolish to hazard an opinion about the outcome.

The Fenians and Gowran are meeting for the first time in a senior championship semi-final. Gowran have been knocking on the door for some years since they entered senior ranks and there's a quiet confidence down there. The Drennans, Paddy Phelan, Andy Comerford and The Dwyers are top class players.



On left - the match ball, grabbed by Captain Pat Henderson in the last puck of the Final.

The Fenians selectors for 1970 were :

Mick Gannon, Eddie Curran, Jimmy Ryan, Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney.



COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

James Stephens in the Final Again James Stephens 2-9 Bennettsbridge 2-5

JAMES STEPHENS are in the Senior championship final for the second year running. They qualified by beating Bennettsbridge 2-9 to 2-5 at Nowlan park on Sunday before an estimated 8,000 crowd. After coming successfully through this stiff test they will be strongly fancied to retain the title. This was a dour, vigorous but highly entertaining confrontation between the sides that played three times last year before 'The Village' ultimately emerged and this was one their stiffest tests since last year.

It is a great tribute to Bennettsbridge that, despite the obvious decline in the wealth of talent that made them such a great side for 20 years, they came up with a side that lost little prestige in defeat and who were counted by many as being rather unlucky not to have been closer at the finish. It was a great victory for 'The Village' and even if the losers did not have all the luck there can be little doubt that the spoils went to where they rightly belonged, hard though they were earned.



Paddy Kealy

GREASY SOD

The greasy sod made hurling difficult and it is to the credit of the two sides that they overcame this handicap to provide the crowd with first class fare. The first half was very exciting with a high standard of hurling and though the pace slackened off somewhat in the third quarter, it came to life again near the end when a Bennettsbridge goal put them within sight of success. The lead was reduced to three points a couple of minutes from the end but the Bridge failed to make the break-through that would put them on level terms and Eddie Byrne, with a point, put the issue beyond doubt. Bennettsbridge lost Seamus Cleere after 20 minutes when he, had to retire with a knee injury. His place was taken by Martin, Treacy.



Sammy Carroll

lead of 3 points (1-5 to 1-2), James Stephens were facing a fairly stiff breeze in the second half and looked like having a fight on their hands. They showed the mettle of champions, however, by keeping and increasing their lead and at the end of the third quarter they were ahead by 2-8 to 1-4.

SCORELESS SPELL

After a long scoreless spell, the 'Bridge struck with a goal and a point, and in this period too, M McCarthy saw his fine effort for a goal go narrowly wide.

The game was a personal triumph for two James Stephens men, Sean Leahy who scored two goals and three points from frees, and Fan Larkin who stood out in a defence that rose to great heights in the closing stages. But James Stephens are nothing if not a well-balanced side and they all played a part. Mick Moore played with more confidence in the goal and Phil and Paddy Larkin were capable flankers for 'Fan' Larkin.



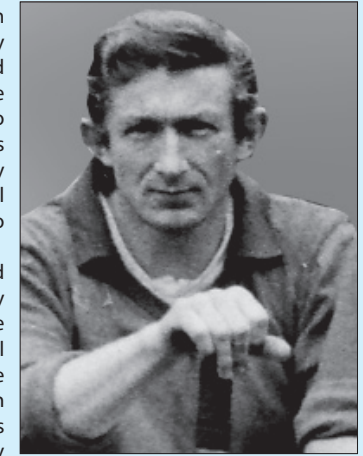
Sean "Georgie" Leahy

Eamonn Morrissey who is developing into a fine player gave another sparkling display and got good help from his brother, Niall, and Mick Leahy.

Mick Taylor and Sean Brennan were struggling for most of the hour to keep pace with Paddy Moran and Mick McCarthy at centrefield, while Mick Crotty - though not as effective as usual - put in a good hour's work in the attack which never sparked as in other games.

Eddie Tallent, Liam O'Brien and Micky Dunne fought hard but the scores were slow in coming. Two goals and five points of the winners' tally came from frees. Niall Morrissey got two from midfield.

Noel Skehan played his customary sound game in the Bennettsbridge goal and had little chance of stopping Sean Leahy's pile-drivers from frees Jim Treacy was the star performer in the defence and held



Phil Larkin

Turning over with a



Eddie Byrne to a single point scored a minute from full time. Pat Lalor was also in brilliant form at left half back, a new role for him, while Paddy Kealy was outstanding at right half, with John Holohan showing up well at centre half.

Paddy Moran and Mick McCarthy were in great form at mid-field and held sway for most of the game. But the 'Bridge attack failed to measure up to the job, and though he showed a few nice touches of the style that made him a match-winner for so long, Sam Carroll was below his best in the full line. John Kinsella was also below his best but Christy Hayes was a very good trier and Noel Ryan was quick to seize his opportunity to score the first goal in the third minute.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

John Kinsella opened the scoring with a Bennettsbridge point from a free in the first minute and Noel Ryan finished an attack to the net two minutes later to stretch the 'Bridge lead. Niall Morrissey pointed a long-range James Stephens free in the fifth minute and Mick Crotty had a point in the 10th minute. James Stephens' got into the lead for the first time when Sean Leahy blazed to the net from a 21 yards free and he pointed from a free a couple of minutes later and Eddie Tallent scored a nice point in the 22nd minute to leave the city side four points in front 1-4 to 1-1.

Niall Morrissey pointed a free in the 23rd minute while John Kinsella sent over the bar from a Bennettsbridge free in the 27th minute to leave the half time score:

James Stephens 1-5 Bennettsbridge 1-2

Phil Brennan came on for James Stephens in the second half, replacing Eddie Tallent. Playing into the wind in this half, the Village were first to score when Sean Leahy pointed from a free in the fourth minute. A minute later he crashed to the 'net from a free leaving the winners ahead by 2-6 to 1-2 after five minutes. John Holohan had a point for the 'Bridge, in the sixth minute.

Paddy Moran shot for a goal from a close-in free and his shot was stopped but the Bennettsbridge centrefield man made amends when he pointed from '70'. Mick Crotty replied with a long range point in the 10th minute. Sean Leahy pointed from a free in the 14th minute.

Mick McCarthy raised Bennettsbridge hopes when he crashed a hard shot to the net after he had been narrowly wide With a great effort for a goal. Just before the end Eddie Byrne had a point for James Stephens.

James Stephens; M. Moore, Phil Larkin, Fan Larkin, Paddy Larkin, E. Morrissey. N. Morrissey, M. Leahy, M. Taylor, S. Brennan, E. Tallent, M. Crotty, L. O'Brien, E. Byrne, S. Leahy, M. Dunne.

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, S. Cleere, J. Treacy, P. Kealy, J. Holohan, P. Lalor, P. Moran, M. McCarthy, J. Kinsella, N. Ryan, C. Hayes, B. O'Brien, K. Dunne, S. Carroll.

Mr Dick Dowling (Glenmore) refereed.

COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

The Fenians Through to Final The Fenians 2-16 Gowran 2-5

The Fenians (Johnstown) qualified for their second successive senior county hurling final when they readily disposed of Young Irelands (Gowran) in the semi-final at Nowlan Park on Sunday. Playing with the wind in their favour in the first half the winners led by 1-10 to 0-1.

Following the James Stephens-Bennettsbridge game it was very tense by comparison and there was a lot in it to arouse the interest of neutrals in the crowd. Gowran did try to make a game of it in the second half and two goals and a point cut a 12 point lead to five points at the end of the third quarter. Johnstown, however, to show what they can do when called upon had a quick answer to this rally and put on a goal and five points in the space of about ten minutes. That was the end of it. While winning very easily, Johnstown will have to show a marked improvement in the final against a James Stephens side that will be on the ball right from the start. Johnstown were slow to settle down and though they got early scores with the wind in their favour their forwards showed a certain amount of hesitancy.

Gowran, making their first ever appearance in the senior semi-

final deserve credit for making a brave effort, though this was not by any means their best form. The forwards missed chances for goals early on and had these scores materialised the game would have been different. But there can be no doubt that Johnstown merited the honours.

GOOD DEFENDER

Most outstanding Johnstown player was Seamus Grace at left half back. He was rarely beaten for a ball and got good length into his deliveries. Pat Henderson was a tower of strength in the defence and Billy Watson was very quick to grab any opportunities that came his way.

The Fenians had another outstanding player in goalie PJ Ryan. Cool and collected, he capped a fine display by saving two rasps in quick succession from close in.

John Delaney, Nick Orr and Martin Fitzpatrick were sound in the Johnstown full back line and Pat Murphy performed well with Seamus Grace and Pat Henderson on the half line. Donal Walsh and Mick Garrett did reasonably well at centrefield and after recovering from their slow start, Pat Delaney, Billy Watson,



Tommy O'Connell, Paddy Broderick, John Moriarty and Frank Holohan all took a hand in the scoring.

Andy Kennedy had a very good game in the Gowran goal. Mick Brennan, Johnny Greene, Pat Drennan and Pat Roche were good in defence while Brendan Phelan and John Brophy shaped very well at centrefield. The losers' attack was weak and Mick Dwyer was the outstanding player here. Andy Comerford tried hard but lacked support, in the second half Seamie Kelly came more into the game.

gap to five points but Johnstown hit back with points by Tommy O'Connell and Pat Delaney, a goal by Billy Watson, further points by Tommy O'Connell, John Moriarty and Pat Delaney to stretch their tally to 2-16. Gowran finished with a point each by Brendan Phelan and Pat Drennan.

The Fenians: PJ Ryan, S.Delaney, N.Orr, M.Fitzpatrick, S.Grace, P.Henderson, P.Murphy, D.Walsh, M.Garrett, John Moriarty, P.Delaney, P.Broderick, T.O'Connell, F.Holohan, W.Watson.

Gowran: A.Kennedy, J.Carter, M.Brennan, J.Greene, L.Dwyer, P.Drennan, P.Roche, J.Brophy, B.Phelan, M.Dwyer, A.Comerford, S.Kelly, J.Byrne, T.Comerford, T.Kenny.

Mr. Paddy Johnston refereed.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Frank Holohan opened with a Johnstown point and Billy Watson, Paddy Broderick and Pat Delaney had a point each before Broderick finished a raid to the net to lead by 1-4 to 0-0 at the end of the first quarter. Watson had another point before Michael Dwyer opened Gowran's account with a point from a free in the 21st minute.

Johnstown continued to have the upper hand and Tommy O'Connell (from a free,) Billy Watson, John Moriarty and Broderick had points to leave the half time score The Fenians 1-10, Gowran 0-1.

Mick Dwyer and Paddy Broderick exchanged points and Seamie Kelly finished a Gowran raid to the net. PJ Ryan in the Johnstown goal made two great saves in the winners' goal before the ball crashed to the net from a close in free.

Dwyer followed with a point to narrow the



Seamus Grace



Billy Watson



Pat Murphy



Michael Dwyer



Charlie Carter



FENIANS COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1970

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING

Na Fininí



FIR IONAI D

- 16. Frank Holohan
- 17. Fergus Farrell
- 18. MI Dillon
- 19. Frank Hawkes
- 20. MI Dowling
- 21. Paddy Broderick
- 22. Paddy Fitzpatrick
- 23. Laddie Ryan
- 24. Patrick Loughlin



PJ Ryan



Shem Delaney



Nickey Orr



Martin Fitzpatrick



P. Murphy



Pat Henderson



Seamus Grace



Mick Garrett



D. Walsh



Johnny Moriarty



Pat Delaney



Paddy Broderick



Dicky Dowling



Tommy O'Connell



Billy Watson



HURLING FINAL 1970

Seamus Stiofáin



Mick Moore



Phil Larkin



Fan Larkin



Paddy Larkin



Eamonn Morrissey



Niall Morrissey



Michael Leahy



Sean Brennan



Mick Taylor



Phil Brennan



Mick Crotty



Liam O'Brien



Ned Byrne



Sean Leahy



Mick Dunne



FIR IONAIÐ

16. Tom Hickey

17. Eddie Tallent

18. Michael Larkin

19. Jimmy O'Brien

**COUNTY FINAL****THE FENIANS HAD HOUR OF GLORY - NARROW WIN IN GREAT FINAL****The Fenians 2-11 James Stephens 3-5***Sunday 4th October 1970 Nowlan Park*

The Fenians (Johnstown) are Kilkenny's new senior hurling champions. They won the title at Nowlan Park on Sunday when they beat the City side James Stephens, their victors in last year's decider by 2-11 to 3-5 after one of the most memorable finals for many years.

Apart from this being a gripping, pulsating and dramatic struggle, it had a surprise ending, as few people outside Johnstown supporters counted on a Johnstown win. But there was no doubt in the world about the merit of their win.

The game provided delightful hurling and played at a cracking pace. It was anybody's game, right up to the last stroke, when Fan Larkin dropped a '70' into the Fenians goal area. A goal would have made it a draw but the goal did not come.

This was a tremendous achievement for the Johnstown side; winners of the county junior title a couple of years ago they reached last year's senior final to be overwhelmed by their opponents of Sunday. It was their second title. They won the 1914 title when powered by a number of famed Tullaroan stars who throw in their lot with Johnstown following a disagreement with the County Board.

Neutrals among the crowd estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000 came prepared for a James Stephens victory, but hoping that The Fenians would make a better show than last year. The manner in which the winners set about their work soon convinced them that this Northern side was a vastly different proposition this time.

FAVOURITES

James Stephens were favourites for obvious reasons. They rooted The Fenians in last year's final and on their way to this year's decider they showed rare form by conquering Mooncoin and Bennetsbridge in close and exciting games, and scoring quite freely over The Rore Inistioge. On the other hand, The Fenians had encountered no opposition of note.

The game ended in a welter of excitement with the losers trailing by a mere two points for most of the last quarter and to add to the drama, a Johnstown goal in the 24th minute of this half, which looked like clinching the issue, was followed a minute later by a Village goal to leave the City side still two points behind.

Even the last seconds of the tie were played out in a dramatic manner. An attack

**Pat Henderson**

by James Stephens led to severe pressure on the Johnstown defence who avoided disaster by conceding a '70'. Fan Larkin fully realised the responsibility that rested upon him when he took the free shot. It was a goal or nothing but the goal did not materialise.

There were times when the players, through over anxiety or over keenness failed to strike with usual alacrity, but by and large it was a splendid exhibition and featured some wonderful hurling.

The Fenians revelled in the role of underdogs and once they had baulked James Stephens' early offensives were the more relaxed side. James Stephens, on the other hand, could hardly be blamed for feeling over confident, the one thing their mentors feared most.

UNDERVALUED

Another excusable error made by the losers was to undervalue the real strength of The Fenians and the false impression of the opposition, which, quite naturally followed from last year's final, was actually a handicap. Johnstown only had to endure that there would be no early avalanche to have as good a chance as The Village.

There may have been better finals but few of them over the past 30 years gave better entertainment and there was hardly a single neutral follower who did not become immersed in the drama. The game was favoured by ideal weather.

Whatever individual stars there may have been in this Johnstown side, they won because they played as a team and each man played his part. They also played to a plan and one feature of it that worked very well was Pat Delaney's policy of "feeding" the flying John Moriarty who picked off points with consummate ease.

Another plan that worked effectively was the defence strategy of keeping Seán Leahy and Eddie Byrne under close surveillance. Try as they might the two James Stephens sharp shooters could rarely find a clear path to the goal and consequently, unlike last year's final, there was no goal rush. Having accomplished this, The Fenians had laid the foundations for victory.

James Stephens' mentors will be wondering what would have been the outcome if Eddie Tallent who came on early in the second half and scored a grand goal and a point had

**Johnny Moriarty**



been on from the start. However one might look at it, these imponderables have little to do with the final result. The better side won but James Stephens must be given full marks for helping to provide entertainment of the highest order.

AN ACCIDENT

PJ Ryan in the Johnstown goal maintained his splendid reputation in fine style. He had little chance with the three shots that beat him. In the case of the goal scored by Phil Brennan he was injured after the ball entered the net. It was a pure accident as the umpires rightly instructed the referee. Shem Delaney, Nick Orr and Martin Fitzpatrick played better than ever before. They discharged a heavy responsibility in great style. Pat Henderson at centre half was probably the best player of the 30. He did a tremendous lot of work in the full line as well as on the half line.

Seamus Grace, a most consistent defender, was not as brilliant as usual but he was nonetheless sound and came very much into the picture when the heat was turned on in the final quarter. He switched with Pat Murphy on this occasion. Murphy taking the right half position and showing up very well against the fast Liam O'Brien.

Mick Garrett and Donal Walsh won the advantage for The Fenians at centre field despite great work by Mick Taylor.

John Moriarty was the star forward on view. His amazing speed was a telling factor and his tally of six points hardly does him full justice. Paddy Broderick was also a hard trier and Pat Delaney did not look too conspicuous because he concentrated on feeding his colleagues, particularly Moriarty.

Tommy O'Connell scored the goal that put The Fenians on the high road to victory and Willie Watson, Dick Dowling and Fergus Farrell and Frank Holohan, who came on as subs, contributed significantly to the great victory.

REMARKABLE SAVES



Pat Delaney



Martin Fitzpatrick

Mick Moore in the James Stephens goal had one of the best games for quite some time and he made some remarkable saves. Fan Larkin was the mainstay of the full back line and played with his customary coolness and skill, but his flankers Phil and Paddy were not up to their best form.

Eamon Morrissey also had better days but his brother Niall did a good job of keeping Pat Delaney comparatively quiet. Mick Leahy had a stiff task against John Moriarty, Mick Taylor tried his heart out at centre field where Seán Brennan was below his best.

Hardly any of the James Stephens forwards sparkled with the same vigour as in other games. Seán Leahy did not have as much success as usual and though Mick Dunne made quite a few openings he did not figure in the scoring. Liam O'Brien was also well held.

Sub Eddie Tallent made his presence well felt when he came on in the second half. His goal - he paused momentarily before collected about 50 yards out and running through to shoot to the net - was a very fine effort. Ned Byrne was given limited scope while Mick Crotty also came below expectations. Phil Brennan also got a good goal.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Pat Henderson opened the scoring with a Johnstown point from a free from 80 yards in the first minute, and in the



Dicky Dowling



Mick Taylor



Nicky Orr



Pat Henderson, Captain, with the Tom Walsh Cup

subsequent exchanges that followed immediately, it became obvious that every effort would be made to baulk the early James Stephens goal rush that caused such havoc in last year's final. In the fourth minute Seán Leahy had the sides level when he scored a nice point.

Mick Garrett had a point a minute later and before another minute had passed The Fenians had a goal from a free by Tom O'Connell – the score that put them on the high road to victory. The Fenians' defence withstood a determined Stephens' raid and when play switched John Moriarty sent a nice shot over the bar to put the winners ahead by 1-3 to 0-1 after eight minutes.

A James Stephens attack was sent wide and in the 9th minute Dick Dowling put The Fenians further ahead with a point. Liam O'Brien pointed a James Stephens free in the 10th minute and Mick Crotty broke a nine minutes scoreless spell when he scored a good point in the 19th minute. Donal Walsh replied also from a free on the 20th minute.

Two minutes later one of the best moves of the game saw Phil Brennan finish to the net to narrow the gap to three points – 1-6 to 1-3 – but John Moriarty picked off another point in the

26th minute and Pat Henderson sent over the bar from a free on the 70 yards line in the 27th minute. Johnstown maintained the pressure and it was Moriarty again in the 29th minute putting his side further ahead with a point.

James Stephens were exerting pressure in the closing seconds of the first half, but a free out brought relief to Johnstown, and the scores at half time were:



Phil Brennan

The Fenians 1- 8, James Stephens 1-3.

Turning over with a five points deficit but the wind behind them James Stephens set the early pace and Seán Leahy shot for goal from a close in free. His ground shot was stopped and cleared. Eight minutes had passed before Eddie Byrne opened the second half scoring with a James Stephens point.

Eddie Tallent came on for Phil Brennan and he and Seán Leahy switched from centre forward to full forward, before Seán Leahy eventually resumed in his customary position at full forward. Mick Moore made a couple of brilliant saves in the James Stephens goal and in the 11th minute John Moriarty put on a Johnstown point from a free.

The game sparked into new life at the end of the third quarter when Seán Leahy blazed to the net from a close in free to reduce the lead to two points. (1-9 to 2-4.) The city side improved their position still further when Eddie Tallent receiving from Mickey Dunne shot a nice point in the 19th minute.

There was still only a margin of two points between them. John Moriarty pointed a Johnstown free in the 22nd minute but Johnstown supporters went wild in the 24th minute, when a centre by Pat Henderson from a free was finished to the net by Frank Holohan, who had come on as a sub.

A minute later Eddie Tallent, unmarked 50 yards from the Johnstown goal, raced through to score a great goal which left Johnstown still leading by two points (2-10 to 3-5.) Niall Morrissey was narrowly wide from a James Stephens '70' and after another 'Stephens attack was sent wide John Moriarty pointed from a free. James Stephens had their last hope of making a draw foiled when Fan Larkin's centre from a '70' failed to bring the vital scores.

Johnstown: PJ Ryan, S.Delaney, N.Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, P.Murphy, P.Henderson, S.Grace, N.Garrett, D.Walsh, J.Moriarty, P.Delaney, P.Broderick, F.Holohan, T.O'Connell, W.Watson. Subs: F.Farrell for W.Watson, F.Holohan for D.Dowling

James Stephens: M.Moore, Phil Larkin, Fan Larkin, Paddy Larkin, E.Morrissey, N.Morrissey, M.Leahy, S.Brennan, M.Taylor, P.Brennan, M.Crotty, L.O'Brien, E.Byrne, S.Leahy, M.Dunne. Sub: E.Tallent for P.Brennan.

Mr Mick Dowling, Glenmore, refereed.



Mick Crotty



Mick Moore



FIGURES OF THE GAME

	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	70's
FIRST HALF					
FENIANS	1	8	4	10	2
JAMES STEPHENS	1	3	5	3	0
SECOND HALF					
FENIANS	1	3	4	10	2
JAMES STEPHENS	2	2	9	4	2

SCORES BY THE CLOCK

TIME	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
FIRST HALF			
1 min.	Fenians	POINT	Pat Henderson (free)
4 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Seán Leahy
5 min.	Fenians	POINT	Mick Garrett.
6 min.	Fenians	GOAL	Tommy O'Connell (free)
7 min.	Fenians	POINT	John Moriarty
8 min.	Fenians	POINT	Dick Dowling
10 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Liam O'Brien (free)
19 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Mick Crotty
20 min.	Fenians	POINT	Donal Walsh
22 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Phil Brennan
26 min.	Fenians	POINT	John Moriarty
27 min.	Fenians	POINT	Pat Henderson ('70)
29 min.	Fenians	POINT	John Moriarty (free)
HALF TIME SCORE: FENIANS 1-8 JAMES STEPHENS 1-3			
SECOND HALF			
8 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Ned Byrne
11 min.	Fenians	POINT	John Moriarty (free)
15 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Sean Leahy (free)
19 min.	James Stephens	POINT	Eddie Tallent
22 min.	Fenians	POINT	John Moriarty (free)
24 min.	Fenians	GOAL	Frank Holohan
25 min.	James Stephens	GOAL	Eddie Tallent
29 min.	Fenians	POINT	John Moriarty (free)
FULL TIME SCORE: JAMES STEPHENS 8-5 FENIANS 2-7			

The Fenians' committee deserve great praise for fashioning the Fenians into a hurling tour de force -

Chairman Fr. Pierce Malone, secretary Pat Henderson, treasurer Paul Skehan, Michael Gannon, Eddie Curran, Paddy Henderson and Jimmy Ryan. There were others too always willing to help - Moll Dermody, who looked after the jerseys, Jim Dermody, Joe Drennan (masseur, team driver) Dickie Behan (supplier of spa water), Gerry (the grazer) Henderson who carried the magic bottle, Mick Drennan, Jimmy Tobin and Pascal Tynan who supplied soup after the training sessions.



The Fenians - 1970 County Senior Hurling Champions

Back: Shem Delaney, Dick Dowling, Patrick Loughlin, Nicky Orr, Billy Watson, Owen Behan, P.J. Ryan, Larry Ryan, Mick Carroll, Seamus Grace, Pat Delaney, Martin Fitzpatrick, Billy Watson, Nicky Orr, Michael Garrett, P.J. Ryan, Shem Delaney,

Front: Paddy Broderick, Pat Murphy, Johnny Moriarty, Tommy O'Connell, Pat Henderson, Dick Dowling, Donal Walsh, Seamus Grace.



James Stephens County SH Finalists 1970

Back: Paddy Larkin, Michael Leahy, Eddie Byrne, Niall Morrissey, Mick Crotty, Sean Brennan, Sean Leahy, Fan Larkin.

Front: Jimmy O'Brien, Mick Taylor, Mickey Dunne, Phil Brennan, Liam O'Brien, Eamonn Morrissey, Michael Muggers Larkin, Phil Larkin, Mick Moore.



Billy Purcell RIP August 2019

The untimely death occurred during the year of Fenian Billy Purcell, aged 57. Billy represented his club, The Fenians at the various age levels for over 3 decades, finishing his playing career as a sprightly 47 year old. He terrorised Full backs the length and breadth of the county for two of the three decades when Fenians were competing strongly at Senior Grade in the county. He had sublime hands and was the clubs most consistent forward for many years.

Indeed Billy Purcell never played any game at Senior level for the club without having his name on the Kilkenny People as a Fenian scorer, a testament to his accuracy from placed balls and open play and against some of the strongest full backs of the times. He thoroughly enjoyed the social side of training and games, and just loved playing the game, making him a very popular and valued member of the hurling and wider community.

Billy played in 2 Minor All-Irelands, two U21 All-Irelands, and 5 Senior Hurling County Finals. He also hurled for the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team in National League and Leinster campaigns, culminating in winning 2 National Hurling League Titles, 2 Senior Hurling All-Irelands with the Kilkenny Teams of 1982 and 1983, the team which completed the famous Double Double.

Billy is survived, and will be sorely missed, by his wife Annette, sons Martin, Timmy and Enda, his grandchild, relations, his neighbours, and his very large circle of friends in and around the parish.

Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam dílis



Deceased members of the 1970 Panel



Seamus Grace
RIP 2013



Paddy Fitzpatrick
RIP 1990



Pat Delaney
RIP 2013



Mick Gannon Selector
RIP 2002



Jimmy Ryan Selector
RIP 2002



Eddie Curran Selector
RIP 2005

Solas na bhFlaitheas ar anamnacha na Marbh



Tommy O'Connell

RIP May 2019

From an Interview in Kilkenny GAA Yearbook 2009 with Jim Fogarty.

Tommy O'Connell was Kilkenny's top scorer with 3-0 in the drawn All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1959. He finished as 3rd highest scorer nationally in that year in games encompassing inter-county league and championship. He played in four successive Kilkenny county senior finals with the Fenians from 1969 to 1972, winning 2 county senior medals in 1970 and 1972. Among his cohorts on those Fenians teams were P.J. Ryan, father of the man-of-the-match in this year's All-Ireland final, Shem Delaney, father of current star J.J., Nickey Orr, Pat Henderson, Pat Delaney and Johnny Moriarty from Gortnahoe.

How did Tommy, who was born in London, develop his interest in and love for Gaelic Games? When his family moved to Crosspatrick, Tommy recalls being brought on his father's bicycle to matches in Thurles. His earliest hurling memories are of watching in awe-struck wonder the skills of the "Rubber Man" Tommy Doyle. He is a great admirer of Jim Langton of Kilkenny, whom he first saw in action against Laois in Portlaoise in 1948, a championship game, which Kilkenny lost. Tommy first participated in hurling during tea-breaks when working on the bog. Boys of all ages from 6 to 60 pucked the sliotar through foots of turf and over bogholes.

On commencing in Johnstown Tech, Tommy hurled with the school in the St. Kieran's League. They had many great battles with Freshford, who included among their ranks, Pa Dillon and Sean Buckley, and also with neighbouring Laois teams. On moving to Kilkenny City Tech, Tommy played u-16 and minor hurling with Kilkenny. In the 1957 All-Ireland minor hurling championship, Tommy scored 3-3 in one game, but was not selected for the first fifteen in the All-Ireland final. The minor final of that year was against Tipp, and Tommy recalls that all the chat in the build-up was about Jimmy Doyle's quest for his 3rd All-Ireland minor medal. Tipp won by 4-7 to 3-7 and indeed the two Doyle brothers, Jimmy and Paddy starred. Tommy came on as a sub for Andy Comerford, the uncle of Andy of the current era, the All-Ireland senior winning captain of 2002. When Tommy was introduced as a sub, he marked Michael Murphy, later the captain of the Tipp senior All-Ireland champions in 1964.

Tommy hurled senior with the Eire Og club in Kilkenny city from 1958 to 1968, but without success. He made his senior inter-county debut with Kilkenny in 1958 in a league match against Dublin in O'Toole Park in 1958. In 1959, Tommy really made his mark at inter-county level in both league and championship. In that year's championship he scored 3-3 against Laois, 1-2 against Dublin in the Leinster Final, and then top-scored with 3-0 against Waterford, in the drawn All-Ireland final which ended Waterford 1-17 Kilkenny 5-5. His marker in the draw and replay was Joe Harney.

The Kilkenny People preview of the drawn game stated that "Tommy O'Connell's task against Joe Harney, who distinguished himself against Cork, is not easy and that the Eire Og man will earn his scores". Mick Dunne in his Irish Press match report on the day after the drawn final referred to Kilkenny's great rally with valuable points and amazing goals and wrote "those goals came from the youngest player afield----19 year old Tommy O'Connell, who managed 3 goals against Joe Harney, a back who hadn't been beaten for a goal by the great Christy Ring himself in the Munster final".

Waterford won the replay by 3-12 to 1-10. The Waterford backs had learnt well from the drawn game and Tommy and the other Kilkenny forwards were crowded out. Let's not forget that Tommy at 19 weighed only 9-7. I have heard Kilkenny supporters say that Tommy was "roughed out of it". The man himself will not accept that and describes the Waterford team as "hard but fair". In fact he has great admiration for that Waterford team incorporating such brilliant hurlers as Seamus Power, Philly Grimes, Frankie Walsh, Tom Cheasty, Larry Guinan, etc. He believes that the Waterford team of that era deserved to win more All-Irelands.

In or about that time Tommy recalls travelling to a League Game in Loughiel, Co. Antrim by train. On their return journey as they approached the Border from the Northern side, the train was stopped and boarded by "B Specials" who proceeded to search and interrogate the Kilkenny team. A member of said team, Jim Hennessy of Tullaroan, was taken off the train and detained. This led to the intervention of the Minister for External Affairs on the following day. He procured Jim's release. Hennessy made light of his experience and later told his colleagues that he had been treated royally (no pun intended). Seemingly he was mistaken for a man with the same surname, who was active in the I.R.A. Tommy always roomed with Ollie Walsh. One can only guess at the pranks they participated in.

Tommy played on the Kilkenny team in 1960, but they were beaten in the Leinster final by the Wexford team who went on to win the All-Ireland. He wasn't picked for Kilkenny in 1961 or 1962, perhaps due to Eire Ogs poor form, although he was a sub on the winning NHL side of 1961-62, as indeed he was in 1965-66. He played on Jim English of Wexford in the Leinster championship of 1963 but shortly afterwards he was struck down with appendicitis. He did receive a Leinster medal that year. He also won a Leinster championship medal in 1966, having replaced Tom Walsh in the semi-final against Offaly and scoring a goal.

Tommy's favourite Kilkenny players included Jim Langton and of the current era J.J. Delaney. Outside of Kilkenny, players he admired include Tommy and Jimmy Doyle. TC as he was affectionately known made friends throughout the whole of the island and was extremely popular. One was always assured of a good humoured reception when you meet Tommy with the twinkling eyes and hearty laugh.. His power of recall was amazing and he was extremely generous with people who come to chat with him. His thoughtfulness and respect for others was obvious to all. Hurling in Tommy's era was a cause for friendship.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



**LEINSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP**

1st Round	May 3, Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, Referee P. Johnston (Kilkenny) Laois 1-9 Kildare 1-8
Quarter Final	May 3, O'Connor Park, Tullamore, Referee P. Johnston (Kilkenny) Dublin 0-16 Westmeath 3-5
Quarter Final	May 24 St Brendan's Park Birr, Referee R. Sheppard (Carlow) Offaly 2-15 Laois 2-9
Semi-Final	June 21 Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, Referee P. Johnston (Kilkenny) Wexford 4-17 Dublin 2-4
Semi-Final	June 28 Croke Park, Referee Jimmy Grey (Dublin) Kilkenny 2-15 Dublin 1-12
Final	July 12 Croke Park, Referee J. Hatton (Wicklow) Wexford 4-16 Kilkenny 3-14

MUNSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter Final	June 14. Semple Stadium, Referee F. Murphy (Cork)) Limerick 3-9 Clare 2-12
Replay	June 21, Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, Referee F. Murphy (Cork) Limerick 1-10 Clare 0-4
Semi-final	June 21, Cork Athletic Grounds, Referee S. O'Connor (Limerick)) Tipperary 2-9 Waterford 0-5
Semi-Final	June 28, Semple Stadium, Referee J. Maloney (Tipperary) Cork 4-13 Limerick 3-6
Final	July 19, Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, Referee J. Fitzgerald (Limerick) Cork 3-10 Tipperary 3-8

ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-Final,	August 16 Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, Referee M. Spain (Offaly) Cork 4-20 London 2-9
Semi-Final,	August 16 St. Ciarán's Park, Athlone, Referee S. O'Connor (Limerick) Wexford 3-17 Galway 5-9
Final	Sept 7 Croke Park, Referee S. O' Connor (Limerick) Cork 6-21 Wexford 5-10

OTHER NATIONAL HURLING FINAL RESULTS

Junior	Meath	1-15	Herefordshire	4-6
	Meath	3-14	Herefordshire	3-7
Intermediate	Antrim	4-18	Warwickshire	3-6
Under 21	Cork	3-8	Wexford	2-11
	Cork	5-17	Wexford	0-8
Minor	Cork	5-19	Galway	2-9
NHL	Cork	2-17	Limerick	0-7
Oireachtas Final	Tipperary	1-12	Cork	0-8
Railway Cup	Munster	2-15	Leinster	0-9



5 & SNIPPETS 1970

KILKENNY'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS 1970

Senior Hurling	Fenians	2-11	James Stephens	3-5
Junior Hurling	Windgap	w/o	Graigue/Ballycallan	scr
Under 21 Hurling	James Stephens	8-3	Ballyhale	0-1
Minor Hurling	James Stephens	2-4	Dunnamaggin	1-5
<i>(Unfinished - James Stephens awarded game.)</i>				
Under 16 H	St. Patricks	5-4	Dunnamaggin	4-3
Senior Football	Railyard	0-8	Muckalee	0-4
Junior Football	Glenmore	2-8	Barrowmount	2-3
Minor Football	Dicksboro	2-4	Kilmoganny	0-7

KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD OFFICERS 1970

COUNTY BOARD

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

FOOTBALL BOARD

Chairman	Mick Meally	Railyard
Vice chairman	Christy Leahy	Village
Secretary	Seamus Delaney	Clann na Gael

NORTHERN BOARD

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

SOUTHERN BOARD

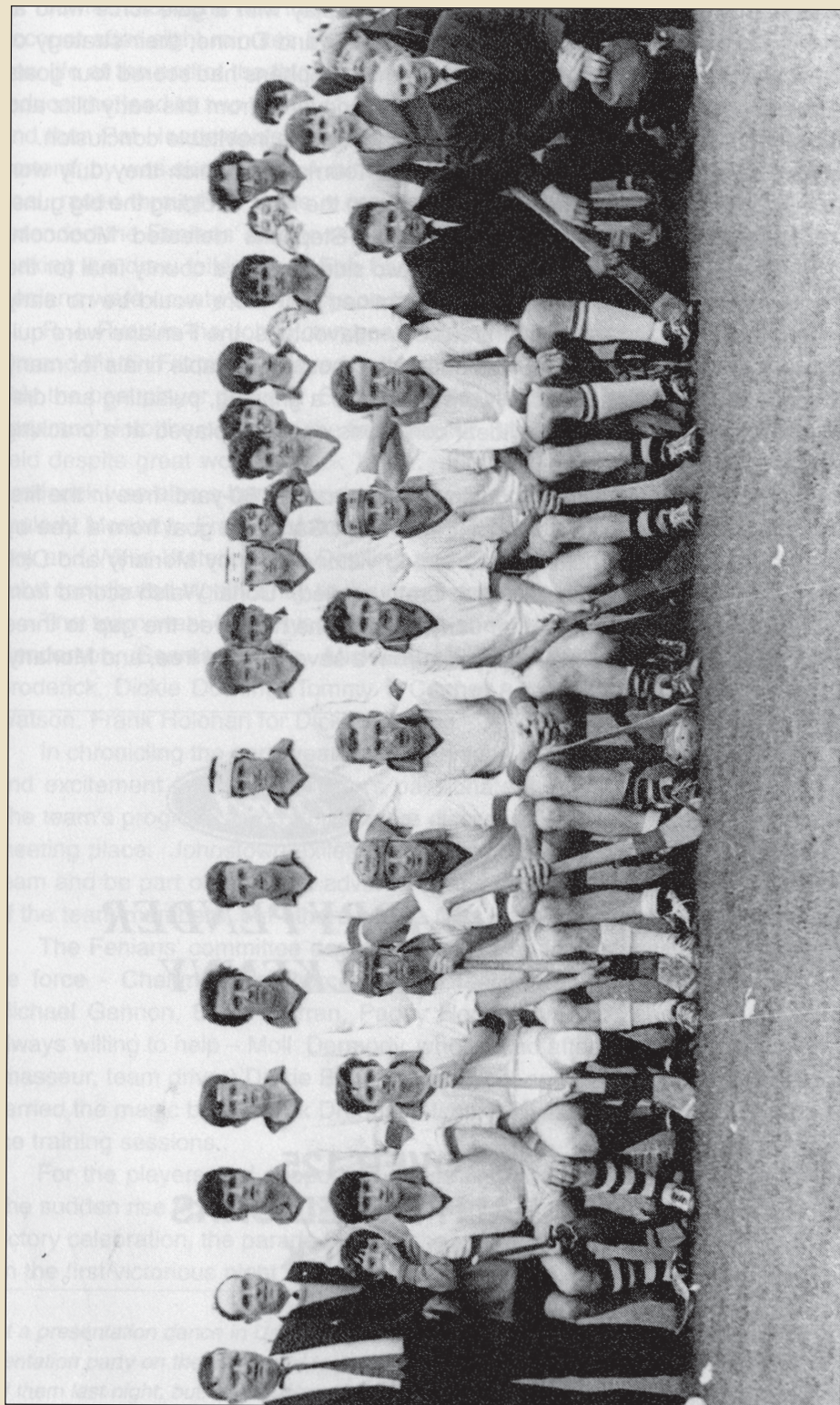
Chairman	John Reade	Ballyhale
Vice Chairman	Joe Walsh	Thomastown
Secretary	Seamus McKenna	Thomastown

UNDER 16 BOARD

Chairman	Br. Michael	St. John's
Vice-chairman	Tom Brennan	Clara
Secretary	Michael Ryan	Inistioger

KILKENNY'S NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE RESULTS 1969/70

16 Nov	1969	Laois	1-6	Kilkenny	6-12
23 Nov	1969	Kilkenny	2-16	Wexford	0-11
1 Mar	1970	Tipperary	2-12	Kilkenny	3-7
8 Mar	1970	Kilkenny	4-10	Waterford	2-9
22 Mar	1970	Offaly	2-14	Kilkenny	2-9



The Fenians - 1970 Full Panel

Back: Gerry Henderson, Eddie Curran, Pat Delaney, Martin Fitzpatrick, Billy Watson, Nicky Orr, Michael Garrett, Michael Dillon, P.J. Ryan, Shem Delaney, Frankie Hawkes, Mick Dowling, Seamus Grace.

Front: Paddy Broderick, Pat Murphy, John Moriarity, Tommy O'Connell, Pat Henderson, Dickie Dowling, Donal Walsh, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Mick Gannon, Jimmy Ryan. (Missing from Photo: Larry Ryan, Frank Holohan, Fergus Farrell.)



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**

Appreciation.

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



CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS



**FRIDAY 13TH &
SATURDAY 14TH
DECEMBER**

- » Festive Drinks Reception
- » 4 Course Meal
- » Live Band "The Works" & Dj
- » Late Bar Extension
- » Spot Prizes



STAY
FRIDAY NIGHT
FROM ONLY
€45
PER PERSON
SHARING B&B



PARTY NIGHT
€38
PER PERSON



STAY
SATURDAY NIGHT
FROM ONLY
€55
PER PERSON
SHARING B&B



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